Adaptive Channel Estimation in Pilot Channel based DS-CDMA Systems

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파일럿 채널 DS-CDMA 시스템에서의 적응 채널 추정 기법

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ABSTRACT

The performance of a coherent rake receiver of DS-CDMA systems is significantly affected by the accuracy of channel estimation. The performance of the channel estimator can be improved by employing a channel estimation filter (CEF) whose impulse response is adjusted according to the channel condition. In this paper, we consider the design of an adaptive channel estimator for DS-CDMA systems with a pilot channel. The proposed channel estimator estimates the channel condition, which can be performed without having exact a priori information on the operating condition. The estimated channel condition adjusts the impulse response of the CEF. Numerical results show that the use of the proposed channel estimator can provide BER performance quite robust to a wide range of channel condition.

I. INTRODUCTION

Coherent rake receivers in the DS-CDMA system require the channel information including the amplitude and phase of the channel to coherently demodulate the received signal [1]. To obtain the channel information, a known signal called the pilot signal is usually transmitted being time-multiplexed or code-multiplexed with the data signal. In practice, the use of a code-multiplexed method is adopted in W-CDMA and Cdma2000 systems proposed for IMT-2000 systems [2,3].

To improve the accuracy of channel estimation, the obtained channel information is usually low-pass filtered to reduce the noise effect by employing a so-called channel estimation filter (CEF). It was shown that the characteristics of the CEF significantly affect the channel estimation performance and thus the receiver performance [4]. Since the channel condition is time-varying and location-dependent, the cut-off frequency of the CEF needs to be adjusted in real-time in response to the channel variation in order to improve the receiver performance.

There have been proposed a number of adaptive schemes applied to channel estimation including the least mean square (LMS) adaptation method, recursive least square (RLS) adaptation method [5]. These methods may not be applicable at low SIR since the reference signal used for calculation of the error metric is severely noise corrupted. In addition, large implementation complexity may inhibit the use of RLS method in practice. Another approach considers the use of multiple CEFs to choose a CEF according to the estimated speed zone [6,7]. However, since these schemes assume only Rayleigh fading condition with the classic spectrum and known SIR of the received signal, they may have limitation in real application. Moreover, the channel estimator can provide improved performance if it considers other channel condition parameters as well as the speed of channel variation.

In this paper, we propose an adaptive channel estimator whose cut-off frequency of the CEF is adaptively controlled in real-time according to the channel condition. The channel condition is estimated by considering various channel condition parameters including the maximum Doppler frequency. It can be applied without exact a priori information on the operating condition such as the fading statistics, the SIR of the received signal and the pilot to data signal power ratio.

Section Ⅱ describes the structure of the proposed adaptive channel estimator. The performance of the proposed scheme is evaluated in terms of the receiver performance in Section Ⅲ. Finally, conclusions are summarized in Section Ⅳ.

II. PROPOSED CHANNEL ESTIMSTOR

The proposed channel estimator can be applied to both the downlink and uplink where the pilot signal is transmitted with the data signal in code-multiplexed method. In general, since the transmitted power of the dedicated pilot signal in the uplink is much less than that of the common pilot signal in the downlink, the use of an efficient channel estimator becomes much important in the uplink. Thus, we consider the receiver performance of the proposed scheme in the uplink DS-CDMA system.

The block diagram of the *l*-th branch in a DS-CDMA receiver is depicted in Fig. 1 where the proposed channel estimator scheme is shown in a dotted box. The proposed channel estimator consists of the channel estimation controller (CEC), the channel parameter estimator (CPE) and the CEF module. The CPE estimates the parameters of the channel and transceiver using the received pilot symbols. The CEC determines the design parameters of the CPE and CEF module considering the operating channel characteristics. The output of the CPE is used to control the bandwidth of the CEF. For ease of analytic design and implementation, we consider the use of a simple moving average (MA) FIR as the CEF.

To estimate the channel parameters, we propose a new estimation structure that comprises a prefilter, bank of correlators and decision module as depicted in Fig. 2. The despread pilot symbol $\tilde{h}_l[k]$ is first lowpass filtered to compress the noise out of allowable maximum Doppler frequency. For simplicity of design, we consider the use of an N_a -tap MA filter as the prefilter. The filtered output is input to a bank of G_l correlators. The *i*-th correlator of the *l*-th branch, $i=1,2,\ldots,G_l$, correlates the prefiltered pilot symbol with the $m_{l,i}$ -sample delayed one for an interval of *J* symbols. Then, the output of the *i*-th correlator is normalized as

$$w_l(m_{l,i}) \equiv \sum_J \mathrm{Re}\{\bar{h}_l^*[n]\bar{h}_l[n-m_{l,i}]\} \Big/ \sum_J \left|\bar{h}_l[n]\right|^2 \qquad (1)$$

where $m_{l,1} < m_{l,2} < \cdots < m_{l,Gl}$. Assuming that the channel is Ricean faded and the prefiltered output $\bar{h}_l[n]$ is an ergordic process, $w_l(m_{l,i})$ can be approximated by [4]

$$w_l(m_{l,i}) \approx \frac{P_l\cos(2\pi f_d m_{l,i}T\cos\theta_l)+\sigma_l^2 R_{l,r}(m_{l,i}T)}{P_l+\sigma_l^2+P_N} \qquad (2)$$

where T is the symbol time, P_l and θ_l are the power and the arrival angle of the direct path ray component of the *l*-th path signal, respectively, f_d denotes the maximum Doppler frequency. σ_l^2 is the average power of scattered ray component of the *l*-th path signal whose amplitude and phase are respectively Rayleigh and uniformly distributed, and $R_{l,r}(\tau)$ is the autocorrelaton of the scattered ray components in the received signal given by

$$R_{l,r}(\tau) = \begin{cases} J_0(2\pi f_d \tau) \;, & \text{classic spectrum} \\ \dfrac{\sin(2\pi f_d\tau)}{2\pi f_d \tau} \;, & \text{flat spectrum.} \end{cases} \qquad (3)$$

Here, $J_0(\tau)$ is the first-kind zero-th order Bessel function. P_N is the prefiltered noise signal power given by

$$P_N = \sigma_n^2 \big/ (\beta^2 N_a) = \sum_{l=0}^{L-1}(P_l+\sigma_l^2) \Big/ (\beta^2 N_a C\gamma_b) \qquad (4)$$

where β^2 is the pilot to data signal power ratio, σ_n^2 is the noise power, *C* is the code rate, and γ_b is the per-bit signal energy to noise power ratio equal to E_b/N_0. Approximating the noise as an additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) with zero mean and two-sided power spectrum $N_0/2$, we have $\sigma_n^2 = N_0/T$.

Since $w_l(m)$ fast decreases as m increases, the channel environment can be classified by comparing $w_l(m)$ with a given threshold η. If the *j*-th correlator output of the *l*-th finger becomes smaller than η for the first time, *i.e.*, for $i=1,2,\ldots,j-1,\ j=1,2,\ldots,G_l$,

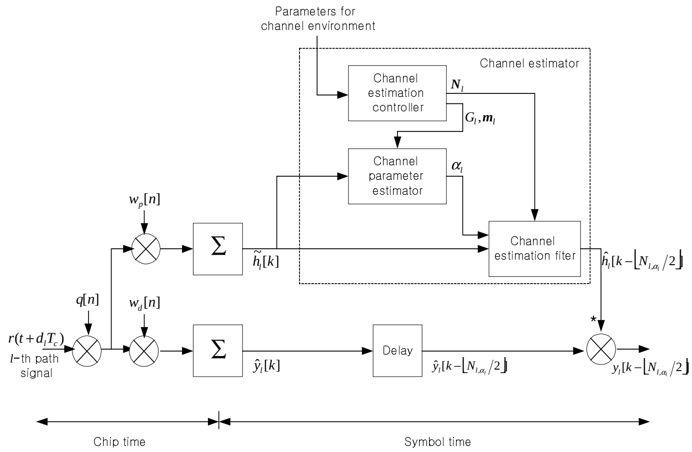


Fig. 1 The *l*-th finger of the rake receiver employing the proposed channel estimator

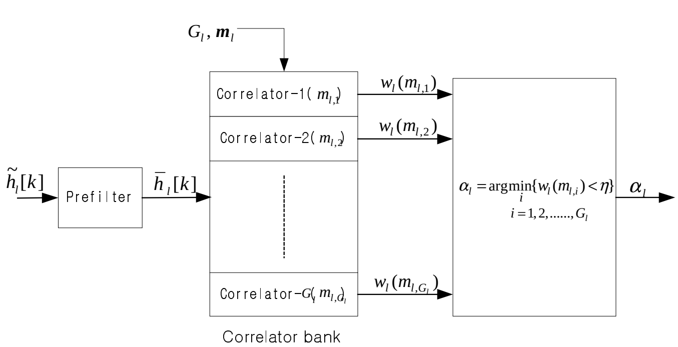


Fig. 2 The proposed channel parameter estimator

$$w_l(m_{l,j}) < \eta \text{ and } w_l(m_{l,i}) \geq \eta \tag{5}$$

the CPE infers that the channel environment belongs to the channel condition-*j*. In this case, the tap size of the corresponding MA filter is set to $N_{l,j}$, $1 \leq j \leq G_l + 1$, where $N_{l,1} < N_{l,2} < \cdots < N_{l,Gl+1}$. Note that $N_{l,Gl+1}$ corresponds to the case when no correlators output is smaller than the threshold, which happens when the channel response too slowly varies. In this case, it suffices to set the filter tap size to a maximum value since the optimum tap size is not much changed due to the effect of fast power control [4].

Now, it is required to determine the number of correlators, G_l, the values of $m_{l,i}$ and $N_{l,i}$, $i = 1, 2, ..., G_l$. It is reported that the optimum filter tap size $\hat{N}_l$ of the MA CEF can be approximately determined in a minimum mean squared error (MMSE) sense by [4]

$$\hat{N}_l = \left(\frac{2^4 m^4 A_l}{\beta^2 C \gamma_b \varsigma_l^{\,2}} \cdot \frac{1 + K_l}{K_l \cos^4 \theta_l / 9 + 1/\chi_l} \right)^{1/5} \tag{6}$$

where A_l is the ratio of the total signal to the *l*-th path signal power, K_l is the Ricean factor equal to $P_l / \sigma_l^{\,2}$ and χ_l is equal to 24 and 45 in the case of the classic spectrum and the flat spectrum, respectively. Here, ς_l is equal to $(2\pi f_d mT)^2$, where m satisfies $w_l(m) = \eta$. Taking the logarithm on (6), we have

$$\log \hat{N}_l = 0.8 \log m + \xi_l \tag{7}$$

where ξ_l is related to the channel parameters represented as

$$\xi_l = \frac{1}{5}\left[\log\left(2^4 A_l\right) - \log\left(C\beta^2 \gamma_b \varsigma_l^{\,2}\right) + \log\left(\frac{1 + K_l}{K_l \cos^4 \theta_l / 9 + 1/\chi_l} \right) \right] \tag{8}$$

When the channel condition where the base station handles is given, the upper and the lower boundary of the tap size can be determined as in Fig. 3. That is, the lower boundary of the filter tap size is obtained by substituting the parameters $A_{l,\min}$, $\chi_{l,\max}$, $K_{l,\min}$, $|\theta_l|_{\max}$, $\beta_{\max}$ and $\gamma_{b\max}$ into (7). Similarly, the upper boundary of the filter tap size is obtained under $A_{l,\max}$, $\chi_{l,\min}$, $K_{l,\max}$, $|\theta_l|_{\min}$, $\beta_{\min}$ and $\gamma_{b\min}$. Note that the range of the channel parameters can significantly vary depending on the characteristics of the service condition such as the geometry and channel environment. The smaller the difference between the lower and the upper boundary, the better the accuracy of the channel information can be obtained. To be able to apply the proposed scheme without the a priori information on the channel environment, the channel parameters can be set for a presumed operating condition.

Given these boundaries, the magnitudes $\boldsymbol{m}_l$ of the delay parameters and the tap size $\boldsymbol{N}_l$ of the CEFs can be determined sequentially in a recursive manner as follows.

For given $N_{l,1} (= N_{l,\min})$ and lower-bound margin λ_L, $m_{l,1}$ can be determined such that the point *A* (i.e., $(m_{l,1}, (1+\lambda_L)^{-1} N_{l,1})$) in Fig. 3 lies on the lower boundary. As λ_L increases, the difference between the break points of the staircase (e.g., the point *C* in Fig. 3) and the lower boundary becomes large. With λ_U and $m_{l,1}$, the tap size of the second CEF in the *l*-th finger, $N_{l,2}$, can be determined such that $(m_{l,1}, (1+\lambda_U) N_{l,2})$ is on the upper boundary (e.g., the point *B* in Fig. 3). Similarly, $m_{l,2}$ and $N_{l,3}$ can be calculated from $N_{l,2}$ and $m_{l,2}$, respectively. In this way, $m_{l,i}$, *i*=1,2,…, G_l, and $N_{l,i}$, *i*=1,2,…, G_l+1, can be calculated iteratively until the tap size becomes larger than a predetermined maximum value $N_{l,\max}$. When $N_{l,i+1} \geq N_{l,\max}$, $N_{l,i+1}$ is set to a value of $N_{l,\max}$. As an example, the CEC parameters are set to G_l = 5, $\boldsymbol{m}_l$ = {8, 16, 35, 76, 166} and $\boldsymbol{N}_l$ = {9, 17, 31, 57, 105, 151} in Fig. 3 when $\lambda_L = 0.15$, $\lambda_U = 0.75$, 0 (*i.e.*, Rayleigh) $\leq K_l < \infty$ (*i.e.*, direct path only), $-90° \leq \theta_l \leq 90°$, $0\text{dB} \leq \gamma_b \leq 10\text{dB}$, β^2 =0.25 (-6dB), $1 \leq A_l \leq 6$ and $24 \leq \chi_l \leq 45$.

III. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

To verify the performance improvement due to the use of the proposed channel estimator, the BER performance is evaluated when the power control is employed. The channel is assumed to have one or three paths with the same power gain in average. It is assumed that fast power control is performed with a step size of 1dB at a rate of 800Hz. We consider data transmission at a rate of 9600bps when β^2 =-6dB with the use of a convolutional coder with code rate 1/2 and constraint length 9, interleaving with 20msec (24x16) depth, two Walsh spreading sequences with a length of 64 for the data signal and the pilot signal, and *m*-sequences with a period of ($2^{15} - 1$). We also consider a maximum Doppler frequency of up to 500Hz.

Fig. 4 depicts the effective γ_b gain with the use of the proposed channel estimator over the use of a conventional one

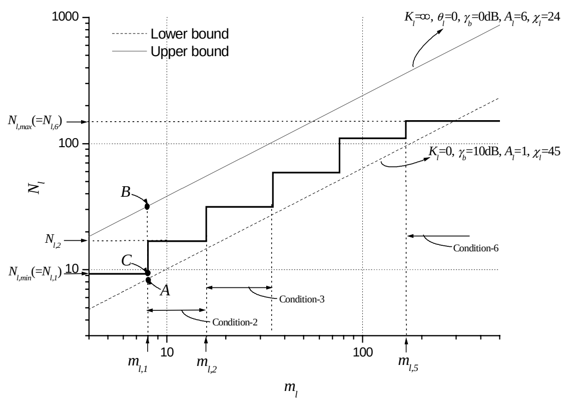
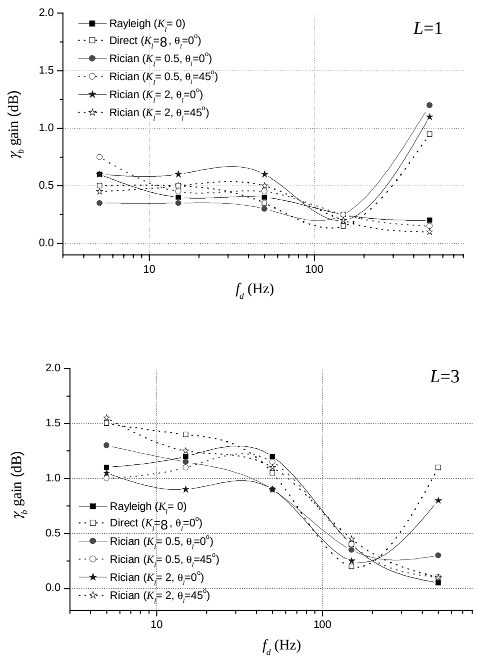
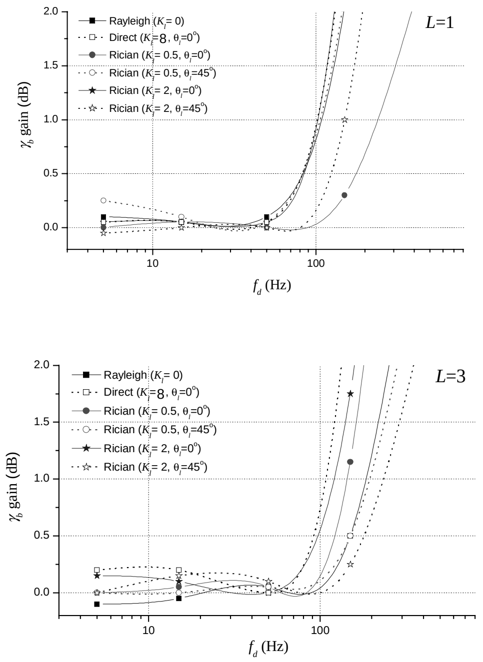


Fig. 3 An example of filter tap size selection



(a) γ_b gain over the 1.25ms fixed MA CEF



(b) γ_b gain over the 5ms fixed MA CEF

Fig. 4 γ_b gain of the proposed channel estimator

optimized for a specific channel condition. Compared to the use of a 24-tap MA FIR filter (*i.e.*, 1.25 msec averaging time), it can be seen that the use of the proposed scheme provides significant gain γ_b except at a Doppler frequency of around 200Hz. This is due to that the use of a 24-tap MA filter is optimum for a Doppler frequency of about 200Hz. Compared to the use of a 96-tap MA filter (*i.e.*, 5 msec averaging time), it can be seen that the use of the proposed scheme provides a gain γ_b of a fractional dB when f_d is low, but it can provide a large γ_b gain when f_d is higher than 80Hz. As the number of multipaths increases, the use of an efficient channel estimator becomes more important since the SIR of each path signal is decreased. Thus, the gain γ_b with the use of the proposed channel estimator increases as the number of multipaths increases.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have proposed an adaptive channel estimator that employs a simple but efficient channel parameter estimator which classifies the channel condition using a bank of correlators. The impulse response of the CEF is adaptively adjusted according to the estimated channel condition. The proposed channel estimator can be applied without requiring exact information on the operating condition such as the fading statistics, the received SIR and the pilot to data signal power ratio. Numerical results show that the rake receiver with the use of the proposed channel estimator can provide relatively good BER performance over a wide range of the channel condition.

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