

Jamming MIMO Communications



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So just what is this guy talking about?

- Multi-Input Multi-Output (MIMO) Overview
- Channel State Information (CSI)
- MIMO Channel Capacity
- Jamming Results and Observations
 - Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)-based MIMO
 - Alamouti Space-Time Block Code (STBC)
- Conclusions and Questions



Introducing the MIMO channel...

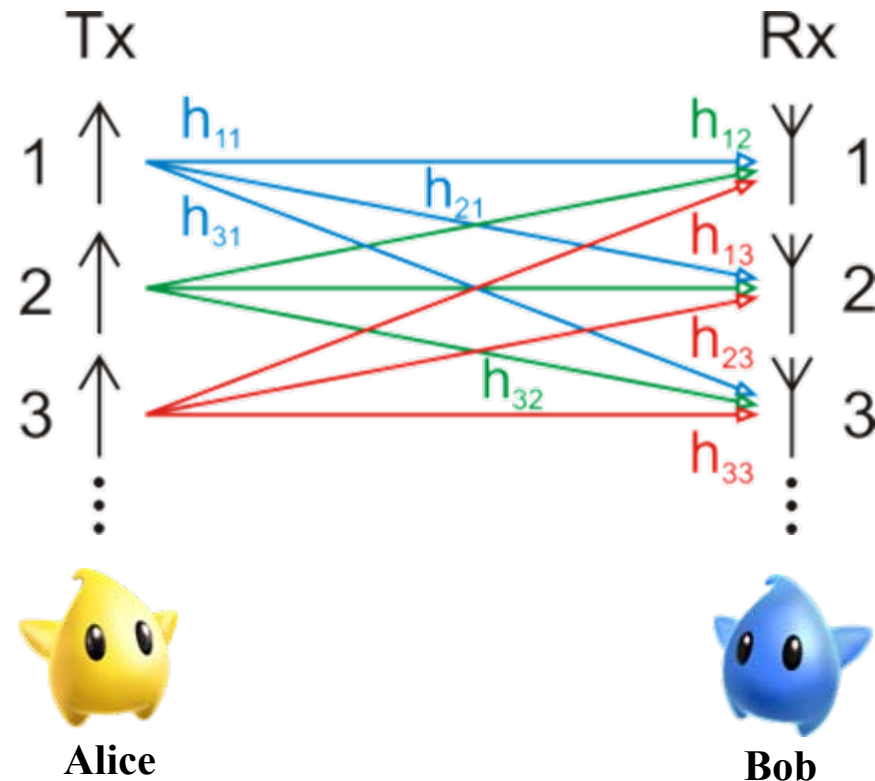
- Alice sends \mathbf{x} using n_t transmit antennas
- Bob sees \mathbf{r} with n_r receive antennas

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n}$$

where,

\mathbf{H} is n_r by n_t channel matrix

\mathbf{n} is additive channel noise



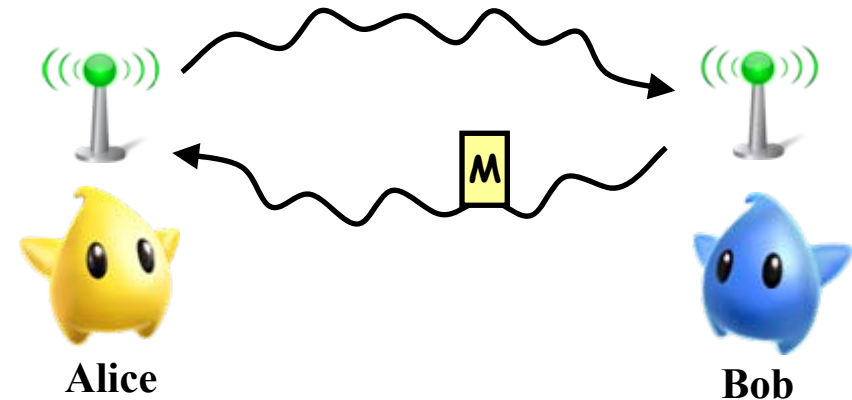
Three main sub-categories of MIMO exist...

- **Spatial Multiplexing**
 - Low-rate streams are created from a high-rate signal and transmitted from different antennas
 - Does not always require Channel State Information (CSI)
 - Can be combined with Pre-coding or Diversity Coding
- **Pre-coding**
 - Ranges from multi-layer beamforming to all spatial processing
 - Requires CSI at the transmitter
- **Diversity Coding**
 - Includes space-time coding (STC) techniques
 - Does not require CSI at the transmitter

Most MIMO schemes involve some level of Channel State Information (CSI).

- Channel State Information is utilized by the transmitter, the receiver, or both.

- Bob to Alice
- Alice to Bob
- Alice to Bob and then back
 - × *estimation*
 - × *messaging*

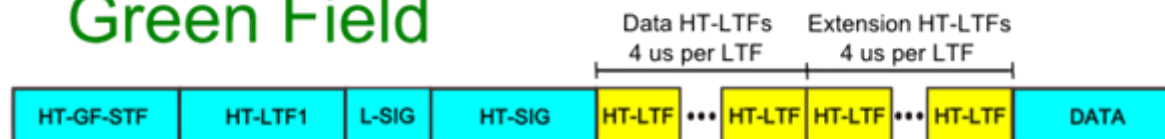


- 802.11n packet structure lets Bob estimate the CSI.

Mixed Mode



Green Field



Attacking only the CSI procedure is efficient, effective, and covert.

CSI Training Sequences (TS) are shorter than data transmissions

- ***Efficient***

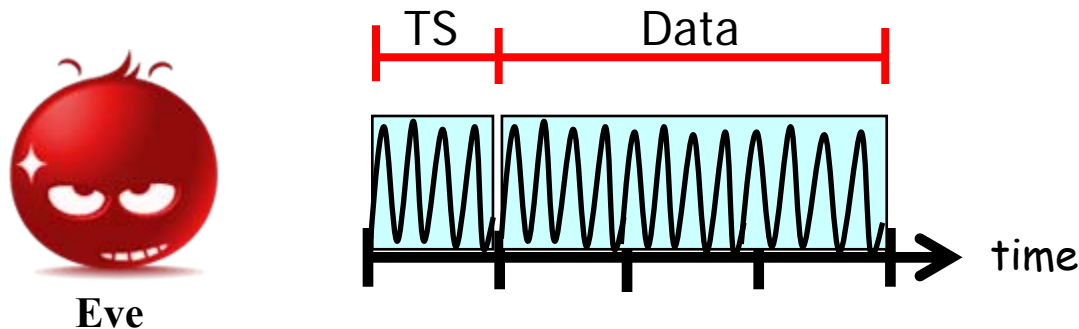
Jamming only during the CSI is energy conservative

- ***Effective***

Jamming the CSI causes errors in decoding the data

- ***Covert***

Jamming only the CSI is more inconspicuous



A commonly studied MIMO technique is SVD-based MIMO.

- Recall, the SVD of \mathbf{H} yields $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^H$

\mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} are the left and right singular vectors

Singular values found in $\text{diag}(\mathbf{\Sigma})$

- Bob and Alice compute the SVD

- Alice transmits $(\mathbf{V}\mathbf{x})$

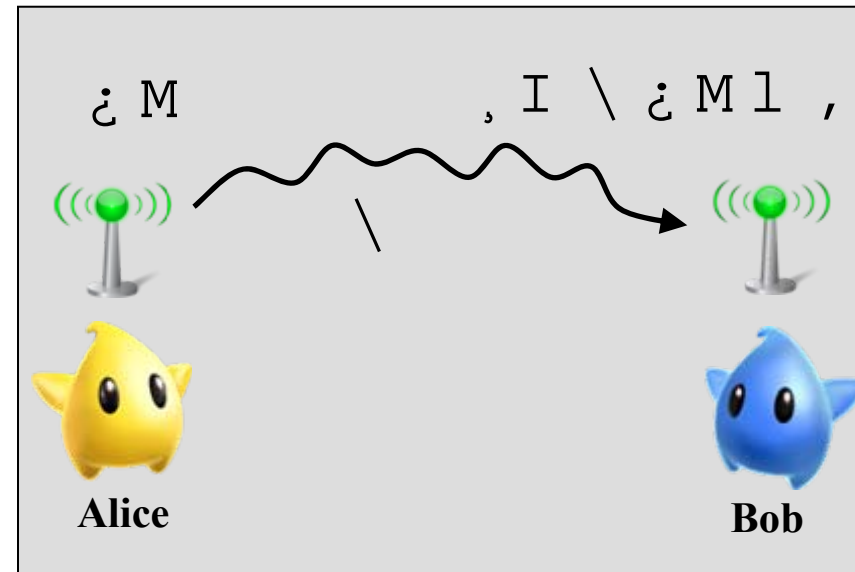
- Bob receives \mathbf{r} ,
and operates on it with (\mathbf{U}^H)

$$\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^H$$

$$\mathbf{H} \mathbf{V} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{1}^T$$

$$\mathbf{U}^H \mathbf{H} \mathbf{V} = \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{1}^T$$

$$\mathbf{U}^H \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{V}^H \mathbf{x}$$



Results in $\min(n_r, n_t)$ parallel SISO channels

SVD-based MIMO can achieve capacity by waterfilling over the best channel eigenmodes.

- Mutual Information

$$I(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{y}) = \frac{1}{2} \log \det \left(\mathbf{I} + \frac{1}{N} \mathbf{G} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{G}^H \right)$$

- Maximization:

$$\mathbf{K}^t = \mathbf{I} \quad \text{subject to} \quad \text{tr}(\mathbf{K}) \leq P$$

- Capacity:

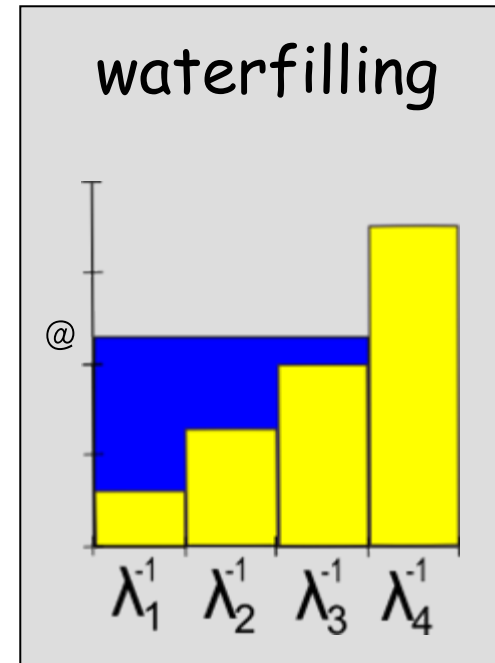
$$C = \frac{1}{2} \log \det \left(\mathbf{I} + \frac{P}{N} \mathbf{G}^H \mathbf{G} \right)$$

- Power Distribution:

$$\mathbf{K}^t = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{P}{\lambda_i + P} \mathbf{v}_i \mathbf{v}_i^H$$

, where $\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{P}{\lambda_i + P} = P$

Power Constraint



Jamming SVD-based MIMO is complicated as there are many degrees of freedom.

The rabbit hole deepens...

- CSI knowledge:
 - Perfect, Estimated, None
- Perturbation Ability:
 - Perfect, Estimated, Random
- Target:
 - Alice, Bob, Alice *and* Bob
- Equipment:
 - Single/Multiple antenna
 - Power constraints (J/S)



General CSI
jamming

$$\begin{aligned} s_J &= \hat{\mathbf{U}}_B^H \mathbf{H} \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{AX} + \hat{\mathbf{U}}_B^H \mathbf{n} \\ &= \hat{\mathbf{U}}_B^H \mathbf{U} \Sigma \mathbf{V}^H \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{AX} + \hat{\mathbf{U}}_B^H \mathbf{n} \end{aligned}$$

With ample control, Eve may force Alice and Bob to perform opposite waterfilling.

- Eve can force opposite waterfilling

- Compute the SVD of \mathbf{H}

$$\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Lambda} \mathbf{V}^H$$

- Reverse the singular values

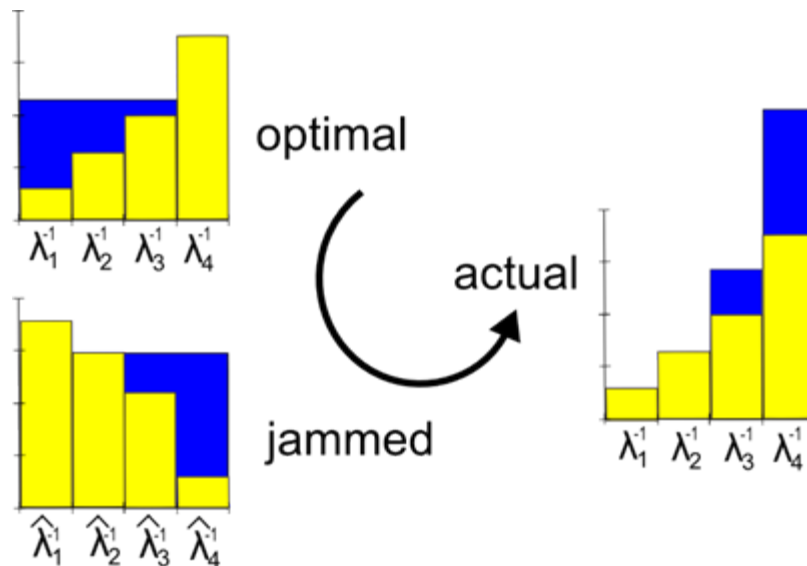
$$\mathbf{\Lambda}^* = \mathbf{\Lambda}^{-1}$$

- Reconstruct the new channel

$$\hat{\mathbf{H}} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Lambda}^* \mathbf{V}^H$$

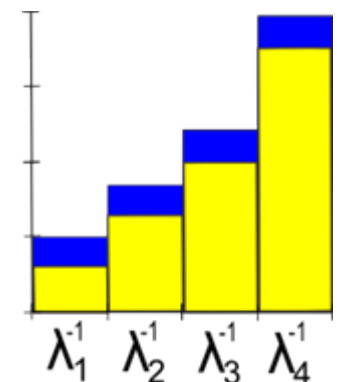
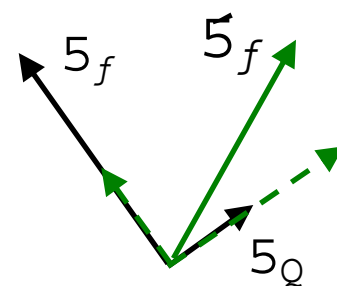
- Disseminate the new info

Alice and Bob use $\hat{\mathbf{H}}$



Without CSI or complete RF control, Eve can still effectively jam SVD-based MIMO.

- Random perturbations of \mathbf{H} make small singular values larger
- If Alice and Bob use the same estimate
 - Emphasize a physical channel to create a random channel
 - × *Power, on average, will empty uniformly into the actual eigenmodes of the channel*
- If Alice and Bob use independent estimates
 - Emphasize different physical channels to create two random channels
 - × *Alice pre-codes with right singular vectors that do not pair with the left singular vectors that Bob uses for decoding*



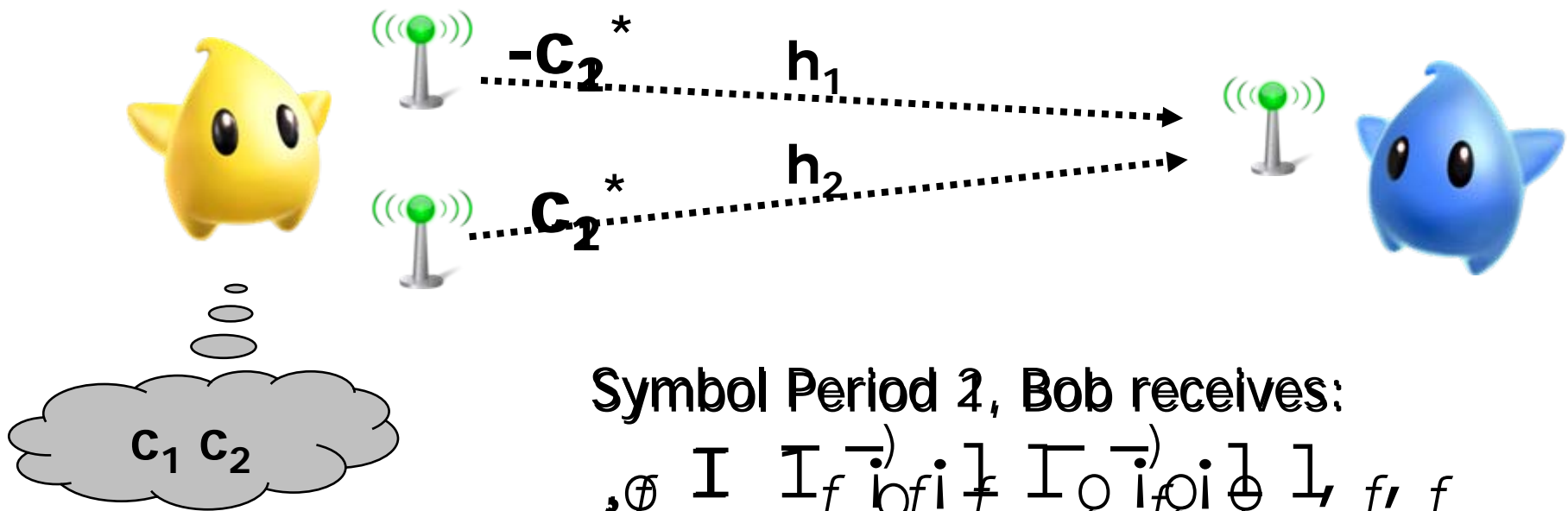
Another popular MIMO scheme is the Alamouti Space-Time Block Code (STBC).

- The Alamouti STBC is included in 802.11n, WiMax, and 3GPP
- Analyze the 2 by 1 STBC vulnerabilities
 - 2 transmit antennas
 - 1 receive antenna
- Extend results to 2 by 2 STBC and beyond



The Alamouti 2 by 1 STBC is essentially a spatial repeater with a decoding trick.

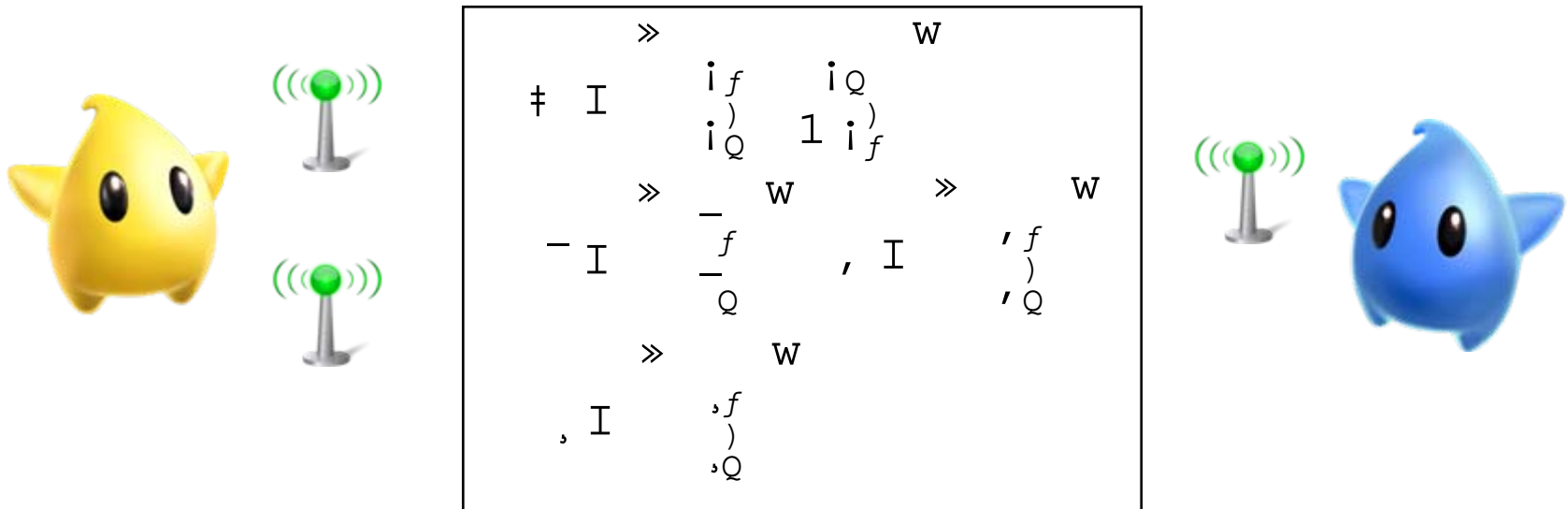
- Spatial repeater w/decoding trick
 - Alice has 2 transmit antennas
 - Bob has 1 receive antenna



The Alamouti 2 by 1 STBC is essentially a spatial repeater with a decoding trick.

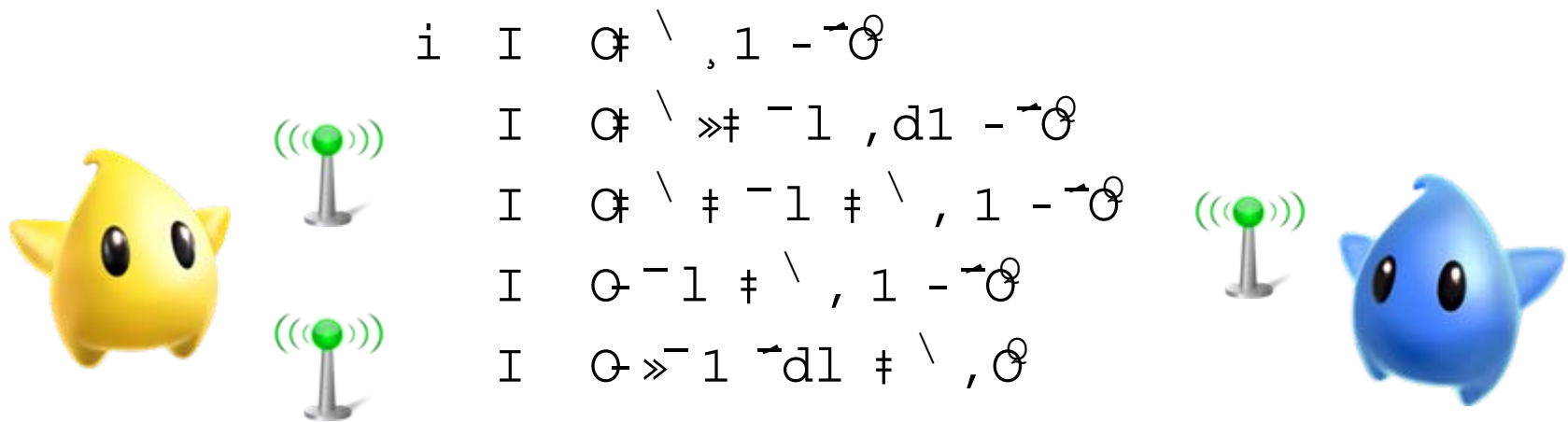
- Over both symbol periods, Bob receives:

$$r = \begin{bmatrix} r_1 \\ r_2 \end{bmatrix}$$



The Alamouti 2 by 1 STBC is essentially a spatial repeater with a decoding trick.

- Bob decodes by selecting the symbol-tuple that minimizes the decoding metric:



Note: $\begin{matrix} \dagger \\ - \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \backslash \\ / \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \dagger \\ \dagger \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} I \\ I \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} - \\ - \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} Q \\ Q \end{matrix}$

$- I \begin{matrix} Q_f \\ Q_f \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} Q \\ Q \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} Q \\ Q \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} Q \\ Q \end{matrix}$



We investigate the impact of jamming the channel estimate for the Alamouti 2 by 1 STBC.

- Eve jams: \hat{h}_1, \hat{h}_2
- Bob *now* selects the symbol-tuple that minimizes the jammed decoding metric:



$$\begin{aligned}
 i_0 &= \arg \min_{i_0} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}_1 \mathbf{x}_{i_0}\|^2 \\
 &= \arg \min_{i_0} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}_1 \mathbf{x}_{i_0}\|^2 \\
 &= \arg \min_{i_0} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}_1 \mathbf{x}_{i_0}\|^2 \\
 &= \arg \min_{i_0} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}_1 \mathbf{x}_{i_0}\|^2
 \end{aligned}$$

Note: $\mathbf{H}_1 = \mathbf{H}_1 \mathbf{H}_1^H$

Eve's goal

Maximize d_j for the proper symbol-tuple, minimize it otherwise

Forcing minimization for the Alamouti 2 by 1 STBC can be done in multiple ways.

- Metric minimization occurs when $\| \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H} \mathbf{x} \|^2$

– 2 interesting cases:

(1) $\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ Not covert

(2) $\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$

decoding metric

$$\begin{aligned}
 i_0 & \quad \mathbf{I} \quad \mathbf{G}^T \backslash, 1 \quad \mathbf{d} \\
 & \quad \mathbf{I} \quad \mathbf{G}^T \backslash \gg \mathbf{1}^{-1}, \mathbf{d} \mathbf{1} \quad \mathbf{d} \\
 & \quad \mathbf{I} \quad \mathbf{G}^T \backslash \gg \mathbf{1}^{-1}, 1 \quad \mathbf{1} \quad \mathbf{d} \\
 & \quad \mathbf{I} \quad \mathbf{G}^T \backslash \gg \mathbf{1}^{-1} \quad \mathbf{1} \quad \mathbf{d} \mathbf{1} \quad \mathbf{1} \quad \mathbf{d}
 \end{aligned}$$

- Notable Attacks

– Selective Symbol Jamming

Force Bob to decode symbol-tuples Eve desires!

– Oscillating Channel Inversion Attack

Guaranteed jamming performance with no CSI!

With ample control, Eve can force Bob to decode the symbol-tuples that she desires.

- Selective Symbol Jamming

– Eve chooses: $\hat{c} = [I \ \hat{c} \ -I \ -\hat{c}]^T$

where $\hat{c} = [c_1 \ c_2]^T$

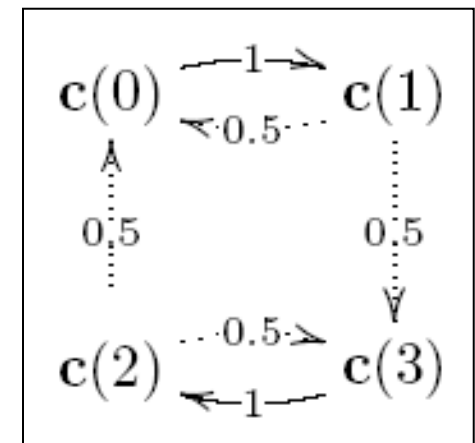
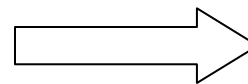
BPSK Example using $h = [7 \ -8]$

BPSK Symbol Tuples			
$c(0)$	$c(1)$	$c(2)$	$c(3)$
-1	-1	1	1
-1	1	-1	1

Eve's goal: Make Bob decode $c(1)$ not $c(0)$.

Transmitted $c(0)$	Decoded $c(1)$	\hat{G}	Metrics			
			$c(0)$	$c(1)$	$c(2)$	$c(3)$
-1	-1	-0.5 0.5	160	0	320	160
-1	1	-7.5 7.5				

But, jamming also affects the other transmitted symbol tuples.



With ample control, Eve can force Bob to decode the symbol-tuples that she desires.

- Selective Symbol Jamming

- But, the format of G may be constrained:
- Viable solutions still exist.

$$\begin{matrix} \gg & \% & k & w \\ \dagger & I & k & \\ & & 1 & \% \end{matrix}$$

BPSK Example using $h = [7 \ -8]$

BPSK Symbol Tuples			
c(0)	c(1)	c(2)	c(3)
-1	-1	1	1
-1	1	-1	1

Eve's goal: Make Bob decode c(1) not c(0).

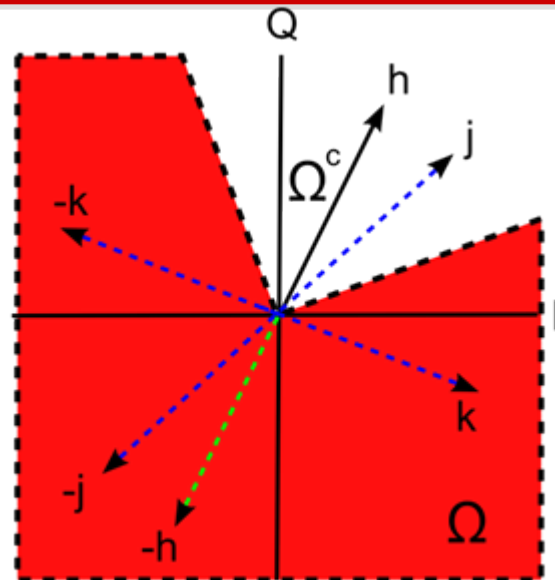
Now use: $\hat{i} \ I \ \hat{1} \ -1 \ mh$

Jammed Metrics				
TX \ RX	c(0)	c(1)	c(2)	c(3)
c(0)	210	21	319	241
c(1)	319	210	241	21
c(2)	21	241	210	319
c(3)	241	319	21	210

Symbol-tuple Transitions			
c(0)	→	c(1)	
			↓
		c(3)	←
	↑		
c(2)			

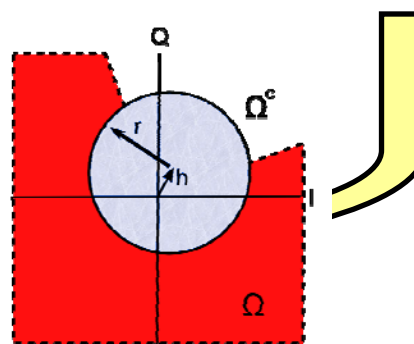
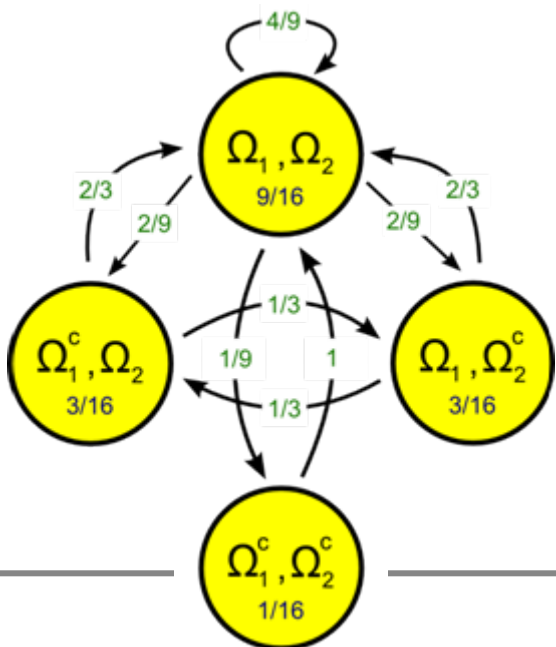
Without CSI or complete RF control, Eve can still effectively jam the Alamouti STBC.

- Optimal Jamming Region is constellation specific
- Oscillating Channel Inversion Attack
 - For single antenna using QPSK, $P(\Omega) = 3/4$ (when $J/S \gg 0$ dB)
 - Oscillating by 180 guarantees jamming region penetration



Single Antenna Jamming Region

Dual Antenna Jamming Region FSM



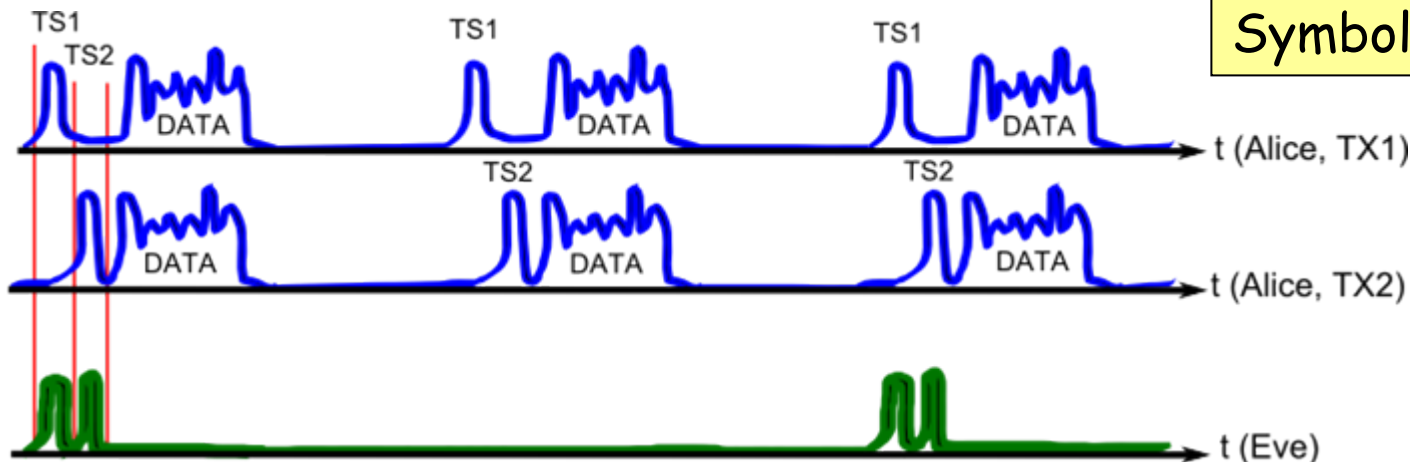
$J/S \gg 0$ dB

The oscillating channel inversion attack was successful in a real-world experiment.

- GNU Radio/USRP
 - × *Alamouti 2 by 1 STBC*
 - 1800 MHz
 - 12 QPSK symbols @12.5 kBd
- Arbitrary Waveform Generator
 - × *Incremental 90 degrees per attack*



J/S ~ 10 dB
Symbol Error Rate 0.65



Attacking the CSI Procedure in MIMO Systems is viable, effective, and efficient.

- CSI plays an important role in most MIMO systems.
- Jamming the CSI represents a powerful point of attack
 - SVD-based MIMO
 - Alamouti STBC
 - × *Real world experimentation using 2 by 1 STBC*
 - × *Extensions to higher order antenna constellations straightforward*



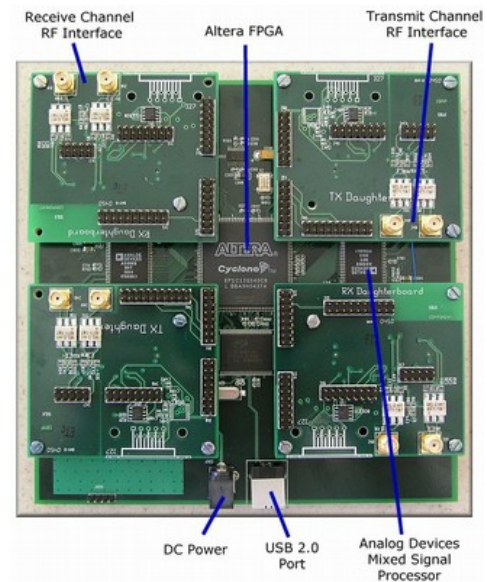
Questions & Comments?



Extra Slides Follow



**GNU Radio**
the gnu software radio



Jamming SVD-based MIMO

- Unknown E can be a serious problem
 - SVD is non-continuous function:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{I} \\ \backslash \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \gg \\ f \\ H \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} H \\ f \end{array} \\
 & & \begin{array}{c} V \\ 1 \end{array} \\
 & & \begin{array}{c} W \\ V \end{array}
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{I} \\ \backslash \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \gg \\ H \\ V \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} V \\ 1 \end{array} \\
 & & \begin{array}{c} V \\ 1 \end{array} \\
 & & \begin{array}{c} W \\ V \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

SVD

- Only of concern for close singular values...

45° shift in eigenvector space!

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{I} \\ \text{;} \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \gg \\ f \\ H \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} H \\ f \end{array} \\
 & & \begin{array}{c} V \\ 1 \end{array} \\
 & & \begin{array}{c} W \\ V \end{array}
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{I} \\ \text{;} \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \gg \\ f \\ \text{D} \\ \text{Q} \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} f \\ f \end{array} \\
 & & \begin{array}{c} f \\ 1 \end{array} \\
 & & \begin{array}{c} W \\ f \end{array}
 \end{array}$$



Jamming SVD-based MIMO

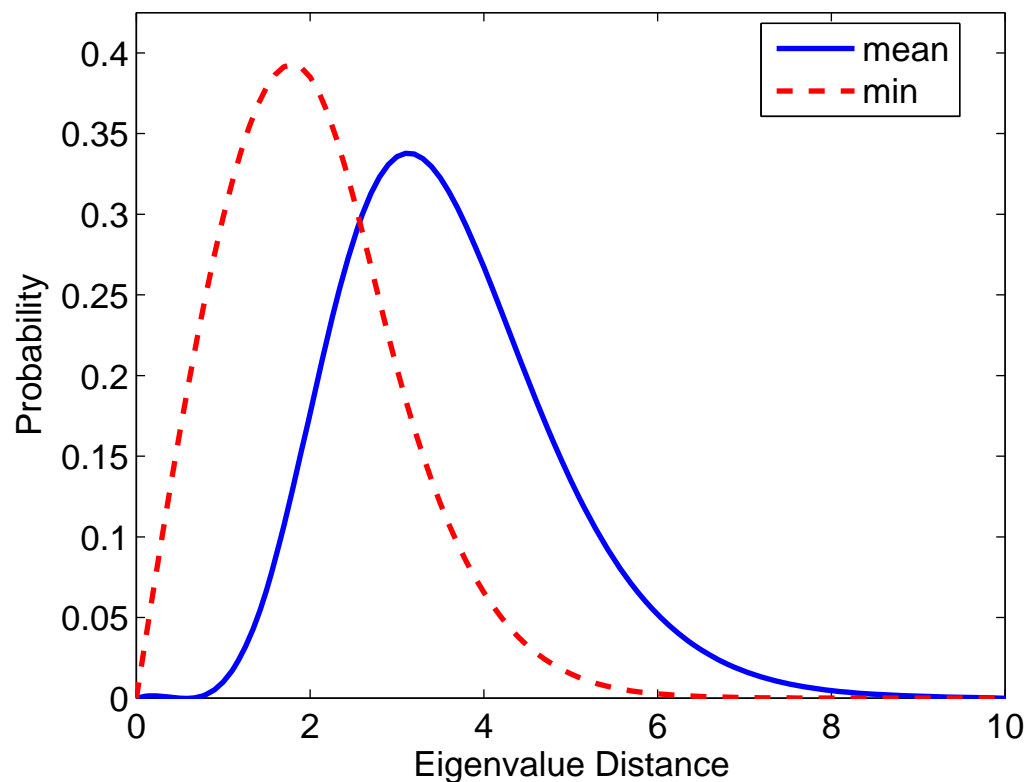
- Close singular values in real-world channels?
- Consider a Rayleigh Fading MIMO channel
 - Uncorrelated Antenna elements
 - Singular values are roots of the eigenvalues of the central Wishart matrix: $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{I} \setminus \setminus \setminus$
 - Ordered eigenvalue distribution follows:

$$f(\lambda) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(N) \Gamma(M)} \lambda^{N+M-2} e^{-\lambda} \lambda^{N-1} \lambda^{M-1} \quad \text{for } \lambda \geq 0$$

, where $\mathbf{D} = \frac{1}{3} \mathbf{I}$ and $\mathbf{D} = \frac{1}{3} \mathbf{I}$

Jamming SVD-based MIMO

- Close singular values in real-world channels?
- Rayleigh 3x4
3 Eigenvalues
- Not probable
Reliable
bounding:



S'
 $\gg 5^{\wedge} \gg \backslash 1 \S d1 5^{\wedge} \gg \backslash d0 . L \S L_b^0$
 $\wedge I f$
 $\mathbb{S}^{\wedge} \gg \backslash 1 \S d1 5^{\wedge} \gg \backslash d0 . 5_f \gg \S dI L \S L_Q$