ABSTRACT
In this paper, an artificial noise-aided strategy is presented for location-privacy preservation. A novel framework for the reduction of location-privacy leakage is introduced, where **structured artificial noise** is designed to degrade the structure of the illegitimate devices’ channel, without the aid of channel state information at the transmitter. Then, based on the **location-privacy enhancement** framework, a transmit beamformer is proposed to efficiently inject the structured artificial noise. Furthermore, the securely **shared information** is characterized to enable the legitimate devices to localize accurately. Numerical results show a 9dB degradation of illegitimate devices’ localization accuracy is achieved, and validate the efficacy of **structured** artificial noise versus **unstructured** Gaussian noise.

**Index Terms**— Location-privacy, structured artificial noise, beamforming.

1. INTRODUCTION
With the deployment of the Internet-of-Things, the location of a device is becoming an important commodity. To achieve accurate localization, millimeter-wave (mmWave) signaling has been considered in [1]–[3] due to the massive available bandwidth [4]. On the other hand, localization-based services as well as the proliferation of wearables necessitate location-privacy [5]. However, most works on localization, e.g., [1]–[3], focus on estimation accuracy without considering location-privacy. The location-privacy of user equipment can be significantly jeopardized by illegitimate devices that maliciously eavesdrop on the wireless channel.

To combat eavesdropping, location-privacy preserving strategies have predominantly been studied at the application and network layers [6]–[8]. To the best of our knowledge, the potential of physical-layer signals for protecting the location-privacy of the user equipment has not been fully investigated. While [9]–[11] exploit artificial interference and beamformer design for secrecy capacity improvement, these recent location-privacy preserving methods strongly rely on perfect knowledge of channel state information (CSI). In particular, without the aid of CSI, the artificially injected Gaussian noise cannot be designed to lie in the **null space** of the channel, degrading the efficacy of [10], [11]. In the sequel, motivated by the analysis of the structure of the channel in [3], [12]–[14], we propose a structured artificial noise (SAN)-aided location-privacy enhancement scheme to reduce location-privacy leakage (LPL) to illegitimate devices, while providing localization guarantees to authorized devices. In contrast to [9]–[11], our proposed design does not require CSI, which avoids extra channel estimation and reduces the overhead for resource-limited user equipment. The main contributions of this paper are:

1) The proposal of a general framework for SAN-aided location-privacy enhancement is without CSI, where the intrinsic structure of the channel is explicitly exploited to design the artificial noise;

2) Based on the proposed location-privacy enhancement framework, a beamforming strategy is designed to efficiently inject SAN, where LPL is mitigated, while authorized devices maintain localization accuracy with the securely shared information (a secret key[15]–[18]);

3) Numerical comparisons of the localization accuracy of authorized devices show that the proposed method results in around 9dB accuracy degradation for illegitimate devices, even when illegitimate devices know the structure of the designed artificial noise and line-of-sight (LOS) path exists. Furthermore, for low signal-to-noise ratios (SNR), the proposed scheme is more effective for location-privacy preservation, than the injection of unstructured Gaussian noise, with less shared information.

2. SYSTEM MODEL
We consider a legitimate receiver (Bob) serving a user equipment (Alice), as shown in Fig. 1. The locations of Alice and Bob are denoted by \( p = [p_x, p_y]^T \in \mathbb{R}^2 \) and \( q = [q_x, q_y]^T \in \mathbb{R}^2 \), respectively. To acquire location-based services, Alice transmits pilot signals to Bob, while Bob estimates Alice’s position based on the received signals and his location \( q \). We assume that the pilot signals are known to Bob. An unauthorized receiver (Eve) exists at location \( z = [z_x, z_y]^T \in \mathbb{R}^2 \), which is assumed to be close to Bob. Eve also knows the same pilot signals and her location \( z \). By eavesdropping on the channel to infer \( p \), Eve jeopardizes Alice’s location-privacy.

Without loss of generality, we adopt the mmWave multiple-input-single-output (MISO) orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing (OFDM) channel model of [19] for transmissions, where Alice is equipped with \( N_t \) antennas, while both Bob and Eve have a single antenna\(^1\). Assume

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\(^1\)The proposed location-privacy enhancement framework in Section 3 can be directly extended to the multiple-input-multiple-output channel.

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that $K + 1$ paths, i.e., one LOS path and $K$ non-line-of-sight (NLOS) paths, exist in the MISO OFDM channel, and the scatterer of the $k$-th NLOS path is located at an unknown position $\mathbf{v}_k = [v_{k,x}, v_{k,y}]^T \in \mathbb{R}^2$, for $k = 1, 2, \cdots, K$. We transmit $G$ OFDM pilot signals via $N$ sub-carriers with carrier frequency $f_c$ and bandwidth $B$. It is assumed that a narrow-band channel is employed, i.e., $B \ll f_c$. Denoting by $x^{(g,n)}$ and $f^{(g,n)} \in \mathbb{C}^{N_t \times 1}$ the $g$-th symbol transmitted over the $n$-th sub-carrier and the corresponding beamforming vector, respectively, we can express the $g$-th pilot signal over the $n$-th sub-carrier as $s^{(g,n)} \triangleq f^{(g,n)}x^{(g,n)} \in \mathbb{C}^{N_t \times 1}$ and write the received signal $y^{(g,n)}$ as

$$y^{(g,n)} = h^{(n)} s^{(g,n)} + w^{(g,n)}, \quad (1)$$

for $n = 0, 1, \cdots, N-1$ and $g = 1, 2, \cdots, G$, where $w^{(g,n)} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \sigma^2)$ is an independent, zero-mean, complex Gaussian noise with variance $\sigma^2$, and $h^{(n)} \in \mathbb{C}^{1 \times N_t}$ represents the $n$-th sub-carrier public channel vector. Denote by $c$, $d$, $T_s$, and $\mathbf{a}_L(f) \in \mathbb{C}^L$ the speed of light, the distance between antennas, the sampling period $T_s$, and the Fourier vector $\mathbf{a}_L(f) \triangleq [1, e^{-j2\pi f_1}, \ldots, e^{-j2\pi (L-1)f_1}]^T$, respectively. The public channel vector $h^{(n)}$ is defined as

$$h^{(n)} \triangleq \sum_{k=0}^{K} \gamma_k e^{-j\pi \frac{\tau_k}{N_T}} \alpha^{(\theta_{Tx,k})} \mathbf{H}^H, \quad (2)$$

where $k = 0$ corresponds to the LOS path, $\gamma_k$ represents the complex channel coefficient of the $k$-th path, while the steering vector $\alpha^{(\theta_{Tx,k})}$ is defined as $\alpha^{(\theta_{Tx,k})} \triangleq \mathbf{a}_{N_t}(\frac{d \sin(\theta_{Tx,k})}{\lambda_c})$ with $\lambda_c \triangleq \frac{c}{f_c}$ being the wavelength. The operator $[\cdot]^H$ represents the Hermitian transpose. According to the geometry, the location-relevant channel parameters of each path, i.e., time-of-arrival (TOA) $\tau_k$ and angle-of-departure (AOD) $\theta_{Tx,k}$, are defined as $\tau_k = \frac{d}{c} \sin(\theta_{Tx,k})$ and $\theta_{Tx,k} = \arctan(\frac{v_{k,y} - v_{0,y}}{v_{k,x} - v_{0,x}})$, for $k = 0, 1, \cdots, K$, where $v_{0} \triangleq q$ (or $v_{0} \triangleq z$) holds for Bob (or Eve). In addition, we assume $\frac{d \sin(\theta_{Tx,k})}{\lambda_c} \in (0, 1]$ and $\frac{d \sin(\theta_{Tx,k})}{\lambda_c} \in (-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ as in [3].

Given the pilot signals, the location of Alice can be estimated using all the received signals. Hereafter, we denote by $y^{(g,n)}_{Bob}$ and $y^{(g,n)}_{Eve}$ the signals leveraged by Bob and Eve, respectively, which are defined according to (1), while the public channels for Bob and Eve, denoted as $h^{(n)}_{Bob}$ and $h^{(n)}_{Eve}$, are modelled according to (2), as a function of their locations. Note that the CSI is assumed to be unavailable to Alice. We aim to reduce the LPL to Eve with the designed artificial noise, providing localization guarantees to Bob with the shared information transmitted over a secure channel.

### 3. STRUCTURED ARTIFICIAL NOISE-AIDED LOCATION-PRIVACY ENHANCEMENT

Since it is assumed that CSI is unknown, to preserve location-privacy, we create a SNR advantage for Bob versus Eve via the injection of artificial noise tailored to the intrinsic structure of the channel. In this section, we present a general framework for location-privacy enhancement with SAN.

According to the analysis of the atomic norm based localization in [3], high localization accuracy relies on super-resolution channel estimation; to ensure the quality of the estimate, the TOAs and AODs of the $K + 1$ paths need to be sufficiently separated, respectively. Inspired by [3], [12]–[14], we propose SAN to degrade the structure of the channel for location-privacy preservation, where the minimal separation for TOAs and AODs, i.e., $\Delta_{\text{min}}(\frac{\pi}{N_T})$ and $\Delta_{\text{min}}(\frac{\pi}{N_T})$, with $\Delta_{\text{min}}(\kappa) = \min_{i \neq j} \min(|\kappa_i - \kappa_j|, 1 - |\kappa_i - \kappa_j|)$, is reduced, respectively. To be more precise, in this framework, we virtually add $K$ fake paths to the mmWave MISO OFDM channel, as shown in Fig. 1. Denote by $\bar{\tau}_k$, $\bar{\theta}_{Tx,k}$, and $\mathbf{a}^{(\bar{\theta}_{Tx,k})}_{\bar{L}}$ the artificial channel coefficient, TOA, and AOD of the $k$-th fake path, respectively. For the $g$-th pilot signal transmitted over the $n$-th sub-carrier, the injected SAN $\xi^{(g,n)}$ is designed as

$$\xi^{(g,n)} \triangleq \bar{h}^{(n)} s^{(g,n)}, \quad (3)$$

where

$$\bar{h}^{(n)} = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_k e^{-j\pi \frac{\bar{\tau}_k}{N_T}} \alpha^{(\bar{\theta}_{Tx,k})} \mathbf{H}^H \in \mathbb{C}^{1 \times N_t}. \quad (4)$$

With the injection of SAN defined in (3), the received signal used by Eve is

$$y^{(g,n)}_{Eve} = f^{(g,n)}[s^{(g,n)} + \xi^{(g,n)} + w^{(g,n)}]$$

$$= \bar{h}^{(n)} s^{(g,n)} + \bar{h}^{(n)} s^{(g,n)} + w^{(g,n)}, \quad (5)$$

where $w^{(g,n)} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \sigma^2)$. Note that, given $K \geq 1$, the minimal separation for TOAs and AODs can be reduced according to the definition of $\Delta_{\text{min}}(\cdot)$ provided above. On the other hand, to alleviate the distortion caused by SAN for Bob, we assume Alice transmits the shared information$^3$ to Bob over a secure channel that is inaccessible by Eve. Then, the received signal leveraged by Bob for localization is given by

$$y^{(g,n)}_{Bob} = f^{(g,n)}[s^{(g,n)} + w^{(g,n)}], \quad (6)$$

$^3$For the atomic norm based localization method in [3], the conditions $\Delta_{\text{min}}(\frac{\pi}{N_T}) \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ and $\Delta_{\text{min}}(\frac{\pi}{N_T}) \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_T}}$ are desired.

$^3$The shared information is determined by the design for the injection of SAN; one specific design will be provided in Section 4.
where \( w_{\text{Bob}}^{(g,n)} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \sigma_{\text{Bob}}^2) \). The signal \( \tilde{s}^{(g,n)} \in \mathbb{C}^{N_t \times 1} \) is determined by \( s^{(g,n)} \) and the shared information, which is known to Bob to maintain localization accuracy.

In contrast to Bob who can remove the SAN with the shared information, the injected SAN distorts the structure of the channel and thus degrades the eavesdropping ability of Eve. We note that the proposed location-privacy enhancement framework does not rely on CSI or any specific estimation method\(^4\).

In the next section, an efficient strategy for the injection of SAN will be shown, where the virtually added fake paths are further elaborated upon, while the specific design of \( \tilde{\tau}_k \), \( \tilde{\gamma}_k \), \( \tilde{\delta}_{\text{Tx},k} \), \( \tilde{s}^{(g,n)} \) and the shared information are provided.

### 4. BEAMFORMING DESIGN FOR THE INJECTION OF STRUCTURED ARTIFICIAL NOISE

Based on the location-privacy preserving framework in Section 3, SAN is injected via adding fake paths. However, it is impractical to create extra scatterers for the fake paths. In the sequel, we design a transmit beamforming strategy to efficiently reduce the LPL to Eve.

#### 4.1. Alice’s Beamformer

Let \( \delta_\tau \) and \( \delta_{\theta_{\text{Rx}}} \) represent two parameters used for beamforming design. To enhance the location-privacy, Alice still employs the mmWave MISO OFDM signaling according to Section 2, but designs her transmitter beamformer \( \hat{f}^{(g,n)} \) as,

\[
\hat{f}^{(g,n)} = \left( I + e^{-\frac{2\pi n_\delta_{\theta_{\text{Rx}}}}{\pi}} \text{diag}(\alpha(\delta_{\theta_{\text{Rx}}})) \right) f^{(g,n)},
\]

for the \( g \)-th pilot signal transmitted over the \( n \)-th sub-carrier, where \( I \in \mathbb{R}^{N_t \times N_t} \) is the identity matrix and the operator \( \text{diag}(a) \) represents a diagonal matrix whose diagonal elements are given by vector \( a \).

#### 4.2. Bob’s Localization

Through the public channel \( h_{\text{Bob}}^{(g,n)} \), Bob receives

\[
y_{\text{Bob}}^{(g,n)} = h_{\text{Bob}}^{(g,n)} \tilde{f}^{(g,n)} = s^{(g,n)} + w_{\text{Bob}}^{(g,n)},
\]

for \( n = 0, 1, \ldots, N - 1 \) and \( g = 1, 2, \ldots, G \). Assume Bob has the knowledge of the structure of Alice’s beamformer in (7), i.e., the construction of \( \tilde{f}^{(g,n)} \) based on \( f^{(g,n)} \). By leveraging the transmissions over the secure channel, Bob also knows \( \delta = [\delta_\tau, \delta_{\theta_{\text{Rx}}}]^T \in \mathbb{R}^2 \) that is shared information. Given the pilot signal \( s^{(g,n)} \), he can construct the signal \( \tilde{s}^{(g,n)} \) as

\[
\tilde{s}^{(g,n)} = \tilde{f}^{(g,n)} s^{(g,n)} = \left( I + e^{-\frac{2\pi n_\delta_{\theta_{\text{Rx}}}}{\pi}} \text{diag}(\alpha(\delta_{\theta_{\text{Rx}}})) \right) s^{(g,n)},
\]

which simplifies (8) into (6), i.e., \( y_{\text{Bob}}^{(g,n)} = h_{\text{Bob}}^{(g,n)} \tilde{s}^{(g,n)} + w_{\text{Bob}}^{(g,n)} \). As a result, with the securely shared information, the degradation of Bob’s channel structure is negligible, which aids his localization accuracy. Note that the amount of shared information \( \delta \) does not increase with respect to the number of the received signal, i.e., \( N \) or \( G \), which is determined by the quantization and coding strategies. For simplicity, Bob is assumed to receive the perfect \( \delta \) through the secure channel.

#### 4.3. Eve’s Localization

Assume that the shared information \( \delta \) is recycled at a certain rate such that Eve can not decipher it. Then, the following received signal has to be used if Eve attempts to estimate Alice’s position,

\[
y_{\text{Eve}}^{(g,n)} = h_{\text{Eve}}^{(g,n)} \tilde{f}^{(g,n)} x^{(g,n)} + w_{\text{Eve}}^{(g,n)}
= \left( h_{\text{Eve}}^{(g,n)} + \tilde{h}^{(g,n)} \right) s^{(g,n)} + w_{\text{Eve}}^{(g,n)}
= h_{\text{Eve}}^{(g,n)} s^{(g,n)} + \xi^{(g,n)} + w_{\text{Eve}}^{(g,n)},
\]

where \( \xi^{(g,n)} \) and \( \tilde{h}^{(g,n)} \) are defined in (3) and (4), respectively, with \( \tilde{K} = K, \tilde{\gamma}_k = \gamma_k \),

\[
\tilde{\tau}_k = \tau_k + \delta_\tau,
\]

and

\[
\tilde{\theta}_{\text{Tx},k} = \arcsin(\sin(\theta_{\text{Tx},k}) + \sin(\delta_{\theta_{\text{Rx}}})).
\]

#### 4.4. Minimal Separation and Location-Privacy Leakage

Given that the values of \( \delta_\tau \) and \( \delta_{\theta_{\text{Rx}}} \) are small enough, the minimal separation for TOAs and that for AODs are \( \frac{d_y}{\lambda_c} \) and \( \frac{d_y \sin(\delta_{\theta_{\text{Rx}}})}{\lambda_c} \), respectively, according to (11), (12) and the definition of \( \Delta_{\text{min}}(\cdot) \). Coinciding with the goal of the framework proposed in Section 3, the minimal separation for TOAs and AODs can be efficiently decreased with the design of parameters \( \delta_\tau \) and \( \delta_{\theta_{\text{Rx}}} \) and thus the structure of the channel is effectively degraded.

Using the signals received over the SAN-distorted channel as defined in (10), it is more difficult for Eve to accurately estimate Alice’s position without the access to shared information, even in the present of the LOS path, which will be further verified in Section 5. We define the LPL as\(^5\),

\[
\text{LPL} \triangleq \frac{\text{RMSE}_{\text{Bob}} - \text{RMSE}_{\text{Eve}}}{\text{RMSE}_{\text{Bob}}},
\]

where \( \text{RMSE}_{\text{Bob}} \) and \( \text{RMSE}_{\text{Eve}} \) represent the root-mean-square error (RMSE) of localization achieved by Bob and Eve.

## 5. NUMERICAL RESULTS

To show the degradation of Eve’s eavesdropping ability with the proposed method, in this section, we evaluate the Cramér-Rao lower bound (CRLB) of the estimation of Alice’s position for Bob and Eve, respectively. With respect to LPL, we consider the worst case where the structure of Alice’s beamformer in (7) is exposed to Eve. In contrast to Bob who exploits \( y_{\text{Bob}}^{(g,n)} \) and \( \tilde{s}_{\text{Bob}}^{(g,n)} \) to estimate \( \{p, \{v_k\}, \{\gamma_k\}\} \), the goal of Eve is to infer \( \{p, \{v_k\}, \{\gamma_k\}, \delta_\tau, \delta_{\theta_{\text{Rx}}}\} \) using \( y_{\text{Eve}}^{(g,n)} \) and \( \tilde{s}_{\text{Eve}}^{(g,n)} \). Due to lack of space, the details regarding the CRLB are omitted. We refer the reader to [19] for related derivations. In all of the numerical results, the system parameters \( B, f_c, c, N_t, N, G, K, \) and \( d \) are set to 15 MHz, 60 GHz, 300 m/\text{us}, 16, 16, 12, and 2.

\(^4\)The proposed framework can be extended for the design of secure communications.

\(^5\)The optimal choice of these design parameters depends on the locations as well as the pilot signals, which is beyond the scope of this paper, but small values are suggested without CSI.

\(^6\)LPL \leq 0 means that Eve cannot infer Alice’s position more accurately than Bob; LPL > 0 means that Eve can achieve higher localization accuracy.
A location-privacy enhancement strategy was investigated with the injection of artificial noise. Due to the strong degradation of the quality of channel estimates, a larger CRLB for Eve’s localization is achieved as seen in Figs. 2 (c). With respect to the localization accuracy, there is around a 9dB advantage for Bob versus Eve using our proposed scheme. In addition, the LPL defined in (13) is reduced to around $-1.22$ according to Fig. 3, in contrast to the case without location-privacy preservation (LPL = 0), which suggests location-privacy enhancement. To show the influence of the choices of the design parameters for Alice’s beamformer, the CRLBs for localization are plotted in Fig. 2 (d), with increased values of $|\delta_{\tau}|$ and $|\delta_{\theta_{TX}}|$. As compared with the results in Fig. 2 (c), the gap between Bob and Eve’s performance is reduced due to the increase of the minimal separation based on the analysis in Section 4.4. The optimal choices of $\delta_{\tau}$ and $\delta_{\theta_{TX}}$ will be investigated in future work.

To validate the efficacy of SAN, CRLBs for channel estimation and localization with the injection of additional Gaussian noise [21] are also provided in Figs. 2 and 3 as comparisons. For fair comparison, the variance of the artificially added Gaussian noise $\varsigma^{(g,n)} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0,\varsigma^2)$ is set to a constant value for all SNRs, i.e., $\varsigma^2 = \frac{\sum_{g=1}^{G} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} |\mathbf{h}(g,n)_s|^2}{NG}$, while the SNR is still defined as previously stated. As observed in Figs. 2 and 3, the injection of the extra Gaussian noise is ineffective to preserve location-privacy at low SNRs since its constant variance is relatively small. In contrast, through the degradation of the channel structure, the proposed artificial noise strongly enhances location-privacy. As SNR increases, the injection of the additional Gaussian noise can further degrade the Eve’s performance due to the constant variance. However, only the worst case of our scheme has been shown here, where the structure of the designed beamformer is assumed to be accessible by Eve. Furthermore, to remove the artificially injected Gaussian noise for Bob without CSI, the amount of securely shared information, i.e., $\varsigma^{(g,n)}$, increases with respect to $NG$, in contrast to our scheme only leveraging two parameters $\delta_{\tau}$ and $\delta_{\theta_{TX}}$, for a given quantization and coding strategy.

6. CONCLUSIONS
A location-privacy enhancement strategy was investigated with the injection of artificial noise. A novel CSI-free location-privacy enhancement framework was proposed, where the structure of the channel was exploited for the design of SAN. To effectively preserve location-privacy based on the proposed framework, a transmit beamformer was designed to reduce the LPL to unauthorized devices, while authorized devices can maintain localization accuracy using the securely shared information. The proposed method strongly degraded the eavesdropping ability of unauthorized devices. With respect to the CRLB for localization, there was around 9dB degradation in contrast to authorized devices with the shared information. Furthermore, the efficacy of SAN was numerically verified with the comparison to unstructured Gaussian noise.
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