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Services KPI-based Energy Management Strategies for Green Wireless Networks

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Abstract—Complex green wireless networks including smart grid, renewable energy and batteries need precise energy management strategies in order to realize some of the defined objectives. Although these networks have different services (streaming, web, voice call, etc.) with different requirements, most research work slightly covered the specific contribution of each of these services and their effect on the network energy consumption. In this paper, we consider advanced KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) putting forward each service contribution to energy consumption. Using these new KPIs, we propose to adapt some energy management strategies, leading to performance amelioration and new energy savings, under renewable energy and smart grid environment. Simulations indicate the efficiency of our proposed adaptation, achieving 11.45% enhancement in these new KPIs, and outperforming several benchmark algorithms with a gain up to 8% points in terms of energy savings reduction. We analyze the benefits of the services KPIs and also their limits, leading to possible new services-based efficient energy management strategies in the considered framework.

I. INTRODUCTION

The radical surge of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) devices and services has pushed corresponding energy consumption to grow at a staggering rate. Followed by an increased awareness of environmental protection and strict regulations on pollutant emissions, there is a growing attention to reduce the energy consumption associated with ICT equipment [1]. For instance, it is estimated that ICT consumes around 4.7% of the world’s electrical energy, releasing into the atmosphere about 1.7% of the global CO₂ emissions [2].

Cellular networks, a significant component of ICT energy consumption, have drawn considerable attention of many researchers from both academia and industry. With roughly 80% of network energy being consumed by base stations (BSs) [3], most efforts to improve energy efficiency (EE) in mobile radio networks focus on BSs.

A. Related Work

EE is becoming a significant key performance indicator (KPI) in evaluating next generation cellular networks. It is defined as the amount of information that can be reliably transmitted per Joule of consumed energy [4]. Due to its simplicity, this metric is widely used in the evaluation of the EE of telecommunication networks including cellular networks [5]. In the literature, recent efforts have been made investigating EE and energy savings of cellular networks. Among the different approaches existing in the literature, sleep mode strategies and the deployment of heterogeneous networks have proven to be the most effective in improving energy savings and EE in cellular networks [6], [7]. Nevertheless, providing BSs with renewable energy (RE) sources is another effective approach to enhance the EE of cellular networks by acquiring clean and cheap energy from ambient surrounding. A detailed survey on powering cellular BSs with RE can be found in [8].

In order to benefit more from RE, intelligent energy management is required to yield a higher EE in cellular networks. In [9], we showed that intelligent usage of harvested energy results in higher cost savings in a variable electricity price environment. Based on state of charge (SoC) of the battery and electricity price, we introduced SPAEMA, an energy management algorithm, that decides whether to store or use RE. The work, however, is limited to one BS, and it does not study the impact on EE metric. In [10], the design of energy efficient heterogeneous cellular networks is investigated. Using a stochastic geometry-based model, the authors derived the EE with different sleep modes for small cells. However, the study was done in the absence of RE. In [11], maximizing the EE in a 2-tier wireless network powered by both RE and power grid is considered through power allocation. An offline algorithm based on parametric optimization is proposed. The work, however, ignores sleep mode strategies. In [12], EE in a multiuser energy harvesting system is considered. The authors developed an offline algorithm that maximizes the EE of the system by jointly varying the users’ transmission time and power. Despite their analytical work, the model is limited to only one BS.

In most prior efforts, the emphasis was on maximizing cost savings or EE of the network. In [13], the authors assessed the sharing of energy consumption among the different service categories provided by the network. An energy sharing model based on Shapley value, is proposed and proven to be a good balance between the service categories, in terms of fairness compared to uniform and proportional sharing. To the best of our knowledge, the study of the impact of RE and energy management strategies on services KPIs has not been well investigated in the literature, and it is still an open problem.
B. Paper Contributions

In this paper, we propose an EE metric that evaluates the performance of the network. In contrast to the definition given by ETSI [14], which limits the evaluation of the EE to operational BSs, we suggest an extension that includes inactive BSs (in sleep mode) and RE. Then, we assess this EE-KPI over all the services the network is providing by putting forward their contribution to energy consumption under RE sources. Finally, we propose to adapt some energy management techniques with the objective of having better energy indicators for each of these services.

While most studies assume BSs fully equipped with RE sources, our model considers a more realistic scenario where a percentage of sites is equipped with energy harvesters. This renders the model economically viable when the network operator has thousands of deployed BSs.

The rest of the paper is outlined by the following sections: Section II describes the system model. Section III explains the different KPI metrics understudy and states the problem formulation. Then, we propose two algorithms to enhance this EE-KPI in Section IV. In Section V, simulation results are presented and analyzed. Finally, Section VI concludes the discussion and future work.

II. System Model

A. Network Description

We consider a wireless cellular network overlaid with \( M \) macro BSs having an inter-cell distance \( D \) and \( K \) mobile users. We denote the set of BSs by \( B = \{1, \ldots, m, \ldots, M\} \), and the set of users served by BS \( m \) by \( U_m = \{1, \ldots, u, \ldots, k_m\} \). Initially, the users are associated with and served by the BSs, based on best signal-to-interference-plus-noise ratio method (Best SINR) that is managed by a centralized energy management unit (EMU). Each user measures the SINRs by using pilot signals from all BSs and sends it to the EMU. These BSs are providing different services to the users (streaming, web, voice call, etc.). We further consider two sets of BSs. One is solely powered by conventional power grid, e.g. smart grid (SG), and is denoted by \( BS^{grid} \). The other set of BSs is equipped with RE and energy storages (batteries): hence, it is powered by a mix of hybrid energy sources (SG+RE) and is denoted by \( BS^{mix} \). The total bandwidth of the system \( W \) is shared among the BSs with a frequency reuse factor of one. We consider that the traffic load, on-grid energy price and RE are all varying over time.

B. Dynamic Network Operations

As illustrated in Fig. 1, we divide our observation time \( T \) into multiple one-hour periods, each with \( L \) time slots. Each slot \( s \) has a duration of \( 1/L \) hour. At each slot, we allocate RE and set the state of each BS (active or sleep) following the energy management strategies explained below.

1) RE allocation: The decision of allocating RE is managed through a local EMU installed at each BS \( \in BS^{mix} \). Based on the current traffic load and SoC of the battery, the EMU decides whether to use or store the harvested energy. The decisions of managing RE are detailed in Section IV.

2) BS sleep scheme: Based on the SINR measurements collected by all users, the centralized EMU controls the operational mode of the BSs (active or sleep) following our sleep mode strategy presented in [15]: SINR threshold-based method. This algorithm aggressively switches off candidate BSs \( (B^c) \) according to an SINR Switch-Off Threshold \( (SINR_{SOT}) \). While this algorithm considers only BSs \( \in BS^{grid} \) to be switched off, we extend the set \( B^c \) to include BSs \( \in BS^{mix} \). However, not all BSs \( \in BS^{mix} \) are candidates to switch off. In Section IV-B, we detail the required conditions for a BS \( \in BS^{mix} \) to join \( B^c \). The motivation behind this selection is to give the BSs consuming energy solely from the grid the priority to switch off, in order to increase the utilization of RE.

A candidate BS \( m \) switches off if the SINRs measured by the users served by BS \( m \) from neighboring BSs \( m' \) are above the \( SINR_{SOT} \):

\[
SINR_{m}(u) > SINR_{SOT}, \quad \forall u \in U_m, \quad m \in B^c \quad \text{and} \quad m' \in \{B \setminus m\}.
\]

Finally, we evaluate the hourly KPI metric for BS \( m \) at time \( t \), \( KPI_m(t) \), that is defined as the ratio between the total data volume (DV) transmitted and the energy consumed (E) during one hour.

C. Energy Consumption Model

In order to calculate the power consumption of the wireless cellular network, we use the power model provided by EARTH [16]. Accordingly, the power consumption of a BS consists of a static part \( P_0 \) and a traffic dependent part \( P_{out} \). Moreover, the power demand depends on the number of active RBs. Because of the nearly linear relationship that exists between the RF power and the BS power consumption, the power consumed by a BS at time slot \( i \) can be expressed as follows:

\[
P_{in,i} = \begin{cases} 
N_{tx}(P_0 + \frac{1}{L} n^{(i)}_{kb} \times \Delta_p \times P_{out}^{(i)}), & 0 < P_{out} \leq P_{max}, \\
N_{tx}P_{sleep}, & F_{out} = 0.
\end{cases}
\]

where \( N_{tx} \) is the number of transceivers. \( \Delta_p \) and \( P_{sleep} \) are the load dependent parameter and the power con-
where the harvested energy generated varies depending on the location and panel size. In Fig. 2, we illustrate an example of the harvested energy generated by BS 

\[ P = \text{RE power} \] 

and it depends on the energy harvesting policy.

Definition 1 (Global KPI): We denote by global KPI, the hourly performance evaluation of the EE of a BS including all the services it is providing. It is calculated as follows:

\[ KPI_{m}(t) = \frac{DV_{m}(t)}{E_{m}(t) - RE_{m}(t)} \] 

where \( RE_{m}(t) \) is the allocated RE for BS \( m \) at time \( t \), and it depends on the energy harvesting policy.

Definition 2 (Service KPI): The service \( i \) KPI is the hourly EE evaluation of service \( i \) provided by BS \( m \) as follows:

\[ KPI_{m}^{i}(t) = \frac{DV_{m}^{i}(t)}{E_{m}^{i}(t) - RE_{m}(t)} \] 

where \( DV_{m}^{i} \) is the volume of the transmitted data by service \( i \), and \( E_{m}^{i} \) is the energy consumed by this service. The latter is evaluated based on Shapley model presented in [13] and is summarized in the next subsection.

We now extend the above mentioned KPIs by defining a new metric scale under which we evaluate our EE-KPIs: Network KPI. This metric can be used to evaluate either global or services KPIs.

Definition 3 (Network KPI): The network KPI, \( KPI(t_{1}, t_{2}) \) is defined as the hourly average EE of the entire network including BSs in sleep mode, between times \( t_{1} \) and \( t_{2} \), where \( KPI(t_{1}, t_{2}) = [KPI_{1}(t_{1}), KPI_{2}(t_{1}), ..., KPI_{M}(t_{1})] \) and:

\[ KPI(t) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \frac{DV_{m}(t)}{E_{m}(t) - RE_{m}(t)} \] 

Since this metric is evaluated hourly, it takes hourly discrete values. For example, \( KPI(1, 24) = [KPI(1), KPI(2), ..., KPI(24)] \), where \( KPI(1) \) is evaluated at time \( t = 1 \) hour.

A. Shapley Model for Energy Sharing among Services

While it is easy to monitor the traffic volume consumed by service \( i \), its specific energy consumption, \( E_{i} \), is not intuitive. In order to evaluate the energy consumed by each service, we use the model proposed in [13] that estimates this energy based on Shapley Value, a coalition game concept.

The energy consumption of the network is composed of two components: a variable one \( \left(E^{v}\right) \) that varies with the traffic load and a fixed one \( \left(E^{f}\right) \) independent of the network load. These two components can be easily monitored using appropriate energy consumption models such as EARTH model (summarized in Section II-C). Similarly, we
can evaluate the energy consumed by service $i$ as follows:

$$E_i = E_i^f + E_i^v \tag{9}$$

While the variable part is shared among the services with proportion to the service traffic, i.e., $E_i^v = DV_i / DV_T \times E^v$ ($DV_T$ is the total data volume), the fixed part is estimated following Shapley Value as follows:

$$E_i^f = \theta_i \times E^f \tag{10}$$

where $\theta_i$ is the share of energy for service $i$ following Shapley Value, $N$ is the number of services (players), $p_i$ is the traffic portion ($p_i = DV_i / DV_T$), and $C_N^s$ is the binomial coefficient.

Compared to uniform and proportional sharing of fixed energy component, Shapley model achieves a trade-off among all services. That is to say, it does not penalize major services as much as proportional sharing, and it is also a good trade-off for small services as it does not condemn them with high fixed energy as in uniform sharing. By combining (7), (9) and (10), the EE-KPI of service $i$ is evaluated as follows:

$$KPI_i(t) = \frac{DV_i^m(t)}{\theta_i \times E_i^f(t) + \phi_i \times E_i^v(t) - RE_m(t)} \tag{12}$$

where $\phi_i$ is the proportional share of the service variable energy, $\phi_i = DV_i / DV_T$. $E_i^f$ and $E_i^v$ are calculated using EARTH model in Section II-C.

B. Problem Formulation

Considering both QoS and battery capacity constraints, we aim at maximizing the EE-KPI by the efficient use of RE. We consider a network of LTE BSs having a percentage of its sites equipped with RE. We assume that the BSs always have data to transmit. Our goal is to maximize the average network KPI over a time duration $T$. We express the optimization problem as follows:

$$\max_{RE(7), S(7)} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} KPI_i(t) \tag{13}$$

subject to:

Quality constraint:

$$r(u) \geq R_{min}, \forall u \in U_m, \forall m \in B \tag{14}$$

System constraint:

$$\frac{\sum_{u \in U_m} w_u}{W} \leq 1, \forall m \in B \tag{15}$$

$$P_m \leq P_{max} \tag{16}$$

where $w_u$ is the bandwidth allocated for user $u$, $RE$ and $S$ are the RE utilization for each BS equipped with RE and the state of each BS (active or sleep) in the network at each time horizon, respectively. $RE_m(t)$ and $B_m(t)$ are the allocated harvested energy and the available energy stored in the battery for BS $m$, at the beginning of stage time $t$, respectively; where $RE_m(t) = RE^m(t) - RE_m(t)$, and $RE_m(t)$ and $RE^m(t)$ are the stored energy and the harvested energy allocated by BS $m$ at time $t$, respectively.

Problem (13) is a non-convex fractional problem due to its objective function. In the next section, we propose a heuristic online algorithm that efficiently utilizes the harvested energy, and decides which BSs to switch to sleep state in order to improve the EE-KPI. The above formulated problem maximizes the network global KPI. The same problem can be formulated for the services KPIs.

IV. ADAPTATION OF ENERGY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Enhancing the EE-KPI requires maximizing the throughput of the network while minimizing the on-grid energy consumption. The two parameters that directly affect this improvement are traffic load and RE. SPAEMA, an energy management algorithm described in [9], is an online algorithm that decides how to manage RE (store it in battery or use it) based on the battery state of charge (SoC) and the price of electricity, in order to reduce the electric bill of the operator. Thus, it does not require any future knowledge of RE nor traffic load. In [9], we showed that SPAEMA outperforms the traditional algorithm that uses RE whenever it is available. However, since the objective has shifted from reducing the electric bill of the operator to increasing our EE-KPIs, adaptation of our previously proposed algorithm (SPAEMA) is needed to match our new objective. Thus, we propose a new algorithm that adapts SPAEMA to satisfy the newly introduced objective. Then we extend the proposed algorithm for further enhancement.

A. Proposed algorithm 1 - STAEMA

We suggest a Simplified Traffic-Aware Energy Management Algorithm (STAEMA) that is an adaptation of SPAEMA. The major motivation behind this adaptation is to preserve the simplicity of SPAEMA and avoid high complexity. In contrast to SPAEMA that ignores the traffic load of the network, which is an important parameter in our studied KPIs, our proposed algorithm manages the use of RE by taking into account the SoC of the battery and the traffic load. Similar to SPAEMA, we quantify each of the traffic and battery storage states into 3 discrete levels: low, medium and high. Table I shows the applied decisions for different cases.

The decisions summarized in the table below are designed to store the harvested energy in the battery when its SoC is low, and then use it at high traffic load. This
setup will minimize the waste of RE caused by battery overflow, and compensate for the increase in energy consumption caused by the increased traffic load. Both SPAEMA and STAEMA don’t allow BSs ∈ BS\text{mix} to switch to sleep mode. In the next algorithm, we extend the latter algorithm to allow hybrid powered BSs to switch to sleep mode.

**B. Proposed algorithm 2 - Extended-STAEMA**

Extended-STAEMA (Ext-STAEMA) allows BSs equipped with RE sources to switch to sleep mode. It modifies the candidate set \( B^c \) to include BSs ∈ BS\text{mix}.

When a BS switches to sleep mode, its EE-KPI drops to zero, since it is not transmitting data anymore, and hence, affecting the network EE-KPI as shown in Fig. 3. At \( t_1 \), both BSs are active (consuming energy and transmitting data) with different KPI values. At \( t_2 \), BS\text{2} switches to sleep mode. During this time, the users offload to BS\text{1}, increasing its data transmitted volume, thus increasing its KPI, while the KPI of BS\text{2} drops to zero. In order to better handle this degradation in the network EE-KPI, we decide to put the BSs equipped with RE sources to sleep, in the case where the traffic load is high and the battery SoC is low. The motivation behind this is to preserve the energy stored in the battery for a longer period of time and to enhance the KPI of the neighboring BSs by transmitting more data to the newly offloaded users. We summarize the decisions in Table II.

![Fig. 3: Illustration of the problem: At \( t_1 \), both BSs are active. At \( t_2 \), BS\text{2} switches to sleep mode, and its users offload to BS\text{1}.](image)

### Parameters’ values and assumptions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of BSs</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sectors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bandwidth</td>
<td>10 MHz, FDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum transmitted power</td>
<td>43 dBm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-cell distance</td>
<td>1000 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RB</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(BW_{RB})</td>
<td>180 KHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of users ( K )</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User min. required rate</td>
<td>1 Mb/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise power</td>
<td>-174 dBm/Hz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(P_0)</td>
<td>118.7 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\Delta_t)</td>
<td>5.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of slots per hour period</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery capacity</td>
<td>5 KWh</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Traffic proportions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Streaming</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Download</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other data</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### V. Simulation and Results

In this section, we provide simulation results to assess the network performance by evaluating the EE-KPIs of the services provided by a cellular network under the proposed algorithms. We obtain our results via Monte-Carlo method using MATLAB. The month of June is considered as an example to harvest RE, due to its high solar potential (7.08 kW/h/day/m²) [17]. We assume that the load is randomly distributed among the BSs following the traffic load variation in Fig. 2. We further consider five service categories: two large ones (streaming and web) and three smaller ones (download, voice and other minor data services). We set \( T = 24 \) hours and evaluate the KPI\(t\) on an hourly basis. From Eq. (6), whenever the harvested energy \( (RE_m(t)) \) is higher than the energy consumed by BS \( m \) \( (E_m(t)) \), the excess RE is stored in the battery. In Table III, we summarize the simulation parameters and traffic proportions of each service taken from a real European operator data set [13].
values are calculated in the absence of RE and energy management strategies. From the obtained results, we observe that the EE-KPIs of the services are proportional to their traffic volumes, i.e., the larger the service is, the higher is its KPI. And even though Shapley energy model puts more weight on larger service categories, their EE-KPI is higher due to their increased traffic volume.

In Fig. 5, we evaluate the impact of RE and sleep scheme under the Extended-STAEMA on the streaming service network EE-KPI. We will focus on streaming service due to its high impact on the KPI as shown in Fig. 4.

Using solar panels that only harvest 35% of the total energy demand at full load, we are able to enhance the EE-KPI by about a factor of 10 when 25% of the sites are equipped with RE and by roughly 40-times when all the BSs of the network are equipped with RE. This significant increase in the KPI is demonstrated in Eq. (8). From this equation, this metric can go up to very large values when significant amount of RE is available, i.e., when this amount is equal to the energy required by the BS. However, and in order to handle these massive EE-KPIs, we set them to high values compared to the average network KPI. On the other hand, when sleep scheme is applied we observe a slight decrease in the network EE-KPI (≈ 9%). The reason behind this is twofold. First, the network EE-KPI takes into account operational and inactive (sleep) BSs having positive and zero KPIs, respectively. So the more inactive BSs we have, the less the network EE-KPI becomes. The second reason occurs when a BS goes to sleep mode and some of its users offload to another BS equipped with RE source. In this case, both the energy demand and the data volume transmitted by the latter BS will increase. However, if this happens at the end of the day, when the battery storage is suffering due to low RE, this increase in energy demand might force the BS to draw energy from the grid in order to compensate for this surge in energy consumption. This will result in a significant drop in its KPI, especially since it was solely relying on its green stored energy. We will show next that despite this inconvenience, some energy savings can be attained with sleep strategy.

**B. Adaption of energy management techniques**

We use greedy algorithm and SPAEMA as benchmarks to compare with our proposed algorithms. In greedy algorithm, the BS uses the harvested energy whenever available and stores the excess RE in the battery. Fig. 6 illustrates the performance of the network streaming EE-KPI for different percentages of sites equipped with RE without sleep mode. The system achieves the lowest EE-KPI when the energy allocation policy does not take into account traffic volume (greedy and SPAEMA). On the other hand, STAEMA results in an enhancement in the EE-KPI up to 11.45% in comparison with the other two. The reason behind the similar performances of greedy and SPAEMA algorithms is that they both ignore traffic load variations.

In Fig. 7, we present the results in the case of sleep scheme. Ext-STAEMA algorithm, that widens the candidate set of BSs allowed to switch to sleep mode to include BSs equipped with RE, performs slightly better than STAEMA (≈ 2%). This tells us that under these traffic-aware algorithms, our EE-KPI has reached its limit. The reason is because our metric does not valorize grid energy savings of the network. Despite having similar performances of EE-KPI, Ext-STAEMA saves more energy than the other algorithms (up to 8% more savings), as shown in Table IV. This can be explained by the wider set of BSs that can be put to sleep mode, and thus saving more energy.

**TABLE IV:** Total energy savings of the network.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Algorithms</th>
<th>Total Energy Savings (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% of sites equipped with RE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greedy</td>
<td>37.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAEMA</td>
<td>37.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAEMA</td>
<td>38.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ext-STAEMA</td>
<td>40.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VI. Conclusion**

In this paper, we have studied advanced services-based energy KPIs. These metrics are important for the evaluation of future cellular networks by putting forward the contribution of each service to energy consumption. Our research focuses on the adaptation of energy management techniques.
management strategies with the objective of having better energy indicators for each of the services.

The context studied allows to investigate different parameter choices. For instance, we can study the impact of the type of batteries used, their capacities and their ageing calender on the performance of cellular networks in terms of EE.

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