

PERFORMANCE OF WIMAX IN RADIO OVER FIBER GIGABIT PASSIVE  
OPTICAL NETWORK ARCHITECHTURE

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## ABSTRACT

The integration of wireless and optical network is a promising solution to support the growth of traffic demands in future access networks. The integrated network would provide high bandwidth (BW), flexibility, mobility and reliability. To meet the demand of future networks and provide wider service coverage, Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) is chosen as the backbone of wireless distribution networks due to its high network capacity to be combined with WiMAX, today's most promising wireless network. In this GPON network, a Radio-over-Fiber (RoF) technology as the wireless transmission technique is deployed in the proposed optical-wireless hybrid architecture. This thesis focuses on the design, simulation and analysis works of WiMAX on RoF-GPON architecture based on physical and network layer simulation. At the physical level, to investigate the power and noise related measures, the network has been designed and simulated in the OptiSystem. The network was found to perform well at 30km of fiber with Bit Error Rate (BER) that was lower than  $10^{-10}$ . Next, a model was developed at the network layer to analyze the performance of wireless IEEE 802.16 medium access control (MAC) scheme when transmitting in the optical network architecture. The research also addressed the additional fiber delay imposed on existing MAC timing scheme which was done in the Network Simulator-2. Due to the fiber delay, analysis of the throughput, packet losses and end-to-end delay performances showed that throughput degradation was found to be 10% at 30km of fiber. In comparison to mathematical analysis, the network layer simulation can support up to 9000 users simultaneously with 1:32 GPON splitting ratio; which is almost 50% lower than the physical layer capacity due to the effect of real network characteristics such as packet losses.

## ABSTRAK

Integrasi di antara jaringan tanpa wayar dan optik menjanjikan harapan bagi menyokong peningkatan permintaan trafik untuk pencapaian jaringan masa hadapan. Jaringan integrasi ini akan menghasilkan lebar jalur (BW) yang tinggi, fleksibel, mobiliti dan boleh dipercayai. Bagi memenuhi keperluan jaringan di masa hadapan serta memberi skop perkhidmatan yang lebih luas, Jaringan Optik Gigabit Pasif (GPON) telah dipilih sebagai tulang belakang jaringan pengagihan tanpa wayar kerana kapasiti jaringannya yang tinggi untuk dikombinasikan dengan WiMAX, jaringan tanpa wayar terkini yang paling paling berjaya. Di dalam jaringan GPON ini, satu teknologi *Radio-over-Fiber* (RoF) iaitu teknik penyiaran tanpa wayar digunakan untuk seni bina hibrid optikal-tanpa wayar yang dicadangkan. Fokus tesis ini ialah reka bentuk, simulasi dan analisa kerja WiMAX ke atas seni bina RoF-GPON berdasarkan simulasi lapisan fizikal dan lapisan jaringan. Pada tahap fizikal, bagi mengkaji kuasa dan mengukur perkara berkaitan kebisingan, jaringan tersebut telah direka bentuk dan disimulasikan di dalam OptiSystem. Ia didapati mempunyai prestasi yang baik pada gentian 30km dengan kadar ralat bit (BER) kurang daripada  $10^{-10}$ . Seterusnya, satu model telah dibangunkan pada lapisan jaringan untuk menganalisa pencapaian medium kawalan akses (MAC) skim untuk IEEE 802.16 tanpa wayar bila dipancarkan di dalam seni bina jaringan optik. Kajian juga menjurus kepada penambahan kelewatan gentian kepada skim masa MAC sedia ada yang telah dibuat di dalam Network Simulator-2. Disebabkan kelewatan gentian ini, analisis terhadap prestasi penghasilan, kehilangan paket dan keseluruhan kelewatan menunjukkan bahawa penurunan penghasilan telah didapati di antara 10% pada gentian 30km. Dibandingkan dengan analisis matematik, simulasi lapisan jaringan boleh menyokong sehingga 9000 pengguna serentak dengan kadar betasan 1:32 GPON; iaitu hampir 50% lebih rendah daripada kapasiti lapisan fizikal disebabkan kesan keadaan jaringan sebenar seperti kehilangan paket.

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**LIST OF SYMBOLS**

$f$	-	Frequency
$T_G$	-	Guard time
$T_D$	-	Data time
$T_S$	-	Symbol time
$\Delta f$	-	Subcarrier frequency spacing
$G$	-	Cyclic prefix
$n$	-	Sampling factor
$N_{FFT}$	-	FFT magnitude
$N_{used}$	-	Number of used subcarriers
$BW$	-	Bandwidth
$f_s$	-	Sampling frequency
$T_X$	-	Transmitter
$R_X$	-	Receiver
$\lambda$	-	Wavelength
$D$	-	Dispersion
$L$	-	Fiber length
$B$	-	Bit rate
$\tau_g$	-	Time delay
$v_g$	-	Group velocity
$\omega$	-	Angular frequency

$\beta$	-	Propagation constant
$c$	-	Velocity of light in vacuum
$N_{sub}$	-	Number of data subcarriers
$N_{mod}$	-	Number of uncoded bits per subcarriers
$N_{cod}$	-	Coding rate

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

RoF	-	Radio-over-Fiber
PON	-	Passive Optical Network
GPON	-	Gigabit Passive Optical Network
EPON	-	Ethernet Passive Optical Network
WiMAX	-	Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access
SCM	-	Subcarrier Multiplexing
WDM	-	Wavelength Division Multiplexing
CS	-	Control Station
SS	-	Subscriber Station
BS	-	Base Station
RAU	-	Remote Antenna Unit
PMP	-	Point-to-Multipoint
MAC	-	Medium Access Control
BER	-	Bit Error Rate
ISI	-	Intersymbol Interference
TDD	-	Time Division Duplexing
OFDM	-	Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing
CP	-	Cyclic Prefix
OSNR	-	Optical Signal to Noise Ratio
NS2	-	Network Simulator 2

TDMA	-	Time Division Multiple Access
OLT	-	Optical Line Termination
ONU	-	Optical Network Unit
FTTH	-	Fiber-to-the-Home
RTD	-	Round Trip Delay
TTG	-	Transmitter Transmission Gap
RTG	-	Receiver Transmission Gap
FFT	-	Fast Fourier Transform
MZM	-	Mach Zehnder Modulator
LD	-	Laser Diode
PD	-	Photodetector
SMF	-	Single-mode fiber
MMF	-	Multi-mode fiber
UL	-	Uplink
DL	-	Downlink



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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Integrating Wireless and Fiber Optics Technology**

Over the decades, wireless communications have gained enormous popularity through the flexibility and high mobility connections. In line with the maturity of wireless network, fiber optic technology also achieved more interests due to the high bandwidth offered (up to Tbits/s) with low attenuation characteristics ( $\sim 0.2$  dB/km) [1]. The future access networks are moving towards the integration of these wireless and optical communications in single network architecture. Moreover, this network integration also supported by the exponential growth in the number of traffic users with the demand for bandwidth-intensive applications such as online gaming and high definition (HD) video. The Passive Optical Network (PON) offers more opportunities for these services to be provided at higher connection speed per user of 100 Mb/s [2]. Enabled by the Radio-over-Fiber (RoF) technology to combine the features of flexibility and high mobility wireless networks with the advantageous PON network, has given a high focus in today's transmission technology.

### 1.1.1 The Future Access Networks

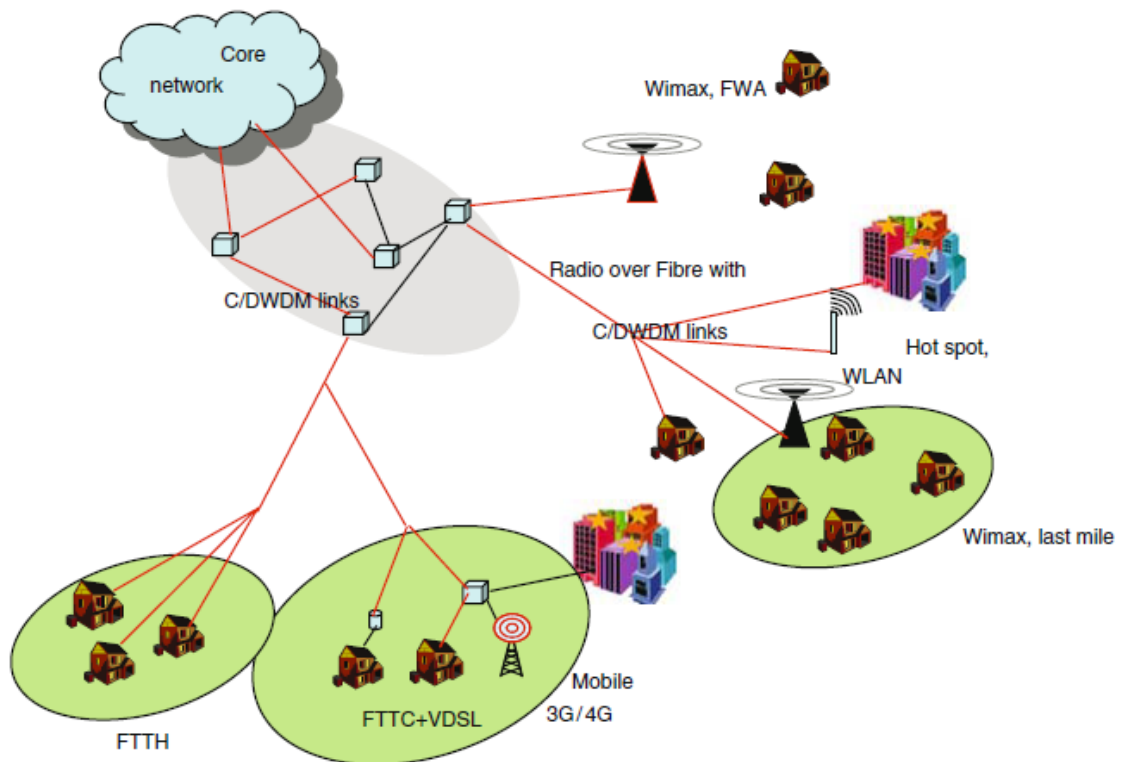
Internet communication has experienced a tremendous growth since the development in 40 years ago with 1.5 billion of users on the network being reported to-date compared to 1960s where only 350 users within the traffic [3]. The evolution was started from voice and text based services to video-based interactive and multimedia services. The estimation was also made in 2010 that approximately 50% revenue in the telephone company will be contributed by video-based services [4]. It is predicted that this growth will continue to rise due to more offerings on the wide-range of ‘on-clicks’ applications such as e-Commerce, social networking, multimedia services, and information centres, all supported by the advanced of computing technology.

In order to support the increasing traffic demands, the novel method that was investigated by the network operators is to extend the reach of fiber of the optical access network closer to the end users. Also, the significant cost reduction is expected to come from simplifying the distribution networks by eliminating the intermediate nodes. Thus, PON which use the low-cost unpowered passive splitter is an attractive solution in realizing these objectives. Compare to other PONs, Gigabit-PON (GPON) offers the most versatile architecture with all-optical based architecture that provides the high capacity, flexibility and Quality of Service (QoS) support for wired applications. GPON distribution network can reach up to 60 km, transmitted at gigabit speed and a better security [5-7].

Although the wired optical network can provide higher BW, the wireless communication services are still preferable due to the mostly recognized mobility features. Thus, today’s technologies are seeking to combine the wireless and wired applications in one GPON access network. Obviously, this combined architecture can avoid the redundancy of expenditure involved since the deployment cost of running fiber to the home network is particularly high. To enable the transmission of the wireless services into this fiber network, RoF is the most suitable technology due to the simple hardware configurations, transparent against various modulation format and also

practicing a centralized architecture, makes both GPON and wireless processing and termination points can be configured within the same stations [8-9]. It also can minimise the network installation and maintenance costs by using a simple Radio Antenna Unit (RAUs).

RoF is a technique to transmit the radio signal over the fiber medium which initially configured to support the picocellular wireless architecture and millimeter-wave (mm-wave) signal generations [8]. The works on RoF have been reported in many publications [8-14] which includes the theoretical and technical design aspects. The topics in RoF such as Subcarrier Multiplexing (SCM), modulation technique, and signal generation and transmission have been well exploited and promising results are presented. Thus, RoF indeed the most suitable solution to enable the convergence in the future access networks. Therefore, this project concerns with the distribution of wireless services through the GPON network by using the RoF transmission technique.



**Figure 1.1** The wireless and fiber common platform for the future access networks [7]

Figure 1.1 presents the wired and wireless technology sharing the same core network. For wired application, the options are Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH), Fiber-to-the-Curb (FTTC) and high speed Very High Speed Digital Subscriber Line (VSDL). For wireless, there are mobile 3G/4G, WiFi and WiMAX. From this figure, it can be seen that RoF enables the WiMAX and other wireless schemes transported over a single fiber. The network also enabled by the powerful optical multiplexing scheme such as Coarse/Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (C/D WDM).

### **1.1.2 The Design Challenges**

Integrating wireless and wired in single network is applicable in many areas such as shopping complex, airport, business building and residential homes and the existing GPON infrastructure is an appealing approach to give platform in transporting the wireless signals. An appropriate network configuration is needed for the connections which are directed from a central control station (CS) to several base stations (BSs). Therefore, in realizing this method, there are a few challenges that must be addressed to fully exploit the benefits of the fiber network.

#### **1.1.2.1 Low Cost Architecture**

Developing smaller cells and using the high millimeter-wave as the carrier will increase the development costs. Some researchers prefer to develop a novel component such as Reflective Semiconductor Operational Amplifier (SOA) and broadband laser source then investigate the point-to-point (PP) connections to handle with the requirements of this new architecture [15]. Other approach is to use a simple and flexible architecture such as ring connections to distribute the signals to all end points. However, such connection mostly suffers from the complete breakdown if any point is fail. Therefore, a new architecture is needed to improve the tightness of expenses and address the related performance issues.

### **1.1.2.2 Physical Layer Design**

The second challenge is the physical/hardware configurations of the network in order to account the physical limitations such as attenuation level, bandwidth capacities, power budget and noise performance. Although this ‘transparent’ transport distributes a number wireless data into various optical channels which means low interference occurred, but the source of error comes from the different configurations such as the modulation format, and the noisy nature of the network components.

### **1.1.2.3 Upper Layer Effect on Wireless Data Protocol**

The work at the physical layer design has been well studied but the research in this area at the Medium Access Control (MAC) layer has received less concern. Most of the work concern with the impact of the additional propagation delay inserted by RoF and the impact on the MAC scheme and the degradation of network throughput [16-23]. They only presented a simple point-to-point scenario on RoF transmission of wireless data protocol. Thus, question that arises is about the performance of wireless MAC protocol by deploying RoF in this GPON architecture.

### **1.1.2.4 Bandwidth Allocation Structure**

By transporting wireless data into wired networks, one of the important challenges is the bandwidth allocation. The system must assure that the wired and wireless signals can coexist without interference and able to handle with the physical properties of the fiber such as attenuation and dispersion. As proposed in [24], the first option is to use the wavelength band allocated for analogue video distribution (1550 – 1560 nm). SCM technique can be easily used to transport several wireless channels by the optical carrier. Other than that, is digitizing the RoF signals and then transported within the same GPON data wavelength. However, this would require new hardware configurations such as Analogue/Digital Converters (ADC) to match with the high

frequency of light carrier. The second option is by using the free wavelength bands but it suffers from high attenuation and needs new hardware developed to operate at this wavelength. Finally, this bandwidth allocation is also important in addressing the network users' capacities.

## 1.2 Research Background

Deploying RoF in transporting wireless on GPON network enables the convergence of wired and wireless access networks in a simple architecture. The number of wireless users can be increased significantly because of the high bandwidth offered by the fiber optic. In recent years, a lot of research works have been carried out to enable this new architecture. This part presents some of the related works that shows the progress of this technology and finally gives the direction of this research.

Among all of the network technologies for broadband wireless access, the standard IEEE 802.16, known as WiMAX is become popular both in industry and in academia due to the centralized protocol and wide coverage area. Compared to the distributed protocol such as IEEE 802.11 that suffers from a stronger limitation due to random-based and carrier sensing algorithms [22], IEEE 802.16 is particularly feasible to be integrated with the centralized RoF and GPON network.

Firstly, the physical distributions of WiMAX signals in a RoF-based scenario have been successfully reported in [25-26], just to name a few; considering the error vector measurement (EVM) and bit error rate (BER) performance. While in other works, [27-30], the interoperability of WiMAX with GPON networks are presented and also, they concentrate most on the physical layer performance. The works that reported on the MAC layer of this architecture can be found in [19][22][23][25][27]. A major issue that arises with transporting wireless over fiber links is the large propagation delay. This delay issue need to be addressed by protocols, which is related and responsible for

packet synchronization and timeout. The centralized mechanism of the IEEE 802.16 medium access control (MAC) protocol makes an easier timing adjustment to support the long fibers, compared to the IEEE 802.11 which MAC timeout value are defined by the both wireless device vendors and the IEEE 802.11 standard; thus, it cannot be easily changed, and this limits the fiber length extension [31]. Therefore, in order to support a longer fiber reach, the main tuning in WiMAX is mainly related to the guard-time of Time Division Duplexing (TDD) technique and also the cyclic prefix of OFDM symbols [19][22].

This project focuses on the design, development and analysis the performance of WiMAX in RoF-GPON network infrastructure considering the MAC layer parameters which is mostly based on a discrete event simulation and real time data packets transmission. However, a performance analysis will be done earlier by a physical layer simulation using the variation of fiber length and the associated dispersion parameters to identify the physical reaches of the network. These parameters are used due to the fact that dispersion limits the fiber propagation delay and can be seen by the product of bandwidth (BW) and fiber length,  $L$  [32]. After that, an analysis of the system at both layers would give the significant results of the network performance especially the power measures and network capacities.

### **1.3 Problem Statement**

This project proposed the integration of WiMAX in GPON network architecture by employing the RoF transmission technique. For this purpose, a detail understanding of the modeling and the performance parameters are needed to predict and calculate the system performance prior to network design and development. As a result, the system must be designed accordingly to address the performance at the MAC layer. Thus, the question that arises is “How the IEEE 802.16 protocol will perform in this RoF-GPON



system?” This project also address the bandwidth utilization and users’ capacities of such network considering the performance at both physical and MAC layer.

#### **1.4 Research Objectives**

The aims of this research are to enhance the capacity and transmission of wireless distribution network in the WiMAX-GPON integration using RoF transmission technique. In achieving this goal, the project is conducted with the following objectives:

- a) To identify and simulate the performance of WiMAX on RoF-GPON system architecture through physical layer simulation considering the parameters of dispersion and fiber length.
- b) To develop, simulate and analyze the performance of the network, IEEE 802.16 WiMAX over RoF-GPON system in a discrete event network layer simulation.
- c) To analyze and compare the bandwidth utilization and network capacities theoretically and by using the simulation results in (b).

#### **1.5 Significance of Research**

The significant value of fiber optics have made the nation communicates easily around the world. Still, wireless network is chosen due to the flexibility and low-cost investment. However, the keep increasing traffic made the network providers looks for the convergence between these optical and wireless networks that promise many beneficial outcomes as stated in the discussion above. In designing such network, the performance at the physical layer provides the capabilities of the system mostly based on

power budget, and noise related measures. Nevertheless, at upper layer, the wireless data protocol operates differently when transmitted in a high optical frequency and would fail when it reaches the delay or MAC timeout limits. For example, it would give effect to delay sensitive applications such as video conferencing which require a low delay, otherwise the sounds and pictures reached are not synchronized. Thus, the researchers must consider the MAC protocol scheme accordingly during the network design and development. In conclusion, the network must be designed in order to have a low end-to-end delay performance (high speed of connection), high throughput, optimum bandwidth utilization and network capacities.

## **1.6 Scope of Work**

The scope of works in this project are specified below:

a) Literature study

A review on current progress and development of optical-wireless integration technology focusing on the architecture and performance testbed. The GPON network is based on the ITU-T G.984 standard while the wireless is based on IEEE 802.16 platform.

b) Modeling and Simulation

i) The network model that is proposed is an integration of WiMAX in GPON architecture using RoF technique. Physical layer analysis of this part will focus on variable parameters which are dispersion and fiber length and the output are BER, OSNR and power budget.

ii) The network layer simulation of the MAC parameters. The implementation in NS2 required an algorithm made to correctly simulate the WiMAX on RoF-GPON system considering the TTG parameters. Therefore, the understanding of the C++ and OTcl languages are necessary.

c) **Mathematical analysis**

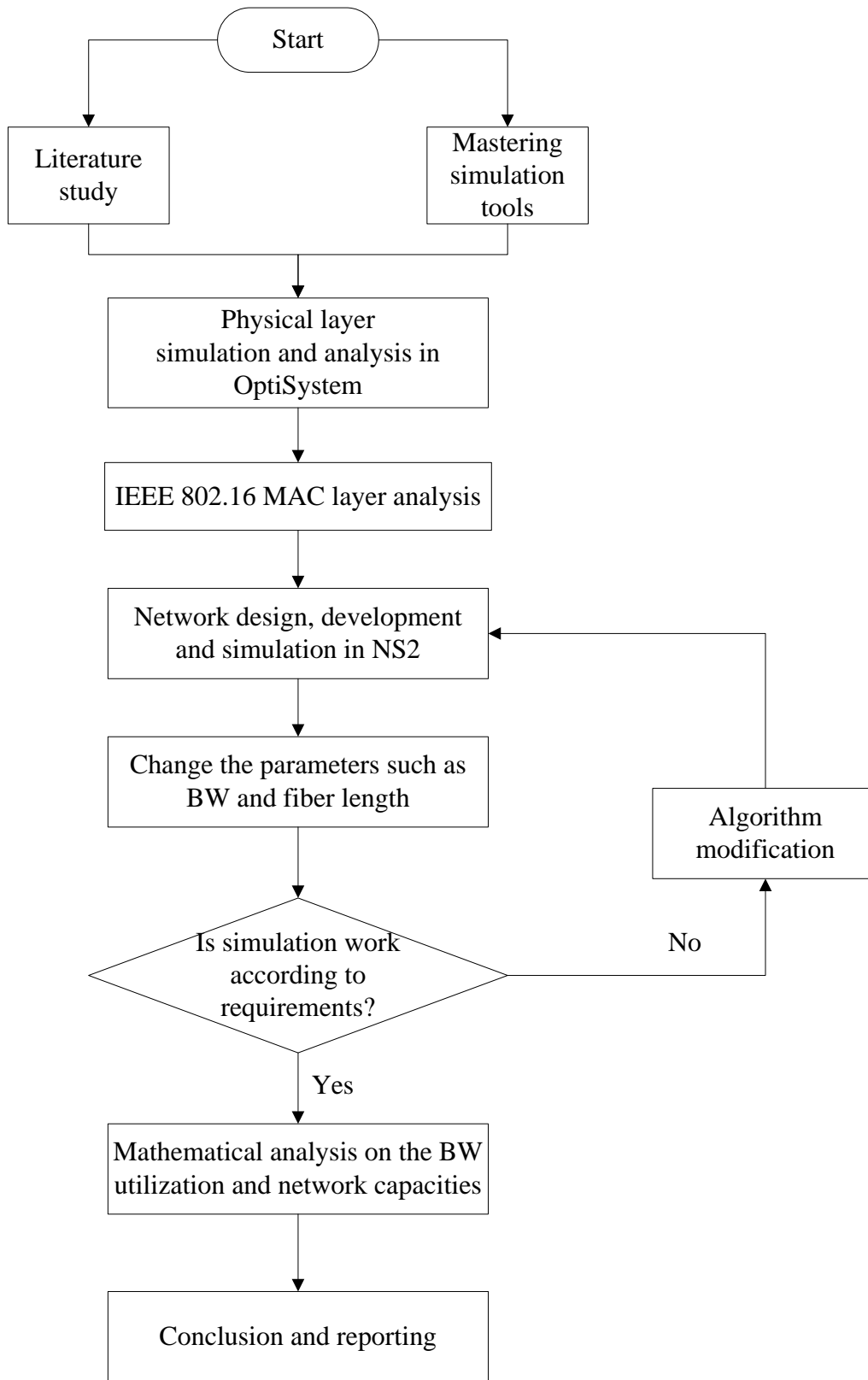
An analysis on the network bandwidth utilization and potential capacity of users in the coverage that is carried out in Matlab Simulink.

d) **Simulation tools**

OptiSystem, Network Simulator-2 (NS2), and Matlab Simulink.

## **1.7 Research Methodology**

The flow chart of the project methodology is shown in Figure 1.2. This research works began with a literature study on the current development of optical-wireless integration including the enabling technologies. A thorough understanding of the communication principle and a detail view of the international standard limitations, historical works, and theories about the topic were made. At the same time, the simulation tools which are OptiSystem and NS2 also were explored. The project started with a simulation in OptiSystem, to analyze the physical performance of the network in term of BER, OSNR and power budget. The identified parameters are the dispersion and fiber length. The next step is the simulation in NS2 which was the major part of this research. Firstly, the properties of the MAC layer were identified which mainly related to the timing properties limitations of the network. Then, the system was developed using the NS2 Otcl and C++ script to accommodate the WiMAX on RoF-GPON system. The output was measured in term of throughput and delay. If any problem occurred during the simulation, the necessary modification on the algorithm was made. After all of the results were obtained, an analysis on the system performance on the whole was made including the physical and MAC layer performance. A mathematical analysis on the system BW utilization and network capacities by using the physical and network layer simulation results has also been accounted in Matlab Simulink. Finally, the details reporting of the work is presented in this thesis.



**Figure 1.2** Flow chart of the research methodologies

## 1.8 Thesis Outline

This thesis organized into various chapters in order to provide the necessary information for this research.

Chapter 1 outlines the general introduction about this project and address readers with the optical-wireless integration technology and the proposed work. The significance and goals of this research also been defined.

Chapter 2 discusses the theoretical review which started with a focus on the wireless IEEE 802.16 WiMAX standard and networks. Then, the discussion followed with the GPON standard and architecture. The RoF transmission technology is also presented subsequently. Finally, the chapter ends with the integration of the WiMAX on GPON network, the architecture, concept, previous works and the enabling technologies.

Chapter 3 is about an analysis of the fiber optic propagation delay which is related to the fiber dispersion characteristics and this can be seen by the product of the BW and the fiber length. The propagation delay of the RoF in term of TTG and RTG are also analyzed.

Chapter 4 presents the physical network modeling and analysis. The design and simulation made in OptiSystem is divided into transmitter model, distribution network model and receiver model with the configurations of all of the components used. The results for this simulation such as the eye diagram, BER, power budget and OSNR are presented and analyzed. Then, an analysis on the bandwidth utilization and potential network capacities are made using mathematical calculations.

Chapter 5 focuses on the network modeling and development in NS2 simulation which consists of network topology, algorithm used, and other design considerations. The simulation results of the network in this simulation such as throughput, packet losses and end-to-end delay are also presented and analyzed in detail.

Finally, chapter 6 summarizes all of the results and findings of this project. The contributions of this project are also stated and some feasible topics for the future research in this area have also been proposed.

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