

RAT Selection Algorithms for Common Radio Resource Management

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by

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CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORSHIP/ORIGINALITY

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Contents

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORSHIP/ORIGINALITY	ii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	ii
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
ABBREVIATIONS	x
ABSTRACT	xiii
CHAPTER	
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Evolution of wireless networks	1
1.2 Common radio resource management	4
1.2.1 CRRM operation	5
1.2.2 CRRM topologies	7
1.3 Problem statement and research questions	11
1.3.1 Problem statement	11
1.3.2 Research questions	12
1.4 Contributions	13
1.4.1 Critical surveys	13
1.4.2 Performance evaluations	13
1.4.3 Improved policy based RAT selection algorithms	14
1.4.4 Markov models	14
1.5 Thesis outline	15
1.6 Related publications	15
2 RAT selection algorithms	18
2.1 Performance parameters	19
2.2 Random selection based algorithm	21
2.3 Single criterion based algorithms	22
2.3.1 Load Balancing based algorithms	22

2.3.2	Coverage based algorithms	27
2.3.3	”WLAN if coverage” algorithm	27
2.3.4	Service based algorithms	28
2.3.5	Path loss based algorithm	29
2.3.6	User satisfaction based algorithm	30
2.4	Multiple criteria based algorithms	31
2.4.1	Policy based algorithms	31
2.4.2	Variations of NCCB algorithm	34
2.4.3	Utility/cost-function based algorithms	34
2.4.4	Adaptive algorithm for co-located WWAN/WLAN networks	40
2.4.5	Fuzzy logic based algorithms	41
2.5	Summary	44
3	Modeling and simulation	45
3.1	Simulation models	46
3.1.1	Mobility model	46
3.1.2	Topology model	46
3.1.3	Radio propagation model	47
3.1.4	Traffic model	48
3.1.5	RAT load models	49
3.2	Simulation algorithms	54
3.2.1	LB based algorithm	54
3.2.2	NCCB algorithm	55
3.2.3	Service based algorithm	56
3.2.4	Proposed policy based algorithms	57
3.3	Summary	59
4	Performance evaluation	60
4.1	Load threshold setting in the LB based algorithm	60
4.2	Performance comparison of three algorithms	66
4.3	Tradeoff between overall throughput and user satisfaction	74
4.4	Performance evaluation of proposed policy based algorithms	80
4.5	Summary	85
5	User level Markov models	86
5.1	Background knowledge of Markov models	86
5.2	User level Markov models	91
5.3	Proposed user level Markov models	94
5.3.1	Scenario 1	94
5.3.2	Scenario 2	99
5.4	Summary	104
6	Network level Markov models	106

6.1	Review of network level Markov models	106
6.2	Proposed network level Markov models	110
6.2.1	LB based RAT selection algorithm	116
6.2.2	Service based RAT selection algorithm	118
6.2.3	Numerical Results	120
6.3	Summary	125
7	Conclusions and future work	126
7.1	Summary of contributions	126
7.2	Future work	128
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	130

List of Tables

1.1	Interaction degrees between RRM/CRRM entities	7
2.1	Comparison between VG*IN, IN*VG, and VG*VU algorithms	33
3.1	Improved VG*IN and IN*VG algorithms	57
4.1	Simulation parameters	61
4.2	Load deviation values	63
4.3	Simulation parameters	68
4.4	Load factors	69
4.5	Normalized load factors	69
4.6	Simulation parameters	75
4.7	Simulation scenarios	80
4.8	Network and traffic parameters	81
6.1	Network and traffic parameters	121

List of Figures

1.1	Two-tier RRM model	5
1.2	CRRM interaction model	6
1.3	CRRM server approach network topology	8
1.4	Integrated CRRM approach network topology	9
1.5	Hierarchical CRRM approach network topology [12]	10
1.6	CRRM functions in UT topology	11
3.1	Simulation model	45
3.2	An example of the wraparound method	47
4.1	Load distribution patterns when a load threshold of 0.8 of the maximum cell capacity is set and the load information is updated at every time interval	62
4.2	Load distribution patterns when load threshold is not set and the load information is updated at every time interval	62
4.3	Relationship among load information update period, load threshold, and call blocking/dropping probability	64
4.4	Relationship among load information update period, load threshold, and call DR/VHO probability	65
4.5	Network topology	67
4.6	User distribution patterns for Algorithm 1	70

4.7	User distribution patterns for Algorithm 2	70
4.8	User distribution patterns for Algorithm 3	71
4.9	Blocking probabilities	72
4.10	Average data throughput	73
4.11	Throughput fairness	73
4.12	Throughput variation patterns when the cell size is $2km \times 2km$	75
4.13	User satisfaction rate variation patterns when the cell size is $2km \times 2km$	76
4.14	Throughput variation patterns when the cell size is $4km \times 4km$	78
4.15	User satisfaction rate variation patterns when the cell size is $4km \times 4km$	79
4.16	Simulation results of Scenario 1.	81
4.17	Simulation results of Scenario 2.	82
4.18	Simulation results of Scenario 3.	82
4.19	Simulation results of Scenario 4.	83
4.20	Simulation results of Scenario 5.	83
5.1	An example of Markov model	88
5.2	An example of the birth and death process	88
5.3	Falowo's user state transition diagram [69]	92
5.4	Hasib's user state transition diagram [70]	93
5.5	Network topology for proposed Markov models	94
5.6	User state transition diagram of the proposed Markov model	96
6.1	Hasib's network state transition diagram [70]	107
6.2	Gelabert's network state transition diagram [74]	109
6.3	Network topology	111
6.4	State transition diagram for the proposed three dimensional Markov model	113

6.5	Call blocking probability for LB based RAT selection algorithm . . .	122
6.6	Call blocking probability for service based RAT selection algorithm .	122
6.7	Call blocking probability comparison between LB based and service based algorithms under varying traffic loads	123
6.8	Call blocking probability comparison between LB based and service based algorithms under varying probabilities of a user arriving within the hotspot area	124
6.9	Call blocking probability comparison between LB based and service based algorithms under varying probabilities of a call being real time	124

ABBREVIATIONS

1G	First Generation
2G	Second Generation
3G	Third Generation
3GPP	3rd Generation Partnership Project
4G	Fourth Generation
AC	Admission Control
APC	Access Point Controllers
ATLB	Adaptive Threshold Load Balancing
BLER	BLOCK Error Rate
BLJRRME	Base Layer Joint Radio Resource Management Entity
BS	Base Station
BSC	Base Station Controller
CA	Collision Avoidance
CBR	Constant Bit Rate
CC	Congestion Control
CN	Core Network
CRRM	Common Radio Resource Management
CSMA	Carrier Sense Multiple Access
DR	Direct Retry
FDMA	Frequency Division Multiple Access
FSD	Fuzzy Selected Decision
GERAN	GSM/EDGE Radio Access Network
GPRS	General Packet Radio Service

GSM	Global System for Mobile Communication
HC	Handover Control
HO	Handover
HSDPA	High Speed Downlink Packet Access
HSPA	High Speed Packet Access
HSUPA	High Speed Uplink Packet Access
JRRM	Joint Radio Resource Management
IN	Indoor
LB	Load balancing
LTE	Long Term Evolution
MADM	Multiple Attribute Decision Making
MCDM	Multi-Criteria Decision Making
MCS	Modulation and Coding Scheme
MODM	Multiple Objective Decision Making
MRRM	Multi-access Radio Resource Management
MS	Mobile Station
NCCB	Network Controlled Cell Breathing
NRT	Non-Real Time
OSM	Operator Software Module
PC	Power Control
PS	Packet Scheduling
QoS	Quality of Service
RAT	Radio Access Technology
RNC	Radio Network Controller
RRM	Radio Resource Management
RRME	RAT Resource Management Entity
RRU	Radio Resource Unit

RT	Real Time
SIR	Signal to Interference Ratio
SMD	Semi-Markov Decision
TDMA	Time Division Multiple Access
UE	User Equipment
ULJRRME	Upper Layer Joint Radio Resource Management Entity
UMTS	Universal Mobile Telecommunications System
USaBS	User Satisfaction Based Selection
USaLOR	User Satisfaction with Low Resources Selection
USM	User Software Module
UT	User terminal
UTRAN	Universal Terrestrial Radio Access Network
VG	Voice GERAN
VHO	Vertical Handover
VoIP	Voice over IP
VU	Voice UTRAN
WCDMA	Wideband Code Division Multiple Access
WLAN	Wireless Local Area Network
WMAN	Wireless Metropolitan Area Network
WWAN	Wireless Wide Area Network

ABSTRACT

The future wireless network is expected to be a heterogeneous network, which integrates different Radio Access Technologies (RATs) through a common platform. A major challenge arising from the heterogeneous network is Radio Resource Management (RRM) strategy. Common RRM (CRRM) has been proposed in the literature to jointly manage radio resources among a number of overlapped RATs in an optimized way. RAT selection algorithm is one of the key research areas in CRRM. In the literature, a number of RAT selection algorithms have been proposed and some performance evaluations have been conducted. However, this area still has many challenges. Some performance metrics still have not been evaluated well and the existing algorithms can be further improved.

In this thesis, some performance evaluations on a number of RAT selection algorithms have been carried out. The effects of load threshold setting on Load Balancing (LB) based RAT selection algorithm's performance are evaluated. It is found that setting a proper load threshold can achieve a more balanced load distribution among overlapped cells. However, it will also cause higher Direct Retry (DR)/Vertical Handover (VHO) probability and in turn higher overhead and blocking/dropping probability.

This thesis evaluates the performance of three RAT selection algorithms, LB based using maximum resource consumption, LB based using minimum resource consumption, and service based algorithms, in terms of traffic distribution, blocking probability, throughput, and throughput fairness for a co-located GERAN/UTRAN/WLAN network. Simulation results show that in terms of blocking probability, the service based algorithm is the worst one when the traffic load is high. In terms of data throughput, the LB based using maximum resource consumption algorithm performs

better than the other two when the traffic load is low. However, the service based algorithm outperforms the other two when the traffic load is high. In terms of throughput fairness, the service based algorithm achieves the best performance.

The relationship among overall downlink data throughput, user satisfaction rate, and path loss threshold is studied in this thesis. It is found that in some cases, an optimum path loss threshold value can be found to achieve better performance in terms of both overall throughput and user satisfaction rate. However, in other cases, a tradeoff has to be made between them.

This thesis studies policy based RAT selection algorithms for a co-located UMTS/GSM network. A three-complex policy based algorithm called IN*VG*Load algorithm is proposed based on improvements on the existing IN*VG algorithm. The simulation results show that the IN*VG*Load algorithm can optimize the system performance in highly loaded co-located UMTS/GSM networks. A Proposed Policy Based Algorithm 2 is found to be suitable for low to medium loaded UMTS/GSM networks.

In order to support the conceptual development of RAT selection algorithms in heterogeneous networks, the theory of Markov model is used. This thesis proposes both user level and network level Markov models for a co-located GERAN/UTRAN/WLAN network. The proposed Markov models are not only extensions of the existing two co-located RATs models but more complex with more state transitions. The performance of two basic RAT selection algorithms: LB based and service based algorithms are evaluated in terms of call blocking probability. The numerical results obtained from the proposed network level Markov model are validated by simulation results.