Full-Duplex Massive MIMO Cellular Networks with Low Resolution ADC/DAC

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Abstract—In this paper, we provide an analytical framework for full-duplex (FD) massive multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) cellular networks with low resolution analog-to-digital and digital-to-analog converters (ADCs and DACs). Matched filters are employed at the FD base stations (BSs) at the transmit and receive sides. For both reverse and forward links, we derive the expressions of the signal-to-quantization-plus-interference-and-noise ratio (SQINR) for general and special cases. We further evaluate the outage probability and spectral efficiency for reverse and forward links, and quantify the effects of the quantization error, loopback self-interference and inter-user interference for cells arranged in a hexagonal lattice and Poisson Point Process (PPP) tessellations. Finally, we derive analytical expressions for spectral efficiency for asymptotic cases as well as for power scaling laws.

Index Terms—Full Duplex, Massive MIMO, Low Resolution Data Converters, Cellular Networks, Interference.

I. INTRODUCTION

Full duplex (FD) has emerged as an attractive solution to double the spectral efficiency because the transmission and the reception occur simultaneously in the same resource blocks. In addition, FD devices can use a shared array, i.e., the same array can be used for transmission and reception without dedicating two separate arrays, which can substantially reduce cost. These benefits make FD applicable in practice such as machine-to-machine and integrated access and backhaul which is currently proposed in 3GPP release 17 [1]. Although FD brings many advantages, it suffers from loopback self-interference (SI) caused by the simultaneous transmission and reception in the same resource blocks. This loopback signal cannot be neglected as the relative SI power can be several orders or magnitude stronger than the received signal power, which can render FD systems dysfunctional [2], [3].

To overcome this limitation, massive MIMO has been proposed as a viable solution to enable FD operation. A massive number of antennas can provide enough degrees of freedom (DoF) not only to improve the spatial multiplexing gain but also substantially mitigate the SI. Thanks to these benefits, massive MIMO FD has been considered for cellular networks, millimeter wave applications such as IEEE 802.11ad and 802.11ay Wi-Fi standards, and 5G New Radio (NR) in 3GPP Release 15 [4]–[6].

Employing a massive number of antennas, however, can lead to huge power consumption, particularly for full-digital systems wherein each RF chain and ADC/DAC are dedicated for each antenna element. In addition, this power consumption can be prohibitive for the higher bandwidths in millimeter wave applications. For this reason, several researchers have proposed low-resolution ADCs/DACs to reduce the power consumption at the expense of spectral efficiency [7]. Increasingly, energy efficiency is becoming a more important system design measure than spectral efficiency.

In this context, we consider the application of FD with low resolution ADCs and DACs in cellular networks. The BS operates in FD mode while the user equipments (UEs) are operating in half-duplex mode. Due to the limited space, we defer the analysis of pilot contamination in an extension of this work, and for now, assume pilot orthogonality is maintained across the network cells. The results are simulated for a hexagonal lattice with different tiers as well as Voronoi tessellation for Poisson Point Process (PPP) networks. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first work which considers the application of FD systems with low resolution ADCs and DACs for cellular networks.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section II discusses the network model, while analyses of the reverse and forward links are provided by Sections III and IV, respectively. Asymptotic analysis and power scaling laws are derived in Section V, and numerical results are reported in Section VI. Concluding remarks appear in Section VII.

For notation, italic non-bold letter refers to a scalar while bold lower case and bold upper case stand for vector and matrix, respectively. We further denote the scripting $u$ and $d$ for uplink and downlink, respectively.

II. NETWORK MODEL

We consider a macrocellular network where each BS operates in FD mode and is equipped with $N_u \gg 1$ antennas. Each UE operates in half-duplex mode and has a single antenna.

A. Large-Scale Fading

Each UE is associated with the BS from which it has the strongest large-scale channel gain and we denote by $K_u^\ell$ and $K_d^\ell$ the number of uplink and downlink UEs served by the $\ell$-th BS. The large-scale gain comprises pathloss with exponent $\eta > 2$ and shadowing that is independently and identically distributed (IID) across the paths. In particular, the large-scale
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∞

δ

where

h

l,k

= 2

η

is the additive quantization noise,

ρ

α

1

ρ

H

x

y

y

q

α

P

f

k

\hat{h}_{\ell,k}

\epsilon_{\ell,n}(l,k)

G_{\ell,(l,k)} = \frac{L_{\text{ref}}}{r_{\ell,(l,k)}} \chi_{\ell,(l,k)}

G_{\ell,(l,k)} = \frac{L_{\text{ref}}}{r_{\ell,(l,k)}} \chi_{\ell,(l,k)}

with

L_{\text{ref}}

as the pathloss intercept at a unit distance,

r_{\ell,(l,k)}

the link distance, and

\chi_{\ell,(l,k)}

as the shadowing coefficient

E[\chi^2]\n
\leq \infty,

where

\delta

Without loss of generality, we denote the

0
-th BS as the focus of interest and we drop its subscript.

Further, we introduce large-scale fading between the UEs to model the inter-user communication. We denote

T_{\ell,n}(l,k)

as the large-scale channel gain between the

n
-th user and the

k
-th user associated with the

\ell
-th and

l
-th BSs, respectively.

B. Small-Scale Fading

We denote

h_{\ell,(l,k)}

\sim \mathcal{N}_c(0, I)

as the normalized reverse link

N_a \times N_a

1

small-scale fading between the

k
-th user located in cell

l

and the BS in cell

\ell

and

h_{\ell,(l,k)}^*

as the forward link reciprocal, assuming time division duplexing (TDD) with perfect calibration. In addition, we denote by

g_{\ell,(l,n)}(l,k) \sim \mathcal{N}_c(0, a^2_n)

the

1 \times 1

small-scale fading between the

n
-th user in cell

\ell

and the

k
-th user in cell

l
.

We further denote by

H_{SI} \sim \mathcal{N}_{C}(0, \mu_{SI}}^2

the SI channel matrix

(N_a \times N_a)

Remark. In this work, we assume perfect knowledge of the SI channel. This assumption can be adopted since the line-of-sight (LOS) component (near-field) of the SI channel is dominant and deterministic while the external non-LOS SI channel component is random and negligible. Without loss of generality, we consider a random SI channel matrix. The estimation of the SI channel can be carried out with conventional methods such as Least Square (LS) or Minimum Mean Square Error (MMSE) estimators. If the channel matrix is sparse, then the compressive sensing method will be the best candidate, in particular, for large matrix dimension. In addition, we can still consider an estimate of the SI channel (\(H_{SI}\)) while the estimation error can be accounted as additional source of SI. Note that tackling the SI channel estimation problem is out of the scope of this work.

C. Quantized Signal Model

For infinite resolution, a typical received signal

y = Hx + n

where

H

, 

x

, and

n
are the channel matrix, the precoded symbols and the additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN), respectively. Several nonlinear quantization models have been proposed in the literature; however, the analysis of such models is complex for a higher number of ADC bits. In quantized systems, a lower bound to the spectral efficiency has been derived by treating the quantization as additive Gaussian noise with variance inversely proportional to the resolution of the quantizer, i.e.

2^{-b} is the number of ADC bits. Recent publications \[8, 9\] have considered the additive quantization noise model (AQNM) for mmWave signals with an arbitrary number of ADC bits. In addition, the work \[10\] derived Gaussian approximations using Bussgang Theory to linearize the nonlinear quantization distortion which is quite similar to the AQNM. The received signal \[2\] is processed through the RF chains and then converted to the digital discrete-time domain by the ADC. The AQNM represents the quantized version of \[2\] given by

\[y_q = \alpha y + q\]

where

q

is the additive quantization noise,

\alpha = 1 - \rho

and

\rho

is the inverse of the signal-to-quantization-plus-noise ratio (SQNR), which is inversely proportional to the square of the resolution of an ADC, i.e.,

\[\rho = 2\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} \cdot 2^{-2b}\]

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{b} & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\
\hline
\textbf{\rho} & 0.3634 & 0.1175 & 0.03454 & 0.009497 & 0.002499 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{\(\rho\) for different values of \(b\) (\(b \leq 5\)) \[10\].}
\end{table}

III. REVERSE LINK ANALYSIS

The \(k\)-th uplink user in cell \(\ell\) sends the data symbol

s_{\ell,k} \sim \mathcal{N}_C(0, 1)

Since the BS operates in FD mode, the signal intended to downlink users is leaked to the receive array of the BS and incurs loopback SI that corrupts the uplink users. Upon data transmission from the users, the BS of interest observes the following quantized received signal vector

\[y^u = \alpha_u \sum_{\ell} \sum_{k=0}^{K_{\ell}-1} \sqrt{G_{\ell,k} P_{\ell,k}} h_{\ell,k} s_{\ell,k} + \alpha_u \sqrt{P_{SI}} H_{SI} q_d\]

\[+ \alpha_u \alpha_s \sqrt{P_{SI}} \sum_{k=0}^{K_{\ell}-1} H_{SI} f_k^d + q_u + \alpha_u v\]

where

P_{\ell,k}

is the transmit power of the uplink user served by the BS of interest to the \(\ell\)-th BS and

v \sim \mathcal{N}_C(0, I)

is the additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) vector \((N_a \times 1)\).

A. Channel Hardening

One of the benefits of having a massive number of antennas is the hardening of the filtered signals. Suppose that, rather than

w_k^\dagger h_k

(h is the estimate of \( h \)), the decoder regards

E[w_k^\dagger h_k] as the filtered channel. The receiver can compute
this value from the channel statistics while the fluctuation of
the filtered signal around the mean can be treated as self-
interference. By decomposing the interference into inter-cell
and intra-cell and applying the linear receiver model we
know the $\kappa$-th user ($y_k = w^*_k y$), the received signal at the BS of interest
of the $k$-th user is given by (5) on the next page.

B. Matched Filter Receiver

We adopt the matched filter receiver to design the combiner
$w_k$, $k = 0, \ldots, K^u - 1$.

**Corollary 1.** The matched filter receiver $w^a_k$ (transmitter
$f^a_k$) has the following properties

1) $E \left( \|w^a_k \|^2 \right) = E \left( \|f^a_k \|^2 \right) = N_a$.
2) $E \left( \|w^a_k \|^4 \right) = N_a^2 + N_a$.
3) $E \left( w^a_k h_{\ell,k} \right)^2 = E \left( h^*_{\ell,k} f_{\ell,k} \right)^2 = N_a$.

**Theorem 1.** The output SQINR of the $k$-th uplink user is (6).

$$\frac{\text{sqINR}_k}{\text{den}_u} = \frac{\alpha^2_a G_k P_k E\left[|w^a_k h^*_{\ell,k}|^2\right]}{\text{num}_u}$$

where $\text{den}_u$ is given by (7) on the next page.

The numerator of (6) and the first four terms of (7) on the
next page can be solved using the properties in Corollary 1
while the remaining terms of (7) can be derived as follows

$$\sum_{k=0}^{K^u-1} E\left[|w^a_k H^a_{\ell,k}|^2\right] = \mu^2_a K^u N_a^2$$

$$E\left[|w^a_k H^a_{\ell,k}|^2\right] = \alpha_d (1 - \alpha_d) \mu^2_a N_a^2$$

$$E\left[|w^a_k q_{\ell,k}|^2\right] = N_a \alpha_a (1 - \alpha_a) \left[2G_k P_k + \sum_{k \neq k} G_k P_k\right] + \sum_{\ell \neq k}^K G_{\ell,k} P_{\ell,k} + \alpha_d \mu^2_a N_a + \sigma^2$$

**Proof.** The proof of (8), (9), and (10) are provided by Appendix A in [7].

With $\text{sqINR}_k$, $k = 0, \ldots, K^u - 1$, stable over the respective local neighborhoods, the evaluation of the gross
spectral efficiencies does not require averaging over the fading
realizations, but rather is directly computed as

$$\frac{x_k}{B} = \log \left( 1 + \text{sqINR}_k \right), \quad k = 0, \ldots, K^u - 1$$

where $B$ is the bandwidth.

**Corollary 2.** To further characterize the spectral efficiency, we
can derive a new bound using the following formula. Assuming statistical independence between $x$ and $y$, we have

$$E \left[ \log \left( 1 + \frac{x}{y} \right) \right] \approx \log \left( 1 + \frac{E[x]}{E[y]} \right)$$

Assuming perfect channel state information (CSI), i.e.,
without channel hardening, and applying Corollary 2 the
numerator of (6) becomes

$$\text{num}_u^a = \alpha^2_a G_k P_k \mathbb{E} \left[ |w^a_k h^*_{\ell,k}|^2 \right] = \alpha^2_a G_k P_k (N_a^2 + N_a)$$

while the first term of (7) vanishes since the CSI is perfect.

**Proposition 1.** Considering a single-cell multiuser system
(without any inter-cell interference) with perfect CSI, Corol-
lar 2 entails the results for uplink users in [7].

IV. FORWARD LINK ANALYSIS

The signal transmitted by the $\ell$-th BS is

$$x_\ell = \sum_{k=0}^{K^u-1} \sqrt{\frac{P_{\ell,k}}{N_a}} f_{\ell,k} s_{\ell,k}$$

where $P_{\ell,k}$ is the power allocated to the data symbol $s_{\ell,k} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0,1)$, which is precoded by $f_{\ell,k}$ and intended for its $k$-th user. The power allocation satisfies

$$\sum_{k=0}^{K^u-1} P_{\ell,k} = P$$

where $P$ is the downlink power per cell. Since the BS operates
in FD mode, the uplink users are only corrupted by the SI
while the downlink users are SI-free. But since the uplink
users are sending simultaneously when the downlink users are
receiving, the latter are vulnerable to the inter-user interference
caused by the uplink users.

Upon data transmission from the BS of interest, the $k$-th user observes the following quantized received signal from
the BS of interest as

$$y^d_k = \alpha_d \sum_{\ell=0}^{K^u-1} \sqrt{\frac{G_{\ell,k} P_{\ell,k}}{N_a}} h^*_{\ell,k} f_{\ell,k} s_{\ell,k}$$

$$+ \sum_{\ell \neq k} G_{\ell,k} P_{\ell,k} h^*_{\ell,k} q_{d,\ell}$$

$$+ \sum_{\ell=0}^{K^u-1} \sqrt{T_{\ell,k} P_{\ell,k} g_{\ell,k}} h^*_{\ell,k} q_{d,\ell}$$

**A. Channel Hardening**

Since we consider receivers reliant on channel hardening,
the $k$-th user served by the BS of interest regards $E[h^*_{\ell,k} f_{\ell,k}]$ as
its precoded channel wherein the small-scale fading is averaged.

The variation of the actual precoded channel around the
mean incurs self-interference, such that (16) can be formulated as (17).

**B. Matched Filter Precoder**

The $\ell$-th BS gathers the channel estimates
$h_{\ell,0}, \ldots, h_{\ell,K^u-1}$ from the reverse link pilots

With $\hat{h}_{\ell,0}, \ldots, \hat{h}_{\ell,K^u-1}$ from the reverse link pilots
transmitted by its own users. With matched filter transmitter, the precoders at cell $\ell$ are given by
\[
f_{l,k} = \sqrt{N_a} \frac{h_{l,k}^* f_k}{\sqrt{\mathbb{E}[|h_{l,k}^*|^2]}} , \quad k = 0, \ldots, K^d_{\ell} - 1
\] (18)
where the precoders share the same properties as the matched filter receiver indicated by Corollary 1.

**Theorem 2.** The output SQINR of the $k$-th downlink user is expressed by (19).

\[
y_k^u = \alpha_u \sqrt{G_k P_k} \mathbb{E} |w_k^* h_k| s_k + \alpha_u \sum_{k \neq k} \sqrt{G_k P_k} w_k^* h_k s_k + \alpha_u \sum_{k=0}^{K^d_{\ell}-1} \sqrt{G_{l,k}^\ell P_{l,k}} w_{l,k}^* h_{l,k,s_{l,k}} + \alpha_u w_k^* v
\] (5)

\[
\text{Delit}_u^{MF} = \alpha_d^2 G_k P_k \mathbb{E} |w_k^* h_k|^2 + \alpha_d^2 \sum_{k \neq k} G_k P_k \mathbb{E} \left[ |w_k^* h_k|^2 \right] + \alpha_d^2 \sum_{k=0}^{K^d_{\ell}-1} G_k P_k \mathbb{E} \left[ |w_k^* h_{l,k}|^2 \right] + \alpha_d^2 \sum_{k=0}^{K^d_{\ell}-1} G_{l,k}^\ell P_{l,k} \mathbb{E} [h_{l,k}^* h_{l,k}|_{s_{l,k}}]
\] (7)

\[
y_k^d = \alpha_d \sqrt{\frac{G_k P_k}{N_a}} \mathbb{E} [h_{k}^* f_k] s_k + \alpha_d \sqrt{\frac{G_k P_k}{N_a}} (h_{k}^* f_k - \mathbb{E} [h_{k}^* f_k]) s_k + \alpha_d \sum_{k \neq k} \sqrt{\frac{G_k P_k}{N_a}} h_{k}^* f_k s_k + \sum_{k=0}^{K^d_{\ell}-1} \sqrt{\frac{T_{l,k}^\ell P_{l,k}}{N_a}} h_{l,k}^* q_{l,k}
\] (17)

Proof. The proof of the (21) and (22) are given by [7].

Assuming perfect CSI and applying the Corollary 2, the numerator of (19) becomes
\[
\text{num}_d^{MF} = \alpha_d^2 G_k P_k \mathbb{E} [h_{k}^* h_{k}^*] = \alpha_d^2 G_k P_k (N_a + 1)
\] (23)
while the first term of (20) vanishes since the CSI is perfect.

**Proposition 2.** Considering a single-cell multiuser system (without any inter-cell interference) with perfect CSI, Corollary 2 entails the results for downlink users in [7].

**Proposition 3.** Considering the channel hardening scenario, without full-duplexing (and hence no co-channel interference between users) and with full-resolution ADC/DAC, we retrieve the results derived for downlink users in multicell massive MIMO systems in [5].

V. ASYMPTOTIC ANALYSIS AND POWER SCALING LAWS

In the section, we investigate the effects of the number of quantization bits, the number of antennas at the BS, the power budgets of the BS and each user on the spectral efficiency performance for reverse and forward links.

**Lemma 1.** For a fixed power budget, fixed number of transmit antennas and full-resolution ($b \to \infty$, $\alpha_u = \alpha_d = 1$), the spectral efficiencies for reverse and forward links converge to (24) and (25), respectively.
Lemma 3. The number of quantization bits provides an approximation of the uplink spectral efficiency when \( N_a \) goes to infinity.

\[
\frac{T^u_k}{B} \rightarrow \log \left( 1 + \frac{\alpha_d G_k P_k}{\sigma^2} \right)
\]

(29)

implies that using a proper power scaling and more antennas can eliminate the inter-user interference caused by full-duplexing. The number of quantization bits determines the approximate downlink spectral efficiency when the number of the antennas at a FD BS, \( N_a \), goes to infinity.

VI. NUMERICAL RESULTS

In this section, we provide the numerical results of the system performance along with the discussion. Unless otherwise stated, Table II presents the values of the system parameters. We assume uniform power allocation for the forward links.

Fig. 2 provides the results of the cumulative distribution function (CDF) or the outage probability of the downlink SQINR. The performance for PPP tesselation serve as an upper bound for the hexagonal lattice. This fairly justifies that PPP is more accurate model as the network degradation that are not taken into account for the hexagonal grid are indirectly incorporated. In addition, we observe that the performance gets worse with inter-user interference which is incurred by FD operation of the BS and the uplink UEs transmission. The loss incurred by the low-resolution ADC/DAC is about 2 dB when the CDF saturates.

Fig. 3 illustrates the uplink spectral efficiency versus the number of quantization bits (b) simulated with PPP tesselation network. We observe that the spectral efficiency increases with \( b \) and converges to a ceiling derived by Lemma 1 (24) while the rate is decreased by adopting low-resolution ADC/DAC (low b). We further observe the impact of the SI power how it degrades the spectral efficiency for 10 W and 40 W of SI power compared to the SI-free scenario.

Fig. 4 illustrates the downlink spectral efficiency versus the number of antennas at the BS simulated for PPP tesselation network. We observe that the rate increases with the number

| Parameter          | Value        |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Bandwidth          | 20 MHz       |
| Pathloss Exponent  | 3.5          |
| Shadowing          | 5 dB         |
| Downlink Transmit Power | 40 W   |
| Uplink Transmit Power | 250 mW  |
| SI Power           | 40 W         |
| SI Channel Power   | 10 dB        |
| Noise Spectral Density | -174 dBm/Hz |
| Number of antennas | 100          |
of quantization bits and antennas. When considering low-resolution and full-resolution data converters, the spectral efficiency converges to a fixed ceiling with an increased number of antennas, which agrees with Lemma 3 [29]. Given that, the increase in the frequency reuse factor is often adopted to improve the cellular coverage; however, this increase is paid for by decreasing the rate in the network.

VII. CONCLUSION

In this work, we investigated the performance of FD massive MIMO cellular networks with low-resolution ADCs and DACs. Using matched filter precoding and combining at the BS with the AQNM model and with transmitters and receivers relying on channel hardening, we analyzed the SQINR CDF and spectral efficiency for reverse and forward links and for hexagonal and PPP networks. We further derived the asymptotic expressions and the power scaling laws. The results indicate that the quantization error and SI incur pronounced losses in the system performance; however, this loss can be compensated by using more antennas. Finally, this work shows the feasibility of FD with low-resolution ADCs and DACs in massive MIMO cellular networks.

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