

OPTIMIZATION OF COVERAGE AND THE NUMBER OF BASE TRANSCIVER STATION TOWERS USING FUZZY C-MEANS AND GENETIC ALGORITHM

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ABSTRACT

The demand for communications services over mobile networks continues to increase, especially in urban areas, encouraging mobile operators to increase the capacity of its services, by constructing new base transceiver stations in all urban areas. BTSs, which continue to grow regardless of the surrounding environment resulting in clutter environment. it is necessary for a study of how to rearrange the existing tower. The aim of this study was to obtain a minimum number of telecommunications towers already existing and is able to cover the city area using the optimization method, the Fuzzy C-Means and Genetic Algorithm. We propose a new method in determining the number of base stations at a minimum, to get the coverage area of the widest service, by selecting the existing base stations, through three stages steps: determination of the number of cells ideal, election position BTS using GA and calculates the coverage area. In this study using two types of bandwidth 10 and 7.5 MHz. Results from this study showed that there are 45 of the 154 existing BTSs selected, with an area of coverage is 72.79% for 10 MHz and 74.07% for 7.5 MHz bandwidth, while areas not covered are areas with few users.

Keywords: *Base Stations Tower, Coverage, Fuzzy C-Means, Genetic Algorithm*

1. INTRODUCTION

BTS tower construction should be done by mobile operators with the aim to improve service coverage, up to the village level, even up to six towers in the village. Until now there are 12 mobile operators operating in Indonesia where each operator set up its own base stations to meet coverage area. Indonesian Cellular Telecom Association (ATSI) in 2011 has recorded a number of base stations reached 97 thousand and in 2012 was built 15 thousand BTS again [1]. In Malang City Indonesia, has existed for more than 150 base stations. The placement of the tower is too much and without proper planning will result in adverse effects, among others: the emergence of a potential violation of the Spatial Plan and the potential violation of Flight Operations Safety Zone [2].

The Government through the Ministry of Communications and Information of the Republic of Indonesia issued Ministerial Decree on Guidelines for the development and use of telecommunication and tower sharing. Furthermore, based on these regulations, to create a safe space, comfortable, productive and sustainable as mandated by Act 26 of 2007 on the arrangement of

space, it has issued technical guidelines as a reference for local governments city in determining the location of the construction of telecommunication towers in accordance with the spatial plan in order to achieve effectiveness and aesthetics in space utilization [3], by structuring telecommunications tower.

The problem is the amount of cellular telecommunications tower in an urban area is already very crowded, very irregular placement, on the other hand telecommunications providers continue to develop in the areas already congested. To overcome these problems, we need a study to produce an optimal amount of cell towers while maintaining its service area coverage. Haider and Mudassar in his research has identified discrepancies or limitations on the overall network design to assist in the repair process of network optimization and QoS [4]. Aguiar has been optimizing network design process that requires many decisions in a form of combinatorial explosion. GSM network design optimization method used is the integer programming model and a computational tool. Other optimization is an application that allows Genetic Algorithm and also for positioning BTS [5].



Some of these studies, the optimization is done only focus on its cellular network planning, where there is only one telecommunications provider. In fact, the existence of the BTS is the sum of several different providers and different characteristics. Under these conditions, then how to get a minimal amount of existing telecommunications tower and capable of covering an area of town by using an optimization method.

2. MOBILE NETWORK AND PLANNING

Mobile network is a radio network distributed over an area called cells, each cell is served by at least one transceiver at a fixed location known as a cell site or a base station. When cells are joined together, it will provide a radio communication coverage in a wide geographic area. General architecture of a mobile telecom network according to Misra [6] consists of: Base Transceiver Station (BTS), Mobile Switching Center (MSC) and the Mobile Station (MS). Base transceiver station is a device that serves customer/mobile station to the mobile switching center and vice versa. Mobile Switching Center is the central co-ordination of all existing cell site and serves as the main connector. While the mobile station is a mobile device that is located on the customer side.

In a cellular radio system, an area that will be given radio communication service is divided into cells that can be hexagonal, square, circular or other irregular shape, although conventionally, the shape is hexagonal cells. Each cell is given multiple frequencies which has a corresponding radio base station. Group certain frequencies can be reused in other cells, provided that the same frequency is not used by cells adjacent neighbors, because it can cause co-channel interference. Cellular network used by mobile operators to achieve the coverage and capacity to customers. A wide geographical area is divided into smaller cells to avoid losing signal line-of-sight and to support a large number of customers that are active in that area. All cell sites connected to the telephone exchange (or switch), which in turn are connected to the public telephone network. In cities, each cell site may have a range of up to about 1.2 KM, while in rural areas, can reach up to 5 KM.

The main objective of cellular network planning according to Misra is to provide cost-effective solutions in radio networks with regard to capacity, coverage and quality. Criteria for the design and network planning process varies from one area to another depending on the dominant factor, whether the capacity or coverage. Network planning process

is not solely related to the network planning process alone, but also relates to other processes such as the transmission network. Network planning process begins with gathering input parameters, such as the requirements of capacity, coverage and quality. The final goal of network planning includes: planning coverage, the estimated capacity, interference, power and frequency calculation [7].

3. OPTIMIZATION PROBLEM OF BTS PLACEMENT IN CELLULAR NETWORK

Optimization of the mobile telecom network is a process to improve the quality of service (QoS) based on key performance indicators (KPI). According to Misra, optimization process consists of two things, namely statistics and drive test. Statistical process provides an overview of the behavior of a cell at a certain period, while the drive test provides a description of behavior in an area quickly during the call. Drive test produces measurement such as mean opinion score (MOS), frame erasure rate (FER), bit error rate (BER), signal level, quality and information site (cell identity, BCCH, allocations for mobile, neighboring cells, and others. In the process of network planning cellular GSM, BTS is a very important element that should be considered in building a radio network is a media liaison between the user equipment (Mobile Station) via the air interface [8]. Therefore, the problem the largest mobile telecom network planning process lies in the placement of BTS sites appropriate to achieve the objectives of the service provider (operator) in the form maximize capacity, coverage and costs.

Several approaches have been proposed to solve the problem of the placement of base stations; The approach can classified into three categories [9] namely: geometric, mathematical and Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS). Another optimization approach in solving the problem of mobile telecommunications network planning is metaheuristic approaches include Genetic Algorithm (GA) and Tabu Search (TS), which were both very attractive due to its high flexibility in determining the limits and the objective function that can not be easily modeled by the equation algebra.

Applications GA for optimization of radio network coverage results in a placement solutions are approaching optimal radio facilities, in terms of time saving and efficient, although it depends on the selection of parameters such as population size, selection and reproduction [10]. BTS placement optimization using GA [11] shows that the number

of base stations in the specified service area can be reduced while still reaching coverage area of service and total traffic served. GA modification by combining Fuzzy systems are implemented for positioning BTS produces vast increase in the coverage and capacity of traffic.

In [5] and [11] the optimization is done to get the number and placement of base stations in areas that are planned network, whereas in this paper, the optimization is done to get a number and select precisely position the base stations that already exist, based on the number of BTS ideal results planning taking into account its coverage, as well as techniques that we propose in methodology.

4. FUZZY C-MEANS (FCM) AND GENETIC ALGORITHM (GA)

Fuzzy Clustering is one technique for determining the optimal cluster in a vector space based on normal form for the Euclidian distance vector. Fuzzy Clustering is very useful for modeling fuzzy, especially in identifying the fuzzy rules. There are several clustering algorithms of data, one of which is the Fuzzy C-Means (FCM). FCM is a technique's lawyer-cluster where the existence of data that each data point in a cluster is determined by the degree of membership. FCM basic concept, the first is to determine the center of the cluster, which will mark the average location for each cluster. In the initial condition, the center of the cluster is still not accurate. Each data point has a degree of membership for each cluster. By fixing the center of the cluster and the degree of membership of each data point repeatedly, it will be seen that the center of the cluster will move towards the right location. This loop is based on minimization of the objective function that describes the distance from the given data point to the center of the cluster are weighted by the degrees of membership of data points [12].

A genetic algorithm (GA) is a search heuristic that mimics the process of natural selection in the field of artificial intelligence. This heuristic (also sometimes called a metaheuristic) is routinely used to generate useful solutions to optimization and search problems. Genetic algorithms belong to the larger class of evolutionary algorithms (EA), which generate solutions to optimization problems using techniques inspired by natural evolution, such as inheritance, mutation, selection, and crossover. In a genetic algorithm, a population of candidate solutions to an optimization problem is evolved toward better solutions. Each candidate solution has a set of properties (its chromosomes or genotype)

which can be mutated and altered; traditionally, solutions are represented in binary as strings of 0 and 1, but other encodings are also possible [13].

5. THE PROPOSED METHOD

In this paper, we propose a new method in determining the number of base stations at a minimum, to get the coverage area of the widest service, by selecting the existing base stations, through three stages steps: determination of the number of cells ideal, election position BTS using GA and calculates the coverage area. The data required in this work are the distribution of the population, the position of BTS and the needs of the user traffic. These data are input parameters to produce the number of base stations and coverage area based mobile telecom network planning as a flowchart in Figure 1. The output planning of the network will be used as a reference to determine the ideal number of base stations. The data related to the existing BTS, such as location, cell area and number of BTS used as input parameters for optimization. Steps are as follows :

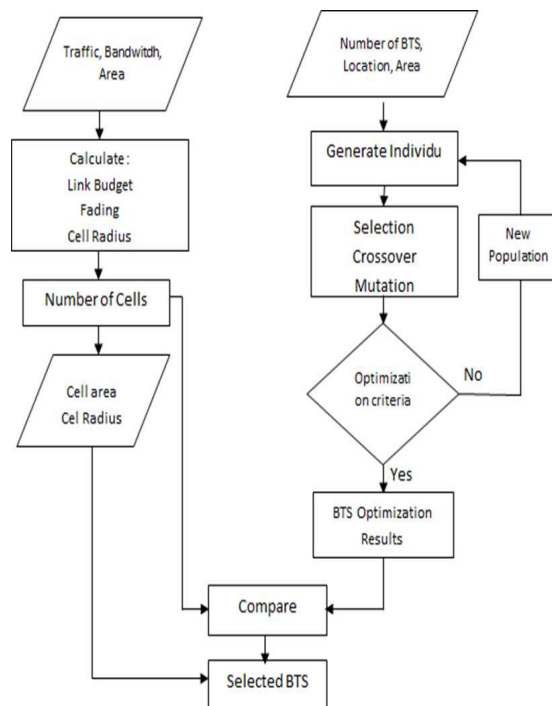


Figure 1. Flowchart Of Proposed Method

Optimization of the number of BTS is applied to the region of Malang city with an area of 110.06 km², assuming the entire area is urban morphology, characterized by using propagation models Cost

231 [14]. In this work, there are three mobile operators, namely: operators A, B and C, each operator has a frequency bandwidth and the number of existing base stations as the table below

Table 1. Frequency Bandwidth and Number of Existing Tower

Operator	Bandwidth	The Number of Existing BTS
A	10Mhz	55
B	7,5Mhz	52
C	7,5Mhz	47

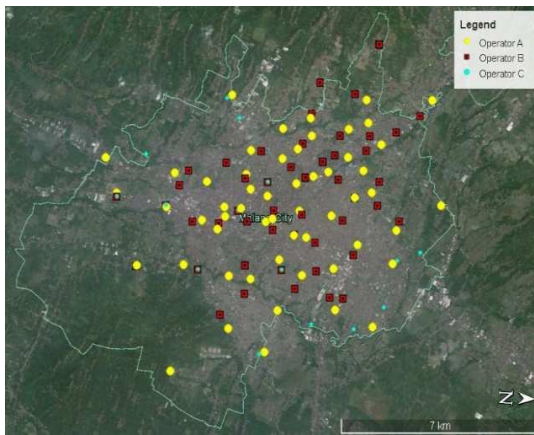


Figure 2. The Distribution Of The Existing BTS Towers

In this work, it is assumed height of each tower is 30 meters, by using link budget calculation [15], then obtained the number and radius of the BTS, as presented in Table 2. It can be seen the number of BTSs, which needed for each operator, namely for the operator A with a width of 10 MHz bandwidth needed 28 BTS, whereas for operator B and C with a width of 7.5 MHz bandwidth needed 24 BTS.

6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

6.1. Clustering Existing Tower using FCM

The purpose of Clustering existing tower is to get the point of cluster centers are evenly distributed throughout the deployment area of BTS tower. Clustering towers are based on the location of the tower, while the number of clusters in this work, is determined by the results of the planning cell. The resulting clusters, be the basis of the GA optimization process.

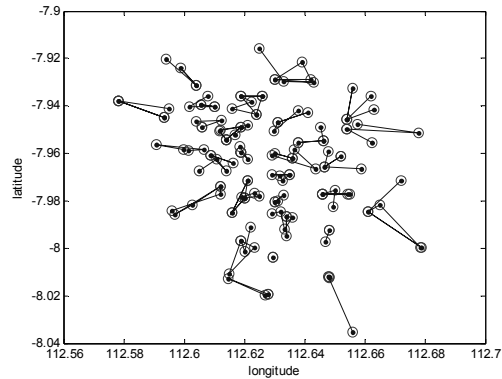


Figure 3. Mapping of FCM clustering for operator A

The results of FCM, for the operator A as much as 28 clusters, while for the operator B and C each with 24 clusters, where the number of members of each cluster will vary depending on the density of towers in the area. Tables 3 and 4 represent the members of each cluster.

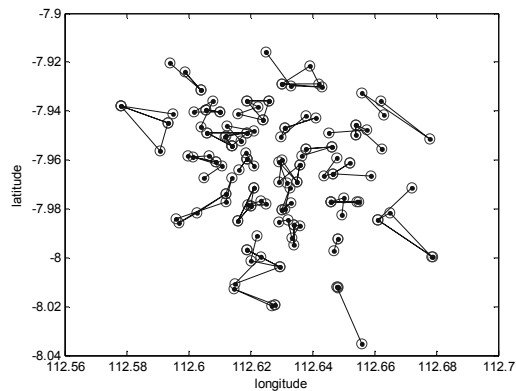


Figure 4. Mapping of FCM clustering for operator B and C

6.2. Genetic Algorithm for The Optimization of The Number of BTS Towers

The purpose of this GA optimization is to select the BTS tower of each cluster, so as to produce a number of BTS tower with the widest coverage area. The fitness function of this optimization is the percentage of the covered area to the area planned.

$$\text{Coverage area} = \frac{L_{\text{TotalBTS}} - L_{\text{O}}}{L_{\text{City}}} \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

The area of coverage, obtained from the entire area selected BTS, reduced by the area as a wedge between the BTS, is expressed in the formula [15] :



$$L_{\cap ij} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = j \\ 0 & \text{if } r_{ri} + r_{rj} < D_{ij} \\ 2r_i r_j \cos\left(\frac{D_{ij}}{r_i + r_j}\right) - D_{ij} \left(r_j \left(\frac{D_{ij}^2}{4}\right)\right) & \text{others} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

$L_{\cap ij}$ is the area of the slice between BTS_i to BTS_j, r_{ri} is the radius of BTS_i, and D_{ij} is distance BTS_i to BTS_j. GA input parameters for optimization are as follows:

Table 3. The input parameters for GA Optimization

Parameter	Values
Number of Towers	154
Number of chromosomes	200
Number of genes/chromosome	28 & 24
Minimum boundary	1
Maximum boundary	Number of Tower indexes/cluster
Probability of crossover	0.9
Probability of mutation	0.8

The GA optimization steps are as follows :

- a. Generating initial population
Generate 200 chromosomes, each chromosome consists of a number of genes in the form of random numbers with a size of 1 x number of indexes for each cluster. examples of this chromosome :
Chromosomes with 28 genes = [5 2 7 3 2 3 3 5 4 1 2 1 2 2 2 6 2 5 2 6 1 2 4 6 2 1 1 5]
- b. Selection with elitist methods
200 chromosomes that have been generated, then be selected as much as 90 percent based on the order of fitness starting from the best to the worst
- c. Crossover with methods of N-Point Crossover
Crossover chromosome result of selection to get the parents, by generating random numbers [0.1] for each chromosome with probability 0.9. Chromosome with a random value less than or equal to 0.9 used as a parent, where the number of chromosomes as much as half of the initial population. The method of crossover using N-point crossover with 12 points.

Illustration of N-Point Crossover is as follows:

1. At couple-1, parents-1 is the chromosome-125 and parent-2 is chromosome 96
Parent-1 : [4 1 3 5 3 1 2 2 7 3 1 4 1 6 3 6 2 3 6 7 2 2 2 1 4 4 2 2]
Parent-2 : [3 1 1 1 4 9 4 4 6 1 1 4 2 2 3 8 1 4 3 3 1 1 3 5 2 3 3 1]
2. Generate a random number as many as 12 points with a minimum limit is 1 and the

maximum limit is the number of genes on a chromosome, which is 28.

Point Crossover : [2 2 5 6 9 16 17 18 19 20 22 25]

3. Then genes that will be crossover is:

- a. Gen 2 until to Gen 2
- b. Gen 5th to 6th Gen
- c. Gen 9th to 16th Gen
- d. Gen 17th to 18th Gen
- e. Gen 19th to 20th Gen
- f. Gen 22^{scnd} to 25th Gen

Parent-1 : [4 1 3 5 3 1 2 2 7 3 1 4 1 6 3 6 2 3 6 7 2 2 2 1 4 4 2 2]

Parent-2 : [3 1 1 1 4 9 4 4 6 1 1 4 2 2 3 8 1 4 3 3 1 1 3 5 2 3 3 1]

4. Crossover produce two offspring chromosomes (chromosome as a result of crossover and mutation)

Offspring-1 : [4 1 3 5 4 9 2 2 6 1 1 4 2 2 3 8 1 4 3 3 2 1 3 5 2 4 2 2]

Offspring-2 : [3 1 1 1 3 1 4 4 7 3 1 4 1 6 3 6 2 3 6 7 1 2 2 1 4 3 3 1]

Crossover applies to all couples (100 couples) who produce 200 offspring, to be the new population and then carried the mutation.

a. Mutations by using inverse mutation
Probability of mutation is 0.8, this modified inverse mutation method as follows:

1. Suppose one were elected to do chromosome mutation process is as follows:

Parent-1 : [4 1 3 5 4 9 2 2 6 1 1 4 2 2 3 8 1 4 3 3 2 1 3 5 2 4 2 2]

2. If the gene selected is the gene 17 (or cluster 17th, see table 3), the cluster has an index cluster of 4, in which the gene which has an index the same cluster is gene-1, 11, 15, 17, 22 and 26. Then:

Parent-1 : [4 1 3 5 4 9 2 2 6 1 1 4 2 2 3 8 1 4 3 3 2 1 3 5 2 4 2 2]

Offspring-1 : [4 1 3 5 4 9 2 2 6 1 1 4 2 2 1 8 3 4 3 3 2 1 3 5 2 4 2 2]

b. Establishment of a new generation
The formation of the new generation is produced from 10% chromosomal mutation, plus 10% of the best chromosome in the initial population and 80% of the population of the new generation. The composition is obtained after repeated testing, to avoid local optima so as to achieve value converges.

The following pictures present the results of fitness and means as much as 200 generations, to the operator A, B and C.

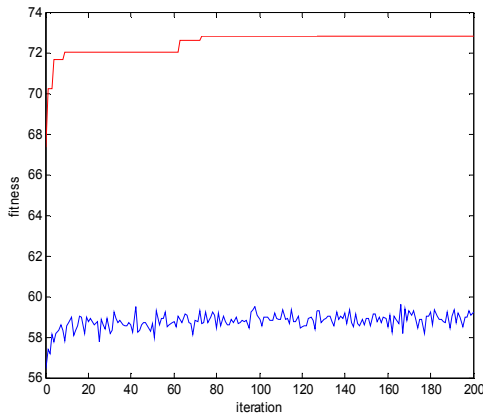


Figure 5. Result of optimization for operator A

Figure 5 shows the value of fitness in the 110th iteration converges with the value reaching 72.79, which means that the iteration has produced the best chromosome as the composition of the selected BTS with an area of coverage is 72.79% of the planned area.

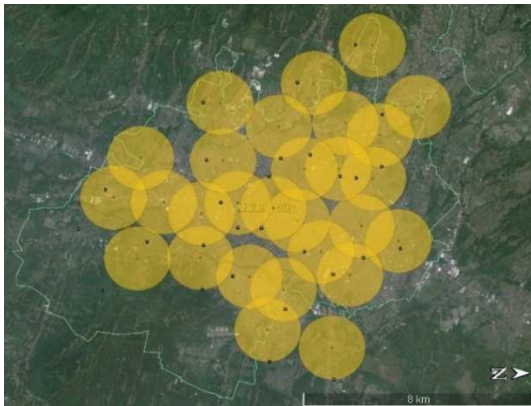


Figure 6. BTS Plotting of Operator A

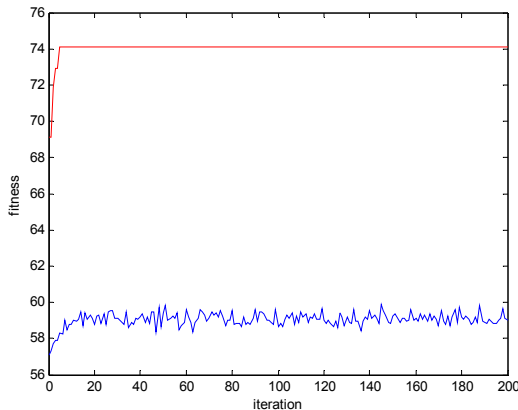


Figure 7. Result of optimization for operator B and C

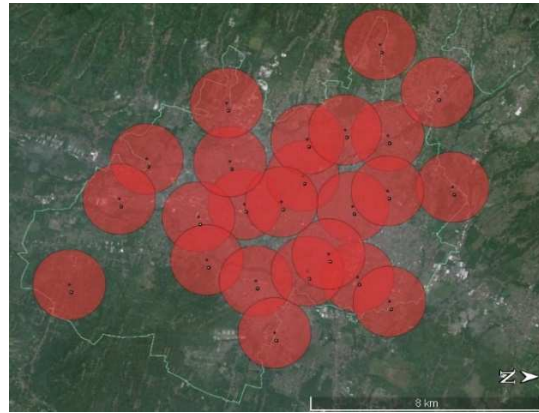
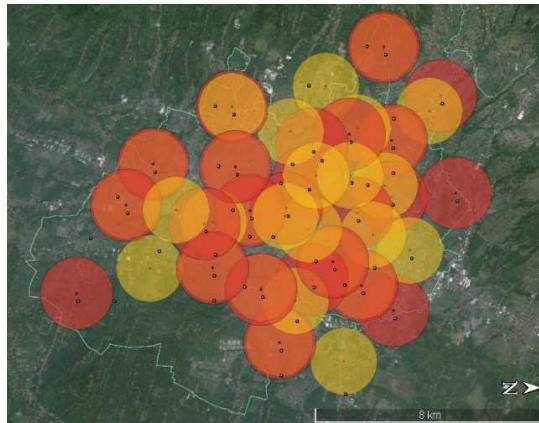


Figure 8. BTS Plotting for operator B and C

Figure 7 shows the value of fitness in the 6th iteration converges with the value reaching 74.0721, which means that the iteration has produced the best chromosome as the composition of the selected BTS with an area of coverage is 74.0721% of the planned area. Table 6. shows the composition of the selected BTS, optimization results for operator A, B and C. There were 7 BTSs, which are used together the results of optimization of the three operators, namely the tower to 19, 79, 82, 117, 125, 126 and 143. Thus, of the 154 towers in the city of Malang, the three operators are quite occupies 45 existing towers, with the ability coverage for the operator A 68.55% and 74.07% for operator B and C. the results plotting BTS placement of the three operators are presented in the figure below.



* operator A = Yellow, Operator B and C = Red.

Figure 8. Plotting Results Optimization Operator A, B and C

5. CONCLUSION

FCM algorithm has good ability for clustering towers based on the location and distance between



the cell tower, while the number of clusters based on the number of BTS generated by the planning cell. Results of clustering can be used as input parameters of the proposed method, as the chromosomes of the initial population. We have tested the method proposed by various chromosomal composition of the new population to produce the best fitness of GA optimization. The results of the chromosomal arrangement that we formulated as the establishment of new populations, able to avoid being trapped in a local optimum.

In this paper, we have worked to optimize existing number of BTS towers in the city of Malang based on considerations of coverage, so there are 45 towers selected from 154 towers. Area coverage for the operator A is 72.79% while the operators A and B is 74.07% of the total area planned. The results of the optimization is plotted into a digital map shows that there are blank spots on the planned area, but the area is suburban blank spot with a few users.

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Table 2. Results of Planning the Number of BTS

Label	Parameter	Operator A	Operator B	Operator C
<i>INITIAL PARAMETER</i>				
	Bandwidth Frequency	10 MHz	7,5 MHz	7,5 MHz
<i>LINK BUDGET</i>				
a	Tx Power (dBm)	21,00	21,00	21,00
b	Tx Antenna Gain (dBi)	0,00	0,00	0,00
c	Cable and combiner losses (dB)	0,00	0,00	0,00
$d = a + b + c$	EIRP Tx Power (dBm)	21,00	21,00	21,00
j	Thermal Noise density (dBm/Hz)	-174,00	-174,00	-174,00
q	Bandwidth factor	70,00	68,75	68,75
k	Noise Figure (dB)	4,00	4,00	4,00
m	Interference to thermal noise (dB)	6,99	6,99	6,99
$n = j + k + m + q$	Interference Noise density N (dBm/Hz)	-93,01	-94,26	-94,26
r	Average Eb/No (dB)	3,80	3,80	3,80
$t = n + r$	Rx Sensitivity (dBm)	-89,21	-90,46	-90,46
e	Rx Antenna Gain (dBi)	17,00	17,00	17,00
f	Cable/Feeder Loss (dB)	-2,00	-2,00	-2,00
g	Diversity Gain (dB)	0,00	0,00	0,00
u	Fading Margin - cell edge (dB)	-1,04	-1,04	-1,04
v	Soft Handover Gain (dB)	5,00	5,00	5,00
w	Building/Car Penetration Loss (dB)	-15,00	-15,00	-15,00
<i>SHADOW FADING MARGIN</i>				
	Decay Law (n)	3,52	3,52	3,52
	Std dev of Fading Margin (dB)	1,00	1,00	1,00
	Std Dev / n	0,28	0,28	0,28
	Coverage Probability - cell edge	85%	85%	85%
u	Fading Margin - cell edge (dB)	1,04	1,04	1,04
	Coverage Probability - whole cell	1,00	1,00	1,00
	Fade Margin - whole cell (dB)	14,46	14,46	14,46
	Antenna Correction factor	1,5	1,5	1,5
	Urban Correction	0,00	0,00	0,00
	BS Height (m)	30,00	30,00	30,00
<i>CELL RADIUS COST 231 PROPAGATION</i>				
$x = d+t+e+f+g+u+v+w$	Max Path Loss (dB)	114,17	115,42	115,42
$y = \text{PropCost231}(x)$	Distance (km)	0,88	0,96	0,96
	Cell Area Coverage	3,95	4,67	4,67
	Ideal Base Station	27,84	23,55	23,55
	Number of Ideal Base Station	28,00	24,00	24,00

Table 3. Results of Clustering the Tower of Operator A and Selected Tower

Cluster	Number of Indexes	Index									Selected genes	Selected tower
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
1	4	2	75	100	134						4	134
2	6	19	23	58	78	115	116				1	19
3	6	29	59	62	93	117	118				5	117
4	7	35	47	83	87	107	138	140			4	87
5	5	25	46	92	144	154					2	46
6	9	5	50	53	72	77	95	98	119	121	8	119
7	5	13	18	68	101	141					1	13
8	9	4	14	55	57	60	69	133	136	142	6	69
9	7	1	12	33	41	64	99	135			3	33
10	5	17	20	85	106	147					1	17
11	4	48	56	103	114						3	103
12	6	7	80	90	150	152	153				6	153
13	5	44	88	110	145	146					2	88
14	6	6	9	84	131	139	143				6	143
15	4	8	40	76	120						1	8
16	8	32	36	51	70	89	104	112	113		3	51
17	4	22	54	71	129						3	71
18	6	24	31	73	97	126	128				5	126
19	6	15	34	39	66	102	123				1	15
20	7	30	42	52	74	108	109	111			3	52
21	2	63	127								2	127
22	4	45	49	67	94						3	67
23	5	21	27	61	96	122					5	122
24	6	3	11	65	124	125	132				5	125
25	5	10	79	91	148	149					2	79
26	4	26	37	81	130						4	130
27	3	28	82	137							2	82
28	6	16	38	43	86	105	151				6	151



Table 4. Results of Clustering the Tower of Operator B and C and Selected Tower

Cluster	Number of Indexes	Index												Selected Genes	Selected Towers
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
1	8	13	16	68	86	101	105	141	151					5	101
2	5	43	79	91	148	149								2	79
3	6	6	9	84	131	139	143							6	143
4	5	17	20	85	106	147								3	85
5	6	21	27	61	96	102	122							2	27
6	7	29	59	62	67	93	117	118						6	117
7	7	1	12	33	41	64	99	135						6	99
8	7	35	47	83	87	107	138	140						6	138
9	8	32	36	51	70	89	104	112	113					5	89
10	8	24	31	63	73	97	126	127	128					6	126
11	3	28	82	137										2	82
12	7	7	38	80	90	150	152	153						4	90
13	7	30	42	52	74	108	109	111						1	30
14	5	2	18	75	100	134								3	75
15	7	3	11	39	65	124	125	132						6	125
16	7	8	19	23	58	78	115	116						2	19
17	9	4	14	55	57	60	69	133	136	142				8	136
18	12	5	40	50	53	72	76	77	95	98	119	120	121	6	76
19	7	15	34	45	49	66	94	123						5	66
20	4	22	54	71	129									4	129
21	4	48	56	103	114									1	48
22	4	26	37	81	130									1	26
23	7	10	25	88	92	144	145	154						6	145
24	4	44	46	110	146									1	44

Table 6. Composition of selected BTS Tower as the Result of Optimization

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Opetator A	8	13	15	17	19	33	46	51	52	67	69	71	79	82	87	88	103	117	119	122	125	126	127	130	134	143	151	153
Operator B and C	19	26	27	30	44	48	66	75	76	79	82	85	89	90	99	101	117	125	126	129	136	138	143	145	-	-	-	-