



International Network Generations Roadmap

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Massive MIMO



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This edition of the INGR is dedicated to the memory of Earl McCune Jr., who left us tragically and too soon on 27 May 2020. Earl was a microwave/RF guru, brilliant technologist, major industry/IEEE contributor, global visionary, keen skeptic, and all around fantastic human being. He was a major contributor to the INGR's early work on energy efficiency, millimeter-wave, and hardware. He worked for a technologically advanced yet more energy efficient world, and the contents of the INGR are a tribute to that vision. Rest in peace, Earl!



Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Working Group Vision	1
2.1.	Scope of Working Group Effort.....	1
2.2.	Linkages and Stakeholders.....	2
3.	Today's Landscape	4
4.	Future State.....	5
4.1.	mmWave Massive MIMO for HetNets	5
4.2.	MAC-PHY Cross-Layer Design for Massive MIMO in Future Wireless Systems.....	5
4.3.	Secure communications in Massive MIMO wireless systems	6
4.4.	The application of artificial intelligence and machine learning into Massive MIMO wireless systems	6
4.5.	Enabling massive connectivity with massive MIMO.....	6
4.6.	Autonomous Massive MIMO for a Variety of Applications.....	6
5.	Needs, Challenges, and Enablers and Potential Solutions	6
5.1.	Summary	6
5.2.	mmWave Massive MIMO for HetNet.....	7
5.2.1.	Cell Association and Mobility Management	7
5.2.2.	Big Data Management with QoS Constraints	7
5.2.3.	Low-Cost Channel State Information Acquisition and Beamforming.....	7
5.2.4.	Resource Management.....	8
6.	Networking Planning and Operation	8
6.1.	Guarantee of Coverage.....	8
6.2.	Real-Time Support.....	8
6.3.	Implementation Cost	8
6.4.	Spectral Efficiency	8
6.5.	Network Integration	9
7.	MAC-PHY Cross-Layer Design for Massive MIMO in Future Wireless Systems	9
7.1.	Physical Design.....	9
7.2.	MAC protocol designs	9
7.3.	Fronthaul design.....	10
7.4.	Backhaul design	10
8.	Efficient Receiver Architecture Design.....	10
8.1.	Physical Layer Design.....	10
8.2.	MAC design	10
8.3.	Fronthaul and backhaul design.....	10
8.4.	Security in Cross-layer	11
9.	Secure communications in Massive MIMO wireless systems.....	11
9.1.	The design of precoding schemes	11
9.2.	Cooperative secure transmission.....	11
9.3.	Pilot contamination	11
9.4.	Hardware impairments	12

9.5.	Energy efficiency design.....	12
10.	Academia and Industry Engagement	12
10.1.	Efficient Design	12
10.2.	Relay and artificial noise aided techniques	12
10.3.	Blind channel estimation and precoding	13
10.4.	Hardware impairment.....	13
10.5.	Energy efficient signal processing	13
11.	The application of artificial intelligence and machine learning into Massive MIMO wireless systems.....	13
11.1.	Resource allocation based on machine learning.....	14
11.2.	Channel estimation based on machine learning	14
11.3.	Signal detection based on machine learning.	14
11.4.	Interference management based on machine learning.....	14
11.5.	Physical layer design based on machine learning.	14
11.6.	Detailed design considerations.....	14
11.7.	Overcome overfitting and underfitting.....	15
11.8.	System modeling.....	15
11.9.	Modeling of modulation and demodulation	15
12.	Enabling massive connectivity with massive MIMO	15
12.1.	Low complexity channel estimation.....	15
12.2.	Support for machine-type devices.....	15
12.3.	Hybrid precoding design	15
12.4.	Communication integration with M2M and cloud/edge network.....	16
12.5.	Interference coordination and management.	16
13.	Challenges with Massive MIMO, Machine-Type, and Massive Connectivity	16
13.1.	A simple channel acquisition method.	16
13.2.	New MAC protocols that support more users	16
13.3.	Diverse requirements from machine-type communications.	16
13.4.	Hybrid precoding design	17
13.5.	Related standards	17
14.	Autonomous massive MIMO for a Variety of Applications.....	17
14.1.	Throughput optimized Massive MIMO	17
14.2.	Reliability and latency optimized Massive MIMO	17
14.3.	Extended coverage optimized Massive MIMO	17
14.4.	Autonomous Massive MIMO for various applications	17
15.	Internet-of-Things (IoT) / Machine-Type Communications.....	18
16.	Scalability	18
17.	Energy Efficiency	18
18.	Signaling Efficiency	18
19.	Mobility	19
20.	Intelligent Edge Network.....	19
21.	Signal Processing and Massive MIMO.....	19

21.1.	Signal Processing for Single User Massive MIMO	20
21.1.1.	Single user massive MIMO (SU-MMIMO)	20
21.1.2.	Channel estimation	21
21.1.3.	Synchronization.....	21
21.1.4.	Beamforming.....	21
21.1.5.	mmWave Massive MIMO.....	21
21.1.6.	Efficiency	21
21.2.	Signal Processing for Multi-User Massive MIMO	21
22.	Intelligent Reflecting Surface	22
22.1.	Channel Estimation	22
22.2.	Distributed IRS Communications	22
22.3.	Cooperative Beamforming in IRS Communications.....	22
22.4.	Machine Learning Aided IRS Communications	22
22.5.	Applications Enabled and Enhanced by IRS Aided Massive MIMO Communications	23
23.	Massive MIMO Radar	23
23.1.	Introduction.....	23
23.2.	Definition	23
23.3.	Future Vision.....	24
24.	Systems Design.....	24
25.	Regulatory & Compliance	25
26.	Safety.....	26
27.	Conclusions and Recommendations	27
27.1.	Summary of Conclusions	27
27.2.	Working Group Recommendations.....	28
28.	Contributors	29
29.	References	30
30.	Acronyms/abbreviations	32

List of Figures

Figure 1.	Massive MIMO Ecosystem	4
Figure 2.	Massive MIMO array: Single user mode.	19
Figure 3.	Massive MIMO array: Beamforming mode.	20
Figure 4.	Constellation shaping.	20

Abstract

The use of a large number of antenna elements, known as Massive MIMO, is seen as a key enabling technology in the 5G and Beyond wireless ecosystem. The intelligent use of a multitude of antenna elements unleashes unprecedented flexibility and control on the physical channel of the wireless medium. Through Massive MIMO and other techniques, it is envisioned that the 5G and Beyond wireless system will be able to support high throughput, high reliability (low bit-error-rate (BER)), high energy efficiency, low latency, and an Internet-scale number of connected devices.

Massive MIMO and related technologies will be deployed in the mid-band (sub 6 GHz) for coverage, all the way to mmWave bands to support large channel bandwidths. It is envisioned that Massive MIMO will be deployed in different environments: Frequency Division Duplex (FDD), (Time Division Duplex (TDD), indoor/outdoor, small cell, macro cell, and other heterogeneous network (HetNet) configurations. Accurate and useful channel estimation remains a challenge in the efficient adoption of Massive MIMO techniques, and different performance-complexity tradeoffs may be supported by different Massive MIMO architectures such as digital, analog, and/or digital/analog hybrid. Carrier frequency offset (CFO), which arises due to the relative motion between the transmitter and receiver, is another important topic. Recently, maximum likelihood (ML) methods of CFO estimation have been proposed, that achieve very low root mean square (rms) estimation errors, with large scope for parallel processing and well suited for application with turbo codes.

Massive MIMO opens up a whole new dimension of parameters where the wireless applications or other network layers may control or influence the operation and performance of the physical wireless channel. To fully reap the benefits of such flexibility, the latest advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) techniques will be leveraged to monitor and optimize the Massive MIMO subsystem. As such, a cross-layer open interface can facilitate exposing programmability of Massive MIMO through techniques such as network slicing (NS) and network function virtualization (NFV). Finally, security needs to be integrated in the design of the system so the new functionality and performance of Massive MIMO can be utilized in a reliable manner.

Keywords:

5G, Massive MIMO, beamforming, mmWave, HetNet, energy efficiency, channel estimation, CFO estimation, hybrid architecture, beam optimization, average signal-to-noise ratio per bit.

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