Near-Optimal Training-Based Estimation of Frequency Offset and Channel Response in OFDM with Phase Noise

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- Problem description and signal model.
- Prior statistics of phase noise.
- The optimal joint CFO/PHN/CIR estimator.
- The near-optimal joint CFO/PHN/CIR estimator.
- Complexity reduction using conjugate gradient method.
- Simulation results.

• The role of channel estimation in OFDM receiver design:



• OFDM channel with PHN (Phase Noise) and CFO (Carrier Frequency Offset):



• Distortions caused by PHN and CFO:



• Complex baseband received signal in one OFDM symbol interval:

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{E}\mathbf{P}\mathbf{G}\mathbf{F}^H\mathbf{d} + \mathbf{n},\tag{1}$$

- $\mathbf{r} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times 1}$: received OFDM symbol with cyclic prefix removed;
- $\mathbf{E} = \operatorname{diag}([1, e^{j2\pi\epsilon/N}, \cdots, e^{j2\pi(N-1)\epsilon/N}]^T)$: CFO matrix;
- $\mathbf{P} = \operatorname{diag}([e^{j\theta_0}, \cdots, e^{j\theta_{N-1}}]^T)$: PHN matrix;
- G: channel circular convolution matrix, formed by CIR g;
- $\mathbf{F} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$: DFT matrix;
- $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times 1}$: vector of constant-modulus training symbols;
- $\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times 1}$: complex white Gaussian noise with variance σ^2 per dimension.
- The objective is to, based on received \mathbf{r} , estimate three unknowns:

- (1)
$$\epsilon$$
, (2) $\boldsymbol{\theta} = [\theta_0, \cdots, \theta_{N-1}]^T$, (3) $\mathbf{g} = [g_0, \cdots, g_{L-1}]^T$.

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- Two different models of PHN are available:
 - For free-running oscillator at the receiver, we assume a non-stationary Gaussian process, called *Wiener PHN*.
 - For oscillator controlled by a phase-locked loop (PLL), we assume a zero-mean coloured Gaussian process, called *Gaussian PHN*.
- The prior statistics of both types of PHN can be modeled as a multivariate Gaussian distribution:

$$p(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Phi}), \tag{2}$$

where the covariance matrix Φ can be determined from the power spectral density (PSD) of the VCO output.



PHN Sample

Covariance Matrix

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• The optimal estimator requires joint estimation of three unknowns, ϵ, θ and g, in (3), where $\mathbf{F} = [\mathbf{W}|\mathbf{V}]$ and g is the CIR.

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{E} \mathbf{P} \mathbf{F}^H \mathbf{D} \mathbf{W} \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{n}.$$
 (3)

• We first write the "complete likelihood function"

$$p(\mathbf{r}, \epsilon, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{g}) = p(\mathbf{r}|\epsilon, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{g}) p(\epsilon) p(\boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\mathbf{g}), \tag{4}$$

which is proportional to the *a posteriori* distribution of the unknowns, $p(\epsilon, \theta, \mathbf{g} | \mathbf{r})$.

• Since we assume no prior knowledge of ϵ and \mathbf{g} , $p(\epsilon)$ and $p(\mathbf{g})$ are constants and can be omitted. The prior of $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ is available, which is $p(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Phi})$ as discussed before.

• Taking the logarithm, the "complete negative log-likehood function" can be written as

$$\mathcal{L}(\epsilon, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{g}) = -\log p(\mathbf{r}|\epsilon, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{g}) - \log p(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{E}\mathbf{P}\mathbf{F}^H \mathbf{D}\mathbf{W}\mathbf{g})^H (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{E}\mathbf{P}\mathbf{F}^H \mathbf{D}\mathbf{W}\mathbf{g}) + \frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\theta}.$$
(5)

• The objective is to find the jointly optimal estimates

$$(\hat{\epsilon}, \hat{\theta}, \hat{\mathbf{g}}) = \arg\min_{\epsilon, \theta, \mathbf{g}} \mathcal{L}(\epsilon, \theta, \mathbf{g}).$$
 (6)

• The estimator proposed here is "optimal" in the sense of maximizing the "complete likelihood function". It can be derived in 3 optimization steps.

1. CIR Estimation: Solve $\partial \mathcal{L}(\epsilon, \theta, \mathbf{g}) / \partial \mathbf{g}^* = \mathbf{0}$, we obtain

$$\hat{\mathbf{g}} = (2\rho^2)^{-1} \mathbf{W}^H \mathbf{D}^H \mathbf{F} \mathbf{P}^H \mathbf{E}^H \mathbf{r}.$$
 (7)

- Substituting $\mathbf{g} = \hat{\mathbf{g}}$ back into $\mathcal{L}(\epsilon, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{g})$ produces $\mathcal{L}(\epsilon, \boldsymbol{\theta})$.

2. *PHN Estimation*: Solve $\partial \mathcal{L}(\epsilon, \theta) / \partial \theta = 0$, we obtain

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = [\operatorname{Re}(\mathbf{E}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{C}^{H}\mathbf{E}^{H}) + 2\sigma^{2}\rho^{2}\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{-1}]^{-1}\operatorname{Im}(\mathbf{E}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{C}^{H}\mathbf{E}^{H})\mathbf{1}, \quad (8)$$

where $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{R}^H \mathbf{F}^H \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}$ and $\mathbf{R} = \text{diag}(\mathbf{r})$.

– Substituting $\theta = \hat{\theta}$ back into $\mathcal{L}(\epsilon, \theta)$ produces $\mathcal{L}(\epsilon)$

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III. The Optimal Estimator: CFO Estimation

3. *CFO Estimation*: To minimize $\mathcal{L}(\epsilon)$, we require searching over the range $-0.5 < \epsilon < 0.5$:

$$\hat{\epsilon} = \arg \min_{\epsilon} \mathbf{1}^{T} \mathbf{E} \mathbf{C} \mathbf{C}^{H} \mathbf{E}^{H} \mathbf{1} - \mathbf{1}^{T} \mathsf{Im} (\mathbf{E} \mathbf{C} \mathbf{C}^{H} \mathbf{E}^{H})^{T} \times [\mathsf{Re}(\mathbf{E} \mathbf{C} \mathbf{C}^{H} \mathbf{E}^{H}) + 2\sigma^{2} \rho^{2} \Phi^{-1}]^{-1} \mathsf{Im}(\mathbf{E} \mathbf{C} \mathbf{C}^{H} \mathbf{E}^{H}) \mathbf{1}.$$
(9)

• Combining the 3 optimization steps leads to the complete *Joint CFO/PHN/CIR Estimation* (JCPCE) algorithm (Proc. WCNC'06):

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{Step 1:} & \hat{\epsilon} = \arg\min_{\epsilon} \mathbf{1}^{T}\mathbf{E}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{C}^{H}\mathbf{E}^{H}\mathbf{1} - \mathbf{1}^{T}\text{Im}(\mathbf{E}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{C}^{H}\mathbf{E}^{H})^{T} \\ & \times[\text{Re}(\mathbf{E}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{C}^{H}\mathbf{E}^{H}) + 2\sigma^{2}\rho^{2}\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{-1}]^{-1}\text{Im}(\mathbf{E}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{C}^{H}\mathbf{E}^{H})\mathbf{1}; \\ & \hat{\mathbf{E}} = \text{diag}([1,e^{j2\pi\hat{\epsilon}/N},\cdots,e^{j2\pi(N-1)\hat{\epsilon}/N}]^{T}); \\ \text{Step 2:} & \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = [\text{Re}(\hat{\mathbf{E}}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{C}^{H}\hat{\mathbf{E}}^{H}) + 2\sigma^{2}\rho^{2}\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{-1}]^{-1}\text{Im}(\hat{\mathbf{E}}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{C}^{H}\hat{\mathbf{E}}^{H})\mathbf{1}; \\ & \hat{\mathbf{P}} = \text{diag}([e^{j\hat{\theta}_{0}},\cdots,e^{j\hat{\theta}_{N-1}}]^{T}); \\ \text{Step 3:} & \hat{\mathbf{g}} = (2\rho^{2})^{-1}\mathbf{W}^{H}\mathbf{D}^{H}\mathbf{F}\hat{\mathbf{P}}^{H}\hat{\mathbf{E}}^{H}\mathbf{r}. \end{array}$$

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IV. Preliminary: Moose's CFO Estimator

- Assuming only CFO and no PHN, what is the simple way to estimate the CFO without searching over all possible values of ϵ ?
- The Moose's method proposes to transmit a training sequence with two identical halves in the time domain, of length N/2. Thus, the received vector $\mathbf{r} = [\mathbf{r}_1^T, \mathbf{r}_2^T]^T$, where

$$\mathbf{r}_1 = \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n}_1; \quad \mathbf{r}_2 = e^{j\pi\epsilon}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n}_2 \tag{10}$$

in which $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{E}\mathbf{G}\mathbf{F}^H\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{C}^{\frac{N}{2} \times 1}$.

• The maximum-likelihood estimate of ϵ is

$$\hat{\epsilon} = \arg\max_{\epsilon} p(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2 | \epsilon) = \arg\max_{\epsilon} p(\mathbf{r}_2 | \epsilon, \mathbf{r}_1) p(\mathbf{r}_1 | \epsilon).$$
(11)

IV. Preliminary: Moose's CFO Estimator (Cont.)

- If we assume the independence between \mathbf{r}_1 and ϵ , i.e. $p(\mathbf{r}_1|\epsilon) = p(\mathbf{r}_1)$, we simply have $\hat{\epsilon} = \arg \max_{\epsilon} p(\mathbf{r}_2|\epsilon, \mathbf{r}_1)$.
- Notice that $\mathbf{r}_2 = e^{j\pi\epsilon}\mathbf{r}_1 e^{j\pi\epsilon}\mathbf{n}_1 + \mathbf{n}_2 = e^{j\pi\epsilon}\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{z}.$
- Since $\mathbf{n}_1, \mathbf{n}_2 \sim \mathcal{CN}(\mathbf{0}, 2\sigma^2 \mathbf{I}) \Rightarrow \mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{CN}(\mathbf{0}, 4\sigma^2 \mathbf{I})$, we have

$$-\log p(\mathbf{r}_2|\epsilon, \mathbf{r}_1) = \frac{1}{4\sigma^2} (\mathbf{r}_2 - e^{j\pi\epsilon} \mathbf{r}_1)^H (\mathbf{r}_2 - e^{j\pi\epsilon} \mathbf{r}_1).$$
(12)

• Thus $\hat{\epsilon} = \arg \max_{\epsilon} p(\mathbf{r}_2 | \epsilon, \mathbf{r}_1)$ leads to the near-ML estimate of ϵ

$$\hat{\epsilon} = \frac{1}{\pi} \measuredangle \mathbf{r}_1^H \mathbf{r}_2. \tag{13}$$

IV. Near Optimal Estimator: The New Approach

- How do we make use of the convenience offered by repeating training sequence to efficiently estimate CIR and PHN together with CFO?
- We propose a two stage process:
 - 1. Estimate $\hat{\epsilon} = \arg \max_{\epsilon} p(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2 | \epsilon)$, motivated by Moose's method.
 - 2. Estimate $(\hat{\theta}, \hat{g}) = \arg \min_{\theta, g} \mathcal{L}(\hat{\epsilon}, \theta, g)$, similar to the optimal algorithm proposed earlier, except with $\hat{\epsilon}$ already estimated, where

$$\mathcal{L}(\epsilon, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{g}) = -\log p(\mathbf{r}|\epsilon, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{g}) - \log p(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{E}\mathbf{P}\mathbf{F}^H \mathbf{D}\mathbf{W}\mathbf{g})^H (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{E}\mathbf{P}\mathbf{F}^H \mathbf{D}\mathbf{W}\mathbf{g}) + \frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\theta}.$$
(14)

• *CFO Estimation*: In the presence of PHN, CFO estimation using the Moose's method needs to be modified, since

$$\mathbf{r}_1 = \mathbf{P}_1 \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n}_1; \quad \mathbf{r}_2 = e^{j\pi\epsilon} \mathbf{P}_2 \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n}_2, \tag{15}$$

where \mathbf{P}_1 and \mathbf{P}_2 contain consequtive PHN sequences $\boldsymbol{\theta}_1$ and $\boldsymbol{\theta}_2$.

• The optimal estimate $\hat{\epsilon}$ is then

$$\arg\max_{\epsilon} p(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2 | \epsilon) = \arg\max_{\epsilon} \int_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_2} \int_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_1} p(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \boldsymbol{\theta}_1, \boldsymbol{\theta}_2 | \epsilon) d\boldsymbol{\theta}_1 d\boldsymbol{\theta}_2 \quad (16)$$

• Writing $\mathbf{R}_1 = \operatorname{diag}(\mathbf{r}_1)$ and Φ_{Δ} as the covariance matrix of $\theta_2 - \theta_1$, it can be shown that this is equivalent to maximizing

$$p(\mathbf{r}_2|\mathbf{r}_1,\epsilon) = \mathcal{CN}(e^{j\pi\epsilon}\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{R}_1\mathbf{\Phi}_{\Delta}\mathbf{R}_1^H + 4\sigma^2\mathbf{I}).$$
(17)

IV. Near Optimal Estimator: CIR Estimation

• Therefore,

$$\hat{\epsilon} = \frac{1}{\pi} \measuredangle \mathbf{r}_1^H (\mathbf{R}_1 \mathbf{\Phi}_\Delta \mathbf{R}_1^H + 4\sigma^2 \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{r}_2.$$
(18)

• Substituting $\hat{\epsilon}$ into $\mathcal{L}(\epsilon, \theta, \mathbf{g})$, we get

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{g}) = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\mathbf{r} - \hat{\mathbf{E}} \mathbf{P} \check{\mathbf{F}}^H \mathbf{D} \mathbf{W} \mathbf{g})^H (\mathbf{r} - \hat{\mathbf{E}} \mathbf{P} \check{\mathbf{F}}^H \mathbf{D} \mathbf{W} \mathbf{g}) + \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{-1} \boldsymbol{\theta}.$$
(19)

• CIR Estimation: Solve $\partial \mathcal{L}(\hat{\epsilon}, \theta, \mathbf{g}) / \partial \mathbf{g}^* = \mathbf{0}$, we obtain

$$\hat{\mathbf{g}} = (4\rho^2)^{-1} \mathbf{W}^H \mathbf{D}^H \check{\mathbf{F}} \mathbf{P}^H \hat{\mathbf{E}}^H \mathbf{r}.$$
 (20)

– Substituting $\mathbf{g} = \hat{\mathbf{g}}$ back into $\mathcal{L}(\hat{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{g})$ produces $\mathcal{L}(\hat{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$.

• **PHN Estimation**: Solve $\partial \mathcal{L}(\hat{\epsilon}, \theta) / \partial \theta = 0$, we obtain

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = [\operatorname{Re}(\hat{\mathbf{E}}\mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{E}}^{H}) + 4\sigma^{2}\rho^{2}\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{-1}]^{-1}\operatorname{Im}(\hat{\mathbf{E}}\mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{E}}^{H})\mathbf{1}.$$
 (21)

 Combining the above steps leads to the *Modified Joint CFO/PHN/CIR Estimation (Modified JCPCE)* algorithm with closed-form CFO estimation:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{Step 1:} & \hat{\epsilon} = \frac{1}{\pi} \measuredangle \ \mathbf{r}_{1}^{H} (\mathbf{R}_{1} \mathbf{\Phi}_{\Delta} \mathbf{R}_{1}^{H} + 4\sigma^{2} \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{r}_{2}; \\ & \hat{\mathbf{E}} = \text{diag}([1, e^{j2\pi\hat{\epsilon}/N}, \cdots, e^{j2\pi(N-1)\hat{\epsilon}/N}]^{T}); \\ \text{Step 2:} & \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = [\text{Re}(\hat{\mathbf{E}}\mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{E}}^{H}) + 4\sigma^{2}\rho^{2}\mathbf{\Phi}^{-1}]^{-1}\text{Im}(\hat{\mathbf{E}}\mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{E}}^{H})\mathbf{1}; \\ & \hat{\mathbf{P}} = \text{diag}([e^{j\hat{\theta}_{0}}, \cdots, e^{j\hat{\theta}_{N-1}}]^{T}); \\ \text{Step 3:} & \hat{\mathbf{g}} = (4\rho^{2})^{-1}\mathbf{W}^{H}\mathbf{D}^{H}\check{\mathbf{F}}\hat{\mathbf{P}}^{H}\hat{\mathbf{E}}^{H}\mathbf{r}. \end{array}$$

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V. Complexity Reduction: Special Structure of Ψ

- Letting $\Psi = \frac{1}{4\sigma^2 \rho^2} \Phi$, the dominant complexity of the previous algorithm is associated with the evaluation of $[\operatorname{Re}(\mathbf{EAE}^H) + \Psi^{-1}]^{-1}$, which in general has complexity $\mathcal{O}(N^3)$.
- Fortunately, complexity reduction is available by noticing the following:
 - For Wiener PHN, Ψ^{-1} is a tridiagonal matrix:

$$\Psi^{-1} = \frac{4\sigma^2 \rho^2}{\alpha_{\phi}^2} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & & \mathbf{0} \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ \mathbf{0} & & & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$
 (22)

– For Gaussian PHN, Ψ is a Toeplitz matrix, but can be closely approximated as a circulant matrix $\tilde{\Psi} = \mathbf{F} \mathbf{\Lambda} \mathbf{F}^{H}$. Therefore, its inverse is easy to evaluate, $\tilde{\Psi}^{-1} = \mathbf{F} \mathbf{\Lambda}^{-1} \mathbf{F}^{H}$

V. Complexity Reduction: Conjugate Gradient Method

Letting q = lm(ÊAÊ^H)1, the evaluation of [Re(EAE^H) + Ψ⁻¹]⁻¹q can be accomplished by the conjugate gradient method as follows:

Initialization:	
	$oldsymbol{ heta}_0 = oldsymbol{0}$
	$oldsymbol{\gamma}_0 = [\operatorname{Re}(\mathbf{E}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{E}^H) + ilde{\mathbf{\Psi}}^{-1}]oldsymbol{ heta}_0 - \mathbf{q} = -\mathbf{q}$
	$oldsymbol{ u}_0=-oldsymbol{\gamma}_0=\mathbf{q}$
For	k = 0: i - 1
	$\alpha_k = \boldsymbol{\gamma}_k^H \boldsymbol{\gamma}_k / (\boldsymbol{\nu}_k^H [\operatorname{Re}(\mathbf{E}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{E}^H) + \tilde{\boldsymbol{\Psi}}^{-1}]\boldsymbol{\nu}_k)$
	$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{k+1} = \boldsymbol{\theta}_k + \alpha_k \boldsymbol{\nu}_k$
	$\boldsymbol{\gamma}_{k+1} = \boldsymbol{\gamma}_{k} + \alpha_{k} [\operatorname{Re}(\mathbf{E}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{E}^{H}) + \tilde{\mathbf{\Psi}}^{-1}]\boldsymbol{\nu}_{k}$
	$eta_{k+1} = rac{oldsymbol{\gamma}_{k+1}^{H}oldsymbol{\gamma}_{k+1}}{oldsymbol{\gamma}_{k}^{H}oldsymbol{\gamma}_{k}}$
	$oldsymbol{ u}_{k+1} = -oldsymbol{\gamma}_{k+1} + eta_{k+1}oldsymbol{ u}_k$
End	

V. Complexity Reduction: Overall Complexity

- By utilizing the special structure of $\Psi,$ we can reduce the complexity from $\mathcal{O}(N^3)$ to $\mathcal{O}(N^2\log N).$
- Using the Conjugate Gradient algorithm, we have control over the number of iteration i. Exact matrix inversion corresponds to i = N.
- In practice, $i \ll N$. In this case, the complexity becomes $\mathcal{O}(i \times N \log N)$.
- Simulations demonstrate that even for i = 5, no significant performance degradation results.

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• Unresolvable residual common phase rotation: A residual phase rotation δ cannot be estimated for Gaussian PHN. $\delta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{\Phi} \mathbf{1}/N^2)$.



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- The effect of residual phase rotation is that the channel estimate \hat{g} is off by a small unknown phase δ , which does not introduce ICI.
- We assume that δ can be perfectly corrected to facilitate easy assessment of channel estimation mean-squared error (MSE).
- The following system parameters are used in simulations:
 - A Rayleigh multipath fading channel with a delay of L = 10 taps;
 - An OFDM training symbol size of N = 64 subcarriers with each subcarrier modulated in QPSK;
 - Baseband sampling rate $f_s = 20$ MHz;
 - The Wiener PHN is generated as a random-walk process with incremental PHN of $\alpha_{\phi} = 1$ deg.
 - The Gaussian PHN has a standard deviation of $\theta_{rms} = 4$ deg. It is generated as i.i.d. Gaussian samples passed through a single pole Butterworth filter of 3dB bandwidth $\Omega_o = 100$ KHz.

• Performance of modified JCPCE in Wiener PHN:



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• Performance of modified JCPCE in Gaussian PHN:



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- *Challenge*: How do we optimally estimate the CIR and CFO of an OFDM channel in the presence of unknown PHN?
- Solution 1: In a previous work, we derived a Joint CFO/PHN/CIR Estimation (JCPCE) algorithm that optimizes the "complete likelihood function".
- Solution 2: Here we proposed a suboptimal algorithm, called *Modified JCPCE*, to obtain closed-form estimate of CFO, lowering the computational complexity.
- We may reduce the complexity even further using the Conjugate Gradient method.

Thank You!