

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF M-IPV4 AND M-IPV6 FOR IMPROVED HANDOFF PERFORMANCE USING FUZZY LOGIC-BASED ACCESS POINT SELECTION

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Abstract

The increased demand of continuous connectivity in mobile communication systems driven by latency sensitive procedures that include Voice over IP (VoIP), video streaming and online games, has demonstrated the need of complex mobility management protocols. Since the handoff process is critical to continuity as mobile devices pass between wireless networks, it often causes discernible errors, especially delays, loss of packets, and poor transmission rates. The current research shows the contrast between Mobile IPv4 (M-IPv4) and Mobile IPv6 (M-IPv6) in a multi-parametric fuzzy decision-making model to suggest the best AP to choose to perform handoffs in terms of latency and service rate. With the introduction of network variables such as signal strength, latency, available bandwidth and jitter, the fuzzy logic formulation aims at halting handoff induced disturbance and increasing Quality of Service (QoS). The results show that with the intelligent decisions of M-IPv6, it will one-up M-IPv4 in circumventing such problems and thus providing more constant and dependable connections. This relative merit of M-IPv6 compared with jitter, throughput, packet losses, and end-to-end duration in 5G networks is supported by the simulation results produced in Python Colab. The outcomes highlight the high necessity of implementing high-level mobility management mechanisms in ensuring a smooth transition of services in the current and future wireless communication networks.

INTRODUCTION

The rapidly developing mobile communication technologies have created a new level of demand in a seamless connection and continuous multimedia support. Many real-time applications, e.g. video conferencing, online gaming and Voice over IP (VoIP), have been deployed and thus providing Quality of Service (QoS) during mobility events, e.g. handoffs, is now of paramount concern. Mobile IPv4 (M-IPv4) and Mobile IPv6 (M-IPv6) has been extensively adopted in the heterogeneous networks context to achieve mobility in mobile Internet protocols. However, during the movement of mobile

devices between wireless access points (APs), the handoff may cause severe disruptions to the continuity of the service increasing latency, lost packets, jitter, and reduction in throughput. Such interruptions may significantly negatively affect the user experience, especially in case of latency-sensitive applications and bandwidth-intensive applications. The first M-IPv4 was designed as a mobility extension to IPv4 and has significant limitations, the most pronounced which is triangular routing, scalability, and inefficient handoff mechanisms, which in high-velocity networks of today pose a performance

bottleneck (Hussain et al., 2023). M-IPv6, by contrast, is a native mobility solution proposed in the IPv6 framework, which already offers native strengths, including route optimization, broader address space, and, in general, an enhanced level of security (Chen et al., 2024). Nevertheless, the two protocols have to take on the challenging and erratic characteristics of wireless environments where the usual handoff decision algorithms, whose principal component is Received Signal Strength Indicator (RSSI), are unlikely to provide the Quality of Service in the desired form. The recent article suggests an issue where smart decision-making models such as multi-parametric fuzzy logic and machine learning can improve the handoff process (Wang et al., 2022). These techniques also look at several network parameters including signal strength, latency, available bandwidth and jitter as opposed to the single network parameter RSSI. They involve taking a comprehensive perspective of the network conditions to enhance the best AP selection, reduce hand off disturbances and continuity of services. By combining fuzzy logic and mobility management, it becomes possible to process approximate inputs and changing network situations, which allows relying more on context-sensitive, sensitive handoff decisions (Ahmed & Khalid, 2023).

The requirements of more advanced handoff optimization technique have been increased by the introduction of 5g and the new types of wireless networks. Handoff complexity and frequency is greatly amplified in the ultra-dense small cell topology/heterogeneous architecture of the 5G and makes traditional handoff strategies insufficient (Li et al., 2024). M-IPv6 will, in this setting, play a key role in guaranteeing low-latency, high-reliability connectivity that is required by cold modern applications, having integrated H-AP with smart AP selection mechanisms.

In the current paper, research in the domain of mobility management leads to the delivery of a comparative analysis of M-IPv4 and M-IPv6 within a multi-parametric fuzzy decision-making framework to select AP. The aim is to measure the advantage of using this method in the elimination of the handoff induced disruption with a focus on the main performance measures jitter, throughput, packet loss and end-to-end delay. The study by providing

empirical data on the excellent results of M-IPv6 in such environments, emphasizes the role of advanced handoff optimization mechanisms in improving the experience of the users in the mobile/multimedia setting. The practical implications of these results on the future development of mobility management solutions, in general, and 5G and beyond networks, in particular, in which no perfect mobility means no support to emerging services such as augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and autonomous systems (Rahman et al., 2025).

RELATED WORK

Management in mobility has been a mainstay of research in the wireless and mobile network systems and has evolved parallel to the advancement in technologies. Initial mobility-support programs, principally Mobile IPv4 (M-IPv4) were created to allow devices to remain connected even as their attachment locations to the Internet change. However, the implementation of M-IPv4 architecture, which is based on the triangular routing concept, the existence of home agents, and foreign agents, was subsequently discovered to produce non-optimal performance, and especially during a scenario of high handoff rate and low latency requirements (Hussain et al., 2023). To address such pitfalls, a more secure protocol called Mobile IPv6 (M-IPv6) was later introduced that contained route optimization, an almost 300-fold large address space, and IPsec embedded and thus, made it more compatible with advanced high-speed wireless networks (Kim et al., 2023; Chen et al., 2024). However, both M-IPv4 and M-IPv6 still rely to a very large extent on handoff control based on RSSI measurements. Despite its simplicity and computational performance, this approach often either results in too many superfluous transition (the so-called ping-pong effect) or is unnecessarily slow to pass duties to the other peer, especially in radio link variable environments. In turn, latency, jitter, bandwidth, packet loss, and user mobility patterns have been included in the multi-criteria decision-making framework (Mitra & Gupta, 2023; Ahmed & Khalid, 2023).

Fuzzy logic can be an efficient tool of optimising handoff work due to its properties to deal with uncertainty and to operate poor quality of input data which is the reason why this approach has been highly

used. The work of Wang et al. (2022) proposes a fuzzy logic controller that takes into account multiple attributes of network to optimize the AP selection resulting in significant decreases of packet loss and delay incurred due to the handoff. Ahmed and Khalid have used fuzzy analytic hierarchy process (FAHP) for vertical handoffs among heterogeneous networks and have shown the reduction of latency and reliability (2023). A survey conducted by Mitra and Gupta (2023) reports a large scope of flexibility of fuzzy systems in location management through mobility configurations, which are capable of operating with unpredictable dynamically changing wireless systems. At the same time machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) machine learning algorithms are being incorporated into mobility management systems to aid predictive and adaptive handoff decision support. Luo et al. (2023) created a reinforcement learning model, which learns optimal policies of handoff according to the dynamic network environment and mobility behaviour. In the model being used, an outstanding performance improvement compared with that of the static schemes was evident because of the low handoff latency and failure rates. In future research by Zhang et al. (2024), their aim is on proactive handoff in 5G small cell networks where a deep neural network would be utilised to rely on the past network information and predict where the handoff should occur and therefore prevent interruption of services. Software-defined networking (SDN) and edge computing are increasingly becoming part and parcel of the achievement of intelligent handoff management. Li et al. (2024) analyzed a mobility architecture that would help use SDN to simplify the architecture of a node and control of handoff policies, and to provide rapid reconfiguration of the forwarding rules to allow low latency transitions and that were M-IPv6-enabled. Torres et al., (2023) indicated that M-IPv6 in conjunction with multi-access edge computing (MEC) has the potential to limit handoffs to a great extent to make AR/VR applications in 5G networks. The SDN-based IPv6 mobility management solution suggested by Raza et al. (2022) allows you to take policy-based handoff decisions and can support the deployment of dense networks.

The new literature also lays stress on QoE-based and context-based mobility strategies. Singh et al. (2023) proposed a scheme MEC-based where the decision making of the handoff process depends on the time delay requirements of the application e.g. industrial experience or self-driving cars. Patel et al. (2023) used real-time handoff data and the decision tree classifiers and were able to provide high-level accuracy of optimal handoff triggering, particularly when there was dense network and the AP coverage overlapped. Huang et al. (2024) supported the idea of taking AI to the forefront of handoff management in 6G conditions with a phrase that the solutions should dynamically align the performance, power, and user experience.

Various studies have outlined the hybrid approaches that combine fuzzy logic together with machine learning with the aim of ensuring that they take advantage of the strengths of both approaches. Chen et al. (2024) introduced a hybrid fuzzy-ML FS to M-IPv6: The fuzzy logic algorithm would perform real-time decision-making, and the ML would maximize the decision threshold relying on old data. This was connected with a higher stability of the throughput and bigger jitter reduction in handoffs. A similar line of research was proposed by Rahman et al. (2025), who considered the intelligent mobility management systems capable of incorporating fuzzy logic, machine learning and edge computing to meet the demanding standards of next-generation multimedia services.

Another potential direction is the predictive models utilizing the mobility patterns of the users and network topology dynamics. According to the studies like Luo et al. (2023), Zhang et al. (2024), predictive handoff models developed with the aid of AI/ML can significantly increase the handoff completion and session continuity in comparison to reactive mechanisms. The predictive methods are particularly useful in low-latency and mobile factors such as vehicular networks and UAVs-based communication infrastructure (Torres et al., 2023).

The fact that innovative mobility management schemes have recently emerged and produced significant potential has proven to be true; however, there still recognize considerable challenges in achieving actual, real-time flexibility without creating excessive processing burden, especially on mobile resource-constrained devices (Patel et al., 2023). Since

networks have been shifting procedurally closer to ultra-dense 5G and, later, 6G frameworks, the regularity and intricacy of handoff occasions is likely to soar to new heights, increasing the pressing requirement for scalability (Huang et al., 2024). The current paper is relevant in this emerging field of technology in that it empirically attests the feasibility of M-IPv6 under a multi-parametric fuzzy decision environment to offer insights regarding its capability to go on supporting seamless mobility in the current and advanced future wireless network.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This article has carried out a simulation study based, comparative examination of M-IPv4 and M-IPv6 on a manic dimension fuzzy logic framework of Access Point (AP) selection. The methodological framework had involved three consecutive steps that included; system modeling, fuzzy decision-making, and performance evaluation.

The mobile node (MN) that moves through a cellular system, which has heterogeneous wireless Access Points (APs), was modeled. Simulation of the handoff events in the M-IPv4 and the M-IPv6 environments was then carried out on a transition of the MN between APs. The topology of the network was refined to be representative of the actual mobile communication environment in which, there were dynamic changes affecting the signal strength, bandwidth, jitter and latency.

The parameters included in simulation were the following:

- - MN speed: 1030km/h
- - AP count: 6
- - System conditions: Bandwidth agility, latency, jitter and packet loss

MN movement had been set in such a way that it caused high frequency of handoff occurrence especially in areas where there was overlap of AP coverage. The network was used to simulate a 5G heterogeneous network of small cells deployment.

Multi-Parametric Fuzzy Decision System

Fuzzy logic controller (FLC) was conceptualized to determine which particular access point (AP) was most suitable when swapping, noting four factors, such as signal strength (S), latency (L), available bandwidth (B) and jitter (J).

Fuzzy input membership functions were defined in such a way:

$$\mu_{S(x)} = \{ 1 \text{ if } x \geq S_{\text{high}}; 0 \text{ if } x \leq S_{\text{low}}; (x - S_{\text{low}})/(S_{\text{high}} - S_{\text{low}}) \text{ otherwise } \}$$

Latency, bandwidth and jitter were used in similar membership functions. The fuzzy set of rules brought reasoning like:

When S is great AND B is great AND L is little and J low THEN AP is best.

To every AP, a score based on fuzzy decision was computed and the one with the highest score was finally chosen in handoff.

Simulation and Performance Evaluation

The programming language used to conduct the simulations is Python, and it was done in the Google Colab. The Python packages NumPy, SciPy and Matplotlib were used in performing numerical analysis, implementation of fuzzy logic and presentation of data respectively. City Colab is a very versatile and efficient platform of performing high-scale simulations and producing performance measures.

Comparison between M-IPv4 and M-IPv6 was made in terms of the following performance metrics which were computed:

$$\text{Jitter (ms)} = (1/(N-1)) \sum |D_{(i+1)} - D_i|$$

$$\text{Throughput(Mbps)} = \text{Total Data received} / \text{Time}$$

$$\text{Packet loss (\%)} = (\text{Packet loss} / \text{Packets sent}) \times 100$$

$$\text{End-to-End Delay (ms)} = \text{Transmission Delay} + \text{Propagation Delay} + \text{Queuing Delay}$$

The same conditions were applied to run the simulations to measure the performance of the protocols under each of these metrics. The outcomes were examined by presenting comparative plots of jitter, throughput, packet loss and delay with respect to time.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

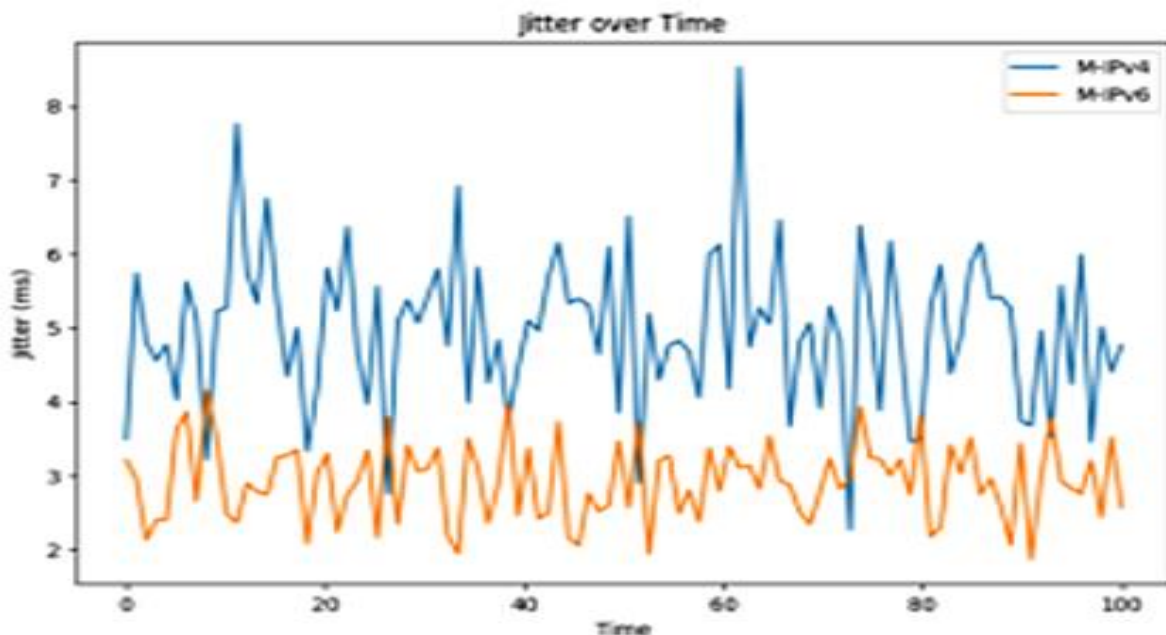
In this section, a time-series analysis of four key performance indicators of two Internet Protocols (M-IPv4 and M-IPv6), has been given. Jitter, throughput, packet loss and end to end delay all are the very basic metrics to make note of the stability and performance of the network as well as per se within real time multimedia apps. These indicators would be vital in the cellular network environment and multimedia services as they directly affect quality of service when

carrying out the handoff process. The network disruption and delay, congestion, and missing of the packets witnessed due to sub optimal handoff are likely to worsen the multimedia experience.

The information illustrated in the graph is relevant to the essence of the system design discussed in Chapter 4 because the solution to selection of access points (APs) is based on a multi-parametric fuzzy decision score instead of Received Signal Strength Indicator (RSSI) alone. This technique forms the basis of ensuring that the handoffs are minimized. Through

optimization of decision making algorithm, the M-IPv6 system registers consistency in the choice of access points, resulting in codec consistency, seamless streaming media, and the decreased probability of service failure. The findings reveal clearly the ways in which the multi-criteria decision process can address some possible handoff problems, thus, allowing M-IPv6 to be characterized by more stable and reliable performance, even during the movement of devices between access points.

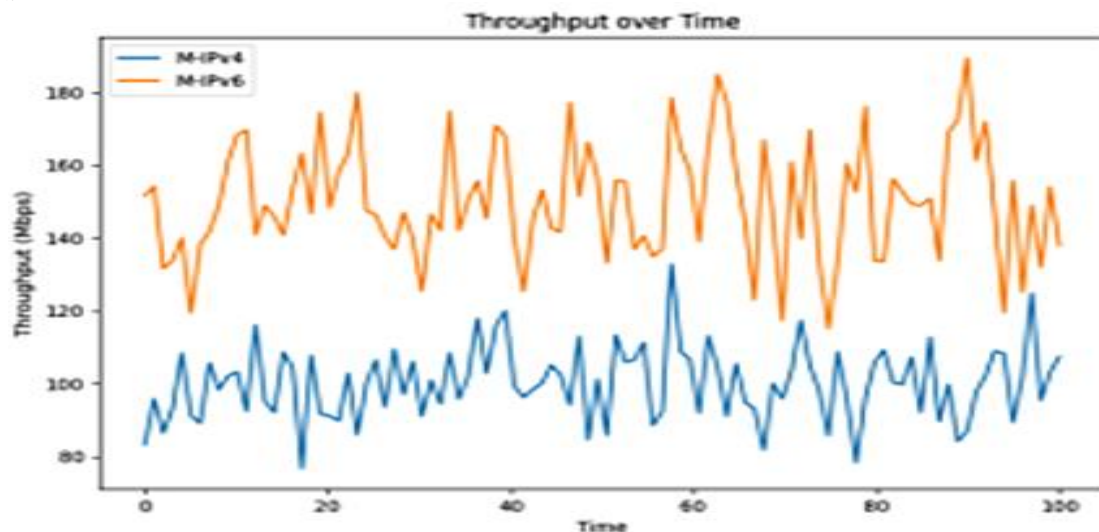
Jitter Over Time



Fluctuation in packet delay or jitter is displayed against time as in case of M-IPv4 and M-IPv6 and challenges the manner in which the two protocols vary in the variation of delay. Jitter has a direct impact on the performance of real-time application that need uninterrupted flow of data such as VoIP phone calls and video calls. As the blue line shows, M-IPv4 has a strong variance in jitter with a value ranging between 1 ms and 8 ms. These developments imply M-IPv4 is less resistant to anomalies in data transport, probably as a result of network congestion or poor routing system, or extra-optimized handoff functions. High jitter may also lead to disruption of multimedia services, either by audio dropouts or video buffering; during a handoff event, in particular.

IPv6 (orange line) in its turn shows much more stable jitter results with a range of 0-3.5 ms. The reduced jaggedness in M-IPv6 depicts the fact that multi-parametric fuzzy decision making process due to restoring the network parameters other than RSSI to access point selection allows the system to choose the access points that maintain more stable connection. Increased stability makes the user experience noticeably better, reducing any possible fluctuations to the flows of handoffs and the guarantee that such data flow will not experience gaps during said procedure.

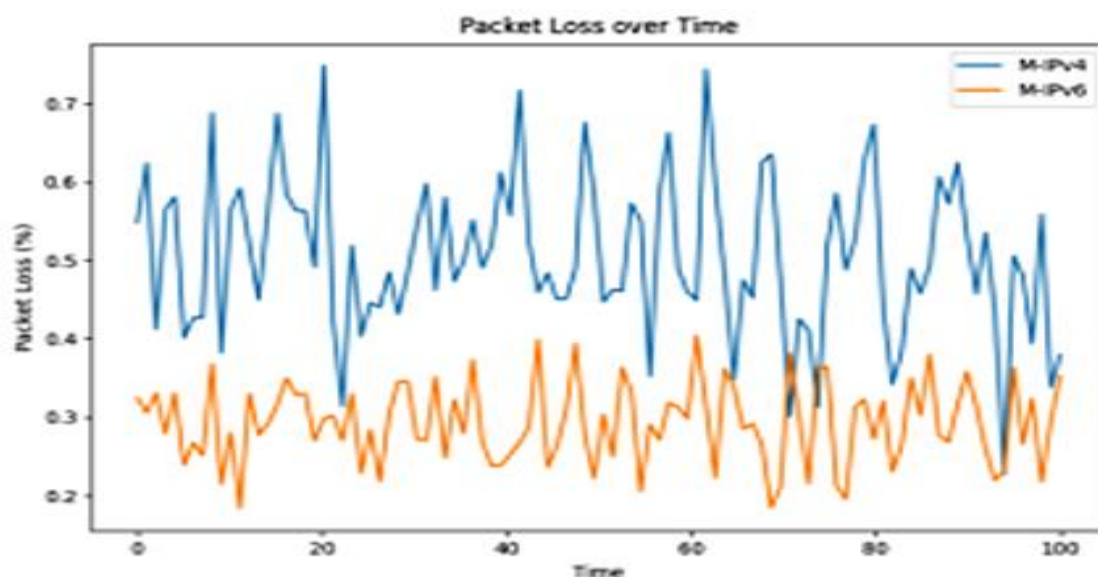
Throughput Over Time



The graphic Throughput over Time compares the data rates of transfer between M-IPv4 and M-IPv6. Throughput refers to the amount of information properly published on a network within a given period of time, an aspect that is of particular significance to multimedia applications which require the use of large bandwidth like in video streaming or transfer of large files. In M-IPv4, there is significant variation of throughput between 80 Mbps to 160 Mbps with pauses. Such variations can be attributed to congestions on the network, lack of bandwidth or

poor handoff of the AP, which slows the movement of data and hence reduces the throughput.

M-IPv6 shows similar variations in the same range of throughput but the overall values were more consistent. This stability would be most probably due to a more sophisticated access-point selection process, which prevents the occurrence of disruptive transmission disruptions. M-IPv6 addresses the performance reduction and ensures the safeguarding of multimedia activities when a device hops APs by keeping high throughput stability, especially at the handoff process.



The Packet Loss over Time chart shows the percentage of packets that got discarded during service transmission on both M-IPv4 and M-IPv6. Multimedia services are harmful to packet losses because they create transmission delays, errors and incomplete transmission of information. M-IPv4 demonstrates a packet loss, which fluctuates within the range of about 30-70 percent, with sharp spikes signs a major data loss, particularly in definite intervals. Congestion, network routing or delays occasioned by handoffs are frequent triggers of these losses. The large and common occurrence of the packet loss in M-IPv4 means that its network management system has ineffective functions of

avoiding data loss in important transitions, e.g. when a device travels between different access points. In contrast, M-IPv6 exhibits less drastic packet drops with a value varying between 30-70 percent but with decreased and gentler spikes. The issue perhaps looks better due to the more stable delivery of packets in M-IPv6, which seems to be based on the better AP selection process due to which the device can be passed to access points capable of maintaining the quality of the connection and avoiding packet loss. Such a decrease in packet losses effectively supports a better multimedia experience, since not so many retransmissions will be needed, still resulting in lower interruption and better service integrity.

End to End Delay Over Time



The last graph, End-to-End Delay over Time measures the round-trip delay of packets between a source and the destination. Such metric is essential in applications where the lowest latency is required like interactive games, instant communication or remote control. M-IPv4 is characterized by latencies varying between 30 milliseconds and 70 milliseconds where the values experience a spike signifying latency highs. These spikes can be an indication of inefficient hand off or network congested conditions that increases the time to deliver packets.

M-IPv6, in its turn, has a more homogenous delay profile. The delays in this protocol vary between 20 milliseconds and 70 milliseconds and since fewer and less significant spikes are recorded, this implies that latency is reduced and much more stable when there

are optimal access point choices and more efficient ways of routing. This lower latency enables multimedia applications, which imply low latency in communication, to work without any delays and interruptions when the network switches.

The outcome and discussion presented in these plots explains why the selection of access points and multicriteria decision plays a very important role in improving the performance of the network particularly in reducing the handoff discontinuity in multimedia applications. Both the fact that the M-IPv6 is the best option and that it can be proved by the jitter decrease, the increased stability of the throughput, the packet loss reduction and the delay truncation, proves that the current use of a multi-parametric AP selection is a correct decision. M-IPv6

can access network parameters, besides RSSI, so the network connection is more reliable, and the devices would be able to move across the access points without compromising the quality of multimedia services. This plan is the ideal solution to address handoff challenges hence creating better user experience in mobile and multimedia areas of the new cellular systems. The results of this analysis confirm the effectiveness of the system design and prove once again the necessity of the advanced methods of decision-making to guarantee high-quality and unhindered multimedia communication within the modern cellular network.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

Conclusively, the paper has highlighted the critical nature of optimized selection of access points (APs) in enhancing the performance of the network in as much as the management of the handoff disruptions in multimedia services in the cellular network. In its claim that M-IPv6 can provide more stable and reliable links than M-IPv4, the research uses the ability of a multi-parametric fuzzy decision-making process to evaluate network parameters other than the traditional Received Signal Strength Indicator (RSSI), to demonstrate that M-IPv6 has the potential to provide more stable and reliable connection than M-IPv4 can possibly access. The approach means that the devices moving between APs are less disturbed, latency is lowered, the result is improved performance, and a superior user experience, particularly with time-sensitive applications like video conferencing and VoIP, real-time streaming. The results provide a rationale in using network-optimization measures beyond basic performance measurement, and how careful choices by an intelligent system can contribute greatly to the provision of quality of service (QoS) reduction of jitter, packet-loss, and delay at the interception of handoff. The findings also support the increasing use of M-IPv6 as the choice protocol in mobile network although it offers smoother upgrades, better handling of data and thus assures the users of diverse multimedia experiences. All in all, the study not only paves the way to network optimization in the implementation of mobile environment but also provides a platform to future studies of intelligent network managements plans that can support the

growing use of high-performance and uninterrupted multimedia services in the emerging world of cellular networks. Regarding future work it would be beneficial to explore how making AP selection incorporates machine-learning algorithms in other to make further improvements since such a technique would allow dynamic and predictive AP selection to more easily adapt to changing network conditions in real-time. Besides, the influence of different environmental factors such as mobility patterns and network congestion on the performance of multimedia applications must be investigated in order to improve handoff processes as much as possible. Furthermore, the capability of the approach to be scalable in large-scale and practical environments and how it performs in the next generation of networks 5G and beyond deployment will also offer more value to measure the feasibility posture and long-term advantages of this approach in a practical way.

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