



Modeling and performance evaluation of General Packet Radio Service

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Roadmap

- Introduction
- GPRS overview
- OPNET network simulator
- GPRS OPNET model:
 - cell update
 - radio link control/medium access control
 - base station subsystem GPRS protocol
- Simulation scenarios and results
- Conclusions and future work



Introduction

- General Packet Radio Service (GPRS):
 - bearer service for Global System for Mobile communications: GSM
 - frequencies:
 - Europe: 900 MHz and 1,800 MHz
 - North America: 850 MHz and 1,900 MHz
 - offers data transmission rates up to 171.2 kbps
 - precursor to 3G cellular networks such as Universal Mobile Telecommunications Systems: UMTS



Introduction

- GPRS introduces two new support nodes in the existing GSM network:
 - Serving GPRS Support Node: **SGSN**
 - Gateway GPRS Support Node: **GGSN**
- GSNs form the core of a GPRS system
- 3G systems such as UMTS utilizes the two GSNs with some modifications
- GPRS provides a low cost migration from 2G GSM networks to 3G networks



Introduction

- General Packet Radio Service (GPRS):
 - radio channels may be concurrently shared among several users
 - radio resources are allocated when users send or receive data
 - users may always be connected to the network
 - billing may be based on traffic volume
 - offers data transmission rates up to 171.2 kbps



Contributions

- We developed a simulation model for GPRS using the OPNET network simulator
- The developed model includes implementation of:
 - wireless links
 - base station subsystem
 - cell update procedure
 - radio link control/medium access control (RLC/MAC)
 - base station subsystem GPRS (BSSGP) protocol

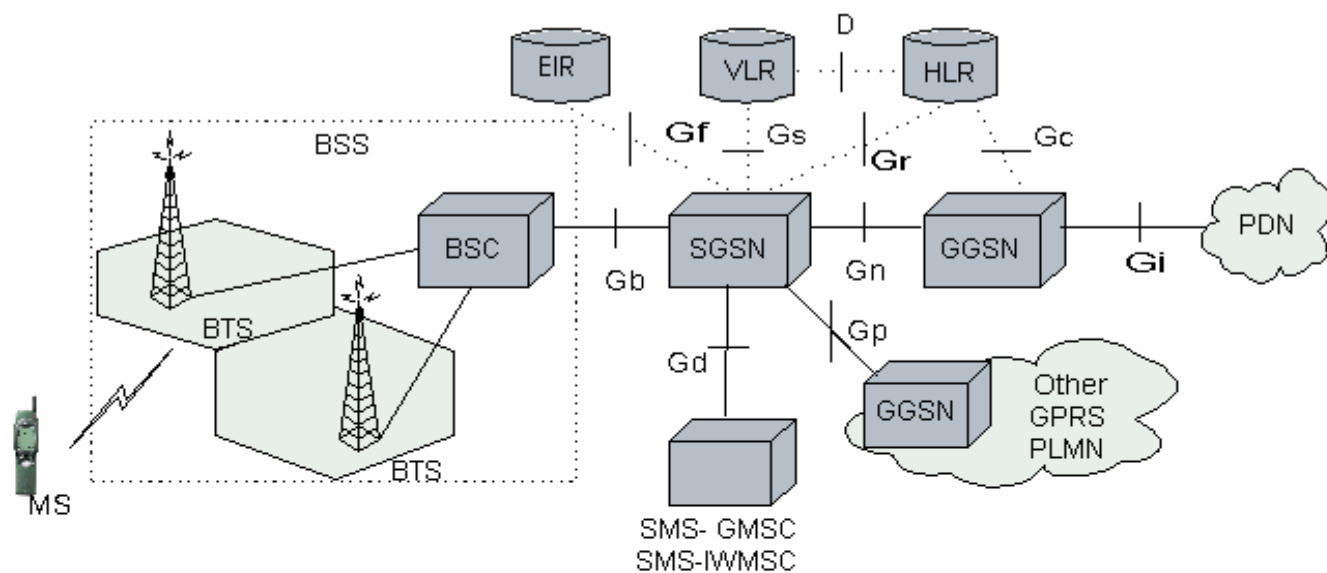


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GPRS overview: system architecture



————— User data and signaling data
 Signaling data

MS: Mobile Station
BTS: Base Transceiver Station
BSC: Base Station Controller
BSS: Base Station Subsystem
SGSN: Serving GPRS Support Node
GGSN: Gateway GPRS Support Node
PDN: Packet Data Network

EIR: Equipment Identity Register
VLR: Visitor Location Register
HLR: Home Location Register
SMS: Short Message Service
MSC: Mobile Switching Center
SMS-GMSC: SMS-Gateway MSC
SMS-IWMSC: SMS-Interworking MSC
PLMN: Public Land Mobile Network

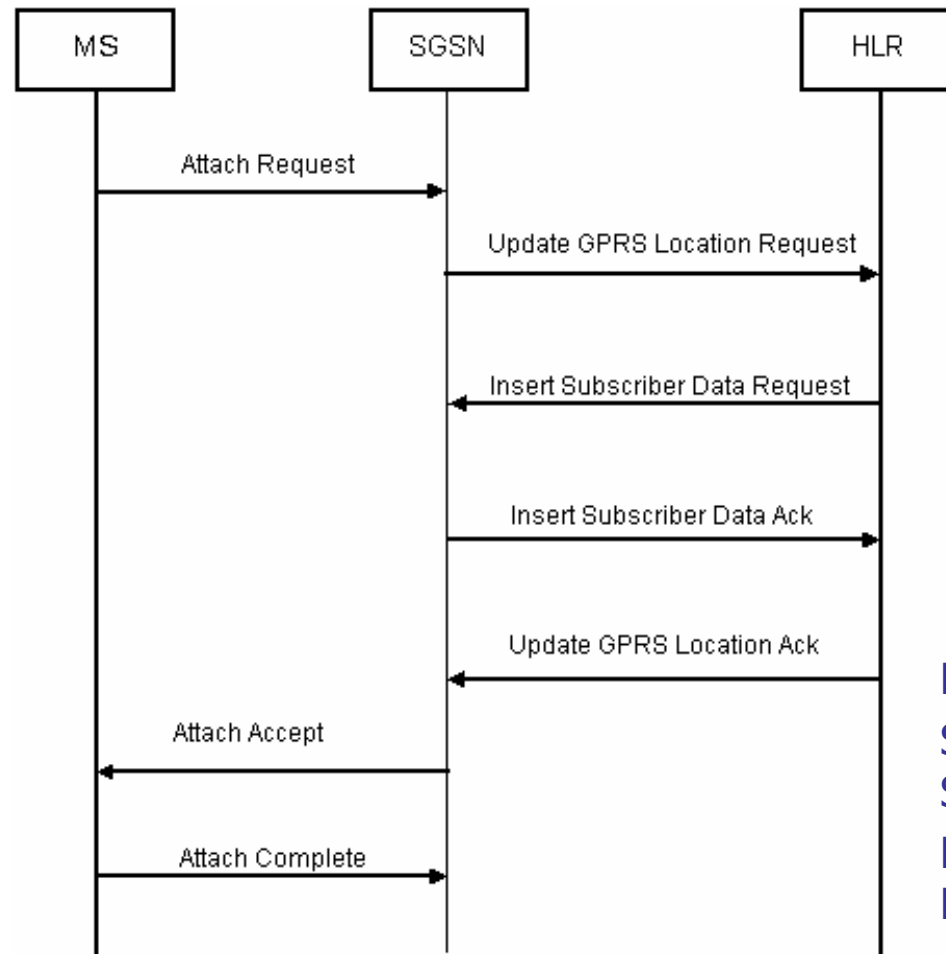


GPRS procedures

- MS performs a series of signaling procedures to send data:
 - GPRS attach:
 - MS sends attach request to SGSN
 - SGSN verifies the authenticity of the MS with HLR
 - PDP context activation
 - MS is attached to an SGSN
 - PDP context deactivation
 - GPRS detach



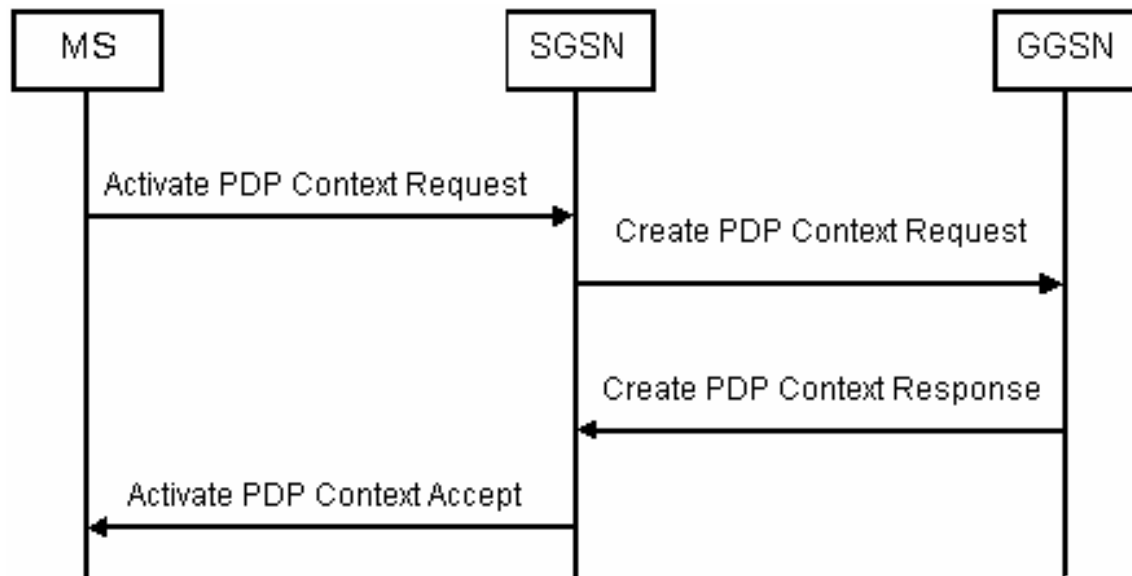
GPRS overview: attach procedure



MS: Mobile Station
SGSN: Serving GPRS
Support Node
HLR: Home Location
Register



GPRS overview: activate procedure



MS: Mobile Station

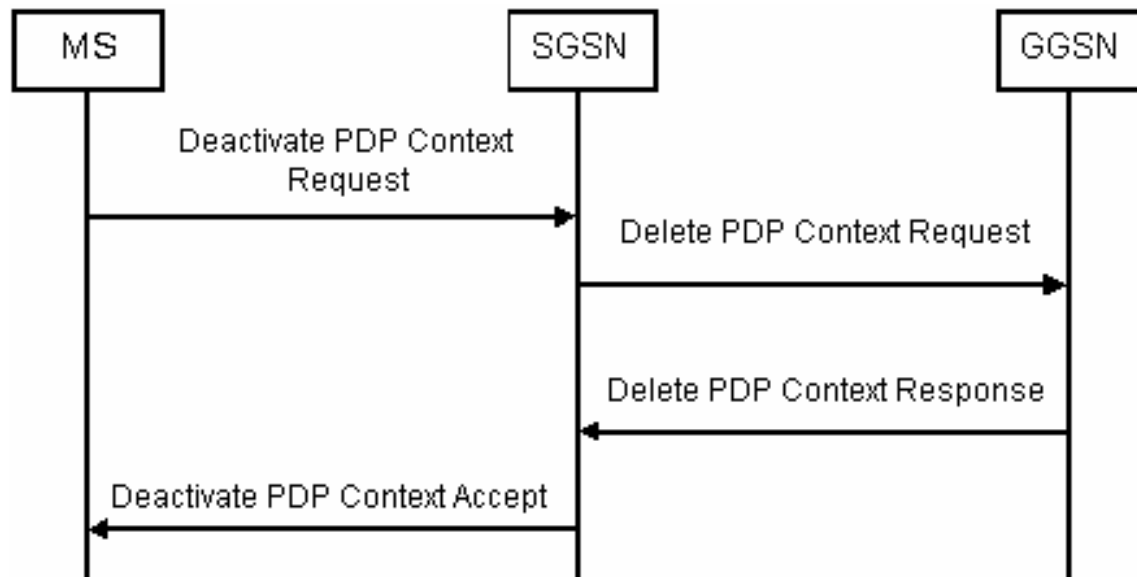
SGSN: Serving GPRS Support Node

GGSN: Gateway GPRS Support Node

PDP: Packet Data Protocol



GPRS overview: deactivate procedure



MS: Mobile Station

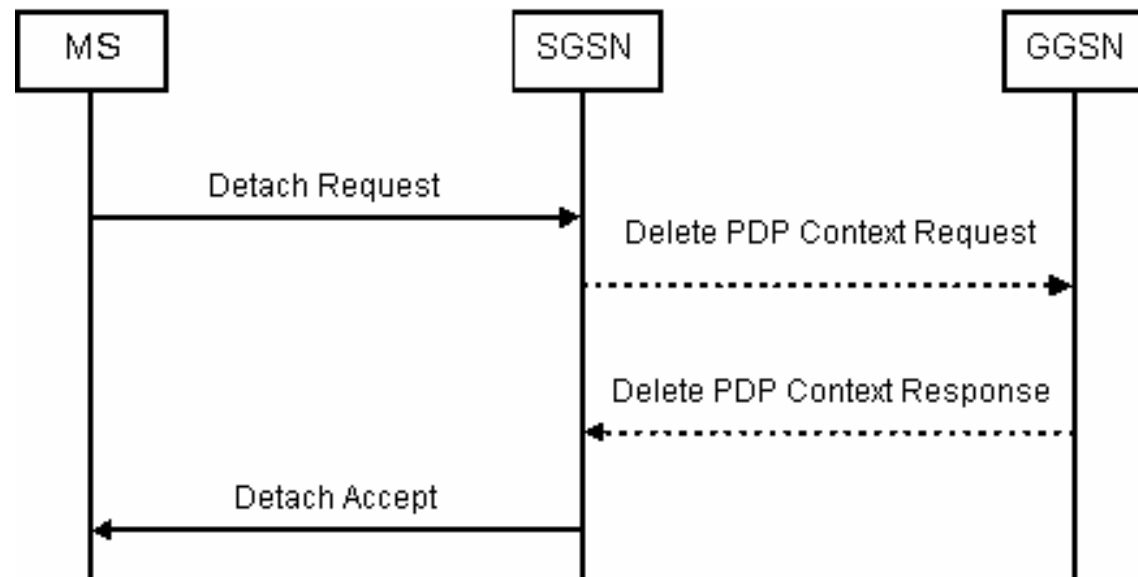
SGSN: Serving GPRS Support Node

GGSN: Gateway GPRS Support Node

PDP: Packet Data Protocol



GPRS overview: detach procedure



MS: Mobile Station

SGSN: Serving GPRS Support Node

GGSN: Gateway GPRS Support Node

PDP: Packet Data Protocol



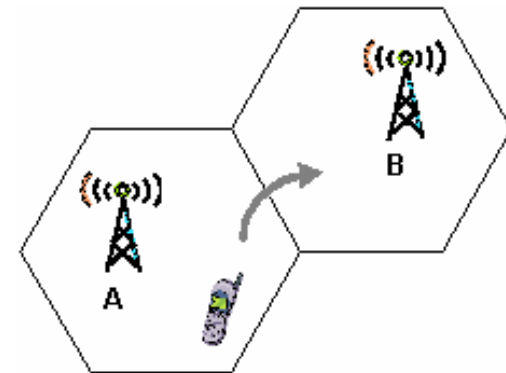
GPRS overview: quality of service (QoS)

- Defined in terms of one or a combination of attributes:
 - **delay class** defines the end-to-end transfer delay incurred in the transmission of Service Data Units (SDUs)
 - **peak throughput class** specifies the expected maximum rate for data transfer across the network for an individual data transfer session
 - **mean throughput class** specifies the expected average data transfer rate across the network during the remaining lifetime of a data transfer session

SDUs: data units accepted by the upper layers of the GPRS protocol stack and transmitted through the network

GPRS overview: cell update (reselection)

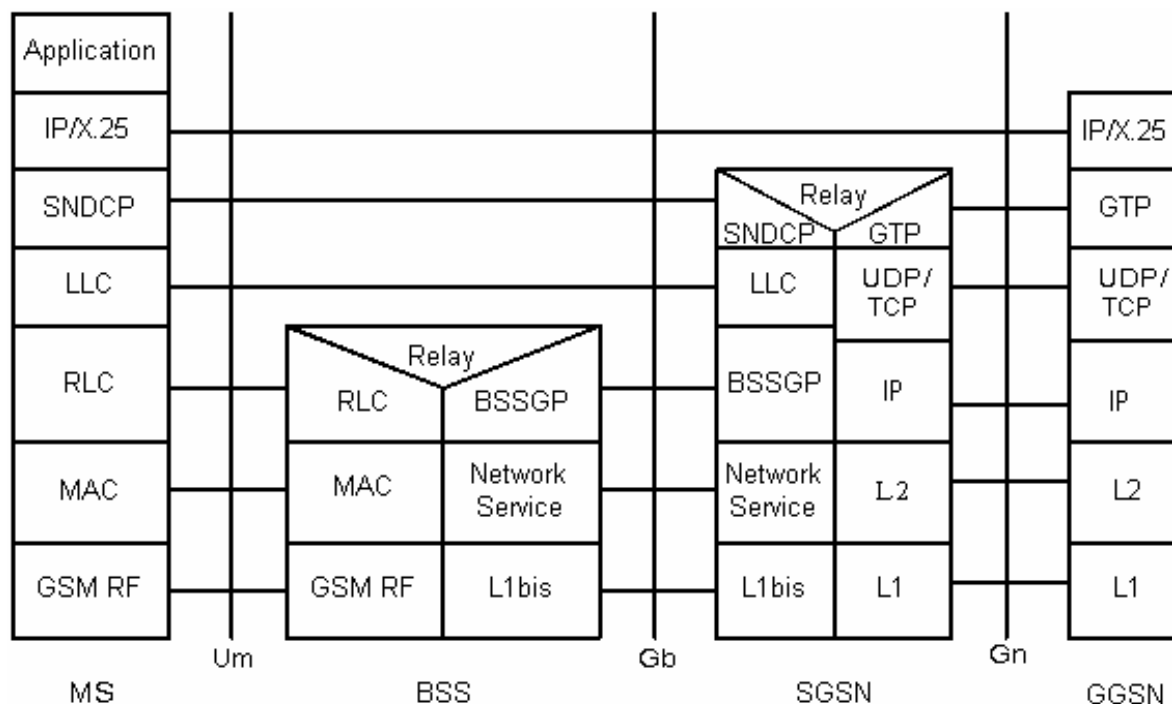
- Controlled by the mobile or the network
- Based on the received signal level measurements performed by the MS
- Three cell reselection modes:
 - **NC0**: MS performs autonomous cell reselection without sending measurement reports to the network
 - **NC1**: GPRS mobile controls the cell reselection process and sends the measurement reports to the network
 - **NC2**: Network controls the cell reselection procedure



NC: Network Control



GPRS transmission plane protocol stack



SNDCP: Subnetwork Dependent Convergence Protocol

LLC: Logical Link Control

MAC: Medium Access Control

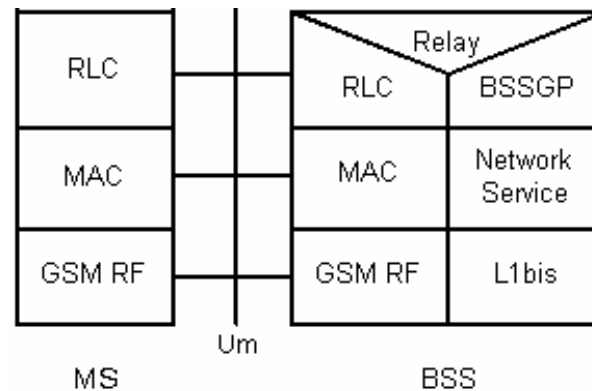
BSSGP: Base Station Subsystem GPRS Protocol

RLC: Radio Link Control

GTP: GPRS Tunneling Protocol



GPRS overview: air interface



Um: unlimited mobility

- Radio channel connection between an MS and a BTS
- Distinct frequencies in **uplink** (MS to BSS) and **downlink** (BSS to MS) directions
- Combination of **TDMA** and **FDMA** schemes

TDMA: Time Division Multiple Access

FDMA: Frequency Division Multiple Access

MS: Mobile Station

BSS: Base Station Subsystem



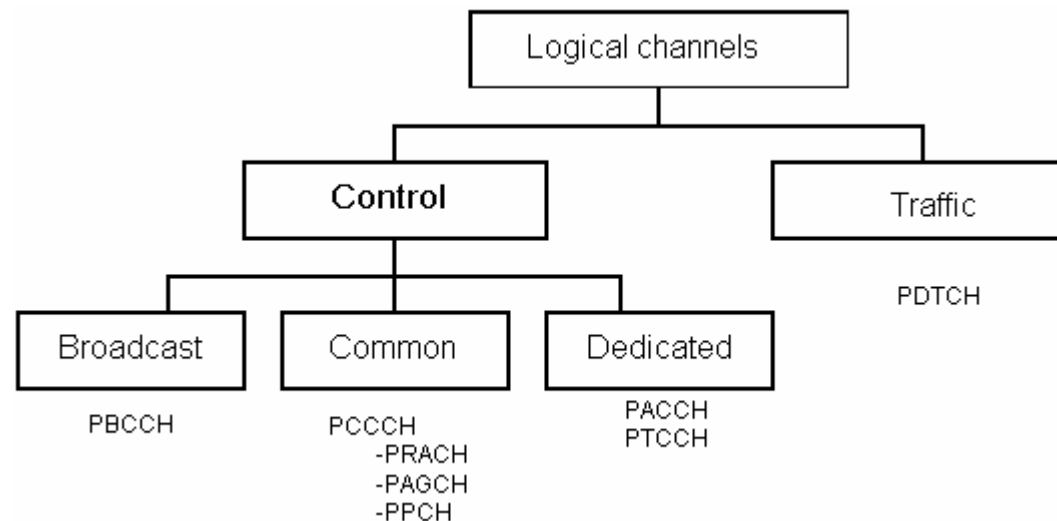
GPRS overview: air interface

- Physical channel is defined as a radio frequency channel and a time slot pair
- Logical channels are mapped onto physical channels
 - Packet Data Channels (PDCHs)
- GPRS employs four coding schemes: CS-1 to CS-4
 - 9.05 kbps, 13.4 kbps, 15.6 kbps, 21.04 kbps



Physical and logical channels

- Packet Data Channel (PDCH): physical channel used for packet logical channels



PBCCH: Packet Broadcast Control Channel
PCCCH: Packet Common Control Channel
PRACH: Packet Random Access Channel
PAGCH: Packet Access Grant Channel

PPCH: Packet Paging Channel
PACCH: Packet Associated Control Channel
PTCCH: Packet Timing Advance Control Channel
PDTCH: Packet Data Traffic Channel



GPRS overview: RLC/MAC

- Radio Link Control layer:
 - segments and reassembles LLC PDUs into RLC/MAC blocks
 - acknowledged operation
 - unacknowledged operation
- Medium Access Control layer:
 - controls the allocation of channels and timeslots
 - multiplexes data and control signals
 - provides contention resolution

LLC: Logical Link Control
PDU: Protocol Data Unit



GPRS overview: RLC/MAC

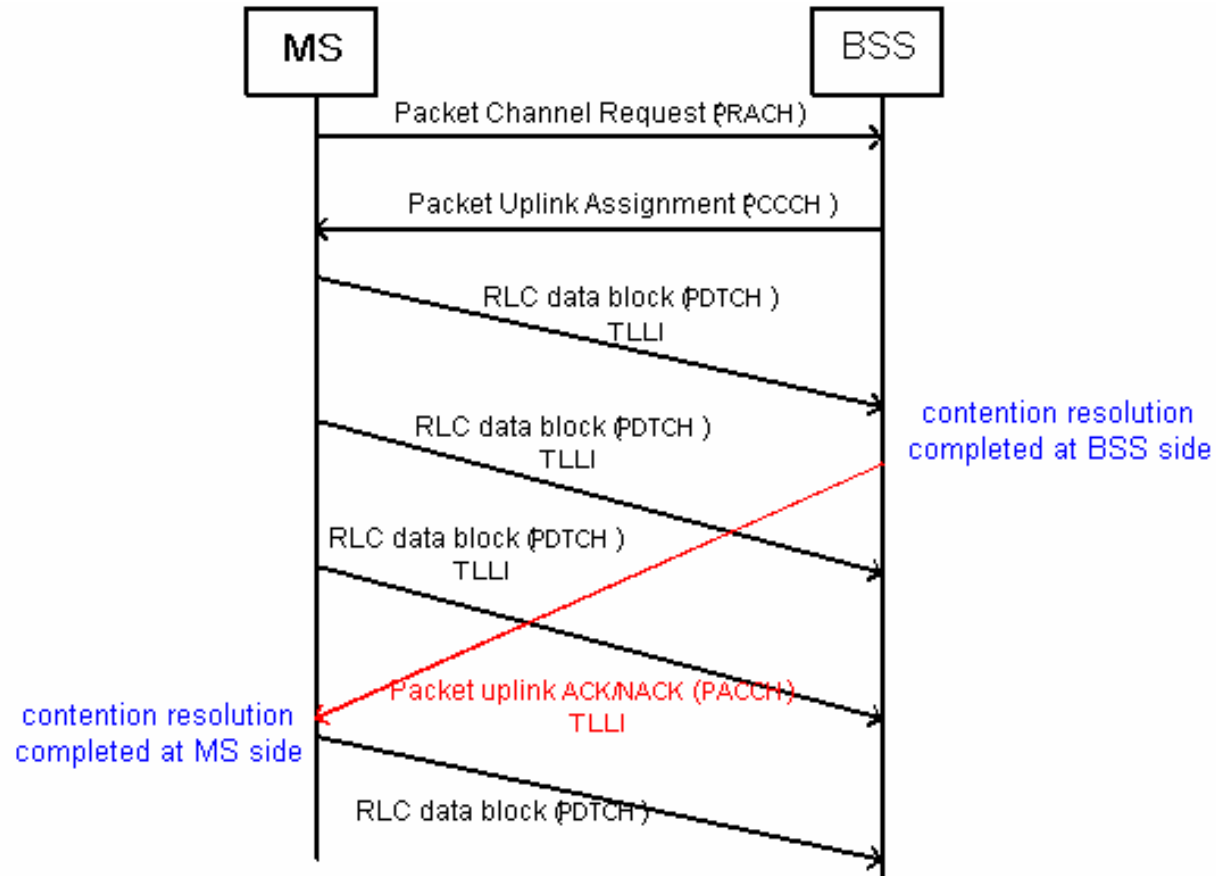
- Temporary Block Flow (TBF) established between two RLC/MAC entities:
 - established for the period of data transfer
 - released immediately after the data transfer
 - Temporary Flow Identity (TFI) assigned to each TBF
- Medium allocation modes:
 - **fixed**: fixed allocation of radio blocks and PDCHs
 - **dynamic**: dynamic allocation of radio blocks using Uplink State Flag (USF)
 - **extended dynamic**: dynamic allocation of a range of radio blocks using USF



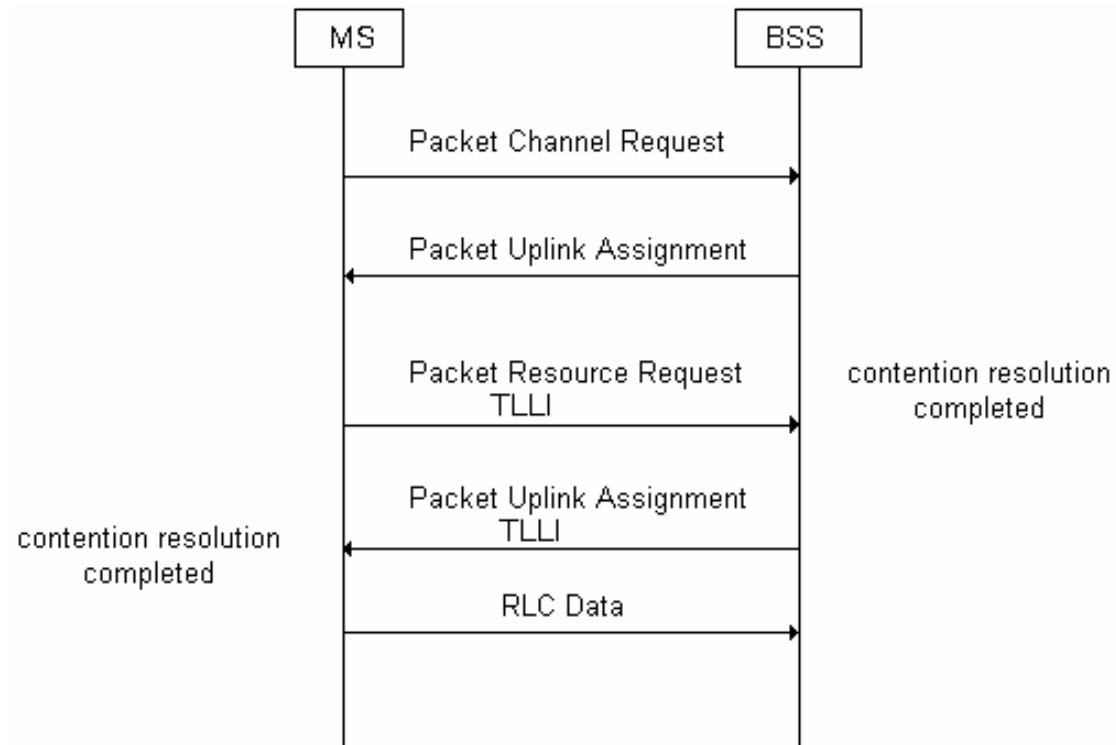
GPRS overview: RLC/MAC

- GPRS network may support fixed or dynamic allocation mode
- Procedures for uplink TBF establishment:
 - one-phase access procedure: number of resources required is indicated in a **channel request** message
 - two-phase access procedure: number of resources required is indicated in a **packet resource request** message

One phase access and contention resolution



Two phase access and contention resolution





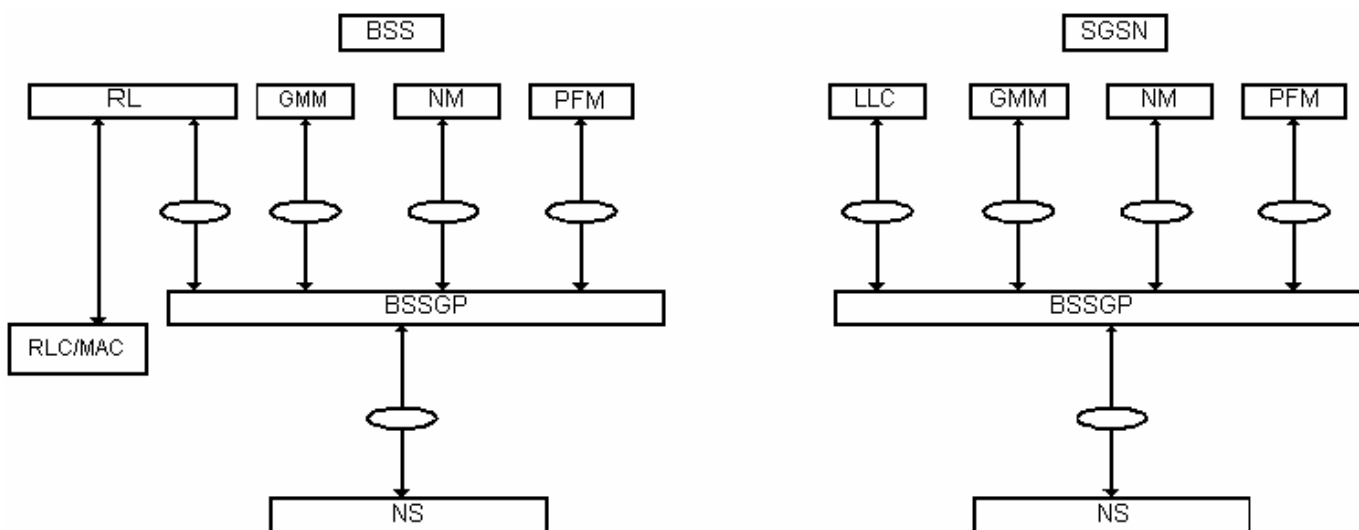
GPRS overview: BSSGP

- Controls the transfer of upper layer PDUs between an MS and an SGSN
- Service primitives provided at the BSS to control the transfer of PDUs between RLC/MAC and BSSGP:
 - RL-DL-UNITDATA
 - RL-UL-UNITDATA
 - RL-PTM-UNITDATA
- Service primitives provided at an SGSN to control the transfer of PDUs between the SGSN and BSC:
 - BSSGP-DL-UNITDATA
 - BSSGP-UL-UNITDATA
 - BSSGP-PTM-UNITDATA

BSSGP: Base Station Subsystem
GPRS Protocol



Base Station Subsystem GPRS Protocol (BSSGP): Service Model



BSS: Base Station Subsystem
SGSN: Serving GPRS Support Node
RL: Relay
GMM: GPRS Mobility Management
NM: Network Management
PFM: Packet Flow Management
LLC: Logical Link Control
BSSGP: Base Station Subsystem GPRS Protocol
NS: Network Service
○ SAP: Service Access Point



GPRS overview: BSSGP

- Controls the transfer of upper layer PDUs between an MS and an SGSN
- Service primitives provided at the BSS to control the transfer of PDUs between RLC/MAC and BSSGP:
 - RL-DL-UNITDATA
 - RL-UL-UNITDATA
- Service primitives provided at an SGSN to control the transfer of PDUs between the SGSN and BSC:
 - BSSGP-DL-UNITDATA
 - BSSGP-UL-UNITDATA

BSSGP: Base Station Subsystem GPRS Protocol
UNITDATA: unacknowledged data

RL: radio link
DL: downlink
UL: uplink



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OPNET network simulator

- Discrete event simulator
- Hierarchical model paralleling the structure of deployed networks:
 - network models
 - node models
 - process models

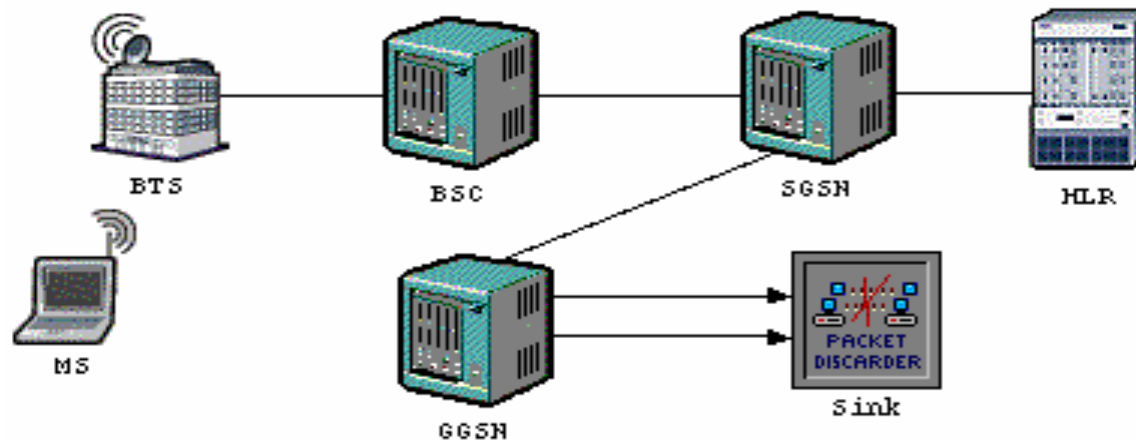


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GPRS OPNET model

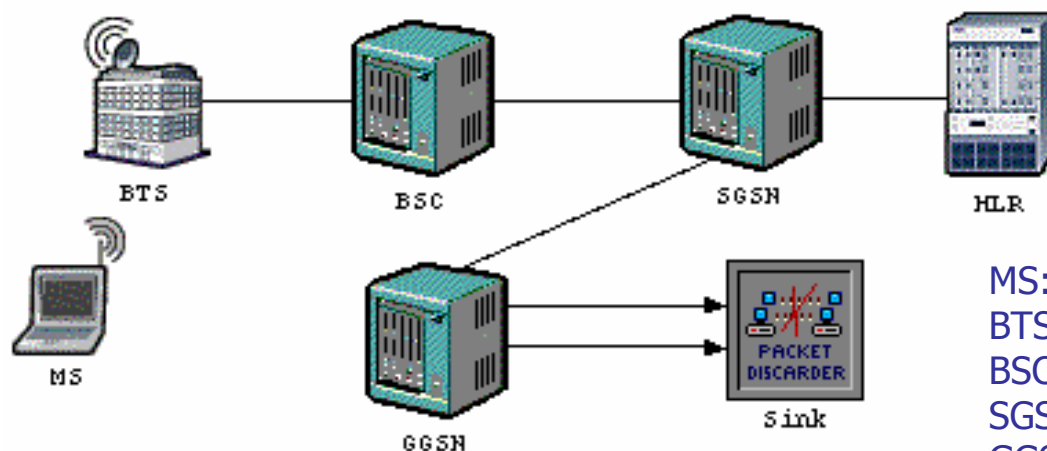
- The sink acts as an external packet data network (PDN)



MS: Mobile Station
 BTS: Base Transceiver Station
 BSC: Base Station Controller

SGSN: Serving GPRS Support Node
 GGSN: Gateway GPRS Support Node
 HLR: Home Location Register

GPRS OPNET model



MS: Mobile Station

BTS: Base Transceiver Station

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SGSN: Serving GPRS Support Node

GGSN: Gateway GPRS Support Node

HLR: Home Location Register

R. Ng and Lj. Trajković, "Simulation of general packet radio service network," *OPNETWORK*, Washington, DC, Aug. 2002.

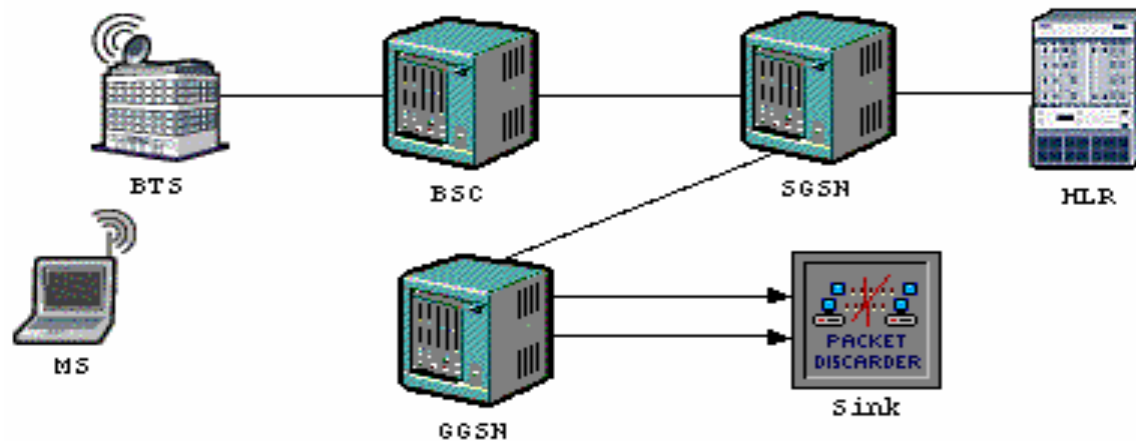
V. Vukadinović and Lj. Trajković, "OPNET implementation of the Mobile Application Part protocol," *OPNETWORK*, Washington, DC, Aug. 2003.

R. Narayanan, P. Chan, M. Johansson, F. Zimmermann, and Lj. Trajković, "Enhanced general packet radio service OPNET model," *OPNETWORK*, Washington, DC, Aug. 2004.



GPRS OPNET model

- Includes models for:
 - MS, BTS, BSC, SGSN, GGSN, HLR, and a sink
- The sink acts as an external packet data network (PDN)



MS: Mobile Station
BTS: Base Transceiver Station
BSC: Base Station Controller

SGSN: Serving GPRS Support Node
GGSN: Gateway GPRS Support Node
HLR: Home Location Register



GPRS OPNET model

- GPRS model supports:
 - unidirectional data flow
 - bi-directional signal flow
 - six BTSs
 - raw traffic generation
 - autonomous cell update: **NC0**
 - GPRS mobility management procedures: **attach**, **activate**, **deactivate**, and **detach**
- MSs in the developed model support only GPRS services
- One packet data protocol context per MS



GPRS OPNET model

- GGSN transmits packets to the external PDN based on two Quality of Service (QoS) **mean throughput classes**:
 - slow link: mean throughput = 10,000 octets/hour
 - fast link: mean throughput = 20,000 octets/hour
- SGSN employs a first-in-first-out (FIFO) scheme to handle messages

GGSN: Gateway GPRS Support Node

SGSN: Serving GPRS Support Node

Mean throughput class specifies the expected average data transfer rate across the network during the remaining lifetime of a data transfer session

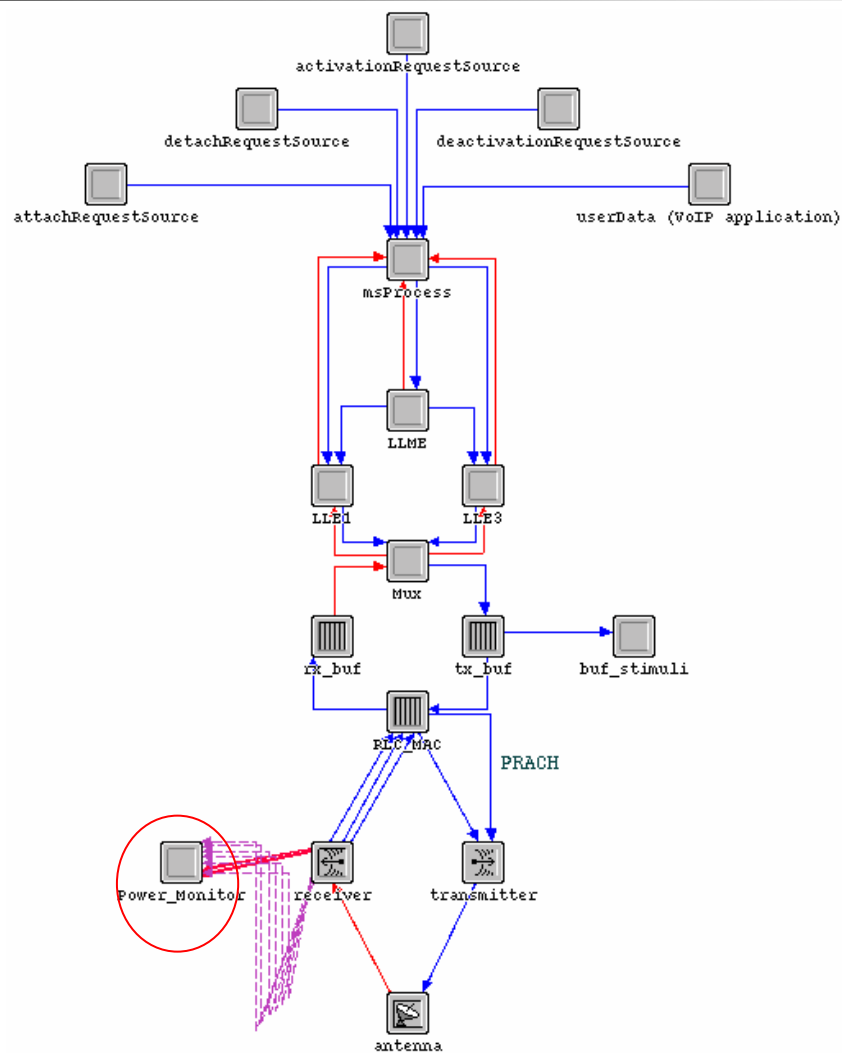


Roadmap

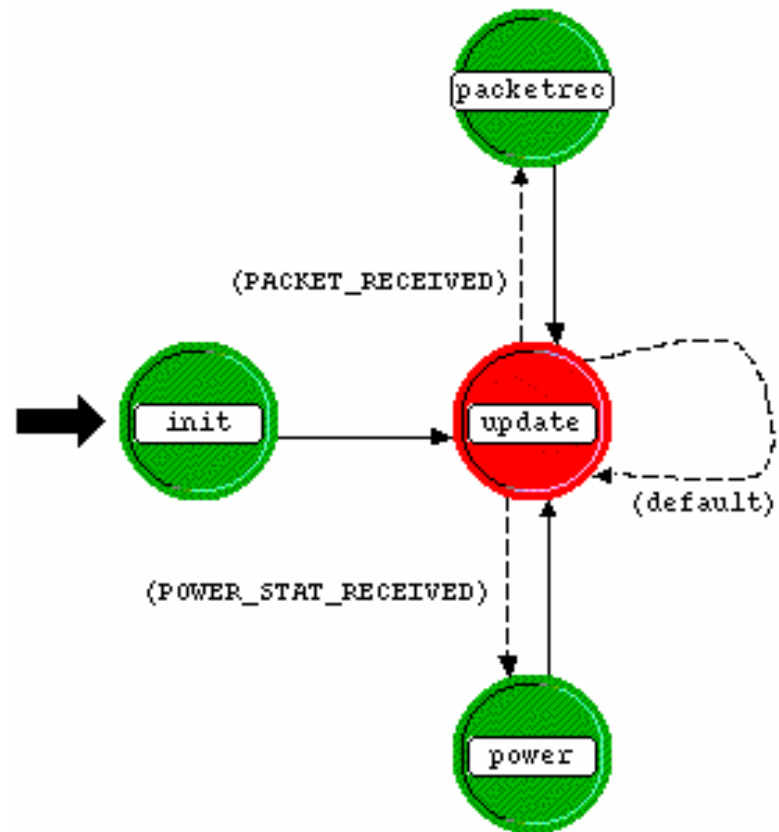
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Cell update: MS node model



Cell update: power-monitor process model





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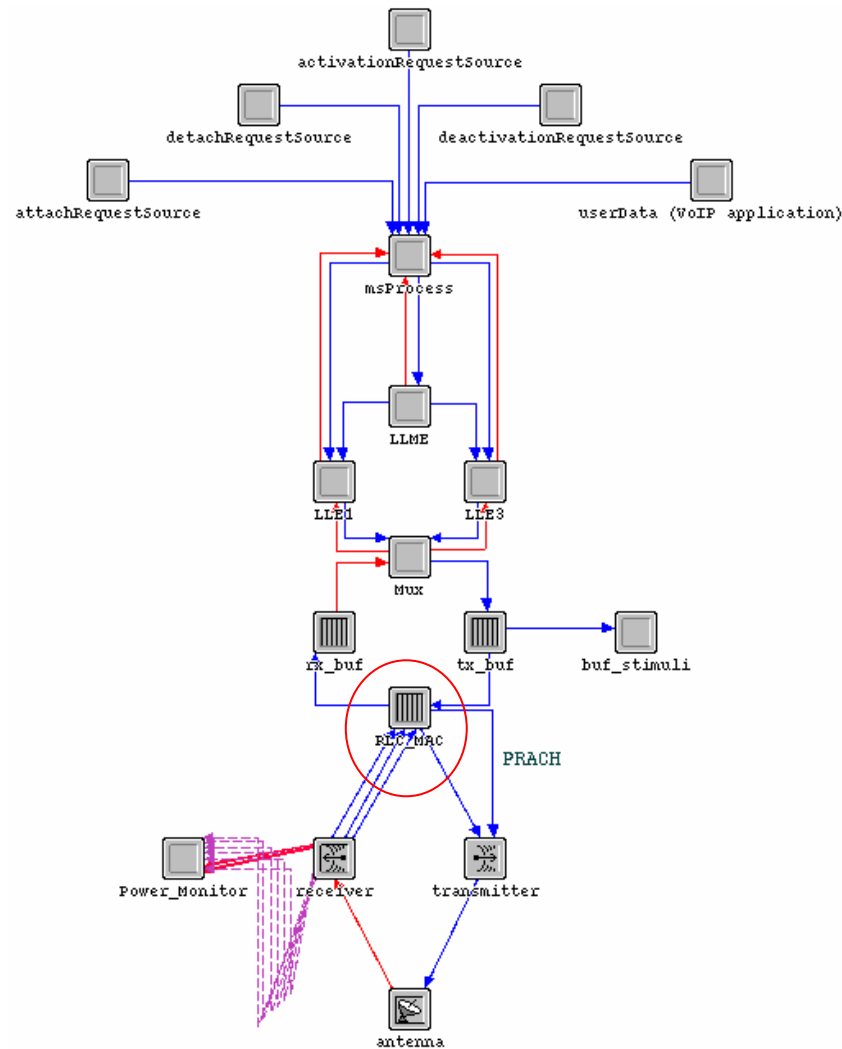


RLC/MAC implementation

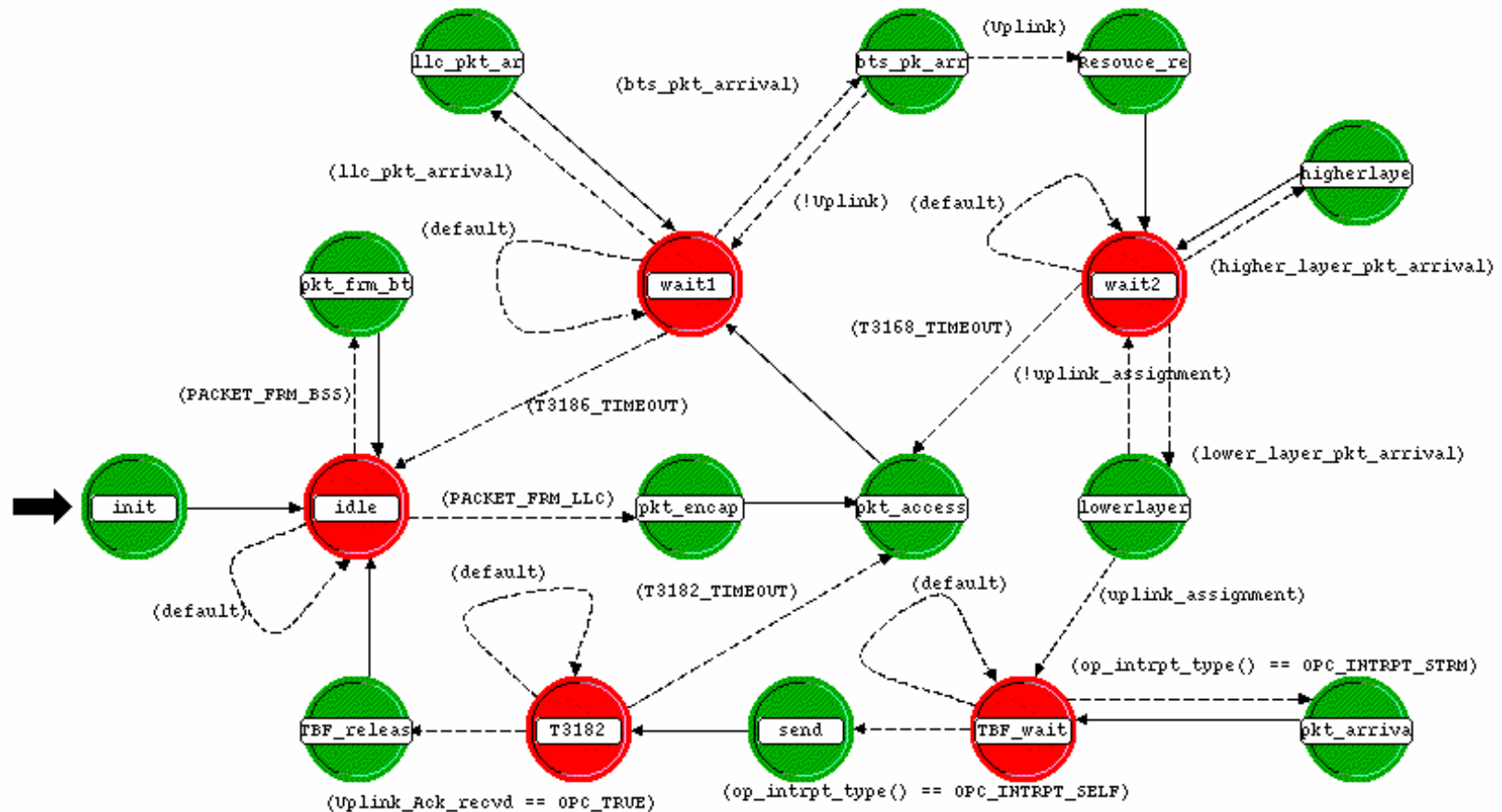
- Unacknowledged RLC mode
- Fixed allocation medium access mode
- Two-phase access procedure
- CS-1 coding scheme: 9.05 kbps
- Dedicated channel for channel requests
- Base station employs a first-in-first-out (FIFO) mechanism to allocate resources

RLC/MAC: Radio Link Control/Medium Access Control

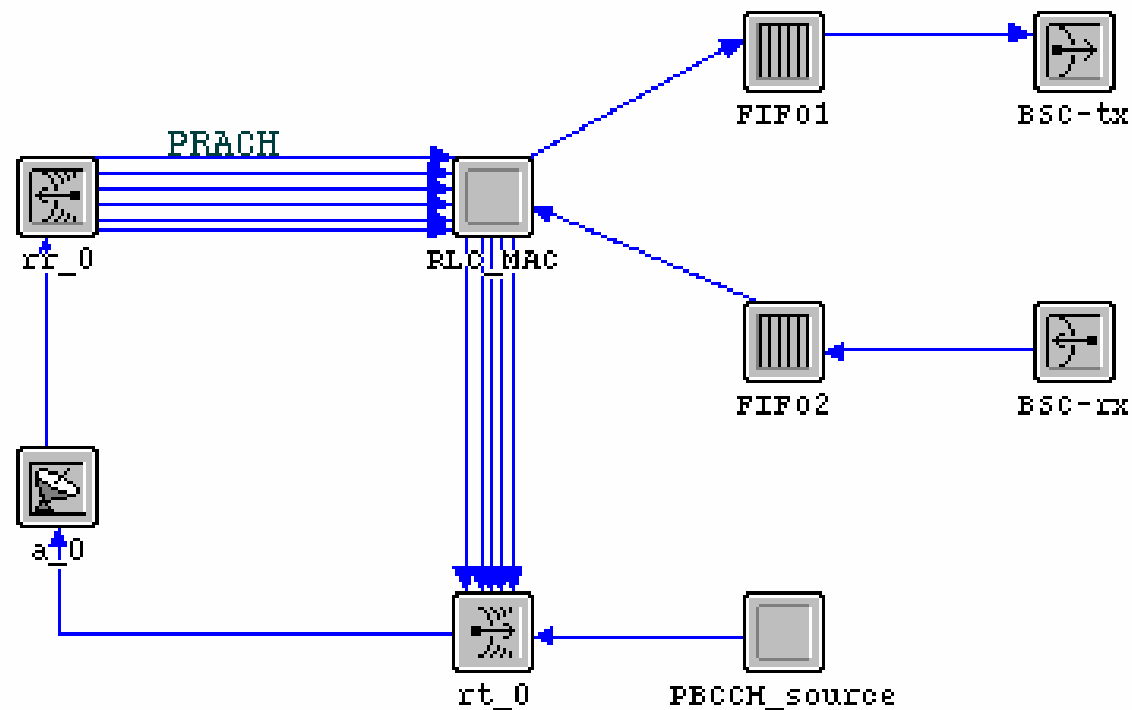
RLC/MAC implementation: MS node model



RLC/MAC implementation: MS process model



RLC/MAC implementation: BTS node model

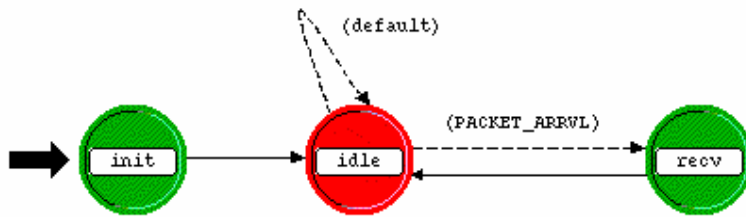


BTS: Base Transceiver Station
BSC: Base Station Controller

RLC/MAC implementation: BTS process model

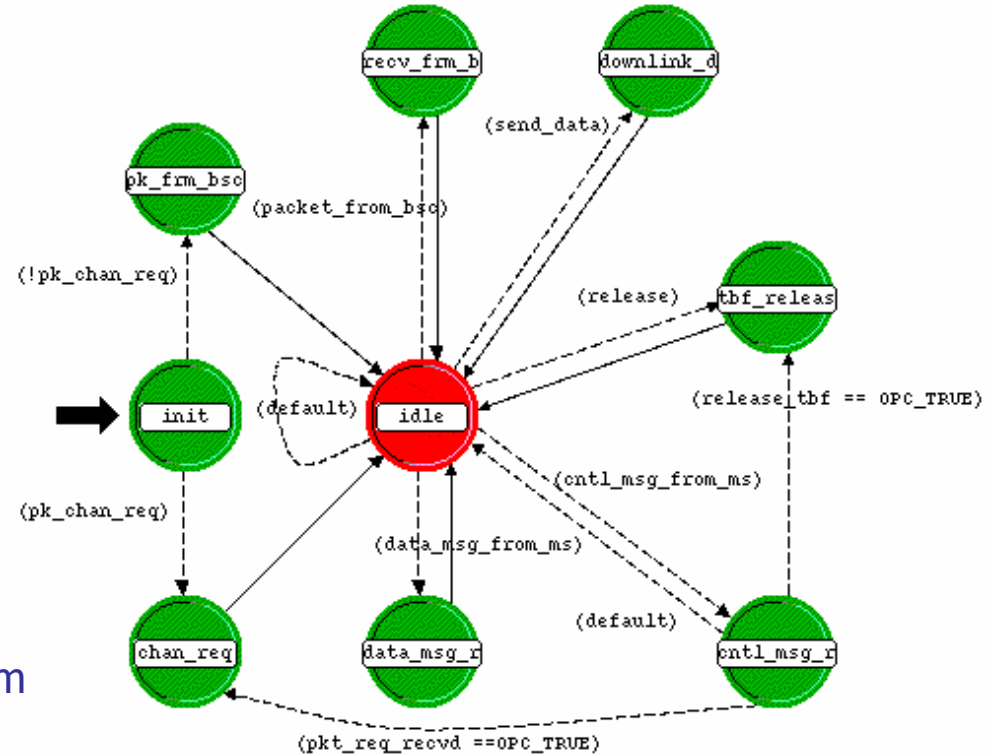


Parent BTS process model



RLC/MAC: Radio Link Control/Medium
Access Control
BTS: Base Transceiver Station

Child BTS process model





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BSSGP implementation

- Service primitives implemented:
 - RL-DL-UNITDATA
 - RL-UL-UNITDATA
 - BSSGP-DL-UNITDATA
 - BSSGP-UL-UNITDATA

BSSGP: Base Station Subsystem GPRS Protocol

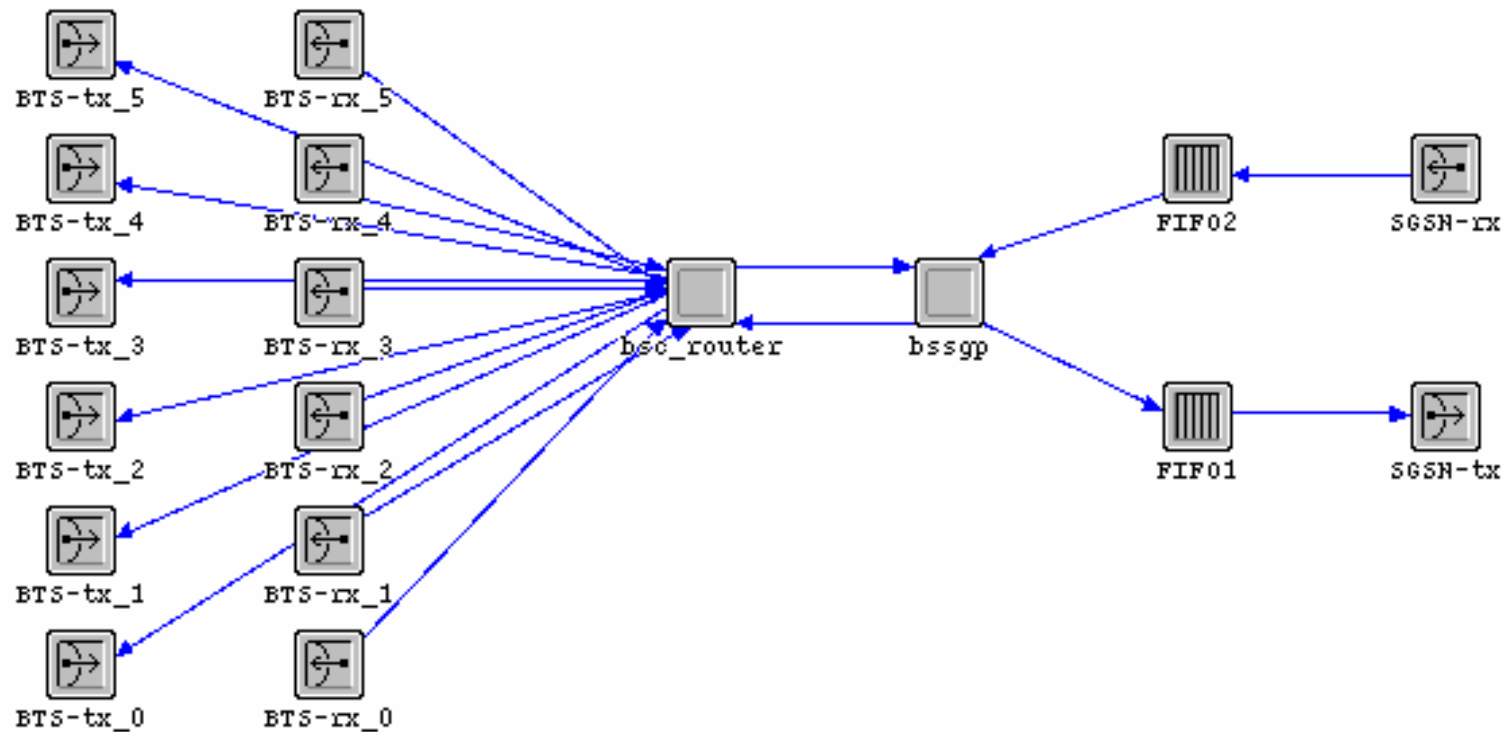
RL: radio link

DL: downlink

UL: uplink

UNITDATA: unacknowledged data

BSSGP implementation: BSC node model



BSSGP: Base Station Subsystem GPRS Protocol
BSC: Base Station Controller
SGSN: Serving GPRS Support Node

Simulation results: Mobile states after simulation



SGSN MM and PDP Context after simulation

MM State 0 = detached, 1 = Attached

Attached + Is Active = Activated

=====

IMSI:	0	MM State:	0	Is Active:	0
IMSI:	1	MM State:	0	Is Active:	0
IMSI:	2	MM State:	0	Is Active:	0
IMSI:	3	MM State:	1	Is Active:	0
IMSI:	4	MM State:	1	Is Active:	1
IMSI:	-1	MM State:	0	Is Active:	0
IMSI:	-1	MM State:	0	Is Active:	0
IMSI:	-1	MM State:	0	Is Active:	0
IMSI:	-1	MM State:	0	Is Active:	0
IMSI:	-1	MM State:	0	Is Active:	0
IMSI:	-1	MM State:	0	Is Active:	0
IMSI:	-1	MM State:	0	Is Active:	0
IMSI:	-1	MM State:	0	Is Active:	0

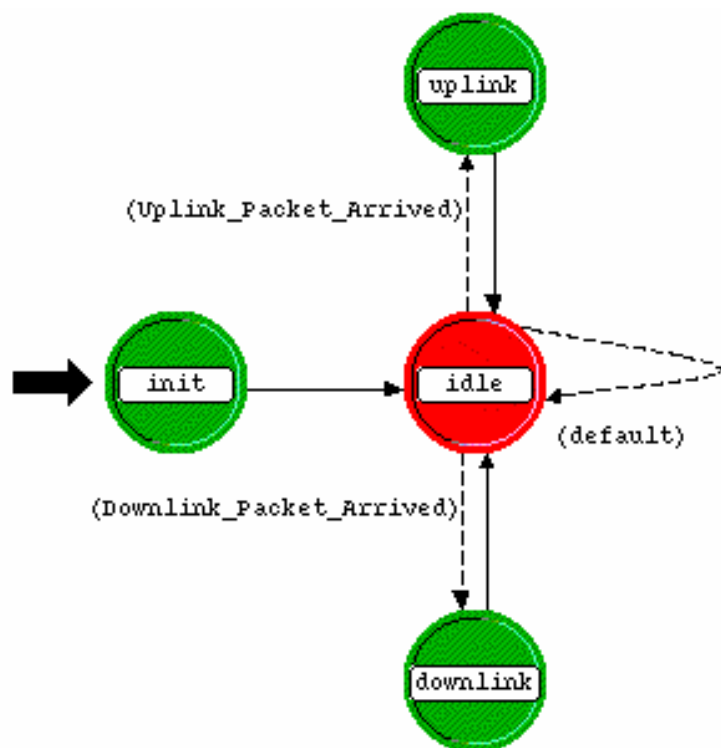
State information of MS after simulation, 0 = Detached, 1 = Attached, 2 = Activated

Name:	MS_0	IMSI:	0	MM State:	0
Name:	MS_1	IMSI:	1	MM State:	1
Name:	MS_2	IMSI:	2	MM State:	0
Name:	mobile_node_1	IMSI:	3	MM State:	1
Name:	mobile_node_0	IMSI:	4	MM State:	2

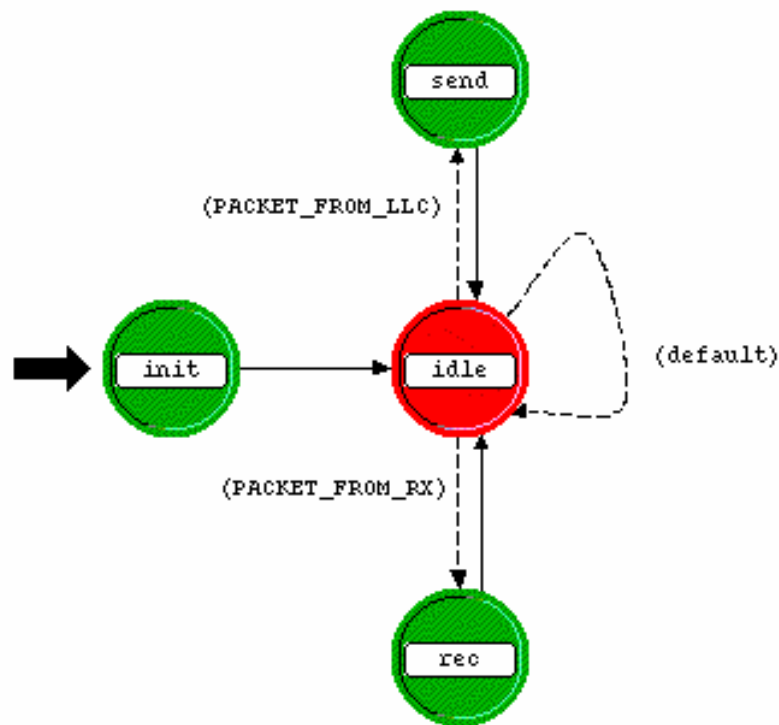


BSSGP implementation: process models

BSC process model



SGSN process model



BSSGP: Base Station Subsystem GPRS Protocol

BSC: Base Station Controller
SGSN: Serving GPRS Support Node



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Verification scenarios

- Three simulation scenarios:
 - scenario 1: compare the end-to-end delay **with** and **without** the implementation of RLC/MAC and BSSGP protocols
 - scenario 2: verify the cell update procedure
 - scenario 3: verify the scalability of the developed model

End-to-end delay: average packet delay between an MS and the sink

RLC/MAC: Radio Link Control/Medium Access Control
BSSGP: Base Station Subsystem GPRS Protocol

Verification scenario 1: MS data settings



	Attribute	Value
?	┌ name	userData (VoIP application)
?	└ process model	simple_source
?	└ icon name	processor
?	└ Packet Format	ip_dgram_v4
?	└ Packet Interarrival Time	constant (1.0)
?	└ Packet Size	constant (1024)
?	└ Start Time	0.0
?	└ Stop Time	infinity

Verification scenario 1: MS settings



Attribute	Value
? name	MS_1
? model	MSProcess_wireless
? IMSI	-1
? activationRequestSource.Packet I...	constant (3.0)
? activationRequestSource.Start Ti...	0.0
? activationRequestSource.Stop Time	Infinity
? attachRequestSource.Packet Inte...	constant (1.0)
? attachRequestSource.Start Time	0.0
? attachRequestSource.Stop Time	Infinity
? deactivationRequestSource.Pack...	constant (6.0)
? deactivationRequestSource.Start ...	0.0
? deactivationRequestSource.Stop ...	Infinity
? detachRequestSource.Packet Inte...	constant (3.0)
? detachRequestSource.Start Time	0.0
? detachRequestSource.Stop Time	Infinity
? receiver.channel [0].min frequency	1,930.2
? receiver.channel [1].min frequency	1,940.2
? receiver.channel [2].min frequency	1,950.2
? receiver.channel [3].min frequency	1,960.2
? receiver.channel [4].min frequency	1,970.2
? receiver.channel [5].min frequency	1,980.2
? userData (VoIP application).Pack...	constant (1.0)
? userData (VoIP application).Pack...	constant (1024)
? userData (VoIP application).Start ...	0.0
? userData (VoIP application).Stop ...	Infinity

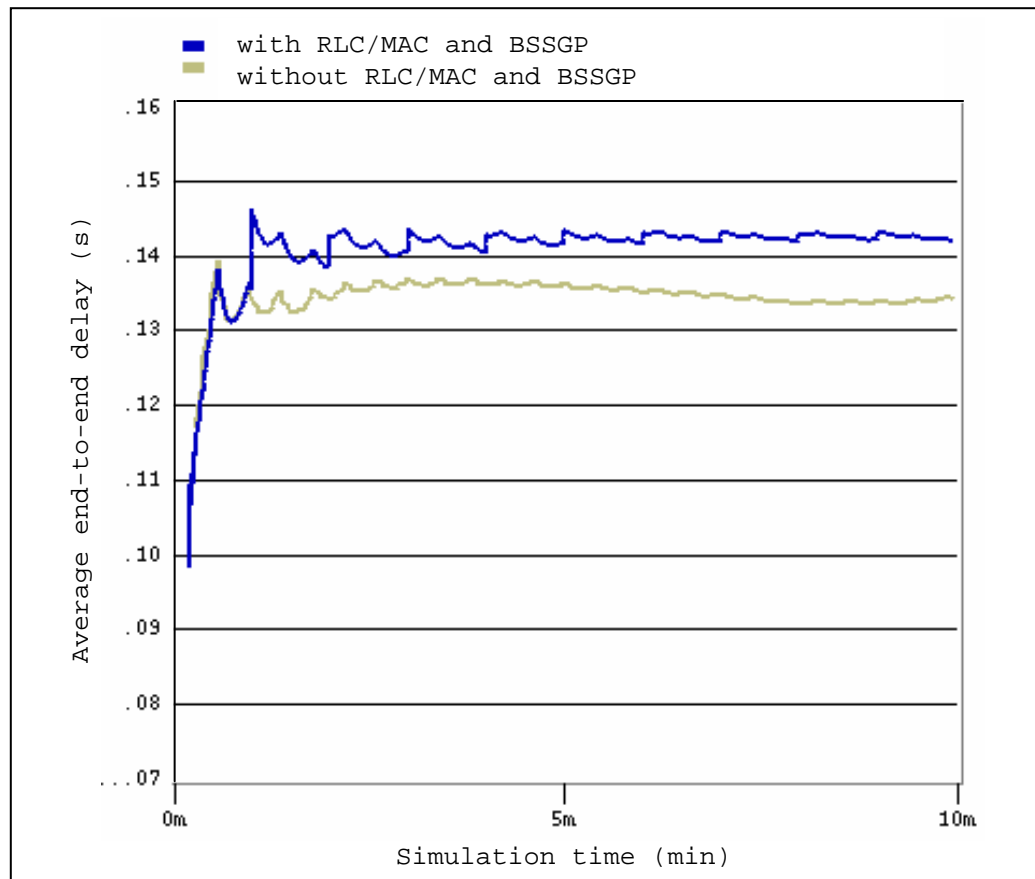


Verification scenario 1: end-to-end delay



- Scenario consists of two MSs and a BTS
- MSs are stationary
- Data: constant inter arrival time
- Simulation time: 10 minutes

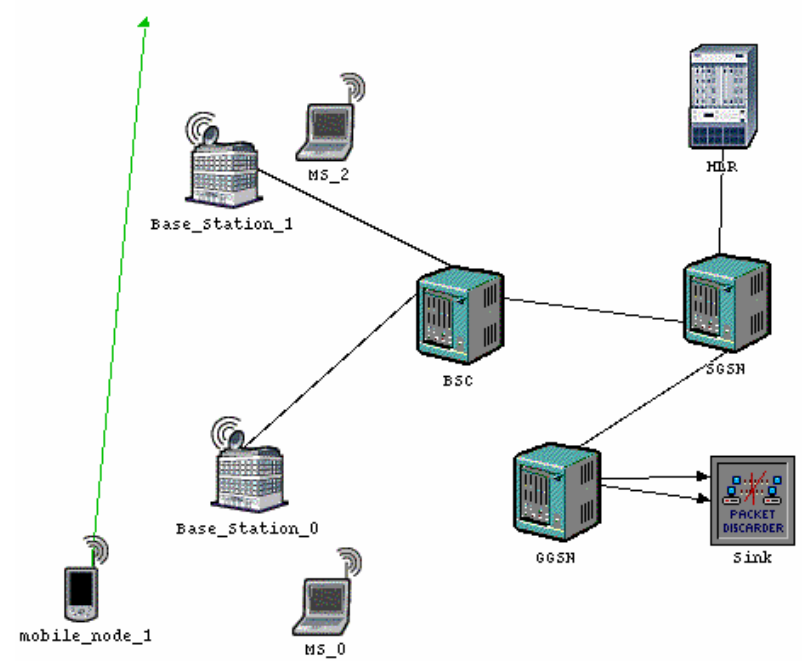
Verification scenario 1: end-to-end delay



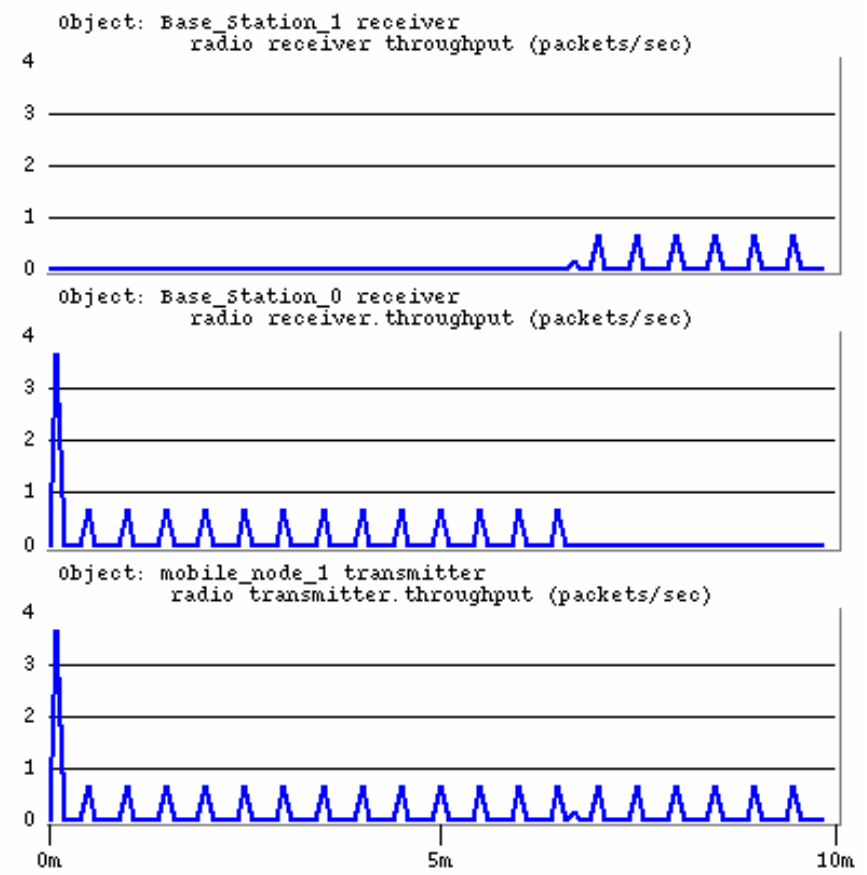


Verification scenario 2: cell update

Network scenario



Throughput at the BTS receivers



Verification scenario 2: cell update MS settings



Attribute	Value
? name	mobile_node_1
? model	MSPProcess_wireless
? trajectory	MS0
IMSI	-1
? activationRequestSource.Packet I...	constant (30.0)
? activationRequestSource.Start Ti...	0.0
? activationRequestSource.Stop Time	Infinity
? attachRequestSource.Packet Inte...	promoted
? attachRequestSource.Start Time	0.0
? attachRequestSource.Stop Time	Infinity
? deactivationRequestSource.Pack...	constant (60.0)
? deactivationRequestSource.Start ...	0.0
? deactivationRequestSource.Stop ...	Infinity
? detachRequestSource.Packet Inte...	constant (30.0)
? detachRequestSource.Start Time	0.0
? detachRequestSource.Stop Time	Infinity
? receiver.channel [0].min frequency	1,930.2
? receiver.channel [1].min frequency	1,940.2
? receiver.channel [2].min frequency	1,950.2
? receiver.channel [3].min frequency	1,960.2
? receiver.channel [4].min frequency	1,970.2
? receiver.channel [5].min frequency	1,980.2
? userData (VoIP application).Pack...	constant (1.0)
? userData (VoIP application).Pack...	constant (1024)
? userData (VoIP application).Start ...	0.0
? userData (VoIP application).Stop ...	Infinity

Verification scenario 2: cell update BTS settings



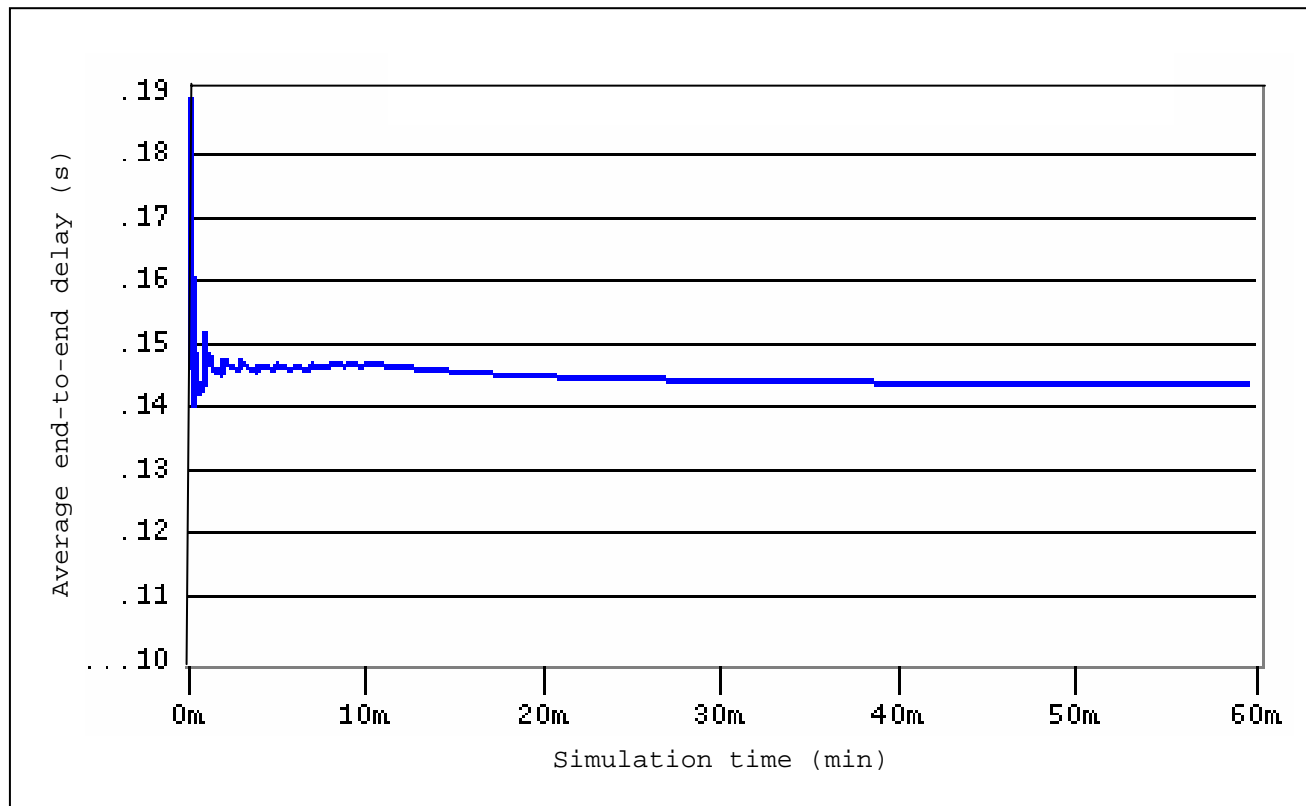
Attribute	Value
? name	Base_Station_1
? model	BTSPProcess
└ BSS Id	promoted
? └ rt_0.channel [0].min frequency	1,940.2



Verification scenario 3: scalability

- 17 MSs and 3 BTSs
 - 11 MSs generate **exponentially distributed** traffic
 - 6 MSs generate **constant** traffic
- Generate traffic at the beginning of simulation (0 s)
- Simulated time: 1 hour
 - simulations lasted 40 minutes
- Measured end-to-end packet delay

Verification scenario3: end-to-end delay



End-to-end delay increases and reaches steady-state

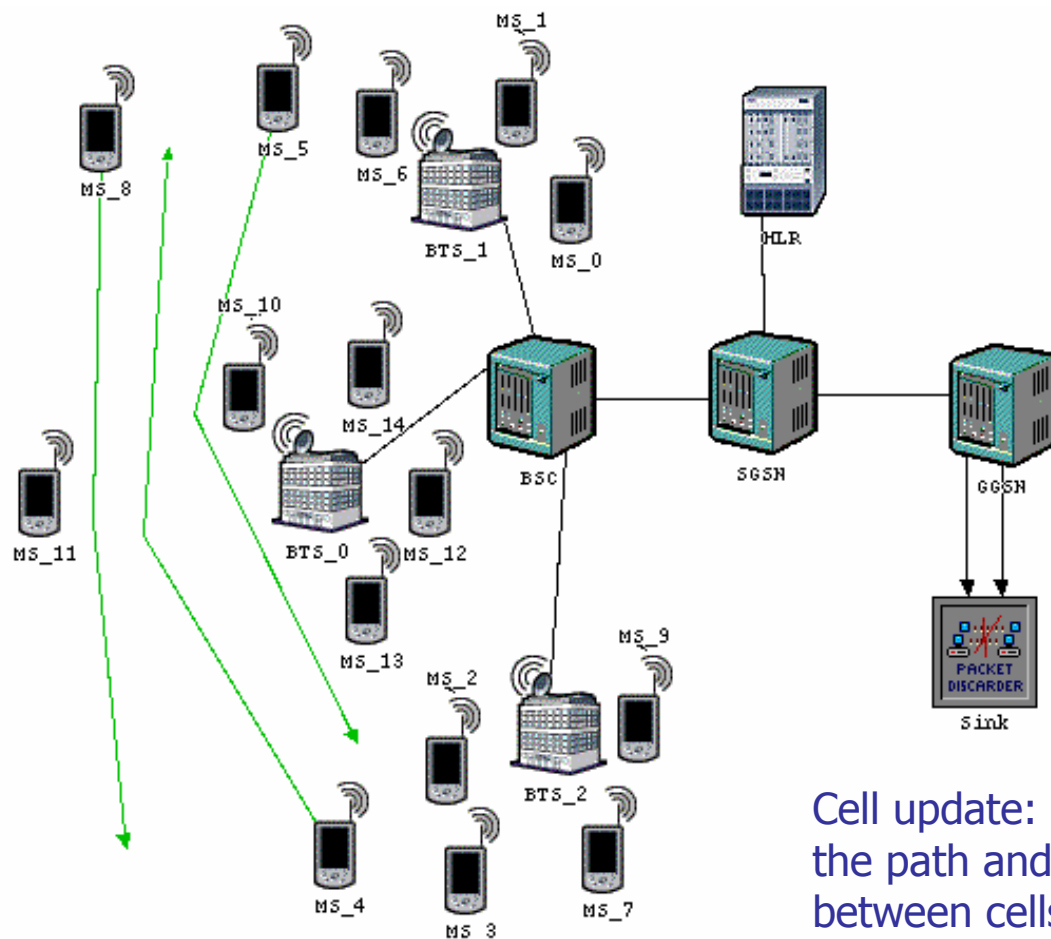
Performance evaluation: simulation scenarios



- OPNET GPRS model simulation scenarios:
 - **with** MSs performing cell update
 - **without** MSs performing cell update
 - both scenarios have two groups of MSs that generate:
 - variable bit rate traffic
 - constant bit rate traffic
 - simulations capture a single packet data transfer session
 - MSs initiate attach procedure at the beginning of each simulation



Simulation scenario: cell update



Cell update: three trajectories indicate the path and direction of MSs that move between cells

performance scenario : cell update

MS settings



Attribute	Value
name	mobile_node_5
model	MSProcess_wireless
trajectory	MS1
IMSI	-1
activationRequestSource.Packet I...	constant (6.0)
activationRequestSource.Start Ti...	20
activationRequestSource.Stop Time	Infinity
attachRequestSource.Packet Inte...	constant (3.0)
attachRequestSource.Start Time	10.0
attachRequestSource.Stop Time	Infinity
deactivationRequestSource.Pack...	constant (6.0)
deactivationRequestSource.Start ...	Infinity
deactivationRequestSource.Stop ...	112
detachRequestSource.Packet Inte...	constant (6.0)
detachRequestSource.Start Time	Infinity
detachRequestSource.Stop Time	130
receiver.channel [0].min frequency	1,930.2
receiver.channel [1].min frequency	1,940.2
receiver.channel [2].min frequency	1,950.2
receiver.channel [3].min frequency	1,960.2
receiver.channel [4].min frequency	1,970.2
receiver.channel [5].min frequency	1,980.2
userData (VoIP application).Pack...	constant (1.0)
userData (VoIP application).Pack...	constant (1024)
userData (VoIP application).Start ...	0.0
userData (VoIP application).Stop ...	Infinity

performance scenario : cell update

MS settings



Attribute	Value
name	mobile_node_3
model	MSPProcess_wireless
trajectory	NONE
IMSI	-1
activationRequestSource.Packet I...	constant (6.0)
activationRequestSource.Start Ti...	20
activationRequestSource.Stop Time	Infinity
attachRequestSource.Packet Inte...	constant (3.0)
attachRequestSource.Start Time	10.0
attachRequestSource.Stop Time	Infinity
deactivationRequestSource.Pack...	constant (6.0)
deactivationRequestSource.Start ...	Infinity
deactivationRequestSource.Stop ...	Infinity
detachRequestSource.Packet Inte...	constant (6.0)
detachRequestSource.Start Time	Infinity
detachRequestSource.Stop Time	Infinity
receiver.channel [0].min frequency	1,930.2
receiver.channel [1].min frequency	1,940.2
receiver.channel [2].min frequency	1,950.2
receiver.channel [3].min frequency	1,960.2
receiver.channel [4].min frequency	1,970.2
receiver.channel [5].min frequency	1,980.2
userData (VoIP application).Pack...	exponential (1.0)
userData (VoIP application).Pack...	exponential (1024)
userData (VoIP application).Start ...	0.0
userData (VoIP application).Stop ...	Infinity

performance scenario : cell update

MS trajectory



Trajectory name: MS1							
	X Pos (m)	Y Pos (m)	Distance (m)	Altitude (m)	Traverse Time	Ground Speed	Wait Time
1	0.000	0.000	n/a	0.000	n/a	n/a	00.00s
2	-27.862	103.024	106.725	0.000	38.42s	6.214	00.00s
3	22.678	204.752	113.591	0.000	40.89s	6.214	00.00s

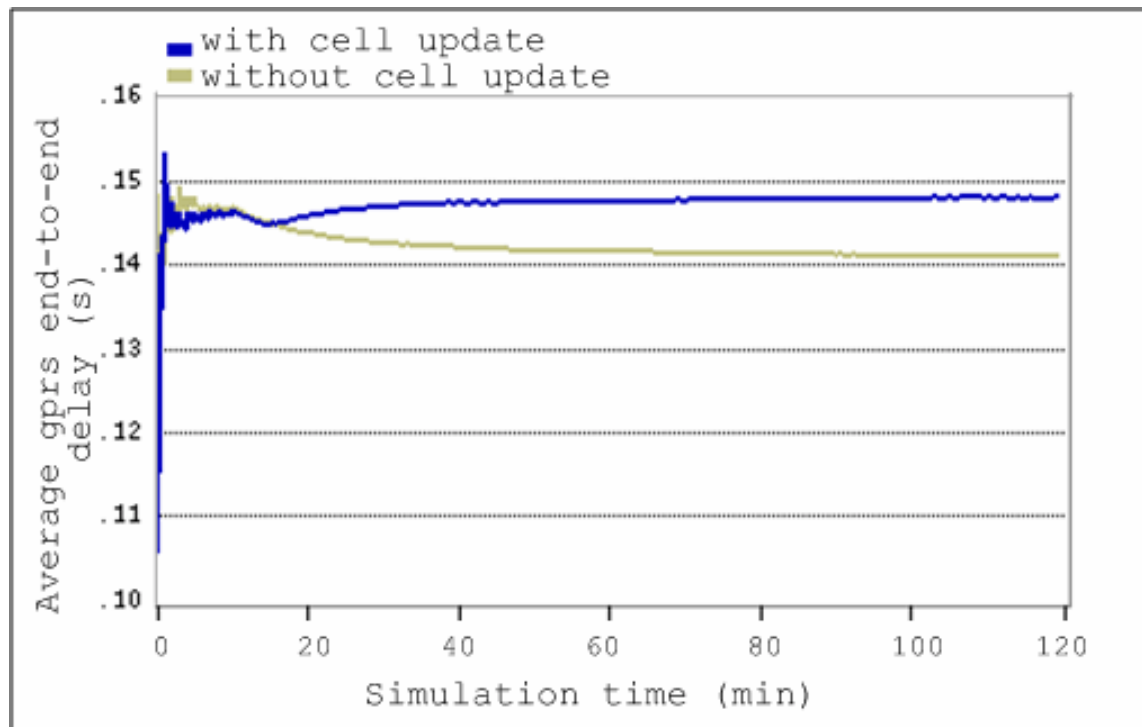


Simulation parameters

Parameter	Value
Simulation time	120 min
Number of BTSs	3
Number of MSs	15
Number of MSs performing cell update	3
Number of cell updates per MS	2
Radio scheduling scheme at the BTS	FIFO
Coding scheme	CS-1

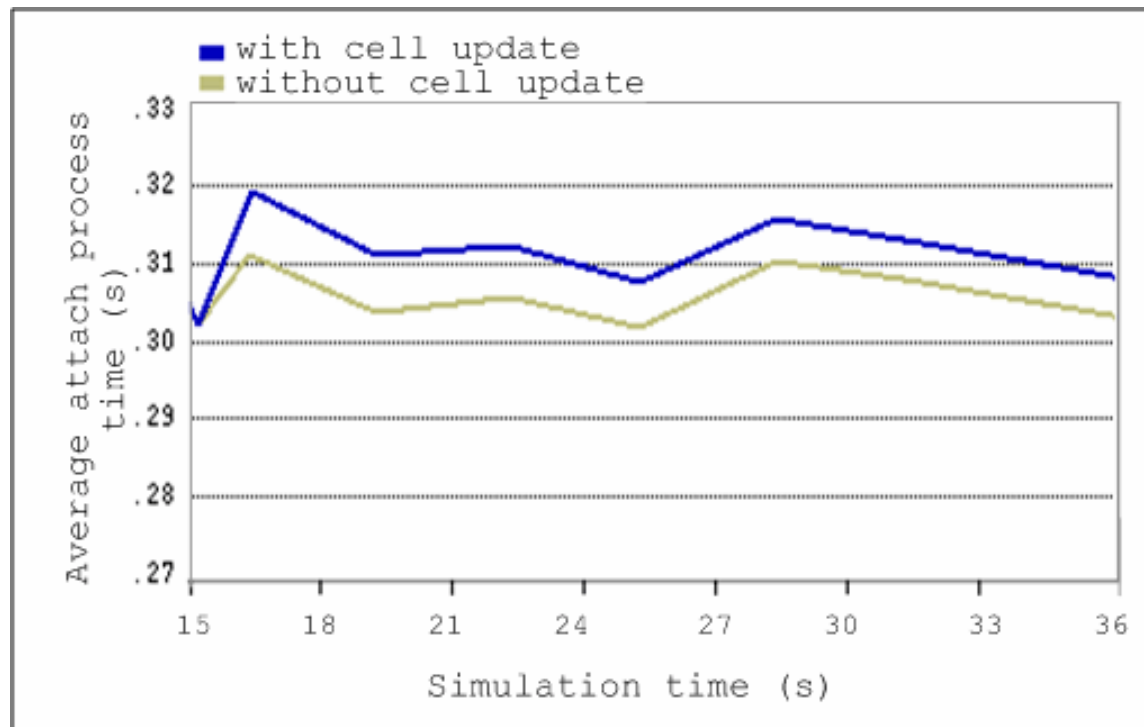


Simulation result: end-to-end delay



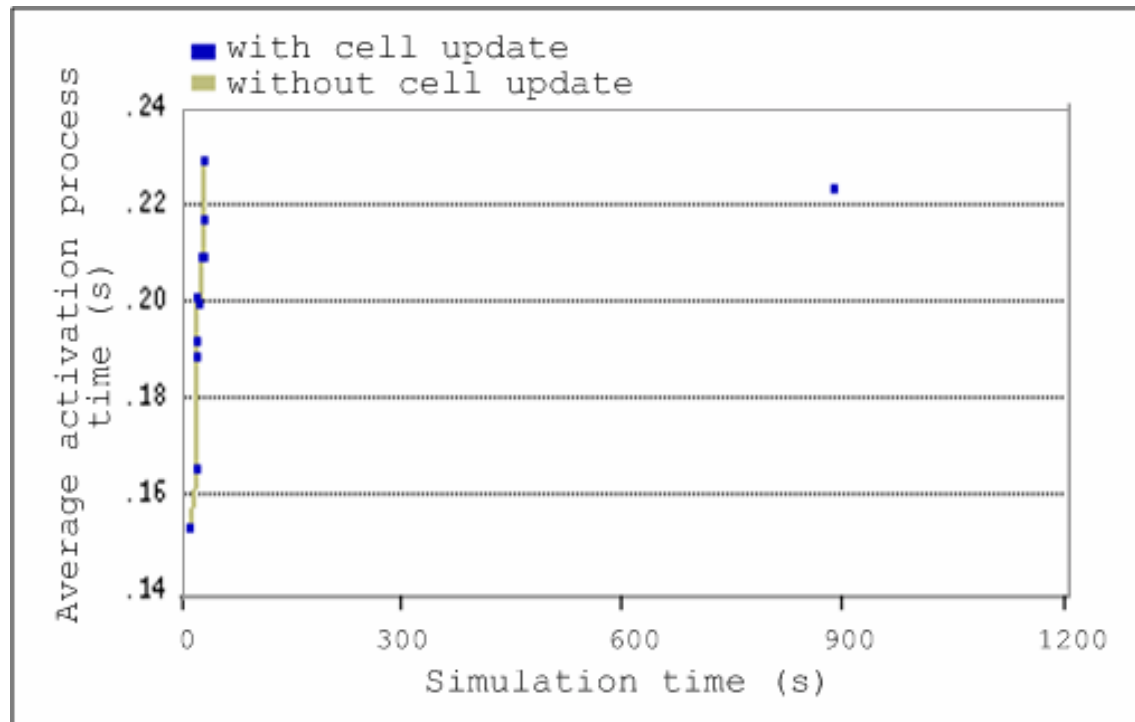
Cell update increases packet end-to-end delay

Simulation result: average attach request process time



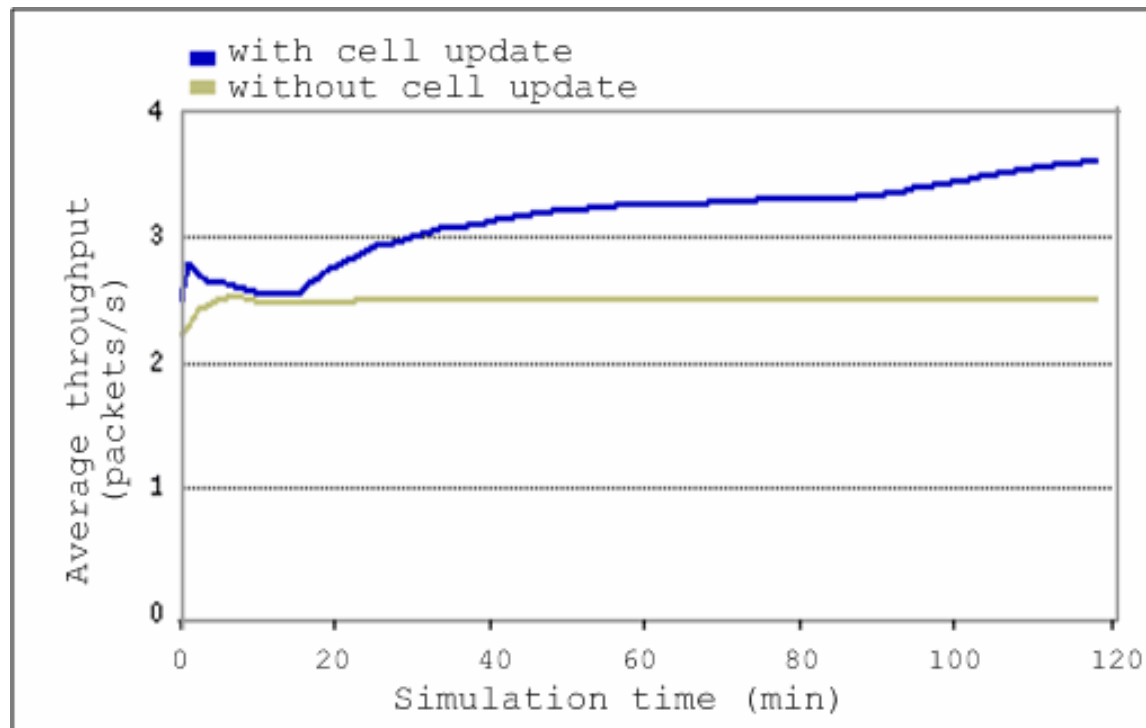
The average attach request process time increases with cell update because the SGSN has to verify and update the location information of each MS

Simulation result: average activation process time



The average activation process time does not depend on cell update because the SGSN exchanges messages only with the GGSN and MSs

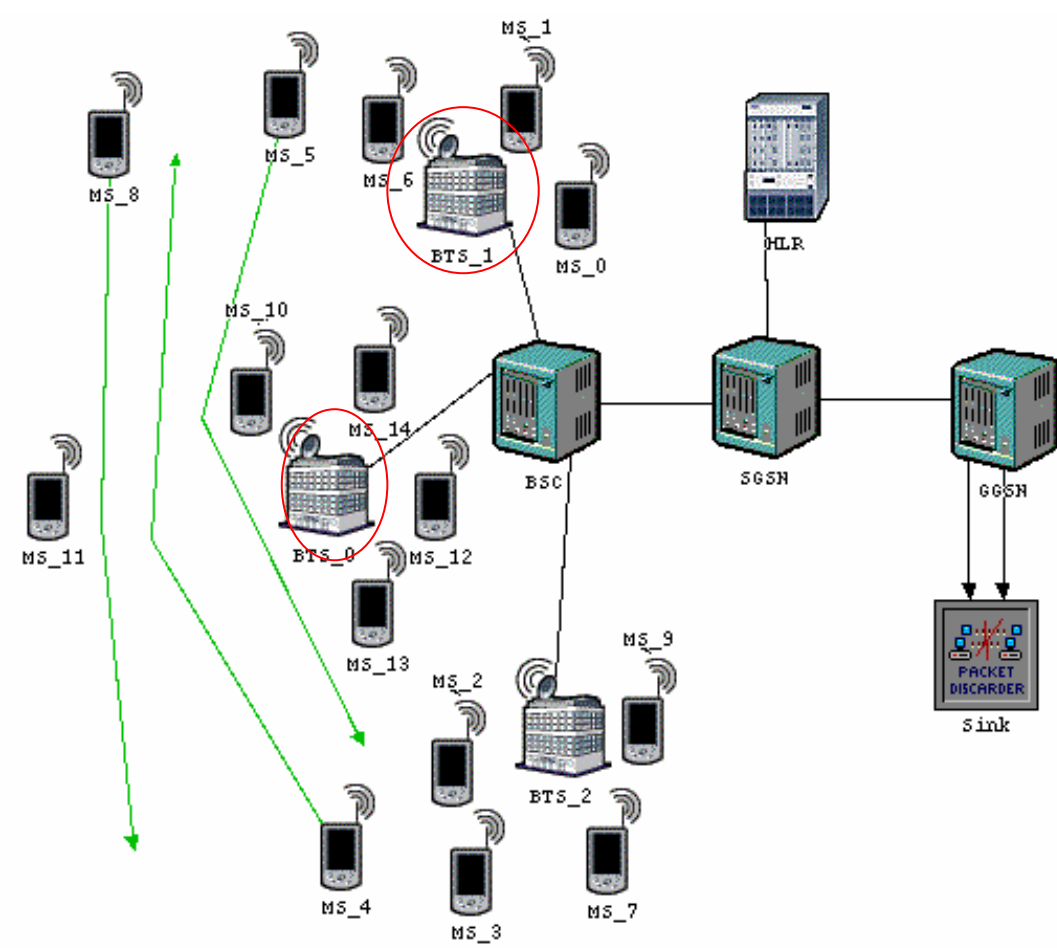
Simulation result: BTS_0 average link throughput



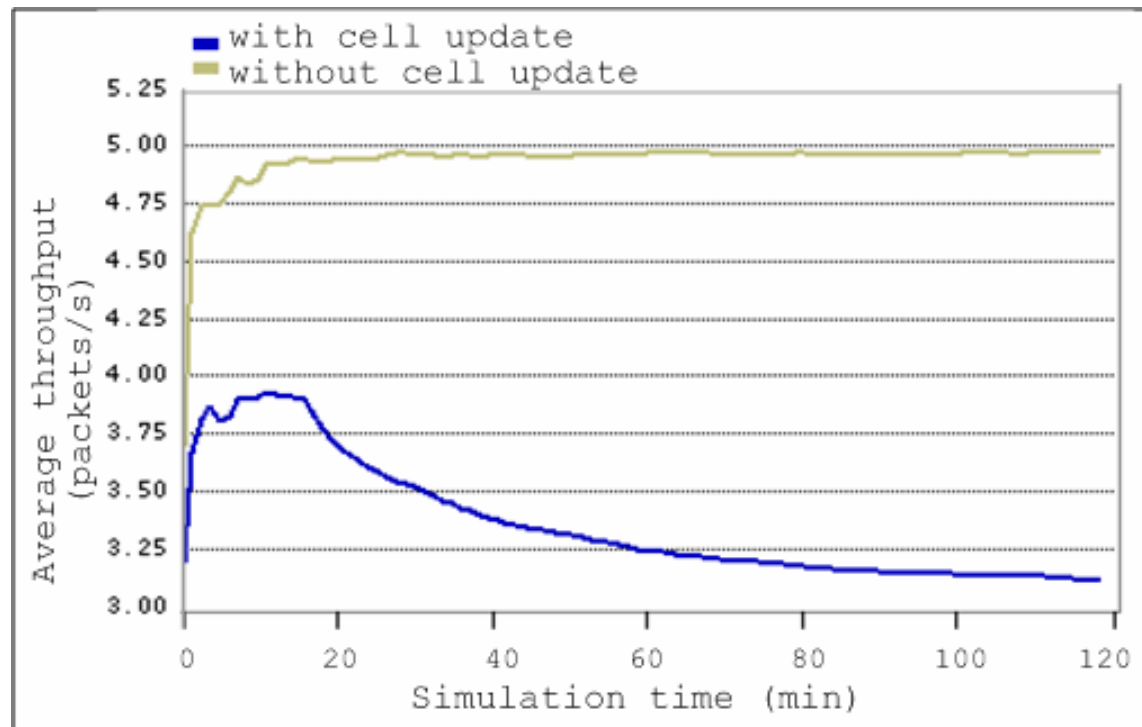
The average link throughput of BTS_0 increases in the scenario with cell update because all MSs that perform cell update traverse through its cell



Simulation result: cell update



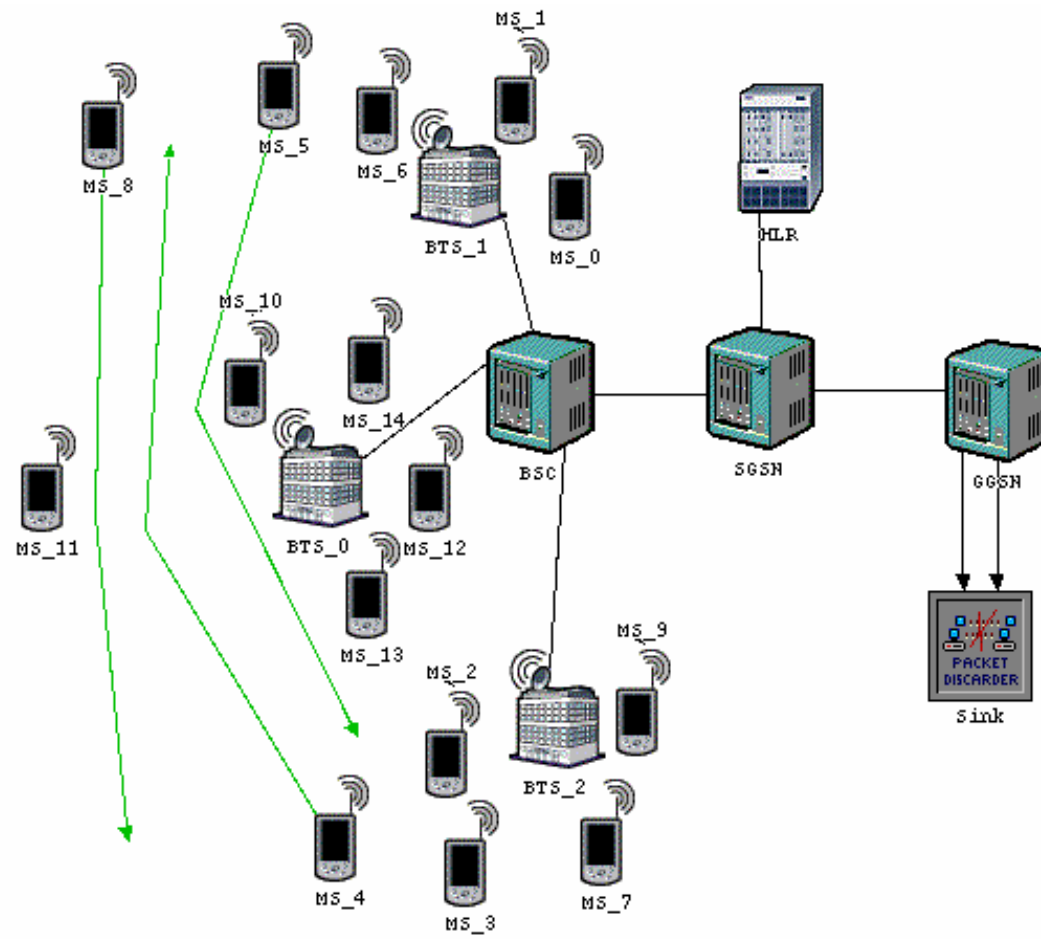
Simulation result: BTS_1 average link throughput



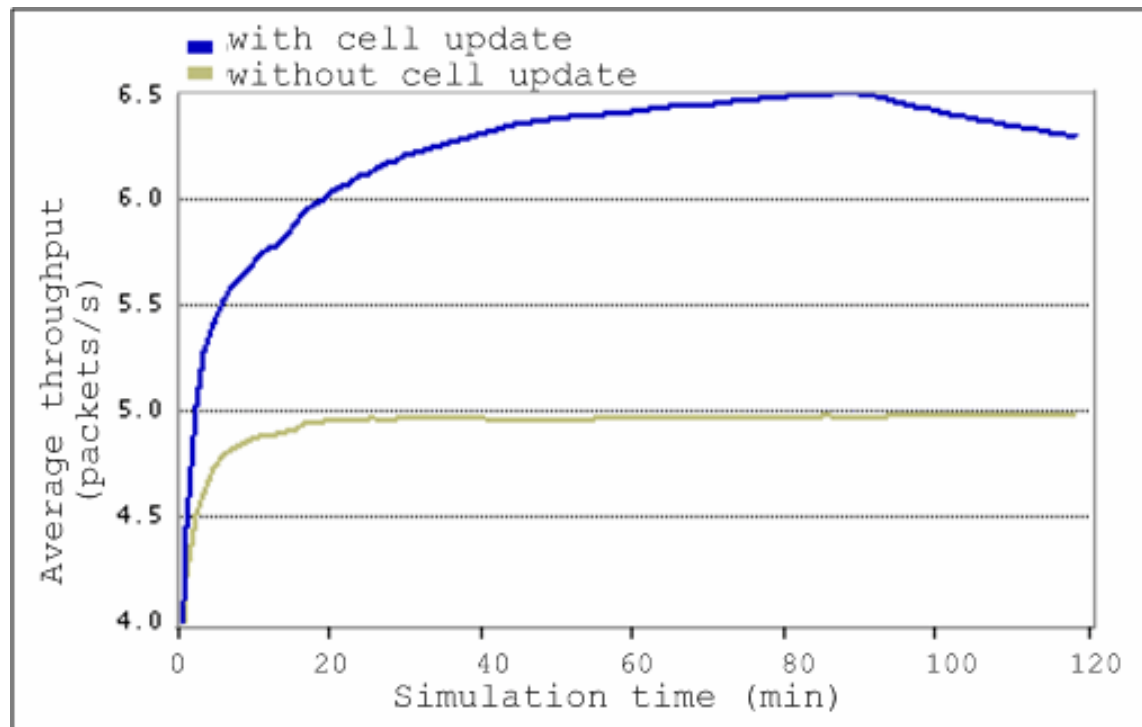
The average link throughput of BTS_1 decreases in the scenario with cell update because two MSs that perform cell update depart from its cell



Simulation result: cell update



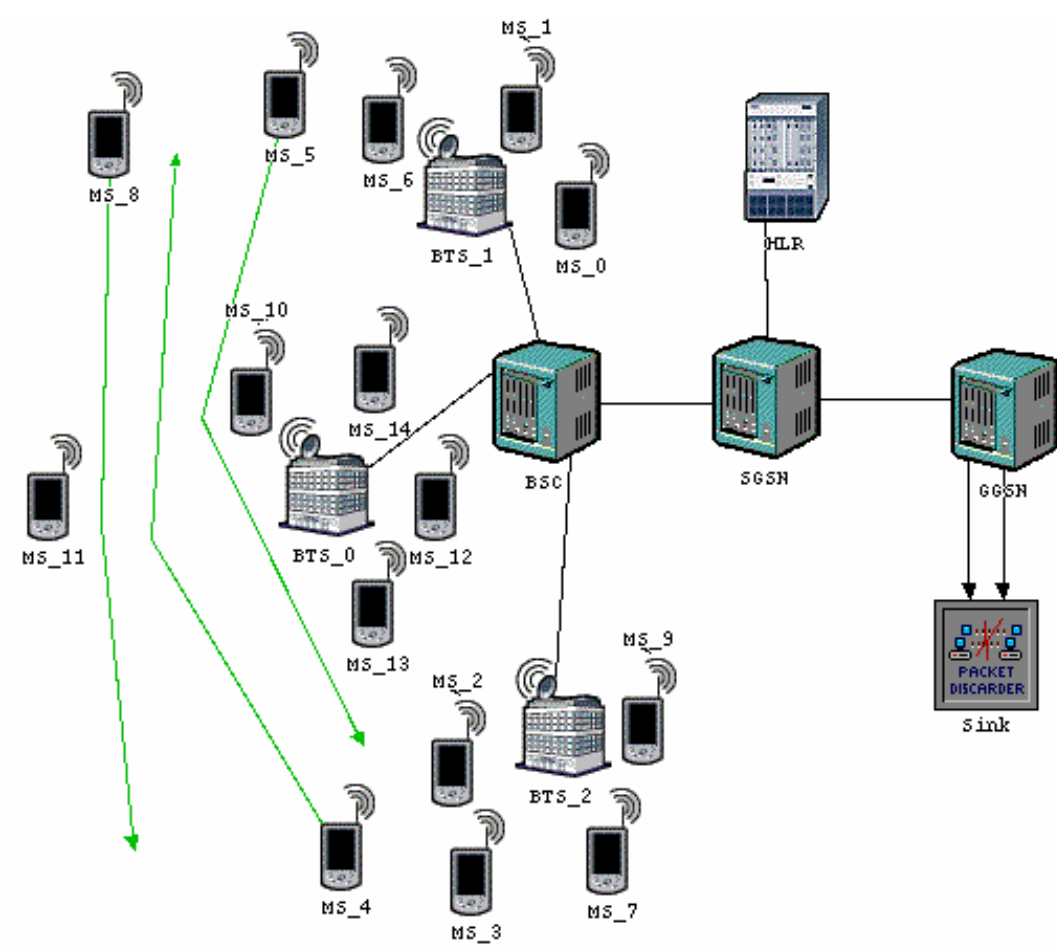
Simulation result: BTS_2 average link throughput



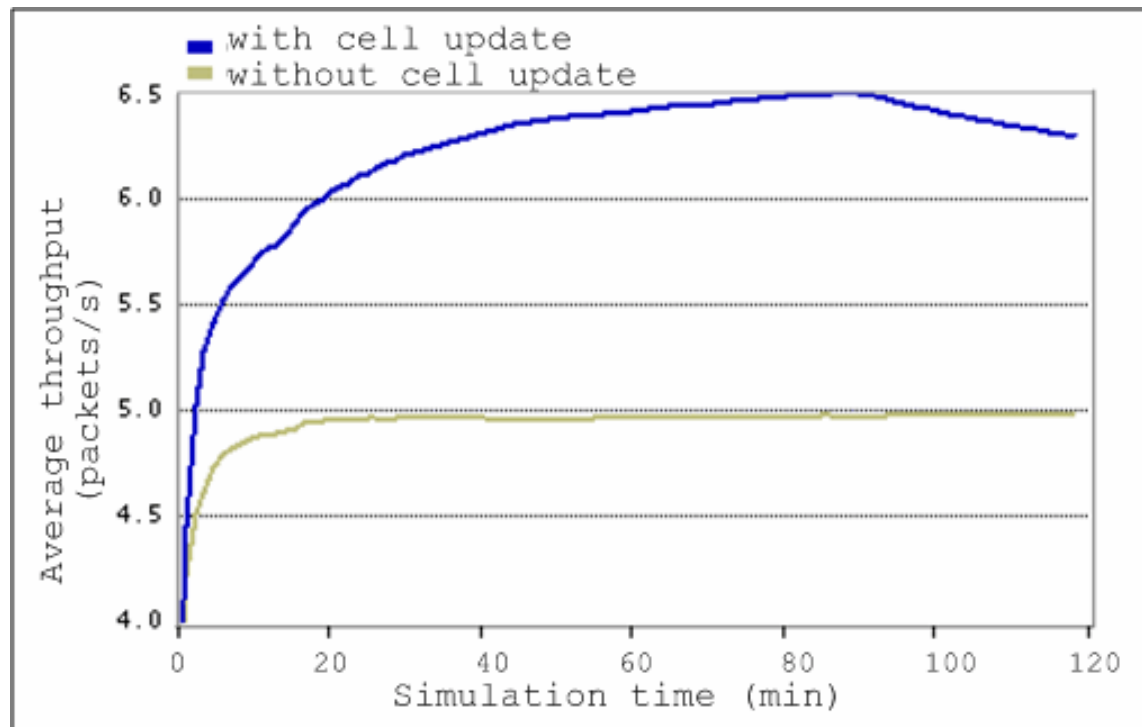
The average link throughput of BTS_2 increases in the scenario with cell update because two MSs that perform cell update enter its cell



Simulation result: cell update



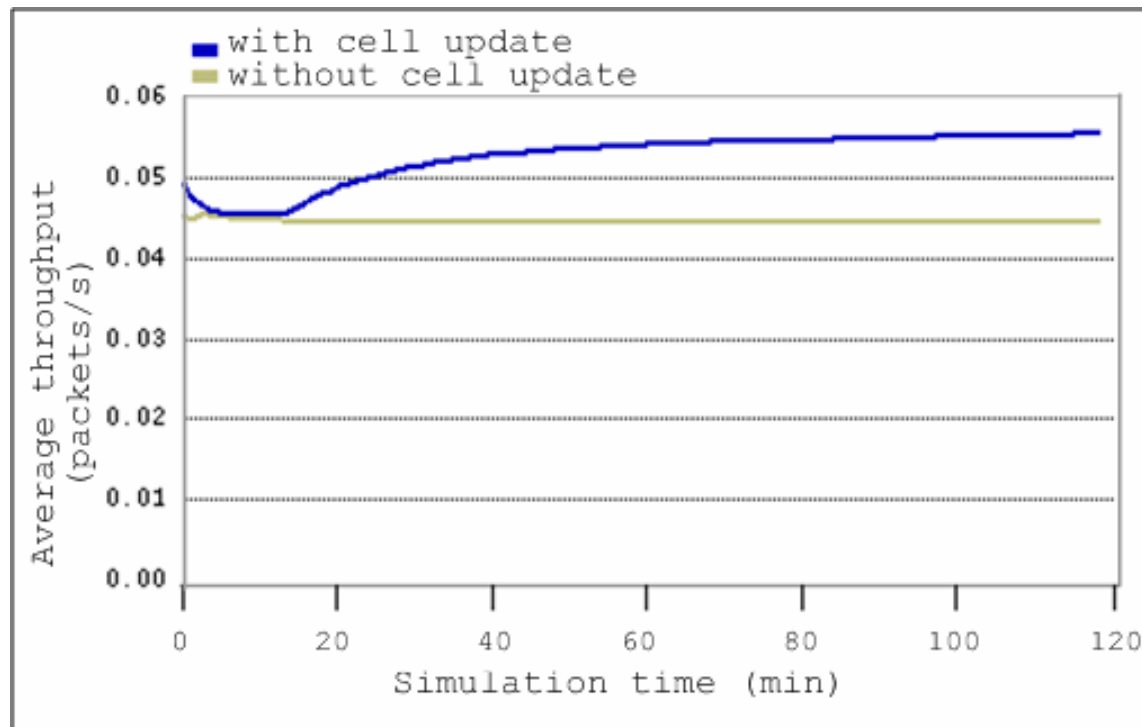
Simulation result: average throughput received from MSs



MSs
subscribed
to QoS mean
throughput
class of
10,000
octets/hour:
slow link

The average throughput is higher in the scenario with cell update because an MS that was not transmitting packets in the scenario without cell update, begins transmission

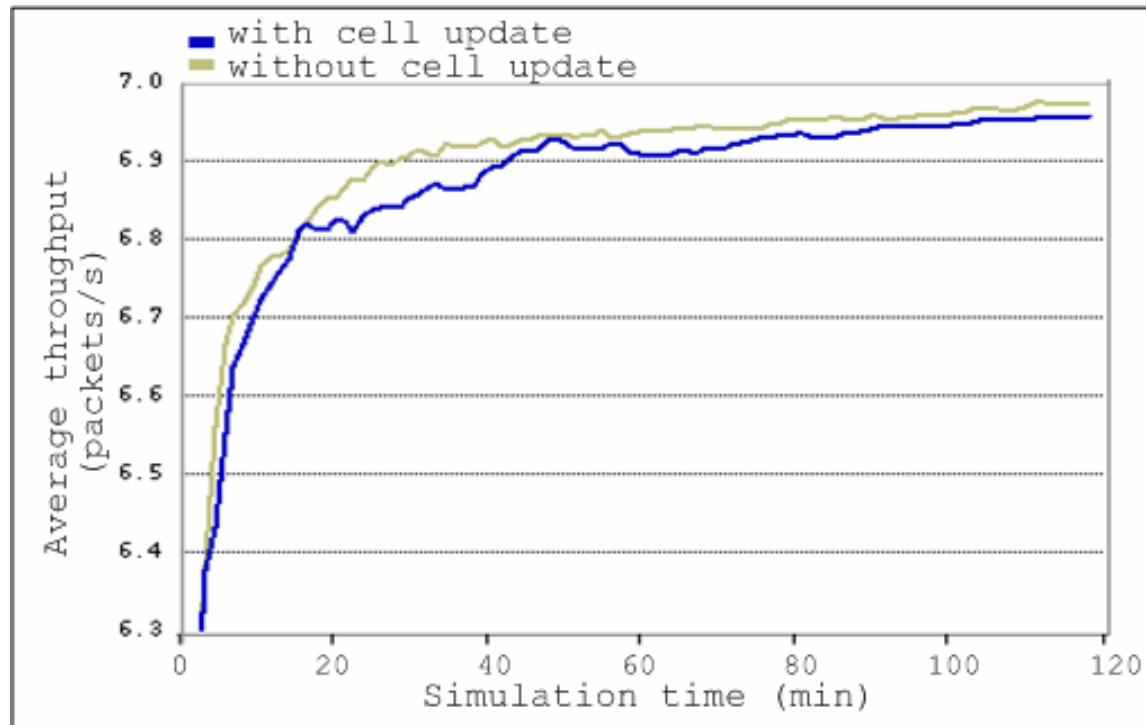
Simulation result: average queuing delay



Slow link
between
GGSN and
sink

The average queuing delay is higher in the cell update scenario than without cell update because additional MSs are transmitting and more packets need to be queued

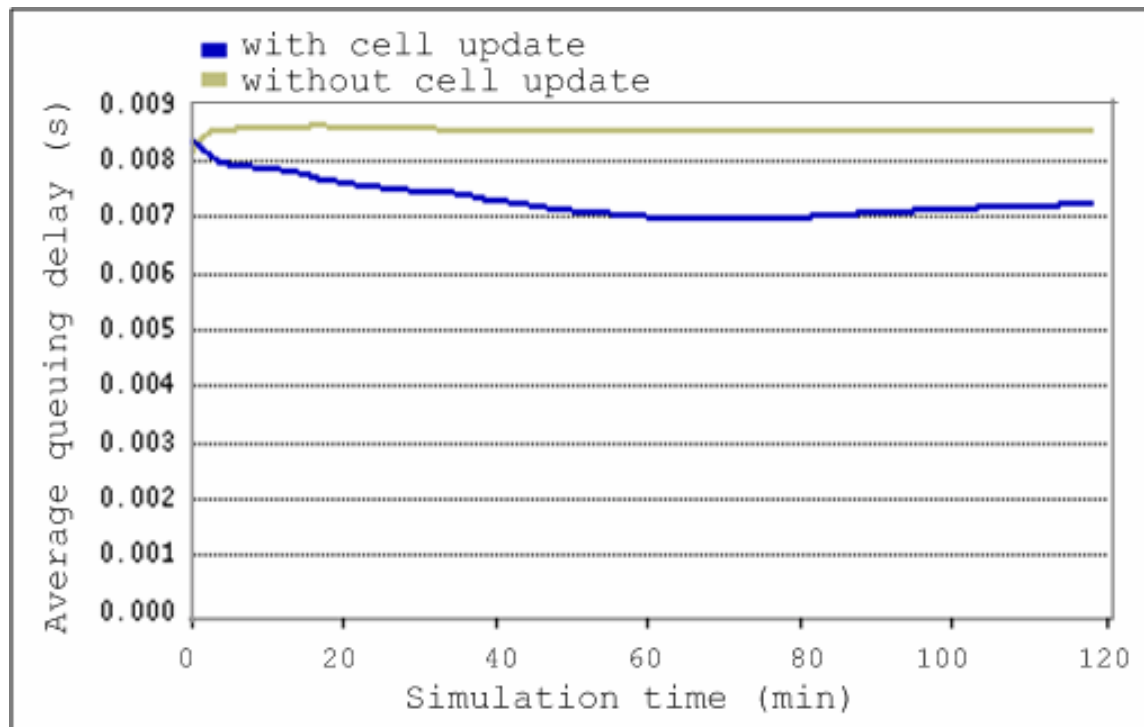
Simulation result: average throughput received from MSs



MSs
subscribed
to QoS mean
throughput
class of
20,000
octets/hour:
fast link

The average throughput is lower in the scenario with cell update than without cell update because of packet losses

Simulation result: average queuing delay



Fast link
between
GGSN and
sink

The average queuing delay increases in the scenario without cell update because of higher throughput and additional packets that need to be queued



Roadmap

- Introduction
- GPRS Overview
- OPNET network simulator
- GPRS OPNET model:
 - Cell update
 - Radio link control/Medium access control
 - Base station subsystem GPRS protocol
- Simulation scenarios and results
- **Conclusions and future work**



Conclusion

- We developed an OPNET model for GPRS
- The model implemented various GPRS-specific protocols
- Three simulated scenarios were used to verify the model implementation
- We investigated the effect of cell update on performance of GPRS network
- We simulated scenarios **with** and **without** MSs performing cell update to evaluate end-to-end delay and signaling processing time



Conclusion

- Simulation results show that cell update increases end-to-end delay by $\sim 7\%$:
 - packets require a longer time to reach the BTS as MSs move away from the BTS
 - queuing of packets during the cell update
- Simulation results show that cell update increases signaling process time by $\sim 3.3\%$
 - number of GPRS signaling messages transmitted through the network



Conclusions

- Simulation results show that cell update increases:
 - signaling process time by $\sim 3.3\%$
 - number of GPRS signaling messages transmitted through the network
- Activation process time does not depend on cell update:
 - there is no exchange of messages between the SGSN and HLR
 - packet losses due to cell update may cause an MS to restart the activation procedure in the new cell



Future work

- Additional simulations to be performed in order to explore the model scalability
- Implementation of downlink data transfer
- Performance evaluation using data traffic from deployed networks



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