

Description

The present invention relates to a method for effecting channel estimation for a fading channel when transmitting symbol sequences, wherein each of the symbol sequences has at least one synchronizing sequence and one data sequence, said method comprising the steps of:

- effecting a channel estimation partly with the aid of the synchronizing sequence and partly by adaptation during the data sequence with the aid of a desired adaptation algorithm, wherein at least one channel estimate is obtained at each sampling time point, and
- effecting channel equalization with the aid of the channel estimate and estimation of symbols in the symbol sequences.

One problem which often occurs in radio transmissions over a channel is that a transmitted signal is subjected to multipath propagation and noise. In the case of mobile telephony for instance, the transmission properties of the channel will shift due to a change in the mutual positions of the transmitter and receiver. These problems have been solved in time-shared, digital radio transmission systems, in that the time-slot transmitted signal sequences include a synchronizing sequence and a data sequence. The synchronizing sequence is known to the receiver and the receiver is able to evaluate the transmission properties of the channel, i.e. effect a channel estimate, on the basis of this sequence. With the aid of this channel estimate, the receiver is able to evaluate the symbols of the data sequence which contains the information to be transmitted.

However, in certain instances it has been found insufficient to effect a channel estimate only once with each time slot. In the case of time slots of long duration, i.e. in the order of several milliseconds, the transmitter and receiver have sufficient time to change their mutual positions considerably during the course of a time slot. Consequently, the transmission properties of the channel can change radically during the duration of the time slot, so that the receiver estimation of the transmitted symbols becomes deficient and the transmitted information contains interferences. A radio receiver in which these interferences are partially avoided is found described in an article in IEEE Transactions On Information Theory, January 1973, pages 120-124, F.R. Magee Jr and J.G. Proakis: "Adaptive Maximum-Likelihood Sequence Estimation for Digital Signaling in the Presence of Intersymbol Interference". The article describes an equalizer which includes a viterbianalyzer equipped with an adaptation filter as a channel estimating circuit.

The equalizer described in this article partially overcomes those problems which occur with long time slots, although it has the disadvantage of lacking

the ability to perform a correct adaptation after fading, during which the signal strength falls beneath the noise level. After fading has taken place the equalizer has difficulty in re-adapting to the data sequence, which is a sequence unknown to the receiver.

Fading occurs as a result of signal interference between signals reflected along mutually separate paths, such that fading often recurs for a mobile receiver which moves in the interference pattern of the signals. This can result in a large proportion of transmitted signal sequences being subjected to fading, so that a large part of the transmitted information will be lost. A solution to the problem of adapting to an unknown signal sequence is given in an article in IEEE Transactions on Communications, Vol Com - 28, No. 11, November 1980, D.N. Godard: "Self - Recovering Equalization and Carrier Tracking in Two-Dimensional Data Communication Systems". Equalizer adaptation in the event of intersymbol interference is achieved by the introduction of an algorithm with a new type of cost functions and by minimizing these functions. The algorithm, however, converges relatively slowly and cannot be utilized when desiring to adapt an equalizer during one of the aforesaid time slots with a duration in the order of milliseconds.

The aforesaid problem of adapting an equalizer rapidly with the aid of an unknown signal is solved in accordance with the invention by forming successively the mean energy values of the channel estimate. This formation of the mean values is effected over a period of time of such long duration as to render the influence of fading on the mean values negligible. An adaptation algorithm is influenced by the mean energy values formulated in a manner to obtain renewed, correct channel estimation after fading.

The invention is characterized by the features set forth in the following claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

An exemplifying embodiment of the invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 illustrates schematically a radio transmission system comprising a transmitter, a receiver and an intermediate disturbed channel; Figure 2 illustrates time slots for a time-shared transmission system and a time slot signal sequence;

Figure 3 is a diagram which shows the separate values of a transmitted symbol;

Figure 4 illustrates a mobile receiver which moves in an interference pattern between two buildings;

Figure 5 is a diagram which shows the variation in signal strength during a signal sequence;

Figure 6 is a block schematic of a viterbi equalizer provided with an inventive channel estimation fil-

ter;

Figure 7 is a circuit diagram of the inventive channel estimation filter; and

Figure 8 is a block schematic which illustrates an alternative viterbi equalizer provided with an inventive channel estimation filter.

BEST MODE OF CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Figure 1 illustrates schematically a known radio transmission system for time-shared radio communication. A transmitter has a unit (1) which generates digital symbols $S(n)$. These symbols are digital/analogue converted and transmitted as a signal Y from a unit 2 to a receiving unit 3 of a receiver. The received signal is filtered and sampled to form a received digital signal $y(n)$, which is delivered to a channel equalizer 5. This equalizer delivers at given time delays, estimated symbols $\hat{S}(n-L)$ which constitute an estimation of the transmitted signals $S(n)$. The sign (n) denotes a sampling time point with number n and the reference sign $(n-L)$ denotes that the estimated symbols are delayed by a number of L sampling intervals. The double signal paths in Figure 1 indicate that the channel between the units 2 and 3 subjects the transmitted signal Y to time dispersion. A disturbance signal on the same channel as that used between the units 2 and 3 is indicated by a signal A . As will be explained herebelow, transmission is also disturbed by signal fading. As beforementioned, the radio transmission system is time-shared with mutually separate time slots 1-N, according to Figure 2, in which the capital letter T indicates time. It is possible to transmit in each time slot f a signal sequence SS which includes a synchronizing sequence SO and a data sequence DO that contains the information to be transmitted. The signal sequence SS includes binary signals, although the aforesaid symbols $S(n)$ are modulated in accordance, for instance, with QPSK-modulation, as illustrated in Figure 3. In a complex speech plan with the axes referenced I and Q , the four possible values of the symbols $S(n)$ are marked one in each quadrant with the binary numbers 00, 01, 10 or 11. The time taken to transmit one such modulated symbol is referred to as a symbol time TS .

The aforesaid signal fading, so-called Rayleigh-fading, occurs in the following way. Figure 4 illustrates two buildings 20 and 21 which reflect the transmitted signal Y . It is assumed in this case that essentially one of the signal paths in Figure 1 reaches the region between the buildings 20 and 21, so-called single beam propagation of the signal Y . The reflected signals interfere with one another between the buildings. When the difference in propagation time of interfering signals is less than approximately $TS/4$, a regular interference pattern can occur with alternating maxima and nodes in signal strength. A mobile receiver 22

which moves through the interference pattern will repeatedly pass the nodes, where the signal strength is very low. A more exhaustive description of fading is found in William C.Y. Lee: Mobile Communications Engineering, Chapter 6 and 7, McGraw-Hill, Inc. 1982.

Figure 5 shows a curve 23 which illustrates how the signal strength, the absolute value of Y and referenced F , can vary in respect of the mobile 22 during the time duration of the signal sequence SS . The noise level is shown with a broken line 24 and the Figure illustrates how the signals strength F falls beneath the noise level during a time interval TF .

As mentioned in the foregoing, the channel equalizer 5 of the mobile 22 is preferably adaptive in the case of long signal sequences SS , which have a time duration of several milliseconds. The adaptation filter of the equalizer can then be adapted to quickly shifting transmission properties of the transmission channel. In the case of known filters, however, this adaptation possibility has the disadvantage that said filters will also adapt to the low signal strength when the fading illustrated in Figure 5 occurs. When the signal strength F increases subsequent to fading, it is possible that erroneous adaptation will occur such that the estimated signal $\hat{S}(n-L)$ will have a large bit-error content and that the information in the signal sequence SS will be lost after fading. The object of the present invention is to enable adaptive channel estimation to be effected in the equalizer 5 without this disadvantage.

As will be seen from the schematic illustration of Figure 6, the equalizer 5 comprises a viterbi analyzer VIT, an adaptive channel estimating filter CEST, and a delay circuit DEL. The viterbi analyzer VIT receives the signal $y(n)$ and produces the symbols $\hat{S}(n-L)$, which have been estimated in a known manner with the delay of L sampling steps. The channel estimating filter CEST receives the estimated symbols $\hat{S}(n-L)$ and also the signals $y(n-L)$, which are the received signals $y(n)$ delayed through L sampling steps in the delay circuit DEL. The channel estimating filter CEST receives the signal $y(n-L)$ and the estimated symbols $\hat{S}(n-L)$, and delivers to the viterbi analyzer VIT an estimated impulse response, a channel estimate, $C(n)$ for the channel. It should be noted that in addition to including the actual radio channel itself, the channel estimate also includes transmitter and receiver filters. Alternatively, a preliminary decision from the viterbi analyzer VIT can be utilized instead of the estimated symbols $\hat{S}(n-L)$. This will result in a delay which is shorter than the L sampling steps or intervals. Estimation of the impulse response $C(n)$ will be described in more detail herebelow with reference to Figure 7. The viterbi equalizer 5 utilizes the synchronizing sequence SO to create a start value for $C(n)$, which is then updated for each new sampling time point n .

The channel estimating filter CEST, shown in more detail in Figure 7, includes the delay element 6, adjustable coefficients 7, summators 8, a difference former 9 and an adaptation circuit 10 which performs an adaptation algorithm. The adaptation circuit 10 is controlled from a mean-value formation circuit 15 which forms a time mean value $U(n)$ of the energy in the channel estimate $C(n)$. The number K of coefficients will depend on the magnitude of time dispersion the channel can have expressed in a number of sampling intervals, and in the illustrated example $K = 3$. The estimated symbols $\hat{S}(n-L)$ are delayed stepwise by one sampling time point in the delay elements 6 to form symbols $\hat{S}(n-L-1)$ up to $\hat{S}(n-L-K+1)$ which are multiplied by coefficients $c_1(n) \dots c_K(n)$. Subsequent to stepwise addition in the summators 8 to form a filtered estimated signal $\hat{y}(n-L)$ there is formed an error signal $e(n)$ which is the difference between the signal $\hat{y}(n-L)$ and the delayed signal $y(n-L)$ received. The adaptation circuit 10 receives the error signal $e(n)$ and controls the coefficients 7 so as to minimize the error signal. The coefficients $c_1(n) \dots c_K(n)$ constitute the aforesaid estimated impulse response $C(n)$. This can be described as a channel vector $C(n) = \{c_1(n) \dots c_K(n)\}^T$, and correspondingly a signal vector can be defined by the relationship $\hat{S}(n) = \{\hat{s}(n-L), \dots, \hat{s}(n-L-K+1)\}^T$. With the aid of these vectors, the error signal $e(n)$ can be expressed as $e(n) = y(n-L) - C^T(n) \cdot \hat{S}(n)$, where the index T denotes a transposition. By formation of the mean value of the channel estimate energy $C(n)$ is meant a formation of a time mean value $u_i(n)$ of the energy contained by each of the coefficients $c_i(n) \dots c_K(n)$. The mean value of the channel estimate energy $U(n)$ can be expressed as $U(n) = \{u_1(n) \dots u_K(n)\}^T$, which is calculated in accordance with the relationship $U(n) = U(n-1) + G(|C(n)|^2 - U(n-1))$. In this connection, G is a constant which expresses the duration of the time interval over which formation of the mean values takes place. The duration of this time interval is selected so that during the time interval TF fading will have a negligible influence on the mean value, and the time interval can extend over several signal sequences SS . Primarily, only one synchronizing sequence SO in each signal sequence SS is utilized in the formation of a mean value. It is also possible, however, in accordance with the invention to utilize the whole of the signal sequence SS , so that all of the subsequently adapted channel estimates $C(n)$ will be included in the calculation of the mean value $U(n)$. The adaptive algorithm performed in the circuit 10 is controlled with the aid of the time mean value $U(n)$ of the impulse response energy. For instance, when the adaptation algorithm is an LMS-algorithm, Least Mean Square, the channel estimate is calculated iteratively in accordance with the relationship $C(n) = Q \times C(n-1) + M \times S^*(n) \times e(n)$. In this case the index $*$ is a complex conjugation. Q is a diagonal matrix with diagonal elements

$q_1, \dots, q_h, \dots, q_K$ and M is a diagonal matrix with diagonal elements $M = \mu_1, \dots, \mu_h, \dots, \mu_K$. According to one alternative embodiment, this adaptation algorithm can be controlled in the following manner. The circuit 15 which forms said mean value detects when fading prevails through the signal $y(n-L)$, i.e. when the signal strength F falls beneath a threshold value FO , see Figure 5. In the event of fading, the matrix M is constantly unaffected. One of the coefficients, for instance q_h , in the matrix Q is selected and is set to a desired value, for instance $q_h = 1$. The remaining coefficients are set to zero. The choice of coefficient is effected with the aid of the mean value of the channel estimate energy $U(n)$, so that the selected coefficient q_h will correspond to the largest coefficient $u_h(n)$ in the mean value $U(n)$. As a result, that coefficient of the coefficients in the channel estimate $C(n)$ which was dominant prior to fading will also dominate the channel estimate subsequent to fading, i.e. when the signal strength F again increases. When choosing a coefficient in the matrix Q it is assumed that the mutual relationship between the energy transmitted along the separate signal paths has not been changed to any appreciable extent during fading. Subsequent to fading, when the signal strength exceeds the threshold value FO , the coefficients in the matrix Q are set to their original values, which may be $q_i = 1$ in all instances for example.

The threshold value FO can be determined in several different ways. According to one simple alternative, FO may be constant. The drawback with this alternative, however, is the difficulty experienced in adapting to separate fading instances. In the case of a pronounced single beam illustrated in Figure 4, where the signal Y reaches the area between the buildings 20 and 21 via practically solely one propagation path, one of the coefficients in $C(n)$, for instance $c_1(n)$ will dominate. Thus, should the signal strength F begin to fall it will be positively known that fading has occurred and that the threshold value FO can be set to a relatively high level. When the signal strength falls beneath FO , q_1 is set to 1 and the remaining coefficients in the matrix Q are set to 0. However, it may be so that the single path propagation is less pronounced, so that the signal Y also reaches the region of the mobile 22 via a reflected propagation path. The reflected signal is relatively weak and the corresponding coefficient in the channel estimate $C(n)$, for instance $c_2(n)$, is much smaller than $c_1(n)$. If the threshold value FO is constant and relatively high, fading will be indicated by the mean-value-forming circuit 15, also in this propagation instance when the signal strength F falls. Because the signal Y also reaches the mobile 22 via a reflected propagation path, fading will not occur, however, although the LMS-algorithm in the circuit 10 is still controlled by the circuit 15 as though fading had actually occurred. This impairs the transmission quality of the informa-

tion in the data sequence DO. In order to avoid this, the threshold value FO can be determined in a more complicated method, in accordance with the following. It is desirable to take into account both the dominating coefficients in the channel estimate $C(n)$, according to the example $c_1(n)$ and $c_2(n)$, which is the next largest coefficient. In this case, the threshold value FO can then be calculated in accordance with the relationship $FO^2 = H \cdot u_1(n)/u_2(n)$, where H is a constant. During the period over which the signal strength falls beneath the threshold value FO, q_1 is set to 1 and the remaining coefficients in the matrix Q are set to 0, in accordance with the foregoing.

According to one alternative, channel estimation can be controlled with the aid of said LMS-algorithm in the following manner. The matrix Q is held constant throughout the whole period, for instance Q is the unit matrix. The coefficients in the matrix M are set to the values which correspond to the coefficients in the mean-value-forming channel estimate $U(n)$, for instance $\mu_i = R\{u_i(n)/u_h(n)\}^{1/2}$ for $i = 1, \dots, K$, where R is a constant and $u_h(n)$ is the largest of the energy values $u_i(n)$. The coefficients μ_i will hereby become weighting constants when controlling the LMS-algorithm. During a fading sequence, the time interval TF, the coefficients in the channel estimate $C(n)$ will take very small values. Subsequent to fading, the coefficients $c_i(n)$ will be adapted at a speed proportional to the values μ_i in the matrix M. This means that the filter coefficient, described with the numeral value $c_h(n)$, which dominated the channel estimate $C(n)$ over a period prior to fading, will be the quickest to recover when fading ceases. This alternative method of controlling the LMS-algorithm also assumes that the mutual relationship between the energy transmitted along the separate signal paths will not have changed to any appreciable extent during the actual course of fading. No indication that fading has occurred is required when controlling in accordance with this second alternative. The coefficients in the matrix Q may be constant over the whole period and the coefficients μ_i in the matrix M can be calculated constantly with a starting point from the mean value of the impulse response energy formed in accordance with the above.

According to the described examples, an LMS-algorithm is performed in the circuit 10. The channel estimation can be effected, however, with other types of algorithms. One example in this respect is the RLS-algorithm, Recursive Least Squares, which is faster than the LMS-algorithm, but much more complicated.

According to the above example, the equalizer 5 has only one circuit, for calculating the estimated impulse response $C(n)$, i.e. the channel estimation filter CEST. However, it is possible, in accordance with the invention, to use an equalizer which possesses several circuits for estimating the channel impulse response, as illustrated in Figure 8. A viterbi equalizer

11 includes a viterbi analyzer VIT1 with a number of states $P = 16$, and a channel estimating order which includes channel estimating circuits CEST1....CEST16. A separate channel estimate $C_i(n)$ is formed in these circuits for each state i of the viterbi algorithm. The viterbi analyzer VIT1 receives the signal $y(n)$ at the sampling time point n and produces the estimated symbol $\hat{S}(n-L)$ after a delay corresponding to L sampling intervals in the same manner as that described for the viterbi analyzer VIT. All of the channel estimating circuits are connected to the viterbi analyzer VIT1 and an estimation of one of the part estimates $C_1(n) \dots C_{16}(n)$ is effected in each of the channel estimating circuits. The part estimate $C_j(n)$ for the new state j at the sampling time point n is calculated iteratively from the part estimate $C_i(n-1)$ for the old state i at a preceding sampling time point $(n-1)$. $C_i(n-1)$ is the channel estimate which belongs to the path selected by VIT1 at the transition of state i to state j . $C_j(n)$ is calculated with the aid of a transition error signal $e_{ij}(n)$, which is calculated according to the relationship $e_{ij}(n) = y(n) - C_i^T(n-1) \cdot s_{ij}$. In this case s_{ij} a transition vector with symbols for the old state i and the new state j . The part estimate $C_j(n)$ for the new state j at the sampling time point n is calculated in the j :th channel estimating circuit according to the desired algorithm, for instance the aforesaid LMS-algorithm, which gives

$$C_j(n) = C_i(n-1) + \cdot S_{ij} \cdot e_{ij}(n).$$

In Figure 8 the channel estimation has been illustrated for the first and the last state 1 and 16 respectively. At the sampling time point n , the viterbi analyzer VIT1 selects a transition from the state i to the state 1 and delivers the transition vector S_{i1} , the transition error signal e_{i1} and the old part estimate $c_i(n-1)$ to the channel estimating circuit CEST1. The new part estimate $C_1(n)$ is calculated in the circuit CEST1 and is delivered to VIT1 for use at the next time point $(n+1)$ in the viterbi detection, for continued iterative calculation of the part estimates. In a similar manner, the viterbi analyzer VIT1 selects a transition from the state p to the state 16 and delivers the transition vector S_{p16} , the transition error signal e_{p16} and the old part estimate $C_p(n-1)$ to CEST16. The new part estimate $C_{16}(n)$ is calculated and delivered to VIT1. Each of the channel estimating circuits CEST1 up to and including CEST16 is connected to a mean value forming circuit 17. This circuit controls the adaptation algorithm through the signal $U(n)$ in a manner corresponding to that described with reference to the mean value forming circuit 15 of the channel estimating filter CEST according to Figure 7. The circuit 17 utilizes, for instance, the channel estimate obtained with the aid of solely the synchronizing sequences SO for its mean-value-forming function.

In the foregoing the invention has been described with reference to the equalizers 5 and 11, both of which have viterbi analyzers VIT and VIT1 respec-

tively. The invention permits, however, the use of other types of equalizer, which are connected to channel estimating circuits whose adaptation algorithm is controlled with the aid of the mean energy value $U(n)$ for the channel estimate $C(n)$.

Claims

1. A method for effecting channel estimation for a fading channel when transmitting symbol sequences (SS), wherein each of the symbol sequences has at least one synchronizing sequence (SO) and one data sequence (DO), said method comprising the steps of:

- effecting a channel estimation partly with the aid of the synchronizing sequence (SO) and partly by adaptation during the data sequence (DO) with the aid of a desired adaptation algorithm, wherein at least one channel estimate $C(n)$ is obtained at each sampling time point (n) , and
- effecting channel equalization with the aid of the channel estimate $C(n)$ and estimation of symbols in the symbol sequences, characterized in that the method comprises the further steps of:
 - calculating mean energy values $(u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n))$ by forming a time mean value over a desired number of sampling time points (n) for the energy contained by each of the coefficients $(c_1(n), \dots, c_k(n))$ of the channel estimate $C(n)$,
 - selecting at least the largest $(u_h(n))$ of the mean energy values $(u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n))$,
 - influencing the adaptation algorithm (LMS) in dependence on the selected mean energy values $(U_h(n))$, such that adaptation of the channel estimate $C(n)$ is controlled with the aid of selected mean energy values $(u_h(n))$ so as to enable a correct estimation to be made of the signal symbols $(\hat{S}(n-L))$ in a remaining part of the symbol sequence (SS) subsequent to fading (TF) with an extinguished signal, during the symbol sequence (SS).

2. A method according to Claim 1, characterized by extending the formation of the mean energy values $(u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n))$ over one or more whole symbol sequences (SS).

3. A method according to Claim 1, characterized by extending the formation of mean energy values $(u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n))$ over solely the synchronizing sequence (SO) of one or more of the symbol sequences (SS).

4. A method according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the adaptation algorithm is a least mean square algorithm which, at the sampling time points, calculates a value for the channel estimate with the aid of an error signal at the latest sampling time point, characterized in that the adaptation algorithm (LMS) is influenced by weighting said error signal $(e(n))$ into the channel estimate $C(n)$ with the aid of weighting factors (μ_i) that are contingent on the selected mean energy values $(u_h(n))$.

5. A method according to Claim 4, characterized in that the weighting factors (μ_i) are proportional (R) to the square root of a quotient between the mean energy value $(u_h(n))$ that corresponds to the weighting factor (μ_i) and the largest $(u_h(n))$ mean energy value.

6. A method according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the algorithm is a least mean square algorithm which at the sampling time points calculates a value for the channel estimate and at said value, at one of the sampling time points, weights in the channel estimate for the preceding sampling time point, characterized by

- detecting the signal strength (F) of the transmitted signal $(Y, y(n))$;
- determining a threshold value (FO) for the signal strength (F) ;
- determining the occurrence of fading by comparing the signal strength (F) with the threshold value (FO) ; and
- in the event of fading, causing the adaptation algorithm (LMS) to weight (q_h) the channel estimate $C(n)$ solely with those coefficients in the channel estimate $C(n-1)$ for the preceding sampling time point which correspond to the selected mean energy values $(u_h(n))$.

7. A method according to Claim 6, characterized by determining the threshold value (FO) for the signal strength (F) to a constant value.

8. A method according to Claim 6, characterized in that the threshold value (FO) of the signal strength (F) is proportional to (H) the square root of the quotient between the largest and the next largest of the mean energy values $(U(n))$.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zur Durchführung einer Kanalschätzung bei einem bei der Übertragung von Symbolfolgen (SS) mit Schwund behafteten Kanal, wobei die Symbolfolge mindestens eine Synchronisierungsfolge (SO) und eine Datenfolge (DO)

tively. The invention permits, however, the use of other types of equalizer, which are connected to channel estimating circuits whose adaptation algorithm is controlled with the aid of the mean energy value $U(n)$ for the channel estimate $C(n)$.

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1. A method for effecting channel estimation for a fading channel when transmitting symbol sequences (SS), wherein each of the symbol sequences has at least one synchronizing sequence (SO) and one data sequence (DO), said method comprising the steps of:

- effecting a channel estimation partly with the aid of the synchronizing sequence (SO) and partly by adaptation during the data sequence (DO) with the aid of a desired adaptation algorithm, wherein at least one channel estimate $C(n)$ is obtained at each sampling time point (n) , and
- effecting channel equalization with the aid of the channel estimate $C(n)$ and estimation of symbols in the symbol sequences, characterized in that the method comprises the further steps of:
 - calculating mean energy values $(u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n))$ by forming a time mean value over a desired number of sampling time points (n) for the energy contained by each of the coefficients $((c_1(n), \dots, c_k(n))$ of the channel estimate $C(n)$,
 - selecting at least the largest $(u_h(n))$ of the mean energy values $(u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n))$,
 - influencing the adaptation algorithm (LMS) in dependence on the selected mean energy values $(U_h(n))$, such that adaptation of the channel estimate $(c(n))$ is controlled with the aid of selected mean energy values $(u_h(n))$ so as to enable a correct estimation to be made of the signal symbols $(S(n-L))$ in a remaining part of the symbol sequence (SS) subsequent to fading (TF) with an extinguished signal, during the symbol sequence (SS).

2. A method according to Claim 1, characterized by extending the formation of the mean energy values $(u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n))$ over one or more whole symbol sequences (SS).

3. A method according to Claim 1, characterized by extending the formation of mean energy values $(u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n))$ over solely the synchronizing sequence (SO) of one or more of the symbol sequences (SS).

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6. A method according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the algorithm is a least mean square algorithm which at the sampling time points calculates a value for the channel estimate and at said value, at one of the sampling time points, weights in the channel estimate for the preceding sampling time point, characterized by

- detecting the signal strength (F) of the transmitted signal $(Y, y(n))$;
- determining a threshold value (FO) for the signal strength (F) ;
- determining the occurrence of fading by comparing the signal strength (F) with the threshold value (FO) ; and
- in the event of fading, causing the adaptation algorithm (LMS) to weight (q_h) the channel estimate $(C(n))$ solely with those coefficients in the channel estimate $(C(n-1))$ for the preceding sampling time point which correspond to the selected mean energy values $(u_h(n))$.

7. A method according to Claim 6, characterized by determining the threshold value (FO) for the signal strength (F) to a constant value.

8. A method according to Claim 6, characterized in that the threshold value (FO) of the signal strength (F) is proportional to (H) the square root of the quotient between the largest and the next largest of the mean energy values $(U(n))$.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zur Durchführung einer Kanalschätzung bei einem bei der Übertragung von Symbolfolgen (SS) mit Schwund behafteten Kanal, wobei die Symbolfolge mindestens eine Synchronisierungsfolge (SO) und eine Datenfolge (DO)



aufweist, und das Verfahren folgende Schritte umfaßt:

- Durchführen einer Kanalschätzung teils mit Hilfe der Synchronisierungsfolge (SO) und teils durch Anpassung mit Hilfe eines gewünschten Anpassungsalgorithmus während der Datenfolge (DO), wobei mindestens eine einzelne Kanalschätzung ($C(n)$) in jedem Abtastzeitpunkt (n) erhalten wird, und
- Durchführen einer Kanalverzerrung mit Hilfe der Kanalschätzung ($C(n)$) und einer Schätzung der Symbole in den Symbolfolgen,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Verfahren folgende weiteren Schritte aufweist:

- Berechnen der mittleren Energiewerte ($u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n)$) durch Bilden eines Mittelwertes über eine gewünschte Anzahl von Abtastzeitpunkten (n) für die von jedem der Koeffizienten ($c_1(n), \dots, c_k(n)$) der Kanalschätzung ($c(n)$) enthaltene Energie,
- Wählen mindestens des größten ($u_h(n)$) der mittleren Energiewerte ($u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n)$),
- Beeinflussen des Anpassungsalgorithmus (LMS) in Abhängigkeit von den gewählten mittleren Energiewerten ($u_h(n)$), derart, daß die Anpassung an die Kanalschätzung ($C(n)$) mit Hilfe der gewählten mittleren Energiewerte ($u_h(n)$) geschaltet wird, so daß während der Symbolfolge (SS) eine durchzuführende korrekte Schätzung der Signalsymbole ($\hat{S}(n-L)$) in einem verbleibenden Teil der Symbolfolge (SS) nach dem Schwund (TF) bei einem ausgelöschten Signal ermöglicht wird.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, gekennzeichnet durch die Erstreckung der Bildung der mittleren Energiewerte ($u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n)$) über eine einzelne oder mehrere ganze Symbolfolgen (SS).

3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, gekennzeichnet durch die Erstreckung der Bildung von mittleren Energiewerten ($u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n)$) allein über die Synchronisierungsfolge (SO) einer einzelnen oder mehrerer Symbolfolgen (SS).

4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, 2 oder 3, bei dem der Anpassungsalgorithmus ein Algorithmus der kleinsten mittleren Quadrate ist, der in den Abtastzeitpunkten mit Hilfe eines Fehlersignals im letzten Abtastzeitpunkt einen Wert für die Kanalschätzung berechnet, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Anpassungsalgorithmus (LMS) durch Gewichten des Fehlersignals ($e(n)$) bei der Kanalschätzung ($C(n)$) mit

Hilfe von Gewichtungsfaktoren (μ_i) beeinflusst wird, die von den gewählten mittleren Energiewerten ($u_i(n)$) abhängig sind.

5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Gewichtungsfaktoren (μ_i) der Quadratwurzel eines Quotienten aus dem mittleren Energiewert ($u_i(n)$), der dem Gewichtungsfaktor (μ_i) entspricht, und dem größten mittleren Energiewert ($u_h(n)$), proportional (R) sind.

6. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, 2 oder 3, bei dem der Algorithmus ein Algorithmus der kleinsten mittleren Quadrate ist, der in den Abtastzeitpunkten einen Wert für die Kanalschätzung berechnet, und bei diesem Punkt, in einem der Abtastzeitpunkte, die Kanalschätzung für den vorhergehenden Abtastzeitpunkt gewichtet, gekennzeichnet durch:

- Erfassen der Signalstärke (F) des übertragenen Signals ($Y, y(n)$);
- Bestimmen eines Schwellenwertes (FO) für die Signalstärke (F);
- Bestimmen des Auftretens von Schwund durch Vergleichen der Signalstärke (F) mit dem Schwellenwert (FO); und,
- beim Auftreten von Schwund, Veranlassen des Anpassungsalgorithmus (LMS), die Kanalschätzung ($C(n)$) einzig mit jenen Koeffizienten der Kanalschätzung ($C(n-1)$) für die vorhergehenden Abtastzeitpunkt zu gewichten (q_h), die den gewählten mittleren Energiewerten ($u_h(n)$) entsprechen.

7. Verfahren nach Anspruch 6, gekennzeichnet durch Festlegen des Schwellenwertes (FO) für die Signalstärke (F) auf einen konstanten Wert.

8. Verfahren nach Anspruch 6, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Schwellenwert (FO) der Signalstärke (F) proportional (H) zur Quadratwurzel des Quotienten zwischen dem größten und dem nächstgrößten Wert der mittleren Energiewerte ($U(n)$) ist.

Revendications

1. Procédé pour effectuer l'estimation d'un canal soumis à un affaiblissement lors de la transmission de séquences de symboles (SS), dans lequel chacune des séquences de symboles comporte au moins une séquence de synchronisation (SO) et une séquence de données (DO), ledit procédé comprenant les étapes consistant à:



- effectuer une estimation de canal en partie à l'aide de la séquence de synchronisation (SO) et en partie par adaptation pendant la séquence de données (DO) à l'aide d'un algorithme d'adaptation souhaité, au moins une valeur estimée de canal ($C(n)$) étant obtenue à chaque instant d'échantillonnage (n) et
 - effectuer une égalisation de canal à l'aide de la valeur estimée de canal ($C(n)$) et par estimation de symboles dans les séquences de symboles, caractérisé en ce que le procédé comprend les étapes supplémentaires consistant à:
 - calculer des valeurs d'énergie moyennes ($u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n)$) par calcul de la valeur de la moyenne temporelle sur un nombre souhaité d'instant d'échantillonnage (n) de l'énergie contenue dans chacun des coefficients ($c_1(n), \dots, c_k(n)$) de la valeur estimée de canal ($C(n)$),
 - sélectionner au moins la plus grande ($u_h(n)$) des valeurs de l'énergie moyenne ($u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n)$),
 - influencer l'algorithme d'adaptation (LMS) en fonction des valeurs sélectionnées de l'énergie moyenne ($u_h(n)$) afin que l'adaptation de la valeur estimée de canal ($C(n)$) soit commandée à l'aide des valeurs sélectionnées de l'énergie moyenne ($u_h(n)$) pour permettre une estimation correcte des symboles de signaux $\hat{S}(n)$ dans une partie restante de la séquence de symboles (SS) qui suit un affaiblissement (TF) et qui comporte un signal annulé pendant la séquence de symboles (SS).
2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, caractérisé par le fait que l'on prolonge le calcul des valeurs de l'énergie moyenne ($u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n)$) sur une ou plusieurs séquences de symboles entières (SS).
3. Procédé selon la revendication 1, caractérisé par le fait que l'on prolonge le calcul des valeurs de l'énergie moyenne ($u_1(n), \dots, u_k(n)$) sur la seule séquence de synchronisation (SO) de l'une ou plusieurs des séquences de symboles (SS).
4. Procédé selon la revendication 1, 2 ou 3, dans lequel l'algorithme d'adaptation est l'algorithme d'adaptation par les moindres carrés qui, aux instants d'échantillonnage, calcule une valeur estimée de canal à l'aide d'un signal d'erreur obtenu à l'instant d'échantillonnage le plus récent, caractérisé en ce que l'algorithme d'adaptation (LMS) est influencé par une pondération dudit signal d'erreur ($e(n)$) introduite dans la valeur estimée de canal ($C(n)$) avec l'aide de facteurs de pondération (μ_i) qui sont associés aux valeurs sélectionnées de l'énergie moyenne ($u_i(n)$).
5. Procédé selon la revendication 4, caractérisé en ce que les facteurs de pondération (μ_i) sont proportionnels (R) à la racine carrée d'un quotient entre la valeur de l'énergie moyenne ($u_i(n)$) qui correspond au facteur de pondération (μ_i) et la plus grande valeur de l'énergie moyenne ($u_h(n)$).
6. Procédé selon la revendication 1, 2 ou 3 dans lequel l'algorithme est l'algorithme des moindres carrés qui, aux instants d'échantillonnage, calcule une valeur estimée de canal et pour ladite valeur, à l'un des instants d'échantillonnage, pondère la valeur estimée de canal pour l'instant d'échantillonnage précédent, caractérisé par:
 - la détection de l'intensité (F) du signal émis ($Y, y(n)$);
 - la détermination d'une valeur de seuil (F_0) pour l'intensité du signal (F);
 - la détermination de l'occurrence de l'affaiblissement par comparaison de l'intensité (F) du signal avec la valeur de seuil (F_0); et
 - dans le cas d'un affaiblissement, la pondération (q_n) de la valeur estimée de canal ($C(n)$) par l'algorithme d'adaptation (LMS) en ne faisant appel qu'aux coefficients de la valeur estimée de canal ($C(n-1)$) pour l'instant d'échantillonnage précédent, qui correspondent aux valeurs sélectionnées de l'énergie moyenne ($u_h(n)$).
7. Procédé selon la revendication 6, caractérisé par le fait que l'on fixe la valeur de seuil (F_0) de l'intensité (F) du signal à une valeur constante.
8. Procédé selon la revendication 6, caractérisé en ce que la valeur de seuil (F_0) de l'intensité (F) du signal est proportionnelle à (H) la racine carrée du quotient entre la première valeur la plus grande et la deuxième valeur la plus grande de l'énergie moyenne ($U(n)$).

