

Guest Editorial

Location-Awareness for Radios and Networks, Part I

Trung Q. Duong, *Senior Member, IEEE*, Maged El Kashlan, George K. Karagiannidis, *Fellow, IEEE*, Henk Wymeersch, *Member, IEEE*, Yasamin Mostofi, and Byonghyo Shim, *Senior Member, IEEE*

LOCALIZATION-awareness using radio signals stands to revolutionize the fields of navigation and communication engineering. It can be utilized to great effect in the next generation of cellular networks, mining applications, health-care monitoring, transportation and intelligent highways, multi-robot applications, first responders operations, military applications, factory automation, building and environmental controls, cognitive wireless networks, commercial and social network applications, and smart spaces. A multitude of technologies can be used in location-aware radios and networks, including GNSS, RFID, cellular, UWB, WLAN, Bluetooth, cooperative localization, indoor GPS, device-free localization, IR, Radar, and UHF. The performances of these technologies are measured by their accuracy, precision, complexity, robustness, scalability, and cost. Given the many application scenarios across different disciplines, there is a clear need for a broad, up-to-date and cogent treatment of radio-based location awareness.

This special issue aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the state-of-the-art in technology, regulation, and theory for “Location-Aware Radios and Networks.” It also presents a holistic view of research challenges and opportunities in the emerging areas of localization. We received a total of 120 submissions, spanning a broad range of topics from cooperative and network localization and mapping, device-free localization, location information for resource planning, and interference management in the localization process, to sparsity exploiting sensing and decision for efficient localization, and fundamental limits of localization algorithms. After a thorough peer-review process, 27 articles are selected and will be presented in a sequence of two parts. The first part consists of 13 articles, which are summarized below.

T. Q. Duong is with the School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Queen’s University Belfast, BT7 1NN, U.K. (e-mail: trung.q.duong@qub.ac.uk).

M. El Kashlan is with the School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Queen Mary University of London, London E1 4NS, U.K. (e-mail: maged.elkashlan@qmul.ac.uk).

G. K. Karagiannidis is with the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki 54124, Greece. He is also with the Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi 127788, UAE (e-mail: geokarag@auth.gr).

H. Wymeersch is with the Department of Signals and Systems, Chalmers University of Technology, 41296 Gothenburg, Sweden (e-mail: henkw@chalmers.se).

Y. Mostofi is with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara CA 93106, USA (e-mail: ymostofi@ece.ucsb.edu).

B. Shim is with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Seoul National University, Seoul 151-744, Korea (e-mail: bshim@snu.ac.kr).

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The first article in this part I is entitled “Mobile Node Localization via Pareto Optimization: Algorithm and Fundamental Performance Limitations,” authored by De Angelis & Fichione. In this article, the fundamental performance of linear fusion of multiple measurements of the position of mobile nodes is presented, and a new distributed recursive position estimator are proposed. The Cramér-Rao lower bounds for the parametric and a posteriori cases, are investigated. The proposed estimator combines information coming from ranging, speed, and angular measurements, which is jointly fused by a Pareto optimization problem, where the mean and the variance of the localization error are simultaneously minimized. A distinguished feature of the proposed method is that it assumes a simple dynamical model of the mobility and therefore, it is applicable to a large number of scenarios, providing good performance.

Ataei *et al.* in the second article, “Localization and Location Verification in Non-Homogeneous One-Dimensional Wireless Ad-Hoc Networks,” explore the hop-count properties of one-dimensional wireless ad-hoc networks, where the nodes are placed independently and identically distributed, according to a Poisson distribution with an arbitrary density function. The authors present exact expressions to calculate the probability mass function of two hop count random variables: 1) the number of hops, needed for a node located at an arbitrary location in the network, to receive a message from a node located at one end of the linear network, and 2) the number of hops, needed for a node located at one end of the network, to receive a message from a node at an arbitrary location.

In the third article, “Distributed Localization of a RF target in NLOS Environments,” Xu *et al.* propose, analyze, and validate a distributed expectation maximization (EM) algorithm, for localizing targets in non-line-of-sight (NLOS) conditions. Localization based on angle of arrival (AOA) and time difference of arrival (TDOA) measurements leads to errors up to 15 meters, which is comparable to centralized EM.

Since spectrum sensing can benefit from position knowledge of primary users (PU), the article considers the joint estimation of the PU emission state and its position. The resulting method, termed deep sensing, is advocated for 5G communications in their article entitled “Deep Sensing for Future Spectrum and Location Awareness 5G Communications” by B. Li *et al.*

In underwater localization, acoustic communication results in long delays. In the fifth article, Ramezani & Leus develop a medium access control (MAC) protocol, which harnesses the long propagation delays to efficiently schedule transmissions for the purpose of localization. Details can be found in their article “Localization Packet Scheduling for Underwater Acoustic Sensor Networks.”

Nguyen *et al.* develop a machine learning-based algorithm to improve the accuracy of device-based localization using ultrawide bandwidth and time-of-arrival, based on IEEE 802.15.4-2011 standard. Their underlying approach is presented in the sixth article, “Machine Learning for Wideband Localization,” which is based on identifying and mitigating NLOS signals using relevance vector machine (RVM) techniques. It further proposes a localization algorithm, called two-step iterative (TSI) algorithm, which can converge in finite steps.

The seventh article, “Occupancy Estimation Using Only WiFi Power Measurements” by Depatla *et al.* proposes an approach for counting the total number of people walking in an area, based on only WiFi power measurements between a pair of stationary transmitter/receiver antennas. The approach is based on the probabilistic characterization of the impact of the total number of people on two phenomena: the scattering and the LOS blocking, and developing a mathematical expression for the pdf of the received signal amplitude. The paper validates the proposed framework by running extensive indoor and outdoor experiments.

The next four articles address algorithms for energy-efficient localization networks. The eighth article by Moragrega *et al.*, “Potential Game for Energy-Efficient RSS-based Positioning in Wireless Sensor Networks” investigates a game theoretical algorithm for resource planning of networks, using location information and metrics. The network aims at positioning and tracking nodes using RSS measurements. The transmit power levels of the anchor nodes are selected according to a two-fold criterion: minimum power level and desired positioning quality for users, assessed by the geometric dilution of precision metric. The proposed algorithm minimizes the number of anchor nodes that collaborate in positioning, thus saving energy. A distributed solution for the implementation is presented that requires low computational complexity.

The ninth article, “New Efficient Indoor Cooperative Localization Algorithm with Empirical Ranging Error Model,” by S. Li *et al.* presents an efficient cooperative localization algorithm that can be applied to a real indoor localization system with a non-Gaussian ranging error distribution is proposed. To this end, the authors propose an asymmetric double exponential ranging error model based on empirical ranging data. An efficient cooperative localization algorithm based on distributed belief propagation is then proposed. The communication and computational cost is reduced by passing approximate beliefs represented by Gaussian distributions between neighbors and by using an analytical approximation to compute peer-to-peer messages.

The tenth article by Dai *et al.* considers a joint design of location inference and power control of agents in “Energy-Efficient Network Navigation Algorithms.” The article first determines the confidence region for location inference by using Fisher information analysis. The authors further design a robust energy allocation strategy that minimizes the location inference errors of the agents within the confidence region. The performance is then assessed in a simulation environment.

In the eleventh article, based on WiFi fingerprints via ZigBee interference signatures, Niu *et al.* design an energy-efficient indoor localization system called ZIL (ZigBee-assisted Indoor Localization) in the article “ZIL: An Energy-Efficient Indoor Localization System Using ZigBee radio to Detect WiFi Fin-

gerprints.” Real-world physical properties are mined and used to design the localization algorithm in indoor environment. ZIL algorithm is implemented on TelosB motes and extensive experiments are carried out to verify its performance. This algorithm achieves comparable performance to the state-of-the-art WiFi fingerprint-based approaches, and can save energy on average about 68% compared with the technologies based on WiFi interface.

In the twelfth article, “MAGICOL: Indoor Localization Using Pervasive Magnetic Field and Opportunistic WiFi Sensing,” Shu *et al.* present the fusion of magnetic and WiFi signals for indoor localization and tracking. They further utilize particle filters to maximize the accuracy, and an on-demand WiFi scan strategy for energy savings. Furthermore, the authors conduct extensive experiments at different indoor environments, including an office building, an underground parking garage, and a supermarket, to demonstrate the achieved performance.

In the final article, Liu *et al.* explore the use of location information to realize secure transmission for wiretap channels. Assuming that the only information available on an eavesdropper is a noisy estimate of its location, a relay-aided secure transmission scheme is proposed to maximize the effective secrecy throughput. The results of this paper “Location-Based Secure Transmission for Wiretap Channels” reveal the impact of the location uncertainty on the achievable secrecy performance.

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Trung Q. Duong (S'05–M'12–SM'13) received the Ph.D. degree in telecommunications systems from Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH), Karlskrona, Sweden, in September 2012. Since 2013, he has been an Assistant Professor with Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, U.K. His current research interests include cooperative communications, cognitive radio networks, physical layer security, massive MIMO, cross-layer design, millimeter-waves communications, and localization for radios and networks. He has authored/coauthored 170 technical papers published in scientific journals and presented at international conferences.

Dr. Duong currently serves as an Editor of the IEEE COMMUNICATIONS LETTERS, *IET Communications*, and the *Transactions on Emerging Telecommunications Technologies*. He has served as the Guest Editor of the special issue on some major journals, including the IEEE JOURNAL ON SELECTED AREAS IN COMMUNICATIONS, *IET Communications*, the *IEEE Wireless Communications Magazine*, the *IEEE Communications Magazine*, the *EURASIP Journal on Wireless Communications and Networking*, and the *EURASIP Journal on Advances in Signal Processing*. He was a recipient of the Best Paper Award at the IEEE Vehicular Technology Conference (VTC-Spring) in 2013 and the IEEE International Conference on Communications 2014.



Maged Elkashtan received the Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, in 2006. From 2007 to 2011, he was with the Wireless and Networking Technologies Laboratory, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Canberra, Australia. During this time, he held an adjunct appointment at the University of Technology, Sydney, Australia. In 2011, he joined the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science, Queen Mary University of London, London, U.K., as an Assistant

Professor. He also holds visiting faculty appointments at the University of New South Wales, New South Wales, Australia, and Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, Beijing, China. His research interests include distributed information processing, security, cognitive radio, and millimeter-wave communications.

Dr. Elkashtan is an Editor of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS, the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY, and the IEEE COMMUNICATIONS LETTERS. He also serves as the Lead Guest Editor of the special issue on "Green Media: The Future of Wireless Multimedia Networks" of the *IEEE Wireless Communications Magazine*, the Lead Guest Editor of the special issue on "Millimeter Wave Communications for 5G" of the *IEEE Communications Magazine*, and the Guest Editor of the special issue on "Energy Harvesting Communications" of the *IEEE Communications Magazine*. His research has won several top academic awards, including Best Paper Awards at the IEEE International Conference on Communications in 2014, the International Conference on Communications and Networking in China in 2014, and the IEEE Vehicular Technology Conference (VTC-Spring) in 2013. He received the Exemplary Reviewer Certificate of the IEEE Communications Letters in 2012.



George K. Karagiannidis (M'96–SM'03–F'14) was born in Pithagorion, Samos Island, Greece. He received the University Diploma (five years) and Ph.D. degrees in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Patras, Patras, Greece, in 1987 and 1999, respectively. From 2000 to 2004, he was a Senior Researcher with the Institute for Space Applications and Remote Sensing, National Observatory of Athens, Athens, Greece. In June 2004, he joined the faculty of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece, where he is currently a Pro-

fessor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Director of the Digital Telecommunications Systems and Networks Laboratory. In January 2014, he joined Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, UAE, where is currently a Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Coordinator of the ICT Cluster. He has authored or coauthored over 250 technical papers published in scientific journals and presented at international conferences. He has also authored the Greek edition of *Telecommunications Systems* and coauthored *Advanced Optical Wireless Communications Systems* (Cambridge Publications, 2012). His research interests are in the broad area of digital communications systems, with emphasis on communications theory, energy-efficient MIMO and cooperative communications, satellite communications, cognitive radio, localization, smart grid, and optical wireless communications. He has been a member of technical program committees of several IEEE conferences such as ICC, GLOBECOM, and VTC. Since January 2012, he has been the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE COMMUNICATIONS LETTERS. In the past, he was an Editor for Fading Channels and Diversity of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS, a Senior Editor of the IEEE COMMUNICATIONS LETTERS, and an Editor of the *EURASIP Journal of Wireless Communications and Networks*. He was the Lead Guest Editor of the special issue on "Optical Wireless Communications" of the IEEE JOURNAL ON SELECTED AREAS IN COMMUNICATIONS and the Guest Editor of the special issue on "Large-scale multiple antenna wireless systems." He was a corecipient of the Best Paper Award of the Wireless Communications Symposium in the IEEE International Conference on Communications 2007 in Glasgow, U.K., in June 2007.



Henk Wymeersch (S'99–M'05) received the Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering/applied sciences from Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium, in 2005. He is currently an Associate Professor with the Department of Signals and Systems, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden. He is the PI of COOPNET, an ERC Starting Grant project on situational awareness in cooperative networks. Prior to joining Chalmers University of Technology, he was a Postdoctoral Associate with the Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems, Massachusetts

Institute of Technology. He has coauthored over 100 contributions in journals and international conferences and is the author of *Iterative Receiver Design* (Cambridge University Press, 2007). His research interests include algorithm design for digital transmission, statistical inference, and cooperative processing. He is a member of the IEEE. He served/has been serving as the General Chair of the 2015 International Conference on Localization and GNSS and an Associate Editor of the IEEE COMMUNICATION LETTERS (2009–2013), the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS (2013–present), and the TRANSACTIONS ON EMERGING TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES (2011–present). He has also served as a Guest Editor of the IEEE JOURNAL ON SELECTED AREAS IN COMMUNICATIONS (special issue on Location-aware Radios and Networks), the *EURASIP Journal on Wireless Communications and Networking* (special issue on Localization in Mobile Wireless and Sensor Networks), and the *EURASIP Journal on Advances in Signal Processing* (special issue on Signal Processing Techniques for Anywhere, anytime positioning).



Yasamin Mostofi received the B.S. degree in electrical engineering from Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran, in 1997 and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in the area of wireless communications from Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA, in 1999 and 2004, respectively. From 2004 to 2006, she was a Postdoctoral Scholar in control and dynamical systems at the California Institute of Technology. She is currently an Associate Professor with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA. Prior

to that, she was a Faculty with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of New Mexico from 2006 to 2012. Her research is on mobile sensor networks. Her current research thrusts include RF sensing, see-through imaging with WiFi, X-ray vision for robots, communication-aware robotics, and robotic networks. Her research has appeared in several news outlets such as BBC and Engadget. She served on the IEEE Control Systems Society conference editorial board in 2008–2013. She is currently an Associate Editor of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CONTROL OF NETWORK SYSTEMS. She has been a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, and the IEEE 2012 Outstanding Engineer Award of Region 6 (more than ten western states). She was also a recipient of the Bellcore Fellow-Advisor Award from Stanford Center for Telecommunications in 1999 and the 2008–2009 Electrical and Computer Engineering Distinguished Researcher Award from the University of New Mexico.



Byonghyo Shim (SM'09) received the B.S. and M.S. degrees in control and instrumentation engineering from Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea, in 1995 and 1997, respectively, and the M.S. degree in mathematics and the Ph.D. degree in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL, USA, in 2004 and 2005, respectively. From 1997 to 2000, he was an Officer (First Lieutenant) and an Academic Full-Time Instructor with the Department of Electronics Engineering, Korean Air Force Academy.

From 2005 to 2007, he was a Staff Engineer with Qualcomm Inc., San Diego, CA, USA. From 2007 to 2014, he was an Associate Professor with the School of Information and Communication, Korea University, Seoul. Since September 2014, he has been with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Seoul National University, where he is currently an Associate Professor. His research interests include wireless communications, statistical signal processing, estimation and detection, compressive sensing, and information theory. He is currently an Associate Editor of the IEEE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS LETTERS and the *Journal of Communications and Networks*. He was a recipient of the 2005 M. E. Van Valkenburg Research Award from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the University of Illinois and the 2010 Hadong Young Engineer Award from IEIE.