

Review Article

Nonorthogonal Multiple Access for Next-Generation Mobile Networks: A Technical Aspect for Research Direction

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5G mobile communications offer several benefits, which include providing extremely low latency, very high data rates, significant improvement in the number of users, and increase in base station capacity and perceived quality of service. This may be achieved at the cost of an increased receiver complexity by nonorthogonal access of users. Nonorthogonal multiple access (NOMA) is one of the capable contenders to achieve the vision of 5G wireless communications. Supporting a higher number of users than available orthogonal resources is the key feather of NOMA. In this article, the basic principle of NOMA has been reviewed and compared with other orthogonal multiple access (OMA). A comprehensive survey is presented in the latest NOMA scheme. The distinguished NOMA schemes design principle features, and recent deployments are discussed. Furthermore, the performance is compared in terms of the bit error rate, system capacity, and energy efficiency. The performance results show that NOMA can achieve the required goals, in terms of the user data rate, system capacity, interference cancellation scheme, and reception complexity.

1. Introduction

Multiple access schemes have been a landmark technology from 1G to 4G for the growth of mobile communications. As a design aspect, these multiple access technologies are mostly from the orthogonal multiple access (OMA) category; they are in the time domain, code domain, frequency domain, and time-frequency domain. OMA can easily detect the user information signal by utilizing a simple receiver. However, the entire number of users that the system can accommodate is firmly restricted by the number of available orthogonal resources. Also, the system requirements for synchronization are highly limited in order to guarantee the orthogonality of resource allocation among users. Therefore, it is very difficult for OMA to meet the data rate and other requirements of the next-generation mobile network. The 5G structure demands an innovative multiple access scheme to counter this challenge and recently proposed nonortho-

nal multiple access (NOMA) technology which is accepted as a 5G multiple access scheme [1, 2].

Within the common physical layer using the code domain or power domain multiple access, NOMA permits numerous users to utilize frequency and time resources [3]. In recent times, various NOMA topologies have received a lot of attention due to attractive features. We can generally categorize into two types. These types are code domain multiple access and the power domain multiple access. NOMA achieved its goals by a combination of multiple access techniques like sparse code multiple access (SCMA) [4], multiuser shared access (MUSA) [5] with Low-Density Spreading (LDS) [6], and Pattern Division Multiple Access (PDMA) [7].

1.1. Motivation. In September 2014, the 3rd generation partnership project (3GPP) started the study on NOMA in Release 14 (Rel-14). NOMA may be combined with upcoming wireless communication systems in order to achieve the

requirements, including massive connectivity, high spectral and energy efficiency, significant achievable data rate, low latency, exceptional user fairness, large throughput, ultrahigh reliability, and upholding different quality of services (QoS).

Some previous impressive survey work on NOMA is followed. In [8], the transceiver block diagram of each category of NOMA is explained by the authors, regarding detailed key features, basic principles, and algorithms of the transmission-reception. In [9], characteristics and working principles of different NOMA schemes are summarized by the authors. In [10], NOMA schemes are compared and analysed by the authors. The authors focus on the future research directions of NOMA, prototype development, recent progress, standardization, and challenges. In [11], some promising nonorthogonal schemes were discussed which include sparse code multiple access (SCMA), Power Domain Non-orthogonal Multiple Access (PD-NOMA), Pattern Division Multiple Access (PDMA), multiuser shared access (MUSA), and some key modern waveforms including Generalized Frequency Division Multiplexing (GFDM), Universal Filtered Multicarrier (UFMC), and filter bank-based multicarrier (FBMC). The authors provided a future research path for 5G waveform and multiple access schemes by comparing and analysing the characteristics of these technologies.

However, in [8], achievable sum rate performance was presented, based on average mutual information rather than actual theoretical analysis. In [9], without mathematical justification, the performance of the NOMA schemes is assessed. In [10, 11], performance evaluation has not been examined by the authors. Furthermore, most of the previous work may just focus on one scheme, and no comprehensive work has been published to examine the performance of major NOMA schemes.

The objective of this research is to fill in the gap by presenting the basic principles, key features, and recent application of major categories of NOMA. Moreover, we present actual theoretical analysis and mathematical justification of the NOMA schemes. The major contributions are summarized as follows.

1.2. Contribution. In this article, a comprehensive and comparative survey on NOMA is presented.

- (i) The survey includes different popular categories of NOMA, their basic model, working principles, technical aspect, key performance indicators (KPIs), advantages, and disadvantages
- (ii) The article presents the state-of-the-art review of NOMA in enabling the 5G network, the applicability aspect of each category of the NOMA scheme, and the associated enablers
- (iii) Moreover, in this article, we present important and recent deployments, potential challenges, and future trend work for researchers in the field of NOMA
- (iv) The survey also includes the performance comparison of major categories of NOMA prototype in terms of achievable data rate, system capacity,

energy efficiency, and bit error rate with mathematical justifications

Furthermore, this article is planned as follows: Section 2 is a recall history of mobile communication and their technology aspect. Section 3 explains and investigates important nonorthogonal multiple access schemes with their principle of implementation, followed by a review of every scheme's key features and advantages and disadvantages. A summary of the NOMA scheme is presented in Section 4, and discussion of the results is presented in Section 5. Section 6 presents a review of recent developments in NOMA schemes, Section 7 presents the future research challenges of NOMA, and in Section 8, a conclusion is made.

2. Background

In the third generation mobile system, the Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (WCDMA) scheme was launched. As a result, movies can be transmitted due to improved speed of data communication. Furthermore, 3G presented an improved technology, i.e., High-Speed Packet Access (HSPA) and HSPA+ (3.5G), with which the user data experience was improved. However, in comparison to Wi-Fi and wireless LANs, high data rate applications like streaming of moving images were slower. Today, network operators provide services of 4G networks based on Long-Term Evolution (LTE). The achievable communication speed rises up to 5 to 6 times in comparison to 3G, and data throughput is also expressively enhanced in LTE than HSPA+. In LTE-Advanced (LTE-A), the available bandwidth is twice as LTE; therefore, several 4G network service providers are also transferred to LTE-Advanced (4.5G). With LTE and LTE-Advanced, communication technology has improved, at a level close to Wi-Fi with respect to user data experience. 4G network and LTE and LTE-A technology are saturated in terms of further improvement. The wireless data requirement is increasing day by day. Therefore, there is a need for new technology to speed up data access. However, for wireless communication, improvement in the data capacity and the data transmission rate is essential. Therefore, for the mobile Internet extension and modernization, researchers all over the world started investigating ways to improve data capacity and data transfer rates.

Meanwhile, from the beginning of digital communications in the 1990s, cellular phone technology has been on the track in terms of progress, focused on increasing the data rate and capacity. In the current world communication trends, mobile Internet and video calling have become a reality, and its new version has been launched, i.e., 5G mobile communication. Now, at any emergency condition such as online medical imaging or smart vehicles in congestion, more data needs to be delivered to the specific user. Thus, 5G networks will respond accordingly. Researchers also recognize 5G as an opportunity to redefine not only the network enable connecting a wide variety of new devices but also the networks that realize exceptional data rates. The next version of 5G wireless mobile technology is 6G, which means 6th generation wireless mobile technology. Satellite networks

for global coverage will be efficiently used in 6G which was not used before [12]. The 6G wireless mobile technology maximizes data throughput and improves system performance. The 6G technology is responsible for more data transfer and data security. It also increases data configuration choices. In 6G technology, devices connected to the Internet by using wireless broadband receive 10 GB or even more data speed. 6G is a satellite-based network; roaming and handover from one satellite to another satellite are still an issue which will be solved soon. The combination of fiber optics and the latest radio technology is used in 6G, to provide a very fast data experience. The 6G wireless mobile technology will change the way of thinking about wireless communication and will perform beyond the expectation of the users [12]. Moreover, this performance depends on technology use in next-generation networks.

Numerous proposals have been presented by researchers to establish the performance of NOMA in both downlink and uplink. The basic principle of downlink NOMA is presented in [13], power division is used for multiple user access at BS, and SIC is used for signal detection at the receiver. In [14], researchers proposed a two-user model for NOMA. Researchers presented link-level simulations and system-level simulations for the NOMA downlink system. Results provided in [14] showed that NOMA performance is better than OMA in terms of overall system throughput and individual user throughputs. The authors in [14] derived the closed-form expressions for outage probability and ergodic sum rate for the NOMA downlink system. In [15], to find the effect of user pairing for the two-user model of the NOMA system, the authors employed statistically allocated transmit powers among NOMA users. Moreover, the authors proposed fixed and opportunistic user pairing schemes. In [16], the authors consider the consequence of power allocation on fairness. To ensure that users are getting an equal share of system resources, the fairness index should be close to 1. The authors proposed a power allocation scheme to maintain the fairness index. In [17], the authors used the concept of user pairing; the authors paired strong channel users along with weak channel users for the cooperative NOMA system through imperfect CSI and perfect CSI feedback. The authors in [18] presented NOMA-aided precoded spatial modulation (NOMA-PSM) in which researchers combined NOMA with Multiple Input Multiple Output (MIMO). Researchers also presented a comparison with OMA in terms of implementation cost, multiuser interference, spectral efficiency, and performance gain of the system. In [19], the authors proposed full-duplex NOMA relaying-based Device-to-Device (D2D) communication. The authors in [19] proposed the solution for the D2D power allocating problem by presenting a linear fractional programming-based power allocation scheme.

The basic principle of uplink NOMA is presented in [20], the SIC signal detection scheme is utilized at BS, and the power control scheme is used at the user side. The authors investigated the challenges of joint power allocation and sub-carrier assignment, and the authors designed a suboptimal solution to increase the sum rate of the NOMA cluster. In [21], the researchers derived the closed-form expressions

for outage probability and system capacity for the two-user model of the NOMA uplink system. The researchers investigated the static powers for several users and recognized that a user could be in outage without proper selection of the required data rate. In [22], for the uplink PD-NOMA system, the authors presented an adaptive power control scheme which is based on Evolutionary Game Theory (EGT). To enhance users' throughput or payoffs, the proposed power control scheme allows users to adaptively adjust their transmit power level. SIC is used for signal detection at the receiver. In [23], researchers provided the advantages and challenges of NOMA as a contender scheme in dense networks. The authors compared the performance of NOMA in UL systems. To compare the performance of WSMA-based NOMA and MU-MIMO, researchers presented link-level evaluation results. In [24], the authors provided a foundation to investigate multicell uplink NOMA systems. The authors considered the coverage probability of a NOMA user with high interference at the BS due to a large number of cochannel NOMA transmitting users. The authors in [24] provided closed-form expression of the rate of coverage by characterizing the Laplace transform of the intercluster interference in different SIC scenarios. Afterward, the authors characterized the Laplace transform of the intercluster interference through distance distribution from geometric probability. To evaluate the benefits of NOMA, in 2018, 3GPP considered NOMA as a research icon and provided guidelines to support NOMA, in comparison to the OMA [25]. Table 1 summarizes the review of nonorthogonal multiple access.

3. Nonorthogonal Multiple Access

NOMA is a diverse multiple user access scheme with respect to other established and existing multiple access schemes, i.e., orthogonal multiple access. At the transmitter side, NOMA deliberately introduces intercell and/or intracell interference; therefore, it can utilize nonorthogonal transmission. At the receiver side, successive interference cancellation (SIC) technique is used to decode the desired signal. In comparison with orthogonal multiple access, the complexity of the receiver is increased, but better spectral efficiency can be achieved. Therefore, the fundamental concept of nonorthogonal access is to utilize a receiver with a complex design in trade-off for high spectral efficiency. Therefore, the enhancement in chip processing technology makes the nonorthogonal access scheme possible.

3.1. Power Domain Multiple Access. The NOMA scheme consists of two key technologies. One is power domain NOMA (PD-NOMA), which utilizes efficiently the SIC scheme in order to perform multiuser detection. SIC is a famous physical layer interference cancellation scheme which is used to receive two or more users' signals simultaneously [46]. SIC is sufficiently used in comparison to the existing scheme which causes degradation of the signal. In the SIC scheme, the strongest signals are subtracted from the received combined signal one after another by the SIC receiver; finally, the SIC receiver extracts the desired signal. It is a gradual

TABLE 1: State-of-the-art review of nonorthogonal multiple access.

Ref.	Objective	Solution approach	Category	Tech.
[26]	Improve reliable detection, maximum diversity gain, and reduce system complexity.	The highest diversity gain with minimum outage probability achieved by cooperative PD-NOMA. User pairing is used as a promising solution to reduce system complexity.	Single carrier power domain	Co-PD-NOMA
[27]	Achieve the fairness performance of the NOMA scheme better than TDMA under perfect and average CSI.	Investigated power allocation techniques that ensure fairness by formulating the research problems as nonconvex optimization.	Single carrier power domain	PD-NOMA
[28]	Further improve the outage performance of MIMO-NOMA.	Improvement achieved by implementing detection and precoding matrices for MIMO-NOMA.	Single carrier power domain	MIMO-NOMA
[29]	Resource allocation algorithm design for multicarrier NOMA systems. Multiple half-duplex uplink and downlink users simultaneously served by a full-duplex base station.	An algorithm is designed for multiple half-duplex uplink and downlink users simultaneously served by a full-duplex base station. Used weighted sum system throughput maximization from the solution of a nonconvex optimization problem.	Multicarrier power domain	MC-NOMA
[30]	For the downlink NOMA system, optimized power allocation and subchannel assignment to increase energy efficiency.	For subchannel multiplexed users, a low-complexity suboptimal algorithm is presented, which comprises power proportional factor determination and energy-efficient subchannel assignment.	Single carrier power domain	PD-NOMA
[31]	Improve the link-level performance of SCMA in highly overloaded scenarios.	Proposed an iterative multiuser SCMA receiver by employing channel coding which uses the coding gain and diversity gain.	Multicarrier code domain	SCMA
[32]	Maximize the mutual information in sparse code multiple access (SCMA).	Maximize the mutual information between continuous output and discrete input using an iterative codebook optimization algorithm.	Multicarrier code domain	SCMA
[33]	Substantially minimize the hurdles of the message passing algorithm (MPA) scheme.	For uplink SCMA systems, a shuffled-message passing algorithm (S-MPA) scheme is proposed, based on a serial message update strategy.	Multicarrier code domain	S-MPA
[34]	Reduce the decoding hurdles of the current message passing algorithm.	Based on list sphere decoding (LSD), a low-complexity decoding algorithm is proposed. The LSD only works with signals inside a hypersphere by evading the extensive search for all possible hypotheses.	Multicarrier code domain	LDS
[35]	Minimizing the hurdles of the SCMA decoding.	Proposed a Monte Carlo Markov Chain- (MCMC-) based SCMA decoder. Benefiting from the linearly increasing complexity of the MCMC method.	Multicarrier code domain	MCMC
[36]	Maximize the sum rate subject to QoS and system-level constraints like power constraints.	Multiple users utilized the same SCMA codebook, and for user signal nonorthogonality, the PD-NOMA scheme is utilized.	Power & code domain	PD-SCMA
[37]	For random signature selection, allowed grant-free transmission to achieve high overloading.	Introduced a blind multiple user detection for MUSA systems by using a special blind detection algorithm.	Single carrier code domain	MUSA
[38]	For the paired users, optimized the modulated symbol mapping.	Performance of MUSA with SIC has been considered by using mirror constellation bit error ratio (BER).	Single carrier code domain	MUSA

TABLE 1: Continued.

Ref.	Objective	Solution approach	Category	Tech.
[39]	A family of short length complex sequences is selected to permit an easy multiuser interference cancellation.	Successive/parallel interference cancellation with minimum mean square error (MMSE-SIC/PIC) has been investigated for appropriate MUSA receivers.	Single carrier code domain	MMSE-SIC/PIC
[40]	Increase user overloading and minimize multiuser interference.	Enlarge the pool of the spreading sequences by using nonorthogonal dense spreading sequence to increase user overloading and reduce multiuser interference.	Single carrier code domain	MUSA
[41]	To further enlarge the coverage area and improve transmission reliability.	With forward relay and half-duplex decode, an uplink cooperative PDMA (co-PDMA) scheme is suggested.	Single carrier code domain	Co-PDMA
[42]	Increase the performance of PDMA uplink system by using diversity gains and coding potentials.	By using diversity gains and coding potentials, an iterative detection and decoding (IDD) algorithm is developed for an advanced PDMA receiver.	Single carrier code domain	IDD
[43]	Using the cyclic redundancy check (CRC) to avoid the error propagation.	Based on the MMSE channel decoding and detection, a novel iterative decoding and detection algorithm is proposed, called the SIC iterative processing algorithm.	Single carrier code domain	SIC-MMSE
[44]	Proposed the power allocation and pattern assignment in the downlink PDMA system.	To optimize the overall throughput of total users based on the optimum Iterative Water-Filling (IWF) algorithm, a joint pattern assignment and power allocation (JPPA) scheme is offered.	Single carrier code domain	JPPA & IWF
[45]	Improve security by changing the signal's identity.	Physical layer security system is suggested based on constellation scrambling (CS) and multiple parameter weighted fractional Fourier transform (MP-WFRFT).	Single carrier code domain	MP-WFRFT

interference elimination strategy. This type of technique is also used in CDMA to eliminate Multiple Access Interference (MAI). First, the MAI introduced by the user might be eliminated with the help of a signal amplitude recovery process by subtracting the individual user's amplitude one at a time from the received signal. The same process is carried out repetitively to subtract remaining users and to decode the desired signal [47]. Secondly, the PD-NOMA multiplexing scheme uses the power domain technology, that is, power domain multiple access (PDM), which was not used efficiently in previous schemes as used in the PD-NOMA scheme. In the power domain, multiplexing non-orthogonality is deliberately introduced. In fact, power dissimilarity among paired users and implementation of SIC within the power domain ensure that user demultiplexing is concurrent. It is different from the other common methods used previously to control power. Also, an algorithm is needed to be used for power distribution at the base station [48].

Figure 1 illustrates the PD-NOMA system with an SIC computation unit. User Equipment (UE) is uniformly distributed in every cell. With different transmitted power of multi-

ple users in each subband, the base station (BS) performed downlink transmission for multiple users simultaneously.

Multiple single users can be scheduled at the same time for the same subband by implementing the Proportional Fair (PF) scheduling scheme at BS in the PD-NOMA system. The scheduling procedures for users are described in Figure 2 [49]. First, the BS selects a set of users known as the "NOMA candidate user sets," in which total users cannot exceed N_{\max} . The selected user set is prepared by using the total number of possible combinations of users within one single cell. Secondly, for every user set, BS allocates the transmission power by using a power allocation scheme. The scheduling metric for the corresponding user set is estimated on behalf of power assignment ratios. Thirdly, with the help of the maximum scheduling metric, the scheduler decides the candidate user sets on each subband for data transmission. Finally, for every allocated subband, the scheduler estimates equivalent signal-to-interference-plus-noise ratios (SINRs) for every single scheduled user. The Coding and Modulation Scheme (CMS) determines the SNR for each user [49].

In PD-NOMA, the total transmit power " P " is divided among multiple users. Let a group of " k " user equipment

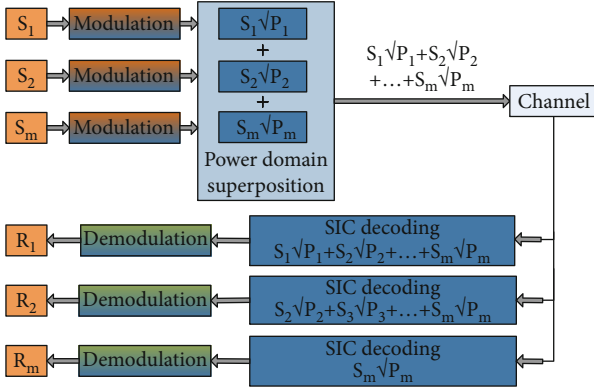


FIGURE 1: PD-NOMA system with SIC.

(UE) be located under the same base station (BS). Therefore, the fraction of power allocated to the k_{th} user by BS is p_k , where $p_k + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} p_i = P$. A typical NOMA system model is shown in Figure 1. The received signal at the k_{th} receiver can be written as

$$y_k = s_k \sqrt{p_k} g_k + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \sqrt{p_i} g_k, \quad (1)$$

where $s_k \sqrt{p_k} g_k$ is the received vector of the k_{th} user and $\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \sqrt{p_i} g_k$ is the interference due to other users.

For PD-NOMA of the downlink system [50], the SINR of the k_{th} user can be written as

$$\text{SINR}_k = \frac{p_k |g_k|^2}{N_0 W + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} p_i |g_k|^2}. \quad (2)$$

Also, throughput for the k_{th} user can be written as

$$R_k = W \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{p_k |g_k|^2}{N_0 W + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} p_i |g_k|^2} \right), \quad (3)$$

where p_k and p_i are power allocated to the k_{th} and i_{th} users, g_k is the channel gain coefficient of the k_{th} user, N_0 is the noise density, and W is the bandwidth.

3.2. Sparse Code Multiple Access. By means of a typical NOMA technology, SCMA is conceived as the most promising next-generation multiple access scheme for communication networks. SCMA combines Low-Density Spreading (LDS) and multidimensional modulation (MDM) through the SCMA encoding process [51]. In MDM, the numbers of propagating modes have been scaled to the number of available carrier dimensions, as it is considered coded modulation. For a small set of subcarriers, each user spreads its data via a distinguished LDS. Therefore, more than one user can share each subcarrier because there is no exclusivity in the subcarrier allocation. Compared to the total number of users at every subcarrier, a user will have a relatively small number of interferes [52]. In SCMA uplink scenarios, code-

book sets are assigned to every user and users select the random codewords from the dedicated codebook sets. All of the users' codewords are multiplexed and shared at the same orthogonal medium, that is, the OFDM subcarrier, illustrated in Figure 3 [53]. Therefore, the multidimensional codebook plays a crucial role in SCMA systems.

In the SCMA system model, a map is defined as an SCMA encoder in which from $\log_2(M)$ to M bits of K -dimensional complex codebooks are available. K represents the spreading factor of the system, which is the length of an SCMA codeword. Sparse vectors are a value of $N(N < K)$ which is the nonzero entries of K -dimensional complex codewords from the codebook. If $N = 2$, two-dimension constellation points can be mapped over $k > 2$ resources. A user could be configured with a codebook by using a contention-based multiple access scheme for uplink transmission [54]. A K -dimensional codeword is carefully chosen from the codebook which is used for mapping a user's data bits for transmission on K radio resources (Figure 4 [55]) which are subcarriers of the OFDMA scheme. Each block of SCMA is carried over K number of OFDMA tones.

Let an SCMA uplink system with " M " numbers of users or codebooks, where " K " is the length of the codeword and " N " number of the nonzero elements are present in each codeword. " d_m " is the distance between m_{th} user " U_m " and BS. Over K subcarriers, M users are multiplexed. The received signal over all subcarriers $y = [y_1, y_2, y_3, \dots, y_k]^T$ at BS can be written as

$$y = \sum_{m=1}^M \sqrt{\frac{p_m}{N}} \text{diag}(f_m) \text{diag}(h_m) x_m + w, \quad (4)$$

where " p_m " is the transmission power of user U_m . $x_m = [x_{m1}, x_{m2}, x_{m3}, \dots, x_{mk}]^T$ is the codeword or transmit symbols of user U_m . The channel coefficient vector for user U_m is $h_m = [h_{m1}, h_{m2}, h_{m3}, \dots, h_{mk}]^T$.

For the SCMA uplink system [56], the average SNR can be written as

$$\text{SNR} = \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{f_{mk} p_m |g_{mk}|^2}{N d_m^\alpha}. \quad (5)$$

For the SCMA uplink system [56], the average sum rate can be written as

$$R = \sum_{k=1}^K E \left(\log_2 \left(1 + \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{f_{mk} p_m |g_{mk}|^2}{N d_m^\alpha} \right) \right), \quad (6)$$

where α is the path loss exponent, g_{mk} is the channel gain for the m_{th} user on the k_{th} subcarrier, f_{mk} is the subcarrier index, and p_m is the power of the m_{th} user.

3.3. Multiuser Shared Access. Multiuser shared access (MUSA) uses the advanced successive interference cancellation (A-SIC) scheme and the advantages of good spreading sequences (SS). In SS, the data bit sequence is encoded per

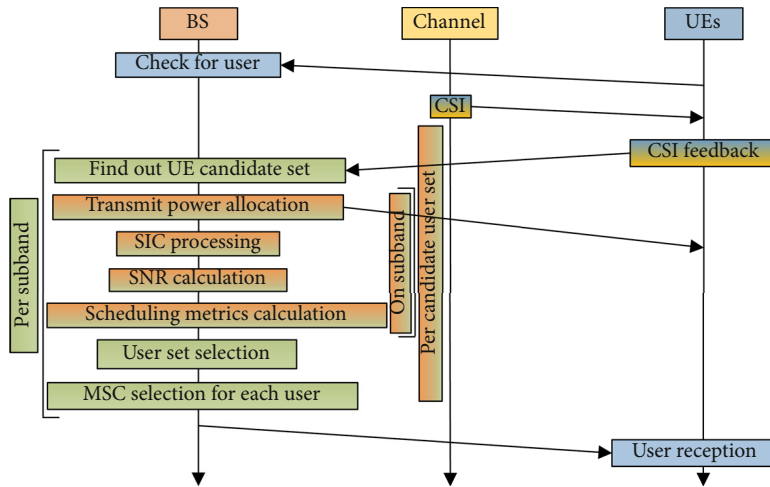


FIGURE 2: Scheduling algorithm for PD-NOMA.

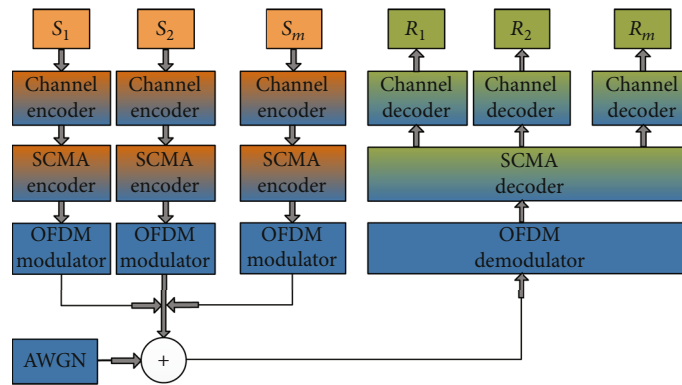


FIGURE 3: SCMA uplink system with m users.

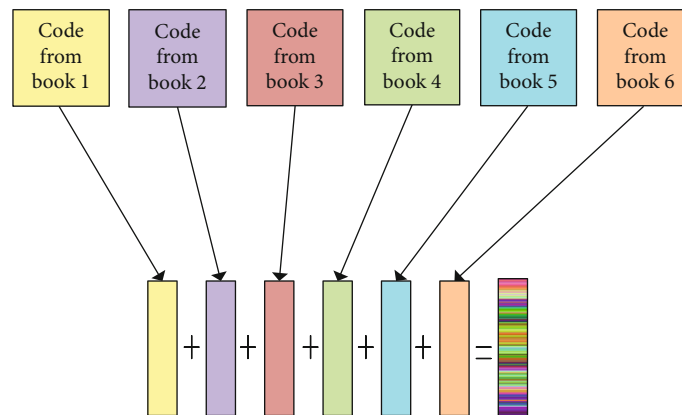


FIGURE 4: SCMA code multiplexing.

codeword. Therefore, at the same time, the identical number of codewords could be encoded by utilizing the encoder. Afterward, the coded bits are permuted (arranged in all possible ways) through random interleaving patterns. If a large number of interleaving patterns are used, the permuted sequence would be statistically independent. The coded

sequence is distributed to each subcarrier after modulation on the quadrature amplitude modulation scheme [57].

MUSA uses special spreading sequences, for spreading multiple users' individual data. After that, the user's spread data is overlapped and transmitted. For recovering and demodulating the data of individual users at reception,

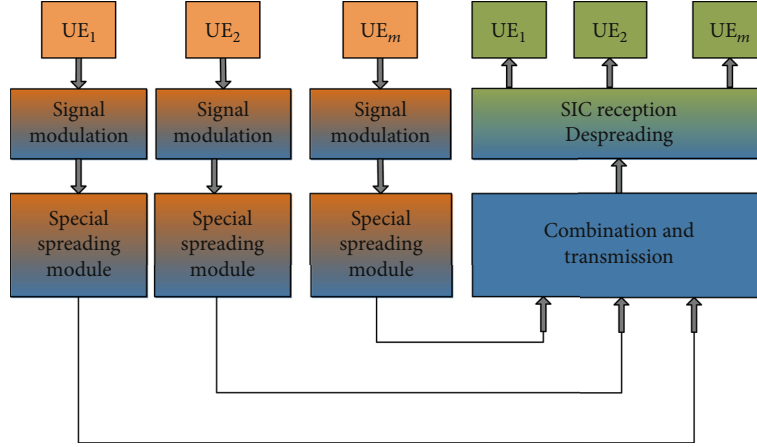


FIGURE 5: Multiuser shared access.

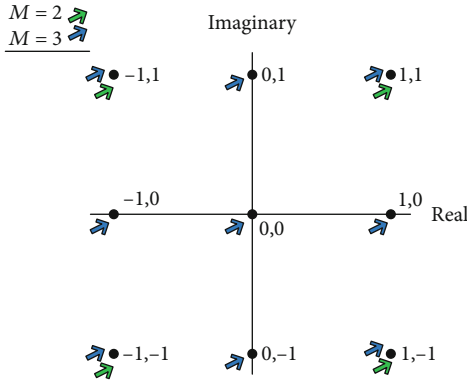


FIGURE 6: Elements of complex spreading code.

MUSA uses A-SIC receiver. The basic idea is illustrated in Figure 5 [58]. To allow grant-free transmission and maintain a higher overloading factor of users, the nonbinary complex spreading codes at the SIC receiver can be used.

The SIC algorithm is chosen by the SIC receiver to achieve the nonorthogonality between users. It is designed to reduce the power, delay, and complexity if there is large user overloading, and a requirement arises by short spreading codes. A good choice is to use one of the types of the Multicode Complex Domain (MCCD). Due to the design flexibility with the imaginary part and real part, the length of multi-MCCD could be shortened. The sequence with component ± 1 is a type of complex spreading code that might be created as shown in Figure 6 [58]. Moreover, Figure 6 shows the real and imaginary parts of the code for $M=2$ and $M=3$. Therefore, before normalization, all elements of the complex spreading codes are just elements of the set $\{1-i, -1-i, -1+i, 1+i\}$ because the values of the imaginary part and real part contain 1 and -1. The maximum number of existing codes is 4^L for the code length L . In the current scenario, the maximum existing code is 256 for the code length of 4, which is not sufficient. Therefore, the existing elements of the set which include the imaginary part and real part need to increase, to improve the number of existing codes, which should be M -ary with $M > 2$.

A preferred selected value of M is 3; the sequence with components 0 and ± 1 is a type of complex spreading code that might be created as shown in Figure 6. Therefore, before normalization, all elements of the complex spreading codes are just elements of the set $\{-1+i, -1+0i, -1-i, 0-i, 1-i, 0+0i, 1+0i, 1+i, 0+i\}$ because the values of the imaginary part and real part contain 0, 1, and -1, that is, a 3-ary [58]. With the help of the new set, 9^L codes could be created, which bring considerable improvement in the number of user access.

For multiuser detection at the receiver, SIC is used in MUSA. Linear conjunction of the received signal detects symbols of multiple users. For the linear system, MMSE is used for detecting users. The received signal can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} y &= hx + n, \\ \tilde{x} &= h^{-1}y - \tilde{n}, \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where " x " is the composite transmitted signal, " h " is the channel coefficient matrix, and " n " is a complex noise sample of Gaussian noise with zero mean and variance " σ ."

To detect the signal of each user at the receiver, compute the inverse of channel matrix " h^{-1} "; by this inverse, we get the estimated signal " \tilde{x} ." The MMSE weight matrix can be written as

$$W_{\text{MMSE}} = (h^H h + \sigma^2 I)^{-1} h^H, \quad (8)$$

where " I " is the identity matrix. Now, we get

$$\tilde{x} = W_{\text{MMSE}} y. \quad (9)$$

The SINR at the i_{th} antenna of the MUSA uplink system [59] can be formulated as

$$\text{SINR}_i = \frac{E_x |w_i h_i|^2}{E_x \sum_{l \neq i} |w_l h_l| + \sigma |w_i|^2}. \quad (10)$$

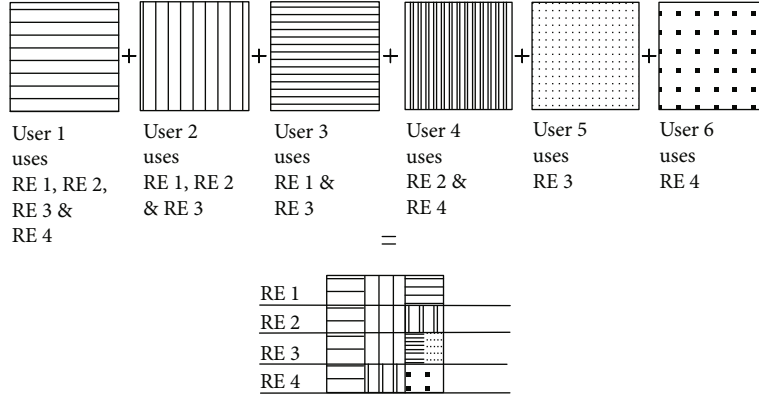


FIGURE 7: PDMA pattern for 4 REs used by 6 users.

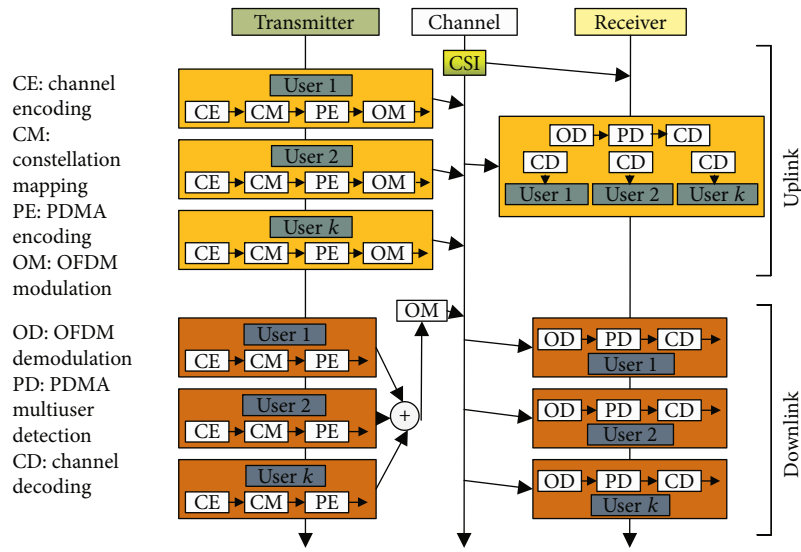


FIGURE 8: PDMA system model.

Also, throughput at the i_{th} antenna can be written as

$$R_i = \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{E_x |w_i h_i|^2}{E_x \sum_{l \neq i} |w_l h_l|^2 + \sigma |w_i|^2} \right), \quad (11)$$

where E_x is the transmitted signal energy, i is the number of transmitted antennas, h_i is the i_{th} column of the channel matrix, and w_i is the i_{th} row of the weight matrix. The weight matrix is constructed by using MMSE technique.

3.4. Pattern Division Multiple Access. Pattern Division Multiple Access (PDMA) is well known as an emerging nonorthogonal multiple access technique based on SIC Amenable Multiple Access (SAMA) technology [60]. PDMA utilizes Low Complexity Quasi-ML (LCQ-ML) SIC detection [61] at the reception and holistic/combined scheme of SIC-Amenable (SIC-A) pattern at the transmission side. An example of the PDMA pattern with resource mapping is shown in Figure 7 [62]. On four resource elements (REs), six users are multiplexed. First of all, the single PDMA pattern is allotted to a single user. All four REs in the cluster

are used for user1's data mapping, the first three REs are used for user2, the first and third REs are used for user3, the second and fourth REs are used for user4, the third RE is used for user5, and the fourth RE is used for user6. For all six users, the order of transmission diversity is 4, 3, 2, 2, 1, and 1 [62].

Different users in PDMA are separated at the transmitter through a nonorthogonal character of pattern with various domains, for example, code, space, and power domain. Particularly, at the receiver side, multiple users consist of an irregular diversity degree in order to perform SIC amenable detection. After SIC amenable detection, users can acquire an equivalent diversity degree (Figure 8 [62]). Therefore, in PDMA, steadiness between multiplexing and diversity degree can be achieved [62].

At the receiver side, BS receive signal of "N" resource blocks. The received signal at the m_{th} antenna of BS is $y_m = [x_{1,m}, x_{2,m}, x_{3,m}, \dots, x_{N,m}]^T$. At the m_{th} antenna, the received signal of the n_{th} resource block can be written as

$$y_{n,m} = \sum_{k=1}^K H_{\text{PDMA}}(n, k) h_{nk,m} \sqrt{P_{nk}} x_k + w_{n,m}, \quad (12)$$

TABLE 2: Feature of different NOMA schemes.

Type	Advantage	Disadvantage	Key feature
PD-NOMA	(i) Is not affected by apparent near-far (ii) 20% uplink spectral efficiency increase (iii) 30% downlink throughput increase [64]	(i) High receiver complexity needs improvement in chip technology (ii) Power domain multiplexing is in the research phase (iii) SIC increases the system signalling overhead	(i) For user multiplexing, PD-NOMA utilized the power domain multiple access (ii) At receiver, SIC scheme is used (iii) Take advantage of different channel conditions
SCMA	(i) Three times increase in spectral efficiency (ii) 2.8 times uplink system capacity upgrade (iii) 8% and 5% increase in coverage gain and downlink throughput, respectively [64]	(i) Optimization and design of the code are difficult (ii) Increased interference between users (iii) High-dimensional modulation (HDM) required	(i) SCMA utilizes sparse spreading sequence, based on LDS-OFDM (ii) Spreading with low-density signatures and bit-to-constellation mapping are combined in SCMA (iii) Codebooks are created by multidimensional constellation. Users' codewords are taken from codebooks
MUSA	(i) Block Error Rate (BLER) is low (ii) Huge number of users' access is supported (iii) Spectral efficiency increased by 1.5 times [64]	(i) Interuser interference is increased (ii) Spread symbol design is challenging	(i) MUSA is an upgraded scheme of CDMA via code domain multiplexing (ii) At the transmitter, MUSA achieved higher overloading through low-correlation spreading sequences (iii) SIC is performed at the receiver side, to decode superimposed symbols
PDMA	(i) 2-3 times uplink system capacity increased (ii) 1.5 times spectral efficiency increase in downlink system	(i) The pattern optimization and design are challenging (ii) Increase interference between users	(i) Nonorthogonal patterns are used in PDMA (ii) Multiplexing is achieved in space domain, power domain, code domain, and their composite domain (iii) Code domain multiplexing is similar to SCMA (iv) Low Complexity Quasi-ML SIC detection is utilized in PDMA

where " H_{PDMA} " is the PDMA pattern matrix, " P_{nk} " is the transmitted power of the k_{th} user at the n_{th} resource block, and " x_k " is the transmitted signal from the k_{th} user to BS. " $w_{n,m}$ " is complex additive white Gaussian noise at the n_{th} resource block in m_{th} receiving antenna.

Using [63], the SINR at the m_{th} receiving antenna in n_{th} resource block of the k_{th} user for the PDMA system can be written as

$$\text{SINR}_{nk,r} = \frac{P_{nk} H_{\text{PDMA}(n,k)} |h_{nk,r}|^2}{\sigma^2 + \sum_{j \neq k}^K P_{nj} H_{\text{PDMA}(n,j)} |h_{nj,r}|^2}. \quad (13)$$

Also, throughput for k_{th} user can be written as

$$R_k = \sum_{r=1}^{N_r} \sum_{n=1}^N \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{P_{nk} H_{\text{PDMA}(n,k)} |h_{nk,r}|^2}{\sigma^2 + \sum_{j \neq k}^K P_{nj} H_{\text{PDMA}(n,j)} |h_{nj,r}|^2} \right), \quad (14)$$

where P_{nk} is the power of k_{th} user in n_{th} resource block, H is the PDMA pattern matrix, N_r indicates the number of receiving antennas, $h_{nk,r}$ is the channel gain coefficient, and σ^2 is the AWGN density. Moreover, Table 2 highlighted the main key features, advantages, and disadvantages of major categories of NOMA schemes.

4. Summary

PD-NOMA utilizes nonorthogonal transmission among the users as compared to CDMA and OFDMA. PD-NOMA does not have apparent near-far problem compared to 3G. Similarly, the MAI complications are not challenging in PD-NOMA. PD-NOMA has a simple way to respond to multiple links and changing conditions of link by applying Adaptive Modulation and Coding (AMC) particularly in high-speed mobile environments [65]. Therefore, PD-NOMA does not need a highly accurate feedback signal or channel state information (CSI) from the user end. In PD-NOMA, multiple users share the same channel; therefore, spectral efficiency is increased at the unchanged transmission rate compared to 4G [66, 67]. In contrast, from a technical implementation aspect, PD-NOMA is still facing several challenges. Initially, implementation needs enhancement in chip technology from signal processing aspect because the nonorthogonal decoder is complex in design. Furthermore, the power domain multiplexing scheme is under the research phase and has a long way to go [64]. Technologies used in different types of non-orthogonal access schemes are presented in Table 3.

As an innovative multiple-access modulation technique, SCMA offered several improvements, for example, multidimensional constellation shaping gain along with benefits of CDMA and LDS. The link-level performance of SCMA in

TABLE 3: Technology used by NOMA.

Type	PD-NOMA	SCMA	MUSA	PDMA
PDM	●			
SIC	●		●	●
LDS		●		
HDM		●		
MPA		●		
MCCD			●	
MLD				●

highly overloaded scenarios can be achieved by employing channel coding which uses the coding gain and diversity gain. Although the structure of the code is well defined, optimization and design of the code are problematic [64]. To reduce the decoding hurdles of the message passing algorithm, LSD based on a low-complexity decoding algorithm is used in SCMA, in which the LSD only works with signals inside a hypersphere by evading the extensive search for all possible hypotheses.

Uplink access in MUSA utilizes an advanced complex multidomain code structure and multiuser decoding on the basis of SIC. In order to confirm that unlimited reliable access at the same frequency-time slot for multiple users, MUSA makes the procedure of resource allocation simpler in the access scheme. So that MUSA significantly cuts the access time, makes the system implementation simpler, and minimizes energy utilization. MUSA downlink access utilizes superposition symbol expansion and superposition coding scheme, to offer better capacity as compared to downlink transmission provided by the OMA. Also, uplink access in MUSA offers to decrease the energy consumption and make the implementation of user terminal simpler which is the same as MUSA downlink [64].

PDMA can increase the performance of the spectrum utilization for the downlink system by 1.5 times and increases capacity in the uplink system by 2-3 times [68]. To improve the security in the PDMA system, constellation scrambling with MP-WFRFT is utilized. To avoid error propagation, MMSE channel decoding and detection-based SIC iterative processing is used in the PDMA system. Cooperative PDMA is used with forward relay and half-duplex decode in order to further enlarge the coverage area and improve transmission reliability. On the other side, PDMA needs to encounter some important challenges to be resolved in upcoming applications. These include designing simpler receivers, design patterns at the transmission end to discriminate users without difficulty, and combine MIMO with PDMA in order to develop space domain coding design, etc.

5. Discussion

System sum rate performance versus the total number of users of PD-NOMA, SCMA, MUSA, and PDMA is illustrated in Figure 9 from [69]. SCMA has been confirmed by theory and in lab tests that SCMA has a better sum rate among all major four categories while the complexity of

SCMA is bigger than the PD-NOMA due to the code domain. SCMA is capable of achieving coding gains and improved shaping. SCMA allows a fixed number of resource blocks to each user while PDMA allows a changeable number of resource blocks to each user, since, in PDMA, the user data rate is different, which results in degradation of the system sum rate. PD-NOMA and MUSA both utilized SIC, but PD-NOMA utilized power domain multiple access and MUSA utilized a special spread sequence to spread the user's data symbols. Therefore, MUSA has a better sum rate than PD-NOMA.

A comparison of the average aggregate energy efficiency of PD-NOMA and SCMA schemes against the number of its users is illustrated in Figure 10 from [70]. SCMA outperforms its counterparts due to nonorthogonality with high overloading. Therefore, in SCMA, further access of users is achieved with low energy consumption. PD-NOMA also utilized nonorthogonal access; more users can be employed on less numbers of resources, but due to power domain access, overloading cannot be achieved. On the other hand, OFDMA underperforms because OFDMA is an orthogonal scheme in which users are restricted by orthogonal resources.

Figure 11 illustrated the bit error rate of PD-NOMA, SCMA, PDMA, and MUSA uplink systems in the Rayleigh fading channel from [71]. For performance comparison of the PDMA and SCMA, the same factor graph is used with QPSK modulation. The number of orthogonal resources is 4, and the number of symbols which are transmitted is 6. Therefore, the resulting overloading factor becomes 150%. With the help of [72], the codebooks are designed in SCMA. Pseudorandom sequences whose image and real values are obtained from set $\{-1, 0, 1\}$ are used to generate spreading sequences for MUSA, and nonorthogonal patterns are designed accordingly [73] for PDMA.

The SCMA uplink system has high-quality BER performance among all code domains, as shown in Figure 11. However, the BER performance of MUSA and PDMA is very similar and lesser than SCMA. The effect of error propagation of the SIC receiver on the system performance is the main reason for performance degradation of MUSA and PDMA. Nevertheless, when PDMA utilized the unchanged factor graph as used in SCMA, SCMA still has better BER performance than PDMA. The reason for this performance improvement is because of the near-optimal strategy of sparse codewords. On the other hand, the code domain NOMA scheme achieves a better system sum rate than the power domain NOMA scheme; therefore, PD-NOMA managed poor performance among all.

6. Recent Development

The race for developing 5G technology has integrated NOMA with different communication technologies, such as NOMA-based communication for the Tactile Internet, NOMA for D2D communication, cognitive radio nonorthogonal multiple access, and SWIPT-NOMA-based HetNets. A brief review of recent developments in NOMA is as follows.

The authors in [74] presented NOMA-based application-specific communication for the Tactile Internet, by which

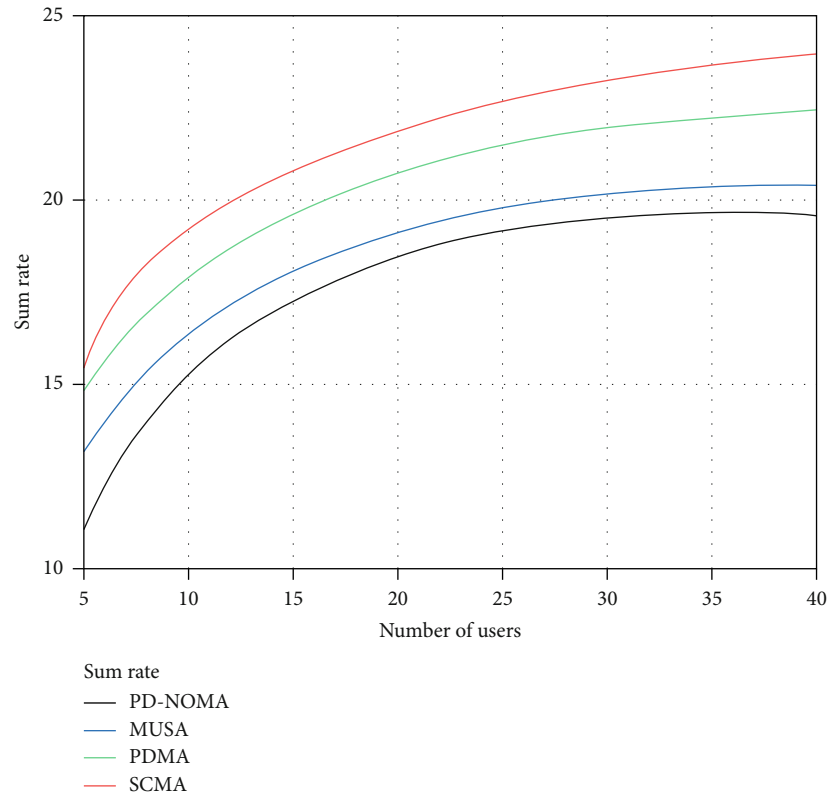


FIGURE 9: Sum rate of different non-orthogonal schemes.

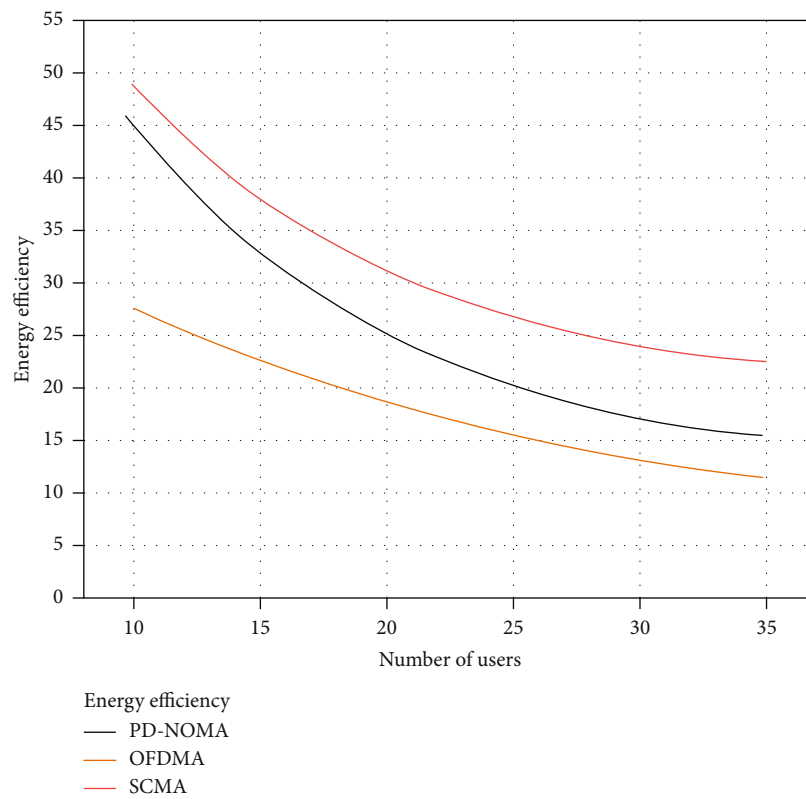


FIGURE 10: Energy efficiency of different orthogonal and non-orthogonal schemes.

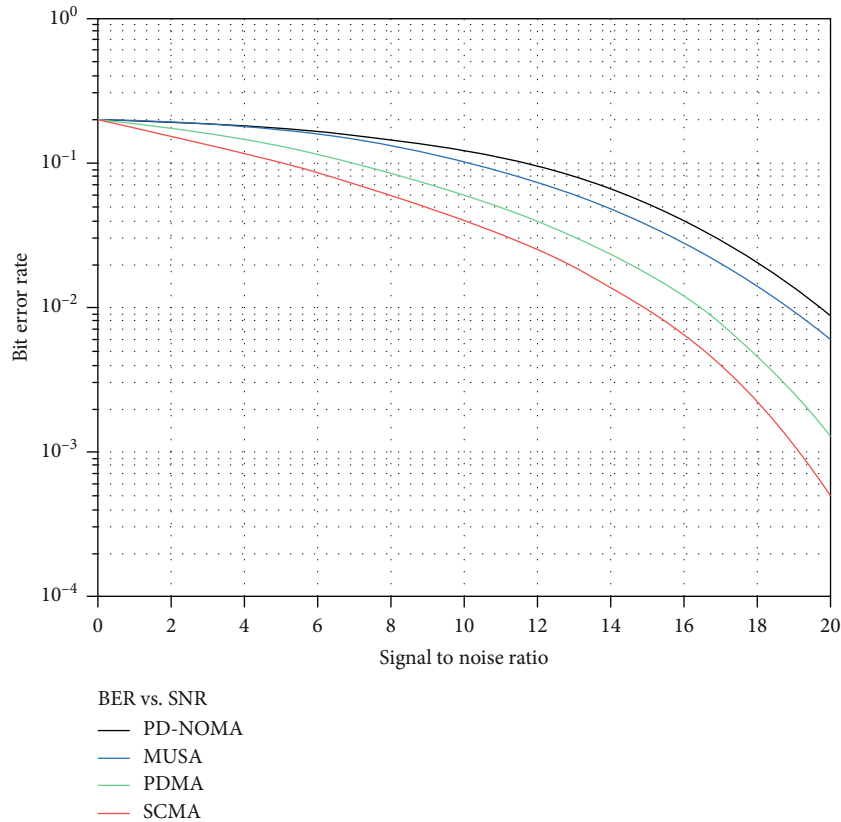


FIGURE 11: BER performance of different non-orthogonal schemes.

heterogeneity can be achieved in 5G networks. Tactile Internet allows nonorthogonal resource sharing from a pool of massive machine-type communications (mMTC), ultrareliable low latency communications (URLLC), enhanced mobile broadband (eMBB), and critical machine-type communication (cMTC) devices to a shared the same base station. The authors in [74] summarized many different types of NOMA and their appropriateness for low latency Tactile Internet-based applications. Additionally, the authors in [74] presented a sample case of a healthcare-based network and explained how in the healthcare domain NOMA-based architecture can be utilized for low latency networks.

In [75], the authors used NOMA at the D2D transmitter to improve the spectral efficiency of the network. The authors proposed in [75] the Tactile Internet Driven Delay Assessment for D2D communication (DIYA) scheme to resolve the issue of interference and delay from the neighboring nodes in two-hop transmission. In the first phase at relays (intermediate nodes), a full duplex communication is used for the first and second hop transmission concurrently, at the same time interval. Afterward, at D2D transmitter transmission rate is improved using Tactile Internet-based communication. In the second phase, to reduce the cochannel interference and increase the throughput of the cell edge users, pricing-based 3D matching is proposed by authors. Furthermore, authors in [75] used successive convex approximation (SCA) with less complexity in order to optimize the power of the D2D transmitter. SCA converts the nonconvex

optimization problem of power control and subchannel allocation into the convex problem.

In [76], to improve the sum rate of the femtocell users, researchers proposed a joint power control and channel allocation algorithm by utilizing cognitive radio nonorthogonal multiple access (CR-NOMA) at the femtobase station. The authors used the channel gain difference among weak and strong users' pairs in the proposed algorithm. This reduces the interference between NOMA users and improves channel utilization. Furthermore, to provide the QoS for weak users, the authors differentiated the odd and even numbers of users in a femtocell. The aforementioned scheme, OMA, is utilized to obtain a preset data rate by a greedy channel allocation algorithm.

The authors in [77] presented a subchannel assignment scheme for SWIPT-NOMA-based HetNets with imperfect CSI for the downlink system. Furthermore, the many-to-many matching theory is presented by authors to formulate the subchannel assignment. Considering imperfect CSI, the authors in [77] presented the energy-efficient subchannel assignment as a nonconvex probabilistic optimization problem. The many-to-many matching theory is utilized by authors to deal with this problem. The authors used SWIPT and NOMA with macrouser and pico-/femtobase station, in which multiple users served by NOMA simultaneously and SWIPT harvest energy from the radio frequency signals. Both techniques increase the energy efficiency of the network.

In [78], to maximize the sum rate and spectral efficiency of femto users with guaranteed QoS, the authors investigated the NOMA transmission with 5G enabled cognitive femtocell. To reduce the NOMA interference among multiple femto users, a pairing algorithm between weak and strong users has been presented by authors. The authors also calculated the sum rate for an even/odd number of femto users in order to achieve a higher data rate.

7. Research Challenges

In this article, we investigated major categories of NOMA, contributions of NOMA in enabling the 5G network, integration with different communication technologies, and recent research trends. Conversely, there are still many challenges which should be solved further to improve the performance of NOMA systems. We present various significant challenges of NOMA and specify potential research.

7.1. Imperfect SIC Cancellation. In practical circumstances during SIC processing, some residual interference left; the successive interference cancellation is mostly imperfect. Therefore, in theoretical analysis, we have to consider this imperfect cancellation aspect. Furthermore, error propagation in SIC is also a major problem. This indicates that when the higher-order user has been decoded erroneously, the error will sequentially propagate to lower-order users.

7.2. Imperfect CSI. The current research works on NOMA presume a perfect CSI to implement multiuser interference cancellation at the user receiver or resource allocation at BS. However, perfect CSI is impossible in practical scenarios. Therefore, real-time NOMA systems work with channel estimation errors. In theoretical analysis of NOMA, there is a need to consider channel estimation errors and imperfect CSI.

7.3. Design of Spreading Sequences or Codebooks. In SCMA, codebook design is still an issue particularly for outsized higher-dimensional codebooks. For further performance improvement of SCMA, the joint design of the factor graph matrix and constellation construction is required. For this, advance multidimension constellation is needed. Furthermore, to improve link adaptation, the design scheme for the case that all the overloaded users have different codebook sizes (transmission rate) needs to be investigated. Moreover, to determine the performance and capacity under practical scenarios, researchers have to consider error propagation in codebook allocation in theoretical analysis.

7.4. Receiver Complexity. As compared to OMA schemes, in NOMA, SIC needs additional implementation complexity, because the SIC receiver has to detect and cancel other users' signals prior to detecting its own signal. Moreover, as the number of users in the cell increases, the receiving complexity also increases. Therefore, a high-performance nonlinear detection algorithm is required at each stage of SIC for error-free propagation.

7.5. Heterogeneous Networks. A wireless network containing nodes with different coverage sizes and transmission powers is known as a heterogeneous network (HetNet). The HetNet has capability in terms of coverage and capacity with reduced energy consumption for future wireless networks. Real-time NOMA allows sharing of resources for different types of networks. To improve system throughput of heterogeneous networks, heterogeneous collaborative communication schemes with NOMA can be investigated.

7.6. Further Challenges. Several further challenges of NOMA systems must also be addressed, including signal design and channel estimation, maintaining system scalability, for multi-carrier NOMA the reduction of the PAPR, the difficulties of channel-quality feedback design, and flexible configuration of multiple access schemes. It is accepted by researchers that by addressing these challenges NOMA will further improve.

7.7. Future Trends. As the expected new round of developments, NOMA has received huge attention and active input from researchers, and its development is very rapid. Some future research trends are NOMA in large-scale heterogeneous networks, full-/half-duplex user relaying in NOMA systems, NOMA for wireless powered IoT networks, NOMA-based massive MTC networks, adaptive NOMA/OMA mode-switching, NOMA systems over κ - μ shadowed fading channels, in large-scale underlay cognitive radio networks, and NOMA with spatial modulation.

8. Conclusion

Currently, nonorthogonal awareness has been significantly useful in the modern developments in the 5G multiple access scheme. Herein, favorable nonorthogonal multiple access technique for 5G mobile communications is reassessed and compared on the basis of their advantages, disadvantages, and key features and their future development. Furthermore, we considered the performance of significant NOMA schemes, i.e., PD-NOMA, SCMA, MUSA, and PDMA in Rayleigh fading channels. This comparison research reveals the performance of different NOMA schemes. With the in-depth review of their basic working principle, system model, and performance, 5G key multiple access technique will be progressively understood, enabling us to arrive at the essential stage of formulation and standardization.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declared that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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