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Proceedings IEEE International Conference on Communications

Citation for the published paper:
Wei, Q.; Wanlu, S.; Bai, B. et al. (2017) "Resource allocation for V2X communications: A local search based 3D matching approach". Proceedings IEEE International Conference on Communications

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Resource Allocation for V2X Communications: A Local Search Based 3D Matching Approach

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Abstract—Vehicle-to-everything (V2X) communications, enabled by cellular device-to-device (D2D) links, have recently drawn much attention due to its potential to improve traffic safety, efficiency, and comfort. In this context, however, intracell interference combined with demanding latency and reliability requirements of safety vehicular users (V-UEs) are challenging issues. In this paper, we study a resource allocation problem among safety V-UEs, non-safety V-UEs, and conventional cellular UEs (C-UEs). Firstly, the resource allocation problem is formulated as a three-dimensional matching problem, where the objective is to maximize the total throughput of non-safety V-UEs on condition of satisfying the requirements on C-UEs and on safety V-UEs. Due to its NP-hardness, we then exploit hypergraph theory and propose a local search based approximation algorithm to solve it. Through simulation results, we show that the proposed algorithm outperforms the existing scheme in terms of both throughput performance and computational complexity.

Index Terms—V2X communications, resource allocation, hypergraph, 3D matching, local search

I. INTRODUCTION

Recently, vehicle to everything (V2X) communications have drawn much attention due to their potential to improve traffic safety and efficiency. One important characteristic of this type of communications is its localized nature, i.e., requiring cooperation between vehicles and devices in close proximity. Besides, there are also strict latency and reliability requirements on safety related applications [1]-[3].

One popular legacy solution for V2X communications is ad hoc communications over 802.11p standard. However, the lack of stringent quality of service (QoS) provisioning and absence of centralized management in the 802.11p standard make it challenging to satisfy safety application requirements. An alternative solution for V2X is to utilize direct device-to-device (D2D) links in the Long-term Evolution (LTE) cellular systems [4]- [6]. In this case, to further improve spectrum efficiency, underlay D2D network has been regarded as a promising enabler for V2X communications [7] [8].

Some researches have been dedicated to the V2X communications in the LTE cellular scenarios. In [9], a cooperative relaying mechanism is proposed to guarantee the channel quality of V2X communications. In works [4] and [10], the cloud-based servers are employed for the vehicular safety applications. In the V2X applications, the safety-related communications refer to the case that the messages transmitted require high QoS, such as congestion messages, emergency messages. Otherwise, the non-safety-related communications, such as short messages and entertainment video, are regarded as non-safety communications. In our scenario, we sort the V2X communications into safety V-UEs and non-safety V-UEs according to these two types of communications. Thus the radio resource management (RRM) among the C-UEs, safety V-UEs, and non-safety V-UEs is the focus of the paper.

In the context of V2X underlaying systems, we assume that non-safety V-UEs can share the cellular resource blocks with the safety V-UEs simultaneously to transmit. Hence, one of the most critical challenges is the interference caused by resource reuse among the conventional cellular network, safety V-UEs, and non-safety V-UEs. In V2X communications, safety communications often require high reliability and low latency, and its message size is typically smaller than that in non-safety communications [1]. Considering a more general case, the objective of our paper is to maximize the total rate of non-safety V-UEs. Hence, the key of the RRM strategy is to determine how the V-UEs reuse uplink resource blocks (RBs) with C-UEs. To tackle these challenges, a three-dimensional weighted matching problem is formulated to model the RRM problem among the C-UEs, safety V-UEs, and non-safety V-UEs.

In this paper, we investigate the methods for multidimensional matching problems. Most existing methods fall into two categories: 1) transform the multidimensional matching problem into the two-dimensional matching problems, i.e., the IHM in [11], the pairing algorithm in [12], and the parallel implementation of Hopcroft-Karp in [13]; 2) construct the hypergraph model [14]- [17] or k-set packing problem [19]-[22]. Among the methods applied in the latter, local search has been used successfully to solve such computationally hard optimization problem and studied in many research domains [23]-[25].

The local search is proposed as an effective technique for designing high performance approximation algorithm for computationally hard problems. Generally, we start with a feasible solution and then try to improve the solution in moving to a neighboring solution under some optimization criterion. Given a ratio for the optimal objective value and the current achievable one, if it is always lower than the ratio of the problem, the ratio can be defined as the approximation ratio [19]. For k-dimensional matching, a simple greedy algorithm returning a set of matching among different UEs gives a k approximation ratio [21], and a local search algorithm can obtain better approximation [20]-[22]. The best known polynomial
time\(^1\) approximation ratio is \((k + \varepsilon)/2\) in [20]. There, \(\varepsilon > 0\) and \(k\) is an integer greater than or equal to 3.

The hypergraph matching theory [26] is employed to formulate the three-dimensional matching problem. A hypergraph is a set of vertices and a family of subsets of vertices, each referred as a hyperedge. In our scenario, the C-UEs, safety V-UEs, and non-safety V-UEs are partite, and the primary \(k\)-dimensional matching problem can also be regarded as \(k\)-set packing problem. Specially, given a family of sets, the problem to find a maximal sub-family of sets that are pairwise disjoint in the problem of \(k\)-set packing is equivalent to the problem of finding a maximal matching in a hypergraph [27]. Hence, a local search based three-dimensional matching approach is desired to be established from the hypergraph model.

The novelty of our work mainly lies in introducing a 3D-matching based V2X resource allocation algorithm (3D-VRAA) to solve the RRM problem joint with safety V-UEs, non-safety V-UEs, and C-UEs. The main contributions of this paper are summarized as follows:

- formulation of a joint RRM problem for safety V-UEs, non-safety V-UEs, and conventional C-UEs;
- construction of a hypergraph model for the associated RRM problem;
- proposed a 3D-matching based algorithm to solve the RRM problem;
- performance evaluation of the proposed scheme with other methods.

In the remainder of the paper, Section II presents the system model and formulates the RRM problem as a 3D matching problem. In Section III, we decompose the primary problem, construct its associated hypergraph model, and propose a 3D-matching based V2X resource allocation algorithm to solve it. In Section IV, simulation results are presented and discussed. Finally, Section V concludes the paper.

II. SYSTEM MODEL AND PROBLEM FORMULATION

A. System Model for V2X Communications

As shown in Fig. 1, we consider a single cell V2X communications scenario with \(M\) C-UEs, \(K\) safety V-UEs and \(Q\) non-safety V-UEs. The V-UEs communicate by reusing the uplink resource of C-UEs, and thus interference exists among different types of UEs.

For conventional C-UEs, which is denoted by \(M = \{1, 2, \ldots, M\}\), orthogonal RB allocation is applied in the uplink. Meanwhile, the set of safety V-UEs, and non-safety V-UEs are denoted by \(K = \{1, 2, \ldots, K\}\) and \(Q = \{1, 2, \ldots, Q\}\), respectively. Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access (OFDMA) is employed to support multiple access for both the cellular and V2X communications, where a set \(F\) of RBs are available for resource allocation, and \(F = \{1, 2, \ldots, F\}\).

In this system, the base station (BS) coordinates the resource allocation among C-UEs, safety V-UEs and non-safety V-UEs. The channel gains among C-UEs, safety V-UEs, and non-safety V-UEs are summarized in Table I. Note that the \(g_{k,q}^{K}\) and \(g_{q,k}^{Q,K}\) are equal in amount due to channel reciprocity.

To perform RRM, the BS needs certain level of channel state information (CSI) for all these involved links. Note that the channel power gains are measured at a long-term level such that the fast fading efficient has been averaged out. Also, the thermal noise satisfies independent Gaussian distribution with zero mean and variance \(\sigma^2\).

\(^1\)An algorithm is called polynomial time algorithm if its running time is polynomial in the size value of the input.

\[ x_{m,f}^M = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{when C-UE } m \text{ is allocated to RB } f, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \]

Also, the allocation variables of safety V-UEs and non-safety V-UEs are denoted by \(x_{k,f}^K\) and \(x_{q,f}^Q\), which are defined as

\[ x_{k,f}^K = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{when safety V-UE } k \text{ is allocated to RB } f, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \]

and

\[ x_{q,f}^Q = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{when non-safety V-UE } q \text{ is allocated to RB } f, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \]

respectively.

We assume that each RB can not be shared by two or more UEs in the same type. Thus the orthogonality among the same type of UEs can be described as

\[ \sum_{q=1}^{Q} x_{q,f}^Q \leq 1, \sum_{k=1}^{K} x_{k,f}^K \leq 1, \forall f \in F, \quad (1a) \]

\[ \sum_{m=1}^{M} x_{m,f}^M \leq 1, \sum_{f=1}^{F} x_{m,f}^M = E_m^M, \forall m \in M, \quad (1b) \]

where the \(E_m^M\) stands for the number of RBs assigned to C-UE \(m\), and it satisfies the minimum required number of RBs for C-UEs.

Furthermore, we define \(\gamma_{q,f}^Q\), \(\gamma_{k,f}^K\) and \(\gamma_{m,f}^M\) as the signal-to-interference-and-noise ratios (SINRs) of non-safety V-UE \(q\), safety V-UE \(k\) and C-UE \(m\) on the RB \(f\), which can be calculated as

![Fig. 1. System Model.](image-url)
The optimization variables $p_{q,f}^Q$, $p_{k,f}^K$, and $p_{m,f}^M$ represent the transmission power of non-safety V-UE $q$ (safety V-UE $k$ and C-UE $m$) on the RB $f$. In Stage 1, we relax the constraints in (3) and consider a sub-optimal problem, in which we obtain the data rate of each non-safety V-UE on different RBs. Then, a local search based algorithm is proposed to address the RRM problem. Therefore, we firstly decompose the primary problem and optimize the data rate of non-safety V-UEs in Stage 3. The procedure is shown in Fig. 2.

A. Sub-problem for Optimal Resource

In Stage 1, we relax the transmit power constraints in (3e) for all C-UEs into the individual power constraint, and it can be described as

$$0 \leq p_{m,f}^M \leq x_{m,f}^M P_{max}.$$  

Under the fairness consideration of SINRs, we optimize the data rate of each non-safety V-UE on every RB. Namely, the binary variables $x_{q,f}^Q$, $x_{k,f}^K$, and $x_{m,f}^M$ are 1 simultaneously, which means that the C-UE $m$, safety V-UE $k$, and non-safety V-UE $q$ are assigned to the RB $f$. The sub-optimal problem $P_2$ is formulated as (5).

$$P_2: \max_{p_{q,f}^Q, p_{k,f}^K, p_{m,f}^M} \log \left(1 + \frac{p_{q,f}^Q h_q^Q}{\sigma^2 + p_{k,f}^K g_{k,q}^Q + p_{m,f}^M g_{m,q}^Q} \right)$$

s.t. $0 \leq p_{q,f}^Q \leq P_{max}$, $0 \leq p_{k,f}^K \leq P_{max}$, $0 \leq p_{m,f}^M \leq P_{max}$.

III. PROBLEM DECOMPOSITION AND ALGORITHM DESIGN

In the section, the optimization problem is decomposed into three stages. In Stage 1, we relax the constraints in (3) and consider a sub-optimal problem, in which we obtain the data rate of each non-safety V-UEs on different RBs. In Stage 2, we construct a hypergraph model for the RRM problem, and the hyperedges are weighted by the data rate obtained from Stage 1. We finally solve the RRM problem with the proposed algorithm and obtain the total achievable throughput of all the non-safety V-UEs in Stage 3. The procedure is shown in Fig. 2.
rate of every non-safety V-UE in all possible combination of C-UEs, safety V-UEs, and non-safety V-UEs on RBs.

To make it concise, we define $W_{m,k,q} \in R^{M \times K \times Q}$ as an $M \times K \times Q$ optimal throughput matrix, $W(m, k, q)$ denotes the data rate of non-safety V-UE $q$, which shares the RB with the C-UE $m$ and safety V-UE $k$, for $m \in M, k \in K$ and $q \in Q$.

### B. Hypergraph Model and Conflict Graph

In **Stage 2**, we define $T_{m,k,q} \in R^{M \times K \times Q}$ as an $M \times K \times Q$ allocation matrix for general case. $T_{m,k,q}$ denotes the allocation binary variable for $m \in M, k \in K$ and $q \in Q$, which is described as

$$T_{m,k,q} = \begin{cases} 1, & x_{m,f}^M = x_{k,f}^K = x_{q,f}^Q = 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Note that the constraints in (1) assume that each RB can not be shared with two or more UEs in the same type, thus we can obtain that

$$\sum_{k \in K} \sum_{q \in Q} T_{m,k,q} \leq 1, \forall m \in M, \quad (6a)$$

$$\sum_{m \in M} T_{m,k,q} \leq 1, \forall k \in K, \ q \in Q. \quad (6b)$$

Thus, to maximize the total throughput of non-safety V-UEs, (3) is transformed into the problem to find an allocation matrix $T$ on throughput matrix $W$, which is a three-dimensional weighted matching problem. In the following, the concept of hypergraph will be firstly introduced.

A hypergraph $H$ is a pair $H = (V, E)$, where $V$ is the set of vertices and $E$ is the set of hyperedges [26]. In our discussed scenario, we denote the set of C-UEs, safety V-UEs and non-safety V-UEs as $M, K,$ and $Q$ respectively, where $M, K, Q \subseteq V$. The combination $(m, k, q)$, where $m \in M, k \in K$ and $q \in Q$, stands for a hyperedge $e \in E$ that intersects exactly one vertex from every vertex class. The hyperedge $(m, k, q)$ are weighted by $W(m, k, q)$, which is obtained from **Stage 1**. The hypergraph matching aims at finding a subset $A \subseteq E$ with the largest sum weights of hyperedges in $E$.

In Fig. 3(a), for example, we present all the hyperedges of the original hypergraph, and the Fig. 3(b) shows the feasible hyperedges under the constraints of (5b)-(5f), in which we use four closed curves to present the hyperedges. Given a hyperedge $e_1 \in E$, if there exist other hyperedges that intersect with it at least one vertex, they will be regarded as the neighbours of $e_1$, denoted as $N(e_1)$. In Fig. 4(a), the $N(e_1) = N(1, 1, 2) = \{(3, 3, 2)\}$.

The conflict graph [19] of hypergraph $H$ is the graph where every hyperedge $e$ is denoted by a vertex $u \in U$, and the weight of each vertex corresponds to the weight of the related hyperedge. In Fig. 4(a), we use $u_1$ to denote the hyperedge (1,1,2), which represents the combination of the 1-th C-UE, 1-th safety V-UE and 2-nd non-safety V-UE. If the hyperedges which are denoted as vertices are neighbours in $E$, these corresponding vertices are adjacent. After connecting all the adjacent vertices, we can obtain the conflict graph of the original hypergraph. For convenience, we divide all the vertices $U$ into two parts, $U_A$ and $U_B$. It assumes that the set $U_A$ is the initial independent set, and the set $U_B$ contains all the adjacent vertices of $U_A$.

### C. Algorithm Design Based on $k$-claw

The proposed local search approximate strategy is designed based on the [22], which can obtain a solution with approximation ratio $(k + 1 + \epsilon)/2$ in polynomial time for a $k$-dimensional matching problem. In this section, we will make a detailed introduction for the 3D-matching based V2X resource allocation algorithm used in **Stage 3**.

**Definition.** ($k$-claw $C$) The $k$-claw is an induced subgraph $C$ that consists of an independent set $T_c$ of $k$ nodes, called talons, and a center node that is connected to all the talons. Specially, a graph is $k$-claw free if it possesses no $k$-claws.

Under the assumption that each hyperedge intersects $e_1$ in a distinct element, there can be at most $k$ hyperedges in $N(e_1)$ that are mutually disjoint, which means that there can be at most $k$ adjacent vertices for a fixed vertex in the conflict graph. In Fig. 4(a), $k = 3$, $u_3$ has three adjacent vertices and $u_6$ can find 5 adjacent vertices. However, the $u_3$ can only find 1-claw and 2-claw, in case that $u_2$ and $u_4$ occupy the same elements. For comparison, the $u_4$ can find the 3-claw further. In the Figure. 4(b), we regard the $u_6$ as the center of a claw, and show the 1-claw, 2-claw, and 3-claw in order. It should be noted that we choose the $u_2$ as the 1-claw for instance, and the $u_4$ can also be regarded as the 1-claw at the beginning. Our algorithm structure based on the $k$-claw is designed and described in Algorithm 1.
Algorithm 1: 3D-matching Based V2X Resource Allocation Algorithm

Input: the throughput matrix $W$ on RBs
Output: the total achievable throughput $W(A)$
$X$: the set of vertices.
$X(i)$: the $i$-th vertex in $X$.
$|X|$: the number of vertices in $X$.
$B$: the set of adjacent vertices of $X(i)$.
$N(U,V)$: the adjacent vertices of $U$ in $V$.
$T_{C_k}$: the talons of the $k$-claw $C$.
$W(X)$: the sum of the weight of vertices in $X$.
$W^2(X)$: the sum of the squared weight of vertices in $X$.

begin
  Transform the hypergraph into a conflict graph.
  Step 1: Obtain the initial solution $A$ using the Algorithm 2.
  Step 2: Sort vertices in $A$ in ascending order according to vertex weight.
  Set $i = 1$.
  Step 3: Find $B$, and sort the vertices in descending order according to vertex weight.
  Step 4: Set $k = 1$.
  while $k \leq 3$ do
    Search for $k$-claw in the conflict graph;
    if there exists $k$-claw $C_k$ such that
      $W^2([A - N(T_{C_k}, A)] \cup T_{C_k}) > W^2(A)$ then
        $A \leftarrow (A - N(T_{C_k}, A)) \cup T_{C_k}$;
        go to Step 2.
    else
      $k = k + 1$;
    end
  end
  if $i < |A|$ then
    $i = i + 1$ and go to Step 3.
  end
end

Algorithm 2: Greedy Algorithm

Input: the throughput matrix $W$ on RBs
Output: the selected independent set $A$
$U$: the vertices set.
$N(U,V)$: the adjacent vertices of $U$ in $V$.
$n = \min(M,K,Q)$
$A$,$U_B \subset U$
begin
  $A \leftarrow \phi$
  while $U_B - N(A,U_B) \neq \phi$ do
    choose a vertex $u \in U_B - N(A,U_B)$ with the maximum weight;
    $A \leftarrow A \cup u$;
  end
end

selected set $A$ consist of at most $n$ vertices;

Fig. 5. Achievable throughput vs. controlling multiplier of neighbours.

To evaluate the performance improvement for adding $k$-claw to the algorithm, we search for the 1-claw, 2-claw, and 3-claw in order. It shows that there is no much improvement in performance considering the adding of 3-claw, the comparison result of which is omitted due to the space limitation. Thus, the proposed algorithm terminates with the 2-claw search, and the following analysis of the 3D-matching based V2X resource allocation algorithm are all based on the 2-claw. Particularly, we compare our proposed algorithm with the IHM [11].

Since the set of adjacent vertices in $B$ has been sorted in a descending order, the search range $L'$ of the $B$ will have an impact on the achievable performance and complexity of the algorithm. We define $L'$ as $L' = t \times L$, where $L$ is the total number of adjacent vertices in $B$, and $t$ is the controlling multiplier ranging from 0 to 1. Fig. 5 illustrates that with a larger $t$, the performance of the IHM keeps unchanged, but the throughput of the proposed algorithm increases. It can be seen that when $t$ is greater than 0.04, the performance of our algorithm is better than IHM. Furthermore, the achievable throughput converges into a stable level as $t$ increases.

Specially, the IHM algorithm transforms the three-dimensional matching problem into an iterative two-dimensional matching problem. Given $j$ iterations, the computation complexity of the IHM is $O(j \times S^3)$, and $S = \max(M,K,Q)$ [11]. Note that in the given scenario, the $\max(M,K,Q)$ is 40. Meanwhile, given $n$ iterations, the com-
The resource allocation problem is formulated as a three-partition among safety V-UEs, non-safety V-UEs, and conventional C-UEs. The resource allocation problem is formulated as a three-partition among safety V-UEs, non-safety V-UEs, and conventional C-UEs. In addition, a V2X based distributed storage system enables computing offloading for challenging computation tasks, and the computation for the proposed algorithm can be executed in the data control center with greater computing ability. Therefore, the corresponding computation time is inclined to be modest.

Fig. 6 demonstrates the performance of different algorithms with different number of safety V-UEs and non-safety V-UEs. It can be seen that, due to the interference among the V-UEs, the achievable throughput of non-safety V-UEs descends approximately linearly with the increasing number of safety V-UEs. With a fixed number of safety V-UEs, the increment of non-safety V-UEs leads to a higher achievable throughput. Notice that the performance of our proposed algorithm is better than IHM.

V. CONCLUSION

The paper investigates the resource allocation problem for D2D enabled V2X communications, where RBs are shared among safety V-UEs, non-safety V-UEs, and conventional C-UEs. The resource allocation problem is formulated as a three-dimensional matching problem that is known to be NP-hard. Hence, to solve it, we decompose the original problem into three stages and propose a local search based approximation solution. As illustrated by simulation results and analysis, the proposed algorithm shows improved throughput performance with reduced complexity. In the future, we will continue the design of \( L \) such that the performance is maintained with further reduced computational complexity.

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