

A Novel Channel Estimation Technique for Complexity Reduction of Least Minimum Mean Square Error

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ABSTRACT

Channel estimation technique is to predict the frequency response of the radio channel using pilot signal. Channel estimation technique is important part of LTE receiver design. Such technique is used to recover the transmitted signal correctly and to know how the channel conditions are changed over frequency and time. Each channel estimator has a specified complexity computed according to its mathematical model. Complexity Reduction of any channel estimator is very important to achieve high performance. This paper studied in details the performance enhancement of LMMSE channel estimation technique in the downlink of LTE system. The proposed algorithm is based on Roza Zheng channel model and the matrix transpose rather than matrix inverse. This dramatically reduces the complexity of LMMSE. In addition, the complexity of the proposed algorithm is invariant with the number of multipath components in case of fast fading channels. Moreover, the received signal quality has been improved as compared to the LS. The processing time of the proposed algorithm is reduced by using new criteria of auto correlation. The performance of the proposed algorithm has been evaluated using the mean squared error as the performance metric. Simulation results showed that the MSE is reduced by 89.5% for LS and by 38.7% for LMMSE. Finally, the bit error rate has been enhanced using the proposed algorithm.

Keywords: LTE System, Channel Estimation, OFDM System, MIMO System

1. INTRODUCTION

Wireless multimedia services require a high speed data access in order to satisfy their exponential growing. Therefore, various techniques have been proposed in recent years to achieve high system capacities. The Multiple-Input Multiple Output MIMO concept has attracted a lot of attention in wireless communications due to its potential to increase the system capacity without extra bandwidth (Rana, 2010). Multipath propagation usually causes selective frequency channels, to combat the effect of frequency selective fading,

MIMO is associated with Orthogonal Frequency-Division Multiplexing (OFDM) technique. OFDM is a modulation technique which transforms frequency selective channel into a set of parallel flat fading channels. A cyclic prefix CP is added at the beginning of each OFDM symbol to eliminate ICI and ISI. However, the inserted cyclic prefix CP length is assumed to be equal or longer than the maximum propagation delay of the channel. But in some cases because of some unforeseen channel behaviour, the cyclic prefix can be shorter than propagation delay of the channel. In this case, both ICI and ISI occurred this makes the task of

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channel estimation more difficult (Jing and Fang, 2011). Equalization techniques that could flexibly detect the signals in both cases in MIMO-OFDM systems are discussed in (Schwarz *et al.*, 2010; Ketonen *et al.*, 2009). The 3GPP Long Term Evolution (LTE) defining the next generation radio access network. LTE Downlink systems adopt Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access (OFDMA) MIMO to provide up to 100 Mbps (assuming a 2x2 MIMO system with 20MHz bwidth). The performance of a MIMO-OFDM communication system significantly depends upon the channel estimation. Channel estimation techniques for MIMO-OFDM systems like LS and LMMSE (Jiang *et al.*, 2010; Deng and Wang, 2011).

The performance evaluation of the two channel estimation techniques: Least Square (LS) Least Minimum Mean Square Error (LMMSE) are discussed in (Hou and Liu, 2010; Chen *et al.*, 2011) but many works still required for studying the performance evaluation of those two estimators in LTE downlink under the effect of channel propagation delay to enhance the signal quality of LS estimator in the same time reduce the complexity of the LMMSE estimator (Song *et al.*, 2011).

This paper introduce a proposed algorithm for channel estimation in downlink LTE. The proposed algorithm has less complexity than the LS algorithm due to using matrix transpose rather than matrix inverse. The proposed algorithm has less BER than LMMSE as the matrix A doesn't contain all data of the user but it contain neighbour's users only. The time correlated channel was generated by an implementation of the Rosa Zheng model. Also the LTE is asynchronized system so the proposed algorithm improves this synchronization prossc. raising the number of subcarriers N_{fft} make reduction in MSE, reduction the error that produced from non-orthogonality, reduction the AWGN and reduction all interferences signals. The proposed algorithm has some sources of Errors like possible imperfect orthogonality of the used carries, Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN) Quantization of the channel delay.

This paper is organized as following: section 2 present the system and channel model, section 3 present the proposed channel estimation algorithm, section 4 present the simulation results, section 5 present the conclusion.

2. SYSTEM AND CHANNEL MODEL

2.1. System Model

OFDM system block diagram consits of encoding, scrambling...,. A discrete-time domain OFDM signal for one symbol interval can be expressed as Equation 1:

$$x_n = \frac{1}{N_{fft}} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{fft}-1} X_k e^{j \frac{2\pi kn}{N_{fft}}} \tag{1}$$

where, x_n is the transmitted symbol, n denotes the discrete-time index $0 \leq n \leq N_{fft}-1$, N_{fft} is the duration of one OFDM symbol interval in samples, the number of subcarriers is also N_{fft} , K represents the discrete-frequency domain index of the K^{th} sub-carrier. In most OFDM systems, it is commonly to insert Cyclic Prefix (CP) of N_g samples length before the data symbol as a guard interval to prevent Inter-Symbol Interference (ISI) Equation 2:

$$x_n = \frac{1}{N_{fft}} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{fft}-1} X_k e^{j \frac{2\pi kn}{N_{fft}}}, \dots, -N_g < n < N_{fft} - 1 \tag{2}$$

Or in matrix form as Equation 3:

$$x_n = \frac{1}{N_{fft}} F x_k \tag{3}$$

where, $x_k \in C^{N_m \times 1}$ are the transmitted vectors, F is the inverse fast fourier transform (IFFT) matrix operator $F \in C^{N_m \times N_m}$ and defined as Equation 4:

$$F = \sum_{k=1}^{N_m-1} e^{j \frac{2\pi kn}{N_m}}, 0 \leq k, n \leq N_m - 1 \tag{4}$$

2.2. Channel Model

For the convenience of analysis, the channel impulse response of any multipath channel can be re-written by introducing Multi Path Components (MPCs) that represented as follows Equation 5:

$$h(t) = \sum_{l=0}^{N_p-1} \alpha_l \delta(t - \tau_l) \tag{5}$$

where, $h(t)$ is the channel response, N_p is the total number of MPCs, α_l τ_l area the path attenuationthe corresponding delay of any received MPC, respectively, l is the index of this path. The channel weights α_l are assumed to be complex in general. This allows the CIR of the RF channel to be expressed in a general form that is compatible with any multipath channel profile regardless of the nature of the amplitude delay statistics. Also, for convenience of analysis, the whole time duration of the CIR is divided into time bins

i.e., let $\tau_1 = 1\Delta\tau$ and $I = 0, 1, \dots, N_p-1, 1, \dots, N_p-1$ where $\Delta\tau$ is the timing resolution. This time resolution is assigned to the symbol duration in the process of channel estimation. According to the timing resolution limitation of either the receiver sampling or the bandwidth of the pulse, $\Delta\tau$ is selected in simulations, so no more than one MPC arrives in this minimum timing resolution. This last form of the CIR suggests that the channel can be represented as an FIR filter as illustrated in **Figure 1**.

It can be intuitively thought that the FIR model of the physical RF channel is a well sampled theoretical version of the physical channel model for the same channel. In this paper, it is assumed that the maximum delay of multipath channel is smaller than guard interval, which means no ISI occurs. The ROSA model is new sum-of-sinusoids statistical simulation models which are proposed for Rayleigh fading channels. These new models can rom path gain, rom initial phase, conditional rom Doppler frequency for all individual sinusoids. It is shown that the autocorrelations and cross correlations of the quadrature components, the autocorrelation of the complex envelope of the new simulators match the desired ones exactly, even if the number of sinusoids is as small as a single-digit integer. Moreover, the probability density functions of the envelope phase, the level crossing rate, the average fade duration, the autocorrelation of the squared fading envelope which contains fourth order statistics of the new simulators, asymptotically approach the correct ones as the number of sinusoids approaches infinity, while good convergence is achieved even when the number of sinusoids is as small aseight. The new simulators can be directly used to generate multiple uncorrelated fading waveforms for frequency selective fading channels, multiple-input multiple-output channels, diversity combining scenarios. Statistical properties of one of the new simulators are evaluated by numerical results, finding good agreements.

Consider a frequency-nonselective fading channel comprised of N_p propagation paths, the low-pass fading process is given by Equation 6:

$$g(t) = E_0 \sum_{l=1}^{N_p} C_n e^{[j(w_d t \cos \alpha_n + \phi_n)]} \tag{6}$$

where, E_0 is a scaling constant C_n , α_n and ϕ_n are, respectively, the rom path gain, angle of incoming wave, initial phase associated with the l^{th} propagation path, w_d is the maximum radian Doppler frequency occurring when $\alpha_n = 0$.

2.3. Receiver Signal Model

At the receiver side, the received signal over multipath time-varying channel after removing the guard interval can be expressed as Equation 7:

$$y_n(t) = \sum_{l=0}^{N_p-1} (h_n^{(l)} x_{n-\tau(l)})(t) + \eta(t) \tag{7}$$

where, $y_n(t)$ is the received symbol, $\eta(t)$ Gaussian noise. A Low Pass Filter (LPF) is needed in the demodulation process, implemented as an integrator whose integration interval spans an OFDM symbol duration:

$$\int_{t_o}^{t_o+T_s} y_n(t) dt = \int_{t_o}^{t_o+T_s} \left(\sum_{l=0}^{N_p-1} (h_n^{(l)} x_{n-\tau(l)})(t) + \eta(t) \right) dt \tag{8}$$

The integral in Equation (8) is then sampled prior to applying a Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) operation. An observation vector y_n is formed on a symbol by symbol using collecting together N_{fft} successive output samples corresponding to a time interval of OFDM symbol duration (Aziz, 2011). This observation vector can be written in matrix form as Equation 9:

$$y_n = A_n + w_n \tag{9}$$

where, A_n is the channel parameters matrix $A_n \in C^{N_m \times 1}$ w_n is a realization vector of the sampled AWGN rom process $n(t)$. Extracting the channel parameters from the matrix A_n is a difficult task as the matrix A_n is in general complex for the processing system as it includes the user data symbols, the pilot sequence that help in channel estimation process, the unknown channel parameters (Aziz *et al.*, 2011). To facilitate the process of estimation of the unknown channel parameters it is necessary to decompose A_n into the product of two independent matrices as Equation 10:

$$y_n = H_n x_n + w_n \tag{10}$$

where, H_n is the channel matrix, $x_n \in C^{N_m \times 1}$ is the information bearing vector. In Equation (8), assuming that the system is generally asynchronous, that is, the OFDM receiver has an arbitrary timing reference which is not necessarily to aligned with the OFDM symbol boundaries, thus the integration period over one symbol may in general overlap two adjacent received symbols, the actual receiving situation of non integer delayed symbol sequence.

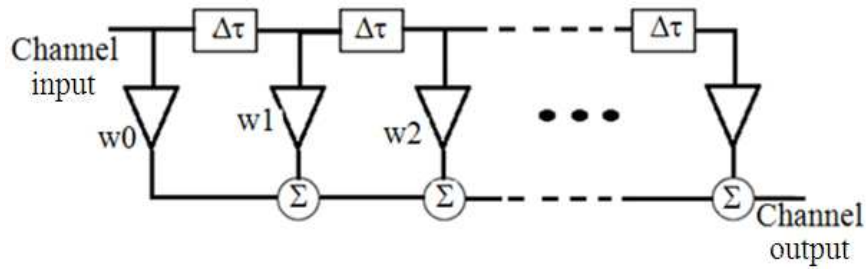


Fig. 1. The FIR filter model of a multipath channel

Each sample can be viewed as composed of a linear combination of the values of these two symbols, that is, the past and the current symbols X_n, X_{n-1} Equation 11 and 12:

$$\int_{t_0+nT_s}^{t_0+(n+1)T_s} y_n(t) dt = \int_{t_0+nT_s}^{t_0+(n+1)T_s} \left(\sum_{l=0}^{N_p-1} (h_n^{(l)} x_{n-\tau(l)})(t) + \eta(t) \right) dt \quad (11)$$

$$\int_{t_0+nT_s}^{t_0+(n+1)T_s} y_n(t) dt = I_n^L + I_n^R + w_n \quad (12)$$

where, I_n^L is the part of the integral that yields the value of the integration over ζT_s and I_n^R is the part of the integral that yields the value of the integration over $(1-\zeta)T_s$. Consequently the observation vector y_n is a super position of two exclusive vectors a_n^R, a_n^L Equation 13:

$$y_n = [a_n^R + a_n^L] + W_n \quad (13)$$

As the sampler is a discrete time device, the time delays of the channel is quantized by normalization to the sampling interval which is the same as the OFDM symbol duration T_s hence Equation 14-16:

$$\frac{\tau_p}{T_s} = q + \zeta, q \in \{0, 1, \dots, N_{FFT} - 1\}, \zeta \in [0, 1) \quad (14)$$

$$I_n^R = \sum_{l=0}^{N_p-1} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_l(1-\zeta) x_n \int_{t_0+nT_s}^{t_0+(n+1)T_s} y_n(t) c_n(t-qT_s) dt + \alpha_l \zeta x_{n-1} \\ \int_{t_0+nT_s}^{t_0+(n+1)T_s} y_n(t) c_n(t-qT_s) dt \end{pmatrix} \quad (15)$$

$$I_n^L = \sum_{l=0}^{N_p-1} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_l(1-\zeta) x_n \int_{t_0+nT_s}^{t_0+(n+1)T_s} y_n(t) c_n(t+qT_s) dt + \alpha_l \zeta x_{n-1} \\ \int_{t_0+nT_s}^{t_0+(n+1)T_s} y_n(t) c_n(t+qT_s) dt \end{pmatrix} \quad (16)$$

where, q is the integer number of the part of the symbol, ζ is the fraction number of the part of the symbol. The contribution of the n^{th} subcarrier $C_n(t)$ in the vector y_n appears in two parts, the right part of the OFDM symbol shown as R appears in the left symbol x_{n-1} the left part shown as L appears in the right symbol x_n . The weights for the linear combination of the two vectors that contribute to the right part of symbols x_n are $\zeta, 1-\zeta$. The matrices $U_n^R \in C^{N_{FFT} \times N_{FFT}}$ and $U_n^L \in C^{N_{FFT} \times N_{FFT}}$ are formed by arranging columns of $C(t-qT_s), C(t+qT_s)$ representing the orthogonal carriers defined on $0 \leq t \leq T_s$ delayed by all possible integer delays q . U_n^R, U_n^L can be written in Equation 17 and 18:

$$U_n^L[q] = [c_n^L[0] \ c_n^L[1] \dots \ c_n^L[N_{fft} - 1]] \quad (17)$$

$$U_n^R[q] = [c_n^R[0] \ c_n^R[1] \dots \ c_n^R[N_{fft} - 1]] \quad (18)$$

where, $c_n^{L,R}[q]$ is the n^{th} subcarrier $C_n(t)$ representing either the left or right cyclically shifted by q samples. Let $Z_n \in C^{N_{fft} \times 1}$ be the composite channel impulse response vector sampled N_{fft} times over T_s that consisting of all the weight vectors in the linear combination of the vectors $c_n^{L,R}[q]$, while the vector Z_n is expressed as follows Equation 19-21:

$$z_n = [0 \dots M \dots 0] \quad (19)$$

$$M = \left[\alpha_1 (1-\zeta) \quad \alpha_1 \zeta \quad \alpha_{N_p} (1-\zeta) \quad \alpha_{N_p} \zeta \right] \quad (20)$$

$$y_n = [U_n^R \quad U_n^L](z_n \odot x_n) + w_n = [U_n^R z_n \quad U_n^L z_n]x_n + w_n \quad (21)$$

where, (\odot) is defined as the multiplication operator. The columns of matrix A can be expressed in terms of U_n^R , U_n^L and Z_n as Equation 22 and 23:

$$a_n^R = U_n^R z_n \quad (22)$$

$$a_n^L = U_n^L z_n \quad (23)$$

The received observation vector y_n in Equation 9 can be written by Equation 24:

$$y_n = [U_n^R z_n \quad U_n^L z_n]x_n + w_n; x_n = [x_n \quad x_{n-l}]^T \quad (24)$$

where, $[.]^T$ is the matrix transpose operator.

3. THE PROPOSED CHANNEL ESTIMATION ALGORITHM

The mathematical model for the received signal of the intended user should be used to extract the channel parameters like the attenuations and the corresponding delays. The proposed algorithm has the advantage of being consistent with a general multipath channel. The vector entries x_n, x_{n-l} represent either the information or training symbols. Assuming $x_n=1$ during the estimation process so that y_n includes only the channel coefficients (Hong-Jin and Li-Fa, 2011). This assumption has the advantage that no specific form for the pilot sequence is required. The process of channel estimation is done by only periodic transmission of a linear combination of all carriers. These carriers have equal amplitudes for a number of times equal to the length of the pilot sequence in symbols. For only one symbol duration Equation (24) can now be expressed as follows Equation 25:

$$y_n = [U_n^R + U_n^L]z_n + w_n \quad (25)$$

Or equivalently Equation 26:

$$y_n = [U_n^R + U_n^L]z_n + w_n \quad (26)$$

Multiplying both sides of Equation 26 by U_n^T :

$$U_n^T y_n = U_n^T U_n z_n + U_n^T w_n \quad (27)$$

The product $U_n^T U_n$ is a $N_m \times N_m$ matrix whose elements are the values of the autocorrelation function of the subcarrier matrix evaluated at different discrete time that has shifts ranging from 0 to $N_m - 1$ thus Equation 28:

$$U_n^T U_n = R \quad (28)$$

where, R is a Toeplitz autocorrelation matrix with the entry (i, j) of the matrix R is defined as follows Equation 29:

$$R_{ij} = c^L[i]c^L[j] \quad (29)$$

where, $c^T [j]$ is a vector of the k^{th} sampled sub-carrier shifted by i samples and $c^L [j]$ is at the same carrier shifted version of the same vector shifted by J samples, thus the value of R_{ij} is equal to N_m times δ_{ij} , the Kronecker delta function, if only the carriers are perfect orthogonal, however, for purpose of generalization, no need to assume that perfect orthogonality, assuming that the used carriers violates the orthogonality property due to a Doppler shift, the autocorrelation matrix R can be considered as consisting of the sum of two matrices, the identity matrix I scaled by N_m results if the carriers are a perfect orthogonal. Error matrix E appears only with the non orthogonal part as follows Equation:

$$R = U_n^T U_n = N_m(I + E) \quad (30)$$

where, the entry (i, j) of the matrix E is expressed as follows Equation 31:

$$E_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{c^T[i]c^L[j]}{N_m}, & i \neq j \\ 0 & i = j \end{cases} \quad (31)$$

The diagonal elements of the matrix E are always equal to zeros. The number of these orthogonal sub-carriers N_m are large enough to assume that the product $U_n^T U_n$ can be well approximated by an identity matrix multiplied by N_m .

$$\lim_{N_m \rightarrow \infty} E = 0 \quad (32)$$

where, O being the zero matrix, so Equation 27 can be written as:

$$\lim_{N_m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{U_n^T y_n}{N_m} = z_n \quad (33)$$

The limit in Equation 33 can be replaced practically by using a very large number of the orthogonal sub-carriers however this necessitates raising the limit from Equation 33:

$$\frac{1}{N_m} (U_n^T y_n) = z_n + z_n E_n + \frac{1}{N_m} (U_n^T w_n) \quad (34)$$

The LHS of Equation 34 is the estimate of the CIR vector Z_n appearing on the RHS. Let's define the estimated CIR vector \hat{z}_n as follows Equation 35:

$$\hat{z}_n = \frac{1}{N_m} (U_n^T U_n x_n) + e_n \quad (35)$$

where, e_n is the error vector defined in Equation (36):

$$e_n = E_n + \frac{1}{N_m} (U_n^T w_n) \quad (36)$$

This error is induced by one or more of three sources like imperfect orthogonality of the received sub-carriers, Doppler shift resulting from mobility and the additive white Gaussian noise the quantization of the channel delays.

4. SIMULATION RESULTS

The simulation results are discussed the performance of the different channel estimation techniques while the MSE performance of the proposed channel estimation algorithm is compared with the optimal LMMSE estimation technique and the low rank LS estimation techniques (Zhao *et al.*, 2010). The three techniques are performed in the frequency domain as it is well known that time domain channel estimation leads to the problem of propagating errors due to the back and forth FFT transformation that may lead to residual errors. Simulation parameters that used to evaluate the system performance are shown below in **Table 1**. The mean squared error is the performance metric of interest that is used to evaluate the performance of the proposed estimation algorithm and

also to compare its performance with other known channel estimation techniques. Since the theoretical MSE expressions are not evaluated in paper, Monte Carlo simulation technique was used by running the simulation code for 1000 times, calculating the MSE every iteration and the result is averaged over all iterations to ensure that the obtained simulation results approaches the un-evaluated theoretical expressions. The time correlated channel was generated by an implementation of the Rosa. The generation of a time correlated channel impulse response is for every sample of the received and transmitted signal. As can be seen from the figures shown below that in all cases, the MSE of a channel estimation technique decrease with increasing SNR and increasing the FFT size as deduced in section 3 of the proposed channel estimation algorithm. **Figure (2)** illustrates the MSE performance of the proposed channel estimator at different FFT size values. **Figure (3)** illustrates the MSE of the proposed channel estimation algorithm Vs. SNR at different values of the FFT size. It can be noticed that the FFT size has a dramatic effect on the value of the MSE at a given SNR. Current OFDM systems use an FFT size that is larger than 1024 which guarantees a MSE below $1e-4$ even at low SNR values. Mean squared error performance of the proposed channel estimator vs. FFT size is depicted in **Figure (3)** at three different SNR values. This figure also emphasizes the same deduced inverse proportionality relation between the MSE and the FFT size. **Figure (4)** illustrates the MSE performance comparison between the proposed channel estimator and LS, LMMSE estimators for a user velocity of 60 km h^{-1} at FFT size $N_m = 64$. **Figure (5)** illustrates the MSE of the presented channel estimators for a user velocity of 60 km h^{-1} at FFT size $N_m = 128$ at a given SNR. **Figure (6)** illustrates the difference in MSE between the proposed estimator and the LMMSE estimator is decreasing as the FFT size increases from 64 to 256.

Table 1. Simulation parameters

System	LTE
Modulation	16-QAM
Symbol time	224 μs
Bandwidth	5.71 MHz
Speed	60 km/hr
FFT size	64,128,256
Carrier frequency	2.4 GHz
Channel model	Rosa Zheng, dispersive, multipath
Channel estimators	LMMSE, LS Vs Proposed

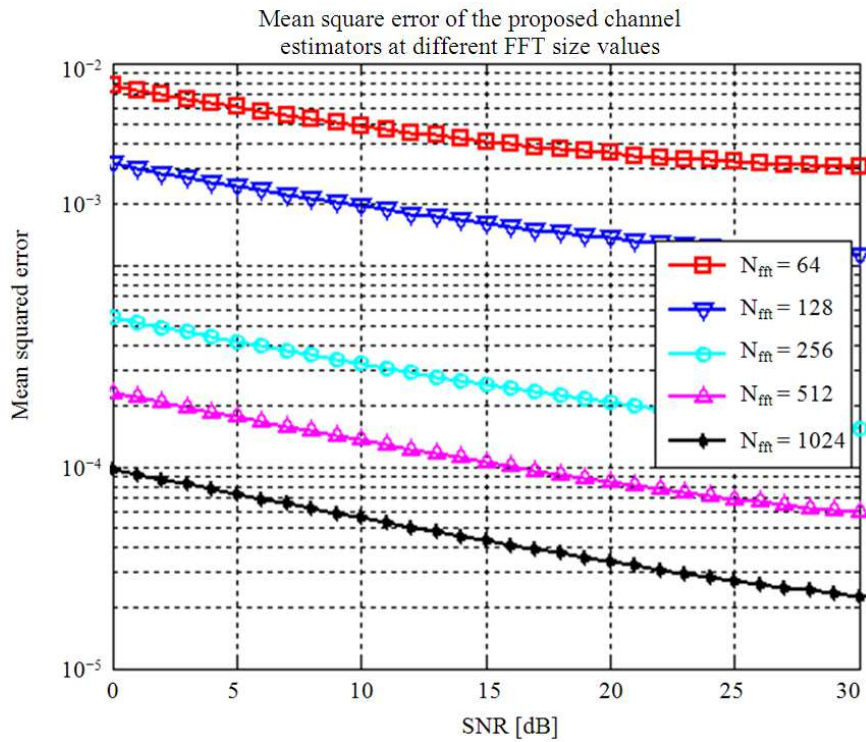


Figure (2) Mean squared error performance of the proposed channel estimator at different FFT size values

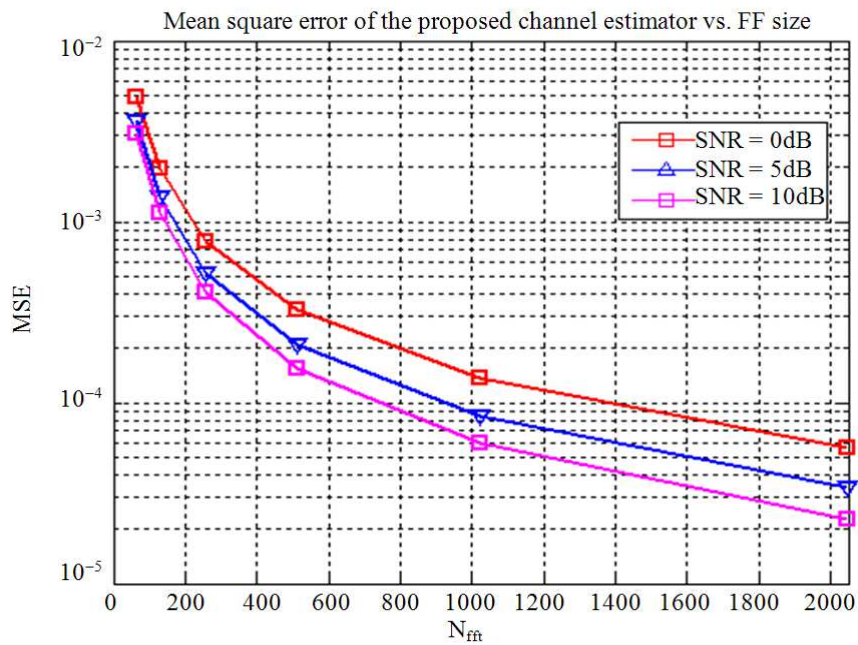


Figure (3) Mean squared error performance of the proposed channel estimator Vs FFT size

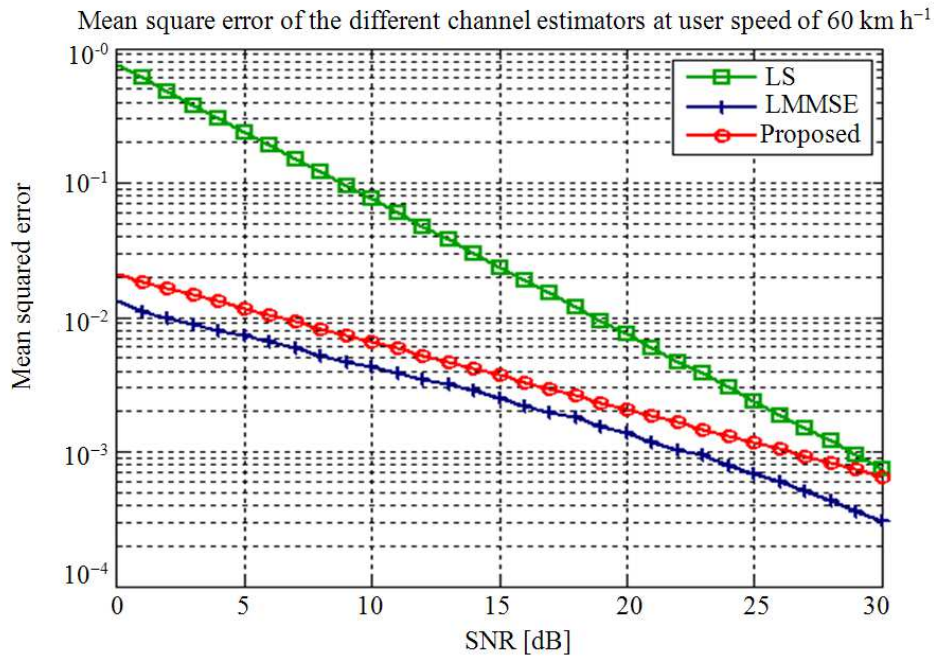


Figure (4) MSE performance comparison between the proposed channel estimator, LS and LMMSE estimators $N_{fit} = 64$

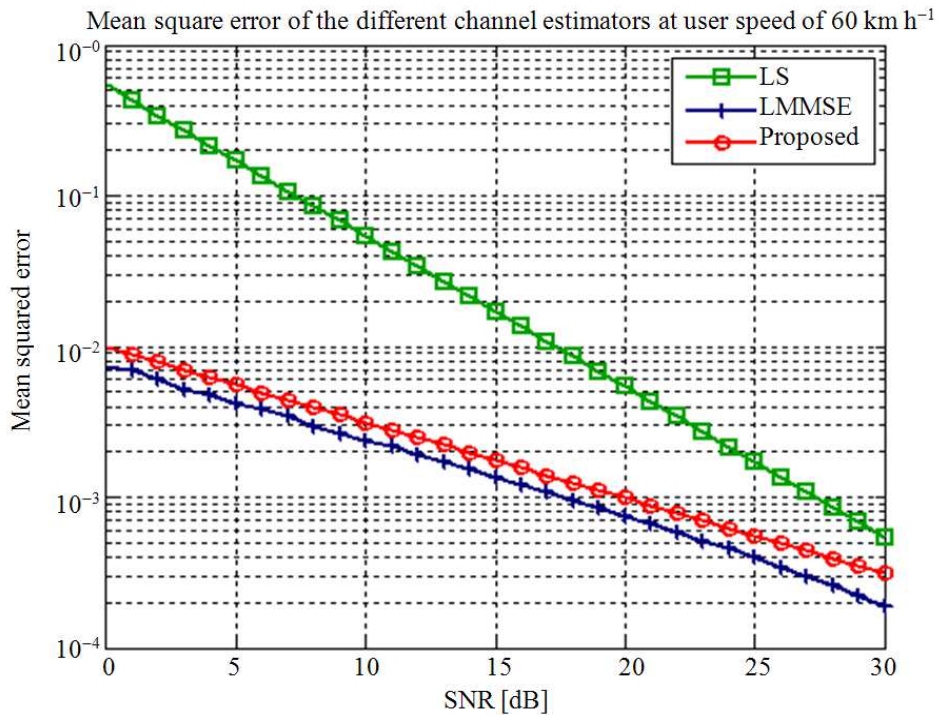


Figure (5) MSE performance comparison between the proposed channel estimator, LS and LMMSE estimators $N_m = 128$

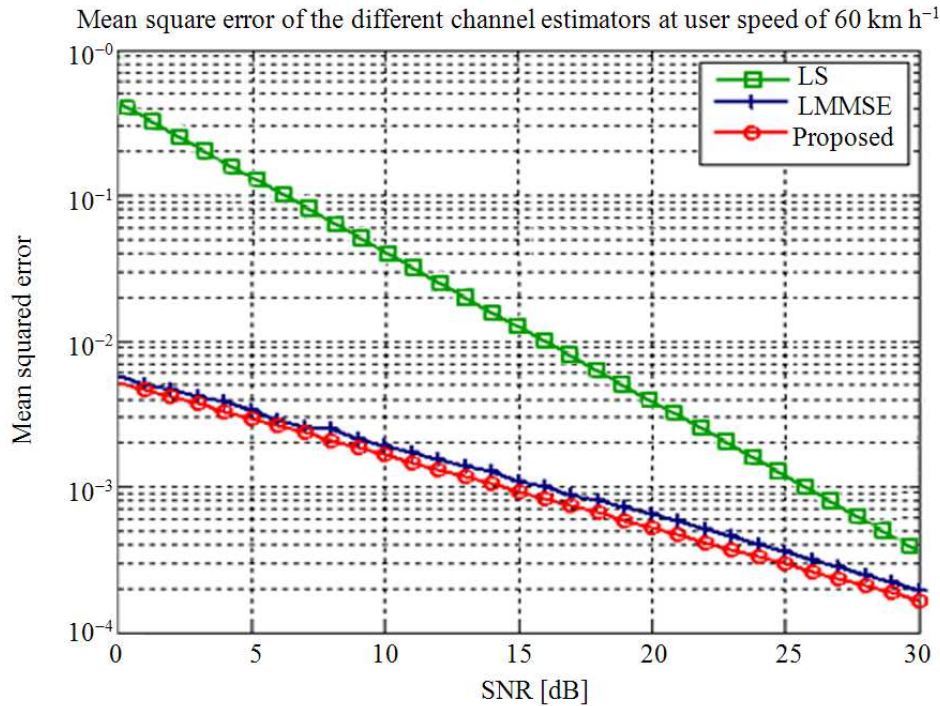


Figure (6) MSE performance comparison between the proposed channel estimator, LS and LMMSE estimators $N_m = 256$

5. CONCLUSION

A novel channel estimation algorithm has been proposed, evaluated and presented. This algorithm is based on Roza Zheng channel model and the matrix transpose rather than matrix inverse and it can be adopted to LTE systems. The proposed technique has the advantage of invariant complexity with respect to the channel matrix representing a dense multipath environment. The algorithm complexity is reduced due to the matrix multiplication process. Simulation results showed that the proposed algorithm is competitive to the optimum LMMSE from complexity point of view. The complexity reduction is compared to LS and LMMSE algorithms. This is based on the accuracy considered when the MSE versus the SNR are used as performance metrics of interest.

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