Performance of the Wavelet Transform-Neural Network Based Receiver for DPIM in Diffuse Indoor Optical Wireless Links in Presence of Artificial Light Interference

S. Rajbhandari*, Z. Ghassemlooy* and M. Angelova**

Abstract: Artificial neural network (ANN) has application in communication engineering in diverse areas such as channel equalization, channel modeling, error control code because of its capability of nonlinear processing, adaptability, and parallel processing. On the other hand, wavelet transform (WT) with both the time and the frequency resolution provides the exact representation of signal in both domains. Applying these signal processing tools for channel compensation and noise reduction can provide an enhanced performance compared to the traditional tools. In this paper, the slot error rate (SER) performance of digital pulse interval modulation (DPIM) in diffuse indoor optical wireless (OW) links subjected to the artificial light interference (ALI) is reported with new receiver structure based on the discrete WT (DWT) and ANN. Simulation results show that the DWT-ANN based receiver is very effective in reducing the effect of multipath induced inter-symbol interference (ISI) and ALI.

Keywords: Optical wireless communication, discrete wavelet transform, artificial neural network, artificial light interference, multipath propagation.

1 Introduction
The increasing popularity of files and video sharing and the possibility of digital radio and TV broadcast over the internet have already put a huge bandwidth demand on the personal communication systems [1, 2]. On the other hand, the fourth generation communications promise to support multiple applications and a higher bandwidth per user (more than 100 Mbps) for both indoor and outdoor applications [3]. This will place an enormous challenge on already congested microwave and radio frequency (RF) spectrum with limited capacities. However, the solution to the bandwidth congestion and the ‘last mile access’ bottleneck, would be to employ optical communications technologies. Though OW communication is not a new technology, the recent profuse demand in bandwidth makes it a real contender for the primary medium in personal communications for the future applications [4, 5]. The combination of fibre optics and indoor and outdoor OW links can readily overcome the problem of last mile access for a foreseeable future at certain specific applications. In fact, the largest installed short-range wireless communication links are optical rather than RF [6], which can readily be connected to the fibre optical communications backbone. In outdoor applications we are seeing a growing range of OW systems covering ranges up to 5-6 km at speed in access of 10 Gbps achieved by adopting wavelength division multiplexing [7]. In indoor environment, we are seeing a growing research activities and availability of commercially available device and systems for targeted application such HDTV, high-speed download station at airports, railway station and other public places, to name a few [8, 9]. However, for indoor non-line-of-sight (NLOS) systems mobility and to a certain extend cost are important issues when compared to RF links.

The basic system model for in-house OW communication was first developed in 1979 by Gfeller and Bapst [10], but the extensive study of the channel capacity, channel modelling as well as modulation techniques were carried mostly in the late 1990’s [11-15]. Over the last two decades a number of modulation
schemes (old and new) have been proposed for OW systems. The most basic and widely studied bandwidth efficient scheme is the On-off keying (OOK) with a high average optical power requirement and having DC and low frequency components. On the other hand the most power efficient and bandwidth efficient scheme is the pulse position modulation (PPM) offering the best performance but is susceptible to the multipath induced ISI in NLOS links as well as requiring both the slot and symbol synchronization. Anisochronous modulation scheme including differential PPM (DPPM) [16], DPIM [17] and dual-header pulse interval modulation (DH-PIM) [18] with built-in symbol synchronization offer improved throughputs and bandwidth efficiency at the cost of marginally lower power efficiency compared to the PPM. For indoor NLOS applications these schemes also offer a degree of immunity to the ISI by adding guard slots to the symbols. However, in highly dispersive channels, the unequalized error performances of PPM, DPPM, DH-PIM and DPIM are rather inferior compared to the OOK.

A number of equalization techniques have been investigated for these modulation schemes [9, 12, 16, 17]. Though the maximum likelihood sequence detector (MLSD) is the optimum solution, it is not suitable for the variable symbol length modulation schemes of DPPM, DH-PIM and DPIM for practical reasons [17]. Hence sub-optimum solutions like the decision feedback equalizer would be the preferred option [16, 17]. But equalization based on the finite impulse response (FIR) filter suffers from severe performance degradation in the time varying and non-linear channels [19]. In [20, 21] the equalization is defined as a pattern classification problem, thus opening opening-up the possibility of utilizing the ANN. In [22] it has been reported that ANN with both adaptability and nonlinear processing capability is a perfect tool for signal detection for the non-Gaussian, nonlinear and time-varying channels. The concept of equalization as a classification problem is considered here with the ANN as a classifying tool.

The link performance of an indoor OW link is severely degraded by the intense ambient light source both from the artificial and nature lights. For diffuse links and in the presence of intense ambient light the optical power penalty for the matched filter based receiver with an equalizer will be very high. Hence, some kind of filtering is needed to ensure that the link performance is acceptable as there is spectral overlap between ALI and the baseband region of the data signal. Fluorescent lamps (FLs) driven by the electronic ballasts are potentially the most degrading as the harmonics extending up to several MHz. The most widespread technique used to mitigate the effect of ALI is to employ an electrical high-pass filter (HPF). Although electrical HPF is effective in attenuating the interference signal, it introduces a form of ISI known as the baseline wander (BLW), which is more severe for baseband modulation techniques with a considerable amount of power at its DC and low-frequency regions [23, 24]. In this paper, we investigate an alternative scheme based on the DWT for combating the effect of ALI for the LOS and diffuse DPIM. The DWT is a multiresolutional analysis in which the signal is decomposed into two equal bands at each level of decomposition. Each band of the signal can be manipulated independently providing flexibility in the analysis. DWT is realized by using a filter bank with repetitive structure which reduces the design complexity. The goal of using DWT in this work is to remove the ALI that has spectral components mainly at a low frequency region. The received noisy signal is decomposed into a number of bands using DWT until signal and inference are effectively separated in frequency bands and the DWT coefficients corresponding to interference are removed from the reconstructed signal. Though theoretically it may sound perfect, in practical situation it is not possible to completely remove the interference from the signal as there is a spectral overlap. Hence, there is need for optimization to ensure that the loss of information is kept to a minimum.

In this paper the performance of a diffuse DPIM link employing the DWT (for denoising) and the ANN (equalization) is studied and results are presented and compared with a LOS link. The paper is organised as follows: the system description of DPIM along with the ALI model and a diffuse channel model is presented in Section 2. The proposed DWT-ANN based equalizer is described in Section 3 and the error performance of the proposed system is reported in Section 4 for different data rates. Finally, the concluding remarks are given in Section 5.

2 Indoor OW Channel Model and Unequalized Performance

2.1 DPIM System Description

DPIM is an anisochronous modulation technique, in which each block of M (= log₂L) input data bits \{d_i, i = 1, 2, ..., M\} is mapped to one of L possible symbols \{s(n), 0 < n ≤ L\} of different length. A symbol is composed of a pulse of one slot duration followed by a series of empty slots, the number of which is dependent on the decimal value of the M-bit data stream being encoded. The L-DPIM symbol set \(s_n(t)\), \(0 < n ≤ L\) can be represented as:

\[
s_n(t) = \begin{cases} P & \text{for } t ≤ T_s \\
0 & \text{for } T_s < t ≤ nT_s
\end{cases}
\]
where $P_c$ is the peak power and $T_s$ is the slot duration. The peak power $P_c$ is related to the average transmitted power $P_{\text{avg}}$ and the average symbol length $L_{\text{avg}}$ as:

$$P_c = P_{\text{avg}}L_{\text{avg}}$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

In order to avoid symbols with a zero time slot between the adjacent pulses, an additional guard band (GB) of one or more time slots may be added to each symbol immediately following the pulse. Adding one or more guard slots also provide immunity to the multipath induced ISI for moderately dispersive channel [25]. For highly dispersive channel, equalization schemes must be incorporated to achieve a reasonable BER.

Assuming independent and identically-distributed (iid) random data, the average symbol length $L_{\text{avg}}$ and the slot duration $T_s$ are given by:

$$L_{\text{avg}} = \frac{(L+1)}{2} + \text{NGB}$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

$$T_s = \frac{T_b \log_2 L}{L_{\text{avg}}}$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

where $T_b$ is the bit duration of $d_i(t)$ and NGB is the number of guard GBs.

DPIM can be used to achieve either higher bandwidth efficiency or power efficiency compared to PPM by varying the value of L. For a fixed average bit rate and fixed available bandwidth, improved average power efficiency can be achieved when using higher bit resolution (i.e. higher M) compared to PPM [17]. Unlike PPM schemes where both slot and symbol synchronizations are the requirement, DPIM also offers a built-in symbol synchronisation capability.

The complete schematic system block diagram of the DPIM is given in Fig. 1. In a dispersive channel with ALI, both HPF and equalizing filter are incorporated at the receiver to reduce the effect of the interference due to artificial light and multipath respectively. For an ideal channel (with no multipath distortion and ALI) and with the additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN), the optimum detection strategies would be to use a matched filter (without an equalizer and a HPF). The impulse response of the unit energy matched filter $r(t)$ is matched to the transmitted pulse shape $p(t)$. The filter output $y(t)$ is sampled at the end of each slot period and a binary ‘0’ or ‘1’ is assigned to the output of the sampler depending on whether the sample is above or below the threshold $\alpha$. Unlike the OOK scheme, the optimum threshold $\alpha$ does not lies at the middle of the maximum and minimum amplitude of the received signal. It is calculated that the optimum values of $\alpha$ varies from $0.49E_s$ to $0.54E_s$ for $L = 2$ to 32 [17], where $E_s$ is the energy of a pulse. Though suboptimal, the value of $\alpha$ is taken as $0.5E_s$ in this study. The slot error probability $P_{se}$ for a matched filter based receiver with a threshold level of $0.5E_s$ can be approximated as [26]:

$$P_{se} = Q\left(\frac{\sqrt{2L_{\text{avg}}M}}{\sqrt{\pi R_b}}\right)$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

where $\eta$ is the double-sided noise power spectral density, $R$ is the photodetector responsivity, $R_b$ is the bit rate and $Q(\phi)$ is the Q-function defined as $Q(\phi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\phi}^{\infty} e^{-t^2/2} dt$. For the system with one or more GBs, the error probability needs to be modified to take account for different detection errors and a more complex mathematical analysis is required (for details refer to [17]).

### 2.2 Artificial Light Interference Model

The unavoidable background radiation from the artificial and natural light sources has potential to severely degrade the performance of IR receivers. The signal independent background radiation induced shot noise is white and Gaussian; whereas interferences from the artificial sources are periodic. Of all the artificial sources of ambient light, FLs driven by the electronic ballasts are potentially the most degrading with harmonics of the switching frequency extending into the MHz [27]. In [27] a model is proposed to accurately describe the fluorescent light interference (FLI) driven by a electronic ballast. The FLI signal $m(t)$ composed of the low frequency and high frequency components $m_{\text{low}}(t)$ and $m_{\text{high}}(t)$ respectively is given by:

$$m(t) = m_{\text{low}}(t) + m_{\text{high}}(t)$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)

where

$$m_{\text{low}}(t) = \frac{I_b}{A_2} \sum_{j=1}^{22} \left[ \Phi_j \cos(2\pi(100i - 50)t + \phi_i) + \psi_j \cos(2\pi(1001t + \phi_j) \right]$$  \hspace{1cm} (6)

and

$$m_{\text{high}}(t) = \frac{I_b}{A_2} \sum_{j=1}^{22} \Gamma_j \cos(2\pi f_{\text{high}}jt + \theta_i)$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)

where $\Phi_i$ and $\Psi_j$ are the amplitudes of the odd and even harmonics of 50 Hz mains signal, respectively, $\Gamma_j$ and $\theta_j$ are the amplitude and phase of the harmonics, $f_{\text{high}}$ is the electronic ballast switching frequency, and $A_2$ is the constant relating the interference amplitude to $I_b$. For

![Fig. 1. The block diagram of DPIM system with equalizer and HPF at the receiver front](image-url)
3 DWT and ANN Based Receiver

The schematic block diagram of the receiver with the proposed DWT and ANN modules is shown in Fig. 2. The architecture of the traditional HPF equalizer receiver (Fig. 1) and DWT-ANN (Fig.2) are similar. The DWT reduces the effect of ALI whereas the ANN acts as an equalizer. For the case where there is no ALI, DWT is not required and whereas for LOS links, the ANN could be removed without any effect on the link performance.

The noise and signal are separated into different bands using the DWT and the signal band that corresponds to the noise in the reconstructed signal is removed. In contrast to the DWT based denoising [28], here DWT is employed to reduce the low frequency ALI, and only the approximation coefficients are manipulated. The DWT decomposing and denoising processes can be better understood by the multisiresolutional analysis (MRA) tree depicted in Fig. 3. The signal is divided into half-frequency bands at each level of the decomposition. At the first stage of the decompostion, the signal $x(n)$ is divided into lowpass $y_{1l}$ and highpass $y_{1h}$ bands using low pass $h(n)$ and high pass $g(n)$ filters and followed by down-sampling by 2 to provide approximation and detail coefficients, respectively. The outputs at the first stage of the decomposition are given by [29]:

$$y_{1l}(k) = \sum_n x(n) \cdot g(2k - n) \quad (11)$$

$$y_{1h}(k) = \sum_n x(n) \cdot h(2k - n) \quad (12)$$

The second stage divides $y_{1l}$ further to the lowpass $y_{2l}$ and bandpass $y_{2h}$, which results in a logarithmic set of bandwidths. Further decompositions of $y_{2l}$ is possible. It is to be noted here that the decomposition filters $h(n)$ and $g(n)$ remain the same for all level of decompositions.

For reducing the effect of ALI, the decomposition is carried out until the signal and interference can effectively be separated. There is a problem in reducing the effect of ALI without affecting the loss of information content. This is because there is a spectral overlap at and near the DC component between the signal and ALI interference. Thus, the challenge is how to carry out denoising without any loss of information. Having separated the signal and the interference in the wavelet domain, the DWT coefficients corresponding to the interference is made equal to zero. i.e.

$$y_{nl} = 0 \quad (13)$$

where $y_{nl}$ is the $n^{th}$ level DWT approximation coefficients.
The order of decomposition level \( n \) depends upon the data rate and interference bandwidth. Signal is reconstructed with \( y_{nl} = 0 \), and if \( n \) is selected appropriately, the reconstructed signal can be partially/completely free from interference. The reconstruction process involves the inverse of the decomposition process, i.e. the DWT coefficients at each level are up-sampled by two, passed through the synthesis filters \( g'(n) \) and \( h'(n) \) (high pass and low pass, respectively), and then added. However, the analysis and synthesis filters are the same, hence the reconstruction at each level is given by [30]:

\[
x'(n) = \sum_k \left( y_{lh}(k) g(2k - n) + y_{lh}(n) h(2k - n) \right)
\] (14)

The reconstructed signal \( x'(n) \) is sliced to generate a binary sequence in LOS links. However, \( x'(n) \) is further processed using the ANN for the diffuse channel to compensate for multipath propagation. Adaptive equalization using ANN is carried out in a supervised manner using a feedforward backpropagation multilayer perceptron (MLP). The equalizing structure of the MLP with input, hidden and output layers is illustrated in Fig. 4. The DWT output \( x'(n) \) is passed though a number of tap delay lines as in the traditional equalizers. The number of tap delay lines can be varied according to the delay spread of the channel. The number of neurons in the input layer is in par with the number of tap delay lines. Six neurons and one neuron are used in the hidden layer and the output layer, respectively and the transfer functions utilized are the log-sigmoid and linear, respectively. The MLP is trained in supervised manner, meaning input and target sets are provided to the ANN for the estimation of the channel, and hence adjusting the ANN parameters (weight and bias). The target of the learning process is to reduce the error signal (i.e. the difference of the actual output from ANN and the target output). There are a number of different ANN training algorithms. Readers can refer to the standard texts on ANN [31] for details. The output of the ANN is sliced forcing the output to the binary values. The output of the slicer (Fig. 4) is compared to the original DPIM sequence to determine the SER.

### Table 1. Simulation Parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data rate ( R_b )</td>
<td>10-200 Mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bit Resolution ( M )</td>
<td>2, 3 and 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGB</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel RMS delay spread ( D_{rms} )</td>
<td>10 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother wavelet</td>
<td>'db8'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANN type</td>
<td>Feedforward back propagation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of neural layers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of neurons in hidden layer</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of neurons in output layer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANN activation function</td>
<td>log-sigmoid, linear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANN training algorithm</td>
<td>Scaled conjugate gradient algorithm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANN training sequence</td>
<td>400 symbols</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4 Results and Discussions

The computer simulation of the proposed receiver structure is carried out using Matlab\(^\text{M} \). All the key simulation parameters are listed in Table 1. Most of the simulation is carried out for 8-DPIM as it is a good compromise for bandwidth and power efficiencies. In all simulations, it is assumed that background
interference with an average photocurrent $I_B$ of 200 $\mu$A is present with an additional 2 $\mu$A of photocurrent in presence of the FLI. The channel impulse response is normalized to 1 so that total energy of the system is conserved.

The DWT block is the key element of the proposed receiver design as the denoising capacity of the block will eventually dictate the performance of the system; provided ANN is trained properly. The simulation carried out showed that a family of Daubechies wavelet (db8) gives the optimum performance; hence it is adopted in all simulations. As explained previously, the decomposition level should be selected with proper care. The simulations show that the performance is optimal if the low-band of the signal (signal that corresponds to the last level of approximation) is made within the frequency range of 0-0.5 MHz. The decomposition levels and approximate cut-off frequencies for DWT at data rate of 10-200 Mbps are listed in the Table 2.

### Table 2. Decompositions levels and approximate cut-off frequency for different data rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Rate</th>
<th>Level of Decompositions ($n$)</th>
<th>Approximate Cut-off Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>9 (8)</td>
<td>0.35 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 4.1 Performance for the LOS Link

The normalized optical power penalty for 8-DPIM(0 GB) with a matched filter receiver and DWT denoising at a data rate of 10-200 Mbps under the constraint of FLI is given in Fig. 5. The performance of 8-DPIM (0 GB) in an ideal AWGN (i.e. no FLI) is also shown for comparison. Since the channel is LOS, therefore the ANN equalization is not incorporated in any of simulation instead the denoised signal is converted to the binary values by a slicer. The optical power penalty is normalized to that of the 8-DPIM (0 GB) with a data rate of 10 Mbps in an ideal channel. The curves shown in Fig. 5 reveal that the optical power penalty associated with the FLI is relatively high (~8-10 dB) depending upon the data rates. On the other hand, DWT is very effective in removing the FLI and displaying performance comparable to the matched filter in an ideal channel with < 0.5 dB of optical power penalty for all data rates. The optical power gain due to application of the DWT is ~7 dB at 10 Mbps and decrease proportionally with increase data rate reducing to ~ 2.7 dB at 200 Mbps.

#### 4.2 Performance for Diffuse Links

The performance of DWT-ANN architectures in a diffuse channel with delay spread of 10 ns in presence of FLI for data rate of 10–200 Mbps is shown in Fig. 6. The performance of 8-DPIM with the ideal channel and a diffuse link (without FLI) with and without an equalizer are also shown for comparison. Since the performance of the linear equalizer closely matches that of the ANN equalizer, it is not reported here. As expected, a link with no equalization shows the worst performance for the data rate >25 Mbps. The optical power penalty associated with the DWT-ANN receiver in a diffuse link in presence of FLI is comparable to the equalized system in absence of the FLI, thus demonstrating the effectiveness of the proposed receiver in a highly diffuse channel. For DWT-ANN case, the power penalty increases from ~ 0.5 dB at 10 Mbps to ~ 13 dB at 200 Mbps.
4.3 Performance with Different Bit Resolutions with/without Guard Slots

Inclusions of one or more guard slots can provide certain immunity to the ISI in a diffuse channel. In case of the one guard slot, if a slot is detected, the next slot is assigned to be an empty slot as there should not to be any consecutive pulses. However, including additional slots will make the average slot duration smaller, which in turn increases the normalized delay spread. Hence, additional guard slot will be beneficial provided that the gain is larger than the power penalty due to the increased delay spread. For receivers employing an equalizer there is very little to be gained by including guard slots. To verify the hypothesis, simulations are carried out with and without guard slots for 8-DPIM. It is observed that symbols with one guard slot offer very little gain with power difference of <0.5 dB.

Increasing bit resolution M provides the power efficiency in LOS. However, in diffuse channel due to the decrease in pulse duration with increasing M, power penalty increase exponentially and the power penalty of 32-DPIM will be maximum for normalized delay spread greater than 0.1 [17]. With an application of the equalizer, the power efficiency associated with increasing M is expected to restore and simulation is carried out for verification. The performance of 4, 8 and 16-DPIM in a diffuse channel with a delay spread of 10 ns with and without equalizer is shown in Fig. 7. The unequalized system is simulated in absence of ALI. This is because ALI induced power penalty is very high and therefore making it impossible to carry out a comparative study. As expected unequalized 16-DPIM shows the worst performance (i.e. higher power penalty) compared to all other cases. At low data rates, the performance of the unequalized system is marginally better than the equalized systems, this is because of the ALI being the dominant source of the interference. However, equalized systems display lower power penalties at higher data rates, this is because FLI can effectively be removed using DWT and the dominant source of the interference is the ISI. It is to be noted here that data rates at which power penalties for the unequalized and the equalized systems are equal increases with decreasing values of M. This can be explained by considering the slot duration T_s and the first zero crossing frequency 1/T_s of DPIM signal. For the same data rates, T_s decreases with increasing M, (i.e. increased normalized delay spread). Hence, at lower data rates and higher values of M the dominance source of interference is the multipath induced ISI not the ALI. The power penalty curves for the equalized systems are almost parallel to each other for all the data rates, thus indicating the effectiveness of the DWT-ANN in removing both the FLI and ISI irrespective of the value of M. The average power penalties for 4-DPIM and 16-DPIM compared to the 8-DPIM for the same data rate are ~2.5 and ~2.6 dB, respectively.

5 Conclusion

A new receiver based on the discrete wavelet transform and artificial neural network is proposed and studied for the DPIM system in diffuse indoor optical wireless channel subjected to artificial light interference. The computer simulation of the DWT-ANN receiver is carried out and its performance is investigated under different channel conditions. The results provide enough evidence that DWT can be a very effective tool for reducing the ALI in OW links. On the other hand, the ANN can be trained to reduce the effect of multipath induced ISI. For LOS links, the DWT can significantly reduce the FLI induced power penalty to within 0.5 dB of the ideal channel. Though such performance cannot be achieved in diffuse channels, the DWT-ANN receiver provides significant improvement compared to the unequalized system.
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References


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