

# MPSO Algorithm Based QoS Parameter Optimization for LTE Networks

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## Abstract

QoS Optimization is an important part of LTE SON, but not yet defined in the specification. We discuss modeling the problem of QoS optimization, improve the fitness function, then provide an algorithm based on MPSO to search the optimal QoS parameter value set for LTE networks. Simulation results show that the algorithm converges more quickly and more accurately than the GA which can be applied in LTE SON.

## **Keywords**

LTE, Self-Organizing Networks (SON), Quality of Services (QoS), Genetic Algorithm (GA), Multi-Level Particle Swarm Optimization (MPSO)

# **1. Introduction**

Spectral efficiency has been greatly improved in LTE networks, but it still cannot carry the explosive growth of service data volume. Faced with this situation, the mobile communication operators decide to cancel "unlimited package", and launch "traffic management" to improve the revenue per bit. Differentiated transmission and charging is the only way to achieve the operators' goal, in which 3GPP QoS Framework and its associated technologies played an important role. The QoS related contents occupy a lot of spaces in 3GPP specification [1] [2], which is a key feature in LTE [3]. The optimization of QoS is to find the optimal parameter set for radio resource management (RRM) which can maximize network spectral efficiency when customer experiences are met.

Related researches had become a hot topic in this field. Because of the importance of QoS optimization, NGMN Alliance clearly stated in the requirements to realize the QoS self-optimization [4]. Furthermore, SOCRATES projection [5] and E3 projection [6] that were initiated by the major equipment manufacturers, although some progress had been made, no realizable methods had been reported so far as we know. In addition, reference [7] applied genetic approach (GA) to QoS optimization for WCDMA mobile networks, which provided a good reference, but this method was not related with SON. Specially, GA cannot make full use of priori knowledge, and the output is always unstable, so it is not suitable to be applied in LTE SON.

The contribution of this paper is presentation of a multi-level discrete particle swarm optimization (MPSO) combined with GA and BPSO (Binary Particle Swarm Optimization), which performs well in terms of accuracy, speed of convergence and moderate computation complexity. The algorithm is expected to be applied in LTE SON QoS optimization. The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 addresses the problem and some conceptions, Section 3 provides the algorithm and realization, Section 4 is simulation and analysis, and Section 5 concludes the paper.

## 2. Problem Description

## 2.1. Problem Description

The main functionality of SON includes: self-planning, self-configuration, self-maintenance and self-optimization, one of self-optimization features is QoS related parameter optimization (E.g., admission control, congestion control and packet scheduling parameter optimization) [4]. NGMN require QoS Optimization to support packet based QoS, which embraces both service based QoS and user profile ToS (Tier of Service) concept in one robust solution [4].

3GPP provided a complete QoS framework, and defined the conception of bearer and the process of standardized signaling, but didn't state how QoS parameter be used in the RRM entity. Many literature [8] [9] have pointed out that packet scheduler in MAC layer determine how resources were allocated, so it was the key to system performances such as throughput, delay, loss rate and fairness. based on [10] scheduling algorithm, we will explore how to get a optimal QoS parameter set according to service characteristic and traffic mix, which can make the system work perfectly, that is to say, spectral efficiency is maximized and the ratio of satisfied users is above the threshold.

## 2.2. QoS Parameters

The OoS parameters include OCI, ARP, GBR, MBR and AMBR. ARP is only used by admission control entity to decide whether a bearer establishment/modification request can be accepted or not. In case of resource limitations, ARP together with PCI and PVI will decide which bearer to release. After bearer is established, scheduling in eNodeB is fully controlled by other parameters. QCI is a scalar that is used as a reference to a set of node-specific parameters such as Resource Type (RT), Priority (PL), Packet Delay Budget (PDB) and Packet Error Loss Rate (PELR), which control bearer level packet forwarding treatment. The MBR and GBR defined for GBR bearers must be set equal at this



stage. To non-GBR bearer, the AMBR includes APN-AMBR and UE-AMBR. These AMBR values are defined separately for uplink and downlink, but we will not distinguish these four AMBR values in later sections. For more details about QoS parameters, see [11].

## 2.3. User Satisfaction

The same level performance of two services will bring different experience to user, which is related to service characteristic. For all services, no block and no drop of the bears is required. The differences in the degree of satisfaction are primarily due to the integrity of the services. The interactive services are realtime traffic that cannot exceed the tolerable delay. The data services must have high bit rate and low bit error ratio, or else packet cannot be recovered in application layer. In this paper, the bearer will be dropped if the bit error ratio (BER) passes the allowed limit. As for MMS and P2P, these services run quietly in the background beyond intuitive perception, to simplify, always are satisfied.

Service satisfaction ratio is defined as the ratio of satisfied user of that service. A service is satisfied or not can be judged by a target threshold (90%), that is, if the percentage is greater than 90%, the service is suitable be provided. If all the services in a cell are all above their thresholds, we call the cell is satisfied.

## 2.4. Spectral Efficiency

The spectral efficiency is defined as cell throughput normalized with respect to the bandwidth (bps/Hz). According to the definition, the optimization problem can be modeled as:

$$\max \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{ST(i)} Thp_{ij} / BW$$

$$= \max((\sum_{i=1}^{N} T(i) / A(i) * S(i) * NRB(i)) * \overline{Thp_{RB}} / (M * BW_{RB}))$$

$$= \max((\sum_{i=1}^{N} P(i) * NRB(i)) * \overline{Thp_{RB}} / (M * BW_{RB}))$$
(1)
$$s.t. \quad SU(i) / ST(i) \ge TS(i) \quad , 1 \le i \le N$$

$$SU(i) = \sum_{j=1}^{ST(i)} a_{ij}$$

$$a_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, \quad Satisfied \\ 0, \quad Unsatisfied \end{cases}$$

where  $Thp_{ij}$  is the throughput of user *j* of service *i*, *BW* is bandwidth of the cell, *N* is the number supported service in the cell,  $Thp_{RB}$  is the mean throughput of a RB without dummy transport blocks, A(i) is the *i*-th service mean arrival intensity, T(i) is the *i*-th service mean served time, S(i) is the share of user to the *i*-th service, P(i) is the probability of *i*-th service activated, NRB(i) is the mean number of RB required by the *i*-th service, *M* is the total number of RBs of the system, BWRB is the bandwidth of a RB, ST(i) is the total number of users of service *i*, SU(i) is the number of satisfied users of service *i*, TS(i) is the related target performance threshold. Obviously, the spectral efficiency is related with network technology (TM, MCS and SINR), services (traffic mix and characteristic) and user satisfaction.

## 3. Algorithm Realization

## 3.1. Algorithm Description

Because of the limited number of parameters and the finite set size of all values, the optimal solution can be found by employing the enumeration method. It is clear that the efficiency is every low.

Discrete particle swarm optimization (DPSO) is a newly emerging method for swarm intelligence optimization [12]. DPSO has many advantages such as implicit parallelism, global solution space search ability and the final solution independent of the initial value. But DPSO is easy to fall into the premature, and the precision of solutions sometime is low. The operation of selection, crossover and mutation in GA can maintain the diversity of the population, which has the better global search capability. The combination of these two algorithms will get all these advantages-more accuracy and more stable solution. Based on binary code mode, we provide an improved MPSO algorithm to solve the single-objective combination problem.

## 3.2. Algorithm Realization

#### 1) Problem coding

The position of the *i*-th particle is described by vector  $X_i$ , the *d*-th element  $X_{id}$  of the vector represents a value of QoS parameter *i* (shown in **Table 1**), the vector magnitude is equal to the number of QoS parameters. Then, the speed and position of particle can be updated by the following two formulas:

$$V_{id}(t+1) = wV_{id}(t) + c_1r_1(P_{id} - X_{id}(t)) + c_2r_2(P_{ed} - X_{id}(t))$$
(2)

$$X_{id}(t+1) = \begin{cases} Value \_M, & (M-1) \cdot sigmoid(V_{id}(t+1)) / M \le r_{id}(t+1) < sigmoid(V_{id}(t+1)) \\ Value \_i, & (M-i-1) \cdot sigmoid(V_{id}(t+1)) / M \le r_{id}(t+1) < (M-i) \cdot sigmoid(V_{id}(t+1)) / M \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ Value \_1, & r_{id}(t+1) < sigmoid(V_{id}(t+1)) / M \end{cases}$$
(3)

where *w* is the inertia weight, which value is decreased during a run, that is  $w = (w_1 - w_2) \cdot \frac{MAXITER - iter}{MAXITER} + w_2, w_1 = 0.9, w_2 = 0.4 [13].$  At the beginning,

the swarm of particles fly over a larger area to find approximate position quickly, as *w* decreasing from 0.9 to 0.4 linearly, the velocity of particle will slow down, then the swam can converge to a small area, until they find the optimal positions.  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are two constants, generally are set as 2.  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are random values in the interval [0, 1].  $P_{id}$  and  $P_{gd}$  denote the *d*-th dimension local best position of the *i*-th particle and the *d*-th dimension global best position of all the particles respectively. *MAXITER* is the maximum number of iteration.

Each of QoS parameters has different number of value, that is, the magnitude

Service type	Resource Service type Type		Bit Rate (kbps)	Block Rate (%)	Drop Rate (%)	Max Delay (ms)	
Speech	GB	CS	12.2	<1%	<0.5%	<100	
Video Phone	GB	CS	110 <1%		<0.5%	<150	
Web	NGB	PS-I	128	<2%	<1%	<1000	
Online Game	NGB	PS-I	128	<2%	<1%	<50	
IM	NGB	PS-I	16	<2%	<1%	<500	
Video Streaming	NGB	PS-S	256	<3%	<1%	<250	
MMS	NGB	PS-B	BE	-	-	-	
FTP	NGB	PS-B	BE	<5%	<5%	-	

Table 1. The main service satisfaction requirement.

of value set is not the same. We use non-homogeneous multi-level coding mode to code the position, as shown in Formula (3), where the value space of function sigmoid(V) = 1/(1 + exp(-V)) is divided into  $M = |\mathcal{P}^d|$  equal segments. In the *t*-th iteration, element  $X_{id}$  take the *k*-th element  $\varphi^d_k$  from collection  $\mathcal{P}^d(\varphi^d_k \in \mathcal{P}^d)$ if random value fall in the *k*-th interval.

## 2) Fitness Function

The fitness of each particle represents the quality of its position. Utilizing the optimization technique, the swarm will converge to optimal positions with the best fitness value. As you know, the spectral efficiency maximum must accord with the fitness function inflection points.

We can model *N* kinds of services taking place in a cell as *N* Bernoulli Experiments, each experiments is repeated ST(i) trails, the probability of a success on each trial is TS(i), and the number of successful trials is SU(i). The random variable  $X_i = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, ST(i)\}$  will follow the binomial distribution with parameters ST(i) and TS(i), we write  $X_i \sim B(ST(i), TS(i))$ . The probability of getting exactly SU(i) successes in ST(i) trials can be calculated as:

$$P(X_i = SU(i)) = C_{ST(i)}^{SU(i)} p^{SU(i)} (1-p)^{ST(i)-SU(i)}$$
(4)

So, the fitness function can be defined as a variable based on z-test statistics which reflects the difference between the mean of population and the mean of sample, where z-test statistics are expressed as:

$$Z(i) = \frac{\overline{X} - \mu}{\sigma / \sqrt{n}} = \frac{\frac{SU(i)}{ST(i)} - TS(i)}{\sqrt{\frac{TS(i) \cdot (1 - TS(i))}{ST(i)}}}$$
(5)

In reference [7], the fitness function is implied as:  $Fitness = -\min_{\{i=1,\dots,N\}} \{Z(i)\}$ ,

which does not include the factor of the number of RB used by the services. If the worst performing service needs the least of RB, the total number of active RB  $\sum_{i=1}^{N} P(i) * NRB(i)$  is not the maximum, which means that the spectral efficiency

is not the maximum. We can revise it as:

$$Fitness = -\min_{\{i=1,\dots,N\}} \left\{ \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (NRB(i) \cdot Z(i)) \right\}$$
(6)

The fitness function is a statistic that yields positive or negative values if the cell is under load or overload in the sense of the target set for the ratio. To get stable results, the number of trail should be sufficiently high, As refer to [14], the binomial distribution requires that np and n(1-p) is greater than or equal to 5. It implies that  $ST(i) \ge 50$  with TS(i) = 90%.

### 3) Realization Procedure

**Figure 1** shows the structure of the searching process, including the outer loop based on MPSO algorithm to find the optional QoS parameters setting quickly, the inner loop based on the QoS aware scheduler and the Monte-Carlo approach to simulate the services transmitted through the network, to collect the numbers of total users and satisfied users for each service type and to calculate the fitness for parameter values related.

## 3.3. Computation Complexity Analysis

Assuming the number of iterations is N, the size of the swarm of particles is T, the number of QoS parameters is K, the size of value space of every parameter is M. In the *i*-th iteration, some action need to accomplish such as: updating the inertia weight; calculating the fitness value and updating the K-dimensional speed and position of each particle; selecting two parents with the best fitness values, crossing the components of two parents and gener-ating the offspring with mutation; examining the particle for duplicate or inconsistence; calculating the global best fitness value and position. The computation complexities of these operations are shown in the **Table 2**.

Thus, the overall complexity of the algorithm is  $O(N^*T^*(T^*K + N_i^*(N_u^*K + N_u^{-2})))$ , where  $N_i^*(N_u^*K + N_u^{-2})$  is the complexity of fitness computation,  $N_i$  is

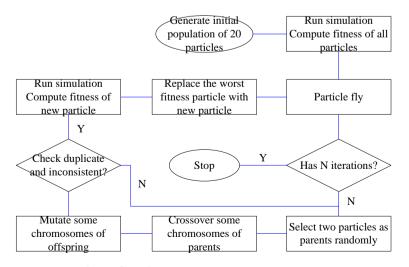


Figure 1. Simulation flow chart.



Operation	Complexity	Operation	Complexity		
Update inertia weight	O(1)	Crossover components	O( <i>K</i> )		
Update particle Speed	O( <i>T</i> * <i>K</i> )	Mutation offspring	O( <i>K</i> )		
Update particle position	Update particle position $O(T^*K^*M)$		O( <i>T</i> * <i>K</i> )		
Compute particle fitness	$\mathcal{O}(\mathit{T^*}(\mathit{T^*}K + \mathit{N_i^*}(\mathit{N_u^*}K + \mathit{N_u^{\wedge}2})))$	Compute offspring fitness	$O(T^*K + N_i^*(N_u^*K + N_u^2))$		
Update local fitness and position	O( <i>K</i> +1)	Replace the worst particle	O(T+K)		
Select parents O(2 <i>T</i> )		Update global fitness and position	O(T+K)		

Table 2. Computation complexity.

the number of iterations,  $N_u$  is the total number of users served. Because of  $N_u \gg K$ ,  $N_u \gg T$ , the complexity can be reduced to  $O(N^* T^* N_i^* N_u^2)$  and the value is about  $O(10^{13})$  in this paper.

## 4. Simulation and Analysis

## 4.1. Simulation Parameter

In this section, an advanced dynamic system-level simulator is used to conduct the study for a DL network with a regular hexagonal layout. The cluster is consists of 19 sites (57 cells) and a wrap-around technique is adopted to build a borderless network by copying and shifting the cluster. The users with 3km/h moving speed are distributed in the homogeneously network that all cells have uniform traffic. Some important parameters and the detail of scheduler can refer to [10] [15] respectively. There are 8 services provided in the system which statistical character can be found in [16]. **Table 3** shows the load and mixture of each service.

According to the QoS requirements provided in **Table 1** and 3GPP EPS QoS guarantee mechanism, the ranges of the QoS parameters and their mapping onto 8 services are list in **Table 4**.

## 4.2. Simulation Process

**Figure 2(a)** shows the load status (RB utilization rate) change over time during the packet scheduling process in a cell, in which the GBR bearer and Non-GBR bearer accounting for about 8.78% and 54.38% of all RBs respec-tively. The result agreed well with the configuration which was made by reserving 20% BR to the control channel such as RS, PHICH, PCFICH, PBCH and PDCCH in this simulation. **Figure 2(b)** shows the percentage of satisfied users of 8 services as a function of the iteration number. The GBR bearer has the minimum data rate guarantee which is always satisfied whenever it is accepted. If the percentage of GBR resource is beyond the threshold (LGB), the following GBR bearer establishment request will be denied, that is, a hard block only occur to the GBR bearer. The non-GBR bearer is always accepted, but soft block will occur in the form of delay. As we can see, FTP, video streaming and Web are prone to below the related satisfied threshold. FTP is assigned a low priority, so the data rate will be unsatisfied in high load status. Video streaming is noted for high data rate

Serive	Share of subscription (%)	Duration time(s)	Arrival interval (h)	Equivalent volumn (mErl)	Offered load (kB/h)	Traffic mixes (%)	
Speech	100	90	0.25	100.00	594	9.73%	
Video Phone	3	120	6	5.56	275	4.50%	
Web	30	600	0.5	333.33	1200	19.66%	
Online Game	5	1200	3	111.11	400	6.55%	
IM	30	1	0.0028	100.00	90	1.47%	
Video Streaming	10	600	5	33.33	1536	25.16%	
MMS	10	10	2	1.39	10	0.16%	
FTP	20	180	1	50.00	2000	32.76%	

Table 3. The load and mixture of each service.

Table 4. QoS parameter and value set.

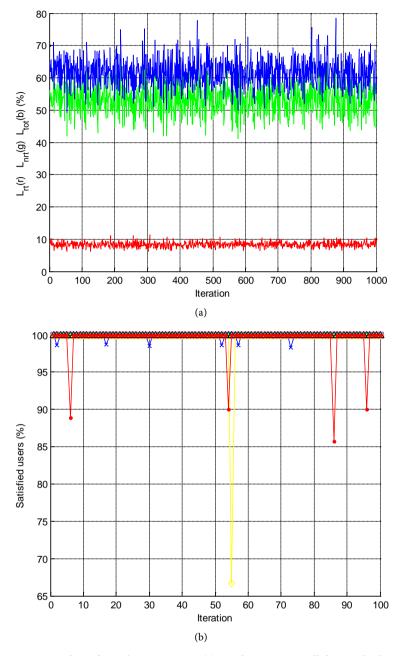
Service	QCI	GBR (kbps)	MBR(kbps)	PL	PDB (ms)	PELR
Speech	1 - 4	16		2-5	50, 100	10^-2, 10^-3, 10^-6
Video Phone	1 - 4	128		2-5	50, 100, 150	10^-3, 10^-6
Web	5 - 9	0	32,64,128,144, 256,384	6-9	100, 150, 200, 250, 300	10^-6
Online Game	5 - 9	0	32,64,128,144, 256,384	6-9	50	10^-3, 10^-6
IM	5 - 9	0	8,16,32,64,128	6-9	100, 150, 200, 250, 300	10^-6
Video Streaming	5 - 9	0	64,128,144,256, 384,512,768	6-9	100, 150, 200, 250	10^-3, 10^-6
MMS	5 - 9	0	16,32,64,128,256	6-9	100, 150, 200, 250, 300	10^-6
FTP	5 - 9	0	64,128,144,256, 384,512,768	6-9	100, 150, 200, 250, 300	10^-6

and low delay, so it is easy to be harmed. Web has a high portion of volume in the system and it is a real-time traffic, so it has more noticeable influence of the performance of the system than other services.

In the above simulation process trace, we can see all call and session are generated following a Poisson process and according to the given traffic mix. Each connection is associated with a certain service which is mapped onto a corresponding QoS parameter setting. The packet scheduler performs well at the MAC layer which is controlled by the parameters such as RT, PL, PDB, PELR and GBR. As expected, the simulator can be used for the optimizing and analyzing of the QoS parameters.

## 4.3. Algorithm Performance Comparison

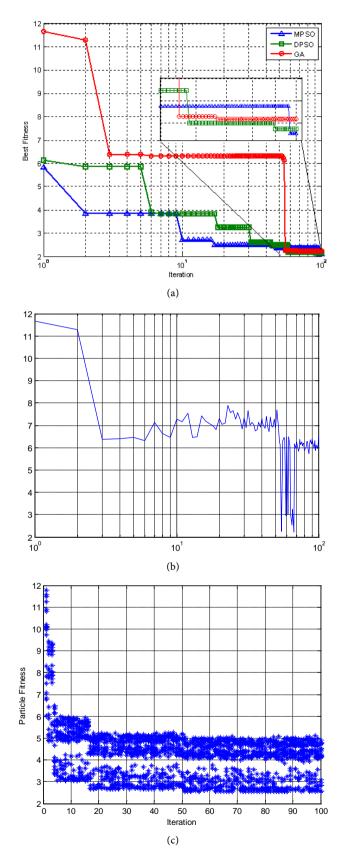
There are three different kinds of swarm intelligence algorithm used to search for the optimal values of QoS parameters. The algorithm 1 is a genetic algo-



**Figure 2.** A snapshot of simulation process. (a) Load status in a cell during the last 1000 snapshot; (b) Percentage of satisfied users as a function of the iteration number.

rithm, the algorithm 2 is ordinary particle swarm optimization algorithm, and the algorithm 3 is MPSO combined with the merits of GA and DPSO. **Figure 3** shows the comparison of different algorithm in the term of accuracy and speed of convergence.

**Figure 3(a)** shows that MPSO has quicker speed of convergence and higher accuracy than GA and DPSO. The improvement of the fitness function was neglectable after 18, 32 and 56 iterations corresponding to MPSO, DPSO and GA., respectively. After that, the optimization process could have been stopped and the fitness functions at this point were 2.10, 2.14 and 2.23, respectively. It meant



**Figure 3.** Algorithm performance comparison. (a) Fitness value as a function of the iteration number; (b) Fitness value as a function of the iteration number for GA; (c) Fitness value of all particles as a function of the iteration number for MPSO.

that MPSO achieves 4.00% and 5.76% gain over DPSO and GA, respectively. In addition, there is an important feature that the particle swarm algorithm is more stable than the genetic algorithm. Comparing **Figure 3(b)** and **Figure 3(c)**, we can notice that the GA may arise "rebound" phenomenon in iteration process because of crossover and mutation operations character with a certain degree of randomness, but it was revealed from **Figure 3(c)** that the swarm could fly to the best position directionally, however, this improvement had a cost that the computation complexity would go up sharply. After all, the robustness of the optimization process was much more practical to applications.

## 4.4. Spectral Efficiency Gains

There are 3 QoS parameters setting schemes. The OPT scheme is found by the MPSO algorithm. The REF1 scheme divides all services into GBR class and non-GBR class, every class has its own undifferentiated setting. The REF2 scheme adopts a single fixed differentiated setting. **Table 5** reports the parameter values for each of schemes, and the columns are denoted as OPT, REF1 and REF2, respectively.

We can increase more load through reducing service mean arrival (A(i)) step by step, log the ratio of users satisfied of the worst forming service using a certain parameter settings. The relationship between the spectral efficiency and user satisfied ratio is exemplified in **Figure 4**.

**Figure 4** revels that efficiency gains can be achieved by proper tuning of the QoS parameters and the gain increases with the cell load. The result indicates that its beneficial to adopt the optimal setting. The gain is obtained by improving the user satisfaction of non-GBR services which implies that the performance of the elastic services is reduced to allow bearing more low priority services volumes. In this case, the spectral efficiency 2.27bps/Hz corresponds to the ratio.

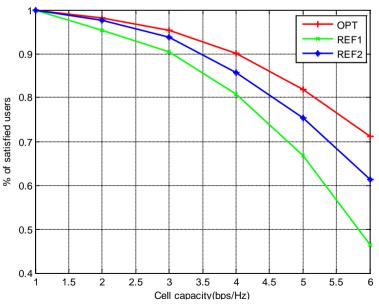


Figure 4. Spectral efficiency again comparison.

Table 5.	QoS	parameters setting scheme.
	200	parameters setting sementer

	PL		PDB			PELR			GBR			MBR			
	OPT	REF1	REF2	OPT	REF1	REF2	OPT	REF1	REF2	OPT	REF1	REF2	OPT	REF1	REF2
Speech	2	2	2	100	100	100	10^-2	10^-2	10^-2	16	16	16	16	16	16
Video Phone	4	2	4	150	100	150	10^-3	10^-2	10^-3	128	128	128	128	128	128
Web	6	8	6	300	300	300	10^-6	10^-6	10^-6	128	128	128	768	768	768
Online Game	7	8	7	50	300	100	10^-3	10^-6	10^-3	128	128	128	768	768	768
IM	8	8	8	300	300	300	10^-6	10^-6	10^-6	16	128	64	128	768	128
Video Streaming	7	8	7	250	300	100	10^-3	10^-6	10^-3	256	128	256	1024	768	1024
MMS	9	8	8	300	300	300	10^-6	10^-6	10^-6	32	128	64	256	768	256
FTP	9	8	8	300	300	300	10^-6	10^-6	10^-6	128	128	128	1024	768	1024

of satisfied users 90%, 80.82% and 85.63% for respectively OPT, REF1 and REF2 scheme, that is, the gain of spectral efficiency provided by the optimal setting (OPT) with respect to undifferentiated setting (REF1) and fixed differential setting (REF2) is 11.51% and 5.24%.

It is worth to point out that the gain of spectral efficiency is not only related to the cell load, but also related to the traffic mix. The optimal setting is specifically for the differential mixture of traffic volumes and the gains have large differences accordingly. In a word, the gain can be achieved obviously when the cell is close to or exceeds the full load and the proportion of high-priority services is not very high (generally not more than 1/3). It also suggested that to adopt diverse setting with different traffic mix is beneficial. Due to space limitations, not further explored.

## **5.** Conclusion

Taking into account that the real-time optimization for QoS is not necessary (hour granularity to reflect the changes in traffic volumes among different hours), together with the fact a high sufficient number of users is always needed (the granularity may be either neighbor cell cluster or cells connected with the same SGW), a centralized SON framework is advised, and the QoS self- optimizing can be realized as following: firstly, eNodeBs collect the measurement results of traffic type and traffic volumes, then these data is submitted to the EMS, further the EMS searches for the optimal QoS parameter values, in turn, it provides these optimal QoS parameters to eNodeBs involved to complete the process of automatic optimization. Due to the faster speed of convergence and more stable results obtained by the method proposed in this paper than that from other algorithms (GA and DPSO), despite of rather high computation complexity, the method can be realized by the high-performance EMS system with strong computation power.

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