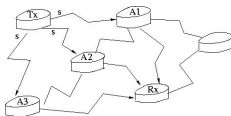
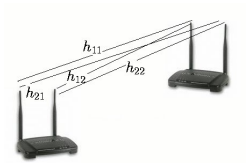
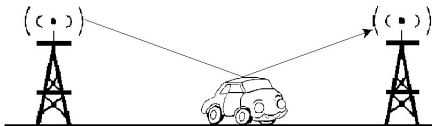


# Lecture 4: Wireless Communications and Quaternion Algebras

F. Oggier

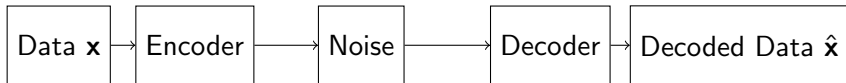
Journées Algébriques du Gabon, Libreville, Mars 2025



## Transmitter

## Channel

## Receiver

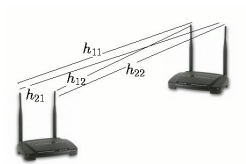


$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_k) \mapsto \underbrace{\mathbf{c} = (c_1, \dots, c_n)}_{\text{codeword, } n \geq k} \longrightarrow \mathbf{y} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{x}} = (\hat{x}_1, \dots, \hat{x}_k)$$

where  $\mathbf{y}$  is the noisy channel output.

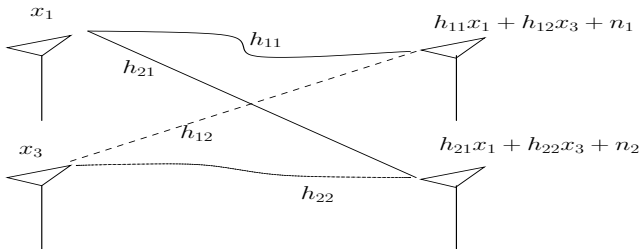
$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n \quad \underbrace{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{fading}}, \underbrace{\mathbf{w}}_{\text{noise}} \quad \mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n$$

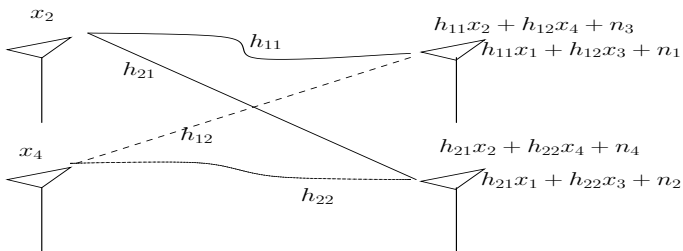
where  $\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{w}$  have Gaussian random coefficients.

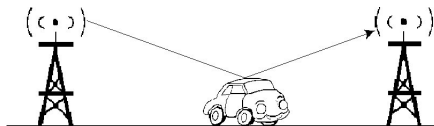


- Multiple Input Multiple Output

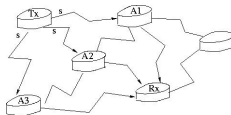
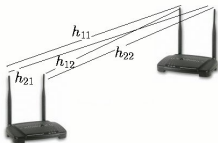








$$\mathbf{y} = H\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{w}, \quad H = \text{diag}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n).$$



$$\mathbf{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} h_{11} & h_{12} \\ h_{21} & h_{22} \end{pmatrix} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ x_3 & x_4 \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{space-time codeword } \mathbf{X}} + \mathbf{W}$$



How do we design a code to achieve reliability? It depends on the channel.

- Hamming distance in the presence of erasures.
- Product “distance” for a single antenna channel:

$$P(\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{y}) \leq \frac{\text{const}, SNR}{d_p^{(l)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})^2}, \quad d_p^{(l)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \prod_{x_i \neq y_i} |x_i - y_i|$$

for the design of a finite constellation carved from a lattice  $L \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ .

- Determinant criterion for a multiple antenna channel:

$$P(\mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{Y}) \leq \frac{\text{const}, SNR}{|\det(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{Y})|^4}.$$

for the design of the codebook  $\mathcal{C}$ :

$$\mathcal{C} = \left\{ \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ x_3 & x_4 \end{pmatrix} \mid x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \in \mathbb{C} \right\}$$



We need:

- a lattice such that  $\min(l) = n$  is the minimum number of distinct components between any two constellation points.
  - Use a lattice built from a totally real number field.
- a family of matrices  $\mathcal{C}$  such that

$$\det(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X}') \neq 0.$$

- Use a division algebra.

The idea behind division algebras:

- The difficulty: the non-linearity of the determinant

$$\det(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X}') \neq 0, \mathbf{X} \neq \mathbf{X}' \in \mathcal{C}.$$

- If  $\mathcal{C}$  is taken inside an algebra of matrices, the problem simplifies to

$$\det(\mathbf{X}) \neq 0, \mathbf{0} \neq \mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{C}.$$

- A *division algebra* is a non-commutative field.

- Recall:  $\mathbb{C}$ ?
- $\mathbb{C}$ =vector space of dimension 2 over  $\mathbb{R}$ , with basis

$$\{1, i\}, \quad i^2 = -1.$$

- Now:  $\mathbb{H}$ ?
- $\mathbb{H}$ =vector space of dimension 4 over  $\mathbb{R}$ , with basis

$$\{1, i, j, k\}.$$

- Rules:  $i^2 = -1, j^2 = -1, k = ij = -ji$ .

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Complex Numbers

*Hamiltonian Quaternions*

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$$\mathbb{C} = \{x + yi \mid x, y \in \mathbb{R}\} \quad \mathbb{H} = \{x + yi + zj + wk \mid x, y, z, w \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

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Hamiltonian Quaternions form a division algebra.

- To see:  $q = x + yi + wk \neq 0$  is invertible.

Hamiltonian Quaternions form a division algebra.

- To see:  $q = x + yi + wk \neq 0$  is invertible.
- Define the conjugate of  $q$ :

$$\bar{q} = x - yi - zj - wk.$$

- Compute that

$$q\bar{q} = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + w^2, \quad x, y, z, w \in \mathbb{R}.$$

- The inverse of the quaternion  $q$  is given by

$$q^{-1} = \frac{\bar{q}}{q\bar{q}}.$$



How to get matrices:

- Any quaternion  $q = x + yi + zj + wk$  can be written as

$$(x + yi) + j(z - wi) = \alpha + j\beta, \quad \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}.$$

- Now compute the multiplication by  $q$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \underbrace{(\alpha + j\beta)}_q (\gamma + j\delta) &= \alpha\gamma + j\bar{\alpha}\delta + j\beta\gamma + j^2\bar{\beta}\delta \\ &= (\alpha\gamma - \bar{\beta}\delta) + j(\bar{\alpha}\delta + \beta\gamma) \end{aligned}$$

- Write this equality in the basis  $\{1, j\}$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & -\bar{\beta} \\ \beta & \bar{\alpha} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \gamma \\ \delta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha\gamma - \bar{\beta}\delta \\ \bar{\alpha}\delta + \beta\gamma \end{pmatrix}$$

Check list for the design of the codebook  $\mathcal{C}$ :

$$\mathcal{C} = \left\{ \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & -\bar{\beta} \\ \beta & \bar{\alpha} \end{pmatrix} \mid \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C} \right\}$$

- Linearity ✓
- Diversity ✓

$$\begin{aligned} \det(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X}') &= \det \begin{pmatrix} \alpha - \alpha' & -(\overline{\beta - \beta'}) \\ \beta - \beta' & \overline{\alpha - \alpha'} \end{pmatrix} = 0 \\ &\iff |\alpha - \alpha'|^2 + |\beta - \beta'|^2 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

A quaternion algebra is a particular case of a cyclic algebra.

- Let  $L = \mathbb{Q}(i, \sqrt{d}) = \{u + \sqrt{d}v, u, v \in \mathbb{Q}(i)\}$ . A *cyclic algebra*  $\mathcal{A}$  is defined as follows

$$\mathcal{A} = L \oplus eL$$

with  $e^2 = \gamma$  and

$$\lambda e = e\sigma(\lambda) \text{ where } \sigma(u + \sqrt{d}v) = u - \sqrt{d}v.$$

- Recall that  $(\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{R} \oplus i\mathbb{R})$

$$\mathbb{H} = \mathbb{C} \oplus j\mathbb{C}$$

with

$$j^2 = -1 \text{ and } ij = -ji$$

- We associate to an element its multiplication matrix

$$x = x_0 + ex_1 \in \mathcal{A} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} x_0 & \gamma\sigma(x_1) \\ x_1 & \sigma(x_0) \end{pmatrix}$$

- as we did for the Hamiltonian Quaternions.

$$q = \alpha + j\beta \in \mathbb{H} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & -\bar{\beta} \\ \beta & \bar{\alpha} \end{pmatrix}$$

Note, two information symbols  $(\alpha, \beta)$  versus four  $(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3)$ .

- The Golden code is related to the Golden number  $\theta = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ , a root of  $X^2 - X - 1 = 0$  ( $\sigma(\theta) = \bar{\theta} = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}$  is the other).
- We define the code  $\mathcal{C}$  as

$$\mathcal{C} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ x_3 & x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a + b\theta & c + d\theta \\ i(c + d\bar{\theta}) & a + b\bar{\theta} \end{bmatrix} : a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}[i] \right\}$$

- This code has been built from the cyclic algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ , given by

$$\mathcal{A} = \{y = (u + v\theta) + e(w + z\theta) \mid e^2 = i, u, v, w, z \in \mathbb{Q}(i)\}.$$

- We have the code  $\mathcal{C}$  as

$$\mathcal{C} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ x_3 & x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a + b\theta & c + d\theta \\ i(c + d\bar{\theta}) & a + b\bar{\theta} \end{bmatrix} : a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}[i] \right\}$$

- $\mathcal{C}$  is a linear code, i.e.,  $\mathbf{X}_1 + \mathbf{X}_2 \in \mathcal{C}$  for all  $\mathbf{X}_1, \mathbf{X}_2 \in \mathcal{C}$ .
- The minimum determinant of  $\mathcal{C}$  is given by

$$\delta_{\min}(\mathcal{C}) = \min_{\mathbf{X}_1 \neq \mathbf{X}_2 \in \mathcal{C}} |\det(\mathbf{X}_1 - \mathbf{X}_2)|^2 = \min_{\mathbf{0} \neq \mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{C}} |\det(\mathbf{X})|^2.$$

We need to show that  $\mathcal{A}$  is a division algebra.

We need to prove that the algebra  $\mathcal{A} = (L/\mathbb{Q}(i), \sigma, i)$  is a division algebra.

- We have

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a + b\theta & c + d\theta \\ i(c + d\bar{\theta}) & a + b\bar{\theta} \end{bmatrix} = N_{L/\mathbb{Q}(i)}(a + b\theta) - iN(c + d\theta).$$

- Since

$$N_{L/\mathbb{Q}(i)}(a + b\theta) - iN(c + d\theta) = 0 \iff \frac{N_{L/\mathbb{Q}(i)}(a + b\theta)}{N(c + d\theta)} = i$$

it is enough to show that  $i$  is not a norm in  $L/\mathbb{Q}(i)$ .

- We are looking at  $L = \mathbb{Q}(i, \sqrt{p})$ , we will give a proof that works for  $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ .
- Let  $L = \mathbb{Q}(i, \sqrt{p})$  be a relative extension of  $\mathbb{Q}(i)$ . Let  $x \in L$ ,  $x = a + b\sqrt{p}$ ,  $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}(i)$ . Its relative norm is

$$N_{L/\mathbb{Q}(i)}(x) = (a + b\sqrt{p})(a - b\sqrt{p}) = a^2 - pb^2.$$

- We thus need to show that  $a^2 - pb^2 = i$  has no solution in  $L$ .



- To prove that  $a^2 - pb^2 = i$  has no solution in  $L$ , we prove it has not solution in the field of  $p$ -adic numbers  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ .
- Let  $\mathbb{Z}_p = \{x \in \mathbb{Q}_p \mid \nu_p(x) \geq 0\}$  be the valuation ring of  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ , where  $\nu_p(x)$  denotes the valuation of  $x$  in  $p$ .
- There are embeddings of  $\mathbb{Q}(i)$  into  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  if  $X^2 + 1$ , the minimal polynomial of  $i$ , has roots in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . Using Hensel's Lemma, it is enough to check that  $-1$  is a square in  $\mathbb{F}_p$ .
- By assumption,  $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ , thus  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .
- Recall that  $x \in \mathbb{F}_p^*$  is a square if and only if  $x^{(p-1)/2} = 1$  and that consequently, if  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ ,  $-1$  is a square in  $\mathbb{F}_p$ .

- We want to prove that

$$a^2 - pb^2 = i, \quad a, b \in \mathbb{Q}(i)$$

has no solution in  $L$ .

- Using the embedding of  $\mathbb{Q}(i)$  into  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ , this equation can be seen in  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  as

$$a^2 - pb^2 = y + px, \quad a, b \in \mathbb{Q}_p, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_p,$$

where  $y^2 = -1$ .

- If there is a solution to the original equation, then this solution still holds in  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ . Thus proving that no solution exists in  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  would conclude the proof.

We first show that  $a$  and  $b$  are in fact in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ .

- In terms of valuation, we have

$$\nu_p(a^2 - pb^2) = \nu_p(y + px).$$

- Since  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ , the right term yields  $\nu_p(y + px) \geq \inf\{\nu_p(y), \nu_p(x) + 1\} = 0$ , and we have equality since the valuations are distinct.
- Now the left term becomes  $0 = \nu_p(a^2 - pb^2) = \inf\{2\nu_p(a), 2\nu_p(b) + 1\}$ . The only possible case is  $\nu_p(a) = 0$ , implying  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  and consequently  $b \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ .

We conclude showing that

$$a^2 - pb^2 = y + px, \quad a, b, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_p$$

has no solution.

- Reducing (mod  $p\mathbb{Z}_p$ ), we see that  $y$  has to be a square in  $\mathbb{F}_p$ .
- Since  $y^2 = -1$ ,  $y^{(p-1)/2} = (-1)^{(p-1)/4} = -1$  by choice of  $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ .
- Then by the above characterization of squares,  $y$  is not a square, which is a contradiction.  $\square$

This result does not hold for  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ . Consider

$L = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{17}, i)$ , and  $x = \frac{3(i-1)}{4} - \frac{(i-1)\sqrt{17}}{4}$ . We check that  $N_{L/\mathbb{Q}(i)}(x) = i$ .

- Let  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{C}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \det(\mathbf{X}) &= \det \begin{pmatrix} a + b\theta & c + d\theta \\ i(c + d\bar{\theta}) & a + b\bar{\theta} \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= (a + b\theta)(a + b\bar{\theta}) - i(c + d\theta)(c + d\bar{\theta}) \\
 &= a^2 + ab(\bar{\theta} + \theta) - b^2 - i[c^2 + cd(\theta + \bar{\theta}) - d^2] \\
 &= a^2 + ab - b^2 + i(c^2 + cd - d^2),
 \end{aligned}$$

$$a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}[i].$$

- Thus

$$\det(\mathbf{X}) \in \mathbb{Z}[i] \Rightarrow \delta_{\min}(\mathcal{C}) = |\det(\mathbf{X})|^2 \geq 1.$$

- Does *not* depend on the cardinality of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

In fact, we have

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a + b\theta & c + d\theta \\ i(c + d\bar{\theta}) & a + b\bar{\theta} \end{bmatrix} = N_{L/\mathbb{Q}(i)}(a + b\theta) - iN(c + d\theta)$$

so the property that  $\det(\mathbf{X}) \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$  follows from a property of the norm.







