TECHNOLOGY SUMMARY

Logical Superposition Coding in Coded Multicast for Wireless Data

Background
Superposition coded (SPC) modulation is a physical-layer technique conventionally enabled by a hardware circuitry that allows a transmitter to combine several signals together and send a single signal containing all the information. Studies performed on cross-layer design for generating wireless multicast signals for transmitting scalable video streams showed that the SPC multicast for scalable bitstreams can fully explore the channel capacity in presence of wireless channel fluctuation and user channel diversity by superimposing multiple quality layers into a single SPC modulated signal. Using SPC modulated signals, receivers with poor wireless channels decode and obtain the base layer data for a basic video perceptual quality, while receivers with good channel conditions can obtain, in addition to the base layer, the higher quality layers to refine the data from lower layers for improved video quality. In spite of the aforementioned advantages, SPC modulation has been rarely employed in any commercially available wireless system or industry standard. This is likely due to the requirement of dedicated hardware components and circuitry to superimpose two or multiple modulated signals to form a SPC signal at the physical (PHY) layer.

Description of the invention
Waterloo researchers have developed a novel cross-layer design framework of logical superposition coded (L-SPC) modulation for multicasting successively refine-able information such as scalable video bitstreams. It mitigates the vicious effect of multi-user channel diversity by logically realizing an immediate and practical implementation of SPC modulation.

The developed framework manipulatively mimics the conventional SPC (C-SPC) modulation for any combination of modulated signals adopted in current wireless standards. As a result, neither the transmitter nor the receiver requires additional hardware to encode/decode the signal. At the receiver side, a strategic mapping of refine-able information bits from the base and enhancement quality layers into an L-SPC signal is performed using advanced features of modern chipset designs that enable dynamic energy allocation and phase shift assignment. Demodulation at the receiver does not need any dedicated SPC hardware, as the industry standard demodulators can be well employed to demodulate the L-SPC signal.

Advantages
- Efficient wireless multicast
- No additional hardware needed

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