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Low SNR Capacity for MIMO Rician and Rayleigh-Product Fading Channels with Single Co-channel Interferer and Noise

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Abstract—This paper studies the ergodic capacity of multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) systems with a single co-channel interferer in the low signal-to-noise-ratio (SNR) regime. Two MIMO models namely Rician and Rayleigh-product channels are investigated. Exact analytical expressions for the minimum energy per information bit, $E_b/N_0_{\min}$, and wideband slope, $S_0$, are derived for both channels. Our results show that the minimum energy per information bit is the same for both channels while their wideband slopes differ significantly. Further, the impact of the numbers of transmit and receive antennas, the Rician $K$ factor, the channel mean matrix and the interference-to-noise-ratio (INR) on the capacity, is addressed. Results indicate that interference degrades the capacity by increasing the required minimum energy per information bit and reducing the wideband slope. Simulation results validate our analytical results.

Index Terms—Double scattering, fading channels, MIMO systems, optimum combining, performance analysis.

I. INTRODUCTION

SINCE the pioneer work by Winters [1], Telatar [2] and Foschini et al. [3], multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) antenna systems have received enormous attention. The use of multiple antennas at both ends of the communication link in MIMO systems offers substantial improvement in capacity and performance over single-antenna systems. Thus far, the analysis of MIMO systems has been extensively investigated for many different statistical channel models of interest (see e.g., [4–7]). Due to spectrum scarcity, nevertheless, communication systems are anticipated to be corrupted by interference, which has motivated the studies of MIMO with interference, e.g., [8–15].

On the other hand, a wide variety of digital communication systems operate at low power where both spectral efficiency and the energy-per-bit can be very low. Examples include wireless sensor networks where low power and energy-efficient devices are preferred, and cellular networks where due to frequency reuse, users often operate at low signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) to avoid causing excessive interference to other cell users. It has been shown in [16, 17] that 40% of the geographical locations experience receiver SNR levels below 0 dB. In [18], Verdú proposed that the spectral efficiency in the low SNR (or wideband) regime can be analyzed through two parameters; namely, the minimum $E_b/N_0$ (with $E_b$ denoting the average energy per information bit and $N_0$ being the noise spectral density) required for reliable communications, and the wideband slope (denoted by $S_0$). These low SNR metrics not only provide a useful reference in understanding the achievable rate of a channel at low SNRs, but also offer practical insights into the interaction between various system parameters on the capacity performance. In addition, these metrics can be exploited to obtain engineering guidance on the optimal signalling strategies in the low power regime [18].

The low SNR metrics have subsequently been elaborated in [19–23], where the impacts of Rician $K$ factor, spatial correlation, transmit and receiver channel state information (CSI) were investigated. However, all of these works considered the interference-free scenarios, except [19], where the effect of interference was analyzed. The limitation of [19] is that explicit expressions for these two low SNR metrics were only derived for the interference-limited Rayleigh fading channels. Although [19] developed many profound results towards understanding of the capacity at low SNRs for interference-limited MIMO Rayleigh fading channels, the corresponding results for Rician fading channels appear to be limited. Rician fading channel is a more general model which captures

$1$ Since both networks operate in the low power regime and are generally subjected to interference, the analytical results to be developed may find possible applications in both scenarios.
the scenarios with dominant propagation paths between the transmitter and receiver sides, and embraces Rayleigh fading as a special case. Motivated by this and the importance of understanding the capacity of MIMO channels with interference at low SNRs, in this paper, we first investigate the MIMO Rician fading channels with arbitrary mean matrix and \( K \) factor, in which we derive exact expressions for \( E_b/N_0 \) and \( S_0 \) in the presence of both interference and noise. Based on these results, we shall further study the special cases, namely, the multiple-input single-output (MISO) Rician channels, the rank-one deterministic channels and the MIMO Rayleigh channels, in which simple expressions can be obtained to illustrate the impacts of the number of transmit and receive antennas, the Rician \( K \) factor, the channel mean matrix, and the interference-to-noise ratio (INR) on the capacity. Also, asymptotic results in the large-system limit and high INR are developed.

Another major contribution of this paper is that we also provide the low SNR capacity analysis for MIMO Rayleigh-product fading channels [24], which recently have emerged as a unified model to describe the reduced-rank phenomenon and bridge the gap between an independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.) full-rank Rayleigh channel and a degenerate rank-one keyhole channel [25]. The matrix product models have also emerged in MIMO multi-hop relaying systems [26, 27]. Due to its importance, the outage performance of MIMO Rayleigh-product channels with interference has been recently studied in [28]. Nonetheless, the capacity of such channels is not at all understood. In contrast, we have made distinctive contributions of understanding the capacity of these channels in the presence of interference by deriving the exact expressions of \( E_b/N_0 \) and \( S_0 \) at low SNRs. Our assumption is, however, that the co-channel interferer is equipped with only one transmit antenna and as in [18, 19] and many similar endeavors, perfect CSI at the receiver side is also assumed.

The reminder of the paper is structured as follows. Section II describes the models for MIMO Rician and Rayleigh-product channels and gives the capacity definition at low SNRs. In Sections III and IV, we derive the low SNR capacity results for MIMO Rician and Rayleigh-product channels, respectively. Numerical results are provided in Section V, and Section VI concludes the paper.

We adopt the following notation. Vectors are written in lowercase boldface letters and matrices are denoted by uppercase boldface letters. The superscripts \((\cdot)^T\), \((\cdot)^*\) and \((\cdot)^\dagger\) represent the transpose, complex conjugate and conjugate transpose operations, respectively. We also use \( \det(\cdot) \) and \( \text{tr}\{\cdot\} \) to denote the matrix determinant and trace operations, respectively. \( \mathbb{I} \) is used to denote an identity matrix of appropriate dimension. \( \mathbb{C}^{m \times n} \) stands for an \( m \times n \) complex matrix. \( \mathbb{E}\{\cdot\} \) returns the expectation, and \( \mathcal{CN}(\mu, \sigma^2) \) is a complex Gaussian distribution with mean \( \mu \) and variance \( \sigma^2 \).

**II. SYSTEM MODEL**

Consider a communication link with \( N_t \) transmit and \( N_r \) receive antennas, corrupted by interference and additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN). The received signals, \( y \in \mathbb{C}^{N_t \times 1} \), can be expressed as

\[
y = Hx + hs + n,
\]

where \( x \in \mathbb{C}^{N_t \times 1} \) is the transmitted symbol vector satisfying \( \mathbb{E}\{|x|^2\} = P \), \( s \) is the interference symbol such that \( \mathbb{E}\{|s|^2\} = P_I \), and \( H \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r \times N_t} \) denotes the MIMO channel between the transmitter and receiver. Likewise, \( h \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r \times 1} \) denotes the channel vector between the interferer and the desired receiver with its entry being i.i.d. zero-mean unit-variance Gaussian random variables, and \( n \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r \times 1} \) is the complex AWGN vector with i.i.d. entries following \( \mathcal{CN}(0, N_0) \).

In this paper, we investigate the low SNR capacity properties of two important MIMO channel models, namely: 1) Rician fading and 2) Rayleigh-product fading. They are described as follows:

- **MIMO Rician channels**—In this case, the channel matrix has the structure [29]

\[
H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{K+1}} H_0 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{K+1}} H_w,
\]

where \( K \) denotes the Rician \( K \)-factor, and \( H_w \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r \times N_t} \) is the channel matrix containing i.i.d. zero-mean unit-variance complex Gaussian entries. On the other hand, \( H_0 \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r \times N_t} \) denotes the channel mean matrix, which is normalized to satisfy

\[
\text{tr}\{H_0 H_0^\dagger\} = N_r N_t.
\]

- **MIMO Rayleigh-product channels**—The channel matrix \( H \) can be expressed as [24]

\[
H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_s}} H_1 H_2,
\]

where \( H_1 \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r \times N_s} \) and \( H_2 \in \mathbb{C}^{N_s \times N_t} \) are statistically independent matrices containing i.i.d. zero-mean unit-variance complex Gaussian entries, with \( N_s \) being the number of effective scatterers. By varying \( N_s \), this model can describe various rank-deficient effects of a MIMO channel, e.g., it degenerates to Rayleigh fading if \( N_s \to \infty \), and a keyhole channel if \( N_s = 1 \).

We assume that CSI is not known at the transmitter side but perfectly known at the receiver. Thus, an equal-power allocation policy is used and the ergodic capacity is then expressed as [19]

\[
C = \mathbb{E}\left\{ \log_2 \det \left( \mathbb{I} + \frac{P}{N_0 N_t} H_1^\dagger \left( \frac{P_I}{N_0} hh^\dagger + \mathbb{I} \right)^{-1} H_1 \right) \right\}.
\]

As pointed out in [19], with co-channel interference, it is more suitable to define the SNR as

\[
\rho \triangleq \frac{P}{N_0} \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{H_1^\dagger (\rho_I hh^\dagger + \mathbb{I})^{-1} H_1\}\} / N_r N_t,
\]

where \( \rho_I \triangleq \frac{P_I}{N_0} \) is regarded as the INR. Based on the definitions, the ergodic capacity expression in (5) can be rewritten as

\[
C(\rho) = \ldots
\]
Theorem 1 is general and valid for mean matrix of arbitrary rank, \( \mathbf{H}_0 \), and any possible \( N_t, N_r, K \) and \( \rho_I \). From (11), we observe that the Rician factor \( K \) and the structure of channel mean \( \mathbf{H}_0 \) (as long as \( \text{tr} \{ \mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{H}_0^H \} = N_t N_r \)) do not affect \( E_b/N_{0_{\text{min}}} \), while the values of \( N_t \) and \( \rho_I \) have a direct impact. Also in (12), we see that all the parameters will affect the wideband slope \( S_0 \).

Based on (11), we can further investigate the impact of \( N_r \) and \( \rho_I \) on \( E_b/N_{0_{\text{min}}} \) as follows.

**Corollary 1:** The \( E_b/N_{0_{\text{min}}} \) is a decreasing function of \( N_r \) (i.e., when \( N_r \) increases, \( E_b/N_{0_{\text{min}}} \) decreases) and is an increasing function of \( \rho_I \) (i.e., when \( \rho_I \) increases, \( E_b/N_{0_{\text{min}}} \) increases). Moreover, the increase in \( E_b/N_{0_{\text{min}}} \) due to interference is upper bounded by \( \frac{\ln 2}{N_r(N_r-1)} \) for \( N_r \geq 2 \).

**Proof:** See Appendix III.

**Corollary 2:** When \( \rho_I \to 0 \), Theorem 1 reduces to

\[
\frac{E_b}{N_{0_{\text{min}}}} = \frac{\ln 2}{N_r},
\]

\[
S_0 = \frac{2(K+1)^2}{K^2 + (1+2K)N_t + N_r}.
\]

In particular, if the channel mean matrix, \( \mathbf{H}_0 \), is of rank-one, then \( S_0 \) can be reduced to

\[
S_0 = \frac{2(K+1)^2}{K^2 + (1+2K)N_t + N_r}.
\]

**Proof:** The results can be obtained with the help of Lemma 3 in Appendix I, together with the fact that \( \text{tr} \{ (\mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{H}_0^H) \} = N_t^2 N_r^2 \) when \( \mathbf{H}_0 \) is of rank-one.

**Corollary 2** corresponds to the results for MIMO Rician fading channels in an interference-free environment, which generalizes the results in [19] where a rank-one channel mean was considered.

To gain further insight, in the following, we look at three special cases: 1) MISO Rician fading channels, i.e., \( N_r = 1 \), 2) MIMO Rician channels of rank-one mean for large \( K \), i.e., \( K \to \infty \) and \( \mathbf{H}_0 = \alpha \beta^T \) (with complex column vectors \( \alpha, \beta \)), and 3) MIMO Rayleigh channels, i.e., \( K = 0 \).

### A. MISO Rician Channels

**Corollary 3:** For MISO Rician channels, i.e., \( N_r = 1 \), we have

\[
\frac{E_b}{N_{0_{\text{min}}}} = \frac{\ln 2}{D_1(1,\rho_I)},
\]

\[
S_0 = \frac{2N_t(K+1)^2 D_1(1,\rho_I)^2}{2K + [1 + N_t(1 + K)]^2 D_2(1,\rho_I)}.
\]

**Proof:** The result can be obtained by substituting \( N_r = 1 \) in Theorem 1.

**Corollary 4:** When \( N_r = 1 \), \( S_0 \) is an increasing function of \( N_t \). When 0 \( \leq K \leq 1 - D_2(1,\rho_I) \), \( S_0 \) is a decreasing function of \( K \), while for \( K \geq 1 - D_2(1,\rho_I) \), \( S_0 \) is an increasing function of \( K \).

**Proof:** See Appendix IV.

In contrast to the interference-free case, where the increase of Rician factor \( K \) always improves the wideband slope \( S_0 \) when \( N_r = 1 \), Corollary 4 reveals that the impact of \( K \) on
\[ B_0 = \frac{1}{(N_r - 1 + D_1(N_r, \rho_I))^2} \left[ \left( \frac{2K^2 \left( \text{tr} \left\{ (H_0 H_0^H)^2 \right\} - N_t^2 N_r \right)}{N_t (N_r + 1)} + 2(N_r - 1) \right) D_1(N_r, \rho_I) \\
+ \left( 1 + (1 + 2K)N_t + \frac{K^2 \left( \text{tr} \left\{ (H_0 H_0^H)^2 \right\} + N_t^2 N_r^2 \right)}{N_t N_r (N_r + 1)} \right) D_2(N_r, \rho_I) \\
+ (N_r - 1) \left( N_r - 1 + (1 + 2K)N_t + \frac{K^2 \left( \text{tr} \left\{ (H_0 H_0^H)^2 \right\} (N_r^2 - N_r - 1) + N_t^2 N_r^2 \right)}{N_t N_r (N_r^2 - 1)} \right) \right] \right) , \] (15)

\( S_0 \) depends on the interference level. Moreover, when \( \rho_I \to \infty \), \( S_0 = 0 \) which aligns with the observations in [19] for interference-limited Rayleigh fading scenarios. However, the general impact of \( \rho_I \) on \( S_0 \) is more difficult to characterize, though simulation results indicate that \( S_0 \) decreases when \( \rho_I \) increases.

**B. Rank-1 Mean MIMO Rician Channels for Large \( K \)**

**Corollary 5:** In the large \( K \) regime, for rank-one mean MIMO Rician channels with a single interferer, it can be derived that

\[
\frac{E_b}{N_0 \min} = \frac{\ln 2}{N_r - 1 + A_0} , \tag{21}
\]

\[
S_0 = \frac{2(1/N_r + 1)(N_r - 1 + D_1(N_r, \rho_I))^2}{N_r (N_r - 1) + 2(N_r - 1)D_1(N_r, \rho_I) + 2D_2(N_r, \rho_I)} , \tag{22}
\]

**Proof:** The desired results can be obtained by taking the limit \( K \to \infty \) in Theorem 1.

Corollary 5 indicates that in the large \( K \) regime, for rank-1 mean Rician MIMO fading channels, multiple transmit antennas are irrelevant in terms of \( E_b/N_0 \min \) and \( S_0 \). This is actually an intuitive result. The reason is that the large \( K \) regime corresponds to the non-fading channel scenarios, and thus, varying the number of transmit antennas for a fixed total transmit power will not increase the receive signal energy and will not contribute to the capacity. In addition, \( N_r \) affects both \( E_b/N_0 \min \) and \( S_0 \) in contrast to the interference-free case where \( N_r \) is only relevant in terms of \( E_b/N_0 \min \) [19].

With the help of Lemma 3, we can further obtain the results in various asymptotic regimes:

- When \( \rho_I \to 0 \), Corollary 5 reduces to

\[
\frac{E_b}{N_0 \min} = \frac{\ln 2}{N_r} , \tag{23}
\]

\[
S_0 = 2 . \tag{24}
\]

The above results correspond to the interference-free scenario, and conforms to those in [19].

- When \( N_r \to \infty \), Corollary 5 reduces to

\[
\frac{E_b}{N_0 \min} = \frac{\ln 2}{N_r - 1} , \tag{25}
\]

\[
S_0 = 2 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{N_r^2} \right) \approx 2 . \tag{26}
\]

Compared with the interference-free case, the above results suggest that interference degrade the capacity by increasing \( E_b/N_0 \min \) and decreasing \( S_0 \). For sufficiently large \( N_r \), the capacity performance with a single interferer (regardless of the interference power level) is similar to that of a channel with one less receive antenna operating in an interference-free environment.

- When \( \rho_I \to \infty \) and \( N_r \geq 2 \), Corollary 5 reduces to

\[
\frac{E_b}{N_0 \min} = \frac{\ln 2}{N_r - 1} , \tag{27}
\]

\[
S_0 = 2 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{N_r^2} \right) . \tag{28}
\]

Intriguingly, these results coincide with the case \( N_r \to \infty \). Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that the situations in application are very different. One is applicable for large \( N_r \) but arbitrary interference power \( \rho_I \), while the other is valid for large \( \rho_I \) but arbitrary \( N_r \).

**C. MIMO Rayleigh Channels**

**Corollary 6:** For MIMO Rayleigh channels with a single interferer, we have

\[
\frac{E_b}{N_0 \min} = \frac{\ln 2}{N_r - 1 + A_0} , \tag{29}
\]

\[
S_0 = \frac{2N_t}{1 + B_1} , \tag{30}
\]

where \( B_1 \) is defined as

\[
B_1 = \frac{N_t(N_r - 1) + (N_t + 1)D_2(N_r, \rho_I) - D_1(N_r, \rho_I)^2}{[N_r - 1 + D_1(N_r, \rho_I)]^2} . \tag{31}
\]

**Proof:** The results follow immediately by substituting \( K = 0 \) into Theorem 1.

Corollary 6 shows that the number of transmit antennas affects the capacity performance through \( S_0 \). More insights can be gained by looking into the asymptotic regimes as follows.

- When \( \rho_I \to 0 \), we have

\[
\frac{E_b}{N_0 \min} = \frac{\ln 2}{N_r} , \tag{32}
\]

\[
S_0 = \frac{2N_t N_r}{N_t + N_r} . \tag{33}
\]

This scenario corresponds to the case for MIMO Rayleigh channels without interference, and the results are consistent with those derived in [19].
• When \( N_r \to \infty \), we have
\[
\frac{E_b}{N_0 \min} = \frac{\ln 2}{N_r - 1},
\]
(34)
\[
S_0 = \frac{2N_t(N_r - 1)}{N_t + N_r - 1}.
\]
(35)

• When \( \rho_I \to \infty \) and \( N_r \geq 2 \), we have
\[
\frac{E_b}{N_0 \min} = \frac{\ln 2}{N_r - 1},
\]
(36)
\[
S_0 = \frac{2N_t(N_r - 1)}{N_t + N_r - 1}.
\]
(37)

Similar to the case of rank-one mean MIMO Rician channels with a large \( K \), it is observed that the results for \( N_r \to \infty \) and \( \rho_I \to \infty \) coincide. In addition, by comparing the above results to the interference-free results, we see that in Rayleigh fading, \( E_b/N_0 \min \) and \( S_0 \) for a MIMO channel with a single interferer behaves like a channel with one less receive antenna operating in an interference-free environment, which is different from the large \( K \) rank-one mean MIMO Rician channel case where \( S_0 \) does not have this interpretation.

IV. MIMO RAYLEIGH-PRODUCT CHANNELS

In this section, we develop the low SNR capacity results for MIMO Rayleigh-product channels.

Theorem 2: For MIMO Rayleigh-product channels with a single interferer, we have
\[
\frac{E_b}{N_0 \min} = \frac{\ln 2}{N_r - 1 + A_0},
\]
(38)
\[
S_0 = \frac{2N_tN_s}{N_t + N_s + B_2},
\]
(39)

where \( A_0 \) has been defined in Theorem 1 and \( B_2 \) is shown on top of next page.

Proof: See Appendix V.

Theorem 2 shows that the \( E_b/N_0 \min \) for MIMO Rayleigh-product channels is the same as that for MIMO Rician fading channels, although the two channels have very different information-carrying capabilities. As such, the results of Corollary 1 also apply for Rayleigh-product channels. Nonetheless, this is not surprising as has already been reported in [18], and this is the consequence of the noise being additive Gaussian. This explains that \( E_b/N_0 \min \) is not sufficient to indicate the capacity performance and motivates the need for higher order approximation of the capacity such as the wideband slope, \( S_0 \), which is generally different for different channels. In addition, it is observed that \( N_t \) and \( N_s \) affect the capacity performance through the wideband slope \( S_0 \) but not \( E_b/N_0 \min \).

Corollary 7: \( S_0 \) is an increasing function of \( N_s \) and when \( N_s \to \infty \), the wideband slope for Rayleigh-product fading with a single interferer becomes the same as that for Rayleigh fading scenarios.

Proof: See Appendix VI.

The above corollary shows that when the number of scatterers increases, the ergodic capacity improves. Moreover, it indicates that the Rayleigh-product channel converges to a Rayleigh fading channel when \( N_s \to \infty \). This result is quite intuitive since the large \( N_s \) corresponds to a rich scattering environment which is the scenario that fits well with the Rayleigh fading model.

The following asymptotic cases are looked at to gain further understanding.

• When \( \rho_I \to 0 \), we have
\[
\frac{E_b}{N_0 \min} = \frac{\ln 2}{N_r},
\]
(41)
\[
S_0 = \frac{2N_tN_r}{N_tN_s + N_rN_s + N_rN_t + 1}.
\]
(42)

This scenario corresponds to the interference-free case for Rayleigh-product channels whose results have been derived in [32]. In addition, when \( N_s = 1 \), we further have
\[
S_0 = \frac{2N_tN_r}{(N_t + 1)(N_r + 1)}
\]
(43)
which provides the wideband slope for keyhole channels.

• When \( N_r \to \infty \), we have
\[
\frac{E_b}{N_0 \min} = \frac{\ln 2}{N_r - 1},
\]
(44)
\[
S_0 = \frac{2N_tN_s(N_r - 1)}{N_tN_s + (N_r - 1)(N_s + N_t)} + 1.
\]
(45)

• When \( \rho_I \to \infty \) and \( N_r \geq 2 \), it can be easily shown that \( E_b/N_0 \min \) and \( S_0 \) are, respectively, given by (44) and (45). In other words, the results for \( N_r \to \infty \) and \( \rho \to \infty \) coincide. Additionally, similar to MIMO Rayleigh channels, the penalty of having an interferer is illustrated through a reduction on the number of effective receive antennas by 1.

V. NUMERICAL RESULTS

In this section, we perform various simulations to further examine the derived analytical expressions. All the Monte-Carlo simulation results were obtained by averaging over \( 10^5 \) independent channel realizations. For MIMO Rician channels, the mean matrix is generated according to [31]
\[
\mathbf{H}_0 = \sum_{l=1}^{L} \beta_l \mathbf{a}(\theta_{r,l})\mathbf{a}(\theta_{t,l})^T,
\]
(46)
where \( \beta_l \) is the complex amplitude of the \( l \)th path, and \( \mathbf{a}(\theta_{r,l}) \) and \( \mathbf{a}(\theta_{t,l}) \) are the specular array responses corresponding to the \( l \)th dominant path at the transmitter and receiver, respectively. The array response is defined as \[1, e^{j2\pi d \cos(\theta_l)}, \ldots, e^{j2\pi d(N-1) \cos(\theta_l)}]^T \] where \( d \) is the antenna spacing in wavelengths. In all simulations, we assume that \( d = 0.5 \) at both the transmit and receive sides.

For \( 3 \times 2 \) MIMO Rician channels, the mean matrix is constructed by assuming that there are two dominant paths (i.e., \( L = 2 \)), with the arriving and departure angles given by \( \theta_{r,1} = \theta_{t,1} = \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\pi}{8}, \theta_{r,2} = \theta_{t,2} = \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{4} \), respectively.

The complex coefficient \( \beta_l \) is chosen such that \( \text{tr} \{ \mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{H}_0^H \} = N_tN_r \). For rank-1 mean Rician fading MIMO channels, we assume \( L = 1, \beta_1 = 1 \) and \( \theta_{r,1} = \theta_{t,1} = \frac{\pi}{2} \).

\(^*\)These angles are randomly chosen for simulation purpose, and our results are applicable to arbitrary angles.
Fig. 1. Low SNR capacity versus transmit $E_b/N_0$ for Rayleigh fading channels with different $N_r$ when $N_t = 3$ and $\rho_I = 0$ dB.

Fig. 2. Low SNR capacity versus transmit $E_b/N_0$ for Rician fading channels with different $\rho_I$ when $K = 1$, $N_t = 2$ and $N_r = 3$.

Fig. 3. Low SNR capacity versus transmit $E_b/N_0$ for various Rician factor $K$ when $N_t = 2$, $N_r = 3$ and $\rho_I = 10$ dB.

Fig. 4. Low SNR capacity versus transmit $E_b/N_0$ for rank-1 mean Rician fading channels when $N_t = 2$, $N_r = 3$ and $K = 100$.

Results reveal a good agreement between the analysis and the simulations. We also see that the increase in the interference power degrades the capacity performance by increasing the required $E_b/N_{0\text{min}}$, while the impact on $S_0$ is not so pronounced. Furthermore, the increase in $E_b/N_{0\text{min}}$ from a channel without interference to that with a 10 dB of INR is about 0.1, which appears to be very close to the upper bound we obtained in Corollary 1 $(\ln 2)/(N_r(N_r-1)) = 0.115$.

Results in Fig. 3 are provided for the capacity of $3 \times 2$ MIMO Rician channels for different Rician- $K$ factors in the low SNR regime according to Theorem 1. The curves indicate the accuracy of our analytical expression and that the range for a good approximation improves if $K$ increases. In particular, the approximation is very good for the capacity range from

$$B_2 \triangleq \frac{(N_r-1)(N_tN_s+1) + (N_t+1)(N_s+1)D_2(N_r,\rho_I) - (N_s+N_t)D_1(N_r,\rho_I)^2}{[N_r-1 + D_1(N_r,\rho_I)]^2}.$$
other hand, Fig. 4 plots the results for rank-1 mean larger. However, the increase is not very substantial. On the other hand, Fig. 7 plots the results for two systems both with $N_t = 2$ and $N_s = 6$: one with a single strong interferer of $\rho_1 = 20$ dB and $N_r = 3$, and the other with $N_t = 2$ in an interference-free environment. Results for both systems overlap in the low SNR regime, which confirms our findings in (44) and (45).

VI. CONCLUSION

This paper has studied the ergodic capacity of MIMO systems operating over Rician fading and Rayleigh-product channels in the presence of a single interferer and noise in the low SNR regime. Exact expressions for the minimum energy per information bit, $E_b/N_0_{\text{min}}$, and the wideband slope, $S_0$, were derived for both channels, which provide a much efficient way to evaluate the ergodic capacity of the system at low SNR as compared to the Monte-Carlo simulation method.

Based on the analytical expressions derived, we showed that interference increases the required $E_b/N_0_{\text{min}}$ and reduces the wideband slope $S_0$. On the other hand, Fig. 7 plots the results for two systems both with $N_t = 2$ and $N_s = 6$: one with a single strong interferer of $\rho_1 = 20$ dB and $N_r = 3$, and the other with $N_t = 2$ in an interference-free environment. Results for both systems overlap in the low SNR regime, which confirms our findings in (44) and (45).

Fig. 5. Low SNR capacity versus transmit $E_b/N_0$ for Rayleigh fading channels when $N_t = 3$ with different $N_r$ and $\rho_1$.

Fig. 6. Low SNR capacity versus transmit $E_b/N_0$ for Rayleigh-product channel when $N_t = 3$, $N_s = 6$ and $N_r = 2$.

Fig. 7. Low SNR capacity versus transmit $E_b/N_0$ for Rayleigh-product channel when $N_t = 2$, $N_s = 6$ and different $N_r$ and $\rho_1$.

0 to 10, when $K = 100$. Also, results demonstrate that the Rician $K$ factor affects the capacity performance through the wideband slope $S_0$ but not the $E_b/N_0_{\text{min}}$, and more specifically, the wideband slope $S_0$ increases when $K$ becomes larger. However, the increase is not very substantial. On the other hand, Fig. 4 plots the results for rank-1 mean $3 \times 2$ MIMO Rician channels in the large $K$ regime both with and without interference. Results confirm the correctness of the analytical results in Corollary 5.

In Fig. 5, we provide the results for MIMO Rayleigh fading channels. Two system configurations are investigated: one for $3 \times 21$ channels with a single interferer of $\rho_1 = 10$ dB, and the other for $3 \times 20$ channels without interference. As we can see, the results of the two systems almost overlap with inappreciable difference in the low SNR regime, which aligns with our analysis.

Results in Figs. 6 and 7 are provided for MIMO Rayleigh-product channels. Results show a good agreement between the analysis and simulations. We also observe that the level of interference increases the required $E_b/N_0_{\text{min}}$ and reduces the wideband slope $S_0$. On the other hand, Fig. 7 plots the results for two systems both with $N_t = 2$ and $N_s = 6$: one with a single strong interferer of $\rho_1 = 20$ dB and $N_r = 3$, and the other with $N_t = 2$ in an interference-free environment. Results for both systems overlap in the low SNR regime, which confirms our findings in (44) and (45).
on the ergodic capacity, i.e., when $N$ increases, the ergodic capacity improves. Furthermore, in the presence of a single interferer, the capacity of MIMO Rayleigh-product channels is upper bounded by the capacity of a MIMO Rayleigh fading channel with the same number of transmit and receive antennas.

To make the problem tractable, we have adopted the single interferer assumption, which has permitted the derivation of closed-form analytical expressions and a number of important physical insights. Nevertheless, the assumption has made the results less general and a more thorough investigation of the general scenario with multiple interferers is left for future work.

**APPENDIX A**

**SOME STATISTICAL RESULTS**

**Lemma 1:** For any $m \times 1$ vector $h \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, I)$, and positive number $t$, let $A \triangleq (t h h^H + I)^{-1}$. Then,

\[
\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{A\}\} = m - 1 + D_1(m, t),
\]

(47)

\[
\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{A^2\}\} = m - 1 + 2D_2(m, t),
\]

(48)

\[
\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}^2\{A\}\} = (m - 1)^2 + 2(m - 1)D_1(m, t) + 2D_2(m, t).
\]

(49)

**Proof:** The result can be obtained by noticing the unitary invariant of vector $h$, and using the integration formula [30, (3.85.5)].

**Lemma 2:** For any $m \times n$ matrix $H \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, I \otimes I)$, $m \times 1$ vector $h \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, I)$, and positive constant $t$, we have

\[
\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{H^H A H\}\} = n(m - 1) + nD_1(m, t),
\]

(50)

\[
\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{(H^H A H)^2\}\} = n(m - 1)(n + m - 1) + (n^2 + n)D_2(m, t) + 2n(m - 1)D_1(m, t),
\]

(51)

\[
\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}^2\{H^H A H\}\} = n(m - 1)(m - n) - (n^2 + n)D_2(m, t) + 2(m - 1)n^2D_1(m, t),
\]

(52)

where $A$ has been defined in Lemma 1.

**Proof:** Utilizing the unitary invariant property of the distributions of $H$ and $h$, conditioned on $A$, we have

\[
\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{H^H A H\}\} = \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{(H^H A H)^2\}\}\}
\]

(53)

\[
= \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{(\text{vec}(H))^H (I \otimes A) \text{vec}(H)\}\}\}
\]

(54)

Similarly, conditioned on $A$, $\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{(H^H A H)^2\}\}$ can be expressed as

\[
\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{(H^H A H)^2\}\}\} = \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{(H^H A H)^2\}\}\}
\]

(55)

\[
= \text{tr}^2(I)\text{tr}\{A^2\} + \text{tr}^2\{A\}\text{tr}\{I\},
\]

(56)

where (55) comes from [32, Lemma 6]. Finally, conditioned on $A$, and with the help of [32, Lemma 5], we have

\[
\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{H^H A H\}\}\} = \text{tr}\{I\}\text{tr}\{A^2\} + (t^2)\text{tr}\{I\}\text{tr}\{A^2\}.
\]

(57)

The desired results can be obtained by taking expectation on $A$ with the help of Lemma 1.

**Lemma 3:** When $m \to \infty$ or $t \to \infty$, we have $D_1(m, t) = D_2(m, t) = 0$. On the other hand, if $t \to 0$, then $D_1(m, t) = D_2(m, t) = 1$.

**Proof:** First, we note that the confluent hypergeometric function can be expressed in terms of exponential integral function $E_n(t)$ [34], so that

\[
\Psi^m(m, t) = e^{t}e^{n}E_n(1/t),
\]

(57)

and

\[
\Psi^m(m, t) = e^{t}E_{m-1}(1/t)(m - 1 + 1/t) - 1.
\]

(58)

Moreover, the exponential integral function satisfies the following inequality [35, (5.1.19)]

\[
\frac{1}{x + n} < e^{t}E_n(x) < \frac{1}{x + n - 1},
\]

(59)

Then, we can establish the following two inequalities:

\[
\frac{1}{1 + tm} < D_1(m, t) \leq \frac{1}{1 + t(m - 1)},
\]

(60)

\[
0 < D_2(m, t) \leq \frac{1}{t(m - 1)[t(m - 2) - 1]}.
\]

(61)

For the cases $m \to \infty$ and $t \to \infty$, it is easy to see that both sides of (60) and (61) approach 0 and hence, we have $D_1(m, t) = D_2(m, t) = 0$. Now, consider the case $t \to 0$. It is easily observed that both sides of (60) will approach 1 and hence, $D_1(m, t) = 1$. However, since $\frac{1}{[t(m - 1)[t(m - 2) - 1]} \to \infty$ when $t \to 0$, the two sides of (61) diverge. To obtain the limit of $D_2(m, t)$, define $a \triangleq \frac{1}{t}$. Utilizing the property of confluent hypergeometric function [35, (13.4.24)] and [35, (13.4.21)], we have

\[
a^m \Psi^m(m, m - 1, a) = (1 - m)a^m \Psi^m(m, m, a) + ma^m \Psi^m(m, m + 1, a).
\]

(62)

Then, from (60), we have

\[
a^m \Psi^m(m, m, a) = 1, \text{ as } a \to \infty.
\]

(63)

Therefore, (62) reduces to

\[
a^m \Psi^m(m, m, a) = (1 - m) + m = 1, \text{ as } a \to \infty,
\]

(64)

which completes the proof.

**APPENDIX B**

**PROOF OF THEOREM 1**

With the help of the following determinant properties,

\[
\frac{d}{dx} \ln \det(I + x A) \bigg|_{x=0} = \text{tr}\{A\},
\]

(65)

\[
\frac{d^2}{dx^2} \ln \det(I + x A) \bigg|_{x=0} = -\text{tr}\{A^2\},
\]

(66)

and treating $\frac{H^H (\rho hh^H)^{-1} H}{\text{det}(H^H (\rho hh^H)^{-1} H)}$ as one matrix, as well as noticing that the order of expectation operation on $H$ and $h$ and the derivative operation on $\rho$ can be exchanged, we compute the first and second derivatives of $C(\rho)$ at $\rho = 0$ as

\[
\dot{C}(0) = N_t \log_2 e,
\]

(67)

\[
\ddot{C}(0) = -\frac{N_t^2 \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{(H^H A H)^2\}\}}{\mathbb{E}^2\{\text{tr}\{(H^H A H)^2\}\}} \log_2 e.
\]

(68)
As a result, $\frac{E_b}{N_{0 \text{min}}}$ and $S_0$ can be computed according to (9) as

$$
\frac{E_b}{N_{0 \text{min}}} = \frac{N_t \ln 2}{\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}\}\}}, \\
S_0 = \frac{2E^2 \{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}\}\}}{\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{(\mathbf{H}^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H})^2\}\}}.
$$

(69) 

(70)

To proceed, we need to compute $\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}\}\}$ and $\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{(\mathbf{H}^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H})^2\}\}$.

Following similar steps as in [19], we have

$$
\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}\}\} = \frac{K}{K+1} \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{H}_0^\dagger \mathbf{A}\}\} + \frac{1}{K+1} \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}_w \mathbf{H}_w^\dagger \mathbf{A}\}\}.
$$

(71)

The first term of (71) can be computed with the help of [19, Lemma 3] as

$$
\frac{K}{K+1} \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{H}_0^\dagger \mathbf{A}\}\} = \frac{K}{K+1} \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{H}_0^\dagger\} \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{A}\}\} = \frac{K N_t}{K+1} \left[D_1(N_r, \rho_t) + N_r - 1\right],
$$

(72)

where in (72), we have used the fact that $\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{H}_0^\dagger\} = N_t N_r$ and the result of Lemma 1. On the other hand, the second term of (71) can be obtained directly from Lemma 2. As such,

$$
\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}\}\} = N_t \left[D_1(N_r, \rho_t) + N_r - 1\right].
$$

(73)

Now, it remains to derive the expression for $\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{(\mathbf{H}^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H})^2\}\}$. Utilizing the zero mean property of $\mathbf{H}_w$ and after some basic algebraic manipulations, we express $\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{(\mathbf{H}^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H})^2\}\}$ as in Eq. (74) shown on the top of this page. The first term can be easily obtained directly from Lemma 2. Therefore, here, we focus on the last three terms. With the help of [19, Lemma 3], we compute the second term as

$$
\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{(\mathbf{H}_w \mathbf{H}_w^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{H}_0^\dagger \mathbf{A})\}\} = \frac{1}{N_r^2} \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{(\mathbf{H}_w \mathbf{H}_w^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{H}_0^\dagger \mathbf{A})\}\} = \frac{N_t}{N_r^2} \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{(\mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{H}_0^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{H}_0^\dagger \mathbf{A})\}\}.
$$

(74)

Similarly, the third and fourth terms can be obtained as follows:

$$
\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}_w \mathbf{H}_w^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{H}_0^\dagger \mathbf{A}\}\} = \frac{1}{N_r} \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}_w \mathbf{H}_w^\dagger \mathbf{A}\}\} \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{H}_0^\dagger \mathbf{A}\}\} = \frac{N_t}{N_r} \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{H}_0^\dagger \mathbf{A}\}\},
$$

(75)

(76)

(77)

and

$$
\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}_w \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}_w^\dagger \mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}_0^\dagger \mathbf{H}_w\}\} = \frac{1}{N_r} \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{A}\}\} \mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{\mathbf{H}_w \mathbf{H}_0^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}_0 \mathbf{H}_w\}\}.
$$

(78)

As a result, $\mathbb{E}\{\text{tr}\{(\mathbf{H}^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H})^2\}\}$ can be computed as shown on the top of next page. Finally, applying Lemma 1 yields the desired result.

**APPENDIX C**

**PROOF OF COROLLARY 1**

Define the function $f(N_r) \triangleq N_r - 1 + A_0$. Hence, we are required to prove that $f(N_r)$ is an increasing function of $N_r$ which we do by considering

$$
f(N_r + 1) - f(N_r) = 1 + D_1(N_r + 1, \rho_t) - D_1(N_r, \rho_t).
$$

(82)

With the help of (60), we can bound $f(N_r + 1) - f(N_r) \geq 0$

$$
f(N_r + 1) - f(N_r) \geq 1 + \frac{1}{1 + \rho_t(N_r + 1)} = 1 + \frac{1}{1 + \rho_t(N_r - 1)}
$$

$$
= 1 - \frac{2\rho_t}{(1 + \rho_t N_r)^2 - \rho_t^2} \geq 1 - \frac{2\rho_t}{1 + 2\rho_t} > 0,
$$

(83)

which completes the first half of the proof.

To prove the corresponding part for $\rho_t$, we define another function $g(\rho_t)$ as $g(\rho_t) = D_1(N_r, \rho_t)$ and then show that $g(\rho_t)$ is monotonically decreasing. To do so, we compute the first derivative of $g(\rho_t)$ with the help of the derivative formula of a confluent hypergeometric function [35, (13.4.20)]

$$
g'(\rho_t) = N_r \rho_t^{-N_r} \Psi(N_r + 1, N_r + 1, \rho_t^{-1}) - N_r \rho_t^{-N_r} \Psi(N_r, N_r, \rho_t^{-1})
$$

$$
< N_r \rho_t^{-1} \frac{1}{1 + \rho_t N_r} - N_r \rho_t^{-1} \frac{1}{1 + \rho_t N_r} = 0.
$$

(84)

Hence, $g(\rho_t)$ is a monotonic decreasing function. Therefore, we have

$$
g(\rho_t \to \infty) \leq g(\rho_t) \leq g(\rho_t \to 0).
$$

(86)

With the help of Lemma 3, we have $g(\rho_t \to 0) = 1$ and $g(\rho_t \to \infty) = 0$. As a consequence, the increase in $E_b/N_{0 \text{min}}$ is bounded by

$$
\ln 2
$$

$$
\frac{N_r - 1 + g(\rho_t \to \infty) - \ln N_r - 1 + g(\rho_t \to 0)}{N_r - 1} = \ln 2 \frac{1 - \ln N_r - 1}{N_r - 1} = \ln 2 N_r(N_r - 1),
$$

(87)

which completes the proof.

**APPENDIX D**

**PROOF OF COROLLARY 4**

The first derivative of $S_0$ with respect to $N_t$ can be obtained as

$$
S'_0(N_t) = \frac{2(K + 1)^2 D_1(1, \rho_t)^2(2K + D_2(1, \rho_t))}{(2K + (1 + N_t(K + 1)^2 D_2(1, \rho_t))^2 \geq 0},
$$

(88)

which has proved the first claim. Similarly, the first derivative of $S_0$ with respect to $K$ is given by

$$
S'_0(K) = \frac{4N_t(K + 1) D_1(1, \rho_t)^2(K + D_2(1, \rho_t) - 1)}{(2K + (1 + N_t(K + 1)^2 D_2(1, \rho_t))^2}
$$

(89)
To complete the proof, we further have

\[
D_2(1, \rho_t) = \frac{1}{\rho_t} \int_0^\infty e^{-\frac{1}{\rho_t} x} (1 + x)^{-2} dx = \int_0^\infty e^{-x} (1 + \rho_t x)^{-2} dx \leq \int_0^\infty e^{-x} dx = 1. \quad (90)
\]

Because of the fact that \(0 \leq D_2(1, \rho_t) \leq 1\), we have \(S_0(K) > 0\) if \(0 \leq K < 1 - D_2(1, \rho_t)\) and \(S_0(K) \leq 0\) if \(K \geq 1 - D_2(1, \rho_t)\), which has proved the second claim.

**APPENDIX E**

**PROOF OF THEOREM 2**

Following the same steps as in the proof of Theorem 1, for MIMO Rayleigh-product channels, it can be derived that

\[
\frac{E_b}{N_0 \min} = \frac{N_t \ln 2}{E \left\{ \frac{1}{N_s} \text{tr} \left\{ \mathbf{H}_2^\dagger \mathbf{H}_1 \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}_1^\dagger \mathbf{H}_2 \right\} \right\}}, \quad (91)
\]

\[
S_0 = \frac{2E^2 \left\{ \frac{1}{N_s} \text{tr} \left\{ \mathbf{H}_2^\dagger \mathbf{H}_1 \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}_1^\dagger \mathbf{H}_2 \right\} \right\}}{E \left\{ \frac{1}{N_s} \text{tr} \left\{ \mathbf{H}_2^\dagger \mathbf{H}_1 \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}_1^\dagger \mathbf{H}_2 \right\} \right\}^2}. \quad (92)
\]

First defining \(\mathbf{W} \triangleq \mathbf{H}_1^\dagger \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}_1\), conditioned on \(\mathbf{W}\), we get

\[
E \left\{ \frac{1}{N_s} \text{tr} \left\{ \mathbf{H}_2^\dagger \mathbf{H}_1 \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}_1^\dagger \mathbf{H}_2 \right\} \mid \mathbf{W} \right\} = \frac{1}{N_s} E \left\{ \text{tr} \left\{ \mathbf{H}_2^\dagger \mathbf{H}_2 \right\} \right\} \mathbf{W} = \frac{N_t}{N_s} \text{tr} \{\mathbf{W}\}. \quad (93)
\]

Similarly, we have

\[
E \left\{ \frac{1}{N_s^2} \text{tr} \left\{ \mathbf{H}_2^\dagger \mathbf{H}_1 \mathbf{A} \mathbf{H}_1^\dagger \mathbf{H}_2 \right\} \right\} \mathbf{W} = \frac{1}{N_s^2} E \left\{ \text{tr} \left\{ \left( \mathbf{H}_2^\dagger \mathbf{W} \mathbf{H}_2 \right)^2 \right\} \right\} \mathbf{W} = \frac{1}{N_s^2} (\text{tr} \{\mathbf{I}\}^2 \text{tr} \{\mathbf{W}\} + \text{tr} \{\mathbf{W}\} \text{tr} \{\mathbf{I}\}) = \frac{1}{N_s^2} (N_t \text{tr} \{\mathbf{W}\} + N_t \text{tr} \{\mathbf{W}\}^2). \quad (94)
\]

With the help of Lemma 2 and further taking expectation on \(\mathbf{W}\) in (93) and (96), the desired result can be obtained after some basic algebraic manipulations.


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