



Impact of the LTE Scheduler on achieving Good QoE for DASH Video Streaming

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Motivation

- Over 55% of total mobile traffic is now video, approximately 2 Million Terabytes per Month, and is expected to increase to 75% by 2020, approximately 22 Million Terabytes per Month. (Cisco/Statista)
 - Adaptive Bitrate Streaming (ABR) over HTTP techniques e.g. Dynamic Adaptive Streaming over HTTP (DASH) are considered the default streaming approach for many video providers, such as Netflix, Hulu and YouTube.
 - The objective of this work is to undertake a systematic study on predefined LTE schedulers in NS3 and determine if they can offer improvement in the achievable quality of an adaptive client



Overview

- In this study, we investigated the impact of LTE scheduling policy on the performance of adaptive video streaming using our laboratory testbed using real video content and clients, with an NS3 emulated LTE network.
- We evaluated different adaptive streaming algorithms including the throughput-based FESTIVE [3], buffer-based approach (BBA) [4] and default GPAC adaptation.
- Our evaluation results consider different performance metrics including video stalls, quality switches, average quality rate, and overall QoE.









Source: Conviva Streaming Industry Data, Q1 2016 Report, http://www.conviva.com/streaming-industry-data

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DASH Overview

MISI DASH creates multiple bitrate versions of the same video clip, • which allows the client to adapt to changes in the network, at predefined points in time, typically segment boundaries SSTB Segment Delivery Rate in Mbps 0 2 0 0 4 0 1 2 0 2 0 0 4 0 1 Representation Level (Mbps) SSTB 6 ED ED BBB Time (Seconds) Segment Number



DASH Overview

MISL • SSTB, ED and BBB are video clips from our dataset Highlighted figure illustrates changes in quality rate per • segment over time SSTB 1 F з Representation Level (Mbps) SSTB 6 ED ED BBB BBB Time (Seconds) Segment Number



DASH Overview





DASH Content Utilised

- Recently published at Multi-Media Systems (MMSys 2016)
- All content is encoded in both H.264 (AVC) and H.265 (HEVC). H.264 used in this work.
- Ten quality rates across seven resolutions.
- Twenty three clips from varying genres: action, comedy, documentary, animation, thriller, sci-fi, across three datasets.
- Five different segment durations: 2-, 4-, 6-, 8-, and 10-second for ten- or sixteen-minute videos.
- Three different Datasets: Content-based (used here), Tracebased and Compressed.

www.cs.ucc.ie/misl/research/current/ivid_dataset



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networks.cttc.es/mobile-networks/software-tools/lena/



- I. Proportional Fairness (PF)
 - schedules a user when a users instantaneous channel quality is high relative to the cumulative average channel condition over time.
 - most deployed eNodeB (eNB) base stations use PF scheduler
 - expected result: all clients should receive adequate throughput, but edge clients may experience issues
- 2. Frequency Domain Blind Equal Throughput (BET):
 - aims to provide equal throughput to all UEs
 - Maximizes system fairness by allocating to user with lowest cumulative average rate
 - expected result: equalizing throughput may lead to a greater number of switches as clients react to fluctuations in buffer level



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- 3. Frequency Domain Maximum Throughput (MT)
 - aims to maximize the overall throughput of eNB.
 - MT allocates each RB to the user with the best channel condition.
 - expected result: may starve edge clients due to lower channel conditions
- 4. Priority set scheduler (PSS)
 - is a QoS aware scheduler which combines time domain (TD) and frequency domain (FD) packet scheduling
 - target rate for PSS is set to 700kbps mid range quality for mobile devices
 - expected result: improved quality rate for edge clients



- Three Fading Models:
 - Static: User Equipment (UE) same fading value per resource block (RB)
 - Pedestrian Mobility (3Kmph)
 - Vehicular Mobility (30Kmph)
- All Fading Traces were generated by a MATLAB script provided by LENA

Further information and build instructions for the LENA components utilised in this paper are available at:

www.cs.ucc.ie/misl/research/current/ivid_demo/lanman2016



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Hybrid physical and simulated infrastructure in which actual DASH video clips are streaming from a server to clients over an LTE air-interface in real-time.









The Master Controller defines the LTE and Client configurations. Such as number and distance of users, fading model, scheduler, simulation time, adaptation model, and clip index.





The Master Controller is also used to gather metrics from LTE and the clients for post processing. In this work stream data flowing through the Master Controller is not impeded in anyway.





The NS3-LTE machine implements the LTE Evolved Packet Core (EPC) and air-interface for the desired number of clients. The three fading models are implemented here.









A demonstration of a portable version of our 'D-LiTE' testbed is available to be viewed during the demo session of LANMAN:

14:15 to 15:15 today – Look for the demo 'D-LiTE'



- DASH Adaptation Algorithms, widely used in the Literature:
 - FESTIVE [3] :
 - Throughput-based approach 30 second max buffer size
 - Harmonic mean average for network throughput
 - Cautious startup phase, network probing to improve quality
 - (BBA) [4], specifically BBA2:
 - Buffer-based approach 240 second max buffer size
 - Two thresholds to determine if a higher/lower rate should be selected
 - Maps future segment transmission cost to improve selection



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• As stated, the Master Controller, gathers clients metrics and per stream/UE creates a colonized trace file containing stream information per delivered segment, example:

Seg_#	Arr_time	Del_Time	Stall_Dur	Rep_Level	Del_Rate	Act_Rate	Byte_Size	Buff_Level
1	1517	1097	0	232	905	248	124131	4.000
2	3629	1711	0	752	2104	900	450106	8.000
3	8115	4090	0	1774	2016	2062	1031136	12.000
4	23418	14936	0	1774	512	1914	957238	0.697
5	27725	1275	0	374	434	138	69286	0.390
6	30130	1690	0	374	745	315	157538	1.985
7	37117	5004	1001	374	417	522	261058	0.000
8	45637	7172	4520	374	239	429	214866	0.000
9	51840	2906	2203	232	301	219	109544	0.000
10	53700	281	0	232	2422	170	85085	2.140



• Each row provides per segment information

Seg_#	Arr_time	Del_Time	Stall_Dur	Rep_Level	Del_Rate	Act_Rate	Byte_Size	Buff_Level
1	1517	1097	0	232	905	248	124131	4.000
2	3629	1711	0	752	2104	900	450106	8.000
3	8115	4090	0	1774	2016	2062	1031136	12.000
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9	51840	2906	2203	232	301	219	109544	0.000
10	53700	281	0	232	2422	170	85085	2.140



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- Column values provide information on:
 - Arrival time and delivery time per segment in milliseconds (ms)

Seg_#	Arr_time	Del_Time	Stall_Dur	Rep_Level	Del_Rate	Act_Rate	Byte_Size	Buff_Level
1	1517	1097	0	232	905	248	124131	4.000
2	3629	1711	0	752	2104	900	450106	8.000
3	8115	4090	0	1774	2016	2062	1031136	12.000
4	23418	14936	0	1774	512	1914	957238	0.697
5	27725	1275	0	374	434	138	69286	0.390
6	30130	1690	0	374	745	315	157538	1.985
7	37117	5004	1001	374	417	522	261058	0.000
8	45637	7172	4520	374	239	429	214866	0.000
9	51840	2906	2203	232	301	219	109544	0.000
10	53700	281	0	232	2422	170	85085	2.140



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- Column values provide information on:
 - Rebuffering issues and stalls (ms)

	-							
Seg_#	Arr_time	Del_Time	Stall_Dur	Rep_Level	Del_Rate	Act_Rate	Byte_Size	Buff_Level
I	1517	1097	0	232	905	248	124131	4.000
2	3629	1711	0	752	2104	900	450106	8.000
3	8115	4090	0	1774	2016	2062	1031136	12.000
4	23418	14936	0	1774	512	1914	957238	0.697
5	27725	1275	0	374	434	138	69286	0.390
6	30130	1690	0	374	745	315	157538	1.985
7	37117	5004	1001	374	417	522	261058	0.000
8	45637	7172	4520	374	239	429	214866	0.000
9	51840	2906	2203	232	301	219	109544	0.000
10	53700	281	0	232	2422	170	85085	2.140



- Column values provide information on:
 - Quality rate switching based on average encoding rate (kbps)

		-						
Seg_#	Arr_time	Del_Time	Stall_Dur	Rep_Level	Del_Rate	Act_Rate	Byte_Size	Buff_Level
I	1517	1097	0	232	905	248	124131	4.000
2	3629	7	0	752	2104	900	450106	8.000
3	8115	4090	0	1774	2016	2062	1031136	12.000
4	23418	14936	0	1774	512	1914	957238	0.697
5	27725	1275	0	374	434	138	69286	0.390
6	30130	1690	0	374	745	315	157538	1.985
7	37117	5004	1001	374	417	522	261058	0.000
8	45637	7172	4520	374	239	429	214866	0.000
9	51840	2906	2203	232	301	219	109544	0.000
10	53700	281	0	232	2422	170	85085	2.140



- MISL
 - Column values provide information on:
 - Delivery (kbps) and actual rate (kbps) of the segment

	-							
Seg_#	Arr_time	Del_Time	Stall_Dur	Rep_Level	Del_Rate	Act_Rate	Byte_Size	Buff_Level
I	1517	1097	0	232	905	248	124131	4.000
2	3629	7	0	752	2104	900	450106	8.000
3	8115	4090	0	1774	2016	2062	1031136	12.000
4	23418	14936	0	1774	512	1914	957238	0.697
5	27725	1275	0	374	434	138	69286	0.390
6	30130	1690	0	374	745	315	157538	1.985
7	37117	5004	1001	374	417	522	261058	0.000
8	45637	7172	4520	374	239	429	214866	0.000
9	51840	2906	2203	232	301	219	109544	0.000
10	53700	281	0	232	2422	170	85085	2.140



- MISL
 - Column values provide information on:
 - Transmission cost in bytes for the requested segment

	-							
Seg_#	Arr_time	Del_Time	Stall_Dur	Rep_Level	Del_Rate	Act_Rate	Byte_Size	Buff_Level
I	1517	1097	0	232	905	248	124131	4.000
2	3629	7	0	752	2104	900	450106	8.000
3	8115	4090	0	1774	2016	2062	1031136	12.000
4	23418	14936	0	1774	512	1914	957238	0.697
5	27725	1275	0	374	434	138	69286	0.390
6	30130	1690	0	374	745	315	157538	1.985
7	37117	5004	1001	374	417	522	261058	0.000
8	45637	7172	4520	374	239	429	214866	0.000
9	51840	2906	2203	232	301	219	109544	0.000
10	53700	281	0	232	2422	170	85085	2.140



- MISL
 - Column values provide information on:
 - Buffer level of the client once a segment has arrived.

Seg_#	Arr_time	Del_Time	Stall_Dur	Rep_Level	Del_Rate	Act_Rate	Byte_Size	Buff_Level
I	1517	1097	0	232	905	248	124131	4.000
2	3629	1711	0	752	2104	900	450106	8.000
3	8115	4090	0	1774	2016	2062	1031136	12.000
4	23418	14936	0	1774	512	1914	957238	0.697
5	27725	1275	0	374	434	138	69286	0.390
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7	37117	5004	1001	374	417	522	261058	0.000
8	45637	7172	4520	374	239	429	214866	0.000
9	51840	2906	2203	232	301	219	109544	0.000
10	53700	281	0	232	2422	170	85085	2.140



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- *n*_{st} :The average number of stalls per session
- t_{st} The average stall duration per session
- r_{av} The average received quality rate per session
- n_{sw} The average number of switches per session
- I_{sw}: The average switching level how many quality rates are within a single switch jump
- χ : The user quality of experience based on DASH-UE model (IEEE Trans. Broadcasting 2015) an objective metric derived based on subjective evaluations.



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BBA

(a) Static Fading

Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}
BET	0.27	5.63	467.19	11.83	1.25
MT	3.97	40.55	530.89	8.04	1.07
PF	0.53	2.76	553.10	9.23	1.17
PSS	0.33	3.12	454.93	9.9	1.19

(b) Mobile Pedestrian Fading

Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}
BET	0	0	429.76	11.1	1.34
MT	0.1	0.39	541.21	11.37	1.35
PF	0	0	558.75	11.43	1.35
PSS	0	0	490.56	11.2	1.37

Festive

(a) Static Fading

Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}
BET	1.37	11.78	480.64	17	1
MT	6.28	43.71	524.80	14.24	1
PF	1.1	11.18	591.24	19.07	1
PSS	1.2	12.60	503.71	22.07	1

(b) Mobile Pedestrian Fading

Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}
BET	0.033	0.62	458.00	26.83	1
MT	0	0	574.15	22.27	1
PF	0	0	585.80	22.67	1
PSS	0	0	534.23	21.8	1





(a) Static Fading

(b) Mobile Pedestrian Fading

Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}	Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}
BET	0.27	5.63	467.19	11.83	1.25	BET	0	0	429.76	11.1	1.34
MT	3.97	40.55	530.89	8.04	1.07	MT	0.1	0.39	541.21	11.37	1.35
PF	0.53	2.76	553.10	9.23	1.17	PF	0	0	558.75	11.43	1.35
PSS	0.33	3.12	454.93	9.9	1.19	PSS	0	0	490.56	11.2	1.37

- Maximum Throughput (MT) has the highest number of stalls (n_{st}) and stall durations (t_{st})
- Very high average quality rate (r_{av})
- Lower number of switches (n_{sw}) and switch jumps (l_{sw}) in static in comparison to mobile we can see switch rates are greater than one, as BBA can jump more than one quality rate per segment





(a) Static Fading

Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}
BET	0.27	5.63	467.19	11.83	1.25
MT	3.97	40.55	530.89	8.04	1.07
PF	0.53	2.76	553.10	9.23	1.17
PSS	0.33	3.12	454.93	9.9	1.19

(b) Mobile Pedestrian Fading

Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}
BET	0	0	429.76	11.1	1.34
MT	0.1	0.39	541.21	11.37	1.35
PF	0	0	558.75	11.43	1.35
PSS	0	0	490.56	11.2	1.37

- Blind Equal Throughput (BET) has the lowest number of stalls (n_{st}) but a mid range stall durations (t_{st}) in static nothing in mobile
- Relatively low average quality rate (r_{av})
- High number of switches (n_{sw}) and switch jumps (l_{sw}) in both static and mobile





(a) Static Fading

(b) Mobile Pedestrian Fading

Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}	Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}
BET	0.27	5.63	467.19	11.83	1.25	BET	0	0	429.76	11.1	1.34
MT	3.97	40.55	530.89	8.04	1.07	MT	0.1	0.39	541.21	11.37	1.35
PF	0.53	2.76	553.10	9.23	1.17	PF	0	0	558.75	11.43	1.35
PSS	0.33	3.12	454.93	9.9	1.19	PSS	0	0	490.56	11.2	1.37

- Proportional Fair (PF) & Priority set scheduler (PSS) have a low number of stalls (n_{st}) and relatively low stall durations (t_{st}) in static nothing in mobile
- Mid range number of switches (n_{sw}) and switch jumps (l_{sw}) in both static and mobile both higher in mobile
- Higher average quality rate (r_{av}) in PF







- MIS
 - We see similar results in Festive for MT, but due to the cautious nature of festive, we see no stalls (n_{st}) and stall durations (t_{st}) in Mobile and single switch jumps
 - BET fairs worse for Festive for both Static and Mobile in stalls (n_{st}) and stall durations (t_{st}) but similar for the other metrics

Festive

(a) Static Fading

(b) Mobile Pedestrian Fading

Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}		Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{su}
BET	1.37	11.78	480.64	17	1		BET	0.033	0.62	458.00	26.83	1
MT	6.28	43.71	524.80	14.24	1		MT	0	0	574.15	22.27	1
PF	1.1	11.18	591.24	19.07	1		PF	0	0	585.80	22.67	1
PSS	1.2	12.60	503.71	22.07	1]	PSS	0	0	534.23	21.8	1



- MISL
 - We see similar results in Festive for MT, but due to the cautious nature of festive, we see no stalls (n_{st}) and stall durations (t_{st}) in Mobile and single switch jumps
 - BET fairs worse for Festive for both Static and Mobile in stalls (n_{st}) and stall durations (t_{st}) but similar for the other metrics
 - PF and PSS are similar but PF improves the quality rate

Festive

(a) Static Fading

(b) Mobile Pedestrian Fading

Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}	Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}
BET	1.37	11.78	480.64	17	1	BET	0.033	0.62	458.00	26.83	1
MT	6.28	43.71	524.80	14.24	1	MT	0	0	574.15	22.27	1
PF	1.1	11.18	591.24	19.07	1	PF	0	0	585.80	22.67	1
PSS	1.2	12.60	503.71	22.07	1	PSS	0	0	534.23	21.8	1





BBA

(a) Static Fading

Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}
BET	0.27	5.63	467.19	11.83	1.25
MT	3.97	40.55	530.89	8.04	1.07
PF	0.53	2.76	553.10	9.23	1.17
PSS	0.33	3.12	454.93	9.9	1.19

(b) Mobile Pedestrian Fading

Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}
BET	0	0	429.76	11.1	1.34
MT	0.1	0.39	541.21	11.37	1.35
PF	0	0	558.75	11.43	1.35
PSS	0	0	490.56	11.2	1.37

Festive

(a) Static Fading

Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}
BET	1.37	11.78	480.64	17	1
MT	6.28	43.71	524.80	14.24	1
PF	1.1	11.18	591.24	19.07	1
PSS	1.2	12.60	503.71	22.07	1

(b) Mobile Pedestrian Fading

Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}
BET	0.033	0.62	458.00	26.83	1
MT	0	0	574.15	22.27	1
PF	0	0	585.80	22.67	1
PSS	0	0	534.23	21.8	1





(a) Static Fading						
Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}	
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PF	0.53	2.76	553.10	9.23	1.17	
PSS	0.33	3.12	454.93	9.9	1.19	

(a)	Static	Fading
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Algorithm	n_{st}	t_{st}	r_{av}	n_{sw}	l_{sw}
BET	1.37	11.78	480.64	17	1
MT	6.28	43.71	524.80	14.24	1
PF	1.1	11.18	591.24	19.07	1
PSS	1.2	12.60	503.71	22.07	1

BBA

Festive

- Less number of stalls (*n*_{st}) in BBA due to larger buffer, but can be wasted network resources if abandonment occurs
- Lower switches in BBA due to building the buffer at a lower rate
- Higher average quality rate

 (*r_{av}*) in Festive due to
 constantly probing the
 network



Evaluation Results – Average Quality Rate



- Better quality rate closer to eNB
- MT high quality rate but too many stalls
- BET too low
- PF and PSS similar ³⁰⁰ but PF better



(a) BBA-Static Fading





(b) BBA-Mobile Pedestrian Fading





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Evaluation Results – Average Quality Rate



Evaluation Results – Client QoE



Conclusion

- Key Insight: our performance evaluation shows that when a UE is mobile there are significantly fewer, reduced duration, stalls, and better average received quality rate, leading to higher user QoE.
 - Our results indicate that user mobility within a cell mitigates the effects of long-term fading on video delivery, unlike for static users at the cell-edge where fading effects are significant.
 - We show that cell-edge users suffer from significant streaming performance degradation with all schedulers.
- In such settings, we found that the proportional fair scheduler leads to the best QoE on average, but achievable quality will also depend as much on the adaptation algorithm utilised.



Summary

- We utilized a Hybrid physical and simulated infrastructure to evaluate LTE schedulers in NS3
- We used our DASH Dataset to stream actual content to real clients over our 'D-LiTE' evaluation platform
- We investigated the impact of LTE scheduling policy on the performance of the adaptive streaming clients
- We presented evaluation results for two adaptive streaming algorithms: the throughput-based FESTIVE [3], and buffer-based approach (BBA) [4].



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Questions???

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Evaluation Results – PF, Static, 4-sec seg.

