Resource Allocation Algorithm Based on Simultaneous Wireless Information and Power Transfer for OFDM Relay Networks

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Abstract

A resource allocation algorithm based on simultaneous wireless information and power transfer (SWIPT) to maximize the system throughput is proposed in orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) relay networks. The algorithm formulates the problem under the peak power constraints of the source and each subcarrier (SC), and the energy causality constraint of the relay. With the given SC allocation of the source, we give and prove the optimal propositions of the formulated problem. Then, the formulated problem could be decomposed into two separate throughput maximization sub-problems by setting the total power to transfer energy. Finally, several SC allocation schemes are proposed, which are energy priority scheme, information priority scheme, balanced allocation scheme and exhaustive scheme. The simulation results reveal that the energy priority scheme can significantly reduce computational complexity and achieve approximate performance with the exhaustive scheme.

1. Introduction

SWIPT [1-2] can use the same radio wave to transfer information and energy to the receiver simultaneously, and the receiver can harvest energy via energy harvesting technology [3-4], which can greatly extend the lifecycle of the energy-constrained equipment, reduce charging cost and improve the performance of wireless communication systems.

There are many techniques that can be combined with SWIPT to improve network performance, such as cognitive radio technology, OFDM technology and relay technology, etc. In [5], a network selection and channel allocation mechanism to minimize accumulated interference and price is proposed. In [6], a new sufficient condition for the convergence of iterative waterfilling is studied. In [7], a random hypergraph based unified matching framework is proposed, under which five feasible types of multi-flow DF cooperative networks are considered. More importantly, the process of solving the problem give us great inspiration to use the related technology.

The resource allocation problems of energy harvesting wireless networks have been widely investigated. In [8], the throughput maximization problem is studied by the Lagrangian multiplier method and KKT conditions for a two-node energy harvesting wireless network, and a directional water-filling algorithm is obtained. In [9], the authors assume that battery capacity, data buffer size and data transmission delay of the source are limited, and the throughput maximization problem is decoupled into a power allocation problem and a data transmission problem. Then, the authors solve the original problem through an alternating maximization algorithm. In [10], under the constraints of data rate and energy harvest save ratios, the authors propose a novel best cooperative mechanism by maximizing the system throughput for energy harvesting and spectrum sharing in 5G networks. In [11], the power splitting (PS) and time switching (TS) protocols are taken into consideration, separately. Then, the expressions of the system outage probability under the two protocols are obtained. In [12], the authors propose a centralized algorithm to maximize the minimum signal. Analogously, the algorithm consideres the peak power constraints and the minimum harvested energy constraints of the receivers. In [13], the authors assume that the source uses the TS protocol to transfer information and energy, and the optimal TS coefficient problems are studied for three different transmission modes. In [14], the authors consider a practical assumption: Each transmitter only knows its own CSI to all the receivers. Then, an improved alternating direction method in a SWIPT multiple-input single-output system is proposed to maximize the total harvested energy of the receivers. But [11-14] only consider the use of the single-carrier SWIPT strategy, without considering the widely used OFDM technology.

In [15-16], the authors consider a point-to-point OFDM system with a DF relay. Then, a joint subcarrier pairing and power allocation algorithm to maximize the transmission rate of the system is proposed. In [17], the power allocation and subcarrier-relay assignment are

jointly optimized to maximize the signal-to-noise ratio of the poorest channel. But in [15-17], all SCs are used to transfer information. When we combine OFDM technology with SWIPT technology and relay technology, the way to solve the problem will be very different.

OFDM technology can divide the spectrum into some orthogonal SCs, and each SC can transfer information or energy to the receiver. So OFDM technology is able to be combined with SWIPT technology (see, e.g., [18-26]). In [18-20], the broadcast single-cell networks by using the PS protocol are taken into consideration. In [18], the authors assume that energy can be transmitted in the downlink direction, and information can be transmitted in two direction. Several power-control algorithms are proposed to optimize both the throughput and energy transfer efficiency in different system configurations. In [19], the authors consider two cases where the receiver can harvest energy in a continuous or discrete mode, and a suboptimal resource allocation algorithm is obtained. In [20], the PS coefficient and SC allocation are simultaneously optimized by maximizing the energy harvested by all receivers, subject to the minimum rate constraint of each user. In [21], it is assumed that the receiver can work under the PS and TS protocols. Under the weighted sum-rate maximization criteria, the power allocation and SC allocation are jointly optimized by the Lagrangian multiplier method and an iterative algorithm. In [22], the authors propose a joint SC and power allocation SWIPT scheme in OFDM systems. In [23], it is assumed that the source can harvest energy from an energy supply point through some SCs, and transfer information to the destination through the remaining SCs. Then, the authors jointly optimize the SC allocation and power allocation by the variable substitution and Lagrangian multiplier method. But in [21-23], relay technology is not taken into consideration. In [24], the optimal TS and PS scheme is proposed for the two-hop SWIPT OFDM relay systems with the PS and TS protocols. In [25], the authors investigate the effects of the relay position and the number of SCs for the two-hop multiple-input multiple-output SWIPT OFDM relay systems with the PS and TS protocols, separately. In [26], the authors consider two cases where the direct link is available or unavailable for a two-hop SWIPT OFDM relay network. In this way, an algorithm to maximize the throughput is proposed by the ellipsoid method. But in [24-26], the power output capability of each SC is not taken into consideration.

The two-hop network model in this paper is shown in **Fig. 1**. In the 1st timeslot, the source transfers energy to the relay through some SCs and transfers information to the relay through the remaining SCs. In the 2nd timeslot, the relay can use all the SCs to transfer information to the destination. The proposed algorithm can flexibly adjust the number of the SCs used to transfer energy according to the channel condition, and then achieve the approximate performance of the exhaustive scheme with a lower computational complexity.

The main work of this paper is as follows:

1. It is assumed that the source can simultaneously transfer information and energy to the relay through different SCs respectively. Then, this paper formulates the throughput maximization problem under the peak power constraints of the source and each SC, and the

energy causality constraint of the relay.

2. With the given SC allocation of the source, we give and prove the optimal propositions of the formulated problem. **Proposition 1** gives the unequal relationship between the channel capacities of the source and relay. **Proposition 2** shows the optimal strategy for the SCs to transfer energy. **Proposition 3** shows that the maximum throughputs of the source and relay are monotone and continuous functions of the total power to transfer energy.

3. With the given SC allocation of the source, we decouple the system throughput maximization problem into two separate throughput maximization sub-problems by setting the total power to transfer energy from the source to the relay, and the two sub-problems can be solved by the water-filling method.

4. This paper proposes several simplified SC allocation schemes, which are energy priority scheme, information priority scheme and balanced allocation scheme.

This paper has the following structure. Section 2 gives the OFDM relay network model and throughput maximization problem. Section 3 develops an optimal algorithm with the given SC allocation. Section 4 proposes several simplified SC allocation schemes. Finally, Sections 5 and 6 give the simulation results and related conclusions.

2. System Model and Problem Formulation

We study the classic three-node OFDM relay network based on SWIPT, consisting of a source S, a relay R and a destination D, as shown in **Fig. 1**, where the R is an energy harvesting node with initial energy E_0. The communication process is completed by two equal length timeslots. For convenience, the length of each timeslot is unitized to 1, and the related conclusions can be extended to arbitrary timeslot length. At the same time, the system bandwidth W is divided into N equal orthogonal SCs, and the SC set is represented as $n \in \mathbf{N} = \{1,...,N\}$. Assuming that each channel is a Rayleigh fading channel, and the channel gain of S-R at the SC n is g_n, and that of R-D at the SC n is h_n.
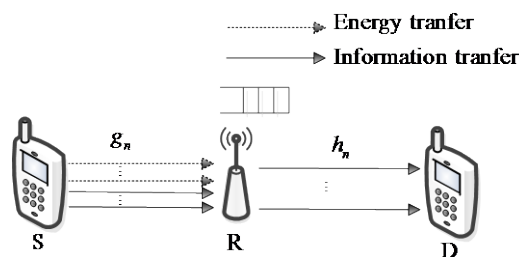

Fig. 1. OFDM relay network model based on SWIPT

The source can simultaneously transfer information and energy to the relay through different SCs (see, e.g., [27-29]). The relay is assumed to adapt bandpass filters, which makes it possible to tap into different subcarriers [30]. Since the source does not need to transfer energy to the relay when E_0 is large enough, we define a SC $n = 0$ with $g_0 = 0$ to mean that no SCs are used to transfer energy, and the set of all the SCs is denoted as $\widetilde{\mathbf{N}} = \{0\} \cup \mathbf{N}$. In the 1st timeslot, $\widetilde{\mathbf{N}}$ is divided into two complementary sets $\mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}$ and $\mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}$, which are respectively used to transfer energy and information, and the transmission power at the SC n is p_n, $n \in \widetilde{\mathbf{N}}$. In the 2nd timeslot, the relay can transfer information through all the SCs, and the transmission power at the SC n is q_n, $n \in \mathbf{N}$.

Supposing that the peak power constraint of the S is Q, so p_n should satisfy

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}} p_n + \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}} p_n \leq Q \tag{1}$$

The energy consumed at the relay cannot exceed the sum of the initial energy and harvested energy, i.e.,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{N} q_n \leq \eta \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}} p_n g_n + E_0 \tag{2}$$

where η, $0 \leq \eta \leq 1$ denotes the energy transfer efficiency.

The data transmission rate of the system must be less than or equal to the channel capacities of S-R and R-D, so as to ensure that the destination completely receives the data sent by the source, so:

$$C \leq \min \left\{ \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2 (1 + \frac{q_n h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2}), \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}} \frac{1}{2} \log_2 (1 + \frac{p_n g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2}) \right\} \tag{3}$$

where $\sigma_{R,n}^2$ and $\sigma_{D,n}^2$ denote the receiver noise power of the R and D, respectively.

We can formulate the throughput maximization problem as:

$$\max_{\{p_n, q_n, \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}, \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}\}} \quad \min \left\{ \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2 (1 + \frac{q_n h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2}), \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}} \frac{1}{2} \log_2 (1 + \frac{p_n g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2}) \right\}$$

$$s.t. \quad \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}} p_n + \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}} p_n \leq Q$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{N} q_n \leq \eta \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}} p_n g_n + E_0 \tag{4}$$

$$p_n \leq P^{\max}, n \in \widetilde{\mathbf{N}}$$

$$q_n \leq P^{\max}, n \in \mathbf{N}$$

where $P^{\max}$ represents the peak power constraint of each SC, and the source sends data at

the maximum achievable rate $\min \left\{ \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2 (1 + \frac{q_n h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2}), \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}} \frac{1}{2} \log_2 (1 + \frac{p_n g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2}) \right\}$.

3. Optimal Power Allocation with the Given SC Allocation

First, two propositions are given for the optimal power allocation of problem (4). **Proposition 1** gives the unequal relationship between the channel capacities of the source and relay. **Proposition 2** shows the optimal strategy to transfer energy.

Proposition 1: There exists an optimal power allocation $\{p_n^*\}$ and $\{q_n^*\}$ of problem (4) satisfies

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{p_n^* g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2}) \le \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{q_n^* h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2}) \tag{5}$$

Proof: Assuming that there exists an optimal power allocation $\{p_n^*\}$ and $\{q_n^*\}$ of problem (4), which doesn't satisfy (5), i.e., $\sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{p_n^* g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2}) > \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{q_n^* h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2})$. Now, the optimal solution of problem (4) is $\min\left\{\sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{q_n^* h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2}), \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{p_n^* g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2})\right\} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{q_n^* h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2})$. Then, we can choose any one of $n_1 \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}$, and reduce the power $p_{n_1}^*$ until $\sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{p_n^* g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2}) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{q_n^* h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2})$ or $p_{n_1}^* = 0$. If $\sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{p_n^* g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2}) > \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{q_n^* h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2})$ is still satisfied, we can choose any one of $n_2 \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}, n_2 \ne n_1$, and reduce the power $p_{n_2}^*$ until $\sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{p_n^* g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2}) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{q_n^* h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2})$ or $p_{n_2}^* = 0$. This process will be repeated until $\sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{p_n^* g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2}) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{q_n^* h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2})$. Now, the optimal solution of problem (4) is still $\min\left\{\sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{q_n^* h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2}), \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{p_n^* g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2})\right\} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{q_n^* h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2})$, because $\{q_n^*\}$ does not change. So, **Proposition 1** is proved.

Proposition 2: In the optimal strategy, if $0 < p_{\alpha(n)}^* < P^{\max}$ for $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}$ with the given SC allocation $\mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}$ and $\mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}$, we can obtain

$$p_{\alpha(m)}^* = \begin{cases} P^{\max}, & if \ 1 \le m < n \\ 0, & if \ n < m \le |\mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}| \end{cases} \tag{6}$$

where $|\mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}|$ represents the number of the SCs contained in the set $\mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}$. Vector $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ represents the subscript of the channel gains sorted in descending order for $n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}$, i.e., $\boldsymbol{\alpha} = \arg \text{sort}(g_n), n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}$, where the m-th element of $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ is denoted as $\alpha(m)$.

The meaning of **Proposition 2** is as follows. With the given SC allocation $\mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}$ and $\mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}$,

we first select a SC which has the largest g_n, $n \in \mathbf{N^E}$, i.e., $\alpha(1)$ to transfer energy. If the SC $\alpha(1)$ reaches the peak power constraint, then the second largest g_n, $n \in \mathbf{N^E}$, i.e., $\alpha(2)$ is selected to transfer energy, and so on, until the relay harvests enough energy. The specific power allocation strategy is given in **Subsection 3.1**.

Proof: We will prove it by the reductio ad absurdum. In the optimal power allocation $\{p_n^*\}$ and $\{q_n^*\}$, assuming that $\exists u \in \mathbf{N^E}$ does not satisfy (6). Now there may be two cases:

a) $\exists u \in [1, n)$ satisfies $0 \le p_{\alpha(u)}^* < P^{\max}$.

b) $\exists u \in (n, |\mathbf{N^E}|]$ satisfies $0 < p_{\alpha(u)}^* \le P^{\max}$.

For the case a), we can know $g_{\alpha(u)} > g_{\alpha(n)}$ from the definition of $\mathbf{\alpha}$, and let

$$\overline{p}_{\alpha(n)} = \begin{cases} 0 & , \ if \ p_{\alpha(u)}^* + p_{\alpha(n)}^* \le P^{\max} \\ p_{\alpha(u)}^* + p_{\alpha(n)}^* - P^{\max} & , \ if \ p_{\alpha(u)}^* + p_{\alpha(n)}^* > P^{\max} \end{cases} \tag{7}$$

$$\overline{p}_{\alpha(u)} = \begin{cases} p_{\alpha(u)}^* + p_{\alpha(n)}^*, \ if \ p_{\alpha(u)}^* + p_{\alpha(n)}^* \le P^{\max} \\ P^{\max} & , \ if \ p_{\alpha(u)}^* + p_{\alpha(n)}^* > P^{\max} \end{cases} \tag{8}$$

At this time it is clear that all the constraints of problem (4) are still satisfied, and

$$\overline{p}_{\alpha(u)} g_{\alpha(u)} + \overline{p}_{\alpha(n)} g_{\alpha(n)} > p_{\alpha(u)}^* g_{\alpha(u)} + p_{\alpha(n)}^* g_{\alpha(n)} \tag{9}$$

From **Proposition 1**, we can obtain $\sum_{n \in \mathbf{N^I}} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{p_n^* g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2}) \le \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{q_n^* h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2})$. Assuming that the allocated power of the other SCs will not change, and the relay can harvest more energy by (9). Let $\overline{p}_{\alpha(u)} = \overline{p}_{\alpha(u)} - \delta$, $\delta > 0$, where δ must ensure that the inequality (9) holds. The source can have more power δ to transfer information, and the relay can have more power $(\overline{p}_{\alpha(u)} - \delta) g_{\alpha(u)} + \overline{p}_{\alpha(n)} g_{\alpha(n)} - p_{\alpha(u)}^* g_{\alpha(u)} - p_{\alpha(n)}^* g_{\alpha(n)}$ to transfer information. If $\exists n \in \mathbf{N^I}$, $p_n^* < p_n^{\max}$ and $\exists n \in \mathbf{N}$, $q_n^* < P^{\max}$, the source and relay can achieve a higher system throughput than the strategy $\{p_n^*\}$ and $\{q_n^*\}$. Thus, the case a) does not hold.

It can be shown that the case b) does not hold in a similar manner to a). In summary, **Proposition 2** has been demonstrated.

Supposing that the total power to transfer energy of the S is Q_1, and the total power to transfer information is $Q_2 = Q - Q_1$. Then, $\sum_{n \in \mathbf{N^E}} p_n \le Q_1$ and $\sum_{n \in \mathbf{N^I}} p_n \le Q_2$ must be satisfied. With the given Q_1 and SC allocation, the joint optimal power allocation strategy is as follows.

3.1 Joint Optimal Power Allocation

From **Proposition 2**, we first select the SC $\alpha(1)$ to transfer energy until $p_{\alpha(1)} = P^{\max}$ or $p_{\alpha(1)} = Q_1$. If $p_{\alpha(1)} < Q_1$, then we select the SC $\alpha(2)$ to transfer energy until $p_{\alpha(2)} = P^{\max}$ or

$\sum_{n=1}^{2} p_{\alpha(n)} = Q_1$, and so on. This process will be repeated until $p_{\alpha(n)} = P^{\max}$ for $\forall n \in \mathbf{N^E}$ or

$\sum_{n=1}^{|\mathbf{N^E}|} p_{\alpha(n)} = Q_1$. The specific solution of Q_1 is given in **Subsection 3.2**.

Now, the total energy of the relay $\eta \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N^E}} p_n g_n + E_0$, and $Q_2 = Q - Q_1$ can be obtained. So

the feasible region of problem (4) for p_n, $n \in \mathbf{N^I}$ and q_n, $n \in \mathbf{N}$ is separable, and problem
(4) could be decomposed into the following two sub-problems:

$$\max_{\{p_n\}} \quad \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N^I}} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{p_n g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2})$$
$$s.t. \quad \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N^I}} p_n \leq Q_2 \tag{10}$$
$$p_n \leq P^{\max}, n \in \mathbf{N^I}$$

$$\max_{\{q_n\}} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{q_n h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2})$$
$$s.t. \quad \sum_{n=1}^{N} q_n \leq \eta \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N^E}} p_n g_n + E_0 \tag{11}$$
$$q_n \leq P^{\max}, n \in \mathbf{N}$$

The Lagrangian function of problem (10) is

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N^I}} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{p_n g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2}) - \lambda(\sum_{n \in \mathbf{N^I}} p_n - Q_2) - \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N^I}} \mu_n(p_n - P^{\max}) \tag{12}$$

where the Lagrange multipliers λ and $\{\mu_n\}$ correspond to the two constraints in (10),
respectively.

We apply the KKT conditions and partial derivative of p_n to get

$$p_n^* = (\frac{1}{2(\lambda + \mu_n)\ln 2} - \frac{\sigma_{R,n}^2}{g_n})^+, n \in \mathbf{N^I} \tag{13}$$

The complementary slackness condition about $p_n \leq P^{\max}$, $n \in \mathbf{N^I}$ is

$$\mu_n(p_n - P^{\max}) = 0 \tag{14}$$

We can get $\mu_n = 0$ whenever $p_n < P^{\max}$ by (14). If $\mu_n > 0$, we must have $p_n = P^{\max}$, i.e.,
μ_n forces p_n to reduce until $p_n = P^{\max}$.

So the optimal solution of problem (10) is

$$p_n^* = \min((\frac{1}{2\lambda \ln 2} - \frac{\sigma_{R,n}^2}{g_n})^+, P^{\max}), n \in \mathbf{N^I} \tag{15}$$

where $(x)^+ = \max(0, x)$, and λ satisfies $\sum_{n \in \mathbf{N^I}} p_n = Q_2$ or $p_n = P^{\max}$ for $\forall n \in \mathbf{N^I}$.

Similarly, the optimal solution of problem (11) is

$$q_n^* = \min\left(\left(\frac{1}{2\gamma \ln 2} - \frac{\sigma_{D,n}^2}{h_n}\right)^+, P^{\max}\right), \, n \in \mathbf{N} \tag{16}$$

where γ satisfies $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{N} q_n = \eta \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N^E}} p_n g_n + E_0$ or $q_n = P^{\max}$ for $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}$.

3.2 Optimal Solution of Q_1

We consider two cases where the initial energy of the relay satisfies $E_0 = 0$ or $E_0 > 0$. First, we give a proposition about how the maximum throughputs of the source and relay change with Q_1.

Proposition 3: With the continuous increase of Q_1, if $\exists n \in \mathbf{N^I}$, $p_n^* < P^{\max}$, the maximum throughput of the source $R_S^* = \displaystyle\sum_{n \in \mathbf{N^I}} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{p_n^* g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2})$ is a continuous and monotonically decreasing function; if $\exists n \in \mathbf{N^E}$, $p_n^* < p_n^{\max}$ and $\exists n \in \mathbf{N}$, $q_n^* < P^{\max}$, the maximum throughput of the relay $R_R^* = \displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \log_2(1 + \frac{q_n^* h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2})$ is a continuous and monotonically increasing function.

Proof: First, we prove the monotonicity.

With the continuous increase of Q_1, $Q_2 = Q - Q_1$ is continuously decreasing. Then, if $\exists n \in \mathbf{N^I}$, $p_n^* < P^{\max}$, λ must increase to accommodate the decrease of Q_2 by (15). So R_S^* is monotonically decreasing with the increase of Q_1.

For the relay, we can obtain at least the maximum throughput before the increase of Q_1. With the continuous increase of Q_1, if $\exists n \in \mathbf{N^E}$, $p_n^* < p_n^{\max}$, the relay can harvest more energy. If $\exists n \in \mathbf{N}$, $q_n^* < P^{\max}$, γ must decrease to accommodate the increase of $\eta \displaystyle\sum_{n \in \mathbf{N^E}} p_n g_n + E_0$ by (16). So R_R^* is monotonically increasing with the decrease of Q_1.

Second, we prove the continuity.

Since the data that can be transmitted by limited energy in a limited time is also limited, the maximum throughputs of the source and relay will not jump. Meanwhile, the range of Q_1 is $0 \le Q_1 \le Q$. That is, the continuity is guaranteed.

Similarly, we can get the extension of **Proposition 3**. With the continuous decrease of Q_1, if $\exists n \in \mathbf{N^I}$, $p_n^* < p_n^{\max}$, R_S^* is continuous and monotonically increasing; if $\exists n \in \mathbf{N}$, $q_n^* < P^{\max}$ and $\exists n \in \mathbf{N^E}$, $p_n^* < p_n^{\max}$, the maximum throughput of the relay R_R^* is continuous and monotonically decreasing.

When $E_0 = 0$, several typical situations about how R_S^* and R_R^* change with Q_1 are

shown in **Fig. 2**, where the horizontal straight line of R_S^* is due to $p_n^* = P^{\max}$ for $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}$, and the horizontal straight line of R_R^* is due to $q_n^* = P^{\max}$ for $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}$ or $p_n^* = P^{\max}$ for $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}$. When we set different values of $P^{\max}$, there exist the following three typical cases, where the system maximum throughput curve is expressed as the smaller of R_S^* and R_R^* curves under the same Q_1, i.e., $\min(R_S^*, R_R^*)$, meanwhile, we ignore some insignificant situations. The system maximum throughput curve is shown in **Fig. 2(a)**, and is omitted in **Fig. 2(b)** and **Fig. 2(c)**. With the increase of Q_1 from zero to Q, the system maximum throughput must first increase, and then reach the maximum value, and then reduce to zero. Therefore, we could use some methods such as golden section method [31] to simplify the searching process of Q_1.
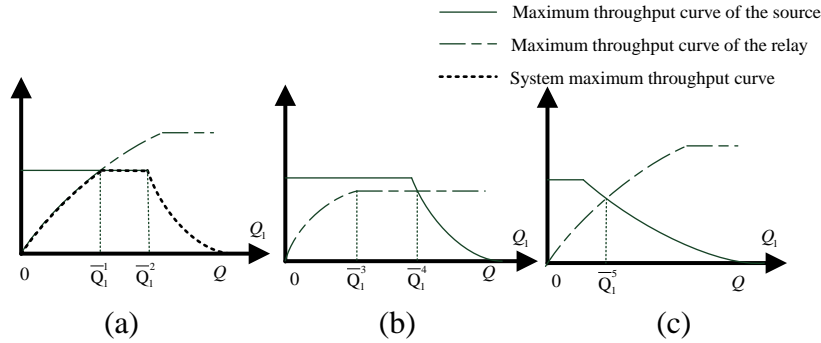

Fig. 2. Schematic diagram of the derivation process

When the initial energy of the relay $E_0 > 0$, there may exist a case where E_0 is very large, and even if $Q_1 = 0$, the maximum throughput of the source is still less than the relay's. Now the golden section method is no longer applicable, and we can use the following search method.

When $R_S^* > R_R^*$, if $\exists n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}$, $p_n^* < p_n^{\max}$ and $\exists n \in \mathbf{N}$, $q_n^* < P^{\max}$, we can increase Q_1 until $p_n^* < P^{\max}$ for $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}$ or $q_n^* = P^{\max}$ for $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}$ or $R_S^* = R_R^*$. From **Proposition 3**, with the increase of Q_1, R_R^* and the system maximum throughput $\min(R_S^*, R_R^*)$ both will increase, until the optimal Q_1^* is obtained.

When $R_S^* < R_R^*$, if $\exists n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}$, $p_n^* < P^{\max}$, we can decrease Q_1 util $Q_1 = 0$ or $p_n^* = P^{\max}$ for $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}$ or $R_S^* = R_R^*$. With the continuous decrease of Q_1, R_S^* and the system maximum throughput $\min(R_S^*, R_R^*)$ both will increase, until the optimal Q_1^* is obtained.

From **Proposition 3**, R_S^* is non-increasing and R_R^* is non-decreasing with the increase of Q_1. Therefore, with the given SC allocation $\mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}$ and $\mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}$, the optimal solution of problem

(4) must be unique and can be searched out by the above method. Note that Q_1 corresponding to the optimal value is not necessarily unique, as shown in **Fig. 2(a)** $\overline{Q}_1^1 \le Q_1^* \le \overline{Q}_1^2$ and **Fig. 2(b)** $\overline{Q}_1^3 \le Q_1^* \le \overline{Q}_1^4$.

The detailed optimal power allocation strategy is shown in **Algorithm 1**, where the range $a \le x \le b$ is denoted as $[a,b]$. The computational complexity of **Algorithm 1** depends on the size of s. When we set a large s, the system throughput will converge quickly, but the throughput performance obtained will be poor because of poor calculation accuracy. On the contrary, when we set a small s, the system throughput will converge slowly, but the throughput performance obtained will be great because of high calculation accuracy.

Algorithm 1. Optimal Power Allocation with the Given SC Allocation

      Input: range of Q_1, $[0,Q]$; initial energy of the relay E_0; SC allocation $\mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}$ and

      $\mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}$; number of the SCs N; channel gains $\{h_n\}$ and $\{g_n\}$

      Output: system maximum throughput C^*; optimal power allocation $\{p_n^*\}$ and

      $\{q_n^*\}$

1.   Initialize $Q_1 = Q/2$, $Q_2 = Q - Q_1$, minimum step size s of Q_1;
2.   Obtain p_n^*, $n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}$ from **Proposition 2**;
3.   Solve $p_n^*, n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}$ and $q_n^*, n \in \mathbf{N}$ by (15)(16);
4.   Compute $R_S^* = \sum\limits_{n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}} \dfrac{1}{2}\log_2(1 + \dfrac{p_n^* g_n}{\sigma_{R,n}^2})$ and $R_R^* = \sum\limits_{n=1}^{N} \dfrac{1}{2}\log_2(1 + \dfrac{q_n^* h_n}{\sigma_{D,n}^2})$;
5.   **if** $R_S^* < R_R^*$
6.   Repeat $Q_1 = Q_1 - s$ and steps 2, 3 and 4, until $Q_1 = 0$ or $p_n^* = P^{\max}$ for
           $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{I}}$ or $R_S^* = R_R^*$;
7.   **else**
8.   Repeat $Q_1 = Q_1 + s$ and steps 2, 3 and 4, until $q_n^* = P^{\max}$ for $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}$ or
           $p_n^* < P^{\max}$ for $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}^{\mathbf{E}}$ or $R_S^* = R_R^*$;
9.   **end if**
10. Compute $C^* = \min(R_S^*, R_R^*)$;

---

4. SC Allocation Strategy

Here, we consider the SC allocation of problem (4). Since the SC allocation of problem (4) is a integer programming problem, the computational complexity of the exhaustive scheme is $\mathcal{O}(2^N)$. So this paper proposes several simplified SC allocation schemes.

   1. Energy priority scheme: First, all the SCs of the source are used to transfer

information, i.e., $\mathbf{N_0^I} = \{1, 2, ..., N\}$, $\mathbf{N_0^E} = \{0\}$. The relay uses the initial energy E_0 to transfer information, and then the system maximum throughput C_0^* is calculated by **Algorithm 1**. This is because, when E_0 is very large, the system performance will obviously decline if some SCs are used to transfer energy. Then, the channel gains of the SCs $n \in \mathbf{N}$ at the source are sorted in descending order to obtain the subscript vector $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ at the original position, i.e., $\boldsymbol{\beta} = \arg \mathrm{sort}(g_n), n \in \mathbf{N}$. Afterward, we select the first m $(1 \le m < |\mathbf{N}|)$ SCs of the vector $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ to transfer energy, i.e., $\mathbf{N_m^E} = \{\beta(1), \beta(2), ..., \beta(m)\}$, and the remaining SCs are used to transfer information. Meanwhile, the system maximum throughput C_m^* is calculated by **Algorithm 1**. Finally, the system maximum throughput obtained by this scheme is $C^* = \max\{C_m^*\}, 0 \le m < |\mathbf{N}|$, and the computational complexity of this scheme is $\mathcal{O}(N)$.

2. Information priority scheme: First, C_0^* and $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ are obtained according to the above method in the energy priority scheme. Then, we select the first m $(1 \le m < |\mathbf{N}|)$ SCs of the vector $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ to transfer information, i.e., $\mathbf{N_m^I} = \{\beta(1), \beta(2), ..., \beta(m)\}$, and the remaining SCs are used to transfer energy. Meanwhile, the system maximum throughput C_m^* is calculated by **Algorithm 1**. Finally, $C^* = \max\{C_m^*\}, 0 \le m < |\mathbf{N}|$, and the computational complexity of this scheme is $\mathcal{O}(N)$.

3. Balanced allocation scheme: First, C_0^* and $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ are obtained, too. Then, there is a 50% probability for the SCs located in the odd locations of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ to transfer information or energy, and the remaining SCs are used to transfer energy or information. Afterward, the system maximum throughput C_1^* is calculated by **Algorithm 1**. Finally, $C^* = \max\{C_0^*, C_1^*\}$, and the computational complexity of this scheme is $\mathcal{O}(2)$.

In this paper, we use the exhaustive scheme to obtain the optimal SC allocation, namely, the performance upper bound of problem (4). In the exhaustive scheme, all the SCs of the source have two options, i.e., energy transmission and information transmission. So the computational complexity of the exhaustive scheme is $\mathcal{O}(2^N)$. On the other hand, due to the Section 3 gives the optimal power allocation with the given SC allocation. Then, we consider each SC allocation situation, and get the maximum throughput for each SC allocation situation. In this way, the maximum value of these maximum throughputs is the optimal solution of problem (4).

5. Simulation and Analysis

In this paper, the simulation parameters are set according to [26]. Assuming that the distance of S-D is 6m, and the relay is randomly distributed in a circle with a radius of 2m centered on the mid-point of the S and D. The initial energy of the relay is $E_0 = 0$, and the

duration of each timeslot is 1s. The system bandwidth is $W = 1\,\text{MHz}$, and the bandwidth of each SC is W/N. Assuming that the system coherence bandwidth is much larger than the bandwidth of each SC. Meanwhile, the large-scale fading is $(-31.5 - 30\log_{10} d)$ dB [32] at distance d, and the small-scale fading is Rayleigh fading. The noise power spectral density of the receivers is $N_0 = -174\,\text{dBm/Hz}$. The energy transfer efficiency is $\eta = 0.2$.

We compare the maximum throughputs of the four SC allocation schemes by using **Algorithm 1**, which are called as energy priority algorithm, information priority algorithm, balanced allocation algorithm and exhaustive algorithm, respectively. Meanwhile, an equal power allocation (EPA) algorithm is compared, and it uses the exhaustive SC allocation scheme.

Fig. 3 shows the system maximum throughput comparison of the energy priority algorithm under different s, where s represents the minimum step size of steps 6 and 8 in **Algorithm 1**. We set the peak power constraint of the source $Q = 26$ dBm, the number of the SCs $N = 16$ and the peak power of each SC $P^{\max} = 17\,\text{dBm}$. As can be seen from **Fig. 3**, the throughputs of all curves will converge to different constant values, and the final system throughput is larger for the curve with a smaller s. On the other hand, the average number of iterations of steps 6 and 8 in Algorithm 1 is more for the curve with a smaller s. That is to say, the computational complexity of Algorithm 1 depends on the size of s, and the system throughput performance with a smaller s is better, but the computational complexity is higher.
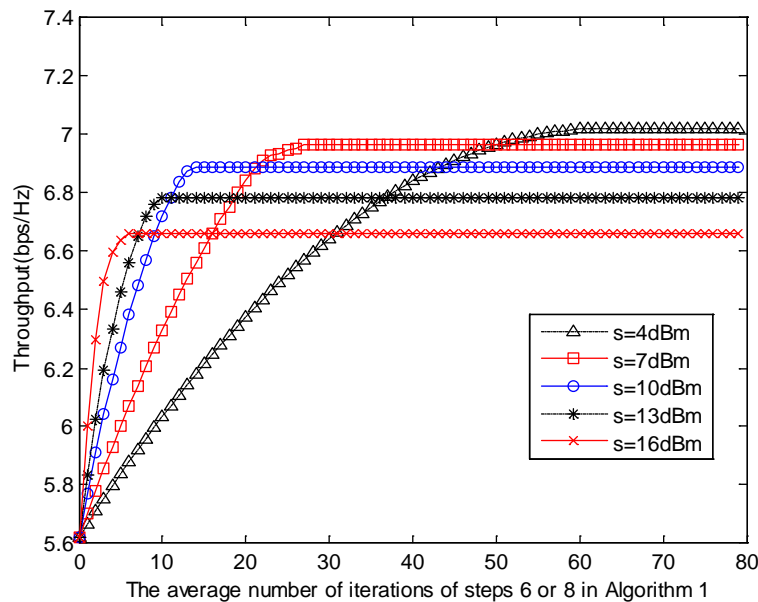

Fig. 3. System maximum throughput comparison of the energy priority algorithm under different s, where $Q = 26$ dBm, $N = 16$

Fig. 4 shows the system maximum throughput comparison of different algorithms under different peak power constraints Q, where the number of the SCs is $N = 16$ and the peak power of each SC is $P^{\max} = 17\,\mathrm{dBm}$. In **Fig. 4**, the energy priority algorithm achieves almost the same throughput as the exhaustive algorithm, and is better than the other three algorithms. The balanced allocation algorithm has a larger throughput than the information priority algorithm, because it has half the probability to use the SCs with larger channel gain to transfer energy. With the increase of Q, the throughput difference between the EPA algorithm and exhaustive algorithm will gradually reduce, because the probability that the allocated power of each SC reaches the peak power constraint is increasing.
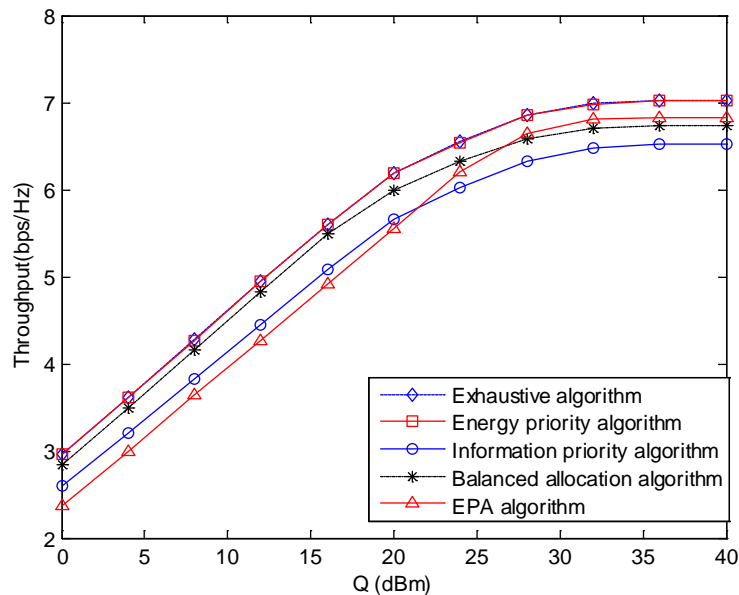

Fig. 4. System maximum throughput comparison of different algorithms under different Q, where
$N = 16$, $P^{\max} = 17\,\mathrm{dBm}$

Fig. 5 shows the system maximum throughput comparison of different algorithms with no SC peak power constraint, where $N = 16$. With the increase of Q, the energy priority algorithm and exhaustive algorithm are better than the other three algorithms. Meanwhile, the throughput difference between the balanced allocation algorithm and information priority algorithm becomes smaller and smaller, because the former uses a fixed number of SCs to transfer energy, while the latter can dynamically adjust the number of the SCs used to transfer energy.
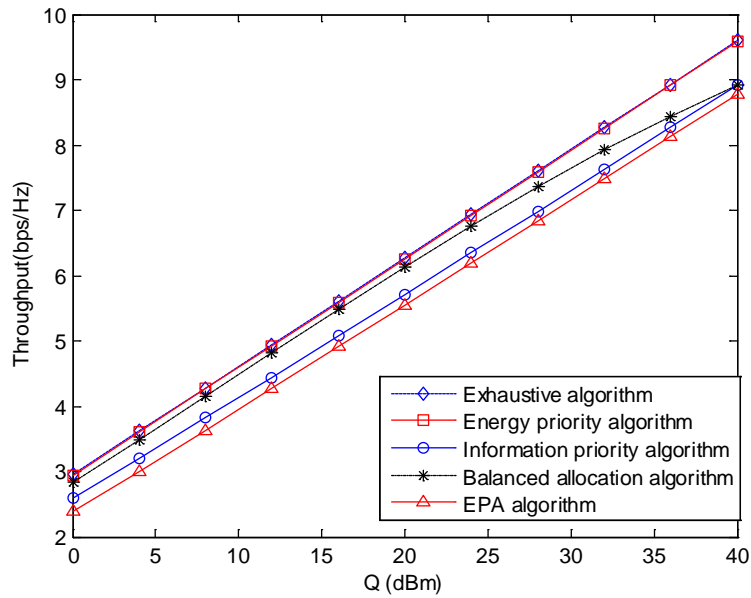
Fig. 5. System maximum throughput comparison of different algorithms with no SC peak power constraint, where $N = 16$
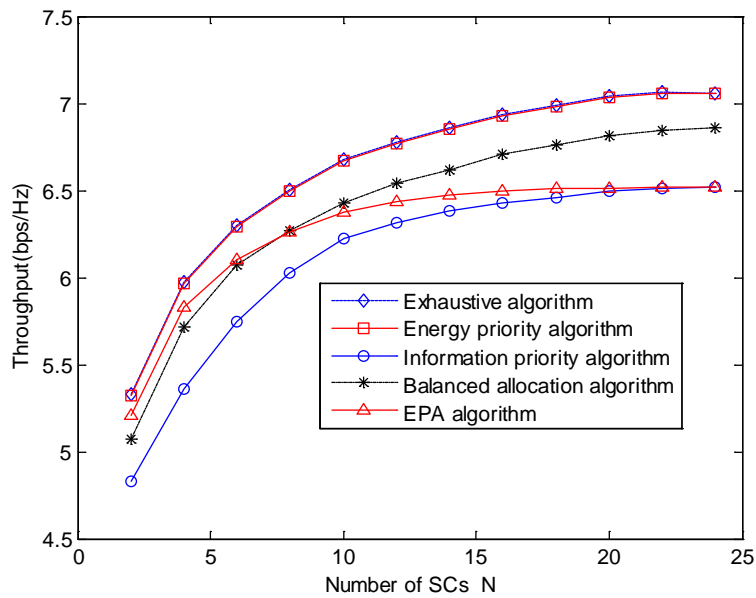

Fig. 6. System maximum throughput comparison of different algorithms under different N, where $Q = 26$ dBm, $P^{\max} = 17$ dBm

Fig. 6 shows the system maximum throughput comparison of different algorithms under different N, where $Q = 26$ dBm and $P^{\max} = 17$ dBm. The energy priority algorithm achieves almost the same throughput as the exhaustive algorithm, and is better than the other algorithms, too. The balanced allocation algorithm has a larger throughput than the information priority algorithm. We observe that when the number of the SCs N is small, the EPA algorithm has some advantages because it uses the exhaustive SC allocation scheme. Finally, the throughputs of different algorithms will converge due to the peak power constraint of the source $Q = 26$ dBm.

Fig. 7 shows the system maximum throughput comparison of the energy priority algorithm under different Q, where $N = 16$. When Q is small, the system throughput performance of different $P^{\max}$ is close. With the increase of Q, the system throughput performance with a larger $P^{\max}$ is better.
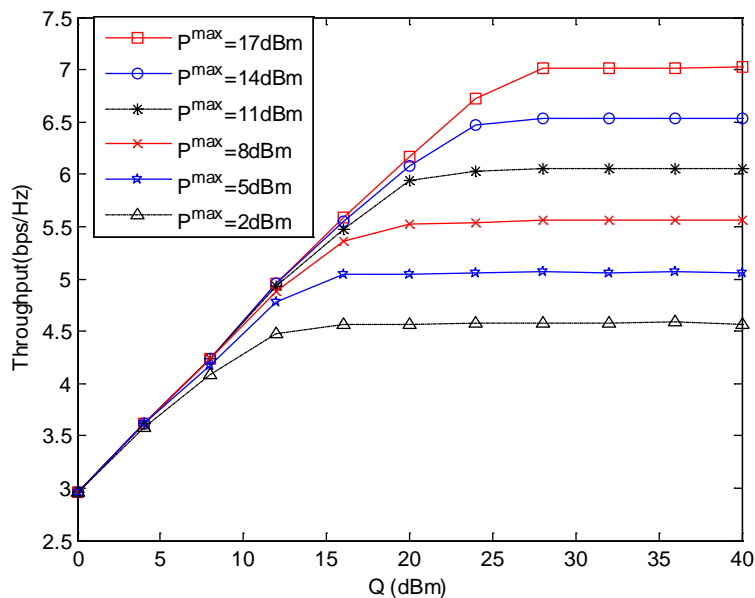

Fig. 7. System maximum throughput comparison of the energy priority algorithm under different $P^{\max}$, where $N = 16$

Fig. 8 shows the average running time comparison of different algorithms under different number of the SCs N, where the peak power constraint of the source $Q = 26$ dBm, the minimum step size $s = 4$ dBm and the peak power of each SC is $P^{\max} = 17$ dBm. Simulation computer is ASUS FX50JK4710 with 8G memory. The operating system is WIN10, and the version of MATLAB is 2014a. In **Fig. 8**, the energy priority algorithm and information priority algorithm have the same time complexity, which is far less than the time complexity of the exhaustive algorithm, especially when the number of SCs is large.

The balanced allocation algorithm has some advantages over time complexity, and the EPA algorithm has the lowest time complexity.
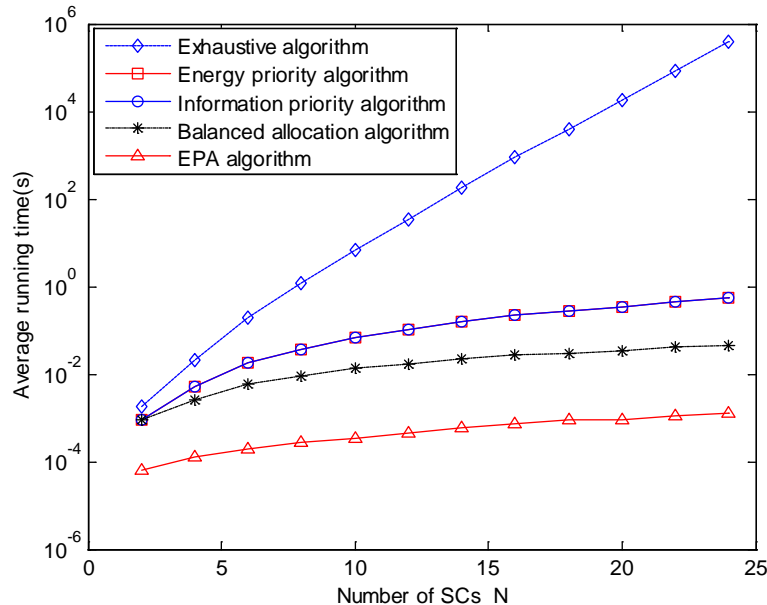

Fig. 8. The average running time comparison of different algorithms under different N, where $Q = 26$ dBm, $P^{\max} = 17$ dBm

6. Conclusions

In this paper, an OFDM relay network based on SWIPT is studied. We propose a resource allocation algorithm by maximizing the system throughput, and the algorithm can flexibly adjust the number of the SCs used to transfer energy according to the channel condition. Firstly, with the given SC allocation of the source, we give and prove the optimal propositions of the formulated problem. Then, the formulated problem could be decomposed into two separate throughput maximization sub-problems by setting the total power to transfer energy from the source to the relay. The results reveal that the energy priority algorithm can achieve approximate performance with the exhaustive scheme, and is superior to the other algorithms.

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