Integrated Satellite-Terrestrial Networks Towards 6G: Architectures, Applications, and Challenges

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Outline

- Background
- Integrated Satellite-Terrestrial Networks Towards 6G
- Application Case
- Challenges for Integration
- Techniques and Future Direction

Contemporary Network Architecture

Network consists of the access network and the main parts of the Internet

Access Network

Internet



Represented by mobile communication network Dominated by the TCP/IP

Existing Mobile Communication Network



The core architecture of mobile communication network is cellular architecture Higher thoughput is achieved by more dense cells

4G LTE→5G: Further Dense Networking



In the enabling technology of 5G, dense networking on the access side is the core



Something Behind the Prosperity.....



5G KPI: peak rate, connection density, latency, traffic density, mobility, energy efficiency, spectrum efficiency Wide Area (Satellite) Network: +coverage, +security, +lowpower, +small size...

Mobile coverage has a long way to go Future network needs to connect the wide blank area

Contradiction: Coverage VS Cost



Terrestrial Networks are Insufficient

 Population Coverage of Internet: (ITU - Facts and figures 2019)
Global: 53.6%
Developed Country: 47.0%
Less Developed Country: 19.1%



• Terrestrial network coverage: Land 20% Ocean 5%

Traditional terrestrial networks are constructed based on optical fiber. Achieving global terrestrial coverage require more than 10 trillion dollars and $20\sim25$ years. Moreover, broadband communication for maritime and aviation is unrealizable for terrestrial networks.

Satellite Communication Demands

Economic Development



Global seamless coverage

Environment Monitoring



Monitoring changes in resources and environment

Aerospace

Emergency Rescue





Satellite communication networks become the development trend of future networks

Satellite Communication Networks



Communication Mode

- Fixed satellite services (FSS)
- Fixed devices on the ground
- Large antennas
- VSAT communication, Television broadcast
- Mobile satellite services (MSS)
- Portable mobile devices
- Limited antennas
- Cars, ships, airplanes, individual users



Satellite Communication Networks



	LEO	MEO	GEO
Orbit Altitude	500 ~ 2000 km	2000 ~ 36000 km	36000 km
Orbit Type	Dynamic	Dynamic	Fixed
Orbit Resource	Sufficient	Sufficient	Limited
Coverage	Medium	Large	Large
Delay	Low	Medium	High
Attenuation	Low	Medium	High

Increasing Development of Satellite Networks

Satellite Project	Frequency	Satellite Number
OneWeb	Ku, V	720 - 2882
SpaceX	Ku, V	4425 - 42000
Boeing	V	147-3103
LeoSat	Ka	84-108
Telesat	Ka, V	117-234
YaLiny	Ka, V	140
Samsung	MMW	4600
Astrome Technologies	MMW	150
KasKilo (M2M)	Ka	288
CAST	-	60
Helios Wires (M2M)	S	30
Sky & Space Global	S, L	200
Astrocast (M2M)	-	64
Kepler (M2M)	Ku	140
Lucky Star	-	156



Satellite Constellation Project

- O3b(other 3 billion)
- MEO constellation on the orbit of 8062 km
- Invested by Google, operated in 2014, provide broadband Internet access of 10 Gbps
- **Target :** Cover countries of low and middle latitude, replace fiber optics









Satellite Constellation Project

- OneWeb
- LEO constellation on the orbit of 1200 km
- Consist of 720 satellites on 18 orbital planes
- Frequency band: Ku + Ka



- More than 200 satellites have been launched
- Extend the connectivity all areas above 50 degrees north latitude by June 2021
- Provide global service in 2022





Satellite Constellation Project

- SpaceX
- LEO constellation on the orbit of 550 1100 km
- Consist of 4425 satellites on multiple orbital planes (10k+ later)
- Frequency band: Ku + Ka
- More than 1600 satellites have been launched
- Service is now available in the United States and other countries, with more than half a million users.



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Development Dilemma: Satellite





Uneven Communication Demand

Uniform coverage is of low efficiency

Integrated Satellite-Terrestrial Network



6G: Integrated Satellite-Terrestrial Network

• 6G White Paper



The future wireless network must be able to seamlessly interface with terrestrial and satellite networks





Hybrid Satellite-Terrestrial Relay Networks

Basic Relay Architecture



> Relay to User



Communication outage can be avoided System stability is increased

Hybrid Satellite-Terrestrial Relay Networks

Cooperative Relay Architecture

Considering both the masked direct link and the relay link

- Phase 1
 - > Satellite to Relay
 - > Satellite to User
- Phase 2
 - > Relay to User
 - User combine the two signals by techniques such as MRC



Spatial diversity can be exploited when the direct link is masked

Satellite-Terrestrial Backhaul Networks



Satellite-Terrestrial Backhaul Networks



Cognitive Satellite-Terrestrial Networks

Basic Cognitive Architecture

Increasing Demand of Spectrum Satellite Primary Link **Spectrum Sharing** Secondary Link **Cognitive Ratio** --- Interference Link **Underlay Overlay** Interweave **Base Station** Satellite user Terrestrial user Gateway (PU) (SU) Terrestrial network **Interference** Mitigation

Exclusion Zone

Cognitive Satellite-Terrestrial Networks

Cognitive Relay Architecture



- BS to Satellite User
- **BS to Terrestrial User by CR**

Extended From Hybrid Satellite-Terrestrial Relay Networks

Cooperative Satellite-Terrestrial Networks

Complementary Architecture

Satellite network and the terrestrial network act as the complement of each other

- Terrestrial Network
- Broadband access to the Internet at low cost
- Satellite Network
- > Ubiquitous coverage

Continuous service Internet of Everything



Cooperative Satellite-Terrestrial Networks

Enhanced Architecture

Satellite network and the terrestrial network cooperate to provide enhanced communication services for ground users



- > Offloading terrestrial traffic
- Diversity gain
- Combined unicast and multicast



Satellite-Air-Terrestrial Networks

Air Network: Provide coverage and capacity enhancement with mobility support



Integration Architecture

Satellite- Terrestrial Relay Networks	Basic Relay Architecture	Terrestrial relays are utilized to forward satellite signals to ground satellite users, when the direct satellite link is unavailable due to the masking effect.
	Cooperative Relay Architecture	Terrestrial relays are utilized to forward satellite signals to ground satellite users. Then, users combine the signals from both satellites and relays to improve the system performance when the direct satellite link is masked.
Satellite- Terrestrial Backhaul Networks	λ.	Satellites are utilized to provide backhaul transmission for BSs in remote areas without optical fiber backhaul links.
Cognitive Satellite- Terrestrial Networks	Basic Cognitive Architecture	Satellite networks and terrestrial networks share the same spectrum resources for transmission with the technique of CR.
	Cognitive Relay Architecture	Satellite relay networks and terrestrial networks share the same spectrum resources for transmission with the technique of CR.

Integration Architecture

Cooperative Satellite- Terrestrial Networks	Complementary Architecture	Satellite networks and terrestrial networks act as the complement of each other to achieve ubiquitous coverage and continuous service.
	Enhanced Architecture	Users can access the terrestrial network and the satellite network simultaneously. Satellite networks and terrestrial networks cooperate to provide enhanced communication services for ground users.
Satellite- Air- Terrestrial Networks	\backslash	The satellite network, the air network, and the terrestrial network are integrated, where the air network is further deployed to provide coverage and capacity enhancement with mobility support.

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Rural Coverage

• **Population Coverage of Internet :**

(ITU - Facts and figures 2019)

Global : 53.6% Developed Country : 47.0% Less Developed Country : 19.1%

• Percentage of the population not using the Internet, 2019



Rural Coverage



Starlink:

A satellite costs 0.5 million US dollars 4425 satellites covers the world Total cost: 2212 million US dollars





The satellite-terrestrial network can achieve rural coverage at a lower cost !

- **Sparsely Populated Rural Areas:** Access the satellite-terrestrial network by mobile terminals
- **Densely Populated Rural Areas:** Access the satellite-terrestrial network by BSs or other access points with satellite backhauls
- **Residences/Buildings in Rural Areas:** Fixed satellite antennas can be deployed to provide relative broadband service for users inside based on 6G or Wi-Fi

Sea Area Communication

• Ground Mobile Network Coverage:

Land 20% Sea 5%

• Sea area accounts for 71% of the entire surface of the earth.

Shore BSs \rightarrow 5km Ship-by-Ship Relay \rightarrow 100km



Ground networks are impossible to realize the communication of the entire sea area !

Sea Area Communication

- **Expand the communication range :**
 - Extend the connectivity to remote or isolated areas on the earth.
 - For a cruise line on the sea, the users inside can obtain the same terrestrial services as on land based on the integrated satellite-terrestrial network.
- > Maritime information collection and maritime monitoring :
 - Provide efficient storage, transmission and calculation for the collected maritime information.
 - Improving the ability of continuous situational awareness of the sea area.



Airborne Communication

Airborne network

The airborne network generally consists of airplanes, balloons and UAVs, among which airplanes are in great need of broadband access.

> Air Transport Market

2017: 4.08 billion passengers worldwide

70% of passengers are willing to pay for WiFi. (Date comes from CAAC.)



Emergency Communication

Natural Disaster

Natural disasters cost the world \$75 billion and claimed roughly 2,200 lives during the first half of 2020.

> Unexpected Events





Earthquake

Typhoon/Hurricane



Flight Distress



Outdoor Self-help

The integrated satellite-terrestrial network is more reliable and resistant to paroxysmal disasters !

Multicast/Broadcast Transmission

Multicast/broadcast transmission can be utilized for simultaneous transmission to multiple users that require the same contents



> Three Models

- Cooperative multicast transmission mode: Overcome the large fluctuation of terrestrial channels.
- Combined unicast and multicast transmission mode: Content delivery.
- Multicast backhaul and caching mode: Efficient content fetch from the service provider with the STBN architecture.

Multicast/Broadcast Transmission



Cooperative Multicast Transmission



Significantly increase the transmission capacity of bottleneck users in traditional multicast transmission

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Long Propagation Delay

- For GEO, the propagation delay are 240 milliseconds.
- For MEO/LEO, the propagation delay are tens of milliseconds.
- Propagation delay of satellites is much longer than the 5G latency requirement of 1 ms.

Satellite type	Altitude	One-way propagation delay
GEO	36,000 km	240 ms
MEO	20,000 km	133.33 ms
MEO	10,000 km	66.67 ms
MEO	3,000 km	20 ms
LEO	1,000 km	6.67 ms
LEO	600 km	4 ms

TABLE: Propagation delay of satellites

To improve the QoS of users, efforts are needed to reduce the communication latency in cooperative satellite-terrestrial network (CooSTN) !

Long Propagation Delay

> Mobile edge computing (MEC)

MEC 📫 BS, Satellites and Gateways 📫 Reduce Latency



Complex Link Conditions

Unfavourable Weather Conditions >

Rain, cloud, water vapour and fog *critical signal attenuation*

High Speed Movement

High speed of MEO/LEO satellites

Time-variation Doppler shift

Large phase shift

Reliable modulation and coding schemes can be designed and utilized for quickly adaptation to complex link conditions.





Traffic Offloading

- > High Dynamic Nature
 - High mobility of MEO/LEO satellites

Unstable satellite links Short connection time

- > High Latency
 - High propagation latency of satellites
 - Different propagation delay of different satellites
 - Limited Resources:
 - Limited resources (e.g. power, bandwidth, data processing power)

Considering the unique characteristics of satellite networks, satellite-based traffic offloading is more complex compared with conventional traffic offloading schemes in terrestrial networks.

Routing and Path Selection

> High dynamic links:

Time-varying topology of the network





Wide coverage of the satellite









For continuity and also efficiency, unified routing protocols are required in the integrated satellite-terrestrial network to support integrated routing across different network components.

Resource Management



Resource Management

Integrated Resource Management

• Two-Layer Game



 X. Zhu, Chunxiao Jiang, L. Kuang, Z. Zhao, and S. Guo, "Two-Layer Game Based Resource Allocation in Cloud Based Integrated Terrestrial-Satellite Networks", *IEEE Transactions on Cognitive Communications and Networking*, vol. 6, no. 2, pp. 509-522, Jun. 2020.

Security Guarantee

Traditional Encryption techniques

Additional communication latency

Wide coverage and long propagation delay



More complex key management

Open environment of satellite-ground links



Illegal access or privacy leaks

Eavesropper Malicious jamming

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Spectrum Sharing

5G spectrum planning \geq Satellite spectrum 上行 下行 STE HF(GHz 3.9~4.2 4.2~4.5 4.5~4.8 4.8~5.1 15~21 21~27 27~33 33~39 39~45 700MHz 2.6 3.3~3.6 3.6~3.9 CHINA 5850-6425MHz 3625-4200MHz C Band C Band Kr Ka Band 3.4 1.7 C Band USA 6425-6725MHz 3400-3700MHz Extension **Spectrum** 7.5 2835 EUR **Overlay** Ka Band 27.5-31GHz 17.7-21.2GHz JPN

Terrestrial-satellite Spectrum Sharing



- Complementary coverage
- On-demand transmission
- Cooperative transmission
- Efficient resource utilization

• L. Kuang, X. Chen, **Chunxiao Jiang**, H. Zhang, and S. Wu, "Radio Resource Management in Future Terrestrial-Satellite Communication Networks", *IEEE Wireless Communications*, vol. 24, no. 5, pp. 81-87, Oct. 2017.

Spectrum Sharing

> NOMA-Based Cooperative Transmission Scheme



Cloud-Based Cooperative Transmission Scheme





• X. Zhu, Chunxiao Jiang, L. Kuang, N. Ge and J. Lu, "Non-orthogonal Multiple Access Based Integrated Terrestrial-Satellite Networks", *IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications*, vol. 35, no. 10, pp. 2253-2267, Oct. 2017.

Beamforming Focuses a wireless signal towards Beamforming a specific receiving device **Beamforming Technique**

Advantages:

- Improve the capacity performance
- Achieve higher transmission gains
- > Mitigate the interference in the integrated satellite-terrestrial network

Beamforming

Cloud-based Beamforming Architecture



Multicast Multigroup Beamforming Design



Consider Unique and Common Content Demands of Users

Optimize the system throughput by efficient grouping and multicast beamforming schemes

• Y. Zhang, L. Yin, **Chunxiao Jiang**, and Y. Qian, "Joint Beamforming Design and Resource Allocation for Terrestrial-Satellite Cooperation System", *IEEE Transactions on Communications*, vol. 68, no. 2, pp. 778-791, Feb. 2020.

Diversity Technique



• X. Zhu, Chunxiao Jiang, L. Kuang, N. Ge, S. Guo, and J. Lu, "Cooperative Transmission in Integrated Terrestrial-Satellite Networks", *IEEE Network*, vol. 33, no. 3, pp. 204-210, Jun. 2019.

Cooperative Secure Transmission

Open environment 📑

Satellite-ground links are vulnerable to eavesdropping and jamming

By building the physical layer security with cooperative secure transmission, the information security of users can be enhanced.



Cooperative Secure Transmission



 J. Du, Chunxiao Jiang, H. Zhang, X. Wang, Y. Ren and M. Debbah, "Secure Satellite-Terrestrial Transmission Over Incumbent Terrestrial Networks via Cooperative Beamforming", *IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications*, vol. 36, no. 7, pp. 1367-1382, Jul. 2018.

On-Demand Communication

Non-uniform distribution of wide-area satellite users

Distribution of ViaSat U.S. Subscribers

Non-uniform distribution of global population



[1] I. del Portillo, B.G. Cameron, E.F. Crawley, "A technical comparison of three low earth orbit satellite constellation systems to provide ₆₁ global broadband," in Acta Astronautica, vol. 159, pp. 123-135, Jun. 2019.

On-Demand Communication

Key idea:

Use limited resources to areas that need to be covered



 B. Deng, Chunxiao Jiang, J. Yan, N. Ge, S. Guo and S. Zhao, "Joint Multigroup Precoding and Resource Allocation in Integrated Terrestrial-Satellite Networks", *IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology*, vol. 68, no. 8, pp. 8075-8090, Aug. 2019.

On-Demand Communication

Key idea:

Use limited resources to areas that need to be covered



On-demand communication is an effective way to improve resource utilization efficiency

SDN

Software-Defined Networking (SDN)

Enable efficient and intelligent network management



 J. Du, Chunxiao Jiang, H. Zhang, Y. Ren and M. Guizani, "Auction Design and Analysis for SDN-based Traffic Offloading in Hybrid Satellite-Terrestrial Networks", *IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications*, vol. 36, no. 10, pp. 2202-2217, Oct. 2018.

Artificial Intelligence

Reduce the Routing Delay

High dynamics and delay of satellite links

Increase the routing delay



Artificial Intelligence

> Intelligent Resource Allocation



Multi-objective Reinforcement Learning

Multiagent Reinforcement Learning

Strong ability in the optimal matching between resources and services

- Chunxiao Jiang, H. Zhang, Y. Ren, Z. Han, K. Chen, and L. Hanzo, "Machine Learning Paradigms for Next-Generation Wireless Networks", IEEE Wireless Communications, vol. 24, no. 2, pp. 98-105, Apr. 2017.
- J. Wang, Chunxiao Jiang, H. Zhang, Y. Ren, K. -C. Chen, and L. Hanzo, "Thirty Years of Machine Learning: The Road to Pareto-Optimal Wireless Networks", IEEE Communications Surveys & Tutorials, vol. 22, no. 3, pp. 1472-1514, thirdquarter. 2020.
- J. Du, Chunxiao Jiang, J. Wang, Y. Ren and M. Debbah, "Machine Learning for 6G Wireless Networks: Carrying Forward Enhanced Bandwidth, Massive Access, and Ultrareliable/Low-Latency Service", IEEE Vehicular Technology Magazine, vol. 15, no. 4, pp. 122-134, Dec. 2020.

Publications

[1] X. Zhu, **Chunxiao Jiang**, L. Kuang, Z. Zhao, and S. Guo, "Two-Layer Game Based Resource Allocation in Cloud Based Integrated Terrestrial-Satellite Networks", *IEEE Transactions on Cognitive Communications and Networking*, vol. 6, no. 2, pp. 509-522, Jun. 2020.

[2] Y. Zhang, L. Yin, **Chunxiao Jiang**, and Y. Qian, "Joint Beamforming Design and Resource Allocation for Terrestrial-Satellite Cooperation System", *IEEE Transactions on Communications*, vol. 68, no. 2, pp. 778-791, Feb. 2020.

[3] B. Deng, **Chunxiao Jiang**, J. Yan, N. Ge, S. Guo and S. Zhao, "Joint Multigroup Precoding and Resource Allocation in Integrated Terrestrial-Satellite Networks", *IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology*, vol. 68, no. 8, pp. 8075-8090, Aug. 2019.

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[6] J. Du, **Chunxiao Jiang**, H. Zhang, X. Wang, Y. Ren and M. Debbah, "Secure Satellite-Terrestrial Transmission Over Incumbent Terrestrial Networks via Cooperative Beamforming", *IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications*, vol. 36, no. 7, pp. 1367-1382, Jul. 2018.

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[7] X. Zhu, **Chunxiao Jiang**, L. Yin, L. Kuang, N. Ge and J. Lu, "Cooperative Multigroup Multicast Transmission in Integrated Terrestrial-Satellite Networks", *IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications*, vol. 36, no. 5, pp. 981-992, May. 2018.

[8] X. Zhu, Chunxiao Jiang, L. Kuang, N. Ge and J. Lu, "Non-orthogonal Multiple Access Based Integrated Terrestrial-Satellite Networks", *IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications*, vol. 35, no. 10, pp. 2253-2267, Oct. 2017.

[9] L. Kuang, X. Chen, **Chunxiao Jiang**, H. Zhang, and S. Wu, "Radio Resource Management in Future Terrestrial-Satellite Communication Networks", *IEEE Wireless Communications*, vol. 24, no. 5, pp. 81-87, Oct. 2017.

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[11] J. Wang, **Chunxiao Jiang**, H. Zhang, Y. Ren, K. -C. Chen, and L. Hanzo, "Thirty Years of Machine Learning: The Road to Pareto-Optimal Wireless Networks", *IEEE Communications Surveys* & *Tutorials*, vol. 22, no. 3, pp. 1472-1514, thirdquarter. 2020.

[12] J. Du, **Chunxiao Jiang**, J. Wang, Y. Ren and M. Debbah, "Machine Learning for 6G Wireless Networks: Carrying Forward Enhanced Bandwidth, Massive Access, and Ultrareliable/Low-Latency Service", *IEEE Vehicular Technology Magazine*, vol. 15, no. 4, pp. 122-134, Dec. 2020.

