Abstract—In a recent paper [4], Marić et al. analyzed the performance of the analog network coding (ANC) in a layered relay network for the high-SNR regime. They have proved that under the ANC scheme, if each relay transmits the received signals at the upper bound of the power constraint, the transmission rate will approach the network capacity. In this paper, we consider a more general scenario defined as the generalized high-SNR regime, where the relays at layer $l$ in a layered relay network with $L$ layers do not satisfy the high-SNR conditions, and then determine an ANC relay scheme in such network. By relating the received SNR at the nodes with the propagated noise, we derive the rate achievable by the ANC scheme proposed in this paper. The result shows that the achievable ANC rate approaches the upper bound of the ANC capacity as the received powers at relays in high SNR increase. A comparison of the two ANC schemes implies that the scheme proposed in [4] may not always be the optimal one in the generalized high-SNR regime. The result also demonstrates that the upper and lower bounds of the ANC rate coincide in the limit as the number of relays at layer $L-1$ dissatisfying the high-SNR conditions tends to infinity (to be infinite), yielding an asymptotic capacity result.

I. INTRODUCTION

Linear network coding [1] achieves the multicast capacity [2] in a noiseless network. This result indicates that each node only has to send out a linear combination of its incoming packets. Destination nodes obtain source information multiplied by a transfer matrix consisting of the global encoding kernels on the incoming edges, and can recover the original data provided that the matrix is invertible [3].

In a wireless channel, signals simultaneously transmitted from multiple sources add up in the air resulting in interference. The noisy sum of these signals received at each node may be considered as a linear combination of the signals and noises. A multihop amplify-and-forward relay scheme referred to as analog network coding extends the concept of network coding to physical layer [4],[7]. Consequently, in this paper, we define the corresponding local and global encoding coefficients of ANC. In the high-SNR regime, Marić, Goldsmith, and Médard proposed an multihop amplify-and-forward scheme in which each relay node transmits the received signals at the upper bound of the power constraint. As the main contribution, they derived the rate achievable by such scheme and showed that it approaches the network capacity in the high-SNR regime.

Gastpar and Vetterli showed a two-hop network model with a joint source-channel coding relay scheme [5]. The relays amplify and forward the signals received from the source node with the amplification gains chosen to achieve the minimum distortion at the destination. The result shows that the suboptimal scheme in which the sum transmitting powers of the relays achieves the upper bound of the sum power constraint is sufficient to approach the cut-set bound in the limit of large number of relays.

One of the remarkable differences between a multihop network and a point-to-point channel is that high channel gains do not necessarily lead to the high-SNR regime [4]. The capacity result is somewhat trivial when all the relay nodes are in high-SNR, whereas it is too complicated to be analyzed when the network has any number of relay nodes with large noises. Hence, we determine the high-SNR condition at each node, according to which a generalized high-SNR regime for a layered relay network with $L$ layers is proposed, where the relays at layer $l$ do not satisfy the high-SNR conditions. Then, the ANC capacity of the layered network is derived in such scenario. Finally, we analyze a special case when the nodes at the second-to-last layer do not satisfy the high-SNR conditions. The result shows that the achievable ANC rate is within a constant gap from the upper bound, and the gap depends on the number of nodes at that layer.

This paper is organized as follows. A general wireless relay network model and the definitions of the coding coefficients of ANC are presented in Section II. The sufficient condition of the power constraint described by the amplification gains is presented in Section III. The upper and lower bounds of the ANC rate in the generalized high-SNR regime are found in Section IV. Two examples demonstrating the capacity-achieving performance of ANC in the generalized high-SNR regime are presented in Section V. Section VI concludes the paper.

The layered network model and most of the definitions presented in this paper follow those proposed in [4]. The notations used in this paper are as follows. Bold upper- and lower-case letters denote matrices and column vectors respectively, with $(\cdot)^T$ denoting their transpose. $E[\cdot]$ is the expectation operation. All the logarithms in this paper are in the base 2.
II. NETWORK MODEL

We consider a wireless relay network with a single source-destination pair shown in Fig.1. We assume that every node k receives the signal from the source node S through different relay paths simultaneously. Therefore, all the channel outputs are free of intersymbol interference. For that reason, we omit the time index in notations. All nodes are full-duplex. As in [4], the channel output at node k can be expressed as

\[ y_k = \sum_{j \in N(k)} h_{j,k} x_j + z_k, \]  

where \( h_{j,k} \) denotes the channel gain from node j to node k, \( N(k) \) represents neighboring nodes of node k, and \( z_k \) is the Gaussian noise with zero mean and variance 1. All the channel gains are supposed to be fixed real-valued constants and known through the network for the scope of the present paper. We assume that there exists a power constraint at node j such that

\[ E[x_j^2] \leq P_j. \]  

A sequence of codes containing \( 2^{nR} \) codewords of length \( n \) is proposed, and it is shown that the error probability goes to zero as \( n \to \infty \). In the considered transmission scheme, the source node encodes with the Gaussian codebook \( X_S \sim N[0, P_s] \), where \( N[0, \sigma^2] \) denotes normal distribution with zero mean and variance \( \sigma^2 \). Since each network node performs ANC, node k transmits:

\[ x_k = \beta_k y_k, \]  

where the amplification gain \( \beta_k \) is chosen such that the power constraint (2) is satisfied. The coding coefficients of ANC are defined as follows.

**Definition 1 (Local Encoding Coefficient):** Let \( e_m \) and \( e_{m+1} \) be the adjacent channels jointed with node k, and

\[ \alpha_{e_m, e_{m+1}} = \beta_k h_{e_m, e_{m+1}} \]  

denotes the local encoding coefficient of pair \( (e_m, e_{m+1}) \), where, in particular, \( \beta_S = 1 \).

**Definition 2 (Global Encoding Coefficient):** Let

\[ f_{j,k} = \prod_{m=1}^{L(P)} \alpha_{e_m, e_{m+1}} \]  

be the global encoding coefficient from node j to node k, where \( \{P\} \) represents relay paths between the two nodes, and \( L(P) \) denotes the length of \( P \).

The relationship between the local and global coefficients is as follows.

\[ f_{S,k} = \sum_{j \in N(k)} \beta_j h_{j,k} f_{S,j} \]  

\[ \text{III. SUFFICIENT CONDITION OF POWER CONSTRAINT} \]

In a wireless relay network, each network node can be considered as a source of noise. The network can be illustrated as a combination of several equivalent single source-destination graphs. Therefore, the signal received at node k is denoted as

\[ y_k = f_{S,k} x_S + \sum_{i \in k} f_{i,k} z_i + z_k, \]  

where \( \{i_k\} \) denotes nodes in the relay paths from the source node S to node k.

**Definition 3:** When each node j transmits with \( P_j \) given in (2), the power received at node k is denoted as

\[ P_{R,k} = \left( \sum_{j \in N(k)} h_{j,k} \sqrt{P_j} \right)^2, \]  

and the reciprocal of \( P_{R,k} \) is represented by

\[ \delta_k = \frac{1}{P_{R,k}}. \]  

We extend the sufficient condition of the power constraint in [4] to the general scenario described in section II by the following theorem.

**Theorem 1:** At every node performing ANC with the amplification gain

\[ \beta_k^2 \leq \frac{P_k}{(1 + \delta_k) P_{R,k}} \]  

the power constraint (2) is satisfied.

**Proof:** Let \( w_k \) be the total noise received at node k.

\[ w_k = \sum_{i \in k} f_{i,k} z_i + z_k \]  

We prove the theorem by induction. Consider first the node k whose neighboring nodes set only contains the source node S. From (1) and (3),

\[ E[X_k^2] = \beta_k^2 E[Y_k^2] \leq \frac{P_k}{(1 + \delta_k) P_{R,k}} (h_{S,k} P_S + 1) \equiv P_k, \]  

where (a) is obtained from the condition (10), and (b) is drawn from (8). To prove that the theorem holds for any node, we assume that all the neighboring nodes of node k satisfy the power constraints such that

\[ E[X_j^2] = E[\beta_j^2 (f_{S,j} x_S + w_j)^2] \leq P_j, j \in N(k) \]  

Then we consider the transmitting power at node k,

\[ E[X_k^2] \leq \frac{P_k}{(1 + \delta_k) P_{R,k}} \sum_{j \in N(k)} \beta_j h_{j,k} w_j + z_k \]  

\[ \text{(14)} \]
Then we complete the proof.

\[ \text{(b)} \leq c_{00} \left\{ f_{S,j}^2 P_S + E \left[ \left( \sum_{j \in N(k)} \beta_j h_{j,k} y_j \right)^2 \right] + 1 \right\} \]

\[ \leq c_{00} \left\{ c_01 + \sum_{j \in N(k)} h_{j,k}^2 \beta_j \left[ f_{S,j}^2 P_S + E \left( w_j^2 \right) \right] \right\} + c_{00} \]

\[ \leq c_{00} \sum_{(l,j) \neq (l,k)} \beta_j h_{j,k} \beta_l h_{l,k} \left[ \sqrt{E \left( w_j^2 \right) E \left( w_l^2 \right)} \right] \]

\[ + f_{S,j} f_{S,l} P_S + \sum_{j \in N(k)} h_{j,k}^2 P_j \right\} + c_{00} \]

\[ \leq c_{00} \left\{ \sum_{j \in N(k)} h_{j,k}^2 P_j + \sum_{l,j \in N(k), l \neq j} h_{j,k} h_{l,k} \sqrt{P_j P_l} \right\} + c_{00} \]

\[ = P_k \]

where \( c_{00} = \frac{P_k}{(1 + \delta_k) P_{R,k}} \).

2. As in [4], the received signal vector at layer \( l + 1 \) is

\[ y_{l+1} = H_i x_l + z_{l+1}. \]

The goal is to find suitable \( \beta_j \)'s to maximize the SNR at the destination. The optimization problem is defined as follows and the SNR function is obtained from (7).

\[ \begin{align*}
\max_{\beta_j} & \quad \text{SNR} \left( \{ \beta_j, j \in 1, 2 \cdots L - 1 \} \right) = \frac{f_{S,j}^2 P_S}{(1 + \delta_j) P_{R,j} + 1} \\
\text{s.t.} & \quad \beta_j^2 \leq \frac{P_j}{(1 + \delta_j) P_{R,j}}, \quad j \in 1, 2 \cdots L - 1
\end{align*} \]

Maximizing the expression (22) over all amplification gains under the given power constraints does not seem to have a simple solution. However, a good solution is found after we further limit the network model in the generalized high-SNR regime defined as follows.

**Definition 4:** The high-SNR condition at node \( j \) is defined as

\[ P_{R,j} \geq \frac{1}{\delta} \]

for some small \( \delta \geq 0 \).

**Definition 5:** The wireless network is in the generalized high-SNR regime if

\[ \min_{j \in 1, \cdots, l-1, l+1, \cdots, L} P_{R,j} \geq \frac{1}{\delta}, \]

which implies except the nodes in layer \( l (l = 1, 2, \cdots, L) \), any other nodes are in the high-SNR condition.

**Remark 1:** For the purpose of this paper, we assume that the received SNR at each node \( k, k \notin l \) is large. The general scenario defined here can be considered as an extension of the network model discussed in [4]. Here, if we set \( l = L \), the generalized high-SNR regime is the high-SNR regime.

**B. Upper Bound to ANC Capacity**

An upper bound to the ANC capacity of the network shown in Fig. 2 in the generalized high-SNR regime can be found from an analysis of an ideal network, where except the \( l \)-th layer (here we assume that \( l \neq L \)), any other layers are noiseless. We draw the conclusion in the following theorem.

**Theorem 2:** The upper bound of the ANC capacity in the generalized high-SNR regime (24) of the Gaussian relay network with the transmitting power constraints (2) is

\[ R_1 = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( 1 + P_{R,l}^T P_{R,l} \right), \]

where \( P_{R,l} = \left[ \sqrt{P_{R,1}} \cdots \sqrt{P_{R,l}} \cdots \sqrt{P_{R,m}} \right]^T, j \in l \).

**Proof:** We denote the SNR function at the destination of this ideal network as \( SNR_1 \). With the identical amplification gains, we have

\[ SNR_1 \left( \{ \beta_j, j \in 1 \cdots L-1 \} \right) \geq SNR \left( \{ \beta_j, j \in 1 \cdots L-1 \} \right) \]

Clearly, the maximum of \( SNR_1 \) is no less than the maximum of \( SNR \). We first point out that

\[ \gamma = B_i g = G \beta_l, \]

IV. UPPER AND LOWER BOUNDS TO ANC RATE

**A. Layered Network in Generalized High-SNR Regime**

We consider a layered relay network with the source node at layer 0 and the destination node at layer \( L \) shown in Fig.
Therefore, $SNR_1$ can be expressed as

$$SNR_1 (\gamma) = \frac{\gamma^TP_l P_l^T \gamma}{\gamma^T \gamma}$$

(29)

With the power constraint (2), the sum signal power received at layer $l$ is upper bounded by $P_{R,l}^TP_{R,l}$. The maximum of $SNR_1$ is

$$\max SNR_1 (\gamma_{opt}) = P_{R,l}^TP_{R,l},$$

(30)

and the Gaussian channel capacity evaluates to

$$R_l = \frac{1}{2} \log (1 + P_{R,l}^TP_{R,l}).$$

Then we complete the proof.

We propose an ANC scheme such that the amplification gain at node $j$, $j \in 1, 2 \cdots l-1, l+1 \cdots L-1$, is chosen as

$$\beta_j = \frac{P_j}{(1+\delta_j) P_{R,j}}, j \in 1, 2 \cdots l-1, l+1 \cdots L-1,$$

(31)

and at node $k$, $k \in l$ is chosen as

$$\beta_l = c_1 G^{-1} P_{R,l},$$

(32)

where $c_1$ can be determined as

$$c_1 = \min \left\{ \frac{g_j}{P_{R,j}}, \frac{P_j}{1+\delta_j}, j = 1, 2 \cdots n_l \right\}.$$ (33)

Using this scheme in (29), the lower bound of achievable ANC rate in such ideal network results.

$$R = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( 1 + \frac{P_{R,l}^TP_{R,l}}{\left(1 + \delta\right)^{-1} P_{R,l}^TP_{R,l}} \right).$$ (34)

As $\delta \rightarrow 0$, the achievable ANC rate approaches the upper bound of the ANC capacity (25).

Remark 2: Evidently, the case when $l = L$, the scheme proposed in [4] can be considered as a special case of the previous general scenario. Since the noise power received at the destination is independent of amplification gains, the larger the transmitting powers, the better the performance of the ANC scheme. With the power constraint, the optimal amplification gain at each node is

$$\beta_j = \left( \frac{P_j}{1+\delta_j} P_{R,j} \right)^{-1/2}$$

(35)

The corresponding lower bound of the ANC rate is

$$R = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\left(1 + \delta\right)^{L-1} P_{R,D}} \right)$$

(36)

which approaches the MAC cut-set bound $C = \frac{1}{2} \log (1 + P_{R,D})$ as $\delta \rightarrow 0$.

Remark 3: By the assumption, we observe that the bottleneck on the data transfer is on the cut-set between the $(l-1)$th and the $l$th layers. We assume the nodes at layer $l$ and layer $l+1$ are the multiple transmitting antennae of the source node and the multiple receiving antennae of the destination node respectively. In particular, when $rank (H_{l-1}^H H_{l-1}) = 1$, the MIMO capacity which can be seen as the cut-set bound [6],[8] evaluates to

$$C = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( 1 + P_{R,l}^TP_{R,l} \right),$$

(37)

which equals the upper bound of the ANC capacity. However, the hypothesis that $rank (H_{l-1}^H H_{l-1}) = 1$ does not always hold in general scenario. Hence, the cut-set bound should not be expected to be tight.

C. Lower Bound to ANC Rate Achievable

Lower bound to ANC rate achievable in the generalized high-SNR regime is found by analyzing the performance of the ANC scheme described in the previous section. The lower bound of ANC rate is derived in the following theorem.

Theorem 3: The achievable rate of the Gaussian layered relay network of Fig.2 in the generalized high-SNR regime by the ANC scheme under the transmitting power constraints is lower bounded by

$$R_2 = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( 1 + \frac{P_{R,l}^TP_{R,l}}{\left[1 - \left( 1 + \delta\right)^{-1} \right] P_{R,l}^TP_{R,l} + c_3} \right),$$

(38)

where $c_3 = 1 + \frac{c_2}{c_1 P_{R,l}^TP_{R,l}}$ and $c_2 = \sum_{d=1}^{L-(l+1)} \frac{\delta P_{R,D}}{(1+\delta)^d} + 1$.

Remark 4: With the previous ANC scheme, the SNR function at the destination can be calculated. Assuming that the noises at the same layer, except the ones at layer $l$, are dependent, the sum noise power at the destination is enlarged. Then the result is derived. The details of the proof are omitted.

The case when the received powers of nodes in high-SNR condition tend to infinity at the same rate, i.e., $\delta \rightarrow 0$, and $P_{R,k} = \text{const.}, k \in l$ as $\delta \rightarrow 0$. The limit of the difference between the two bounds is

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} (R_1 - R_2) = 0.$$ (39)

The result implies that the achievable ANC rate approaches the ANC capacity (25).

Finally, we discuss another special case when $l = L-1$. Suppose that the transmitting powers of the nodes at this layer are finite constants. The received signal power at the destination increases with the number of the nodes at this layer. Let $\delta' = \min_{j=1,2,\cdots,n_l} P_{R,j}$ be some small positive value, which implies the nodes in those layers satisfy the high-SNR conditions. With sufficiently large number of the nodes at layer $L-1$, the received signal power at the destination also satisfies the high-SNR condition. Therefore, the network model can be considered in the generalized high-SNR regime.
Like approaches the capacity to within one bit as \( n \) approaches the upper bound of ANC capacity. The ANC rate decreases within one bit for \( n > 5 \), and within a small fraction of a bit for \( n > 40 \) as the transmitting powers of the nodes at layer 2 are limited to 2.

VI. CONCLUSION

We derived the capacity of a multihop network by the ANC scheme in the generalized high-SNR regime. As all the received powers of the nodes in the high SNR increase, the achievable ANC rate by the ANC scheme proposed in this paper approaches the upper bound of the ANC capacity. As discussed in this paper, we assume that all the channel gains are fixed real-valued constants and known through the network. Relaxing this assumption to a fading scenario is a topic for our future work.

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