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Impact of Hardware Impairments on Outage Performance of Hybrid Satellite-Terrestrial Relay Systems

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ABSTRACT The hardware impairments of transceiver nodes that generate signal distortions degrade the reliability performance of communication systems. This paper investigates the impact of hardware imperfections on the outage performance of hybrid satellite-terrestrial relay systems (HSTRS), where a geosynchronous earth orbit (GEO) satellite transmits its data to the terrestrial destination with the help of decode-and-forward (DF) terrestrial relays. We consider that all network nodes are subjected to hardware impairments and propose a multi-relay selection (MRS) scheme to enhance the outage performance of the HSTRS. The traditional single-relay selection (SRS) scheme is also considered for comparison purposes. We derive closed-form outage probability expressions for both the SRS and MRS schemes. Moreover, an asymptotic outage probability analysis is carried for both the SRS and MRS schemes in the high signal-to-noise-ratio (SNR) region. The simulation results show that the outage performance of the HSTRS can be enhanced under the MRS scheme with a certain level of hardware impairments at the HSTRS. Compared to the condition of ideal hardware, the outage probability of HSTRS increases for both the SRS and MRS schemes if the hardware is not ideal. When the amplify-and-forward (AF) protocol is employed at relays, the outage performance of HSTRS degrades compared to that of DF for both the SRS and MRS schemes.

INDEX TERMS Hardware impairments, relay selection, hybrid satellite-terrestrial relay systems, outage probability.

I. INTRODUCTION

Recently, satellite communication systems have received considerable attention from the research community and are widely utilized in the field of navigation and broadcasting for its broad coverage to terrestrial users (see e.g., [1]–[3] and the references therein). Such systems are mainly impaired by the masking effect since obstacles between satellite and terrestrial users limit the transmission of the line of sight (LoS)

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link between source and a terrestrial destination. The effect caused by obstacles becomes even worse when the angles of satellite elevation are low or the terrestrial user is not outdoor. To decrease the masking effect, the hybrid satellite-terrestrial relay system (HSTRS) has been proposed in [1] by exploiting relaying techniques to enhance coverage and reliability.

Presently, the HSTRS has been studied extensively in existing technical literature. For example, in [4]–[6], the performance of HSTRS using amplify-and-forward (AF) relaying has been investigated. By contrast, the decode-and-forward (DF) relaying based on HSTRS has been

considered in [7] and [8]. The authors explored the situation of beamforming and combining at an AF HSTRS in [9]. Bhatnagar and Arti [10] studied the average symbol error rate (SER) of an HSTRS. An *et al.* [11] have investigated the secrecy capacity of a multi-antenna AF HSTRS based on the study of physical-layer security, which has been viewed as a potential paradigm of the satellite communication security by exploiting the physical characteristics of the wireless channel [12].

Propagation conditions in wireless communications are not always ideal. Arti [13] investigated the average rate of symbol error based on AF relaying of HSTRS under the condition of imperfect channel gains. Upadhyay and Sharma [14] considered the HSTRS which employs opportunistic user scheduling with feedback latency and co-channel interference. Guo *et al.* [15] studied the effect of the hardware impairments and interference on the land mobile satellite (LMS) system where a multi antenna satellite is utilized to act as a DF relay node. Also, Devendra and Prabhat [16] explored the effect of channel estimation errors on two-way relay multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) systems under Rayleigh fading channels. In [17], the impact of imperfect channel estimation on cooperative diversity networks over Rician fading channels has also been investigated. In [18], the differential modulation were employed at two earth stations to eliminate the condition of channel estimation in a two-way satellite relaying (TWSR) system. Arti [19] also proposed a training protocol for a TWSR system to limit the effect of channel state information (CSI) estimation on the system. Guo *et al.* [20] explored the effect of hardware impairments on a TWSR system. The author considered the condition when the channel gains are unknown at AF HSTRS and proposed a scheme for link estimation and detection to reduce the average SER in [21].

Nevertheless, most of the aforementioned research efforts were devoted to exploring the HSTRS from different perspective under the condition of ideal hardware. In [15], the impact of hardware impairments on the outage performance of source-destination transmissions with the aid of a geostationary orbit regenerative satellite acting as a relay was studied. Unlike from the single satellite relay system of [15], we are motivated to investigate the outage performance of multiple relays assisted satellite communications in the presence of hardware impairments. The hardware impairments are often encountered in satellite communication systems. In practice, hardware subjects to the following impairments: phase noise I/Q imbalance and high power amplifier nonlinearities [22]–[24]. Bjornson *et al.* [25] first proposed a hardware impairment model and analyzed the impairment effect for dual-hop relaying networks. In [26], the effect of impaired hardware on MIMO systems was analyzed in terms of ergodic capacity. The authors also examined the performance of a single-hop network under the condition of impaired hardware in [27]. The authors analyzed the reliability of AF cooperative wireless networks with relay selection against impaired hardware [28]. In [29], the outage

performance of cooperative cellular networks with impaired hardware was investigated. In [30], the reliability performance of multi-relay networks with impaired hardware was studied over Shadowed-Rician channels. In [31], the outage probability of a cognitive hybrid satellite-terrestrial network (CSTRN) with hardware impairments was investigated. Also, the joint effect of hardware impairments and channel estimation errors on the performance of CSTRN was studied in [32]. Guo *et al.* [33] derived closed-form outage probability expressions of a AF two-way multi-antenna multi-relay network when hardware impairments exist.

Hardware impairments deteriorate the performance of communication systems, so it is necessary to reduce its negative effects. As far as we know, few papers have paid attention to the exploration of the outage performance of multi-relay selection (MRS) scheme for HSTRS when hardware impairments exist. Clarke and de Lamare [34] optimized the joint transmit diversity of DF multi-relay cooperative MIMO systems, where these relays which can decode the source signal successfully forward their decoded outcomes. Ding *et al.* [35] studied the mean squared error (MSE) of AF multi-relay MIMO systems, where a certain number of antenna pairs in the MIMO relays are selected to forward the source signal. Zou *et al.* [36] first proposed the MRS scheme and analyzed the security versus reliability performance of the MRS scheme for cognitive radio networks. Moreover, Zhu *et al.* [37] investigated the security-reliability tradeoff of MRS scheme for multiple relays aided DF cooperation systems over Rayleigh fading channels.

In this work, we investigate the impact of hardware imperfections on the outage performance of HSTRS, where the satellite transmits its data to terrestrial destination with the help of DF terrestrial relays. The closed-form expression of outage probability for the MRS scheme is obtained. Simulation results show that the outage performance of HSTRS can be enhanced under the MRS scheme with a certain level of hardware impairments at the HSTRS.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Section II, the system model of a multiple relays assisted satellite communications systems is presented along with the single relay selection (SRS) and MRS schemes. Section III derives the closed-form outage probability expressions of the SRS and MRS schemes when the hardware is impaired in HSTRS. Next, expressions for the asymptotic outage probability associated with the DF protocol in the SRS and MRS schemes are obtained in section IV. Then, numerical results of outage probability for the SRS and MRS schemes are present in Section V. Finally, Section VI concludes this paper.

II. SYSTEM MODEL AND RELAY SELECTION SCHEMES

A. SYSTEM MODEL

Consider a HSTRS wherein a GEO satellite source S communicates with a terrestrial destination D via N terrestrial relays denoted by R_1, R_2, \dots, R_N , which is presented in Fig. 1. Here, all terminals are assumed to be equipped with a single antenna and the relays employ the DF protocol.

TABLE 1. List of abbreviations.

Original words	Abbreviations
hybrid satellite-terrestrial relay systems	HSTRS
geosynchronous earth orbit	GEO
decode-and-forward	DF
multi-relay selection	MRS
single relay selection	SRS
amplify-and-forward	AF
line of sight	LoS
symbol error rate	SER
land mobile satellite	LMS
multiple-input multiple-output	MIMO
two-way satellite relaying	TWSR
channel state information	CSI
cognitive hybrid satellite-terrestrial network	CSTRN
mean squared error	MSE
additive white Gaussian noise	AWGN
signal-to-noise-ratio	SNR
signal-to-noise-and-distortion-ratio	SNDR
probability distribution function	PDF
cumulative distribution function	CDF

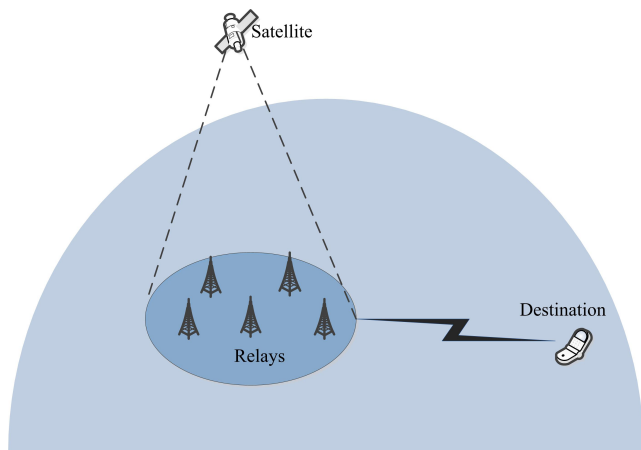


FIGURE 1. HSTRS composed of a source (S) and a destination (D) and N relays.

Due to large separation and heavy shadowing, the direct channel between satellite and the destination is assumed to be blocked. Additionally, we also assume the global CSI of all links are available. Typically, accurate CSI may be obtained through pilot-aided channel estimation methods [38]. Moreover, the estimated CSI accuracy can be further improved by increasing the pilot signal overhead.

Generally, the Shadowed-Rician fading model is suitable for satellite links, which is a popular land mobile satellite fading channel model derived in [39]. Following the existing satellite literature [15], [31], [32], we assume that the channels from the satellite to different terrestrial relays are independent and identically distributed (i.i.d) flat fading channels. Thus, under the fading model of Shadowed-Rician, the probability distribution function (PDF) of the power channel gain $|h_{si}|^2$ (from satellite to i -th relay, $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$) is given by

$$f_{|h_{si}|^2}(x) = \alpha_i e^{-\beta_i x} {}_1F_1(m_i; 1; \delta_i x), x \geq 0, \quad (1)$$

where $\alpha_i = \frac{1}{2b_i} \left(\frac{2b_i m_i}{2b_i m_i + \Omega_i} \right)^{m_i}$, $\beta_i = \frac{1}{2b_i}$, $\delta_i = \frac{\Omega_i}{2b_i(2b_i m_i + \Omega_i)}$, the parameter Ω_i represents the average power of the

LoS component, $2b_i$ is the average power of the multipath component and m_i is the Nakagami parameter ranging from 0 to ∞ . When $m_i = 0$ the envelope of h_{si} becomes a Rayleigh PDF and it becomes a Rice PDF when $m_i = \infty$.

Given $\bar{\gamma}$ as the average signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) and $\gamma_{si} = |h_{si}|^2 \bar{\gamma}$, the PDF of γ_{si} can be obtained as

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\gamma_{si}}(x) &= \frac{1}{\bar{\gamma}} \times f_{|h_{si}|^2}\left(\frac{x}{\bar{\gamma}}\right) \\ &= \frac{\alpha_i}{\bar{\gamma}} e^{-\frac{\beta_i x}{\bar{\gamma}}} {}_1F_1(m_i; 1; \delta_i x), x \geq 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The cumulative distribution function (CDF) of γ_{si} can be derived by employing the Maclaurin series expansion for the exponential function e^{-x} , yielding

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\gamma_{si}}(x) &= \frac{\alpha_i}{\bar{\gamma}} x {}_1F_1(m_i; 2; \frac{\delta_i x}{\bar{\gamma}}) \\ &+ \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (-1)^j \frac{\alpha_i \beta_i^j x^{(j+1)}}{(j+1)! \bar{\gamma}^{(j+1)}} {}_2F_2(j+1, m_i; j+2, 1; \frac{\delta_i x}{\bar{\gamma}}). \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where ${}_pF_q(a; b; z)$ is the confluent hypergeometric function defined in [40, Definition (9.100)].

The terrestrial link of the relay to destination is modeled as a Rayleigh fading channel. Therefore, $|h_{id}|^2$ follows an exponential distribution with PDF given by

$$f_{|h_{id}|^2}(x) = \frac{1}{\delta_{id}^2} \exp\left(-\frac{x}{\delta_{id}^2}\right), x \geq 0, \quad (4)$$

where δ_{id}^2 is the average power of the multipath component of the i -th channel from the relay to destination.

B. SINGLE-RELAY SELECTION

In this subsection, we consider the HSTRS, where terrestrial destination is not within the coverage area of the satellite and N terrestrial relays are utilized for transmitting the satellite signal. The DF relaying protocol is employed for the relays in transmitting the satellite signal to the terrestrial destination. More specifically, the satellite firstly broadcasts x to the terrestrial N relays and the relays will try to decode x . Here, let D denotes the decoding set in which relays could decode satellite signal successfully. Note that there are 2^N possible decoding subsets for N relays, correspondingly, the sample space of D can be formulated as

$$\Omega = \{\phi, D_1, D_2, \dots, D_n, \dots, D_{2^N-1}\}, \quad (5)$$

where ϕ is the empty set with no possible relays and D_n represents the n -th non-null subset of N terrestrial relays. While decoding set D is empty, which means that no relay could decode x successfully, that is to say, none of relays retransmit the satellite signal. If the set D is not empty, the relay associated with the highest capacity to the destination would be selected from the set for transmitting x . Without loss of generality, we consider that the satellite S transmits

x to the relays, thus the signal received at the i -th terrestrial relay can be expressed as

$$y_i = h_{si}(x + \eta_s) + \eta_i + v_i, \quad (6)$$

where h_{si} represents the fading coefficient between the satellite and the i -th relay, the transmit power of x is P , η_s and η_i are the distortion noises with zero mean and variance $k_s^2 P$ and $k_i^2 |h_{si}|^2 P$ respectively. In addition, k_s and k_i are used to characterize the level of hardware impairments of S and the i -th R respectively. The variable v_i is the additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) with the power N_0 at the i -th relay. From (6), the signal-to-noise-and-distortion-ratio (SNDR) of first slot can be derived as

$$\gamma_i = \frac{P|h_{si}|^2}{P|h_{si}|^2(k_s^2 + k_i^2) + N_0} = \frac{\bar{\gamma}|h_{si}|^2}{\bar{\gamma}|h_{si}|^2(k_s^2 + k_i^2) + 1}. \quad (7)$$

From (7), we can get the capacity between the satellite and the i -th relay as

$$C_{si} = \frac{1}{2} \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{\bar{\gamma}|h_{si}|^2}{\bar{\gamma}|h_{si}|^2(k_s^2 + k_i^2) + 1} \right), \quad (8)$$

where $\frac{1}{2}$ results from the matter that two time phases are required to finish the transmission of the satellite to the destination via relays. According to the Shannon coding theorem, if the channel capacity is lower than the data rate, the receiver is not able to recover the satellite signal. Thus, by using (8), the event $D = \phi$ is described as

$$C_{si} < R_s, i = 1, 2, \dots, N, \quad (9)$$

where R_s is the transmission data rate. The $D = D_n$ can be described as

$$\begin{aligned} C_{si} &> R_s, i \in D_n \\ C_{sj} &< R_s, j \in \bar{D}_n, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where \bar{D}_n is the set of relays failing decoding the signal x . Then, the i -th relay is viewed as the ‘‘best’’ relay, which forwards the decoded source signal x to D . Hence, the received signal from i -th relay at D is

$$y_d = h_{id}(x + \eta_i) + \eta_d + v_d \quad (11)$$

where h_{id} is the fading coefficient of the i -th R to D channel. η_i and η_d are the distortion noises with zero mean and variance $k_i^2 P$ and $k_d^2 |h_{id}|^2 P$ respectively. In addition, k_i and k_d are used to characterize the level of hardware impairments of the i -th R and D respectively. The quantity v_d is the AWGN with the power N_0 at the destination node. From (11), the SNDR of the second slot can be derived as

$$\gamma_d = \frac{P|h_{id}|^2}{P|h_{id}|^2(k_i^2 + k_d^2) + N_0} = \frac{\bar{\gamma}|h_{id}|^2}{\bar{\gamma}|h_{id}|^2(k_i^2 + k_d^2) + 1}. \quad (12)$$

From (12), the channel capacity from the i -th relay to the destination is given by

$$C_{id} = \frac{1}{2} \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{\bar{\gamma}|h_{id}|^2}{\bar{\gamma}|h_{id}|^2(k_i^2 + k_d^2) + 1} \right), \quad (13)$$

where $i \in D_n$. Generally, the relay which has the highest capacity between the i -th relay and D is considered as the only ‘‘best’’ one relay. Hence, from (13), we get the selection standard of finding the only ‘‘best’’ relay as

$$\begin{aligned} BR &= \arg \max_{i \in D_n} C_{id} \\ &= \arg \max_{i \in D_n} \frac{\bar{\gamma}|h_{id}|^2}{\bar{\gamma}|h_{id}|^2(k_i^2 + k_d^2) + 1} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

Combining (13) and (14), the channel capacity of between ‘‘best’’ relay and D can be obtained as

$$C_{bd} = \frac{1}{2} \log_2 \left(1 + \max_{i \in D_n} \frac{\bar{\gamma}|h_{id}|^2}{\bar{\gamma}|h_{id}|^2(k_i^2 + k_d^2) + 1} \right). \quad (15)$$

Here, subscript ‘ b ’ denotes the ‘‘best’’ relay.

C. MULTI-RELAY SELECTION

In this section, we propose a MRS scheme to mitigate an adverse effect of hardware impairments on the outage performance of HSTRS. In this selection scheme, all relays within D_n are employed for forwarding x to D simultaneously. The most apparent difference between the SRS scheme is that there is only one single ‘‘best’’ relay selected from D_n to forward signal in the SRS scheme. A weight vector denoted by $\mathbf{w} = [w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{|D_n|}]^T$ is used by all relays from the set D_n in forwarding x , where $|D_n|$ is the cardinality of D_n . To compare with the SRS scheme fairly, the whole transmit power of all relays of set D_n is considered to P . The level of hardware impairments within D_n are assumed to be equal. Then the signal received from relays at D is

$$y_d^{multi} = \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{h}_d(x + \eta_i) + \eta_d + v_d, \quad (16)$$

where $\mathbf{h}_d = [h_{1d}, h_{2d}, \dots, h_{|D_n|d}]^T$. From (16), the SNDR at D is given by

$$SNDR_d^{multi} = \frac{\bar{\gamma} |\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{h}_d|^2}{\bar{\gamma} |\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{h}_d|^2 (k_i^2 + k_d^2) + 1}. \quad (17)$$

Here, we are ought to maximize the $SNDR_d^{multi}$ to optimize the vector \mathbf{w} , yielding

$$\max_{\mathbf{w}} SNDR_d^{multi}, s.t. \|\mathbf{w}\| = 1, \quad (18)$$

we can get the optimal constraint \mathbf{w}_{opt} from (18) by using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$\mathbf{w}_{opt} = \frac{\mathbf{h}_d^*}{\|\mathbf{h}_d\|}, \quad (19)$$

where the constraint \mathbf{w}_{opt} is used for normalization. Substituting \mathbf{w}_{opt} from (19) into (17), we get the channel capacity

achieved at D as

$$C_d^{multi} = \frac{1}{2} \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{\bar{\gamma} \sum_{i \in D_n} |h_{id}|^2}{\bar{\gamma}(k_i^2 + k_d^2) \sum_{i \in D_n} |h_{id}|^2 + 1} \right). \quad (20)$$

III. OUTAGE ANALYSIS OF THE HSTRS WITH HARDWARE IMPAIRMENTS

In this section, we propose a MRS scheme to decrease the outage probability when hardware impairments exist. For comparison purpose, we take the SRS scheme as the baseline. Their closed-form expressions will be derived and analyzed respectively.

A. SINGLE-RELAY SELECTION

Here, we present the SRS scheme as benchmark. Using the law of total probability, the outage probability of the SRS scheme is given by

$$P_{out}^{single} = \Pr(C_{bd} < R_s, D = \phi) + \sum_{n=1}^{2^N-1} \Pr(C_{bd} < R_s, D = D_n), \quad (21)$$

where C_{bd} represents the capacity of the channel spanning from the best relay to D. In the case of $D = \phi$, no relay is chosen to forward the satellite signal, leading to $C_{bd} = 0$. Thus, the (21) can be expressed as

$$P_{out}^{single} = \Pr(D = \phi) + \sum_{n=1}^{2^N-1} \Pr(D = D_n) \Pr(C_{bd} < R_s), \quad (22)$$

Using (3) and (9), we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(D = \phi) &= \prod_{i=1}^N \Pr(C_{si} < R_s) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^N \Pr \left(\bar{\gamma} |h_{si}|^2 < \frac{2^{2R_s-1}}{1 - (2^{2R_s-1})(k_s^2 + k_i^2)} \right) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^N \Pr(\bar{\gamma} |h_{si}|^2 < \gamma_{th}) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^N F_{\gamma_{si}}(\gamma_{th}) \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(D = D_n) &= \prod_{i \in D_n} \Pr(\gamma_{si} > \gamma_{th}) \prod_{j \in \bar{D}_n} \Pr(\gamma_{sj} < \gamma_{th}) \\ &= \prod_{i \in D_n} (1 - F_{\gamma_{si}}(\gamma_{th})) \prod_{j \in \bar{D}_n} F_{\gamma_{sj}}(\gamma_{th}), \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

where $\gamma_{th} = \frac{2^{2R_s-1}}{1 - (2^{2R_s-1})(k_s^2 + k_i^2)}$. The link between the satellite and the relay is assumed as Shadowed-Rician distribution,

according to (3), the $F_{\gamma_{si}}(\gamma_{th})$ can be easily written as

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\gamma_{si}}(\gamma_{th}) &= \frac{\alpha_0 \gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}} {}_1F_1(m_0; 2; \frac{\delta_0 \gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}}) \\ &+ \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (-1)^j \frac{\alpha_0 \beta_0^j \gamma_{th}^{(j+1)}}{(j+1)! \bar{\gamma}^{(j+1)}} {}_2F_2(j+1, m_0; j+2, 1; \frac{\delta_0 \gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}}), \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

where $\alpha_0 = \frac{1}{2b_0} \left(\frac{2b_0 m_0}{2b_0 m_0 + \Omega_0} \right)^{m_0}$, $\beta_0 = \frac{1}{2b_0}$, $\delta_0 = \frac{\Omega_0}{2b_0(2b_0 m_0 + \Omega_0)}$. Then, (22) can be further expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} P_{out}^{single} &= \prod_{i=1}^N F_{\gamma_{si}}(\gamma_{th}) + \sum_{n=1}^{2^N-1} \prod_{i \in D_n} (1 - F_{\gamma_{si}}(\gamma_{th})) \\ &\quad \prod_{j \in \bar{D}_n} F_{\gamma_{sj}}(\gamma_{th}) \times \Pr \left(\max_{i \in D_n} |h_{id}|^2 < \frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

Noting that $|h_{id}|^2$ follows an exponentially distributed random variables with means of δ_{id}^2 , we obtain

$$\Pr \left(\max_{i \in D_n} |h_{id}|^2 < \frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}} \right) = \prod_{i \in D_n} \left(1 - \exp \left(-\frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma} \delta_{id}^2} \right) \right) \quad (27)$$

Combining (3), (26) and (27), we can derive the closed-form expressions of the SRS scheme with hardware impairments.

B. MULTI-RELAY SELECTION

The outage probability of the MRS scheme is given by

$$\begin{aligned} P_{out}^{multi} &= \Pr(D = \phi) \\ &+ \sum_{n=1}^{2^N-1} \Pr(D = D_n) \Pr(C_d^{multi} < R_s). \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Using (9), (10) and (20), we can rewrite (28) as

$$\begin{aligned} P_{out}^{multi} &= \prod_{i=1}^N F_{\gamma_{si}}(\gamma_{th}) + \sum_{n=1}^{2^N-1} \prod_{i \in D_n} (1 - F_{\gamma_{si}}(\gamma_{th})) \\ &\quad \prod_{j \in \bar{D}_n} F_{\gamma_{sj}}(\gamma_{th}) \times \Pr(C_d^{multi} < R_s). \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

In (29), $\Pr(C_d^{multi} < R_s)$ can be further expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr \left(\frac{1}{2} \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{\bar{\gamma} \sum_{i \in D_n} |h_{id}|^2}{\bar{\gamma}(k_i^2 + k_d^2) \sum_{i \in D_n} |h_{id}|^2 + 1} \right) < R_s \right) \\ = \Pr \left(\sum_{i \in D_n} |h_{id}|^2 < \frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

Comparing the expression of $\Pr \left(\sum_{i \in D_n} |h_{id}|^2 < \frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}} \right)$ with

$\Pr \left(\max_{i \in D_n} |h_{id}|^2 < \frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}} \right)$, we can conclude that the outage performance of the MRS scheme performs better than the SRS scheme when hardware impairments exist. It should be

remarked that the MRS scheme requires a highly complicated symbol-level synchronization when the signal copies are forwarded to the destination at the same time, while the SRS scheme does not require such complex procedure. In addition, the incomplete synchronization of the MRS scheme may lead to the degradation of reliability performance, which might even result in a reliability performance of the SRS scheme becoming better than the MRS scheme.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to obtain a general closed-form expression of $\Pr\left(\sum_{i \in D_n} |h_{id}|^2 < \frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}}\right)$. For simplicity, all the fading coefficients of relay-destination channels $|h_{id}|^2$ are assumed as i.i.d random variables with an equal average channel gain represented by $\delta_d^2 = E(|h_{id}|^2)$. Thus, we can simplify $\Pr\left(\sum_{i \in D_n} |h_{id}|^2 < \frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}}\right)$ by assuming that $|h_{id}|^2$ for $i \in D_n$ are i.i.d, the PDF of $X = \sum_{i \in D_n} |h_{id}|^2$ can be written as

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(|D_n|)\delta_d^{2|D_n|}} x^{|D_n|-1} e^{-\frac{x}{\delta_d^2}}, \quad (31)$$

where $\delta_d^2 = E(|h_{id}|^2)$. Using (31), we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(X < \frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}}) &= \int_0^{\frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}}} \frac{1}{\Gamma(|D_n|)\delta_d^{2|D_n|}} x^{|D_n|-1} e^{-\frac{x}{\delta_d^2}} dx \\ &= \int_0^{\frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}\delta_d^2}} \frac{z^{|D_n|-1}}{\Gamma(|D_n|)} e^{-z} dz \\ &= \Gamma\left(\frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}\delta_d^2}, |D_n|\right) \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

where $z = \frac{x}{\delta_d^2}$ and $\int_0^a \frac{z^{k-1}}{\Gamma(k)} e^{-z} dz$ is the incomplete Gamma function in [41].

Substituting (3) and (32) into (29), we can finally obtain a closed-form expression of the outage probability of the MRS scheme in the presence of hardware impairments.

IV. ASYMPTOTIC OUTAGE PROBABILITY ANALYSIS

In the following, we conduct an asymptotic outage probability analysis in the high SNR region for the SRS and MRS schemes to provide insight into the effect of hardware impairments on the HSTRS.

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\bar{\gamma}_X}(x) &\approx f_{\bar{\gamma}_X}(1) + f_{\bar{\gamma}_X}'(1)(x-1) + o(x-1)^2 \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{\bar{\gamma}}\right)^{|D_n|} \frac{1}{\Gamma(|D_n|)\delta_d^{2|D_n|}} e^{-\frac{1}{\bar{\gamma}\delta_d^2}} + \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(|D_n|)\delta_d^{2|D_n|}}\right) \left(\left(\frac{1}{\bar{\gamma}}\right)^{|D_n|} e^{-\frac{1}{\bar{\gamma}\delta_d^2}}\right) \left(|D_n| - 1 - \frac{1}{\bar{\gamma}\delta_d^2}\right) (x-1) + o(x-1)^2 \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\bar{\gamma}_X}(\gamma_{th}) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(|D_n|)\delta_d^{2|D_n|}} e^{-\frac{1}{\bar{\gamma}\delta_d^2}} \left(\frac{1}{\bar{\gamma}}\right)^{|D_n|} \left(2 + \frac{1}{\bar{\gamma}\delta_d^2} - |D_n|\right) \gamma_{th} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(|D_n|)\delta_d^{2|D_n|}}\right) \left(\left(\frac{1}{\bar{\gamma}}\right)^{|D_n|} e^{-\frac{1}{\bar{\gamma}\delta_d^2}}\right) \left(|D_n| - 1 - \frac{1}{\bar{\gamma}\delta_d^2}\right) \gamma_{th}^2 \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

A. SINGLE-RELAY SELECTION

First, for $\bar{\gamma} \rightarrow \infty$, we can expand the function in (2) with Maclaurin series. Consequently, the PDF $f_{\gamma_{si}}(x)$ becomes

$$f_{\gamma_{si}} \approx \frac{\alpha_i}{\bar{\gamma}} + o(x), \quad (33)$$

where $o(x)$ is the infinitesimal of higher order for x . Then, we can obtain an asymptotic expression for $F_{\gamma_{si}}(\gamma_{th})$

$$F_{\gamma_{si}}(\gamma_{th}) = \frac{\alpha_0}{\bar{\gamma}} \gamma_{th}. \quad (34)$$

Similarly, the PDF $f_{\gamma_{id}}(x)$ can be expressed as

$$f_{\gamma_{id}} \approx \frac{1}{\bar{\gamma}} \frac{1}{\delta_d^2} + o(x). \quad (35)$$

Next, the asymptotic expression of $F_{\gamma_{id}}(\gamma_{th})$ is given by

$$F_{\gamma_{id}}(\gamma_{th}) = \frac{1}{\delta_d^2} \frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}}. \quad (36)$$

According to (36), we can obtain

$$\Pr\left(\max_{i \in D_n} |h_{id}|^2 < \frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}}\right) = \prod_{i \in D_n} \left(\frac{1}{\delta_d^2} \frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}}\right). \quad (37)$$

Substituting (34) and (37) into (22), we can obtain an asymptotic outage probability expression for the SRS scheme.

B. MULTI-RELAY SELECTION

According to (32), we can write $f_{\gamma_X}(x)$ as

$$f_{\bar{\gamma}_X}(x) = \frac{1}{\bar{\gamma}} \frac{1}{\Gamma(|D_n|)\delta_d^{2|D_n|}} \left(\frac{x}{\bar{\gamma}}\right)^{|D_n|-1} e^{-\frac{x}{\bar{\gamma}\delta_d^2}}. \quad (38)$$

The PDF $f_{\bar{\gamma}_X}(x)$ can be expanded as (39), shown at the bottom of this page, with Maclaurin series. Here, the first order of $x - 1$ is considered.

Then, we can get the asymptotic expression of $\Pr\left(\sum_{i \in D_n} |h_{id}|^2 < \frac{\gamma_{th}}{\bar{\gamma}}\right)$ in (40), as shown at the bottom of this page.

Finally, substituting (34) and (40) into (29), we can obtain an asymptotic outage probability expression for the MRS scheme.

V. NUMERICAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this section, we provide simulation results to verify the outage performance in the HSTRS relying on the SRS and MRS schemes respectively when hardware impairments exist. In our numerical results, the Shadowed-Rician fading parameters are considered as $(b, m, \Omega) = (0.126, 10.1, 0.835)$ [39]. The average channel gains of the Rayleigh fading are specified as $\delta_{id}^2 = 1$.

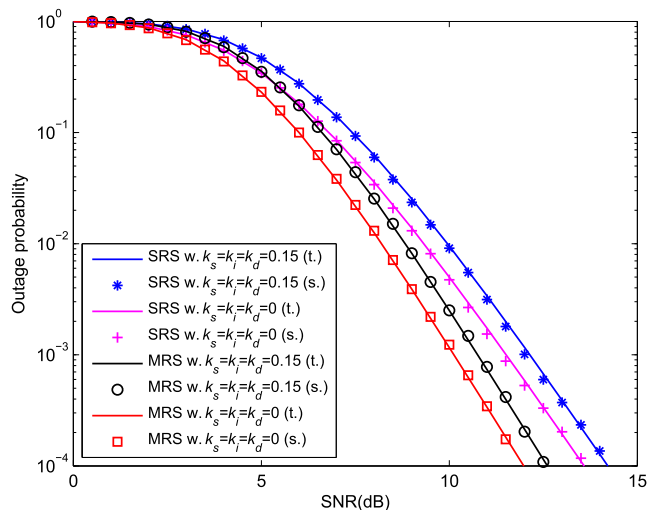


FIGURE 2. Outage probability versus the transmit power SNR of the SRS and MRS schemes for both ideal hardware and impaired hardware scenarios with data rate $R_s=1$ bit/s/Hz.

Fig. 2 shows the outage probability versus SNR for both ideal and impaired hardware scenarios, where discrete markers and solid lines represent the simulated (s.) and theoretical (t.) outage probability results, respectively. We assume that all nodes are with the same level of hardware impairments, which means $k_s = k_i = k_d$. In Fig. 2, $k_s = k_i = k_d = 0$ means that all nodes are ideal hardware. As the hardware impairments level increases from $k_s = k_i = k_d = 0$ to 0.15, the outage performance of HSTRS would degrade for both the SRS and MRS schemes. Additionally, the outage performance of the MRS scheme is much better than that of the SRS scheme given an equal level of the hardware impairments.

Fig. 3 demonstrates the outage probability versus SNR of the SRS and MRS schemes for different data rates of $R_s = 0.8$ bit/s/Hz and $R_s = 1$ bit/s/Hz with a given hardware impairments level of $k_s = k_i = k_d = 0.15$. As shown in Fig. 3, given a hardware impairments level, the MRS scheme significantly outperforms the SRS scheme for both the cases of $R_s = 0.8$ bit/s/Hz and 1 bit/s/Hz. Moreover, as the data rate increases from $R_s = 0.8$ bit/s/Hz to 1 bit/s/Hz, the outage performance of the SRS and MRS schemes degrades accordingly.

In Fig. 4, we show the outage probability versus SNR of the SRS and MRS schemes for $N = 2$ and 6 with a given hardware impairments level of $k_s = k_i = k_d = 0.15$. Fig. 4 shows that for both the cases of $N = 2$ and 6, the SRS scheme performs worse than the MRS scheme in terms of the outage probability. In addition, as the number of relays increases from $N = 2$ to 6, the outage performance of both

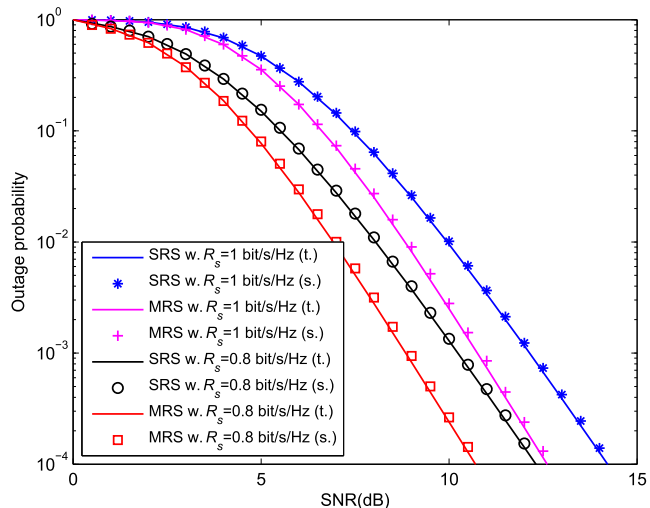


FIGURE 3. Outage probability versus the transmit power SNR of the SRS and MRS schemes for different data rates R_s when the hardware impairments level is 0.15.

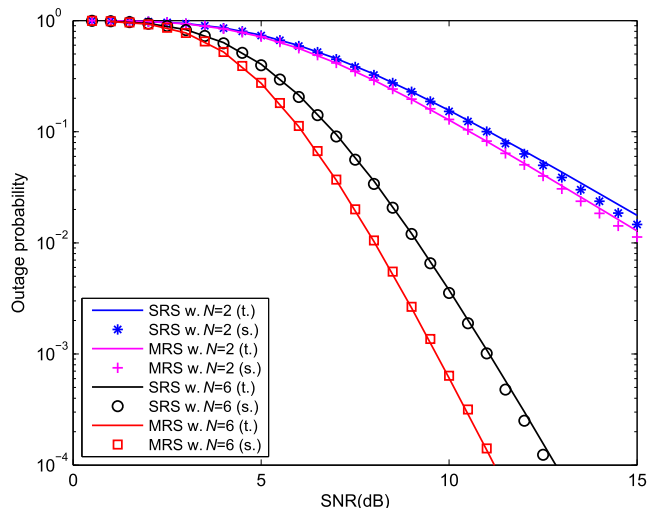


FIGURE 4. Outage probability versus the transmit power SNR of the SRS and MRS schemes in different number of relays when the hardware impairments level is 0.15.

the SRS and MRS schemes enhances, implying that the outage probability can be reduced by increasing the number of relays.

Fig. 5 depicts the outage probability versus the hardware impairments level for the different number of relays of $N = 4$ and $N = 6$ with a data rate of $R_s = 1$ bit/s/Hz and an SNR of 10 dB. As observed from Fig. 5, the outage probabilities of the SRS and MRS schemes increase with an increasing hardware impairments level. When the hardware impairments level increases beyond a threshold, the outage probabilities of both the SRS and MRS schemes increase to one and then keeps unchanged, indicating that the outage probability is significantly influenced by the impaired hardware.

In Fig. 6, we show the outage probability versus the number of relays for different hardware impairments levels of $k_s = k_i = k_d = 0$ and 0.15 with a data rate $R_s = 1$ bit/s/Hz and an SNR of 10 dB. As shown in Fig. 6, the outage probabilities of

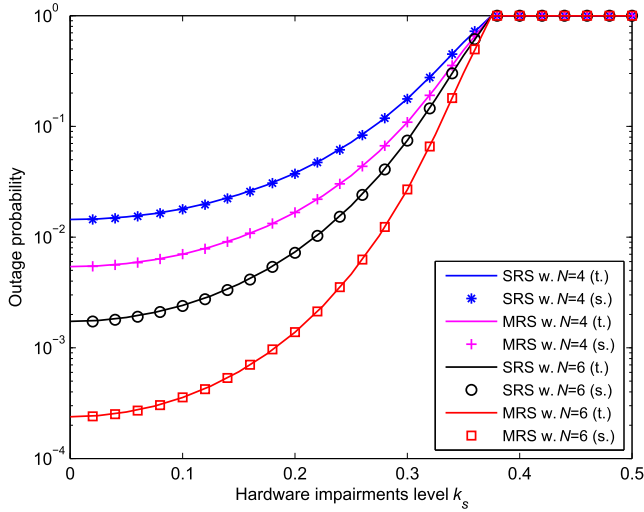


FIGURE 5. Outage probability versus the hardware impairments k_s of the SRS and MRS schemes in different number of relays when the SNR is 10 dB.

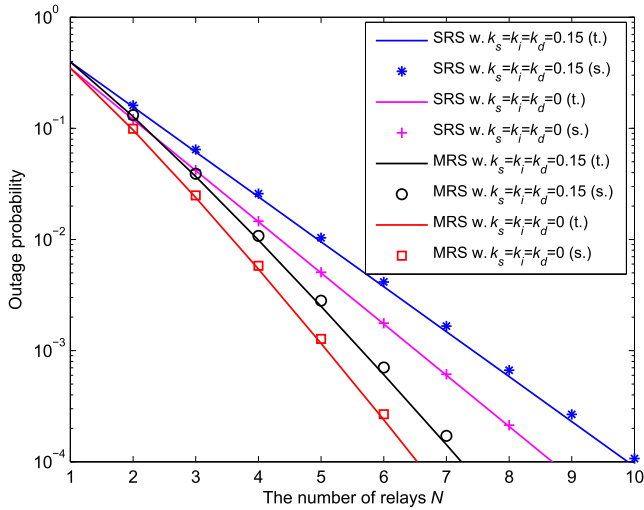


FIGURE 6. Outage probability versus the number of relays of the SRS and MRS schemes for both ideal and impaired hardware when the SNR is 10 dB.

both the SRS and MRS schemes significantly decrease with the increase of the number of relays. Moreover, as the level of hardware impairments increases from 0 to 0.15, the outage performance of both the SRS and MRS schemes degrades accordingly.

Fig. 7 plots the asymptotic and exact outage probabilities versus SNR for both the SRS and MRS schemes. As shown from Fig. 7, the asymptotic and exact outage probabilities match well with each other in the high SNR region, which validates the correctness of our asymptotic outage probability analysis.

Fig. 8 shows the outage probability versus the SNR of the SRS and MRS schemes relying on DF and AF protocols with a hardware impairment level of $k_s = 0.15$ and a data rate of $R_s = 1$ bit/s/Hz. As shown in Fig. 7, when the AF protocol is employed at relays, the outage performance would degrade significantly compared with DF protocol for both the SRS

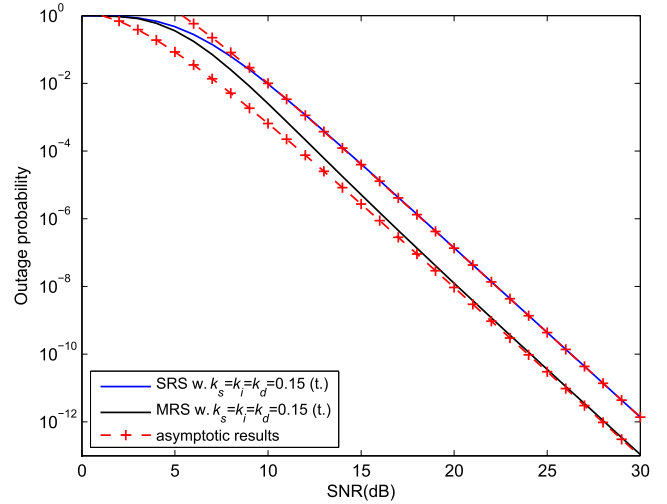


FIGURE 7. The asymptotic analysis in high SNR region for the outage probability for both the SRS and MRS schemes when employing DF protocol.

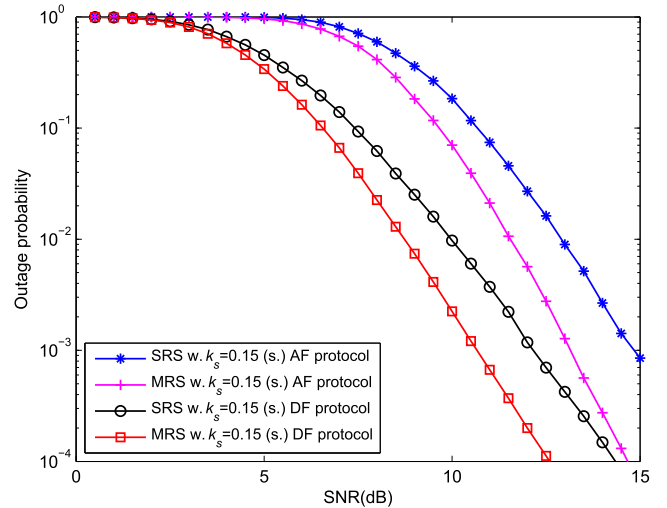


FIGURE 8. Outage probability versus the SNR of the SRS and MRS schemes of the DF protocol and AF protocol when the hardware impairment level is 0.15.

and MRS schemes, which shows the advantage of the DF protocol over the AF protocol.

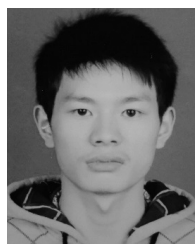
VI. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have investigated the effect of hardware impairments on the reliability performance of HSTRS composed of a geostationary satellite, a terrestrial destination and multiple terrestrial relays. We proposed the MRS scheme to mitigate the adverse effect of hardware impairments on the outage performance of HSTRS. Also, we considered the SRS scheme as a baseline. Closed-form and asymptotic expressions of outage probability for both the SRS and MRS schemes were derived. It was shown that the outage probability of HSTRS was degraded by the hardware impairments. Moreover, the outage performance of HSTRS can be enhanced by employing the MRS scheme compared to the SRS scheme. In addition, upon increasing the number of

relays, the outage probabilities of both the SRS and MRS schemes are substantially reduced in the face of a certain level of hardware impairments. Additionally, when relays employ the AF protocol, the outage performance for both the SRS and MRS schemes would degrade accordingly compared with the DF protocol.

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