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Research Article

Experimental Demonstration of Zadoff-Chu Matrix Transform Precoding for MIMO-OFDM Visible Light Communications

Xinyue Guo, 1 Chuxian Wang, 1 and Wei Wang 10 2

¹Shanghai Key Lab of Modern Optical System, School of Optical-Electrical and Computing Engineering, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, Shanghai 200093, China

Correspondence should be addressed to Wei Wang; wwang_fd@fudan.edu.cn

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Visible light communication (VLC) based on a light-emitting diode (LED) is considered to be a potential candidate for the next-generation communication. In this paper, a novel Zadoff–Chu matrix transform (ZCT) precoding is proposed to improve the performance of the traditional space-time block coding- (STBC-) based multiple-input multiple-output and orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (MIMO-OFDM) system. Compared with the existing orthogonal circulant matrix transform (OCT) precoding scheme, the proposed ZCT precoding achieves a much lower peak-to-average power ratio (PAPR) while maintaining the advantage of the uniform signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), which reduces the performance loss caused by LED nonlinearity. To study the system performance further, we set up an experimental demonstration to verify performance improvement under the condition of different driving peak-to-peak voltages (Vpps) and direct current (DC) offsets. Experimental results show that ZCT precoding gains the best bit error rate (BER) performance compared with the traditional and the OCT precoding MIMO-OFDM systems, whose BER is always below the 7% pre-forward error correction (pre-FEC) threshold of 3.8×10^{-3} .

1. Introduction

With high luminous power, small size, good modulation performance, and low cost, white light-emitting diode (LED) is expected to be the recommended lighting equipment for the next generation [1, 2]. Meanwhile, visible light communication (VLC) has drawn increasing attention in both academia and industry, which supports illumination and communication simultaneously by modulating signals onto the LED [3, 4]. Compared with traditional radio frequency (RF) communications, VLC takes the advantages of high efficiency, licensing free, no electromagnetic interference, and high security [5]. Thus, it has been considered as one of the most compelling technologies for supplementing RF communication [6].

One of the most common applications for VLC is the last mile wireless service delivery for the indoor environment. However, the data rate is limited by the modulation bandwidth of the LED [7]. Due to the power-bandwidth tradeoff of LEDs and various parasitic impedances in the LED packaging, signals modulated at high frequencies are strongly attenuated [8]. As a result, many efforts are made to increase the data rate, among which multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) [9] and orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) [10] techniques have been proposed to be combined to form a MIMO-OFDM system to boost capacity and improve reliability [11, 12]. By dividing the channel into subchannels, OFDM can overcome the intersymbol interference (ISI) and improve spectral efficiency greatly, while MIMO increases the data rate or improves reliability by equipping multiple transmitters and receivers simultaneously [13]. Commonly, multiple LEDs are required to meet the demand for sufficient illumination; thus, it is natural to use the MIMO technique in VLC systems. Since the channel matrix correlation of MIMO VLC systems is usually very high [14], the MIMO scheme based on spacetime block coding (STBC) is considered more suitable for VLC systems than spatial multiplexing, which has been

²Naval Medical Center of PLA, Shanghai 200433, China

proved to be robust to the channel correlation [15]. However, the bit error rate (BER) performance is improved at the cost of sacrificing multiplexing gains in STBC-based MIMO VLC systems.

To achieve a better solution, adaptive modulation design for STBC based on the MIMO-OFDM VLC system was studied in [16], where experimental results confirmed that data rates could be increased greatly without BER performance loss. However, channel state information (CSI) is required to be fed back from the receiver to the transmitter, leading to an additional system overhead [17]. Recently, an orthogonal circulant matrix transform (OCT) was proposed to avoid the feedback, by which uniform signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) could be achieved despite of the nonflat frequency response [18, 19]. In this way, a similar BER performance is achieved compared with the traditional adaptive modulation scheme, but the feedback overhead can be reduced a lot. However, the peak-to-average power ratio (PAPR) is high in such an OCT precoding MIMO-OFDM system. As the nonlinearity exists when electrical signals are converted into optical signals by the LED, the high PAPR becomes the main factor restricting the system performance [20].

In this paper, we propose and experimentally demonstrate a novel Zadoff-Chu matrix transform (ZCT) [21] precoding scheme for STBC-based MIMO-OFDM VLC systems. By precoding with the Zadoff–Chu (ZC) matrix, the correlation of the input sequence can be reduced, which leads significantly to PAPR suppression. Meanwhile, precoding spreads the information on each subchannel across all the subchannels to achieve the frequency diversity. Thus, the advantage of uniform SNR can still be maintained. The theoretical simulation results show that the PAPR of the ZCT precoding scheme is remarkably lower than that of the traditional STBC and the OCT precoding-based STBC schemes, which is measured in terms of the complementary cumulative distribution function (CCDF). Furthermore, an experimental demonstration is set up to verify the performance improvement, where the system performance is evaluated under the conditions of different driving peak-topeak voltages (Vpps) and direct current (DC) offsets. Experimental results show that the proposed system achieves the best BER performance, whose BER is always below the 7% pre-forward error correction (pre-FEC) threshold of 3.8×10^{-3} .

2. Principle

2.1. The Proposed MIMO-OFDM VLC System Based on ZCT Precoding. In this section, a novel ZCT precoding-based MIMO-OFDM VLC system is proposed, where STBC is used for its robustness to the channel correlation. Compared with the existing OCT precoding scheme, ZCT precoding maintains the advantage of the ability of SNR equalization but achieves a much lower PAPR. As a result, the performance loss because of the LED nonlinearity can be greatly reduced.

In Figure 1, the block diagram of the proposed MIMO-OFDM VLC system with ZCT precoding is illustrated, where

the MIMO structure with two transmitters and two receivers is assumed without loss of generality. At the transmitter (TX), original random binary streams are generated; after serialparallel (S/P) conversion and quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM) constellation mapping, ZCT precoding is performed. Then, the precoded signals are encoded by the Alamouti STBC scheme. The training sequences are inserted for channel estimation at the receiver. After the upsampling operation, OFDM modulation is realized by the inverse Fourier transform (IFFT). It should be pointed out that the modulated signals in the frequency domain must be Hermitian symmetrically to ensure that the OFDM signals are real-valued in the time domain. Finally, the cyclic prefix (CP) is added to the OFDM symbol to overcome ISI, and the transmitted signals are generated after parallel-to-serial (P/S) conversion. At the receiver (RX), inverse processing operations can recover the original data streams. After S/P conversion, CP removing, downsampling, and Fourier transform (FFT) operations, the time-domain signals are transformed to the frequency domain again. Then, with the help of the training sequence, the channel is estimated in the frequency domain. Afterwards, STBC decoding is implemented to remove the effect of the channel. Finally, ZCT decoding and QAM demapping are performed to recover the original binary data streams.

2.2. The Principle of ZCT Precoding. The ZC matrix is generated by the ZC sequence. The ZC sequences are a class of polyphase sequences having constant magnitude, ideal periodic autocorrelation, and low cross-correlation properties. In addition, the ZC sequence is still a ZC sequence after FFT or IFFT. According to Guo et al. [21], the elements of the ZC sequence can be defined as

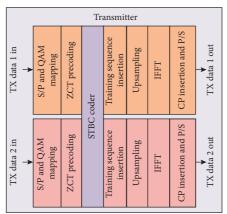
$$z(k) = \begin{cases} e^{(j2r\pi/N)((k^2/2)+qk)}, & \text{for } N \text{ even,} \\ e^{(j2r\pi/N)((k(k+1)/2)qk)}, & \text{for } N \text{ odd,} \end{cases}$$
 (1)

where k = 0, 1, 2, ..., N - 1, q is an integer, N is the sequence length, r is an integer relatively prime to N, and $j = \sqrt{-1}$.

Then, the ZC matrix can be obtained by transforming the ZC sequence into a square matrix, which is given by

$$\mathbf{F} = \begin{bmatrix} f(0,0) & f(0,1) & \cdots & f(0,M-1) \\ f(1,0) & f(1,1) & \cdots & f(1,M-1) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ f(M-1,0) & f(M-1,1) & \cdots & f(M-1,M-1) \end{bmatrix}.$$
(2)

In equation (2), the relationship between f(m,l) and z(k) is $f(m,l) = z (m \times M + l)$, where m and l denote the row and column index of the ZC matrix, respectively. Obviously, the length of the ZC sequence is equal to the square of the matrix dimension. The normalization factor $1/\sqrt{M}$ is multiplied by the matrix to normalize the transmitted power. Since the ZC matrix \mathbf{F} is an orthogonal matrix, that is, $\mathbf{F}^H\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{I}$, the inverse matrix of \mathbf{F} always exists and is equal to its conjugate transpose \mathbf{F}^H . It is worth noting that there is always a column with the same elements in the ZC



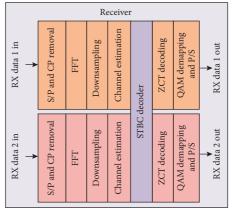


FIGURE 1: Block diagram of the proposed MIMO-OFDM VLC system with ZCT precoding.

matrix, the index of which depends on the value of *q* and *r* when the sequence length N is given.

In order to study the performance of ZCT precoding, we establish the mathematical model of ZCT precoding, which is denoted as

$$\mathbf{S}_1 = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{X}_1,\tag{3a}$$

$$\mathbf{S}_2 = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{X}_2,\tag{3b}$$

where $\mathbf{X}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} x_{1,0} & x_{1,1} & \dots & x_{1,M-1} \end{bmatrix}^T$ and $\mathbf{X}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} x_{2,0} & \dots & x_{2,M-1} \end{bmatrix}^T$ stand for the data streams after S/P conversion and QAM modulation, M is the number of effective subcarriers carrying the information, and S_1 and S_2 represent the data streams after precoding.

After OFDM, the time-domain transmitted signals are denoted by

$$w_{i,p} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_{m=0}^{M-1} y_{i,m} e^{j(2\pi m p/M)}, \quad p = 0, 1, \dots, M-1, \quad (4)$$

where i is the transmitter index, m denotes the subcarrier number, and $y_{i,m}$ represents the signal after STBC.

The PAPR of the OFDM signals can be expressed as

$$PAPR = \frac{\max\left[\left|w_{i,p}\right|^{2}\right]}{E\left[\left|w_{i,p}\right|^{2}\right]},$$
(5)

where $E[\cdot]$ represents the expectation operation.

As can be seen, signals on each subchannel are multiplied by a phase rotation factor and then summed up. Thus, the phases and energies are reallocated through precoding. This leads to the reduction of the correlation of the input sequences, and finally, the PAPR can be greatly suppressed.

At the receiver, the estimated signals after ZCT decoding can be expressed as

$$\widehat{\mathbf{X}}_1 = \mathbf{F}^H \widehat{\mathbf{S}}_1, \tag{6a}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{X}}_2 = \mathbf{F}^{\mathrm{H}} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_2,\tag{6b}$$

where $\widehat{\mathbf{S}}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \widehat{s}_{1,0} & \widehat{s}_{1,1} & \dots & \widehat{s}_{1,M-1} \end{bmatrix}^T$ and $\widehat{\mathbf{S}}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} \widehat{s}_{2,0} \\ \widehat{s}_{2,1} & \dots & \widehat{s}_{2,M-1} \end{bmatrix}^T$ are the signals after STBC decoding. So, the SNR of the m^{th} subchannel for the i^{th} transmitter

is calculated by

$$SNR_{i,m} = \frac{1}{N_0 \mathbf{F}_m^H \left[\left(\| \mathbf{H}_0 \|_F^2 \right)^{-1} \left(\| \mathbf{H}_1 \|_F^2 \right)^{-1} \dots \left(\| \mathbf{H}_{M-1} \|_F^2 \right)^{-1} \right]^T},$$
(7)

where the power of transmitted signals is assumed normalized, N_0 represents the noise power, $\|\cdot\|_{\rm F}$ denotes the Frobenius 2-norm, \mathbf{H}_m is the channel matrix of the m^{th} subchannel, and \mathbf{F}_m^H is the m^{th} row of \mathbf{F}^H . Equation (7) indicates that SNRs are uniform in the subchannels except in one subchannel. Because of ZCT precoding, the information on each subchannel is spread across all the subchannels. Therefore, frequency diversity is achieved for most of the subchannels. However, as mentioned above, there is one column with the same elements in the ZC matrix. Obviously, frequency diversity cannot be achieved for the subchannel corresponding to the special column. As a result, the subchannel should be avoided in preventing performance loss.

3. Experiment Setup and Results

In this section, we set up an experimental demonstration to study the system performance further. The experimental setup of the 2×2 MIMO-OFDM VLC system is shown in Figure 2. At the transmitter, the generated signals are loaded into an arbitrary function generator (AFG: Tektronix AFG3252C). DC offset supplied by the AFG is also added to ensure the signals are positive. Then, mixed signals are transmitted by two commercially available LEDs (Cree XLamp XP-E: the center wavelength is 620 nm, and the maximum power is 1 W) in the form of the optical power. As shown in Figure 2, the LED is a point light source radiating red light; in order to make use of the optical power sufficiently, a reflection cup with 60° is used to concentrate the light. At the receiver, the optical signals are converted into electrical signals by two photodetectors (PDs) (Hamamatsu C12702-11, 0.42A/W responsivity at 620 nm). After the electrical signals are amplified by two electrical amplifiers

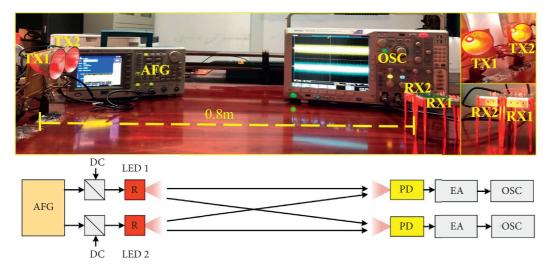


FIGURE 2: Experimental setup of the MIMO-OFDM VLC system based on ZCT precoding.

(EAs), the received signals are recorded by a high-speed digital oscilloscope (OSC: Tektronix MDO4104C). Finally, the recorded signals are sent for offline processing.

The parameters used in the experiment are listed in Table 1, where 64QAM and 128QAM modulation formats are chosen for the two transmitters, respectively, to achieve the data rate as high as possible under the BER constraint of the 7% pre-FEC threshold of 3.8×10^{-3} . Considering the poor frequency response of the first few subcarriers, zeropadding is used for the first six subcarriers. As a result, only 122 subcarriers are available for data transmission. In the experiment, the same ZC matrix is chosen for the two data streams for simplicity, where parameters q and r of the ZC sequence are set as 30 and 1, respectively. In this case, the elements of the 32nd column in the ZC matrix are identical as discussed above, and the 32nd subcarrier is not utilized for data transmission. Therefore, with an available bandwidth of ~12.5 MHz, the proposed system can realize the data rate of ~38.4 Mb/s.

Firstly, PAPR is measured by the complementary cumulative distribution function (CCDF), which denotes the probability that the PAPR of the OFDM symbols exceeds a given threshold PAPR₀ [22]. The statistics of the PAPR of OFDM signals can be expressed as

$$CCDF = Prob(PAPR > PAPR_0).$$
 (8)

Figure 3illustrates the simulation results of CCDF curves for ZCT precoding, OCT precoding, and traditional MIMO-OFDM schemes. As shown in Figure 3, the PAPR performance is similar for the OCT precoding and traditional systems, while the PAPR of the ZCT precoding-based MIMO-OFDM system is much lower. At the clip rate of 10⁻⁴, there is about more than 2 dB gain compared to the PAPR of the proposed scheme with the other two schemes.

Then, the SNRs of subchannels are measured in different systems as shown in Figure 4, where Figures 4(a) and 4(b) represent the SNR profiles of RX1 and RX2, respectively. The results confirm that the SNR can be equalized to the identical level in the two MIMO-OFDM systems with precoding, but

TABLE 1: Experiment parameters.

Parameters	Values
Modulation order	64QAM, 128QAM
Bandwidth	12.5 MHz
Subcarrier number	256
CP length	16
Upsampling rate	4
Transmission distance	0.8 m
Distance between TXs	5 cm
Distance between RXs	2 cm

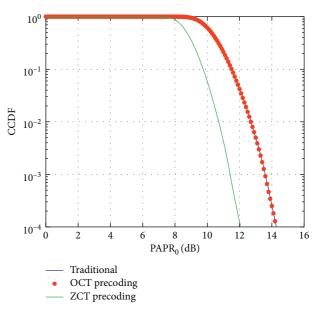


FIGURE 3: CCDF of PAPRs for different MIMO-OFDM VLC schemes.

the SNR of the traditional MIMO-OFDM system is severely attenuated with the frequency increasing. Note that the 32nd subcarrier is not used in the ZCT precoding-based system, so the SNR curve is discontinuous in that subcarrier.

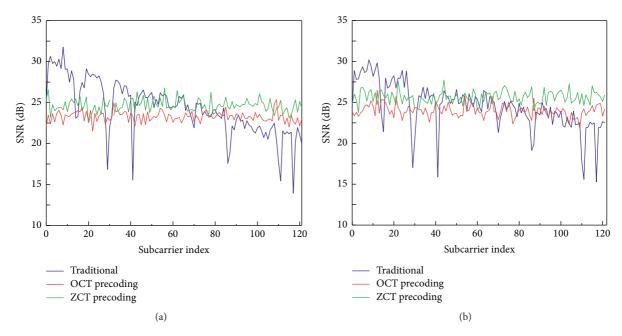


FIGURE 4: The SNR profiles of different MIMO-OFDM VLC schemes (DC = 2 V, Vpp = 2 V): (a) the SNR profiles of RX1; (b) the SNR profiles of RX2.

As discussed above, high PAPR has a great impact on the system performance as the nonlinearity exists during the electro-optical conversion by the LED. In Figure 5, the relationship between the driving voltage and the forward current of the LED we used is represented. It can be seen that the linear region of the U-I curve is located when the voltage is between 1.9 V and 2.2 V. When the voltage is below 1.9 V or above 2.2 V, hard clipping or nonlinear mapping would occur, which causes nonlinear distortion of the transmitted signals [23]. As well known, the higher the PAPR is, the greater the probability of nonlinear distortion would be. Therefore, the system with higher PAPR suffers from more serious BER performance loss.

Furthermore, BER is measured to study the impact of the PAPR on the system performance. In Figure 6, the BERs of the three systems under the condition of different DC offsets are compared, where the DC offsets are set from 1.8 V to 2.5 V. In the experiment, the Vpp is fixed as 2 V. With the DC offset increasing, for each curve, it can be seen that the BER decreases initially and then increases. The best BER performance is obtained when the DC offset is set as 2.1 V. This result is reasonable since 2.1 V is exactly located in the middle of the linear voltage region of the LED. Compared with the three schemes, the ZCT precoding scheme performs best, whose BERs are always below the 7% pre-FEC threshold of 3.8×10^{-3} . Experimental results validate the theoretical analysis that ZCT precoding outperforms OCT precoding due to its superiority in the PAPR. Meanwhile, the uniform feature of the SNR also improves the performance, which can be proved by the result comparison of the OCT precoding and the traditional schemes. Benefiting from the effect of the SNR equalization, the errors caused by high-

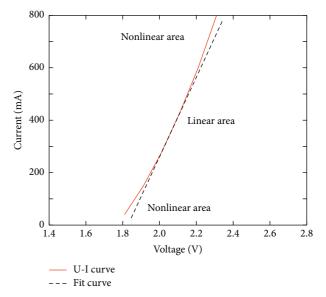


FIGURE 5: U-I curve of the LED.

frequency attenuation are greatly reduced, and the BER performance can be improved.

Moreover, the BER performance of different schemes is also evaluated by changing the Vpp values from 1.6 V to 2.8 V when the DC offset is set equal to 2.1 V, as depicted in Figure 7. The experimental results show that the BER decreases with the Vpp increasing at first. This is because the SNR can be enhanced by increasing the Vpp. However, BER increases again, indicating that nonlinear distortion plays the dominant role when the Vpp keeps increasing. Nevertheless, the ZCT precoding scheme still achieves the best performance compared with the other two schemes.

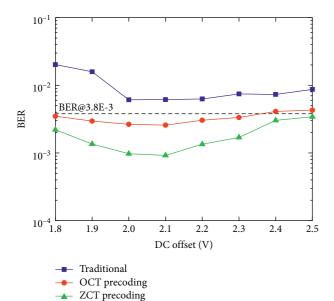


FIGURE 6: BER versus DC offset (Vpp = 2 V).

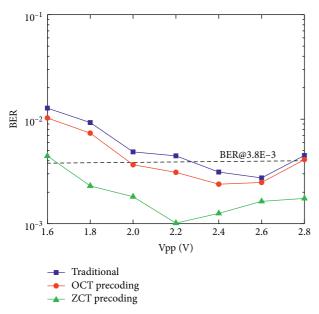


FIGURE 7: BER versus Vpp (DC = 2.1 V).

4. Conclusion

In this paper, we propose and experimentally demonstrate a novel MIMO-OFDM VLC system based on ZCT precoding, where STBC is chosen as the MIMO mechanism to cope with the high channel correlation. Considering the frequency attenuation characteristics and the nonlinear U-I curve of the LED, ZCT precoding is able to obtain the uniform SNR based on the idea of frequency diversity to reduce the performance loss of the frequency attenuation. At the same time, a much lower PAPR is also achieved by reallocating the phases and energies among the subchannels so as to avoid the nonlinear distortion caused by the LED as much as possible. Detailed explorations of the proposed

system performance are experimentally investigated by changing the driving Vpps and DC offsets. Experimental results indicate that the best BER performance can be achieved by the proposed ZCT precoding MIMO-OFDM system compared with the traditional and the OCT precoding system, where the BER can always be below the 7% pre-FEC threshold of 3.8×10^{-3} .

Data Availability

All the data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Acknowledgments

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