

TUTORIAL

Maching Learning for Spectrum Sharing in Wireless Networks

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Slides available at: www.hiit.fi/u/bayhan/pdf/crowncom2017tutorial.pdf



•Key message: Spectrum sharing is inevitable and mechanisms to solve coexistence challenges is still immature. Machine learning can provide efficient tools to deal with complex interactions in the coexistence settings.



- Outline:
 - Part I: Spectrum sharing essentials (10 mins)
 - Part II: Coexistence in unlicensed bands (30 mins)
 - Part III: Machine learning primer (20 mins)
 - Part IV: How ML helps for better coexistence (30 mins)
 - Part V: Summary and open research directions (5 mins)



Part I Spectrum Sharing in Wireless Networks



- Why to share the spectrum?
- Modes of sharing
- Challenges in *harmonious* coexistence
- Current solutions for coexistence in wireless networks



Sharing

• Spectrum sharing covers the scenarios where at least two technologies, systems, or users utilise or are authorized to utilize the same frequency bands in a non-exclusive manner



Artist: Alan Levine



- High increase in wireless devices, networks, users
- Massive and continuing growth in mobile data traffic
 - Special thanks to video traffic! 60% of total mobile traffic in 2016
- More to come with IoT, M2M, 5G
- Many (cutting-edge) proposals to cope with the *exponentially* increasing wireless data demand
 - small cells, MU-MIMO, D2D, etc.







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BUT: Scarcity of "good" spectrum for wireless communications is still the major bottleneck.



- Sub-6 GHz best performance
- Unlicensed bands:
 - 2.4 GHz (already very congested)
 - and 5 GHz
- New bands: *mmWave* etc.
 - for small cells and low mobility



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Dynamic spectrum sharing as a remedy to cope with exponential wireless data demand and solve the **artificial** scarcity due to mis-management of the spectrum



- Cheaper licenses for mobile network operators if operation on the licensed bands
- Additional revenue for network operators if selling their under-utilised bands
- More-efficient spectrum utilization if shared among multiple networks (use of underused assets by others)

Please see for sharing in the licensed bands: Tehrani, Roya H., et al. "Licensed spectrum sharing schemes for mobile operators: A survey and outlook." IEEE Communications Surveys & Tutorials18.4 (2016): 2591-2623.



Spectrum authorities agree ...

• FCC's Notice of Inquiry July 13, 2017: Exploring Flexible Use in Mid-Band Spectrum Between 3.7 GHz and 24 GHz

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db0713/DOC-345789A1.pdf

- Ofcom's A Framework for Spectrum Sharing in April 2015
 https://www.ofcom.org.uk/ data/assets/pdf_file/0032/79385/spectrum-sharing-framework.pdf
- Report for EU Commission, on *Promoting the Shared Use of Europe's Radio Spectrum*, 2012, S. Forge et al.

https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/promoting-shared-use-europes-radio-spectrum





transmission range
 detection range
 interference range

Coping with interference is central to the coexistence of wireless systems.

Simon Forge, Robert Horvitz and Colin Blackman, report on *Promoting the Shared Use of Europe's Radio Spectrum*, 2012. <u>https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/promoting-shared-use-europes-radio-spectrum</u> 12/170





transmission range
 detection range
 interference range

Co-existence is when the operation of a radio system is capable of impairing the operation of another radio system but it does not.

Simon Forge, Robert Horvitz and Colin Blackman, report on *Promoting the Shared Use of Europe's Radio Spectrum*, 2012. <u>https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/promoting-shared-use-europes-radio-spectrum</u> 13/170



- **Frequency**: each system operates on a different spectrum
- **Time**: same spectrum used on a time-sharing basis (*DSA*, *cognitive radio* in overlay mode)
- **Space**: systems coexist in different spatial domains (e.g., protection zones, exclusion zones)
- Code: e.g. CDMA



Han, You, et al. Spectrum sharing methods for the coexistence of multiple RF systems: A survey. Ad Hoc Networks, 2016 15/170







Main focus of this tutorial is on unlicensed bands



What is an efficient coexistence?

Depends on the scenario (requirements of each system's operation)





Coexistence metrics

- Fairness in usage of the shared resources
- Throughput
- Delay
- Spectrum utilisation (from the perspective of the regulatory bodies/ spectrum authority)



Main challenges in wireless coexistence

Challenge #1 Heterogeneity

(other challenges are also mostly due to heterogeneity)



Challenge #1: Heterogeneity

- Different rules of operation, different ethics
- PHY, MAC layer (packets may not be decoded by the other network)
- Different packet formats
- Power levels
- Different signal management functions
- Modulation schemes
- Data rates
- Channel bandwidths and separations
- Applications, communication vs. non-communication networks



Main challenges in wireless coexistence

Challenge #2 Power asymmetry





Challenge #2: Power asymmetry

• High-power systems vs. small-cell/low-power systems



- Asymmetric interference (different tx powers, different interference regions)
- WiFi vs. ZigBee



Main challenges in wireless coexistence

Challenge #3 Lack of communication among co-existing networks



- Networks controlled by different operators
- Networks using different technologies
- No well-defined means for negotiation, e.g., residential WLANs



Remember the cognition cycle

• Coexistence requires cognition





- **IEEE 802.19** Wireless Coexistence Technical Advisory Group (TAG) within the IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee: coexistence between unlicensed wireless networks
 - 802.19.1: Coexistence in TV bands
- IEEE 802.15 Task Group 2: Recommended Practice on Coexistence of IEEE 802.11 and Bluetooth
- P802.22b amendment: Self-coexistence protocol for 802.22
 networks: Coexistence Beacon Protocol (CBP)
- **P 1932.1:** Standard for Licensed/Unlicensed Spectrum Interoperability in Wireless Mobile Networks



- Sharing is vital for meeting the demand for wireless capacity
- Coexistence is the main challenge in shared spectrum access
- Heterogeneity of networks pose substantial difficulties
- Metrics and requirements still not totally agreed upon

Further Reading for Part I

- Han, You, et al. "Spectrum sharing methods for the coexistence of multiple RF systems: A survey." *Ad Hoc Networks* 53 (2016): 53-78.
- Beltran, Fernando et al "Understanding the current operation and future roles of wireless networks: Co-existence, competition and co-operation in the unlicensed spectrum bands." *IEEE JSAC16*.
- P802.22b Coexistence Assurance Document, doc.: 22-14-0141-01-0000, Nov.2014 available at https://mentor.ieee.org/802.22/dcn/14/22-14-0141-01-0000-p802-22b-coexistence-assurance-document.docx
- Bahrak, Behnam, and Jung-Min Jerry Park. "Coexistence decision making for spectrum sharing among heterogeneous wireless systems." *IEEE TWC* 14
- K. Bian et al., Cognitive Radio Networks, Chapter 2 Taxonomy of Coexistence Mechanisms, Springer 2014
- JSAC Special Issue on Spectrum Sharing I, II, and III, October, November, December 2016



Part II Coexistence in unlicensed bands



- Wi-Fi overview
- Unlicensed LTE overview
- Coexistence Issues



WiFi + femtocells carried 60% of mobile data traffic

The future is <u>unlicensed</u>

Success of WiFi attributed to operation in unlicensed bands

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A brief overview of Wifi





- 11a 20 MHz BW, 5GHz
- 11b 20 MHz BW, 2.4 GHz
- 11g 20 MHz BW, 2.4 GHz
- 11n 20 & 40 MHz BW, 2.4 and 5GHz
- 11ac 20 to 160 MHz BW, 5GHz
- 11ad 2 GHz BW, 60 GHz
- 11af 6/8 MHz, TV White Space
- 11ah- 1/2/4/8/16-MHz, 900 MHz





- 2.4 GHz ISM bands: already crowded
 - WiFi, Bluetooth, microwave ovens, Zigbee, etc.
 - WiFi: 802.11b/g/n at 2.4 GHz
 - Channels 1, 6, 11 are non-overlapping and should be used

• 5 GHz UNII bands: getting crowded

- WiFi, Radar, unlicensed LTE
- WiFi: 802.11a/n/ac at 5GHz and future standards 11ax
- Non-overlapping 20+ channels of 20 MHz




Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Avoidance (CSMA/CA)



Distributed Control Function (DCF)

- Random access protocol
 - transmission (attempt) can happen anytime
- The same medium for all
 - uplink and downlink, control and data shares the medium
- Exponential backoff mechanism
 - Contention window size
- DIFS, SIFS amounts of waiting before continuing transmission
- Rate adaptation according to channel quality



WiFi shares the airtime with its neighbours



• As two APs operate on the same channel airtime is shared, e.g., only one transmitter is active at a time



WiFi shares the airtime with its neighbours





- Carrier sense (CS): decode the WiFi preambles
- Energy detection (ED): detect that there is some (e.g., non-WiFi) signal present in the channel above some ED threshold



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Main challenge: chaotic WiFi deployments

- Enterprise WLANs:
 - centrally-managed, easier coexistence
- Residential/uncoordinated WLANs: *chaotic* deployment
 - independently controlled APs (or novice user control)
 - need for coexistence mechanisms
- Co-channel interference, adjacent-channel interference, non-WiFi interference, high channel occupancy
- Main mechanism for coexistence in WLAN:
 - Channel selection, LBT parameter tuning, power control



Residential WLANs





WiFi moving to 5 GHz

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015
802.11g	99.9%	99.9%
802.11n	95.7%	97.7%
5 GHz	48.9%	64.9%
40 MHz channels	23.4%	63.8%
802.11ac	2.5%	18.0%
Two streams	7.7%	19.3%
Three streams	2.4%	3.8%
Four streams	0.7%	1.8%

Table 4: Client capabilities advertised by all clients that connected during the same week in January for two consecutive years.

Source: Biswas, Sanjit, et al. "Large-scale measurements of wireless network behavior." ACM SIGCOMM15 45/170



A brief overview of unlicensed LTE



LTE in unlicensed bands

- Cellular operators benefit from WiFi a lot, but
 - WiFi has low spectral efficiency under high number of users due to losses in **contention based access**
 - MAC efficiency<1



Solution: LTE in the unlicensed bands (Qualcomm, 2013)



Why LTE in unlicensed bands?

- Unified control at the same core:
 - authentication, management, and security procedures
- higher spectral efficiency in the unlicensed bands
 - Centrally-scheduled access
- •Better error control at LTE
 - HARQ vs. ARQ
- other interesting convergence solutions not discussed here: MuLTEfire, LWA



- Augment the licensed capacity with unlicensed capacity when the data boost is needed (opportunistic use)
- carrier aggregation: two or more carriers combined in a virtual bw.
- supplementary downlink (SDL), downlink: 80-90 % of total traffic



Available spectrum in unlicensed bands



Source: Cui, Haixia, et al. "LTE in the Unlicensed Band: Overview, Challenges, and Opportunities." *IEEE Wireless Communications* (2017).



Regional regulations for 5GHz bands



Wang, Xuyu et al. "A survey of LTE Wi-Fi coexistence in unlicensed bands." GetMobile: Mobile Computing and Communications 2017



- Current trend: small cells for better frequency reuse
- But additionally,
 - Unlicensed spectrum: power restrictions
 - 5 GHz: lower coverage compared to 2.4 GHz
- Hence, LTE unlicensed is for small cells





Unlicensed LTE and WiFi coexistence

Channel access

LTE: centralized, strict time slots WiFi: contention-based random access

Channel usage

LTE: always on, frames WiFi: demand based, on-off

Scheduling

LTE: multiple users (time and freq) WiFi: one user

Interference

LTE: Cross/co-tier interference WiFi: Hidden/exposed terminal, collision





• Main problem: different PHY and MAC rules



 Expected result: WiFi suffers from LTE, if LTE does not adapt coexistence mechanisms! 54/170



Two variants: LAA and LTE-U

- LBT required or not
 - License Assisted Access LAA: LBT mandatory
 - LTE Unlicensed (LTE-U): no LBT
- LAA: by 3GPP, LTE-U: by LTE-U forum
- LAA: Europe, Japan, LTE-U: US, Korea, China
- LAA: Release 13 (requires changes to LTE air interface)
- LTE-U: Release 10/11/12
- LAA: a global standard, LTE-U: faster time to market









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LTE-U duty cycle



can transmit during OFF periods

- MAC time sharing
- Duty cycle: Ton/(Ton+Toff)





- CSAT (carrier sense adaptive transmission): adaptive duty cycle
- Adaptation according to WiFi medium utilisation and number of WiFi nodes observed by user devices or small base stations 58/170



How to set the ON-OFF durations?

- **Medium sharing**: if X is LTE's duty-cycle, airtime for WiFi is (1-X)
- But some caveats:
- Length of ON-duration: WiFi has to wait till the end of ON period which may affect latency-sensitive applications, e.g., high QoS frames.



How to set the ON-OFF durations?

- **Medium sharing**: if X is LTE's duty-cycle, airtime for WiFi is (1-X)
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 - subframe puncturing
 - max ON duration 20 ms





How to set the ON-OFF durations?

- **Medium sharing**: if X is LTE's duty-cycle, airtime for WiFi is (1-X)
- But some caveats:
- Length of ON-duration: WiFi has to wait till the end of ON period which may affect latency-sensitive applications, e.g., high QoS frames.
- Length of OFF-duration: typically 40/80 ms





Received LTE-U power at the WiFi AP

N. Jindal et al, "LTE-U and Wi-Fi: A coexistence study by Google," Wi-Fi LTE-U Coexistence Test Workshop, 2015. <u>https://goo.gl/x6r0Ac</u> 62/170



N. Jindal et al, "LTE-U and Wi-Fi: A coexistence study by Google," Wi-Fi LTE-U Coexistence Test Workshop, 2015. <u>https://goo.gl/x6r0Ac</u> 63/170



LAA medium access



- LBT:
 - default -72 dBm ED threshold: adaptation based on bandwidth and transmission power
 - Congestion window size adaptation based on HARQ NACK
- DTX (Discontinuous transmission):
 - transmission time limited to 10 ms (4 ms in Japan, as opposed to 20 ms in LTE-U)
- A new frame type
- Type 3 frame: DL transmission can start at the next *slot* not next subframe

Kwon, Hwan-Joon, et al. "Licensed-Assisted Access to Unlicensed Spectrum in LTE Release 13." *IEEE Communications Magazine* 55.2 (2017): 201-207.



5 GHz not congested yet, but it is highly likely that it will soon

Coexistence mechanisms to be implemented



Coexistence goal of LTE unlicensed A better neighbour than WiFi

- with WiFi: no worse impact in terms of both throughput and latency than another WiFi network
- with LTE: *fair* resource sharing







Peaceful Coexistence in Unlicensed Spectrum







- Homogeneous scenario: WiFi-WiFi
 - Intra-technology coexistence, self-coexistence
- Heterogenous scenario: LTE-U and WiFi coexistence
 - Inter-technology/cross-technology coexistence





Current literature on WiFi self-coexistence

- Have a control channel among APs for coordination
 - ResFi [Zehl16], SAW [Herzen13]
- Have a controller. e.g., APs of the same network provider, OpenFlow SDN
 - COAP [Patro15]
- Beacon analysis based channel selection
 - Min-#of-STAs [Achanta06]
- For a more complete set of proposals, see: Surachai Chieochan et al, Channel Assignment Schemes for Infrastructure-Based 802.11 WLANs: A Survey, IEEE Tut.&Surveys, 2010



- Tuning these parameters efficiently not straightforward and depends on the scenario
- Duty-cycle: LTE defines the degree of fairness/sharing



Selected Literature

- Make LTE and WiFi communicate via a control channel
 - LtFi [Gawlowicz17]
- Make LTE Base Station transmit WiFi channel reservation messages
 - ULTRON [Chai16]
- Cooperation through a cloud-based controller
 - [Maglogiannis17],[Al-Dulaimi15]
- Embed LTE-U within Wi-Fi Bands
 - Hyper AP[Chen17]
- Make WiFi estimate LTE airtime and duty cycle
 - WiPLUS [Olbrich17]



- coexistence in the unlicensed bands is vital for everybody
- difference in WiFi and LTE: random access vs. time scheduled access
- industry: LTE unlicensed is coexistence-friendly
- research and experiments: it is not, e.g., [ChaiMobicom16, Jindral2015]
- need for smarter and adaptive co-existence schemes
- coexistence test scenarios defined by Wi-Fi Alliance in 2016




- Florian Kaltenberger, Carrier Aggregation and License Assisted Access Evolution from LTE-Advanced to 5G, Summer school on Spectrum Sharing and Aggregation for 5G, 2016.
- Chen et al. "Coexistence of LTE-LAA and Wi-Fi on 5 GHz with corresponding deployment scenarios: A survey." IEEE Comm.SurveysTutorials, 2017.
- 3GPP TS 36.101 / TS 36.521-1 for UE testing
- 3GPP TS 36.104 / TS 36.141 for eNB testing
- 3GPP, "Study on licensed-assisted access to unlicensed spectrum," TR 36.889 TSG RAN, Rel. 13 v13.0.0, Jun. 2015
- Wang, Xuyu, Shiwen Mao, and Michelle X. Gong. "A survey of LTE Wi-Fi coexistence in unlicensed bands." *GetMobile: Mobile Computing and Communication, 2017*
- Beltran, Fernando, Sayan Kumar Ray, and Jairo A. Gutiérrez. "Understanding the current operation and future roles of wireless networks: Co-existence, competition and co-operation in the unlicensed spectrum bands." *IEEE JSAC 2016.*
- Voicu, Andra M., Ljiljana Simić, and Marina Petrova. "Inter-technology coexistence in a spectrum commons: A case study of Wi-Fi and LTE in the 5-GHz unlicensed band." IEEE JSAC 2016



Part III A very brief overview of Machine Learning



- Supervised Learning
- Unsupervised Learning
- Reinforcement Learning







- For some tasks, we cannot easily write the algorithm: if this then that
 - there is no simple algorithm, e.g., autonomous cars
 - it is very challenging to define rules (e.g., dynamic environments)





Learn from data or past experience

- When we cannot write algorithm directly, we use learning from *data* or *past experience* (meta-programming)
- Machine learning: generalisation from examples, e.g., detect certain patterns or regularities
 - Because mapping from input to output is not random!

Wireless communication: complex interactions



How to learn the mapping?

Based on the available data:

1.both the inputs and outputs are available: (x,y)

2.only the inputs are available (x)

3.no direct access to the **«correct**» output, but some measure of the quality of (x,y) mapping





How to learn the mapping?

Learning Algorithms

categorized by the amount of knowledge or feedback provided to the learner



Supervised Learning

both the inputs and outputs are available **(x,y)** predict output y for a new x

Unsupervised Learning

only the inputs are available **(x)** *uncovering hidden patterns from unlabelled data*

Reinforcement Learning

no direct access to the **«correct»** output an agent learns to select an action to maximize its payoff, e,g., AlphaGo



Supervised Learning



Examples fed to the system



a binary classification problem

label: cat







label: dog



training data set (D_{train})



K examples

Input: N-dimensions (features, attributes)

$$X_{1} = (x_{1,1}, x_{1,2}, x_{1,3}, \dots, x_{1,N}) \longrightarrow Y_{0}$$
$$X_{2} = (x_{2,1}, x_{2,2}, x_{2,3}, \dots, x_{2,N}) \longrightarrow Y_{1}$$

$$X_i = (x_{i,1}, x_{i,2}, x_{i,3}, \dots, x_{i,N}) \longrightarrow Y_i$$

$$- X_{K} = (X_{K,1}, X_{2}, X_{3}, ..., X_{K,N}) \longrightarrow Y_{K}$$

Y: category or a class {cat, dog}

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Classification and Regression

- Supervised Learning: given x, predict y
 - Classification: y is discrete
 - Regression: y is continuous

Predictive models

Unsupervised Learning: Descriptive models



- Learn a predictive function $f: \mathsf{X} \to \mathsf{Y}$, which maps the input variables into the output domain





- Learn a predictive function $f: X \to Y$, which maps the input variables into the output domain
- Approach: f predicts well on the training set D_{train}
 - f(X) is a good predictor for the value of Y (f is called the **hypothesis**)





- Learn a predictive function $f: X \to Y$, which maps the input variables into the output domain
- Approach: f predicts well on the training set D_{train}
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Supervised Learning Methodology

- 1. Decide what the **input-output** pairs are.
- 2. Decide how to **encode** inputs and outputs (X and Y).
- 3. Choose a class of **hypotheses**/representations F:
 - F known as **function family** of f.
- 4. Choose an error/loss function L to define the best hypothesis f* in F
 - *Error, loss, cost* function to assess how wrong a hypothesis f predicts
- 5. Choose a way for finding the **best function f* in F** efficiently through the space of hypotheses
- 6. Find the best function f^{\ast} in F, using L on D_{train}
- 7. Tune your model
- 8. Test your model

slide credit:Doina Precup





•Underfit: model is too simple (high bias)

- even the prediction error on D_{train} is high
- Increase the complexity of the hypothesis
- •Overfit: a model failing to generalize well (high variance)
 - learning even the noise or the random errors! Not desirable
 - add more training data
 - decrease complexity



Checking for bias-variance error: validation data

Remember that D_{train} and D_{valid} and D_{test} disjoint sets





Checking for bias-variance error: validation data

 Similarly, learning curves to see the number of training examples needed (better to have smarter data than smarter models)



of training examples







 Is this observed signal a WiFi signal, a Bluetooth, a ZigBee or Microwave Oven?



Source: Zheng, Xiaolong, et al. "ZiSense: towards interference resilient duty cycling in wireless sensor networks." ACM Sensys, 2014.





 Is this observed signal a WiFi signal, a Bluetooth, a ZigBee or Microwave Oven?



Source: Zheng, Xiaolong, et al. "ZiSense: towards interference resilient duty cycling in wireless sensor networks." ACM Sensys, 2014.



Classification algorithms

- K-Nearest Neighbour (KNN) Classifier
- Support Vector Machine (SVM)
- Logistic regression (probabilistic classifier)



K-nearest neighbours (KNN)

- Memorize the example set
- Majority voting among the K nearest neighbours





K-nearest neighbours (KNN)

- Memorize the example set
- Majority voting among the K nearest neighbours







K-nearest neighbours (KNN)

- Memorize the example set
- Majority voting among the K nearest neighbours







- Deal with ties (odd number of neighbors)
- Distance measure, e.g., euclidean
- Weighted distance
- How to choose K?
- Imbalanced data problem
- Accuracy of classification:
 - Precision: TP/(all predicted pos.)
 - Specificity: TN/(TN+FP)
 - Recall: TP/(all real positives)
 - ROC curve



Dog





- No labeled data
- Can we group our data according to their feature?
- The main goal is to *classify* or *cluster* the input, find outliers
- Extracting useful information out of (big) data
- Dimension reduction (or summarization): identify the important components of the data while preserving much of the information



K-means clustering

- Measure of similarity
- Number of clusters, K
- Goal: maximum similarity within a cluster, low similarity among clusters





K-means clustering

- Step 1: Pick K random points as cluster centers (centroid)
- Step 2: Iterate till no points' assignments change

1. Assign data points to the closest centroid

2. Change the cluster centroid to the average of its cluster members

- K-means is a heuristic
- sensitive to outliers
- selection of initial cluster centers is important
- Run K-means multiple times and select the solution with the smallest cost function





reward

- No explicit supervision
- Learn through self-experience (*refine* the behavior based on *reward or punishment*)



Modeling approach: Markov Decision Processes (MDP)

- Four elements (S, A, R, P)
- S: finite set of states (remember scalability)
- A: actions (discrete)
- R: reward signal (a real number) for each (*state*, *action*) pair from the environment
 - (should reflect the purpose of the task)
 - undesired actions can be discouraged with a negative reward value
- P: state transition model P(s|s, a) with $s' \in S P(s'|s, a) = 1$.
- Goal: Find the **policy** that maximize the expected reward







- Q-value: expected discounted reward for executing action a at state s and following policy π
- Select action a at state s with probability ~ Q(a,s)
- Initiate Q-values
- store values in Q-table

Practice makes perfect

- Exploit the past actions that have resulted in high reward
- Explore new/untried actions to discover reward-producing actions
- Tradeoff
- Examples: ε-greedy, softmax
- ε greedy policy:
 - probability ε, act randomly
 - probability 1-ε, act according to current policy
 - less exploration after some number of interactions: lower $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}$ over time



source: Yau, Kok-Lim Alvin et al. "RL for context awareness and intelligence in wireless networks: Review, new features and open issues." JNCA12.106/170



RL relevant terms

Yau, Kok-Lim Alvin et al. "RL for context awareness and intelligence in wireless networks: Review, new features and open issues." *JNCA*12.

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Summary: important points

- Representation is very important: What are the right features?
 - Curse of dimensionality
 - Domain knowledge
- Data comes in all shapes and sizes
 - Normalization such that each feature has a mean of zero and unit variance
- Train, validate, test
- Overfitting, underfitting analysis




- Pascal Vincent, Introduction to Machine Learning, Deep Learning Summer School, 2015. <u>http://videolectures.net/deeplearning2015 vincent machine learning/</u>
- Doina Precup, Introduction to Machine Learning, Deep Learning Summer School, 2016. <u>http://videolectures.net/deeplearning2016_precup_machine_learning/?q=Doina%20Precup</u>
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- Bkassiny, Mario, Yang Li, and Sudharman K. Jayaweera. "A survey on machine-learning techniques in cognitive radios." IEEE Communications Surveys & Tutorials 15.3 (2013): 1136-1159.
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Part IV Machine Learning for Coexistence in Wireless Networks



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- 1.Is the channel idle or busy?
- 2. Which carrier should LAA BS select?
- 3. How to select the carrier and ON-time for LAA?
- 4.Can WiFi exploit ML for LTE-U duty cycle estimation?
- 5. Traffic analysis in a WiFi residential network?









Attention!

Please see the original papers for more details ACK: figures are adapted or copied from the relevant papers



Case study #1

Is the channel idle or busy?

Classification

Thilina, K.M., Choi, K.W., Saquib, N. and Hossain, E., Machine learning techniques for cooperative spectrum sensing in CRNs. IEEE JSAC 2013 113/170



Is the channel idle or busy?





Is the channel idle or busy?



- Cooperative spectrum sensing (CSS): N radios
 enter deciding on the state of the channel
 - Traditional approach: decision fusion with AND, OR, k-out-of-N rules
 - Performance metrics:
 - PU detection probability (true+)
 - False alarm probability (false+)
 Conflicting!



ML approach for CSS in CRNs

- Binary classification problem:
 - class 1: idle, class 2: busy
- Different classifiers
 - unsupervised: K-means, Gaussian MM more practical
 - supervised: KNN, SVM needs real state of the channel

• Features:

- Energy level detected by each CR, N-dimensional vector



CSS as binary classification problem

- M static primary users, N static cognitive radios
- Energy vector at the fusion centre: $\mathbf{Y} = (Y_1, \dots, Y_N)^T$



• KM Thilina et al. "ML techniques for cooperative SS in CRNs." IEEE JSAC (2013)



Unsupervised learning for CSS

- M primary users
- State of all PUs: $\mathbf{S} = (S_1, \dots, S_M)^T$ Probability of state $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{s}) = \Pr[\mathbf{S}=\mathbf{s}]$ Y: multivariate Gaussian $\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{Y}|\mathbf{S}=\mathbf{s}} = (\mu_{Y_1|\mathbf{S}=\mathbf{s}}, \dots, \mu_{Y_N|\mathbf{S}=\mathbf{s}})^T$, $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{Y}|\mathbf{S}=\mathbf{s}} = \operatorname{diag}(\sigma_{Y_1|\mathbf{S}=\mathbf{s}}^2, \dots, \sigma_{Y_N|\mathbf{S}=\mathbf{s}}^2)$
- 2^M cluster: {all PUs off, at least one is on,}
- Only cluster 1: channel is idle
- Other clusters: channel is busy





Unsupervised learning for CSS



- Only 1 cluster: channel idle
- Others: channel busy

Training vectors are generated from a Gaussian mixture distribution for all PU state combinations (0,0), (0,1), (1,0), (1,1)119/170



Unsupervised learning for CSS



decision boundary



K-means based classification

Training phase:

- Training examples: $y = \{y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(L)}\}$
- Apply K-means to training examples
- First cluster centroid α_1^* fixed to the mean of (Y|no primary signal)
- Other centroids: mean of training energy vectors in that cluster
- On-line classification phase: given y* as test energy vector, channel is *busy* if:

First cluster

$$||y^* - \alpha_1^*||$$

$$||y^* - \alpha_k^*|| \ge \beta$$

$$detection vs.$$
false alarm
$$121/170$$



KNN-based classification

- Real labels **a** provided for each training example
- Training examples: $y = \{(y^{(1)}, a^{(1)}), \dots, (y^{(L)}, a^{(L)})\}$
- majority voting of neighbors
- define a distance function
- choose K nearest neighbors
- **busy** if following holds







- training time, classification delay, ROC curve





Case study #2 Which carrier should LAA BS select?



Sallent, O., Pérez-Romero, J., Ferrús, R. and Agustí, R., 2015, June. Learning-based coexistence for LTE operation in unlicensed bands 2015 IEEE International Conference on Communication Workshop



Channel selection via learning for LAA interoperator coexistence

- Setting [Sallent-ICC15]:
 - Indoor scenario
 - M small cells from 2 operators
 - K channels
 - Bandwidth B MHz
 - LBT



Challenge:

Select a channel at each small cell to achieve high throughput in a cell

Learning approach: Q-learning

Why learning: quasi-static environment (deployment)





Channel selection via learning for LAA interoperator coexistence

- Reward: observed throughput in the channel
- Q-value (k, i) for small cell i if it selects channel k
- Initiate Q-values to some random value

$$Q(i,k) \leftarrow (1-\alpha)Q(i,k) + \alpha r(i,k)$$

Learning rate

reward of the transmission at ch k: throughput normalised by maximum exp. throughput

- Select a channel k with probability Pk ~ F(Q(i,k))
- F: exploitation vs. exploration (softmax)
- Decrease exploration by time (logarithmic cooling function)



Channel selection via learning for LAA inter-operator coexistence

Convergence analysis

SC3

• K >= M (one frequency for each LAA BS)









- Throughput a
 - comparison with optimal and random



Fig. 8. CDF of the achieved normalized throughput for *K*=4 when the two operators apply Q-learning.

carrier



Channel selection via learning for LTE-WiFi Coexistence: frequency domain coexistence

- Q-learning for inter-operator coexistence
- Extension to WiFi coexistence is straightforward
- Many parameters to tune
- What happens till convergence?
 - harmful interference, coexistence is an issue



Case study #3

Carrier Selection and On-time Adaptation in LAA



Galanopoulos, Apostolos et al. "Efficient coexistence of LTE with WiFi in the licensed and unlicensed spectrum aggregation." IEEE Transactions on Cognitive Communications and Networking, 2016.



WiFi channel occupancy estimation using Qlearning in LAA



Fig. 1. Licensed Assisted Access (LAA) Deployment Model.

Setting:

Single LAA cell, multiple WiFi nodes/channels Goal: both high WiFi and LTE performance Challenge: which unlicensed carrier to aggregate? How long to transmit on this carrier?

Learning approach: Q-learning

What to learn?

unlicensed band activity



LAA on-time based on WiFi channel occupancy

Channel-occupancy based channel and ON-time selection (COT)

- tune LAA ON-time according to channel occupancy
- Occupancy measurement of each channel via ED on subframes when LTE is not transmitting
- Channel occupancy = # of busy samples/ # of all samples
- ON-time = $(1 occupancy)^* 10 \text{ ms}$
- Switch channel in the next frame if it has a smaller occupancy than the current one

• Q-learning based channel and ON-time selection

- learn from experience
- Idle time measurement of each channel via ED





- **States**: The channel selected for carrier aggregation {1,.., N}
- Actions: Transmission time in the selected carrier i {1,..., 9}ms
- Action time: At the beginning of each frame
- **Reward**: difference between real off time of the carrier off-time from the previous sensing period (Toff updated after each sensing)

$$r(s,a) = T_s^{off'} - T_s^{off}$$

Negative reward (punishment) for degrading WiFi performance!

$$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Constraint}\\ \textbf{Constraint}\\$$

• **Optimal action** (a: LAA transmission duration) depends on the selected channel's availability time

$$s_{t+1} = \arg\max_{s\in\mathcal{N}} Q_t(s,a)$$







WiFi performance Qlearning over performs COT-based access



Case study #4

Can WiFi exploit ML for protecting itself from LTE interference?

yes, WiPLUS!



Olbrich, M., Zubow, A., Zehl, S. and Wolisz, A. "WiPLUS: Towards LTE-U Interference Detection, Assessment and Mitigation in 802.11 Networks", in European Wireless 2017 (EW2017), *Best Paper Award*, May, 2017. 139/170



WiPLUS: detecting LTE duty cycle

- Estimate LTE-U ON and OFF phases
- Quantify available airtime for WiFi on each link

- Online algorithm running on WiFi AP,
- MAC-layer passive and low-complexity monitoring
- commodity 802.11 hardware
- covering the whole LTE-U interference range



Atheros AR95xx 802.11n chip 140/170



Key idea of WiPLUS

- Analyse MAC Finite State Machine (FSM) transitions of the Network Interface Card (NIC)
 - States: RX, TX, IDLE, OTHER_BUSY (=ED)
- Analyse the Automatic Repeat reQuest (ARQ) frame retransmissions
 - ACK_FAIL
- If LTE is detected, calculate airtime and LTE-ON duration for a link





Received LTE-U power at the WiFi AP



Received LTE-U power at the WiFi AP



Approach: data collection from the testbed




ML approach: data analysis

Data:

- data collection via periodic samples from the NIC
- Fraction of time in each MAC-state, ARQ number of packet retransmissions during the respected sampling

Raw data

 $S_t^{\mathrm{TX}}, S_t^{\mathrm{RX}}, S_t^{\mathrm{OTHER}}, S_t^{\mathrm{ACK_FAIL}}, \forall t \in 0 \dots W$



total MAC time spent in transmission in the sampling period

More useful

representation Rt which represents (possible) LTE ON-time 145/170



K-means clustering to detect the clusters of transmission duration and clean the outliers >



WiPLUS detector pipeline





- WiPLUS can estimate airtime quite accurately! (RMS < 3% for DL)
- Possible use of this capability: select channel based on observed LTE activity
- Python's Scikit-learn



Case study #5 WiFi performance estimation



Herzen, Julien, Henrik Lundgren, and Nidhi Hegde. "Learning Wi-Fi performance." IEEE SECON 2015

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Selecting the best link in a multi-AP WiFi setting

- 802.11ac variable bandwidths (20, 40, 80, 160 MHz)
- Overlapping channel interference

Technische Universität Berlin

• How to estimate the link capacity for a given configuration (bandwidth, center f)?





Coexistence in Uncoordinated WiFi Networks

- Modelling performance realistically due to complex PHY-MAC interactions is difficult
 - channel width, partial-overlaps with other links, transmission power, PHY rate
- Proposed approach: learn Wi-Fi Performance via measurements
- Estimate link capacity and decide on the best setting



The trend similar to LTE-U moderate interference level

Takeaway: theoretic analysis may fall short of capturing the reality



Coexistence in Uncoordinated WiFi Networks

State parameters

- transmission power
- traffic load
- channel quality
- transmission bandwidth
- transmission channel





- **Step 1**: Real-world measurements from a testbed (public data: http:// www.hrzn.ch/data/lw-data.zip)
- Step 2: Supervised learning: different link configurations -> measured throughput
- **Step 3**: Prediction of a link throughput based on the learned black-box model
- **Step 4**: An AP selects the configuration using Gibbs sampling and estimated capacities



Supervised learning framework

- Features (X): (commodity hw. can capture)
 - All received powers: 5K + 1
 - channel width of /, and its NL: K+1
 - spectral separation of channel of / and its NL: K
 - average traffic loads of NL: K
 - PHY rates of NL: K
- Labels (Y): measured throughput on link I
- **Goal:** Answer the question "given a setting, k₁, k₂ what is the expected throughput of I?"



link of interest / neighbouring links (NL):



Supervised learning framework

- Features (X): (commodity hw. can capture)
 - All received powers: 5K + 1
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link of interest / neighbouring links (NL):

This is a regression problem



Used tools for this regression problem

- Regression tree, Gradient Boosted Regression Trees (GBRT), Support Vector Regression (SVR)
- Comparison baseline: SINR-based model
- accuracy of predictions: coefficient of determination R², RMSE
- Python scikit-learn package
- 50-fold cross-validation



Improved prediction accuracy compared to SNIR model

In terms of R²-score, learned SVR and GBRT models improve the prediction accuracy by 54% and 71%, respectively, compared to SINR models



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How to use this information for coexistence?

- Select channel center frequency, bandwidth, and transmission power
- Distributed algorithm
- An AP randomly wakes up and collects information from its neighbours, e.g., via wired backbone
- The AP predicts the achievable throughput on each of its attached links, for each possible configuration of spectrum and transmit power
- AP samples a new configuration using the Gibbs distribution with more weight to configurations with large achievable utilities







Learning helps increasing fairness

- Prediction-based configuration selection over performs SINR-based selection
- Fairness: key pillar of peaceful coexistence





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Part IV Summary and open research directions



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Real coexistence scenario consisting of many networks



- Hybrid scenarios are more realistic
- More complex requiring more intelligence/adaptation



Desirable properties of coexistence solutions

- standards compliance
- soft solutions rather than hardware based
- distributed vs centralized/controller based



Challenges of applying ML approaches

- Feasibility in practical settings
 - Complexity
 - Real-time convergence time
 - What happens till convergence?
 - Is it really possible to learn?
 - Mobile or other dynamic environments
- Where to implement ML?
 - AP, nodes, network-core, cloud



Challenges for wireless researchers

Machine learning requires lots of data to learn useful things

- bad news: researchers mostly are limited in access to such real data
- good news: publicly-available data (some better than none)
- <u>https://crawdad.cs.dartmouth.edu/</u>
- Limited applicability to computation-limited devices,
 - bad news: ML requires high resources which are mostly not available in e.g., embedded devices, IoT devices
 - good news: ML is very active and searching for smart algorithms with lower complexity
 - Fog/Cloud can be exploited for such devices
- Weka, R, Python



DARPA challenge



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The Radio Frequency Spectrum + Machine Learning = A New Wave in Radio Technology

The radio frequency spectrum is becoming increasingly crowded and a new DARPA program will examine how leading-edge machine learning can help understand all the signals in the crowd

OUTREACH@DARPA.MIL 8/11/2017



https://www.darpa.mil/ news-events/2017-08-11a

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Machine learning in 5G



FIGURE 2. Radio learning architecture.

Jiang, Chunxiao, et al. "Machine learning paradigms for next-generation wireless networks." *IEEE Wireless* 167/170 *Communications* 24.2 (2017): 98-105.



- The future is unlicensed
- Coexistence of such unlicensed networks is a big challenge
- ML can provide the capability to embrace uncertainty

