A Genetic Algorithm Based Cell Switch-off Scheme for Energy Saving in Dense Cell Deployments

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IEEE GLOBECOM 2012 BWA Workshop
December 3rd, 2012

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• Energy consumption of wireless networks is rapidly growing

• Motivation to decrease energy consumption:
  – Reduced operating expenses
  – Reduced environmental impact

• Base stations are responsible for ~70% of cellular network energy consumption
  – Cell switch-off provides highest potential for energy saving (ES)
Problem Statement

- Switching off unutilized cells: Easy, but low potential for ES

- How to choose which cells to switch off? Each cell differs with respect to:
  - Energy which can be saved
  - Impact on outage when switched off
  - Interference caused to other cells

Figure adapted from Niu et al., 2010
• Formulated cell switch-off problem with simple constant interference model and solved with binary integer linear programming (BILP)

• Improved existing heuristic from literature to bring it closer to BILP solution

• Re-constructed the problem with variable interference and developed heuristic solution

• Designed a genetic algorithm (GA) for the variable interference problem
Variables & parameters defined as follows:

- \( x_{i,j} \): binary variable such that \( x_{i,j} = 1 \) if user \( i \) is connected to sector \( j \)
- \( y_j \): binary variable such that \( y_j = 1 \) if sector \( j \) is active
- \( \rho_{i,j} \): spectral efficiency for user \( i \) if it is associated to sector \( j \)
- \( B_j \): total bandwidth for sector \( j \)
- \( R_i \): minimum rate requirement for user \( i \)
- \( I \): number of users
- \( J \): number of sectors
Test Scenarios

Cell layout

Wraparound
• **Binary integer linear programming (BILP) formulation for constant interference problem:**

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{minimize} & \quad \sum_{j=1}^{J} y_j \\
\text{subject to} & \quad \sum_{i=1}^{I} x_{i,j} \frac{R_i}{\rho_{i,j}} \leq B_j, \quad \forall j \\
& \quad x_{i,j} \leq y_j, \quad \forall i, j \\
& \quad \sum_{j=1}^{J} x_{i,j} = 1, \quad \forall i \\
& \quad x_{i,j}, y_j \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall i, j
\end{align*}
\] (1a-b-c-d-e)

• **We also improve heuristic by Nui et al. (2010) to bring it closer to optimality**
Uniform UT distribution, regular hexagonal cell layout with 57 cells
Hotspot UT distribution, regular hexagonal cell layout with 57 cells
• BILP formulation $\rightarrow$ already NP-hard
  – Variable interference $\rightarrow$ prohibitive complexity

• Built upon constant-interference heuristic to solve variable interference problem
  – No optimal solution to compare with

• Designed a genetic algorithm to apply to the variable interference problem
Genetic Algorithm

Initial Population
- Random solutions
- Fitness function: energy saving

Crossover & Mutation
- Parent chromosomes chosen through tournament selection
- Partially matched crossover
- Child chromosomes inserted back into population

Termination
- When maximum number of crossovers have been performed
Hotspot UT distribution, regular hexagonal cell layout with 57 cells

![Graph showing the proportion of cells switched off vs. the number of UTs in the network. The graph compares Interference-Aware Cell Zooming and Interference-Aware GA.]
Blocking probability with hotspot UT distribution (average 12 UTs per cell), regular hexagonal cell layout with 57 cells
• In simple scenarios, the cell switch-off problem can be formulated and solved as an optimization problem

• In more complex scenarios, heuristic approaches are needed

• GA is a good candidate for this problem
Future Work

- Cell parameter optimization
  - Hand-off thresholds, TX power, etc.
- ES in advanced radio access networks
  - Consider ICIC, CoMP, MIMO, etc.
- Traffic prediction & machine learning
- Parallel GAs
- Multiple power states, frequency bands
- Larger scale simulations
  - Consider mobility