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Achievable Information-Energy Region in the Finite Block-Length Regime with Finite Constellations

Sadaf ul Zuhra, Samir M. Perlaza, H. Vincent Poor, and Eitan Altman

Abstract—This paper characterizes an achievable information-energy region of simultaneous information and energy transmission over an additive white Gaussian noise channel. This analysis is performed in the finite block-length regime with finite constellations. More specifically, a method for constructing a family of codes is proposed and the set of achievable tuples of information rate, energy rate, decoding error probability (DEP) and energy outage probability (EOP) is characterized. Using existing converse results, it is shown that the construction is information rate, energy rate, and EOP optimal. The achieved DEP is, however, sub-optimal.

I. INTRODUCTION

Simultaneous information and energy transmission (SIET), also known as simultaneous wireless information and power transfer (SWIPT) is one of the key technologies being researched [1]–[5] for use in 6G systems [6]. A key research direction is the study of the fundamental trade-off between the amount of information and energy that can be simultaneously transmitted by a signal. This trade-off has been studied in [1], [7] in the case of point-to-point noisy channels in the asymptotic regime. Nonetheless, the information-energy trade-off is not the only trade-off involved in SIET. In the finite block-length regime, several other trade-offs appear which are taken into consideration in this paper.

Optimal signal and system design exclusively for wireless energy transmission has been studied in [8]–[14]. Various aspects of SIET system design such as resource allocation, receiver architectures, energy harvester circuits, and decoding strategies have been considered in [15]–[20]. An algorithm for designing circular quadrature amplitude modulation for SIET that maximizes the peak-to-average power ratio has been proposed in [21].

Much of the existing work in this field including [1], [2], [4], [7], [22], [23] assume that the duration of transmission is infinitely long. The assumption of infinitely long transmission guarantees that the decoding error probability (DEP) and the energy outage probability (EOP) can be made arbitrarily close to zero, and thus, the focus is only on the information and energy transmission rates. In the finite block-length regime, which is the subject of this paper, the DEP and EOP are bounded away from zero.

Earlier research on the fundamental limits of SIET in the finite block-length regime is presented in [3], [24], [25]. In [3] and [24], the information-energy capacity region with binary antipodal channel inputs is presented. A converse information-energy region of SIET with arbitrary number of channel inputs is presented in [25]. Comprehensive overviews of the literature on SIET can be found in [26]–[29].

This work proposes a new method of constructing a family of codes for SIET over an AWGN channel in the finite block-length regime with finite constellation sizes. An achievable information-energy region is characterized for the constructed family of codes. Using the converse results obtained in part from [25], it is shown that the constructed codes are information rate, energy rate and EOP optimal.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section III presents a new method for constructing families of codes that satisfy the information and energy rate, DEP, and EOP requirements. The converse and achievable information-energy regions are characterized in Section IV and Section V, respectively. The gap between the converse and achievable regions is studied using numerical examples in Section VI.

II. SYSTEM MODEL

Consider a communication system formed by a transmitter, an information receiver (IR), and an energy harvester (EH). The objective of the transmitter is to simultaneously send information to the IR at a rate of $R$ bits per second; and energy to the EH at a rate of $B$ Joules per second over an AWGN channel. That is, given a channel input $x = (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n)^T \in \mathbb{C}^n$, with $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the outputs of the channel are the random vectors

$$Y = x + N_1,$$

$$Z = x + N_2,$$

where $n$ is the duration of the transmission in channel uses; and the vectors $Y = (Y_1, Y_2, \ldots, Y_n)^T \in \mathbb{C}^n$ and $Z = (Z_1, Z_2, \ldots, Z_n)^T \in \mathbb{C}^n$ are the inputs of the IR and the EH, respectively. The components of the random vectors $N_1 = (N_{1,1}, N_{1,2}, \ldots, N_{1,n})^T \in \mathbb{C}^n$ and $N_2 = (N_{2,1}, N_{2,2}, \ldots, N_{2,n})^T \in \mathbb{C}^n$ are independent and identically distributed. More precisely, for all $(i,j) \in \{1,2\} \times \{1,2,\ldots,n\}$, $N_{i,j}$ is a complex circularly symmetric Gaussian random variable.
whose real and imaginary parts have zero means and variances $\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2$. That is, for all $y = (y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n)^T \in \mathbb{C}^n$, for all $z = (z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_n)^T \in \mathbb{C}^n$, and for all $x = (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n)^T \in \mathbb{C}^n$, it holds that the joint probability density function of the channel outputs $(Y, Z)$ satisfies
\[
    f_{Y|X}(y|x) = f_{Y|X}(y|x_t) \quad \text{for all } t \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\},
\]
and for all $t \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$,
\[
    f_{Y|X}(y|x_t) = \frac{1}{\pi \sigma^2} \exp \left( -\frac{|y_t - x_t|^2}{\sigma^2} \right),
\]
\[
    f_{Z|X}(z|x_t) = \frac{1}{\pi \sigma^2} \exp \left( -\frac{|z_t - x_t|^2}{\sigma^2} \right).
\]
Within this framework, the two tasks of information and energy transmission must be accomplished.

A. Information Transmission
Assume that the information transmission takes place using a modulation scheme that uses $L$ symbols. That is, there is a set
\[
    \mathcal{X} = \{x^{(1)}, x^{(2)}, \ldots, x^{(L)}\} \subset \mathbb{C}
\]
that contains all possible channel input symbols, and
\[
    L = |\mathcal{X}|.
\]
Let $M$ be the number of message indices to be transmitted within $n$ channel uses. That is,
\[
    M \leq L^n.
\]
To reliably transmit a message index, the transmitter uses an $(n, M)$-code defined as follows.

**Definition 1** ($(n, M)$-code). An $(n, M)$-code for the random transformation in (1) is a system
\[
    \{(u(1), D_1), (u(2), D_2), \ldots, (u(M), D_M)\},
\]
where, for all $(i, j) \in \{1, 2, \ldots, M\}^2$, $i \neq j$,
\[
    u(i) = (u_1(i), u_2(i), \ldots, u_n(i)) \in \mathbb{C}^n,
\]
\[
    D_i \cap D_j = \emptyset,
\]
\[
    \bigcup_{i=1}^M D_i \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n, \quad \text{and}
\]
\[
    |u_t(i)| \leq P,
\]
where $P$ is a peak-power constraint. Assume that the transmitter uses an $(n, M)$-code
\[
    \mathcal{C} = \{(u(1), D_1), (u(2), D_2), \ldots, (u(M), D_M)\},
\]
that satisfies (9). Without any loss of generality, assume that for all $i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, M\}$, the decoding set $D_i$ is written in the form
\[
    D_i = D_{i,1} \times D_{i,2} \times \ldots \times D_{i,n},
\]
where for all $t \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$, the set $D_{i,t}$ is a subset of $\mathbb{C}$. The information rate of any $(n, M)$-code $\mathcal{C}$ is given by
\[
    R = \frac{\log M}{n}
\]
in bits per channel use. To transmit message index $i$, the transmitter uses the codeword $u(i) = (u_1(i), u_2(i), \ldots, u_n(i))$. That is, at channel use $t$, the transmitter inputs the symbol $u_t(i)$ into the channel. At the end of $n$ channel uses, the IR observes a realization of the random vector $Y = (Y_1, Y_2, \ldots, Y_n)^T$ in (1a). The IR decides that message index $j$, with $j \in \{1, 2, \ldots, M\}$, was transmitted, if the following event takes place:
\[
    Y \in D_j,
\]
with $D_j$ in (10). That is, the set $D_j \in \mathbb{C}^n$ is the region of correct detection for message index $j$. Therefore, the DEP associated with the transmission of message index $i$ is
\[
    \gamma_i(\mathcal{C}) = 1 - \int_{D_i} f_{Y|X}(y|u(i))dy,
\]
and the average DEP is given by
\[
    \gamma(\mathcal{C}) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M \gamma_i(\mathcal{C}).
\]
This leads to the following refinement of Definition 1.

**Definition 2** ($(n, M, \epsilon)$-codes). An $(n, M, \epsilon)$-code $\mathcal{C}$ for the random transformation in (1) is said to be an $(n, M, \epsilon)$-code if
\[
    \gamma(\mathcal{C}) \leq \epsilon.
\]

B. Energy Transmission
Given a channel output $z \in \mathbb{C}$, the energy harvested from such channel output is given by a positive monotone increasing circularly symmetric function $g$ given by
\[
    g : \mathbb{C} \to [0, +\infty),
\]
with $g(0) = 0$. The energy transmission task must ensure that a minimum average energy $B$ is harvested at the EH at the end of $n$ channel uses. Let $\bar{g} : \mathbb{C}^n \to [0, +\infty)$ be a positive function such that given $n$ channel outputs $z = (z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_n)$, the average energy is
\[
    \bar{g}(z) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n g(z_i),
\]
in energy units per channel use. Assume that the transmitter uses the code $\mathcal{C}$ in (10). Then, the EOP associated with the transmission of message index $i$, with $i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, M\}$, is
\[
    \theta_i(\mathcal{C}, B) \triangleq \Pr[\bar{g}(Z) < B|X = u(i)],
\]
where the probability is with respect to the probability density function $f_{Z|X}$ in (3); and the average EOP is given by
\[
    \theta(\mathcal{C}, B) \triangleq \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M \theta_i(\mathcal{C}, B).
\]
This leads to the following refinement of Definition 2.

**Definition 3** ((\(n, M, \epsilon, B, \delta\))-code). An \((n, M, \epsilon, B, \delta)\)-code \(\mathcal{C}\) for the random transformation in (1) is said to be an \((n, M, \epsilon, B, \delta)\)-code if

\[
\theta(\mathcal{C}, B) \leq \delta. \tag{21}
\]

The results in this work are presented in terms of the types [30] induced by the codewords of a given code. Given an \((n, M, \epsilon, B, \delta)\)-code \(\mathcal{C}\) of the form in (10), the type induced by the codeword \(u(i)\), with \(i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, M\}\), is a probability mass function (pmf) whose support is \(\mathcal{X}\) in (5). Such pmf is denoted by \(P_{u(i)}\) and for all \(\ell \in \{1, 2, \ldots, L\}\),

\[
P_{u(i)}(x^{(\ell)}) \triangleq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{n=1}^{n} \mathbb{1}_{\{u(i)=x^{(\ell)}\}}, \tag{22}
\]

where \(x^{(\ell)}\) is an element of \(\mathcal{X}\) in (5). The type induced by all the codewords in \(\mathcal{C}\) is also a pmf on the set \(\mathcal{X}\) in (5). Such pmf is denoted by \(P_{\mathcal{C}}\) and for all \(\ell \in \{1, 2, \ldots, L\}\),

\[
P_{\mathcal{C}}(x^{(\ell)}) \triangleq \frac{1}{M} \sum_{n=1}^{M} P_{u(i)}(x^{(\ell)}), \tag{23}
\]

A class of codes that is of particular interest in this study is that of homogeneous codes, which are defined hereunder.

**Definition 4** (Homogeneous Codes). An \((n, M, \epsilon, B, \delta)\)-code \(\mathcal{C}\) for the random transformation in (1) of the form in (10) is said to be homogeneous if for all \(i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, M\}\) and for all \(\ell \in \{1, 2, \ldots, L\}\), it holds that

\[
P_{u(i)}(x^{(\ell)}) = P_{\mathcal{C}}(x^{(\ell)}), \tag{24}
\]

where, \(P_{u(i)}\) and \(P_{\mathcal{C}}\) are the types defined in (22) and (23), respectively.

Homogeneous codes are essentially \((n, M, \epsilon, B, \delta)\)-codes that satisfy the condition that a given channel input symbol is used with the same frequency in all the codewords. Such codes are the primary focus of the results in this paper.

### III. Code Construction

The information-energy capacity region of SIET systems with finite constellations is defined as follows.

**Definition 5.** The information-energy capacity region \(\mathcal{C}(n, \epsilon, \delta)\) for the random transformation in (1) is the set of all information and energy transmission rate pairs \((R, B)\) \(\in \mathbb{R}^2\) for which there exists an \((n, M, \epsilon, B, \delta)\)-code \(\mathcal{C}\) such that \(\frac{\log M}{n} = R\), the average DEP \(\lambda(\mathcal{C}) \leq \epsilon\), and, the average EOP \(\theta(\mathcal{C}) \leq \delta\).

The process of characterizing an achievable information-energy region for SIET with finite constellations begins with the construction of an \((n, M)\)-code. Let the \((n, M)\)-code \(\mathcal{C}\) be

\[\mathcal{C} \triangleq \{(u(1), D_1), (u(2), D_2), \ldots, (u(M), D_M)\}. \tag{25a}\]

The construction of the code begins with the construction of the channel input symbols. The set of channel input symbols is a modulation constellation represented by a finite subset of \(\mathbb{C}\). Consider a constellation formed by \(C\) layers, with \(C \in \mathbb{N}\). A layer is a subset of symbols in \(\mathbb{C}\) that have the same magnitude. For all \(\ell \in \{1, 2, \ldots, C\}\), denote by \(L_{\ell} \in \mathbb{N}\) the number of symbols in the \(\ell\)th layer and let \(A_{\ell} \in \mathbb{R}^+\) be the amplitude of the symbols in layer \(\ell\). Denote such a layer by \(U(A_\ell, L_\ell)\). That is,

\[U(A_\ell, L_\ell) \triangleq \{x_\ell^{(\ell)} = \exp(2\pi i L_\ell \theta) : \ell \in \{0, 1, 2, \ldots, (L_\ell - 1)\}\}, \tag{25b}\]

where \(i\) is the complex unit. Using this notation, the constellation can be described by the following set:

\[\mathcal{X} = \bigcup_{c=1}^{C} U(A_c, L_c). \tag{25c}\]

Without any loss of generality, assume that

\[A_1 > A_2 > \ldots > A_C. \tag{25d}\]

The symbols in layer \(c\) of the form in (25b), are equally spaced along a circle of radius \(A_\ell\). The constellation induced by the set \(\mathcal{X}\) is thus made up of points uniformly distributed along \(C\) concentric circles. The total number of symbols \(L\) in (6) for \(\mathcal{X}\) in (25c) is

\[L = \sum_{c=1}^{C} L_c. \tag{25e}\]

The construction of the \((n, M)\)-code \(\mathcal{C}\) in (25a) is as follows. For all \(\ell \in \{1, 2, \ldots, C\}\), let \(p_\ell\) be the frequency with which symbols of the \(\ell\)th layer appear in the code. The resulting probability vector is denoted by

\[p = (p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_C)^T, \tag{25f}\]

where, for all \(c \in \{1, 2, \ldots, C\}\),

\[p_c = \frac{1}{Mn} \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \sum_{i=1}^{M} \sum_{t=1}^{n} \mathbb{1}_{\{u(i)=x_\ell^{(\ell)}\}}. \tag{25g}\]

The decoding set \(G_\ell^{(c)}\) associated with symbol \(x_\ell^{(c)}\) is a circle of radius \(r_c \in \mathbb{R}^+\) centered at \(x_\ell^{(c)}\). That is,

\[G_\ell^{(c)} = \left\{y \in \mathbb{C}: |y - x_c^{(\ell)}|^2 \leq r_c^2 \right\}. \tag{25h}\]

The radii \(r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_C\) are chosen such that the decoding regions are mutually disjoint. To ensure this, for all \(\ell = \{1, 2, \ldots, C\}\) the amplitudes \(A_c\) in (25b) satisfy the following

\[A_c - A_{c-1} \geq r_c + r_{c-1}. \tag{25i}\]

The vector formed by these radii is denoted by

\[r = (r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_C)^T. \tag{25j}\]

For all \(i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, M\}\), the decoding region for codeword \(u(i)\) is

\[D_i = D_{i,1} \times D_{i,2} \times \ldots \times D_{i,n}, \tag{25k}\]
where $c \in \{1, 2, \ldots, C\}$, $t \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$, and $\ell \in \{1, 2, \ldots, L_c\}$ are such that if, $u_t(i) = x^{(t)}_c$, then, $D_{t,i} = G_c^{(t)}$.

This defines a family of $(n, M)$-codes denoted by

$$C(\mathcal{X}, p, r),$$

with constellation $\mathcal{X}$ in (25c), probability vector $p$ in (25f) and, radii of decoding regions $r$ in (25g).

IV. CONVERSE RESULTS

This section characterizes a converse region for codes in $C(\mathcal{X}, p, r)$ in (26). That is, any tuple $(n, M, \epsilon, B, \delta)$ outside the converse region is not achievable by the codes in $C(\mathcal{X}, p, r)$.

The following theorem follows from Lemma 1 and Lemma 3 in [25] and Lemma 4.5 in [31].

**Theorem 1.** Consider a homogeneous $(n, M, \epsilon, B, \delta)$-code $\mathcal{C}$ for the random transformation in (1) with constellation $\mathcal{X}$ of the form in (25c) and $p = (p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_C)^\top$ in (25f). The constellation $\mathcal{X}$ has $C$ layers and for all $c \in \{1, 2, \ldots, C\}$, layer $c$ contains $L_c$ symbols and has amplitude $A_c$. Then, the following holds

$$M \leq \frac{n!}{\prod_{c=1}^{L_c} \binom{n_c}{L_c}},$$

(27a)

$$B \leq \frac{1}{1 - \delta} \sum_{c=1}^{C} \sum_{c=1}^{L_c} p_c \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{W}}[g(A_c + \mathcal{W})];$$

(27b)

$$\epsilon \geq 1 - \frac{C}{\log M} \frac{2}{1 - \delta} \sum_{c=1}^{C} \sum_{c=1}^{L_c} \left(1 - Q\left(\frac{|x^{(t)}_c - \bar{x}^{(t)}_c|}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}ight) \frac{\sqrt{2}\sigma}{|x^{(t)}_c - \bar{x}^{(t)}_c|} \log \left(\frac{P_{\mathcal{C}}(x^{(t)}_c)}{P_{\mathcal{C}}(\bar{x}^{(t)}_c)}\right)\right)^{n_c},$$

(27c)

where, the type $P_{\mathcal{C}}$ is defined in (23); the function $g$ is the energy function in (17); the expectation in (27b) is with respect to $\mathcal{W}$, which is a complex circularly symmetric Gaussian random variable whose real and imaginary parts have zero means and variances $\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2$; and, for all $c \in \{1, 2, \ldots, C\}$ and $\ell \in \{1, 2, \ldots, L_c\}$, the complex $\bar{x}^{(t)}_c$ satisfies

$$\bar{x}^{(t)}_c = \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}_c \setminus \{x^{(t)}_c\}} \left(1 - Q\left(\frac{|x^{(t)}_c - x|}{\sqrt{2}\sigma} \frac{\sqrt{2}\sigma}{|x^{(t)}_c - x|} \log \left(\frac{P_{\mathcal{C}}(x)}{P_{\mathcal{C}}(x^{(t)}_c)}\right)\right)\right).$$

(28)

The function $Q$ in (27c) and (28) is the Q function defined in [32, Chapter 2].

V. MAIN RESULTS

This section provides various achievability results for homogeneous codes in the family $C(\mathcal{X}, p, r)$. The proofs of these Lemmas are presented in [31].
allows decreasing the radii of the decoding regions $r$ as given by the converse results albeit at a higher DEP $\epsilon$. Fig. 2 shows that the converse and achievable information-energy rate curves for $C^*$ overlap. However, for the same information and energy rate pair, the DEP for the achievable curves is higher than that of the converse curves. The sub-optimality in DEP arises due to the sub-optimal choice of circular decoding regions in (25h).

The proposed construction provides a method of building codes that meet the given energy and information rate, EOP, and DEP requirements. Building codes that achieve the optimal energy and information rate, EOP, and DEP requires optimizing set of channel input symbols $X$. However, the problem of optimal input design even for the most well behaved channels [35]–[37] remains an open problem.

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