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| 11ax Evaluation Methodology | | | | |
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# Abstract

This document describes the simulation methodology, evaluation metrics and traffic models for assessing 80.11ax proposals’ performance.

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# Revisions

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Revision** | **Comments** | **Date** |
| *R0* | Initial draft template | May 8th 2014 |
| *R1* |  | May 14th 2014 |
| *R2* | Update of MAC calibration and style template | May 15th 2014 |

# Notes on this version

In R2 added:

1. Text for box 3 of the calibration procedure
2. Variable bit rate coding heading in Appendix 2
3. Table of contents and style template

# Simulation Methodologies - General Concept

Two types of simulation methodologies are defined to enable the assessment of the performance and gain of proposed 11ax techniques relative to 11ac, each having its own advantages:

1. PER simulations – typically used for new PHY features for assessing point to point performance
2. System simulations – provide system-wise (multi-BSS, multi-STA) performance assessment with various degrees of detail as defined in the following three options:
   1. PHY system simulations – provide system-wise (multi-BSS) performance assessment with emphasis on PHY abstraction accuracy and very simplified MAC (e.g. transmissions are limited by CCA rules)
   2. MAC system simulations - provide system-wise (multi-BSS) performance assessment with emphasis on MAC accuracy and very simplified PHY (e.g. AWGN channel)
   3. Integrated system simulations – provide system-wise (multi-BSS) performance assessment with close-to-reality level of details accuracy by integrating both PHY and MAC

All three system simulation options have certain advantages and disadvantages:

1. Integrated system simulation:
   1. Provide comprehensive performance evaluation of PHY and MAC techniques in an environment that is close to a real-world scenario
   2. Provide deeper insight into PHY/MAC interworking:
      1. Techniques such as MU-MIMO or techniques for improving control frame delivery efficiency and reliability may require both PHY and MAC details.
      2. In some instances performance gain may only be revealed by observing the joint effects of both PHY and MAC models
      3. Enable the understanding of performance tradeoff between layers, e.g. some PHY rate enhancements may sacrifice MAC efficiency
2. PHY and MAC system simulations:
   1. Simplify some of the MAC/PHY details respectively
   2. Provide faster run time thus enabling more extensive research
   3. Speed up the project development by reducing dependency of PHY on MAC and vice versa
   4. Improve insight into the specific reason for performance gains/losses by isolating the MAC and PHY
   5. Enable accurate investigation of techniques that do not require all PHY/MAC details to be simulated

All system simulations options are used over the same simulation scenarios as defined in [10][11].

# System Simulation – High Level Description

A system simulation is comprised of multiple drops and multiple transmission events.

A drop is defined as a specific set of AP and STA locations within a topography. Different drops have different STA locations and possibly different AP locations as defined by the simulation scenario document [11] but the topography of the environment remains unchanged.

During a transmission event a set of transmissions occurs across multiple BSS. Multiple transmission events with typical aggregate duration 1-10[sec] beyond a warm-up time are required to assess the performance of a given configuration of APs and STAs. Each BSS may have different start time, duration and end time for its transmission event but time alignment (start, duration, end) of transmission events across different BSSs in the system is a possible outcome of a proposed MAC protocol.

A’warm-up’ period may be used to allow for some parameters to converge. For example:

1. MCS selection - if the MCS adaptation algorithm requires decisions based on past performance then the warm-up period may be used for initializing the algorithm.
2. Offered load - if all flows start exactly at T0, then the offered load goes from 0 to X instantaneously, and a high number of collisions will occur when there is a large number of STAs in the scenario. It will take a warm-up time for the system to recover to a stable operating condition.
   1. The backoff mechanism will effectively reduce the total offered load of the system by increasing the CW at each competing STA and thereby reducing its offered load, until the system total offered load is at Y < X

General simulation structure:

For drop=1:N {

Drop APs and STAs according to the description in [11]

Determine the channel for every link using distance-based PL, shadowing, wall/floor loss, and multipath model.

Associate STAs with APs according to the description in [11]

Note – determine users with SINR under that of MCS0 by ‘un-associated user’. Exclude un-associated users in evaluation. For the purpose of information, provide the percentage of un-associated users in evaluation

For transmission event=1:M {

* + Note – one can count time, ensuring that enough time has passed to see M transmission events
  + Note – the transmission event duration may not be the same in each BSS
  + Generate traffic at chosen nodes. Nodes chosen in compliance with
    - CCA rules and various other EDCA parameters
    - Channel access ordering rules (round robin, proportional fair, distributed access)
  + Generate packets consistent with a link adaptation algorithm
    - SU OL, SU BF, MU
    - MCS selection
  + Perform transmissions
  + Determine packet success or no
  + Collect metrics.

}

}

# PER Simulation Description

PHY PER simulations are used to verify point to point performance or aspects that are suitable for this type of simulation, such as new PHY features and preamble performance.

PHY impairments such as PA non-linearity, phase noise, synchronization error, channel estimation error and non-linear receivers are more readily incorporated into PER simulations and simulations that vary these parameters may be needed to test proposals if it is postulated that the techniques within those proposals are adversely affected by these impairments [6][9].

Other impairments such as the impact of OBSS interference or inter-symbol interference should also be verified by PER simulations by explicitly adding interfering packets to the simulation.

# PHY System Simulation Detailed Description

The emphasis here is on accurate modeling of the PHY using PHY abstraction (see description in Appendix I) with focus on DATA packets.

Only the very basic MAC is simulated. This is captured in the following description of a PHY system simulation using the approach taken in [17]:

1. Drop AP’s and STA’s according to scenario (random and/or deterministic placement)
   1. Ensure that every STA <-> associated AP link can sustain MCS0 (or another predetermined MCS) in both directions.
   2. Channel for every link in network determined by distance-based path loss, shadowing, wall/floor loss, and multipath model
      1. Independent shadowing for every TX-RX link
      2. Deterministic values for wall & floor loss
2. Once drop has been made, for link between every pair of devices in the building have:
   1. Path loss value, with path loss value accounting for shadowing and penetration losses
   2. Multipath channel
3. TX event: determine set of active TX nodes and RX SINR based on that set
   1. Initialize visited BSS set as empty.
   2. Randomly select an un-visited BSS
      1. Identify potential TX/RX pair in selected BSS: Randomly determine downlink/uplink according to downlink probability, and randomly select one of STA’s in selected BSS
      2. Check interference level from already activated TX’s at potential TX device
         1. Sum power in linear domain across interferers and tones, and average (in linear domain) across RX antennas to get aggregate interference
         2. If interference <= threshold, activate link and add potential TX to the set of already activated TX’s
         3. If interference > threshold, do not activate.
   3. Continue above until every BSS has been tried once.
   4. Once complete, the set of active TX nodes in the current TX event has been determined.
4. For each TX event, visit BSS’s in a random order -> thereby leading to possibly different active TX set for each TX event
5. For a single drop, run many TX events and compute a per-flow throughput
6. Flow is either uplink from a STA or downlink to a STA. Total # of flows = 2 \* # STA’s
7. Perform above across many drops to get averaging across spatial distribution

An implicit assumption is made that transmissions in OBSS are time synchronized since devices hear the preamble and defer for the duration of a packet.

# Integrated System Simulation Detailed Description

Integrated system simulation is a discrete-event simulation, which accurately models the behaviors of both PHY and MAC as a discrete sequence of events in time. Each event occurs at a particular instant in time and marks a change of state in the system. Between consecutive events, no change in the system is assumed to occur; thus the simulation can directly jump in time from one event to the next, as shown in Figure 1.

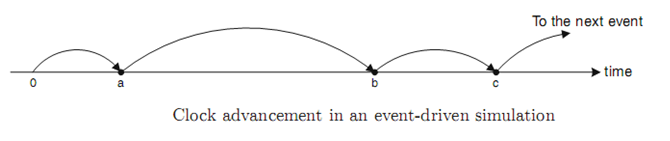


Figure 1: Clock advancement in an event-driven simulator

The feature set of integrated system simulation includes a minimal feature list and a nice-to-have feature list, as shown Table 1.

Table 1: Feature list of integrated system simulation

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Full feature list | |
| Minimum features | Nice-to-have Features |
| MAC | CCA | Multiple channels |
| Control frame (RTS/CTS/ACK/Block ACK) | Control frame (CTS2self) |
| EDCA | Management frame |
| Aggregation (A-MPDU in 11ac) | … |
| Link Adaption |  |
| Transmission mode (SU-OL, Beamforming,…) selection |  |
| PHY | Beamforming vector | MU-MIMO |
| MMSE | … |
| Effective SINR Mapping and PER prediction |  |
| Energy detection |  |

MAC process should model the features of EDCA, CCA, aggregation, control frame (RTS/CTS/ACK) transmission and reception, link adaptation and sending the receiving result to statistics collection block, as illustrated in the Figure 2.



Figure 2: Detailed modelling of MAC

Notes: The feedback delay of channel state information in link adaptation should be considered.

PHY process includes abstraction of sending packets from MAC to channel, receive packets from channel and notify MAC. The following features should be detailed modeled, including beamforming vector, SINR calculation based on receiver algorithm, effective SINR mapping, PER prediction, energy detection, etc, as illustrated in Figure 3.



Figure 3: Detailed modelling of PHY

The simulation procedure follows the following steps:

## Step 1: initialization

* Drop APs and STAs according to description in [11], and initialise the internal state of each node device.
* Determine channel model for each AP and STA according to the description in [11].
* Associate STAs with APs according to description in [11].
* Create an event list as the main event scheduler of the simulator.

Notes: The location of each STA remains unchanged during a drop. Additionally, the STA is assumed to remain attached to the same AP for the duration of the drop.

## Step 2: event creation and processes

There are three types of events defined, including traffic generation event, MAC event, and PHY event. These events are inserted into the event list, and trigger subsequent MAC/PHY processes based on their particular time instant.

* Traffic generation event: is created by upper layer at the time instant of packet generation according to the traffic model. It triggers the packet generation process to generate a packet.

Note: the packet can include only the information of time instant and size, instead of actual bit stream.

* MAC event: is created by either upper layer at a transmitter or PHY layer at receiver. MAC events created by upper layer trigger the MAC process at the transmitter for the packet in MAC layer. MAC events created by PHY layer determine whether the packet is correctly received or not based on the PER predicted in PHY and trigger MAC process at the receiver when the packet is correctly received.
* PHY event: is created by MAC layer at a transmitter when the packet in MAC layer is ready for transmission. It triggers a PHY process at a receiver to predict PER for the packet.

Step 2 includes the following processes:

* packet generation process
  + For each traffic generation event, generate a packet including packet time instant and packet size
  + Create a MAC event when the packet is passed from upper layer to MAC layer
  + Create (next) traffic generation event according to each AP/STA’s traffic models

Notes: Start times for each traffic type for each STA should be randomized as specified in the traffic model being simulated.

MAC process at transmitter, if the MAC event is from upper layer:

* + Check CCA from energy detection in PHY and NAV in MAC
  + Carry out EDCA with CSMA/CA procedure
    - Count down backoff timer
    - Send RTS/CTS configurable by scenario/technique
  + Select transmission mode, e.g. SU OL, SU BF, MU, choose MCS, and perform packet aggregation, then create a PHY event and insert it into the event list based on the generation time of PHY event, and wait for PHY process
    - Packet aggregation rules specified in each simulation scenario are to be applied before transmission.

MAC process at receiver, if the MAC event is from PHY layer:

* + Determine the event success/failure based on PER as the abstract packet delivered by PHY
  + Send ACK/BA if packet transmission is successful
    - Notify the packet receive results to upper layer (Optional)

PHY process

* + Each AP/STA in the network performs energy detection and updates its CCA indication
  + Each AP/STA with channel busy in the network updates its NAV
  + TX: obtain precoding matrix, then notify RX
  + Channel: generate instantaneous fading channel (or load from offline files)
  + RX: calculate SINR of each tone based on receiver algorithms, e.g. MMSE, and perform PHY abstraction to obtain post SINR, and then PER
  + Create a MAC event to trigger MAC process at receiver

Repeat step 2 with sufficient simulation time to collect statistics.

## Step 3: Statistics collection

Collection the statistics according to the performance metrics defined in [x]

Note: in order to obtain reliable results, sufficient numbers of drops are simulated to ensure convergence.

Following is a more detailed description:

For drop=1:N

{

Step1:

{

Drop APs and STAs according to description in [11];

Associate STAs with APs according to description in [11];

Create event list for the scheduler of simulator;

Initialize the traffic generation event for each AP/STA;

}

Step2:

While simulation time is less than the end time

{

While traffic generation event occurs

{

Generate a packet of the size according to traffic model;

Create MAC event when the packet is passed to MAC;

Create the next traffic generation event at the time instant according to traffic model;

}

While MAC event occurs

{

If MAC event is from upper layer

{

If the CCA indicates idle and NAV is not set

{

EDCA with CSMA/CA procedure

{

Count down backoff timer;

}

Select transmission mode, e.g. SU OL, SU BF, MU;

Choose MCS;

Packet aggregation;

Create PHY events, and wait for PHY process;

}

}

If MAC event is from PHY layer

{

Determine the packet transmission success/failure based on PER;

If packet transmission is successful

{

Notify the packet receive status to upper layer (optional);

Send ACK;

}

}

}

While PHY event occurs

{

Each AP/STA in the network performs energy detection and updates its CCA indication;

Each AP/STA with channel busy in the network updates its NAV;

TX: obtain precoding matrix, then notify RX;

Channel: generate instantaneous fading channel (or load from offline files);

RX: calculate SINR of each tone based on receiver algorithms, perform PHY abstraction to obtain post SINR and get PER;

Create a MAC event to notify PER to MAC, and wait for MAC process;

}

}

Step3:

Collect statistics.

}

# MAC System Simulation Description

MAC system simulation is an integrated system simulation stripped out of the details of PHY modelling, e.g. a SISO configuration with AWGN - path loss and penetration loss should be modeled according to the scenario-specific definition.

# Simulation Methodology Choice

Proponents of different techniques should provide justification for their proposed simulation methodology used to justify the technique’s gains. Proponents should also provide a comparison to performance with baseline parameters, e.g. .11ac.

Examples:

* PHY PER simulation:
  1. New PHY – a PER simulation is typically sufficient in order to decide the number of pilots, interleaver parameters and other parameters.
  2. Preamble performance
  3. Implementation losses of current and new PHY modes.
  4. Interference, especially if varying across the packet, impact on PER.
* PHY System simulation:
  1. Impact of number of antennas on multi-BSS performance
  2. Impact of PHY techniques in the context of multi-BSS
  3. Impact of frequency re-use in multi-BSS
  4. Impact of CCA levels on system throughput
* MAC System simulation:
  1. Impact of MAC scheduler – for example EDCA vs. RAW (as in 11ah) vs. HCCA vs. other techniques
  2. Impact of frequency re-use in multi-BSS
  3. Impact of CCA levels
* Integrated System simulation:
  1. Performance evaluation of 11AX solution in the environment close to real-world
  2. Impact of crosslayer techniques affecting both PHY and MAC layers in the context of multi-BSS

Note that some techniques can be simulated using multiple simulation tools to provide better insight

# System Simulation Calibration

Calibration of all system simulations is used to harmonize results between multiple entities and is depicted in the following flow chart whereby level of details is divided between several boxes with generally increasing level of detail starting at box 1 and ending in box 5.



Box 1 : Long-term statistics calibration

* The objective is to align the distribution of static radio characteristics.
* Static radio characteristics reflect the deployment, STA-AP association, and large-scale fading channel generation.

Box 2: multipath and MIMO are added

* The objective is to align distribution of accurate realistic channels (small and large scale fading) with MIMO configurations.

Box 3 : MAC system simulator calibration.

* The objective is to align the MAC system simulator using a defined set of features

Box 4: PHY system simulator

* The objective is to align the PHY system simulator.

Box 5: Integrated system simulator calibration

* The objective is to align a combination of all PHY and MAC features

Box 0: PHY abstraction is used in system simulations in lieu of running PER simulations

The following table specifies which box is used to calibrate which scenario. Box 1 is used for calibration of every scenario and only scenarios 1 and 4 are used for calibration of all boxes.

* Scenarios 2 and 3 have similar channels as scenario 1
* Scenario 3 has similar topology as scenario 4

Table 2: Box usage by scenario

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Scenario 1 | Scenario 2 | Scenario 3 | Scenario 4 |
| Box 1 – long term SINR | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Box 2 – multipath SINR | Y |  |  | Y |
| Box 3 – MAC SLS | Y |  |  | Y |
| Box 4 – PHY SLS | Y |  |  | Y |
| Box 5 – Integrated PHY/MAC SLS | Y |  |  | Y |

A detailed description of the calibration process is as follows:

## Box 1

The long-term SINR is defined as the ratio between the long-term received power from a desired transmitter and the sum of the long-term received power from all the interfering transmitters plus noise.

For example, if a STA is the transmitter, the intended receiver is the associated AP; if an AP is the transmitter, the intended receiver is one of the STAs associated with it. The interfering transmitters are defined in each test.

The long-term SINR of the receiver node-RX with the desired transmitter node-TX is defined as:



The summation of interference is over every BSS which contains at least 1 interfering transmitters. The number of interfering transmitter in the BSS that the receiver belongs to is always 0.

The long-term received power at a receiver node-RX from a (desired or interfering) transmitter node-TX is defined as:



### Test 1 (interference free)

No interfering transmitter is defined for each BSS. Therefore, for the n-th BSS, *Ω(k)={}* and *N(k)=0*, for *k=1…NBSS*.

Denote the set of *NSTA(k)* STAs associated with AP-k as *Ф(k)*. DL long-term SINR (received at each STA at all BSS’s) is explicitly defined as:



For this test, only DL long-term SINR is required.

### Test 2 (DL only)

For a receiver (STA) in the n-th BSS, the interfering transmitters are defined to be all non-associated APs. Therefore, *Ω(k)={AP-k}, N(k)=1* for *k=1…NBSS­, k≠n*.

DL long-term SINR (received at each STA at all BSS’s) is explicitly defined as:



### Test 3 (UL only)

Each BSS randomly selects a STA as the transmitter. For the AP in the n-th BSS, the interfering transmitters are defined to be all the activated and non-associated STAs. Therefore, *Ω(k)={STA-m, mϵФ(k)}, N(k)=1* for *k=1…NBSS­, k≠n*.

UL long-term SINR (received at each AP at all BSS’s) is explicitly defined as:



### Test 4 (DL/UL=1:1)

Each BSS randomly chooses DL or UL with p=0.5, and further randomly select a STA in this BSS. The transmitter and the receiver will be the AP and the selected STA depending on the DL/UL. For the receiver in the n-th BSS, the interfering transmitters are defined to be all the activated transmitters that are not in the same BSS. Therefore, , *Ω(k)={AP-k or STA-i, iϵФ(k)}*, *N(k)=1* for *k=1…NBSS­, k≠n*.

Long-term SINR (received at each AP or STA at all BSS’s) is explicitly defined as:



A separate CDF will be generated for DL and UL SINR.

### Test 5 (all nodes are active)

All the nodes are active. For each receiver AP or STA) in the n-th BSS, the interfering transmitters are defined to be all the APs and STAs in other BSS’s. Therefore, *Ω(k)={AP-k and STA-i, for all iϵФ(k)}*, *N(k)=NSTA(k)+1* for *k=1…NBSS­, k≠n*.

Long-term SINR (received at each AP or STA at all BSS’s) is explicitly defined as:



A separate CDF will be generated for DL and UL SINR.

### Procedure of test

* For each test on a selected calibration scenario and at least [x] drops of STA/AP is required for convergence.
* In each drop,
  + Drop STAs/APs, and associate each STA with an AP according to the scenario.
  + Activate the transmitter nodes and the receiver nodes, and collect the long-term SINR defined by the test.
* Generate the distribution (CDF) of long-term SINR collected over multiple drops.
  + The data format of SINR CDF is the SINR value for each percentile.
* Calibration goal:
  + The difference between distributions from multiple companies should be within [x]%.

## Box 2

The multipath SINR is defined as the instantaneous frequency-domain equalizer output SINR with the fading channels from both the desire transmitter and interfering transmitters.

For example, if a STA is the transmitter, the intended receiver is the associated AP; if an AP is the transmitter, the intended receiver is one of the STAs associated with it. The interfering transmitters are defined in each test.

The multipath SINR of the receiver node-RX with the desired transmitter node-TX at the m-th tone assumes the received signal as



The SINR depends on the receiver type (such as MRC/MMSE). The number of interfering transmitter in the BSS that the receiver belongs to is always 0.

For example, for SISO case (1x1, no precoding), the SINR is defined as



The long-term received power at a receiver node-RX from a (desired or interfering) transmitter node-TX is defined as in box1.

### Test 1 (interference free)

For this test, only DL multipath SINR is required. No interfering transmitter is defined for each BSS. Therefore, for the n-th BSS, *Ω(k)={}* and *N(k)=0*, for *k=1…NBSS*.

### Test 2 (DL only)

For a receiver (STA) in the n-th BSS, the interfering transmitters are defined to be all non-associated APs. Therefore, *Ω(k)={AP-k}, N(k)=1* for *k=1…NBSS­, k≠n*.

### Test 3 (all nodes per channel access rule)

A channel access rule is used to select 0 or 1 transmitters per BSS. For the corresponding receiver in the n-th BSS, the interfering transmitters are defined to be the nodes that obtain channel access by the rule. Therefore, *Ω(k)={none, or AP-k, or STA-i, for some iϵФ(k)}*, *N(k) = 0 or 1*, for *k=1…NBSS­*.

Channel access rules use CCA are defined as:

1. Order all nodes (STAs and APs) and put them in a list in a random order, initialize a set of transmitter *T*={}, and *Ω(k)={}*, for *k=1…NBSS­*
2. While the list is not empty:
   1. Select the first node and remove it from the list.
   2. Calculate the interference based on the current *Ω(k),* for *k=1…NBSS­.*That is,



* 1. Compare the interference with CCA threshold [x]. If the interference is smaller than the threshold,
     1. Add this node to *T*, and set *Ω(n)={this node},*if this node belongs to BSS-n.
     2. If this node is an AP, randomly selects an associated STA as receiver; if this node is a STA, the receiver is the associated AP.
     3. Remove all existing nodes in the same BSS from the list.

1. Output the set of transmitter *T*.

A flow chart of such a CCA-based channel access rule:



Figure 4: CCA-based channel access rule flow chart

A separate CDF will be generated for DL and UL SINR.

### Procedure of test

* For each test on a selected calibration scenario, at least [x] drops of STA/AP and [x] TX events per drop are required for convergence.
* In each drop,
  + Drop STAs/APs, and associate each STA with an AP according to the scenario.
  + In each TX event, select the transmitter and receiver nodes, and collect the multipath SINR per tone for the pairs of transmitter/receiver.
  + The fading channel evolves over the TX events (detailed to be added).
* Generate the distribution (CDF) of multipath SINR collected over the simulation time from multiple drops.
  + The CDF of SINR per tone.
  + The CDF of effective SINR per reception based on capacity mapping, i.e.,



where *Ntones* is the number of tone.

* + The data format of SINR CDF is the SINR value for each percentile.
* Calibration goal:
  + The difference between distributions from multiple companies should be within [x]%.

## Box 0

The calibration is repeated for BCC and LDPC coding schemes.

Assume idea channel estimation (The impact of practical CE error will be counted as additional noise in per-tone SINR calculation in system simulation).

Assume a fixed packet size 1000 bytes.

An L-MMSE (equivalently MRC for single spatial stream) receiver is assumed.

### Step 1: Align AWGN link performance

* For each MCS (MCS0 to MCS9), provide SNR vs. PER curves at a SNR step size of 2dB.

### Step 2: Verify the effective SNR vs. PER performance against AWGN results

* Specify the effective SNR mapping method used (e.g., RBIR/MMIB/EESM/Constrained Capacity) and tuning parameters (if any).
* Simulate over 11nB\_NLOS, 11nD\_NLOS
  + For each channel type:
    - Simulate over a range of SNR in 1dB steps down to 1% of PER for each MCS
    - For each SNR, simulate over at least 5000 independent channel realizations
      * For each channel realization collect the effective SNR (a scalar for one spatial stream) and 1-bit flag of decoding result (success or failure) 🡪 a 1x2 vector as output [SNR\_eff, flag]
      * Combine the large collections of [SNR\_eff, flag] over all realizations and SNRs, and quantize to effective SNR in 0.25dB steps vs. PER table
      * PER = (# of successful decoded packets in a SNR\_eff bin) / (# of packets in this SNR\_eff bin)

### Step 3: Verify the SNR vs. PER performance against fading channel results

* Specify the effective SNR mapping method used, tuning parameters, and the effective SNR vs. PER curves obtained in Step 2.
* Simulate over 11nB\_NLOS, 11nD\_NLOS
  + The channel realizations are generated independently of step 2.
  + For each channel type:
    - Simulate over a range of SNR in 1dB steps down to 1% of PER for each MCS
    - For each SNR, simulate over at least 100 independent channel realizations.
    - For each realization run at least 1000 packets and for each packet decide if it has been successfully received by the prediction-based or simulation-based methods.
      * For the predicted decision, compute the effective SINR, and find the *predicted* PER. Decide that this packet is successfully decoded if a random variable drawn uniformly in [0,1] is larger than the predicted PER.
      * For the simulated decision, determine that this packet is successfully decoded if CRC check is passed at the output of decoder.
      * Calculate the PER for this SNR value by PER = (# of successful decoded packets at this SNR level) / (# of packets for this SNR level)
      * Notes:
        1. The numbers of successful decoded packets are counted for both prediction based on PHY abstraction and decoder output.
        2. PER is quantized by the received SNR level, instead of effective SNR levels as in step 2.
      * PER is considered to be accurately predicted if the standard deviation of the SNR gap at the 10% and 1% SNR points is less the [TBD]dB

## Box 3

To improve the validity and credibility of MAC simulator, two types of testing are proposed, feature tests, and performance tests. Feature test is mainly designed to check the core MAC functions and should be PHY agnostic.  Core MAC functions include EDCA, BlockAck and A-MPDU. Feature tests are mandatory.   Performance tests are added to help verify some additional MAC functionality and these tests are optional.

Feature tests are designed to have expected outputs which should include various traces. Traces may include event timing traces, MAC state traces, sequence numbers, buffer contents, etc. Critical check points can be identified within these traces and can serve as an indicator of correct MAC behavior per IEEE specification. Feature tests can also test metrics such at Tput. On the other hand, performance tests collect the statistics of the system performance for the complete simulation scenarios described in [10].

It is required to calibrate individual MAC features via the following set of   simplified scenario tests, (see [10] in scenarios for calibration of MAC simulator)

* + Test 1: Overhead Tests
    - MAC overhead w/o RTS/CTS
    - MAC overhead w/ RTS/CTS
  + Test 2:  Deferral tests.
    - Test that APs defer when they should
    - Test that APs don’t defer when they shouldn’t
  + Test 3: NAV test
  + More tests to be added

If planning on using the MAC simulator as a standalone simulator to bring in simulation results, tests using the full simulation scenarios as defined in [10] would be needed.

* + In this case, the simulation parameters to be used are defined in the scenario itself.
  + Note that certain behavior not explicitly defined by the standard may be implemented differently by different companies; each test should also clarify the assumption for the modeling of relevant behavior not defined by the standard.

## Box 4

Box 4 is based on the process described in Box 2 test 3 and augmented to include MCS and PER as described in box 0.

MCS choice is based on:

* Genie; or
* Goodput maximizing MCS

The output metrics are CDF of:

* Per-STA throughput
* SINR of active links
* Per-STA selected MCS
* Per-STA airtime

## Box 5

Box 5 should calibrate the system level performance in the scenario calibrated in box 1 and box 2 based on the MAC and PHY features listed in the following table based on the results of box 3 and box 4.

Table 3: MAC and PHY features

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Feature** |  |
| MAC | CCA |
| Control frame, e.g. RTS/CTS/ACK/Block ACK |
| EDCA |
| Aggregation (A-MPDU in 11ac) |
| Link Adaption |
| PHY | Beamforming |
| MIMO with MMSE receiver |
| PHY abstraction |

Test 1: full buffer traffic model assumption

Test 2: real traffic model and traffic mix assumption defined in evaluation methodology and simulation scenario document.

The output metrics are CDF of :

* Per-STA throughput
* Per-BSS Throughput
* Packet Loss
* Transmission Latency

# Traffic Models

Full buffer model is baseline – users always have DATA to send and receive.

A more realistic FTP traffic model may be used based on [15]. Specific parameters are TBD.

A mix of small and large packets should be evaluated in order to test realistic assumptions on system performance.

Traffic models for Video are described in Appendix 2.

## Management traffic model

Management traffic model for unassociated clients:

* Probing period:
  + For {50%} of the clients: [12 seconds]
  + For {50%} of the clients:
    - [12.5 seconds]
    - If still unassociated after [5] times probing all the channels, then probe all the channels with doubled Probing period, and maximum period of [400 seconds].
* Probing channels: Every supported channel [1,2,3,4..,36,40,..]
* Probe request SSID: Broadcast probe requests to wildcard SSID, plus [0-3] specified SSIDs
* Probe Request frame size: [80B, or 160B]

Management traffic model for associated clients:

* Probing period: [60 seconds]
* Probing channels: Same channel that the client is associated, unless the associated AP Beacon’s RSSI is below [TBD dBm] in which case probe every supported channel [1,2,3,4..,36,40,..]
* Probe Request frame size: [80B, or 160B]

Probe request SSID: Probe the associated AP/SSID if RSSI is not below [TBD dBm], otherwise broadcast probe requests to wildcard SSID

# Metrics

11AX evaluation methodology defines evaluation of spectrum efficiency improvement in both link level and system level.

## Link Level Simulation

For PER simulations the typical metric is dB gain/loss in waterfall curves. The operating range to be observed is 1% to 10% PER.

## System Level Simulation

For system simulations it is suggested to use the following metrics to evaluate the system performance [2]-[9], [19]-[21]:

### Per-STA Throughout

Per-STA throughput metrics are used to measure the user experience in the area covered by one or multiple BSSs in different simulation scenario [11].

Definition – Per-STA throughput is measured at MAC SAP by the number bits (or bytes) of MAC payload successfully transmitted over the given measurement period in the full buffer simulation.

• Per-STA throughput at 5 percentile of throughput CDF curve measures the minimum throughput performance of stations at the cell edge.

• Per-STA throughput at 50 percentile of CDF curve measures the average throughput of stations in all participating BSS in the simulation.

• Per-STA throughput at 95 percentile of CDF curve measures the top performance of stations at the cell center of BSS.

Although the main target of 11AX is to improve the performance at 5 and 50 percentile of throughput CDF curve, it is suggested to measure Per-STA throughput at the 5, 50, and 95 percentile points. The entire throughput CDF curve and other information such as MCS histogram may help to evaluate the overall system performance improvement [3].

Per-STA throughout for DL and UL are measured separately.

### Per-BSS Throughput

Per-BSS throughput is used to evaluate BSS capacity in the various simulation scenarios described in [11]. This metric directly relates to the aggregated Per-STA throughputs in BSS and can be used to compare different deployment densities and heterogeneous deployments.

Definition – Per-BSS throughput is the aggregated Per-STA throughput among all the associated stations in a BSS.

Per-BSS throughout could be measured by aggregating Per-STA throughputs of all the stations in a BSS, or derived from Per-STA throughput times the number of associated stations in a BSS.

Per-BSS throughout for DL and UL are measured or calculated separately.

### Packet Loss

The packet loss metric is used to evaluate the system robustness especially in the high density deployment scenario. This metric reflects an aspect of system performance different from throughput and transmission latency.

Definition – The packet loss is defined as the number of MAC packet not delivered at all or not delivered in time to the receiver over the total number of offered MAC payloads.

The packet loss means that the MAC packet could not be decoded by the receiver due to the interference or low RSSI, or the MAC packet could not be delivered at the receiver in time for QoS flow due to traffic congestion.

### Transmission Latency

The metric of transmission latency is used to measure the time delay of medium acquisition in channel access mechanism. The transmission latency is used to evaluate an aspect of MAC performance in various QoS transmissions.

Definition – The transmission latency is measured from the time that MAC receives a packet till the time that PHY starts transmitting.

The transmission latency may include the time delay of

• AIFS

• Backoff time

• Other system parameters

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# Appendix 1 - PHY Abstraction

The objective of PHY abstraction is to accurately predict PER simulation results in a computationally efficient way to enable running system simulations in a timely manner.

The underlying principle is to calculate an effective average SINR (*SINReff* ) in a given OFDM symbol. This quantity then acts as a link between AWGN PER and multipath channel PER for a given coding type, block size and MCS level.

Effective SINR (*SINReff* ) is typically calculated as follows



where *SINRn* is the post processing SINR at the *n*-th subcarrier, *N* is the number of subcarriers in a coded block and Φ is a mapping function.

Several mapping functions can be used such as Constrained Capacity, EESM, MMIB, RBIR, etc. [12]

A general description is as follows:

* + Start from an agreed upon per-MCS required SNR in AWGN assuming 1000bytes SISO 10% PER point.
  + With one receive antenna:
    1. Compute SINR per tone – the ‘S’ term is a function of the Tx power and channel. The ‘I’ term is due to OBSS, intra-BSS interference or MU-MIMO related interference. Note that ‘I’ could vary during a packet due to shorter interfering packet than the desired packet or start of new interfering packet midway through the desired packet.
    2. Transform to MCS using one of several methods:
  + Constraint capacity - calculate the per-tone capacity log2(1+SINR), this could be constrained to 256QAM capacity, and average across all data tones used for transmission to arrive at the average capacity. From the average capacity derive the average SINR per tone and transform back to MCS using the AWGN MCS table.
  + MMIB - calculate the average per-bit capacity as described in [13] and [22]
  + RBIR - calculate the symbol information as described in [14].
* With multiple receive antennas:
  + 1. SINR should reflect the receive combining output from all antennas and the combining method should be indicated
    2. For MIMO reception, a linear MMSE receiver can be assumed (see description in section 4.4.4 of [12]) to be applied to the MIMO channel to generate an SINR per spatial stream.

# Appendix 2 – Traffic model descriptions

## Wireless Display (lightly compressed video) Traffic Model

Wireless display is a single-hop unidirectional (e.g., laptop to monitor) video application. The video slices (assuming a slice is a row of macro blocks) are generated at fixed slice interval. For example, for 1080p, the slice interval is 1/4080 seconds.

The video slices are typically packetized into MPEG-TS packets in wireless display application. But for 11AX simulation, we will ignore the MPEG-TS packetization process and assume video slices are delivered to MAC layer for transmission directly.

The traffic model for wireless display is modified from [TGad] with modifications below due to the fact that some parameters have dependency on video formats.

1. Parameters
   1. Set **IAT**, **MaxSliceSize** according to video format as Table 4.
   2. Normal distribution parameters
      1. µ = 15.798 Kbytes
      2. σ = 1.350 Kbytes
      3. b = 300 Mbps
2. Algorithm for generating each video slice/packet

* Input: target bit rate in Mbps (**p**)
* Output: slice size in Kbytes (L): At each IAT, generate a slice size L with the following distribution: Normal(µ\*(p/b), σ\*(p/b))
  + - If L > MaxSliceSize, set L= MaxSliceSize

Table 4: Model parameters

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Video format** | **Inter-arrival time (IAT)** | **MaxSliceSize** | **p** |
| 1080p60 | 1/4080 seconds | 92.160 Kbytes | 300 |
| 4K UHD (3840x2160) 60fps | 1/8100 seconds | 184.320 Kbytes | 600 |
| 8K UHD (7680x4320) 60fps | 1/16200 seconds | 368.640 Kbytes | 1200 |
| 1080p60 3D | 1/4080 seconds | 92.160 Kbytes | 450 |

Note: the data rate increase from 1080p to higher resolution is not linearly scaling as the uncompressed data rate due to higher redundancy in the images at higher resolution. Similar argument applies to 3D video. A 100% increase is assumed for 4K video as compared to 1080p, and 50% bit rate increase for 3D from 2D video.

### Evaluation metric

* MAC throughput, latency

## Buffered Video Steaming (e.g., YouTube, Netflix) Traffic Model

Unlike wireless display, video streaming is generated from a video server, and traverses multiple hops in the internet before arriving at AP for transmission to STA. It is a unidirectional traffic from the video server to the station.

Typically, Video streaming application runs over TCP/IP protocol, and video frames will be fragmented at TCP layer before leaving the video server. Since these TCP/IP packets experiences different processing and queuing delay at routers, the inter-arrival time between these TCP/IP packets are not a constant despite the fact that video frames are generated at constant interval at the video application layer.

### STA Layering Model

STA layering model is shown in Figure xx. Both AP and STA generate video frames at application layer. The video traffic goes through TCP/IP layer and then to MAC layer. The TCP protocol used for video streaming simulation is the same as other traffic model.



Figure 5: Traffic layering model

### Video traffic generation

The video traffic from AP to STA is generated as follows.

**Step 1**: At application layer, generate video frame size (bytes) according to Weibull distribution with the following PDF.


f(x;\lambda,k) =
\begin{cases}
\frac{k}{\lambda}\left(\frac{x}{\lambda}\right)^{k-1}e^{-(x/\lambda)^{k}} & x\geq0 ,\\
0 & x<0,
\end{cases}

Depending on the video bit rate, the parameters to use are specified in Table 5.

Table 5: Lambda and k parameter for video bit rate

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Video bit rate** | **lambda** | **k** |
| 15.6 Mpbs | 54210 | 0.8099 |
| 10Mbps | 34750 | 0.8099 |
| 8Mbps | 27800 | 0.8099 |
| 6Mbps | 20850 | 0.8099 |
| 4Mbps | 13900 | 0.8099 |
| 2Mbps | 695 | 368.640 Kbytes |

**Step 2**: AT TCP layer, set TCP segment as 1500 bytes and fragment video packet into TCP segments.

**Step 3**: Add network latency to TCP/IP packets when these segments arrive at AP for transmission. The network latency is generated according to Gamma distribution whose PDF is shown below

f(x;k,\theta) =  \frac{x^{k-1}e^{-\frac{x}{\theta}}}{\theta^k\Gamma(k)} \quad \text{ for } x > 0 \text{ and } k, \theta > 0.

Where

* + k=0.2463
  + theta=55.928

The mean of the latency with the above parameters is 14.834ms. To simulate longer or shorter network latency, scale theta linearly since mean of Gamma distribution is K\*theta

If network latency value is such that the packet arrives at MAC layer after the end of the simulation time, then re-generate another network latency value until the packet arrives at MAC within the simulation window.

**Additional steps for variable bit rate coding [TBD]**

### Evaluation metrics

* MAC throughput, latency
* TCP throughput, latency

## Video Conferencing (e.g., Lync) Traffic Model

Unlike buffered video streaming where video traffic is unidirectional and heavily buffered at the receiver, video conferencing is two-way video traffic with limited tolerance for latency. Video traffic is generated at each station, sent to AP, traverses the network/internet, reaches another AP, and then is transmitted to its destination STA.

### Station layer model



Figure 6: Video conferencing model

Because the traffic from AP to station has experienced network jitter, it can be modelled the same way as the traffic model of video streaming.

For traffic sent from Station to AP, since the traffic has not experienced network jitter, it is a periodic traffic generation as the first two steps described in video streaming.

### Video traffic generation

Traffic model from AP to station: use the same model as video streaming.

Traffic model from station to AP: use the first two steps in video streaming traffic model

### Evaluation metrics

* MAC throughput, latency

## Application event models

Application event model is used to specify the patterns of the application events, i.e., when to start the applications and how long for each application in the simulation. Different use scenarios may choose different application event models in the simulation.

* Poisson model

Poisson model can be used for random application event pattern where there are many users, each generating a little bit of traffic and requesting network access randomly.

Parameters: TBD

* Hyper-exponential model

Hyper-exponential model can be used for peak event pattern where users requesting network access in big spikes from the mean.

Parameters: TBD

## Multicast Video Streaming Traffic Model

Multicast Video Streaming is one-way video traffic from AP to STAs

The video traffic is generated from a video server, and traverses multiple hops in the internet before arriving at AP for transmission to STA.

### Station layer model

****

Figure 7: Multicast streaming model

AP generates video frames at application layer.

Because the traffic from AP to station has experienced network jitter,

it can be modelled the same way as the traffic model of video streaming.

The video traffic goes through UDP/IP layer and then to MAC layer.

### Video traffic generation

Traffic model from AP to station: use the same steps in video streaming traffic model

We assume bit rate for video streaming 6 Mbps (1080/30p AVC) and 3 Mbps (1080/30p HEVC)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Video bit rate** | **Lamda** | **K** |
| 6Mbps | 20850 | 0.8099 |
| 3Mbps | 10425 | 0.8099 |

**Evaluation metrics**

MAC throughput, latency

## Gaming Traffic Model

First Person Shooter (FPS) is a typical representative game of Massively Multiplayer Online (MMO) game. The FPS traffic model is considered to be a typical gaming traffic model, as it has additional requirements on, for instance, real time delay with irregular traffic arrivals. Gaming is a two-way single-hop video traffic.

Gaming traffic can be modelled by the Largest Extreme Value distribution. The starting time of a network gaming mobile is uniformly distributed between 0 and 40 ms to simulate the random timing relationship between client traffic packet arrival and reverse link frame boundary. The parameters of initial packet arrival time, the packet inter arrival time, and the packet sizes are illustrated in the Table 6 [13]:

Table 6: Parameters for gaming traffic model

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Component** | **Distribution** | | **Parameters** | | **PDF** |
| **DL** | **UL** | **DL** | **UL** |
| Initial packet arrival (ms) | Uniform | Uniform | a=0,  b=40 | a=0,  b=40 |  |
| Packet arrival time (ms) | Largest Extreme Value | Largest Extreme Value | a=50,  b=4.5 | a=40,  b=6 |  |
| Packet size (Byte) | Largest Extreme Value | Largest Extreme Value | a=330,  b=82 | a=45,  b=5.7 |  |

\* A compressed UDP header of 2 bytes and a IPv4 header of 20 bytes (if use IPv6 here, the header should be 40bytes) has been accounted for in the packet size.

### Evaluation metrics

MAC throughput, latency

## Virtual Desktop Infrastructure Traffic Model

Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) traffic is generated from a server, and traverses multiple hops in the intranet before arriving at AP for transmission to STA. For the transmission from AP to STA, it is a single-hop bidirectional traffic between AP and STA.VDI traffic transfers from server to STA/client via AP over TCP/IP protocol. This model describes the attribution of traffic from AP to STA, and VDI application type navigation and feedback traffic from the STA to AP.

The VDI traffic from AP to STA is generated as follows.

**Step 1:** VDI traffic generation

The VDI traffic is generated as shown in Figure xx. At MAC layer, arrival interval of VDI packets is generated according to exponential distribution.



Figure 8: Traffic generation model

Traffic direction specific parameters for packet arrival time are specified in Table 7.

**Step 2**: At MAC layer generate VDI MSDU frame size (in bytes) for uplink and downlink transmission, respectively.

For uplink the packet size is generated according to a Normal distribution. For downlink the packet size is generated with a bimodal Normal distribution. The traffic direction specific PDFs and the packet size parameters are specified in Table 7.

Table 7: Parameters for VDI traffic model

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Component** | **Distribution** | | **Parameters** | | **PDF** |
| **DL** | **UL** | **DL** | **UL** |
| Initial packet arrival (ms) | Uniform | Uniform | a=0,  b=20 | a=0,  b=20 |  |
| Packet arrival time (ms) | Exponential | Exponential |  |  |  |
| Packet size (Byte) | Bimodal Normal | Normal |  |  |  |

### Evaluation metrics

* MAC throughput
* Latency

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