

Performance Analysis of Compressive Sensing based LS and MMSE Channel Estimation Algorithm

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Abstract—In this paper, we have developed and implemented Minimum Mean Square Channel Estimation with Compressive Sensing (MMSE-CS) algorithm in MIMO-OFDM systems. The performance of this algorithm is analyzed by comparing it with Least Square channel estimation with compressive sensing (LS-CS), Least Square (LS) and Minimum Mean Square Estimation (MMSE) algorithms. It is observed that the performance of MMSE-CS in terms of Bit Error Rate (BER) metric is definitely better than LS-CS and LS algorithms and it is at par with MMSE algorithm. Moreover the role of compressive sensing theory in channel estimation is accentuated by the fact that in MMSE-CS algorithm only a very small number of channel coefficients are sensed to recreate the transmitted data faithfully as compared to MMSE algorithm.

Index Terms—Compressive sensing, LS, MMSE, channel estimation, MIMO, OFDM.

I. INTRODUCTION

MIMO-OFDM technology offers high spectral efficiency, high reliability, high data rate, mitigation of multipath fading effect, etc. Hence MIMO-OFDM technology has become the basis of Long Term Evolution (LTE) systems and wireless broadband communication systems [1-5]. Faithful and speedy recovery of the transmitted signal at the receiver side with minimum overhead in terms estimating the Channel State Information (CSI) is very crucial in any communication system. Abundant amount of work has already been done in exploring classical channel estimation techniques such as Least Square (LS) and Bayesian channel estimation techniques like Minimum Mean Square (MMSE). LS channel estimation technique is popular due to its simplicity in implementation. Also, it does not require any prior information of channel statistics. Although MMSE channel estimation requires prior information of the channel statistics and is more complex than the LS channel estimation technique, its performance in terms

of metrics like Bit Error Rate (BER) and Mean Square Error (MSE) is much better than LS channel estimation technique [6-10]. Based on the theory that the transmission channel is sparse with only few major channel coefficients, compressive sensing based channel estimation algorithms are also gaining popularity [11-18]. As claimed by the compressive sensing theory, if the signal is sparse in its known basis, then fewer measurements of the signal may be needed to represent the signal in its compressed form [19-21]. Moreover, an appropriate recovery algorithm will be able to recreate the original signal from its compressed structure. In [22], LS-CS channel estimation technique is implemented in SISO and MIMO OFDM system which takes into account sparsity of the channel and explores the effectiveness of compressive sensing theory in channel estimation. In [23], the effect of varying Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) size in OFDM on the performance of LS-CS channel estimation algorithm is observed. In [24], performance of LS-CS is analyzed based on the recovery of transmitted audio signal over a sparse noisy channel. It is observed that with LS-CS channel estimation technique, an appropriate reconstruction of transmitted data is possible at the receiver by just sensing a few channel coefficients in a very noisy channel, by selecting the optimum FFT size.

In this paper, we have developed and implemented MMSE-CS channel estimation algorithm. We have compared the performance of MMSE-CS algorithm with LS-CS algorithm implemented in [22] and its performance to recover audio data was analyzed in [24]. To accentuate the importance of compressive sensing in channel estimation, we have also compared the performance of MMSE-CS in terms of BER with classical LS and MMSE channel estimation algorithms.

In section II we briefly describe the design and implementation of LS-CS channel estimation algorithm that was implemented in [22], followed by implementation of MMSE-CS channel estimation algorithm. Section III gives the simulation results of LS, MMSE, LS-CS and MMSE-CS channel estimation techniques and its analysis, followed by conclusion in section IV.

II. SYSTEM MODEL

A. LS and MMSE Channel Estimation Algorithms

When the information signal is transmitted from transmitter

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to the receiver, it gets distorted due to channel characteristics. With the aid of an appropriate channel estimation algorithm, it is possible to recover the transmitted signal faithfully at the receiver with minimum error. In pilot aided channel estimation techniques, the channel characteristics or the CSI is estimated by transmitting a pilot signal which is also known to the receiver. LS and MMSE techniques are the most widely used and popular techniques to estimate the CSI [2],[25],[26].

Consider the following equation

$$Y = XH + V, \quad (1)$$

here Y is the received signal vector corresponding to the transmitted pilot signal vector X , CSI is denoted by H and V is the noise vector. Then according to the LS channel estimation technique, the estimate of channel H , denoted by \hat{H}_{LS} is given by

$$\hat{H}_{LS} = YX^T(XX^T)^{-1}. \quad (2)$$

This estimated CSI is further used to reconstruct the transmitted signal at the receiver side. As mentioned in [2], for MMSE channel estimation technique, the unknown channel statistics is estimated based on prior knowledge obtained from LS estimation as

$$\hat{H}_{MMSE} = W\hat{H}_{LS}, \quad (3)$$

where W is known as the weight matrix given by

$$W = R_{H_{LS}\hat{H}_{LS}}R_{\hat{H}_{LS}\hat{H}_{LS}}^{-1}, \quad (4)$$

where $R_{H_{LS}\hat{H}_{LS}}$ is the cross correlation matrix between the true channel vector and temporary channel estimated vector. $R_{\hat{H}_{LS}\hat{H}_{LS}}$ is the autocorrelation matrix.

B. Compressive Sensing Theorem in Channel Estimation Algorithm

Consider a signal of length N , which is sparse with M significant channel coefficients, where $M \ll N$. According to compressive sensing theory, it is possible to reconstruct the original signal back even if only K coefficients out of the total N coefficients are sensed randomly by using appropriate measurement matrix and reconstruction algorithm [21],[27-30]. Here $K \ll N$ and is given by

$$K \geq CM \ln\left(\frac{N}{M}\right), \quad (5)$$

where $C > 0$ is a constant.

Bernoulli matrix or Gaussian random matrix can be taken as measurement matrix A of size $K \times N$. Hence the compressive sensing problem could be stated in two parts where first we have to develop a good measurement matrix to sense the sparse signal and then use an appropriate recovery algorithm, to reconstruct the original signal.

It is observed that classical channel estimation techniques such as LS and MMSE, together with multicarrier modulation systems can considerably enhance the system performance [7],[31]. Taking into account sparsity of the channel with only few significant channel coefficients, we can apply the compressive sensing theory in sparse channel estimation, thereby reducing the percentage of total channel coefficients sensed which in turn reduce the mathematical complexity and processing time required to recover all the channel coefficients. In the next subsection, implementation of LS-CS and MMSE-CS channel estimation algorithms is detailed.

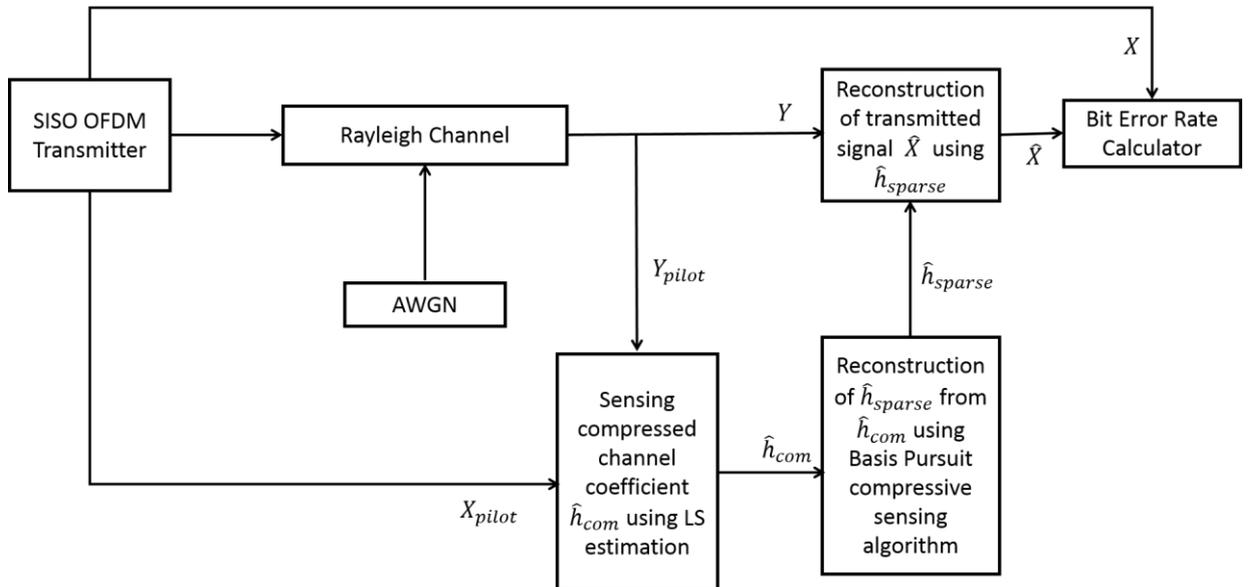


Fig. 1. LS-CS Channel Estimation Algorithm Block Diagram

C. Design and Implementation of LS-CS estimation Technique

Fig. 1. shows the block diagram of LS-CS estimation technique which was implemented in [22] and Table I shows its algorithm.

The channel model considered in this implementation follows Rayleigh's distribution. The presented Clarke's model given in [32] is made sparse using a post processing algorithm. A block of pilot vector X is transmitted to obtain the received vector Y in SISO-OFDM system. The received vector is given by equation (6)

$$Y_{pilot} = (Ah_{sparse}) * X_{pilot} + V, \quad (6)$$

here A is a $K \times N$ Gaussian random matrix, h_{sparse} is the sparse channel coefficient vector and V is the noise vector. Here number of rows, K of the matrix A stands for the number of channel coefficients sensed and is calculated using equation (5) and N is the total number of channel coefficients in the given channel.

Let $h_{com} = Ah_{sparse}$, be the compressed channel vector then

TABLE I
LS-CS CHANNEL ESTIMATION ALGORITHM

Algorithm: LS-CS channel estimation	
Input: $X_{pilot}, Y_{pilot}, sensing\ matrix\ A$	
Output: $\hat{h}_{com}, \hat{h}_{sparse}$	
Steps:	
1.	Iterate for SNR in range $k = min\ to\ max$ value
a.	Obtain the compressed channel vector $\hat{H}_{com} = Y_{pilot} * X_{pilot}^{-1}$
b.	Iterate till ϵ_{min} is obtained
i.	$\epsilon = \hat{h}_{com} - Ah_{sparse} $
ii.	If $\epsilon < \epsilon_{min}$
	• $temp \leftarrow h_{sparse}$
iii.	$\hat{h}_{sparse}(k) \leftarrow temp$
c.	If $k < max$
	Go to step 1.a.
Else	Exit

\hat{h}_{sparse} is then used to reconstruct the transmitted data. The same logic can be further extended to estimate the channels in MIMO-OFDM systems.

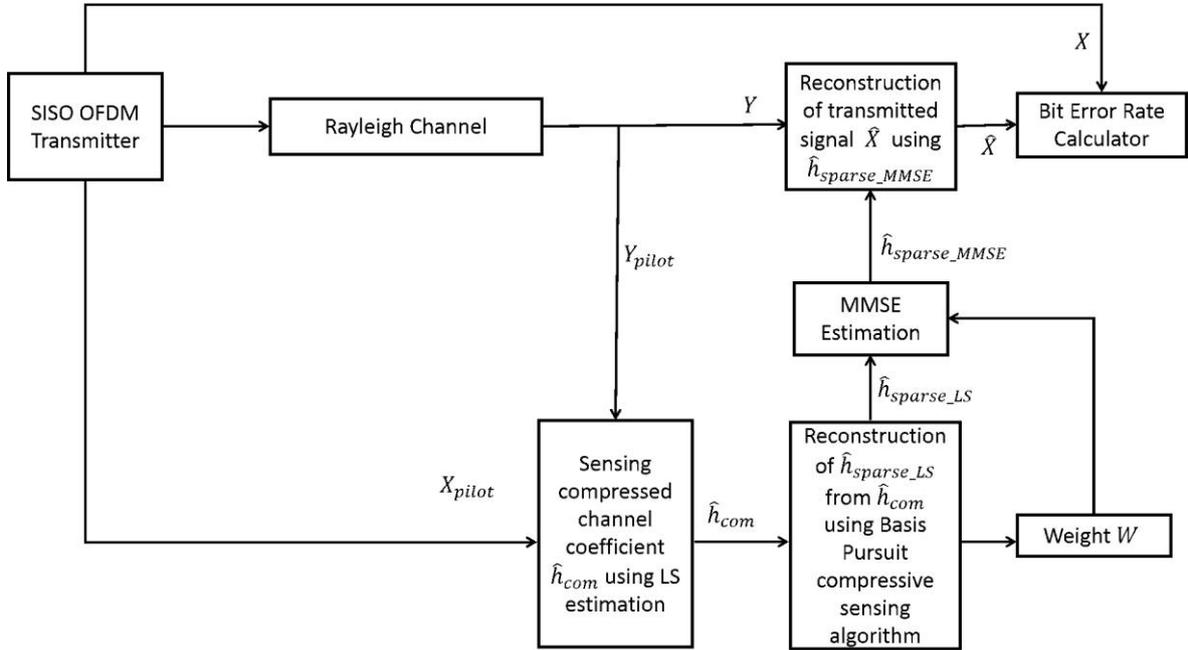


Fig. 2. MMSE-CS Channel Estimation Algorithm Block Diagram

equation (6) can be written as follows

$$Y_{pilot} = h_{com} * X_{pilot} + V. \quad (7)$$

Here the compressed channel vector h_{com} has only non-zero major channel coefficients. h_{com} is estimated using LS estimation technique given by equation (2) to obtain \hat{h}_{com} . The estimate of sparse channel \hat{h}_{sparse} is then obtained using from \hat{h}_{com} using $l1$ magic Basis Pursuit algorithm.

According to this algorithm, we obtain \hat{h}_{sparse} such that error of $|\hat{h}_{com} - \hat{h}_{sparse}|$ is minimum. The estimated channel

D. Design and Implementation of MMSE-CS Channel Estimation Algorithm

In this section, we have implemented compressive sensing algorithm in MMSE channel estimation. We have constructed a sparse channel model using Clarke's prototype of Rayleigh channel. The compressed channel vector h_{com} of equation (7) is obtained by using equation (2) and \hat{h}_{sparse_LS} is obtained using $l1$ magic algorithm as done in LS-CS implementation. Then we obtain \hat{h}_{sparse_MMSE} , which is the estimated channel using MMSE-CS technique, derived from \hat{h}_{sparse_LS} which is estimated using LS-CS technique.

Hence,

$$\hat{h}_{sparse_MMSE} = W * \hat{h}_{sparse_LS}, \quad (8)$$

where W is the weight matrix given by equation (4). For MMSE-CS, the corresponding weight matrix W will be,

$$W = \left(R_{h_{sparse} \hat{h}_{sparse_LS}} \right) * \left(R_{\hat{h}_{sparse_LS} \hat{h}_{sparse_LS}} \right)^{-1}, \quad (9)$$

where $R_{h_{sparse} \hat{h}_{sparse_LS}}$ is the cross-correlation matrix between true channel vector and estimated LS channel vector obtained. $R_{\hat{h}_{sparse_LS} \hat{h}_{sparse_LS}}$ is the auto correlation matrix of the estimated LS channel vector.

Fig. 2. shows the block diagram of the MMSE-CS channel estimation technique implementation. It is seen from the block diagram that the process of MMSE-CS channel estimation is similar to LS-CS channel estimation; however, MMSE-CS obtains a better estimate of the channel due to the refined weight matrix. Here the channel coefficient vector using LS channel estimation \hat{h}_{sparse_LS} is estimated using $l1$ magic algorithm. According to this algorithm, that value of h_{sparse} which gives minimum value for $|\hat{h}_{com} - Ah_{sparse}|$ is taken as \hat{h}_{sparse_LS} . Table II gives the algorithm of MMSE-CS channel estimation algorithm.

TABLE II
MMSE-CS CHANNEL ESTIMATION ALGORITHM

Algorithm: MMSE-CS channel estimation	
Input: $X_{pilot}, Y_{pilot}, sensing Matrix A$	
Output: $\hat{h}_{com}, \hat{h}_{sparse_MMSE}(k)$	
Steps:	
1. Iterate for SNR in range $k = min$ to max value	
a. Obtain the compressed channel vector $\hat{h}_{com} = Y_{pilot} * X_{pilot}^{-1}$	
b. Iterate till ϵ_{min} is obtained	
i. $\epsilon = \hat{h}_{com} - Ah_{sparse} $	
ii. If $\epsilon < \epsilon_{min}$	
• then $temp \leftarrow h_{sparse}$	
iii. $\hat{h}_{sparse_LS}(k) \leftarrow temp$	
iv. $W = \left(R_{h_{sparse} \hat{h}_{sparse_LS}} \right) * \left(R_{\hat{h}_{sparse_LS} \hat{h}_{sparse_LS}} \right)^{-1}$	
v. $\hat{h}_{sparse_MMSE}(k) = W * \hat{h}_{sparse_LS}(k)$	
c. If $k < max$	Go to step 1.a.
Else	Exit

III. SIMULATION RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the simulation results of LS, MMSE, LS-CS and MMSE-CS are presented. Performance of the aforementioned techniques are analyzed and compared taking into consideration various parameters like number of channel coefficients, sparsity of the channel, percentage of the total channel coefficients sensed and the FFT size.

A. Performance Analysis of LS, LS-CS, MMSE, MMSE-CS in SISO OFDM Systems

For this analysis, an image is transmitted over a sparse Rayleigh channel in SISO-OFDM system. The image is

reconstructed at the receiver side by individually applying LS, MMSE, LS-CS and MMSE-CS channel estimation algorithms. The specifications used for the image transmission are given in Table III.

BER obtained for each channel estimation algorithm when the image is transmitted in a sparse channel with sparsity in the range of 6-11% for various SNRs is specified in Table IV. It is seen that all the channel estimation algorithms are capable of reconstructing the image at the receiver side faithfully with almost zero BER for all SNR equal to and above 5dB. For LS and MMSE all the 150 channel coefficients are sensed.

TABLE III
SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS FOR SISO-OFDM SYSTEM

Specification	Values
Information size	256*256*8 bits
Number of subcarriers	64
Total channel coefficients in Rayleigh channel (N)	150
Sparsity of channel (%M)	6-11%
Percentage of channel coefficients sensed (%K) in case of LS-CS and MMSE-CS	18-24%

TABLE IV
BER COMPARISON FOR LS, LS-CS, MMSE, MMSE-CS CHANNEL ESTIMATION ALGORITHM

SNR	BER			
	LS	LS-CS	MMSE	MMSE-CS
8	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0
2	0.0018	0.0028	0.0015	0.0016
0	0.0022	0.0031	0.0020	0.0021



Fig. 3. Recovered image by employing LS estimation technique for SNR=2dB

However, for LS-CS and MMSE-CS, only 18-24% of the total 150 channel coefficients are sensed, thereby reducing the overhead of estimating all the channel coefficients. For 2dB SNR, the BERs for MMSE and MMSE-CS are less than LS and LS-CS. Fig 3, 4, 5 and 6 show the reconstructed image using LS, LS-CS, MMSE and MMSE-CS channel estimation technique at 2dB SNR respectively.

It is observed that recovery of image using MMSE and MMSE-CS is better than LS and LS-CS. Nonetheless, the major advantage of MMSE-CS is that only 18-24 % of the total 150 channel coefficients are sensed to recreate the image at the receiver.



Fig. 4. Recovered image by employing LS-CS estimation technique for SNR=2dB



Fig. 5. Recovered image by employing MMSE estimation technique for SNR=2dB

B. Performance Analysis of LS, LS-CS, MMSE, MMSE-CS in 2X2 MIMO OFDM Systems

Here, a scenario is considered where all the four channels of 2X2 MIMO have different sparsity levels. Here, along with the performance analysis of LS, MMSE, LS-CS and MMSE-CS channel estimation techniques, effect of sparsity on the performance with respect to BER metric is also analyzed.

At first, an image is transmitted over uncorrelated Rayleigh channels with different sparsity, at a given SNR of 2dB, in a 2X2 MIMO-OFDM system. The specifications used for the

simulation are detailed in Table V. Table VI shows the values of BER obtained when the image through all the four channels is reconstructed using LS, LS-CS, MMSE and MMSE-CS channel estimation techniques.



Fig. 6. Recovered image by employing MMSE-CS estimation technique for SNR=2dB

TABLE V
SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS FOR MIMO OFDM

Specification	Values
System	2x2 MIMO
Information size	2^{17} bits
Number of subcarriers	64
SNR	2dB
Total channel coefficients in Rayleigh channel (N)	150

From Table VI, it is observed that the performance of MMSE and MMSE-CS is better than LS and LS-CS at any sparsity level. Moreover, we also deduce that the MMSE-CS gives a performance similar to MMSE, however by sensing just a small percentage of the total channel coefficients. For both MMSE-CS and LS-CS techniques, only some percentage of the total channel coefficients is sensed. For example, in case of channel 1, where the sparsity of the channel is only 7%, only 19% of the total channel coefficients are sensed for both LS-CS and MMSE-CS. However, MMSE-CS outperforms LS-CS by 48% in terms of BER. In addition, it is also noted that performance of all the channel estimation is better if the sparsity level is between 6-11% of the total channel coefficients.

Further a comparison of MMSE and MMSE-CS channel estimation is done in a 2X2 MIMO-OFDM system with four channels of different sparsity level over a SNR range of 0 to 10dB. The specifications used for simulation are given in Table VII below. The sparsity level of each channel and the number of channel coefficients sensed are given in Table VIII.

TABLE VI
BER COMPARISON FOR LS, LS-CS, MMSE, MMSE-CS CHANNEL ESTIMATION ALGORITHM

Channel number	Sparsity of channel (%M)	Channel coefficients sensed (%K)	BER				% improvement of MMSE
			LS	LS-CS	MMSE	MMSE-CS	
1	7%	19%	0.0421	0.0163	0.0082	0.00833	48%
2	12%	26%	0.1112	0.0911	0.0245	0.0249	72%
3	11%	24%	0.0147	0.0096	0.0027	0.0039	59%
4	15%	28%	0.0381	0.0254	0.0063	0.0067	73%

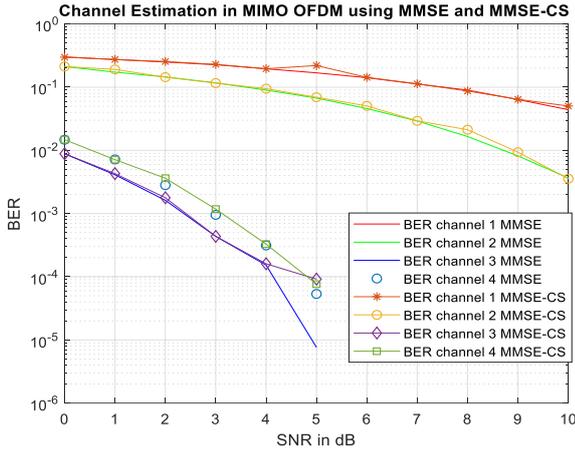


Fig. 7. BER plots for MMSE and MMSE-CS channel estimation technique in MIMO-OFDM

Fig. 7. portrays the SNR versus BER curve for all the four channels with different sparsity levels using MMSE and MMSE-CS channel estimation algorithm.

On analyzing Table VIII and Fig 7, the fact that sparser channel gives better performance in terms of BER established in [22] is affirmed. Channel 3 is the sparsest with only 10% significant non-zero channel coefficients. BER versus SNR curve for this channel is better than the other channels for both MMSE as well as MMSE-CS channel estimation technique. It is also observed that BER MMSE-CS is almost the same as MMSE. However, at 5 dB SNR, the BER for MMSE and MMSE-CS is $10^{-5.2}$ and $10^{-4.2}$ respectively. But at the same time, in MMSE-CS channel estimation technique, only 23% of the total channel coefficients are sensed to recover the transmitted data, whereas in MMSE channel estimation technique, all the channels coefficients are to be sensed to faithfully recreate the transmitted data.

IV. CONCLUSION

The results obtained by implementing compressive sensing based MMSE-CS channel estimation algorithm are demonstrated in this paper. The result analysis indicates that the performance of MMSE-CS in terms of BER metric is definitely better than LS and LS-CS algorithms. It is also noted that MMSE-CS performance is at par with MMSE by sensing considerably lesser number of channel coefficients. The importance of compressive sensing theory in channel estimation is accentuated by the fact that LS-CS and MMSE-CS can faithfully recreate the transmitted data by sensing just a small number of channel coefficients, whereas in case of LS and MMSE, all the channel coefficients are sensed. In this paper it is also affirmed that sparser channel enhances the performance of channel estimation algorithm employing compressive sensing. Moreover, optimum performance of LS-CS and MMSE-CS channel estimation algorithm is attained when the channel sparsity is in the range of 6-11% by sensing just 18-24% of the total channel coefficients.

TABLE VII
SYSTEM SPECIFICATION IN MIMO OFDM OVER SNR RANGE

Specification	Values
System	2x2 MIMO
Information size	2^{17} bits
Number of subcarriers	64
SNR	0:10dB
Total channel coefficients in Rayleigh channel (N)	60

TABLE VIII
SPARSITY LEVEL AND CHANNEL COEFFICIENTS SENSED FOR FOUR CHANNELS IN 2X2 MIMO-OFDM SYSTEM

Channel number	Sparsity level (%M)	Percentage of channel coefficients sensed (%K)
1	16%	30%
2	15%	28%
3	10%	23%
4	15%	28%

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