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Iterative channel estimation and data detection algorithm for MIMO-OTFS systems

Rabah Ouchikh^a, Thierry Chonavel^b, Abdeldjalil Aïssa-El-Bey^b, Mustapha Djeddou^a

^aLaboratoire Télécommunications, Ecole Militaire Polytechnique, Bordj El-Bahri, Algeria. ^bIMT Atlantique, Lab-STICC, UMR CNRS 6285, F-29238 Brest, France.

Abstract

Channel estimation in high-mobility environments is a challenging problem for advanced mobile communication systems (5G and beyond). In this manuscript, we first propose an iterative algorithm for channel estimation and data detection in the delay-Doppler domain for multiple-input multiple-output orthogonal time frequency space system. Then, in order to increase the spectral efficiency of the system, we use a superimposed pilot pattern. The proposed algorithm takes advantage from the sparse nature of the channel in the delay-Doppler domain and iterates between message passing-aided data detection and data-aided channel estimation. For channel estimation, we propose two algorithms. The first one consists in estimating all channel parameters, including the number of path gains, delay taps, Doppler taps, and channel gains by using a mean-field approximation and the variational Bayesian expectation maximization algorithm. The second one, based on the fact that delay and Doppler taps remain unchanged for a rather long period of time, uses an MMSE approach combined with Cholesky decomposition to only estimate channel gains in each transmitted frame. For data detection, we adapt the message-passing algorithm proposed in the literature. We also derive a lower bound on the signal-to-interference-plus-noise ratio of the proposed scheme, and maximize it by optimally allocating power between pilots and data symbols. Finally, we compare the complexity and the performance in terms of normalized mean square error, bit error rate, and spectral efficiency against existing methods. Simulation results, conducted in high-mobility scenarios show that the proposed algorithm achieves a good compromise between complexity and performance. Keywords: OTFS, MIMO, channel estimation, data detection, superimposed pilot pattern.

1 1. Introduction

Future advanced mobile-communications systems require high reliability, low latency and high spectral efficiency (SE) communications [1, 2]. Orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM), which is the

Email addresses: ouchikh16rabah@gmail.com (Rabah Ouchikh), abdeldjalil.aissaelbey@imt-atlantique.fr (Thierry Chonavel), thierry.chonavel@imt-atlantique.fr (Abdeldjalil Aïssa-El-Bey), djeddou.mustapha@gmail.com (Mustapha Djeddou)

⁴ most popular modulation technique used in today's mobile-communication systems, offers high throughput
⁵ and high SE but its performance deteriorates in high mobility scenarios, such as high-speed vehicular, high⁶ speed trains and even in aircraft flying scenarios [3]. These performance degradations are caused by the
⁷ doubly-dispersive nature of the wireless channel in high mobility environments. This nature causes severe
⁸ inter-carrier-interference in OFDM systems.

Orthogonal time frequency space (OTFS) modulation, which has been recently proposed in [4, 5], is a promising solution. Its robustness and better performance, compared to OFDM, are attractive for highspeed vehicular communication systems. The secret of OTFS is that it transforms a doubly-selective wireless channel to an almost flat one in the delay-Doppler (DD) domain thanks to the inverse symplectic finite Fourier transform (ISFFT). The fact that the doubly-dispersive channel is transformed into a flat fading channel can be exploited to reduce the bit error rate (BER). The sparsity of the channel in the DD domain can also be exploited to reduce the pilot overhead required to estimate a rapidly time-varying channel.

As with OFDM, multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) can also be combined with OTFS and benefit from the diversity to further increase the transmission rate [6–10]. To ensure robust data transmission in a MIMO-OTFS system, efficient channel estimation and data detection algorithms are required at the receiver side. Several channel estimation schemes for MIMO-OTFS systems have been proposed in the literature [11–21]. Let us briefly review the most recent and popular of them.

In [11], a channel estimation scheme in the DD domain designed for MIMO-OTFS system is suggested. The designed channel estimation method uses impulses in the DD grid as pilots for estimation. Thanks to the pilot pattern used in [11] for pilots, data symbols and guard intervals, there is no interference between pilots and data symbols. Simulation results show that the proposed channel estimation scheme for MIMO-OTFS achieves good performance and outperforms the MIMO-OFDM system under high-Doppler scenarios.

In [12], a 3D orthogonal matching pursuit (3D-OMP) algorithm is suggested to solve the challenging 26 downlink channel estimation problem for massive MIMO-OTFS system. First, the authors of [12] show that 27 the MIMO-OTFS channel exhibits a 3D-structured sparsity. The channel is block sparse along the Doppler 28 dimension because the system bandwidth is much greater than the Doppler shift of a path, i.e., the only one 29 non-zero block is concentrated around zero, but its length is unknown. It is normal sparse along the delay 30 dimension because the number of dominant propagation paths is limited. It is also burst sparse along the 31 angle dimension, this is due to the fact that the angle-of-departure spread of a path at the base station is 32 usually small. Although the non-zero burst lengths can be depicted as constant, it is unknown where each 33 burst starts. Then, the downlink channel estimation is formulated as a sparse recovery problem. Simulations 34 show that the designed algorithm can acquire a good channel state information (CSI) with reduced pilot 35 overhead.

In [13], a downlink massive MIMO-OTFS channel estimation is regarded from a Bayesian perspective. First, the massive MIMO-OTFS signal model in the time domain is derived. Then, the variational Bayesian framework is adopted to recover the uplink channel parameters (the angle, the delay, the Doppler shift, and the channel gain) for each physical scattering path. Next, the reciprocity of the channel between the uplink and the downlink is exploited to reconstruct the parameters for the downlink massive channels at the base station. Simulations results confirm the validity and robustness of the proposed scheme.

In [14], authors use a tensor-based OMP channel estimation algorithm that exploits the channel sparsity in the DD-angle domain. A novel pilot design for OTFS in the time-frequency domain is firstly suggested. Then, based on this pilot pattern, the channel estimation is formulated as a sparse recovery problem and the tensor decomposition, and parallel support detection are introduced into the tensor-based OMP algorithm to reduce the signal processing dimension significantly. Numerical results show the superiority and the robustness of the proposed algorithm.

In [15], a scheme to acquire the state of massive MIMO-OTFS channels has been designed. A pilot pattern is then proposed to reduce pilot overhead and save memory consumption. Then, a channel estimation algorithm based on a modified sensing matrix is designed to acquire the downlink CSI. Numerical results show that this scheme has significant advantages over previous algorithms.

In [16], a low pilot overhead channel estimation scheme for cyclic prefix (CP)-OFDM-based massive MIMO-OTFS system is suggested. First, the CP-OFDM-based massive MIMO-OTFS system channel with antenna directivity pattern is analysed, and the burst sparsity in the angle domain is transformed into block sparsity by using non-uniform Fourier transform. Then, to solve the problem that the pilot overhead grows linearly with the number of antennas, a three-dimensional dynamic support detect algorithm is suggested. Simulation results show that the proposed algorithm has lower pilot overhead and higher channel estimation accuracy compared to the conventional OMP and the 3D-structured OMP algorithms.

A new receiver architecture based on the basic expansion model (BEM) OTFS is designed in [19] for high 60 mobility communications with Doppler spread channel. First, the analytical BEM-OTFS system model is 61 derived. Then, a low-order generalized complex exponential aided rough channel estimation with low pilot 62 overhead is suggested. Finally, a high-resolution generalized complex exponential BEM model with a large 63 BEM order is adopted for the channel estimation refinement and equalization. The data symbols are exploited 64 as pseudo-pilots, leading to higher estimation accuracy. Simulation results show that the suggested method 65 outperforms existing solutions in terms of BER and mean squared error (MSE) for channel estimation, while 66 featuring low pilot overhead. 67

In another work [20], a new channel estimation scheme for MIMO-OTFS is suggested. The 2D structure in Doppler-angle domain for channel is considered and characterized via a local Beta process. The uplink ⁷⁰ channel estimation problem is formulated as a sparse recovery problem, and it is solved via the estimation of ⁷¹ the delay, the Doppler shift and the angle of the channel using sparse Bayesian learning. Therefore, downlink ⁷² channel estimation is performed with the help of these estimated parameters. Simulation results show that ⁷³ the proposed scheme achieves good performance of channel estimation and also shows robust adaptation to ⁷⁴ variable Doppler.

In [21], to improve signal reconstruction in high-Doppler scenarios, a compressive sampling matching pursuit (CoSaMP) algorithm is suggested for the downlink channel estimation in massive MIMO-OTFS system. Simulation results show the gain brought by the CoSaMP algorithm with interleaving compared to the state-of-the-art channel estimation schemes with a lower computational complexity.

In [17], in order to reduce the pilot overhead, training duration and the pre-processing complexity, an end-to-end input-output MIMO-OTFS model is derived and a new model for sparse channel estimation, in which pilots are placed in the time-frequency domain, is suggested. The two main contributions of this work is that the suggested channel estimation scheme can estimate the fractional Doppler shifts efficiently and the SE of the system is increased compared to the previous state-of-the-art methods.

The authors in [18] proposed an efficient channel estimation method for MIMO-OTFS systems. The channel estimation problem is formulated as a block sparse recovery problem and it is solved via the designed block sparse Bayesian learning with block reorganization method. Simulation results show that the suggested method outperforms previous state-of-the-art methods in terms of performance and noise robustness.

To the best of our knowledge, except [22], [23], and [24], all channel estimation algorithms for SISO-OTFS 88 modulation in the DD domain use two groups of channel estimation methods. The first group concern the 89 conventional pilot aided (CPA) design with a super-frame architecture, where two frames are sent for each 90 transmission: one frame for channel estimation and another for symbol detection [11]. The second one is 91 the embedded pilot (EP)-aided channel estimation, where a pilot pattern regrouping pilots, data symbols, 92 and guard intervals in the same frame is used [25]. Both schemes suffer from the degradation of the SE of 93 the system. This problem becomes even more difficult in a MIMO-OTFS system due to the large number of 94 guard intervals required in the DD domain. 95

The second group of channel estimation methods, which is the most widely used in the literature, can be further divided, according to the type of pilot pattern, into three schemes. We will define these three schemes through three methods: a reference method [25] and two recent methods [17, 18], one method for each scheme. In the first scheme, which is called pilot type-1 [25], pilots are designed with higher power than data and guard intervals are inserted around pilot to alleviate the interference of data symbols. Using pilot type-1, the channel estimation step is simple and less complex as it is performed with a simple threshold method. However, the performance is poor with high pilot overhead (low SE) and high peak-to-average

power ratio (PAPR) due to guard intervals and different power design for data and pilots. To remedy these 103 shortcomings, the second and third schemes were proposed. In the second scheme, called pilot type-2 [18], 104 there is no guard intervals between the pilots and data symbols. The pilot type-2 tolerates some interference 105 between the data symbols and part of the pilots, but on the other hand it improves the pilot overhead by 106 removing the guard intervals and therefore improves the SE. In the third scheme, called pilot type-3 [17], 107 another strategy has been adopted, which consists in directly transmitting pilots over the time-frequency 108 domain grid for estimating the DD domain CSI. This leads to a reduction of the pilot overhead, training 109 duration and pre-processing complexity. 110

Although the pilot type-2 and pilot type-3 schemes offer better SE than the pilot type-1 scheme and the CPA design, the pilot overhead of both schemes increases with increasing delay and Doppler spread of the channel. For example, in a high Doppler spread channel, more pilots are needed for good channel estimation. This increases the pilot overhead and decreases the SE. Hence, the need for a superimposed pilot pattern and data symbols, where pilots and data symbols are superimposed in the same locations in the DD grid.

Superimposed schemes allow for the cancellation of pilot overhead due to the non-use of guard intervals 116 and the non-allocation of a particular space for pilots, but their use for MIMO systems requires the develop-117 ment of a powerful channel estimation and data detection scheme to manage the interference between pilots 118 and data symbols. Furthermore, to improve SE and to minimize the BER, the transmitted power must be 119 optimally distributed between the pilots and data symbols. Considering the challenges mentioned earlier, 120 the objective of this work is to develop an iterative scheme for channel estimation and data detection in the 121 DD domain for MIMO-OTFS systems, utilizing superimposed pilot pattern to increase the SE. The main 122 contributions of this work can be summarized as follows: 123

1. We propose an algorithm for MIMO-OTFS channel estimation and data detection that uses super-124 imposed pilot pattern in the DD domain and benefices from the sparse nature of the channel in this 125 domain. The proposed design mitigates the interference between the pilots and data symbols by it-126 erating between message passing-aided data detection and data-aided channel estimation in the DD 127 domain, and has better BER and SE. For channel estimation, we design two formulations and two 128 solutions to solve this problem. The first formulation consists in estimating the channel parameters. 129 including delay taps, Doppler taps and path gains, as a sparse recovery problem. This problem has 130 been solved by adapting the suggested algorithm for SISO-OTFS system in our previous works [26, 27] 131 to MIMO-OTFS system. This algorithm uses a mean-field approximation and VB-EM algorithm. The 132 second formulation consists in estimating a compact vector containing only the path gains, based on 133 the fact that the delay taps and Doppler taps remain unchanged for a given period. This problem has 134

135

136

been solved via a low complexity MMSE and the Cholesky decomposition.

For data detection step, we propose to this context an adapted version of the message-passing algorithm (AMPA). This algorithm is computationally-efficient as it exploits the channel sparsity in the DD domain. In its detection process, it takes into account the interference of the pilots on data symbols.

- 3. We derive a lower bound on the signal-to-interference-plus-noise-ratio (SINR) of the proposed scheme,
 which is subsequently optimized to derive the optimal pilot power expression. It is demonstrated that
 the optimal power level reduces the BER and increases further the SE of the proposed scheme.
- 144

4. We numerically validate the narrowness of the optimal distribution of transmitted power between pilots 145 and data symbols and show its effect on the NMSE, BER and SE of the proposed scheme. Then, we 146 compare the complexity and the performance of the proposed algorithm against four state-of-the-art 147 methods, named: embedded pilots (EP) [25], block sparse Bayesian learning with block reorganization 148 (BSBL-BR) [18], row-group OMP (RG-OMP), and row-group bayesian learning (RG-BL) [17], in terms 149 of SE, normalize mean squared error (NMSE) and BER. Finally, we show the good compromise achieved 150 by the proposed scheme between NMSE and BER performance, SE, computational complexity and 151 PAPR. 152

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. Section 2 is reserved for the description of the MIMO-OTFS system model using superimposed pilot pattern. The suggested algorithm for channel estimation and data detection is detailed in Section 3. Section 4 is dedicated to the derivation of the optimal power distribution between pilots and data symbols. The complexity analysis of the proposed solution as well as the comparison of this complexity with the state-of-the-art methods are presented in Section 5. The performance of the designed scheme is evaluated in Section 6 by various experiments. Finally, conclusions are given in Section 7.

Notations: We denote by a, a and A, a scalar, a column vector and a matrix, respectively. Symbols $and \odot$ denote the Kronecker and the Hadamard products, respectively. Operators vec(.) and vec_{m,n}⁻¹(.) designate the column vectorization of an $m \times n$ matrix into an $mn \times 1$ vector and the invectorization of an $mn \times 1$ vector to an $m \times n$ matrix, respectively. $\delta(.)$ is the Dirac-delta function and $\mathbb{E}\{.\}$ is the expectation operation. The notation diag $\{d_1, d_2, ..., d_N\}$ denotes an $N \times N$ diagonal matrix with entry (i, i) equal to d_i , and the notation blkdiag $\{B_1, B_2, ..., B_N\}$ denotes a block diagonal matrix with B_i the i^{th} block diagonal entry. The modulo-M operator is given by $[.]_M$. Hermitian transposition is denoted by the superscript $(.)^H$. Matrices I_N , F_n , and F_n^H represent the $N \times N$ identity matrix, the *n*-point DFT matrix, and the *n*-point IDFT matrix.

¹⁶⁹ 2. MIMO-OTFS system model

We consider a MIMO-OTFS system whose parameters are given in Table 1. Its block diagram is shown
in Fig. 1.

Parameter	Physical signification
$\overline{M, N}$	delay bins, Doppler bins
N_t, N_r	number of Tx and Rx antennas
$\boldsymbol{W}_t, \boldsymbol{W}_r$	transmit pulse matrix, receive pulse matrix
f_c	carrier frequency
$\Delta t(s), \Delta f(Hz)$	slot duration, subcarrier spacing
k_{ν}, l_{τ}	maximum Doppler tap, maximum delay tap
$N\Delta t, M\Delta f$	frame duration, frame bandwidth
t_c	coherence time

Table 1: Parameters of a MIMO-OTFS system.



Figure 1: Block diagram of a MIMO-OTFS system: (I)SFFT: (Inverse) symplectic finite Fourier transform, HT: Heisenberg transform, WT: Wigner transform, CP: Cyclic prefix, TF: Time-frequency.

At the transmitter side, the 2D grid of symbols in the DD domain X_{DD} is formed, for each antenna, by a superposition of data symbols and pilots as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \boldsymbol{X}_{DD}^{(1)} = \boldsymbol{D}^{(1)} + \boldsymbol{P}^{(1)}, \\ \vdots \\ \boldsymbol{X}_{DD}^{(N_t)} = \boldsymbol{D}^{(N_t)} + \boldsymbol{P}^{(N_t)}, \end{cases}$$
(1)

where $D^{(i)} \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times N}$ is the matrix formed by data symbols and $P^{(i)} \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times N}$ is the matrix formed by the pilots in the *i*-th branch.

The DD domain signal X_{DD} , in each branch, is then transformed into a time-frequency domain signal X_{TF} via an ISFFT as follows:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{X}_{TF}^{(1)}(n,m) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{MN}} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \sum_{l=0}^{M-1} \mathbf{X}_{DD}^{(1)}(k,l) e^{j2\pi(\frac{nk}{N} - \frac{ml}{M})}, \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{X}_{TF}^{(N_t)}(n,m) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{MN}} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \sum_{l=0}^{M-1} \mathbf{X}_{DD}^{(N_t)}(k,l) e^{j2\pi(\frac{nk}{N} - \frac{ml}{M})}. \end{cases}$$
(2)

Next, X_{TF} is converted to waveform s(t) using the Heisenberg transform as

$$\begin{cases} \boldsymbol{s}^{(1)} = (\boldsymbol{F}_{N}^{H} \otimes \boldsymbol{W}_{t}) \boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)}, \\ \vdots \\ \boldsymbol{s}^{(N_{t})} = (\boldsymbol{F}_{N}^{H} \otimes \boldsymbol{W}_{t}) \boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(N_{t})}, \end{cases}$$
(3)

where $\mathbf{s}^{(i)} = \operatorname{vec}(\mathbf{S}^{(i)})$ with $\mathbf{S}^{(i)} = \mathbf{W}_t \mathbf{F}_M^H(\mathbf{F}_M \mathbf{X}_{DD}^{(i)} \mathbf{F}_N^H) = \mathbf{W}_t \mathbf{X}_{DD}^{(i)} \mathbf{F}_N^H$, and $\mathbf{x}_{DD}^{(i)} = \operatorname{vec}(\mathbf{X}_{DD}^{(i)})$. \mathbf{W}_t is a pulse shaping matrix (for rectangular pulse $\mathbf{W}_t = \mathbf{I}_M$). One CP is added to the signal s(t) in each branch before its transmission.

The MIMO wireless channel in the DD domain is sparse with few parameters. The channel between the t-th transmitting antenna and the r-th receiving antenna has P taps. Thus, the baseband channel impulse response can be represented as

$$h_{rt}(\tau,\nu) = \sum_{i=1}^{P} h_i^{(rt)} \delta(\tau - \tau_i) \delta(\nu - \nu_i),$$
(4)

where $h_i^{(rt)}$, ν_i , and τ_i are the complex channel gain, the Doppler shift, and the delay of the *i*-th path, respectively. The *i*-th delay and Doppler taps (l_i, k_i) can be written as $l_i = \tau_i M \Delta f$, $k_i = \nu_i N \Delta t$.

¹⁸⁷ We derive the linear system describing the input/output relations of the MIMO channel as

$$\begin{cases} \boldsymbol{r}^{(1)} = \boldsymbol{H}_{11}\boldsymbol{s}^{(1)} + \dots + \boldsymbol{H}_{1N_t}\boldsymbol{s}^{(N_t)} + \boldsymbol{n}^{(1)}, \\ \boldsymbol{r}^{(2)} = \boldsymbol{H}_{21}\boldsymbol{s}^{(1)} + \dots + \boldsymbol{H}_{2N_t}\boldsymbol{s}^{(N_t)} + \boldsymbol{n}^{(2)}, \\ \vdots \\ \boldsymbol{r}^{(N_r)} = \boldsymbol{H}_{N_r1}\boldsymbol{s}^{(1)} + \dots + \boldsymbol{H}_{N_rN_t}\boldsymbol{s}^{(N_t)} + \boldsymbol{n}^{(N_r)}, \end{cases}$$
(5)

where $\mathbf{H}_{rt} = \sum_{i=1}^{P} h_i^{(rt)} \mathbf{\Pi}^{l_i} \mathbf{\Delta}^{k_i} \in \mathbb{C}^{MN \times MN}$ is the corresponding channel matrix between the *t*-th transmitting antenna and the *r*-th receiving antenna with $\mathbf{\Pi} \in \mathbb{C}^{MN \times MN}$, is the permutation matrix (forward cyclic shift):

$$\mathbf{\Pi} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & \ddots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (6)

¹⁹¹ $\Delta = \text{diag}[\alpha^0, \alpha^1, ..., \alpha^{MN-1}] \in \mathbb{C}^{MN \times MN}$, where $\alpha = e^{\frac{j2\pi}{MN}}$. $\mathbf{n}^{(i)} \sim \mathcal{CN}(\mathbf{0}, \sigma_n^2)$ is an additive complex ¹⁹² Gaussian noise variable at the *i*-th receiving antenna.

Let $\boldsymbol{r}_m = [(\boldsymbol{r}^{(1)})^T, (\boldsymbol{r}^{(2)})^T, ..., (\boldsymbol{r}^{(N_r)})^T]^T, \boldsymbol{s}_m = [(\boldsymbol{s}^{(1)})^T, (\boldsymbol{s}^{(2)})^T, ..., (\boldsymbol{s}^{(N_t)})^T]^T, \boldsymbol{n}_m = [(\boldsymbol{n}^{(1)})^T, (\boldsymbol{n}^{(2)})^T, ..., (\boldsymbol{n}^{(N_r)})^T]^T,$ and

$$\boldsymbol{H}_{M} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{H}_{11} & \boldsymbol{H}_{12} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{H}_{1N_{t}} \\ \boldsymbol{H}_{21} & \boldsymbol{H}_{22} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{H}_{2N_{t}} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \boldsymbol{H}_{N_{r}1} & \boldsymbol{H}_{N_{r}2} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{H}_{N_{r}N_{t}} \end{pmatrix},$$
(7)

195 Thus,

$$\boldsymbol{r}_m = \boldsymbol{H}_M \boldsymbol{s}_m + \boldsymbol{n}_m, \tag{8}$$

where $\boldsymbol{r}_m, \boldsymbol{n}_m \in \mathbb{C}^{MNN_r \times 1}, \, \boldsymbol{s}_m \in \mathbb{C}^{MNN_t \times 1}$, and $\boldsymbol{H}_M \in \mathbb{C}^{MNN_r \times MNN_t}$.

The received signal in the DD domain, for the *i*-th antenna, is written in a vector form as $\boldsymbol{y}_{DD}^{(i)} = (\boldsymbol{F}_N \otimes \boldsymbol{W}_r) \boldsymbol{r}^{(i)}$, where $\boldsymbol{y}_{DD}^{(i)} = \operatorname{vec}(\boldsymbol{Y}_{DD}^{(i)})$. Based on the fact that $\boldsymbol{r}^{(i)} = \sum_{j=1}^{N_t} \boldsymbol{H}_{ij} \boldsymbol{s}^{(j)} + \boldsymbol{n}^{(i)}$ and $\boldsymbol{s}^{(j)} = (\boldsymbol{F}_N^H \otimes \boldsymbol{W}_t) \boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(j)}$, we get

$$\boldsymbol{y}_m = \boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}} \boldsymbol{x}_m + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}},\tag{9}$$

where $\boldsymbol{y}_{m} = [(\boldsymbol{y}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}, (\boldsymbol{y}_{DD}^{(2)})^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{y}_{DD}^{(N_{r})})^{T}]^{T}, \boldsymbol{x}_{m} = [(\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}, (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(2)})^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(N_{t})})^{T}]^{T}, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}} = [((\boldsymbol{F}_{N} \otimes \boldsymbol{W}_{r})\boldsymbol{n}^{(1)})^{T}, ((\boldsymbol{F}_{N} \otimes \boldsymbol{W}_{r})\boldsymbol{n}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}, (\boldsymbol{F}_{N} \otimes \boldsymbol{W}_{r})\boldsymbol{n}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}, \mathbf{x}_{m} = [(\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}, (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(2)})^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(N_{t})})^{T}]^{T}, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}} = [((\boldsymbol{F}_{N} \otimes \boldsymbol{W}_{r})\boldsymbol{n}^{(1)})^{T}, ((\boldsymbol{F}_{N} \otimes \boldsymbol{W}_{r})\boldsymbol{n}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}, \mathbf{x}_{m} = [(\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}, (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(2)})^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(N_{t})})^{T}]^{T}, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}} = [(\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}, ((\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(2)})^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(N_{t})})^{T}]^{T}, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}} = [(\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}, ((\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(N_{t})})^{T}]^{T}, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}} = [(\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}} = [(\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}]^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}]^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}]^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}]^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}]^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}]^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}]^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}]^{T}]^{T}, ..., (\boldsymbol{x}_{DD}^{(1)})^{T}]^{T}]^{T}]^{T}$

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}_{11} & \boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}_{12} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}_{1N_t} \\ \boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}_{21} & \boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}_{22} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}_{2N_t} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}_{N_r 1} & \boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}_{N_r 2} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}_{N_r N_t} \end{pmatrix},$$
(10)

202 with

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}_{ij} &= (\boldsymbol{F}_N \otimes \boldsymbol{W}_r) \boldsymbol{H}_{ij} (\boldsymbol{F}_N^H \otimes \boldsymbol{W}_t), \\ &= (\boldsymbol{F}_N \otimes \boldsymbol{W}_r) \left(\sum_{p=1}^P h_p^{(ij)} \boldsymbol{\Pi}^{l_p} \boldsymbol{\Delta}^{k_p} \right) (\boldsymbol{F}_N^H \otimes \boldsymbol{W}_t), \\ &= \sum_{p=1}^P h_p^{(ij)} \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_p, \end{aligned}$$
(11)

where $\Lambda_p = (F_N \otimes W_r) \vartheta_p (F_N^H \otimes W_t)$, and $\vartheta_p = \Pi^{l_p} \Delta^{k_p}$. Since $(F_N \otimes W_r)$ is a unitary matrix and $n^{(i)} \sim C\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_n^2 I_{MN})$, \widetilde{n} and n share the same distribution. The additive noise vector \widetilde{n} has a mean $m_{\widetilde{n}} = \mathbb{E}\{\widetilde{n}\} = \mathbf{0}_{MNN_r}$ and covariance matrix

$$\boldsymbol{C}_{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}}} = \mathbb{E}\{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}}^{H}\} = \sigma_{n}^{2}\boldsymbol{I}_{MNN_{r}}.$$
(12)

The transmitted vector \boldsymbol{x}_m contains pilots and data symbols. It is written in the form $\boldsymbol{x}_m = \boldsymbol{p} + \boldsymbol{d}$, where $\boldsymbol{p} = [(\boldsymbol{p}^{(1)})^T, (\boldsymbol{p}^{(2)})^T, ..., (\boldsymbol{p}^{(N_t)})^T]^T$, and $\boldsymbol{d} = [(\boldsymbol{d}^{(1)})^T, (\boldsymbol{d}^{(2)})^T, ..., (\boldsymbol{d}^{(N_t)})^T]^T$ with $\boldsymbol{p}^{(i)} = \text{vec}(\boldsymbol{P}^{(i)})$ and $\boldsymbol{d}^{(i)} = \text{vec}(\boldsymbol{D}^{(i)})$. Thus, equation (9) can be written as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{y}_m = \boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}(\boldsymbol{p} + \boldsymbol{d}) + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}} = \boldsymbol{y}_p + \boldsymbol{y}_d + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}},\tag{13}$$

where $y_p = \mathcal{H}p$ and $y_d = \mathcal{H}d$. The term $y_p = \mathcal{H}p$ can also be written as

$$\boldsymbol{y}_p = \boldsymbol{\Phi}_p \boldsymbol{h}_m,\tag{14}$$

where $\Phi_p = \text{blkdiag}(B_1, B_2, ..., B_{N_r}) \in \mathbb{C}^{MNN_r \times PN_tN_r}$ is a block diagonal matrix with $B_1 = B_2 = ... = 0$

²¹¹ $\boldsymbol{B}_{N_r} = [\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1 \boldsymbol{p}^{(1)}, \dots, \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_P \boldsymbol{p}^{(1)}, \dots, \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1 \boldsymbol{p}^{(N_t)}, \dots, \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_P \boldsymbol{p}^{(N_t)}], \text{ and } \boldsymbol{h}_m = [h_1^{(11)}, \dots, h_P^{(11)}, \dots, h_1^{(N_rN_t)}, \dots, h_P^{(N_rN_t)}]^T \text{ is an}$ ²¹² $(N_t N_r P \times 1)$ vector formed by the channel coefficients of all paths. \boldsymbol{h}_m has zero mean and the following ²¹³ covariance matrix:

$$C_{h_m} = \mathbb{E}\{h_m h_m^H\},$$

$$= \operatorname{diag}\{\sigma_{h_1^{(11)}}^{2}, ..., \sigma_{h_P^{(11)}}^{2}, ..., \sigma_{h_P^{(N_r N_t)}}^{2}\}.$$
(15)

Assuming pilot symbols are chosen independently with uniform distribution, the matrix Φ_p has a zero mean and a covariance matrix given as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\Phi}_p} = \mathbb{E}\{\boldsymbol{\Phi}_p \boldsymbol{\Phi}_p^H\} = N_t P \sigma_p^2 \boldsymbol{I}_{MNN_r}.$$
(16)

Proof. : Since $\Phi_p = \text{blkdiag}(B_1, ..., B_{N_r})$, its covariance matrix can be expressed as follows:

$$C_{\Phi_p} = \mathbb{E}\{\Phi_p \Phi_p^H\},$$

= blkdiag($\mathbb{E}\{B_1 B_1^H\}, ..., \mathbb{E}\{B_{N_r} B_{N_r}^H\}$). (17)

Letting $\mathbb{E}\{p^{(n)}(p^{(n)})^H\} = \sigma_p^2 I_{MN}$, the expression $\mathbb{E}\{B_i B_i^H\}$ is expressed as follows:

$$\mathbb{E}\{\boldsymbol{B}_{i}\boldsymbol{B}_{i}^{H}\} = \sum_{n=1}^{N_{t}} \sum_{i=1}^{P} \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{i} \mathbb{E}\{\boldsymbol{p}^{(n)}(\boldsymbol{p}^{(n)})^{H}\}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{i}^{H},$$

$$= \sigma_{p}^{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N_{t}} \sum_{i=1}^{P} \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{i}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{i}^{H}.$$
(18)

Since $\Lambda_i = (F_N \otimes W_r) \vartheta_i (F_N^H \otimes W_t)$, $\vartheta_i = \Pi^{l_i} \Delta^{k_i}$, and by taking $G_r = F_N \otimes W_r$ and $G_t = F_N^H \otimes W_t$, we have

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{\Lambda}_{i} \mathbf{\Lambda}_{i}^{H} &= \mathbf{G}_{r} \vartheta_{i} \mathbf{G}_{t} \mathbf{G}_{t}^{H} \vartheta_{i}^{H} \mathbf{G}_{r}^{H}, \\ &= \mathbf{G}_{r} \vartheta_{i} \vartheta_{i}^{H} \mathbf{G}_{r}^{H}, \\ &= \mathbf{G}_{r} \mathbf{\Pi}^{l_{i}} \mathbf{\Delta}^{k_{i}} (\mathbf{\Delta}^{k_{i}})^{H} (\mathbf{\Pi}^{l_{i}})^{H} \mathbf{G}_{r}^{H}, \\ &= \mathbf{G}_{r} \mathbf{\Pi}^{l_{i}} (\mathbf{\Pi}^{l_{i}})^{H} \mathbf{G}_{r}^{H}, \end{split}$$
(19)

Note that $\Pi \Pi^H = I_{MN}$, that is $\Pi^H = \Pi^{-1}$. Then,

$$\boldsymbol{\Pi}^{l_i}(\boldsymbol{\Pi}^{l_i})^H = \boldsymbol{I}_{MN},\tag{20}$$

and inserting (20) into (19) we get $\Lambda_i \Lambda_i^H = G_r G_r^H = I_{MN}$. Then,

$$\mathbb{E}\{\boldsymbol{B}_{i}\boldsymbol{B}_{i}^{H}\}=N_{t}P\sigma_{p}^{2}\boldsymbol{I}_{MN},$$
(21)

 $_{221}$ leading thus to Eq. (16).

Let $\boldsymbol{h} = [(\boldsymbol{h}^{(11)})^T, ..., (\boldsymbol{h}^{(21)})^T, ..., (\boldsymbol{h}^{(N_rN_t)})^T]^T$ being the LN_tN_r sparse vector of channel, where $\boldsymbol{h}^{(ij)} \in \mathbb{C}^L$ is a sparse vector of channel between the *i*-th Tx antenna and the *j*-th Rx antenna containing only P

²²⁴ non-zero elements. Equation (14) can also take the following form:

$$\boldsymbol{y}_p = (\boldsymbol{\mathcal{K}} \odot \boldsymbol{\Psi}) \boldsymbol{h} = \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{h}, \tag{22}$$

where $\mathcal{K} \in \mathbb{C}^{MNN_r \times LN_t N_r}$ is the pilots matrix given as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{K}} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\mathcal{K}}_{11} & \boldsymbol{\mathcal{K}}_{12} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{\mathcal{K}}_{1N_t} \\ \boldsymbol{\mathcal{K}}_{21} & \boldsymbol{\mathcal{K}}_{22} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{\mathcal{K}}_{2N_t} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \boldsymbol{\mathcal{K}}_{N_r 1} & \boldsymbol{\mathcal{K}}_{N_r 2} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{\mathcal{K}}_{N_r N_t} \end{pmatrix},$$
(23)

with $L = (2k_{\nu}+1)(l_{\tau}+1)$, and the elements of the sub-matrices \mathcal{K}_{ij} of the matrix \mathcal{K} are calculated as follows: $\mathcal{K}_{ij}[i', l'(2k_{\nu}+1) + k' + k_{\nu}] = \mathbf{P}^{(i)}[(k-k')_N, (l-l')_M]$, for i' = 0: $MN, l' \in [0, l_{\tau}]$ and $k' \in [-k_{\nu}, k_{\nu}]$. $\Psi \in \mathbb{C}^{MNN_r \times LN_t N_r}$ is an additional phase shift matrix given by

$$\Psi = \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_{11} & \Psi_{12} & \cdots & \Psi_{1N_t} \\ \Psi_{21} & \Psi_{22} & \cdots & \Psi_{2N_t} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \Psi_{N_r 1} & \Psi_{N_r 2} & \cdots & \Psi_{N_r N_t} \end{pmatrix},$$
(24)

where the elements of the sub-matrices Ψ_{ij} of the matrix Ψ are calculated as follows: $\Psi_{ij}[i', l'(2k_{\nu}+1) + k' + k_{\nu}] = \exp(k'(l-l')/MN).$

²³¹ Therefore, equation (13) can take the two following forms:

$$\boldsymbol{y}_m = \boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}\boldsymbol{d} + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_p \boldsymbol{h}_m + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}}.$$
 (25)

$$\boldsymbol{y}_m = \boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}\boldsymbol{d} + \boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{h} + \boldsymbol{\tilde{n}}.$$
(26)

232 3. Proposed algorithms

In this section, we detail the proposed algorithm for channel estimation and symbol detection. The first step in the proposed algorithm is the estimation of the number of channel paths P and the delay and Doppler taps $\{l_i, k_i\}_{i=1:P}$. Since $\{l_i, k_i\}_{i=1:P}$ remain unchanged for a period T_s , for a doubly-underspread (DU) channel [28], the estimation of these parameters is done once every $T_s = N_T T$ seconds, where N_T is the number of frames in the period T_s and T is the frame duration. Only the channel gains $\{h_i\}_{i=1:N_tN_rP}$ will be estimated in each OTFS frame. For this purpose, we propose the frame architecture shown in Fig 2. In each branch of the MIMO-OTFS system, the first frame (F_{T_1}) is used for channel estimation including the number of channel paths P, the delay and Doppler taps $\{l_i, k_i\}_{i=1:P}$, and the channel gains $\{h_i\}_{i=1:N_tN_rP}$. In each of the other frames $(F_{T_2}, ..., F_{T_N})$, only the estimation of the channel gains is considered.



Figure 2: Frame architecture (■: data, o: pilot).

²⁴² 3.1. Iterative SoBaP-AMPA algorithm for channel estimation and data detection

This algorithm operates in the F_{T_1} transmitted frame and iterates between data-aided channel estimation

²⁴⁴ and AMPA-assisted data detection.

245 3.1.1. Data-aided channel estimation (SoBaP algorithm)

The model (26) can be rewritten as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{y}_m = \sum_{i=1}^{LN_t N_r} s_i c_i \boldsymbol{a}_i + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}}_d, \qquad (27)$$

where \boldsymbol{a}_i is the *i*-th column of \boldsymbol{A} , $\boldsymbol{h} = \boldsymbol{s} \odot \boldsymbol{c} = [s_1c_1, s_2c_2, ..., s_{LN_tN_r}c_{LN_tN_r}]^T$, where $\boldsymbol{s} \in \{0, 1\}^{LN_tN_r}$ is the support vector of channel and \boldsymbol{c} denotes the vector of channel gains. $\tilde{\boldsymbol{v}}_d = \mathcal{H}\boldsymbol{d} + \tilde{\boldsymbol{n}} \sim \mathcal{CN}(\boldsymbol{0}, \boldsymbol{C}_{\tilde{\boldsymbol{v}}_d})$ (see proof) is a mixture involving the additive noise, the channel contributions and the data symbols. $\tilde{\boldsymbol{v}}_d$ can also take the form $\tilde{\boldsymbol{v}}_d = \boldsymbol{\Phi}_d \boldsymbol{h}_m + \tilde{\boldsymbol{n}}$, where $\boldsymbol{\Phi}_d = \text{blkdiag}(\boldsymbol{C}_1, \boldsymbol{C}_2, ..., \boldsymbol{C}_{N_r}) \in \mathbb{C}^{MNN_r \times PN_tN_r}$ with $\boldsymbol{C}_1 = \boldsymbol{C}_2 = ... = \boldsymbol{C}_{N_r} = [\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1 \boldsymbol{d}^{(1)}, ..., \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_P \boldsymbol{d}^{(1)}, ..., \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_P \boldsymbol{d}^{(N_t)}$. In the same way as $\boldsymbol{\Phi}_p$, one can easily verify that $\boldsymbol{\Phi}_d$ has a zero mean and a covariance matrix given as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\Phi}_d} = \mathbb{E}\{\boldsymbol{\Phi}_d \boldsymbol{\Phi}_d^H\} = N_t P \sigma_d^2 \boldsymbol{I}_{MNN_r}.$$
(28)

Proof. : Since $m_{h_m} = \mathbb{E}\{h_m\} = \mathbf{0}_{PN_tN_r}$ and $m_{\widetilde{n}} = \mathbb{E}\{\widetilde{n}\} = \mathbf{0}_{MNN_r}$, the mean of \widetilde{v}_d is

$$\boldsymbol{m}_{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}}_d} = \mathbb{E}\{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}}_d\} = \boldsymbol{0}_{MNN_r},\tag{29}$$

and its covariance matrix is calculated as follows:

$$C_{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}}_{d}} = \mathbb{E}\{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}}_{d}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}}_{d}^{H}\},$$

$$= \mathbb{E}\{\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{d}\boldsymbol{h}_{m}\boldsymbol{h}_{m}^{H}\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{d}^{H}\} + \mathbb{E}\{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}}^{H}\}.$$
(30)

The expression $\mathbb{E}\{\Phi_d h_m h_m^H \Phi_d^H\}$ can be evaluated based on the following property [29]: if \mathbf{X} is a $K \times L$ random matrix that satisfies $\mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^H\} = \sigma_x^2 \mathbf{I}_K$, then for any $L \times L$ hermitian matrix \mathbf{Y} , $\mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{X}\mathbf{Y}\mathbf{X}^H\} = \frac{\operatorname{Tr}(\mathbf{Y})}{L}\mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^H\}$. Therefore,

$$\mathbb{E}\{\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{d}\boldsymbol{h}_{m}\boldsymbol{h}_{m}^{H}\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{d}^{H}\} = \frac{\mathrm{Tr}(\boldsymbol{h}_{m}\boldsymbol{h}_{m}^{H})}{PN_{t}N_{r}}\mathbb{E}\{\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{d}\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{d}^{H}\},$$

$$= \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{PN_{t}N_{r}}\sigma_{h_{i}}^{2}}{PN_{t}N_{r}}\right)\mathbb{E}\{\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{d}\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{d}^{H}\}.$$
(31)

By replacing the expressions (12), (28) and (31) in (30) we get

$$\boldsymbol{C}_{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}}_d} = \left(\sigma_n^2 + \frac{\sigma_d^2}{N_r} \sum_{i=1}^{P_{N_t} N_r} \sigma_{h_i}^2\right) \boldsymbol{I}_{MNN_r}.$$
(32)

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Letting c_s the $(PN_tN_r \times 1)$ vector and A_s the $(MNN_r \times PN_tN_r)$ matrix constructed, respectively, from the elements of c and A considering the indices i where $s_i \neq 0$. Thus,

$$p(\boldsymbol{y}_m | \boldsymbol{c}, \boldsymbol{s}) = \mathcal{CN}(\boldsymbol{A}_s \boldsymbol{c}_s, \boldsymbol{C}_{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}}_s}).$$
(33)

The inputs of the vector h are modeled by a Bernoulli-Gaussian model. This model allows to take into account the sparsity of the vector h. We suppose that c follows the probabilistic model given by

$$p(\boldsymbol{c}|\boldsymbol{s}) = \prod_{i=1}^{LN_t N_r} p(c_i|s_i), \qquad (34)$$

where $p(c_i|s_i) = \mathcal{CN}(0, \sigma_{s_i}^2)$ and $\sigma_1^2 \gg \sigma_0^2$.

With the model (33), (34), the vector \boldsymbol{y}_m can be seen as a noisy mixture of atoms specified by the support \boldsymbol{s} . It is worth noting that the variances $\sigma_{c_i}^2$ of Gaussian distributions are independent of the support \boldsymbol{s} . It is also to be noted that, to detect the location of spikes, the variables s_i corresponding to the inputs of h are assumed to be independent Bernoulli random variables ($s_i = 1$ if a spike is present at h_i and $s_i = 0$ otherwise). The unstructured sparsity treated here can be modelled using a standard product of the Bernoulli distributions:

$$p(\boldsymbol{s}) = \prod_{i=1}^{LN_t N_r} p(s_i), \tag{35}$$

where $p(s_i) = Ber(p_i)$ and $p_i = p(b_i = 1) = 1 - p(b_i = 0)$.

Furthermore, in modern approaches, instead of trying to approximate the means of the posterior distributions from MCMC simulations, one tries to iteratively compute an exact variational approximation of the target posterior distribution.

For the sparse channel estimation problem that we would like to solve in this work, we propose a MAPestimator, which correspond to the optimal Bayesian estimator using Bayesian cost. Therefore, the first approach to solve the channel estimation problem consists in solving the following joint MAP problem:

$$(\hat{\boldsymbol{s}}, \hat{\boldsymbol{c}}) = \arg\max_{\boldsymbol{s}, \boldsymbol{c}} \log p(\boldsymbol{s}, \boldsymbol{c} | \boldsymbol{y}_m).$$
(36)

It has been shown in [30] that the solution set of the joint MAP problem (36) is the same as the standard sparse recovery problem using the Bernoulli-Gaussian model (34), (35). This close connection motivates the use of the Bernoulli-Gaussian model in the channel estimation problem treated in this work.

More specifically, we are interested here in the determination of channel support s using the MAP criterion. The decision minimizing the decision error probability on support s is given by:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{s}} = \underset{\boldsymbol{s} \in \mathcal{A}}{\arg \max \log p(\boldsymbol{s} | \boldsymbol{y}_m)}, \tag{37}$$

275 where $\mathcal{A} = \{0, 1\}^{LN_t N_r}$.

The evaluation of $\log p(\boldsymbol{s}|\boldsymbol{y}_m)$ for all $2^{card(\mathcal{A})}$ sequences of $\boldsymbol{s} \in \mathcal{A}$ is required for solving problem (37). This makes problem (37) complex.

In order to reduce this complexity, individual decision on each input of the support vector s is classically considered. This decision is taken from a marginalized MAP estimation problem, conducting to

$$\hat{s}_i = \operatorname*{arg\,max}_{s_i \in \{0,1\}} \log p(s_i | \boldsymbol{y}_m). \tag{38}$$

Even if the problem (38) seems easy to solve because the search space contains only two elements $(s_i \in \{0,1\})$, the evaluation of $p(s_i | \boldsymbol{y}_m)$ remains intractable due to the costly marginalization of $p(\boldsymbol{s} | \boldsymbol{y}_m)$ over

the s_j 's, for $j \neq i$. To solve this problem, we compute a tractable surrogate $q(s_i)$ of $p(s_i | \boldsymbol{y}_m)$. The procedure adopted here allows to compute an approximation $q(s_i)$ of $p(s_i | \boldsymbol{y}_m)$ and is named the mean-field approximation. It is summarized in Appendix A. In this case, problem (38) becomes

$$\hat{s}_i = \underset{s_i \in \{0,1\}}{\operatorname{arg\,max}} \log q(s_i). \tag{39}$$

Based on the mean-field approximation, problem (39) can be solved by a threshold method as follows:

$$\hat{s}_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } q(s_i = 1) > \rho, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

$$\tag{40}$$

where $\rho = 0.5$, which is a value that minimizes the Bayes risk when uniform and equal costs are selected [31, Section II.B]. Once the support vector \boldsymbol{s} is estimated, the vector of channel gains \boldsymbol{c} can be estimated by MAP estimate $\hat{\boldsymbol{c}} = \arg \max \log p(\boldsymbol{c}|\hat{\boldsymbol{s}}, \boldsymbol{y}_m)$:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{c}}_{\hat{\boldsymbol{s}}} = (\boldsymbol{A}_{\hat{\boldsymbol{s}}}^T \boldsymbol{A}_{\hat{\boldsymbol{s}}} + \boldsymbol{\Delta})^{-1} \boldsymbol{A}_{\hat{\boldsymbol{s}}}^T \boldsymbol{y}_m,$$
and $\hat{\boldsymbol{c}}_i = 0$ if $s_i = 0,$

$$(41)$$

where $\Delta = \text{diag}[\sigma^2/\sigma_{c_1}^2, \sigma^2/\sigma_{c_2}^2, ..., \sigma^2/\sigma_{c_LN_tN_r}^2]$. $A_{\hat{s}}$ and $\hat{c}_{\hat{s}}$ denote the corresponding columns of A and the entries of c limited to \hat{s} , respectively. This solution reduces to the least-square solution when $\sigma^2 \ll \sigma_{c_i}^2$ and to matched filtering when σ^2 is large. The proposed algorithm for channel estimation is summarized in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1 Channel estimation algorithm

Require: $\boldsymbol{y}_m \in \overline{\mathbb{C}^{MNN_r}}, \boldsymbol{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{MNN_r \times LN_tN_r}$ Ensure: $\hat{\boldsymbol{s}} \in \{0, 1\}^{LN_tN_r}, \hat{\boldsymbol{c}} \in \mathbb{C}^{LN_tN_r \times 1}$ 1: $p(\boldsymbol{s}) = \prod_k p(s_k)$ 2: prior mean for c: $m = \mathbf{0}_{LN_tN_r}$ 3: probability \boldsymbol{q} : $\boldsymbol{q}^{(0)} \sim (\mathcal{U}_{[0,1]})_{1:LN_tN_r}$ 4: \boldsymbol{r} : $\boldsymbol{r}^{(0)} = \boldsymbol{y}_m - \boldsymbol{A}(\boldsymbol{s} \odot \boldsymbol{m})$ 5: while $k \leq K$ and $|q(s_i^{(k)}) - q(s_i^{(k-1)})| < \epsilon$ do for l = 1: LN_tN_r do $\Sigma(s_k | \boldsymbol{y}_m) = \frac{\sigma_{c_k}^2 \sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + s_k \sigma_{c_k}^2 \boldsymbol{A}_k^T \boldsymbol{A}_k}$ $m(s_l | \boldsymbol{y}_m)^{(k)} = s_l \frac{\sigma_{c_l}^2}{\sigma^2 + s_l \sigma_{c_l}^2 \boldsymbol{A}_l^T \boldsymbol{A}_l} \boldsymbol{r}_l^T \boldsymbol{A}_l$ 6: 7:8: $q_{l}^{(k)} = q(s_{l}|\boldsymbol{y}_{m})^{(k)} \propto \sqrt{\Sigma(s_{l}|\boldsymbol{y}_{m})} e^{\left(\frac{1}{2}\frac{m(s_{l}|\boldsymbol{y}_{m})^{2}}{\Sigma(s_{l}|\boldsymbol{y}_{m})}\right)} p(s_{l})$ $\boldsymbol{r}^{(k)}: \boldsymbol{r}^{(k)} = \boldsymbol{r}^{(k)} - \boldsymbol{A}_{l}(s_{l}^{(k)}m(s_{l}|\boldsymbol{y}_{m})^{(k)})$ 9: 10: end for 11: 12: end while 13: estimate support \boldsymbol{s} : $\hat{\boldsymbol{s}} = (\boldsymbol{q} > 0.5)$ 14: estimate c conditional to \hat{s} : $\hat{c}_{\hat{s}} = (A_{\hat{s}}^T A_{\hat{s}} + \Delta)^{-1} A_{\hat{s}}^T y_m$ and $\hat{c}_k = 0$ if $s_k = 0$

293 3.1.2. AMPA-aided data detection

Once the channel estimation is done, the obtained results, namely the channel coefficients as well as the delay and Doppler taps will be used to form the following model allowing the detection of data symbols:

$$\boldsymbol{y}_d = \boldsymbol{y}_m - \boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{h} = \hat{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}}\boldsymbol{d} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{w}}_e, \tag{42}$$

where $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{w}}_e = \boldsymbol{A}(\boldsymbol{h} - \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}) + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}}$ is formed by the additive noise and the channel estimation error $\boldsymbol{h} - \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}$. The mean $m_{\widetilde{w}_e(k)}$ and variance $var_{\widetilde{w}_e(k)}$ of the k-th element of $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{w}}_e$ are given as follows:

$$m_{\widetilde{w}_e(k)} = \mathbb{E}\{\widetilde{w}_e(k)\} = 0,\tag{43}$$

$$var_{\widetilde{w}_e(k)} = \sigma_n^2 + \sigma_p^2 M_h,\tag{44}$$

where $M_h = \mathbb{E}\{||\boldsymbol{h} - \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}||^2\}$ is the MSE of channel estimation.

Proof. : Letting $\mathbf{e}_h = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{h} - \hat{\mathbf{h}})$, then $\tilde{\mathbf{w}}_e = \mathbf{e}_h + \tilde{\mathbf{n}}$. One can easily verify that the (l + kM)-th element of the vector \mathbf{e}_h can be written as follows:

$$e_h(l+kM) = \sum_{j=1}^{LN_tN_r} A[l+kM,j](h(j) - \hat{h}(j)),$$
(45)

where $A[l+kM, j] = \beta(l+kM, j)\mathbf{P}^{(i)}[(k-k_j)_N, (l-l_j)_M]$ and $\beta_j(l+kM)$ is an additional shift phase given as follows:

$$\beta(p,q) = \begin{cases} e^{-j2\pi \frac{n}{N}} e^{j2\pi \frac{k_i([m-l_q]_M)}{MN}}, & \text{if } p = \lambda_q, \text{and } m < l_q \\ e^{j2\pi \frac{k_q([m-l_q]_M)}{MN}}, & \text{if } p = \lambda_q, \text{and } m \ge l_q \\ 0, & \text{otherwise}, \end{cases}$$
(46)

303 where $\lambda_q = [M - l_q]_M + M[n - k_q]_N$.

Because all pilot symbols have a zero mean and an equal power of σ_p^2 , the mean and the variance of $e_h(l+kM)$ are given as follows:

$$m_{e_h(l+kM)} = \mathbb{E}\{e_h(l+kM)\} = 0, \tag{47}$$

and

$$var\{e_{h}(l+kM)\} = \sigma_{p}^{2} \sum_{i=1}^{LN_{t}N_{r}} \mathbb{E}\{|h(i) - \hat{h}(i)|^{2}\},$$

$$= \sigma_{p}^{2} \mathbb{E}\{||\boldsymbol{h} - \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}||^{2}\} = \sigma_{p}^{2} M_{h}.$$
(48)

Finally, since e_h and \tilde{n} are statistically independent and based on (12), (47) and (48), the mean and the variance of $\tilde{w}_e(k)$ are calculated as follows:

$$m_{\widetilde{w}_{n}(k)} = \mathbb{E}\{e_{h}(k)\} + \mathbb{E}\{\widetilde{n}(k)\} = 0, \tag{49}$$

and

$$var\{\widetilde{w}_e(k)\} = var\{e_h(k)\} + var\{\widetilde{n}(k)\} = \sigma_n^2 + \sigma_p^2 M_h,$$
(50)

308 where $M_h = \mathbb{E}\{||m{h} - \hat{m{h}}||^2\}.$

The aim here is to estimate the data symbol vector d from y_d , $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$, $m_{\tilde{w}_e(k)}$ and $var_{\tilde{w}_e(k)}$. For this purpose, we adapt the low-complexity MP algorithm proposed in [32], which is suitable for uncoded OTFS, taking advantage of the channel sparsity in the DD domain.

Based on (42), and by observing that $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$ is sparse: each row of $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$ contains only PN_t non-zero elements and each column of $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$ contains only PN_r non-zero elements, the system is modelled as a sparsely connected factor graph with MNN_t variable nodes and MNN_r observation nodes corresponding, respectively, to dand y_d . The factor graph of the MP algorithm, which consists of observation nodes and variable nodes, is shown in Fig 3.



Figure 3: Messages in factor graph.

Thanks to the channel sparsity in the DD domain, each variable node d(c) is connected to only PN_r observation nodes $\{y_d(k_i), k_i \in \mathcal{I}_c\}$, and each observation node $y_d(r)$ is connected to only PN_t variable nodes $\{d(k_i), k_i \in \mathcal{I}_r\}$, where \mathcal{I}_c and \mathcal{I}_r denote, respectively, the sets of non-zero indices in the *c*-th column and the *r*-th row of $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$. The application of the MAP criterion on (42) gives:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{d}} = \operatorname*{arg\,max}_{\boldsymbol{d} \in \mathbb{A}^{NMN_r}} p(\boldsymbol{d} | \boldsymbol{y}_d, \hat{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}}), \tag{51}$$

³²³ where A denote the employed finite modulation alphabet (e.g., QAM).

Problem (51) is demanding in terms of complexity. Therefore, the following symbol by symbol MAP criterion is used:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{d}}(r) = \arg \max_{a_j \in \mathbb{A}} p(\boldsymbol{d}(r) = a_j | \boldsymbol{y}_d, \hat{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}}),$$

$$= \arg \max_{a_j \in \mathbb{A}} \frac{1}{|\mathbb{A}|} p(\boldsymbol{y}_d | \boldsymbol{d}(r) = a_j, \hat{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}}),$$

$$\approx \arg \max_{a_j \in \mathbb{A}} \prod_{k \in \mathcal{I}_r} p(\boldsymbol{y}_d(k) | \boldsymbol{d}(r) = a_j, \hat{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}}),$$
(52)

326 for $r = 0: MNN_t - 1$.

It is worth noting that, thanks to the sparsity of the matrix $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$, the elements of vector \boldsymbol{y}_m are almost independent for a given $\boldsymbol{d}(k)$. It should also be noted that the entries of the vector of data symbols \boldsymbol{d} are assumed to be equally likely. Problem (52) can be solved using the AMPA, which will be detailed below. The message that passes to the observation node $\boldsymbol{y}_d(c)$, for $c \in \mathcal{I}_r$, from the variable node $\boldsymbol{d}(r)$, for $r = 0: NMN_t - 1$ is the probability mass function (pmf) given as follows

$$\boldsymbol{p}_{rc} = \{ p_{rc}(a_i) | a_i \in \mathbb{A} \}.$$

$$(53)$$

The relationship between the *r*-th observation node $y_d(r)$ and the *c*-th variable node d(c) is given as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{y}_d(r) = \boldsymbol{d}(c)\hat{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}}(r,c) + \phi_{rc},\tag{54}$$

where $\hat{\mathcal{H}}(r, c)$ denotes the element in the *r*-th row and *c*-th column of $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$, and ϕ_{rc} is the interference-plus-noise term expressed as follows:

$$\phi_{rc} = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{I}_r, k \neq c} \boldsymbol{d}(k) \hat{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}}(r, k) + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{w}}_e(r),$$
(55)

Using the central-limit theorem, the first term of equation (55) is approximated by a Gaussian distribution. $\tilde{w}_e(r)$ follows also a Gaussian distribution. Therefore, ϕ_{rc} is approximated to a Gaussian random variable. In the *t*-th iteration of the AMPA, messages containing the mean $\mu_{r,c}^{(t)}$ and the variance $(\sigma_{r,c}^{(t)})^2$ of ϕ_{rc} passes from the observation node $\boldsymbol{y}_d(r)$ to the variable node $\boldsymbol{d}(c)$, where $c \in \mathcal{I}_r$. The major difference between the versions of MP algorithm proposed in the literature [11, 32] and the AMPA proposed here lies in the calculation of $\mu_{r,c}^{(t)}$ and $(\sigma_{r,c}^{(t)})^2$. This difference is mainly due to the two following points:

343 344 The previous versions of the MP algorithm assume perfect knowledge of CSI, i.e., the MIMO matrix
 H is perfectly known. In our case, we do not know *H* but we have an estimate *Ĥ*.

345

• Unlike previous versions where the interference term contains only additive noise, in our case, this term is a function of additive noise \tilde{n} and the term e_h containing the symbols of pilots and the error of channel estimation (42)-(44). This mixture is not present in previous versions of the MP algorithm for OTFS due to the use of guard intervals between pilot symbols and data symbols, which decreases the SE of the system.

Using the mean and variance of $\widetilde{w}_e(k)$ that we derived in (49) and (50), the mean $\mu_{r,c}^{(t)}$ and the variance $(\sigma_{r,c}^{(t)})^2$ of the interference term are given as follows:

$$\mu_{r,c}^{(t)} = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{I}_r, k \neq c} \sum_{i=1}^{|\mathbb{A}|} a_i p_{k,r}^{(t-1)}(a_i) \hat{\mathcal{H}}(r,k) + m_{\widetilde{w}_e(k)},$$
(56)

353 and

$$(\sigma_{r,c}^{(t)})^2 = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{I}_r, k \neq c} \sum_{i=1}^{|\mathbb{A}|} |a_i|^2 p_{k,r}^{(t-1)}(a_i) |\hat{\mathcal{H}}(r,k)|^2 - |\mu_{r,c}^{(t)}|^2 + var\{\widetilde{w}_e(k)\}.$$
(57)

The next step in the AMPA is to calculate the entries of the pmf vector $P_{r,c}^{(t)}$ that passes as a message from the variable node d(c) to the observation node $y_d(r)$. The elements of the pmf vector are calculated using a damping method as in [11]:

$$p_{c,r}^{(t)}(a_i) = \Delta p_{c,r}^{(t-1)}(a_i) + (1-\Delta)p_{c,r}^{(t-2)}(a_i),$$
(58)

where $\Delta \in (0, 1]$ is the damping factor allowing the improvement of the convergence of the AMPA, and

$$p_{c,r}^{(t)} \propto \prod_{k \in \mathcal{I}_c, k \neq r} \exp\left(-\frac{|\boldsymbol{y}_d(k) + \mu_{k,c}^{(t)} + \hat{\mathcal{H}}(k,c)a_i|}{(\sigma_{k,c}^{(t)})^2}\right).$$
(59)

The AMPA stops if the maximum number of iteration n_{iter} is reached or if $|p_{c,r}^{(t)}(a_i) - p_{c,r}^{(t-1)}(a_i)| < \epsilon$, where ϵ is a small value.

Finally, decision on the detected data symbols is given as follows: 360

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{d}}(c) = \underset{a_i \in \mathbb{A}}{\operatorname{arg\,max}} p_c^{(t)}(a_i), \tag{60}$$

for c = 0: $NMN_t - 1$. The AMPA is summarized in Algorithm 2. 361

Algorithm 2 AMPA for MIMO-OTFS data detection

Require: y_d , $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$, $\widetilde{w}_e(k)$: $m_{\widetilde{w}_e(k)}$, $var_{\widetilde{w}_e(k)}$, n_{iter}

Ensure: \hat{d}

- 1: Iteration index t = 0
- 2: The probability mass function (pmf): $p_{rc}^{(0)} = \frac{1}{|\mathbb{A}|}$ for r = 0: $NMN_t 1$ and $c \in \mathcal{I}_r$
- 3: while $t \leq n_{iter}$ and $|p_{c,r}^{(t)}(a_i) p_{c,r}^{(t-1)}(a_i)| < \epsilon$ do 4: The mean $\mu_{r,c}^{(t)}$ and the variance $(\sigma_{r,c}^{(t)})^2$ of the interference term ϕ_{rc} pass from the observation node $y_d(r)$ to the variable node d(c)
- The pmf vector $\boldsymbol{p}_{r,c}^{(t)}$ is updated and passes as a message from the variable node $\boldsymbol{d}(c)$ to the observation 5: node $\boldsymbol{y}_d(r)$
- The distribution of the transmitted symbols d is updated 6:
- t = t + 17:
- 8: end while

3.2. Iterative LMMSE-AMPA algorithm for channel estimation and data detection 362

As previously stated, since the number of paths P, delay and Doppler taps $\{l_i, k_i\}_{i=1:P}$ remain un-363 changed for a period of time T_s , only the channel gains vector $\{h_i\}_{i=1:P}$ will be estimated in the frames 364 $F_{T_2}, F_{T_3}, ..., F_{T_N}$. In the same way as above, we propose an iterative algorithm for channel estimation and 365 data detection. For channel estimation, we propose a low complexity MMSE. For data symbol detection, 366 the AMAP is used. 367

3.2.1. Data-aided channel estimation (LMMSE algorithm) 368

Based on the fact that $y_d = \Phi_d h_m$, equation (25) can be written as follows: 369

$$\boldsymbol{y}_m = \boldsymbol{\Phi}_d \boldsymbol{h}_m + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_p \boldsymbol{h}_m + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}}.$$
(61)

Letting $\hat{\Phi}_d^{(0)}$ the first estimate of Φ_d , the equation (61) is re-written as follows: 370

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{y}_{m} &= (\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{p} + \hat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_{d}^{(0)})\boldsymbol{h}_{m} + (\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{d} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_{d}^{(0)})\boldsymbol{h}_{m} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}}, \\ &= \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}^{(0)}\boldsymbol{h}_{m} + \boldsymbol{\mu}_{d}^{(0)}, \end{aligned}$$
(62)

where $\boldsymbol{\mu}_{d}^{(i)} = (\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{d} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_{d}^{(i)})\boldsymbol{h}_{m} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}}$ is the noise-plus-interference vector whose mean is given as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{m}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_{d}^{(i)}}^{(i)} = \mathbb{E}\{\boldsymbol{\mu}_{d}^{(i)}\} = \boldsymbol{0}_{MNN_{r}},\tag{63}$$

and in the same way as (32), its covariance matrix is derived as follows:

From (62) and based on (63), (64), the MMSE estimate of the channel vector h_m in the *i*-th iteration is given as follows:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{m}^{(i)} = ((\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}^{(i-1)})^{H} (\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_{d}^{(i-1)}}^{(i-1)})^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}^{(i-1)} + \boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{h}_{m}}^{-1})^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}^{(i-1)})^{H} (\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_{d}^{(i-1)}}^{(i-1)})^{-1} \boldsymbol{y}_{m}.$$
(65)

It is worth noting that this estimator benefits from the channel sparsity in the DD domain by calculating the inverse of a $(PN_tN_r \times PN_tN_r)$ matrix, where $P \ll MN$.

Equation (65) requires the inversion of the matrix $\boldsymbol{M} = ((\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}^{(i-1)})^{H} (\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_{d}^{(i-1)}}^{(i-1)})^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}^{(i-1)} + \boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{h}_{m}}^{-1})$. As \boldsymbol{M} is a bounded positive definite Hermitian matrix (see Appendix B) with a lower and upper bound PN_{t} , we propose a low complexity MMSE (LMMSE) by computing \boldsymbol{M}^{-1} via the Cholesky decomposition. Algorithm 3 summarize the estimate of the channel vector \boldsymbol{h}_{m} in the *i*-th iteration.

Algorithm 3 LMMSE algorithm for channel estimation

Require: $\Phi_{pd}^{(i-1)}$, $(\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_{d}^{(i-1)}}^{(i-1)})^{-1}$, $\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{h}_{m}}^{-1}$, \boldsymbol{y}_{m} **Ensure:** $\hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{m}^{(i)}$ 1: Compute the Hermitian bounded matrix $\boldsymbol{M} = (\Phi_{pd}^{(i-1)})^{H} (\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_{d}^{(i-1)}}^{(i-1)})^{-1} \Phi_{pd}^{(i-1)} + \boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{h}_{m}}^{-1}$ 2: Compute the Cholesky decomposition of $\boldsymbol{M} = \boldsymbol{L}\boldsymbol{D}\boldsymbol{L}^{H}$ 3: Solve the system $\boldsymbol{L}\boldsymbol{s}_{1} = (\Phi_{pd}^{(i-1)})^{H} (\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_{d}^{(i-1)}}^{(i-1)})^{-1} \boldsymbol{y}_{m}$ 4: Solve the system $\boldsymbol{D}\boldsymbol{s}_{2} = \boldsymbol{s}_{1}$ 5: Solve the system $\boldsymbol{L}^{H}\boldsymbol{s}_{3} = \boldsymbol{s}_{2}$ 6: $\hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{m}^{(i)} = \boldsymbol{s}_{3}$

380 3.2.2. AMPA-aided data detection

Once the channel is estimated, the AMPA is used for data detection. The observation vector $\tilde{y}_d^{(i)}$ at the *i*-th iteration used for the symbol detection can be expressed as follows:

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{y}}_{d}^{(i)} = \boldsymbol{y}_{m} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}}^{(i)} \boldsymbol{p} = \hat{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}} \boldsymbol{d} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{w}}_{\tilde{e}}^{(i)}, \tag{66}$$

where $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{w}}_{\tilde{e}}^{(i)} = (\mathcal{H} - \hat{\mathcal{H}}^{(i)})\boldsymbol{p} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}}$. In the same way as (43) and (44) we can easily show that the mean of the k-th element of $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{w}}_{\tilde{e}}^{(i)}$ is given by $m_{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{w}}_{\tilde{e}}^{(i)}(k)} = 0$ and its variance is expressed as $var_{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{w}}_{\tilde{e}}^{(i)}(k)} = \sigma_n^2 + \sigma_p^2 M_h^{(i)}$. The channel estimation and data detection algorithm designed in this work is outlined in Algorithm 4

Algorithm 4 Channel estimation and data detection algorithm

Require: $\boldsymbol{y}_m, \boldsymbol{A}, N_{iter}, \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}, (\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_d})^{-1}, \boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{h}_m}^{-1}$, frame index f_P **Ensure:** \hat{d} , \hat{P} , $\{\hat{P}_i, \hat{k}_i\}_{i=1:P}$, $\{\hat{h}_i\}_{i=1:\hat{P}N_tN_r}$ 1: while $n \leq N_{iter} \& |\boldsymbol{h}_m^{(n)} - \boldsymbol{h}_m^{(n-1)}| < \epsilon$ do if $f_P == 1$ then 2: Use the SoBaP algorithm (Algorithm 1): $\{\hat{P}, \{\hat{l}_i, \hat{k}_i\}_{i=1:\hat{P}}, \{\hat{h}_i\}_{i=1:\hat{P}N_tN_r}\} = \text{SoBaP}(\boldsymbol{y}_m, \boldsymbol{A})$ 3: else 4: Use the LMMSE algorithm (Algorithm 3): $\{\{\hat{h}_i\}_{i=1:\hat{P}N_tN_r}\} = \text{LMMSE}\left(\boldsymbol{y}_m, \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}, (\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_d})^{-1}, \boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{h}_m}^{-1}\right)$ 5: end if 6: Compute: $\boldsymbol{y}_d, \hat{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{H}}}, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{w}}_e(k) : m_{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{w}}_e(k)}, var_{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{w}}_e(k)}$ 7: Use the AMPA (Algorithm 2): $\hat{d} = \text{MAP}\left(y_d, \hat{\mathcal{H}}, \widetilde{w}_e(k) : m_{\widetilde{w}_e(k)}, var_{\widetilde{w}_e(k)}\right)$ 8: 9: end while

³³⁶ 4. Optimal power distribution between pilots and data symbols

In the proposed scheme, the pilots and data symbols are superimposed in the same DD locations. Therefore, the power must be optimally distributed between the pilots and data symbols to maximise the SINR. Consequently, the maximization of SINR leads to the maximization of SE and the minimization of BER [33]. In what follows, we will derive the SINR lower bound which will be maximised to obtain the optimal pilot power $\sigma_{p,opt}^2$ and the optimal data symbol power $\sigma_{d,opt}^2 = 1 - \sigma_{p,opt}^2$. For the sake of simplicity, we will consider one iteration of the proposed algorithm. Eq. (66) can be rewritten as follows:

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{y}}_{d} = \boldsymbol{y}_{m} - \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{p} \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{m},
= \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{d} \boldsymbol{h}_{m} + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{p} \left(\boldsymbol{h}_{m} - \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{m} \right) + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}},
= \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{d} \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{m} + \left(\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{d} + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{p} \right) \left(\boldsymbol{h}_{m} - \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{m} \right) + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}},
= \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{d} \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{m} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{w}}_{e},$$
(67)

393 where $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{w}}_e = (\boldsymbol{\Phi}_d + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_p) \, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{h}}_m + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{n}} \text{ and } \widetilde{\boldsymbol{h}}_m = \left(\boldsymbol{h}_m - \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_m\right).$

Using (67), the [k, l]-th element of the received DD signal at the Rx *j*-th antenna can be expressed as [22]

$$Y_{d}^{(j)}[k,l] = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{t}} \sum_{p=1}^{P} \hat{h}_{\beta,p}^{(ji)} D^{(i)}[[k-k_{p}]_{N}, [l-l_{p}]_{M}] + \sum_{i=1}^{N_{t}} \sum_{p=1}^{P} \tilde{h}_{\beta,p}^{(ji)} (D^{(i)}[[k-k_{p}]_{N}, [l-l_{p}]_{M}] + P^{(i)}[[k-k_{p}]_{N}, [l-l_{p}]_{M}]) + \tilde{n}[k,l],$$
(68)

where $\hat{h}_{\beta,p}^{(ji)} = \hat{h}_{m,p}^{(ji)}\beta[k,l]$ and $\tilde{h}_{\beta,p}^{(ji)} = \left(h_{m,p}^{(ji)} - \hat{h}_{m,p}^{(ji)}\right)\beta[k,l].$

³⁹⁷ Equation (68) can be rewritten as

$$Y_{d}^{(j)}[k,l] = \tilde{\boldsymbol{d}}^{T} \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta} + \left(\tilde{\boldsymbol{d}} + \tilde{\boldsymbol{p}}\right)^{T} \tilde{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta} + \widetilde{n}[k,l],$$

$$= \tilde{\boldsymbol{d}}^{T} \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta} + v[k,l],$$
(69)

where $v[k, l] = \left(\tilde{\boldsymbol{d}} + \tilde{\boldsymbol{p}}\right)^T \tilde{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta} + \tilde{n}[k, l]$ is the noise-plus-interference term, $\tilde{\boldsymbol{d}} \in \mathbb{C}^{PN_t \times 1}$, $\tilde{\boldsymbol{p}} \in \mathbb{C}^{PN_t \times 1}$ denote data and pilot vectors. Their *p*-th element is given by $D^{(i)}[[k - k_p]_N, [l - l_p]_M]$ and $P^{(i)}[[k - k_p]_N, [l - l_p]_M]$, respectively. The *p*-th element of $\tilde{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta}$ and $\hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta}$ are the scalars $\tilde{h}^{(ji)}_{\beta,p}$ and $\hat{h}^{(ji)}_{\beta,p}$, respectively.

401 Using (69), the SINR of the [k, l]-th symbol can be expressed as follows:

$$\operatorname{SINR}[k,l] = \frac{\mathbb{E}\{|\tilde{\boldsymbol{d}}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta}|^2\}}{\mathbb{E}\{|\boldsymbol{v}[k,l]|^2\}}.$$
(70)

The numerator of (70) depends on the channel estimate and its denominator depends on the estimation error. These two entities are independent because, for a linear MMSE estimator, the estimation error is orthogonal to the observations [34] and the noise is independent of data symbols. Since $\mathbb{E}\{\tilde{d}^*\tilde{d}^T\} = \sigma_d^2 I_{PN_t}$ and $\beta[k, l]$ is a phase factor, the numerator of (70) can be expressed as

$$\mathbb{E}\{|\tilde{\boldsymbol{d}}^{T}\hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta}|^{2}\} = \mathbb{E}\{(\hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta})^{H}\mathbb{E}\{\tilde{\boldsymbol{d}}^{*}\tilde{\boldsymbol{d}}^{T}\}\hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta}\},$$

$$= \sigma_{d}^{2}\mathbb{E}\{\|\hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{m}\|^{2}\},$$

$$(71)$$

406 The term $\mathbb{E}\{\|\hat{h}_m\|^2\} = \text{Tr}(\mathbb{E}\{\hat{h}_m(\hat{h}_m)^H\})$ can be calculated using (67) as follows:

$$\operatorname{Tr}(\mathbb{E}\{\hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_m(\hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_m)^H\}) = \sigma_h^2 - M_h, \tag{72}$$

where $\sigma_h^2 = \text{Tr}(\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{h}_m}) = \sum_{i=1}^{PN_tN_r} \sigma_{h_i}^2$ and M_h is the MSE of channel estimation defined in (50). From (71) and (72), the expression of the SINR numerator can be expressed as follows:

$$\mathbb{E}\{|\hat{\boldsymbol{d}}^T\hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta}|^2\} = \sigma_d^2(\sigma_h^2 - M_h).$$
(73)

 $_{409}$ The denominator of (70) can be simplified as follows:

$$\mathbb{E}\{|v[k,l]|^2\} = \mathbb{E}\{(\tilde{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta})^H(\mathbb{E}\{\tilde{\boldsymbol{d}}^*\tilde{\boldsymbol{d}}^T\} + \tilde{\boldsymbol{p}}^*\tilde{\boldsymbol{p}}^T)\tilde{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta}\} + \mathbb{E}\{|\tilde{n}[k,l]|^2\},
= \sigma_d^2\mathbb{E}\{\|\tilde{\boldsymbol{h}}_m\|^2\} + \operatorname{Tr}(\mathbb{E}\{(\tilde{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta}\tilde{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta})^H\} + \tilde{\boldsymbol{p}}^*\tilde{\boldsymbol{p}}^T) + \sigma_n^2.$$
(74)

The second term of (74) can be simplified using the following property: for two positive semi-definite matrices $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{C}^{K \times K}$ and $\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{C}^{K \times K}$, $\operatorname{Tr}(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{Y}) \leq \operatorname{Tr}(\mathbf{X})\operatorname{Tr}(\mathbf{Y})$ [35]:

$$\operatorname{Tr}(\mathbb{E}\{(\tilde{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta}\tilde{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta})^{H}\}\tilde{\boldsymbol{p}}^{*}\tilde{\boldsymbol{p}}^{T}) \leq \operatorname{Tr}(\mathbb{E}\{(\tilde{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta}\tilde{\boldsymbol{h}}_{\beta})^{H}\})\operatorname{Tr}(\tilde{\boldsymbol{p}}^{*}\tilde{\boldsymbol{p}}^{T}) = PN_{t}\sigma_{p}^{2}M_{h}.$$
(75)

 $_{412}$ Using (75), (74) can be simplified as follows:

$$\mathbb{E}\{|v[k,l]|^2\} \le \sigma_d^2 M_h + P N_t \sigma_p^2 M_h + \sigma_n^2.$$
(76)

 $_{413}$ By replacing (73) and (76) in (70), the SINR expression becomes

$$\operatorname{SINR} \ge \frac{\sigma_d^2(\sigma_h^2 - M_h)}{\sigma_d^2 M_h + P N_t \sigma_p^2 M_h + \sigma_n^2}.$$
(77)

To evaluate the expression of the SINR, it is necessary to calculate the MSE M_h for the superimposedaided channel estimation. We show that M_h is lower bounded as

$$M_{h} \geq \frac{(PN_{t}N_{r})^{2}(\sigma_{n}^{2} + 2\sigma_{h}^{2}\sigma_{d}^{2}/N_{r})}{PMNN_{t}N_{r}\sigma_{p}^{2} + \tilde{\tau}_{h}^{2}(\sigma_{n}^{2} + 2\sigma_{h}^{2}\sigma_{d}^{2}/N_{r})}.$$
(78)

416 where $\tilde{\tau}_h^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{PN_tN_r} \frac{1}{\sigma_{h_i}^2}$.

Proof. : For any positive definite matrix $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{C}^{K \times K}$, $Tr(\mathbf{X}^{-1}) \geq \frac{K^2}{Tr(\mathbf{X})}$ [35]. Using this result, $M_h = Tr(((\mathbf{\Phi}_p)^H(\mathbf{C}_{\mu_d})^{-1}\mathbf{\Phi}_p + \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{h}_m}^{-1})^{-1})$ can be expressed as follows:

$$M_{h} \geq \frac{(PN_{t}N_{r})^{2}}{Tr((\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{p})^{H}(\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_{d}})^{-1}\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{p} + \boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{h}_{m}}^{-1})}.$$
(79)

Using (32) and the property used in (31) and letting $\tilde{\tau}_h^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{PN_t N_r} \frac{1}{\sigma_{h_i}^2}$, the denominator of (79) can be simplified as follows:

$$Tr((\boldsymbol{\Phi}_p)^H(\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_d})^{-1}\boldsymbol{\Phi}_p + \boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{h}_m}^{-1}) = \frac{Tr((\boldsymbol{\Phi}_p)^H\boldsymbol{\Phi}_p)}{\sigma_n^2 + 2\sigma_h^2\sigma_d^2/N_r} + \tilde{\tau}_h^2.$$
(80)

We have, by using (17) and (21)

$$Tr((\mathbf{\Phi}_p)^H \mathbf{\Phi}_p) = PMNN_t N_r \sigma_p^2.$$
(81)

 $_{417}$ We get the desired result in (78) by substituting (81) in (80) then (80) in (79).

⁴¹⁸ By accounting for (78) in (77), and by substituting $\sigma_d^2 = 1 - \sigma_p^2$, the SINR becomes

$$SINR \ge \frac{a_0 + a_1 \sigma_p^2 + a_2 \sigma_p^4}{b_0 + b_1 \sigma_p^2 + b_2 \sigma_p^4},$$
(82)

where $a_0 = -N_r^3 N_t^2 P^2 \sigma_n^2 - 2N_r^2 N_t^2 P^2 \sigma_h^2 + N_r \sigma_h^2 \tilde{\tau}_h^2 \sigma_n^2 + 2\sigma_h^4 \tilde{\tau}_h^2, a_1 = -N_r^3 N_t^2 P^2 \sigma_n^2 - MNN_r^2 N_t P \sigma_h^2 - 4N_r^2 N_t^2 P^2 \sigma_h^2 + N_r \sigma_h^2 \tilde{\tau}_h^2 \sigma_n^2 + 4\sigma_h^4 \tilde{\tau}_h^2, a_2 = -2\sigma_h^4 \tilde{\tau}_h^2 + 2N_r^2 N_t^2 P^2 \sigma_h^2 + MNN_r^2 N_t P \sigma_h^2, b_0 = N_r^3 N_t^2 P^2 \sigma_n^2 + 2N_r^2 N_t^2 P^2 \sigma_h^2 + N_r \tilde{\tau}_h^2 \sigma_n^4 + 2\sigma_h^2 \tilde{\tau}_h^2 \sigma_n^2, b_1 = -2\sigma_h^2 \tilde{\tau}_h^2 \sigma_n^2 - 4N_r^2 N_t^2 P^2 \sigma_h^2 + MNN_r^2 N_t P \sigma_n^2 - N_r^3 N_t^2 P^2 \sigma_n^2 + 2N_r^2 N_t^3 P^3 \sigma_h^2 + 2N_r^2 N_t^2 P^2 \sigma_h^2.$

In order to determine the optimal pilot power, the first step is to differentiate the lower bound of SINR, and set the resulting equation equal to zero. Once this equation has been solved, the optimal pilot power can be obtained as

$$\sigma_{p,opt}^2 = \left| \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \right|,\tag{83}$$

426 where $a = b_1 a_2 - b_2 a_1$, $b = 2b_0 a_2 - 2b_2 a_0$ and $c = b_0 a_1 - b_1 a_0$.

427 5. Complexity analysis

We will focus on the most complex term for each operation. For the sake of simplicity, we assume that $N_t = N_r = N_a$.

The complexity of the proposed technique contains two terms. The first one concerns the channel estimation, named C_{ce} , while the second one concerns the data detection, named C_{dd} . Therefore, the overall complexity of the proposed algorithm is $C = C_{ce} + C_{dd}$.

The complexity of one iteration of the detection algorithm requires the computation of (56), (57), (58), and (60). Each of (56), (57), and (58) has a complexity of $\mathcal{O}(MNN_aP|\mathbb{A}|)$. In addition, the complexity of (58) is $\mathcal{O}(MNN_a|\mathbb{A}|)$. So, the overall complexity of the data detection algorithm is dominated by $C_{dd} =$ $\mathcal{O}(n_{iter}^{(dd)}MNN_aP|\mathbb{A}|)$, where $n_{iter}^{(dd)}$ is the number of iteration required to the convergence of the data detection algorithm.

For the channel estimation step, we have two proposed algorithms. For the SoBaP algorithm, the most complex operation per iteration is the update (A.9), which is $\mathcal{O}(MNLN_a^3)$. Therefore, the overall complexity for the SoBaP algorithm is dominated by $C_{ce}^{(sobap)} = \mathcal{O}(n_{iter}^{(ce)}MNLN_a^3)$, where $n_{iter}^{(ce)}$ is the number of iteration required to the convergence of the SoBaP algorithm.

The LMMSE algorithm, is divided into five steps. The first one is the computation of the Hermitian 442 bounded matrix $\boldsymbol{M} = (\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}^{(i-1)})^H (\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_d^{(i-1)}}^{(i-1)})^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}^{(i-1)} + \boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{h}_m}^{-1}$, its computational cost is $\frac{1}{2}(Q^2 + 3Q + 2)R$, where 443 $Q = N_a P$ and $R = P N_a^2$. The second step is the Cholesky decomposition, which requires $\frac{1}{2}(Q^2 + 3Q)R$ 444 operation. The third and the fifth steps can be solved by band forward and backward substitutions and 445 each of them require QR operation. Th forth step, which consists in solving a diagonal system requires 446 R operation. Therefore, the overall complexity of the the proposed LMMSE algorithm is dominated by 447 $C_{ce}^{(lmmse)} = \mathcal{O}(N_a^4 P^3)$. Finally, the complexity of the channel estimation step of the proposed algorithm 448 is an average between the complexity of SoBaP and LMMSE, it is given as $C_{ce} = \frac{C_{ce}^{sobap} + (N_f - 1)C_{ce}^{lmmse}}{N_f} \approx$ 449 $\mathcal{O}(\frac{(N_f-1)N_aP^3 + n_{iter}^{(ce)}MNL)}{N_f}N_a^3)$ 450

It should be noted that $(N_f - 1)N_aP^3 \ll n_{iter}^{(ce)}MNL$ in practice, this means that the complexity of the channel estimation step reduced to $C_{ce} = \mathcal{O}(\frac{n_{iter}^{(ce)}MNL}{N_f}N_a^3).$

Table 2 summarizes the complexity of the proposed channel estimation algorithm and that of each of the state-of-the-art methods listed in this paper.

Table 2: Computational complexities of the proposed and existing channel estimation methods.

Scheme	Computational complexity
EP [25]	$\mathcal{O}(Nl_{\tau}N_{a})$
BSBL-BR [18]	$\mathcal{O}(N_{iter}N_a^3LK^2)$
RG-OMP [17]	$\mathcal{O}(M^3 N_p^3)$
RG-BL [17]	$\mathcal{O}(G^3 N_a^3)$
SoBaP-LMMSE-AMPA	$\mathcal{O}(rac{n_{iter}^{(ce)}MNL}{N_f}N_a^3)$

Note that $K = (2k_{\nu} + 2Q + 1)(l_{\tau} + 1)$ and $G = (M_{\tau} + 1)(G_{\nu} + 1)$. We note also C_m the complexity of the method m and we compare the complexities of all the methods.

It is clear that the EP is the least complex of all the methods considered here because its complexity varies linearly with N. It is also clear that RG-OMP is the most complex due to the M^3 factor in the expression of its complexity.

Since $k_{\nu} < N_{\nu} < N$, $l_{\tau} < M_{\tau} < M$, $N_{\nu} \ll G_{\nu}$, and $N_{iter} \approx 10$ in practice, we have $N_{iter}LK^2 < G^3$, which leads to $C_{\text{BSBL-BR}} < C_{\text{RG-BL}}$.

462 Since $n_{iter}^{(ce)} \approx 10$, we can also easily check that $n_{iter}^{(ce)}MNL/N_f < N_{iter}LK^2$, so, we have $C_{\text{SoBaP-LMMSE-AMPA}} <$ 463 $C_{\text{BSBL-BR}}$. We can conclude that $C_{EP} < C_{\text{SoBaP-LMMSE-AMPA}} < C_{\text{BSBL-BR}} < C_{\text{RG-BL}} < C_{\text{RG-OMP}}$.

6. Simulation results

⁴⁶⁵ In this section, we first evaluate the performance of the proposed algorithm in terms of NMSE, BER and ⁴⁶⁶ SE. Then, we compare obtained results against four state-of-the-art methods: EP (pilot type-1), BSBL-BR

⁴⁶⁷ (pilot type-2), RG-OMP and RG-BL (pilot type-3).

468 6.1. Simulation setting

⁴⁶⁹ The simulation parameters are given in Table 3.

Parameter	Value	Parameter	Value
$\overline{f_c}$	4 GHz	Δf	$15 \mathrm{~kHz}$
$\overline{(N,M)}$	(16, 16)	(N_t, N_r)	(2,2)
$\overline{t_c}$	541 μs	Т	1 ms
Modulation	'BPSK'	(W_t, W_r)	'rectangular'

Table 3: Simulation parameters.

For the channel delay model, we use a 5-tap DD model whose parameters are given in Table 4. Each delay tap owns a single Doppler shift in the form $\nu_k = \nu_{max} \cos(\theta_k)$, where ν_{max} is the maximum Doppler shift of the channel and $\theta_k \sim \mathcal{U}_{[0,\pi]}$. The maximum delay tap $l_{\tau} = 4$ and the maximum Doppler tap $k_{\nu} = 2$ correspond to a high mobility scenario with a maximum relative speed $\nu = 500$ km/h.

Table 4: Power delay profile [22].

Path no.	1	2	3	4	5
delay (μs)	2.08	5.20	8.33	11.46	20.8
Path power (dB)	1	-1.80	-3.57	-5.38	-8.86

474 The NMSE expression used in this work is given as follows:

NMSE = 1 -
$$\left(\frac{|\boldsymbol{h}^{H}\hat{\boldsymbol{h}}|}{||\boldsymbol{h}||_{2}||\hat{\boldsymbol{h}}||_{2}}\right)^{2}$$
. (84)

We assume that each location in the DD grid has a power of σ_x^2 . The total power of each OTFS frame 475 is $MN\sigma_x^2$. Thus, by taking $\sigma_x^2 = \sigma_d^2 + \sigma_p^2 = 1$, the total power for each OTFS frame is fixed to MN. For a 476 fair comparison with the state-of-the-art schemes, this total power must remain the same for each scheme. 477 For the EP scheme [25], due to the insertion of guard intervals between the pilots and data symbols, all the 478 power that is assigned to the guard interval positions must be assigned to the pilots and data symbols, i.e., 479 $\sigma_p^2 = \sigma_d^2 = \frac{MN}{MN+N_t-L_p}$. Therefore, we have a total power per frame of $N_t \sigma_p^2 + (MN - L_p)\sigma_d^2 = MN$. For 480 BSBL-BR method [18], there is no guard intervals between the L pilots and the MN - L data symbols. 481 Thus, by taking $\sigma_p^2 = \sigma_d^2 = 1$, we have a total power per frame of $\sigma_p^2 L + \sigma_d^2 (MN - L) = MN$. For RG-OMP 482 and RG-BL methods [17], in each frame, MN_p symbols are pilots in a block of $M(N + N_p)$ symbols. By 483 taking $\sigma_p^2 = \sigma_d^2 = \frac{N}{N+N_p}$, we have a total power per frame of $MN\sigma_d^2 + MN_p\sigma_p^2 = MN$. 484

Table 5 presents a summary of the optimal pilot power $\sigma_{p,opt}^2$ for various SNR values, as calculated using the expression derived in equation (83). It is evident from the table that, based on the given simulation ⁴⁸⁷ parameters, the average optimal pilot power is approximately 0.3. To maximize the SE and minimize the ⁴⁸⁸ BER of the proposed superimposed-aided design, it is recommended to allocate 30% of the total power to ⁴⁸⁹ pilots and 70% to data, which is also confirmed by numerical verification.

Table 5: Optimal pilot power with P = 5 and M = N = 16.

SNR (dB)	0	5	10	15	20
$\overline{\sigma_{p,opt}^2}$	0.2520	0.2995	0.3135	0.3178	0.3191

490 6.2. Stationarity of the channel

The channel used here is a doubly-underspread (DU) channel. For this type of channels, the delay and Doppler taps $\{l_i, k_i\}_{i=1:P}$ remain practically constant over a period of time. Here, we first check that the channel used is indeed DU. Then, we look for the number of frames N_f for which the delay and Doppler taps $\{l_i, k_i\}_{i=1:P}$ remain almost constant.

It is shown in [28] that a DU channel satisfies the following condition: $\Delta \nu_{max} \Delta \tau_{max} \ll \nu_{max} \tau_{max} \ll 1$. $\Delta \nu_{max} = 2\nu_{max} \sin(\delta/2)$ is the maximum Doppler correlation lag where δ denotes the maximum angular spread of the scatters. $\Delta \tau_{max} = \omega/c$ is the maximum delay correlation lag where ω denotes the maximum spatial extension. In our case, $\nu_{max} = 1850$ Hz and $\tau_{max} = 20.8 \ \mu s$, thus $\nu_{max} \tau_{max} = 0.03848$. Letting $\delta = 3^{\circ}$ and $\omega = 30 \ m$ [28], $\Delta \nu_{max} = 96.9$ Hz and $\Delta \tau_{max} = 0.1 \ \mu s$, thus, $\Delta \tau_{max} \Delta \tau_{max} = 9.69 \ 10^{-7}$. Finally, we see that $\Delta \nu_{max} \Delta \tau_{max} \ll \nu_{max} \tau_{max} \ll 1$. Therefore, the channel used here is a DU channel.

We have $N_f = T_s/T$, where T is the frame duration given as $T = N/\Delta f$ and T_s denotes the duration for which $\{l_i, k_i\}_{i=1:P}$ remain practically constant. This duration is computed as $T_s = 1/\Delta \nu_{max}$. In our case, $T_s = 10.3 ms$, and T = 1 ms, so, $N_f \approx 10$. It is worth noting that, for constant N, Δf and δ , the number of frames N_f is proportional to v_{max} . Thus, for speeds below 500 km/h, N_f increases.

505 6.3. Influence of the power of pilots on BER performance

The power allocated to the pilots influences the performance of the system. We investigate the variation of the BER as a function of the power of the pilots σ_p^2 . Fig 4 shows the variation of the BER of the proposed algorithm by varying the power of the pilots in the interval [0.1; 0.9] for SNR = 5, 10, 15 dB.

We observe that, for the three SNR values, the minimum BER is reached at $\sigma_p^2 = \sigma_{p,opt}^2 \approx 30\%$. The degradation of the BER performance away from $\sigma_{p,opt}^2$ is due to the following two factors: If $\sigma_p^2 < \sigma_{p,opt}^2$, the degradation is due to a poor channel estimation and if $\sigma_{p,opt}^2 < \sigma_p^2$, this degradation is due to the reduced data power since we have set $\sigma_d^2 = 1 - \sigma_p^2$.



Figure 4: BER versus pilot power performance for the proposed algorithm with $N_t = N_r = 2$, N = M = 16 and SNR = 5, 10, 15 dB.

We now investigate in Fig 5 the BER of the proposed scheme, for different pilot powers. We observe from this figure that the proposed scheme exhibits the lowest BER when the optimal power allocation is used. This confirms the optimal pilot power which is calculated analytically in section 4 and shown in Table 5.



Figure 5: Effect of pilot power on the BER of the proposed scheme with $N_t = N_r = 2$, N = M = 16.

516 6.4. Convergence of the SoBaP-LMMSE-AMPA algorithm

Fig 6 shows the BER performance of the proposed SoBaP-LMMSE-AMPA algorithm versus the number of iterations with SNR = 5, 15 dB, $\sigma_p^2 = \sigma_{p,opt}^2$ dB, and BPSK modulation. From Fig 6, it can be seen that, for both SNR values, the BER decreases with increasing number of iterations, and it saturates after about 5 or 6 iterations. The convergence and the effectiveness of the proposed SoBaP-LMMSE-AMPA algorithm are confirmed by the steady states reached by the two curves of the BER after a few iterations. It can be also observed that, as expected, the scenario with higher SNR exhibits superior convergence speed and detection accuracy.



Figure 6: BER performance of the SoBaP-LMMSE-AMPA algorithm versus the number of iterations with $N_t = N_r = 2$, N = M = 16, $\sigma_p^2 = \sigma_{p,opt}^2$ and SNR = 5, 15 dB.

524 6.5. Channel NMSE performance

We now investigate the variation of NMSE as a function of SNR. Fig 7 shows a comparison in terms of NMSE between the proposed algorithm and EP [25], BSBSL-BR [18], and RG-OMP and RG-BL [17] methods.

From Fig 7, we observe that the proposed algorithm has the lowest NMSE value compared to the other methods, it exceeds the RG-BL, which is the best performing state-of-the-art method, by about 5 dB at $SNR = 10 \ dB$. The EP method is most affected by noise owing to the threshold method.



Figure 7: NMSE versus SNR performance for the MIMO-OTFS system with $N_t = N_r = 2$, N = M = 16, and $\sigma_p^2 = \sigma_{p,opt}^2$.

⁵³¹ 6.6. BER performance evaluation

We now investigate the variation of BER as a function of SNR. Fig 8 shows the BER over SNR performance of the proposed algorithm and EP [25], BSBSL-BR [18], and RG-OMP and RG-BL [17] methods.

From Fig 8, we observe that the EP and the BSBL-BR methods perform almost similarly. We also observe that the proposed algorithm outperforms all the other methods. It exceeds the RG-BL method by about 3 dB at $BER = 10^{-4}$.

537 6.7. SE performance evaluation

We now investigate the average SE as a function of SNR. The SE expression of a scheme s is given as follows [22]:

$$\mathcal{R}_s = (1 - \eta_s) \log_2(1 + \text{SINR}s), \tag{85}$$

where s = EP, BSBL-BR, RG-OMP, RG-BL, SoBaP-LMMSE-AMPA, η_s denotes the pilot overhead related to the scheme s.

The pilot overhead η_s is calculated using the frame-structure for the scheme s. The SINR expressions for all the schemes are derived in the same way as in [22]. Table 6 shows the expressions of SINR_s and η_s for each scheme s.



Figure 8: BER versus SNR performance for the MIMO-OTFS system with $N_t = N_r = 2$, N = M = 16, and $\sigma_p^2 = \sigma_{p,opt}^2$.

Scheme (s)	η_s	SINR_s
EP [25]	$\frac{L_p}{MN}$	$rac{(\sigma_h^2 - M_{h, { m EP}})\sigma_d^2}{\sigma_n^2 + \sigma_d^2 M_{h, { m EP}}}$
BSBL-BR [18]	$\frac{L}{MN}$	$\frac{(\sigma_h^2 - M_{h,\text{BSBL-BR}})\sigma_d^2}{\sigma_n^2 + \sigma_d^2 M_{h,\text{BSBL-BR}}}$
RG-OMP [17]	$\frac{N_p}{N_p+N}$	$\frac{(\sigma_h^2 - M_{h,\text{RG-OMP}})\sigma_d^2}{\sigma_n^2 + \sigma_d^2 M_{h,\text{RG-OMP}}}$
RG-BL [17]	$\frac{N_p}{N_p+N}$	$rac{(\sigma_h^2 - M_{h,\mathrm{RG-BL}})\sigma_d^2}{\sigma_n^2 + \sigma_d^2 M_{h,\mathrm{RG-BL}}}$
SoBaP-LMMSE-AMPA	0	$-\frac{(\sigma_h^2 - M_{h, \mathrm{PS}})\sigma_{d, \mathrm{opt}}^2}{\sigma_n^2 + \sigma_{d, \mathrm{opt}}^2 M_{h, \mathrm{PS}} + \sigma_{p, \mathrm{opt}}^2 P N_t M_{h, \mathrm{PS}}}$

Table 6: Expressions of SINR_s and η_s .

where $L_p = (4k_{\nu} + 1)(N_t l_{\tau} + l_{\tau} + N_t)$, N_p is the number of pilots along time-axis for the RG-OMP and RG-BL schemes and $M_{h,s}$ is the channel MSE of scheme s.

Fig 9 shows the average SE comparison between the proposed scheme and the EP, BSBL-BR, RG-OMP, 547 and RG-BL schemes for N = M = 16 and for different values of l_{τ} and k_{ν} . It is not surprising to see from 548 this figure that the SE of all the methods increases as the SNR increases. It is important to note that the 549 SE of the proposed scheme exhibits a significant increase compared to that of the EP design regardless of 550 the values of l_{τ} and k_{ν} . We observe from this figure that as l_{τ} and/or k_{ν} increase, the SE of all state-of-551 the-art schemes degrades. This is because the pilot overhead of these schemes increases with l_{τ} and k_{ν} . The 552 proposed designs, in contrast, avoid this pilot overhead. We also see that for $l_{\tau} = 4$ and $k_{\nu} = 1$, the SE of the 553 proposed scheme is close to those of BSBL-BR, RG-OMP, and RG-BL schemes, because the pilot overhead 554 decrease with l_{τ} and/or k_{ν} . 555



Figure 9: SE versus SNR performance for the MIMO-OTFS system with $N_t = N_r = 2$ and N = M = 16.

556 7. Conclusion

In this manuscript, we have proposed an iterative algorithm for channel estimation and data detection 557 in the delay-Doppler domain for MIMO-OTFS systems that we have named SoBaP-LMMSE-AMPA. To 558 improve the spectral efficiency of the system, we adopted a superimposed pilot pattern. The proposed 559 algorithm iterates between message passing-aided data detection and data-aided channel estimation. For 560 the channel estimation step, two algorithms have been proposed. The first one consists in estimating all the 561 parameters of the channel, including the number of channel paths, delay taps, Doppler taps, and channel 562 gains via mean-field approximation and the so-called VB-EM algorithm. The second one is based on LMMSE 563 combined with Cholesky decomposition. This second solution is only used to estimate the channel gains when 564 the delay and Doppler taps remain unchanged. For data detection, we adapted the MP algorithm to our 565 context. We have also derived a lower bound on the signal-to-interference-plus-noise ratio of the proposed 566 scheme, and maximized it by optimally allocating power between pilots and data symbols. The proposed 567 algorithm has been compared to four state-of-the-art methods, including a recognized MP method, and 568 three recent solutions (BSBL-BR, RG-OMP and RG-BL). Complexity analysis and simulation results have 569 shown that the proposed algorithm achieves a good compromise with the state-of-the-art methods in terms 570 of computation complexity and performs significantly better in terms of NMSE, BER, and SE. 571

572 Appendix A. Calculation of the mean field approximation

The methodology called Mean Field (MF) approximation is adopted here to compute an approximation $q(s_i)$ of the posterior probability $p(s_i|\boldsymbol{y}_m)$. The MF approximation [36, 37] of $p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\boldsymbol{y}_m)$, where $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\boldsymbol{s}, \boldsymbol{c})$ and $p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\boldsymbol{y}_m)$ its posterior distribution, is the surrogate distribution $q^*(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ which satisfies

$$q^{\star}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{q(\boldsymbol{\theta})} \left\{ \int_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} q(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \log \left(\frac{q(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\boldsymbol{y}_m)} \right) \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{\theta} \right\},\tag{A.1}$$

subject to

$$q(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \prod_{k=1}^{K} q(\boldsymbol{\theta}_k), \quad \int_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_k} q(\boldsymbol{\theta}_k) \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{\theta}_k = 1 \quad \forall k \in [1, K].$$
(A.2)

Successive minimizations of the Kullback-Leibler divergence [38] with respect to the parameters of factors $q(\theta_i)$ can solve the problem (A.1), (A.2) [39]. The procedure given in [36] named VB-EM algorithm [40–42], is ensured to converge to a saddle point or a (local or global) maximum of problem (A.1), (A.2) under mild conditions [36].

To approximate the marginals $p(\boldsymbol{\theta}_i | \boldsymbol{y}_m)$, the MF approximations offer a good framework. Indeed,

$$p(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{i}|\boldsymbol{y}_{m}) = \int_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_{-i}} p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\boldsymbol{y}_{m}) \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{-i},$$

$$\simeq \int_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_{-i}} q(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\boldsymbol{y}_{m}) \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{-i},$$

$$\simeq q(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{i}|\boldsymbol{y}_{m}),$$
(A.3)

where the last equality stems from (A.2).

Here, we consider the particular case where the MF approximation $q(\boldsymbol{c}, \boldsymbol{s})$ of $p(\boldsymbol{c}, \boldsymbol{s} | \boldsymbol{y}_m)$ simply writes $q(\boldsymbol{c}, \boldsymbol{s}) = \prod_i q(c_i, s_i)$. Together with models (34), (35), the corresponding VB-EM update is given as follows:

$$q(c_i, s_i | \boldsymbol{y}_m) = q(c_i | s_i, \boldsymbol{y}_m) q(s_i | \boldsymbol{y}_m),$$
(A.4)

583 where

$$q(c_i|s_i, \boldsymbol{y}_m) = \mathcal{N}(m(s_i), \Sigma(s_i))$$
(A.5)

$$q(s_i|\boldsymbol{y}_m) \propto \sqrt{\Sigma(s_i)} \exp\left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{m(s_i)^2}{\Sigma(s_i)}\right) p(s_i)$$
(A.6)

584 and

$$\Sigma(s_i|\boldsymbol{y}_m) = \frac{\sigma_{c_i}^2 \sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + s_i \sigma_{c_i}^2 \boldsymbol{A}_i^T \boldsymbol{A}_i},\tag{A.7}$$

$$m(b_i|\boldsymbol{y}_m) = s_i \frac{\sigma_{c_i}^2}{\sigma^2 + s_i \sigma_{c_i}^2 \boldsymbol{A}_i^T \boldsymbol{A}_i} \boldsymbol{r}_i^T \boldsymbol{A}_i,$$
(A.8)

$$\boldsymbol{r}_{i} = \boldsymbol{y}_{m} - \sum_{l \neq i} q(s_{l} = 1) m(s_{l} = 1) \boldsymbol{A}_{l}, \qquad (A.9)$$

From (A.3), an approximation of $p(s_k | \boldsymbol{y}_m)$ derive easily from the following relationship:

$$p(s_i|\boldsymbol{y}_m) \simeq \int q(c_i, s_i|\boldsymbol{y}_m) \mathrm{d}c_i = q(s_i).$$
(A.10)

⁵⁸⁵ Appendix B. Analysis for positive definiteness of matrix M

Let the matrix $X \in \mathbb{C}^{K \times K}$. It is said to be positive definite if it satisfies the following property: For any non-zero vector $z \in \mathbb{C}^{K}$, $z^{H}Xz$ is a strictly positive real number [43].

The matrix \boldsymbol{M} is given by $\boldsymbol{M} = ((\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd})^{H}(\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_{d}})^{-1}\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd} + \boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{h}_{m}}^{-1})$, where $\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_{d}} = \lambda \boldsymbol{I}_{MNN_{r}}$, with λ is a positive number given by $\lambda = \left(\sigma_{n}^{2} + \frac{2\sigma_{d}^{2}}{N_{r}}\sum_{i=1}^{PN_{t}N_{r}}\sigma_{h_{i}}^{2}\right)$ and $\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{h}_{m}} = \text{diag}\{\sigma_{h_{1}}^{2}, \sigma_{h_{2}}^{2}, ..., \sigma_{h_{PN_{t}N_{r}}}^{2}\}$. For all non-zero $\boldsymbol{z} \in \mathbb{C}^{PN_{t}N_{r} \times 1}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{z}^{H}\boldsymbol{M}\boldsymbol{z} &= \boldsymbol{z}^{H}((\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd})^{H}(\boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_{d}})^{-1}\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}^{(i-1)} + \boldsymbol{C}_{\boldsymbol{h}_{m}}^{-1})\boldsymbol{z}, \\ &= \boldsymbol{z}^{H}(\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd})^{H}(\lambda\boldsymbol{I}_{MNN_{r}})^{-1}\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}\boldsymbol{z} + \boldsymbol{z}^{H}\left(\text{diag}\{\sigma_{h_{1}}^{2},\sigma_{h_{2}}^{2},...,\sigma_{h_{PN_{t}N_{r}}}^{2}\}\right)^{-1}\boldsymbol{z}, \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda}\boldsymbol{z}^{H}(\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd})^{H}\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}\boldsymbol{z} + \sum_{i=1}^{PN_{t}N_{r}}\frac{|\boldsymbol{z}_{i}|^{2}}{\sigma_{h_{i}}^{2}}, \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda}(\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}\boldsymbol{z})^{H}\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}\boldsymbol{z} + \sum_{i=1}^{PN_{t}N_{r}}\frac{|\boldsymbol{z}_{i}|^{2}}{\sigma_{h_{i}}^{2}}, \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda}\|\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd}\boldsymbol{z}\|^{2} + \sum_{i=1}^{PN_{t}N_{r}}\frac{|\boldsymbol{z}_{i}|^{2}}{\sigma_{h_{i}}^{2}}. \end{aligned}$$
(B.1)

We have $\frac{1}{\lambda} \| \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{pd} \boldsymbol{z} \|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{PN_t N_r} \frac{|z_i|^2}{\sigma_{h_i}^2} > 0$, which means that \boldsymbol{M} is a positive definite matrix.

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