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RESEARCH ARTICLE

State Machine-Based Waveforms for Channels With 1-bit Quantization and Oversampling With Time-Instance Zero-Crossing Modulation

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ABSTRACT Systems with 1-bit quantization and oversampling are promising for the Internet of Things (IoT) networks because they can reduce the power consumption of the analog-to-digital-converters in the devices. The novel time-instance zero-crossing (TI ZX) modulation is a promising approach for IoT networks and devices but existing studies rely on optimization problems with high computational complexity and delay. In this work, we propose a practical waveform design based on the established TI ZX modulation for a multiuser multi-input multi-output (MIMO) systems in the downlink scenario with 1-bit quantization and temporal oversampling at the receivers. In this sense, the proposed temporal transmit signals are constructed by concatenating segments of coefficients which convey the information into the time-instances of zerocrossings according to the TI ZX mapping rules. The proposed waveform design is compared with other methods from the literature in terms of bit error rate and normalized power spectral density. Numerical results show that the proposed technique is suitable for multiuser MIMO systems with 1-bit quantization while tolerating some small amount of out-of-band radiation.

INDEX TERMS Zero-crossing precoding, oversampling, Moore machine, 1-bit quantization.

I. INTRODUCTION

Future wireless communication technologies are envisioned to support a large number of the Internet of Things (IoT) devices which require to have low power consumption and low complexity. Low resolution analog-to-digital converters (ADCs) that equip IoT devices are suitable to meet the requirements since the power consumption in the ADCs increases exponentially with its amplitude resolution [\[1\].](#page-8-0) Moreover, the loss of information caused by the coarse quantization can be partially compensated by increasing the sampling rate. In particular, by employing temporal M_{Rx} -fold oversampling, rates of $log_2(M_{Rx}+1)$ bits per Nyquist interval are achievable in a noise free environment $[2]$. The authors

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in [\[3\]](#page-8-2) studied the maximization of the achievable rate for systems with 1-bit quantization and oversampling in the presence of noise. Other studies that considered systems with 1-bit quantization and oversampling employ ASK transmit sequences $[4]$, $[5]$, $[6]$ and 16 QAM modulation $[7]$. Other practical methods are based on the idea presented in [\[2\],](#page-8-1) where the information is conveyed into the zero-crossings. An example is the study presented in $[8]$, where the waveform is constructed by concatenating sequences which convey the information into the zero-crossings. This study shows that similar data rates to the one presented in $[2]$ can be achieved over noisy channels with relatively low out-ofband radiation. Some other practical methods which convey the information into the zero-crossings include runlengthlimited (RLL) sequences [\[9\],](#page-8-8) [\[10\].](#page-8-9) Other modern methods that consider the reduction of energy consumption in the

ADCs are based on sub-Nyquist sampling methods such as the one presented in $[11]$.

The benefits of 1-bit quantization and oversampling have been studied in $[12]$ and $[13]$ for multiuser multipleinput multiple-output (MIMO) systems in uplink scenarios. Moreover, the studies in $[14]$ and $[15]$ have investigated sequences for downlink MIMO systems with 1-bit quantization and oversampling. In this regard, in [\[14\]](#page-8-13) it is presented a quantized precoding method which considers as optimization criterion the maximization of the minimum distance to the decision threshold (MMDDT) which is a well-established design criterion in literature [\[7\],](#page-8-6) [\[16\],](#page-9-1) [\[17\],](#page-9-2) [\[18\], a](#page-9-3)nd [\[19\], t](#page-9-4)hat is mathematically tractable and suitable for low-resolution techniques. In [\[17\]](#page-9-2) this design criterion is known as a safety margin to the decision thresholds and in [\[19\]](#page-9-4) the minimum distance is considered as a quality-of-service (QoS) design criterion. The quantized precoding technique of [\[14\]](#page-8-13) relies on an exhaustive codebook search which allows simple Hamming distance detection. Superior precoding schemes to those of [\[14\]](#page-8-13) for MIMO downlink scenarios have been investigated in [\[20\], w](#page-9-5)here a novel time-instance zero-crossing (TI ZX) modulation was introduced. This novel modulation follows the idea of [\[2\]](#page-8-1) by allocating the information into the time-instance of zerocrossings in order to reduce the number of zero-crossings of the signal. In this sense, the proposed TI ZX waveform is tailored for systems with 1-bit quantization and oversampling.

The study in [\[20\]](#page-9-5) relied on a precoding technique based on the MMDDT criterion with spatial zero-forcing (ZF) precoding and TI ZX modulation. Moreover, [\[20\]](#page-9-5) proposed an optimal temporal-spatial precoding technique with TI ZX modulation along with a minimum mean square error (MMSE) solution. Other studies that consider novel TI ZX modulation schemes have been presented in [\[15\],](#page-9-0) [\[21\], a](#page-9-6)nd [\[22\]](#page-9-7) where the computational complexity is reduced [\[21\].](#page-9-6) In [\[22\]](#page-9-7) the minimization of the transmit power under a quality of service constraint was considered as an objective. The study in [\[15\]](#page-9-0) investigated the spectral efficiency of MIMO systems with sequences constructed with the TI ZX modulation and RLL sequences.

In general, the TI ZX modulation allows a lower number of zero crossings in comparison with other methods from the literature such as the QP method $[14]$ and the transceiver design from [\[8\]. A](#page-8-7) lower number of zero-crossings allows for relaxation in the waveform design. Moreover, in comparison with other methods such as RLL sequences, the TI ZX modulation yields a lower detection complexity since a Viterbi decoder is not required while having a comparable spectral efficiency. Note that, the TI ZX modulation achieves a higher data rate in comparison with conventional modulation schemes such as QPSK, where a maximum rate of 2 bits per Nyquist interval can be achieved, while For TI ZX modulation with $M_{Rx} = 2$, approximately 3 bits per Nyquist interval are achieved and for $M_{Rx} = 3$, approximately 4 bits per Nyquist interval are achieved. Due to the simple

architecture and low power consumption, it is promising for battery driven IoT receivers. In this context, the main idea of the proposed scheme is to shift the complexity from the IoT devices to the base station.

In this work, we propose a TI ZX waveform design for multiuser MIMO systems in downlink scenarios with 1-bit quantization and oversampling where a predefined level of out-of-band radiation is tolerated. The proposed waveform design considers the novel TI ZX modulation from $\lceil 20 \rceil$ and follows a similar idea as presented in $\lceil 8 \rceil$. The proposed method conveys the information into the time-instances of zero-crossings but instead of considering sequences of samples, input bits are mapped into waveform segments according to the TI ZX mapping rules [\[20\]. T](#page-9-5)he temporal precoding vector is then used in conjunction with a simple pulse shaping filter. The optimal set of coefficients is computed with an optimization problem which is formulated to maximize the minimum distance to the decision threshold, constrained with some tolerated out-of-band radiation. Finally, the numerical results are evaluated considering the bit error rate (BER) and the power spectral density (PSD). The proposed waveform design is compared with the transceiver waveform design from [8] [and](#page-8-7) the TI ZX MMDDT precoding [\[20\]. T](#page-9-5)he transceiver waveform design [\[8\]](#page-8-7) was adapted for MIMO channels. The simulation results show that the proposed waveform design is comparable in terms of BER performance to the one presented for TI ZX MMDDT precoding while having a lower computational complexity since the waveform optimization is done once and is suitable for any input sequence of bits.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: The system model is introduced in Section [II.](#page-1-0) Then, Section [III](#page-2-0) describes the novel TI ZX modulation. Section [IV](#page-3-0) explains the proposed waveform design optimization including the autocorrelation function for TI ZX modulated sequences. Section [V](#page-5-0) presents a practical waveform design optimization strategy. The simulation results are provided in Section [VI](#page-6-0) and finally, the conclusions are given in Section [VII.](#page-8-14)

Notation: In the paper all scalar values, vectors and matrices are represented by: *a*, *x* and *X*, respectively.

II. SYSTEM MODEL

In this study, a multiuser MIMO downlink scenario with *N*^u single antenna users and N_t transmit antennas at the base station (BS), is considered as shown in Fig. [1.](#page-2-1) The input sequence of bits x_{b_k} for user *k* is mapped into the sequences of symbols x_k , such that transmission blocks of N symbols (*N* Nyquist intervals) are considered. The input sequence for user *k* is mapped using the TI ZX mapping and the set of coefficients G which yields the temporal precoding vector $s_{g_k} \in \mathbb{C}^{N_{\text{tot}}}$, where $N_{\text{tot}} = M_{\text{Rx}}N$ and M_{Rx}/T denotes the sampling rate and *T* refers to the symbol duration. Moreover, the transmit filter $g_{Tx}(t)$ and receive filter $g_{Rx}(t)$ are presented, where the combined waveform is given by $v(t) = (g_{Tx} * g_{Rx})(t)$. Furthermore 1-bit quantization is applied at the receivers. The channel matrix $\boldsymbol{H} \in \mathbb{C}^{N_u \times N_t}$

FIGURE 1. Considered multi-user MIMO downlink system model.

is known at the base station and is considered to be frequency-flat fading as typically assumed for narrowband IoT systems [\[14\].](#page-8-13) Then, stacking the temporal precoding vector of all the N_u users, the temporal precoding vector *s*_{*g*} is otained such that $s_g = \left[s_{g_1}^T, s_{g_2}^T, \cdots, s_{g_k}^T, \cdots, s_{g_{N_u}}^T\right]^T$. The process to obtain the temporal precoding vector s_{g_k} is explained in Section [IV.](#page-3-0)

The received signal $z \in \mathbb{C}^{N_{tot}N_u}$ can be expressed by stacking the received samples of the N_u users as follows:

$$
z = Q_1 \left(\left(H P_{\rm sp} \otimes I_{N_{\rm tot}} \right) \left(I_{N_{\rm u}} \otimes V \right) s_{\rm g} + \left(I_{N_{\rm u}} \otimes G_{\rm Rx} \right) n \right) = Q_1 \left(\left(H P_{\rm sp} \otimes V \right) s_{\rm g} + \left(I_{N_{\rm u}} \otimes G_{\rm Rx} \right) n \right) = Q_1 \left(H_{\rm eff} s_{\rm g} + G_{\rm Rx, eff} n \right), \tag{1}
$$

where $Q_1(\cdot)$ corresponds the 1-bit quantization operator, $n \in$ $\mathbb{C}^{3N_{\text{tot}}N_{\text{u}}}$ denotes a vector with zero-mean complex Gaussian noise samples with variance σ_n^2 . The waveform matrix *V* with size $N_{\text{tot}} \times N_{\text{tot}}$ is given by

V

$$
= \begin{bmatrix} v(0) & v\left(\frac{T}{M_{\text{Rx}}}\right) & \cdots & v(TN) \\ v\left(-\frac{T}{M_{\text{Rx}}}\right) & v(0) & \cdots & v\left(T\left(N-\frac{1}{M_{\text{Rx}}}\right)\right) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ v(-TN) & v\left(T\left(-N+\frac{1}{M_{\text{Rx}}}\right)\right) & \cdots & v(0) \end{bmatrix}.
$$
\n(2)

The receive filter g_{Rx} is represented in discrete time by the matrix G_{Rx} with size $N_{\text{tot}} \times 3N_{\text{tot}}$ and is denoted as

$$
G_{\text{Rx}} = a_{\text{Rx}} \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} g_{\text{Rx}}^T \end{bmatrix} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \begin{bmatrix} g_{\text{Rx}}^T \end{bmatrix} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \begin{bmatrix} g_{\text{Rx}}^T \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{3}
$$

 $y_{\text{Rx}} = [g_{\text{Rx}}(-T(N + \frac{1}{M_{\text{Rx}}}))$, $g_{\text{Rx}}(-T(N + \frac{1}{M_{\text{Rx}}}) +$ $\frac{T}{M_{\text{Rx}}}, \ldots, g_{\text{Rx}}(T(N + \frac{1}{M_{\text{Rx}}}))$ ^T and $a_{\text{Rx}} = (T/M_{\text{Rx}})^{1/2}$. The matrix $P_{\text{sp}} = c_{\text{zf}} H^{\text{H}} (H H^{\text{H}})^{-1}$ denotes the spatial zeroforcing precoder. The matrix \vec{P}_{sp} is normalized such that the spatial precoder does not change the signal power. As in [\[20\]](#page-9-5)

TABLE 1. Zero-crossing assignment *c*map.

the normalization factor c_{zf} is given by

$$
c_{zf} = \left(N_{\rm u}/\text{trace}\left(\left(HH^{\rm H}\right)^{-1}\right)\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.\tag{4}
$$

III. TIME-INSTANCE ZERO-CROSSING MAPPING

The TI ZX modulation was proposed in [\[20\]](#page-9-5) for systems with 1-bit quantization and oversampling. The TI ZX modulation conveys the information into the time instances of zero-crossings and also considers the absence of zero-crossing during a symbol interval as a valid symbol, different from $[2]$ [and](#page-8-1) $[8]$. The latter implies a lower average number of zero-crossings per Nyquist interval which results in a relaxation of the waveform design of systems with bandlimitation.

To build the mapped sequence, each input symbol x_i drawn from the set $\mathcal{X}_{\text{in}} := \{b_1, b_2, \cdots, b_{R_{\text{in}}}\}\$ with $R_{\text{in}} = M_{\text{Rx}} + 1$, is mapped into a binary codeword $c_{s_i} \in \{-1, 1\}$ with M_{Rx} samples. The codeword c_{s_i} determines the time instant within the symbol interval, in which the zero-crossing occurs or not. Once the codewords of all the transmit symbols have been generated, they are concatenated in one single vector, to generate the desired output pattern *c*out. The construction of *c*out is done in the same way and separately for all the users, and the in-phase and quadrature components of the symbols. In the concatenation process, the last sample of the previous Nyquist interval, termed $\rho \in \{1, -1\}$, must be considered to map the next symbol into the corresponding binary codeword.

Due to ρ , each symbol b_j from the input alphabet is assigned to two different codewords which convey the same zero-crossing information. The mapping assignment c_{map} , shown in Table [1,](#page-2-2) relates each symbol *b^j* to its respective time instance zero-crossing where the information is conveyed.

Then, for coding and decoding of the first transmit symbol, a pilot sample $\rho_b \in \{1, -1\}$ is required.

A. GRAY CODING FOR TIZX MODULATION

The Gray coding for TI ZX modulation established in [\[20\]](#page-9-5) is considered such that symbols with consecutive or near zero-crossings differ only in one bit. For $M_{Rx} = 3$, a binary tuple is mapped on one symbol. Sequences of symbols are considered for $M_{\text{Rx}} = 2$, such that 3 input bits are mapped on a subsequence of 2 symbols. Table [2](#page-3-1) and Table [3](#page-3-2) show the

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TABLE 2. Gray code for $M_{Rx} = 3$.

$M_{\rm Rx} = 3$				
	Gray code \mid c_s $(\rho_{i-1} = 1)$	$c_{s}(\rho_{i-1}=-1)$		

TABLE 3. Proposed Gray code for $M_{Rx} = 2$.

corresponding Gray mapping for $M_{\text{Rx}} = 3$ and $M_{\text{Rx}} = 2$, respectively.

IV. WAVEFORM DESIGN OPTIMIZATION

The proposed waveform design, suitable for systems with 1-bit quantization and oversampling, considers the novel TI ZX modulation [\[20\], i](#page-9-5)n conjunction with the optimization of a set of coefficients. It means that instead of considering binary sequences of samples, the proposed waveform is built by concatenating segment sequences of coefficients that contain zero-crossings at the desired time-instances according to c_{map} .

The proposed waveform design relies on the transmit and receive filters $g_{Tx}(t)$ and $g_{Rx}(t)$ which preserve the zerocrossing time-instance. Different to [\[20\], t](#page-9-5)he sequence is no longer binary but is defined by the set of coefficients $\mathcal G$ so that each symbol x_i drawn from the set \mathcal{X}_{in} is mapped into a codeword g_i with M_{Rx} different coefficients which convey the information into the time-instances of zero-crossings. As in the original TI ZX modulation $[20]$, it is considered that sequences are constructed for real and imaginary parts independently. In the following, a real-valued process is described.

The set of optimal coefficients $\mathcal G$ with dimensions $n_s \times q$ is defined in terms of $\mathcal{G} = \{G_+; G_-\}$ where $G_- = -G_+$, such that they both convey the same zero-crossings information. In this context, G_+ is associated to $\rho = 1$ and G_- is associated to $\rho = -1$.

Considering bit sequences as input and the Gray coding for TI ZX modulation shown in Table [2](#page-3-1) and Table [3,](#page-3-2) *q* is established such that $q = 3$ for $M_{Rx} = 3$ and $q = 4$ for $M_{Rx} = 2$, where q denotes the length of the codeword when Gray coding is considered. In the

TABLE 4. Set of optimal coefficients G for $M_{Rx} = 3$.

same way, n_s = 8 for M_{Rx} = 3 and n_s = 16 for $M_{\text{Rx}} = 2$, where n_s represents the number of different codewords. By considering the symmetry in G , we define the reduced matrices $G_{+/-} = \left[g_{1_{+/-}}^T; g_{2_{+/-}}^T; \cdots; g_{n_s/2_{+/-}}^T \right]$ i , where $g_{i_{+/-}} = [g_{i,1_{+/-}}, g_{i,2_{+/-}}, \cdots g_{i,q_{+/-}}]$ and $\rho =$ $sgn(g_{i,q})$.

In this context the set G is shown in Table [4](#page-3-3) for M_{Rx} = 3 and the matrix $G_{+} = -G_{-}$ for $M_{Rx} = 3$ is described as

$$
\mathbf{G}_{+} = -\mathbf{G}_{-} = \begin{pmatrix} g_{1,1} & g_{1,2} & g_{1,3} \\ g_{2,1} & g_{2,2} & -g_{2,3} \\ g_{3,1} & -g_{3,2} & -g_{3,3} \\ -g_{4,1} & -g_{4,2} & -g_{4,3} \end{pmatrix}
$$
(5)

Then, as initially established, the symbol x_i is mapped in the segment $g_{i_{+/-}}$. The pilot sample ρ_b is required for the encoding and decoding processes of the first symbol x_1 . Finally, the input sequence of symbols x_k is mapped in the sequence s_{g_k} with length N_{tot} by concatenating all the segments $g_{i_{+/-}}$ such that, $s_{g_k} = [g_0^T, \ldots, g_{N-1}^T]^T$. Note that the pilot sample ρ_b is predefined and known at the receivers, hence not included in the precoding vector *sg^k* .

A. AUTOCORRELATION FOR TI ZX MODULATION

In this section, it is described how to compute the autocorrelation function of the TI ZX modulated signal, considering the set of coefficients $\mathcal G$ which conveys the information into the time-instances of zero-crossings.

To obtain the autocorrelation function, the TI ZX modulation system is converted to a finite-state machine where the current output values are determined only by its current state which corresponds to an equivalent Moore machine [\[23\].](#page-9-8) For $M_{\text{Rx}} = 3$, one symbol in terms of two bits is mapped in one output pattern, so $n_s = 8$ different states are presented. While for $M_{Rx} = 2$ sequences of symbols are considered in terms of mapping three bits segments in four samples, such that there are $n_s = 16$ $n_s = 16$ different states. Table [5](#page-4-0) and Table 6 provide the equivalent Moore machine for $M_{\text{Rx}} = 3$ and $M_{\rm Rx} = 2$, respectively. The states with positive subscripts represent sequences for $\rho = 1$ and states with negative subscripts represent sequences for $\rho = -1$.

Considering a symmetric machine, the matrix Γ is defined with *m* different positive coefficients, where $m = 12$ for $M_{\text{Rx}} = 3$ and $m = 32$ for $M_{\text{Rx}} = 2$.

The state transition probability matrix *Q* of the equivalent Moore machine, with dimensions $n_s \times n_s$ is defined for i.i.d.

input bits, all valid state transitions have equal probability *p* with $p = 1/4$ for $M_{Rx} = 3$ and $p = 1/8$ for $M_{\text{Rx}} = 2$. Furthermore, the vector $\pi = (1/n_s)1$ of length n_s corresponds to the stationary distribution of the equivalent Moore machine, which implies $\pi^T Q = \pi^T$. Then, the matrix Γ with dimensions $n_s \times M_{Rx}$ for $M_{Rx} = 3$ and $n_s \times 2M_{Rx}$ for $M_{\text{Rx}} = 2$ is defined which contains the Moore machine's output *gi*+/[−] . The block-wise correlation matrix of the TI ZX mapping output is given by [\[24, eq](#page-9-9). 3.46]

$$
\boldsymbol{R}_{\boldsymbol{g}}^{\kappa} = \mathrm{E} \{ \boldsymbol{g}_{\kappa'} \boldsymbol{g}_{\kappa'+\kappa}^T \} = \boldsymbol{\Gamma}^T \, \boldsymbol{\Pi} \boldsymbol{Q}^{|\kappa|} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}. \tag{6}
$$

Then, the average autocorrelation function r_g of the TI ZX modulation output sequence can be obtained as [\[24, eq](#page-9-9). 3.39]

$$
\mathbf{r}_{g}[kq+l] = \frac{1}{q} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{q-l} \left[\mathbf{R}_{g}^{k} \right]_{i,l+i} + \sum_{i=q-l+1}^{q} \left[\mathbf{R}_{g}^{k+1} \right]_{i,l+i-q} \right),\tag{7}
$$

for $k \in \mathbb{Z}, 0 \leq l \leq q-1$.

TABLE 5. Equivalent Moore machine for TI ZX mapping for $M_{Rx} = 3$.

Current	next state				output		
state	00	01		10	g_i		
		2_{+}	3_{+}		$g_{1,1}$ $g_{1,3}$ $g_{1,2}$		
2_{+}		$2-$	3_{-}		$g_{2,1}$ $g_{2,3}$ $g_{2,2}$		
3.		2^{-}	3_{-}		93,1 93,3 $g_{3,2}$		
		$2 -$	3_{-}		-94.1 94,2 94,3		
		2^{-}	3_{-}		$-g_{1,1}$ $g_{1,3}$ $g_{1,2}$		
$2-$		2_{+}	3_{+}		$-g_{2,1}$ $g_{2,2}$ $g_{2,3}$		
-3		2_{+}	3_{\pm}		$-g_{3,1}$ 93,2 93,3		
		2_{+}	3_{+}		94.1 94.3 94.2		

TABLE 6. Equivalent Moore machine for TI ZX mapping for $M_{Rx} = 2$.

B. WAVEFORM DESIGN

As the signs of the coefficients are predefined by the TI ZX modulation, we optimize the amplitude of the coefficients in the optimization process by introducing the matrix *G*. Let *G* be a matrix such that $G_{i,j} = |G_{+i,j}| = |G_{-i,j}|$. Then, the matrix *G*, is vectorized such that $g_u = \text{vec}(G)$. The vector g_u is later optimized such that with this optimal vector the set G is shaped to construct the temporal precoding vector *sg*. The autocorrelation function is calculated with [\(7\)](#page-4-2) and the PSD is calculated by

$$
S(f) = S_x(f) |G_{\text{Tx}}(f)|^2, \tag{8}
$$

where $G_{\text{Tx}}(f)$ refers to the transfer function of the transmit filter g_{Tx} and $S_x(f)$ to the PSD of the transmit sequence

$$
S_x(f) = \frac{M_{\rm Rx}}{T} \sum_{l=-\infty}^{\infty} c_l e^{j2\pi \frac{l}{M_{\rm Rx}} f}, \qquad (9)
$$

where *c^l* denotes the *l*-th element of the autocorrelation function from [\(7\).](#page-4-2) By defining a critical frequency *f^c* and a power containment factor η , the inband power is defined as

$$
\int_{-f_c}^{f_c} S(f) df = \eta P,\tag{10}
$$

where $P = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S(f) df$. Then, when considering $g_{Rx}(t)$ and $g_{\text{Tx}}(t)$ as rectangular filters,

$$
g_{\text{Rx}}(t) = g_{\text{Tx}}(t) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T/M_{\text{Rx}}}} \text{rect}\left(\frac{t}{T/M_{\text{Rx}}}\right),\qquad(11)
$$

matrix *V* is as an identity matrix. The absolute value squared of the transfer function is given by

$$
|G_{\text{Tx}}(f)|^2 = \frac{T}{M_{\text{Rx}}} \text{sinc}^2 \left(f \frac{T}{M_{\text{Rx}}}\right). \tag{12}
$$

With this, (8) can be expressed as

$$
S(f) = \mathrm{sinc}^2 \left(f \frac{T}{M_{\mathrm{Rx}}} \right) \sum_{l=-\infty}^{\infty} c_l e^{j2\pi \frac{l}{M_{\mathrm{Rx}}} f}.
$$
 (13)

Samples close to the decision threshold are more noisesensitive. Then, the maximization of the minimum distance to the decision threshold γ is considered as the optimization criterion. With this, an optimization problem that maximizes γ can be formulated as:

minimize_{g_u}
$$
-\gamma
$$

\nsubject to $g_u \ge \gamma \mathbf{1}$
\n
$$
||g_u||_2^2 \le m \frac{E_0}{2N_uNM_{Rx}}
$$
\n
$$
\eta(g_u, f_c) \ge \delta,
$$
\n(14)

where δ corresponds to the in band power target ratio. Assuming that the optimal solution for g_u fulfills the power constraint with equality, we can make the following statement. Using the optimal set of coefficients G , the sequence *sg^k* is constructed for each user. Then, the average total power of the complex transmit signal s_g is given by

$$
\mathbb{E}\left\{s_g^H A^H A s_g\right\} = E_0,\tag{15}
$$

where $A = I_{N_{\rm u}} \otimes G_{T_{\rm X}}^{T}$ and $G_{T_{\rm X}}$ denotes a Toeplitz matrix of size $N_{\text{tot}} \times 3N_{\text{tot}}$, which is given by

$$
G_{\text{Tx}} = a_{\text{Tx}} \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{g}_{\text{Tx}}^T \end{bmatrix} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{g}_{\text{Tx}}^T \end{bmatrix} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{g}_{\text{Tx}}^T \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{16}
$$

to find a solution directly. When no spectral constraint is considered, the maximum value for γ , it is γ_M is reached, and it is obtained by solving the optimization problem

minimize_{g_u} -
$$
\gamma
$$

\nsubject to $g_u \ge \gamma \mathbf{1}$
\n
$$
||g_u||_2^2 \le m \frac{E_0}{2N_u N M_{\text{Rx}}}. \tag{17}
$$

The maximum values γ_M reached by solving [\(17\)](#page-5-1) corresponds to $\gamma_M = \sqrt{\frac{E_0}{2N_M N}}$ $\frac{E_0}{2N_\mathrm{u}NM_\mathrm{Rx}}$.

The optimization problem in (14) can be solved more easily with fewer restrictions if it is considered that instead of maximizing γ , the power containment bandwidth factor η is maximized. Then, the next section explains in detail how to find sub-optimal solutions to the optimization problem in [\(14\).](#page-4-5)

V. A PRACTICAL WAVEFORM DESIGN OPTIMIZATION STRATEGY

This section describes the implementation of the solution to problem (14) . Once the oversampling factor M_{Rx} has been defined, an initial vector $g_u = \gamma 1$ of positive coefficients of length $m = 12$ is established. Then the matrix Q of the equivalent Moore machine, which defines the transition probability from one state to another, is established as shown below for $M_{\text{Rx}} = 3$.

$$
Q = \frac{1}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} . \tag{18}
$$

With the initial vector g_u the matrix Γ is shaped. Then the matrix $\Pi = \text{diag}(\pi)$ is defined. With a maximum value κ established, the average autocorrelation is calculated through equation [\(7\).](#page-4-2)

To calculate the PSD in [\(13\),](#page-4-6) a new variable $f_T = fT$ is introduced such that normalized vector f_T is defined as

$$
f_T = [0, 0.001, 0.002, \cdots, \lambda].
$$

Then the double side average autocorrelation function is shaped by flipping the vector r_g in the left-right direction except for the first sample and concatenating with the original r_g vector. Then, $S(f) = S'(f_T)$ is calculated with [\(13\)](#page-4-6) using the vector f_T .

- 1: Define a critical frequency *f^c*
- 2: Define $\gamma = \Delta_{\gamma}$
- 3: Define an in band power target ratio α **repeat**
- 4: Initialize $g_u = \gamma \mathbf{1}$ **repeat**
- 5: solve

 $minimize_{g_u}$) subject to $\|g_u\|$ 2 $\frac{2}{2} \le m \frac{E_0}{2N}$ 2*N*u*NM*Rx $g_u \succ \gamma 1$,

until A feasible solution is found.

6: Increase γ , $\gamma = \gamma + \Delta_{\gamma}$ in [\(22\)](#page-5-2)

until $\eta \leq \delta$.

The approximate integral P_T of $S(f)$ is computed as:

$$
P_T = \int_0^{\lambda/T} S(f) df \approx \frac{\Delta_f}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N_f} (S'(f_{T,n}) + S'(f_{T,n+1})), \quad (19)
$$

where $\Delta_f = \frac{\lambda}{N_f T}$ and $N_f + 1$ corresponds to the length of the vector f_T . Then the critical frequency is set to f_c , and the approximate integral P_{f_c} of $S(f) = S'(f_{T_c})$ is calculated for a normalized frequency vector $f_{T_c} = [0, 0.001, \dots, f_cT]$. Then, the in-band power can be computed as follows

$$
P_{f_c} = \int_0^{f_c} S(f) df \approx \frac{\Delta_{f_c}}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N_c} (S'(f_{T_c,n}) + S'(f_{T_c,n+1})), \quad (20)
$$

where $\Delta_{f_c} = \frac{f_c}{N_c}$ $\frac{f_c}{N_cT}$ and $N_c + 1$ corresponds to the length of the vector f_{T_c} . Next, the power containment factor η is calculated as

$$
\eta = \frac{P_{f_c}}{P_T}.\tag{21}
$$

With the latter, an equivalent optimization problem to (14) is expressed as:

minimize_{g_u}
$$
-\eta(g_u)
$$

subject to $||g_u||_2^2 \le m \frac{E_0}{2N_uNM_{Rx}}$
 $g_u \ge \gamma 1,$ (22)

where γ corresponds to the minimum value of g_u . Practical solutions for the problem in (22) can be found by numerical local optimization. When the optimal value for $\eta > \delta$, then γ can be increased, in terms of $\gamma = \gamma + \Delta_{\gamma}$ and the process is repeated until the in-band power target ratio δ is reached with approximately equality. The optimization strategy is summarized in Algorithm [1.](#page-5-3)

FIGURE 2. Mapping process for construction of *s*g with the set of optimal coefficients G for $M_{Rx} = 3$.

FIGURE 3. γ vs η with $N_u = 1$.

A. DETECTION

The detection process for the proposed waveform, follows the same process as for the existing TI ZX waveforms which aims for a low complexity receiver [\[20\]. T](#page-9-5)he detection process is done in the same way and separately for each user stream. From the sequence received in (1) the corresponding *z^k* sequences of each user are obtained. The sequence *z^k* is segmented into subsequences $z_{b_i} = [\rho_{i-1}, z_i]^T \in$ $\{+1, -1\}^{M_{Rx}+1}$, where ρ_{i-1} corresponds to the last sample of *z*b*i*−¹ which corresponds to the received sequence of the (*i* − 1) symbol interval. Then the backward mapping process is define such that $\bar{d}: z_{b_i} \to [\rho_{i-1}, \mathbf{c}_{si}^T]$ [\[20\]. In](#page-9-5) the noise free case it is possible to decode the sequence with the backward mapping process $d(\cdot)$. However, in the presence of noise, invalid sequences z_{b_i} may arise that are not possible to detect via $d(\cdot)$. Hence, the Hamming distance metric is required [\[14\]](#page-8-13) which is defined as

$$
\hat{x}_i = \overline{d}(c), \text{ with } c = \underset{c_{\text{map}} \in \mathcal{M}}{\arg \min} \text{Hamming}(z_{b_i}, c_{\text{map}}), \quad (23)
$$

where Hamming $(z_{b_i}, c_{map}) = \sum_{n=1}^{M_{Rx}+1} \frac{1}{2} |z_{b_{i,n}} - c_{map,n}|$ and $c_{\text{map}} = [\rho_{i-1}, c_{s_i}]^T$, and M denotes all valid forward mapping codewords. The detection of the first symbol in the sequence, considers the sample ρ_b which then enables the detection process. The real and the imaginary parts are detected independently in separate processes.

FIGURE 4. BER vs SNR for γ_M with $N_u = 2$.

FIGURE 5. BER vs SNR for the proposed waveform with $\delta = 0.95$.

VI. NUMERICAL RESULTS

This section presents numerical results in terms of uncoded BER and normalized PSD for the proposed TI ZX state machine waveform design. Moreover, the proposed technique results are compared with other methods from the literature, namely TI ZX MMDDT [\[20\]](#page-9-5) and ZX transceiver design [\[8\].](#page-8-7) The system under consideration employs $N_t = 8$ transmit antennas and $N_{\text{u}} = 2$ single-antenna users for all the evaluated methods. The SNR is defined as follows:

$$
SNR = \frac{E_0 \text{trace} \left(HH^H \right)}{N T N_0 N_u N_t 2 f_c},\tag{24}
$$

where N_0 denotes the noise power spectral density. The bandwidth *B* is defined as $B = 2f_c$, where the critical frequency is set to $f_c = 0.65/T$. The entries of the channel matrix H are i.i.d. with $\mathcal{CN}(0, 1)$.

FIGURE 6. BER vs SNR for $M_{Rx} = 3$ for all the considered methods.

The presented results for the TI ZX MMDDT method from [\[20\]](#page-9-5) consider $M_{\text{Rx}} = 3$ and the same data rate as for the proposed TI ZX state machine waveform design with $g_{Tx}(t)$ as an RC filter and $g_{Rx}(t)$ as an RRC filter with roll-off factors $\epsilon_{\text{Tx}} = \epsilon_{\text{Rx}} = 0.22$, with $f_c = (1 + \epsilon_{\text{Tx}})/2T$. On the other hand, for the ZX transceiver design $[8]$, $M_{Rx} = 3$ is considered for the random and the Golay mapping methods. The truncation interval is set to $\zeta = 3$ and the number of bits per subinterval $n = 2$, and at the receiver an integrate-and-dump-filter is considered [\[8\].](#page-8-7) Table [7](#page-8-15) presents the simulation parameters considered to solve the optimization problem in (22) . On the other hand, Table [8](#page-8-16) summarizes the simulation specifications for the proposed TI ZX waveform design and other methods from the literature, where I_b corresponds to the number of input bits per user and O_s represents the number of samples after the mapping process.

The optimal matrix *G* of positive coefficients is shown in Table [9](#page-8-17) and Table [10](#page-8-18) for M_{Rx} = 2 and M_{Rx} = 3,

respectively, where the normalization $\frac{E_0}{N} = 1$ is considered for the problems in (14) , (17) and (22) . The input sequences of symbols *x* are mapped onto the temporal transmit vector s_g considering the set of coefficients in Table [9](#page-8-17) and Table [10](#page-8-18) where $N_u = 1$ are considered and $\delta = 0.95$. Moreover, Δ_{γ} was set to Δ_{γ} = 0.1 for M_{Rx} = 3 and Δ_{γ} = 0.001 for M_{Rx} = [2](#page-6-1). Fig. 2 illustrates an example for M_{Rx} = 3, of how the sequence s_g is built taking into account the optimal coefficients *G* of Table [10.](#page-8-18) For Fig. [2,](#page-6-1) it is considered an example of the input sequence of bits $x_k = [0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1]$ and with the Gray coding shown in Table [2](#page-3-1) two bits are mapped in one sequence *g*. The pilot sample is set to $\rho_b = 1$ such that for the first binary tuple 00 the mapped sequence corresponds to ${\bf g}_{1_+} = [g_{1,1}, g_{1,2}, g_{1,3}] = [0.6592, 0.3531, 0.2237]$. To map the second binary tuple 10, the last sample of g_{1+} needs to be taken into account, so that $\rho = \text{sgn}(0.2237)$ = 1, therefore the mapped sequence corresponds to $g_{4+} = [-g_{4,1}, -g_{4,2}, -g_{4,3}] = [-0.1823, -0.3117, -0.5094].$ $-g_{4,1}, -g_{4,2}, -g_{4,3}$ = $[-0.1823, -0.3117, -0.5094]$. The process is done for the whole sequence x_k and the final sequence $s_g = [g_{1_+}, g_{4_+}, g_{4_-}, g_{3_+}, g_{2_-}].$

In Fig. [3](#page-6-2) the influence of the bandwidth on γ is presented, which confirms that when higher amount of out-of-band radiation is allowed, the optimal γ reaches a higher value. For $M_{\text{Rx}} = 3$ the maximum value for $\gamma_M = 1/\sqrt{6N_u}$ where an 79% of in band radiation is reached. In the case of $M_{\text{Rx}} = 2$ *t* θ/9% of in band radiation is reached. In the case of $M_{Rx} = 2$
the maximum value for $\gamma_M = 1/(2\sqrt{N_u})$, where an 83% of in band radiation is reached. It is also observed that the case with $M_{\text{Rx}} = 2$ reaches a higher γ value than for $M_{\text{Rx}} = 3$ when achieving the same in-band power. Then, Fig. [4](#page-6-3) presents the BER results considering $\gamma_M = 0.35$ for $M_{Rx} = 2$ and γ_M = 0.28 M_{Rx} = 3. In the case of M_{Rx} = 2, it shows a better performance since it is based on a higher γ*^M* value.

Numerical results are also presented in terms of BER for the proposed TI ZX state machine waveform design in Fig. [5](#page-6-4) for $M_{\text{Rx}} = 2$ and $M_{\text{Rx}} = 3$. As expected for $M_{\text{Rx}} = 2$ a lower BER is achieved than for $M_{\text{Rx}} = 3$. In both cases, a target power containment factor $\delta = 0.95$ was reached. On the other hand, $\gamma = 0.07$ for $M_{Rx} = 3$ and $\gamma = 0.17$ for $M_{Rx} = 2$. In Fig. [6](#page-7-0) the BER is evaluated and compared with other methods form the literature for $M_{Rx} = 3$. The proposed TI ZX state machine waveform design achieves a lower BER than the TI ZX MMDDT $[20]$ while having a lower computational complexity. In this context, the complexity order for the proposed state machine waveform design is dominated by the spatial ZF precoder whose complexity in Big O nation is given by $\mathcal{O}(N_t^3)$. This is because the coefficients are optimized only once for any transmitted sequence of symbols. On the other hand, the complexity order for the TI ZX MMDDT [\[20\]](#page-9-5) is given by $\mathcal{O}\left(2N_{\text{u}}(N_{\text{tot}})^{3.5} + N_{\text{t}}^{3}\right)$. However, note that the proposed TI ZX state machine waveform design yields a low level of out-of-band-radiation as seen in Fig. [7.](#page-7-1) Additionally, the proposed method is compared with the transceiver design from [\[8\]. Th](#page-8-7)e transceiver design method considers the nonuniform zero-crossing pattern with random and Golay mapping and power containment factor $\eta = 0.95$.

TABLE 7. Parameters values.

TABLE 8. Simulation parameters.

Method	$M_{\rm Rx}$	Transmit Filter	Receive filter		
TI ZX MMDDT [20]		$RC \alpha = 0.22$	RRC $\alpha = 0.22$	45	61
				60	
ZX transceiver design [8]		RC window $\alpha = 0.1$	Integrate-and-dump	180	270
TI ZX waveform design		Integrator $T/M_{\rm Bx}$	Integrator $T/M_{\rm{Rx}}$	45	60
				60	90

TABLE 9. Optimal set *G* for $M_{Rx} = 2$ with $N_u = 1$ and $\delta = 0.95$.

			G		
g_1	000	0.8176.	0.5430,	0.4428.	0.25
\boldsymbol{g}_2	001	0.25.	0.25,	0.25.	0.25
g_3	011	0.19.	0.5461,	0.25.	0.25
g_4	010	0.25.	0.5131,	0.6711,	0.25
$g_{\rm 5}$	110	1.1826.	0.25.	0.25.	0.25
g_6	111	0.25,	0.25,	0.7025,	0.25
g_7	101	0.7287.	0.25.	0.3715.	0.4114
g_8	100	0.25.	0.25.	0.462.	0.424

TABLE 10. Optimal set *G* for $M_{Rx} = 3$ with $N_u = 1$ and $\delta = 0.95$.

The proposed TI ZX state machine BER performance is better than the transceiver design [\[8\]](#page-8-7) when both allow the same level of out-of-band radiation since the concatenation of the codewords which conveys the zero-crossing information for TI ZX method is done considering the sign of the last coefficient of the previous Nyquist Interval. The latter implies a lower number of zero-crossings on average, which can be understood as a relaxation in the waveform design. The concatenation process for the TI ZX method is different from the method in [\[8\]](#page-8-7) which does not consider the state of the previous Nyquist Interval.

Simulation results are presented also in terms of the normalized PSD. In Fig. [7](#page-7-1) the analytical and numerical PSD are compared for the proposed TI ZX state machine waveform design with $M_{Rx} = 3$. The analytical PSD is calculated with [\(8\)](#page-4-3) considering the autocorrelation function in [\(7\).](#page-4-2) In Fig. [7,](#page-7-1) the normalized PSD of the proposed waveform design is also compared with the normalized PSD of the methods from the literature which is calculated by

$$
PSD_{dB} = 10\log_{10}\left[O_s^{(-1)}E\{|F_i|^2\}\right],\tag{25}
$$

where F_i is the discrete Fourier transform of the normalized temporal transmit signal per user.

In this study, we have developed a TI ZX state machine waveform based on the novel TI ZX modulation for multi-user MIMO downlink systems, with 1-bit quantization and oversampling. The waveform design considers the optimization of a set of coefficients that conveys the information into the time-instances of zero-crossings. The optimization is performed considering the power containment bandwidth and the maximization of the minimum distance to the decision threshold. The simulation results were compared with methods from the literature which employ techniques based on zero-crossings. The BER performance is favorable for the proposed method which achieves a comparable BER result as the TI ZX MMDDT [\[20\]](#page-9-5) method but with significantly lower computational complexity.

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