

Optimal Radio Resource Management in Multihop Relay Networks

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Abstract—Multihop relay networks (MR) use relay stations (RS) to extend or enhance the coverage of a base station (BS) in a cellular network. The base station is attached to a wired backhaul. Relay stations use wireless transmission to connect to the base station and to the mobile stations (MS), while direct BS-MS connection is also possible. Low cost relay technologies are recently proposed for OFDM based broadband wireless technologies. Especially for low-cost relay stations that have single radio interface how to share the channels and allocate proper amount of bandwidth/power to the base station (BS), relay stations (RSs) and the mobile stations (MSs) is an important issue. This work develops methods for radio resource management in MR networks supporting heterogeneous traffic. We propose a scheduling method, where the transmission of base station to each relay station and transmissions of each relay station to its respective mobile stations (i.e. composite links) are scheduled in a TDMA fashion and the resource allocation in those microcells are performed in an OFDMA manner. We numerically evaluate the performance of our proposed scheme with respect to a number of parameters.

I. INTRODUCTION

Broadband wireless networks are designed to be able to provide mobile high rate and heterogenous services that have various quality of service (QoS) requirements. In recent years several broadband air interface technologies have been developed to provide Internet access multimedia services to end users. The most notable of these technologies is mobile WiMax. Based on the recently developed IEEE 802.16e standard [1], [2], WiMax is a cellular network, where a Base Station (BS) connects mobile stations (MS) to various networks linked to the BS. Transmission in WiMax networks is based on OFDMA, where several modulation, coding and power allocation schemes are allowed to give more degrees of freedom to resource allocation [3], [4]. WiMax networks are envisaged to provide service to a cellular area of size up to 50 miles. In such a network, users in different parts of a cell usually experience different signal qualities and thus different degrees of QoS. This is because the channel quality of a user depends on many factors including path loss, shadowing and interference. Users at the cell edge often suffer from bad channel conditions and observe lower SINR. In an urban environment, big buildings pose a serious blockage to users behind and sometimes generate coverage holes. Signal penetration and attenuation inside buildings or tunnels also degrade the signal quality significantly. Often it is not possible to improve the

signal qualities to these under-served areas by increasing the transmission power or changing the antenna configurations. Reducing the cell size and deploying more base stations will improve the situation, but this is often not possible due to limited access to traditional cell sites and wired backhaul links and the associated high operating cost. Using radio relay stations is an effective way to increase the signal quality of the users by replacing a long, low quality link between a Base Station (BS) and a Mobile Station (MS) with multiple shorter, high quality links through one or multiple Relay Stations (RS). As RSs do not require their own wired backhauls, and are often less sophisticated than a full functional BS, RSs are less expensive to deploy and operate than a traditional base station. The standard for relay in WiMax networks is being developed by the 802.16j Relay working group [5].

Use of relay in cellular systems were studied in [6], [7], [8] and [9]. Most of these works considered solely data traffic. The aim in [6], [7] was improving the aggregate throughput or spectral efficiency by using relays in broadband systems, while in [8] fair subchannel allocation algorithms were proposed and in [9] a heuristic was proposed to jointly improve outage probability and throughput. Unlike all these works we distinguish different traffic types and propose a frame-by-frame scheduler, where in each time slot, the time slots, subcarriers and power in a frame are jointly allocated to each transmission. Our algorithm provides proportional fairness for data users, while satisfying delay requirements for real time sessions. Proportional fairness is a good balance between throughput and fairness for data users. We also convert delay requirements of real time users into rate requirements and treat them as constraints in the optimization problem as in our previously proposed resource allocation scheme for a system without relay stations in [10].

In a typical multihop relay network the traffic between the BS and MSs can be forwarded via multiple hops through RSs. However in this work we assume that there is at most one RS between the BS and a MS. A RS communicates to the BS like a MS, and communicates with the MS in its coverage area (called RS-*microcell*) like a BS. Cost of RSs can be reduced by allowing a single transceiver at each RS. Therefore a RS cannot transmit and receive simultaneously, which is a major characteristic of our system model. We describe the system model in Section II in detail. In line with recent IEEE 802.16j

standard the BS schedules microcell transmissions in a TDMA manner in a MMR frame. The BS first allocates a time interval (subframe) of the frame to each microcell, as explained in Section III. In the second stage of allocation the BS treats each microcell separately; it optimally divides the subframe for BS-RS and RS-MS *composite links* and also allocates the available bandwidth and power to each link in the microcell, which is explained in Section IV. We numerically evaluate the proposed algorithm in Section VI and compare its performance with that of the algorithm previously proposed for a network of single BS in [10].

II. SYSTEM MODEL AND NOTATION

Figure 1 shows a typical multihop relay (MR) network. The base station is at the center, and there are a number of RSs located in the cell area. We assume that the MSs are located randomly in the cell area and they are fixed. Relay stations are also fixed and each MS is assigned to the BS or one of the RSs, based on the distance.¹

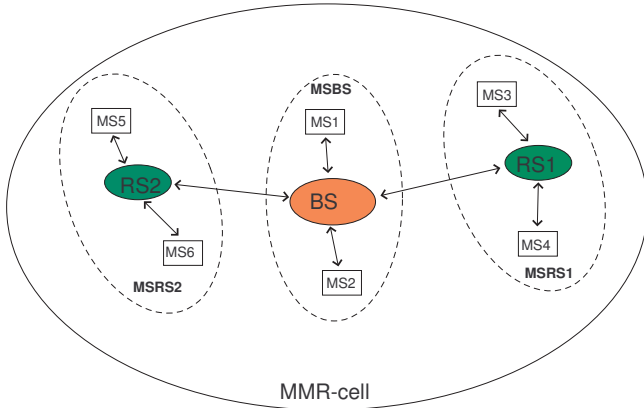


Fig. 1. Topology of a MR cell with a BS and two relay stations (RS_1 and RS_2). The BS is serving the MSs in the set MS_{BS} directly (MS_1 and MS_2). Two relay stations (RS_1 , RS_2) are used to extend the coverage of BS and serve MSs in the set MS_{RS1} (MS_3 , MS_4) and MS_{RS2} (MS_5 , MS_6). The MR cell includes the coverage area of the BS and all the RSs.

In this work we consider frame by frame downlink resource allocation. Total frame duration is T_f seconds and it is divided into time slots of duration T_s . Total bandwidth is W Hz, which is divided into N_{sub} subchannels of W_{sub} Hz bandwidth. We assume PUSC as the subchannelization method [1], where a subchannel is formed by randomly sampling subcarriers from the entire frequency range. Because of sampling, all subchannels are of equal channel quality with respect to a user. While modeling the allocation problem we will consider time and bandwidth as a continuously divisible quantity. After finding the optimal values, we will quantize them to the integer multiples of subchannel bandwidth and time slot duration. We assume for simplicity that each user demands only one type of traffic, data, video streaming or voice. Let U_D and U_R be

¹We consider a fixed system but simulate mobility of MSs through fast Rayleigh fading and slow Log-normal shadowing.

the set of data and real time sessions. Set of nodes assigned to RS_i is denoted as MS_{RSi} and set of nodes directly connected to BS is called MS_{BS} . This assignment is based on path loss. A node is assigned directly to the BS or one of the RSs that maximizes the received signal strength. We assume that this assignment is fixed. The BS keeps separate queues for each user, while each RS also keeps separate queues for the set of nodes MS_{RS} . We make the following definitions:

- *Microcell*: A microcell is formed by a group of MSs directly connected to a station (BS or RS). Let $M-1$ be the number of RSs. Including the MSs directly connected to the BS, there are M microcells. Let MC_i be the i^{th} microcell, where MC_M denotes the microcell that contains the MSs directly connected to the BS. In the example in Figure 1 there are 3 microcells.
- *Composite Link*: There are three types of composite links. The set of transmissions through $BS \rightarrow RS_i$, $RS_i \rightarrow MS_{RSi}$ for all $i = 1, \dots, M-1$ and $BS \rightarrow MS_{BS}$ are all composite links. Figure 2 illustrates a typical downlink frame. As seen in the figure, transmissions belonging to different composite links are scheduled in a TDMA fashion in a downlink frame. As an example in Figure 1, there are 5 composite links and hence the downlink frame is divided into 5 TDMA subframes.
- *Tandem queue*: A tandem queue l_j is the two cascading queues $BS \rightarrow RS_i \rightarrow MS_j$, where $j \in MS_{RSi}$. Let h_j^{BS} and h_j^{RS} be the channel gains for the links $BS \rightarrow RS_i$ and $RS_i \rightarrow MS_j$, respectively. Obviously $h_j^{BS} = h_k^{BS}$ for all $j, k \in MS_{RSi}$, because those queues follows the same $BS \rightarrow RS_i$ link. Let q_j^{BS} and q_j^{RS} be the number of bits waiting in those queues to be transmitted.

In an MR network, bandwidth is often limited and has to be shared by the base stations and multiple relay stations to serve all the MSs in the MR-cell. We assume that a relay station has a single radio interface in order to reduce the cost, which also mandates the RS to use the same channel to communicate with the BS and with its MSs (and potentially with other RSs). Because of the single interface constraint of relay stations, transmissions $BS \rightarrow RS_i$ and $RS_i \rightarrow MS_{RSi}$ should also be scheduled in a TDMA fashion. Considering this and for simplicity we follow a TDMA approach in scheduling transmissions of each composite link.

Let p^{BS} and p^{RS} be the available power budget for the BS and each RS, respectively. We consider a channel with Rayleigh fading and Log-normal shadowing. At each time frame the channel gain is assumed constant and we consider an equivalent AWGN channel. In order to determine the bandwidth efficiency as a function of SNR, we use the values in IEEE 802.16 standard [5]. A number of modulation/coding pairs that correspond to SINR thresholds and spectral efficiency values in [5]. Considering the SINR-spectral efficiency relation and by using $\beta = 0.25$, it is reasonable to use the following function for the number of bits that is transmitted through a link

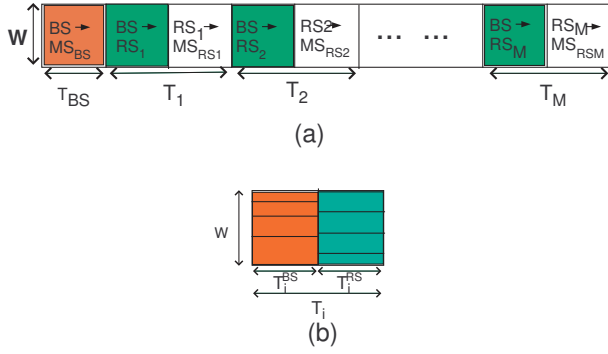


Fig. 2. (a) Downlink subframe for the TDD frame structure of a MMR cell. BS and M RSs share the DL subframe on a TDMA basis. On the downlink, T_i includes all the time slots assigned to the traffic $BS \rightarrow RS_i \rightarrow MS_{RS_i}$. (b) shows a microcell subframe. Transmissions in $BS \rightarrow RS_i$ and $RS_i \rightarrow MS_{RS_i}$ composite links are given T_i^{BS} T_i^{RS} seconds.

$$r_j^\phi = T_i^\phi w_j^\phi \log \left(1 + \frac{\beta p_j^\phi h_j^\phi}{w_j^\phi N_0} \right), \phi = BS, RS, j \in MS_{RS_i} \quad (1)$$

Here T_i^ϕ is the part of the frame (in seconds) that is allocated to the composite link ϕ (BS or RS) of microcell i . Let p_j^ϕ w_j^ϕ be the power and bandwidth user j in microcell i gets ($\phi = BS(RS)$ for the BS-RS (RS-MS) link). In order to decrease the dimensionality of the problem we divide it into two parts as follows:

- 1) Cellular Time Allocation: In this step we consider a TDMA scheme among composite links, where all sessions in a composite link transmit simultaneously in a T_i^ϕ second subframe and share the available bandwidth and power. Before performing TDMA allocation we also determine rate requirements for each real time session.
- 2) Microcell Resource allocation: In this step we separately perform joint power/bandwidth allocation for each $BS \rightarrow RS \rightarrow MS_{RS_i}, \forall i \in MC$.

III. CELLULAR TIME ALLOCATION

In this section we consider resource allocation in a single microcell, which includes the transmissions through composite links $BS \rightarrow RS_i$ and $RS_i \rightarrow MS_{RS_i}, i \in MC$. For the data sessions let R_j^{BS} and R_j^{RS} be the time-averaged transmission rate through the access and relay links of tandem queue of data user $j \in MS_{RS_i} \cap U_D$. For the real time sessions, let $r_j^{c,BS}$ and $r_j^{c,RS}$ be the required rates for the tandem queues of session j at the current frame.

A. Real Time Session Rates

First a number of real time session links are chosen in BS-RS and RS-MS composite links to be transmitted in the current frame. We use the following user satisfaction value for real

time sessions:

$$USV_j^\phi(t) = -\frac{\log(\delta_j)}{D_j^{max}} D_j^\phi \log \left(1 + \frac{\beta P^\phi h_j^\phi(t)}{N_0 W} \right) \frac{\lambda_j}{R_j^\phi(t)} \quad (2)$$

This metric resembles the Largest Weighted Delay First (LWDF) metric except the $\lambda_j/R_j^\phi(t)$ term at the end. Here λ_j is the bit arrival rate and $R_j^\phi(t)$ is the service rate for user j , where $\phi = BS$ for the BS-RS transmission and $\phi = RS$ for RS-MS transmission. Service rate is updated as $R_j^\phi(t+1) = \alpha R_j^\phi(t) + (1-\alpha)r_j^\alpha(t)$. D_j^{max} and D_j^ϕ are the maximum allowable delay and current head of line delay for the link. Parameter δ_j is typically chosen as 0.05 and reflects the probability of exceeding the delay constraint. The BS chooses a number of real time sessions according to this metric, where U'_R denotes the set of chosen real time users. The rate constraint for a chosen real time session is defined as:

$$r_j^{c,\phi}(q_j^\phi(t), \omega_j^\phi(t)) = \max \left(\lambda_j, \frac{q_j^\phi(t)}{D_j^{max} 0.5 \omega_j^\phi(t)} \right), j \in U'_R \quad (3)$$

Here ω_j^ϕ is the transmission frequency of the corresponding link of user j , which is calculated as follows:

$$\omega_i(t) = \alpha \omega_i^\phi(t-1) + (1-\alpha)I(r_i^\phi(t) > 0), \quad (4)$$

where $I(r_i^\phi(t) > 0)$ is the function that takes value one if the node receives packets in time slot t , zero otherwise. Therefore this frequency decreases if the link transmits less and less frequently. Using this frequency expression in the rate function, we compensate for the lack of transmission in the previous time slots possibly due to bad channel conditions.

B. Time Allocation for each Microcell

In this section we will propose a method for allocating time intervals for each microcell. In order to simplify this process we assume uniform power allocation to each subchannel. In this case let the spectral efficiency at each link be defined as, $S_j^\phi = \log \left(1 + \frac{P^\phi}{n_j^\phi W} \right), \forall j \in U, \phi = BS, RS$. Multiplying this by time and bandwidth we obtain the number of nats transmitted as $r_j^\phi = T_i^\phi w_j^\phi S_j^\phi$ nats. We can define time-bandwidth product as $b_j^\phi = T_i^\phi w_j^\phi$ for $j \in MS_{RS_i}$ and allocate resources subject to a time bandwidth constraint $\sum_{j \in U_D \cup U_R} b_j^{BS} + b_j^{RS} \leq WT_f$. For a real time session link j required time bandwidth product can be directly computed as $b_j^\phi = \frac{r_j^{c,\phi}}{S_j^\phi}, \phi = BS, RS$. So we can do a resource allocation only for data sessions and subject to the constraint $\sum_{j \in U_D} b_j^{BS} + b_j^{RS} \leq (WT_f)' = WT_f - \sum_{j \in U_R} r_j^{c,BS}/S_j^{BS} + r_j^{c,RS}/S_j^{RS}$. We formulate a proportional fair time-bandwidth allocation problem for data users as follows:

$$\max_{\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{r}} \sum_{j \in U_D} \log(\alpha_j R_j + (1-\alpha_j)r_j) \quad (5)$$

$$\sum_{j \in U_D} b_j^{BS} + b_j^{RS} \leq (WT_f)' \quad (6)$$

$$b_j^\phi S_j^\phi \geq r_j, \phi = BS, RS, \forall j \in U_D \quad (7)$$

where $R_j = \min\{R_j^{BS}, R_j^{RS}\}$ be the average received rate through the tandem queue. The problem above has a concave objective function increasing in each data session rate. The constraint set is convex, hence we can solve the problem by using Lagrange multipliers.

$$L(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{r}, \lambda_b, \bar{\lambda}_r) = \sum_{j \in U_D} \log(\alpha_j R_j + (1 - \alpha_j) r_j) + \lambda_b ((WT_f)' - \sum_{j \in U_D} b_j^{BS} + b_j^{RS}) + \sum_{\phi=BS,RS} \sum_{j \in U_D} \lambda_r^{j,\phi} (b_j^\phi S_j^\phi - r_j) \quad (8)$$

By using standard techniques we find that solution of this problem requires a simple binary search on λ_b that solves the following equation:

$$S_b(\lambda_b) = WT_f \quad (9)$$

where,

$$r_j(\lambda_b) = \left[\frac{1}{\lambda_b \left(\frac{1}{S_j^{BS}} + \frac{1}{S_j^{RS}} \right)} - \bar{\alpha} R_j \right]^+ \quad \forall j \in U_D \quad (10)$$

$$S_b(\lambda_b) = \sum_{j \in U_D} r_j(\lambda_b) \left(\frac{1}{S_j^{BS}} + \frac{1}{S_j^{RS}} \right) + \sum_{j \in U_R} \left(\frac{r_j^{c,BS}}{S_j^{BS}} + \frac{r_j^{c,RS}}{S_j^{RS}} \right) \quad (11)$$

As we see sum of time-bandwidth resources is a monotonic decreasing function of λ_b . Based on these result of this optimization in order to share the frame in a TDMA manner time allocated to composite links in microcell i can be computed as

$$T_i^\phi(\lambda_b) = \frac{1}{W} \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi}} r_j(\lambda_b) b_j^\phi, \phi = BS, RS, \forall i \in MC \quad (12)$$

C. Feasibility of the Problem

The solution above is requires a feasibility condition. By feasibility we mean that the available resources are enough to support at least the required rates for real time sessions. Let us define \underline{T}_i^{BS} and \underline{T}_i^{RS} be the minimum required time to support the real time sessions in BS-RS and RS-MS links. We can find them by taking the limit

$$\underline{T}_i^\phi = \lim_{\lambda_b \rightarrow \infty} T_i^\phi(\lambda_b) \quad (13)$$

Looking at the rate equation in (30) we see that limit $\lambda_b \rightarrow \infty$ makes the data session rates equal to zero and real time sessions are unaffected. If $\sum_{i \in MC} \underline{T}_i^{BS} + \underline{T}_i^{RS} > T_f$, then we find the non-zero-rate link with worst channel condition and change its required rate equal to zero.

IV. COMPOSITE LINK RESOURCE ALLOCATION

In this section we consider resource allocation in a single microcell. Let us consider transmission through composite links $BS \rightarrow RS_i$ and $RS_i \rightarrow MS_{RSi}$. Let T_i be the time allocated

to microcell i . At this stage the BS makes the power ($\mathbf{p} = \{p_j^{BS}, p_j^{RS} | j \in MS_{RSi}\}$), bandwidth ($\mathbf{p} = \{w_j^{BS}, w_j^{RS} | j \in MS_{RSi}\}$) for links in this microcell and time ($\mathbf{T}_i = \{T_i^{BS}, T_i^{RS}\}$) allocation for the $BS - RS_i$ and $RS_i - MS_{RSi}$ composite links (illustrated in Figure 2(b)). The objective is to maximize the log sum of data rates for each tandem queue supporting data sessions. The constraints are the real time sessions rate requirements defined in the previous part, and total power, rate, time constraints. The constrained optimization problem is formulated as follows:

$$\max_{\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{T}_i} \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_D} \log(\alpha R_j + (1 - \alpha) r_j) \quad (14)$$

$$s.t. T_i^{BS} + T_i^{RS} \leq T_i \quad (15)$$

$$\sum_{j \in MS_{RSi}} p_j^\phi \leq P^\phi \quad (16)$$

$$\sum_{j \in MS_{RSi}} w_j^\phi \leq W \quad (17)$$

$$T_i^\phi w_j^\phi \log \left(1 + \frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi} \right) \geq r_j, \forall j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_D \quad (18)$$

$$T_i^\phi w_j^\phi \log \left(1 + \frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi} \right) \geq r_j^{0,\phi}, \forall j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_R \quad (19)$$

where, $\phi = BS, RS$ and $n_j^\phi = N_0 / (h_j^\phi \beta)$. The problem above has a concave objective function increasing in each data session rate. The constraint set is convex, hence we can solve the problem by using Lagrange multipliers.

$$\begin{aligned} L(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{T}_i, \bar{\lambda}_p, \bar{\lambda}_w, \bar{\lambda}_r, \lambda_T) &= C_i(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{T}_i) + \lambda_T (T_i - T_i^{BS} - T_i^{RS}) \\ &+ \sum_{\phi=BS,RS} \lambda_p^\phi \left(P^\phi - \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi}} p_j^\phi \right) + \sum_{\phi=BS,RS} \lambda_w^\phi \left(W - \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi}} w_j^\phi \right) \\ &+ \sum_{\phi=BS,RS} \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_D} \lambda_r^{j,\phi} \left(T_i^\phi w_j^\phi \log \left(1 + \frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi} \right) - r_j \right) \\ &+ \sum_{\phi=BS,RS} \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_R} \lambda_r^{j,\phi} \left(T_i^\phi w_j^\phi \log \left(1 + \frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi} \right) - r_j^{0,\phi} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

The problem can be solved by taking derivative with respect to resources and Lagrange multipliers. Since the rate is an increasing function of resources the optimal can be achieved only when all the time, power and bandwidth is used. Therefore all Lagrange multipliers are positive. Derivatives with respect to resources are as follows:

1) *Derivative w.r.t. r_j for users $j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_D$, $\phi = BS, RS$:*

$$\frac{\partial L(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{T}_i, \bar{\lambda}_p, \bar{\lambda}_w, \bar{\lambda}_r, \lambda_T)}{\partial r_j} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \left[\frac{1}{\lambda_j^{r,BS} + \lambda_j^{r,RS}} - \frac{\alpha R_j}{1 - \alpha} \right]^+ = r_j \quad (21)$$

2) Derivative w.r.t. w_j^ϕ and p_j^ϕ for users $j \in MS_{RSi}$, $\phi = BS, RS$:

$$\frac{\partial L(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{T}_i, \overline{\lambda_p}, \overline{\lambda_w}, \overline{\lambda_r}, \lambda_T)}{\partial w_j^\phi} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow T_i^\phi \left(\log \left(1 + \frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi} \right) - \frac{\frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi}}{1 + \frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi}} \right) = \frac{\lambda_w^\phi}{\lambda_j^{r,\phi}} \quad (22)$$

$$\frac{\partial L(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{T}_i, \overline{\lambda_p}, \overline{\lambda_w}, \overline{\lambda_r}, \lambda_T)}{\partial p_j^\phi} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{T_i^\phi}{n_j^\phi \left(1 + \frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi} \right)} = \frac{\lambda_p^\phi}{\lambda_j^{r,\phi}} \quad (23)$$

Dividing Eq. (22) to (23) we get the following relation:

$$\frac{\lambda_x^\phi}{n_j^\phi} = \frac{\lambda_w^\phi}{n_j^\phi \lambda_p^\phi} = \left(1 + \frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi} \right) \log \left(1 + \frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi} \right) - \frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi} \quad (24)$$

Let's define $\lambda_x^\phi = \lambda_w^\phi / \lambda_p^\phi$ and the function $f_x(x) = (1+x) \log(1+x) - x$. This is a monotonic increasing and convex function. Using $\lambda_x^\phi(i)$ we can find the scaled SINR $x_j^\phi = \frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi}$ as $f_x^{-1}(\lambda_x^\phi / n_j^\phi)$.

3) Derivative w.r.t. T_i^ϕ , for $\phi = BS, RS$:

$$\frac{\partial L(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{T}_i, \overline{\lambda_p}, \overline{\lambda_w}, \overline{\lambda_r}, \lambda_T)}{\partial T_i^\phi} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi}} \lambda_j^{r,\phi} w_j^\phi \log \left(1 + \frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi} \right) = \lambda_T \quad (25)$$

Using Equations (25), (23) and (24) we can write,

$$\lambda_T = \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi}} \frac{\lambda_p^\phi}{T_i^\phi} n_j^\phi w_j^\phi \left(1 + \frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi} \right) \log \left(1 + \frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi} \right)$$

$$\lambda_T = \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi}} \frac{\lambda_p^\phi}{T_i^\phi} n_j^\phi w_j^\phi \left(\frac{\lambda_w^\phi}{\lambda_p^\phi n_j^\phi} + \frac{p_j^\phi}{n_j^\phi w_j^\phi} \right)$$

$$\lambda_T = \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi}} \left(\frac{w_j^\phi \lambda_w^\phi}{T_i^\phi} + \frac{\lambda_p^\phi p_j^\phi}{T_i^\phi} \right)$$

$$T_i^\phi = \frac{W \lambda_w^\phi + P^\phi \lambda_p^\phi}{\lambda_T} \quad (26)$$

Using Equation (23) and (26) we get:

$$\lambda_j^{r,\phi} = \lambda_T \lambda_p^\phi \frac{n_j^\phi \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^\phi}{n_j^\phi} \right) \right)}{W \lambda_w^\phi + P^\phi \lambda_p^\phi}$$

$$= \lambda_T \frac{n_j^\phi \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^\phi}{n_j^\phi} \right) \right)}{W \lambda_x^\phi + P^\phi} \quad (27)$$

Combining (21) and (27) we obtain the rate function for

data users in terms of λ_x^{BS} , λ_x^{RS} and λ_T as,

$$r_j(\lambda_x^{BS}, \lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) = \left(\frac{1}{\frac{\lambda_T n_j^{BS} \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{BS}}{n_j^{BS}} \right) \right)}{W \lambda_x^{BS} + P^{BS}} + \frac{\lambda_T n_j^{RS} \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right) \right)}{W \lambda_x^{RS} + P^{RS}}} - \tilde{\alpha} R_j \right)^+ \quad (28)$$

Taking the derivative of (20) w.r.t. λ_p^ϕ we obtain the power constraints and combining it with (24) we obtain,

$$P^\phi = \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi}} f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^\phi}{n_j^\phi} \right) n_j^\phi w_j^\phi, \quad \phi = BS, RS \quad (29)$$

Since $n_j^{BS} = n^{BS}$ for $j \in MS_{RSi}$ (they are all BS-RS_i channel condition), SINR's in those links are the same using (24). Therefore optimal SINRs of all users in the BS-RS links are equal to $x^{BS*} = f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{BS*}}{n^{BS}} \right) = \frac{P^{BS}}{n^{BS} W}$. After some arrangements in (28) we can write the rates of all data sessions as a function of only λ_x^{RS} and λ_T as follows:

$$r_j(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) = \left(\frac{W / \lambda_T}{\frac{1}{\log \left(1 + \frac{P^{BS}}{n^{BS} W} \right)} + \frac{\left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right) \right)}{\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} + \frac{P^{RS}}{n_j^{RS} W}}} - \tilde{\alpha} R_j \right)^+ \quad (30)$$

Rate $r_j(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T)$ is a nonincreasing function of λ_x^{RS} for $0 \leq \lambda_x^{RS} \leq n_j^{RS} f_x \left(\frac{P^{RS}}{n_j^{RS} W} \right)$ and it is a nondecreasing function of λ_x^{RS} for $n_j^{RS} f_x \left(\frac{P^{RS}}{n_j^{RS} W} \right) \leq \lambda_x^{RS}$. For finite λ_T it always takes finite values.

4) Calculation of times: Sum of the time-bandwidth products in BS-RS and RS-MS composite links is as follows,

$$\sum_{j \in MS_{RSi}} T_i^\phi(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) w_j^\phi = \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_D} \frac{r_j(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T)}{\log \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^\phi}{n_j^\phi} \right) \right)}$$

$$+ \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_R} \frac{r_j^{c,\phi}}{\log \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^\phi}{n_j^\phi} \right) \right)} \quad (31)$$

Each node in a composite link transmits using the same time interval, but different frequency bands, where the sum of the bandwidths is equal to W . Dividing the total time-bandwidth product to W we can find the time intervals allocated to BS-RS

and RS-MS composite links:

$$T_i^{BS}(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) = \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_D} \frac{r_j(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T)}{W \log \left(1 + \frac{P^{BS}}{n_j^{BS} W} \right)} + \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_R} \frac{r_j^{c,BS}}{W \log \left(1 + \frac{P^{BS}}{n_j^{BS} W} \right)} \quad (32)$$

$$T_i^{RS}(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) = \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_D} \frac{r_j(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T)}{W \log \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right) \right)} + \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_R} \frac{r_j^{c,RS}}{W \log \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right) \right)} \quad (33)$$

5) *Calculation of total power:* Sum of the powers in BS-RS and RS-MS transmissions can be found as follows:

$$S_p^{BS}(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) = \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_D} \frac{r_j(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) n_j^{BS} \frac{P^{BS}}{n_j^{BS} W}}{T_i^{BS}(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) \log \left(1 + \frac{P^{BS}}{n_j^{BS} W} \right)} + \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_R} \frac{r_j^{c,BS} n_j^{BS} \frac{P^{BS}}{n_j^{BS} W}}{T_i^{BS}(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) \log \left(1 + \frac{P^{BS}}{n_j^{BS} W} \right)} \quad (34)$$

$$S_p^{RS}(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) = \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_D} \frac{r_j(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) n_j^{RS} f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right)}{T_i^{RS}(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) \log \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right) \right)} + \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_R} \frac{r_j^{c,RS} n_j^{RS} f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right)}{T_i^{RS}(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) \log \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right) \right)} \quad (35)$$

Our objective is to find the resource allocation such that

$$T_i^{BS}(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) + T_i^{RS}(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) = T_i \quad (36)$$

$$S_p^{RS}(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) = P^{RS} \quad (37)$$

$$S_p^{BS}(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) = P^{BS} \quad (38)$$

In fact the equations (32) and (34) are equivalent. Arranging (35) and putting $T_i^{RS}(\lambda_T, \lambda_x^{RS})$ in the left hand side; and

considering (33) we get the following equation:

$$\sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_D} \frac{r_j(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T)}{W \log \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right) \right)} + \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_R} \frac{r_j^{c,RS}}{W \log \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right) \right)} = \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_D} \frac{r_j(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) n_j^{RS} f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right)}{P^{RS} \log \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right) \right)} + \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_R} \frac{r_j^{c,RS} n_j^{RS} f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right)}{P^{RS} \log \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right) \right)} \quad (39)$$

Then the following equality should hold at the optimal λ_x^{RS*} and λ_T

$$\sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_D} r_j(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) (A_j(\lambda_x^{RS}) - B_j(\lambda_x^{RS})) + \sum_{j \in MS_{RSi} \cap U_R} r_j^{c,RS} (A_j(\lambda_x^{RS}) - B_j(\lambda_x^{RS})) = 0 \quad (40)$$

where

$$A_j(\lambda_x^{RS}) = \frac{1}{W \log \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right) \right)} \quad (41)$$

$$B_j(\lambda_x^{RS}) = \frac{1}{W \log \left(1 + f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right) \right)} \frac{f_x^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_x^{RS}}{n_j^{RS}} \right)}{\frac{P^{RS}}{n_j^{RS} W}} \quad (42)$$

$A_j(\lambda_x^{RS})$ is a decreasing and $B_j(\lambda_x^{RS})$ is an increasing function of λ_x^{RS} .

Lemma 1: Left hand side of (40) is a monotonic non-increasing function of λ_x^{RS} that decreases from $+\infty$ to $-\infty$ and crosses zero at a single point.

Proof: We will start the analysis from a single user. For a data user j and for $\lambda_T > 0$, the function $r_j(\lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T)$ takes finite values for all $0 < \lambda_x^{RS}$. It is either zero or a decreasing function of λ_x^{RS} for $\lambda_x^{RS} < n_j^{RS} f_x \left(\frac{P^{RS}}{n_j^{RS} W} \right)$ and either zero or increasing function of λ_x^{RS} for $\lambda_x^{RS} > n_j^{RS} f_x \left(\frac{P^{RS}}{n_j^{RS} W} \right)$. For real time users rate function is constant.

It can also easily be shown that $A_j(\lambda_x^{RS}) - B_j(\lambda_x^{RS})$ is a decreasing function of λ_x^{RS} which takes positive values for $\lambda_x^{RS} < n_j^{RS} f_x \left(\frac{P^{RS}}{n_j^{RS} W} \right)$ and negative values for $\lambda_x^{RS} > n_j^{RS} f_x \left(\frac{P^{RS}}{n_j^{RS} W} \right)$.

For $\lambda_x^{RS} < n_j^{RS} f_x \left(\frac{P^{RS}}{n_j^{RS} W} \right)$ the LHS of (40) is a product of two positive decreasing functions and it is decreasing for user j . For $\lambda_x^{RS} > n_j^{RS} f_x \left(\frac{P^{RS}}{n_j^{RS} W} \right)$ it is the product of a positive increasing and negative decreasing function hence it is also decreasing in this region for user j . Hence, LHS of (40), summation of such functions for all users is a monotonic decreasing function ■

Let $\lambda_x^{RS*}(\lambda_T)$ be the Lagrangian multiplier that satisfies Equation (40) (Please note that the power constraint is automatically satisfied for BS-RS by setting $x_j^{BS} = \frac{P^{BS}}{W_n^{BS}}$ for $j \in MS_{RSi}$). Since the LHS of Equation (40) is a monotonic function this value can be found by a simple binary search. Then $T_i^{BS}(\lambda_x^{RS*}(\lambda_T), \lambda_T)$ and $T_i^{RS}(\lambda_x^{RS*}(\lambda_T), \lambda_T)$ become the corresponding time allocated to BS-RS and RS-MS transmissions. We are looking for the Lagrange multiplier values $(\lambda_x^{RS*}(\lambda_T^*), \lambda_T^*)$ that satisfies both (40) and $T_i^{BS}(\lambda_x^{RS*}(\lambda_T^*), \lambda_T^*) + T_i^{RS}(\lambda_x^{RS*}(\lambda_T^*), \lambda_T^*) = T_i$. Since rate is a monotonic function of λ_T total time is also monotonic from (32) and (33). We need another binary search on λ_T . Hence we can find the optimal power, bandwidth and time by two nested binary searches. The algorithm will be described in more detail.

V. ALGORITHM

Main Algorithm:

- 1) Determine required rates for real time sessions
- 2) Test feasibility: If $\underline{T}_i^{BS} + \underline{T}_i^{RS} > T_i$ (using (13)) then find the link with non-zero real time session rate and worst channel condition and drop it. Repeat this step until feasibility is reached.
- 3) **Run** $(\mathbf{T}, \lambda_b^*) = \text{BinarySearchCellular}()$
- 4) For all microcells
Run $(\lambda_x^{RS*}, \lambda_T^*) = \text{BinarySearchMicrocell}()$

Procedure : $((\mathbf{T}, \lambda_b^*)) = \text{BinarySearchCellular}()$: Finds the λ_b^* so that $S_b(\lambda_b^*) = WT_f$.

- 1) Find the smallest k such that $S_b(2^k \Delta \lambda_b) < WT_f$ in (11). Set $\lambda_b^h = 2^k \Delta \lambda_b$, $\lambda_b^l = 2^{k-1} \Delta \lambda_b$.
Repeat Step 2 until $\left| \frac{S_b(\lambda_b^m)}{WT_f} - 1 \right| < \epsilon$
- 2) Set $\lambda_b^m = (\lambda_b^l + \lambda_b^h)/2$. If $S_b(\lambda_b^m) < WT_f$ then $\lambda_b^h = \lambda_b^m$ else $\lambda_b^l = \lambda_b^m$
- 3) $\lambda_b^* = \lambda_b^m$. Calculate microcell times $T_i = T_i^{RS}(\lambda_b^*) + T_i^{BS}(\lambda_b^*)$ according to (12) for all $i \in MC$.

Procedure : $(\lambda_x^{RS*}, \lambda_T^*) = \text{BinarySearchTime}()$:

- 1) **Run** $\text{BinarySearch}_x^{RS}(2^k \Delta \lambda_T)$ and find the smallest k such that $T_i^{BS}(\lambda_x^{RS*}(2^k \Delta \lambda_T), 2^k \Delta \lambda_T) + T_i^{RS}(\lambda_x^{RS*}(2^k \Delta \lambda_T), 2^k \Delta \lambda_T) > T_i$. Set $\lambda_T^h = 2^k \Delta \lambda_T$, $\lambda_T^l = 2^{k-1} \Delta \lambda_T$.
Repeat Step 2 until $\left| \frac{T_i}{T_i^{BS*} + T_i^{RS*}} - 1 \right| < \epsilon$
- 2) Set $\lambda_T^m = (\lambda_T^l + \lambda_T^h)/2$ and **run** $\lambda_x^{RS*}(\lambda_T^m) = \text{BinarySearch}_x^{RS}(\lambda_T^m)$.
 - If $T_i^{BS}(\lambda_x^{RS*}(\lambda_T^m), \lambda_T^m) + T_i^{RS}(\lambda_x^{RS*}(\lambda_T^m), \lambda_T^m) > T_i$ then $\lambda_T^h = \lambda_T^m$.
 - else $\lambda_T^l = \lambda_T^m$.
- 3) Set $\lambda_T^* = \lambda_T^m$ and $\lambda_x^{RS*} = \lambda_x^{RS*}(\lambda_T^*)$. Using these values compute the optimal time allocations $T_i^{RS*}, T_i^{BS*}, \forall i \in MC$ and $p_j^\phi, w_j \phi, \forall j \in U, \phi = BS, RS$

Procedure : $\lambda_x^{RS*}(\lambda_T) = \text{BinarySearch}_x^{RS}(\lambda_T)$: Finds the $\lambda_x^{RS*}(\lambda_T)$ so that $S_p^{RS}(\lambda_x^{RS*}(\lambda_T), \lambda_T) = P^{RS}$.

- 1) Find the smallest k such that $S_p^{RS}(2^k \Delta \lambda_x^{RS}, \lambda_T) > P^{RS}$. Set $\lambda_x^{RS,h} = 2^k \Delta \lambda_x^{RS}$, $\lambda_x^{RS,l} = 2^{k-1} \Delta \lambda_x^{RS}$.

Repeat Step 2 until $\left| \frac{S_p(\lambda_x^{RS,m}, \lambda_T)}{P^{RS}} - 1 \right| < \epsilon$

- 2) Set $\lambda_T^m = (\lambda_T^l + \lambda_T^h)/2$. If $S_p^{RS}(\lambda_x^{RS,m}, \lambda_T) < P^{RS}$ then $\lambda_T^l = \lambda_T^m$ else $\lambda_T^h = \lambda_T^m$

Figure 3 shows a typical binary search process for a microcell. At each step a $(\lambda_T, \lambda_x^{RS}(\lambda_T))$ pair is found such that the sum of powers is equal to P^{RS} . Since for such pairs time $T_i^{RS} + T_i^{BS}$ is monotonic decreasing in λ_T (as seen in the figure), we are able to find the optimal λ_T by a binary search. Since the channel condition in the access (BS-RS) link is usually much better, usually $T_i^{BS} < T_i^{RS}$. In this example time slot length is 0.1msec, and after the optimization, all times will be rounded to this value. Therefore we can stop the search when we come less than 0.05msec close to the time constraint (which is 2msec in this example)

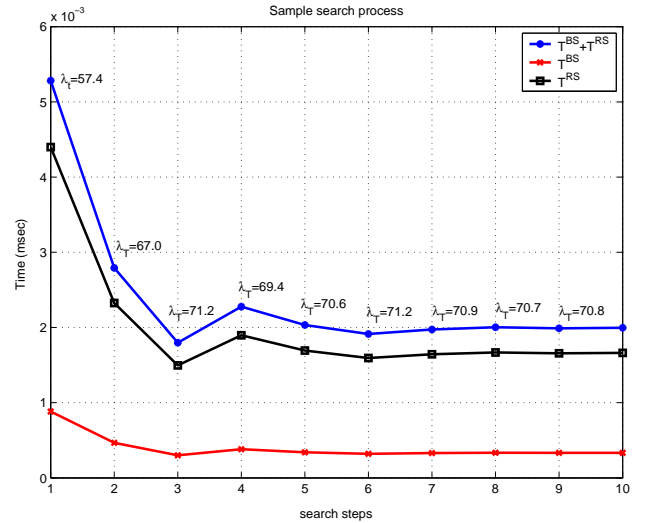


Fig. 3. A sample binary search process

VI. NUMERICAL EVALUATION

Figure 4 shows a sample MR system. We consider a tandem network of 2km radius, where the BS is at the (0,0) coordinate. The RSs are located at 1400m to the end of the MR-cell. MSs are located at 400,800,1200,1600 and 2000 meters. In order to make the station assignment, all the stations (BS and RSs) send broadcast signals (Transmission power for the BS and RSs is P^{BS} and P^{RS} , respectively). Each MS is assigned to the station (either the BS or one of the RSs) that maximizes the received power.²

As for the path loss, we use the IEEE 802.16j channel model proposed in [11]. For $BS \rightarrow MS$ and $RS \rightarrow MS$ we use the Non-line-of-sight (NLOS) and for $BS \rightarrow RS$ and we use the LOS model. We assume log-normal fading with variance equal to 8Db for BS transmissions and 3.1dB for RS transmissions, and Rayleigh fading with mean equal to 0.6. We assume that

²In a real system RSs can be located according to the user density in the MR cell area. Such a topology design problem is beyond the scope of this paper.

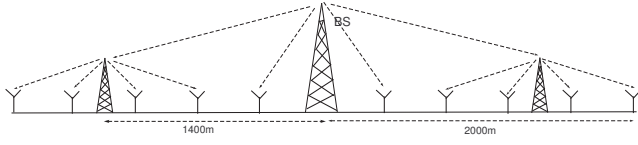


Fig. 4. A sample MR model for numerical evaluation

Parameter	Value
Cell radius	2km
User Distances	0.4,0.8,1.2,1.6,2.0km
RS Distance	1.4km
# microcells (M)	3
BS,RS Power (P^{BS}, P^{RS})	(20,5) W
W_{sub}, N_{sub}	267KHz, 30
Frame Length T_f	2 msec
Slot Length T_s	0.1 msec
Voice Traffic	CBR 32kbps
Video Traffic	802.16 - 128kbps
FTP File	5 MB
AWGN p.s.d. (N_0)	-174dBm/Hz
Coherent Time (Fast/Slow)	(4msec/400msec.)
BS-RS PL(d)(in dB)	$36.5 + 23.5 \log_{10} d + \Psi_{dB}^{BS-RS}$
RS-MS PL(d)(in dB)	$31.5 + 35 \log_{10} d + \Psi_{dB}^{RS-MS}$
BS-MS PL(d)(in dB)	$31.5 + 35 \log_{10} d + \Psi_{dB}^{BS-MS}$
$\Psi_{dB}^{BS-MS}, \Psi_{dB}^{RS-MS}$	$\sim N(0dB, 8dB)$
Ψ_{dB}^{BS-RS}	$\sim N(0dB, 3.1dB)$

TABLE I
SIMULATION PARAMETERS

rayleigh fading stays constant at each frame and log-normal fading stays constant during 5 frames. Frame length is equal to 20 slots and each slot is $T_s = 1msec$. Base station and each relay has $P^{BS} = 20W$ and $P^{RS} = 5W$ s of power, respectively. Bandwidth is equal to $B = 10MHz$.

Our traffic model is based on [12], and it is as follows: For each data (FTP) session we assume a single 5MB file arriving at the queue at time zero. We assume 32kbps VoIP sessions, where a 320-bit packet arrives at every 10 time slots. Finally we assume 128kbps video streaming sessions, with a fixed video frame duration of 100msec. During each frame there are 8 packets (slices). Packet size is Truncated Pareto distributed with certain min, max and shape parameters. Interarrival time between packets is also Truncated Pareto distributed with certain min, max and shape parameters such that all packets arrive during a 100ms frame. We assume that bits arrive at the end of a time slot and they are ready to transmit at the beginning of the next time slot. Performance Criteria are

- 1) 95 percentile delay for voice sessions
- 2) 95 percentile delay for video sessions
- 3) Total and log-sum throughput for data sessions

Keeping the number of data and voice users at 20 each, we vary the number of video user from 20 to 50. Figure 5 shows

the 95th percentile delay for voice sessions. We can observe that in the 2-RS system users at all distances delay stays under the required 100msec level, while for the system with no RSs, users at 1.6km and 2.0km experience severe delays. Since the coherence time for the log-normal fading is much longer than the voice delay constraint, delays for edge users by far exceed the required levels.

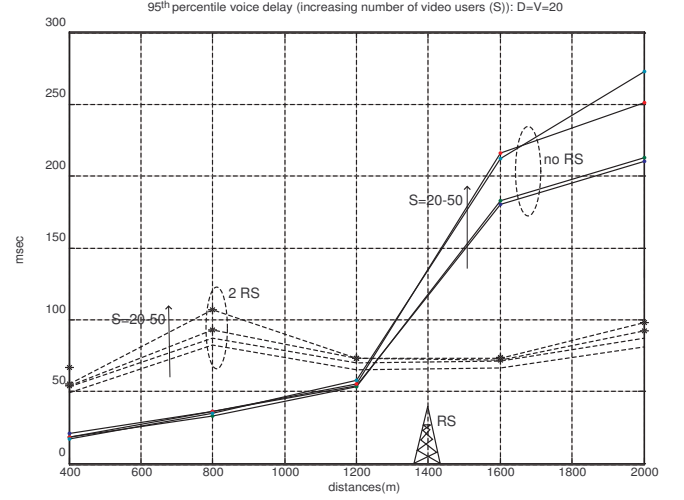


Fig. 5. 95th percentile voice delay vs. distance to the BS for increasing number of video sessions.

Figure 6 shows the 95th percentile delay for video sessions. We again observe that using relays we can prevent QoS violation for users at all distance levels in the cell. Without RSs, users at the cell edge experience high delays.

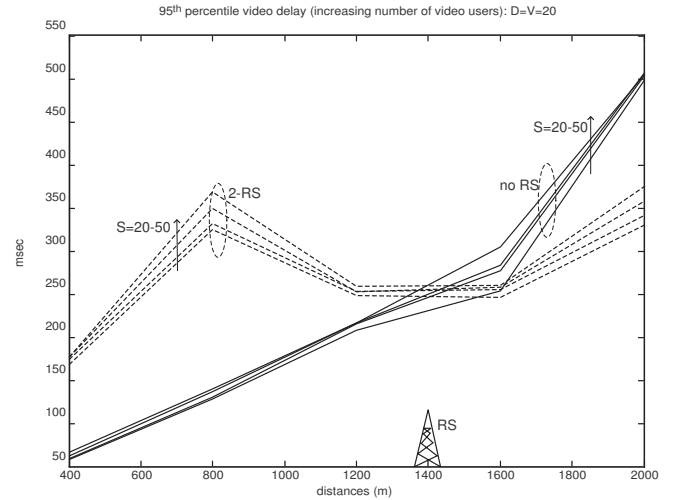


Fig. 6. 95th percentile video delay vs. distance to the BS for increasing number of video sessions.

Figure 7 shows the total throughput for users at different distance levels. Here we observe the negative effect of using relays on throughput. Sessions in the RS-microcells have to

travel two links. These two links are both very likely to experience a better channel condition than a single BS-MS link, however transmission of a packet requires two frames. Because of this trade-off we observe from Figure 7 that users at 0.4, 0.8km receive more throughput in the 0-RS case. On the other hand users at 1.2, 1.6 and 2.0km receive more throughput in the 2-RS system.

We also observe that total throughput decreases more with increasing number of video users in the 0-RS case. In the 2-RS case a video user takes less throughput. Therefore in the case of large number of video users, a system with relays is expected to provide more throughput to data users.

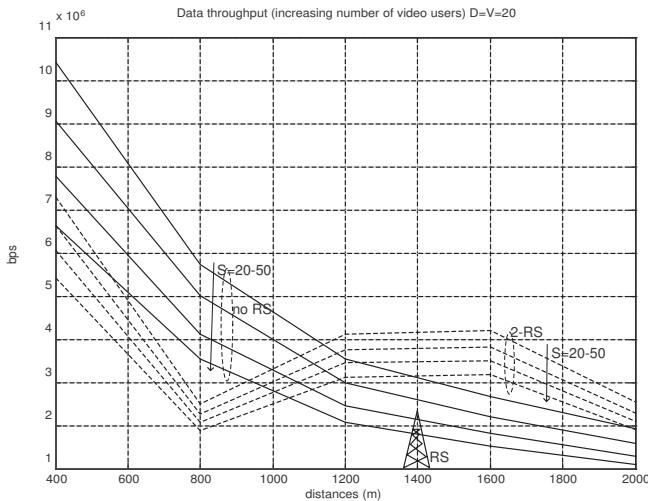


Fig. 7. Total throughput of data users vs. distance to the BS for increasing number of video sessions.

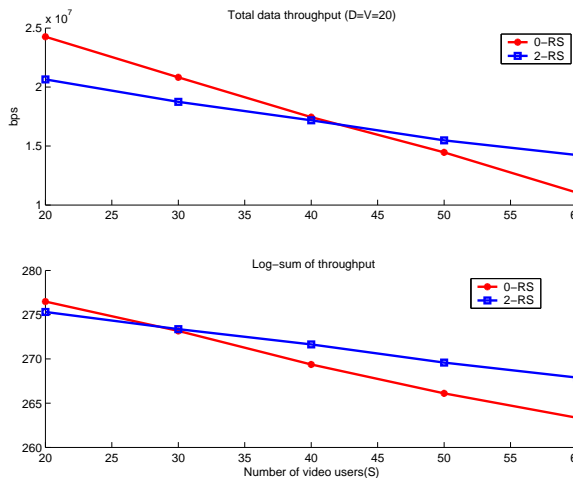


Fig. 8. Total throughput and log-sum of throughput of data users vs. number of video sessions.

We observe in Figure 8 the trade-off between SINR improvement by RSs and time loss by relaying. For low number of video users 0-RS system provides better throughput and

proportional fairness. However a video session costs more resources in a 0-RS system; total throughput decreases more with increasing number of video users in the 0-RS case. Therefore in the case of large number of video users ($S > 40$), a system with relays is expected to provide more throughput to data users. Also for number of video users greater than 30, relay system provides better proportional fairness.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

In this work we proposed a joint time, power and bandwidth allocation scheme for downlink transmission in the presence of single-interface relay stations. The proposed scheme consists of two steps, namely subframe allocation for each microcell and joint time, power, bandwidth allocation for links in each microcell. Numerical results show that it is possible to increase the cell size and decrease the number of base stations by adding low-cost relay stations. Multihop relay systems satisfy the QoS requirements of all real time sessions, for the cases, in which regular cellular systems are not sufficient. Future work will include relay station positioning, frequency reuse for relays and usage of cooperative diversity techniques multihop relay networks.

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