

Symbol Error Rate Minimization Precoding for Interference Exploitation

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Abstract—This paper investigates a new beamforming approach for interference exploitation, which has recently attracted interest as an alternative to conventional interference-avoidance beamforming for the downlink of multiple-input multiple-output systems. Contrary to existing interference exploitation approaches that focus on signal-to-noise ratio performance, we adopt an approach based on the detection region of the signal constellation. Focusing on quality of service, we then formulate the optimization for minimizing the error probability (EP) for the worst user, subject to power constraints. We do this by employing the knowledge of channel state information at the transmitter, along with all downlink users' data that are readily available at the base station during downlink transmission. In this context, we also show that the detection-region-based beamforming and the worst user EP downlink beamforming are equivalent problems. Finally, we further propose a sum EPs approach and provide an analytic bound of average symbol error rate performance. Our simulations verify that the proposed techniques provide significantly improved performance over conventional downlink beamforming techniques.

Index Terms—Downlink beamforming, error probability, convex optimization, constructive interference.

I. INTRODUCTION

WITH the aid of channel state information (CSI) at the transmitter, downlink beamforming can serve multiple users at the same time using spatially selective transmission [2]–[4]. Complementary to the urge for high throughputs under resource-limited communication systems, quality of service (QoS) is a vital requirement in modern communications. Designing the adaptive beamformers to optimize the QoS for the downlink channel has been extensively studied [4]–[10]. QoS is usually measured as a function of signal to interference plus noise ratio (SINR).

In addition to the above linear beamforming approaches, non-linear precoders such as Dirty paper coding (DPC) and Tomlinson-Harashima Precoding (THP) exploit the symbol information to pre-cancel potential interference at the transmitter [11]–[13]. Vector perturbation (VP) precoding presents

a complementary approach that employs a non-linear symbol perturbation at the transmitter to further improve performance [14]–[19]. Nevertheless, both families of techniques involve non-linear designs, while VP in particular necessitates sophisticated search algorithms with a complexity that grows exponentially with the number of users [14], [15]. To reduce the complexity, several heuristic approaches have been studied [13], [20], [21]. However, none of the above are practical in current communication standards due to their high computational complexity. On the other hand, the zero-forcing (ZF) precoding [22], [23] is well known to have the least complexity amongst multi-user precoding approaches due to its closed form operation that involves an inversion of the channel matrix, but it performs far from the optimum in most scenarios. Accordingly, optimization-based downlink beamforming problems are considered. One approach is to minimize the total transmit power subject to the minimum SINR requirements at each user [5]. The uplink-downlink duality theory was established in [5] and [6]. Under the duality theorem, the downlink beamforming problem was efficiently solved using an iterative algorithm. In [6], an alternative downlink beamforming problem of maximizing the minimum SINR subject to a total power constraint was also developed and can be solved using the similar iterative algorithm. Conic optimization approaches to solving the downlink beamforming problem have also been explored [7]–[9]. Using semidefinite relaxation (SDR) technique [24], the rank-relaxed downlink beamforming problem becomes a convex optimization, which can be efficiently solved by contemporary linear or nonlinear programming methods such as the subgradient projection and barrier methods to obtain an optimal solution [25]. It is proved that a rank-one solution exists when the problem is feasible [7], [8]. In [26] and [27], the authors provided a rank-reduction algorithm to reduce the rank of the relaxed solution. For downlink beamforming with additional shaping constraints, it has been shown in [26] and [27] that if the number of additional shaping constraints is less than or equal to two, then rank-one solution can be obtained. A more advanced scheme was proposed in [28], which combines beamforming with high dimensional real-value orthogonal space time block coding (OSTBC) to increase the degrees of freedom in the optimization design. The authors in [9] formulated the problem into a second order cone program (SOCP) which allows the use of efficient solvers with reduced complexity. The channel robust worst-case downlink beamforming optimization designed to resist CSI errors was considered in [7] and [29]–[31]. As a

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further step, outage probability (OP)-constrained downlink beamforming has been developed and it has been proved that both the worst channel robust and outage probabilistically constrained problems are equivalent [31], [32]. In particular, for a given radius of uncertainty set, one can obtain the OP such that both problems can be derived to the same formulation and vice versa.

In the SINR-based downlink problem, beamformers are designed to guarantee that the SINR constraints are satisfied. However, the disadvantage of the conventional SINR criteria that treat interference as harmful is that critical power is wasted by suppressing, eliminating and avoiding the interference. Making use of both the CSI and data information, rather than mitigating it, one can exploit the constructive part of interference to enhance the useful signal. The concept of interference exploitation was introduced in [20] and [33]–[43]. This is also referred to as a constructive interference precoding. In [20], [34]–[39], and [44], the closed-form linear and non-linear precoders were discussed by exploiting the constructive interference to achieve higher SINRs without additional transmit power. Nevertheless, these precoders are not fully optimized. In more recent work, the authors in [16], [40], and [41] developed optimization-based precoders by designing beamforming which exploits constructive interference and can further reduce the transmit power. One particular optimization problem is to minimize the transmit power while guaranteeing certain signal to noise ratio (SNR) thresholds for all users and at the same time accommodate constructive interference to enhance the useful signal. This was first introduced in [16] as a linear adaptation of VP, and then applied to beamforming optimization. A conservative approach was offered in [41], by restricting the resultant interference to shift the received symbol in the exact same angle with the intended symbol, while a relaxed method was developed [40]. A related transmitter-side precoding technique, namely directional modulation, exploits the constellation formats to achieve physical-layer security [45]–[47].

In line with the above, this paper is based on the downlink beamforming optimization by exploiting constructive interference to enhance the useful signal [40], [41], [48], [49]. In line with the above, we assume a TDD transmission, and the availability of CSI and instantaneous data at the transmitter. We investigate different quantitative measures of QoS as objective functions and optimize these subject to power constraints. While closed-form sum rate expressions do not apply to the modulation-dependent concept of interference exploitation [40], motivated by the error rate comparisons in the relevant literature [34]–[41], we focus on error rate related metrics detailed in the sequence. All proposed approaches can be formulated into convex optimizations. The contributions of this paper can be summarized as follows:

- 1) We propose a detection-region based downlink beamforming problem in Section IV by introducing a new geometrical analysis to the optimization problem studied in [40].
- 2) We reformulate the optimization to address the worst user EP downlink beamforming problem in Sections V and VI and show the detection-region based and

EP-based problems exhibit a one to one correspondence in Section V.

- 3) We provide an analytic bound of average symbol error rate (SER) performance by solving the sum EPs optimization. It is observed in the simulations that the analytic SER results closely match with the experimental SER results.
- 4) Computationally-efficient solver algorithms are developed for each approach in Sections IV, V, and VI, respectively.

In the following analysis, we focus on phase-shift keying (PSK) modulation which offers notational simplicity in the definition of constructive interference. This is further motivated by the fact that the concept of interference exploitation is most useful in high-interference scenarios where low order modulation such as BPSK and QPSK is employed to ensure the reliability [50]. Nevertheless, our analysis and designs can be readily extended to other modulation schemes such as quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM) by trivially applying the approaches in [38] and [43], [51]–[54], which specifically treat the topic of interference exploitation for QAM transmission. Regarding the closest literature on interference exploitation in [40] we note that the contributions in our paper involve a) a noise robust downlink beamforming problem by introducing a geometrical analysis to the optimization problem studied in [40], b) a new formulation of the optimization to address the worst user error probability, c) derivation of a tight analytic bound of average SER performance where previously no such bounds existed, d) computationally-efficient solver algorithms developed for each of the proposed approaches.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. Section II introduces the signal model and revisits the conventional downlink beamforming problem. Section III outlines the constructive interference-based optimization. Section IV formulates the detection-region based downlink beamforming problem. Section V develops the worst user EP downlink beamforming problem. Section VI presents the sum EPs downlink beamforming problem. Simulation results are provided in Section VII and conclusions are drawn in Section VIII.

Notation: $E(\cdot)$, $\Pr(\cdot)$, $|\cdot|$, $\|\cdot\|$, $(\cdot)^*$, $\mathbb{E}(\cdot)^T$, denote statistical expectation, the probability, the absolute value, the Euclidean norm, the complex conjugate, and the transpose, respectively. \mathbf{I}_j , and \mathbf{a}_j denotes the $j \times j$ identity matrix, $j \times 1$ vector of all a , respectively. $\text{Re}(\cdot)$ and $\text{Im}(\cdot)$ are the real part, and the imaginary part, respectively. $\lceil a \rceil$ is the smallest integer greater than or equal to a .

II. SYSTEM MODEL AND CONVENTIONAL DOWNLINK BEAMFORMING

Consider a downlink scenario, where a single N -antenna BS transmits signals to K single-antenna users. Assume that the noise n_i at the i th user is circularly symmetric complex Gaussian with zero mean, i.e., $n_i \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \sigma^2)$ where σ^2 is the noise variance. Let b_i and \mathbf{h}_i be the unit amplitude of the M -order PSK (M -PSK) modulated symbol and $N \times 1$ channel vector for the i th user, respectively. The transmit signal at the

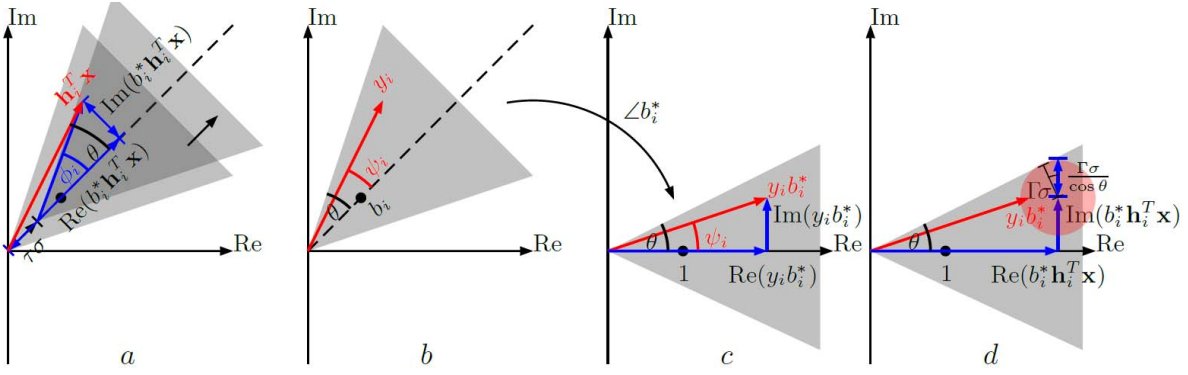


Fig. 1. In M -PSK, (a) precoding for interference exploitation and generic optimization [40] where the grey area is the constructive area of constellation; (b) constructive interference y_i within correct detection region; (c) after rotation by $\angle b_i^*$, $\text{Re}(y_i b_i^*)$ and $\text{Im}(y_i b_i^*)$ are projected from $y_i b_i^*$ on real and imaginary axis, respectively; (d) the detection region approach is described using trigonometry.

BS is the $N \times 1$ vector

$$\mathbf{x} = \sum_{i=1}^K \mathbf{t}_i b_i, \quad (1)$$

where \mathbf{t}_i is the $N \times 1$ beamforming vector for the i th user. The signal received by the i th user is given by

$$\begin{aligned} y_i &= \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x} + n_i, \\ &= \underbrace{\mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{t}_i b_i}_{\text{desired signal}} + \underbrace{\sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^K \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{t}_j b_j + n_i}_{\text{interference plus noise}}. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The received SINR for the i th user is written as

$$\text{SINR}_i \triangleq \frac{|\mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{t}_i|^2}{\sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^K |\mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{t}_j|^2 + \sigma^2}. \quad (3)$$

The mean total transmit power P_T over transmit symbols is defined as

$$P_T \triangleq \mathbb{E}\left\{\left\|\sum_{i=1}^K \mathbf{t}_i b_i\right\|^2\right\} = \sum_{i=1}^K \|\mathbf{t}_i\|^2. \quad (4)$$

We note that while above we consider a single carrier system model for notational simplicity in line with our benchmarks [6], [40], our approach can readily be extended to a MIMO-OFDM transmission where the involved precoding optimization can be applied on a per subcarrier basis. Below we present the two most common downlink beamforming optimization problems in the literature [5]–[8].

A. SINR Balancing

Our first benchmark optimization involves maximizing the minimum SINR subject to a predefined total transmit power. The problem can be written as [6]

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\mathbf{t}_i, \gamma} \quad & \text{s.t.} \quad \frac{|\mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{t}_i|^2}{\sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^K |\mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{t}_j|^2 + \sigma^2} \geq \gamma, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, K, \\ & \sum_{i=1}^K \|\mathbf{t}_i\|^2 \leq P_0, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where P_0 is the predefined total transmit power threshold.

B. Power Minimization

A relevant approach aims to minimize the total transmit power under the SINR constraints, in the form [6]

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{t}_i} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^K \|\mathbf{t}_i\|^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \frac{|\mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{t}_i|^2}{\sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^K |\mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{t}_j|^2 + \sigma^2} \geq \gamma_0, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, K, \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where γ_0 is the minimal acceptable SINR. However, these problems do not consider the data symbols as a part of the optimization problem for each transmission. In this paper, we aim to design the downlink beamforming problem where we take the given symbols into account, to exploit constructive interference.

III. CONSTRUCTIVE INTERFERENCE OPTIMIZATION-BASED PRECODING

Interference is a major limitation in wireless networks. In conventional downlink beamforming [6], a critical part of the transmit power is wasted to suppress the interference. It has recently been shown that, by exploiting the instantaneous interference, the received signals can be pushed further into the correct detection region, which improves the system performance [34], [35]. With the knowledge of the CSI and user data available at the transmitter, the constructive interference optimization precoder given in [40] improves upon the above optimizations to design beamformers to maximize the distance $\Gamma\sigma$ between the desired detection region in Fig. 1(a) that the received symbols must fall into, and the decision thresholds of the corresponding constellation point. This is done such that the resultant received symbol $\mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}$ falls within the corresponding constructive area of constellation, as shown in Fig. 1(a). That is, the area in the symbol constellation where the distances to the decision thresholds are increased with respect to the constellation point of interest. The design moves the resultant received symbol away from the original decision thresholds of the constellation, which improves the QoS. To avoid extensive repetition, the reader is referred to [40]

for the details of the underlying concept. Here, we recapture the optimization problem in the mathematical form as [40]

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\mathbf{x}, \Gamma} \quad & \Gamma \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & |\phi_i(\mathbf{x}, \Gamma)| \leq \theta, \end{aligned} \quad (7a)$$

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \leq P_0, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, K, \quad (7b)$$

where Γ is a scalar auxiliary variable that is equivalent to the minimum distance in the constellation region that will become clear in the following, $\theta = \pi/M$ and P_0 is the total transmit power threshold. The constraints in (7a) come from the fact that the resultant received symbol for the i th user lays on the constructive area of the constellation, if and only if

$$-\theta \leq \phi_i \leq \theta \quad (8)$$

where ϕ_i in Fig. 1(a) is the angle such that

$$\phi_i(\mathbf{x}, \Gamma) = \begin{cases} \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x})}{\text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}) - \Gamma\sigma}\right) & \text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}) > \Gamma\sigma, \\ 0 & b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x} = \Gamma\sigma. \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

and the physical meaning of $\Gamma\sigma$ in (9) is the distance of the correct detection region in Fig. 1(a) away from origin along with the direction of the corresponding constellation point. By substituting (9) into (7) and taking both sides by \tan , the problem (7) can be equivalently written as

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\mathbf{x}, \Gamma} \quad & \Gamma \quad \text{s.t.} \quad |\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x})| \leq (\text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}) - \Gamma\sigma)\tan\theta, \\ & \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \leq P_0, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, K. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

The corresponding power minimization is written as [40]

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}} \quad & \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad |\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x})| \leq (\text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}) - \Gamma_0\sigma)\tan\theta, \\ & \forall i = 1, \dots, K, \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where $\Gamma_0\sigma$ is the minimal acceptable distance of the correct detection region. We note that (10),(11) correspond to the conventional SINR balancing and Power minimization problems (5),(6) where the SINR objectives/constraints have been reformulated to accommodate constructive interference.

From Fig. 1(a), we can see the real projection of the resultant symbol is parallel to the signal and imaginary projection of the resultant symbol is perpendicular to the signal. Therefore, the approach in [40] treats Γ as an SNR-related variable, where it is shown that the SNR can be defined as the instantaneous power of the real projection of the resultant symbol over the expectation of noise power, i.e., $\Gamma^2 = \frac{\min_{i=1}^K \{\text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}_{CI}^*)^2\}}{\sigma^2}$ where \mathbf{x}_{CI}^* is an optimal solution of transmit signal in (10). In the following section, instead of using the SNR as a measure of QoS, we introduce a detection-region based adaptation of the above constructive interference-based beamformers.

IV. DETECTION-REGION BASED BEAMFORMING OPTIMIZATION

In this section, we improve upon optimizations (10) and (11) by introducing a detection-region based adaptation. First we introduce an alternative systematic treatment of constructive

interference as per Fig. 1. For PSK modulation, interference is constructive if the received signal y_i falls within the correct detection region, which is the shaded area shown in Fig. 1(b). It is important to note that, here we consider the resultant received symbol y_i including noise is considered, whereas the resultant received symbol $\mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}$ excluding is discussed in [40]. Accordingly, we are interested in the constraints that the received symbol y_i falls inside the correct detection region in the constellation, given a certain noise variance. Under this new definition, we have the following lemma.

Lemma 1: The received signal y_i benefits from constructive interference, if and only if

$$-\theta \leq \psi_i \leq \theta \quad (12)$$

where ψ_i in Fig. 1(b) is the angle between the received signal y_i and the transmit symbol b_i and is also treated as a function in terms of \mathbf{x} and n_i such that

$$\psi_i(\mathbf{x}, n_i) = \begin{cases} \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\text{Im}(y_i b_i^*)}{\text{Re}(y_i b_i^*)}\right) & \text{Re}(y_i b_i^*) > 0, \\ 0 & y_i b_i^* = 0. \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

Proof: To find out the angle ψ_i that ensures constructive interference, we first rotate Fig. 1(b) to Fig. 1(c) by shifting the constellation by a phase equal to $-\angle b_i$, i.e., by multiplying b_i^* . Since b_i has unit power, $y_i b_i^*$ does not change the magnitude of the complex number. Then we obtain (13) where $\text{Im}(y_i b_i^*)$ and $\text{Re}(y_i b_i^*)$ are the projection of $y_i b_i^*$ onto the real and imaginary axis, respectively. ■

Based on the above, the classification criterion (12) can be reformulated as the following constraints

$$\frac{|\text{Im}(y_i b_i^*)|}{\text{Re}(y_i b_i^*)} \leq \tan\theta, \quad (14)$$

$$\text{Re}(y_i b_i^*) > 0, \quad (15)$$

which is equivalent to the following single constraint

$$|\text{Im}(y_i b_i^*)| - \text{Re}(y_i b_i^*) \tan\theta \leq 0. \quad (16)$$

A. Noise Uncertainty Radius Maximization

As shown in Fig. 1(d), for a given received signal excluding noise (denoted by the red arrow in the figure) one has to apply the noise uncertainty region such that the received symbols including noise obey the required SNR Γ with respect to the detection thresholds of the modulation constellation, denoted by the bounds of the grey region in the figure. The idea of the detection-region based downlink beamforming problem is to design the beamforming weight vector and the radius $\Gamma\sigma$ of the noise uncertainty set such that if the noise is within the noise uncertainty set, then it guarantees that the given received signal falls into the constructive area of the constellation and can be decoded without any error, i.e., y_i benefits from constructive interference. Given the noise variance σ^2 , the optimization aims to maximize the radius $\Gamma\sigma$ of the noise uncertainty set such that it can still satisfy the constraints (16) under the

power budget. The resulting detection-region based downlink beamforming problem can be expressed as

$$\max_{\mathbf{x}, \Gamma} \Gamma \quad (17)$$

$$\text{s.t. } \max_{\|n_i\| \leq \Gamma\sigma} |\psi_i(\mathbf{x}, n_i)| \leq \theta, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, K, \quad (18)$$

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \leq P,$$

where P is the maximum allowable total transmit power. By Lemma 1 and (16), problem (18) can be rewritten as

$$\max_{\mathbf{x}, \Gamma} \Gamma \quad (19a)$$

$$\text{s.t. } \max_{\|n_i\| \leq \Gamma\sigma} |\text{Im}(y_i b_i^*)| - \text{Re}(y_i b_i^*) \tan \theta \leq 0, \quad (19a)$$

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \leq P, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, K. \quad (19b)$$

We can first solve the inner maximization on the left side of (19a).

Corollary 1: For a fixed $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$, the optimal solution of the inner maximization in (19) is given by

$$|\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}})| + \Gamma\sigma / \cos \theta - \text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}}) \tan \theta. \quad (20)$$

Proof: See Appendix A. ■

According to Corollary 1, problem (19) can be rewritten as a function $\Gamma^*(\cdot)$ for any given $P \geq 0$ such that

$$\Gamma^*(P) : \max_{\mathbf{x}, \Gamma} \Gamma \quad (21)$$

$$\text{s.t. } |\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x})| + \Gamma\sigma / \cos \theta \leq \text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}) \tan \theta,$$

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \leq P, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, K.$$

The problem in (21) can be solved using available convex optimization tools [55]. Finally, we can set the optimal beamforming vector \mathbf{t}_i^* in (1) as

$$\mathbf{t}_i^* = \frac{\mathbf{x}^* b_i^*}{K}, \quad (22)$$

where \mathbf{x}^* is an optimal solution of transmit signal in (21). Note that (10) and (21) are only different by a constant. Suppose \mathbf{x}_{SD}^* and \mathbf{x}_{NR}^* are optimal solutions of transmit signal in (10) and (21), respectively. Then $\sin \theta \mathbf{x}_{NR}^* = \mathbf{x}_{SD}^*$. Therefore we can treat them as equivalent problems.

B. Trigonometrical Equivalence

The optimization problem (21) can also be explained using trigonometry. The Fig. 1(d) uses a trigonometrical approach by maximizing the radius $\Gamma\sigma$ of the noise uncertainty set within the shaded region. As seen in the figure, $\Gamma\sigma / \cos \theta$ is the projection of $\Gamma\sigma$ on the imaginary axis. By observing the trigonometry in Fig. 1(d), we have

$$\frac{|\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x})| + \Gamma\sigma / \cos \theta}{\text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x})} \leq \tan \theta, \quad (23)$$

$$\text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}) > 0, \quad (24)$$

or

$$b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x} = 0, \quad (25)$$

$$\Gamma = 0, \quad (26)$$

which is equivalent to

$$|\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x})| + \Gamma\sigma / \cos \theta \leq \text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}) \tan \theta. \quad (27)$$

which yields directly (21).

C. The Power Minimization Problem

In this subsection, we present the power minimization that is related to (21), and employ this formulation to design an efficient solver. The downlink beamforming optimization is to minimize the total transmit power such that noise in the given uncertainty set falls within the constructive area of the constellation. Based on (21) the problem can be written as

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \quad \text{s.t. } \max_{\|n_i\| \leq \Gamma\sigma} |\psi_i(\mathbf{x}, n_i)| \leq \theta, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, K. \quad (28)$$

Using a similar approach as in Subsection IV-A, we can reformulate problem (28) as a function $P^*(\cdot)$ for any given $\Gamma \geq 0$ such that

$$P^*(\Gamma) : \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \quad (29)$$

$$\text{s.t. } |\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x})| + \Gamma\sigma / \cos \theta \leq \text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}) \tan \theta,$$

$$\forall i = 1, \dots, K.$$

Similarly, we notice that (11) and (29) can be treated as equivalent problems. To obtain a real-valued representation of the optimization that allows efficient solvers following [40], let us denote

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}} \triangleq [\text{Re}(\mathbf{x})^T \quad \text{Im}(\mathbf{x})^T]^T, \quad (30)$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{h}}_i \triangleq [\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i)^T \quad \text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i)^T]^T, \quad (31)$$

$$\mathbf{\Pi}_K \triangleq [\mathbf{0}_{K,K} \quad -\mathbf{I}_K; \mathbf{I}_K \quad \mathbf{0}_{K,K}], \quad (32)$$

where $\mathbf{0}_{K,K}$ is the $K \times K$ zero matrix. Then we can express the real part and imaginary part in (29) as follows

$$\text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}) = \bar{\mathbf{h}}_i^T \mathbf{\Pi}_K \bar{\mathbf{x}}, \quad (33)$$

$$\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}) = \bar{\mathbf{h}}_i^T \bar{\mathbf{x}}. \quad (34)$$

Using (30), (33) and (34), we can rewrite (29) as

$$\min_{\bar{\mathbf{x}}} \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}\|^2 \quad \text{s.t. } -\mathbf{T}\bar{\mathbf{x}} + \Gamma\mathbf{1}_{2K} \leq \mathbf{0}_{2K}, \quad (35)$$

where \mathbf{T} is a $2K \times 2N$ matrix such that

$$\mathbf{T} \triangleq \frac{\cos \theta}{\sigma} \begin{pmatrix} -\bar{\mathbf{h}}_1^T + \tan \theta \bar{\mathbf{h}}_1^T \mathbf{\Pi}_K \\ \bar{\mathbf{h}}_1^T + \tan \theta \bar{\mathbf{h}}_1^T \mathbf{\Pi}_K \\ \vdots \\ -\bar{\mathbf{h}}_K^T + \tan \theta \bar{\mathbf{h}}_K^T \mathbf{\Pi}_K \\ \bar{\mathbf{h}}_K^T + \tan \theta \bar{\mathbf{h}}_K^T \mathbf{\Pi}_K \end{pmatrix}. \quad (36)$$

The Lagrangian associated with (35) is given by

$$L(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{u}) = \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}\|^2 + \mathbf{u}^T (-\mathbf{T}\bar{\mathbf{x}} + \Gamma\mathbf{1}_{2K}), \quad (37)$$

where \mathbf{u} is a $2K \times 1$ vector. Setting $\partial L(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{u}) / \partial \bar{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{0}_{2K}$, we obtain

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}}^* = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u}^*. \quad (38)$$

Substituting (36) into (37), we write the dual problem of (35) as

$$\max_{\mathbf{u} \geq \mathbf{0}_{2K}} - \frac{\|\mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u}\|^2}{4} + \Gamma \mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \mathbf{u}, \quad (39)$$

which is equivalent to

$$- \min_{\mathbf{u} \geq \mathbf{0}_{2K}} f(\mathbf{u}) \triangleq \frac{\|\mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u}\|^2}{4} - \Gamma \mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \mathbf{u}. \quad (40)$$

The above optimization can be solved efficiently using the gradient descent algorithm with simple bound constraints [56]. The gradient of $f(\mathbf{u})$ is given by

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{u}) = \frac{\mathbf{T} \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u}}{2} - \Gamma \mathbf{1}_{2K}. \quad (41)$$

By substituting (38) into (35), problem (35) can be reformulated as

$$\min_{\mathbf{u} \geq \mathbf{0}_{2K}} \left\| \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u} \right\|^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad -\nabla f(\mathbf{u}) \leq \mathbf{0}_{2K}. \quad (42)$$

Therefore, we need to guarantee at the optimal dual solution \mathbf{u}^* of problem (40) that

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{u}^*) \geq \mathbf{0}_{2K}. \quad (43)$$

If the condition of (43) is violated, then either the gradient descent algorithm has a low convergence rate or (42) is infeasible. The feasibility of (42) can be examined by solving the following problem:

$$\text{find } \mathbf{u} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad -\nabla f(\mathbf{u}) \leq \mathbf{0}_{2K}, \quad \mathbf{u} \geq \mathbf{0}_{2K}. \quad (44)$$

which is a linear programming problem.

Algorithm 1 outlines the gradient descent method to solve (29) where i_{\max} and Δ_t are the given maximum number of iterations and error tolerance, respectively. According to [57], the gradient descent method requires at most $\mathcal{O}(\Delta_t^{-2})$ iterations for $\Delta_t > 0$ arbitrarily small. However, it is an open question whether the above bound is tight or not. For the ill-conditioned problems, the convergence rate of gradient descent may be poor. It is important to note at this point that that computational complexity is key for all interference exploitation approaches. Indeed, while conventional beamforming needs to be optimized whenever the channel changes, interference exploitation optimizations are data-dependent, and need to be performed on a symbol-by-symbol basis. Accordingly, efficient solvers for reducing the complexity of obtaining the beamformers are indispensable, and we derive a number of efficient approaches in the following.

D. An Efficient Algorithm for Power Minimization of (29) Based on the Barrier Method

It will be shown in the simulation results that Algorithm 1 can have a low convergence rate. In this subsection, we propose the barrier method as an alternative to compute the optimal solution of the power minimization in (29). Let

$$\phi(\mathbf{u}) = -\mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \ln(\mathbf{u}) \quad (45)$$

be the logarithmic barrier function where natural logarithm $\ln(\cdot)$ is an elementwise operator. We note that the barrier

Algorithm 1 Gradient Descent Algorithm to Solve (29)

Input: $\{\mathbf{h}_i\}_{i=1}^K, \{b_i\}_{i=1}^K, \Gamma_0, \sigma$

Output: The optimal solution $\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*$ of problem (29)

Initialize randomly $\mathbf{u}^{(0)}$ and $i = 0$;

repeat

$i = i + 1$;

if $i > i_{\max}$ **then**

Exit and output no solution;

end if

Compute the gradient descent direction $\nabla f(\mathbf{u}^{(i-1)})$;

Choose a_i via backtracking linear search;

$\mathbf{u}^{(i)} = \max(\mathbf{0}_{2K}, \mathbf{u}^{(i-1)} - a_i \nabla f(\mathbf{u}^{(i-1)}))$;

until $\|\mathbf{u}^{(i)} - \mathbf{u}^{(i-1)}\| < \Delta_t$ and $\min \nabla f(\mathbf{u}^{(i)}) > -\Delta_t$;

Output $\bar{\mathbf{x}}^* = \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u}^{(i)}/2$;

method based on the logarithmic barrier function, as above, is identical to the primal-dual interior point method [54]. For $s > 0$, define $\mathbf{u}^*(s)$ as the solution of

$$\min_{\mathbf{u}} s f(\mathbf{u}) + \phi(\mathbf{u}). \quad (46)$$

Problem (46) can be solved using the gradient descent algorithm. It has been shown in [25] that the number of gradient descent iterations is of the order $\mathcal{O}(\frac{\log(K/\Delta_t)}{\log \mu})$ for the barrier method. In general, the barrier method is a more practical approach to solve a convex optimization problem as it provides a guarantee on the convergence rate compared to the gradient descent method. The algorithm to efficiently solve (29) is shown in Algorithm 2. It will be shown in the simulations that this provides much faster convergence than Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 2 Efficient Barrier Method Algorithm to Solve (29)

Input: $\{\mathbf{h}_i\}_{i=1}^K, \{b_i\}_{i=1}^K, \Gamma_0, \sigma, \mu$

Output: The optimal solution of transmit signal $\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*$ in problem (29)

if (44) has no solution **then**

Exit and output infeasible;

else

Set $\mathbf{u}^*(1)$ to be the solution of (44);

end if

repeat

Compute $\mathbf{u}^*(s)$ of (46) ;

Set $s = \mu s$;

until $\|\mathbf{u}^*(s) - \mathbf{u}^*(s-1)\| < \Delta_t$ and $\min \nabla f(\mathbf{u}^*(s)) > -\Delta_t$;

Output $\bar{\mathbf{x}}^* = \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u}^*(s)/2$;

E. An Efficient Detection-Region Based Algorithm

Based on the above formulation, in this subsection we refocus our attention to problem (21) and provide an efficient algorithm for solving the detection-region based beamforming problem. First of all, we show that the solution of (21) can be obtained by solving (29). Then based on this fact, we present an efficient algorithm to solve (21).

Let $\mathbf{x} = \sqrt{P}\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ such that $\|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}\|^2 = 1$. Then problem (21) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{\tilde{\mathbf{x}}, \Gamma} \Gamma \\ & \text{s.t. } |\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}})| + \frac{\Gamma \sigma}{\sqrt{P} \cos \theta} \leq \text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}}) \tan \theta, \\ & \|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}\|^2 \leq 1, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, K. \end{aligned} \quad (47)$$

Problem (47) implies that Γ is directly proportional to \sqrt{P} . Hence, we have the following relations:

$$\Gamma^*(P) = \sqrt{P}\Gamma^*(1), \quad (48)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_\Gamma^*(P) = \sqrt{P}\mathbf{x}_\Gamma^*(1), \quad (49)$$

where $\mathbf{x}_\Gamma^*(\tilde{P})$ is an optimal solution of transmit signal in (21) for a given total transmit power \tilde{P} . Similarly, if $P^*(1)$ is feasible, then we have the following relations:

$$P^*(\Gamma) = \Gamma^2 P^*(1), \quad (50)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_P^*(\Gamma) = \Gamma \mathbf{x}_P^*(1), \quad (51)$$

where $\mathbf{x}_P^*(\tilde{\Gamma})$ is an optimal solution of transmit signal in (29) for a given noise uncertainty set radius $\tilde{\Gamma}\sigma$.

Remark: Problem (21) is always feasible for any given power P_0 as the trivial solution is one of the candidate solutions. Suppose $\Gamma^*(1) \neq 0$. Then, using a similar argument as in [6] we have that

$$\|\mathbf{x}_\Gamma^*(P)\|^2 = P. \quad (52)$$

The following two Corollaries show the we can obtain the solution of (21) by solving (29) and vice versa.

Corollary 2: Let $\Gamma_0\sigma$ and P_0 be the given positive noise uncertainty set radius and total transmit power. Suppose $P^*(1)$ is feasible. Then we obtain

$$\Gamma^*(P^*(\Gamma_0)) = \Gamma_0, \quad (53)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_\Gamma^*(P^*(\Gamma_0)) = \mathbf{x}_P^*(\Gamma_0). \quad (54)$$

Conversely, suppose $\Gamma^*(1) \neq 0$. Then we can also obtain

$$P^*(\Gamma^*(P_0)) = P_0, \quad (55)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_P^*(\Gamma^*(P_0)) = \mathbf{x}_\Gamma^*(P_0). \quad (56)$$

Proof: See Appendix B. ■

Corollary 3: Suppose $\Gamma^*(1) \neq 0$. Then problem (29) always has non-trivial solution for any given Γ_0 .

Proof: See Appendix C. ■

According to Corollary 2 and Corollary 3, once the optimal solution of (29) is known, which can be efficiently found through Algorithms 1-2, the solution to (21) can be found in closed form. Accordingly, we can derive an efficient algorithm for solving (21) using Algorithm 2. Algorithm 3 below presents the algorithm used to compute the optimal solution of (21).

V. WORST USER ERROR PROBABILITY APPROACH

In this section, we propose a new approach to downlink beamforming based on the error probability. The main concept is to replace the detection-region based downlink beamforming constraints by more flexible probabilistic constraints.

Algorithm 3 Algorithm to Solve (21)

Input: $\{\mathbf{h}_i\}_{i=1}^K, \{b_i\}_{i=1}^K, P_0, \sigma$

Output: The solution \mathbf{x}^* of problem (21)

$(P^*(1), \mathbf{x}_P^*(1))$ be the solution of (29) by Algorithm 2;

if $P^*(1)$ is feasible and it is not a trivial solution **then**

Set $\tilde{\Gamma} = \sqrt{P_0/P^*(1)}$;

$(\tilde{\Gamma}\mathbf{x}_P^*(1), \tilde{\Gamma})$ be the optimal solution of (21);

else

Output the trivial solution: $\tilde{\Gamma} = 0, \mathbf{x}_P^* = \mathbf{0}_K$;

end if

We define the EP for i th user as the probability that the received signals of i th user fall inside the left or right half plane of Fig. 1(b), i.e., regions bounded between θ and $\pi + \theta$ or between $-\theta$ and $-\pi - \theta$, respectively, for which case incorrect detection occurs. The EP optimization problem for the worst user minimizes the maximum EP and can be written as

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}, p} p$$

$$\text{s.t. } \Pr(\pi + \theta \geq \psi_i(\mathbf{x}, n_i) \geq \theta) \leq p, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, K, \quad (57a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr(-\pi - \theta \geq \psi_i(\mathbf{x}, n_i) \geq -\theta) \leq p, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, K, \\ & \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \leq P. \end{aligned} \quad (57b)$$

Remark: Problem (57) is different from the channel outage probability based downlink beamforming problem in [31] and [32]. The constraints in [31] and [32] are probabilistic SINR-based with respect to the *channel* random variables, while the constraints in our constructive interference-based optimization are adapted to reflect the EP due to *noise* random variables, in which the received signal falls outside the desired region of the constellation, in order to have a reliable detection. According to Lemma 1 and (16), problem (57) reduces to

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}, p} p$$

$$\text{s.t. } \Pr(\text{Im}(y_i b_i^*) \geq \text{Re}(y_i b_i^*) \tan \theta) \leq p, \quad (58a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr(\text{Im}(y_i b_i^*) \leq -\text{Re}(y_i b_i^*) \tan \theta) \leq p, \\ & \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \leq P, \forall i = 1, \dots, K. \end{aligned} \quad (58b)$$

Let

$$z_j = (-1)^{(j+1)} \text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}) - \text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}) \tan \theta, \quad (59)$$

$$\tilde{n}_j = (-1)^{(j+1)} \text{Im}(b_i^* n_i) - \text{Re}(b_i^* n_i) \tan \theta, \quad (60)$$

for $i = \lceil j/2 \rceil$ and $j = 1, \dots, 2K$. The constraints in (58a) and (58b) can be reformulated as

$$\Pr(z_j + \tilde{n}_j \geq 0) \leq p, \forall j = 1, \dots, 2K. \quad (61)$$

Since n_i is a circularly symmetric complex Gaussian random variable, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \text{E}\{\text{Re}(b_i^* n_i)^2\} &= \text{E}\{\text{Im}(b_i^* n_i)^2\} \\ &= b_{Ri}^2 \frac{\sigma^2}{2} + b_{Ii}^2 \frac{\sigma^2}{2} = \frac{\sigma^2}{2}, \end{aligned} \quad (62)$$

$$\text{E}\{\text{Re}(b_i^* n_i) \text{Im}(b_i^* n_i)\} = b_{Ri} b_{Ii} - b_{Ri} b_{Ii} = 0. \quad (63)$$

Then \tilde{n}_j is a real-valued Gaussian random variable with zero mean such that

$$E\{\tilde{n}_j^2\} = \frac{(1 + \tan^2 \theta)\sigma^2}{2} = \frac{\sigma^2}{2 \cos^2 \theta}, \quad (64)$$

i.e., $\tilde{n}_j \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \frac{\sigma^2}{2 \cos^2 \theta})$. Thus we have [32]

$$\Pr(z_j + \tilde{n}_j \geq 0) = \int_{-z_j}^{\infty} \frac{\cos \theta}{\sqrt{\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{\tilde{n}^2 \cos^2 \theta}{\sigma^2}} d\tilde{n}.$$

Using the Gaussian error function $\text{erf}(\cdot)$, we can write

$$\Pr(z_j + \tilde{n}_j \geq 0) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \text{erf}\left(\frac{z_j \cos \theta}{\sigma}\right), & -z_j \leq 0, \\ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \text{erf}\left(\frac{-z_j \cos \theta}{\sigma}\right), & -z_j \geq 0. \end{cases} \quad (65)$$

Since $\text{erf}(-x) = -\text{erf}(x)$, we rewrite it as

$$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \text{erf}\left(\frac{-z_j \cos \theta}{\sigma}\right) \leq p, \quad (66)$$

which is equivalent to

$$|\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x})| + \frac{\text{erf}^{-1}(1-2p)\sigma}{\cos \theta} \leq \text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}) \tan \theta, \quad \forall i. \quad (67)$$

Thus, the worst user EP problem (58) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\mathbf{x}, p} p \\ & \text{s.t. } |\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x})| + \frac{\text{erf}^{-1}(1-2p)\sigma}{\cos \theta} \leq \text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}) \tan \theta, \\ & \quad \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \leq P, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, K. \end{aligned} \quad (68)$$

Remark: By observation of (21) and (68) it can be seen that the optimal values of the two problems have the following relations:

$$\Gamma^*(P) = \text{erf}^{-1}(1-2p^*(P)), \quad (69)$$

$$p^*(P) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \text{erf}(\Gamma^*(P)), \quad (70)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_p^*(P) = \mathbf{x}_{\Gamma^*}^*(P), \quad (71)$$

where $(\mathbf{x}_p^*(\tilde{P}), p^*(\tilde{P}))$ is an optimal solution of (68) for a given power \tilde{P} . The above relations show that given a radius of noise uncertainty set of (21), one can obtain the worst user EP of (68). In reverse, given an EP of (68), we can also obtain the radius of noise uncertainty set of (21). Therefore, we can treat the detection-region based problem (21) and the worst user EP-based problem (68) as equivalent problems. Using (49), we can express the worst user EP in terms of the total transmit power P as

$$p^*(P) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \text{erf}(\sqrt{P}\Gamma^*(1)), \quad (72)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_p^*(P) = \sqrt{P}\mathbf{x}_{\Gamma^*}^*(1). \quad (73)$$

VI. SUM EPS APPROACH

In this section, we build upon the EP optimization above to derive the sum EPs-based downlink beamforming problem. The important benefit here is that the sum EPs approach facilitates the derivation of an analytical bound, which is shown to be tight in our results section. Accordingly, we replace the EP for the worst user in (57), by the sum of the EPs for all users, in which the optimization problem provides an analytic bound of the average SER. The optimization aims to minimize the sum of the EPs for all users subject to the power constraint, which can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}} \mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \mathbf{p} \\ & \text{s.t. } \Pr(\pi + \theta \geq \psi_i(\mathbf{x}, n_i) \geq \theta) \leq p_{2i-1}, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, K, \\ & \quad \Pr(-\pi - \theta \geq \psi_i(\mathbf{x}, n_i) \geq -\theta) \leq p_{2i}, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, K, \\ & \quad \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \leq P, \quad 0 \leq p_j, \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, 2K, \end{aligned} \quad (74)$$

where $\mathbf{p} = (p_1 \ p_2 \ \dots \ p_{2K})^T$ is a $2K \times 1$ vector and the sum EPs for all users is defined to be $\mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \mathbf{p}$. Similarly to the approach of Section V, we can rewrite (74) as a function $\mathbf{p}^*(\cdot)$ for any given $P \geq 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{p}^*(P) : \min_{\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{p}} \mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \mathbf{p} \\ & \text{s.t. } -\mathbf{T}\bar{\mathbf{x}} + \text{erf}^{-1}(1-2\mathbf{p}) \leq \mathbf{0}_{2K}, \\ & \quad \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}\|^2 \leq P, \quad 0 \leq p_j \leq 0.5, \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, 2K, \end{aligned} \quad (75)$$

which can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{q}} K - \frac{\mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \text{erf}(\mathbf{q})}{2} \\ & \text{s.t. } -\mathbf{T}\bar{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{q} \leq \mathbf{0}_{2K}, \mathbf{0}_{2K} \leq \mathbf{q}, \\ & \quad \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}\|^2 \leq P, \end{aligned} \quad (76)$$

where $\text{erf}^{-1}(\cdot)$ and $\text{erf}(\cdot)$ are elementwise inverse error and error functions and \mathbf{q} is a $2K \times 1$ vector such that $\mathbf{p} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \text{erf}(\mathbf{q})$.

Remark: Function $\text{erf}(x)$ is concave for $x \geq 0$. This implies that the objective function of (76) is a convex function. Hence, problem (76) is a convex optimization. Furthermore, a feasible point of (68) is also a feasible point of (76). Thus it can be shown that (76) contains an interior point. By Slater's condition, the strong duality holds for (76).

By multiplying the objective function by a constant, the optimal solution of (76) will remain unchanged. Hence, we can equivalently solve the following problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{q}} \sqrt{\pi} \left(K - \frac{\mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \text{erf}(\mathbf{q})}{2} \right) \\ & \text{s.t. } -\mathbf{T}\bar{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{q} \leq \mathbf{0}_{2K}, \mathbf{0}_{2K} \leq \mathbf{q}, \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}\|^2 \leq P. \end{aligned} \quad (77)$$

The Lagrangian of (77) is given by

$$\begin{aligned} L(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, r) = & \sqrt{\pi} \left(K - \frac{\mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \text{erf}(\mathbf{q})}{2} \right) + \mathbf{u}^T (-\mathbf{T}\bar{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{q}) \\ & - \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{q} + r(\|\bar{\mathbf{x}}\|^2 - P), \end{aligned} \quad (78)$$

where \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} are $2K \times 1$ unknown variable vectors.

Remark: If $v_i^* \neq 0$, then Slater's condition leads to $q_i^* = 0$ and implies that $p_i^* = 0.5$.

Taking the derivative of (78) with respect to $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ and setting to zeros, we can write $\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*$ as

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}}^* = \frac{1}{2r^*} \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u}^*. \quad (79)$$

Furthermore, if $\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*$ is an optimal solution of transmit signal in (77), then using the similar argument in [6] it can be shown that

$$\|\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*\|^2 = P. \quad (80)$$

Using (80) and (79), we can express r^* as

$$r^* = \frac{\|\mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u}^*\|}{2\sqrt{P}}. \quad (81)$$

Thus, the optimal solution of transmit signal $\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*$ for (77) can be rewritten as

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}}^* = \frac{\sqrt{P}}{\|\mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u}^*\|} \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u}^*. \quad (82)$$

Taking the derivative of (78) with respect to \mathbf{q} , and setting to zero, we reach $-\mathbf{e}^{-\mathbf{q}^{*2}} + \mathbf{u}^* - \mathbf{v}^* = \mathbf{0}_{2K}$ or equivalently,

$$\mathbf{q}^* = \sqrt{-\ln(\mathbf{u}^* - \mathbf{v}^*)}. \quad (83)$$

Using (82) and (83), the dual problem of (77) can be reformulated as

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}} \quad & \sqrt{\pi}K - \int_{\mathbf{u}-\mathbf{v}}^{\mathbf{1}_{2K}} \mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \sqrt{-\ln \mathbf{z}} d\mathbf{z} - \sqrt{P} \|\mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u}\| \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{0}_{2K} \leq \mathbf{u}, \quad \mathbf{0}_{2K} \leq \mathbf{v}, \quad \mathbf{0}_{2K} \leq \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v} \leq \mathbf{1}_{2K}, \end{aligned} \quad (84)$$

where

$$\int_{\zeta}^1 \sqrt{-\ln x} dx = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \operatorname{erf}(\sqrt{-\ln \zeta}) - \zeta \sqrt{-\ln \zeta} \quad (85)$$

using the integration by parts [58]. We can rewrite (84) as a corresponding standard minimization problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{0}_{2K} \leq \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}} f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{0}_{2K} \leq \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v} \leq \mathbf{1}_{2K}, \quad (86)$$

where

$$f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \triangleq -\sqrt{\pi}K + \int_{\mathbf{u}-\mathbf{v}}^{\mathbf{1}_{2K}} \mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \sqrt{-\ln \mathbf{z}} d\mathbf{z} + \sqrt{P} \|\mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u}\|.$$

To solve (86), we need to show the objective function of (86) is convex. Note that for the double derivative

$$\left(\int_{\zeta}^1 \sqrt{-\ln x} dx \right)'' = \left(2\zeta \sqrt{-\ln \zeta} \right)^{-1} \geq 0. \quad (87)$$

Thus it is a convex function. Since norm is a convex function and $f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})$ is a sum of convex functions, it is also convex. Therefore, problem (86) is a convex optimization problem. Putting (82), (83) into (77), we can reformulate (77) as

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}} \quad & \sqrt{\pi} \left(K - \frac{\mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \operatorname{erf}(\sqrt{-\ln(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})})}{2} \right) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & -\nabla f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \leq \mathbf{0}_{2K} \end{aligned} \quad (88)$$

where the gradient of $f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})$ in (86) are given by

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \begin{bmatrix} -\sqrt{-\ln(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})} + \frac{\sqrt{P}}{\|\mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u}\|} \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{T} \mathbf{u} \\ \sqrt{-\ln(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (89)$$

Hence, we need to ensure that $\nabla f(\mathbf{u}^*, \mathbf{v}^*) \geq \mathbf{0}_{2K}$. To efficiently compute (86), similarly to the approach in Section V we propose to use the barrier method to obtain the optimal solution. Let

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = & -\mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \ln(\mathbf{u}) - \mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \ln(\mathbf{v}) - \mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \ln(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}) \\ & - \mathbf{1}_{2K}^T \ln(\mathbf{1}_{2K} - \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) \end{aligned} \quad (90)$$

be the logarithmic barrier function. For $s > 0$, define $\mathbf{u}^*(s)$ and $\mathbf{v}^*(s)$ as the solution of

$$\min_{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}} s f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) + \phi(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}). \quad (91)$$

The barrier method for solving (75) is summarized as Algorithm 4. As the barrier method yields globally optimal solutions, and similar to the barrier method in Algorithm 2, Algorithm 4 also gives globally optimal solutions. Our results in the following section show that Algorithm 4 provides the best SER performance amongst the proposed optimizations.

Algorithm 4 Efficient Barrier Method Algorithm to Solve (75)

Input: $\{\mathbf{h}_i\}_{i=1}^K, \{b_i\}_{i=1}^K, P_0, \sigma, \mu$

Output: The optimal solution $(\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*, \bar{\mathbf{p}}^*)$ of problem (75)

repeat

 Compute $(\mathbf{u}^*(s), \mathbf{v}^*(s))$ of (91);

 Set $s = \mu s$;

until $\|\mathbf{u}^*(s) - \mathbf{u}^*(s-1)\|^2 + \|\mathbf{v}^*(s) - \mathbf{v}^*(s-1)\|^2 < \Delta_t^2$
and $\min \nabla f(\mathbf{u}^*(s), \mathbf{v}^*(s)) > -\Delta_t$;

Output

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathbf{x}}^* &= \frac{\sqrt{P_0}}{\|\mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u}^*(s)\|} \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{u}^*(s) \\ \bar{\mathbf{p}}^* &= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\operatorname{erf}(\sqrt{-\ln(\mathbf{u}^*(s) - \mathbf{v}^*(s))})}{2}; \end{aligned}$$

VII. SIMULATIONS

In our simulations, we consider a downlink beamforming network with $N = 10$ antennas, while it is intuitive that the benefits shown extend to different numbers of antennas. In line with our benchmark techniques [6], [40] we assume an uncoded transmission, while it would be interesting to examine the joint design of precoding and forward error correction (FEC) for practical modulation schemes as the focus of future work. The system with QPSK modulation is considered, i.e., $\theta = \pi/4$, while it is obvious that the benefit of the proposed approaches extend to BPSK, or higher order PSK modulation, similarly to the approaches in [40] and [41]. The circularly symmetric complex Gaussian noise n_i is complex zero-mean with the variance $\sigma^2 = 1$. Let ω_i be a uniformly distributed random number between $-\pi/2$ and $\pi/2$. Then the

downlink channel between the BS and i th user are modeled as

$$\mathbf{h}_i = [1, e^{j\pi \sin \omega_i}, \dots, e^{j\pi(N-1) \sin \omega_i}]^T, \quad (92)$$

i.e., the identical path loss line-of-sight channel model is assumed [26]. All results are averaged over 10000 Monte Carlo runs. The maximum iteration number $i_{\max} = 1000$ and error tolerance $\Delta_t = 10^{-4}$ are used in Algorithm 1. For the barrier methods, we set $\mu = 100$ and the maximum number of inner iterations in the gradient descent method is set to $i_{GD} = 100$.

In the simulations, we omit the power minimization approaches and focus on the SINR-, SNR- and EP- based optimizations that can be compared by SER results, as a common metric between constructive interference-based and conventional optimizations for a given power. It is intuitive however, that the symmetrical versions of the problems where power is minimized subject to our new SNR/detection region/error probability constraints, similarly outperform conventional power minimization as per the benefits of our relaxed optimization regions. Based on our analysis in Section V, since the detection-region based approach of (21) and the worst user EP approach of (68) are equivalent, in the following simulations, we only consider the detection-region based approach. We compare the following techniques:

- ‘SINR Balancing [6]’ refers to the conventional SINR balancing problem in [6];
- ‘Gradient descent DRB (\cong [40])’ stands for using the gradient descent approach to solve the decision-region based optimization in Algorithm 3 and problem (21), which is equivalent to (10) proposed in [40];
- ‘CIMM [41]’ refers to the interference exploitation approach of [41];
- ‘Barrier method DRB’ refers to use the barrier method in Algorithm 3 to solve the detection-region based problem (21);
- ‘Barrier method sum EPs’ refers to the barrier method in Algorithm 4 to solve (75);
- ‘Analyt-DRB’ and ‘Analyt-sum EPs’ refer to the analytical bounds for using the barrier method of (68) and (75), respectively;
- ‘Analyt-sum EPs’ is the analytic bound of the average SER.

A. Complexity

Fig. 2 compares the trend of the average execution time of our proposed methods and the gradient descent detection-region based method for different number of users with a transmit SNR of $\frac{E_b}{\sigma^2} = 20\text{dB}$, where E_b is the energy per transmitted bit. As shown in Fig. 2, when the number of users is small, the average execution time of the gradient descent detection-region based method is faster than the both barrier methods of detection-region based approach and sum EPs approach. Nonetheless, when the number of users increases, the barrier detection-region based approach has a higher computational efficiency than the gradient descent detection-region based approach.

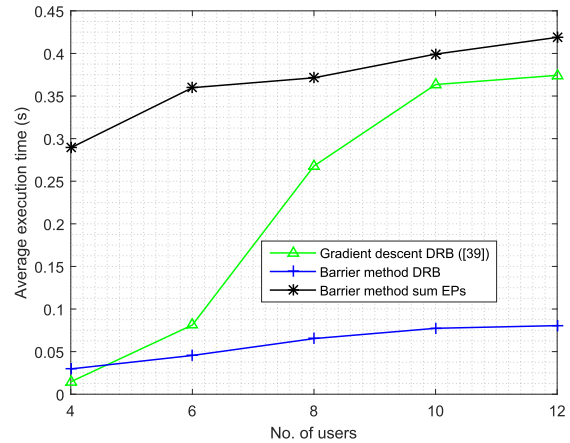


Fig. 2. Average execution time versus number of users with $N = 10$, and $\text{SNR} = 20\text{dB}$.

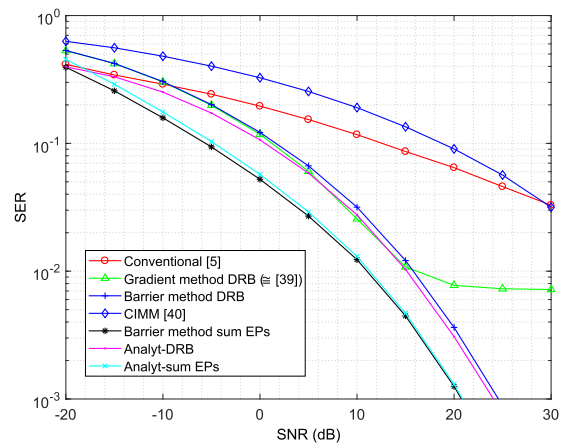


Fig. 3. SER performance versus SNR with $N = 10$, and $K = 10$.

B. Performance Comparison

Fig. 3-4 compare the SER performance for the different techniques. In Fig. 3, we fix the number of users and compare both experimental and analytic SER performance of all approaches versus the SNR for $K = 10$. It can be seen from these figures that the the sum EPs approach given in (75) outperforms the detection-region based (DRB) approach, the conventional method of (5), and the CIMM scheme of [41] in terms of the experimental SER performance. As per our derivations above we reiterate that the DRB approach is equivalent to the worst EP approach, which is still outperformed by the sum EP optimization. Indeed, we have observed that while the worst EP approach provides a slightly better worst EP compared to the sum EP approach, the EP obtained for the rest of the users (second worst onwards) is significantly inferior to the sum EP approach. Accordingly the average EP obtained (the one shown in our results) is typically lower for the sum EP approach. We also notice that the detection-region based technique outperforms the technique in [40], and CIMM in [41] at higher transmit power. Importantly, it can be observed that our analytic SER performance calculations match the simulated SER results. Furthermore, the proposed sum EPs approach achieves the analytic bound of the average

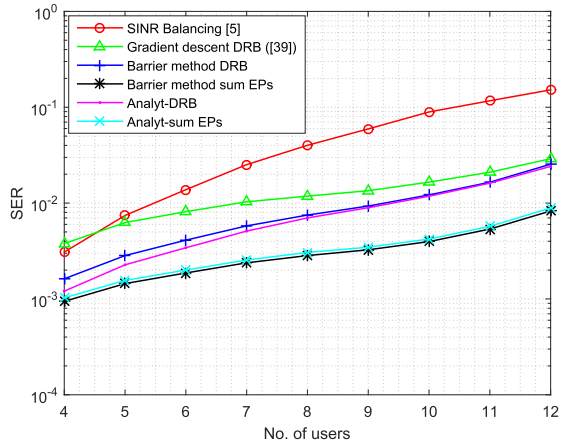


Fig. 4. SER performance versus number of users with $N = 10$, and $\text{SNR} = 20\text{dB}$.

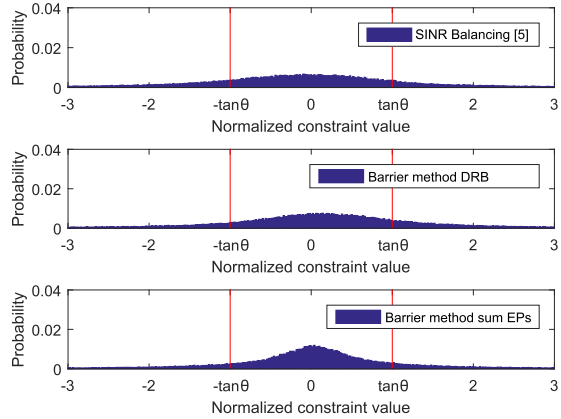


Fig. 5. Histogram of normalized constraint value with $N = 10$, $K = 10$ and $\text{SNR} = 5\text{dB}$.

SER performance. The gradient method detection-region based approach is characterized by an error floor as it is not guaranteed to converge. In Fig. 4, we illustrate both simulated and analytic SER performance for increasing numbers of users when we set the transmit SNR to be 20dB. We observe that the SER performance of our proposed approaches are better than the conventional approach of [6] and the gradient descent approach given in [40], respectively. The proposed sum EPs approach using the barrier method has the best performance.

In Fig. 5 and Fig. 6, we look at the distribution of the received signals. We introduce the normalized constraint value

$$\eta_i = \begin{cases} \frac{\text{Im}(y_i b_i^*)}{\text{Re}(y_i b_i^*)} & \text{Re}(y_i b_i^*) > 0, \\ \infty & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (93)$$

As a measure of the resulting deviation from the angle of the desired symbol b_i , to evaluate the performance of the different approaches. Fig. 5 displays the histograms of η_i with $K = 10$ and $\text{SNR} = 5\text{dB}$. According to Lemma 1, the receive signal can be correctly classified if it is within the region between $-\tan\theta$ and $\tan\theta$. As can be observed from Fig. 5, the conventional and the worst user EP approaches satisfy about 75% and 80% of the normalized constraints,

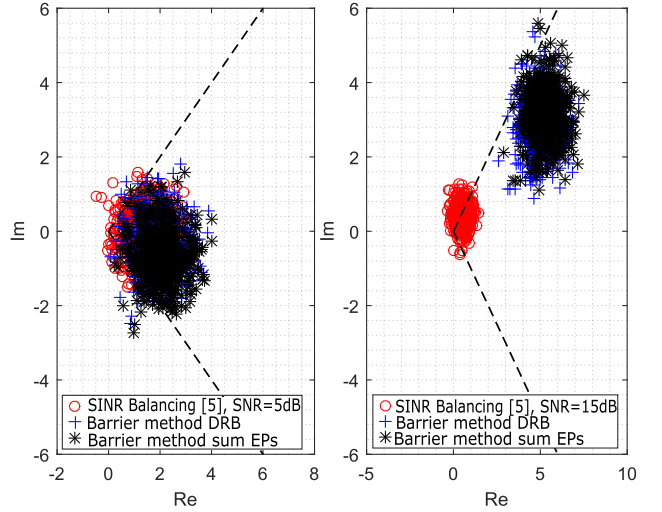


Fig. 6. Distribution of received signals on complex plane where $N = 10$, and $K = 10$ with $\text{SNR} = 5\text{dB}$ and $\text{SNR} = 15\text{dB}$, respectively.

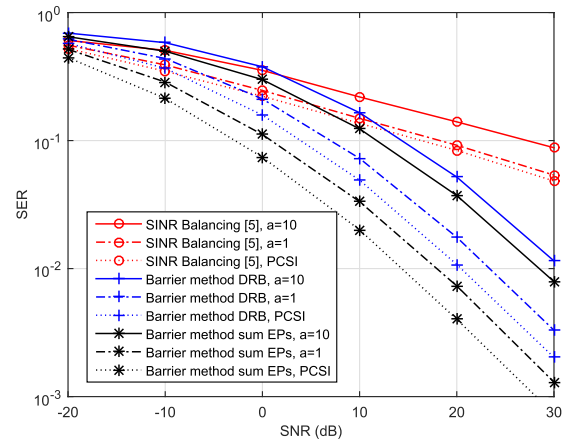


Fig. 7. SER performance versus SNR with $N = 10$, and $K = 10$, imperfect CSI.

respectively. However, the sum EPs approach achieves about 90% of the normalized constraints with normal-like distribution. Fig. 6 depicts the distribution of the received signals on the modulation constellation using different techniques with $\text{SNR} = 5\text{dB}$ and $\text{SNR} = 15\text{dB}$. Here, we set the transmit symbol to 1. We observe from these figures that the received signals of our proposed methods can better center the received symbol into the correct detection region compared to the conventional method. We also notice that when the power increases, our techniques can shift the received signals further away from the decision threshold which further improves the error rate performance.

C. Imperfect CSI

Finally, in Fig. 7 we illustrate the comparison of our proposed schemes and the conventional scheme in [6] under imperfect CSI. To keep the CSI imperfections generic, we model the estimated CSI as [15], [16]

$$\hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^T = \mathbf{h}_i^T + \mathbf{e}_i \quad (94)$$

where $\mathbf{e}_i \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, a(\frac{P}{\sigma^2})^{-1} \mathbf{I})$, and a is a constant. It can be seen in the results that the performance of both proposed and conventional schemes deteriorates with imperfect CSI, while the performance gains of the proposed w.r.t. conventional beamforming persist. We note however, that existing CSI-robust approaches [31] can be adapted to the proposed optimization, to further improve performance against CSI errors. We designate this as the focus of our future work.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we exploit constructive interference by making use of CSI and data information jointly. We propose beamforming optimizations for QoS based on the detection regions of the symbol constellation, in terms of the worst user EP, and sum EPs, respectively. The detection-region based and the worst user EP downlink beamforming are shown to be equivalent problems. Using the sum EPs approach, we obtain an analytic bound of the average SER performance. Simulation results have demonstrated that our proposed methods have substantially improved performance compared to conventional downlink beamforming and constructive interference-based optimizations. Our future work will focus on reducing the complexity of the algorithm of the sum EPs approach by providing a heuristic algorithm. Other interesting research topics are to jointly optimize beamforming and FEC for interference exploitation, and to develop CSI-robust approaches as detailed above. Communication theoretic future work will focus on deriving modulation-dependent sum rate bounds for the concept of interference exploitation, using finite constellation sum rate analysis.

APPENDIX

A. Proof of Corollary 1

The dual Lagrange function is given by

$$\mathcal{L}(\kappa_i, n_i) = -|\text{Im}(\tilde{y}_i)| + \text{Re}(\tilde{y}_i) \tan \theta + \kappa_i (\|n_i\|^2 - \Gamma^2 \sigma^2), \quad (95)$$

where $\tilde{y}_i = b_i^* (\mathbf{h}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}} + n_i)$ and $\kappa_i \geq 0$. We define $n_i \triangleq n_{Ri} + jn_{Ii}$, and $b_i \triangleq b_{Ri} + jb_{Ii}$. By using chain rule [58] and setting $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial n_{Ri}} = 0$ and $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial n_{Ii}} = 0$, we get

$$b_{Ri} \tan \theta + b_{Ii} \alpha_i + 2\kappa_i^* n_{Ri}^* = 0, \quad (96a)$$

$$-b_{Ri} \alpha_i + b_{Ii} \tan \theta + 2\kappa_i^* n_{Ii}^* = 0, \quad (96b)$$

where a^* is the optimal value of a , and $\alpha_i = \text{Im}(\tilde{y}_i)/|\text{Im}(\tilde{y}_i)|$. Suppose $\kappa_i^* = 0$. Then (96) implies that $b_{Ri} = b_{Ii} = 0$, which leads to the contradiction. Thus it is always true that $\kappa_i^* > 0$ and

$$\|n_i^*\|^2 = \Gamma^2 \sigma^2 \quad (97)$$

by the complementary slackness [25]. By (96), we obtain

$$n_{Ri}^* = -(b_{Ri} \tan \theta + b_{Ii} \alpha_i)/2\kappa_i^*, \quad (98a)$$

$$n_{Ii}^* = (b_{Ri} \alpha_i - b_{Ii} \tan \theta)/2\kappa_i^*. \quad (98b)$$

Putting (98) into (97), we can write (97) as

$$\left(\frac{b_{Ri} \tan \theta + b_{Ii} \alpha_i}{2\kappa_i^*} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{b_{Ri} \alpha_i - b_{Ii} \tan \theta}{2\kappa_i^*} \right)^2 = \Gamma^2 \sigma^2. \quad (99)$$

Since b_i is a unit power symbol, we can express (99) as

$$\frac{1 + \tan^2 \theta}{4\kappa_i^{*2}} = \Gamma^2 \sigma^2. \quad (100)$$

Thus, we have the following relation:

$$\kappa_i^* = \frac{1}{2\Gamma \sigma \cos \theta}. \quad (101)$$

We put (101) back into (98), then we have

$$n_{Ri}^* = -(b_{Ri} \tan \theta + b_{Ii} \alpha_i) \Gamma \sigma \cos \theta, \quad (102a)$$

$$n_{Ii}^* = (b_{Ri} \alpha_i - b_{Ii} \tan \theta) \Gamma \sigma \cos \theta. \quad (102b)$$

Substituting (102) into problem (19), we reformulate the constraint (19a) as

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{\|n_i\| \leq \Gamma \sigma} |\text{Im}(\tilde{y}_i)| - \text{Re}(\tilde{y}_i) \tan \theta \\ &= \alpha_i \text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}}) + \alpha_i \text{Im}(b_i^* n_i^*) \\ & \quad - \text{Re}(b_i^* n_i^*) \tan \theta - \text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}}) \tan \theta \\ &= \alpha_i \text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}}) - n_{Ri}^* (b_{Ri} \tan \theta + b_{Ii} \alpha_i) \\ & \quad + n_{Ii}^* (b_{Ri} \alpha_i - b_{Ii} \tan \theta) - \text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}}) \tan \theta \\ &= |\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}})| + \Gamma \sigma / \cos \theta - \text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}}) \tan \theta, \end{aligned} \quad (103)$$

where $\text{Im}(\tilde{y}_i)$ and $\text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}})$ have the same sign as the noise cannot dominate the received signal. ■

B. Proof of Corollary 2

Since $(\Gamma_0, \mathbf{x}_P^*(\Gamma_0))$ is a candidate solution of (29), it implies that $\Gamma^*(P^*(\Gamma_0)) \geq \Gamma_0$. Suppose $\Gamma^*(P^*(\Gamma_0)) > \Gamma_0$. Let $\Gamma^*(P^*(\Gamma_0)) = \beta \Gamma_0$ for some $\beta > 1$. By (21) and (52), it can guarantee that

$$|\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}_P^*(\Gamma_0))| + \frac{\beta \Gamma_0 \sigma}{\cos \theta} \leq \text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{x}_P^*(\Gamma_0)) \tan \theta, \quad (104)$$

$$\|\mathbf{x}_P^*(\Gamma_0)\|^2 = P^*(\Gamma_0), \quad \forall i. \quad (105)$$

Let $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x}_P^*(\Gamma_0)/\beta$. Then we can rewrite as

$$|\text{Im}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \hat{\mathbf{x}})| + \Gamma_0 \sigma / \cos \theta \leq \text{Re}(b_i^* \mathbf{h}_i^T \hat{\mathbf{x}}) \tan \theta, \quad \forall i, \quad (106)$$

$$\|\hat{\mathbf{x}}\|^2 = P^*(\Gamma_0)/\beta^2, \quad (107)$$

which contradicts that $P^*(\Gamma_0)$ is the minimum power for the given Γ_0 . Similarly, we can use the same approach to show the second half of Corollary 2. ■

C. Proof of Corollary 3

Let Γ_0 be any given positive number. Since (21) has a non-trivial solution, we obtain a solution $(\Gamma^*(1), \mathbf{x}_\Gamma^*(1))$ of (21) for $P = 1$. Then there exists P_0 such that

$$\Gamma_0 = \sqrt{P_0} \Gamma^*(1) = \Gamma^*(P_0). \quad (108)$$

Then by Corollary 2, we have

$$P^*(\Gamma_0) = P^*(\Gamma^*(P_0)) = P_0, \quad (109)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_P^*(\Gamma_0) = \mathbf{x}_P^*(\Gamma^*(P_0)) = \mathbf{x}_\Gamma^*(P_0) = \sqrt{P_0} \mathbf{x}_\Gamma^*(1). \quad (110)$$

This shows that problem (29) is feasible for the given Γ_0 . ■

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