Optimal algorithms and CRB for reciprocity calibration in Massive MIMO

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Introduction

2 System Model

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TDD Massive MIMO and Channel Reciprocity

- A Massive number of Transmit (Tx) Antennas at the base station (BS) talking to a small number of user equipment (UE) in Time Division Duplexing (TDD) mode.
- Channel observed in the digital domain from BS to UE (in general, from antennas A to antennas B) not reciprocal.



- $C_{A \rightarrow B}$ and $C_{B \rightarrow A}$ model the reciprocal propagation channels.
- Diagonal Matrices T_A , R_A , T_B , R_B model the response of the transmit and receive RF front-ends

Introduction

TDD Massive MIMO and Channel Reciprocity (Cont'd)

- $\mathbf{H}_{A \to B} = \mathbf{R}_B \mathbf{C}_{A \to B} \mathbf{T}_A, \qquad \mathbf{H}_{B \to A} = \mathbf{R}_A \mathbf{C}_{B \to A} \mathbf{T}_B,$
- DL (Downlink) channel is derived from the UL (Uplink) channel for Tx beamforming.
- As $\mathbf{C}_{A \to B} = \mathbf{C}_{B \to A}^T$,

$$\mathbf{H}_{A \to B} = \underbrace{\mathbf{R}_{B} \mathbf{T}_{B}^{-T}}_{\mathbf{F}_{B}^{-T}} \mathbf{H}_{B \to A}^{T} \underbrace{\mathbf{R}_{A}^{-T} \mathbf{T}_{A}}_{\mathbf{F}_{A}} = \mathbf{F}_{B}^{-T} \mathbf{H}_{B \to A}^{T} \mathbf{F}_{A}.$$
(1)
Relative calibration factor.

- It has been shown that calibration at the BS is more crucial for Multi-user MIMO performance.
- Hence, in what follows, calibration will be done internally at the BS without involving the UE.

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General Framework and antenna grouping at BS



- Partition the M antennas into G groups with M_i antennas each.
- Proposed in Jiang et al., "A Framework for Over-the-air Reciprocity Calibration for TDD Massive MIMO Systems".
- Each group A_i transmits pilots \mathbf{P}_i for L_i channel uses.

Bidirectional Tx
$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{Y}_{i \to j} = \mathbf{R}_j \mathbf{C}_{i \to j} \mathbf{T}_i \mathbf{P}_i + \mathbf{N}_{i \to j}, \\ \mathbf{Y}_{j \to i} = \mathbf{R}_i \mathbf{C}_{j \to i} \mathbf{T}_j \mathbf{P}_j + \mathbf{N}_{j \to i}, \end{cases}$$
(2)

General Framework

 \bullet Eliminating the propagation channel ${\bf C}$ and after some matrix manipulations, we get

$$\mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{P})\mathbf{f} = \widetilde{\mathbf{n}}, \qquad \mathbf{F} = \operatorname{diag}\left\{\mathbf{f}\right\} = \mathbf{R}^{-T}\mathbf{T}.$$

$$\mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{P}) = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} (\mathbf{Y}_{2 \to 1}^{T} * \mathbf{P}_{1}^{T}) & -(\mathbf{P}_{2}^{T} * \mathbf{Y}_{1 \to 2}^{T}) & 0 & \dots \\ (\mathbf{Y}_{3 \to 1}^{T} * \mathbf{P}_{1}^{T}) & 0 & -(\mathbf{P}_{3}^{T} * \mathbf{Y}_{1 \to 3}^{T}) & \dots \\ 0 & (\mathbf{Y}_{3 \to 2}^{T} * \mathbf{P}_{2}^{T}) & -(\mathbf{P}_{3}^{T} * \mathbf{Y}_{2 \to 3}^{T}) & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}}_{(\sum_{j=2}^{G} \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} L_{i}L_{j}) \times M}$$

where * denotes the Khatri–Rao product (or column-wise Kronecker product¹). \tilde{n} is colored noise.

 ${}^{1}\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{1} & \mathbf{a}_{2} & \dots & \mathbf{a}_{M} \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_{1} & \mathbf{b}_{2} & \dots & \mathbf{b}_{M} \end{bmatrix}$ where \mathbf{a}_{i} and \mathbf{b}_{i} are column vectors for $i \in 1 \dots M$, then, $\mathbf{A} * \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{1} \otimes \mathbf{b}_{1} & \mathbf{a}_{2} \otimes \mathbf{b}_{2} & \dots & \mathbf{a}_{M} \otimes \mathbf{b}_{M} \end{bmatrix}$

General Framework (Cont'd)

 $\mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{P})\mathbf{f}=\widetilde{\mathbf{n}}$

• Least squares (LS) estimate of f

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}} = \arg\min_{\mathbf{f}} \|\mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{P}) \mathbf{f}\|^{2}$$

=
$$\arg\min_{\mathbf{f}} \sum_{i < j} \|(\mathbf{Y}_{j \to i}^{T} * \mathbf{P}_{i}^{T}) \mathbf{f}_{i} - (\mathbf{P}_{j}^{T} * \mathbf{Y}_{i \to j}^{T}) \mathbf{f}_{j}\|^{2} , \qquad (3)$$

 \bullet To exclude the trivial solution, $\hat{\mathbf{f}}=\mathbf{0},$ this needs to be augmented with a constraint

$$\mathcal{C}(\hat{\mathbf{f}},\mathbf{f})=0.$$

General Framework (Cont'd)

• Typical choices for the constraint are 1) Norm plus phase constraint (NPC):

norm:
$$\operatorname{Re}\{\mathcal{C}(\hat{\mathbf{f}}, \mathbf{f})\} = ||\hat{\mathbf{f}}||^2 - c, \ c = ||\mathbf{f}||^2,$$
 (4)
phase: $\operatorname{Im}\{\mathcal{C}(\hat{\mathbf{f}}, \mathbf{f})\} = \operatorname{Im}\{\hat{\mathbf{f}}^H\mathbf{f}\} = 0.$ (5)

2) Linear constraint:

$$\mathcal{C}(\hat{\mathbf{f}}, \mathbf{f}) = \hat{\mathbf{f}}^H \mathbf{g} - c = 0.$$
(6)

The most popular linear constraint is the First Coefficient Constraint (FCC), which is (6) with $g = e_1$, c = 1.

• We now proceed to investigate some optimal estimation methods and performance limits.

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Cramer Rao Bound (CRB) - Defining an auxiliary channel

- Re-parameterize in terms of the relative calibration factors and an auxiliary internal channel.
- As $\mathbf{F}_i = \mathbf{R}_i^{-T} \mathbf{T}_i$,

$$\mathbf{Y}_{i \to j} = \mathbf{R}_{j} \mathbf{C}_{i \to j} \mathbf{T}_{i} \mathbf{P}_{i} + \mathbf{N}_{i \to j} = \underbrace{\mathbf{R}_{j} \mathbf{C}_{i \to j} \mathbf{R}_{i}^{T}}_{\mathcal{H}_{i \to j}} \mathbf{F}_{i} \mathbf{P}_{i} + \mathbf{N}_{i \to j}.$$
(7)
Auxiliary internal channel

- *H_{i→j}* is a nuisance parameter and does not correspond to any physically measurable quantity.
- $\mathcal{H}_{i \to j}$ is reciprocal: $\mathcal{H}_{i \to j} = \mathcal{H}_{j \to i}^T$.

Cramer Rao Bound

Stacking these observations into a vector

$$\mathbf{y} = \left[\operatorname{vec}(\mathbf{Y}_{1 \to 2})^T \operatorname{vec}(\mathbf{Y}_{2 \to 1}^T)^T \operatorname{vec}(\mathbf{Y}_{1 \to 3})^T \dots \right]^T$$
$$= \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{P})\mathbf{f} + \mathbf{n} = \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{P})\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{n},$$
(8)

where $\mathbf{h} = \left[\operatorname{vec}(\mathcal{H}_{1 \to 2})^T \operatorname{vec}(\mathcal{H}_{1 \to 3})^T \operatorname{vec}(\mathcal{H}_{2 \to 3})^T \dots \right]^T$, $\mathbf{f} = [\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \dots, \mathbf{f}_M]$ (Relative calibration factors for M antennas) and \mathbf{n} is the corresponding noise vector.

Cramer Rao Bound (Cont'd)

 \bullet The composite matrices ${\cal H}$ and ${\cal F}$ are given by,

$$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{P}) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}_{1}^{T} * \mathcal{H}_{1 \to 2} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & \mathcal{H}_{1 \to 2}^{T} * \mathbf{P}_{2}^{T} & 0 & \cdots \\ \mathbf{P}_{1}^{T} * \mathcal{H}_{1 \to 3} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & \mathcal{H}_{1 \to 3}^{T} * \mathbf{P}_{3}^{T} & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{P}) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}_{1}^{T} \mathbf{F}_{1} \otimes \mathbf{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{P}_{2}^{T} \mathbf{F}_{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 1 \otimes \mathbf{P}_{2}^{T} \mathbf{F}_{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & \mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{P}_{3}^{T} \mathbf{F}_{3} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & \mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{P}_{3}^{T} \mathbf{F}_{3} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{P}_{3}^{T} \mathbf{F}_{3} & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(9)$$

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Cramer Rao Bound (Cont'd)

 $\mathbf{y} = \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{P})\mathbf{f} + \mathbf{n} = \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{P})\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{n},$

- The scenario is now identical to that encountered in some blind channel estimation scenarios and hence we can take advantage of some existing tools² ³.
- Treating **h** and **f** as deterministic unknown parameters, $\mathbf{n} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I})$, the Fisher Information Matrix (FIM) **J** for jointly estimating **f** and **h** is,

$$\mathbf{J} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{H}^H \\ \mathcal{F}^H \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{H} & \mathcal{F} \end{bmatrix}.$$
(10)

²Carvalho and Slock, "Semi–Blind Methods for FIR Multichannel Estimation".

³Carvalho, Omar, and Slock, "Performance and complexity analysis of blind FIR channel identification algorithms based on deterministic maximum likelihood in SIMO systems".

Cramer Rao Bound (Cont'd)

- Real interest is in deriving the CRB for f, in the presence of the nuisance parameters h.
- Incorporating the effect of the constraint ${\cal C}$ on ${\bf f},$ we can derive from 4, the following constrained CRB for ${\bf f}$

$$\mathsf{CRB}_{\mathbf{f}} = \sigma^2 \mathcal{V}_{\mathbf{f}} \left(\mathcal{V}_{\mathbf{f}}^H \mathcal{H}^H \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{F}}^\perp \mathcal{H} \mathcal{V}_{\mathbf{f}} \right)^{-1} \mathcal{V}_{\mathbf{f}}^H$$
(11)

where $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{F}} = \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{F}^H \mathcal{F})^{\dagger} \mathcal{F}^H$ is the projection operator on the column space of matrix \mathcal{F} and $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{F}}^{\perp} = \mathbf{I} - \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{F}}$.

- † corresponds to the Moore-Penrose pseudo inverse.
- The $M \times (M-1)$ matrix $\mathcal{V}_{\mathbf{f}}$ is such that its column space spans the orthogonal complement of that of $\frac{\partial \mathcal{C}(f)}{\partial \mathbf{f}^*}$, i.e., $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{V}_{\mathbf{f}}} = \mathcal{P}_{\frac{\partial \mathcal{C}}{\partial \mathbf{f}^*}}^{\perp}$.

⁴Carvalho and Slock, *Cramér-Rao bounds for blind multichannel estimation*. 16/32

Maximum Likelihood(ML) & LS

- The log likelihood for the ML estimator may be written as $\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \|\mathbf{y} \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{P})\mathbf{h}\|^2.$
- Optimizing w.r.t. \mathbf{h} leads to $\mathbf{h} = (\mathcal{F}^H \mathcal{F})^{\dagger} \mathcal{F}^H \mathbf{y}$.
- \bullet Substituting back this estimate yields an ML estimator for $\hat{\mathbf{f}}$ minimizing

$$\mathbf{y}^{H} \mathcal{F}^{\perp} (\mathcal{F}^{\perp H} \mathcal{F}^{\perp})^{\dagger} \mathcal{F}^{\perp H} \mathbf{y}, \qquad (12)$$

• Now, it can be shown that,

$$\mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{P})\mathbf{f} = \mathcal{F}^{\perp H}\mathbf{y} = \widetilde{\mathbf{n}},\tag{13}$$

• Hence, LS estimator minimizes $\|\mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{P})\mathbf{f}\|^2 = \mathbf{y}^H \mathcal{F}^{\perp} \mathcal{F}^{\perp H} \mathbf{y}$.

Maximum Likelihood(ML) & LS Cont'd



- Thus, ML estimator is LS with F dependent weighting.
- In the case of single antenna grouping, (𝓕[⊥]H𝓕[⊥]) has a diagonal structure and is a multiple of the Identity matrix if all calibration values have equal magnitude.
- This implies that the ML techniques are more useful when the calibration factors vary over a significant range.

Variational Bayes (VB) Estimation

- In VB, a Bayesian estimate is obtained by computing an approximation (variational distribution) to the posterior distribution of the parameters ${\bf h}, {\bf f}$
- h, f priors : $\mathbf{f} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \alpha^{-1}\mathbf{I}_{\mathbf{M}})$, $\mathbf{h} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \beta^{-1}\mathbf{I}_{\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{h}}})$.
- α, β are assumed to have themselves a uniform prior. N_h is the number of elements in h.
- The variational distribution, is chosen to minimize the Kullback-Leibler distance between the true posterior distribution p(h, f, α, β|y) and a factored variational distribution

 $p(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{f}, \alpha, \beta | \mathbf{y}) \approx q_{\mathbf{h}}(\mathbf{h}) q_{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{f}) q_{\alpha}(\alpha) q_{\beta}(\beta).$

Variational Bayes Estimation (Cont'd)

• The factors can be obtained in an alternating fashion as,

$$\ln(q_{\psi_i}(\psi_i)) = < \ln p(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{h}, \mathbf{f}, \alpha, \beta) >_{k \neq i} + c_i, \tag{14}$$

where ψ_i refers to the i^{th} block of $\psi = [\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{f}, \alpha, \beta]$ and $\langle \rangle_{k \neq i}$ represents the expectation operator over the distributions q_{ψ_k} for all $k \neq i$. c_i is a normalizing constant.

The log likelihood,

$$\ln p(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{h}, \mathbf{f}, \alpha, \beta) = \ln p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{f}, \alpha, \beta) + \ln p(\mathbf{f}|\alpha) + \ln p(\mathbf{h}|\beta)$$

= $-N_y \ln \sigma^2 - \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathcal{H}\mathbf{f}\|^2 + M \ln \alpha - \alpha \|\mathbf{f}\|^2$ (15)
+ $N_h \ln \beta - \beta \|\mathbf{h}\|^2 + c.$

Here, N_y refers to the number of elements in y and c is a constant.

Variational Bayes Estimation - Overall algorithm

•
$$\mathbf{f} \sim \mathcal{CN}(\hat{\mathbf{f}}, \mathbf{C}_{\tilde{f}\tilde{f}})$$
 and $\mathbf{h} \sim \mathcal{CN}(\widehat{\mathbf{h}}, \mathbf{C}_{\tilde{h}\tilde{h}})$.

- 1: Initialization: Initialize $\hat{\mathbf{f}}$ using existing calibration methods. Use this to determine $\hat{\mathbf{h}}, <\alpha>, <\beta>$.
- 2: repeat

3:
$$\langle \mathcal{H}^{H}\mathcal{H}\rangle = \mathcal{H}^{H}(\widehat{\mathbf{h}})\mathcal{H}(\widehat{\mathbf{h}}) + \langle \mathcal{H}^{H}(\widetilde{\mathbf{h}})\mathcal{H}(\widetilde{\mathbf{h}})\rangle$$

4:
$$\mathbf{f} = (\langle \mathcal{H}^H \mathcal{H} \rangle + \langle \alpha \rangle \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathcal{H}^H \mathbf{y}$$

5:
$$\mathbf{C}_{\tilde{f}\tilde{f}} = (\langle \mathcal{H}^H \mathcal{H} \rangle + \langle \alpha \rangle \mathbf{I})^{-1}$$

6:
$$\langle \mathcal{F}^{H}\mathcal{F} \rangle = \mathcal{F}^{H}(\hat{\mathbf{f}})\mathcal{F}(\hat{\mathbf{f}}) + \langle \mathcal{F}^{H}(\hat{\mathbf{f}})\mathcal{F}(\hat{\mathbf{f}}) \rangle$$

7: $\hat{\mathbf{h}} = (\langle \mathcal{F}^{H}\mathcal{F} \rangle + \langle \beta \rangle \mathbf{I})^{-1}\mathcal{F}^{\mathbf{H}}\mathbf{v}$

8:
$$\mathbf{C}_{\tilde{h}\tilde{h}} = (\langle \mathcal{F}^H \mathcal{F} \rangle + \langle \beta \rangle \mathbf{I})^{-1}$$

9:
$$<\alpha>=\frac{M}{<\|\mathbf{f}\|^{2}>}, <\|\mathbf{f}\|^{2}>=\hat{\mathbf{f}}^{H}\hat{\mathbf{f}}+tr\{\mathbf{C}_{\tilde{f}\tilde{f}}\}.$$

10:
$$\langle \beta \rangle = \frac{N_h}{\langle \|\mathbf{h}\|^2 \rangle}, \langle \|\mathbf{h}\|^2 \rangle = \widehat{\mathbf{h}}^H \widehat{\mathbf{h}} + tr\{\mathbf{C}_{\tilde{h}\tilde{h}}\}.$$

11: until convergence.

3

Variational Bayes Estimation (Cont'd)

The log likelihood,

 $\ln p(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{h}, \mathbf{f}, \alpha, \beta) = -N_y \ln \sigma^2 - \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathcal{H}\mathbf{f}\|^2 + M \ln \alpha - \alpha \|\mathbf{f}\|^2 + N_h \ln \beta - \beta \|\mathbf{h}\|^2 + c.$ (16)

- The parameters of the prior distributions of **f** and **h** act as regularization parameters in their estimation.
- The advantage of using VB is that it automatically computes the optimal values for these regularization parameters too!!

Expectation Consistent Variational Bayes Estimation

- For single antenna grouping (G = M), $\mathbf{C}_{\tilde{f}\tilde{f}}$ and $\mathbf{C}_{\tilde{h}\tilde{h}}$ are diagonal and $\langle \mathcal{F}^{H}(\tilde{\mathbf{f}})\mathcal{F}(\tilde{\mathbf{f}}) \rangle$, $\langle \mathcal{H}^{H}(\tilde{\mathbf{h}})\mathcal{H}(\tilde{\mathbf{h}}) \rangle$ can be computed easily.
- However, when G < M, these matrices are block diagonal.
- To simplify the computation, we propose to approximate them with multiples of the Identity matrix,

$$\mathbf{C}_{\tilde{f}\tilde{f}} \approx \frac{tr\{(<\mathcal{H}^{H}\mathcal{H}>+<\alpha>\mathbf{I})^{-1}\}}{tr\{(<\mathcal{F}^{H}\mathcal{F}>\frac{M}{+}<\beta>\mathbf{I})^{-1}\}}\mathbf{I}_{M}$$

$$\mathbf{C}_{\tilde{h}\tilde{h}} \approx \frac{tr\{(<\mathcal{F}^{H}\mathcal{F}>\frac{M}{+}<\beta>\mathbf{I})^{-1}\}}{N_{h}}\mathbf{I}_{N_{h}}.$$
(17)

• We call this approach EC-VB (Expectation consistent⁵ VB).

⁵Opper and Winther, "Expectation Consistent Approximate Inference". () (2)

VB and Alternating Maximum Likelihood (AML)

- By forcing the matrices $C_{\tilde{f}\tilde{f}}$, $C_{\tilde{h}\tilde{h}}$ to zero and α, β to zero, this algorithm reduces to the AML algorithm⁶⁷.
- AML iteratively maximizes the likelihood by alternating between the desired parameters **f** and the nuisance parameters **h** in a deterministic (non-Bayesian) setting.

⁶Carvalho and Slock, "Semi–Blind Methods for FIR Multichannel Estimation". ⁷Carvalho, Omar, and Slock, "Performance and complexity analysis of blind FIR channel identification algorithms based on deterministic maximum likelihood in SIMO systems".

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Simulation setup

- We assess numerically the performance of various calibration algorithms and also compare them against their CRBs.
- The Tx and Rx calibration parameters for the BS antennas are assumed to have random phases uniformly distributed over $[-\pi, \pi]$ and amplitudes uniformly distributed in the range $[1 \delta, 1 + \delta]$.
- SNR is defined as the ratio of the average received signal power across channel realizations at an antenna and the noise power at that antenna.
- Transmission happens from one antenna at a time (G = M).

Mean square error performance of the algorithms.



Figure: Comparison of single antenna transmit schemes with the CRB (G = M = 16).

- Curves generated over one realization of an i.i.d. Rayleigh channel. The first coefficient known constraint is used.
- Rogalin ⁸method performs the LS as was presented earlier and improves over Argos by using all the bi-directional received data.
- AML outperforms the Rogalin performance at low SNR.

⁸Rogalin et al., "Scalable synchronization and reciprocity calibration for distributed multiuser MIMO".

Simulation Results

CRB vs MSE.



Figure: Comparison of single antenna transmit schemes with the CRB (G = M = 16).

- AML curve overlaps with the CRB at higher SNRs.
- Also plotted is the CRB as given in⁹ assuming the internal propagation channel is fully known (the mean is known and the variance is negligible) and a (small) underestimation of the MSE can be observed as expected.

Convergence of the Optimal algorithms.



Figure: Convergence of the various iterative schemes for M=16 and single antenna transmission.

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Conclusion

- A simple and elegant derivation of the CRB has been presented for a general calibration framework.
- An optimal estimation algorithm based on VB is also introduced along with a variant.
- All these techniques have been compared via simulations in terms of both MSE performance and speed of convergence.

Thank You !!

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