Stochastic Geometry Analysis of Multi-Antenna Two-Tier Cellular Networks
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Abstract—In this paper, we study the key properties of multi-antenna two-tier networks under different system configurations. Based on stochastic geometry, we derive the expressions and approximations for the users’ average data rate. Through the more tractable approximations, the theoretical analysis can be greatly simplified. We find that the differences in density and transmit power between two tiers, together with range expansion bias significantly affect the users’ data rate. Besides, for the purpose of area spectral efficiency (ASE) maximization, we find that the optimal number of active users for each tier is approximately fixed as the number of antennas plus one. Interestingly, the optimal settings are insensitive to different configurations between two tiers. Last but not the least, if the number of antennas of macro base stations (MBSs) is sufficiently larger than that of small cell base stations (SBSs), we find that range expansion will improve ASE.

Index Terms—Area spectral efficiency, heterogeneous networks, multi-antenna base stations, stochastic geometry.

I. INTRODUCTION

HETEROGENEOUS networks (HetNets), which is composed of MBSs overlaid with SBSs, has been recognized as a promising approach to cope with the 1000x traffic demand [1]. However, the differences in transmit power and BS density between MBSs and SBSs make the properties of HetNets different from the traditional single-tier networks.

To characterize the performance of HetNets, stochastic geometry has been identified as a powerful tool because of its accuracy and tractability. By modeling MBSs and SBSs as independent Poisson point processes (PPPs), the performance of HetNets has been extensively studied in [2][3][4]. Especially, the technique of cell range expansion for load-balancing was considered in [4]. It is found that, although range expansion improves the fairness between users, the overall throughput will be degraded. However, [2][4][5][6] only considered single-antenna BSs, the key properties of multi-antenna HetNets cannot be revealed. In multi-antenna single-tier networks, the ASE and energy efficiency have been studied in [5][6][7]. The authors are with Key Laboratory of Wireless-Optical Communications, Chinese Academy of Sciences, School of Information Science and Technology, University of Science and Technology of China. Address: No. 96 Jinzhai Road, Hefei, Anhui Province, 230026, P. R. China. L. Qiu is the corresponding author (e-mail: lqiu@ustc.edu.cn).

The research has been supported by the 863 Program 2014AA01A702. The average data rate of macro or small cell users is insensitive to the number of active users of the other tier. If range expansion is considered, the users’ data rates of both tier increase with \( \frac{\lambda_m}{\lambda_m} \frac{P_m}{P_m} \). Moreover, the results based on the approximations are validated through numerical results. The novel and insightful findings of this paper as follows:

- The average data rate of macro or small cell users is insensitive to the number of active users of the other tier. If range expansion is considered, the users’ data rates of both tier increase with \( \frac{\lambda_m}{\lambda_m} \frac{P_m}{P_m} \).
- For each tier, the ratio between the optimal number of active users and the sum of the number of antennas plus one nearly remains fixed, which is insensitive to different system configurations. With the number of active users set as the optimal number, ASE increases linearly with the number of antennas of both tier.
- If the number of antennas of MBSs is sufficiently larger than that of SBSs, range expansion will improve ASE. Besides, the region of the number of antennas where range expansion improves ASE is insensitive to \( \frac{\lambda_m}{\lambda_s} \).

II. SYSTEM MODEL

We consider a downlink two-tier network where the macro tier is overlaid with co-channel deployed SBSs. The positions of MBSs and SBSs are modeled as PPPs \( \Phi_m, \Phi_s \) with density \( \lambda_m, \lambda_s \). The MBSs and SBSs have transmit power \( P_m, P_s \) and are equipped with \( M_m, M_s \) antennas. The single-antenna users are located according to some stationary point process, which is independent of \( \Phi_m, \Phi_s \). We adopt standard path
loss propagation model with path loss exponent $\alpha > 2$. User association is based on the long-term biased received power. The range expansion bias for SBSs is $B$.

Each MBS and SBS serves $K_m, K_s$ active users at each slot. We consider zero-forcing (ZF) precoding and assume perfect channel state information at each BS. Thus, we have $K_m \leq M_m, K_s \leq M_s$. We follow the infinite user density assumption in [8][10]. Therefore, there are at least $K_m, K_s$ users covered by each MBS and SBS. The transmit power is allocated equally for the active users in each cell. The small scale fading on each link is i.i.d. Rayleigh fading. The thermal noise is ignored in this paper. Without loss of generality, we will focus on the analysis of a typical user located at the origin [12]. The signal-to-noise-ratio (SIR) of the typical user located at the origin is

$$SIR_l = \frac{P_{l,m}h_{m,l}/g_{0,m}}{\sum_{i\in\Phi_m\setminus\{x_0\}} \frac{P_{l,m}h_{m,i}/g_{0,m}}{\sum_{i\in\Phi_s\setminus\{x_0\}} \frac{P_{l,s}h_{s,i}/g_{0,s}}{\sum_{\Phi_z} h_{z,i}/g_{0,z}}}},$$

where $x_0$ indicates the BS the typical user associated with, and $l = m, s$ depends on which type BS $x_0$ is. According to [8][10], we know the equivalent channel gains $g_{0,m} \sim \text{Gamma}(M_m + 1 - K_m, 1)$, $h_{m,i} \sim \text{Gamma}(K_m, 1)$ and $h_{s,i} \sim \text{Gamma}(K_s, 1)$.

III. ANALYSIS OF THE TYPICAL USER

In this section, we will study the average data rate of the typical user, especially, the impact of different configurations between two tiers will be discussed.

A. Theoretical Analysis

Taking average over spatial distribution and channel power distribution, we can obtain the average data rate of the typical user, which is provided in the following theorem.

**Theorem 1:** The average data rate $R_m, R_s$ of the typical user in macro tier and small cell tier are given by

$$R_m = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\left(1 + \frac{x^\alpha}{\lambda_m} \left(\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s}\right)^{\frac{2}{\alpha}}\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}}{z F(z,K_m) + \left(\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s}\right)^{\frac{2}{\alpha}} z F(z,K_m)} dz,$$

$$R_s = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\left(1 + \frac{x^\alpha}{\lambda_m} \left(\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s}\right)^{\frac{2}{\alpha}}\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}}{z F(z,K_s) + \left(\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s}\right)^{\frac{2}{\alpha}} z F(z,K_s)} dz,$$

where $F(x,y) = 1 + x^{2/\alpha} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(1 - \left(1 + u^{-\alpha/2}\right)^{-\frac{1}{\alpha}}\right) du$.

**Proof:** The proof is given in the appendix.

Theorem 1 provide tractable expressions for the average data rate of users in multi-antenna two-tier networks. However, $R_m, R_s$ have complicated relationships with other system parameters. To further study how the differences between two tiers impact on the network performance, we provide more tractable approximations for $R_m, R_s$, which are demonstrated to be quite tight in our numerical results.

**Theorem 2:** The approximations for $R_m, R_s$ are

$$\tilde{R}_m = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\left(1 + \frac{x^\alpha}{\lambda_m} \left(\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s}\right)^{\frac{2}{\alpha}}\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}}{z H(z) + \frac{x^\alpha}{\lambda_m} \left(\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s}\right)^{\frac{2}{\alpha}} z H(z)} dz,$$

$$\tilde{R}_s = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\left(1 + \frac{x^\alpha}{\lambda_m} \left(\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s}\right)^{\frac{2}{\alpha}}\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}}{z H(z) + \frac{x^\alpha}{\lambda_m} \left(\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s}\right)^{\frac{2}{\alpha}} z H(z)} dz,$$

where $H(x) = 1 + x^{2/\alpha} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(1 - \exp(-u^{-\alpha/2})\right) du$.

**Proof:** The proof is given in the appendix.

From Theorem 1 $R_m, R_s$ are unrelated to the number of antennas of the other tier. Interestingly, besides the number of antennas, $\tilde{R}_m, \tilde{R}_s$ do not depend on the number of active users of the other tier either. In fact, numerical results show that the original expressions $R_m, R_s$ are insensitive to the number of active users of the other tier, i.e., $R_m, R_s$ behave similarly to $\tilde{R}_m, \tilde{R}_s$. Moreover, based on Theorem 1 we find that the ratios $\frac{\lambda_m}{\lambda_m P_m}$ and $B$ mainly affect $\tilde{R}_m, \tilde{R}_s$.

**Lemma 1:** When $B > 1$, we have 1) $\tilde{R}_m$ increases with $\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s}$ and $B$; 2) $\tilde{R}_s$ increases with $\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s}$ but decreases with $B$. However, when $B = 1$, $\tilde{R}_m, \tilde{R}_s$ are unrelated to $\lambda_m, \lambda_m, P_s, P_m$ and can be simplified as $\tilde{R}_m = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{1 - e^{-\frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s} z H(z)}}{z H(z)} dz, \tilde{R}_s = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{1 - e^{-\frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s} z H(z)}}{z H(z)} dz$.

**Proof:** The proof is given in the appendix.

It is a well-known fact that the average data rate increases with $B$ for macro users, but decreases with $B$ for small cell users. However, instead of numerical results, this property is demonstrated theoretically through the tight approximations in this paper. Furthermore, it is interesting to point out that both $\tilde{R}_m, \tilde{R}_s$ increase with $\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s}$ and $B$ when $B > 1$, which has never been reported in previous works. That is to say, the more small cells or the higher transmit power of small cells, the average data rate of both tiers will be larger. Another interesting result is that the approximations of users’ data rate do not depend on BS density nor BS transmit power when $B = 1$, which is similar to the single-antenna scenario [4]. The properties in Lemma 1 will be validated for the original expressions $R_m, R_s$ through numerical results.

Fig. 1 depicts $R_m, R_s$ with different system parameters. We can find that the approximations in Theorem 2 is quite accurate. Moreover, all the mentioned properties of $R_m, R_s$ are validated for $R_m, R_s$. Firstly, we find $R_m, R_s$ are insensitive to the number of active users of the other tier. The reason is that, instead of $K_m, K_s$, it is the total powers $P_m, P_s$ which dominate the cross-tier interference. Secondly, when $B > 1$, we observe that both $R_m$ and $R_s$ increase with $\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s}$. By increasing $\lambda_s$, we know that the inter-cell interference from the small cell tier will be stronger. However, the users will be closer to the associated BSs, which makes the desired signal power stronger. From Fig. 1 we know that the increase of desired signal power is larger than the increase of interference power, which leads to the fact that $R_m, R_s$ increases with $\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s}$. Similarly, for increasing $P_s$, we also know that the increase of desired power is larger than the interference power. Different from the case $B > 1$, when $B = 1$, $R_m, R_s$ are insensitive to $\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s}$ and $\frac{P_m}{P_m + P_s}$. That is to say, when $B = 1$, the increase of desired signal power due to large $\lambda_s, P_s$ is counter-balanced by the increase of inter-cell interference. Comparing the results for $B = 4$ and $B = 1$, we find range expansion will improve $R_m$ but degrade $R_s$. This property is similar to the single-antenna HetNets [4]. However, we consider a more general case where multi-antenna BSs are considered. Above all, all theoretical results based on the approximations $\tilde{R}_m, \tilde{R}_s$ are validated for $R_m, R_s$. The impact of differences between two tiers on users’ data rate has been revealed.
of the approximations, the numerical results demonstrate that because of the complex expressions of maximize ASE. The key properties of to maximize ASE. It is difficult to maximize it effects on ASE will be discussed.

Based on Theorem 1, the expression of ASE can be ex-

\[\mathcal{G}_m(u) = \int_0^\infty \frac{u \lambda_m (M_m + 1) G_m(u_m) + \lambda_s (M_s + 1) G_s(u_s)}{z - \left(z^{(\alpha_m)}/(\alpha_m M_m)+1\right)(1-e^{-z/u+1})} \, dz, G_s(u) = \int_0^\infty \frac{u \lambda_s (M_s + 1) G_s(u_s)}{z - \left(z^{(\alpha_s)}/(\alpha_s M_s)+1\right)(1-e^{-z/u+1})} \, dz.\]

For the optimization problem (5), we have the following observations.

- Firstly, \(u_m, u_s\) can be optimized separately to maximize \(G_m(u), G_s(u)\).
- Secondly, the optimal \(u_m^*, u_s^*\) do not depend on \(M_m, M_s\), i.e., for arbitrary \(M_m, M_s\), the optimal numbers of active users are \((M_m + 1) u_m^*, (M_s + 1) u_s^*\).
- Furthermore, with the optimal \(u_m^*, u_s^*\), the approximations of ASE \(T^* = \lambda_m (M_m + 1) G_m(u_m^*) + \lambda_s (M_s + 1) G_s(u_s^*)\), which will increase linearly with \(M_m, M_s\).

Through the second order derivatives, it is not difficult to show that both \(G_m(u)\) and \(G_s(u)\) are concave function of \(u\). Therefore, the optimal \(u_m^*, u_s^*\) can be obtained by setting first order derivative as zero.

\[\frac{\partial}{\partial u_m} G_m(u)\] and \(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_s} G_s(u)\) is the solution of

\[\frac{\partial}{\partial u} G_m(u) = \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{1-e^{-z/u+1}} \frac{z}{z^{(\alpha_m)}/(\alpha_m M_m)+1} \, dz < 0\] and \(\frac{\partial}{\partial u} G_m(1) = -\int_0^\infty \frac{z}{z^{(\alpha_m)}/(\alpha_m M_m)+1} \, dz > 0\)

Therefore, there is a unique solution located in \([0, 1]\), which can be obtained through the bisection method.

Proof: We take \(u_m^*\) as an example. Take the first order derivative \(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_m} G_m(u)\), we arrive at the mentioned equation. \(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_m} G_m(u)\) is a decreasing function of \(u\). Besides, for the boundaries 0, 1, it is not difficult to show that \(\lim_{u \to 0} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_m} G_m(u) = \int_0^\infty \frac{z}{z^{(\alpha_m)}/(\alpha_m M_m)+1} \, dz > 0\) and \(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_m} G_m(1) = -\int_0^\infty \frac{z}{z^{(\alpha_m)}/(\alpha_m M_m)+1} \, dz < 0\). Therefore, there is a unique solution located in \([0, 1]\), which can be solved through bisection method.

From Theorem 3 after rounding \((M_m + 1) u_m^*\) and \((M_s + 1) u_s^*\), we can obtain the optimal \(K_m^*, K_s^*\) that maximizes \(T\). Interestingly, although it is obvious that \(K_m^*, K_s^*\) depends on \(\frac{\alpha_m}{\alpha_s}, \frac{P}{P_m}\) and \(B\), we find that \(K_m^*, K_s^*\) is insensitive to these parameters in numerical results. The optimality of \(K_m^*, K_s^*\) for the original expression \(T\) will be also validated through numerical results.

B. Numerical Illustrations

By exhaustive search, we obtain the optimal \(K_m^*, K_s^*\) that maximizes \(T\). Fig. 2 illustrates \(K_m^*, K_s^*\) under different system parameters. It is obvious that \(K_m^*\) is either \([u_m^*(M_m + 1)]\) or \([u_m^*(M_m + 1)]\), \(K_s^*\) is either \([u_s^*(M_s + 1)]\) or \([u_s^*(M_s + 1)]\). That is to say, the solution based \(T\) can be applied to \(T\) directly. Interestingly, we find \(u_m^*, u_s^*\) is always located in \([0.59, 0.64]\) even under different system parameters. Therefore, the optimal \(K_m^*, K_s^*\) are

\[\text{In fact, the number of active users should be rounded.}\]
The reasons are as follows. As we mentioned in Theorem 2, range expansion will improve the ASE. The reasons are as follows. From Fig. 4, if the overall ASE $\tilde{R}_m$ is sufficiently larger than $M_s$, the value of $R_m$ will be sufficiently larger than $R_s$. Hence, $R_m$ will benefit more from range expansion. Besides, as $K_m^* = \frac{u_m^*}{M_m} (M_m + 1)$, the larger $M_m$ is, the more macro users will benefit from the range expansion. Thus, the improvement of $\lambda_m K_m R_m$ due to range expansion will make up for the degradation of $\lambda_s K_s R_s$. Fig. 5 illustrate the regions where range expansion improves or degrades ASE under different system parameters. It is interesting to point out that, the improvement/degradation region is insensitive to $\frac{P_m}{P_m}$. Instead, the difference in transmit power $P_m$ significantly affects the improvement/degradation region. Specifically, the large $\frac{P_m}{P_m}$ is, the improvement region will be larger. Based on Theorem 4 we know that increasing $\frac{P_m}{P_m}$ improves both $R_m, R_s$. However, from Fig. 5 we know that the improvement of $\lambda_m K_m R_m$ is larger than that of $\lambda_s K_s R_s$, which leads to the fact that the improvement region will be expanded with the increase of $\frac{P_m}{P_m}$.

V. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have studied the users’ average data rate and the optimal settings in multi-antenna two-tier networks. With the help of the tractable approximations, the key proper-
ties of system performance have been revealed. We find that the users’ data rate of each tier is insensitive to the number of active users of the other tier. If $B > 1$, we find users’ data rate increases with $\frac{\lambda_m}{\lambda}$ and $\frac{P_m}{P}$ However, if $B = 1$, the users’ data rate is insensitive to $\frac{\lambda_m}{\lambda}$ and $\frac{P_m}{P}$. For the purpose of ASE maximization, we find the optimal number of active users of each tier is fixed portion of the sum of the number of antennas plus one. The optimal settings are insensitive to different system parameters. With optimal settings, ASE will increase linearly with the number of antennas. Moreover, we find that, if the number of antennas of MBSs is sufficiently larger than SBSs, range expansion will improve ASE. The improvement region will expand with larger $\frac{\lambda_m}{\lambda}$.

This work has revealed the key properties of multi-antenna two-tier networks. Further extension of this work is to consider more sophisticated multi-antenna techniques, such as coordinated beamforming and transmit-receive diversity.

**APPENDIX**

**Proof of Theorem 1.** We follow the similar approach with [13]. However, we obtain much more simple expressions for multi-antenna HetNets. Take $\hat{R}_m$ as an example. $E[\log(1+SIR_m)] = \int_0^\infty f_m(r) E[\log(1+SIR_m) | r] dr,$ where $f_m(r) = 2\pi r \left(\lambda_m + \lambda_s \left(\frac{P_m}{P}\right)^{2/\alpha} \right) e^{-\lambda_m \pi r^2 - \lambda_s \left(\frac{P_m}{P}\right) \hat{r}^2} r^2$ is the distance distribution between the macro user and the serving MBS $x_0$. Following the lemma in [14], $E[\log(1+SIR_m) | r] = \int_0^\infty \frac{1-e^{-\lambda_m \pi r^2}}{2\pi r^{1/2}} \sum_{x_i \in \Phi_s \setminus \{x_0\}} h_{m,i} \log \left(\frac{h_m}{h_i}\right) dz$ . As $g_0 \sim$ Gamma distributed, we have $\mathcal{L}_{g_0}(z) = (1/(1+z))^{M-1}$. From the properties of PP, we have $\mathcal{L}_{I_m}(z) = e^{-\lambda_m \pi r^2 (F(N_0,K_m) - 1)}$. Above all, substituting $E[\log(1+SIR_m) | r]$ into the primary integral, we can derive $\hat{R}_m$ after some algebraic manipulations.

**Proof of Theorem 2.** The main procedures are similar to Theorem 1 except that we derive an approximation for $E[\log(1+SIR_m) | r]$ by averaging the equivalent channel gains $g_{nm}, h_{mi}$ and $h_{st}$. Specifically, we have

$$E[\log(1+SIR_m) | r] \approx E_{\Phi_m, \Phi_s, \Phi_t} \left[ \left( 1 + \sum_{x_i \in \Phi_s \setminus \{x_0\}} \sum_{x_j \in \Phi_s \setminus \{x_0\}} P_{m,i} h_{m,i} \log \left(\frac{h_{m,i}}{h_{j,m}}\right) \right) \right] = E_{\Phi_m, \Phi_s, \Phi_t} \left[ \left( 1 + \sum_{x_i \in \Phi_s \setminus \{x_0\}} M-1 \cdot \frac{M+1-K_m}{M+1-K_s} \right) \right]$$

$$= \int_0^\infty 1 - e^{-\lambda_m \pi r^2 (H(z)-1)} - \lambda_s \left(\frac{P_m}{P}\right)^{2/\alpha} \pi r^2 (H(z)/B-1) dz. \tag{6}$$

**Proof of Lemma 1.** First consider the case $B > 1$. We first show $\hat{R}_m$ increases with $\frac{\lambda_m}{\lambda}$ and $\frac{P_m}{P}$. Let $t = \frac{\lambda_m}{\lambda} \left(\frac{P_m}{P}\right)^{2/\alpha} \hat{r}$. Based on Leibniz integral rule, we only need to prove the integral item

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{1+B^{2/\alpha} t}{H(z) + B^{2/\alpha} \hat{r} H(z)} \right) > 0.$$  

We find $H(z)$ increases with $x$, i.e., $H(x) > H(\frac{\lambda}{\lambda})$. Thus, we have

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{1+B^{2/\alpha} t}{H(z) + B^{2/\alpha} \hat{r} H(z)} \right) > 0.$$  

Similarly, we can prove $\hat{R}_s$ increases with $\frac{\lambda_s}{\lambda}$ and $\frac{P_s}{P}$. Then, we will prove $\hat{R}_m$ increase with $B$. Indeed, we have

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial B} \left( \frac{1+B^{2/\alpha} t}{H(z) + B^{2/\alpha} \hat{r} H(z)} \right) > 0.$$  

It is obvious that $H(z) > 1$ and $e^{\frac{\lambda}{\lambda}} < 1$. Thus, $\hat{R}_m$ increases with $B$. Following similar procedures, we can prove $\hat{R}_s$ decreases with $B$. For the case $B = 1$, the results can be obtained easily by substituting $B = 1$. 

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