Resource Allocation in downlink of LTE using Bandwidth prediction through Statistical Information

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ABSTRACT

Long Term Evolution (LTE) is the technology used in modern third and fourth generation mobile wireless cellular networks. Due to the presence of large number of users, mobility and varying channel conditions, proper resource allocation is essential to provide a good user experience and improve the system throughput. In this paper, a resource allocation algorithm is implemented that will use the probabilistic models to predict the channel condition and allocate resources accordingly. Also, the algorithm will support QoS requirements. During the resource allocation, the channel quality information is collected and analyzed to predict the future channel conditions and resource allocation vectors are configured accordingly. The performance of the algorithm is analyzed based upon the data collected. The algorithm is able to provide a reasonable success rate for channel prediction. By using the resource allocation vectors and channel prediction, the algorithm performance also is improved considerably due to the lesser space and time complexity required

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1. INTRODUCTION

Modern mobile and wireless cellular networks use the LTE as the technology for communication. It is used in third and fourth generation mobile networks and replaces the GSM/CDMA technologies as the core technology for these generations.

LTE uses Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDMA) as the access scheme in downlink side and Single Carrier Frequency Division Multiple Access (SC-FDMA) as the access scheme for uplink side. In OFDMA, a high frequency carrier is divided into several low frequency subcarriers with smaller bit rates. The division of carriers is such that the sub-carrier are orthogonal to each other to eliminate inter carrier interference. Also a smaller guard interval will be placed between the sub carriers to prevent inter symbol interference. SC-FDMA is a customized version of OFDMA with throughput comparable to that of OFDMA. Inter Symbol Interference may be caused in SC-FDMA due to multipath propagation which is handled by base station using adaptive frequency domain equalization.

Due to the widespread use of the mobile cellular networks, high bandwidth and throughput are required in today's LTE networks. To achieve this, proper resource allocation has to be implemented. The resource allocation in LTE is performed at Medium Access Control (MAC) layer. Due to the nature of the LTE networks, large number of users, mobility of users, varying channel conditions, high bandwidth requirements,, inter channel interference can affect the network performance and throughput and hence proper resource allocation is required to optimize the network performance. Besides, sudden changes in

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channel conditions could affect resource allocation approaches considerably since it will be difficult to have a stable prediction of channel conditions. Requirements like Voice over LTE (VoLTE) and audio/video streaming impose their own real-time performance requirements which have to be handled to provide proper user experience.

A radio resource scheduling algorithm for video streaming is discussed in [1]. It proposes a packetlevel service differentiation to improve the throughput. Resource allocation techniques using carrier aggregation is discussed in [2], [3] and [4]. It uses the channel quality information and user profile to improve the resource allocation. Cross layer algorithms which optimize the resource allocation over LTE systems are discussed in [5] and [6]. They use the information from application, MAC and physical layers to optimize the resource allocation algorithms.

A frame based weighted fair queuing algorithm which tries to improve the spectral efficiency in OFDMA networks is discussed in [7]. A resource allocation algorithm that tries to both optimize the throughput and achieve fairness is discussed in [8]. It tries to service the nodes with good channel condition as well as the nodes with poor channel conditions by prioritizing both the channel conditions and fairness. An algorithm to provide utility proportional fairness which prevents fluctuations in resource allocation under both high and low traffic conditions is discussed in [9]. The performance of the frequency domain packet scheduling and the impact of the inter cell interference is discussed in [10].

Radio resource allocation in autonomous devices using LTE for machine to machine communications is discussed in [11]. Here attempts are made to share the radio resources efficiently to reduce inter-channel interference and improve network efficiency. A resource allocation algorithm for users with different QoS constraints based upon queuing systems is discussed in [12]. It proposes a G/M/1 queuing system to model the users with different QoS constraints into different queues. An inter cell interference avoidance scheme using active coordination between cells is discussed in [13]. A multiuser scheduling algorithm that tries to maximize throughput while maintaining fairness is discussed in [14]. It uses sum utility maximization along with fairness levels to satisfy the nodes with poor channel conditions.

A QoS aware packet scheduling algorithm that both tries to satisfy QoS requirements as well as providing fairness to nodes with poor channel conditions is discussed in [15]. A multi-level queue based resource allocation algorithm in downlink of OFDMA networks is discussed in [16]. Various OFDMA scheduling algorithms are discussed in [16], [17] and [18]. LTE scheduling algorithms are discussed in [19], [20] and [21]. In [22] discussed the privacy-preserving methods was vulnerable to Sybil attacks, whereby a malicious user can act as to be multiple (other) vehicles. It ensured the authenticity of the messages propagated in VANET; a straight-forward process is utilized public keys authorized by a certification authority (CA) to sign the messages. Fadli Sirait [23] developed an Ethernet over SDH (synchronous digital hierarchy) and MPLS-TP (Multiprotocol Label Switching - Transport Profile) with ring security to predictable network failure and computed performance of network. Aman et al [24] integrated context transport and multicast quick reroute, and developed this integration to the standard network mobility management. Hashim et al. [25] discussed quantitative analysis and it computed Proxy Mobile Internet Protocol Version 6 (PMIPv6) multicast speedy reroute operations for data traffic.

In this paper, a resource allocation algorithm is implemented using the statistical information for the channel conditions to predict the channel conditions and perform resource allocation based upon the channel conditions.

Section 2 lists the various resource allocation approaches already done in the field. Section 3 describes the resource allocation algorithm in detail. Section 4 provides details about the results collected and the algorithm performance. Section 5 provides the future improvements which can be made in the algorithm.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

A LTE network consists of Evolved UMTS Terrestrial Random Access Network (E-UTRAN), Evolved Packet Core (EPC), several User Equipment (UE) and Packet Data Network (PDN) Gateway. An E-UTRAN consists of one or more base stations called evolved NodeB or eNodeB and user equipments (UE). The eNodeB communicates to UEs using OFDMA for downlink and SC-FDMA for uplink.

EPC consists of Mobility Management Entity (MME), Serving Gateway (S-GW), Packet Data Network Gateway (PDN-GW), Home Subscriber Server (HSS), Policy Control and Charging Rules Function (PCRF). PGN Gateway communicates with the outside world including IPv4/IPv6 networks. The Serving gateway acts as a router forwarding data between base stations and the PDN gateway. Home Subscriber Server has the database containing information about the all the subscribers connected to the network.

Mobility Management Entity controls the operation of the User Equipments through HSS and various control signals. The Policy Control and Charging Rules Function (PCRF) is responsible for policy control decision making, controlling the flow-based charging in Policy Control Enforcement Function

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(PCEF). Let us assume a LTE network with a base station and N number of nodes. The number of nodes will vary depending dynamically as the users come in and go out of the network randomly. At any point of time, different number of nodes will have different channel conditions, bandwidth requirements and QoS requirements. The channel condition of a node can vary over time due to the mobility of nodes, interference between the nodes and inter cell interference.

The nodes can be split into separate set of groups based upon the QoS requirements and channel conditions. All the nodes with QoS requirements can be kept in one or more groups depending on the variations in channel conditions and QoS requirements. The nodes without QoS requirements can be kept in one or more groups depending on the channel conditions. Such partitioning can break the larger resource allocation problem into a set of smaller allocation problem which helps improving the performance of the resource allocation algorithm.



Figure 1. Block Diagram of LTE cell

Since calculating the statistical parameters for each allocation of resources can be tedious and time consuming, a resource allocation vector can be created periodically which can be used to generate the resource allocation for next I iterations. Doing so reduces the requirements for calculations for each iteration of algorithm as well as reordering of queues each time reducing the performance requirements considerably. While there is a drawback in this approach that it will prevent instantaneous responses to the changes in channel conditions, such prevention could improve the performance if such changes are only momentary and the nodes may get back again to same condition.

The algorithm calculates the statistical mean, variance and standard deviation for the nodes periodically and uses them to predict the future channel conditions and generates the allocation vectors accordingly. If the period for each iteration of algorithm is T, nodes may have more transmission opportunities depending upon their QoS requirements and channel conditions. Nodes with good channel conditions and QoS requirements will have more transmission opportunities comparing to the nodes without QoS requirements and poor channel conditions. If nodes have poor channel conditions but have QoS requirements, effort is made to make sure they have QoS requirements, effort is made to make sure they have QoS requirements, effort is made to make sure they have QoS requirements, effort is made to make sure they have QoS requirements, effort is made to make sure they have QoS requirements, effort is made to make sure they have as much throughput as possible without affecting the throughput of other nodes. For nodes with poor channel conditions, effort is made to ensure that they receive at least a minimal quantity of transmission opportunities to ensure fairness. Following is the algorithm to perform the resource allocation:

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Move into QoS aware node list. Partition the list based upon the channel conditions and QoS requirements

If node is non-QoS aware,

Move into non-QoS aware node list and partition the list based upon the channel condition and QoS requirements

Step 3. Calculation of various parameters:

During each iteration of resource allocation, for each node which has transmission opportunity: N_B += Transmitted Bytes

During each iteration of algorithm, for each node,

Time Elapsed $T_E = N_L - N_S$

Mean $T_M = T_B/T_E$

For each node,

Variance $N_V = N_T \cdot T_M$

Standard Deviation $N_{SD} = \sqrt{N_V^2/N}$



Figure 2. Resource Allocation Algorithm

Step 4. Generation of resource allocation vectors:

N_R= number of resource allocations

 N_{min} = minimum number of resource allocations

For each node, predicted bandwidth is

 $N_B = N_M \pm N_{SD}$

In the QoS aware node list, order the nodes based upon the calculated N_B and partition the list In the Non-QoS aware node list, order the nodes based upon the calculated N_B and partition the list. Let N_{ra} is the transmission opportunities available for generation of resource allocation vector. Let T_{min} be the minimum bandwidth that is guaranteed for the nodes without QoS requirements. Then the transmission opportunities for the non-QoS nodes will be at least T_{min}/B_{pre}.

Now remaining transmission opportunities is

 N_{ra} - $\sum T_{min}/B_{pre.}$

For QoS aware nodes, calculate the maximum transmission opportunities required for each node to satisfy the QoS requirements.

Calculate the difference between required quantity of transmission opportunities and the available quantity

Difference $D = T_{XO}$ Required - T_{XO} Available

If D is negative, we have excess transmission opportunities available. This can be shared between the nodes proportionally.

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If D is positive, we have lesser transmission opportunities available. This can be shared between QoS aware nodes proportionally.

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The algorithm has been implemented using NS3 simulator and the results have been collected. The performance has been analyzed. There is considerable improvement in case of CPU utilization since the resource allocation vectors are not calculated every time. The following table shows some of the resource allocation occurrences for different nodes.

Table I. Resource Allocation Values		
Time	Node	Bytes allocated
0.385	15	2196
0.386	25	2196
0.387	36	2196
0.388	37	2196
0.389	41	2196
0.390	42	2196
0.391	43	2196
0.392	2	2196
0.393	1	2196
0.394	11	2196

The results are shown in the following graph:



Figure 3. Network throughput using the Algorithm

Following chart shows the performance of the algorithm over time. Here, the nodes with QoS requirements and good channel conditions obtain better throughput since the allocation is favorable for them. Nodes with QoS requirements but poor channel conditions get relatively lesser throughput since despite they are allocated favorably, the poor channel conditions prevent them from achieving the optimal bandwidth. In case of non-QoS aware nodes, they get almost constant minimal bandwidth provided the channel quality doesn't change over time. Otherwise, they get bandwidth as per the underlying channel conditions. Also, please note that as number of nodes increases in the network, the allocation to a specific node decreases accordingly to maintain the balance in resource allocation between various nodes.



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Figure 4. Performance over time

Following chart shows the comparison of algorithm performance to that of Round Robin or Proportional Fair scheduling algorithms.



Figure 5. Performance comparison

As seen in the chart, the algorithm throughput will be relatively lesser than that of the other two algorithms. The reason is that some of the nodes for which channel condition is poor, due to QoS requirements, more allocation opportunities have to be provided which will cause the algorithm throughput to fall below that of other two algorithms. This is acceptable since attempt is made to satisfy the QoS requirements in a best effort basis. If the channel condition is good or nodes specifying QoS requirements have good channel condition, the algorithm performance is as good as that of other algorithms.

It has to be noted that while the prediction of the network channel conditions is good for nodes which doesn't have momentary channel fluctuations, for the nodes having momentary channel fluctuations, the prediction suffers briefly sometimes. But once the node stabilizes, the algorithm behavior returns back to normal.

Since the calculation of allocation vectors is done not every time but once in N iterations only, the performance of the algorithm is in the range of O(1) in general and $O(n \log n)$ for the particular iteration. Since the generation of the allocation vector and ordering of the nodes based upon the channel conditions is done in place, no separate iteration of the list of nodes will be required thereby improving the performance considerably.

4. CONCLUSION

The resource allocation algorithm which predicts the bandwidth based upon the statistical data has been implemented and its performance has been verified using the simulation results. The algorithm improves the network throughput and CPU utilization considerably. In case of sudden changes in signal conditions, this sometimes affects the prediction of bandwidth and hence algorithm performance momentarily.

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