

AN IMPROVED RESOURCE ALLOCATION SCHEME FOR WIMAX USING
CHANNEL INFORMATION

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Dedicated to my beloved parents and family, without their love and support this research would have never been completed.

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, tremendous progress has been made in wireless communication systems to provide wireless coverage to end users at different data rates. WiMAX technology provides wireless broadband access over an extended coverage area in both fixed and mobility environments. Most of the existing resource allocation schemes allocate resources based on respective service class of the incoming users' requests. However, due to variation in channel conditions, user mobility and diverse resource requirements QoS based resource allocation either results in over or under utilization of allocated resources. Therefore, resource allocation is a challenging task in WiMAX. This research proposes an improved resource management mechanism that performs resource allocation by taking into consideration not only the user service class but also the respective channel status. Based on these two parameters, this research aims to achieve improved resource allocation in terms of resource utilization, fairness and network throughput. First, a Channel Based Resource Allocation scheme is introduced where priority in resource allocation is given to users' requests with relatively higher service classes and better channel status. To maintain fairness in resource allocation process, a Fair Resource Allocation Based Service mechanism is developed where priority is given to users' requests having less additional resources demand. Finally, to improve throughput of the network, a Channel Based Throughput Improvement approach is proposed which dynamically selects a threshold level of channel gain based on individual channel gain of users. During resource allocation process, users above the threshold level are selected for resource allocation such that priority is given to users with high channel gain. Different simulation scenario results reveal an overall improved resource utilization from 87% to 91% and the throughput improves up to 15% when compared to existing schemes. In conclusion the performance of resource utilization is improved if channel status is considered as an input parameter.

ABSTRAK

Sejak kebelakangan ini, banyak kemajuan hebat telah dicapai di dalam sistem-sistem komunikasi tanpa wayar bagi menyediakan liputan tanpa wayar kepada pengguna-pengguna pada kadar data berbeza. Teknologi WiMAX memberi akses jalur lebar tanpa wayar merangkumi kawasan liputan yang luas dalam persekitaran-persekitaran tetap dan bergerak. Kebanyakan skim pengagihan sumber yang wujud mengagihkan sumber-sumber berdasarkan kelas perkhidmatan mengikut kehendak seseorang pengguna. Tetapi, disebabkan kepelbagaian keadaan-keadaan saluran, pergerakan pengguna dan pengagihan sumber berasaskan QoS dengan pelbagai keperluan sumber membawa kepada sama ada terlebih atau terkurang penggunaan sumber-sumber teragih. Maka, pengagihan sumber menjadi satu tugas mencabar dalam WiMAX. Kajian ini mencadangkan satu mekanisme pengurusan yang diperbaiki yang menjalankan pengagihan sumber dengan mengambil kira bukan sahaja kelas perkhidmatan pengguna tetapi juga status saluran berkaitan. Berdasarkan kepada dua parameter tersebut, kajian ini bertujuan menghasilkan pengagihan sumber yang lebih baik di dalam penggunaan sumber, keadilan dan penghasilan jaringan. Pertama, satu skim *Channel Based Resource Allocation* diperkenalkan di mana keutamaan dalam pengagihan sumber diberi kepada permintaan-permintaan pengguna dengan kelas-kelas servis yang secara relatifnya lebih tinggi dan berstatus saluran yang lebih baik. Untuk mengekalkan keadilan dalam proses pengagihan sumber, satu mekanisme *Fair Resource Allocation Based Service* dibangunkan dengan keutamaan diberi kepada permintaan-permintaan pengguna yang berkehendakan kurang sumber-sumber tambahan. Akhirnya, bagi memperbaiki penghasilan jaringan, satu kaedah *Channel Based Throughput Improvement* dicadangkan yang dapat memilih secara dinamik suatu tahap ambang dapatan saluran mengikut dapatan saluran individu pengguna. Semasa proses pengagihan sumber, para pengguna yang melepasi tahap ambang dipilih bagi pengagihan sumber dengan keutamaan diberi kepada mereka yang mempunyai dapatan sumber yang lebih tinggi. Keputusan-keputusan senario simulasi berbeza menunjukkan peningkatan penggunaan sumber keseluruhan daripada 87% kepada 91% dan penghasilan bertambah sehingga 15% bila dibandingkan dengan skim-skim sedia ada. Kesimpulannya, prestasi penggunaan sumber dipertingkatkan jika status saluran diambil kira sebagai satu parameter input.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	ii
	DEDICATION	iii
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
	ABSTRACT	v
	ABSTRAK	vi
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
	LIST OF TABLES	xi
	LIST OF FIGURES	xii
	LIST OF ALGORITHMS	xiv
	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xv
	LIST OF APPENDICES	xvi
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Overview	1
	1.2 Problem Background	2
	1.3 Problem Statements	8
	1.4 Research Questions	9
	1.5 Research Goal	9
	1.6 Research Objectives	10
	1.7 Research Scope	10
	1.8 Significance of Study	11
	1.9 Organization of the Thesis	11
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	13
	2.1 Overview	13

2.2	WiMAX Standard IEEE802.16	14
2.2.1	Architecture of WiMAX	15
2.2.2	MAC Layer	16
2.2.3	WiMAX Frame Structure	17
2.2.4	Modulation scheme	19
2.2.5	Quality of Service in WiMAX	20
2.3	Resource Allocation and Management in WiMAX	22
2.3.1	Related work of resource allocation in WiMAX	24
2.3.2	Scheduling Algorithm for Resource Allocations	31
2.3.3.1	Classification of Scheduling Algorithms	31
2.3.3.2	Channel Aware Scheduling	32
2.4	Fairness	36
2.4.1	Algorithms for Fairness	38
2.5	Throughput in WiMAX Resource Allocation	43
2.6	Summary	49
3	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	50
3.1	Overview	50
3.2	Operational Framework	50
3.2.1	Background Analysis and formulation of the problem	52
3.2.1.1	Mobile WiMAX Standard IEEE 802.16e	53
3.2.1.2	Resource Allocation	55
3.2.1.3	Fairness in Resource Allocation	55
3.2.1.4	Throughput in WiMAX	56
3.2.2	Channel Based Resource Management in WiMAX	58
3.2.2.1	Design and Development of Channel Based Resource Allocation (CBRA) Scheme	59
3.2.2.2	Design and Development of Fair Resource Allocation Based Service (FRABS) Mechanism	59

3.2.2.3	Design and Development of Channel Based Throughput Improvement (CBTI) Approach	60
3.2.3	Testing and Performance Evaluation	61
3.2.3.1	Evaluation Matrices	62
3.2.3.2	Network simulator	63
3.2.3.3	Assumptions and limitations	65
3.2.3.4	Performance Evaluation	65
3.4	Summary	67
4	CHANNEL BASED RESOURCE ALLOCATION (CBRA) SCHEME IN WiMAX	68
4.1	Overview	68
4.2	The Proposed CBRA Scheme for Resource Allocation in WiMAX	68
4.2.1	Architecture of the proposed CBRA	69
4.2.2	Channel Quality Estimator	71
4.2.3	Implication of Channel Quality Estimation in Modulation Schemes	74
4.2.4	Service Class Identifier	75
4.3	Resource Allocation Scheme	76
4.4	Simulation Environment	81
4.5	Results and Evaluation	83
4.6	Summary	86
5	FAIR RESOURCE ALLOCATION BASED SERVICE (FRABS) MECHANISM AND CHANNEL BASED THROUGHPUT IMPROVEMENT (CBTI) APPROACH	87
5.1	Overview	87
5.2	Fair Resource Allocation Based Service (FRABS) Mechanism	88
5.2.1	Network Model	88
5.2.2	Architecture of Fair resource allocation Mechanism	89
5.2.2.1	Fair Resource Allocation Mechanism	89

5.2.3	Algorithms for FRABS	92
5.2.4	Simulation and Results of SBFRA Mechanism	93
5.2.4.1	Simulation Scenario 1	94
5.2.4.2	Simulation Scenario 2	97
5.3	Channel Based Throughput Improvement (CBTI) Approach	103
5.3.1	Network Model	103
5.3.2	Architecture of Channel Based Throughput Improvement (CBTI) Approach	104
5.3.2.1	Throughput Improvement Module	105
5.3.3	Algorithm of CBTI Approach	107
5.3.4	Simulation and results of CBTI Approach	109
5.4	Summary	111
6	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	112
6.1	Overview	112
6.2	Simulation Experiments and Results	112
6.2.1	Resource Utilization in WiMAX	116
6.2.2	Fair Resource Allocation in WiMAX	119
6.2.3	Throughput Improvement in WiMAX	121
6.3	Summary	123
7	CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK	124
7.1	Overview	124
7.2	Achievements and Contributions	124
7.3	Future work	127
	REFERENCES	129
	Appendices A-B	139-145

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	Modulation schemes	19
2.2	QoS classes	20
2.3	Summary of QoS classes	22
2.4	Algorithms used in resource allocation	24
2.5	Comparison of bandwidth allocation techniques	30
2.6	Comparison of channel aware scheduler	33
2.7	Scheduler analysis with quality of service classes	33
2.8	Algorithm used in fairness	38
2.9	Fairness in WiMAX	43
2.10	Techniques used for throughput improvement	48
3.1	Simulations parameters	64
3.2	Host to base station parameters	64
3.3	Base station to mobile station parameters	64
3.4	Mobile station setting parameters	64
4.1	QoS and SNR based resource allocation in CBRA	70
4.2	Different modulations schemes at various SNR values	74
4.3	Modulations schemes with bits per symbol	74
4.4	Different QoS classes supported by WiMAX	75
4.5	Simulations parameters	82
4.6	BS to MS parameters setting	82
4.7	MS parameters setting	83
4.8	Data set for 25 selected users	84
4.9	Resource utilization comparison	85
5.1	Parameters used in WiMAX simulation	109
6.1	User data for results	113
6.2	QoS classes average resource utilization	115

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	WiMAX network architecture	16
2.2	Protocol stack of IEEE 802.16	17
2.3	WiMAX frame structure	18
2.4	Percentage of paper reviewed	23
2.5	Scheduler classification	32
3.1	Operational frame work of research	51
3.2	Background analysis and foundation	52
3.3	Design and development of resource management scheme	58
3.4	Test and evaluation	61
4.1	Architecture of CBRA scheme	70
4.2	QoS and SNR based resource allocation for UGS class	71
4.3	Flow chart of channel quality estimator	73
4.4	Decision queues execution	79
4.5	Resource allocation using CBRA scheme	79
4.6	Flow chart of resource allocator	81
4.7	Resource utilization using CBRA scheme	85
5.1	Fair resource allocation mechanism architecture	89
5.2	Channel evaluation	90
5.3	Flow chart of FRABS mechanism	91
5.4	Five SS based scenario of WiMAX	93
5.5	SS communication with Base Station for required service	94
5.6	Channel utilization without fairness	95
5.7	Channel utilization with fairness	96
5.8	Comparison of available channel utilization with and without	

	FRABS	97
5.9	Compariosn of resource utilization for ertPS service with and without FRABS	98
5.10	Comparison of resource availability with and without FRABS for nrtPS class	99
5.11	Compariosn of resource utilization for rtPS service with and without FRABS	100
5.12	Compariosn of resource avalibility for BE service with and without FRABS	100
5.13	Comparison of availability of resources without fairness for different classes of VBR traffic	101
5.14	Comparison of availability of resources with fairness for different classes of VBR traffic	102
5.15	CBTI Architecture	105
5.16	Flowchart for CBTI approach	108
5.17	Comparison of CBTI with other techniques	110
6.1	Data transmission	114
6.2	Class success ratio using QoS based resource allocation	115
6.3	Class success ratio using CBRA based resource allocation	116
6.4	Resource utilization in different QoS classes using CBRA	117
6.5	Performance of CBRA against other schemes for overall resource utilization	117
6.6	Resource allocation without FRABS	120
6.7	Resource allocation using FRABS	122
6.8	Comparison of CBTI with other schemes	124

LIST OF ALGORITHMS

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
4.1	SNR calculation	73
4.2	Service class identification	76
4.3	Population of decision queues	78
4.4	Resource allocator	80
5.1	Fair resource allocator	92
5.2	Throughput improvement	107

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASN	-	Access Service Network
BE	-	Best Effort
BS	-	Base Station
CBRA	-	Channel Based Resource Allocation
CBTI	-	Channel Based Throughput Improvement
CSL	-	Convergence Sub Layer
CSN	-	Connectivity Service Network
DL	-	Down Link
EBG	-	Extra Bandwidth Granting
EDF	-	Earlier Deadline First
ertPS	-	extended real time Polling Service
FDD	-	Frequency Division Duplex
FIFO	-	First In First Out
GWF	-	Generalized Weighted Fair
MS	-	Mobile Station
nrtPS	-	non real time Polling Service
PDU	-	Protocol Data Unit
PF	-	Proportional Fair
QoS	-	Quality of Service
RR	-	Round Robin
rtPS	-	real time Polling Service
FRABS	-	Fair Resource Allocation Based Service
SDU	-	Service Data Unit
SS	-	Subscriber Station
TDMA	-	Time Division Multiple Access
TDD	-	Time Division Duplex

- UGS - Unsolicited Grant Service
- UL - Up Link
- WiMAX - Worldwide inter-operability for Micro Wave Access

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
A	Data set for 30 users	139
B	List of publications	144

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

In recent years, immense development has taken place in the area of telecommunication systems and wireless networks. Worldwide interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX) networks is a cost effective solution. WiMAX is an emerging technology which offers stable services to users. This service is considered as equivalent to Digital Subscriber Line (DSL). WiMAX technology supports long range coverage with QoS provided through scalable architecture with high data throughput. It is easy to deploy and provide service to a large coverage area. WiMAX is an IEEE 802.16 services standard. It can operate in both infrastructure and infrastructure-less mode. WiMAX consists of Base Station (BS) and Mobile Station (MS) or Subscriber Station (SS). Each BS communicates with multiple MS with-in its coverage area. BS is connected with backbone to the core network, and the subscriber uses premise's equipment for the connectivity. This technological advancement has greatly improved connectivity. In current WiMAX network development, a great deal of attention is given to fulfil user's requirements. There are numerous applications for the different wireless technologies. The implementations of these technologies depend on the requirements of the users. Each of these applications has different Quality of Service (QoS) requirements that make the management of the telecommunication system more complex. During recent years, most of the research in the telecommunication system has focused on meeting user requirements and providing an optimum level of service.

The motivation behind this research is to design a mechanism that provides resources to users. This mechanism is based on the channel status and required QoS class. The main focus of this research is to address the problem of resource allocation and its impact on fairness and throughput of the network. This research provides a mechanism for improvement in utilization of existing resources in WiMAX network. Moreover, the effect of the proposed mechanism is analysed for fairness and throughput of the network.

1.2 Problem Background

Recently, researchers have focused on enhancing the different aspects of WiMAX implementation such as resource allocation, QoS, scheduling, fairness, throughput, security and complexity of algorithms (del Castillo Waters *et al.*, 2013) (Farhadi, 2011; Girici *et al.*, 2010; Gopalan *et al.*, 2012; Shu'aibu and Syed-Yusof, 2011; So-In *et al.*, 2009b). WiMAX forum was formed to solve problems and promote solutions based on IEEE802.16 standard (Standard, 2010). IEEE 802.16 standard 2004 focuses on Point to Multi Point (PMP). The enhanced version of the standard was released in 2009 and it supports mobility along with QoS parameters (Ruangchaijatupon and Ji, 2009). It is important to note that WiMAX systems face challenges similar to the existing cellular networks. While working in wireless network environment different subcarriers have a different channel gain, and each sub carrier fades independently for different Subscriber Station (SS) (Zhang and Li, 2008). Such diversity motivates this work which is to design a mechanism for resource allocation in WiMAX network.

i. Resource Allocation in WiMAX

Bandwidth in any network is a limited asset; hence the performance of a system depends on efficient resource utilization. A proper resource allocation mechanism improves the spectrum efficiency and provides the available resources to the user in the

best and most efficient manner (Liu *et al.*, 2003). In WiMAX, bandwidth is divided into sub-carriers (Krishana Ramada 2008). These sub-carriers are allocated to the subscriber and controlled by the BS. The policy of resource allocation depends on the BS scheduling algorithm. Groupings of these sub-carriers are known as sub-channels, and these sub-channels are represented by different Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM) symbols known as slots. In WiMAX standard, a slot is the minimum resource which can be allocated to a SS (Shu'aibu, 2011). WiMAX frame is further sub divided into two sub-frames i.e. Up-Link (UL) and Down-Link (DL) sub-frames. Both UL and DL support Time Division Duplexing (TDD) and Frequency Division Duplexing (FDD). In TDD communication is achieved by using the same channel in different time slots. DL and UL sub-frames are separated by the receiver transmit transition gap (RTG). In FDD, simultaneous communication is achieved by using different sub-channels. The throughput of UL or DL is proportional to the number of sub-carriers allocated to the corresponding SS and the achievable rate of each sub-carrier (Ruangchaijatupon and Ji, 2009). Various researchers have worked on the efficient utilization of resources in WiMAX network, scheduling for resource allocation and modulation based on channel condition (Da and Ko, 2009).

Resource allocation is to assign the resources to different demanding entities within the system. In OFDM system, resource allocation is a process to allocate sub-carriers with adequate resources while retaining connection with the network so that the SS can conveniently communicate with another SS or BS (Han and Liu, 2008). In Ashish Pandharipande (2002) the resource allocation of a sub-carrier is proposed by assuming equal sub-carrier allocations irrespective of the channel status and the data rate. The ideal channel state information is assumed by using fixed modulation for all sub-carriers to all users (Cheong Yui *et al.*, 1999; Pietrzyk and Janssen, 2002).

In real scenarios, the sub-subscribers have different data rates at different locations from the BS, so the approach used by Zukand (2003) does not reflect the practical solution. However, the approach discussed by Da and Ko (2009) reflects the practical real scenarios. Wong (2004) proposed an approach in which users are allowed to set their data rates based on the QoS and proportional rate constraint. Each user's data rate can be

satisfied with constraint to the channel status of the user. In enhanced One Column Striping with non-increasing Area first mapping algorithms (eOCSA), user demand is computed and users are sorted in decreasing order, which fails to preserve the QoS order (So-In *et al.*, 2009a). The resources are segregated for allocation in partition based scheduling algorithm, which may lead to over allocation and in some cases waste of resource (Shu'aibu *et al.*, 2010).

The Network Utility Maximization approach is presented for scheduling of resources (Jianfeng *et al.*, 2009). In this approach, the resources are allocated by considering QoS Class. However, proposed work improves existing technique for better utilization of resources and better resource allocation by using the QoS in conjunction with channel status.

ii. QoS in WiMAX

QoS is an important parameter for allocation. WiMAX handles QoS mechanism at the MAC layer and supports different QoS classes (Singh, 2010). Providing QoS to different classes is a challenging task because the characteristics of a wireless link are unpredictable both on time and location based. Longer distance and multipath fading are also another factor which affects QoS. The key issue is how to meet QoS requirements for different classes to allocate resources among the users (Letaief and Zhang, 2006).

QoS requirements and the mobility of users within the network area with variable channel make the process more complex for fair and efficient allocation of resources (Gang *et al.*, 2008; Karthick *et al.*, 2009). Ensuring QoS some researchers have proposed different algorithms, which are variations of commonly used scheduling algorithms (Hawa and Petr, 2002; Nascimento *et al.*, 2008). In each of the classes, different priority based scheduling algorithms are used, such as First in First Out (FIFO), Round Robin (RR), Weighted Fair Queue (WFQ) and Earliest Deadline First (EDF).

WiMAX standard IEEE 802.16e supports five service classes namely, (1) Unsolicited Grant Service (UGS), (2) Extended Real Time Polling Service (ertPS), (3) Real Time Polling Service (rtPS), (4) Non Real Time Polling Service (nrtPS) and (5) Best Effort (BE)(Moh and Moh, 2010). Each service class has different characteristics and requires different QoS. UGS class meets guaranteed latency and is used for real time service like E1 and T1. The second service class (ertPS) requires dynamic allocation and reserves bandwidth during connection setup and this service class supports variable bit rate like VoIP. The third service class i.e. rtPS class supports variable data size and dynamic resource allocation, while nrtPS class supports File Transfer Protocol (FTP) traffic with minimum reserved rate. BE class is used for web traffic and does not provide a service guarantee and delay may occur during transmission.

Channel status is also very important in wireless network for the provision of QoS. Channel status is a measure of signal strength with respect to noise. The ratio is calculated in decibels (dB). The estimation of channel loss is calculated using different algorithms based on status of the channel (Coleri *et al.*, 2002). To achieve QoS, accurate channel estimation affects the resource utilization and throughput of the network (Shen and Martinez, 2007).

iii. Fairness in Resource Allocation

Theoretically, all users should receive the same service but due to mobility and network load, the service provider faces challenges in the fair allocation of resources. The service provider cannot fix the number of slots for any service as the currently used channel of the user is unpredictable and the user is unable to utilize the fixed resource properly.

If the service provider fixes the number of slots and the user is in a low signal area, the service provider allocates more resources to achieve same QoS as compared to the user in the normal area. This additional resource allocation affects the throughput of

the network. If the service provider does not provide extra resources to the user in low signal area, fairness issues arise in terms of QoS. To achieve fairness, the service provider can implement Proportional Fairness (PF) and Generalized Weighted Fairness (GWF) algorithms to ensure the QoS. To monitor fairness Jain's fairness index is used (Dianati *et al.*, 2005; Ruangchaijatupon and Ji, 2008).

In IEEE 802.16e mobile WiMAX networks, several other scheduling techniques are applied depending on the QoS and signal strength (Shu'aibu and Syed-Yusof, 2011). The two main types are defined as temporal fairness and throughput fairness (So-In *et al.*, 2010). In this proposed work, extra bandwidth is allocated to provide the fairness in the network.

iv. Throughput in Resource Allocation

Throughput is utilization of the available resources. Throughput of the system can be improved through channel status and other constraints (Fantacci *et al.*, 2009). Allocation of resources based on the fixed allocation scheme results in the decrease of utilization due to variation in channel status. Increasing network throughput, a mechanism is required that should consider channel status as well as QoS. Resource allocation based on threshold value is normally used to gain throughput in WiMAX (Sulyman, 2011). Another approach used to improve the throughput of the WiMAX network is by allocating resource on demand (Sun and Liu, 2010).

Algorithm proposed by Lin (2006) ensures allocation only on the basis of resource availability but the problem of dropping packets is a major issue. Extra Bandwidth Granting (EBG) scheme is used to improve the efficiency based on the average packet size for the QoS classes. Yasir (2011) presented an optimization technique considering the maximum carrier to an interference ratio. Xinning (2008) proposed time frequency allocation with the channel condition for ensuring QoS based on priority. Therefore scheduling is given special attention and considered a key issue in WiMAX.

The existing work on resource allocation is based on the scheduling of existing resources and the modulation technique is applied based upon the node distance and the SNR of the channel. Best utilization of existing resources requires QoS and SNR of the channel.

Kaarthick (2011) proposed a dynamic uplink channel allocation scheme based on signal to interference and noise ratio to reduce the overhead and to increase the throughput of the network. Huang (2010) proposed a scheme for better utilization of bandwidth and reduction in interference, Genetic Algorithm is used for resource management. Fantacci and Jo (2009) used an adaptive modulation to maximize the throughput based on traffic throughput between two available adaptive resources adjustment schemes. In order to achieve the higher resource utilization, Weighted Round Robin scheduling is used. This algorithm improves delay time and multi-cast traffic throughput using SNR modulation technique. An efficient algorithm is proposed to achieve optimum throughput for spatial reuse using the concept of dynamic programming in order to investigate the conflicts (Gunasekaran *et al.*, 2010).

Current work on WiMAX focuses on mobility specified in IEEE 802.16-2009 released standard. This standard does not provide any specific mechanism for resource allocation. Resource allocation is an open issue for researchers to design new mechanisms (Li *et al.*, 2007). Considering the QoS in WiMAX and the scheduling of the resources based on the channel SNR, modulation scheme is selected along with the code rate (Fantacci *et al.*, 2009). The resource allocation in wireless network is a critical problem (Chakchai So-In, 2010). The objective of resource allocation is to maintain the QoS, fairness and throughput of the system. In order to achieve QoS, fairness and throughput there is a need to investigate and estimate the status of channel which can significantly affect the performance of the network. The applied modulation technique depends upon the channel status and distance of the user from BS. In order to optimize the cross layer scheduling problem (Jianfeng *et al.*, 2009) Genetic algorithm and SNR of the channel are used. To schedule the earlier deadline a dual partitioning of bandwidth is proposed which depends on the SNR (Chakchai *et al.*, 2009; Gang *et al.*, 2008). Farhadi (2011) presented a cross layer scheduling algorithm which is more efficient in terms of delay and channel status.

Resource allocation problem is divided into two sub problems: the scheduler problem which decides the amount of required resource and the allocation problem which decides how the granted resources are allocated (del Castillo Waters *et al.*, 2013). Linear Search Technique (Zukang *et al.*, 2003) and Root Finding Method (Da and Ko, 2009; Wong *et al.*, 2004) were used for the allocation of resources. Bandwidth partition introduced to allocate resources (Shu'aibu *et al.*, 2010). In linear search technique, resources are allocated to the users by first calculating the total bandwidth required and the data rate of the user. Then all sub-carriers are searched and sorted in descending order according to their channel gain. Sub carriers are allocated to each user and this process is repeated until all the users are served or the channels are occupied. First, this method does not find the number of resources required by each user and second, it does not consider the channel quality of the user (Wong *et al.*, 2004; Zukang *et al.*, 2003).

1.3 Problem Statement

IEEE 802 mobile WiMAX has the capacity to support high data rate and QoS. Present work focuses on mobility specified in IEEE 802.16-2009 released standard. This standard does not provide any specific mechanism for resource allocation. Resource allocation is an open issue for researchers to design new mechanisms. In some cases, QoS and scheduling of resources in WiMAX based on the channel status and modulation scheme is selected along with the code rate. Resource allocation in wireless networks is a critical problem. The objective of resource allocation is to maintain the QoS, fairness and throughput of the system. Achieving QoS, fairness and throughput, there is a critical need to investigate and estimate the status of channel to enhance network performance. In the problem background, it was shown that several algorithms and techniques have been introduced. The limited resources in a wireless network needs to be distributed for better resource utilization. This thesis addresses the problem of resource allocation, which ensures fairness and throughput in resource allocation.

In resource allocation process, QoS is not the only parameter used to optimize resource allocation. Allocation of resources based on channel status is unable to distribute the resources fairly. Allocation of resources based on QoS classes is not sufficient enough to deliver optimum throughput and results in the service provider compromising on throughput. Hence, there is a need to develop a mechanism for allocation of the available resources which provides fairness and improves throughput of the network depending on the channel status.

1.4 Research Questions

This research aims to address the following questions.

- i. How to design and develop a channel aware resource allocation scheme for WiMAX network?
- ii. How to design and develop an algorithm for fair allocation of resources for mobile WiMAX network?
- iii. How to design and develop an approach to improve the throughput of WiMAX network resource based on channel status?
- iv. How to make a trade-off between fairness and throughput of the network?

1.5 Research Goal

The goal of this research is to design and develop a resource allocation mechanism based on channel status and the QoS demanded by users. The research also considers the impact of the resource allocation problem on improving the fairness and throughput of the network.

1.6 Research Objectives

The research addresses the following objectives for resource allocation in mobile WiMAX to improve the fairness and throughput.

- i. Propose a channel aware resource allocation scheme based on channel status and required QoS class in WiMAX network to improve resource utilization.
- ii. Propose a mechanism for fair resource allocation based on the channel status and QoS class in mobile WiMAX network to improve fairness.
- iii. Develop an approach to enhance the throughput of WiMAX network resources based on channel status.

1.7 Research Scope

The scope of this research is limited to the following:

- i. Mobility of the user is considered as normal movement of the pedestrian user.
- ii. The maximum number of users selected for allocation of resources in each experiment is 25 out of 30.
- iii. IEEE 802.16e is used as underlying standard
- iv. Computation complexity is out of scope of this study.

1.8 Significance of Study

Resource allocation and management are key factors in efficient utilization of the resources. Following points describe the significance of this research.

- To allocate resources efficiently to help service providers in effective utilization of the resources in WiMAX network.
- The implementation of this scheme provides capacity management for handling more users in WiMAX networks, which results in economic benefits for service providers.
- This mechanism helps the subscriber in low coverage areas and provides a solution to service providers to provide better service to low signal users. This mechanism improves the user satisfaction level by providing fair allocation of resources.

1.9 Organization of Thesis

Rest of the thesis is organized as follows:

Chapter 2 provides an exhaustive literature review of the background, problems and solutions to WiMAX resource allocation, fairness and throughput. Different mechanisms, used for fairness and throughput to maintain the QoS classes are also discussed in detail.

Chapter 3 highlights the flow of research methodology which is used in this research. This is followed by a proposed research framework in order to design and develop a channel aware resource allocation mechanism. Chapter 4 outlines the implementation of the proposed mechanism for resource allocation based on the channel condition and the service classes. Chapter 5 describes two phases. The first phase consists of design and development of a fair resource allocation based service mechanism to provide fair service to users. Second phase presents a channel based throughput improvement approach. Chapter 6 describes the results of the proposed mechanism and its comparison with existing algorithms. Chapter 7 presents the conclusion, describes the contributions made by this study and suggests directions for future research.

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