

Intelligent Test Bed Tuning for Improved Wireless Local Area Network Service Quality in Academic Environments

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ABSTRACT

Developing real time wireless local area network (WLAN) solutions require in-depth understanding of the WLAN system, performance evaluation in realistic setting, and visualisation of the service quality (SQ) in a very efficient manner. This paper presents the design and construction of WLAN test bed infrastructure to support intelligent tuning and visualisation of the SQ. To achieve this, received signal strength indication (RSSI) information and SQ field trials were performed on an academic environment, and, the requirements as well as challenges for developing suitable test bed infrastructure, appraised. An intelligent system model was then developed using the Interval Type-2 Fuzzy Logic (IT2FL), to simulate the SQ using RSSI information captured across three major campuses of the study environment. The IT2FL enabled the efficient modelling of uncertainties inherent in the field data for accurate estimation of the SQ. The processed test bed infrastructure provided direct visualisation as an initial assessment, before deploying personnel for corrective measures. Such measures are indeed necessary to assist in solving the poor quality of experience in academic environments. To ensure intelligent test bed tuning for effective coverage optimisation of the study environments, a particle swarm optimisation (PSO)- and genetic algorithm (GA)- adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system (ANFIS) (or evolutionary ANFIS: PSO-ANFIS and GA-ANFIS) were independently trained. Results obtained showed that both systems performed well – as their root mean square error (RMSE) and mean absolute error (MAE) for both test and train data were very close, but PSO-ANFIS yielded the lowest RMSE and MAE for test data – indicating a more quality and accurate algorithm.

Keywords: Intelligent system; nature-inspired algorithm, quality of experience, service quality visualisation, test bed tuning; wireless LAN.

Mathematics Subject Classification: 62J12, 62G99

Computing Classification System: I.2; I.5.1.1; I.6.

1. INTRODUCTION

Wireless technology has increasingly enabled accurate remote localisation of users and objects within a predefined time frame. In academic environments, Wireless Local Area Networks (WLANs) add

flexibility and independence irrespective of time and location; and can facilitate new approaches to teaching, research and community service. Advances in remote sensing, computing and networking have necessitated the quest for real time monitoring and deployment of 'mission critical' services and applications. These services and applications such as excellent data communication system are essential for robust communication and extended access to resources beyond borders. Hence, preventing service disruptions and poor quality of service are crucial to avert failure in academic and managerial operations. This paper carries out a detailed survey of a deployed WLAN with the goal of improving it through the use of efficient modelling procedures for uncertainties minimisation and service quality representation. An objective assessment of the service quality (SQ) including: design, infrastructure, communication, service characteristics and interference issues, were considered.

The novelty of this research is to cooperatively improve the accuracy of positioning through intelligent simulation of physical history of nodes position. Since location sensing technologies calibration is very expensive to deploy, a different approach is conceived in this paper to implement intelligent modelling and analysis techniques, with accurate representation and optimisation tools for self-configurable technologies that minimises unnecessary human intervention and calibration. A key obstacle to dwindling research progress in location aware computing is the lack of adequate large scale experimental infrastructure. The designed test bed infrastructure will therefore leverage physical infrastructure, and assist the creation and dissemination of benchmarks and testing methodologies for gradual evolution of an invaluable location aware system. The test beds may also serve as a standard for future large scale studies and speed up the commercialisation of our research results.

The academic institution under study is the University of Uyo – an academic environment located in the southeast coastal region of Nigeria, West Africa, where the terrain and topology structures, as well as and weather conditions are inconsistent and unpredictable. Figure 1 summarizes the major activities of this research, and will be accomplished in two phases.

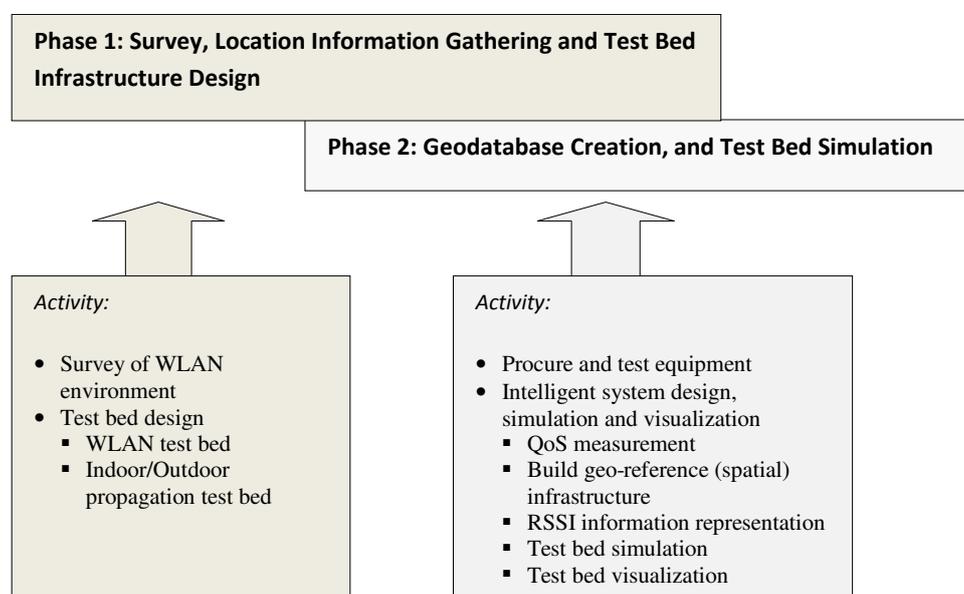


Figure 1: WLAN research workflow

The outcome of this research will impact the academic community, as well as bootstrap new services that will,

- motivate cooperative/interdisciplinary research with related disciplines such as Computer Science, Physics, Geology, Engineering, Geography and Natural Resources Management, etc;
- ensure shareability of knowledge and data resources across disciplines, and in real time;
- promote geo-processing and geodatabase access necessary for research and development purposes;
- support the publishing of geo-processing services and service compositions with semantic annotation and discovery;
- provide a persistent system that guarantees stable access to and maintenance of WLAN resources;
- allow iterative development for comparable (scientific) testing and resolution of network faults;
- enable seamless extensibility of wireless services.

The process of modifying an already deployed WLAN to support additional services (beyond a data-only deployment) is far from just adding additional access points (APs) or resources. It also requires additional site survey and possible relocation of existing APs. Kul, Ozyer and Tavli (2014) examined wireless localisation techniques for indoor positioning systems with explanation of the common approaches. They also offered useful performance metrics for such systems as well as experiments with real life data. Hence, considering the present demand for ubiquitous wireless coverage across academic environments and provision of indoor and outdoor coverage with expanded capacity, there is an urgent and unmet need to integrate suitable indoor and outdoor path loss models into test bed platforms.

1.1 The Propagation Environment

The University of Uyo has a total land mass of 1,535.055 hectares, and consists of five separate campuses namely, town campus, town campus annex, main campus, University of Uyo Teaching Hospital (UUTH), and Basic Studies Campus. The University deploys an inter-campus WLAN infrastructure that provides communication over a short geographical range using radio signals. The radio signals are propagated using network bridges – to create aggregate networks from either two or more communication networks and/or segments. The propagated signals are then regenerated along the next leg of the transmission medium to overcome the attenuation (loss of signal strength) caused by free-space electromagnetic-field divergence or cable loss, and to extend signals over a distance. The existing infrastructure consists of two layers: the Fibre Optic (FO) layer and the Wireless Network (WN) layer. The FO layer implements the Local Area Network (LAN) infrastructure and connects the various buildings, while the WN layer distributes signals to the buildings. Wireless Access Points (WAPs) are connected to the edge of the Fibres to enable clients/users communicate effectively with the Wireless Network Adapters (WNAs).

Currently, the three major campuses of the University under study (town campus: covering 56.956 hectares, town campus annex: covering 34.919 hectares, and main campus: covering 1,443.180 hectares) have been fully bridged in an intranet using the FO technology, and are considered in this paper. Figure 2 shows a schematic diagram of the inter-campus wireless network, while Figures 3, 4 and 5, show the network distribution in the three major campuses. In each figure, the network operating centre (NOC) is located at the centre while buildings are connected via fibre optic cables.

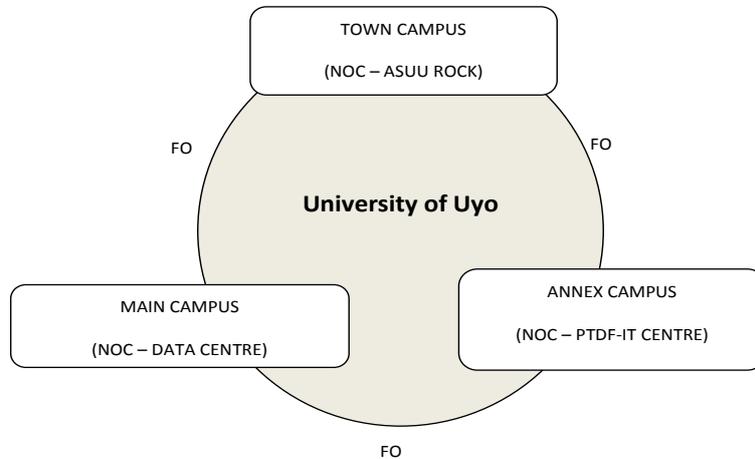


Figure 2: Structure of inter-campus WLAN network

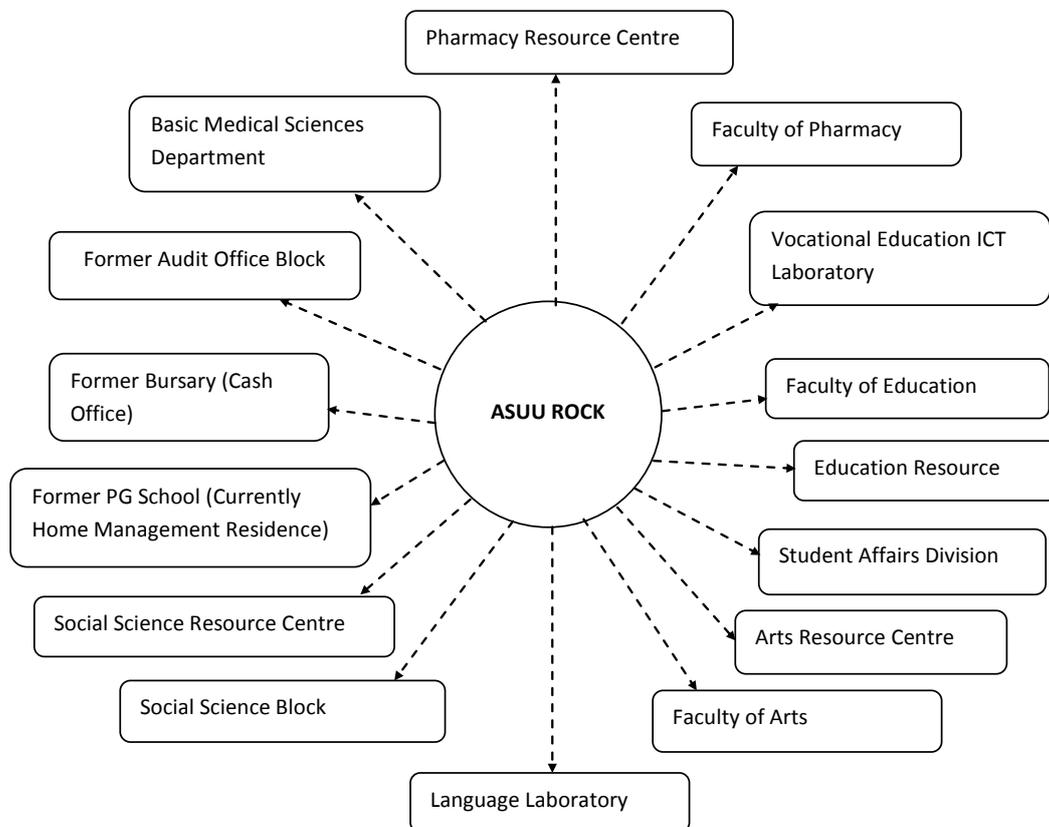


Figure 3: WLAN distribution (town campus)

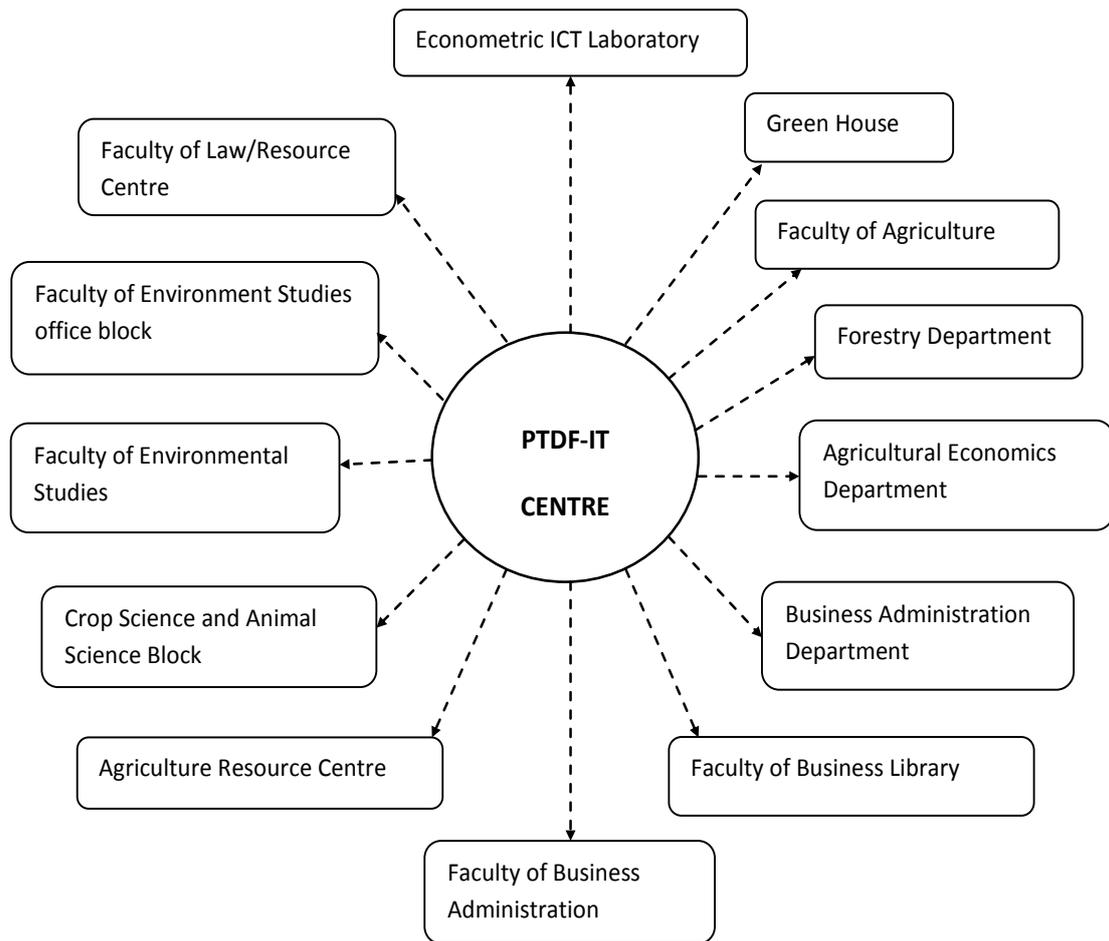


Figure 4: WLAN distribution (town annex campus)

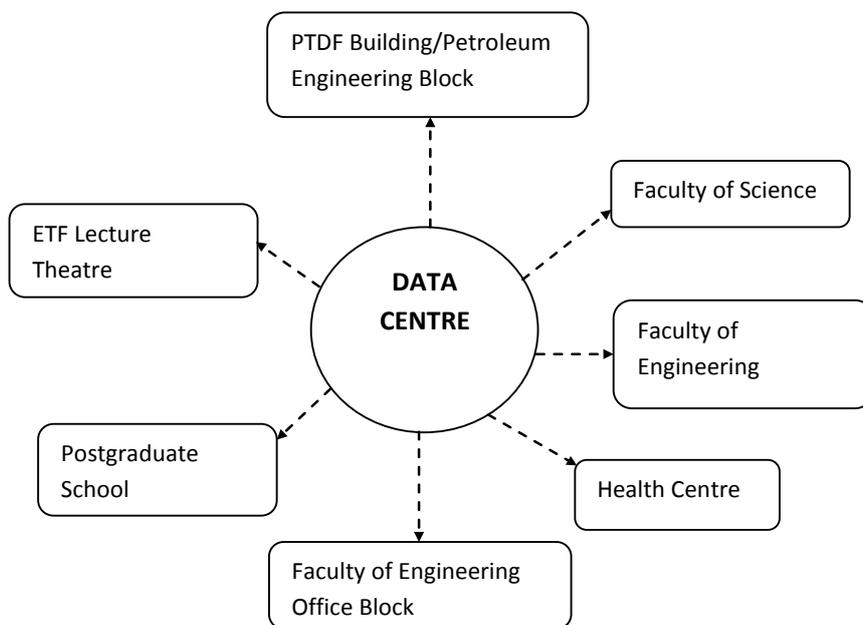


Figure 5: WLAN distribution (main campus)

2. RELATED WORKS

In Ozera, Inaba, Sakamoto and Barolli (2017), a triage test bed using Fuzzy-based Admission Control System (FACS) was implemented. Experimental results showed that the number of connected clients increased during the avoidance phase, but did not change during the monitoring phase. A comprehensive test bed implementing the fuzzy logic-based algorithm to guarantee seamless connection was simulated in Prithviraj, Krishnamoorthy and Vinothini (2016). Results obtained improved latency rate and packet loss over handoffs compared to existing approaches, which in turn improved the transmission quality. Abbas and Saade (2015) proposed a fuzzy logic-based approach for an automated network selection based on real-network implementations and measurements. Their network selection model was based on fuzzy inference rules considering features that affected the selection decision and were available on users' device. The model input features were linguistic variables representing the signal strength reflecting the channel quality of WiFi/3G links and network load. The performance of the proposed fuzzy logic approach for real-time network selection was evaluated and found to be superior to the separate use of WiFi and 3G links.

The type-2 fuzzy logic – an improvement on the traditional (type-1) fuzzy logic, has gained increasing popularity in a wide range of applications due to its capacity to handle high degrees of uncertainty (Melin and Castillo, 2013). Hence, it is now being used in the areas of classification, clustering and pattern recognition – to improve on the results of type-1 fuzzy logic. Another emerging dimension are neuro fuzzy systems (NFSs), which have found applications in various domains including the medical, science, social science, engineering, as well as the humanities. Kar, Dasb and Ghoshb (2014) surveyed the development of neuro fuzzy systems (NFSs) using classification and explored various NRS methodologies developed over the last five years. Their review indicated that (i) NFS methodologies are tending toward expertise orientation, (ii) various social science domains could be implemented using NRF methodologies, and, (iii) NFS methodologies are most likely to become the de factor methodologies given their adaptive and learning capabilities.

In the field of wireless communication, Cavdar (2016) proposed a particle swarm optimisation (PSO) tuned adaptive neuro fuzzy inference System (PSO-ANFIS) based channel equalizer, which is capable of identifying, estimating and equalizing wireless communication channels. The proposed equalizer used training data and fuzzyC-means (FCM) clustering to model a wireless communication channel unknown channel dynamics, and was simulated on a mobile communication model with inter-symbol interference (ISI), co-channel interference (CCI), and the additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN). The training method and FCM were found to provide best regression of system modelling that fit the wireless channel. The performance of the equalizer was then evaluated and compared to other nonlinear equalization techniques using the bit error rate and signal-to-noise ratio (BER–SNR) as performance metrics. Simulation results showed that the performance of the PSO-ANFIS equalizer with FCM clustering yielded the best performance.

Hybridised solutions (combining two or more algorithms) have also been found to improve the performance of applications and compensate for the weaknesses of non-robust algorithms. Kumar and Kumar (2017) for instance, proposed a hybrid algorithm combining artificial bee colony (ABC) and fuzzy c-means (FCM) algorithms to assist the FCM clustering escape from the local optima and provide better experimental results on well known data sets. Precup, Sabau and Petriu (2015) proposed a synergy of fuzzy logic and nature-inspired optimisation to optimally tune the input membership functions using Takagi-Sugeno-Kang (TSK) fuzzy models, for Anti-lock Braking Systems (ABSs). Two nature-inspired algorithms: Simulated Annealing (SA) and Particle Swarm Optimisation (PSO) were implemented to solve the optimisation problem and to obtain optimal TSK fuzzy models. Real-time experimental results showed that the optimised TSK fuzzy models were simple and consistent with both training data and validation data, and the optimised models outperformed the traditional TSK fuzzy models.

From the foregoing, recent research works have settled on hybridised solutions with the use of nature-inspired algorithms for solving optimisation problems. This paper therefore introduces intelligent test bed tuning using human cognitive approach and visualisation of real-life WLAN system for a dynamic domain-specific system – academic environments. The research represents a pioneering work in this direction – as no literature on the application of nature-inspired optimisation techniques to academic domain exists, to the best of our knowledge. We employ two independent nature-inspired algorithms: PSO and genetic algorithm (GA), to tune the adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system (ANFIS) – for effective coverage monitoring of the study areas.

3. WLAN TEST BED DESIGN

Advances in data acquisition technologies and access are broadening the application of geospatial data and location-based services, which require global positioning system (GPS) localisation technologies, wireless communication, as well as mobile computing. First, we create a test bed (the WLAN setup environment required for experimenting and testing the validity of this research). The test bed supports the visualisation interface of the service quality, and the design methodology of the test bed is discussed in the following steps:

Reconnaissance survey

A reconnaissance survey of the three major campuses was carried out to examine the generic characteristics of the area and establish the start and end points of the WN and the FO installations. While reconnoitering on the ground, reference pegs were left to facilitate further survey operations. A catalogue of the physical network infrastructure was also developed to facilitate the design of the simulation *test bed*. The distance from the NOC to the various APs – for outdoor transmission, and distance from the APs to the buildings – for indoor transmission were also necessary to facilitate an investigation into the poor signal strength quality and wide *path loss* margins currently experienced in the existing system. The distance measurements were accomplished using ground reconnaissance survey – a general examination of the ground, by walking along the probable routes and collecting all

available information necessary for evaluating same. The survey was carried out with the aid of field investigators including the ICT personnel of the University of Uyo.

Database model

The geodatabase of ArcGIS represents one of the most popular database models worldwide. It couples geometry with semantic attributes and is suitable for multiple resources management. In comparison with previous data models, the actual generation of geodatabase by ArcGIS proves more intelligent, as each element is no longer just a geometric field, but also a record of the object with attributes and behaviours. Hence, the geodatabase is essentially a relational database based on an object-oriented model (Wu, Xu, Wang and Xu, 2011). This paper integrates the geodatabase model to enable proper planning and management of the WLAN resources. The purpose of this integration is to bootstrap important management plans and provide solutions to users/clients in real time. The benefits envisaged include, but are not limited to,

- Risk management plan for identifying major risks, including constraints and assumptions, as well as planned response for each risk;
- Scheduled management plan using the developed WLAN test bed;
- Resource management plan through direct database visualisation;
- Cost management plan;
- Quality assurance/quality control plan;
- Communication plan using the developed indoor/outdoor path-loss/distance test bed.

Location capture and feature extraction

Location capture using Global Positioning System (GPS): GPS is obviously the most widely used (outdoor) location sensing technology. Capturing the various FO milestone and manhole locations was done using a GPS device. At every location, the GPS device was held over the FO milestones and manholes to obtain the exact coordinates. The *marked* button was then pressed and scrolled down to accuracy, allowing the accuracy to drop to the minimum. The coordinates were finally saved by pressing the *enter* button, and the resulting waypoint values were carefully copied for every manhole and milestone in each case.

Feature Extraction: Building and road layers within the three campuses were extracted from *satellite images or base maps* of the study area (see Figures 6 (a) and 6 (b)) through the process of digitisation using ArcGIS 10.3 software. The extracted features and the reconnaissance survey data allowed for the determination of any deviations required in the basic geometric standards to be adopted for the implementation of robust WLAN communication.

Mapping of the extracted features

Next, the GPS data (i.e., manhole and milestone data) were superimposed on the extracted surface after image digitisation to obtain a complete and accurate test bed for the three campuses (Figures 7 (a) and 7 (b)). The *Point feature* in ArcMap 10.3 was used to create shape-files for The Science

Technology and Education Post Basic: STEP-B/World Bank Project and Zinox and MTN Projects manholes and milestones, while the *Line feature* was used to create the FO line/path (route) for these Projects, and digitized accordingly to connect the manholes.

To design the distance test bed, related information about the buildings (type, size, purpose, and distance from building with installed WAPs to the NOC) were collected. The code guiding the description of the building type and purpose is presented in Table 1. The resultant test bed integrating the distance measurements for the town campus, town campus annex and main campus, are shown in Figs. 8 (a) and 8 (b), respectively. A total of sixty-eight (68) individual wireless network APs were installed in the three campuses and these APs were digitally mapped to their respective locations into a geodatabase. Materials used for constructing 95% of the buildings within the three major campuses are mostly concrete blocks with 5 inches thickness for bungalows, and 9 inches for storey, others use plywood-type materials. To achieve precise measurements, a physical visit to all APs was done and a GPS device used to determine the relative location of the AP antenna with respect to the elements of the buildings present on the test bed. Operation parameters of the environment under study are shown in Table 2.



Figure 6. (a): Satellite image (base map) of the study area – town campus and town campus annex



Figure 6. (b): Satellite image (base map) of the study area – main campus

Table 1: Coding system for building type and purpose

Type	Code	Purpose	Code
Bungalow	1	Teaching/lecture/examination	1
1-storey	2	Study/reference	2
2-Storey	3	Practical demonstration	3
3-storey	4	Workshop/office	4
4-storey	5	Social/recreation	5
5-Storey	6	Commercial	6
6-Storey	7	Store	7
		Multipurpose	8

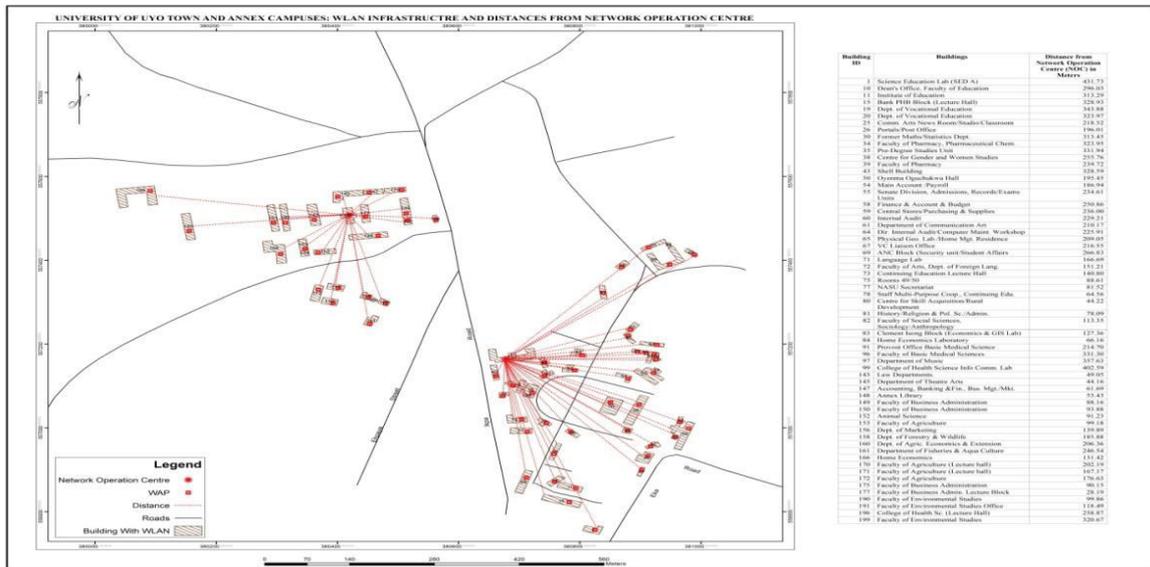


Fig. 8 (a): Extracted WLAN distance test bed for study area – town campus and town campus annex

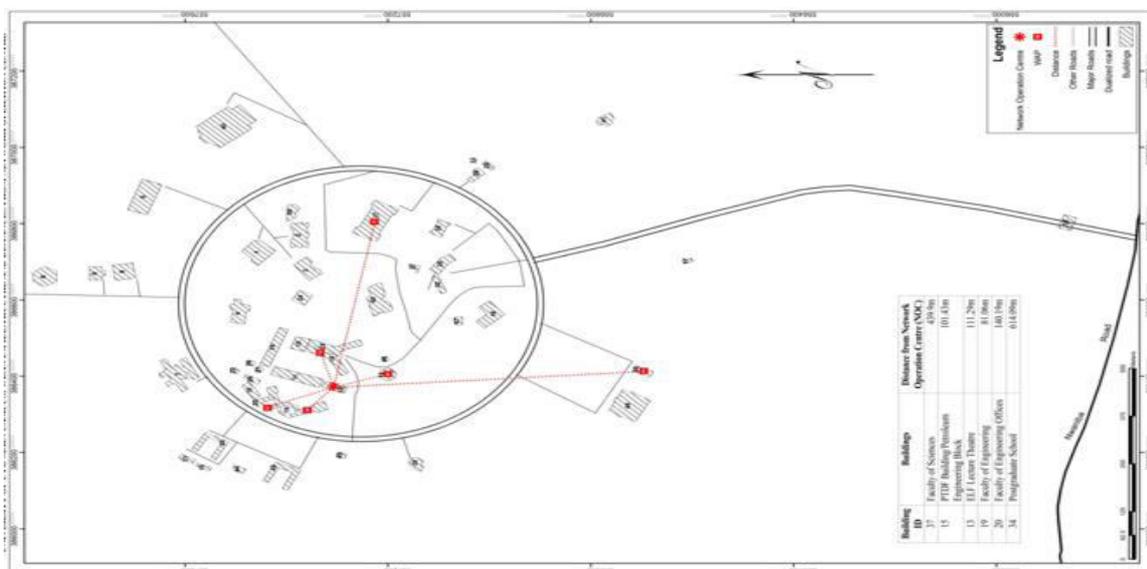


Figure 8 (b): Extracted WLAN distance test bed for study area – main campus

Table 2: Operation parameters obtained from the existing WLAN system

Parameter	Value
Number of buildings/offices with WAPs	68
Number of base stations (BSs)	3
BS height	Town campus – 45.72 m, town campus annex – 36.58 m, main campus – 36.58 m
Distance between BS and building	See Table 1
BS output power	26 – 28 dBm
Bandwidth	90 MHz
BS antenna	Isotropic (outdoor)
Carrier frequency	5 GHz (scaled to 2.4 GHz on distribution)
Average packet size	5 MB

4. INTELLIGENT SYSTEM DESIGN

4.1. RSSI data capture

To capture the received signal strength indication (RSSI) information of the service area, a scan of the study environment (where APs are located) was performed using the Acrylic WiFi Professional – a WiFi analyser software that identifies access points and WiFi channels – and is useful for analysing and resolving incidences on 802.11a/b/g/n/ac wireless networks in real time. The functionalities of Acrylic include:

- (i) efficient visualisation of wireless network performance and connected users;
- (ii) access point data transmission speeds identification and channels optimisation;
- (iii) access WiFi network detailed information collation and visualisation – including hidden wireless networks.

Scanning of the environment (at each access point) was delayed for about two to three minutes to allow for full device(s) detection. The detected infrastructure and measurements were finally exported to a comma separated value (CSV) file and compiled for the service areas under study. A list of the RSSI and site information is summarised in Table 3, while sample RSSI and site-specific measurements captured for the purpose of this study are presented in Appendix (A) and (B), respectively. In the next subsection, fuzzifiable RSSI features were identified and abstracted to serve as inputs to the signal-prints representation phase.

Table 3: RSSI and site information captured form the service area

RSSI information – captured using Acrylic Professional software			
S/No.	RSSI parameter	Meaning	Data type
1.	SSID	Service Set Identifier	String
2.	MAC	Media Access Control address	String
3.	RSSI	Received Signal Strength Indicator	Number
4.	SNR	Signal to Noise Ratio	Number
5.	NoChan	Signal communication channel	Number
6.	ChanWidth	Channel bandwidth	Number
7.	802.11	Infrastructure type	String
8.	MBR	Maximum Baud Rate	Number
9.	WEP	Wired Equivalent Privacy	String
10.	Vendor	Infrastructure vendor	String
11.	Mgt	Number of traffic managed	Number
12.	VenType	Vendor type	String
13.	Latitude	Geographic coordinate of study location (center of a building), north-south on the earth's surface	Number
14.	Longitude	Angular distance of study location (center of a building), east-west of the equator	Number
15.	Time	Time of capture	String
Site information – captured during site survey			
	Site parameter	Meaning	
16.	BID	Building Identifier	String
17.	BLoc	Building location indoor/outdoor?	String
18.	BType	Building type	Number
19.	BSize	Building size	Number
20.	BPurp	Purpose for which building is used	Number
21.	BHeight	Building height	Number
22.	DFNOC	Distance of building from NOC	Number
23.	Floor	Number of floors	Number
24.	NOR	Number of Rooms	Number
25.	Pathloss	Signal propagation pathloss	Number

4.2. Signal-print representation and SQ Modelling using Interval Type-2 Fuzzy Logic

To eliminate the drawbacks of any individual variable, important parameters were abstracted and those with fuzzy membership function (FMF), characterized. The RSSI data formed our major parameters of interest, and were passed to the Fuzzy-type-2 Logic system (F2FLS) in order to provide precise representation of the SQ. An interval Type-2 fuzzy set (IT2FS), \tilde{A} is characterized by a membership interval in the universe of discourse (UoD), X , for continuous and discrete domains as (Mendel and Liu, 2007; Mendel and John, 2002):

$$\tilde{A} = \{ |(x, u), \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x, u) | \forall x \in X, \forall u \in J_x \subseteq [0,1] \} \text{ and } \tilde{A} = \sum_{i=1}^p \{ \sum_{u \in J_x} [1/u] \} / x_i \quad (1)$$

Where x , is the *primary variable*, in the domain X , and, $u \in U$, is the *secondary variable*, and has domain $J_x \forall x \in X : 0 \leq \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x, u) \leq 1$; J_x , is called the primary membership of x ; and $\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x, u)$,

represents the secondary membership set (SMS). Description of a Type-2 membership grade, \tilde{A} , is a pair of the primary membership function (PMF) and SMS, which falls in the range [0,1]. The SMS gives the degree of membership of the PMS (Melin and Castillo, 2013). Uncertainty about \tilde{A} is conveyed by the union of all the primary memberships, known as the *footprint of uncertainty* (FOU) of \tilde{A} , including all the embedded primary membership functions J_x of \tilde{A} , and is given by,

$$U_{\tilde{A}}(x,u) = 1, FOU(\tilde{A}) = U_{\forall x \in X} J_x = \{(x,u) : u \in J_x \subseteq [0,1]\} \quad (2)$$

where $FOU(\tilde{A})$, is bounded by *upper membership function* (UMF), $\bar{\mu}_{\tilde{A}}(x)$, and *lower membership function* (LMF), $\underline{\mu}_{\tilde{A}}(x)$, $\forall x \in X$, respectively. thus,

$$\bar{\mu}_{\tilde{A}}(x) \equiv \overline{FOU(\tilde{A})}; \forall x \in X \quad (3)$$

$$\underline{\mu}_{\tilde{A}}(x) \equiv \underline{FOU(\tilde{A})}; \forall x \in X \quad (4)$$

$$J_x = \{(x,u) : u \in [\underline{\mu}_{\tilde{A}}(x), \bar{\mu}_{\tilde{A}}(x)]\} \quad (5)$$

where J_x , represents an interval set. Equation (2) can now be expressed as,

$$FOU(\tilde{A}) = U_{\forall x \in X} \{\underline{\mu}_{\tilde{A}}(x), \bar{\mu}_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} \quad (6)$$

The proposed IT2FL-WLAN-SQ framework is shown in Figure 9. The framework is composed of five major components namely, *fuzzifier*, *knowledge base*, *inference engine*, *type-reducer* and *defuzzifier*.

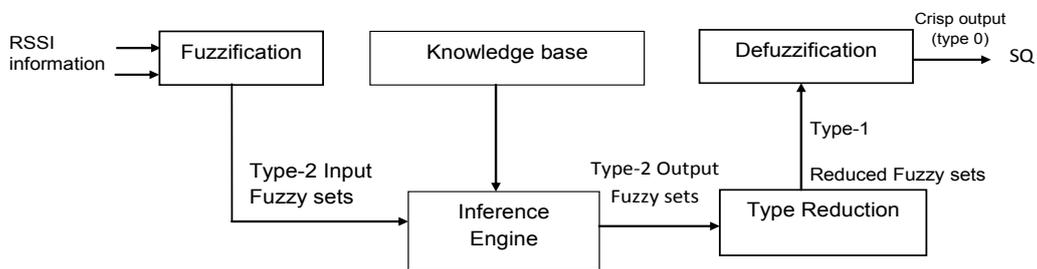


Figure 9: Structure of Interval type-2 fuzzy logic for WLAN service quality determination

An explanation of each of the components is discussed as follows:

The *Fuzzification* module maps the crisp input (RSSI information) to interval type-2 fuzzy sets (IT2FSs) using a defined triangular membership function (TMF) method. We considered the following RSSI parameters as inputs: RSSI, number of channels (NChannels), and Maximum Baud Rate (MBR), while, Service Quality (SQ) represents the output variable. The UoD for the input and output variables,

and the domain intervals of the variables, as well as the range of each variable used to establish the fuzzy models are defined in Table 4.

Table 4: Domain Intervals of Input and Output Variables

Variables	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Unit
Input Variables			
RSSI	-100	-5	dBm
NChannels	0	20	-
MBR	0	350	ms
Output Variable			
SQ	0	100	%

TMFs were adopted to evaluate each input and output MFs. Hence, the TMF (for a given input/output, x), $\mu(x)$, as shown in (7), and represented as a line or curve (see Fig. 10.), depends on three parameters p_1 , p and p_2 . It indicates the mapping of each input (RSSI, NChannels and MBR) measurements, or output (SQ) parameters, required to obtain the membership values:

$$\mu(x) = \begin{cases} 0; & \text{if } x < p_1 \\ \frac{x - p_1}{p - p_1}; & \text{if } p_1 \leq x \leq p \\ \frac{p_2 - x}{p_2 - p}; & \text{if } p \leq x \leq p_2 \\ 0; & \text{if } x > p_2 \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where p , defines the triangular peak location, while p_1 and p_2 , define the triangular end points.

Figure 10 shows the triangular shape IT2FS with its principal T1FS, bounded by an UMF and a LMF

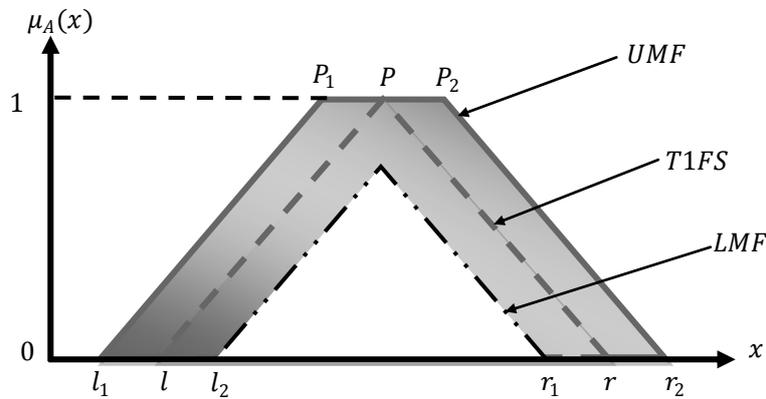


Figure 10: Triangular shape IT2FS

Now, applying the parameters in Figure 10 to (7), we derive (8) and (9) – the detailed computation formulae for the UMF ($\bar{\mu}(x)$) and LMF ($\underline{\mu}(x)$), respectively, given an input/output variable (x),

$$\bar{\mu}(x) = \begin{cases} 0; & \text{if } x < l_1 \\ \frac{x-l_1}{p_1-l_1}; & \text{if } l_1 \leq x < p_1 \\ 1; & \text{if } p_1 \leq x \leq p_2 \\ \frac{r_2-x}{r_2-p_2}; & \text{if } p_2 < x \leq r_2 \\ 0; & \text{if } x > r_2 \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

$$\underline{\mu}(x) = \begin{cases} 0; & \text{if } x < l_2 \\ \frac{x-l_2}{p_2-l_2}; & \text{if } l_1 \leq x < p_1 \\ \frac{r_2-x}{r_2-p_2}; & \text{if } \frac{r_1(p_2-l_2)+l_2(r_1-p_1)}{(p_2-l_2)+(r_1-p_1)} < x \leq r_1 \\ 0; & \text{if } x \geq r_2 \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

where l_1 and l_2 , represent the left end point of both UMF and LMF, respectively; and r_1 and r_2 , represent the right end point of both LMF and UMF, respectively.

The domain intervals for the study were partitioned according to their lower and upper values, conditioned towards standard WLAN regulatory estimates (Mazar, 2016; Xue, Qiu, Hua and Yu, 2017), and used in controlling the models. The resulting fuzzy sets of the input and output variables, their associated values and labels are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Input and Output Variables Fuzzy Sets

Fuzzy linguistic label	TMF range (Lower)			TMF range (Upper)			Label
	l_2	mean	r_1	l_1	mean	r_2	
RSSI							
Low	-95	-90	-85	-100	-90	-80	LO
Medium	-88	-78.5	-70	-90	-78.5	-65	ME
High	-70	-42.5	-10	-75	-42.5	-5	HI
NCHANNELS							
Low	1	2.5	4	0	2.5	5	LO
Medium	4	8	13	3	8	14	ME
High	12	15	19	11	15	20	HI
MBR							
Low	15	50	85	0	50	100	LO
Moderate	80	135	185	65	135	200	MO
High	150	230	335	135	230	350	HI
SQ							
Very Poor	5	20	35	0	20	40	VP
Poor	25	35	45	20	35	50	PR
Good	40	45	55	35	45	60	GD
Very Good	50	60	75	45	60	80	VG
Excellent	70	80	95	65	80	100	EX

An instance computation for the UMF of input variable, RSSI, with fuzzy term 'High' is given in (10),

$$\bar{\mu}_{High}(RSSI) = \begin{cases} 0; & \text{if } RSSI < (-100) \\ \frac{RSSI - (-100)}{p_1 - (-100)}; & \text{if } (-100) \leq RSSI < p_1 \\ 1; & \text{if } p_1 \leq RSSI \leq p_2 \\ \frac{(-80) - RSSI}{(-80) - p_2}; & \text{if } p_2 < RSSI \leq (-80) \\ 0; & \text{if } RSSI > (-80) \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

We employed the *Juzzyonline Fuzzy toolbox* (<http://juzzy.wagnerweb.net/>) – an open-source toolkit useful for the design, implementation, evaluation, and sharing of Type-1 and Type-2 fuzzy logic systems (Wagner, Pierfitt and McCulloch, 2014), to construct the input and output membership functions. The linguistic terms of the three input and output membership functions in Table 5 are described as follows:

RSSI:

$[\mu_{RSSIULO}, [\mu_{RSSILO}]$ – RSSI Upper and Lower membership function for Low

$[\mu_{RSSIUME}, [\mu_{RSSILME}]$ – RSSI Upper and Lower membership function for Medium

$[\mu_{RSSIUHI}, [\mu_{RSSILHI}]$ – RSSI Upper and Lower membership function for High

NCHANNELS:

$[\mu_{NCHANNELSULO}, [\mu_{NCHANNELSLLO}]$ – NCHANNELS Upper and Lower membership function for Low

$[\mu_{NCHANNELSUME}, [\mu_{NCHANNELSLME}]$ – NCHANNELS Upper and Lower membership function for Medium

$[\mu_{NCHANNELSUHI}, [\mu_{NCHANNELSLHI}]$ – NCHANNELS Upper and Lower membership function for High

MBR:

$[\mu_{MBRULO}, [\mu_{MBRULLO}]$ – MBR Upper and Lower membership function for Low

$[\mu_{MBRUMO}, [\mu_{MBRULMO}]$ – MBR Upper and Lower membership function for Moderate

$[\mu_{MBRUHI}, [\mu_{MBRULHI}]$ – MBR Upper and Lower membership function for High

SQ:

$[\mu_{SQUVP}, [\mu_{SQLVP}]$ – SQ Upper and Lower membership function for Very Poor

$[\mu_{SQUPO}, [\mu_{SQLPO}]$ – SQ Upper and Lower membership function for Poor

$[\mu_{SQUGD}, [\mu_{SQLVG}]$ – SQ Upper and Lower membership function for Good

$[\mu_{SQUGD}, [\mu_{SQLGD}]$ – SQ Upper and Lower membership function for Good

$[\mu_{SQUEX}, [\mu_{SQLEX}]$ – SQ Upper and Lower membership function for Excellent

The *IF-THEN* rules in IT2FLS are then specified in the form of m inputs and one output,

$x_1 \in D_1, x_2 \in D_2, \dots, x_m \in D_m$, and one output, $y \in E$, as;

$$IF x_i \in \tilde{D}_i^l \text{ AND, ..., AND } x_m \text{ is } \tilde{D}_m^l \text{ THEN } y \text{ is } E^l \quad (11)$$

where $x_{i;i=1,...,m}$, are the antecedents, and y , is the consequent of the j th rule, $l = 1, \dots, p$ of IT2FLS. The \tilde{D}_i^l 's are the MFs $\mu_{\tilde{D}_i^l}(x_i)$ of the antecedent part assigned to the i th input x_i , The E^l 's are the MFs $\mu_{E^l}(x_i)$ of the consequent part assigned to the output y .

A total of 27 fuzzy rules were achieved from the MFs selected, and a snapshot of some of the rules necessary to drive the inference engine is shown in Figure 11,



Figure 11: Fuzzy rules for driving the inference engine

The firing set for the i th rule is then computed as (Acampora, Alghazzawi, Hagra and Vitieli, 2016):

$$F^i(x') = [f^i(x'), \overline{f^i(x')}] \equiv [f^i, \overline{f^i}] \quad (12)$$

$$f^i(x') = \mu_{f^i_1}(x'_1) * \dots * \mu_{f^i_m}(x'_m) \quad (13)$$

$$\overline{f^i(x')} = \overline{\mu}_{f^i_1}(x'_1) * \dots * \overline{\mu}_{f^i_m}(x'_m) \quad (14)$$

where $F^i(x)$ is the antecedent of rule i , and $\mu_{f_i}(x)$, is the degree of membership of x in $F \cdot \bar{\mu}_{f_i}(x)$ and $\underline{\mu}_{f_i}(x)$ are upper and lower MFs of μ_{f_i} .

The inference engine combines the fired rules and gives a mapping from input IT2FSs to output IT2FSs. The combined output fuzzy set, $\mu_{\tilde{E}_j^i(y_j)}$, is obtained by combining the fired output consequent sets, taking the union of the i th rule fired as output consequent sets.

Type-reduction (TR) maps the type-reduced set into an interval of uncertainty for the output of an IT2FLS. The Karnik-Mendel algorithms were employed for computing the exact end-points, and are presented in (15) and (16), respectively (Mendel and Liu, 2007):

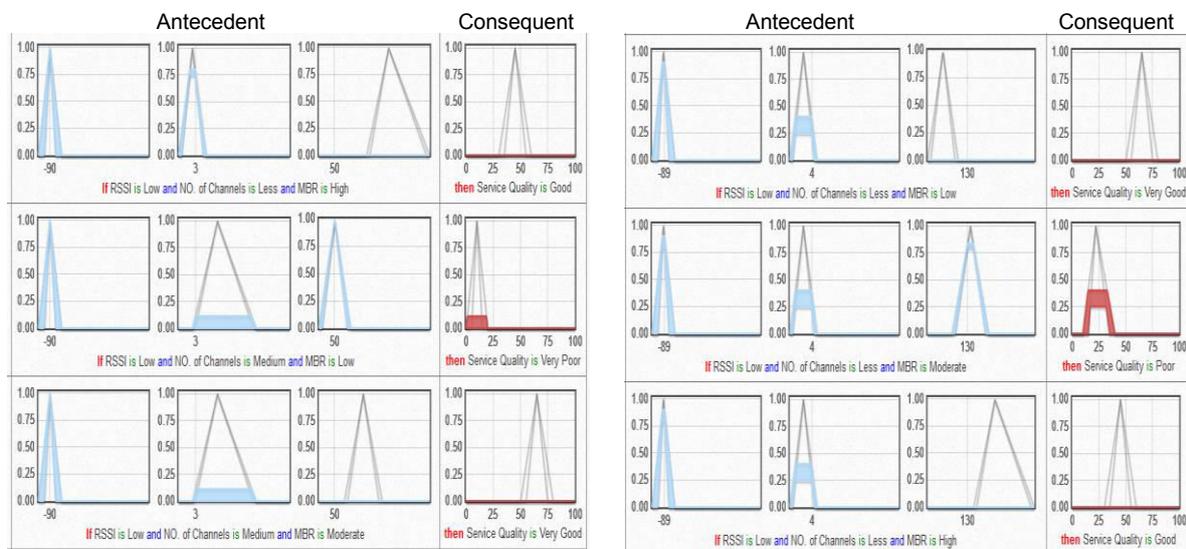
$$y_r = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N f_r^i y_r^i}{\sum_{i=1}^N f_f^i} \quad (15)$$

$$y_l = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N f_l^i y_l^i}{\sum_{i=1}^N f_f^i} \quad (16)$$

Defuzzification of the interval set was then performed using the average of Y_{lk} and Y_{rk} , and the defuzzified crisp output for each output k was achieved by:

$$Y_k(X) = \frac{Y_{lk} + Y_{rk}}{2} \quad (17)$$

Snapshots showing the antecedent and consequent plots for different inputs, from the IT2FL system are presented in Figures 12 (a) and 12 (b).



(a) Plot of SQ for RSSI=-90, NChannels=3, and MBR=50 (b) Plot for SQ with RSSI=-89, NChannels=4, and MBR=130

Figure 12: Antecedent and consequent plots

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Many reported results have shown that IT2FLS handles uncertainties better than T1FLS (Castillo and Melin, 2008, 2013; Acampora, Alghazzawi, Hagraas and Vitieli, 2016; Mendel, 2001; Wu and Tan, 2006). Using the abstracted RSSI datasets captured from the three major campuses, a simulation of the IT2FL system was performed, to generate the SQ (last column of Appendix (A)). Next, we separate the fixed and mobile infrastructure by extrapolating the spatial SSID data unto the designed test beds – for enhanced visualisation. Figures 13 (a) and 13 (b) show the WLAN SQ performance test beds for fixed and mobile infrastructure, respectively – at the town and town campus annex. To generate the desired contour lines on the test beds, a spatial interpolation (a prediction of cells value in a raster for the limited number of sample points, over the entire surface) was performed. This geoprocessing activity assisted in the prediction of unknown SQ for inaccessible geographical points with severe elevation, noise levels, and terrains. The method was applied to conscript new data points within the range of a discrete set of known data points. The inverse distance weighting (IDW) – a local neighbourhood approach was adopted to perform the interpolation of the scattered data and smoothen the contour lines. IDW assumes that each point influences the resulting surface only up to a finite distance, and weights are inversely proportional to a power distance. Hence, at an un-sampled location r , the estimator is given as,

$$F(r) = \sum_{i=1}^m w_i z(r_i) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m z(r_i) / |r - r_i|^p}{\sum_{j=1}^m 1 / |r - r_j|^p} \quad (15)$$

where p , is a parameter, typically 2.

In Figure 13 (a), we observed that the service quality was generally good across the study area, with very few spots enjoying very good SQ. Areas with poor service quality were also identified, mostly close to the ravine areas. The resulting test bed reveals that mobile users received good SQ at the town campus, compared to the town campus annex which experienced very poor service quality. Further, patches of poor service quality were noticed at the ravine area, as well as the main gate (the transit area to the annex campus), and hostel areas of the university. The poor SQ is expected, as the signal coverage has not yet been replicated to these areas. More worrisome is the extreme poor service quality at the town campus annex – an area with a more stable terrain, compared to the town campus. A deeper research into this area is therefore expected to consider the type of infrastructure and site information as variables to a neural network that robustly models the interactions between variables, to reveal the specific contribution(s) of each variable to service quality. Indeed, poor service quality is not only associated with RSSI details, but also site information, infrastructure, topography, etc.

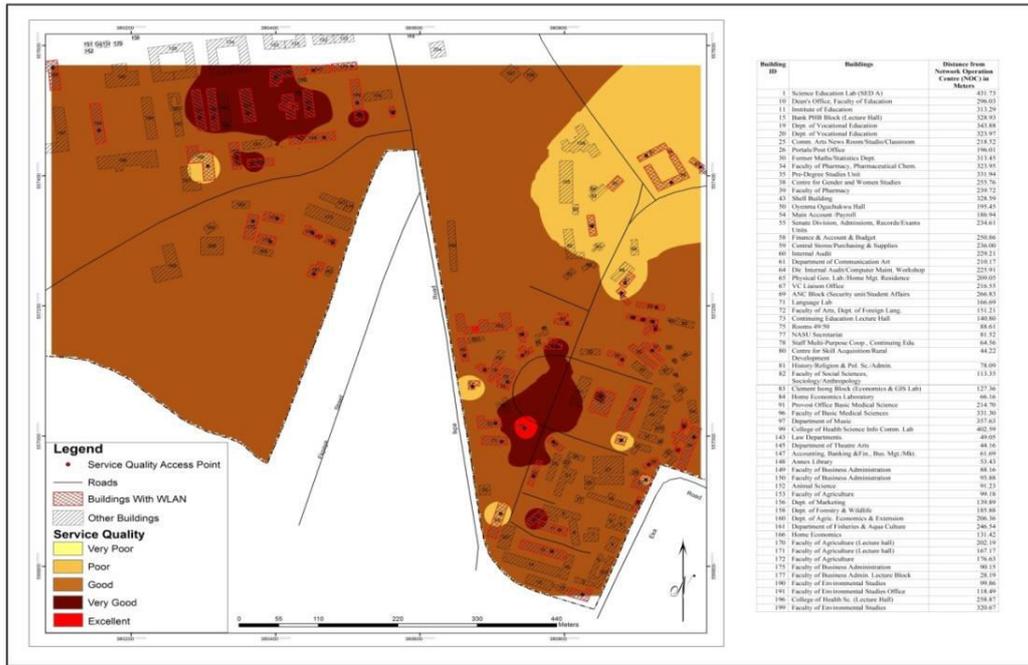


Figure 13 (a): WLAN SQ performance test bed for fixed infrastructure at town and town campus annex

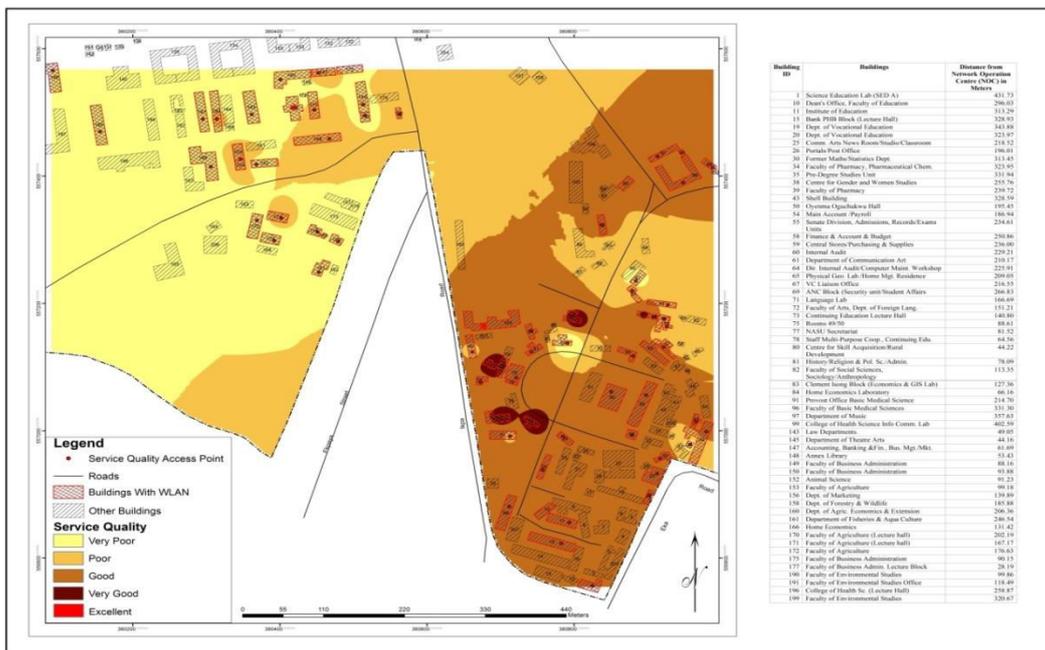


Figure 13 (b): WLAN SQ performance test bed for mobile infrastructure at town and town campus annex

The most likely cause of poor SQ may have been occasioned by the high mobile traffic usurping signals and causing unnecessary interference and severe service degradation, which greatly affected the town campus annex (see Figure 13 (b)).

Figures 14 (a) and 14 (b) show the service quality for fixed and mobile devices, respectively, at the main campus. Although only few APs have been installed at this campus, the entire coverage area under study seems to experience good SQ, with excellent SQ at the administrative area, postgraduate

school, and engineering faculty. Mobile users generally experienced poor service quality (see Figure 14 (b)) – an indication that calls for a proper re-modelling of service infrastructure, and deeper studies to ensure an excellent service quality.

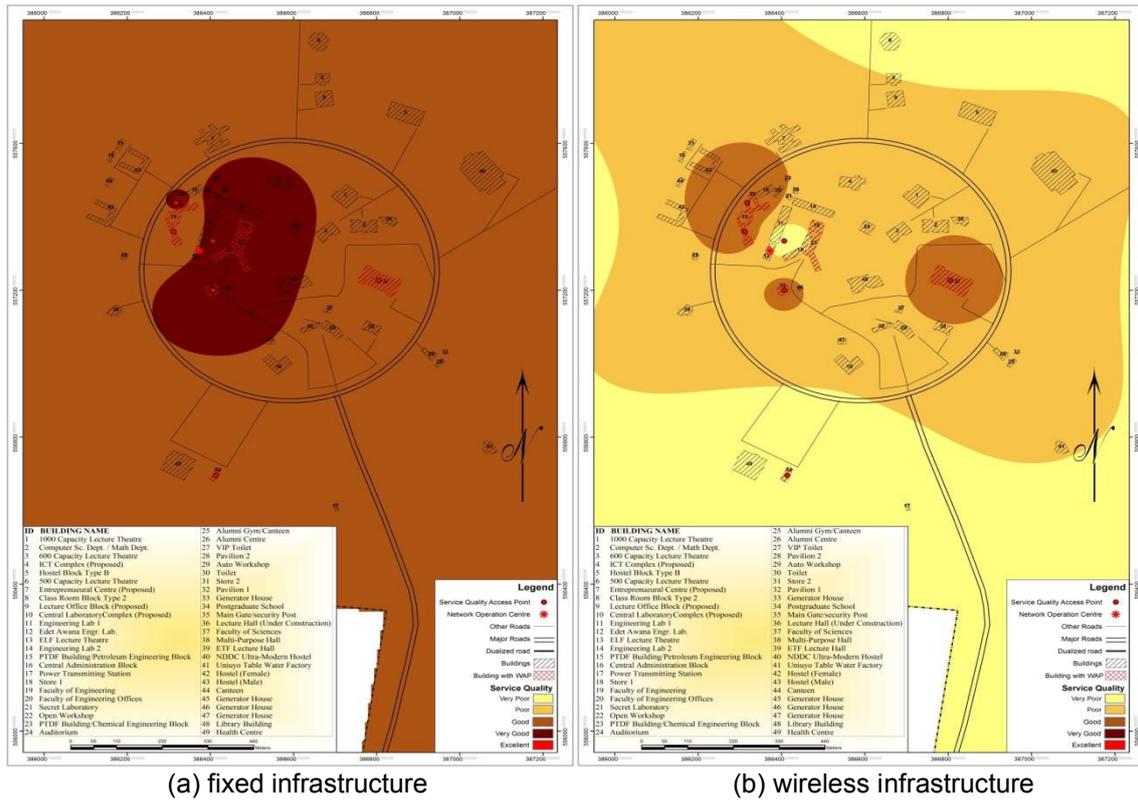


Figure 14: WLAN SQ performance test bed at main campus

To ensure intelligent test bed tuning for effective coverage optimisation, the adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system (ANFIS) – a Sugeno-type fuzzy system endowed with neural learning and human cognitive capabilities was employed, and two evolutionary algorithms (PSO and GA), separately used to tune the NFS (Yarpiz, 2015). Swarm-based algorithms have emerged as a powerful family of optimisation techniques that applies the concept of social interaction to problem solving (Kennedy and Eberhart, 1995), and is a derivative-free global optimisation solver. GAs are employed for solving both constrained and unconstrained optimisation problems that is based on natural selection – the process that drives biological evolution repeatedly and modifies a population of individual solutions (c.f. Mollaiy-Berneti, 2016). PSO and GA are demonstrated in this paper for the purpose of optimising the antecedent and consequent parameters of the ANFIS, which MFs are Gaussian (Talpur, Salleh and Hussain, 2017),

$$\mu_{A_i}(x) = \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x_i - c_i}{\sigma_i}\right)^2\right\} \quad (16)$$

where, σ_i and c_i , represent the width and center of the i th linguistic variable (or MFs). From the rules set in Figure 11, x_i represents the input variables (RSSI, NChannels, MBR), and constitute the

antecedent parameters, while $\{q_i, s_i, t_i, w_i\}$ are the consequent parameters; where, q_i, s_i and t_i , are coefficients associated with the respective input variables; and, w_i , are constant parameters.

A MATLAB evolutionary ANFIS training source code for the implementation ANFIS tuning using GA and PSO (Yapiz, 2015: <http://www.yarpiz.com/319/ypfz104-evolutionary-anfis-training>) was adapted to suit our purpose, and used for training the datasets. Figures 15 and 16 show results of test and training data obtained from the ANFIS tuning, using PSO and GA, respectively. During the optimisation process, the field data for all campuses were merged, and the datasets distributed as follows: AllData: [3595x4 double], Inputs: [3x3595 double], Targets: [1x3595 double], TrainInputs: [2517x3 double], TrainTargets: [2517x1 double], TestInputs: [1078x3 double], TestTargets: [1078x1 double]. The root mean square error (RMSE) and mean absolute error (MAS) were used as performance metrics for measuring the quality and accuracy the two algorithms. We observed that the PSO tuning gave RMSEs of 0.0836 and 0.0867, for test and train data, respectively; while GA tuning gave RMSEs of 0.0864 and 0.0855, for test and train data, respectively. Although the results of both algorithms were close, the PSO algorithm was better, as its test data result was the least. Also, The mean absolute error

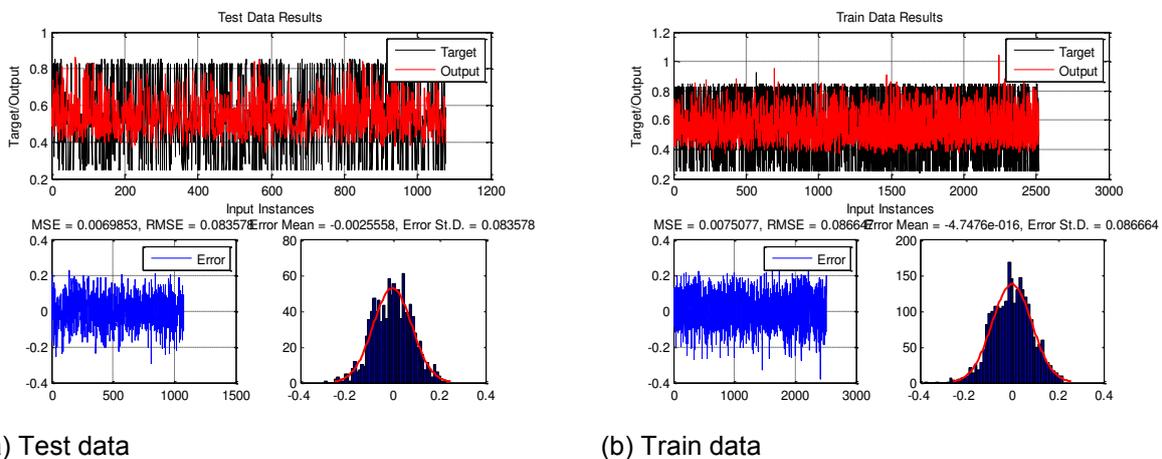


Figure 15: Tuning ANFIS using PSO

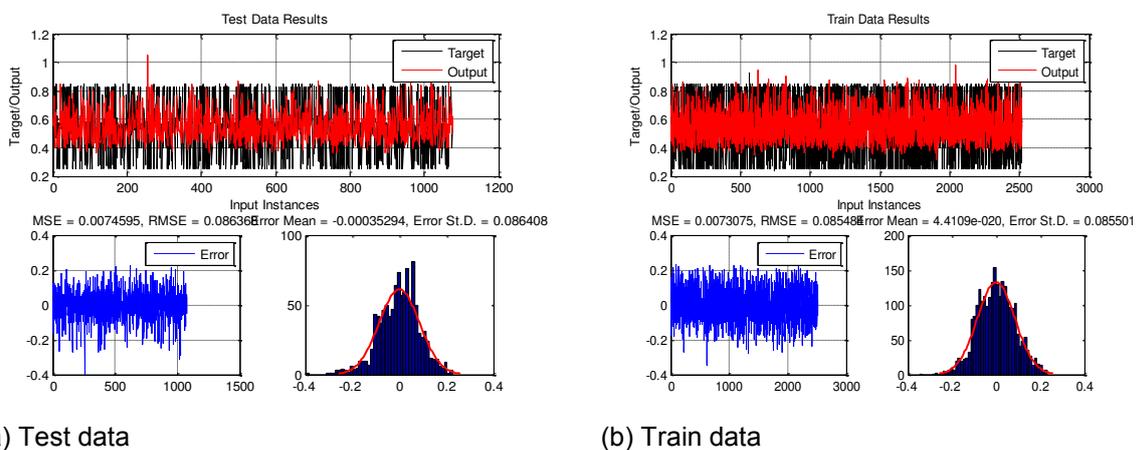


Figure 16: Tuning ANFIS using GA

6. CONCLUSION

In this paper, an intelligent system model was developed using the IT2FL to objectively assess infrastructure and site information of an academic environment. With this approach RSSI parameters (information) were dynamically optimised to minimise uncertainties, and maintain the required service quality. Simulation of the test bed infrastructure demonstrated the effectiveness of the approach for efficient modelling of uncertainties inherent in the existing system, and accurate estimation of the service quality. A visualisation of the simulated test bed indicated the need for intelligent coverage optimisation, and a NFS (ANFIS) was selected to achieve this. Rules for tuning the NFS were provided by the IT2FL rule base to drive the learning process and optimise the NFS. This tuning process – based on PSO algorithm and GA, was targeted at reshaping the membership functions by the modification and adjustment of the antecedent and consequent parameters of the fuzzy rules to enhance the system performance. In a future paper, an evaluation of interpolated areas not yet utilised by the university will be pursued. This initiative is very necessary as it will ensure excellent service quality, as well as precise infrastructural deployment to new areas, especially at mission critical areas in academic environments.

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APPENDIX

(A) SAMPLE RSSI DATASET CAPTURED FROM THE TOWN CAMPUS DURING FIELD WORK

S/N	SSID	MAC	RSSI	SNR	NChan	CWidth	802.11	MBR	WEP	Vendor	Mgt	VenType	Location	Time	SQ (%)
1	RAPIDA WIRELESS	24:A4:3C:FE:04:FE	-56	17.230769	8	20	b, g, n	130	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	93	Infrastructure	outdoor	afternoon	82.7375438
2	UniUyo Hotspot	24:A4:3C:7A:2D:AB	-71	21.846154	12	40	b, g, n	300	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	82	Infrastructure	outdoor	afternoon	82.61703644
3	UniUyo Hotspot	24:A4:3C:A6:BD:17	-79	24.307692	18	40	b, g, n	300	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	39	Infrastructure	outdoor	afternoon	82.6524189
4	UniUyo Hotspot	DC:9F:DB:34:55:0E	-86	26.461538	4	20	b, g, n	130	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	3	Infrastructure	outdoor	afternoon	50
5	RAPIDA WIRELESS-2	68:72:51:0A:77:91	-72	22.153846	18	40	b, g, n	300	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	76	Infrastructure	outdoor	afternoon	82.64937146
6	UniUyo Hotspot	48:F8:B3:53:A8:92	-64	19.692308	1	20	b, g, n	144	Open	Cisco-Linksys. LLC	91	Infrastructure	outdoor	afternoon	57.5
7	UniUyo Hotspot	24:A4:3C:A6:88:76	-86	26.461538	14	40	b, g, n	300	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	20	Infrastructure	outdoor	afternoon	82.5
8	GiONEE M5	96:92:BC:E4:2C:1D	-83	25.538462	3	20	b, g, n	72.2	SharedKey	Unknown	3	Infrastructure	outdoor	afternoon	28.26822741
9	UniUyo Hotspot	24:A4:3C:7A:2D:AB	-95	29.230769	12	40	b, g, n	300	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	36	Infrastructure	indoor	afternoon	27.10181639
10	RAPIDA WIRELESS-2	68:72:51:0A:77:91	-80	24.615385	18	40	b, g, n	300	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	21	Infrastructure	indoor	afternoon	76.78020632
11	UniUyo Hotspot	0A:18:D6:25:5A:F0	-81	24.923077	6	40	b, g, n	300	Open	Unknown	19	Infrastructure	indoor	afternoon	82.6600474
12	UniUyo Hotspot	48:F8:B3:53:A8:92	-95	29.230769	1	20	b, g, n	144	Open	Cisco-Linksys. LLC	40	Infrastructure	indoor	afternoon	57.27272727
13	UniUyo Hotspot	24:A4:3C:A6:BD:17	-82	25.230769	18	40	b, g, n	300	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	26	Infrastructure	indoor	afternoon	82.6524189
14	UniUyo Hotspot	DC:9F:DB:34:55:0E	-84	25.846154	4	20	b, g, n	130	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	9	Infrastructure	indoor	afternoon	78.92858127
15	UniUyo Hotspot	DC:9F:DB:34:5A:34	-82	25.230769	3	20	b, g, n	130	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	13	Infrastructure	indoor	afternoon	25
16	UniUyo Hotspot	24:A4:3C:A6:88:76	-89	27.384615	14	40	b, g, n	300	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	2	Infrastructure	indoor	afternoon	82.6524189
17	ADYYZXllcmVrdXRh	7A:7D:48:3E:FA:B0	-91	28	4	20	b, g, n	72.2	Open	Unknown	2	Infrastructure	indoor	afternoon	50
18	UniUyo Hotspot	DC:9F:DB:34:55:0E	-95	29.230769	4	20	b, g, n	130	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	3	Infrastructure	outdoor	morning	48.24421723
19	UniUyo Hotspot	DC:9F:DB:34:5A:34	-95	29.230769	3	20	b, g, n	130	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	15	Infrastructure	outdoor	morning	82.5
20	ADYYZXNzZWhzYW11ZWw1	A6:44:D1:83:E5:DC	-85	26.153846	11	20	b, g, n	72.2	Open	Unknown	13	Infrastructure	outdoor	morning	40
21	UniUyo Hotspot	24:A4:3C:A6:88:76	-94	28.923077	16	40	b, g, n	300	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	13	Infrastructure	outdoor	morning	82.67274183
22	ADYYSW5maW5peEhPVDQ	7A:FF:CA:8B:67:D8	-85	26.153846	6	20	b, g, n	72.2	Open	Unknown	16	Infrastructure	outdoor	morning	40
23	UniUyo Hotspot	24:A4:3C:A6:BD:17	-95	29.230769	18	40	b, g, n	300	Open	Ubiquiti Networks	17	Infrastructure	outdoor	morning	25
24	pman	52:9F:27:BA:7F:05	-10	3.0769231	1	20	b, g, n	72.2	SharedKey	Unknown	18	Infrastructure	outdoor	morning	82.7375438
25	Comternet3_07089483474	14:1F:BA:70:5F:A0	-92	28.307692	1	20	b, g, n	300	Open	IEEE Registration Authority	3	Infrastructure	outdoor	morning	82.61703644

(B) SAMPLE SITE SPECIFIC DATASET CAPTURED FROM THE TOWN CAMPUS DURING FIELD WORK

BID	Description	Btype	BSize (m ³)	BPurp	BHeight (m)	DFNOC	Floor	NOR	Latitude	Longitude	Pathloss
1	Science Education Lab (SED A)	1	682.67	3	4	431.731	1	4	5.0361298	7.9249439	146.5564
10	Dean's Office, Faculty of Education	1	1076.54	4	4	296.032	1	22	5.0371722	7.92434079	141.6402
11	Institute of Education	1	1947.86	4	4	313.298	1	5	5.0371722	7.92434079	142.3787
15	Bank PHB Block (Lecture Halls)	1	3494.72	1	4	328.93	1	4	5.0370291	7.92465605	143.0131
19	Dept. of Vocational Education I	1	491.04	4	4	343.878	1	6	5.0374232	7.92563863	143.5921
20	Dept. of Vocational Education II	1	1027.26	4	4	323.967	1	4	5.0377297	7.92573359	142.815
25	Comm. Arts News Room/Studio/Classroom	1	2528.30	3	4	218.518	1	6	5.0377753	7.92433026	137.6846
26	UNIUYO Portal/Post Office	1	697.28	4	4	196.014	1	6	5.0382543	7.92457766	136.2686
30	Former Maths/Statistics Dept.	1	944.28	4	4	313.45	1	6	5.0379404	7.92577143	142.385
34	Dept. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry	1	2942.92	3	4	323.953	1	5	5.0383242	7.92633401	142.8145

BID	Description	Btype	BSize (m ³)	BPurp	BHeight (m)	DFNOC	Floor	NOR	Lattitude	Longitude	Pathloss
35	Former Pre-Degree Studies Unit	1	254.80	1	4	331.939	1	1	5.0381396	7.92614101	143.1317
38	Centre for Gender Studies	1	776.89	4	4	255.761	1	6	5.0382749	7.92542722	139.735
39	Faculty of Pharmacy	3	11333.23	8	12	239.716	3	22	5.0388399	7.92559812	138.8909
43	Shell Building	1	254.80	4	4	328.599	1	3	5.0384652	7.92620968	143
50	Oyenma Oguchukwu Hall	2	7410.96	8	8	195.447	1	4	5.0388871	7.92517086	136.2309
54	Main Account /Payroll Unit	1	1743.48	4	4	186.943	1	8	5.0393987	7.92543492	135.6513
58	Final Account & Budget	1	1115.34	4	4	250.861	1	12	5.0398158	7.92584949	139.483
59	Central Stores/Purchasing and Supplies	1	1496.68	7	4	236.002	1	8	5.0399235	7.92582067	138.6875
60	Internal Audit	1	232.99	4	4	229.205	1	6	5.039952	7.92569891	138.3067
61	Dept. of Communication Arts	2	1197.00	4	8	210.165	1	6	5.0399805	7.92557716	137.1768
64	Directorate of Internal Audit/ Computer Maintenance Workshop	1	866.59	4	4	225.905	1	2	5.0401245	7.9258633	138.1178
65	Physical Geo. Lab./Home Management Residence	1	1677.96	8	4	209.047	1	7	5.0403234	7.92542624	137.1073
69	ANC Block (Security unit/Student Affairs)	1	2573.83	4	4	266.825	1	8	5.0372567	7.92392063	140.2868
71	Language Lab	1	1934.87	3	4	166.696	1	4	5.0382547	7.92393331	134.1578
72	Faculty of Arts, Dept. of Foreign Lang.	2	969.31	4	8	151.207	1	12	5.0384418	7.92421938	132.8872
73	Continuing Education Lecture Hall	1	2342.83	1	4	140.804	1	4	5.038513	7.92385413	131.9584
75	Rooms 49, 50	1	2385.24	1	4	88.61	1	2	5.0390876	7.92400354	125.9245

Key or code identifying the type and purpose of buildings

Type	Code	Purpose	Code
Bungalow	1	Teaching/lecture/examination	1
1-storey	2	Study/reference	2
2-Storey	3	Practical demonstration	3
3-storey	4	Workshop/office	4
4-storey	5	Social/recreation	5
5-Storey	6	Commercial	6
6-Storey	7	Store	7
		Multipurpose	8