On the Quality of Service and Experience in IRS-NOMA Over $\kappa - \mu$ Generalized Fading Channels

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This work was supported in part by the European Union’s Research and Innovation Program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Grant under Agreement 812991 “PAINLESS” within the Horizon 2020 Program.

ABSTRACT The quality of service (QoS) and quality of experience (QoE) metrics are vital performance indicators in cellular systems. This article presents an analytical study on indoor non-orthogonal multiple access (NOMA) systems empowered by intelligent reflecting surfaces (IRS) in generalized $\kappa - \mu$ fading channels. In particular, we consider the network’s QoS through various performance metrics such as outage probability (OP), ergodic capacity (EC), average bit error rate (BER), and system throughput, for which we derive exact and asymptotic closed-form expressions. Furthermore, in contrast to measuring the conventional QoE of a user, we propose to apply the mean score opinion (MOS) factor, in which the objective technical criterion is mutated into a subjective user-recognized quality. To quantify this, a MOS-based QoE evaluation model is applied to an interactive Web browsing service. The results demonstrate the impact of IRS on the QoS and QoE of the indoor NOMA users, as well as the effect of manipulating the channel fading components, power allocation coefficients, and path loss factors. It will be shown that careful manipulation of such parameters, coupled with the use of IRS, produces spectacular improvements in system performance. Monte Carlo simulations are performed to corroborate the accuracy of the derived analytical results.

INDEX TERMS Non-orthogonal multiple access (NOMA), quality of service (QoS), quality of experience (QoE), and intelligent reflecting surface (IRS).

I. INTRODUCTION

DRIVEN by the dramatic demands for higher data rates and lower latency in 6G wireless networks, non-orthogonal multiple access (NOMA) and intelligent reflecting surfaces (IRS) have been considered potential techniques for future networks, [1], [2], [3]. In general, IRS is used to manipulate the mobile user’s propagation environment to produce constructive multipath at the receiver, which in turn leads to tremendous enhancements in data throughput [4], [5]. Other advantages of IRS are low complexity, low power consumption, low infrastructure cost, and high spectral efficiency. Unlike traditional orthogonal multiple access (OMA) which serves one individual user per resource block, the key concept of NOMA is to serve multiple users in each resource block. Therefore, NOMA is more suited for massive connectivity and low latency, due allowing dynamic spectrum sharing among users while achieving their quality of service (QoS) requirements [6], [7]. NOMA can also be combined with other wireless communication technologies, such as IRS, to actively manage the wireless communication environment to improve the reception reliability at a minimal cost [8]. As such, these two enabling technologies are complementary to each other, in the sense that NOMA enhances the spectral efficiency while IRS facilitates constructive propagation environments to maximize the received signal power [9], [10].

Several studies have investigated the combination of NOMA with IRS. For example, Ding and Poor in [2] proposed a new design of NOMA transmission with IRS, which offers a low-cost antenna array involving a large number of IRS elements. This is done to ensure that multiple users can be served in each orthogonal spatial direction as compared to space division multiple access (SDMA). They also studied hardware impairments on the proposed
IRS-NOMA design, as well as the system performance under practical conditions. In [11], the authors integrated IRS with NOMA/OMA systems and proposed discrete phase shifts for the IRS reflection in order to decrease the transmit power for specific user rates. The results revealed that NOMA may be considered worse than TDMA for near-IRS users with symmetric rates. Thus, to overcome this problem, they proposed pairing the user with asymmetric rates. Moreover, IRS has been applied along with various wireless communication technologies in different scenarios due to its low power consumption property and channel manoeuvrability [12]. For example, the authors in [13], [14] studied the potential benefits of IRS on multiple UAVs and analyzed different performance metrics such as the symbol error rate (SER) and the average capacity. The practical assumption of phase error is considered in these studies on IRS, where the number of reflectors has a significant impact on the accuracy of phase estimation. Therefore, different theorems such as Sinusoidal Addition Theorem (SAT) and Central Limit Theorem (CLT) have been proposed to analyze a range of different numbers of IRS reflectors. Furthermore, asymptotic closed expressions were obtained for the probability of outage (OP) and the probability of the average symbol error of an IRS-assisted wireless power transfer (WPT) system in [12], demonstrating the strong performance improvement due to the IRS component. Furthermore, other research studies have recently been conducted on the combination of IRS and NOMA [15], [16], [17], [18]. Ding et al. in [15] investigated the impact of two types of IRS phase change (coherent phase shift and random discrete phase shift) on the performance of a NOMA network under various conditions. In [16], the authors analyzed an IRS-assisted NOMA system and evaluated the OP and average channel capacity with exact closed-form expressions. Their findings indicate that the performance of IRS-supported NOMA networks is superior to that of an OMA system. Taking into account numerous antennas, Zhu et al. [17] evaluated an IRS-aided downlink multiple input single output (MISO) system by optimizing the beam formation vector and IRS phase change matrix simultaneously to decrease the transmission power. Furthermore, Fang et al. in [18], studied an IRS-assisted wireless power NOMA network where energy efficiency is optimized under the constraints of minimizing the power consumption and maximizing the sum data rate. In NOMA networks, different performance indicators have been investigated to measure the quality of service level (QoS), such as outage probability (OP), throughput, energy efficiency (EE), latency, etc. For example, Yahya et al. in [19] derived exact and asymptotic expressions for BER of NOMA systems under the assumption of a conventional fading channel with arbitrary number of phase-shift keying modulation orders. The results demonstrated the relationship between the power coefficients and the modulation order \( N \), where the BER suffers increased inter-user interference as the modulation order increases. The authors determined the best optimal power allocation to minimize the system’s average BER. Furthermore, ElHalawany et al. in [20] studied the performance of NOMA downlink and derived closed-form expressions of different QoS metrics including the ergodic capacity (EC), average BER, and OP, in which a shadowed fading model \( \kappa - \mu \) is applied. Furthermore, Alqahtani et al. in [21] studied the QoS of multiple NOMA users by analysing OP, the average BER and the ergodic capacity (EC). The study showed that the interplay between the channel fading components, power allocation factors, and target data rates have significant impacts on QoS. However, users may experience different levels of quality of experience (QoE) even with the same throughput due to considerable variations in the type of applications and user preferences. The mean opinion score (MOS) is often used to assess the customer satisfaction with services such as video streaming, file download, and online browsing [22]. Sun et al. in [23] investigated the resource allocation problem for NOMA by applying the MOS to evaluate the user’s QoE and maximize it. Furthermore, the authors in [24] proposed a QoE-assisted resource allocation algorithm for multi-cell-NOMA (MC-NOMA) network.

A. MOTIVATION AND CONTRIBUTION

In the above mentioned studies, it was assumed that the NOMA signal propagates through outdoor to outdoor channels. However, users could be indoors while being served by an outdoor BS. Therefore, the outdoor-to-indoor channel, or vice versa, is an important scenario that warrants investigation. As a consequence, the effectiveness of receiving reliable and strong transmission signals for indoor users gradually decreases due to restrictions inside the building and the path-loss. Therefore, we propose applying an IRS close to the BS to enhance the signal strength of indoor users as well as to improve the overall performance of the system. This approach effectively improves the performance of indoor users by acting as a virtual MIMO system to reduce the complexity while maintaining good energy efficiency as it lead to alleviating the limitations caused by the channel conditions of the indoor users. Unlike the progress published in [25], [26], where the proposed system model works under the assumption of orthogonal multiple access (OMA) system, the presented research in this paper focuses on the application of NOMA in future wireless networks. Beside, prior work in this area provides a limited analytical investigation on the combination of IRS and NOMA technologies, while this work attempts to provide a comprehensive investigation. In addition, and to the best of our knowledge, no analytical work has been carried out on the QoS and QoE performance of indoor IRS-NOMA systems over \( \kappa - \mu \) fading channels. Thus, in this paper, our aim is to investigate QoS and QoE for multiple indoor IRS-assisted NOMA users over generalized fading channels. Although the open literature presents multiple studies on conventional outdoor NOMA integrated with IRS, these are not directly applicable for the case of indoor NOMA. Specifically, we investigate the proposed system model where the downlink
superimposed signal propagates via outdoor-to-indoor channels and we analyze the performance of the indoor NOMA users when considering the instantaneous channel gains of all the links. The contributions of this paper can thus be summarized as follows:

- Derive an expression for the SINR of multiple indoor users to find exact and asymptotic OP expressions over a generalised $\kappa$-$\mu$ fading channel when the user’s data rate demand falls below certain QoS requirements.
- With the aid of the Fox H-function and the Meijer G-function, we derive exact and asymptotic analytical expressions for EC. In addition, closed-form expressions are obtained for the throughput of a three-indoor-user NOMA system under ideal assumptions.
- Evaluate the link performance and provide exact and asymptotic closed-form BER expressions for M-QAM modulation.
- Study the quality of experience of the indoor NOMA users when supported by IRS.
- Evaluate the performance of NOMA downlink signals propagating through outdoor-to-indoor channels, where they are ranked based on their instantaneous fading coefficients, and study the impact of the path loss characteristics on the indoor and outdoor users.
- Validate the accuracy of the derived expressions using Monte Carlo simulations.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section II discusses the system model in this work. Section III provides the SINR analysis, OP, EC, BER, and throughput. The MOS based QoE evaluation model is presented in Section IV. Finally, the results of this work are discussed in Section V, while the conclusion is provided in Section VI.

### II. SYSTEM MODEL

In this paper, an IRS-non-orthogonal multiple access (NOMAs) downlink system is considered, which consists of a single base station (BS), a single IRS panel equipped with $N$ passive reflective elements and deployed close enough to the BS, and multiple legitimate indoor users. The main goal of applying such IRS model is to achieve high energy efficient transmission at low complexity setup. Assuming that the IRS has $N$ reflectors with independent reflection phases, this leads to the realization of having an $N$-stream virtual MIMO system [25]. This approach was validated with the aid of a test-bed platform in [25], [26]. In spite of the setup’s simplicity of the considered system model, the idea was to reserve the consumed energy used by multiple antennas and reduce the cost of the required infrastructure by employing an IRS close to the BS to communicate multiple outdoor to indoor users. In other words, the IRS is applied to enable energy-efficient and low-complexity application of MIMO transmitters [25]. Similar to the ones existing in the literature, many trusted research works such as [2] and [27] present straightforward system models to achieve effective methods of sustainable resources and discuss different analytical and optimized views. Therefore, this work attempts to study different performance metrics of pairing indoor users with outdoor BS through a passive IRS. However, the channel phase complexity caused by the IRS and its imperfections are out of the scope for this work, and the channel attenuation between the BS and the IRS is negligible [25], [26]. Hence, the considered IRS adjusts the phases of its reflector elements to cancel the channel phase terms to maximize the instantaneous signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), and the induced phase of each element is manipulated and optimized toward achieving this.

| Symbol | Definition |
|--------|------------|
| $N$    | number of passive reflective elements |
| $L_{fs}$ | loss of the free space path |
| $d_{in}$ | distance between the building wall and indoor user |
| $d_{eb}$ | distance between the UAV and the external building wall |
| $L_{pc}$ | perpendicular loss |
| $L_{pt}$ | parallel penetration loss |
| $\theta$ | grazing angle between BS and the external building wall |
| $\chi$ | loss of the indoor path |
| $\varphi$ | number of internal walls |
| $\varrho$ | loss of the internal walls |
| $P_s$ | total transmitting power at BS |
| $\kappa$ | channel fading parameter |
| $\mu$ | channel fading parameter |
| $x_i$ | data symbol of user $i$ |
| $h$ | channel coefficient |
| $a_i$ | power allocation of user $i$ |
| $\rho$ | transmit signal to noise ratio |
| $\sigma^2$ | noise variance |
| $R_i$ | individual data rate of user $i$ |
| $L_1$ | number of cycles required for the congestion window |
| $L_2$ | the amount of slow-begin cycles required for web page size |
| $\xi_1$ | experimental results of web browsing |
A. PATH LOSS MODEL

In this article, all active wireless channels are assumed to be independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.) and follow the generalised $\kappa - \mu$ fading model, where the channel state information (CSI) is assumed to be available at the BS. Furthermore, the legitimate received nodes can detect the NOMA signal over a single hop between the IRS and the indoor user, which is affected by the outdoor-to-indoor path loss. Therefore, the path loss model of the indoor NOMA environment, discussed in [28], is applied, and the total path loss for $U_i$ can be calculated as

$$PL_i = L_{fs} + L_t + L_{in}$$

(1)

where $L_{fs}$ represents the loss of the free space path, which can be given as $32.45 + 20\log_{10}(d_{eb} + d_i) + 20\log_{10}(f)$, where $d_i$ is the distance between the wall of the building and $U_i$, where $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$, and $d_{eb}$ is the distance between the IRS and the wall of the external building. Furthermore, $L_t$ is known as the loss of the propagation transition path that involves the perpendicular loss $L_{pc}$ and the parallel penetration loss $L_{pt}$. It can be given as

$$L_t = L_{pc} + L_{pt} \times (1 - \sin(\theta))^2$$

(2)

where $\theta$ indicates the grazing angle between the IRS and the exterior wall of the building, given as $\theta = \cos^{-1}(d_{eb}/d_{out})$. Furthermore, the loss of the indoor propagation path, $L_{in}$, is obtained by the mean loss of the path selected from the interior side of the exterior wall, which can be calculated as

$$L_{in} = \max \left\{ \vartheta \partial, \chi (d_i - 2)(1 - \sin(\theta))^2 \right\}$$

(3)

where $\chi$ is the parameter of loss of the indoor path, $\vartheta$ is the number of internal walls, and $\partial$ is the loss of the internal walls.

B. FADING CHANNEL DISTRIBUTION

$\kappa - \mu$ distribution involves small-scale variations in line of sight (LOS) signal scenarios. Hence, a fading $\kappa - \mu$ signal represents different clusters, ($\mu > 0$), of multipath and scattered waves of similar power, as well as, arbitrary dominant power components established within each cluster. Therefore, the rate between these total components of the power is given as ($\kappa > 0$). Furthermore, the appropriate probability density function (PDF) for the system model considered is given in the form of a sum of $N$ i.i.d. $\kappa - \mu$ random variables (RV) as in [29].

$$f_\gamma(\gamma) = \frac{\mu(1 + \kappa)^{\frac{\mu+1}{\kappa}}} {\kappa^{\frac{\mu+1}{\kappa}} \Gamma(\mu) \gamma^{\frac{\mu+1}{\kappa}}} \exp\left(-\frac{\mu(1 + \kappa)\gamma}{\gamma}\right) \times I_{\mu-1}\left(2\mu \sqrt{\frac{\kappa(1 + \kappa)\gamma}{\gamma}}\right)$$

(4)

where the instantaneous SNR is illustrated as $\gamma \triangleq \rho|\mathbf{n}|^2 / \sigma^2|\mathbf{h}|^2$. The notations of $\rho$, $\mathbf{h}$ and $\mathbf{P}$ are defined as the transmitted SNR, the channel frequency response, and the transmit power, respectively. In addition to that, the average SNR can be given as $\bar{\gamma} \triangleq \mathbb{E}[\gamma] = \frac{\Omega}{\sigma^2}$ with the expectation of $\mathbb{E}[\cdot]$ and $\Omega$ defines the mean power of $\mathbf{h}$, i.e., $\mathbb{E}[|\mathbf{h}|^2]$. $I_{\mu}(\cdot)$ is the modified Bessel function of the first kind. To achieve more tractable analysis, (4) can be reduced to a further equivalent expression, particularly for $I_{\mu}(\cdot)$, by employing the series representation of $I_{\mu}(\cdot)$ represented in [30, eq. (8.4.45)]. Therefore, (4) is rewritten as

$$f_\gamma(\bar{\gamma}) = \frac{1}{e^{\Omega(\mu\kappa)}} \sum_{c=0}^{\infty} \frac{(N\mu)^{2c+N\mu} \cdot c!} {\Gamma(c + N\mu) \bar{\gamma}^{c+N\mu} \cdot \exp(-N\mu(1 + \kappa)\bar{\gamma}) \cdot \gamma^{c+N\mu-1}}$$

(5)

Moreover, the related cumulative distribution function (CDF) of the sum of $N$ fading channels of $\kappa - \mu$ is achieved by integrating the above PDF and is given in the form of the Fox H-function with the aid of [31, eq. (8.4.3.1) and (8.4.6.5)] and [32, eq. (6.2.8)]. Thus,

$$F_\gamma(\gamma) = \frac{1}{e^{\Omega(\mu\kappa)}} \sum_{c=0}^{\infty} \frac{(N\kappa\mu)^c} {c! \cdot \Gamma(c + N\mu)} \times \mathbf{H}^{1,1}_{1,2}\left[N\mu(1 + \kappa)\gamma \bar{\gamma}^{(1,1)} \cdot \left((c + N\mu, 1), (0, 1)\right)\right]$$

(6)

III. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

A. ANALYSIS OF SINR

The signal received by each user can be mathematically described as

$$y_i = \left(\sum_{n=1}^{N} h_{i,n} e^{j\phi_{i,n}}\right) \times \left(\sum_{i} \sqrt{a_i} P_{x_i}\right) + n_i$$

(7)

where $P_x$ is the total transmission power in BS, and $x_{ic}$ defines the superimposed signal, in which $x_1$, $x_2$ and $x_3$ represent the data symbols of $U_1$, $U_2$ and $U_3$, respectively. Furthermore, $a_i$ represents the power allocation factor of the user $i$, and is given accordingly as $\sum_{i} a_i = 1$ and $a_3 \leq a_2 \leq a_1$. $h_{i,n} = a_{iN} e^{j\theta_{i,n}}$ illustrates the channel coefficient between the $i$th user and the $n$th passive reflector of the IRS, $n \in \{1, 2, \ldots, N\}$, where $\alpha_n$ and $\theta_n$ define its magnitude and phase, respectively. Hence, $h_{1,n}$, $h_{2,n}$ and $h_{3,n}$ represents the channel coefficients of $U_1$, $U_2$ and $U_3$, respectively. We assume that each induced phase of the IRS passive reflector is given as $\phi_{i,n} = -\theta_{i,n}$, which leads to the maximum SNR. Without loss of generality, the average channel gain between the BS and all indoor users are considered to be in ascending order as $|\sum_{n=1}^{N} h_{1,n}|^2 \leq |\sum_{n=1}^{N} h_{2,n}|^2 \leq |\sum_{n=1}^{N} h_{3,n}|^2$, where we consider the effects of path loss and small-scale fading, which is modelled as the sum of $N$ i.i.d. $\kappa - \mu$ random variables (RV) in this work. Furthermore, $n_i$ indicates the additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN), where $n_i \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \sigma_i^2)$. Thereafter, we assume that the noise powers of all users are identical in this work. Therefore, the signal-to-interference-noise ratio (SINR) received at $U_1$ is
given below.

\[ \gamma_{U1}^{\xi_1} = \frac{a_1 P_x \xi_1}{a_2 P_x \xi_1 + a_3 P_x \xi_1 + \sigma^2} = \frac{a_1 y_1}{a_2 y_1 + a_3 y_1 + 1}, \]  

(8)

where \( \xi_1 = | \sum_{n=1}^{N} h_{1,n}^2 |^2 \), \( \rho = \frac{P_r}{\sigma^2} \) and \( y_1 \approx \rho \xi_1 \), which is the instantaneous SNR at \( U_1 \).

In accordance with the NOMA principle, \( U_2 \) can detect \( U_1 \)'s signal and treat it as interference to be eliminated, and then decode its own signal while \( U_3 \)'s signal is treated as noise. This invokes the successive interference cancellation (SIC) principle. Subsequently, the SINR at \( U_2 \) is given to detect the symbols \( x_1 \) and \( x_2 \), respectively, as follows.

\[ \gamma_{U2}^{x_1 \rightarrow x_2} = \frac{a_1 P_x \xi_2}{a_2 P_x \xi_2 + a_3 P_x \xi_2 + \sigma^2} = \frac{a_1 y_2}{a_2 y_2 + a_3 y_2 + 1}, \]  

(9)

\[ \gamma_{U2}^{x_2 \rightarrow x_3} = \frac{a_1 P_x \xi_3}{a_2 P_x \xi_3 + a_3 P_x \xi_3 + \sigma^2} = \frac{a_1 y_3}{a_2 y_3 + a_3 y_3 + 1}, \]  

(10)

where \( \xi_2 = | \sum_{n=1}^{N} h_{2,n}^2 |^2 \) and \( y_2 \approx \rho \xi_2 \), which is the instantaneous SNR at \( U_2 \). Similarly, \( U_3 \) treats the signals of other users as interference and applies SIC to decode and eliminate them to obtain its own signal. Therefore, the SINR at \( U_3 \) to detect the symbols \( x_1, x_2, \) and \( x_3 \) are given, respectively, as follows.

\[ \gamma_{U3}^{x_1 \rightarrow x_2} = \frac{a_1 P_x \xi_3}{a_2 P_x \xi_3 + a_3 P_x \xi_3 + \sigma^2} = \frac{a_1 y_3}{a_2 y_3 + a_3 y_3 + 1}, \]  

(11)

\[ \gamma_{U3}^{x_2 \rightarrow x_3} = \frac{a_1 P_x \xi_3}{a_2 P_x \xi_3 + a_3 P_x \xi_3 + \sigma^2} = \frac{a_1 y_3}{a_2 y_3 + a_3 y_3 + 1}, \]  

(12)

\[ \gamma_{U3}^{x_3} = \frac{a_1 P_x \xi_3}{a_2 P_x \xi_3 + a_3 P_x \xi_3 + \sigma^2} = \frac{a_1 y_3}{a_2 y_3 + a_3 y_3 + 1}, \]  

(13)

where \( \xi_3 = | \sum_{n=1}^{N} h_{3,n}^2 |^2 \) and \( y_3 \approx \rho \xi_3 \), which is the instantaneous SNR at \( U_3 \).

**B. OUTAGE PERFORMANCE (OP)**

Essentially, the OP analysis involves the scenario in which the individual user’s data rate must satisfy a certain quality of service (QoS). Therefore, the outage event of \( U_1 \) appears when its SINR or data rate is less than a threshold or a predefined data rate, and it can be expressed as

\[ P_{\text{out}}^{U_1} = P_r \left( \gamma_{U1}^{\xi_1} < \gamma_{th1} \right), \]  

(14)

where \( \gamma_{th1} = 2 R_1 - 1 \), and \( R_1 \) is the target data rate of \( U_1 \). Now, submitting (8) into \( E_{11} \) yields the following expression.

\[ E_{11} = P_r \left( y_1 < \frac{\gamma_{th1}}{(a_1 - a_2 y_{th1} - a_3 y_{th1})} \right) = F_y(\varepsilon_1). \]  

(15)

Now, (6) is substituted into (15), and then the result is re-substituted into (14), resulting in

\[ P_{\text{out}}^{U_1} = 1 - \left( 1 - \frac{1}{e^{(N \mu \kappa)}} \sum_{c=0}^{\infty} \frac{(N \kappa \mu)^c}{c! \Gamma(c + N \mu)} \right) \times H^{1.1}_{1.1} \left[ \frac{N \mu (1 + \kappa) \varepsilon_3, i}{\gamma_3} \right] (1, 1) \left( c + N \mu, 1 \right), \]  

(16)

Similarly, \( U_2 \) can be out of service if its SINR or \( U_1 \)'s SINR are below certain thresholds. In other words, outage events of \( U_2 \) are considered when the \( U_1 \)’s signal is incorrectly decoded at \( U_2 \) during the SIC process or if its own signal \( (x_2) \) is also improperly decoded. As a result, the OP of \( U_2 \) can be obtained as follows.

\[ P_{\text{out}}^{U_2} = 1 - P_r \left( \gamma_{U2}^{x_1 \rightarrow x_2} > \gamma_{th1}, \gamma_{U2}^{x_2} > \gamma_{th2}, \gamma_{U2}^{x_3} > \gamma_{th3} \right), \]  

\[ = 1 - \left[ (1 - P_r \left( \gamma_{U2}^{x_1 \rightarrow x_2} < \gamma_{th1} \right)) (1 - P_r \left( \gamma_{U2}^{x_2} < \gamma_{th2} \right)) \right]. \]  

(17)

By substituting (10) and (11) into (17), and following the same procedures as (14)-(16), the OP of \( U_2 \) can be given in closed form as follows

\[ P_{\text{out}}^{U_2} = 1 - \left( 1 - \frac{1}{e^{(N \mu \kappa)}} \sum_{c=0}^{\infty} \frac{(N \kappa \mu)^c}{c! \Gamma(c + N \mu)} \right) \times H^{1.1}_{1.1} \left[ \frac{N \mu (1 + \kappa) \varepsilon_3, i}{\gamma_3} \right] (1, 1) \left( c + N \mu, 1 \right), \]  

(18)

where \( \varepsilon_3, 1 = \varepsilon_1 \) and \( \varepsilon_3, 2 = \varepsilon_2 = \frac{\gamma_{th3}}{a_2 - 2 \gamma_{th1}} \).

In a similar fashion, \( U_3 \) can experience an outage if its own SINR or \( U_1 \)'s SINR or \( U_2 \)'s SINR are below certain thresholds. Consequently, the outage events of \( U_3 \) are presented when the \( U_1 \)'s or \( U_2 \)'s signals are imprecisely decoded by \( U_3 \) during the SIC process or if its own signal \((x_3)\) is also incorrectly decoded. Thereafter, the OP of \( U_3 \) can be illustrated as follows.

\[ P_{\text{out}}^{U_3} = 1 - \left( 1 - \frac{1}{e^{(N \mu \kappa)}} \sum_{c=0}^{\infty} \frac{(N \kappa \mu)^c}{c! \Gamma(c + N \mu)} \right) \times H^{1.1}_{1.1} \left[ \frac{N \mu (1 + \kappa) \varepsilon_3, i}{\gamma_3} \right] (1, 1) \left( c + N \mu, 1 \right), \]  

(19)

We follow the same previous steps to find the final format of OP of \( U_3 \) as follows.

\[ P_{\text{out}}^{U_3} = 1 \prod_{i=1}^{3} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{e^{(N \mu \kappa)}} \sum_{c=0}^{\infty} \frac{(N \kappa \mu)^c}{c! \Gamma(c + N \mu)} \right] \times H^{1.1}_{1.1} \left[ \frac{N \mu (1 + \kappa) \varepsilon_3, i}{\gamma_3} \right] (1, 1) \left( c + N \mu, 1 \right), \]  

(20)

where \( \varepsilon_3, 1 = \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_3, 2 = \varepsilon_2, \) and \( \varepsilon_3, 3 = \frac{\gamma_{th3}}{a_2 \xi_3} \).

To seek further insight, we aim to investigate the asymptotic OP at high SNR, i.e., \((\gamma \rightarrow \infty)\). Therefore, we use the following asymptotic expression of the Fox H function given in [33] as follows.

\[ \lim_{z \to 0} H^{m,n}_{p,q} = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \left[ \frac{h_j}{z^j} + O\left( \frac{1}{z^j} \right) \right], \]  

(24)
where \( \mathcal{O} \) indicates the high order and \( h_j \) is defined as follows.

\[
h_j = \frac{\prod_{i=1, i\neq j}^{m} \Gamma \left( b_i - \frac{b_i \beta_j}{p_j} \right) \prod_{i=1}^{m} \Gamma \left( 1 - a_i + \frac{b_i \mu}{p_i} \right)}{\beta_j \prod_{i=1+\sigma}^{m} \Gamma \left( a_i - \frac{b_i \mu}{p_i} \right) \prod_{i=1+\sigma}^{m} \Gamma \left( 1 - b_j + \frac{b_j \mu}{p_j} \right)}.
\]  

(25)

Now, the asymptotic OP expressions of all users are achieved by applying the above identity to (16), (18) and (20), and they are stated at the bottom of the next page.

C. THROUGHPUT ANALYSIS

The system throughput of each user in a delay-limited transmission mode can be evaluated by its OP or ergodic capacity. Therefore, the corresponding outage throughput of a two-user NOMA system is given as follows.

\[
\mathcal{T}_1^{OP} = (1 - P_i^{out}) \times R_i,
\]

(26)

where \( R_i \) is the individual data rate of user \( i \). Therefore, we substitute (16), (18) and (20) in (26), separately, to obtain the throughput of all legitimate users.

D. AVERAGE BIT ERROR RATE (BER)

It is common practise to assess the quality of communication links in the presence of fading by characterising the conditional function of (BER) over the probability density function of the instantaneous signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the fading channel. For a wide range of wireless systems, the expressions for BER can be given as in [34] as follows.

\[
\bar{P}_i^f = \int_{0}^{\infty} P_i^f f_\lambda(\mu) d\gamma,
\]

(27)

where \( l \in \{1, 2, 3\} \). In this subsection, we consider three different indoor NOMA users with similar modulation orders using QAM, i.e., \( M_l = 4 \forall l \in 1, 2, 3 \), and the average BER performance is investigated over \( \kappa-\mu \) fading model. The conditional BER \( P_i^f \) of the three users can be given, respectively, in terms of \( Q(\cdot) \) as in [21].

\[
P_i^f = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^{4} Q\left(\sqrt{\lambda_{3,i} \gamma_1}\right)
\]

(28)

\[
P_i^f = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=5}^{14} c_i \times Q\left(\sqrt{\lambda_{3,i} \gamma_1}\right)
\]

(29)

\[
P_i^{out}(\infty) = 1 - \left(1 - \frac{1}{e^{(N\mu)\lambda}} \sum_{c=0}^{\infty} \frac{(N\kappa \mu)^{c}}{c! \Gamma(1 + c + N\mu)} \times \frac{N\mu(1 + \kappa)\varepsilon_{3,i}}{\gamma_1} \right)^{e + N\mu}
\]

(30)

Now, the asymptotic OP expressions of all users are achieved by applying the above identity to (16), (18) and (20), and they are stated at the bottom of the next page.

\[
P_i^{out}(\infty) = 1 - \left(1 - \frac{1}{e^{(N\mu)\lambda}} \sum_{c=0}^{\infty} \frac{(N\kappa \mu)^{c}}{c! \Gamma(1 + c + N\mu)} \times \frac{N\mu(1 + \kappa)\varepsilon_{3,i}}{\gamma_1} \right)^{e + N\mu}
\]

(31)

where \( d_i = [4, -2, 2, 1, -1, 1, -2, 2, -2, 1, 1, -1, 1, -1, 1, -1, 1, -2, 1, -1, 1, -1] \), and \( \gamma_{3,i} \) can be found in [21, Table 1]. Now, we submit (28) in (27). Thus, the following expression is obtained.

\[
P_i^f = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^{4} D_i \int_{0}^{\infty} \gamma_1^{c + N\mu - 1} \exp\left(\frac{N\mu(1 + \kappa)\gamma}{\gamma_1}\right) Q\left(\sqrt{\lambda_{3,i} \gamma_1}\right)f_{\gamma_1}(\gamma) d\gamma.
\]

(32)

where \( D_i = \frac{1}{e^{(N\mu)\lambda}} \sum_{c=0}^{\infty} \frac{(N\mu)^{2c} e^{(N\mu)\lambda} \varepsilon_{N\mu \gamma}}{c! \Gamma(c + N\mu)} \). With the aid of [31, eq. (8.4.3.1), (8.4.14.2), and (8.4.16.1)], [32, eq. (6.2.8)], and the identity of \( Q(x) = \frac{1}{2} \text{erfc}(\frac{x}{\sqrt{2}}) \), the integral in (28) can be evaluated as follows.

\[
I_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{0}^{\infty} \gamma_1^{c + N\mu - 1} G_{0,1}^{1,0}\left[\frac{N\mu(1 + \kappa)\gamma}{\gamma_1} \right] - \int_{0}^{\infty} \gamma_1^{c + N\mu - 1} G_{0,1}^{1,0}\left[\frac{N\mu(1 + \kappa)\gamma}{\gamma_1} \right] d\gamma.
\]

(33)

The integral above in (32) can be solved by using the Mellin transform of the two-fox H function, given in [35], as

\[
I_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{\lambda_{3,i}}{2}\right)^{-(e - N\mu)}
\]

(34)

\[
\times H_{2,2}^{1,2}\left[\frac{N\mu(1 + \kappa)}{\gamma_1} \right] \left(1 - c - N\mu, 1 \left(\frac{1}{2} - c - N\mu, 1 \right) \right) \left(0, 1 \right), \left(-c - N\mu, 1 \right)\right]
\]

where \( \delta = \frac{\lambda_{3,i}}{2} \). Substituting (33) into (31), the average BER of \( U_1 \) is given at the bottom of the page. Likewise, we follow the same procedures as applied for \( U_1 \) to obtain the average BER of the remaining users. As a result, (36) and (37), given at the bottom of the page, express the average BER of \( U_2 \) and \( U_3 \), respectively.

At high SNR, the asymptotic expression of the average BER can be achieved for all users by using the identity of (20) in (35)-(37). Therefore, the closed asymptotic expressions of all users are given at the bottom of the next page in (38)-(40).
TABLE 2. Definitions for the symbols used in formulations.

| Symbol       | Definition                                                                 |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| \(\lambda_{3,1,3,6,3,33}\) | \(A_1 + A_2 + A_3\)                                                      |
| \(\lambda_{3,4,3,5,3,39}\) | \(A_1 - A_2 - A_3\)                                                      |
| \(\lambda_{3,9,3,20}\) | \(2A_1 - A_2 - A_3\)                                                    |
| \(\lambda_{3,13,3,25}\) | \(2A_1 + A_2 - A_3\)                                                    |
| \(\lambda_{3,17}\) | \(2A_2 + A_3\)                                                          |
| \(\lambda_{3,23}\) | \(2A_2 - A_3\)                                                          |
| \(\lambda_{3,32}\) | \(2A_1 + 2A_2 + A_3\)                                                   |

\(A_1 = \sqrt{a_1}, A_2 = \sqrt{a_2}, A_3 = \sqrt{a_3}\)

E. AVERAGE CHANNEL CAPACITY

The Shannon channel fading capacity, which is also known as the ergodic capacity in (bits/s/Hz), is defined in [34] as

\[
\tilde{C}_l = \text{BW} \int_0^\infty \log_2(1 + \gamma_l) f_{\gamma_l}(\gamma_l) d\gamma_l. \tag{41}
\]

where BW indicates the total bandwidth, and \(l \in \{1, 2, 3\}\).

For the case of \(l = 1\), we substitute (8) in (41) and recall the identity of \(\log_2(x) = \ln(x)/\ln(2)\). Thus, after some algebraic manipulations, we can obtain the following expression.

\[
\tilde{C}_1 = \frac{\text{BW}}{\ln(2)} \left[ \int_0^\infty \underbrace{\ln(1 + \gamma_1) f_{\gamma_1}(\gamma_1) d\gamma_1}_{\mathcal{I}_1} - \int_0^\infty \underbrace{\ln(1 + \Psi_1) f_{\gamma_1}(\gamma_1) d\gamma_1}_{\mathcal{I}_2} \right], \tag{42}
\]

where \(\Psi = (1 - a_1)\). Substituting (5) and (8) into the integral of \(\mathcal{I}_1\), and applying further manipulations, the following is obtained.

\[
\mathcal{I}_1 = \int_0^\infty \gamma_1^{c + N\mu - 1} \exp \left( - \frac{N\mu(1 + \kappa)\gamma_1}{\gamma_1} \right) \times \ln(1 + \gamma_1) d\gamma_1 \times D_1. \tag{43}
\]

where \(D_1\) is defined in (31). The above integral can be expressed in a compact form by rewriting exponential and logarithmic functions in their alternative Meijer G function formats defined in [31, eq. (8.4.3.1) and (8.4.6.5)]. Thus,

\[
\mathcal{I}_1 = D_1 \times \int_0^\infty \gamma_1^{(c + N\mu - 1)} G_{1,0}^{1,2} \left[ \frac{\gamma_1 N\mu(1 + \kappa)}{\gamma_1} \right] \times G_{3,2}^{1,1} \left[ \frac{(N\mu(1 + \kappa))^{-1}}{\gamma_1} \right]. \tag{44}
\]

To solve the above integral in a closed form, we aim to perform the identity in [36]. Thus, the following expression is obtained.

\[
\mathcal{I}_1 = G_{3,2}^{1,1} \left[ \frac{(N\mu(1 + \kappa))^{-1}}{\gamma_1} \right] \left[ 1, 1, 1 - (c + N\mu) \right] \times D_1 \gamma_1. \tag{45}
\]

\[
\tilde{P}_1 = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^{4} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} D_1(\delta)^{-(c + N\mu)} \times H_{2,2}^{1,2} \left[ \frac{N\mu(1 + \kappa)}{\gamma_1} \right] \right), \tag{35}
\]

\[
\tilde{P}_2 = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=5}^{14} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} D_2 c_i(\delta)^{-(c + N\mu)} \times H_{2,2}^{1,2} \left[ \frac{N\mu(1 + \kappa)}{\gamma_2} \right] \right), \tag{36}
\]

\[
\tilde{P}_3 = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=15}^{33} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} D_3 d_i(\delta)^{-(c + N\mu)} \times H_{2,2}^{1,2} \left[ \frac{N\mu(1 + \kappa)}{\gamma_3} \right] \right), \tag{37}
\]

\[
\tilde{P}_1^{(\infty)} = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^{4} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} D_1(\delta)^{-(c + N\mu)} \times \frac{\Gamma(c + N\mu) \Gamma \left( \frac{1}{2} + c + N\mu \right)}{\Gamma(1 + c + N\mu)} \right), \tag{38}
\]

\[
\tilde{P}_2^{(\infty)} = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=5}^{14} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} D_2 c_i(\delta)^{-(c + N\mu)} \times \frac{\Gamma(c + N\mu) \Gamma \left( \frac{1}{2} + c + N\mu \right)}{\Gamma(1 + c + N\mu)} \right), \tag{39}
\]

\[
\tilde{P}_3^{(\infty)} = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=15}^{33} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} D_3 d_i(\delta)^{-(c + N\mu)} \times \frac{\Gamma(c + N\mu) \Gamma \left( \frac{1}{2} + c + N\mu \right)}{\Gamma(1 + c + N\mu)} \right). \tag{40}
\]
where $\mathcal{F}_1 = (\frac{N\mu(1+\kappa)}{\bar{y}_1})^{-(c+N\mu)}$. Now, we follow the same derivation from (42)-(44) to solve the integral of $\mathcal{I}_2$. Thus, the following result is achieved.

$$\mathcal{I}_2 = G_{5,2}^{1,3} \left[ \psi \left( \frac{N\mu(1+\kappa)}{\bar{y}_1} \right)^{-1} \left| 1, 1, 1 - (c + N\mu) \right| 1, 0 \right] \times D_1 \mathcal{F}_1. \quad (46)$$

Now, we submit the results obtained in (45) and (46) to (42). Thus, the final exact expression of the average channel capacity of $U_1$ is expressed in (47) at the bottom of the page. To reach the remaining achievable average capacity of $U_2$ and $U_3$, a similar derivation approach from (42)-(47) is applied for both users. Therefore, (48) and (49), shown at the bottom of the page, represent closed-form expressions of ergodic capacity for $U_2$ and $U_3$, respectively. Therefore, $\mathcal{F}_1 = (\frac{N\mu(1+\kappa)}{\bar{y}_1})^{-(c+N\mu)}$ and

$$D_1 = \frac{1}{e^{(N\mu)} \sum_{c=0}^{\infty} \frac{N\mu^{c+N\mu}}{c! \Gamma(c+N\mu)}} \times (\frac{N\mu(1+\kappa)}{\bar{y}_1}e^{(c+N\mu)})^{(a)} \times (1, 1, 0, 1) \right) \right]. \quad (51)$$

As a result, the infinite series form offered in (16) can be shortened to a few terms and used to approximate the OP expression. Thus, (16) can be rewritten as follows.

$$p_{out} \geq 1 - \left(1 - \frac{1}{e^{(N\mu)} \sum_{c=0}^{T} \frac{(N\mu)^{c}}{c! \Gamma(c+N\mu)}} \times (N\mu(1+\kappa))^{(a)} (1, 1, 0, 1) \right). \quad (51)$$

Depending on how severe the fading is, $T$, the number of terms in each series, should be changed. As can be noticed in Fig. 2, when the channel exhibits extreme fading, i.e., $(\kappa = 2, \mu = 2)$, a limited number of terms is necessary to produce a precise approximation. In this scenario, a total of $T = 5$ terms are employed. However, in a less severe fading situation ($\kappa = 4.5, \mu = 4.5$), as shown in Fig. 8, additional terms are essential for improved accuracy (a total of $T = 25$ terms are utilized in this case). One notable feature of the suggested approach is that it converges to the exact OP for large SNR, even though only a few terms in the series are used. This approach is intended to be applied to any remaining exact and asymptotic expressions that incorporate a series representation in this work.

**F. CONVERGENCE OF THE INFINITE SERIES**

An alternative form of (4) has been obtained in (5) by applying a series representation for the Bessel function of the first kind $I_v(.)$ represented in [30, eq. (8.445)]; that is

$$I_v(x) = \sum_{c=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{c! \Gamma(c + v + 1)} \left( \frac{x}{2} \right)^{2c+v} \quad (50)$$

As a result, the infinite series form offered in (16) can be rewritten as follows.

$$p_{out} \geq 1 - \left(1 - \frac{1}{e^{(N\mu)} \sum_{c=0}^{T} \frac{(N\mu)^{c}}{c! \Gamma(c+N\mu)}} \times (N\mu(1+\kappa))^{(a)} (1, 1, 0, 1) \right). \quad (51)$$

 Depending on how severe the fading is, T, the number of terms in each series, should be changed. As can be noticed in Fig. 2, when the channel exhibits extreme fading, i.e., $(\kappa = 0, \mu = 2)$, a limited number of terms is necessary to produce a precise approximation. In this scenario, a total of $T = 5$ terms are employed. However, in a less severe fading situation ($\kappa = 4.5, \mu = 4.5$), as shown in Fig. 8, additional terms are essential for improved accuracy (a total of $T = 25$ terms are utilized in this case). One notable feature of the suggested approach is that it converges to the exact OP for large SNR, even though only a few terms in the series are used. This approach is intended to be applied to any remaining exact and asymptotic expressions that incorporate a series representation in this work.

**IV. MOS-BASED QOE EVALUATION MODEL FOR WEB BROWSING**

MOS is normally employed to measure the user’s QoE for services such as Web browsing, video streaming, and file download. In this work, we concentrate on Web browsing applications as it is one of the most widely used applications in wireless networks. MOS delineates the subjective human awareness of quality for the purpose of Web browsing applications to the objective metrics. According to [37], the appropriate model that described MOS for Web browsing applications is defined as:

$$MOS_{\text{web}} = -\xi_1 \ln(d(R_i)) + \xi_2, \quad (52)$$

FIGURE 2. OP of three users versus SNR.

$$C_1 = \text{BW} \text{ln}(2) \times \left( G_{5,2}^{1,3} \left[ \psi \left( \frac{N\mu(1+\kappa)}{\bar{y}_1} \right)^{-1} \left| 1, 1, 1 - (c + N\mu) \right| 1, 0 \right] \right), \quad (47)$$

$$C_2 = \text{BW} \text{ln}(2) \times \left( G_{3,2}^{1,3} \left[ \psi \left( \frac{N\mu(1+\kappa)}{\bar{y}_2} \right)^{-1} \left| 1, 1, 1 - (c + N\mu) \right| 1, 0 \right] \right), \quad (48)$$

$$C_3 = \text{BW} \text{ln}(2) \times \left( G_{3,2}^{1,3} \left[ \alpha_3 \left( \frac{N\mu(1+\kappa)}{\bar{y}_3} \right)^{-1} \left| 1, 1, 1 - (c + N\mu) \right| 1, 0 \right] \right), \quad (49)$$
where \(\xi_1\) and \(\xi_2\) are obtained by analyzing the experimental results of Web browsing, which are constant and set to become 1.120 and 4.6746, respectively, as in [38].

\(d(R_i)\) indicates the delay time that is consumed between a request, made by a user, for a Web page and the display of the Web contents. It mainly relies on different components such as the Web page size, known as the round trip time (RTT), and the effects of the applied transfer of data protocols. Hence, we consider Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) in this work. Therefore, \(d(R_i)\) can be given accordingly to [38] as follows.

\[
d(R_i) = 3\text{RTT} + \frac{\text{FS}}{R_i} + \mathcal{L}\left[\frac{\text{MSS}}{R_i} + \text{RTT}\right] - \frac{2\text{MSS}(2^\mathcal{L} - 1)}{R_i}
\]

(53)

where RTT stands for the round trip time in seconds, MSS defines the maximum segment size in bits, and FS is the Web page size in bits. However, the number of slow begin cycles with idle duration can be represented by \(\mathcal{L} = \min\{\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2\}\), where \(\mathcal{L}_1\) indicates the number of cycles required for the congestion window to achieve the bandwidth-delay product and \(\mathcal{L}_2\) represents the amount of slow begin cycles required until the entire Web page size is successfully transmitted. Both factors can be given as follows.

\[
\mathcal{L}_1 = \log_2\left(\frac{R_i \times \text{RTT}}{\text{MSS}} + 1\right) - 1
\]

(54)

\[
\mathcal{L}_2 = \log_2\left(\frac{\text{FS}}{2 \times \text{MSS}} + 1\right) - 1.
\]

(55)

According to [24], RTT has an insignificant impact on MOS compared to the other factors of data rate, Web page, etc. In addition, RTT is expected to drop to less than 10 ms in 5G and beyond, therefore, RTT \(\approx 0\) ms is assumed. As a consequence, (53) can be rewritten accordingly to \(d(R_i) = \frac{\text{FS}}{R_i}\). Thus, the MOS function of each assigned user can be expressed as follows.

\[
\text{MOS}_{\text{web}} = \xi_1 \ln(d(R_i)) + \Lambda.
\]

(56)

where \(\Lambda = \xi_2 + \xi_1 \ln\left(\frac{\text{BW}}{\text{FS}}\right)\).

**V. NUMERICAL RESULTS**

In this part, various graphs of numerical and Monte Carlo simulation results are presented to validate the derived closed-form expressions and provide some insight into the performance of the system under consideration. The main simulation parameters, applied to this work, are listed in Table 3. Furthermore, the channel is classified as quasi-static, as in it remains constant for the period of one symbol but varies randomly across successive symbol intervals. The simulation processes \(10^6\) symbols in each run.

Fig. 2 illustrates the OP versus SNR for three NOMA users for different numbers of passive reflectors. It can be seen that the IRS has a significant impact on outage performance of all the users. Therefore, as the number of passive reflectors \(N\) on the IRS increases, the OP of all users decreases. For example, an improvement of about 20 dB is gained for \(U_3\) to achieve \(10^{-3}\) of OP when \(N\) increases to 15.

FIGURE 3. BER of three users versus SNR.

![Figure 3](image_url)

**TABLE 3. Simulation parameters.**

| Parameter                  | Value   |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Transmitted SNR \((\rho)\) | (0-40) dB |
| Carrier Frequency \((f)\)  | 900 MHz |
| Noise power \((\sigma)\)    | -174 dBm |
| Power allocation factors \((a_1, a_2, a_3)\) | (0.75, 0.2, 0.05) |
| Indoor distance \((d_{in})\) | 2 m |
| Internal walls \((n)\)      | 1       |
| External distance \((d_{ex})\) | (700,450,100) m |
| perpendicular loss \((L_{pc})\) | 7 dB |
| Parallel penetration loss \((L_{pr})\) | 20 dB |
high values of $N$. For instance, in Fig. 4b, $U_3$ requires about 15 dB less than in the case of $N = 2$ to satisfy its target data rate. It further confirms the advantages of applying more passive reflectors in IRS.

Fig. 5 shows the ergodic capacity (EC) of three indoor NOMA users versus their transmitted SNR in dB. As it is expected that $U_3$ has the potential amount of capacity compared with the other users in all scenarios of $N$ values due to its channel privileges. However, $U_1$, which suffers more than others, can be improved by increasing the number of $N$ reflectors. For example, in the worst case of SNR, i.e., when SNR is less than 20 dB, $U_1$’s capacity is dramatically increased when $N = 15$.

On the other hand, Fig. 6 presents the MOS of each user with different values of $N$, where MOS measures QoE. In the case of $N = 2$, it is observed that the MOS of $U_3$ overlaps with $U_2$ at about 22 dB and with $U_1$ at very low SNR. However, a critical overlap point is sketched at about 18 dB between both users in Fig. 6b, where $N = 15$. This is due to the different impacts caused by different factors, such as amount of IRS reflectors, channel gains, power allocation coefficients, intra-cell interference, distance from the BS, etc. Hence, manipulating these factors can lead to different outcomes for MOS. Furthermore, noticeable improvements in MOS can be gained by increasing the total number of IRS passive reflectors.

Fig. 7 shows the sum MOS of all users versus the Web page size within certain value of 10 dB SNR and different numbers of $N$. The results show that a large improvement of MOS can be achieved with a low Web page size, however, the larger the size of the Web page, the lower the MOS. Moreover, increasing the number of $N$ reflectors in the IRS improves the sum MOS. Furthermore, the key difference in the sum improvement of MOS gained by low $N$ is approximately 8 times the enhancement obtained at high $N$. The reason behind this behavior is related to the same impact factors mentioned in the previous figure.

VI. CONCLUSION

This paper considered the QoS and QoE of IRS-assisted indoor NOMA systems in $\kappa$–$\mu$ fading channels. Specifically, we studied the OP, EC, BER, throughput, and the MOS-based QoE of the considered system model. The accuracy of the derived closed-form expressions was corroborated by Monte Carlo simulations. The results demonstrate the impact of
IRS particularly as we increase the number of reflectors, on enhancing the overall user experience and service, as well as improving the MOS in the case of small Web page sizes. Furthermore, the presented results provide an insight into the system’s performance with respect to various important factors, such as the fading components $\kappa$ and $\mu$, the power allocation factors, the predefined data rates, the distance from the BS and the components of indoor environments.

Future directions of this work may focus on analysing and optimizing other realistic model that involve different challenges such as multiple transmitting and receiving antennas, multiple NOMA users, imperfect SIC, practical CSI, and phase estimation errors. In addition to that, studying more performance metrics of both QoS and QoE under different channel fading and deployments of IRS-NOMA configurations could also be of interest to the community.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

5G fifth generation
6G Sixth generation
AWGN additive white Gaussian noise
BER bit error rate
BS base station
BW system bandwidth
CDF cumulative distribution function
CDMA code-division multiple access
CSI channel state information
EC ergodic capacity
HTTP hypertext Transfer Protocol
i.i.d. independent and identically distributed
IRS intelligent reflecting surfaces
LOS line of sight
MISO multiple input single output
MOS mean score opinion
MSS maximum segment size
NLOS non-line of sight
NOMA non-orthogonal multiple accesses
OMA orthogonal multiple access
OP outage probability
PDF probability density function
QAM quadrature amplitude phase
QoE quality of experience
QoS quality of service
RTT round trip time
RV random variables
SC superposition coding
SIC successive interference cancellation
SNR signal to interference plus noise ratio
TCP transmission Control Protocol
WPT wireless power transfer

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