Scaling Laws of Multiple Antenna Group-Broadcast Channels

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Abstract—Broadcast (or point to multipoint) communication has attracted a lot of research recently. In this paper, we consider the group broadcast channel where the users’ pool is divided into groups, each of which is interested in common information. Such a situation occurs for example in digital audio and video broadcast where the users are divided into various groups according to the shows they are interested in. The paper obtains upper and lower bounds for the sum rate capacity in the large number of users regime and quantifies the effect of spatial correlation on the system capacity. The paper also studies the scaling of the system capacity when the number of users and antennas grow simultaneously. It is shown that in order to achieve a constant rate per user, the number of transmit antennas should scale at least logarithmically in the number of users.

Index Terms—MIMO systems, transmit diversity, broadband mobile communication systems, wireless personal communication systems.

I. INTRODUCTION

FUTURE breakthroughs in wireless communications will be mostly driven by applications that require high data rates [1]. While increasing the link budget and/or bandwidth can accommodate this increase in data rate, such a solution would not be economical. A more cost effective solution is to exploit the spacial dimension by employing multiple antennas at the transmitter and receiver. Multiple input multiple output (MIMO) communication has thus been the focus of a lot of research [1], [2], [3] which basically demonstrated that the capacity of a point to point MIMO link increases linearly with the number of transmit and receive antennas (an excellent overview of the research on this problem can be found in [4]).

Research focus has shifted recently to the role of multiple antennas in multiuser systems, especially broadcast scenarios (i.e., point to multipoint communication) as downlink scheduling is the major bottleneck for future broadband wireless networks. The broadcast channel resembles downlink communication in a cellular system, where the base station is to transmit to a group of users. In these and other broadcast scenarios, one is usually interested in 1) quantifying the system capacity or the maximum possible sum rate to all users, 2) quantifying the scaling behavior of the sum rate for large number of users, and 3) devising computationally efficient algorithms for capturing most of the sum rate in the large number of users regime. In this paper, we distinguish between two types of broadcast scenarios depending on whether the users are interested in common information or not.

A. Broadcasting to Independent Users

In this problem, users are interested in independent information. Much work has been devoted to answer the three questions raised above for this problem. The capacity region question was recently settled by a technique similar to writing on dirty paper and hence bearing the name dirty paper coding (DPC). Specifically, [5] and [6] have shown that DPC is capable of achieving the maximum possible sum-rate capacity. Subsequently, [7] showed that DPC is able to achieve any point in the capacity region.

While DPC solves the broadcast problem optimally, it is computationally expensive and requires a great deal of feedback as the transmitter needs perfect channel state information of all users [8]. Thus, there has been increased interest to match the DPC capacity for large number of users using simple techniques. In [9] and [10], Sharif and Hassibi showed that the sum rate capacity behaves like $M \log n \log n$ for large $n$ (where $n$ is the total number of users and $M$ is the number of transmit antennas). They also showed that opportunistic beam forming matches this limit. Other promising techniques for capturing most of the DPC capacity were proposed in [7], [10], [11], [12]. They all rely on multiuser diversity to match the DPC for large number of users. Here, each user experiences a different channel and therefore the transmitter can exploit this diversity and choose the set of users that have the best channel conditions.

B. Broadcasting to Groups of Users

The broadcast scenario considered above assumes that the various users are interested in independent streams of data. More common is the situation that one group of users would be interested in one stream of data, another group with another stream, and so on. An example where this might occur is digital audio and video broadcast where there is a limited number of shows and users are classified according to the shows they are interested in [13], [14], [15]. Here, similar questions to the (independent user) broadcast problem would be relevant.

To make the discussion more rigorous, assume that there are $n$ users each equipped with a single antenna. The users are partitioned into $K$ groups where each group is interested in the same stream of data. The transmitter, which is equipped with $M$ antennas, is to schedule transmission to these groups...
so as to maximize the sum-rate capacity of the system. If the transmitter had one antenna only, this would be a trivial problem. For this case, all channels involved would be single input single output. Thus, to transmit to any group of users, one simply needs to take care of the user with the weakest link (i.e., the one with the least channel gain). Such ordering of users, however, is not possible in the multiple antenna case and the problem becomes more challenging.

The group broadcast problem includes the (independent users) broadcast problem as a special case. Specifically, the independent users broadcast is a group broadcast problem in which each group consists of one user only. The other extreme is when all users belong to one group and are all interested in the same information. This is known as a multicast problem and has started to attract some attention recently. In [16], Khisti et. al. characterized the system capacity for the two user binary multicast problem. When multicasting to more than 2 users or for Gaussian multicast, [16] was only able to obtain upper and lower bounds. In [17], Steinberg and Shamai considered a two user situation with a hybrid of broadcast and multicast in which the two users can have common as well as independent messages.

By examining the techniques used in [16] and [17] and the results arrived at, one can be convinced that finding the exact capacity region for the multicast problem (let alone the more general group broadcast problem) can be quite challenging. As such, several authors have resorted instead to evaluate the capacity asymptotes. In his Masters Thesis [18], Khisti considered the multicast problem where there is exactly one group of \( n \) users interested in a common message transmitted from a base station with \( M \) antennas. He showed that for large \( n \), the capacity decreases in proportion to \( n^{-\frac{2}{M}} \). In a recent paper [19], Jindal and Luo built on the work of Khisti and obtained the scaling order of various techniques when used in a multicast scenario. These techniques include transmit beamforming and group broadcast using spatially white or orthogonal signaling.

In this paper, we consider the multiple group broadcast in the large number of users and antennas regime. In contrast to the analysis of [18] and [19], we don’t just obtain order relationships but rather obtain upper and lower bounds that more tightly characterize the system sum-rate capacity.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section III, we present a general theory for the scaling behavior of the minimum of a number of iid random variables. The rest of the paper is divided into two parts. In the first part, we consider the large number of users (\( n \)) case and obtain upper bounds (in Section IV) and lower bounds (in Section V). In the second part, we consider the scaling for the large number of antennas (\( M \)) regime. We do so for fixed \( n \) (Section VI), for \( n = \beta M \) (Section VII) and for \( n = e^M \) (Section VIII). We set the stage, however, by introducing the system model.

II. System Model and Formal Definition of Capacity

A. System Model

Consider a broadcast channel with a base station equipped with \( M \) antennas and \( n \) users each equipped with a single receive antenna. The \( n \) users are partitioned into \( K \) groups each of which is interested in the same stream of data. Specifically, we assume there are \( \alpha_k n \) users in the \( k \)th group \( k = 1, 2, \ldots, K \) where \( \sum_{k=1}^{K} \alpha_k = 1 \), \( \alpha_k > 0 \). We also let \( \alpha \) denote \( \min_k \{\alpha_k\} \) since many of our results will depend on this minimum. Moreover, to get more insights, we will often times specialize our findings to the case where \( \alpha = \alpha_k = \frac{1}{K} \).

The received signal at the \( i_k \)th user is given by

\[
y_{i_k} = h_{i_k}^* s + \nu_{i_k}
\]

where \( s \) is the transmitted signal and is subject to an average power constraint \( E[|s|^2] \leq P_I \) and \( \nu_{i_k} \sim CN(0,1) \) is the additive white complex Gaussian noise. The vector \( h_{i_k} \) is the channel matrix between the base station and user \( i_k \). The users’ channels are independent and identically distributed as \( CN(0, I_M) \). At times, we will assume that \( h_{i_k} \) exhibits some spatial correlation so that \( h_{i_k} \sim CN(0, R) \) where \( R \) is full rank with \( \text{Tr}(R) = M \).

B. Group Sum-Capacity Expression

In this paper we are interested in the sum-capacity of the group broadcast systems. Let \( W_i \) be the information stream of rate \( R_i \) intended for users in group \( i \) for each \( i = 1, \ldots, K \). Then \( (R_1, \ldots, R_K) \) is an achievable rate vector if each user in each group can decode its intended information stream with arbitrary small probability of error using long enough block codes. We define the sum-capacity of the system as the supremum of sum of rates among all achievable rate vectors.

Consider a multicast system (i.e., a group broadcast with only one group). Given a total power budget \( P \), the base station can transmit to one user at the following maximum rate

\[
C_{\text{one user}} = E \max_{B \geq 0 \text{ Tr}(B) \leq P} \log \det (1 + \|h_{B}\|_B^2)
\]

where \( \|h_{i}\|_B^2 \triangleq h_{i}^* B h_{i} \) and \( B \) is the correlation of the input. Since each user in the group is interested in the same data, we have to appeal to all users, particularly the weakest one, by minimizing the \( \log \det \) over all users, i.e.

\[
C_{\text{single}} = E \max_{B \geq 0 \text{ Tr}(B) \leq P} \min_i \log \det (1 + \|h_{i}\|_B^2)
\]

The above expression is the sum-capacity of a multicast system. However the sum-capacity of group broadcast problems in general is not known. If the transmitter had one antenna only, this would be a trivial problem. For in this case, all channels involved would be single input single output. Thus, to transmit to the \( k \)th group of users, one simply needs to take care of the user with the weakest link, i.e., the link for which \( |h_{i_k}| \leq |h_{j}| \) for all \( j \). Such ordering of users, however, is not possible in the multiple antenna case and the problem becomes more challenging. Hence, we resort in this paper to bounding the capacity in the large number of users and antennas regime.

III. Scaling Law for the Minimum of a Number of Random Variables

Group broadcast is intuitively limited by the worst of otherwise identical users. As such, we present in this section a theorem for finding the minimum of a large number of random variables. To this end, let \( x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \) be iid nonnegative random variables with pdf \( f(x) \), CDF \( F(x) \), and
characteristic function $\phi(s)$. We would like to find the scaling
law of the minimum of these random variables, $x_{\min}(n) = \min \{x_1,x_2, \ldots , x_n\}$. The CDF of the minimum is given by
$F_{\min}(x) = 1 - (1 - F(x))^n$. Let’s first illustrate the direct
method of finding the scaling of the minimum through the following
example.

a) Example 1: Beamforming for multicast: In beam-
forming [10], the transmitter sends $M$ orthonormal beams
$\phi_1, \phi_2, \ldots , \phi_M$, and asks each user to feedback the SINR
associated with each beam. For example the SINR associated
with beam $\phi_1$ for user $i$ is given by
\[
\text{SINR}_i = \frac{|h_i^* \phi_1|^2}{\rho + \sum_{m=2}^{M} |h_i^* \phi_m|^2}
\]
where $\rho = \frac{M}{\gamma}$ is the signal to noise ratio. Since the base station
has to appeal to all users in the group, we are constrained by
the worst user. For a given beam, the SINR’s are iid with CDF [10]
\[
F_{\text{SINR}}(x) = 1 - \frac{e^{-\frac{x}{(1+x)^\alpha}}}{x} \quad x \geq 0
\]
So the CDF of the minimum of $n$ such SINR’s is given by
\[
F_{\min, \text{SINR}}(x) = 1 - (1 - F_{\text{SINR}}(x))^n = 1 - \frac{e^{-\frac{x}{(1+x)^\alpha}}}{(1+x)^n} \quad x \geq 0
\]
Note that $\lim_{n \to \infty} F_{\min, \text{SINR}}(\frac{x}{n}) = 1 - e^{-\frac{x}{(1+x)^\alpha}}$. This
shows that for large $n$, $\min_{i} \text{SINR}_i$ scales as $\frac{1}{(1+M-1)n}$. The method of Example 1 may not apply all the time as it is
difficult to find the CDF in closed form sometimes. The following
theorem provides a more general method for finding the scaling of the
minimum. The proof is omitted due to space limitations.

Theorem 1: Let $x_1,x_2,\ldots, x_n$ be iid nonnegative random
variables with CDF $F(x)$, and characteristic function $\phi(s)$. Let
$x_{\min}(n)$ denote the minimum of these random variables
$\{x_1,x_2,\ldots, x_n\}$. Then $a_n x_{\min}(n)$ converges in distribu-
tion to a random variable $y$ with CDF $F_y(y) = 1 - \exp (-y^\alpha)$
where $i_0$ is the first non-zero derivative of $F$ at zero, i.e.,
$F^{(i_0)}(0) \neq 0$ and $F^{(j)}(0) = 0$ for all $j < i_0$ and where
\[
a_n = \frac{i_0}{\alpha} F^{(i_0)}(0)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} e^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}
\]
Furthermore, we can find $F^{(i)}(0)$ using the initial value theorem
\[
\lim_{s \to 0} F^{(i)}(x) = \lim_{s \to \infty} s^{i_0} \phi(s)
\]

b) Example 2: Scaling of spatially correlated channel
norms: Let’s find the scaling law for $\min_{i} |h_i|^2$ when $h_i$ are
iid $CN(0, R)$. The pdf and CDF of $|h_i|^2$ will both have
different forms depending on whether some of the eigenvalues
$\lambda_i$ of $R$ are the same or different, and so the direct method
for scaling can be quite challenging. On the other hand, the
characteristic function takes one form and is given by $\phi(s) = \prod_{i=1}^{M} \frac{1}{1+\lambda_i s}$. From this, it is easy to see that
\[
\lim_{s \to \infty} s^i \phi(s) = F^{(i)}(0) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } i < M \\ \frac{1}{\prod_{j=1}^{i} \lambda_j} & \text{for } i = M \end{cases}
\]
We thus conclude that
\[
\min_{i} |h_i|^2 \text{ scales as } C_M \det(R)^{\frac{1}{n}} \frac{1}{n^{\alpha}}
\]
where $C_M = (M!)^{\frac{1}{M}}$.

IV. UPPER BOUNDS

A. An Upper Bound Using the MAC-BC Duality

Consider the group broadcast problem with $K$ groups. To
obtain an upper bound, we consider all possible broadcast
systems with exactly one user chosen from each group. This
is a typical broadcast scenario for which the sum-rate capacity
is given by dirty paper coding. Using the MAC-BC duality
[20], the sum-capacity is given by
\[
C_K \text{ users} = \max \log \det(I + \sum_{k=1}^{K} b_k h_k^* h_k) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{K} b_k = P
\]
Now, sweeping over all the possible selections of the $K$ users
(one user from each group) we can write
\[
C_u = \min_{h_{i_1} \cdots h_{i_K}} \max \log \det(I + \sum_{k=1}^{K} b_k h_k^* h_k) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{K} b_k = P
\]
This is an upper bound on the sum-rate because the $b_k$’s are
optimized for each set of $K$ users when in the group broadcast
problem the $b_k$’s should be the same for all user groups. To
get rid of the determinant in (3), we use the arithmetic-mean
geometric-mean (AM-GM) inequality
\[
\det(A) \leq \left(\frac{\text{tr}(A)}{M}\right)^M
\]
to write
\[
C_u \leq M \log(1 + \min_{h_{i_1} \cdots h_{i_K}} \max \frac{1}{M} \sum_{k=1}^{K} b_k ||h_k||^2) \quad (4)
\]
\[
= M \log(1 + \frac{P}{M} \min_{h_{i_1} \cdots h_{i_K}} \max \{||h_{i_1}||^2, \cdots , ||h_{i_K}||^2\}) \quad (5)
\]
\[
= M \log(1 + \frac{P}{MK} \max_{h_{i_1} \cdots h_{i_K}} \min \{||h_{i_1}||^2, \cdots , ||h_{i_K}||^2\}) \quad (6)
\]
i.e.
\[
C_u \leq M \log(1 + \frac{P}{M} C_M \max_{h_{i_1} \cdots h_{i_K}} \frac{1}{\alpha_k} \frac{1}{n^{\alpha_k}}) \quad (7)
\]
where the third line follows from exchanging the order of
minimum and maximum. Thus, we can write
\[
C_u \leq M \log\left(1 + \frac{P}{M} C_M \frac{1}{\alpha_k} \frac{1}{n^{\alpha_k}} \right) \quad (8)
\]
In the equal number of users case, $\alpha_k = \frac{1}{K}$, and the upper
bound becomes
\[
C_u \leq M \log\left(1 + \frac{P}{M} C_M K^{\frac{1}{K}} \frac{1}{n^{\alpha_k}} \right) \quad (9)
\]
An alternative upper bound can be obtained as follows. Starting
with the MAC-BC inequality (3), let
\[
H_i = \sqrt{b_i h_{i_1} \cdots \sqrt{b_K h_{i_K}}}
\]
then, $\sum_{k=1}^{K} h_{ik} b_k^* h_{ik}^* = H_i H_i^*$ and the upper bound can be equivalently expressed as

$$C_u = \min_{h_i} \cdots \min_{h_{ik}} \max_{b_k \geq 0} \log \det \left( I_K + H_i^* H_i \right)$$

Note that the matrix inside the determinant is now of size $K$. So applying the AM-GM inequality this time yields

$$C_u \leq K \log \left( 1 + \frac{P}{R K} C_M \frac{1}{\alpha \pi M n \pi} \right) \tag{10}$$

Combining (8) and (10) yields for the equal number of users case

$$C_u \leq \min \{ M, K \} \log \left( 1 + \frac{P}{\min \{ M, K \} C_M K^{\frac{1}{M}} n \pi} \right) \tag{11}$$

Using the expansion that for small $x$, $\log(1+x) = x + O(x^2)$, accurate for small $x$, we can write

$$C_u \leq PC_M K^{\frac{1}{M}} + O \left( \frac{1}{n \pi} \right) \tag{12}$$

In the above, we assumed the $h_{ik}$’s to be white. In the correlated case, the minimization in (6) is done over $h_{ik}$’s with autocorrelation matrix $R$ and that results in a hit $\det(R) \pi^M$ on the upper bound $^1$

$$C_u, \text{corr} \leq PC_M \det(R) \frac{1}{M} K^{\frac{1}{M}} + O \left( \frac{1}{n \pi} \right) \tag{13}$$

B. How Loose is the Upper Bound?

The upper bounds obtained above come from two contributions: the BC-MAC duality and the AM-GM inequality. It is thus interesting to see how loose the upper bound becomes due to the use of the AM-GM inequality. To this end, note that for a positive semidefinite matrix $A$, $\det(I + A) \geq 1 + \text{tr}(A)$ which when applied to (3) yields the following lower bound on $C_u$

$$C_u \geq \min_{h_i} \cdots \min_{h_{ik}} \max_{b_k} \log \left( 1 + \text{tr} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{K} h_i b_k h_i^* \right) \right) \tag{14}$$

Following the steps (4)-(7), we obtain (assuming equal number of users case for simplicity)

$$C_u \geq \log \left( 1 + PC_M K^{\frac{1}{M}} \right) \tag{15}$$

or using the $\log(1+x) = x + O(x^2)$ approximation

$$C_u \geq PC_M K^{\frac{1}{M}} + O \left( \frac{1}{n \pi} \right) \tag{16}$$

which coincides with (12). So we don’t loose anything by applying the AM-GM inequality for large number of users and we thus conclude

$$C_u = PC_M K^{\frac{1}{M}} + O \left( \frac{1}{n \pi} \right) \tag{17}$$

$^1$By the AM-GM inequality, we know that $\det(R) \pi^M \leq \frac{1}{\pi^M} \text{tr}(R) = 1$.

V. LOWER BOUNDS

Having obtained an upper bound on the sum-rate, we now quantify how various methods for scheduling (or resource allocation) behave for large number of users. This gives us an idea about the achievable rates and also provides lower bounds on the group broadcast problem. Specifically, we consider the following scheduling schemes 1) Opportunistic random beamforming 2) Time sharing and 3) Scheduling by treating interference as noise.

A. Opportunistic Random Beamforming

Opportunistic beamforming is a broadcast technique proposed in [9] that captures most of the capacity guaranteed by DPC for large number of users while requiring much less feedback and complexity. Here, the transmitter attempts to choose the best $M$ out of $K$ users to transmit to. To do so, the transmitter uses its $M$ antennas to send $M$ random beams. Each user calculates the $M$ SINR’s (signal to interference and noise ratio), one SINR for each beam, and feeds back the maximum SINR along with its index. The transmitter in turn ranks the $K$ users according to their SINR’s and transmits to the $M$ best ones. Not only does this method require much less feedback than the DPC approach, but it also asymptotically (i.e., in the presence of large number of users) achieves the same performance [9].

To be more specific, the transmitter chooses $M$ random orthonormal beam vectors $\phi_m$ (of size $M \times 1$) generated according to an isotropic distribution. Now these beams are used to transmit the symbols $s_1(t), s_2(t), \ldots, s_M(t)$ by constructing the transmit vector

$$s(t) = \sum_{m=1}^{M} \phi_m(t)s_m(t), \quad t = 1, \ldots, T \tag{18}$$

After $T$ channel uses, the transmitter independently chooses another set of orthonormal vectors $\{\phi_m\}$ and reconstructs the signal vector $s(t)$ again (according to (18)) and so on. From now on and for simplicity, we will drop the time index $t$. The signal $y_k$ received by the $k$’th user is given by

$$y_k = h_k^* s + n_k = \sum_{m=1}^{M} h_k^* \phi_m s_m + n_k, \quad k = 1, \ldots, K$$

Here $E(\text{ss}^*) = PI$ since the $s_m$’s are assumed to be identically distributed and independently assigned to different users. The $k$’th receiver estimates the effective channel gain $h_k^* \phi_m$, something that can be arranged by training, to calculate $M$ SINR’s, one for each transmitted beam

$$\text{SINR}_{k,m} = \frac{|h_k^* \phi_m|^2}{\rho + \sum_{j \neq m} |h_k^* \phi_j|^2} \quad m = 1, \ldots, M$$

where $\rho = \frac{P}{\pi}$ is the signal to noise ratio. Each receiver then feeds back its maximum SINR, i.e. $\max_{1 \leq m \leq M} \text{SINR}_{k,m}$, along with the maximizing index $m$. Thereafter, the transmitter assigns $s_m$ to the user with the highest corresponding SINR, i.e. $\max_{1 \leq k \leq K} \text{SINR}_{k,m}$. If we perform the above scheduling, the
throughput for large \( n \) can be written as \[ R_{RBF} = ME \log \left( 1 + \max_{1 \leq k \leq K} \text{SINR}_{k,1} \right) + o(1) \] where the term \( o(1) \) accounts for the small probability that user \( k \) may be the strongest user for more than one beam \( \phi_m \) [10].

In the group broadcast scenario, we replace each user with a group of users of size \( \alpha_k n \) (the group of users interested in the same data). In this case a beam is assigned to each group. In order to maximize the throughput, each beam \( m \) is assigned to the group with the best equivalent SINR. The equivalent SINR of each group is the minimum of SINR’s of decoding the particular beam among users in the group. Therefore, in the group broadcast problem, random beamforming results in the following max-min problem

\[ R_{RBF} = ME \log \left( 1 + \max_k \left\{ \min_{i_1} \text{SINR}_{i_1}, \ldots, \min_{i_K} \text{SINR}_{i_K} \right\} \right) + o(1) \]

In Example 1, we proved that the minimum SINR scales as

\[ \min_i \text{SINR}_i = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{n} + M - 1} \]

From that, we conclude that the for large number of users, the sum rate is given by

\[ R_{RBF} = M \log \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\frac{1}{n} + M - 1} \right) + o(1) \]

or for the equal number of users per group case

\[ R_{RBF} = M \log \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\frac{1}{n} + M - 1} \right) + o(1) \]

### B. Time Sharing

Time sharing can achieve better performance even if we force the groups to have an equal time share

\[ R_{TS} \geq \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \max_{\text{Tr}(B_k)=P} \min_{B_k} \log (1 + h_{i_k}^T B_k h_{i_k}) \]

\[ = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \log \left( 1 + \min_{\text{Tr}(B_k)=P} \| h_{i_k} \|^2 \right) \]

We now relax the problem further by setting \( B_k = \frac{\rho}{K} I \), from which we conclude that

\[ R_{TS} \geq \frac{P}{M} C_M \left( \frac{1}{\alpha n} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \]

or using the approximation \( \log(1 + x) = x + O(x^2) \), and assuming equal number of users

\[ R_{TS} \geq \frac{P}{M} C_M \frac{K}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}} + O\left( \frac{1}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right) \]

Just like the upper bound, correlation results in a hit \( \det(R)^{\frac{1}{2}} \) on the lower bound

\[ R_{TS, corr} \geq \frac{P}{M} C_M \det(R)^{\frac{1}{2}} K n^{\frac{1}{2}} + O\left( \frac{1}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right) \]

\[ \text{It turns out that all the beams behave equally. So the sum-rate is simply } M \text{ times the rate guaranteed by } \phi_1 \text{ or any beam for that matter. As such, we drop the beam dependence for notational convenience.} \]

### C. Treating Interference as Noise

The other extreme would be to allow all groups to be served simultaneously. Each group would then ignore signals that are meant for the other groups, treating them as additive noise. The rate that the 1st group achieves with this strategy would be

\[ R_1 = \min_{i_1} \log \left( \frac{h_{i_1}^T B_1 h_{i_1}}{1 + \sum_{k=2}^{K} B_k h_{i_1}} \right) \]

By choosing the \( B_k \)'s properly, we can maximize the sum rate \( \sum_k R_k \). Now, relax the problem further by assuming equal isotropic covariances for all user groups, i.e. set \( B_k = \frac{P}{K} I \), then we can show that

\[ R_1 = \log \min_{i_1} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=2}^{K} \| h_{i_1} \|^2} \]

\[ = \frac{P}{M} C_M \frac{K}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}} + O\left( \frac{1}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right) \]

Thus, the sum rate for \( K \) such user groups is upper bounded according to

\[ R_{Interf} \geq \frac{P}{M} C_M \frac{K}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}} + O\left( \frac{1}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right) \]

Correlation will again introduce a hit \( \det(R)^{\frac{1}{2}} \) on the lower bound

\[ R_{Interf, corr} \geq \det(R)^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{P}{M} C_M \frac{K}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}} + O\left( \frac{1}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right) \]

We summarize the findings of sections IV and V by the following theorem.

**Theorem 2:** Consider the following group broadcast scenario: A base station with \( M \) antennas is to broadcast to \( K \) groups of \( \frac{n}{K} \) users each, under a total power constraint \( P \). Assume also that the users’ channels are iid Gaussian. Then the sum-rate capacity behaves like

\[ C = \gamma P C_M \frac{K}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}} + O\left( \frac{1}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right) \]

where \( \frac{1}{\beta} \leq \gamma \leq 1 \). When the users’ channels exhibit correlation \( R \), the capacity scales as

\[ C_{corr} = \gamma \det(R)^{\frac{1}{2}} P C_M \frac{K}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}} + O\left( \frac{1}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right) \]

These are unfortunate results as they show that the sum-rate decreases with the number of users. To counter this, we increase the resources (i.e., number of antennas \( M \)). In the rest of this paper, we study the scaling of group broadcast capacity with the number of antennas when 1) \( n \) is fixed, 2) \( \frac{1}{\beta} = \beta \) and 3) \( M = \log n \). To simplify the exposition, we will only consider the equal number of users case, i.e. we set \( \alpha_k = \frac{1}{K} \) \( \forall k \).

## VI. SCALING WITH M, n FIXED

In this section, we study the scaling of the group broadcast capacity for large number of antennas \( M \) and fixed number of users \( n \). We take the upper bound to be \( K \) times the maximum rate that a single group achieves

\[ C \leq \max_{B \geq 0 \ \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} \log(1 + \min_i \| h_i \|^2) \]

\[ \leq K \log(1 + \min_i \| h_i \|^2) \]
where the second line follows from the fact that \( B \leq P \).
By the law of large numbers we have that
\[
\lim_{M \to \infty} \min_i \frac{|h_i|^2}{M} = 1 \text{ w.p.1.}
\]
Since the minimization is taken over a fixed number of users, we conclude that
\[
\lim_{M \to \infty} \min_i \frac{|h_i|^2}{M} = 1 \text{ w.p.1 and}
\]
\[
C \leq K \log(1 + PM) \text{ w.p.1}
\]
To obtain a lower bound, we use time sharing
\[
C \geq \log(1 + \max_{B > 0} \frac{\min_i |h_i|^2}{B})
\]
To proceed, we need to find a lower bound for
\[
\max_{B > 0, \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} \frac{\min_i |h_i|^2}{B}
\]
(the lower bound \( \frac{\min_i |h_i|^2}{B} \) is too loose). In Appendix A, we show that for every \( h_i \) in the set \( \{h_1, h_2, \ldots, h_\infty\} \)
\[
\max_{B > 0, \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} \frac{\min_i |h_i|^2}{B} \geq \frac{P}{\min\{M, \frac{\infty}{K}\}} |h_i|^2
\]
from which we conclude that
\[
\max_{B > 0, \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} \frac{\min_i |h_i|^2}{B} \geq \frac{P}{\min\{M, \frac{\infty}{K}\}} \min_i |h_i|^2
\]
Now, for fixed \( n \) and large \( M \), we have by the law of large numbers
\[
\lim_{M \to \infty} \min_i |h_i|^2 = 1 \text{ and we can write}
\]
\[
\max_{B > 0, \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} \frac{\min_i |h_i|^2}{B} \geq \frac{P}{\min\{M, \frac{\infty}{K}\}} M
\]
This yields the following lower bound on the sum rate
\[
C \geq \log(1 + \frac{P}{n} M) \text{ w.p.1}
\]
We thus have the following theorem.

**Theorem 3:** Consider the setting of Theorem 2 and assume that the total number of users \( n \) is kept fixed. Then as the number of antennas grows to infinity, the group broadcast capacity satisfies the following bounds with probability one
\[
\log(1 + \frac{P}{n} PM) \leq C \leq K \log(1 + PM)
\]

**VII. SCALING WITH \( M \) AND \( n, \frac{M}{n} = \beta \)**

Here we consider the scaling of the upper and lower bounds when both the number of antennas and users grow to infinity while their ratio remains constant \( \frac{M}{n} = \beta \). We rely on time sharing to obtain a lower bound
\[
C \geq K \max_{B > 0, \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} \frac{1}{K} \log(1 + \min_i h_i^* B h_i)
\]
\[
C \geq \log \left( 1 + \min_i \frac{|h_i|^2}{M} \right)
\]
where we have relaxed the problem by setting \( B = \frac{P}{M} I \). We now need to lower bound \( \min_i \frac{|h_i|^2}{M} \) as \( M, n \to \infty \). To this end, define the matrix
\[
H_i = \begin{bmatrix}
h_1 & h_2 & \cdots & h_\infty
\end{bmatrix}
\]
and note that
\[
\text{diag}(H_i^* H_i) = \begin{bmatrix}
|h_1|^2 & |h_2|^2 & \cdots & |h_\infty|^2
\end{bmatrix}^T
\]
Note also that
\[
\lambda_{\min}(H_i^* H_i) \leq \min_i |h_i|^2 \leq \lambda_{\max}(H_i^* H_i) \leq \max_i |h_i|^2
\]
Moreover as \( n, M \to \infty \) with \( \frac{M}{n} = \beta \) (so that \( \frac{M}{n} \to K \beta \)) the eigenvalues of \( H_i^* H_i \) become uniformly distributed in the range \([\sqrt{1 - \sqrt{\beta}}^2, (1 + \sqrt{\beta})^2] \) as shown in [21], [22]. We can thus write
\[
\frac{1 - \sqrt{\beta}}{(1 + \sqrt{\beta})^2} \leq \lim_{n, M \to \infty} \min_i \frac{|h_i|^2}{M} \leq (1 + \sqrt{\beta})^2
\]
Combining this with the time sharing bound (25) yields the desired lower bound on the sum-rate capacity
\[
C \geq \log \left( 1 + P(1 + \sqrt{\beta})^2 \right)
\]
To obtain an upper bound, we start with the bound
\[
C \leq K \log(1 + \max_{B > 0, \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} \min_i |h_i|^2 B)
\]
We now turn our attention to upper bound the log argument (the bound \( \max_{B > 0, \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} \min_i h_i^* B h_i \leq P \min_i |h_i|^2 \) is too loose). To do so, we will use the dual of the max-min problem derived in Appendix B
\[
\max_{B > 0, \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} \min_i h_i^* B h_i = \min_{\beta \geq 0, \sum \beta_i = 1} P \lambda_{\max}(\sum_i \beta_i h_i h_i^*)
\]
\[
\leq \frac{K}{n} P \lambda_{\max}(\sum_i h_i h_i^*)
\]
\[
= \frac{K}{n} P \lambda_{\max}(H_i^* H_i)
\]
where \( H_i \) is as defined in (26). Now, as \( n, M \to \infty \) with \( \frac{M}{n} = K \beta \), the eigenvalues of \( H_i^* H_i \) will be confined to the range \([\sqrt{1 - \sqrt{\beta}}^2, (1 + \sqrt{\beta})^2]\). We can thus obtain the following upper bound on capacity
\[
C \leq K \log \left( 1 + P \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\beta}} \right)^2 \right)
\]
From (28) and (32), we see that if we allow the number of antennas to grow linearly with the number of users, we can guarantee a constant sum rate and we can state the following theorem.

**Theorem 4:** Consider the setting of Theorem 2 and assume that the number of antennas \( M \) and the number of users \( n \) are made large while maintaining a constant ratio \( \frac{M}{n} = \beta \). Then the sum-rate group broadcast capacity will be constant with probability one. More precisely, we have
\[
\max \left( 1 + P \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\beta}} \right)^2 \right) \leq C \leq K \log \left( 1 + P \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\beta}} \right)^2 \right)
\]
But is it still possible to do so without straining the resources as much? We answer this question in the next section.

**VIII. SCALING WITH \( M \) AND \( n, M = \log n \)**

In the first part of the paper, we proved that the group capacity scales as \( \gamma \frac{P}{M} C_M \frac{n}{M} \). Now for large \( M \), it is easy to prove that \( C_M \simeq M \) and the sum-rate scales as \( \gamma \frac{P}{M} \). Thus, to guarantee a constant rate, we need to set \( M = \log n \). To prove this rigorously, we first study the behavior of \( \min_i \frac{|h_i|^2}{M} \) for large \( n \) (and \( M \)). We use the Chernoff bound in Appendix C to show that
\[
\lim_{M = \log n, n \to \infty} P \left( \min_i \frac{|h_i|^2}{M} \in [1 - \epsilon, 1] \right) = 1
\]
where \( \epsilon \simeq 0.814 \), i.e. for \( M = \log n \) and for large \( n \), \( \min_i \frac{|h_i|^2}{M} \) is a constant.
A. Lower Bound for Sum-rate Capacity (M = log n)

We are now ready to derive the lower bound for the sum rate capacity which we obtain through time sharing. Specifically, we have

$$\max_{B \geq 0, \ \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} \log(1 + \min_i \|h_i\|^2_B) \geq \log(1 + P \min_i \|h_i\|^2_M)$$

which follows by setting $B = \frac{P}{M} I$. Or with $M = \log n$ and as $n \to \infty$

$$C \geq \log(1 + P \Phi_t)$$

(35)

where $\Phi \in [1 - \epsilon_t, 1]$. This lower bound shows that a growth of $M = \beta n$ will guarantee a constant capacity because for $M = \beta n$ the sum rate is upper bounded by a constant. This is summarized in the following theorem.

Theorem 5: Consider the setting of Theorem 2 and assume that the number of antennas $M$ and the number of users $n$ are made large while maintaining the relationship $M = \log n$. Then the sum-capacity in such a system scales like a constant and therefore, a constant capacity per user (stream) is achievable in the system.

Theorem 5 suggests that if the number of antennas scale logarithmically with the number of user, i.e. $M = \log n$, constant capacity per user is achievable. In the following theorem we show that to obtain a constant rate per user in the system the number of antennas should at least behave like $(\log n)^{\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon(n)}$ for a vanishing function $\epsilon(n)$.

Theorem 6: Consider the setting of Theorem 2 and assume that the number of users $n$ are made large. Then in order to have a sum-capacity that scales as a constant and therefore, a constant capacity per user (stream) is guaranteed, the number of transmit antennas $M$, should grow faster than $(\log n)^{\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon(n)}$, where $\epsilon(n) = \frac{\log \log \log n}{\log \log n}$.

Proof: To obtain a constant capacity per user, the multicast capacity of each group should be at least constant. Consider one of the groups with $\alpha n$ users. Then the multicast capacity is given by

$$\log(1 + \max_{B \geq 0, \ \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} \min_i \|h_i\|^2_B)$$

Therefore, $X = \max_{B \geq 0, \ \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} \min_i \|h_i\|^2_B$ should be constant as we increase $n$. In Appendix B, we upper bound the above max-min problem by

$$X \leq P \lambda_{\text{max}}(\sum_i \beta_i h_i h_i^*)$$

(36)

for any choice of $\beta_i \geq 0$ such that $\sum_i \beta_i = 1$. Now suppose we partition the $\alpha n$ users into sets of size $M$. Then we have $S = \frac{\alpha n}{M}$ sets of users. We can obtain an upper bound by considering a uniform choice $\beta_i = \frac{1}{M}$ for all the users in a particular set $s$ and set $\beta_i$ to zero for users in the remaining $S - 1$ sets. For this choice of $\beta_i$, (36) is valid, and we have

$$X \leq \frac{P}{M} \lambda_{\text{max}}(H_s H_s^*)$$

where $H_s$ is the channel matrix between the transmitter and the users in the set $s$ of our partition. Since this is true for each of the $S$ sets, we can write

$$X \leq \frac{P}{M} \min(\lambda_{\text{max}}(H_1^* H_1^*), \ldots, \lambda_{\text{max}}(H_S H_S^*))$$

(37)

Note that $H_s$ for different $s$ are i.i.d. Hence, we have bounded $X$ by the minimum of $S = \frac{\alpha n}{M}$ i.i.d random variables. In order for the sum-capacity to scale at least like a constant with $n$, the right side of (37) should scale like a constant as well. Let us denote the cumulative distribution function (CDF) of $\lambda_{\text{max}}(H H^*)$ by $F_W(t)$, where $H$ is a Gaussian $M \times M$ random matrix. Then $H H^*$ is a Wishart Matrix [22], and we can write

$$\Pr(X \geq \frac{1}{P} \frac{M}{\log M}) \leq (1 - F_W(\frac{M}{\log M}))^S.$$

If $X$ behaves like constant then the above probability should approach one as $n$ tends to infinity. Therefore we should have

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} (1 - F_W(\frac{M}{\log M}))^n \to 1$$

(38)

Using the large deviation result of [22] we know that $F_W(t)$ behaves like $\exp(-M^2 \Phi_-(\frac{t}{M \log M}; 1))$ for $t = O(M)$, where $\Phi_-(x; 1)$ is defined by

$$\Phi_-(x; 1) = (2 \log 2 - \log(4 - x) - \frac{x}{4} - \frac{x^2}{32})u(x)$$

and where $u(x)$ is the step function. Applying the above large deviation bound to our case yields

$$F_W(\frac{M}{\log M}) \approx \exp(-M^2 \log \log M).$$

With this in mind, we conclude that for (38) to hold, we should have that for large $n$, $F_W(\frac{M}{\log M}) \cdot S \to 0$. Alternatively, we require that

$$\log S - M^2 \log \log M \to 0.$$ 

Substituting $S = \frac{\alpha n}{M}$ in the above inequality we get

$$\log n \leq (M^2 + 1) \log \log M (1 + o(1)).$$

This gives an upper bound on the maximum number of supportable users, $n$. It can be verified that for $M$ scaling like $(\log n)^{\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon(n)}$ where $\epsilon(n) = \frac{\log \log \log n}{\log \log n}$ this inequality is not satisfied. Therefore, the number of antennas should grow faster than $(\log n)^{\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon(n)}$ with $n$ to guarantee a constant capacity per stream.

IX. Conclusion

In this paper we considered the problem of multi-group broadcast channels. As its name suggests, in group broadcast there are different groups of user in the system, each group of which is interested in common information. This problem can be a good model for digital multimedia broadcasting in wireless networks that is receiving increasing attention in recent years. We specifically studied the scaling of multi-group broadcast for large number of users. We obtained upper and lower bounds for the sum-rate capacity in the large number of users regime. We showed that the sum rate capacity scales as $\gamma P \frac{C_{\text{max}}}{n}$. We also quantified the effect of spatial correlation on the sum-rate capacity which manifests itself as a hit of $\det((R)^s)$ on the SNR. This is an unfortunate result as it shows that the capacity decreases with the number of users. To go around this, we studied the scaling of the group broadcast capacity with the number of users and antennas. Specifically, two such regimes were studied 1) when the number of antennas is linear in the number of users and 2)
when the number of antennas is logarithmic in the number of users. Both of these regimes guarantee a constant rate per user but the logarithmic rate is more tight as we also proved that the number of antennas should at least behave like \((\log n)^{\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon}\) for a constant rate to be maintained.

Some extensions of this work would be to evaluate scaling of group broadcast in the presence of multiple antennas at the users’ side and to study the scaling in the wideband case. Another extension would be to study the scaling in the large SNR regime to evaluate the group-broadcast multiplexing gain.

\[ \text{X. APPENDIX A} \]

Consider the set \( G = \{ h_1, h_2, \ldots, h_n \} \). We would like to To prove that for every \( h_i \in G \)
\[
\max_{B \succeq 0, \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} h_i^* B h_i \geq \frac{P}{\min \{ M, n \}} || h_i ||^2 \tag{39}
\]
Now for \( B' = \frac{P}{M} I \), we have
\[
\max_{B \succeq 0, \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} h_i^* B h_i \geq h_i^* B' h_i \tag{40}
\]
\[
= \frac{P}{M} || h_i ||^2 \tag{41}
\]
which proves part of (39). Now for \( n \leq M \), let \( A = \{ a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_l \} \) be an orthonormal basis for the space spanned by the set \( G \). Then \( l \leq n \leq M \). Define the matrix \( B' \) this time as
\[
B' = \frac{P}{n} A A^*
\]
where
\[
A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_l & O_{M \times M-l} \end{bmatrix}
\]
then \( B' \succeq 0 \) and \( \text{Tr}(B') = \frac{P}{n} \leq P \). Moreover, since each \( h_i \) is spanned by \( A \), it is easy to see that
\[
h_i^* B' h_i = \frac{P}{n} || h_i ||^2
\]
so that
\[
\max_{B \succeq 0, \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} h_i^* B h_i \geq \frac{P}{n} || h_i ||^2 \tag{42}
\]
Combining (40) and (42) yields the desired result.

\[ \text{XI. APPENDIX B} \]

To obtain the dual form of the max-min problem of (29), we introduce the dual variables and write the optimization problem in the following form
\[
\max_{B \succeq 0, \text{Tr}(B) \leq P} \min_i h_i^* B h_i = \max_{\gamma \geq 0} \min_{\sum_i \beta_i h_i^* h_i = 1} \gamma P
\]
\[
= \min_{\gamma \geq 0} \sum_i \beta_i h_i^* h_i \gamma P
\]
where the third line follows by first minimizing the cost over \( \gamma \). Since \( \gamma I \succeq \sum_i \beta_i h_i^* h_i^* \), it readily follows that \( \gamma \geq \lambda_{\max}(\sum_i \beta_i h_i^* h_i^*) \), i.e. \( \gamma \) is greater equal to the maximum eigenvalue of matrix \( \sum_i \beta_i h_i^* h_i^* \).

\[ \text{XII. APPENDIX C} \]

Let \( Y = \frac{|| h_i ||^2}{M} \), and define \( g(Y) \) by
\[
g(Y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } Y \leq 1 - \epsilon \\ 0 & \text{if } Y > 1 - \epsilon \end{cases}
\]
Then for \( \nu \geq 0 \)
\[
g(Y) \leq e^{-\nu(Y-1-\epsilon)}
\]
which yields the Chernoff bound
\[
E[g(Y)] = P(Y \leq 1 - \epsilon) \leq e^{\nu(1-\epsilon)} E[e^{-\nu Y}]
\]
or
\[
P\left( \frac{|| h_i ||^2}{M} \leq 1 - \epsilon \right) = e^{\nu(1-\epsilon)} \frac{1}{(1 + \frac{\nu}{M})^M} \tag{43}
\]
Now we can tighten the upper bound by choosing the optimum \( \nu \), which, upon setting the first derivative to zero, turns out to be
\[
\nu = M \frac{\epsilon}{1 - \epsilon} > 0
\]
and the bound reads
\[
P\left( \frac{|| h_i ||^2}{M} \leq 1 - \epsilon \right) \leq e^{M\nu(1-\epsilon)} = e^{M(\epsilon+\log(1-\epsilon))}
\]
We can use this to bound the probability \( P(\min_i \frac{|| h_i ||^2}{M} \leq 1 - \epsilon) \)
\[
P(\min_i \frac{|| h_i ||^2}{M} \leq 1 - \epsilon) = 1 - (1 - P(\frac{|| h_i ||^2}{M} \leq 1 - \epsilon))^n \leq 1 - (1 - e^{M(\epsilon+\log(1-\epsilon))})^n = 1 - (1 - n^\epsilon+\log(1-\epsilon))^n
\]
where the last line follows from the fact that \( M = \log n \). For the above probability to vanish as \( n \) grows, we require that
\[
\epsilon + \log(1-\epsilon) < -1
\]
Let \( \epsilon_1 \) be the infimum of the set \( \{ \epsilon : \epsilon + \log(1-\epsilon) < -1 \} \), (i.e. \( \epsilon_1 \) satisfies \( \epsilon_1 + \log(1-\epsilon_1) = -1 \) or \( \epsilon_1 \approx .8414 \)). Then,
\[
\lim_{n \to \infty} P(\min_i \frac{|| h_i ||^2}{M} \geq 1 - \epsilon_1) = 1 \tag{44}
\]
Now let’s obtain an upper bound for \( \min_i \frac{|| h_i ||^2}{M} \). Employing Chernoff bound again, it is easy to show that for \( \nu \geq 0 \)
\[
P\left( \frac{|| h_i ||^2}{M} \geq 1 + \epsilon \right) \leq e^{-\nu(1+\epsilon)} E[e^{\nu \frac{|| h_i ||^2}{M}}] = e^{-\nu(1+\epsilon)} \frac{1}{(1 + \frac{\nu}{M})^M} \tag{45}
\]
Moreover, the upper bound is tightest for \( \nu = M \frac{\epsilon}{1+\epsilon} \). We thus have
\[
P\left( \frac{|| h_i ||^2}{M} \geq 1 + \epsilon \right) \leq e^{M\epsilon(1 + \epsilon)^M} = e^{M(\epsilon+\log(1+\epsilon))}
\]
or
\[
P(\min_i \frac{|| h_i ||^2}{M} \geq 1 + \epsilon) \leq (n^{(\epsilon-\epsilon+\log(1+\epsilon))})^n
\]
where we used the fact that $n = \log M$. This probability vanishes provided that $-\epsilon + \log(1 + \epsilon) < 0$ and the infimum for which this is true is $\epsilon_u = 0$. We can thus write

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} P \left( \min_i \frac{\|h_i\|^2}{M} \leq 1 \right) = 1 \quad (47)$$

From (44) and (47), we see that

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} P \left( \min_i \frac{\|h_i\|^2}{M} \in [1 - \epsilon_l, 1] \right) = 1 \quad (48)$$

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