Asymmetric Compute-and-Forward with CSIT

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Abstract—We present a modified compute-and-forward scheme which utilizes Channel State Information at the Transmitters (CSIT) in a natural way. The modified scheme allows different users to have different coding rates, and use CSIT to achieve larger rate region. This idea is applicable to all systems which use the compute-and-forward technique and can be arbitrarily better than the regular scheme in some settings.

I. INTRODUCTION

The compute-and-forward scheme [1] is a novel coding scheme for Gaussian networks which takes advantage of the linear structure of lattice codes and the additive nature of Gaussian interference networks. The main idea of compute-and-forward is to decode linear combinations of messages rather than the messages themselves at the receivers. One nice feature of this scheme is that the Channel State Information is not explicitly required at the transmitters, making this scheme attractive to practical considerations. But on the other hand, it is not clear how CSI can be used at the transmitters if the compute-and-forward idea is to be applied. Furthermore, the same lattice code is used for every user, preventing the scheme from exploiting asymmetries of the networks.

In this work we present a modified compute-and-forward scheme with asymmetric message rates which makes CSIT useful. This scheme also extends the concept of the computation rate to a more general definition of the computation rate tuple, which allows flexibility in controlling the individual message rates of different users. The main idea relies on the observation, roughly speaking, that the transmitted lattice message rates of different users. The main idea relies on the observation, roughly speaking, that the transmitted lattice code word does not have to lie in the lattice which is used for lattice coding at the transmitters.

We use the notation $[a : b]$ to denote a set of increasing integers $\{a, a+1, \ldots, b\}$. $\log$ to denote $\log_2$ and $\log^+(x)$ to denote the function $\max(\log(x), 0)$. We also use $x_{1:K}$ to denote a set of numbers $\{x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_K\}$.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

We consider a interference network with $K$ transmitters and $M$ relays. The discrete-time real Gaussian channel has the following vector representation

$$y_m = \sum_{k=1}^{K} h_{mk} x_k + z_m, \quad m \in [1 : M]$$

with $y_m \in \mathbb{R}^n, x_k \in \mathbb{R}^n, h_{mk} \in \mathbb{R}$ denoting the channel output of relay $m$, channel input of transmitter $k$ and the channel gain, respectively. The Gaussian white noise with unit variance is denoted by $z_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$. We impose the same power constraint $\mathbb{E}[|x_k|^2] \leq P$ on all the transmitters.

The message of user $k$ is represented by a point in $\mathbb{R}^n$ denoted by $t_k$, which is an element of the codebook $\mathcal{C}_k$ of user $k$ with message rate $R_k := \frac{1}{2} \log |\mathcal{C}_k|$.

Each transmitter is equipped with an encoder $\mathcal{E}_k$ which maps its message into the channel input as $x_k = \mathcal{E}_k(t_k)$. Each relay $m$ has a decoder $\mathcal{D}_m$ which uses the channel output $y_m$ to decode a function of all the messages $t_k, k \in [1 : K]$ as $f_m(t_{\{1 : K\}}) = \mathcal{D}_m(y_m)$. Here we only consider the function of the form $f_m(t_{\{1 : K\}}) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} a_{mk} t_k$ with integer $a_{mk}$ for all $m \in [1 : M], k \in [1 : K]$. We use $a_m$ to denote the column vector $[a_{m1}, \ldots, a_{mK}]^T$.

We say a computation rate tuple $(R_1, \ldots, R_K)$ with respect to the function $f_m$ is achievable, if the relay $m$ can decode the function $f_m$ reliably, namely $\Pr(\mathcal{D}_m(y_m) \neq f_m(t_{\{1 : K\}})) < \delta$ for any $\delta > 0$, with $R_k$ being the message rate of the user $k$. In the network, we require all the relays to decode their desired functions. We say a computation rate tuple $(R_1, \ldots, R_K)$ w. r. t. the set of functions $f_{m,n} : n \in [1 : M]$ is achievable, if $\Pr(\mathcal{D}_m(y_m) \neq f_{m,n}(t_{\{1 : K\}}), \forall m \in [1 : M]) < \delta$ holds for any $\delta > 0$ with $R_k$ being the message rate of user $k$. In the following we will study the computation rate tuple achieved by a modified compute-and-forward scheme.

III. LATTICE CODES CONSTRUCTION

A lattice $\Lambda$ is a discrete subgroup of $\mathbb{R}^n$ with the property that if $t_1, t_2 \in \Lambda$, then $t_1 + t_2 \in \Lambda$. More details about lattice and lattice codes can be found in [2]. Define the lattice quantizer $Q_\Lambda : \mathbb{R}^n \to \Lambda$ as $Q_\Lambda(x) = \text{argmin}_{t \in \Lambda} ||t - x||$ and define the fundamental Voronoi region of the lattice to be $V := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Q_\Lambda(x) = \emptyset\}$. The modulo operation gives the quantization error: $|x| \mod \Lambda = x - Q_\Lambda(x)$. Two lattices $\Lambda$ and $\Lambda'$ are said to be nested if $\Lambda' \subseteq \Lambda$.

Let $\Lambda_1, \ldots, \Lambda_M$ be $M$ nested lattice codes constituting a nested lattice chain in which all lattices are simultaneously good in the sense of [2]. This chain can be constructed as shown in [3] and the order of the chain will be determined later. Relay $m$ will perform the lattice decoding with respect to the lattice $\Lambda_m$.

Let $\beta_1, \ldots, \beta_K$ be $K$ positive numbers. We can construct $K$ nested lattices such that $\Lambda_k^n \subseteq \Lambda_k$ for all $k$ where

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\[ \Lambda_c \] denotes the coarsest lattice among \( \Lambda_1, \ldots, \Lambda_M \). We let \( \Lambda^* \) to be simultaneously good and with second moment \( n \text{Vol}(V^*_k) \int_{V^*_k} ||x||^2 \, dx = \beta^2_k P \) where \( V^*_k \) denotes the Voronoi region of the lattice \( \Lambda^*_k \) for \( k \in [1 : K] \). The lattice \( \Lambda^*_k \) is used as the shaping region for the codebook of user \( k \).

For each transmitter \( k \), we construct the codebook

\[ C_k = \Lambda_{m(k)} \cap V^*_k \] (1)

where \( m(k) \in \{1, \ldots, M\} \) hence \( \Lambda_{m(k)} \) is the decoding lattice at one of the \( M \) relays. We will determine which decoding lattice to choose for transmitter \( k \), i.e., the expression of \( m(k) \), in the next section. The message rate of user \( k \) is

\[ R_k = \frac{1}{n} \log |C_k| = \frac{1}{n} \log \frac{\text{Vol}(V^*_k)}{\text{Vol}(V_m(k))} \] (2)

where \( V_m(k) \) is the Voronoi region of the fine lattice \( \Lambda_{m(k)} \).

IV. A MODIFIED COMPUTE-AND-FORWARD SCHEME

When the message (codeword) \( t_k \) is given to encoder \( k \), it forms its channel input as follows

\[ x_k = [t_k / \beta_k + d_k] \mod \Lambda^*_k / \beta_k \]

where \( d_k \) is called a dither which is a random vector uniformly distributed in the scaled Voronoi region \( V^*_k / \beta_k \). As pointed out in [2], \( x_k \) is independent from \( t_k \) and also uniformly in \( \Lambda^*_k / \beta_k \) hence has average power \( P \) for all \( k \).

To demonstrate the proposed approach, we first assume there is only one relay, \( m = M = 1 \). For now there is only one decoding lattice hence the codebooks of all the users are constructed using the same fine lattice and we denote it as \( \Lambda_{m(k)} = \Lambda \) for all \( k \).

\textbf{Theorem 1:} Assume there is only one relay \( m \). For any given set of positive numbers \( \beta_1, \ldots, \beta_K \), there exists lattice codes \( C_1, \ldots, C_K \) such that the achievable computation rate tuple \( (R_1, \ldots, R_K) \) with respect to the function \( f_m = \sum_k a_{mk} t_k \) at relay \( m \) is given by

\[ R_k \leq r_k(h_m, a_m, \beta_{1:K}) \]

\[ := \left[ \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \left| \bar{a}_m \right|^2 - \frac{P(h_m, \beta_m)^2}{1 + P \left| h_m \right|^2} \right) \right] - \frac{1}{2} \log \beta_k^2 \] (3)

for all \( k \) with \( \bar{a}_m := [\beta_1 a_{m1}, \ldots, \beta_K a_{mK}] \) and \( a_{mk} \in \mathbb{Z} \) for all \( k \in [1 : K] \).

\textbf{Proof:} At the decoder we form

\[ \tilde{y}_m := a_m y_m - \sum_k a_{mk} \beta_k d_k \]

\[ = \sum_k a_{mk} \left( \beta_k (t_k / \beta_k + d_k) - \beta_k Q_{\Lambda^*_k / \beta_k} (t_k / \beta_k + d_k) \right) \]

\[ - \sum_k a_{mk} \beta_k d_k + \tilde{z}_m \]

\[ \overset{(a)}{=} \tilde{z}_m + \sum_k a_{mk} (t_k - Q_{\Lambda^*_k} (t_k + \beta_k d_k)) \]

\[ := \tilde{z}_m + \sum_k a_{mk} \tilde{t}_k \]

with \( \tilde{t}_k := t_k - Q_{\Lambda^*_k} (t_k + \beta_k d_k) \) and the equivalent noise

\[ \tilde{z}_m := \sum_k (a_m h_{mk} - a_{mk} \beta_k) x_k + a_m z_m \]

which is independent of \( \sum_k a_{mk} \tilde{t}_k \) since all \( x_k \) are independent of \( \sum_k a_{mk} t_k \) thanks to the dithers \( d_k \). The step (a) follows because it holds \( Q_{\Lambda^*_k / \beta_k} (X) = \beta_k Q_{\Lambda^*_k} (X) \) for any \( \beta_k \neq 0 \).

Notice we have \( \tilde{t}_k \in \Lambda \) since \( t_k \in \Lambda \) and \( \Lambda^*_k \subseteq \Lambda \) due to the code construction. Hence the linear combination \( \sum_k a_{mk} \tilde{t}_k \) along belongs to the decoding lattice \( \Lambda \).

The relay uses lattice decoding to decode \( \sum_k a_{mk} \tilde{t}_k \) with respect to the decoding lattice \( \Lambda \) by quantizing \( \tilde{y}_m \) to its nearest neighbor in \( \Lambda \). The decoding error probability is equal to the probability that the equivalent noise \( \tilde{z}_m \) leaves the Voronoi region surrounding the lattice point representing \( \sum_k a_{mk} \tilde{t}_k \). If the fine lattice \( \Lambda \) used for decoding is good for AWGN channel, as it is shown in [2], the probability \( \Pr(\tilde{z}_m \notin \mathcal{V}) \) goes to zero exponentially if

\[ \frac{\text{Vol}(V^*_k)^{2/n}}{N_m} > 2\pi e \]

where \( N_m := \mathbb{E}[||z_m||^2 / n] = ||a_m h - \bar{a}_m||^2 P + \alpha_m^2 \) denotes the average power per dimension of the equivalent noise. Recall that the shaping lattice \( \Lambda^*_k \) is good for quantization hence we have

\[ \frac{\text{Vol}(V^*_k)^{1/n}}{G(\Lambda^*_k)} = \frac{\beta_k^2 P}{G(\Lambda^*_k)} \]

(5)

with \( G(\Lambda^*_k)2\pi e < (1 + \delta) \) for any \( \delta > 0 \) if \( n \) is large enough [2]. Together with the message rate expression in (4) (here \( \Lambda_{m(k)} = \Lambda \) for all \( k \)) we can see that lattice decoding is successful if \( \beta_k^2 P 2^{-2R_k} / G(\Lambda^*_k) > 2\pi e N_m \) for every \( k \) or equivalently

\[ R_k < \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{P}{N_m} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \log \beta_k^2 - \frac{1}{2} \log(1 + \delta) \]

By choosing \( \delta \) arbitrarily small and optimizing over \( a_m \) we conclude that under the rate constraints in (4) the lattice decoding of \( \sum_k a_{mk} t_k \) will be successful. Finally, since there is a one-to-one mapping between \( t_k \) and \( t_k \) when the dithers \( d_k \) are known, we can also recover \( \sum_k a_{mk} t_k \). It is easy to see from the expression of the computation rate tuple in (3), that multiplying all \( \beta_k \) with a same constant will not change the result.

We see the main difference to the regular compute-and-forward scheme is that here the transmitted signal \( x_k \) contains the scaled version, \( t_k / \beta_k \), of the codeword while the receivers still perform the lattice decoding w. r. t. the lattice \( \Lambda \) in which \( t_k \) lies. We should choose \( \beta_k \) appropriately according to the function \( a \) and the channel \( h \) to obtain the best rate region.

Now we extend the result to allow all relays to be able to decode their desired linear functions.

\textbf{Theorem 2:} For any given set of positive numbers \( \beta_1, \ldots, \beta_K \), there exist lattice codes \( C_1, \ldots, C_K \) such that the achievable computation rate tuple \( (R_1, \ldots, R_K) \) with respect
to the set of functions \( f_m = \sum_k a_{mk} t_k \), \( m \in [1 : M] \), where \( f_m \) is desired by relay \( m \) with \( a_{mk} \in \mathbb{Z} \), is given by

\[
R_k < \min_{m \in [1 : M]} r_k(h_m, a_m, \beta_{1:M})
\]

where \( r_k(h_m, a_m, \beta_{1:M}) \) is defined in (3).

*Proof:* Relay \( m \) decodes the function \( f_m \) with its decoding lattice \( \Lambda_m \). The nested structure of fine lattices \( \Lambda_m \) ensures that the sum of codewords seen at relay \( m \) lies in the decoding lattice \( \Lambda_m \). As in Theorem 1, the lattice decoding is successful if the volume-to-noise ratio of the decoding lattice satisfies equation (4). Hence each relay imposes a constraint on the individual message rate, i.e., for all \( k \), we have \( R_k \leq r_k(h_m, a_m, \beta_{1:M}) \) for all \( m \). If all relays want to decode successfully, each transmitter has to construct its codebook such that it meets the above constraints at all relays. Therefore when the codebook is constructed as in (1), the codebook such that it meets the above constraints at all relays.

**Remark 1:** The original scheme in [1] is a special case of this relay decoding lattice \( \Lambda_m \). The modified scheme allows for different message rates. We have the following achievable rate region for this network

\[
R_{1} \leq \min \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{P_1}{P_1 + P_2} \right) + R \right\}
\]

\[
R_{2} \leq \min \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{P_2}{P_1 + P_2} \right) + R \right\}
\]

where the relay decodes the function \( t_1 + t_2 \) and broadcasts it to two decoders. With the modified compute-and-forward scheme we also ask the relay to decode a linear combination of the form \( \sum_{k=1}^2 a_k t_k \) where \( a_1, a_2 \neq 0 \), with which each decoder can solve for the desired message. We can show the following achievable rate region:

\[
R_{1} \leq \min \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{P_1}{P_1 + P_2} \right) \right\}
\]

\[
R_{2} \leq \min \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{P_2}{P_1 + P_2} \right) \right\}
\]

for any positive \( \beta_1, \beta_2 \). Figure 3 shows the achievable rate region.

**Example 3:** The MIMO integer-forcing linear receiver.

We now apply the same idea to the MIMO system with an integer-forcing linear receiver [5]. We consider a point-to-point MIMO system with channel matrix \( H \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times K} \), which is full rank. It is shown in [5] that the following rate is achievable using integer-forcing receiver

\[
R_{IF} \leq \min_{m \in [1 : K]} K \left( -\frac{1}{2} \log a_m VD V^T a_m \right)
\]

V. EXAMPLES

**Example 1:** The multiple access channel (MAC).

We consider a 2-user Gaussian MAC where the receiver wants to decode a linear function of the two messages. Figure 1 shows the achievable rate regions.

**Example 2:** Transmitters with different powers.

We consider the Gaussian two-way relay channel shown in Figure 2 which is studied in [3, 4]. Two encoders have different power constraints \( P_1 \) and \( P_2 \) and the channel gain from both transmitters is 1. The relay has power constraint \( P_R \). All noises are Gaussian with unit variance.

Already shown in [3, 4], it can be beneficial for the relay to decode a linear combination of the two messages rather than decoding the two messages individually. They give the following achievable rate for this network

\[
R_1 \leq \min \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{P_1}{P_1 + P_2 + P_1} \right) \right\}
\]

where the relay decodes the function \( t_1 + t_2 \) and broadcasts it to two decoders. With the modified compute-and-forward
for any full rank integer matrix $A \in \mathbb{Z}^{K \times K}$ with its $m$-th row as $a_m$ and $V \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times K}$ is composed of the eigenvectors of $H^T H$. The matrix $D \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times K}$ is diagonal with element $D_{k,k} = 1/(P \lambda_k^2 + 1)$ and $\lambda_k$ is the $k$-th singular value of $H$.

Applying the modified compute-and-forward to the integer-forcing receiver gives the following result. We note that a similar idea also appears in [6] where a pre-coding matrix is used at the encoder.

**Theorem 3:** For a $K \times M$ real MIMO system with full rank channel matrix $H \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times K}$, the following rate is achievable using an integer-forcing linear receiver for any $\beta_1, \ldots, \beta_K$

$$R_{mIF} \leq \sum_{k=1}^{K} \min_{m \in \{1:K\}} \left( -\frac{1}{2} \log \frac{\tilde{a}_m^T V D V^T \tilde{a}_m}{\beta_k^2} \right)$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)

for any full rank $A \in \mathbb{Z}^{K \times K}$ with its $m$-th row being $a_m$. We have $\tilde{a}_m := [\beta_1 a_{1m}, \ldots, \beta_K a_{Km}]$ for $m = 1, \ldots, K$ and $V, D$ defined as above.

In Figure 3, we compare the achievable rates of two schemes. We give another example where the modified scheme performs arbitrarily better than the regular scheme. Consider the $2 \times 2$ MIMO channel with channel matrix $H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \epsilon \end{bmatrix}$, where $0 < \epsilon < 1$. It has been shown in [5] Section V, C] that the achievable rate of integer forcing is upper bounded as $R_{IF} \leq \log(\epsilon^2 P)$ which is of order $O(1)$ if $\epsilon \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{P}}$ while the joint ML decoding can achieve a rate at least $\frac{1}{2} \log(1 + 2P)$. With the modified scheme we show that the following result.

**Lemma 1:** For the channel $H$ above, $R_{mIF}$ in (7) scales as $\log P$ for any $\epsilon > 0$.

To see this, we can show (assuming w. l. o. g. $\beta_1 = 1$)

$$R_{mIF} \geq \min_{m=1,2} \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{P}{a_{m1}^2 + (a_{m2}\beta_2 - a_{m1})^2 \epsilon^2} \right)$$

$$+ \min_{m=1,2} \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{\beta_2^2 P}{a_{m1}^2 + (a_{m2}\beta_2 - a_{m1})^2 \epsilon^2} \right)$$

Based on the standard results on simultaneous Diophantine approximation [7], for any given $a_{m2}$ and $Q > 0$ there exists $\beta_2 < Q$ and $a_{m1}$ such that $|a_{m2}\beta_2 - a_{m1}| \leq Q^{-1/2}$ for $m = 1, 2$. Hence the we have the achievable rate

$$\min_{m=1,2} \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{P}{a_{m1}^2 + Q^{-1/2}} \right) + \min_{m=1,2} \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{\beta_2^2 P}{a_{m1}^2 + Q^{-1/2}} \right)$$

If we choose $Q \sim \epsilon^{-2}$, and notice that we also have $\beta_2, a_{m1} \sim Q$, then the second term above scales as $\frac{1}{2} \log P$ for $P$ large. Consequently $R_{mIF}$ also scales as $\frac{1}{2} \log P$ for any $\epsilon$, hence can be arbitrarily better than the regular scheme.

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