

Ergodic Capacity Performance for Cognitive Radio under Lognormal Shadowing from Secondary User Perspective

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Abstract—In a cognitive radio network, spectrum sensing is the first and most vital function. It identifies spectrum opportunities that can be utilized by secondary users to enhance spectrum utilization and ergodic capacity. However, sensing performance is very tormented by channel fading and shadowing. This paper addresses the performance of ergodic capacity in cognitive radio networks under a Lognormal shadowing environment. We derived a new mathematical model for the secondary user network ergodic capacity when both accessing and sensing channels undergo Lognormal shadowing. Moreover, we developed exact analytical expressions for the capacity followed by numerical evaluation under different channel sensing and accessing conditions. Finally, the paper explored the effects of detection and accessing channels' parameters on the capacity.

Index Terms—Spectrum sensing; opportunistic access; cognitive radio; lognormal shadowing; ergodic capacity

I. INTRODUCTION

The evolution of wireless communications has introduced new services and applications that require high data rates and various Qualities of Services (QoS). This resulted in dramatically increasing demand on frequency spectrum to accommodate these new services or to enhance existing ones. However, the frequency spectrum is characterized by static frequency allocation schemes that assign the existing frequency bands only to licensed users. This is the case despite that measurements indicate underutilization of the spectrum by licensed users for significant periods of time [1]. This aggravates spectrum scarcity and makes it more difficult to accommodate the need for a higher range of the spectrum. Therefore, Cognitive Radio (CR) concept is a promising technology that has been planned to alleviate frequency spectrum scarceness and under-utilization by permitting unlicensed or Secondary Users (SU) to access the spectrum once licensed or Primary Users (PU) are inactive.

The two main characteristics of cognitive radio are cognitive capability and configurability [2]. The cognitive capability enables CR devices to interact with the surrounding radio environment in a real-time manner and

be aware of signal parameters such as waveform, RF spectrum, communication network type/protocols, geographical information, user needs and security policies, etc. CR devices then adjust their radio operating parameters according to the information sensed to achieve optimal performance.

The authors in [3] investigated the effect of user collaboration in a Rayleigh fading channel. Their results showed that using more collaborative users would improve the spectrum utilization. In [4], the authors investigated and analyzed linear soft combination-based cooperative spectrum sensing schemes in Cognitive Radio networks. They focused on the allocation of optimal weights to individual cooperative SUs in AWGN channel. In [5], the authors used a different methodology where they studied sensing in Nakagami fading channel with integer fading parameter in non-collaborative situations. While in [6] the authors solved the spectrum-sensing problem in Nakagami fading with non-integer fading parameters in collaborative scenarios. Recently, the authors of [7] have produced a closed form and accurate solution to the spectrum-sensing problem in Lognormal shadowing channel.

The Complementary Receiver Operating Characteristics (CROC) curves are one way to evaluate the detection system performance. However, CROC does not show the percentage increase in spectrum utilization or ergodic capacity when using opportunistic spectrum access technique. Some researchers used capacity calculations to quantify the resulting increment in utilization. The authors in [8] studied the problem of designing sensing duration to maximize the achievable throughput (capacity) for the secondary network in AWGN channels. The authors formulated the sensing throughput trade-off problem mathematically and used an energy detection sensing scheme to prove that the formulated problem is indeed an optimal sensing time which yields the highest throughput for the secondary network. The authors of [9] investigated the capacity of fading channels subject to constraints on the power received at a third-party (primary) receiver when perfect channel information is available to both transmitter and receiver.

The contribution of [10] extended the work done in previous studies for the case of imperfect knowledge of

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channel sensing and explored the impact on spectrum sharing systems, especially the channel capacity of secondary users. All previous studies are done either for AWGN channels or only individual cases of the fading channel types between a primary to primary receiver and the channel between a secondary and a primary receiver. The authors of [11] studied the capacity of cognitive radio from the interference temperature perspective. They ignored any cooperation between the primary and the secondary user. First, assuming that all four links associated with the primary/secondary transmitter/receiver will experience Rayleigh fading, the capacity is achieved via the water-filling power allocation strategy, subject to an average secondary to primary Interference-to-Signal ratio (ISR) constraint and a peak ISR constraint. Secondly, the results are extended to include path loss and channel fading to reflect the geometric relations between link pairs and network size. It is clear that most of the studies are from the primary receiver perspective. Therefore, all models were analyzed with power constraints to protect the primary user (PU) from high interference. Only in [8] the authors studied the capacity from the secondary receiver perspective in non-fading channels. The work of [12] presented the secondary users' network capacity in Rayleigh fading channels.

This paper reviews exact derived expressions for system performance regarding the probability of detection and probability of false alarm presented in [7], [12]. It addresses the ergodic capacity analyses from secondary user's network perspective. We evaluated the sensing scheme performance regarding the improvement in bandwidth utilization in different types of channel access methods. Moreover, we show the improvement due to using opportunistic spectrum access in generalized Lognormal shadowing channel. Finally, we obtained exact and numerical results under selected sensing and access channels' conditions.

The paper is organized as follows: Section II presents channel and systems model followed by spectrum sensing performance in Lognormal shadowing channel. Section IV presents the sensing and accessing models and the analysis of the ergodic capacity in the Lognormal channel. In section V, the numerical results for the secondary network capacity in the opportunistic spectrum access are presented. Finally, concluding remarks are highlighted in Section VI.

II. SYSTEM AND CHANNEL MODEL

A. System Model

The detector model used in this paper is energy detection with the energy threshold λ , used in [7] and [12]. The output of the detector acts as a test statistics to test the two hypotheses H_0 and H_1 , where H_0 and H_1 are the two hypotheses of the primary user's signal absence and presence, with corresponding probabilities $P(H_0)$ and $P(H_1)$, respectively.

In an AWGN channel, spectrum-sensing performance is evaluated using two probabilities: the probability of false alarm (P_f), and the probability of detection (P_d). High probability of detection guarantees protecting the PU from SU's interference. While the low probability of false alarm results in more spectrum opportunities for the SU, hence higher spectrum utilization.

B. Channel Model

In Lognormal shadowing, the PU's signal received by the SU fluctuates owing to the existence of associate obstacle between the transmitter and receiver. These fluctuations affect the local-mean power of the received signal. Empirical measurements indicate that the fluctuations within the local-mean power about the area-mean follow a Lognormal distribution, which suggests that it follows a standard distribution once expressed in a logarithmic scale (decibel units) [12,13, and 14].

$$f_\gamma(\gamma) = \frac{\xi}{\gamma\sigma_{dB}\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(\frac{-(\xi\log_e\gamma - \mu_{dB})^2}{2\sigma_{dB}^2}\right), \gamma \geq 0 \quad (1)$$

where μ_{dB} , σ_{dB}^2 are the mean and variance of $(\xi\log_e\gamma)$ respectively, and $\xi = \frac{10}{\log_e(10)}$.

The lognormal distribution is usually characterized by dB-spread (σ_{dB}). The value of σ_{dB} depends on the type of the obstacle interfering with the signal traveling from the transmitter to the receiver. According to [14], the value of σ_{dB} lies between 3dB to 12dB.

III. SPECTRUM SENSING UNDER LOGNORMAL SHADOWING

Under Lognormal shadowing, the input signal $r(t)$ is modeled as:

$$r(t) = \begin{cases} n(t) & H_0 \\ hs(t) + n(t) & H_1 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where $n(t)$ is the AWGN modeled as a zero-mean Gaussian random variable, and $s(t)$ is a PU transmitted signal, and h is the channel gain factor between the PU and the SU. Using energy detection for spectrum sensing, the decision on the PU's existence is made based on a binary hypothesis test, where H_1 denotes the PU's presence and H_0 denotes the PU's absence.

According to [7], the probability of detection under Lognormal shadowing, $P_{d,log}$, can be calculated by,

$$P_{d,log} = \frac{\xi}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^\infty Q_N(\sqrt{2\gamma}, \sqrt{\lambda}) \left(\frac{1}{\gamma}\right) \exp\frac{-(\xi\log_e\gamma - \mu_{dB})^2}{2\sigma_{dB}^2} d\gamma \quad (3)$$

The Generalized Marcum-Q function is defined by:

$$Q_N(a, b) = \int_b^\infty \frac{y^N}{a^{N-1}} e^{\left(\frac{-y^2+a^2}{2}\right)} I_{N-1}(ay) dy \quad (4)$$

where $I_{N-1}(ay)$ is the modified Bessel function of order $(N-1)$, and y is a dummy variable. Assuming $x = \frac{\xi\log_e\gamma - \mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}$, then $P_{d,log}$ can be written as:

$$P_{d,log} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} Q_N \left(\sqrt{2 \exp \left(\frac{x\sigma_{dB}\sqrt{2} + \mu_{dB}}{\xi} \right)}, \sqrt{\lambda} \right) e^{-x^2} dx \quad (5)$$

Based on the Gauss-Hermite integration in [15], (5) can be written as:

$$P_{d,log} = \sum_{i=1}^M \frac{w_i}{\sqrt{\pi}} Q_N \left(\sqrt{2 \exp \left(\frac{\alpha_i \sigma_{dB}\sqrt{2} + \mu_{dB}}{\xi} \right)}, \sqrt{\lambda} \right) \quad (6)$$

where M is the Hermite integration order with w_i and α_i are the weights and abscissas, respectively [15].

The probability of misdetection in Lognormal shadowing ($P_{m,log}$) is:

$$P_{m,log} = 1 - P_{d,log} \quad (7)$$

and

$$P_{m,log} = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^M \frac{w_i}{\sqrt{\pi}} Q_N \left(\sqrt{2 \exp \left(\frac{\alpha_i \sigma_{dB}\sqrt{2} + \mu_{dB}}{\xi} \right)}, \sqrt{\lambda} \right) \quad (8)$$

The expression of (8) is a closed-form that can be evaluated easily. The accuracy of $P_{m,log}$ in (8) is investigated by calculating the probability of detection using three methods; Hermite approximation, Monte Carlo integration, and numerical integration.

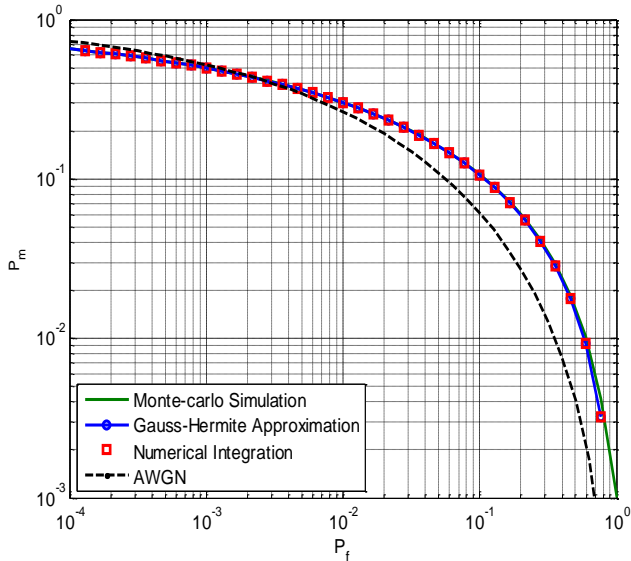


Fig. 1. CROC in the Lognormal channel for 1000 simulation runs where $N=10$ samples, average SNR= 10dB, and $\sigma_{dB} = 2dB$.

The CROC curves in a Lognormal channel are shown in Fig. 1 using the three methods. The AWGN curve is provided as a reference, for an average SNR = 10dB and $N = 10$ samples and $\sigma_{dB} = 2dB$. It is evident that the sensing performance is affected by shadowing. Also, comparing the three curves of $P_{m,log}$ proves that the

Hermite approximation provides an accurate expression for the probability of misdetection in Lognormal shadowing.

IV. ERGODIC CAPACITY OF COGNITIVE RADIO UNDER LOGNORMAL SHADOWING

Fig. 2 shows the proposed model for sensing and accessing scenarios in our opportunistic spectrum access system. Infrastructure sensors are distributed in the model to sense the primary user signal in a particular frequency band. The secondary user accesses the channel after it receives a permit from the band manager. The band manager then decides based on the information reported by the sensors. Therefore, there should be a separation between the detection and the access channels in this model.

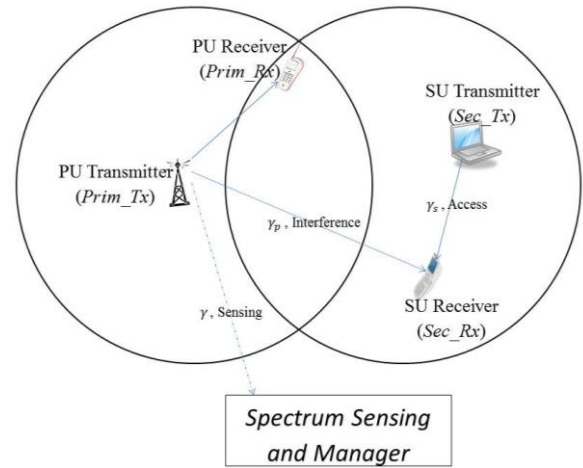


Fig. 2. Sensing-accessing system in Cognitive Network.

Based on the suggested model, one can notice three different channels. Sensing Channel: between the primary transmitter and the spectrum sensor with a specific signal-to-noise ratio γ . Interfering Channel: between the primary transmitter and the secondary receiver with signal-to-noise ratio γ_p . Accessing Channel: between the secondary transmitter and the secondary receiver with signal-to-noise ratio γ_s .

When the primary user utilizes a specific channel band, the spectrum sensor senses the primary channel occupancy via the sensing channel and reports it to the band manager. Subsequently, the secondary user uses this channel to communicate with the secondary receiver via the accessing channel. If a misdetecting primary user uses the channel, it interferes with the secondary signal at the secondary receiver via the interfering channel. In this paper, we considered the ergodic capacity of the opportunistic spectrum access under the effect of all three channel parameters.

The secondary user's network operates in two scenarios at the primary user's licensed band:

- Perfect detection of an inactive primary user: In this case, C_0 denotes the capacity at the secondary link, which is the conditional capacity of the secondary

network when it operates in the absence of primary users [16] measured in bits/second/Hz,

$$C_0 = \log_2(1 + \gamma_s) \quad (9)$$

where $\gamma_s = \frac{P_s}{N}$ is the signal-to-noise ratio of the channel between the secondary transmitter and the secondary receiver (*Sec_Tx-Sec_Rx*), P_s is the signal power of the secondary user, and N is the noise power at the secondary receiver.

- **Misdetected active primary user:** The secondary user uses the channel with a capacity of C_1 , the conditional capacity of the secondary network when it operates in the presence of the primary user [16],

$$C_1 = \log_2\left(1 + \frac{\gamma_s}{1 + \gamma_p}\right) \quad (10)$$

where $\gamma_p = \frac{P_p}{N}$ is the signal-to-noise ratio of the channel between the primary transmitter and the secondary receiver (*Prim_Tx-Sec_Rx*), and P_p is the primary user's signal power which represents the interference power.

Using the estimated values of $P(H_1)$ and $P(H_0)$ by observing a particular band for a period, provided by [1], the average capacity for the secondary network is written as,

$$C = C_0(1 - P_f)P(H_0) + C_1P_mP(H_1) \quad (11)$$

where C_0 and C_1 represent the conditional capacities under Lognormal shadowing in both sensing and accessing channels. P_m , P_f , and P_d are for both collaborative and non-collaborative sensing using soft and hard decision combining, provided earlier in this paper and in [7].

In the case of a Lognormal shadowing channel, the conditional capacity is the average capacity in AWGN over the Lognormal channel statistics. A Lognormal channel model is assumed for the sensing and accessing channels. The average capacity (9) over the pdf of γ_s is,

$$C_0 = \int_0^\infty \log_2(1 + \gamma_s) f_{\gamma_s}(\gamma_s) d\gamma_s \quad (12)$$

where, $f_{\gamma_s}(\gamma_s)$ is the pdf of the SNR, γ_s , of the accessing channel described by a Lognormal distribution, described by (1). Thus, the average conditional capacity is written as,

$$C_0 = \frac{\xi}{\sigma_{s(dB)}^2 \sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^\infty \log_2(1 + \gamma_s) \frac{1}{\gamma_s} \exp\left(\frac{-(\xi \log_e \gamma_s - \mu_{s(dB)})^2}{2\sigma_{s(dB)}^2}\right) d\gamma_s \quad (13)$$

Similarly,

$$C_1 = \int_0^\infty \log_2(1 + \gamma_I) f_{\gamma_I}(\gamma_I) d\gamma_I \quad (14)$$

where $\gamma_I = \frac{\gamma_s}{1 + \gamma_p}$ is the signal-to-interference plus noise ratio (SINR) in the interfering channel, γ_s and γ_p are the

signal-to-noise ratio of accessing and interference links, respectively. It is known that γ_s and γ_p have a Lognormal distribution with distinct parameters σ_s and σ_p , respectively. Here γ_I is a new random variable where its pdf, $f_{\gamma_I}(\gamma_I)$, can be found by using [17] as follows,

$$f_{\gamma_I}(\gamma_I) = \int_1^\infty y f_{\gamma_s, \gamma_p}(y\gamma_I, y) dy \quad (15)$$

where $y = 1 + \gamma_p$, $f_{\gamma_s, \gamma_p}(\dots)$ is the joint pdf and $\gamma_s = \gamma_I y$.

Under the assumption that γ_s and γ_p are independent, (15) can then be written as,

$$f_{\gamma_I}(\gamma_I) = \int_1^\infty y f_s(y\gamma_I) f_y(y) dy \quad (16)$$

where $f_y(y) = f_{\gamma_p}(y - 1)$. Hence,

$$f_{\gamma_s}(y\gamma_I) = \frac{\xi}{y\gamma_I \sigma_{s(dB)} \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(\frac{-(\xi \log_e(y\gamma_I) - \mu_{s(dB)})^2}{2\sigma_{s(dB)}^2}\right) \quad (17)$$

where $\bar{\gamma}_s$ is the average of the secondary user SNR, γ_s , and

$$f_y(y) = \frac{\xi}{(y - 1) \sigma_{p(dB)} \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(\frac{-(\xi \log_e(y - 1) - \mu_{p(dB)})^2}{2\sigma_{p(dB)}^2}\right) \quad (18)$$

where $\bar{\gamma}_p$ is the average of the primary user SNR, γ_p . The pdf of the SNIR, γ_I , described by (16) can be written as

$$f_{\gamma_I}(\gamma_I) = \int_1^\infty \frac{\xi^2}{\gamma_I(y - 1) \sigma_{p(dB)} \sigma_{s(dB)} 2\pi} \exp\left(\frac{-(\xi \log_e(y\gamma_I) - \mu_{s(dB)})^2}{2\sigma_{s(dB)}^2} - \frac{(\xi \log_e(y - 1) - \mu_{p(dB)})^2}{2\sigma_{p(dB)}^2}\right) dy \quad (19)$$

Numerical evaluation of C_0 and C_1 can be easily done using numerical methods by Matlab. In the next section, we present numerical examples for different sensing and accessing channel parameters that affect the average capacity.

V. NUMERICAL RESULTS

This section presents the Numerical results of ergodic capacity in Lognormal shadowing channel. It presents the effect of sensing and accessing channel conditions on the secondary network ergodic capacity. Under fixed sensing conditions, $\bar{\gamma}$ and σ , the effect of accessing channel parameters are discussed. Later, the effect of sensing conditions under fixed accessing channels conditions, i.e., $\bar{\gamma}_p$, σ_p , $\bar{\gamma}_s$ and σ_s , is studied for various detection parameters. Note that, SNR , SNR_p , and SNR_s represent the average SNR on every link, $\bar{\gamma}$, $\bar{\gamma}_p$ and $\bar{\gamma}_s$ respectively in all of the Figures.

The effect of accessing channel parameters are studied under various detection assumptions. Through the sensing channel, the average received SNR from the primary user

is set to $\bar{\gamma} = 10\text{dB}$, the channel shadow spread parameter is assumed to be $\sigma = 6\text{dB}$ and probability of false alarm $P_f = 0.01$. Moreover, it is assumed that the average channel occupancy by the primary user is 60% of the time ($P(H_1) = 0.6$) (based on averaging statistics in [1]).

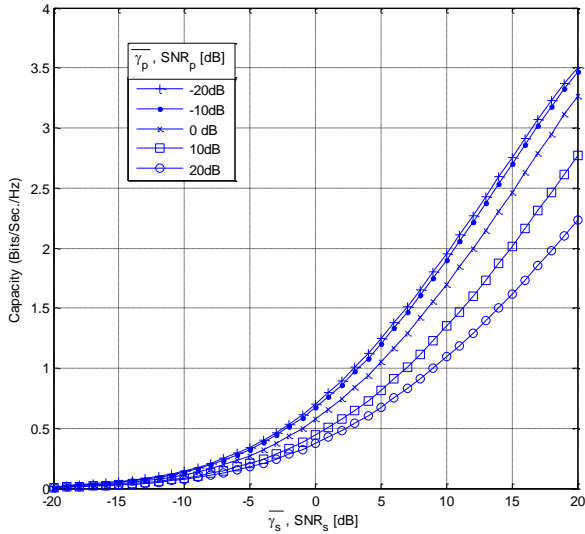


Fig. 3. Capacity versus $\bar{\gamma}_s$ for various values of $\bar{\gamma}_p$ with Lognormal Shadowing and $\sigma_s = \sigma_p = 6\text{dB}$.

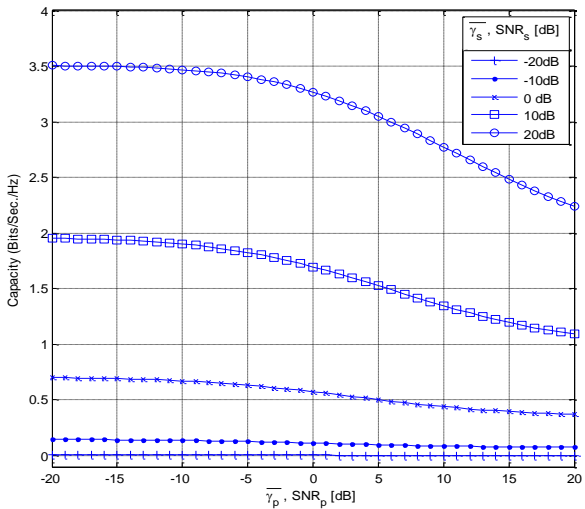


Fig. 4. Capacity versus $\bar{\gamma}_p$ and for various values of $\bar{\gamma}_s$, with Lognormal Shadowing.

The ergodic capacity of the secondary user for $\bar{\gamma}_p = [-20 -10 0 10 20]\text{dB}$ is depicted in Fig. 3. Both *Prim_Tx-Sec_Rx* and *Sec_Tx-Sec_Rx* channels are Lognormal fading channels with $\sigma_p = \sigma_s = 6\text{dB}$. It is noticed that the secondary network ergodic capacity increases as the secondary user $SNR_s, \bar{\gamma}_s$, increases. It is also important to notice how the capacity decreases for high primary user $SNR_p, \bar{\gamma}_p$. It is evident that $\bar{\gamma}_s$ has the most effect on the capacity compared to $\bar{\gamma}_p$. The reason behind this is that most of the capacity gain is from utilizing the channel when the primary user is idle. The variation in the secondary user capacity for different values of $\bar{\gamma}_p$ is due to accessing the channel when the primary user is available but not detected by the sensor.

Such minimal variation means that the probability of misdetecting the primary signal is small, and the primary user is well protected.

The capacity with respect to $\bar{\gamma}_p$, for different values of $\bar{\gamma}_s$, is presented in Fig. 4. It is clear that the capacity is highly affected by the secondary SNR . Besides, this Figure shows that $\bar{\gamma}_s$ has a significant effect compared to $\bar{\gamma}_p$ on the capacity. The effect of $\bar{\gamma}_p$ is evident for the high value of $\bar{\gamma}_s$. It is also clear that the gained capacity is negligible when $\bar{\gamma}_s < 0\text{dB}$. So, a secondary user under good channel conditions is a plus for the opportunistic spectrum access system.

Fig. 5 shows how the capacity drops dramatically as the SNR of the primary user increases. For small values of primary *average SNR* ($\bar{\gamma} < -5\text{dB}$), the capacity saturates at a maximum value. Under low $\bar{\gamma}$, the secondary user assumes free accessible channel. On the other hand, when $\bar{\gamma}$ is above a certain threshold ($>15\text{dB}$), the capacity of the secondary network saturates at a minimum value, which depends on the availability of the primary user.

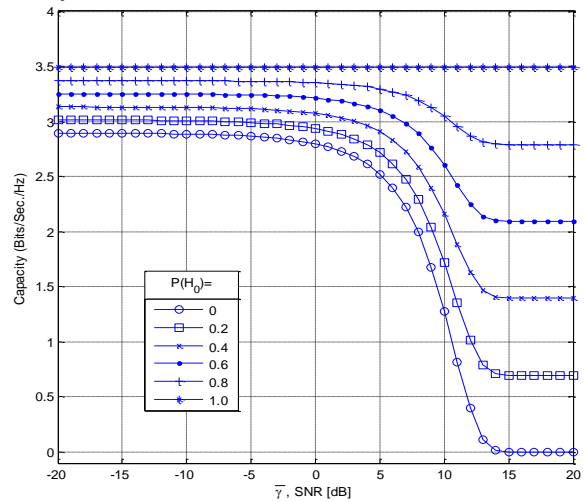


Fig. 5. Capacity versus $\bar{\gamma}$, for different percentages of primary user channel occupancy $P(H_0)$.

When the primary user is using the channel all the time $P(H_0) = 0$, the capacity of the secondary user drops to zero. Therefore, the minimum capacity allocated to the secondary user depends on the actual usage of the channel by the primary user. The capacity curve is high when the channel is free most of the time regardless of the primary channel conditions. On the other hand, the capacity is small when the channel is busy most of the time.

Examining this graph more closely conveys the primary user protection level since the secondary user is using the channel only when the received primary signal is either zero or very low. Such protection level determined by the system controller using the threshold λ or the value of desired probability of false alarm (λ is a function of the probability of false alarm).

The capacity with respect to $\bar{\gamma}$ for the different probability of false alarm values $P_f = [.001 .01 .05 .1 .2]$

is shown in Fig. 6. It is noticed that as the probability of false alarm increases, the maximum achievable capacity decreases. This is because when there is a high probability of false alarm the chance of using the unoccupied spectrum is missed, and as a result decreases the utilization. Therefore, the probability of a false alarm should be set small enough to maximize the channel utilization.

From Fig. 5 and Fig. 6, the capacity saturates at a maximum value when $\bar{\gamma} < 0$ dB since the probability of misdetection reaches its maximum, $P_m = 1$. This is one of the drawbacks of the energy detection system which cannot perform well for low primary user's SNR.

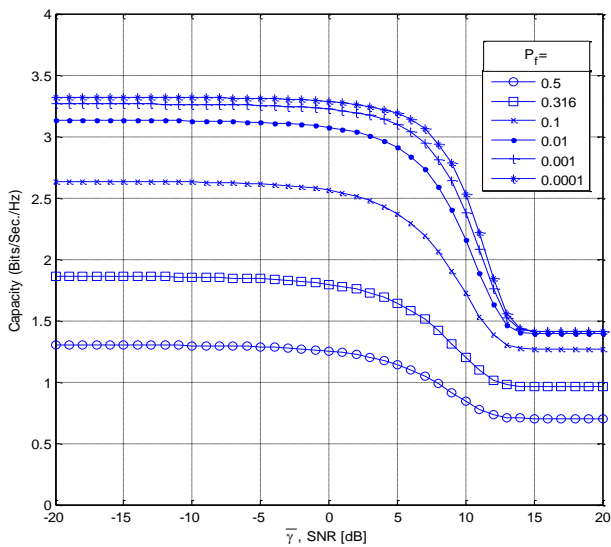


Fig. 6. Capacity versus SNR, $\bar{\gamma}$ for the probability of false alarm

VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, the effect of Lognormal shadowing on the performance of the ergodic capacity of secondary user networks is investigated to quantify the improvement of implementing opportunistic spectrum access wireless networks. Closed-form expressions are derived from finding the ergodic capacity of the secondary network when the accessed channel undergoes Lognormal shadowing. Effects of sensing and accessing parameter on the capacity are studied. According to numerical results, one of three factors can increase the capacity; better secondary accessing channel, less primary interference or desired QoS of the primary user. Under the optimum design of an opportunistic spectrum access system, most of the capacity gained results from utilizing the channel when the primary user is idle rather than using the channel when the primary user is misdetected by the sensors. Therefore, the designer should be aware of choosing a good sensing system and then maximize the utilization using other factors to avoid degrading the service provided to the primary user.

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