# Collaborative transmission in wireless sensor networks

#### Distributed Adaptive Beamforming

Stephan Sigg

Institute of Distributed and Ubiquitous Systems Technische Universität Braunschweig

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Collaborative transmission in wireless sensor networks

#### **Overview and Structure**

- Introduction to context aware computing
- Wireless sensor networks
- Wireless communications
- Basics of probability theory
- Randomised search approaches
- Cooperative transmission schemes
- Distributed adaptive beamforming
  - Feedback based approaches
  - Asymptotic bounds on the synchronisation time
  - Alternative algorithmic approaches
  - Alternative Optimisation environments

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# Outline

Feedback based distr. adaptive beamforming

#### Analysis of the problem scenario

- Individual representation
- Fitness function
- Search space
- Variation operators

#### 2 Analysis of the convergence time

- An upper bound on the synchronisation performance
- A lower bound on the synchronisation performance

#### Simulation and experimental results for the basic scenario

- Impact of distinct parameter configurations
- Impact of environmental parameters
- Impact of algorithmic modifications





- 1-bit feedback based closed loop carrier synchronisation
  - Slow synchronisation
  - But: Computationally modest demands
  - Only: Adaptation of carrier phase based on binary feedback value
- Therefore: Well suited to be applied for WSNs













- Analysis of the underlying algorithmic problem
  - Precise mathematical understanding of the problem required
  - Modelling of
    - Search space
    - Optimisation aim
    - Representation of search points
    - Parameters that impact the synchronisation performance

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#### Analysis of the problem scenario



#### Observations

- Iterative approach similar to evolutionary random search
  - New search points are requested by altering the carrier phases
  - Fitness function implemented by receiver feedback
  - Selection of individuals based on feedback values
  - Population size and offspring population size:  $\mu=\nu=1$

- Individual representation
  - Ordered set
  - Vector
  - Binary representation
- Fitness function
  - SNR
  - Simple distance
- Search space
  - Identical frequency
  - Distinct frequencies
- Variation operators
  - Mutation
  - Crossover



Analysis of the problem scenario

- Individual representation
  - Ordered set of phase and frequency pairs  $\gamma_i, f_i$

Advantage: Very near to the actual physical scenario Disadvantage: Similarity measures between individuals not straightforward

• Vector  $V = v_1, \ldots, v_{2n}$  of phases and/or frequencies

Advantage: Configurations as points in vector spaces, simple distance measure

- Disadvantage: Representation very problem specific/untypical
- Binary representation of phase/frequency offsets
  - Advantage: Various results on binary search spaces in the literature

Disadvantage: Hamming distance may not represent neighbourhood similarities



- Individual representation
  - Here: Binary representation of phase/frequency offsets
    - log(k) bits to represent k phase offsets
    - $\log(\varphi)$  bits to represent  $\varphi$  frequency offsets
    - Configurations for all nodes concatenated
  - Phase and frequency offsets enumerated in ascending order
  - Neighbourhood: Gray encoded bit sequence to respect neighbourhood similarities

Analysis of the problem scenario



- Fitness function
  - Receiver estimates synchronisation quality of

$$\zeta_{\mathsf{sum}} = \Re\left(m(t)e^{j2\pi f_c t}\sum_{i=1}^n \mathsf{RSS}_i e^{j(\gamma_i + \phi_i + \psi_i)}\right)$$

- SNR
- Numeric distance
- One bit feedback?

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- Binary feedback
  - Minimum transmission load
  - Can be invested into higher redundancy schemes
  - Reduced information at source nodes
    - No adaptive operation
    - Less advanced optimisation schemes
    - No estimation of optimisation progress

Analysis of the problem scenario



#### Fitness estimated by SNR :

- Calculate SNR of received sum signal
- Received signal strength above noise power
- Higher SNR interpreted as improved synchronisation quality
- Optimisation aim: Minimum required SNR

Analysis of the problem scenario



Fitness estimated by simple distance :

- Calculate surface between  $\zeta_{opt}$  and  $\zeta_{sum}$
- $\bullet~$  Smaller surface  $\rightarrow~$  better synchronisation quality
- Optimum signal:

$$\zeta_{\text{opt}} = \Re\left(m(t) \text{RSS}_{\text{opt}} e^{j(2\pi f_c t + \gamma_{\text{opt}} + \phi_{\text{opt}} + \psi_{\text{opt}})}\right)$$

$$\zeta_{\text{opt}} = \Re \left( m(t) \text{RSS}_{\text{opt}} e^{j(2\pi f_c t + \gamma_{\text{opt}} + \phi_{\text{opt}} + \psi_{\text{opt}})} \right)$$

- Transmit sequence m(t) (preconditioned)
- Transmit frequency f<sub>c</sub> (preconditioned)
- Average transmit power Pavg (preconditioned)
- Gain G<sub>i</sub>, G<sub>receiver</sub> (preconditioned)
- Distance d to network (Estimated by RTT)
- Number of transmitting nodes  $n \rightarrow ???$

• 
$$RSS_{opt} = n \cdot \left( P_{avg} \cdot \left( \frac{\lambda}{2\pi \cdot d} \right)^2 \cdot G_i \cdot G_{receiver} \right)$$

Analysis of the problem scenario



Estimate the count of transmitting nodes :

- Possible to estimate count of transmitting nodes
- From superimposed signal of simultaneously transmitting nodes<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>A.Krohn, Superimposed Radio Signals for Wireless Sensor Networks, PhD thesis, 2007 Stephan Sigg Collaborative transmission in wireless sensor networks

Analysis of the problem scenario



#### Estimate the count of transmitting nodes<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>A.Krohn, Superimposed Radio Signals for Wireless Sensor Networks, PhD thesis, 2007 Stephan Sigg Collaborative transmission in wireless sensor networks

Analysis of the problem scenario



Estimate the count of transmitting nodes <sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup>A.Krohn, Superimposed Radio Signals for Wireless Sensor Networks, PhD thesis, 2007 Stephan Sigg Collaborative transmission in wireless sensor networks

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Analysis of the problem scenario



Estimate the count of transmitting nodes <sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> A.Krohn, Superimposed Radio Signals for Wireless Sensor Networks, PhD thesis, 2007 Stephan Sigg Collaborative transmission in wireless sensor networks

Analysis of the problem scenario



#### Geschätzte Anzahl

#### Estimate the count of transmitting nodes <sup>5</sup>

 $<sup>^{5}</sup>$  A.Krohn. Superimposed Radio Signals for Wireless Sensor Networks, PhD thesis, 2007 Stephan Sigg Collaborative transmission in wireless sensor networks

- Search space
  - Optimisation performance dependent on search space
  - Global or local optima?



- Search space
  - Feedback function not unimodal
  - In two global optima, carrier signals are shifted by fixed amount
  - Fitness function weak multimodal
    - Many global optima
    - No local optima



- Search space
  - Identical transmit frequencies
  - Distinct transmit frequencies



- Identical transmit frequencies:  $e^{j(2\pi ft + \gamma_i)}$ ;  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ 
  - Local optimum: ∃ search point s<sub>c̄</sub> ≠ s<sub>opt</sub> with
  - All small phase modulations decrease fitness value
  - Smallest possible modification: Single carrier signal altered



Analysis of the problem scenario



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Analysis of the problem scenario



- Phase shift of  $\delta_i \neq 0$  alters the fitness value
- For some *t* the fitness increases while for others it decreases.
- Assume  $(\varphi_i + \delta_i) \varphi_{\sf opt} < 180^\circ$  and  $\varphi_i > \varphi_{\sf opt}$
- For  $[\varphi_i > 180^\circ \land \varphi_{opt} < 180^\circ]$  or  $[\varphi_i > 360^\circ \land \varphi_{opt} < 360^\circ]$ • Contribution to  $\mathcal{F}$  zero
- Else:  $\delta_i$  has either always positive or always negative impact

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- Compared to sopt
  - No configuration short of the optimum configuration  $s_i = s_{opt}$  exists
  - For which distance is increased for phase offset  $\delta_i$
  - regardless of the sign of  $\delta_i$
- No local optima

- Distinct transmit frequencies:  $e^{j(2\pi f_i t + \gamma_i)}; \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ 
  - Consider phase offset between two signals:
    - Modified signal component  $\zeta_i$
    - Nearest global optimum  $\zeta_{opt}$


Analysis of the problem scenario



• Distinct transmit frequencies:  $e^{j(2\pi f_i t + \gamma_i)}$ ;  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ 

- Feedback function not affected by phase modifications only
- Periodic function: Reflection in half of common period  $\Phi$
- For every positive contribution also negative contribution

$$e^{j(2\pi(f_1)t \mod \Phi + \gamma_1)} - e^{j(2\pi ft \mod \Phi)}$$
  
=  $-\left(e^{j(2\pi(f_1)t' \mod \Phi + \gamma_1)} - e^{j(2\pi ft' \mod \Phi)}\right)$ 

Analysis of the problem scenario



• Distinct transmit frequencies:  $e^{j(2\pi f_i t + \gamma_i)}$ ;  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ 

- signal quality is not affected by phase adaptations when frequencies are unsynchronised
- Without frequency synchronisation, phase synchronisation alone is useless in order to improve the signal quality
- In both cases no local optima but several global optima

Analysis of the problem scenario

#### • Variation operators

- Mutation
- Crossover



Analysis of the problem scenario

- Variation operators Mutation
  - Small modifications on individuals
  - Target individuals with small distance more probable
  - Phase modification of one or more carrier signals  $\zeta_i$
  - Design parameters:
    - Count of altered carrier signal components
    - Method for alteration of a single carrier

Analysis of the problem scenario

#### Variation operators – Mutation

- Count of altered carrier signal components
  - Fixed number (how to implement in sensor network?)
  - Random number (Probability for each node)
- Method for alteration of a single carrier
  - Neighbourhood bounds vs. Probability distribution
  - Uniform vs. Normal
  - Standard deviation  $\sigma$  (search neighbourhood)
  - Mean  $\mu$  (search direction)

Analysis of the problem scenario



Analysis of the problem scenario



#### Variation operators - Mutation - example

Analysis of the problem scenario



#### Variation operators - Mutation - example

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Analysis of the problem scenario

- Variation operators Crossover
  - Not yet considered in the literature
  - (1+1)-EA straightforward as it consides one individual at a time
  - Multiple individuals possible by
    - Simultaneous transmission on distinct transmit signals
    - 2 Time-shifted transmission of several individuals

Analysis of the problem scenario

#### Summary

- 1-bit feedback based phase synchronisation always converges<sup>6</sup>
- We can now come to the same result:
  - No local optima in the search space
  - Output Algorithm does never accept worse points
- But: What is the expected time to reach an optimum?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>R. Mudumbai, J. Hespanha, U. Madhow, G. Barriac: Distributed transmit beamforming using feedback control. IEEE Transactions on Information Theory (In review)

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- Impact of environmental parameters
- Impact of algorithmic modifications

Analysis of the convergence time

#### Assumptions :

- Network of n nodes
- Each node changes the phase of its carrier signal with probability  $\frac{1}{n}$
- Carrier phase altered uniformly at random from  $[0, 2\pi]$
- Feedback function  $\mathcal{F}: \zeta^*_{sum} \to \mathbb{R}$  maps

$$\zeta_{sum} = \Re\left(m(t)e^{j2\pi f_c t}\sum_{i=1}^n \text{RSS}_i e^{j(\gamma_i + \phi_i + \psi_i)}\right)$$

to a real-valued fitness score.

• Possible feedback:  $\mathcal{F}(\zeta_{sum}) = \int_{t=0}^{2\pi} |\zeta_{sum} - \zeta_{opt}|$ 

#### Analysis of the convergence time



#### Optimisation aim :

- Achieve maximum relative phase offset of  $\frac{2\pi}{k}$
- Between any two carrier signals
- For arbitrary k
- Divide phase space into k intervals of width  $\frac{2\pi}{k}$

Analysis of the convergence time

- An upper bound on the synchronisation performance
  - Upper bound by method of fitness based partitions
  - Value of fitness function increases with number of carrier signals ζ<sub>i</sub> that share same interval for phase offset γ<sub>i</sub>
  - Assume, that  $\kappa \in [1, k]$  is interval with most carrier phases
  - Worse fitness values are not accepted
  - $\bullet\,$  Count iterations required for all carrier signals to change to interval  $\kappa\,$ 
    - Note: We disregard positive possibilities to reach any other optimum
    - Possible since only upper bound is calculated

Analysis of the convergence time



#### Divide values of the fitness function into k partitions :

L<sub>1</sub>,..., L<sub>n</sub>, depending on the count of carrier signals with phase offset in κ

Analysis of the convergence time



Divide values of the fitness function into k partitions :

- Probability to adapt phase to specific interval:  $\frac{1}{k}$
- Probability to reach at least to next partition

$$\frac{1}{k} \cdot (n-i) \cdot \frac{1}{n}$$

Analysis of the convergence time

• In partition *i*, one of

$$\left(\begin{array}{c}n-i\\1\end{array}\right)=n-i$$

carrier signals suffice to improve the fitness value

- this happens with probability  $\frac{1}{n} \cdot \frac{1}{k}$
- At least one shall be correctly altered while all other n - 1 signals remain unchanged



Analysis of the convergence time



Alter 1 carrier and keep n - 1 signals
This happens with probability

$$\begin{pmatrix} n-i\\1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{1}{n} \cdot \frac{1}{k} \cdot \left(1-\frac{1}{n}\right)^{n-1}$$
$$= \left(\frac{n-i}{n\cdot k}\right) \cdot \left(1-\frac{1}{n}\right)^{n-1}$$

Analysis of the convergence time



Since

$$\left(1-\frac{1}{n}\right)^n < \frac{1}{e} < \left(1-\frac{1}{n}\right)^{n-1}$$

• Probability that  $L_i$  is left for partition j, j > i:

$$P[L_i] \geq \frac{n-i}{n \cdot e \cdot k}$$

Analysis of the convergence time

• Expected number of iterations to change layer bounded from above by  $P[L_i]^{-1}$ :

$$E[T_{\mathcal{P}}] \leq \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{e \cdot n \cdot k}{n-i}$$
$$= e \cdot n \cdot k \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{i}$$
$$< e \cdot n \cdot k \cdot (\ln(n) + 1)$$
$$= O(n \cdot k \cdot \log n)$$

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#### Analysis of the convergence time



- A lower bound on the synchronisation performance
  - We utilise the method of the expected progress
  - After initialisation, phases of carrier signals are identically and independently distributed.
  - Each bit in the binary representation of search point  $s_{\zeta}$  has equal probability to be 1 or 0.

Analysis of the convergence time

Probability to start with hamming distance h(s<sub>opt</sub>, s<sub>ζ</sub>) ≤ l;
 l ≪ n · log(k) to global optima s<sub>opt</sub> at most

$$P[h(s_{\text{opt}}, s_{\zeta}) \le I] = \sum_{i=0}^{l} \binom{n \cdot \log(k)}{n \cdot \log(k) - i} \cdot \frac{k}{2^{n \cdot \log(k) - i}}$$
$$\le \frac{(n \cdot \log(k))^{l+2}}{2^{n \cdot \log(k) - l}}$$

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Analysis of the convergence time

$$P[h(s_{opt}, s_{\zeta}) \leq I] \leq rac{(n \cdot \log(k))^{l+2}}{2^{n \cdot \log(k) - l}}$$

• Count of configurations with *i* bit errors to s<sub>opt</sub>:

$$\left( egin{array}{c} n \cdot \log(k) \\ n \cdot \log(k) - i \end{array} 
ight)$$

- Probability for all these bits to be correct:  $\frac{1}{2^{n \cdot \log(k) i}}$
- Count of global optima: k

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#### Analysis of the convergence time



• This means that with high probability (w.h.p.) the hamming distance to the nearest global optimum is at least *I*.

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Analysis of the convergence time

- Use method of expected progress to calculate lower bound:
- $(s_{\zeta}, t)$  denotes that  $s_{\zeta}$  is achieved after t iterations
- Assume Progress measure  $\Lambda : \mathbb{B}^{n \cdot \log(k)} \to \mathbb{R}_0^+$
- $\Lambda(s_{\zeta}, t) < \Delta$ : Global optimum not found in first *t* iterations
- For every  $t \in \mathbb{N}$  we have

$$egin{aligned} & \mathcal{E}[\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{P}}] & \geq & t \cdot P[\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{P}} > t] \ & = & t \cdot P[\Lambda(s_{\zeta},t) < \Delta] \ & = & t \cdot (1 - P[\Lambda(s_{\zeta},t) \geq \Delta]) \end{aligned}$$

Analysis of the convergence time

$$E[T_{\mathcal{P}}] \geq t \cdot (1 - P[\Lambda(s_{\zeta}, t) \geq \Delta])$$

• With the help of the Markov-inequality we obtain

$$P[\Lambda(s_{\zeta},t)\geq\Delta]\leq rac{E[\Lambda(s_{\zeta},t)]}{\Delta}$$

and therefore

$$E[\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{P}}] \geq t \cdot \left(1 - rac{E[\Lambda(s_{\zeta}, t)]}{\Delta}\right)$$

• Obtain lower bound by providing expected progress after *t* iterations

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Analysis of the convergence time

Probability for / bits to correctly flip at most

$$\left(1 - \frac{1}{n \cdot \log(k)}\right)^{n \cdot \log(k) - l} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{n \cdot \log(k)}\right)^{l} \leq \frac{1}{(n \cdot \log(k))^{l}}$$

- Probability that no correct but remaining / bits flip:  $\left(1 \frac{1}{n \cdot \log(k)}\right)^{n \cdot \log(k) l}$
- *I* bits mutate with probability  $\left(\frac{1}{n \cdot \log(k)}\right)^{l}$
- Expected progress in one iteration:

$$\mathsf{E}[\Lambda(s_{\zeta},t),\Lambda(s_{\zeta'},t+1)] \leq \sum_{i=1}^{l}rac{i}{(n\cdot \log(k))^i} < rac{2}{n\cdot \log(k)}$$

• Expected progress in t iterations:  $\leq \frac{2t}{n \cdot \log(k)}$ 

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Analysis of the convergence time

• Choose 
$$t = \frac{n \cdot \log(k) \cdot \Delta}{4} - 1$$

- Double of expected progress still smaller than  $\Delta$ .
- With Markov inequality: Progress not achieved with prob.  $\frac{1}{2}$ .
- Expected optimisation time bounded from below by

$$E[T_{\mathcal{P}}] \geq t \cdot \left(1 - \frac{E[\Lambda(s_{\zeta}, t)]}{\Delta}\right)$$
$$\geq \frac{n \cdot \log(k) \cdot \Delta}{4} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{\frac{2 \cdot n \cdot \log(k)}{4 \cdot n \cdot \log(k)} \cdot \Delta}{\Delta}\right)$$
$$= \Omega(n \cdot \log(k) \cdot \Delta)$$

• With  $\Delta = k \cdot \frac{\log(n)}{\log(k)}$ : Same order as upper bound:  $E[T_{\mathcal{P}}] = \Theta(n \cdot k \cdot \log(n))$ 

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- Impact of algorithmic modifications

Simulation and experimental results



Simulation and experimental results



Simulation and experimental results



Relative phase shift (Network size: 100)

Simulation and experimental results



#### • Experiment with USRP software radios

- Software: GNURadio
- Processing, analysis and visualisation of RF signals
- Graphical assembly of Signal flow graph

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Simulation and experimental results




	Experiment 1	Experiment 2
Sender	4	3
Mobility	stationary	stationary
Distance to receiver [m]	pprox 0.75	$\approx$ 4
Separation of TX antennas [m]	pprox 0.21	pprox 0.3
Transmit RF Frequency [MHz]	$f_{TX} = 2400$	$f_{TX} = 27$
Receive RF Frequency [MHz]	$f_{RX} = 902$	$f_{RX} = 902$
Gain of receive antenna [dBi]	$G_{RX} = 3$	$G_{RX} = 3$
Gain of transmit antenna [dBi]	$G_{TX} = 3$	$G_{TX} = 1.5$
Iterations per experiment	500	200
Identical experiments	14	10
Median gain $(P_{RX})$ [dB]	2.19	3.72



Simulation and experimental results



- Impact of distinct optimisation parameters
  - Uniformly distributed phase offset
  - Uniformly distributed phase offset
  - Probability for individual nodes to alter their phase

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Simulation and experimental results



#### Uniformly distributed phase offset – Impact of the mutation probability

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- Uniformly distributed phase offset Impact of the mutation probability
  - Small mutation probability beneficial
  - Small steps in the search space
  - Higher mutation probability leads to better performance at the start of the synchronisation
  - Best: One node changes phase offset on average in one iteration

#### Simulation and experimental results



#### Normal distributed phase offset – Impact of the mutation variance Stephan Sign Collaborative transmission in wireless sensor networks

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#### Simulation and experimental results



- Normal distributed phase offset Impact of the mutation variance
  - Optimisation performance degenerates when variance too small

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Simulation and experimental results



- Normal distributed phase offset Impact of the mutation variance
  - Optimum variance dependent on mutation probability
  - Small mutation probabilities generally beneficial

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- Normal distributed phase offset Impact of the mutation variance
  - Small variance beneficial
  - Small steps in the search space
  - Higher variance leads to better performance at the start of the synchronisation
  - But: When variance too small, optimisation performance degenerates
  - Best variance dependent on mutation probability
- Performance of best configuration similar for uniform and normal distributed phase alteration process.

Simulation and experimental results



• Performance of best configuration similar for uniform and normal distributed phase alteration process.

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Simulation and experimental results



- Impact of environmental parameters
  - Network size
  - Distance between receiver and network

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Simulation and experimental results



#### Impact of the network size

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- Impact of the network size
  - Smaller network size results in faster synchronisation performance
  - RMSE decreases as maximum distance between received and optimum signal decreased
  - Optimum level reached earlier for smaller network sizes

Simulation and experimental results



• Distance between receiver and network - 100m

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Simulation and experimental results



• Distance between receiver and network - 200m

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Simulation and experimental results



#### • Distance between receiver and network - 300m

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Simulation and experimental results



- Distance between receiver and network 300m
  - Improved synchronisation quality with increased mutation probability

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- Impact of the transmission distance
  - Synchronisation performance and quality decrease with increasing distance
  - With higher relative noise figure, an increased mutation probability is beneficial

- Impact of algorithmic modifications
  - Reelection of unsuccessful nodes
  - Reelection of successful nodes
  - Preconfigured nodes

- Reelection of unsuccessful nodes<sup>7</sup>
  - Information is lost when nodes discard carrier phases due to worse feedback
  - On average: Fitness decreases on every second iteration
  - Performance improvement of factor 2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> J.A. Bucklew, W.A. Sethares: Convergence of a class of decentralised beamforming algorithms. IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing 56(6) (2008)

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Simulation and experimental results



#### • Reelection of unsuccessful nodes<sup>8</sup>

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 $<sup>^{8}</sup>$  J.A. Bucklew, W.A. Sethares: Convergence of a class of decentralised beamforming algorithms. IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing 56(6) (2008)

Simulation and experimental results



- Reelection of successful nodes
  - Random search
  - Whp: When node successful, fitness still not optimal
  - Possible implementations:
    - Utilise same node again
    - Apply same phase offset again

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Simulation and experimental results



#### • Reelection of successful nodes

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Simulation and experimental results



#### • Reelection of successful nodes

- For both implementations performance improvement
- Early in the synchronisation
- Only small improvements

Simulation and experimental results



#### • Preconfigured nodes

- When only a subset of nodes is required to reach the receiver
- Choose those nodes that are best preconfigured
- Start with better preconfigured nodes

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# Scenario analysis and algorithmic improvement

#### Impact of the node choice



- Synchronisation performance dependent on number of participating nodes
- When not all nodes are required, utilise only a subset of nodes
- Optimum: Select subset of nodes that is best pre-synchronised

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Simulation and experimental results



#### Preconfigured nodes

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Simulation and experimental results



#### • Preconfigured nodes

- Performance improved in all cases
- Also when only 20% of all nodes are disregarded

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