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Time Domain Measurements for a Time Reversal SIMO System in Reverberation Chamber and in an Indoor Environment

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Abstract—Time domain measurements are conducted for ultra-wideband (UWB) signals in a reverberation chamber (RC) and in a typical indoor environment for a single input multiple output (SIMO) time reversal (TR) system. Channel estimation is carried out using an Arbitrary Waveform Generator (AWG) and a high speed Digital Storage Oscilloscope (DSO) for all transmitter receiver links. The measured channel impulse responses (CIR) of all the links are added and re-transmitted from the transmitting antenna. Upon reaching the receiving antennas, the received signals are added to form the eventual received signal. Different TR characteristics i.e. TR peak performance, TR focusing gain, average power increase, signal to side lobe ratio (SSR) and RMS delay spread are analyzed and compared to that of a single input single output (SISO) TR system.

Index Terms—Time reversal (TR), ultra-wideband (UWB), focusing gain, TR peak performance.

I. INTRODUCTION

Pulsed Ultra-wide band (UWB) is a communication technique in which high data rate can be achieved by making use of ultra large bandwidth. The ability of pulsed UWB to resolve individual multipath components is exploited in the recent research for short range communication applications. However, the large number of resolvable paths and the low power limitations necessitate a complex receiver system. To collect the received signal energy, Rake receiver, transmit-reference or differential scheme and the decision feedback autocorrelation receiver can be implied [1]-[3]. Each technique has its own difficulties and drawbacks. The characteristics of an Impulse radio and use of Rake receivers for signal detection has already been studied for communication in dense multipath environment [4],[5]. Time reversal (TR) has been proposed as a technique to shift the design complexity from the receiver to the transmitter. Classically, TR has been applied in acoustics and under water communication applications [6]-[7] but in recent times, it has been widely studied for UWB communication. In a single input single output (SISO) TR scheme, the time-reversed channel impulse response (CIR) is used as a transmitter pre-filter. It results in a received signal which is considerably focused both in spatial and temporal domains. Owing to temporal focusing, the received power is

concentrated within a few taps and the effects of inter symbol interference (ISI) are greatly reduced. The task of equalizer design becomes much simpler than without focusing. The receiver system becomes simpler and significant signal energy can be collected using simple energy threshold detectors [8]. Another important advantage of TR is the spatial focusing. It enables very low co channel interference in a multi cell system, resulting in a very effective use of bandwidth in the overall network. It is because of these characteristics that TR is gaining more and more attention for communication in UWB [9]-[18].

In [16], the authors have presented the first time domain measurements for an indoor environment. In this paper the, to the best of the authors knowledge, first ever time domain SIMO measurements are presented in reverberation chamber (RC) and in an indoor environment. A very narrow pulse is transmitted from an antenna toward multiple receiving antennas. The CIRs for one transmitting antenna and multiple receive antennas is measured and added together. The resulting signal is reversed in time and retransmitted from the same transmitting antenna and toward the same set of multiple antennas. The received signals from multiple antennas are again added together. TR characteristics like, focusing gain, peak to side lobe ratio, delay spread and average power augmentation are assessed. It is shown that with SIMO configuration a focusing gain of the order of 40dB is achieved in a RC environment.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. First, a brief introduction of TR is presented in section II. Experimental measurement setup and results are presented and analyzed in Section III. Finally, Section IV concludes this paper.

II. TIME REVERSAL

TR is essentially a pre-Rake scheme in which time reversed channel impulse responses (CIR) are used as transmitter pre-filter. The signal (after being pre-filtered) propagates in an invariant channel following the same paths and results in coherently adding all the received signals in the delay and spatial domains. With this technique, a focusing gain in the

order of 8dB for indoor propagation channel, strong temporal compression and spatial focusing (depending on the signal band width) are observed [10]. The received signal quality is improved by the focusing gain, ISI effects are mitigated by temporal compression and multiuser interference is reduced due to spatial focusing. The received signal at the intended receiver (j) can be mathematically represented as:

$$s(t) \star h_{ij}(-t)^* \star h_{ij}(t) = s(t) \star R_{ij}^{auto}(t) \quad (1)$$

where $h_{ij}(t)$ is the CIR from the transmitting point to an intended receiver, $s(t)$ is the transmitted signal, \star denotes convolution product and $(.)^*$ means the complex conjugate of the function and $R_{ij}^{auto}(t)$ is the autocorrelation of the CIR between the transmitting antenna (i) and receiving antenna (j). The received signal at any non intended receiver (k) is:

$$s(t) \star h_{ij}(-t)^* \star h_{ik}(t) = s(t) \star R_{ikj}^{cross}(t) \quad (2)$$

where $h_{ik}(t)$ is the CIR from the transmitting point to an unintended receiver and $R_{ikj}^{cross}(t)$ is the cross-correlation of the CIR $h_{ik}(t)$ and the time reversed complex conjugated version of the transmitted signal $h_{ij}(-t)^*$. If the channels are uncorrelated, then the signal transmitted for one receiver will act as a noise for a receiver at any other location. This results in a secure communication with low probability of detect and low probability of intercept. If there are N_r receiving antennas and one transmitting antenna, the received signal by the j th receiving antenna is:

$$y_j(t) = \underbrace{s_j(t) \star R_{ij}^{auto}(t)}_{Signal(j)} + \underbrace{\sum_{k=1; k \neq j}^{N_r} s_k(t) \star R_{ikj}^{cross}(t)}_{Interference(j)} + \underbrace{n_j(t)}_{Noise(j)} \quad (3)$$

where $s_j(t)$ and $s_k(t)$ are the transmitted signals intended for the j th user and the k th user respectively. If the channels are uncorrelated, the Interference part in (3) will be negligible, enabling an interference free communication with different users.

To assess the performance of a SIMO TR system, some TR characteristics are defined. TR peak performance improvement of a SIMO system is defined as the ratio of a TR received peak with SIMO system to the TR received peak with SISO system. Focusing gain (FG) of a TR system is defined as the ratio of the strongest tap power of the received signal in TR scheme to the strongest tap power of the pulse system:

$$FG = 20 \log_{10} \left(\frac{\max |y_j(t)|}{\max |h_{ij}(t)|} \right) \quad (4)$$

The average received power with the TR scheme increases as compared to the pulsed system for the same value of the total transmitted energy. In this paper the comparison of the average power increase of the SIMO and SISO TR systems is made.

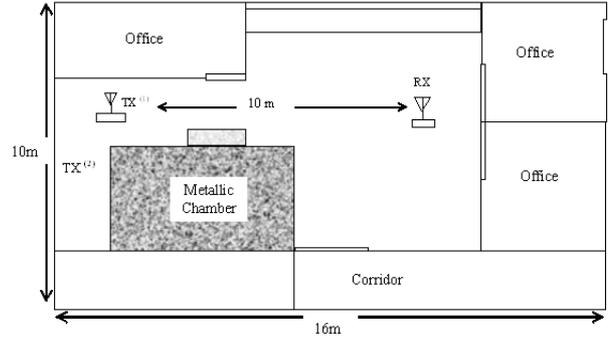


Fig. 1. Measurement environment layout

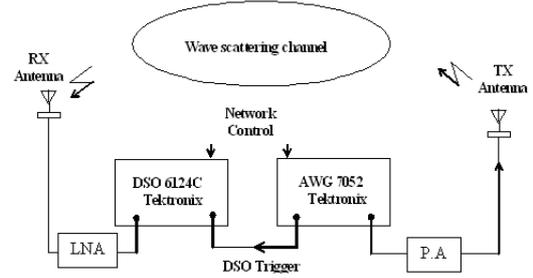


Fig. 2. Measurement setup

Signal to side lobe ratio (SSR) is defined as ratio of the power of the first to second strongest tap in a TR received signal:

$$SSR = 20 \log_{10} \left(\frac{\max |y_j(t)|}{\max |y_j(t)|_{t \neq t_{peak}}} \right) \quad (5)$$

where t_{peak} is the time for strongest tap. Another important TR characteristic is the instantaneous RMS delay spread (σ_t). It can be calculated by the first and the second moment of the measured CIR or the measured TR response:

$$\sigma_\tau = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{l=1}^N PDP(l) \tau_l^2}{\sum_{l=1}^N PDP(l)} - \left(\frac{\sum_{l=1}^N PDP(l) \tau_l}{\sum_{l=1}^N PDP(l)} \right)^2} \quad (6)$$

where $PDP(l) = |h_{ij}(l)|^2$, τ_l is the excess time delay and N is the total length of the PDP. RMS delay spread is considered a metric for temporal compression in TR systems. In this paper we study the RMS delay spread ratio of a pulse UWB system and a TR UWB system. The delay spread ratio (ds/ds_{TR}) must be as high as possible to have good temporal compression where ds and ds_{TR} are the RMS delay spreads of a pulse UWB system and a TR UWB communication system respectively.

III. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP AND SIMULATION RESULTS

Experiments are performed in RC and typical indoor environments. RC is a metallic chamber of dimensions $8.7m \times 3.7m \times 2.9m$ present inside IETR laboratory whose layout is shown in Fig. 1. For an indoor channel, an experimental

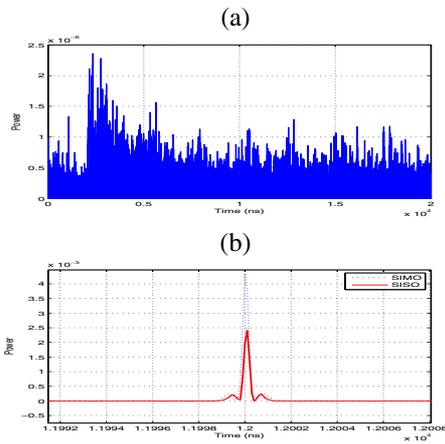


Fig. 3. In reverberation chamber a) SISO CIR b) TR response for SISO and SIMO configurations

TABLE I
TIME REVERSAL CHARACTERISTICS IN RC

TR Property	SISO TR	SIMO TR
Focusing Gain (dB)	27.7	28.59
Avg. Increased Power	3.26	4.98
SSR	10.56	10.92
Normalized TR peak	0	4.84

setup is established in a modern laboratory building in IETR having the plan shown in Fig. 1. The indoor environment is an office space of $14m \times 8m$. All rooms are furnished with office equipments: tables, PCs and seats. RC increases the wave reflections in the environment and allows accomplishing a non line-of-sight (NLOS) propagation scenario. Measurement setup is illustrated in Fig. 2. One log periodic antenna is used as a transmitter and two conical mono-pole antennas are used as the receiver. The height of the transmitting antenna is 1.5m from the ground and that of receiving antennas is 1m from the ground. The distance between the transmit and receive antennas is 4.5m and 9m in RC and in indoor respectively. The channel sounding pulse and the time reversed CIR are generated through the arbitrary waveform generator (AWG 7052) having a maximum sampling rate of 5 GS/s. The output signal of AWG is amplified to a level to drive the power amplifier (P.A), Mini-Circuits ZHL-42. The given P.A provides a constant gain of 30dB and covers the frequency range of 700-4200 MHz. The output power is limited to avoid the interference to unauthorized bands and to generate sufficient signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) at the receiver. The receiver is a Digital Storage Oscilloscope (Tektronix DSO 6124C) with band width of 12 GHz and a maximum sampling rate of 40 GS/s. DSO captures the CIR of the channel as well as the TR response. DSO is operated in average mode so that 8 samples are taken and averaged together. A set of 100 measurements is taken in RC and a set of 1000 measurements is taken in the indoor environment. Thus the results presented in this paper are average of 100 and 1000 measurements in RC and the indoor environment.

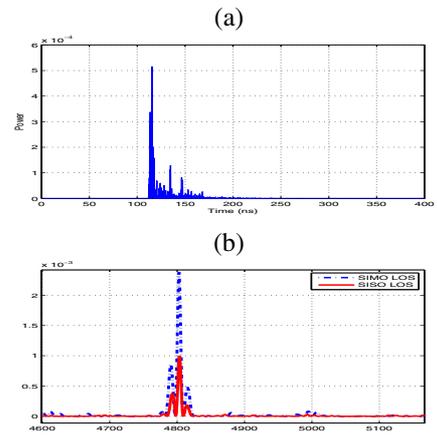


Fig. 4. In LOS configuration a) Indoor CIR for SISO b) Indoor TR response for SISO and SIMO TR

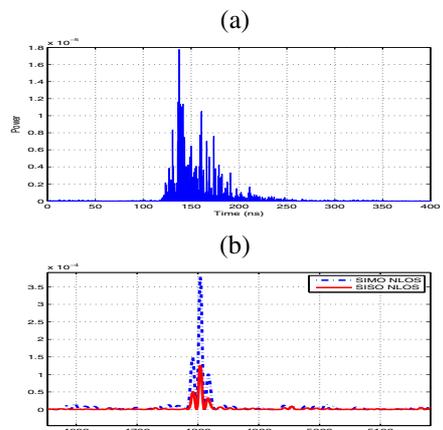


Fig. 5. In NLOS configuration a) Indoor CIR for SISO b) Indoor TR response for SISO and SIMO TR

A. SIMO in Reverberation Chamber

RC is a metallic chamber. It generates large amount of multipaths and is thus a perfect environment for a TR system. SISO and SIMO experiments are carried out in RC and the comparison is summarized in Table I. Fig. 3a shows power delay profile (PDP) of CIR with SISO configuration in RC. Large number of multipaths can be observed. Fig. 3b shows TR response in RC for both SISO and SIMO configurations for an equal value of transmitted energy. Almost all the multipaths are coherently added and the resulting signal has very high FG and SSR. Furthermore, it can be seen that SIMO TR has a better TR peak performance compared to SISO TR. Table I presents different characteristics of SIMO and SISO TR in RC environment. It shows that FG, average power increase, SSR and TR peak performance normalized to the SISO TR system improves significantly with SIMO TR. For instance, it can be seen that TR peak with SIMO TR is 4.84 dB more than SISO TR for same transmitted energy.

TABLE II
TIME REVERSAL CHARACTERISTICS IN AN INDOOR ENVIRONMENT

TR Property	LOS		NLOS	
	SISO	SIMO	SISO	SIMO
Focusing Gain (dB)	9.1	10.8	11.0	11.5
Avg. Increased Power	3.5	2.7	3.9	5.2
SSR	4.3	4.5	4.0	4.0
ds/ds_{TR}	2.1	2.8	2.3	2.7
Normalized TR peak	0	3.48	0	4.29

B. SIMO in an Indoor Environment

SISO and SIMO Experiments are carried out in an indoor environment with both line of sight (LOS) and non line of sight (NLOS) configurations and the results are summarized in Table II. Figs. 4a and 5a show the measured SISO CIR in an indoor environment for LOS and NLOS configurations respectively. NLOS configuration has got larger number of multipaths and is thus better adopted for a TR system. Figs. 4b and 5b show the measured TR response for both SISO and SIMO configurations in LOS and NLOS configurations respectively. Total transmitted energy for all the experiments is kept same. Table II presents different characteristics of SIMO and SISO TR in an indoor environment for LOS and NLOS configurations. In case of LOS configuration, it is quite obvious that the TR peak performance is significantly better in the case of SIMO TR. For two receiving antennas, an improvement of 3.48 dB is observed. All other TR properties also improve except for average increase power. In the case of NLOS configuration, we observe even better TR peak performance. This time we achieve an improvement of 4.29 dB with SIMO configuration. The other factors also improve but SSR remains same. Thus SIMO NLOS system has the best TR performance amongst all systems. All TR properties improve significantly except for SSR which remains almost unchanged for both SISO and SIMO systems.

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IV. CONCLUSION

In this paper, time domain measurements are presented for a SIMO TR system in RC and in indoor environments. It is shown that SIMO TR improves different TR characteristics e.g. focusing gain, increased average power, signal to side lobe ratio, TR peak performance and RMS delay spread. In RC, SIMO and SISO TR measurements give a very high focusing gain and SSR. For instance, the focusing gain for SIMO TR in RC is 28.5 dB. TR peak performance of SIMO TR is 4.84 dB better than peak performance of SISO TR. In indoor, SIMO TR has a lot better performance than SISO TR especially for NLOS configuration. The TR peak performance of SIMO TR is 3.48 and 4.29 dB better than SISO TR for LOS and NLOS configurations respectively. Thus amongst all configurations, SIMO NLOS TR system gives the best performance.

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