

Performance Analysis of Energy Efficient Distributed Antenna Systems

Mansour M. Aldosari and Khairi Ashour Hamdi

School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering,

The University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, U.K.

Email: mansour.aldosari-2@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk, k.hamdi@manchester.ac.uk.

Abstract—There is a huge demand for data traffic caused by increased usage of data-hungry applications on smart mobile devices. This has resulted into cellular network expansion and upgrade that have increased energy costs and generated environmental concerns. Distributed antenna systems (DAS) are applied to enhance the coverage of the cell via geographically distributed antennas elements (DAEs) which are connected to the base station that is located at the centre of the cell. In this paper, DAS is proposed as a network solution to fulfill increasing capacity demands while addressing the energy efficiency (EE) and environmental concerns associated with cellular network operation. Maximum Ratio Transmission (MRT) and Fractional Frequency Reuse (FFR) are applied to calculate the downlink ergodic spectral efficiency (SE), EE and energy consumption ratio (ECR). Nakagami- m fading and log-normal shadowing are considered. Our results demonstrate that DAS using MRT and FFR increases the spectral and energy efficiency of the network compared to a basic cellular network system.

Key words - Ergodic Spectral Efficiency (ESE); Energy Efficiency (EE); Energy Consumption Ratio (ECR) ; Maximum Ratio Transmission (MRT); Fractional Frequency Reuse (FFR).

I. INTRODUCTION

The rapid revolution in smart phones and their applications is driving enhancement to the mobile communication networks infrastructure to fulfil the massive demands on the data rate. Capacity is one of the important performance measures for communications networks. Many researchers have applied

different methods and techniques to increase the throughput of cellular communication networks; Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS) is currently one of the optimal solutions to increase the throughput [1] [2] and improve the coverage in dead spots, and [3] indoor (iDAS) [4] or outdoor (oDAS) communications can mitigate the problems of cell-edge coverage [5]. In DAS, remote antennas are spatially distributed within a structure or geographical area to reduce the distance between a remote antenna (RA) and a mobile terminal (MT), and thereby default enhance, modify and extend the coverage in the cell. DAS can be used in locations with higher populations such as stadiums, airports, large buildings, convention centres, and in areas experiencing bad coverage such as city centres with high rise buildings, etc.

DAS was proposed as a method to enhance the coverage of indoor wireless communications [4]. The ergodic capacity is determined under the influence of Rayleigh fading and log-normal shadowing by considering the signal to interference ratio (SIR) [1], and applies cooperative and non-cooperative RA. Authors in [3] investigated the downlink capacity for two different strategies - blanket transmission and selective diversity. In this paper, it has been shown that the capacity of the network can be increased by about two times due to the use of DAS, which leads to a reduction in other cell interference in a multi-cell environment. Authors in [2] uses fractional frequency reuse (FFR) and unity frequency reuse UFR, and applies coordinate multipoint (CoMP) cooperation to maximize cell throughput. [5] presents an improvement of the cell edge performance when using DAS, compared to a co-located antenna systems (CAS). Distributed antenna systems aid macrocell (MC) and femto cells (FCs) to coexist within the same area, and this is used to achieve high spectral efficiency (SE) for outdoor MC users (OMU) and indoor FC (IFC) users, using unity frequency reuse (UFR) and FFR [6]. Selection transmission (ST) is used in DAS to optimize the distributed antenna element (DAE) locations with or without the central antenna, and to maximize the expected signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) lower bound in each region [7]. In addition cooperative DAS is described by [8] for three different types of coverage depends on the MT location. Authors concludes that, at certain distances from the cell centre , cooperative DAS techniques improves the system capacity.

The main contributions of this paper are as follows:

- Derivation of new equations to calculate DAS downlink ergodic spectral efficiency using MRT.

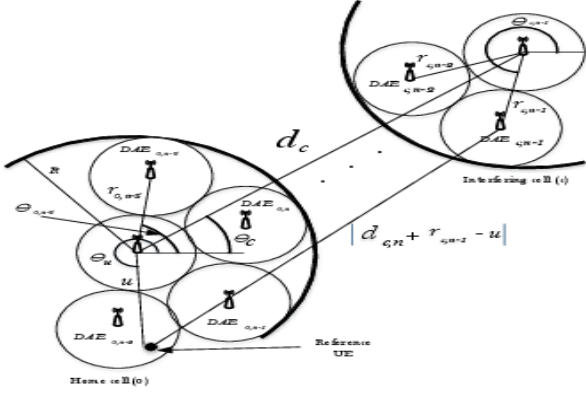


Figure 1. System model

- Calculation of the SE, EE and ECR of two DAS techniques and comparing them with basic model.
- Verification of the above results using a Monte Carlo simulation.

II. SYSTEM MODEL

In this paper, MRT method is applied and two techniques of DAS are investigated to calculate the ergodic SE of the reference MT to find which technique will provide better energy efficiency. A cluster of three-cell structure is proposed, where there are 7 DAEs in each cell, all connected to the central BS. $DAE_1, DAE_2, DAE_3, \dots, DAE_N$ transmit an equal power signal. Fig. 1 shows the locations of DAEs in each cell relative to the centre of their home cells.

A. Cellular Architecture

Fractional Frequency Reuse: In this method, FFR is applied to calculate the ergodic spectral efficiency of MT in the cell.

In this case, it is assumed that the DAE in the cell centre uses a different frequency band f_1 while the other 6 DAEs use the same frequency band f_2 . Therefore, all six DAEs which use the same frequency will cooperate to serve the MT in the same cell.

No Fractional Frequency Reuse: In this case, It is assumed that all DAE in the cell use same frequency band f_1 . Therefore, all seven DAEs in the same cell will cooperate to serve the MT.

B. Channel Model and Received Signal

The received signal by the reference MT in the shell area is represented by

$$y = \underbrace{\sqrt{P}x_0 \sum_{n=1}^N \sqrt{G_{0,n}}h_{0,n}w_{0,n}}_{\text{Useful-signals}} + \underbrace{\sum_{c=1}^C \sqrt{P}x_c \sum_{n=1}^N \sqrt{G_{c,n}}h_{c,n}w_{c,n}}_{\text{Interfering-signals}} + n_0 \quad (1)$$

where x_0 is the transmitted signal by DAEs in the home cell and x_c is the transmitted signal by N DAEs in the cell c . $h_{0,n} = \{h_{0,1}, h_{0,2}, \dots, h_{0,7}\}$ and $|h_{0,n}|^2$ is the channel gain of signal power received by the reference MT from all cooperative DAEs. $h_{c,n} = \{h_{1,1}, h_{1,2}, \dots, h_{6,7}\}$ and $|h_{c,n}|^2$ is the channel gain of the signals power received from interfering DAEs which use the same frequency in the other cells. In addition, n_0 is the additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) at MT and satisfies $\mathbb{E}[|n_0|^2] = \sigma_0^2$, P is the transmitted power and N is the number of proposed DAEs in each cell. The first part of (1) is the useful signal and the second and third parts are considered as interfering signals and noise, where

$$G_{c,n} = |d_{c,n} + r_{c,n} - u|^{-\beta} \xi_{c,n} \quad (2)$$

is the large-scale signal level and $\xi_{c,n} \sim \log N(0, \sigma^2)$ is a random variable representing shadowing. Log-normal shadowing is assumed with $10 \log \xi_{c,n}$ a zero mean Gaussian with variance σ^2 . $d_{c,n}$ is the locations of the interfering cells relative to the home cell and u is the random position of the MT relative to it is home cell, and β is the path loss exponent. Variable $r_{c,n}$ are the positions of the interfering DAE $_n$ relative to the centre of it is home cell c , where $r_{c,n} = \{r e^{j \frac{2\pi}{n}}, r e^{j \frac{2\pi}{n-1}}, \dots, r e^{j 2\pi}\}$ and $d_{c,n} = \{d_c e^{j \frac{2\pi}{n}}, d_c e^{j \frac{2\pi}{n-1}}, \dots, d_c e^{j 2\pi}\}$, d_c is the frequency reuse distance as shown in Fig. 1. The distance between the MT and interfering DAEs can be calculated using Euler's formula, and the large scale signal level is expressed as

$$G_{c,n} = |d_c(\cos(\theta_c) + j \sin(\theta_c)) + r(\cos(\theta_{c,n}) + j \sin(\theta_{c,n})) - u|^{-\beta} \xi_{c,n} \quad (3)$$

where θ_c is the angles of the interfering cells relative to the home cell and $\theta_{c,n}$ is the angles of the interfering DAE $_{c,n}$ relative to the centre of it is home cell.

In the home cell

$$G_{0,n} = |d_{0,n} + r_{0,n} - u|^{-\beta} \xi_{0,n} = |r(\cos(\theta_{0,n}) + j \sin(\theta_{0,n})) - u|^{-\beta} \xi_{0,n} \quad (4)$$

where $d_{0,n}$ is equal to zero at the home cell and $\theta_{0,n}$ is the angles of the DAE $_n$ relative to the centre of it is home cell.

In the following expressions $d_{c,n}$, $r_{0,n}$ and $r_{c,n}$ notations will be used to make the equations shorter.

In MRT

$$w_{c,n} = \frac{\sqrt{G_{c,n}}h_{c,n}^*}{\sqrt{\sum_{n=1}^N G_{c,n}|h_{c,n}|^2}} \quad (5)$$

Therefore, for the sake of spectral efficiency (SE) analysis, it is assumed that x_0 and x_c are Gaussian and the signal to interference plus noise ratio (SINR) can be written as

$$\text{SINR} = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N G_{0,n}|h_{0,n}|^2}{\sum_{c=1}^C |\sum_{n=1}^N G_{c,n}h_{c,n}w_{c,n}|^2 + 1/\rho} \quad (6)$$

where $\rho = \frac{P}{\sigma_0^2}$ is the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) at the cell boundary (when the distance is normalized and the cell radius is unity)

III. SPECTRAL EFFICIENCY

The ergodic (average) spectral efficiency achieved by an arbitrary user can be estimated by using the average of the Shannon capacity formula[9]:

$$\begin{aligned} C &= \mathbb{E} [\log_2 (1 + \text{SINR})] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\log_2 \left(1 + \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N G_{0,n} |h_{0,n}|^2}{\sum_{c=1}^C \left| \sum_{n=1}^N G_{c,n} h_{c,n} w_{c,n} \right|^2 + 1/\rho} \right) \right] \\ & \text{[b/s/Hz]} \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

In order to evaluate the average, Cauchy-Schwarz inequality is firstly invoke:

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \sum_{n=1}^N G_{c,n} h_{c,n} w_{c,n} \right|^2 &\leq \left(\sum_{n=1}^N G_{c,n} |h_{c,n}|^2 \right) \left(\sum_{n=1}^N |w_{c,n}|^2 \right) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^N G_{c,n} |h_{c,n}|^2 \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

This is used to rewrite (7) as follows

$$C(u, \theta) = \mathbb{E} \left[\log_2 \left(1 + \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N G_{0,n} |h_{0,n}|^2}{\sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{n=1}^N G_{c,n} |h_{c,n}|^2 + 1/\rho} \right) \middle| u, \theta \right] \quad (9)$$

The expectation in (9) is to be applied with respect to the $N + N \times C$ non-negative random variables. Classical methods employed to evaluate such an average require at least 49 numerical integrations, which will make the process very complicated. In order to reduce the computational complexity of (7), a non-direct method is invoked in the following, which greatly simplifies the required computation.

Notations: $\gamma_{0,n} = G_{0,n} |h_{0,n}|^2 = |r_{0,n} - u|^{-\beta} \xi_{0,n} |h_{0,n}|^2$ and $\delta_{c,n} = G_{c,n} |h_{c,n}|^2 = |d_{c,n} + r_{c,n} - u|^{-\beta} \xi_{c,n} |h_{c,n}|^2$ are used in the following equations.

Therefore,

$$C(u, \theta) = \mathbb{E} \left[\log_2 \left(1 + \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{0,n}}{\sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{n=1}^N \delta_{c,n} + 1/\rho} \right) \right] \text{[b/s/Hz]} \quad (10)$$

Lemma 1:

From [10]:

$$\ln(1+t) = \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{s} (1 - e^{-st}) e^{-s} ds, \quad t \geq 0 \quad (11)$$

Proof of Lemma 1: The following proof is based on [10, Eq. 6]:

Let $t = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{0,n}}{\sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{n=1}^N \delta_{c,n} + 1/\rho}$ in (10). Then

$$\begin{aligned} &\ln \left(1 + \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{0,n}}{\sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{n=1}^N \delta_{c,n} + 1/\rho} \right) \\ &= \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{s} \left(1 - e^{-\frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{0,n}}{\sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{n=1}^N \delta_{c,n} + 1/\rho} s} \right) e^{-s} ds. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Substitute $s = z \left(\sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{n=1}^N \delta_{c,n} + 1/\rho \right)$, where $ds = \left(\sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{n=1}^N \delta_{c,n} + 1/\rho \right) dz$. Therefore, from (12) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &\ln \left(1 + \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{0,n}}{\sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{n=1}^N \delta_{c,n} + 1/\rho} \right) \\ &= \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{z} \left(1 - e^{-z \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{0,n}} \right) \\ &\quad \times e^{-z \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{n=1}^N \delta_{c,n}} e^{-\frac{z}{\rho}} dz. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Therefore, from (10) and (13), the spectral efficiency can be calculated as ■

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbb{E} \left[\log_2 \left(1 + \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{0,n}}{\sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{n=1}^N \delta_{c,n} + 1/\rho} \right) \middle| r, \theta \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\log_2(e) \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{z} \left(1 - e^{-z \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{0,n}} \right) e^{-z \left(\sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{n=1}^N \delta_{c,n} + 1/\rho \right)} dz \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\log_2(e) \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{z} \left(1 - e^{-z \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{0,n}} \right) e^{-z \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{n=1}^N \delta_{c,n}} e^{-\frac{z}{\rho}} dz \right] \\ &= \log_2(e) \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{z} \left(1 - \mathbb{E} \left[e^{-z \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{0,n}} \right] \right) \\ &\quad \times \mathbb{E} \left[e^{-z \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{n=1}^N \delta_{c,n}} \right] e^{-\frac{z}{\rho}} dz \\ &= \log_2(e) \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{z} \left(1 - \mathcal{M}_0(z, u) \right) \prod_{c=1}^C \mathcal{M}_c(z, u) e^{-\frac{z}{\rho}} dz \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

It is possible to represent the averages $\mathbb{E} \left[e^{-z \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{0,n}} \right]$ and $\mathbb{E} \left[e^{-z \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{n=1}^N \delta_{c,n}} \right]$ by the moment generating function $\mathcal{M}_0(z, u)$ and $\mathcal{M}_c(z, u)$. Where

$$\mathcal{M}_0(z, u) = \prod_{i=1}^N w_0(z |r_{0,n} - u|^{-\beta}) \quad (15)$$

and

$$w_0(z) = \mathbb{E} \left[e^{-z \xi_{0,n} |h_{0,n}|^2} \right] \quad (16)$$

,

$$\mathcal{M}_c(z, u) = \prod_{i=1}^N w_c(z |d_{c,n} + r_{c,n} - u|^{-\beta}) \quad (17)$$

and

$$w_c(z) = \mathbb{E} \left[e^{-z \xi_{c,n} |h_{c,n}|^2} \right] \quad (18)$$

To find the average of $w_0(z)$ and $w_c(z)$ where $\xi_{0,n}$ and $\xi_{c,n}$ are log-normal distributed random variable (RV), composite Nakagami and Log-normal shadowing are applied [11]. The pdf of the composite gamma/log-normal distribution is

$$\begin{aligned} p_x(x) &= \int \frac{m^m x^{m-1}}{\psi^m \Gamma(m)} \exp\left(-\frac{mx}{\psi}\right) \times \frac{\varphi}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \\ &\quad \times \exp\left(-\frac{(10 \log_{10} \psi - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) d\psi \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

where m is the Gamma distribution's shape parameter, and $\varphi = 10 (\ln 10)^{-1}$.

The MGF of $\xi_{0,n}$ and $\xi_{c,n}$ can be derived as follows:

$$w(z) = \int_0^\infty \exp^{-xz} p_x(x) dx \quad (20)$$

Therefore, from equations (19) and (20)

$$w(z) = \int_0^\infty \left(1 + z \frac{\psi}{m}\right)^{-m} \times \frac{10 (\ln 10)^{-1}}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \times \exp\left(\frac{-(10 \log_{10} \psi - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) d\psi \quad (21)$$

we assume $t = \frac{10 \log_{10} \psi - \mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}$ and $\psi = 10^{\frac{\sqrt{2}\sigma t + \mu}{10}}$ where $\frac{d\psi}{dt} = \psi \frac{\sigma \ln(10)}{5\sqrt{2}}$ which means $d\psi = \psi \frac{\sigma \ln(10)}{5\sqrt{2}} dt$. Therefore,

$$w(z) = \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(1 + z \frac{10^{\frac{t\sqrt{2}\sigma + \mu}{10}}}{m}\right)^{-m} \times \exp(-t^2) dt \quad (22)$$

To calculate the above formula, apply the Gauss-Hermite quadrature as in [[12], 25.4.46] which represents $\int_{-\infty}^\infty \exp(-x^2) f(x) dx = \sum_{l=1}^L w_l f(x_l)$, where w_l and $f(x_l)$ are the weight and abscissas factors of L values according to [[12], table 25.10] which provides the following:

$$w(z, u) \simeq \sum_{l=1}^L \frac{w_l}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(1 + z \frac{[d(u, \theta)]^{-\beta} 10^{\frac{\sqrt{2}\sigma x_l + \mu}{10}}}{m}\right)^{-m} \quad (23)$$

From the above, it is possible to calculate the MGF $\mathcal{M}_0(z, u)$ of the useful signals as

$$\mathcal{M}_0(z, u) \simeq \prod_{n=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^L \frac{w_l}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(1 + z \frac{|r_{0,n} - u|^{-\beta} 10^{\frac{\sqrt{2}\sigma x_l + \mu}{10}}}{m}\right)^{-m}, \quad (24)$$

and the MGF $\mathcal{M}_c(z, u)$ of the interfering signals is

$$\mathcal{M}_c(z, u) \simeq \prod_{c=1}^C \prod_{n=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^L \frac{w_l}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(1 + z \frac{|d_{c,n} + r_{c,n} - u|^{-\beta} 10^{\frac{\sqrt{2}\sigma x_l + \mu}{10}}}{m}\right)^{-m} \quad (25)$$

Therefore, the ergodic spectral efficiency is written as

$$C(u, \theta) = \int_0^\infty \int_0^R \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{z} \times \left(1 - \prod_{n=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^L \frac{w_l}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(1 + z \frac{|r_{0,n} - u|^{-\beta} 10^{\frac{\sqrt{2}\sigma x_l + \mu}{10}}}{m}\right)^{-m}\right) \times \prod_{c=1}^C \prod_{n=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^L \frac{w_l}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(1 + z \frac{|d_{c,n} + r_{c,n} - u|^{-\beta} 10^{\frac{\sqrt{2}\sigma x_l + \mu}{10}}}{m}\right)^{-m} \times \frac{r}{\pi R^2} e^{-\frac{z}{\rho}} \log_2(e) d\theta du dz \quad (26)$$

Ergodic spectral efficiency of the MT against the distance from the BS at the centre toward the edge of the cell is expressed as below

$$C(u, \theta) = \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{z} \times \left(1 - \prod_{n=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^L \frac{w_l}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(1 + z \frac{|r_{0,n} - u|^{-\beta} 10^{\frac{\sqrt{2}\sigma x_l + \mu}{10}}}{m}\right)^{-m}\right) \times \prod_{c=1}^C \prod_{n=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^L \frac{w_l}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(1 + z \frac{|d_{c,n} + r_{c,n} - u|^{-\beta} 10^{\frac{\sqrt{2}\sigma x_l + \mu}{10}}}{m}\right)^{-m} \times e^{-\frac{z}{\rho}} \log_2(e) dz \quad (27)$$

IV. DAS ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The power consumed by DAS P_{DAS} can be classified in two major parts: power consumed by power amplifier (PA) and the power consumed by other circuit components as [13]

$$P_{DAS} = P_{PA} + P_c \quad (28)$$

where P_c is the power consumed by circuit components and P_{PA} is the power consumed by power amplifier which can be expressed by

$$P_{PA} = (1 + \tau)P_t \quad (29)$$

where $\tau = \frac{\zeta}{\wp} - 1$, ζ is the peak-to-average ratio (PAR) which is defined as the ratio between the average and maximal power, \wp is the radio frequency power amplifier drain efficiency and P_t is the transmit power consumption.

$$P_c = P_s + \zeta C(u, \theta) \quad (30)$$

where P_s is a static power consumption, ζ is a constant representing dynamic power consumption per throughput and $C(u, \theta)$ is the spectral efficiency as in equation (27).

Therefore, the energy efficiency (EE) can be estimated as follows [14]

$$EE = \frac{WC(u, \theta)}{P_{DAS}} \quad [\text{bits/Joule}] \quad (31)$$

where W represents the cell bandwidth.

The energy consumption ratio [15] can be calculated using the following expression

$$ECR = \frac{P_{DAS}}{WC(u, \theta)} \quad [\text{Joule/bit}]. \quad (32)$$

V. NUMERICAL RESULTS

From the figures, it can be concluded that using DAS improves the SE of the network compared to the basic model as the BS-MT separation distance increases. This helps to overcome poor coverage at the edge of the cell especially in dense urban areas. Fig. 2 shows that SE is increased by 86% when DAS is applied compared to the basic model. Conversely, this figure shows a massive degradation in SE of the basic model when the MT moves further away from the centre of the cell. In the same figure, SE is degraded when FFR is applied due to the decrease in the frequency reuse

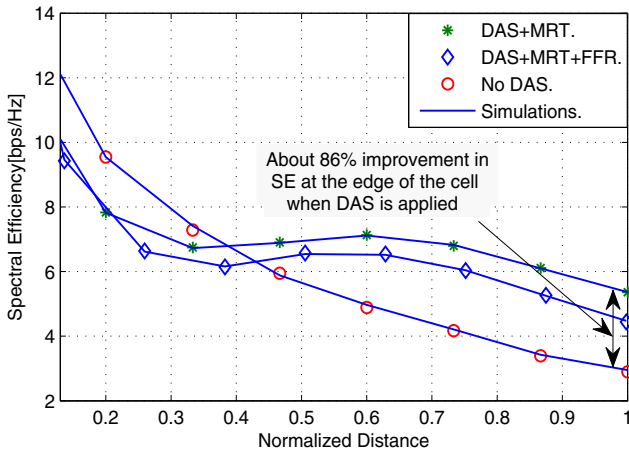


Figure 2. Spectral efficiency comparison at SNR = 10 dB using FFR with and without using DAS.

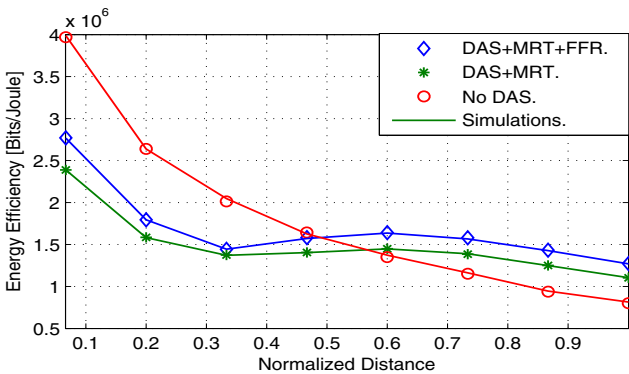


Figure 3. Energy efficiency comparison at SNR = 10 dB using FFR with and without using DAS.

distance. Fig. 3 shows that applying DAS gives about 43% improvement in the EE at the cell edge compared to the basic model. Moreover, EE is improved by about 62% when FFR is applied with DAS compared to the basic model. Finally, Fig. 4 shows that there is about 27% enhancement in the ECR at the cell edge when DAS is applied. Also, ECR is improved by about 36% at the same distance when FFR is applied with DAS compared to the basic system.

VI. CONCLUSION

In this paper, the potential of DAS to enhance the SE of a cellular network is investigated. From the numerical results above, it can be concluded that DAS is one of the options available to cellular network operators and designers to increase the throughput of cellular networks and enhance the coverage of the network especially in the cell edge region where coverage is normally poor. Furthermore, DAS with FFR gives a better energy performance as measured using EE and ECR compared to the basic cellular network model.

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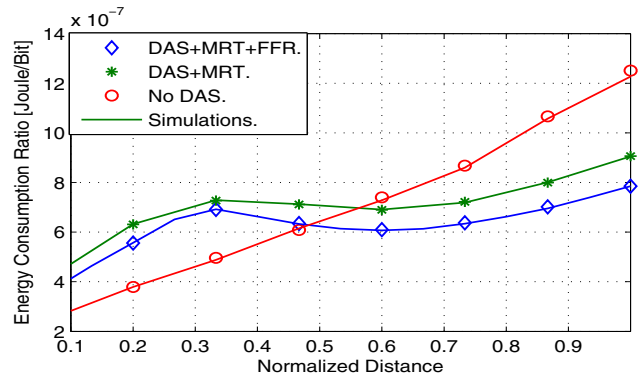


Figure 4. Energy consumption ratio comparison at SNR = 10 dB using FFR with and without using DAS.

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