

On the Performance Analysis of Wireless Receiver in Cascaded Fading Channel

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Abstract—In this paper, we provide a unified analysis for wireless system over cascaded fading channels modeled either by cascaded Nakagami-m or Weibull fading models. These cascade fading models are developed by the product of independent Nakagami-m or Weibull random variables, which are not necessarily identically distributed. The performance measures such as amount of fading, average bit error rate, and signal outage are computed in this analysis. We first use the Padé approximation (PA) technique to find simple to evaluate rational expressions for the moment generating function (MGF) of output signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), unlike previously derived intricate expressions in terms of MeijerG function for cascaded Nakagami-m fading channel. Rational expressions for the MGF of the cascaded Weibull random variable are also computed to provide new set of performance results. Using these rational expressions, we analyze the performance of wireless receivers under a range of representative channel fading conditions using both cascaded fading models. To verify the correctness of the proposed rational expression formulation numerical and computer simulations has been done, which shows perfect match.

Keywords—*Keyhole Channels, Multiple-Input Multiple-output (MIMO), Nakagami-m distribution, Weibull Distribution, Outage probability, Bit error probability.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Wireless systems suffer from problems introduced by the radio propagation which is characterized by three nearly independent phenomena: path loss variance with distance, shadowing (or long-term fading), and multipath (or short-term) fading. Except path loss, which is only distance dependent, the other two phenomena can be statistically described by fading models with parameters determined using experimental measurements. Depending on the radio propagation environment and underlying communication scenario, there is range of statistical multipath fading models available in the literature [1]. For long-term fading conditions, it is widely accepted that the probability density function (PDF) of the fading envelopes can be modeled by the lognormal distribution [1]. Due to ever-increasing demand and ubiquitous access of personal communication services, wireless systems are

required to operate in increasingly hostile environments. As expectations for the performance and reliability of wireless systems become more demanding, the significance of accurate channel modeling in system design, evaluation, and deployment will continue [2]. Short-term fading models include the well-known Rayleigh, Rice [3], Hoyt [4], and Nakagami-m [5] distributions. Lately, Weibull statistical distribution [6], [7] has been found to fit well with experimental short-term fading for mobile communications. Recently, cascaded fading model has been used [8], which do not separate the fading in several parts but rather study the phenomenon as a whole. The so-called cascaded Rayleigh (i.e. Rayleigh x Rayleigh) fading stochastic model has been found to be suitable when large number of rays are reflected by two independent scatters and both transmitter & receiver are moving [9]. The double cascade Rayleigh model has also been recently used for keyhole channel modeling of MIMO systems [10]. Extending this model by characterizing the fading between each pair of transmit and receive antennas in the presence of the keyhole as Nakagami-m, the double cascaded Nakagami-m (Nakagami-m x Nakagami-m) fading model has also been considered in [11]. Such products of random variables have also been found to be useful for analyzing the performance of multihop systems [12]. In an effort to generalize the research work relate to cascaded fading mentioned earlier, the N x Nakagami-m distribution developed as the product of N statistically independent, but not necessarily identically distributed, Nakagami-m RVs in [13]. In a similar generalization cascaded Weibull fading channel model has been developed in [14]. The closed form expressions of cumulative distribution function (CDF) and MGF in terms of MeijerG function were presented in [13] to compute outage probability and average bit error probability (ABEP), respectively. The closed form expression for PDF of cascaded Weibull fading channel model and channel capacity have also been derived in terms of MeijerG function in [14]. These closed form expressions despite having an elegant form, suffer from a major drawback. Although, MeijerG special function used can be evaluated in itself using symbolic mathematical packages such as Mathematica & Maple, but integrals using

this special function lead to numerical instabilities and erroneous results at higher shaping parameter values. This renders the expressions impractical from the ease of computation point of view. Thus, a unified and easy to compute performance analysis for the SNR statistics of a receiver operating over Cascaded fading channel is required. Moreover, the signal outage and ABEP analysis of cascaded Weibull fading channel is not available in open literature, because it is still not possible to derive the closed form expression of its MGF. In this paper, moments-based PA technique has been used to obtain simple to evaluate rational expressions for the MGF of Cascaded Nakagami-m and Weibull RVs. Using these novel expressions, we study the signal outage and ABEP of important digital modulation schemes for receiver operating on both cascaded Weibull and Nakagami-m fading channels. Earlier, the PA technique was used for performance analysis of diversity systems in Nakagami-m fading [15] and more recently in Weibull fading channels [16]. In this analysis, the effect of fading severity on the performance is investigated in both cascaded Nakagami-m & Weibull fading channels. Computer simulations are also generated for the result verifications.

The remaining of the paper is organized as follows. In the following section, we present our system & channel model. Section III details the performance analysis of the system in terms of amount of fading, ABEP and outage probability using both the models. Numerical and simulation results are presented in Section IV before the paper is finally concluded in Section V.

II. SYSTEM AND CHANNEL MODEL

We consider signal transmission over cascaded fading channels. The baseband representation of the received signal is given by $z = sY + n$ where s is the transmitted baseband symbol which can take different values from modulation alphabets such as M-quadrature amplitude modulation (MQAM) and M-phase shift keying (MPSK), Y represents slow, frequency-flat channel's cascade-faded envelope which is either $N \times$ Nakagami or $N \times$ Weibull distributed, and n is the additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN). We define the distribution of Y as the product of N independent, but not necessarily identically distributed (i.n.d.) RVs R_l .

$$Y = \prod_{l=1}^N R_l \quad (1)$$

Using (1), the nth order moment of 'Y' can be expressed

$$E[Y^n] = E\left[\prod_{l=1}^N R_l^n\right] \quad (2)$$

Since the RVs R_l are mutually independent, the above equation can be expressed as the product of the nth order moments of each RV.

$$E[Y^n] = \prod_{l=1}^N E[R_l^n] \quad (3)$$

Let us consider a transmission over the previously described cascade-faded channel, and in the presence of AWGN. The instantaneous SNR per symbol at the input of its receiver is given by [1]

$$\gamma = \frac{E_s}{N_0} Y^2 \quad (4)$$

where E_s is the transmitted symbol's average energy and N_0 is the single-sided AWGN power spectral density. The corresponding average SNR is

$$\bar{\gamma} = \frac{E_s}{N_0} E[Y^2] = \frac{E_s}{N_0} \prod_{l=1}^N E[R_l^2] \quad (5)$$

Now, the nth moment of γ can be easily derived as

$$E[\gamma^n] = \frac{E_s}{N_0} \prod_{l=1}^N E[(R_l^2)^n] \quad (6)$$

A. Cascaded Weibull Fading Model

Let us consider $N \geq 1$ Weibull distributed (i.n.d.) RVs each with PDF given as

$$f_{R_l}(r) = \frac{c_l}{\Omega_l} r^{c_l-1} \exp\left\{-\frac{r^{c_l}}{\Omega_l}\right\} \quad r \geq 0 \quad (7)$$

where c_l is the shape parameter and Ω_l is related to the mean square value of RV as

$$E[R_l^2] = \Omega_l^{\frac{2}{c_l}} \Gamma\left(1 + \frac{2}{c_l}\right) \quad (8)$$

where $\Gamma(\cdot)$ is the gamma function. The nth order moment of squared RV is given as [1]

$$E[(R_l^2)^n] = \Omega_l^{\frac{2n}{c_l}} \Gamma\left(1 + \frac{2n}{c_l}\right) \quad (9)$$

With the support of (5) and (6), the nth moment of SNR in cascaded Weibull fading channel is given as

$$E[\gamma^n] = \bar{\gamma}^n \prod_{l=1}^N \frac{\Gamma\left(1 + \frac{2n}{c_l}\right)}{\Gamma^n\left(1 + \frac{2}{c_l}\right)} \quad (10)$$

B. Cascaded Nakagami-m Fading Model

Let us consider $N \geq 1$ Nakagami-m distributed (i.n.d.) RVs each with PDF given as

$$f_{R_l}(r) = \frac{2m_l^{m_l}}{\Omega_l^{m_l} \Gamma(m_l)} r^{2m_l-1} \exp\left\{-\frac{m_l r^2}{\Omega_l}\right\} \quad r \geq 0 \quad (11)$$

where m_l is the shape parameter and Ω_l is the mean square value of RV.

The nth order moment of squared RV is given as

$$E[R_l^2]^n = \frac{\Gamma(m_l + n)}{\Gamma(m_l)m_l^n} (E[R_l^2])^n \quad (12)$$

Using (5) and (6), the nth moment of output SNR in cascaded Nakagami-m fading channel is given as

$$E[\gamma^n] = \bar{\gamma}^n \prod_{l=1}^N \frac{\Gamma(m_l + n)}{\Gamma(m_l)m_l^n} \quad (13)$$

III. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

In order to quantify the performance in terms of ABEP and signal outage, well known MGF based unified approach [1] will be used. We will use moments-based PA technique to find simple to evaluate rational expressions for the MGF as follows.

The MGF of an RV $\gamma > 0$ is

$$M_\gamma(s) = E[e^{-sx}] = \int_0^\infty e^{-s\gamma} f_\gamma(\gamma) d\gamma \quad (14)$$

It is interesting to note that the nth moments of the instantaneous SNR statistics available in closed-form for both cascaded Weibull and Nakagami-m fading channels. Using the Taylor series expansion of $e^{-s\gamma}$, the MGF given by (14) can be expressed in terms of a power series as

$$\begin{aligned} M_\gamma(s) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} E[\gamma^n] s^n \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n s^n \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

where $b_n = \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \bar{\gamma}^n \prod_{l=1}^N \frac{\Gamma(1+2n/c_l)}{\Gamma^n(1+2/c_l)}$ for cascaded Weibull fading channel and $b_n = \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \bar{\gamma}^n \prod_{l=1}^N \frac{\Gamma(m_l+n)}{\Gamma(m_l)m_l^n}$ for cascaded Nakagami-m fading channel.

The infinite series in (15) is not guaranteed to converge for all values of s . But it is possible, using PA technique to obtain efficiently the limiting behavior of a power series in compact

rational function form [17, 18]. In particular, the one-point PA of order $(D-1)/D$ is defined from the series (15) in a rational function form by

$$M_\gamma(s) \triangleq \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{D-1} a_i s^i}{\sum_{j=0}^D b_j s^j} \quad (16)$$

where a_i and b_j are the coefficients such that

$$\frac{\sum_{i=0}^{D-1} a_i s^i}{\sum_{j=0}^D b_j s^j} = \sum_{n=0}^{2D-1} c_n s^n + O(s^{2D}) \quad (17)$$

where $O(s^{2D})$ representing the terms of order higher than $2D-1$. The coefficients b_j can be found using (assuming $b_0 = 1$) following equations

$$\sum_{j=0}^D b_j c_{D-1-j+d} = 0 \quad 0 \leq d \leq D \quad (18)$$

The above equations form a system of D linear equations for the unknown denominator coefficients in (16). This system of equations can be uniquely solved, as long as the determinant of its Hankel matrix is nonzero [17]. The choice of the value of D is indeed a critical issue, as it represents a tradeoff between the accuracy of the PA technique and the complexity of the system of equations to be solved. It is described in [17] that there exist a value of D above which Hankel matrix become rank deficient. After solving for the values of b_j , the numerator coefficients a_i can now be obtained using

$$a_i = c_i + \sum_{p=1}^{\min(D,i)} b_i c_{i-p} = 0 \quad 0 \leq i \leq D-1 \quad (19)$$

Having obtained the coefficients of denominator and numerator polynomials, an appropriate expression for the MGF of the output SNR is now available in rational function form. We are now ready to present three important performance measures namely, the Amount of Fading, the ABEP for different modulation schemes and outage probability in the Cascaded fading channels.

A. Amount of Fading

The Amount of Fading (AoF) is an important performance measure of the fading channel. This moments-based, dimensionless parameter characterizes the severity of the fading channel and can be easily computed from first and second moments as [1]

$$AoF = \frac{E[\gamma^2]}{\bar{\gamma}^2} - 1 \quad (20)$$

Using (10), *AoF* for cascaded Weibull fading channel is given as

$$AoF = \prod_{l=1}^N \left(\frac{\Gamma(1+4/c_l)}{\Gamma^2(1+2/c_l)} \right) - 1 \quad (21)$$

Using (13), *AoF* for cascaded Nakagami-m fading channel is given as

$$AoF = \prod_{l=1}^N \left(1 + \frac{1}{m_l} \right) - 1 \quad (22)$$

Figure 1 & 2 depicts the *AoF* plotted as a function of fading parameters in cascaded Weibull and Nakagami-m fading channels, respectively for different values of N . It can be observed that at a fixed value of fading parameter the severity of fading increases for higher cascading number N . As seen in figures, the *AoF* in cascaded Weibull fading channel increases abruptly than cascaded Nakagami-m fading channels with increase in N .

B. Average Bit Error Probability

1) M-Quadrature Amplitude Modulation(MQAM)

In the single channel receiver, the conditional BEP of Gray encoded MQAM using alternative Gaussian-Q function form in [1], is given as

$$P_e(\gamma) = \frac{4}{\pi \log_2(M)} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \right) \times \left\{ \int_0^{\pi/2} \exp \left(-\frac{g_{qam}}{\sin^2(\phi)} \gamma \right) d\phi \right. \\ \left. - \int_0^{\pi/4} \exp \left(-\frac{g_{qam}}{\sin^2(\phi)} \gamma \right) d\phi \right\} \quad (23)$$

where $g_{qam} = 3/2(M-1)$, M represents the number of symbols and γ is the instantaneous SNR per symbol.

Averaging over the PDF of the received SNR the ABEP becomes

$$\bar{P}_e = \frac{4}{\pi \log_2(M)} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \right) \times \left\{ \int_0^{\pi/2} M_\gamma \left(-\frac{g_{qam}}{\sin^2(\phi)} \right) d\phi \right. \\ \left. - \int_0^{\pi/4} M_\gamma \left(-\frac{g_{qam}}{\sin^2(\phi)} \right) d\phi \right\} \quad (24)$$

where $M_\gamma(.)$ represents the MGF of Cascaded Weibull or Nakagami-m RV.

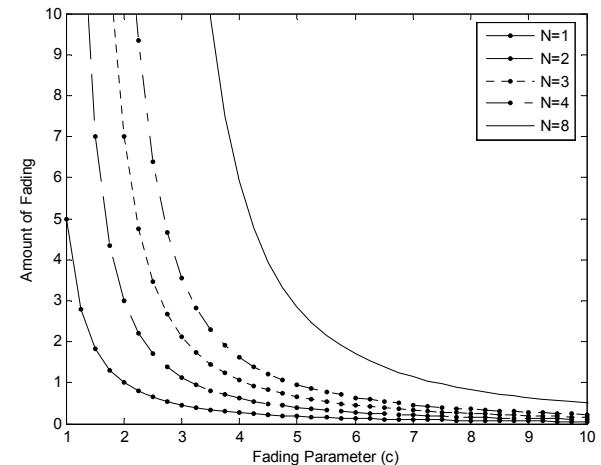


Figure 1. Amount of Fading as a function of c for several values of N .

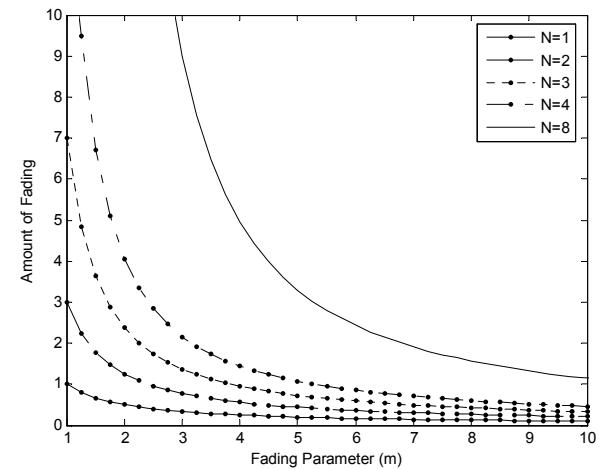


Figure 2. Amount of Fading as a function of m for several values of N .

2) M-Phase Shift Keying(MPSK)

In the single channel receiver, the conditional bit error probability of Gray encoded MPSK using alternative Gaussian-Q function form in [1], is given as

$$P_e(\gamma) \equiv \frac{1}{\pi \log_2(M)} \int_0^{(M-1)\pi/M} \exp \left(\frac{g_{psk}}{\sin^2(\phi)} \gamma \right) d\phi \quad (25)$$

where $g_{psk} = \sin^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{M} \right)$. Averaging over the PDF of the received SNR the ABEP becomes

$$\bar{P}_e \equiv \frac{1}{\pi \log_2(M)} \int_0^{(M-1)\pi/M} M_\gamma \left(\frac{g_{psk}}{\sin^2(\phi)} \right) d\phi \quad (26)$$

C. Outage Probability

The signal outage probability is defined as the probability that the instantaneous SNR falls below a certain threshold, γ_{th} i.e.

$$P_{out}(\gamma_{th}) \triangleq P(SNR < \gamma_{th}) \quad (27)$$

For single channel receiver, using MGF approach [1, Chap. 1] the outage probability can be computed as

$$P_{out}(\gamma_{th}) = \frac{1}{2\pi j} \int_{\varepsilon-j\infty}^{\varepsilon+j\infty} \frac{M_\gamma(s)}{s} e^{s\gamma_{th}} ds \quad (28)$$

where ε is a properly chosen constant in the region of convergence of complex s-plane. Interestingly, since $M_\gamma(s)$ is given in terms of a rational function form, one can use the partial fraction expansion of $[M_\gamma(s)]/s$ in (28) to evaluate outage probability, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} P_{out}(\gamma_{th}) &= \frac{1}{2\pi j} \int_{\varepsilon-j\infty}^{\varepsilon+j\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \frac{\lambda_i}{s + p_i} e^{s\gamma_{th}} ds \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi j} \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \int_{\varepsilon-j\infty}^{\varepsilon+j\infty} \frac{\lambda_i}{s + p_i} e^{s\gamma_{th}} ds \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \lambda_i e^{-p_i \gamma_{th}} \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

where p_i are the N_p poles of rational function in s with λ_i its residues. Each term inside the summation in (29) represents a simple exponential closed form function and can be easily evaluated.

Clearly, using the rational function for the MGF provided by the PA technique, the integrals in (24) and (26) can be easily evaluated numerically and the results are found to be very stable. In fact some of the integrals, like the one in (28), closed form can be found as it is equivalent to the problem of finding the inverse Laplace transform of a rational function, which can be easily solved using the partial fractions expansion as in (29).

IV. NUMERICAL AND SIMULATION RESULTS

We compute the rational expressions using PA technique of order $<9/10>$ & $<15/16>$ for Cascaded Nakagami-m fading and Weibull fading model, respectively. Table I lists the $\{a_i\}$ and $\{b_j\}$ coefficient sets for the rational function form of MGF for different values of N and m , representing various cascaded Nakagami-m fading channel conditions. The numerator and denominator coefficients of rational expressions (MGF) of cascaded Weibull fading are not tabulated for brevity. Hence, PA technique leads to rational expressions which are computationally simple for analysis. ABEP of digital modulations and Outage Probability through cascaded fading channel have been numerically evaluated using these rational functions and compared for accuracy with simulation results.

A. Average BEP of Digital Modulations

We have chosen four illustrative examples for performance evaluation of the wireless receiver in terms of ABEP. The first is depicted in figure 3 for the case of 16-PSK in cascaded Nakagami-m fading channel, and second in figure 4 for the case of 16-PSK in cascaded Weibull fading channel, both the two cases versus the average SNR. Computer simulation of ABEP for the eight representative channel fading conditions in each of ($N = 1, m = 4.5; N = 1, m = 9.5; N = 2, m = 4.5; N = 2, m = 9.5; N = 3, m = 4.5; N = 3, m = 9.5; N = 4, m = 4.5; N = 4, m = 9.5$) cascaded Nakagami-m, and ($N = 1, c = 4.5; N = 1, c = 9.5; N = 2, c = 4.5; N = 2, c = 9.5; N = 4, c = 4.5; N = 4, c = 9.5; N = 8, c = 4.5; N = 8, c = 9.5$) cascaded Weibull model is obtained and compared with results evaluated using rational expressions for similar channel conditions. In figure 5 & 6 ABEP performance of 16-QAM is evaluated in various cascaded Nakagami-m and Weibull channel fading condition as mentioned earlier. It is evident from figures that the ABEP improves as average SNR ($\bar{\gamma}$) increases and for a fixed value of $\bar{\gamma}$ also, ABER improves with an increase of m or c . As depicted the results obtained using rational expressions and simulations shows perfect agreement. The analysis based on MeijerG function was done in [14] but ABEP and outage probability results are not available for cascaded Weibull fading channel. Also, the modern software packages such as Mathematica and Maple fail to handle the integrals involving MeijerG function, especially the higher values of fading parameters m or c leads to numerical instabilities and erroneous results.

TABLE I. NUMERATOR AND DENOMINATOR COEFFICIENTS OF RATIONAL EXPRESSIONS OF MGF (CASCADED NAKAGAMI FADING).

<i>N</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>Order</i>	Numerator Coefficients {a} ($a_o=1$)	Denominator Coefficients {b} ($b_o=1$)
2	4.5	$<6/7>$	{4.65, 7.82, 5.52, 1.37, -0.023, 0.35e-3}	{5.65, 12.7, 14.5, 8.97, 2.92, 0.44, 0.23e-1, }
2	6.3	$<6/7>$	{2.2, 1.54, 0.33, -0.11e-1, 0.31e-3, -0.68e-5}	{3.2, 4.07, 2.64, 0.93, 0.17, 0.15e-1, 0.49e-3}
2	7.5	$<6/7>$	{1.64, 0.84, 0.12, -0.77, 0.3e-3, -0.63e-5}	{2.64, 2.84, 1.6, 0.51, 0.91e-1, 0.84e-2, 0.32e-3}
4	4.5	$<9/10>$	{151, 8.5e3, 2.3e5, 3.2e6, 2.4e7, 9.1e7, 1.6e8, 9e7, -3.4e6}	{152, 8.6e3, 2.4e5, 3.4e6, 2.7e7, 1.1e8, 2.5e8, 2.4e8, 8.8e7, 4.3e6}
4	6.3	$<9/10>$	{58, 1.3e3, 1.4e4, 8.2e4, 2.6e5, 4.4e5, 3.4e5, 8.8e4, -3.4e3}	{59, 1.3e3, 1.5e4, 9.7e4, 3.5e5, 7.1e5, 8.1e5, 4.9e5, 1.4e5, 1.4e4}
4	7.5	$<9/10>$	{36, 5e2, 3.4e3, 1.2e4, 2.4e4, 2.3e4, 8.8e3, 2.4e2, 21.8}	{37, 5.3e2, 3.9e3, 1.6e4, 3.7e4, 5e4, 3.7e4, 1.4e4, 2.4e3, 1.6e2}
8	4.5	$<9/10>$	{5.9e4, 1e9, 5.9e12, 1.3e16, 1e19, 2.8e21, 2.3e23, 4.6e24, 1.6e25}	{5.9e4, 9.9e8, 5.9e12, 1.3e16, 1e19, 2.8e21, 2.3e23, 4.9e24, 2e25, 1.1e25}
8	6.3	$<9/10>$	{8.1e3, 2e7, 1.8e10, 6.7e12, 1e15, 6e16, 1.3e18, 8.8e18, 1.4e19}	{8.1e3, 2e7, 1.8e10, 6.7e12, 1e15, 6.1e16, 1.3e18, 1e19, 2.3e19, 1.1e19}
8	7.5	$<9/10>$	{2.96e3, 2.6e6, 8.9e8, 1.2e11, 5.7e12, 5.7e13, -1.1e15, -1.5e16, -3.2e16}	{3e3, 2.6e6, 9e8, 1.2e11, 5.8e12, 6.3e13, -1.1e15, 1.6e16, -4.7e16, -2.8e16}

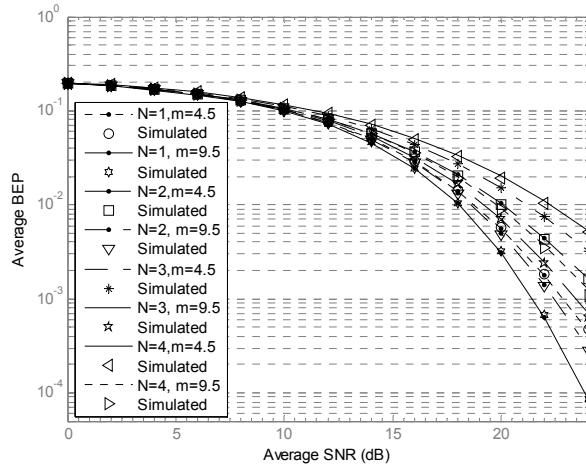


Figure 3. Average BER of 16-PSK versus average SNR in Cascaded Nakagami-m fading channel

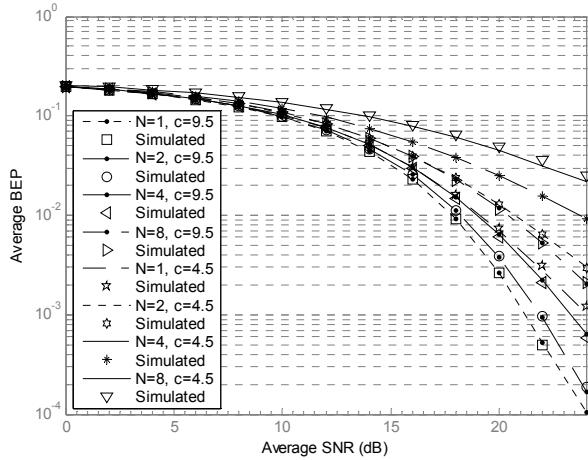


Figure 4. Average BER of 16-PSK versus average SNR in Cascaded Weibull fading channel .

Thus, moments-based approach provides an alternative simple to evaluate rational expressions of MGF which resulted in unified digital modulation analysis over cascaded fading channels.

B. Outage Probability

Figures 7 & 8 depicts the outage probability versus the threshold γ_{th} normalized by scaling parameter $\bar{\gamma}$ in cascaded Nakagami-m and Weibull fading channels, respectively. The outage probability results are numerically evaluated using (29) and corroborated with Monte-Carlo simulations for both cascade fading models. The results shows that for fixed cascading level the outage probability decreases with increasing fading parameter values because fading severity of channel decreases. On the contrary, outage probability increases as the cascading number N increases for the fixed fading parameters value m or c . This is due to more deep fades that are generated by the product of N random variables.

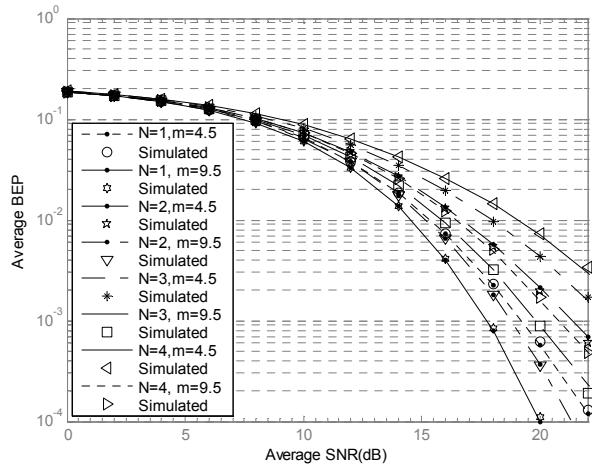


Figure 5. Average BER of 16-QAM versus average SNR in Cascaded Nakagami-m fading channel .

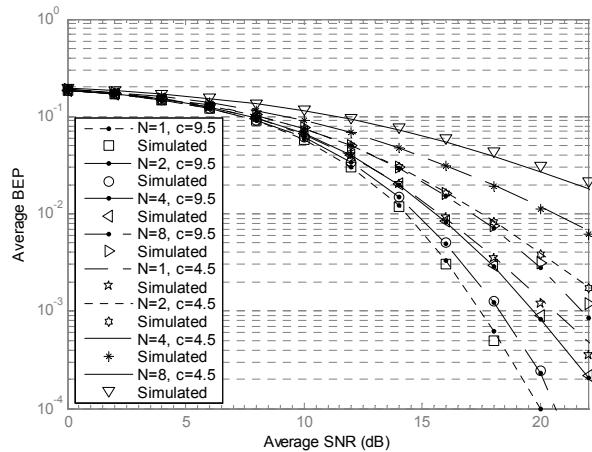


Figure 6. Average BER of 16-QAM versus average SNR in Cascaded Weibull fading channel.

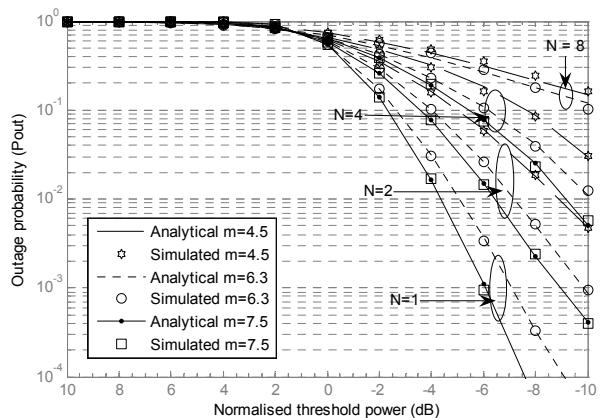


Figure 7. Outage probability vs. Normalized threshold in Cascaded Nakagami-m Fading Channel .

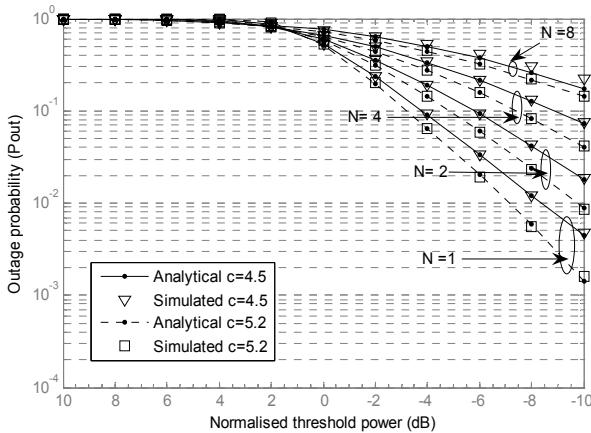


Figure 8. Outage probability vs. Normalized threshold in Cascaded Weibull Fading Channel .

From these plots, it is evident that rational expressions can be used to give very accurate estimate of the MGF for arbitrary values of N , c and m singly or collectively. Note that if the accuracy is not satisfactory for some cases, it is always possible to choose a higher value of D to enhance accuracy as long as the Hankel matrix is not rank deficient.

V. CONCLUSIONS

The Cascaded fading channel can be modeled by multiplying independent Nakagami-m or Weibull RVs, which may not be identically distributed. These two fading models have been used to analyze the wireless system performance in terms of amount of fading, outage probability and average bit error probability through cascaded fading channels. In doing so, moments-based simple to evaluate rational expressions for the MGF of output SNR are obtained for both the models. The unified approach presented here not only simplified the performance analysis in cascaded Nakagami-m fading channels but also provided new performance results in cascaded Weibull fading channels. To compliment the theoretical content of the paper numerical and simulation results are also presented for different channel fading conditions. The results obtained from rational expressions and computer simulation shows perfect match.

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