Robust Trajectory and Communication Design in IRS-Assisted UAV Communication under Malicious Jamming

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Abstract—In this paper, we study a unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) communication system, where a ground node (GN) communicate with a UAV assisted by intelligent reflecting surface (IRS) in the presence of a jammer with imperfect location information. We aim to improve the achievable average rate via the joint robust design of UAV trajectory, IRS passive beamforming and GN's power allocation. However, the formulated optimization problem is challenging to solve due to its non-convexity and coupled variables. To overcome the difficulty, we propose an alternating optimization (AO) based algorithm to solve it sub-optimally by leveraging semidefinite relaxation (SDR), successive convex approximation (SCA), and S-procedure methods. Simulation results show that by deploying the IRS near the GN, our proposed algorithm always improves the uplink achievable average rate significantly compared with the benchmark algorithms, while deploying the IRS nearby the jammer is effective only when the jammer’s location is perfectly known.

Index Terms—anti-jamming; trajectory design; IRS; UAV communication

I. INTRODUCTION

Benefiting from the flexible mobility and deployment, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have been employed in numerous applications in recent years, such as remote surveillance, photography, traffic control, and cargo transportation, etc [1]. By the reasonable design of its trajectory, UAV tends to obtain more dominant line-of-sight (LoS) channels and thus greatly improves the communication performance [2]. However, these advantages are confronted with many challenges. Due to the broadcast nature of wireless transmission and the strong LoS links, UAVs are more vulnerable to attacks from jamming and eavesdropping [3].

Due to its capability of smartly configuring the wireless propagation environment, intelligent reflecting surface (IRS) has emerged as a promising technology for future wireless networks [4], [5]. Specifically, IRS is a uniform planar array consisting a large number of passive reflecting units, which can reflect the wireless signal with adjustable phase shift and/or amplitude. The main advantage of IRS-assisted wireless communications lies in that it can considerably increase the channel capacity with low power consumption and high deployment flexibility. Benefiting from above superiority, IRS has been applied to cognitive radio [6], device-to-device (D2D) networks [7], secure communication [8] and so on. A comprehensive tutorial on IRS-aided wireless communications can be found in [9].

Thanks to the appealing advantages, IRS has been exploited as a promising choice for improving the performance of UAV communication for combating security threats. In [10], the average secrecy rate was maximized by jointly optimizing the UAV trajectory, the transmit beamforming and the phase shift of IRS. In [11] and [12], the UAV equipped with one IRS serves as a passive relay is proposed to maximize the secrecy rate of the system. By exploiting the IRS, higher average rate of the UAV communication has been achieved to mitigate the jamming signal from the malicious jammer [13]. However, all of these works are based on the perfect knowledge of the eavesdropper/jammer’s location, which is generally unavailable in practical systems and thus brings new challenges to the IRS passive beamforming, deployment, and UAV trajectory. To the best of our knowledge, this still remains an open problem and needs further study.

In this paper, we study a UAV communication system aided by IRS, and the communication process incurs malicious jamming from a jammer with imperfect location information, as shown in Fig. 1. We consider a joint robust design to maximize the achievable average rate in the uplink. However, the formulated optimization problem is difficult to tackle due to its non-convexity and coupled variables. To deal with the problem, we propose an alternating algorithm by using the successive convex approximation (SCA), semidefinite relaxation (SDR), and S-procedure methods to require the sub-optimal solution. For the case that IRS is deployed near the GN, numerical results show that our proposed robust algorithm can greatly improve the worst system performance compared to the benchmark algorithms. However, for the case that IRS is deployed near the jammer, numerical results show that the proposed algorithm is effective only with perfect jammer’s location information.

Notations: $\text{diag} \{\cdot\}$, $\text{tr} (\cdot)$ returns the diagonal matrix whose elements are the elements of input vector. $\Re (\cdot)$ and $\angle (\cdot)$ represent the real part and the phase of the input complex value. By denoting $\Theta = 0$, it is used to represent $\Theta$ as positive semidefinite.

II. SYSTEM MODEL AND PROBLEM FORMULATION

In this paper, a UAV communication system is considered as shown in Fig.1, where an IRS is deployed to assist in the information transmission from the GN to a UAV in the presence of a jammer with imperfect location information. All communication nodes are placed in the three dimensional (3D) Cartesian coordinates. The location of the jammer, GN and IRS are expressed as $\mathbf{q}_m = [x_m, y_m, z_m]$ and $\mathbf{q}_g = [x_g, y_g, 0]$ and $\mathbf{q}_r = [x_r, y_r, z_r]$, respectively. Due to the uncertain location region in 3D space, we regard the jammer’s location as a
hemisphere, which roughly simulates the practical situation. In the result, the location of the jammer can be denoted by
\[
\begin{align*}
x_m &= \bar{x}_m + \Delta x_m, \\
y_m &= \bar{y}_m + \Delta y_m, \\
z_m &= \bar{z}_m + \Delta z_m,
\end{align*}
\]
where \(\bar{x}_m, \bar{y}_m, \bar{z}_m\) denotes the center of hemisphere and \((\Delta x_m, \Delta y_m, \Delta z_m) \in \varepsilon_m\) denotes the possible estimated errors, which is confined to the condition
\[
\varepsilon_m \triangleq \{ \Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2 + \Delta z^2 \leq D_m^2, \Delta \geq 0 \},
\]
where \(D_m\) is the distance deviated from the center of the hemisphere.

The UAV is assumed to fly at a fixed height \(H_u\). The flying time of the UAV is \(T\), which is divided into \(N\) time slots, i.e., \(\Delta t = T/N\), where \(\Delta t\) is the length of a time slot. The UAV has the fixed starting point and destination, which are denoted by \(q_0\) and \(q_N\). The trajectory of the UAV can be expressed as \(q[n] = [x[n], y[n], z[n]]^T, n \in N = \{1, 2, ..., N\}. \Omega \triangleq \{q[n], \forall n\}\), which meets the mobility constraints as
\[
q[0] = q_0, q[N] = q_N,
\]
where \(D_{\max}\) is the maximum flying length in each time slot.

\[
p[n] = \text{transmit power of the GN in time slot } n \text{ and } P = \{p[n], \forall n\}, \text{ the power constraints are expressed as }
\]
\[
\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} p[n] \leq \bar{p}, \quad p[n] \leq p_{\max}, \forall n,
\]
where \(\bar{p}\) and \(p_{\max}\) are the average transmit power and the maximum transmit power of the GN, respectively. We assume that both the GN and the UAV are equipped with single omnidirectional antenna, and the IRS comprises of a uniform planar array (UPA) with \(L = L_x \times L_z\) elements, where \(L_x\) and \(L_z\) denote the number of elements along the x-axis and z-axis, respectively. Then we denote the diagonal phase-shift matrix for the IRS as \(\Gamma \triangleq \{\Gamma[n] = \text{diag}(e^{j\beta_1[n]}, e^{j\beta_2[n]}, ..., e^{j\beta_{L}[n]}), \forall n\}\), where \(\beta_i[n] \in [0, 2\pi), i \in \{1, ..., L\}\) is the phase shift of the \(i\)-th reflecting element in time slot \(n\). Due to high flying altitude of UAV and the flexible deployment of IRS, we assume that all channels are LoS channels in the system. Specifically, the GN-UAV channel in time slot \(n\) is expressed as
\[
h_{gu}[n] = \sqrt{p_{gu}^2/n} e^{j2\pi d_{gu}[n]/\lambda},
\]
where \(d_{gu}[n] = ||q[n] - q_G||\) is the distance between the GN and the UAV, \(\lambda\) is the carrier wavelength and \(\rho\) is the path loss at the reference distance \(D_0 = 1\m). The same channel model is adopted for the channel from the jammer to the UAV, i.e., \(h_{mu}[n]\). Further, the reflecting channel such as GN-IRS-UAV channel is composed of two parts, namely, the GN-IRS channel and the IRS-UAV channel. Specifically, the IRS-UAV channel denoted by \(h_{ru}[n] \in \Omega\), can be given by
\[
h_{ru}[n] = \sqrt{p_{ru}^2 \|n\|} h_{ru}[n],
\]
where \(h_{ru}[n]\) denotes the phase of the channel, which is expressed as
\[
\begin{align*}
w_{x}^T[n] &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \text{e}^{-j2\pi d_{ru,x}[n]/\lambda} & \text{e}^{-j(L_z - 1)2\pi d_{ru,x}[n]/\lambda} & \cdots & \text{e}^{-j(L_z - L_x)2\pi d_{ru,x}[n]/\lambda} \end{bmatrix}, \\
u_{x}^T[n] &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \text{e}^{-j2\pi d_{ru,x}[n]/\lambda} & \text{e}^{-j(L_z - 1)2\pi d_{ru,x}[n]/\lambda} & \cdots & \text{e}^{-j(L_z - L_x)2\pi d_{ru,x}[n]/\lambda} \end{bmatrix},
\end{align*}
\]
and \(\beta_{ru,x}[n] = \phi_{ru,x}[n] + \phi_{ru,z}[n] = (x[n] - x_r)/d_{ru}[n], \phi_{ru,z}[n] = (y[n] - y_r)/d_{ru}[n], \phi_{ru,z}[n] = (z[n] - z_r)/d_{ru}[n], \phi_{ru,z}[n] = (H_u - z_r)/d_{ru}[n], \phi_{ru,z}[n] = (H_u - z_r)/d_{ru}[n]\) and \(\phi_{ru,z}[n] = (H_u - z_r)/d_{ru}[n]\) represent the vertical and horizontal angle of departure (AoD) at the IRS, respectively. \(d_{ru}[n] = ||q[n] - q_r||\) is the distance between the IRS and the UAV, \(d\) is the antenna distance. The same model is adopted for GN-IRS channel and jammer-IRS channel. Then the channel gain is expressed as
\[
g_0[n] = |h_{gu}[n]| + h_{gr}[n] \Gamma[n] h_{ru}[n]|^2,
\]
\[
g_m[n] = |h_{mu}[n]| + h_{mr}[n] \Gamma[n] h_{ru}[n]|^2.
\]
Then, the achievable average rate is given by
\[
R = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \in N} \log_2 \left( 1 + \frac{p[n] |g_0[n]|^2}{p_{mu} |g_m[n]|^2 + \sigma^2} \right),
\]
where \(p_{mu}\) denote the transmit power of the jammer, \(\sigma^2\) denotes the power of additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) at the receiver. Thus, the problem is formulated as
\[(P0) : \max_{P, Q, \Gamma} R \quad \text{s.t. } \theta_i[n] \in [0, 2\pi), i \in \{1, ..., L\}, \forall n, \quad (1) - (6).\]

It is challenging to solve \((P0)\) optimally due to the non-convex objective function and coupled optimization variables. However, it can be effectively solved by dividing the problem into three sub-problems with consideration for the worst case. Thus, we exploit an alternating optimization (AO) to ensure that the sub-problems are convex in each iteration, while fixing the other two in each iteration until convergence is achieved.

III. THE PROPOSED ALTERNATING ALGORITHM

A. Sub-Problem 1: Optimizing \(P\) for Given \(Q\) and \(\Gamma\)

For given the UAV trajectory \(Q\) and the phase shift \(\Gamma\), we consider the worst situation to deal with the jammer’s uncertain location. When the jammer source is located closest to the UAV, we can obtain the lower bound of the average rate. \((P0)\) can be rewritten as
\[(P1) : \max_{P, Q, \Gamma} R \quad \text{s.t. } \theta_i[n] \in [0, 2\pi), i \in \{1, ..., L\}, \forall n, \quad (5) - (6).\]

This is a standard convex optimization problem that can be efficiently solved by some existing algorithms, such as CVX’s interior point method.

B. Sub-Problem 2: Optimizing \(\Gamma\) for Given \(Q\) and \(P\)

For given trajectory \(Q\) and transmit power \(P\), \((P0)\) can be transformed as
\[(P2) : \max_{\Gamma} R \quad \text{s.t. } \theta_i[n] \in [0, 2\pi), i \in \{1, ..., L\}, \forall n, \quad (5) - (6).\]

it is hard to obtain the optimal solution due to the unit modulus constraints and the imperfect CSI caused by jammer’s uncertain location. Thus, we consider a practical scheme to estimate the \(h_{mr}\) and \(h_{mu}\), which belong to a given range, i.e.,
\[\Psi_1 = \{h_{mr} \|\beta_{mr}\| \in [\beta_{min}, \beta_{max}], \phi_{mr,i} \in \{\phi_{mr,i}\}^{\max}, i \in \{x, z\}\},\]
\[\Psi_2 = \{h_{mu} \|\beta_{mu}\| \in [\beta_{min}, \beta_{max}], \phi_{mu,i} \in \{\phi_{mu,i}\}^{\max}\},\]
where \(\beta_{mu}, \beta_{mr}\) denote the amplitude of path loss, superscripts min and max respectively denote the lower and upper bound.
We denote \( \hat{v}^H[n] = [e^{j\theta_1[n]}, e^{j\theta_2[n]}, ..., e^{j\theta_L[n]}] \), \( v^H[n] = e^{j\tau} \hat{v}^H[n] \), where \( \tau \) is an arbitrary phase rotation. As such, (9) and (10) can be rewritten as
\[
\begin{align*}
\hat{g}_0[n] &= |v^H[n]| \text{diag} \{ h_0[n] \} h_g[n] + 2, \\
\hat{g}_m[n] &= |v^H[n]| \text{diag} \{ h_0[n] \} h_m[n] + 2,
\end{align*}
\]
where \( h_i[n] = [h_{ir}[n], h_{iu}[n]]^H, h_0[n] = [h_{ir}[n], 1]^H \). (P0) can be equivalently written as
\[
(P2.1) : \max_{\tilde{v}} \min_{\omega_m} \left\{ v^H[n] w_g[n] w_g^H[n] v[n] + \sigma^2 \right\}
\]
s.t. \( \theta_i[n] \in [0, 2\pi], i \in \{1, ..., L\}, \forall n \).

To overcome the difficulty of the imperfect CSI, we consider the method which constructs a convex hull based on weighted sum of \( T \) discrete samples i.e. [15]
\[
\Omega = \left\{ \sum_{t=1}^{T} \alpha_t \hat{v}^H[n] h_t \left| \sum_{t=1}^{T} \alpha_t = 1, \alpha_t \geq 0 \right. \right\},
\]
where \( h_t = (\text{diag} \{ h_0[n] \} h_m[n] \) and \( \alpha_t \) denotes the weighted coefficient of the \( t \)-th discrete sample. (P2.1) is written as
\[
(P2.2) : \max_{\tilde{v}} \min_{\Omega} \left( \sum_{t=1}^{T} \alpha_t |v^H[n] h_t|^2 + \sigma^2 \right)
\]
s.t. \( \theta_i[n] \in [0, 2\pi], i \in \{1, ..., L\}, \forall n \).

Let \( \tilde{v}_t[n] = v^H[n] h_t[n] \), the optimal weighted coefficient is obtained by maximizing \( \sum_{t=1}^{T} \alpha_t \tilde{v}_t^H[n] \tilde{v}_t[n] \). By using the Cauchy-Schwarz’s inequality, we have
\[
\left( \sum_{t=1}^{T} \alpha_t |\tilde{v}_t^H[n] \tilde{v}_t[n] |^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq \left( \sum_{t=1}^{T} \alpha_t^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \left( \tilde{v}_t^H[n] \tilde{v}_t[n] \right)^2.
\]
The inequality (12) holds equal only when
\[
\alpha_1[n]/\tilde{v}_1^H[n] \tilde{v}_1[n] = \alpha_2[n]/\tilde{v}_2^H[n] \tilde{v}_2[n] = ... = \alpha_T[n]/\tilde{v}_T^H[n] \tilde{v}_T[n] \]
is satisfied. Since we have \( \sum_{t=1}^{T} \alpha_t = 1, \alpha_t \) can be obtained as
\[
\alpha_t[n] = \frac{\tilde{v}_t^H[n] \tilde{v}_t[n]}{\sum_{t=1}^{T} \tilde{v}_t^H[n] \tilde{v}_t[n]}.
\]
Based on the given \( \alpha_t \), (P2.2) can be transformed as
\[
(P2.3) : \max_{\tilde{v}} \left\{ v^H[n] w_g[n] w_g^H[n] v[n] + \sigma^2 \right\}
\]
s.t. \( \theta_i[n] \in [0, 2\pi], i \in \{1, ..., L\}, \forall n \).

Algorithm 1 Algorithm for (P2) in each time slot
1: Input: \( P, Q, T, \mu_t \).
2: Output: \( v[n] \).
3: Initialize \( v[n] = I_{L+1}, i = 0, R_{irs}^{(0)} = 0 \).
4: Let \( \varepsilon_{m,t} = [\Delta x_{m,t}, \Delta y_{m,t}, \Delta z_{m,t}], \beta_{mv} = \beta_{mv}^{\min}, \) and \( \beta_{mu} = \beta_{mu}^{\min}, \) compute \( \phi_{s,t}[n], \phi_{s}[n] \) and obtain \( h_{irs,t} \) and \( h_{mu,t} \). Then construct \( h_t[n] \), where \( t = 1, 2, ..., T \).
5: repeat:
6: \( t = t+1 \).
7: Compute \( \alpha^{(i)}_t \) based on (13).
8: Compute \( v[n] \) for given \( \alpha^{(i)}_t[n] \) by solving (P2.5).
9: until \( R_{irs}[n] - R_{irs}^{(i-1)} \leq \mu_t \).

Let \( V[n] = v[n] v^H[n] \), \( A[n] = w_g[n] w_g^H[n] \) and \( B[n] = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \alpha_t[n] \tilde{v}_t[n] \tilde{v}_t^H[n] \), then (P2.3) can be reformulated as
\[
(P2.4) : \max_{\tilde{v}, k} \left\{ \text{tr}(A[n] \tilde{V}[n]) \right\}
\]
s.t. \( \text{tr}(B[n] \tilde{V}[n]) + \sigma^2 \geq 0 \), \( \tilde{v}_{l,l}[n] = 1, l = 1, 2, ..., L+1, \forall n \), \( \tilde{V}[n] \geq 0 \).

Let \( \tilde{v}[n] = v[n] \), \( A[n] = w_g[n] w_g^H[n] \) and \( B[n] = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \alpha_t[n] \tilde{v}_t[n] \tilde{v}_t^H[n] \), then (P2.3) can be rewritten as
\[
(P2.5) : \max_{\tilde{v}, k} \text{tr}(A[n] \tilde{V}[n])
\]
s.t. \( \tilde{V}_{l,l}[n] = k[n], l = 1, 2, ..., L+1, \forall n \), \( \tilde{V}_{l,l}[n] \geq 0 \).

The proposed algorithm to solve the (P2) is summarized as Algorithm 1, where \( R_{irs} \) is the objective function of (P2).
UAV. For the jammer-IRS channel, we just consider the worst case that the jammer is farthest to the IRS. As such, we can conveniently to transform the problem into a convex form, which is given by
\[
d[n] \leq ||q[n] - q_m||^2, \quad d[n] \geq 0, \forall n, \tag{14}
\]
where \(q_m\) contains infinite number of variables due to the uncertain location information of the jammer. By resorting to S-procedure, the constraints of imperfect location information can be rewritten as
\[
\Delta x_m^2 + \Delta y_m^2 + \Delta z_m^2 - D_m^2 \leq 0, \\
-(\bar{x}_m + \Delta x_m - x[n])^2 - (\bar{y}_m + \Delta y_m - y[n])^2 - \\
(\bar{z}_m + \Delta z_m - z[n])^2 + d[n] \leq 0,
\]
and there exists \((\Delta \bar{x}_m, \Delta \bar{y}_m, \Delta \bar{z}_m) = (0, 0, 0)\) satisfying constraint. Therefore, according to Lemma 1, we conclude \(\delta \equiv \{\delta[n] \geq 0, \forall n\}\), the equality constraint is given by
\[
\Theta(x[n], y[n], d[n], \delta[n]) = \\
\begin{bmatrix}
\delta[n] + 1 \\
0 \\
0 \\
\bar{x}_m - x[n] \\
\bar{y}_m - y[n] \\
\bar{z}_m - z[n] - H_u [E[n] \delta[n] - E[n]],
\end{bmatrix},
\]
where \(E[n] = -D_m^2 \delta[n] + x[n]^2 - 2\bar{x}_m x[n] + \bar{x}_m^2 + \\
y[n]^2 + 2\bar{y}_m y[n] + \bar{y}_m^2 + H_u^2 [n] - 2\bar{z}_m z[n] + \bar{z}_m^2 - d[n], \forall n\). To make the problem solvable, we use the first-order Taylor expansion of the convex function to obtain the lower bound. At the given feasible points \(x_0 = \{x_0[n], \forall n\}\) and \(y_0 = \{y_0[n], \forall n\}\), \(E[n]\) can be transformed as
\[
\tilde{E}[n] = -D_m^2 \delta[n] - x_0^2[n] + 2x_0[n] x[n] - 2\bar{x}_m x[n] + \bar{x}_m^2 + \\
y[n]^2 - 2\bar{y}_m y[n] + \bar{y}_m^2 + H_u^2 [n] - 2\bar{z}_m z[n] + \bar{z}_m^2 - d[n], \forall n.
\]
Then we substitute the \(\tilde{E}[n]\) into (15) and obtain the convex formation
\[
\tilde{\Theta}(x[n], y[n], d[n], \delta[n]) \geq 0, \tag{16}
\]
which is a semidefinite programming problem that can be solved optimally by CVX. Next, to deal with the non-convex objective function of (P3), we observe that \(h_{\text{ru}}[n], h_{\text{gu}}[n]\) and \(h_{\text{hm}}[n]\) are relative to the trajectory variables. However, it is observed that those are more complex to handle due to its non-linear formation. To overcome such problem, we use \((j - 1)\)th iteration to obtain the approximate \(h_{\text{ru}}[\bar{n}], h_{\text{gu}}[\bar{n}]\) and \(h_{\text{hm}}[\bar{n}]\). Based on the consideration above, we consider rewriting the objective function by denoting
\[
H_g[n] = \begin{bmatrix}
\sqrt{h_{\text{gu}}[n]} \Gamma [n] \tilde{h}_{\text{ru}}[-1], \\
\sqrt{h_{\text{hm}}[n]} \Gamma [n] \tilde{h}_{\text{ru}}[-1]
\end{bmatrix},
\]
where \(\tilde{h}_{\text{gu}}[n] = e^{-2\lambda_{\text{gu}}[n]}, \tag{9}, (10)\), can be transformed as
\[
g_0[n] = d^T_m[n] H_g[n] H_g[n] d_m[n], \\
g_m[n] = d^T_m[n] \tilde{H}_{\text{ru}}[n] H_{\text{ru}}[n] \tilde{H}_{\text{ru}}[n] d_m[n],
\]
where \(d_g[n] = \begin{bmatrix}
d_{\text{ru}}[n], d_{\text{ru}}[-1][n]
\end{bmatrix}^T, \quad d_m[n] = \begin{bmatrix}
d_{\text{ru}}[n], d_{\text{ru}}[-1][n]
\end{bmatrix}^T\). Moreover, the other problem is the non-convex objective function which is composed of the coupled variables. To tackle it, we consider introducing the slack variables and leveraging the SCA method. By introducing the slack variables \(S = \{S[n], \forall n\}\) and \(G = \{G[n], \forall n\}\), and optimization problem equivalent to (P3) is obtained as follows
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(P3.1)}: & \quad \max_{\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{G}} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{S^{-1}[n]}{G[n]} \right) \\
\text{s.t.} \quad & C1: p[n] d^T_g[n] H_g[n] H_g[n] d_g[n] \geq S^{-1}[n], \forall n, \\
& C2: p_m d^T_m[n] H_m[n] H_m[n] d_m[n] + \sigma^2 \leq G[n], \forall n, \tag{3) - (4), (18)}
\end{align*}
\]
(P3) and (P3.1) share the same optimal solution when the constraints hold with equalities [3]. And the objective function in (P3) has a lower bound at \((S_0[n], G_0[n])\) by
\[
\tilde{R}(S[n], G[n]) = \log_2 \left(1 + 1/(S_0[n]G_0[n]) \right) + \\
\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \tilde{R}(S[n], G[n]) \\
\text{s.t.} \quad C1, C2, (3) - (4), (18),
\]
However, the constraints C1 and C2 are non-convex because of the coupled variables. To deal with the non-convexity, we introduce the slack variables \(\xi_1 = \{\xi_1[n], \forall n\}, \xi_2 = \{\xi_2[n], \forall n\}, \xi_3 = \{\xi_3[n], \forall n\}, \xi_4 = \{\xi_4[n], \forall n\}\). The problem is transformed into
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(P3.3)}: & \quad \max_{\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{G}} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \tilde{R}(S[n], G[n]) \\
\text{s.t.} \quad & C1.1: p[n] d^T_g[n] H_g[n] H_g[n] d_g[n] \geq S^{-1}[n], \\
& C2.1: p_m d^T_m[n] H_m[n] H_m[n] d_m[n] + \sigma^2 \leq G[n], \\
& d_{\text{ru}}[-1][n] \geq \xi_1[n], \quad d_{\text{ru}}[-1][n] \geq \xi_2[n], \forall n, \\
& \sqrt{d_{\text{ru}}[-1][n]} \leq \xi_3[n], \quad \xi_4[n] \leq \xi_4[n], \forall n, \\
& (3) - (4), (18),
\end{align*}
\]
where \(d_g = \{\xi_1[n], \xi_2[n], \xi_3[n], \xi_4[n]\}^T, \quad d_m = \{\xi_4[n], \xi_4[n]\}^T\). To conveniently tackle the non-convex variables, we unfold as
\[
F_1[n] = \xi_1^2[n] - 2\xi_1[n] \xi_2[n] + \xi_2^2[n] \leq 0, \quad F_2[n] = \xi_1^2[n] - 2\xi_1[n] \xi_2[n] + \xi_2^2[n] \leq 0, \quad \forall n, \tag{17}
\]
where \(F_1[n] = (x[n] - x_0)^2 + (y[n] - y_0)^2 + H_u^2, \quad F_2[n] = (x[n] - x_0)^2 + (y[n] - y_0)^2 + (H_u^2 - \bar{z}_m^2)^2\). However, there still exists several non-convex feasible regions in constraints (17). The first-order Taylor expansions of \(\xi_1[n], \xi_2[n], d^T_g[n] H_g[n] H_g[n] d_g[n], \xi_0[n]\) at the feasible points \(\xi_{1,0} = \{\xi_{1,0}[n], \forall n\}, \xi_{2,0} = \{\xi_{2,0}[n], \forall n\}\) and \(\tilde{d}_g = \{\tilde{d}_g[n], \forall n\}\), which is given by
\[
\xi_1^2[n] \geq \xi_1^2[n] - 2\xi_1[n] \xi_2[n], \quad \xi_2^2[n] \geq \xi_2^2[n] - 2\xi_1[n] \xi_2[n], \quad \xi_1^2[n] \geq \xi_1^2[n] - 2\xi_1[n] \xi_2[n], \\
\xi_2^2[n] \geq \xi_2^2[n] - 2\xi_1[n] \xi_2[n], \quad \xi_3^2[n] \geq \xi_3^2[n] - 2\xi_1[n] \xi_2[n], \quad \xi_4^2[n] \geq \xi_4^2[n] - 2\xi_1[n] \xi_2[n],
\]
and \(F_2[n]\) can be transformed as
\[
\tilde{F}_2[n] = (x[n] - x_0)^2 + (y[n] - y_0)^2 + \bar{z}_m^2 - (H_u - \bar{z}_m)^2 - 2\bar{z}_m \tilde{x}_m[n] + 2\bar{z}_m \tilde{y}_m[n].
Algorithm 2 An alternating algorithm for solving (P0)

1: Input: \( \mu_2, i_{\text{max}} \)
2: Output: \( R \)
3: Initialization: Set \( i = 0 \), as iteration index, \( \mu_2 \) as the threshold and original points \( Y_0 = \{ Q(0), P(0), \Gamma(0) \} \), thus obtaining the \( R(0) \) by using (11) and generating a series of initial points \( S_0, T_0, \xi_{10}, \xi_{20}, h_{0u}, d_{g0}, d_{m0} \).
4: repeat:
5: With given \( Q(i), \Gamma(i) \), update \( P(i) \) to \( P(i+1) \) by solving sub-problem (P1).
6: With given \( Q(i), P(i+1) \), update \( \Gamma(i) \) to \( \Gamma(i+1) \) by solving sub-problem (P2.4).
7: With given \( \Gamma(i+1), P(i+1) \), update \( Q(i) \) to \( Q(i+1) \) by solving sub-problem (P3.4).
8: With given \( Q(i+1), P(i+1), \Gamma(i+1) \), compute \( R(j+1) \) and \( S(i+1), T(i+1), \xi_{1(i+1)}, \xi_{2(i+1)}, h_{j+u}, d_{g(i+1)}, d_{m(i+1)} \).
9: Update \( i \leftarrow i + 1 \).
10: until \( |R(i+1) - R(j)| \leq \mu_2 \) or \( j = j_{\text{max}} \).

Thus C1.1 can be written as

\[
C1.2: \quad p[n] 2R \left[ \tilde{d}_{g0}^T[n] H_j^T[n] H_j[n] \tilde{d}_{g0}[n] - \tilde{d}_{g0}^T[n] H_j^T[n] H_j[n] \tilde{d}_{g0}[n] \right] \geq S^{-1}[n].
\]

Then we can substitute all concave points to solvable ones finally. Accordingly, (P3.3) can be formulated as

\[
(P3.4): \quad \max_{\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3, \xi_4} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \in N} \tilde{H}(S[n], G[n])
\]

s.t. \( F_1[n] - \tilde{\xi}_1[n] \leq 0, F_2[n] - \tilde{\xi}_2[n] \leq 0, \forall n, \xi_3^{-2}[n] - d[n] \leq 0, \xi_4^{-2}[n] + \tilde{F}_2[n] \leq 0, \forall n, \)

\( \xi_1, 2, C2.1, (3) - (4) \), (18).

(P3.4) is a standard convex optimization problem, and we can use CVX solver to solve it.

D. Overall Algorithm

The overall algorithm for solving (P0) is summarized in Algorithm 2. The \( \mu_2 \) is used to control the accuracy of convergence and \( j_{\text{max}} \) is the maximum number of iterations. In fact, solving sub-problem 2 and sub-problem 3 dominates the complexity of Algorithm 2. Specifically, the computational complexities of Algorithm 2 is approximately \( O(N(L + 1)^{3.5} I_1 I_2 + SN^{3.5} I_2) \), where \( I_1 \) is the number of iterations required for solving (P2.4) and \( I_2 \) is for (P0), respectively.

IV. Numerical Results

In this part, we give the simulation results to verify the effectiveness of our proposed algorithm. Specifically, “Proposed” refers to the scheme we proposed for jointly optimizing UAV trajectory, GN’s power allocation and IRS passive beamforming. To study the impact of the deployment of IRS, we consider two setups. In particular, one is denoted by “IRS-M” corresponding to that the IRS is deployed at \((251, 50, 5)\), i.e., nearby the jammer; while the other is denoted by “IRS-G” corresponding to that the IRS is deployed at \((201, 100, 5)\), i.e., nearby the GN. Moreover, we consider benchmark algorithm that “w/o IRS” refers to the case without the IRS. The parameters are set following the suggestions and settings in [3], and are shown as follows: \( \nu_0 = (0, 0, 100) \), \( \nu_N = (400, 200, 100) \), \( \nu_m = (250, 50, 0) \), \( \nu_g = (200, 100, 0) \), \( H_u = 100 \) m, \( V_{\text{max}} = 60 \), \( \bar{\sigma} = 30 \) dBm, \( p_{\text{max}} = 31.76 \) dBm, \( p_m = 30 \) dBm, \( \rho = 10^{-3} \), \( \sigma^2 = -169 \) dBm/Hz, \( \Delta t = 0.5 \), \( \mu_1 = \mu_2 = 10^{-3} \), \( T = 10^3 \).

Fig. 2 shows the UAV’s trajectories for different schemes when the number of IRS elements is \( L = 100 \) and jammer’s power is \( p_m = 30 \) dBm. Fig. 2(a) shows the optimized UAV’s trajectories when \( D_m = 0 \). It is obviously shown that the trajectories in our proposed algorithm can significantly decrease the flying path length of the UAV compared to the case without IRS. Specifically, when deploying the IRS near the GN, the UAV keeps away from the jammer a bit first and finally hovers directly above the GN. While for the case when IRS is deployed near the jammer, it is observed that the UAV almost flies along the straight line from the start point to the end point. The reason is that the jamming signal power is drastically weakened by passive beamforming, which is roughly equivalent to the case that UAV flies under the low jamming level. Note that for the case “w/o IRS”, the UAV must keep away from the jammer farther and hovers for a while at a relative stable position so as to achieve an optimal system performance.

Fig. 2(b) shows the UAV’s trajectories when \( D_m = 20 \). It is observed that the trajectory for “IRS-M” becomes similar to that for “w/o IRS”. The reason is that when deploying the IRS nearby the jammer, the passive beamforming is quite sensitive to the location of the jammer, which is however incurs a large uncertainty and thus renders the passive beamforming focusing on mitigating the jamming signal ineffective. In contrast, it can be observed that deploying the IRS nearby the GN is still helpful. This is because in this case the IRS mainly contributes to enhance the GN’s signal received at the UAV but not reduce the jamming signal, which is thus not impacted by the uncertainty of the jammer’s location.
Fig. 3 shows the achievable average rate versus $p_m$ under the known and unknown jammer's location when $L = 100$, respectively. For the case $D_m = 0$, it can be observed that deploying the IRS nearby the GN and nearby the jammer both can increase the average uplink rate, for enhancing the information signal and reducing the jamming signal, respectively. Moreover, it is observed that “IRS-G” outperforms “IRS-M” first and then becomes less effective than the latter. The reason is that when the jamming is under the low level, the SNR at the UAV is dominated by the noise, thus deploying the IRS nearby the GN for improving the information signal is more useful to increase the rate. However, as $p_m$ increases up to sufficiently large, the noise becomes ignorable and thus deploying the IRS nearby the jammer for jamming reduction becomes more effective. For the case $D_m = 20$, it is observed that the achievable uplink rates for the three schemes all decreased and that for “IRS-M” even becomes lower than that for “w/o IRS”. The reason is that the passive beamforming for IRS needs accurate location information to align the reflecting channels to the direct channel. Due to jammer’s uncertain location, the jamming signal via IRS can’t be destructively combined with that from the direct channel for jamming reduction. Compared to the case “IRS-M”, “IRS-G” is insensitive to the jammer’s location and can still enhance the information-carrying signals.

In Fig. 4, the achievable average rate for different schemes versus the number of IRS elements are illustrated given $p_m = 15$ dBm. It is observed when $D_m = 0$, the achievable average rate for “IRS-M” increases at the beginning and then tends to stabilize while “IRS-G” keeps a steady growth rate. The reason is that as $L$ increases up to sufficiently large, the jamming signal in “IRS-M” case is well reduced and thus the reception at the UAV is no more jamming-dominant, leading the lower performance gain by increasing the number of IRS elements. While for “IRS-G”, the reception at the UAV can substantially benefit from increasing $L$ because the IRS in this case mainly focuses on enhancing the information signal from GN. When $D_m = 20$, it is observed that the average rate for “IRS-G” is much higher than that for the other two and still benefits from increasing the number of IRS elements. However, the rate for “IRS-M” is lower than that for “w/o IRS” and even decreases with increasing $L$. This is because for “IRS-G”, the passive beamforming gain is insensitive to the location of the jammer and a larger number of IRS elements is always favorable to improve the rate; while for “IRS-M”, the passive beamforming can no more reduce the jamming signal effectively due to the uncertain location of the jammer, and even helps enhance the jamming signal at the UAV statistically.

V. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we study the UAV uplink transmission assisted by IRS in the presence of a jammer with imperfect location information. By considering the GN’s power allocation, IRS passive beamforming, and UAV trajectory, an alternating optimization-based algorithm is proposed to solve the problem by exploiting the SDR, SDA and S-procedure methods. Simulation results were shown to verify the performance of our proposed algorithm, by considering two setups of the IRS deployment for further exploiting the effect of IRS. Specifically, it is observed that by deploying the IRS nearby the GN, the proposed joint design can always improve the uplink transmission regardless of the knowledge of jammer’s location; however, by deploying the IRS nearby the jammer, the proposed design is effective only when the jammer’s location is perfectly known.

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