

Wireless Networks for 6G and Beyond: Not Just Communications

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Next Generations of Networks



F. Liu, Y. Cui, C. Masouros, J. Xu, T. X. Han, A. Hassanien, Y. Eldar, S. Buzzi, "Integrated Sensing and Communications: Toward Future Dual-functional Wireless Networks", IEEE Journal on Sel. Areas Comms., vol. 40, no. 6, pp. 1728-1767, June 2022

6G will be the first generation of multi-functional networks





Radar Spectrum being released for commercial comms services



Frequency Band	Radar Systems	Communication Systems	
L-band (1-2GHz)	Long-range surveillance radar, ATC radar	LTE, 5G NR	
S-band (2-4GHz)	Moderate-range surveillance radar, ATC radar, airborne early warning radar	IEEE 802.11b/g/n/ax/y WLAN, LTE, 5G NR	
C-band (4-8GHz)	Weather radar, ground surveillance radar, vessel traffic service radar IEEE 802.11a/h/j/n/p/ac/ax WLA		
MmWave band (30-300GHz)	Automotive radar, high-resolution imaging radar IEEE 802.11ad/ay WLAN, 5G NF		

Radar-Communication Coexistence (RCC)





Challenges

- Need for two different systems to coordinate
- Interference
- Synchronisation
- Side information: channel info exchange, coordination signals

Risky for radar-critical / comms-critical operations

BBCUS airlines warn of impending 5GNEWSflight disruption
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B. Paul, A. R. Chiriyath, and D. W. Bliss, "Survey of RF communications and sensing convergence research," IEEE Access, vol. 5, pp. 252–270, 2017.

F. Liu, C. Masouros, H. Griffiths, A. Petropulu, L. Hanzo "Joint Radar and Communication Design: Applications, State-of-the-art, and the Road Ahead", IEEE Trans Commun., vol. 68, no. 6, pp. 3834-3862, June 2020.

Challenges: Autonomous Vehicles Example

Too many sensors



Vehicular Communications



https://medium.com/datadriveninvestor/is-5g-friend-or-foe-for-autonomous-vehicle-72ee70800031 https://semiwiki.com/ip/moortec/8148-meeting-automotive-ic-design-challenges-for-safety-using-on-chip-sensors/

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Too many RF systems

Shipborne / airborne platforms to support a number of comms and sensing operations;

The independent growth of radar and comms systems leads to:

- increasing weight and volume of the shipborne or airborne platforms;
- increasing antenna array size and radar cross section;
- electromagnetic compatibility issues.



Could radar and communication transmission be merged?



Wireless Communications

Radar



Guglielmo Marconi 1894

Spectrum Co-Existence, ~2010

OFDM based sensing, 2013





Sir Robert Watson Watt 1915

Pulse Interval modulation, 1967

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The relation between radar and communication

Communication Symbol Detection - Multiple Hypotheses Testing Problem (MHT)

Target Detection - Binary Hypothesis Testing for multiple cells





A highly densely arranged MHT problem or a very large constellation

Communications - Radar Commonalities





Base Station

Radar

- Comms beamforming tailored to channel Radar to geometry but in LoS sparse channels the two converge
- Targets (echoes) ~ virtual uplink users that unwillingly communicate with the radar
- MmWave beam training/tracking becomes virtually the same for Comms-Radar

F. Liu, C. Masouros, H. Griffiths, A. Petropulu, L. Hanzo "Joint Radar and Communication Design: Applications, State-of-the-art, and the Road Ahead", IEEE Trans Commun., vol. 68, no. 6, pp. 3834-3862, June 2020. - *EiC Invited Paper*

A. R. Chiriyath, B. Paul, G. M. Jacyna, and D. W. Bliss, "Inner bounds on performance of radar and communications co-existence," IEEE Trans. Signal Process., vol. 64, no. 2, pp. 464–474, Jan. 2016.

mmWave CSI estimation – vs – radar angle estimation





Duplication in hardware





F. Liu, Y. Cui, C. Masouros, J. Xu, T. X. Han, A. Hassanien, Y. Eldar, S. Buzzi, "Integrated Sensing and Communications: Towards Future Dual-functional Wireless Networks", IEEE Journal on Sel. Areas Comms., vol. 40, no. 6, pp. 1728-1767, June 2022

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Performance Metrics

Communication Metric

- SINR;
- Bit Error Probability;
- CSI MSE

- Channel Capacity Mutual Information;
- Achievable sum rates

Radar Metric

- SCNR;
- Detection/FA Probability;
- AoA /Parameter MSE
- Cramer-Rao Bound;
- Estimation Capacity -Mutual Information.

A. R. Chiriyath, B. Paul, G. M. Jacyna, and D. W. Bliss, "Inner bounds on performance of radar and communications co-existence," IEEE Trans. Signal Process., vol. 64, no. 2, pp. 464–474, Jan. 2016



Wireless Communications

Radar



The step change from RCC to DFRC



Comms and Radar systems cooperate instead of competing for resources.

- Mutually benefit the real-time performance for both radar and communication systems
- Turn radar applications, which are on the rise with emerging IoT applications such as autonomous cars, into a commodity.



F. Liu, C. Masouros, H. Griffiths, A. Petropulu, L. Hanzo "Joint Radar and Communication Design: Applications, State-of-the-art, and the Road Ahead", IEEE Trans Commun., vol. 68, no. 6, pp. 3834-3862, June 2020.

The DFRC gains



Hardware Gain



Spectrum Gain



Scalable Trade-offs





Industry buy-in

Nokia Bell Labs propose a unified mmWave system for joint communication and sensing



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C Related Articles

Home / Magazines / Computer / 2019.07 Computer

Future Millimeter-Wave Indoor Systems: A Blueprint for Joint Communication and Sensing

July 2019, pp. 16-24, vol. 52 DOI Bookmark: 0.1109/MC 2019.2914016 Authors Mohammed Alloulah, Nokia Bell Labs, Cambridge, United Kingdom Howard Huang, Nokia Bell Labs, Cambridge, United Kingdom



Keywords

Indoor Radio, Millimetre Wave Communication, Mobile Radio, Next Generation Networks, Telecommunication Network Planning, Win Networks, Future Millimeter Wave Indoor Systems, Joint Communication, Next Generation High Rate Communications, Mm Wave Sj Sensing, Robot Sensing Systems, OFDM, Antenna Arrays, Bandwidth, Radar Imaging, Millimeter Wave Communication Abstract

Millimeter-wave (mm-wave) technology is emerging as a de facto enabler for next-generation high-rate communications. We propose mm-wave system for combined communication and robust sensing will turbocharge the capabilities of application domains from in-he to new possibilities for building analytics.

NTT DOCOMO 6G White Paper

3.6. Extreme-massive connectivity & sensing

Wearable user devices and an extremely large number of IoT devices that collect images and sensing information of the real world are expected to spread further in the 6G era, and an extremely large number of connections that are approximately 10 fold (= 10 million devices per square km) more than the 5G requirements are expected. In addition to the approach of connecting a large number of IoT devices to a network, the wireless communication network itself is expected to evolve to have functions for sensing the real world such as positioning and object detection using radio waves. In particular, the study of positioning has already advanced for 5G evolution, and it is expected that ultra-high-precise positioning with the error of several centimeters or less can be achieved in some environments.



Figure 3-7. Extreme-massive connectivity & sensing

Ericsson 6G White Paper

Extreme performance and coverage

The future wireless access solution must provide truly extreme performance in a multitude of dimensions and in all relevant scenarios in order to enable future in-demand services at acceptable costs. This includes, for example, extreme data rates and latency performance when so required, extreme system capacity to be able to deliver the services to a massive number of users, and truly global coverage of the wireless access. The key to enabling dense deployments with extreme system capacity in a cost-effective way is to introduce packet fronthaul and new wireless transport technologies, such as relay and mesh networking, free-space optics, and further integrated access and backhaul.

Enablers for sensing/positioning

Cellular networks are widely deployed to support wireless connectivity, where the propagation of the radio waves depends on many factors in the environment. Using data analytics on the radio signals received, it is possible to sense and estimate quantities impacting the radio propagation. (For example, the received signal quality in microwave links is affected by the presence of rainfall — information that is valuable for weather forecasting.) Active sensing, where radio signals are transmitted solely for the purpose of sensing, is also possible, allowing a base station to act as a radar system in addition to serving the communication needs of an area. This can be used to build and continuously update a map of surrounding areas to, for example, detect changes in road traffic or set off alarms if a person enters a restricted area in a factory hall. Reusing cellular systems for sensing can provide more cost-efficient sensing compared to the dedicated systems specifically deployed for sensing only.

Huawei identifies ISAC as one of the 3 major scenarios in their vision of 5.5G





Organization	Associated Works on ISAC	Details
ITU	ITU-T recommendation 1. ITU-TY.IOT-SQAF(under study) 2. ITU-T Y.4809 (10/2021)(In force) 3. ITU-T X.1080.2 (10/2021) (In force)	The recommendation titled "Assessment framework of IoT sensing quality" to provide a unified framework for both developers and users to evaluate sensing quality.
IEEE	 New IEEE Standard for Sensing IEEE 802.11bf WLAN Sensing IEEE 802.15.22.3-2020 IEEE 802.11-2020 	The standard of Spectrum Characterization and Occupancy Sensing defines the formats for system configuration and spectrum measurement parameters, which provides means for conveying value-added sensing information to various spectrum database services.
Next G Alliance (US)	Next G alliance working groups on National 6G Roadmap's technology layer.	The Technology Working Group will address the key technologies including new air interfaces, network architectures, spectrum access, x-haul, 6G Mobile-Network-Cloud fabric and sensing technologies, et al.
3GPP	New Proposals for ISAC 1. S1-214036; 2. S1-214056; 3. S1-214100; 4. S1-214101; 5. R1-2110894; 6. R1- 2104724; 7. R2-210049;	1. New SID on Integrated Sensing and Communication; 2. Cooperative Communication and Sensing; 3. New SID on 5GS-based enhanced Sensing; 4. 3GPP based Wireless Sensing Services; 5. Discussion on relation between sensing beam and transmission beam; 6. Considerations on partial sensing in NR V2X; 7. Discussion on sensing and DRX;
Hexa-X (EU)	1. A 6G vision was jointly defined by the 25 participants of Hexa-X. 2. Hexa-X project: Radio performance towards 6G.	One of the objectives in Hexa-X project is to deliver extreme performance by developing and assessing key radio technology components for the next generation, through higher bands and localization/sensing.
White paper Integrated sensing and communication technology report		The basic concept of ISAC, layered design concept, potential application scenarios, and enabling technologies related to air interface and network are deeply discussed.



Spectral Coexistence

F. Liu, Y. Cui, C. Masouros, J. Xu, T. X. Han, A. Hassanien, Y. Eldar, S. Buzzi, "Integrated Sensing and Communications: Towards Future Dual-functional Wireless Networks", IEEE Journal on Sel. Areas Comms., vol. 40, no. 6, pp. 1728-1767, June 2022



Co-located Hardware

Spectral Coexistence

F. Liu, Y. Cui, C. Masouros, J. Xu, T. X. Han, A. Hassanien, Y. Eldar, S. Buzzi, "Integrated Sensing and Communications: Towards Future Dual-functional Wireless Networks", IEEE Journal on Sel. Areas Comms., vol. 40, no. 6, pp. 1728-1767, June 2022



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Unified Framework for Integrated Radar-Communications





Outline

- Motivation
- Technical Overviews
 - Waveforms and Signals for DFRC
 - Sensing-Assisted Vehicular Communications
 - Security for DFRC



DFRC Technologies

- Radar-centric design
 - Pulse Interval Modulation (PIM)
 - Radar beampattern sidelobe signalling
 - Index Modulation (IM) using radar waveforms
 - ..
- Comms-centric design
 - OFDM based DFRC
 - IEEE 802.11ad based DFRC
- Radar-Centric DFRC:
 - Badar-compatible, minimal changes to radar waveforms
 - Limited data rates
- Comms-Centric DFRC:
 - Comms-Compatible, close to standards
 - Limited estimation accuracy difficult to tune







DFRC Technologies

- Radar-centric design
 - Pulse Interval Modulation (PIM)
 - Radar beampattern sidelobe signalling
 - Index Modulation (IM) using radar waveforms

- ..

- Comms-centric design
 - OFDM based DFRC
 - IEEE 802.11ad based DFRC

- ...

- Jointly optimized design
 - Radar-centric joint design
 - Weighted Comms-Radar optimization







DFRC- Joint Design

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- Co-design of Comms and Radar functionalities
- Flexible use of time / frequency / spatial resources
- Scalable Comms vs Radar
 performance tradeoffs



- 100% Radar \leftrightarrow 100% Comms performance tradeoff
- High data rates
- Radar Reliability
- Hardware friendly design

F. Liu, L. Zhou, C. Masouros, A. Li, W. Luo, and A. Petropulu, "Toward dual-functional radar-communication systems: Optimal waveform design," IEEE Trans. Signal Process., vol. 66, no. 16, pp. 4264–4279, Aug 2018.

DFRC- Joint Waveform Optimization



Tuneable Trade-offs



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Joint DFRC – Over-the-air Proof of concept





T. Xu, F. Liu, C. Masouros, I. Darwazeh, "An Experimental Proof of Concept for Integrated sensing and Communications Waveform Design", IEEE Open Journal of ComSoc, vol. 3, pp. 1643-1655, 2022

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Elementary activity detection



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Over-The-Air Lab Setup



Radar node is situated behind the 'bin' target next to the dual radar Tx and Rx dishes.

The comms Rx ARESTOR node is seen on the bench behind its receiving dish to the right of the image. Three indices are considered

- centre frequency
- bandwidth
- polarization



Radar RFSoC platform





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Radar vs Communication Trade-off



 \downarrow Radar pulse duration $\rightarrow \uparrow$ Comms throughput, \downarrow Radar integration gain •



Radar-assisted Vehicular Network

Communication Served by Sensing

Comms-based Beam Training



RSU transmits with different AoA, to scan the angular interval of interest
 User 1) measures signal strength and 2) feeds back the SNR / beam index
 RSU identifies a narrower angular interval and scans with narrow beams
 User 1) measures signal strength and 2) feeds back the SNR / beam index

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Comms served by Sensing: Radar tracking for Comms beam-steering



- Assumptions: LoS channel, straight road, parallel mMIMO antenna arrays AoA equals to AoD
- Separate Rx array, inc RF isolator

System Model - Signal Model





F. Liu, W. Yuan, C. Masouros and J. Yuan, "Radar-Assisted Predictive Beamforming for Vehicular Links: Communication Served by Sensing", IEEE Trans. Wireless Commun., *vol. 19, no 11, pp. 7704-7719, Nov. 2020*

Numerical Results - DFRC vs Comms only



- EKF-Comms-only: poor angle estimation at RSU crossing point suffering data rate ٠
- Auxiliary Beam Pair (ABP) tracking: at RSU crossing point the correct beam will unlikely fall into ٠ angle search interval – beam goes beyond the search space and is not recovered
- EKF-DFRC: Minimal disruption in the rate ٠

F. Liu, W. Yuan, C. Masouros and J. Yuan, "Radar-Assisted Predictive Beamforming for Vehicular Links: Communication Served by Sensing", IEEE Trans. Wireless Commun., vol. 19, no 11, pp. 7704-7719, Nov. 2020

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Dual-functional Radar-Communication

Subject to Security threats?



Radar + Information: Subject to Security Threats



DFRC BS (Alice)

Target can be:

- Enemy aircraft
- Malicious UAV
- Non-cooperative car

• .

Malicious target can:

- Detect Data intended for LUs

 unique to DFRC
- Infer critical radar info (location, ID, ..., ...)
- Need for PHY security guarantees over the Radar beamwidth
- Secure Beamforming / Artificial Noise

Secure DFRC Transmission

Unique Sensing Performance vs Security Trade-offs

- Power towards the direction of target
- Useful signal power (SINR_E) towards the target

 $\mathsf{SINR}_{\mathsf{LU}}$ towards the users



Apply PHY Sec approaches

- Secure BF
- AN, Jamming
- Cooperative Security
- ...

DFRC BS (Alice)

Z. Wei, F. Liu, C. Masouros, N. Su, A. Petropulu, "Towards Multi-Functional 6G Wireless Networks: Integrating Sensing, Communication and Security" IEEE Comms Mag., vol. 60, no. 4, pp. 65-71, April 2022

Our Work



Secure DFRC Transmission – An Artificial Noise Design

N = 18 antennas, K = 4 legitimate users, one target – LU SNR $\gamma_b = 10$ dB.



N. Su, F. Liu, C. Masouros, "Secure Radar-Communication Systems with Malicious Targets: Integrating Radar, Communications and Jamming Functionalities", IEEE Trans. Wireless Comms., vol. 20, no. 1, pp. 83-95, Jan. 2021

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DFRC Infrastructure: Opportunity for Malicious Sensing



Need to secure both Communications and Sensing Functionalities

- Secure DFRC Communication
- Secure DFRC Sensing

- Dual-functional radar-communication system that can serve multiple downlink users while detecting targets enabler for future applications
 - Spectrally Efficient
 - Energy Efficient
 - Hardware Efficient
- New Signaling opportunities
 - Radar-centric / Communications-centric / Joint
 - Hardware-informed
- Sensing Assisted Communications
 - Sensing to assist high mobility (beam alignment, cell handover)
- Unique Security Challenges Opportunities
 - Secure Comms vs Sensing trade-off
 - Sensing Security

Future outlook - Cellular as a Sensor for 6G and Beyond Integrated Sensing and Communications (ISAC)

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Hardware-Efficient DFRC



Sensing-Assisted Comms



Pervasive sensing through dense cellular infrastructure





Thank you















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Murat Temiz Nial Peters





Accelerator

Marie Curie Fellowship Nov 2018 – Oct 2020 (£160k)



MoD DASA Project Jul 2021 – Mar 2022 (£100k)



CI-PHY Project Apr 2018 – Jul 2021 (£1.1m)



LeanCom Project Oct 2019 – Nov 2023 (£860k)



PAINLESS Project Oct 2018 – Sep 2022 (€4.2m)

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DFRC experiments

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