Exploiting Multi-Core SoC Architecture for MU-MIMO Schedulers

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Outline

Abstract

- Problem Studied - Implementing multi-user MIMO scheduler schemes on TI TCI6636K2H eight core SoC
- Issues addressed -
  - Complexity involved in implementing scheduling algorithms - low complex algorithm design
  - How to partition scheduler processing among eight cores in TI TCI6636K2H eight core SoC
- Summary - Proposed implementation supports up to 100 users in the system with 4 × 4 MIMO configuration

Introduction and Motivation

- Current standards are moving towards multi-antenna systems due to its numerous advantages
- To avail the benefits, spatially multiplexing multiple user streams are considered
- In order to do so, efficient precoding and user subset are to be identified
- In this work, we analyze the computational needs of different MU-MIMO scheduling algorithms for a single scheduling block
- We evaluate algorithm complexity by implementing on TI TCI6636K2H eight core SoC

Notations used

- We consider a single-cell multi-user MIMO scenario
- Let K be the total number of users with N_R antenna elements
- Let κ be the total available spatial streams for a user k, given by $\kappa = \min(N_T, N_R)$
- $\mathbf{H}_{\hat{k}} \in \mathbb{C}^{N_R \times N_T}$ be the channel between BS and user $\hat{k}, \forall k \in \mathcal{U}$
- Let $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{U}$ be the subset of users chosen by scheduling algorithm

System Model

- Let $\mathbf{H}_{\hat{k}} = \mathbf{U}_{\hat{k}}\mathbf{D}_{\hat{k}}\mathbf{V}_{\hat{k}}^{\mathrm{H}}$ be singular value decomposition of $\mathbf{H}_{\hat{k}}$
- Let $k = \kappa\hat{k} + i$ be the virtual user corresponding to the spatial stream $i \in \{0, \ldots, \kappa - 1\}$
- Using this, we denote virtual channel $\mathbf{h}_k = \mathbf{U}_{\hat{k}}(i)^{\mathrm{H}}\mathbf{H}_{\hat{k}}$, where $\mathbf{U}_{\hat{k}}(i)$ corresponds to the column i of $\mathbf{U}_{\hat{k}}$
- Now, the received symbol $\hat{d}_k$ of virtual user k is given as

$$\hat{d}_k = \mathbf{h}_k\mathbf{m}_k d_k + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}\setminus\{k\}} \mathbf{h}_k\mathbf{m}_i d_i + n_k$$

- where $\mathbf{m}_k \in \mathbb{C}^{N_T \times 1}$ is the transmit precoder of user k

Overview of Scheduling Algorithms

- To minimize interference, only a subset of users are allowed for transmission
- Subset selection with certain objective requires exhaustive search
- Scheduling can inherently be performed by precoder designs - efficient iterative algorithms are available
- However, as the user count increases, complexity scales up significantly
- Hence, precoders are to be designed only for a subset of users chosen by scheduling algorithms

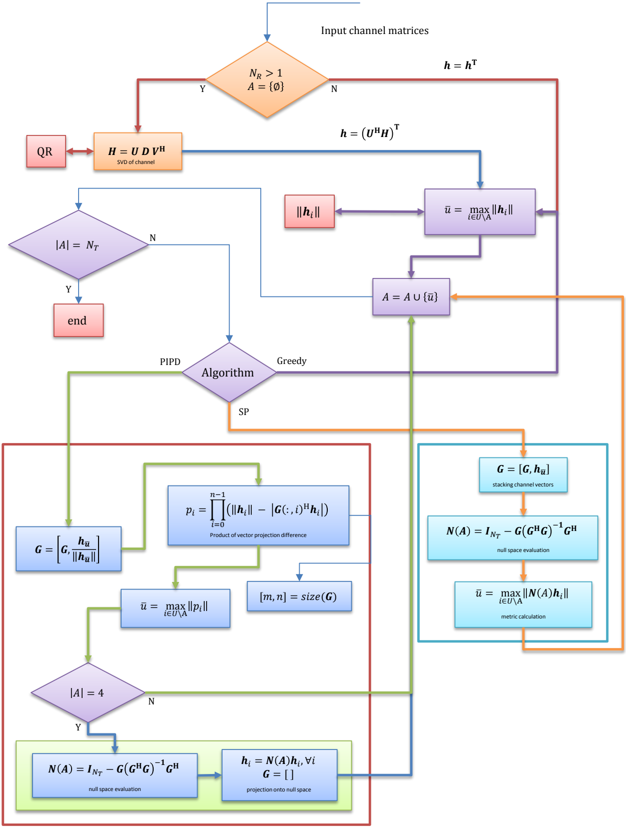
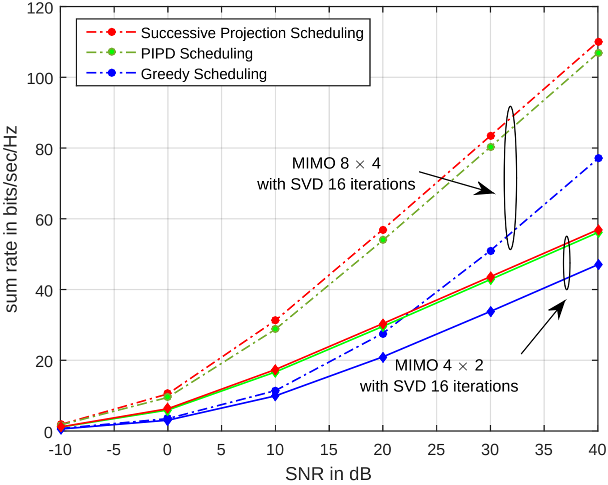


Figure: Block diagram of the scheduler algorithms: greedy, PIPD and successive projections

Figure: Comparison of Scheduler Algorithms for $K = 100$ users.



Overview of TIC6636K2H Eight Core SoC

- Four ARM Cortex A15 operating at 1.4GHz
- Eight C66x CorePacs DSP Core Subsystems 1.2GHz
- 32KB L1P and L1D Cache + 1024KB L2 Cache Per CorePac
- 6 MB Multicore Shared Memory (MSM) SRAM Memory Shared by DSP CorePacs and ARM CorePac
- TeraNet Fabric interconnect between core subsystems and peripherals
- DDR3 memory interface

Partitioning of Algorithm

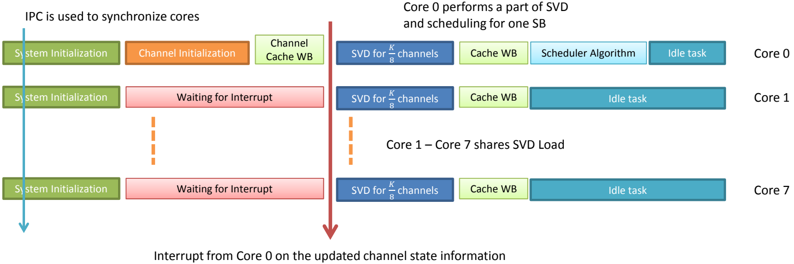
- Computationally, SVD is the most demanding operation
- SVD is performed by repeated QR factorization (16 iterations)
- In order to utilize the SoC efficiently, SVD is shared among eight C66x cores
- SVD processing begins with a Chip Level Interrupt Controller (CIC) interrupt from Core(0)
- Channel matrices are stored in MSM SRAM memory, which is accessible to all C66x cores
- Upon completion, Core(0) carries out scheduler design until completion

Implementation of Scheduler Algorithm

- Each core runs separate copy of SYS-BIOS, *i.e.*, in homogeneous Asynchronous Multiprocessing (AMP) mode
- Inter core communication is facilitated using multi-core SDK 3.0 software stack
- Storage address of the channel buffer in MSM SRAM is fixed across cores using #pragma location
- Avoids the usage of *SharedMem* and *Notify* modules to achieve the same result
- *Inter-Processor Communication (IPC)* module is used to synchronize the cores upon BIOS_Start() function call
- *IPC_start()* and *IPC_attach()* function calls are used for multi-core synchronization

Core(0) Implementation

- Signed Q1.15 format for real and imaginary entries
- CIC interrupt from Core (0) is used to notify the availability of channel buffer to other cores
- Cache *write-back* is performed upon completing SVD processing by all cores
- Upon completion, Core (0) proceeds with scheduling algorithm processing
- However, in a dynamic scenario, CIC interrupt can be used to notify the completion from other cores
- Number of SVD's per core -
  - Core(0) - $\left\lfloor \frac{K}{N_C} \right\rfloor + \left(K - \left\lfloor \frac{K}{N_C} \right\rfloor \times N_C \right)$
  - Other cores - $\left\lfloor \frac{K}{N_C} \right\rfloor$



IPC is used to synchronize cores

Core 0 performs a part of SVD and scheduling for one SB

Core 1 – Core 7 shares SVD Load

Interrupt from Core 0 on the updated channel state information

Figure: Task scheduling over $N_C = 8$ cores.

Table: Scheduling Complexity for $K = 100$ users (msec) with C66x operating at 1.2GHz

$N_T \times N_R$	λ	SVD (1)	SVD (8)	Greedy	SP	PIPD
8×4	4	22.68	2.90	0.075	0.524	0.469
8×4	2	22.68	2.90	0.064	0.325	0.268
8×2	2	6.055	0.79	0.063	0.325	0.266
8×2	1	6.055	0.79	0.058	0.226	0.166
4×4	4	15.81	2.07	0.045	0.168	0.167
4×4	2	15.81	2.07	0.034	0.102	0.098
4×2	2	4.844	0.64	0.034	0.102	0.097
4×2	1	4.844	0.64	0.029	0.069	0.063

- λ - number of spatial streams used in scheduling method (only dominant streams are considered after sorting singular values)

Conclusion from Implementation Results

- Current design can handle all scheduling algorithms within 0.5 msec duration
- Using 8 parallel cores - support 8 scheduling blocks (SBs) in 0.5 msec (well within LTE-A subframe duration of 1 msec)
- Complexity is mainly attributed by the SVD processing
- With current implementation, it can support the MIMO configuration of 8×2 system for $K = 100$ users
- ZYNQ ZC702 - five SVD block on programming logic and scheduling block on ARM - can support only 50 users for a 8×2 system
- ZYNQ ZC702 performance degradation is due to the clocking of programming logic - (150MHz) and ARM (667 MHz) only

Conclusions

- We studied the implementation of different state-of-the-art MU-MIMO scheduling algorithms on TCI6636K2H
- Complexity is mainly attributed to SVD decomposition of channel matrices
- Using parallel implementation, current design can support 100 SVD of 8×2 matrices in 6.055 msec
- We have demonstrated that with the current implementation, all scheduling schemes meet the real-time requirements
- Even though we considered only single SB, the above implementation is scalable.

Successive Projections[†]

- Based on Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalization Procedure
- In each iteration, user channel vectors are projected on to the subspace orthogonal to the span of channel vectors already chosen
- Upon projecting on to the orthogonal subspace, resulting vector with maximum norm is chosen as the candidate user

$$\mathbf{N}(\mathcal{A}) = \mathbf{I}_{N_T} - \mathbf{F}\left(\mathbf{F}^{\mathrm{H}}\mathbf{F}\right)^{-1}\mathbf{F}^{\mathrm{H}}$$

- where **F** is the matrix formed by stacking channel vector of already chosen users in $\mathcal{A}$

[†] T. Yoo and A. Goldsmith, "On the Optimality of Multi-Antenna Broadcast Scheduling using zero-forcing Beamforming, in *IEEE J. Sel. Areas Commun.*, vol. 24, no. 3. IEEE, march 2006.

Product of Independent Projections (PIPD)†

- As compared to the subspace projection in previous algorithm, vector projections are considered
- Each user channel is projected on to unit vector in the direction of already chosen users channel
- Selection is based on the product of independent vector projections
- Performs significantly closer to successive projections method
- Due to vector projections, inverse calculation is not required - low complexity

†Venkatraman, G., Tolli, A., Janhunen, J., and Juntti, M. "Low Complexity Multi-User MIMO Scheduling for Weighted Sum Rate Maximization", in *Proc. of European Signal Process. Conference (EUSIPCO)*, pp. 820–824, 2013