Graph Theory assisted Bit-to-Index-Combination Gray Coding for Generalized Index Modulation

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Abstract—Generalized index modulation (GIM) which implicitly conveys information by the activated indices is a promising technique for next-generation wireless networks. Due to the prohibitive challenge of bit-to-index combination (IC) mapping optimization, conventional GIM system obtains the bit-to-IC mapping table randomly, which may suffer from some performance loss. To circumvent this issue, we propose a low-complexity graph theory assisted bit-to-IC gray coding for GIM systems by minimizing the average hamming distance (HD) between any two ICs having one different value. Specifically, we decompose and transform the optimization problem into two subproblems using the graph theory, i.e., 1) Select an IC set whose corresponding graph has the minimum degree; 2) Design a bit-to-IC mapping principle to minimize the weight of the selected graph. Lowcomplexity algorithms are developed to solve the subproblems with a significant reduced complexity. Both simulation and theoretical results are shown that the GIM systems with our proposed mapping table are capable of providing significant performance gains over the conventional counterparts without the need for any additional feedback-link and without extra computational complexity. It is also shown that the proposed bit-to-IC mapping table is straightforward for any GIM systems over generalized fading channels.

Index Terms—Index modulation, graph theory, bit-to-indexcombination, gray coding.

I. INTRODUCTION

S a spectrum and energy efficient yet simple digital modulation scheme, generalized index modulation (GIM) employs the activate indices as an additional means to transmit information [1]-[2]. Since GIM exploits a completely new domain to increase the spectral efficiency without increasing the hardware complexity, it has been widely employed in domains such as transmit antennas (TAs), time slots, dispersion matrices, subcarriers, radio frequency (RF) mirrors, transmit light emitting diodes, relays, modulation types, precoder matrices, spreading codes, signal powers, loads and so on [1]-[9].

The concept of GIM was first employed in the TA domain, namely spatial modulation (SM), where only a single TA is

This work was supported in part by the National Key R&D Program of China with Grant number 2019YFB180003400, National Science Foundation of China with Grant number 61831013, 61631015, and Innovation Fund of WNLO.

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activated to transmit one amplitude phase modulation (APM) symbol [10]-[14]. To increase the throughput, generalized SM (GSM) was proposed in [15]-[16], where N_u out of N_t TAs are activated to transmit N_u APM symbols, and is capable of achieving flexible transmission rate by configuring antenna setups. Researches have demonstrated that GSM is one of the promising candidates in millimeter wave channels and massive multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) communication scenarios [17]-[24]. In order to exploit the diversity of SM, space time block coded (STBC) based SM was proposed in [25], where N_u out of N_t TAs are activated to transmit $N_u \times N_u$ STBC symbols. In the dispersion matrices domain, generalized space time shift keying (GSTSK) was proposed in [26]-[29], where P out of Q preassigned space-time dispersion matrices are activated with the aid of P APM symbols. To further increase the transmission rate of GSTSK, multi-set GSTSK (MS-GSTSK) was proposed in [1], where N_u out of N_t TAs are activated to transmit a single GSTSK codeword. In summary, the GIM based MIMO system is capable of striking a flexible tradeoff between the spatial multiplexing gain and the spatial diversity gain.

To further exploit the benefits of GIM, orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) with index modulation (OFDM-IM) was proposed in [30], which employs the activated subcarrier indices to transmit information. Since only part of subcarriers are utilized to transmit APM symbols, OFDM-IM exhibits lower peak average power ratio (PAPR) and inter carrier interference than the conventional OFDM [31]. Therefore, OFDM-IM achieves higher spectral efficiency and is more robust against the frequency selective channel. Due to the above advantages, numerous enhanced variants of OFDM-IM were proposed in [32]-[40].

However, the existing state-of-the-art of GIM is mainly focused on the performance analysis of the transceiver design. Since N_u out of N_t elements are activated to transmit information in a GIM system, there are a total of $N_{\text{all}} = C_{N_t}^{N_u}$ index combinations (ICs) available, and $N = 2^{\lfloor \log_2(N_{\text{all}}) \rfloor}$ out of N_{all} ICs are selected for bit-to-IC mapping, which can be seen in Fig. 1 (a). As shown in Fig. 1 (b), to find the optimal IC set and the best mapping principle with the optimal average bit error probability (ABEP), $C_{N_{\text{all}}}^N N!$ ABEPs have to be calculated, which makes the bit-to-IC mapping prohibitively complicated and challenging.

Recently, some novel bit-to-symbol mapping principles were developed for the SM system ($N_u = 1$) in [41]-[43]. However, they are not suitable for GIM systems ($N_u > 1$). As a result, in existing GIM researches, both the IC selection and the mapping principle are randomly selected, resulting in performance loss. Although there existed a novel bit-tosymbol mapping for GSM based Euclidean distance in [44], it relies on the feedback of channel state information (CSI), which imposes substantial link budget and extra complexity. To the best of authors' knowledge, there is no general gray coding guideline for GIM systems without CSI feedback.

Against the above backgrounds, we propose a lowcomplexity bit-to-IC gray coding for GIM with the aid of graph theory [45] in this paper, where the bit-to-IC optimization problem is formulated by utilizing the idea of gray coding to minimize the average Hamming distance (HD) of any two ICs with only one different element. Specifically, we firstly transform each selected IC set with a specific mapping principle into a weighted graph and transform the optimization objective into obtaining one weighted graph with the minimum weight from all weighted graphs, where the weight is the HD of information bits between two adjacent vertexes. As shown in Fig. 1 (c), the optimization problem is decomposed into two subproblems, i.e., 1) Select an IC set whose corresponding graph has the minimum degree; 2) Design a bit-to-IC mapping principle to minimize the weight of the selected graph. The specific contributions of this paper are summarized as follows.

- 1) We transform the mapping issues into graph theory assisted optimizations and design a maximum degree first (MDF) based low-complexity algorithm with the complexity order of O(N). We also demonstrate that it is comparable to the optimal algorithm using the mathematical techniques of induction.
- 2) We consider the original N blocks of information bits as a completed weighted graph, and transform the bitto-IC mapping into finding the IC graph with the minimum weight. To solve the problem, we design a lowcomplexity minimum weight first (MWF) algorithm with the complexity order of $O(N^2)$.
- 3) The proposed bit-to-IC mapping principle is straightforward for any GIM systems over generalized fading channel. Moreover, both theoretical and simulation results show that the GIM system employing our proposed method achieves significant performance gains over the conventional counterparts without additional feedback link and without computational complexity.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section II gives a brief introduction to classic GIM systems and formulates the mapping problem. Section III presents the problem formulation with the aid of graph theory. Section IV introduces the optimization of the IC selection, while the optimization of the bit-to-IC mapping is presented in Section V. Simulation results are presented in Section VI. Finally, Section VII concludes this paper.

Notation: $\|\cdot\|_2$ denotes the two norm of a matrix. $|\cdot|$ represents the cardinality of a set. $(\cdot)^*$, $(\cdot)^T$ and $(\cdot)^H$ stand for the conjugate, transpose and the Hermitian transpose of a vector/matrix, respectively. $x \gg y$ implies that x is much larger than y and n! denotes the factorial operator. C_m^n is the binomial coefficient and $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$ denotes the floor operator.

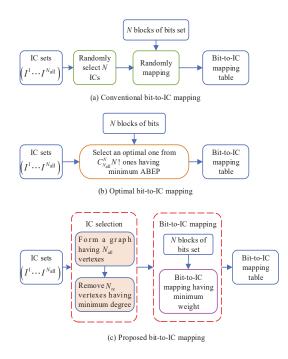


Fig. 1. Bit-to-IC mapping methods.

II. PROBLEM FORMULATION

A. GIM system model

In a GIM system, a block of information bits with length of B is partitioned into two parts: 1) $B_1 = \lfloor \log_2(C_{N_t}^{N_u}) \rfloor$ bits are used to select an IC $I^i = (i_1, ..., i_{N_u})$ i = (1, 2, ..., N); 2) $B_2 = N_u \log_2(M)$ bits are used to modulate N_u M-APM symbols as $\mathbf{s} = (s_{i_1}, ..., s_{i_{N_u}})$. Especially, we have $\mathbf{s} = (1, ..., 1)$ for the case of M = 1. Hence, one GIM symbol can be expressed by [27]

$$\mathbf{X}^{i} = \sum_{q=i_{1}}^{i_{N_{u}}} \mathbf{A}_{q} s_{q}, \tag{1}$$

where \mathbf{A}_q is a dispersive matrix occupying T time slots. Especially, \mathbf{A}_q of GSM can be expressed by [27]

$$\mathbf{A}_q = \begin{bmatrix} \underline{0\cdots0} & 1 & \underline{0\cdots0} \end{bmatrix}^T.$$
(2)

The received signal $\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r \times T}$ can be formulated as $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{X}^i + \mathbf{N},$ (3) where $\mathbf{H} \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r \times N_t}$ denotes the channel matrix, and $\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r \times N_t}$

where $\mathbf{H} \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r \times N_t}$ denotes the channel matrix, and $\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r \times T}$ is the noise matrix, whose elements follow the Gaussian distribution as $\mathcal{CN}(0, \sigma^2)$.

At the receiver, assume that the estimated channel matrix is given by

$$\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{H} + \mathbf{H}_e,\tag{4}$$

where $\mathbf{H}_e \in \mathcal{CN}(0, \sigma_e^2)$ and there is no channel estimation error for the case of $\sigma_e^2 = 0$. The ML detector is expressed as

$$\hat{\mathbf{X}} = \underset{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{X}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \left\| \mathbf{Y} - \hat{\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{X} \right\|^{2}, \tag{5}$$

where X is the set of GIM symbols.

B. ABEP analysis of GIM systems over generalized fading channel

Assuming that \mathbf{X}^{i} and \mathbf{X}^{j} are two different GIM symbols, the ABEP upper bound is expressed as

$$P_b = \frac{1}{B2^B} \sum_{i=1}^{2^B} \sum_{j\neq i}^{2^B} d(\mathbf{X}^i, \mathbf{X}^j) P(\mathbf{X}^i \to \mathbf{X}^j), \qquad (6)$$

where $d(\mathbf{X}^i, \mathbf{X}^j)$ denotes the HD between \mathbf{X}^i and \mathbf{X}^j , $P(\mathbf{X}^i \to \mathbf{X}^j)$ denotes the pairwise error probability (PEP) event, which can be obtained by $P(\mathbf{X}^i \to \mathbf{X}^j | \hat{\mathbf{H}})$

$$= P\left(\left\|\mathbf{Y} - \hat{\mathbf{H}}\mathbf{X}^{i}\right\|^{2} \ge \left\|\mathbf{Y} - \hat{\mathbf{H}}\mathbf{X}^{j}\right\|^{2}\right)$$

$$= P\left(\left\|\mathbf{N} - \mathbf{H}_{e}\mathbf{X}^{i}\right\|^{2} \ge \left\|\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{X}^{i} - \mathbf{X}^{j}) + \mathbf{N} - \mathbf{H}_{e}\mathbf{X}^{j}\right\|^{2}\right)$$

$$\approx Q\left(\sqrt{\frac{\|\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{X}^{i} - \mathbf{X}^{j})\|^{2}}{\frac{2(\sigma^{2} + \|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{e}^{2})}{\pi}}\right)$$

$$(7)$$

where $Q(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{0}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sin\theta^2}\right) d_{\theta}$. Assuming that $\Delta =$ $(\mathbf{X}^{i} - \mathbf{X}^{j})$ and $\gamma = \|\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{X}^{i} - \mathbf{X}^{j})\|^{2}$, the PEP event can be

obtained as $\frac{\pi}{2}$

$$P\left(\mathbf{X}^{i} \to \mathbf{X}^{j}\right) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{0}^{\pi} \int_{\gamma} \exp\left(-\frac{\gamma}{4(\sigma^{2} + \|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{e}^{2})\sin^{2}\theta}\right) f_{\gamma}(\gamma) d_{\gamma} d_{\theta}$$
$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{0}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} M_{\gamma}\left(-\frac{1}{4(\sigma^{2} + \|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{e}^{2})\sin^{2}\theta}\right) d_{\theta},$$
(8)

where $M_{\gamma}(s) = \int e^s f_{\gamma}(\gamma) d_{\gamma}$ is the MGF of γ . According to [46], we h

ording to [46], we have

$$\gamma = \left\| \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{X}^{i} - \mathbf{X}^{j}) \right\|^{2}$$

$$= \underbrace{\operatorname{vec}(\mathbf{H}^{H})^{H}}_{\mathbf{u}} \underbrace{(\mathbf{I}_{N_{r}} \otimes \Delta \Delta^{H})}_{\mathbf{B}} \underbrace{\operatorname{vec}(\mathbf{H}^{H})}_{\mathbf{u}} \tag{9}$$

 $= \mathbf{u}^{\prime\prime} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{u}$. ed on [47] the MGE of γ is given

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 is given by

$$\exp(-\bar{\mathbf{u}}^{H}(\mathbf{R}_{n})^{-1}(\mathbf{I}-(\mathbf{I}-s\mathbf{R}_{n}\mathbf{B})^{-1})\bar{\mathbf{u}}$$

$$M_{\gamma}(s) = \frac{\exp(-\mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{u}}) \cdot (\mathbf{r} \cdot (\mathbf{r} \cdot s\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{u}}\mathbf{B}) \cdot (\mathbf{u}))}{|\mathbf{I} - s\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}}\mathbf{B}|}, \quad (10)$$

where $\bar{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{u}), \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{u}\mathbf{u}^{H}).$ Then the PEP can be obtained by

$$P\left(\mathbf{X}^{i} \to \mathbf{X}^{j}\right) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{0}^{\pi} M_{\gamma} \left(-\frac{1}{4(\sigma^{2} + \|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{e}^{2})\sin^{2}\theta}\right) d_{\theta}$$
$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{0}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\exp(-\bar{\mathbf{u}}^{H}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}})^{-1}(\mathbf{I} - (\mathbf{I} + \frac{\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}}\mathbf{B}}{4(\sigma^{2} + \|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{e}^{2})\sin^{2}\theta})^{-1})\bar{\mathbf{u}})}{\left|\mathbf{I} + \frac{\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}}\mathbf{B}}{4(\sigma^{2} + \|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{e}^{2})\sin^{2}\theta}\right|} d_{\theta}.$$

$$(11)$$

To further simplify the calculation of (11), we use the characteristic function in (7) by [36]

$$Q(x) \approx \frac{1}{12}e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} + \frac{1}{4}e^{-\frac{2x^2}{3}}.$$
 (12)

Then, the value of $P(\mathbf{X}^i \to \mathbf{X}^j)$ can be approximately expressed by

$$\begin{aligned} P\left(\mathbf{X}^{i} \to \mathbf{X}^{j}\right) &\approx \int \left(\frac{1}{12}e^{-\frac{\gamma}{4(\sigma^{2}+\|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{c}^{2})}} + \frac{1}{4}e^{-\frac{\gamma}{3(\sigma^{2}+\|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{c}^{2})}}\right)f_{\gamma}(\gamma)d\gamma \\ &= \frac{1}{12}M_{\gamma}\left(-\frac{1}{4(\sigma^{2}+\|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{c}^{2})}\right) + \frac{1}{4}M_{\gamma}\left(-\frac{1}{3(\sigma^{2}+\|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{c}^{2})}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{12}\frac{\exp(-\bar{\mathbf{u}}^{H}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}})^{-1}(\mathbf{I}-(\mathbf{I}+\frac{\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}}\mathbf{B}}{4(\sigma^{2}+\|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{c}^{2})\sin^{2}\theta})^{-1})\bar{\mathbf{u}})}{\left|\mathbf{I}+\frac{\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}}\mathbf{B}}{3(\sigma^{2}+\|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{c}^{2})\sin^{2}\theta}\right|} \\ &+ \frac{1}{4}\frac{\exp(-\bar{\mathbf{u}}^{H}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}})^{-1}(\mathbf{I}-(\mathbf{I}+\frac{\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}}\mathbf{B}}{3(\sigma^{2}+\|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{c}^{2})\sin^{2}\theta})^{-1})\bar{\mathbf{u}})}{\left|\mathbf{I}+\frac{\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}}\mathbf{B}}{3(\sigma^{2}+\|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{c}^{2})\sin^{2}\theta}\right|}.
\end{aligned}$$
(13)

Hence, the ABEP is mainly associated with the value of $\bar{\mathbf{u}}$,

$$\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}}, \Delta = (\mathbf{X}^i - \mathbf{X}^j) \text{ and } d(\mathbf{X}^i, \mathbf{X}^j).$$

Since the values of $\bar{\mathbf{u}}$, $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}}$ are associated with the specific channel, which are calculated in Appendix, the ABEP can be further improved by optimizing the value of $d(\mathbf{X}^i, \mathbf{X}^j)$ and $\Delta = (\mathbf{X}^i - \mathbf{X}^j)$ for a given channel model.

C. Bit-to-IC mapping optimization

For a GIM system with N_t elements and N_u activated ones, there are a total of $C_{N_{\text{all}}}^N = \frac{N_{\text{all}}!}{N!(N_{\text{all}}-N)!}$ possible IC sets \mathbb{I}_q , $q = (1, ..., C_{N_{\text{all}}}^N)$. In the conventional GIM system, a specific IC set is selected randomly from $\{\mathbb{I}_1, ..., \mathbb{I}_{C_{N,\mu}^N}\}$. For each selected IC set \mathbb{I}_q , there are N! ways for the bit-to-IC mapping, resulting in different ABEPs. In this paper, we mainly focus on the optimization of the bit-to-IC mapping without APM symbol, i.e., select one IC and one mapping principle to obtain the smallest ABEP of M = 1 as m

$$\lim_{d \to \infty} P_b \tag{14}$$

where \mathbb{M}_q is the bit-to-IC mapping set of the select IC set \mathbb{I}_q . To satisfy (14), one out of $C_{N_{\text{all}}}^N N! = \frac{N_{\text{all}}!}{(N_{\text{all}}-N)!}$ mapping principles should be selected, which becomes impractical for a relatively large value of $N_{\rm all}$.

Specifically, for the case of M = 1, the activated IC only transmits symbol '1', so that the ABEP can be represented as $\partial^B \partial^B$

$$P_{b} = \frac{1}{B2^{B}} \sum_{i=1}^{2^{-}} \sum_{\substack{j \neq i \\ j \neq i}}^{2^{-}} d(\mathbf{X}^{i}, \mathbf{X}^{j}) P(\mathbf{X}^{i} \to \mathbf{X}^{j})$$

$$= \underbrace{\frac{1}{B2^{B}} \sum_{i=1}^{2^{B}} \sum_{\substack{j \neq i \\ j \neq i}}^{2^{B}} d(\mathbf{X}^{i}, \mathbf{X}^{j}) P(\mathbf{X}^{i} \to \mathbf{X}^{j} | n_{\text{err}} = 1) + \dots + \underbrace{\frac{1}{B2^{B}} \sum_{i=1}^{2^{B}} \sum_{\substack{j \neq i \\ j \neq i}}^{2^{B}} d(\mathbf{X}^{i}, \mathbf{X}^{j}) P(\mathbf{X}^{i} \to \mathbf{X}^{j} | n_{\text{err}} = N_{u}),}_{P_{b}^{N_{u}}}}$$

$$\underbrace{(15)$$

where $P_b^{n_{\rm err}} \ n_{\rm err} = 1, ..., N_u$ denotes the ABEP of the PEP event with $n_{\rm err}$ erroneous indices. According to (1)-(13), we usually have

$$P(\mathbf{X}^{i} \to \mathbf{X}^{j} | n_{\text{err}} = 1) \gg \dots \gg P(\mathbf{X}^{i} \to \mathbf{X}^{j} | n_{\text{err}} = N_{u}).$$
(16)

Therefore, the optimization can be decomposed into N_u steps as follows.

Step 1: Find the IC set \mathcal{I}^1 and the mapping set \mathcal{M}^1 by $(\mathcal{I}^1, \mathcal{M}^1) = \min_{\forall \mathbb{I}_q, \mathbb{M}_q} P_b^1.$

Step 2: Find the IC and the mapping set $(\mathcal{I}^2,\mathcal{M}^2)$ from $(\mathcal{I}^1, \mathcal{M}^1)$ by $(\mathcal{I}^2, \mathcal{M}^2) = \min_{\forall \mathcal{I}^1, \mathcal{M}^1} \hat{P_b^2}.$

Step N_u : Find the IC set and the mapping set $(\mathcal{I}^{N_u}, \mathcal{M}^{N_u})$ from $(\mathcal{I}^{N_u-1}, \mathcal{M}^{N_u-1})$ by $(\mathcal{I}^{N_u}, \mathcal{M}^{N_u}) =$ $\min_{\forall \mathcal{I}^{N_u-1}, \mathcal{M}^{N_u-1}} P_b^{N_u}.$

Since the value of $P(\mathbf{X}^i \to \mathbf{X}^j | n_{\text{err}})$ is independent of the bit-to-IC mapping in some GIM systems, the optimization is

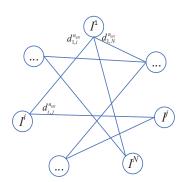


Fig. 2. A weighted graph $G_{n_{\text{err}}}^w(V, E)$ for a specific IC set.

finally represented as

$$(\mathcal{I}^{1}, \mathcal{M}^{1}) \approx \min_{\forall \mathbb{I}_{q}, \mathbb{M}_{q}} \sum_{i=1}^{2^{B}} \sum_{j \neq i}^{2^{B}} d(\mathbf{X}^{i}, \mathbf{X}^{j} | n_{\text{err}} = 1)$$

$$(\mathcal{I}^{2}, \mathcal{M}^{2}) = \min_{\forall \mathcal{I}^{1}, \mathcal{M}^{1}} \sum_{i=1}^{2^{B}} \sum_{j \neq i}^{2^{B}} d(\mathbf{X}^{i}, \mathbf{X}^{j} | n_{\text{err}} = 2)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$(\mathcal{I}^{N_{u}}, \mathcal{M}^{N_{u}}) = \min_{\substack{\sum i \in \mathcal{I}^{B}}} \sum_{j=1}^{2^{B}} \sum_{j \neq i}^{2^{B}} d(\mathbf{X}^{i}, \mathbf{X}^{j} | n_{\text{err}} = 2)$$

$$(\mathcal{I}^{N_u}, \mathcal{M}^{N_u}) = \min_{\forall \mathcal{I}^{N_u - 1}, \mathcal{M}^{N_u - 1}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_u} \sum_{j \neq i} d(\mathbf{X}^i, \mathbf{X}^j | n_{\text{err}} = N_u)$$
(17)

where $d_{ij}^{n_{\rm err}} = d(\mathbf{X}^i, \mathbf{X}^j | n_{\rm err}) \in \mathbb{D}$ denotes the HD of the PEP event with $n_{\rm err}$ erroneous indices, where the HD set \mathbb{D} is

$$\mathbb{D} = (\underbrace{1, ..., 1}_{C_{R}^{1}}, \underbrace{2, ..., 2}_{C_{R}^{2}}, ..., \underbrace{u, ..., u}_{C_{B}^{u}}, ..., \underbrace{B}_{C_{B}^{B}}).$$
(18)

To simplify the optimization, the above formulations will be transformed to graph theory based problems and lowcomplexity search algorithms will be designed.

III. GRAPH THEORY BASED PROBLEM FORMULATION

A. Definitions of graphs

A graph G = (V(G), E(G)) consists of two finite sets, where V(G) denotes the vertex set of graph with |V(G)| = nand E(G) denotes the edge set of graph with |E(G)| = m. Each edge e in E is assigned as an unordered pair of vertices (u, v), which is called the end vertices of e.

Incidence: When a vertex v_i is an end vertex of some edge e_j , v_i and e_j are said to be incident with each other.

Adjacent: Two vertices are said to be adjacent if they are the end vertices of the same edge.

Degree: Let v be a vertex of the graph G. The degree d(v) of v is the number of edges of G incident with v by counting each self-loop twice. $\delta(G)$ and $\Delta(G)$ represent the minimum degree and maximum degree of G, respectively.

Subgraph: Let G_1 be a graph with vertex set $V(G_1)$ and edge set $E(G_1)$. If $G_1 = (V(G_1), E(G_1))$ is a subgraph of G = (V(G), E(G)), we have $V(G_1) \subset V(G), E(G_1) \subset E(G)$.

Weighted graph: Let $G^w(V, E)$ be a weighted graph, where each edge e has been assigned a weight w(e).

Completed graph: If $G_c(V, E)$ is a completed graph with $V = (v_1, ..., v_n)$, we have $d(v_1) = d(v_2) = ..., = d(v_n) = n - 1$.

B. Problem formulation

In this subsection, we reformulate the optimization of (17) into the formulation associated with a graph. Specifically, Fig. 2 presents a weighted graph $G_{n_{\text{err}}}(V, E)$ for a specific IC set of $V = (I^1, ..., I^N)$, where I^i and I^j are adjacent if there are n_{err} different elements between them, and the weight of this edge is $w_{i,j} = d_{ij}^{n_{\text{err}}}$.

For the weighted graph $G_{n_{\text{err}}}^w(V, E)$ shown in Fig. 2, the corresponding weighted adjacent matrix is expressed as

$$\mathbf{A}_{n_{\text{err}}} = I^{j} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \cdots & d_{1,i}^{n_{\text{err}}} & \cdots & I^{n} \\ \vdots & \\ 0 & \cdots & d_{j,i}^{n_{\text{err}}} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & d_{j,i}^{n_{\text{err}}} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ d_{N,1}^{n_{\text{err}}} & \cdots & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$
(19)
where the *i*-th row and *j*-th column $A_{n_{\text{err}}}^{i,j}$ is expressed as
 $A_{n_{\text{err}}}^{i,j} = A_{n_{\text{err}}}^{j,i} = \begin{cases} d_{i,j}^{n_{\text{err}}}, \text{ if length}(\text{setdiff}(I^{i}, I^{j})) = n_{\text{err}} \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases},$

(20) where setdiff(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) is a function returning the different values between \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} and length(\mathbf{x}) is a function returning the length of \mathbf{x} . Hence, (17) can be finally represented as

$$(\mathcal{I}^{1}, \mathcal{M}^{1}) \approx \min_{\forall \mathbb{I}_{q}, \mathbb{M}_{q}} W(\mathbf{A}_{1}),$$

$$(\mathcal{I}^{2}, \mathcal{M}^{2}) = \min_{\forall \mathcal{I}^{1}, \mathcal{M}^{1}} W(\mathbf{A}_{2}),$$

$$\vdots$$

$$(\mathcal{I}^{N_{u}}, \mathcal{M}^{N_{u}}) = \min_{\forall \mathcal{I}^{N_{u}-1}, \mathcal{M}^{N_{u}-1}} W(\mathbf{A}_{N_{u}}),$$

$$V(\mathbf{A}_{n_{eve}}) = \sum_{i=1}^{2^{B}} \sum_{j=1}^{2^{B}} A_{i,j}^{i,j}.$$

$$(21)$$

where $W(\mathbf{A}_{n_{\text{err}}}) = \sum_{i=1}^{2} \sum_{j=1}^{2} \mathbf{A}_{n_{\text{err}}}^{i,j}$.

Based on the above analysis, we mainly aim to find the set $(\mathcal{I}^1, \mathcal{M}^1)$ in this paper. According to (21), it consists of two steps: 1) find the set \mathcal{I}^1 ; 2) find the set \mathcal{M}^1 . Assuming that the graph $G_1^a(V, E)$ denotes a graph with N_{all} vertexes as $V(G_1^a) = (I^1, I^2, ..., I^{N_{\text{all}}})$, where I^i and I^j are adjacent if there are $n_{\text{err}} = 1$ different elements. Then, finding the optimal IC set \mathcal{I}^1 can be reformulated as problem formulation 1.

Problem formulation 1: Find a subgraph $G_1(V, E)$ from $G_1^a(V, E)$ with the minimum degree $\delta(G_1)$.

For a subgraph $G_1(V, E)$ with $V(G_1) = (I^1, ..., I^N)$, N blocks of information bits are mapped to this graph, resulting in N! kinds of weighted graphs. We should find one mapping principle to have the minimum weight. Since N blocks of information bits consist of one weighted completed graph $G_c^w(V, E)$, where the weight between two adjacent vertexes is the HD between the corresponding information bits. Then, finding the optimal mapping set \mathcal{M}^1 can be transformed into problem formulation 2.

Problem formulation 2: Find a subgraph $G_1^w(V, E)$ from the weighted complete graph $G_c^w(V, E)$ with the minimum weight, where $G_1^w(V, E)$ and $G_1(V, E)$ have the same vertex set and edge set.

IV. GRAPH THEORY ASSISTED IC SELECTION

In this section, we mainly focus on solving the problem formulation 1 in Section III-B. As introduced in Section III-B, we have to remove $N_{re} = N_{all} - N$ vertexes from the graph

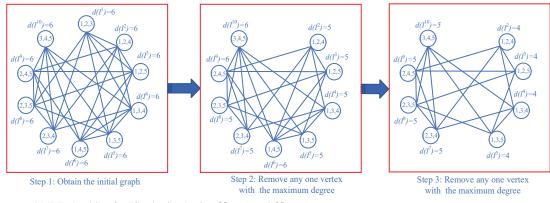


Fig. 3. The proposed MDF algorithm for IC selection having $N_t = 5$ and $N_u = 3$.

 $G_1^a(V, E)$. There are a total of $C_{N_{\rm all}}^{N_{\rm re}}$ possible IC graphs, resulting in different degrees. To find the graph with the minimum degree, the optimal algorithm has to calculate the degrees of $C_{N_{\rm all}}^{N_{\rm re}}$ graphs, which becomes prohibitively complicated and challenging. In this section, we propose a low-complexity MDF algorithm to address the above issue. Specifically, the IC selection consists of $N_{\rm re}$ steps. For each step, the vertex with the maximum degree is removed, and the degree of remaining vertexes is updated. Repeat the above processes until we remove $N_{\rm re}$ vertexes. The complexity order of the MDF algorithm is $O(N_{\rm re}N)$, which becomes straightforward for any setup of N_t and N_u . For easy understanding, we present an example of the IC selection as follows.

A. MDF assisted IC selection for $N_t = 5$ and Nu = 3

Fig. 3 presents the MDF assisted IC selection for $N_t = 5$ and Nu = 3. As shown in Fig. 2, the initial graph $G_1^a(V, E)$ has 10 vertexes as

$$V(G_{1}^{a}) = [\underbrace{(1,2,3)}_{I^{1}}, \underbrace{(1,2,4)}_{I^{2}}, \underbrace{(1,2,5)}_{I^{3}}, \underbrace{(1,3,4)}_{I^{4}}, \underbrace{(1,3,5)}_{I^{5}}, \underbrace{(1,4,5)}_{I^{6}}, \underbrace{(2,3,4)}_{I^{7}}, \underbrace{(2,3,5)}_{I^{8}}, \underbrace{(2,4,5)}_{I^{9}}, \underbrace{(3,4,5)}_{I^{10}}].$$
(22)

We have to remove $N_{\rm re} = 2$ ICs for the bit-to-IC mapping.

Step 1: Remove the first vertex with the maximum degree. As shown in Fig. 3, we have $d(I^1) = ... = d(I^{10}) = 6$ at the beginning, so that any vertex is suitable for removal. Taking removing the vertex I^1 for example, we update the degree of each vertex as

$$d(I^2) = d(I^3) = d(I^4) = d(I^5) = d(I^7) = d(I^8) = 5,$$

$$d(I^6) = d(I^9) = d(I^{10}) = 6.$$
(23)

Step 2: Remove the second vertex with the maximum degree. Taking removing the vertex I^6 for example, we update the degree of each vertex as

$$d(I^2) = d(I^3) = d(I^4) = d(I^5) = 4, d(I^7) = d(I^8) = d(I^9) = d(I^{10}) = 5.$$
(24)

As a result, an optimal IC with the minimum degree is $\mathbb{I}_o = (I^2, I^3, I^4, I^5, I^7, I^8, I^9, I^{10}).$

B. MDF assisted generalized IC selection

For a generalized IC selection, we have to remove $N_{\rm re}$ vertexes from $\{I^1, ..., I^{N_{\rm all}}\}$, so that the IC selection consists of $N_{\rm re}$ steps. Firstly, we obtain the initial graph $G_1^{a,0}(V, E)$ including $N_{\rm all}$ vertexes. Assuming that $\mathcal{A}^0(I^i)$ denotes the adjacent vertex set of I^i , we have

 $d^{0}(I^{i}) = |\mathcal{A}^{0}(I^{i})| = C_{N_{u}}^{N_{u}-1}(N_{t}-N_{u}), I^{i} \in V(G_{1}^{a,0})).$ (25) **Step t** $(t = 1, ..., N_{re})$: Remove the *l*-th vertex with the maximum degree based on the graph $V(G_{1}^{a,t-1})$. Then, update the adjacent vertex set $\mathcal{A}^{t}(I^{i}) = \mathcal{A}^{t-1}(I^{i}) \setminus I^{l}$. The degree of the remaining vertex can be updated as $d^{t}(I^{i}) = |\mathcal{A}^{t}(I^{i})|$. Repeat the above operations N_{re} times, so that the complexity order of the proposed MDF algorithm is $O(N_{re}N)$.

C. Proof of the proposed MDF algorithm

In this subsection, we will demonstrate that the proposed MDF algorithm is identical as the optimal one using the mathematical induction technique. The proposed MDF algorithm consists of $N_{\rm re}$ steps. As shown in Section IV-B, the degree of each vertex becomes different from step 2. Assuming that $\mathbf{d}^1 = (d^1(I^1), ..., d^1(I^{N_{\rm all}-1}))$, we have $\delta^1 = \sum \mathbf{d}^1$ and the proof is given as follows.

1) In the t = 2-th step, assuming that $d^1(I^q) = \max(\mathbf{d}^1)$, we have $d^1(I^q) \ge d^1(I^p) \ p \ne q$. Then, we obtain two different graphs $H_p(V^2, E^2)$ and $H_q(V^2, E^2)$ by removing the *p*-th vertex or the *q*-th vertex. Assuming that the total degrees of $H_p(V^2, E^2)$ and $H_q(V^2, E^2)$ are $\delta^{2,p}$ and $\delta^{2,q}$, it is straightforward to have

$$\delta^{2,p} = \delta^1 - d^1(I^p), \\ \delta^{2,q} = \delta^1 - d^1(I^q).$$
(26)
It is evident that $\delta^{2,q} < \delta^{2,p}.$

- 2) In the t = K-th step, $\delta^K = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{all}}-K} d^K(I^q)$ has the smallest value. Assuming that $d^K(I^q) = \max(\mathbf{d}^K)$, we have $d^K(I^q) \ge d^K(I^p)$ $p \ne q$. In the t = (K+1)-th step, by removing the q-th or p-th vertex, we obtain $\delta^{K+1,q} = \delta^K d^K(I^q)$ and $\delta^{K+1,p} = \delta^K d^K(I^p)$. It is easy to obtain that $\delta^{K+1,q} \le \delta^{K+1,p}$.
- 3) It is concluded from the above two steps that the proposed MDF algorithm always has the minimum degree.

V. GRAPH THEORY ASSISTED BIT-TO-IC MAPPING

In this section, we mainly focus on solving the problem formulation 2 of section III-B. For a specific IC graph, there are a total of N! mapping choices, resulting in N! weighted graphs. The aim of the bit-to-IC mapping is to find one weighted graph with the minimum weight. To tackle this issue, a MWF based low-complexity mapping principle is proposed. Specifically, the proposed algorithm consists of N steps. In each step, one block of information bits are mapped to a specific IC index. We first decide which IC index should be mapped based on the adjacent matrix. Next, one block of information bits which make the current weighted graph to have the minimum weight will be mapped to this IC index. Repeat the above operations N times. For easy understanding, we will introduce an example first and then present the generalized algorithm.

A. Bit-to-IC mapping for $N_t = 5$, $N_u = 3$

For the case of $N_t = 5$, $N_u = 3$, we reformulate the selected IC set as

$$\mathbb{I}_{o} = [\underbrace{(1,2,4)}_{I}, \underbrace{(1,2,5)}_{I^{2}}, \underbrace{(1,3,4)}_{I^{3}}, \underbrace{(1,3,5)}_{I^{4}}, \underbrace{(2,3,4)}_{I^{3}}, \underbrace{(2,3,5)}_{I^{2}}, \underbrace{(2,4,5)}_{I^{3}}, \underbrace{(3,4,5)}_{I^{3}}].$$
(27)

Step 1: Obtain the adjacent matrix $\mathbf{A}_{1}^{I^{8}}$ as

$$\mathbf{A}_{1} = \begin{bmatrix} I^{1} & I^{2} & I^{3} & I^{4} & I^{5} & I^{6} & I^{7} & I^{8} \\ I^{1} & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & d_{12}^{1} & d_{13}^{1} & 0 & d_{15}^{1} & 0 & d_{17}^{1} & 0 \\ d_{21}^{1} & 0 & 0 & d_{24}^{1} & 0 & d_{26}^{1} & d_{27}^{1} & 0 \\ d_{31}^{1} & 0 & 0 & d_{34}^{1} & d_{35}^{1} & 0 & 0 & d_{38}^{1} \\ 0 & d_{42}^{1} & d_{43}^{1} & 0 & 0 & d_{46}^{1} & 0 & d_{48}^{1} \\ d_{51}^{1} & 0 & d_{53}^{1} & 0 & 0 & d_{56}^{1} & d_{57}^{1} & d_{58}^{1} \\ I^{6} & 0 & d_{62}^{1} & 0 & d_{64}^{1} & d_{65}^{1} & 0 & d_{67}^{1} & d_{68}^{1} \\ d_{71}^{1} & d_{72}^{1} & 0 & 0 & d_{75}^{1} & d_{76}^{1} & 0 & d_{78}^{1} \\ I^{8} & 0 & 0 & d_{83}^{1} & d_{84}^{1} & d_{85}^{1} & d_{86}^{1} & d_{87}^{1} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(28)$$

Then, its corresponding nonzero index set can be expressed as $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 5 & 7 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\mathcal{A} = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 6 \\ 1 & 4 & 6 & 7 & 0 \\ 1 & 4 & 5 & 8 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 6 & 8 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\ 2 & 4 & 5 & 7 & 8 \\ 1 & 2 & 5 & 6 & 8 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \end{vmatrix},$$
(29)

where the elements of the *i*-th row of \mathcal{A} represent the IC indices with one different element with the IC I^i .

Step 2: The bit-to-IC mapping can begin at any IC vertex with any bits index as

$$b_1 = (000), b_2 = (001), b_3 = (010), b_4 = (011), \\ b_1 = (100), b_2 = (101), b_1 = (110), b_2 = (111),$$
(30)

 $b_5 = (100), b_6 = (101), b_7 = (110), b_8 = (111).$ Assuming that \mathcal{M}_n n = 1, ..., N denotes the *n*-th mapping vector, V_b^n is the set of the nonzero elements of \mathcal{M}_n , and V_I^n is the index set of these nonzero elements, we have $\mathcal{M}_0 =$ [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0] and $V_I^0 = [\phi] V_b^0 = [\phi]$ at the beginning. Especially, V_b^n and V_I^n also present the bits index set and IC index set that have been mapped, respectively. Taking $b_2 \rightarrow$ I^1 for example, we have $\mathcal{M}_1 = [2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0], V_I^1 =$ $[1], V_b^1 = [2]$ and $\mathcal{M}_{\text{left}} = [1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]$. Then, the next mapping process begins at the set $\mathcal{A}_1 = [2, 3, 5, 7]$. Taking I^2 for example, we have to find one bit index from $\mathcal{M}_{\text{left}}$ to have the minimum HD between I^1 and I^2 . It is easy to obtain $b_1 \to I^2$. Finally, update the mapping set as $\mathcal{M}_2 = [2, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0], V_I^2 = [1, 2], V_b^2 = [2, 1]$ and $\mathcal{M}_{\text{left}} = [3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]$.

Step 3: Find the 3-rd IC index that has the largest number of adjacent vertexes with V_I for mapping by

$$l_{i} = \text{length}(\text{intersect}(\mathcal{A}_{i}, V_{I}^{t-1})), i \notin V_{I}^{t-1}, t = 3, ..., N,$$

$$i_{t} = \underset{\forall i,}{\operatorname{arg\,max}}(l_{i}),$$

(31)

where intersect(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) is a function returning the same value between \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} . According to (31), we have $\mathbf{l}^3 = [l_1, l_2, l_3, ..., l_8] = [0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 0]$, and the mapping starts at I^7 . Next, find one bit index from $\mathcal{M}_{\text{left}}$ to have the minimum HD with the mapped ICs I^1 and I^2 . Specifically, we have

 $\begin{array}{l} (b_{3} \rightarrow I^{7}) \rightarrow d(I^{7}, I^{1}) + d(I^{7}, I^{2}) = d_{71}^{1} + d_{72}^{1} = 3, \\ (b_{4} \rightarrow I^{7}) \rightarrow d(I^{7}, I^{1}) + d(I^{7}, I^{2}) = d_{71}^{1} + d_{72}^{1} = 3, \\ (b_{5} \rightarrow I^{7}) \rightarrow d(I^{7}, I^{1}) + d(I^{7}, I^{2}) = d_{71}^{1} + d_{72}^{1} = 3, \\ (b_{6} \rightarrow I^{7}) \rightarrow d(I^{7}, I^{1}) + d(I^{7}, I^{2}) = d_{71}^{1} + d_{72}^{1} = 3, \\ (b_{7} \rightarrow I^{7}) \rightarrow d(I^{7}, I^{1}) + d(I^{7}, I^{2}) = d_{71}^{1} + d_{72}^{1} = 5, \\ (b_{8} \rightarrow I^{7}) \rightarrow d(I^{7}, I^{1}) + d(I^{7}, I^{2}) = d_{71}^{1} + d_{72}^{1} = 5. \\ \end{array}$ Hence, we have $I^{7} \in \{b_{3}, b_{4}, b_{5}, b_{6}\}$. Taking $b_{3} \rightarrow I^{7}$ for example, we update the mapping set $\mathcal{M}_{3} = [2, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 3, 0], \\ V_{I}^{3} = [1, 2, 7], V_{b}^{3} = [2, 1, 3] \text{ and } \mathcal{M}_{\text{left}} = [4, 5, 6, 7, 8]. \end{array}$

Step 4: Find the 4-th IC index for mapping using $V_I^3 = [1, 2, 7]$. According to (31), we have $\mathbf{l}^4 = [l_1, l_2, l_3, ..., l_8] = [0, 0, 1, 1, 2, 2, 0, 1]$, so that we can start at I^5 . Since $(b_4 \to I^5) \to d(I^5, I^1) + d(I^5, I^7) = d_{51}^1 + d_{52}^1 = 2$, $(b_5 \to I^5) \to d(I^5, I^1) + d(I^5, I^7) = d_{51}^1 + d_{52}^1 = 4$, $(b_6 \to I^5) \to d(I^5, I^1) + d(I^5, I^7) = d_{51}^1 + d_{52}^1 = 4$, $(b_7 \to I^5) \to d(I^5, I^1) + d(I^5, I^7) = d_{51}^1 + d_{52}^1 = 4$, $(b_8 \to I^5) \to d(I^5, I^1) + d(I^5, I^7) = d_{51}^1 + d_{52}^1 = 4$, it is obvious that $h \to J^5$. The mapping set can be undeted by

it is obvious that $b_4 \to I^5$. The mapping set can be updated by $\mathcal{M}_4 = [2, 1, 0, 0, 4, 0, 3, 0], V_I^4 = [1, 2, 5, 7], V_b^4 = [2, 1, 4, 3]$ and $\mathcal{M}_{left} = [5, 6, 7, 8].$

Step 5: Find the 5-th IC index for mapping using $V_I^4 = [1, 2, 5, 7]$. According to (31), we have $l^5 = [l_1, l_2, l_3, ..., l_8] = [0, 0, 2, 1, 0, 3, 0, 2]$, so that we can start at I^6 . Since $(b_5 \rightarrow I^6) \rightarrow d_{62}^1 + d_{65}^1 + d_{67}^1 = 6$,

it is easy to obtain $b_7 \to I^6$. The mapping set is updated as $\mathcal{M}_5 = [2, 1, 0, 0, 4, 7, 3, 0], V_I^5 = [1, 2, 5, 6, 7], V_b^5 = [2, 1, 4, 7, 3]$ and $\mathcal{M}_{\text{left}} = [5, 6, 8].$

Step 6: The 6-th IC index should be mapped is I^8 via $I^6 = [l_1, l_2, l_3, ..., l_8] = [0, 0, 2, 2, 0, 0, 0, 3]$. Since

it is easy to obtain that $b_8 \to I^8$. The mapping set can be updated by $\mathcal{M}_6 = [2, 1, 0, 0, 4, 7, 3, 8], V_I^6 = [1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8], V_b^6 = [2, 1, 4, 7, 3, 8]$ and $\mathcal{M}_{\text{left}} = [5, 6].$

Step 7: The 7-th IC index should be mapped is I^3 via

$$\mathbf{l}^{7} = [l_{1}, l_{2}, l_{3}, \dots, l_{8}] = [0, 0, 3, 3, 0, 0, 0, 0]. \text{ Since} (b_{5} \to I^{3}) = \to d_{31} + d_{35} + d_{38} = 7, (b_{6} \to I^{3}) \to d_{31} + d_{35} + d_{38} = 4,$$
(36)

it is obvious that $b_6 \to I^3$. The mapping set is updated by $\mathcal{M}_7 = [2, 1, 6, 0, 4, 7, 3, 8], V_I^7 = [1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8], V_b^7 = [2, 1, 6, 4, 7, 3, 8]$ and $\mathcal{M}_{\text{left}} = [5]$.

Step 8: Based on Step 7, the final mapping set is $\mathcal{M}_8 = [2, 1, 6, 5, 4, 7, 3, 8]$ and $\delta(G) = 48$.

B. MWF based generalized bit-to-IC mapping

In this subsection, a low complexity generalized bit-to-IC mapping is introduced as follows.

Step 1: Obtain the weighted adjacent matrix \mathbf{A}_1 and its corresponding adjacent vertex set \mathcal{A} based on the obtained IC set. Then, initialize the mapping set, mapped IC index set, mapped bit index set and the bit index set as $\mathcal{M}_0 = [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0], V_I^0 = \phi, V_b^0 = \phi$ and $\mathcal{M}_b = [1, ..., N]$, respectively.

Step 2: Map the first IC index. Taking $I^1 = b_n$ for example, we can update the mapping sets as $\mathcal{M}_1 = [n, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]$, $V_I^1 = [1]$, $V_b^1 = [n]$ and $\mathcal{M}_{\text{left}} = \mathcal{M}_b \setminus V_b^1$.

Step t+1: Map the *t*-th IC index. Assuming that $\mathcal{M}_{t-1}(V_I^{t-1}) = V_b^{t-1}$, the *t*-th IC index i_t can be obtained via (31) using \mathcal{A} and V_I^{t-1} . Then, we obtain the adjacent set of I^{i_t} as

$$V_I^{i_t} = \text{intersect}(\mathcal{A}_{i_t}, V_I^{t-1}).$$
(37)

The bit index for I^{i_t} is belong to

$$Q_{1} = \min_{q \in M_{\text{left}}} (\sum_{i \in V^{i_{t}}} d^{1}_{i_{t},j}).$$
(38)

Then, the mapping sets can be updated by $V_I^t = V_I^{t-1} \cup i_t$, $V_b^t = V_b^{t-1} \cup Q_1(1), \ \mathcal{M}_t(V_I^t) = V_b^t \text{ and } \ \mathcal{M}_{\text{left}} = \mathcal{M}_b \setminus V_b^t$.

Repeat Steps (t+1) until all the IC indices are mapped.

Tables I and II present some mapping examples, where bpcu denotes the bits per channel use. It can be observed from Tables I and II that the value of $W(\mathbf{A}_1)$ with our proposed algorithm is substantial lower than that of conventional counterpart. We have checked that the proposed mapping principle is similar as the optimal one at low transmission rates (i.e. $(N_t, N_u) = (4, 2), (5, 2), (6, 2), (6, 3)$). For other setups, it is challenging to obtain the optimal mapping principle by calculating the weights of $C_{N_{all}}^N N!$ weighted graphs. The complexity orders of different bit-to-IC mapping methods are presented in Table III and their comparisons for specific setups are presented in Table IV. As observed from Tables III and IV, it is obvious that the proposed method makes the bit-to-IC mapping optimization of high throughput practical. Moreover, by using the bit-to-IC mapping Tables of I and II, the end-toend complexity of the proposed method based GIM system is the same as the conventional counterpart.

VI. SIMULATION RESULTS

In this section, the performances of the GIM systems with our proposed bit-to-IC mapping principles are compared with the conventional counterparts using the bit-to-IC mapping Tables I and II. ML detectors are employed for all the GIM systems. The main difference between our proposed GIM

 TABLE III

 Complexity order of different bit-to-IC methods

Scheme	IC selection	Mapping	Total			
Conventional	O(1)	O(1)	O(1)			
Optimal	$O(C_{N_{\mathrm{all}}^N})$	N!)	$O(C_{N_{\text{all}}^N}N!)$			
Proposed	$O(N_{\rm re}N)$	$O(N^2)$	$O(N_{\rm re}N) + O(N^2)$			
TABLE IV						

COMPLEXITY COMPARISON OF THE SPECIFIC SETUPS

(\mathbf{N},\mathbf{N})	(6,3)	(8,3)	(10,3)	(12,3)
(N_t, N_u)	4 bpcu	5 bpcu	6 bpcu	7 bpcu
Optimal	$O(10^{17})$	$O(10^{51})$	$O(10^{123})$	$O(10^{279})$
Proposed	O(320)	O(1792)	O(7680)	$O(10^4)$

system and the conventional one lies in the bit-to-IC mapping table used for transmission, which is shown in Tables I and II. Moreover, the analytical ABEP performances are added as benchmarkers.

A. Performance comparison of GIM based MIMO systems

Figs. 4 and 5 compare the performance of GSM system having $N_t = 6, N_u = 2, N_r = 6, M = 2$ over different channels. Specifically, Rayleigh fading channel with different channel estimated errors and correlated coefficients are employed in Fig. 4, while Rician channel with K = 5 and Nakagamim channel with m = 2 and m = 3 are employed in Fig. 5. The ABEP upper bound of Rayleigh fading channel with $\sigma_e^2 = 0, \rho_t = \rho_r = 0$ and $\sigma_e^2 = 1/(10^{SNR/10}), \rho_t = \rho_r = 0$ are calculated via (6) using (13) or (42), while that of Rayleigh fading channel with $\sigma_e^2 = 0, \rho_t = \rho_r = 0.6$ is calculated via via (6) using (13) and (56). The ABEP upper bound of Rician channel is calculated via (6) using (49) and (13), while that of Nakagami-m channel is obtained via (6) using (45) and (13). As observed from Figs. 4 and 5, the proposed bit-to-IC mapping based GSM system exhibits better performance than the conventional counterpart over different fading channels and imperfect CSI.

Next, Figs. 6-8 compare the performances of the GSM systems employing the proposed mapping approach to that of the conventional counterpart under different antenna configurations. $N_r = 4$, Rayleigh flat fading with perfect CSI and ML detectors are employed for all the GSM systems. For simplicity, (Nt, N_u, M) represents the antenna setups in GSM systems. It is observed from Fig. 6(a) that the proposed mapping principle based GSM systems with (8, 2, 1), (8, 3, 1),(8, 4, 1) outperforms the conventional counterparts by 1 dB, 1 dB and 0.6 dB at BER= 10^{-4} , respectively. When M increases to two, they still provide 0.6 dB, 0.6 dB and 0.4 dB gains over conventional counterpart for (8, 2, 2), (8, 3, 2), (8, 4, 2), respectively. It can be observed from Fig. 7 that the proposed mapping principle based GSM systems with (10, 2, 1), (10,3,1), (10,2,2), (10,3,2) outperforms the conventional counterpart by 0.6 dB, 1 dB, 0.4 dB and 0.55 dB, respectively. It can be observed from Fig. 8 that the proposed mapping principle based GSM systems with (12, 3, 1), (12, 3, 2), (16, 2, 1),(16, 2, 2) outperforms the conventional counterpart by 0.9 dB, 0.5 dB, 0.7 dB and 0.5 dB, respectively.

Figs. 9 and 10 compare the performances of the MS-GSTSK systems employing the proposed mapping principle to that of

		bit-to-IC mapping	1	1		
Scheme		IC set : $\mathbb{I} \rightarrow \text{bits index}$	N _{re}	$\delta(G)$	$W(\mathbf{A}_1)$	$\frac{W(\mathbf{A}_1)}{B2^B}$
$N_t = 6$	Pro.	$[(1,4),(1,5),(1,6),(2,6),(4,5),(2,5),(3,6),(2,3)] \rightarrow [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8]$	2	28	36	1.5
$N_u = 2$	Con.	$[(2,5), (3,4), (3,6), (4,5), (4,6), (5,6), (3,5), (2,6)] \rightarrow [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8]$ $[(1,2,5), (1,2,4), (1,2,6), (1,4,6), (1,3,5), (1,3,4), (1,5,6), (1,3,6)] \rightarrow [1,,8]$	2	38	76	3.17
$N_t = 6$ $N_u = 3$	Pro.	$[(2,3,5), (2,3,4), (2,5,6), (2,3,6), (2,4,5), (3,4,5), (4,5,6), (3,4,6)] \rightarrow [9,, 16]$	4	108	160	2.5
4 bpcu	Con.	$\begin{matrix} [(1,3,6),(1,4,5),(2,4,6),(2,5,6),(2,3,5),(3,4,6),(1,3,4),(3,5,6)] \rightarrow [1,,8] \\ [(4,5,6),(1,3,5),(3,4,5),(2,3,4),(2,3,6),(2,4,5),(1,5,6),(1,4,6)] \rightarrow [9,,16] \end{matrix}$	4	120	304	4.75
$N_t = 7$ $N_u = 2$	Pro.	$[(1,3), (5,7), (1,6), (6,7), (3,5), (3,7), (3,6), (2,6)] \rightarrow [1,,8]$ $[(1,5), (4,7), (1,4), (2,7), (4,5), (2,5), (4,6), (2,4)] \rightarrow [9,,16]$	5	116	188	2.94
$N_u = 2$ 4 bpcu	Con.	$ \begin{array}{c} \hline ((3,7), (5,7), (2,4), (2,6), (3,6), (4,5), (1,7), (2,3)] \rightarrow [1,,8] \\ \hline ((3,4), (2,7), (5,6), (3,5), (2,5), (4,6), (6,7), (4,7)] \rightarrow [9,,16] \end{array} $	5	130	312	4.88
$N_t = 7$ $N_u = 3$ 5 bpcu	Pro.	$ \begin{array}{c} [(1,2,6),(1,4,6),(1,2,5),(1,3,6),(1,2,7),(1,4,7),(1,2,4),(1,3,4)] \rightarrow [1,,8] \\ [(1,5,7),(1,5,6),(2,5,6),(1,3,5),(2,5,7),(1,3,7),(2,3,5),(3,5,7)] \rightarrow [9,,16] \\ [(2,4,6),(4,5,6),(2,4,5),(3,4,6),(2,4,7),(3,4,7),(2,3,4),(3,4,5)] \rightarrow [17,,24] \\ [(2,6,7),(3,6,7),(2,3,6),(3,5,6),(2,3,7),(4,5,7),(5,6,7),(4,6,7)] \rightarrow [25,,32] \end{array} $	3	348	664	4.15
	Con.	$ \begin{array}{c} [(1,6,7),(3,6,7),(2,3,6),(1,4,7),(2,4,7),(1,3,4),(1,3,7),(1,2,6)] \rightarrow [1,,8] \\ [(1,5,6),(2,4,6),(5,6,7),(2,5,7),(4,5,7),(3,4,5),(1,4,5),(3,5,6)] \rightarrow [9,,16] \\ [(3,5,7),(4,5,6),(1,3,5),(2,4,5),(2,5,6),(2,3,5),(3,4,6),(1,5,7)] \rightarrow [17,,24] \\ [(1,2,7),(1,3,6),(2,3,4),(3,4,7),(4,6,7),(2,3,7),(1,4,6),(2,6,7)] \rightarrow [25,,32] \end{array}$	3	354	1056	6.60
$N_t = 8$ $N_t = 2$	Pro.	$ \begin{bmatrix} (1,5), (1,6), (1,7), (1,8), (2,5), (2,6), (2,7), (2,8) \end{bmatrix} \to \begin{bmatrix} 1, \dots, 8 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} (3,5), (3,6), (3,7), (3,8), (4,5), (4,6), (4,7), (4,8) \end{bmatrix} \to \begin{bmatrix} 9, \dots, 16 \end{bmatrix} $	12	96	128	2
$N_u = 2$ 4 bpcu	Con.	$ \begin{bmatrix} (4,8), (6,8), (3,5), (3,7), (4,7), (5,6), (2,8), (3,4) \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1, \dots, 8 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} (4,5), (3,8), (6,7), (4,6), (3,6), (5,7), (7,8), (5,8) \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 9, \dots, 16 \end{bmatrix} $	12	130	312	4.88
$N_t = 8$ $N_u = 3$	Pro.	$ \begin{array}{c} [(1,2,7),(1,4,7),(1,3,4),(1,4,8),(1,2,6),(1,6,8),(1,3,6),(1,3,8)] \rightarrow [1,,8] \\ [(1,5,7),(1,5,8),(3,4,5),(3,5,8),(1,2,5),(2,5,8),(3,4,6),(5,7,8)] \rightarrow [9,,16] \\ [(2,4,7),(2,3,7),(2,3,4),(2,4,8),(2,6,7),(2,6,8),(3,6,7),(4,6,8)] \rightarrow [17,,24] \\ [(2,3,5),(4,5,7),(4,5,6),(4,7,8),(2,5,6),(6,7,8),(5,6,7),(3,7,8)] \rightarrow [25,,32] \end{array}$	24	240	416	2.6
5 bpcu	Con.	$ \begin{array}{ } \hline [(2,7,8),(4,7,8),(3,4,7),(2,5,8),(3,5,8),(2,4,5),(2,4,8),(2,3,7)] \rightarrow [1,,8] \\ \hline [(2,6,7),(3,5,7),(6,7,8),(3,6,8),(5,6,8),(4,5,6),(2,5,6),(4,6,7)] \rightarrow [8,9,,15] \\ \hline [(4,6,8),(5,6,7),(2,4,6),(3,5,6),(3,6,7),(3,4,6),(4,5,7),(2,6,8)] \rightarrow [16,17,,23] \\ \hline [(2,3,8),(2,4,7),(3,4,5),(4,5,8),(5,7,8),(3,4,8),(2,5,7),(3,7,8)] \rightarrow [24,25,,31] \end{array} $	24	354	1056	6.60
$N_t = 8$ $N_u = 4$ 6 bpcu	Pro.	$ \begin{split} & [(1,2,3,7),(1,2,5,7),(1,2,6,8),(1,2,6,7),(2,3,5,7),(2,3,6,7)] \rightarrow [1,,6] \\ & [(2,3,6,8),(2,3,7,8),(1,2,3,6),(1,2,4,7),(1,4,6,8),(1,2,4,6)] \rightarrow [7,,12] \\ & [(2,3,5,6),(2,3,4,6),(2,4,6,8),(2,4,6,7),(1,2,3,8),(1,2,5,8)] \rightarrow [13,,18] \\ & [(1,3,5,8),(1,2,4,8),(2,3,5,8),(2,3,4,7),(2,3,4,8),(2,4,5,8)] \rightarrow [19,,24] \\ & [(1,2,3,5),(1,2,4,5),(3,5,6,8),(2,4,7,8),(2,3,4,5),(2,4,5,7)] \rightarrow [25,,30] \\ & [(2,5,6,8)(2,4,5,6),(1,3,6,7),(1,5,6,7),(5,6,7,8),(1,6,7,8)] \rightarrow [31,,36] \\ & [(3,5,6,7),(2,5,6,7),(3,6,7,8),(2,6,7,8),(1,3,5,6),(1,4,6,7)] \rightarrow [37,,42] \\ & [(1,4,5,6),(4,6,7,8),(1,3,4,6),(3,4,6,7),(3,4,6,8),(4,5,6,7)] \rightarrow [49,,54] \\ & [(3,4,5,8),(3,4,7,8),(1,3,4,5),(1,3,4,7),(1,5,6,8),(1,4,5,7)] \rightarrow [55,,60] \\ & [(3,4,5,6),(3,4,5,7),(4,5,6,8),(4,5,7,8)] \rightarrow [61,62,63,64] \\ \end{split}$	6	928	1916	4.99
	Con.	$ \begin{split} & [(1,2,4,8),(1,2,6,7),(1,6,7,8),(2,4,7,8),(1,3,4,6),(4,6,7,8]) \rightarrow [1,,6] \\ & [(1,2,5,6),(1,5,7,8),(3,4,6,8),(3,4,7,8),(2,3,4,5),(3,4,5,6)] \rightarrow [7,,12] \\ & [(2,5,7,8),(4,5,6,7),(1,4,5,8),(1,3,6,8),(2,3,6,8),(1,4,5,7)] \rightarrow [13,,18] \\ & [(1,3,4,8),(2,5,6,7),(2,3,4,7),(3,5,6,8),(1,3,5,7),(3,6,7,8)] \rightarrow [19,,24] \\ & [(1,5,6,8),(1,2,4,6),(2,3,5,8),(1,2,7,8),(2,4,5,6),(1,3,4,5)] \rightarrow [25,,30] \\ & [(1,4,6,7),(2,4,6,8),(2,4,6,7),(1,4,6,8),(1,4,5,6),(2,5,6,8)] \rightarrow [31,,36] \\ & [(1,3,7,8),(1,2,5,8),(1,2,4,7),(3,4,5,8),(1,3,5,8),(2,3,5,6)] \rightarrow [37,,42] \\ & [(2,3,6,7),(1,3,4,7),(3,5,6,7),(1,5,6,7),(2,3,4,8),(2,4,5,7)] \rightarrow [43,,48] \\ & [(3,4,5,7),(2,4,5,8),(4,2,5,7),(1,3,6,7),(5,6,7,8),(3,5,7,8)] \rightarrow [55,,60] \\ & [(2,6,7,8),(1,4,7,8),(1,2,6,8),(2,3,7,8)] \rightarrow [61,62,63,64] \end{split}$	6	952	3360	8.75
$N_t = 10$ $N_u = 2$ 5 bpcu	Pro.	$ \begin{split} & [(1,5),(1,6),(1,8),(1,10),(4,5),(5,8),(4,8),(5,10)] \rightarrow [1,,8] \\ & [(1,4),(1,7),(4,9),(7,10),(4,7),(6,10),(4,10),(8,10)] \rightarrow [9,,16] \\ & [(2,5),(2,6),(2,8),(2,3),(5,9),(3,6),(8,9),(3,8)] \rightarrow [17,,24] \\ & [(7,9),(2,7),(2,9),(3,7),(6,9),(6,7),(3,9),(3,10)] \rightarrow [25,,32] \end{split}$	13	348	656	4.1
	Con.	$ \begin{split} & [(2,9),(7,8),(7,10),(3,8),(6,10),(9,10),(5,9),(3,5)] \rightarrow [1,,8] \\ & [(4,10),(3,6),(6,8),(4,9),(3,7),(5,8),(2,8),(4,7)] \rightarrow [9,,16] \\ & [(5,7),(2,7),(3,10),(8,9),(4,8),(3,4),(4,6),(6,7)] \rightarrow [17,,24] \\ & [(3,9),(5,6),(4,5),(5,10),(8,10),(6,9),(7,9),(2,10)] \rightarrow [25,,32] \end{split} $	13	404	1154	7.21

 TABLE I

 Bit-to-IC mapping for different GIM schemes

the conventional counterpart. $N_r = 2, P = 1, Q = 2, M = 2$ are employed for all the MS-GSTSK systems. For the case of $N_u = 2$, it is observed from Fig. 9 that the proposed mapping principle based MS-GSTSK systems with $N_t = 6, 10, 16$ outperforms the conventional counterparts by 1.2 dB, 1.2 dB and 1.3 dB at BER= 10^{-4} , respectively. For the case of $N_u > 2$, it is shown from Fig. 10 that the proposed scheme based MS-GSTSK systems with $(N_t, N_u) = (6, 3), (12, 3)$ and (8, 4) provides 1.8 dB, 2 dB, and 1.5 dB gains over the corresponding conventional counterparts, respectively.

B. Performance comparison of recent GIM schemes

Figs. 11 and 12 compare the performances of the OFDM-IM system employing the proposed mapping principle to that of the conventional counterpart for $N_t = 8$, where the channel model is the same as [30]. For the case of M = 1, it is observed from Fig. 11 that the proposed mapping principle based OFDM-IM systems with $(N_t, N_u) = (8, 2), (8, 3), (8, 4)$ outperforms the conventional counterparts by 2 dB, 3 dB and 2 dB, respectively, while they still provides 0.8 dB, 1.8 dB and 1.3 dB gains for the case of M = 2.

Finally, Fig. 13 compares the performances of the recent advanced orbital angular momentum (OAM) based GIM sys-

		bit-to-IC mapping				$W(\mathbf{A}_{\tau})$
Sche	me	IC set : $\mathbb{I} \to \text{bits}$ index	N _{re}	$\delta(G)$	$W(\mathbf{A}_1)$	$\tfrac{W(\mathbf{A}_1)}{B2^B}$
$N_t = 10$ $N_u = 3$ 6 bpcu	Pro.	$ \begin{split} & [(1,3,7),(1,4,7),(1,5,9),(1,2,7),(1,5,7),(2,3,7),(3,5,7),(2,3,6)] \rightarrow [1,,8] \\ & [(7,9,10),(2,7,10),(5,6,9),(6,9,10),(5,7,10),(2,7,8),(5,6,7),(2,5,10)] \rightarrow [9,,16] \\ & [(1,3,10),(1,5,8),(1,6,8),(1,2,6),(3,5,8),(3,5,10),(1,5,6),(3,6,10)] \rightarrow [17,,24] \\ & [(5,8,9),(4,7,10),(1,6,10),(2,6,10),(5,8,10),(2,5,8),(5,6,10),(2,5,6)] \rightarrow [25,,32] \\ & [(1,3,9),(1,4,9),(1,9,10),(1,2,9),(3,7,9),(2,3,9),(4,5,7),(2,3,4)] \rightarrow [33,,40] \\ & [(7,8,9),(2,8,9),(6,7,9),(2,9,10),(7,8,10),(2,4,8),(6,7,8),(2,4,5)] \rightarrow [41,,48] \\ & [(1,3,8),(1,4,8),(1,8,10),(1,2,4),(3,8,9),(3,4,10),(3,6,8),(3,4,5)] \rightarrow [49,,56] \\ & [(4,6,9),(4,9,10),(6,8,9),(4,5,9),(4,6,7),(4,8,10),(4,6,8),(3,4,6)] \rightarrow [57,,64] \end{split}$	56	636	1262	3.29
	Con.	$ \begin{array}{ $	56	974	3376	8.79
$N_t = 12$ $N_u = 3$ 7 bpcu	Pro.	$ \begin{array}{l} [(1,2,8),(1,2,11),(1,2,7),(1,4,6),(1,2,10),(1,6,10),(1,2,6),(1,6,11)] \rightarrow [1,,8] \\ [(1,5,10),(1,4,8),(1,8,12),(1,8,11),(1,8,10),(1,4,10),(1,10,12),(1,6,12)] \rightarrow [9,,16] \\ [(1,3,7),(1,3,11),(1,5,7),(1,5,11),(1,5,9),(1,3,9),(1,7,9),(1,9,11)] \rightarrow [17,,24] \\ [(1,3,8),(1,3,4),(1,7,12),(1,4,7),(3,8,12),(3,9,11),(1,5,12),(1,9,12)] \rightarrow [25,,32] \\ [(2,5,10),(5,6,10),(2,6,9),(5,6,11),(2,6,10),(2,1,12),(4,6,12),(6,11,12)] \rightarrow [41,,48] \\ [(3,5,10),(4,5,8),(2,4,5),(4,5,6),(5,8,10),(2,11,12),(4,6,12),(6,11,12)] \rightarrow [41,,48] \\ [(5,7,10),(3,5,11),(2,5,9),(5,6,9),(3,5,12),(3,5,9),(2,5,12),(5,9,11)] \rightarrow [49,,56] \\ [(3,5,8),(3,4,5),(4,5,7),(5,11,12),(5,8,12),(5,8,9),(4,5,12),(9,11,12)] \rightarrow [57,,64] \\ [(2,8,9),(2,8,11),(2,7,9),(6,8,9),(2,3,10),(6,9,10),(3,6,12),(3,6,10)] \rightarrow [65,,72] \\ [(4,8,9),(2,4,8),(6,7,8),(4,6,8),(4,9,10),(3,4,10),(6,8,12),(6,8,10)] \rightarrow [73,,80] \\ [(2,3,8),(3,4,9),(4,7,9),(3,6,8),(8,9,10),(8,10,11),(7,8,12),(8,9,11)] \rightarrow [89,,96] \\ [(2,7,8),(2,7,11),(6,7,9),(5,6,7),(2,7,10),(9,10,11),(7,10,12),(4,6,11)] \rightarrow [97,,104] \\ [(4,7,10),(4,8,11),(2,4,9),(4,6,7),(2,4,10),(2,4,11),(2,4,12),(6,7,11)] \rightarrow [113,,120] \\ [(5,7,8),(3,4,11),(4,7,12),(7,8,11),(8,10,12),(4,10,11),(4,9,12),(4,11,12)] \rightarrow [121,,128] \end{array}$	92	1860	4236	4.73
	Con.	$ \begin{array}{ } \hline [(2,11,12),(9,11,12),(2,10,12),(8,10,11),(8,9,11),(8,10,12),(2,9,10),(9,10,12)] \rightarrow [1,,8] \\ \hline [(3,8,11),(4,8,9),(3,5,6),(3,4,10),(3,9,12),(2,8,12),(3,10,11),(2,9,11)] \rightarrow [9,,16] \\ \hline [(4,6,7),(4,10,11),(5,7,11),(3,4,12),(3,6,12),(4,5,12),(6,8,9),(5,6,10)] \rightarrow [17,,24] \\ \hline [(4,6,10),(7,11,12),(6,7,9),(4,5,8),(3,4,7),(5,8,12),(7,10,11),(5,9,11)] \rightarrow [25,,32] \\ \hline [(5,11,12),(5,10,11),(6,8,12),(4,6,11),(7,8,11),(3,7,9),(6,9,10),(5,6,12)] \rightarrow [33,,40] \\ \hline [(4,5,9),(4,7,10),(3,7,12),(7,8,9),(4,5,7),(5,6,7),(3,6,11),(3,5,8)] \rightarrow [41,,48] \\ \hline [(6,9,11),(3,6,8),(3,8,12),(4,5,6),(5,8,9),(3,5,10),(4,8,10),(7,8,10)] \rightarrow [25,,56] \\ \hline [(3,9,10),(6,10,12),(4,11,12),(3,5,7),(7,9,12),(4,8,11),(3,49),(4,9,12)] \rightarrow [57,,64] \\ \hline [(4,8,12),(4,9,10),(5,8,11),(6,10,11),(3,4,5),(3,11,12),(4,9,11),(3,8,9)] \rightarrow [65,,72] \\ \hline [(5,7,8),(5,6,9),(5,10,12),(3,5,11),(3,7,8),(6,8,11),(3,8,10),(6,11,12)] \rightarrow [81,,88] \\ \hline [(5,7,8),(5,6,9),(5,10,12),(3,5,11),(3,7,8),(6,8,11),(3,8,10),(6,11,12)] \rightarrow [81,,96] \\ \hline [(7,10,12),(3,4,8),(5,9,12),(3,7,10),(4,6,12),(5,6,8),(4,7,8),(4,7,11)] \rightarrow [77,,104] \\ \hline [(5,8,10),(6,7,8),(7,9,11),(3,4,6),(4,10,12),(5,7,12),(3,5,12),(6,7,10)] \rightarrow [105,,112] \\ \hline [(2,9,12),(3,10,12),(2,8,11),(3,9,11),(3,4,11),(4,6)),(4,5,10),(5,7,9)] \rightarrow [113,,120] \\ \hline [(9,10,11),(8,9,10),(8,9,12),(6,7,12),(5,6,11),(2,10,11),(10,11,12),(8,11,12) \rightarrow [121,,128] \\ \hline \end{tabular}$	92	2686	10514	11.73
$N_t = 16$ $N_u = 2$ 6 bpcu	Pro.	$ \begin{split} & [(1,9),(1,10),(1,11),(1,12),(1,13),(1,14),(1,15),(1,16)] \rightarrow [1,,8] \\ & [(2,9),(2,10),(2,11),(2,12),(2,13),(2,14),(2,15),(2,16)] \rightarrow [9,,16] \\ & [(3,9),(3,10),(3,11),(3,12),(3,13),(3,14),(3,15),(3,16)] \rightarrow [17,,24] \\ & [(4,9),(4,10),(4,11),(4,12),(4,13),(4,14),(4,15),(4,16)] \rightarrow [25,,32] \\ & [(5,9),(5,10),(5,11),(5,12),(5,13),(5,14),(5,15),(5,16)] \rightarrow [33,,40] \\ & [(6,9),(6,10),(6,11),(6,12),(6,13),(6,14),(6,15),(6,16)] \rightarrow [41,,48] \\ & [(7,9),(7,10),(7,11),(7,12),(7,13),(7,14),(7,15),(7,16)] \rightarrow [49,,56] \\ & [(8,9),(8,10),(8,11),(8,12),(8,13),(8,14),(8,15),(8,16)] \rightarrow [57,,64] \end{split} $	56	896	1536	4
	Con.	$ \begin{split} & [(5,10),(5,12),(5,14),(5,16),(8,9),(7,8),(9,16),(10,15)] \to [1,,8] \\ & [(8,11),(8,13),(8,15),(9,14),(6,9),(11,12),(7,10),(11,16)] \to [9,,16] \\ & [(10,13),(6,11),(12,15),(5,8),(10,11),(11,14),(13,16),(7,13)] \to [17,,24] \\ & [(9,12),(12,13),(14,15),(9,10),(7,16),(6,15),(7,14),(6,12)] \to [25,,32] \\ & [(7,12),(15,16),(11,13),(9,11),(6,14),(13,15),(12,14),(10,12)] \to [33,,40] \\ & [(12,16),(7,15),(6,13),(6,7),(5,9),(13,14),(6,10),(8,10)] \to [41,,48] \\ & [(7,11),(14,16),(6,16),(6,8),(9,15),(8,14),(8,12),(9,13)] \to [49,,56] \\ & [(10,14),(10,16),(11,15),(7,9),(8,16),(5,15),(5,13),(5,11)] \to [57,,64] \end{split} $	56	1242	4072	10.6

 TABLE II

 Bit-to-IC mapping for different GIM schemes.

tem [3] employing the proposed mapping principle to that of the conventional counterpart. $N_t = 6$, $N_u = 2$, $N_r = 6$ and $N_t = 8$, $N_u = 2$, $N_r = 8$ are used for the OAM-GIM system, and the channel model is the same as [3]. It is shown from Fig. 13 that the performance of the proposed mapping principle based OAM-GIM still outperforms the conventional counterpart for both the cases of M = 1 and M = 2.

In a word, the performance gains of the proposed mapping method over the conventional counterpart under different configurations are summarized in Table V.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we investigated the graph theory assisted bit-to-IC gray coding for GIM systems, where both the IC selection and bit-to-IC mapping are taken into consideration to improve the ABEP by minimizing the average HD. Specifically, we transformed the IC selection problem into searching a subgraph with the minimum degree and designed a low-complexity MDF algorithm with the complexity order of O(N). For the selected IC, we reformulated the bit-to-

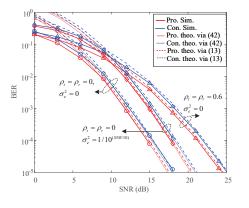


Fig. 4. Performance comparison of the proposed and conventional mapping principles for GSM systems having $N_t = 6$, $N_u = 2$, $N_r = 6$, M = 2 over different Rayleigh fading channels.

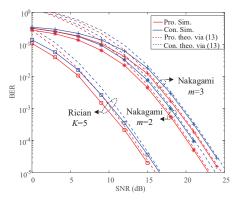


Fig. 5. Performance comparison of the proposed and conventional mapping principles for GSM systems having $N_t = 6$, $N_u = 2$, $N_r = 6$, M = 2 over Rician and Nakagami-m channels.

IC mapping problem into searching a minimum weighted subgraph from a weighted completed graph and designed a low-complexity MWF algorithm with the complexity order of $O(N^2)$. It is worth noting that, the proposed IC-selection and bit-to-IC mapping algorithms are straightforward for any GIM mapping. Both simulation and theoretical results show that the GIM systems employing our proposed scheme provide significant performance gains over the conventional counterpart without bringing extra complexity.

APPENDIX A PEP EXPRESSIONS FOR DIFFERENT CHANNEL MODELS

A. PEP of Rayleigh channel

In the Rayleigh channel, the elements of \mathbf{H} are independent and follow the Gaussian distribution as $\mathcal{CN}(0,1)$, and we have

$$\mathbf{i} = \mathbf{0}_{N_r N_t \times 1}, \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{I}_{N_r N_t}.$$
(39)

According to (11) and (13), the accurate and approximate PEPs of Rayleigh channel can be expressed as

$$P\left(\mathbf{X}^{i} \to \mathbf{X}^{j}\right) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{0}^{\frac{2}{2}} \left| \mathbf{I} + \frac{\mathbf{B}}{4(\sigma^{2} + \|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{e}^{2})\sin^{2}\theta} \right|^{-1} d_{\theta}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{0}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \prod_{k=1}^{\kappa} \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_{k}}{4(\sigma^{2} + \|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{e}^{2})\sin^{2}\theta} \right)^{-N_{r}} d_{\theta},$$
(40)

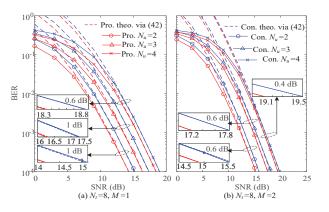


Fig. 6. Performance comparison of the proposed and conventional mapping principles for GSM systems having $N_t = 8$.

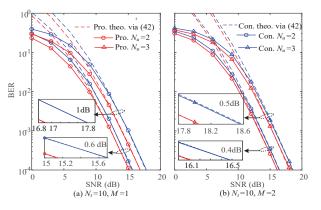


Fig. 7. Performance comparison of the proposed and conventional mapping principles for GSM systems having $N_t = 10$.

and

$$\frac{1}{P}\left(\mathbf{X}^{i} \to \mathbf{X}^{j}\right) \approx \frac{1}{12} \prod_{k=1}^{\kappa} \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_{k}}{4(\sigma^{2} + \|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{e}^{2})}\right)^{-N_{r}} + \frac{1}{4} \prod_{k=1}^{\kappa} \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_{k}}{3(\sigma^{2} + \|\mathbf{X}^{i}\|^{2}\sigma_{e}^{2})}\right)^{-N_{r}},$$
(41)

where λ_k is the *k*-th eigenvalue of $\Delta \Delta^H$ with $\Delta = \mathbf{X}^i - \mathbf{X}^j$. Furthermore, Eq. (40) can be further simplified for GSM by [24]

$$P(\mathbf{X}^{i} \to \mathbf{X}^{j})_{\text{GSM}} = \gamma(\bar{\varsigma})^{N_{r}} \sum_{k=0}^{N_{r}-1} \binom{N_{r}-1+k}{k} [1-\gamma(\bar{\varsigma})]^{k},$$
with $\gamma(\bar{\varsigma}) = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{\bar{\varsigma}/2}{1+\bar{\varsigma}/2}}\right)$ and $\bar{\varsigma} = \frac{||\mathbf{X}^{i}-\mathbf{X}^{j}||^{2}}{2(\sigma^{2}+||\mathbf{X}^{i}||^{2}\sigma_{e}^{2})}.$

$$(42)$$

B. PEP of Nakagami-m channel

In the Nakagami-m channel, the element of r-th row and t-th column of **H** can be expressed as [46]

$$h_{rt} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{m} |x_i|^2 + j} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{m} |y_i|^2},$$
 (43)

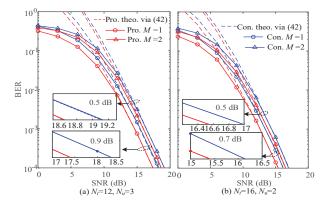


Fig. 8. Performance comparison of the proposed and conventional mapping principles for GSM systems having $N_t = 12$ and $N_t = 16$.

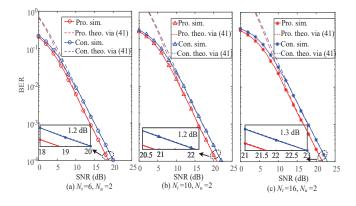


Fig. 9. Performance comparison of the proposed and conventional mapping principles for MS-GSTSK systems having P = 1, Q = 2, M = 2.

where $x_i, y_i \in C\mathcal{N}(0, 1/2m)$. Its mean value and variance can be obtained by [48]

$$\mathbf{E}(h_{rt}) = \left(\frac{\Gamma(m/2+1/2)}{\Gamma(m/2)\sqrt{m/2}}\exp(j\frac{\pi}{4})\right)$$
$$\mathbf{Var}(h_{rt}) = \mathbf{E}(|h_{rt}|^2) - |\mathbf{E}(h_{rt})|^2$$
$$= \frac{1}{2m}2m - \left(\frac{\Gamma(m/2+1/2)}{\Gamma(m/2)\sqrt{m/2}}\right)^2$$
(44)
$$= 1 - \left(\frac{\Gamma(m/2+1/2)}{\Gamma(m/2)\sqrt{m/2}}\right)^2.$$
ave

Hence, we have

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{\bar{u}} &= \left(\frac{\Gamma(m/2+1/2)}{\Gamma(m/2)\sqrt{m/2}}\exp(j\frac{\pi}{4})\right) \mathbf{1}_{N_rN_t\times 1},\\ \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}} &= \left(1 - \left(\frac{\Gamma(m/2+1/2)}{\Gamma(m/2)\sqrt{m/2}}\right)^2\right) \mathbf{I}_{N_rN_t}. \end{split}$$
(45)

The PEP of Nakagami-m channel can be obtained by (13) via (45).

C. PEP of Rician fading channel

According to [46], the Rician fading channel matrix can be expressed by [46]

$$\mathbf{H} = \sqrt{\frac{K}{K+1}}\mathbf{\bar{H}} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{K+1}}\mathbf{\tilde{H}},\tag{46}$$

where $\overline{\mathbf{H}}$ is a fixed matrix with all elements being one, \mathbf{H} is a varied matrix whose elements obey the complex Gaussian

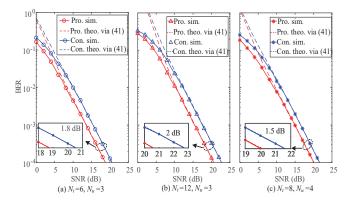


Fig. 10. Performance comparison of the proposed and conventional mapping principles for MS-GSTSK systems having P = 1, Q = 2, M = 2.

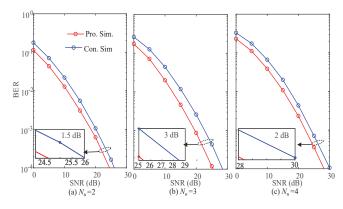


Fig. 11. Performance comparison of the proposed and conventional mapping principles for OFDM-IM systems having $N_t = 8$, M = 1.

distributions associated with $\mathcal{CN}(0,1)$. Hence the element of r-th row and t-th column of **H** is expressed as

$$h_{rt} = \sqrt{\frac{K}{K+1}} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{K+1}}\tilde{h}_{rt},$$
 (47)

where $\tilde{h}_{rt} \in \mathcal{CN}(0,1)$ is the *r*-th row and *t*-th column of $\tilde{\mathbf{H}}$. The mean and variance of h_{rt} are expressed as

$$\mathbf{E}(h_{rt}) = \sqrt{\frac{K}{K+1}} \\
\mathbf{Var}(h_{rt}) = \mathbf{E}(|h_{rt}|^2) - |\mathbf{E}(h_{rt})|^2 \\
= \mathbf{E}\left[\left(\sqrt{\frac{K}{K+1}} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{K+1}}\tilde{h}_{rt}\right)\left(\sqrt{\frac{K}{K+1}} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{K+1}}\tilde{h}_{rt}\right)^H\right] \\
-|\mathbf{E}(h_{rt})|^2 \\
= \frac{K}{K+1} + \frac{1}{K+1}\mathbf{E}\left(\left|\tilde{h}_{rt}\right|^2\right) - \frac{K}{K+1} \\
= \frac{1}{K+1}.$$
(48)

Hence the value of $\bar{\mathbf{u}}$ and $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}}$ can be obtained by

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathbf{u}} &= \sqrt{\frac{K}{K+1} \times \mathbf{1}_{N_r N_t \times 1}}, \\ \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}} &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{K+1} \times \mathbf{I}_{N_r N_t}}. \end{aligned} \tag{49}$$

The PEP of Rician fading channel can be obtained by (13) via (49).

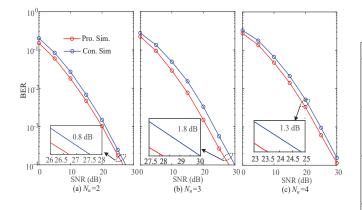


Fig. 12. Performance comparison of the proposed and conventional mapping principles for OFDM-IM systems having $N_t = 8$, M = 2.

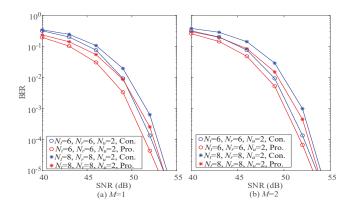


Fig. 13. Performance comparison of the proposed and conventional mapping principles for GIM system of [3] having M = 2.

D. PEP of correlated channel

According to [46], the correlated channel can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{H}_R \mathbf{H} \mathbf{H}_T, \tag{50}$$

where $\mathbf{H}_{R} \in \mathbb{C}^{N_{r} \times N_{r}}$ and $\mathbf{H}_{t} \in \mathbb{C}^{N_{t} \times N_{t}}$ can be obtained by $h_{R}^{p,q} = \rho_{r}^{|p-q|}, p, q \in (1, ..., N_{r}),$ (51)

and

$$h_T^{u,v} = {\rho_t}^{|u-v|}, u, v \in (1, ..., N_t).$$
 (52)

Hence, we have $\mathbf{u} = vec(\mathbf{H}^{H}) = [(\mathbf{H}_{R}^{H})^{T} \otimes \mathbf{H}_{T}^{H}]vec(\tilde{\mathbf{H}}^{H})$. The value of $\bar{\mathbf{u}}$ and $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}}$ can be obtained by

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{\bar{u}} &= \mathbf{E} \left([(\mathbf{H}_{R}^{H})^{T} \otimes \mathbf{H}_{T}^{H}] vec(\mathbf{\bar{H}}^{H}) \right) \\
&= [(\mathbf{H}_{R}^{H})^{T} \otimes \mathbf{H}_{T}^{H}] \mathbf{E} \left(vec(\mathbf{\tilde{H}}^{H}) \right) = \mathbf{O}_{N_{r}N_{t} \times 1},
\end{aligned}$$
(53)

and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}} &= \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{u}\mathbf{u}^{H}) \\ &= \mathbf{E}\left(\left[\left(\mathbf{H}_{R}^{H}\right)^{T} \otimes \mathbf{H}_{T}^{H}\right]\left[\left(\mathbf{H}_{R}^{H}\right)^{T} \otimes \mathbf{H}_{T}^{H}\right]^{H}\right) \\ &= \left[\left(\mathbf{H}_{R}^{H}\right)^{T} \otimes \mathbf{H}_{T}^{H}\right] \mathbf{E}\left(vec(\tilde{\mathbf{H}}^{H})vec(\tilde{\mathbf{H}}^{H})\right) \left[\left(\mathbf{H}_{R}^{H}\right)^{T} \otimes \mathbf{H}_{T}^{H}\right]^{H} \\ &= \left[\left(\mathbf{H}_{R}^{H}\right)^{T} \otimes \mathbf{H}_{T}^{H}\right] \mathbf{I}_{N_{r}N_{t}}\left[\left(\mathbf{H}_{R}^{H}\right)^{T} \otimes \mathbf{H}_{T}^{H}\right]^{H} \\ &= \left[\left(\mathbf{H}_{R}^{H}\right)^{T} \otimes \mathbf{H}_{T}^{H}\right]\left[\left(\mathbf{H}_{R}^{H}\right)^{T} \otimes \mathbf{H}_{T}^{H}\right]^{H}. \end{aligned}$$
(54)

TABLE V Performance advantage over the conventional mapping Method

Set	up	GSM	MS-GSTSK	OFDM-IM
$N_t = 8$ $N_u = 2$	M = 1	1 dB	-	1.5 dB
	M=2	0.6 dB	-	0.8 dB
$N_t = 8$ $N_u = 3$	M = 1	1 dB	-	3 dB
	M = 2	0.6 dB	-	1.8 dB
$ \begin{array}{c} N_t = 8\\ N_u = 4 \end{array} $	M = 1	0.6 dB	-	2 dB
	M=2	0.4 dB	1.5 dB	1.3 dB
$N_t = 10$ $N_u = 2$	M = 2	0.4 dB	1.2 dB	-
$N_t = 12$ $N_u = 3$	M = 2	0.5 dB	2 dB	-
$N_t = 16$ $N_u = 2$	M = 2	0.5 dB	1.3 dB	-

The accurate and approximate PEPs of correlated channel can be obtained by (11) and (13) as

$$P\left(\mathbf{X}^{i} \to \mathbf{X}^{j}\right) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{0}^{\frac{2}{2}} \left| \mathbf{I} + \frac{\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}} \mathbf{B}}{4(\sigma^{2} + \sigma_{e}^{2}) \sin^{2} \theta} \right|^{-1} d_{\theta}, \quad (55)$$
and

$$P\left(\mathbf{X}^{i} \to \mathbf{X}^{j}\right) \approx \frac{1}{12} \left| \mathbf{I} + \frac{\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}} \mathbf{B}}{4(\sigma^{2} + \sigma_{e}^{2})} \right|^{-1} + \frac{1}{4} \left| \mathbf{I} + \frac{\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}} \mathbf{B}}{3(\sigma^{2} + \sigma_{e}^{2})} \right|^{-1}.$$
(56)

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