

Degrees of Freedom of Uplink–Downlink Multiantenna Cellular Networks

Sang-Woon Jeon, *Member, IEEE*, and Changho Suh, *Member, IEEE*

Abstract—An uplink–downlink two-cell cellular network is studied in which the first base station (BS) with M_1 antennas receives independent messages from its N_1 serving users, while the second BS with M_2 antennas transmits independent messages to its N_2 serving users. That is, the first and second cells operate as uplink and downlink, respectively. Each user is assumed to have a single antenna. Under this uplink–downlink setting, the sum degrees of freedom (DoFs) is completely characterized as the minimum of $(N_1 N_2 + \min(M_1, N_1)(N_1 - N_2)^+ + \min(M_2, N_2)(N_2 - N_1)^+)/\max(N_1, N_2)$, $M_1 + N_2$, $M_2 + N_1$, $\max(M_1, M_2)$, and $\max(N_1, N_2)$, where a^+ denotes $\max(0, a)$. The result demonstrates that, for a broad class of network configurations, operating one of the two cells as uplink and the other cell as downlink can strictly improve the sum DoF compared with the conventional uplink or downlink operation, in which both cells operate as either uplink or downlink. The DoF gain from such uplink–downlink operation is further shown to be achievable for heterogeneous cellular networks having hotspots and with delayed channel state information.

Index Terms—Cellular networks, degrees of freedom, heterogeneous networks, interference alignment, multiantenna techniques, reverse TDD.

I. INTRODUCTION

CHARACTERIZING the capacity of cellular networks is one of the fundamental problems in network information theory. Unfortunately, even for the simplest setting consisting of two base stations (BSs) having one serving user each, which is referred to as the two-user interference channel (IC), capacity is not completely characterized for general channel parameters [1], [2]. Exact capacity results being notoriously difficult to obtain, many researchers have recently studied approximate capacity characterizations in the shape of so-called “degrees of freedom (DoF)”, which captures the behavior of capacity as the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) becomes large.

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The DoF metric has received a great deal of attention and thoroughly analyzed as multiantenna techniques emerged [3], [4], especially in cellular networks [5]–[9] because of their potential to increase the DoF of cellular networks. Roughly speaking, equipping multiple antennas at the BS and/or users can drastically increase the sum DoF of single-cell cellular networks proportionally with the number of equipped antennas.

Under multicell environment, Cadambe and Jafar recently made a remarkable progress showing that the optimal sum DoF for the K -user IC is given by $K/2$ [10], which corresponds to the K -cell cellular network having one serving user in each cell. A new interference mitigation paradigm called interference alignment (IA) has been proposed to achieve the sum DoF $K/2$ [10]. Multicell cellular networks having multiple serving users in each cell has been studied in [11] and [12] under both uplink and downlink operation, each of which is called interfering multiple access channel (IMAC) [11] and interfering broadcast channel (IBC) [11], [12]. It was shown in [11] and [12] that multiple users in each cell is beneficial for increasing the sum DoF of IMAC and IBC by utilizing multiple users in each cell for IA.

As a natural extension, integrating multiantenna techniques and IA techniques has been recently studied to boost the DoF of multicell multiantenna cellular networks. The DoF of the K -user IC having M antennas at each transmitter and N antennas at each receiver has been analyzed in [13]. The IMAC and IBC models have been extended to multiantenna BS and/or multiantenna users, see [14]–[19] and the references therein. More recently, IA using multiple antennas has been extended to full-duplex cellular networks [20], [21].

A. Motivating Example

In this paper, we study a multiantenna two-cell cellular network in which the first and second cells operate as uplink and downlink respectively. For better understanding on the motivation of the paper, we introduce a simple two-cell cellular network in Fig. 1. The first cell consists of a BS having two antennas and three users but the second cell consists of a BS having three antennas and two users. Let us consider how to operate or coordinate this example network in order to maximize its sum DoF. As we will explain later, if both cells operate as the conventional uplink or downlink, then the sum DoF is limited by two from the DoF result of the two-user multiple input multiple output (MIMO) IC in [22]. Hence, activating one of the two cells can trivially achieve the optimal sum DoF for these cases. Notice that the another option is to operate the first cell as uplink and the second cell as downlink

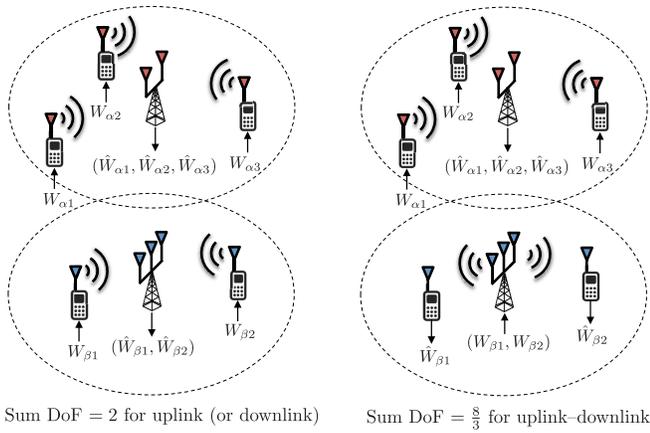


Fig. 1. Sum DoF of the example network.

or vice versa. For this case, the two-user MIMO IC upper bound in [22] is given by three, suggesting that it might be possible to achieve more than two sum DoF. But it is at least impossible to achieve more than two DoF by simply activating one of two cells. We will show that for this case the optimal sum DoF is given by $8/3$, strictly greater than that achievable by the conventional uplink or downlink operation.

The previous work on the DoF of multiantenna cellular networks, however, inherently assumes either uplink or downlink so that it cannot capture the possibility of such DoF improvement from the uplink–downlink operation. Therefore, the primary aim of this paper is to figure out whether operating as either the conventional uplink or downlink is optimal or not in terms of the DoF for multicell multiantenna cellular networks. We focus on two-cell networks in which the first cell, consisting of a BS with M_1 antennas and N_1 users, operates as uplink and the second cell, consisting of a BS with M_2 antennas and N_2 users, operates as downlink. We completely characterize the sum DoF and the result demonstrates that, depending on the network configuration, uplink–downlink operation is beneficial for increasing the sum DoF compared to the conventional uplink or downlink operation.

B. Previous Work

In seminal work [10], Cadambe and Jafar showed that the optimal sum DoF of the K -user IC with time-varying channel coefficients is given by $\frac{K}{2}$, achievable by signal space IA. The concept of this signal space alignment has been successfully adapted to various network environments, e.g., see [11]–[13], [23]–[27] and the references therein. It was shown in [28] and [29] that IA can also be attained on fixed (not time-varying) channel coefficients. A different strategy of IA was developed in [30] and [31] called ergodic IA, which makes interference aligned in the finite SNR regime and, as a result, provides significant rate improvement compared with the conventional time-sharing strategy in the finite SNR regime [30], [32]. The DoF of K -user MIMO IC has been considered in [13], [33], and [34].

For multisource multihop networks, interference can not only be aligned, but it can be cancelled through multiple paths,

which is referred to as interference neutralization [35]. The work [36] has exploited IA to neutralize interference at final destinations, which is referred to as aligned interference neutralization, and showed that the optimal sum DoF two is achievable for 2-user 2-hop networks with 2 relays. Similar concept of ergodic IA has been proposed for interference neutralization in [37] showing that ergodic interference neutralization achieves the optimal sum DoF of K -user K -hop isotropic fading networks with K relays in each layer. Recently, it has been shown in [38] that the optimal sum DoF of the K -user 2-hop network with K relays is given by K .

The DoF of cellular networks has been first studied by Suh and Tse for both uplink and downlink environments, called IMAC and IBC respectively [11], [12]. It was shown that, for two-cell networks having K users in each cell, the sum DoF $\frac{2K}{K+1}$ is achievable for both uplink and downlink. Hence, multiple users at each cell are beneficial for improving the DoF of cellular networks. The IMAC and IBC models have been extended to have multiple antennas at each BS and/or user [14]–[19], [39]–[46]. For multiantenna IMAC and IBC, it was shown that there exists in general a trade-off between two approaches: zero-forcing by using multiple antennas and asymptotic IA by treating each antenna as a separate user [18], [19], [34], [43].

Recently, reverse time division duplex (TDD), i.e., operating a subset of cells as uplink and the rest of the cells as downlink, has been actively studied in heterogeneous cellular networks, consisting of macro BSs with larger number of antennas and micro BSs with smaller number of antennas [47]–[52]. Under various practical scenarios, potential benefits of reverse TDD have been analyzed in the context of coverage [48], area spectral efficiency [48], [49], throughput [50], [52], and so on.

C. Paper Organization

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section II, we introduce the uplink–downlink multiantenna two-cell cellular network model and define its sum DoF. In Section III, we first state the main result of this paper, the sum DoF of the uplink–downlink multiantenna two-cell cellular network. The proof of the main result is presented in Section IV. We then discuss some related problems regarding the main result in Section V and finally conclude in Section VI.

II. PROBLEM FORMULATION

We will use boldface lowercase letters to denote vectors and boldface uppercase letters to denote matrices. Throughout the paper, $[1 : n]$ denotes $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, $\mathbf{0}_n$ denotes the $n \times 1$ all-zero vector, and \mathbf{I}_n denotes the $n \times n$ identity matrix. For a real value a , a^+ denotes $\max(0, a)$. For a set of vectors $\{\mathbf{a}_i\}$, $\text{span}(\{\mathbf{a}_i\})$ denotes the vector space spanned by the vectors in $\{\mathbf{a}_i\}$. For a vector \mathbf{b} , $\mathbf{b} \perp \text{span}(\{\mathbf{a}_i\})$ means that \mathbf{b} is orthogonal with all vectors in $\text{span}(\{\mathbf{a}_i\})$. For a matrix \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{A}^\dagger denotes the transpose of \mathbf{A} . For a set of matrices $\{\mathbf{A}_i\}$, $\text{diag}(\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_n)$ denotes the block diagonal matrix consisting of $\{\mathbf{A}_i\}$.

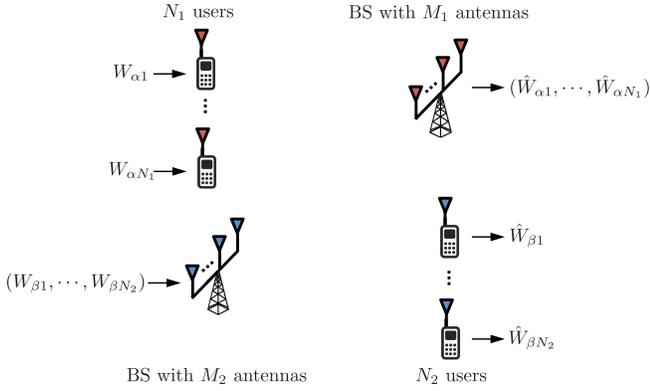


Fig. 2. Uplink-downlink multiantenna two-cell cellular networks, where the transmitters are located in the left hand side by convention.

A. Uplink-Downlink Multiantenna Two-Cell Cellular Networks

Consider a multiantenna two-cell cellular network depicted in Fig. 2 in which the first cell (cell α) operates as uplink and the second cell (cell β) operates as downlink. Specifically, the BS in cell α (BS α) equipped with M_1 antennas wishes to receive an independent message $W_{\alpha i}$ from the i th user in the same cell (user (α, i)) for all $i \in [1 : N_1]$. On the other hand, the BS in cell β (BS β) equipped with M_2 antennas wishes to send an independent message $W_{\beta j}$ to the j th user in the same cell (user (β, j)) for all $j \in [1 : N_2]$. Each user is assumed to have a single antenna.

The $M_1 \times 1$ received signal vector of BS α at time t is given by

$$\mathbf{y}_\alpha[t] = \sum_{i=1}^{N_1} \mathbf{h}_{\alpha i}[t] x_{\alpha i}[t] + \mathbf{G}_\alpha[t] \mathbf{x}_\beta[t] + \mathbf{z}_\alpha[t] \quad (1)$$

and the received signal of user (β, j) at time t is given by

$$y_{\beta j}[t] = \mathbf{h}_{\beta j}[t] \mathbf{x}_\beta[t] + \sum_{i=1}^{N_1} g_{\beta j i}[t] x_{\alpha i}[t] + z_{\beta j}[t], \quad (2)$$

where $j \in [1 : N_2]$. Here $\mathbf{h}_{\alpha i}[t] \in \mathbb{R}^{M_1 \times 1}$ is the channel vector from user (α, i) to BS α , $\mathbf{G}_\alpha[t] \in \mathbb{R}^{M_1 \times M_2}$ is the channel matrix from BS β to BS α , $\mathbf{h}_{\beta j}[t] \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times M_2}$ is the channel vector from BS β to user (β, j) , and $g_{\beta j i}[t] \in \mathbb{R}$ is the scalar channel from user (α, i) to user (β, j) . Also, $x_{\alpha i}[t] \in \mathbb{R}$ is the transmit signal of user (α, i) and $\mathbf{x}_\beta[t] \in \mathbb{R}^{M_2 \times 1}$ is the transmit signal vector of cell β . The additive noise vector at cell α , denoted by $\mathbf{z}_\alpha[t] \in \mathbb{R}^{M_1 \times 1}$, is assumed to follow $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}_{M_1}, \mathbf{I}_{M_1})$. Similarly, the additive noise at user (β, j) , denoted by $z_{\beta j}[t]$, is assumed to follow $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. Each user in cell α and BS β should satisfy the average power constraint P , i.e., $E(x_{\alpha i}^2[t]) \leq P$ for all $i \in [1 : N_1]$ and $E(\|\mathbf{x}_\beta[t]\|^2) \leq P$, where $\|\cdot\|$ denotes the norm of a vector.

We assume that all channel coefficients are independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.) drawn from a continuous distribution and vary independently over each time slot. Global channel state information (CSI) is assumed to be available at each user and BS.

B. Degrees of Freedom

Let $W_{\alpha i}$ and $W_{\beta j}$ be chosen uniformly at random from $[1 : 2^{nR_{\alpha i}}]$ and $[1 : 2^{nR_{\beta j}}]$ respectively, where $i \in [1 : N_1]$ and $j \in [1 : N_2]$. A rate tuple $(R_{\alpha 1}, \dots, R_{\alpha N_1}, R_{\beta 1}, \dots, R_{\beta N_2})$ is said to be achievable if there exists a sequence of $(2^{nR_{\alpha 1}}, \dots, 2^{nR_{\alpha N_1}}, 2^{nR_{\beta 1}}, \dots, 2^{nR_{\beta N_2}}; n)$ codes such that $\Pr(\hat{W}_{\alpha i} \neq W_{\alpha i}) \rightarrow 0$ and $\Pr(\hat{W}_{\beta j} \neq W_{\beta j}) \rightarrow 0$ as n increases for all $i \in [1 : N_1]$ and $j \in [1 : N_2]$. Then the achievable sum DoF is given by

$$\lim_{P \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_1} R_{\alpha i} + \sum_{j=1}^{N_2} R_{\beta j}}{\frac{1}{2} \log P}. \quad (3)$$

For notational convenience, denote the maximum achievable sum DoF by d_Σ . In the rest of the paper, we will characterize d_Σ , which is given by a function of M_1 , M_2 , N_1 , and N_2 .

III. MAIN RESULT

In this section, we state our main result. We completely characterize d_Σ in the following theorem.

Theorem 1: For the uplink-downlink multiantenna two-cell cellular network, d_Σ is given by (4), at the bottom of the page.

Proof: We refer to Section IV for the proof. \blacksquare

For better understanding of the contribution of the main result, we present simple existing upper and lower bounds on d_Σ . Obviously, d_Σ is upper bounded by the sum DoF of the two-user MIMO IC having N_1 transmit antennas and M_2 received antennas for the first transmission pair and M_2 transmit antennas and N_2 received antennas for the second transmission pair. Hence, from the result in [22],

$$d_\Sigma \leq \min\{M_1 + N_2, M_2 + N_1, \max(M_1, M_2), \max(N_1, N_2)\}. \quad (5)$$

Note that the first DoF constraint in (4) do not appear in (5), which can be interpreted as the DoF degradation due to distributed processing at each user. On the other hand, if only one of the two cells is activated, we have

$$d_\Sigma \geq \max(\min(M_1, N_1), \min(M_1, N_2)). \quad (6)$$

In the following, we first consider symmetric cell configurations in which either the number of antennas at each BS or the number of users in each cell is the same. For this case, d_Σ is trivially characterized from (5) and (6) without using Theorem 1.

$$d_\Sigma = \min \left\{ \frac{N_1 N_2 + \min(M_1, N_1)(N_1 - N_2)^+ + \min(M_2, N_2)(N_2 - N_1)^+}{\max(N_1, N_2)}, M_1 + N_2, M_2 + N_1, \max(M_1, M_2), \max(N_1, N_2) \right\}. \quad (4)$$

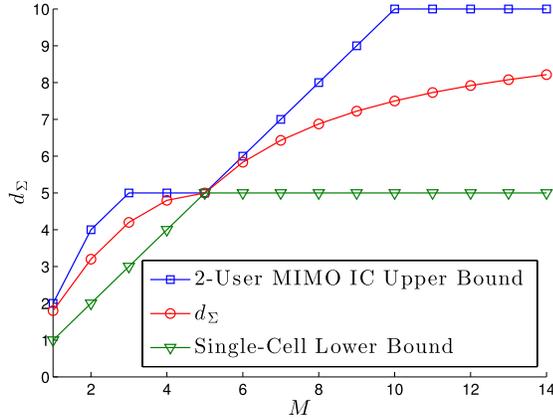


Fig. 3. d_{Σ} in Theorem 1 with respect to M when $N = 5$, where $M_1 = N_2 = M$ and $M_2 = N_1 = N$.

Example 1 (Symmetric Cell Configurations): First consider the case where the number of antennas at each BS is the same, i.e., $M_1 = M_2 := M$. Then the existing upper and lower bounds in (5) and (6) coincide showing that $d_{\Sigma} = \min(M, \max(N_1, N_2))$ for this case. The same is true for the case where the number of users in each cell is the same, i.e., $N_1 = N_2 := N$. Then $d_{\Sigma} = \min(\max(M_1, M_2), N)$. \diamond

For a general (asymmetric) cell configuration, however, the upper and lower bounds in (5) and (6) is not tight as demonstrated in the following example.

Example 2 (Asymmetric Cell Configurations): Consider the asymmetric cell configuration in which $M_1 = N_2 := M$ and $M_2 = N_1 := N$. Then Theorem 1 shows that

$$d_{\Sigma} = \begin{cases} \frac{M(2N-M)}{N} & \text{if } M \leq N, \\ \frac{N(2M-N)}{M} & \text{if } M > N. \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

Figure 3 plots (7) with respect to M when $N = 5$. For comparison, we also plot the two-user MIMO IC upper bound (5) and the single-cell lower bound (6), each of which is given by $\min\{2M, 2N, \max(M, N)\}$ and $\min(M, N)$ respectively. Note that (7) is not trivially achievable and, moreover, the two-user MIMO IC upper bound is not tight for all M and N satisfying $M \neq N$. \diamond

The above two examples have led to a fundamental question: *Which class of cell configurations can uplink–downlink operation improve the sum DoF of cellular networks compared to the conventional uplink or downlink operation (including the single-cell operation)?* That is, the question is about the *cell coordination problem* when a network is able to choose the operation mode of each cell to maximize its sum DoF. For a broad class of heterogeneous cell configurations, uplink–downlink operation strictly improves the sum DoF compared to the case where the entire cells operate either uplink or downlink. We briefly address this question in the following remark based on the cell configuration assumed in Example 2. The DoF gain from uplink–downlink operation will be discussed in more details over a general four-parameter space (M_1, M_2, N_1, N_2) in Section V-A. We further address the above question for cellular networks having hotspots in Section V-B, which is a certain type of heterogeneous cellular networks.

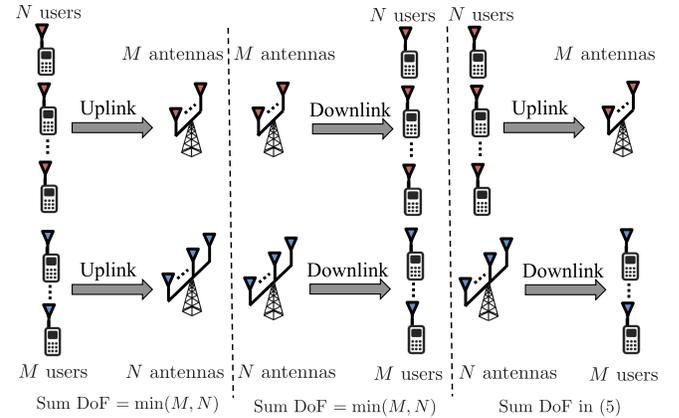


Fig. 4. Sum DoF achievable by uplink, downlink, and uplink–downlink operation for $M_1 = N_2 = M$ and $M_2 = N_1 = N$.

Remark 1 (DoF Gain From Uplink–Downlink Operation): Theorem 1 demonstrates that, depending on the network configuration, operating one cell as uplink and the other cell as downlink improves the sum DoF compared to the conventional operation in which the entire cells operate as either uplink or downlink. For instance, consider the cell coordination problem for the two-cell heterogeneous cellular network in which its configuration is given as in Fig. 2. That is, the operation mode of each cell can be coordinated to maximize the sum DoF. As shown in Fig. 4, if we operate both cells either uplink or downlink, then the sum DoF is upper bounded by the single-cell lower bound, i.e., $\min(M, N)$. On the other hand, uplink–downlink operation achieves (7), which is strictly larger than $\min(M, N)$ for all M and N satisfying $M \neq N$. Furthermore, the DoF gain from uplink–downlink operation becomes significant as the difference between M and N increases. Specifically, $d_{\Sigma} \rightarrow 2M$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$ in (7). Whereas the sum DoF achievable by the conventional uplink or downlink operation is limited by M even as $N \rightarrow \infty$. \diamond

The following remark states an interesting observation captured by Theorem 1. It is about the impact of user cooperation on the two-cell IMAC or IBC, which corresponds to the model assuming the conventional uplink or downlink and, thus, is not related to uplink–downlink operation.

Remark 2 (User Cooperation): Consider the two-cell IMAC in Fig. 5 in which N users in each cell wish to transmit independent messages to their BS. Suh and Tse showed that the sum DoF $\frac{2N}{N+1}$ is achievable in this case, which converges to the interference-free sum DoF of 2 as N increases. Obviously, if the users within each cell can cooperate with each other, then the interference-free sum DoF is achievable if $N \geq 2$. Hence the number of users in each cell does not have to go to infinity. Now suppose that the users in the second cell can cooperate. From Theorem 1, $d_{\Sigma} = \frac{2N_1-1}{N_1}$ when $M_2 = 2$ and $M_1 = N_2 = 1$, which shows $d_{\Sigma} \rightarrow 2$ as $N_1 \rightarrow \infty$. Hence this result shows that, even though user cooperation is allowed only for the second cell, cooperation between two users is enough to achieve $d_{\Sigma} \rightarrow 2$ if the number of users in the first cell tends to infinity. In this sense, one-side user cooperation is still powerful for boosting DoF. The same argument holds for the two-cell IBC. \diamond

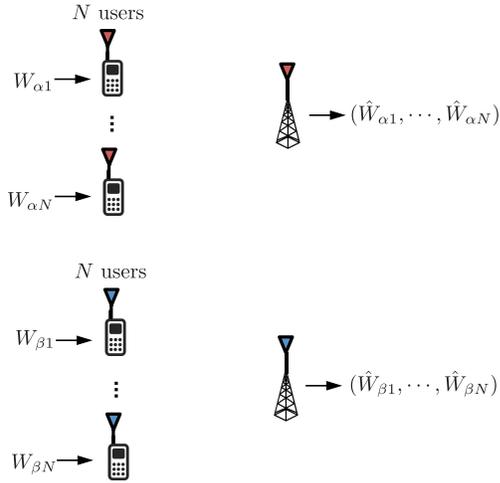


Fig. 5. Two-cell IMAC in which each BS and user is equipped with a single antenna.

IV. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

In this section, we prove Theorem 1. We first provide the converse proof in Section IV-A and then provide the achievability proof in Sections IV-B to IV-E. For better understanding of the achievability idea, we first establish it based on a simple example network in Section IV-B. We then introduce two proposed schemes for a general network and analyze their achievable sum DoF in Sections IV-C to IV-E.

A. Converse

In this subsection, we prove the converse of Theorem 1. If full cooperation is allowed within the N_1 users in cell α and within the N_2 users in cell β , then the network becomes the two-user MIMO IC. Hence, $d_\Sigma \leq \min\{M_1 + N_2, M_2 + N_1, \max(M_1, M_2), \max(N_1, N_2)\}$ from the result in [22]. Then the remaining part is to prove the first d_Σ constraint in (4).

Denote d_{ai} , $i \in [1 : N_1]$ by an achievable DoF of user (α, i) and $d_{\beta j}$, $j \in [1 : N_2]$, by an achievable DoF of user (β, j) . Let us then remove all the users in cell α except user (α, i) and all the users in cell β except user (β, j) . Obviously, removing other users cannot degrade $d_{ai} + d_{\beta j}$. Therefore, again from (4),

$$d_{ai} + d_{\beta j} \leq 1. \quad (8)$$

Then, summing (8) for all $i \in [1 : N_1]$ and $j \in [1 : N_2]$ provides

$$N_2 \sum_{i=1}^{N_1} d_{ai} + N_1 \sum_{j=1}^{N_2} d_{\beta j} \leq N_1 N_2. \quad (9)$$

Obviously,

$$(N_1 - N_2)^+ \sum_{i=1}^{N_1} d_{ai} \leq (N_1 - N_2)^+ \min(M_1, N_1). \quad (10)$$

$$(N_2 - N_1)^+ \sum_{j=1}^{N_2} d_{\beta j} \leq (N_2 - N_1)^+ \min(M_2, N_2), \quad (11)$$

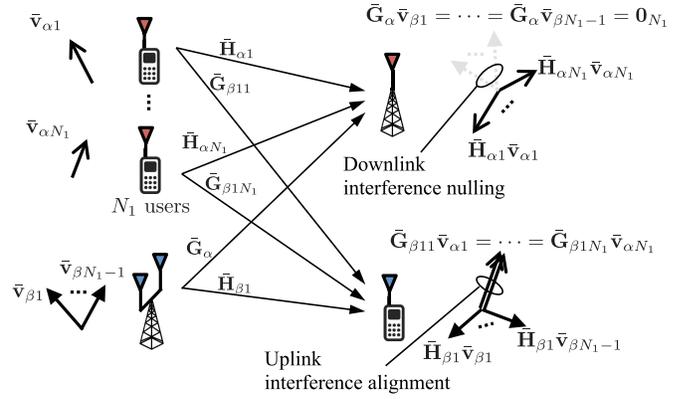


Fig. 6. d_Σ -achievable transmit beamforming for $M_2 = 2$, $M_1 = N_2 = 1$. During N_1 time slots, user (α, i) transmits a single stream to BS α via the $N_1 \times 1$ beamforming vector $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai}$ for $i \in [1 : N_1]$ and BS β transmits $N_1 - 1$ streams to its serving user via the $2N_1 \times 1$ beamforming vectors $\{\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}\}_{j \in [1 : N_1 - 1]}$.

Finally summing (9) to (11) yields $\sum_{i=1}^{N_1} d_{ai} + \sum_{j=1}^{N_2} d_{\beta j} \leq \frac{N_1 N_2 + \min(M_1, N_1)(N_1 - N_2)^+ + \min(M_2, N_2)(N_2 - N_1)^+}{\max(N_1, N_2)}$. Therefore, d_Σ is upper bounded by (4), which completes the converse proof.

B. Main Idea for Achievability

We briefly explain the achievability idea here assuming that $M_2 = 2$, $M_1 = N_2 = 1$. Figure 6 illustrates how to achieve $d_\Sigma = \frac{2N_1 - 1}{N_1}$ for this case. Communication takes place via transmit beamforming over a block of N_1 time slots. Denote $\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{ai} = \text{diag}(\mathbf{h}_{ai}[1], \dots, \mathbf{h}_{ai}[N_1]) \in \mathbb{R}^{N_1 \times N_1}$, $\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta 1} = \text{diag}(\mathbf{h}_{\beta 1}[1], \dots, \mathbf{h}_{\beta 1}[N_1]) \in \mathbb{R}^{N_1 \times 2N_1}$, $\bar{\mathbf{G}}_\alpha = \text{diag}(\mathbf{G}_\alpha[1], \dots, \mathbf{G}_\alpha[N_1]) \in \mathbb{R}^{N_1 \times 2N_1}$, and $\bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta li} = \text{diag}(g_{\beta li}[1], \dots, g_{\beta li}[N_1]) \in \mathbb{R}^{N_1 \times N_1}$, where $i \in [1 : N_1]$. As shown in the figure, user (α, i) transmits a single stream via the $N_1 \times 1$ beamforming vector $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai}$, where $i \in [1 : N_1]$. On the other hand, BS β transmits $N_1 - 1$ streams to its serving user via the $2N_1 \times 1$ beamforming vectors $\{\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}\}_{j \in [1 : N_1 - 1]}$.

Then, we can set linearly independent $\{\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai}\}_{i \in [1 : N_1]}$ satisfying the uplink IA condition, i.e., $\bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta li} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai}$ is the same for all $i \in [1 : N_1]$. In particular, for a fixed $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{a1}$, set $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai} = \bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta li}^{-1} \bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta 11} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{a1}$, where $i \in [2 : N_1]$. We can also set linearly independent $\{\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}\}_{j \in [1 : N_1 - 1]}$ satisfying the downlink interference nulling (IN) condition, i.e., $\bar{\mathbf{G}}_\alpha \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j} = \mathbf{0}_{N_1}$ for all $j \in [1 : N_1 - 1]$. This is possible since the null space for the vector space spanned by the row vectors of $\bar{\mathbf{G}}_\alpha$ occupies N_1 dimensional subspace in $2N_1$ dimensional space. Therefore set $\{\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}\}_{j \in [1 : N_1 - 1]}$ as $N_1 - 1$ linearly independent vectors in the null space.¹ Hence, BS α is able to decode its N_1 intended streams achieving one DoF each since there is no inter-cell interference and $\{\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{ai} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai}\}_{i \in [1 : N_1]}$ are linearly independent almost surely. Similarly, user $(\beta, 1)$ is able to decode its $N_1 - 1$ intended streams achieving one DoF each since all inter-cell interference vectors are aligned into one dimension and $\{\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta j} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}\}_{j \in [1 : N_1 - 1]} \cup \{\bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta 11} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{a1}\}$ are linearly independent

¹Although N_1 linearly independent vectors can satisfy the downlink IN condition, the number of possible streams for successful decoding at user $(\beta, 1)$ is given by $N_1 - 1$ because one dimension is occupied by the inter-cell interference vectors as seen in Fig. 6.

almost surely. Finally, from the fact that total $2N_1 - 1$ streams are delivered over N_1 time slots, $d_\Sigma = \frac{2N_1 - 1}{N_1}$ is achievable.

In the following three subsections, we introduce two IA–IN schemes for general M_1 , M_2 , N_1 , and N_2 and then derive their achievable sum DoF. We prove that the maximum achievable sum DoF by the two proposed schemes coincides with d_Σ in Theorem 1. As shown in Fig. 6, the first key ingredient follows uplink IA from the users in cell α to the users in cell β . Unlike the simple case in Fig. 6, asymptotic IA using an arbitrarily large number of time slots is generally needed for simultaneously aligning interference from multiple transmitters at multiple receivers [10]. The second key ingredient follows downlink IN using M_2 antennas from BS β to BS α and the users in the same cell.

C. Achievable Sum DoF

We propose two IA–IN schemes generalizing the main idea in Section IV-B. The first IA–IN scheme applies uplink inter-cell IA and downlink inter-cell and intra-cell IN. Specifically, the users in cell α align their interference at the users in cell β . On the other hand, BS β nulls out its inter-cell and intra-cell interference using M_2 antennas, each of which is the interference to BS α and the users in cell β . Define $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in (0, 1]$, which are the parameters related to the number of streams for the users in cells α and β , respectively. Then the first IA–IN scheme achieves the sum DoF represented by the following optimization problem:

$$\max_{\substack{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \leq 1 \\ N_1 \lambda_1 \leq M_1 \\ N_1 \lambda_1 + N_2 \lambda_2 \leq M_2}} \{N_1 \lambda_1 + N_2 \lambda_2\}. \quad (12)$$

Here the first constraint, $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \leq 1$, and the second constraint, $N_1 \lambda_1 \leq M_1$, are needed for successful decoding at the users in cell β and BS α , respectively. The last constraint, $N_1 \lambda_1 + N_2 \lambda_2 \leq M_2$ is needed for establishing beamforming vectors for downlink inter-cell and intra-cell IN at BS β . The detailed description of the first IA–IN scheme and the derivation of its achievable sum DoF in (12) are given in Section IV-D.

Note that the above scheme is not enough to provide the optimal sum DoF for all M_1 , M_2 , N_1 , and N_2 . If BS α has a large enough number of antennas (large enough M_1), then it is able to decode all intended streams even without downlink inter-cell IN. Therefore, for the second IA–IN scheme, downlink beamforming vectors at BS β are set only for intra-cell IN, but not for inter-cell IN. The second IA–IN scheme achieves the sum DoF represented by the following optimization problem:

$$\max_{\substack{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \leq 1 \\ N_1 \lambda_1 + N_2 \lambda_2 \leq M_1 \\ N_2 \lambda_2 \leq M_2}} \{N_1 \lambda_1 + N_2 \lambda_2\}. \quad (13)$$

Again, the first two constraints are needed for successful decoding at each user in cell β and BS α respectively and the last constraint is needed for establishing beamforming vectors at BS β . The detailed description of the second IA–IN scheme and the derivation of its achievable sum DoF in (13) are given in Section IV-E.

As shown in (12) and (13), there exists a trade-off between the two proposed IA–IN schemes. The first scheme requires a smaller number of antennas at BS α since the inter-cell interference from BS β is zero-forced, which can be verified from the second constraints in (12) and (13). But at the same time it requires a larger number of antennas at BS β since BS β have to null out both the inter-cell and intra-cell interference, which can be verified from the third constraints in (12) and (13). As a result, the first IA–IN scheme provides a better sum DoF than the second IA–IN scheme if $M_1 \leq M_2$, but the second IA–IN scheme provides a better sum DoF for the opposite case, see Table II in the Appendix. More importantly, the following lemma shows that one of the two proposed IA–IN schemes with optimally choosing λ_1 and λ_2 achieves d_Σ for general M_1 , M_2 , N_1 , and N_2 .

Lemma 1: Let $d_{\Sigma,1}$ and $d_{\Sigma,2}$ denote the solutions of the two linear programs in (12) and (13), respectively. Then

$$\begin{aligned} d_{\Sigma,1} &= d_\Sigma & \text{if } M_1 \leq M_2, \\ d_{\Sigma,2} &= d_\Sigma & \text{if } M_2 \leq M_1, \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where d_Σ is given by (4).

Proof: We refer to the Appendix for the proof. ■

Therefore, Lemma 1 completes the achievability proof of Theorem 1. In the next two subsections, we state in details how to achieve (12) and (13).

Remark 3 (Optimal Scheme for Cell Coordination): For the cell coordination problem, e.g., stated in Remark 1 and Section V-A, only one of the two proposed IA–IN schemes is enough to maximize the sum DoF achievable by uplink–downlink operation. We can attain the maximum sum DoF achievable by uplink–downlink operation using the first IA–IN scheme by operating the cell having more BS antennas as downlink (and the other cell as uplink). ◊

D. Uplink Inter-Cell IA and Downlink Inter-Cell and Intra-Cell IN

To prove that (12) is achievable, we state the first IA–IN scheme, which applies uplink inter-cell IA and downlink inter-cell and intra-cell IN.

From now on, $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in (0, 1]$ are assumed to be set such that they satisfy the three constraints in (12). Define $\mathcal{S}_T = [0 : T - 1]^{N_1 N_2}$. We first divide W_{ai} , $i \in [1 : N_1]$, into $T^{N_1 N_2}$ submessages $\{W_{ai}^{(s)}\}_{s \in \mathcal{S}_T}$. Let $[c_{ai}^{(s)}[1], \dots, c_{ai}^{(s)}[n]]$ denote a length- n codeword of Gaussian codebook generated i.i.d. from $\mathcal{N}(0, P)$, that is associated with $W_{ai}^{(s)}$. Similarly, divide $W_{\beta j}$, $j \in [1 : N_2]$, into $\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}$ submessages $\{W_{\beta j}^{(k)}\}_{k \in [1 : \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]}$. Let $[c_{\beta j}^{(k)}[1], \dots, c_{\beta j}^{(k)}[n]]$ denote a length- n codeword of Gaussian codebook generated i.i.d. from $\mathcal{N}(0, P)$, that is associated with $W_{\beta j}^{(k)}$.

Let $d = \frac{1}{\lambda_1} (T + 1)^{N_1 N_2}$. Communication will take place over a block of nd time slots. Each of the codewords defined above will be transmitted via a length- d time-extended beamforming vector. For easy explanation, denote the length- d

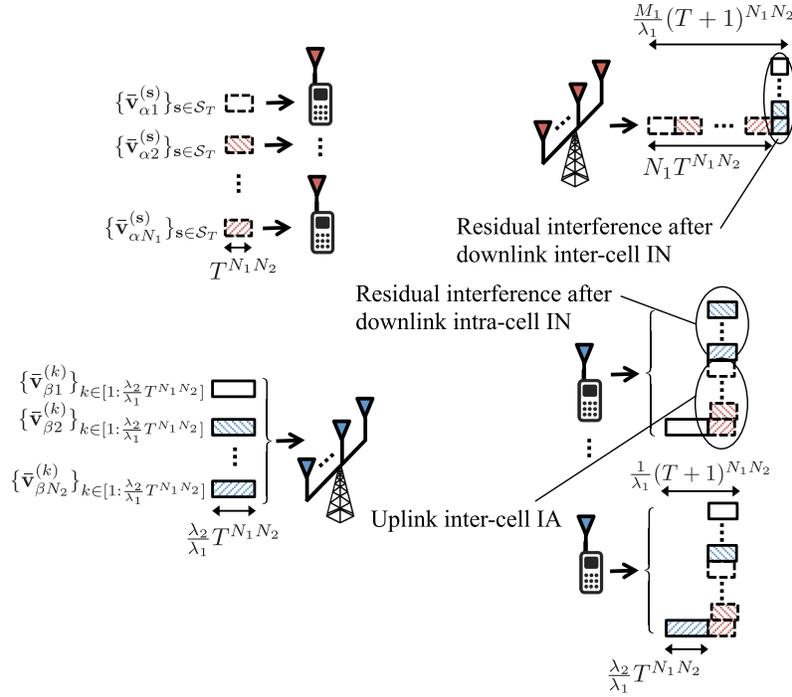


Fig. 7. Uplink inter-cell IA and downlink inter-cell and intra-cell IN, where for convenience we assume $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2$ in the figure. During $\frac{1}{\lambda_1}(T+1)^{N_1 N_2}$ time slots, user (α, i) transmits $T^{N_1 N_2}$ streams to BS α via the $\frac{1}{\lambda_1}(T+1)^{N_1 N_2} \times 1$ beamforming vectors $\{\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\alpha i}^{(s)}\}_{s \in \mathcal{S}_T}$ for $i \in [1 : N_1]$ and BS β transmits $\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}$ streams to user (β, j) via the $\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1}(T+1)^{N_1 N_2} \times 1$ beamforming vectors $\{\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}\}_{k \in [1 : \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]}$ for all $j \in [1 : N_2]$.

time-extended inputs and outputs as

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{\alpha i}[m] &= [x_{\alpha i}[(m-1)d+1], \dots, x_{\alpha i}[md]]^\dagger \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times 1}, \\ \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{\beta}[m] &= [\mathbf{x}_{\beta}[(m-1)d+1], \dots, \mathbf{x}_{\beta}[md]]^\dagger \in \mathbb{R}^{M_2 d \times 1}, \\ \bar{\mathbf{y}}_{\alpha}[m] &= [\mathbf{y}_{\alpha}[(m-1)d+1], \dots, \mathbf{y}_{\alpha}[md]]^\dagger \in \mathbb{R}^{M_1 d \times 1}, \\ \bar{\mathbf{y}}_{\beta j}[m] &= [y_{\beta j}[(m-1)d+1], \dots, y_{\beta j}[md]]^\dagger \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times 1}, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

where $m \in [1 : n]$. Then from (1) and (2)

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathbf{y}}_{\alpha}[m] &= \sum_{i=1}^{N_1} \bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\alpha i}[m] \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{\alpha i}[m] + \bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\alpha}[m] \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{\beta}[m] + \bar{\mathbf{z}}_{\alpha}[m], \\ \bar{\mathbf{y}}_{\beta j}[m] &= \bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta j}[m] \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{\beta}[m] + \sum_{i=1}^{N_1} \bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta j i}[m] \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{\alpha i}[m] + \bar{\mathbf{z}}_{\beta j}[m], \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\alpha i}[m] &= \text{diag}(\mathbf{h}_{\alpha i}[(m-1)d+1], \dots, \mathbf{h}_{\alpha i}[md]) \\ &\in \mathbb{R}^{M_1 d \times d}, \\ \bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta j}[m] &= \text{diag}(\mathbf{h}_{\beta j}[(m-1)d+1], \dots, \mathbf{h}_{\beta j}[md]) \\ &\in \mathbb{R}^{d \times M_2 d}, \\ \bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\alpha}[m] &= \text{diag}(\mathbf{G}_{\alpha}[(m-1)d+1], \dots, \mathbf{G}_{\alpha}[md]) \\ &\in \mathbb{R}^{M_1 d \times M_2 d}, \\ \bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta j i}[m] &= \text{diag}(g_{\beta j i}[(m-1)d+1], \dots, g_{\beta j i}[md]) \\ &\in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathbf{z}}_{\alpha}[m] &= [\mathbf{z}_{\alpha}[(m-1)d+1], \dots, \mathbf{z}_{\alpha}[md]]^\dagger \in \mathbb{R}^{M_1 d \times 1}, \\ \bar{\mathbf{z}}_{\beta j}[m] &= [z_{\beta j}[(m-1)d+1], \dots, z_{\beta j}[md]]^\dagger \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times 1}. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

1) *Transmit Beamforming for IA and IN:* For $m \in [1 : n]$ and $s \in \mathcal{S}_T$, $c_{\alpha i}^{(s)}[m]$ is transmitted via a length- d time-extended beamforming vector $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\alpha i}^{(s)}[m] \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times 1}$. Similarly, for $m \in [1 : n]$ and $k \in [1 : \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]$, $c_{\beta j}^{(k)}[m]$ is transmitted via a length- d time-extended beamforming vector $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}[m] \in \mathbb{R}^{M_2 d \times 1}$. That is, user (α, i) transmits

$$\mathbf{x}_{\alpha i}[m] = \gamma \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}_T} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\alpha i}^{(s)}[m] c_{\alpha i}^{(s)}[m], \quad (19)$$

and BS β transmits

$$\mathbf{x}_{\beta}[m] = \gamma \sum_{j=1}^{N_2} \sum_{k=1}^{\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}[m] c_{\beta j}^{(k)}[m], \quad (20)$$

where $\gamma > 0$ is chosen to satisfy the average power P . Figure 7 illustrates how to construct these length- d time-extended beamforming vectors for uplink inter-cell IA and downlink inter-cell and intra-cell IN. The detailed construction of such beamforming vectors is explained in the following. Since the overall construction is identical for all $m \in [1 : n]$, we assume $m = 1$ and omit the index m from now on.

Uplink Inter-Cell IA: To align inter-cell interference from N_1 users in cell α to N_2 users in cell β , asymptotic signal space alignment is needed, originally proposed in [10]. In this paper,

we adopt a recent framework developed in [38] for asymptotic signal space alignment. For $\mathbf{s} = [s_{11}, s_{12}, \dots, s_{N_2 N_1}] \in \mathcal{S}_T$, define

$$v^{(s)}[t] = \prod_{1 \leq i \leq N_1, 1 \leq j \leq N_2} g_{\beta ji}[t]^{s_{ji}} \quad (21)$$

for $t \in [1 : d]$ and $\bar{\mathbf{v}}^{(s)} = [v^{(s)}[1], \dots, v^{(s)}[d]]^\dagger$. Set

$$\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai}^{(s)} = \bar{\mathbf{v}}^{(s)} \quad (22)$$

for all $i \in [1 : N_1]$ and $\mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}_T$. The following lemma shows that the beamforming vectors defined in (21) and (22) guarantee asymptotic uplink inter-cell IA at the users in cell β .

Lemma 2: The signal space spanned by $\{\bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta ji} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai}^{(s)}\}_{i \in [1:N_1], j \in [1:N_2], \mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}_T}$ occupies at least $T^{N_1 N_2}$ dimensional subspace and at most $(T+1)^{N_1 N_2}$ dimensional subspace in $\frac{1}{\lambda_1}(T+1)^{N_1 N_2}$ dimensional space almost surely.

Proof: From the fact that $\{\bar{\mathbf{v}}^{(s)}\}_{\mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}_T}$ is a set of $T^{N_1 N_2}$ linearly independent vectors almost surely [38], $\text{span}(\{\bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta ji} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai}^{(s)}\}_{i \in [1:N_1], j \in [1:N_2], \mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}_T})$ occupies at least $T^{N_1 N_2}$ dimensional subspace almost surely.

Now consider the upper bound. For all $i \in [1 : N_1]$, $j \in [1 : N_2]$, and $\mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}_T$,

$$\bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta ji} \bar{\mathbf{v}}^{(s)} \in \{\bar{\mathbf{v}}^{(s')}\}_{s' \in \mathcal{S}_{T+1}} \quad (23)$$

showing that $\text{span}(\{\bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta ji} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai}^{(s)}\}_{i \in [1:N_1], j \in [1:N_2], \mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}_T})$ occupies at most $(T+1)^{N_1 N_2}$ dimensional subspace since the cardinality of \mathcal{S}_{T+1} is given by $(T+1)^{N_1 N_2}$. Therefore, Lemma 2 holds. \blacksquare

Downlink Inter-Cell and Intra-Cell IN: From (16), (19), and (20).

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathbf{y}}_\alpha &= \gamma \sum_{i=1}^{N_1} \sum_{\mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}_T} \bar{\mathbf{H}}_{ai} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai}^{(s)} c_{ai}^{(s)} \\ &+ \gamma \sum_{j=1}^{N_2} \sum_{k=1}^{\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}} \bar{\mathbf{G}}_\alpha \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)} c_{\beta j}^{(k)} + \bar{\mathbf{z}}_\alpha, \\ \bar{\mathbf{y}}_{\beta j} &= \gamma \sum_{j=1}^{N_2} \sum_{k=1}^{\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}} \bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta j} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)} c_{\beta j}^{(k)} \\ &+ \gamma \sum_{i=1}^{N_1} \sum_{\mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}_T} \bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta ji} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai}^{(s)} c_{ai}^{(s)} + \bar{\mathbf{z}}_{\beta j}. \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Hence, in order to null out inter-cell interference by zero-forcing at BS α ,

$$\bar{\mathbf{G}}_\alpha \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)} \perp \text{span}(\{\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{ai'} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai'}^{(s)}\}_{i' \in [1:N_1], \mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}_T}) \quad (25)$$

for all $j \in [1 : N_2]$ and $k \in [1 : \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]$.

In order to null out intra-cell interference, we first define $\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}$ dimensional subspace in $\frac{1}{\lambda_1}(T+1)^{N_1 N_2}$

dimensional space represented by $\text{span}(\{\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{k'}\}_{k' \in [1: \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]})$, which will be used for the signal space of the intended submessages at the users in cell β . From Lemma 2, $\text{span}(\{\bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta j' i'} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai'}^{(s)}\}_{i' \in [1:N_1], j' \in [1:N_2], \mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}_T})$ occupies at most

$(T+1)^{N_1 N_2}$ dimensions almost surely, which means the null space of $\text{span}(\{\bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta j' i'} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai'}^{(s)}\}_{i' \in [1:N_1], j' \in [1:N_2], \mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}_T})$ occupies at least $\frac{1}{\lambda_1}(T+1)^{N_1 N_2} - (T+1)^{N_1 N_2}$ dimensions almost surely. Hence we set $\{\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{k'}\}_{k' \in [1: \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]}$ as a subset of $\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}$ basis consisting of the null space of $\text{span}(\{\bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta j' i'} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai'}^{(s)}\}_{i' \in [1:N_1], j' \in [1:N_2], \mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}_T})$. This is possible because

$$\frac{1}{\lambda_1}(T+1)^{N_1 N_2} - (T+1)^{N_1 N_2} \geq \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}, \quad (26)$$

where the inequality follows since $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \leq 1$. Therefore, for the intra-cell IN by zero-forcing at the users in cell β ,

$$\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta i} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)} \perp \text{span}(\{\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{k'}\}_{k' \in [1: \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]}) \quad (27)$$

should be satisfied for all $i, j \in [1 : N_2]$, $i \neq j$, and $k \in [1 : \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]$.

As a consequence, from (25) and (27), $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}$ should be orthogonal with the following vectors:

$$\begin{aligned} \{\bar{\mathbf{G}}_\alpha^\dagger \bar{\mathbf{H}}_{ai'} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai'}^{(s)}\}_{i' \in [1:N_1], \mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}_T}, \\ \{\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta i'}^\dagger \bar{\mathbf{w}}_{k'}\}_{i' \in [1:N_2], i' \neq j, k' \in [1: \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]}. \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Since there are total $(N_1 + \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1}(N_2 - 1))T^{N_1 N_2}$ vectors in (28) and $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}$ has $\frac{M_2}{\lambda_1}(T+1)^{N_1 N_2}$ elements, we can set linearly independent $\{\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}\}_{k \in [1: \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]}$ orthogonal with the vectors in (28) for all $j \in [1 : N_2]$ if

$$\frac{M_2}{\lambda_1}(T+1)^{N_1 N_2} - (N_1 + \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1}(N_2 - 1))T^{N_1 N_2} > \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}, \quad (29)$$

which is satisfied from the assumption that

$$N_1 \lambda_1 + N_2 \lambda_2 \leq M_2. \quad (30)$$

In conclusion, $\{\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}\}_{j \in [1:N_2], k \in [1: \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]}$ can be set to satisfy the downlink inter-cell and intra-cell IN conditions almost surely.

Remark 4 (Partial Nulling at BS β): Notice that IN performed at BS β is in general ‘partial IN’ using M_2 transmit antennas, i.e., nulling out interference signals from the desired signal space (reserved for decoding desired messages), see (25) and (27). Hence residual interference will appear almost surely over the rest of the signal space (not reserved for decoding desired messages). We might interpret such partial IN as ‘interference alignment’ because residual interference is actually aligned in the signal space that is reserved for dealing with interference signals as seen in Fig. 7. \diamond

2) *Zero-Forcing Decoding:* Each submessage will be decoded by zero-forcing. we first introduce the following properties:

- (A) $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{ai}^{(s)}$ is a function of $\{\bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta j' i'}\}_{i' \in [1:N_1], j' \in [1:N_2]}$ (see (21) and (22))
- (B) $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}$ is a function of $\{\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{ai'}\}_{i' \in [1:N_1]}$, $\{\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta j'}\}_{j' \in [1:N_2], j' \neq j}$, $\bar{\mathbf{G}}_\alpha$, and $\{\bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta j' i'}\}_{i' \in [1:N_1], j' \in [1:N_2]}$ (see (28) and Property (A)),

Based on the above properties, we prove that one DoF is achievable for each submessage.

Decoding at BS α : Since $\{\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}\}_{j \in [1:N_2], k \in [1:\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]}$ is set to satisfy the inter-cell IN condition in (25), inter-cell interference will disappear after zero-forcing at BS α . Hence, in order to achieve one DoF for each submessage, $\{\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\alpha i'} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\alpha i'}^{(s)}\}_{i' \in [1:N_1], s \in \mathcal{S}_T}$ should be a set of linearly independent vectors. Note that $\{\mathbf{v}_{\alpha i'}^{(s)}\}_{s \in \mathcal{S}_T}$ is a set of linearly independent vectors almost surely [38]. Furthermore, from Property (A), $\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\alpha i'} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\alpha i'}^{(s)}$ is a random projection of $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\alpha i'}^{(s)}$ into $M_1 d$ dimensional space ($\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\alpha i'}^{(s)}$ is set independent of $\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\alpha i'}$). Therefore, $\{\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\alpha i'} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\alpha i'}^{(s)}\}_{i' \in [1:N_1], s \in \mathcal{S}_T}$ is a set of linearly independent vectors almost surely if

$$N_1 T^{N_1 N_2} \leq \frac{M_1}{\lambda_1} (T+1)^{N_1 N_2}, \quad (31)$$

which is satisfied from the assumption that

$$N_1 \lambda_1 \leq M_1. \quad (32)$$

In conclusion, each submessage intended to BS α can be decoded by achieving one DoF almost surely.

Decoding at the Users in Cell β : Consider the decoding at user (β, j) , where $j \in [1 : N_2]$. Since $\{\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j'}^{(k)}\}_{j' \in [1:N_2], k \in [1:\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]}$ is set to satisfy the intra-cell IN condition in (27), intra-cell interference will disappear after zero-forcing. Hence, in order to achieve one DoF for each submessage, $\{\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta j} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}\}_{k \in [1:\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]}$ should be a set of linearly independent vectors and

$$\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta j} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)} \notin \text{span} \left(\{\bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta j i'} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\alpha i'}^{(s)}\}_{i' \in [1:N_1], s \in \mathcal{S}_T} \right) \quad (33)$$

should be satisfied for all $k \in [1 : \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]$.

First consider the linearly independent condition. From Property (B), $\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta j} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}$ is a random projection of $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}$ into $\frac{1}{\lambda_1} (T+1)^{N_1 N_2}$ dimensional space ($\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}$ is set independent of $\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta j}$). Hence, $\{\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta j} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}\}_{k \in [1:\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]}$ is a set of linearly independent vectors almost surely since $\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2} \leq \frac{1}{\lambda_1} (T+1)^{N_1 N_2}$.

Now consider the condition in (33). Lemma 2 shows that $\text{span} \left(\{\bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta j i'} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\alpha i'}^{(s)}\}_{i' \in [1:N_1], s \in \mathcal{S}_T} \right)$ occupies at most $(T+1)^{N_1 N_2}$ dimensions due to the uplink inter-cell IA. From Property (B), $\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta j} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}$ is a random projection of $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}$ into d dimensional space ($\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}$ is set independent of $\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta j}$) and $\text{span} \left(\{\bar{\mathbf{G}}_{\beta j i'} \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\alpha i'}^{(s)}\}_{i' \in [1:N_1], s \in \mathcal{S}_T} \right)$ is independent of $\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta j}$. Therefore (33) is satisfied almost surely if

$$\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2} + (T+1)^{N_1 N_2} \leq \frac{1}{\lambda_1} (T+1)^{N_1 N_2}, \quad (34)$$

which is satisfied from the assumption that

$$\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \leq 1. \quad (35)$$

In conclusion, each submessage intended to the users in the second cell can be decoded by achieving one DoF almost surely.

3) *Achievable Sum DoF:* From the facts that each submessage is delivered via a length- n codeword and total $(N_1 + \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} N_2) T^{N_1 N_2}$ submessages are delivered during $nd = n \frac{1}{\lambda_1} (T+1)^{N_1 N_2}$ time slots, the sum DoF

$$\frac{(N_1 + \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} N_2) T^{N_1 N_2}}{\frac{1}{\lambda_1} (T+1)^{N_1 N_2}} \quad (36)$$

is achievable under the three constraints in (30), (32), and (35). Finally, since (36) converges to $N_1 \lambda_1 + N_2 \lambda_2$ as T increases, the sum DoF in (12) is achievable.

E. Uplink Inter-Cell IA and Downlink Intra-Cell IN

In this subsection, we prove that (13) is achievable. Assume that $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in (0, 1]$ are set such that they satisfy the three constraints in (13). The second IA-IN scheme briefly explained in Section IV-C is a simple modification of the first IA-IN scheme. The overall transmission based on the length- d time-extended transmit beamforming is the same as in Section IV-D. The uplink inter-cell IA is the same as in Section IV-D. For downlink beamforming at BS β , on the other hand, $\{\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}\}_{k \in [1:\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]}$ is set only for the intra-cell IN, but not for inter-cell IN. That is, (27) should be satisfied for all $i, j \in [1 : N_2]$, $i \neq j$, and $k \in [1 : \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]$, where $\{\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{k'}\}_{k' \in [1:\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]}$ is defined in Section IV-D. Therefore, $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}$ should be orthogonal with the following vectors:

$$\{\bar{\mathbf{H}}_{\beta i'}^\dagger \bar{\mathbf{w}}_{k'}\}_{i' \in [1:N_2], i' \neq j, k' \in [1:\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]}. \quad (37)$$

Since there are total $\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} (N_2 - 1) T^{N_1 N_2}$ vectors in (37) and $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}$ has $\frac{M_2}{\lambda_1} (T+1)^{N_1 N_2}$ elements, we can set linearly independent $\{\bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\beta j}^{(k)}\}_{k \in [1:\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}]}$ orthogonal with the vectors in (37) for all $j \in [1 : N_2]$ if

$$\frac{M_2}{\lambda_1} (T+1)^{N_1 N_2} - \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} (N_2 - 1) T^{N_1 N_2} > \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} T^{N_1 N_2}, \quad (38)$$

which is satisfied from the assumption that $N_2 \lambda_2 \leq M_2$.

Now consider the decoding procedure. Even though inter-cell interference from BS β is not zero-forced, BS α is able to decode all the intended submessages by zero-forcing if the number of dimensions occupied by all signal and interference vectors is less than or equal to $M_1 d$, i.e.,

$$N_1 T^{N_1 N_2} + \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} N_2 T^{N_1 N_2} \leq \frac{M_1}{\lambda_1} (T+1)^{N_1 N_2}, \quad (39)$$

which is satisfied from the assumption that $\lambda_1 N_1 + \lambda_2 N_2 \leq M_1$. Lastly, the condition for successful decoding at each user in cell β is the same as in (34), which is satisfied from the assumption that $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \leq 1$. Therefore, the second IA-IN scheme achieves the sum DoF in (13).

V. DISCUSSION

In this section, we discuss about the cell coordination problem figuring out the DoF gain achievable by uplink-downlink operation in more details in Sections V-A and V-B and also propose a simple IA scheme exploiting delayed CSI at transmitters (CSIT) in Section V-C.

A. DoF Gain From Uplink–Downlink Operation

In Remark 1 of Section III, we have briefly explained the DoF gain achievable by uplink–downlink operation compared to the conventional uplink or downlink operation. In this subsection, we consider the *cell coordination problem* in more details for a general four-parameter space (M_1, M_2, N_1, N_2) . Specifically, the first cell consists of the BS with M_1 antennas and N_1 users and the second cell consists of the BS with M_2 antennas and N_2 users. The operation mode of each cell can be chosen to maximize the sum DoF.

Unfortunately, the sum DoF of the two-cell multiantenna IBC (or IMAC) is not completely characterized for a general (M_1, M_2, N_1, N_2) . It was shown in [43] that, for $\max(M_1, M_2) \geq \min(N_1, N_2)$, the sum DoF is given by

$$\min\{N_1 + N_2, \max(M_1, N_2), \max(M_2, N_1)\}, \quad (40)$$

which corresponds to the regime that zero-forcing is optimal. For $\max(M_1, M_2) \leq \min(N_1, N_2)$, on the other hand, zero-forcing is not optimal in general and the sum DoF has been characterized only for the symmetric case where $M_1 = M_2 := M$ and $N_1 = N_2 := N$. Specifically, the sum DoF is given by $\frac{2MN}{M+N}$ if $M \leq N$ [19], which is achievable by treating each BS antenna as a separate user and then applying asymptotic IA proposed in [24].

To figure out the DoF gain from uplink–downlink operation over a four-parameter space (M_1, M_2, N_1, N_2) , for $\Lambda \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, we define

$$\delta_{\text{gain}}(\Lambda) := \frac{\sum_{i,j,k,l \in [1:\Lambda]} \mathbf{1}_{d_{\Sigma}(i,j,k,l) > d_{\text{upper}}(i,j,k,l)}}{\Lambda^4}, \quad (41)$$

where

$$d_{\Sigma}(i, j, k, l) = \min \left\{ \frac{kl + \min(i, k)(k - l)^+ + \min(j, l)(l - k)^+}{\max(k, l)}, \right. \\ \left. i + l, j + k, \max(i, j), \max(k, l) \right\}, \quad (42)$$

$$d_{\text{upper}}(i, j, k, l) = \min\{i + j, k + l, \max(i, l), \max(j, k)\}, \quad (43)$$

and $\mathbf{1}_{(\cdot)}$ denotes the indicator function. Note that $d_{\Sigma}(i, j, k, l)$ is given from Theorem 1, which is the sum DoF obtained by uplink–downlink operation, and $d_{\text{upper}}(i, j, k, l)$ is an upper bound on the sum DoF obtained by the conventional uplink or downlink operation [22]. Hence, from the definition of $\delta_{\text{gain}}(\Lambda)$, uplink–downlink operation is beneficial for improving the sum DoF at least $\delta_{\text{gain}}(\Lambda)$ fraction of the entire four-parameter space (M_1, M_2, N_1, N_2) . Table I states $\delta_{\text{gain}}(\Lambda)$ with respect to Λ . As the space size Λ increases, the fraction of subspace showing the DoF gain from uplink–downlink operation increases. For instance, uplink–downlink operation can improve the sum DoF more than 30 percent of the entire space when $\Lambda = 32$.

From Table II, which will be explained in the Appendix, we can see that except the regimes 5, 6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 19, and 20, single-cell operation achieves d_{Σ} . Hence the same sum DoF is also achievable by either uplink or downlink

TABLE I

A FRACTION OF THE FOUR-PARAMETER SPACE SHOWING THE DOF GAIN FROM UPLINK–DOWNLINK OPERATION

Λ	2	4	8	16	32	64
$\delta_{\text{gain}}(\Lambda)$	0.1250	0.2031	0.2598	0.2942	0.3131	0.3231

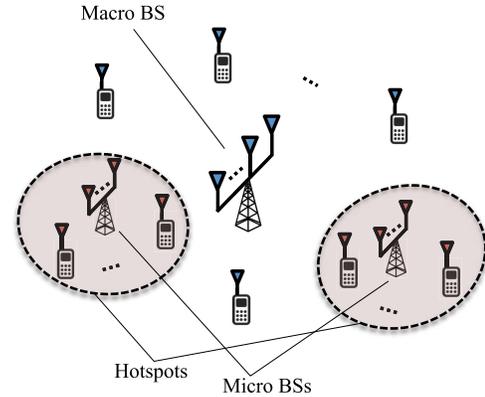


Fig. 8. Heterogeneous cellular networks having hotspots in which the users in each hotspot are served from the micro BS in the same hotspot.

operation (with single-cell operation), meaning that uplink–downlink operation cannot improve the sum DoF except for the regimes 5, 6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 19, and 20. The numerical result in Table I demonstrates that uplink–downlink operation strictly improves the sum DoF for most of the cases in regimes 5, 6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 19, and 20, which is 8 regimes out of 24 regimes.

B. DoF of Heterogeneous Cellular Networks

Recently, heterogeneous cellular networks called “HetNets” have been actively studied, in which overall cellular systems consist of different types of cells with different capabilities and configurations [47]–[51]. One crucial potential for heterogeneous cellular networks is to build so called “hotspot” in the most congested areas within each cell depicted in Fig. 8, which is beneficial for load balancing, capacity boosting, coverage, and so on [49], [50], [53]. Although there exist various reasons for considering heterogeneous cellular networks, let us focus on the DoF of heterogeneous cellular networks having hotspots in this subsection. As shown in Fig. 8, consider a canonical hotspot model in which the users outside hotspots are served from a macro BS and, on the other hand, the users in each hotspot are served from the micro BS in the same hotspot. Assume that there are L hotspots in the cell. Denote the number of antennas at each micro BS by M_1 and the number of antennas at the macro BS by M_2 . Also denote the number of users inside each hotspot and the number of users outside hotspots by N_1 and N_2 respectively. Each user is assumed to have a single antenna. Let us focus on the regime that $M_1 \leq M_2$ and $N_1 \leq N_2$, which is reasonable in practice.

We further assume that all micro cells operate as uplink and the macro cell operates as downlink depicted in Fig. 9. Then, similar to (1) and (2), the received signal vector of the

TABLE II
FOR GIVEN M_1, M_2, N_1 , AND $N_2, d_{\Sigma,1}, d_{\Sigma,2}$, AND $\max(d_{\Sigma,1}, d_{\Sigma,2})$

Case	$d_{\Sigma,1}$	$d_{\Sigma,2}$	$\max(d_{\Sigma,1}, d_{\Sigma,2})$
1: $M_1 \leq M_2 \leq N_1 \leq N_2$	M_2	M_1	M_2
2: $M_1 \leq M_2 \leq N_2 \leq N_1$	M_2	M_1	M_2
3: $M_1 \leq N_1 \leq M_2 \leq N_2$	M_2	M_1	M_2
4: $M_1 \leq N_1 \leq N_2 \leq M_2$	N_2	M_1	N_2
5: $M_1 \leq N_2 \leq M_2 \leq N_1$	$\min(M_2, \frac{N_1 N_2 + M_1(N_1 - N_2)}{N_1})$	M_1	$\min(M_2, \frac{N_1 N_2 + M_1(N_1 - N_2)}{N_1})$
6: $M_1 \leq N_2 \leq N_1 \leq M_2$	$\frac{N_1 N_2 + M_1(N_1 - N_2)}{N_1}$	M_1	$\frac{N_1 N_2 + M_1(N_1 - N_2)}{N_1}$
7: $M_2 \leq M_1 \leq N_1 \leq N_2$	M_2	M_1	M_1
8: $M_2 \leq M_1 \leq N_2 \leq N_1$	M_2	M_1	M_1
9: $M_2 \leq N_1 \leq M_1 \leq N_2$	M_2	$\min(M_1, \frac{N_1 N_2 + M_2(N_2 - N_1)}{N_2})$	$\min(M_1, \frac{N_1 N_2 + M_2(N_2 - N_1)}{N_2})$
10: $M_2 \leq N_1 \leq N_2 \leq M_1$	M_2	$\frac{N_1 N_2 + M_2(N_2 - N_1)}{N_2}$	$\frac{N_1 N_2 + M_2(N_2 - N_1)}{N_2}$
11: $M_2 \leq N_2 \leq M_1 \leq N_1$	M_2	M_1	M_1
12: $M_2 \leq N_2 \leq N_1 \leq M_1$	M_2	N_1	N_1
13: $N_1 \leq M_1 \leq M_2 \leq N_2$	M_2	M_1	M_2
14: $N_1 \leq M_1 \leq N_2 \leq M_2$	N_2	N_2	N_2
15: $N_1 \leq M_2 \leq M_1 \leq N_2$	M_2	$\min(M_1, \frac{N_1 N_2 + M_2(N_2 - N_1)}{N_2})$	$\min(M_1, \frac{N_1 N_2 + M_2(N_2 - N_1)}{N_2})$
16: $N_1 \leq M_2 \leq N_2 \leq M_1$	M_2	$\frac{N_1 N_2 + M_2(N_2 - N_1)}{N_2}$	$\frac{N_1 N_2 + M_2(N_2 - N_1)}{N_2}$
17: $N_1 \leq N_2 \leq M_1 \leq M_2$	N_2	N_2	N_2
18: $N_1 \leq N_2 \leq M_2 \leq M_1$	N_2	N_2	N_2
19: $N_2 \leq M_1 \leq M_2 \leq N_1$	$\min(M_2, \frac{N_1 N_2 + M_1(N_1 - N_2)}{N_1})$	M_1	$\min(M_2, \frac{N_1 N_2 + M_1(N_1 - N_2)}{N_1})$
20: $N_2 \leq M_1 \leq N_1 \leq M_2$	$\frac{N_1 N_2 + M_1(N_1 - N_2)}{N_1}$	M_1	$\frac{N_1 N_2 + M_1(N_1 - N_2)}{N_1}$
21: $N_2 \leq M_2 \leq M_1 \leq N_1$	M_2	M_1	M_1
22: $N_2 \leq M_2 \leq N_1 \leq M_1$	M_2	N_1	N_1
23: $N_2 \leq N_1 \leq M_1 \leq M_2$	N_1	N_1	N_1
24: $N_2 \leq N_1 \leq M_2 \leq M_1$	N_1	N_1	N_1

l th micro BS at time t is given by

$$\mathbf{y}_{a,l}[t] = \sum_{k=1}^L \sum_{i=1}^{N_1} \mathbf{h}_{ai,lk}[t] x_{ai,k}[t] + \mathbf{G}_{a,l}[t] \mathbf{x}_\beta[t] + \mathbf{z}_{a,l}[t] \quad (44)$$

and the received signal of the j th user outside hotspots at time t is given by

$$y_{\beta j}[t] = \mathbf{h}_{\beta j}[t] \mathbf{x}_\beta[t] + \sum_{k=1}^L \sum_{i=1}^{N_1} g_{\beta ji,k}[t] x_{ai,k}[t] + z_{\beta j}[t], \quad (45)$$

where $j \in [1 : N_2]$ and $l \in [1 : L]$. Here $\mathbf{h}_{ai,lk}[t] \in \mathbb{R}^{M_1 \times 1}$ is the channel vector from the i th user in the k th hotspot to the l th micro BS, $\mathbf{G}_{a,l}[t] \in \mathbb{R}^{M_1 \times M_2}$ is the channel matrix from the macro BS to the l th micro BS, $\mathbf{h}_{\beta j}[t] \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times M_2}$ is the channel vector from the macro BS to the j th user outside hotspots, and $g_{\beta ji,k}[t] \in \mathbb{R}$ is the scalar channel from the i th user in the k th hotspot to the j th user outside hotspots. The rest of channel assumptions and the DoF definition are the same as in Section II.

Now consider an achievable sum DoF of the above hotspot network. As illustrated in Fig. 9, the first IA-IN scheme in Section IV-D can be modified for this case. Specifically, each user in hotspots transmits $\lambda_1 T(1 - \epsilon)$ streams over T time-extended beamforming vectors and the macro BS transmits

$\lambda_2 T(1 - \epsilon)$ streams to each of the users outside hotspots over T time-extended beamforming vectors, where $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in (0, 1]$ and $\epsilon > 0$ is an arbitrarily small constant. Then, uplink beamforming vectors are set to align inter-cell interference to the users in the macro cell and downlink beamforming vectors are set to null out both inter-cell interference to the micro BSs and intra-cell interference to its serving users. As seen in Fig. 9, each micro BS is able to decode its intended streams almost surely achieving one DoF for each stream by zero-forcing. Similarly, each user in the macro cell is able to decode its intended streams almost surely achieving one DoF for each stream by zero-forcing. Therefore, as T increases, the following sum DoF is achievable:

$$\max_{\substack{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \leq 1 \\ LN_1 \lambda_1 \leq M_1 \\ LN_1 \lambda_1 + N_2 \lambda_2 \leq M_2}} \{LN_1 \lambda_1 + N_2 \lambda_2\}. \quad (46)$$

Notice that the above optimization is the same form as in (12) except that LN_1 appears in the objective function and the constraints instead of N_1 . Hence we can find the solution of (46) from $d_{\Sigma,1}$ in Table II by substituting N_1 with LN_1 .

Now again consider the *cell coordination problem*, i.e., how to operate or coordinate this special type of heterogeneous cellular networks in order to maximize its sum DoF. Recall the results in Theorem 1 and Section V-A, suggesting that uplink-downlink operation can improve the DoF of heterogeneous

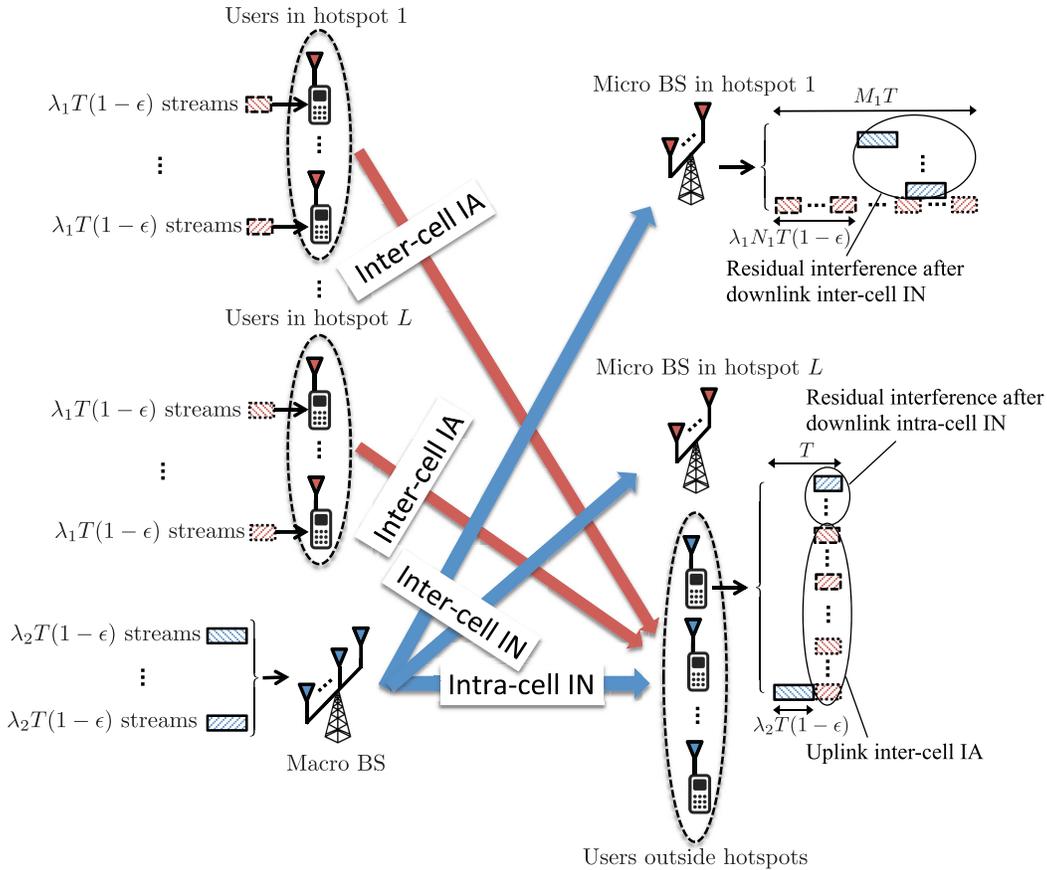


Fig. 9. IA-IN scheme when all micro cells operate as uplink and the macro cell operates as downlink. During T time slots, each user in hotspots transmits $\lambda_1 T(1 - \epsilon)$ streams to its micro BS and the macro BS transmit $\lambda_2 T(1 - \epsilon)$ streams to each of the users outside hotspots, for an arbitrarily small $\epsilon > 0$.

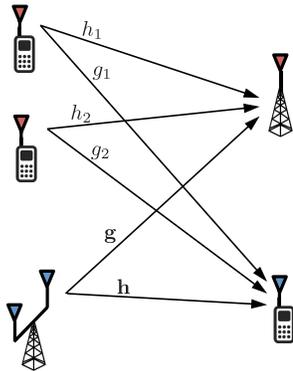


Fig. 10. Uplink-downlink multiantenna two-cell cellular networks when $M_1 = N_2 = 1$ and $M_2 = N_1 = 2$.

cellular networks. We will demonstrate that the same argument holds for the above hotspot network. If both micro and macro cells operate as either uplink or downlink, then the sum DoF of the considered hotspot network is upper bounded by

$$\min\{LM_1 + M_2, LN_1 + N_2, \max(LM_1, N_2), \max(LN_1, M_2)\}, \quad (47)$$

where we again use the two-user MIMO IC bound in [22], which corresponds to the model allowing full cooperation between the users in all micro cells and between the micro BSs and also allowing full cooperation between the users in

the macro cell. It might be possible to obtain a tighter bound by considering different types of cooperation, but the above bound is enough to establish an example network demonstrating the DoF gain from uplink-downlink operation in the following.

We can easily find an example that (46) is strictly greater than (47). For instance, consider the case where $L = 2$, $M_1 = 2$, $M_2 = 6$, $N_1 = 3$, and $N_2 = 4$. Then, the sum DoFs in (46) and (47) are given by $\frac{14}{3}$ and 4, respectively. That is, if we operate this example hotspot network as the conventional downlink, the sum DoF is limited by 4, which is achievable by only activating the macro cell (The same argument holds for the conventional uplink). Whereas, if we change the micro cells as uplink, then the sum DoF is improved to $\frac{14}{3}$. This example suggests that introducing hotspots can improve the sum DoF of cellular networks, but we have to be careful on how to operate or coordinate these heterogeneous cells.

Remark 5 (Possibility of Uplink IA at Micro BSs): It is worthwhile to mention that there is a potential to further improve the sum DoF by considering the alignment of the uplink interference at the undesired micro BSs. However, the primary aim of Section V-B is to demonstrate the benefit of uplink-downlink operation compared to the conventional uplink or downlink for simple heterogeneous networks. For this purpose, it is enough to only consider the alignment of the uplink interference at the users outside hotspots. Once we consider such a possibility, the alignment scheme becomes

much more complicated and cannot be attained by simple modification of the alignment scheme in Section IV-D, which we believe is out of the scope of this paper. \diamond

C. Uplink–Downlink IA With Delayed CSIT

One of the main barriers for implementing IA is for acquiring instantaneous CSI at each transmitter, which is in practice hard to acquire due to the channel feedback delay. To overcome such limitation of IA using instantaneous CSI, IA using delayed or outdated CSI has been recently studied in the literature [54]–[56]. It was originally shown in [54] that completely outdated CSI is still useful for improving DoF of the multiantenna broadcast channel. Specifically, delayed CSI was used to align interference in order to exploit received interfering signals as side information. The same approach can be applied for uplink–downlink multiantenna two-cell cellular networks.

Consider an example network depicted in Fig. 10, which corresponds to the case where $M_1 = N_2 = 1$ and $M_2 = N_1 = 2$ in Fig 2. For notational simplicity, we redefine channel coefficients as in Fig. 10. Let us assume that the users in cell α and BS β only knows delayed CSI, i.e., CSI up to time $t - 1$ for the transmission at time t . We will show that the sum DoF $\frac{5}{4}$ is achievable using delayed CSI. Communication takes place over a block of 4 time slots. During the transmission block, user $(\alpha, 1)$ transmits two streams a_1 and a_2 , user $(\alpha, 2)$ transmits one stream b_1 , and BS β transmits two streams c_1 and c_2 as follows:

- At the first time, user $(\alpha, 1)$ transmits a_1 and user $(\alpha, 2)$ transmits b_1 .
- At the second time, user $(\alpha, 1)$ transmits a_2 and user $(\alpha, 2)$ transmits b_1 .
- At the third time, BS β transmits $[c_1, c_2]^\dagger$.

Then the received signals of BS α at time 1, 2, and 3 are given by

$$\begin{aligned} h_1[1]a_1 + h_2[1]b_1 &:= L_1(a_1, b_1), \\ h_1[2]a_2 + h_2[2]b_1 &:= L_2(a_2, b_1), \\ \mathbf{g}[3][c_1, c_2]^\dagger &:= L_3(c_1, c_2), \end{aligned} \quad (48)$$

respectively, where we omit additive noises in the input–output relation. Similarly, the received signals of the user in cell β at time 1, 2, and 3 are given by

$$\begin{aligned} g_1[1]a_1 + g_2[1]b_1 &:= L_4(a_1, b_1), \\ g_1[2]a_2 + g_2[2]b_1 &:= L_5(a_2, b_1), \\ \mathbf{h}[3][c_1, c_2]^\dagger &:= L_6(c_1, c_2). \end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

Then, BS α can decode a_1 , a_2 , and b_1 if it obtains a linear combination of (a_1, a_2, a_3) , linearly independent of $L_1(a_1, b_1)$ and $L_2(a_2, b_1)$, and the user in cell β can decode c_1 and c_2 if it obtains a linear combination of (c_1, c_2) , linearly independent of $L_6(c_1, c_2)$. This is possible by transmitting at the fourth time as follows:

- At the fourth time, user $(\alpha, 1)$ transmits $L_7(a_1, a_2)$ and BS β transmits $[L_3(c_1, c_2), L_3(c_1, c_2)]^\dagger$, where $L_7(a_1, a_2)$ is given by $g_1[1]a_1 - \frac{g_2[1]g_1[2]}{g_2[2]}a_2$.

Note that user $(\alpha, 1)$ can construct $L_7(a_1, a_2)$ and BS β can construct $L_3(c_1, c_2)$ using delayed CSI.

The received signal of BS α at time 4 is given by

$$h_1[4]L_7(a_1, a_2) + \mathbf{g}[4][1, 1]^\dagger L_3(c_1, c_2). \quad (50)$$

Therefore, by subtracting the effect of $L_3(c_1, c_2)$ from (50), which was received at time 3, BS α is able to obtain $L_7(a_1, a_2)$ and, as a result, decode a_1 , a_2 , a_3 from $L_1(a_1, b_1)$, $L_2(a_2, b_1)$, and $L_7(a_1, a_2)$. The received signal of the user in cell β at time 4 is given by

$$\mathbf{h}[4][1, 1]^\dagger L_3(c_1, c_2) + g_1[4]L_7(a_1, a_2). \quad (51)$$

Hence the user in cell β first constructs $L_7(a_1, a_2) = L_4(a_1, b_1) - \frac{g_2[1]g_1[2]}{g_2[2]}L_5(a_2, b_1)$ from $L_4(a_1, b_1)$ and $L_5(a_2, b_1)$, each of which was received at time 1 and 2. Then it subtracts the effect of $L_7(a_1, a_2)$ from (51) and, as a result, decode c_1 and c_2 from $L_3(c_1, c_2)$ and $L_6(c_1, c_2)$. In conclusion, the sum DoF $\frac{5}{4}$ is achievable and this example demonstrates that delayed CSIT is still useful for uplink–downlink multiantenna two-cell cellular networks. Furthermore, if we operate the above example network as the conventional uplink or downlink, then the sum DoF is limited by one even with instantaneous CSIT from the result in [22]. Therefore, it also shows that uplink–downlink operation can improve the sum DoF than the conventional uplink or downlink under the delayed CSIT model.

VI. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In this paper, the sum DoF of uplink–downlink multiantenna two-cell cellular networks has been characterized. The result demonstrates that, for a broad class of network configurations, uplink–downlink operation can strictly enlarge the sum DoF of multiantenna two-cell cellular networks compared to the conventional uplink or downlink operation. This DoF improvement basically comes from heterogeneous network environment, especially when the number of antennas at each BS is different from each other. Recently, for various reasons such as capacity, coverage, load valancing, and so on, heterogeneous cellular networks called ‘‘HetNet’’ have been actively studied both in academia and industry. Therefore we should be more careful for operating such heterogeneous cellular networks consisting of macro BSs with a larger number of antennas and micro BSs with a smaller number of antennas.

APPENDIX

OPTIMAL (λ_1, λ_2) AND $\max(d_{\Sigma,1}, d_{\Sigma,2})$

In this appendix, we prove Lemma 1. Recall that

$$d_{\Sigma,1} = \max_{\substack{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \leq 1 \\ N_1 \lambda_1 \leq M_1 \\ N_1 \lambda_1 + N_2 \lambda_2 \leq M_2}} \{N_1 \lambda_1 + N_2 \lambda_2\} \quad (52)$$

and

$$d_{\Sigma,2} = \max_{\substack{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \leq 1 \\ N_1 \lambda_1 + N_2 \lambda_2 \leq M_1 \\ N_2 \lambda_2 \leq M_2}} \{N_1 \lambda_1 + N_2 \lambda_2\}. \quad (53)$$

Depending on the relationship between M_1 , M_2 , N_1 , and N_2 , the solutions of the above two linear programs are

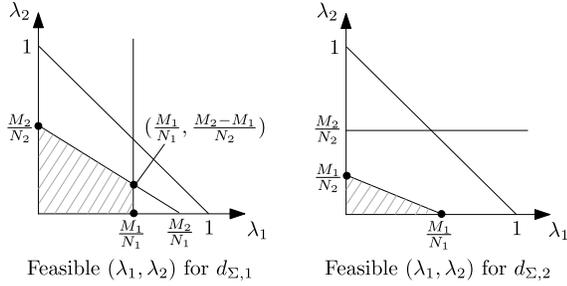


Fig. 11. Feasible regions of (λ_1, λ_2) and the corresponding corner points when $M_1 \leq M_2 \leq N_1 \leq N_2$.

represented as in different forms. Hence we first divide the entire four-parameter space (M_1, M_2, N_1, N_2) into 24 regimes as shown in Table II.²

- Identify a feasible region of (λ_1, λ_2) for (52), i.e., the region of (λ_1, λ_2) satisfying three constraints in (52).
- Find (λ_1, λ_2) maximizing the objective function $N_1\lambda_1 + N_2\lambda_2$ among the corner points in the feasible region, which provides $d_{\Sigma,1}$.³
- Repeat the above two steps for (53), which provides $d_{\Sigma,2}$.
- Find $\max(d_{\Sigma,1}, d_{\Sigma,2})$.

For instance, consider the first regime where $M_1 \leq M_2 \leq N_1 \leq N_2$ in Table II. Figure 11 plots the feasible (λ_1, λ_2) regions in (52) and (53) for this regime. For (52), the first constraint $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \leq 1$ becomes inactive and thus at least one of the three corner points yields the maximum of $N_1\lambda_1 + N_2\lambda_2$, which gives $d_{\Sigma,1} = M_2$ when $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) = (\frac{M_1}{N_1}, \frac{M_2 - M_1}{N_2})$. For (53), on the other hand, only the second constraint $N_1\lambda_1 + N_2\lambda_2 \leq M_1$ becomes active and at least one of the two corner points yields the maximum, which gives $d_{\Sigma,2} = M_1$ when $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) = (\frac{M_1}{N_1}, 0)$ or $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) = (0, \frac{M_1}{N_2})$. Hence $\max(d_{\Sigma,1}, d_{\Sigma,2}) = M_2$ when $M_1 \leq M_2 \leq N_1 \leq N_2$. In the same manner, we can derive $d_{\Sigma,1}$ and $d_{\Sigma,2}$, and $\max(d_{\Sigma,1}, d_{\Sigma,2})$ for the rest of the regimes in Table II.

From Table II, $\max(d_{\Sigma,1}, d_{\Sigma,2}) = d_{\Sigma,1}$ if $M_1 \leq M_2$ and $\max(d_{\Sigma,1}, d_{\Sigma,2}) = d_{\Sigma,2}$ if $M_2 \leq M_1$. Furthermore, $\max(d_{\Sigma,1}, d_{\Sigma,2})$ in Table II coincides with (4) in Theorem 1 for all the regimes. For the regime where $M_1 \leq M_2 \leq N_1 \leq N_2$, for instance, (4) is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 d_{\Sigma} &= \min \left\{ \frac{N_1 N_2 + M_2 (N_2 - N_1)}{N_2}, \right. \\
 &\quad \left. M_1 + N_2, M_2 + N_1, M_2, N_2 \right\} \\
 &= \min \left\{ \frac{N_1 N_2 + M_2 (N_2 - N_1)}{N_2}, M_2 \right\} \\
 &= M_2,
 \end{aligned} \tag{54}$$

where the second equality follows since $\frac{N_1 N_2 + M_2 (N_2 - N_1)}{N_2} = M_2 + \frac{N_1 (N_2 - M_2)}{N_2} \geq M_2$. In a similar manner, we can prove that $\max(d_{\Sigma,1}, d_{\Sigma,2}) = d_{\Sigma}$ for the rest of the regimes.

²For simplicity, we allow some overlap between regimes.

³One of the corner points is the solution of a linear program.

In conclusion,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max(d_{\Sigma,1}, d_{\Sigma,2}) &= d_{\Sigma,1} = d_{\Sigma} \text{ if } M_1 \leq M_2, \\
 \max(d_{\Sigma,1}, d_{\Sigma,2}) &= d_{\Sigma,2} = d_{\Sigma} \text{ if } M_2 \leq M_1,
 \end{aligned} \tag{55}$$

which completes the proof.

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