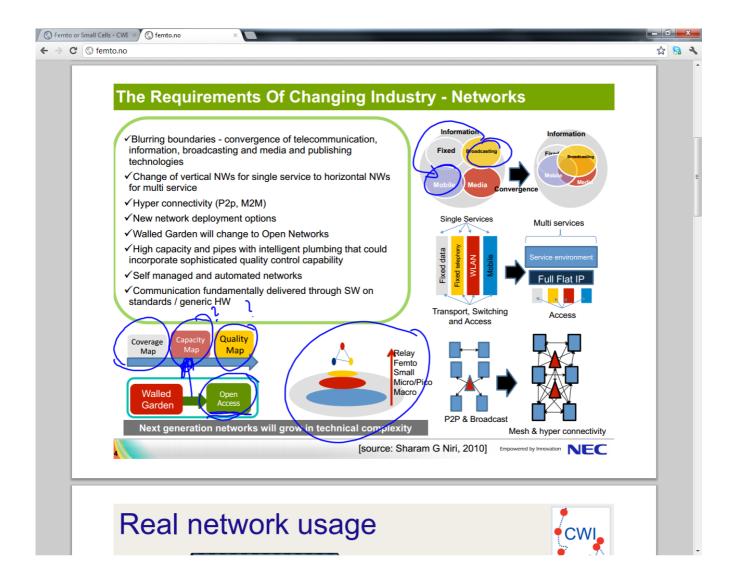
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Go back to beginning

The need for simulation

As mentioned above, compared to GSM, the W-CDMA technology for UMTS is considerably more complex. One of the fundamental characteristics of CDMA systems is that the coverage range is intrinsically linked to the capacity of the system - the more traffic being carried by a cell, the smaller the coverage area of the cell becomes. The GSM network capacity is limited by interference, first of all from adjacent cells. In UMTS each transmitted signal increases the noise level (N₀) of the overall system. As capacity is related to the signal over noise ratio, noise increase reduces capacity.

Since the traffic is constantly changing, depending upon the behaviour of the subscribers, the coverage range changes also. This phenomenon is know as *cell breathing* and it can be observed in the next image, which shows the service area of one base station with different traffic loads in the system.



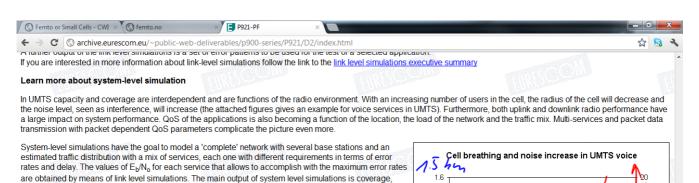
This dynamic behaviour makes cell planning and network dimensioning a very complex process. Traditional static prediction methods are not appropriate and so simulation and statistical modelling techniques have to be used. However, the system is very complex, with so many interactions, that the simulation has to be broken into two parts:

- Link-level, considering the effects of the radio channel on individual bits transmitted in a single communication.
- System-level, considering a number of cells and mobiles, based on output parameters from individual link simulations produced at link-level

The simulation approach has some advantages over other methods (e.g. hardware prototypes, analytical evaluations), such as lower costs, higher accuracy, and inherent flexibility. However to simulate a number of cells and mobiles in near-real time requires many hours of processing time to simulate just a few minutes of network activity mainly because of fast power control.

Learn more about link level simulation

ETSI selected W-CDMA and TD-CDMA as radio interfaces for the UMTS system. The main focus of the work performed in this task was to establish a link level simulator, which can analyse the radio propagation channel, taking into account UTRA's physical layer features. The link performance is a necessary input for system capacity and coverage evaluations that are definitely the most important aspects for a telecommunication operator.



1.2 图

1 range 0.8

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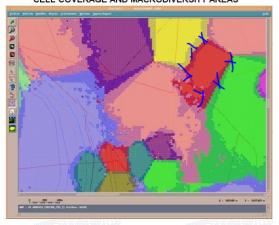
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capacity and QoS in the simulated network. A system-level simulator is basically a software tool modelling the system and the environment. Any mobile network system simulator is composed of the following blocks: base station, mobile user equipment,

There are two approach to design system-level simulators: the time based and the snapshot. Both approaches provide complementary cellular network results, but due to the complexity of time based systemlevel simulations, most of the simulators that are currently available use statistical methods, known as Monte Carlo simulation.

CELL COVERAGE AND MACRODIVERSITY AREAS

propagation model, data collector, graphic interface manager and simulator manager



The outcome of the system level simulator is the coverage area, as shown in the figure. Each cell is formed by one sector of the three sector antenna (this example). The shaded areas are the areas where coverage from two or more cells occure, the 'macrodiversity areas'. In UMTS terminals will have connections to both cells, to allow for fast and optimised handover at high data rates.

30

20 number of users

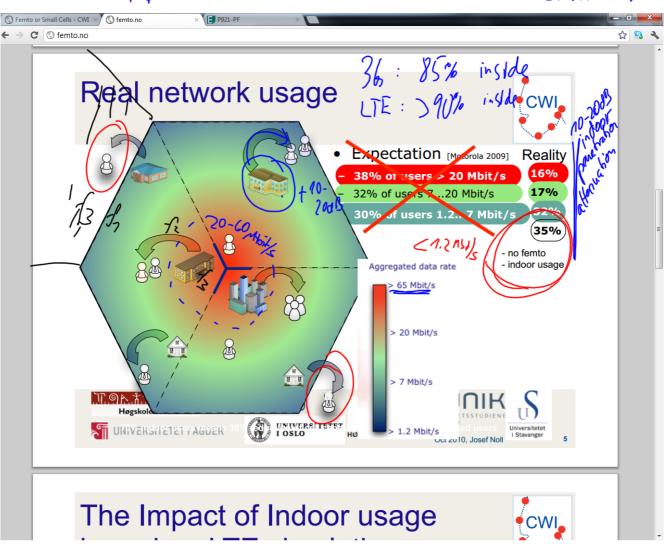
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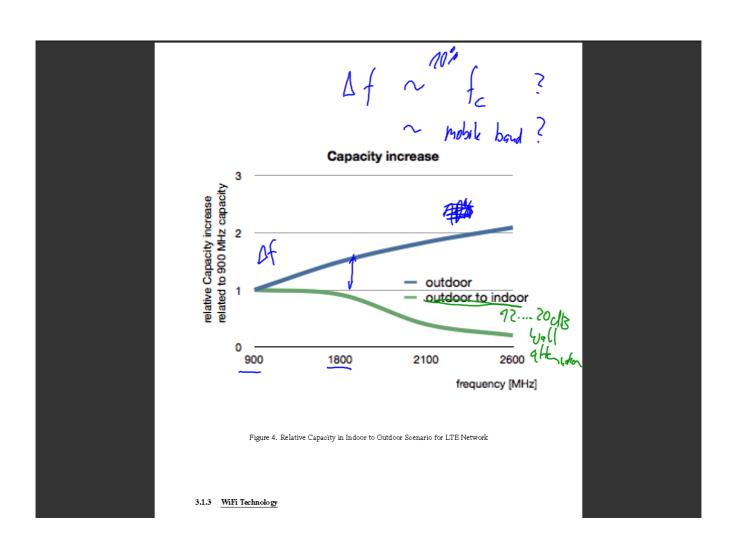
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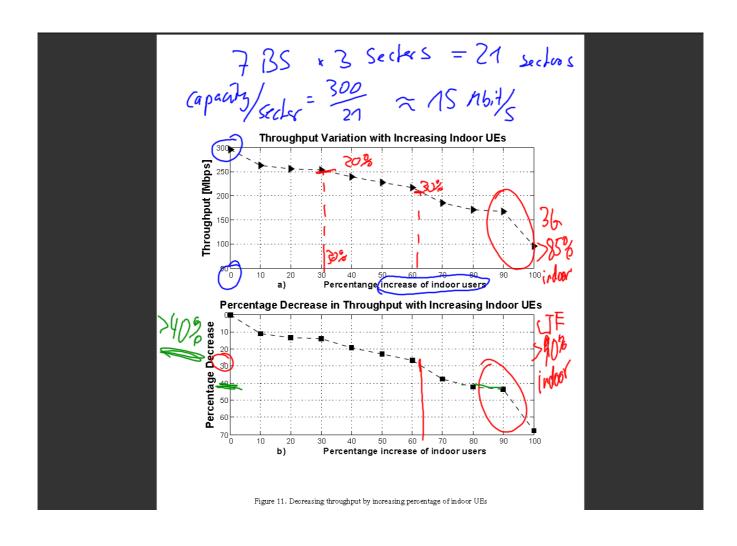
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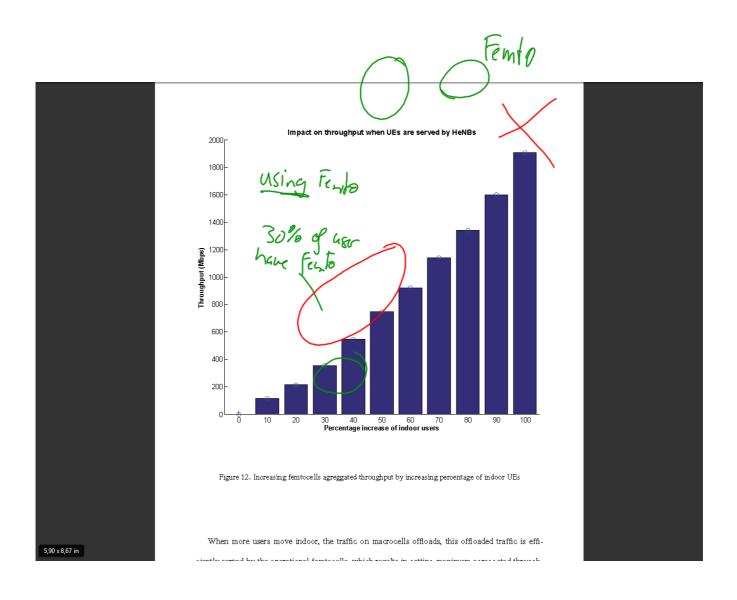
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Operational expenditure

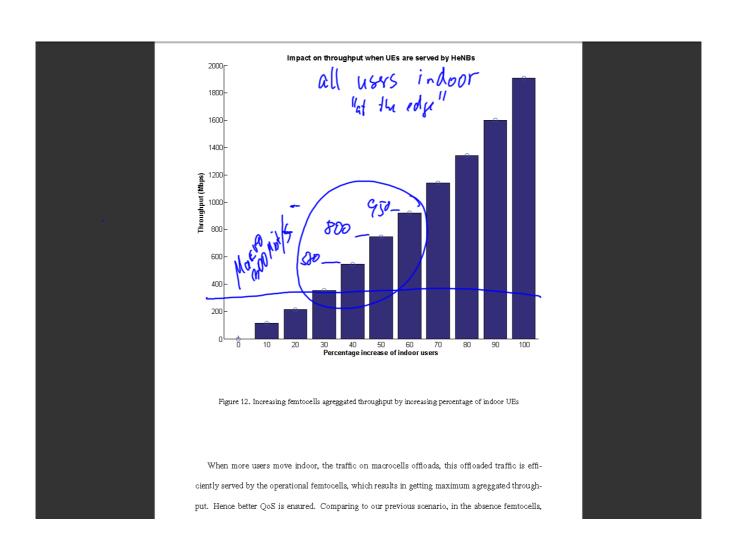
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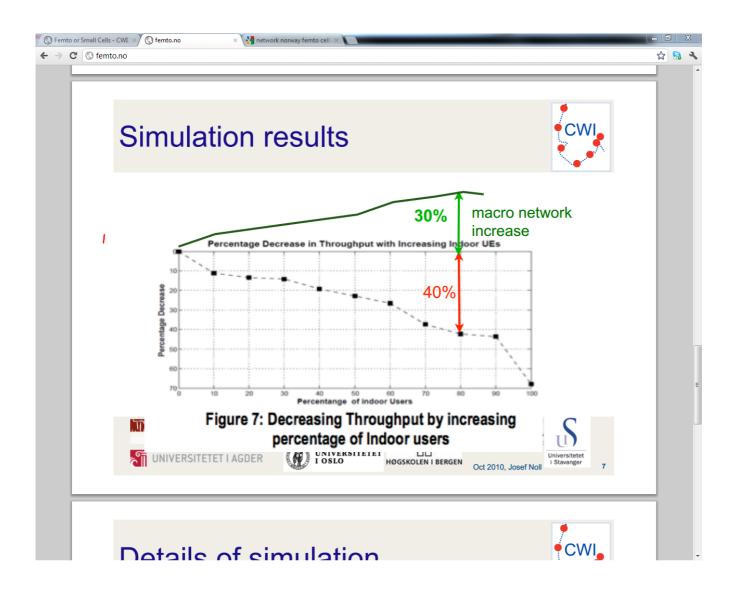
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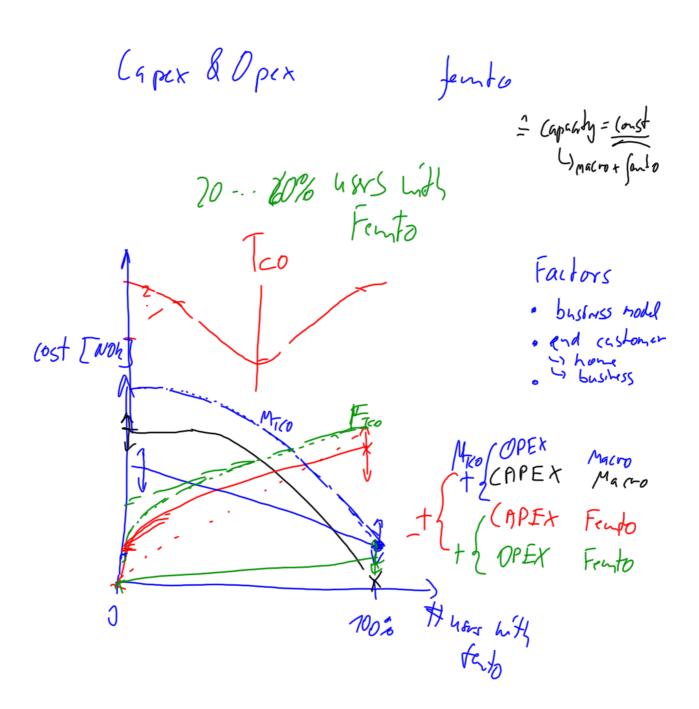
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