

A transmitter directed, distributed receiver using multi-user diversity provided by the distribution of the receiver. Advantage is taken of the uncorrelated variations over time in the condition of communication links between a common transmitter i and several users. The greater the variation in the quality of a particular link over time, the greater the increase in total system throughput provided. An scheduler metric (or scheduler metric) represents the instantaneous quality of the communication link I between each user and the transmitter with respect to the average quality of the link. Alternatively, the scheduler metric represents j the instantaneous channel condition with respect to the average data throughput over that channel. The common transmitting station uses the scheduler metric to directly compare the desirability of granting each channel access with the desirability of granting each other channel access. The users with links that have the greatest scheduler metric are provided access to the channels.