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EDITORIAL

# IEEE ACCESS SPECIAL SECTION EDITORIAL: FOG RADIO ACCESS NETWORKS (F-RANS) FOR 5G: RECENT ADVANCES AND FUTURE TRENDS

To satisfy the explosively increasing demands for high-speed data applications and massive access requirements of various Internet-of-thing (IoT) devices, a whole package of performance requirements has been proposed for the fifth-generation (5G) mobile communication system. Motivated by the necessity of network architecture enhancement, a paradigm of fog radio access networks (F-RANs) has emerged as a promising evolution path for 5G network architecture. In F-RANs, a fog-computing layer is formed at the edge of networks, and parts of service requirements can be responded to locally without interacting with the cloud computing center via the fronthaul links. Therefore, by taking full advantage of distributed caching and centralized processing, F-RANs provide great flexibility to satisfy quality-of-service (QoS) requirements of various 5G scenarios. F-RAN has become a research hotspot and draws a lot of attention from both academia and industry. As it integrates with artificial intelligence and other new emerging technologies, 5G is facing new challenges, and the study of F-RANs is entering a new era as well.

This Special Section focuses on the state-of-the-art protocols, techniques, and applications of F-RANs in the typical scenarios of 5G. The aim of this Special Section is to share and discuss recent advances and future trends of F-RANs, and to bring academic researchers and industry developers together.

This section received 44 submissions, which were all evaluated by at least two independent referees. After undergoing a rigorous peer review process, 18 articles were finally accepted. Based on their research topics, these articles can be divided into four categories. The articles in the first category analyze the information-theoretic performance of F-RANs. In the second category, the articles mainly focus on the enhancement of network architecture and management for F-RANs. The third category of articles studies resource allocation in F-RANs. In the last category, the articles discuss the potential applications of F-RANs.

The first category consists of four articles, which analyze the theoretical performance of F-RANs from transmission, edge caching and computing, and security perspectives.

In the article "Large system performance and distributed scheme of downlink beamforming in F-RANs with distributed antennas," by Zhu *et al.*, the authors analyze the performance of large-scale cooperation in F-RANs. The asymptotic performance is derived, which can provide some insights for the design of distributed beamforming in F-RANs.

The article by Jia *et al.*, "Fog-aided cognitive radio networks with guard zone and interference cancellation based opportunistic spectrum access," analyzes the performance of spectrum sharing in F-RANs. To guarantee the transmission reliability, the strategies of guard zone and interference cancellation are considered, and the coverage probability and throughput are studied to evaluate the performance of edge caching in F-RANs.

In the article "Fog radio access networks with hierarchical content delivery," by Zhong *et al.*, the authors analyze the performance of hierarchical fog-cloud content caching scheme in F-RANs. To fully explore the potential of edge caching, a cooperative content delivery scheme is studied, where both the downlink transmissions of F-APs and the D2D transmissions of users are considered. The theoretical performance results show the performance gains of caching in F-RANs.

In the article "Caching-aided physical layer security in wireless cache-enabled heterogeneous networks," by Zhao *et al.*, the authors analyze the theoretical performance of edge caching from a physical layer security perspective. The topology features of F-RANs are captured by a stochastic geometry-based model, and the impacts of content caching on security performance and network management are shown by the derived results.

Five articles were accepted in the second category. The research topics include enhancement of security frameworks, and networking and slicing in F-RANs.

In the article "A security authentication scheme of 5G ultra-dense network based on blockchain," by Chen *et al.*, the authors proposed a blockchain-based user authentication scheme. The efficiency of authentication can be improved with the help of trusted access points, which can provide a distributed authentication framework for F-RANs that operate in ultra-dense coverage areas.

In the article "Node state monitoring scheme in fog radio access networks for intrusion detection," by An *et al.*, the authors studied intrusion detection in F-RANs, which is a critical security issue. To reduce the communication

overhead and computational complexity, a fog-cloud collaborated detection mechanism is designed.

In the article "Non-interactive ID-based proxy re-signature scheme for the IoT based on mobile edge computing," by Zhang *et al.*, the authors proposed a network storage framework for the deployment of IoT in F-RANs. To improve the efficiency and security of cloud computing based architecture, a fog computing-based paradigm is designed, and a non-interactive pairing-free ID-based proxy re-signature scheme is introduced accordingly.

In the article "Multiple protocols interworking with open connectivity foundation in fog networks," by Li *et al.*, the authors design a scheme to enable interworking among multiple protocols. The authors provide a framework to guarantee the compatibility of heterogeneous edge access points in F-RANs.

The article "IVCN: Information-centric network slicing optimization based on NFV in fog-enabled RAN," by Jin *et al.*, studies the network orchestration based on NFV technique in F-RANs. Both the network slicing scheme and resource optimization algorithm are studied to improve the QoS with integrating edge caching into conventional network management.

Five articles are included in the third category, which study the optimization of computation, caching, and communication resources in F-RANs.

The article by Wang *et al.*, "Mobility-aware task offloading and migration schemes in fog computing networks," studies computation offloading in F-RANs. It provides a paradigm of task offloading and migration, which can enable fog computing-based offloading when users are in mobile status, and performance can be improved by the proposed resource optimization algorithm.

The article by Wu *et al.*, "User satisfaction-aware resource allocation for D2D enhanced communication," studies the optimization design of D2D transmissions in F-RANs. The features of mobility and social relationships are employed to improve the user satisfaction, which help the optimization of resource allocation.

In the article "Joint access mode selection and spectrum allocation for fog computing-based vehicular networks," by Yan *et al.*, the authors optimized the performance of vehicular networks which are based on the paradigm of F-RANs. A reinforcement learning-based algorithm is proposed to optimize the access mode selection and spectrum allocation, which aims to balance the costs and performance gains.

The article by Bai *et al.*, "Research on channel power allocation of fog wireless access network based on NOMA," proposes a power optimization algorithm for NOMA transmissions in F-RANs, which can improve the detection performance of successive interference cancellation. It shows that sophisticated interference management is necessary to achieve the performance gains of NOMA in F-RANs.

In the article "Delay-optimal joint processing in computation-constrained fog radio access networks," by Han *et al.*, the authors study the joint optimization of edge devices clustering and the association of fog computing servers. It can be employed for dynamic network orchestrations in F-RANs.

Four articles are included in the last category, which study the potential application scenarios in F-RANs, such as IoT and mobile edge computing.

In the article "Mobility-aware fog computing in dynamic environments: Understandings and implementation," by Waqas *et al.*, the authors provide a comprehensive literature review with respect to the deployment of fog computing in mobile circumstances, where the frameworks of mobility management, application scenarios, and experiment evaluations are introduced.

In the article "Non-orthogonal multiplexing of ultra-reliable and broadband services in fog-radio architectures," by Kassab *et al.*, the authors study the multiplexing of ultra-reliable and broadband services, which are two key application scenarios of 5G, based on the architecture of F-RANs. To satisfy the diverse QoS requirements, a non-orthogonal based coexistence scheme is proposed.

The article "Optimizing resources allocation for fog computing-based Internet of Things networks," by Li *et al.*, studies resource optimization for the IoT application scenarios in F-RANs. It considers employing NOMA techniques to support the association requirements of IoT devices.

In the article "Cooperative content caching for mobile edge computing with network coding," by He *et al.*, the authors employ network coding to improve the utility of edge content caching in F-RANs. A content recommendation scheme is designed accordingly, and its performance is evaluated by an established platform.

Finally, we would like to thank all the authors who contributed to this Special Section. We also appreciate the great efforts of the reviewers, and the guidance from the Editor-in-Chief and staff members.

**MUGEN PENG,** *Guest Editor*
*Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications*
*Beijing 100876, China*

**ZHONGYUAN ZHAO,** *Guest Editor*
*Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications*
*Beijing 100876, China*

**TONY Q. S. QUEK,** *Guest Editor*
*Singapore University of Technology and Design*
*Singapore 487372*

**GUOQIANG MAO,** *Guest Editor*
*University of Technology Sydney*
*Ultimo, NSW 2007, Australia*

**ZHIGUO DING,** *Guest Editor*
*The University of Manchester*
*Manchester M13 9PL, U.K.*

**CHONGGANG WANG,** *Guest Editor*
*InterDigital Communications LLC*
*San Diego, CA 92121, USA*

**MUGEN PENG** (Fellow, IEEE) received the Ph.D. degree in communication and information systems from the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT), Beijing, China, in 2005.

Afterward, he joined BUPT, where he has been a Full Professor with the School of Information and Communication Engineering since 2012. In 2014, he was an Academic Visiting Fellow with Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA. He leads a research group focusing on wireless transmission and networking technologies with the State Key Laboratory of Networking and Switching Technology, BUPT. He has authored/coauthored over 100 refereed IEEE journal articles and over 300 conference proceeding papers. He is a 2019 Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Researcher, and a Fellow of the IET. He was a recipient of the 2018 Heinrich Hertz Prize Paper Award, the 2014 IEEE ComSoc AP Outstanding Young Researcher Award, and the Best Paper Award in the JCN 2016 and IEEE WCNC 2015. He is on the Editorial/Associate Editorial Board of the *IEEE Communications Magazine*, IEEE INTERNET OF THINGS JOURNAL, and IEEE ACCESS.

**ZHONGYUAN ZHAO** (Member, IEEE) received the B.S. degree in applied mathematics and the Ph.D. degree in communication and information systems from the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT), Beijing, China, in 2009 and 2014, respectively.

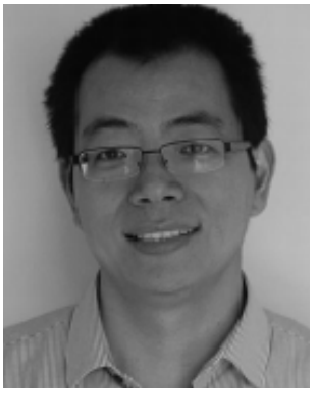
He is currently an Associate Professor with BUPT. His research interests include fog/edge computing, content caching, and edge intelligence in wireless networks. He received the Exemplary Editors Award twice (2017 and 2018). He was a recipient of the Best Paper Awards at the IEEE CIT 2014 and WASA 2015, and the Exemplary Reviewer Awards of the IEEE Transactions on Communications 2017 and IEEE Wireless Communication Letters 2019. He has been serving as an Editor for IEEE COMMUNICATIONS LETTERS since 2016.

**TONY Q. S. QUEK** (Fellow, IEEE) received the B.E. and M.E. degrees in electrical and electronics engineering from the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan, in 1998 and 2000, respectively, and the Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering and computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA, in 2008.

He is currently the Cheng Tsang Man Chair Professor and a Full Professor with the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). He also serves as the Head of ISTD Pillar, the Sector Lead of the SUTD AI Program, and the Deputy Director of the SUTD-ZJU IDEA. His current research topics include wireless communications and networking, network intelligence, the Internet-of-Things, URLLC, and big data processing.

Dr. Quek was honored with the 2008 Philip Yeo Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Research, the 2012 IEEE William R. Bennett Prize, the 2015 SUTD Outstanding Education Awards-Excellence in Research, the 2016 IEEE Signal Processing Society Young Author Best Paper Award, the 2017 CTTC Early Achievement Award, the 2017 IEEE ComSoc AP Outstanding Paper Award, and the 2016-2019 Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Researcher. He has been actively involved in organizing and chairing sessions, and has served as a member of the Technical Program Committee, as well as the Symposium Chair for a number of international conferences. He is currently serving as an Editor for the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS, the Chair of the IEEE VTS Technical Committee on Deep Learning for Wireless Communications, as well as an elected member of the IEEE Signal Processing Society SPCOM Technical Committee. He was an Executive Editorial Committee Member for the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS, an Editor of IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS, and an Editor for the IEEE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS LETTERS. He is a Distinguished Lecturer of the IEEE Communications Society.

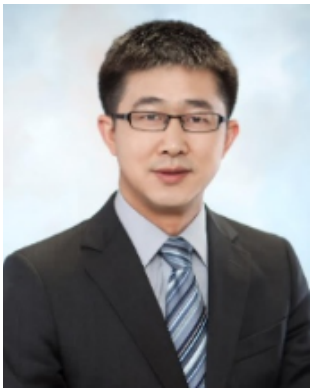
**GUOQIANG MAO**, photograph and biography not available at the time of publication.



**ZHIGUO DING** (Fellow, IEEE) received the B.Eng. degree in electrical engineering from the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, Beijing, China, in 2000, and the Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from Imperial College London, London, U.K., in 2005.

From July 2005 to April 2018, he was working with Queen's University Belfast, Imperial College, Newcastle University, and Lancaster University, U.K. Since April 2018, he has been with The University of Manchester, Manchester, U.K., as a Professor of communications. From October 2012 to September 2020, he has also been an Academic Visitor with Princeton University, NJ, USA. His research interests are 5G networks, game theory, cooperative and energy harvesting networks, and statistical signal processing.

Dr. Ding was a recipient of the Best Paper Award in the IET ICWMC in 2009 and the IEEE WCSP in 2014, the EU Marie Curie Fellowship from 2012 to 2014, the Top IEEE TVT Editor in 2017, the IEEE Heinrich Hertz Award in 2018, the IEEE Jack Neubauer Memorial Award in 2018, and the IEEE Best Signal Processing Letter Award in 2018. He is serving as an Area Editor for the IEEE OPEN JOURNAL OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY, an Editor for the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS, the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY, and the *Journal of Wireless Communications and Mobile Computing*. From 2013 to 2016, he has served as an Editor for IEEE WIRELESS COMMUNICATION LETTERS and the IEEE COMMUNICATION LETTERS.



**CHONGGANG WANG** (Fellow, IEEE) received the Ph.D. degree in computer science from the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT), in 2002.

He has been with InterDigital, since 2010, and is currently a Principal Engineer. Prior to that, he had plenty of research experience with NEC Laboratories America, AT&T Labs Research, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He has been granted more than 80 U.S. patents. He has extensive standardization experience with IETF, oneM2M, ETSI, IEEE, and 3GPP. His current research focuses on quantum Internet, blockchain technology and applications, decentralized edge intelligence, and the Internet of Things (IoT).

Dr. Wang is a Fellow of IEEE for his contributions to IoT enabling technologies. He has served as the Founding Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE INTERNET OF THINGS JOURNAL (2014–2016) and is currently an Associate Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON BIG DATA. He has been serving in many committees such as the IEEE Computer Society Fellow Committee and the IEEE Sensors Council Award Committee. He is currently a Member-at-Large of the IEEE Sensors Council and also an Advisory Board Member for IEEE—The Institute.