UNIVERSIDAD POLITÉCNICA DE MADRID

ESCUELA TÉCNICA SUPERIOR DE INGENIEROS DE TELECOMUNICACIÓN



MÁSTER UNIVERSITARIO EN INGENIERÍA DE TELECOMUNICACIÓN

TRABAJO FIN DE MÁSTER

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ABR VIDEO STREAMING SIMULATION MODULE FOR NS-3.
ANALYSIS AND COMPARISON OF ABR VIDEO STREAMING ALGORITHMS OVER VARIOUS MOBILE NETWORK SCENARIOS.

XINXIN LIU JUNIO 2021

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Diseño e implementación de un módulo de ABR video

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Resumen

El streaming de vídeo con tasa de bits adaptativa se está convirtiendo en la técnica más utilizada por las plataformas de vídeo en línea. Con la pandemia mundial *COVID-19*, el streaming de vídeo se ha convertido en una de las principales fuentes de entretenimiento durante los confinamientos. De hecho, más de la mitad de la cuota de tráfico de la red se utiliza hoy en día para streaming de vídeo [7].

El objetivo de este Trabajo Fín de Máster (TFM) es construir un framework en ns-3, implementado en C++, para analizar y comparar algunas implementaciones de algoritmos de adaptación de vídeo sobre diferentes escenarios de red. El primer paso es estudiar ns-3, familiarizarse con algunos módulos de ns-3 y construir varios escenarios de red LTE. El segundo paso es construir un módulo que pueda simular servidores y clientes de vídeo de $BitRate\ Adaptativo\ (ABR)$, estudiar algunos enfoques de los algoritmos de adaptación de la tasa de bits de vídeo e implementar dichos algoritmos, incluyendo soluciones basadas en el ancho de banda, en el buffer y algoritmos híbridos. Por último, podemos comparar y evaluar el rendimiento de diferentes algoritmos ABR en escenarios con condiciones variables con diferentes métricas objetivas de QoE.

Como resultado, se han probado diferentes implementaciones de algoritmos de adaptación con este nuevo módulo ABR. Aunque es evidente que tiene sus limitaciones siendo un entorno simulado.

Este proyecto se ha llevado a cabo con la cátedra Ericsson-UPM en software y sistemas.

Palabras clave: DASH, ABR,
ns-3, streaming de video por HTTP, simulación, QoE

Abstract

Adaptive bitrate video streaming is becoming the most used technique for online video

platforms. With the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic, video streaming has become one of

the primary sources of entertainment during the shutdown. In fact, more than half of the

network traffic share today is used by video streaming [7].

The objective of this Master's Thesis is to build a framework in ns-3, implemented

in C++, for testing video adaptation algorithms and to compare some implementations

over different network scenarios. The first step is to study ns-3, familiarize with some ns-3

modules, and build various LTE network scenarios. The second step is to build a module

that can simulate ABR video servers and clients, study some approaches of video bitrate

adaptation algorithms and implement those algorithms, including throughput based, buffer

based and hybrid solutions. Finally we can compare and evaluate the performance of

different ABR algorithms on scenarios with varying conditions with different objective

QoE metrics.

As a result, different implementations of adaptation algorithms have been tested with

this new ABR module. Although it is evident that it has its limitations being a simulated

enviroment.

This project has been carried out with the Ericsson-UPM scholarship in software and

systems.

Keywords: DASH, ABR, ns-3, HTTP video streaming, simulation, QoE

III

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Contents

\mathbf{R}	esum	en		Ι
\mathbf{A}	bstra	ct	II	Ι
\mathbf{A}	cknov	wledge	ments	Ţ
\mathbf{C}	onter	$_{ m nts}$	VI	Ι
\mathbf{Li}	st of	Figure	es X	Ι
		Tables		T
	sting		XV	
		•	XVI	
	lossa			
1		oducti		1
	1.1	Conte		1
	1.2	·		3
	1.3	Struct	ure of the thesis	3
2	Stat	te of tl	ne Art	5
	2.1	ABR	Video Streaming	5
	2.2	Dynan	nic Adaptive Streaming over HTTP	7
		2.2.1	MPD	8
		2.2.2	Adaptation Algorithms	9
		2.2.3	QoS & QoE Metrics	2
	2.3	LTE F	Fundamentals	2
		2.3.1	History	3
		2.3.2	Architecture	3
		2.3.3	Wireless Fundamentals	4
		2.3.4	Antennas & MIMO	7
		2.3.5	Physical Layer	8
		2.3.6	Medium Access Control Layer	0
		2.3.7	Radio Link Control Layer	1

		2.3.8 Packet Data Convergence Protocol Layer	1
3	Net	work Simulator 3	3
	3.1	ns-3 Concepts	3
	3.2	Logging Module	4
	3.3	Command Line Arguments	5
	3.4	Tracing System	6
		3.4.1 ASCII Tracing	6
		3.4.2 PCAP Tracing	6
	3.5	ns-3 Modules & Models	6
		3.5.1 Antenna Module	7
		3.5.2 Application Module	8
		3.5.3 Buildings Module	9
		3.5.4 Internet Module	1
		3.5.5 Mobility Module	1
		3.5.6 Network Module	2
		3.5.7 PointToPoint NetDevice	3
		3.5.8 LTE Module	3
	3.6	Parameter Configuration	6
4	AB	R Module for ns-3	7
	4.1	Design Objectives	7
	4.2	Architecture	7
	4.3	Models	9
		4.3.1 AbrClient	9
		4.3.2 AbrServer	1
		4.3.3 AbrVariables	2
		4.3.4 AbrHelper	3
		4.3.5 AbrAlgorithm	3
	4.4	Adaptation Algorithms	3
		4.4.1 HLSjs.cc	3
		4.4.2 DASHjs.cc	4
5	Sim	ulations and Results 4'	7
	5.1	Comparison Metrics	7
	5.2	Scenarios	8
		5.2.1 Scenario 1	8
		5.2.2 Scenario 2	0

		T00 C .	9								۲0
		5.2.3 Scenario	3		 	 	 	 	 		53
		5.2.4 Scenario	o 4		 	 	 	 	 		55
	5.3	${\bf Conclusions} \ \ .$			 	 	 	 	 		57
6	Con	clusions and I	Future W	ork							59
	6.1	Conclusions .			 	 	 	 	 		59
	6.2	Future Work			 	 	 	 	 		60
Re	eferei	nces									i
Aı	ppen	dix A Impact									v
	A.1	Social Impact			 	 	 	 	 		v
	A.2	Economic Impa	act		 	 	 	 	 		\mathbf{v}
	A.3	Ambiental Imp	act		 	 	 	 	 		\mathbf{v}
	A.4	Ethic Impact			 	 	 	 	 		\mathbf{v}
Aj	ppen	dix B Budget									vii
Aj	ppen	dix C ns-3									ix
	C.1	Getting Started	d		 	 	 	 	 		ix
	C.2	LTE Module			 	 	 	 	 		xii
	C.3	DASHjs			 	 	 	 	 	:	xvii

List of Figures

1.1	Global application category total traffic share during COVID-19 lockdown.	
	Source: Sandvine [7]	2
2.1	Evolution of segment quality with time	6
2.2	DASH client-server architecture. Source: MPEG [28]	8
2.3	The MPD hierarchical data model. Source: MPEG [28]	9
2.4	Bandwidth based algorithms. Source: [12]	10
2.5	BOLA's bitrate choice as function of buffer level. Source: [29]	11
2.6	LTE Architecture	14
2.7	Evolved Packet Core (EPC) Architecture	15
2.8	Shadowing effect. Source: [24]	16
2.9	Fading loss effect. Source: [24]	16
2.10	LTE Time-Frequency Grid. Source: [31]	18
3.1	ns-3 High-level node architecture. Source: [25]	24
3.2	Coordinate system of the Antenna Model. Source: nsnam [25] 	27
3.3	Example Radio Environment Map. Source: [25]	36
4.1	ABR Module architecture	38
4.2	ABR Client	40
4.3	ABR Server	41
5.1	Scenario 1	48
5.2	Scenario 1. Quality vs time	49
5.3	Scenario 1. CDF quality	49
5.4	Scenario 2	50
5.5	Scenario 2. Buffer Status	51
5.6	Scenario 2. Throughput	52

5.7	Scenario 3.	Radio Environment	Map										53
5.8	Scenario 4.	Radio Environment	Map										56

List of Tables

2.1	Number of Resource Blocks against each channel bandwidth. Source: [30] .	19
2.2	4-Bit CQI Table	20
5.1	Scenario 2. Metrics Comparison	51
	Scenerio 3. QoE Score	
5.3	Scenerio 4. Fairness Comparison	55
C.1	Prerequisites for ns-3	ix

Listings

3.1	Enabling logging in ns-3	5
3.2	Enable LTE trace outputs	4
4.1	HLSjs.cc Bandwidth Rule	5
C.1	Download and installation of ns-3 in	X
C.2	Enabling logging in ns-3	X
C.3	Disabling logging in ns-3	X
C.4	Command line arguments	X
C.5	ASCII tracing	X
C.6	PCAP tracing	i
C.7	ns-3 Socket programming	i
C.8	Socket callbacks	i
C.9	PointToPointHelper	i
C.10	LteHelper usage	i
C.11	UE Automatic Attachment	i
C.12	Enable Evolved Packet Core xii	i
C.13	MAC Scheduler	i
C.14	AMC Model xii	i
C.15	Mobility Model xir	V
C.16	Pathloss Model	V
C.17	Antenna & MIMO Model xir	V
C.18	Radio Environment Maps helper	V
C.19	Configuration parameters	V
C.20	Configuration parameters	i
C.21	DASHjs.h	ii
C 22	DASHis cc	v

Glossary

3GPP - 3rd Generation Partnership Project

ABR - Adaptive BitRate

AMC - Adaptive Modulation and Coding

API - Application Programming Interface

ARP - Address Resolution Protocol

ASCII - American Standard Code for Information Interchange

BOLA - Buffer Occupancy based Lyapunov Algorithm

 \mathbf{CDF} - Cumulative Distribution Function

CDN - Content Delivery Network

 \mathbf{CPU} - Central Processing Unit

CQI - Channel Quality Indicator

DASH - Dynamic Adaptive Streaming over HTTP

DHCP - Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol

DRM - Digital Rights Management

EARFCN - E-UTRA Absolute Radio Frequency Channel Number

e-NodeB - enhanced Node B

EPC - Evolved Packet Core

EPS - Evolved Packet System

GSM - Global System for Mobile communications

HARQ - Hybrid Automatic Repeat reQuest

HDS - HTTP Dynamic Streaming

HLS - HTTP Live Streaming

HSS - Home Subscriber Server

HTTP - HyperText Transfer Protocol

IEC - International Electrotechnical Commision

IETF - Internet Engineering Task Force

IIS - Internet Information Services

IP - Internet Protocol

ISO - International Organization for Standarization

ITU-T - International Telecomunication Union - Telecomunication standarization

JFI - Jain Fairness Index

 \mathbf{KPI} - Key Performance Indicator

LENA - LTE-EPC Network simulAtor

LTE - Long Term Evolution

MAC - Medium Access Control

MCS - Modulation and Coding Scheme

MIMO - Multiple Input Multiple Output

MME - Mobility Management Entity

MMS - Multimedia Message Service

MPEG - Moving Picture Experts Group

MPD - Media Presentation Description

MSS - Microsoft Smooth Streaming

NAT - Network Address Translation

NR - New Radio

ns-3 - network simulator 3

OFDMA - Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access

OSMF - Open Source Media Framework

PCRF - Policy Charging and Rule Function

PGW - Packet data network GateWay

PHY - LTE PHYsical Layer

QoE - Quality of Experience

QoS - Quality of Service

 ${f RB}$ - Resource Block

 \mathbf{RE} - Resource Element

REM - Radio Environment Map

RLC - Radio Link Control

ROHC - RObust Header Compression

SC-FDMA - Single-Carrier Frequency Division Multiple Access

 \mathbf{SGW} - Serving GateWay

SRS - Souding Reference Signal

 \mathbf{TCP} - Transmission Control Protocol

UDP - User Datagram Protocol

UE - User Equipment

UHD - Ultra High Definition

UMTS - Universal Mobile Telecomunications System

URL - Universal Resource Locators

XML - eXtensible Markup Language

Chapter 1 | Introduction

1.1 Context

There is no doubt about the importance of online video streaming. According to Sandvine [7], in 2020, 57% of the global internet traffic was used by video streaming. Moreover, one of the key predictions made by Cisco in 2018 [8] stated that by year 2022, video traffic will make up 82% of all *IP* traffic.

Consequently, many challenges arise. Due to the growth in the number and diversity of connected video-capable devices, and the increasing bandwidth and higher quality content available, the video client needs to adapt the multimedia content to the network and the devices. The technique of taking account the varying network conditions and computing resources of the user device to choose the adequate quality level is denominated as *Adaptive BitRate (ABR)*. Adaptation may be performed by monitoring different parameters such as estimated bandwidth, client's buffer level, CPU load or screen size.

The Dynamic Adaptive Streaming over HTTP (DASH) is the standard that implements adaptive bitrate video streaming and was developed by the Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) [18]. MPEG-DASH enables provisioning and delivering media using existing HTTP-delivery networks supports dynamic adaptation with seamless switching. By using HTTP, the player will not have firewall problems. The quality selection relays on the client thus providing better scalability.

The MPEG-DASH standard was published in 2012 and revised in 2019 by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) / International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) as <math>MPEG-DASH ISO/IEC 23009-1:2019 [14]. In addition, the 3^{rd} Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) defines the use of DASH as the standard continuous for delivering of multimedia content in mobile networks, specifically in LTE and 5G networks [2].

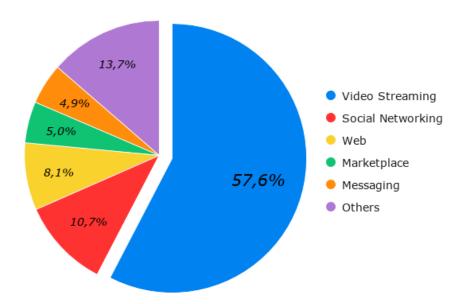


Figure 1.1: Global application category total traffic share during COVID-19 lockdown. Source: Sandvine [7]

DASH splits the input stream into small chunks or segments which are defined in the the Media Presentation Description (MPD), which is an XML manifest file that contains the Universal Resource Locators (URL) of the segments. The MPD contains information for each representation such as the codec, bandwidth, resolution or framerate. Different qualities are defined as representations.

However, the DASH Standard [14] only defines the data formats for the media reproduction and do not provide any description on the adaptation algorithm. This thesis will analyze and compare a small number of adaptation algorithms. The DASH Industry Forum [9] provides an open source MPEG-DASH player implemented in JavaScript with different adaptation algorithms. Similarly, hls.js is an implementation of a HTTP Live $Streaming^1$ client.

The adaptation algorithms needs to be tested in different scenarios (they can be simulated) and be tweaked to provide the maximum perceived quality by the users. Also, there are algorithms that perform better in some specific scenarios and worse in others. The adaptation algorithm is the responsible for avoiding problems that may have a negative impact on the Quality of Experience (QoE) such as service disrruption or frequent changes

¹HTTP Live Streaming is a HTTP-based adaptive bitrate streaming protocol developed by Apple Inc. [4]

on the bitrate. One problem is that, the algorithm can overestimate the bandwidth, this means requesting segments of a superior quality that the channel can support, and it would cause a pause in the reproduction because all the segments in the buffer are emptied. The algorithm can also underestimate the bandwidth, the video player requests media segments with inferior quality than the quality at which the bandwidth available of the network can allow. Lastly, the algorithm should avoid constant bitrate switches result of bandwidth fluctuations, and provide a smooth and seamless video watching experience.

This project will study and analyze the adaptation algorithms using The ns-3 simulator is an open-source and extensible discrete-event network simulator. The extensible nature of this tool allows us to develop a new module for ns-3 mimicking the behaviour of ABR clients and servers. With this new module, ns-3 will be able to simulate diverse mobile network scenarios and test the performance of adaptation algorithms.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of this thesis is to build a framework for testing ABR adaptation algorithms, and implement some adaptation algorithms and compare them in various mobile network scenarios with different objective QoE metrics. In order to achieve the proposed objectives, the following steps will be proposed:

- 1. Study and understand *ns-3* and basic modules such as the core module, the internet module, applications module, *LTE* module among others. Build basic *LTE* scenarios tweak radio parameters, and output results.
- 2. Design a new module in ns-3 that simulates behaviours of ABR clients and servers. Study and implement existing adaptation algorithms.
- 3. Obtain objective QoE and QoS metrics. Build new LTE scenarios and compare the performances of the implemented adaptation algorithms.

1.3 Structure of the thesis

Chapter 1. Presents the context, the motivations and the objectives of this thesis.

- Chapter 2. The State of the Art. Includes an introduction to ABR and DASH. The architecture and video quality adaptation algorithms. Also, an brief explaination of LTE, its architecture and fundamentals.
- Chapter 3. A starting guide to use ns-3. Brief introduction and usage of relevant ns-3 modules for this thesis.
- Chapter 4. Introduces a new module for ns-3, the ABR module. Describes components and models of the ABR module. Highlights the implemented adaptation algorithms.
- Chapter 5. Goes through a set of testing scenarios. Analyses and compares the different implemented adaptation algorithms.
 - Chapter 6. Concludes the thesis and discusses possible future works.

Chapter 2 | State of the Art

This chapter will introduce the main concepts and tools that will be used during the development of the project. The section 2.1 will explain the different methods of content distribution over HTTP and different types and implementations of adaptive streaming. The section 2.2 will make a introduction to the DASH standard, different types of adaptation algorithms and QoE and QoS metrics. The section 2.3 will describe basic architecture and fundamentals of 4G LTE, such as the radio interface, propagation loss model, fading model, antenna model, etc.

2.1 ABR Video Streaming

There are three ways of media delivery over *HTTP*. The first method is by **file download**, the media file is downloaded in its entirety in a local hard disk and then it can be played. The second method is called **progressive download**, this method is similar to the file download, but instead the download starts from the beginning and the media starts playing once enough data are playable. However, these two methods have disadvantages like waste of bandwidth or *DRM* issues and also requiring a reliable transmission. The last method is called **streaming**, contrary to the former two, the file itseft is not stored locally, smaller chunks of video are sent from the server and the client needs a data buffer to store the data that is being downloaded. The client plays the multimedia content from the buffer, and when the session is closed the data are deleted.

Streaming media also comes with some challenges. There are a lot of network variability and a big heterogeneity in video capable devices. Therefore, to overcome these shortcomings, *Adaptive bitrate streaming (ABR)* was created.

The basic idea of Adaptive bitrate streaming is to adapt the media content for the user

by monitoring different parameters like estimated bandwidth, buffer level or *CPU load*, see Figure 2.1. There are many propietary adaptive streaming solutions:

- Apple HTTP Live Streaming (HLS): HTTP Live Streaming HLS is an implementation of an ABR protocol over HTTP developed by Apple [4] as part of the QuickTime software and the mobile operating system iOS. HLS supports live streaming and video on demand. HLS is proposed in 2009 as a standard to the IETF [17].
- Microsoft Smooth Streaming (MSS): Smooth Streaming is part of Internet Information Services (IIS) Media Services for delivering media over HTTP [22]. Their MSS technology was used for several sports events such a the Beijing Summer Olympic Games in 2008 and the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver [23].
- Adobe HTTP Dynamic Streaming (HDS): HTTP Dynamic Streaming is the implementation of adaptive streaming by Adobe. HDS enables high-quality, network efficient HTTP streaming for media delivery that is tightly integrated with Adobe software [3]. The solution is based in using Open Source Media Framework (OSMF) and Adobe Flash Player.

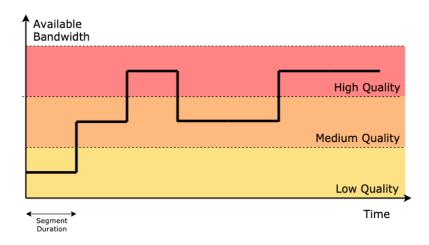


Figure 2.1: Evolution of segment quality with time

But there was no official standarization for adaptive video delivery over HTTP. For that reason, a new international stadard called *MPEG-DASH* was developed and published.

2.2 Dynamic Adaptive Streaming over HTTP

DASH was published in April 2012. The most recent revision of the standarization was released in 2019 as MPEG-DASH ISO/IEC 23009-1:2019 [14]. Moving Picture Experts Group from ISO/IEC and the 3GPP collaborated on the DASH standard. The 3rd Generation Partnership Project defined the use of DASH as the standard of digital media delivery in mobile networks (4G LTE, 5G) in [2].

The objective of *DASH* was to create a unique standard that unifies the propietary solutions from Microsoft, Apple and Adobe. Also, it will offer the interoperability and the convergence needed for the expansion of large-scale video streaming solutions. Also, the *DASH Industry Forum (DASH-IF)* was created to promote and help the expansion of *DASH*. Microsoft, Apple, Netflix, Qualcomm, Ericsson and Samsung are some of the companies members of the *DASH-IF*.

One of the biggest advantages of DASH is the use of HTTP protocol. The use of HTTP means that reusing existing internet infrastructure and media content distribution tecniques using CDN (Content Delivery Networks) can be done. Another convenience of using DASH is, problems with passing through firewalls and the Network Address Translation (NAT) are avoided.

All the control of the media content delivery is located in the DASH client side. The standard does not define any web delivery mechanism nor the bitrate adaptation algorithm. What DASH does define in [14] is:

- The Media Presentation Description (MPD) File Format: The MPD file uses the eXtensible Markup Language (XML) and contains the specifications of the media content and the URL of the segments in the HTTP video servers.
- **Segment format**: *DASH* defines the characteristics of the necessary codifications and the way that the media content is divided in small fragments called *segments*.

The Figure 2.2 presents a simple DASH architecture. The video and audio contents are processed and stored on an HTTP server. To access the content, the client sends HTTP requests to the server. But first, the client needs to download the MPD file, normally through HTTP. The client then does the parsing of the MPD, extract information such as the duration of a segment, the available representations, media types or resolutions.

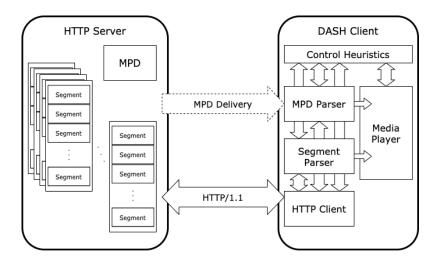


Figure 2.2: DASH client-server architecture. Source: MPEG [28]

Finally, the DASH client chooses the adequate quality and starts the streaming of the content using $HTTP\ GET$ request to fetch the segments.

The *DASH* client stores the segments in a buffer and consumes the content. The adaptation algorithm selects the most appropriate representation, for example, basing on bandwidth estimations, to avoid problems like buffer underflow and maintain at least a set number of segments in the buffer.

2.2.1 MPD

The *MPD* file is an *XML* document that describes the characteristics of the different media components that composes the media content (e.g. video, audio, subtitles).

The structure of the *MPD* is hierarchical as illustrated in Figure 2.3. The media content is divided in a sequence of **periods**, where each period has a starting time and a duration. During a period, the set of characteristics of the media content, like the bitrates, languages or codecs, do not change.

Each period consists of one or multiple **adaptation sets**. A collection of interchangeable encoded versions of one or more media content components is referred to as an adaptation set. For instance, and adaptation set may contain the different bitrates of the video component of the same multimedia content and another adaptation set may contain the different bitrates of the audio component of the same multimedia content.

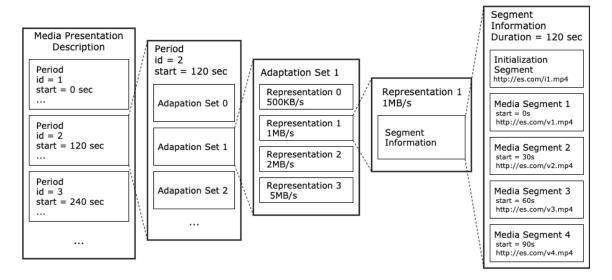


Figure 2.3: The MPD hierarchical data model. Source: MPEG [28]

An adaptation set contains a set of **representations**, where a representation can be defined as an enconded alternative of the same media component, representations are defined by parameters such as bitrate, resolution, framerates, codec, sampling rate or other characteristics.

Each representation consists of one or multiple **segments**. A segment is a fragment of the multimedia content. Each segment is univocately identified by a URI, the client sends HTTP requests by using the URIs to get the segments.

2.2.2 Adaptation Algorithms

In a video streaming service, factors such as the available bandwidth, delay or packet losses can make the buffer to starve. Rebuffering and interruptions lead to bad Quality of Experience. To solve these problems, different adaptation algorithms have been proposed in the literature.

An adaptation algorithm is a technique used in a multimedia streaming service to adjust the video quality in real-time according to different parameters. Some of the parameters are:

- Client device: The screen resolution, CPU capabilities, Buffer size, etc.
- Network: Type of access network (Mobile, Fixed), available bandwidth, etc.

The following subsections will explain different types of adaptation algorithms and the algorithms implemented for this thesis in ns-3.

2.2.2.1 Bandwidth throughput based algorithms

This group of algorithms uses bandwidth estimations to select the most adequate multimedia representation. The main difference between algorithms of this kind is the bandwidth estimation method and how the estimation influences on the representation selection.

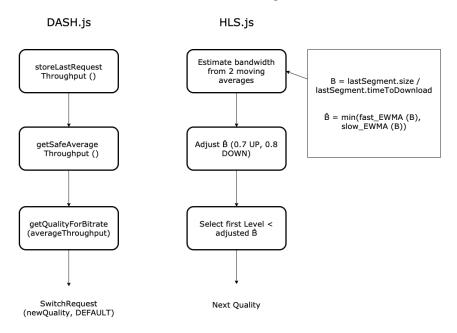


Figure 2.4: Bandwidth based algorithms. Source: [12]

• HLS.js [32]. The algorithm is called Bandwidth estimation.

The algorithm processes two EWMA (Exponentially Weighted Moving Averages) and chooses the minimum of the two as the bandwidth estimation.

$$B_N = \frac{SegmentSize_N}{TimeToDownload_N}$$
 (2.1)

$$FastEWMA_N = B_N \times \alpha_{fast} + FastEWMA_{N-1} \times (1 - \alpha_{fast})$$
 (2.2)

$$SlowEWMA_N = B_N \times \alpha_{slow} + SlowEWMA_{N-1} \times (1 - \alpha_{slow})$$
 (2.3)

$$\hat{B} = min\left(FastEWMA_N, SlowEWMA_N\right) \tag{2.4}$$

Then the bandwidth estimation is multiplied by a factor to reduce oscillation. Finally it selects the representation based on the adjusted bandwidth estimation.

• DASH.js [10]. Throughput Rule.

This algorithm is basically the same as the Bandwidth estimation from HLS.js. It computes the average throughput, and uses an safety factor to avoid oscillations. And then chooses the quality based on the safe average and creates a new *SwitchRequest*.

2.2.2.2 Buffer based algorithms

This group of algorithms uses buffer occupancy information to try to choose the highest level of bitrate for the multimedia content.

• BOLA. Buffer Occupancy based Lyapunov Algorithm.

The BOLA adaptation algorithm uses the Lyapunov optimization [29] to make decisions. This is an utility theory and it is configurable with a tradeoff parameter to choose between rebuffering potential and bitrate maximization.

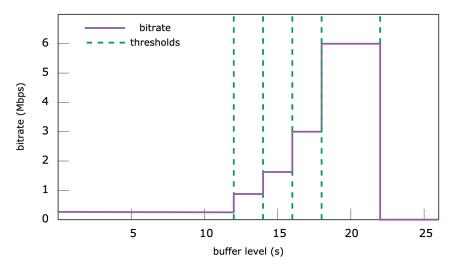


Figure 2.5: BOLA's bitrate choice as function of buffer level. Source: [29]

BOLA tries to maximize $V_n + \gamma S_n$. where:

- \circ V_n is the bitrate utility.
- \circ S_n is the playback smoothness.
- $\circ \ \gamma$ is the tradeoff weight parameter for rebuffering potential or bitrate maximization.

2.2.2.3 Control theory based or hybrid algorithms

This class of algorithms uses a combination of throughput estimation and buffer occupancy and tries to maximize the bitrate selection with decision-taking indicators calculated making use of control theory or stochastic optimal control equations.

2.2.3 QoS & QoE Metrics

The Quality of Service (QoS) is defined by the ITU-T in the document P.10/G.100 [20] as "The totality of characteristics of a telecommunications service that bear on its ability to satisfy stated and implied needs of the user of the service". And the Quality of Experience (QoE) is defined as "The degree of delight or annoyance of the user of an application or service".

The standard ISO/IEC 23009 defines a list of parameters for Quality of Service (QoS) and Quality of Experience (QoE) for the adaptation algorithms to base on. There parameters are also used to evaluate the overall quality in the multimedia distribution service.

Some of the metrics defined in [2] and [14] are as follows:

- Average Throughput: This is a *QoE* metric that defines a list in which the average throughput can be obtained that is observed in the client during a measuring period.
- Initial Playout Delay: This is a *QoE* metric that represents the initial delay in the reproduction of the media content.
- Representation Switch Events: This is a *QoS* metric for measuring the number of representation switch events of the multimedia content.
- Buffer Level: This is a QoS metric that monitors the level of occupancy of the buffer during the reproduction of the multimedia content.

2.3 LTE Fundamentals

Long Term Evolution (LTE) was first introduced in 2008 in the Release 8 of the 3GPP specification [1]. The objective of LTE was to migrate the 3GPP systems into a optimized

system based on packet switching (all IP), with greater bitrates, lower latency y multiple radio access technologies support.

2.3.1 History

The first mobile phone call was made in 1973 [15]. New generations of mobile networks are developed almost every decade. The first generation 1G launched years later, but it was only capable of doing voice calls. In 1991, the second generation 2G (GSM) of mobile networks was introduced. GSM provided improved wireless capabilities and introduced by the first time multimedia content with Multimedia Message Service (MMS). But it was the third generation 3G, launched in 2001, that enabled new internet-driven services such as video conferencing and streaming. Later in 2009, the LTE 4G standard was commercially deployed. With theorical download bandwidth of almost 100Mbps made high-quality streaming into reality. 5G technologies will provide an improvement in bandwidth even more and brings video streaming in UHD and more.

The consumption of multimedia content on mobile networks is becoming increasingly relevant with the rise of bandwidth and ease of access. This section will provide a brief introduction to the basic concepts of mobile networks, their architecture and fundamentals.

2.3.2 Architecture

The design of the LTE architecture was done from the ground up. The goal was to build a flat, all IP architecture using packet-switching, well structured (separation of control plane and user plane) and with few elements.

The Evolved Packet System (EPS) is constituted by the following elements:

- User Equipment (UE): An UE is any device used by an end user to communicate in a mobile network.
- Evolved UMTS Terrestial Radio Access Network (E-UTRAN): The only elements in the E-UTRAN are the e-NodeB. An enhanced Node B (e-NodeB) works as a base station and a controller.

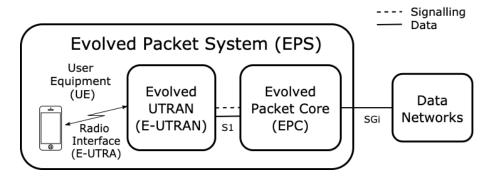


Figure 2.6: LTE Architecture

- Evolved Packet Core (EPC): The EPC is made up of a network of gateways, control servers, and databases linked by a IP backbone. The main elements of the EPC are:
 - Mobility Management Entity (MME): The MME is the main node for the control plane. It handles the signalling related to mobility and security for E-UTRAN access.
 - o Serving Gateway (SGW): The SGW is the gateway used for communicating the access network E-UTRAN and the PGW.
 - Packet Data Network Gateway (PGW): The PGW is the gateway for the traffic between the core network and external packet data networks. It also performs functions such as IP address allocation or packet filtering.
 - Home Subscriber Server (HSS): The HSS is a database containing information about the EPC network users. It also provides support functions in mobility management, call and session setup, user authentication and access authorization.
 - Policy Charging and Rule Function (PCRF): The PCRF is used for QoS, policy and charging management.

2.3.3 Wireless Fundamentals

Large-scale wireless networks, such as LTE, are fundamentally inefficient and prone to interference. Supporting mobility while also obtaining high levels of power efficiency, such as through directional antennas, can be really challenging. Base stations must be selectively

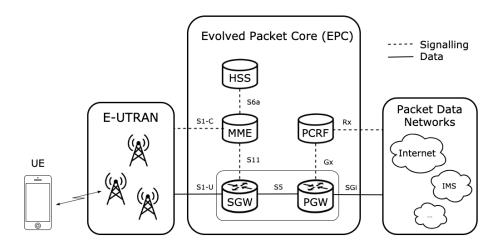


Figure 2.7: Evolved Packet Core (EPC) Architecture

installed but accommodate vast user populations in order to be cost-effective, resulting in a significant amount of self-interference. As a result, achieving high coverage, capacity, and dependability at low cost and used power is extremely difficult, if not impossible.

The following list highlights the main parameters affecting the received signal in a wireless system.

2.3.3.1 Propagation loss

The amount of transmitted power that actually reaches the receiver is the first visible difference between wired and wireless channels. The transmitted signal energy extends along a spherical wavefront if an isotropic antenna is utilized, hence the energy received at an antenna d distant is inversely proportional to the sphere surface area, $4\pi d^2$. However, in reality the propagation environment is not free space, we may also take into account other factors such as reflections.

2.3.3.2 Shadowing

Obstacles such as trees and buildings, as shown in Figure 2.8, may be situated between the transmitter and receiver, causing temporary signal degradation, whereas a temporary line-of-sight transmission path would result in abnormally high received power.

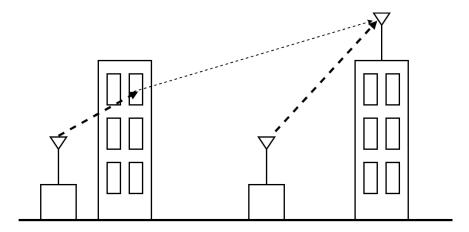


Figure 2.8: Shadowing effect. Source: [24]

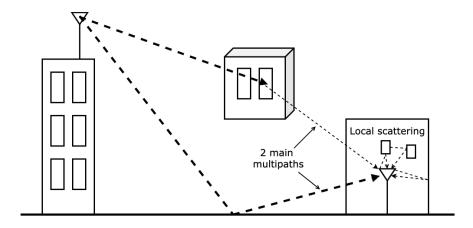


Figure 2.9: Fading loss effect. Source: [24]

2.3.3.3 Fading loss

The fading effect is another aspect of wireless channels. Fading is generated by the receiving of multiple versions of the same signal (multipath), unlike path loss or shadowing, which are large-scale attenuation effects induced by distance or obstacles.

The reflections may arrive at very short intervals. For example, if there is local dispersion around the receiver, or they may arrive at relatively longer intervals, for instance, if the transmitter and receiver are on multiple pathways. Figure 2.9 illustrates this.

2.3.4 Antennas & MIMO

An antenna is a device that uses electromagnetic waves to transmit or receive information. The transmitting antenna turns electrical currents into electromagnetic waves, and vice versa (receiving antenna).

Multiple Input, Multiple Output (MIMO) is a technique for increasing the capacity of a radio link by employing multiple transmitting and receiving antennas to take advantage of multipath propagation. MIMO has become a key component of wireless communication technologies such as LTE.

There are several implementations of MIMO in LTE:

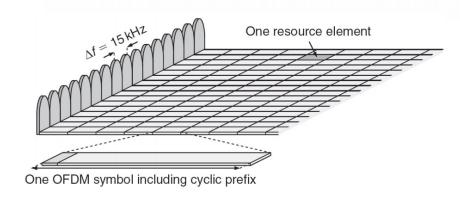
- Single antenna: Most simple wireless links employ this type of radio transmission. One antenna transmits a single data stream, which is received by one or more antennas. It is also know as SISO.
- *Transmit diversity*: This type of LTE MIMO method makes use of several antennas to transmit the same data stream.
- *Open loop spatial multiplexing*: This type of MIMO involves delivering two information streams through two or more antennas.
- Close loop spatial multiplexing: Similar to the above but with a close loop feedback.
- Clesed loop with pre-coding: This type of MIMO transmits a single code word over a single spatial layer.
- Multi-User MIMO: Single-user SU-higher MIMO's per-user throughput is better suited to more sophisticated user devices with more antennas, whereas MU-MIMO is more practical for low-complexity mobile phones with a small number of reception antennas.
- Beam-forming & MIMO: This is the most advanced MIMO mode. It allows the antenna to focus on a specific location.

2.3.5 Physical Layer

2.3.5.1 OFDMA and SC-FDMA

The cellular communication systems needs to have a strategy for multiple access. In LTE, the Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access (OFDMA) is used for downlink and the Single- Carrier Frequency Division Multiple Access (SC-FDMA) is used for uplink. Both are very similar, consisting in allocating each subscriber some portion of the subcarriers for certain amount of time.

In the Figure 2.10, a transmission structure of LTE is presented. The two dimentions of the plane are time and frequency. Two important concepts are defined as:



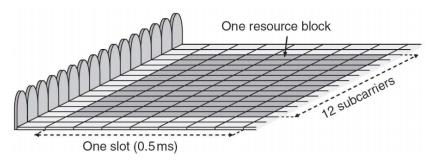


Figure 2.10: LTE Time-Frequency Grid. Source: [31]

- Resource Element (RE): A Resource Element is the basic element of resouce, it is defined as one subcarrier in a symbol period.
- Resource Block (RB): A Resource Block is composed by twelve subcarriers (180 kHz) in a time interval of 0.5 ms (7 OFDM symbols).

Users are assigned resources in resource blocks across a subframe, i.e., 12 subcarriers over $2 \times 7 = 14$ OFDM symbols for a total of 168 Resource Elements. Because some of the 168 resource components are utilized for various layer 1 and layer 2 control messages, not all of them can be used for data.

The number of Resource Blocks available for each channel bandwidth is given by the Table 2.1.

$\operatorname{Bandwidth}$	1.4 MHz	3 MHz	5 MHz	10 MHz	15 MHz	20 MHz
Number of RBs available	6	15	25	50	75	100

Table 2.1: Number of Resource Blocks against each channel bandwidth. Source: [30]

2.3.5.2 AMC & CQI

AMC stands for Adaptive Modulation and Coding, is a terminology used in LTE to describe how modulation and coding are matched to the radio link's conditions.

The eNB applies AMC by selecting the appropriate MCS based on quality estimations supplied by the UE mobile terminal via the *Channel Quality Indication (CQI)* parameter.

MCS

2.3.5.3 EARFCN

The E-UTRA Absolute Radio Frequency Channel Number (EARFCN) is a number between 0-65535 used for desginating uplink and downlink carrier frequencies.

$$F_{downlink} = FDL_{Low} + 0.1(NDL - NDL_{Offset})$$
(2.5)

$$F_{uvlink} = FUL_{Low} + 0.1(NUL - NUL_{Offset})$$
(2.6)

Where NDL is the downlink EARFCN, NUL is the uplink EARFCN.

CQI Index	Modulation	Code Rate \times 1024	Efficiency
0		out of range	
1	QPSK	78	0.1523
2	QPSK	120	0.2344
3	QPSK	193	0.3770
4	QPSK	308	0.6016
5	QPSK	449	0.8770
6	QPSK	602	1.1758
7	16QAM	378	1.4766
8	16QAM	490	1.9141
9	16QAM	616	2.4063
10	64QAM	466	2.7305
11	64QAM	567	3.3223
12	64QAM	666	3.9023
13	64QAM	772	4.5234
14	64QAM	873	5.1152
15	64QAM	948	5.5547

Table 2.2: 4-Bit CQI Table

2.3.5.4 Souding Reference Signal

Souding Reference Signal (SRS) are wideband reference signals used by the eNode-B to determine uplink channel quality information in order to allocate uplink resources. There are three types of SRS transmissions, single SRS, periodic SRS and aperiodic SRS.

2.3.6 Medium Access Control Layer

The Medium Access Controll (MAC) layer essentially provides the higher layer with radio resource allocation and data transfer services and connects the RLC layer and the PHY layer. The MAC layer executes procedures such as logical channel priority, power headroom reporting, UL grant and DL assignment, and so on as part of the radio resource allocation service. The MAC layer performs functions like scheduling requests, buffer status reporting, random access, and HARQ as part of the data transmission service.

2.3.7 Radio Link Control Layer

The RLC layers's key functions include data unit segmentation and concatenation, error correction via the ARQ protocol, and packet delivery in sequence to higher levels. It has three modes of operation:

- Transparent Mode (TM) is the most basic mode, with no RLC header, data segmentation, or concatenation, and is used for specialized applications like random access.
- Unacknowledged Mode (UM) The UM mode detects packet loss and allows for packet reordering and reassembly, but does not require the missing protocol data units to be retransmitted (PDUs).
- Acknowledged Mode (AM) is set up to request retransmission of missing PDUs in addition to the UM mode's features.

2.3.8 Packet Data Convergence Protocol Layer

The PDCP layer's main features are IP packet header compression and decompression based on the *RObust Header Compression (ROHC)* protocol, data and signaling ciphering, and signaling integrity protection. Per bearer, there is only one PDCP entity at the eNode-B and the UE.

Chapter 3 | Network Simulator 3

The ns-3 simulator is an open, extensible discrete-event network simulator designed primarily for educational and network research purposes [25].

In summary, ns-3 provides models of how packet data networks work and operate, as well as a simulation engine that allows users to run simulation experiments. To do research that are more difficult or impossible to do with real systems, to examine system behavior in a highly controlled, reproducible setting, and to understand about how networks work.

ns-3 is a collection of modules that can be used together as well as with other software libraries. This tool works mainly at the command line on Linux or MacOS and with C++ and Python programming languages and development tools.

3.1 ns-3 Concepts

This section will go over several networking concepts that have a specific meaning in ns-3.

Node: A Node in *ns-3* is the basic computing device abstraction. The Node class has methods for managing computing device representations in simulations.

Application: A ns-3 application run on ns-3 Nodes. An Applicacion is the basic abstraction for a user program that generates some simulated activity. The Application class provides functions for controlling the representations of the simulated version of user-level applications.

Channel: A Channel in *ns-3* is an abstraction of the basic communication subnetwork in which Nodes are connected in. It can be as simple as a wire or as complicated as a Ethernet switch.

Net Device: A NetDevice in *ns-3* simulates a *Network Interface Card (NIC)* and the software controlling the *NIC*. A NetDevice is installed in a Node to allow it to communicate over Channels with other Nodes in the simulation.

Helpers: Helper objects are created to make some commun tasks easier. Such as connecting NetDevices to Nodes, NetDevices to Channels, assigning IP addresses, etc.

The Figure 3.1 shows a high level node architecture.

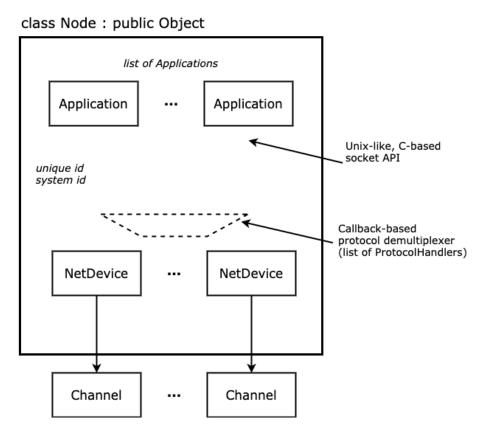


Figure 3.1: ns-3 High-level node architecture. Source: [25]

3.2 Logging Module

Message logging is a basic feature for large softwares, and ns-3 is no different. ns-3 offer a complete module for message logging with configurable verbosity levels. This means that logging functions of specific components can be enabled and other can be disabled

completely.

There are different levels of log messages of ascending verbosity defined in ns-3:

- LOG_ERROR: For error messages (associated function: NS_LOG_ERROR).
- LOG_WARN: For warning messages (associated function: NS_LOG_WARN).
- LOG_DEBUG: For relatively rare, ad-hoc debugging messages (associated function: NS_LOG_DEBUG).
- LOG_INFO: For informational messages about program progress (associated function: NS_LOG_INFO).
- LOG_FUNCTION: For messages describing each function called (two associated function: NS_LOG_FUNCTION used for member functions, and NS_LOG_FUNCTION_NOARGS, used for static functions)).
- LOG_LOGIC: For messages describing logical flow within a function (associated function: NS_LOG_LOGIC).
- LOG_ALL: Log everything mentioned above (no associated function).

To enable all logs, it is as simple as modifying a shell variable. In the next example the logging for the class UdpEchoClientApplication and UdpEchoServerApplication is enabled with all levels, the time and the function prefixes:

```
$ export 'NS_LOG=UdpEchoClientApplication=level_all|prefix_func|
prefix_time:UdpEchoServerApplication=level_all|prefix_func|
prefix_time'
```

Listing 3.1: Enabling logging in ns-3

For more information with the logging modure see [25].

3.3 Command Line Arguments

There are local and global variables that can be changed in the command line without editing the scripts. To be able to know what variables are available, the option -PrintHelp is used.

3.4 Tracing System

The main goal of the simulations is to extract and generate output, and ns-3 offers two mechanisms for this. Also, since ns-3 is a C++ software, using std::cout for output is also available.

3.4.1 ASCII Tracing

ns-3 includes helper function that encapsulates the low-level tracing system and guides you through the technicalities of establishing some simple packet traces. If you enable this feature, the output will be in ASCII files, hence the name.

To enable ASCII Tracing, right before the call to Simulator::Run (), create an AsciiTraceHelper and call the function EnableAsciiAll. This will generate the output into the home directory of *ns-3*.

3.4.2 PCAP Tracing

The ns-3 device helpers can also create .pcap trace files. The pcap file contains the packets captured during the simulation. Wireshark or tcpdump are programs capable of reading and visualizing pcap files.

To enable *pcap* tracing simply add the EnablePcapAll function. And it will create various .pcap files in the format "myfirst-0-0.pcap", meaning the trace file for node 0 and device 0.

3.5 ns-3 Modules & Models

In this section, modules used in this thesis will be presented, based on the official manual from [25]. But first, It is essential to understand the difference between modules and models:

- Modules are the different libraries that form ns-3.
- Models are the simulated, abstract representations of real-life objects, protocols, devices, etc.

As the reader may already know, ns-3 is modular. A new module will be introduced in the chapter 4 as a result of this Master final project.

3.5.1 Antenna Module

The Antenna module provides a AntennaModel base class as an interface for radiation pattern modelling of an antenna. Also, there are a set of classes derived from this base class that implements types of antennas with differente radiation patterns.

3.5.1.1 AntennaModel

The AntennaModel uses a coordinate system as shown in the Figure 3.2. This model uses, for a point p in the space with Cartesian coordinates used by the MobilityModel, the coordinates (x, y, z) and transforms into spherical coordinates (r, θ, ϕ) .

The radiation pattern is express as a mathematical function $g(\theta, \phi) \to \mathbb{R}$

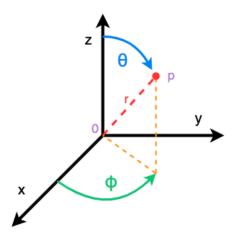


Figure 3.2: Coordinate system of the AntennaModel. Source: nsnam [25]

• IsotropicAntennaModel

The IsotropicAntennaModel is onmidirectional, this means that the radiation pattern have a 0dB gain for all direction.

• CosineAntennaModel

The antenna gain of the CosineAntennaModel is defined as:

$$g(\phi, \theta) = \cos^n\left(\frac{\phi - \phi_0}{2}\right) \tag{3.1}$$

with ϕ_0 as the antenna's azimuthal orientation, this is, the direction of maximum gain. And the exponential

$$n = -\frac{3}{20 \log_{10}(\cos\frac{\phi_{3dB}}{4})} \tag{3.2}$$

determines the wanted 3db beamwidth ϕ_{3dB} .

• ParabolicAntennaModel

In the ParabolicAntennaModel, the antenna gain is determined as:

$$g(\phi, \theta) = -\min\left(12\left(\frac{\phi - \phi_0}{\phi_{3dB}}^2\right), A_{max}\right)$$
(3.3)

where A_{max} is the maximum attenuation in dB of the antenna.

3.5.2 Application Module

The Application class is a base class for *ns-3* applications. Nodes can have one or more applications. Each node maintains a list of smart pointers (references) to all its applications. The Applications are the responsibles to create the sockets, if needed.

There are a few implementations of Applications in ns-3:

- BulkSendApplication. This traffic generator basically sends data as quickly as possible until MaxBytes is reached or the application is terminated (if MaxBytes is zero)
- OnOffApplication. After StartApplication is called, this traffic generator alternates between "On" and "Off" states.
- PacketSink. This application is for receiving packets from any other applications, for example, from BulkSendApplication or OnOffApplication.

3.5.3 Buildings Module

The Buildings module provide various models, but the following are the most relevant for this thesis:

3.5.3.1 Building class

The Building model implements and tries to simulate real-life buildings, which affects wireless communications in different ways.

A Building can be residential, office or commertial and has different types of external wall (wood, concrete with/out windows, stone blocks), has a number of floors and rooms in each floor.

Some limitations have to be made:

- A Building is represented as a rectangular parallelepiped.
- The walls needs to be parallel to the cardinal coordinates.
- A Building is a grid of rooms, with z axis as the floor number and the x and y room indexes start from 1 and increses along the x and y axis.
- All the rooms are of the same size.

3.5.3.2 MobilityBuildingInfo class

The MobilityBuildingInfo keeps track of the mobility and positional information of the nodes with respect to buildings in a simulation. A node can be inside or outside of a building and if the node is indoors, this class knows in which building and in which room the node is positioned.

3.5.3.3 ItuR1238PropagationLossModel

This class provides an ITU P.1238-based building-dependent indoor propagation loss model that includes losses owing to building type (i.e., residential, office and commercial). The following is the analytical expression:

$$L_{total} = 20 \log f + N \log d + L_f(n) - 28[dB]$$
(3.4)

where N is the power loss coefficient, L_f is the loss depending of type of building, f is the frequency [MHz] and d is de distance [m].

3.5.3.4 BuildingPropagationLossModel

The BuildingsPropagationLossModel adds a set of pathloss model elements that are building-dependent and can be used to design various pathloss logics. The elements of the pathloss model are discussed in the subsections below.

• External Wall Loss

This component simulates the loss of communication from indoors to outdoors and vice versa through walls.

• Internal Wall Loss

This component simulates the loss of penetration in indoor-to-indoor communications within a single building.

• Height Gain Model

This component simulates the gain caused by the transmitting equipment being on a higher floor than the ground.

• Shadowing Model

The shadowing is represented using a log-normal distribution with a variable standard deviation as a function of the MobilityModel instances' relative position (inside or outdoor). For each pair of MobilityModels, a single random value is generated and remains constant during the simulation. As a result, the model is only suitable for static nodes.

3.5.3.5 Pathloss logics

The pathloss logic provided by inheriting from BuildingsPropagationLossModel is described in the following sections.

$\bullet \ Hybrid Buildings Propagation Loss Model \\$

In order to imitate multiple outdoor and interior circumstances, as well as indoor-to-outdoor and outdoor-to-indoor scenarios, the HybridBuildingsPropagationLoss-Model was created by combining various well-known pathloss models. In particular, this class combines the pathloss models listed below:

• OhBuildingPropagationLossModel This is a simpler propagation loss model. It uses the OkumuraHataPropagationLossModel and also taking account the pathloss elements of the BuildingPropagationLossModel.

3.5.4 Internet Module

This module includes the implementations of TCP/IP related components like IPv4, ARP, UDP, TCP and so on. A Node with the Internet Stack installed is called a Internet Node.

In order to use the Internet Protocol, a node should be assigned an IP address. It can be done manually or through the *Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP)*.

Full bidirectional TCP with connection setup and close logic is supported by the native ns-3 TCP model. Various TCP congestion algorithms are also available, such as New Reno, Cubic, HighSpeed, etc. The TCP congestion algorithms affects on the adaptation algorithms, but it will not be the focus on this thesis.

3.5.5 Mobility Module

The mobility module in ns-3 includes model to keep track the position and movement of the nodes and objects in cartesian coordinates and also a number of helper classes used for placing nodes and set up mobility models.

The MobilityModel is the base class for all the subclasses for different moving paths or behaviours. The class PositionAllocator is typically used for seting the initial position of objects. MobilityHelper combines a mobility model and position allocator used for adding mobility capabilities for a set of nodes.

Some useful subclasses of MobilityModel are:

- ConstantPositionMobilityModel for stationary nodes.
- ConstantVelocityMobilityModel for contant velocity moving nodes.
- RandomWalk2SMobilityModel for random walking in a 2D plane.

3.5.6 Network Module

The Network Module includes implementations of network related classes like Packet, NetDevice, TCP and UDP Sockets, etc.

3.5.6.1 Packets

A network packet is compesed by a byte buffer, a group of tags and metadata. The serialized content of the headers and trailers added to a packet is stored in the byte buffer. The serialized form of these headers is expected to match the serialized representation of real network packets bit for bit, implying that the content of a packet buffer is supposed to be the same as that of a real packet.

3.5.6.2 Sockets

A socket is an abstraction that enables applications to communicate with other Internet hosts, among other services, and exchange reliable byte streams and unreliable datagrams.

• ns-3 Sockets API

The native sockets API for *ns-3* provides an interface to TCP and UDP. Although, the ns3::Socket have some differences compared to real sockets.

• Using Sockets

In *ns-3*, if an application wants to use sockets must create one first. By calling CreateSocket, *ns-3* creates a smart pointer to a Socket object. *ns-3* sockets have all the functions of a real socket, including bind, connect, send, receive and close.

In addition, the Socket class can set up events to make callbacks. For example, SetConnectCallback is called when a connection is made, whether it succeeded of

failed, SetSendCallback is invoked when the send buffer is available and SetRecv-Callback will notify when the data is received.

3.5.7 PointToPoint NetDevice

The *ns-3* point-to-point model simulates a very basic point-to-point data link that connects two PointToPointNetDevice devices across a PointToPointChannel. This can be compared to a full duplex RS-232 or RS-422 connection with no handshaking and no null modem.

The create point-to-point net devices and channels, PointToPointHelper is used. To connect two nodes, simply call the Install function.

3.5.8 LTE Module

There are two main components in the LTE-EPC simulation model.

- LTE Model. Includes models for the UE and the eNodeB nodes. Also the LTE Radio Protocol Stack (PHY, MAC, RLC, etc.).
- **EPC Model**. Includes models for the entities, interfaces and protocols in the Evolved Packet Core.

3.5.8.1 LteHelper

The LteHelper is a helper which manages the LTE radio access network's configuration as well as the setup and release of EPS bearers. The API definition and implementation are both provided by the LteHelper class.

A code snipper to create UEs and eNodeBs with LteHelper is found in section C.2

• Network Attachment

To connect an UE to the network, the UE needs to be attached to an eNodeB. This is done by calling the LteHelper::Attach function. The are two possible ways for network attachment.

• Automatic Attachment

This method uses the strengh of the received signal as the criteria to choose, in the initial cell selection process, which eNodeB to connect to.

 Manual Attachment Alternatively, selecting the eNodeB at the beginning of the simulation is also possible.

• Simulation Output

The LTE module offer PHY, MAC, RLC, and PDCP level Key Performance Indicators (KPI) that can be enabled using **LteHelper**:

```
1  lteHelper->EnablePhyTraces ();
2  lteHelper->EnableMacTraces ();
3  lteHelper->EnableRlcTraces ();
4  lteHelper->EnablePdcpTraces ();
```

Listing 3.2: Enable LTE trace outputs

3.5.8.2 EpcHelper

The EpcHelper allows the simulation of the Evolve Packet Core. The usage of EPC with LTE devices allows for IPv4 and IPv6 networking. To put it another way,it is possible to use standard *ns-3* apps and sockets across IPv4 and IPv6 via LTE, as well as connect an LTE network to any other IPv4 and IPv6 network in the simulation.

It is possible to access the SGW and PGW nodes by calling the GetSgwNode and the GetPgwNode respectively.

3.5.8.3 MAC

• MAC Scheduler

In *ns-3*, there are several types of MAC schedulers available. User can choose which one to use with the LteHelper:

- FD-MT (Frequency Domain Maximum Throughput Scheduler)
- TD-MT (Time Domain Maximum Throughput Scheduler)
- TTA (Throughput to Average Scheduler)
- FD-BET (Frequency Domain Blind Average Throughput Scheduler)
- TD-BET (Time Domain Blind Average Throughput Scheduler)

- FD-TBFQ (Frequency Domain Token Bank Fair Queue Scheduler)
- TD-TBFQ (Time Domain Token Bank Fair Queue Scheduler)
- PSS (Priority Set Scheduler Scheduler)

• AMC & CQI

In terms of selecting MCSs and generating CQIs, the simulator offers two options. The first is the implementation by [16] and operates on a per-RB basis, and the other is based on the physical error mode.

3.5.8.4 Mobility Model with Buildings

The propagation model to be used with the LTE module is defined in the Buildings module.

This creates a residential building, concrete with windows, with 3 floors and 6 rooms each floor. It is set that all UEs are in a constant position, but other mobility models are also possible.

The LTE module is also compatible with existing propagation loss models. Only the propagation from the UEs to the base stations are computed.

3.5.8.5 Antenna Model & MIMO Model

Any model of AntennaModel is supported, by default, the IsotropicAntennaModel is used for both eNBs and UEs. In case of using multiple antennas, ns-3 offers different MIMO operation modes.

3.5.8.6 Radio Environment Maps

With this class is possible to create a Radio Environment Map (REM), which is a uniform 2D grid of values that reflect the signal-to-noise ratio in the downlink with regard to the eNB with the strongest signal at each point, to a file by using the class RadioEnvironmentMapHelper.

Using a software like gnuplot¹, the output file can be visualized.

Figure 3.3 shows an example of a Radio Environment Map.

¹http://www.gnuplot.info/

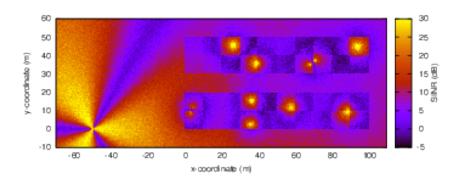


Figure 3.3: Example Radio Environment Map. Source: [25]

3.6 Parameter Configuration

The ns-3 attribute system is the entity that manages all the parameters. It is possible to use input files using ConfigStore and set initial values for default and global parameters.

It is important to include #include "ns3/config-store.h" in the script. Then create a text file named as defined before and specify the new default values to be used.

Chapter 4 | ABR Module for ns-3

This chapter will introduce a new module for *ns-3* for ABR streaming simulation. The section 4.1 will set the objective and the scope of the design. The section 4.2 will present the architecture of the module. The section 4.3 will go over the models the module is composed of. Finally, the section 4.4 will explain the adaptation algorithms implemented in this module.

4.1 Design Objectives

The main objective of this chapter is to design and implement a ns-3 module able to simulate the behavior of video streaming devices in mobile network scenarios. To build a framework capable of testing new adaptation algorithms and be possible to extract quality of service and quality of experience metrics.

4.2 Architecture

The ABR module provides:

- AbrClient. This class mimics a video streaming player. It has an instance of AbrAlgorithm, which is responsible of deciding which is the multimedia representation that best fits the available bandwidth to download from the AbrServer. It is an implementation of ns3::Application.
- AbrServer. This class simulates a video streaming HTTP server. It receives requests from clients and sends the multimedia segments requested. It is an implementation of ns3::Application.

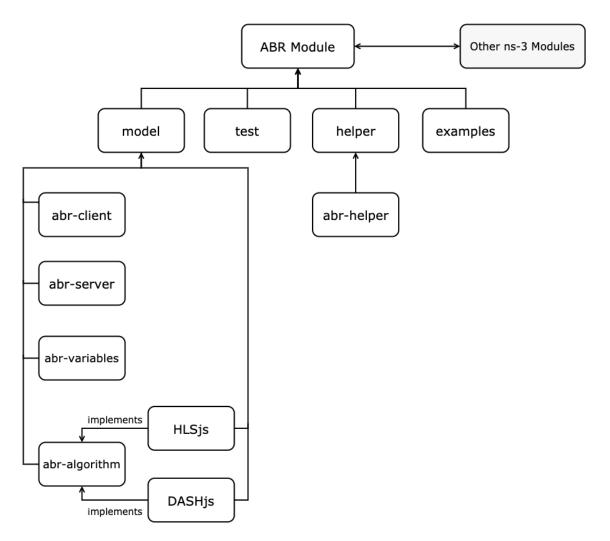


Figure 4.1: ABR Module architecture

- Abrvariables. This class is used for storing common variables between the *DASH* clients and the servers. It contains the definition of Segment, Representation, etc.
- AbrHelper. This is a Helper class for the ABR module. It is the responsible for managing the instances of the ABR clients and servers. In addition, AbrHelper can be used for extracting QoS and QoE metrics.
- AbrAlgorithm. This is a base class as an interface for the different adaptation algorithms implementations.
- **HLSjs**. This is an implementation of AbrAlgorithm based on *hls.js* [32].
- DASHjs. This is an implementation of AbrAlgorithm based on dash.js [10].
- abr-example.cc. An basic example script with two nodes linked with a PointTo-Point connection and a unstable connection.

The Figure 4.1 shows the architecture of the ABR module. Although this module was designed to be used in mobile environments, it can be used with any other Application class in *ns-3*, meaning that the ABR clients and servers can be installed in any Node and work with other *ns-3* modules and models.

4.3 Models

This section will go through all the models, classes and helpers in the ABR module and how they work together.

4.3.1 AbrClient

The AbrClient is an implementation of ns3::Application. This class uses an implementation of AbrAlgorithm to create HTTP-like requests to the AbrServer and mimics the playing of the media content.

The AbrClient is created with the AbrHelper and the server address and listening port as parameters. The client application needs to be installed on the client Nodes. When the simulation starts, the function StartApplication is called and the simulator is scheduled to call the client's HandlePlay function to simulate video watching. The client will create a new socket, in this case a TCP socket, to connect with the server. The socket is set with various callback functions:

- ConnectionSucceded. is called if the connection succeeded. Then it calls the CheckAlgorithm function.
- ConnectionFailed. is called if the connection failed. This should not happen if the simulation script is correctly written.
- HandleRead. is called when new packets are received. It stores the segments to
 the segment buffer, and checks the adaptation algorithms after one entire segment is
 downloaded.

The CheckAlgorithm method asks the AbrAlgorithm and returns one or more Abr-Tasks. The client will call the scheduled functions depending on the designated task and delay.

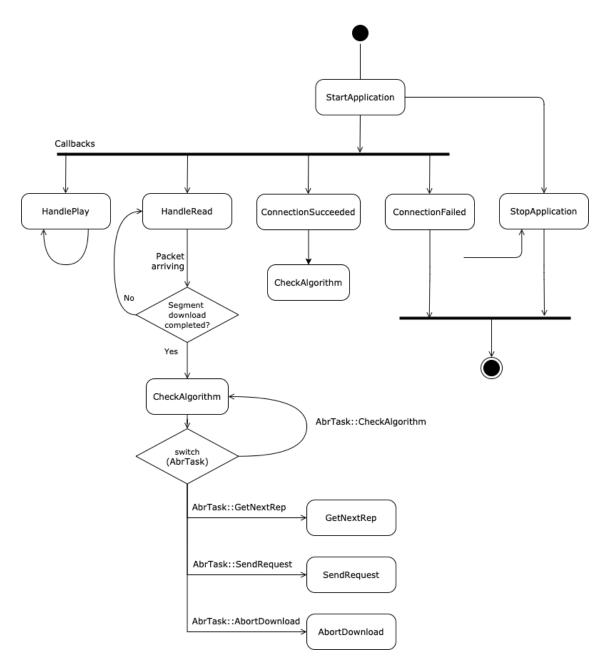


Figure 4.2: ABR Client

4.3.2 AbrServer

The AbrServer is an implementation of ns3::Application. This class receives HTTP-like requests from the AbrClient and sends the requested segment.

The request is in the format:

GET qualityIndex startSegment

For example, "GET 4 3" means "GET 1 segment of quality index 4 starting from the 3^{rd} segment".

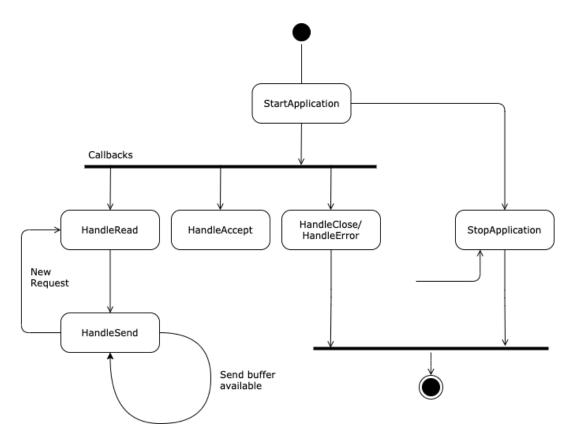


Figure 4.3: ABR Server

The AbrServer is created with the AbrHelper and the listening port as the parameter. The server application needs to be installed on the server Node. When the simulation starts, the function StartApplication is called. The server will create and bind a socket, and starts to listen. The socket is set will callback functions. When the sockets are connected, the server will schedule the callbacks to handle reading requests and sending data.

In the HandleRead function, the server reads the requests from the clients. As an example, for a certain request, the AbrServer gets the segment size from AbrVariables and suppose that the segment size is 2 megabytes, the AbrServer sends 2MB of dummy data, since there is not actual multimedia data, to the AbrClient.

4.3.3 AbrVariables

The AbrVariables class contains variables and functions used by the AbrClient and AbrServer, including the definition of a set of essential data structures. These data structures are:

- **Segment**. It is an abstraction of a media segment. A **Segment** has a size (in bytes), a start time and a duration.
- **Representation**. Describes a certain version of a encoded media. A Representation include the resolution, the frames per second and the encoding bitrate.
- **SegmentInfo**. This is a aditional data structure for **Segment**. A **SegmentInfo** contains information about download start/finish time, playback start/finish time, the bandwidth estimation used to download that segment and the quality index of the segment.
- PlayerStates. This class keeps track on the player status.
- AbrTask. An AbrTask is a used to schedule tasks for AbrClients.

AbrVariables has these variables:

- m_segments. It is a two-dimentional vector containing all the segments for the simulation. Each row has de the same quality and the higher the row index, the higher the quality. The segments are ordered in time in the columns.
- m_representations. It is a vector containing information about the resolution, framerate and bitrates of the Representations. The row index also means the quality level.
- m_segmentDuration. The duration of the segment in milliseconds. By default, it is 2000ms.

Before the simulation starts, the AbrVariables class initializes the variables. Starting with the representations, there are a predefined set of Representations by default, but they can be changed in the source file. Continuing with the segments, their sizes are calcu-

lated based on the resolution, framerate and the encoding bitrate for each representation.

Also, the possibility of creating a MPD file parser has been considered, but it can be done in the future as an improvement.

4.3.4 AbrHelper

AbrHelper are helper classes providing the functionality of managing the ABR clients and servers (creating, setting attribute, etc.). There are two classes, AbrServerHelper and AbrClientHelper. The AbrClientHelper have methods to extract QoE metrics after the simulation ends.

4.3.5 AbrAlgorithm

AbrAlgorithm serves as the base class for the implementations of adaptation algorithms. In the next section, two implementations of AbrAlgorithm are presented.

4.4 Adaptation Algorithms

This section will present two implementation of AbrAlgorithm. The first one is based on the JavaScript library implementation of HTTP Live Streaming (HLS) $hls.js^1$ client [32]. The second implementation is based on the $dash.js^2$ from the DASH Industry Forum [10].

4.4.1 HLSjs.cc

This class is based on the implementation from a open-source JavaScript-based project called *hls.js*. The HLSjs.cc class has some simplifications compared to the original library.

 $^{^1}hls.js$ will refer to the original JavaScript Library while HLSjs.cc will refer to the ns-3 implementation $^2dash.js$ will refer to the original DASH implementation while DASHjs.cc will refer to the ns-3 implementation

hls. js has two main rules and some aditional secondary rules. These rules are:

- Main Rules
 - Bandwidth Estimation. This is the main rule, which is an ABR adaptation algorithm rule explained in the subsection 2.2.2.
 - Abort Rules. These are a set of rules to abort a segment download depending on some coditions, for example, a timeout for a segment to download.
- Secondary Rules
 - Screen & player size cap level. This rule is used at the beginning to cap the highest level of representation to the device capabilities. For instance, there is no need for a FHD device to play 4K videos in most cases.
 - **Dropped frames per second**. This rule is triggered if the cpu cannot handle the decoding of the multimedia content and produces too much dropped frames.

HLSjs.cc will focus only on the Bandwidth Estimation rule.

• BandwidthRule. This is the implementation of a EWMA based adaptation algorithm. The Listing 4.1 show a pseudocode of the algorithm.

4.4.2 DASHjs.cc

This class is based on the implementation build by the *DASH Industry Forums* with the *dash.js* name. DASHjs.cc is a simplified version of *dash.js*. See section C.3 for more details.

dash.js works with a combination of rules. Each rule returns a SwitchRequest. A SwitchRequest is an object that indicates the next representation to request, the request priority, etc. The priorities of the SwitchRequest can be NO_CHANGE, DEFAULT, STRONG or WEAK.

If more than one SwitchRequest is created, the GetMinSwitchRequest is called. It always considers the request with the highest priority and the quality with the minimum difference compared to the current representation.

DASHjs.cc has two rules implemented:

• **ThroughputRule**. This is the implementation of a EWMA based adaptation algorithm. It is very similar to the *hls.js* Bandwidth estimation rule.

```
1
        if First Segment then
 2
          nextQuality \leftarrow 0;
 3
           return true;
        end if
 4
 5
        if Enough segments in buffer then
          newSample ← estimation of last segment;
 6
 7
           if fastEWMA is 0 or slowEWMA is 0 then
 8
             fastEWMA \leftarrow newSample;
 9
             slowEWMA \leftarrow newSample;
10
           else
11
             fastEWMA \leftarrow newSample \times \alpha_{fast} + fastEWMA \times (1 - \alpha_{fast});
             slowEWMA \leftarrow newSample \times \alpha_{slow}+ slowEWMA \times (1-\alpha_{slow});
12
13
           end if
           averageBw \leftarrow min(slowEWMA, fastEWMA);
14
15
        else
16
          averageBw \leftarrow current estimation;
17
        end if
        for i = representations.size - 1 \rightarrow 0 do
18
          if i < current quality then</pre>
19
20
             adjustedBw \leftarrow bwFactor \times averageBw;
21
           else
22
             adjustedBw \leftarrow bwUpFactor \times averageBw;
23
           end if
           if adjustedBw > representations[i].bitrate then
24
25
             nextQuality \leftarrow i;
26
             return true;
27
           end if
28
        end for
29
        return false;
```

Listing 4.1: HLSjs.cc Bandwidth Rule

• **BolaRule**. This is a simplified implementation of the buffer based algorithm BOLA introduced in subsubsection 2.2.2.2.

BOLA has three states:

- BOLA_STATE_ONE_BITRATE. This is the state when there is only one bitrate available.
- BOLA_STATE_STARTUP. This is the initial state of BOLA.
- BOLA_STATE_STEADY. This is the state when the buffer is really for using BOLA.

The main methods of BOLA is BolaRule and GetQualityFromBufferLevel. This last method uses a score calculated, using BOLA's parameters such as playback utility and playback smoothness, for each representation and chooses the representation with the highest score.

Chapter 5 | Simulations and Results

This chapter will test the adaptation algorithms implemented in the ABR module from the chapter 4 in various simulated scenarios. The section 5.1 will present the metrics used for the comparisons. The section 5.2 will go through all the simulation scripts and its results, analyse the performance and fairness of the adaptation algorithms. Finally, the section 5.3, will discuss the conclusions and limitations of the ABR module.

5.1 Comparison Metrics

For the comparison, the metrics introduced in the subsection 2.2.3 will be used. In addition, other metrics will be used that may also be of interest. And they are as follows:

- Average Throughput. The average of the network throughput.
- Playback start time. The time the client takes to start the playback.
- Total time watched. Total time watched by the client.
- Quality switches. The number of times the representation changed.
- Paused times. The number of times the playback paused.
- Time at each quality. The time spent at each quality.
- Buffer status. The buffer status in milliseconds of content as a function of time.
- QoE Score. This is a score based on various metrics.

 The QoE score is defined for this thesis in order to compare the different algorithms. It ranges from 0 to 1, the greater the score the better the performance. The formula is as follows:

$$QoE\ score = \frac{t_w - pb_s - \sum_{i=1}^{M} \frac{t_i}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{i+1}{M}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left(qs + pt\right)}{simulation\ time}$$
(5.1)

with

- \circ t_w Time watched
- $\circ pb_s$ Playback start time
- o $t_{i \neq \{0,1,\ldots,M\}}$ Time at each quality
- o qs Quality switches
- o pt Paused times

5.2 Scenarios

In the next sections, the throughput rule of dash.js will be referred as DASH throughput, the BOLA rule as BOLA, the bandwidth estimation of hls.js as HLS and the combination of the BOLA and the throughput rule of dash.js simply as DASH.

5.2.1 Scenario 1

This section will take a look a basic network scenario. To be as simply as possible, the will be only two nodes linked with a PointToPoint connection. The simulation time is 50 seconds and the datarate will vary in time. In this scenario, seven bitrates are used.

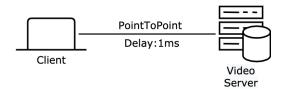


Figure 5.1: Scenario 1

By looking at the Figure 5.2, the first thing noticeable is that the HLS and the DASH throughput's quality functions are almost the same line. BOLA reached a little bit earier to the quality index 5 and sustained a good overall performance. The combination of both rules in DASH seems to work pretty nicely, with one exception of going down to quality index 2 almost at the end of the simulation.

The Figure 5.3 show a Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF). In this case, the CDF shows the video quality choice statistics in the form of percentages. Both HLS and DASH throughput obtained a higher quality during most of the simulation time and never played segments from the lowest quality.

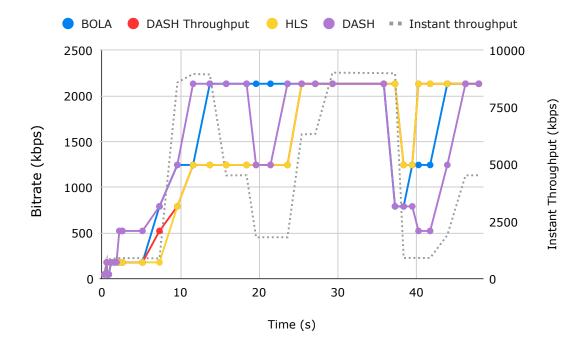


Figure 5.2: Scenario 1. Quality vs time

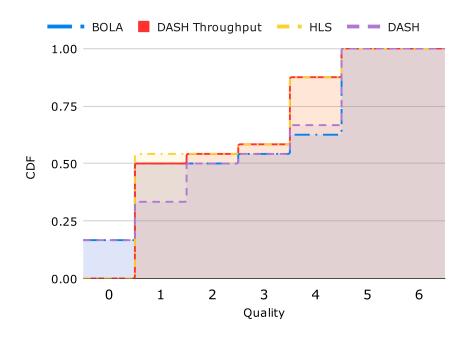
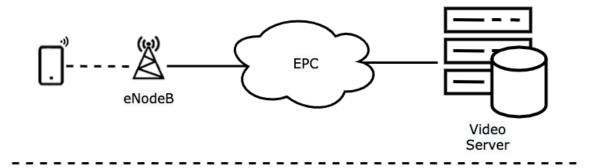


Figure 5.3: Scenario 1. CDF quality

5.2.2 Scenario 2



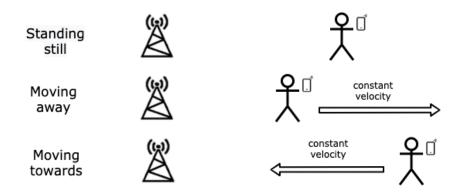


Figure 5.4: Scenario 2

This scenario will find out what will happen if an UE stands still, or if it is moving away or towards the eNodeB. The only changing factor is the position of the UE, the rest of the parameter remains the same. There are only one eNodeB, meaning there is no possibility to handover.

This setup will be using only the HLS algorithm. In the first simulation, the UE will be placed at a reasonable distance from the eNodeB. In the second one, the UE is moving with a constant velocity away from the eNodeB. Finally, the UE is placed a little bit further and walks towards the eNodeB.

The Figure 5.5 shows the buffer status as a function of time. What moving away from the eNodeB really does is to decrease the available bandwidth and finally the UE will be unable to request a new segment.

Within the wireshark statistics tools, by selecting the throughput option within TCP flows, it is possible to display throughput graphs of the UEs. In the Figure 5.6, the first

Non-Moving	Moving Away	Moving Towards
0.812078	0.535326	0.701826
23.0487	8.1720	12.7028
48.9	38.0	48.485
7	12	13
	0.812078 23.0487	0.812078 0.535326 23.0487 8.1720 48.9 38.0

Table 5.1: Scenario 2. Metrics Comparison

graph show that the UE approaching the eNodeB performs relatively well. By contrast, the throughput of the second UE drops significantly every time it goes further from the eNodeB. All

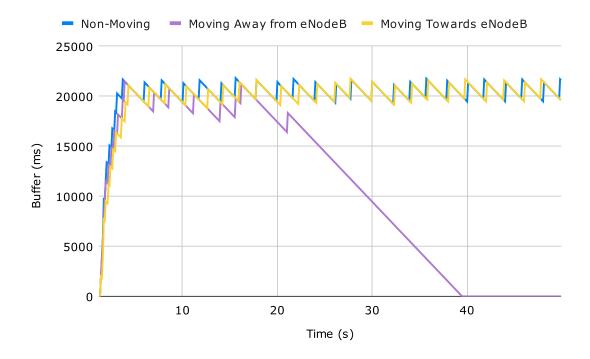
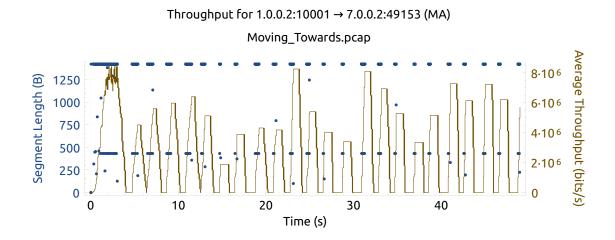


Figure 5.5: Scenario 2. Buffer Status



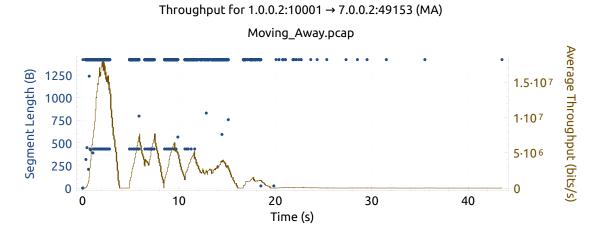


Figure 5.6: Scenario 2. Throughput

5.2.3 Scenario 3

This section provides an analysis of a LTE scenario with poor conditions. There will be six UEs watching video at the same time. three of them remain stationary and the remaining three are randomly moving. In this scenario, fifteen bitrates are used. The only changing factor is the position of some UEs, the rest of the parameter remains the same. There are only one eNodeB, meaning there is no possibility to handover.

		BOLA	DASH	DASH throughput	HLS
	Average	0.3222501667	0.3389108333	0.3891433333	0.3908161667
QoE Score	Max	0.47895	0.568955	0.621531	0.631055
	Min	0.245517	0.245722	0.220542	0.231055

Table 5.2: Scenerio 3. QoE Score

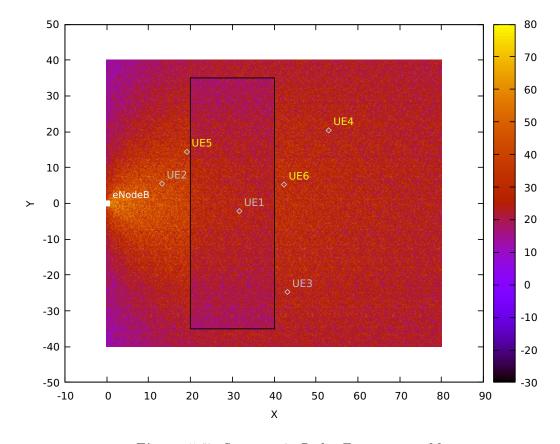


Figure 5.7: Scenario 3. Radio Environment Map

The scenario has one eNodeB, with one antenna, and a residential building. The Figure 5.7 shows a radio environment map of the scenario.

With the results shown in the Table 5.2, we conclude that on average, the bandwidth based algorithms have higher QoE scores. But the other two algorithms have less difference between their highest and lowest scores.

5.2.4 Scenario 4

5.2.4.1 Jain Fairness Index

Fairness metrics are used to determine whether the adaptation algorithm is able to deliver an equitable share of the network bandwidth to different clients. In this analysis, the *Jain Fairness Index (JFI)* [21] is used. The *JFI* is calculated by this formula:

$$JFI = \frac{\left(\sum_{c \in C} \bar{B}\right)^2}{|C| \sum_{c \in C} (\bar{B})^2}$$

$$(5.2)$$

where C are the Clients and \bar{B} are the Average Throughputs

This testing scenario uses ten UEs and one eNodeB at a time in a LTE environment.

Based on the results presented in the Table 5.3, the throughput based algorithms have the least fairness index. That is as expected seeing the results of the last scenario because they had greater differences of performance between *UEs*. That is also true in this case, with *HLS* having the single highest throughput. Nevertheless, all the the algorithms are in a very resonable range, greater than 0.9.

	BOLA	DASH	DASH throughput	HLS
JFI	0.972185193	0.9716453768	0.9271291449	0.929252551
MAX	10289.8	10289.8	19953.9	20006.4

Table 5.3: Scenerio 4. Fairness Comparison

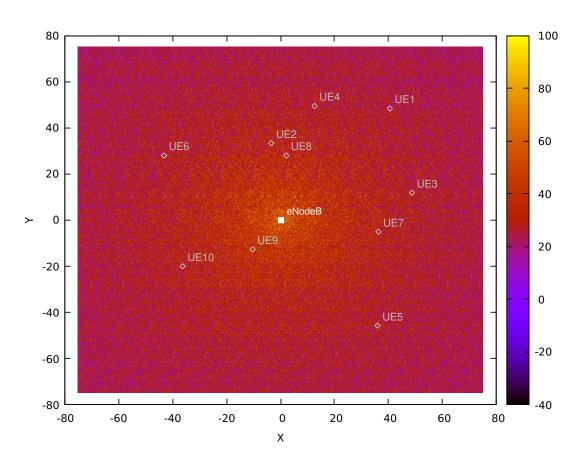


Figure 5.8: Scenario 4. Radio Environment Map

5.3 Conclusions

These testing scenarios are only a small part of what the ABR module can do with ns-3. All the implemented adaptation algorithms are compered in some interesting cases. But more importantly is to show the potential of this module and also the improvement that can be made.

Due to limitations with ns-3, the BOLA implementation is not complete. There some bugs like enabling REM will crush the simulation but the output of the REM is done without problems. Or sometimes the simulations stops caused by some internal data structure corruption.

The implementation of BOLA was a really challenging task for this project, and its complexity translates, in some cases, in better performance.

Chapter 6 | Conclusions and Future Work

6.1 Conclusions

This Master Thesis have the objectives of building a simulation framework able to test ABR adaptation algorithms in mobile network scenarios, and comparing different implementations of existing adaptation algorithms based on QoE and fairness metrics.

First, the study begin by familiarizing with the simulation software ns-3. It was really challenging at first, due to the lack of grafical user interface and relatively small community to help solving problems. Learnt scripting and implementing new modules in ns-3.

Also, become familiar the LTE technologies. Including the architecture of the EPC, radio interface, wireless fundamentals and protocol stack layers. The LTE module in ns-3 made possible the simulation of ns-3 applications in mobile scenarios.

To achieve the objectives proposed, the design of a new ns-3 module is developed. And also the implementation and integration with other ns-3 modules. The implemented ABR module mimics real-world video players behaviour and can work as a framework to test new adaptation algorithms, and extract metrics of the simulation. The most difficult part was the implementation of the BOLA algorithm, it was really complex and hard to understand. An additional feature was discarted, but can be done in futere work is to parse MPD files as a input for the simulation.

Finally, various simulations are made to compare QoE and fairness metric between the implemented ABR adaptation algorithms. This new module has its limitations and can be improved with future work.

6.2 Future Work

These are possible improvements for future work:

- Implement more adaptation algorithms. To be able to compared more existing adaptation algorithms or even put to test new designs of algorithms.
- Traffic shapping. To analyse the effect of applying traffic shapping techniques like token bucket and leaky bucket.
- TCP congestion control. As commented on the thesis, the *TCP* congestion control influents the adaptation algorithms. It could be interesting testing scenarios.
- **X2 Handover**. The scripts implemented is limited to one eNodeB. There is a possibility in ns-3 to use multiple eNodeB and handover over the X2 interface.
- 5G. There is a new 5G module in ns-3 although in its very early stages. 5G simulation scenarios could be also worth to look at.

5g

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Appendix A | Impact

- A.1 Social Impact
- A.2 Economic Impact
- A.3 Ambiental Impact
- A.4 Ethic Impact

Appendix B | Budget

Appendix C ns-3

C.1 Getting Started

The prerequisites for the ns-3 release version 3.32 are the following tools:

Prerequisite	Package/version
C++ compiler	clang++ or g++ (g++ version 4.9 or greater)
Python	python3 $version>=3.5$
Git	any recent version
tar	any recent version
bunzip2	any recent version

Table C.1: Prerequisites for ns-3

Start by downloading the source archive from nsnam or gitlab. Then build ns-3 with build.py:

```
1  # Download from nsnam
2  $ cd
3  $ mkdir workspace
4  $ cd workspace
5  $ wget https://www.nsnam.org/release/ns-allinone-3.32.tar.bz2
6  $ |\color{myblue}tar| xjf ns-allinone-3.32.tar.bz2
7  $ cd ns-allinone-3.32
8  # Building ns-3
9  $ ./build.py --enable-examples --enable-tests
10  # Running a script
11  # Create or copy a script to the scratch directory
```

```
12 $ cp examples/tutorial/first.cc scratch/myfirst.cc
13 $ ./waf --run scratch/myfirst
```

Listing C.1: Download and installation of ns-3

Logging Module

Enable logging:

```
1  $ export 'NS_LOG=UdpEchoClientApplication=level_all|prefix_func|
    prefix_time:UdpEchoServerApplication=level_all|prefix_func|
    prefix_time'
```

Listing C.2: Enabling logging in ns-3

To disable logging simply type:

```
1 $ export NS_LOG=
```

Listing C.3: Disabling logging in ns-3

Command Line Arguments

An example of a command could be like this:

Listing C.4: Command line arguments

ASCII Tracing

To enable ASCII Tracing, right before the call to Simulator::Run (), add the following lines of code:

```
1 AsciiTraceHelper ascii;
2 pointToPoint.EnableAsciiAll (ascii.CreateFileStream ("out.tr"));
```

Listing C.5: ASCII tracing

This will generate the output from pointToPoint to a file named out.tr.

PCAP Tracing

To enable *pcap* tracing simply add:

```
pointToPoint.EnablePcapAll ("myfirst");
```

Listing C.6: PCAP tracing

Sockets

Creating a socket:

Listing C.7: ns-3 Socket programming

For callbacks:

```
mySocket->SetConnectCallback (
    MakeCallback (&MyClass::ConnectionSucceeded, this),
    MakeCallback (&MyClass::ConnectionFailed, this)

);

mySocket->SetSendCallback (MakeCallback (
    &MyClass::HandleSend, this));

mySocket->SetRecvCallback (MakeCallback (
    &MyClass::HandleRead, this));
```

Listing C.8: Socket callbacks

PointToPoint NetDevice

```
NodeContainer n;
n.Create (2);
PointToPointHelper p2ph;
```

```
p2ph.SetDeviceAttribute ("DataRate", StringValue ("10Mbps"));
p2ph.SetChannelAttribute ("Delay", StringValue ("5ms"));
NetDeviceContainer devs = p2ph.Install (n);
```

Listing C.9: PointToPointHelper

C.2 LTE Module

LteHelper

```
// Create LteHelper and the nodes
    Ptr<LteHelper> lteHelper = CreateObject<LteHelper> ();
2
3
    NodeContainer enbNodes;
    enbNodes.Create (1);
4
    NodeContainer ueNodes;
6
    ueNodes.Create (2);
7
8
    // Set the mobility model
9
    MobilityHelper mobility;
10
    mobility.SetMobilityModel ("ns3::ConstantPositionMobilityModel");
11
    mobility.Install (enbNodes);
12
    mobility.SetMobilityModel ("ns3::ConstantPositionMobilityModel");
    mobility.Install (ueNodes);
13
14
15
    // Install NetDevices to the nodes
16
    NetDeviceContainer enbDevs;
    enbDevs = lteHelper->InstallEnbDevice (enbNodes);
17
18
    NetDeviceContainer ueDevs;
19
    ueDevs = lteHelper->InstallUeDevice (ueNodes);
20
21
    // Attach UEs to the eNodeB
22
    lteHelper->Attach (ueDevs, enbDevs.Get (0));
```

Listing C.10: LteHelper usage

Network Attachment

```
1  lteHelper->Attach (ueDevs); // attach one or more UEs to a strongest
        cell
2  lteHelper->Attach (ueDevs, enbDev); // attach one or more UEs to a
```

single eNodeB

Listing C.11: UE Automatic Attachment

EpcHelper

Listing C.12: Enable Evolved Packet Core

MAC

```
Ptr<LteHelper> lteHelper = CreateObject<LteHelper> ();
   lteHelper->SetSchedulerType ("ns3::FdMtFfMacScheduler");
                                                                // FD-MT
       scheduler
3
   lteHelper->SetSchedulerType ("ns3::TdMtFfMacScheduler");
                                                                // TD-MT
       scheduler
   lteHelper->SetSchedulerType ("ns3::TtaFfMacScheduler");
                                                                // TTA
4
       scheduler
                                                                // FD-BET
   lteHelper->SetSchedulerType ("ns3::FdBetFfMacScheduler");
       scheduler
   lteHelper->SetSchedulerType ("ns3::TdBetFfMacScheduler");
                                                                // TD-BET
       scheduler
    lteHelper->SetSchedulerType ("ns3::FdTbfqFfMacScheduler"); // FD-TBFQ
       scheduler
   lteHelper->SetSchedulerType ("ns3::TdTbfqFfMacScheduler");
                                                                // TD-TBFQ
       scheduler
   lteHelper->SetSchedulerType ("ns3::PssFfMacScheduler");
                                                                //PSS
       schedulerUIntegerValue(yourvalue));
```

Listing C.13: MAC Scheduler

AMC & CQI

Listing C.14: AMC Model

Building

```
MobilityHelper mobility;
2
    mobility.SetMobilityModel ("ns3::ConstantPositionMobilityModel");
3
4
    Ptr<Building> b = CreateObject <Building> ();
    // Box (xmin, xmax, ymin, ymax, zmin, zmax)
6
    b->SetBoundaries (Box (0.0, 10.0, 0.0, 20.0, 0.0, 20.0));
7
    b->SetBuildingType (Building::Residential);
    b->SetExtWallsType (Building::ConcreteWithWindows);
9
    b->SetNFloors (3);
10
    b->SetNRoomsX (3);
11
    b->SetNRoomsY (2);
12
13
    mobility.Install (ueNodes);
14
    mobility.Install (enbNodes);
15
    BuildingsHelper::Install (ueNodes);
16
    BuildingsHelper::Install (enbNodes);
```

Listing C.15: Mobility Model

Listing C.16: Pathloss Model

AntennaModel & MIMO

Listing C.17: Antenna & MIMO Model

Radio Environment Maps

```
Ptr<RadioEnvironmentMapHelper> remHelper = CreateObject
        RadioEnvironmentMapHelper> ();
 2
    remHelper->SetAttribute ("Channel", PointerValue (lteHelper->
        GetDownlinkSpectrumChannel ()));
    remHelper->SetAttribute ("OutputFile", StringValue ("rem.out"));
 3
4
    remHelper->SetAttribute ("XMin", DoubleValue (-400.0));
 5
    remHelper->SetAttribute ("XMax", DoubleValue (400.0));
    remHelper->SetAttribute ("XRes", UintegerValue (100));
6
    remHelper->SetAttribute ("YMin", DoubleValue (-300.0));
8
    remHelper->SetAttribute ("YMax", DoubleValue (300.0));
9
    remHelper->SetAttribute ("YRes", UintegerValue (75));
10
    remHelper->SetAttribute ("Z", DoubleValue (0.0));
11
    remHelper->SetAttribute ("UseDataChannel", BooleanValue (true));
12
    remHelper->SetAttribute ("RbId", IntegerValue (10));
13
    remHelper->Install ();
```

Listing C.18: Radio Environment Maps helper

Parameter Configuration

At the beginning of the main function, include:

```
7 cmd.Parse (argc, argv);
```

Listing C.19: Configuration parameters

Example input file

```
default ns3::LteHelper::Scheduler "ns3::PfFfMacScheduler"
2
    default ns3::LteHelper::PathlossModel "ns3::
        FriisSpectrumPropagationLossModel"
3
    default ns3::LteEnbNetDevice::DlBandwidth "25"
    default ns3::LteEnbNetDevice::DlEarfcn "100"
    default ns3::LteEnbNetDevice::UlEarfcn "18100"
6
    default ns3::LteUePhy::TxPower "10"
    default ns3::LteEnbPhy::TxPower "30"
    default ns3::LteEnbRrc::SrsPeriodicity "40"
8
9
    default ns3::TcpSocket::SndBufSize "524280"
10
    default ns3::TcpSocket::RcvBufSize "524280"
11
    global RngSeed "24"
12
    global simTime "10.0"
    global nRB "100"
13
```

Listing C.20: Configuration parameters

C.3 DASHjs

```
#ifndef DASH_JS_H
 1
 2
     #define DASH_JS_H
3
     #include "abr-algorithm.h"
4
 5
     #include "abr-variables.h"
     #include "abr-client.h"
 6
 7
8
    namespace ns3 {
9
10
    // 0 one bitrate
11
    // 1 set placeholder buffer such that we download fragments at most
        recently measured throughput.
12
     // 2 buffer is ready for using BOLA
13
    constexpr uint16_t BOLA_STATE_ONE_BITRATE = 0;
     constexpr uint16_t BOLA_STATE_STARTUP = 1;
14
15
     constexpr uint16_t BOLA_STATE_STEADY = 2;
16
17
     constexpr int32_t NO_CHANGE = -1;
18
19
    namespace PRIORITY {
20
       // The priority can have these values
21
      // 0.5 default priority
22
      // 1 strong priority
23
      // 0 weak priority
24
       constexpr double DEFAULT = 0.5;
25
       constexpr double STRONG = 1;
26
       constexpr double WEAK = 0;
27
    }
28
29
    struct BolaState {
30
      uint16_t
                             state;
31
      uint32_t
                             stableBufferTime;
32
      uint32_t
                             lastQuality;
33
       double
                             ۷p;
34
       double
                             gp;
35
       std::vector<double>
                             utilities;
       std::vector<double>
36
                             bitrates;
```

```
37
    };
38
39
    struct SwitchRequest {
40
      double
                priority;
41
      int32 t
                quality;
42
    };
43
44
    class DASHjs : public AbrAlgorithm
45
    {
46
    public:
47
      DASHjs ();
      DASHjs (uint32_t bufferSize);
48
49
      /**
50
      * \return the next quality
51
      */
52
      uint16_t GetNextQlty ();
53
      /**
                  check de DASH.js rules, similar to ABRRulesCollection.js
54
      * \brief
55
      * \return a list of tasks for the client to schedule
56
      */
57
      std::vector<AbrTask> CheckRules (uint16_t
                                                      currentQlty,
58
                                         uint32_t
                                                      segmentDuration,
59
                                         uint32_t
                                                      segIndex,
60
                                         double
                                                      currentBw,
61
                                         Time
                                                      dlStartTS,
62
                                         PlayerStates state,
63
                                         std::vector<SegmentInfo> buffer);
64
65
      Representation GetNextRep ();
66
67
      // Auxiliary Functions
68
      SwitchRequest GetMinSwitchRequest (std::vector<SwitchRequest> requests
          );
69
      SwitchRequest CreateSwitchRequest (double priority, int32_t quality);
70
      SwitchRequest CreateSwitchRequest (int32_t quality);
71
72
    private:
73
      // Rule
74
      SwitchRequest ThroughputRule ();
75
```

```
76
       void
                 UpdateAverageEwma ();
77
       double
                 GetSafeAverageThroughput ();
78
       uint32_t GetQualityForBitrate (double bitrate);
79
80
       // BOLA
81
       SwitchRequest BolaRule ();
82
       uint32_t
                     MinBufferLevelForQuality (uint32_t quality);
83
       uint32_t
                     GetQualityFromBufferLevel ();
84
       void
                     GetBolaState ();
85
       void
                     GetInitialBolaState ();
86
       double
                     GetAverageThroughput ();
87
       std::vector<double> CalculateBolaParameters (uint32_t
           stableBufferTime, std::vector<double> bitrates, std::vector<double>
            utilities);
88
       std::vector<double>
                             UtilityFromBitrates (std::vector<double>
           bitrates);
89
       std::vector<double> NormalizeUtility (std::vector<double> utilities)
90
91
       // Variables
92
       uint16_t m_currentQlty; // current buffer Quality
93
       uint16_t m_nextQlty; // next quality to request
       uint32_t m_segmentDuration; // segment duration in ms
94
95
       uint32_t m_segIndex; // index of the buffer playing
       uint32_t m_bufferSize; // maximum buffer size
96
97
       double
                m_timeWatched; // in milliseconds
98
       double
                m_currentBw; // current bandwidth
99
       double
                m_averageBw; // estimation of average bandwidth
100
       double
                m_slowEWMA; // slow Exponentially Weighted Moving Average
101
       double
                m_fastEWMA; // fast Exponentially Weighted Moving Average
102
       double
                m slowAlpha; // alpha factor for slow EWMA
103
       double
                m_fastAlpha; // alpha factor for fast EWMA
104
       double
                m_bandwidthSafetyFactor; // safety factor
105
       Time
                m_dlStartTS; // time stamp of one segment starting to
           download
106
                m_firstSegment; // if it is the first segment
       bool
107
       PlayerStates m_state; // actual state of the player
108
       std::vector <SegmentInfo> m_buffer; // buffer of the segments
           downloaded
109
       std::vector <Representation> m_representations;
110
```

```
111
       // BOLA variables
112
       BolaState m_bolaState;
113
       uint32_t m_placeHolderBuffer;
114
       double
                m_delay;
115
     };
116
117
     } // namespace ns3
118
119
     #endif /* DASH_ALGO_H */
```

Listing C.21: DASHjs.h

```
#include "DASHjs.h"
1
2
    #include <math.h>
    #include <cmath>
    #include <limits>
5
    #include <algorithm>
6
7
    namespace ns3 {
    NS_LOG_COMPONENT_DEFINE ("DASHjs");
8
9
10
    NS_OBJECT_ENSURE_REGISTERED (DASHjs);
11
12
    DASHjs::DASHjs (uint32_t bufferSize)
13
14
      m_bufferSize = bufferSize;
15
      m_averageBw = 0.0;
16
      m_slowEWMA = 0.0;
      m_fastEWMA = 0.0;
17
18
      m_slowAlpha = 0.1;
19
      m_fastAlpha = 0.5;
20
      m_bandwidthSafetyFactor = 0.7;
21
      m_firstSegment = true;
22
      m_bolaState.state = -1;
23
      m_placeHolderBuffer = 0;
24
      m_{delay} = 0.0;
25
      m_representations = AbrVariables::GetRepresentations ();
26
    }
27
28
    uint16_t
    DASHjs::GetNextQlty ()
29
```

```
30
31
      return m_nextQlty;
32
     }
33
     std::vector<AbrTask>
34
35
     DASHjs::CheckRules (uint16_t
                                     currentQlty,
36
                         uint32_t
                                      segmentDuration,
37
                         uint32_t
                                      segIndex,
38
                         double
                                      currentBw,
39
                                      dlStartTS,
                         Time
40
                         PlayerStates state,
                         std::vector<SegmentInfo> buffer)
41
42
     {
43
      NS_LOG_FUNCTION (this);
44
       m_currentQlty = currentQlty;
45
       m_segmentDuration = segmentDuration;
46
      m_segIndex = segIndex;
47
      m_dlStartTS = dlStartTS;
      m_currentBw = currentBw;
48
49
       m_buffer = buffer;
50
      m_state = state;
51
52
       std::vector<SwitchRequest> requests;
53
       std::vector<AbrTask> tasks;
54
       requests.push_back (ThroughputRule ());
       requests.push_back (BolaRule ());
55
56
57
       SwitchRequest request = GetMinSwitchRequest (requests);
58
       if (request.quality != NO_CHANGE) {
59
         m_nextQlty = request.quality;
60
61
         NS_LOG_INFO ("Change Quality to " << AbrVariables::GetQuality (
            m_nextQlty));
62
63
         tasks.push_back (AbrVariables::CreateTask (Seconds (m_delay),
            AbrTask::GetNextRep));
64
         tasks.push_back (AbrVariables::CreateTask (Seconds (m_delay +
            0.0001), AbrTask::SendRequest));
65
66
         m_{delay} = 0.0;
```

```
67
68
       return tasks;
69
     }
70
71
     SwitchRequest
72
     DASHjs::ThroughputRule ()
73
74
       SwitchRequest switchRequest = CreateSwitchRequest (NO_CHANGE);
75
       if (m_firstSegment && m_segIndex == 0)
76
77
         NS_LOG_INFO ("First Segment");
78
         m_firstSegment = false;
79
         switchRequest.quality = 0;
80
         return switchRequest;
81
82
       UpdateAverageEwma ();
83
       double average = GetSafeAverageThroughput ();
84
       switchRequest.quality = GetQualityForBitrate (average);
85
       return switchRequest;
86
     }
87
88
     SwitchRequest
89
     DASHjs::BolaRule ()
90
91
       SwitchRequest switchRequest = CreateSwitchRequest (NO_CHANGE);
92
       GetBolaState ();
93
       if (m_bolaState.state == BOLA_STATE_ONE_BITRATE) {
         NS_LOG_INFO ("BOLA_STATE_ONE_BITRATE");
94
95
         switchRequest.quality = NO_CHANGE;
96
         return switchRequest;
97
       }
98
99
       // First segment
100
       if (m_firstSegment && m_segIndex == 0)
101
102
         NS_LOG_INFO ("First Segment");
103
         m_firstSegment = false;
104
         switchRequest.quality = 0;
105
         return switchRequest;
106
       }
```

```
107
108
       uint32_t quality = 0;
109
       uint32_t bufferLevel = (m_buffer.size () - m_segIndex) *
           m_segmentDuration;
110
       uint32_t qualityForThroughput = 0;
111
        switchRequest.quality = 0;
112
113
       UpdateAverageEwma ();
114
       double safeThroughput = GetSafeAverageThroughput ();
115
116
       switch (m_bolaState.state) {
117
         case BOLA_STATE_STARTUP:
118
            NS_LOG_INFO ("BOLA_STATE_STARTUP");
119
            quality = GetQualityForBitrate(safeThroughput);
120
121
            switchRequest.quality = quality;
122
            m_bolaState.lastQuality = quality;
123
124
           if (bufferLevel >= 1)
125
            {
126
              m_bolaState.state = BOLA_STATE_STEADY;
127
            }
128
129
            break;
130
131
          case BOLA_STATE_STEADY:
132
            NS_LOG_INFO ("BOLA_STATE_STEADY");
133
134
            quality = GetQualityFromBufferLevel ();
135
136
            // BOLA-O variant
137
            qualityForThroughput = GetQualityForBitrate (safeThroughput);
138
            if (quality > m_bolaState.lastQuality && quality >
               qualityForThroughput)
139
            {
140
              // to avoid oscillations
141
              quality = std::max (qualityForThroughput, m_bolaState.
                  lastQuality);
142
            }
143
```

```
144
            switchRequest.quality = quality;
145
            m_bolaState.lastQuality = quality;
146
147
            break;
148
149
          default:
150
            NS_LOG_INFO ("BOLA ABR Rule Bad State");
151
            quality = GetQualityForBitrate(safeThroughput);
152
            m_bolaState.state = BOLA_STATE_STARTUP;
153
154
            break;
155
156
        return switchRequest;
157
      }
158
159
      void
160
     DASHjs::GetBolaState ()
161
162
       if (m_bolaState.state > 2)
163
        {
164
          GetInitialBolaState ();
165
        }
166
     }
167
168
      void
169
      DASHjs::GetInitialBolaState ()
170
171
       NS_LOG_INFO ("Initial BOLA state");
172
        std::vector<double> bitrates;
173
        bitrates = AbrVariables::GetBitratesInKbps ();
174
175
        std::vector<double> utilities = UtilityFromBitrates (bitrates);
176
        std::vector<double> normalizedUtilities = NormalizeUtility (utilities)
177
        uint32_t stableBufferTime = 12; // DEFAULT_MIN_BUFFER_TIME;
178
        // uint32_t stableBufferTime = 20; //
           DEFAULT_MIN_BUFFER_TIME_FAST_SWITCH;
179
        std::vector<double> params = CalculateBolaParameters (stableBufferTime
            , bitrates, normalizedUtilities);
180
181
        if (params.size () <= 0)</pre>
xxiv
```

```
182
183
          m_bolaState.state = BOLA_STATE_ONE_BITRATE;
184
        }
185
        else
186
187
          m_bolaState.state = BOLA_STATE_STARTUP;
188
189
          m_bolaState.bitrates = bitrates;
190
          m_bolaState.utilities = normalizedUtilities;
191
         m_bolaState.stableBufferTime = stableBufferTime;
192
         m_bolaState.Vp = params[0];
193
          m_bolaState.gp = params[1];
194
195
         m_bolaState.lastQuality = 0;
196
       }
197
      }
198
199
      std::vector<double>
200
     DASHjs::NormalizeUtility (std::vector<double> utilities)
201
202
       std::vector<double> normalized;;
203
       double offset = -utilities[0];
204
       for (std::vector<double>::iterator it = utilities.begin();
205
             it != utilities.end(); ++it) {
206
207
         double n = *it + offset;
208
         normalized.push_back (n);
209
         NS_LOG_INFO (n);
210
211
       return normalized;
212
213
214
      std::vector<double>
215
     DASHjs::UtilityFromBitrates (std::vector<double> bitrates)
216
     {
217
       std::vector<double> utilities;
218
       for (std::vector<double>::iterator it = bitrates.begin();
219
             it != bitrates.end(); ++it) {
220
         double u = log(*it);
221
         utilities.push_back (u);
```

```
222
         NS_LOG_INFO (this << " " << log(*it));
223
       }
224
      return utilities;
225
     }
226
227
      std::vector<double>
228
     DASHjs::CalculateBolaParameters (uint32_t stableBufferTime, std::vector
         double> bitrates, std::vector<double> utilities)
229
     {
230
       std::vector<double> params;
231
232
        const uint32_t MINIMUM_BUFFER_S = 10000;
233
        const uint32_t MINIMUM_BUFFER_PER_BITRATE_LEVEL_S = 2000;
234
        uint32_t nBitrates = bitrates.size ();
235
        uint32_t bufferTime = std::max (stableBufferTime,
236
          MINIMUM_BUFFER_S + MINIMUM_BUFFER_PER_BITRATE_LEVEL_S * nBitrates);
237
238
        double gp = (utilities.back () - 1) / (bufferTime / MINIMUM_BUFFER_S -
            1);
        double Vp = MINIMUM_BUFFER_S / gp;
239
        NS_LOG_INFO ("gp: " <<gp << " u: " << utilities.back() <<" buf: "<<
240
           bufferTime);
241
242
        params.insert (params.begin (), Vp);
243
        params.insert (params.begin () + 1, gp);
244
        return params;
245
     }
246
247
      uint32_t
     DASHjs::MinBufferLevelForQuality (uint32_t quality)
248
249
250
       uint32_t qBitrate = m_bolaState.bitrates[quality];
251
       uint32_t qUtility = m_bolaState.utilities[quality];
252
253
       uint32_t min = 0;
254
255
       for (uint16_t i = quality - 1; i > 0; --i)
256
257
         NS_LOG_INFO (i);
258
         if (m_bolaState.utilities[i] < m_bolaState.utilities[quality])</pre>
```

```
259
260
            uint32_t iBitrate = m_bolaState.bitrates[i];
261
            uint32_t iUtility = m_bolaState.utilities[i];
262
263
            uint32_t level = m_bolaState.Vp * (m_bolaState.gp + (qBitrate *
                iUtility - iBitrate * qUtility) / (qBitrate - iBitrate));
264
            min = std::max (min, level);
265
          }
266
        }
267
        return min;
268
      }
269
270
      // Main function
271
      uint32_t
272
      DASHjs::GetQualityFromBufferLevel ()
273
274
       uint32_t bitrateCount = m_bolaState.bitrates.size ();
275
        uint32_t quality = 0;
276
        uint32_t bufferLevel = (m_buffer.size () - m_segIndex) *
            m_segmentDuration;
277
        double score = NAN;
278
        for (uint16_t i = 0; i < bitrateCount; ++i)</pre>
279
280
          double s = (m_bolaState.Vp * (m_bolaState.utilities[i] + m_bolaState
281
          - bufferLevel) / (m_bolaState.bitrates[i]);
282
          if (std::isnan(score) || s > score)
283
284
            NS_LOG_INFO ("s: " << s << " Vp: "<< m_bolaState.Vp << " u: "
285
            << m_bolaState.utilities[i]</pre>
286
            << " gp: " << m_bolaState.gp << " level: " << bufferLevel</pre>
287
            << " bitrate: " << m_bolaState.bitrates[i]);</pre>
288
            score = s;
289
            quality = i;
290
          }
291
292
        NS_LOG_INFO (quality << " " << AbrVariables::GetQuality(quality) << "
293
        << m_representations[quality].bitrate << "Buffer Level: " <<</pre>
            bufferLevel);
```

```
294
       return quality;
295
     }
296
297
     double
298
     DASHjs::GetAverageThroughput ()
299
300
       return m_averageBw;
301
      }
302
303
      SwitchRequest
304
      DASHjs::GetMinSwitchRequest (std::vector<SwitchRequest> requests)
305
306
       SwitchRequest newSwitchReq = CreateSwitchRequest (NO_CHANGE);
307
       int32_t newQuality = -1;
308
        std::map<double, int32_t> values;
309
310
       if (requests.size() == 0)
311
312
          return newSwitchReq;
313
314
        else if (requests.size() == 1)
315
316
         return requests.back ();
317
        }
318
319
        values.insert (std::pair<double, int32_t>(PRIORITY::STRONG, NO_CHANGE)
           );
320
        values.insert (std::pair<double, int32_t>(PRIORITY::WEAK, NO_CHANGE));
        values.insert (std::pair<double, int32_t>(PRIORITY::DEFAULT, NO_CHANGE
321
           ));
322
        for (std::vector<SwitchRequest>::iterator it = requests.begin ();
323
324
             it != requests.end (); ++it) {
325
          SwitchRequest req = *it;
326
          if (req.quality != NO_CHANGE) {
327
            if (values.at (req.priority) == NO_CHANGE | |
328
                values.at (req.priority) > req.quality) {
329
             NS_LOG_INFO (req.quality);
330
              values.at (req.priority) = req.quality;
331
            }
```

```
332
        }
333
        }
334
335
        if (values.at (PRIORITY::WEAK) != NO_CHANGE) {
336
          newQuality = values.at (PRIORITY::WEAK);
337
       }
338
339
        if (values.at (PRIORITY::DEFAULT) != NO_CHANGE) {
340
          newQuality = values.at (PRIORITY::DEFAULT);
341
       }
342
343
        if (values.at (PRIORITY::STRONG) != NO_CHANGE) {
344
          newQuality = values.at (PRIORITY::STRONG);
345
        }
346
        if (newQuality > -1) {
347
348
          newSwitchReq = CreateSwitchRequest (newQuality);
349
          NS_LOG_INFO (newQuality);
350
          NS_LOG_INFO ("SwitchRequest to quality" << AbrVariables::GetQuality
              (m_nextQlty));
351
       }
352
353
        return newSwitchReq;
354
     }
355
356
      SwitchRequest
357
      DASHjs::CreateSwitchRequest (double priority, int32_t quality) {
358
        SwitchRequest req;
359
        if (priority != 0 || priority != 0.5 || priority != 1) {
360
           // priority by default
361
           std::cout << priority << std::endl;</pre>
362
           req.priority = PRIORITY::DEFAULT;
363
        } else {
364
           req.priority = priority;
365
        }
366
        req.priority = priority;
367
        req.quality = quality;
368
        NS\_LOG\_INFO (req.priority << " " << req.quality);
369
        return req;
370
     }
```

```
371
372
      SwitchRequest
373
      DASHjs::CreateSwitchRequest (int32_t quality) {
374
        SwitchRequest req;
375
        req.priority = PRIORITY::DEFAULT;
376
        req.quality = quality;
377
        NS_LOG_INFO (req.priority << " " << req.quality);</pre>
378
        return req;
379
      }
380
381
      uint32_t
382
      DASHjs::GetQualityForBitrate (double bitrate)
383
      {
384
        Representation rep;
385
        if (m_representations.size () < 2) return 0;</pre>
386
387
       for (uint16_t j=m_representations.size () - 1; j>0; j--)
388
389
          rep = m_representations[j];
390
          // bitrates are in bps
          if (bitrate > rep.bitrate) {
391
392
            NS_LOG_INFO (j << " " << AbrVariables::GetQuality(j) << " " <<
                m_representations[j].bitrate << " " << bitrate);</pre>
393
            return j;
394
          }
395
        }
396
       return 0;
397
      }
398
399
      void
400
      DASHjs::UpdateAverageEwma ()
401
      {
402
        double newSample = 0;
403
        if (m_buffer.size () != 0)
404
405
          newSample = m_buffer.back ().dlBandwidth;
406
        }
407
408
        if (m_fastEWMA == 0 || m_slowEWMA == 0)
409
        {
```

```
410
          m_fastEWMA = newSample;
411
         m_slowEWMA = newSample;
412
        }
413
        else
414
           m\_fastEWMA = newSample * m\_fastAlpha + m\_fastEWMA * (1 - m\_fastAlpha) 
415
              );
416
          m_slowEWMA = newSample * m_slowAlpha + m_slowEWMA * (1 - m_slowAlpha
              );
417
        }
418
       m_averageBw = std::min (m_slowEWMA, m_fastEWMA);
419
      }
420
421
      double
422
      DASHjs::GetSafeAverageThroughput ()
423
424
       double average = m_averageBw;
425
        if (average != 0) {
426
          average *= m_bandwidthSafetyFactor;
427
428
        return average;
429
      }
430
431
      Representation
432
      DASHjs::GetNextRep ()
433
      {
       Representation rep = AbrVariables::GetRep (m_currentQlty);
434
435
        return rep;
436
      }
437
438
     } // namespace ns3
```

Listing C.22: DASHjs.cc