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Low-Overhead Feedback Topology Design for the K-User MIMO Interference Alignment

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Abstract

Since designing a feedback topology is a practical way to implement interference alignment at reduced cost of channel state information (CSI) feedback, six feedback topologies have been presented in prior works for a K-user multiple-input multiple-output interference channel. To fully reveal the potential benefits of the feedback topology in terms of the saving of CSI overhead, we propose a new feedback topology in this paper. By efficiently performing dimensionality-decreasing at the transmitter side and aligning interference signals at a subset of receivers, we show that the proposed feedback topology obtains substantial reduction of feedback cost over the existing six feedback designs under the same antenna configuration.

Keywords: Interference alignment, channel state information, feedback topology, interference channel, multiple-input-multiple-output

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1. Introduction

Interference alignment (IA) is an advanced technique for multi-node coordination as it is optimal in terms of degrees of freedom (DoF) at high signal-to-noise ratio regime, and thus IA can be exploited in interference channel [1], relay based wireless networks [2-3], heterogeneous networks [4], etc. In fact, the DoF gains of IA are obtained by designing IA precoders whose computations require sufficient channel state information (CSI) at the transmitters (Txs). To determine IA precoders, two types of approaches can be applied to tackle the CSI acquisition issue: reciprocity and feedback [5]. For time division duplex (TDD) systems where ideal uplink-downlink reciprocity of the radio channels is assumed, after each base station acquires the channel knowledge for its downlink channels by estimating the uplink counterparts, these local CSIs are exchanged between the base stations so as to calculate IA precoders [6-7]. However, in practice, channel reciprocity cannot be directly utilized due to radio frequency circuits discrepancy, so that a TDD system needs to be tightly calibrated before exploiting reciprocity [8-9]. On the other hand, for frequency division duplex (FDD) systems where reciprocity does not hold, each receiver (Rx) feeds back the information about the estimated CSIs to all Txs for the implementation of IA [10-11]. This feedback mechanism is called the full-feedback topology in [12], which incurs an unacceptable feedback overhead penalty.

For the K-user multiple-input-multiple-output (MIMO) interference channel, due to the impracticality of the excessively high-overhead feedback in the full-feedback topology, two centralized feedback topologies and a CSI-exchange topology were provided in [12] to reduce the CSI feedback cost to a reasonable level. Then in [13], three improved feedback structures were presented to lower the CSI overhead or decrease the time delay for those feedback designs in [12]. Consider the existing six feedback topologies. The two-hop centralized topologies either impose heavy computation and feedback burden on a CSI collecting Rx or introduce an additional CSI control station. By separating the centralized task of computation and feedback for all precoders at one designated node into a few distributed subtasks at several designated Rxs, the distributed feedback topology not only overcomes the above drawbacks of the centralized structures, but also attains dramatic reduction of CSI overhead. In addition, by simply re-arranging the information exchange order, the modified CSI-exchange design shortens transmission delay in the original CSI-exchange design. Besides, the four-hop feedback topology, which employs 4 time slots to determine all IA precoders, has the lowest CSI overhead among the existing six feedback structures.

From [14, Table V], designing a feedback topology is one of the effective methods for solving the CSI acquisition problem. Although six feedback structures have already been provided based on specific closed-form IA solutions in the field of feedback topology construction, it does not mean that the potential advantage of feedback topologies in the saving of CSI overhead has been completely revealed. In other words, it is possible to design a new feedback structure with less CSI overhead by finding an appropriate closed-form IA solution different from those used in the existing six feedback topologies, because multiple IA solutions exist in the K-user MIMO interference channel [15-16]. For this reason, in this paper, we concentrate on the CSI overhead reduction from the perspective of feedback topology design based on closed-form IA solution.

Note that a number of research works are devoted to the reduction of feedback overhead for IA [17-24], among which, two related works focusing on the MIMO interference channel have

been done in [17] and [18]. One difference between the feedback topology in this work and the schemes in [17] and [18] is that the proposed feedback topology allows CSI exchange between the Rxs (this Rx cooperation is also exploited in [12] and [13]), while the case of no Rx cooperation is investigated in [17] and [18]. Additionally, the IA precoders in [17] and [18] are computed by iterative approaches under arbitrary antenna configurations, whereas the precoders in the feedback topologies studied in [12-13] and this work, are derived by closed-form IA solutions under specific antenna configurations. Compared to the closed-form solutions, the iterative IA approaches have significantly high computational complexity. Therefore, the closed-form IA solutions are more suitable for practical implementation than the iterative algorithms. This motivates us to pursue the saving of CSI overhead in the field of feedback topology design.

In this paper, we consider the MIMO interference channel under the same antenna configuration as that discussed in [12] and [13]. The main contributions of this paper are summarized as follows: 1) We develop a specific closed-form IA solution with which a new feedback structure is proposed. By making partial interference signals aligned at a subset of Rxs after efficiently exploiting dimensionality-decreasing at the Tx side, the proposed feedback structure requires lower CSI overhead to complete the computation and delivery of IA precoders compared to the existing feedback designs. 2) Since feedback topology is classified as one of the methods aiming at overcoming the CSI problem of IA [14], we further reveal the advantage of feedback topology in terms of CSI overhead reduction by providing the proposed low-overhead feedback topology.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. The system model is introduced in Section 2. In Section 3, we present the proposed feedback topology. Section 4 compares the proposed feedback topology to the existing designs. Conclusions are given in Section 5.

2. System Model

The K-user MIMO interference channel is comprised of K Tx-Rx pairs with M antennas at each node. Each Tx exploits a linear precoder to transmit d data streams to its corresponding Rx. Here, the antenna configuration of M = (K-1)d for $K \ge 4$ is considered in this paper as in [13]. Denoting \mathbf{y}_i as the signal received at Rx i, \mathbf{y}_i can be written as

$$\mathbf{y}_{i} = \sqrt{\frac{P}{d}} \mathbf{H}_{ii} \mathbf{V}_{i} \mathbf{s}_{i} + \sqrt{\frac{P}{d}} \sum_{j=1, i \neq i}^{K} \mathbf{H}_{ij} \mathbf{V}_{j} \mathbf{s}_{j} + \mathbf{n}_{i}$$

$$(1)$$

where \mathbf{n}_i denotes the additive white Gaussian noise vector with the covariance matrix \mathbf{I}_M observed at $\mathrm{Rx}\ i$, $\mathbf{s}_i = [\mathbf{s}_i^{[1]} \cdots \mathbf{s}_i^{[d]}]^T$ stands for the $d \times 1$ data vector with each entry having zero mean and unit variance transmitted from $\mathrm{Tx}\ i$, $\mathbf{V}_i = [\mathbf{v}_i^{[1]} \cdots \mathbf{v}_i^{[d]}]$ is the precoder of size $M \times d$ at $\mathrm{Tx}\ i$, P denotes the transmission power, and \mathbf{H}_{ij} indicates the channel matrix of size $M \times M$ from $\mathrm{Tx}\ j$ to $\mathrm{Rx}\ i$. It is assumed that the channel elements are sampled from independent identically distributed (i.i.d.) complex Gaussian random variables with zero mean and unit variance. In addition, the receive filter of size $M \times d$ at $\mathrm{Rx}\ i$ is denoted as $\mathbf{U}_i = [\mathbf{u}_i^{[1]} \cdots \mathbf{u}_i^{[d]}]$. As in [12], we assume that each column of the precoder \mathbf{V}_i and each column of the receive filter \mathbf{U}_i are normalized to have unit norm, i.e., $\|\mathbf{v}_i^{[l]}\|^2 = \|\mathbf{u}_i^{[l]}\|^2 = 1$ for

 $\forall l \in \{1, \dots, d\}$. Through the proposed transceiver design, all interference signals can be cancelled completely, so that the achievable sum rate is given by

$$R_{sum_rate} = \sum_{i=1}^{K} \sum_{l=1}^{d} \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{P}{d} \left| \left(\mathbf{u}_i^{[l]} \right)^H \mathbf{H}_{ii} \mathbf{v}_i^{[l]} \right|^2 \right). \tag{2}$$

Notably, in this paper, the FDD system is taken into account, and the CSI overhead refers to the total number of complex coefficients used for the exchange of CSI and precoders as in [12] and [13].

3. Low-Overhead Feedback Topology

In this section, we first briefly describe the key idea of the proposed feedback design. Then, we introduce the proposed low-overhead feedback topology for the K-user MIMO interference channel under the antenna configuration of M = (K-1)d.

3.1 The Key to Proposed Feedback Topology

From [18], the antenna configuration of M = (K-1)d considered here is a super-feasible antenna setting where each node has redundant antennas which can be ignored without affecting the DoF characterization. Therefore, if we ignore some of these redundant antennas, it is possible to reduce the overhead of CSI feedback because the number of complex coefficients of the channel matrix becomes small. Two methods can be used for ignoring M-N (where $d \le N < M$) antennas at a Tx: randomly selecting N antennas while powering off others, and using a randomly picked auxiliary precoder of size $M \times N$. For the sake of clarity in description of the IA precoder design for the feedback topology, here we choose the precoding method. After Tx j sends a randomly picked auxiliary precoder $\mathbf{v}_i \in \mathbf{C}^{M \times N}$, the effective channel matrix $\mathbf{H}_{ij} \mathbf{v}_i$ seen at Rx i, $\forall i$, is of size $M \times N$. This implies that we can equivalently think that the spatial dimensions provided by the transmit antennas at Tx i using a randomly picked precoder is decreased from M to N. We refer to this precoding process as dimensionality-decreasing at the Tx side. It is worth noting that a precoder of size $M \times d$ can be formulated as two cascaded precoders in the proposed feedback design. The preceding precoder named as auxiliary precoder is used to perform dimensionality-decreasing, eliminate interference, or zero force interference after implementing dimensionality-decreasing, while the subsequent precoder named as combining precoder is designed to align interference.

Now, let us roughly review the precoder designs of the existing six feedback structures. The four-hop topology carries out dimensionality-decreasing by randomly picking the precoders of (K-3) designated Txs, and constructs the precoders of other three Txs so as to let two interference signals be aligned at each of the three designated Rxs, whereas the other existing feedback topologies design all precoders to ensure that two cross-link interferences are overlapped at each of the K Rxs. Due to the fact that the CSI overhead of the four-hop topology is lower than those of other existing feedback designs, the four-hop topology is able to benefit from its distinctive precoder design to achieve a CSI overhead reduction.

Inspired by the four-hop feedback topology, in this work we aim to establish a new feedback topology to seek a further saving of CSI overhead. The key idea behind the proposed feedback topology is an efficient way to exploit the dimensionality-decreasing at the Tx side, and align

interference signals at a subset of Rxs. To be specific, for the proposed feedback topology, we employ the dimensionality-decreasing in a flexible fashion to allow a certain Tx to remain N (where $d \le N < M$) dimensions after ignoring M - N redundant antennas. Additionally, in order to let a subset of Rxs observe aligned interference signals, the precoders used for implementing alignment in the proposed topology can be computed in different time slots. In contrast, for the four-hop feedback structure, the number of remaining dimensions at a certain Tx after applying the dimensionality-decreasing is fixed to d, and the precoders used for carrying out alignment are calculated during one time slot.

Relying on the proposed idea, we will provide the detailed design of the new feedback topology in the following subsections. The proposed feedback topology consists of the derivation of the closed-form IA solution, and the exchange of information used for acquiring precoders at the Tx side. Our topology is carried out in three phases. In phase 1, using two time slots, the precoders of size $M \times d$ for Txs 1, 2, ..., (K-2) are obtained at the corresponding TXs, and then the cross-link interferences from these (K-2) Txs are eliminated at the Rx side. In phase 2, employing one time slot, Tx (K-1) and Tx K acquire their corresponding auxiliary precoders of size $M \times 2d$. In phase 3, by spending three time slots, the combining precoders of size $2d \times d$ are attained at Tx (K-1) and Tx K. To facilitate the exposition, we start with the K=4 case.

3.2 Proposed Feedback Topology for K = 4

In this subsection, we consider the case of K = 4 to explain the key idea of the proposed feedback topology in detail. For this case, there are 12 cross-links in the system, so that the precoders and receive filters are designed to cancel all cross-link interferences as illustrated in **Fig. 1**. Note that, in **Fig. 1** (also in **Fig. 3** and **Fig. 5**), the directions of green arrows indicate the nodes that implement zero-forcing to nullify interference signals, and the red arrows indicate the aligned effective interference channels.

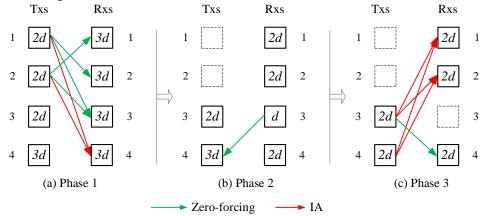


Fig. 1. Illustration of how to eliminate all cross-link interferences when K=4

For the case of K=4, each node is equipped with 3d antennas. In order to implement the dimensionality-decreasing at the Tx side, we randomly generate the auxiliary precoders $\mathbf{v}_1 \in \mathbf{C}^{3d \times 2d}$, $\mathbf{v}_2 \in \mathbf{C}^{3d \times 2d}$, and $\mathbf{v}_3 \in \mathbf{C}^{3d \times 2d}$ for Tx 1, Tx 2, and Tx 3, respectively. After applying these auxiliary precoders, we can equivalently think that the numbers of antennas at Txs 1, 2, and 3 become 2d. Then Txs 1 and 2 send precoded pilot symbols using their

predetermined auxiliary precoders \mathbf{v}_1 and \mathbf{v}_2 , respectively. Remarkably, the initial pilot sending procedure is not involved in the total required time slots for the feedback structures in [12] and [13]. Accordingly, when counting the number of time slots needed for the proposed feedback design, we do not consider the time slot used for the initial pilot transmission either. Therefore, the proposed topology for K=4 demands 6 time slots in total to complete the calculation and delivery of IA precoders. The detailed design process is explained as follows.

1) Phase 1: Two time slots are employed in this phase. In time slot 1, after Rx 4 estimates the interfering effective channels from Txs 1 and 2 (i.e., $\mathbf{H}_{41}\mathbf{v}_1$ and $\mathbf{H}_{42}\mathbf{v}_2$), as depicted in **Fig. 1(a)**, two combining precoders $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_1 \in \mathbf{C}^{2d \times d}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_2 \in \mathbf{C}^{2d \times d}$ are designed to make the interfering links from Txs 1 and 2 to Rx 4 span the same subspace:

$$span(\mathbf{H}_{41}\mathbf{v}_1\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_1) = span(\mathbf{H}_{42}\mathbf{v}_2\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_2) \tag{3}$$

where $span(\cdot)$ denotes the space spanned by the column vectors of a matrix. To satisfy this condition, we formulate the following matrix equation,

$$\left[\mathbf{H}_{41} \mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{H}_{42} \mathbf{v}_2 \right] \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_1 \\ \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{F} \mathbf{G} = 0.$$
 (4)

Since the size of the matrix \mathbf{F} is $3d \times 4d$, \mathbf{G} can be chosen as d basis vectors of the null space of \mathbf{F} , from which $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_1$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_2$ can be acquired at Rx 4. Then the two computed combining precoders are fed back from Rx 4 to the corresponding Txs, and thus we have $\mathbf{V}_1 = \mathbf{v}_1 \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_1$ and $\mathbf{V}_2 = \mathbf{v}_2 \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_2$ at Txs 1 and 2, respectively.

In the second time slot, as illustrated in Fig. 2, Txs 1 and 2 forward precoded pilot symbols using the obtained precoders $\mathbf{V}_1 \in \mathbf{C}^{3d \times d}$ and $\mathbf{V}_2 \in \mathbf{C}^{3d \times d}$ respectively, while Tx 4 transmits non-precoded pilots at the same time. Hence, Rx i, $i \in \{1,2,3,4\}$, is capable of estimating the interfering effective channels $\mathbf{H}_{ij}\mathbf{V}_j$ (j=1,2 and $j \neq i$). Now, we design the auxiliary receive filters $\mathbf{u}_1 \in \mathbf{C}^{3d \times 2d}$, $\mathbf{u}_2 \in \mathbf{C}^{3d \times 2d}$, $\mathbf{u}_4 \in \mathbf{C}^{3d \times 2d}$ for Rxs 1, 2, 4, respectively, and the receive filter $\mathbf{U}_3 \in \mathbf{C}^{3d \times d}$ for Rx 3, so as to suppress the interferences caused by Tx 1 and Tx 2 at the Rx side.

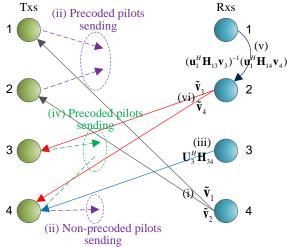


Fig. 2. Illustration of the CSI signaling exchange procedure for the proposed feedback topology when K = 4

For Rx 1, the auxiliary receive filter \mathbf{u}_1 can be calculated as

$$\mathbf{u}_{1} \subset null\left(\mathbf{V}_{2}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{12}^{H}\right) \tag{5}$$

where $null(\cdot)$ denotes an orthonormal basis for the null space of a matrix. Since $\mathbf{V}_2^H \mathbf{H}_{12}^H$ is a $d \times 3d$ matrix, \mathbf{u}_1 is chosen as 2d basis vectors of the null space of $\mathbf{V}_2^H \mathbf{H}_{12}^H$.

In a similar fashion, the auxiliary receive filter \mathbf{u}_2 for Rx 2 can be obtained as

$$\mathbf{u}_{2} \subset null\left(\mathbf{V}_{1}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{21}^{H}\right) \tag{6}$$

where $\mathbf{V}_1^H \mathbf{H}_{21}^H$ is a $d \times 3d$ matrix which has a 2d-dimensional null space. Thus, \mathbf{u}_2 is determined as 2d basis vectors of the null space of $\mathbf{V}_1^H \mathbf{H}_{21}^H$.

Next, the receive filter U_3 for Rx 3 is given by

$$\mathbf{U}_{3} \subset null \left(\left[\left(\mathbf{V}_{1}^{H} \mathbf{H}_{31}^{H} \right)^{H} \left(\mathbf{V}_{2}^{H} \mathbf{H}_{32}^{H} \right)^{H} \right]^{H} \right). \tag{7}$$

Here, \mathbf{U}_3 can be obtained as d basis vectors of the null space of $\left[(\mathbf{V}_1^H \mathbf{H}_{31}^H)^H \ (\mathbf{V}_2^H \mathbf{H}_{32}^H)^H \right]^H.$

Because the interfering links from Txs 1 and 2 to Rx 4 are aligned with each other, Rx 4 is able to consider two different interferers as one interferer which spans d dimensional subspace. Therefore, the auxiliary receive filter \mathbf{u}_4 can be constructed as 2d linearly independent vectors of the null space of $\mathbf{V}_1^H \mathbf{H}_{41}^H$:

$$\mathbf{u}_4 \subset null(\mathbf{V}_1^H \mathbf{H}_{41}^H). \tag{8}$$

So far, 6 interfering links from Tx 1 and Tx 2 are zero forced at the unintended Rxs. Notably, once all interfering links connected to a certain node have been eliminated, this node is discarded from the system in Fig. 1 (also in Fig. 3 and Fig. 5) for simplicity of exposition.

2) Phase 2: One time slot is used in phase 2. Recall that Tx 4 conveys non-precoded pilots during the second time slot. This means that Rx 3 is capable of estimating the cross-link channel from Tx 4 to Rx 3, i.e., \mathbf{H}_{34} . In time slot 3, Rx 3 feeds back $\mathbf{U}_3^H \mathbf{H}_{34}$ of size $d \times 3d$ to Tx 4. As shown in **Fig. 1(b)**, the design goal of the auxiliary precoders $\mathbf{v}_4 \in \mathbf{C}^{3d \times 2d}$ is to cancel the interfering link between Tx 4 and Rx 3, i.e.,

$$\mathbf{v}_4 \subset null(\mathbf{U}_3^H \mathbf{H}_{34}). \tag{9}$$

Simply, \mathbf{v}_4 is determined as 2d basis vectors of the null space of $\mathbf{U}_3^H \mathbf{H}_{34}$, and thus Tx 4 obtains its auxiliary precoder \mathbf{v}_4 . Besides, note that the randomly generated auxiliary precoder \mathbf{v}_3 is already acquired at Tx 3 through the dimensionality-decreasing process.

3) Phase 3: This phase spans 3 time slots. In time slot 4, Txs 3 and 4 transmit precoded pilot symbols using the obtained auxiliary precoders \mathbf{v}_3 and \mathbf{v}_4 respectively, so that Rx 1 and Rx 2 can estimate the interfering channels from Txs 3 and 4. Now, as illustrated in Fig. 1(c), at each of Rx 1 and Rx 2, the interferences caused by Txs 3 and 4 should be aligned in the same subspace. To this end, two combining precoders $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_3 \in \mathbf{C}^{2d \times d}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_4 \in \mathbf{C}^{2d \times d}$ are designed to

satisfy the following interference aligning conditions:

$$span(\mathbf{u}_{1}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{13}\mathbf{v}_{3}\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{3}) = span(\mathbf{u}_{1}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{14}\mathbf{v}_{4}\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{4}),$$

$$span(\mathbf{u}_{2}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{23}\mathbf{v}_{3}\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{3}) = span(\mathbf{u}_{2}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{24}\mathbf{v}_{4}\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{4}).$$
(10)

The combining precoders in (10) can be computed as

$$\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{3} = eig\left(\left(\mathbf{u}_{1}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{13}\mathbf{v}_{3}\right)^{-1}\left(\mathbf{u}_{1}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{14}\mathbf{v}_{4}\right)\left(\mathbf{u}_{2}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{24}\mathbf{v}_{4}\right)^{-1}\left(\mathbf{u}_{2}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{23}\mathbf{v}_{3}\right)\right),$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{4} = \left(\mathbf{u}_{2}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{24}\mathbf{v}_{4}\right)^{-1}\left(\mathbf{u}_{2}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{23}\mathbf{v}_{3}\right)\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{3},$$
(11)

where $eig(\mathbf{A})$ stands for the matrix containing d eigenvectors of \mathbf{A} .

In time slot 5, the matrix $(\mathbf{u}_1^H \mathbf{H}_{13} \mathbf{v}_3)^{-1} (\mathbf{u}_1^H \mathbf{H}_{14} \mathbf{v}_4)$ of size $2d \times 2d$ is delivered from Rx 1 to Rx 2, and thus Rx 2 is able to obtain $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_3$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_4$ according to (11).

In time slot 6, Rx 2 feeds back $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_3$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_4$ to the corresponding Txs, so that $\mathbf{V}_3 = \mathbf{v}_3 \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_3$ is acquired at Tx 3 and $\mathbf{V}_4 = \mathbf{v}_4 \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_4$ is obtained at Tx 4. Now, let us consider the remaining interfering links which are not cancelled so far. As can be seen in Fig. 1(c), the interference signals from Txs 3 and 4 are aligned together at each of Rxs 1 and 2, so that each of Rx 1 and Rx 2 with 2d spatial dimensions created by the 2d remaining antennas can keep its desired signal separate from the aligned interferences. Besides, Rx 4 with 2d remaining antennas is able to guarantee d interference-free dimensions after using zero-forcing to discard d dimensions occupied by the interference from Tx 3 to Rx 4.

Table 1. Implementation of the proposed feedback topology for K = 4

- (a) The combining precoders $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_1$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_2$ of size $2d \times d$ are sent from Rx 4 to the corresponding Txs;
- (b) Txs 1, 2 and 4 transmit pilot symbols;
- (c) The $d \times 3d$ matrix $\mathbf{U}_{3}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{34}$ is delivered from Rx 3 to Tx 4;
- (d) Tx 3 and Tx 4 forward pilot symbols;
- (e) Rx 1 conveys $\left(\mathbf{u}_{1}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{13}\mathbf{v}_{3}\right)^{-1}\left(\mathbf{u}_{1}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{14}\mathbf{v}_{4}\right)$ of size $2d \times 2d$ to Rx 2;
- (f) Rx 2 feeds back $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_3$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_4$ of size $2d \times d$ to the corresponding Txs.

Finally, it is clear that a total of 12 cross-link interferences can be zero forced completely via the transceiver design shown in **Fig. 1**. Remarkably, in [12] and [13], counting the required number of time slots for the feedback topologies is terminated once all IA precoders are obtained at the Tx side. Obeying this counting criterion, 6 time slots are needed for the proposed feedback structure for K = 4 to implement IA, as shown in **Table 1**. In summary, adding up the CSI overhead in (a), (c), (e) and (f) in **Table 1**, the total CSI overhead in the proposed feedback topology for the case of K = 4 is $15d^2$.

3.3 Proposed Feedback Topology for K = 5

For the K = 5 case where each node has 4d antennas, dimensionality-decreasing is

performed at each of the K Txs. It is worth pointing out that, in this case each of the auxiliary precoders of Tx 4 and Tx 5 is given as two cascaded precoders: the first auxiliary precoder is employed to carry out dimensionality-decreasing, and the second auxiliary precoder is designed to zero force interference. Here, we randomly pick the precoder $\mathbf{V}_1 \in \mathbf{C}^{4d \times d}$ for Tx 1, the auxiliary precoders $\mathbf{v}_2 \in \mathbf{C}^{4d \times 2d}$, $\mathbf{v}_3 \in \mathbf{C}^{4d \times 3d}$ for Tx 2 and Tx 3 respectively, and the first auxiliary precoders $\mathbf{v}_4^{(1)} \in \mathbf{C}^{4d \times 3d}$, $\mathbf{v}_5^{(1)} \in \mathbf{C}^{4d \times 3d}$ for Tx 4 and Tx 5 respectively.

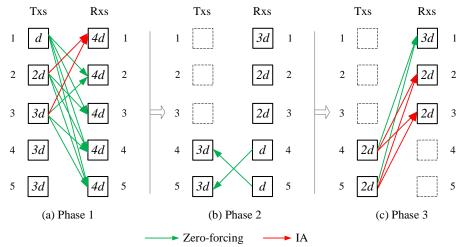


Fig. 3. Illustration of how to eliminate all cross-link interferences when K = 5

1) Phase 1: After applying the auxiliary precoders \mathbf{v}_2 and \mathbf{v}_3 at Txs 2 and 3 respectively, as depicted in Fig. 3(a), the interfering links from Txs 2 and 3 to Rx 1 can be aligned together via the design of the two combining precoders $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_2 \in \mathbf{C}^{2d \times d}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_3 \in \mathbf{C}^{3d \times d}$ which satisfy the condition:

$$\left[\mathbf{H}_{12} \mathbf{v}_2 - \mathbf{H}_{13} \mathbf{v}_3 \right] \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_2 \\ \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0.$$
 (12)

Since the size of the matrix $[\mathbf{H}_{12}\mathbf{v}_2 - \mathbf{H}_{13}\mathbf{v}_3]$ is $4d \times 5d$, it turns out that $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_2$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_3$ can be computed definitely. Once the two combining precoders $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_2$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_3$ are delivered from Rx 1 to the corresponding Txs, the two precoders $\mathbf{V}_2 = \mathbf{v}_2 \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_2$ and $\mathbf{V}_3 = \mathbf{v}_3 \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_3$ are constructed at Tx 2 and Tx 3, respectively.

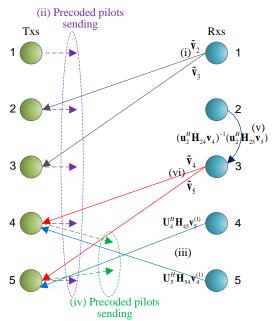


Fig. 4. Illustration of the CSI signaling exchange procedure for the proposed feedback topology when K = 5

Then, as shown in **Fig. 4**, each of Txs 1, 2 and 3 transmits precoded pilot symbols using its precoder of size $4d \times d$, while Tx 4 and Tx 5 send precoded pilot symbols using $\mathbf{v}_4^{(1)}$ and $\mathbf{v}_5^{(1)}$ respectively. After channel estimation, all interferences caused by Txs 1, 2 and 3 can be eliminated at the Rx side as shown in **Fig. 3(a)**. To this end, the receive filter (or auxiliary receive filter) of Rx n, $n \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$, is designed to lie in the null space of the interference subspace containing the cross-link interferences from Txs 1, 2 and 3 to Rx n. In this way, the auxiliary receive filters $\mathbf{u}_1 \in \mathbf{C}^{4d \times 3d}$, $\mathbf{u}_2 \in \mathbf{C}^{4d \times 2d}$, $\mathbf{u}_3 \in \mathbf{C}^{4d \times 2d}$, and the receive filters $\mathbf{U}_4 \in \mathbf{C}^{4d \times d}$, $\mathbf{U}_5 \in \mathbf{C}^{4d \times d}$, are determined at the corresponding Rxs. Through the design of these receive filters (or auxiliary receive filters), we can equivalently think that Rxs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 discard d, 2d, 2d, 3d and 3d dimensions respectively.

- 2) Phase 2: During this phase, after Rx 4 estimates the effective channel between Tx 5 and Rx 4, i.e., $\mathbf{H}_{45}\mathbf{v}_5^{(1)}$, it feeds back $\mathbf{U}_4^H\mathbf{H}_{45}\mathbf{v}_5^{(1)}$ of size $d\times 3d$ to Tx 5. At the same time, Rx 5 feeds back $\mathbf{U}_5^H\mathbf{H}_{54}\mathbf{v}_4^{(1)}$ of size $d\times 3d$ to Tx 4. Therefore, as illustrated in Fig. 3(b), Tx 5 can avoid causing interference at Rx 4 by using the second auxiliary precoder $\mathbf{v}_5^{(2)} \in \mathbf{C}^{3d\times 2d}$ which lies in the null space of $\mathbf{U}_4^H\mathbf{H}_{45}\mathbf{v}_5^{(1)}$. Once the first and second auxiliary precoders of Tx 5 are determined, the auxiliary precoder $\mathbf{v}_5 = \mathbf{v}_5^{(1)}\mathbf{v}_5^{(2)}$ is obtained at Tx 5. Similarly, Tx 4 can design its second auxiliary precoder $\mathbf{v}_4^{(2)} \in \mathbf{C}^{3d\times 2d}$ to avoid generating interference at Rx 5, resulting in the acquisition of $\mathbf{v}_4 = \mathbf{v}_4^{(1)}\mathbf{v}_4^{(2)}$ at Tx 4.
- 3) Phase 3: Tx 4 forwards precoded pilot symbols using its auxiliary precoder \mathbf{v}_4 which is of size $4d \times 2d$. Meanwhile, Tx 5 sends precoded pilot symbols using the auxiliary precoder \mathbf{v}_5 which is of size $4d \times 2d$. As a result, Rxs 1, 2, and 3 are capable of estimating the

effective channels from Txs 4 and 5.

As shown in Fig. 3(c), by designing the two combining precoders $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_4 \in \mathbb{C}^{2d \times d}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_5 \in C^{2d \times d}$, the interferences caused by Tx 4 and Tx 5 can be aligned at each of Rx 2 and Rx 3,

$$span(\mathbf{u}_{2}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{24}\mathbf{v}_{4}\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{4}) = span(\mathbf{u}_{2}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{25}\mathbf{v}_{5}\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{5}),$$

$$span(\mathbf{u}_{3}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{34}\mathbf{v}_{4}\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{4}) = span(\mathbf{u}_{3}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{35}\mathbf{v}_{5}\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{5}).$$
(13)

The combining precoders $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_4$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_5$ can be obtained as

$$\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{4} = eig\left(\left(\mathbf{u}_{2}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{24}\mathbf{v}_{4}\right)^{-1}\left(\mathbf{u}_{2}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{25}\mathbf{v}_{5}\right)\left(\mathbf{u}_{3}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{35}\mathbf{v}_{5}\right)^{-1}\left(\mathbf{u}_{3}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{34}\mathbf{v}_{4}\right)\right),$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{5} = \left(\mathbf{u}_{3}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{35}\mathbf{v}_{5}\right)^{-1}\left(\mathbf{u}_{3}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{34}\mathbf{v}_{4}\right)\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{4}.$$
(14)

To calculate $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_4$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_5$ at Rx 3 according to (14), Rx 2 conveys the matrix $(\mathbf{u}_2^H \mathbf{H}_{24} \mathbf{v}_4)^{-1} (\mathbf{u}_2^H \mathbf{H}_{25} \mathbf{v}_5)$ to Rx 3. Once computed, the combining precoders $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_4$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_5$ are delivered from Rx 3 to the corresponding Txs, leading to the acquisition of $V_4 = v_4 \tilde{v}_4$ and $\mathbf{V}_5 = \mathbf{v}_5 \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_5$ at Tx 4 and Tx 5, respectively.

Consider the remaining interfering links between Txs 4, 5 and Rxs 1, 2, 3 shown in Fig. 3(c). Since the interference signals from Tx 4 and Tx 5 are shrunk into the d dimensional subspace at each of Rx 2 and Rx 3, each of Rx 2 and Rx 3 with 2d remaining antennas is capable of making its desired signal orthogonal to the subspace spanned by the aligned interferences. Clearly, Rx 1 having 3d remaining antennas can leave 2d dimensions used for the occupation of the interferences from Tx 4 and Tx 5 while maintaining d interference-free dimensions for the desired signal. Eventually, all 20 interfering links can be removed thoroughly through the transceiver design illustrated in Fig. 3.

- **Table 2.** Implementation of the proposed feedback topology for K = 5 (a) $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_2$ of size $2d \times d$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_3$ of size $3d \times d$ are fed back from Rx 1 to Tx 2 and Tx 3,
- (b) Each Tx sends precoded pilot symbols;
- (c) Rx 4 feeds back $\mathbf{U}_4^H \mathbf{H}_{45} \mathbf{v}_5^{(1)}$ of size $d \times 3d$ to Tx 5, while Rx 5 conveys $\mathbf{U}_5^H \mathbf{H}_{54} \mathbf{v}_4^{(1)}$ of size $d \times 3d$ to Tx 4;
- (d) Tx 4 and Tx 5 transmit precoded pilot symbols;
- (e) $\left(\mathbf{u}_{2}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{24}\mathbf{v}_{4}\right)^{-1}\left(\mathbf{u}_{2}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{25}\mathbf{v}_{5}\right)$ of size $2d \times 2d$ is delivered from Rx 2 to Rx 3;
- (f) Rx 3 feeds back $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_4$ of size $2d \times d$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_5$ of size $2d \times d$ to Tx 4 and Tx 5, respectively.

In conclusion, for the case of K = 5, the proposed feedback design needs 6 time slots to make each IA precoder available at its corresponding Tx, which is shown in Table 2. Adding up the CSI overhead in (a), (c), (e) and (f) in Table 2, the total CSI overhead in the proposed feedback topology for K = 5 is $19d^2$.

3.4 Proposed Feedback Topology for $K \ge 6$

In this subsection, we extend our feedback design to the case of $K \ge 6$. For the $K \ge 6$ case where each node is equipped with (K-1)d antennas, dimensionality-decreasing is applied at each Tx. To be specific, we randomly generate a precoder of size $(K-1)d \times d$ at each of Txs 1, 2, ..., (K-4), independently, so that each of these Txs equivalently has d remaining antennas after applying the corresponding precoder. Additionally, we randomly pick the auxiliary precoders $\mathbf{v}_{K-3} \in \mathbf{C}^{(K-1)d \times 2d}$, $\mathbf{v}_{K-2} \in \mathbf{C}^{(K-1)d \times (K-2)d}$ for Tx (K-3), Tx (K-2) respectively, as well as the first auxiliary precoders $\mathbf{v}_{K-1}^{(1)} \in \mathbf{C}^{(K-1)d \times (K-2)d}$, $\mathbf{v}_{K}^{(1)} \in \mathbf{C}^{(K-1)d \times (K-2)d}$ for Tx (K-1), Tx K respectively. After applying these auxiliary precoders (or first auxiliary precoders), Tx (K-3) equivalently has 2d remaining antennas, and each of Txs (K-2), (K-1), K equivalently remains (K-2)d antennas.

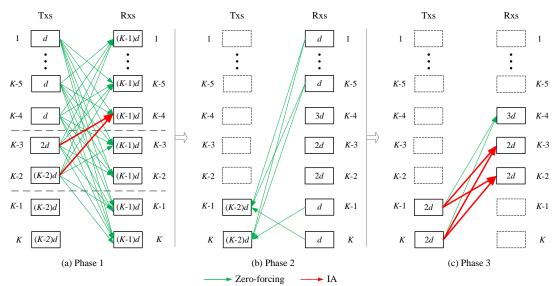


Fig. 5. Illustration of how to eliminate all cross-link interferences when $K \ge 6$

1) Phase 1: As shown in Fig. 5(a), due to the remaining antennas at Txs (K-3) and (K-2), the interference signals from these two Txs to Rx (K-4) can be aligned in the same subspace at Rx (K-4) by designing the combining precoders $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{K-3} \in \mathbb{C}^{2d \times d}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{K-2} \in \mathbb{C}^{(K-2)d \times d}$. Once determined, $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{K-3}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{K-2}$ are conveyed from Rx (K-4) to Tx (K-3) and Tx (K-2) for the construction of the precoders \mathbf{V}_{K-3} and \mathbf{V}_{K-2} respectively. Then each of Txs 1, 2, ..., (K-2) sends precoded pilot symbols using its precoder of size $(K-1)d \times d$, while Tx (K-1) and Tx K forward precoded pilot symbols using $\mathbf{v}_{K-1}^{(1)}$ and $\mathbf{v}_{K}^{(1)}$ respectively, for the purpose of channel estimation at the Rx side.

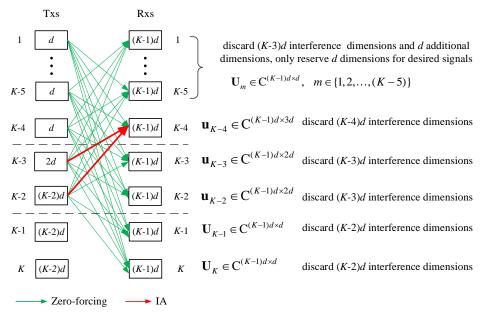


Fig. 6. Illustration of the elimination of interferences from Txs 1, 2, ..., (K-2) at the Rx side during phase 1 when $K \ge 6$

After channel estimation, each Rx removes the interferences caused by Txs 1, 2, ..., (K-2), leading to the determination of the receive filters (or auxiliary receive filters) as shown in Fig. 6.

- **Table 3.** Implementation of the proposed feedback topology for $K \ge 6$ (a) Rx (K-4) feeds back $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{K-3} \in \mathbb{C}^{2d \times d}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{K-2} \in \mathbb{C}^{(K-2)d \times d}$ to Tx (K-3) and Tx (K-2), respectively;
- (b) Each Tx sends precoded pilot symbols;
- (c) Rx m, $m \in \{1, 2, ..., (K-5)\}$, feeds back the $d \times (K-2)d$ matrices $\mathbf{U}_m^H \mathbf{H}_{m(K-1)} \mathbf{v}_{K-1}^{(1)}$ and $\mathbf{U}_m^H \mathbf{H}_{mK} \mathbf{v}_K^{(1)}$ to Tx (K-1) and Tx K respectively, Rx K feeds back the $d \times (K-2)d$ matrix $\mathbf{U}_K^H \mathbf{H}_{K(K-1)} \mathbf{v}_{K-1}^{(1)}$ to Tx (K-1), and Rx (K-1)conveys $\mathbf{U}_{K-1}^H \mathbf{H}_{(K-1)K} \mathbf{v}_K^{(1)}$ of size $d \times (K-2)d$ to Tx K;
- (d) Tx (K-1) and Tx K transmit precoded pilot symbols;
- (e) Rx (K-3) delivers the matrix $\left(\mathbf{u}_{K-3}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{(K-3)(K-1)}\mathbf{v}_{K-1}\right)^{-1}\left(\mathbf{u}_{K-3}^{H}\mathbf{H}_{(K-3)K}\mathbf{v}_{K}\right)$ of size $2d \times 2d$ to Rx (K-2);
- (f) Rx (K-2) feeds back $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{K-1} \in \mathbb{C}^{2d \times d}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_K \in \mathbb{C}^{2d \times d}$ to Tx (K-1) and Tx K, respectively.
- 2) Phase 2: In this phase, as illustrated in Fig. 5(b), the second auxiliary precoder $\mathbf{v}_{K-1}^{(2)} \in \mathbf{C}^{(K-2)d \times 2d}$ is designed to avoid creating interference at Rx $m, m \in \{1, 2, ..., (K-5)\}$, as well as Rx K. Similarly, $\mathbf{v}_{K}^{(2)} \in \mathbb{C}^{(K-2)d \times 2d}$ is determined by avoiding causing interference at Rx m and Rx (K-1). Therefore, in order to calculate $\mathbf{v}_{K-1}^{(2)}$ and $\mathbf{v}_{K}^{(2)}$ at Tx (K-1) and

Tx K respectively, we implement step (c) of the proposed feedback topology shown in **Table**

3) Phase 3: Once $\operatorname{Tx}(K-1)$ and $\operatorname{Tx}K$ acquire the auxiliary precoders $\mathbf{v}_{K-1} = \mathbf{v}_{K-1}^{(1)} \mathbf{v}_{K-1}^{(2)}$ and $\mathbf{v}_K = \mathbf{v}_K^{(1)} \mathbf{v}_K^{(2)}$ respectively, these two Txs send precoded pilot symbols using the corresponding auxiliary precoders. Following the similar manner as that introduced in phase 3 for the case of K=5, step (e) of the proposed feedback topology in **Table 3** is carried out to compute the combining precoders $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{K-1}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_K$. Then the two computed combining precoders are fed back from $\operatorname{Rx}(K-2)$ to the corresponding Txs.

Finally, all interferences in the system can be eliminated completely. Adding up the CSI overhead in (a), (c), (e) and (f) in **Table 3**, the total CSI overhead in the proposed feedback topology for $K \ge 6$ is $(2K^2 - 11K + 24)d^2$.

Remark 1 (Tx Selection Criteria): When performing dimensionality-decreasing at the Tx side, the Tx selection order is not unique. For example, in the case of K=5, after implementing dimensionality-decreasing, we let Txs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 equivalently remain d, 2d, 3d, 3d, 3d antennas respectively in the proposed feedback topology, or alternatively we can set Txs 2, 1, 3, 4, 5 to equivalently have d, 2d, 3d, 3d remaining antennas respectively. Although the Tx selection order has a direct impact on the choice of Txs and Rxs that participate in the alignment process, it does not affect the achievable DoF and the CSI overhead. For simplicity of exposition, in the proposed feedback topology, the Tx selection for dimensionality-decreasing is carried out in ascending order of the number of remaining antennas.

Remark 2 (Antenna Selection Criteria): A precoding method is used for implementing dimensionality-decreasing to allow a certain Tx to remain N (where $d \le N < M$) antennas in the proposed feedback topology. Also, the random antenna selection can be employed to achieve this goal by randomly selecting N antennas and powering off others. If we exploit other antenna selection criterions, such as maximum post-processing SNR, maximum capacity [25], additional feedback information is required because a Rx delivers the optimal subset of transmit antennas to the corresponding Tx [25]. Note that the antenna selection and Tx selection mentioned in Remark 1 can be jointly optimized to improve the diversity gain at the cost of increased feedback overhead. Since the CSI overhead is the focus of this work, we leave a joint optimization of antenna selection and Tx selection with no impact on multiplexing gain (i.e., DoF) as the future work.

Remark 3 (Forward Channel Training): In the proposed feedback topology, it is assumed that multiple Txs can simultaneously transmit orthogonal pilots with which the RXs are able to accurately estimate the cross-link forward channels. Note that this assumption is also exploited in the four-hop feedback topology in [13]. Although all existing feedback topologies except the four-hop topology require the acquisition of two estimated forward channels at each Rx to calculate IA precoders, the initial forward channel training procedure (i.e., initial pilot sending) of these five topologies is omitted in [12] and [13]. For the proposed feedback topology, it requires initial pilot sending, and also needs pilot sending in time slot 2 and time slot 4. It is clear that pilot transmission incurs pilot overhead [26]. Ignoring the pilot overhead caused by the initial pilot sending, the transmission of training sequences in time slots 2 and 4 in the proposed feedback topology results in additional pilot overhead. Due to the fact that the CSI problem is a challenging issue for the application of IA [5], [14], we mainly concentrate on the CSI overhead in this work.

4. Comparison with Existing Topologies

For the proposed feedback topology, at the Tx side, each column of a precoder is normalized to have unit norm after this precoder is obtained at its target Tx. Then equal power allocation is applied as in [12]. On the other hand, at the Rx side, once a receive filter is determined, it is normalized to unit norm at each column as in [12]. By employing the above design, from equation (2), the proposed feedback topology has the same performance as those feedback topologies in [12] in terms of average sum rate. Notably, [13] has not provided the power allocation strategy and the process of normalizing transmit/receive filters. Actually, if waterfilling power allocation, which is optimal in terms of sum rate, is employed, each Tx should know how to allocate power to data streams, resulting in extra feedback overhead. Therefore, equal power allocation requiring no feedback information about how much power should be allocated to each data stream is a feedback-saving strategy, and thus it is exploited in this paper and [12]. In summary, under the condition of equal power allocation and normalized transmit/receive filters, the feedback topologies in [12], [13] and this paper yield the same average sum rate. From the above discussions, as in [12] for the perfect CSI case and [13], in this section we only present the comparison of CSI overhead among various feedback topologies with the same DoF.

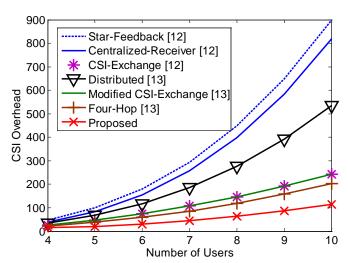


Fig. 7. CSI overhead comparison for the proposed feedback topology and existing topologies for the case of d = 1

In Fig. 7, we provide the CSI overhead comparison for the existing feedback topologies in [12] and [13] and our proposed design according to different numbers of users. As can be seen in this figure, the proposed feedback topology yields a significant saving in CSI feedback overhead compared to the existing six feedback structures, meaning that a further saving of CSI overhead can be achieved in the field of feedback topology construction in spite of the existence of previously designed topologies. The saving of CSI overhead obtained by the proposed design comes from an efficient exploitation of dimensionality-decreasing and selection of a subset of Rxs receiving aligned interferences. Additionally, considering that the CSI-exchange topology and the four-hop design are the feedback topologies with the lowest CSI overheads in [12] and [13] respectively, a more detailed comparison of the feedback cost for these two feedback strategies and our proposed structure is illustrated in Table 4. This table further highlights the advantage of the proposed feedback topology in terms of CSI

overhead reduction. For example, for the case of K = 5, the CSI overhead of the proposed design is half that of the four-hop structure.

In addition, consider the required number of time slots for the acquisition of IA precoders at the Tx side, which has a direct impact on the robustness of the transmission against channel variations. The required number of time slots for the proposed feedback topology is 6, which is equal to (for K = 4) or less than (for $K \ge 5$) that of the CSI-exchange topology operating over 2(K-1) time slots, but greater than that of the four-hop structure operating over 4 time slots. Hence, it would be interesting in our future work to investigate the tradeoff between the CSI overhead reduction and the time slots needed for precoder acquisition.

Table 4. Con overhead companison according to number of users K							
Feedback	CSI Overhead (d=1)						
Topologies	K=4	K=5	K=6	K=7	K=8	K=9	K=10
CSI-Exchange [12]	27	48	75	108	147	192	243
Four-Hop [13]	23	38	59	86	119	158	203
Proposed	15	19	30	45	64	87	114

Table 4. CSI overhead comparison according to number of users *K*

5. Conclusion

By arranging the feedback links in interference networks, feedback topology can reduce the CSI feedback overhead to an acceptable level. Although several feedback topologies have been presented in previous works, the design of feedback-saving strategy is still a research direction for facilitating the practical utilization of IA. In this paper, to seek a further reduction of CSI overhead, we propose a new feedback topology. The key idea of the proposed feedback topology is an efficient utilization of dimensionality-decreasing at the Tx side combined with the selection of a subset of Rxs receiving aligned interference signals. We illustrate the superiority of the proposed feedback design with respect to CSI overhead compared to the existing feedback topologies.

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