



TAMPEREEN TEKNILLINEN YLIOPISTO

VICTOR JUAREZ-LERIA
TIMING-BASED LOCATION ESTIMATION FOR OFDM SIGNALS
WITH APPLICATIONS IN LTE, WLAN AND WIMAX

Master of Science Thesis

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Abstract

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Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM) has gained importance in recent years and it is the technique selected for wireless systems, such as Long-Term Evolution (LTE) for 4G communications systems, Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN) or WiMAXTM. For this reason, OFDM systems have been under study in order to develop more accurate mobile stations positioning, both in outdoors and indoors environments. Nevertheless, OFDM systems require high timing synchronization accuracy in order to be able to receive the signal correctly, which makes timing synchronization estimation a key issue in OFDM receivers. Propagation is especially complicated over wireless channels, where the presence of multipath propagation, high level of interference signals or the obstruction of Line Of Sight (LOS) path make timing estimation even more difficult in indoor environments.

The research results presented in this thesis focus on the study of different coarse positioning techniques for wireless networks using OFDM signals, for various static single path channels and fading multipath channels. The methods under study are based on timing synchronization algorithms and various preambles embedded in the OFDM signal. Also Correlation-Based Timing Synchronization estimators (CBTS) and Multiple Signal Classification (MUSIC) approaches are investigated. The performance of the studied estimation algorithms is analyzed in terms of Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), obtained from computer simulation results and the aim is to provide a detailed comparison of various OFDM preamble-based timing estimators.

Table of Contents

ABSTRACT	I
TABLE OF CONTENTS	II
LIST OF SYMBOLS.....	IV
LIST OF ACRONYMS.....	VI
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 BACKGROUND	1
1.2 THESIS OBJECTIVE AND CONTRIBUTIONS	2
1.3 THESIS ORGANIZATION.....	3
2 THE OFDM CONCEPT	4
2.1 LONG TERM EVOLUTION	6
2.1.1 <i>Physical channels</i>	6
2.1.2 <i>Modulation types</i>	9
2.1.3 <i>LTE Frame structure</i>	11
2.2 WIRELESS LOCAL AREA NETWORKS	12
2.2.1 <i>Modulation types</i>	12
2.2.2 <i>802.11n standard</i>	12
2.2.3 <i>802.11b/g standard</i>	13
2.3 WiMAX	13
2.4 POWER SPECTRAL DENSITY.....	14
2.5 PARAMETERS OF THE DIFFERENT SYSTEMS	17
3 LOCATION PRINCIPLES	18
3.1 RECEIVED SIGNAL STRENGTH (RSS).....	18
3.2 TIME OF ARRIVAL (TOA).....	19
3.3 TIME DIFFERENCE OF ARRIVAL (TDOA)	19
3.4 ANGLE OF ARRIVAL (AOA)	20
4 TIMING ESTIMATION WITH OFDM.....	22
4.1 CORRELATION-BASED TIMING SYNCHRONIZATION	22
4.2 PREAMBLE-BASED	22
4.2.1 <i>Schmidl preamble</i>	22
4.2.2 <i>Minn metric</i>	24
4.2.3 <i>Park preamble</i>	26
4.2.4 <i>Kim preamble</i>	27
4.2.5 <i>Ren preamble</i>	29
4.2.6 <i>Kang preamble</i>	30
4.3 MULTIPLE SIGNAL CLASSIFICATION	32
5 SIMULATION MODEL	34

6	SIMULATION RESULTS FOR TIMING	36
6.1	COMPARISON FOR VARIOUS SNR VALUES	36
6.2	COMPARISON FOR VARIOUS NUMBER OF SUB-CARRIERS	40
6.3	COMPARISON FOR VARIOUS GUARD INTERVAL LENGTHS	44
6.4	COMPARISON FOR VARIOUS OFDM SYMBOL TIMES	45
7	CONCLUSIONS AND OPEN ISSUES.....	47
	REFERENCES	49
	APPENDIX	53

List of symbols

$a(h_m)$	Correction factor for h_m
b_i	i -th BS
d_p^k	p -th complex data symbol of the k -th OFDM symbol
$d_u(n)$	n -th sample of Zadoff-Chu sequence
Δf	Sub-carrier spacing
$\Delta \Theta$	Orientation of the unknown mobile station
Δ_{PRS}	PRS sub-frames offset
$\Delta \tau$	Normalized difference between the theoretical and real start of an OFDM
e_t^i	Measurement uncertainty
f_c	Carrier frequency
f_{off}	Carrier frequency offset
$h(t)$	Channel impulsive response
h_b	BS effective antenna height
h_m	MS antenna height
I_{PRS}	PRS configuration index
N	Number of subcarriers
N_{cp}	Samples of the CP
N_{PRS}	PRS sub-frames
N_{FFT}	FFT length
$n(t)$	AWGN
Θ_i	i -th relative AOAs of the sent signals from b_i
p^i	i -th BS position

p_t	MS position
$r(t)$	Received signal
$s(t)$	Emitted signal
s_n^k	n-th sample of the k-th emitted OFDM symbol.
T_b	Useful length of an OFDM symbol
T_g	CP time length
T_{PRS}	PRS period
T_{samp}	Sampling time
\mathbf{u}	Unknown MS
y_t^i	Generic time measurement relative to reference point i

List of acronyms

AOA	Angle of Arrival
AP	Access Point
ARQ	Auto Repeat Request
AWGN	Additive White Gaussian Noise
BS	Base Station
BPSK	Binary Phase Shift Keying
CAZAC	Constant Amplitude Zero Auto-Correlation
CBTS	Correlation Based Timing Synchronization
CP	Cyclic Prefix
CSP	Correlation Sequence of the Preamble
DC	Direct Current
DFT	Discrete Fourier Transformation
DwPTS	Downlink Pilot Signal
FDD	Frequency Division Duplex
GI	Guard Interval
GNSS	Galileo Navigation Satellite System
GP	Guard Period
GPS	Global Positioning System
ICI	Inter-Carrier Interference
IDFT	Inverse Discrete Fourier Transformation
IFFT	Inverse Fast Fourier Transformation
LTE	Long Term Evolution

MBSDN	Multimedia Broadcast over Single Frequency Network
MS	Mobile Station
MUSIC	Multiple Signal Classification
NLOS	Non Line Of Sight
OFDM	Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing
PN	Pseudo Noise
PRS	Positioning Reference Signal
PSD	Power Spectral Density
QAM	Quadrature Amplitude Modulation
QPSK	Quadrature Phase Shift Keying
RSS	Received Signal Strength
SC-FDMA	Single Carrier – Frequency Division Multiplexing Access
SNR	Signal to Noise Ratio
SoO	Signals of Opportunity
TDD	Time Division Duplex
TDOA	Time Difference Of Arrival
TOA	Time Of Arrival
UE	User Equipment
WLAN	Wireless Local Area Networks
WMAN	Wireless Metropolitan Area Networks

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Wireless positioning for Mobile Stations (MS) has been steadily gaining importance during the last years. The MS accurate positioning needs have been increasing, both indoors and outdoors, in order to improve navigation, fraud detection, automatic bills, e-marketing and other location-based services and applications. In addition to these improvements, mobile net functionalities such as handovers could have a much better performance if accurate positioning information were available. For this reason, it is necessary to improve wireless positioning [1].

Nowadays, there is a good accuracy in wireless positioning, in good atmospheric conditions, by using the Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS), such as Global Positioning System (GPS) or the Galileo system in Europe. The accuracy of these systems worsens with bad channel conditions, or even disappears in indoor locations. The reason is that they need at least four satellites with good enough signal strength reaching the receiver [2]. Moreover, frequency allocations suitable for GNSS services are getting crowded [3]. Another drawback about the current positioning system is the need to produce MS with extra antennas to communicate with the satellites at low carrier-to-noise ratios. Although there are higher sensitivity receivers and other improvements to reach better results, accuracy is highly lagging in the presence of interferences, multipath channel or the blockage of the buildings [4].

The so-called Signals of Opportunity (SoO), which means basically any available wireless signal initially not meant for positioning, could complement the GNSS services on the cases mentioned before. These opportunity signals are communication signals, such as broadcast signals for mobile phones, which can be used for positioning purposes although they were not designed with this in mind. The SoO classification is sometimes controversial, and some do not include cellular systems into SoO class, arguing that many cellular systems, such as Long Term Evolution (LTE), have already signals specifically optimized for positioning [3] [5] [6].

Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM) technique is under study to achieve better wireless positioning performance [3]. That is because OFDM has been chosen in many communication systems for its robustness in multipath channels and its high transmission rate in wireless communications networks. Although it has many

advantages, it has some disadvantages as well. Firstly, OFDM is seriously affected by synchronization errors. Moreover, the OFDM signal has a noise like amplitude with a very large dynamic range; therefore it requires RF power amplifiers with a high peak to average power ratio. OFDM is also more sensitive to carrier frequency offset and drift than single carrier systems are due to leakage of the Discrete Fourier Transformation (DFT) [7] [2] [8] [9].

1.2 Thesis Objective and Contributions

Because of OFDM systems require high timing synchronization accuracy to be able to receive the signal correctly, it will be necessary to work with algorithms to estimate symbol timing of the received signal. Once the timing estimation is correct, the delay of the signal from the Base Station (BS) to the MS can be found and, consequently, the distances between said stations can be calculated in order to obtain the mobile terminal position.

There are two classes of OFDM timing synchronization. The first class of timing synchronization algorithms is based on adding a specific preamble, which is different in each case, before the useful data. The second class uses pilot embedded in the data and correlation or covariance matrix information in order to estimate the unknown timing, both approaches (non-data aided and data aided) are investigated in this thesis. The main objective has been to investigate the accuracy limits of various preamble-based and non-preamble-based timing synchronization algorithms, both in single path and multipath channels for OFDM signals. The algorithms are compared by simulating some possible environments and analyzing the errors they perform, in meters, while some system parameters are changed. The author has contributed to the followings:

- Literature study of various preamble-based and non-preamble-based timing synchronization algorithms in OFDM
- Implementation (in Matlab) of the following preamble-based algorithms: Schmidl, Minn, Park, Kim, Ren and Kang, starting from the ideas presented in [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15].
- Implementation (in Matlab) of CBTS and MUSIC estimators.
- Comparison of various timing estimation algorithms in single path (static) and multipath (fading) channels.

The work has done during the period September 2011-March 2012 at the Department of Communications Engineering, Tampere University of Technology (TUT), Finland, during an Erasmus exchange visit.

1.3 Thesis Organization

The thesis is organized in seven chapters. The OFDM concept is presented in Chapter 2, including three systems that use it (LTE, WLAN and WiMAX). In Chapter 3, the four main location techniques are briefly explained. Once we focus on a specific location technique, namely the timing-based localization, the different algorithms for timing synchronization are presented in Chapter 4. In Chapter 5, there is a description of the developed Matlab simulation model. In Chapter 6, there is an explanation of simulation results comparing all estimation algorithms. Chapter 7 focuses on conclusions and open issues. The thesis also has an Appendix illustrating some of the m-codes implemented by the Author.

2 The OFDM concept

The OFDM technique consists of transmitting N complex data symbols over N narrow and orthogonal subcarriers. These subcarriers can be superposed without interfering thanks to being orthogonal, which means that there is no Inter-Carrier Interference (ICI) when the receiver is synchronized. The mentioned subcarriers are chosen narrow enough so they can be considered as belonging to flat regions, and they can be easily equalized to correct the errors at the receiver. Moreover, the transmission rate is higher due to the parallel subcarriers sending information at the same time [16].

The next step is to see how the OFDM signal is built. According to the Fig 2-1, the serial data stream composed with N complex data symbols goes through a serial to parallel converter to split the stream into N parallel channels. The separation between adjacent channels is Δf , which results in a total bandwidth of $N \cdot \Delta f$. After that, the data transmitted in each channel is modulated by doing the Inverse Fast Fourier Transformation (IFFT). Then, these N channels are combined with a parallel to serial converter (S-P) to form the N samples OFDM symbol.

At the output of the parallel to serial converter (P-S), a Guard Interval (GI) is introduced at the beginning of the symbol, which is called Cyclic Prefix (CP). The reason of doing this is to avoid the Inter-Symbolic Interference (ISI) between two consecutive OFDM symbols. The CP usually is the copy of the last N_{cp} samples, inserted where said symbol starts. After the CP insertion, the OFDM symbol is composed by $N + N_{cp}$ samples [16].

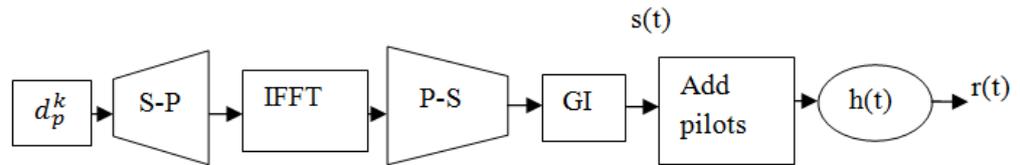


Fig 2-1 OFDM block diagram

On one hand, the emitted signal $s(t)$ is composed with the samples from eq. (1):

$$s_n^k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{p=0}^{N-1} d_p^k \exp\left(j2\pi \frac{p \cdot n}{N}\right) = iFFT(d_p^k)[n] \quad (1)$$

with $-N_{CP} \leq n \leq N - 1$

where:

- n is the sample time index.
- p is the subcarrier index.
- k is the OFDM symbol number.
- d_p^k is the p -th complex data symbol of the k -th OFDM symbol.
- s_n^k is the n -th sample of the k -th emitted OFDM symbol.

The last step before sending the OFDM signal through the channel consists on adding some pilot signals.

On the other hand, the received signal is defined in eq. (2):

$$r(t) = (s(t) * h(t))(t - \Delta\tau \cdot T_{samp}) \exp(j2\pi \frac{f_{off}}{T_b} t) + n(t) \quad (2)$$

where:

- f_{off} is the carrier frequency offset, which occurs when the received signal is not synchronized.
- $\Delta\tau$ is the difference between the theoretical and real start of an OFDM symbol, normalized to the sampling period, T_{samp} .
- T_b is the useful length of an OFDM symbol.
- $h(t)$ is the channel impulse response.
- $n(t)$ is Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN).

The OFDM symbol can be seen both in time (Fig 2-2) and in frequency (Fig 2-3). There are different types of sub-carriers: DATA, to transmit symbols; PILOT, for estimating and control purposes; and NULL, to use as Direct Current (DC) subcarrier or guard intervals [17].

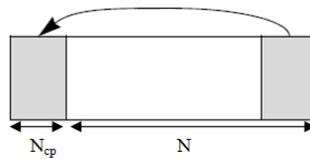


Fig 2-2 OFDM symbol in time domain [18]

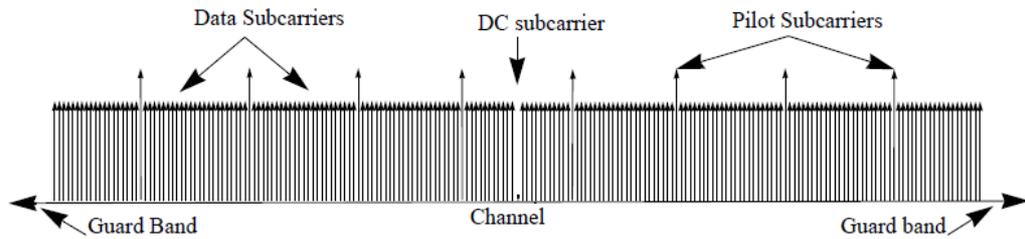


Fig 2-3OFDM symbol in frequency domain [18]

OFDM symbols are organized in grids, called resource blocks, where the horizontal positions represent the different symbols and the vertical positions are the sub-carriers representation. There are some possible configurations to set the pilots in the grid: randomly (Fig 2-4/a), at a fixed time (Fig 2-4/b), or at a fixed subcarrier (Fig 2-4/c). Pilot signals are shown as black blocks.

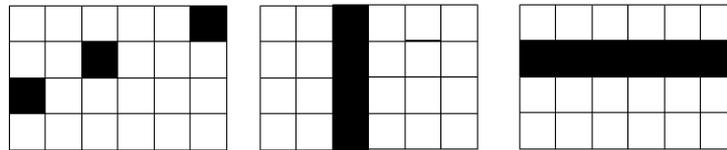


Fig 2-4OFDM grid examples (a, b, c)

The OFDM technique is used mainly in three wireless systems: LTE, Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN) and WiMAX [19] [20] [21].

2.1 Long Term Evolution

The Long Term Evolution (LTE) system uses OFDM as the downlink core because of its robustness to radio channel dispersion without having extremely complex receivers [17][19][22]. This is particularly useful because the receivers have to be mobile stations, and can be made at a lower cost with better battery consumption. LTE uses Single Carrier – Frequency Division Multiplexing Access (SC-FDMA) on the uplink, so we will focus on the downlink [19].

2.1.1 Physical channels

These sorts of channel are a set of resource elements carrying information originated at higher layers. LTE has the following physical channel defined in the standard [22]

- Physical Downlink Shared Channel, PDSCH
- Physical Broadcast Channel, PBCH
- Physical Multicast Channel, PMCH
- Physical Control Format Indicator Channel, PCFICH
- Physical Downlink Control Channel, PDCCH

- Physical Hybrid ARQ Indicator Channel, PHICH

There are four downlink reference signals [22]. Each one of them is transmitted per one different antenna port.

- Multimedia Broadcast over Single Frequency Network (MBSFN) reference signals.
- Cell-specific reference signals (non-MBSFN transmission).
- User Equipment (UE) specific reference signals.
- Positioning reference signals.

The useful signal for timing estimation purposes is the Positioning Reference Signal (PRS). For this reason, we will focus on it. It is formed by known symbols in a known position inside the OFDM symbol. This helps estimating the impulsive response of the channel to equalize the signal correctly.

PRS has to be transmitted in downlink sub-frames previously configured. There are two different PRS configurations; one with normal CP of length 4.6 μ s and another one with extended CP of length 16.7 μ s. N_{PRS} consecutive sub-frames are sent with a specific offset (Δ_{PRS}). These values are configured in higher layers, so it is out of our study subject. In addition to that, the configuration index (I_{PRS}) and the period (T_{PRS}) is configured [22].

Table 2-1 PRS sub frame configuration [22]

PRS configuration index (I_{PRS})	PRS periodicity (T_{PRS})	PRS sub frame offset (Δ_{PRS})
[0 - 159]	[160]	[I_{PRS}]
[160 - 479]	[320]	[$I_{PRS} - 160$]
[480 - 1119]	[640]	[$I_{PRS} - 480$]
[1120 - 2399]	[1280]	[$I_{PRS} - 1120$]
[2400 - 4095]	[Reserved]	

PRS are transmitted on antenna port 6, as can be seen in Fig 2-5 and Fig 2-6.

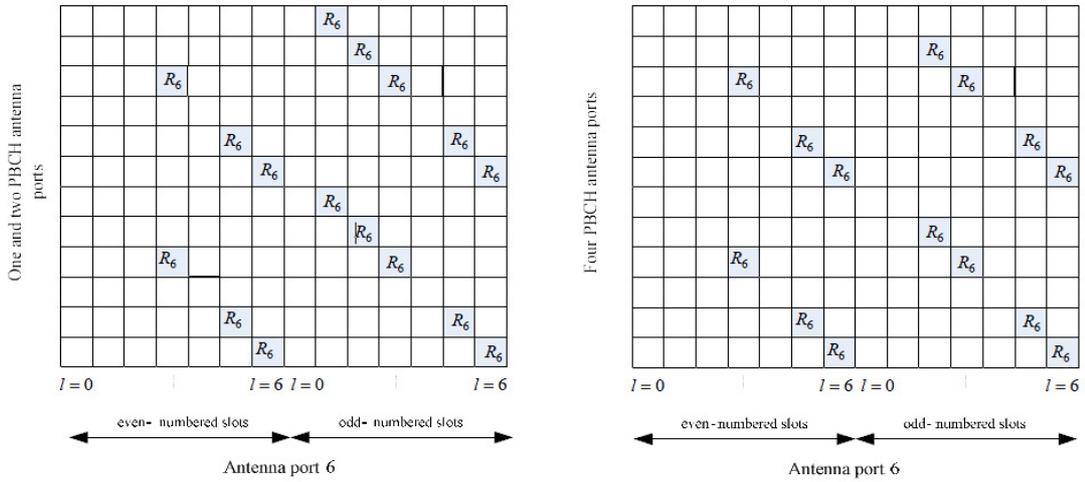


Fig 2-5 Mapping of PRS (normal CP) [22]

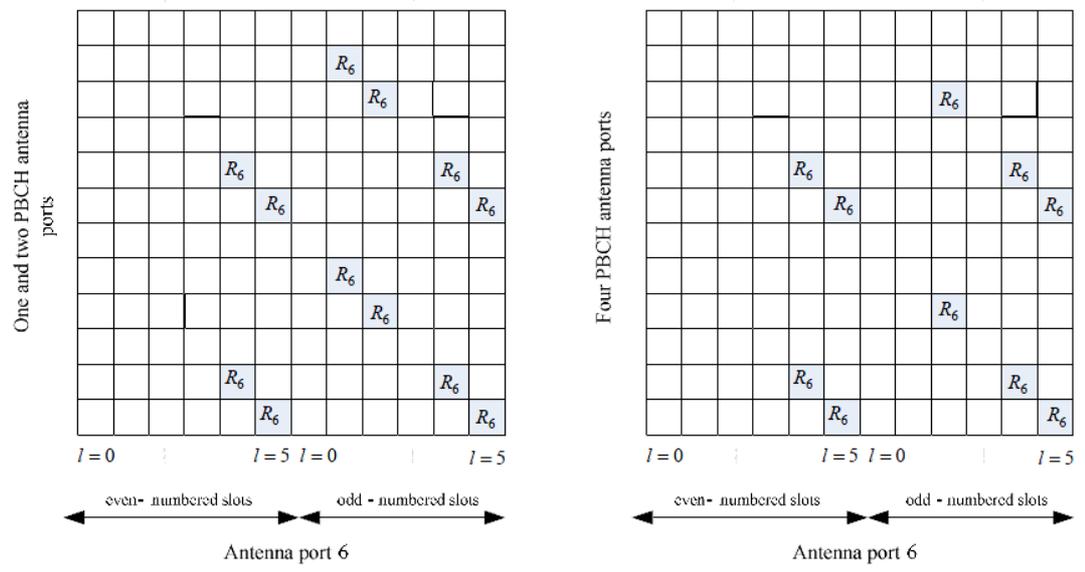


Fig 2-6 Mapping of PRS (extended CP) [22]

There are other interesting signals for positioning purposes, which are the synchronization signals. These signals are useful for the user terminal, especially to search for the cell and to synchronize with the BS. On one hand, the primary synchronization signal is generated by a Zadoff-Chu sequence, with ‘u’ 25, 29 or 34 depending on the cell we are, as defined in eq. (3). On the other hand, the secondary synchronization signal is formed by interleaved concatenation of binary sequences [22].

$$d_u(n) = \begin{cases} e^{-j\frac{\pi un(n+1)}{63}} & n = 0, 1, \dots, 30 \\ e^{-j\frac{\pi u(n+1)(n+2)}{63}} & n = 31, 32, \dots, 61 \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

2.1.2 Modulation types

Firstly, data streams are modulated with Binary Phase Shift Keying (BPSK), Quadrature Phase Shift Keying (QPSK), Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (16-QAM or 64-QAM) modulations on the physical layer. After that, OFDM modulating is done with 15 kHz as subcarrier spacing and 4.7 μ s as duration of the CP, using the normal mode, or 16.7 μ s using the extended mode, which is used in dispersive situations [23].

The modulations, used to generate the input data symbols (d_p^k from Fig 2-1), transform binary inputs (0 or 1) into complex data symbols formed as $x = I + jQ$.

BPSK: a single bit is mapped as the following table shows:

Table 2-2 BPSK mapping [22]

	I	Q
0	$1/\sqrt{2}$	$1/\sqrt{2}$
1	$-1/\sqrt{2}$	$-1/\sqrt{2}$

QPSK: two consecutive bits are mapped as shown in Table 2-3:

Table 2-3 QPSK mapping [22]

	I	Q
00	$1/\sqrt{2}$	$1/\sqrt{2}$
01	$1/\sqrt{2}$	$-1/\sqrt{2}$
10	$-1/\sqrt{2}$	$1/\sqrt{2}$
11	$-1/\sqrt{2}$	$-1/\sqrt{2}$

16-QAM: four consecutive bits are mapped as follows:

Table 2-4 16-QAM mapping [22]

	I	Q		I	Q
0000	$1/\sqrt{10}$	$1/\sqrt{10}$	1000	$-1/\sqrt{10}$	$1/\sqrt{10}$
0001	$1/\sqrt{10}$	$3/\sqrt{10}$	1001	$-1/\sqrt{10}$	$3/\sqrt{10}$
0010	$3/\sqrt{10}$	$1/\sqrt{10}$	1010	$-3/\sqrt{10}$	$1/\sqrt{10}$
0011	$3/\sqrt{10}$	$3/\sqrt{10}$	1011	$-3/\sqrt{10}$	$3/\sqrt{10}$
0100	$1/\sqrt{10}$	$-1/\sqrt{10}$	1100	$-1/\sqrt{10}$	$-1/\sqrt{10}$
0101	$1/\sqrt{10}$	$-3/\sqrt{10}$	1101	$-1/\sqrt{10}$	$-3/\sqrt{10}$
0110	$3/\sqrt{10}$	$-1/\sqrt{10}$	1110	$-3/\sqrt{10}$	$-1/\sqrt{10}$
0111	$3/\sqrt{10}$	$-3/\sqrt{10}$	1111	$-3/\sqrt{10}$	$-3/\sqrt{10}$

64-QAM: six consecutive bits are mapped as:

Table 2-5 64-QAM mapping [22]

	I	Q		I	Q
000000	$3/\sqrt{42}$	$3/\sqrt{42}$	100000	$-3/\sqrt{42}$	$3/\sqrt{42}$
000001	$3/\sqrt{42}$	$1/\sqrt{42}$	100001	$-3/\sqrt{42}$	$1/\sqrt{42}$
000010	$1/\sqrt{42}$	$3/\sqrt{42}$	100010	$-1/\sqrt{42}$	$3/\sqrt{42}$
000011	$1/\sqrt{42}$	$1/\sqrt{42}$	100011	$-1/\sqrt{42}$	$1/\sqrt{42}$
000100	$3/\sqrt{42}$	$5/\sqrt{42}$	100100	$-3/\sqrt{42}$	$5/\sqrt{42}$
000101	$3/\sqrt{42}$	$7/\sqrt{42}$	100101	$-3/\sqrt{42}$	$7/\sqrt{42}$
000110	$1/\sqrt{42}$	$5/\sqrt{42}$	100110	$-1/\sqrt{42}$	$5/\sqrt{42}$
000111	$1/\sqrt{42}$	$7/\sqrt{42}$	100111	$-1/\sqrt{42}$	$7/\sqrt{42}$
001000	$5/\sqrt{42}$	$3/\sqrt{42}$	101000	$-5/\sqrt{42}$	$3/\sqrt{42}$
001001	$5/\sqrt{42}$	$1/\sqrt{42}$	101001	$-5/\sqrt{42}$	$1/\sqrt{42}$
001010	$7/\sqrt{42}$	$3/\sqrt{42}$	101010	$-7/\sqrt{42}$	$3/\sqrt{42}$
001011	$7/\sqrt{42}$	$1/\sqrt{42}$	101011	$-7/\sqrt{42}$	$1/\sqrt{42}$
001100	$5/\sqrt{42}$	$5/\sqrt{42}$	101100	$-5/\sqrt{42}$	$5/\sqrt{42}$
001101	$5/\sqrt{42}$	$7/\sqrt{42}$	101101	$-5/\sqrt{42}$	$7/\sqrt{42}$
001110	$7/\sqrt{42}$	$5/\sqrt{42}$	101110	$-7/\sqrt{42}$	$5/\sqrt{42}$
001111	$7/\sqrt{42}$	$7/\sqrt{42}$	101111	$-7/\sqrt{42}$	$7/\sqrt{42}$
010000	$3/\sqrt{42}$	$-3/\sqrt{42}$	110000	$-3/\sqrt{42}$	$-3/\sqrt{42}$
010001	$3/\sqrt{42}$	$-1/\sqrt{42}$	110001	$-3/\sqrt{42}$	$-1/\sqrt{42}$
010010	$1/\sqrt{42}$	$-3/\sqrt{42}$	110010	$-1/\sqrt{42}$	$-3/\sqrt{42}$
010011	$1/\sqrt{42}$	$-1/\sqrt{42}$	110011	$-1/\sqrt{42}$	$-1/\sqrt{42}$
010100	$3/\sqrt{42}$	$-5/\sqrt{42}$	110100	$-3/\sqrt{42}$	$-5/\sqrt{42}$
010101	$3/\sqrt{42}$	$-7/\sqrt{42}$	110101	$-3/\sqrt{42}$	$-7/\sqrt{42}$
010110	$1/\sqrt{42}$	$-5/\sqrt{42}$	110110	$-1/\sqrt{42}$	$-5/\sqrt{42}$
010111	$1/\sqrt{42}$	$-7/\sqrt{42}$	110111	$-1/\sqrt{42}$	$-7/\sqrt{42}$
011000	$5/\sqrt{42}$	$-3/\sqrt{42}$	111000	$-5/\sqrt{42}$	$-3/\sqrt{42}$
011001	$5/\sqrt{42}$	$-1/\sqrt{42}$	111001	$-5/\sqrt{42}$	$-1/\sqrt{42}$
011010	$7/\sqrt{42}$	$-3/\sqrt{42}$	111010	$-7/\sqrt{42}$	$-3/\sqrt{42}$
011011	$7/\sqrt{42}$	$-1/\sqrt{42}$	111011	$-7/\sqrt{42}$	$-1/\sqrt{42}$
011100	$5/\sqrt{42}$	$-5/\sqrt{42}$	111100	$-5/\sqrt{42}$	$-5/\sqrt{42}$
011101	$5/\sqrt{42}$	$-7/\sqrt{42}$	111101	$-5/\sqrt{42}$	$-7/\sqrt{42}$
011110	$7/\sqrt{42}$	$-5/\sqrt{42}$	111110	$-7/\sqrt{42}$	$-5/\sqrt{42}$
011111	$7/\sqrt{42}$	$-7/\sqrt{42}$	111111	$-7/\sqrt{42}$	$-7/\sqrt{42}$

2.1.3 LTE Frame structure

The transmitted signal is organized in 1ms duration sub-frames, each one consisting of 14 or 12 OFDM symbols, depending on the CP used. As we can see on Fig 2-7, the frame is composed with ten sub-frames.

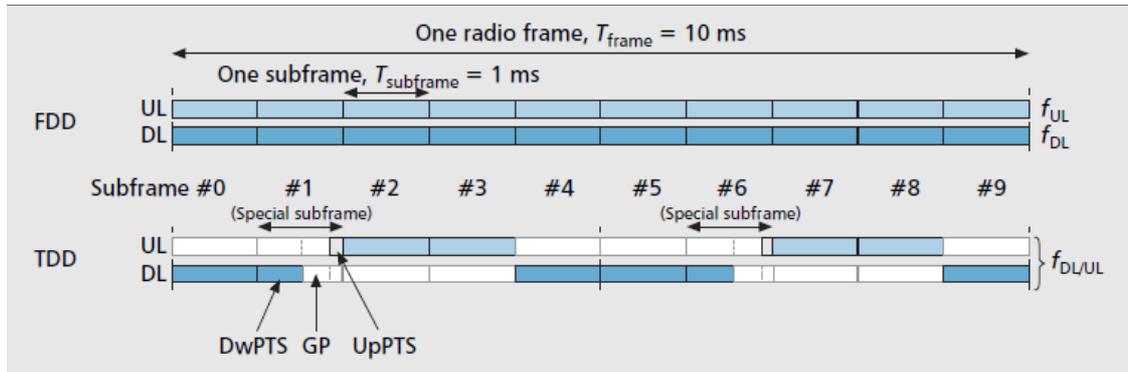


Fig 2-7 LTE frames [19]

LTE reaches an efficient utilization of resources. This happens due to the channel quality monitoring done by the scheduler every 1ms, both in time and frequency. For this reason, the scheduler is a key element of the downlink management; it is able to assign radio resources and transmission rates efficiently [19].

According to Fig 2-7, some differences exist while processing the physical layer

- Working with Frequency Division Duplex (FDD): there are two carrier frequencies f_{UL} and f_{DL} which transmit simultaneously.
- Working with Time Division Duplex (TDD): there is a unique carrier and the downlink and uplink transmissions are separate in time, providing flexibility to configure the uplink and the downlink.

Sufficiently large guard periods are needed to be able to switch between transmission and reception mode without overlapping. For this reason, the special frames Downlink Pilot Signal (DwPTS), Guard Period (GP) and Uplink Pilot Signal (UpPTS) from Fig 2-7 are created [19]. The working bandwidth can be 1.4, 3, 5, 10, 15 or 20 MHz depending on the channel conditions (Fig 2-8), with a carrier frequency that can be allocated in many frequency bands.

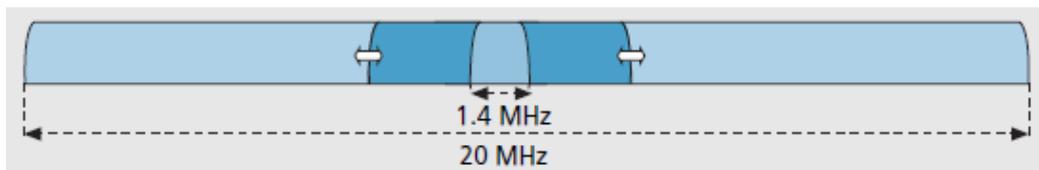


Fig 2-8 Bandwidth flexibility [19]

2.2 Wireless Local Area Networks

Another system that uses OFDM technique is Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN) or 802.11 family [20]. In what follows, we will focus on the most used systems nowadays, namely 802.11b/g and 802.11n.

2.2.1 Modulation types

The modulations used, both in 802.11n and 802.11b/g, are BPSK, QPSK, 16-QAM and 64-QAM depending on the environmental conditions [26]. These modulations are explained in section 2.1.2.

2.2.2 802.11n standard

This is the standard corresponding to multiple antenna transmission and it is widely spread nowadays. Firstly, the data streams are encoded through various steps, namely source and channel encoding, following by interleaving (see Fig 2-9). Secondly, these data streams are spatially mapped in order to obtain the complex data symbols. Said spatial mapper distributes the complex symbols among the transmitter antennas (N_t in Fig 2-9). Before transmitting into the air, an N point IFFT is applied to each stream and the cyclic prefix (CP) is added to it. As in the LTE case, the CP is created by adding the last part of the symbol at the beginning of said symbol. In this case, the length of the CP is always $N_{\text{FFT}}/4$ [26].

The system works with 64 sub-carriers at 20 MHz, using from -28 to -1 and +1 to +28 to transmit, and 128 sub-carriers at 40 MHz, using from -58 to -2 and +2 to +58 to transmit [26]. The other sub-carriers are used as guard intervals and pilots.

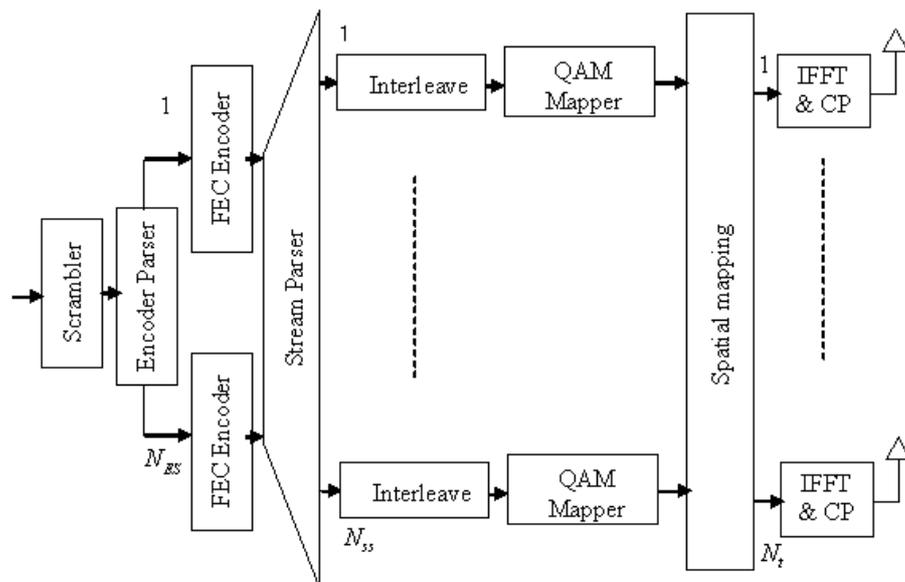


Fig 2-9 802.11n transmitter [26]

2.2.3 802.11b/g standard

This is a single-antenna WLAN standard that is also widely encountered in practice. The OFDM symbols are generated following the block diagram shown in Fig 2-10. In this case, the bandwidth can only be 20 MHz, using the same 64 sub-carriers distribution that 802.11n uses.

OFDM signals are only used in 802.11g, which is backwards compatible with 802.11b because it can manage the previous system and the new one. Although 802.11b is still the most common among the two, we are not going to focus on it because it does not use OFDM (but rather spread spectrum).

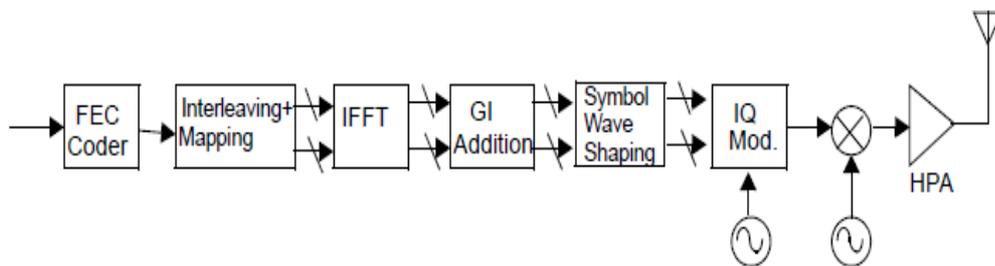


Fig 2-10 802.11g transmitter [20]

2.3 WiMAX

WiMAX belongs to the Wireless Metropolitan Area Networks (WMAN) aiming at coverage radius of few tens of Km. It is described in the 802.16 standardization documents [18]. The physical layer of this protocol is based on an OFDM modulation and designed to work with NLOS paths, in the 10-66 GHz band with a great flexibility to optimize the service according to cell planning, cost, capacity, etc.

BPSK modulation is used in the preamble of the downlink (Fig 2-11), but data symbols can use BPSK, QPSK, 16-QAM or 64-QAM.

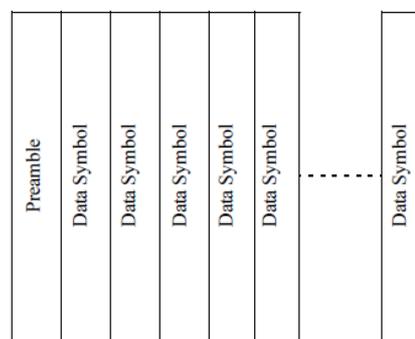


Fig 2-11 DL frame structure [17]

As Fig 2-12 shows, the preambles are formed by one or two OFDM symbols with a CP before each of them. The first symbol uses sub-carriers that are multiples of 4, so in time domain there are four repetitions of fragments with a length of 64 samples. The second symbol uses the even sub-carriers, which results in two repetitions of 128 sample fragments in time domain [18].

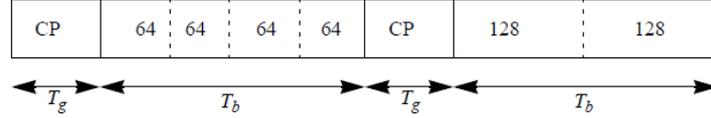


Fig 2-12 IEEE 802.16 DL preamble structure [18]

2.4 Power spectral density

The Power Spectral Density (PSD) of the LTE signal is the Fourier transform of the signal autocorrelation function. The PSD of an OFDM signal depends on the characteristics of four signal operations performed at the transmitter side: the Inverse Discrete Fourier Transform (IDFT) modulation, the insertion of the (CP or ZP) time guard interval, the pulse shaping, and the interpolation filtering [24]. An analytical expression of OFDM signal has been derived in [24] and is given below:

$$P(f) = \frac{N|\sigma_c G_i(f)|^2}{MT_s} \left[\sum_{n=0}^{2N-1} (g_p[n])^2 + 2 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi f}{\Delta_f}\right) \sum_{n=N}^{M-1} g_p[n]g_p[n-N] \right] \quad (4)$$

Where

- n denotes discrete time index.
- N is the number of sub-carriers.
- M is the symbol length.
- $g_p[n]$ denotes the n -th sample of the pulse shaping window.
- T_s denotes sampling interval employed in the OFDM transmitter.
- σ_c^2 denotes the variance of the data symbols.
- Δ_f is the subcarrier defined as $1/(NT_s)$.
- $G_i(f)$ represents the frequency spectrum of the pulse shape.

For rectangular pulse shapes, the PSD reduces to:

$$P_x(f) = \frac{\sigma_c^2}{MT_s} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} (\text{sinc}[(f - n\Delta_f)MT_s])^2 \quad (5)$$

An equivalent definition from [25] is shown in (6).

$$P(f) = R_s \sum_{k=-N/2}^{N/2} |W(f - k\Delta_f)|^2, k = \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots, \pm \frac{N}{2} \quad (6)$$

where:

- R_s is the symbol rate $1/T_b$.
- $W(f)$ is the Fourier transform of the time-window function from (7).

$$W(f) = T_b \text{sinc}(T_b f) \frac{\cos(\pi T_{TR} f)}{1 - 4T_{TR}^2 f^2} e^{-j\pi T_b f} \quad (7)$$

- T_{TR} is the transition time

An LTE theoretical spectrum is shown in Fig 2-13 and the simulated version is shown in Fig 2-14.

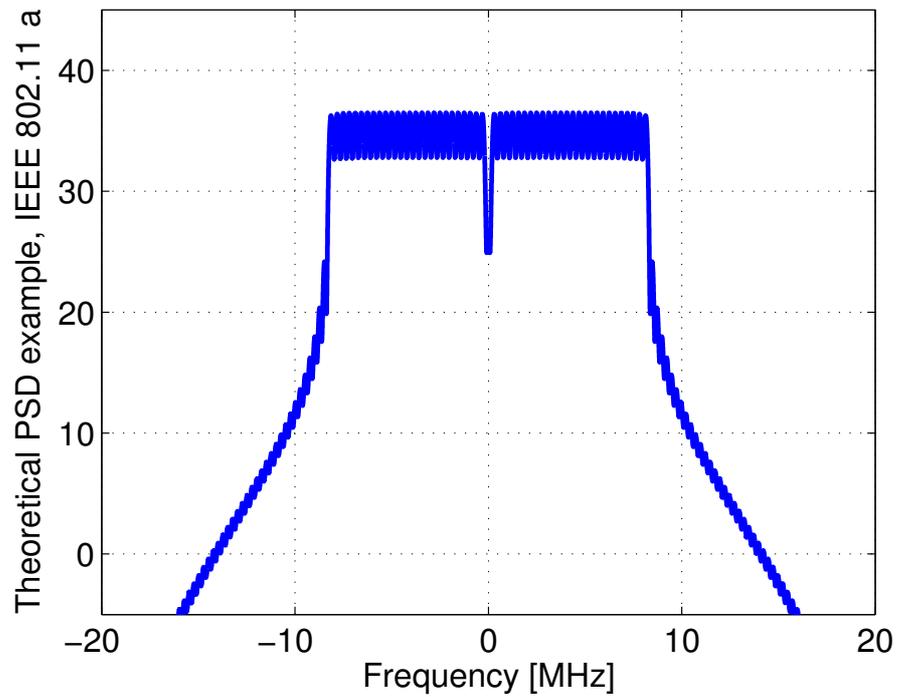


Fig 2-13 Theoretical PSD example, IEEE 802.11 a

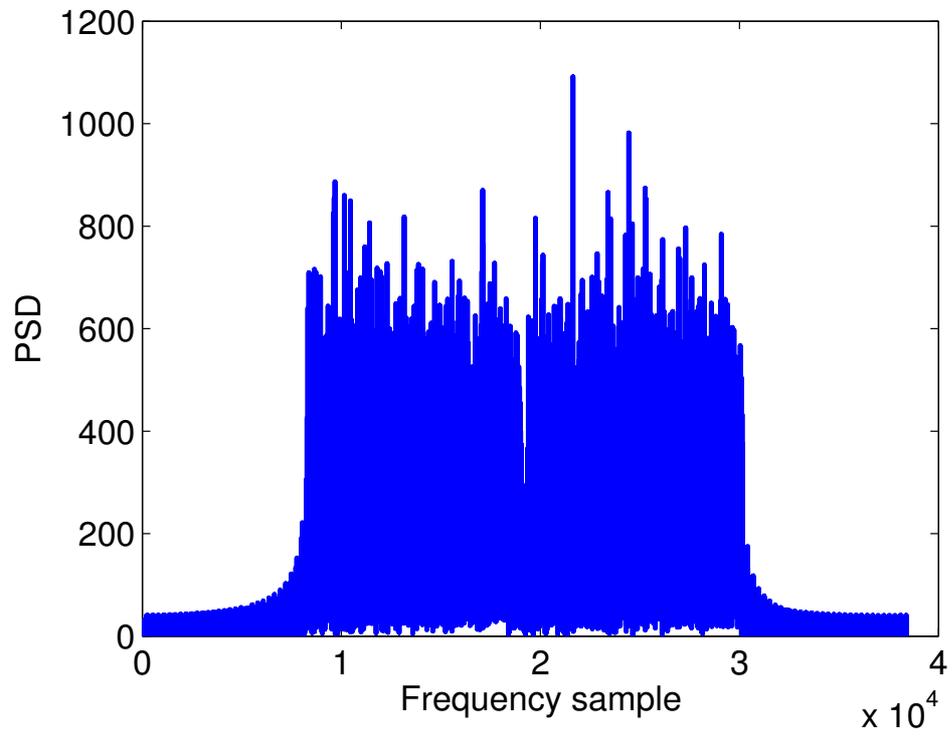


Fig 2-14 Simulated PSD example, LTE

2.5 Parameters of the different systems

The parameters from the different wireless systems using OFDM are shown in Table 2-6. In here we focus on physical layer parameters.

Table 2-6 OFDM system parameters

	LTE		WLAN		WiMAX [17]
			802.11n	802.1(b)/g	
Carrier frequencies [MHz]	Finland: 800 MHz [27] Spain: 800MHz/2.6GHz [17]		2.4/5 GHz	2.4 GHz	10-66 GHz
FFT lengths	128-2048		64 - 128	64	256
Number of used sub-carriers	72 – 1200 [28]		56 - 114	52	200
Bandwidths	1.4, 3, 5, 10, 15 and 20 MHz		20, 40 MHz	20 MHz	20 MHz
Guard interval lengths	Normal CP (4.7 μ s)	160 for $l = 0$ 144 for $l = 1, 2, \dots, 6$	$N_{\text{FFT}}/4$	$N_{\text{FFT}}/4$	$N_{\text{FFT}}/4,$ $N_{\text{FFT}}/8,$ $N_{\text{FFT}}/16,$ $N_{\text{FFT}}/32$
	Ext. CP (16.7 μ s)	512 for $l = 0, 1, \dots, 5$			
		1024 for $l = 0, 1, 2$			
Presence of preambles for timing synchronization (yes/no)	yes		yes	yes	yes
Modulation types	BPSK QPSK 16QAM 64QAM		BPSK QPSK 16QAM 64QAM		BPSK QPSK 16QAM 64QAM
Presence of pilot channels for synchronization	Positioning Reference signal (PRS) and Synchronization signals (primary and secondary)		N/A		N/A

3 Location principles

In this chapter we give a brief overview of the main localization principles.

Firstly, we define two-dimensional mobile position at time t as eq. (8), and the i -th BS (or access point or wireless transmitter) position as eq. (9)

$$p_t = (X_t, Y_t)^T \quad (8)$$

$$p^i = (X^i, Y^i)^T \quad (9)$$

Secondly, we describe the main existing location principles, being y_t^i a generic time measurement relative to reference point i and e_t^i the uncertainty due to the environment [29]. All measured times have to be multiplied by the speed of light to get the measure in meters.

3.1 Received Signal Strength (RSS)

Positioning systems that make use of received signal strength based location techniques have been studied for supporting location based services both in indoor and outdoor areas. Before estimating the mobile position, we need a data collection or training phase, where location fingerprints are gathered. A location fingerprint consists of a vector \mathbf{R} of the average RSS values from multiple Access Points (APs) at a particular location. In this case, both the receiver and the emitter know the system power value [29]. As a result, the channel attenuation can be calculated by measuring the received power, and distance estimation can be done due to the fact that attenuation increases with distance. Many path-loss models exist in the literature, such as: simplified path loss model [30], floor and wall path loss models [31] Okumura-Hata model [32], and so on.

For example, Okumura-Hata model from eq. (10) may be employed. Notice that e_t^i has values in the range from 4 dB to 12 dB depending on the environment, y_t^i is a generic time measurement in dB relative to reference point i , and K and α are parameters [33].

$$y_t^i = K - 10\alpha \log_{10}(|p_t - p^i|) + e_t^i \quad (10)$$

Where:

- $K = 69.55 + 26.16 \log_{10}(f_c) - 13.82 \log_{10}(h_b) - a(h_m)$
- $\alpha = (44.9 - 6.55 \log_{10}(h_b))/10$

- f_c is the system carrier frequency
- h_b is the BS effective antenna height
- h_m is the MS antenna height
- $a(h_m)$ is the correction factor for h_m

After measuring RSS vector, the Euclidean signal distance between measured data and previously made fingerprint is calculated [34].

The RSS-based estimation is out of scope of this thesis.

3.2 Time Of Arrival (TOA)

The disadvantage of the RSS method is the random deviation from mean received signal strength caused by shadowing and small scale channel effect [35]. As a consequence, TOA of the direct path of the signal could offer higher accuracy in mobile location techniques. Nevertheless, such techniques are highly dependent on the system parameters, such as multiple access technique and modulation technique and cannot be used in a generic way. The TOA location principle consists of calculating the travel time of the signal in a synchronized network [29], and after that time can be converted to distance by knowing the propagation speed. Unfortunately, the MS clock is not synchronized and its effect can be treated as a noise parameter. The performance of the measurement from eq. (11), where y_t^i is a generic time measurement in meters relative to reference point i and e_t^i is the uncertainty of the measure, depends on the synchronization accuracy.

$$y_t^i = |p_t - p^i| + e_t^i \quad (11)$$

3.3 Time Difference Of Arrival (TDOA)

When the transmitters are not synchronized, an improvement to TOA measurement consists of taking time differences of measurements as eq. (12) shows, where y_t^i is a generic time measurement in meters relative to reference point i and e_t^i is the uncertainty of the measure. As a result, the measurement is related to relative distance and the clock bias nuisance parameter is eliminated [29]. Despite of it is not necessary to report neither synchronization parameters nor the reference point to the mobile station with this location principle, synchronization accuracy and base station position determine the system performance.

$$y_t^{i,j} = |p_t - p^i| - |p_t - p^j| + e_t^i - e_t^j \quad (12)$$

We observe how two receivers can estimate a path difference from TDOA as an hyperbolic function in Fig 3-1 [36].

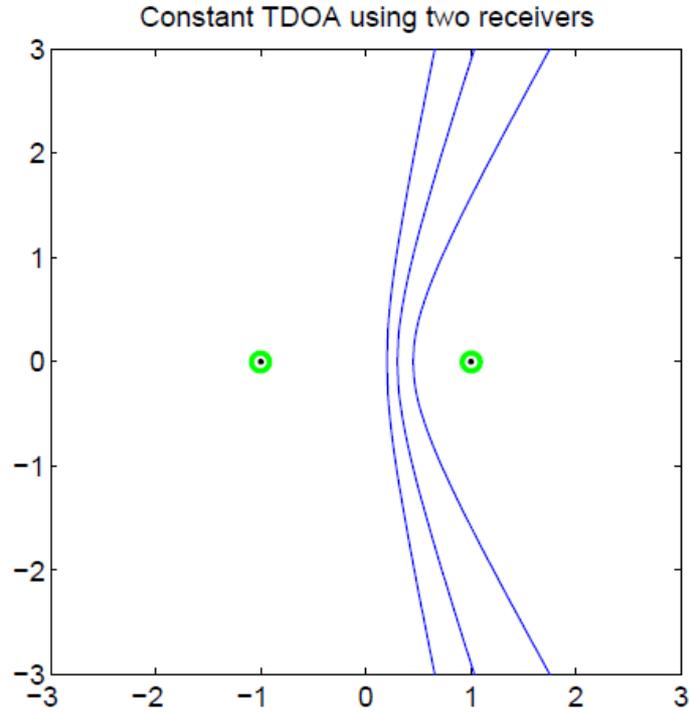


Fig 3-1 Hyperbolic function representing constant TDOA for three different TDOA's [36]

Basically, the algorithms presented in this thesis are applicable to TOA and TDOA estimators. However, the TOA/TDOA part has not been explicitly addressed in here, since we focused on single link (transmitter-receiver) estimation.

3.4 Angle Of Arrival (AOA)

The angle of arrival is defined as the angle that form the signal propagation direction and a direction previously chosen as the reference direction, called orientation [37]. Said orientation is represented in degrees where 0° indicates the signal is pointing to the North, as represented in Fig 3-2. Angles Θ_1 and Θ_2 are the relative AOAs of the sent signals from b_1 and b_2 . It is assumed that $\Delta\Theta$ is the orientation of the unknown mobile station u , so the absolute AOAs can be calculated as eq. (13), with $i = \{1, 2\}$. With this method, the location is of the mobile station is the intersection of the rays from base stations.

$$(\theta_i + \Delta\theta) \bmod 2\pi \tag{13}$$

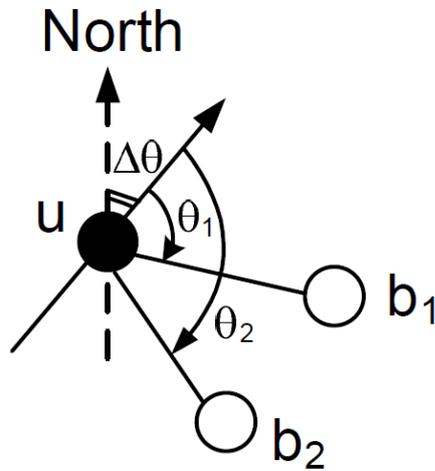


Fig 3-2 Mobile localization with AOA and orientation information [37]

When the orientation of u is not known, the mobile station location is at the intersection of the arcs as in Fig 3-3. Said arcs are formed because of the fact that every angle subtended by the same chord is equal. As a consequence, two points, and the union between them, will give a third point over an arc if the angle has to remain fixed.

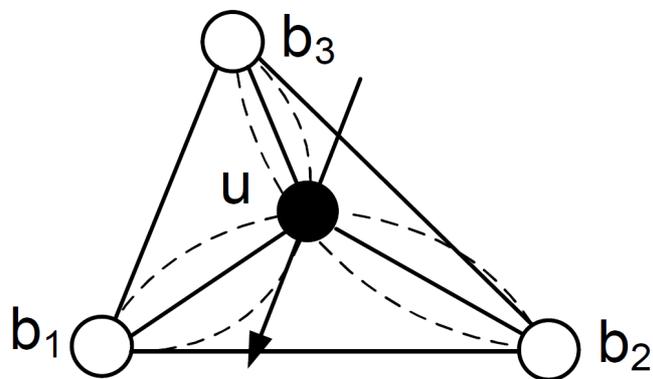


Fig 3-3 Mobile localization with AOA, without orientation information

4 Timing estimation with OFDM

In this chapter, the different algorithms under study in this thesis are explained. Timing estimation wants to reach symbol synchronization by finding the starting point of the OFDM symbol, i.e. the position of the Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT) window [38]. We focus on correlation based estimators with different preamble structures, and a high resolution algorithm. Note that N is the number of sub-carriers.

4.1 Correlation-based timing synchronization

The basic Correlation-Based Timing Synchronization (CBTS) method consists of calculating the correlation between the received signal and a known reference replica (e.g. based on pilot sequences) at the receiver as in eq. (14), where $x(k)$ is the k -th sample of a known emitted sequence and $r(k)$ is the k -th sample of the received signal [38]. After that, the estimation is done by finding the sample where the correlation has a maximum.

$$R(d) = \left| \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} r(d-k)x(k) \right| \quad (14)$$

4.2 Preamble-based

Another type of CBTS estimator does the autocorrelation between the received signal and conjugation of delayed received signal as eq. (15) shows, in which constant delay D is selected as integral times of sequence.

$$R(d) = \left| \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} r(d-k)r^*(d-k-D) \right| \quad (15)$$

The algorithm from eq. (15) can ensure better performance because phase information suffers from high variations under bad channel conditions, so two adjacent symbols are affected almost equally and they still have high correlation [38]. For this reason, we proceed to present different algorithms that work with some variations on eq. (15), by introducing different preamble structures and taking profit of their correlation properties.

4.2.1 Schmidl preamble

This method consists of a low-complexity algorithm that allows acquiring synchronization for both a continuous stream of data and for bursts of data. The symbol timing synchronization depends on finding a training symbol, usually called preamble. In Schmidl algorithm, the said preamble consists of two identical halves made by transmitting a

pseudo noise (PN) sequence on the even frequencies and zeros on the odd frequencies. For this reason, the time domain preamble in (16) cannot be mistaken as data frames, which use every frequency [10]. The generation of the preamble can be also done by using an IFFT of $N/2$ sample length over a PN sequence of N sample length.

$$Preamble_{Schmidl} = \left[A_{N/2} A_{N/2} \right] \quad (16)$$

Considering that the first part of the preamble is identical to the second one except for a phase shift, the channel effect should be cancelled by multiplying the conjugate of one sample of the first preamble part with the corresponding sample from the second preamble part, as eq. (17) shows.

$$P_{Schmidl}(d) = \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{N}{2}-1} r^*(d+k) r \left(d+k+\frac{N}{2} \right) \quad (17)$$

where r is the received signal and d is a time index corresponding to the first sample in a window of length N . The received energy is defined in eq. (18) and allows us to use the timing metric defined in eq. (19), whose maximum reveals the preamble start.

$$E_{Schmidl}(d) = \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{N}{2}-1} \left| r \left(d+k+\frac{N}{2} \right) \right|^2 \quad (18)$$

$$M_{Schmidl}(d) = \frac{|P_{Schmidl}(d)|^2}{(E_{Schmidl}(d))^2} \quad (19)$$

As Fig 4-1 shows, the timing metric $M_{Schmidl}$ for an OFDM signal with 1024 sub-carriers over an AWGN channel with a Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) of 30dB has a flat region with a length equal to the guard interval minus the length of the channel impulse response. Although said flat region makes it difficult to find the exact position of the maximum, it is located at the beginning of the flat region and can be found by calculating where the derivative of the metric has its first zero as shown in Fig 4-2.

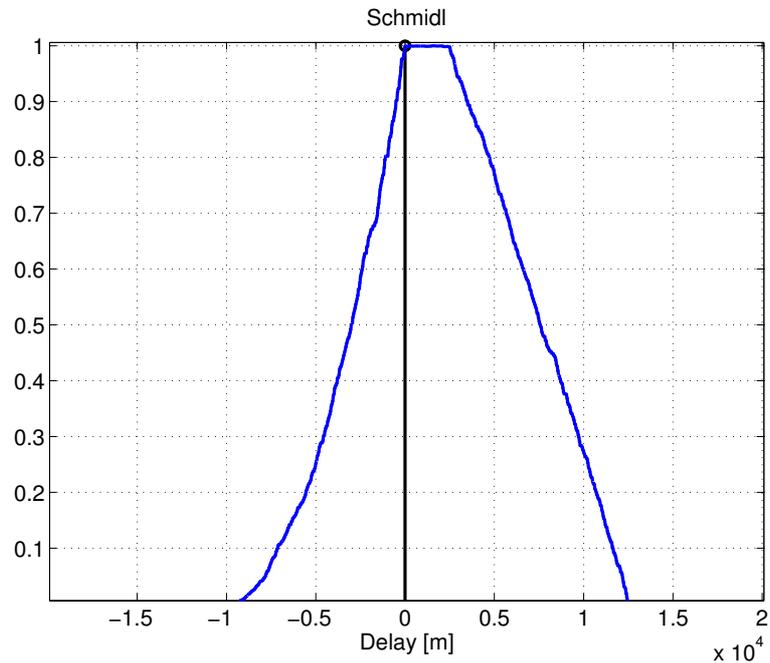


Fig 4-1 Example of Schmidl metric for AWGN channel (SNR = 30 dB)

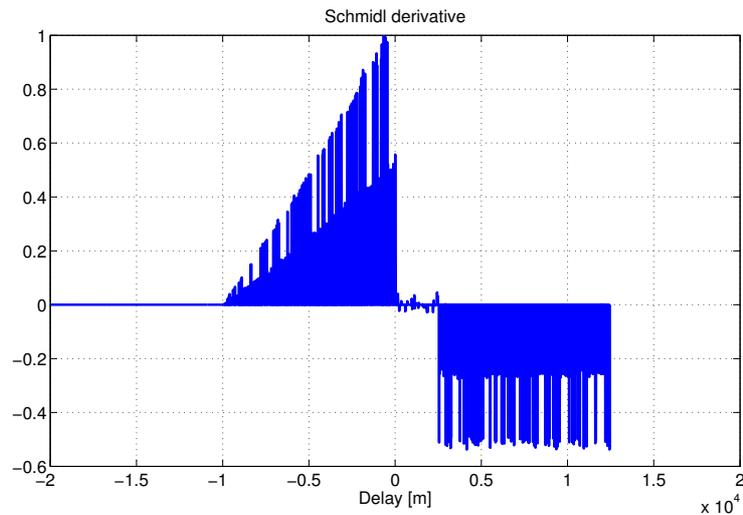


Fig 4-2 Schmidl derivative function

4.2.2 Minn metric

This method is based on a specifically designed training symbol that also has a repetitive structure, as Schmidl case, and, as a consequence, robust timing estimation can be obtained by correlating the repetitive parts. Minn proposed extra divisions of the preamble [39]. A modified preamble (20) is proposed to avoid the plateau uncertainty from Schmidl, where A is a pseudorandom complex sequence of length N/L , with L being a power of two, usually two or four but notice that larger values of L gives a timing metric trajectory with a

steeper roll off [39]. The signs of each part are designed to achieve the sharpest timing metric.

$$\text{Preamble}_{\text{Minn}} = \left[\pm A_{N/L} \pm A_{N/L} \pm A_{N/L} \dots \pm A_{N/L} \right] \quad (20)$$

A new metric (21) is used in this method, where L is the number of preamble parts and each preamble part contains M samples. Moreover, the metric elements definition changes slightly in (22) and (23) compared to Schmidl metric.

$$M_{\text{Minn}}(d) = \left(\frac{L}{L-1} \right)^2 \frac{|P_{\text{Minn}}(d)|^2}{(E_{\text{Minn}}(d))^2} \quad (21)$$

where

$$P_{\text{Minn}}(d) = \sum_{m=0}^{L-2} b(m) \sum_{k=0}^{M-1} r^*(d + m \cdot M + k) \cdot r(d + (m+1)M + k) \quad (22)$$

$$E_{\text{Minn}}(d) = \sum_{k=0}^{M-1} \sum_{m=0}^{L-1} |r(d + k + m \cdot M)|^2 \quad (23)$$

and $b(m)$ is $p(m) \cdot p(m+1)$, where $p(m)$ denotes the sign of the repeated parts of the training symbol.

One of the Minn's preamble structures, balanced between complexity and accuracy, is defined in eq. (24), with L being four and M being $N/4$ [11]. As a result, M_{Minn} , P_{Minn} and E_{Minn} are simplified in eq. (25), eq. (26) and eq. (27), respectively. This was the choice of our implementation as well.

$$\text{Preamble}_{\text{Minn}} = \left[A_{N/4} \ A_{N/4} \ -A_{N/4} \ -A_{N/4} \right] \quad (24)$$

$$M_{\text{Minn}}(d) = \left(\frac{4}{3} \right)^2 \frac{|P_{\text{Minn}}(d)|^2}{(E_{\text{Minn}}(d))^2} \quad (25)$$

$$P_{\text{Minn}}(d) = \sum_{m=0}^2 \sum_{k=0}^{N/4-1} r^* \left(d + m \cdot \frac{N}{4} + k \right) \cdot r \left(d + (m+1) \cdot \frac{N}{4} + k \right) \quad (26)$$

$$E_{\text{Minn}}(d) = \sum_{k=0}^{N/4-1} \sum_{m=0}^3 \left| r \left(d + k + m \cdot \frac{N}{4} \right) \right|^2 \quad (27)$$

The metric from eq. (25) is plotted in Fig 4-3 after sending an OFDM signal with Minn's preamble over an AWGN channel.

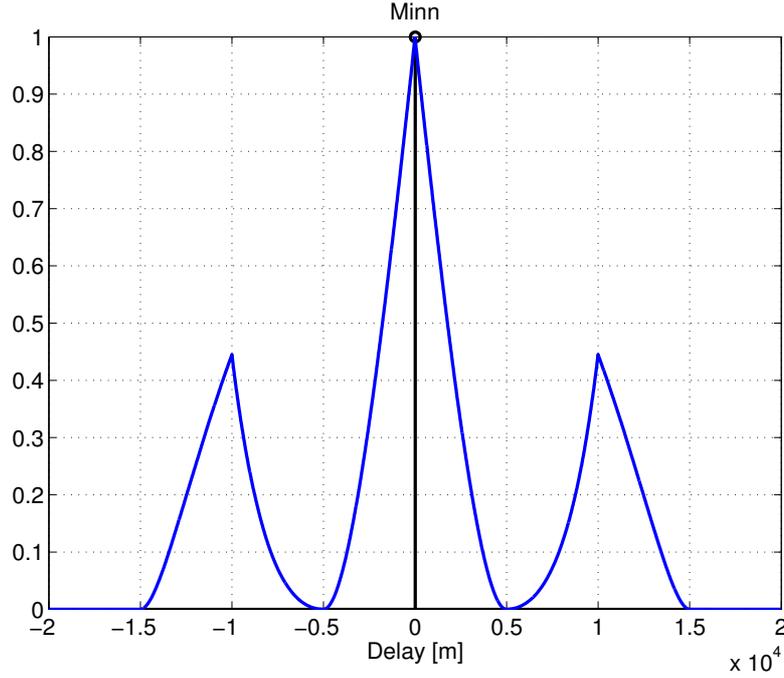


Fig 4-3 Example of Minn metric for AWGN channel (SNR = 30 dB)

4.2.3 Park preamble

Park [12] realizes that between the peak value of the timing metric and the next value there is only a small difference due to metric values being almost the same around the correct starting point. Park method reduces the error of the estimation in ISI channels by using a new preamble structure defined in eq. (28), where A is a complex PN sequence, B is its symmetric sequence, and * denotes the conjugate operation.

$$\text{Preamble}_{\text{Park}} = \left[A_{N/4} \ B_{N/4} \ A_{N/4}^* \ B_{N/4}^* \right] \quad (28)$$

Park's method has the same advantages that Schmid's have because of using the same preamble structures, but making a metric even sharper than the algorithms from sections 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 [12]. This method uses the metric (29) to take advantage of the fact that A and B are symmetric, but using (30) and (31) definitions, giving a peak value at correct symbol timing position and almost zero at other position, as Fig 4-4 shows, because this preamble structure increases the difference between adjacent peak values. This happens

because P_{park} is designed to have $N/2$ different pairs of product between two adjacent values. Simulation results conclude that Park's estimator is unbiased [12].

$$M_{\text{Park}}(d) = \frac{|P_{\text{Park}}(d)|^2}{(E_{\text{Park}}(d))^2} \quad (29)$$

where

$$P_{\text{Park}}(d) = \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{N}{2}} r(d-k) \cdot r(d+k) \quad (30)$$

$$E_{\text{Park}}(d) = \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{N}{2}} |r(d+k)|^2 \quad (31)$$

An example of Park metric for 30 dB SNR is shown in Fig 4-4.

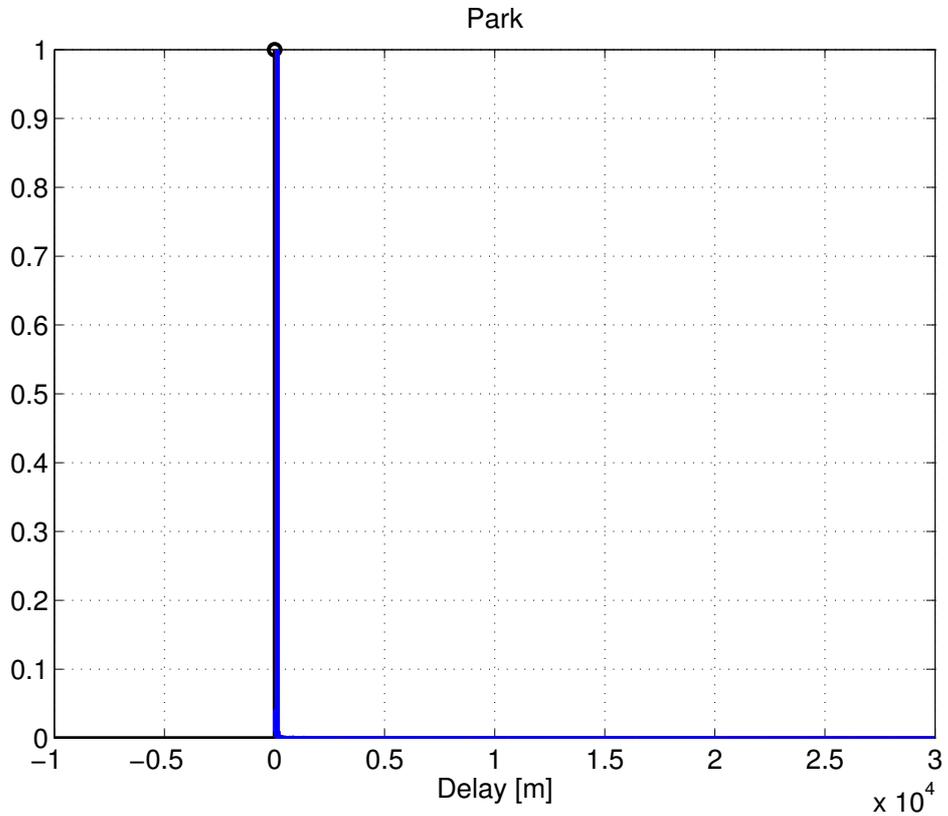


Fig 4-4 Example of Park metric for AWGN channel (SNR = 30 dB)

4.2.4 Kim preamble

To increase the differences between the metric's peak and the other values, Kim [13] proposes preamble (32), where A is a complex PN sequence, B is designed to be symmetric with A and $*$ denotes the conjugate operation.

$$P_{\text{Kim}} = \left[A_{N/4} B_{N/4}^* A_{N/4} B_{N/4}^* \right] \quad (32)$$

The metric is (33) in this case, and it is designed taking into account the fact that B^* is symmetric and conjugate with A .

$$M_{\text{Kim}}(d) = \frac{|P_{\text{Kim}}(d)|^2}{(E_{\text{Kim}}(d))^2} \quad (33)$$

where

$$P_{\text{Kim}}(d) = \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{N}{2}-1} r\left(d - k + \frac{N}{2}\right) r\left(d + k + \frac{N}{2}\right) \quad (34)$$

and

$$E_{\text{Kim}}(d) = \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{N}{2}-1} \left| r\left(d + k + \frac{N}{2}\right) \right|^2 \quad (35)$$

By using P_{Kim} definition from eq. (34), which has $N/2$ significantly different pairs of product between two adjacent values, the metric in Fig 4-5 has an impulse response shape with its maximum at correct symbol timing position.

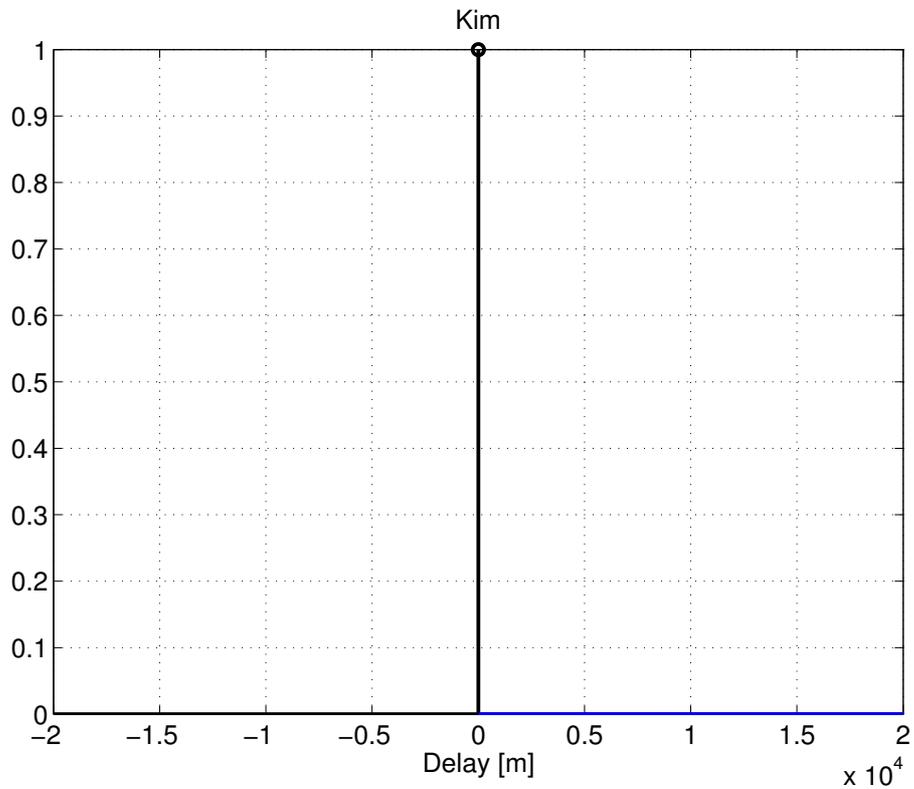


Fig 4-5 Example of Kim metric for AWGN channel (SNR = 30 dB)

4.2.5 Ren preamble

A new preamble (36) is defined to enlarge the difference between consecutive positions of the metric from eq. (37) [14]. This method uses a constant envelop preamble which consists of two Constant Amplitude Zero Auto-Correlation (CAZAC) sequences, of length $N/2$, multiplied with the Hadamard product by a real PN sequence of length N , whose values are +1 or -1. The real PN sequence is used to take advantage of the constant envelop preamble because it increases the difference $M_{Ren}(d) - M_{Ren}(d+1)$. The operator \circ indicates the Hadamard product, which is defined as element by element multiplications of two vectors.

$$Preamble_{Ren} = [C_{N/2} \ C_{N/2}] \circ S_N \quad (36)$$

The working definitions for this method are given by (38) and (39), where s_k is the k -th element of S_N .

$$M_{Ren}(d) = \frac{|P_{Kim}(d)|^2}{(E_{Kim}(d))^2} \quad (37)$$

$$P_{Ren}(d) = \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{N}{2}-1} s_k s_{k+N/2} \cdot r^*(d+k) \cdot r\left(d+k+\frac{N}{2}\right) \quad (38)$$

$$E_{Ren}(d) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{N}{2}-1} |r(d+k)|^2 \quad (39)$$

The metric in Fig 4-6, which is based on finding the highest correlation between two repeated sequences, has its peak at correct symbol timing position and much smaller values at incorrect positions due to the correlation property of S_N weighted factors. Ren's metric is robust to frequency offset as reported in [14].

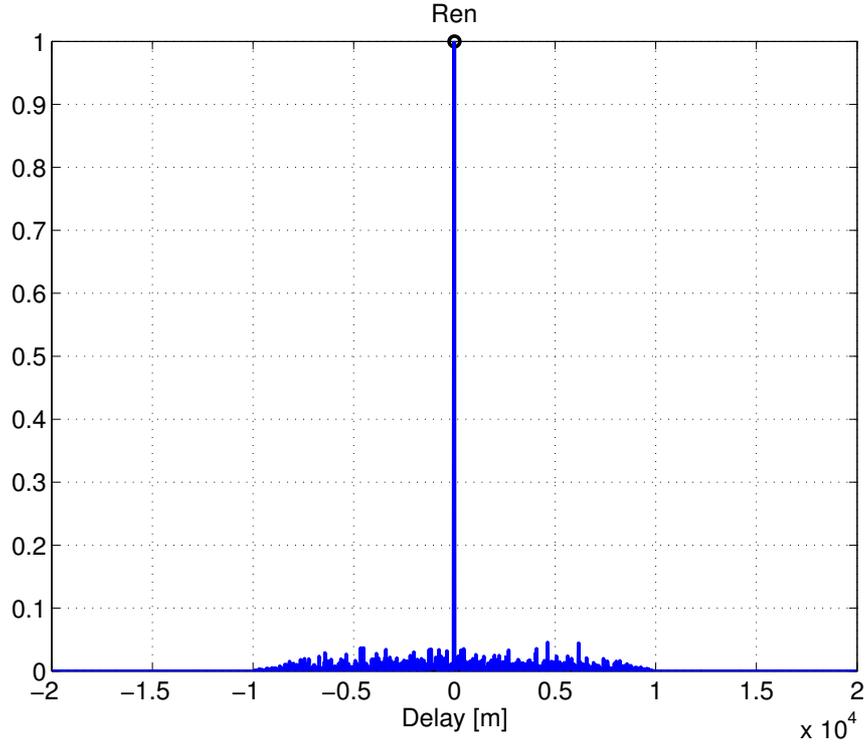


Fig 4-6 Example of Ren metric for AWGN channel (SNR = 30 dB)

4.2.6 Kang preamble

The performance of previous algorithms is directly related to the preamble structure, so they cannot be generalized to every OFDM system because each system specifications define their own preamble structures. Kang presented in [15] a timing synchronization method which is independent of the preamble A_N . The new method consists of creating a new sequence, called *correlation sequence of the preamble* (CSP), which is defined in eq. (40),

$$\mathbf{C} \triangleq \mathbf{A}^* \circ \mathbf{A}^{circ,a} \quad (40)$$

where \mathbf{A}^* denotes the element by element conjugate of an arbitrary preamble \mathbf{A} of length N , and $\mathbf{A}^{circ,a}$ denotes the circular shift of \mathbf{A} by an amount equal to a . The optimum shift value a can be found where the autocorrelation of \mathbf{C} has an impulsive shape. Transposed vectors \mathbf{p}^T and \mathbf{q}^T are defined as the sign of the real part of \mathbf{C}^T and the sign of its imaginary part, respectively, as Fig 4-7 shows. Note that real and imaginary parts are calculated separately because computational complexity may be reduced.

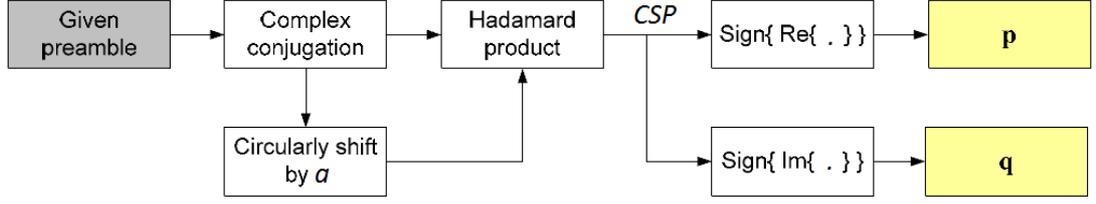


Fig 4-7 CSP, p and q block diagram [15]

Once the shift value a has been found by calculating where the difference, between the peak of CSP autocorrelation and the mean value of it, is maximum (see Appendix), the CSP sequence is used during the estimation process to calculate the correlation between the received signal and the CSP sequence itself. The receiver is able to estimate correct timing point by finding the maximum of the metric from eq. (41). Said metric is shown in Fig 4-9 and it is defined by using eq. (42) and eq. (43). Vector \mathbf{V}_n is defined in eq. (44), where $\mathbf{R}_{(n,N)}$ is the vector with the received signal samples $[r(n), r(n+1), \dots, r(n+N-1)]$.

$$M_{\text{Kang}}(d) = \frac{|P_{\text{Kang}}(d)|}{E_{\text{Kang}}(d)} \quad (41)$$

$$P_{\text{Kang}}(d) \triangleq \text{Re}(\mathbf{V}_n)\mathbf{p}^T + \text{Im}(\mathbf{V}_n)\mathbf{q}^T \quad (42)$$

$$E_{\text{Kang}}(d) = \|\text{Re}(\mathbf{V}_n)\| + \|\text{Im}(\mathbf{V}_n)\| \quad (43)$$

$$\mathbf{V}_n \triangleq \mathbf{R}_{(n,N)}^* \circ \mathbf{R}_{(n,N)}^{\text{circ},a} \quad (44)$$

To summarize the whole metric definition, a block diagram is shown in Fig 4-8

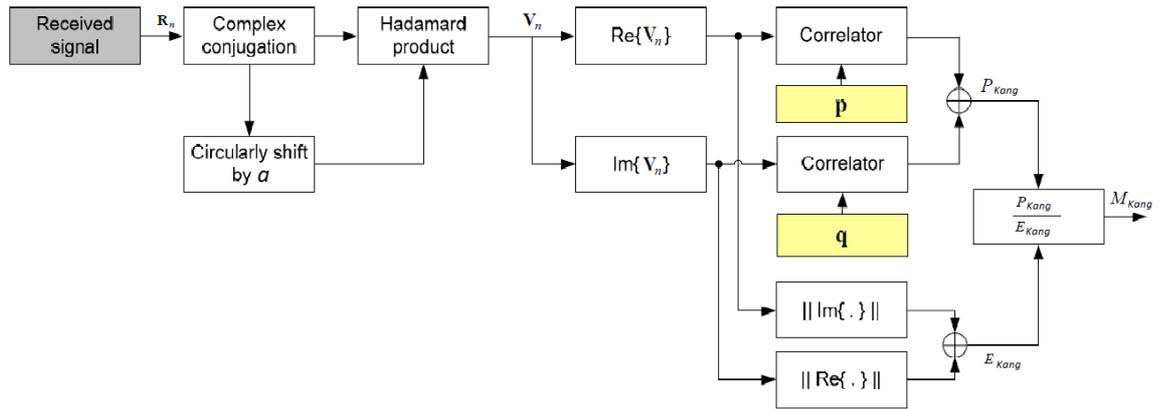


Fig 4-8 Block diagram of Kang metric [15]

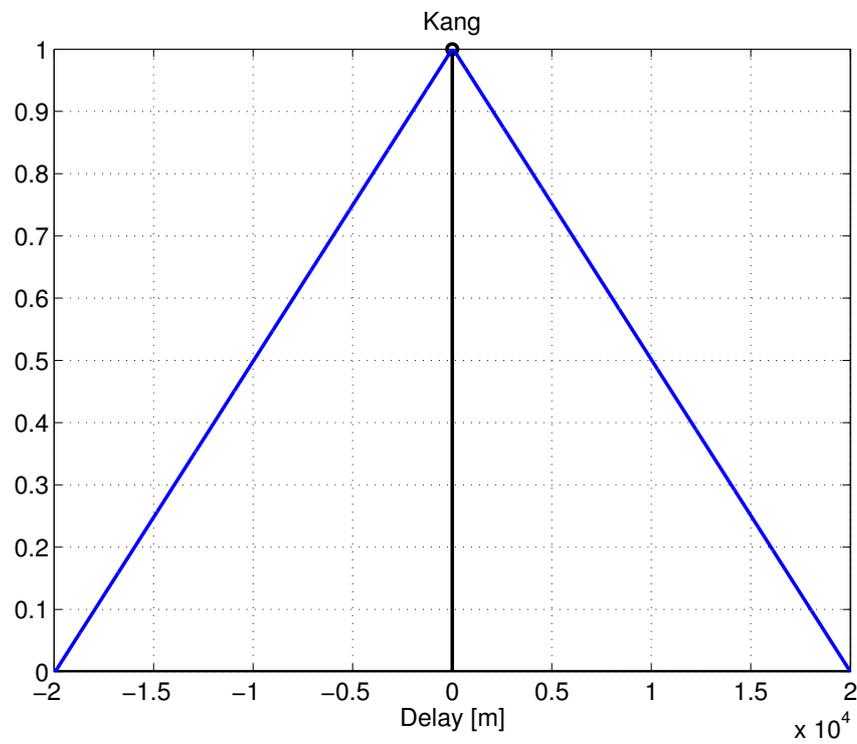


Fig 4-9 Example of Kang metric for AWGN channel (SNR = 30 dB)

4.3 Multiple signal classification

Multiple Signal Classification (MUSIC) estimator is a super-resolution algorithm [40] that calculates a pseudo spectrum as in eq. (45), whose maximum gives the estimated delay of the signal.

$$S_{\text{MUSIC}} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=L_p}^{N-1} |q_k^H v(\tau)|^2} \quad (45)$$

where L_p is the number of estimated multipath components from the channel model, N denotes the total number of equally spaced frequencies, q_k is the k -th noise eigenvector (eigenvectors corresponding to $N-L_p$ smallest eigenvalues) of the covariance matrix of the received signal, the upper index H denotes the Hermitian operation, and $v(\tau_k)$ is defined by (46), where super index T denotes transpose operation and Δf is the separation between sub-carriers.

$$v(\tau_k) = [1 \ e^{-j2\pi\Delta f\tau_k} \dots \ e^{-j2\pi(N-1)\Delta f\tau_k}]^T \quad (46)$$

The pseudo spectrum block diagram and its graphic representation are shown in Fig 4-10 and Fig 4-11, respectively.

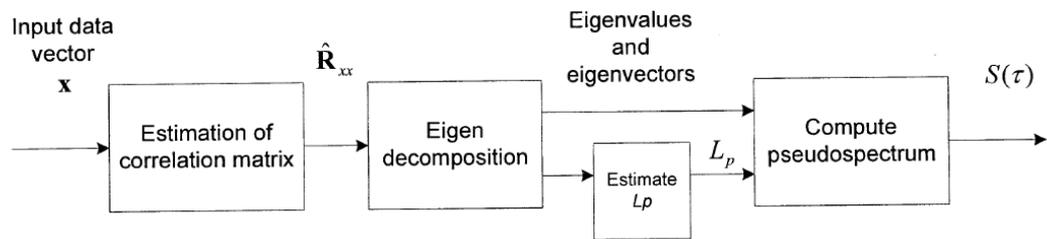


Fig 4-10 Block diagram of MUSIC super-resolution algorithm [40]

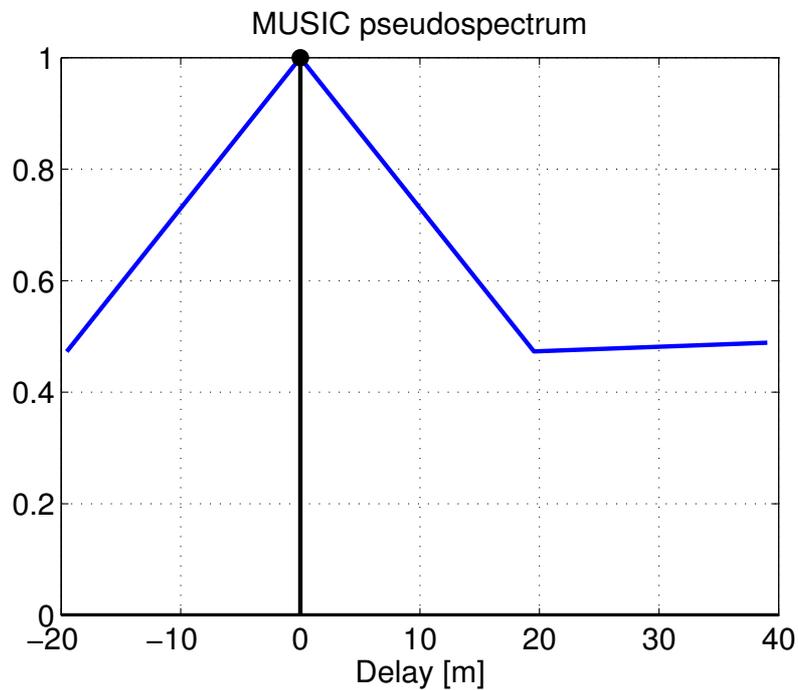


Fig 4-11 Example of MUSIC pseudo spectrum for AWGN channel (SNR = 30 dB)

5 Simulation model

The Matlab simulator model implements the system from Fig 5-1, where d_p^k is the p-th complex data symbol of the k-th OFDM symbol formed from a 4-QAM modulation. Although the used modulations for the three system are BPSK, QPSK, 16-QAM and 64-QAM, according to Table 2-6, we use 4-QAM to avoid simulation times being too long, but our model is not limited to 4-QAM modulations only.

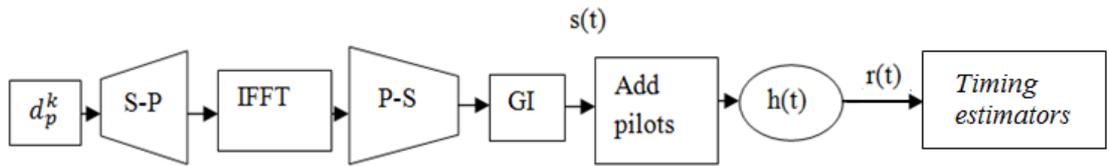


Fig 5-1 OFDM block diagram

Serial to parallel block must have as many outputs as the length of the inverse FFT operation. It is known that LTE systems work with a range of FFT lengths from 128 to 2048 sub-carriers, whereas WLAN uses from 64 to 128 and WiMAX work with 256 sub-carriers, as seen in section 2.5. For this reason, the simulation model evaluates every algorithm's system performance for different FFT lengths from 64 to 2048.

The separation between sub-carriers Δf is defined as 15 kHz in the three systems and, consequently, the OFDM symbol duration is 66.66 μ s (the inverse of the sub-carrier spacing).

Once the FFT length and the sub-carrier spacing are fixed, error in meters can be defined as eq. (47), where c is the speed of light in the vacuum.

$$\text{error} \left(\frac{m}{\text{sample}} \right) = \frac{c}{(\Delta f \cdot N_{\text{FFT}})} \quad (47)$$

After the parallel to serial block, the guard interval is defined as 1/4, 1/8, 1/16 or 1/32 of the FFT length, because this length can be used by LTE, WLAN and WiMAX as well (see Table 2-6).

Just before entering the transmission channel, the signal is expanded with an oversampling factor for MUSIC algorithm correct behavior.

The simulated system channel introduces a pseudorandom delay to the emitted signal and works in a range of SNR from -30dB to 30 dB. After that, a phase offset depending on

the frequency offset is added to the delayed signal. Finally, the received signal $r(t)$ is generated by adding AWGN. The simulation model includes a multipath channel with Rayleigh fading to work in more realistic conditions.

The last step from Fig 5-1 is the timing estimation, which depends on the different algorithms from Chapter 4. Every algorithm from Chapter 4 has its own metric calculations but there are some that are common to all algorithms, such as generating a vector of delays to compute the Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) from eq. (48), padding the signal with zeros at the beginning and at the end of the received signal and, finally, finding the maximum of said metric.

$$\text{RMSE}(m) = \text{error}(m/\text{sample}) \cdot \sqrt{\text{mean}((\text{estimated_delay} - \text{true_delay})^2)} \quad (48)$$

There are some special cases, Schmidl's and Kang's algorithms. In Schmidl's algorithm, the first maximum value from the plateau needs to be found by computing where the derivative of the Schmidl metric becomes zero, and Kang's algorithm needs to call a function to determine the correct shift of the *correlation sequence of the preamble* (CSP) as a previous step to compute the metric.

Supporting Matlab files used in the modelling have been added in the Appendix.

6 Simulation results for timing

The performance of the studied estimators is evaluated by RMSE, using Matlab-based computer simulations. Following sections evaluate the performance of every metric by changing some system parameters.

6.1 Comparison for various SNR values

Firstly, the simulator runs with CBTS estimator for different preamble structures to compare the performance for different SNR in AWGN static single path channel, with 1024 as FFT length, in Fig 6-1. It is observed that CBTS estimator has a similar performance independently of the preamble structure.

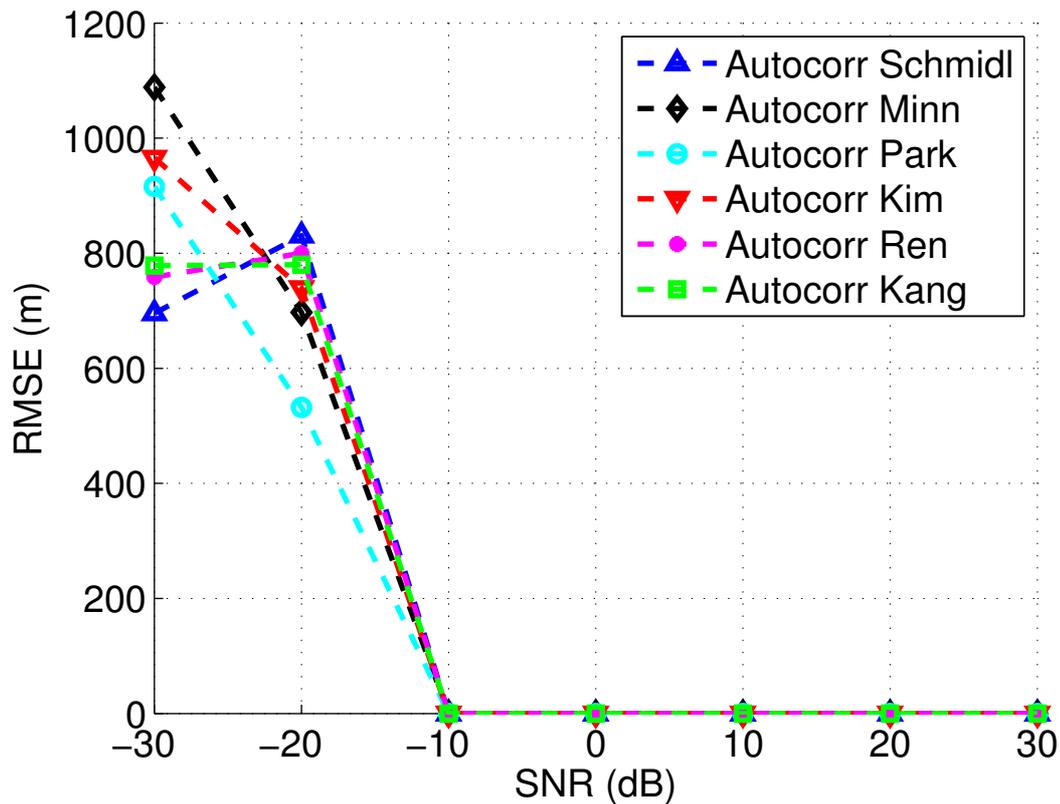


Fig 6-1 CBTS comparison over single path channel

Secondly, a system with MUSIC estimator using the different preamble structures, an oversampling factor equal to two and 1024 as FFT size (due to Matlab limitations) is shown in Fig 6-2. The fact that some metrics increase their RMSE after being zero can be explained because the simulation should need more points to give more accurate results.

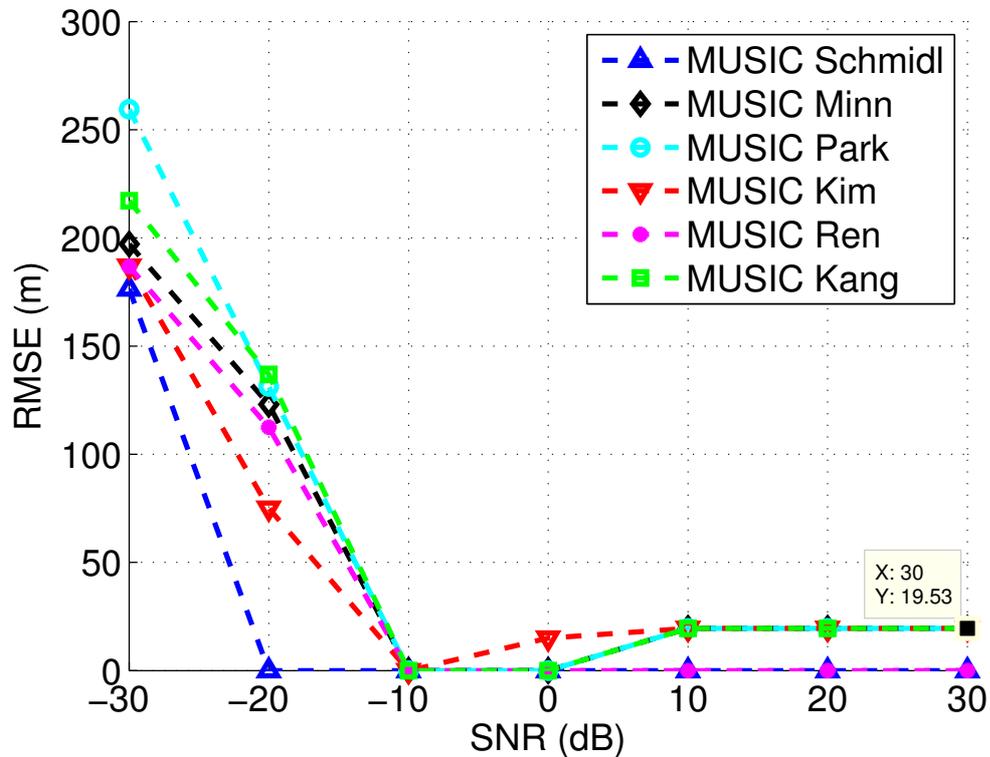


Fig 6-2 MUSIC comparison over single path channel

For these reasons, following simulations only consider best MUSIC and best CBTS estimators. Both CBTS and MUSIC have similar performance independently of the preamble structure, so Schmidl preamble is chosen as an example. Fig 6-3 shows the system performance for different SNR values for single path channel.

Schmidl algorithm is clearly the worst one in single path channels: it is only having good performance at the highest SNR value. Minn or Ren algorithms work properly from 0 dB to 30 dB. The rest of algorithms under study have good performance from -10 dB onwards. Anyway, taking into consideration the full range of SNR values, MUSIC is the best algorithm followed by Kim, Park and Kang algorithms, as can be seen in Fig 6-4. Although MUSIC, Kim, and Park have almost the same error (about 100 meters) at -30 dB, MUSIC decreases rapidly to nearly zero meters error at -20 dB.

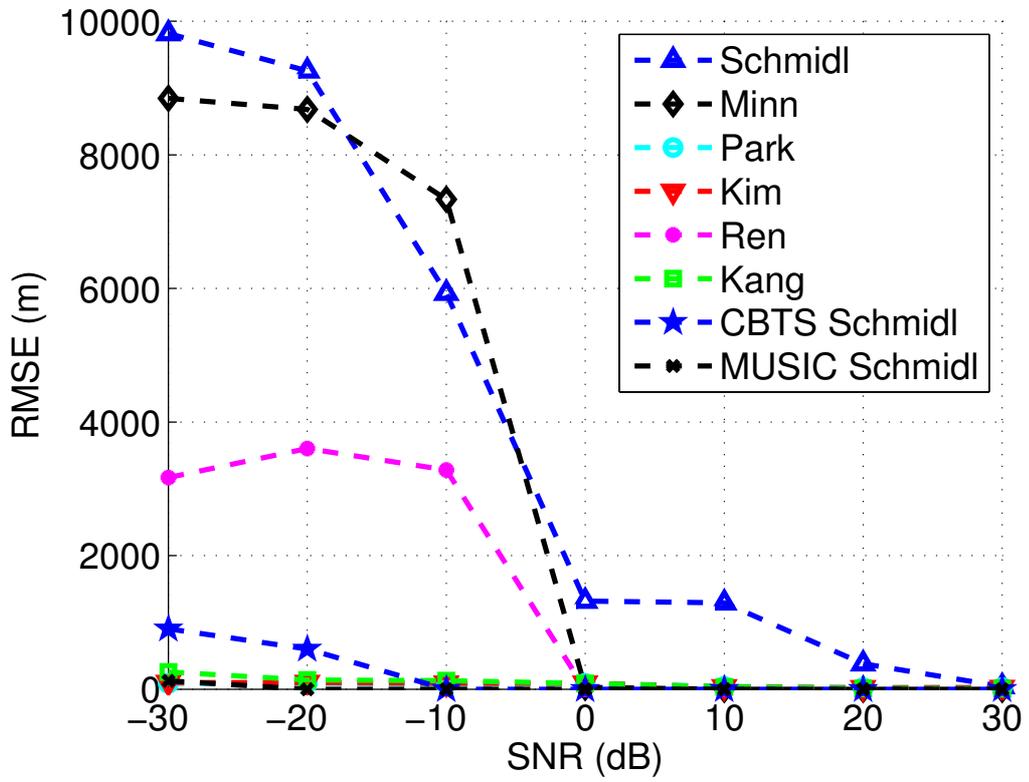


Fig 6-3 Metrics SNR comparison over single path channel

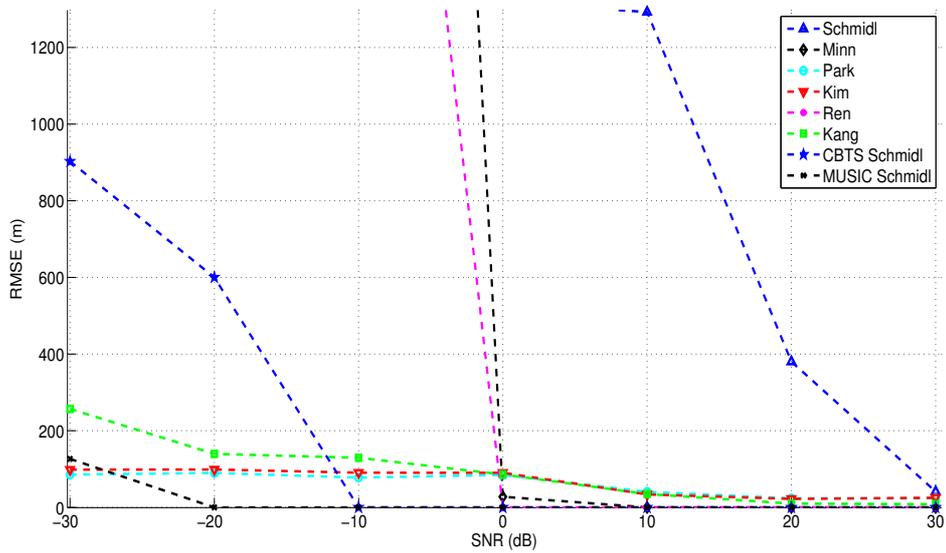


Fig 6-4 Zoom in of single path performance from Fig 6 3

Our next step consists of analyzing fading multipath performance. Fig 6-5 shows the system performance for different SNR values in Rayleigh fading multipath channel. Whereas Schmidl, Minn and Ren continue having a poor performance, it is not clear which algorithm has the best performance. We need to zoom in Fig 6-5 to see the differences between single path and multipath in Fig 6-6.

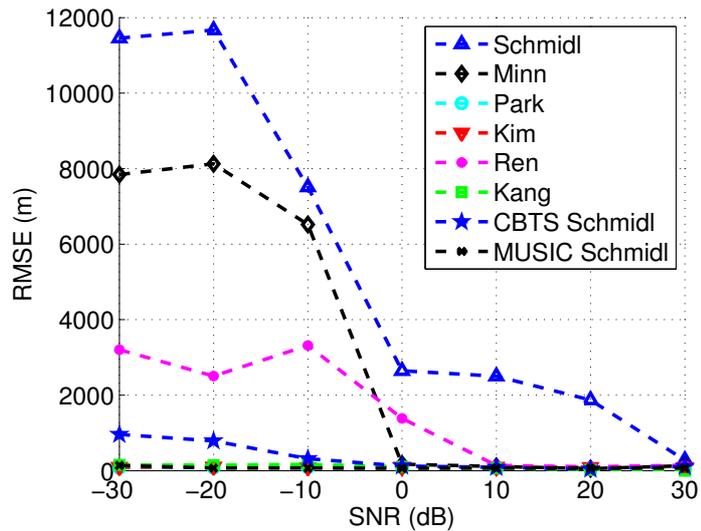


Fig 6-5 Metrics SNR comparison over multipath channel

In Fig 6-6 it is observed that MUSIC, Park, Kim and Kang have the best performance, being Kang algorithm the best one at high SNR values.

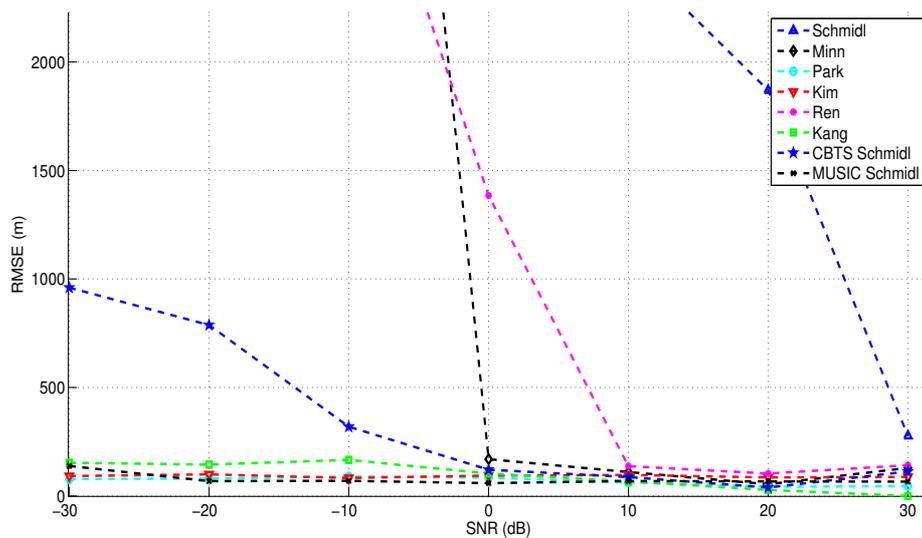


Fig 6-6 Zoom in of multipath performance from Fig 6-5

6.2 Comparison for various number of sub-carriers

Once the SNR is set up to 30 dB, system performance evaluation continues by comparing every algorithm for different FFT lengths.

First of all, Fig 6-7 shows that none of the metrics are depending on the number of sub-carriers used from the total of FFT subcarriers.

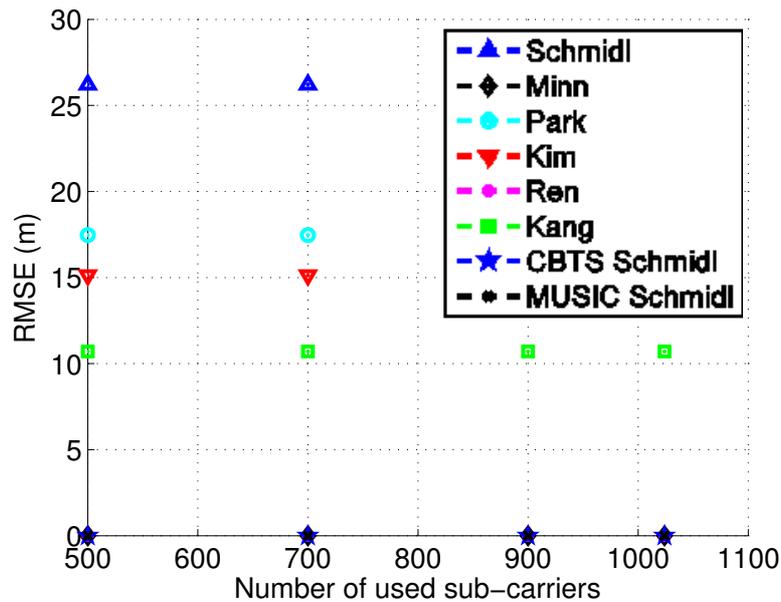


Fig 6-7 Metrics comparison for different number of used subcarriers at 30 dB

Once it is observed that there is no dependence with the number of used subcarriers, the algorithms performance is evaluated in terms of FFT length. Simulation results show that an OFDM system with CBTS estimator is independent of FFT length at good SNR, as Fig 6-8 shows us, whereas Fig 6-9 shows that MUSIC algorithm performance is much better when using preambles divided into two equal parts rather than the other preamble structures. That confirms our choice of Schmidl's preamble.

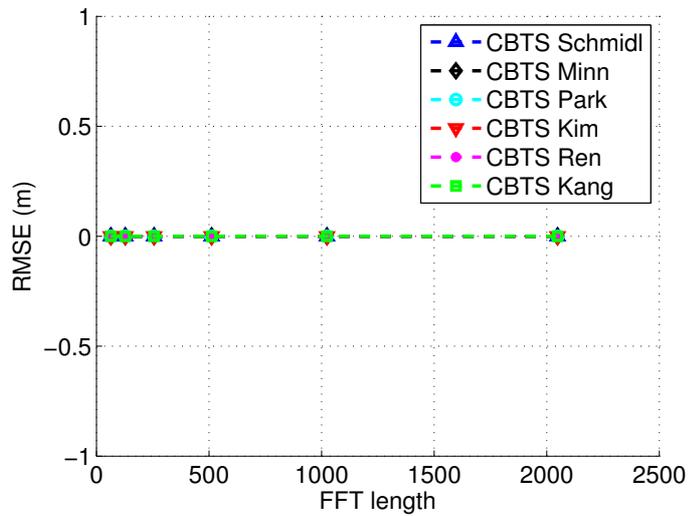


Fig 6-8 CBTS comparison for different number of FFT subcarriers at 30 dB

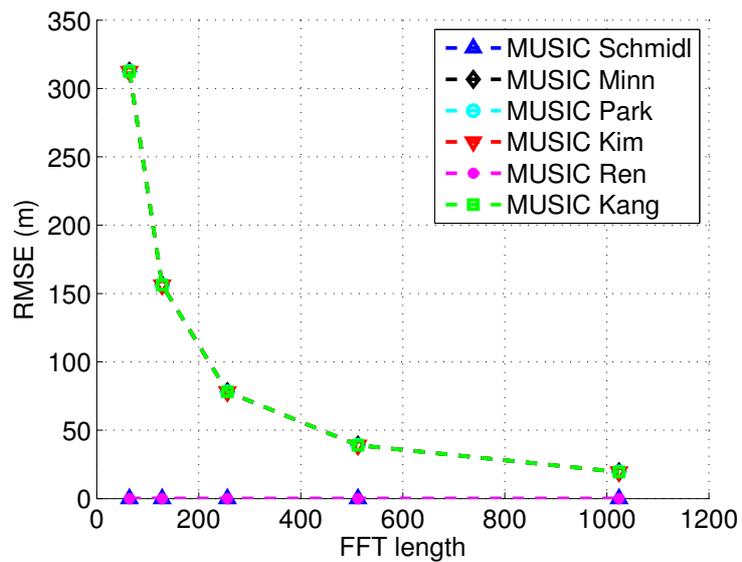


Fig 6-9 MUSIC comparison for different number of FFT subcarriers at 30 dB

After these considerations, the simulator runs with every metric, including best CBTS and best MUSIC estimators, at SNR equal to 0 dB. Notice that oversampling factor is chosen equal to two only when using MUSIC algorithm. Simulation results in Fig 6-10 show that RMSE decreases with FFT length, which makes sense with theoretical previsions because RMSE definition has the FFT length in its denominator.

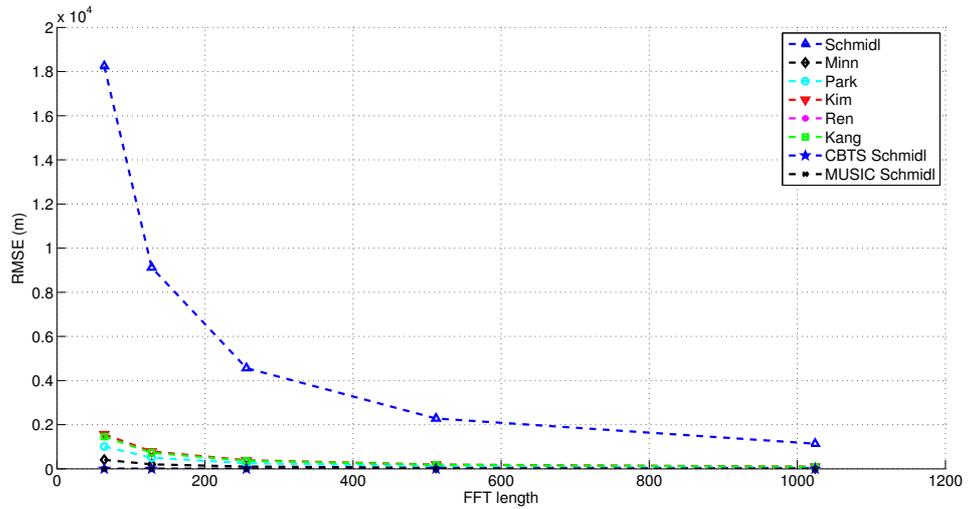


Fig 6-10 Metrics comparison over single path with SNR = 0 dB

Because of Schmidl metric RMSE is so high, the zoomed in part from previous figure is shown in Fig 6-11, where CBTS, MUSIC and Ren algorithms are not dependent on FFT length.

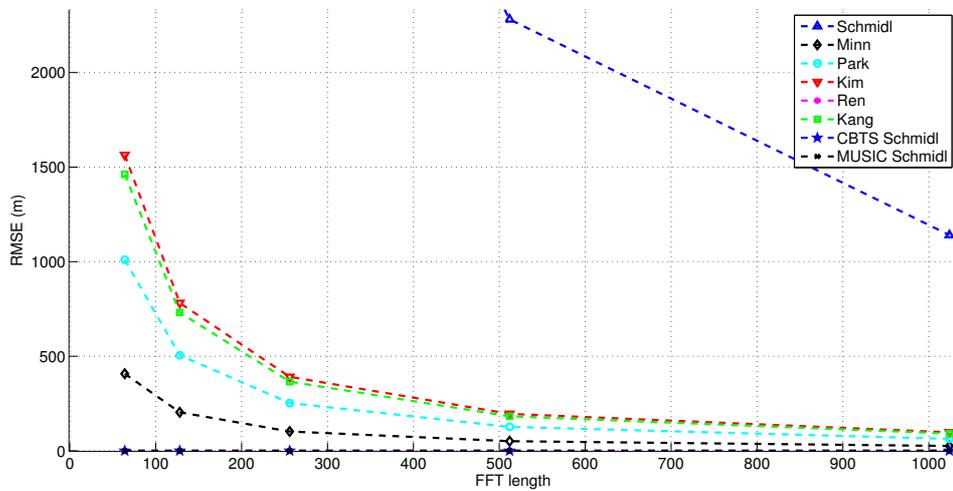


Fig 6-11 Zoom in of single path performance from Fig 6-10

Now the SNR is fixed at 30 dB and Fig 6-12 shows a comparison between best MUSIC estimator, CBTS estimator and each metric under study. We observe that MUSIC, CBTS and Ren algorithms are not depending on FFT length at highest SNR value.

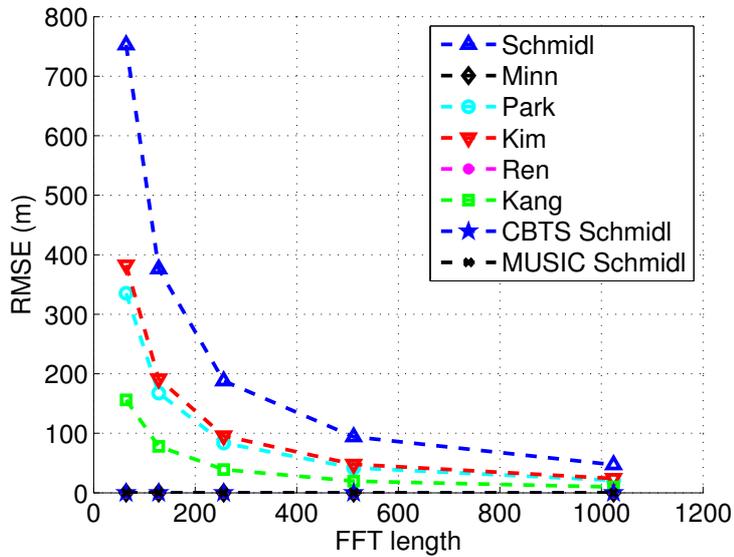


Fig 6-12 Metrics comparison over single path with SNR = 30 dB

Finally, Fig 6-13 shows the system performance when the signal travels across a Rayleigh fading multipath channel.

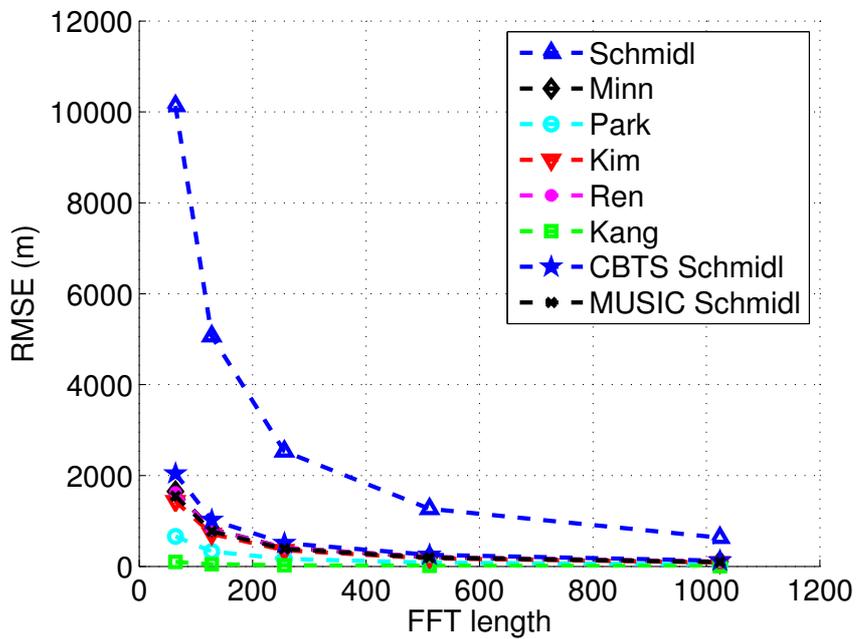


Fig 6-13 Metrics comparison over Rayleigh fading multipath channel, with SNR = 30 dB

The main difference between single path and multi path channel is that Kang is the algorithm with the best accuracy in multipath channels independently of FFT length at

good SNR, whereas CBTS, MUSIC and Ren are the best algorithms over single path channels because the three of them are robust to FFT length.

The FFT length is set to 1024 for the following sections, because the metrics that are depending on it have better performance with higher number of subcarriers.

6.3 Comparison for various guard interval lengths

This section evaluates the system simulator performance when the GI parameter is changed to 1/32, 1/16, 1/8 or 1/4 of the FFT length, according to parameters from section 2.5.

To begin with, system performance in terms of GI length is evaluated in Fig 6-14 over a single path AWGN channel. None of the metrics under study are affected by the GI length. We can now say that MUSIC has better performance than Kim, Park and Kang algorithms because MUSIC algorithm is the only one that reaches zero meters error over single path from the best four algorithms mentioned in section 6.1.

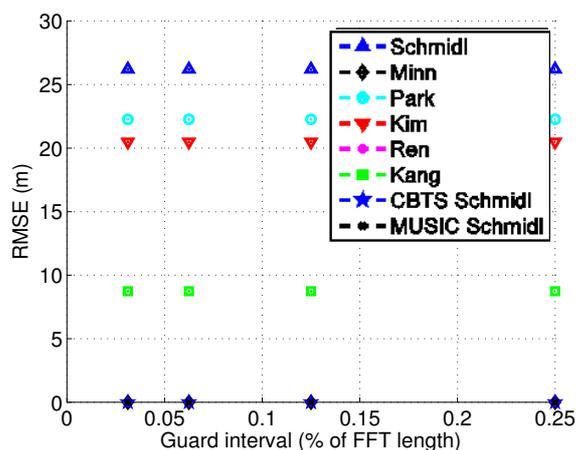


Fig 6-14 Metrics GI comparison over AWGN single path

To continue with, an evaluation of the system over a Rayleigh fading multipath channel is done in Fig 6-15, which confirms that Kang is the best algorithm over multipath channel at high SNR, followed by MUSIC, Park and Kim as seen at the end of section 6.1.

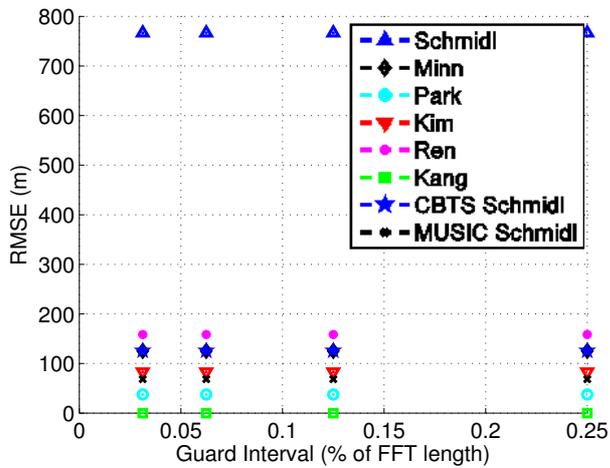


Fig 6-15 Metrics GI comparison over Rayleigh fading multipath channel

The conclusion is that OFDM systems are not affected by the GI length.

6.4 Comparison for various OFDM symbol times

In this section, FFT length and SNR are fixed to 1024 subcarriers and 30 dB, respectively, the GI is fixed to 1/4 of the FFT length because it is the length used in the three OFDM systems under study (LTE, WLAN and WiMAX). System performance evaluation continues by simulating for different OFDM symbol times in Fig 6-16 for single path AWGN channel. OFDM symbol time T_b is the inverse of sub-carrier spacing (Δf), whose values are 7.5 kHz, 15 kHz and 60 kHz in these simulation results.

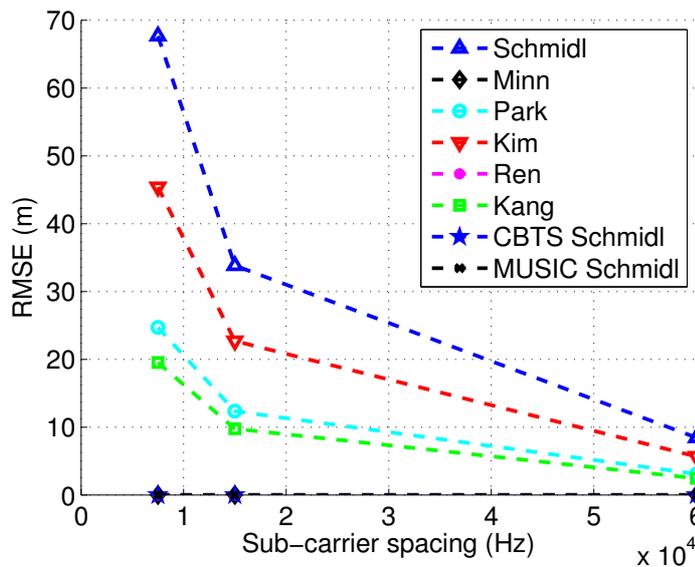


Fig 6-16 Sub-carrier spacing comparison in single path channel with SNR = 30dB

As theory predicted, it is observed that the performance of the estimators is better with bigger Δf and, as a consequence, smaller OFDM symbol times. It makes sense because the error definition in eq. (47) has Δf as a denominator. Despite of what theory predicted, Minn, Ren, CBTS and MUSIC algorithms are robust to Δf in single path AWGN channels.

Fig 6-17 shows simulation results for Rayleigh fading multipath channel, where we can observe that Kang is the best algorithm because it has the lowest RMSE and it is the only algorithms which is robust to Δf .

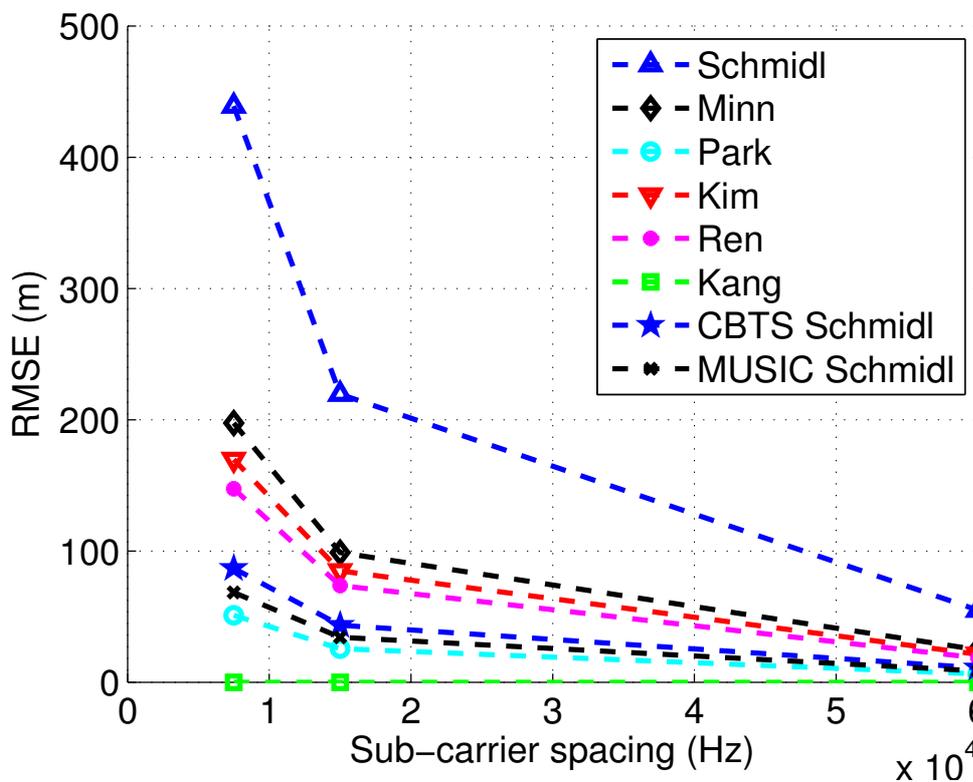


Fig 6-17 Sub-carrier spacing comparison over Rayleigh fading multipath channel with SNR = 30dB

7 Conclusions and open issues

This thesis addressed the issue of preamble-based timing synchronization in OFDM systems with the goal of cellular-based positioning. The main observation has been that typically, the preamble-based approaches do not offer sufficient timing accuracy for positioning applications in realistic channel conditions with low to moderate SNRs and multipath fading.

The starting point has been the Schmidl algorithm based on a simple 2-part preamble, which has also been the basis of all the preamble-based algorithms developed further on. While Schmidl algorithm can be used as benchmark, it typically has the worst performance among the considered algorithms due to a flat region in its maximum levels that is equal to the guard interval length. Simulation results show that the lengths of the GI or the number of used subcarriers are not affecting the system performance neither in single path nor multipath channels (those simulations were done at equal bandwidths). It is observed that the performance of the estimators, both in single and multipath channels, is better with larger frequency spacing Δf and, as a consequence, smaller OFDM symbol times. That happens as expected, because larger frequency spacing means larger bandwidths and thus better timing accuracy. For the same reason, it is also observed that high FFT length values improve the system performance.

Focusing on single path channel, simulations results show that Minn, Ren, CBTS and MUSIC algorithms are robust to OFDM symbol time. Results also show that Schmidl algorithm is the worst one whereas Minn or Ren algorithms only work properly for SNR values higher than 0 dB. It is observed that MUSIC is the best algorithm under study in the full range of SNR values, and at sufficiently high FFT length, reaching zero delay error even at -20 dB SNR, followed by Kim, Park and Kang algorithms, which have a similar performance. It is also observed that CBTS, MUSIC and Ren algorithms are suitable for LTE, WLAN and WiMAX because of its robustness to the number of FFT subcarriers (MUSIC algorithm is only robust to FFT length for the algorithms based on preambles with two identical parts). As a result, MUSIC algorithm with a preamble structure divided into two equal parts is the best algorithm over single path AWGN channel.

Evaluating the simulator performance over Rayleigh fading multipath channel, we can observe that Schmidl, Minn and Ren algorithms are clearly the worst among the algorithms under study, whereas MUSIC, Park, Kim and Kang algorithms have the best (and similar) performance. Kang algorithm is the only one that reaches zero error at the highest SNR value, while the others may still have a residual bias or may need even higher SNR than

those typical to an OFDM system in moderate to good channel conditions. Furthermore, results show that Kang is robust to the number of FFT subcarriers so it can be used in LTE, WLAN and WiMAX. In addition to this, Kang algorithm is the only algorithm that is robust to OFDM symbol time. Although MUSIC, Park, Kim and Kang algorithms have a similar performance when compared for various SNR values, we can conclude that Kang algorithm is the best one in multipath channel because it reaches zero meters error and it can be used with the three OFDM systems and with any kind of preamble structure.

To sum up, MUSIC algorithm is the best choice over single path channels, as long as the transmitted preamble is divided into two equal parts. For multipath fading channels, Kang is offering the best performance among the studied algorithms. However, preamble-based algorithms such as Kang's have much lower implementation complexity than super-resolution algorithms such as MUSIC. The complexity of various algorithms has not been studied in this thesis and it remains an open issue worthy to address in the continuation. Also, as a general conclusion, other timing algorithms than those based on preambles should be studied and investigated for high-accuracy positioning with OFDM systems. Such approaches are open issues in the literature regarding OFDM-based timing estimates.

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Appendix

%The following lines illustrate the main part of the preamble-based estimators.

```
%Main function #####
%simulates an OFDM system, generates each metric preamble, passes said
%preambles through single path channel, and returns a vector with
%estimated and true delay for each algorithm.

clear all; clc
%choose SNR level in dB
SNR=40;
%choose number of constellation points in QAM modulation
M_QAM=4;
%speed of light
c=3*1e8;
%choose FFT length
N_FFT=[2048];
%choose frequency spacing delta f
Df=[60e3];
%choose guard interval length as a percentage of N_FFT
NGI=[1/4];
%choose number of used carriers
N_used=N_FFT;
N_GI=round(NGI*N_FFT);
%delay error in meters corresponding to 1 symbol error
Derr_T=c/(Df*N_FFT);
T_OFDM=1/Df;
%frequency offset
foffset=0;
#####Build the preambles according to 6 algorithms #####
#####Build the preambles according to 6 algorithms #####

for metric=1:6,
    switch metric
        case 1 %Schmidl Cox preamble
            B=2;
            reS=(-1).^round(rand(1,round(N_used/B)));
            imS=1i.*(-1).^round(rand(1,round(N_used/B)));
            s1=reS+imS;
            s=fft(s1);
            qam_modulated_data_ready=[s s];
            qam_data_tx=qam_modulated_data_ready;
            %odd carriers are zeroed
            Ip=[1:2:N_used];
            qam_data_tx(Ip)=0*qam_data_tx(Ip);
            tx_signal_noGI=ifft(qam_data_tx, N_FFT);
            %insert GI
            tx_signal=[tx_signal_noGI(N_FFT-N_GI+1:N_FFT) tx_signal_noGI];
            N=N_FFT+N_GI;
```



```

        P_Schmidl(d)=sum(conj(recvd_signal_zeropad(d:d+Len_all/2-
1)).*recvd_signal_zeropad(d+Len_all/2:d+Len_all-1));
    end;
    Schmidl_metric=(abs(P_Schmidl).^2./E_Schmidl);
    %timing estimation is
    derivative=diff(Schmidl_metric);
    derivative=derivative/max(derivative); %normalize to 1
    [~,maxipos1]=max(derivative);
    [~,minipos1]=min(derivative);
    %find the flat region in between max and min
    I1=[min([maxipos1 minipos1]): max([maxipos1 minipos1]) ];
    epsi=0.001;
    I=find(abs(derivative(I1))<epsi);
    while isempty(I),
        epsi=10*epsi;
        I=find(abs(derivative(I1))<epsi);
    end;
    xax=[-Len_all:Len_all];
    t_est_Schmidl=xax(I1(I(1)));
case 2 %Minn
    Len_all=N_FFT;%N_FFT or length(recvd_signal);
    recvd_signal_zeropad=[zeros(1,Len_all) recvd_signal
zeros(1,Len_all)];
    E_Minn=zeros(1,2*Len_all+1);
    P_Minn=zeros(1,2*Len_all+1);
    for d=1:2*Len_all+1,
        for b=0:B-1,
            switch b
                case {0,1}
                    g(b+1)=(-1);
                case {2,3},
                    g(b+1)=(+1);
            end;
        rx_sgn_b=recvd_signal_zeropad(d+b*Len_all/B:d+b*Len_all/B+Len_all/B-1);
        E_Minn(d)=E_Minn(d)+sum(abs(rx_sgn_b).^2);
        if b < B-1,
            rx_sgn_bp1=recvd_signal_zeropad(d+(b+1)*Len_all/B:d+(b+1)*Len_all/B+Len_a
ll/B-1);
            P_Minn(d)=P_Minn(d)+g(b+1)*(sum(conj(rx_sgn_b).*rx_sgn_bp1));
        end;
    end;
    end;
    Minn_metric=(B/(B-1)*abs(P_Minn)./E_Minn).^2;
    %timing estimation is
    [~, maxipos1]=max(Minn_metric);
    t_est_Minn=maxipos1-Len_all-1;
case 3 %Park
    Len_all=N_FFT; %N_FFT or length(recvd_signal);
    recvd_signal_zeropad=[zeros(1,Len_all) recvd_signal
zeros(1,Len_all) zeros(1,Len_all)];
    for d=1:2*Len_all+1,
        P_Park(d)=sum((recvd_signal_zeropad(d:d+Len_all/2)).*fliplr(recvd_signal_
zeropad(d+Len_all/2:d+Len_all)));

```

```

E_Park(d)=sum(abs(recvd_signal_zeropad(d:d+Len_all/2)).^2);
    end;
    Park_metric=(abs(P_Park)./(E_Park)).^2;
    %timing estimation is
    [~, maxipos1]=max(Park_metric);
    t_est_Park=maxipos1-Len_all/2;
    case 4 %Kim
        Len_all=N_FFT; %N_FFT or length(recvd_signal);
        recvd_signal_zeropad=[zeros(1,2*Len_all) recvd_signal
zeros(1,2*Len_all)];
        for d=1:2*Len_all+1,

E_Kim(d)=sum(abs(recvd_signal_zeropad(d+Len_all/2:d+Len_all-1)).^2);

P_Kim(d)=sum(recvd_signal_zeropad(d+Len_all/2:d+Len_all).*fliplr(...
conj(recvd_signal_zeropad(d+Len_all:d+Len_all+Len_all/2))));
        end;
        Kim_metric=(abs(P_Kim)./E_Kim).^2;
        %timing estimation is
        maxipos1=find(Kim_metric>1);
        t_est_Kim=maxipos1(end)-Len_all-2;
        case 5 %Ren
            Len_all=N_FFT;
            recvd_signal_zeropad=[zeros(1,Len_all) recvd_signal
zeros(1,Len_all) zeros(1,Len_all)];
            for d=1:2*Len_all+1,

P_Ren(d)=sum(s1(1:Len_all/2).*s1(1+Len_all/2:Len_all).*conj(...
recvd_signal_zeropad(d+1:d+Len_all/2)).*recvd_signal_zeropad(d+1+Len_all/
2:d+Len_all));
                E_Ren(d)=0.5*sum(abs(recvd_signal_zeropad(d:d+Len_all-
1)).^2);
            end;
            Ren_metric=(abs(P_Ren)./E_Ren).^2;
            %timing estimation is
            [~, maxipos1]=max(Ren_metric);
            t_est_Ren=maxipos1-Len_all;
            case 6 %Kang
                Len_all=N_FFT; %N_FFT or length(recvd_signal);
                recvd_signal_zeropad=[zeros(1,Len_all) recvd_signal
zeros(1,Len_all)];
                for d=1:2*Len_all+1,
                    V=conj(recvd_signal_zeropad(d:d+Len_all-
1)).*circshift(recvd_signal_zeropad(d:d+Len_all-1), shift);
                    E_Kang(d)=norm(real(V))+norm(imag(V));
                    P_Kang(d)=real(V)*p'+imag(V)*q';
                end;
                Kang_metric=(P_Kang./E_Kang).^2;
                %timing estimation is
                [maximum, ~]=max(Kang_metric);
                maxipos1=find(Kang_metric>maximum-1);
                t_est_Kang=maxipos1(end)-Len_all-1;
            end;
        end;
end;

```

```

disp(['True Delay and Estimated delays in meters for Schmidl, Minn, Park,
Kim, Ren and Kang'])
[D t_est_Schmidl t_est_Minn t_est_Park t_est_Kim t_est_Ren
t_est_Kang]*Derr_T

```

%Following function is used to simulate the system channel

```

%Channel_part function #####
function [ recvd_signal,D ]=Channel_part(tx_signal,SNR,foffset,T_OFDM);
%Add random delay; here given in samples
D=round(10*rand(1,1));
del_sig=[zeros(1,D) tx_signal(1:end-D)];
%Add AWGN
s=randn(1,length(del_sig));
sigma=sqrt(1/(10^(SNR/10)));
%normalize sigma to signal power: power_timedomain = mean(abs(x).^2)
sigma=sigma*sqrt(mean(abs(tx_signal).^2));
S=(s-mean(s))/sqrt(var(s));
noise=sigma.*S;
awgn_signal=del_sig.*exp(1i*2*pi*foffset*[1:length(del_sig)]/N)+noise;
%Pass the ofdm signal through the channel
recvd_signal=awgn_signal;
end

```

%Following function is used to find *shift* value for Kang algorithm

```

%shift_decision function #####
function [ out ] = shift_decision( signal, Nfft )
for i=1:length(signal)
    C = conj(signal).*circshift(signal,i);
    autocor = xcorr(C);
    max_corr = max(autocor);
    m = (mean(autocor(1:Nfft-1)) + mean(autocor(Nfft+1:end)))/2;
    shift_out(i)=(max_corr-m);
end
[~, out] = max(shift_out);
end

```