

## POWER CONTROL IN WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS - FROM A CONTROL THEORY PERSPECTIVE

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**Abstract:** The global communications systems critically rely on control algorithms of various kinds. In wireless communications systems, power control algorithms play an important role for efficient resource utilization. This survey article discusses relevant aspects of power control with emphasis on practical issues, using an automatic control framework. Generally, power control of each connection is distributedly implemented as cascade control, with an inner loop to compensate for fast variations and an outer loop focusing on longer term statistics. These control loops are interrelated via complex connections, which affect important issues such as capacity, load and stability. Therefore, both local and global properties are important. The concepts and algorithms are illustrated by simple examples and simulations.

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**Keywords:** power control, wireless networks, distributed control, stability, time delays, Smith predictor, disturbance rejection

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The use of control theory applied to communication systems is increasingly popular. More complex networks are being deployed and the critical resource management constitutes numerous control problems. Wireless networks are for example pointed out as a new vistas for systems and control in (Kumar, 2001). This paper surveys power control research and provides an extensive list of citations. It gives an overview from a control perspective of achievements in the area to date with some illuminating examples and pointers to interesting open issues.

The power of each transmitter in a wireless network is related to the resource usage of the link. Since the links typically occupies the same frequency spectrum for efficiency reasons, they mutually interfere with each other. Proper resource management is thus needed to utilize the radio resource efficiently. Most methods discussed here are generally applicable. Some of the problems, however, are more emphasized in the 3G systems based on DS-CDMA (Direct Sequence Code Division Multiple Access) such as WCDMA. More on Radio Resource Management in general can for example be found in (Holma and Toskala, 2000; Zander, 1997), and with a power control focus in (Gunnarsson, 2000; Hanly and Tse, 1999; Rosberg and Zander, 1998).

A simplified radio link model is typically adopted to emphasize the network dynamics of power control.

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The transmitter is using the power  $\bar{p}(t)$ , and the channel is characterized by the power gain  $\bar{g}(t)$  ( $< 1$ ). The “bar” notation indicates linear scale, while  $g(t) = 10 \log_{10}(\bar{g}(t))$  is in logarithmic scale (dB). Hence, the receiver experiences the desired signal power  $\bar{C}(t) = \bar{p}(t)\bar{g}(t)$  and interference power  $\bar{I}(t)$  from other connections. The perceived quality is related to the *signal-to-interference ratio*<sup>2</sup> (SIR)  $\bar{\gamma}(t) = \bar{p}(t)\bar{g}(t)/\bar{I}(t)$ . For error-free transmission (and if the interference can be assumed Gaussian), the achievable data rate  $R(t)$  is given by (Shannon, 1956)

$$R(t) = W \log_2(1 + \bar{\gamma}(t)) \text{ [bits/s]},$$

where  $W$  is the bandwidth in Hertz. From a link perspective, power control can be seen as means to compensate for channel variations in  $\bar{g}(t)$ . The link objective with power control can for example be

- to maintain constant SIR and thereby constant data rate
- to use constant power and variable coding to adapt the data rate to the channel variations
- to employ scheduling to transmit only when the channel conditions are favorable

This also depends on the data rate requirements from the service in question.

### 1.1 Example: Power Control in CDMA Networks

Power control objectives are rather different when considering networks and not only links. In a CDMA system, each user is allocated a code, and the signal space is essentially spanned by the available orthogonal codes. The user’s data is recovered at the receiver by correlating the received signal with the allocated code. Due to channels, nonlinearities etc, this orthogonality is not preserved at the receivers. Instead, the code correlation (the scalar product)  $\bar{\theta}_{ij}(t) \in [0, 1]$  between two codes of users  $i$  and  $j$  might be nonzero.

Consider the simplistic uplink (mobile to base station) situation in Figure 1. Assume that the mobiles are using the powers  $\bar{p}_1(t)$  and  $\bar{p}_2(t)$  respectively. The SIR of MS<sub>1</sub> is given by

$$\bar{\gamma}_1(t) = \frac{\bar{p}_1(t)\bar{g}_{1B}(t)}{\bar{p}_2(t)\bar{g}_{2B}(t)\bar{\theta}_{12}(t) + \bar{v}_B(t)}, \quad (1)$$

where  $\bar{v}_B(t)$  represents thermal noise power at base station  $B$ . The code correlation between mobiles 1 and 2  $\bar{\theta}_{12}$  is nonzero, since the signals have passed through independent channels. Hence, the connections are mutually interfering, and this fact restricts the achievable SIR’s to (see Theorem 5)

$$\bar{\gamma}_1 \bar{\gamma}_2 < \frac{1}{\bar{\theta}_{12}\bar{\theta}_{21}} \quad (2)$$

Limited transmission powers might further restrict the achievable SIR’s.

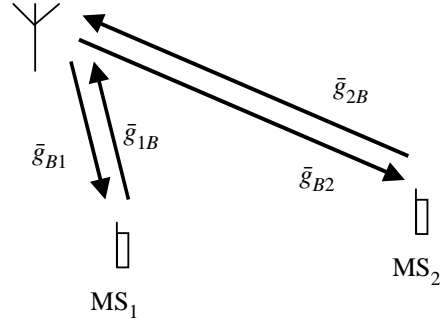


Figure 1. Simplistic uplink and downlink situation with two mobiles connected to one base station to illustrate fundamental network limitations and objectives.

The downlink (base station to mobile) situation is slightly different. All the signals from a base station to a specific mobile have passed through the same channel, and orthogonality can be assumed preserved. (This is not true in reality, mainly due to non-ideal receivers.) If the power of the signals from other cells and thermal noise at mobile 1 is denoted by  $\bar{v}_1(t)$ , the SIR is given by

$$\bar{\gamma}_1(t) = \frac{\bar{p}_1(t)\bar{g}_{B1}(t)}{\bar{v}_1(t)}, \quad (3)$$

The downlink power is limited to  $\bar{P}_{\max} = \bar{P}_D + \bar{P}_C$ , where  $\bar{P}_D$  is for user data and  $\bar{P}_C$  is for control signaling and pilot symbols used for channel estimation in the mobile. Hence  $\bar{P}_D \geq \bar{p}_1(t) + \bar{p}_2(t)$ . To fully utilize the hardware investment, the base station should use all the available power  $\bar{P}_D$  to provide services. The interesting question is how this power, and thus resulting service quality, should be shared between the users.

Each connection-oriented service is typically regularly reassigned a reference SIR,  $\bar{\gamma}'_i(t)$  (note the switch to values in dB). Power control is used to maintain this SIR based on feedback of the error  $e_i(t) = \bar{\gamma}'_i(t) - \bar{\gamma}_i(t)$ . The feedback communication uses valuable bandwidth, and should be kept at a minimum. Let  $f(e_i(t))$  denote the feedback communication (essentially quantization). With pure integrating control, this yields

$$p_i(t+1) = p_i(t) + \beta f(e_i(t)). \quad (4)$$

### 1.2 Aspects of Power Control

Being subjective, the following list constitutes important aspects of power control:

- **Objectives.** It is vital to clarify the aim of power control. As indicated in the example above, throughput maximization leads to different control strategies compared to fair objectives where all users experience roughly the same quality of service.
- **Centralized/decentralized control.** Centralized power control is not practically tractable. As dis-

<sup>2</sup> In dB:  $\gamma(t) = p(t) + g(t) - I(t)$

cussed in Section 5, it mainly serves as theoretical performance bounds to the decentralized algorithms in Section 3.

- **Feedback bandwidth.** The feedback bandwidth should be stated as the number of available bits per second for feedback communication. Then, this becomes a trade-off between error representation accuracy and feedback rate as discussed in Section 3.1
- **Power constraints.** The transmission powers are constrained due to hardware limitations such as quantization and saturation, which is in focus in Section 3.3.
- **Time delays.** Measuring and control signaling take time, resulting in time delays in the distributed feedback loops. The time delays are typically fixed due to standardized signaling protocols, and are further treated in Section 3.3
- **Disturbance rejection.** The controller's ability to mitigate time varying power gains and measurement noise is an important performance indicator further discussed in Section 3.3.
- **Soft handover.** One important coverage improving feature in DS-CDMA systems is that a mobile can be connected to a multitude of base stations. This puts some specific requirements on power control which are briefly touched upon in Section 4.4.
- **Stability and convergence.** Studying stability and oscillatory behavior of the distributed control loops as in Section 3.4 is necessary, but not sufficient. The cross-couplings between the loops also have to be considered. This is addressed in Section 5.2.
- **Capacity and system load.** As indicated by the example above, the available radio resource is limited and have to be shared among the users. An important distinction in Section 5.1 is therefore whether the network can accommodate all the users with associated quality requirements.

## 2. SYSTEM MODEL

Most quantities will be expressed both in linear and logarithmic scale (dB). Linear scale is indicated by the bar notation  $\bar{g}(t)$ .

### 2.1 Power Gain

By neglecting data symbol level effects, the communication channel can be seen as a time varying power gain made up of three components  $g(t) = g_p(t) + g_s(t) + g_m(t)$  as illustrated by Figure 2. The signal power decreases with distance  $\bar{d}$  to the transmitter, and the path loss is modeled as  $g_p = K - \alpha \log_{10}(\bar{d})$ . Terrain variations cause diffraction phenomena and this shadow fading  $g_s$  is modeled as  $ARMA(n, m)$ -filtered Gaussian white noise ( $n$  is typically 1-2,  $m = n - 1$ , (Sørensen, 1998)). The multipath model considers

scattering of radio waves, yielding a rapidly varying gain  $g_m$  (Sklar, 1997). The simulations in this paper considers mobiles at 5 km/h in a fading environment sampled at 1500 Hz.

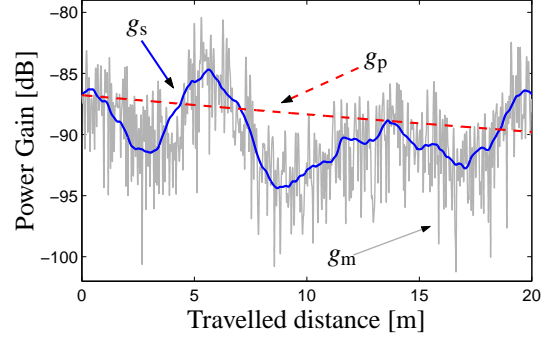


Figure 2. The power gain  $g(t)$  is modeled as the sum of three components: path loss  $g_p(t)$ , shadow fading  $g_s(t)$  and multipath fading  $g_m(t)$ . Here this is illustrated when moving from a reference point and away from the transmitter.

### 2.2 Wireless Networks

Consider a general network with  $m$  transmitters using the powers  $\bar{p}_i(t)$  and  $m$  connected receivers. For generality, the base stations are seen as multiple transmitters (downlink) and multiple receivers (uplink). The signal between transmitter  $i$  and receiver  $j$  is attenuated by the power gain  $\bar{g}_{ij}$ . Thus the receiver connected to transmitter  $i$  will experience a desired signal power  $\bar{C}_i(t) = \bar{p}_i(t)\bar{g}_{ii}(t)$  and an interference from other connections plus noise  $\bar{I}_i(t)$ . The *signal-to-interference ratio* (SIR) at receiver  $i$  can be defined by

$$\bar{\gamma}_i(t) = \frac{\bar{C}_i(t)}{\bar{I}_i(t)} = \frac{\bar{g}_{ii}(t)\bar{p}_i(t)}{\sum_{j \neq i} \bar{\theta}_{ij}\bar{g}_{ij}(t)\bar{p}_j(t) + \bar{v}_i(t)}, \quad (5)$$

where  $\bar{\theta}_{ij}$  is the normalized cross-correlation between the waveforms of user  $i$  and  $j$  (note that  $\bar{\theta}_{ii} = 1$ ), and  $\bar{v}_i(t)$  is thermal noise.

Depending on the receiver design, propagation conditions and the distance to the transmitter, the receiver is differently successful in utilizing the available desired signal power  $\bar{p}_i\bar{g}_{ii}$ . Assume that receiver  $i$  can utilize the fraction  $\bar{\delta}_i(t)$  of the desired signal power. Then the remainder  $(1 - \bar{\delta}_i(t))\bar{p}_i\bar{g}_{ii}$  acts as interference, denoted *auto-interference* (Godlewski and Nuaymi, 1999). We will assume that the receiver efficiency changes slowly, and therefore can be considered constant. Hence, the SIR expression in Equation (5) transforms to

$$\bar{\gamma}_i(t) = \frac{\bar{\delta}_i\bar{g}_{ii}(t)\bar{p}_i(t)}{\sum_{j \neq i} \bar{\theta}_{ij}\bar{g}_{ij}(t)\bar{p}_j(t) + (1 - \bar{\delta}_i)\bar{p}_i(t)\bar{g}_{ii}(t) + \bar{v}_i(t)}. \quad (6)$$

From now on, this quantity will be referred to as SIR. For efficient receivers,  $\bar{\delta}_i = 1$ , and the expressions (5)

and (6) are equal. In logarithmic scale, the SIR expression becomes

$$\gamma_i(t) = p_i(t) + \delta_i + g_{ii}(t) - I_i(t). \quad (7)$$

### 2.3 Power Control Algorithms

We adopt the loglinear power control model in (Blom et al., 1998; Dietrich et al., 1996) to embrace popular power control approaches. The cascade control block diagram of a generic distributed SIR-based power control algorithm is depicted in Figure 3. The receiver computes the error  $e_i$  as the difference between the reference SIR  $\gamma_i^r$  and SIR (measured, subject to measurement noise  $w_i$  and possibly filtered by the device  $F_i^3$ ). The error is coded into power control commands  $u_i$  by the device  $R_i$ , affected by command errors  $x_i$  on the feedback channel and decoded on the transmitter side by  $D_i$ . The control loop is subject to power update delays of  $n_p$  samples and measurement delays  $n_m$  samples. Since the controller  $R_i$  causes a unit delay, the total round-trip delay is  $n_{RT} = 1 + n_p + n_m$ . Typically,  $n_p = 1$  and  $n_m = 0$  and hence  $n_{RT} = 2$ . An outer loop adjusts the reference SIR to assure that the quality of service is maintained. Outer loop control is typically based on *bit error rates (BER)* and *block error rate (BLER)* (Olofsson et al., 1997; Wigard and Mogensen, 1996).

## 3. DISTRIBUTED POWER CONTROL

### 3.1 Feedback Bandwidth

The feedback signaling bandwidth is limited in real systems. Typically, the communication is restricted to a fixed number  $k$  of bits per second. The evident trade-off is between error representation accuracy and feedback command rate. A single bit error representation allow  $k$  feedback commands per second, while  $m_e$  bits error representation allow  $k/m_e$  commands per second. This comparison is further explored in (Gunnarsson, 2001).

Different error representations are proposed, for example: single bit (the sign of the error) (Salmasi and Gilhousen, 1991),  $k$ -bit linear quantizer (Sim et al., 1998) and  $k$ -bit logarithmic quantizer (Li et al., 2001). All these correspond to quantizers and decoders in the devices  $R_i$  and  $D_i$  in Figure 3. Note also that the error representation is related to the command error rate on the feedback channel.

### 3.2 Power Control to Improve Link Performance

Power control algorithms aiming at optimizing link performance mainly focus on link throughput and energy-effectiveness. One example (Goldsmith, 1997)

<sup>3</sup> In practice, the desired signal power and the interference are typically filtered separately with filters  $F_{g,i}$  and  $F_{I,i}$ .

actually meets the Shannon bound by transmitting more data when the channel is favorable (instead of using only little power to equalize SIR). Such strategies primarily consider information theoretical aspects of power control rather than network aspects.

### 3.3 Log-Linear Design

Early work such as (Foschini and Miljanic, 1993) addresses the problem in linear scale based on iterative methods for eigenvector computations (Fadeev and Fadeeva, 1963). Thereby, it is closely related to the global aspects in Section 5. In logarithmic scale, this is the special case  $\beta = 1$  of an integrating controller

$$p_i(t+1) = p_i(t) + \beta e_i(t) \quad (8)$$

The algorithm proposed in (Yates, 1995) can be interpreted as the controller above with an arbitrary  $\beta$ . A comparison to Figure 3 yields that this corresponds to  $R_i\{e_i(t)\} = e_i(t)$  (the non-quantized error signal is assumed),  $D_i(q) = \frac{\beta}{q-1}$  and no filtering. For reasons that will be evident later, the following interpretation is more natural when considering the academic example of perfect error representation:

$$R(q) = \frac{\beta}{q-1}, \quad u_i = p_i, \quad D_i\{p_i(t-n_p)\} = p_i(t-n_p). \quad (9)$$

This has motivated the alternative linear designs of  $R(q)$  as PI-controllers and more general linear controllers in (Gunnarsson et al., 1999). For example, it provides optimally fast I and PI controllers when subject to time delays. Perfect error representation results in a linear distributed control loop with closed loop system  $G_{ll}(q)$  and sensitivity  $S(q)$  given by

$$G_{ll}(q) = \frac{R(q)}{q^{n_p+n_m} + R(q)}, \quad S(q) = \frac{q^{n_p+n_m}}{q^{n_p+n_m} + R(q)} \quad (10)$$

In the typical delay situation  $n_{RT} = 2$  and with the integrating controller in (8), this yields

$$G_{ll}(q) = \frac{\beta}{q^2 - q + \beta}, \quad S(q) = \frac{q^2 - q}{q^2 - q + \beta} \quad (11)$$

With the single bit power control command as in (Salmasi and Gilhousen, 1991), the integrating controller becomes

$$p_i(t+1) = p_i(t) + \beta \text{sign}(e_i(t)) \quad (12)$$

The transmitter power is constrained in practice, typically quantized and bounded from above and below. Grandhi et al. (1995) proposes an algorithm to deal with powers bounded from above. In log-linear scale it is given by

$$p_i(t+1) = \min \{p_{\max}, p_i(t) + \beta e_i(t)\} \quad (13)$$

This can be interpreted as one out of many possible anti-reset windup implementations for PI-controllers (Åström and Wittenmark, 1997), which thus can be employed to more general transmitter power constraints.

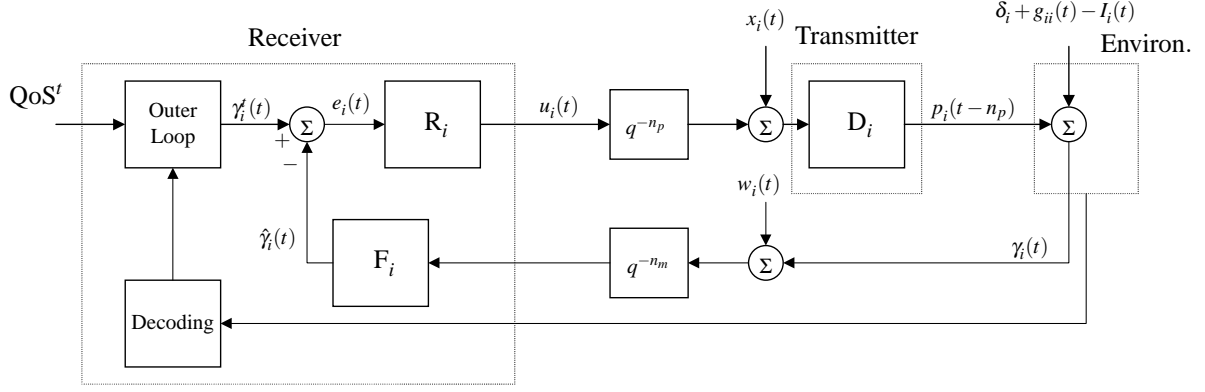


Figure 3. Block diagram of the receiver-transmitter pair  $i$  when employing a general SIR-based power control algorithm. In operation, the controller result in a *closed local loop*.

Time delays are critically limiting the closed-loop performance of any feedback system, and so also with power control. They therefore have to be considered in the design phase. The time delays are known and fixed, since the signaling and measurement procedures are standardized, and propagation delays are negligible (except possibly in satellite communications). For example, the typical delay situation  $n_p = 1$  and  $n_m = 0$  yields

$$\gamma_i(t) = p_i(t-1) + \delta_i + g_{ii}(t) - I_i(t) \quad (14)$$

Since the delays are exactly known, time delays can be compensated for using the Smith predictor (Ström and Wittenmark, 1997) as described in (Gunnarsson and Gustafsson, 2001b). Essentially, it is implemented as a measurement adjustment

$$\tilde{\gamma}_i(t) = \gamma_i(t) + p_i(t) - p_i(t - n_m - n_p) \quad (15)$$

The actual power levels might not be available in the receiver, but rather the power control commands  $u_i$ . These can, however, be used to recover the power level:  $p_i = D_i\{u_i\}$ . With the Smith predictor, the closed loop system and the sensitivity becomes

$$G_{ll}(q) = \frac{R(q)}{q^{n_p+n_m}(1+R(q))} \quad (16)$$

$$S(q) = \frac{q^{n_p+n_m}}{q^{n_p+n_m}(1+R(q))} \quad (17)$$

In the typical delay situation  $n_{RT} = 2$  and with the integrating controller in (8), we get

$$G_{ll}(q) = \frac{\beta}{q(q-1+\beta)}; S(q) = \frac{q(q-1)}{q(q-1+\beta)} \quad (18)$$

The local behavior of the controllers above is illustrated in simplistic simulations in Figure 4a-d. We note that the disturbance rejection is satisfactory with most controllers. Furthermore, the benefits of using the Smith predictor are more emphasized with single-bit error representation, see Figure 4c-d. Roughly the same effect is obtained with linear design, see Figure 4b. This is in line with the results in (Kristiansson and Lennartsson, 1999).

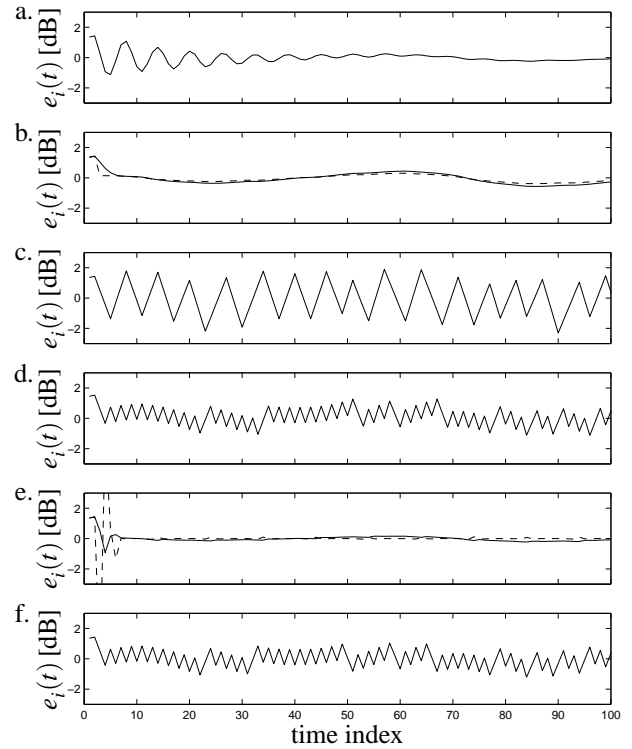


Figure 4. Local performance of the algorithms (8) in a-b and (12) in c-d subject to the typical delay situation  $n_{RT} = 2$ . a.  $\beta = 0.9$  b.  $\beta = 1$  and the Smith predictor (dashed) and  $\beta = 0.34$  (solid) c.  $\beta = 1$  d.  $\beta = 1$  and the Smith predictor. e. The algorithm (8) with  $\beta = 1$ , Smith predictor and 2-step prediction in (19) (solid) and the minimum variance controller (20) (dashed). f. The algorithm (12) with  $\beta = 1$ , Smith predictor and 2-step prediction.

The Smith predictor might compensate for some dynamical effects, but the controllers still show delayed reactions to changes in the power gains. One approach to improve the reactions is to predict the power gain. The following linear model structure is fitted to data

$$g_s(t) = \frac{C(q)}{A(q)} e_s(t), \quad \text{Var}\{e_s^2(t)\} = \sigma_e^2$$

Solve the Diophantine equation

$$q^{m-1}C(q) = A(q)F(q) + G(q)$$

for  $F(q)$  and  $G(q)$  yields the optimal  $m$ -step predictor (Åröm and Wittenmark, 1997)

$$\hat{g}_s(t+m|t) = \frac{qG(q)}{C(q)}g_s(t) \quad (19)$$

The use of power gain predictions are illustrated in Figure 4e-f, and the benefits are evident at least in the case of perfect error representation. Power gain predictions are further studied based on linear model structures (Choel et al., 1999; Ericsson and Millnert, 1996) and nonlinear model structures (Ekman and Kubin, 1999; Tanskanen et al., 1998; Zhang and Li, 1997). It is hard to give a general answer to whether linear or nonlinear models are most appropriate, or whether it is most suitable to predict  $g(t)$  or  $\bar{g}(t)$ , since it depends on the fading situation and the controller objectives.

When a disturbance model and an optimal predictor is available as above, the step to employ minimum variance control is slightly short (Åröm and Wittenmark, 1997; Gunnarsson, 2000):

$$R(q) = \frac{G(q)}{q(q-1)A(q)F(q)}, \quad (20)$$

where  $F(q)$  and  $G(q)$  are obtained from the Diophantine equation above, and attention is paid to include integral action into the controller. The performance using a minimum variance controller is illustrated in Figure 4e. Note that most of the improvements were obtained by introducing predictions.

As indicated in previous sections, it is not always justifiable to let a user disturb other connections significantly while aiming at a rather high SIR compared to the propagation conditions. In the proposed algorithm by Almgren et al. (1994), users aiming at using a high power are forced to use a lower SIR. The algorithm expressed in this framework is given by

$$R(q) = \frac{\beta}{q-\beta}, \quad (21)$$

which does not include integral action. The algorithm is further explored in (Yates et al., 1997). To keep the inner control loop simple and intuitive, an alternative is to implement such priorities in the outer control loop, see Section 3.5.

In real systems, SIR is typically not readily available. One natural idea is to estimate SIR given available measurements. Approaches to do so in different systems are discussed in (Andersin et al., 1998; Blom et al., 1999; Freris et al., 2001; Kurniawan et al., 2001; Ramakrishna et al., 1997). A different approach is to base the power control on the available measurements directly (Ulukus and Yates, 1998).

There have also been proposals which aim at equalizing the received power at the connected base station (Anderlind, 1997; Salmasi and Gilhousen, 1991).

The result by Ariyavisitakul (1994) concludes, however, that SIR based power control provides better control over the interference situation.

All these algorithms are interpreted using the log-linear model. Uykan et al. (2000) proposes a PI-controller in linear scale which is hard to interpret in the log-linear model. Whether it is more efficient to pursue power control in logarithmic scale than in linear scale is still unknown.

### 3.4 Analysis

Local stability analysis is straightforward when the error representation is ideal, since the local control loop is all linear. E.g. root locus of the poles to  $G_{ll}(q)$  in (10) and (16) can be used to address local stability (Blom et al., 1998). It is easy to see that time delays make the choice of  $\beta$  in the I-controller crucial to ensure local stability. For example in the typical delay situation in (11), the local control loop is stable for  $\beta < 1$ . With the Smith predictor, local stability is improved (18) and  $\beta = 1$  yields a dead-beat controller. See also Figure 4a-b.

The single-bit error representation can be seen as relay feedback in a linear system. This explains the observed oscillatory behavior, which can be approximated by using discrete-time describing functions (Gunnarsson et al., 2001) yielding the oscillation period in samples as  $N = 4n_{RT} - 2$ , and the amplitude  $E = N\beta/4$ . Hence, the longer the delay, the more emphasized oscillatory behavior. Since the Smith predictor reduces the round-trip delay to a minimum, such oscillations are reduced. This is illustrated in Figure 4c-d. The relay feedback controller is also locally analyzed in (Song et al., 2001), where the relay is approximated by a constant and an additive disturbance yielding the same relay output variance.

### 3.5 Outer Loop

SIR might be well correlated to perceived quality, but it is not possible to set a SIR reference offline, that results in a specific BER or BLER. Therefore, the inner control loop is operated in cascade with an outer loop, which adapts the SIR reference for a specific connection. Reliable communication can be seen as low BLER requirements, which in turn means that it is very hard to accurately estimate BLER. The errors appear rather seldom and it takes long time before the BLER estimate is stable. One approach, implemented in several systems, (Sampath et al., 1997) increases the SIR reference significantly when an erroneous block is discovered, and decreases the SIR reference when an error-free block is received. Niida et al. (2000) provides experimental results of outer loop power control using this method.

One block comprises many bits. Therefore, it is easier to obtain a good BER estimate. Then the relation

between BER and BLER can be utilized to predict BLER based on BER measurements (Kawai et al., 1999).

### 3.6 Downlink Issues

As indicated by the introductory example, downlink power control objectives can be rather different and specific. The power control objectives depend on the policies of the network operator, and can be differentiated in terms of service requirements, resource utilization, subscription conditions etc. Revisit the introductory example in Figure 1. Some natural policies are:

- Aim at equal data rate ( $\bar{\gamma}_1(t) \approx \bar{\gamma}_2(t)$ ).
- Aim at equal power usage ( $\bar{p}_1(t) \approx \bar{p}_2(t)$ ).
- Use all power to transmit to the user with highest power gain (i.e. mobile 1 as indicated by the figure) to maximize throughput.
- First use power to meet the quality of service requirements of users with more expensive subscriptions. Use the remainder to low-fare subscription users.

Various downlink power control and resource sharing issues are brought up in (De Bernardi et al., 2000; Lu and Brodersen, 1999; Song and Holtzman, 1998; Vignali, 2001).

Another problem is uneven traffic distributions that are not supported by the cell layout. In such a scenario, some cells might be overloaded, while others are under-utilized. The users select base stations based on measured pilot powers from the different base stations. By controlling the pilot powers, the cells can be made larger or smaller. This is often referred to as *cell breathing* (Hwang et al., 1997).

## 4. STANDARDIZED POWER CONTROL ALGORITHMS

Several power control algorithms are standardized by 3GPP to be used in WCDMA (3GPP, 2001, document 25.214). In GSM, the situation is different, since the mobiles serve as slaves, using the power determined by the system. Therefore, power control is not standardized in GSM except for control and measurement signaling (ETSI, 1994).

### 4.1 Fixed-Step Power Control

The power level is increased/decreased depending on whether the measured SIR is below or above target SIR, and implemented as:

$$\text{Receiver : } e_i(t) = \gamma'_i(t) - \gamma_i(t) \quad (22a)$$

$$s_i(t) = \text{sign}(e_i(t)) \quad (22b)$$

$$\text{Transmitter : } p_{TPC,i}(t) = \Delta_i s_i(t) \quad (22c)$$

$$p_i(t+1) = p_i(t) + p_{TPC,i}(t) \quad (22d)$$

where  $s_i(t)$  are denoted the *TPC (transmitter power control) commands*. This is the default choice both in the uplink and the downlink closed-loop power control. The uplink situation is slightly modified when the mobile is in soft handover. Then, the mobile receives power control commands from every connected cell. To ensure that the power is adapted to the best cell, the mobile only increases the power if all commands are equal to +1, otherwise the power is decreased. This algorithm is equal to the single-bit error representation with pure integration in (12).

### 4.2 Uplink Alternatives

This alternative algorithm is a different command decoding than above and is denoted ULAlt1. It makes it possible to emulate slower update rates, or to turn off uplink power control by transmitting an alternating series of TPC commands. In a 5-slot cycle ( $j = 1, \dots, 5$ ), the power update  $p_{TPC,i}(t)$  in (22c) is computed according to:

$$p_{TPC,i}(t) = \begin{cases} \Delta_i & (j=5) \& (\sum_{j=1}^5 s_i(j) = 5) \\ -\Delta_i & (j=5) \& (\sum_{j=1}^5 s_i(j) = -5) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

### 4.3 Downlink Alternatives

There are two downlink alternatives, both aiming at reducing the risk of using excessive powers. In the first one, here denoted by DLAlt1, the control commands are repeated over three consecutive slots. The second one, denoted DLAlt2, reduces the controllers ability to follow deep fades by limiting the power raise. As with the ULAlt1, the commands are decoded differently than in Section 4.1, described as an alternative to (22c):

$$p_{TPC,i}(t) = \begin{cases} -\Delta_i & s_i(t) < 0 \\ \Delta_i & (s_i(t) > 0) \& (p_{sum,i}(t) + \Delta_i < \delta_{sum}) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $p_{sum,i}(t)$  is the sum of the previous  $N$  power updates and  $N$  and  $\delta_{sum}$  are configurable parameters.

### 4.4 Soft Handover

One core feature in DS-CDMA systems is soft handover, where the mobile can connect to several base stations simultaneously. For best performance, the mobiles controls its power with respect to the signal from the base station with the most favorable propagation conditions. Intuitively, the mobile only increases the power if the TPC commands from all the base stations require it to do so. When command errors occur, this might lead to unwanted effects. The algorithm of

the TPC command combination in the mobile is not standardized, and the problem is addressed in Grandell and Salonaho (2001).

In the downlink, the mobile combines the signals from the connected base stations. For power control, all these base stations adjust its powers according to the received TPC command from the mobile. Thereby, the relations between the base station powers are maintained. However, the TPC commands might be interpreted differently in the base stations due to feedback errors, changing the power level relations. To compensate for this drift, a centralized power balancing is proposed in the standards, see (3GPP, 2001, document 25.433).

## 5. GLOBAL ANALYSIS

For practical reasons, power control algorithms in cellular radio systems are implemented in a distributed fashion. However, the local loops are inter-connected via the interference between the loops, which affects the global dynamics as well as the capacity of the system. An important global issue is whether it is possible to accommodate all users with their service requirements. The power gains reflect the situation from the transmitters to the receivers, and the results are therefore applicable to both the uplink and the downlink. To illustrate the sometimes abstract concepts, the two-mobile example in the uplink from Figure 1 will be used throughout the section. The code-correlation is  $\bar{\theta}_{12} = \bar{\theta}_{21} = 0.0039$  and  $\bar{\gamma}_1 = \bar{\gamma}_2 = 50.1$  (=17 dB) (which corresponds to a rather high data rate, especially when considering the uplink, but it is chosen to considerably load the system).

Sufficient conditions on global stability are derived, including the effect of the system load, time delays and general log-linear power control algorithms and filters. These conditions can be formulated as requirements on the local loops. The interesting conclusion is thus that global stability can be granted by proper design of the local loops, given that the system is not overloaded.

### 5.1 Performance Upper Bounds and Feasibility

The individual target SIR:s and the power gains are considered constant in the global level analysis, where the latter is motivated by an assumption that the inner loops perfectly meet the provided SIR reference, and thereby mitigate the fast channel variations:

$$\frac{\bar{\delta}_i \bar{g}_{ii} \bar{p}_i}{\sum_{j \neq i} \bar{\theta}_{ij} \bar{g}_{ij} \bar{p}_j + (1 - \bar{\delta}_i) \bar{p}_i \bar{g}_{ii} + \bar{v}_i} = \bar{\gamma}_i, \forall i \quad (23)$$

Note that values in linear scale are used in this section. The aim is to characterize the system load, and a few definitions are needed. Introduce the matrices

$$\bar{\Gamma}_t \triangleq \text{diag}(\bar{\gamma}_1, \dots, \bar{\gamma}_m), \bar{Z} = [\bar{z}_{ij}] \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} \bar{g}_{ij} & \bar{\theta}_{ij} \\ & \bar{g}_{ii} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\bar{\Delta} \triangleq \text{diag}(\bar{\delta}_1, \dots, \bar{\delta}_m)$$

and vectors

$$\bar{p} \triangleq [\bar{p}_i], \bar{\eta} = [\bar{\eta}_i] \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} \bar{v}_i \\ \bar{g}_{ii} \end{bmatrix}.$$

The network itself puts restrictions on the achievable SIR's, and there exists an upper limit on the balanced SIR (same SIR to every connection). This is disclosed in the following theorem, neglecting auto-interference and assuming that the noise can be considered zero.

*Theorem 1.* (Zander, 1992). With probability one, there exists a unique maximum achievable SIR in the noiseless case

$$\bar{\gamma}^* = \max\{\bar{\gamma}_0 \mid \exists \bar{p} \geq 0 : \bar{\gamma}_i \geq \bar{\gamma}_0, \forall i\}.$$

Furthermore, the maximum is given by

$$\bar{\gamma}^* = \frac{1}{\bar{\lambda}^* - 1},$$

where  $\bar{\lambda}^*$  is the largest real eigenvalue of  $\bar{Z}$ . Note that  $\bar{\lambda}^* > 1$  implies that  $\bar{\gamma}^* > 0$ . Moreover, the optimal power vector  $\bar{p}^*$  is the eigenvector of  $\bar{\lambda}^*$  (i.e.  $k\bar{p}^*$  for any  $k \in R^+$  constitute an optimal power vector.).

Considering the noise, the following can be concluded:

*Theorem 2.* (Zander, 1993). In the noisy case and with no power limitations, there exist power levels that meet the balanced SIR target  $\bar{\gamma}_0^*$  if and only if  $\bar{\gamma}_0^* < \bar{\gamma}^*$ .

In the example, we have

$$\bar{Z} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \bar{\theta}_{12} \\ \bar{\theta}_{21} & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \bar{\gamma}^* = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\bar{\theta}_{12} \bar{\theta}_{21}}} = 256 \quad (24)$$

Since the SIR target  $\bar{\gamma}_i^* = 50.1 < \bar{\gamma}^*$  it is possible to find power levels that meets the requirements of both users. This is generalized to multiple services below.

The effects of auto-interference are considered in (Godlewski and Nuaymi, 1999; Gunnarsson, 2000). The requirements in Equation (23) can be vectorized to

$$\bar{p} = \bar{\Gamma}_t \left( (\bar{\Delta}^{-1} \bar{Z} - E) \bar{p} + \bar{\Delta}^{-1} \bar{\eta} \right), \quad (25)$$

where  $E$  is the identity matrix. Solvability of the equation above is related to *feasibility* of the related *power control problem*, defined as:

*Definition 3.* (Feasibility). A set of target SIR:s  $\bar{\Gamma}_t$  is said to be feasible with respect to a network described by  $\bar{Z}$ ,  $\bar{\Delta}$  and  $\bar{\eta}$ , if it is possible to assign transmitter powers  $\bar{p}$  so that the requirements in Equation (25) are met. Analogously, the power control problem  $(\bar{Z}, \bar{\eta}, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{\Gamma}_t)$  is said to be feasible under the same condition. Otherwise, the target SIR:s and the power control problem are said to be infeasible.



The degree of feasibility is described by the *feasibility margin*, which is defined below. The concept has been adopted from Herdtner and Chong (2000), where similar proofs of similar and additional theorems covering related situations also are provided. Herdtner and Chong used the term *feasibility index*  $R_I$  and omitted auto-interference.

**Definition 4.** (Feasibility Margin). Given a power control problem  $(\bar{Z}, \bar{\eta}, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{\Gamma}_t)$ , the feasibility margin  $\bar{\Gamma}_m \in R^+$  is defined by

$$\bar{\Gamma}_m = \sup \{ \bar{x} \in R : \bar{x}\bar{\Gamma}_t \text{ is feasible} \}$$

A motivation for introducing the name *feasibility margin* is to stress the similarity to the *stability margin* of feedback loops. While Theorems 1 and 2 address the case when all users have the same service, the feasibility margin describes the situation with multiple services. The following theorem captures the essentials regarding feasibility margins.

**Theorem 5.** (Feasibility Margin). Given a power control problem  $(\bar{Z}, \bar{\eta}, \bar{\Delta}, \bar{\Gamma}_t)$ , the feasibility margin is obtained as

$$\bar{\Gamma}_m = 1/\bar{\mu}^*$$

where  $\bar{\mu}^*$  is

$$\bar{\mu}^* = \max \text{eig} \left\{ \bar{\Gamma}_t (\bar{\Delta}^{-1} \bar{Z} - E) \right\}.$$

Moreover, if  $\bar{\Gamma}_m > 1$ , the power control problem is feasible, and there exists an optimal power assignment, given by

$$\bar{p} = \left( E - \bar{\Gamma}_t (\bar{\Delta}^{-1} \bar{Z} - E) \right)^{-1} \bar{\Gamma}_t \bar{\Delta}^{-1} \bar{\eta}.$$

**PROOF.** See (Gunnarsson, 2000; Gunnarsson and Gustafsson, 2001a).

The power assignment above can of course be seen as a centralized strategy. However, since full information about the network is required to compile  $\bar{Z}$  it is not plausible in practice. The result mainly serves as a performance bound.

The feasibility margin can also be related to the load of the system. When the feasibility margin is one, the system clearly is fully loaded (only possible when unlimited transmission powers are available). Conversely, when the feasibility margin is large, the load is low compared to a fully loaded system. Thus the following load definition is plausible.

**Definition 6.** (Relative Load). The relative load  $\bar{L}_r$  of a system is defined by

$$\bar{L}_r = \frac{1}{\bar{\Gamma}_m} (= \bar{\mu}^* \text{ in Theorem 5}).$$

Feasibility of the power control problem is thus equal to a system load less than unity. For a more detailed capacity discussion, see (Hanly, 1999; Zhang

and Chong, 2000), where receiver and code sequence effects also are considered.

In the example we have

$$\bar{L}_r = \sqrt{\bar{\gamma}_1^* \bar{\gamma}_1^* \bar{\theta}_{12} \bar{\theta}_{21}} \approx 0.2 < 1 \quad (26)$$

Again, the power control problem in the example is feasible. It is interesting to note that the unbalanced situation  $\bar{\gamma}_1^* = 400$  and  $\bar{\gamma}_2^* = 50.1$  also corresponds to a feasible problem ( $\bar{L}_r = 0.78$ ) despite the fact that  $\bar{\gamma}_1^* > \bar{\gamma}^*$ .

## 5.2 Convergence and Global Stability

As commented in Section 3.4, the integrating controller in (8) with  $\beta = 1$  is locally unstable when subject to time delays. It was also shown that it is stabilized with the Smith predictor. As concluded in the following theorem, both local and global stability is regained by employing the Smith predictor.

**Theorem 7.** The algorithm (8) and  $\beta_i = 1$  subject to a round-trip delay of  $n_{RT}$  samples and employing the Smith predictor converges to a unique equilibrium  $\bar{p}_\infty$  that meets the requirements in (23) with equality for any initial power vector  $\bar{p}_0$ . The convergence rate is  $n_{RT}$  times slower compared to the algorithm (8) applied to a delayless power control problem.

**PROOF.** See (Gunnarsson, 2000; Gunnarsson and Gustafsson, 2001a).

The WCDMA algorithm described in Section 4.1 with single-bit error representation never converges to a fixed point. As disclosed in Section 3.4, the relay feedback and the delays cause an oscillatory behavior around the reference signal. Instead, it converges to a region characterized by the following theorem.

**Theorem 8.** If the power control problem is feasible, the algorithm without and with the Smith predictor (subject to a round-trip delay of totally  $n_{RT} = 1 + n_p + n_m$  samples,  $n_{RT} = 1, 2, \dots$ ) converges to a region where the SIR error for every connection is bounded (in dB) by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Without Smith:} & \quad |\gamma_i^t - \gamma_i(t)| \leq 2n_{RT}\beta \\ \text{With Smith:} & \quad |\gamma_i^t - \gamma_i(t)| \leq (n_{RT} + 1)\beta \end{aligned}$$

and  $\beta$  is the step size. The results also hold when subject to auto-interference.

**PROOF.** The result without the Smith predictor is provided in (Herdtner and Chong, 2000), while the result with the Smith predictor is from (Gunnarsson, 2000; Gunnarsson and Gustafsson, 2001a).

Note that the error bound is tighter when using the Smith predictor, and also when using smaller  $\beta$ , which

can be interpreted as the step-size. There is thus a trade-off between small tracking errors and fast responses to changes.

The global system can be seen as a diagonal system of local control loops in logarithmic scale, interconnected by a static nonlinearity via the interference. By linearizing the interference around the equilibrium corresponding to the power vector that satisfies (25), this picture is simplified to a diagonal system with an unknown structured uncertainty. Full details are provided in (Gunnarsson, 2000), and the remainder of the section provides a sketched road-map to the result. The idea is to rewrite the global system on a form to which the Small Gain Theorem directly applies. The existence of such an equilibrium point is a consequence of the feasibility of the power control problem.

Introduce the MIMO system  $G(q) \triangleq G_{II}(q)E$ , where the closed local loop system  $G_{II}(q)$  is given by (10) and (16). With the equilibrium power deflection  $\tilde{p}(t)$ , the linearized global system can be written as

$$\tilde{p}(t) = G(q)F_I(q)\Delta_{cc}\tilde{p}(t) + G(q)F_g(q)\tilde{g}(t), \quad (27)$$

where  $\Delta_{cc}$  is the Jacobian of the interference with respect to the power vector. Figure 5 illustrates the corresponding block diagram of the global system (with a linear measurement filter).

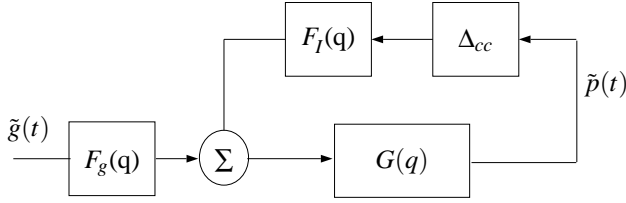


Figure 5. Block diagram of the global system, when approximating the interference by the corresponding linearization with respect to the equilibrium deflection  $\tilde{p}(t)$ .

The infinity norm of the interference Jacobian is given by

*Lemma 9.* The following relation holds for the matrix  $\infty$ -norm of the cross coupling matrix  $\Delta_{cc}$

$$\|\Delta_{cc}\|_{\infty} = \max_{1 \leq i \leq m} \left(1 - \frac{\bar{V}_i}{\bar{I}_i}\right) = \delta_{cc} < 1$$

The value of the norm  $\delta_{cc}$  will be referred to as the degree of cross-coupling.

The degree of cross-coupling  $\delta_{cc}$  allows a natural interpretation. Essentially, it reflects the influence of the interference to the global system stability. Two cases are easily distinguished

- $\delta_{cc} = 0$ . Corresponds to the case when the interference at every receiver is only noise, i.e. the local loops are operating independently. In such a situation, the local loop analysis in Section 3.4 is sufficient.

- $\delta_{cc} = 1$ . Impossible in practice, since it corresponds to the case when the thermal noise is zero, or the interference at one receiver is infinite. However, in highly loaded systems,  $\delta_{cc}$  is close to 1.

The Small Gain Theorem is directly applicable to the block diagram in Figure 5 to address stability of the linearized system

*Theorem 10.* Let  $G_{II}(q)$  be the stable closed-loop transfer function of the local loop. Then the global system in Figure 5 is stable if and only if the power control problem is feasible and any of the following properties is satisfied

- $\sup_{\omega} |G_{II}(e^{i\omega})| \leq 1/\delta_F$ .
- $\sup_{\omega} |G_{II}(e^{i\omega})| < 1/(\delta_{cc}\delta_F)$ ,

where

$$\delta_F = \sup_w |F_g(e^{iw})|$$

and  $\delta_{cc}$  is provided in Lemma 9.

**PROOF.** See (Gunnarsson, 2000).

We note that a highly loaded system is much harder to control (put narrower restrictions on local loop performance) than a slightly loaded system. For example rather aggressive strategies such as minimum-variance are only applicable in systems with little load to avoid violating the global stability.

If we consider the integrating controller in (8) in the two-mobile example, the stability requirements in Theorem 10 can be simplified. Equation (11) yields

$$\sup_w |G_{II}(e^{i\omega})| = \begin{cases} \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{(1-\beta)^2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{4\beta}\right)}} & \frac{1}{3} \leq \beta < 1 \\ 1 & 0 < \beta < \frac{1}{3} \end{cases}$$

The stability requirements in terms of  $\beta$  are illustrated by Figure 6. Hence, in highly loaded systems the choice of  $\beta$  is more critical to avoid violating the global stability. This is also illustrated by the results

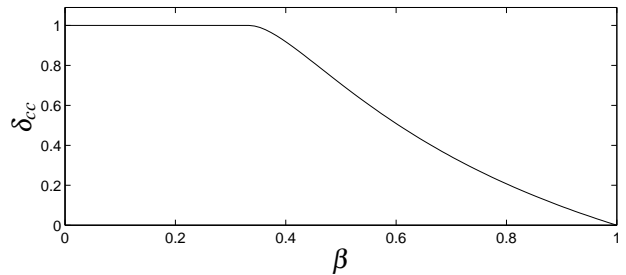


Figure 6. Requirements on global system decoupling from Theorem 10 when using an integrating controller, subject to a time delay of  $n_{RT} = 2$ .

from network simulations (with  $\delta_{cc} \approx 0.2$ ) in Figure 7. Even though  $\beta = 0.9$  yields a locally stable system, the global system is unstable and the mobile powers

are oscillating between max and min powers. Furthermore, the Smith predictor improves the performance significantly for single-bit error representation, while the same effect is attainable by linear design when the non-quantized error is available.

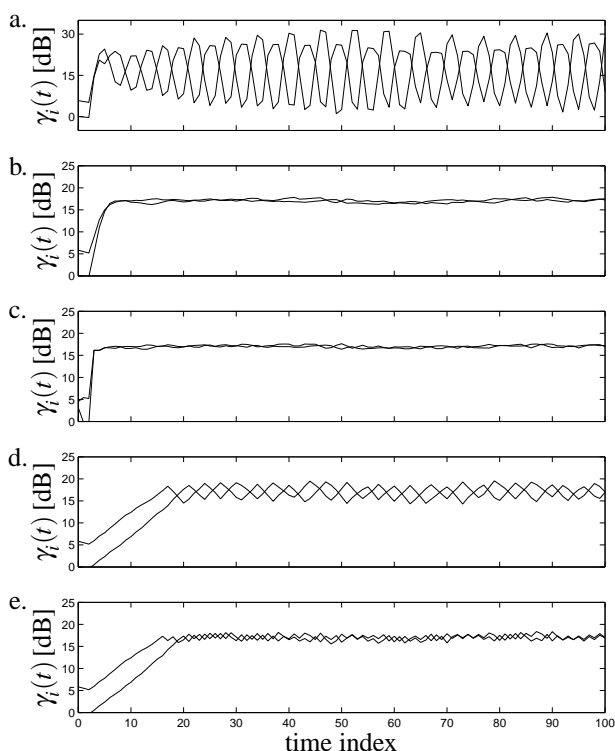


Figure 7. Network simulations with the integrating controller (8) in a-c and with single-bit error representation (12) in d-e. a.  $\beta = 0.9$ , b.  $\beta = 0.34$ , c.  $\beta = 1$  and Smith predictor, d.  $\beta = 1$ , e.  $\beta = 1$  and Smith predictor.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

The area of power control in wireless networks is surveyed, and the power control algorithms are put into a control theory context to relate to the control nomenclature. With this common framework, it is natural to address critical properties such as stability and convergence. The ambition with the extensive citation list is to provide, yet subjective, an overview of central proposals, and pointers to interesting open problems. Still many problems remains to be solved, and in short, a subjective list of interesting problems include

- Quality estimation and prediction. Quality of service is a subjective matter, which is relevant to map onto more objective quantities. Signal-to-interferences and power gains are commonly used, and much remains to be done to provide accurate and reliable estimates and predictions thereof.
- Soft handover. Since soft handover is a central part in third generations systems, power control algorithms have to consider all aspects and situations.

- Downlink power control. The objectives and limitations are very different with the downlink and the uplink. The operators are eager to fully utilize the investments to provide services, and therefore complex trade-offs between fairness, throughput, efficiency, policies, services and pricing are prevalent.

## 7. EXAMPLES AND REFERENCE CASES

Some of the simulations and models used in this work will be made available on

<http://www.control.isy.liu.se/~fred>

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