

Throughput Maximization Based on Optimal Access Probabilities in Cognitive Radio System

Mohamed Elalem and Lian Zhao
 Electrical and Computer Engineering Department
 Ryerson University, ON, Canada
 Email: {melalem@ryerson.ca, lzhao@ee.ryerson.ca}

Abstract—Well-established fact shows that the fixed spectrum allocation policy conveys to the low spectrum utilization. The cognitive radio technique promises to improve the low efficiency. This paper proposes an optimized access strategy combining overlay scheme and underlay scheme for the cognitive radio. We model the service state of the system as a continuous-time Markov model. Based on the service state, the overlay manner or/and the underlay manner is/are used by the secondary users. When the primary user is not transmitting and only one secondary user has the requirement to transmit, the secondary system adopts the overlay scheme. When the primary user is transmitting and the secondary users want to transmit simultaneously, an underlay scheme with an access probability is adopted. We obtain the optimal access probability in a closed form which maximizes the overall system throughput.

I. INTRODUCTION

The wireless spectrum resource has become the major bottleneck for the development of the future wireless communications. Recent researches in spectrum-sharing techniques have enabled different wireless communication technologies to coexist and cooperate towards achieving a better gain from the limited spectrum resources. This started when spectrum utilization measurements showed that most of the allocated spectrum experiences low utilization [1]. Certain authorities, as Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for radio spectrum regulation, divide the radio spectrum into many frequency bands, and licenses for the often exclusive usage of these bands are provided to operators, typically for a long time. Depending on the type of radio service that is then provided by the licensees, frequency bands are often idle in many areas, and inefficiently used. The concept of spectrum sharing (the coexisting of different radio systems in the same spectrum) then occurred [2], as one device may transmit, while others in the area are idle. Moreover, radio systems

can dynamically use and release spectrum wherever and whenever they are available. This dynamic spectrum access helps to minimize unused spectral bands.

As it is now well known, that in spectrum sharing systems, the secondary user can adopt two types of access schemes: overlay scheme and underlay scheme. In underlay scheme, the licensed spectrum band can be accessed without considering the primary user's activities, but with strict power constraint. In overlay scheme, the secondary user senses the spectrum bands and accesses the unused spectrum spots. The secondary users must be ceased when the primary user appears in the band and resumed when the primary user finishes its service.

The different features of these two schemes enable them to make up with each other. In [3], [4], the papers give a mixed access strategy: When the channel is being used by the primary user, the secondary users access the channel with a probability in underlay manner. When the channel is idle, they choose to access in overlay manner.

There have been several previous efforts addressing these two schemes from different points of view. In [3], the authors study the capacity of the secondary users and the impact of the primary user's activities for both schemes. The authors in [5] conclude that the overlay spectrum sharing strategy offers higher network capacity and the interference threshold limits the capacity in the overlay strategy more than its underlay capacity.

In [6], analytical formulation of DSA with imperfect spectrum sensing has been presented, only the case of same priority for all subscribers has been considered. In [7], the authors assumed that primary users and secondary users cannot operate simultaneously on the same spectrum band, then a Continuous Time Markov Chain (CTMC) was proposed to model the interactions between these different users. They derived a tradeoff between spectrum efficiency

and fairness. However, the optimal access probability is not a precise value. An optimal access probability with different criteria was given in [8] for pure underlay scheme. Based on [8], this paper proposes a mixed overlay and underlay access scheme. The secondary users access the channel with an optimal probability in an underlay scheme when the spectrum is occupied by the primary user. While, when the spectrum is idle, the secondary users access the channel in an overlay manner. This approach can maximize the total average throughput for the secondary users and limit the interference on the primary user.

The optimized access strategy proposed in this paper is similar in spirit to the work done in [8]. We further introduce a new optimized parameter ρ to determine the best access probability to achieve the highest throughput. Closed forms for the achieved capacity are provided as well as the optimized access parameters.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section II introduces the system model and assumptions. In Section III, the maximal throughput expressions for the two schemes are given. The optimal access strategy for equiprobability case is introduced in Section IV. While Section V introduces the case of unlike access probability. Performance analysis and simulation results are given in Section VI. Finally, the paper is concluded in Section VII.

II. SYSTEM MODEL AND ASSUMPTIONS

Fig. 1 illustrates the system model which consists of a primary user (P) and two cognitive users $\{A, B\}$ sharing a W Hz wireless channel. It is assumed that both cognitive users can sense the primary user perfectly. A cognitive base station is assumed to make the cognitive users exchange their information among them. An example of these information is the real-time service state. The service state indicates users' requirement for transmitting at specific time. The primary user can employ the channel without considering secondary users' service state.

The traffic pattern of the primary and the two secondary users is modeled as independent Poisson processes with arrival rates λ_P , λ_A and λ_B , respectively. The service times are assumed to be exponentially distributed with rates μ_P , μ_A and μ_B , respectively. We define service state of the system as the sum service state of all the users in the system at a moment. Based on the individual's service state, we get the service state set for the system as $\Phi \in \{0, P, A, B, AB, PA, PB, PAB\}$. State '0' represents there is no user tends to transmit on the channel; State

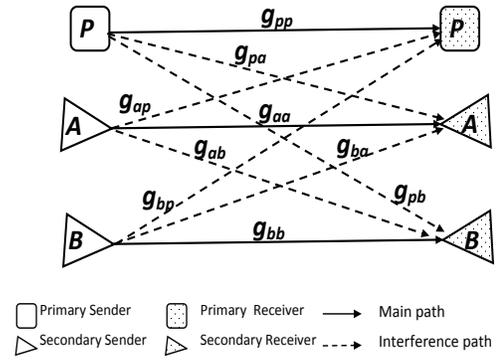


Fig. 1. The additive interference channel for a pair of primary and cognitive links with channel gain coefficients: g_{pp} , g_{ss} , g_{ps} , g_{sp} .

' P ' represents only the primary user is transmitting on the channel; State ' A ' represents only user A wants to transmit on the channel; State ' B ' represents only user B wants to transmit on the channel; State ' AB ' represents both cognitive users want to transmit on the channel at the same time; State ' PA ' represents user A wants to transmit on the channel while the primary is transmitting; State ' PB ' represents user B wants to transmit on the channel while the primary user is transmitting; State ' PAB ' represents both A and B want to transmit on the channel while the primary user is transmitting.

These states in the cognitive radio system can be modeled as an eight-state continuous time Markov model, as shown in Fig. 2 [8].

The rate at which transitions take place *out* of state s_i equals to the rate at which transitions take place *into* state s_i . The normalization equations governing this *flow balance* can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
 \pi_0(\lambda_P + \lambda_A + \lambda_B) &= \pi_P\mu_P + \pi_A\mu_A + \pi_B\mu_B \\
 \pi_P(\lambda_A + \lambda_B + \mu_P) &= \pi_0\lambda_P + \pi_{PA}\mu_A + \pi_{PB}\mu_B \\
 \pi_A(\lambda_P + \lambda_B + \mu_A) &= \pi_0\lambda_A + \pi_{AB}\mu_B + \pi_{PA}\mu_P \\
 \pi_B(\lambda_P + \lambda_A + \mu_B) &= \pi_0\lambda_B + \pi_{AB}\mu_A + \pi_{PB}\mu_P \\
 \pi_{AB}(\lambda_P + \mu_A + \mu_B) &= \pi_A\lambda_B + \pi_B\lambda_A + \pi_{PAB}\mu_P \\
 \pi_{PA}(\lambda_B + \mu_P + \mu_A) &= \pi_A\lambda_P + \pi_P\lambda_A + \pi_{PAB}\mu_B \\
 \pi_{PB}(\lambda_A + \mu_P + \mu_B) &= \pi_B\mu_P + \pi_P\lambda_B + \pi_{PAB}\mu_A \\
 \pi_{PAB}(\mu_P + \mu_A + \mu_B) &= \pi_{PA}\lambda_B + \pi_{PB}\lambda_A + \pi_{AB}\lambda_P,
 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where π_{s_i} represents the steady-state probability of being

in state s_i and $s_i \in \Phi$. Also we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{s_i} \pi_{s_i} &= \pi_0 + \pi_P + \pi_A + \pi_B \\ &+ \pi_{AB} + \pi_{PA} + \pi_{PB} + \pi_{PAB} = 1. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The steady state probabilities for all the states can be found by solving the set of the linear equations (1) and (2).

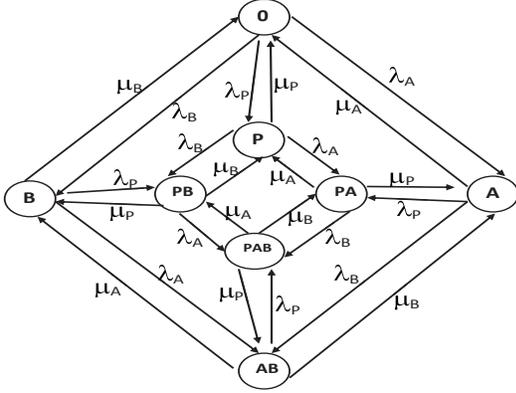


Fig. 2. The continuous time Markov model of the service state and the flow balance.

III. SECONDARY USER'S MAXIMAL THROUGHPUT

A. Maximal Throughput for Overlay Scheme

In the overlay scheme, the secondary users can only access the spectrum hole which is currently not used by the primary user. They can not co-exist on the same spectrum band. If one secondary user is transmitting, the only interference is the background noise. The user A or B accesses the channel with power S_s^o . Since in the overlay manner, only one user can transmit, the maximal data rate for each of them individually is

$$R_A^o = W \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{g_{aa} S_s^o}{\sigma_s^2} \right) \quad (3)$$

$$R_B^o = W \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{g_{bb} S_s^o}{\sigma_s^2} \right) \quad (4)$$

where σ_s^2 is noise power. These rates can be achievable with the following corresponding probabilities:

$$P^{o,(A)} = \pi_A \quad \text{and} \quad P^{o,(B)} = \pi_B \quad \text{respectively.}$$

B. Maximal Throughput for Underlay Scheme

Unlike the overlay scheme, in the underlay system, secondary users are allowed to share the channel simultaneously with the primary user pledging not to violate the limits of interference.

Since the secondary users A and B can get the service state of the system with the help of their base station, A and B make access decision based on the service state of the system. Here, we have two possible service state sets. When the service state is $s_i \in \Phi_1 = \{A, B\}$, which indicates the primary user P is not transmitting and only one secondary user has the requirement to transmit. The other case is when the service state $s_i \in \Phi_2 = \{PA, PB, PAB, AB\}$, which indicates that the primary user is transmitting or both secondary users want to transmit at the same time. User A and B have to adopt their powers S_s^u to access the channel with probability ρ in the underlay scheme. In order to protect the primary user and decrease the mutual interference between secondary users, we assume that S_s^u satisfies the minimum *SINR* requirement.

The probability ρ determines the sum throughput of the secondary users and the interference on the primary user. When ρ is large, the sum throughput may be large and the chance to coexist with primary user is large, too. Our goal is to obtain an optimal access probability ρ to maximize the sum throughput, while limit the interference on the primary user. The service state set of the system in the underlay manner is Φ_2 . Hence the actual access state set is $\Phi_3 \in \{A, B, PA, PB, PAB, AB\}$. The users' maximal data rates under each state in the underlay manner is given in (5).

In (5), $R_i^{u,(s)}$, $i \in \{A, B\}$, $s \in \Phi_3$ denotes the i 's maximal data rate for the underlay case. The term g_{ij} , $i, j \in \{p, a, b\}$ is the channel power gain between the transmitter of the user i and the receiver j as shown in Fig. 1. S_p is the transmit power of the primary user. The corresponding probabilities of these rates are:

$$P^{u,(PA)} = \rho \pi_{PA} + \rho(1 - \rho) \pi_{PAB} \quad (6.a)$$

$$P^{u,(PB)} = \rho \pi_{PB} + \rho(1 - \rho) \pi_{PAB} \quad (6.b)$$

$$P^{u,(A)} = \rho(1 - \rho) \pi_{AB} \quad (6.c)$$

$$P^{u,(B)} = \rho(1 - \rho) \pi_{AB} \quad (6.d)$$

$$P^{u,(AB)} = \rho^2 \pi_{AB} \quad (6.e)$$

$$P^{u,(PAB)} = \rho^2 \pi_{PAB} \quad (6.f)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
R_A^{u,(PA)} &= W \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{g_{aa} S^u}{S_p g_{pa} + \sigma_s^2} \right); & R_B^{u,(PB)} &= W \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{g_{bb} S^u}{S_p g_{pb} + \sigma_s^2} \right) \\
R_A^{u,(A)} &= W \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{g_{aa} S^u}{\sigma_s^2} \right); & R_B^{u,(A)} &= W \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{g_{bb} S^u}{\sigma_s^2} \right) \\
R_A^{u,(AB)} &= W \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{g_{aa} S^u}{S^u g_{ba} + \sigma_s^2} \right); & R_B^{u,(AB)} &= W \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{g_{bb} S^u}{S^u g_{ab} + \sigma_s^2} \right) \\
R_A^{u,(PAB)} &= W \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{g_{aa} S^u}{S_p g_{pa} + S^u g_{ba} + \sigma_s^2} \right); & R_B^{u,(PAB)} &= W \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{g_{bb} S^u}{S_p g_{pb} + S^u g_{ab} + \sigma_s^2} \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

IV. EQUIPROBABILITY OPTIMAL ACCESS STRATEGY

In this section we introduce an optimal access strategy which makes the cognitive network to operate in both schemes. During primary user's idle periods, the network employs the overlay scheme; while in primary user's busy periods, the network permits the secondary users to use the channel with probability ρ subject to satisfying the interference threshold constraint. The parameter ρ is a secondary service parameter which has to be adjusted based on the spectrum status to achieve maximum throughput.

Based on (3) to (5), we can get the average throughput for the secondary users as

$$\begin{aligned}
R_A &= R_A^o P^{o,(A)} + R_A^{u,(PA)} P^{u,(PA)} + R_A^{u,(A)} P^{u,(A)} \\
&\quad + R_A^{u,(AB)} P^{u,(AB)} + R_A^{u,(PAB)} P^{u,(PAB)} \tag{7}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
R_B &= R_B^o P^{o,(B)} + R_B^{u,(PB)} P^{u,(PB)} + R_B^{u,(B)} P^{u,(B)} \\
&\quad + R_B^{u,(AB)} P^{u,(AB)} + R_B^{u,(PAB)} P^{u,(PAB)} \tag{8}
\end{aligned}$$

The total throughput of the cognitive network is

$$R_s = R_A + R_B \tag{9}$$

Using ((6) - (7)), R_s can be written in the quadrature form as

$$R_s(\rho) = \beta_1 \rho^2 + \beta_2 \rho + \beta_3, \tag{10}$$

where β_1, β_2 and β_3 are given as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
\beta_1 &= \pi_{AB} \left(R_A^{u,(AB)} + R_B^{u,(AB)} - \left(R_A^{u,(A)} + R_B^{u,(B)} \right) \right) \\
&\quad + \pi_{PAB} \left(R_A^{u,(PAB)} + R_B^{u,(PAB)} - \left(R_A^{u,(PA)} + R_B^{u,(PB)} \right) \right), \\
\beta_2 &= \pi_{AB} \left(\left(R_A^{u,(A)} + R_B^{u,(B)} \right) \right) + \pi_{PAB} \left(R_A^{u,(PA)} + R_B^{u,(PB)} \right) \\
&\quad + \pi_{PA} R_A^{u,(PA)} + \pi_{PB} R_B^{u,(PB)}, \\
\beta_3 &= \pi_A R_A^o + \pi_B R_B^o
\end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

To maximize the secondary throughput, we take the first derivative of R_s with respect to ρ and equate it to zero. Solving for ρ leads to the optimal access probability.

$$\frac{\partial R_s(\rho)}{\partial \rho} = 2\beta_1 \rho + \beta_2 = 0 \Rightarrow \rho^{opt} = -\frac{\beta_2}{2\beta_1} \tag{12}$$

An expression for ρ^{opt} can be written as in (13) We can note from (17) that β_2 is always positive. Since ρ is a probability value (*i.e.*, $\rho^{opt} \in [0, 1]$), the value of β_1 is always negative. The throughput function of the secondary network in (10) is concave down. Thus it must have a unique maximum value, it can be expressed as

$$R_s^{opt} = \beta_3 + \frac{\beta_2^2}{4|\beta_1|}, \tag{14}$$

where $|\cdot|$ denotes the absolute value.

V. UNLIKE PROBABILITY OPTIMAL ACCESS STRATEGY

In this section, a similar approach will be followed as in the previous section expect that it is assumed that each user A and B has its own access probability (ρ_A and ρ_B) respectively. The goal here is to optimize these parameters. So the best access probability for each secondary user is found to achieve the highest possible throughput.

User A and B have to adopt their powers S_s^u to access the channel with probabilities ρ_A , and ρ_B , respectively in the underlay scheme. In order to protect the primary user and decrease the mutual interference between secondary users, we assume that S_s^u satisfies the minimum *SINR* requirement.

These probabilities ρ_A and ρ_B determine the sum throughput of the secondary users and the interference on the primary user. When ρ_A and/or ρ_B are large, the sum throughput may be large and the chance to coexist with primary user is large, too. Our goal is to obtain optimal access probabilities to maximize the total secondary throughput, while limit the interference on the primary user.

Same service state set $S_3 \in \{A, B, PA, PB, PAB, AB\}$ exists. The users' maximal data rates under each state in the underlay manner is given in (5).

The corresponding probabilities of these rates given in

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho^{opt} &= -\beta_2/2\beta_1 \\
&= \frac{\pi_{AB} \left((R_A^{u,(A)} + R_B^{u,(B)}) \right) + \pi_{PAB} \left(R_A^{u,(PA)} + R_B^{u,(PB)} \right) + \pi_{PA} R_A^{u,(PA)} + \pi_{PB} R_B^{u,(PB)}}{2 \left[\pi_{AB} \left(R_A^{u,(A)} + R_B^{u,(B)} - \left(R_A^{u,(AB)} + R_B^{u,(AB)} \right) \right) + \pi_{PAB} \left(R_A^{u,(PA)} + R_B^{u,(PB)} - \left(R_A^{u,(PAB)} + R_B^{u,(PAB)} \right) \right) \right]}
\end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

(6) can be written now as

$$P^{u,(PA)} = \rho_A \pi_{PA} + \rho_A (1 - \rho_B) \pi_{PAB} \tag{15.a}$$

$$P^{u,(PB)} = \rho_B \pi_{PB} + (1 - \rho_A) \rho_B \pi_{PAB} \tag{15.b}$$

$$P^{u,(A)} = \rho_A (1 - \rho_B) \pi_{AB} \tag{15.c}$$

$$P^{u,(B)} = (1 - \rho_A) \rho_B \pi_{AB} \tag{15.d}$$

$$P^{u,(AB)} = \rho_A \rho_B \pi_{AB} \tag{15.e}$$

$$P^{u,(PAB)} = \rho_A \rho_B \pi_{PAB} \tag{15.f}$$

Using (7) and (15)), R_s can be written in a nonlinear equation form as

$$R_s(\rho_A, \rho_B) = \beta_1 \rho_A \rho_B + \beta_2 \rho_A + \beta_3 \rho_B + \beta_4, \tag{16}$$

where $\beta_i, i = 1, \dots, 4$ is given as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
\beta_1 &= - \left[\pi_{AB} \left(R_A^{u,(A)} + R_B^{u,(B)} - \left(R_A^{u,(AB)} + R_B^{u,(AB)} \right) \right) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \pi_{PAB} \left(R_A^{u,(PA)} + R_B^{u,(PB)} - \left(R_A^{u,(PAB)} + R_B^{u,(PAB)} \right) \right) \right] \\
\beta_2 &= (\pi_{PA} + \pi_{PAB}) R_A^{u,(PA)} + \pi_{AB} R_A^{u,(A)}, \\
\beta_3 &= (\pi_{PB} + \pi_{PAB}) R_B^{u,(PB)} + \pi_{AB} R_B^{u,(B)}, \\
\beta_4 &= \pi_A R_A^o + \pi_B R_B^o
\end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

To find an optimization solution for (16), we bring up the following theorem.

Theorem 1: Let f be a function with two variables with continuous second order partial derivatives f_{xx}, f_{yy} and f_{xy} at a critical point $c = (a, b)$. Let $D = f_{xx}(c)f_{yy}(c) - f_{xy}^2(c)$, thus

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{If } D > 0 \text{ and } f_{xx}(c) > 0, & \text{then } f(c) \text{ is a relative minimum ;} \\ \text{If } D > 0 \text{ and } f_{xx}(c) < 0, & \text{then } f(c) \text{ is a relative maximum ;} \\ \text{If } D < 0, & \text{then } f(c) \text{ is a saddle value;} \\ \text{If } D = 0, & \text{then no conclusion can be drawn.} \end{array} \right. \tag{18}$$

Using Theorem 1, it is forward to conclude that the possible maximum of the utility function R_s occurs at the saddle point of this function (*i.e.*, (16)) which appears at

$(\rho_A^*, \rho_B^*) = (-\frac{\beta_3}{\beta_1}, -\frac{\beta_2}{\beta_1})$. Then the maximum secondary throughput can be found by substituting this point into (16), this yields

$$R_s^{opt} = \beta_4 + \frac{\beta_2 \beta_3}{|\beta_1|}, \tag{19}$$

VI. SIMULATION RESULTS

In this section, we will carry a simulation example to illustrate the proposed algorithm. The following powers are set: $S_s^o = 5mw$ and $S_p = S_s^u = 10mw$. The arrival rates are set as $\lambda_P = 80/ms$, $\lambda_A = 110/ms$ and $100 \leq \lambda_B \leq 120$ with equal average times $1/\mu_\gamma = 10s$, $\gamma \in \{A, B, P\}$. The wireless channel bandwidth $\mathcal{B} = 100KHz$. It is assumed that the loss of power in propagation follows the exponential propagation law with exponent loss 3.5. The position of the primary user's transmitter and receiver are $(300, 0)$ and $(0, 0)$ respectively. The user A 's transmitter and receiver location are at $(600, 0)$ and $(700, 0)$, and for User B 's transmitter and receiver are located at $(450, 0)$ and $(500, 0)$ respectively.

In Figure 3, the normalized throughput for user A , B are shown. Clearly, user B 's

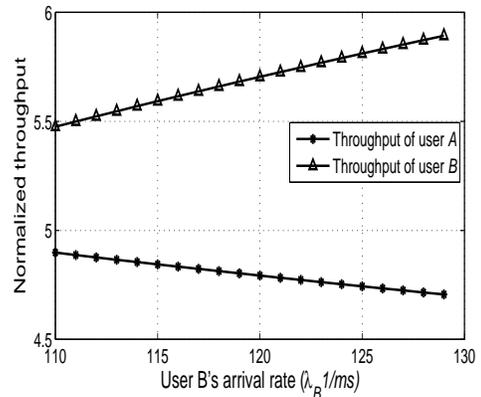


Fig. 3. Normalized throughput of the secondary system users, A and B

throughput is larger than that of A . This is because B 's transmitter and receiver are located closer than those of A . As the arrival rate of B increases, the throughput of B gets better, which can be understood intuitively. The throughput of A decreases because the user B transmitting creates more interference to it.

In Figure 4, the performance of the optimized access strategy, the pure overlay strategy, the pure underlay strategy and the overall throughput of the secondary network are compared. Note that the underlay strategy can obtain

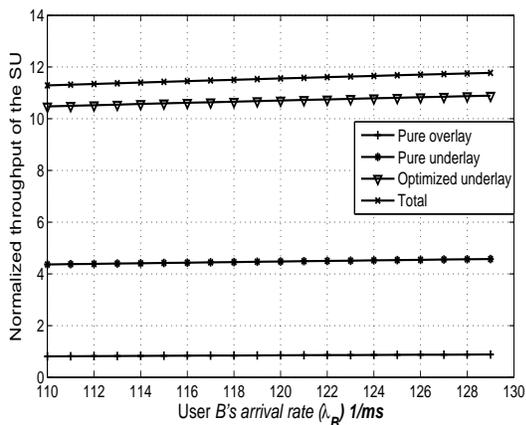


Fig. 4. Normalized throughput of the secondary system comparison with with different access schemes.

more throughput than the overlay strategy because we assigned more power for S_s^u . It should be remembered that the overlay strategy avoids the coexisting time with the primary user, which has the least influence on the primary user. Our optimized access strategy maximizes the total throughput and has limited interference on the primary user.

In Figure 5, the normalized throughput for the pure underlay and the proposed underlay strategies versus the access probability is shown. The value of the arrival rate of the user B is fixed at $115/m.s$. As mentioned in Section IV, there is an unique optimal access probability that maximize the throughput.

In Figure 6, the throughput is plotted versus the two access probabilities. When $\mu = \nu = 0$ the throughput is at the worst case which equivalent to the overlay throughput.

Accessibility of user A enhances the throughput more than that of user B . This is because user A creates less interference on the primary user. The small circle on the graph shows the optimized value of $R_s = 9.78$, note that

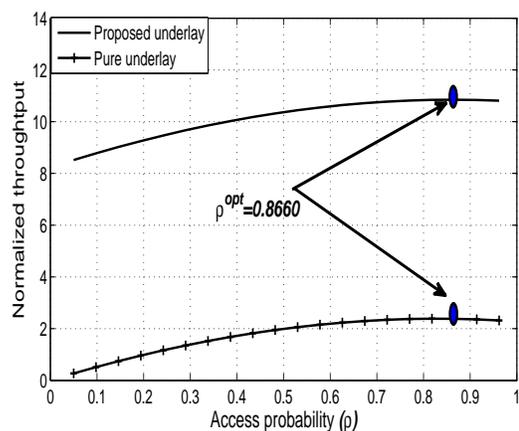


Fig. 5. Normalized throughput of the secondary system versus the access probability ρ .

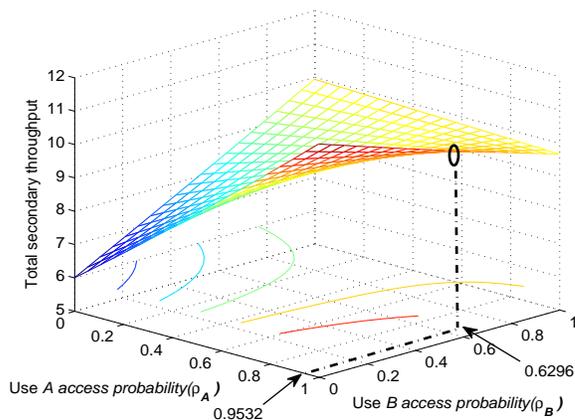


Fig. 6. Throughput of the secondary system versus the access probabilities ρ_A, ρ_B .

($\rho_A > \rho_B$).

To study the effect of changing the arrival rate of the far user A , λ_B is fixed at $110/m.s$ while λ_A is varied in Figure 7. Because of the nearness of user B where the probability to introduce interference on the primary is high, ρ_B is always less than ρ_A . As λ_A increases, both access probabilities decrease to mitigate the interference on the primary user. This degradation is more for the near user B .

VII. CONCLUSION

The two dominant access schemes in the cognitive radio architecture, underlay and overlay, are studied. It is found by some literatures that these two schemes can make up with each other to enhance the system performance.

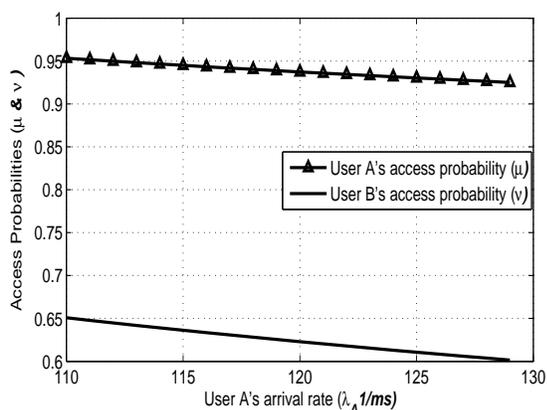


Fig. 7. The influence of far user's arrival rate on the access probabilities.

This paper proposes a mixed access strategy combining these two schemes. It is assumed that the secondary users access the spectrum with a certain access probability. The focus is on the service state of the two schemes and model the service state of the system as a continuous-time Markov chain. An optimal access probability for this mixed strategy is obtained in a closed form which maximizes the overall throughputs of the network. The simulation results show that the proposed underlay can achieve much better performance for the secondary users, compared with the overlay cognitive radio system.

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