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MIMO Beam-forming with Neural Network Channel Prediction Trained By a Novel PSO-EA-DEPSO Algorithm

Chris Potter, Ganesh K. Venayagamoorthy, and Kurt Kosbar

Abstract— A new hybrid algorithm based on particle swarm optimization (PSO), evolutionary algorithm (EA), and differential evolution (DE) is presented for training a recurrent neural network (RNN) for multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) channel prediction. The hybrid algorithm is shown to be superior in performance to PSO and differential evolution PSO (DEPSO) for different channel environments. The received signal-to-noise ratio is derived for un-coded and beam-forming MIMO systems to see how the RNN error affects the performance. This error is shown to deteriorate the accuracy of the weak singular modes, making beam-forming more desirable. Bit error rate simulations are performed to validate these results.

I. INTRODUCTION

Multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) systems have been shown to provide significant gains in both spectral efficiency and reliability [1]. This is based on the assumption that the receiver and transmitter have knowledge of the channel coefficients. In reality they must either be estimated or predicted. A few popular ways to estimate the channel are by using pilot symbols [2] and space time block codes (STBC) [3]. Both methods waste time learning the channel when meaningful data can be sent. Channel prediction does not suffer from these aforementioned setbacks.

Unlike the use of conventional prediction techniques such as [4], a recurrent neural network (RNN) is used for prediction. Neural networks have the ability of being robust to different wireless channels as long as they are trained properly. In [5] an extended Kalman filter (EKF) was employed for training a RNN for time series prediction. A hybrid particle swarm optimization evolutionary algorithm (PSO-EA) was utilized in [6] for time series. In this work, a novel hybrid algorithm composed of PSO, EA, and differential evolution (DE) is proposed for MIMO channel prediction. It is shown that this hybrid algorithm outperforms both PSO and DEPSO. Also, beam-forming is shown to be ideal for RNN predicted MIMO channels, since the strongest singular mode is more accurately predicted than the weaker ones. These results are verified with bit error rate (BER) simulations

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. The next section describes the MIMO received symbol model for the

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un-coded and beam-forming systems. This is followed by the fast fading channel representation. After this the RNN used for MIMO channel prediction is introduced. This is followed by the proposal of a novel PSO-EA-DE hybrid training algorithm. The received SNR for both systems are then derived and the prediction error is analyzed. BER simulations are then performed. This is followed by our concluding remarks.

II. MIMO RECEIVED MODEL

In this section, the received symbols for the un-coded and beam-forming systems are introduced. For the beam-forming case the received symbols are expressed in two scenarios, when the transmitter and receiver have full channel state information (CSI) and when they have the prediction matrix.

A. Un-coded

A MIMO wireless flat fading communication system with N_r receive antennas and N_t transmit antennas is modeled by

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n} \quad (1)$$

where \mathbf{y} is the $N_r \times 1$ received vector, \mathbf{x} is the $N_t \times 1$ transmitted symbol vector with each x_i belonging to constellation \mathcal{C} with symbol energy E_s , and \mathbf{n} is the white noise vector of size $N_r \times 1$ with $n_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{CN}(0, N_o)$. The $N_r \times N_t$ channel matrix $\mathbf{H} = \{h_{mn}\}$ describes the complex channel gain between the m^{th} receiver antenna and the n^{th} transmit antenna.

B. Beam-forming

Let $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{V}^H$ be the singular value decomposition (SVD) where \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} are unitary matrices and \mathbf{u}_i and \mathbf{v}_i , are the left and right singular vectors corresponding to the i^{th} non-zero singular value $\sigma_{\mathbf{H}}(i)$. Note that $\sigma_{\mathbf{H}}(1) \leq \dots \leq \sigma_{\mathbf{H}}(M)$, where $M = \text{rank}(\mathbf{H})$. If $\tilde{x} = \mathbf{v}_1 \mathbf{x}$ and one post-multiplies (1) by \mathbf{u}_1^H the received symbol is

$$\mathbf{u}_1^H \mathbf{y} = \sigma_{\mathbf{H}}(1)x + \mathbf{u}_1^H \mathbf{n}. \quad (2)$$

Letting $\tilde{n} = \mathbf{u}_1^H \mathbf{n}$ one can easily show that

$$\mathbb{E}|\tilde{n}|^2 = N_r N_o \quad (3)$$

and remains white. It has been shown [7] that this technique maximizes the received SNR for a single mode.

When the transmitter and receiver have the prediction matrix $\hat{\mathbf{H}} = \hat{\mathbf{U}}\hat{\mathbf{D}}\hat{\mathbf{V}}^H$, then by writing the MIMO channel as $\mathbf{H} = \hat{\mathbf{H}} + \mathbf{E}$ the received symbol is written as

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}}_1^H \mathbf{y} = (\sigma_{\mathbf{H}}(1) + \hat{\mathbf{u}}_1^H \mathbf{E} \hat{\mathbf{v}}_1) x + \hat{\mathbf{u}}_1^H \mathbf{n}. \quad (4)$$

III. CHANNEL MODEL

When the doppler spread is greater than the pulse bandwidth, the MIMO channel undergoes fast fading [8]. In this work a MIMO flat fast fading wireless environment is employed. Each sub-channel is represented by [9]

$$h_{mn}(k) = h_{mn}^I(k) + jh_{mn}^Q(k) \quad (5)$$

where

$$h_{mn}^I(k) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{M}} \sum_{n=1}^M \cos(2\pi f_d k \cos(\alpha_n) + \phi_n) \quad (6)$$

is the in-phase component,

$$h_{mn}^Q(k) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{M}} \sum_{n=1}^M \cos(2\pi f_d k \sin(\alpha_n) + \psi_n) \quad (7)$$

is the quadrature component, and

$$\alpha_n = \frac{2\pi n - \pi + \theta}{4M} \quad (8)$$

where ϕ_n, ψ_n , and θ are $U[-\pi, \pi)$. The coefficients satisfy the first and second order statistics of Clarke's reference model [9]

IV. RECURRENT NEURAL NETWORK

To accurately predict a wireless channel, it is necessary to have past values of the channel to learn the statistics of the fading process. It has become customary to use a linear filter to perform the prediction. This method requires the receiver know the statistics of the channel which greatly depends on the random process at hand. For example, the linear prediction filters for an autoregressive (AR) process and an autoregressive moving average (ARMA) process are quite different. When the wireless environment changes, the receiver has to redetermine the statistics of the environment and subsequently change the prediction model. When trained properly the neural network is robust to any wireless environment.

The neural network used for prediction is shown in Figure 1. For each run, the RNN consists of two stages. In the first only the previous N_p channel coefficients are used, thus $d_1(k-1) = d_2(k-1) = 0$. For the second, the RNN uses both the past channel coefficients and the previous two outputs. The output of $d_1(k) = \hat{h}(k)$ represents the prediction. All neurons are fully connected in the forward direction. The non-linear activation functions are $\text{tansig}(\cdot)$ which can be described by

$$\text{tansig}(x) = \frac{\exp(x) - \exp(-x)}{\exp(x) + \exp(-x)}. \quad (9)$$

The output of the activation functions are written as

$$d_j = \text{tansig}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{N_p+2} a_{ji}s_i\right), \quad j = 1, \dots, 2 \quad (10)$$

where

$$s = [d_1(k-1) \ d_2(k-1) \ h(k-1) \ \dots \ h(k-N_p)]^T. \quad (11)$$

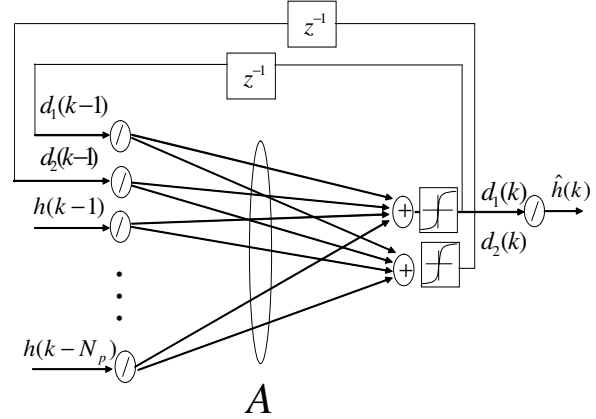


Fig. 1. Neural Network used for channel prediction.

In matrix form this is represented as

$$d = f(As) \quad (12)$$

where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} & \dots & a_{1,(N_p+2)} \\ a_{2,1} & \dots & a_{2,(N_p+2)} \end{bmatrix} \quad (13)$$

is a $2 \times (N_p+2)$ matrix whose entries are the neural network weights and

$$f = \begin{bmatrix} \text{tansig}(\cdot) \\ \vdots \\ \text{tansig}(\cdot) \end{bmatrix} \quad (14)$$

is a 2×1 vector that evaluates the tansig of each component. The total number of weights are $N_w = (N_p+2) \cdot 2 = 2N_p+4$.

V. TRAINING ALGORITHMS

To obtain useful channel predictions the RNN must be trained. Before proceeding to the proposed hybrid algorithm, PSO, EA, and DEPSO are briefly summarized.

A. PSO

PSO is a evolutionary computation technique developed by Eberhart and Kennedy in 1995. It was inspired by swarm intelligence where a collection of unsophisticated individuals (particles) can solve complex problems by interacting with one another. Some examples of this behavior are a flock of birds or a school of fish. Although simple to implement, PSO has been shown to be an algorithm that when used properly can perform multi-parameter optimization [10]. Some applications of PSO include artificial life, social psychology, engineering, and computer science. The population of particles fly through the solution space with certain velocities.

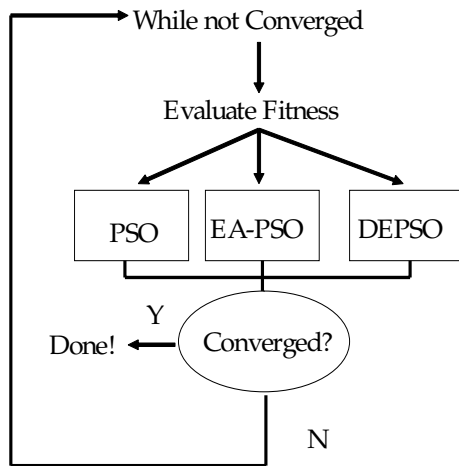


Fig. 2. New PSO-EA-DEPSO hybrid training algorithm.

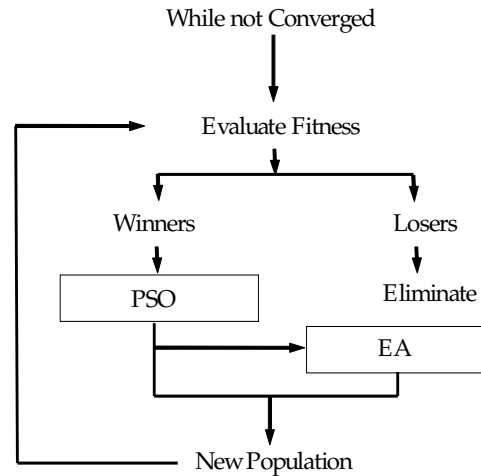


Fig. 3. PSO-EA algorithm.

Let P be the number of particles with alphabet $\mathcal{P} = \{1, \dots, P\}$ and D the dimension of each particle. At each epoch the position and velocity components for the i^{th} particle and d^{th} dimension are updated according to [11]

$$v_{id} = wv_{id} + c_1 \text{rand}_1(\cdot)(pbest_{id} - x_{id}) + c_2 \text{rand}_2(\cdot)(gbest_d - x_{id}) \quad (15)$$

where

$$x_{id} = x_{id} + v_{id} \quad (16)$$

and w , c_1 , and c_2 are the inertia and acceleration constants respectively.

B. EA

EA algorithm is evolving the population through mutation and selection operations. Each parent or offspring is represented as a chromosome which is made up of genes which represent characteristics of the individual. In terms of optimization, a gene represents a parameter such as a neural network weight. Given a population N of neural networks, for every generation each parent P_i , $n = 1, \dots, N$ has a $N_w \times 1$ self-adaptive parameter vector σ_i , $i = 1, \dots, N$. Each parent generates an offspring \hat{P}_i whose $N_w \times 1$ self-adaptive parameter vector $\hat{\sigma}_i$ is updated according to

$$\hat{\sigma}_i(j) = \sigma_i(j) \exp(\tau \mathcal{N}(0, 1)), j = 1, \dots, N_w. \quad (17)$$

The weights are updated according to

$$\hat{w}_i(j) = w_i(j) + \hat{\sigma}_i(j) \mathcal{N}(0, 1), j = 1, \dots, N_w \quad (18)$$

where $\tau = 1/\sqrt{2\sqrt{N_w}}$.

TABLE I

PARAMETERS VALUES FOR PROPOSED HYBRID PSO-EA-DEPSO ALGORITHM

Parameter	Value	Description
V_{max}	2	Maximum PSO velocity
X_{max}	4	Maximum PSO position
w	.8	PSO Inertia Weight
c_1	2	PSO Cognitive Weight
c_2	2	PSO Social Weight
P	40	Number of PSO Particles
P_c	0.5	Crossover Probability for DEPSO
δ_N	δ_7	DEPSO operator
τ	.3265	EA Parameter

C. DEPSO

DEPSO is a hybrid of DE and PSO which provides diversity on the population while keeping the swarm searching capabilities intact [12]. The $pbest$ of each particle is updated by

$$\mathbf{IF}(\text{rand}(\cdot) < P_c) \mathbf{OR}(i == k) \quad \mathbf{THEN} \quad pbest_{id} = gbest_d + \Delta_N \quad (19)$$

where $k \in \mathcal{P}$ is chosen randomly and

$$\Delta_N = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N pbest_{Aj} - pbest_{Bj} \quad (20)$$

with $A, B \in \mathcal{P}$.

D. A Hybrid PSO-EA-DEPSO Algorithm

In this work, a new algorithm is proposed that is a hybrid version of PSO, EA, and DEPSO. The block diagram is displayed in Figure 2. The idea behind the algorithm is to alternate between PSO, EA, and DEPSO to continually provide diversity for the particles/parents. This in theory prevents the particles/parents from reaching a premature convergence. The PSO algorithm is implemented on odd

iterations while PSO-EA and DEPSO alternate on even iterations. For PSO, the velocity and position weights are all initialized from a uniform distribution. The pseudo-code for the PSO-EA algorithm is displayed in Figure 3. For more details of the PSO-EA algorithm, the reader is referred to [6]. The parameters for the proposed hybrid algorithm are displayed in Table I.

VI. TRAINING THE RNN

The RNN in Figure 1 is trained by using the proposed PSO-EA-DEPSO algorithm for each MIMO sub-channel. The in-phase and quadrature components are trained separately. For each prediction, $N_p = 9$ and the previous 10 channel coefficients and their respective predictions are used for the fitness function

$$MSE(k) = \frac{1}{10} \sum_{i=1}^{10} (h_{mn} - \hat{h}_{mn})^2. \quad (21)$$

To show the prediction capability of the RNN trained by the proposed hybrid PSO-EA-DEPSO algorithm, a numerical example is provided. In the first experiment a Rayleigh flat fast fading 2×2 MIMO channel with $f_d T_s = 0.05$ is generated. Since the sub-channels are uncorrelated, to save space and redundancy the in-phase component of $h_{11}(k)$ is only considered. Looking at Figures 4 and 5, it is obvious that the proposed algorithm is superior to PSO and DEPSO. For the second experiment $f_d T_s = 0.1$. Once again, Figures 6 and 7 validate that the proposed algorithm is superior. To quantify these observations, the MSE between the prediction and actual coefficients for each algorithm is displayed in Table II. The MSE of the hybrid algorithm for both channel environments is significantly lower than the others.

VII. RECEIVED SNR FOR DIFFERENT MIMO SCHEMES

For a MIMO system using channel prediction, the received SNR takes on the general form

$$\rho = \frac{\sigma_x^2}{\sigma_e^2 + \sigma_n^2} \quad (22)$$

where σ_x^2 is the average received signal power, σ_e^2 is the prediction error, and σ_n^2 is the average noise variance. The received SNR for the uncoded system is defined as

$$\rho_{uc} \triangleq \frac{\mathbb{E}\|\widehat{\mathbf{H}}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2}{\mathbb{E}\|\mathbf{E}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + \mathbb{E}\|\mathbf{n}\|_2^2}. \quad (23)$$

Using the independence assumption with \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{H} along with the identities

$$\|\mathbf{b}^H \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^H \mathbf{b}\|_2^2 = \text{trace}(\mathbf{A}^H \mathbf{b} \mathbf{b}^H \mathbf{A}) \quad (24)$$

$$\mathbb{E}\{\text{trace}(\cdot)\} = \text{trace}(\mathbb{E}\{\cdot\}) \quad (25)$$

we obtain after several manipulations

$$\rho_{uc} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^M \mathbb{E}\{\sigma_{\widehat{\mathbf{H}}}^2(i)\}}{\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E}\{\sigma_{\mathbf{E}}^2(i)\} + \frac{N_r N_o}{E_s}} \quad (26)$$

where $\sigma_{\widehat{\mathbf{H}}}(i)$ and $\sigma_{\mathbf{E}}(i)$ are the i^{th} non-zero singular values of $\widehat{\mathbf{H}}$ and \mathbf{E} respectively, and $N = \text{rank}(\mathbf{E})$.

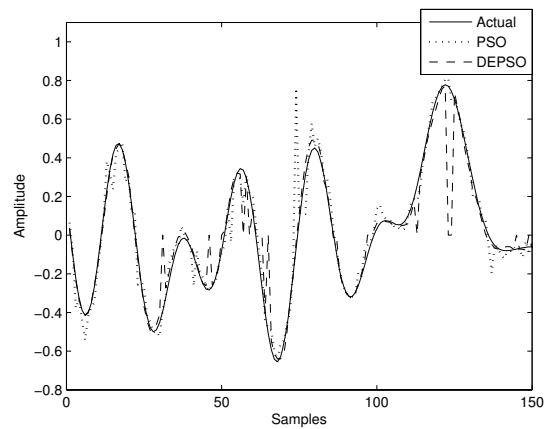


Fig. 4. Comparison of PSO and DEPSO predictions with the actual in-phase channel coefficients for $f_d T_s = 0.05$.

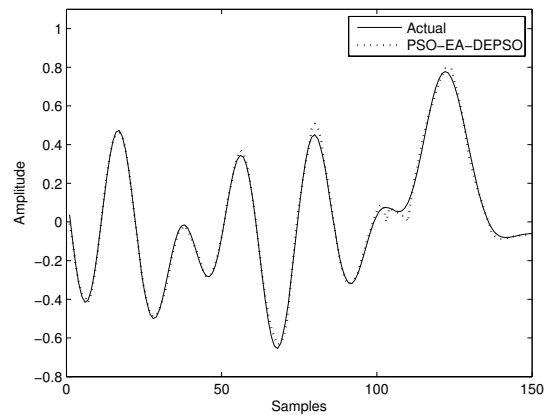


Fig. 5. Comparison of new hybrid PSO-EA-DEPSO with the actual in-phase channel coefficients for $f_d T_s = 0.05$.

Recall that for the MIMO beam-forming system the received symbol was

$$\widehat{\mathbf{u}}_1^H \mathbf{y} = (\widehat{\sigma}_1^2 + \widehat{\mathbf{u}}_1^H \mathbf{E} \widehat{\mathbf{v}}_1) x + \tilde{n}. \quad (27)$$

Using similar techniques as before, the received SNR for the beam-forming case can be written as

$$\rho_{bf} = \frac{\mathbb{E}\{\sigma_1^2\}}{\mathbb{E}|\widehat{\mathbf{u}}_1^H \mathbf{U} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}^H \widehat{\mathbf{v}}_1 - \widehat{\sigma}_{max}|^2 + \frac{N_r N_o}{E_s}}. \quad (28)$$

When comparing (26) with (28) one can see although there is less signal power in the beam-forming case, the prediction error has the capability of being significantly less. This can be seen by writing the prediction error in (23) as

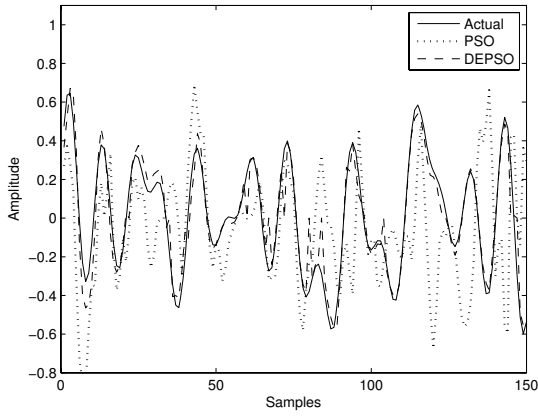


Fig. 6. Comparison of PSO, and DEPSO predictions with the actual in-phase channel coefficients for $f_d T_s = 0.1$.

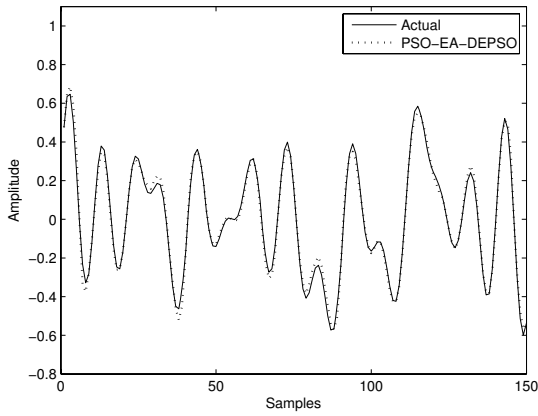


Fig. 7. Comparison of new hybrid PSO-EA-DEPSO with the actual in-phase channel coefficients for $f_d T_s = 0.1$.

TABLE II
MEAN SQUARED ERROR COMPARISON OF PSO, DEPSO, AND PSO-EA-DEPSO ALGORITHMS WITH RESPECT TO ACTUAL CHANNEL COEFFICIENTS.

	PSO	DEPSO	PSO - EA - DEPSO
$f_d T_s = .05$	1.2212	2.0811	0.0712
$f_d T_s = .1$	21.8440	1.2472	0.1183

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sigma_e^2 &= \mathbb{E} \|\mathbf{E}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 = \mathbb{E} \|\hat{\mathbf{U}}^H \mathbf{E}\hat{\mathbf{V}}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \\
 &= \mathbb{E} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^M |(\hat{\mathbf{u}}_i^H \mathbf{U} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}^H \hat{\mathbf{v}}_1 - \hat{\sigma}_i) x_i|^2 \right\} \\
 &= E_s \sum_{i=1}^M \mathbb{E} \{\sigma_E^2(i)\} \quad (29)
 \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality results from observing (26). Comparing this to the beam-forming prediction error

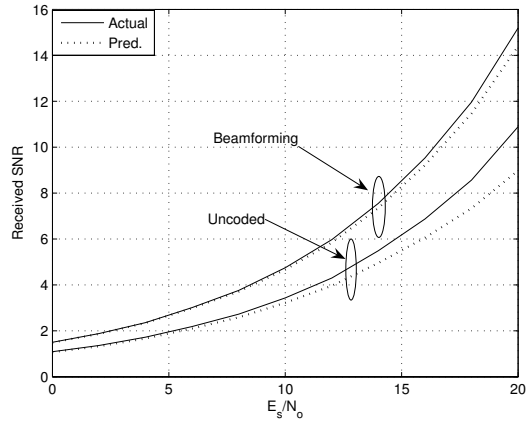


Fig. 8. Received SNR comparison for un-coded and beam-forming MIMO systems.

$$\sigma_e^2 = \mathbb{E} |(\hat{\mathbf{u}}_1^H \mathbf{U} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}^H \hat{\mathbf{v}}_1 - \hat{\sigma}_{max}) x|^2 \quad (30)$$

it is clear that if \mathbf{u}_1 , \mathbf{v}_1 , and σ_1 are well predicted but the other modes are not, a smaller prediction error will result. This is implicitly true for the channel matrices predicted by the RNN.

To show this behavior a numerical example is given. The received SNR using (26) and (28) is tabulated for 10000 binary phase shift keying (BPSK) symbol vectors with $E_s = 1$ and $N_t = N_r = 2$. The results are displayed in Figure 8. As one can see the received SNR for the beam-forming case is significantly better at higher E_s/N_o , suggesting that the stronger singular mode is more accurately predicted. To justify this $\sigma_E^2(1)$ and $\sigma_E^2(2)$ are calculated and graphed in Figures 9 and 10. Clearly there are samples where $\sigma_E^2(2) \gg \sigma_E^2(1)$ suggesting $\mathbb{E}\{\sigma_E^2(2)\} \geq \mathbb{E}\{\sigma_E^2(1)\}$. Comparing the two values we have $\mathbb{E}\{\sigma_E^2(1)\} \approx 3 \times 10^{-3}$ and $\mathbb{E}\{\sigma_E^2(2)\} \approx 6 \times 10^{-3}$, indicating that the stronger singular value is predicted better by a factor of two.

From this observation one can see that beam-forming provides two advantages over the un-coded system. The first is only $\sigma_E^2(1)$ affects the prediction error. The second is when the RNN predicts the MIMO channel, $\mathbb{E}\{\sigma_E^2(2)\} > \mathbb{E}\{\sigma_E^2(1)\}$ which does not affect the beam-forming case since only $\sigma_E^2(1)$ affects the received SNR

VIII. BER COMPARISON

Before showing the difference in BER performance between the two MIMO systems, we briefly review the decoding procedures.

A. Vector ML Detection

For the MIMO un-coded system the received symbols are decoded according to

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{C}^{N_t}} \|\mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{H}}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2. \quad (31)$$

This is known as the nearest neighbor decoding rule.

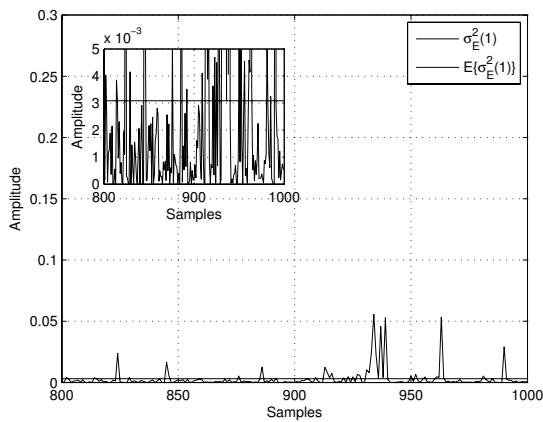


Fig. 9. Maximum singular value of error matrix.

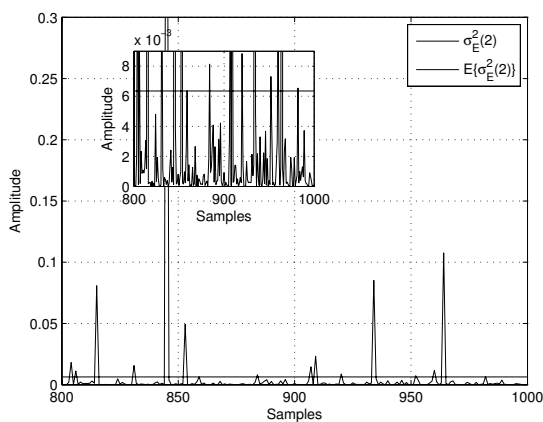


Fig. 10. Minimum singular value of error matrix.

B. Beam-forming

When beam-forming is performed at the transmitter and receiver the received symbol is found by

$$\hat{x} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{C}} |\hat{\mathbf{u}}_1^H \mathbf{y} - \hat{\sigma}_H(1)x|^2. \quad (32)$$

C. BER Simulations

If the received SNR is large for a given E_s/N_o then one expects the BER to be low. From the previous section it was established that the prediction error had a significant impact on the received SNR. By observing Figure 8 some observations about the BER can be inferred. One would expect that at low E_s/N_o the prediction BER for the uncoded MIMO system will be comparable to the actual BER. As E_s/N_o is increased, the received SNR does not increase as fast as the error free received SNR, which should cause the prediction BER to deteriorate. To illustrate this the BER was calculated via Monte Carlo simulations for a 2×2 MIMO flat fast fading channel using 10000 BPSK symbols for which

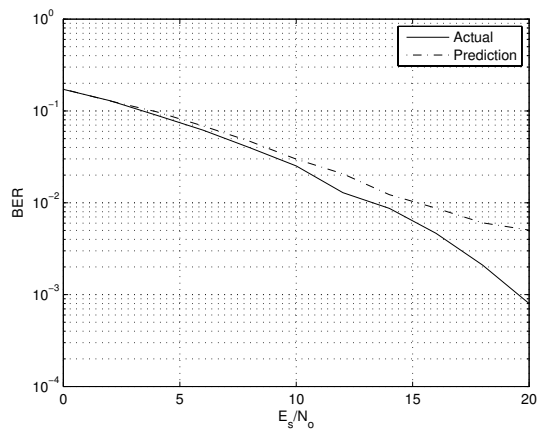


Fig. 11. BER for a un-coded 2×2 MIMO fast fading channel.

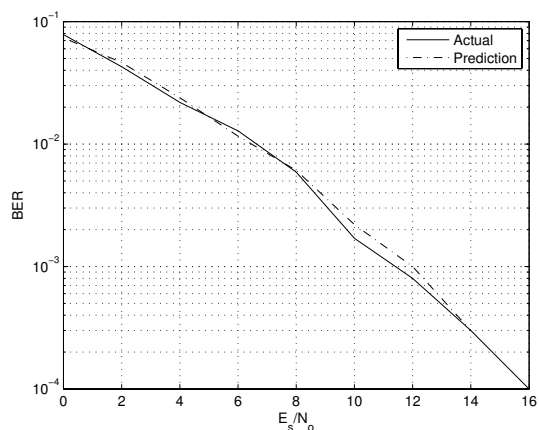


Fig. 12. BER for a 2×2 MIMO beam-forming fast fading channel.

$E_s = 1$. Looking at Figure 11, at low E_s/N_o the prediction BER agrees nicely with the error free BER. But as E_s/N_o increases the prediction BER begins to level off, since the effective noise floor due to prediction error is significant. This verifies the results in the previous section describing how the addition of $\sigma_E^2(2)$ negatively affects the received SNR.

For the beam-forming case the received SNR remains close to the ideal SNR throughout the range of E_s/N_o . This suggests that the BER for both the ideal and predicted channel will be close for all E_s/N_o . To illustrate this the BER is calculated for a 2×2 MIMO beam-forming system using the same parameters as the uncoded case. As one can see the predicted BER differs only slightly from the error free BER. This verifies our observation that the strong singular mode is more accurately predicted by the RNN.

IX. CONCLUSION

A recursive neural network trained by a novel PSO-EA-DEPSO was used to predict a MIMO channel. This training

algorithm was shown to be superior to both PSO and DEPSO for two different fast fading scenarios. The received SNR for the un-coded and beam-forming MIMO systems was derived. The beam-forming technique was shown to be superior to the un-coded case for two reasons. The first was that only the dominant mode plays a role in the prediction error. The second is that the predicted channel predicts the dominant mode better than the minor ones. These two reasons lead to a higher received SNR and lower BER than the un-coded case, making the beam-forming system ideal.

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