Rician $K$-Factor-Based Analysis of XLOS Service Probability in 5G Outdoor Ultra-Dense Networks

Hatim Chergui, Member, IEEE, Mustapha Benjillali, Senior Member, IEEE, and Mohamed-Slim Alouini, Fellow, IEEE

Abstract—In this letter, we introduce the concept of Rician $K$-factor-based radio resource and mobility management for fifth generation (5G) ultra-dense networks (UDN), where the information on the gradual visibility between the new radio node B (gNB) and the user equipment (UE)—dubbed X-line-of-sight (XLOS)—would be required. We therefore start by presenting the XLOS service probability as a new performance indicator; taking into account both the UE serving and neighbor cells. By relying on a lognormal $K$-factor model, a parametric expression of the XLOS service probability in a 5G outdoor UDN is derived, where the link between network parameters and the availability of a XLOS condition is established. The obtained formula is given in terms of the multivariate Fox H-function, where we develop a fast graphical processing unit (GPU)-enabled MATLAB code. Residue theory is then applied to infer the relevant asymptotic behavior and show its practical implications. Finally, numerical results are provided for various network configurations, and underpinned by extensive Monte-Carlo simulations.

Index Terms—5G, GPU, multivariate Fox H-function, Rician $K$-factor, UDN, XLOS service probability.

I. INTRODUCTION

The emergence of 5G ultra-dense networks [1] will certainly prompt the reshaping of radio resource and mobility management algorithms, wherefore a new set of measured quantities might be required as inputs. In this context, the Rician $K$-factor can serve as an accurate channel metric to measure the gradual visibility condition of a radio link, termed X-line-of-sight (XLOS) here, and encompassing LOS, obstructed-LOS (OLOS) and non-LOS (NLOS) as discrete regimes, where generally $K_{\text{NLOS}} < K_{\text{OLOS}} < K_{\text{LOS}}$ [2]. In localization services for instance, while the availability of a LOS path is quintessential for the classical triangulation-based schemes such as time-of-arrival (TOA) and direction-of-arrival (DOA), the massive multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO)-based space-time processing approaches can deliver very concise localization thanks to the high angular resolution of the large scale antennas, and may therefore operate in the worst OLOS/NLOS conditions, yet at the expense of a higher complexity [3]. To optimize the computational cost, an operator may adopt a hybrid network configuration where, according to a fine-tuned target $K$-factor threshold, the 5G gNB can switch between the simpler conventional methods and the massive-MIMO ones. On the other hand, in future UDNs with co-located sub-6GHz/mmWave deployment, the imbalance between uplink (UL) and downlink (DL) would urge the adoption of decoupling strategies. In that case, we may set a $K$-factor threshold to associate the UL to a LOS/OLOS gNB where, thanks to the minimal path-loss, the UE can reduce its transmit power allowing the reduction of UL signal to interference plus noise ratio (SINR) variance, which translates into more efficient and effective UL schedulers and performance gains [4]. Zooming out from the applications, a mathematical characterization of XLOS is yet to be established.

In this letter, we propose the XLOS service probability as a performance indicator, and start by introducing a broader definition of the concept thereof; accommodating the monitoring of both the UE serving and neighbor cells. Under the general framework of 5G large-scale parameters (LSPs) [5], we invoke a lognormal $K$-factor model for outdoor UEs [6] to conduct a closed-form analysis of the XLOS service probability in a 5G multi-tier heterogeneous network (HetNet). The obtained formula is including the different network parameters such as gNB density, height and antennas beamwidth, and expressed in terms of the multivariate Fox H-function [7, A.1], wherefore we provide a fast GPU-enabled MATLAB code. Finally, the asymptotic behavior highlighting the effect of different network and channel parameters on the availability of LOS conditions.

II. SYSTEM MODEL

Consider an outdoor 2 GHz orthogonal frequency division multiple access (OFDMA)-based 5G [8] N-tiers UDN, where each cell class $n$ ($n = 1, \ldots, N$) is modeled as a homogeneous Poisson point process (PPP) $\Phi_n$, and distinguished by its deployment density $\lambda_n$, maximum transmit power per resource element (RE) $P_n$, antennas height $h_n$ and beamwidth $\theta_n$. The corresponding channel is presenting a large scale fading, with constant path-loss exponent $\nu$ and lognormal shadowing $X_n$, of mean $\mu_n$ and standard deviation $\sigma_n$. Assuming that UE locations follow an independent PPP $\Phi_n$ of density $\lambda_n$, the downlink analysis is performed at a typical UE located at the origin [9].

A. Cell Monitoring Criteria

As we are dealing with an outdoor context, we suppose that all tier’s cells are open access (including femtocells). We also adopt a reference signal receive power (RSRP)-based cell selection, wherein each UE periodically monitors the collection of the $M$ strongest cells, dubbed here monitoring set, and ends up connecting to the best server. Since UE measurements rely on the long-term frequency-domain post-equalization receive power, small-scale fading variations do not impact cell selection/reselection and are not, therefore, reflected in the actual RSRP that reads

$$P_{x_n} = P_n X_n\|x_n\|^{-\nu},$$

where $\|x_n\|^{-\nu}$ stands for the standard path-loss between a typical UE and an $n$th-tier BS located at $x_n \in \Phi_n$. 

H. Chergui and M. Benjillali are with the Communication Systems Department, INPT, Rabat, Morocco. [e-mail: chergui@ieee.org, benjillali@ieee.org].

M.-S. Alouini is with King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Computer, Electrical and Mathematical Science and Engineering Division (CEMSE), Thuwal 23955-6900, Saudi Arabia. [e-mail: slim.alouini@kaust.edu.sa].
B. K-Factor Model

The K-factor—like all large scale parameters (LSPs)—follows a lognormal distribution (cf. [5] and references therein). Without loss of generality, let us adopt the findings of [6], where we assume that the narrowband K-factor periodically measured by a UE at independent positions can be empirically modeled for the $n^{th}$-tier as,

$$K_{x_n} = K_n \gamma_n \|x_n\|^{-\alpha}, \quad (2)$$

where $\alpha > 0$, $K_n$ is the K-factor intercept defined as

$$K_n = (h_n/h_0)^{\kappa_1} (\theta_n/\theta_0)^{\kappa_2} K_0, \quad (3)$$

with $\kappa_1 > 0$, $\kappa_2 < 0$, $K_0 > 0$, and $\gamma_n$ is a seasonal factor. New Jersey’s measurement campaign in [6], for instance, yields $h_0 = 3 m$, $\theta_0 = 17^\circ$, $\alpha = 0.5$, $\kappa_1 = 0.46$, $\kappa_2 = -0.62$, $K_0 = 10$, and $\sigma_K = 8 dB$. Note that this model involves also a seasonal factor $F_s$ that reflects the vegetation. For the sake of simplicity and without loss of generality, we consider the Summer’s dense vegetation case $F_s = 1$.

C. Equivalent Formulation

Since manipulating distances in PPPs is easier, let us transform the RSRP process (1) into a simple unit-power PPP $\Phi_n$, where the strongest power would correspond to the nearest neighbor cell to the typical UE. By invoking the random displacement theorem [9, 1.3.9], [10, Corollary 3] shows that the two-dimensional (2D) process (1) is equivalent to another 2D process $P_{y_n} = \|y_n\|^{-\nu}$, such that $y_n \in \Phi_n$ with density $\lambda_n = \lambda_n \Omega_n$, where $\Omega_n = P_y^{2/\nu} \mathbb{E} \left[ \chi_n^{2/\nu} \right]$ and the finite lognormal fractional moment $\mathbb{E} \left[ \chi_n^{2/\nu} \right] = \exp \left[ \frac{\ln 10}{5} \frac{\mu_\nu}{\nu} + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\ln 10}{5} \frac{\sigma_\nu}{\nu} \right)^2 \right]$. By means of the mapping theorem [9, 1.3.11], the K-factor can also be re-expressed as

$$K_{y_n} = K_n \gamma_n \Omega_n^{-\alpha/2} \|y_n\|^{-\alpha}, \quad y_n \in \Phi_n. \quad (4)$$

III. XLOS Service Probability

XLOS service probability in the vicinity of a UE, $P_{XLOS}$, is defined as the probability that at least one cell in the monitoring set presents a K-factor higher than a threshold, say $K_{th}$, that can be fine-tuned depending on the target service, i.e.,

$$P_{XLOS} (K_{th}) \triangleq \Pr \left[ \bigcup_{m=1}^{M} K_{y_m} > K_{th}, n \in M \right]. \quad (5)$$

where $n = (n_1, \ldots, n_M)$ and $M = \{1, \ldots, N\}^M$. In the sequel, we derive a closed-form expression for the XLOS service probability and study its asymptotic behavior.

A. Closed-Form Analysis

Using the total probability theorem as well as the independence between $\gamma_m$, $m = 1, \ldots, M$, the definition (5) can be rewritten as

$$P_{XLOS} (K_{th}) = 1 - \Pr \left[ \bigcap_{m=1}^{M} K_{y_m} \leq K_{th}, n \in M \right] = 1 - \sum_{n \in M} \Pr \left[ y_n \in \Phi_n, m = 1, \ldots, M \right] \times \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{\infty} \prod_{m=1}^{M} \text{CDF} \left( \frac{K_{th} \gamma_m^{2/\nu} y_m}{K_n} \right) z_{nm} \times f(z_{n1}, \ldots, z_{nM}) \, dz_{n1} \ldots dz_{nM}, \quad (6)$$

where $z_{nm} = \|y_m\|^{\alpha}$, $f(\cdot)$ is the joint probability density function (PDF) whose variables verify $0 \leq z_{n1} \leq z_{n2} \leq \ldots \leq z_{nM}$, and CDF stands for the cumulative distribution function. Moreover, the independence between the homogeneous PPPs $\Phi_n$, as well as the superposition theorem [9, 1.3.3] imply that the sampling probability $\Pr \left[ y_n \in \Phi_n, m = 1, \ldots, M \right] = \prod_{m=1}^{M} \rho_m$, where $\rho_m = \lambda_m / \lambda_T$ and $\lambda_T = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \lambda_n$. To further develop (6), let us introduce the following new theorem.

**Theorem 1 (Unified Expression for the Product of Lognormal CDFs).** Consider M independent lognormal random variables $\gamma_m (m = 1, \ldots, M)$, with mean $\mu_m (dB)$ and standard deviation $\sigma_m (dB)$. A unified expression for the product of their individual CDFs—that is equal to their joint CDF $C_{\gamma_1, \ldots, \gamma_M} (\gamma_{th_1}, \ldots, \gamma_{th_M})$—is given by

$$\prod_{m=1}^{M} \text{CDF} (\gamma_{th_m}) = \frac{1}{\pi^{M/2}} \sum_{l=1}^{L} \frac{w_l}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} H_{n,m}^{(1)} \left[ \gamma_{th_m}, \omega_{m,l} \right] (1,1), \quad (7)$$

where $\omega_{m,l} = 10^{(\sqrt{2} \sigma_m u_{m,l} + \mu_m) / 10}$ for $l \in \{1, \ldots, L\}$, $u_l$ and $(u_{1,1}, \ldots, u_{1,M})$ are respectively the weight and the M abscissas of the Lth-order M-dimensional Gaussian weight Stroud monomial cubature [12], with $\sum_{l=1}^{L} w_l = \pi^{M/2}$ and $H_{n,m}^{(1)} \left[ . \right]$ stands for the Fox H-function.

**Proof:** cf. Appendix A.

On the other hand, an explicit expression of the joint PDF $f(\cdot)$ can be obtained via the following corollary.

**Corollary 1 (of Theorem [13, Appendix]).** In a multi-tier random network modeled in terms of N independent PPPs $\Phi_n (n = 1, \ldots, N)$ with densities $\lambda_n$, let $z_m = r_m^{\alpha} (m = 1, \ldots, M)$, such that $r_m$ is the distance of the mth neighbor with respect to a certain origin. The joint PDF of $z_1, \ldots, z_M$ unconditionally to $\Phi_n$ reads

$$f(z_1, \ldots, z_M) = \left( \frac{2 \pi \lambda_T}{\alpha} \right)^{M/2} e^{-\pi \lambda_T z_m^{2/\alpha}} \prod_{m=1}^{M} z_m^{2/\alpha - 1}, \quad (8)$$

where $\lambda_T = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \lambda_n$.

**Proof:** cf. Appendix B.

By making use of the aforementioned sampling probability as well as Theorem 1 and Corollary 1, the XLOS service probability (6) can be rewritten after some algebraic manipulations as

$$P_{XLOS} (K_{th}) = \left( \frac{2 \pi \alpha}{\alpha} \right)^{M/2} \sum_{n \in M} \prod_{m=1}^{M} \lambda_m \sum_{l=1}^{L} w_l \times I_1, \quad (9)$$

1 This theorem can be viewed as a generalization of the well-established Gauss-Hermite representations of the lognormal PDF and CDF (see e.g., [11]).
where the multidimensional integral $I_1$ is expressed as

$$I_1 = \frac{\alpha}{2} (\pi \lambda T)^{-M} H_{M,M-1}^{\alpha} \left[ K_{\text{th}} \Lambda_{\alpha/2}^{\alpha/2} \frac{\omega_{1} K_{\Lambda_{1}}}{\omega_{1} \Lambda_{2} K_{\Lambda_{2}}} \right] \left( \begin{array}{c} 1 - \frac{2i}{\alpha} \left( I_{1} \leq i \right), \ldots, \left( I_{M} \leq i \right) \\ M \times \text{times} \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c} 1 - M; \frac{\alpha}{2}; \ldots, \frac{\alpha}{2} \\ (1, 1) \ldots (1, 1) \end{array} \right) \right]$$

(15)

To derive a closed-form solution for (10), let us recall the representation of the involved Fox H-functions in terms of Mellin-Barnes integrals [7, Eq. (1.1.1)], i.e.,

$$H_{1,1}^{0,1} \left[ \begin{array}{c} (1, 1) \\ (0, 1) \end{array} \right] = \frac{1}{2 \pi i} \int_{C_m} \phi (\zeta_m) z^{\alpha} \mathrm{d} \zeta_m,$$

(11)

where $\phi (\zeta_m) = \Gamma (\zeta_m) / \Gamma (1 + \zeta_m)$, and contours $C_m (m = 1, \ldots, M)$ are defined such that $\text{Re} (\zeta_m) > 0$; the highest pole on the left. Combining (11) with (10) and interchanging the order of the real and contour integrals—which is permissible given the absolute convergence of the involved integrals—we obtain,

$$I_1 = \frac{1}{2 \pi i} \int_{C_m} \Psi (\zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_M) \times \prod_{m=1}^{M} \phi (\zeta_m) \left( K_{\text{th}} \Lambda_{\alpha/2}^{\alpha/2} \frac{\omega_{1} K_{\Lambda_{1}}}{\omega_{1} \Lambda_{2} K_{\Lambda_{2}}} \right) \mathrm{d} \zeta_1 \ldots \mathrm{d} \zeta_M,$$

(12)

with the multivariate term $\Psi$ given by

$$\Psi (\zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_M) = \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{\infty} \mathrm{e}^{-\pi \lambda T z^{2/\alpha}} \times \prod_{m=1}^{M} z_{m}^{2/\alpha + \zeta_{m} - 1} \mathrm{d} z_{1} \ldots \mathrm{d} z_{M}.$$

(13)

Given that $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^+$ and $\text{Re} (\zeta_m) > 0$, and using the identity $1/a = \Gamma (a) / \Gamma (1 + a)$, the iterated integrals with respect to $z_{n_1}, \ldots, z_{n_{M-1}}$ in (13) can be successively resolved by induction. The resulting integral relating to $z_{n_{M}}$ is then obtained using [14, Eq. (3.478.1)], which leads to

$$\Psi (\zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_M) = \frac{\alpha}{2} (\pi \lambda T)^{-M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \zeta_{m}$$

$$\times \Gamma \left( M + \alpha \sum_{m=1}^{M} \zeta_{m} \right) \frac{\alpha}{2} + \sum_{m=1}^{M} \zeta_{m} \right) \prod_{i=1}^{M-1} \frac{\Gamma (1 + \alpha \sum_{m=i}^{M} \zeta_{m})}{\Gamma (1 + \alpha \sum_{m=i}^{M-1} \zeta_{m})}.$$

(14)

By plugging (14) into (12), we recognize that the integral $I_1$ can be re-expressed in terms of the multivariate Fox H-function [7, A.1] as given by (15) on top of this page, where parameter $\Lambda_{mn} = \Omega_{mn} / \pi \lambda T$ is encompassing network density, power and shadowing effects. Finally, a closed-form expression for $P_{\text{XLOS}}$ is deduced by substituting (15) in (9).

### B. Asymptotic Behavior

As depicted in Table I, the two asymptotic regimes of the ratio $K_{\text{th}} \Lambda_{mn}^{a/2} / \omega_{1, m} K_{\Lambda_{1}}$ (in $\text{W}^{m/\nu} / \text{m}^{2}$) reflect many practical scenarios, wherefore it is interesting to establish the corresponding XLOS service probability expressions; denoted $P_{\text{XLOS}}$ in the sequel. Let $\mathcal{H}$ stand for the multivariate Fox H-function in (15) where

$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2 \pi i} \int_{C_m} F (\zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_M) \mathrm{d} \zeta_1 \ldots \mathrm{d} \zeta_M.$$  

(16)

In view of the series representations of the multivariate Fox H-function [15, Theorem 1.2] (while noticing the inverted definition of the H-function therein), an asymptotic expression of (15) is obtained as follows.

Low ratio regime: Since the integrand $F$ has no poles on the right of the $M$ individual contours in (16), [15, Eq. (1.2.23)] implies that $\mathcal{H} \approx 0$, and thereby $P_{\text{XLOS}} = 1$.

High ratio regime: By applying [15, Eq. (1.2.22)] to the $M$ individual contour integrals, an approximation of $\mathcal{H}$ is given in terms of the residues of $F$ as

$$\mathcal{H} \approx \text{Res} [F, (0, \ldots, 0)] + \text{Res} [F, \left( -\frac{\alpha}{2}, 0, \ldots, 0 \right)] \approx \lim_{\zeta_M \to 0} \ldots \lim_{\zeta_1 \to 0} \prod_{m=1}^{M} \zeta_m F (\zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_M) \quad (17)$$

$$+ \lim_{\zeta_M \to 0} \ldots \lim_{\zeta_1 \to 0} \frac{\alpha}{2} \left( 1 + 2 \right) \prod_{m=2}^{M} \zeta_m F (\zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_M),$$

which evaluates to

$$\mathcal{H} \approx \left( \alpha \right)^{-M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \zeta_{m} \frac{\alpha}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{K_{\text{th}} \Lambda_{mn}^{a/2}}{\omega_{1, m} K_{\Lambda_{1}}} \right)^{-a/\alpha}.$$

(18)

Finally, combining (9), (15) and (18), as well as recalling that $\sum_{l=1}^{L} w_l = \pi M/2$, we obtain after some algebraic manipulations

$$P_{\text{XLOS}} = \frac{1}{\pi M/2} \sum_{n=M}^{\Omega_{mn}} \sum_{n=1}^{M} \rho_{nm} \sum_{l=1}^{L} w_l \left( \frac{\omega_{1, m} K_{\Lambda_{1}}}{K_{\text{th}}} \right)^{2/\alpha}.$$  

(19)

### Table I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>XLOS SERVICE PROBABILITY ASYMPTOTIC EXPRESSIONS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Case</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Practical Scenarios</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$P_{\text{XLOS}}$</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K_{\text{th}} \Lambda_{mn}^{a/2}$ $\omega_{1, m} K_{\Lambda_{1}} \to 0$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\frac{K_{\text{th}} \Lambda_{mn}^{a/2}}{\omega_{1, m} K_{\Lambda_{1}}} \to +\infty$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Equation (19)
IV. NUMERICAL RESULTS AND MATHEMATICAL SOFTWARE

To validate our theoretical findings, we conduct Monte-Carlo simulations for three practical scenarios as depicted in Table II, and we adopt New Jersey’s calibration presented in II-B with $\sigma_K = 3$ dB. The analytical expressions are evaluated via a degree-11 Stroud cubature for which $L = (4M^5 - 20M^4 + 140M^3 - 130M^2 + 96M + 15)/15$. To that end, we make use of Stenger’s tabulations [16] to update the MATLAB code in [17]. Moreover, we introduce in [18] an efficient GPU-oriented MATLAB routine to calculate the multivariate Fox H-function.

Fig. 1 shows that, in an UDN with light shadowing, LOS links are easily established (e.g., $K_{th} = 12$ dB is obtained with probability 1). Conversely, the low density network (LDN) scenario unfolds in NLOS situations with non-negligible probability (e.g., $K < -5$ dB with probability 0.5). By considering the neighboring cells ($M = 2, 3$) in the HetNet (Macro/Femto) case for instance, we remark that a substantial increase of the XLOS probability is achieved only in the non-asymptotic regime. Indeed, a high $K_{th}$ requirement can be fulfilled merely by the serving cell, since the $K$-factors of neighbor cells become limited by the corresponding path-losses as implied by (2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>$N$</th>
<th>$\lambda_n$</th>
<th>$P_n$ (dBm)</th>
<th>$\theta_n$ (°)</th>
<th>$\sigma_n$ (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UDN</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$3 \times 10^{-2}$</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HetNet</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$10^{-5}, 5 \times 10^{-4}$</td>
<td>15.2, -4.8</td>
<td>39,180</td>
<td>25, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDN</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$3 \times 10^{-8}$</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

V. CONCLUSION

In this letter, we have introduced the XLOS service probability as a new $K$-factor-based performance indicator, and provided its analytical and asymptotic expressions that unveil the effect of the variation of 5G network and transmission parameters on the gradual visibility condition of radio links. By tweaking a $K$-factor threshold $K_{th}$, the XLOS metric can be used by network optimization algorithms as the probability of e.g., reconfiguring the uplink in a LOS/OLOS gNB. As a perspective, the adopted $K$-factor model from [6] can be extended to the vehicular case in future works.

APPENDIX A

PROOF OF THEOREM 1

First, by making a simple variable change, the product of lognormal PDFs $P_{r_m}$, $p = \prod_{m=1}^{M} P_{r_m}$, can be reformulated as

$$p = \frac{1}{\pi M^2} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \gamma_m} Q(u_1, \ldots, u_M) \prod_{m=1}^{M} u_m$$

where $Q(u_1, \ldots, u_M) = \prod_{m=1}^{M} \delta(\gamma_m - 10(\sqrt{\sigma_m u_m + \mu_m})/10)$. By applying the Gaussian-weight Stroud monomial cubature [12] to (20), and recalling that $\delta(\gamma_m - a) = H_{1,0}^{0,0}(\gamma_m - a, [\gamma_m - a])$, we get

$$p = \frac{1}{\pi M^2} \sum_{l=1}^{L} w_l \prod_{m=1}^{M} H_{1,0}^{0,0}(\gamma_m - \omega_{l,m}, [\gamma_m - \omega_{l,m}])$$

with $w_l$ and $(u_{1,1}, \ldots, u_{1,M})$ are respectively the $l$th weight and abscissas of the $M$-dimensional cubature, and $\omega_{l,m} = 10(\sqrt{\sigma_m u_m + \mu_m})/10$. Finally, by invoking [7, Eq. (2.53)], the integration of (21) with respect to $\gamma_m$ from 0 to $\gamma_{th,m}$ ($m = 1, \ldots, M$) leads to (7).

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