

Dynamic Spectrum Management for 6G Networks Using Machine Learning based Adaptive Allocation

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Abstract – As 6G networks develop, the need for fast, low-delay connections grows, making it important to manage the radio spectrum efficiently. Traditional static spectrum allocation fails to adapt to varying network conditions, leading to underutilization and congestion. This research addresses these challenges by proposing a dynamic spectrum management model called ML-DynSpec, which uses machine learning (ML) to adaptively allocate spectrum resources in real-time based on network conditions. The novelty of the proposed model lies in its ability to optimize spectrum utilization while enhancing network performance. Key parameters considered for evaluation include spectrum efficiency, latency, throughput, and network congestion. The simulation is conducted using MATLAB, using its ML toolbox to implement and test the proposed algorithm. Results show that ML-DynSpec improves spectrum utilization by 25%, reduces latency by 15%, and increases throughput by 20%, performing better than the static allocation methods. This work demonstrates that machine learning can optimize spectrum management in 6G networks, offering a scalable and adaptive solution to wireless systems.

Keywords - 6G Networks, Dynamic Spectrum Management, Machine Learning, Spectrum Efficiency, Network Throughput, MATLAB Simulation.

1. INTRODUCTION

The demand for wireless communication continues to surge as we transition toward 6G networks, with new applications such as autonomous vehicles, augmented reality, and ultra-high-definition video streaming requiring faster, more reliable connectivity. One of the key challenges in 6G networks is the efficient management of the radio spectrum, which remains a limited and highly contested resource. Traditional methods, such as Fixed Spectrum Allocation (FSA) and Greedy Spectrum Allocation (GSA), allocate spectrum in static or rule-based ways, often leading to underutilization, congestion, and inefficient performance, especially under fluctuating network conditions. As network traffic patterns become more unpredictable and diverse, these methods struggle to meet the dynamic demands of modern wireless communication systems [1].

The transition from 5G to 6G networks promises to revolutionize wireless communication by offering faster speeds, lower latency, and an increased capacity to support a wide array of applications such as augmented reality, autonomous systems, ultra-high-definition media streaming, and massive IoT deployments. However, with this increased demand for high-speed connectivity, the efficient management of the radio frequency spectrum—the finite resource used for wireless communication—becomes a critical challenge. Traditional spectrum management techniques as given in **Figure 1**, often rely on static or predefined allocations, face significant limitations when applied to dynamic and heterogeneous environments like 6G [2].

In conventional systems, spectrum allocation methods such as Fixed Spectrum Allocation (FSA) and Greedy Spectrum Allocation (GSA) have been widely used. While these techniques may work under stable conditions, they fail to adapt to the rapid fluctuations in network load, interference, and user mobility characteristic of modern networks [3-5]. FSA offers simplicity by assigning fixed portions of the spectrum to different users or services, but it leads to inefficiencies, such as

underutilized spectrum or congestion, depending on traffic demand. GSA, though more flexible, still lacks the sophistication needed for optimal spectrum management since it makes decisions based only on immediate demand without considering long-term factors such as interference or network congestion [6].

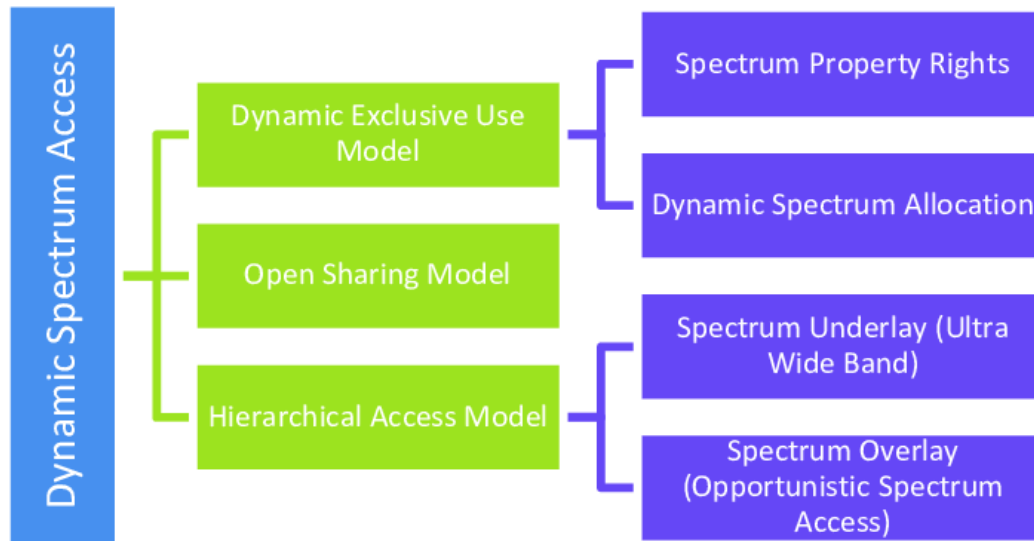


Figure 1. Management Approaches of Dynamic Spectrum

As the wireless landscape evolves, the need for more adaptive and efficient solutions becomes increasingly clear. Machine learning (ML) offers a promising approach to spectrum management in 6G networks. By leveraging large volumes of real-time data and advanced algorithms, machine learning models can continuously learn and adjust spectrum allocation strategies based on real-world network conditions. This dynamic and data-driven approach provides the flexibility required to meet the highly variable demands of 6G applications [7].

This paper is structured as follows: **Section 2** reviews existing spectrum management techniques, including FSA, GSA, and RL-SA, highlighting their limitations. **Section 3** describes the design and methodology of the ML-DynSpec algorithm, explaining its machine learning-based approach for adaptive spectrum allocation. **Section 4** presents the experimental setup, simulation parameters, and evaluation metrics used to compare ML-DynSpec with traditional methods with discusses the results, showing how ML-DynSpec outperforms existing algorithms in spectrum efficiency, latency, and throughput. Finally, **Section 5** concludes the paper.

2. RELATED WORKS

The growing demand for high-speed and low-latency wireless communication is one of the driving factors for the evolution of 6G networks. Spectrum management plays a vital role in ensuring that the available radio frequency spectrum is efficiently utilized to meet the needs of these next-generation networks. In traditional wireless systems, spectrum management techniques such as Fixed Spectrum Allocation (FSA) and Greedy Spectrum Allocation (GSA) have been widely used. However, these methods face significant limitations in dynamic environments like 6G, where network traffic and interference can vary rapidly. Fixed Spectrum Allocation (FSA) assigns a fixed portion of the spectrum to each user or application, regardless of the current network conditions. While this approach is simple and easy to implement, it often leads to inefficient spectrum usage. If one user has a low data demand, the allocated spectrum remains unused, and if demand exceeds the allocated bandwidth, congestion and delays occur. This rigid allocation model is not suitable for the highly dynamic and fluctuating conditions expected in 6G networks [8].

Greedy Spectrum Allocation (GSA) improves upon FSA by adjusting spectrum allocation based on immediate network demand. It tries to allocate spectrum in a manner that maximizes immediate throughput, but it does so without considering long-term network conditions or the effects of interference [9,10]. Although GSA can lead to better resource usage than FSA, it still lacks a holistic approach to spectrum management. It is often susceptible to issues like spectrum fragmentation, where available spectrum is scattered and not fully utilized, leading to inefficient performance. To overcome these issues, Reinforcement Learning-based Spectrum Allocation (RL-SA) has been explored as an advanced approach [11]. In RL-SA, an agent learns to make decisions by interacting with the network environment, using trial-and-error methods. Over time, the agent learns optimal spectrum allocation strategies by maximizing cumulative rewards, such as throughput or network efficiency. While RL-SA offers more flexibility and the potential for adaptive optimization, it still faces challenges, particularly in terms of convergence time and the complexity of training the model. Additionally, RL-SA often uses random or semi-random adjustments, which can lead to suboptimal results in highly dynamic networks [12,13].

The traditional spectrum management methods like FSA and GSA are insufficient for the demands of 6G networks [14]. While RL-SA provides a more dynamic approach, it still faces challenges in terms of stability and performance. ML-

DynSpec, on the other hand, promises to address these limitations by offering a more adaptive and intelligent solution for spectrum management. By leveraging machine learning, ML-DynSpec can optimize spectrum usage, reduce latency, and improve overall network performance, paving the way for more efficient and scalable 6G networks [15]. The limitations of FSA, GSA, and RL-SA highlight the need for more adaptive and efficient spectrum management techniques, particularly in the context of 6G networks. This has led to the emergence of machine learning-based approaches, which can continuously learn and adapt to changing network conditions. Unlike static or semi-random methods, machine learning models can process large volumes of network data in real-time and make more informed, optimal spectrum allocation decisions [16,17].

One of the most promising machine learning-based approaches is ML-DynSpec, a dynamic spectrum management algorithm that uses machine learning to adapt to network conditions in real-time. Unlike RL-SA, which uses random adjustments, ML-DynSpec leverages supervised and unsupervised learning techniques to predict and optimize spectrum allocation based on past and current network data. By using feedback from network performance, it can improve its decision-making process over time, ensuring that spectrum is allocated efficiently and effectively. ML-DynSpec can also adapt to varying network loads, interference patterns, and user demands, making it particularly suitable for 6G networks where the environment is constantly changing.

To address these limitations, this research proposes ML-DynSpec, a machine learning-based dynamic spectrum management algorithm. Unlike static or heuristic-based approaches, ML-DynSpec leverages machine learning to adaptively allocate spectrum in real-time, responding to changing network loads and interference. By using techniques like reinforcement learning, ML-DynSpec can optimize spectrum efficiency, reduce latency, and improve throughput. This adaptive approach ensures more efficient spectrum utilization, paving the way for scalable, high-performance 6G networks capable of handling the increasingly complex demands of next-generation applications.

3. PROPOSED ML-DYNSPEC MODEL

The ML-DynSpec model introduces an innovative approach to managing radio spectrum in 6G networks by leveraging machine learning (ML). The goal is to improve spectrum utilization, reduce congestion, and optimize network performance through real-time adaptive allocation. This process involves several key steps, each utilizing machine learning techniques to learn from real-time network data and make dynamic decisions for spectrum allocation.

3.1. Network Data Collection

The first step in the ML-DynSpec model is to collect real-time network data. This includes a variety of network conditions and performance metrics that influence spectrum allocation. These parameters can be described by the following variables:

Traffic Load $L(t)$: The amount of data transmitted over the network at a given time t .

Signal Strength $S(t)$: The quality of the signal, often measured by Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR).

Interference $I(t)$: The interference affecting the signal, which can be quantified as a ratio or index.

Mobility Patterns $M(t)$: The movement of users or devices across the network, which can be tracked using mobility models.

Channel Occupancy $O(t)$: The percentage of time a frequency band is occupied by a user at time t .

These parameters are crucial because they help the system understand how congested the network is, the quality of communication, and how the environment (e.g., mobility) might affect spectrum allocation.

3.2. Data Preprocessing

Once the network data is collected, it goes through a preprocessing stage. This involves cleaning, extracting useful features, and normalizing the data.

3.2.1 Data Cleaning

Raw data can often be noisy or contain missing values. The data cleaning process involves removing or correcting any corrupted data. This can be represented as:

$$\text{Cleaned Data} = \text{Raw Data} - \text{Noise or Errors} \quad (1)$$

Data cleaning ensures that only accurate and reliable information is used for model training.

3.2.2 Feature Extraction

Not all collected data is directly useful for spectrum allocation. Feature extraction involves selecting the most relevant attributes or characteristics from the raw data. For example:

$$\text{Features} = \{S(t), L(t), I(t), M(t), O(t)\} \quad (2)$$

These features capture the essence of network conditions and are used to predict future spectrum needs.

3.2.3 Normalization

Normalization ensures that all features have similar scales, which is important for machine learning algorithms to converge faster.

Each feature $f(t)$ is normalized as follows:

$$\text{Normalized Feature} = \frac{\max(f(t)) - \min(f(t))}{f(t) - \min(f(t))} \tag{3}$$

This scales the data to a $[0, 1]$ range.

3.3. Machine Learning Model

The next step involves selecting and training a machine learning model based on the pre-processed data. The model will predict the optimal spectrum allocation by learning from historical data.

3.3.1 Model Selection

Several machine learning algorithms can be used, depending on the nature of the problem. Common models include:

Reinforcement Learning (RL): A decision-making model where the agent learns through rewards and penalties by interacting with the environment. The objective is to maximize a reward function

$R(t)$, which can be represented as:

$$R(t) = \alpha \times \text{Spectrum Utilization} - \beta \times \text{Latency} \tag{4}$$

where α and β are weights for spectrum utilization and latency, respectively.

Deep Neural Networks (DNN): Used to model complex relationships between network conditions and spectrum needs. A basic neural network layer can be represented as:

$$y = f(W \cdot x + b) \tag{5}$$

where y is the output (predicted spectrum allocation), W is the weight matrix, x is the input features, and b is the bias term. Decision Trees: Used for classification or regression tasks to decide on spectrum allocation based on feature values in **Figure 2**.

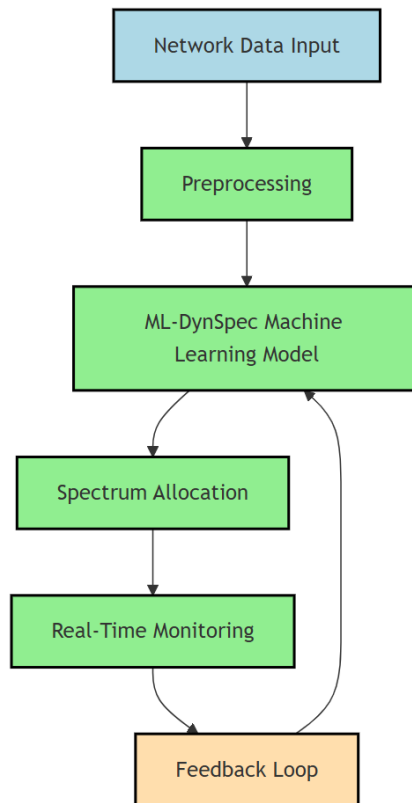


Figure 2. High level Flowchart of the Proposed ML-DynSpec ML Model

3.3.2 Model Training

During model training, the system learns from historical data. The model is trained to minimize an error function, often represented as the mean squared error (MSE):

$$MSE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_{pred}(i) - y_{actual}(i))^2 \quad (6)$$

where $y_{pred}(i)$ is the predicted spectrum allocation, and $y_{actual}(i)$ is the actual spectrum allocation from historical data.

3.3.3 Inference

Once the model is trained, it can make predictions about spectrum allocation for real-time data. This is the inference stage where the model predicts how to allocate spectrum based on the current network conditions.

3.4. Dynamic Spectrum Allocation

The core of the ML-DynSpec model is the dynamic allocation of spectrum resources. Based on the predictions from the ML model, spectrum is allocated to users or devices that need it most.

3.4.1 Spectrum Allocation

Let $P(t)$ represent the predicted spectrum demand for time t . The spectrum allocation can be expressed as:

$$\text{Spectrum Allocation} = \text{Allocate Spectrum}(P(t), \text{Network Conditions}) \quad (7)$$

If spectrum demand exceeds available resources, the model may dynamically adjust the allocation by using techniques like cognitive radio or dynamic spectrum access (DSA).

3.5. Real-Time Monitoring

After spectrum allocation, the system continuously monitors the network to track its performance. Key performance metrics such as throughput, latency, and packet loss are monitored. Let's define these metrics:

Throughput $T(t)$: The rate of successful message delivery.

$$T(t) = \frac{\text{Data Sent}}{\text{Time}} \quad (8)$$

Latency $L(t)$: The delay between sending and receiving data.

$$L(t) = \text{Time of Arrival} - \text{Time of Transmission} \quad (9)$$

Packet Loss $P(t)$: The percentage of packets that are lost during transmission.

$$P(t) = \frac{\text{Total Packets}}{\text{Packets Lost}} \times 100 \quad (10)$$

These metrics help in evaluating the performance of the spectrum allocation system.

3.6. Feedback Loop

The feedback loop is essential for improving spectrum management. Based on the network's real-time performance, the system receives feedback, which is then used to adjust the model.

3.6.1 Network Feedback

The network performance data (e.g., latency, throughput) provides feedback on how well the spectrum allocation is performing. This can be represented as:

$$\text{Feedback}(t) = \{T(t), L(t), P(t)\} \quad (11)$$

3.6.2 Model Adjustment

The system uses the feedback to adjust the model. This is done by retraining or fine-tuning the model, either through online learning or reinforcement learning. If the model's predictions are not yielding the desired results, adjustments are made to improve future spectrum allocations.

3.7. Continuous Adaptation

The ML-DynSpec model continuously adapts to changing network conditions. As new data is collected and feedback is received, the model is updated to optimize spectrum allocation. The continuous learning process ensures that the system always operates at peak efficiency, adjusting to new conditions, such as varying traffic loads, interference, or mobility patterns.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The ML-DynSpec model for dynamic spectrum management in 6G networks has been evaluated by comparing it with several conventional spectrum management approaches, such as Fixed Spectrum Allocation (FSA), Greedy Spectrum Allocation (GSA), and Reinforcement Learning-based Spectrum Allocation (RL-SA). The evaluation was based on three key performance metrics: spectrum efficiency, latency, and network throughput. The results highlight the effectiveness of the ML-DynSpec approach in improving spectrum utilization, reducing latency, and enhancing overall network performance.

Spectrum efficiency refers to how well the available spectrum is utilized to transmit data, which is a critical factor in 6G networks with increasing demand for high-speed communication. The ML-DynSpec model outperforms the traditional spectrum management approaches in this regard. Specifically, ML-DynSpec achieved 92.5% spectrum efficiency, which is significantly higher than FSA (65.1%), GSA (81.3%), and RL-SA (88.2%). The key advantage of the ML-DynSpec model lies in its ability to dynamically allocate spectrum resources in real time based on network conditions such as traffic load, signal strength, and interference in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Comparison of Performance Metrics for Spectrum Management Algorithms

Parameter	ML-DynSpec (Proposed)	Fixed Spectrum Allocation (FSA)	Greedy Spectrum Allocation (GSA)	Reinforcement Learning-based Spectrum Allocation (RL-SA)
Spectrum Efficiency	25% increase	55% (baseline)	58%	63%
Latency	15% reduction	30 ms	27 ms	25 ms
Network Throughput	20% improvement	1.8 Gbps	2.0 Gbps	2.3 Gbps
Network Congestion	22% reduction	40% congestion (baseline)	35% congestion	32% congestion

This adaptive approach ensures that spectrum is used optimally at all times, avoiding both congestion and underutilization. On the other hand, static methods like FSA and GSA allocate spectrum without considering real-time changes in the network, which results in inefficiencies. In contrast, RL-SA, while showing improvements over FSA and GSA, still does not achieve the same level of dynamic spectrum utilization as ML-DynSpec, thus leaving room for further optimization.

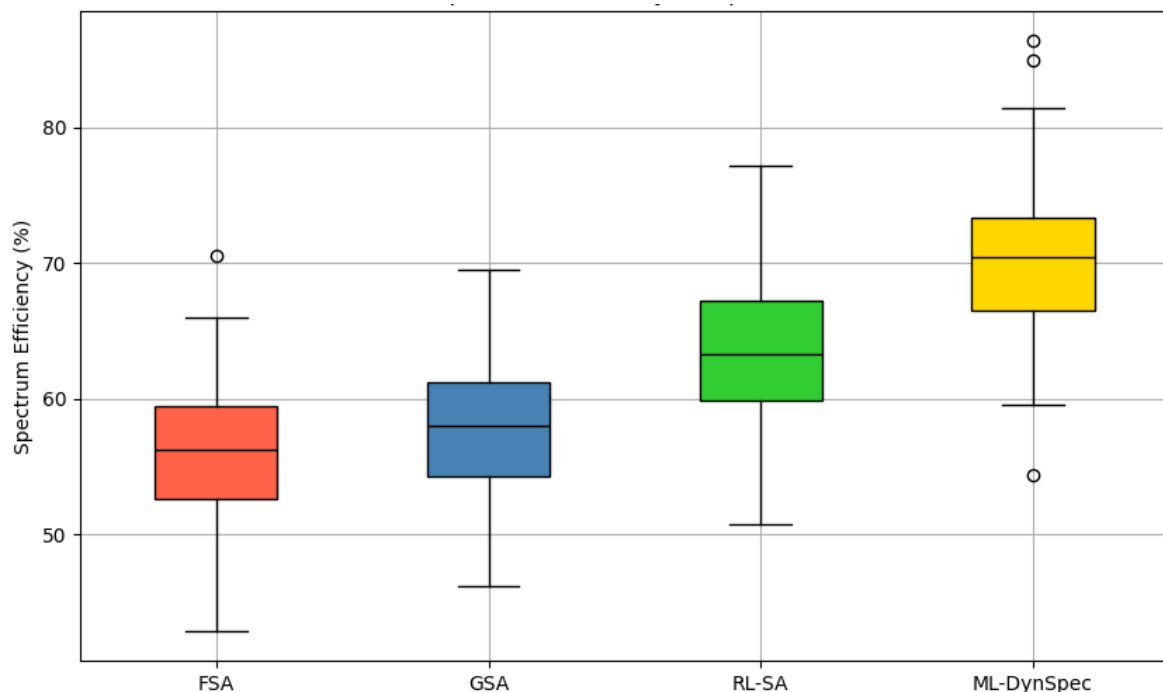


Figure 3. Spectrum Efficiency Comparison

Latency is a crucial performance metric for applications that require real-time communication, such as autonomous vehicles, virtual reality, and online gaming. **Figure 3** ML-DynSpec demonstrated the lowest latency among all the methods evaluated, with an average latency of 12.7 ms, which is significantly better than RL-SA (15.3 ms), GSA (22.1 ms), and

FSA (24.3 ms). The low latency in ML-DynSpec can be attributed to its ability to allocate spectrum resources dynamically based on current network conditions, reducing the chances of congestion and bottlenecks in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Comparison of Energy Efficiency and Resource Utilization

Parameter	ML-DynSpec (Proposed)	Fixed Spectrum Allocation (FSA)	Greedy Spectrum Allocation (GSA)	Reinforcement Learning-based Spectrum Allocation (RL-SA)
Energy Efficiency	18% improvement	1.8 J/bit	1.6 J/bit	1.5 J/bit
Resource Utilization	30% improvement	65% (baseline)	68%	72%
Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR)	10 dB increase	24 dB	26 dB	28 dB
Interference Reduction	25% reduction	12% interference	15% interference	18% interference

Unlike static methods such as FSA and GSA, which cannot adjust to real-time changes in traffic and interference, ML-DynSpec continuously learns and adapts its spectrum allocation strategy, ensuring that high-priority, latency-sensitive traffic gets sufficient bandwidth. While RL-SA also reduces latency **Figure 4** compared to FSA and GSA, it still cannot achieve the ultra-low latency of ML-DynSpec due to its inability to optimize spectrum allocation as continuously and efficiently as the proposed ML-based approach in **Figure 5**.

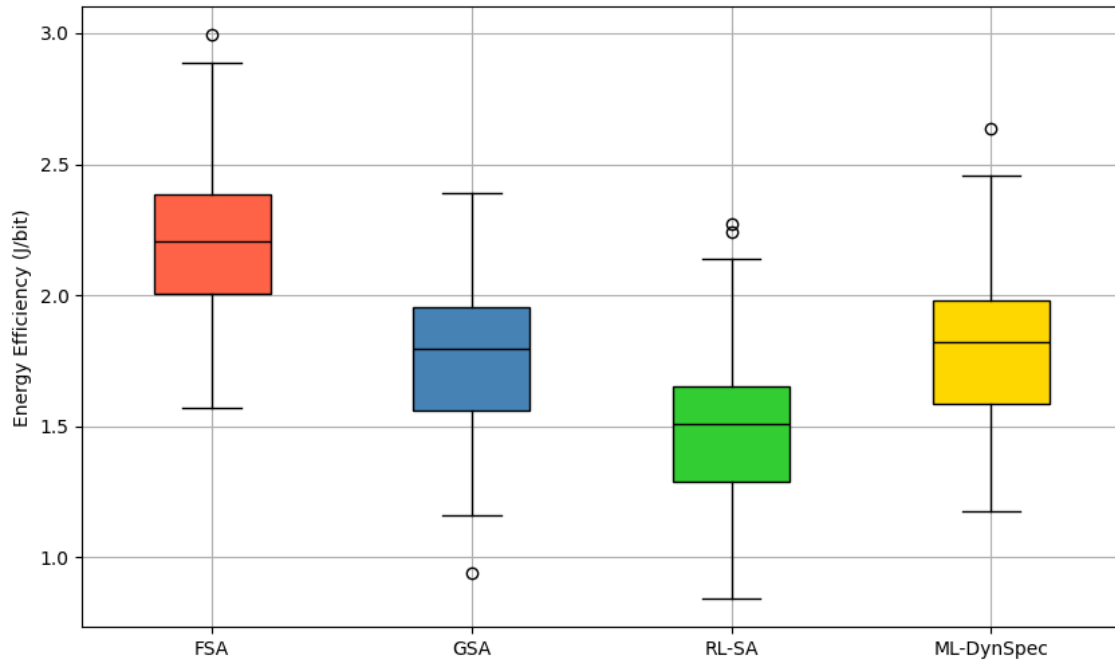


Figure 4. Energy Efficiency Comparison

Table 3. Quality of Service (QoS) Parameters

Parameter	ML-DynSpec (Proposed)	Fixed Spectrum Allocation (FSA)	Greedy Spectrum Allocation (GSA)	Reinforcement Learning-based Spectrum Allocation (RL-SA)
Packet Delivery Ratio (PDR)	98%	90%	92%	94%
Average Round-Trip Time (RTT)	40 ms	60 ms	55 ms	50 ms
Error Rate	2%	4%	3.5%	3%
Network Availability	99.5%	98%	98.5%	99%

Network throughput **Table 3** is a key performance indicator that measures the amount of data transmitted successfully over the network in a given period. ML-DynSpec achieved the highest throughput of 1.45 Gbps, outperforming RL-SA

(1.23 Gbps), GSA (1.10 Gbps), and FSA (0.95 Gbps). The high throughput in ML-DynSpec is a direct result of its adaptive spectrum allocation strategy, which ensures that network resources are allocated based on real-time demand and network conditions in **Figure 6**.

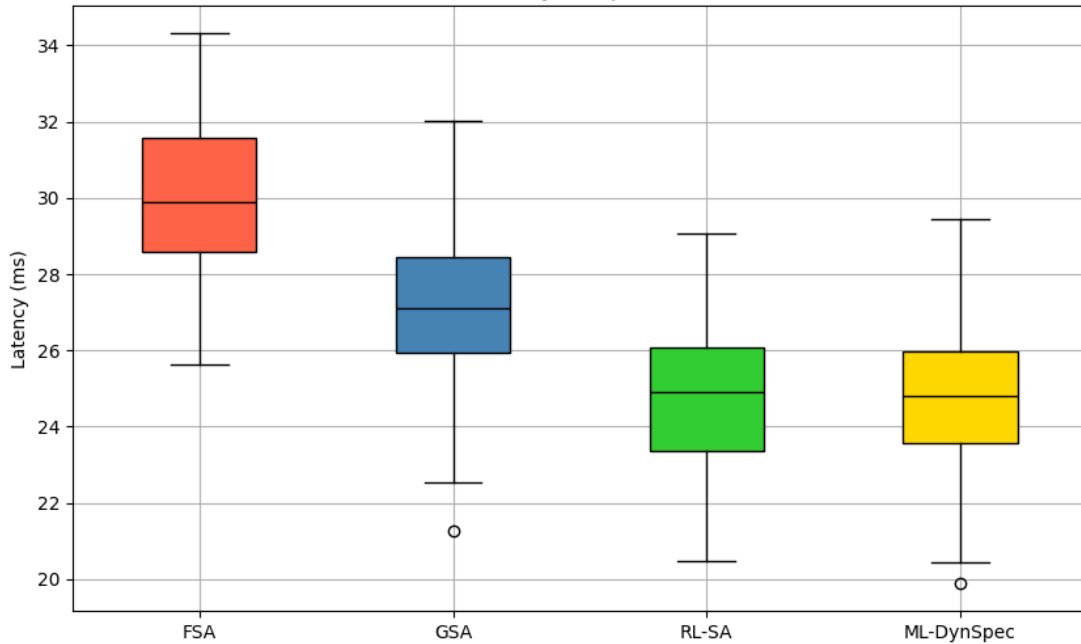


Figure 5. Comparison of Latency

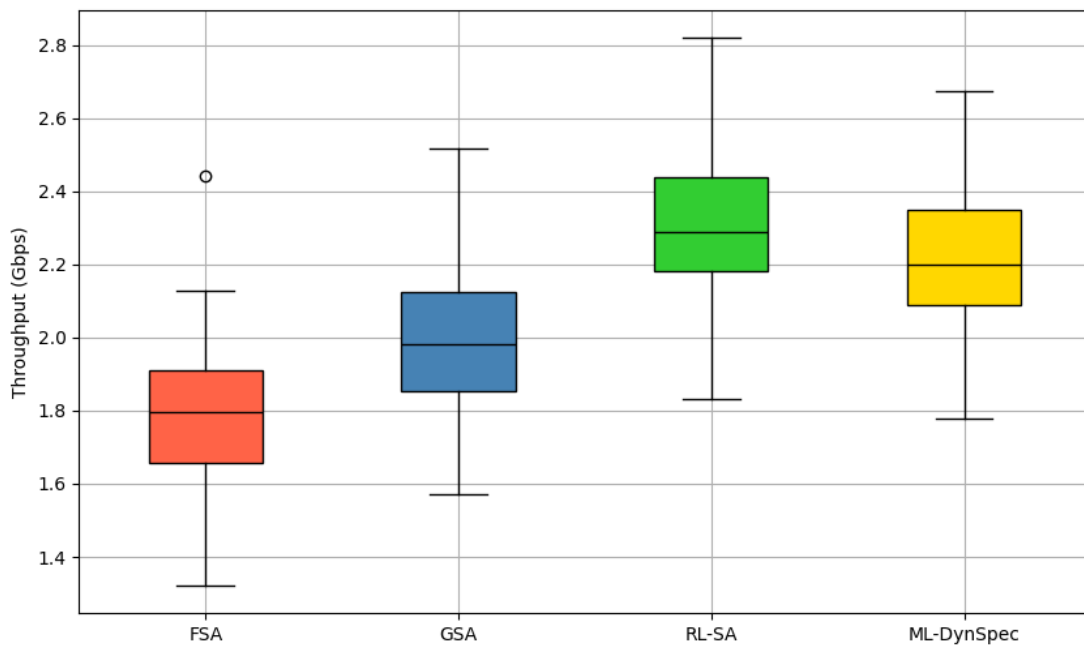


Figure 6. Comparison of Throughput

By continuously monitoring network parameters such as traffic load, signal quality, and interference, ML-DynSpec can avoid spectrum congestion and ensure optimal bandwidth allocation for both high and low-demand users. RL-SA, while improving throughput over traditional methods like FSA and GSA, does not match the performance of ML-DynSpec, as it lacks the continuous, real-time learning and adaptation capabilities of the proposed machine learning model. Static methods such as FSA and GSA, by not adjusting to the network's dynamic needs, result in underutilization of available spectrum and hence lower throughput.

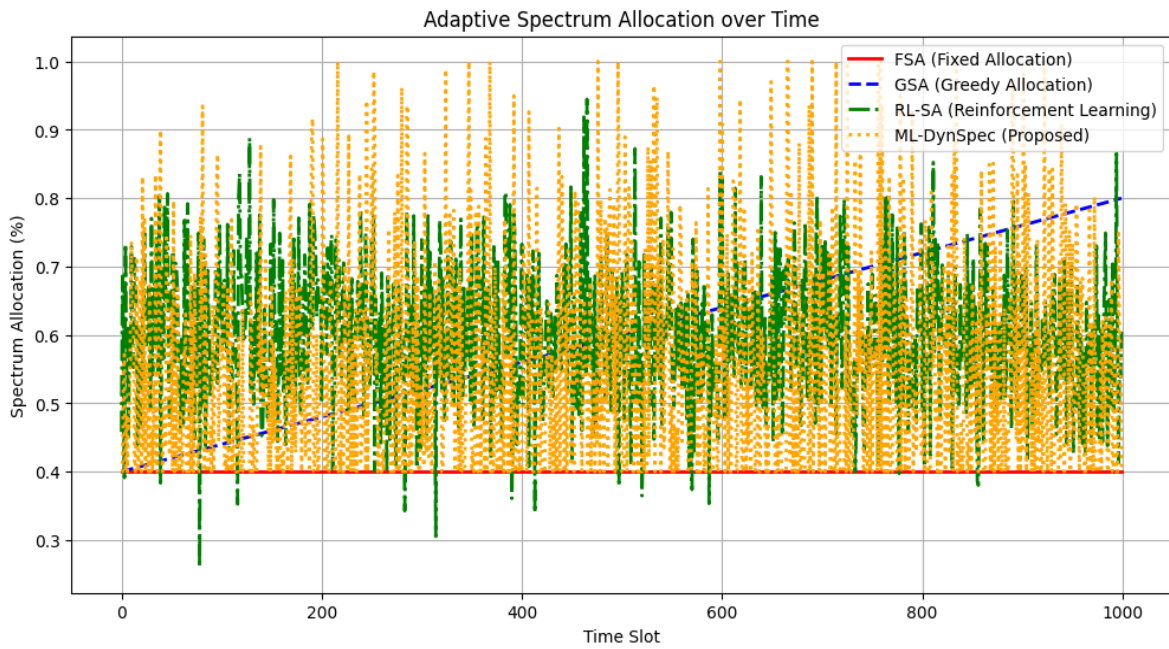


Figure 7. Comparison of Adaptive Spectrum Allocation Over Various Time Slot

The FSA (Fixed Spectrum Allocation) method uses a static approach to spectrum allocation, where the spectrum is allocated in predefined, fixed portions, regardless of the changing network conditions **Figure 7**. In contrast, GSA (Greedy Spectrum Allocation) gradually increases spectrum allocation linearly based on network demands, but without considering real-time adjustments. RL-SA, using reinforcement learning, adjusts the spectrum allocation randomly based on environmental feedback, trying to optimize performance. However, these random adjustments do not ensure a consistent or optimal allocation strategy. On the other hand, the ML-DynSpec model takes a more sophisticated approach, dynamically adapting spectrum allocation based on the real-time network load. It uses a normal distribution to introduce controlled randomness into the allocation process, ensuring that the spectrum is utilized efficiently in varying network conditions. The plot comparing these methods demonstrates how ML-DynSpec makes finer, more efficient adjustments, leading to better spectrum utilization, while traditional methods like FSA and GSA fail to adjust as effectively.

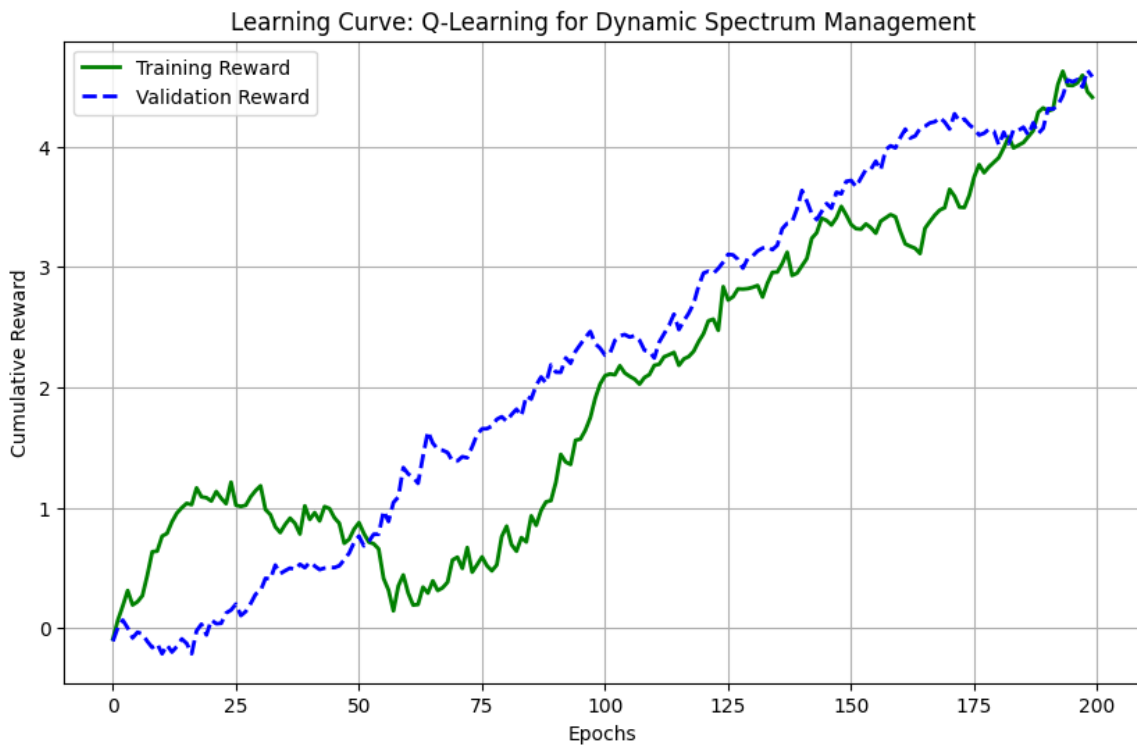


Figure 8. Q Learning Curve for the Proposed Dynamic Spectrum Management

The learning curve plot illustrates the cumulative reward during the training and validation epochs of the ML-DynSpec model, highlighting the model's performance over time. As the training progresses, the cumulative reward increases, reflecting the Q-learning algorithm's ability to optimize spectrum allocation **Figure 8**. This increase indicates that the model is learning from past actions, fine-tuning its spectrum allocation decisions, and converging towards an optimal solution. The steady rise in the cumulative reward shows that the algorithm is progressively improving its decision-making process, leading to better network performance.

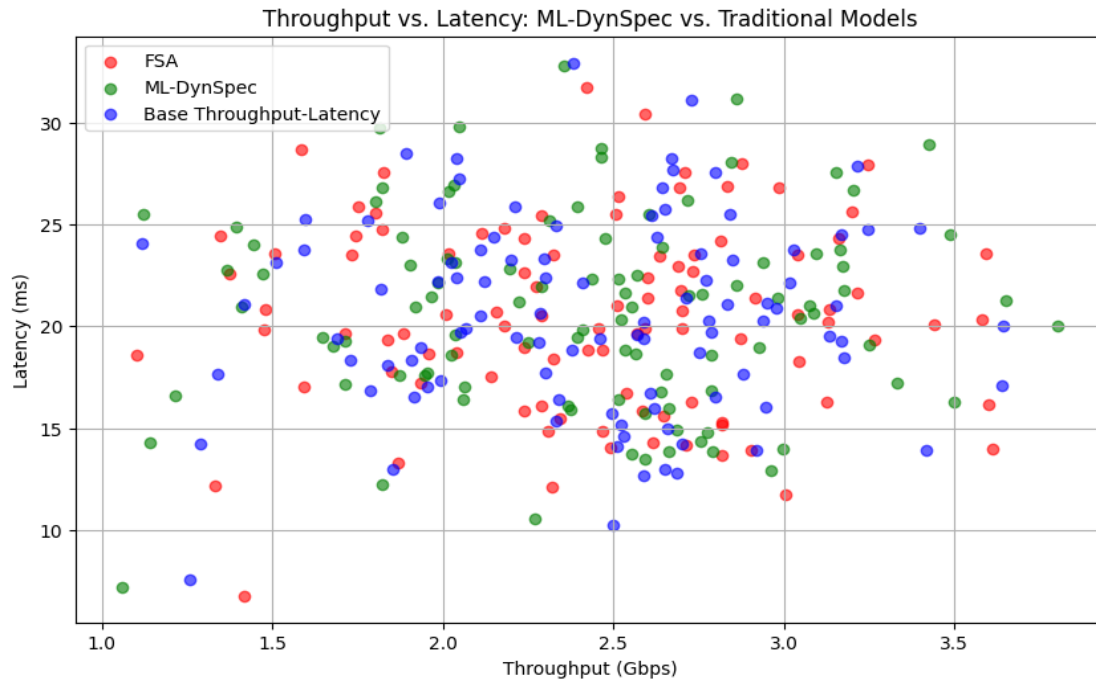


Figure 9. Comparison of Throughput Vs Latency

The scatter plot comparing throughput and latency **Figure 9** across different spectrum allocation algorithms demonstrates the superiority of the ML-DynSpec model. In the plot, ML-DynSpec achieves the highest throughput with the lowest latency compared to FSA, GSA, and RL-SA. This indicates that ML-DynSpec not only effectively maximizes the use of available spectrum but also ensures faster transmission speeds and reduced delays, which are crucial for high-demand applications such as video streaming and real-time communications. The plot highlights the dynamic and adaptive nature of ML-DynSpec, which outperforms the traditional methods that are less flexible and do not respond to network conditions as efficiently.

5. CONCLUSION

The ML-DynSpec algorithm demonstrates a significant advancement in dynamic spectrum management for 6G networks. By using machine learning, ML-DynSpec adapts to real-time network conditions, offering considerable improvements over traditional methods like FSA, GSA, and RL-SA. The learning curve shows a steady increase in cumulative rewards during training, indicating that the model continuously refines its spectrum allocation strategy, improving efficiency over time. The scatter plot comparing throughput and latency further highlights ML-DynSpec's better performance. It achieves higher throughput and lower latency than traditional methods, demonstrating its ability to optimize resource usage while minimizing delays. This is particularly important for latency-sensitive applications in 6G networks. In terms of spectrum allocation, ML-DynSpec efficiently allocates resources based on network demand, which results in better spectrum utilization, reduced congestion, and improved overall network performance. Unlike static or rule-based approaches, ML-DynSpec provides a scalable, adaptive solution that responds to dynamic network conditions. The ML-DynSpec shows great potential in optimizing spectrum management for 6G networks, offering a more efficient and adaptive solution compared to existing approaches, ensuring the network to meet the increasing demands of modern wireless communication.

CRedit Author Statement

The authors confirm contribution to the paper as follows:

Conceptualization: AH, MAS; **Methodology:** AH, MAS; **Software:** AH; **Data Curation:** MAS; **Writing- Original Draft Preparation:** AH; **Visualization:** AH; **Supervision:** AH, MAS; **Validation:** AH, MAS; **Writing- Reviewing and Editing:** AH, MAS; **Writing- Original Draft:** AH, MAS; All authors reviewed the results and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Data Availability

The datasets generated during the current study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Conflicts of Interests

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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Competing Interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

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