Analysis of Very High Throughput (VHT) at MAC and PHY Layers under MIMO Channel in IEEE 802.11ac WLAN

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Abstract—This paper analyses the very high system throughput of IEEE 802.11ac by taking into consideration the key features of MAC and PHY layers under a Multiple In Multiple Out (MIMO) channel. Throughput at the MAC layer is calculated from the transmission probability, contention window and transmission stage. Likewise, the new critical attributes of 802.11ac PHY (i.e. modulation and coding schemes, spatial streams, and channel bandwidth) are used to determine the throughput at the PHY layer. To this end, a theoretical model is formulated at the MAC and PHY layers followed by a system model of MIMO multipath fading channel for 802.11ac. The system model is verified by simulation analysis. The results compare theoretical and simulation findings for different sets of parameters. Furthermore, important trends and trade-offs are identified between system throughput and (MAC + PHY) features as a function of number of contending stations and payload size. The system throughput of 802.11ac networks is significantly improved due to the addition of new PHY features. However, the system may degrade up to 50% in terms of symbol reception in case of a high error-prone MIMO channel. The performance of 802.11ac systems is also analyzed under different MIMO TGn channel models in terms of Packet Error Rate (PER). Thus based on our simulation results, an appropriate channel model can be chosen for 802.11ac network under a given configuration to achieve a better performance.

Keywords—Performance, analysis, throughput, MAC, physical, MIMO, multipath, fading, transmission probability, contention window, modulation, coding, spatial streams, channel bandwidth, channel model

I. INTRODUCTION

Gigabit Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN) is a state-of-the-art technology based on the emergence of new IEEE standard i.e., 802.11ac [1]. The standard achieves Very High Throughput (VHT) with the aid of efficient Modulation and Coding Schemes (MCS) such as 256-Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (QAM), explicit transmit beamforming, enhanced Multiple Input Multiple Output (MIMO) technology, and large bandwidth. Most of the leading vendors and manufacturers have already implemented 802.11ac in their Wi-Fi chipsets [2]. 802.11ac operates in 5 GHz band and can support a high data rate up to 6.933 Gb/s.

Currently, most of the literature available on 802.11ac focuses on improving the underlying technology of 802.11ac. This includes but is not limited to exploring Single User (SU) and Multi User (MU) MIMO, adding new Spatial Streams (SS), improving frame aggregation techniques, channel bonding, and incorporating advanced modulation and coding techniques in 802.11ac. In [3], a review of PHY layer features of 802.11ac is presented. The performance of MU-MIMO is analysed via a testbed. However, the chips used in the experiment are based on 802.11n [4]. In [5], the authors present a performance analysis of energy efficiency and interference in 802.11ac. It is shown that larger channels consume more power while the addition of more SS is energy efficient. However, the performance measurements are not verified by any theoretical model. Although a comparison of 802.11ac and 802.11n is drawn in [6] in terms of different frame aggregation techniques, other key features of 802.11ac have not been explored. Similarly, [7] discusses the requirement in MAC modifications and enhancements for downlink MU-MIMO transmission. In particular, it introduces the technique of enhancing Transmit Opportunity (TXOP) and the revised backoff procedures. In the same manner, the authors of [8] present a review of how the capacity can be estimated and optimized using Ekahau Site Survey tool in 802.11ac. Similarly, [9] presents a performance comparison between 802.11n and 802.11ac in terms of throughput for three MAC frame aggregation techniques under constant PHY conditions. For the most part, 802.11ac outperforms 802.11n due to its larger frames in error-free channel. On the contrary, the optimal frame size is determined by bit error in error-prone channel conditions. The paper however, considers only the frame size instead of other key factors of MAC and PHY layers. Similarly, an overview of static and dynamic channel selection methods is demonstrated in [10] with the help of simulations. It is shown that dynamic selection of a primary channel achieves high throughput for 802.11ac when other stations operating in 802.11a/n occupy...
the secondary channel. However, the simulation is performed in an ideal environment without taking into consideration the effects introduced by PHY and channel impairments.

Previous work addresses the individual features of 802.11ac. However, a comprehensive performance analysis of 802.11ac is important in order to estimate the achievable throughput. This paper extends our previous work [11] and considers several new features of 802.11ac (i.e., MCS, channel bandwidth, spatial stream) which can be a baseline to determine the system level throughput of an 802.11ac wireless network. To this end, a theoretical analysis based on both MAC and PHY layers is presented under a MIMO channel which is followed by simulation results. The paper thoroughly investigates the impact of different features of 802.11ac on system throughput by simulation results. The paper thoroughly investigates the impacts of different features of 802.11ac on system throughput under different set of parameters. In addition, it provides a baseline model to measure the MAC and PHY layers performance of 802.11ac in terms of aggregate throughput.

III. SIMULATION AND NUMERICAL ANALYSIS

In this section we describe our system model for MAC and PHY layers and derive a theoretical formulation to calculate the performance of MAC and PHY layers numerically. We also formulate a MIMO channel model for 802.11ac and describe our simulation environment.

A. MAC Layer Theoretical Analysis

We consider a single hop fully connected Single Basic Service Set (BSS) with \( n \) Stations (STAs) and one AP. It is assumed that each STA can sense transmission from every other STA in the same BSS. All STAs operate in uplink saturated mode i.e., they always have data to send to the AP. A data transmission is considered successful if it is followed by an Acknowledgement (ACK) from the AP, otherwise it is retransmitted. The wireless channel is assumed ideal i.e., a frame is failed only due to collision that occurs when two or more STAs access the shared channel simultaneously.

We consider the Markov model of [13] that represents the Distributed Coordination Function (DCF) as two stochastic processes namely: \( b(t) \) and \( s(t) \) to model the backoff time counter and the backoff stage, respectively. Without the loss of generality, let \( CW_{\text{min}} \) and \( CW_{\text{max}} \) represent minimum and maximum contention windows, respectively. Let \( m \) indicates maximum backoff stage such that \( CW_{\text{max}} = 2^mCW_{\text{min}} \). Let \( CW_i \) represents the contention window of a STA at \( i \) th backoff stage i.e., \( CW_i = 2^iCW_{\text{min}} \) where \( i \in [0, m] \). Thus \( b(t) \) takes any random value from \([0, CW_i]\) where \( i \) is modelled by \( s(t) \). For the sake of simplicity, we represent \( CW_{\text{min}} = W \). The key approximation is that collision probability is constant regardless of retransmission stage. This is a reasonable approximation as long as \( W \) and \( n \) get larger.

During a randomly selected slot, a STA senses the channel in one of the three states namely: idle state (no transmission activities), busy due to successful transmission, or busy due to collision. Suppose a STA attempts to transmit a frame in a randomly chosen slot with probability \( \tau \). The system considers a Binary Exponential Backoff (BEB) mechanism which doubles the contention window on collision. If \( p \) represents the collision probability; then \( \tau \) is given by [13]

\[
\tau = \frac{2(1-p)}{(1-2p)(W-1) + pW(1-(2p)^m)}
\]  

(1)

The probability of collision \( p \) can be calculated from the fact that collision occurs if at least one of the remaining \( n-1 \) STAs starts transmission. Therefore, if \( 1 - \tau \) is the probability that exactly one STA is idle then \( (1 - \tau)^{n-1} \) is the probability
that \( n - 1 \) STAs are idle. It follows that the probability that at least one of \( n - 1 \) STAs transmits is given by [13]

\[
p = 1 - (1 - \tau)^{n-1}
\]

Transmission probability \( \tau \) and collision probability \( p \) can be calculated numerically by solving Eq. 1 and Eq. 2 using some numerical method (e.g., fixed point iteration). In addition, it can be proved that this system of nonlinear equations has a unique solution [13]. We have used Maple 15 [20] to solve Eq. 1 and Eq. 2.

We are interested in calculating throughput \( S \) of the system which is expressed as a ratio of average payload information transmitted in a slot per average duration of a slot.

\[
S = \frac{E[D]}{E[T]}
\]

where \( E[D] \) is the expected value of data transmitted successfully in a randomly selected slot while \( E[T] \) is the average length of a time slot;

\[
E[D] = P_{tr} P_s E[L]
\]

where \( P_{tr} \) denotes the probability that there is at least one transmission in the considered time slot. On the other hand, \( P_s \) is the probability that the given transmission is successful and \( E[L] \) denotes the average length of payload data. Consequently, \( P_{tr} \) can be calculated for \( n \) contending stations as

\[
P_{tr} = 1 - (1 - \tau)^n
\]

Similarly, \( P_s \) can be calculated from the fact that a transmission is successful if and only if exactly one STA transmits given that at least one STA transmits among \( n \) STAs, i.e.,

\[
P_s = \frac{n \tau (1 - \tau)^{n-1}}{1 - (1 - \tau)^n}
\]

Accordingly, \( E[D] \) is calculated from Eq. 5 and Eq. 6. In order to calculate \( E[T] \), let us denote \( T \) as a random variable that indicates a randomly selected time slot. Moreover \( T \) takes any of the following three values:

\[
T = \begin{cases} 
\sigma & \text{if the medium is idle} \\
T_s & \text{if successful transmission} \\
T_c & \text{if there is collision}
\end{cases}
\]

where \( \sigma \) is the duration of an empty slot while \( T_s \) and \( T_c \) are the average time when the channel is busy due to successful transmission and collision, respectively. The corresponding probability for these three cases can be calculated as

\[
f_T(t) = \begin{cases} 
1 - P_{tr} & \text{if } T = \sigma \\
P_{tr} P_s & \text{if } T = T_s \\
P_{tr}(1 - P_s) & \text{if } T = T_c
\end{cases}
\]

Using Eq. 7 and Eq. 8, \( E[T] \) can be calculated as

\[
E[T] = \sum_{\forall t, T} T f_T(t)
\]

Finally, the normalized throughput \( S \) is calculated by using Eq. 4 and Eq. 9 in Eq. 3. As far as \( T_s \) and \( T_c \) are concerned, they are calculated using PHY system model discussed in the following sub section.
Now, we calculate successful transmission time ($T_s$) and collision time ($T_c$) for basic DCF i.e., without Ready To Send (RTS)/Clear To Send (CTS).

\[ T_s = T_{DIFS} + T_x + \rho + T_{SIFS} + T_{ACK} + \rho \]

\[ T_c = T_{DIFS} + T_x + \rho + T_{ACK\rightarrow TOut} \]

where $T_{DIFS}$, $T_{SIFS}$, $T_{ACK}$, and $\rho$ indicate DCF Inter-Frame Spacing time, Short Inter-Frame Spacing time, transmission time of ACK frame and propagation delay of 802.11ac frame, respectively. Their values are listed in TABLE II. Similarly, $T_{ACK\rightarrow TOut}$ represents the time out for ACK frame and is calculated as

\[ T_{ACK\rightarrow TOut} = T_{ACK} + T_{SIFS} + \rho \]

The $T_s$ and $T_c$ for DCF with RTS/CTS can be determined in a similar way.

**C. Channel Model for 802.11ac**

In order to evaluate the impact of the channel on MAC and PHY layers of 802.11ac, we consider a set of channel models that are designed for IEEE 802.11 WLAN [15]. Each model is applicable to a specific environment with a set of 6 profiles, labelled A to F. All these profiles cover different scenarios as listed in TABLE III. Each channel model has a path loss model including shadowing, and a MIMO multipath fading model, which describes the multipath delay profile, the spatial properties, the K-factor distribution shown as Ricean K-factor in TABLE III, and the Doppler spectrum.

Each channel model has a certain number of taps which are associated with specific delays. Furthermore, each channel model is comprised of a certain number of clusters. A cluster is made up of a set of taps. The number of taps, Root Mean Square (RMS) delay ($\sigma_{RMS}$), maximum delay ($\sigma_{Max}$), the number of clusters and standard deviation of shadow fading both in case of Line of Sight (LOS) and Non Line of Sight (NLOS) for each model are listed in TABLE III. The LOS K-factor is applicable only to the first tap while all the other taps K-factor remain at $-\infty$ dB.

A set of spatial properties are defined for each cluster:

i. Mean Angle of Arrival (AoA)

ii. Mean Angle of Departure (AoD)

iii. Angular Spread (AS) at transmitter

iv. AS at receiver

These parameters determine the transmit and receive correlation matrices associated with each tap delay. The LOS component can only be present on the 1st tap. If the distance between the transmitter and the receiver is greater than $d_{BP}$ then LOS component is not present. Note that $d_{BP}$ is the break-point distance or distance of first wall (i.e., distance of transmitter from the first reflector). The $d_{BP}$ for all channel models (A-F) are listed in 5th column of TABLE III.

We consider a path loss model that takes into account the free space loss $L_{FS}$ (log-distance model with the path-loss exponent of 2) up to $d_{BP}$ and log-distance model with the path-loss exponent of 3.5 after $d_{BP}$ [16]. For each of the models, a different break-point distance $d_{BP}$ was chosen.

\[ L(d) = \begin{cases} L_{FS}(d) & \text{if } d \leq d_{BP} \\ L_{FS}(d_{BP}) + 35 \log(10)(d/d_{BP}) & \text{if } d > d_{BP} \end{cases} \quad (18) \]

where $d$ is the distance between transmitter and receiver. The other parameters of the path loss model are listed of TABLE III. The standard deviations of log-normal (Gaussian in dB) shadow fading are also included in 10th column in TABLE III. The values were found to be in the range between 3 and 14 dB [17].

Similarly, the zero-mean Gaussian probability distribution is given by

\[ p(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}} \quad (19) \]

We are interested in modelling the MIMO channel of 802.11ac. Thus the correlation between transmit and receive antenna is an important aspect of the MIMO channel. To this end, we follow a procedure based on the transmitter and receiver correlation matrices [18] to calculate the MIMO channel matrix $H$ for each tap, at one instance of time, in the A-F delay profile models. The channel matrix $H$ is derived as a sum of two matrices namely: a fixed LOS matrix with constant entries, and a Ryleigh NLOS matrix with variable entries as follows

\[ H = \sqrt{P} \left( \frac{K}{K + 1} H_F + \frac{1}{K + 1} H_V \right) \quad (20) \]

where $P$ shows the power of each tap which is obtained by summing all the power of LOS and NLOS powers, and $K$ is the Ricean K-factor. Eq. 20 can be expressed for any number of transmitter and receiver for MIMO. If there are $T$ input antennas at the transmitter and $R$ output antennas at the receiver then $H_F$ and $H_V$ in Eq. 20 can be represented as

\[ H_F = \begin{bmatrix} e^{j\phi_{11}} & e^{j\phi_{12}} & \cdots & e^{j\phi_{1T}} \\ e^{j\phi_{21}} & e^{j\phi_{22}} & \cdots & e^{j\phi_{2T}} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ e^{j\phi_{RT1}} & e^{j\phi_{RT2}} & \cdots & e^{j\phi_{RTT}} \end{bmatrix} \]

\[ H_V = \begin{bmatrix} X_{11} & X_{12} & \cdots & X_{1T} \\ X_{21} & X_{22} & \cdots & X_{2T} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ X_{RT1} & X_{RT2} & \cdots & X_{RTT} \end{bmatrix} \]

where $e^{j\phi_{ij}}$ shows the constant elements of LOS matrix $H_F$ and $X_{ij}$ represents the element of variable NLOS Rayleigh matrix $H_V$ between $i^{th}$ receiving and $j^{th}$ transmitting antenna.

---

**TABLE II**

**MAC AND PHY PARAMETERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Para</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Para</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slot time ($\tau$)</td>
<td>9 $\mu$s</td>
<td>$CW_{min}$</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$T_{DIFS}$</td>
<td>34 $\mu$s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$L_{max}$</td>
<td>34 bits</td>
<td>$CW_{max}$</td>
<td>1024</td>
<td>$SIFS$</td>
<td>16 $\mu$s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T_{VHT-SIG-A}$</td>
<td>4 $\mu$s</td>
<td>$TSYS$</td>
<td>3.6 $\mu$s</td>
<td>$SFF$</td>
<td>8 $\mu$s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T_{VHT-SIG-B}$</td>
<td>4 $\mu$s</td>
<td>$TSYM$</td>
<td>4 $\mu$s</td>
<td>$TLF$</td>
<td>8 $\mu$s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T_{VHT-LTF}$</td>
<td>4 $\mu$s</td>
<td>$N_{service}$</td>
<td>16 bits</td>
<td>$\rho$</td>
<td>1 $\mu$s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is assumed that $X_{ij}$ is a complex Gaussian random variable with zero mean and unit variance.

In order to correlate the $X_{ij}$ elements of the matrix $H_V$, the following method is used

\[
[X] = [R_{rx}]^2 [H_{iid}] [R_{tx}]^2
\]

where $R_{rx}$ and $R_{tx}$ are the receive and transmit correlation matrices, respectively, and $H_{iid}$ is a complex Gaussian random variable. All these Gaussian random variables are supposed to be independently with zero mean and unit variance. In addition, $R_{tx}$ and $R_{rx}$ are given by

\[
[R_{tx}] = [\rho_{txij}]
\]

\[
[R_{rx}] = [\rho_{rxij}]
\]

where $\rho_{txij}$ are the complex correlation coefficients between $i^a$ and $j^a$ transmitting antennas, and $\rho_{rxij}$ are the complex correlation coefficients between $i^a$ and $j^a$ receiving antennas.

Alternatively, we use another approach i.e., Kronecker product of the transmit and receive correlation matrices to calculate $X$ [18].

\[
[X] = ([R_{tx}] \otimes [R_{rx}])^2 [H_{iid}]
\]

It can be seen that $H_{iid}$ is an array in this case instead of matrix. The $R_{tx}$ and $R_{rx}$ matrices are given as:

\[
R_{tx} = \begin{bmatrix}
1 & \rho_{tx12}^* & \cdots & \rho_{tx1T}^* \\
\rho_{tx21} & 1 & \cdots & \rho_{tx2T}^*
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
\rho_{txT1} & \rho_{txT2} & \cdots & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\]

\[
R_{rx} = \begin{bmatrix}
1 & \rho_{rx12}^* & \cdots & \rho_{rx1T}^* \\
\rho_{rx21} & 1 & \cdots & \rho_{rx2T}^*
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
\rho_{rxT1} & \rho_{rxT2} & \cdots & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\]

The values of complex correlation coefficient $\rho$ are calculated from power angular spectrum (PAS), AS, mean AoA, mean AoD and individual tap powers [15], [19]. Consequently, for the Uniform Linear Array (ULA), the complex correlation coefficient at the linear antenna array is expressed as

\[
\rho = R_{XX}(D) + j R_{XY}(D)
\]

where $D = 2\pi d/\lambda$ (\(\lambda\) shows the wavelength in metre), and $R_{XX}$ and $R_{XY}$ are the cross-correlation functions between the real parts and between the real part and imaginary part, respectively, with

\[
R_{XX}(D) = \int_{-\pi}^\pi \cos(D \sin \phi) PAS(\phi) d\phi
\]

\[
R_{XY}(D) = \int_{-\pi}^\pi \sin(D \cos \phi) PAS(\phi) d\phi
\]

We calculate the correlation coefficients matrices in three ways namely: uniform, truncated Gaussian, and truncated Laplacian PAS shapes [15].

### D. Simulation Environment

We have implemented MAC and PHY layers of 802.11ac in matlab with given parameters as defined in [1]. TABLE II-VII list the parameters that are used in our theoretical analysis as well as simulation setup. We do not consider the frame aggregation scheme for the sake of simplicity. To simulate different features of PHY, we summarize the MCSs into four tables i.e., TABLES IV-VII for 20 MHz, 40 MHz, 80 MHz, and 160 MHz channels, respectively. The values of MCSs are chosen such that we cover maximum modulation and coding schemes.

We consider various modulation schemes namely: Quadrature Phase Shift Keying (QPSK), 16-QAM (Quadrature Amplitude Modulation), 64-QAM, and 256-QAM. The coding rate (R) is chosen as $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}$, and $\frac{5}{6}$. In the same way, the number of SS ($N_{SS}$) is selected to be 1, 2, 4, and 8. The data rate is calculated from Eq. 13 whereas ACK rate is fixed at basic rate. We have run each simulation 20 times and have calculated average values to show stable results.

In order to implement a TGN channel in matlab, we use the parameters from TABLE III. In addition, we use OFDM with MIMO channel at our transmitter and receiver for our PHY and channel analysis of 802.11ac.

### TABLE III

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel name</th>
<th>User case scenario</th>
<th>Conditions</th>
<th>$K$ (dB)</th>
<th>$D_{BP}$ (m)</th>
<th>No of taps</th>
<th>$\sigma_{RMS}$</th>
<th>$\sigma_{M}$</th>
<th>No of clusters</th>
<th>Shadow fading std. dev. (dB) before/after $d_{BP}$ (LOS/NLOS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Flat Fading</td>
<td>LOS</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>LOS</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$-\infty$</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Residential/small office</td>
<td>LOS</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$-\infty$</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Typical office</td>
<td>LOS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Large office</td>
<td>LOS</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Large space indoors and outdoors</td>
<td>LOS</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$-\infty$</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1050</td>
<td>6</td>
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TABLE IV
MCS FOR 20 MHz CHANNEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCS</th>
<th>Modulation</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>N_{ss}</th>
<th>N_{DBPS}</th>
<th>N_{ES}</th>
<th>Data rate (Mbps)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>800 ns GI 400 ns GI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>QPSK</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>57.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>115.6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>16-QAM</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>115.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>115.6</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>231.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>64-QAM</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>64-QAM</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>64-QAM</td>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>256-QAM</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>86.7</td>
</tr>
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</table>

TABLE V
MCS FOR 40 MHz CHANNEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCS</th>
<th>Modulation</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>N_{ss}</th>
<th>N_{DBPS}</th>
<th>N_{ES}</th>
<th>Data rate (Mbps)</th>
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TABLE VII
MCS FOR 160 MHz CHANNEL

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Fig. 1. Throughput for different channels as a function of number of STAs

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

We calculate aggregate throughput for different number of STAs and payload size.

A. Wider Channels

In order to evaluate the effect of wider channels on system throughput, we calculate total throughput for 20 MHz, 40 MHz, 80 MHz, and 160 MHz channels. We simulate a case that uses QPSK with $N_{ss} = 4$, and $GI = 400$ ns. The payload size is fixed at 1500 bytes. As shown in Fig. 1, the total throughput decreases for all cases of channel bandwidths as the number of STAs increases. However, the total throughput increases with respect to the increase of channel bandwidth. Compared to the case of 20 MHz channel bandwidth, the total throughput is increased by more than 10, 20, and 30 Mb/s in the cases of 40, 80, and 160 MHz channel bandwidth, respectively. It is important to note that the increase of total throughput is not proportional to the increase of channel bandwidth, i.e., less than one quarter increase of channel bandwidth. The theoretical (num) results also show a similar trend.

In a similar way, we observe the effects of available channel bandwidth on throughput as a function of payload size. For this purpose, we use a modulation of 16 QAM with one SS i.e., $N_{ss} = 1$, and $GI = 800$ ns. In the case of 20/40/80/160 MHz channel, the coding rate of 16QAM can be 1/2 or 3/4 (see Table IV-VII). The number of STAs is 20 (i.e., $n = 20$) in this set up. Fig. 2 illustrates that total throughput increases by nearly 10 Mb/s as the channel width is doubled.

B. Modulation

The choice of a particular modulation scheme can greatly affect the system throughput. To observe this result, we fix the number of SS to 1 in a 20 MHz channel with $GI = 800$ ns and payload size of 1500 bytes. We calculate throughput for different modulation schemes. As illustrated in Fig. 3, QPSK gives the lowest throughput while 256 QAM produces the
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2. Related Work
3. System Model
4. The Effects of Different Payload Sizes on Throughput
5. The Effects of Different Modulation Schemes on Throughput
6. The Effects of SS on Throughput
7. The Effects of Coding Rate on Throughput

1. Introduction

The paper focuses on the effects of different parameters on the throughput of a wireless communication system. The primary parameters considered are payload size, modulation scheme, number of stations, and coding rate.

2. Related Work

Previous research has explored similar topics, but this paper aims to provide a more comprehensive analysis of the effects of different parameters on throughput.

3. System Model

The system model includes a wireless network with a fixed number of stations, a fixed modulation scheme, and a fixed coding rate.

4. The Effects of Different Payload Sizes on Throughput

Fig. 2 shows the effects of wider channels on throughput for different payload sizes. The results indicate that the total throughput increases with an increase in payload size. The figure demonstrates that the highest total throughput is achieved with the widest channel.

5. The Effects of Different Modulation Schemes on Throughput

Fig. 3 illustrates the throughput of different modulation schemes for different STAs. The results show that the highest throughput is achieved with 256 QAM, followed by 64 QAM and QPSK.

6. The Effects of SS on Throughput

Fig. 5 represents the effects of SS on throughput for different number of STAs. The results indicate that the total throughput decreases as the number of STAs increases. However, the overall throughput for a particular number of SS increases by 10 Mbps as the number of SS is doubled.

7. The Effects of Coding Rate on Throughput

Fig. 7 shows the relationship between total throughput and different number of transmitting antennas on total throughput. The results indicate that the throughput increases with an increase in the number of transmitting antennas.

Conclusion

The paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the effects of different parameters on the throughput of a wireless communication system. The results indicate that the total throughput can be increased by optimizing these parameters.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank the Global IT Research Institute (GiRI) for their support.

References


Fig. 2. The effects of wider channels on throughput for different payload size

Fig. 3. Throughput of different modulation schemes for different STAs

Fig. 5. The effects of SS on throughput for different number of STAs

Fig. 4. Throughput for different modulations as a function of payload size

Fig. 6. Throughput for different modulation schemes as a function of payload size
for OFDM in 802.11ac. Out of 124 subcarriers, the 114 subcarriers (−58 to 2 and 2 to 58) are used for data and pilot (timing and synchronization). The indices used for pilot subcarriers are −53, −25, −11, 11, 25, and 53. Subcarriers −1, 0, −1 are used as DC while the remaining 11 subcarriers are used as left (6) and right (5) guard bands.

The SER of the system is calculated for BPSK, QPSK, 16-QAM, 64-QAM and 256-QAM under different Energy per Symbol \( E_s/N_0 \) for OFDM transceiver under 40 MHz 2x2 MIMO TGn D channel as shown in Fig. 9. The SER decreases as \( E_s/N_o \) increases for all modulation schemes. However, in lower \( E_s/N_o \), the SER of BPSK is much lower as compared to other modulation schemes. Similarly, QPSK shows lower SER at higher noise as compared to other high order modulation schemes. A similar trend can be seen for 16-QAM and 64-QAM as compared to 256-QAM. Thus in an error-prone channel conditions, 802.11ac suffers from almost 50% SER for 256-QAM as compared to BPSK.

Next, we consider the impact of all TGn channels i.e., (A to F) TABLE III on the performance of 802.11ac network. For this purpose, we fix all other parameters except the number of transmit and receive antennas. This will give us an idea of how 1x1, 2x1, and 4x4 MIMO changes the performance of 802.11ac network under different TGn channels. We use the MIMO OFDM system with 64 point FFT, 20 MHz channel, 64-QAM, coding rate of 1/2 (i.e., MCS = 3) as illustrated in TABLE IV. The packet length is set to 1500 bytes. We calculate the Packet Error Rate (PER) to estimate the performance of MIMO OFDM 802.11ac under different channels. We sent 1000 packets for each Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR) point that ranges from 0 dB to 50 dB. The distance between transmitter and receiver is set to 10 m. We also add Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN) in order to make a realistic estimation of wireless environment.

We observe that the PER and SNR can be divided into three different levels when the SNR of channel is changed from 0 dB to 50 dB for all the 6 channel models in 1x1, 2x2 and 4x4 MIMOs. This trend can be seen in different configurations of transmit and receive antennas as shown in Fig. 10-15.

**E. Analysis under TGn Channel**

As illustrated in TABLE III, each TGn channel has a different profile. In order to investigate the impact of a channel on MCS, we simulate 802.11ac under channel D and see the performance in terms of Symbol Error Rate (SER). For this purpose, we use an OFDM system under a 40 MHz MIMO multipath Rayleigh fading channel. Accordingly, a 128 point Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) is used with 128 subcarriers for 40 MHz. The bandwidth of each sub carrier is 312.5 KHz.
call these three levels as initial level, intermediate level, and final level. The PER is explained with the help of Fig. 10-15 and TABLE VIII-X. As shown in Fig. 10-15 and TABLE VIII-X, the PER remains constant at initial and final levels while it drops down over a range of SNR values at intermediate level for all the channel models under 1x1, 2x2 and 4x4 MIMOs. The range of SNR values for the three levels changes differently for the 6 channel models under different MIMO configurations.

As illustrated in TABLE VIII-X, the PER is 100% at initial level for all the channels and all cases. Thus the system performance is worst at initial level. However, the range of SNR points at initial value increases as we increase the number of transmit and receive antennas. For example: the average range of SNR (average of A-F) is 0 to 9.6 dB (TABLE VIII), 0 to 14.3 dB (TABLE IX), and 0 to 20.1 dB (TABLE X) for 1x1, 2x2, and 3x3 MIMOs, respectively. It shows that the performance of 1x1 MIMO is better than that of 2x2 MIMO and 4x4 MIMO. Similarly, the performance of 2x2 MIMO is better than that of 4x4 MIMO in terms of packet reception at lower SNR values. In the same way, the PER remains constant at final level for all channel models and all MIMO configuration. However, the values of PER and the range of SNR are different for different channels under different MIMOs. For example at final level, the PER and SNR of channel model A remains 0%, 11.82%, and 28.94% at 35-50 dB, 35-50 dB, and 44-50 dB for 1x1 MIMO, 2x2 MIMO, and 4x4 MIMO configurations, respectively. A similar trend can be found for other channels. On the other hand for intermediate level, the PER drops down from higher values to lower values over a range of SNR points. The slop and trend of each drop is different for different channel models and different MIMO configurations.

Based on our simulation results, we find interesting performance patterns for 802.11ac under different channel models. As shown in Fig. 10-15 and TABLE VIII, the PER of 802.11ac is 100% at initial level and 0% final level for channel models A, B, and C under 1x1 MIMO. The PER is 2% and 6% for channel models D and E, respectively. However, the PER is 11.70% in case of channel model F which is the worst performance for 1x1 MIMO for a given configurations.

Similarly, under 2x2 MIMO, the system performs best for channel models B, C and D where the PER remains at 2% at final level for these three channel models as shown in Fig. 10-15 and TABLE IX. However, the system performance degrades to some extent for channel models A, E, and F where the PER is 11.82%, 6.1%, and 18.03%, respectively. The PER for channel model F is the maximum (18.03%) as compared to other models. Channel model B relatively provides the best results under 2x2 MIMO as shown in Fig. 10-15.

The PER of 802.11ac network remains lower for channel models B, C, and D under 4x4 MIMO as illustrated in Fig. 10-15 and TABLE X. In this case, the performance is worst for channel model A where PER remains 28.94% at final level. The system achieves relatively the best performance for channel model D as compared to the other channel models under 4x4 MIMO configuration. This can be seen in TABLE X where the PER is 0%, 84.61%-0.26%, and 0.20% for initial, intermediate, and final levels, respectively.

V. CONCLUSION

This paper investigated the performance of 802.11ac in terms of system throughput under its several new key features. A theoretical model was presented that is based on MAC and PHY layer parameters. It was shown through simulation and theoretical analysis that the choice of a particular modulation and coding scheme, number of spatial streams, and channel size can greatly affect the total throughput of system. A MIMO multipath fading channel model was formulated to further investigate the effects of new features of 802.11ac. Although 802.11ac increases throughput many fold due to high-order
TABLE VIII

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Fig. 11. Packet Error Rate vs. SNR of Channel B under different MIMO configurations

Fig. 12. Packet Error Rate vs. SNR of Channel C under different MIMO configurations

Fig. 13. Packet Error Rate vs. SNR of Channel D under different MIMO configurations

Fig. 14. Packet Error Rate vs. SNR of Channel E under different MIMO configurations
modulation scheme, more bandwidth and spatial streams, the performance can also be degraded drastically in an error-prone channel. We also investigated the performance of 802.11ac under different TGn channel models to find the performance patterns of different channel models.

REFERENCES


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