# DETERMINATION OF AN IMPROVED SPECTRUM SENSING THRESHOLD FOR COGNITIVE RADIO USING SMOOTHED PSEUDO

**WIGNER-VILLE DISTRIBUTION**

# BY

**Wasiu Olayinka AJADI P14EGCP8005**

[**hajardy@gmail.com**](mailto:hajardy@gmail.com)

**Supervisory Committee**

# Dr. S. M. Sani (Chairman)

**Dr. A.M.S. Tekanyi (Member)**

# A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of Master of Science (M.Sc.) Degree in Telecommunications Engineering

**March, 2017**

# DECLARATION

I AJADI Wasiu Olayinka, hereby declare that the work in this dissertation entitled

³Determination of an Improved Spectrum Sensing Threshold for Cognitive Radio Using Smoothed Pseudo Wigner-Ville Distribution´has been carried out by me in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The information derived from literature has been duly acknowledged in the text and a list of references provided. No part of this dissertation was previously presented for another degree or diploma at this or any other institution.

# Ajadi Wasiu Olayinka

Signature Date

# CERTIFICATION

This Dissertation entitled **³DETERMINATION OF AN IMPROVED SPECTRUM SENSING THRESHOLD FOR COGNITIVE RADIO USING SMOOTHED PSEUDO**

**WIGNER-VILLE DISTRIBUTION´** by Wasiu Olayinka AJADI meets the regulations governing the award of degree of Master of Science (MSc) in Telecommunications Engineering of the Ahmadu Bello University, and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

Dr. S. M. Sani

Chairman, Supervisory Committee (Signature) Date

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Dr. A. M. S. Tekanyi |  |  |
| Member, Supervisory Committee | (Signature) | Date |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Dr. Y. Jibril |  |  |
| Head of Department | (Signature) | Date |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Prof. S. Z. Abubakar |  |  |
| Dean. School of Postgraduate Studies | (Signature) | Date |

# DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to Almighty ALLAH, and then my Parents and Siblings.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent and the Most Merciful, all praises and adorations are dueto Him, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Lord of the worlds.Despite the numerous efforts put into this research work, it would not have been possible without the help of Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor and teacher Dr. S.M. Sani, for his tireless efforts, valuable guidance, advice and constant supervision towards the success of this work. The completion of this work could not have been possible without your constant participation and assistance. My thanks also goes to my co-supervisor Dr. A.M.S. Tekanyi for his encouragement, advice and support. Words are not enough to express my gratitude to you both. May Almighty ALLAH never leave you alone to your affairs.

My sincere and unending appreciation also goes to Etisalat Nigeria for the life time opportunity they gave me through their initiative and support for the masters in telecommunication engineering program,Etisalat Telecommunication Engineering Program (ETEP).

I acknowledge with thanks all the lecturers of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Ahmadu Bello University, namely: Prof. B. G. Bajoga,3URI 0 %Pr of. B0. JiXm¶ohD,Dr]. YX. Jibril,Dr.

A. D. Usman, Dr. S. Garba, Dr. T.H Sikiru, Dr. K.A. Abu-Bilal, Engr.F. Sadiku, Engr. M. J.

0X¶D]X (QJU $ ,O la rin$oyEe, GEnXgrO. BOasDhirKSLadi q, En(grQ. SJalUaw ud ee(n A . $

Tijjani, Engr. Olaniyan Abdulrahman and most especially, those whose names could not be mentioned. My deepest appreciation also goes to Engr. Ovieand Oyibo Prosper for all their support.

I am also thankful to my special friends, Magaji Suleiman,Ajayi Ore-Ofe,Braimoh Jinadu, Ocholi H., Ibrahim Abdulwahab,Aboo Aasiyah, Hajia Mairo, Abdulrasheed, Mr. Aliyu Ahmed,

Ibrahim Ladan, Aminu Abba,Atuman G. Joel, Alhassan, and Engr. Suleiman Hussein,Daddy Jessi, Malachi Egbugha. Oga Abubakar, Muktar Abubakar. Their continuous support and contributions toward the success of this work would never be forgotten, may God reward them and strengthen our friendship.

Above all, I am overly indebted to my dear parents Mr & Mrs A. Ajadi, your endless love, prayers, support, kindness and understanding personality will always be appreciated. Thank you very much. My gratitude will be incomplete until I acknowledge the efforts and supports of my

siblings, 8PPX $EGXOVDODDP 8PPX $D¶LVamKayDn, Y oo8suPf aPndX )DUH

their spouses. May Allah continue to strength the bond of blood and Islam between us and admit us all into the highest place in His paradise, Amen.

# Wasiu Olayinka AJADI

March, 2017.

# ABSTRACT

Cognitive radio (CR) has been suggested as the solution to spectrum scarcity due to the fixed allocation employed worldwide by regulatory bodies.A secondary usercan opportunistically access the licensed frequency bands without causing harmful interference to the licensed user. In order to avoid interference to a primary user signal,the CR has to be aware about the spectrum usage inthe geographic area in which it wants to operate. The process of spectrumsensing is a fundamental task for obtaining this awareness and the result of this process determines the successful operation of cognitive radio. Energy detection is one of the methods of spectrum sensing with the lowest computational complexity but with low performance at low signal to noise ratio. Exploring energy detection has led to the application of many techniques one of which is the use of time-frequency analysis. This method employs distribution techniques for analyzing the energy spectral density of an observed signal with a view to setting a sensing threshold. However, the distribution techniques that were used in literature suffered from the problem of cross-terms which affect the analysis of the resulting distribution thereby leading to poor sensing performance at low signal-to-noise ratio. Smoothed pseudo Wigner-Ville distribution (SPWVD) of the time-frequency analysis has been employed in this work to reduce the effect of cross-terms and a better sensing threshold was gotten validated through comparison with the existing work which employed pseudo Wigner-Ville Distribution (PWVD) with an average reduction of 2.7% and 3% for additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) channel, 4.1% and 4.7% for Rician channel, 6.4% and 8% for Rayleigh channel in the probabilities of missed detection and false alarm respectively. These results showed that significant reduction was achieved using SPWVD to set threshold. This work was carried out using the MATLAB R2013b time-frequency tool box.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **TABLE OF CONTENTS** |  | |
| **TITLE PAGE** |  | **i** | |
| **DECLARATION** |  | **II** | |
| **CERTIFICATION** |  | **III** | |
| **DEDICATION** |  | **iv** | |
| **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** |  | **v** | |
| **ABSTRACT** |  | **VII** | |
| **LIST OF FIGURES** |  | **xi** | |
| **LIST OF TABLES** |  | **xii** | |
| **LIST OF ABBREVIATION** |  | **xiii** | |
| **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION** | | | |
| **1.1 Background of Study** |  | | **1** |
| **1.2Problem Statement** | **4** | |  |
| **1.3Aim and Objectives** |  | | **4** |
| **1.4Methodology 5** |  | |  |

# Significance of the Research5

* 1. **Organization of the Dissertation 6**

# CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

* 1. [INTRODUCTION 7](#_TOC_250005)
  2. [Review of Fundamental Concepts 7](#_TOC_250004)
     1. [Cognitive Radio Concepts 7](#_TOC_250003)
     2. Secondary User Spectrum Measurement 9
     3. [Spectrum Sensing 12](#_TOC_250002)
     4. [Spectrum Sensing Techniques 12](#_TOC_250001)
     5. [Time-Frequency Analysis (TFA) for Energy Detection 15](#_TOC_250000)
     6. Cross-Terms (Interference Component) 15

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2.2.7 Kernels for Suppresing Cross-Terms |  | 16 |
| 2.2.8 Analytic Associate |  | 17 |
| 2.2.9 Ambiguity Domain |  | 17 |
| 2.2.10 Time-Frequency Distribution Techniques |  | 17 |
| *2.2.10.1 Wigner-Ville Distribution* | 18 |  |
| *2.2.10.1 Pseudo Wigner-Ville Distribution* | 19 |  |
| *2.2.10.1 Choi Williams Distribution* | 19 |  |
| *2.2.10.1 Cove Shaped Distribution* | 20 |  |
| *2.2.10.1 Smoothed Pseudo Wigner-Ville Distribution* | 21 |  |

* + 1. Wireless Channel Model 21
    2. Comparison Metrics 25

# REVIEW OF SIMILAR WORKS 25

**CHAPTER THREE: MATERIALS AND METHODS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * 1. **Introduction**   2. **System Model 34**   3. **Signal Simulation Process** | **35** | **34** |
| 3.3.1 AWGN Channel |  | 37 |
| 3.3.2 Rayleigh Channel |  | 37 |
| 3.3.3 Rician Channel |  | 37 |
| **3.4 Hilbert Transforming the Simulated Signal** |  | **38** |
| **3.5 Smoothening and Calculating ESD using SPWDV41** |  |  |
| **3.6 Threshold Determination** |  | **43** |
| **3.7 GLRT on the Set Threshold** |  | **43** |
| * 1. **Performance Metrics**      1. Probability of False Alarm | **44** | 44 |

* + 1. Probability of Missed Detection 45
    2. Signal to Noise Ratio 46
    3. Relationship between PFA, PMD and SNR 46

# CHAPTER FOUR: RESULT AND DISCUSSION

# Introduction 48

# Results of Comparisons 48

# CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

# Summary 57

# Conclusion 57

# Significant Contribution 58

# Recommendations 58

# REFERENCES 59

# LIST OF APPENDICES

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **APPENDIX A**  **OFDM SIMULATIONmFILE CODE** |  | **63** |
| **APPENDIX B**  **RAYLEIGH CHANNELmFILE CODE** |  | **67** |
| **APPENDIX C**  **RICIAN CHANNELmFILE CODE** |  | **68** |
| **APPENDIX D**  **OFDM PARAMETERSmFILECODE** |  | **69** |
| **APPENDIX E**  **OFDM BASE CONVERSIONmFILE CODE** |  | **71** |
| **APPENDIX F**  **OFDM MODULATIONmFILE CODE** |  | **72** |
| **APPENDIX G**  **SPWVDmFILE CODE** | **74** |  |

**APPENDIX H**

# PWVDmFILE CODE 76

**APPENDIX I**

# CONDITIONAL PROBABILITYmFILE CODE 78

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 2.1: Cognitive Radio Cycle 8

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Figure 2.2: Interweave Mode of Operation | 9 |  | | | |
| Figure 2.2: Underlay Mode of Operation | 9 |
| Figure 3.1: Spectrum Sensing Scenario |  |  |  |  | 35 |
| Figure 4.1: Plot of PMD against SNR for AWGN Channel | 49 |  |  |  |  |
| Figure 4.2: Plot of PFA against SNR for AWGN Channel |  |  | 50 |  |  |
| Figure 4.3: Plot of PMD against SNR for Rician Channel |  |  |  | 51 |  |
| Figure 4.4: Plot of PFA against SNR for Rician Channel | 52 |  |  |  |  |
| Figure 4.5: Plot of PMD against SNR for Rayleigh Channel |  | 54 |  |  |  |
| Figure 4.6: Plot of PFA against SNR for Rayleigh Channel55 |  |  |  |  |  |

# LIST OF TABLES

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 3.1: | OFDM Simulation Parameters |  | 38 |
| Table 4.1: | Data for SPWVD and PWVD with PMD for AWGN Channel |  | 49 |
| Table 4.2: | Data for SPWVD and PWVD with PFA for AWGN Channel50 |  |  |
| Table 4.3: | Data for SPWVD and PWVD with PMD for Rician Channel 51 |  |  |
| Table 4.4: | Data for SPWVD and PWVD with PFA for Rician Channel 52 |  |  |
| Table 4.5: | Data for SPWVD and PWVD with PMD for Rayleigh Channel 53 |  |  |
| Table 4.6: | Data for SPWVD and PWVD with PFA for Rayleigh Channel | 55 |  |

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Acronyms** | **Definition** |
| CR | Cognitive Radio |
| PU | Primary User |
| SU | Secondary User |
| ED | Energy Detection |
| TFA | Time-Frequency Analysis |
| TFD | Time-Frequency Distribution |
| WVD | Wigner-Ville Distribution |
| PWVD | Pseudo Wigner-Ville Distribution |
| CWD | Choi Williams Distribution |
| CSD | Cone Shaped Distribution |
| SPWVD | Smoothed Pseudo Wigner-Ville Distribution |
| GLRT | Generalized Likelihood Ratio Test |
| AWGN | Additive White Gaussian Noise |
| SNR | Signal to Noise Ratio |
| PMD | Probability of Missed Detection |
| PFA | Probability of False Alarm |

# CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

* 1. **Background of Study**

Electromagnetic spectrum is one of the most important resources required for radio communications. Spectrum utilization is regulated throughout the world so that essential servicescan be provided and also protected from harmful interference. Spectrum governanceacross the world traditionally tended toward static long-term exclusive use of spectrum, assigning license to a specific operator on a certain frequency band, thereby, giving them the exclusive right to operate on the licensed band (Biglieri *et al.*, 2012). This static spectrum allocation strategy has led to many successful applications like broadcasting and mobile communication and it has also led to almostthe entire prime available spectrum being assigned for various applications (Biglieri *et al.*, 2012). It may thus seem that there is little or no spectrum available for emerging wirelessproducts and services.

There had been several studies and reports over the years thatshowed that the static allocated spectrum was in fact vastly underutilized. A report presenting statistics regardingspectrum utilization showed that even during the high demand period of a politicalconvention such as the one held in 2004 in New York City, only about 13% of the spectrum opportunities were utilized (McHenry & McCloskey, 2004). Further, measurement on radio frequency bands from 30 MHz to 910 MHz was done in Mexico City of San Luis Potosi and showed 11.83% (Aguilar-Gonzalez *et al.*, 2013), Kwara State of Nigeria at 48.5 MHz to 880 MHz showed 12.02% usage in the urban areas (Babalola *et al.*, 2015), and also at 2.4GHz to 2.7GHz showed 22.56% usage in the urban areas (Ayeni *et al.*, 2016), thus, all showing that spectrum was in fact underutilized. These findings also suggest that devices using advanced radio and signal processing technologyshould

be able to exploit underutilized spectrum. Much of the early motivationfor cognitive radio technology was indeed to accomplish such opportunistic spectrumuse and to also alleviate the artificial scarcity of prime spectrum. Thistechnology could revolutionize the way spectrum is allocated worldwide(Biglieri *et al.*, 2012).

Cognitive radio (CR) is the key enabling technology forthe implementation of dynamic spectrum access (DSA) which has been suggested as one of the most potent remedial measures for the fixed spectrum allocation which has led to spectrum scarcity (Weiss *et al.*, 2012). A CR is an evolved softwaredefined radio (SDR) that has the ability to analyze its surrounding radioenvironment and decide how best to re-configure itself to suit operations without causing harmful interference to the licensed user (Javed & Mahmood, 2010). The CR has the ability to identify any opportunities that exist inthe spectrum band of interest and utilize them without causingany interference to the primary users (PUs). These opportunities exist in theform of spectrum holes or white spaces. A spectrum hole is the part of thespectrum that is devoid of the primary licensed user.

The major functions of CR are: spectrum sensing which is the process of identifying thepresence of licensed users and unused frequency bands,that is, white spaces in those licensed bands;spectrum management which is identifying how long the secondary users can use those white spaces; spectrum sharing which is the decisions process of how to share the white spaces(spectrum hole) fairly among the secondary users; and spectrum mobility which is maintainingseamless communication during thetransition from one spectrum band to another when a primary user is sensed on the current band of transmission (Mounika *et al.*, 2013).

In order to avoid interference to a primary user signal,the CR terminal has to be aware about the spectrum usage inthe geographic area in which it wants to operate. Spectrumsensing is a

fundamental task for obtaining this awareness(Angrisani *et al.*, 2014). The challenging task is carrying out reliable spectrum sensing at low signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) as the successful operation of CR depends on the result of spectrum sensing. This means that a secondary user needs to reliably detect a primary user that is transmitting at very low power or that is locatedfar from the detection point. The selection of themost appropriate spectrum sensing technique should take intoaccount the trade-off between the performance and the computationalburden(Angrisani *et al.*, 2014).

Spectrum sensing can be done for detecting spectrum holes opportunity in which the cognitive radio can only transmit when the primary user is not transmitting or interference temperature detection in which case the cognitive radio is allowed to coexist with the primary user but transmitting at very low power in order not to cause interference to the primary user (Mounika *et al.*, 2013).

Various spectrum sensing techniques have been researched for detecting spectrum holes opportunity among which are: energy detection, cyclostationary feature detection and matched filtering (Vaidehi *et al.*, 2015). All these techniques perform well at high signal to noise ratio. Energy detection has the lowest computational burden but also has low detection performance compared to others, especially at very low signal to noise ratios (Arthy & Periyasamy, 2015). Its low computational complexity is what attracts attention from researchers and that it does not require information of the primary user transmission which is a limitation in other detection techniques.

Earlier works on energy detection presented different ways of achieving a good spectrum sensing performance under varying signal to noise ratios and users, one of which is the method of time- frequency analysis using Wigner-Ville distribution. This work will focus on improving the

sensing threshold of energy detection using a different distribution technique of time-frequency analysis. This technique will improve on the weakness of the earlier distributions techniques that have been employed.

# Problem Statement

The successful operation of cognitive radios depends largely on the results of spectrum sensing. Energy detection being the simplest to implement in terms of computational complexity has attracted a great deal of attention from researchers in order to improve on it, as its performance is weak when the SNR is low. Researches had proposed ways of performing energy detection and the use of time-frequency analysis show a great potential. However, the distribution techniques used so far suffers from cross-terms which affects the readability of the resulting distribution, leading to no improvement on the sensing threshold. Therefore, there is the need to employ a different distribution technique that can improve on the weakness of the techniques present in literature so as to improve on the sensing threshold, especially at low signal to noise ratio.

# Aim and Objectives

The aim of this work is to determine an improved spectrum sensing threshold for energy detection through the use of time-frequency analysis by employing smoothed pseudo Wigner- Ville distribution to analyze the energy spectral content of the primary user signal. The research work had the following objectives:

* + 1. To simulate signals of an orthogonal frequency division multiple access (OFDMA) user with varying signal-to-noise ratios.
    2. To apply the smoothed pseudo Wigner-Ville distribution technique on the generated signals to determine the energy spectral content and determining a better sensing threshold.
    3. To compare the result obtained with the work of Monfared et al., (2013) in order to establish the validity and improvement made of the technique used in this work.

# Methodology

The following steps will be taken to achieve the set objectives:

* + 1. Simulation of an OFDMA signal in MATLAB R2013b environment to get a primary user signal.
    2. Performing the Hilbert transform of the simulated signal to get the analytic associate of the signal.
    3. Calculating the energy density of the signal in terms of the time and frequency using the smoothed pseudo Wigner-Ville distribution technique in the MATLAB R2013b time frequency toolbox.
    4. Steps 1, 2 and 3were repeated for a hundred simulations and the mean energy densitywas taken in order to set a threshold.
    5. Taking generalized likelihood ratio test to detect the presence or absence of a primary user based on the set threshold.
    6. Comparing the performance of this method with the work of Monfared et al., (2013) to establish the validity as well as show improvement achieved.

# Significance of the Research

The Wireless Regional Area Network (WRAN) under the IEEE 802.22 working group specify that for successful cognitive radio operation that opportunistically access a licensed spectrum as

the secondary user must be able to detect the presence of spectrum holes (absence of the primary user) with high level of precision that ensures minimum interference on the primary user. Earlier works on the use of time-frequency analysis for energy detection of the primary user transmitter has demonstrated a great potential of meeting the requirement of the standardization body hence, this research work was embarked on to further improve the performance of the technique by adopting smoothed pseudo Wigner-Ville distribution in order to better the limitation of the earlier research works.

# Organization of the Dissertation

The organization of this dissertation report is as follows: Chapter one presents the general background of the study. Chapter two discussed the review of fundamental concepts pertinent to the research work and detailed review of similar works was presented. In chapter three, the methods and materials adopted in this research are presented and explained in details. Chapter four presents the results and discussions and lastly in chapter five, conclusions and recommendations were discussed. Finally, all the references quoted in this dissertation report and appendices were provided.

# CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW

# Introduction

In this section, the literature review comprising the review of fundamental concepts and the review of similar works are presented. The theoretical framework guiding researches in this area in addition to contributions by other researchers are discussed in the following sections.

# Review of Fundamental Concepts

The cognitive radio concepts and spectrum sensing techniques are discussed with the fundamentals which are background to this research work. The approach and technique that contributed to the achievement of our aim of this work were identified through this discussion.

# Cognitive Radio Concepts

Cognitive Radio (CR) isasoftware defined radio that has the ability to sense its operationalenvironment and can dynamically and autonomously adjust its radio operatingparameters to modify its operation, by maximizing throughput and mitigatinginterference, as well as facilitating interoperability and access spectrum holes as a secondary user (Kolodzy & Avoidance, 2002). The cognitive-radio device functions in the following closed cycle stages of Observe-Decide- Act-Learn cognitive cycle as in Figure 2.1. These are based on the following(Christodoulou & Jayaweera, 2011):

* + - 1. Observing the primary user transmission activity in the channel,
      2. Deciding which part of the spectrum is free for transmission,
      3. Acting appropriately to achieve the required mode of transmission, and
      4. Learning from previous primary user activity in the channel.

This cycle allows the cognitive-radio device to decide and reconfigure its transmission parameters (Christodoulou & Jayaweera, 2011).

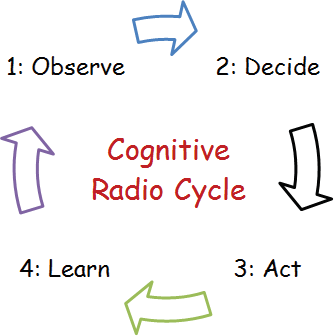


Figure 2.1: Cognitive Radio Cycle (Christodoulou & Jayaweera, 2011).

A cognitive-radio device operates in either the ̌interweave´or the ̌underlay̍ mode for

better spectrum efficiency(Tawk *et al.*, 2014). In both types of operation, the unoccupied partsof the spectrumarereferred to as white spaces or spectrum holes.

Interweave mode of operation, as in Figure 2.2, requires that the cognitive radio search for white spaces and decide which white space to allocate for secondary users under specific rules. The secondary users can transmit in this case without any power constraint. The underlay mode, as in Figure 2.3, also requires searching for white spaces even though, the secondary user can co-exist with the primary user by transmitting below the allowed interference level of primary users. For

this case, there is a constraint on the transmit power of the secondary users, since both primary and secondary users can occupy the same frequency bands at a time (Tawk *et al.*, 2014).

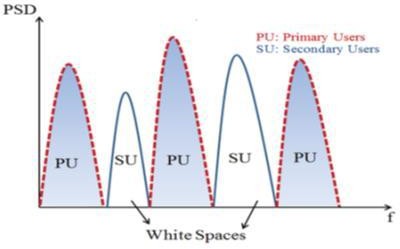


Figure 2.2: Interweave Mode of Operation (Tawk *et al.*, 2014).

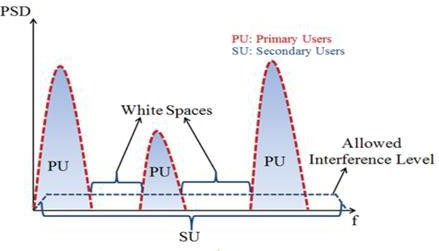


Figure 2.3: Underlay Mode of Operation (Tawk *et al.*, 2014).

# Secondary User Spectrum Measurements

The secondary user is responsible for ensuring that it creates no undue interference to primary users of the relevant spectrum. According to the IEEE 802.22 WRAN working group, the secondary user network is made up of the base station, BS, and a number of user equipment known as customer premises equipment, CPE (IEEE 802.22.2-2012, 2012).

In order to effectively use the spectrum holes opportunity, spectrum sensing is distributed across the network of users. Accordingly, the 802.22 spectrum sensing is undertaken within the Customer Premises Equipment, CPEs. The CPEs scan the various channels that are open for their use and send back information about signals and strengths on the channels to the base station equipment. It is BS which makes the decision about which channels are occupied and whether they can be used for the secondary user transmissions (IEEE 802.22.a-2014, 2014). The BS uses the spectrum sensing results as well as geo-location information and other information provided by an entity known as the network manager to make the decision of whether transmission can start or not. The base station instructs the CPEs to perform periodic measurements in one of two formats (IEEE 802.22.a-2014, 2014);

* + - 1. **In band spectrum sensing:** The in-band spectrum sensing applies to the channels that are being currently used by the BS to communicate with the CPEs. This type of sensing requires that the BS quieten the transmissions on the channel (seizes transmission for a certain period in order to carry out the spectrum measurement). When assessing the presence of primary user signals on the channel, the CPE is required to look for very low level, the levels required and the accuracy being controlled by the BS (Ian, 2016). In order to gain the best overall measurement, the BS may instruct different CPEs to make different measurements (this is a case of cooperative spectrum sensing scenario which still depends on spectrum sensing information from each secondary user in the network).

7KH FKRLFH RI KRZ WKLV LVlc ulaGteRd bQy Hthe aLlgoVrit hmPs Dit GH E\

contains. By instructing different CPEs to make different measurements and over different lengths of time, the BS make up an occupancy map for the overall cell (Ian, 2016).

* + - 1. **Out of band spectrum sensing:** The out of band spectrum sensing refers to measurements over the channels that are not currently being used by the BS to communicate with the CPEs. These measurements are taken in order to locate possible alternative channels, when the primary is perceived to have resume transmission on the present channel (Ian, 2016). It also ensures that there is a sufficient guard band between the channels in use by the BS and any primary user that may be using adjacent channels.

The in-band spectrum sensing is carried out on a regular basis. The quiet periods for sensing are built into the transmission frame timings. There are two types of sensing that are defined:

1. **Fast sensing:** This form of spectrum sensing is taken quickly. This sensing typically uses a simple energy detection algorithm and is completed within very small amount of time (1ms is required according to the standardization body). The results of the fast sensing are returned to the BS which then analyses them and determines whether a fine sensing measurement is required (Ian, 2016). This type of spectrum sensing is what this research work set to accomplish.
2. **Fine sensing:** The fine sensing is undertaken when there is the need for a more accurate measurement. During the fast sensing a more detailed examination is made of the particular channels. This form of spectrum sensing takes longer time than the fast sensing, typically around 25ms is required according to the standardization body. The fine sensing also checks for possible adjacent 802.22 networks that may cause

interference to one another, and the adjacent networks may sense each other (Ian, 2016). To overcome the possibility of confusion caused by adjacent networks detecting each other algorithms are built into the system to synchronize overlapping cells. This also includes the synchronization of the quiet periods when the spectrum sensing occurs.

# Spectrum Sensing

7KH SURFHVV RI REVHUYLQJ SULPDU\ XVHUV¶ DFWL

holes is known as spectrum sensing (Tawk *et al.*, 2014). White space is the part of a spectrum devoid of primary user activity, dependent on time, space and frequency. There are various ways to sense a spectrum for white space and these techniques can be categorized based on whether the technique requires information of the primary user such as pulse shape, data rate, bandwidth, carrier frequency, modulation technique, and so on.

# Spectrum Sensing Techniques

The major spectrum sensing techniques are as follows:

* + - 1. **Energy Detection:** This is the most widely researched, owing to its simplicity and non- requirement of primary user transmission information. It estimates the presence of primary user by comparing the energy received with a set threshold derived from the statistics of the noise (Subhedar & Birajdar, 2011). The threshold value can befixed or variable based on the channel conditions.Signal detection can be reduced to a simple identification problem, formalized as a hypothesis test:

 «««« 0 + (2.1)



  «««« 1 + (2.2)



where:

LV WKH VDPSOH WR EH DQDO\]HG DW HDFK

 LV WKH QRLV2. H RI YDULDQFH ı

is the actual signal transmitted

**H0** denotes the absence of primary user transmission

**H1** denotes the presence of the primary user transmission.

Assuming LV D VHTXHQFH RI UHFHLYHG VDPSOHV Q

then a decision rule can be stated as,

H0 « LI (2.3)

H1 « LI (2.4)

where:

=  2 the estimated energy of the received signal



is the set threshold, chosen depending on the noise variance 2.

The energy detector is easy to implement and requires no prior information about the primary user (PU) signal. However, the uncertainty of noise power imposes fundamental limitations on the performance of the energy detector (Jouini, 2011) and (Tandra & Sahai, 2008a). Below an SNR threshold, a reliable detection cannot be achieved by increasing the sensing duration. This SNR threshold for the detector is called SNR wall (Tandra & Sahai, 2008b).

* + - 1. **Cyclostationary Feature Detection:** Cyclostationarity-based detectionanalyzes the cyclic autocorrelation functionof the received signal, which is periodic for data signals, but aperiodic for noise and generally, for wide-sense stationary signals (Gardner, 1991). The periodicity inherent in the primary signals are related to carrier frequency, symbol, hop rate, etc., and they can often be assumed as known. However, synchronization errors

may affect the detection procedure and also it is computationally complex (Biglieri *et al.*, 2012).

* + - 1. **Matched Filtering:** Matched filter operation is equivalent to correlation in which the unknown signal is convolved with the filter whose impulse response is the mirror and time shifted version of a reference signal. The operation of matched filter detection is expressed as:

 (2.5)



where is the unknown signal and is convolved with the , the impulse response of matched filter, that is matched to the reference signal for maximizing the SNR (Subhedar & Birajdar, 2011).

It requires perfect knowledge of the primary signal such as bandwidth, modulation type, etc. The sensing receiver should also be able to synchronize to the received PU signal, which is an unreasonable assumption in typical spectrum sensing scenarios. The sensing receiver should also implement most of the specific waveform processing functions of the corresponding PU receiver, which would lead to high complexity. For these reasons, matched filter based detection is not considered as a relevant choice in cognitive radios (Dikmese, 2015).

There are other spectrum sensing techniques such as radio mode identification, waveform based and others but they also require prior knowledge of the primary user signals which makes them computationally complex even though they might achieve better sensing

accuracy than the energy detection scheme. The energy deWHFWLRQ¶V VL- PSOLFL

requirement of primary user information makes it the most widely researched. Time-

frequency analysis distribution techniques have been researched in order to improve on its detection accuracy.

# Time-Frequency Analysis (TFA) for Energy Detection

Time-frequency analysis is used to analyze and process time varying signal in order to spread the energy of the signal component in the time and frequency domains simultaneously. The result of the processing may then exploit the features of the signal in the two planes rather than one (Boashash, 2015).

There are two classical ways of representing a signal: the time-domain representation and the frequency-domain representation . In both forms, the variables t and fare treated as mutually exclusive. To obtain a representation in terms of one variable,the other variable is "integrated out". Consequently, each classical representationof the signal is non-localized with respect to the other excluded variable, that is, the frequencyrepresentation is averaged over the values of the time representation at all times and the time representation is averaged over the values of thefrequency representation at all frequencies(Boashash, 2015).



There are several time-frequency distribution techniques that can be explored for the purpose of analysis. One of the pioneer techniques is the Wigner-Ville distribution but it suffers from cross- term effects which has impact on the resolution of the resulting analyzed signal (Boashash, 2015). Other distribution techniques have been developed with different signal kernels and that offer different compromise between suppression of cross-terms and blurring in the resolution of the resulting signal distribution.

# Cross-Terms (InterferenceComponents)

Cross-terms are artifacts that appear in the Wigner-Ville distribution (WVD) representation between auto-terms, which correspond to physically existing signal components. These cross- terms falsely indicate the existence of signal components between auto-terms. Localizing signals in time and frequency domains simultaneously requires that the distribution techniques should be a bilinear function. This bilinear function follows a quadratic superposition principles (Boashash, 2015) defined as:

(2.6)



But,

(2.7)



is the cross-term present in the resulting cross product of signal x and y.



where:

denote the Wigner-9LOOH GLVWUL¶EXWLRQ RI VLJQDO µ



µ¶ LV WKH WLPH µ' is a delay in time or time shift

µ¶ LV D GHOD\ LQ IUHTXHQF\ RU 'RSSOHU VKLI

These cross-terms overlap with the auto-terms (signal terms), thereby affecting the readability of the resulting distribution.

# Kernels for Suppressing Cross-Terms

Cross-terms can make the WVD difficult to interpret, especially if the componentsare numerous or close to each other, and more so in the presence of noise.Cross-termsbetween signal components and noise exaggerate the effects of noise andcause rapid degradation of performance as the SNR decreases. The desire to suppress them has led to the development of smoothing functions or kernel which minimizes the effect of cross-terms along the time and frequency domains. The kernel can be coupled where the smoothing is done along frequency domain or separable where the smoothing is done along both time and frequency domains independent of each other.

# Analytic Associate

A real signal usually exhibit Hermitian symmetry between positive and negative frequencies which allow the deduction of the negative from the positive frequency. The negative frequency can then be removed from the positive without losing information and this has the advantage of halving the required bandwidth and avoids the interference generated between the positive and negative frequencies (Boashash, 2015). This can be achieved by performing the Hilbert transform on the real signal and the resulting signal is what is known as the analytic associate or signal. All time-frequency distribution techniques are applied on the analytic associate of the real signal.

# Ambiguity Domain

This is the frequency lag or Doppler lag domain where time-shift and frequency shift in the signal are almost equivalent. It is at this point where most of the other distribution techniques tried to reduce the effect of cross-terms. Most of them tend to smoothen the cross-term problem along the frequency domain except for the smoothed pseudo Wigner-Ville distribution owing to its design of separable kernel functions along the time and frequency domains distinctively.

# Time-Frequency Distribution Techniques

The following are some of the time-frequency distribution techniques

* + - 1. Wigner-Ville Distribution
      2. Pseudo Wigner-Ville Distribution
      3. Choi Williams Distribution
      4. Cone Shaped Distribution
      5. Smoothed Pseudo Wigner-Ville Distribution
      6. *Wigner-Ville distribution:*

The Wigner-Ville distribution (WVD) is a good choice when extracting features from a signal that contains only a single component. The disadvantage of the WVD is cross-term interference. Cross-terms are artifacts that appear in the WVD representation between auto-terms, which correspond to physically existing signal components. These cross-terms falsely indicate the existence of signal components between auto-terms(Boashash, 2015).The WVD on the whole gives better temporal and frequency resolution at the expense of many artifacts and the introduction of negative values, which would correspond to negative energy, that is not physically possible to represents a significant defect in this method(Boashash, 2015). These are known issues with the WVD, and there are ways to compensate them, which has led researches into developing reduced interference distribution techniques. They all derive from the WVD but with different smoothing functions known as kernel. WVD technique is given by (Boashash, 2015) as follows;

(2.8)



where:

µ¶ WLKVH WLPH RI RF¶F XUUHQFH RI VLJQDO µ

µ' is a delay in time or time shift

µ¶ LV WKH IUHTXHQF\

* + - 1. *Pseudo Wigner-Ville distribution:*

The pseudo Wigner-Ville distribution (PWVD) is essentially the same as the original WVD. The PWVD adds a window kernel function to smoothen out the cross terms generated in the original WVD, but the effect of cross terms is only slightly reduced. The distribution is given as (Boashash, 2015):

(2.9)



where:

µ¶ LV WKH WLPH RI¶ RFFXUUHQFH RI VLJQDO µ

µ' is a delay in time or time shift

µ¶ LV WKH IUHTXHQF\

is the smoothing function along the frequency domain

* + - 1. *Choi-Williams distribution:*

The Choi-Williams distribution (CWD) uses an exponential kernel function**.** The exponential kernel function has the same dimensions as the ambiguity function. The CWD reduces the cross- terms generated by two auto-terms with different time centers and frequency centers(Boashash,

2015). The CWD possesses useful properties of the WVD, such as accurate marginal time integration, marginal frequency integration, mean instantaneous frequency, and group delay.The CWD has a coarser time-frequency resolution than the WVD, because the CWD blurs the auto- terms when the CWD reduces the cross-terms(National Instruments, 2016). The CWD does not suppress the cross-terms that have two auto-terms with the same time center or frequency center generated. The exponential kernel function includes an alpha parameter to balance the cross-term suppression and the blurriness of auto-terms. The larger the value of the alpha parameter, the better the cross-term suppression and the more blurry auto-terms become(National Instruments, 2016). The technique is given as (National Instruments, 2016):

    (2.10)



where:

µ¶ LV WKH WLPH RI¶ RFFXUUHQFH RI VLJQDO µ

µ' is a delay in time or time shift

µ¶ LV WKH IUHTXHQF\

µ¶ aLsmVoothing parameter in the frequency domain, and the first integral terms are the smoothing function.

* + - 1. *Cone-shaped distribution:*

The cone-shaped distribution (CSD) kernel function suppresses the cross-terms away from the frequency axis and the origin of the ambiguity function plane. The CSD suppresses the cross- terms that have two auto-terms with different time centers and frequency centers generate(Boashash, 2015). Additionally, the CSD suppresses the cross-terms that the two auto- terms with the same frequency center generate. The CSD cannot reduce cross-terms that the two

auto-terms with the same time center generated(National Instruments, 2016). The technique is given in the below equation (National Instruments, 2016):

(2.11)



where:

µ¶ LV WKH WLPH RI¶ RFFXUUHQFH RI VLJQDO µ

µ' is a delay in time or time shift µ¶ thLe fVre quency

µ' is the smoothing parameter in the time domain

* + - 1. *Smoothed pseudo Wigner-Ville distribution*

This distribution is as given in the equation below (Auger *et al.*, 2005):

 (2.12)



where:

µ¶ LV WKH WLPH RI¶ RFFXUUHQFH RI VLJQDO µ

µ' is a delay in time or time shift

µ¶ LV WKH IUHTXHQF\ VKLIW RU 'RSSOHU VKLIW

and are the separate smoothing functions along the time and frequency



domains respectively.

The separable smoothing functions give a degree of freedom to the designer in order to have a compromise between joint time-frequency resolution and cross-terms suppression depending on the area of application.

# Wireless Channel Models

The path between transmitting and receiving antenna is generally termed as wireless channels and these channels impact on the characteristics of the transmitted signal as it travels depending on the condition of the terrain. The signal characteristics are due to several phenomena(Viswanathan, 2013): (i) existence of line of sight path between the antennas, (ii) reflection, refraction and diffraction of the signal due to theobjects in between the antennas, (iii) The relative motion between the transmitter and receiver and theobjects in between them, (iv) The signal attenuation as it travels through the medium, (v) Noise in the channel. Thereceived signal can be obtained from the transmitter signal if the channel inbetween the antennascan be accurately modeled. It is quite difficult to model the real world environment. Scientists andengineers have studied various environments and provided ways to model the various mediumthat approximate the real world environments. Three wireless channels were considered in this work namely: Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN), Rician and Rayleigh Channels.

* + - 1. **Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN) Channel:** Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN) is the statistically random radio noise characterized by a wide frequency range with regards to signal in communications channel. It is the accepted model for thermal noise in communication channels, with the assumptions that(Viswanathan, 2013): (i) the noise is additive, that is, the received signal equals the transmit signal plus some noise, where the noise is statistically independent of the signal, (ii) the noise is white, that is, the power spectral density is flat, so the autocorrelation of the noise in time domain is zero for any non-zero time offset, (iii) the noise samples have a Gaussian distribution.
      2. **Multipath Channel:** A multipath fading channel can be modeled as an FIR (Finite Impulse Response)-filter with the following impulse response (Viswanathan, 2013):



(2.14)



Where is the time varying impulse response of the multipath fading channel having N multi-paths and and denote the time varying complex gain and excess delay of the i-th path.



Multipath fading channel can be modeled such that the impulse response may follow distributions like Rayleigh distribution (no Line of Sight (LOS) ray between transmitter and receiver) or as Rician distribution (a dominant LOS path exist between transmitter and receiver), Nagami distribution, Weibull distribution etc. (Viswanathan, 2013). Rayleigh and Rician multipath channels were used in this work.

* + - 1. **Rayleigh Channel:** Rayleigh multipath fading channel can be modeled by considering a flat fading channel with complex impulse response

 (2.15)



Where and are zero mean Gaussian distributed, then the fading envelope is Rayleigh distribute and is given by(Kumar *et al.*, 2013):



 (2.16)



The amplitude response of the Rayleigh fading multipath has Probability Density Function (PDF) given by(Awon *et al.*, 2012):

, where  (2.17)



The random process of flat Rayleigh fading with N multipath can be simulated with the sum-of sinusoid method described as in equation (2.14).

* + - 1. **Rician Channel:** Modelling Rician fading is similar to that of Rayleigh fading, except that in Rician fading a strong dominant component, LOS path exists between the transmitter and receiver. This can be modeled by using Gaussian random variables, one with zero mean and the other with non-zero mean. Consider two Gaussian random variables X~N(m1, 2) and Y~ N(m2, 2), m1 and m2 are the means of the distributions and 2 is the variance (Viswanathan, 2013).

The impulse response can be modelled as a complex Gaussian random variable as(Kumar

*et al.*, 2013):

(2.18)



Now the envelope of the complex random variable is given as(Kumar *et al.*, 2013):

(2.19)



And the phase is given by(Kumar *et al.*, 2013):

(2.20)



Since, the two variables X and Y have different ̌means̍, a non-centrality parameter (indicating the non-central mean) is defined as(Kumar *et al.*, 2013):

(2.21)



The non-centrality parameter (the imbalance in the means) is caused by the presence of dominant path in a Rician Fading environment. Due to this, the Rician K factor representing the ratio of power of Line-Of-Sight (LOS) and the power of Non-Line-Of- Sight (NLOS) is defined as(Viswanathan, 2013):

(2.22)



This can be represented statistically as the power in the faded envelope that has been produced by the means of X and Y as(Viswanathan, 2013):

(2.23)



The PDF of the envelope with Rician distribution is given as(Awon *et al.*, 2012):

(2.24)



Then, the random process of Rician fading with N multipath can also be simulated with the sum-of-sinusoid method described as in equation (2.14).

# Performance Metrics

The following are some of the performance metrics of interest:

* + - 1. **Probability of False Alarm (PFA):**The probability of false alarm is a measure of how many times the CR has identified the presence of a primary user in a channel whereas it does not exist. This is important from a secondary user perspective as it leads to losing transmission opportunity.
      2. **Probability of Missed Detection (PMD):**The probability of missed detection is a measure of how many times the secondary user failed to detect the primary user. This is important from a secondary user perspective as it indicates how many times the CR fails to identify the presence of a primary user, while actually it does exist which will cause interference on the primary user¶V WUDQVPLVVLRQ
      3. **Signal to Noise Ratio:**SNR is important from a comparison point of view and explains the behavior of the spectrum sensing tool under varying noise conditions at specific receiver sensitivity. Most often this is measured at the output of the receiver.

# Review of Similar Works

There have been several related research works and the following is a review of some of the more pertinent ones:

**Javed and Mahmood (2010)** introduced the concept of time-frequency analysis into energy detection based spectrum sensing technique. This technique was used to localize a transmission signal in both time and frequency domains in cognitive radio simultaneously, in order to achieve a better estimation of the energy spectral density of the signal, thereby enabling the determination of a better sensing threshold. The researchers used Wigner-Ville distribution for localizing digital TV band frequency in time and frequency domains simultaneously. They were able to set a better sensing threshold. The major limitation encountered was that the Wigner- Ville distribution had weak performance when the spectrum been sensed was multicomponent. It suffered from cross terms or cross component that caused smearing of the signal in frequency domain based analysis and thereby causing a problem in the readability of the resulting distribution.These cross terms existed between the signal and the noise resulting in increased amplitude of the noise floor in the timefrequency distribution at instances where actual amplitudes were less. In order to minimize the effect of cross component the researcher chose a delay factor such that the signal of analysis appear mono component, this delay factor acted as smoothing function along the time domain which again led to poor frequency resolution.

**Dikmese *et al.,* (2011)** investigated spectrum sensing for a CRoperating in the unlicensed ISM band at 2.4GHz, a scenario where only Cyclic Prefix Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (CP-OFDM) based 802.11g WLANsare present was considered. The performance of Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) and Analysis Filter Bank (AFB) in analyzing the radio scene consisting of WLANsignals were considered. One important problem was that users operating in

the same radio environment might cause significant interferences toeach other. For the multitude of systems operating in the ISM bands,no effective coordination or Radio Resource Management (RRM) functions existed, which led to inefficient utilization of these frequency bands. As a spectrum sensing method, AFB hadsome benefits due to better spectral containment of the sub- bands. The spectral containment depended greatly on the prototype filter design. However, there was a trade-off between spectral resolution and implementationcomplexity. A filter bank of 50 dB stopband attenuation and modeled WLAN signal as a zero-mean Gaussian variable.The absolute square of FFT or AFB output was then compared with a threshold value which was determined according to the assumednoise variance and desired false alarm probability they set to detect a primarysignal at a certain frequency. Smoothingwas also done on the FFT or AFB output, a two-dimensional time-frequency window was implemented for smoothing of the spectrum estimates and rectangular filter window was applied. The problem with FFT was that, it could only localize the signal in frequency domain which means information about time would be lost and no clear information of the power spectral density of the signal with time could be gotten. Furthermore, the AFB required many filters which might have taken much time than desired for the sensing period.

**Bektas *et al.,* (2012)** presented a spectrum sensing algorithm based on calculation of energy in sub-bands ofthe communication signal using wavelet transform while trying to maintain a low computational complexity. An attempt was made to achieve a multiresolution analysis feature of the signal by using scaled and shifted in time wavelet functions using base wavelet function calledmother waveletfunction. The work assumed the wavelet transform as filter-bank analysis. Signal was applied to High Pass Filters (HPF) andLow Pass Filters (LPF) so that detailed andapproximation wavelet coefficients were obtained, respectively for each filter on the same

band.Cut-off frequency of *ʌ*/2 was chosen for the first set of filters and divided by two at each level as scaling factor. Wavelet coefficients obtained for each scale denoted behavior of signal in the frequency band and total energy of the wavelet coefficients in the band was calculated and the primary user detected. The researchers subjected their proposed technique to Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN) only while varying the Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR) between -1 to - 10dB. The consequence of using two filters at the same time in each sub-band was an increased computational complexity compared to the conventional energy detector. Also, subjecting the work to AWGN only is not enough as a fading channel would experience some more complex noise. The SNR could also have been tested over a wider range of SNR with lower values to affirm the performance of the work.

**Javed *et al.,* (2012)** proposed radio mode identification which enabled the cognitive radio to identify various useful parameters of primary user transmission such as modulation scheme, transmission technology, frame size and multiplexing technique, etc which could be utilized by the cognitive radio for optimizing spectrum sensing. This technique used instantaneous frequency and delay spread obtained through time frequency analysis. Pseudo-Wigner Distribution (PWD) was used and the resulting time-frequency distribution was subjected to thresholding against a set sensing threshold. The sensing threshold was selected by assuming two overlapping distribution of signal and noise power probability density functions. The effects of noise were reduced from the resulting binary image by performing image morphing. The image wasthen scanned vertically and horizontally to identify the locations of the individual peaks. The features of the modulation schemes that were identified were instantaneous frequency, bandwidth, occupation time and duration of occupation of each occupied slot. Based on all the parameters identified, an estimate of the type of modulation scheme was made and decision that

whether the spectrum users were licensed primary users or competing secondary users were also made. The sensing was carried out with SNR values changing from -45 to 0dB. The simulation assumed an AWGN noise. The cross terms are minimized by selecting the observation window so as to keep the received signal mono-component. The performance of the algorithm was tested with different users, more accuracy was gotten for Frequency Hop Spread Spectrum (FHSS) primary user in comparison to Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM) primary user. This was because of the difficulties in differentiating the low amplitude wide band signal from the background noise at low SNR values. The work achieved a good sensing accuracy but at the expense of increased computational complexity owing to additional image scanning and morphing for feature identification.

**Guibene *et al.,* (2012)** proposed an algebraic detection-based spectrum sensing approach. The technique was based on Short Time Fourier Transform (STFT) using sliding window. The work considered time and frequency features of the sensed signals and focused on the intensity.It assumed the effectof a primary user as a polynomial of the *N*th order, and the proposed algebraic detection required a filter bank of *N* filters.Thework derived from the approach of Wavelet Transform (WVT), where spectral analysis was performed in two dimensions by considering algebraic properties of channel occupationand employing several filters in order to estimate the spectral power density of the signal of analysis. Consequently, the requirement of N filters increased the computational complexity and also the time taken to sense the signal increases even though the number of samples taken per filter were considerably small.

**Monfared *et al.,* (2013)** applied compressive sampling technique to the existing time-frequency distribution so that the number of samples required to be processed and reconstructed would be small leading to a reduced sensing time. The researchers applied another time-frequency

technique; the pseudo Wigner-Ville distribution in order to compensate for the effect of cross terms in the original Wigner-Ville distribution (WVD). The result obtained was an improved accuracy in sensing the signal energy and the reduced time in sensing owing to reduced samples. Compressed sensing takes advantage of the redundancy in signals (they are not pure noise). In particular, many signals are sparse, that is, they contain many coefficients close to or equal to zero, when represented in some domain. This was the same insight used in many forms of lossy compression. The methods of signal reconstructionin compressive sensing were extremely slow and returned a not so perfect reconstruction of the signal. Pseudo Wigner-Ville distribution (PWVD) is not without its own shortcomings as it is not completely free of cross terms and there are other distribution techniques that might perform better than it such as Levin distribution or Rihaczek distribution.

**Hamid *et al.,* (2013)** worked on blind spectrum sensing using a technique called discriminant analysis. This is an extension of the work carried out by the same group of researchers in 2012 and extended with a technique called Primary User (PU) peel-off in 2013. The main idea of discriminant analysis was to partition the signal in two groups (thenoise only group and the PU

signal plus noise group) VXFK WKDW WKH JURXSV¶ PHDQV DUHPD[L that the variancewithin each group is as small as possible. The discriminant analysis was applied

to a received signal that contains a PUsignal and noise, the boundary between the two groups, thenoise only group and the PU signal plus noise group were measured as the discrimination height and an average energy calculated. If thiscalculated average exceeds the average energy of the spectral lines in the noise group, then a PU signal ispresent. Issues were encountered when only noise was applied tothe test statistic. Since noise cannot be absolutely flat, a discrimination height will be selected and the two groups discriminated. The peel-off technique was introduced

to solve this problem which was explained with the assumption that the sensed spectrum contains two PUs, one with a large SNR and the other with small SNR, since the discriminator groups signal in to two then, it will consider the weak PU as noise and will no longer be able to detect it because weak PU will be discriminated in the noisegroup.The peel-off technique detected all primary users based on an iterative algorithm. The stopping criterionfor the iterative algorithm critically depends on a threshold selection which the work did not consider.

**Biagi *et al.,* (2014)** proposed access policy that handled spectrum sensingby means of the Wigner±Ville transform (WVT). The researchers analyzed the time and frequency features of the received interference, and represented them on a time±frequency grid as an image in which brightness reveals the spectrum occupancy. In order to test the access scheme in a realistic scenario, a test bed was set up, Wigner±Ville Cognitive Radio Access (WiVCoRA) based on Virtex 4 field-programmable gate array (FPGA). A packet-oriented wireless network was considered, where a secondary transmitter belonging to set of SUs attempts to access the shared medium to establish a connection with its intended receiver. An assumption was made that, among secondary nodes, there exists a time hierarchy, associated to node i is access request time ti, and to node i + 1, time ti+1 (and so forth) with ti+1 > ti, which means that the ith node will access before the ith + 1 node, provided that sufficient resources are available for its connection. This assumption may not be realistic as SUs considering a non-cooperative sensing would not depend on each other to sense and access a spectrum hole. WVT approach was used, where the spectral analysis was performed in two dimensionsby applying some algebraic properties of the occupation and referring to several filters to be used. Their work focused more on the interference profile than in its simple power amount, they further processed WVT image so as to show the spectrum occupancy. In order to trace the interference profile that is in the image, an

edge detection technique was applied to the grayscale image derived by the WVT but, research has shown that WVT suffers from cross terms and the edge detection applied added to the complexity as further filtering is required with N filters depending on number of sub-bands as edge detection divides a frequency band of analysis into sub-bands.

**Hiremath *et al.,* (2015)** investigated spectrum sensing by applying S-Method based joint time frequency analysis which is a combination of the strengths of Short Time Fourier Transform (STFT) and Wigner-Ville distribution (WVD). It was identified that WVD has better time- frequency resolution but suffers from cross terms and STFT does not suffer from the same. The Short Time FourierTransform (STFT)is simply a conventional energy detector using rectangular time window. As there are various types of windowing techniques, literature has shown that rectangular window is not the best and it could be suggested that the window should be changed for better filtering of the signal. The work hybridized the two techniques to get a better trade-off between accuracy and sensing time but clearly there are other time-frequency analysis techniques that can outperform WVD and STFT combination as they handle the issue of cross terms better. Also the hybridization may lead to computational complexity which is not desirable.

**Paul *et al.,* (2015)** proposed a wavelet based spectrum sensing approach to detect the active sub- bands within a licensed band. An exponential moving average based multi-scale sum (EMAMS) spectrum sensing approach was devised to decompose the power spectral density (PSD) signal and extract the edges of signals, by assigning exponentially changing weights to the different scales of the wavelet transform to detect which sub-bands are active or signals with unpredictable start and end frequencies. Eachsignal has a start frequency and an end frequency, which werecalled edges of the signal. The objective of edge detection ofspectrum sensing was to detect the start and the end frequency of each signal. Edges were detected in two stages by using

power threshold and bandwidth threshold. At the higher scale, existence of signals were detected, but could not find the accurate start and end frequencies of the signals, as they are shifted. Most of existing work on signal edge detection used the multi-scale product which multiplies the wavelet transform results at two adjacent scales, but this approach fixed a threshold constant and a weighting factor at 20 and 0.5 respectively, the basis of which was not established neither in literature nor the work.

**Berbra *et al.*, 2016** proposed a fast spectrum sensing approach based on using observed samples during a window with length of OFDM symbols. They computed number of subcarriers  , and cyclic prefix length,  values of the real part of the autocorrelation function of the signal at time lag, . These values correlation bins, correspond to one period of the autocorrelation function. The output of the correlator representing the correlation bins are sent serially into a shift register of length  +  . The  +  cells were then ranked in an ascending order according to their magnitude and a test statistic was formed from the upper bound value, while the other lower values were used to form an estimate of the background noise level, this required a dedicated hardware. The estimate is then multiplied by a constant threshold multiplier, which was selected so as to achieve a desired false alarm probability. Their work achieved a good sensing threshold but at the cost of implementation due to computational complexity.

Based on the literature reviewed, many researchers had proposed different methods on energy detection technique for spectrum sensing. The works attempted to determine optimum detection threshold with different levels of compromise on the computational complexity, sensing time and accuracy. Determination of detection threshold is affected by the amount of noise present in the channel. This means that a good knowledge of the amount of noise present in a particular spectrum band of interest is required. The use of time-frequency analysis has shown a great

potential in this regard. There are several other distribution techniques under the time-frequency analysis that can still be explored in order to combat the effect of cross terms which affects the accurate determination of detection threshold. A smoothed pseudo Wigner-Ville distribution is proposed because of its high efficiency in suppressing cross term as compared with other candidate techniques. The proposed technique will be compared using the performance metrics established in literature, with the work of Monfared et al., (2013), which furthered the work of Javed and Mahmood, 2013 by applying Pseudo Wigner-Ville Distribution.

# CHAPTER THREE MATERIALS AND METHODS

* 1. **Introduction**

This chapter describe in detail the process of OFDM signal generation, Hilbert transforming the generated signal, application of smoothed pseudo Wigner-Ville distribution in order to calculate the energy spectral density required in the setting of threshold and the likelihood ratio test to check the performance of the set threshold.

# System Model (spectrum sensing scenario)

A non-cooperative single secondary user was considered for this work. The scenario depicted a single secondary user scanning for spectrum holes opportunity at a target primary user band. This was done with the assumption that if spectrum sensing operation achieved a high percentage of detection and a low false alarm, it could be implemented on several cognitive radios scanning for spectrum holes in different bands or implementing the same technique in the same band in a

cooperative manner for better efficiency across the space in a geographical location. The model is represented in Figure 3.1.



Primary Transmitter

Primary Receiver



Secondary Transmitter



Secondary Receiver

Figure 3.1 Spectrum sensing scenario for a primary user and secondary user

# Signal Simulation Process

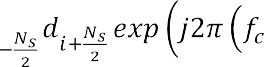
OFDM data were modulated to time signal so that all carriers transmit in parallel to fully occupy the available frequency bandwidth. OFDM data were generated by taking symbols in the spectral space using modulation techniques such as M*ary*phase shift keying (*M*-PSK), quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM), etc, and converted the spectra to time domain by taking the inverse discrete Fourier transform (IDFT) or inverse fast Fourier transform (IFFT). The latter was adopted in this work due to its effectiveness. OFDM symbols are typically divided into frames, so that the data were modulated frame by frame in order for the received signal be in synchronization with the receiver. The number of carriers in an OFDM system is determined by the available bandwidth and by the IFFT size. The relationship is described by(Ingram *et al.*, 2000):

The choice of the modulation technique varies with the data rate and bit error rate (BER). The higher the order of the modulation technique, the larger the symbol size, thus the less the number of symbols needed to be transmitted, and the higher the data rate achieved.

A bitmap grayscale image was used in this work, it was converted to a baseband signal, modulated and transmitted through the communication channel modeled under three different channel conditions of AWGN, Rayleigh, and Rician.The expression for one OFDM symbol starting at  is given as(Ingram *et al.*, 2000):

  , (3.1)



where are complex modulation symbols, is the OFDM symbol number,is the number of subcarriers, the symbol duration, and the carrier frequency.

The OFDM signal was generated using Matlab through the following processes:

* + 1. **Serial to parallel conversion**: The input image was first converted to serial data stream which was then formatted into word sizes or symbols depending on the modulation format chosen and then shifted to parallel format. This was then transmitted in parallel by assigning each symbols to carriers.
    2. **Data modulation**: The data to be transmitted on each carrier was differentially encoded with previous symbols, then mapped into a Phase Shift Keying (PSK) format. Differential encoding requires an initial phase reference an extra symbol was added at the start for this purpose. The data on each symbol was then mapped to a phase angle based on the modulation method. For example, for QPSK the phase angles used are 0, 90, 180, and

270 degrees. The use of phase shift keying produces a constant amplitude signal and was chosen for its simplicity and its robustness against amplitude fluctuation due to fading.

* + 1. **Inverse Fourier Transform**: After the required spectrum is worked out, an Inverse Fourier Transform was used to find the corresponding time waveform. The guard period was then added to the start of each symbol.
    2. **Addition of Guard Period**: The guard period is a cyclic extension of the symbol to be transmitted. This was done to allow for symbol timing to be easily recovered by envelope detection and also to reduce inter-symbol interference.

After the guard has been added, the symbols were then converted back to a serial time waveform. This is the base band signal for the OFDM transmission and was transmitted through AWGN and multipath channels (Raleigh and Rician). The complete program code for the OFDM user signal simulation is found in Appendices A to F.

# AWGN Channel

AWGN is a type of noise which exists in the communication channels generally. In an AWGN channel model, we always assume that there is no any other distortion or effects from other sources. AWGN is a model for the thermal noise generated by random electron movement in the receiver.

# Rayleigh Channel

The Rayleigh distribution was used to model the amplitude and phase of multipath fading signal when no line of sight (LOS) path exists in between transmitter and receiver, but only have indirect path than the resultant signal received at the receiver will be the sum of all the reflected and scattered waves. In this work, three paths were assumed.

# Rician Channel

It occurs when there is a LOS as well as non-LOS path in between the transmitter and receiver,

i.e. the received signal comprises of both the direct and scattered multipath waves. In this channel, the LOS path has a dominant signal than others and the ratio of the signal strength between this path and other part is known as the K-factor. Three paths were assumed with a LOS path and two multipath for the modelling of this channel in this work.

OFDM signal transmission simulation parameters: Table 3.1 summarizes the parameters used for the simulation of the OFDM signal transmission.

Table 3.1 OFDMSimulation Parameters

Parameters Source data

IFFT size

Number of carriers

Modulation method

Amplitude power clipping (dB)

Signal to Noise Ratio (dB)

Values

Gray scale image with different sizes (800 by 600, 600 by 800, 400 by 300)

2048

Defined by ).



Varied between BPSK, QPSK, 16PSK, 256PSK 3 ±9

Varied between -45 to 0

# Hilbert Transforming the SimulatedSignal

The purpose of Hilbert transforming the generated signal is to get the analytic associate of it. An analytic signal is derived from a real signal, a signal is real, if it exhibits Hermitian symmetry between positive and negative components allowing the negative components to be deduced from the positive components. This enables the elimination of the negative components without losing information and gives the benefit of halving the bandwidth requirement.

Generally, analytic signals in the time domain can be represented as (Smith, 2007):

(3.2)



where is a complex conjugate setting the amplitude and phase of the positive frequency complex sinusoid at frequency



Any real sinusoid  can be converted to a positive frequency complex sinusoid by shifting it a quarter cycle time-shift to generate a quadrature phase component



 as the imaginary part(Boashash, 2015).



 (3.3)



The Hilbert transform is realized as a filter that shifts each sinusoidal component of the real signal by a quarter cycle. It introduces a phase shift of at each positive frequency component

and at each negative frequency component. The Hilbert transform is given as(Boashash, 2015):



(3.4)



where is the analytic signal and has all the negative frequencies filtered out, is the real signal and is the imaginary part of the real signal .



The realization of the Hilbert transform process is illustrated below:

is represented in its positive and negative frequency components at a particular frequency



as follow (Smith, 2007);

and (3.5)



Applying a quarter cycle shift of at positive frequency component and at negative frequency component gives:

= (3.6)



= (3.7)



Adding the resulting components together to get the analytic signal gives:

= = (3.8)



= = (3.9)



The result explained how the negative frequency component is filtered out and the positive frequency component gain increased. This is the same way negative frequency is removed in all real signal by applying the Hilbert transform on them. A real signal case is depicted below (Smith, 2007):



is a real signal which equals E\ (XOyHU¶V LGHQWLW



= (3.10)



Applying Hilbert transform (adding phase shift of -90 and +90)

 + (3.11)



= (3.12)



The analytic signal becomes:



(3.13)



=

