

# Complex Field Network Coding for Wireless Cooperative Multicast Flows

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**Abstract**—Network coding is a promising technology designed to reach the Min-cut Max-flow capacity in wired network. While in wireless cooperative environments, it has been proved that network coding can also increase the system throughput by taking the advantage of the broadcast nature of electromagnetic waves. In this paper, we establish a 2-source and 2-destination cooperative systems with arbitrary number of relays ( $2 - N - 2$  system), and then the designed signal-superposition-and-forward based complex field network coding protocol (SiSF-CFNC) is applied to the model. We define the system frame error probability (SFEP) to measure the performance of cooperative multicast systems with the proposed protocol. Power allocation schemes as well as precoder design are concentratively studied to improve the system performance without cutting down the system throughput.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Network coding has been proved to reach the network multicast capacity bound in the wired systems [1]. Since network coding can enhance network throughput, there have a lot of researches on different coding approaches [2], [3], [4]. Recently, how to leverage network coding in wireless physical layer networks for system capacity improvement has drawn increasing interest [5]-[11].

We take the two sources, one relay and two destinations ( $2 - 1 - 2$ ) cooperative multicast network [12] for example. In the multicast network shown as Fig. 1, we suppose that  $s_1$  as well as  $s_2$  broadcast their information to the two destinations  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  simultaneously. All nodes are in half-duplex mode. From Fig. 1, we can see  $d_1$  (or  $d_2$ ) is out of the transmission range of  $s_2$  (or  $s_1$ ). The shared relay can help  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  reach their destinations. There are two transmission schemes. The first sheme is through the traditional way without network coding, which occupies four time slots:

1.  $s_1 \rightarrow \{r, d_1\}$  with information  $I_{s_1}$ ;
2.  $r \rightarrow d_2$  with information  $I_{s_1}$ ;
3.  $s_2 \rightarrow \{r, d_2\}$  with information  $I_{s_2}$ ;
4.  $r \rightarrow d_1$  with information  $I_{s_2}$ .

The second one is by complex field network coding method that is more effective with two time slots:

1.  $s_1 \rightarrow \{r, d_1\}$  with signal  $X_{s_1}$ ,
2.  $s_2 \rightarrow \{r, d_2\}$  with signal  $X_{s_2}$ ;
2.  $r \rightarrow \{d_1, d_2\}$  with signal  $f(X_{s_1} + X_{s_2})$ .

Note that in SiSF-CFNC, mixed signals received from both sources are not decoded by the relays. Instead, relays only amplify the signals and retransmit them to the destinations.

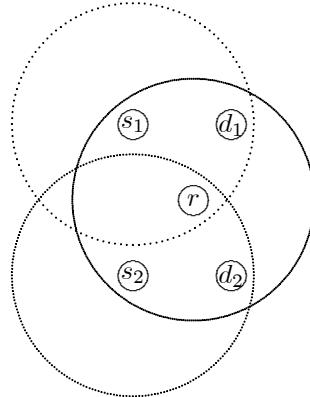


Fig. 1. A wireless  $2 - 1 - 2$  multicast system where the circles denote the transmission ranges. Due to the power constraint,  $s_1$  ( $s_2$ ) should borrow  $r$  to transmit messages to  $d_2$  ( $d_1$ ).

So function  $f(\cdot)$  is a linear mapping mechanism. Obviously, the second transmission scheme consumes the least time slots and hence acquires the highest throughput. In this paper, we explore the SiSF-CFNC protocol based on the established cooperative multicast system. Our contributions are as follows:

1) *Performance analysis on the proposed protocol*: We use the SFEP as the measurement of the SiSF-CFNC protocol based multicast system. SFEP is then deduced and utilized as a metric to execute the system optimization.

2) *Power allocation scheme and precoder design*: Based on the performance analysis, we conclude that a proper power allocation scheme and proper precoder can improve the performance without increasing the transmission time slots. By the expressions of system FEP of the protocol, we give the power allocation scheme. Precoder is also designed to achieve higher diversity gain.

The notations used in this paper go as follows. Bold upper- and lower-case letters denote matrices and column vectors respectively.  $\hat{x}$  represents the decoded symbol of a symbol  $x$ .  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{X}}$  are represented the decoded vector and decoded matrix.  $\Sigma_{\mathbf{n}}$  denotes the auto-covariance matrix of the vector  $\mathbf{n}$ .  $\mathcal{E}(\cdot)$  is the expectation operation.  $z(x) \triangleq O(y(x))$ ,  $y(x) > 0$  denotes that there exists a positive constants  $c$  such that  $|z(x)| \leq cy(x)$  when  $x$  is large.

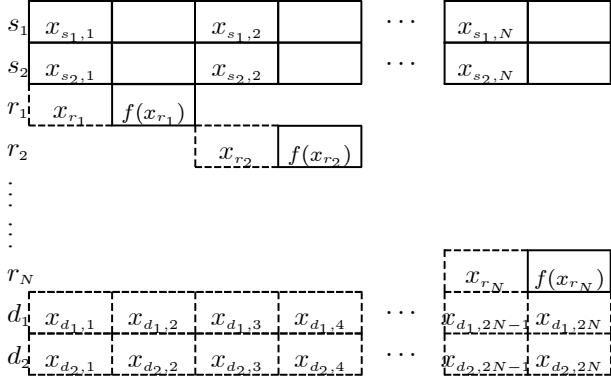


Fig. 2. Frame structure and relaying sequence in NBK scheduling scheme.

## II. SYSTEM MODEL

We setup the  $2 - N - 2$  ( $N \geq 1$ ) multicast cooperative transmission system by using the second NBK non-orthogonal scheduling scheme [13]. Fig. 2 displays the transmission scheme of  $s_1$  and  $s_2$ . Note that dashed boxes denote the receiving process while the solid ones denote transmitting process. We assume that the system has been well synchronized. From Fig. 2, we can see  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  each transmits  $N$  symbols while  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  each receives  $2N$  symbols during  $2N$  time slots. We define the  $2N$  time slots as a frame period. Then the original symbols vectors in a frame period are denoted by  $\mathbf{p}_{s_1} = [p_{s_1,1}, p_{s_1,2}, \dots, p_{s_1,N}]^T$  for  $s_1$  and  $\mathbf{p}_{s_2} = [p_{s_2,1}, p_{s_2,2}, \dots, p_{s_2,N}]^T$  for  $s_2$  where all symbols are equally probable form a constellation set composed of QAM signals with zero means and unit variances. We denote  $\mathbf{p}_{s_k,i}$  as the  $R$ -bit column vector of symbol  $p_{s_k,i}$  which comes from  $R$ -order QAM constellation diagram. The symbols vectors to be transmitted in a frame period are derived from the original information after preprocessing and power amplification that are denoted by  $\mathbf{x}_{s_1} = [x_{s_1,1}, x_{s_1,2}, \dots, x_{s_1,N}]^T$  for  $s_1$  and  $\mathbf{x}_{s_2} = [x_{s_2,1}, x_{s_2,2}, \dots, x_{s_2,N}]^T$  for  $s_2$ . The symbols received in the two destinations are denoted by  $\mathbf{x}_{d_1} = [x_{d_1,1}, x_{d_1,2}, \dots, x_{d_1,2N}]^T$  for  $d_1$  and  $\mathbf{x}_{d_2} = [x_{d_2,1}, x_{d_2,2}, \dots, x_{d_2,2N}]^T$  for  $d_2$ . Then we define the original frame as  $\mathbf{p}_s \triangleq [p_{s_1,1}, p_{s_2,1}, p_{s_1,2}, p_{s_2,2}, \dots, p_{s_1,N}, p_{s_2,N}]^T$ , and also define the frame to be transmitted as  $\mathbf{x}_s \triangleq [x_{s_1,1}, x_{s_2,1}, x_{s_1,2}, x_{s_2,2}, \dots, x_{s_1,N}, x_{s_2,N}]^T$ .

To normalize the power allocation, we denote  $E$  as the average total network transmission power over a frame, then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E} \left\{ \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^N |x_{s_k,i}|^2 \right\} &= \kappa_k E \quad (k = 1, 2), \\ \mathcal{E} \left\{ \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^N |f(x_{r_i})|^2 \right\} &= \tau E, \\ \sum_{k=1}^2 \kappa_k + \tau &= 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \kappa_1, \kappa_2, \tau \geq 0, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where  $x_{s_k,i}$  denotes the  $i$ -th symbol of the frame transmitted by the  $k$ -th source.  $x_{r_i}$  denotes the mixed symbol received by

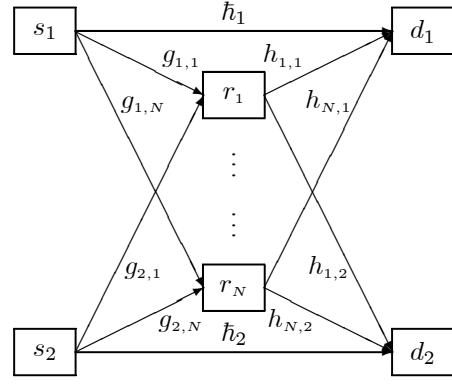


Fig. 3. Multicast cooperative channels with  $N$  relays.

the  $i$ -th relay.

The channel model is represented in Fig. 3. Each node is constrained by half-duplexing and each relay is isolate from the other relays. All channels are assumed to be flat fading with Rayleigh *i.i.d* and quasi-static in at least one frame period and all noises observed by relays and destinations are Gaussian distribution. Furthermore, we use  $\hbar_i$ ,  $g_{i,j}$ ,  $h_{i,j}$  to denote the channels' coefficients between the  $i$ -th source and the  $i$ -th destination, the  $i$ -th source and the  $j$ -th relay, the  $j$ -th relay and the  $i$ -th destination respectively with zero means and variances  $\sigma_{\hbar_i}^2$ ,  $\sigma_{g_{i,j}}^2$ ,  $\sigma_{h_{i,j}}^2$ , use  $v_{r_j}$ ,  $v_{d_i}$  to denote the noises in the  $j$ -th relay and the  $i$ -th destination with zero means and variances  $\sigma_{v_{r_j}}^2$ ,  $\sigma_{v_{d_i}}^2$ . In the sequel, we assume that  $\sigma_{\hbar_i}^2 = 1$ ,  $\sigma_{g_{i,j}}^2 = \eta_1 \sigma_{\hbar_i}^2$ ,  $\sigma_{h_{i,j}}^2 = \eta_2 \sigma_{\hbar_i}^2$  where  $\eta_1, \eta_2 \geq 1$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ;  $j = 1, \dots, N$ ) since these gains may come from strong line-of-sight signals, or may be due to shorter transmission distances. We also assume that the noise variances are same among all the receiver, that is,  $\sigma_{r_j}^2 = \sigma_{d_i}^2 = \sigma^2$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ;  $j = 1, \dots, N$ ). Based on the power constraint in (1), the system SNR is defined as

$$\rho \triangleq \frac{E}{\sigma^2}. \quad (2)$$

To ease the performance analysis, we further draw another assumptions in the system model:

1.  $|x_{s_k,i}|^2 = |x_{s_k,j}|^2$  ( $i, j = 1, \dots, N$  and  $i \neq j$ );
2.  $|f(x_{r_i})|^2 = |f(x_{r_j})|^2$  ( $i, j = 1, \dots, N$  and  $i \neq j$ ).

We then turn to the formal expressions of  $2-N-2$  multicast cooperative channel models with the SiSF-CFNC protocol. Here we only focus on the destination  $d_1$ . The same result can be applied to  $d_2$ .

In SiSF-CFNC protocol, network coding can be seen as the superposition of different signals in the air. So mapping mechanism in the  $i$ -th relay is a linear function, that is

$$f_i(x_{s_1,i}, x_{s_2,i}) = b_i \cdot (g_{1,i}x_{s_1,i} + g_{2,i}x_{s_2,i}), \quad (3)$$

where  $b_i = \sqrt{2\tau E / (2|g_{1,i}|^2 \kappa_1 E + 2|g_{2,i}|^2 \kappa_2 E + \sigma^2)}$  is the amplification factor for the  $i$ -th relay, which is so defined as to balance the system power constraint. For the sake of simplicity, we replace  $b_i$  with  $b$  where  $b = \mathcal{E}(b_i) =$

$\sqrt{2\tau E/(2\eta_1\kappa_1 E + 2\eta_1\kappa_2 E + \sigma^2)}$ . Then the received signals at the destination are

$$\begin{aligned} x_{d_1,1} &= \hbar_1 x_{s_1,1} + v_{d_1,1} \\ x_{d_1,2} &= b h_{1,1}(g_{1,1} x_{s_1,1} + g_{2,1} x_{s_2,1} + v_{r_1}) + v_{d_1,2} \\ &\vdots \\ x_{d_1,2N-1} &= \hbar_1 x_{s_1,N} + v_{d_1,2N-1} \\ x_{d_1,2N} &= b h_{N,1}(g_{1,N} x_{s_1,N} + g_{2,N} x_{s_2,N} + v_{r_N}) + v_{d_1,2N}. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

The transmission model in (4) can be written in a compact matrix form

$$\mathbf{x}_{d_1} = \mathbf{X}_{2N} \mathbf{h}_{2N} + \mathbf{v}_{2N} \quad (5)$$

where  $\mathbf{X}_{2N}$  is a  $2N \times (2N + 1)$  matrix, and  $\mathbf{h}_{2N}$  is a  $(2N + 1) \times 1$  column vector, i.e.,

$$\mathbf{X}_{2N} = \begin{pmatrix} x_{s_1,1} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & x_{s_1,1} & x_{s_2,1} & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ x_{s_1,N} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & x_{s_1,N} & x_{s_2,N} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (6)$$

$$\mathbf{h}_{2N} = [\hbar_1, b g_{1,1} h_{1,1}, b g_{2,1} h_{1,1}, \dots, b g_{1,N} h_{N,1}, b g_{2,N} h_{N,1}]^T$$

and  $\mathbf{v}_{2N}$  is the  $2N \times 1$  noise vector with  $\mathbf{v}_{2N} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 \Sigma_v)$ .  $\Sigma_v$  and  $\Sigma_v$  are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}_{2N} &= [v_{d_1,1}, b h_{1,1} v_{r_1} + v_{d_1,2}, \dots, \\ &\quad v_{d_1,2N-1}, b h_{N,1} v_{r_N} + v_{d_1,2N}]^T, \\ \Sigma_v &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 + b^2 |h_{1,1}|^2 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 + b^2 |h_{N,1}|^2 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Joint maximum likelihood (ML) decoding is performed at  $d_1$  after  $2N$  time slots,

$$\hat{\mathbf{p}}_s = \arg \min \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^N |x_{d_1,2i-1} - \hbar_1 x_{s_1,i}|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^N |x_{d_1,2i} - b h_{i,1}(g_{1,i} x_{s_1,i} + g_{2,i} x_{s_2,i})|^2 \right\}. \quad (8)$$

### III. SYSTEM FRAME ERROR PROBABILITY FOR SiSF-CFNC PROTOCOL

We introduce the SiSF-CFNC protocol to the established cooperative multicast system. And we measure the performance of the protocol by choosing the frame error probability (FEP) as the criterion. We define that a frame is successfully transmitted if and only if (iff) both destinations can successfully receive the frame. So the FEP of the multicast network can be calculated as

$$P_{sys} = P_{d_1}(1 - P_{d_2}) + P_{d_2}(1 - P_{d_1}) + P_{d_1}P_{d_2}, \quad (9)$$

where  $P_{sys}$  is the FEP of the whole system.  $P_{d_1}$  and  $P_{d_2}$  are the FEP of  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  respectively. Since  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  are symmetrical in the network, the theoretic result of  $P_{d_1}$  and  $P_{d_2}$  are equivalent. There is another criterion of system performance, i.e., pairwise error rate (PEP). For total  $2^{2RN}$  codewords, the relationship between FEP and PEP satisfies  $FEP = 2^{2RN}PEP$  where  $R$  is the number of bits in each symbol. To get the FEP formulations, we should first deduce the PEP of each destination. In the sequel, we pick out  $d_1$  for more in-depth analysis.

To deduce  $P_{d_1}$ , we then should first get  $P_{PE,d_1}$ , the PEP of  $d_1$ . According to [14],

$$\begin{aligned} P_{PE,d_1} &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \mathcal{E}_{\mathbf{h}_{2N}} \left\{ \exp \left( -\rho \frac{\mathbf{h}_{2N}^H \mathbf{U}_{2N}^H \Sigma_v^{-1} \mathbf{U}_{2N} \mathbf{h}_{2N}}{8 \sin^2 \theta} \right) \right\} d\theta, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where  $\mathbf{U}_{2N}$  is the normalized pairwise error matrix, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{U}_{2N} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{E}} (\mathbf{X}_{2N} - \hat{\mathbf{X}}_{2N}) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} u_{s_1,1} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & u_{s_1,1} & u_{s_2,1} & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ u_{s_1,N} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & u_{s_1,N} & u_{s_2,N} \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

The  $P_{PE,d_1}$  is given by the following theorem.

**Theorem 1:** Suppose that  $\sum_{i=1}^N |u_{s_1,i}|^2 \prod_{i=1}^N (|u_{s_1,i}|^2 + |u_{s_2,i}|^2) \neq 0$ . Then when  $\rho \rightarrow \infty$ , the average PEP of  $d_1$  for the SiSF-CFNC protocol is

$$\begin{aligned} P_{PE,d_1} &= \frac{(2N+1)!! 2^{(2N+1)b-2N} (\eta_1 \eta_2)^{-N} \rho^{-(N+1)} \ln^N \rho}{(N+1)! \sum_{i=1}^N |u_{s_1,i}|^2 \prod_{i=1}^N (|u_{s_1,i}|^2 + |u_{s_2,i}|^2)} + \\ O &\left( \frac{\left| \ln \left( \prod_{i=1}^N (|u_{s_1,i}|^2 + |u_{s_2,i}|^2) \right) \right| \rho^{-(N+1)} \ln^{(N-1)} \rho}{\sum_{i=1}^N |u_{s_1,i}|^2 \prod_{i=1}^N (|u_{s_1,i}|^2 + |u_{s_2,i}|^2)} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where  $(2N+1)!! = 1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdots (2N+1)$ .

We can get the proof by developing the method in [14]. With the PEP formulation given by Theorem 1, we can write the FEP of  $d_1$  as  $P_{d_1} = 2^{2RN} \times P_{PE,d_1}$ . For the symmetrical consideration, it is easy to get  $P_{d_2}$ . By further applying (9), we then get the FEP of whole system.

### IV. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS AND IMPROVEMENTS

According to the FEP of the protocol, we go on with the detailed performance analysis. We first throw light on the effect of FEP performance imposed by power allocation and channel gain. To enhance the performance, we then propose the precode method to achieve full diversity gain in the multicast system.

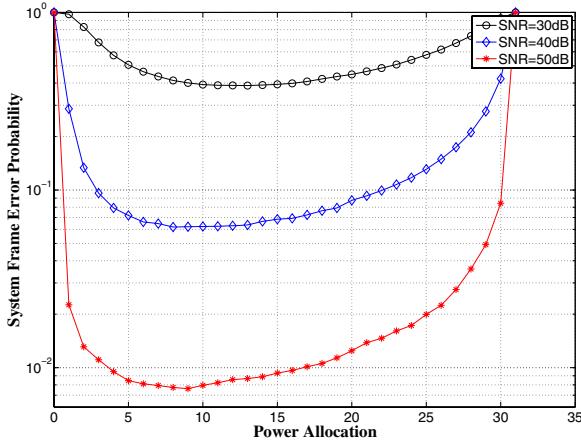


Fig. 4. Relationship between system frame error probability and power allocation for the SiSF-CFNC protocol in 16-QAM modulation with the channel gains  $\eta_1 = \eta_2 = 1$ . The number of relays is  $N = 4$ . We define  $(\kappa_1 + \kappa_2) = \frac{x}{31}$  where  $x$  is the value of the abscissa axis, and then  $\tau = 1 - \frac{x}{31}$ .

#### A. Power Allocation

System performance is relatively sensitive to the power partition and channel gain. We denote relationship between a transmitted frame and its corresponding original frame as  $\mathbf{x}_s = \mathbf{E}\mathbf{p}_s$ , where  $\mathbf{E}$  is the power allocation matrix and  $\mathbf{E} = \sqrt{E}\text{diag}(\sqrt{2\kappa_1}, \sqrt{2\kappa_2}, \dots, \sqrt{2\kappa_1}, \sqrt{2\kappa_2})$ . From the symmetry of  $P_{sys}$ 's expression, the transmission power of the two sources should be equal to approach the minimum value of  $P_{sys}$ . In the sequel, we make  $\kappa_1 = \kappa_2 = \kappa$ , and try to find out the relationship between  $\kappa$  and  $\tau$  that achieve the minimum value of  $P_{sys}$ .

We turn to the FEP expressions of SySF-CFNC protocol, and rewrite the symbol error values as

$$\mathcal{E}(|u_{s_k,i}|^2) = \kappa\mathcal{E}(|\mu_{s_k,i}|^2) = \kappa\mu, \quad (13)$$

where  $\mu_{s_k,i}$  represent the decoded error values of the symbol  $p_{s_k,i}$ . So when  $\rho$  is large enough, we get  $P_{sys}$  of the protocol as

$$\mathcal{E}(P_{sys,SiNC}) = \frac{K_{SiNC} \cdot \rho^{-(N+1)} \ln^N \rho}{N\kappa\mu \cdot (\tau\mu)^N}, \quad (14)$$

where  $K$  with different subscripts denote the constants to the power allocation factors. From (14), we note that to minimize  $\mathcal{E}(P_{sys})$ , we should

1. select suitable  $\kappa$  and  $\tau$  under the constraint of (1);
2. enlarge the values of  $\mu$  as far as can.

We then concentrate on the first item and remain the second one to the next subsection where we take the advantage of precoder design to enlarge the symbol error values. We first consider the case that all channel gains are equal, i.e.,  $\eta_1 = \eta_2 = 1$ . We should find out the suitable value of  $\kappa$  and  $\tau$  which maximize  $\kappa \cdot (\tau)^N$ . Obviously, when  $\tau = N/(N+1)$ ,  $\mathcal{E}(P_{sys,SiNC})$  can achieve its minimum. Fig. 4 illuminates the proper power allocation scheme which proves our predictions.

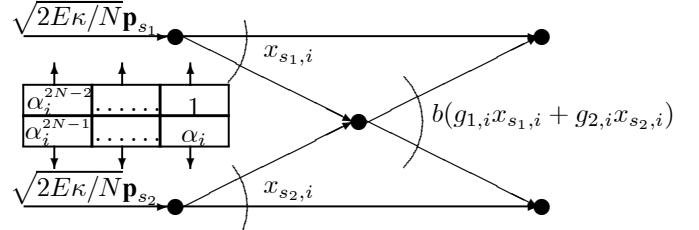


Fig. 5. The precode scheme for the  $i$ -th symbol in SiSF-CFNC protocol.

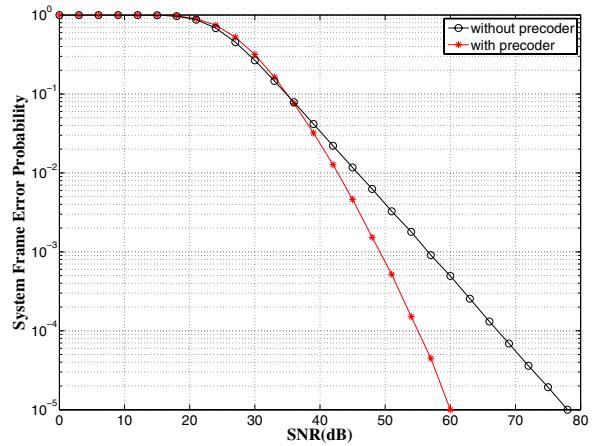


Fig. 6. System FER Performance comparison of SiSF-CFNC protocol for 2-relay scenario with and without precoder. 16-QAM is used in simulation with the channel gains  $\eta_1 = \eta_2 = 1$ .

#### B. Precoder Design

Even under a proper power allocation scheme, the performance of the SySF-CFNC protocol are not so desirable. From the numerical results in the priori subsection, we can see that the system FEP of the SiSF-CFNC protocol are not achieving the full diversity gains. Besides power allocation, another effective method to improve the performance is to apply the precoder design to enlarge the value of  $\mu$ .

We follow the similar way of precoder design as that in [15] where precoder is designed for MIMO systems. In MIMO systems, one kind of space-time precoders is designed as the normalized Vandermonde matrix to achieve higher diversity gain [15]:

$$\Theta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha_1 & \cdots & \alpha_1^{L-1} \\ 1 & \alpha_2 & \cdots & \alpha_2^{L-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 1 & \alpha_L & \cdots & \alpha_L^{L-1} \end{pmatrix}_{L \times L} \quad (15)$$

where  $\{\alpha_i\}_{i=1}^N$  have unit modulus. And  $L$  is an arbitrary integer. If  $L = 2^k$ ,  $\alpha_i = e^{j\pi(4i-1)/2L}$ ; else if  $L = 3 \times 2^k$ ,  $\alpha_i = e^{j\pi(6i-1)/3L}$ .

We choose the best power allocation scheme that  $\kappa_1 = \kappa_2 = \kappa = \frac{1}{2(N+1)}$ ,  $\tau = \frac{N}{N+1}$ . From *Theorem 1*, the condition to

achieve the full diversity gain function for  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^N |u_{s_1,i}|^2 \prod_{i=1}^N (|u_{s_1,i}|^2 + |u_{s_2,i}|^2) &\neq 0, \\ \sum_{i=1}^N |u_{s_2,i}|^2 \prod_{i=1}^N (|u_{s_1,i}|^2 + |u_{s_2,i}|^2) &\neq 0. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

In  $2 - N - 2$  multicast system, we should jointly consider the successful reception of both sources' symbols in each destination, that is, the design of precoder in such system should take both sources into account. From (16), we should make each  $|u_{s_1,i}|^2 + |u_{s_2,i}|^2 \neq 0$  ( $i = 1, \dots, N$ ) to achieve higher diversity gain.

We denote  $\Theta_{s_1}$  and  $\Theta_{s_2}$  as the precoders for the  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  respectively. They come from the  $N \times 2N$  matrix  $\Theta_r$  composed by arbitrary  $N$  rows of the  $2N \times 2N$  matrix  $\Theta_{2N}$ . Then the odd columns of the  $\Theta_r$  becomes to  $\Theta_{s_1}$  and the even columns of the  $\Theta_r$  becomes to  $\Theta_{s_2}$ , i.e.,

$$\Theta_{s_1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha_1^2 & \dots & \alpha_1^{2(N-1)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 1 & \alpha_i^2 & \dots & \alpha_i^{2(N-1)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 1 & \alpha_N^2 & \dots & \alpha_N^{2(N-1)} \end{pmatrix}_{N \times N} \quad (17)$$

$$\Theta_{s_2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 & \alpha_1^3 & \dots & \alpha_1^{2N-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \alpha_i & \alpha_i^3 & \dots & \alpha_i^{2N-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \alpha_N & \alpha_N^3 & \dots & \alpha_N^{2N-1} \end{pmatrix}_{N \times N} \quad (18)$$

Fig. 5 show the precoder design for SiSF-CFNC protocol. The transmitted signals in each source after precoding and amplification during a frame period can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}_{s_1} &= \sqrt{2E\kappa}(\Theta_{s_1}\mathbf{p}_{s_1}), \\ \mathbf{x}_{s_2} &= \sqrt{2E\kappa}(\Theta_{s_2}\mathbf{p}_{s_2}). \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

Then after precoding, the product terms of (16) becomes

$$\prod_{i=1}^N \left( \left| \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \alpha_i^{2n} u_{s_1,n} \right|^2 + \left| \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \alpha_i^{2n+1} u_{s_2,n} \right|^2 \right). \quad (20)$$

Since  $\Theta$  contains irrational numbers, it is evident that (20) will be equal to zero if and only if (iff) all symbols are correctly decoded, which ensures higher diversity gain. Fig. 6 shows the performance comparison. From the figure, we can see the system diversity gain (the slope of the curves) is distinctly enhanced with the designed precoder.

## V. CONCLUSION

We design the SiSF-CFNC protocol for the  $2 - N - 2$  multicast systems in complex filed to achieve higher system throughput by consuming the less transmission time slots. Meanwhile, we define and deduce the system FEP as the

measurement to evaluate the protocol. According to the expressions of system FEP, we conclude that through a proper power allocation scheme can improve the system performance. Precoder is another effective way to achieve higher diversity gain. We then design the precoder for the protocol. Simulations show our precoder can distinctly improve the system performance.

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