

(43) International Publication Date
4 October 2012 (04.10.2012)(51) International Patent Classification:
H04B 7/02 (2006.01)(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2012/051511(22) International Filing Date:
29 March 2012 (29.03.2012)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

(54) Title: CHANNEL FEEDBACK FOR COOPERATIVE MULTIPONT TRANSMISSION

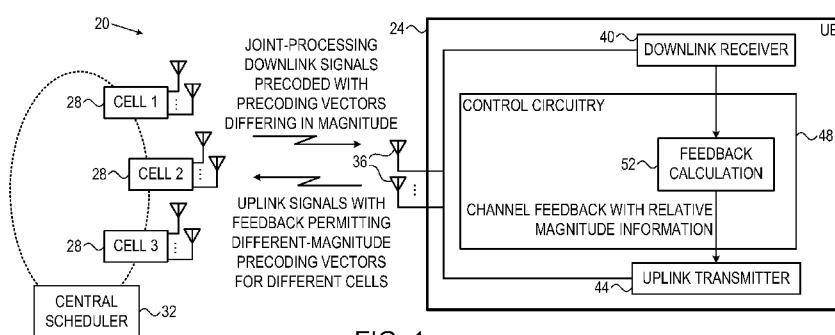


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract:** A method includes receiving in a mobile communication terminal (24) downlink signals from at least first and second cells (28) that coordinate transmission of the downlink signals with one another. Channel feedback is calculated in the terminal based on the received downlink signals. The channel feedback is configured to cause the first cell to precode subsequent downlink signals in response to the channel feedback with a first precoding vector, and to cause the second cell to precode the subsequent downlink signals in response to the channel feedback with a second precoding vector that differs in magnitude from the first precoding vector. The channel feedback is transmitted from the terminal.

CHANNEL FEEDBACK FOR COOPERATIVE MULTIPONT TRANSMISSION**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application 61/470,235, filed March 31, 2011, whose disclosure is incorporated herein by reference.

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FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0002] The present invention relates generally to wireless communication, and particularly to methods and systems for feedback in cooperative multipoint transmission systems.

BACKGROUND

10 **[0003]** Some Multiple-Input Multiple-Output communication systems use Cooperative Multipoint (CoMP) transmission for coordinating MIMO transmissions between cells. For example, in a mode known as Joint Processing (JP), multiple cells transmit the same data simultaneously to a User Equipment (UE) terminal. When using the JP mode, the cooperating cells typically configure their transmissions based on channel feedback provided
15 by the UEs. Various feedback schemes for JP transmission are known in the art.

20 **[0004]** For example, 3GPP Technical Specification Group Radio Access Network (TSG-RAN) WG1 document R1-110743, entitled “Preliminary CoMP JP Results for Homogenous Networks,” Taipei, Taiwan, February 21–25, 2011, which is incorporated herein by reference, provides simulated evaluation results for CoMP JP based on a Minimal Mean Square Error (MMSE) receiver.

25 **[0005]** TSG-RAN WG1 document R1-110628, entitled “Performance Evaluation of Phase 1 : Downlink Homogeneous Network with High Tx Power RRHs,” Taipei, Taiwan, February 21–25, 2011, which is incorporated herein by reference, provide CoMP evaluation results in Frequency Division Duplex (FDD) and Time Division Duplex (TDD). Additional simulation results are provided in TSG-RAN WG1 document R1-111139, entitled “Initial CoMP Evaluation for Homogeneous Network with High Tx Power RRHs,” Taipei, Taiwan, February 21–25, 2011, which is incorporated herein by reference.

30 **[0006]** The description above is presented as a general overview of related art in this field and should not be construed as an admission that any of the information it contains constitutes prior art against the present patent application.

SUMMARY

[0007] An embodiment that is described herein provides a method, which includes receiving in a mobile communication terminal downlink signals from at least first and second cells that coordinate transmission of the downlink signals with one another. Channel feedback is calculated in the terminal based on the received downlink signals. The channel feedback is configured to cause the first cell to precode subsequent downlink signals in response to the channel feedback with a first precoding vector, and to cause the second cell to precode the subsequent downlink signals in response to the channel feedback with a second precoding vector that differs in magnitude from the first precoding vector. The channel feedback is transmitted from the terminal.

[0008] In some embodiments, calculating the channel feedback includes calculating the channel feedback that causes the first cell to transmit the subsequent downlink signals to the terminal at a first power level, and that causes the second cell to transmit the subsequent downlink signals to the terminal at a second power level that is different from the first power level. In an embodiment, calculating the channel feedback includes calculating different first and second recommended magnitudes for the first and second precoding vectors, respectively. In another embodiment, calculating the channel feedback includes calculating a Channel Quality Indicator (CQI) under a constraint that permits the first and second cells to select the first and second precoding vectors with different magnitudes.

[0009] In yet another embodiment, calculating the channel feedback includes calculating one or more of: a single-user CQI calculated under a first constraint that no additional downlink signals to other terminals are scheduled simultaneously with the downlink signals addressed to the terminal; a multi-user CQI calculated under a second constraint that additional downlink signals to one or more other terminals are scheduled simultaneously with the downlink signals addressed to the terminal; and a non-cooperative-transmission CQI calculated under a third constraint that the first and second cells do not coordinate the transmission with one another.

[0010] In a disclosed embodiment, receiving the downlink signals includes receiving a Joint-Processing (JP) transmission in which the same data is transmitted simultaneously to the terminal by the first and second cells using the respective first and second precoding vectors. In an alternative embodiment, receiving the downlink signals includes receiving a coordinated beamforming transmission in which interference to the terminal is controlled by use of the first and second precoding vectors.

[0011] In some embodiments, calculating the channel feedback includes computing the channel feedback based on channel information that is available both to the terminal and to the cells, under an assumption that the first and second cells will select the first and second precoding vectors based on the channel information with different magnitudes.

5 **[0012]** There is additionally provided, in accordance with an embodiment that is described herein, apparatus including a receiver, control circuitry and a transmitter. The receiver is configured to receive downlink signals from at least first and second cells that coordinate transmission of the downlink signals with one another. The control circuitry is configured to calculate channel feedback that is configured, based on the received downlink signals, to cause the first cell to precode subsequent downlink signals in response to the channel feedback with a first precoding vector, and to cause the second cell to precode the subsequent downlink signals in response to the channel feedback with a second precoding vector that differs in magnitude from the first precoding vector. The transmitter is configured to transmit the channel feedback.

10 **[0013]** In some embodiments, a mobile communication terminal includes the disclosed apparatus. In some embodiments, a chipset for processing signals in a mobile communication terminal includes the disclosed apparatus.

15 **[0014]** There is further provided, in accordance with an embodiment that is described herein, a method including receiving in a mobile communication terminal a Joint-20 Processing (JP) transmission in which the same data is transmitted simultaneously to the terminal by at least first and second cells. Channel feedback is calculated in the terminal based on the received JP transmission. The channel feedback is configured to cause the first cell to transmit subsequent JP transmissions to the terminal at a first power level, and to cause the second cell to transmit the subsequent JP transmissions to the terminal at a second power level 25 that is different from the first power level. The channel feedback is transmitted from the terminal.

30 **[0015]** In some embodiments, calculating the channel feedback includes calculating different first and second recommended magnitudes for the first and second precoding vectors, respectively, and transmitting the channel feedback includes indicating the first and second recommended magnitudes to the cells.

[0016] The present disclosure will be more fully understood from the following detailed description of the embodiments thereof, taken together with the drawings in which:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017] Fig. 1 is a block diagram that schematically illustrates a communication system that uses Cooperative Multipoint (CoMP) transmission, in accordance with an embodiment that is described herein; and

5 [0018] Fig. 2 is a flow chart that schematically illustrates a method for providing channel feedback in a communication system that uses CoMP transmission, in accordance with an embodiment that is described herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0019] In a typical Joint Processing (JP) system, multiple cells transmit the same data to a communication terminal using multiple respective precoded downlink signals. The cells apply suitable precoding vectors and suitable phase differences between the downlink signals of different cells so as to create a virtual high-order MIMO transmission. The cooperating cells (or a central scheduler such as may be associated with network, for example) typically select the precoding vectors in response to channel feedback provided by the terminal. In conventional JP schemes, all the cooperating cells transmit a given JP transmission at the same power level, i.e., all the precoding vectors participating in the JP transmission have the same magnitude.

[0020] In practice, however, it is possible to improve the system performance considerably if different cells have the freedom to use precoding vectors of different magnitudes in the same JP transmission. Example simulation results showing such performance improvement are presented in U.S. Provisional Patent Application 61/470,235, cited above and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[0021] Embodiments that are described herein provide improved feedback schemes and precoding schemes for use in Coordinated Multipoint (CoMP) systems. In some embodiments, a mobile communication terminal receives downlink signals from at least two cooperating cells. The terminal calculates channel feedback, which will cause the cells to precode a subsequent JP transmission to the terminal with respective precoding vectors that differ in magnitude from one another. The terminal reports the channel feedback over an uplink channel, and the cooperating cells (or the central scheduler) use the reported feedback for selecting precoding vectors in subsequent JP transmissions to the terminal.

[0022] In some embodiments, the channel feedback comprises explicit Magnitude Information (MI) that is indicative of recommended ratios between the precoding vector magnitudes of the cooperating cells. In other embodiments, the magnitude information is fed

back implicitly, e.g., using long-term channel information that is available to both the terminal and the cells.

[0023] Several examples of channel feedback types and corresponding precoder configurations are described herein. A generalization of the disclosed techniques to 5 Coordinated Beamforming (CB) CoMP is also described.

[0024] Fig. 1 is a block diagram that schematically illustrates a communication system 20 that uses Cooperative Multipoint (CoMP) transmission, in accordance with an embodiment that is described herein. In the present example, system 20 operates in accordance with Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) Long Term Evolution (LTE) or LTE-10 Advanced (LTE-A) specifications. In alternative embodiments, system 20 may operate in accordance with any other suitable communication protocol in which cells coordinate transmission with one another.

[0025] In the embodiment of Fig. 1, system 20 comprises a mobile communication terminal 24 (referred to in LTE-A terminology as User Equipment – UE) and three cells 28 (base stations) denoted CELL1, CELL2 and CELL3. This choice to show three cells is made, 15 however, purely by way of example. In real-life configurations, system 20 typically comprises a large number of cells, some of which may be collocated, and a large number of terminals. UE 24 may comprise, for example, a cellular phone, a wireless-enabled computing device or any other suitable type of communication terminal.

[0026] In CoMP terminology, the cells are referred to as Channel State Information – Reference Signal resource (CSI-RS resource). The terms CSI-RS resource, cell and base station are therefore used interchangeably herein. A given cell 28 may comprise multiple transmitters, such as one or more macro-cells, micro-cells, pico-cells and/or femto-cells. The 25 multiple transmitters in a given cell typically have the same cell ID and may be undistinguishable from one another to the UEs.

[0027] Each cell 28 transmits downlink MIMO signals to UEs 24 using multiple transmit antennas. At least some of the downlink signals are precoded (also referred to as beam-formed). In an embodiment, cells 28 support a Joint Processing (JP) mode in which two or more of the cells simultaneously transmit precoded downlink signals that carry the same 30 data to UE 24. This form of cooperation creates a high-order MIMO transmission using multiple cells.

[0028] In this embodiment, system 20 comprises a central scheduler 32, which schedules the transmissions of the various cells to the various terminals, and calculates precoding vectors (i.e., sets of complex weights to be applied to the signals transmitted via the

respective transmit antennas), to be applied by the cells when transmitting JP transmissions. Central scheduler 32 typically calculates the precoding vectors based on channel feedback that is received from the UEs. Example schemes for providing such feedback are described in detail below.

5 [0029] In the embodiment of Fig. 1, UE 24 comprises one or more antennas 36, a downlink receiver 40, an uplink transmitter 44 and control circuitry 48. Receiver 40 receives downlink signals from one or more cells 28 via antennas 36, and decodes downlink data from the received downlink signals. Transmitter 44 produces uplink signals that convey uplink data to cells 28, and transmits the uplink signals to the cells.

10 [0030] Control circuitry 48 manages operation of UE 24. In an embodiment, the control circuitry comprises a feedback calculation unit 52 that calculates, based on received downlink signals, channel feedback indicative of the communication channels between cells 28 and UE 24. Typically, the feedback calculation unit calculates the feedback based on non-precoded downlink signals. Control circuitry 48 provides the channel feedback to uplink transmitter 44, and the uplink transmitter transmits the channel feedback over the uplink to cells 28.

15 [0031] As will be explained in detail below, the channel feedback produced by unit 52 permits the cells to transmit a given JP transmission using power levels that differ from one cell to another. In other words, the channel feedback is not calculated under a constraint that cells 28 will all use the same transmission power when generating the JP transmission.

20 [0032] In an embodiment, the channel feedback conveys magnitude information that is configured to cause the cells to apply precoding vectors that differ in magnitude when transmitting a given JP transmission. (In different embodiments, cells 28 set their transmission power in different ways, not necessarily using the precoding operation. In the present context, 25 the terms “precoding vector magnitude” and “cell transmission power” are used interchangeably. The channel feedback is regarded as causing the cells to apply precoding vectors that differ in magnitude, even though the cells may use other mechanisms for setting their transmission power.)

20 [0033] In an embodiment, the feedback is transmitted from UE 24 to the cell that currently serves the UE and/or to any other suitable cell or cells. The feedback, or the information conveyed therein, is distributed to cells 28 and/or to central scheduler 32, for use in subsequent precoding.

[0034] The UE configuration shown in Fig. 1 is an example configuration, which is depicted in a highly simplified manner solely for the sake of clarity. In alternative

embodiments, any other suitable UE configuration can be used. UE elements that are not mandatory for understanding of the disclosed techniques have been omitted from the figure for the sake of clarity.

[0035] In various embodiments, some or all of the elements of UE 24, including receiver 40, transmitter 44 and control circuitry 48, are implemented in hardware, such as implementing receiver 40 and/or transmitter 44 using one or more Radio Frequency Integrated Circuits (RFICs), or implementing control circuitry 48 using one or more Field-Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs) or Application-Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs). In alternative embodiments, certain elements of UE 24 are implemented in software, or using a combination 10 of hardware and software elements.

[0036] In some embodiments, certain UE elements, such as certain elements of control circuitry 48, are implemented in a programmable processor, which is programmed in software to carry out the functions described herein. The software may be downloaded to the processor, in whole or in part, in electronic form, over a network, for example, or it may, 15 alternatively or additionally, be provided and/or stored on non-transitory tangible media, such as magnetic, optical, or electronic memory.

[0037] In many practical scenarios, the performance of system 20 can be improved if the cooperating cells are not constrained to all transmit with the same power level in a given JP transmission. U.S. Provisional Patent Application 61/470,235, cited above and incorporated 20 herein by reference in its entirety, presents simulation results showing considerable improvement in downlink throughput when the equal-power constraint is removed.

[0038] Thus, in some embodiments, UE 24 calculates and reports channel feedback that is configured to cause cells 28 to transmit JP transmissions with precoding vectors that differ in magnitude from one cell to another. In these embodiments, for a given JP 25 transmission, the magnitude of the precoding vector of one cell is specific for that cell and is not necessarily the same as the magnitude of the precoding vectors used by other cells (although it may incidentally be the same in some scenarios). In other words, the UE calculates the channel feedback under an assumption that the cooperating cells are permitted to (and will) apply precoding vectors that differ in magnitude.

[0039] In a conventional precoding scheme, for the case of two cooperating cells, 30 the i^{th} UE recommends that the cells use the following JP zero-forcing precoder:

$$\text{Equation 1: } u_i = \begin{bmatrix} v_{1i} \\ e^{j\theta} v_{2i} \end{bmatrix}$$

wherein v_{1i} and v_{2i} denote the precoding vectors to be applied by the first and second cells, respectively, and θ denotes a phase offset between the signals of the first and second cells.

[0040] Assuming central scheduler 32 schedules two UEs in the JP mode, the zero-forcing precoder is given by:

5 *Equation 2:* $U_{ZF} = U(UU^+)^{-1}$, $U = [u_1 \ u_2]$

wherein columns u_1 and u_2 of matrix U denote the JP precoding vectors for the first and second UEs, respectively, and $(\cdot)^+$ denotes the Hermitian (conjugate transpose) operator. Matrix U , and thus U_{ZF} , can be normalized to meet various power constraints, such as a certain power level per UE or per transmission point.

10 **[0041]** In some embodiments, the JP precoder that is applied jointly by the cooperating cells has the following form:

Equation 3: $W = T(TT^+ + \alpha I)^{-1}$

wherein $T = [D_1 u_1 \ D_2 u_2]$, α denotes a regularization factor and I denotes an identity matrix. Matrix D_1 comprises a diagonal matrix that scales the individual precoders applied by 15 the cooperating cells for the first UE, so as to create a non-uniform transmission power allocation among the cells.

[0042] The number of distinct elements in D_1 is $N-1$, wherein N denotes the number of cooperating cells that transmit the JP transmission. Matrix D_2 comprises a diagonal matrix that carries out a similar function for the second scheduled UE.

20 **[0043]** In some embodiments, when permitting different cooperating cells to transmit with different power levels, the precoder recommended by UE 24 takes the form:

Equation 4: $v = \begin{bmatrix} e^{j\theta_1} m_1 v_1 \\ e^{j\theta_2} m_2 v_2 \\ \dots \\ e^{j\theta_N} m_N v_N \end{bmatrix}$

[0044] In these embodiments, feedback calculation unit 52 calculates channel feedback that comprises a Precoding Matrix Indicator (PMI) that recommends a normalized 25 precoding vector for each cooperating cell – corresponding to v_i , Phase Change Information (PCI) that recommends phase differences between the signals of different cells – corresponding to θ_i , and Magnitude Information (MI) that recommends relative magnitudes for the signals of the cooperating cells – corresponding to m_i .

[0045] In an embodiment, the PCI and MI values in the channel feedback are reported relative to the signal of the serving cell. In these embodiments, there is no need to report PCI and MI values for the serving cell. In various embodiments, the PCI and MI values are reported in the feedback in different ways, for example independently or differentially.

5 **[0046]** The range of MI for a given cell typically depends on the allowed difference in Reference Signal Received Power (RSRP) between that cell and the serving cell. In an example embodiment, if the allowed difference in RSRP is 3dB, then unit 52 selects the MI value from a 1-bit codebook of $10^{-0.1}$ and $10^{-0.15}$. This operation is similar to quantizing the MI value over the range of allowed power levels.

10 **[0047]** In some embodiments, after feedback calculation unit 52 calculates the joint precoder, unit 52 normalizes (scales) the precoder to unit norm. This normalization results in a total power allocation of $\sum_i m_i^2 P_i$ to the JP transmission, wherein P_i denotes the transmission power of the i^{th} cooperating cell.

15 **[0048]** In alternative embodiments, feedback calculation unit 52 may calculate and report the PMI, PCI and/or MI value in any other suitable way that permits different cooperating cells to apply different-magnitude precoding vectors in a JP transmission.

20 **[0049]** In various embodiments, feedback calculation unit 52 calculates and reports one or more Channel Quality Indicators (CQIs) based on the received downlink signals. In an embodiment, unit 52 calculates and reports a Single-User CQI (SU CQI), under a hypothesis that no other transmissions to other UEs are scheduled during the JP transmission to UE 24. Under this hypothesis, the signal received in UE 24 is given by

$$\text{Equation 5: } y = [H_{11} \quad H_{12}] \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ e^{j\theta} m v_2 \end{bmatrix} = H v x + n$$

wherein H_{11} and H_{12} respectively denote the channel between the UE and the two cooperating cells (cell-1 and cell-2).

25 **[0050]** Additionally or alternatively, in some embodiments unit 52 calculates and reports a Multi-User CQI (MU CQI), under a hypothesis that one or more other transmissions to other UEs (whose directional information is unknown) are scheduled during the JP transmission to UE 24. The effect of the other co-scheduled transmissions is statistically equivalent to a single directional interference, as demonstrated below:

Equation 6:

$$\begin{aligned}
 y &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+m^2}} [H_{11} \quad H_{12}] \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ e^{j\theta} m v_2 \end{bmatrix} x_1 + [H_{11} \quad H_{12}] T x_2 + n \\
 &= H v x_1 + [H_{11} \quad H_{12}] \begin{bmatrix} T_1 \\ T_2 \end{bmatrix} x_2 + n
 \end{aligned}$$

5 wherein T denotes the unknown precoder representing the other co-scheduled transmissions.

[0051] In an embodiment, unit 52 assumes that the individual precoders that make-up T are distributed isotropically over the directions that are orthogonal to the corresponding individual precoders in v . Moreover, unit 52 assumes that the total interference power from the i^{th} cell is $(1 - m_i^2)P_i$. In the above example, the precoder T_1 can take any direction that is

10 orthogonal to v_1 , and the total power is given by $(1 - 1/\sqrt{1+m^2})P_i$.

[0052] Under these assumptions, unit 52 typically calculates the Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR) that is used in producing and reporting the MU CQI. Example SNR calculation that can be used for this purpose, as well as other aspects of MU CQI, are described in U.S. Patent Application 13/253,078, entitled “Enhanced Channel Feedback for Multi-User MIMO,” whose disclosure is incorporated herein by reference.

[0053] Further additionally or alternatively, in some embodiments unit 52 calculates and reports a non-CoMP CQI without assuming CoMP operation of the cells, e.g., based on the serving cell PMI and CQI.

[0054] In alternative embodiments, unit 52 may calculate the SU-CQI, MU-CQI and/or non-CoMP CQI in any other suitable way. As can be seen in the above equations, all the disclosed CQI types (SU CQI, MU CQI and non-CoMP CQI) are calculated under an assumption that the cooperating cells are permitted to (and will) apply precoding vectors that differ in magnitude. In various embodiments, unit 52 calculates and reports one or two CQI types from among the SU-CQI, MU-CQI and non-CoMP CQI, or even all three CQI types.

[0055] Fig. 2 is a flow chart that schematically illustrates a method for providing channel feedback in system 20, in accordance with an embodiment that is described herein. The method begins with receiver 40 of UE 24 receiving downlink signals from cells 28, at a reception operation 60.

[0056] Feedback calculation unit 52 in control circuitry 48 calculates channel feedback based on the received downlink signals, at a feedback calculation operation 64. The channel feedback is calculated under an assumption that the cells have the freedom to transmit subsequent JP transmissions to the UE using power levels (e.g., using precoding vectors) that 5 do not all have the same magnitude. In various embodiments, the channel feedback comprises any of the feedback types described above – for example PMI/PCI/MI and/or SU CQI, MU CQI and/or non-CoMP CQI.

[0057] Transmitter 44 transmits the channel feedback over the uplink, at a feedback reporting operation 68. Central scheduler 32 uses the reported channel feedback to configure 10 the precoding vectors applied by the cooperating cells in subsequent JP transmissions to UE 24. In some cases, the precoding vectors of different cells in a given JP transmission differ in magnitude as a result of the feedback.

[0058] In some embodiments, UE 24 calculates and reports feedback that causes the cooperating cells to apply different-magnitude precoding vectors implicitly, i.e., without 15 explicitly requesting the desired magnitude relationships. This technique reduces uplink overhead, since it does not require explicit transmission of magnitude information (e.g., the MI values defined above).

[0059] In an example embodiment, control circuitry 48 measures the received signal strength of reference signals from the various cooperating cells (RSRP measurements), and 20 reports the measured signal strengths or the ratios between them to the serving cell. In this embodiment, both the UE and the central scheduler use this feedback for calculating the JP precoding vectors. The UE uses the ratios between RSRP measurements of different cells to calculate the recommended precoding vectors. The central scheduler uses the ratios between RSRP measurements to calculate the actual precoding vectors, while permitting different- 25 magnitude precoding vectors, and without requiring an explicit request from the UE for the different magnitudes.

[0060] In this embodiment, unit 52 in UE 24 typically calculates and reports PMI and PCI, but not MI. The JP precoder recommended by the UE takes the form:

$$Equation\ 7: \quad \nu = \begin{bmatrix} e^{j\theta_1} d_1 v_1 \\ e^{j\theta_2} d_2 v_2 \\ \dots \\ e^{j\theta_N} d_N v_N \end{bmatrix}$$

wherein d_i is given by $d_i = \sqrt{RSRP_i/RSRP_{serving_cell}}$. In general, d_i can be defined as any suitable function of the RSRP of the i^{th} cell ($RSRP_i$) and the RSRP of the serving cell, i.e., $d_i = f(RSRP_i, RSRP_{serving_cell})$. In one example embodiment, unit 52 uses codebook-based quantization of the relative RSRP level.

5 [0061] In an example embodiment, the cooperating cells (referred to as a reporting set) is configured semi-statically: The UE measures the RSRP levels of the neighboring (strongest) cells and feeds back the information to the serving cell. The serving cell then determines the reporting set and configures the UE to measure the CSI-RS of the cells in the reporting set.

10 [0062] In the present example, the cooperating cells apply different-magnitude precoding vectors using implicit magnitude feedback that is based on RSRP measurements for different cells. Generally, however, the cooperating cells may use any other suitable long-term information regarding the communication channels between the cells and the UE for this purpose.

15 [0063] The embodiments described above refer mainly to JP CoMP. The disclosed feedback techniques, however, are also applicable, for example, to Coordinated Beamforming (CB) CoMP in which the cooperating cells coordinate transmission of beamformed downlink signals with one another in order to reduce interference.

20 [0064] For example, let u_1 denote a precoding vector directed from a certain cell to UE 24, and let u_2 denote a precoding vector directed from the same cell to another, co-scheduled UE. A conventional CB zero forcing precoder in this case would give the precoder for UE 24 as the first column of $U_{ZF} = U(UU^+)^{-1}$, $U = [u_1 \ u_2]$, as in Equation 2 above. In some embodiments, the CB precoder is given by the first column of $W = T(TT^+ + \alpha I)^{-1}$ wherein $T = [d_1 u_1 \ d_2 u_2]$, as in Equation 3 above. The values of d_1 25 and d_2 can be obtained from explicit feedback from UE 24 or from long-term channel information (e.g., RSRP measurements reported by the UE).

30 [0065] Although the embodiments described herein mainly address JP transmission in LTE and LTE-A systems, the methods and systems described herein can also be used in other applications, such as in any coordinated transmission scheme in which two or more transmitters have relative magnitude information relating to a communication terminal.

[0066] It is noted that the embodiments described above are cited by way of example, and that the present invention is not limited to what has been particularly shown and described hereinabove. Rather, the scope of the present invention includes both combinations and sub-combinations of the various features described hereinabove, as well as variations and 5 modifications thereof which would occur to persons skilled in the art upon reading the foregoing description and which are not disclosed in the prior art. Documents incorporated by reference in the present patent application are to be considered an integral part of the application except that to the extent any terms are defined in these incorporated documents in a manner that conflicts with the definitions made explicitly or implicitly in the present 10 specification, only the definitions in the present specification should be considered.

CLAIMS

1. A method, comprising:

receiving in a mobile communication terminal downlink signals from at least first and second cells that coordinate transmission of the downlink signals with one another;

5 in the terminal, calculating channel feedback that is configured, based on the received downlink signals, to cause the first cell to precode subsequent downlink signals in response to the channel feedback with a first precoding vector, and to cause the second cell to precode the subsequent downlink signals in response to the channel feedback with a second precoding vector that differs in magnitude from the first precoding vector; and

10 transmitting the channel feedback from the terminal.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein calculating the channel feedback comprises calculating the channel feedback that causes the first cell to transmit the subsequent downlink signals to the terminal at a first power level, and that causes the second cell to transmit the subsequent downlink signals to the terminal at a second power level that is different from the 15 first power level.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein calculating the channel feedback comprises calculating different first and second recommended magnitudes for the first and second precoding vectors, respectively.

4. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein calculating the channel feedback 20 comprises calculating a Channel Quality Indicator (CQI) under a constraint that permits the first and second cells to select the first and second precoding vectors with different magnitudes.

5. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein calculating the channel feedback comprises calculating one or more of:

25 a single-user Channel Quality Indicator (CQI) calculated under a first constraint that no additional downlink signals to other terminals are scheduled simultaneously with the downlink signals addressed to the terminal;

30 a multi-user CQI calculated under a second constraint that additional downlink signals to one or more other terminals are scheduled simultaneously with the downlink signals addressed to the terminal; and

a non-cooperative-transmission CQI calculated under a third constraint that the first and second cells do not coordinate the transmission with one another.

6. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein receiving the downlink signals comprises receiving a Joint-Processing (JP) transmission in which the same data is transmitted simultaneously to the terminal by the first and second cells using the respective first and second precoding vectors.

5 7. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein receiving the downlink signals comprises receiving a coordinated beamforming transmission in which interference to the terminal is controlled by use of the first and second precoding vectors.

10 8. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein calculating the channel feedback comprises computing the channel feedback based on channel information that is available both to the terminal and to the cells, under an assumption that the first and second cells will select the first and second precoding vectors based on the channel information with different magnitudes.

9. Apparatus, comprising:

15 a receiver, which is configured to receive downlink signals from at least first and second cells that coordinate transmission of the downlink signals with one another;

20 control circuitry, which is configured to calculate channel feedback that is configured, based on the received downlink signals, to cause the first cell to precode subsequent downlink signals in response to the channel feedback with a first precoding vector, and to cause the second cell to precode the subsequent downlink signals in response to the channel feedback with a second precoding vector that differs in magnitude from the first precoding vector; and

a transmitter, which is configured to transmit the channel feedback.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the control circuitry is configured to calculate the channel feedback so as to cause the first cell to transmit the subsequent downlink signals to the receiver at a first power level, and to cause the second cell to transmit the 25 subsequent downlink signals to the receiver at a second power level that is different from the first power level.

11. The apparatus according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the control circuitry is configured to calculate different first and second recommended magnitudes for the first and second precoding vectors, respectively.

30 12. The apparatus according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the control circuitry is configured to calculate a Channel Quality Indicator (CQI) under a constraint that permits the first and second cells to select the first and second precoding vectors with different magnitudes.

13. The apparatus according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the control circuitry is configured to calculate one or more of:

5 a single-user Channel Quality Indicator (CQI) calculated under a first constraint that no additional downlink signals to other receivers are scheduled simultaneously with the downlink signals addressed to the receiver;

a multi-user CQI calculated under a second constraint that additional downlink signals to one or more other receivers are scheduled simultaneously with the downlink signals addressed to the receiver; and

10 a non-cooperative-transmission CQI calculated under a third constraint that the first and second cells do not coordinate the transmission with one another.

14. The apparatus according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the receiver is configured to receive a Joint-Processing (JP) transmission in which the same data is transmitted simultaneously to the terminal by the first and second cells using the respective first and second precoding vectors.

15 15. The apparatus according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the receiver is configured to receive a coordinated beamforming transmission in which interference to the terminal is controlled by use of the first and second precoding vectors.

16. The apparatus according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the control circuitry is configured to calculate the channel feedback based on channel information that is available both to the control circuitry and to the cells, under an assumption that the first and second cells will select the first and second precoding vectors based on the channel information with different magnitudes.

17. A mobile communication terminal comprising the apparatus of claim 9 or 10.

18. A chipset for processing signals in a mobile communication terminal, comprising the apparatus of claim 9 or 10.

25 19. A method, comprising:

receiving in a mobile communication terminal a Joint-Processing (JP) transmission in which the same data is transmitted simultaneously to the terminal by at least first and second cells;

30 in the terminal, calculating based on the received JP transmission channel feedback that is configured to cause the first cell to transmit subsequent JP transmissions to the terminal

at a first power level, and to cause the second cell to transmit the subsequent JP transmissions to the terminal at a second power level that is different from the first power level; and
transmitting the channel feedback from the terminal.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein calculating the channel feedback
5 comprises calculating different first and second recommended magnitudes for the first and second precoding vectors, respectively, and wherein transmitting the channel feedback comprises indicating the first and second recommended magnitudes to the cells.

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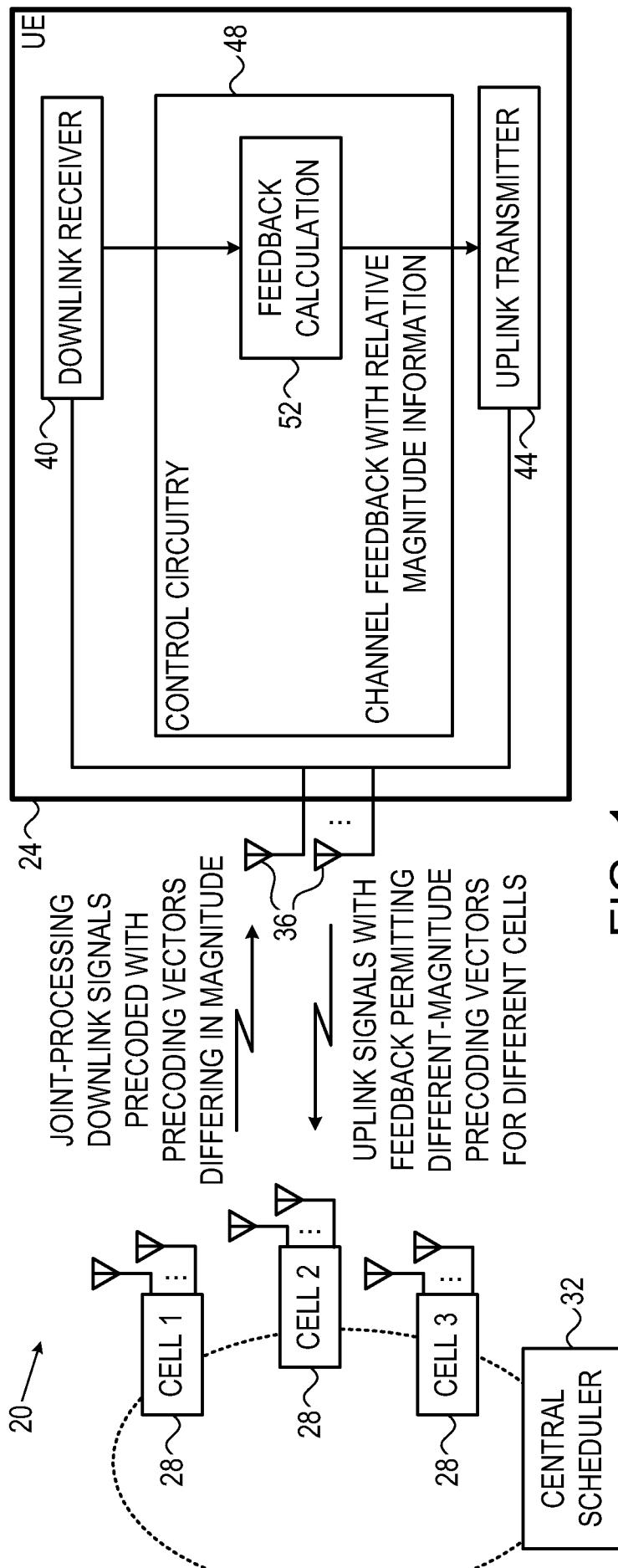


FIG. 1

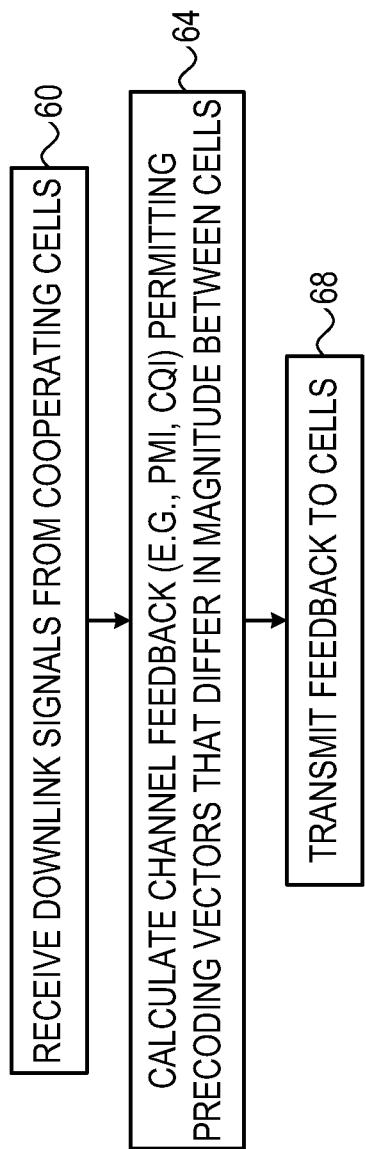


FIG. 2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International application No.
 PCT/IB2012/051511

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC(8) - H04B 7/02 (2012.01)
 USPC - 375/267

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC(8) - H04B 7/02; H04L 1/02, 5/12, 27/28 (2012.01)

USPC - 375/219, 259, 260, 267

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

MicroPatent, Google Scholar

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2010/0254474 A1 (GOMADAM et al) 07 October 2010 (07.10.2010) entire document	1-20
Y	US 2010/0238984 A1 (SAYANA et al) 23 September 2010 (23.09.2010) entire document	1-20
A	US 2010/0220800 A1 (ERELL et al) 02 September 2010 (02.09.2010) entire document	1-20
A	US 2010/0103834 A1 (GOROKHOV et al) 29 April 2010 (29.04.2010) entire document	1-20

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A": document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T": later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E": earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X": document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L": document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y": document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O": document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&": document member of the same patent family
"P": document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
16 August 2012	31 AUG 2012

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