A Practical Non-Stationary Channel Model for Vehicle-to-Vehicle MIMO Communications

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Abstract—In this paper, a practical model for non-stationary Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) channels is proposed. The new model considers more accurate output phase of Doppler frequency and is simplified by the Taylor series expansions. It is also suitable for generating the V2V channel coefficient with arbitrary velocities and trajectories of the mobile transmitter (MT) and mobile receiver (MR). Meanwhile, the channel parameters of path delay and power are investigated and analyzed. The closed-form expressions of statistical properties, i.e., temporal autocorrelation function (TACF) and spatial cross-correlation function (SCCF) are also derived with the angle of arrival (AoA) and angle of departure (AoD) obeying the Von Mises (VM) distribution. In addition, the good agreements between the theoretical, simulated, and measured results validate the correctness and usefulness of the proposed model.

Index Terms—Non-stationary, V2V MIMO channel model, arbitrary velocities and trajectories, Von Mises (VM) distribution, statistical properties

I. INTRODUCTION

V2V communication systems with MIMO technology can improve comfort in driving and reduce the economic loss in traffic by exchanging the information between different vehicles. The MIMO technology can improve the channel capacity, bandwidth efficiency and link reliability [1], [2]. The V2V MIMO communication system has been viewed as a significant component of intelligent transportation and an application of fifth generation (5G) communication systems [3]–[5]. However, V2V channels are quite different from the traditional fixed-to-mobile (F2M) channels due to the moving transmitter and receiver and rapidly varying channel characteristics [6]–[11].

The geometry-based stochastic models (GBSMs) with wide-sense stationary (WSS) assumption for V2V channels have been widely accepted in the past few decades [12]–[14]. The statistical properties such as TACF and SCCF have been studied in [12], [13]. However, the measured results have indicated that the WSS assumption is only suitable for short time intervals [14] or short distance, i.e., 4.5m in non-line of sight (NLoS) scenarios. In other words, the V2V channels should be non-stationary and have the time-variant statistical properties under realistic communication scenarios.

Recently, several V2V channel models considering the time-variant non-stationary properties have been proposed [15]–[24]. Among them, the models in [15] and [16] were proposed for single-input single-output (SISO) channels, where the time-variant SCCFs and TACFs were also been studied. The authors in [17]–[21] studied the V2V model and statistical properties for MIMO channels. However, the output phase of Doppler frequency in these models [15]–[21] are not accurate compared with the theoretical ones [22]. The authors in [22] and [23] investigated the MIMO V2V channels but the proposed models are complicated and not practical to derive the closed-form expressions of SCCF and TACF. Note that the authors in [24] gave the TACF with the help of Taylor series expansions, but they only focused on SISO channels. This paper aims to fill the above research gaps.

In this paper, we develop a practical non-stationary V2V MIMO channel model with arbitrary velocities and trajectories of the MT and MR. With the help of Taylor series expansions, the new model is easy to simulate and can clearly reveal the impact of velocity variations on the channel characteristics. Meanwhile, the time evolving algorithms of channel parameters, i.e., the path power and path delay, are given and analyzed. In addition, the closed-form expressions of SCCF and TACF for the proposed model are also investigated, derived, and verified by the simulated and measured results.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section II, the theoretical model for V2V MIMO channels is presented. Section III gives the proposed practical model of theoretical model and the algorithms of channel parameters. In Section IV, the statistical properties of simulated method are investigated and derived. The simulation and validation are performed in Section V. Finally, the conclusions are given in Section VI.

II. THEORETICAL MODEL FOR V2V MIMO CHANNELS

Let’s consider a typical twin-cluster V2V communication model, where the MT and MR are moving in arbitrary trajec-
The V2V channel includes the multiple-bounced propagation where \( p \) for the V2V channels with time-variant velocities, but it’s not practical to simulate the model and calculate the time-variant channel parameters. The initial parameters and moving trajectories of two terminals can be provided by users in practice, while theoretical model is more general and cannot be applied with practical parameters directly. In order to simulate the V2V channels, we firstly rewrite the complex channel gain \( \tilde{h}_{p,q,n}(t, \tau) \) as
\[
\tilde{h}_{p,q,n}(t, \tau) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_{m=1}^{M} e^{j(2\pi f_{n,m}^{\text{b}}(t')dt'+\Phi_{n,m}(t)+\theta_{n,m})} (4)
\]
where \( \theta_{n,m} \) represents the initial random phase and distributed uniformly over \((0, 2\pi]\). Since the terminals are usually independent from each other, the total Doppler frequency can be calculated by \( f_{n,m}^{\text{b}}(t) = f_{n,m}^{\text{MT}}(t) + f_{n,m}^{\text{MR}}(t) \), where \( f_{n,m}^{\text{MT}}(t), i \in \{\text{MT, MR}\} \) denotes the Doppler frequency of the MT or MR and can be expressed as
\[
f_{n,m}^{\text{b}}(t) = \frac{v(t)}{\lambda} \cdot \cos(\alpha_{n,m}(t) - \alpha_{n}^{\text{b}}(t)) (5)
\]
where \( v(t) \) and \( \alpha_{n}^{\text{b}}(t) \) represent the speed and movement direction of MT or MR, respectively. Under V2V communication scenarios, the time-variant speed and moving direction can be assumed to change linearly, i.e., \( v(t) = v_0 + a_0 \cdot t \) and \( \alpha_{n}^{\text{b}}(t) = \alpha_{n}^{\text{b}}(0) + b_0 \cdot t \), where \( v_0 \) and \( b_0 \) mean the initial values of speed and moving direction of MT or MR, \( a_0 \) and \( b_0 \) represent the accelerations of speed and moving direction of MT or MR, respectively. Then, we expand \( \cos(\alpha_{n,m}(t) - \alpha_{n}^{\text{b}}(t)) \) by Taylor series expansion at \( t = 0 \) and take the first two terms to approximate it as
\[
\cos(\alpha_{n,m}(t) - \alpha_{n}^{\text{b}}(t)) = \cos(\alpha_{n}^{\text{b}}(0) + b_0 \cdot t) (6)
\]
where \( \alpha_{n}^{\text{b}}(0), i \in \{\text{MT, MR}\} \) denotes the initial AoA or AoD, \( b_0 \) represents the coefficient of first order in Taylor series expansion and can be expressed as
\[
k_0 = -\frac{v_0}{\lambda} \cdot \sin^2(\alpha_{n,m}^{\text{b}} - \alpha_{n}^{\text{b}}) + b_0 \cdot \sin(\alpha_{n,m}^{\text{b}} - \alpha_{n}^{\text{b}}) (7)
\]
where \( d_{n}^{\text{b}}, i \in \{\text{MT, MR}\} \) denotes the initial distance between the terminal MT or MR and cluster \( S_{n}^{\text{MT}} \) or \( S_{n}^{\text{MR}} \), and \( \alpha_{n}^{\text{b}}, i \in \{\text{MT, MR}\} \) represents the initial AoA or AoD at \( t = 0 \). It should be mentioned that only the two terms of Taylor series expansion can match the \( \cos(\alpha_{n,m}(t) - \alpha_{n}^{\text{b}}(t)) \) well. Finally, \( f_{n,m}^{\text{b}}(t) \) can be simplified and obtained by
\[
f_{n,m}^{\text{b}}(t) \approx a_0^{\text{b}} b_0 t^2 \frac{v_0 \cos(\alpha_{n,m}^{\text{b}}-\alpha_{n}^{\text{b}}) + v_0^2 k_0^2 t + v_0^2 \cos(\alpha_{n,m}^{\text{b}}-\alpha_{n}^{\text{b}})}{\lambda} (8)
\]
Similarly, the phase \( \Phi_{n,m}(t) \) in (4) can be calculated by \( \Phi_{n,m}(t) = \Phi_{n,m}^{\text{MT}}(t) + \Phi_{n,m}^{\text{MR}}(t) \), where \( \Phi_{n,m}(t), i \in \{\text{MT, MR}\} \) denotes the phase at the MT or MR. By using
\[
\tilde{h}_{p,q,n}(t, \tau) = \lim_{M \to \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_{m=1}^{M} e^{j\Phi_{n,m}(t)} \cdot e^{j(2\pi f_{n,m}^{\text{b}}(t')dt'+\theta_{n,m})} (3)
\]
Taylor series expansions, the phase $\Phi_{n,m}(t)$ can be simplified and obtained by

$$\Phi_{n,m}(t) \approx \frac{\pi}{\lambda} (k_1^i d_{u,x}^i + k_2^i d_{u,y}^i) t + \frac{\pi}{\lambda} (\cos(\alpha_{n,m}^i) \cdot d_{u,x}^i + \sin(\alpha_{n,m}^i) \cdot d_{u,y}^i)$$

(9)

where $u \in \{p, q\}$ denotes the $u$th MT antenna element or $u$th MR antenna element, $k_1^i$ and $k_2^i$ can be expressed as

$$k_1^i = -\frac{\pi}{\lambda} \cdot \sin^2(\alpha_{n,m}^i) + b_0^i \cdot \sin(\alpha_{n,m}^i)$$

$$k_2^i = -\frac{\pi}{\lambda} \cdot \cos^2(\alpha_{n,m}^i) + b_0^i \cdot \cos(\alpha_{n,m}^i).$$

(10)

By substituting (3) and (2) into (4), $\hat{h}_{p,q,n}(t, \tau)$ of our simulation model can be simplified as

$$\hat{h}_{p,q,n}(t, \tau) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_{m=1}^{M} e^{i(A \cdot 3 + B \cdot t^2 + C \cdot t + D + \theta_{n,m})}$$

(11)

where

$$A = \frac{2\pi}{3\lambda} a_0^i k_0^i$$

$$B = \frac{\pi}{\lambda} (a_0^i \cdot \cos(\alpha_{n,m}^i - \alpha_v^i) + v_0^i k_0^i)$$

$$C = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} (v_0^i \cdot \cos(\alpha_{n,m}^i - \alpha_v^i) + k_1^i d_{u,x}^i + k_2^i d_{u,y}^i)$$

$$D = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} (\cos(\alpha_{n,m}^i) \cdot d_{u,x}^i + \sin(\alpha_{n,m}^i) \cdot d_{u,y}^i).$$

(12)

B. Time-variant parameters

The time-variant distance $d_{u}^i(t)$ between the terminals and clusters can be calculated according to the initial values and be expressed as (13), where $\alpha_{n,m}^i$, $i \in \{\text{MT}, \text{MR}\}$ means the initial mean angles of AoA or AoD. By expanding $d_{u}^i(t)$ with the Taylor expansion at $t = 0$ and only taking the first two terms, $d_{u}^i(t)$ can be simplified as

$$d_{u}^i(t) \approx d_{n}^i - v_0^i \cdot \cos(\alpha_{n}^i - \alpha_v) \cdot t.$$  

(14)

The delay of the $n$th path can be divided into three parts, i.e., the delay of the MT, the delay of virtual link, and the delay of the MR. Then, it can be calculated as (15), where $c$ denotes the speed of light, and $\tilde{T}_n(t)$ is the equivalent delay of virtual link and can be updated by a first-order filtering method [20].

The power of the $n$th path can be calculated as $[21]$

$$P_n(t) = e^{-\tau_{n}(t)} \frac{\pi}{\sigma_T^2} \cdot Z_n(t) \cdot e^{-\frac{\pi}{\sigma_T^2}}$$

(16)

where $\tau_{n}$, $\sigma_T$ and $Z_n$ denote the shadow term, delay distribution and delay spread, respectively. The normalized process can be expressed as

$$P_n(t) = \frac{P_n(t)}{\sum_{n=1}^{N} P_n(t)}.$$  

(17)

IV. Statistical Properties of Proposed Model

The normalized spatial-temporal correlation function (STCF) between the $\hat{h}_{p_1,q_1,n}(t)$ and $\hat{h}_{p_2,q_2,n}(t + \Delta t)$ can be defined as $[23]$

$$\rho_n(t,\Delta t,\Delta d_p,\Delta d_q) = \frac{E[\hat{h}_{p_1,q_1,n}(t) \cdot \hat{h}_{p_2,q_2,n}(t + \Delta t)]}{\sqrt{E[\hat{h}_{p_1,q_1,n}(t)]^2} \cdot E[\hat{h}_{p_2,q_2,n}(t + \Delta t)]}.$$  

(18)

where $E[\cdot]$ denotes the expectation function, $(\cdot)^* \in \mathbb{C}$ is complex conjugate, $\Delta t$ means the time lag, $\Delta d_p = \|\text{d}^\text{MT} - \text{d}^\text{MT}_p\|$ and $\Delta d_q = \|\text{d}^\text{MR} - \text{d}^\text{MR}_q\|$ mean antenna element spacing of MT and MR, respectively. In addition, the random parameters $\alpha_{n,m}^\text{MT}$ and $\alpha_{n,m}^\text{MR}$ can be characterized by a certain PDF. Several previous work have mentioned that the AoA and AoD may follow the uniform, Gaussian, and so on under different scattering scenarios. However, the measurement results in [27] and [28] revealed that the von Mise (VM) distribution is flexible and can approximate these distributions well. Thus, it is assumed in this paper that the AoA and AoD obey the VM distribution as

$$p_{\alpha_{n,m}^i}(\alpha_{n}^i(t)) = \frac{\exp(k^i \cdot \cos(\alpha_{n,m}^i(t) - \alpha_v^i(t)))}{2\pi \cdot I_0(k^i)}.$$  

(19)

where $k^i$ denotes the factor related to the concentration of distribution, $I_0(\cdot)$ represents the zeroth-order modified Bessel function of the first kind, and $\alpha_v^i(t)$ denotes the mean value of AoA or AoD.

A. Time-variant SCCF

The SCCF can be viewed as a special case of STCF with the time lag $\Delta t$ equal zero. Considering the condition that the clusters around the MT and MR are independent, the SCCF of our simulation model can be rewritten as $\rho_n(t, \Delta d_p, \Delta d_q) = \rho_{\text{MT}}(t, \Delta d_p) \cdot \rho_{\text{MR}}(t, \Delta d_q)$, where $\rho_n(t, \Delta d_u)$, $i \in \{\text{MT}, \text{MR}\}$, $u \in \{p, q\}$ represents the SCCF at the MT or MR. In order to simplify the analyze, we consider the uniform linear array and set the antenna elements along the $y$ axis. Then, the antenna element of the MT or MR on the $x$ axis equal to zero, i.e., $d_{u_1,x}^i = d_{u_2,x}^i = 0$, $i \in \{\text{MT}, \text{MR}\}$, $u \in \{p, q\}$. Holding this condition, the $\rho_n(t, \Delta d_u)$ can be expressed as

$$\rho(n,\Delta d_u) = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot \sin(\alpha_{n,m}^i(t)) \cdot \Delta d_u} \rho_{\alpha_{n,m}^i}(\alpha_{n}^i(t)) d\alpha_v^i.$$  

(20)
Combining (19–20) and using the integral formula in [29, eq. (3.38-4)], the closed-form of SCCF can be proved as
\[ \rho_n^i(t, \Delta d_u) = \frac{h_i(\sqrt{n^2 + (\Delta d_u)^2} - \sqrt{n^2 + \Delta d_u^2} \cdot \cos(\alpha_n^i(t)))}{\rho_n^i(t, \Delta t)}, \] (21)
Finally, the closed-form theoretical expression of SCCF for our proposed method can be obtained.

B. Time-variant TACF

The TACF can be reduced from STCF by setting the space of antenna elements equal zero and it can be rewritten as
\[ \rho_n^i(t, \Delta t) = \rho_n^i(t, \Delta t) \cdot \rho_n^i(t, \Delta t), \]
where \( \rho_n^i(t, \Delta t), i \in \{\text{MT, MR}\} \) denotes the TACF at the MT or MR as (22).

In (19), when \( \kappa^i \) is fixed or almost constant during a short time interval, the shape of distribution of constant and the relative angle offset is almost constant at small instants, i.e., \( \alpha_n^i(t + \Delta t) - \bar{\alpha}_n^i(t + \Delta t) \approx \alpha_n^i(t) - \bar{\alpha}_n^i(t) \). Holding this condition and substituting (19) into (22) and using [29, eq. (3.38-4)], the closed-form of TACF can be obtained as (23), where \( R_n^i \) and \( S_n^i \) can be expressed as (24).

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this section, three typical V2V scenarios with trajectories variations of the MT and MR are adopted to validate the proposed model by comparing the theoretical and measured results. The three scenarios are the opposite direction I, opposite direction II and right turn, which have the same speed and initial directions of the MT or MR. The first and second scenarios are different in the acceleration of moving direction \( a_n^i \) and \( a_n^i \) set to be a constant value. The first and third scenarios are different in the acceleration of moving direction \( b_n^i \) and \( b_n^i \) set to be a constant value. The VM distribution is used to approximate the PDFs of AoA and AoD and the factor of VM distribution \( \kappa \) equals to 1. The carrier frequency is 2.48 GHz. The detailed velocity parameters of the MT and MR are listed in Table 1.

By using (13)–(21), the theoretical and simulated SCCFs of our simulated method at three instants, i.e., \( t = 0s, 2s \) and \( 5s \) under three scenarios are shown in Fig. 2(a), (b) and (c), respectively. It is shown that the simulated results of our method match well with the theoretical ones, which verifies the correctness of our simulated method and our derivations. It is easy to obtain that the larger antenna spacing, the less SCCFs. By comparing the SCCFs in Fig. 2(a) and (b), the SCCFs under opposite direction II change faster than the ones under the first scenario for the different initial value of \( a_n^i \). By comparing the SCCFs in Fig. 2(a) and (c), the SCCFs under right turn change faster than the ones under opposite direction for the different initial value of \( b_n^i \).

By using (13) and (22)-(24), the theoretical, simulated, and measured TACFs at three time instant i.e., \( t = 0s, 2s \) and \( 5s \) are shown in Fig. 3. By comparing the TACFs under different scenarios, the different TACFs at the same time instant indicate that the impact of parameter \( a_n^i \) and \( b_n^i \) having on TACFs’ fading speed. It is reasonable to be obtained that the larger the parameter, the more complicated the communication scenarios, and the faster the speed of TACFs fading. In addition, the good agreement between the measurement [6] and simulated results of our proposed simulated method validates the usefulness of our simulated method in actual V2V communication scenarios. In addition, it respectively takes 4.57s and 3.82s to obtain the results of TACF and SCCF in the theoretical model with computer configured with i5-4210M CPU and 4 GB RAM, while it takes only 1.53s and 0.86s in our simulation model with the same configuration.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have proposed a practical model for the V2V channels considering the velocity variations and arbitrary
Fig. 2. Theoretical and simulated SCCFs under (a) opposite direction I, (b) opposite direction II and (c) right turn at different time instants.

Fig. 3. Theoretical, simulated, and measured TACFs under (a) opposite direction I, (b) opposite direction II and (c) right turn at different time instants.

trajectories. By using the Taylor series expansions, the channel parameters can be simplified by the initial values of velocity and location, i.e., distance, antenna spacing, etc. With the method of Taylor series expansions, the closed-form expressions of statistical properties such as the SCCF and TACF have also been derived. The correctness and usefulness of proposed model have been validated by the good agreements between the theoretical, simulated, and measured results. In the future, the proposed model can be applied on designing, evaluating, and validating the V2V communication systems under realistic scenarios.

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