

# Employing non-orthogonal multiple access scheme in UAV-based wireless networks

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## ABSTRACT

This paper studies the two-hop transmission relying unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) relays which is suitable to implement in the internet of things (IoT) systems. To enhance system performance in order to overcome the large scale fading between the base station (BS) and destination as well as achieve the higher spectrum efficiency, where non-orthogonal multiple access (NOMA) strategies were typically applied for UAV relays to implement massive connections transmission. In particular, outage probability is evaluated via signal to noise ratio (SNR) criterion so that the terminal node can obtain reasonable performance. The derivations and analysis results showed that the considered fixed power allocation scheme provides performance gap among two signals at destination. The numerical simulation confirmed the exactness of derived expressions in the UAV assisted system.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Wireless communication technology has pace to adapt demand with rapid development of new techniques. The decreasing cost of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) network together with the dramatical innovation of UAV-based manufacturing technology provides connections as some difficulties happen. Therefore, some applications such as weather monitoring systems, forest fire prevention technology, man-v-machine are provided by many new UAV applications appeared in the civilian market. In order to implement the UAV relay based IoT networks, wide range of applications of UAV-based network attracts more attentions from community of researchers [1]. Recently, to achieve throughput transmission above 10Gbps, ultra density device connection and millisecond transmission delay, implement of 5G/B5G networks needs UAV assisted communications as reported in [2, 3]. The network coverage expands to 3D interconnection as crucial demand for development of the future communications and it releases the large scale fading regarding very high speed transmission. Moreover, higher cost and difficulty in the construction of cellular stations happen and such situation leads to solutions of the IoT network by employing the UAV relays assisted Communication. UAV-based network benefits to infrastructure development by providing its convenient implement and lower cost, high-altitude assisted transmission [4, 5]. The main advantages of the UAV relay assisted communications are reducing the obstruction from buildings, mountains and achieving the higher line of sight (LoS) transmission effect [6, 7].

Due to ability of massive connections and higher spectrum efficiency, NOMA has attracted great research interest from both academia and industry [8–24]. Since users aware on imperfect channel state information (CSI), the author studied the impact of imperfect CSI on the performance of NOMA in [15]. In [16], the throughput aspects of the cognitive radio as applying NOMA techniques were discussed and compared.

## 2. SYSTEM MODEL

Figure 1 shows system model containing the two-hop transmission using UAV relay communication model. Two UAV relays operate in half duplex and DF mode to signal forwarding, while separated signal is detected at destination. The terminal IoT node receives signal from two links as shown in Figure 1. Typically, the obstacles or blockage of urban buildings and mountains limit quality of the communication between the base station  $BS$  and terminal node  $D$ , then the UAV relays are implemented to realize assisted communication. The destination user needs two phases to perform its the transmission process. In the first phase, the  $BS$  transmits mixture signal to the two UAV relay nodes  $R_1, R_2$ . The channels  $h_i$  between the  $BS$  and the UAV relays follow Nakagami-m distribution.

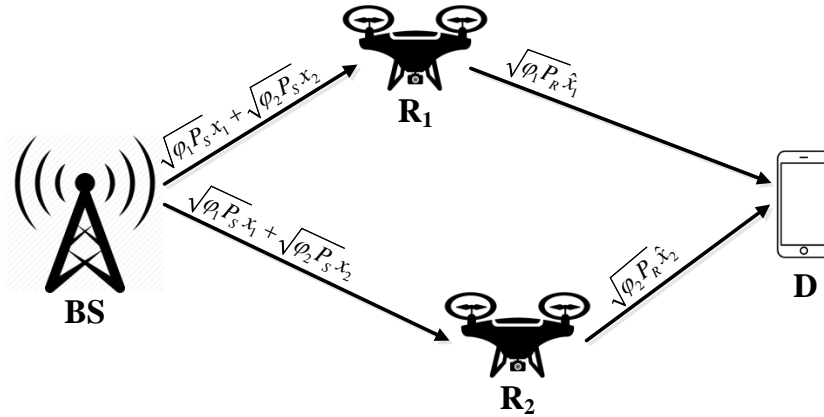


Figure 1. System model of UAV-assisted NOMA.

The received signal at UAV relays are given as

$$y_i = h_i (\sqrt{\varphi_1 P_S} x_1 + \sqrt{\varphi_2 P_S} x_2) \quad , i \in \{1, 2\}. \quad (1)$$

The signal to noise ratio (SNR) is used to detect  $x_2$  as

$$\Gamma_{R_1, x_2} = \frac{\varphi_2 \rho |h_1|}{\varphi_1 \rho |h_1| + 1}, \quad (2)$$

where  $\rho = \frac{P_S}{N_0} = \frac{P_R}{N_0}$  is the transmit signal to noise ratio (SNR).

After SIC happens, SNR is given to detect signal  $x_1$  as

$$\Gamma_{R_1, x_1} = \varphi_1 \rho |h_1|. \quad (3)$$

Similarly, SNR at  $R_2$  to detect  $x_2$  is given as

$$\Gamma_{R_2, x_2} = \frac{\varphi_2 \rho |h_2|}{\varphi_1 \rho |h_2| + 1}. \quad (4)$$

Next, we will introduce the channel model of  $R_i \rightarrow D$  link. In general, the UAV coverage is a circular cell and the UAV is located at the vertical center. Thus, the channel vector of  $R_i \rightarrow D$  link can be expressed as

$$g_i = L_i \bar{g}_i, i \in \{1, 2\}, \quad (5)$$

where the free space loss of the path  $L_i$  is given by

$$L_i = \frac{\lambda_u}{4\pi\sqrt{d_{R_i}^2 + d_h^2}}, \quad (6)$$

where  $d_h$  and  $d_{R_i}$  denote the height of UAV relay and the distance from the center of two UAV relay's to  $D$ , respectively,  $\lambda_u$  represents the wavelength.

Then, in the second phase of communication, each UAV relay forwards detected symbols to the destination (uplink-NOMA) and the received signal at user is given as

$$y_D = \sqrt{P_R}(\sqrt{\varphi_1}\hat{x}_1 L_1 \bar{g}_1 + \sqrt{\varphi_2}\hat{x}_2 L_2 \bar{g}_2). \quad (7)$$

where  $P_R$  is the normalized transmission powers at two relay's

It can be computed SNR at user  $D$  to detect signal  $x_2$  is

$$\Gamma_{D,x_2} = \frac{\rho\varphi_2 L_2^{-2} |g_2|^2}{\rho\varphi_1 L_1^{-2} |g_1|^2 + 1}. \quad (8)$$

Then, SNR at user  $D$  is calculated to detect signal  $x_1$  is

$$\Gamma_{D,x_1} = \rho\varphi_1 L_1^{-2} |g_1|^2. \quad (9)$$

### 3. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

#### 3.1. Outage probability of $x_1$

At destination, user  $D$  needs detect its signals. However, these signals are evaluated via outage probability. Such outage is defined as probability to SNR less than the pre-defined threshold SNR. We first consider outage performance of  $x_1$  as below:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}_{x_1} &= \Pr(\Gamma_{R_1,x_2} < \varepsilon_2 \cup \Gamma_{R_1,x_1} < \varepsilon_1 \cup \Gamma_{D,x_2} < \varepsilon_2 \cup \Gamma_{D,x_1} < \varepsilon_1) \\ &= 1 - \Pr(\Gamma_{R_1,x_2} \geq \varepsilon_2 \cup \Gamma_{R_1,x_1} \geq \varepsilon_1 \cup \Gamma_{D,x_2} \geq \varepsilon_2 \cup \Gamma_{D,x_1} \geq \varepsilon_1) \\ &= 1 - \underbrace{\Pr(|h_1| \geq \chi)}_{\mathcal{A}_1} \underbrace{\Pr(|g_2|^2 \geq \delta |g_1|^2 + \varpi_2, |g_1|^2 \geq \varpi_1)}_{\mathcal{A}_2}, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where  $\varepsilon_1 = 2^{2R_1} - 1$  with  $R_1$  being the target rate at  $D$  to detect  $x_1$ ,  $\varepsilon_2 = 2^{2R_2} - 1$  with  $R_2$  being the target rate at  $D$  to detect  $x_2$ ,  $\chi = \max\left(\frac{\varepsilon_2}{\rho(\varphi_2 - \varepsilon_2 \varphi_1)}, \frac{\varepsilon_1}{\varphi_1 \rho}\right)$ ,  $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon_2 \varphi_1 L_1^{-2}}{\varphi_2 L_2^{-2}}$ ,  $\varpi_1 = \frac{\varepsilon_1}{\rho \varphi_1 L_1^{-2}}$  and  $\varpi_2 = \frac{\varepsilon_2}{\rho \varphi_2 L_2^{-2}}$

Let  $Z_i = \{|h_i|^2, |g_i|^2\}$ ,  $i \in \{1, 2\}$  and we set, The CDFs and PDFs of  $Z$

$$F_{Z_i}(x) = 1 - e^{-\mu_{z_i} x} \sum_{s=0}^{m_{z_i}-1} \frac{\mu_{z_i}^s x^s}{s!}, \quad (11)$$

and

$$f_{Z_i}(x) = \frac{\mu_{Z_i}^{m_{Z_i}} x^{m_{Z_i}-1} e^{-\mu_{Z_i} x}}{\Gamma(m_{Z_i})}, \quad (12)$$

where  $\mu_{z_i} = \frac{m_{z_i}}{\lambda_{z_i}}$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{A}_1 &= \Pr(|h_1| \geq \chi) \\ &= 1 - F_{|h_1|}(\chi) \\ &= e^{-\mu_{h_1}\chi} \sum_{a=0}^{m_{h_1}-1} \frac{\mu_{h_1}^a \chi^a}{a!}.\end{aligned}\quad (13)$$

Then,  $\mathcal{A}_2$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{A}_2 &= \Pr(|g_2|^2 \geq \delta|g_1|^2 + \varpi_2, |g_1|^2 \geq \varpi_1) \\ &= \int_{\varpi_1}^{\infty} f_{|g_1|^2}(x) [1 - F_{|g_2|^2}(\delta x + \varpi_2)] dx \\ &= \sum_{d=0}^{m_{g_2}-1} \frac{\mu_{g_2}^d \mu_{g_1}^{m_{g_1}} e^{-\mu_{g_2}\varpi_2}}{d! \Gamma(m_{g_1})} \int_{\varpi_1}^{\infty} x^{m_{g_1}-1} e^{-x(\mu_{g_1} + \mu_{g_2}\delta)} (\delta x + \varpi_2)^d dx \\ &= \sum_{d=0}^{m_{g_2}-1} \sum_{t=0}^d \binom{d}{t} \frac{\mu_{g_2}^d \mu_{g_1}^{m_{g_1}} \varpi_2^{d-t} \delta^t e^{-\mu_{g_2}\varpi_2}}{d! \Gamma(m_{g_1})} \int_{\varpi_1}^{\infty} x^{m_{g_1}+t-1} e^{-x(\mu_{g_1} + \mu_{g_2}\delta)} dx.\end{aligned}\quad (14)$$

Applying [[23], (3.351.2)],  $\mathcal{A}_2$  is given by

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = \sum_{d=0}^{m_{g_2}-1} \sum_{t=0}^d \sum_{k=0}^{m_{g_1}+t-1} \binom{d}{t} \frac{\mu_{g_2}^d \mu_{g_1}^{m_{g_1}} \varpi_2^{d-t} \delta^t \Gamma(m_{g_1} + t) \varpi_1^k e^{-\mu_{g_2}\varpi_2 - \varpi_1(\mu_{g_1} + \mu_{g_2}\delta)}}{d! k! \Gamma(m_{g_1}) (\mu_{g_1} + \mu_{g_2}\delta)^{m_{g_1}+t-k}} \quad (15)$$

where  $\Gamma(x) = (x-1)!$  is the gamma function. Next, substituting (15) and (13) into (10),  $\mathcal{P}_{x_1}$  is expressed by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{P}_{x_1} &= 1 - e^{-\mu_{h_1}\chi} \sum_{a=0}^{m_{h_1}-1} \sum_{d=0}^{m_{g_2}-1} \sum_{t=0}^d \sum_{k=0}^{m_{g_1}+t-1} \binom{d}{t} \frac{\mu_{g_2}^d \mu_{g_1}^{m_{g_1}} \mu_{h_1}^a \chi^a \varpi_2^{d-t} \delta^t \Gamma(m_{g_1} + t) \varpi_1^k}{a! d! k! \Gamma(m_{g_1})} \\ &\quad \times \frac{e^{-\mu_{g_2}\varpi_2 - \varpi_1(\mu_{g_1} + \mu_{g_2}\delta)}}{(\mu_{g_1} + \mu_{g_2}\delta)^{m_{g_1}+t-k}}.\end{aligned}\quad (16)$$

When  $\rho \rightarrow \infty$ , by using  $e^{-x} \approx 1 - x$  so the asymptotic of  $\mathcal{P}_{x_1}^\infty$  is formulated by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{P}_{x_1}^\infty &= 1 - (1 - \mu_{h_1}\chi) \sum_{a=0}^{m_{h_1}-1} \sum_{d=0}^{m_{g_2}-1} \sum_{t=0}^d \sum_{k=0}^{m_{g_1}+t-1} \binom{d}{t} \frac{\mu_{g_2}^d \mu_{g_1}^{m_{g_1}} \mu_{h_1}^a \chi^a \varpi_2^{d-t} \delta^t \Gamma(m_{g_1} + t) \varpi_1^k}{a! d! k! \Gamma(m_{g_1})} \\ &\quad \times \frac{[1 - \mu_{g_2}\varpi_2 - \varpi_1(\mu_{g_1} + \mu_{g_2}\delta)]}{(\mu_{g_1} + \mu_{g_2}\delta)^{m_{g_1}+t-k}}.\end{aligned}\quad (17)$$

According to (8), we have  $\lim_{\rho \rightarrow \infty} \Gamma_{D,x_2} = \frac{\varphi_2 L_2^{-2} |g_2|^2}{\varphi_1 L_1^{-2} |g_1|^2}$  the approximate of  $\mathcal{P}_{x_1}^{app.}$  and  $\mathcal{P}_{x_2}^{app.}$  are given by

$$\mathcal{P}_{x_1}^{app.} = \mathcal{P}_{x_2}^{app.} = \sum_{d=0}^{m_{g_2}-1} \frac{\mu_{g_2}^d \mu_{g_1}^{m_{g_1}} \delta^d \Gamma(m_{g_1} + d)}{d! \Gamma(m_{g_1}) (\mu_{g_1} + \mu_{g_2}\delta)^{m_{g_1}+d}}. \quad (18)$$

### 3.2. Outage probability of $x_2$

Similarly, outage performance of  $x_2$  can be formulated by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{P}_{x_2} &= \Pr(\Gamma_{R_2, x_2} < \varepsilon_2 \cup \Gamma_{D, x_2} < \varepsilon_2) \\ &= 1 - \Pr(\Gamma_{R_2, x_2} \geq \varepsilon_2, \Gamma_{D, x_2} \geq \varepsilon_2) \\ &= 1 - \underbrace{\Pr(|h_2| \geq \nu)}_{\mathcal{B}_1} \underbrace{\Pr(|g_2|^2 \geq \delta|g_1|^2 + \varpi_2)}_{\mathcal{B}_2},\end{aligned}\quad (19)$$

where  $\nu = \frac{\varepsilon_2}{\rho(\varphi_2 - \varepsilon_2 \varphi_1)}$

We need compute each outage component as

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{B}_1 &= \Pr(|h_2| \geq \nu) \\ &= 1 - F_{|h_2|}(\nu) \\ &= e^{-\mu_{h_2} \nu} \sum_{b=0}^{m_{h_2}-1} \frac{\mu_{h_2}^b \nu^b}{b!}.\end{aligned}\quad (20)$$

Then, we continue to compute the second term as

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{B}_2 &= \Pr(|g_2|^2 \geq \delta|g_1|^2 + \varpi_2) \\ &= \int_0^\infty f_{|g_1|^2}(x) [1 - F_{|g_2|^2}(\delta x + \varpi_2)] dx \\ &= \sum_{d=0}^{m_{g_2}-1} \sum_{t=0}^d \binom{d}{t} \frac{\mu_{g_2}^d \mu_{g_1}^{m_{g_1}} \delta^t \varpi_2^{d-t} e^{-\mu_{g_2} \varpi_2}}{d! \Gamma(m_{g_1})} \int_0^\infty x^{m_{g_1}+t-1} e^{-x(\mu_{g_1} + \mu_{g_2} \delta)} dx.\end{aligned}\quad (21)$$

Based on [[17], (3.351.3)],  $\mathcal{B}_2$  is given by

$$\mathcal{B}_2 = \sum_{d=0}^{m_{g_2}-1} \sum_{t=0}^d \binom{d}{t} \frac{\mu_{g_2}^d \mu_{g_1}^{m_{g_1}} \delta^t \varpi_2^{d-t} \Gamma(m_{g_1} + t) e^{-\mu_{g_2} \varpi_2}}{d! \Gamma(m_{g_1}) (\mu_{g_1} + \mu_{g_2} \delta)^{m_{g_1}+t}}. \quad (22)$$

Substituting (22) and (20) into (19),  $\mathcal{P}_{x_2}$  is given by

$$\mathcal{P}_{x_2} = 1 - e^{-\mu_{h_2} \nu} \sum_{b=0}^{m_{h_2}-1} \sum_{d=0}^{m_{g_2}-1} \sum_{t=0}^d \binom{d}{t} \frac{\mu_{h_2}^b \nu^b \mu_{g_2}^d \mu_{g_1}^{m_{g_1}} \delta^t \varpi_2^{d-t} \Gamma(m_{g_1} + t) e^{-\mu_{g_2} \varpi_2}}{b! d! \Gamma(m_{g_1}) (\mu_{g_1} + \mu_{g_2} \delta)^{m_{g_1}+t}}. \quad (23)$$

Corresponding to formula (17) the asymptotic of  $\mathcal{P}_{x_2}^\infty$  is given by

$$\mathcal{P}_{x_2}^\infty = 1 - (1 - \mu_{h_2} \nu) \sum_{b=0}^{m_{h_2}-1} \sum_{d=0}^{m_{g_2}-1} \sum_{t=0}^d \binom{d}{t} \frac{\mu_{h_2}^b \nu^b \mu_{g_2}^d \mu_{g_1}^{m_{g_1}} \delta^t \varpi_2^{d-t} \Gamma(m_{g_1} + t) (1 - \mu_{g_2} \varpi_2)}{b! d! \Gamma(m_{g_1}) (\mu_{g_1} + \mu_{g_2} \delta)^{m_{g_1}+t}}. \quad (24)$$

## 4. NUMERICAL RESULTS

We set fading parameter  $m = m_{h_1} = m_{h_2} = m_{g_1} = m_{g_2} = 2$  and channel gains as  $\lambda = \lambda_{h_1} = \lambda_{h_2} = \lambda_{g_1} = \lambda_{g_2} = 1$ . The power allocation coefficients of NOMA's users are  $\varphi_1 = 0.1$  and  $\varphi_2 = 0.9$ . The target rates are  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  and they are set to be  $R_1 = R_2 = 0.5$ . The times of Monte Carlo simulation  $10^7$ . The height of UAV  $d_h = 300$  m. The distance between  $R_1 \rightarrow D$  and  $R_2 \rightarrow D$  are  $d_{R_1 D} = 200$  m and  $d_{R_2 D} = 100$  m, respectively.

Figure 2 shows outage performance versus transmit SNR. We consider four cases of  $m$ . As can be seen from such outage performance, asymptotic curves are very matched with exact curves. Signal  $x_2$  exhibits better outage probability compared with  $x_1$  since different power allocated to each signal. The simulation results are also very tight with the analytical results.  $m = 4$  is considered as the best case among these curves.

Figure 3 confirms that NOMA benefits to outage performance of signal  $x_2$  as it is better than OMA method. Figure 4 indicates the optimal outage for signal  $x_1$  and it happens at  $\varphi_1 = 0.25$ . Higher threshold SNR results in worse outage performance of two signals as observation from Figure 5.

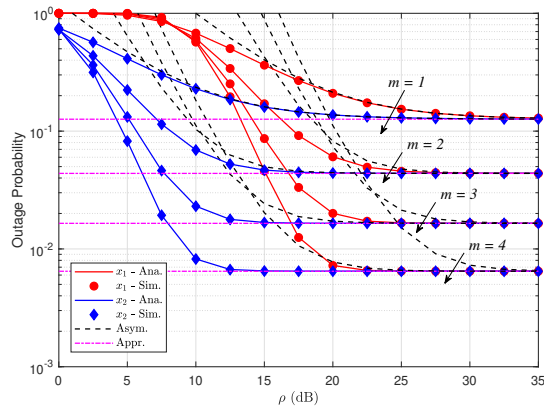


Figure 2. Outage performance of  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  versus transmit SNR

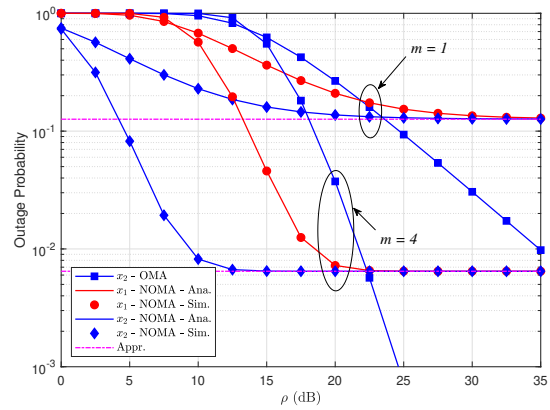


Figure 3. Comparison between OMA and NOMA

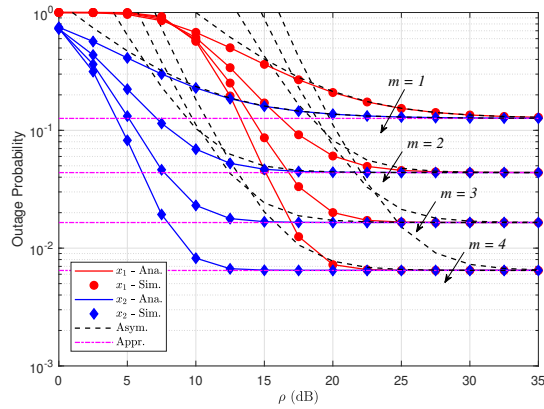


Figure 4. Outage performance versus  $\varphi_1$ , with  $\rho = 10dB$

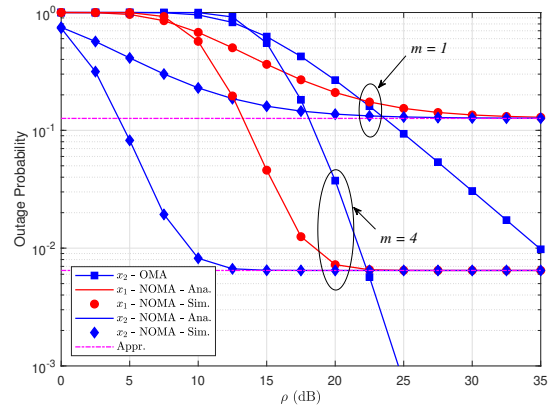


Figure 5. Outage performance versus threshold rates, with  $\varphi_1 = 0.05$ ,  $\varphi_2 = 1.95$  and  $\rho = 20dB$

## 5. CONCLUSION

The paper proposed IoT system relying UAV relay to enhance performance of destination. This technique effectively overcomes the large scale fading between the BS and far user. Moreover, the proposed NOMA strategy was typically applied for UAV relays and achieved acceptable outage performance. Meanwhile, the outage probability and throughput closed-form expressions were derived. The derivations and analysis results showed that the proposed multiple parameters joint consideration can effectively improve the system throughput and reduce the system outage probability.

## APPENDIX

By invoking (15) into (19), it can be expressed the outage probability as

$$OP_{U_1}^{DF} = \Pr \left( |h_{SR}|^2 < \frac{\gamma_{th1}(|h_{RU_1}|^2 + 1)}{(a_1 - \gamma_{th1}a_2)\rho|h_{RU_1}|^2} \right) \quad (25)$$

Based on probability density function (PDF) of  $|h_i|^2$  is given as  $f_{|h_i|^2}(x) = \lambda_{RU_1} e^{-\lambda_{RU_1}x}$ , it can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} OP_{U_1}^{DF} &= \int_0^\infty f_{|h_{RU_1}|^2}(x) \int_{\frac{\gamma_{th1}(x+1)}{(a_1 - \gamma_{th1}a_2)\rho}}^\infty f_{|h_{RU_1}|^2}(y) dx dy \\ &= \int_0^\infty \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\gamma_{th1}(x+1)}{(a_1 - \gamma_{th1}a_2)\rho}} \right) \lambda_{RU_1} e^{-\lambda_{RU_1}x} dx \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

Thus, based on [25, 3.324.1]  $OP_{U_1}^{DF}$  can be obtained as

$$\begin{aligned} OP_{U_1}^{DF} &= \int_0^\infty \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\gamma_{th1}(x+1)}{(a_1 - \gamma_{th1}a_2)\rho}} \right) \lambda_{RU_1} e^{-\lambda_{RU_1}x} dx \\ &= 1 - 2e^{-\frac{\lambda_{SR}\gamma_{th1}}{(a_1 - \gamma_{th1}a_2)\rho}} \sqrt{\frac{\gamma_{th1}\lambda_{SR}\lambda_{RU_1}}{(a_1 - \gamma_{th1}a_2)\rho}} K_1 \left( 2\sqrt{\frac{\gamma_{th1}\lambda_{RU_1}\lambda_{SR}}{(a_1 - \gamma_{th1}a_2)\rho}} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

It is end of the proof.

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