

Mixed Quality of Service in Cell-Free Massive MIMO

Manijeh Bashar[✉], Student Member, IEEE, Kanapathippillai Cumanan, Member, IEEE, Alister G. Burr[✉], Senior Member, IEEE, Hien Quoc Ngo, Member, IEEE, and H. Vincent Poor[✉], Fellow, IEEE

Abstract—A mixed quality-of-service (QoS) problem is investigated in the uplink of a cell-free massive multiple-input multiple-output system where the minimum rate of non-real time users is maximized with per user power constraints while the rates of the real-time users (RTUs) meet their target rates. The original mixed QoS problem is formulated in terms of receiver filter coefficients and user power allocations, which can iteratively be solved through two sub-problems, namely, receiver filter coefficient design and power allocation. Numerical results show that, while the rates of RTUs meet the QoS constraints, the 90%-likely throughput improves significantly, compared with a simple benchmark scheme.

Index Terms—Cell-free massive MIMO, geometric programming, max-min SINR, QoS requirement.

I. INTRODUCTION

THE forthcoming 5th Generation (5G) wireless networks will need to provide greatly improved spectral efficiency along with a defined quality of service (QoS) for real-time users (RTUs). A promising 5G technology is cell-free massive multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO), in which a large number of access points (APs) are randomly distributed through a coverage area and serve a much smaller number of users, providing uniform user experience [1]. The distributed APs are connected to a central processing unit (CPU) via high capacity backhaul links [1]–[3]. The problem of cell-free massive MIMO with limited backhaul links has been considered in [4] and [5]. Different from previous work, in this paper, we investigate a mixed QoS problem in which a set of RTUs requires a predefined rate and a max-min signal-to-interference-plus-noise ratio (SINR) is maintained between the non-real time users (NRTUs). The RTUs are defined as the users of real time services such as audio-video, video conferencing, web-based seminars, and video games, which result in the need for wireless communications with mixed QoS [6]. The specific contributions of the letter are as follows:

1. An approximated SINR is derived based on the channel statistics and exploiting maximal ratio combining (MRC)

Manuscript received March 4, 2018; accepted March 26, 2018. Date of publication April 11, 2018; date of current version July 10, 2018. The work of K. Cumanan and A. G. Burr was supported by H2020-MSC ARISE-2015 under Grant 690750. The work of H. V. Poor was supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation under Grant CNS-1702808 and Grant ECCS-1647198. The associate editor coordinating the review of this paper and approving it for publication was C. Masouros. (Corresponding author: Manijeh Bashar.)

M. Bashar, K. Cumanan, and A. G. Burr are with the Department of Electronic Engineering, University of York, York YO10 5DD, U.K. (e-mail: mb1465@york.ac.uk; kanapathippillai.cumanan@york.ac.uk; alister.burr@york.ac.uk).

H. Q. Ngo is with the School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast BT7 1NN, U.K. (e-mail: hien.ngo@qub.ac.uk).

H. V. Poor is with the Department of Electrical Engineering, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA (e-mail: poor@princeton.edu).

Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/LCOMM.2018.2825428

at the APs. We formulate the corresponding mixed QoS problem with a fixed QoS requirement for RTUs, which need to meet their target SINRs, whereas the minimum SINRs of the remaining users should be maximized.

2. The mixed QoS problem is not jointly convex. We propose to deal with this non-convexity issue by decoupling the original problem into two sub-problems, namely, receiver filter coefficient design and power allocation.
3. It is shown that the receiver filter design problem can be solved through a generalized eigenvalue problem [7] whereas the user power allocation problem can be formulated using standard geometric programming (GP) [8].

II. SYSTEM MODEL

We consider uplink transmission in a cell-free massive MIMO system with M randomly distributed APs and K randomly distributed single-antenna users in the area. Moreover, we assume each AP has N antennas. The channel coefficient vector between the k th user and the m th AP, $\mathbf{g}_{mk} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times 1}$, is defined as $\mathbf{g}_{mk} = \sqrt{\beta_{mk}} \mathbf{h}_{mk}$, where β_{mk} denotes the large-scale fading and $\mathbf{h}_{mk} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, 1)$ represents small-scale fading between the k th user and the m th AP [1]. All pilot sequences used in the channel estimation phase are collected in a matrix $\Phi \in \mathbb{C}^{\tau \times K}$, where τ is the length of pilot sequence for each user, and the k th column, ϕ_k , represents the pilot sequence used for the k th user. The minimum mean square error (MMSE) estimate of the channel coefficient vector between the k th user and the m th AP is given by [1]

$$\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{mk} = c_{mk} \left(\sqrt{\tau p_p} \mathbf{g}_{mk} + \sqrt{\tau p_p} \sum_{k' \neq k}^K \mathbf{g}_{mk'} \phi_{k'}^H \phi_k + \mathbf{W}_{p,m} \phi_k \right), \quad (1)$$

where each element of $\mathbf{W}_{p,m}$, $w_{p,m} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, 1)$, denotes the noise sequence at the m th antenna, p_p represents the normalized signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of each pilot symbol, and c_{mk} is given by $c_{mk} = \frac{\sqrt{\tau p_p} \beta_{mk}}{\tau p_p \sum_{k'=1}^K \beta_{mk'} |\phi_{k'}^H \phi_k|^2 + 1}$. In this letter, we consider uplink data transmission, in which all users send their signals to the APs. The transmitted signal from the k th user is represented by $x_k = \sqrt{q_k} s_k$, where s_k ($\mathbb{E}\{|s_k|^2\} = 1$) and q_k denote the transmitted symbol and the transmit power at the k th user. The $N \times 1$ signal received at the m th AP from all users is given by $\mathbf{y}_m = \sqrt{\rho} \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{g}_{mk} \sqrt{q_k} s_k + \mathbf{n}_m$, where each element of $\mathbf{n}_m \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times 1}$, $n_{m,m} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, 1)$, is the noise at the m th AP and ρ refers to the normalized SNR.

III. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

In this section, in deriving the achievable rate of each user, it is assumed that the CPU exploits only the knowledge of channel statistics between the users and APs in detecting data

from the received signal in (2). The aggregated received signal at the CPU can be written as

$$r_k = \sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk} \left(\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{mk}^H \mathbf{y}_m \right). \quad (2)$$

By collecting all the coefficients u_{mk} , $\forall m$, corresponding to the k th user, we define $\mathbf{u}_k = [u_{1k}, u_{2k}, \dots, u_{Mk}]^T$. To detect s_k , with the MRC processing, the aggregated received signal in (2) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} r_k = & \underbrace{\sqrt{\rho} \mathbb{E} \left\{ \sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{mk}^H \mathbf{g}_{mk} \sqrt{q_k} \right\} s_k}_{\text{DS}_k} \\ & + \underbrace{\sqrt{\rho} \left(\sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{mk}^H \mathbf{g}_{mk} \sqrt{q_k} - \mathbb{E} \left\{ \sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{mk}^H \mathbf{g}_{mk} \sqrt{q_k} \right\} \right) s_k}_{\text{BU}_k} \\ & + \underbrace{\sum_{k' \neq k} \sqrt{\rho} \sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{mk}^H \mathbf{g}_{mk'} \sqrt{q_k} s_{k'}}_{\text{IUI}_{kk'}} + \underbrace{\sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{mk}^H \mathbf{n}_m}_{\text{TN}_k}, \quad (3) \end{aligned}$$

where DS_k and BU_k denote the desired signal (DS) and beamforming uncertainty (BU) for the k th user, respectively, and $\text{IUI}_{kk'}$ represents the inter-user-interference (IUI) caused by the k' th user. In addition, TN_k accounts for the total noise (TN) following the MRC detection. The corresponding SINR can be defined by considering the worst-case of the uncorrelated Gaussian noise as follows [1]:

$$\text{SINR}_k = \frac{|\text{DS}_k|^2}{\mathbb{E}\{|\text{BU}_k|^2\} + \sum_{k' \neq k}^K \mathbb{E}\{|\text{IUI}_{kk'}|^2\} + \mathbb{E}\{|\text{TN}_k|^2\}}. \quad (4)$$

Based on the SINR definition in (4), the achievable uplink rate of the k th user is given in the following theorem:

Theorem 1: The achievable uplink rate of the k th user in the cell-free massive MIMO system with K randomly distributed single-antenna users and M APs is given by (5) (defined at the bottom of this page).

Proof: Please refer to the appendix. \blacksquare

Note that in (5), $\mathbf{u}_k = [u_{1k}, u_{2k}, \dots, u_{Mk}]^T$, and the following equations hold: $\mathbf{\Gamma}_k = [\gamma_{1k}, \gamma_{2k}, \dots, \gamma_{Mk}]^T$, $\gamma_{mk} = \sqrt{\tau_p p_p} \beta_{mk} c_{mk}$, $\mathbf{\Upsilon}_{kk'} = \text{diag}[\beta_{1k'} \gamma_{1k}, \dots, \beta_{Mk'} \gamma_{Mk}]$, $\mathbf{\Lambda}_{kk'} = [\frac{\gamma_{1k} \beta_{1k'}}{\beta_{1k}}, \frac{\gamma_{2k} \beta_{2k'}}{\beta_{2k}}, \dots, \frac{\gamma_{Mk} \beta_{Mk'}}{\beta_{Mk}}]^T$, and $\mathbf{R}_k = \text{diag}[\gamma_{1k}, \dots, \gamma_{Mk}]$, and $\gamma_{mk} = \mathbb{E}\{|\hat{g}_{mk}|^2\} = \sqrt{\tau_p p_p} \beta_{mk} c_{mk}$.

IV. PROPOSED MIXED QOS SCHEME

We formulate the mixed QoS problem, in which the minimum uplink user rate among NRTUs is maximized while satisfying the transmit power constraint at each user and the

RTUs' SINR target constraints. We assume users $1, 2, \dots, K_1$ are RTUs. The mixed QoS problem is given by

$$P_1 : \max_{q_k, \mathbf{u}_k} \min_{k=K_1+1, \dots, K} R_k, \quad (6a)$$

$$\text{subject to } 0 \leq q_k \leq p_{\max}^{(k)}, \quad \forall k, \quad (6b)$$

$$\text{SINR}_k^{\text{UP}} \geq \text{SINR}_k^t, \quad k = 1, \dots, K_1 \quad (6c)$$

where $p_{\max}^{(k)}$ is the maximum transmit power available at user k , and SINR_k^t denotes the target SINR for the k th RTU. Problem P_1 is not jointly convex in terms of \mathbf{u}_k and the power allocation q_k , $\forall k$. Therefore, it cannot be directly solved through existing convex optimization software. To tackle this non-convexity issue, we decouple Problem P_1 into two subproblems: receiver coefficients design (i.e. \mathbf{u}_k) and the power allocation problem, which are explained in the following subsections.

1) Receiver Filter Coefficient Design: In this subsection, the problem of designing the receiver coefficients is considered. These coefficients (i.e., \mathbf{u}_k , $\forall k$) are obtained by interdependently maximizing the uplink SINR of each user. Hence, the optimal receiver filter coefficients can be obtained through solving the following optimization problem:

$$\begin{aligned} P_2 : \max_{\mathbf{u}_k} \quad & N^2 \mathbf{u}_k^H (q_k \mathbf{\Gamma}_k \mathbf{\Gamma}_k^H) \mathbf{u}_k \\ & \mathbf{u}_k^H \left(N^2 \sum_{k' \neq k}^K q_{k'} |\phi_k^H \phi_{k'}|^2 \mathbf{\Lambda}_{kk'} \mathbf{\Lambda}_{kk'}^H + N \sum_{k'=1}^K q_{k'} \mathbf{\Upsilon}_{kk'} + \frac{N}{\rho} \mathbf{R}_k \right) \mathbf{u}_k \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Problem P_2 is a generalized eigenvalue problem [7], for which the optimal solutions can be obtained by determining the generalized eigenvector of the matrix pair $\mathbf{A}_k = N^2 q_k \mathbf{\Gamma}_k \mathbf{\Gamma}_k^H$ and $\mathbf{B}_k = N^2 \sum_{k' \neq k}^K q_{k'} |\phi_k^H \phi_{k'}|^2 \mathbf{\Lambda}_{kk'} \mathbf{\Lambda}_{kk'}^H + N \sum_{k'=1}^K q_{k'} \mathbf{\Upsilon}_{kk'} + \frac{N}{\rho} \mathbf{R}_k$ corresponding to the maximum generalized eigenvalue.

2) Power Allocation: Next, we solve the power allocation problem for a given set of fixed receiver filter coefficients, \mathbf{u}_k , $\forall k$. The optimal transmit power can be determined by solving the following mixed QoS problem:

$$P_3 : \max_{q_k} \min_{k=K_1+1, \dots, K} \text{SINR}_k^{\text{UP}}, \quad (8a)$$

$$\text{subject to } 0 \leq q_k \leq p_{\max}^{(k)}, \quad \forall k, \quad (8b)$$

$$\text{SINR}_k^{\text{UP}} \geq \text{SINR}_k^t, \quad k = 1, \dots, K_1. \quad (8c)$$

Note that the max-min rate problem and max-min SINR problem are equivalent. Without loss of generality, Problem P_3 can be rewritten by introducing a new slack variable as

$$P_4 : \max_{t, q_k} t, \quad (9a)$$

$$\text{subject to } 0 \leq q_k \leq p_{\max}^{(k)}, \quad \forall k, \quad (9b)$$

$$\text{SINR}_k^{\text{UP}} \geq t, \quad k = K_1 + 1, \dots, K, \quad (9c)$$

$$\text{SINR}_k^{\text{UP}} \geq \text{SINR}_k^t, \quad k = 1, \dots, K_1. \quad (9d)$$

$$R_k = \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{\mathbf{u}_k^H \left(N^2 q_k \mathbf{\Gamma}_k \mathbf{\Gamma}_k^H \right) \mathbf{u}_k}{\mathbf{u}_k^H \left(N^2 \sum_{k' \neq k}^K q_{k'} |\phi_k^H \phi_{k'}|^2 \mathbf{\Lambda}_{kk'} \mathbf{\Lambda}_{kk'}^H + N \sum_{k'=1}^K q_{k'} \mathbf{\Upsilon}_{kk'} + \frac{N}{\rho} \mathbf{R}_k \right) \mathbf{u}_k} \right). \quad (5)$$

Algorithm 1 Proposed Algorithm to Solve Problem P_1

1. Initialize $\mathbf{q}^{(0)} = [q_1^{(0)}, q_2^{(0)}, \dots, q_K^{(0)}]$, $i = 1$
2. Repeat, $i = i + 1$
3. Set $\mathbf{q}^{(i)} = \mathbf{q}^{(i-1)}$ and determine the optimal receiver coefficients $\mathbf{U}^{(i)} = [\mathbf{u}_1^{(i)}, \mathbf{u}_2^{(i)}, \dots, \mathbf{u}_K^{(i)}]$ through solving the generalized eigenvalue Problem P_2 in (7)
4. Compute $\mathbf{q}^{(i+1)}$ through solving Problem P_4 in (9)
5. Go back to Step 2 and repeat until required accuracy

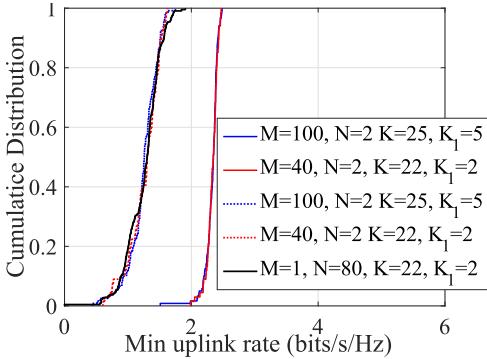


Fig. 1. The cumulative distribution of the minimum uplink rate, for $(M = 100, K = 25, K_1 = 5)$ and $(M = 40, K = 22, K_1 = 2)$ with $D = 1$ km, $\tau = 20$, and $\text{SINR}_k^t = 1$. The solid curves refer to the proposed Algorithm 1, while the dashed curves present the case $u_{mk} = 1, \forall m, k$, and solve Problem P_4 .

Proposition 1: Problem P_4 is a standard GP.

Proof: The SINR constraint (9c) is not a posynomial functions in its form, however it can be rewritten into the following posynomial function:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}_k^H \left(\sum_{k' \neq k}^K q_{k'} |\phi_k^H \phi_{k'}|^2 \Lambda_{kk'} \Lambda_{kk'}^H + \sum_{k'=1}^K q_{k'} \Upsilon_{kk'} + \frac{1}{\rho} \mathbf{R}_k \right) \mathbf{u}_k \\ \mathbf{u}_k^H \left(q_k \Gamma_k \Gamma_k^H \right) \mathbf{u}_k \\ < \frac{1}{t}. \quad (10) \end{aligned}$$

By applying a simple transformation, (10) can be rewritten in the form $q_k^{-1} \left(\sum_{k' \neq k}^K a_{kk'} q_{k'} + \sum_{k'=1}^K b_{kk'} q_{k'} + c_k \right) < \frac{1}{t}$, which shows that the left-hand side of (10) is a posynomial function. The same transformation holds for (9d). Therefore, Problem P_4 is a standard GP (convex problem). ■

Based on two sub-problems, an iterative algorithm is developed by solving both sub-problems at each iteration. The proposed algorithm is summarized in Algorithm 1.

V. NUMERICAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To model the channel coefficients between users and APs, the coefficient β_{mk} is taken as $\beta_{mk} = \text{PL}_{mk} \cdot 10^{\frac{\sigma_{sh} z_{mk}}{10}}$ where PL_{mk} is the path loss from the k th user to the m th AP, and $10^{\frac{\sigma_{sh} z_{mk}}{10}}$ denotes shadow fading with standard deviation σ_{sh} , and $z_{mk} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ [1]. The noise power is given by $P_n = \text{BW} k_B T_0 W$, where BW = 20 MHz denotes the bandwidth, $k_B = 1.381 \times 10^{-23}$ represents the Boltzmann constant, and $T_0 = 290$ (Kelvin) denotes the noise temperature. Moreover, $W = 9$ dB, and denotes the noise figure [1]. It is assumed that that \bar{P}_p and $\bar{\rho}$ denote the transmit powers of the pilot and data symbols, respectively, where $P_p = \frac{\bar{P}_p}{P_n}$ and $\rho = \frac{\bar{\rho}}{P_n}$. In the simulations, we set $\bar{P}_p = 200$ mW and $\bar{\rho} = 200$ mW.

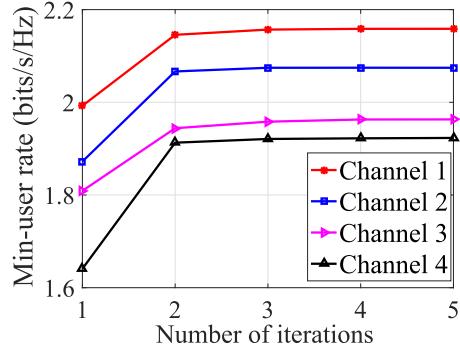


Fig. 2. The convergence of the proposed Algorithm 1 for $M = 40$, $K = 22$, $K_1 = 2$, $N = 2$, $D = 1$ km, $\text{SINR}_k^t = 1$, and $\tau = 20$.

A cell-free massive MIMO system is considered with 15 APs ($M = 15$) and 6 users ($K = 6$) who are randomly distributed over the coverage area of size 1×1 km. Moreover, each AP is equipped with $N = 3$ antennas and we set the total number of RTUs to $K_1 = 2$, and random pilot sequences with length $\tau = 5$ are considered. Table I presents the achievable SINRs of the users while the target SINR for both RTUs is fixed as 2.3. It can be seen from Table I that both RTUs achieve their target SINR, while the minimum SINR of the rest of the users is maximized through using Algorithm 1. (If the problem is infeasible, we set $\text{SINR}_k = 0, \forall k$.) Fig. 1 presents the cumulative distribution of the achievable uplink rates for the proposed Algorithm 1 (the solid curves) and a scheme in which the received signals are not weighted (i.e. we set $u_{mk} = 1, \forall m, k$ and solve Problem P_4), which are shown by the dashed curves. As seen in Fig. 1, the median of the cumulative distribution of the minimum uplink rate of the users is significantly increased compared to the scheme with $u_{mk} = 1, \forall m, k$ and solving Problem P_4 . As seen in Fig. 1, the performance (i.e. the 10% outage rate) of the proposed scheme is almost twice that of the case with $u_{mk} = 1 \forall m, k$. Note that Ngo *et al.* [1] considered a max-min SINR problem defining only power coefficients and without QoS constraints for RTUs. Hence, the dashed curves in Fig. 1 refer to the scheme in [1] along with QoS constraints. Moreover, note that the case with $M = 1$ and $N = 80$ refers to the single-cell massive MIMO system, in which all service antennas are collocated at the center of cell. As the figure demonstrates the performance of cell-free massive MIMO is significantly better than the conventional single-cell massive MIMO system. Fig. 2 demonstrates numerically the convergence of the proposed Algorithm 1 with 20 APs ($M = 20$) and 20 users ($K = 20$) and random pilot sequences with length $\tau = 15$.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

We have investigated the mixed QoS problem with QoS requirements for the RTUs in cell-free massive MIMO, and proposed a solution to maximize the minimum user rate while satisfying the SINR constraints of the RTUs. To solve, the original mixed QoS problem has been divided into two sub-problems which been iteratively solved by formulating them into a generalized eigenvalue problem and GP.

TABLE I

TARGET SINRs AND THE POWER CONSUMPTION OF THE PROPOSED SCHEME, WITH $M = 15$, $N = 3$, $K = 6$, $K_1 = 2$, $\tau = 5$, AND $D = 1$ km

Channels	Achieved SINR						Power Allocation (q_k)					
	RTU1	RTU2	NRTU1	NRTU2	NRTU3	NRTU4	RTU1	RTU2	NRTU1	NRTU2	NRTU3	NRTU4
Channel 1	2.3	2.3	0.6457	0.6457	0.6457	0.6457	0.0519	0.1472	0.2039	0.3111	0.0056	1
Channel 2	2.3	2.3	0.7445	0.7445	0.7445	0.7445	0.2995	0.0098	0.0050	1	0.3398	0.2278
Channel 3	2.3	2.3	0.6479	0.6479	0.6479	0.6479	0.7001	0.1045	0.0085	0.0170	1	0.1415
Channel 4	2.3	2.3	1.9622	1.9622	1.9622	1.9622	0.0296	0.0438	1	0.1753	0.0379	0.4827

APPENDIX: PROOF OF THEOREM 1

The desired signal for the user k is given by $\text{DS}_k = \sqrt{\rho} \mathbb{E} \left\{ \sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{mk}^H \mathbf{g}_{mk} \sqrt{q_k} \right\} = N \sqrt{\rho q_k} \sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk} \gamma_{mk}$. Hence, $|\text{DS}_k|^2 = \rho q_k \left(N \sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk} \gamma_{mk} \right)^2$. Moreover, the term $\mathbb{E}\{|\text{BU}_k|^2\}$ can be obtained as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}\{|\text{BU}_k|^2\} &= \rho \mathbb{E} \left\{ \left| \sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{mk}^H \mathbf{g}_{mk} \sqrt{q_k} \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. - \rho \mathbb{E} \left\{ \sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{mk}^H \mathbf{g}_{mk} \sqrt{q_k} \right\} \right|^2 \right\} \\ &= \rho N \sum_{m=1}^M q_k u_{mk}^2 \gamma_{mk} \beta_{mk}, \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where the last equality comes from [1, Appendix A]. The term $\mathbb{E}\{|\text{IUI}_{kk'}|^2\}$ is obtained as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}\{|\text{IUI}_{kk'}|^2\} &= \rho \mathbb{E} \left\{ \left| \sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{mk}^H \mathbf{g}_{mk'} \sqrt{q_{k'}} \right|^2 \right\} \\ &= \rho q_{k'} \mathbb{E} \left\{ \underbrace{\left| \sum_{m=1}^M c_{mk} u_{mk} \mathbf{g}_{mk'}^H \tilde{\mathbf{w}}_{mk} \right|^2}_A \right\} \\ &\quad + \rho \tau p_p \mathbb{E} \left\{ \underbrace{q_{k'} \left| \sum_{m=1}^M c_{mk} u_{mk} \left(\sum_{i=1}^K \mathbf{g}_{mi} \phi_k^H \phi_i \right)^H \mathbf{g}_{mk'} \right|^2}_B \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Since $\tilde{\mathbf{w}}_{mk} = \phi_k^H \mathbf{W}_{p,m}$ is independent of the term $g_{mk'}$ similar to [1, Appendix A], the term A in (12) immediately is given by $A = N q_{k'} \sum_{m=1}^M c_{mk}^2 u_{mk}^2 \beta_{mk'}$. The term B in (12) can be obtained as

$$\begin{aligned} B &= \tau p_p q_{k'} \mathbb{E} \left\{ \underbrace{\left| \sum_{m=1}^M c_{mk} u_{mk} \|\mathbf{g}_{mk'}\|^2 \phi_k^H \phi_{k'} \right|^2}_C \right\} \\ &\quad + \tau p_p q_{k'} \mathbb{E} \left\{ \underbrace{\left| \sum_{m=1}^M c_{mk} u_{mk} \left(\sum_{i \neq k'}^K \mathbf{g}_{mi} \phi_k^H \phi_i \right)^H \mathbf{g}_{mk'} \right|^2}_D \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

The first term in (13) is given by

$$\begin{aligned} C &= N \tau p_p q_{k'} |\phi_k^H \phi_{k'}|^2 \sum_{m=1}^M c_{mk}^2 u_{mk}^2 \beta_{mk'}^2 \\ &\quad + N^2 q_{k'} |\phi_k^H \phi_{k'}|^2 \left(\sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk} \gamma_{mk} \frac{\beta_{mk'}}{\beta_{mk}} \right)^2, \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where (14) is derived based on the fact that $\gamma_{mk} = \sqrt{\tau p_p} \beta_{mk} c_{mk}$. The second term in (13) can be obtained as

$$\begin{aligned} D &= N \sqrt{\tau p_p} q_{k'} \sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk}^2 c_{mk} \beta_{mk'} \beta_{mk} \\ &\quad - N q_{k'} \sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk}^2 c_{mk}^2 \beta_{mk'} \\ &\quad - N \tau p_p q_{k'} \sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk}^2 c_{mk}^2 \beta_{mk'}^2 |\phi_k^H \phi_{k'}|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Finally we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}\{|\text{IUI}_{kk'}|^2\} &= N \rho q_{k'} \left(\sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk}^2 \beta_{mk'} \gamma_{mk} \right) \\ &\quad + N^2 \rho q_{k'} |\phi_k^H \phi_{k'}|^2 \left(\sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk} \gamma_{mk} \frac{\beta_{mk'}}{\beta_{mk}} \right)^2. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

The total noise for the user k is given by $\mathbb{E}\{|\text{TN}_k|^2\} = \mathbb{E}\left\{ \left| \sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{mk}^H \mathbf{n}_m \right|^2 \right\} = N \sum_{m=1}^M u_{mk}^2 \gamma_{mk}$. Thus, the SINR of user k is obtained by (5), which completes the proof. \blacksquare

REFERENCES

- [1] H. Q. Ngo *et al.*, “Cell-free massive MIMO versus small cells,” *IEEE Trans. Wireless Commun.*, vol. 16, no. 3, pp. 1834–1850, Mar. 2017.
- [2] M. Bashar *et al.*, “Enhanced max-min SINR for uplink cell-free massive MIMO systems,” in *Proc. IEEE ICC*, May 2018, pp. 1–6.
- [3] M. Bashar *et al.*, “Cell-free massive MIMO with limited backhaul,” *IEEE Trans. Wireless Commun.*, to be published.
- [4] M. Bashar *et al.*, “Cell-free massive MIMO with limited backhaul,” in *Proc. IEEE ICC*, May 2018, pp. 1–7.
- [5] A. G. Burr *et al.*, “Cooperative access networks: Optimum fronthaul quantization in distributed massive MIMO and cloud RAN,” in *Proc. IEEE VTC*, Jun. 2018, pp. 1–7.
- [6] D. Feng *et al.*, “A survey of energy-efficient wireless communications,” *IEEE Commun. Surveys Tuts.*, vol. 15, no. 1, pp. 167–178, 1st Quart., 2013.
- [7] G. Golub and C. V. Loan, *Matrix Computations*, 2nd ed. Baltimore, MD, USA: The Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1996.
- [8] S. Boyd *et al.*, “A tutorial on geometric programming,” *Optim. Eng.*, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 67–128, 2007.