QUASI-RECTILINEAR (MSK, GMSK, OQAM) CO-CHANNEL INTERFERENCE
MITIGATION BY THREE INPUTS WIDELY LINEAR FRESH FILTERING

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ABSTRACT

Widely linear (WL) filters have the capability to perform single antenna interference cancellation (SAIC) of one rectilinear (R) or quasi-rectilinear (QR) co-channel interference (CCI). The SAIC technology for QR signals is operational in GSM handsets but requires enhancements for both VAMOS standard, an evolution of GSM/EDGE standard, and FBMC-OQAM networks, which are candidate for 5G mobile networks. For this reason, we propose and analyze in this paper, for QR signals, a SAIC/MAIC enhancement based on the concept of three inputs WL FRESH filtering, exploiting almost exhaustively both the non-circularity and the cyclostationarity of QR signals, contrary to classical approaches which only exploit very partially these properties.

Index Terms— Widely linear, SAIC, Quasi-Rectilinear, Non-circular, CCI, Continuous-Time, Pseudo-MLSE, FRESH

1. INTRODUCTION

Since two decades and the pioneer works on the subject [1-4], WL filtering has raised up a great interest for second-order (SO) non-circular signals [5] in many areas. Nevertheless, the application which has received the greatest interest is CCI mitigation in radio communication networks using R or QR modulations. R modulations correspond to monodimensional modulations such as ASK or BPSK modulations. QR modulations are complex modulations corresponding, after a simple derotation operation [6], to a complex filtering of a R modulation. Examples of QR modulations are MSK, GMSK or OQAM modulations. One of the most important properties of WL filtering is its capability to perform SAIC of one R or QR multi-user (MU) CCI, allowing the separation of two users from only one receive antenna [7-9]. The effectiveness of this concept jointly with its low complexity explain why it is operational in most of GSM handsets, allowing significant network’s capacity gains for the GSM system [9-10]. Extension of the SAIC concept to a multi-antenna reception is called MAIC. To further increase the spectral efficiency of speech services in emerging markets such as China or India, the voice services over adaptive multi-user channels on one slot (VAMOS) technology, has been recently standardized [11]. It enables the transmission of two GSM voice streams on the same TDMA slot at the same frequency through the orthogonal sub channel (OSC) multiple access technique which aims at doubling the number of users served by a cell. The separation, at the handset level, of the two streams, potentially corrupted by co-channel OSC and/or GMSK interference, requires the implementation of enhanced SAIC techniques for QR signals, preliminary introduced in [12-14]. A similar need is also required to mitigate both inter-carrier interference (ICI) and CCI for networks which will use filter bank multi-carrier (FBMC) waveforms coupled with OQAM modulation, which are considered as promising candidates for the 5G mobile networks in particular [15]. First WL filtering based solutions are presented in [16-18].

In this context, the purpose of this paper is to propose an enhanced generic SAIC/MAIC technique for links using QR modulations, corrupted by QR CCI. Most of the available WL receivers [6-8], [12-14], [16-21], optimized for QR signals, implement a time invariant (TI) WL filter on the extended derotated observation vector. Thus they only exploit partially the non-circularity and the cyclostationarity properties of QR signals. To much better exploit these properties, we propose to use a particular time variant (TV) WL filter on the same extended observations, corresponding to a three inputs WL frequency shifted (FRESH) filter [2]. To show the effectiveness of this new philosophy, we adopt a continuous-time (CT) approach, allowing us to remove both the filtering structure constraints imposed by a discrete-time (DT) approach and the potential influence of the sample rate. Besides, we choose a pseudo maximum likelihood sequence estimation (MLSE) approach much more easy to compute than a MLSE approach. Note that the scarce papers dealing with WL FRESH filtering for demodulation of QR signals correspond to [22-24]. While [22] concerns DS-CDMA systems, [24] considers a particular DT MMSE approach. The concept of three inputs WL FRESH filter is only cited in [23] for interference cancellation in the GSM context. However, in [23] no analysis is presented and a DT approach at the symbol rate is considered, which finally reduces to the standard WL approach.
2. MODELS AND SO STATISTICS

2.1. Observation model and SO statistics

We consider an array of \( N \) narrow-band antennas receiving the contribution of a QR signal of interest (SOI) and a total noise. The vector of complex amplitudes of the signals at the output of these antennas can be written as

\[
x(t) = \sum_{k} j^{k} b_k g(t - kT) + n(t).
\]

(1)

Here, \( b_k \) are real-valued zero-mean i.i.d. r.v., directly related to the SOI symbols \([19][8]\), \( T \) is the symbol period for MSK and GMSK signals and half the symbol period for OQAM signals, \( g(t) = v(t) * h(t) \) is the impulse response of the SOI global channel, \( * \) is the convolution operation, \( v(t) \) and \( h(t) \) are the impulse responses of the SOI pulse shaping filter and propagation channel respectively and \( n(t) \) is the zero-mean total noise vector. Note that model (1) is exact for MSK and OQAM signals but is approximated for GMSK signals \([25]\).

The SO statistics of \( x(t) \) are characterized by the two correlation matrices \( R_x(t, \tau) \) and \( C_x(t, \tau) \), defined by

\[
R_x(t, \tau) \triangleq \text{E}[x(t + \tau/2)x^H(t - \tau/2)]
\]

(2)

\[
C_x(t, \tau) \triangleq \text{E}[x(t + \tau/2)x^T(t - \tau/2)]
\]

(3)

where \( T \) and \( H \) mean transpose and conjugate transpose respectively. Assuming that \( n(t) \) is composed of QR MU CCI and stationary background noise, it is easy to verify that \( R_x(t, \tau) \) and \( C_x(t, \tau) \) are periodic functions of \( t \) with periods equal to \( T \) and \( 2T \), respectively. Matrices \( R_x(t, \tau) \) and \( C_x(t, \tau) \) have then Fourier series expansions given by

\[
R_x^\alpha(t, \tau) = \sum_{\alpha_i} R_x^{\alpha_i}(\tau) e^{j2\pi\alpha_i t}
\]

(4)

\[
C_x^\beta(t, \tau) = \sum_{\beta_i} C_x^{\beta_i}(\tau) e^{j2\pi\beta_i t}
\]

(5)

Here, \( \alpha_i \) and \( \beta_i \) are the first and second SO cyclic frequencies of \( x(t) \), such that \( \alpha_i = i/T \) and \( \beta_i = (2i + 1)/2T, i \in \mathbb{Z} \) \([26][27]\). \( R_x^\alpha(\tau) \) and \( C_x^\beta(\tau) \) are the first and second cyclic correlation matrices of \( x(t) \) for the cyclic frequencies \( \alpha_i \) and \( \beta_i \) and the delay \( \tau \), defined by

\[
R_x^{\alpha_i}(\tau) \triangleq \langle R_x(t, \tau)e^{-j2\pi\alpha_i t} \rangle
\]

(6)

\[
C_x^{\beta_i}(\tau) \triangleq \langle C_x(t, \tau)e^{-j2\pi\beta_i t} \rangle
\]

(7)

where \( \langle \ldots \rangle \) is the temporal mean operation in \( t \) over an infinite observation duration.

2.2. Extended derotated or two inputs FRESH model

Conventional linear and standard WL processing of \( x(t) \) only exploit the information contained in the zero first \( (\alpha = 0) \) and first and second \( (\alpha, \beta = (0, 0)) \) SO cyclic frequencies of \( x(t) \) respectively. As no information is contained in \( \beta = 0 \) for QR signals, a derotation preprocessing is required before WL filtering of QR signals. Using (1), the derotated observation vector can be written as

\[
x_d(t) \triangleq j^{-t/T}x(t) = \sum_{k} b_k g_d(t - kT) + n_d(t)
\]

(8)

where \( g_d(t) \triangleq j^{-t/T}g(t) \) and \( n_d(t) \triangleq j^{-t/T}n(t) \). Expression (8) shows that the derotation operation makes a QR signal looks like a R signal, with a non-zero information for \( \beta = 0 \). Indeed, it is easy to verify that the two correlation matrices, \( R_{x_d}(t, \tau) \) and \( C_{x_d}(t, \tau) \) of \( x_d(t) \) are such that

\[
R_{x_d}(t, \tau) = j^{-\tau/T}R_x(t, \tau)
\]

(9)

\[
C_{x_d}(t, \tau) = j^{-2T/T}C_x(t, \tau) \triangleq e^{-j2\pi t/2T}C_x(t, \tau).
\]

(10)

These expressions show that the first, \( \alpha_d, \) and second, \( \beta_d, \) SO cyclic frequencies of \( x_d(t) \) are such that \( \alpha_d = \alpha_i \), and second, \( \beta_d = \beta_i = -1/2T = i/T, \) which proves the presence of information at \( \beta_d = 0 \). Thus standard WL processing of QR signals exploits the information contained in \( (\alpha_d, \beta_d) = (0, 0) \) through the exploitation of the temporal mean of the first correlation matrix of the extended derotated model

\[
\bar{x}_d(t) \triangleq [x_d^T(t), x_d^H(t)]^T = \sum_{k} b_k g_d(t - kT) + \bar{n}_d(t)
\]

(11)

where \( \bar{g}_d(t) \triangleq [g_d^T(t), g_d^H(t)]^T \) and \( \bar{n}_d(t) \triangleq [n_d^T(t), n_d^H(t)]^T \).

Note that \( \bar{x}_d(t) \triangleq j^{-t/T}x_{F_2}(t) \), where \( x_{F_2}(t) \triangleq [x^T(t), e^{j2\pi t/2T}x^H(t)]^T \) is a particular two inputs FRESH model of \( x(t) \) which can be written as

\[
x_{F_2}(t) = \sum_{k} j^{k} b_k g_{F_2}(t - kT) + n_{F_2}(t)
\]

(12)

where \( n_{F_2}(t) \) corresponds to \( x_{F_2}(t) \) with \( n(t) \) instead of \( x(t) \) and \( g_{F_2}(t) \triangleq [g^T(t), e^{j2\pi t/2T}g^H(t)]^T \) As the temporal mean of the first correlation matrices of \( \bar{x}_d(t) \) and \( x_{F_2}(t) \) contain the same information, TL linear processing of \( \bar{x}_d(t) \) and \( x_{F_2}(t) \) involving only this first correlation matrix are equivalent.

2.3. Three inputs FRESH model

While for R signals, the main information about their non-circularity is contained in \( \beta = 0 \), for QR signals, it is symmetrical contained in \( (\beta_0, \beta_{-1}) = (-1/2T, -1/2T) \), or equivalently in \( (\beta_d, \beta_{d-1}) = (0, -1/T) \). As models \( \bar{x}_d(t) \) or \( x_{F_2}(t) \) only exploit the information contained in \( (\alpha_d, \beta_{d-1}) = (0, 0) \), or \( (\alpha_0, \beta_0) = (0, 1/2T) \), i.e. a part of the non-circularity information, they become sub-optimal. To overcome this limitation, we propose to exploit a three inputs FRESH model corresponding to

\[
x_{F_3}(t) \triangleq [x^T(t), e^{j2\pi t/2T}x^H(t), e^{-j3\pi t/2T}x^H(t)]^T
\]

\[
= j^{t/T}[\bar{x}_d^T(t), e^{-j3\pi t/2T}x_d^H(t)]^T \triangleq j^{t/T}x_{d_{F_3}}(t)
\]

\[
= \sum_{k} j^{k} b_k g_{F_3}(t - kT) + n_{F_3}(t)
\]

(13)
where \( n_{F}(t) \) corresponds to \( x_{F}(t) \) with \( n(t) \) instead of \( x(t) \) and \( \mathbf{g}_{F}(t) \begin{align*}
&= [\mathbf{g}(t), e^{-j2\pi ft/2T}, \mathbf{g}(t), e^{-j2\pi ft/2T}]^{T}.
\end{align*}
It is straightforward to verify that the temporal mean of the first correlation matrices of \( x_{F}(t) \) and \( x_{d}(t) \) exploits the information contained in \((\alpha_{0}, \alpha_{1}, \beta_{0}, \beta_{1}) = (0, -1/T, 1/T, 1/2T, -1/2T)\), which allows us to exploit almost exhaustively both the cyclostationarity and the non-circularity of QR signals. Note that TI linear processing of \( x_{F}(t) \) or \( x_{d}(t) \) becomes now a TV WL filtering of both \( x(t) \) and \( x_{d}(t) \), called here three inputs WL FRESH filtering of \( x(t) \) or \( x_{d}(t) \).

### 3. GENERIC PSEUDO-MLSE RECEIVER

#### 3.1. Pseudo-MLSE approach

To only exploit the information contained in the SO statistics of the observations, the CT MLSE receiver for the detection of the symbols \( b_{k} \), would assume a Gaussian total noise despite the fact that the CCI are QR. Note that the Gaussian assumption would be verified in practice for a high number of i.i.d. CCI. Moreover, to take into account the SO cyclostationarity and the SO non-circular properties of the CCI, the total noise would be assumed to be cyclostationary and non-circular. However, under these assumptions, the CT MLSE receiver, which optimally exploits the CCI SO properties, is very challenging to derive and even probably impossible to implement. Such a MLSE receiver would optimally exploit the information contained in all the \((\alpha_{i}, \beta_{i}), i \in \mathbb{Z}\), through the probable implementation of an infinite number of TI filters acting on an infinite number of FRESH versions of \( x(t) \) and \( x^{*}(t) \), where * means conjugate.

In this context, a standard MLSE approach only exploits the non-circularity of the data but not their cyclostationarity. It consists to compute the CT MLSE receiver from \( x(t) \) (or \( x_{d}(t) \)) in Gaussian non-circular stationary total noise \( n(t) \) (or \( n_{d}(t) \)). This is equivalent to compute the CT MLSE receiver from \( x(t) \) (or \( x_{d}(t) \)) in Gaussian circular stationary extended total noise \( \tilde{n}(t) \) (or \( \tilde{n}_{d}(t) \)) [9]. We generalize this approach by choosing an arbitrary finite number \( M \) of FRESH versions of \( x(t) \) and/or \( x^{*}(t) \), generating the \( M \) inputs FRESH model \( x_{F}(t) \), and by computing the CT MLSE receiver from \( x_{F}(t) \) assuming a circular, stationary and Gaussian \( M \) inputs FRESH total noise vector \( n_{F}(t) \). This approach gives rise to the \( M \) inputs pseudo-MLSE receiver associated with \( x_{F}(t) \). The problem is then to choose the vector \( x_{F}(t) \) of minimum size which generates a pseudo-MLSE receiver whose performance well approximates that of the CT MLSE receiver. In the following, we consider three observation models corresponding to \( x(t) \) (the conventional one), also denoted by \( x_{F}(t) \), \( x_{E}(t) \) (equivalent to \( x_{d}(t) \), the standard extended one) and \( x_{F}(t) \) (the proposed one) defined by (1), (12) and (13) respectively and we compare the output performance of the associated pseudo-MLSE receivers.

#### 3.2. Generic pseudo-MLSE receiver

For a given value of \( M (M = 1, 2, 3) \), assuming a stationary, circular and Gaussian \( M \) inputs total noise \( n_{F}(t) \), it is shown in [28] that the sequence \( \tilde{\mathbf{b}} \approx (\tilde{\mathbf{b}}_{1}, ..., \tilde{\mathbf{b}}_{M}) \) which maximizes its likelihood from \( x_{F}(t) \) is the one which minimizes the following criterion:

\[
\int [x_{F}(t) - s_{F}(t)]^{H} \left[ R_{n_{F}}(f) \right]^{-1} [x_{F}(t) - s_{F}(t)] df
\]

(14)

Considering only terms that depend on the symbols \( b_{k} \), the minimization of (14) is equivalent to that of the metric:

\[
\Lambda(b) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{k'=1}^{K} b_{k} b_{k'}^{-} T_{k,k'} - 2 \sum_{k=1}^{K} b_{k} s_{F}(k)
\]

(15)

where \( s_{F}(k) \approx \text{Re}[j^{-k} y_{F}(k)] \) with

\[
y_{F}(k) = \int H_{F}(f) [R_{n_{F}}(f)]^{-1} x_{F}(f) e^{j 2\pi f k T} df,
\]

(16)

and

\[
r_{k,k'} = j^{-k} \int H_{F}(f) [R_{n_{F}}(f)]^{-1} x_{F}(f) e^{j 2\pi f (k-k')} df
\]

(17)

#### 3.3. Interpretation of the pseudo-MLSE receiver

We deduce from (16) that \( y_{F}(k) \) is the sampled version, at time \( t = kT \), of the output of the TI filter whose frequency response is

\[
w_{F}^{H}(f) \begin{align*} &\approx \left[ R_{n_{F}}(f) \right]^{-1} H_{F}(f)
\end{align*}
\]

(18)

and whose input is \( x_{F}(t) \). The structure of the \( M \) inputs pseudo-MLSE receiver is then depicted at Fig.1. It is composed of the TI \( M \) inputs filter (18), followed by a sampling at the symbol rate, a derotation operation, a real part capture and a decision box implementing a modified version of the Viterbi algorithm.

![Fig.1 Structure of the M inputs pseudo-MLSE receiver.](image)

#### 3.4. SINR at the output of the pseudo-MLSE receiver

For real-valued symbols \( b_{k} \), the symbol error rate (SER) at the output of the \( M \) inputs pseudo-MLSE receiver is directly linked to the signal to interference plus noise ratio (SINR) on the current symbol before decision, i.e., at the output \( s_{F}(n) \) [30, Sec.10.1.4], while the inter-symbol interference is processed by the decision box. For this reason, we compute the expression of the output SINR hereafter and we will analyze

\[^{1}\text{All Fourier transforms of vectors } x \text{ and matrices } X \text{ use the same notation where } f \text{ or } \tau \text{ is simply replaced by } f, \text{ e.g., here } R_{X}^{[0]}(f) \text{ is the Fourier transform of } (6), \text{ where } \alpha_{0} \text{ and } x(t) \text{ are replaced by } 0 \text{ and } n_{F}(t) \text{ respectively, whereas } s_{F}(f) \approx \sum_{k=1}^{K} j^{k} b_{k} R_{n_{F}}(f) e^{-j 2\pi k f P}.\]
its variations in particular situations in section 4. As $n_{F_M}(t)$ is cyclostationary and non-circular, the filter (18) does not maximize the output SINR and can only be considered as a $M$ inputs pseudo matched filter. It is easy to verify from (1), (12), (13), (16) and (17), that $z_{F_M}(n)$ can be written as

$$z_{F_M}(n) = b_n r_{n,n} + \sum_{k \neq n} b_k \text{Re}[r_{n,k}] + z_{n,F_M}(n),$$

where $z_{n,F_M}(n) \triangleq \text{Re}[j^{-n}y_{n,F_M}(n)]$ and $y_{n,F_M}(n)$ is defined by (16) for $k = n$ with $n_{F_M}(n)$ instead of $x_{F_M}(n)$. The SINR on the current symbol is then defined by

$$\text{SINR}_M \triangleq \pi b_t^2 / E[(\text{Re}[j^{-n}y_{n,F_M}(n)])^2],$$

(20)

where $\pi_t \triangleq E(b_t^2)$.

4. SINR ANALYSIS FOR ONE CCI

4.1. Total noise model

To show the effectiveness of (13) with respect to (11) or (12), we assume that the total noise is composed of one MU CCI and a background noise. Under these assumptions, $n(t)$ can be written as

$$n(t) = \sum_k j^k e_k g_k(t - kT) + u(t)$$

(21)

where $e_k$ are real-valued zero-mean i.i.d. r.v., directly related to the transmitted symbols of the MU CCI interference, $g_k(t) = v(t) * h_k(t)$, $h_k(t)$ is the impulse response of the propagation channel of the CCI and $u(t)$ is the background noise vector, assumed stationary, temporally and spatially white. To simplify the following analysis, we assume a raised cosine pulse shaping filter $v(t)$ with a roll-off $\gamma$ and deterministic propagation channels with no delay spread such that

$$h(t) = \mu \delta(t) h \quad \text{and} \quad h(t) = \mu \delta(t - \tau_1) h_t$$

(22)

Here, $\mu$ and $\mu_t$ control the amplitude of the SOI and CCI, $\delta(t)$ is the Dirac pulse, $\tau_1$ is the CCI with the delay with respect to the SOI whereas $h$ and $h_t$, such that $h^H h = h_t^H h_t = N$, are the channel vectors of the SOI and CCI.

4.2. SINR computations and analysis

Under the previous assumptions, analytical interpretable expressions of the SINRs (20) are only possible for a zero roll-off. In this case, we denote by $\pi_s \triangleq \mu^2 \pi_t$, $\pi_1 \triangleq \mu_t^2 \pi_t$ and $\eta_2$ the power of the SOI, the CCI and the background noise per antenna at the output of the pulse shaping matched filter, $\pi_e \triangleq E[e_n^2]$, $\varepsilon_s \triangleq \pi_s h^H h / \eta_2$ and $\varepsilon_e \triangleq \pi_e h_t^H h_t / \eta_2$. Moreover, assuming $N = 1$ and a strong CCI ($\varepsilon_1 \gg 1$) for models (12) and (13), we obtain after tedious computations

$$\text{SINR}_1 = \frac{2 \varepsilon_s}{1 + \varepsilon_1 [1 - \cos(\frac{\pi_1}{2}) + 2 \cos(\frac{\pi_1}{2}) \cos(\phi_{Is})]}$$

$$\text{SINR}_2 \approx 2 \varepsilon_s \left[ 1 - \frac{1 + \cos^2(\phi_{Is} + \frac{\pi_1}{2})}{2} \right] \Psi_{Is} \neq k\pi$$

(23)

where $\phi_{Is} \triangleq \arctan(h^H h / \eta_2)$ is the phase difference between the SOI and the CCI, $\Psi_{Is} \triangleq \phi_{Is} + \pi \pi_1 / 2T$ and $\zeta_{Is} \triangleq \phi_{Is} - \pi \pi_1 / 2T$. A receiver performs SAIC as $\varepsilon_1 \to \infty$, if the associated SINR does not converge toward zero. We deduce from (23) that the conventional receiver performs SAIC very scarcely, only when $(\pi_1 / T, \phi_{Is}) = (2k_1, (2k_2 - 1)\pi / 2)$ or $(2k_1 + 1, k_2 \pi)$, where $k_1$ and $k_2$ are integer. However (24) and (26) show that the two and three inputs WL FRESH receivers perform SAIC as long as $\Psi_{Is} \neq k\pi$ and $(\Psi_{Is}, \zeta_{Is}) \neq (k\pi, k\pi)$ respectively and are in this case such that $\text{SINR}_3 \geq \text{SINR}_2$, enlightening the great interest of (13). To give a statistical perspective of these results for arbitrary values of $\gamma$, we now assume that $\phi_{Is}$ and $\pi \pi_1 / 2T$ are independent r.v. uniformly distributed on $[0, 2\pi)$. Under these assumptions, choosing $\varepsilon_s = 10 \text{ dB}$ and $\varepsilon_e = 20 \text{ dB}$, Fig.2 shows, for $M = 1, 2, 3$ and $\gamma = 0, 0.5, 1$, $P_r([\text{SINR}_M / 2\varepsilon_s]_{dB} \geq x) \triangleq p_M(x)$ as a function of $x$ (dB). Note increasing performance with $\gamma$ for $M = 2, 3$ and the best performance of (13) with respect to (12) whatever $\gamma$. Note in particular, for $\gamma = 0.5$ and $x = -3 \text{ dB}$, that $p_1(x) = 0\%$, $p_2(x) \approx 26\%$ and $p_3(x) \approx 63\%$, proving the much better performance of (13) with respect to (12).

![Fig.2 p_M(x) as a function of x, N = 1, $\varepsilon_s = 10 \text{ dB}, \varepsilon_e = 20 \text{ dB.}$$

5. CONCLUSION

A SAIC/MAIC enhancement based on the concept of three inputs WL FRESH filtering has been proposed and analyzed in this paper, through a CT pseudo-MLSE approach, for MU CCI mitigation in networks using QR signals. This new approach has been shown to be much more powerful than the standard WL approach. Moreover, it is shown in [31] that it makes QR signals become almost equivalent to R ones for WL filtering in the presence of CCI. Other approaches (DT, MMSE..) will be considered elsewhere.
6. REFERENCES


