Joint Active User Detection and Channel Estimation for Grant-Free NOMA-OTFS in LEO Constellation Internet-of-Things

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LEO Constellation-enabled IoT

• **Opportunities** [Liu'21]

Starlink



China Satcom



The emerging LEO satellite constellations provide a promising solution for supporting seamless coverage services in the Internet of Things

[Liu'21] S. Liu, Z. Gao, Y. Wu, D. W. K. Ng, X. Gao, K. Wong, S. Chatzinotas, and B. Ottersten, "LEO satellite constellations for 5G and beyond: How will they reshape vertical domains?", *to appear in IEEE Commun. Mag.*.

LEO Constellation-enabled IoT



(a) Massive Machine-type Communication (mMTC)

(b) Time-Varying Terrestrial-Satellite Link (TSL)

An efficient multiple access scheme and waveform are in demand to meet the massive connectivity in LEO-IoT and combat the dynamics of the TSL

OTFS Waveform



Orthogonal Time Frequency Space (OTFS)

- > A new two-dimension modulation technique
- Carry information symbols in the delay-Doppler domain
- > OTFS works well in high-Doppler wireless channels
- > OTFS can exploit full time-frequency diversity (2D spreading)

Contributions







Grant-Free NOMA-OTFS

Principles

- Grant-Free: IoT terminals transmit frames consisting of pilot and data symbols without grant
- NOMA: IoT terminals share the same timefrequency resource to access the LEO satellite
 OTES: The data symbols
- OTFS: The data symbols are carried in delay Doppler domain and are
 modulated by OTFS



✓ Activity Indicator: α_k

Transmission Architecture

• Training Sequence (TS) Aided OTFS Data symbols of the k-th terminal Delay-Doppler domain : $\mathbf{X}_{k}^{\text{DD}} \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times N}$ Time-Frequency domain : $\mathbf{X}_{k}^{\text{TF}} \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times N}$ Time domain : $\mathbf{\tilde{S}}_{k} \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times N}$ Training Sequence: $\mathbf{c}_{k} = [c_{k,0} \ c_{k,1} \dots \ c_{k,M_{t}-1}]^{\text{T}}$ Transmit Signal: $\mathbf{s}_{k} \in \mathbb{C}^{(M_{t}+M)N \times 1}$ Terrestrial-Satellite Link Channel Line-of-Sight (LoS) Link: $h_{k,p}[\kappa, \ell] = g_{k}e^{j2\pi \frac{v_{k}(\kappa - \ell_{k})}{N(M+M_{t})}}\delta[\ell - \ell_{k}] \cdot [\mathbf{v}_{k}]_{p}$







Formulation of AUD and CE

Received Signal



$$r_p(\kappa) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{l=0}^{L} \alpha_k h_{k,p} \left[\kappa, \ell\right] s_k \left[\kappa - \ell\right] + w_p(\kappa) \tag{1}$$

The received TS's are contaminated by the previous OTFS data symbol. An effective approach is to utilize the inter-symbol-interference free (ISIfree) region, which is the rear part of the TS's and immune from the influence of the previous data symbol, to perform AUD and CE Input-Output Relationship

$$\mathbf{r}_{\mathrm{TS},p}^{i} = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \alpha_{k} \mathbf{\Delta}_{k} \mathbf{\Psi}_{k} \mathbf{h}_{\mathrm{TS},k,p}^{i} + \mathbf{w}_{\mathrm{TS},p}^{i}$$
(2)

- > The ISI-free region of the *i*-th received TS: $\mathbf{r}_{\mathrm{TS},p}^i \in \mathbb{C}^{G \times 1}$
- > The vector form of CIR: $\mathbf{h}_{\mathrm{TS},k,p}^i \in \mathbb{C}^{L \times 1}$

 $\blacktriangleright \text{ Doppler shift: } \Delta_k = \text{diag}\{e^{j2\pi \frac{\upsilon_k \cdot 0}{N(M+M_t)}}, e^{j2\pi \frac{\upsilon_k \cdot 1}{N(M+M_t)}}, \dots, e^{j2\pi \frac{\upsilon_k \cdot (G-1)}{N(M+M_t)}}\}$

> Measurement matrix:

$$\Psi_{\mathbf{k}} = \begin{bmatrix} c_{k,L-1} & c_{k,L-2} & \cdots & c_{k,0} \\ c_{k,L} & c_{k,L-1} & \cdots & c_{k,1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ c_{k,M_t-1} & c_{k,M_t-2} & \cdots & c_{k,M_t-L} \end{bmatrix}$$

Approximation

Since Δ_k is an unknown matrix for the receiver of LEO satellite, sparse CIR vectors in (2) cannot be recovered with an unknown sensing matrix. Therefore approximate it as an identity matrix:

$$\mathbf{r}_{\mathrm{TS},p}^{i} \approx \sum_{k=1}^{K} \alpha_{k} \Psi_{k} \mathbf{h}_{\mathrm{TS},k,p}^{i} + \mathbf{w}_{\mathrm{TS},p}^{i} = \Psi \tilde{\mathbf{h}}_{\mathrm{TS},p}^{i} + \mathbf{w}_{\mathrm{TS},p}^{i}$$
(3)

Rationality Behind the Assumption

The approximation error is identical for different TS's in the one frame and hence its impact on the following channel parameters can be counteracted

The approximation error only impact the accuracy of the sparse signal recovery and each ISI-free region is always over a relatively short span of time compared to the whole data frame and hence the error is negligible

Multiple Measurement Vectors

Spatial Correlation

For different receive antennas, the propagation delay and the Doppler shift of the transmit signal from the same terminal are roughly the same.

$$\mathbf{R}^i_{\mathrm{TS}} pprox \Psi ilde{\mathbf{H}}^i_{\mathrm{TS}} + \mathbf{W}^i_{\mathrm{TS}}$$

Temporal Correlation

For different **TS's** in the one frame, the propagation delay and the Doppler shift of the transmit signal from the same terminal are roughly the same.

$$\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{TS}} \approx \Psi \tilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\mathrm{TS}} + \mathbf{W}_{\mathrm{TS}}$$
(5)

$$\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{TS}} = \left| \mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{TS}}^{(1)}, \mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{TS}}^{(2)}, \dots, \mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{TS}}^{(N)} \right| \in \mathbb{C}^{G \times NP}$$

$$\mathbf{\tilde{H}}_{\mathrm{TS}} = \left[\tilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\mathrm{TS}}^{(1)}, \tilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\mathrm{TS}}^{(2)}, \dots, \tilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\mathrm{TS}}^{(N)} \right] \in \mathbb{C}^{KL \times NP}$$

$$\mathbf{W}_{\mathrm{TS}} = \left[\mathbf{W}_{\mathrm{TS}}^{(1)}, \mathbf{W}_{\mathrm{TS}}^{(2)}, \dots, \mathbf{W}_{\mathrm{TS}}^{(N)} \right] \in \mathbb{C}^{G \times NP}$$

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(4)





CS-based Sparse Channel Vectors Recovery

- Structured Sparsity [Tropp'05]
 - Channel matrix shows sparsity in terminal and delay dimensions and common sparsity in antenna and time slot dimensions



Active User Detection

- Results of SOMP
 - > Recovered sparse channel vectors: $\tilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\mathrm{TS}}^{e}$
 - \succ Index of support set : \mathcal{I}
 - > Index of support set associated with the *k*-th terminal :

$$\Omega_k = \{ \omega_k | \omega_k \in \mathcal{I}, (k-1)L \le \omega_k < kL \}$$

• Active User Detection

$$\hat{\alpha}_{k} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \Omega_{k} \neq \emptyset \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
(6)

> Active terminal set: $\hat{\mathcal{A}} = \{k | \hat{\alpha}_k = 1, 1 \leq k \leq K\}$

• Estimate of relative time of arrival:

$$\hat{\ell}_k^q = \omega_k^q - (k-1)L$$

 $\succ \ \omega_k^q \ (1 \le q \le |\Omega_k|)$ is the *q*-th element of $\ \Omega_k$

Channel Estimation

• TLS-ESPRIT Based Doppler Shift Estimation [Roy'89]

- Estimate signal parameters via rotational invariance (ESPRIT) is an array signal processing algorithm, which uses subspace rotational invariance to solve signal parameters
- > There are phase rotations on the channel coefficients of different time slots:



 ✓ The coefficients of the front *N*-1 time slots, and the back differs from a phase rotation matrix ⊕ :

$$\mathbf{X}_1 = \mathbf{A}_1 \mathbf{S} \tag{7}$$

$$\mathbf{X}_2 = \mathbf{A}_2 \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{A}_1 \mathbf{\Phi} \mathbf{S} \tag{8}$$

 Phase rotation matrix are determined by the Doppler shift

$$\Phi = \operatorname{diag}(e^{j\omega_1}, e^{j\omega_2}, \dots, e^{j\omega_m}) \quad (9)$$

Their eigenvectors have the following relationship:

$$\mathbf{U}_2 = \mathbf{U}_1 \mathbf{T}^{-1} \mathbf{\Phi} \mathbf{T} = \mathbf{U}_1 \Psi \qquad (10)$$

Parametric Approach

The channel coefficients can be calculated mathematically with the estimated delay and Doppler shift:

$$\begin{split} \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{p}^{\text{eff},i} &= \Psi_{\mathcal{I}}^{\dagger} \sum_{k \in \mathcal{A}} \Delta_{k} \psi_{k} \mathbf{h}_{\text{T}S,k,p}^{i}(\ell_{k}+1) + \underbrace{(\Psi_{\mathcal{I}}^{\text{H}} \Psi_{\mathcal{I}})^{-1} \Psi_{\mathcal{I}}^{\text{H}} \mathbf{w}_{\text{T}S,p}^{i}}_{\text{noise}} \\ &\approx \underbrace{\Psi_{\mathcal{I}}^{\dagger} \left[\Delta_{k_{1}} \psi_{k_{1}}, \Delta_{k_{2}} \psi_{k_{2}}, \dots, \Delta_{k_{K_{a}}} \psi_{k_{K_{a}}} \right] \left[\mathbf{h}_{\text{TS},k_{1},p}^{i}(\ell_{k_{1}}+1), \mathbf{h}_{\text{TS},k_{2},p}^{i}(\ell_{k_{2}}+1), \dots, \mathbf{h}_{\text{TS},k_{K_{a}},p}^{i}(\ell_{k_{K_{a}}}+1) \right]^{\text{T}} \\ &= \mathbf{\Gamma} \left[e^{j2\pi v_{k_{1}}} \frac{L-M_{t}+i(M+M_{t})-\ell_{k_{1}}}{N(M+M_{t})}, e^{j2\pi v_{k_{2}}} \frac{L-M_{t}+i(M+M_{t})-\ell_{k_{2}}}{N(M+M_{t})}, \dots, e^{j2\pi v_{k_{K_{a}}}} \frac{L-M_{t}+i(M+M_{t})-\ell_{k_{K_{a}}}}{N(M+M_{t})} \right]^{\text{T}} \\ &\circ \left[g_{k_{1},p}^{\text{eff}}, g_{k_{2},p}^{\text{eff}}, \dots, g_{k_{K_{a}},p}^{\text{eff}} \right]^{\text{T}} & \underbrace{\hat{\mathbf{h}}_{k}^{\text{eff}}, i = \mathbf{\Gamma} \boldsymbol{\eta}^{i} \odot \mathbf{g}_{p}^{\text{eff}} + \left(\Psi_{\mathcal{I}}^{\text{H}} \Psi_{\mathcal{I}} \right)^{-1} \Psi_{\mathcal{I}}^{\text{H}} \mathbf{w}_{\text{TS},p}^{i} \right] \\ \end{array}$$

Reconstruct the CIR in time-delay domain and delay-Doppler domain:

$$\hat{h}_{k,p}[\kappa,\ell] = \sum_{q=1}^{|m_k|} \hat{g}_{k,p}^{\text{eff},q} e^{j2\pi \frac{\hat{v}_k^q(\kappa-\ell_k^q)}{N(M+M_t)}} \cdot \delta[\ell - \hat{\ell}_k^q]$$
(11)

$$\hat{h}_{k,p}^{\text{DD}}[\kappa,\ell] = \sum_{q=1}^{|\Omega_k|} \hat{g}_{k,p}^{\text{eff},q} e^{-j2\pi\hat{v}_k^q \hat{\ell}_k^q} \frac{1}{NM} \left[e^{-j(N-1)\pi \frac{\kappa-\kappa_{\hat{v}_k}^q}{N}} \frac{\sin(\pi(\kappa-\kappa_{\hat{v}_k}^q))}{\sin(\frac{\pi(\kappa-\kappa_{\hat{v}_k}^q)}{N})} \right] \left[e^{-j(M-1)\pi \frac{\ell-\ell_{\hat{\ell}_k}^q}{M}} \frac{\sin(\pi(\ell-\ell_{\hat{\ell}_k}^q))}{\sin(\frac{\pi(\ell-\ell_{\hat{\ell}_k}^q)}{M})} \right]$$
(12)





Simulation Parameters

Contents	Parameters	Values	
System	Carrier frequency (GHz)	10	
	Subcarrier spacing (kHz)	480	
	Bandwidth (MHz)	122.88	
	Size of OTFS frame (M,N)	(256,8)	
	Number of BS antennas (P_x, P_y)	(10,10)	
TSL channel	LEO satellite velocity (km/s)	7.58	
	IoT terminal velocity (m/s)	$0 \sim 100$	
	Propagation delay (ms)	$0 \sim 0.067$	
	Doppler shift (kHz)	$0 \sim 178.2$	

• Key Performance Indicators

- > Activity Error Rate of AUD: AER = $\frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} |\hat{\alpha}_k \alpha_k|$
- > Normalized Mean Square Error (NMSE) of CE

$$\text{NMSE} = \frac{\sum_{k,p,\kappa,\ell} ||\hat{\alpha}_k \hat{h}_{k,p}[\kappa,\ell] - \alpha_k h_{k,p}[\kappa,\ell]||_2^2}{\sum_{k,p,\kappa,\ell} ||\alpha_k h_{k,p}[\kappa,\ell]||_2^2}$$

Performance of AUD

- Access Parameters: Active IoT terminals and potential terminals are fixed as $K_a = 10$ and K = 100
- Benchmark: The embedded DD domain pilots and guard symbols are used to perform AUD and CE.



Performance of CE

• Benchmark [Shen'19]



		Benchmark	Proposed
	AUD	>-20dB	<-40dB
	CE	>-10dB	<-30dB

The scheme which performs AUD and CE in DD domain completely fails in satelliteenabled communication environment, which also confirms that it suffers from serious performance degradation under severe Doppler shift environment.

[Shen'19] W. Shen, L. Dai, J. An, P. Fan and R. W. Heath, "Channel Estimation for Orthogonal Time Frequency Space (OTFS) Massive MIMO," *IEEE Trans. Signal Process.*, vol. 67, no. 16, pp. 4204–4217, Aug. 2019.

Analysis

The Reduced Pilot Symbols Overhead

- > Exploit the sporadic traffic and inherent sparsity of TSL channel
- Overcome the sparsity deterioration due to the low resolution of Doppler domain
- Make full use of multiple measurements of multiple time slots and antennas

• The Better Performance

> Parametric method is used to realize super-resolution Doppler estimation



Challenges and Future Research Direction

- The mathematic proof of the validation of the assumption and the results;
- The development of robust signal detection methods;
- The study of the more practical system;
- The study of the technique to reduce the peak-to-average ratio (PAPR) of OTFS.

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THANKS!