Outage Probability Analysis for the Multi-Carrier NOMA Downlink Relying on Statistical CSI

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Abstract-In this treatise, we derive tractable closed-form expressions for the outage probability of the single cell multicarrier non-orthogonal multiple access (MC-NOMA) downlink, where the transmitter side only has statistical CSI knowledge. In particular, we analyze the outage probability with respect to the total data rates (summed over all subcarriers), given a minimum target rate for the individual users. The calculation of outage probability for the distant user is challenging, since the total rate expression is given by the sum of logarithmic functions of the ratio between two shifted exponential random variables, which are dependent. In order to derive the closed-form outage probability expressions both for two subcarriers and for a general case of multiple subcarriers, efficient approximations are proposed. The probability density function (PDF) of the product of shifted exponential distributions can be determined for the near user by the Mellin transform and the generalized upper incomplete Fox's H function. Based on this PDF, the corresponding outage probability is presented. Finally, the accuracy of our outage analysis is verified by simulation results.

Index Terms—Outage probability, Non-orthogonal multiple access, MC-NOMA, Channel state information (CSI), Shifted exponential distribution, Mellin transform, Generalized upper incomplete Fox's H function

I. INTRODUCTION

Non-orthogonal multiple access (NOMA) has been recently introduced as a potential technique of improving the spectral efficiency for next generation systems beyond that of orthogonal multiple access (OMA) [1], [2]. As opposed to OMA schemes, NOMA is capable of supporting a large number of users via non-orthogonal resource allocation by the simultaneous exploitation of the time, frequency and code domains as well as multiplexing them at different power levels [3], [4], [5]. The superposition of signals is performed by ensuring that the inter-user interference can be successfully removed by applying successive interference cancellation (SIC) at the receiver. The authors of [4], [6], [7] introduced the concepts, challenges, applications and research trends of NOMA systems. The authors of [4] introduced the basics of NOMA,

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The achievable performance of NOMA systems significantly relies on the accuracy of the channel state information (CSI). Therefore, the outage probability of failing to support a minimum target rate is a critical performance metric. The outage analysis of NOMA has received considerable research attention both under the assumptions of only having statistical CSI¹ (e.g., [8]–[12]), imperfect CSI (e.g., [13], [14]), and also imperfect SIC (e.g., [15], [16]). These studies have been focused mainly on single-carrier NOMA systems. Hence, to solve this open problem, we focus on the outage analysis of the multi-carrier NOMA downlink in the face of only having statistical knowledge of the CSI available at the transmitter. Furthermore, having the exact knowledge of the instantaneous CSI at the transmitter constitutes a strong idealized simplifying assumption. Hence, the main motivation of this treatise is to analyze the outage probability w.r.t the data rates, (summed over all subcarriers) in the *multi-carrier* NOMA downlink under a more realistic model. The outage probability of multicarrier NOMA systems has been studied by ensuring that the outage probability associated with a certain minimum data rate of each user on each subcarrier does not exceed a certain tolerable maximum value. By contrast, in this work, we define and analyze the outage probability in terms of the total data rate of each user under the assumption that channel coding is employed and thus the decoding is performed after combining the signals gleaned from all subcarriers. Assuming that the forward error correction (FEC) codewords extend over a single block, the outage probability for a given rate is the probability that the mutual information of these parallel channels falls (sum rate here) below that rate [17]. In such a case, outage (or failure in decoding) would occur when the detection errors over different subcarriers cannot be identified and corrected, which is the case if the sum rate is lower than the target.

¹Statistical CSI represents the long-term channel state information, which means that only the distribution of the channel gain (including its type and its statistical properties) is known, but not the actual realization.

Moreover, we focus our attention on the case when only the CSI statistics are known at the transmitter and thus an outage event may happen when user k is unable to detect either its own message or the messages of the weaker users for SIC purposes.

A. Literature review

Previously, to explore the potential gains of applying NOMA, many contributions on NOMA systems assumed that perfect CSI knowledge is available at both the receiver and transmitter sides [3], [18]–[21]. The authors of [18] conceived resource allocation algorithm for full-duplex multicarrier NOMA (MC-NOMA) systems. As a further development, the authors of [19]-[21] investigated dynamic power allocation, optimal resource allocation (power allocation and user pairing) as well as distributed power control in a multicell NOMA system, respectively. However, having the exact knowledge of instantaneous CSI at the transmitter is an idealized simplifying assumption, since finite-delay, finiteaccuracy quantized feedback links must be used. Hence, a more realistic research trend has emerged, focusing on NOMA when only imperfect knowledge of the CSI is available. For example, the authors of [22] studied the power allocation problem of the NOMA downlink in the face of imperfect CSI, while the authors of [13] improved the energy efficiency of a downlink NOMA single-cell network by considering imperfect CSI. They assumed a channel estimation error model where the BS only knows the estimated channel gain and has a priori knowledge of the variance of the estimation error. In these scenarios, the outage probability is an important metric, which is widely used for performance analyses, especially when the communication channel is characterized by random parameters. The existing contributions exploring the outage analysis of NOMA mainly focus on single-carrier scenarios.

As for the single-carrier NOMA downlink, Ding et al. [23] first derived the outage probability for the downlink of a NOMA system in conjunction with the idealized simplifying assumption of perfect channel state information (CSI), assuming that all mobile users were uniformly distributed within a cell. This work provided a closed-form expression of the outage probability, under the limitation of a single-carrier case. Later Hou et al. [9] characterized the outage performance of the downlink in a NOMA system with perfect CSI and fixed power allocation for transmission over Nakagami-m fading channels. Again, this work is also limited to the perfect CSI scenario and single-carrier systems. Timotheous and Krikidis [24] studied the power allocation problem from the viewpoint of fairness under full CSI and average CSI knowledge by applying outage probability (OP) constraints. The effect of imperfect CSI and of second order statistics (SOS)-based CSI on the performance of the NOMA downlink was studied by Yang et al. [25]. By contrast, Shi et al. [26] investigated the outage performance of the downlink in a NOMA system with only statistical CSI knowledge at the transmitter. They derived the optimal power allocation factor in closed form and determined the optimal detection order to avoid excessive outage probabilities. Then Wang et al. [27] also analyzed the

outage performance of the downlink in a NOMA system with only statistical CSI knowledge at the transmitter. Yang *et al.* [28] derived the outage probability for the paired users of a dynamic power allocation based hybrid NOMA systems. Yue *et al.* [29] also investigated the outage performance of a unified NOMA framework by invoking stochastic geometry. Finally, Cui *et al.* [30] applied multiple input and multiple output (MIMO) techniques to a NOMA system and analysed the outage probability by considering both the channel's distribution information (CDI) and the channel estimation uncertainty.

As for the *single-carrier NOMA uplink*, its outage analysis was disseminated in [31]–[33] under statistical CSI, but the analysis was limited to at most three users. In [10], Liu *et al.* extended the outage analysis of the single-carrier NOMA uplink to an arbitrary number of users. Furthermore, Wang *et al.* [11] analyzed the outage probability of NOMA for independent but not identically distributed (*i.ni.d*) Rayleigh fading environments. A closed-form outage expression was derived for both the dynamic and the fixed detection order. Xia *et al.* [8] proposed an advanced multiuser SIC detector for the NOMA uplink and analyzed the outage performance of this scenario.

The NOMA techniques have evolved from single-carrier NOMA (SC-NOMA) to multi-carrier NOMA (MC-NOMA) [34]. In order to fully realize the potential of NOMA, efficient scheduling techniques are also needed. In conventional multicarrier systems, the total bandwidth is partitioned into multiple subcarriers and each subcarrier is allocated to a single user in order to avoid multiuser interference. Sun *et al.* [35] have demonstrated that the MC-NOMA provides an excellent system performance compared to the MC-OMA.

However, as for the *multi-carrier* NOMA downlink, there is paucity of research contributions focusing on its outage analysis. The current approach is to ensure that the outage probability associated with the given data rate of each user on each subcarrier does not exceed a certain value. For instance, Wei et al. [36] proposed a power-efficient resource allocation scheme for MC-NOMA relying on imperfect CSI, while Tweed et al. [16] studied outage constrained resource allocation in conjunction with imperfect SIC, but both used the outage per subcarrier. However, it is not practically attractive to have a specific outage probability for the data rate on each subcarrier, since the ultimate aim of MC-NOMA is to ensure achieving a specific total rate for each user. Hence, in this paper, we consider a more realistic MC-NOMA downlink system where the outage probability is defined in terms of the total data rate of each user averaged over all subcarriers being below a certain threshold. We also examine the outage performance under statistical CSI provision.

B. Contributions

The key novelty in our work is that of deriving closed-form expressions for the outage probability of *multi-carrier NOMA* downlink for an arbitrary number of users and subcarriers. Indeed, the outage probability relying on statistical properties has been studied before, but not by unveiling the intricacies of multi-carrier NOMA. To the best of our knowledge, this work is the first one to analyze outage in the MC-NOMA downlink, where the outage probability of decoding the transmission of user k at any receiver (at user k or other users closer to the BS) is defined based on the sum rate over all subcarriers as the probability that the transmission of user k cannot be decoded with negligible error probability. There are only a few studies on the OP analysis of MC-NOMA [16], [34], where the OP was defined as the probability of failing to satisfy the minimum required data rate of each user on each subcarrier. By contrast, the OP of each user is defined here as the probability of failing to detect its own message or the messages of the weaker users based on the total rate of an individual user over all subcarriers. As NOMA is more attractive for the case of two users per subcarrier [34], we first consider the case for two users at each subcarrier and analyse the outage probability of both the users who share multiple subcarriers using NOMA. Then, we extend the results to a more general case of an arbitrary number of users. Our main contributions are summarized as follows:

- 1) We analyze the OP of the far user of the *multi-carrier* NOMA downlink. The challenge is then to obtain the statistics required for the OP analysis, where the total rate expression is given by the sum of logarithmic functions of the ratio between two shifted exponential random variables, which are dependent. In order to derive a closedform solution, first we transform the sum of logarithmic functions into the product of the ratio between two shifted exponential random variables and then approximate the product by ignoring the high-order terms. The simulation results show that the approximation is quite tight, hence it was used for our subsequent derivations. Then, in the case of two subcarriers, we analytically calculate the PDF and CDF of the inverse shifted exponential random variables, and derive the corresponding OP expression. For the general case of an arbitrary number of subcarriers, the sum of inverse shifted exponential random variables may be accurately modelled by a Gamma distribution. Hence the corresponding closed-form expression is provided for the OP.
- 2) We also investigate the OP of the near user. We consider that an outage event may happen if the near user cannot detect either its own message or the message of the far user. Thus, first the probability of successfully detecting this user and the probability of successfully detecting the far user are studied. The former is characterized by the complementary CDF (CCDF) of the product of shifted exponential random variables in the case of successful SIC detection. To obtain this CCDF, by applying the Mellin transform [35], we determine the PDF of the product of shifted exponential random variables, which is represented in the form of the generalized upper incomplete Fox's H function. Subsequently, to derive the closed-form OP expression of the near user, we analyze the integral of the generalized upper incomplete Fox's H function. The Mathematica programming code is also provided for implementing the generalized upper incomplete Fox's H function. Our simulation results confirm

the accuracy of the OP expression derived.

- 3) We extend the OP analysis to the case of an arbitrary number of users in each subcarrier and derive the OP expression of each user.
- 4) We compare the OP of each user in our MC-NOMA system to that of an OMA system, which confirmed that our MC-NOMA indeed outperforms the corresponding OMA system.

C. Organisation

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section III presents the system model. In Section IV, we study the OP for the minimum rate of two individual users. We extend the OP for the general case of multiplexing an arbitrary number of users per subcarrier in Section V. Simulation results are presented in Section VI, followed by our conclusions in Section VII.

II. SYSTEM MODEL

Consider a downlink NOMA system supporting K singleantenna users by a single-antenna base station (BS). The channel's power gain between the BS and user k at subcarrier n is formulated by $h_{k,n} = \chi_{k,n} d_k^{-\lambda}$, where $\chi_{k,n}$ denotes the squared magnitude of channel coefficient that is assumed to undergo small scale fading, d_k is the distance between the kth user and the BS, k = 1, 2, ..., K, and λ is the path loss exponent. We assume Rayleigh fading channels and $\chi_{k,n}$ are i.i.d. exponential random variables with a mean of one, for every user and subcarrier. Without loss of generality, the distances are sorted as $d_1 > d_2 > ... > d_k > ... > d_K$, so that user 1 is the farthest user from the BS.

Successive interference cancellation (SIC) is utilized at the receiver side (users) to separate the signals. Explicitly, the SIC receiver first decodes the strongest signal by treating all other signals as interference. After this stage, the strongest signal is removed from the composite signal, and the second strongest signal is decoded and canceled and so on, until the weakest signal is decoded. Generally, the SIC detection order is based on the ordered channel gain information. Relying on statistical CSI knowledge, according to [37] and [38], the optimal detection order is determined based on the average channel gains of the users. If various users have different outage probability requirements, detection order should be based on the weighted channel gains as described in [37]. In our work, we consider identical requirement for outage probability, hence SIC detection order can be based on statistical knowledge of the channels at the transmitter, which in our case is based on the distances of users.

In this system, user 1 is the farther user from the BS, hence user 1 attempts coherent detection of its own signal without performing SIC, because the strongest signal has the lowest interference. For user k, where k > 1, at the first step of the SIC process, the signal of user 1 which is the strongest signal is detected and removed. After this, the signal of user 2 is detected and canceled. This iterative process is repeated until the signal of user k-1 is detected and canceled. At this point user k detects its own signal without the interference of users $1, 2, \ldots, k-1$.

Therefore, we can directly formulate the signal-tointerference-plus-noise ratio (SINR) for user k at subcarrier n as

$$\operatorname{SINR}_{k,n} = \begin{cases} \frac{\beta_{k,n}h_{k,n}}{\sum\limits_{j=k+1}^{K}\beta_{j,n}+\sigma^2} & k \in 1, 2, \dots K\\ \frac{\beta_{K,n}h_{K,n}}{\sigma^2} & k = K. \end{cases}$$
(1)

where $\beta_{k,n}$ is the transmit power allocation of user k at subcarrier n and σ^2 is the additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) power. In addition, we assume that the AWGN noise power is the same for all users assigned to each subcarrier.

III. OUTAGE PROBABILITY ANALYSIS FOR TWO USERS

We derive tractable OP expressions of the multi-carrier NOMA downlink when only the statistical knowledge of the CSI is available at the transmitter side. We assume user 1 is the far user while user 2 is closer to the BS.

Assuming perfect interference cancellation at the receiver side, based on (1), the data rate of each user in each subcarrier is expressed as

$$R_{1,n} = \log(1 + \frac{\beta_{1,n}h_{1,n}}{\sigma^2 + \beta_{2,n}h_{1,n}}), \quad R_{2,n} = \log(1 + \frac{\beta_{2,n}h_{2,n}}{\sigma^2})$$
(2)

Therefore, the total data rate of each user over all the shared subcarriers is expressed as

$$R_{1} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log(1 + \frac{\beta_{1,n}h_{1,n}}{\sigma^{2} + \beta_{2,n}h_{1,n}}),$$
(3)
$$R_{2} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log(1 + \frac{\beta_{2,n}h_{2,n}}{\sigma^{2}}).$$

A. Outage Probability of User 1

Again we define the OP of user 1 as the probability that the total rate of this user is less than a threshold. Consequently, the OP of user 1 over N subcarriers is

$$\operatorname{Pr}_{1,N}^{\operatorname{out}} = \operatorname{Pr}(R_1 \le r_1), \tag{4}$$

where r_1 denotes the target data rate of user 1.

Let us now reformulate the data rate of user 1 by introducing signal power, Rayleigh fading, and path loss coefficients, yielding:

$$R_{1} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log(1 + \frac{\beta_{1,n} d_{1}^{-\lambda} \chi_{1,n}}{\sigma^{2} + \beta_{2,n} d_{1}^{-\lambda} \chi_{1,n}})$$
(5)
$$= \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log(\frac{\sigma^{2} + (\beta_{1,n} + \beta_{2,n}) d_{1}^{-\lambda} \chi_{1,n}}{\sigma^{2} + \beta_{2,n} d_{1}^{-\lambda} \chi_{1,n}}).$$

Upon defining $A_n = (\beta_{1,n} + \beta_{2,n})d_1^{-\lambda}$ and $B_n = \beta_{2,n}d_1^{-\lambda}$, the data rate of user 1 is expressed as

$$R_1 = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log(\frac{\sigma^2 + A_n \chi_{1,n}}{\sigma^2 + B_n \chi_{1,n}}),$$
(6)

where $\chi_{1,n}$ follows an exponential distribution with a mean of one. Again, we aim for calculating the OP of user 1.

Based on (4) and (6), we rewrite the OP of user 1 as

$$\Pr_{1,N}^{\text{out}} = \Pr\left(\sum_{n=1}^{N} \log\left(\frac{\sigma^2 + A_n \chi_{1,n}}{\sigma^2 + B_n \chi_{1,n}}\right) \le r_1\right).$$
(7)

Upon defining $Z_n = \frac{A_n \chi_{1,n} + \sigma^2}{B_n \chi_{1,n} + \sigma^2}$, the OP can be expressed as

$$\operatorname{Pr}_{1,N}^{\operatorname{out}} = \operatorname{Pr}\left(\prod_{n=1}^{N} Z_n \le e^{r_1}\right).$$
(8)

To calculate (8), we have to find the distribution of $\prod_{n=1}^{N} Z_n$, i.e. the product of multiple ratios between two shifted exponential random variables, which are dependent. To derive a tractable expression for the PDF of this product, we propose a novel approximation method for accurately representing $\prod_{n=1}^{N} Z_n$. First, let us transform Z_n as follows:

$$Z_n = u_n - \frac{\sigma^2 m_n}{B_n \chi_{1,n} + \sigma^2} = m_n \left[\frac{u_n}{m_n} - \frac{\sigma^2}{B_n \chi_{1,n} + \sigma^2} \right],$$
(9)

where $u_n = \frac{A_n}{B_n}$ and $m_n = \frac{A_n}{B_n} - 1$. Hence, $\prod_{n=1}^N Z_n$ can be written as

$$\prod_{n=1}^{N} Z_n = \prod_{n=1}^{N} m_n \times \prod_{n=1}^{N} \left[\frac{u_n}{m_n} - \frac{\sigma^2}{B_n \chi_{1,n} + \sigma^2} \right].$$
 (10)

In (10), $\prod_{n=1}^{N} Z_n$ is represented as a product of binomials. As N increases, the product will result in higher-order terms related to the product of the $\frac{\sigma^2}{B_n\chi_{1,n}+\sigma^2}$ terms. This will increase the complexity of computations. Therefore, since $\frac{\sigma^2}{B_n\chi_{1,n}+\sigma^2}$ is smaller than one, we approximate $\prod_{n=1}^{N} Z_n$ by removing the higher-order terms, yielding

$$\prod_{n=1}^{N} Z_n \approx \prod_{n=1}^{N} u_n - \sum_{n=1}^{N} \left(\prod_{n' \neq n} u_{n'} \right) \frac{m_n \sigma^2}{B_n \chi_{1,n} + \sigma^2}.$$
 (11)

To confirm the accuracy of this approximation, we have compared the PDF and CDF of the approximated representation of $\prod_{n=1}^{N} Z_n$ in (11) to the original one in (10) under different settings². Figure 1 represents the PDF and CDF results for the cases of both two subcarriers and four subcarriers. It is apparent that the shape of histogram PDF and empirical CDF for the approximation coincides with that of the original ones. Hence, the new approximation method of the product of the ratios between two shifted exponential random variables is considered to be satisfactory for further analyses. Furthermore, we have investigated the sensitivity of the approximation to different parameters, such as $t = \frac{\beta_{1,n}}{\beta_{2,n}}$, $\rho = \frac{d_1}{d_2}$, SNR_{2,n} = $\frac{\beta_{2,n} d_2^{-\lambda}}{\sigma^2}$ for the case of four subcarriers. Figure 2 demonstrates the CDF results considering different values of t, ρ , SNR_{2,n} aiming to evaluate the accuracy of OP approximation under different cases. It is apparent that the approximation is accurate enough in all cases.

²Note by means of the properties of downlink NOMA system, the value of $B_n \leq A_n - B_n$, thus, $2B_n \leq A_n$ and $B_n \leq A_n$

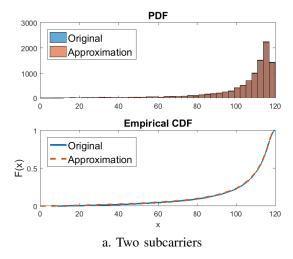
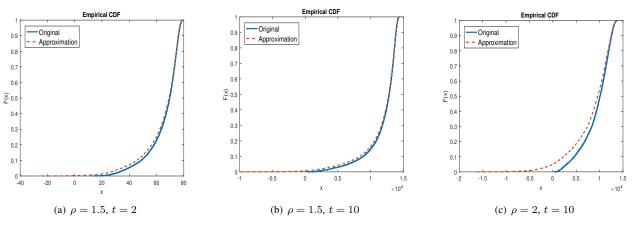


Fig. 1. The PDF and CDF ($\rho = 1.5, t = 2, SNR_{2,n} = 18dB$)



1500

1000

500

× 0.5

0

0

0 •

Original

Original

Approximation

Approximation

5000

5000

Fig. 2. The Empirical CDF (SNR_{2,n} = 18dB)

Having established accuracy of this approximation, we analyze the CDF and PDF of the approximated parameters. Let us define $Y_n = \left(\prod_{n' \neq n} u_{n'}\right) \frac{m_n \sigma^2}{B_n \chi_{1,n} + \sigma^2}$. Based on (8) and (11), the OP of user 1 becomes

$$Pr_{1,N}^{\text{out}} = \Pr\left(\prod_{n=1}^{N} u_n - \sum_{n=1}^{N} Y_n \le e^{r_1}\right)$$
(12)
=
$$\Pr\left(\prod_{n=1}^{N} u_n - e^{r_1} \le \sum_{n=1}^{N} Y_n\right).$$

To calculate the OP based on (12), first we derive the probability distribution of Y_n . Considering that $\prod_{n=1}^N u_n$ has a fixed value and $\chi_{1,n}$ obeys the exponential distribution, the CDF and PDF of Y_n can be easily calculated. Introducing a new variable $s_n = \left(\prod_{n' \neq n} u_{n'}\right) m_n$, we can write $Y_n = \frac{\sigma^2 s_n}{B_n \chi_{1,n} + \sigma^2}$. Therefore, the CDF of Y_n may be expressed as

$$F_{Y_n}(y_n) = \Pr\left(Y_n \le y_n\right) = \Pr\left(\frac{\sigma^2 s_n}{B_n \chi_{1,n} + \sigma^2} \le y_n\right) \quad (13)$$
$$= 1 - \Pr\left(\chi_{1,n} \le \frac{\sigma^2 \left(s_n - y_n\right)}{B_n y_n}\right)$$

$$= \begin{cases} e^{\frac{\sigma^{2}(y_{n}-s_{n})}{B_{n}y_{n}}}, & 0 \leq y_{n} \leq s_{n}, \\ 0, & y_{n} < 0, \\ 1, & y_{n} > s_{n}. \end{cases}$$

PDF

Empirical CDF

b. Four subcarriers

10000

10000

15000

15000

Consequently, we can calculate the PDF of Y_n as

$$f_{Y_n}(y_n) = \begin{cases} e^{\frac{\sigma^2(y_n - s_n)}{B_n y_n}} \times \frac{\sigma^2 s_n}{B_n y_n^2}, & 0 \le y_n \le s_n, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
(14)

Next, based on (13) and (14), we will discuss the OP of different number of subcarriers.

1) The Case of Two Subcarriers: According to (12), for N = 2, we have

$$Pr_{1,2}^{out} = 1 - Pr(Y_1 + Y_2 \le C), \tag{15}$$

where $C = u_1 u_2 - e^{r_1}$. To calculate the OP of user 1 for the case of N = 2 according to (15), we proceed by deriving the probability of $Pr(Y_1 + Y_2 \le C)$ (based on (13) and (14)) and proceed by defining:

$$\Pr(Y_2 \le C - y_1) = \begin{cases} e^{\frac{\sigma^2(C - y_1 - s_2)}{(C - y_1)B_2}}, & C - s_2 \le y_1 \le C, \\ 0, & y_1 > C, \\ 1, & y_1 < C - s_2. \end{cases}$$
(16)

Subsequently, we can represent $Pr(Y_1 + Y_2 \leq C)$ based on (16) as

$$\Pr(Y_1 + Y_2 \le C) = \int_{-\infty}^{C-s_2} f_{Y_1}(y_1) dy_1 \qquad (17)$$
$$+ \int_{C-s_2}^{C} e^{\frac{\sigma^2(C-y_1-s_2)}{(C-y_1)B_2}} f_{Y_1}(y_1) dy_1.$$

Thus, the probability of $\Pr(Y_1 + Y_2 \leq C)$ consists of two integrations. The upper limit of $\int_{-\infty}^{C-s_2} f_{Y_1}(y_1) dy_1$ is $C-s_2$, and $\int_{C-s_2}^{C} e^{\frac{\sigma^2(C-y_1-s_2)}{(C-y_1)B_2}} f_{Y_1}(y_1) dy_1$ is defined over a closed interval $[C-s_2, C]$. In the next step, we determine the probability of $Pr(Y_1 + Y_2 \le C)$ by discussing different ranges of C compared to s_1 and s_2 .

- (a) For C < 0, we have $Pr(Y_1 + Y_2 \le C) = 0$, because the probability of a positive value being smaller than a negative value is equal to zero.
- (b) For $0 \le C \le s_2$, we have $\Pr(Y_1 + Y_2 \le C) = \int_0^{\min(C,s_1)} e^{\frac{\sigma^2(C-y_1-s_2)}{(C-y_1)B_2}} f_{Y_1}(y_1) dy_1$ (c) For $s_2 < C \le s_1 + s_2$, we have $\Pr(Y_1 + Y_2 \le C) = \int_0^{C-s_2} f_{Y_1}(y_1) dy_1 + \int_{C-s_2}^{\min(C,s_1)} e^{\frac{\sigma^2(C-y_1-s_2)}{(C-y_1)B_2}} f_{Y_1}(y_1) dy_1$ (d) For $C > s_1 + s_2$, we have $\Pr(Y_1 + Y_2 \le C) = 1$.

Let us now summarize all the conditions as

$$\Pr(Y_{1} + Y_{2} \leq C) =$$

$$\begin{cases}
0, & C < 0, \\
\int_{0}^{\min(C,s_{1})} e^{\frac{\sigma^{2}(C-y_{1}-s_{2})}{(C-y_{1})B_{2}}} f_{Y_{1}}(y_{1}) dy_{1}, & 0 \leq C \leq s_{2}, \\
\int_{0}^{C-s_{2}} f_{Y_{1}}(y_{1}) dy_{1} + \\
\int_{C-s_{2}}^{\min(C,s_{1})} e^{\frac{\sigma^{2}(C-y_{1}-s_{2})}{(C-y_{1})B_{2}}} f_{Y_{1}}(y_{1}) dy_{1}, & s_{2} < C \leq s_{1} + s_{2}, \\
1, & C > s_{1} + s_{2}.
\end{cases}$$
(19)

According to (18), to derive an expression for $Pr(Y_1 +$ $Y_2 \leq C$) and hence for the OP, we have to calculate $\int e^{\frac{-C}{C} - y_1 - s_2} \int f_{Y_1}(y_1) dy_1.$ Hence, we discuss the derivation of this integral. First, substituting $f_{Y_1}(y_1)$ based on (14) into $\int e^{\frac{\sigma^2(C-y_1-s_2)}{(C-y_1)B_2}} f_{Y_1}(y_1) dy_1$, we have

$$\int e^{\frac{\sigma^2(C-y_1-s_2)}{(C-y_1)B_2}} f_{Y_1}(y_1) dy_1 =$$

$$e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{B_1}} e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{B_2}} \frac{\sigma^2 s_1}{B_1} \int \frac{1}{y_1^2} e^{\frac{-\sigma^2 s_2}{B_2} \frac{1}{C-y_1}} e^{\frac{-\sigma^2 s_1}{B_1} \frac{1}{y_1}} dy_1.$$
(20)

According to (20), we only have to calculate the integral of $\int y_1^{-2} e^{\frac{-a_2}{C-y_1}} e^{\frac{-a_1}{y_1}} dy_1$ where $a_1 = \frac{\sigma^2 s_1}{B_1}$ and $a_2 = \frac{\sigma^2 s_2}{B_2}$. Since the integral cannot be solved analytically, we evaluate it by numerical integration in Matlab. Therefore, we can express the OP as

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr_{1,2}^{\text{out}} &= & (21) \\ \begin{cases} 1, & C < 0 \\ 1 - e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{B_1}} e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{B_2}} \frac{\sigma^2 s_1}{B_1} I\left(\min(C,s_1)\right), & 0 \leq C \leq s_2 \\ 1 - e^{\frac{\sigma^2(C-s_2-s_1)}{B_1(C-s_2)}} - e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{B_1}} e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{B_2}} \frac{\sigma^2 s_1}{B_1} I\left(\min(C,s_1)\right) \\ - e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{B_1}} e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{B_2}} \frac{\sigma^2 s_1}{B_1} I\left(C-s_2\right), & s_2 \leq C \leq s_1+s_2 \\ 0, & C > s_1+s_2, \end{aligned}$$

where we have $I(t) = \int_0^t y_1^{-2} e^{\frac{-a_2}{C-y_1}} e^{\frac{-a_1}{y_1}} dy_1.$

2) General Case of N Subcarriers: Calculating the OP for a larger number of subcarriers using the same technique as for two subcarriers to derive $\Pr\left(\prod_{n=1}^{N} u_n - e^{r_1} \le \sum_{n=1}^{N} Y_n\right)$ would be challenging, due to several numerical integrations involved. Therefore, for the general case, by using meansquared error curve fitting for different numbers of subcarriers, the Gamma distribution was found to have a good agreement with our simulation results in the model $\sum_{n=1}^{N} Y_n$.

Figure 3 confirms that although a distribution fitting test would not provide a high confidence level, $\sum_{n=1}^{N} Y_n$ can be reasonably approximated by a Gamma distributed random variable, $\Upsilon_n(k,\theta)$, whose shape and scale parameters may be calculated based on the mean value and variance of $\sum_{n=1}^{N} Y_n$ as follows:

$$\theta = \frac{\operatorname{Var}\left[\sum_{n=1}^{N} Y_{n}\right]}{\operatorname{E}\left[\sum_{n=1}^{N} Y_{n}\right]}, \quad \kappa = \frac{\operatorname{E}\left[\sum_{n=1}^{N} Y_{n}\right]}{\theta}.$$
 (22)

In order to obtain the required statistics (i.e., κ and θ), we will calculate the mean and variance of $\sum_{n=1}^{N} Y_n$, respectively. Specifically, the mean can be written as

$$E\left[\sum_{n=1}^{N} Y_{n}\right] = \sum_{n=1}^{N} E[Y_{n}] = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \left(\int_{0}^{s_{n}} y_{n} f_{Y_{n}}(y_{n}) dy_{n}\right).$$
(23)

Subsequently, based on (14), we have

$$E\left[\sum_{n=1}^{N} Y_n\right] = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \left(\frac{\sigma^2 s_n}{B_n} e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{B_n}} \int_0^{s_n} \frac{1}{y_n} e^{\frac{-\sigma^2 s_n}{B_n y_n}} dy_n\right) \quad (24)$$
$$= \sum_{n=1}^{N} \left(\frac{\sigma^2 s_n}{B_n} e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{B_n}} E_1\left(\frac{\sigma^2}{B_n}\right)\right),$$

where E_1 represents the exponential integral calculation. Subsequently, we can write the variance as

$$\operatorname{Var}\left[\sum_{n=1}^{N} Y_{n}\right] = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \operatorname{Var}[Y_{n}] \qquad (25)$$
$$= \sum_{n=1}^{N} \left(\int y_{n}^{2} f(y_{n}) dy_{n} - \operatorname{E}[Y_{n}]^{2}\right),$$

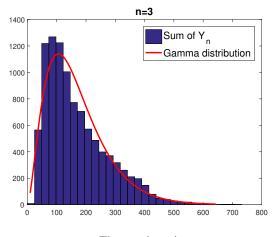
where we have $E[Y_n] = \frac{\sigma^2 s_n}{B_n} e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{B_n}} E_1\left(\frac{\sigma^2}{B_n}\right)$. Consequently, based on (14), we have

$$\operatorname{Var}\left[\sum_{n=1}^{N} Y_{n}\right] =$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{N} \left(\left(\frac{\sigma^{2} s_{n}}{B_{n}}\right)^{2} \left(\frac{B_{n}}{\sigma} - e^{\frac{\sigma^{2}}{B_{n}}} E_{1}\left(\frac{\sigma^{2}}{B_{n}}\right) - e^{\frac{2\sigma^{2}}{B_{n}}} E_{1}^{2}\left(\frac{\sigma^{2}}{B_{n}}\right) \right) \right)$$
By arbitrating (24) and (26) into (22), the required statistics

By substituting (24) and (26) into (22), the required statistics of the Gamma distributed random variable are obtained and the OP can be written as

$$Pr_{1,N}^{\text{out}} = \Pr\left(\prod_{n=1}^{N} u_n - e^{r_1} \le \Upsilon_n(\kappa, \theta)\right)$$
(27)
= 1 - Pr(\U03c6 \u03c6 (\u03c6, \u03c6) \u03c6 C_N),



a. Three subcarriers

Fig. 3. The approximation for the sum of Y_n

where we have $C_N = \prod_{n=1}^N u_n - e^{r_1}$. Finally, the OP is calculated as

$$Pr_{1,N}^{\text{out}} = 1 - F_{\Upsilon_n}(C_N)$$

$$= 1 - \frac{1}{\Gamma(\kappa)} \gamma\left(\kappa, \frac{C_N}{\theta}\right),$$
(28)

where $\gamma\left(\kappa, \frac{C_N}{\theta}\right) = \int_0^{\frac{C_n}{\theta}} t^{\kappa-1} e^{-t} dt$ is the lower incomplete Gamma function.

B. Outage Probability of User 2

In this subsection, we analyze the OP of user 2. We define the outage expression of user 2 as

$$\operatorname{Pr}_{2,N}^{\operatorname{out}} = 1 - \operatorname{Pr}_{2,N}^{\operatorname{suc}} \times \operatorname{Pr}_{1 \to 2,N}^{\operatorname{suc}}.$$
(29)

where $\Pr_{2,N}^{
m suc} = \Pr(R_2 > r_2)$ represents the successful probability of user 2 conditioned on successful SIC of user 1's signal and $\Pr_{1\to 2,N}^{\text{suc}} = \Pr(R_{1\to 2,N} > r_{1\to 2,N})$ denotes the probability of the success event of user 2 detecting the message of user 1. Therefore, in order to calculate the outage expression of user 2, we first need to derive $Pr_{2,N}^{suc}$ and $Pr_{1\rightarrow 2,N}^{suc}$.

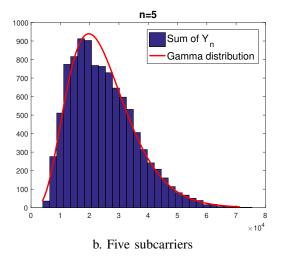
First, to derive $Pr_{2,N}^{suc}$, we represent it as

$$\Pr_{2,N}^{\text{suc}} = \Pr\left(\sum_{n=1}^{N} \log(1 + \frac{\beta_{2,n}h_{2,n}}{\sigma^2}) > r_2\right)$$
(30)
$$= \Pr\left(\prod_{n=1}^{N} (1 + \frac{\beta_{2,n}d_2^{-\lambda}\chi_{2,n}}{\sigma^2}) > e^{r_2}\right).$$

we have:

$$\operatorname{Pr}_{2,N}^{\operatorname{suc}} = \operatorname{Pr}\left(\prod_{n=1}^{N} W_n > e^{r_2}\right).$$
(31)

In order to calculate $Pr_{2,N}^{suc}$, we first determine the probability distribution of $W = \prod_{n=1}^{N} W_n$. Since $\chi_{2,n}$ has an exponential



distribution and l_n has a fixed value, W_n is a shifted exponential random variable. According to [39], the PDF of a shifted exponential random variables is defined as $f(x) = \gamma e^{-\gamma(x-\alpha)}$ for $\alpha > 0$, where γ is a rate parameter and α is a shift parameter.

Since W_n is a shifted exponential random variable with $\gamma_n = \frac{1}{l_n}$ and $\alpha_n = 1$, the PDF of W_n given by $f_{W_n}(w_n) =$ $\frac{1}{l_n}e^{\frac{1}{l_n}(w_n-1)}$. The Mellin transform [40] of W_n is defined as

$$\mathcal{M}_{W_n}\{f_{W_n}(w_n)|s\} = \int_0^\infty w_n^{s-1} f_{W_n}(w_n) dx_n \qquad (32)$$
$$= e^{1/l_n} l_n^{s-1} \Gamma(s, 1/l_n),$$

where $\Gamma(s, 1/l_n) = \int_{1/l_n}^{\infty} t^{s-1} e^{-t} dt$ is the upper incomplete Gamma function. Based on the inherent property of the Mellin transform, namely that the Mellin transform of the product of independent random variables can be expressed as the product of the individual Mellin transforms, we arrive at:

$$\mathcal{M}_W\{f_W(w)|s\} = \prod_{n=1}^N \mathcal{M}_{W_n}\{f_{W_n}(w_n)|s\}.$$
 (33)

Consequently, based on (32), the Mellin transform of W = $\prod_{n=1}^{N} W_n$ will be

$$\mathcal{M}_{W}\{f_{W}(w)|s\} = \prod_{n=1}^{N} \left(e^{1/l_{n}} l_{n}^{s-1} \Gamma(s, 1/l_{n}) \right)$$
(34)
$$= K_{N} C_{N}^{s-1} \prod_{n=1}^{N} \Gamma(s, 1/l_{n}),$$

where $R_2 = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log(1 + \frac{\beta_{2,n}h_{2,n}}{\sigma^2})$ is the achievable rate of user 2, conditioned on the successful SIC of user 1's signal. Let us now define $l_n = \frac{\beta_{2,n}d_2^{-\lambda}}{\sigma^2}$ and $W_n = 1 + l_n\chi_{2,n}$, then the corresponding PDF of W is calculated by integrating $M_n = (f_n - (w)|_{r_n})$ $\mathcal{M}_W\{f_W(w)|s\}$ as

$$f_W(w) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \mathcal{M}_W\{f_W(w)|s\} w^{-s} ds \qquad (35)$$
$$= \frac{K_N}{C_N} \mathcal{H}_{0,N}^{N,0} \left[\frac{w}{C_N} \Big|_{(0,1,1/l_1),\dots,(0,1,1/l_N)}^{-----} \right],$$

where $\prod_{n=1}^{N} \alpha_n < w < \infty$, and $H_{p,q}^{m,n}[r]$ represents the generalized upper incomplete Fox's H function [41]. This function is defined as

$$H_{p,q}^{m,n}[r] \triangleq H_{p,q}^{m,n} \left[r \left| \begin{array}{c} (a_i, \alpha_i, A_i)_{1,p} \\ (b_j, \beta_j, B_j)_{1,q} \end{array} \right]$$

$$\triangleq H_{p,q}^{m,n} \left[r \left| \begin{array}{c} (a_1, \alpha_1, A_1), \dots, (a_p, \alpha_p, A_p) \\ (b_1 \beta_1, B_1), \dots, (b_q \beta_q, B_q) \end{array} \right],$$
(36)

where m, n, p and q are integers such that $0 \le m \le q$, $0 \le n \le p, a_i, b_j \in \mathbb{C}$ where \mathbb{C} is the field of complex number, and α_i, A_i, β_j and $B_j \in \mathbb{R}^+$ $(1 \le i \le p, 1 \le j \le q)$ where \mathbb{R}^+ is the set of positive real numbers. Fox defined the H-function in his celebrated studies of symmetrical Fourier kernel as the Mellin-Barnes type integral [42] as follows

$$\mathcal{H}_{p,q}^{m,n}[r] = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \mathcal{M}_{p,q}^{m,n}[s] r^{-s} ds, \qquad (37)$$

where we have:

$$\mathcal{M}_{p,q}^{m,n}[s] = \tag{38}$$

$$\frac{\prod_{j=1}^{m} \Gamma(b_j + \beta_j s, B_j) \prod_{i=1}^{n} \Gamma(1 - a_i - \alpha_i s, A_i)}{\prod_{n+1}^{p} \Gamma(a_i + \alpha_i s, A_i) \prod_{j=m+1}^{q} \Gamma(1 - b_j - \beta_j s, B_j)},$$

while C is a suitable contour of Barnes type [42] such that the poles of $\Gamma(b_j + \beta_j s, B_j), j = 1, \ldots, m$ lie on the right hand side of the contour and those of $\Gamma(1 - a_i - \alpha_i s, A_i), i =$ $1, \ldots, n$ lie on the left hand side of the contour. Furthermore, the contour C runs from $c - i\infty$ to $c + i\infty$, so that we have: (a) $s_b = (-b_j - k)/\beta_j$ $(j = 1, \ldots, m; k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots)$ (b) $s_a = (1 - a_i + k)/\alpha_i$ $(i = 1, \ldots, n; k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots)$.

Therefore, the value of C is chosen between s_b and s_a . Our objective is to find the probability of success event for user 2. According to (31), we have

$$\Pr_{2,N}^{\text{suc}} = \Pr(W > e^{r_2}) = \int_{e^{r_2}}^{\infty} f_W(w) dw.$$
(39)

Subsequently, based on $f_W(w)$ in (35), we have

$$\Pr_{2,N}^{\text{suc}} = 1 - \frac{K_N}{C_N} \int_0^{e^{r_2}} \mathcal{H}_{0,N}^{N,0} \left[\frac{w}{C_N} |_{(0,1,1/l_1),\dots,(0,1,1/l_N)}^{----} \right] dw.$$
(40)

The difficulty in calculating this probability is in the integration of Fox's H function, which is relegated to Appendix A. Finally, based on (64), the corresponding probability of success for user 2 may be expressed as:

$$Pr_{2,N}^{\text{suc}} = (41)$$

$$1 - K_N \left(\mathcal{H}_{N+1,1}^{0,N+1} \left[\frac{e^{r_2}}{C_N} \Big|_{(0,1,0),(1,1,1/l_1),\dots,(1,1,1/l_N)}^{(1,1,0)} \right] \right).$$

In addition, to derive the OP of user 2, it is necessary to calculate the probability of the success event of user 2 detecting the message of user 1, the corresponding probability is defined as $\Pr_{1\to 2,N}^{\text{suc}} = \Pr(R_{1\to 2} > r_{1\to 2})$, where $R_{1\to 2} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log\left(1 + \frac{\beta_{1,n}h_{2,n}}{\sigma^2 + \beta_{2,n}h_{2,n}}\right)$ represents the achievable rate of detecting user 1's message at user 2 and $r_{1\to 2}$ is the target rate. By applying the same analysis method for OP of user 1, the success probability for the case of two subcarriers can be expressed as (42), where $\tilde{B}_1 = \beta_{2,n}d_2^{-\lambda}$ and we have $\tilde{I}(t) = \int_0^t y_1^{-2}e^{\frac{-\alpha_2}{C-y_1}}e^{\frac{-\alpha_1}{y_1}} dy_1$. For the case of N subcarriers, this success probability will be $\Pr_{1\to 2,N}^{\text{suc}} = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\tilde{k})}\gamma\left(\tilde{k},\frac{\tilde{C}_n}{\tilde{\theta}}\right)$.

IV. OUTAGE PROBABILITY ANALYSIS FOR AN ARBITRARY NUMBER OF USERS

In this section, we extend the OP analysis for the general case of multiplexing an arbitrary number of users per subcarrier. Let us assume that we have K users in this system and the detection order is based on the distance from the base station to the users, $d_1 > d_2 > \cdots > d_k > \cdots > d_K$. Thus, the total data rate of each user over all the shared subcarriers can be expressed as

$$R_{k} = (43)$$

$$\begin{cases} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log \left(1 + \frac{\beta_{k,n}h_{k,n}}{\sigma^{2} + \sum_{j=k+1}^{K} \beta_{j,n}h_{k,n}} \right), & k \in \{1, 2, .., K-1\} \\ \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log \left(1 + \frac{\beta_{K,n}h_{K,n}}{\sigma^{2}} \right), & k = K. \end{cases}$$

Each subcarrier can be allocated to K users. When relying on a fixed power allocation method, the transmit power allocations of different users will follow $\beta_{1,n} > \beta_{2,n} > \cdots > \beta_{K,n}$. Hence, the outage probability of user 1 (the farthest user) over N subcarriers is defined as

$$\Pr_{1,N}^{\text{out}} = \Pr(R_1 \le r_1)$$

$$= \Pr\left(\sum_{n=1}^N \log\left(1 + \frac{\beta_{1,n}h_{1,n}}{\sigma^2 + \sum_{j=2}^K \beta_{j,n}h_{1,n}}\right) \le r_1\right).$$
(44)

Let us now reformulate the data rate of user 1 by introducing signal power, Rayleigh fading, and path loss coefficients, yielding:

$$R_{1} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log \left(1 + \frac{\beta_{1,n}h_{1,n}}{\sigma^{2} + \sum_{j=2}^{K}\beta_{j,n}h_{1,n}} \right)$$
(45)
$$= \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log \left(\frac{\sigma^{2} + \left(\beta_{1,n} + \sum_{j=2}^{K}\beta_{j,n}\right) d_{1}^{-\lambda}\chi_{1,n}}{\sigma^{2} + \sum_{j=2}^{K}\beta_{j,n}d_{1}^{-\lambda}\chi_{1,n}} \right).$$

Upon defining $A_n^1 = (\beta_{1,n} + \sum_{j=2}^K \beta_{j,n}) d_1^{-\lambda}$ and $B_n^1 = \sum_{i=2}^K \beta_{j,n} d_1^{-\lambda}$, the data rate of user 1 is expressed as

$$R_1 = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log(\frac{\sigma^2 + A_n^1 \chi_{1,n}}{\sigma^2 + B_n^1 \chi_{1,n}}),$$

where $\chi_{1,n}$ follows an exponential distribution with a mean of one. Comparing the expression of the achievable data rate of user 1 in the case of K users to the case of two users (i.e., (6)), it is clear that it has a similar form, except that the parameters of A_n^1 and B_n^1 hold different values. Therefore, the derivation of the OP expressions of user 1 over two or N subcarriers for the case of K users will follow the same steps (i.e., (7)-(20) & (21)-(27)) as that of the case of two users.

For user k, when 1 < k < K, to analyse the outage probability, it is necessary to calculate the success probability of the event of user k detecting both its own message as well as the message of users who are farther from user k. In other words, the corresponding outage probability of user k can be obtained as

$$\operatorname{Pr}_{k,N}^{\operatorname{out}} = 1 - \operatorname{Pr}_{k,N}^{\operatorname{suc}} \times \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} \operatorname{Pr}_{j \to k,N}^{\operatorname{suc}},$$
(46)

$$\Pr_{1\to2,2}^{\text{suc}} = \begin{cases} 0, & \tilde{C} < 0\\ e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{B_1}} e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{B_2}} \frac{\sigma^2 \tilde{s}_1}{\tilde{B}_1} I\left(\min(\tilde{C}, \tilde{s}_1)\right), & 0 \le \tilde{C} \le \tilde{s}_2\\ e^{\frac{\sigma^2(\tilde{C}-\tilde{s}_2-\tilde{s}_1)}{\tilde{B}_1(C-s_2)}} - e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{B_1}} e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{B_2}} \frac{\sigma^2 s_1}{\tilde{B}_1} \left(\tilde{I}\left(\min(\tilde{C}, \tilde{s}_1)\right) - \tilde{I}\left(\tilde{C}-\tilde{s}_2\right)\right), & \tilde{s}_2 \le \tilde{C} \le \tilde{s}_1 + \tilde{s}_2\\ 1, & \tilde{C} > \tilde{s}_1 + \tilde{s}_2, \end{cases}$$
(42)

where $Pr_{k,N}^{suc}$ is given as

$$\Pr_{k,N}^{\operatorname{suc}} = \Pr(R_k > r_k).$$

The rate of user k can be written as $R_k = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log(\frac{\sigma^2 + A_n^k \chi_{1,n}}{\sigma^2 + B_n^k \chi_{1,n}})$

where $A_n^k = \left(\beta_{k,n} + \sum_{j=k+1}^K \beta_{j,n}\right) d_k^{n-1}$ and $B_n^k = K$

 $\sum_{j=k+1}^{K} \beta_{j,n} d_k^{-\lambda}$. Moreover, $\Pr_{j \to k,N}^{\text{suc}}$ represents the success probability of the event of user k detecting the message of user j < k who is farther away from user k as

$$\Pr_{j \to k, N}^{\text{suc}} = \Pr(R_{j \to k} > r_{j \to k}),$$

where the achievable rate of user k detecting the message of user j is

$$R_{j \to k} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log \left(1 + \frac{\beta_{j,n} h_{k,n}}{\sigma^2 + \sum_{i=j+1}^{K} \beta_{i,n} h_{k,n}} \right).$$

This rate can be rewritten as $R_{j\to k} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log(\frac{\sigma^2 + A_n^{j\to k}\chi_{1,n}}{\sigma^2 + B_n^{j\to k}\chi_{1,n}})$ where $A_n^{j\to k} = \left(\beta_{j,n} + \sum_{i=j+1}^{K} \beta_{i,n}\right) d_k^{-\lambda}$ and $B_n^{j\to k} = \sum_{\substack{i=j+1\\i=j+1}}^{K} \beta_{i,n} d_k^{-\lambda}$. Therefore, the same approach as in (7)-(20) & (21)-(27) can be applied for deriving the closed-form expressions of $\Pr_{j\to k,N}^{\text{suc}}$ since it follows the same form as in (6).

The outage probability of user K is obtained as

$$\operatorname{Pr}_{K,N}^{\operatorname{out}} = 1 - \operatorname{Pr}_{K,N}^{\operatorname{suc}} \times \prod_{j=1}^{K-1} \operatorname{Pr}_{j \to K,N}^{\operatorname{suc}},$$
(47)

The success probability of user K detecting the messages of other users can be derived by adopting the same method as for the case of user k when 1 < k < K. What is different however, is the analysis of $Pr_{K,N}^{suc}$, which is expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr_{K,N}^{\text{suc}} &= \Pr(R_K > r_K) \end{aligned} (48) \\ &= \Pr\left(\sum_{n=1}^N \log\left(1 + \frac{\beta_{K,n} d_K^{-\lambda} \chi_{K,n}}{\sigma^2}\right) > r_K\right) \\ &= \Pr\left(\prod_{n=1}^N \left(1 + \frac{\beta_{K,n} d_k^{-\lambda} \chi_{K,n}}{\sigma^2}\right) > e^{r_K}\right), \end{aligned}$$

The achievable rate of user K is given by the sum of the logarithm of shifted exponential random variables. Hence, we can apply the generalized upper incomplete Fox's H function

to obtain the success event of user K, as seen in steps (29)-(40). Here, we have $\hat{l}_n = \frac{\beta_{K,n} d_K^{-\lambda}}{\sigma^2}$, $\hat{K}_N = \prod_{n=1}^N e^{1/\hat{l}_n}$ and $\hat{C}_N = \prod_{n=1}^N \hat{l}_n$. Therefore,

$$\Pr_{K,N}^{\text{suc}} = \Pr(R_K > r_K)$$

$$= 1 - \hat{K}_N \left(\mathcal{H}_{N+1,1}^{0,N+1} \left[\frac{e^{r_k}}{\hat{C}_N} \Big|_{(0,1,0),(1,1,1/\hat{l}_1),\dots,(1,1,1/\hat{l}_N)}^{(1,1,1/\hat{l}_1)} \right] \right).$$
(49)

V. SIMULATION RESULTS

We present several simulation results for the OP for the case of two users and three users. In the simulation results, generally, the SNR of User K (the user closest to the BS) is treated as a unified benchmark $\text{SNR}_{K,n} = \frac{\beta_{K,n} d_K^{-\lambda}}{\sigma^2}$. We assume that both the distance and power changes follow the same scale, i.e., the distance ratio variable is defined as $\rho = \frac{d_1}{d_2} = \cdots = \frac{d_{K-1}}{d_K}$, and the power ratio coefficient of $t = \frac{\beta_{1,n}}{\beta_{2,n}} = \cdots = \frac{\beta_{K-1,n}}{\beta_{K,n}}$. Therefore, the average received SNR of user k can be formulated as

$$SNR_{k,n} = \frac{\beta_{k,n} d_k^{-\lambda}}{\sigma^2}$$

$$= t^{K-k} \times \left(\rho^{K-k}\right)^{-\lambda} \times SNR_{K,n}, \quad k = 1, \dots K-1$$
(50)

For the case of two users, we have provided numerical results for both users to validate the accuracy of the expressions derived. The corresponding data rate of user 2 can be written as $R_2 = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log(1+\chi_{2,n}\text{SNR}_{2,n})$. In order to guarantee that SIC is successful, more transmission power is needed to the far user that experiences the worst-case channel condition [43]. Hence, we only explore the power ratio coefficients which are larger than one, i.e., $t = \frac{\beta_{1,n}}{\beta_{2,n}} > 1$.

Hence, the data rate for user 1 can be written as

$$R_{1} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log(\frac{\sigma^{2} + (\beta_{1,n} + \beta_{2,n})d_{1}^{-\lambda}\chi_{1,n}}{\sigma^{2} + \beta_{2,n}d_{1}^{-\lambda}\chi_{1,n}})$$
(51)
$$= \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log(\frac{\sigma^{2} + (t+1)\mathrm{SNR}_{2,n}\sigma^{2}\rho^{-\lambda}\chi_{1,n}}{\sigma^{2} + \mathrm{SNR}_{2,n}\sigma^{2}\rho^{-\lambda}\chi_{1,n}}),$$

where the corresponding average received SNR of user 1 at subcarrier *n* is defined as $\text{SNR}_{1,n} = \frac{\beta_{1,n}d_1^{-\lambda}}{\sigma^2} = t \times \rho^{-\lambda} \times \text{SNR}_{2,n}$. As expected, when ρ increases, the data rate of user 1 decreases and the corresponding OP increases. Without loss of generality, in our simulations, we assume that each user has the same power level over the different subcarriers. In the following, we analyze the OP of user 1 and user 2, respectively.

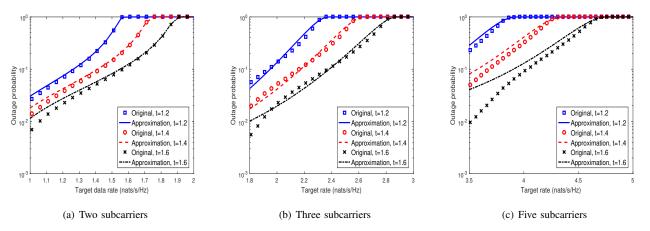


Fig. 4. The outage probability of user 1 vs target rate, with different power ratio coefficients t (SNR_{2,n} = 18dB, $\rho = 1.5$)

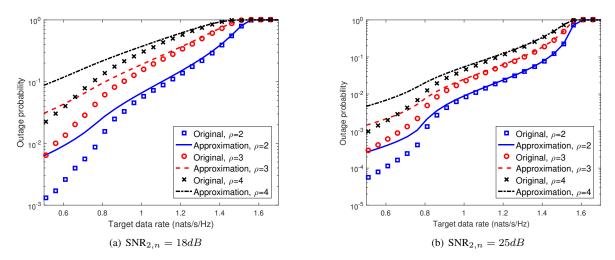


Fig. 5. The outage probability of user 1 vs target rate, with different distance ratios ρ (t = 1.2)

A. User 1

Figure 4 depicts the relationship between the target data rate and the OP for three cases having different numbers of subcarriers. The value of $SNR_{2,n}$ is fixed to 18dB. It is observed that the OP of user 1 increases with the target rate and decreases with the power ratio coefficient t. This observation implies that NOMA systems achieve a good performance when the power levels of the two users are rather different. This is helpful, when determining the optimal power allocation policy considering a specific user distribution. The approximation matches closely to the true ones, however, the gap between the approximated and original OP increases with t for all three cases, particularly in the lower target rate region. Likewise, as the number of subcarriers increases, the accuracy of the approximation decreases. This confirms accuracy of the OP analysis for the case of two subcarriers. In Figure 5, we focus our attention on the effects of the distance ratio ρ on the OP of two subcarriers. As the target rate and ρ increase, the OP of user 1 increases. Obviously, the accuracy of the approximated OPs is similar for different values of ρ . As the value of $SNR_{2,n}$ increases, the gap between the approximated and original OPs shrinks. The OP approximation error versus

 $SNR_{2,n}$ is demonstrated in Figure 6. The OP approximation error is defined as the difference between the original OP based on numerical results and the approximated OP based on the analytical results.

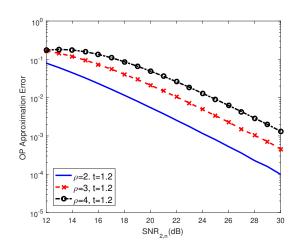


Fig. 6. OP approximation error versus $SNR_{2,n}$ (r = 0.8)

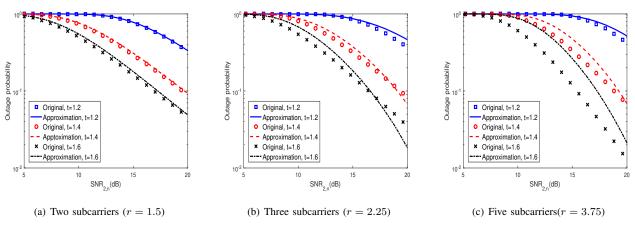


Fig. 7. The outage probability of user 1 vs SNR_{2,n}, with different power ratio coefficients t ($\rho = 1.5$)

Figure 7 and Figure 8 illustrate the effects of $SNR_{2,n}$ on the OP of user 1 for different number of subcarriers. As the value of $SNR_{2,n}$ increases, the OP decreases. These two figures analyze the impact of various power ratios t and distance ratios ρ on the OP considering different numbers of subcarriers. The OP decreases with the power ratio and increases with the distance ratio. These figures highlight the necessity of carefully choosing t taking into account the SNR (implying the total available power budget) and ρ (implying the user distributions). For instance, at $SNR_{2,n} = 20$ dB and $\rho = 1.5$, opting for t = 1.6 reduces the OP by a factor of 25 over that of t = 1.2. Moreover, the difference between the original and the approximated OP becomes larger for high values of power ratio and distance ratio. The accuracy of the approximation is reduced upon increasing the number of subcarriers.

B. User 2

In this subsection, we verify the accuracy of the probability of success expression derived in (41) for the second user. This is defined as $\Pr_2^{\text{suc}} = \Pr\left(\sum_{n=1}^N \log(1 + \frac{\beta_{2,n}h_{2,n}}{\sigma^2}) \ge r_2\right)$, i.e., the probability of satisfying the total rate of an individual user over all subcarriers, which is calculated by using the generalized upper incomplete Fox's H function. It is shown that the simulation results closely match the analytical results for all three cases.

Figure 9 shows the relationship between the probability of success event and the target rate. The value of average received SNR for user 2 on subcarrier n is set to 18 dB. As the target data rate increases, the probability of success event decreases. By contrast, the higher the number of subcarriers, the higher the success rate is. In Figure 10, we observe that as SNR_{2,n} increases, the probability of success also increases. Additionally, the success rate of a larger number of subcarriers is higher than that of a lower number of subcarriers N. This figure demonstrates that the derived probability of success for user 2 in terms of detecting its own message (i.e. $Pr_{2,N}^{suc}$) matches perfectively to the simulation results.

Let us now analyze the OP of user 2 and compare this to that of user 1. For the sake of simplicity, we assume an identical number of subcarriers for both users. Observe from Figure 11, that as expected, the OP of both users increases with the target rate. The OP of user 1 is always higher than that of user 2 since user 1 suffers from more interference than user 2. The diversity gain of having higher degrees of freedom in the case of five subcarriers is clear from the lower OP that is achievable for a fixed target rate. The diversity order will be further discussed in Figure 13.

C. Comparison with OMA

For an OMA system, each subcarrier is used exclusively by a single user only. If \mathcal{N}_k denotes the set of subcarriers allocated to user k, its rate is given by

$$R_k^{\text{OMA}} = \sum_{n \in \mathcal{N}_k} \log\left(1 + \frac{\beta_{k,n} h_{k,n}}{\sigma^2}\right),\tag{52}$$

Hence, the corresponding outage probability is

$$\Pr(R_k^{\text{OMA}} \le r_k)$$

$$= \frac{K_{\mathcal{N}_k}}{C_{\mathcal{N}_k}} \int_0^{e^{r_k}} \mathcal{H}_{0,\mathcal{N}_k}^{\mathcal{N}_k,0} \left[\frac{w}{C_{\mathcal{N}_k}} |_{(0,1,1/l_1),\dots,(0,1,1/l_{\mathcal{N}_k})}^{----} \right] dw,$$
(53)

In the following simulations, we compare the OMA and NOMA systems for the case of two users and two subcarriers as well as for the case of three users and three subcarriers. It is observed that the outage performance for each user of NOMA system is superior to that of the OMA system for both cases. This is because the diversity order of the NOMA system is higher than that of the OMA system. It should be noted however that the outage performance of NOMA is sensitive to the values of power ratio t and distance ratio ρ .

Moreover, we investigate the diversity gain (which is defined as $\lim_{SNR\to\infty} \frac{\log(\Pr_{out})}{\log(SNR)}$, where SNR is the ratio of the total transmit power and the receiver noise power) of MC-NOMA for various cases and compare it with that of the OMA scheme. Fig 13 shows that MC-NOMA having two subcarriers achieves a diversity order of approximately two while the diversity order of OMA is one. Furthermore, it can be observed that the diversity order of MC-NOMA associated with N = 3 is close to three, even though two users share the three subcarriers.

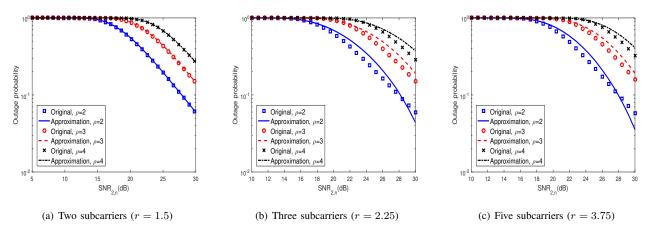


Fig. 8. The outage probability of user 1 vs $SNR_{2,n}$, with different distance ratios ρ (t = 1.2)

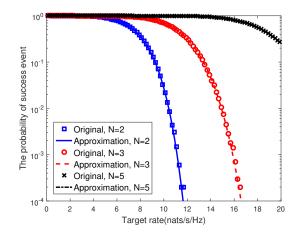


Fig. 9. Success probability of user 2 vs target rate

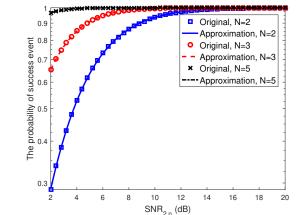


Fig. 10. Success probability of user 2 vs SNR_{2,n}

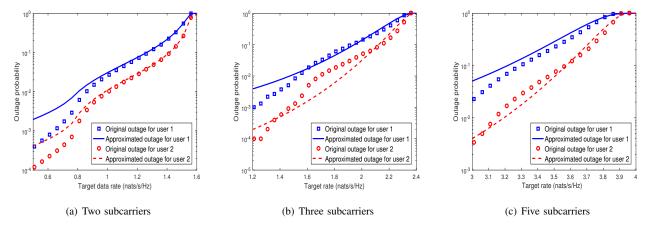


Fig. 11. Outage probability of both users vs target rate (SNR_{2,n} = 18dB, t = 1.2, $\rho = 1.5$)

D. OP analysis for K = 3

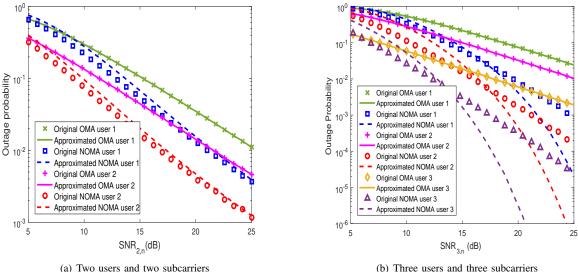
Fig. 14 compares the derived OP against data rate with simulation results for the case of K = 3 users in each subcarrier. Clearly, the analytical results closely match the simulation results. Compared to Fig 11 (a), this figure shows that the OP for the case of three users sharing each subcarrier is slightly higher than that of two users allocated to each

subcarrier.

E. Joint Outage Probability

Based on the separate outage probabilities, the joint outage probability can be calculated as

$$\Pr_{\text{out}}^{\text{joint}} = \Pr(R_1 + R_2 \le r) = \Pr(R_1 \le r - R_2)$$
 (54)



(a) Two users and two subcarriers

Fig. 12. Outage probability comparison between OMA and NOMA systems ($r = 1, t = 1.2, \rho = 1.5$)

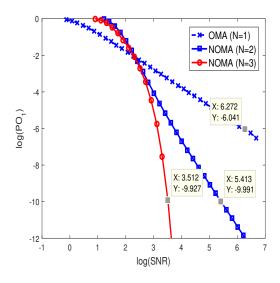


Fig. 13. $\log(Pr_{out})$ versus $\log(SNR)$ ($r = 1, t = 1.2, \rho = 1.5$)

$$= \int_0^r \Pr_1^{\text{out}}(r - R_2) f_{R_2}(R_2) dR_2$$

where $f_{R_2}(R_2)$ is the corresponding PDF of $R_2 = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log \left(1 + \frac{\beta_{2,n} d_2^{-\lambda} \chi_{2,n}}{\sigma^2}\right)$. There is no simple or direct way of deriving the PDF of the sum of the logarithm of shifted exponential random variables, although the pdf of the product of shifted exponential random variables is known. Thus, we present R_2 as $R_2 = \log \left[\prod_{n=1}^{N} \left(1 + \frac{\beta_{2,n} d_2^{-\lambda} \chi_{2,n}}{\sigma^2}\right)\right]$. Upon assuming $W = \prod_{n=1}^{N} W_n$ and $W_n = 1 + \frac{\beta_{2,n} d_2^{-\lambda} \chi_{2,n}}{\sigma^2}$, we have $R_2 = \log W$. By changing the variables, we transform the integral (55) as

$$\operatorname{Pr}_{\operatorname{out}}^{\operatorname{joint}} = \int_{-\infty}^{e^{r}} \frac{1}{W} \operatorname{Pr}_{1}^{\operatorname{out}}(r - \log W) f_{W}(W) dW, \qquad (55)$$

where $f_W(W)$ represents the PDF of W.

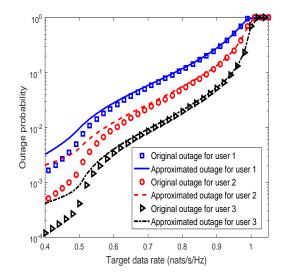


Fig. 14. Outage probability of each user versus target rate (SNR_{2,n} = $18dB, t = 1.2, \rho = 1.5$)

The outage probability of user 1 is obtained as $\mathrm{Pr}_{1,N}^{\mathrm{out}}(r$ – log W) = 1 - $\frac{1}{\Gamma(\kappa)}\gamma\left(\kappa,\frac{\hat{C}_N}{\theta}\right)$ for the case of N subcarriers according to the steps ranging from (4) to (27), assuming $\hat{C}_N = \prod_{n=1}^N u_n - e^{r-\log W}$. Moreover, the PDF of W is obtained following the steps (29)-(34) as $f_W(W) = W$ $\frac{K_N}{C_N} \mathcal{H}_{0,N}^{N,0} \left[\frac{w}{C_N} \Big|_{(0,1,1/l_1),\dots,(0,1,1/l_N)}^{-----} \right].$ Therefore, the joint outage probability will be

$$Pr_{out}^{joint} = \int_{-\infty}^{e^{r}} \frac{1}{W} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\Gamma(\kappa)} \gamma\left(\kappa, \frac{\hat{C}_{N}}{\theta}\right) \right) \times$$

$$\frac{K_{N}}{C_{N}} \mathcal{H}_{0,N}^{N,0} \left[\frac{w}{C_{N}} \left|_{(0,1,1/l_{1}),\dots,(0,1,1/l_{N})}^{-----} \right] dW$$
(56)

where we have $K_N = \prod_{n=1}^N e^{1/l_n}$, $C_N = \prod_{n=1}^N l_n$ and $l_n = \frac{\beta_{2,n} d_2^{-\lambda}}{\sigma^2}$. This integral can be numerically solved. Here,

we provide a set of simulation results to examine the joint OP performance of MC-NOMA system. Fig 15 depicts the joint OP for different numbers of users and subcarriers. Apparently, increasing the number of subcarriers significantly decreases the outage probability as a benefit of increasing the diversity gain achieved by a higher number of subcarriers. The diversity order has already been discussed in Figure 13.

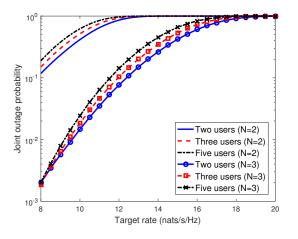


Fig. 15. Joint outage probability versus target rate (SNR $_{2,n} = 18 dB, t = 1.2, \rho = 1.5$)

VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, tractable OP expressions have been derived for the single cell multi-carrier NOMA downlink only relying on the statistical CSI based on approximation techniques. The PDF and CDF of the inverse shifted exponential random variables were formulated for the far user and the OP was derived for the case of two subcarriers. To obtain the OP of far user for the general case of an arbitrary number of subcarriers, the sum of the inverse shifted exponential random variables was approximated by a Gamma distribution. On the other hand, the PDF of the product of shifted exponential random variables was derived for the near user using the Mellin transform and the generalized upper incomplete Fox's H function. Our analysis and simulation results demonstrate a good accuracy for the approximations.

APPENDIX A The integral of Fox's H function

Here, a solution for the integral of Fox's H function in (40) is formulated as:

$$\int_{0}^{r} \mathcal{H}_{p,q}^{m,n} \left[u \left| \substack{(a_{i},\alpha_{i},A_{i})_{1,p}}{(b_{j},\beta_{j},B_{i})_{1,q}} \right] du$$

$$= \int_{0}^{r} \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \mathcal{M}_{p,q}^{m,n}[s] u^{-s} ds du$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \mathcal{M}_{p,q}^{m,n}[s] \int_{0}^{r} u^{-s} du ds$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \mathcal{M}_{p,q}^{m,n}[s] \frac{u^{1-s}}{1-s} \Big|_{0}^{r} ds$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \mathcal{M}_{p,q}^{m,n}[s] \frac{r^{1-s}}{1-s} ds - \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \mathcal{M}_{p,q}^{m,n}[s] \frac{0^{1-s}}{1-s} ds$$

The integral of the H function depends on the value of s. Hence we analyze this for three different cases of s. (a) s > 1;

$$\int_{0}^{r} \mathcal{H}_{p,q}^{m,n} \left[u \Big|_{(b_{j},\beta_{j},B_{i})_{1,q}}^{(a_{i},\alpha_{i},A_{i})_{1,p}} \right] du$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \mathcal{M}_{p,q}^{m,n} [s] \frac{r^{1-s}}{1-s} ds + \infty;$$
(58)

(b) s = 1;

$$\int_{0}^{r} \mathcal{H}_{p,q}^{m,n} \left[u \left|_{(b_{j},\beta_{j},B_{i})_{1,q}}^{(a_{i},\alpha_{i},A_{i})_{1,p}} \right] du = 0;$$
(59)

(c) s < 1;

$$\int_{0}^{r} \mathcal{H}_{p,q}^{m,n} \left[u \left| \substack{(a_{i},\alpha_{i},A_{i})_{1,p}}{(b_{j},\beta_{j},B_{i})_{1,q}} \right] du$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \mathcal{M}_{p,q}^{m,n}[s] \frac{r^{1-s}}{1-s} ds;$$
(60)

According to the definition and properties of the incomplete Gamma function, we obtain the recurrence relations through integration by parts

$$\Gamma(2-s,0) = \int_0^\infty t^{1-s} e^{-t} dt$$
(61)
= 0 + $\int_0^\infty (1-s) t^{-s} e^{-t} dt = (1-s) \Gamma(1-s,0);$

Hence, we have

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \mathcal{M}_{p,q}^{m,n}[s] \frac{r^{1-s}}{1-s} ds$$

$$= r \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \mathcal{M}_{p,q}^{m,n}[s] \frac{\Gamma(1-s,0)}{\Gamma(2-s,0)} r^{-s} ds$$

$$= r \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \mathcal{M}_{p+1,q+1}^{m,n+1}[s] r^{-s} ds$$

$$= r \mathcal{H}_{p+1,q+1}^{m,n+1} \left[r \left|_{(b_{j},\beta_{j},B_{i})_{1,q},(-1,1,0)}^{(a_{i},\alpha_{i},A_{i})_{1,p},(0,1,0)}\right| \right];$$
(62)

By exploiting basic properties of H functions as $r^k \mathcal{H}_{p,q}^{m,n} \left[r \Big|_{(b_j,\beta_j,B_i)_{1,q}}^{(a_i,\alpha_i,A_i)_{1,p}} \right] = \mathcal{H}_{p,q}^{m,n} \left[r \Big|_{(b_j+k\lambda_j,\lambda_j,B_i)_{1,q}}^{(a_i+k\alpha_i,\alpha_i,A_i)_{1,p}} \right]$, the last integral can be written as

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \mathcal{M}_{p,q}^{m,n}[s] \frac{r^{1-s}}{1-s} ds \qquad (63)$$

$$= \mathcal{H}_{p+1,q+1}^{m,n+1} \left[r \left|_{(b_j+\beta_j,\beta_j,B_i)_{1,q},(0,1,0)}^{(a_i+\alpha_i,\alpha_i,A_i)_{1,p},(1,1,0)}\right];$$

In our case, the value of s is always less than the one based on the value of $b_j = 0$ and $\lambda_j = 1$. Hence, the integral of the generalized upper incomplete Fox's H function becomes:

$$\int_{0}^{e^{r_{2}}} \mathcal{H}_{0,N}^{N,0} \left[\frac{w}{C_{N}} \Big|_{(0,1,1/l_{1}),\dots,(0,1,1/l_{N})}^{----} \right] dw$$

$$= e^{r_{2}} \mathcal{H}_{N+1,1}^{0,N+1} \left[\frac{e^{r_{2}}}{C_{N}} \Big|_{(-1,1,0),(0,1,1/l_{1}),\dots,(0,1,1/l_{N})}^{(0,1,0)} \right] \\
= C_{N} \mathcal{H}_{N+1,1}^{0,N+1} \left[\frac{e^{r_{2}}}{C_{N}} \Big|_{(0,1,0),(1,1,1/l_{1}),\dots,(1,1,1/l_{N})}^{(1,1,1/l_{1})} \right];$$

APPENDIX B MATHEMATICA CODE FOR GENERALIZED UPPER INCOMPLETE FOX'S H FUNCTION

Algorithm 1 Pseudo code of generalized upper incomplete Fox's H (GUIFoxH)

Input A, B, z, R, W

 $\triangleright z = e_2^r$, and R, W are determined according to the convergence region, so that the contour integration path in the complex s-plane running from R - IW to R + IW and W tends infinity.

Output V = GUIFoxH(A, B, z, R, W)

Function GUIFoxH (A, B, z, R, W)

\Rightarrow Auxiliary function

a. Gamma function

 $G = \Gamma(s, \alpha) = \int_{\alpha}^{\infty} t^{s-1} e^{-t} dt$ (The upper incomplete Gamma function)

b. Mellin moment generating function

$$M = \mathcal{M}_{p,q}^{m,n}[s]$$

$$= \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{m} \Gamma(b_j + \beta_j s, B_j) \prod_{i=1}^{n} \Gamma(1 - a_i - \alpha_i s, A_i)}{\prod_{n+1}^{p} \Gamma(a_i + \alpha_i s, A_i) \prod_{j=m+1}^{q} \Gamma(1 - b_j - \beta_j s, B_j)}$$
(65)

return M

$$V = \mathcal{H}_{N+1,1}^{0,N+1} \left[\frac{e^{r_2}}{C_N} \Big|_{(0,1,0),(1,1,1/l_1),\dots,(1,1,1/l_N)}^{(1,1,0)} \right]$$
(66)
$$= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{R-Wi}^{R+Wi} \mathcal{M}_{N+1,1}^{0,N+1}[s] (\frac{e^{r_2}}{C_N})^{-s} ds$$

return V

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