MIMO Dual-Functional Radar-Communication Waveform Design with Peak Average Power Ratio Constraint

Yujiu Zhao, Yiqin Chen, Matthew Ritchie, Weimin Su, and Hong Gu

Abstract—In this paper, novel Dual-Functional Radar-Communication (DFRC) waveforms with peak average power ratio (PAPR) constraint are designed, which are under the multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) radar-communication system. The DFRC waveforms transmitted by multiple antennas can send communication information to many downlink cellular users and detect radar targets simultaneously. An optimization model is established to minimize the downlink multi-user interference (MUI) under PAPR constraint. The model is non-convex quadratically constrained quadratic programs (QCQP) and can be derived into a convex problem and solved by using the semi-definite relaxation (SDR) technique with rank-one approximation. Numerical simulations demonstrate that our proposed waveforms can achieve a better radar performance in practical scenarios without sacrificing the communication performance.

Index Terms—Spectral coexistence, dual-functional radar-communication, non-convex optimization, semi-definite relaxation, peak average power ratio constraint

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, Radio Frequency (RF) spectral congestion has become a serious problem due to the tremendous growth of spectral demands from different wireless applications, and the current inefficient spectral allocations [1]–[6]. Sharing the spectrum among both radar and communication signals can be a promising method of addressing this issue. In general, there are two approaches for achieving shared spectrum access of radar and communication. The first approach is to let the radar systems transmit in the spatial and frequency domains, they are unoccupied by any communication system. To achieve this, a spatial filter can be designed to separate the radar and communication signals [7]–[9]. Nevertheless, such methods will cause potential cross interference and serious degradation in the transmitting process if the radar and communication signals are not perfectly separated.

The second approach is the joint design of dual-functional radar-communication (DFRC) waveforms [10]–[14], which can detect radar targets and transmit communication information simultaneously. DFRC waveforms can prevent cross interference while taking full advantage of current hardware edge caching capabilities. In [10], [11], communication information are embedded into the radar intrapulse waveforms, while the communication information have the property of low intercept probability. In [12], a sequence of communication bits are embedded into several orthogonal transmitted waveforms. The mainlobe of this DFRC waveform is used for detecting the targets, while the sidelobes are used to transmit communication to the communication receivers. In practical scenarios, radar waveforms are often transmitted with nonlinear amplifiers, and the radar waveforms should be designed with constant-modulus (CM) or low peak average power ratio (PAPR). In [14], CM DFRC waveforms are designed by use of a branch-and-bound (BnB) algorithm, which is however computationally inefficient. To further reduce the computational overhead, a Riemannian conjugate gradient (RCG) algorithm has been proposed in [15] for designing CM waveforms. While the CM waveforms are able to fully adapt to the radar’s amplifier restrictions, they may incur performance-loss to the output signal noise ratio (SNR).

In this paper, we propose novel DFRC waveforms which minimizes the downlink multi-user interference (MUI) under the total transmitted power and PAPR constraints. A trade-off parameter is introduced to control the priority of radar and communication performance. Assuming that the communication channel matrix could be estimated perfectly, While the optimization problem is non-convex and NP (non-deterministic polynomial)-hard in general, it can be efficiently solved by the semidefinite relaxation (SDR) technique. By applying rank-one approximation, the near-optimal solution can be achieved. Numerical results demonstrate that the waveforms proposed in this article can achieve a better radar performance in practical scenarios without sacrificing the communication performance and our algorithm obtains better performance in the DFRC system compared to its CM counterpart.

II. SYSTEM MODEL

We consider a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) DFRC system which is shown in Fig. 1, the RadCom Base Station is equipped with $N$ antennas which are located in a uniform linear array (ULA). This system has the objective of detecting radar targets, and communicate with $K$ single-antenna users simultaneously. The communication and radar signal models will be introduced, respectively.

A. Communication Model

The received signal matrix at legitimate downlink users can be defined as:

$$Y = HX + Z,$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

where $H = [h_1, h_2, \ldots, h_K]^T \in \mathbb{C}^{K \times N}$ represents the channel matrix, which is assumed to be flat Rayleigh fading and estimated perfectly, $X = [x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_L] \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times L}$
It can be observed that the power of our signal $\mathbb{E} \left( |s_{i,j}|^2 \right)$ is a constant parameter when the energy of a known constellation is fixed. Thus, maximizing the sum-rate turns into minimizing the MUI energy.

### B. MIMO Radar Model

It is well known that MIMO radar has many advantages such as improving the spatial resolution and enhancing the ability of anti-jamming due to the high Degrees of Freedom (DOFs) [18], [19]. In addition to these points, the overall waveform diversity of the system has also been improved which can be advantageous in a congested or contested environment. The general approach of MIMO radar waveform design is focused on designing the beampattern, which is equivalent to the covariance matrix of the transmitted signals, and it can be solved by the convex optimization [20]. Here our radar model only consists of the thermal noise, but in the practical scenarios clutter and jamming could also affect the radar performance. More complicated radar models can be used, and some robust estimates, based on geometric considerations as well as statistical properties of covariance matrix can be used to improve the performance of the classic sample covariance [21]–[23]. In our MIMO radar systems, the waveforms should be designed with the low auto-correlation and cross-correlation sidelobes under the CM or lower PAPR constraint [24]–[26]. Here, we focus on designing a directional beampattern, our desired spatial covariance matrix of the DFRC transmitted signals is expressed as

$$ R_X = \frac{1}{L} XX^H = \frac{P_t}{N} I_N, $$

where $I_N$ represents the $N$ dimensional identity matrix. Thus, the orthogonal linear frequency modulation (LFM) waveforms $X_0$ are regraded as our reference waveforms. The $(n,l)$-th sampling point of $X_0(n,l)$ can be expressed as:

$$ X_0(n,l) = \frac{\exp\{j2\pi n(l-1)/L\} \exp\{j\pi(l-1)^2/L\}}{\sqrt{N P_t}} $$

where $n = 1, \ldots, N$, $l = 1, \ldots, L$, and $P_t$ is the total transmit power. Our novel DFRC waveforms are based on the radar and communication systems defined above.

### III. Trade-off between Radar and Communication performance with PAPR constraint

#### A. Conventional trade-off DFRC waveform design

We first provide the optimization problem of conventional trade-off DFRC waveform design under the total transmitted power constraint

$$ \min_{X} \rho ||HX - S||_F^2 + (1 - \rho) ||X - X_0||_F^2, $$

subject to $\frac{1}{L} ||X||_F^2 = P_t,$

where $\rho \in [0,1]$ is the weighting coefficient that controls the balance of radar and communication performance in DFRC waveforms. Assuming that $A = \left[ \sqrt{\rho} H^T, \sqrt{1 - \rho} I_N \right]^T \in \mathbb{C}^{K \times 2},$
\( \mathbb{C}^{(K+N) \times N} \), \( \mathbf{B} = \left[ \sqrt{\rho} \mathbf{S}^T, \sqrt{1-\rho} \mathbf{x}_0^T \right]^T \in \mathbb{C}^{(K+N) \times L} \), (8) can be rewritten as:

\[
\min_{\mathbf{x}} \| \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{B} \|^2_F, \\
\text{s.t.} \| \mathbf{x} \|^2_F = LP_t,
\]

(9)

It is a non-convex quadratically constrained quadratic program (QCQP) which can be converted into a Semidefinite Programming (SDP). This optimization problem can be solved by the method of Semidefinite Relaxation (SDR), and further details can be found in [14].

### B. Trade-off DFRC waveform design with PAPR constraint

According to the analysis above, we combine the conventional trade-off DFRC waveform design with the PAPR constraint. PAPR is a significant parameter in the aspect of transmitting radar waves, and large PAPR can distort radar waveforms. The optimization problem can be expressed as:

\[
\min \| \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{B} \|^2_F, \\
\text{s.t.} \| \mathbf{x} \|^2_F = LP_t, \\
PAPR(\mathbf{x}) \leq r;
\]

(10)

where \( r \in [1, NL] \). In the case where \( r = 1 \), it transforms into the CM constraint. The PAPR constraint can be given as follow [26], [27]

\[
PAPR(\mathbf{x}) = \max_{m} \left| x(m) \right|^2 \leq r, \tag{11}\]

where \( \mathbf{x} = \text{vec}(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{C}^{NL \times 1} \), \( m = 1, \ldots, NL \). It can be observed that the total transmitted power and PAPR constraints have transformed into a quadratic equality constraint and a series of quadratic inequality constraints, respectively:

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{x} &= LP_t, \\
\mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{E}_m \mathbf{x} &\leq \frac{P_r}{N},
\end{align*}
\]

(12)

where

\[
\mathbf{E}_m(i, j) = \begin{cases} 
1 & i = m \text{ and } j = m \\
0 & \text{otherwise}.
\end{cases}
\]

(13)

and \( \mathbf{E}_m \in \mathbb{R}^{NL \times NL} \). In order to combine the vectorized PAPR constraint with the objective function together, the objective function of (10) must be vectorized. The \( \mathbf{A} \) can be written into one diagonal matrix:

\[
\hat{\mathbf{A}} = \begin{bmatrix} 
\mathbf{A} & 0 \\
& \ddots \\
0 & \mathbf{A} 
\end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^{(K+N) \times NL} \tag{14}
\]

and \( \mathbf{b} = \text{vec}(\mathbf{B}) \in \mathbb{C}^{(K+N) \times 1} \). Thus, (10) can be rewritten as:

\[
\min_{\mathbf{x}} \| \hat{\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \|^2, \\
\text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{x} = LP_t, \\
\mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{E}_m \mathbf{x} \leq \frac{P_r}{N}.
\]

(15)

where (15) is a non-convex QCQP with a non-convex quadratic equality constraint and a series of quadratic inequality constraints.

### IV. Solution to the optimization model

The SDR techniques have been shown to be an effective method to solve the problem of waveform design with a non-convex QCQP. According to the analysis in [28], we apply the matlab CVX tools [29] to solve this problem after a series of derivations. Thus, we have the following transform:

\[
\mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} 
\Re(\hat{\mathbf{A}}) & -\Im(\hat{\mathbf{A}}) \\
\Im(\hat{\mathbf{A}}) & \Re(\hat{\mathbf{A}})
\end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2(K+N)L \times 2NL}, 
\]

(16)

\[
\mathbf{s} = [\Re(\mathbf{x}) \ \Im(\mathbf{x})]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{2NL \times 1},
\]

(17)

\[
\mathbf{y} = [\Re(\mathbf{b}) \ \Im(\mathbf{b})]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{2(K+N)L \times 1}.
\]

(18)

where \( \Re(\mathbb{C}) \) and \( \Im(\mathbb{C}) \) denote the real value and the imaginary value, respectively. The objective function of (15) can be rewritten as:

\[
\min_{\mathbf{s}} \| \mathbf{G} \mathbf{s} - \mathbf{y} \|^2, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad v^2 = 1.
\]

(19)

Here, (19) is an inhomogeneous QCQP. In order to homogenize (19), we introduce one new parameter \( v \) and assume that \( v^2 = 1 \). Then, (19) is equivalent to the following expression:

\[
\min_{\mathbf{s}, v} \| v \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{G} \mathbf{s} \|^2, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad v^2 = 1.
\]

(20)

Thus, (20) can be expressed as a homogeneous QCQP:

\[
\min_{\mathbf{s}, v} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{v} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 
\mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{G} & -\mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{y} \\
-\mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{G} & \| \mathbf{y} \|^2
\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{s} \\
v
\end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad v^2 = 1.
\]

(21)

Assuming that \( \mathbf{s} = [\mathbf{s}^T \ \mathbf{v}]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{(2NL+1) \times 1} \) and

\[
\mathbf{D} = \begin{bmatrix} 
\mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{G} & -\mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{y} \\
-\mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{G} & \| \mathbf{y} \|^2
\end{bmatrix}
\]

(22)

Then, (19) turns into the following expression:

\[
\min_{\mathbf{s}, v} \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{D} \mathbf{s}, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad v^2 = 1.
\]

(23)

For the quadratic constraint in (15), based on the constraint condition in (23), and \( \mathbf{s} \) is used to replace the parameter \( \mathbf{x} \). Thus, we have the following expression:

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{s} &= LP_t + 1, \\
\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{E}_w \mathbf{s} &\leq \frac{P_r}{N}
\end{align*}
\]

(24)

where

\[
\mathbf{E}_w(i, j) = \begin{cases} 
1 & i = w \text{ and } j = w \\
1 & i = NL + w \text{ and } j = NL + w \\
0 & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\]

(25)

where \( \mathbf{E}_w \in \mathbb{R}^{(2NL+1) \times (2NL+1)} \) and \( w \in [1, \ldots, 2NL + 1] \). Combining (23) and (24) together, the optimization model of DFRC waveform design with the total transmitted power and PAPR constraints becomes:

\[
\begin{align*}
\min_{\mathbf{s}, v} \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{D} \mathbf{s}, \\
\text{s.t.} \quad v^2 = 1, \\
\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{E}_w \mathbf{s} &\leq \frac{P_r}{N}
\end{align*}
\]

(26)
To further improve the objective function, the following assumptions can be made: $S = \tilde{s}^T s$, and $\text{tr}(S) = \text{tr}(\tilde{s}^T s)$. (26) can be rewritten as:

$$
\begin{align*}
\min_{s, \tilde{s}} & \quad \text{tr}(D \tilde{S}), \\
\text{s.t.} & \quad \tilde{S}(2NL + 1, 2NL + 1) = 1, \\
& \quad \text{tr}(\tilde{S}) = LP_t + 1, \\
& \quad \text{tr}(E_{w} \tilde{S}) \leq \frac{P_r}{N} w = 1, \ldots, 2NL, \\
& \quad \text{rank}(\tilde{S}) = 1.
\end{align*}
$$

It can be observed that the only non-convex constraint is $\text{rank}(\tilde{S}) = 1$. By using the rank-one approximation, we get

$$
\begin{align*}
\min_{\tilde{s}, v} & \quad \text{tr}(D \tilde{S}), \\
\text{s.t.} & \quad \tilde{S}(2NL + 1, 2NL + 1) = 1, \\
& \quad \text{tr}(\tilde{S}) = LP_t + 1, \\
& \quad \text{tr}(E_{w} \tilde{S}) \leq \frac{P_r}{N} w = 1, \ldots, 2NL.
\end{align*}
$$

It is apparent that the optimal solution can be solved using the SDR technique with rank-one approximation. Then, we can get the optimal solution $\tilde{s}_{\text{opt}}, v$, and inverse vectorization is applied to obtain $\tilde{s}_{\text{opt}}$, where $\tilde{s}_{\text{opt}} = [s_{\text{opt}}, v]$. The optimal waveforms can be expressed as $x_{\text{opt}} = s_{\text{opt}} + \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{L}} s_{\text{opt}}^\perp + N L$, where $p \in [1, NL]$. The proposed DFRC waveform design is a SDR problem and can be solved by mat lab convex optimization toolboxes with an interior-point algorithm, which needs a total $O((2NL + 1)^{3.5} \log(1/\epsilon))$ complex floating-point-operations(flops), where one complex flop is defined as one complex addition or multiplication and $\epsilon > 0$ is a solution accuracy.

V. SIMULATION RESULTS

In this section, numerical simulations are provided to illustrate that our novel DFRC waveforms have improved radar performance without sacrificing the communication performance than the conventional DFRC waveforms proposed in [14]. ‘Chirp-Tradeoff-Total’ and ‘Chirp-Tradeoff-Total-PAPR’ denote the conventional DFRC waveforms and the DFRC waveforms with the total transmitted power and PAPR constraints, respectively. When $r = 1$, the PAPR constraint transforms into the CM constraint, and ‘Chirp-Tradeoff-Total-CM’ denotes the DFRC waveforms with the total transmitted power and CM constraints. Without loss of generality, assuming that the total transmitted power $P_t = 1$, and SNR = $P_t/N$. There are $N = 8$ antennas in the DFRC system, and the system transmits information to $K = 4$ single-antenna receivers. The length of DFRC waveform pulse is set to be $L = 20$. Each entry of $H$ subjects to the standard complex Gaussian distribution, and the constellation in $S \in \{1 + j, 1 - j, -1 + j, -1 - j\}$ is selected to be the QPSK alphabet, and they correspond to the communication signal bits $\{00, 01, 10, 11\}$.

The communication performance achieved by different approaches are shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3. ‘Zero-MUI’ represents the ideal situation where the MUI energy is zero. $\rho$ is the trade-off parameter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table I</th>
<th>The value of average achievable sum-rate for different waveforms in the same PAPR, $\rho = 0.5$.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waveforms</td>
<td>PAPR $\times 10^3$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zero-MUI</td>
<td>13.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chirp-Tradeoff-Total</td>
<td>12.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chirp-Tradeoff-Total-PAPR</td>
<td>11.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 2. Average achievable sum-rate and PAPR for different waveforms. ‘Chirp-Tradeoff-Total’ and ‘Chirp-Tradeoff-Total-PAPR’ denote the conventional DFRC waveforms and the DFRC waveforms with the total transmitted power and PAPR constraints, respectively. ‘Zero-MUI’ represents the ideal situation where the MUI energy is zero. $\rho$ is the trade-off parameter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table II</th>
<th>The value of average achievable sum-rate for different waveforms in the same SINR, $\rho = 0.5$.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waveforms</td>
<td>SNR (dB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zero-MUI</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chirp-Tradeoff-Total</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chirp-Tradeoff-Total-PAPR</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chirp-Tradeoff-Total-CM</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
parameter $\rho$ is set to be 0.5. In Fig. 2, when SNR = 10 dB, with the increasing of $r$, the average achievable sum-rate (AASR) of our novel DFRC waveforms with the total transmitted power and PAPR constraints approaches to the AASR of conventional DFRC waveforms. When $r = 1.5$, they almost cross together, and the data can be observed in Table I. Thus, we assume that $r = 1.5$ is the upper bound to limit the communication performance. Here, we need to highlight when $r = 1$, PAPR = 0 dB, and our novel DFRC waveforms are under the CM constraint. In Fig. 3, our novel DFRC waveforms with different PAPR constraints are shown. Our novel DFRC waveforms which under the total transmitted power and CM constraints obtain the worst AASR comparing with the other situations. The data can be observed in Table II. With the increase of $r$, the AASR of our novel DFRC waveforms approaches to the AASR of conventional DFRC waveforms.

The radar performance achieved by different approaches and parameters are shown in Fig. 4, Fig. 5 and Fig. 6. The Orthogonal-Chirp-Waveforms in (6) are used as the reference waveforms, and the detection probability $P_D$ is applied to determine the detection performance as a metric [8, eq.(69)]. Assuming that the target is point-like and in the far-field, and the angle of target is $45^\circ$. The false-alarm probability of radar is set to be $P_{FA} = 10^{-7}$. With the increase of $r$ or the decrease of $\rho$, our novel DFRC waveforms approach to the reference waveforms. The data can be observed in Table III. When $r = 1.5$ and $\rho = 0.5$, the detection probability value of our novel DFRC waveforms and the conventional DFRC waveforms are overlapped together. It means that they have the same performance of radar detection ability in the simulation. In Fig. 5, the waveforms designed with different approaches are shown in time domain. According to the function in (6), the modulus of Orthogonal-Chirp-Waveforms is constant. Thus, the blue line which stands for the Orthogonal-Chirp-Waveforms is the upper bound to limit the communication performance.
Waveforms is a straight line and regarded as the reference. The orange line denotes the Chirp-Tradeoff-Total waveform and the yellow line denotes the Chirp-Tradeoff-Total-PAPR waveform. The data is shown in Table IV. It can be observed that the conventional DFRC waveform has higher peak altitude than our novel DFRC waveform. As assumed above, our novel DFRC waveforms are designed under the PAPR constraint with $r = 1.5$, while the PAPR of conventional DFRC waveform is $r = 4$ via calculations. The auto-correlation sidelobes (ACSLs) in range direction are shown in Fig. 6, all the signals are processed by hammering window. It can be observed that the ACSL of Orthogonal-Chirp-Waveforms is -26.52dB, the ACSL of Chirp-Tradeoff-Total waveforms is -6.41dB, and the ACSL of Chirp-Tradeoff-Total-PAPR is -7.75dB. It means that our proposed DFRC waveforms have the lower sidelobes than the conventional DFRC waveforms. In addition, in practical systems, the conventional DFRC waveforms will suffer from more severe degradation due to a large distortion accrued in the signal transmitting process. Thus, our novel DFRC waveforms achieve better radar performances with lower PAPR.

VI. CONCLUSION

In this paper, the novel DFRC waveforms with the total transmitted power and PAPR constraints are designed. By minimizing the MUI energy and controlling the trade-off parameter to allocate the priority of performance between radar and communication system. The optimization model is a non-convex problem with one quadratic equality constraint and a series of quadratic inequality constraints. This problem has been solved using the SDR technique. Numerical simulations demonstrate that our novel DFRC waveforms achieve better performance in radar system without sacrificing the communication performance. In the future, we will do more researches on the DFRC waveform design when the imperfect estimations of the channel matrix are considered.

VII. REFERENCES


