Packet Reception Probabilities in Vehicular Communications Close to Intersections

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Abstract—Vehicular networks allow vehicles to share information and are expected to be an integral part of future intelligent transportation systems (ITS). To guide and validate the design process, analytical expressions of key performance metrics such as packet reception probabilities and throughput are necessary, in particular for accident-prone scenarios such as intersections. In this paper, we present a procedure to analytically determine the packet reception probability and throughput of a selected link, taking into account the relative increase in the number of vehicles (i.e., possible interferers) close to an intersection. We consider both slotted Aloha and CSMA/CA MAC protocols, and show how the procedure can be used to model different propagation environments of practical relevance. The procedure is validated for a selected set of case studies at low traffic densities.

Index Terms—Vehicular communication, intersection, interference, packet reception probability, stochastic geometry.

I. INTRODUCTION

VEHICULAR networks have gained considerable attention in the past years and are regarded as one of the key components in future intelligent transportation systems (ITS) [2]. By the use of wireless communication, they allow vehicles to continuously share information with each other and their surrounding (e.g., roadside infrastructure) to perceive potentially dangerous situations in an extended space and time horizon [3]. The IEEE 802.11p standard has been defined to meet the communication demand of ITS applications, and 5G cellular networks standards are being developed to support device-to-device (D2D) communication [4]. However, different ITS applications clearly have different requirements on the communication links, with the most stringent demands imposed by safety-related applications, with extremely low latencies (below 50 ms in pre-crash situations), high delivery ratios (for full situational awareness), and relatively long communication ranges (to increase the time to react in critical situations) [5]–[7]. These requirements, in combination with a possible high density of vehicles, makes the design of vehicular communication systems challenging. This is further exacerbated by high mobility and passing vehicles, which leads to rapidly changing signal propagation conditions (including both severe multipath and shadowing) and constant topology changes. A large body of research exists in the area of vehicular communication [2], though few deal specifically with intersections. Recent propagation studies have revealed that there are complex dependencies of the received power based on the absolute positions of transmitter and receiver, the widths of the roads, and different loss exponents for own and orthogonal road [8], [9]. Studies at the physical [10] and MAC [11], [12] layer have turned to simulations to evaluated performance. To guide and validate the communication system design, measurements are often used [7], [13] to complement simulations, though both are time consuming and scenario-specific. Thus, to faster obtain insight in scalability and performance, analytical expressions of key performance metrics are necessary. Especially for high velocity scenarios (in particular highways) and accident-prone scenarios (e.g., intersections). Stochastic geometry is a tool to obtain such expressions and has been widely used in the design and analysis of wireless networks [14].

In 2-D planar networks, stochastic geometry is a mature methodology for performance evaluation in the presence of interference. Approaches to consider both geographical and medium access control (MAC) induced clustering [15], [16] and different types of fading [17]–[19] exist. In vehicular networks, where the location of the nodes are restricted by the roads, a number of studies have focused on one-dimensional topologies [20]–[23], generally preserving the spatial homogeneity also present in 2-D planar networks. For these vehicular scenarios, geographical clustering has been addressed in [20], while effects due to the 802.11p carrier sense multiple access (CSMA) MAC protocol were studied in [21], [22], [24], [25]. Besides this, [25] have studied multi-hop transmissions in a multi-lane highway scenario. These works thus enable
communication system analysis for highway scenarios, but do not capture well the salient effects of intersections. This includes specific propagation characteristics and performance dependent on the position of transmitter and receiver, rather than their Euclidean distance. Intersections were considered explicitly in [1], [26], [27], which found that it is important to properly model the interference from different roads and account for the distance of receivers to the intersection, i.e., to take into account the relative increase in the number of possible interferers in the intersection due to the crossing of roads.

In this paper, we present a procedure for the evaluation of packet reception probability and throughput in intersection scenarios and provide a model repository that can be used to adapt to a variety of different environments of importance in the vehicular context. This includes both rural and urban scenarios, different propagation conditions, and different MAC protocols. Through numerical simulations, we have verified our analytical results under the considered assumptions. We have also analyzed the performance under model mismatch through a microscopic traffic simulator SUMO (Simulation of Urban MOBility) [28]. We found that under model mismatch, the analytical results deviate from the simulations, especially in dense traffic. The main difference with respect to our previous works [1], [26], [27] is as follows: our preliminary work [1] developed several basic concepts for a single scenario (rural, Aloha), but not the current framework; [26] employed the same scenario as [1], but considered the special case of a central node near the intersection; [27] extended the path loss model to urban intersections, but was limited to Aloha and Rayleigh fading. The current paper goes beyond these three works and provides a novel procedure, complemented with simulations in a number of selected case studies.

II. SYSTEM MODEL

A. Scenario

We consider an intersection scenario with two perpendicular roads, as shown in Fig. 1. We assume that the width of the two roads indicated by H and V can be neglected, and that the roads each carry a stream of vehicles, modeled as one-dimensional homogeneous Poisson point processes (PPPs). The intensity of vehicles on both roads is denoted by \( \lambda_H \) and \( \lambda_V \), and the point processes describing the location of the vehicles on the two roads are represented by \( \Phi_H \sim \text{PPP}(\lambda_H) \) and \( \Phi_V \sim \text{PPP}(\lambda_V) \). The positions of individual vehicles (also referred to as nodes) on the two roads H and V are denoted by \( x_h = [x_i, 0]^T \) and \( x_v = [0, y_i]^T \), respectively, assuming the roads are aligned with the horizontal and vertical axes. We consider a transmitter (Tx) with location \( x_{tx} = [x_{tx}, y_{tx}]^T \), which broadcasts with a fixed transmission power \( P \). The receiver (Rx) is assumed to be at a distance \( d \) away from the intersection on either the H- or V-road, such that the location is either \( x_{rx} = [x_{rx}, 0]^T \) or \( x_{rx} = [0, y_{rx}]^T \).

The signal propagation comprises power fading \( S \) and path loss \( l(x_{tx}, x_{rx}) \). At the Rx, the signal is further affected by white Gaussian noise with noise power \( N \) and interference from other concurrently transmitting vehicles on the H- and V-road. The amount of interference experienced by the Rx depends on the choice of MAC protocol. For a given MAC scheme, the position of interfering vehicles at a given time can be represented by the thinned point processes \( \Phi_H^{\text{MAC}} \) and \( \Phi_V^{\text{MAC}} \). We can express the signal-to-interference-plus-noise ratio (SINR) as

\[
\text{SINR} = \frac{P \cdot S_0 l(x_{tx}, x_{rx})}{\sum_{x \in \Phi_H^{\text{MAC}}} \Phi_V^{\text{MAC}} P S_l(x, x_{rx}) + N}
\]

where \( S_0 \) denotes the fading on the useful link and \( S_x \) denotes the fading on an interfering link for an interferer at location \( x \). A packet is considered to be successfully received if the SINR exceeds a threshold \( \beta \).

Our aim is to analytically characterize (i) the probability that the Rx successfully receives a packet sent by the Tx; (ii) the throughput of the link between Tx and Rx. This problem is challenging due to the specific propagation conditions and interference levels experienced in these intersection scenarios. In the next section, we will describe these in more detail.

B. Models in Vehicular Communication

In this section, we discuss characteristics for vehicular channels that are important from an SINR point of view, and detail different models regarding path loss, fading, and MAC protocol.

1) Power Decay and Blockage: Extensive measurement campaigns [7]–[9], [29], [30] have been performed to characterize the vehicular channel in a variety of propagation environments such as rural, highway, suburban, and urban scenarios. We will distinguish between line-of-sight (LOS) and non-line-of-sight (NLOS) propagation, depending on whether or not the direct LOS signal between a Rx and a Tx is blocked. For LOS propagation, conventional path loss models, where...
power decays approximately with the squared Euclidean distance between Rx and Tx are well-accepted [7]: \( I_S(x_{rx}, x_{tx}) = A \|x_{rx} - x_{tx}\|^2 \), where \( \|\cdot\|_2 \) is the \( \ell_2 \) norm, and \( A \) is a constant that depends on several factors such as antenna characteristics, carrier frequency, and propagation environment. For NLOS propagation, e.g., in urban canyons, measurements indicate increased loss over LOS propagation, with complex dependencies on the absolute position of Tx and Rx, widths of the roads, and different loss exponents for own and orthogonal road [8], [9]. The complexity of these models renders them intractable when it comes to mathematical analysis, so we rely on the simpler and more tractable Manhattan model, which was first proposed for modeling of similar scenarios in the well-known WINNER II project [31]: \( I_M(x_{rx}, x_{tx}) = A \|x_{rx} - x_{tx}\|^{-\alpha} \), where \( \|\cdot\|_1 \) is the \( \ell_1 \) norm, and the values of \( A \) and \( \alpha \) might be different from the LOS case. It has been shown that typical path loss exponents for the vehicular channel are in the range 1.6-2.1 [7], [30].

2) Random Power Variations Due to Fading: Fading refers to random fluctuations in the received power around the average received power, given by the path loss. The fading experienced on a link depends on the scenario and the environment and is typically modeled as a random variable [32]. For rural LOS links, exponential fading is considered an appropriate model [9], [33], while for urban NLOS link, a log-normal model [8], [9] with power variations of 3–6 dB have been found to be appropriate.

3) MAC Protocols: The MAC protocol governs when a user can access the channel and aims to control the interference in the network. Two common MAC protocols for ad-hoc networks are slotted Aloha and CSMA with collision avoidance (CSMA/CA). In slotted Aloha, which is the simpler of the two, nodes that have a packet to send, access the channel during a time slot with a probability \( p \in [0, 1] \). In contrast, in CSMA/CA, before sending a packet, a node verifies that the channel is free by listening to the channel. Only if the channel is free, the node transmits the packet. If the channel is busy, the node is forced to wait a random back-off time before it can try again [13]. Even though CSMA/CA always results in a better throughput vs load performance, CSMA/CA and slotted Aloha have been shown to exhibit similar performance in terms of outage probability for dense one-dimensional scenarios [21], [24]. In this paper we will consider both slotted Aloha and CSMA/CA, where the latter of these two MAC protocols is the one used in the 802.11p standard designed for the first generation vehicular networks.

III. STOCHASTIC GEOMETRY ANALYSIS

In this section, we describe a unified methodology to compute the communication performance for all these conditions, as well as different MAC protocols. In particular, we will determine (i) the packet reception probability \( P(\beta, x_{rx}, x_{tx}) \), i.e., the probability that a receiver located at \( x_{rx} \) can successfully decode a transmission from a transmitter located at \( x_{tx} \), in the presence of interferers on the H- and V-road; (ii) the throughput \( T(\beta, x_{rx}, x_{tx}) \), i.e., the expected rate for the link between the Rx and Tx at locations \( x_{rx} \) and \( x_{tx} \), accounting for both the packet reception probability and the probability of gaining access to the channel. Both \( P(\beta, x_{rx}, x_{tx}) \) and \( T(\beta, x_{rx}, x_{tx}) \) depend on the loss function, fading distribution, and the MAC protocol. Note that the loss function and fading distribution relate to the power decay and blockage as well as the random signal variations in the specific scenario, while the MAC protocol relates to number of interferers and their locations. Several applications of this methodology will be discussed in Section IV.

A. Packet Reception Probability

To derive the packet reception probability for the intersection scenario, we start by accounting for the fading distribution of the useful link. We express

\[
P(\beta, x_{rx}, x_{tx}) = \Pr(\text{SINR} \geq \beta) = \Pr \left( S_0 \geq \left( I_H + I_V + \tilde{N} \right) \beta / l(x_{rx}, x_{tx}) \right) \quad (2)
\]

in which \( \tilde{N} = N / P \) and \( I_H = \sum_{x \in \Phi_{MAC}} S_e(l(x, x_{tx})) \) while \( I_V = \sum_{x \in \Phi_{MAC}} S_e(l(x, x_{tx})) \). Conditioning on the path loss, we can now write the packet reception probability as

\[
P(\beta, x_{rx}, x_{tx}) = \mathbb{E}_{l_{H}, l_{V}} \left\{ \tilde{F}_{S_0} \left( \left( I_H + I_V + \tilde{N} \right) \beta / l(x_{rx}, x_{tx}) \right) \right\} = \int \tilde{F}_{S_0} \left( \left( t_1 + t_2 + \tilde{N} \right) \beta \right) f_{l_{H}, l_{V}}(t_1, t_2) dt_1 dt_2, \quad (3)
\]

where \( \beta = \beta / l(x_{rx}, x_{tx}) \), \( f_{l_{H}}(t_1, t_2) \) is the interference distribution, and \( \tilde{F}_{S_0}(s_0) \) is the complementary cumulative distribution function (CCDF) of the random variable \( S_0 \), evaluated in \( s_0 \).

The expression (3) can be interpreted in two ways: (i) as the expectation of \( \tilde{F}_{S_0}((I_H + I_V + \tilde{N})\beta/l(x_{rx}, x_{tx})) \) with respect to the interference distribution; and (ii) as the transformation of the interference distribution with a kernel function determined by the CCDF of the fading distribution of the useful link. In either interpretation, the distributions of the interference and the fading play an important role. Note that for all relevant fading distributions of the useful link, (3) will result in the Laplace transform (LT) of the interference distribution or a function of LTs of the interference distribution. It is therefore convenient to express these distributions through their LT or, equivalently, their moment generating function (MGF).

1) LT of the Interference: For Aloha, the interference distribution factorizes \( f_{l_0}(l_1, l_2) = f_{l_0}(l_1) f_{l_0}(l_2) \), while for CSMA/CA, the interference from the H- and V-road are not independent. We will however approximate it as being independent, using a location dependent thinning of the original PPPs [34], as described in Section III-A.3. Hence, we can focus on a single road \( R \in \{H, V\} \), with interference distribution \( f_{l_R} \). The Laplace transform of \( f_{l_R} \) is defined as

\[
L_{l_R}(s) = \mathbb{E}[\exp(-s l_R)], \quad (4)
\]

in which

\[
l_R = \sum_{x \in \Phi_{MAC}} S_e(l(x, x_{tx}). \quad (5)
\]
Substitution of (5) into (4) then yields

\[ \mathcal{L}_{I_R}(s) \stackrel{(a)}{=} \mathbb{E}_\Phi \left[ \prod_{x \in \Phi_R^{MAC}} \mathbb{E}_{S_{tx}} \left[ \exp \left(-s \cdot S_{tx}(x, x_{tx}) \right) \right] \right] \]

\[ = \mathbb{E}_\Phi \left[ \prod_{x \in \Phi_R^{MAC}} \mathcal{L}_{S_{tx}}(s \cdot l(x, x_{tx})) \right] \]

\[ \stackrel{(b)}{=} \exp \left( - \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \lambda_R^{MAC}(z) \cdot \mathcal{L}_{S_{tx}}(s \cdot l(x, x_{tx})) \, dz \right) \]  

where (a) holds due to the independence of the fading parameters, \( \mathbb{E}_\Phi \) is the expectation operator with respect to the location of the interferers, and \( \mathcal{L}_{S_{tx}}(\cdot) \) is the LT of the fading distribution of the interfering link; (b) is due to the probability generating functional (PGFL) for a PPP [14, Definition A.5], in which \( \lambda_R^{MAC}(z) \) represents the intensity of the PPP \( \Phi_R^{MAC} \), which depends on the specific MAC protocol and in some cases on the transmitter’s location. Note that in (8), the intensity is defined over \( z \in \mathbb{R} \), which represents the position along the road \( R \in \{H, V\} \), where \( x(z) = z \cdot 0^T \) when \( R = H \) and \( x(z) = [0, z]^T \) when \( R = V \). To determine \( \mathcal{L}_{I_R}(s) \), we must be able to compute the integral (8), which involves knowledge of \( \lambda_R^{MAC}(z, x_{tx}) \) and \( \mathcal{L}_{S_{tx}}(s) \).

Remark 1: The Laplace transform of the interference can also be computed using the principle of stochastic equivalence [19], where the LT in case of an arbitrary fading distribution can be found based on the LT in case of Rayleigh fading, given an appropriate scaling of the system parameters.

2) LT of Fading: For many relevant fading distributions, the LT is known, including for exponential, Gamma, Erlang, and \( \chi^2 \) random variables. While the log-normal distribution is harder to deal with, it can be approximated by the Erlang distribution [35], which combines tractability with expressiveness. When \( S_{tx} \sim E(k, \theta) \), i.e., an Erlang distribution with shape parameter \( k \in \mathbb{N} \) and rate parameter \( 1/\theta > 0 \), then

\[ \mathcal{L}_{S_{tx}}(s) = (1 + s\theta)^k . \]  

As special cases, (i) \( k = 1 \) corresponds to an exponential distribution with mean \( \theta \); (ii) \( \theta = 1/k \) corresponds to Nakagami-m power fading.

3) Intensity of the Interfering PPPs: The intensity \( \lambda_R^{MAC}(x(z), x_{tx}) \) of the interference depends on the type of MAC that is utilized. We distinguish between two cases: slotted Aloha with transmit probability \( p \in [0, 1] \), and CSMA/CA with interference region with range \( \delta \geq 0 \) (i.e., interference can be sensed up to \( \delta \) meters). For a slotted Aloha MAC, vehicles transmit with probability \( p \) independently of each other. Thus, we have an independent thinning of \( \Phi_R \sim \text{PPP}(\lambda_R) \), such that \( \lambda_R^{MAC}(x(z), x_{tx}) = p \lambda_R \), irrespective of the position along the road \( x(z) \) and the transmitter location \( x_{tx} \).

For a CSMA/CA MAC, a vehicle will transmit if it has the lowest random timer within its sensing range (interference region). This means that (i) the intensity is a function of \( x_{tx} \) as other nodes in its interference region are forced to be silent when it is active; (ii) the interference from the H- and V-road is not independent. The timer process and the corresponding dependent thinning result in a Matérn hard-core process type II, which can be approximated by a PPP with independently thinned node intensity. The approximation of the hard-core process by a PPP is shown to be accurate in [34] and has been applied in the context of heterogeneous cellular networks, for instance in [36]. When the transmitter at \( x_{tx} \) is active the resulting intensity of the PPPs used to approximate the point process of interferers can be expressed as

\[ \lambda_R^{MAC}(x(z), x_{tx}) = \begin{cases} p_A(x(z)) \lambda_R & \|x(z) - x_{tx}\| > \delta \\ 0 & \|x(z) - x_{tx}\| \leq \delta. \end{cases} \]  

In (10), \( p_A(x(z)) \) is the access probability of a node. The access probability (which is used to thin the original process) is the probability that the given node has the smallest random timer in the corresponding interference region (in this case modeled as a 2-dimensional ball \( B_2(x(z), \delta) \) with range \( \delta \) centered at location \( x(z) \)), and can for one of the roads be expressed as

\[ p_A(x(z)) = \int_0^1 \exp(-t \Lambda(B_2(x(z), \delta))) dt \]

\[ = 1 - \exp(-\Lambda(B_2(x(z), \delta))) \]

where

\[ \Lambda(B_2(x(z), \delta)) = \begin{cases} \frac{2 \delta \lambda_R}{\lambda_R} & \|x(z)\| > \delta \\ \frac{2 \sqrt{\lambda_R} + 2 \sqrt{\delta^2 - \|x(z)\|^2}}{\lambda_R} & \|x(z)\| \leq \delta \end{cases} \]

represents the average number of nodes in the interference region. Note that the average number of nodes, and thus the access probability depends on the position \( z \) along the road and the intensities \( \lambda_R \) and \( \lambda_R^{MAC} \), which here represent the densities of the unthinned processes on the relevant road and the other road, respectively. Approximating CSMA/CA via a non-homogeneous PPP does not capture certain effects such as listen-before-talk errors or MAC extensions such as clear channel assessment (CCA) threshold adaptation, but instead aims to generate the resulting interference.

B. Throughput

From a system perspective, the packet reception probability is not sufficient to characterize the performance, since a MAC that allows few concurrent transmissions leads to high packet reception probabilities but low throughputs. Thus, to be able to compare the impact of different MAC protocols, we characterize the throughput for the intersection scenario, i.e., the number of bits transmitted per unit time and bandwidth on a specific link. For the case with a receiver and transmitter located at \( x_{tx} \) and \( x_{tx} \), respectively, we express the throughput as

\[ T(\beta, x_{tx}, x_{tx}) = p_A(x_{tx}) \frac{\log_2 (1 + \beta)}{\lambda_R^{MAC}(x_{tx}, x_{tx})} \]  

\[ \text{The extension to CSMA/CA schemes with discrete back-off timers has been proposed in [21], which retains concurrent transmitters due to the non-zero probability of nodes with the same timer value.} \]
where $p_A(x_{tx})$ is the access probability of a transmitter located at $x_{tx}$, i.e., the probability that the transmitter obtains access to the channel to transmit a packet. For the slotted Aloha MAC, the access probability is simply $p_A(x_{tx}) = p$, while for the CSMA/CA case the access probability is given in (12) and depends on the void probability in the 2-dimensional ball used to model the interference region around $x_{rx}$.

C. Procedure

Given the analysis in the previous subsections, the procedure for determining the packet reception probability $P(\beta, x_{rx}, x_{tx})$ and the throughput $T(\beta, x_{rx}, x_{tx})$ is thus as follows: (i) Determine the fading LT $L_{S_\beta}(s)$ for the interfering links, as described in Section III-A.2; (ii) Determine the intensity of the interference PPP $\lambda_{MAC}^R(x(z), x_{tx})$ for $R \in \{H, V\}$, as described in Section III-A.3; (iii) From steps (i) and (ii), determine the LT of the interference $L_{I_\beta}(s)$ for $R \in \{H, V\}$ using (8); (iv) Determine the fading LT $L_{S_\beta}(s)$ for the useful link, as described in Section III-A.2; (v) From steps (iii) and (iv), determine $P(\beta, x_{rx}, x_{tx})$ using (3), either by drawing samples from the interference (using standard techniques, given the interference distribution characterized through its LT), or by considering the CCDF of the fading on the useful link as a kernel in a transformation (i.e., evaluating a function of LTs of the interference distribution). Finally, use the obtained packet reception probability $P(\beta, x_{rx}, x_{tx})$ in conjunction with the access probability $p_A(x_{tx})$ used in step (ii) to determine the throughput $T(\beta, x_{rx}, x_{tx})$. Whether or not each step is tractable depends on the assumptions we make regarding the loss function, the fading distribution, and the MAC protocol, which will be further discussed in Section IV.

IV. CASE STUDIES

In this Section we present three case studies to show how the different models presented in the paper can be used to model both rural and urban intersection scenarios, and how shadowing, LOS blockage, and different MAC protocols affect the performance of the communication system.

A. Case I - Rural Intersection With Slotted Aloha

In the rural intersection scenario [1], [26], vehicles are assumed to communicate via LOS links. Hence, path loss is described by the Euclidean distance loss function $l_\beta(\cdot)$, with path loss exponent $\alpha = 2$, while power fading is modeled with an exponential distribution (i.e., $S \sim E[1,1]$), for both useful and interfering links. Furthermore, we consider a slotted Aloha MAC with transmit probability $p$. Using the procedure from Section III-C, the packet reception probability for the rural intersection scenario is given in Proposition 2 (see also [1], [26]).

**Proposition 2:** Given a slotted Aloha MAC with transmit probability $p$, exponential fading (i.e., $S \sim E(1,1)$) for each link, Euclidean loss function $l_E(\cdot)$ with path loss exponent $\alpha = 2$, and a scenario as outlined in Section II, the packet reception probability can be expressed as

$$P(\beta, x_{rx}, x_{tx}) = \exp\left(-\frac{N\beta}{p} \sum_{i=0}^{k_0-1} \sum_{j=0}^{i} \frac{\zeta_i^j}{j!} C^{(j)} D^{(i-j)}\right),$$

where

$$C^{(j)} = \sum_{n=0}^{N} \binom{i}{n} \left(\frac{N}{p}\right)^{j-n} (-1)^n e^{-k\sqrt{\zeta}} \sum_{m=0}^{n} \binom{n}{m} \left(-\frac{k\sqrt{\zeta}}{2}\right)^{m} \frac{m! (-m + l)!}{(-m + l)}.$$
in which \((\cdot)_n\) is the Pochhammer symbol, \(\kappa = 2p/\lambda H A^{1/\alpha} /\alpha \csc (\pi /\alpha)\), \(\zeta = \|x_{tx} - x_{rx}\|^\alpha / (\alpha \theta_0)\), and \(D^{(m)} = (-1)^m \sum_{i=0}^{m} L_i(\zeta)\).

Proof: See Appendix A.

We observe that the analytical expressions become more involved when changing the loss function and the fading distribution for the links to the V-road, but in contrast to the rural intersection scenario it is possible to obtain closed form expressions for a general \(\alpha\) (this is because Manhattan path loss for the interferers from the V-road is easier to handle than Euclidean path loss). Furthermore, it should be noted that if the Tx is assumed to be on the H-road, the expressions become more compact (i.e., only \(C(0) = e^{-\kappa \sqrt{\zeta}}\) and \(D(0)\) remain). Moreover, similarly as for the model presented in [9], Proposition 4 only gives realistic results when the Rx and the Tx are at least a few meters away from the intersection. This is because when the Rx is at the intersection, all links become LOS, while when the Tx is at the intersection, the useful link becomes LOS. In either case, the corresponding links should be modeled with exponential fading, rather than Erlang fading.

C. Case III - Rural Intersection With CSMA/CA

In this final case study, we will focus on the MAC protocol and how it affects performance and tractability. To do this, we start from the rural intersection scenario, but replace the slotted Aloha MAC with a CSMA/CA MAC.\(^5\) As the MAC we consider, we obtain still involve an integral that can be solved numerically easily and efficiently. The throughput \(T/(\beta, x_{tx}, x_{rx})\) is readily obtained by using the results from Proposition 5 in combination with (14).

V. NUMERICAL RESULTS

A. Simulation Setup

To evaluate the correctness of the above theoretical expressions, we have compared them to Monte Carlo simulation with 20,000 realizations (snapshots of the network) of the PPPs and fading parameters. We also include simulation results where the spatial distribution of vehicles is taken from a realistic simulation of a 4-way intersection with a traffic light in the SUMO traffic simulator. To make sure that the traces generated in SUMO are comparable to our analytical results the arrival process of vehicles was set such that the average number of vehicles per road matched the PPP case.\(^6\) However, in contrast to the PPP, the vehicle motion model in SUMO in conjunction with the traffic light results in a clustering of vehicles close to the intersection. We compare both Aloha and CSMA/CA. For the purpose of visualization, we show the outage probability \(P_{Out}(\beta, x_{tx}, x_{rx}) = 1 - P(\beta, x_{tx}, x_{rx})\), as well as throughput. The intensity of vehicles on the two roads are \(\lambda_H = \lambda_V = 0.01\) (i.e., with an average inter-vehicle distance of 100 m). We assume a noise power \(N = -99\) dBm, an SINR threshold of \(\beta = 8\) dB [13], and that \(A = 3 \cdot 10^{-5}\), approximately matching the conditions in [30]. We set the transmit power to \(P = 100\) mW, corresponding to 20 dBm. Only the rural scenario is evaluated, though we have verified that the Erlang approximation is valid for reasonable values of the shadowing standard deviation \(\sigma\) in the urban case as well.

B. Outage Results

We show the outage for the analytical expressions, the numerical Monte Carlo simulations with random PPP and fading, and the SUMO simulations, for Aloha and CSMA/CA in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, respectively.

For Aloha, we observe an excellent match between the analytical expressions and the Monte Carlo simulations. In the absence of interferers \((p = 0)\) the system achieves an outage probability of around 10% when the receiver and transmitter are spaced approximately 600 m apart, irrespective of the absolute position of transmitter and receiver. When \(p\) is increased to 0.01, these ranges reduce to around 60 m (when the transmitter is in the center of the intersection), or 70-80 m (when the transmitter is at 0.15). The outage probability increases slightly as the receiver gets closer to the intersection and sees more interferers. In the presence of interference \((p = 0.01)\), the SUMO results yield a higher outage, which is mainly due to the clustering of vehicles near the intersection in the SUMO simulation. We also observe that as the distance between the receiver and the intersection increases, the agreement between the two spatial models becomes better.

\(^5\)The simulation was set up as follows: in SUMO version 0.31.0 we created four single-lane roads of 20 km and a traffic light in the center (default 4-arm intersection with 31 second green phase and 90 second cycle time). Flows on each lane was generated for 12,000 seconds with an arrival probability of 0.069 vehicles/s second with a binomially distributed flow to approximate Poisson arrivals and a maximum speed of 70 km/h. After an initial simulation time of 2,000 seconds, snapshot of the 10,000 networks were stored and used to evaluate the outage probability. Data packets are always available and were transmitted according to the MAC protocol.

\(^6\)Note that the effects of a CSMA/CA MAC in an urban intersection can be evaluated following a similar approach.
Corresponds to the Access Probability Is Constant, i.e., Far Away From the Intersection, Interference Ranges \( \delta \) and the intersection for two different transmitter locations \( x_{tx} \), as well as different Aloha Transmit Probabilities \( p_A \). Green Markers Show Results of SUMO Simulation.

in terms of outage probability, indicating that even though the PPP model fails in capturing the effect of traffic congestions it provides reasonable results for free-flow traffic. Although not further investigated here, clustering effects due to traffic congestions could be modeled by considering non-homogeneous PPPs with a higher intensity of vehicles close to the intersection, as was done in [1].

For CSMA, in order to evaluate the accuracy of the approximation introduced in Section III-A.3, we start by comparing the analytically calculated outage probability to a simulation with 50,000 realizations of the fading parameters and the hard-core process induced by the dependent thinning resulting from the CSMA/CA scheme. This comparison can be seen

in Fig. 3, which shows the analytical and simulated outage probability as a function of the distance between the receiver and the intersection for two different transmitter locations \( x_{tx} = [0, 0] \) and \( x_{tx} = [0, 150] \), as well as two different CSMA/CA interference ranges \( \delta \in \{500 \text{m, } 10000 \text{m} \} \). We observe better correspondence between SUMO simulation results and the analytical results than in the Aloha case: in CSMA/CA the physical clustering of vehicles is still present, but its impact is reduced due to the inherent properties of CSMA/CA, which counteracts the physical clustering by enforcing a distance of at least the interference range \( \delta \) between active transmitters. We also note that when \( x_{tx} = [0, 0] \), it is possible to compare Fig. 3 with Fig. 2. We note that for \( \delta = 10000 \text{m} \), for a distance of 100 m between Rx and intersection, CSMA/CA has an outage probability of 0.003, while slotted Aloha is over 25 times worse, with an outage probability of 0.08.

C. Throughput Results

To further study the performance gains achieved by using CSMA/CA compared to slotted Aloha, we now look at both outage probability and throughput for a specific receiver and transmitter configuration. The configuration that we consider is \( x_{tx} = [0, 0]^T \) and \( x_{rx} = [R_{comm} \cdot 0]^T \). Note that for the slotted Aloha case this placement results in the worst possible throughput for a fixed \( E(x_{tx}, x_{rx}) \). Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 show the outage probability and throughput as a function of the access probability \( p_A(x_{tx}) \), for two different values on \( R_{comm} \in \{100 \text{m, } 200 \text{m} \} \).

For slotted Aloha (Fig. 4), we see that with an increase in \( p_A(x_{tx}) \), outage probability increases due to the presence of more interferers. The throughput first increases (due to more active transmitters) and then decreases (due to overwhelming amounts of interference), leading to an optimal value of \( p_A(x_{tx}) \). However, to guarantee a certain quality of service, one must also consider a guarantee on the outage probability.
the procedure is sensitive to model mismatch. In particular, the homogeneous PPP assumption fails to capture clustering of vehicles near the intersection, which is especially seen under Aloha. When the modeling assumptions are violated (e.g., different channel model, vehicle density, MAC protocol options), the analytical results may be overly optimistic or pessimistic, in which case the proposed procedure should be applied with a refined model. This is left for future work.

In any case, the procedure can serve as a useful guide for communication system engineers, complementing simulations and experiments. Other possible avenues for future research include validation of the model against actual measurements, adoption of advanced MAC schemes as well as 5G D2D features.

### APPENDIX A

**PROOF OF PROPOSITION 4**

We use the procedure from Section III-C.

**Step 1:** The fading LTs for the interfering links from the H-road and the V-road can be expressed as $\mathcal{L}_{H}(s) = 1/(1 + s)$ and $\mathcal{L}_{V}(s) = 1/(1 + s + \theta V k^q v)$, respectively.

**Step 2:** According to Section III-A.3 the intensity of the two PPPs $\Phi_{H}^{MAC}$ and $\Phi_{V}^{MAC}$ are $p_{H}$ and $p_{V}$, respectively.

**Step 3:** The LT of the interference for the two roads are derived in the following way. For the H-road, with interferers $x \in \Phi_{H}^{MAC}$, the fading LT as well as the loss function are the same as in the rural intersection case. Following [38, eq. (13)], we can express the LT of the interference for a general $a$ as

$$\mathcal{L}_{H}(s) = \exp(-2p_{H}(As)^{1-a} \pi/\alpha \csc(\pi/a)).$$

For the V-road we now have the following expression for the V-road:

$$\mathcal{L}_{V}(s) = 1/(1 + s + \theta V k^q v),$$

intensity $p_{V}$, and Manhattan loss function. Hence, using (8) we can write

$$\mathcal{L}_{V}(s) = \exp\left(-\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \alpha_{V}^{MAC}(x(z), x_{ck}) \left(1 - \mathcal{L}_{V}(s \Gamma_{M}(x(z), x_{ck}))\right)dz\right).$$

where we have invoked the Binomial Theorem and introduced variable changes $s \theta V A \rightarrow b$ and $d + |y| \rightarrow u$, where for points $x \in \Phi_{V}^{MAC}$ the distance $|x_{ck} - x| = |x_{ck}| + |y| = d + |y|$. For $q \geq 0, k^q \geq 1 + q, b \geq 0$ and $d \geq 0$ the integral can be evaluated in closed form, and for a general $a$ we can express the LT of the interference as

$$\mathcal{L}_{V}(s) = \exp\left(-2p_{H}(As)^{1-a} \pi/\alpha \csc(\pi/a)\right)$$

where $a \geq 0$.

**VI. CONCLUSION**

We have provided an overview of the dominant propagation properties of vehicular communication systems near intersections, for both rural and urban scenarios. Based on these properties, we proposed a procedure to analytically determine packet reception probabilities of individual transmissions as well throughput, mainly applicable to 802.11p communication. We find that the structure of the scenario, with two roads that cross, in combination with the CSMA/CA MAC leads to location-dependent packet reception probabilities and throughputs. We have applied this procedure to three case studies, relevant for vehicular applications. Based on these case studies, we found that the proposed procedure can capture the performance of a variety of realistic scenarios. Nevertheless, further evaluation is needed to assess the performance of the procedure in a wider variety of traffic scenarios (e.g., vehicle densities) and MAC parameters. We also found that

![Graph showing outage probability and throughput](image-url)
where $2F_1$ is the regularized hypergeometric function. Note that for $\alpha = 2$ and $k_V = \theta_V = 1$ (i.e., exponential fading) this simplifies to

$$L_{ht}(s) = \exp\left(-p \lambda_V \sqrt{As} \left(\pi - 2\arctan\left(\frac{d}{\sqrt{As}}\right)\right)\right), \quad (25)$$

and when $d \to 0$ we get $L_{ht}(s) = \exp\left(-p \lambda_V \pi \sqrt{As}\right)$.

**Step 4:** The fading on the useful link is characterized by its LT $L_{s0}(s) = 1 / (1 + s \theta_0)$ and CCDF

$$F_{s0}(s) = e^{-s/\theta_0} \sum_{i=0}^{k_0-1} \frac{1}{i!} \theta_0^i s^i \quad (26)$$

**Step 5:** We now use the LTs of the interference from Step 3, and the CCDF of the fading from Step 4 to determine $P(\beta, x_{rx}, x_{tx})$ through (3). First using the CCDF, and evaluating it in the desired point, we can write

$$F_{s0}\left((t_1 + t_2 + \bar{N}) \frac{\beta}{\theta_0}\right) = e^{-\frac{\beta}{\theta_0}(t_1 + t_2 + \bar{N})} \sum_{i=0}^{k_0-1} \frac{1}{i!} \theta_0^i \left(t_1 + t_2 + \bar{N}\right)^i \quad (27)$$

$$= e^{-\frac{\beta}{\theta_0}(t_1 + t_2 + \bar{N})} \sum_{i=0}^{k_0-1} \frac{\beta^i}{i!} \left(t_1 + t_2 + \bar{N}\right)^i$$

$$= e^{-\frac{\beta}{\theta_0}(t_1 + t_2 + \bar{N})} \sum_{i=0}^{k_0-1} \frac{\beta^i}{i!} \left(t_1 + t_2 + \bar{N}\right)^i \quad (28)$$

$$= e^{\frac{\beta}{\theta_0}(t_1 + t_2 + \bar{N})} \sum_{i=0}^{k_0-1} \frac{\beta^i}{i!} \left(t_1 + t_2 + \bar{N}\right)^i \quad (29)$$

where (a) involves the variable change $\zeta = \frac{\beta}{\theta_0}$ and (b) uses the Binomial Theorem. Due to the independence of the interference we can now use (29) to express the transform in (3) as

$$P(\beta, x_{rx}, x_{tx}) = e^{-\frac{\beta}{\theta_0}(t_1 + t_2 + \bar{N})} \sum_{i=0}^{k_0-1} \sum_{j=0}^{i} \frac{j!}{i!} C^{(i-j)}(\beta) D^{(i-j)}$$

$$= e^{-\frac{\beta}{\theta_0}(t_1 + t_2 + \bar{N})} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{k_0 n!}{n!} (\beta)^n \frac{d^n}{d\zeta^n} L_{ht}(\zeta) \quad (30)$$

where $C^{(j)} = \int_0^{t_1} e^{-\zeta t_1} (\bar{N} + t_1)^j f_{ht}(t_1) dt_1 \quad (31)$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{t_1} \frac{j!}{n!} (\bar{N})^j \bar{N}_{ht}^{n-j} L_{ht}(\bar{N}) \quad (32)$$

and

$$D^{(m)} = \int_0^{t_2} e^{-\zeta t_2} (\bar{N} + t_2)^m f_{ht}(t_2) dt_2 \quad (33)$$

$$= L_{ht}^{m+1} f_{ht}(t_2) \quad (34)$$

$$= (-1)^m \frac{d^m}{d\zeta^m} L_{ht}(\zeta) \quad (35)$$

are obtained using the Laplace transform property $t^m f(t) \leftrightarrow (-1)^m \frac{d^m}{d\zeta^m} [f(t)](\zeta)$. Note that (30) and (33) use the variable change $\bar{N} = N/P$. Now using the results from Step 4, we can express the $n$th derivative of the LT of the interference from the H-road as

$$\frac{d^n}{d\zeta^n} L_{ht}(\zeta) = e^{-\sqrt{\zeta \bar{N}}} \frac{d}{d\zeta^n} L_{ht}(\zeta) \quad (36)$$

where $\lambda_0$ is the Poisson parameter and $\kappa = 2p \lambda_V (A)^{1/\kappa} \pi / \alpha \csc (\pi / \alpha)$ for the U-road, there is no general compact expression for the $n$th derivative of $L_{ht}(\zeta)$, but an explicit expression can in principle be calculated for any $n$, $k_V$ and $\theta_V$. Thus, inserting (24) in (36) concludes the proof.

**APPENDIX B
PROOF OF PROPOSITION 5**

We use the procedure from Section III-C.

**Step 1:** The fading LT for the interfering links can be expressed as $L_{ht}(s) = 1 / (1 + s)$.

**Step 2:** According to Section III-A.3, the intensity of the two PPPs $\Phi_{MAC}^H$ and $\Phi_{MAC}^V$ are for this case also a function of the transmitter location $x_{tx}$. Using (10) we can express the intensity for the H-road as

$$\lambda_{MAC}^H \left( [x, 0]^T, x_{tx} \right)$$

$$= \begin{cases} \frac{1 - \exp(-2\delta \lambda^H)}{2\delta} & x \in \mathcal{R}_1 \\ \frac{1 - \exp(-2\delta \lambda^H - 2\sqrt{y^2 - x^2\lambda^V})}{2\delta \lambda^H + 2\sqrt{y^2 - x^2\lambda^V}} \lambda^H & x \in \mathcal{R}_2 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad (38)$$

in which $\mathcal{R}_1 = \{x \mid x > \delta \text{ and } \sqrt{(x - x_{tx})^2 + y_{tx}^2} > \delta \}$ and $\mathcal{R}_2 = \{x \mid x \leq \delta \text{ and } \sqrt{(x - x_{tx})^2 + y_{tx}^2} > \delta \}$. Similarly for the V-road,

$$\lambda_{MAC}^V \left( [0, y]^T, x_{tx} \right)$$

$$= \begin{cases} \frac{1 - \exp(-2\delta \lambda^V)}{2\delta} & y \in \mathcal{R}_3 \\ \frac{1 - \exp(-2\delta \lambda^V - 2\sqrt{y^2 - y^2\lambda^H})}{2\delta \lambda^V + 2\sqrt{y^2 - y^2\lambda^H}} \lambda^V & y \in \mathcal{R}_4 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad (39)$$

in which $\mathcal{R}_3 = \{y \mid y > \delta \text{ and } \sqrt{(y - y_{tx})^2 + x_{tx}^2} > \delta \}$ and $\mathcal{R}_4 = \{y \mid y \leq \delta \text{ and } \sqrt{(y - y_{tx})^2 + x_{tx}^2} > \delta \}$.

**Step 3:** Using (8), the LT of the interference for the H- and V-road can be expressed as

$$L_{ht}(s) = \exp\left(-\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{2\lambda^H \left( [x, 0]^T, x_{tx} \right)}{1 + |x_{tx} - x|^2} dx \right) \quad (40)$$

and

$$L_{ht}(s) = \exp\left(-\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{2\lambda^V \left( [0, y]^T, x_{tx} \right)}{1 + |x_{tx} - y|^2} dy \right) \quad (41)$$
Step 4: The fading on the useful link is characterized by its LT $\mathcal{L}_{S_h}(s) = \frac{1}{1+(1+s)}$ and CCDF $\tilde{F}_{S_h}(s) = \exp(-s)$.

Step 5: By applying a location-dependent thinning, we approximate the interference from the H- and V-road as independent. As the fading on the useful link is exponential (i.e., $S_0 \sim E(1,1)$), we can express the packet reception probability as $P(\beta, x_{tx}, x_{rx}) = e^{-\bar{N}I} \mathcal{L}_{I_h}(\bar{\beta}) \mathcal{L}_{I_v}(\bar{\tilde{\beta}})$. Using the results from Step 3, and the variable change $\bar{N}/\bar{P}$, we can for the particular value of $\alpha = 2$ finally obtain (18). Note that for a general transmitter location $x_{tx}$, we are not able to evaluate the integrals in (40) and (41) in closed form, but have to resort to numerical evaluation.

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