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Cooperative UAV-Relay based Satellite Aerial Ground Integrated Networks

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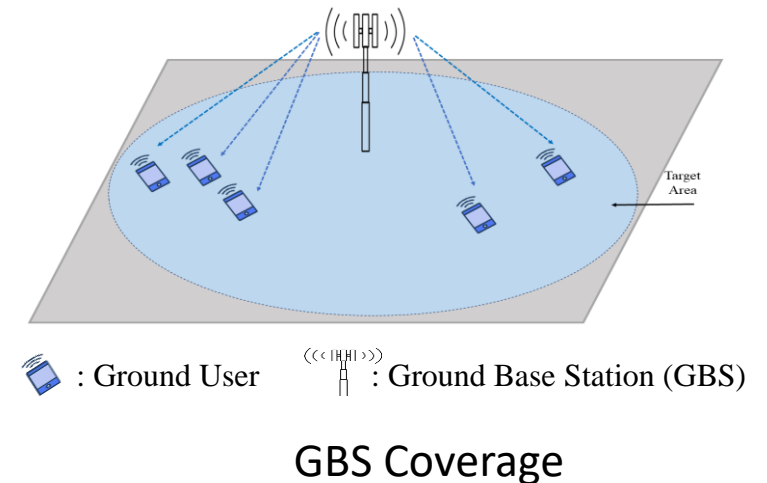
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Introduction

- Terrestrial Base Stations (GBS) design to serve **fixed** number of users, **ensuring** Quality of Service (QoS)
 - QoS declines when user demand exceeds capacity.
- By 2023, mobile devices expected to reach **13.1** billion and IoT devices **29.3** billion (Cisco), driving the **demand¹**
 - User mobility creates temporary hotspots, causing service disruptions more frequently



Current Solutions:

- *Deploy Ground Relays*: **Expands** coverage but can be **costly**.
- *Temporary UAV Base Stations (UAV-BS)*: Offers **flexible** support for varying **demands**.
- *LEO Satellite-Assisted Communication*: Enhances **connectivity** and reduces **disruptions**.

[1] Y. Liu *et al.*, "Evolution of NOMA toward next-generation multiple access (ngma) for 6G," *IEEE J. Sel. Areas Commun.*, vol. 40, no. 4, pp. 1037– 1071, 2022.

Motivation and Objective

Current Limitations

- *Fixed User Association*: GBS struggle to **adapt** to dynamic user densities and mobility.
- *High Costs*: Additional GBS relays for temporary use are **expensive** and **inefficient**.

Research Gaps

- *Lack of Studies*: **Limited** exploration of adaptive UAV relays with GBS and LEO satellite backhaul.

Improvement Strategies (Objective)

- *UAV-Relay (UAVr)*: **Enhances** energy efficiency compared to UAV-BS.
- *Dynamic Deployment*: Positioning UAVr based on **temporary** hotspots for optimized service.
- *Cooperative Communication*: Collaboration with LEO satellites **improves** signal-to-noise ratio (SNR).
- *Quality Assurance*: Focus on **maintaining** high communication **quality** while maximizing capacity.

System Model and Key Contribution

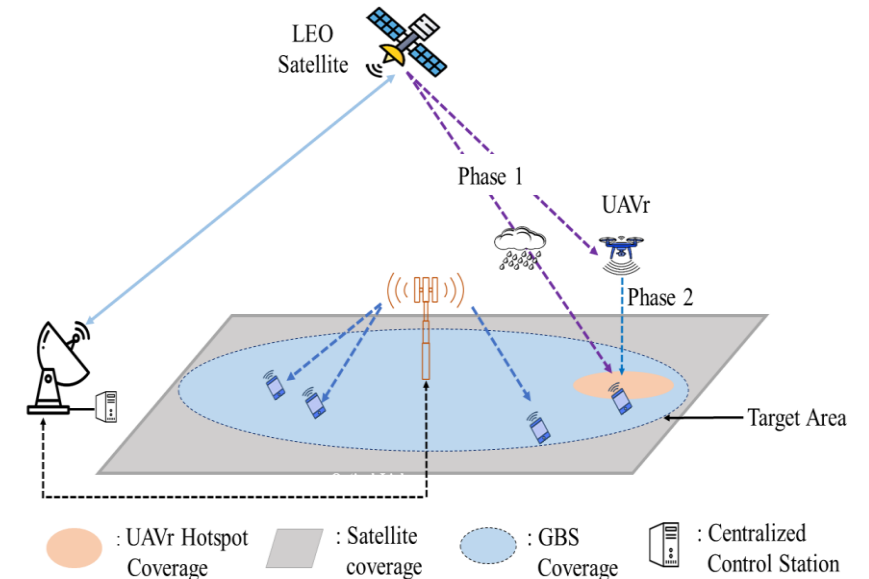
System Model:

- *User Distribution*: Poisson point process (PPP)
- *Central Control Station (CCS)*: manages UAVr and user associations
- *Hybrid Communication*: Users can connect to LEO, UAVr, and GBS¹

Key Contributions:

- *CUD* Framework*: First to integrate UAVr and LEO for cooperative diversity
- *Signal Quality*: Improved SNR by combining UAVr and LEO signals
- *Capacity Improvement*: Optimizes user association and power for higher total capacity

*CUD: cooperative UAV-relay deployment



System Model Overview.

[1] X. Fang *et al.*, "5G embraces satellites for 6G ubiquitous iot: Basic models for integrated satellite terrestrial networks," *IEEE IoT J.*, vol. 8, no. 18, pp. 14 399–14 417, 2021.

Signal Model: dual-hop cooperative system

- LEO satellite-UAVr signal:

$$r_s^{i,s} = h_0 x_{sym} + n_0$$

- LEO satellite-user signal,

$$r_s^{j,s} = h_1 x_{sym} + n_1$$

- UAVr-user signal,

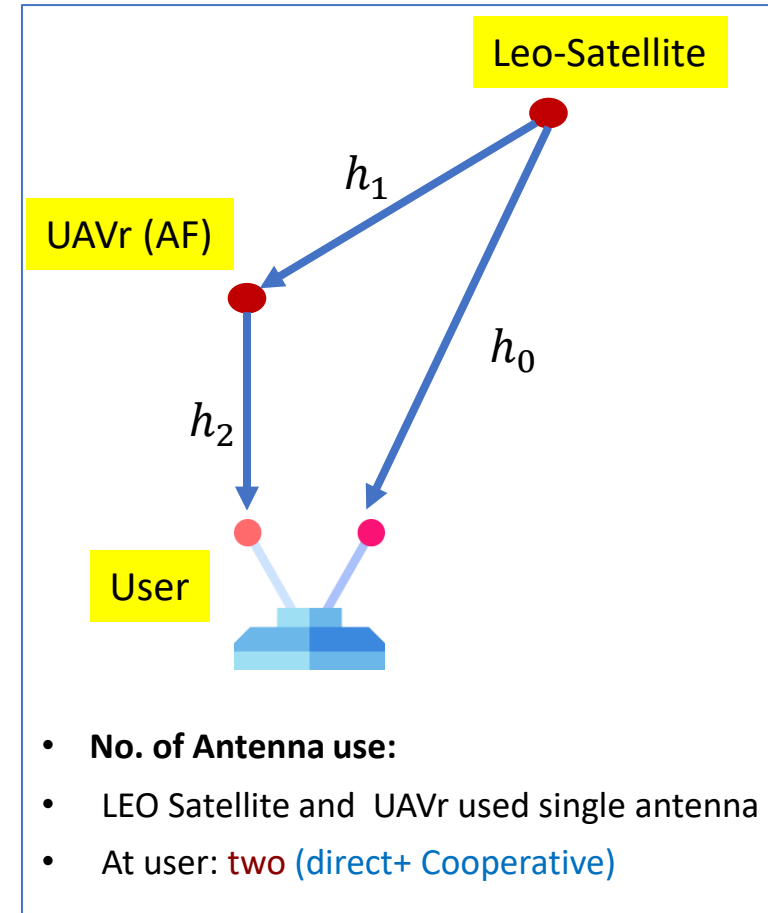
$$r_s^{i,j} = h_2 g (r_s^{j,s}) + n_2 = h_2 g h_1 x_{sym} + h_2 g n_1 + n_2$$

- During the two hops, overall signals at user:

$$r_s^{Tot} = \mathbb{H} x_{sym} + \mathbb{N}$$

where, $r_s^{Tot} = \begin{bmatrix} r_s^{i,s} \\ r_s^{i,j} \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbb{H} = \begin{bmatrix} h_0 \\ h_2 g h_1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbb{N} = \begin{bmatrix} n_0 \\ h_2 g n_1 + n_2 \end{bmatrix}$, x_{sym} = satellite transmits power,

g = fixed gain factor, n_0, n_1, n_2 is Noise, $\mathbf{h}_0 = (\hat{h}_{i,s})^T$, $\mathbf{h}_1 = (\hat{h}_{j,s})^T$, and $\mathbf{h}_2 = (\hat{h}_{i,j})^T$ channel coefficients LEO-User, LEO-UAVr, and UAVr-User.



Channel Model: LEO Satellite to UAVr and User

- SNR for UAVr associated with LEO satellite

$$\gamma_{j,s}(t) = \frac{V_{j,s}(t)p_s^{\text{tx}} \|\mathbf{h}_{j,s}(t)\|^2}{B_{j,s}\sigma^2}$$

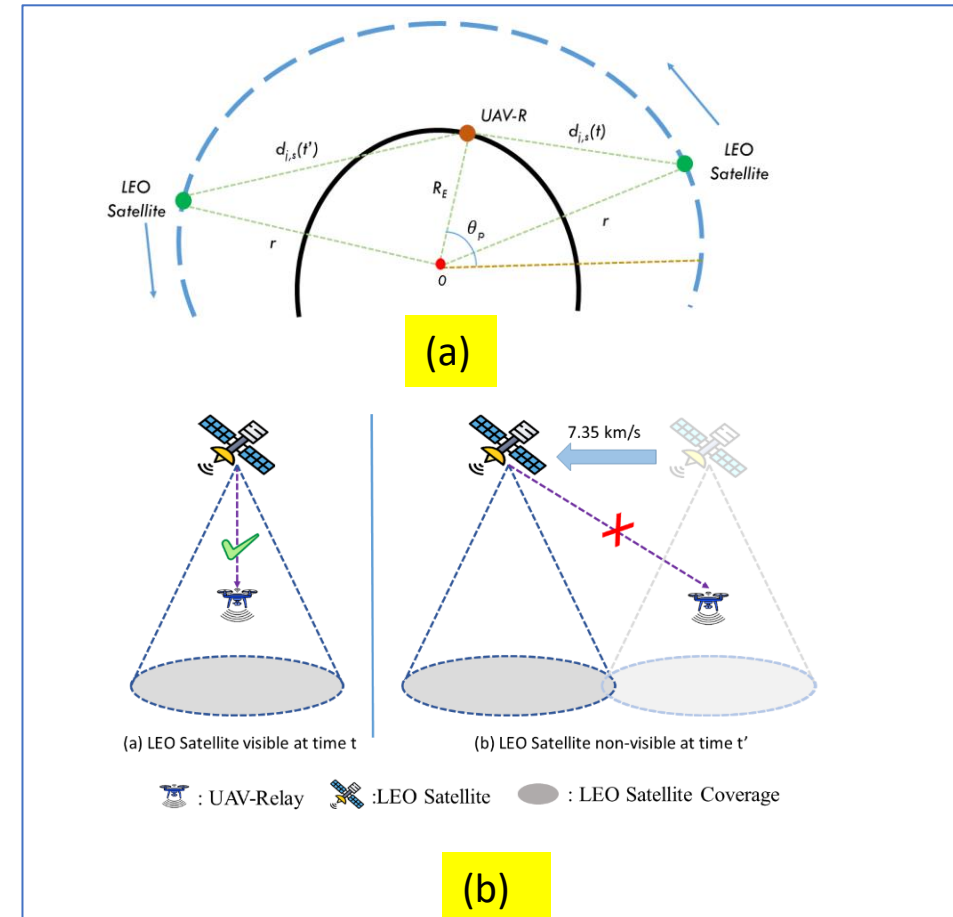
- SNR for User associated with LEO Satellite

$$\gamma_{i,s}(t) = \frac{V_{i,s}(t)p_s^{\text{tx}} \|\mathbf{h}_{i,s}(t)\|^2}{B_{i,s}\sigma^2}$$

- The link visibility parameter¹

$$V_{j,s}(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \cos\left(\frac{2\pi t}{T_s} - \theta_p\right) \geq \frac{R_E^2 + r^2 - d_{SR}^2}{2R_E r} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

R_E = Earth's radius, θ_p = polar angle, r_{EC} = satellite and earth distance, d_{SR} = slant range, T_s = Orbital period to complete a full orbit around earth



[1] W. Abderrahim, O. Amin, M.-S. Alouini, and B. Shihada, "Proactive traffic offloading in dynamic integrated multi-satellite terrestrial networks," *IEEE Trans. Commun.*, vol. 70, no. 7, pp. 4671–4686, 2022.

Channel Model: GBS to User

- SNR for user associated with GBS

$$\gamma_{i,G}(t) = \frac{p_G^{\text{tr}} \|\mathbf{h}_{i,G}(t)\|^2}{B_{i,G} \sigma^2}$$

- The allocated data rate associated with GBS

$$c_{i,G}(t) = B_{i,G} \log_2(1 + \gamma_{i,G}(t)) \cdot \delta_{i,G}(t)$$

- User data rate associated with GBS:

$$C_G(t) = \sum_{i \in \Omega_G, \forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N_G\}} c_{i,G}(t)$$

- where User association indicator $\delta_{i,G}$ for GBS

$$\delta_{i,G}(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } (\gamma_{i,G} \geq \gamma_{\text{th}}) \wedge (|\Omega_G| \leq \omega_G^{\text{max}}) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- $\gamma_{i,G}$ = SNR from GBS
- γ_{th} = threshold SNR
- Ω_G = set of user associated with GBS
- ω_G^{max} = user association capacity of GBS
- $i = 1, \dots, N_G$ = user associated with GBS
- $c_{i,G}$ = Allocated data rate

Channel Model: Cooperative Communication

- SNR for User associated with UAVr

$$\gamma_{i,j} = \frac{p_{i,j} \|\tilde{h}_{i,j}(t)\|^2}{B_{i,j} \sigma^2}$$

- The instantaneous signal after amplify and forward (AF) defined

$$\gamma_{AF,max}^{WCD} = \gamma_{i,s} + \frac{\gamma_{j,s} \gamma_{i,j}}{\gamma_{i,j} + \zeta}$$

- User allocated data rate associated with UAVr:

$$C_{AF,max}^{WCD}(t) = B_{i,j} \log_2(1 + \gamma_{AF,max}^{WCD}(t)) \delta_{i,j}(t)$$

- User data rate associated with UAVr/Satellite:

$$C_j(t) = \sum_{i \in \Omega_j, \forall i \in \{1,2,\dots,N_U\}} C_{AF,max}^{WCD}(t)$$

where user association indicator $\delta_{i,j}$ for UAVr

$$\delta_{i,j}(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } (\gamma_{AF,max}^{WCD}(t) \geq \gamma_{th}) \wedge (r_{i,j}^2 \leq R_j^2(t)) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- $\gamma_{AF,max}^{WCD}$ = max SNR at user
- $r_{i,j}$ = horizontal distance between UAVr and user
- R_j = max UAVr radius, and $C_j(t)$ = User data rate associated to UAVr
- j = number of UAVr, and $i = 1, \dots, N_U$ = user associated with UAVr
- $\Omega_j = \max(0, |\Omega_{Tot}| - \omega_G^{max})$ = user set associated to UAVr/Satellite
- Ω_{Tot} = total set of users

Energy Efficiency and Power

- **Total power:** Communication ($p_{i,j}$) and UAVr Hover (p_j^{Hov})¹

$$p_j^{\text{Tot}}(t) = p_{i,j}(t) + p_j^{\text{Hov}}(t)$$

- **Total Capacity, C^{Tot}**

$$C^{\text{Tot}}(t) = (C_j(t) + C_G(t))$$

- **Total Energy Efficiency, E^{Tot}**

$$E^{\text{Tot}}(t) = \frac{C^{\text{Tot}}(t)}{(P_j^{\text{Tot}} + P_G^{\text{tr}})}$$

UAVr Coverage

- A user falls within the UAVr coverage if its distance from the center of the UAVr coverage region, $r_{i,j}$, satisfies the condition²

$$r_{i,j}^2 \leq R_j^2(t) + M(1 - \delta_{i,j})$$

where R_j denotes the UAVr coverage radius, M denote large constant and $\delta_{i,j}$ is

$$\delta_{i,j}(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if, } (r_{i,j}^2 \leq R_j^2) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- $R_j = \max$ UAVr radius, and
- $C_j(t) =$ User data rate associated to UAVr
- $j =$ number of UAVr
- $i = 1, \dots, N_U =$ user associated with UAVr

[1] C.-C. Lai *et al.*, "Adaptive and fair deployment approach to balance offload traffic in multi-UAV cellular networks," *IEEE Trans. Veh. Technol.*, vol. 72, no. 3, pp. 3724–3738, 2023.

[2] M. Alzenad *et al.*, "3-D placement of an unmanned aerial vehicle base station (UAV-BS) for energy-efficient maximal coverage," *IEEE Wireless Commun. Lett.*, vol. 6, no. 4, pp. 434–437, 2017.

1. Maximize the capacity UAVr associated users C_j
2. Maximize the capacity of GBS associated users C_G

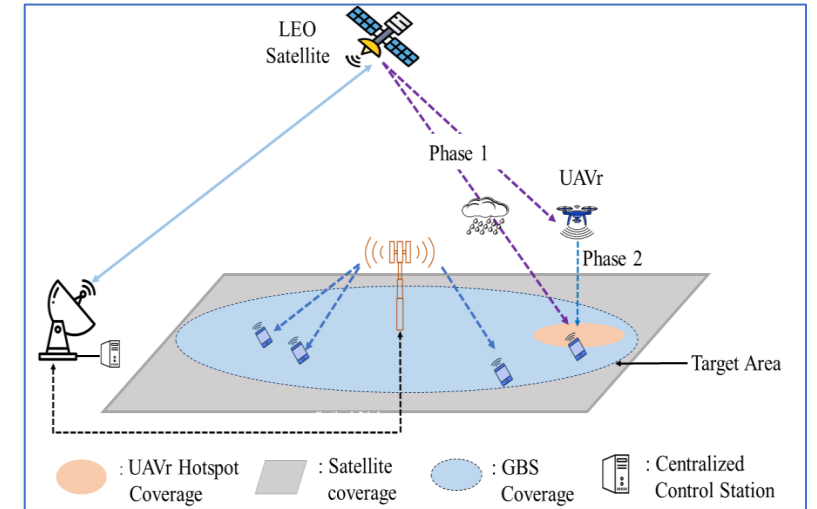
Problem Formulation

$$\max_{\delta_{i,j}, p_{i,j}} C^{\text{Tot}} = \max_{\delta_{i,j}, p_{i,j}} \underbrace{C_j(t)}_{\textcircled{1}} + \underbrace{C_G(t)}_{\textcircled{2}}$$

s.t.

$$\delta_{i,G}(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if, } (\gamma_{i,G} \geq \gamma_{\text{th}}) \wedge (|\Omega_G| \leq \omega_G^{\text{max}}) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\delta_{i,j}(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if, } (\gamma_{AF,\text{max}}^{\text{WCD}}(t) \geq \gamma_{\text{th}}) \wedge (r_{i,j}^2 \leq R_j^2(t)) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



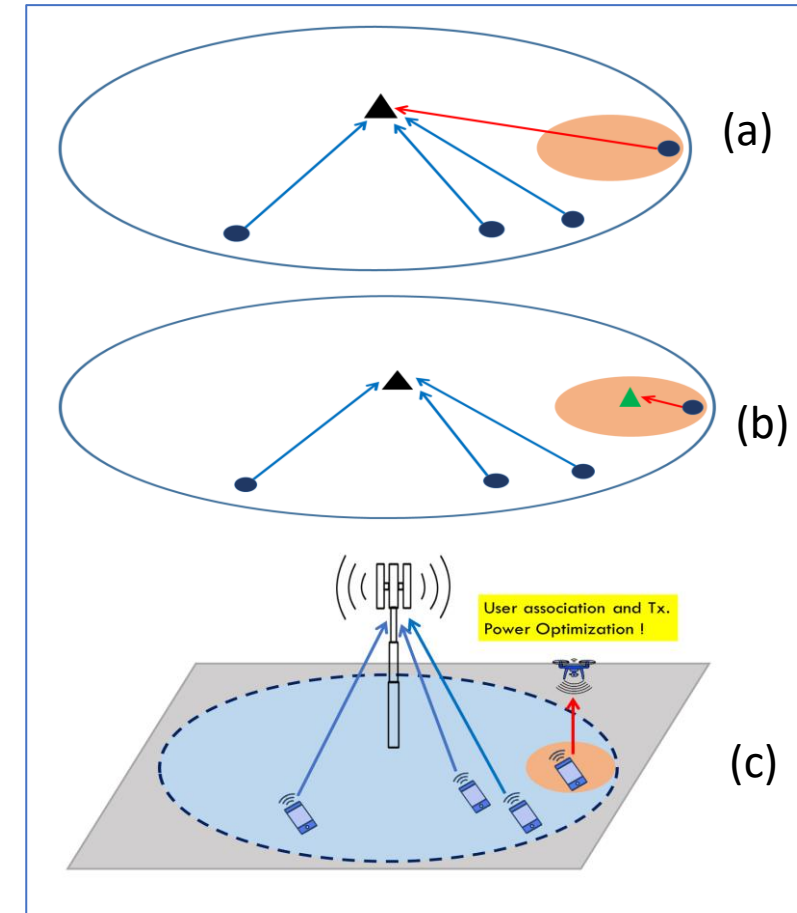
Constraints

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq p_{i,j} \leq p_{\text{max}} \\ 0 &\leq |\Omega_j| \leq \omega_j^{\text{max}} \\ 0 &\leq |\Omega_G| \leq \omega_G^{\text{max}} \\ r_{i,j}^2 &\leq R_j^2(t) \\ \delta_{i,G} &= 1 - \delta_{i,j} \end{aligned}$$

Proposed CUD Approach Flowchart

- **Initial Phase (a):**
 - CCS assesses GBS load and surplus users
 - All user associated with GBS coverage
- **Re-association Phase (b):**
 - Re-association of excess users to UAVr
- **User Association and Power Optimization (c):**
 - Repeat phases for each excess user
 - Update final parameters for UAVr to adjust associations and power

GBS
 UAVr
 User
 User Association Direction



Performance Schemes

1. Cooperative UAVr Deployment (CUD) Framework:

- Combines received signals with **maximum weights**.

The diagram shows two green ovals at the top: 'Direct signal' on the left and 'Cooperative signal' on the right. Below them is a blue box containing the MRC equation: $\gamma^{\text{MRC}} = \gamma_{i,s} + \frac{\gamma_{j,s} \cdot \gamma_{i,j}}{\gamma_{i,j} + \zeta}$. A blue arrow points from the 'Direct signal' oval to the term $\gamma_{i,s}$ in the equation. Another blue arrow points from the 'Cooperative signal' oval to the fraction $\frac{\gamma_{j,s} \cdot \gamma_{i,j}}{\gamma_{i,j} + \zeta}$. Both the $\gamma_{i,s}$ term and the fraction are enclosed in red dashed circles.

2. Equal Gain Combining-SAGIN (EGC-SAGIN):

- Combines multiple received signals with **equal weights**.

The diagram shows a blue box containing the EGC-SAGIN equation: $\gamma^{\text{EGC}} = \frac{\left(\gamma_{i,s} + \frac{\gamma_{j,s} \cdot \gamma_{i,j}}{\gamma_{i,j} + \zeta} \right)}{2}$. A blue arrow points from the left towards the equation.

3. LEO Satellite-GBS (LEO-GBS):

- No relay present, Only LEO satellite and GBS are in service.

The diagram shows a blue box containing the LEO-GBS equation: $\gamma^{\text{LEO}} = \gamma_{i,s}$. A blue arrow points from the left towards the equation.

4. Ground Base Station (GBS-only):

- No additional support present

The diagram shows a blue box containing the GBS-only equation: $\gamma^{\text{GBS}} = \gamma_{i,G}$. A blue arrow points from the left towards the equation.

Result Analysis

Superior Network Capacity and Energy Efficiency

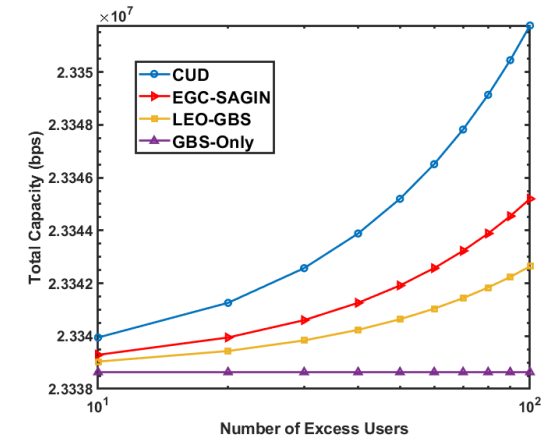
Performance Overview:

- The CUD framework outperforms GBS-only, EGC-SAGIN, and LEO-GBS in both network capacity and energy efficiency.

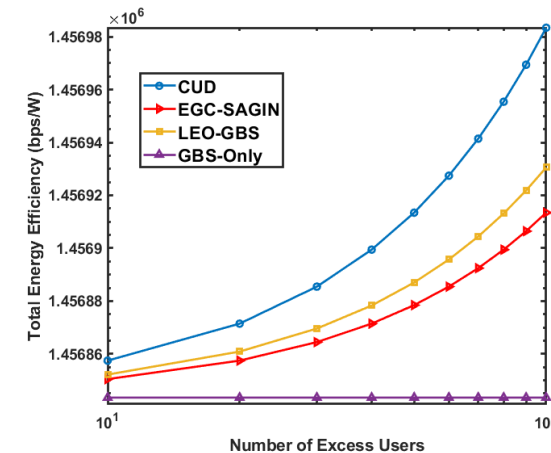
Key Advantages:

- Enhanced Capacity: Strategic UAVr deployment effectively manages excess user traffic, optimizing overall network capacity.
- Energy Efficiency: CUD provides significant energy savings compared to GBS-only and EGC-SAGIN, making it a greener alternative.
- Traffic Management: Proximity of UAVr to users improves traffic handling, preventing congestion and maximizing capacity.

CUD = Cooperative UAVr Deployment, EGC-SAGIN=Equal Gain Combining-SAGIN, LEO-GBS=LEO Satellite- Ground Base Station



(a) Total Capacity vs Number of Excess Users



(b) Total Energy Efficiency vs Number of Excess Users

- Proposed an cooperative UAVr Deployment (CUD) strategy for SAGINs.
- **Utilizes** UAVs as relays in an Amplify-and-Forward system to **maximize** SNR at the user.
- **Adapts** to fluctuating user traffic by: Deploying UAVr **adaptively**.
- **Maximizing** user SNR through intelligent, cooperative communication.
- Demonstrates significant improvements in:
 - Network capacity, Energy efficiency.
- Highlights the potential of integrating UAVs and LEO satellite-based technologies in future urban communication networks.



Thanks for Listening!

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Appendix

Instantaneous SNR at the user

$$\gamma_{\text{AF}}(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{\mathbb{E}\left\{\left(\mathbf{w}^\dagger \mathbf{H} x_{\text{sym}}\right)\left(\mathbf{w}^\dagger \mathbf{H} x_{\text{sym}}\right)^\dagger\right\}}{\mathbb{E}\left\{\left(\mathbf{w}^\dagger \mathbf{n}\right)\left(\mathbf{w}^\dagger \mathbf{n}\right)^\dagger\right\}},$$

$$\text{Signal power} = \mathbb{E}\left\{\left(\mathbf{w}^\dagger \mathbf{H} x_{\text{sym}}\right)\left(x_{\text{sym}}^\dagger \mathbf{w} \mathbf{H}\right)\right\} = \left(\mathbf{w}^\dagger \mathbf{H}\right) \underbrace{\mathbb{E}\left\{\left(x_{\text{sym}} x_{\text{sym}}^\dagger\right)\right\}}_{\text{Power}} \left(\mathbf{w} \mathbf{H}^\dagger\right),$$

$$= P_s^{\text{tx}} \left(\mathbf{w}^\dagger \mathbf{H} \mathbf{H}^\dagger \mathbf{w}\right) = P_s^{\text{tx}} \left(\mathbf{w}^\dagger \mathbf{R}_k \mathbf{w}\right)$$

Similarly we can write,

$$\text{Noise power} = \mathbb{E}\left\{\left(\mathbf{w}^\dagger \mathbf{n}\right)\left(\mathbf{w}^\dagger \mathbf{n}\right)^\dagger\right\},$$

$$= \mathbb{E}\left\{\left(\mathbf{w}^\dagger \mathbf{n} \mathbf{n}^\dagger \mathbf{w}\right)\right\} = \mathbf{w}^\dagger \mathbb{E}\left\{\left(\mathbf{n} \mathbf{n}^\dagger\right)\right\} \mathbf{w},$$

$$= \mathbf{w}^\dagger \mathbf{R}_n \mathbf{w}$$

$$\gamma_{\text{AF}}(\mathbf{w}) = P_s^{\text{tx}} \left(\frac{\mathbf{w}^\dagger \mathbf{R}_k \mathbf{w}}{\mathbf{w}^\dagger \mathbf{R}_n \mathbf{w}}\right),$$

Dual hop Cooperative Communication

- Receive beamformer w^\dagger at user is:

$$w^\dagger(r_s^{\text{Tot}}) = w^\dagger(\mathbb{H}x_{\text{sym}} + \mathbb{N}) = \underbrace{w^\dagger \mathbb{H}x_{\text{sym}}}_{\text{Signal}} + \underbrace{w^\dagger \mathbb{N}}_{\text{Noise}}$$

- The instantaneous weighted SNR at the user is:

$$\gamma_{\text{AF}}(w) = \frac{\text{Signal}}{\text{Noise}} = P_s^{\text{tx}} \cdot \frac{w^\dagger \mathbb{H} \mathbb{H}^\dagger w}{w^\dagger R_n w} \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

- After differentiating (γ_{AF}) (1) with respect to 'w' and set $(\frac{\partial}{\partial w} \gamma_{\text{AF}} = 0)^{[1]}$:

$$w_{\text{opt}} = c_r \cdot R_n^{-1} \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \text{Optimal weight}$$

- Now the maximum SNR after amplify and forward (AF) defined as:

$$\gamma_{\text{AF,max}}^{\text{WCD}} = P_s^{\text{tx}} \mathbb{H}^\dagger R_n^{-1} \mathbb{H} = \gamma_{i,s} + \frac{\gamma_{j,s} \gamma_{i,j}}{\gamma_{i,j} + \zeta}$$

(.)[†] = conjugate transpose, WCD = weighted cooperative diversity

$$\triangleright r_s^{\text{Tot}} = \mathbb{H}x_{\text{sym}} + \mathbb{N}$$

$$\text{where } r_s^{\text{Tot}} = \begin{bmatrix} r_s^{i,s} \\ r_s^{i,j} \end{bmatrix}, \mathbb{H} = \begin{bmatrix} h_0 \\ h_2 \mathcal{G} h_1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbb{N} = \begin{bmatrix} n_0 \\ h_2 \mathcal{G} n_1 + n_2 \end{bmatrix}, x_{\text{sym}} = \text{satellite Transmit Power,}$$

$$\triangleright P_s^{\text{tx}} = \mathbb{E}\{x_{\text{sym}} x_{\text{sym}}^\dagger\}$$

$$\triangleright R_n = \mathbb{E}\{\mathbb{N} \mathbb{N}^\dagger\}$$

$\triangleright c_r =$ Arbitrary Constant

$\triangleright \gamma_{i,j} =$ UAVr to user SNR

$\triangleright \gamma_{j,s} =$ Satellite to UAVr SNR

$\triangleright \gamma_{i,s} =$ Satellite to user SNR

$$\triangleright \zeta = \frac{1}{\sigma^2 \mathcal{G}^2}$$

$\triangleright \mathcal{G} =$ Fixed Gain

[1] B. Holter and G. E. Oien, "The optimal weights of a maximum ratio combiner using an Eigen filter approach," in *5th Nordic Signal Processing Symposium*. Citeseer, 2002.

Channel Model: UAVr to User

- Considering LOS and NLOS path loss [1]:

$$PL_{d_{i,j}}^{\text{LoS}}(t) = 20 \log_{10} \left(\frac{4\pi f_c d_{i,j}(t)}{c} \right) + \eta_{\text{LoS}}$$

$$PL_{d_{i,j}}^{\text{NLoS}}(t) = 20 \log_{10} \left(\frac{4\pi f_c d_{i,j}(t)}{c} \right) + \eta_{\text{NLoS}}$$

- Probability of LOS and NLOS signal:

$$P_{d_{i,j}}^{\text{LoS}}(t) = \frac{1}{1 + a \exp \left(-b \left[\frac{180}{\pi} \theta_{i,j} - a \right] \right)}, \quad \& \quad P_{d_{i,j}}^{\text{NLoS}}(t) = 1 - P_{d_{i,j}}^{\text{LoS}}(t).$$

- The average path loss:

$$\begin{aligned} PL_{d_{i,j}}^{\text{Avg}}(t) &= P_{d_{i,j}}^{\text{LoS}}(t) \times PL_{d_{i,j}}^{\text{LoS}}(t) + P_{d_{i,j}}^{\text{NLoS}}(t) \times PL_{d_{i,j}}^{\text{NLoS}}(t) \\ &= \frac{\eta_{\text{LoS}} - \eta_{\text{NLoS}}}{1 + a \exp \left(-b \left[\frac{180}{\pi} \theta_{i,j} - a \right] \right)} + 20 \log_{10} (d_{i,j}(t)) + \beta \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{where } \beta = 20 \log_{10} \left(\frac{4\pi f_c}{c} \right) + \eta_{\text{NLoS}}$$

- SNR for User associated with UAVr

$$\gamma_{i,j} = \frac{p_{i,j} \|\mathbf{h}_{i,j}(t)\|^2}{B_{i,j} \sigma^2}$$

where $p_{i,j}$ minimum transmission power of UAVr

- Total power: Communication and UAVr Hover

$$p_j^{\text{Tot}}(t) = p_{i,j}(t) + p_j^{\text{Hov}}(t)$$

Constraints

1. UAVr power limitation

$$0 \leq p_{i,j} \leq p_{\max}$$

$p_{i,j}$: UAVr transmission power, p_{\max} : max UAVr transmission power

Remark: UAVr transmission power must satisfy the condition

2. UAVr user association limitation

$$0 \leq |\Omega_j| \leq \omega_j^{\max}$$

Ω_j : user set associated with UAVr, ω_j^{\max} : max users association capacity of UAVr

Remark: UAVr user association must satisfy the condition

3. GBS user association limitation

$$0 \leq |\Omega_G| \leq \omega_G^{\max}$$

Ω_G : user set associated with GBS, ω_G^{\max} : max user association capacity of GBS

Remark: GBS user association must satisfy the condition

4. User coverage limitations

$$r_{i,j}^2 \leq R_j^2(t)$$

$r_{i,j}$: user distance from the center of the UAVr coverage, R_j : denoted the UAVr coverage radius

Remark: user under UAVr coverage must satisfy condition

5. User association limitations

$$\delta_{i,G} = 1 - \delta_{i,j}$$

Remark: user, $\delta_{i,G} = 1$ indicates GBS association, while $\delta_{i,j} = 1$ indicates UAVr association.

Simulation Parameters

TABLE I
SIMULATION PARAMETERS

Parameter	Symbol	Value
Environmental parameters	$a, b, \eta_{\text{LoS}}, \eta_{\text{NLoS}}$	9.61, 0.16, 1, 20
Maximum path loss	$PL_{d_{i,j}}^{\max}$	119 dB
LEO Satellite Altitude	h_s	500 km
UAVr Altitude and Radius	h_j^{Ur}, R_j	30m, 100m
UAVr and GBS Number	U_j, G	1, 1
Allocated Bandwidth	$B_{i,j}$	20 MHz
Noise Power	σ^2	-174 dBm/Hz
Total Number of Users	i	200
Max Associations at UAVr	ω_j^{\max}	100
Max Associations at GBS	ω_G^{\max}	100
SNR Threshold	γ_{th}	3 dB
Max Transmission Power	p_{\max}	20 dBm

Phase Synchronization

- The satellite simultaneously transmits a signal to the UAV-R and the UE in Phase I.
- The UAV-R node then re-transmits the satellite signal to the UE in Phase II while satellite s remains silent.
- When node UE receives various copies of the same signal in two phases, it combines them using the CUD approach.
- Since UAV-R time division multiple access (TDMA), the phase I to phase II. Thus, to complete the transmission of a frame from satellite s to UE, $t+1$ time slots are required.
- In addition, assuming no information exchange occurs between UAV-R nodes operating in a time division duplex mode, the signals transmitted by satellite nodes and UAV-R are perfectly synchronized at node UE [1].

[1] Y. Zhao, H. Chen, L. Xie, and K. Wang, "Exact and asymptotic ergodic capacity analysis of the hybrid satellite-terrestrial cooperative system over generalized fading channels," *IET Communications*, vol. 12, no. 11, pp. 1342–1350, 2018.