

Signal Type Detection in CRN: A Machine Learning Framework using Spectral Correlation Feature

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ABSTRACT

Spectrum sensing is the core component in cognitive radio for ensuring effective dynamic spectrum access. Accurate signal classification in fading channels and low signal to noise ratio environment is a major challenge. Due to lack of information about the modulation scheme used it cannot distinguish whether signal present is that of the primary or any other secondary user communication. In this paper a multiclass modulation classification hierarchical framework is proposed which exploits the cyclostationary features extracted for identifying modulation form without any priori knowledge of signal properties like frequency, phase and symbol rate. The cyclostationary features extracted using spectral correlation analysis at each secondary user are treated as features and fed into the framework. The classification done is based on one-against-all approach to get the modulation scheme of the signal under observation. The performance of proposed framework for each classifiers used is quantified in terms of detection accuracy, average training time and classification delay. It is demonstrated through simulation that an optimal feature set can be obtained to classify a range of modulation schemes with the proposed hierarchical framework. The proposed framework is found to be effective for modulation detection of signals when compared with two existing methods.

Keywords

Modulation recognition, Cyclostationary Features, Multi Class Classification

1. INTRODUCTION

Cognitive Radio has been considered as a solid contender for future wireless communication with its promise to maximize efficient use of the spectrum. A cognitive radio (CR) is defined as a radio that can change its transmission parameters based on the changes in environmental factors [1]. An important process involved with cognitive radio is spectrum sensing which is very important for opportunistic spectrum access [2],[3]. In cognitive radio networks (CRN), in order to avoid interfering with the transmission of the primary users, it becomes crucial to accurately sense the presence for any contemporaneous transmissions of primary users in the spectrum band under observation. Primary user signal error detection can lead to wastage of spectrum opportunities for the secondary users. In a conventional wireless communication scenarios noise, shadowing and multipath fading causes the major degradation of the signal

properties. This results signal detection in low SNR environment very difficult. So, sensing done by CR user cannot be just confined to just screen the power in specific frequency bands of interest but must include detection and identification in order to avoid interference from any user in the network [4][5]. An important aspect of a cognitive radio is spectrum sensing which can be efficient if it can perform the following two main tasks:

- (1) Signal Detection.
- (2) Modulation Classification.

Conventional, spectrum sensing are not able to distinguish between noise and signal (fading channels, low SNR). It is unable to detect whether the signal present is of primary or any other secondary user in the CR network. Practically, all types of communication signals have periodic properties where as noise is random in behavior. Cyclostationary feature based signal detection and classification helps to detect the signal type of a wide range of unknown signals (No prior knowledge of signal characteristics like the carrier frequency, phase or symbol rate) [6]-[8]. With the knowledge different cyclostationary features of different modulation schemes learning techniques can be employed to classify the same. The prior knowledge of these features which is done in case of supervised learning can help to classify the incoming unknown signals belonging to different classes. Support Vector Machine (SVM) is a supervised machine learning algorithm that has been successfully applied to classification problems [9],[10],[11],[12],[13]. It is a statistical pattern recognition approach that is based on the principle of structural risk minimization. Decision tree is a classifier in the form of a tree structure which is represented by decision node that specifies a test on a single attribute, leaf node that indicates the value of the target attribute, Arc/edge that split of one attribute and path a disjunction of test to make the final decision. In context of Cognitive Radio the spectrum sensing is done in a co-operative and independent manner. In cooperative sensing all the CR devices cooperate with each other to take a collective decision which results in to get high sensing reliability [14],[15]. On the other hand, in case of independent sensing each CR device performs the sensing individually and make its own sensing decision to use the unoccupied spectrum portion. Although, Cooperative sensing is believed to achieve better results than the non-cooperation one there are some issues involved with it like the cooperation overhead, decision fusion etc [16],[17],[18]. In context of Cognitive Radio the spectrum sensing is done in a co-operative and independent manner. In cooperative sensing all the CR devices cooperate with each other to

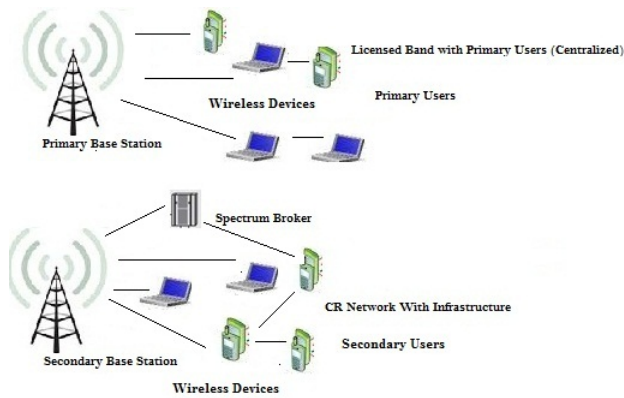


Fig. 1. A Typical Centralized Cognitive Radio Network.

take a collective decision which results in to get high sensing reliability [14],[15]. On the other hand, in case of independent sensing each CR device performs the sensing individually and make its own sensing decision to use the unoccupied spectrum portion. Although, Cooperative sensing is believed to achieve better results than the non-cooperation one there are some issues involved with it like the cooperation overhead,decision fusion etc[16],[17],[18].In case of cognitive radio network for a non-cooperative model with the knowledge of the modulation schemes of the signal detected the secondary users can take correct decision about the signal presence in the channels and later use it for its own communication

2. RELATED WORK

Many contemporary research attempts have been made to exploit the cyclostationary features [14],[15],[16],[17],[18],[19],[20],[21],[22] of signals as a method for classification, which has been found better than the simple energy detection and matched filtering. The non-coherent method like the Energy detection is quite easy to implement and does not require prior knowledge of signal parameters such as carrier frequency or signal bandwidth, but is highly prone to in-band interference and changing noise levels. Moreover, this method cannot distinguish between signal types, but can only determine whether or not one is present. Although, it is able to detect spread spectrum signals, works ineffectively to classify this type of interface. Also, in context of cognitive users the detection of modulation scheme would help to detect the presence of type of signal. Accordingly, it can be concluded whether the communication in the channel is of primary or any other secondary user in a cognitive radio network. Modulation classification by spectral correlation analysis has been an active research area for more than two decades. The cyclostationary features extracted by using spectral correlation method has been found more preferable than the conventional sensing methods like energy detection and match filtering. Energy detection which is a blind sensing method doesnot require any prior knowledge of signal parameters such as carrier frequency or signal bandwidth, but it is highly sensitive to in-band interference and changing noise levels[23]. In [22] a novel approach based on multilayer linear perceptron network (MLPN) is proposed for classification of signals in cognitive radio. Also, in [23] signal classification based on a binary decision tree is put forwarded. However, it increases the computational complexity and it is very difficult to obtain high detection accuracy. Some classifier

framework have also been proposed in literature by keeping in mind only the classification aspect using only energy level detected as the features [24]. In [25] the author proposed the performance of different classifiers using the cyclostationary features. All cyclostationary Features extracted may not be necessary to differentiate the modulation of signals. With a minimal feature subset a range of modulation schemes can be detected easily using supervised learning. Till date in literature there has been no attempt to find the optimal cyclostationary features needed for classifying modulation schemes.

The underline motivation for this work are:

- (1) The modulation classification can be modelled as a multi-class classification problem.
- (2) The approach is effective in fading channels (low SNR environment). It can distinguish between the primary user signal and noise.
- (3) No prior knowledge of Primary user signal is needed. (Like carrier frequency, phase, symbol rate etc)
- (4) Optimal Feature subset from the feature space can determine the modulation of a signal by which the secondary users in a cognitive radio network (CRN) can exploit for better sensing decisions.

The contribution of the work are as follows:-

- (1) Here, a SVM and Decision Tree (binary classifiers) based hierarchical framework for multiclass classification is proposed for detection of weak signals using spectral correlation.
- (2) Cyclostationary features used for modulation classification of the signal can tell about whether the signal present is of primary user or any other secondary user communication. It is robust to uncertainty in noise power and propagation channel.
- (3) The proposed framework gives an optimal cyclostationary feature subset from the given feature space. The optimal feature set is obtained with the help of feature class correlation keeping the most relevant feature needed to classify the range of modulation schemes.
- (4) In case of non-cooperative sensing the communication overhead is less and the modulation detection can help individual nodes in CRN to take a better decision.

In this paper we try to investigate the use of spectral cyclic analysis for classifying a group of modulation schemes in a hierarchical fashion. The proposed framework will attempt to distinguish some signal of practical interest like AM and digital modulated signals like ASK, BPSK and BFSK. The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 the spectrum sensing using cyclostationary approach is discussed. In Section 3 the system model and assumptions are presented. Section 4 describes the simulation and results obtained. Finally, Section 5 gives the conclusion and future work to be done.

3. SPECTRUM SENSING USING CYCLOSTATIONARY APPROACH

Cyclostationary Features are based upon the fact that communication signals are modeled as cyclostationary signals. Cyclostationary signals have statistical proper ties that change periodically with time. In communication signals, these periodicities occur due to the underlying periodicities such as sampling, modulation, coding, multiplexing. The periodicities can be exploited to determine the modulation scheme of unknown signals.

Cyclostationary based detection is very effective even in low SNR, since noise is a pure stationary random process and not cyclostationary.

The statistical property autocorrelation is used to characterize cyclostationary signals. A signal is cyclostationary if its autocorrelation is periodic in time t for each time lag τ . Mathematically, autocorrelation is defined as

$$R_x(t, \tau) = E \left\{ x \left(t + \frac{\tau}{2} \right) x \left(t - \frac{\tau}{2} \right) \right\}$$

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where R_x is called the periodic autocorrelation function for a cyclostationary signal $x(t)$, E is the expectation operator and τ is the time delay.

The Fourier coefficient of the Fourier expansion of the autocorrelation function is called the Cyclic Autocorrelation Function (CAF). The Fourier transform of CAF is called the Spectral Correlation Function (SCF).

Applying Fourier series decomposition on autocorrelation function,

$$R_y(t, \tau) = \sum_{\alpha} R_y^{\alpha}(\tau) e^{-j2\pi\alpha t}$$

where $R_y^{\alpha}(\tau)$ is the CAF and can be defined as,

$$R_y^{\alpha}(\tau) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} R_y(t, \tau) e^{-j2\pi\alpha t} dt$$

Here, T is the total time for which a signal was observed, α is the cyclic frequency and it ranges over all integer multiples of fundamental frequency of the signal and R_y is the periodic autocorrelation function.

Spectral Correlation Function (SCF) is the Fourier transform of cyclic autocorrelation function (CAF) of a signal, and is given by

$$S_y^{\alpha}(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} R_y^{\alpha}(\tau) e^{-j2\pi f \tau} d\tau$$

The SCF at a given cycle frequency represents the density of correlation between two spectral components of the process which are separated by an amount equal to the cyclic frequency α , that is $f + \frac{\alpha}{2}$ and $f - \frac{\alpha}{2}$. The SCF with the spectral components of a signal at these frequencies is given by

$$S_y^{\alpha}(f) = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\Delta t} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-\Delta t/2}^{\Delta t/2} X_T \left(t, f + \frac{\alpha}{2} \right) X_T^* \left(t, f - \frac{\alpha}{2} \right) dt$$

where,

$$X_T(t, f) = \int_{t-\frac{T}{2}}^{t+\frac{T}{2}} x(t) e^{-j2\pi f t} dt$$

The Spectral Correlation Function (SCF) being a function of spectral frequency (f) and cyclic frequency (α), is plotted on a plane known as *bi-frequency plane*. The range of values of f and α for which value of SCF exists is called as 'region of support' on the plane. The values of f and α range from $-f_s/2$ to $f_s/2$ and $-f_s$ to f_s respectively.

The features used for classification are based on Spectral Correlation Function (SCF). Six cyclostationary features is calculated for the proposed classification framework :

F1: Ratio of maximum value and second maximum value of SCC for spectral frequency $f = f_c$ (where f_c is that spectral frequency at which have a peak in f -domain ($\alpha = 0$))

$$\frac{\max(S_x^{\alpha}(f_c))}{\text{second_max}(S_x^{\alpha}(f_c))}$$

F2: Mean of SCF at α -domain ($f = 0$)

$$\text{mean}(S_x^{\alpha}(0))$$

F3: Variance of SCF at α -domain ($f = 0$)

$$\text{variance}(S_x^{\alpha}(0))$$

F4: Variance of SCF at $f = f_c$

$$\text{variance}(S_x^{\alpha}(f_c))$$

F5: Spectral Coherence Coefficient (Normalized SCF)

$$\frac{S_x^{2f_c}(0)}{\sqrt{S_x^0(f_c) S_x^0(-f_c)}}$$

F6: Maximum of pair wise difference between adjacent elements of normalized f -domain

$$\max(\text{diff} \left(\frac{S_x^{\alpha}(f)}{\max(S_x^0(f))} \right))$$

4. SYSTEM MODEL AND ASSUMPTIONS

Consider a non-cooperative spectrum sensing scenario in a PU-SU network which comprises of one or more than one secondary users ($K \geq 1$). Each secondary users (SU) senses the spectral band under observation to look for an opportunity for its own transmission individually. This SU devices are operating in the coverage areas of 'P' PU transmitters.

A modulated signal as received by the secondary user can be modeled as

$$y(t) = x(t) + n(t)$$

$x(t)$ is the transmitted signal, $n(t)$ is additive white Gaussian noise, and

$$x(t) = s(t) e^{2\pi f_c t} e^{j\varphi}$$

where f_c is the carrier frequency, φ is the carrier phase, $s(t)$ is the time varying message signal. For digital signals,

$$x(t) = e^{2\pi f_c t} e^{j\varphi} \sum_{k=-8}^8 s_k P(t - kT_s)$$

where $P(t)$ is the pulse shape, T_s is the symbol period and s_k is the digital symbol transmitted at time t .

Each secondary user collect the raw signal samples and calculates the SCF by using FFT Accumulation method (FAM). The cyclostationary features are determined using SCF features and fed to the hierarchical classifier framework which is in-built with the secondary users.

Given a set of training examples, each marked for belonging to one of two categories, an SVM training algorithm builds a model

that assigns new examples into one category or the other, making it a non-probabilistic binary linear classifier. In the case of support vector machines, a data point is viewed as a p-dimensional vector, and it is checked whether it can separate such points with a p-dimensional hyper plane. This is called a linear classifier.

The line H dividing the two classes is represented as $d \cdot S_i + b = p$, where d and b represent the weighting vector, bias and p represent the constant for dividing the two hyper planes. The SCF_i is the feature vector F_i of the test sample in the i^{th} time slot.

$F_i \in M_j = \{M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n\}$ where M_i represent the modulation class.

The maximum-margin hyper-planes that divide the samples belong to one of the modulation vector class M_i .

There are many hyper planes that might classify the data. One reasonable choice as the best hyper plane is the one that represents the largest separation, or margin, between the two classes. Linear classifiers are not complex enough to represent all features.

So in non-linear SVM all data are mapped into a richer feature space including nonlinear features and then a hyper plane is constructed in that space. The polynomial kernel is a kernel function that represents the similarity of training samples vectors in a feature space over polynomials of the original variables, thereby allowing learning of non-linear models.

On the other hand the principle criteria of decision tree is to select attribute to test at each node and choosing the most useful attribute for classifying examples. Tee information gain which measures how well a given attribute separates the training examples according to their target classification This measure is used to select among the candidate attributes at each step while growing the tree.

For a decision tree given a training set 'S' the probability vector given by ' $P_y(S)$ ' of the target attribute 'y' the entropy is calculated by following :

$$Entropy(y,S) = - \sum (P_y(S) * \log_2 P_y(S))$$

Information gain measures the expected reduction in entropy, or uncertainty. It is simply the expected reduction in entropy caused by partitioning the examples according to this attribute. At each node, the attribute with the largest information gain is chosen

The stopping rule used is for every attribute has already been included along this path through the tree, or the training examples associated with this leaf node all have the same target attribute value (i.e., their entropy is zero).Each non-leaf node is a test, its edge partitioning the attribute into subsets.

Here, Multiclass Binary Classifier Hierarchical Framework is proposed for modulation classification. The CR devices can develop the cognition capability to learn from the unknown environment with the help of supervised learning.

5. SIMULATION AND RESULTS

The simulation signals were generated in MATLAB for 1000, 2000, 5000, 10000 samples for AM, ASK, BFSK, QPSK modulated signals were generated with SNR range values for -15, -10, -5, 5, 10, 15 dB. SVM and Decision Tree is used as the binary Classifiers. The training is done in high SNR values and the classification is performed in low SNR.

Other parameters used are as follows:

Different SCF plots obtained for different modulation are:

Figure 3 To Figure 6 Shows the SCF Plots of different Modulation Schemes.

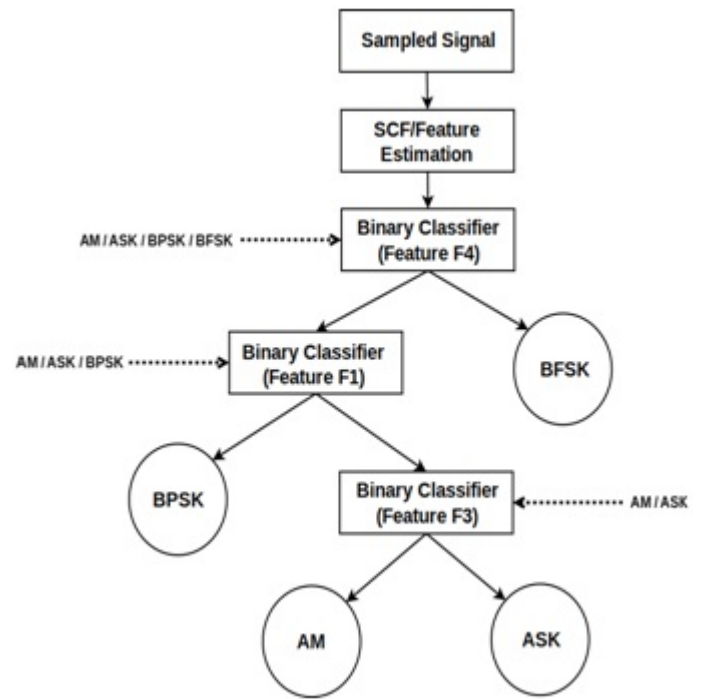


Fig. 2. Proposed Multi Class Binary Classifier Hierarchical Framework

Table 1. Simulation Parameters Used.

Channel Model	AWGN
Sampling Frequency	8192 Hz
Carrier Frequency	2048 Hz
Spectral Frequency Resolution	512 Hz
Cyclic Frequency Resolution	16 Hz

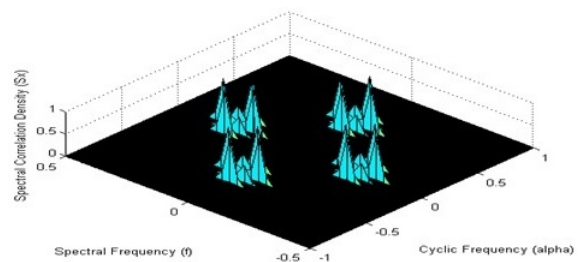


Fig. 3. SCF Plot of AM modulation.

Figure 7 To Figure 12 Shows the range of values of all the cyclostationary features obtained (F1-F6) for all the modulation for different SNR. From the simulation results above, it can be observed that the features extracted from the spectral correlation function have distinct values for different modulation and can be used for modulation classification. From Figure 7. it can be seen that feature F1 which is the ratio of maximum value and the second maximum value of SCC for BPSK modulation is totally distinct than the rest of the schemes.

Again,the feature F4 which clearly distinguishes the BFSK modulation as can seen from the Figure 10. For classifying AM and

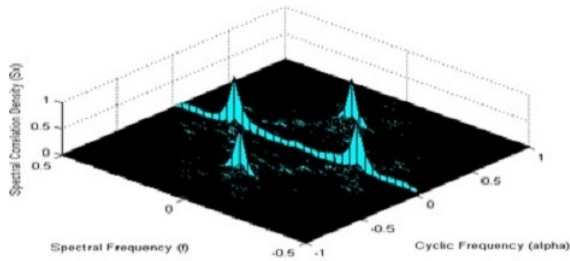


Fig. 4. SCF Plot of ASK modulation.

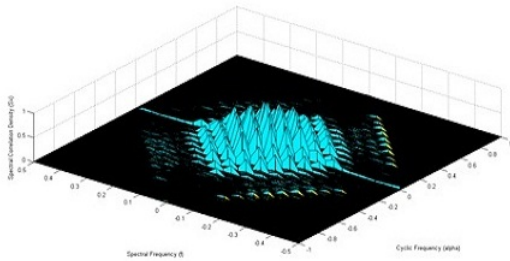


Fig. 5. SCF Plot of BFSK modulation.

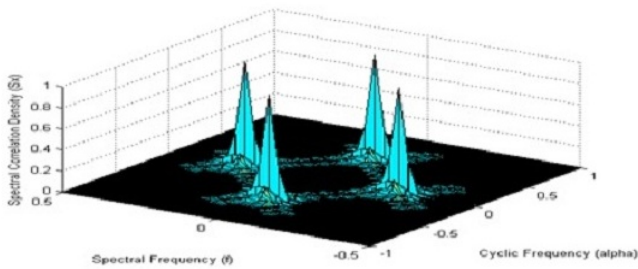


Fig. 6. SCF Plot of BPSK modulation.

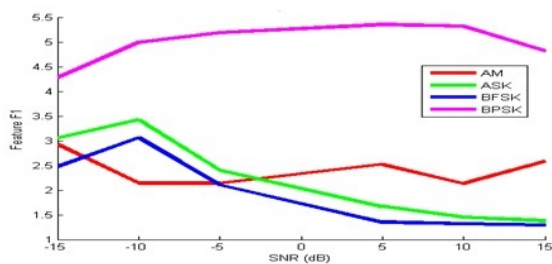


Fig. 7. Variation of Feature F1 values for Different SNR

ASK the feature F3 which is Spectral Coherence Coefficient (Normalized SCF) feature is applied. Different comparisons are made for both SVM and Decision classifiers using the one-against-all approach. Table 2. and Table 3. shows the classification accuracy of both the classifiers used in the hierarchical framework for multi-class classification.

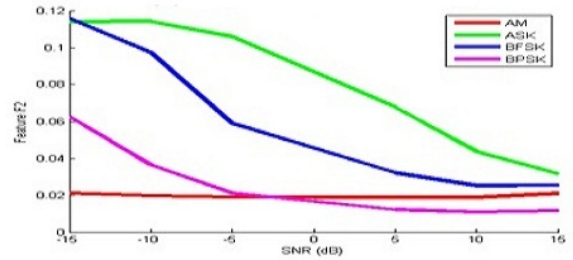


Fig. 8. Variation of Feature F2 values for Different SNR

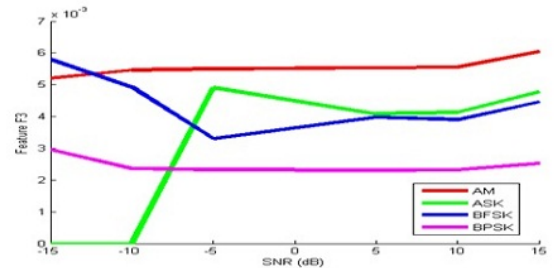


Fig. 9. Variation of Feature F3 values for Different SNR

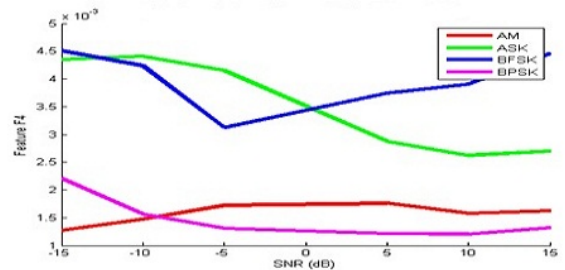


Fig. 10. Variation of Feature F4 values for Different SNR

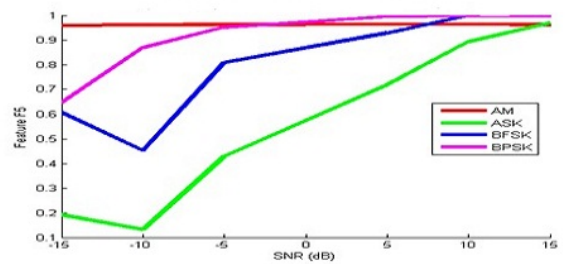


Fig. 11. Variation of Feature F5 values for Different SNR

Figure 13 shows the performance comparison between the existing methods multilayer perceptron network (MLPN) based classifier [17], binary decision tree (BDT) based classifier [18] and the proposed framework in this paper. The plot shown is for only 1000 samples for all the methods varying the SNR level. It is shown that both the multi layer perceptron network classifier performs poorly with low signal to noise (SNR) value. But its probability of correct classification increases with higher SNR. The spectral correlation

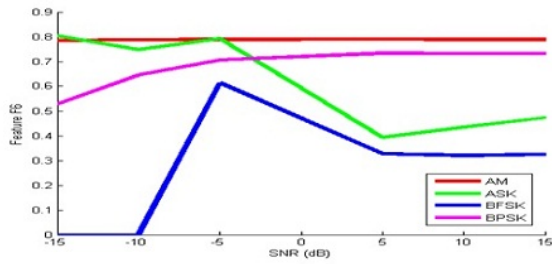


Fig. 12. Variation of Feature F6 values for Different SNR

Table 2. Performance of SVM (Linear, Polynomial, RBF.)

Stage	Group 1	Group 2	SVM	Accuracy
1 (Feature 4)	AM,ASK,BPSK	BFSK	Linear	75
			Polynomial	75
			RBF	75
2 (Feature 1)	AM,ASK	BPSK	Linear	95
			Polynomial	92
			RBF	92
3 (Feature 3)	AM	ASK	Linear	50
			Polynomial	50
			RBF	59

Table 3. Performance of Decision Tree

Stage	Group 1	Group 2	Accuracy
1 (Feature 4)	AM,ASK,BPSK	BFSK	75
2 (Feature 1)	AM,ASK	BPSK	95
3 (Feature 3)	AM	ASK	84

features (SCF) is severely affected due to noise in low SNR which results that the training of the neural network is not complete with small training data. Also, the binary tree based classifier only uses limited information of the spectral correlation features which results in lower probability of correct classification. The proposed framework show high performance based on the spectral correlation features and also an optimal feature set can be obtained for modulation detection of signals.

6. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

In this paper a novel approach combining the spectral correlation features and the application of two binary classifiers for multi-class modulation classification is proposed. A multi class hierarchical binary classifier framework is presented for modulation type detection if signal is present and a optimal feature set is obtained to classify a group of modulation schemes of some real time signals. The optimal feature set could be obtained with the the most relevant feature differentiating the modulation class among the group. Both the binary classifiers SVM and decision tree have good performance in low SNR and detection of the modulation scheme of the signal. Classification Accuracy is high in case of Decision Tree compared to SVM and optimal feature subset from the feature space is obtained for classification. The major advantage of this framework is

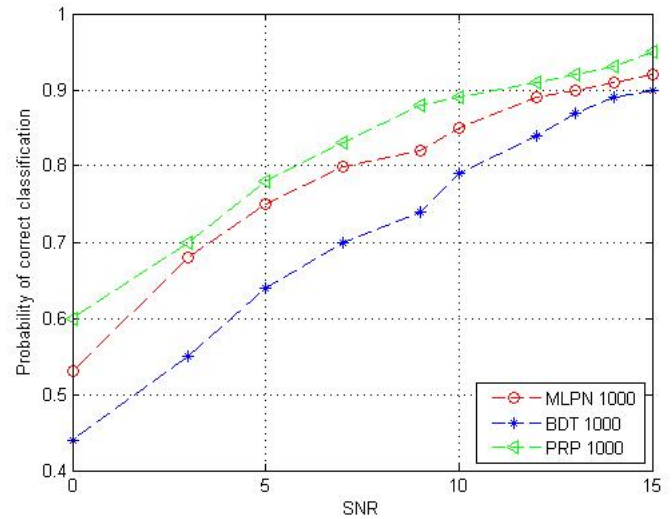


Fig. 13. Comparison between MLPN,BDT and Proposed Framework (PRP)

that it does not require any prior knowledge of signal parameters, channel and noise variance. So, with this kind of framework the relevant feature set can be obtained for classifying a wide range of signals.

Here, the classification is performed in a stationary noise environment such as AWGN (Additive White Gaussian Noise). In future the proposed framework should be tested in other fading channel environment with noise uncertainty and for more modulation schemes. Also, other binary classifiers can be used to improve the accuracy. Here, only three features is obtained to distinguish the four modulation schemes. Including more modulation schemes others features might be useful for classification. An optimal feature set may be obtained to classify different modulation schemes.

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