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(54) Title: MONITORING MEDIA SERVICES IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

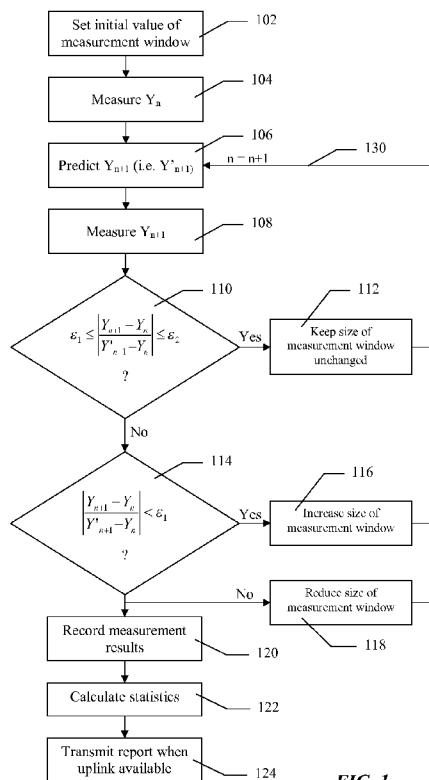


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A method of monitoring Quality of Experience or other indicators of quality of a service delivering media data to user equipment in a telecommunications network. The method comprises determining a first value of the metric (104), determining a second value of the metric (108) after a defined period of time, adjusting (112, 116, 118) the value of said defined period of time, wherein the second determined value of the metric is used in determination of magnitude and direction of the adjustment and recording the determined values of the metric.

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MONITORING MEDIA SERVICES IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS
NETWORKS

Technical Field

5 The present invention relates to telecommunications networks, in general, and in particular to monitoring quality of media services provided to user equipment operating in the telecommunications networks.

Background

10 With the advent of fast internet capable of delivering media to subscribers, whether via wired or wireless connection, this channel constantly increases and will increase further its share in services provided by telecom operators. In order to build a business based on these services the quality of the product delivered must be very good if the clients are expected to pay for it. The ultimate measure of a network and the
15 services it offers is how subscribers perceive the performance. Quality of Experience (QoE) refers to the perception of the user about the quality of a particular service of a network. With the growth of mobile services, it has become very important for an operator to measure the QoE of its network accurately and improve it further to achieve customer loyalty and maintain competitive edge, especially for emerging services like
20 Mobile TV.

 Measuring Quality of Service (QoS, e.g. packet loss rate, end-to-end delay, etc.) may not be accurate in reflecting the user experiences. Although a better network QoS in many cases will result in better QoE, fulfilling all traffic QoS parameters will not
25 guarantee a satisfied user. It might not be entirely accurate to infer that QoE is improved by reducing jitter or average packet delay. Correspondingly, although there have been considerable methods in QoS provisioning and network characteristic measurements, QoE measurement or estimation methods are still in great need in order to gain a clear knowledge about the user satisfaction.

Summary

It is the object of the present invention to provide an improved method of monitoring various quality indicators of a service providing media data to user equipment.

5

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of monitoring data indicative of quality metric of a service delivering media data to user equipment in a telecommunications network comprising determining a first value of the metric and determining a second value of the metric after a defined period of time. The determined values of the metric are recorded. The method also comprises adjusting the value of said defined period of time, wherein the second determined value of the metric is used in determination of magnitude and direction of the adjustment.

According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided user equipment for receiving a service delivering media data from a telecommunications network. The user equipment comprising a receiving section, a processing unit and a memory is adapted to monitor data indicative of quality metric of said service. Said processing unit is adapted to determine a first value of the metric and after a defined period of time to determine a second value of the metric and to record the determined values of the metrics in the memory. The processing unit is further adapted to adjust the value of said defined period of time, wherein the second determined value of the metric is used in determination of magnitude and direction of the adjustment.

Further features of the present invention are as claimed in the dependent claims.

25

The present invention provides the benefit of accurate and cost-efficient measurement and reporting of the quality metrics, even if there are no persistent uplink connections during the sessions (e.g. reporting after the session is over). Further benefits include reduced overhead, including network traffic overhead, reduced CPU and

memory utilization on the content servers (in processing the reports). The algorithm using adaptive measurement window (a defined period of time between two consecutive determinations) and calculating statistics reduce the size of the report, which means that there is no need for a large storage capacity at the Network Management System or
5 somewhere else in the network to store the received reports.

Brief description of the drawings

The present invention will be understood and appreciated more fully from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the drawings in which:

10

FIG. 1 is a flow chart illustrating a method of monitoring data indicative of quality metric in one embodiment of the present invention;

15

FIG. 2 is a flow chart illustrating a method of monitoring data indicative of quality metric in alternative embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a flow chart illustrating a method of monitoring data indicative of quality metric in alternative embodiment of the present invention;

20

FIG. 4 is a diagram illustrating user equipment in one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 shows results of measurement of two QoE metrics as a function of time;

25

FIG. 6 illustrates a structure of a packet of RTCP protocol for transmitting a report in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

Detailed description

In the description of embodiments of the present invention metrics defining Quality of Experience (QoE) are used. The present invention is not, however, limited to reporting QoE, but is also applicable to other metrics for which it is not required real
5 time reporting.

The term processing unit used in this description includes, but is not limited to, microprocessors also referred to as CPUs (Central Processing Units also known as general purpose processors), application specific processors, for example digital signal
10 processors (DSPs), hardware accelerators, or sets of processors with auxiliary electronic devices.

In reporting Quality of Experience it is not required to use real time monitoring. The reported QoE features are not intended for charging or real time adaptation of the
15 service. The focus of QoE reporting is to estimate perceived quality of, for example, Mobile TV service.

A User Equipment (UE) determines (i.e. measures or calculates) the QoE metrics every X seconds. This defined period of time that separates two measurements
20 is called a measurement window. In one embodiment the initial measurement window is set to 5 seconds.

The size of the measurement window determines the accuracy of the measured data (i.e. accuracy of the measured QoE metric). A very short measurement window
25 gives very accurate QoE metric, but results also in very large amount of data that has to be processed and transmitted. On the other hand, transient QoE activity may not be accurately detected if the measurement window is large. For example, a burst of frame loss activity lasting only a few seconds is likely to go undetected with a measurement window of several minutes. In addition, as shown in Fig. 5 the measured results of the

two curves might have equal values, but the service experience in these two cases is different.

A smaller measurement window generates more accurate results and provides
5 better understanding of the distribution. However, as explained earlier, it leads to a
larger sample size and increases network traffic overhead (in transmitting QoE reports),
CPU/memory utilization both on the content servers (in processing QoE reports) and on
the UEs (in calculating QoE metrics), and also requires a large storage capacity at the
NMS (Network Management System) or somewhere else in the telecommunications
10 network where the reports may be stored.

In order to optimize the measurement sample and maintain accuracy of the
measurement on an acceptable level the present invention introduces dynamic
adjustment of the size of the QoE measurement window after each measurement, which
15 results in an adaptive measurement window. When frequent changes of a QoE metric
are detected, a shorter measurement window is used to measure the user experience with
greater accuracy. When fewer fluctuations of the QoE metrics are detected, the
measurement window is increased in order to reduce the overhead introduced by QoE
reporting.

20

One embodiment of the method of the present invention is discussed below. In
this embodiment the value of the specific QoE metric is predicted before it is measured
and the accuracy of the prediction is also taken into account when deciding on increase
or reduction of the measurement window. This embodiment is illustrated in Fig. 1.

25

Let $S = \{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n\}$ be the size of the measurement window, and let S_n be the
current size of measurement window for a specific QoE metric. In one embodiment,
mobile TV frame erasure ratio or frame loss is measured after expiry of time period S_n
from the previous measurement.

Let $Y = \{Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n\}$ be the results of the QoE measurements, and let Y_n be the most recently measured QoE result 104.

5 Let Y'_{n+1} be the predicted QoE result after the time period S_n 106.

Let Y_{n+1} be the actual measured QoE result after the time period S_n 108.

Finally, let C_n be the sum of the QoE change rate during each measurement
10 window.

Below it is explained how the size of the measurement window after the time period S_n is determined (i.e. the value of the next measurement window S_{n+1}).

15 When the method is started the size of the measurement window is initially set, 102, to some arbitrary value, for example 5s.

Each time, after measurement of the QoE metric is carried out and a result value Y_n is known, the prediction of the next measurement result, e.g. Y'_{n+1} , is made based on
20 the previous measurement results (e.g. $Y = \{Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n\}$) and the current size of measurement window S_n . The method of calculating Y'_{n+1} is as follows:

$$C_n = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{Y_{n+1} - Y_n}{S_{i+1}} \quad (1)$$

$$Y'_{n+1} = Y_n + S_n * \frac{C_n}{n-1} \quad (2)$$

Equation (2) gives the predicted second value of the metric, which is a sum of the first determined value of the metric and a product of average change rate (i.e. $\frac{C_n}{n-1}$) and the measurement window S_n .

5 The actual next value of the QoE metric, Y_{n+1} , is measured, 108, after the time period S_n .

With both values of the QoE metric known (i.e. predicted and measured) it is possible to check how good was the prediction and how stable or unstable is the QoE
10 metric. If the measured QoE change (i.e. $|Y_{n+1} - Y_n|$) is approximately equal to the predicted QoE change (i.e. $|Y'_{n+1} - Y_n|$), the prediction is accurate, and the size of the measurement window is kept unchanged. A formula that can be used to automatically check the accuracy of prediction and decide on the size of the measurement window is as follows:

15

$$\text{if } \varepsilon_1 \leq \frac{|Y_{n+1} - Y_n|}{|Y'_{n+1} - Y_n|} \leq \varepsilon_2, \text{ then } S_{n+1} = S_n, \text{ where } 0 < \varepsilon_1 < 1 < \varepsilon_2 ; \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 \text{ are manually}$$

configured. This is illustrated in steps 110 and 112 of Fig. 1.

If the absolute measured QoE change (i.e. $|Y_{n+1} - Y_n|$) is much smaller than the
20 predicted QoE change (i.e. $|Y'_{n+1} - Y_n|$), it indicates the quality of user experience has few changes (the QoE metric is stable). In this situation the size of the measurement window is therefore increased. In one embodiment the increase is by 1s. This condition is checked as follows:

25

$$\text{if } \frac{|Y_{n+1} - Y_n|}{|Y'_{n+1} - Y_n|} < \varepsilon_1, \text{ then } S_{n+1} = S_n + 1 \text{ and this is illustrated in steps 114 and 116}$$

of Fig. 1.

If the measured QoE change (i.e. $|Y_{n+1} - Y_n|$) is much larger than the predicted QoE change (i.e. $|Y'_{n+1} - Y_n|$), it indicates a change in the quality of user experience (the QoE metric is unstable). In this situation the size of the measurement window is
 5 therefore reduced to improve the accuracy of the QoE measurements. This condition is checked as follows:

$$\text{if } \left| \frac{Y_{n+1} - Y_n}{Y'_{n+1} - Y_n} \right| > \varepsilon_2, \text{ then } S_{n+1} = \frac{S_n}{\left| \frac{Y_{n+1} - Y_n}{Y'_{n+1} - Y_n} \right|} \text{ and this is illustrated in steps 110, 114}$$

and 118 of Fig. 1.

10

The formulae for calculating the reduced size of the measurement window S_{n+1} given above is an example only and other formulae are possible.

After the adjustment of the measurement window the method goes to the step of
 15 predicting the next value of the QoE metric Y'_{n+2} . This is illustrated in Fig. 1 by line 130.

All the measured values of the QoE metric are recorded in a memory of user equipment (e.g. mobile phone) or in auxiliary memory unit and are used in the
 20 prediction algorithm as well as in reporting of data indicative of the QoE metric to a network management system or to a provider of the service which is monitored.

In one embodiment, in addition to recording of the measured values of the QoE metric, a time-stamp indicating the time of the measurement is also recorded. This
 25 allows for time correlation of various metrics controlled in the same UE or in several UEs receiving the service (especially if these UEs are in the same part of the network, e.g. the same cell).

The prediction algorithm as illustrated by formulae (1) and (2) above is only one possible example of a very simple prediction algorithm and in alternative embodiments different prediction algorithms can be used.

5

In one embodiment the decision on modifying the length of the measurement window is taken without prediction algorithm and only based on the changes of the value of the QoE metric.

10 This embodiment is illustrated in Fig. 2. The difference between embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2 and the one shown in Fig. 1 is that there is no prediction of the value of QoE metrics and the steps that check in which direction the measurement window should be adjusted are based on change of value of the QoE metric between two consecutive measurements.

15

With two measured values of QoE metric known it is possible to check how stable or unstable is the QoE metric. If the change of the measured QoE metric (i.e. $|Y_{n+1} - Y_n|$) is low it indicates that QoE metric is stable and the size of the measurement window is kept unchanged. A formula that can be used to automatically decide on the
20 size of the measurement window is as follows:

$$\text{if } \varepsilon_3 \leq \left| \frac{Y_{n+1} - Y_n}{Y_n} \right| \leq \varepsilon_4, \text{ then } S_{n+1} = S_n, \text{ where } \varepsilon_3 \text{ and } \varepsilon_4 \text{ are manually configured}$$

arbitrary values. This is illustrated in steps 210 and 212 of Fig. 2.

25

If the measured QoE change (i.e. $|Y_{n+1} - Y_n|$) is very low (i.e. below the lower limit of the check previously discussed) it indicates the quality metric is stable. In this situation the size of the measurement window is therefore increased. In one embodiment the increase is by 1s. This condition is checked as follows:

if $\left| \frac{Y_{n+1} - Y_n}{Y_n} \right| < \varepsilon_3$, then $S_{n+1} = S_n + 1$ and this is illustrated in steps 214 and 216

of Fig. 2.

5 If the measured QoE change (i.e. $|Y_{n+1} - Y_n|$) is larger than the upper limit ε_4 , it indicates an unstable QoE metric. In this situation the size of the measurement window is therefore reduced to improve the accuracy of the QoE measurements. This condition is checked as follows:

10 if $\left| \frac{Y_{n+1} - Y_n}{Y_n} \right| > \varepsilon_4$, then $S_{n+1} = \frac{S_n}{\left| \frac{Y_{n+1} - Y_n}{Y_n} \right|}$ and this is illustrated in steps 210, 214

and 218 of Fig. 2.

The formulae for calculating the reduced size of the measurement window S_{n+1} given above is an example only and other formulae are possible.

15

After the adjustment of the measurement window the method goes to the step of determining (measuring or calculating) the next value of the QoE metric Y_{n+2} . This is illustrated in Fig. 2 by line 230.

20 In yet another embodiment the decision on modifying the length of the measurement window is taken only based on the accuracy of prediction of the value of the QoE metric.

This embodiment is illustrated in Fig. 3. The difference between embodiment
25 illustrated in Fig. 3 and the one shown in Fig. 1 is that the steps that check in which

direction the measurement window should be adjusted are based only on accuracy of prediction of the value of the QoE metric.

With both values of the QoE metric known (i.e. predicted and measured) it is possible to check how good was the prediction. If the absolute difference between the measured QoE metric and the predicted one (i.e. $|Y'_{n+1} - Y_{n+1}|$) is low it indicates that the prediction is accurate, and the size of the measurement window is kept unchanged. A formula that can be used to automatically decide on the size of the measurement window is as follows:

10

$$\text{if } \varepsilon_5 \leq \left| \frac{Y'_{n+1} - Y_{n+1}}{Y_{n+1}} \right| \leq \varepsilon_6, \text{ then } S_{n+1} = S_n, \text{ where } \varepsilon_5 \text{ and } \varepsilon_6 \text{ are manually configured}$$

arbitrary values. This is illustrated in steps 310 and 312 of Fig. 3.

If the accuracy of prediction of QoE metric (i.e. $|Y'_{n+1} - Y_{n+1}|$) is very good (i.e. below the lower limit ε_5) the size of the measurement window is therefore increased. In one embodiment the increase is by 1s. This condition is checked as follows:

15

$$\text{if } \left| \frac{Y'_{n+1} - Y_{n+1}}{Y_{n+1}} \right| < \varepsilon_5, \text{ then } S_{n+1} = S_n + 1 \text{ and this is illustrated in steps 314 and 316}$$

of Fig. 3.

20

If the accuracy of prediction of QoE metric (i.e. $|Y'_{n+1} - Y_{n+1}|$) is not good (i.e. large difference between prediction and measured value) the size of the measurement window is reduced to improve the accuracy of the QoE measurements. This condition is checked as follows:

25

if $\left| \frac{Y'_{n+1} - Y_{n+1}}{Y_{n+1}} \right| > \varepsilon_6$, then $S_{n+1} = \frac{S_n}{\left| \frac{Y'_{n+1} - Y_{n+1}}{Y_{n+1}} \right|}$ and this is illustrated in steps 310,

314 and 318 of Fig. 3.

The formulae for calculating the reduced size of the measurement window S_{n+1}
 5 given above is an example only and other formulae are possible.

After the adjustment of the measurement window the method goes to the step of
 predicting the next value of the QoE metric Y'_{n+2} . This is illustrated in Fig. 3 by line
 330.

10

Once the QoE metrics are collected and recorded at a frequency defined by the
 adaptive measurement window they have to be delivered to the telecommunications
 network (network management system or provider of the monitored service).

15 In a simplest embodiment the determined and recorded data are transmitted and
 the transmission is initiated when an uplink channel connection is available to said user
 equipment. In an alternative embodiment, in addition to the values of the QoE metrics,
 also the time-stamp data are transmitted to the telecommunications network for use in
 analysing the QoE data.

20

In yet another embodiment of the present invention the amount of data related to
 QoE metrics transmitted by the user equipment to the network is reduced by processing,
 122, the data in the user equipment and transmitting only results of this processing. The
 processing is for example calculating statistics, 122, of the recorded values of the QoE
 25 metric and transmitting a report 124 comprising the calculated statistics. The
 transmission is initiated when an uplink channel connection is available to the user
 equipment.

Using the method implementing the adaptive measurement window the following set of measurement results of QoE metric were obtained:

- 5 $R = \{(S_1, Y_1), (S_2, Y_2), \dots, (S_k, Y_k)\}$, where S_i is the measurement window of the result $R_i (1 \leq i \leq k)$, while Y_i is the value of the measured QoE metric.

Instead of sending these results directly to the content servers, the present invention in one of its embodiments calculates a Probability Density Function (PDF) of the measured values of QoE metrics. The steps of calculation of the Probability Density Function are explained below:

- (1) Select from the measured QoE results Y_{\min} (i.e. the minimum value of the metric) and Y_{\max} (i.e. the maximum value of the metric).
- (2) Calculate $R = \{(S_1, Y''_1), (S_2, Y''_2), \dots, (S_k, Y''_k)\}$, $Y_i'' = \frac{Y_i}{Y_{\max}} * 100$ (i.e. percentage of Y_{\max}).
- (3) Given the size limit of the report L , the reporting interval is:

$$\Delta_Y = \frac{(1 - \frac{Y_{\min}}{Y_{\max}}) \times 100}{L};$$

The reporting interval is a characteristics of a probability density function, which shows a discrete distribution of probability of a variable taking a value falling within one of several reporting intervals. The more reporting intervals (or the shorter they are) the distribution is closer to a continuous distribution. If the probability density function is to be reported and there is a limit on the size of the report the allowed size of the report determines the number of reporting intervals and in consequence their length.

- 25 And if there is no size limit the reporting interval is:

$$\Delta_Y = 1, L = \frac{Y_{\max} - Y_{\min}}{Y_{\max}} \times 100.$$

(4) Calculate the time period during which the measured QoE is between

$$\left(\frac{Y_{\min}}{Y_{\max}} \times 100 + (i-1) \times \Delta_Y, \frac{Y_{\min}}{Y_{\max}} \times 100 + i \times \Delta_Y\right) \quad (1 \leq i \leq L)$$

for (i=1; i<=L; i++)

5 for each $(S_j, Y_j) \in R$

$$\text{if } \left(\frac{Y_{\min}}{Y_{\max}} \times 100 + (i-1) \times \Delta_Y\right) \leq Y_j < \left(\frac{Y_{\min}}{Y_{\max}} \times 100 + i \times \Delta_Y\right)$$

$$P_i += S_j$$

P_i is the time period during which the measured QoE metric is within the defined above range and in practice it is a sum of values of measurement windows (i.e. time) during which the metric was within said range.

Finally, the QoE report sent by the user equipment includes Y_{\min} , Y_{\max} and $P = \{P_1, P_2 \dots P_L\}$.

15 In operation the calculation of the probability density function can be carried out as in the simple example given below.

Let's assume $Y_{\max} = 1$ (determined frame loss ratio), i.e. 100% of the packets are lost: $R = \{(S_1, Y''_1), (S_2, Y''_2), \dots, (S_k, Y''_k), \} = \{(3, 0.4), (5, 1), (1, 0.9), (2, 0.4), (3, 0.5)\}$

20 (Note that these data is only used to explain the statistics calculation method, and to simplify the explanation they don't reflect the adaptive measurement window algorithm explained earlier in the application.)

From R one can see that there are 3 seconds that 40% of the packets are lost; 5 seconds that 100% of the packets are lost, 1 second that 90% of the packets are lost, etc.

Using the proposed method, it is possible to calculate how long is the time period during which the measured metrics is 0.4?

5 From the example data one can see that this period is 5s, i.e. (3, 0.4) and (2, 0.4).

Therefore, the following result is obtained $\{(0.4, 5), (0.5, 3), (0.9, 1), (1,5)\}$, where in the first position in each pair is the value of the metric and in the second position is the summarised time the metric was at this value. The time here is a measure
10 of probability.

If the measurement sample is large (for example there are 400-1000 data points), the report would be large too. Although Y'' is a percentage between 0 and 1, it is still possible that it is something like 0.123432423, 0.154253452, 0.234234343, 0.24355345,
15 which would produce a large report. So to report such measurement results, the results are rounded. For example, 0.123432423, 0.154253452, 0.234234343, 0.24355345 are rounded to 0.12, 0.15, 0.23, 0.24. When multiplied by 100 at most 101 data points from 0 to 100 are produced because after rounding some results will be repeated. The report will comprise a summary duration value of 12% frame loss in its 12th byte, a summary
20 duration value of 50% frame loss in its 50th byte and so on.

If there are only 20 bytes available, it is necessary to reduce the data size further. Therefore the corresponding summary duration is a sum of values of measurement windows during which the frame loss is between 0% and 5% (5%-10%, 10%-15%,
25 15%-20%,...95%-100%)

One of the feasible implementation methods is through RTCP QoE Reporting Extension as illustrated in FIG. 6. Receiver Report (RR) packets of RTCP protocol have a special field for profile-specific extensions. The field contains additional information

that needs to be reported regularly about the sender or receivers. Using this field to extend RR functionalities has more benefits than defining a new RTCP packet, because it requires less overhead (fewer octets in the packet - no RTCP header or SSRC field) and it allows for simpler and faster parsing because applications running under that profile would be programmed to always expect the extension fields in the directly
5 accessible location after the reception reports.

In one embodiment the statistic is reported, but it is also possible that in addition to that, if requested by the network or the service provider the full set of measured
10 values of the monitored QoE metric is also transmitted to the provider of the media service or, in one embodiment, to the service management/monitoring systems that generate the service quality reports for mobile TV services.

With reference to Fig. 4 a one embodiment of user equipment 400 in accordance
15 with the present invention is presented. The UE 400 is for receiving a service delivering media data from a telecommunications network and comprises a receiving section 402, a processor 404 and a memory 406. In the case of receiving video broadcast the processor 404 monitors frame loss rate or other metric indicative of Quality of Experience. In monitoring the or other QoE metric the process 404 determines
20 (measures) a first value of the metric and after expiry of a measurement window measures a second value of the metric. The measured values are recorded in the memory 406. The processor 404 carries out an analysis of the measured values and depending on how the measured values change over time it adjusts the length of the measurement window. The magnitude and direction of the adjustment is a function of
25 the second measured value.

In one embodiment the adjustment applied by the processor depends on a change of the value of the metric between the second and first measurement.

In an alternative embodiment the adjustment is a function of a difference between the second value of the measured metric and a predicted value of said metric. In this way it is checked how accurate is the prediction and the better is the prediction, the longer the measurement window can be.

5

In yet another alternative embodiment the adjustment is a function depending on a accuracy of prediction of values of the measured QoE metric and a dynamics of the metric (i.e. a change of the metric between the first and second determinations).

10 Details of how the magnitude and direction of the adjustment are determined are discussed in description of the embodiments of the method and illustrated in figures 1 – 3, and are applicable to the operation of the user equipment 400.

The user equipment also comprises a transmitter section 408 for transmitting
15 reports on the QoE metrics. The report in one embodiment comprises the measured values of the metrics and, preferably, time-stamp information that in one embodiment is also recorded in the memory to indicate time when the measurements were taken.

In a preferred embodiment the user equipment transmits via the transmitter
20 section a report comprising statistics calculated for the measured QoE metrics, preferably probability density function.

The transmitter section 408 transmits the report when an uplink channel is available to the user equipment 400. In a preferred embodiment the transmitter section
25 408 uses Real-time Transport Control Protocol (RTCP) for transmitting the report and one embodiment of a RTCP packet used for delivering such report is shown in Fig. 6. Alternative protocols can also be used for delivering said reports.

The present invention is especially applicable to reporting QoE metrics in telecommunications networks providing service based on broadcasting or multicasting of media data to user equipment and the user equipment uses the uplink channel for interaction between the user and the service. One example of this type of service is

5 Multimedia Broadcast Multicast Service (MBMS) in wireless telecommunications networks.

CLAIMS

1. A method of monitoring data indicative of quality metric of a service delivering media data to user equipment in a telecommunications network comprising:
 - determining a first value of the metric (104);
 - determining a second value of the metric (108) after a defined period of time;
 - adjusting (112, 116, 118) the value of said defined period of time, wherein the second determined value of the metric is used in determination of magnitude and direction of the adjustment;
 - recording (120) the determined values of the metric.
2. The method according to claim 1 comprising recording time-stamps for the determined values of the metric.
3. The method according to claim 1 or claim 2 comprising adjusting the value of said defined period of time depending on a value indicative of a change of the metric between the first and second determinations.
4. The method according to claim 1 or claim 2 comprising:
 - predicting (106) the second value of the metric;
 - adjusting (112, 116, 118) the value of said defined period of time depending on a value indicative of a difference between the second predicted value and the second determined value of the metric.
5. The method according to claim 1 or claim 2 comprising:
 - predicting (106) a second value of the metric;
 - adjusting (112, 116, 118) the value of said defined period of time depending on a value indicative of a difference between the second predicted value and the second

determined value of the metric and a change of the metric between the first and second determinations.

6. The method according to any one of claims 1 – 5 comprising:
 - calculating statistics (122) of the determined metric values;
 - transmitting a report (124) comprising the calculated statistics, wherein the transmission is initiated when an uplink channel connection is available to said user equipment.
7. The method according to claim 4 or claim 5, wherein the step of predicting (106) comprises determining an average change rate of the determined metric based on the recorded data, wherein the predicted second value of the metric is a sum of the first determined value of the metric and a product of said average change rate and said defined period of time.
8. The method according to claim 4 or claim 5 comprising a step of predicting (106) carried out after each step of determining a value of the metric (130).
9. The method according to any one of preceding claims, wherein in said service the network provides broadcast or multicast of the media data to user equipment and the user equipment uses the uplink channel for interaction between the user and the service.
10. The method according to claim 6, wherein said statistics of the determined metric is a probability density function calculated based on the determined metric values.
11. The method according to any one of preceding claims, wherein the report is transmitted using Real-time Transport Control Protocol.

12. The method according to claim 1 – 11, wherein the data indicative of quality metric comprises data indicative of frame loss.

13. The method according to any one of claims 1 – 5 comprising transmitting a report comprising the recorded values of the metric, wherein the transmission is initiated when an uplink channel connection is available to said user equipment.

14. The method according to claim 13 comprising transmitting the time-stamps for the determined values of the metric.

15. A user equipment (400) for receiving a service delivering media data from a telecommunications network, the user equipment (400) comprising a receiving section (402), a processing unit (404) and a memory (406) and being adapted to monitor data indicative of quality metric of said service, wherein said processing unit (404) is adapted to determine a first value of the metric and after a defined period of time to determine a second value of the metric and to record the determined values of the metrics in the memory (406); the processing unit (404) is further adapted to adjust the value of said defined period of time, wherein the second determined value of the metric is used in determination of magnitude and direction of the adjustment.

16. The user equipment according to claim 15, wherein said processing unit (404) is adapted to record time-stamps for the determined values of the metric in said memory (406).

17. The user equipment (400) according to claim 15 or claim 16, wherein the processing unit (404) is adapted to adjust the value of said defined period of time depending on a value indicative of a change of the metric between the first and second determinations.

18. The user equipment (400) according to claim 15 or claim 16, wherein the processing unit (404) is adapted to predict the second value of the metric and to adjust the value of said defined period of time depending on a value indicative of a difference between the second predicted value and the second determined value of the metric.

19. The user equipment (400) according to claim 15 or claim 16, wherein the processing unit (404) is adapted to predict a second value of the metric and to adjust the value of said defined period of time depending on a value indicative of a difference between the second predicted value and the second determined value of the metric and a change of the metric between the first and second determinations.

20. The user equipment (400) according to any one of claims 15 – 19 comprising a transmitter section (408), wherein the processing unit (404) is adapted to calculate statistics of the determined metric values and the transmitter section (408) is adapted to transmit a report comprising the calculated statistics, wherein the transmission is initiated when an uplink channel connection is available to said user equipment (400).

21. The user equipment (400) according to claim 20, wherein the user equipment (400) is adapted to transmit the report using Real-time Transport Control Protocol.

22. The user equipment (400) according to any one of claims 15 – 21, wherein the data indicative of quality metric comprises data indicative of frame loss.

23. The user equipment (400) according to any one of claims 15 – 19 comprising a transmitter section (408) adapted to transmit a report comprising the recorded values of the metric, wherein the transmission is initiated when an uplink channel connection is available to said user equipment (400).

24. The user equipment (400) according to claim 23, wherein the transmitter section is adapted to transmit the time-stamps for the determined values of the metric.

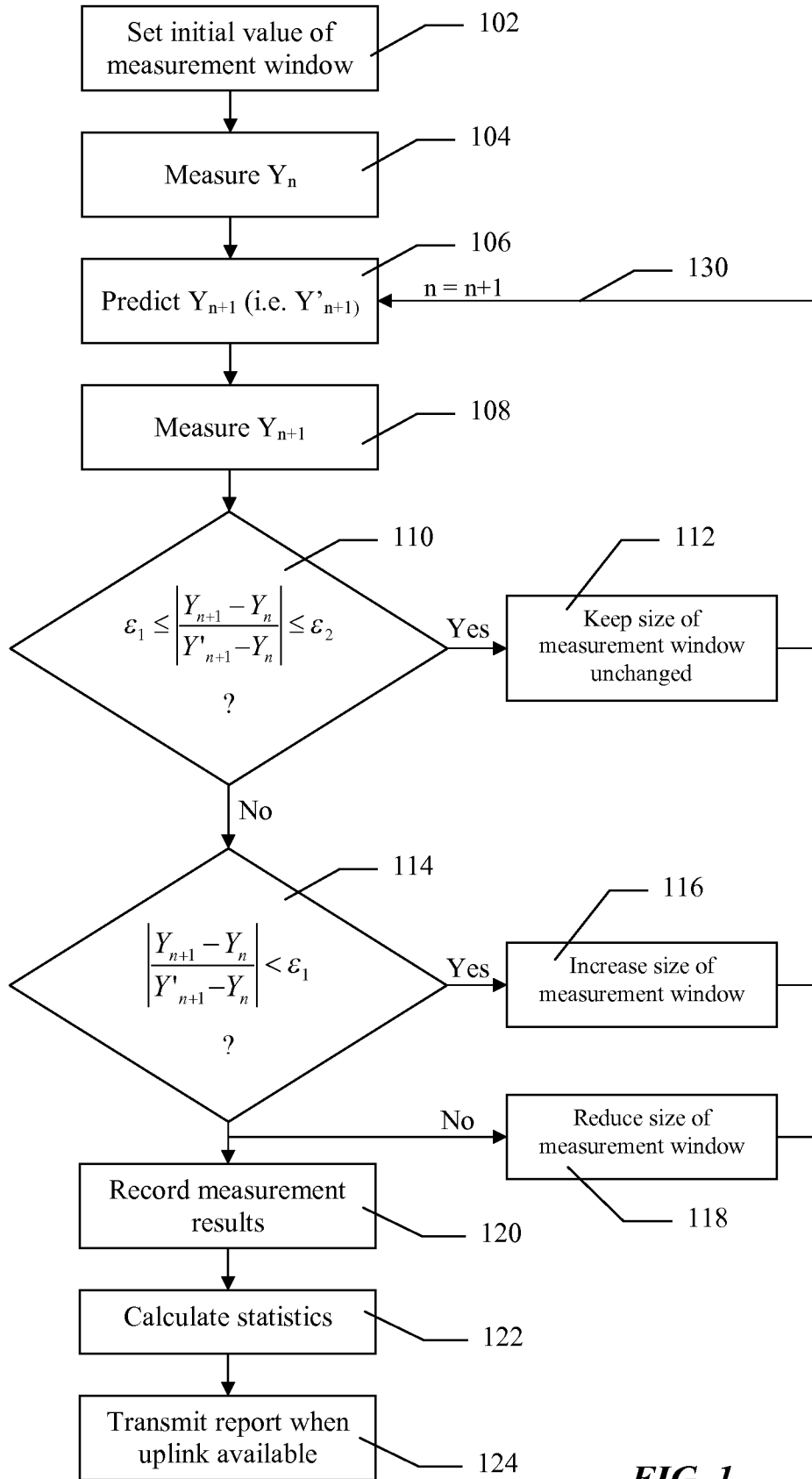


FIG. 1

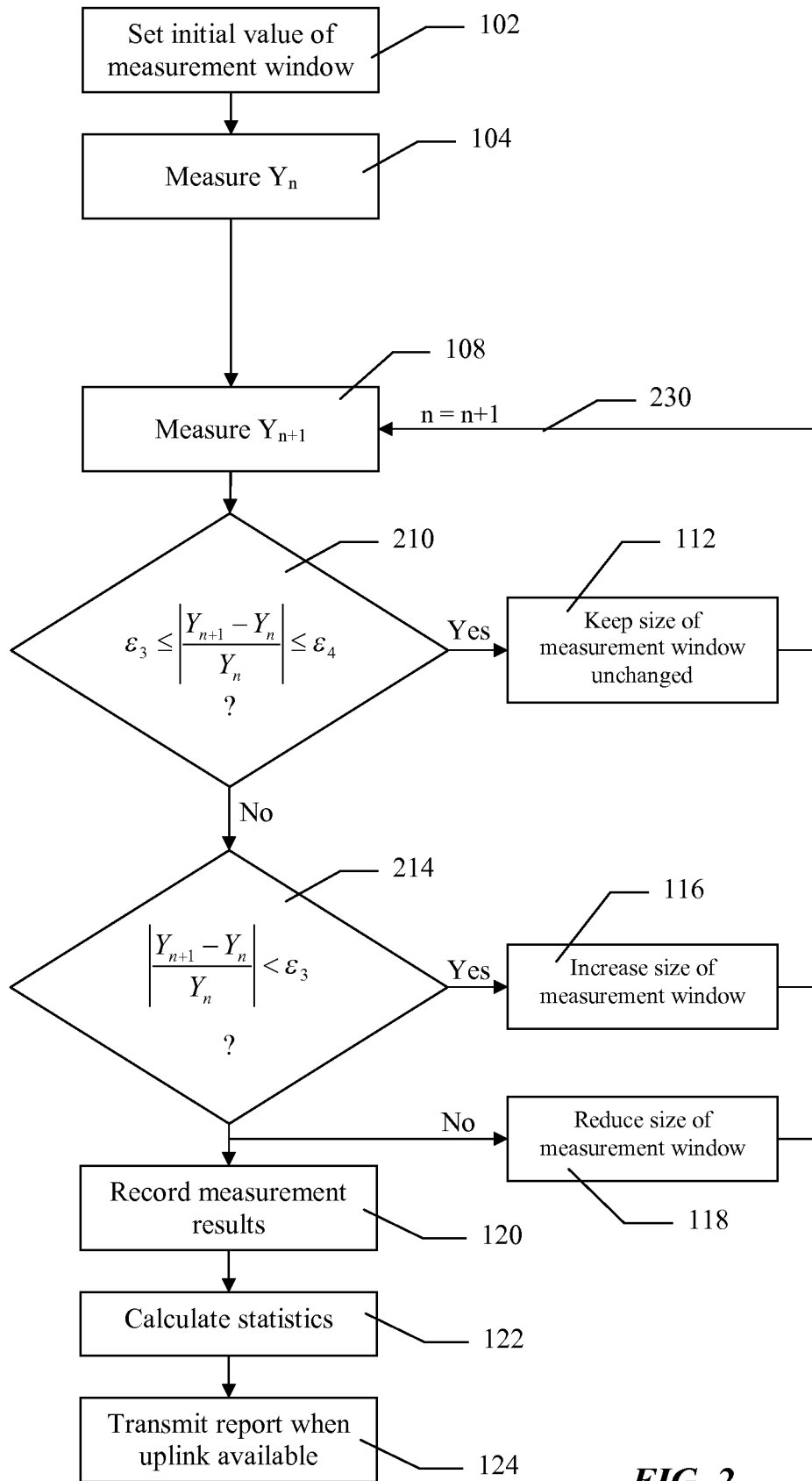


FIG. 2

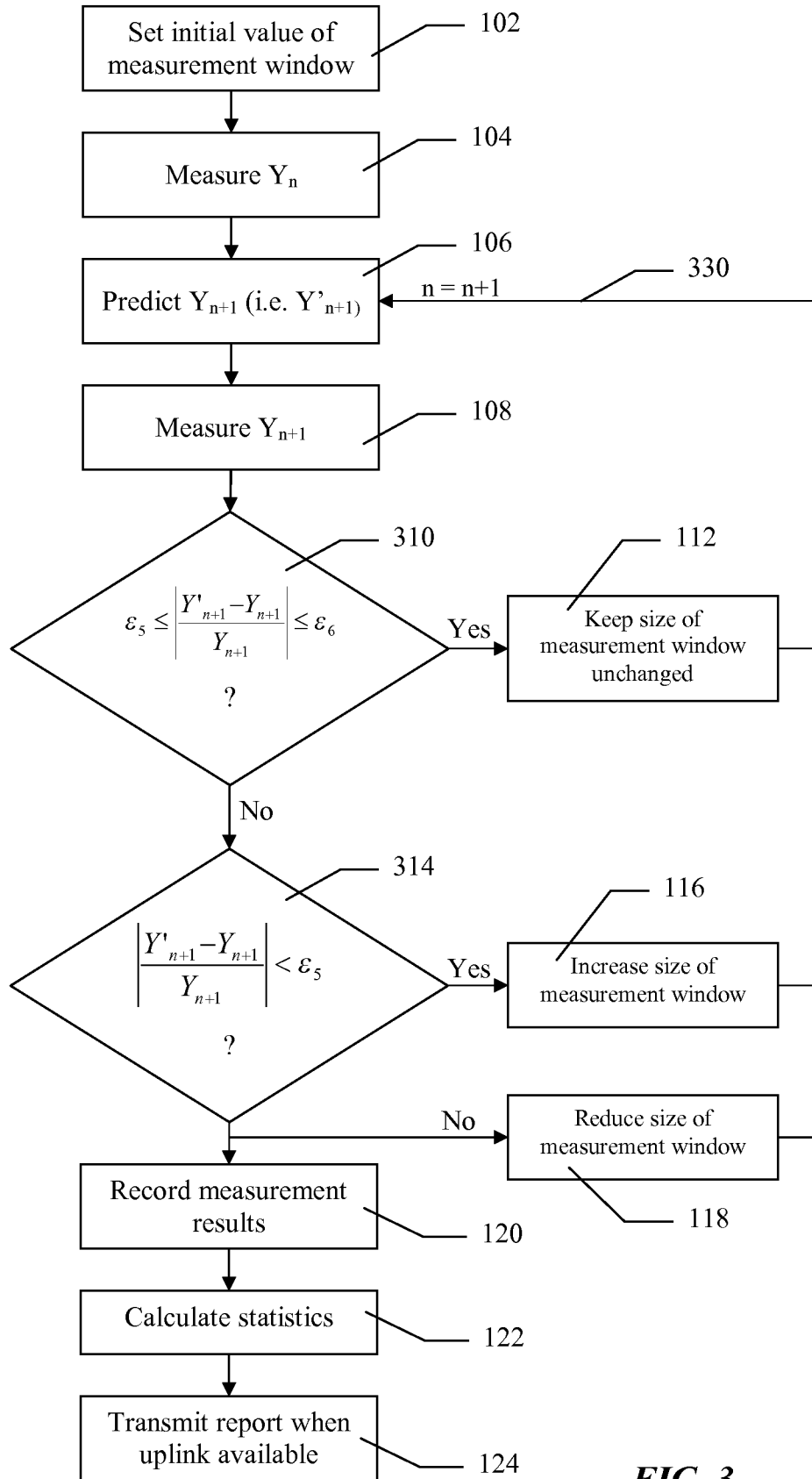


FIG. 3

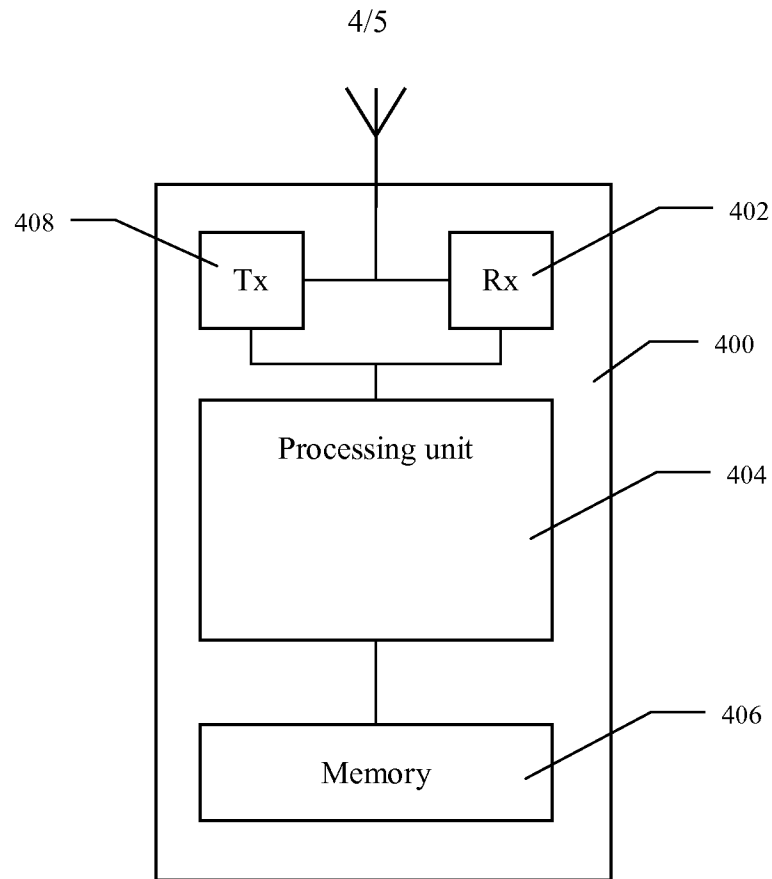


FIG. 4

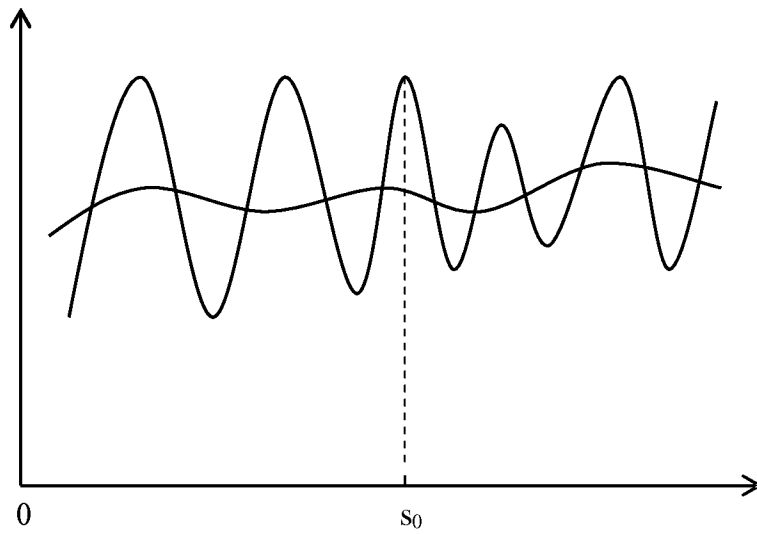


FIG. 5

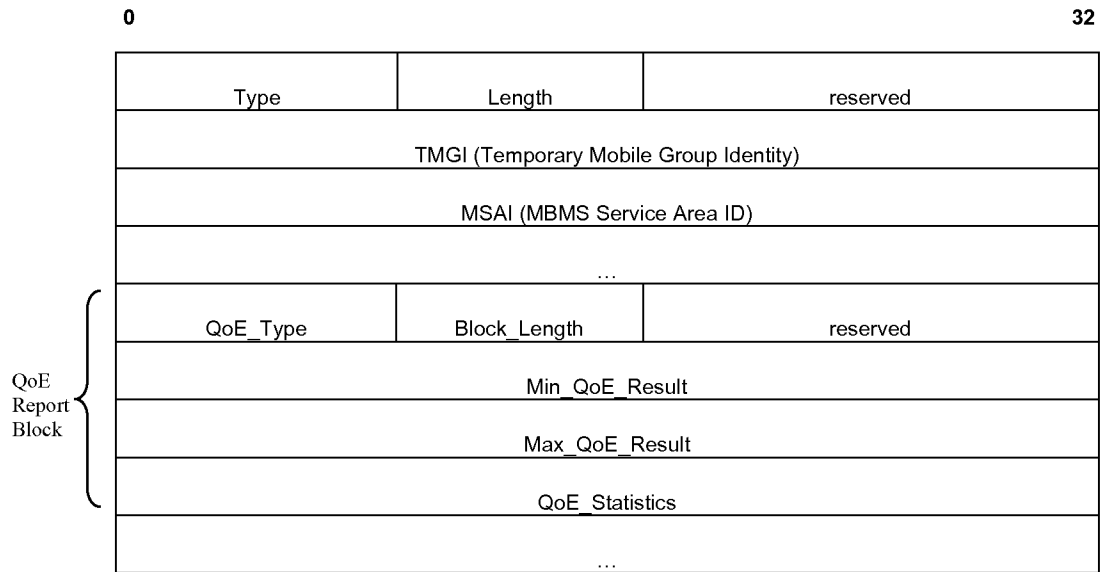


FIG. 6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2008/067761

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. H04L12/24 H04L12/26 H04W24/10 H04W28/24		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) H04L H04W		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 936 868 A (HUAWEI TECH CO LTD [CN]) 25 June 2008 (2008-06-25) paragraph [0007]; claims 1,9,12; figures 1-3 paragraph [0030] - paragraph [0031] paragraph [0053] paragraph [0060] paragraph [0064] paragraph [0077] paragraph [0084] - paragraph [0086] paragraph [0095] paragraph [0112] - paragraph [0113] ----- -/--	1-24
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents :		
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	
E earlier document but published on or after the International filing date	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.	
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	*&* document member of the same patent family	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
Date of the actual completion of the international search <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">15 July 2009</p>	Date of mailing of the international search report <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">10/08/2009</p>	
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Camba, Sonia</p>	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2008/067761

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 826 987 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD [JP]) 29 August 2007 (2007-08-29)	1-3,9, 11, 15-17,21
A	<p>paragraph [0001] paragraph [0009] paragraph [0019] - paragraph [0023] paragraph [0026] - paragraph [0028] paragraph [0036] paragraph [0062] - paragraph [0065] paragraph [0072] paragraph [0075] paragraph [0084] paragraph [0091] paragraph [0109] - paragraph [0112]</p> <p>-----</p>	4-8,10, 12-14, 18-20, 22-24
A	<p>TELEFON AB LM ERICSSON ET AL: "MTSI QoE Configuration and Reporting" 3GPP DRAFT; S4-080742 MTSI QOE CONFIGURATION AND REPORTING, 3RD GENERATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECT (3GPP), MOBILE COMPETENCE CENTRE ; 650, ROUTE DES LUCIOLES ; F-06921 SOPHIA-ANTIPOLIS CEDEX ; FRANCE, no. Shenzhen, P.R. China; 20081103, 3 November 2008 (2008-11-03), XP050335260 [retrieved on 2008-11-05] page 4 - page 5 page 12 - page 14</p> <p>-----</p>	1-24

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2008/067761

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