

ANALYTIC HIERARCHY PROCESS FOR QoS EVALUATION OF MOBILE DATA NETWORKS

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ABSTRACT

The widespread demand for data applications over mobile networks requires that service providers guarantee a well-defined quality of service (QoS) for subscribers. Evaluating the QoS provided by service providers within a geographical area to determine which network provides the best QoS is a challenging task. The complex nature of mobile networks with multi-criteria and conflicting factors makes good decision making difficult. This paper presents a measurement-based method called Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) for evaluating QoS in application-specific and user-centric data on 3G mobile networks. The evaluation problem is formulated as a multi-criteria decision problem. Latency, jitter, data loss, and throughput are the parameters collected as criteria in drive testing over the mobile network. Decision matrix is applied to solve the problem by reaching a final ranking of the network based on the collected measured values of the problem parameters. A case study of 3G mobile networks in Uyo metropolis is used to show how this approach can be effective in ranking the QoS in data applications to determine which network provides the best QoS based on users' perception of quality. The implemented results in Java indicate that Etisalat network is the alternative that offers the best QoS for web browsing application based on measured criteria. This is followed by Airtel and then MTN, while Glo is ranked least. The result provides useful information to decision makers for performance improvement on service quality.

KEYWORDS

Quality of service, multi-criteria decision making, analytic hierarchy process, web browsing & mobile networks

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the objectives of wireless mobile networks is the provision of required quality of service (QoS). Whether the QoS level is measured from the end-users' experience or obtained from the network's switching centre, its aim is to improve subscribers' loyalty to a particular brand of service provider as well as yield more revenue to the operator. According to [1] and [2], enhancements in the form of higher data rates, QoS, security measures, location-awareness, new flexible communication capabilities, etc. are needed to enable wireless networks support demands for voice, data, and multimedia services. With the continuous growth in data rates, operators are forced to more-intelligently manage the traffic on their networks. Since different applications have different QoS requirements, efficient mechanisms (admission control, resource reservation, and packet scheduling) are needed to provide guaranteed QoS. In [3], the *network-centric and end-system based* approaches are proposed to support QoS guarantees. The former requires network devices such as routers, switches, and base stations to provide QoS support to satisfy data rate, bounded delay, and packet loss requirements by applications [4][5] while the latter does not impose any requirements on the network. Instead, control techniques are employed by the end systems to maximize the quality demanded by applications.

Evaluating the performance of a mobile network requires saturating the network with a high load of real-world mobile subscribers' traffic, and measuring key performance indicators (KPIs) that identify QoS. Without a structured technique, an attempt to evaluate the overall QoS of a network is a very challenging task [6]. An intelligent approach to call admission control for quality of service provision using fuzzy logic was adopted in [7]. However, in [8], it was reported that a multi-criteria decision making scheme can provide a more optimal result for signal quality evaluation in wireless cellular networks. Since multimedia applications in wireless networks can tolerate a certain probability of QoS degradation called soft guarantee due to its capacity being a random variable, we consider a statistical evaluation of QoS in four 3G mobile networks in Uyo metropolis, Nigeria using the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP). The AHP method builds a hierarchical framework for decision making comprising the goal to be achieved at the top of the hierarchy, followed by criteria needed to achieve the goal and possibly the alternatives for each criterion at the bottom of the hierarchy. A comparison matrix is formed by comparing each pair of criteria/or alternatives such that the paired comparisons produce weighting scores that measure how much importance the criteria and alternatives have with each other. The method tries to optimize decision making when decision makers are faced with conflicting qualitative and quantitative data. It enables decision makers, in its final ranking, to choose the best solution among several alternatives across multiple criteria to attaining a specific goal. The ability of the method to capture both subjective and objective data in a quantitative manner for evaluation as well as the provision of a mechanism for checking the consistency ratio of the evaluation measurements [9] makes it a veritable tool for decision making. The performance of a network within a geographical area can then be evaluated for a given application based on specified criteria [6].

This paper therefore focuses on performance evaluation of the quality of service of different 3G mobile networks to determine which network provides the best QoS for web browsing applications from the end-user perspective. The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section II provides a review of related literature on challenges of QoS guarantee in wireless networks and some approaches to meet these challenges while section III presents the proposed AHP method as a QoS evaluation methodology for wireless data networks. In section IV, the AHP method is implemented and numerical results are discussed. Section V summarizes the paper giving conclusive remarks and direction for future work.

2.LITERATURE REVIEW

Most times, wireless networks become overloaded with packet-oriented services leading to excessive packet delay and jitter. Overloading the network beyond its capacity causes congestion. This scenario can cause the throughput at the network or user level to drop below acceptable threshold. The objectives of managing scarce radio resources include to guarantee the QoS of admitted traffic, maintain the planned coverage, and maximize the amount of traffic admitted into the system [8]. The greatest challenge for wireless mobile networks has been congestion [3][10][11] and QoS guarantee ensures that the network continues to provide a satisfactory service level for a given service type (e.g. voice, data, multimedia). For data networks, this problem can lead to packet loss, delay, jitter, and low throughput which are key performance indicators (KPIs) for evaluating the performance of the network. While throughput is the amount of data processed by a computing device, data loss refers to the fraction of packets that is lost during transmission from one point (sender) to the other (receiver). Jitter refers to flicking transmission signal or display image. Latency refers to the delay between data request and response in a network. Finding ways of providing reliable network performance while at the same time utilizing the total network resources in an efficient manner thus become paramount. Several schemes have been devised to provide QoS in traditional networks [2]. [12] propose the user-perceived quality approach with a focus on less-time sensitive applications such as web surfing

since some traditional schemes are wasteful by reserving network resources beyond the user's need. A guarantee of delay assures that a packet of data will travel from sender to receiver within a specified amount of time. A guarantee of loss assures that the fraction of packets lost during transmission will not be beyond a specified threshold. A guarantee of jitter assures that the delay will not vary by more than a specified amount while a guarantee of throughput assures that the amount of data transmitted within a specified unit of time will be greater than or equals to a certain value.

In [13], a QoS assessment methodology for cellular networks based on data collected through drive testing was presented. The work focus on the end user's perception of service quality without consideration for access technologies used. QoS assessment for both the circuit switched and packet switched of the network is studied. However, the authors could not provide QoS measurements for both voice and data services at the same time. In [14], a methodology for evaluating the quality of file transfer protocol data service in cellular universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS) networks based on data collected through drive testing is presented. Although user experience was taken as a key factor in determining the network operator's success, it was only evaluated based on data services on a single network. In [15], a methodology for evaluating the QoS provided in different routes by a UMTS cellular network for background services is presented. The methodology concentrated on a single UMTS and so could not be used universally on different networks. [16] use the AHP method to evaluate QoS for a campus e-learning platform to help students and teachers know which location on the campus provides the best QoS. However, at what time of the day a location could be better than others was not specified. The authors in [6] also used the AHP method to evaluate a wireless cellular network so as to determine how well it performs for different periods of a day.

This paper analyzes the QoS of some 3G mobile data networks in Uyo metropolis, Nigeria to determine which of them provides the best service quality for browsing application based on some criteria. One of the modern tools developed to assess, prioritize, rank, and evaluate decision choices in many areas of human endeavour is the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) developed by Thomas Saaty [17][18]. Figure 1 shows the design of the AHP method. It is a mathematical technique used to formalize decision making where there are multi-criteria. Multi-criteria decision support methods have been applied for sustainability of renewable energy systems [19][20], for network selection decision during handover in heterogeneous wireless networks [21-23]. In this paper, the statistical approach to highlighting the multi-criteria decision process involved as well as the major procedures that must be followed to rank the various network alternatives and criteria so as to obtain the best goal are presented.

3.PROPOSED AHP METHOD FOR QOS EVALUATION

AHP is a useful and widespread method for solving problems where a choice has to be made from a number of alternatives based on their relative importance. It is a theory of measurement through pair-wise comparisons and relies on the judgments of experts to derive priority scales. AHP enables decision makers to select the alternative that best meets his criteria by developing a numerical score to rank each decision based on how well each alternative meets them.

This work adopts the AHP methodology to compare the QoS of a four wireless cellular networks and determine which network provides the best QoS based on user's perception of quality. The output provided by the AHP approach can then be used as a general measurement of the perceived QoS by users of these different networks. The proposed AHP method for network QoS evaluation is shown in Figure 2. It is used to evaluate different network providers based on multiple QoS evaluation criteria. The application of the AHP method to a complex problem usually involves the following major steps [24]:

- Define the unstructured problem by describing the hierarchy with the goal at the top, followed by criteria at the lower levels and then alternatives at the bottom.
- Construct a set of pair-wise comparison matrices among decision elements (criteria and alternatives) by establishing priorities among them based on the preference scale shown on table 1.
- Estimate the relative weights of the decision elements using eigenvector method.
- Aggregate these relative weights and synthesize them for the final measurements of the decision alternatives.
- Compute the consistency ratio to determine the acceptability or otherwise of the chosen criteria or alternative.

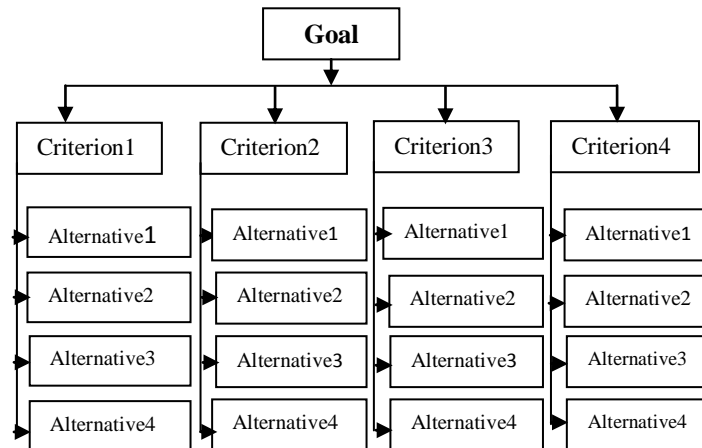


Figure 1. The AHP method

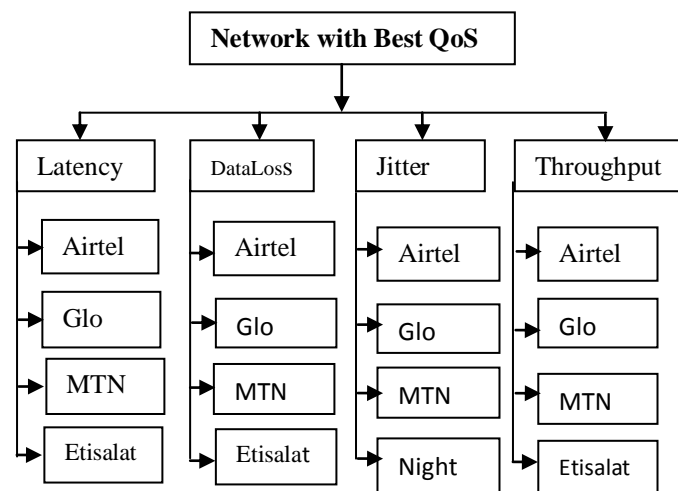


Figure 2. AHP Method for Network QoS Evaluation

In the first step of the AHP method, we define the problem as determining the network that provides the best QoS for browsing application considering latency, jitter, data loss and throughput as criteria. In the second step, decision makers systematically evaluate the various alternatives in the hierarchy by comparing them to one another with respect to the criteria. In making these comparisons, the decision makers can use concrete data about the alternatives, but they typically use their judgments about the alternatives' relative meaning and importance. The same process is made for comparing the criterion with respect to the goal. This process results in a comparison matrix shown in figure 3 with each leading diagonal element equals to 1, i.e. $a_{ij} = 1 \forall i = j$.

$$A = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} C_1 & C_2 & C_3 & C_4 & \dots & C_n \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} C_1 \\ C_2 \\ C_3 \\ C_4 \\ \vdots \\ C_n \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & 1 & a_{23} & a_{24} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & 1 & a_{34} & \dots & a_{3n} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & 1 & \dots & a_{4n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & a_{n3} & a_{n4} & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Figure 3: Comparison matrix

For a given level in the hierarchy, the comparison matrix A is created by assigning the value of pair-wise comparison of the element in row i with the element in column j into the position a_{ij} . A low value indicates less importance in the element comparison while a high value indicates a greater importance in the element comparison. Note that n is the number of criteria or alternatives to be evaluated, C_i is the i^{th} criteria, and a_{ij} is the comparison of the i^{th} criteria (alternative) with respect to the j^{th} criteria (alternative). According to [24], this process is repeated upwards for each level until the top of the hierarchy is reached. In the third and fourth steps, the AHP method determines the relative weight of each criteria (alternative) and aggregates the eigenvectors for each comparison matrix until the composite weight (final score) for alternatives is obtained. The values of the final weight vector indicate the relative importance of each alternative with respect to the goal of the decision problem [19]. A decision maker then uses the eigenvectors to rank the alternatives for appropriate decision making.

A pair-wise comparison scale is needed for each comparison matrix in the weight vector. First, a weight matrix A_z shown in figure 4, is derived for each comparison matrix where a weight vector W is computed to determine the relative importance of each alternative in the comparison matrix. Assuming we have the weight vector $w = [w_1 w_2 \dots w_n]$, the value of w_i represents the relative importance of alternative i of the associated comparison matrix based on criterion C_z such that $\sum_{i=1}^n w_i = 1$.

$$A_z = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} W & N_1 & N_2 & N_3 & \dots & \dots & N_n \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} N_1 \\ N_2 \\ N_3 \\ \vdots \\ \dots \\ N_n \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} \frac{W_1}{W_1} & \frac{W_2}{W_2} & \frac{W_3}{W_3} & \dots & \dots & \frac{W_n}{W_n} \\ \frac{W_2}{W_2} & \frac{W_2}{W_2} & \frac{W_2}{W_2} & \dots & \dots & \frac{W_2}{W_2} \\ \frac{W_3}{W_3} & \frac{W_3}{W_3} & \frac{W_3}{W_3} & \dots & \dots & \frac{W_3}{W_3} \\ \frac{W_1}{W_1} & \frac{W_2}{W_2} & \frac{W_3}{W_3} & \dots & \dots & \frac{W_n}{W_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \dots & \vdots \\ \frac{W_n}{W_n} & \frac{W_n}{W_n} & \frac{W_n}{W_n} & \dots & \dots & \frac{W_n}{W_n} \\ \frac{W_1}{W_1} & \frac{W_2}{W_2} & \frac{W_3}{W_3} & \dots & \dots & \frac{W_n}{W_n} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Figure 4: The weight matrix

The weights used for matrix A_z are derived through pair-wise comparison using the scale shown on Table 1 as in [24]. Realistic observed data obtained from a regulatory body for the criteria concerning each alternative is used for the analysis. The threshold set by this body is used as a benchmark to indicate the level of preference of these criteria on the expected performance.

Table 1: Proposed pair-wise comparison scale

Scale	Description
9	Far better than the threshold
8	Much better than the threshold
7	Better than the threshold
6	Slightly better than the threshold
5	About the same as the threshold
4	Slightly worse than the threshold
3	Worse than the threshold
2	Much worse than the threshold
1	Far worse than the threshold

Using the formula shown in figure 5, we formalize A_z . Here a_{ji} represents the a^{th} element at row j and column i of the respective alternative versus alternative or criteria versus criteria comparison matrix. Given A_{norm} , a weight eigenvector is then calculated using the formula in fig. 6. The relative weight called the weighted eigenvector is computed as the row average of the resulting normalized matrix. The overall weight coefficient with respect to the goal for each decision alternative is then obtained in this weight eigenvector. Using the equation in fig. 6, the alternatives are compared with each other in terms of the decision criteria which results in an overall ranking with respect to the criteria.

$$A_{norm} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{a_{11}}{\sum_{j=1}^n a_{j1}} & \dots & \frac{a_{1n}}{\sum_{j=1}^n a_{jn}} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{a_{n1}}{\sum_{j=1}^n a_{j1}} & \dots & \frac{a_{nn}}{\sum_{j=1}^n a_{jn}} \end{pmatrix}$$

Figure 5: Normalized matrix

$$W = \left(w_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n a_{1i}}{n} \quad w_2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n a_{2i}}{n} \quad \dots \quad w_n = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ni}}{n} \right)$$

Figure 6: Weight vector calculation

Once all weight eigenvectors in the evaluation problem have been computed, they are used to determine the alternatives that provide the best goal. For example, if a problem has M alternatives and N criteria, then the decision maker is required to construct N judgment matrices (each for one criterion) of the order $M \times M$ and one judgment matrix of order $N \times N$ [25]. Assuming the weight eigenvector of alternative comparison with respect to each criteria is W^A_i where $i = 1, 2, 3 \dots n$ and W^C_i is the weight eigenvector of criteria comparison with respect to the goal, then we need to multiply them to obtain the final score of the goal at the top of the hierarchy as shown in fig. 7. To obtain the final score of the goal, we compute the relative preference for alternative i . Let $W^A = W^i$, and $W^C = W^A$, we define S_i as the overall score for alternative i , where i represents the i^{th} element of the vectors W^A and W^C . S_i is calculated as shown in fig. 8. Once overall scores are computed for all networks, the highest score is identified as the alternative providing the best goal, followed by the second highest score, and so on.

$$\begin{matrix}
 W^A_1 & W^A_2 & W^A_3 & \dots & W^A_n & W^C_i \\
 \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ w_3 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ w_3 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ w_3 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} & \dots & \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ w_3 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} & \times & \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ w_3 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix}
 \end{matrix}$$

Figure 7: Final AHP matrix configuration

$$S_i = \sum_{i=1}^n W_i(W^A_i)$$

Figure 8: Calculation of overall score

For any normalized matrix A_{norm} whose columns are not identical, the original comparison matrix A is not consistent. The AHP method measures the inconsistency inherent in the decision maker’s judgment in specifying the pair-wise comparison of the criteria or alternatives by computing the consistency ratio, CR as $CR = CI/RI$ [26], where $CI = \frac{n_{max}-n}{n-1}$ is the consistency index of matrix A and $RI = \frac{1.98(n-2)}{n}$ is the random consistency index of matrix A . If $CR \leq 0.1$, the level of inconsistency is acceptable, else the inconsistency in A is high and the decision maker is advised to revise the elements a_{ij} of A to realize a more consistent matrix. Given that $\sum_{i=1}^n w_i = 1$, the value of n_{max} is determined by first computing the column vector AW and then summing its elements. Thus, $n_{max} = \sum_{i=1}^n (\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}W_j)$ represents the largest eigenvalue of the matrix of order n .

4. NUMERICAL RESULTS

The structure of the decision problem is as shown in fig. 2. It involves a single hierarchy (level) with four criteria (latency, jitter, loss, and throughput) which are the KPIs for assessing the performance of a data network and four decision alternatives (Airtel, Glo, MTN, and Etisalat). Based on the cost of a service demand, these KPIs determine a network’s reliability, responsiveness and delivery speed. The ranking of these alternatives is based on computing a composite weight for each of them. First, the collected data for web browsing application is compared to the threshold values of QoS KPIs summarized in Table 2 as in [27][28] using the preference scale on Table 1.

Table 2: Threshold values of QoS parameters

Latency (msec)	Loss (%)	Jitter (msec)	Throughput (Kbps)
250	1.0	30	768

A summary of the data obtained from measurements are shown on Table 3 while fig. 9 shows a graphical representation of the QoS parameters of the different networks under study. Average result indicates that Jitter and Loss are worse than the threshold, latency is slightly worse than the threshold while throughput is better than the threshold. Furthermore, throughput is about the same as threshold in Glo, slightly better than threshold in MTN, better than threshold in Etisalat and much better than threshold in Airtel network. Table 4 shows the criteria by criteria comparison matrix based on numerical rating after comparison with threshold values. Table 5 shows the normalized matrix derived from the formula in figure 5 while Table 6 shows the weighted eigenvector for comparison matrix for criteria by criteria derived from the formula in figure 6.

Table 3: Mean values of QoS parameters for each network

Alternatives/ Criteria	Latency	Loss	Jitter	Throughput
Airtel	276.01	1.98	60.92	989.66
Glo	322.34	2.44	93.15	758.72
MTN	301.00	2.19	87.21	780.64
Etisalat	262.15	1.03	52.25	895.27
Average Value	290.38	1.91	73.38	856.07

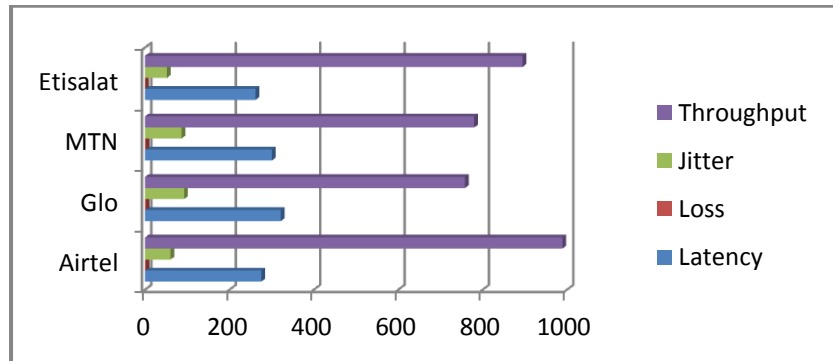


Figure 9: Graph of summarized QoS parameters for each network

Table 4: Criteria by criteria comparison matrix

Scale	4	3	3	7
Criteria	Latency	Loss	Jitter	Throughput
Latency	1.00	1.33	1.33	0.57
Loss	0.75	1.00	1.00	0.43
Jitter	0.75	1.00	1.00	0.43
Throughput	1.75	2.33	2.33	1.00
Total	4.25	5.66	5.66	2.43

Table 5: Normalized matrix for criteria by criteria

	Latency	Loss	Jitter	Throughput
Latency	0.24	0.23	0.23	0.23
Loss	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18
Jitter	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18
Throughput	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41

Table 6: Weighted eigenvector for criteria by criteria comparison matrix

Latency	0.23
Loss	0.18
Jitter	0.18
Throughput	0.41

Since the columns of the normalized matrix on table 5 are identical, it therefore means that the consistency level of the original comparison matrix on table 4 is reasonable. The Alternative by alternative pair-wise comparisons are then computed based on the set threshold of the criteria to determine the pair-wise rating of each alternative using the preference scale. This results in Table 7. Since Latency in Etisalat network is about the same as the set threshold, we used the value 5. It

is slightly worse in Airtel network so we used the value 4. Our latency measurements get worse in MTN network so it is given the value 3. Likewise, it becomes much worse and further away from the threshold in Glo network so it is given the value 2. Table 7 is then normalized using the formula in the matrix of figure 5 as shown in Table 8. Using the formula in figure 6, the weighted eigenvector comparison matrix for latency is obtained in Table 9.

Table 7: Network comparison matrix for latency

	4	2	3	5
Latency	Airtel	Glo	MTN	Etisalat
Airtel	1.00	2.00	1.33	0.8
Glo	0.5	1.00	0.67	0.4
MTN	1.5	1.5	1.00	0.6
Etisalat	1.25	2.5	1.67	1.00
Total	4.25	7.00	4.67	2.8

Table 8: Normalized comparison matrix for latency

Latency	Airtel	Glo	MTN	Etisalat
Airtel	0.24	0.29	0.28	0.29
Glo	0.12	0.14	0.14	0.14
MTN	0.35	0.21	0.21	0.21
Etisalat	0.29	0.36	0.36	0.36

Table 9: Weighted eigenvector comparison matrix for latency

Airtel	0.28
Glo	0.14
MTN	0.25
Etisalat	0.34

Since the columns of the normalized matrix on Table 8 are not identical, CR is computed to determine if the level of inconsistency in the original matrix on Table 7 is acceptable. For the matrix under consideration, the column vector AW gives (1.1645, 0.5835, 1.084, 1.4575) and n_{max} yields 4.2895. Hence, for $n = 4$, $CI = 0.0965$ and $RI = 0.99$. Thus, $CR = CI/RI = 0.097 < 0.1$ gives an acceptable level of inconsistency in matrix A .

The same process is applied to criteria Loss, Jitter, and Throughput and the results are as presented on Tables 10 -18, respectively.

Table 10: Network comparison matrix for loss

	3	2	3	4
Loss	Airtel	Glo	MTN	Etisalat
Airtel	1.00	1.5	1.00	0.75
Glo	0.67	1.00	0.67	0.5
MTN	1.00	1.5	1.00	0.75
Etisalat	1.33	2.00	1.33	1.00
Total	4.00	6.00	4.00	3.00

Table 11: Normalized comparison matrix for loss

Loss	Airtel	Glo	MTN	Etisalat
Airtel	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Glo	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17
MTN	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Etisalat	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33

Table 12: Weighted eigenvector comparison matrix for loss

Airtel	0.25
Glo	0.17
MTN	0.25
Etisalat	0.33

Table 13: Network comparison matrix for jitter

	3	2	2	4
Jitter	Airtel	Glo	MTN	Etisalat
Airtel	1.00	1.5	1.5	0.75
Glo	0.67	1.00	1.00	0.5
MTN	0.67	1.00	1.00	0.5
Etisalat	1.33	2.00	2.00	1.00
Total	3.67	5.50	5.50	2.75

Table 14: Normalized comparison matrix for jitter

Jitter	Airtel	Glo	MTN	Etisalat
Airtel	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27
Glo	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18
MTN	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18
Etisalat	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36

Table 15: Weighted eigenvector comparison matrix for jitter

Airtel	0.27
Glo	0.18
MTN	0.18
Etisalat	0.36

Table 16: Network comparison matrix for throughput

	8	5	6	7
Throughput	Airtel	Glo	MTN	Etisalat
Airtel	1.00	1.60	1.33	1.14
Glo	0.63	1.00	0.83	0.71
MTN	0.75	1.20	1.00	0.86
Etisalat	0.88	1.40	1.17	1.00
Total	3.26	5.20	4.33	3.71

Table 17: Normalized comparison matrix for throughput

Throughput	Airtel	Glo	MTN	Etisalat
Airtel	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
Glo	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19
MTN	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23
Etisalat	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27

Table 18: Weighted eigenvector comparison matrix for throughput

Airtel	0.31
Glo	0.19
MTN	0.23
Etisalat	0.27

The final AHP matrix configuration and calculation of final score for ranking of the best alternative for decision making is as shown on table 19 and 20, respectively.

Table 19: Final AHP matrix configuration

	Latency	Loss	Jitter	Throughput		Latency	0.23
Airtel	0.28	0.25	0.27	0.31	X	Loss	0.18
Glo	0.14	0.17	0.18	0.19		Jitter	0.18
MTN	0.25	0.25	0.18	0.23		Throughput	0.41
Etisalat	0.34	0.33	0.36	0.27			

Table 20: Overall score of each network

Airtel	0.29
Glo	0.17
MTN	0.23
Etisalat	0.31

Based on these calculations, the overall weighted score from table 20 indicates that Etisalat has the highest composite weight and, hence represents the network with the best QoS. Airtel is ranked next, followed by MTN while Glo offers the worst QoS as perceived by users.

5.CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

Service quality and the performance of wireless systems are related to the conditions of their infrastructures. It thus becomes desirable that these infrastructures be in their best possible condition and offer attractive, quality, satisfactory services for subscribers. This paper employs the analytic hierarchy process to compare users’ experience on four well-established 3G data networks for browsing applications to determine which network provides the best QoS based on users’ perception of quality. The outcome from the evaluation ranks Etisalat network as the alternative that achieves the goal of providing the best QoS considering latency, data loss, jitter and throughput parameters as mobile network criteria. This result is useful in informing operators or decision makers to improve service quality through infrastructure upgrade and efficient radio resource management schemes. In future work, fuzzy AHP technique will be employed to consider inherent uncertainties or fuzziness in the decision maker’s preferences and further improve the connectivity of the respective data networks.

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