

# PHYSICALLY CONSISTENT WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS WITH STATISTICAL CHANNEL STATE INFORMATION

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Barcelona, June 2026



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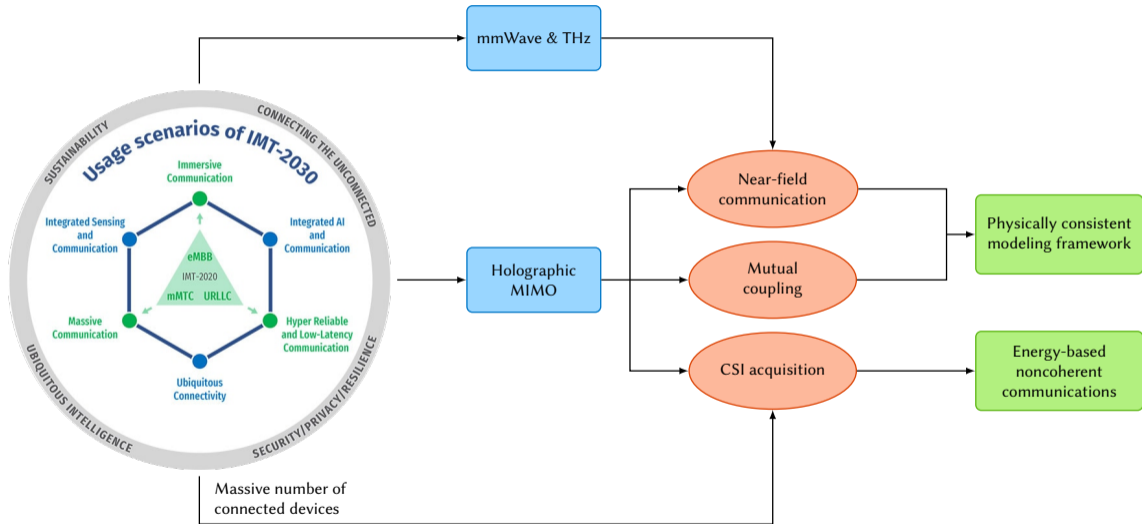
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# Motivation

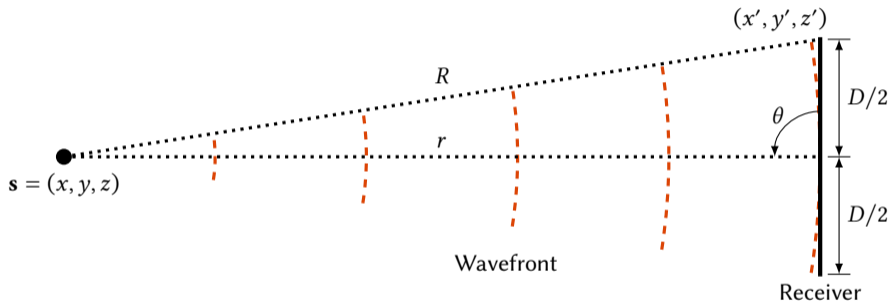


- ① Physically consistent channel modeling
- ② Energy-based noncoherent communications
- ③ Symbol detection with model-based receivers
- ④ Conclusions

- 1 Physically consistent channel modeling
  - Wavefront curvature
  - Mutual coupling
- 2 Energy-based noncoherent communications
- 3 Symbol detection with model-based receivers
- 4 Conclusions

# Wavefront curvature

Traditional models relying on far-field and planar-wave assumptions become physically inconsistent as we move toward sub-THz frequencies and extremely large antenna arrays.



## Array response

Near field:  $\mathbf{a}(r, \theta, \phi)$   $\longleftrightarrow$  Spherical wavefront

$$d_F = 2D^2/\lambda$$

Far field:  $\bar{\mathbf{c}}(\theta, \phi)$   $\longleftrightarrow$  Planar wavefront

# Spatial correlation

The multipath channel is given by the combination of  $L$  paths:

$$\mathbf{h}^{\text{NLoS}} = \sum_{l=1}^L \alpha_l \cdot \underbrace{\mathbf{a}(\boldsymbol{\eta}_l, \theta_l, \phi_l)}_{\text{Array response}}, \quad \alpha_l \in \mathbb{C}$$

Under rich scattering, the channel follows a correlated Rayleigh fading model:

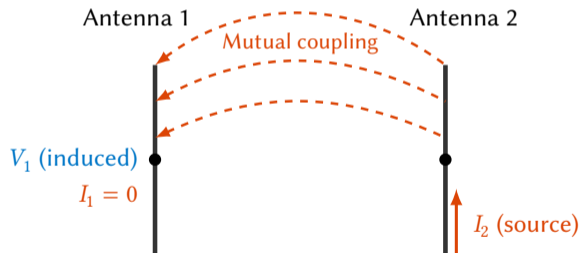
$$\mathbf{h} \sim \mathcal{CN}(\mathbf{0}_N, \mathbf{C}_h)$$

Covariance matrix

$$\mathbf{C}_h = \text{E}[\mathbf{h}\mathbf{h}^H] = \sum_{l=1}^L \beta_l \mathbf{a}(\boldsymbol{\eta}_l, \theta_l, \phi_l) \mathbf{a}(\boldsymbol{\eta}_l, \theta_l, \phi_l)^H$$

# Mutual coupling

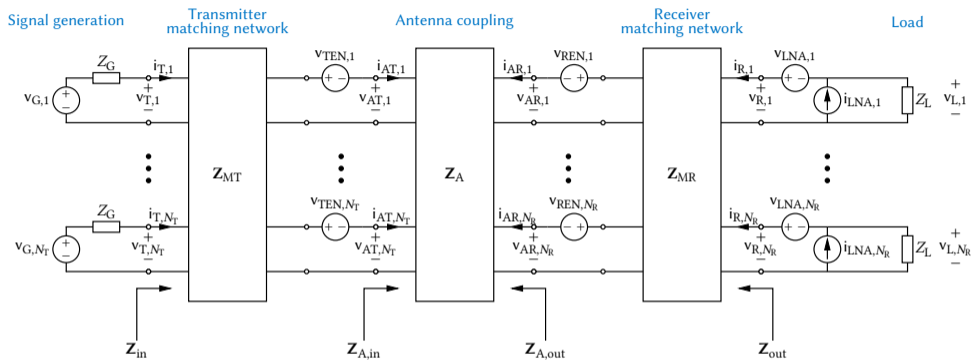
Mutual coupling is the electromagnetic interaction between nearby antenna elements, where the current from one source induces a voltage in another.



Mutual impedance

$$Z_{12} = \frac{V_1}{I_2} \Big|_{I_1=0}$$

# Multiport communication theory



## Matching networks

- Power/noise matching at the Tx/Rx.
- Difficult to implement in massive MIMO.
- No closed-form solution in the general case.

## Information-theoretic and physical models

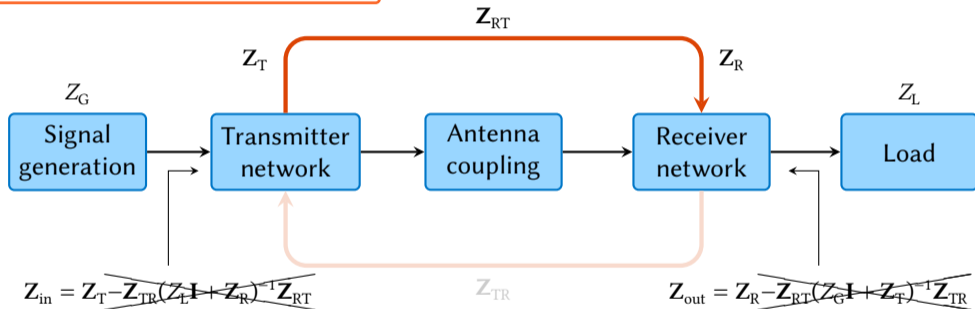
$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{z}, \quad \mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{CN}(\mathbf{0}_{N_R}, \mathbf{C}_z)$$

$$\mathbf{v}_L = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{v}_G + \mathbf{n}, \quad \mathbf{n} \sim \mathcal{CN}(\mathbf{0}_{N_R}, \mathbf{C}_n)$$

# Input-output relation

## Unilateral approximation

$$\mathbf{Z}_{TR} \approx 0 \implies \mathbf{Z}_{in} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}_T, \mathbf{Z}_{out} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}_R$$



## Physical channel

$$\mathbf{D} = \underbrace{\mathbf{Z}_L(\mathbf{Z}_L \mathbf{I}_{N_R} + \mathbf{Z}_R)^{-1}}_{\mathbf{Q}} \mathbf{Z}_{RT}(\mathbf{Z}_G \mathbf{I}_{N_T} + \mathbf{Z}_T)^{-1}$$

# Information-theoretic and physical models

Transmit power is the average active power delivered to the transmitting antennas:

$$P_T = E[\Re(\mathbf{v}_T^H \mathbf{i}_T)] = \frac{E[\mathbf{v}_G^H \mathbf{B} \mathbf{v}_G]}{R_G}, \quad \mathbf{B} = f(\mathbf{Z}_T)$$

Physical model

$$\mathbf{v}_L = \mathbf{D} \mathbf{v}_G + \mathbf{n}$$

Transmit power and noise must be equal in both models:

$$P_T = \frac{E[\mathbf{v}_G^H \mathbf{B} \mathbf{v}_G]}{R_G} = E[\mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{x}]$$

Information-theoretic model

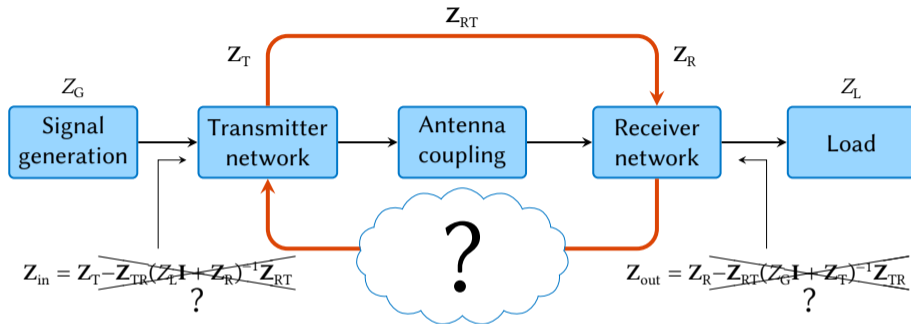
$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{z}$$

Physically consistent model

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x} &= \mathbf{B}^{1/2} \mathbf{v}_G / \sqrt{R_G} \\ \mathbf{y} &= \mathbf{v}_L \\ \mathbf{z} &= \mathbf{n} \end{aligned} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{H} = \sqrt{R_G} \underbrace{(\mathbf{Q} \mathbf{Z}_{RT} (\mathbf{Z}_G \mathbf{I}_{N_T} + \mathbf{Z}_T)^{-1})}_{\mathbf{D}} \mathbf{B}^{-1/2}$$

Unilateral approximation:  $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathbf{v}_G$ ,  $\mathbf{H} \sim \mathbf{Z}_{RT} \rightarrow$  Correlated Rayleigh

# Analysis of receiver to transmitter coupling



## Unilateral condition

$$\|Z_{TR} (Z_L \mathbf{I}_{N_R} + Z_R)^{-1} Z_{RT}\|_F \ll \|Z_T\|_F \quad \xRightarrow{\text{MISO}} \quad \frac{\|z_{TR}\|_2^2}{|Z_L + R_r|} \ll \|Z_T\|_F$$

$$\|Z_{RT} (Z_G \mathbf{I}_{N_T} + Z_T)^{-1} Z_{TR}\|_F \ll \|Z_R\|_F \quad \xRightarrow{\text{SIMO}} \quad \frac{\|z_{RT}\|_2^2}{|Z_G + R_r|} \ll \|Z_R\|_F$$

# Analysis of receiver to transmitter coupling

Hypotheses:

- LoS propagation.
- Single-user MISO/SIMO.
- ULA with aperture  $D$  and  $N$  elements.
- Inter-element spacing is  $d$ .
- Hertzian dipoles of length  $l$ .

## Mutual coupling norms

Intra-array coupling admits the lower bound

$$\|\mathbf{Z}_T\|_F \geq \sqrt{N} \cdot \min_m \|[Z_T]_{m,*}\|_2 = \sqrt{N} \cdot \|[Z_T]_{1,*}\|_2$$

The squared norm of the inter-array coupling vector is

$$\|\mathbf{z}_{TR}\|_2^2 = \frac{R_r^2}{k^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \frac{1}{r_n^2} = \frac{R_r^2}{k^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \frac{1}{r^2 + \left(\frac{nD}{N-1}\right)^2}$$

## Fixed inter-element spacing

$$\|\mathbf{Z}_T\|_F \sim O(\sqrt{N})$$

$$\|\mathbf{z}_{TR}\|_2^2 \sim O(1)$$

## Fixed array size

$$\|\mathbf{Z}_T\|_F \sim O(N^{3.5})$$

$$\|\mathbf{z}_{TR}\|_2^2 \sim O(N)$$

Unilateral approximation is fulfilled

# Key takeaways

- **Wavefront curvature:** Near-field communications require spherical wavefront propagation models.
- **Mutual coupling:** Introduces structural channel correlation independent of spatial correlation.
- **Unilateral approximation:** Simplifies the analysis and yields correlated Rayleigh fading models. It remains valid throughout the radiative near field.

- ① Physically consistent channel modeling
- ② Energy-based noncoherent communications
  - Asymptotic performance limits
  - Quadratic detection framework
  - Constellation design
  - Permutational index modulation
- ③ Symbol detection with model-based receivers
- ④ Conclusions

# Energy-based noncoherent communications

Acquiring instantaneous CSI in massive MIMO systems creates significant overhead, especially in high-mobility or sub-THz scenarios with short coherence times.

## System model

Massive receiver array with  $N$  antennas:

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{h}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{z}, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X} = \{0, \dots, \sqrt{\varepsilon_M}\}$$

↑  
Unknown

- Fading is correlated Rayleigh.
- Noise is correlated Gaussian.
- Communication is one-shot.

By noise whitening and subsequent decorrelation of  $\mathbf{y}$  we define

$$\mathbf{r}|x \sim \mathcal{CN}(\mathbf{0}_N, |x|^2\mathbf{\Gamma} + \mathbf{I}_N) \leftarrow \text{Diagonal}$$

## ML detection

General ML detector:

$$\hat{x}_{\text{ML}} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \mathbf{r}^H (|x|^2\mathbf{\Gamma} + \mathbf{I}_N)^{-1} \mathbf{r} + \ln | |x|^2\mathbf{\Gamma} + \mathbf{I}_N |$$

Uncorrelated fading:

$$\hat{x}_{\text{ML}} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \frac{\mathbf{r}^H \mathbf{r}}{|x|^2 + 1} + N \cdot \ln(|x|^2 + 1) \equiv \frac{\|\mathbf{r}\|^2}{N}$$

Energy estimation  
↓

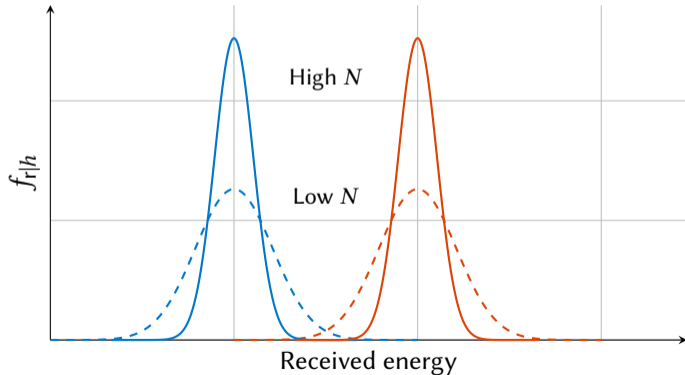
# Asymptotic performance limits

Uniquely identifiable constellation (UIC)

$$|x_a|^2 \neq |x_b|^2 \iff x_a \neq x_b, \quad \forall x_a, x_b \in \mathcal{X}$$

Theorem 1 (channel hardening)

UICs are error-free as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  and  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \text{tr}(\Gamma^2) = \infty$ .



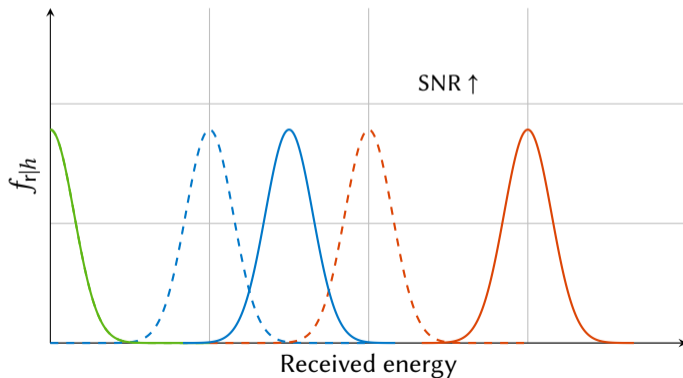
# Asymptotic performance limits

Uniquely identifiable constellation (UIC)

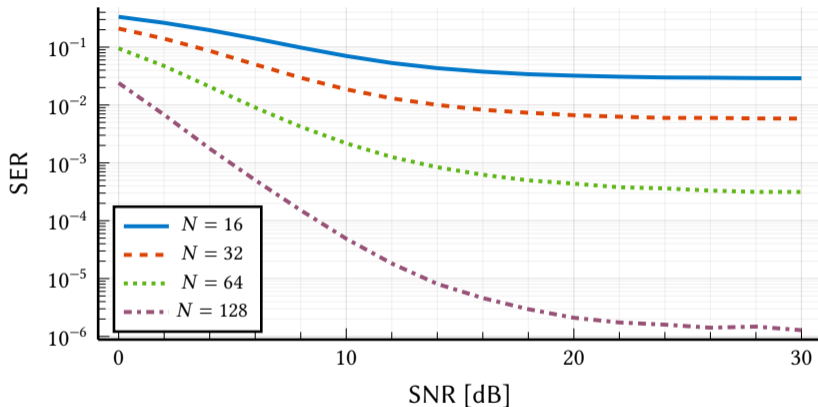
$$|x_a|^2 \neq |x_b|^2 \iff x_a \neq x_b, \quad \forall x_a, x_b \in \mathcal{X}$$

Theorem 2

UICs have an error floor at high SNR for  $M > 2$ .



# Asymptotic performance limits



SER in terms of SNR under an exponentially correlated Rayleigh channel with  $\rho = 0.8$  and a uniform unipolar 4-ASK constellation.

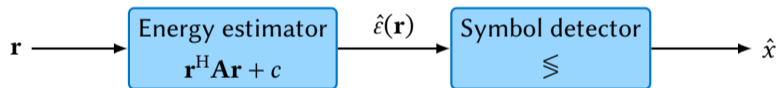
# Energy statistic

Under uncorrelated Rayleigh fading and noise, the ML detector can be decomposed as:

1. Computation of a quadratic statistic in data:  $\hat{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{r})$ .
2. One-dimensional decision problem:  $\hat{x}(\hat{\varepsilon})$ .

Quadratic framework

$$\hat{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{r}^H \mathbf{A} \mathbf{r} + c$$



Design coefficients  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $c$  to maximize the mutual information between the transmitted symbol and the estimator output:

$$I(\varepsilon; \hat{\varepsilon}) \geq h(\varepsilon) - h(\varepsilon - \hat{\varepsilon}) \geq h(\varepsilon) - \frac{1}{2}(1 + \ln(2\pi \text{var}(\xi))) = I_{\text{LOW}},$$
$$\hat{\varepsilon} = \arg \max_{\hat{\varepsilon}} I_{\text{LOW}} \equiv \arg \min_{\hat{\varepsilon}} \text{var}(\xi), \quad \xi = \varepsilon - \hat{\varepsilon}$$

# Quadratic estimation and detection

## Best quadratic unbiased estimator (BQUE)

- Obtained by minimizing  $\text{var}(\hat{\epsilon}|\epsilon)$ .
- Achieves the CRB.
- Genie-aided (unrealizable).

## Quadratic minimum MSE (QMMSE)

- Obtained by minimizing  $E_{\epsilon}[\text{MSE}(\hat{\epsilon}|\epsilon)]$ .
- Follows from the information-theoretic criterion.

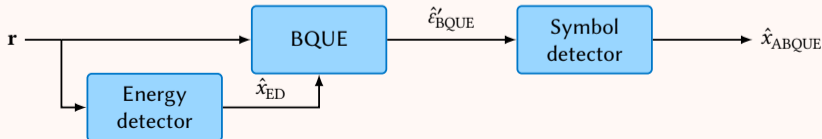
## High SNR (HSNR)

- Derived as a high SNR approximation of the ML detector.

## Energy detector (ED)

- Low-complexity technique that is well-known in the literature.

## Assisted BQUE (ABQUE)



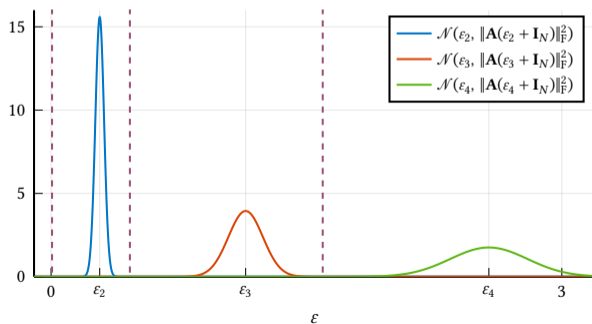
# Detection regions

## Central limit theorem

$\hat{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{r}|\varepsilon)$  follows a generalized chi-squared distribution, but as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ,

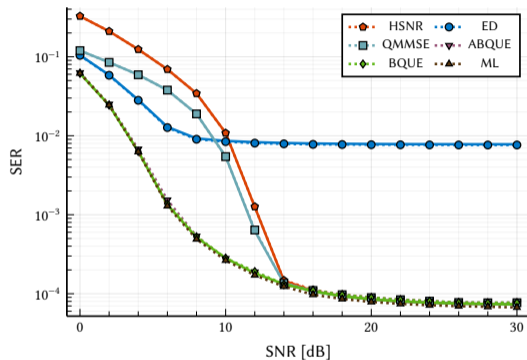
$$\hat{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{r}|\varepsilon) \stackrel{d}{\rightarrow} \mathcal{N}\left(1 - (1 - \varepsilon)\text{tr}(\mathbf{A}\Gamma), \|\mathbf{A}(\varepsilon\Gamma + \mathbf{I}_N)\|_{\text{F}}^2\right) \quad \textit{Proof: Lyapunov condition}$$

Error probability can be written in closed-form in terms of Q-functions.

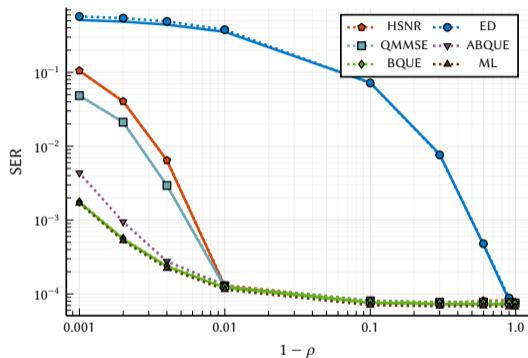


Detection regions of the BQUE for a 4-ASK with  $N = 128$ . Gaussian densities with different means but equal variance have a single intersection point.

# Numerical results



SER of the presented detectors in terms of SNR for  $N = 512$  and  $\rho = 0.7$ .



Floor level of the presented detectors in terms of  $\rho$  for  $N = 512$ .

# Error probability optimization

Deriving a closed-form expression for the error probability enables the design of constellations that minimize it, assuming statistical CSIT.

## Optimization problem

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \boldsymbol{\tau}} P_{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{A}, \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \boldsymbol{\tau})$$

$$\text{s.t. } \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \boldsymbol{\tau} \geq 0,$$

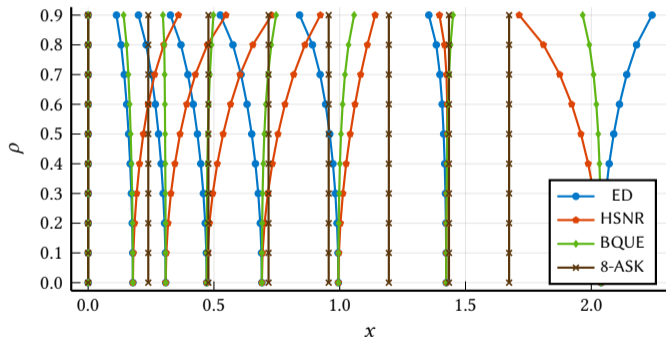
$$\varepsilon_1 = 0,$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^M \varepsilon_i = M,$$

$$\varepsilon_i \leq \tau_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, M-1,$$

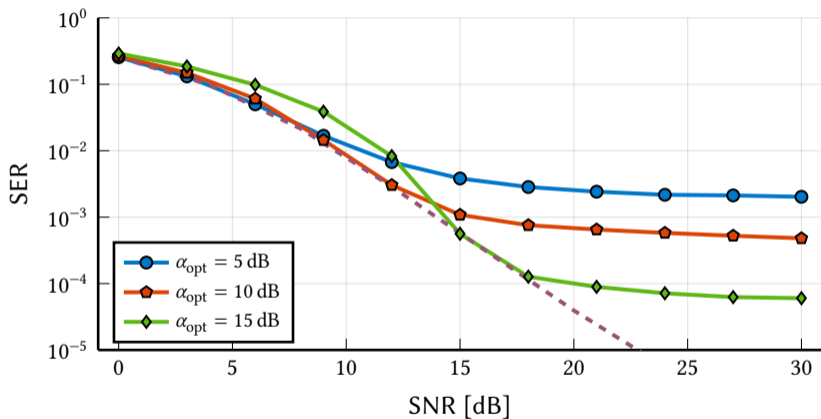
$$\tau_i \leq \varepsilon_{i+1}, \quad i = 1, \dots, M-1,$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_M)$  and  $\boldsymbol{\tau} = (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_{M-1})$ .



Comparison of optimized constellations at 15 dB and  $N = 256$  for different exponential channel correlations.

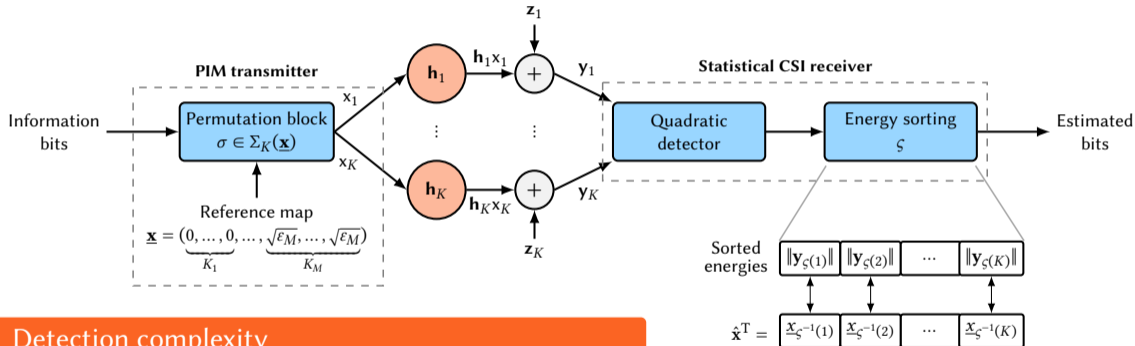
# Numerical results



Error probability of BQUE when the constellation is optimized for a particular SNR.

# Permutational index modulation

Transmitted energy can be reliably detected, so it becomes possible to convey information in the energy of each subcarrier of an OFDM system with  $K$  subcarriers.



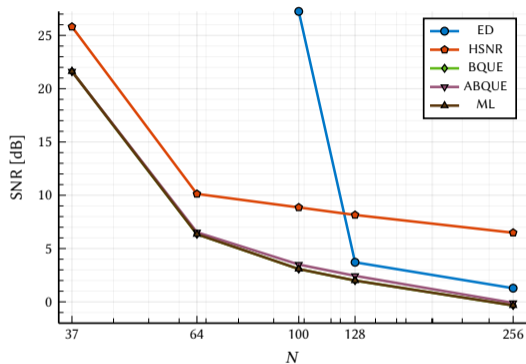
## Detection complexity

Alphabet cardinality:  $|\mathcal{A}| = K! / \prod_{m=1}^M K_m!$

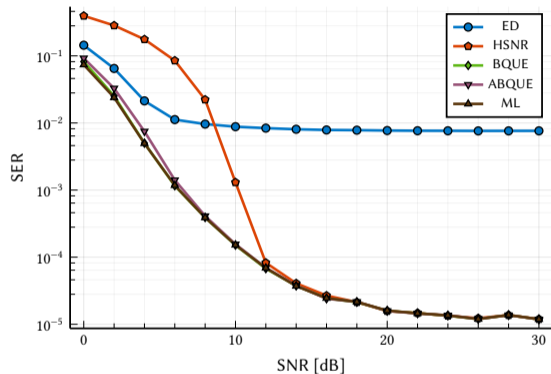
Maximum likelihood:  $O(KN^2) + O(|\mathcal{A}|KN)$

Proposed scheme:  $O(KN^2) + O(KN) + O(K \ln K)$

# Numerical results



Required SNR to achieve  $\text{SER} = 10^{-3}$  in terms of  $N$ , for  $\rho = 0.7$ . A PIM with  $K = 32$  and  $M = 4$  is employed.



SER in terms of SNR for  $N = 64$  and  $\rho = 0.7$ .

# Key takeaways

- **Fundamental error floor:** In the absence of CSIT, constellations with more than two energy levels exhibit an error floor at high SNR.
- **Channel hardening:** Despite the SNR floor, the probability of error vanishes as the number of receiver antennas increases ( $N \rightarrow \infty$ ).
- **Quadratic detection framework:** A novel class of quadratic detectors that leverage statistical CSI.
- **Optimized constellations:** By directly minimizing the analytical expression for the SER, it is possible to design constellations that eliminate the error floor.
- **Permutational index modulation (PIM):** Introduces coding gain in multicarrier systems by encoding information in the specific ordering of subcarrier energy levels.

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  - Mutual coupling and detection performance
  - Wavefront curvature in noncoherent detection
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# Symbol detection with model-based receivers

## Motivation

- **Model-based CSI:** High frequency systems estimate physical parameters  $(\alpha_l, \eta_l, \theta_l, \phi_l)$  instead of full channel vectors.
- **The mismatch question:** Although precise models improve quality (especially at low SNR), oversimplification causes performance degradation.

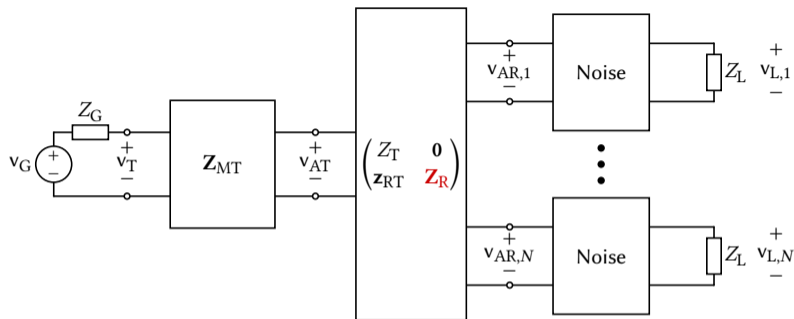
## Scenario 1: Mutual coupling

- BS with densely deployed antennas.
- Affected by mutual coupling but operating completely unaware of it.
- Energy-based systems offer robustness to mutual coupling.

## Scenario 2: Near-field curvature

- Exploits spherical wavefront curvature beyond the Fraunhofer limit.
- Avoids underestimating system capacity (unlike far-field approximations).
- Enables near-optimal detection with low complexity.

# Mutual coupling and detection performance



Circuit model of a SIMO communication system with power matching at the transmitter.

## Receiver array

$N$ half-wavelength dipoles	$\implies$	Mutual coupling for $d \neq n \frac{\lambda}{2}$	$\implies$	$\mathbf{Z}_R \not\propto \mathbf{I}_N$
Mismatched model	$\implies$	Assumes no coupling	$\implies$	$\mathbf{Z}_R \propto \mathbf{I}_N$

# Receiver structure

## Signal model

Received signal:  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{h}x + \mathbf{z}$

From the multipoint communication framework:

$$\mathbf{C}_h = \mathbf{R}_r^{-1} \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{C}_{RT} \mathbf{Q}^H,$$

$$\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{Z}_L (\mathbf{Z}_L \mathbf{I}_N + \mathbf{Z}_R)^{-1},$$

$$\mathbf{C}_z = \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{U}_n \mathbf{Q}^H \leftarrow \text{Depend on } \mathbf{Z}_R$$

## Coherent detector

$$\text{MRC: } \hat{x}_C = \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \left| \frac{\Re[\mathbf{h}^H \mathbf{C}_z^{-1} \mathbf{y}]}{\mathbf{h}^H \mathbf{C}_z^{-1} \mathbf{h}} - x \right|$$

Matched receiver

$$\mathbf{h} = -j \mathbf{R}_r^{-1/2} \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{z}_{RT}$$

Mismatched receiver

$$\hat{\mathbf{h}} = \sqrt{\gamma_1} \mathbf{z}_{RT}, \hat{\mathbf{C}}_z = \gamma_2 \mathbf{I}_N$$

## Noncoherent detector

ML detector:

$$\hat{x}_{NC} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \mathbf{y}^H \mathbf{C}_{y|x}^{-1} \mathbf{y} + \ln |\mathbf{C}_{y|x}|$$

Matched receiver

$$\mathbf{C}_{y|x} = |x|^2 \mathbf{C}_h + \mathbf{C}_z$$

Mismatched receiver

$$\hat{\mathbf{C}}_{y|x} = \gamma_1 |x|^2 \mathbf{C}_{RT} + \gamma_2 \mathbf{I}_N$$

Robustness to mutual coupling at high SNR:

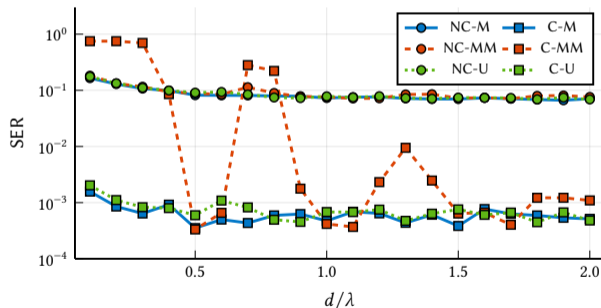
$$\mathbf{y}|x = \mathbf{h}x = \mathbf{Q} \underbrace{\alpha x \mathbf{z}_{RT}}_{\text{Uncoupled signal}} = \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{r}|x,$$

ML detection:

$$\mathbf{y}^H \mathbf{C}_{y|x}^{-1} \mathbf{y} = \frac{\mathbf{r}^H \mathbf{Q}^H \left( \overbrace{\mathbf{Q} \mathbf{C}_{RT} \mathbf{Q}^H}^{\mathbf{C}_h} \right)^{-1} \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{r}}{|x|^2 \beta} = \mathbf{r}^H \mathbf{C}_{r|x}^{-1} \mathbf{r}$$

# Numerical results

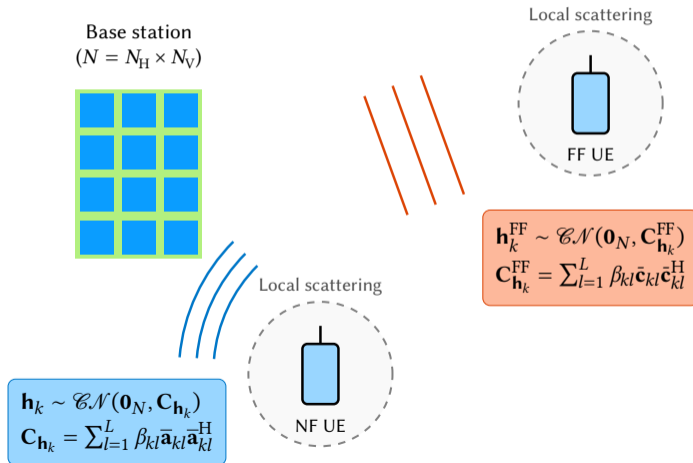
Parameter	Value	Parameter	Value
Carrier frequency	$f = 30$ GHz	Variance of the current noise source	$\sigma_i^2 = 2k_B B_W T_A / R_N$
Bandwidth	$B_W = 20$ MHz	Antenna impedance	$Z_A = 73 + j42.5 \Omega$
Amplifier and load impedance	$Z_G = Z_L = 186 - j31.6 \Omega$	Complex correlation coefficient	$\rho_N = 0.2730 + j0.1793$
Noise temperature of antennas	$T_A = 290$ K	LNA resistance	$R_N = 5 \Omega$



Error probability of the detectors as a function of element separation for  $N = 128$  and  $\text{SNR} = 5$  dB.

# Wavefront curvature in noncoherent detection

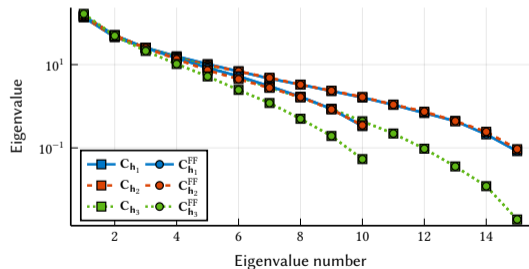
We consider the uplink of a noncoherent MIMO system with  $K$  users and a BS equipped with a  $N = N_H N_V$  element UPA. The system operates under NLoS conditions with only statistical CSI.



# Channel statistics discussion

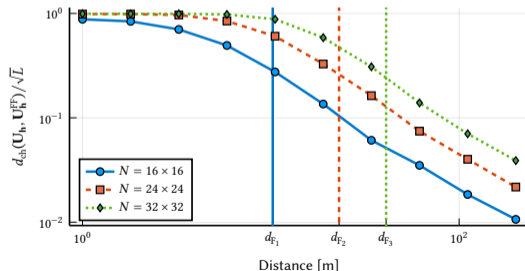
## Spatial correlation spectrum

- Both far-field and near-field models exhibit the same correlation spectrum.
- If two users are in the same scattering cluster, their eigenvalues coincide.

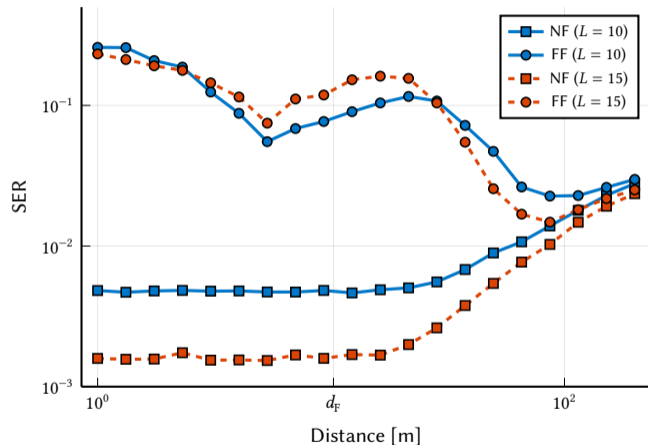


## Distance between column spaces

- The chordal distance at the Fraunhofer limit is significant (30 % of its maximum value).
- When  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\text{col}(C_h) \perp \text{col}(C_h^{FF})$ , allowing large arrays to multiplex multiple users.



# Numerical results



Error probability of a ML detector at different distances with SNR = 20 dB.

## Single-user mismatched mode

- Far-field model severely underestimates performance up to  $10d_F$ .
- Higher SER at range due to lost spatial resolution between scatterers.

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- ④ **Conclusions**

# Conclusions

1. Shown that physically consistent models can be encapsulated into a **correlated Rayleigh fading** model.
2. Characterized the **asymptotic performance** of energy-based receivers.
3. Developed a framework of **quadratic detectors** for one-shot communications.
4. Implemented a **constellation optimization** algorithm to improve energy-based systems performance.
5. Proposed a **PIM scheme** for multicarrier energy-based systems to enhance performance.
6. Shown that noncoherent receivers are **robust to mutual coupling**, but accurate **near-field modeling** is crucial for detection.

# Publications

- [1] **A. Martí**, L. Sanguinetti, M. Lamarca, and X. Gràcia, “On the unilateral approximation condition with linear arrays in near-field NLoS propagation,” (submitted to WSA 2026).
- [2] **A. Martí**, L. Sanguinetti, J. Riba, and M. Lamarca, “Coherent and noncoherent detection in dense arrays: Can we ignore mutual coupling?” In *2025 33rd European Signal Processing Conference (EUSIPCO)*, Palermo, Italy, 2025, pp. 2027–2031.
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