Performance of Location and Orientation Estimation in 5G mmWave Systems: Uplink vs Downlink

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Abstract—The fifth generation of mobile communications (5G) is expected to exploit the concept of location-aware communication systems. Therefore, there is a need to understand the localization limits in these networks, particularly, using millimeter-wave technology (mmWave). Contributing to this understanding, we consider single-anchor localization limits in terms of 3D position and orientation error bounds for mmWave multipath channels, for both the uplink and downlink. It is found that uplink localization is sensitive to the orientation angle of the user equipment (UE), whereas downlink is not. Moreover, in the considered outdoor scenarios, reflected and scattered paths generally improve localization. Finally, using detailed numerical simulations, we show that mmWave systems are in theory capable of localizing a UE with sub-meter position error, and sub-degree orientation error.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the recent years, millimeter-wave (mmWave) technology has received a considerable attention as a candidate technology for the fifth generation of mobile communication (5G). MmWave carrier frequencies range between 30 and 300 GHz. Having tiny wavelengths allows packing hundreds of antennas in a small area, making mmWave massive MIMO an attractive technology for 5G. Location-aware communication systems are expected to have various applications in 5G [1], such as vehicular communications [2], assisted living applications [3], or to support the communication robustness and effectiveness in different aspects such as resource allocation [4], beamforming [5], and pilot assignment [6]. This makes the study of performance bounds on the user equipment (UE) location and orientation a priority. The orientation importance stems from the application of directional beamforming whose coverage depends, among others, on where the beams are pointed.

Although the position information could be obtained through the time-based GPS, it degrades indoors and in urban canyons and cannot directly provide orientation. To overcome these shortcomings, research has been directed towards alternative spatio-temporal radio localization techniques. To understand their fundamental behavior, the Cramér-Rao lower bound (CRLB) [7] or related bounds can be used. The square-root of the CRLB of the position and the orientation are termed the position error bound (PEB), and the orientation error bound (OEB), respectively. PEB and OEB can be computed indirectly by transforming the Fisher information matrix (FIM) of the channel parameters, namely: directions of arrival (DOA), directions of departure (DOD), and time of arrival (TOA), as in [8], [9] that considered 2D cooperative wideband localization, highlighting the benefit of large bandwidths.

MmWave massive MIMO benefits from large antenna arrays and large bandwidths. Therefore, mmWave localization is very promising. The PEB and OEB for 2D mmWave downlink localization using uniform linear arrays are reported in [10], while 2D uplink multi-anchor localization is considered in [11]. Moreover, for indoor scenarios, the PEB and OEB are investigated in [12] for 3D mmWave uplink localization with a single beam whose direction is assumed to be known. Although multipath environments are considered in [10]–[12], the difference between the uplink and downlink for 3D and 2D with large number of antennas and analog transmit beamforming, and the effect of reflectors and scatterers on the localization performance have not been analyzed.

In this paper, we address these two issues and study the uplink and downlink PEB and OEB under multipath propagation for 3D mmWave single-anchor localization. We use directional beamforming and antenna arrays with arbitrary but known geometries. In addition, we highlight the effect of scatterers and reflectors on both of these bounds, and give a more visual illustration of the scenarios studied (see Fig. 1). We derive these bounds by transforming the FIM of the channel parameters into a FIM of position and orientation. These results are part of a detailed study that can be found in [13].

![Fig. 1. A single anchor 5G localization scenario with LOS (black), 2 reflectors (blue) and 2 scatterers (red). The objective is to determine location and orientation of the user.](image_url)
\[ \Delta_R \triangleq [u_{R,1}, u_{R,2}, \ldots, u_{R,N_R}], u_{R,n} \triangleq [x_{R,n}, y_{R,n}, z_{R,n}]^T \]

is a vector of Cartesian coordinates of the \( n \)th receiver element, and \( N_R \) is the number of receiving antennas. \( \Delta_T \) and \( u_{T,n} \) are defined similarly. The angle parameters are dropped from the notation of \( a_{T,m} \), and \( a_{R,m} \) hereafter.

Denoting the TOA of the \( m \)th path by \( \tau_m \), the channel can be expressed\(^1\) as

\[ H(t) = \sum_{m=1}^{M} H_m \delta(t - \tau_m), \quad (3) \]

\[ H_m \triangleq \sqrt{N_R N_T} \beta_m a_{T,m} a_{R,m}^H \in \mathbb{C}^{N_R \times N_T}, \quad (4) \]

where, from Fig. 2, \( \tau_m = D_m/c \), and \( D_m = d_{1,m} + d_{2,m} \), for \( m > 1 \) and \( \beta_m \) is the complex gain of the \( m \)th path.

C. Transmission and Reception Model

Assuming that the UE and BS are synchronized\(^2\), the transmitted signal is modeled by \( \sqrt{E_c} \mathbf{F}(s(t)) \), where \( E_c \) is the transmitted energy per symbol duration. \( \mathbf{F} \triangleq [f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_{N_B}] \) is a directional beamforming matrix, such that

\[ f_\ell = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_B}} a_{T,\ell}(\theta_\ell, \phi_\ell), \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq N_B \]

is a beam pointing towards \((\theta_\ell, \phi_\ell)\) of the same form as (1), and \( N_B \) is the number of transmitted beams. The pilot signal \( s(t) \triangleq [s_1(t), s_2(t), \ldots, s_{N_B}(t)]^T \) is expressed as

\[ s_\ell(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N_s-1} a_{\ell,k} p(t - k T_s), \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq N_B, \quad (6) \]

where \( a_{\ell,k} \), for each \( \ell \), is a sequence of known unit-energy pilot symbols transmitted over the \( \ell \)th beam. \( p(t) \) is a unit-energy pulse with a power spectral density (PSD), denoted by \( |P(f)|^2 \). In (6), \( N_s \) is the number of pilot symbols and \( T_s \) is the symbol duration, leading to a total observation time of \( T_o \approx N_s T_s \). To keep the transmitted power fixed with \( N_T \), we set \( \mathbf{tr} (\mathbf{F}^H \mathbf{F}) = 1 \), \( \int_0^{T_s} s(t)^2 \mathbf{I} N_R = \mathbf{I}_{N_B} \), where \( \mathbf{tr} (\cdot) \) denotes the matrix trace, and \( \mathbf{I}_{N_B} \) is the \( N_B \)-dimensional identity matrix. Though the sequences may be separated spatially by orthogonal beams, having orthogonal sequences facilitates DOD estimation be relating given sequence to a given beam.

The received signal observed at the input of the receive beamformer is given by

\[ r(t) \triangleq \sum_{m=1}^{M} \sqrt{E_c} H_m F_s(t - \tau_m) + n(t), \quad t \in [0, T_o], \quad (7) \]

where \( n(t) \triangleq [n_1(t), n_2(t), \ldots, n_{N_T}(t)]^T \in \mathbb{C}^{N_T} \) is zero-mean white Gaussian noise (AWGN) with PSD \( N_0 \).

D. 3D Single-User Localization Problem

Our objective is to derive the UE PEB and OEB, based on the observed signal, \( r(t) \), for both the uplink and downlink. We achieve this in two steps: firstly, we derive the FIM of the channel parameters: directions of arrival, \((\theta_{R,m}, \phi_{R,m})\),

\(^1\)We use a narrow-band array model, so that \( A_{\text{max}} \ll c/W \), where \( A_{\text{max}} \) is maximum array aperture, \( c \) is speed of light, and \( W \) is the bandwidth.

\(^2\)The case where synchronization is not achieved a prior is currently being studied in another work, where we consider two-way ranging.
of the individual paths is structured as $\phi$ 's imaginary parts of where $\phi$ ... and the paths are almost orthogonal, and carry independent information. Therefore, we resort to the two-step derivation illustrated in Fig. 3 for the 2D, but easily extensible to the 3D case. In the first step, we shift the coordinate system origin to the UE, hence, the BS location is also rotated and the new BS location is given by $\phi_0$. Mathematically, this location is given by $\phi_0 = \theta_{BS,1} \cos^{-1} (p_2/||p||)$, $\phi_{BS,1} = \tan^{-1} (p_y/p_x)$, and $\tau_1 = ||p||/c$. However, the relationship of the UE angles with the position and orientation angles is not as obvious. Therefore, we resort to the two-step derivation illustrated in Fig. 3 for the 2D, but easily extensible to the 3D case. In the first step, we shift the coordinate system origin to the UE, hence, the BS is shifted to $-p$. In the second step, the coordinate system is rotated in the negative direction of the orientation angle ($\phi_0$). Consequently, the BS location is also rotated and the UE angles are then taken as the spherical coordinates of the new BS location. Mathematically, this location is given by $p' = -R(-\phi_0)p = -R^{-1}(\phi_0)p$, where $R(\phi_0)$ is the rotation matrix in the direction $\phi_0$. Generalizing this result to the 3D
For both LOS and NLOS, the UE position is directly related to the \( \theta \) and \( \phi \) orientation. Consequently, defining \( p' = [p_x', p_y', p_z']^T \) and noting that \( \|p\| = \|p'\| \), we write

\[
\begin{align*}
\theta_{UE,1} &= \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{p'_x}{\|p'\|}\right), \\
\phi_{UE,1} &= \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{p'_y}{p'_x}\right).
\end{align*}
\] (19a)

The rotation considered in this paper (See Fig. 2) is a rotation around the \( z' \)-axis by \( \phi_0 \), followed by another rotation around the \( x' \)-axis by \( -\theta_0 \). Thus, the rotation matrix is given by

\[
R(\theta_0, \phi_0) = \begin{bmatrix}
\cos(\phi_0) & -\sin(\phi_0) \cos(\theta_0) & -\sin(\phi_0) \sin(\theta_0) \\
\sin(\phi_0) \cos(\theta_0) & \cos(\phi_0) & \cos(\theta_0) \\
0 & -\sin(\theta_0) & \cos(\theta_0)
\end{bmatrix}
\]

Next, considering the NLOS paths (\( 2 \leq m \leq M \)) and using the same procedure, the following relations can be obtained

\[
\begin{align*}
\theta_{UE,m} &= \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{w_{m,z}}{\|w_m\|}\right), \\
\phi_{UE,m} &= \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{w_{m,y}}{w_{m,x}}\right), \\
\theta_{BS,m} &= \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{q_{m,z}}{\|q_m\|}\right), \\
\phi_{BS,m} &= \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{q_{m,y}}{q_{m,x}}\right), \\
\tau_m &= \left(\|q_m\| + \|w_m\|\right)/c.
\end{align*}
\] (20a) (20b) (20c) (20d) (20e)

where \( w_m = p - q_m \), and \( w' = |w_{m,x}|, w_{m,y}, w_{m,z}|^T = -R^{-1}(\theta_0, \phi_0)w \). Deriving (17), (19), and (20) w.r.t. the location parameters and substituting into \( T \) yields the FIM of the location parameters. Closed-form expressions for LOS PEB and OEB are derived in [13]. We omit the full derivations, and provide key observations instead.

C. Key Observations

From [13], we make the following observations:

1) For both LOS and NLOS, the UE position is directly related to \( \theta_{BS,m}, \phi_{BS,m}, \) and \( \tau_m \). This means that PEB, in addition to being a function of TOA, is a function of DOD in the downlink, and the DOA in the uplink. Since the CRLBs of DOA and DOD are different [13], the PEB in uplink and downlink are not identical.

2) On the other hand, the UE orientation is directly related to \( \theta_{BS,m}, \phi_{BS,m}, \theta_{UE,m}, \phi_{UE,m} \). Therefore, OEB is a function of the DOA and DOD both in the uplink and downlink.

3) In the downlink, beamforming is performed in the BS that has a fixed orientation, and derivatives of the BS angles w.r.t. orientation are zero. Thus, the downlink PEB and OEB are not affected by the UE orientation. On the contrary, the uplink PEB and OEB are sensitive to the UE orientation. The beamforming is performed. However, only when the BS and UE have the same orientation, uplink and downlink OEB are identical.

V. Numerical Results and Discussion

A. Simulation Environment

1) Geometry: We consider a scenario where a BS with a height of 10 meters and a square array of \( N_{BS} \) antennas is located in the \( xz \)-plane and centered at the origin. The UE, operating at \( f = 38 \) GHz, is equipped with a square array of 25 antennas, and assumed to be tilted by some orientation angle. We investigate the performance over a flat 120° sector of a sectored cell with a radius of 50 meters. The UE is assumed to be located anywhere within this sector.

2) Transceiver Parameters: We consider an ideal sinc pulse so that \( W_{\text{eff}}^2 = W^2/3 \), where \( W = 125 \) MHz, \( E_s/T_s = 0 \) dBm, \( N_0 = -170 \) dBm/Hz, and \( N_s = 16 \) pilot symbols.

3) Beamforming: We employ directional beamforming, defined in (5). From Fig. 4, in the downlink, the beams directions are chosen such that the beams centers are equi-spaced on the ground. In the uplink, the beams are equispaced on a virtual sector containing the BS and parallel to the UE array. Fig. 5 illustrates the normalized footprint of the beam pattern of the BS (downlink) on the sector. Note that the beam coverage is higher in areas farther away from the BS, in general, since the beam intersection of the sector is ellipse. This is an advantageous feature to combat higher propagation loss at these areas. All the results are obtained with \( N_B = 25 \), \( N_T = N_R = 144 \), unless otherwise stated.

4) Channel: The environment contains scatterers distributed arbitrarily in the 3D space, and reflectors placed close to the sector edge. The number of scatterers and reflectors contributing to the received signal depends on the UE position. For the considered setup, Fig. 6 shows the distribution of the number of clusters (reflectors and scatterers) over the considered sector. Note that a maximum of 5 clusters contribute to the UE signal. In Fig. 6, a cluster is ignored if the received power from that cluster is below 10% of the LOS.

Accordingly, the complex channel gain of the \( m \)th path is modeled by

\[
|\beta_m|^2 = \frac{\lambda^2}{(4\pi)^2} \left( \frac{1}{D_m^2} + \frac{\sigma^2_{\text{RCS}}}{(4\pi d_{1,m}d_{2,m})^2} \right) \] (21)

where \( \theta_m = 2\pi D_m/\lambda \), while \( \sigma^2_{\text{RCS}} = 50 \) m², and \( \Gamma_R = 0.7 \) are the radar cross section, and the reflection coefficient, respectively. To maintain the relationship between angles of
incidence and reflection in 3D, we use the virtual transmitter method [16], illustrated in Fig. 7, by which the reflection point is calculated as the intersection point of the reflector and the line connecting the BS to a virtual mirror-image of the UE. It is understood that not all locations in the sector will communicate with the BS via a reflected signal, in which case the reflector is ignored. Finally, note that Fig. 7 provides an illustration of the uplink, but since $d_{2,m}$ and $d_{1,m}$ in (21) are interchangeable, the downlink is the same.

B. Downlink PEB and OEB Under Multipath

Figs. 8 and 9 show the PEB and OEB for the two cases of LOS and LOS with clusters (LOS+C), respectively. Although incorporating NLOS clusters in the localization does not lower the maximum bound value, it does improve the bounds at those locations where the clusters’ signal are received. In the illustrated example, the clusters mainly affect the top and center areas of the sector where the map of LOS+C has extended green and blue areas, while the red areas shrink. Finally, note the red dots in the central area of the PEB and OEB (LOS+C). These dots occur because at these locations, the scatterer blocks the LOS path, violating the unique parameters assumption, and causing singularities in the FIM.

To test the effect of reflectors and scatterers separately, we investigate a subset of the locations in Fig. 6, for which 2 scatterer and 2 reflectors contribute to the received signal, as in Fig. 1. We then obtain the average PEB and OEB over these locations for the cases highlighted in Fig. 10. It can be seen that for the considered scenario, on average the PEB and OEB improvement achieved with the reflectors exceed that achieved with the scatterers. This is reasonable since reflectors retransmit most of the incident power directionally, unlike scatterers that retransmit omni-directionally.

C. UE Orientation Impact on PEB and OEB

Considering Fig. 11, the CDF of the PEB is shown for uplink and downlink with two different UE orientation angles. The downlink PEB is a function of the BS angles (DOD), independent of the UE orientation. Therefore, the downlink PEB is identical in both 0° and 15° orientation cases. On the contrary, the uplink PEB is highly dependent on the UE orientation, since the beamforming is performed in fixed directions w.r.t. to the UE’s frame of reference. As a result, UE beams may miss the BS. With 15° orientation, this happens...
more frequently, which degrades the PEB. Finally, although in Fig. 11 the uplink with 0° orientation is better than the downlink, this is not always the case. In fact, this depends on the choice of N_{Ht}, as shown in [13]. In general, downlink is more stable and attains a of 23 cm PEB, at 90% CDF.

For the OEB in Fig. 12, the downlink and uplink OEB curves coincide for 0° yielding similar performance. This is because OEB is a function of DOA and DOD, which are interchangeable when UE and BS have the same orientation. At 90% CDF, OEB is 0.5°. Finally, when the UE orientation is 15°, OEB is again degraded for both the uplink and downlink.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we investigated the uplink and downlink PEB and OEB under multipath mmWave propagation and arbitrary array. Based on the considered scenarios, our simulations show that the NLOS clusters improve the localization when a LOS path exists. We observed that, under our model, reflectors improve PEB and OEB, more than scatterers do. Even though uplink localization can offer better localization capabilities than downlink, the former is generally harder since transmit beamforming at UE may point in directions that are not useful for localization.

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