

# Joint use of 5G waveform UFMC and Non Uniform Constellations in DVB-T2

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**Abstract**—The Digital Video Broadcasting-Terrestrial, second generation (DVB-T2) system has been the object of many research during the last decade and is now mature. This paper focuses on the identification of the maximum obtainable performance improvement of DVB-T2 CP-OFDM with NUCs in typical TU6 fading environment. It first concentrates on the ultimate improvement achievable using joint UFMC and NUCs in standardized DVB-T2 system. In these conditions, a 0.5 dB SNR improvement (for  $\text{BER} = 3.10^{-3}$ ) is reported in TU6 using CP-OFDM NUC 32K 256-QAM and  $\text{CR} = 1/2$  and  $3/5$  in place of sole CP-OFDM. Also, using in conjunction both studied technologies, namely UFMC NUC 32K 256-QAM  $\text{CR} = 1/2$  and  $3/5$ , an SNR improvement of 1.2 dB (for  $\text{BER} = 3.10^{-3}$ ) is achievable which provides a good SNR margin e.g. to increase the emitter's coverage.

**Index Terms**—NUC, BICM, UFMC, Channel coding, Urban environment.

## I. INTRODUCTION

DVB-T2 is the european broadcasting standard second generation which has been adopted or deployed by many countries in Europe and Africa. Due to its high flexibility in the choice of parameters and its performance compared to Digital Video Broadcasting-Terrestrial, first generation (DVB-T), DVB-T2 has been studied in the scientific literature over the last decades in order to improve its performance and allow the broadcasters to have technical information details for the system implementation.

In this research landscape, many studies have been focused on the field trial, signal robustness (SNR improvement), channel capacity and the spectral efficiency improvement. Indeed, a common method to approach the channel capacity established by Shannon is the application of Bit Interleaved Coding Modulation (BICM) chain when designing a system [1]. This chain consists in the serial concatenation of a Forward Error Correction (FEC) code, a bit interleaver and a constellation mapper. It has namely been adopted in european standards

like DVB-T2 [2], Digital Video Broadcasting - Next Generation Handheld (DVB-NHG) [3] and also in next-generation terrestrial broadcast american standard Advanced Television Systems Committee, third generation (ATSC 3.0) [4]. The BICM chain firstly designed is that used in DVB-T2 and includes uniform labelled Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (QAM) constellation mapping which induces a noticeable gap between the system capacity and the Shannon limit. Indeed, these constellations approach Shannon limit very closely for low Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR), but the gap becomes more apparent for higher SNR [1].

Despite the fact that both DVB-T2 and ATSC 3.0 standards employ BICM chain, their performance are different. While QAM is used in the BICM chain for DVB-T2, Non Uniform Constellations (NUCs) are used in this chain for ATSC 3.0 system which allows this system to be closer to the Shannon limit. Conventional QAM employed signal points on a regular orthogonal grid whereas NUCs loosened these restrictions. The non-uniform concept was first introduced by Foschini [5] which noted the capacity shortfall of uniform QAM and minimized symbol error rates over an Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN) channel by providing different constellations which offer a capacity improvement. Indeed, constellation shaping techniques can be separated into two variants: probabilistic shaping and geometrical shaping techniques. While probabilistic shaping addresses the symbol probabilities by using a shaping encoder, the geometrical shaping called NUC, modifies the location of constellation symbols. Two kinds of approaches (1D-NUCs and 2D-NUCs) have been obtained. 1D-NUCs have non-uniform distance between constellation symbols but maintain the square shape which preserves demapping complexity whereas 2D-NUCs increase this complexity by relaxing the square shape constraint. However, 2D-NUCs present better performance than QAM and 1D-NUCs [6]. Several works tackled the demapping complexity

reduction of 2D-NUCs [7], [8].

On the one hand, BICM brings a capacity gain using the constellation shaping approach. On the other hand, DVB-T2 still uses OFDM which is not optimum in term of spectral efficiency. Indeed, due to the CP added to OFDM symbols in order to deal with channel impairment, a spectral efficiency loss is obtained. To overcome this OFDM issue, filter based waveforms proposed for 5G became suitable for DVB-T2. Filter Bank Multicarrier (FBMC) and Universal Filtered Multicarrier (UFMC) present a filtering characteristic which allows them to deal with channel impairments while avoiding the CP. Thanks to a better spectral behaviour of these waveforms, FBMC has been recently proposed as an alternative to OFDM in DVB-T2 [9]. Moreover, UFMC has been considered more suitable to OFDM in DVB-T2 transmission considering the compromise between respectively their spectral efficiency as it consists in redundant part of data, their SNR gain and their complexity [10]. In comparison with the classical OFDM, UFMC presents an SNR gain of 1.2 dB at a BER of  $10^{-3}$ . On the other hand, the performance gains of 2D-NUCs have been previously highlighted with AWGN and Rayleigh channel models for DVB-T2 [11]. In order to evaluate the maximum reachable gain with constellation shaping technique and multicarrier modulation, the joint use of 2D-NUCs employed in terrestrial broadcasting system ATSC 3.0 and 5G waveform (UFMC) has been proposed for DVB-T2 transmission as the sole use of 2D-NUCs and UFMC respectively allow the increasing of DVB-T2 system performance.

The rest of this paper is structured as follows. Section II briefly introduces the BICM capacity and the NUCs constellation concept. In section III, filtered based waveform UFMC is presented. Section IV presents the lite version of DVB-T2 physical layer and parameters. In section V, simulation results and performance analysis are presented. Finally, the main findings of the work are summarised in section VI.

## II. BICM CAPACITY AND NUC CONSTELLATION

The channel capacity is the maximum mutual information between the channel input and the channel output. This capacity has been defined by Shannon as the maximum possible throughput over any given channel [12].

### A. BICM capacity

The channel is described by its transition probabilities  $p(r_k|s_k = x_l)$  where  $k$  denotes the discrete time index,  $s_k$  and  $r_k$  represent respectively the transmitted and received symbols at time  $k$ . The symbol constellation  $x_l$  is taken from an alphabet  $X$ . When an AWGN channel is used,  $p(r_k|s_k = x_l)$  is a gaussian distributed probability density function, centered around the transmitted symbol with a zero mean noise and noise variance according to SNR.

Shannon proved that maximum Mutual Information (MI) can be achieved if the transmitted alphabet (set of constellation points) is Gaussian distributed [13], [14]. Then the theoretical limit expressed in the normalized capacity form is given by  $C(\text{bit/s/Hz}) = \log_2(1 + \text{SNR})$  where  $\text{SNR}$  is the ratio

between the average transmitted power  $P$  and the noise power  $N$ . However, this limit can never be achieved by any practical system due to the alphabet  $X$  which contains a finite transmitted symbol number. The gaussian distribution is not possible to be achieved in reality. In many communications systems, most practical finite symbol alphabet inputs are implemented such as QAM. The BICM capacity that characterizes these systems is given by [11]:

$$C = M - \sum_{m=1}^M E_{b,y} [\log_2 \frac{\sum_{x_l \in X} p(y|x_l)}{\sum_{x_l \in X_b^m} p(y|x_l)}] \quad (1)$$

where  $M$  is the number of bits per symbol,  $y$  is the received signal,  $p(y|x_l)$  is the transition probability density function (p.d.f) of transmitting  $x_l$  and receiving  $y$ .  $b$  can take 0 or 1 values.  $X_b^m$  is the subset of the alphabet  $X$  (all the possible values  $x_l$  ( $l = 1, \dots, N$ ) of constellations) for which bit label  $m$  is equal to  $b$ . If  $N$  denotes the number of constellation points, the alphabet of the transmitted symbols needs to be normalized following the power constraint:

$$P_{total} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^N |x_l|^2 = 1 \quad (2)$$

The main parameters affect  $p(y|x_l)$  are the SNR and the constellations points position in AWGN channel. The uniform design criteria is the straight forward way to design an alphabet  $X$  resulting in uniform constellations.

### B. Non Uniform Constellations

Uniform constellations are characterized with uniform spacing between constellations points and square shape of the constellations. However, a noticeable gap between BICM capacities with QAM and the Shannon limit is reported [15]. Furthermore, this gap increases with the constellation order [12], [13]. At an SNR of 16 dB, the difference observed for 256-QAM, 1D-256-NUCs and 2D-256-NUCs are respectively 0.4 dB, 0.15 dB and 0.1 dB [12], [13]. In order to reduce the significant gap of uniform QAM constellations, optimal constellation which achieves the smallest gap has been researched. To optimize the uniform constellation, 1D-NUCs have been designed by relaxing the uniformity constraint while keeping the rectangular structure of the constellation. This method confirms the fact that 1D-NUCs can be viewed as a QAM constellation which can be separated into two Pulse Amplitude Modulation (PAM) constellations. Then two PAM demappers are sufficient to demap 1D-NUCs. 2D-NUCs have been designed by relaxing both uniformity and the square or rectangular shape constraints. The constellation values can take any shape inside one quadrant. The other three quadrants are derived from the first quadrant by symmetry. This allows 2D-NUCs to achieve a better performance than 1D-NUCs and the BICM chain capacity to be closer to the Shannon limit with a counterpart in term of increased complexity.

### C. Need for 2D demapper with 2D-NUCs

In order to detect the symbol transmitted at the receiver, euclidean distance metric computation is used. The higher the euclidean distance number is, the higher the complexity is. Euclidean distance number computed for 1D-NUCs and 2D-NUCs are respectively  $2^{(\frac{M}{2}+1)}$  and  $2^M$  while one dimensional and two dimensional demappers are respectively used for them. Moreover, the number of parameters to be optimized (called Degrees of Freedom (DOF)) is different for both 1D-NUCs and 2D-NUCs. Equations (3) and (4) are presented in [11], [1], [14]. In equation (3), the term  $\sqrt{N}$  is due to the rectangular structure of the constellation: the optimal level on the real and imaginary axes are equal. The factor  $\frac{1}{2}$  is due to the fact that the optimization is carried out on the positive levels only (the negative levels are identical). In equation 4, the factor  $\frac{1}{4}$  shows that the four quadrants are symmetric and the factor 2 is due to the fact that the real and imaginary parts of each constellation point are optimized separately. The term  $-1$  in both equations 3 and 4 is due to the power normalization constraint.

$$DOF_{1D-NUCs} = \frac{\sqrt{N}}{2} - 1 \quad (3)$$

$$DOF_{2D-NUCs} = 2\frac{N}{4} - 1 \quad (4)$$

Using these equations, we can observe that the higher the constellation size is, the higher the DOF is. In particular, the DOF of 2D-NUCs increases faster with  $N$  than in the case of 1D-NUCs. This induces the fast increasing of 2D-NUCs demapper complexity. By this way, one can justify the choice of 2D-NUCs only for constellations of size 16, 64 and 256 and 1D-NUCs for constellations of size 1024 and 4096 in ATSC 3.0. In the following sections, our study is focused on the gain which could be obtained with the use of 2D-NUCs proposed for ATSC 3.0 in DVB-T2. Filter based waveform UPMC will also be applied to 2D-NUCs in DVB-T2 in order to maximize the performance gain. The constellation and capacity optimization algorithm is beyond the scope of this paper. The following section presents the filtered based UPMC waveform.

### III. FILTERED BASED WAVEFORM: UPMC

OFDM is a multicarrier modulation used in broadband multicarrier communications. However, it presents the short-coming such as the constraint of Cyclic Prefix (CP) to deal with channel impairment and the high Out Of Band (OOB) emission. UPMC is a waveform for which CP is avoided and induces low OOB emission. The filtering in UPMC is based on a group of subcarriers (sub-band) instead of filtering each subcarrier (FBMC) or filtering together all subcarriers (filtered-OFDM). Dolph-Chebyshev filter for which the Side Lobe Level (SLL) and the filter length can be managed as parameters, has been adopted in order to increase system performance [10], [12]. UPMC uses a shorter filter length and in its design, the filter length must be equal to the CP length in order to deal with frequency selective channels. The main

parameters of UPMC are  $L$  the filter length, SLL,  $B$  the sub-band number and  $B_w$  the sub-band bandwidth.  $B_w$  represents the number of subcarriers used for each sub-band.

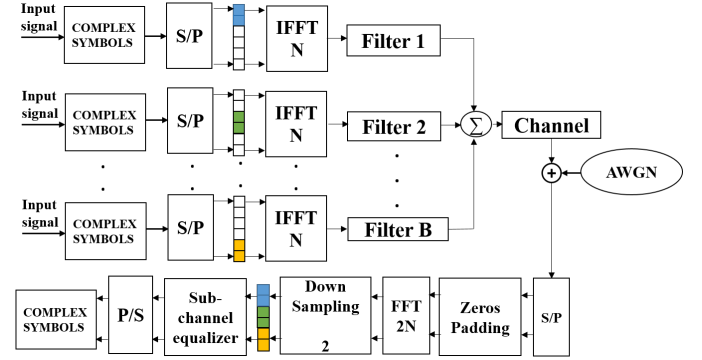


Fig. 1. UPMC block diagram

Fig 1 presents a UPMC transceiver. Differently from other waveforms, UPMC uses only the transmit filters. Filters are not applied at the receiver. Indeed, UPMC employs two NFFT points in the receiver allowing the data symbol recovering without the need of CP. However, the 2 NFFT points cause noise increase problem to the UPMC reception and thus degrade the UPMC performance compared to OFDM when only AWGN is used as channel. Indeed, while the contribution of gaussian noise on the CP is canceled in OFDM at the receiver, in UPMC this contribution is maintained on the filter length used in UPMC. As the 2 NFFT points used in demodulation include the filter length contribution, this effect is highlighted on UPMC performance when gaussian noise is used. Otherwise, UPMC performance is better than that for OFDM in the presence of frequency selective channel. Furthermore, both OFDM and UPMC use a one tap Zero Forcing equalizer. Deep comparison between OFDM and UPMC in terms of transmitter, receiver and their Power Spectral Density (PSD) is presented in [10].

### IV. DVB-T2 PHYSICAL LAYER

In this section, the DVB-T2 system is briefly presented as well as the modeled channel and simulation parameters.

#### A. Lite version including NUCs and UPMC

DVB-T2 is the second generation terrestrial broadcasting system published by European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) in 2009. It offers a choice of flexibility to broadcasters. Compared to DVB-T, it introduces many innovative features allowing to reach a throughput of 50.32 Mbit/s [16]. The main two parts of this system are the BICM block and the multicarrier modulation block. In the specific way, the first block includes a FEC code Bose-Chaudhuri-Hocquenghem (BCH) and Low Density Parity Check (LDPC), a bit interleaving and a QAM mapping. The second block includes Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM)-CP. Indeed, the adoption of a powerful FEC schemes in substitution to combination of a convolutional code with an

outer Reed Solomon code results in a larger FEC gain obtained at the price of increased complexity induced by these coders. As known, LDPC is based on a high density parity check matrix with short or long FEC frames and the decoding step is processed using a Belief Propagation (BP) algorithm [18]. Despite the gain provided by FEC scheme, QAM constellations optimization has been studied in the literature. As known, 1D-NUCs with 64 and 256 constellations points have been proposed for DVB-NHG [3] and both 1D and 2D-NUCs have been proposed in ATSC 3.0 in order to increase the BICM capacity. Due to the performance gain obtained with 2D-NUCs in [4] and [11] and UPMC in [10], we propose in this paper to substitute QAM constellations by 2D-NUCs constellations (like in ATSC 3.0) in DVB-T2, also replacing the OFDM waveform by UPMC. Furthermore, long FEC frame is used at the LDPC coder. Fig. 2 presents the implemented system used for simulation.

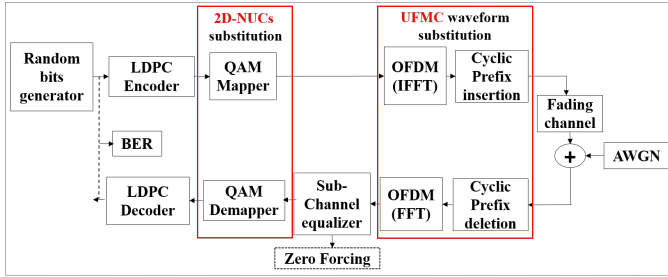


Fig. 2. DVB-T2 model implemented

Due to the fact that LDPC and QAM mapper are in the BICM main blocks which take out the BICM performance, we focus our simulation only on these blocks. As the interleaving block is useful in the presence of impulsive noise, this block is not used in the simulation.

### B. Channel used and parameters

In this subsection, the main parameters of DVB-T2 system are presented in table I. Parameters in red color represent those used in simulation. NFFT is the number of subcarriers used with OFDM. As 4-QAM constellation has not been optimized for NUCs, the other constellations sizes are used for NUCs simulation. Due to the fact that simulation results given in [11] shown that 2D-NUCs outperform QAM in DVB-T2 system and the gain is highlighted for lower code rates such as 1/2, 3/5 and 2/3, our simulation will be focused on them. UPMC parameters used for simulations are:  $L = 32768/128 = 256$ ,  $B = 128$ ,  $B_w = 234$  and  $SLL = 60$  dB. In order to evaluate performance in DVB-T2 environment, Typical Urban 6 (TU6) channel which models urban environment is used. The Power Delay Profile (PDP) of this channel is presented in table II. Method used to implement TU6 channel is based on Tapped Delay Line (TDL) model described in [16]. The Root Mean Square (RMS) delays spread of TU6 is about  $1.0616 \cdot 10^{-7}$  second.

TABLE I  
DVB-T2 SYSTEMS PARAMETERS

|                     |                                                     |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| NFFT                | 1K, 2K, 4K, ((8, 16, <b>32</b> )K and ext)          |
| Modulation          | 4, <b>16, 64, 256</b> -QAM                          |
| FEC frame           | <b>long (64800 bits)</b> , short (16200 bits)       |
| Code Rate (CR) LDPC | <b>1/2, 3/5, 2/3</b> , 3/4, 4/5, 5/6                |
| Bandwidth           | 1.7, 5, 6, 7, <b>8</b> , 10 MHz                     |
| CP                  | <b>1/128</b> , 1/32, 1/16, 19/256, 1/8, 19/128, 1/4 |

TABLE II  
TU6 CHANNEL [16]

| PDP Description | Path 1 | 2   | 3   | 4    | 5    | 6    |
|-----------------|--------|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| Delays (ns)     | 0      | 200 | 500 | 1600 | 2300 | 5000 |
| Power (dB)      | -3     | 0   | -2  | -6   | -8   | -10  |

## V. SIMULATION RESULTS

In order to evaluate the combination of NUCs and UPMC performance in DVB-T2 system, our simulator has been validated (V.§A) using AWGN and parameters previously presented. The system has been simulated (V.§B) in presence of frequency selective TU6 channel using high order constellations due to the fact that the gain in NUCs and UPMC is maximum with these constellations [10], [11].

### A. System and performance validation using AWGN

In order to validate the simulator, OFDM/QAM and OFDM/NUCs simulation results are presented. Results have been compared to simulation results of DVB-T2/OFDM given at  $10^{-4}$  in the implementation guideline of DVB-T2 [16].

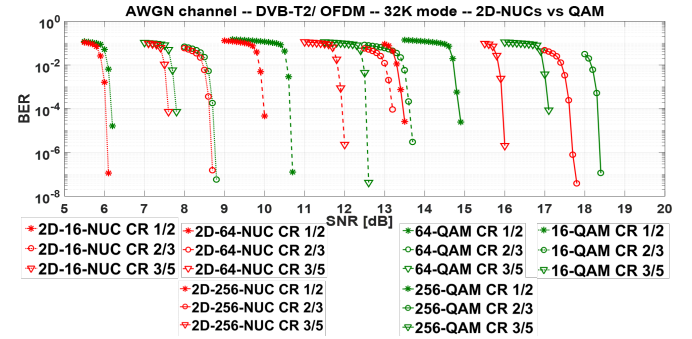


Fig. 3. 2D-NUCs and QAM comparison in DVB-T2/OFDM system

Fig. 3 presents the simulation results for constellation sizes 16, 64 and 256 and code rates 1/2, 3/5 and 5/6. At a BER of  $10^{-4}$ , the simulation results for DVB-T2/OFDM/QAM and those presented in [16] are comparable. Furthermore, when compared to DVB-T2/OFDM/2D-NUCs, there is a noticeable gain for combination of constellations and code rates. The more the constellation size increases, the more the 2D-NUCs gain increases. This confirms the good behaviour of our simulator and the literature trends. However, UPMC/QAM and UPMC/NUCs simulation results are presented on fig 5 in order to confirm the fact that NUCs can be used with UPMC waveform.

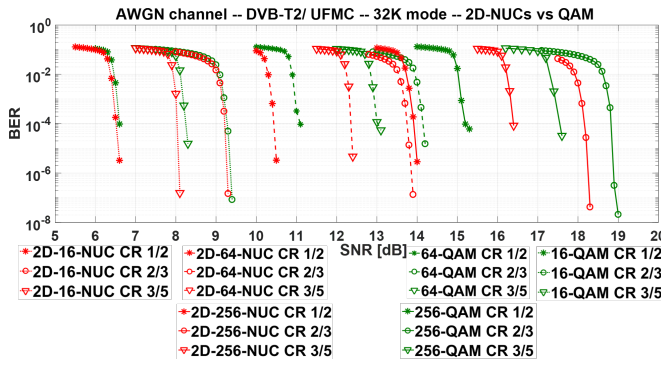


Fig. 4. 2D-NUCs and QAM comparison in DVB-T2/UFMC system

TABLE III  
PERFORMANCE GAIN OF NUCs COMPARED WITH QAM FOR  
DVB-T2/OFDM AND DVB-T2/UFMC WITH AWGN (BER=10<sup>-4</sup>)

| Waveforms |     | OFDM    |      |            | UFMC    |      |            |
|-----------|-----|---------|------|------------|---------|------|------------|
| Mod       | N   | QAM     | NUC  | Gain       | QAM     | NUC  | Gain       |
| CR        | N   | SNR[dB] | Gain |            | SNR[dB] | Gain |            |
| 1/2       | 16  | 6.2     | 6    | <b>0.2</b> | 6.6     | 6.5  | <b>0.1</b> |
| 1/2       | 64  | 10.5    | 10   | <b>0.5</b> | 11.1    | 10.4 | <b>0.7</b> |
| 1/2       | 256 | 14.7    | 13.4 | <b>1.3</b> | 15.2    | 13.9 | <b>1.3</b> |
| 3/5       | 16  | 7.7     | 7.5  | <b>0.2</b> | 8.2     | 8    | <b>0.2</b> |
| 3/5       | 64  | 12.5    | 11.9 | <b>0.6</b> | 13      | 12.3 | <b>0.7</b> |
| 3/5       | 256 | 17      | 16   | <b>1.0</b> | 17.5    | 16.4 | <b>1.1</b> |
| 2/3       | 16  | 8.7     | 8.6  | <b>0.1</b> | 9.3     | 9.2  | <b>0.1</b> |
| 2/3       | 64  | 13.6    | 13.2 | <b>0.4</b> | 14.2    | 13.7 | <b>0.5</b> |
| 2/3       | 256 | 18.3    | 17.6 | <b>0.7</b> | 18.8    | 18.2 | <b>0.6</b> |

Table III presents (based on fig. 3 and fig. 4) the gains obtained respectively for OFDM and UFMC when NUCs are used. By analysing these gains, we can conclude that the behaviour of NUCs in DVB-T2/OFDM and DVB-T2/UFMC is equivalent at BER of 10<sup>-4</sup>: respectively 1.2 dB and 1.3 dB for  $N = 256$  and  $CR = 1/2$ . Moreover the maximum gain is obtained for constellation  $N = 256$  and  $CR = 1/2, 3/5, 2/3$ . However, UFMC presents a loss when compared to OFDM in presence of gaussian noise. The noise increasing problem in UFMC reception is due to the fact that  $2 * NFFT$  points are used to achieve efficient demodulation without CP. If UFMC filter impulse response length is  $L$ ,  $(NFFT + L)$  time domain noise samples contribute to the frequency domain noise. As results, the noise power is larger than that for OFDM like presented in [17]. The following part of this section presents simulation results using frequency selective channel which highlights both NUCs and UFMC performance.

### B. Simulation results using TU6

In order to present UFMC/NUCs performance in DVB-T2 environment, TU6 channel is exploited. Simulation results are obtained using the average of 100 channel realisations of a statistical fading generators described in [16]. Simulation results are presented on fig. 5 and fig. 6 respectively for CR 1/2 and 3/5 and a constellation of size 256. At a BER of 10<sup>-2</sup>, UFMC/NUCs outperform UFMC/QAM by 0.7 dB and 0.5 dB and OFDM/QAM by 0.9 dB and 0.7 dB respectively

for CR 1/2 and 3/5. At a BER of 3.10<sup>-3</sup>, UFMC/NUCs outperforms OFDM/QAM by 1.2 dB for CR 1/2 and 3/5. Table IV presents the gain obtained with NUCs using OFDM and UFMC. As presented on fig. 3, fig. 4 and in this table, NUCs outperform QAM for low SNR values. For high SNR values, NUCs present a loss when compared to QAM. The performance gain obtained with the joint usage of UFMC and NUCs are presented on table V.

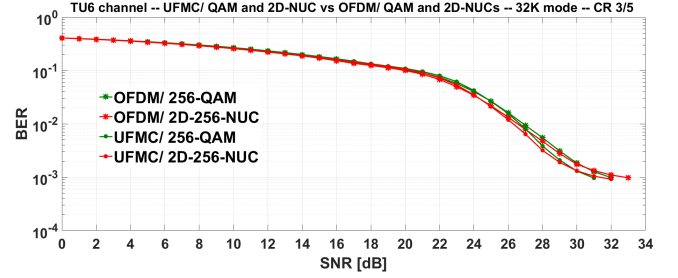


Fig. 5. 2D-NUCs and QAM comparison in DVB-T2/OFDM and DVB-T2/UFMC systems using TU6 channel, constellation size 256 and CR 3/5

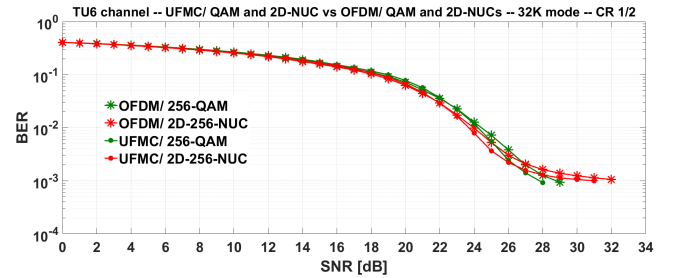


Fig. 6. 2D-NUCs and QAM comparison in DVB-T2/OFDM and DVB-T2/UFMC systems using TU6 channel, constellation size 256 and CR 1/2

TABLE IV  
PERFORMANCE GAIN OF NUCs COMPARED WITH QAM FOR  
DVB-T2/OFDM AND DVB-T2/UFMC USING TU6 CHANNEL

| Waveforms                      |      | OFDM    |             |      | UFMC    |      |             |
|--------------------------------|------|---------|-------------|------|---------|------|-------------|
| Mod                            | N    | QAM     | NUC         | Gain | QAM     | NUC  | Gain        |
| BER                            |      | SNR[dB] | Gain        |      | SNR[dB] | Gain |             |
| Constellation size 256, CR 1/2 |      |         |             |      |         |      |             |
| 10 <sup>-2</sup>               | 24.5 | 24      | <b>0.5</b>  |      | 24.3    | 23.6 | <b>0.7</b>  |
| 3.10 <sup>-3</sup>             | 26.5 | 26      | <b>0.5</b>  |      | 25.8    | 25.3 | <b>0.5</b>  |
| 2.10 <sup>-3</sup>             | 27   | 27      | <b>0.0</b>  |      | 26.4    | 26.4 | <b>0.0</b>  |
| 10 <sup>-3</sup>               | 29   | 32      | <b>-3.0</b> |      | 27.8    | 30.5 | <b>-2.7</b> |
| Constellation size 256, CR 3/5 |      |         |             |      |         |      |             |
| 10 <sup>-2</sup>               | 27   | 26.6    | <b>0.4</b>  |      | 26.8    | 26.3 | <b>0.5</b>  |
| 3.10 <sup>-3</sup>             | 29.2 | 29      | <b>0.2</b>  |      | 28.4    | 28   | <b>0.4</b>  |
| 2.10 <sup>-3</sup>             | 29.8 | 29.6    | <b>0.2</b>  |      | 29      | 28.8 | <b>0.2</b>  |
| 10 <sup>-3</sup>               | 32   | 32.2    | <b>-0.2</b> |      | 30.8    | 31   | <b>-0.2</b> |

### C. Analysis

In view of all the results presented above, NUCs constellations shaping technique can be jointly used with UFMC in DVB-T2. It presents better performance in AWGN and in TU6 respectively for low SNR values less than 20 dB and 26 dB.



TABLE V  
PERFORMANCE GAIN OF UPMC/NUCS COMPARED WITH OFDM/QAM  
IN DVB-T2 SYSTEM USING TU6 CHANNEL

| UPMC/QAM<br>vs<br>OFDM/QAM  | CR  | BER         | $10^{-2}$  | $3.10^{-3}$ | $2.10^{-3}$ | $10^{-3}$   |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                             | 1/2 | <b>Gain</b> | 0.2        | 0.7         | 0.6         | 1.2         |
|                             | 3/5 | <b>Gain</b> | 0.2        | 0.8         | 0.8         | 1.2         |
| UPMC/NUCS<br>vs<br>OFDM/QAM | CR  | BER         | $10^{-2}$  | $3.10^{-3}$ | $2.10^{-3}$ | $10^{-3}$   |
|                             | 1/2 | <b>Gain</b> | <b>0.9</b> | <b>1.2</b>  | <b>0.6</b>  | <b>-1.5</b> |
|                             | 3/5 | <b>Gain</b> | <b>0.7</b> | <b>1.2</b>  | <b>1</b>    | <b>1</b>    |

For high SNR values, 2D-NUCs performance become worse for both DVB-T2/OFDM/NUCs and DVB-T2/UPMC/NUCs. This behaviour of the results is due to three reasons. Firstly, as the aim of this work is to present NUCs in worse reception condition, one hundred independent channel realisations are used for TU6 channel. Due to the averaging of these channel realisations used in simulation, the worse possible realisations of this channel are represented. Secondly, LDPC codes are designed to work in a waterfall region specific for low SNR values. The waterfall region is the SNR region where the BER decreases quickly. This region is followed by the error floor region which starts at a point after which the BER curve does not fall as quickly and a performance flattens [18]. Lastly, NUCs have been designed for a specific SNR values. This explains the good behaviour for NUCs in AWGN channel and in low SNR region for TU6 channel. The saturation effect noticed for all the BER curves is due to the first two regions. However, NUCs and UPMC can be jointly used in DVB-T2 and could allow this system to increase its spectral efficiency [10], to increase its performance gain and to be closer to the Shannon limit.

## VI. CONCLUSION

In this paper, the impact of BICM/2D-NUCs in DVB-T2/OFDM and DVB-T2/UPMC has been evaluated using constellation shaping proposed for ATSC 3.0. Gaussian noise only and TU6 channel are used to highlight respectively NUCs performance and UPMC/NUCs performance. We evaluated SNR gain of NUCs compared with both DVB-T2/OFDM and DVB-T2/UPMC. Simulation results shown that with 2D-NUCs, 1.3 dB SNR gains can be achieved in DVB-T2 using gaussian noise with both OFDM and UPMC. Furthermore, OFDM has been substituted by UPMC and the gain achieved when compared to OFDM/QAM is about 1.2 dB at a BER of  $3.10^{-3}$  in TU6 channel. These results allow to give some trends about application of 5G waveform UPMC and NUCs jointly in DVB-T2 system. However, the use of this constellation shaping requires the 2D demapper which increases complexity with the constellation order due to the In-phase (I) and Quadrature (Q) component independently optimized.

Nevertheless, many complexity reduction algorithms such as sub-region demapping, sphere demapping proposed in literature can be implemented in the receiver in order to exploit these performance gains. These algorithms are based either on the reduction of the number of Euclidean distance to compute

or the number of operators of high complexity of realization used in the reduction.

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