



The Dawn of 6G: Empowering a User-Centric Ecosystem with Agentic AI

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Abstract: The convergence of artificial intelligence (AI) with the physical world is reshaping the future of intelligent systems through real-time perception, interaction, and control within physical environments. To support this new paradigm, 6G networks are envisioned as critical enablers, offering ultra-low latency, high reliability, and service-aware intelligence to facilitate seamless human-machine collaboration. This paper proposes a functional framework that integrates Agentic AI into the 6G architecture, introducing the concept of Agentic AI-Enabled 6G Network Services (AA6NS). In this framework, user intents are translated and processed across the application layer, core network (CN), and radio access network (RAN), where Agentic AI dynamically manages task-level quality of service/quality of experience (QoS/QoE), orchestrates multi-device service groups, and enables real-time network adaptation. The proposed architecture with the new 6G techniques establishes a foundation for future physical AI applications across domains such as autonomous mobility, smart manufacturing, and remote robotics.

Keywords: AI/ML; Agentic AI; 6G network; physical AI

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1 Introduction

The rapid proliferation of intelligent devices, the increasing complexity of digital ecosystems, and the emergence of new paradigms, such as next-generation wireless communication networks, the industrialization of intelligent agent devices, and ubiquitous artificial intelligence (AI), are stretching the limits of 5G capabilities. 6G networks are envisioned to address these challenges and serve as an intelligence-native infrastructure that supports real-time decision-making, automation, and context-awareness^[1-2]. The transition to 6G is expected to further intensify these dynamic changes, placing higher demands not only on network management, optimization, and operational control, but also on enabling a user-centric ecosystem in the real physical world. As a result, the integration of AI with 6G networks has emerged as a transformative trend in networking^[3].

During the 5G-A phase, by embedding AI capabilities across various network layers, AI/machine learning (AI/ML) functions have gradually found deployment in various network optimization use cases, including load balancing, energy saving^[4], mobility optimization, network slicing, cover-

age and capacity optimization^[5], channel state information (CSI) prediction, beam management, and positioning^[6]. The 6G era demands a new AI paradigm—one that is not just embedded into the network but is native to it, capable of autonomous decision-making across distributed and multi-agent environments^[7]. Ref. [8] introduces a novel framework to integrate Agentic AI with 6G networks to enable self-design, self-running, self-reflection, and self-recycling in the 6G core network (CN).

A new technological leap—physical AI—is emerging^[9], where AI is no longer confined to the digital realm but increasingly integrates with the physical world. This paradigm envisions AI systems that can perceive, interact with, and influence the physical environment in real time. Physical AI enables intelligent interaction with the real world through systems such as robotic controllers, autonomous machines, and AI agents. In this context, future 6G networks can serve as a critical enabler, acting as the infrastructure layer that seamlessly connects humans, AI agents, and machines. By providing ultra-low latency, high reliability, and service-aware intelligence, 6G networks can facilitate real-time, bidirectional

communication between AI and physical systems, paving the way for seamless human-machine collaboration in domains such as smart manufacturing, smart transportation, smart healthcare, and remote robotics.

While current intelligent 5G networks and conceptual 6G AI architectures have made progress in integrating AI for network optimization, they lack real-world implementations and practical use cases involving cross-layer collaboration of Agentic AI. The absence of cross-layer AI agent collaboration hinders the realization of ubiquitous intelligence in 6G—a network that can autonomously understand, reason, and act. Motivated by these limitations, we propose a novel framework: Agentic AI-enabled 6G Network and Service (AA6NS). This architecture envisions the 6G network as a key component to achieve full-domain integrated AI within the network infrastructure that supports:

- Intent-driven service orchestration, where the network interprets high-level user intents and dynamically translates them into the service-aware information for cross-domain transfer;
- Adaptive real-time quality of service (QoS) management, allowing the network to proactively adjust network parameters in response to changing user goals and real-time environmental conditions;
- Task-level agent group management, enabling the dynamic formation and coordination of service groups to accomplish complex, multi-step tasks.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows. Section 2 introduces the concepts of Agentic AI and AI agents, and reviews related work on AI/ML for next-generation radio access networks (NG-RAN) from the standard perspective. Section 3 presents the proposed integration framework for enabling Agentic AI in 6G networks and Section 4 describes a set of representative scenarios demonstrating the capabilities of the proposed AA6NS. Finally, Section 5 outlines the key technologies for future research and concludes the paper.

2 Background and Related Work

An AI agent is an automated, intelligent entity capable of interacting with its environment, acquiring contextual information, reasoning, self-learning, decision-making, and executing tasks, either autonomously or in collaboration with other AI Agents, to achieve a specific goal, as defined in 3GPP SA1 WG^[10]. They can function across a wide range of domains, from autonomous vehicles to intelligent personal assistants, embodying behaviors with decision-making processes similar to those of humans.

Furthermore, Agentic AI refers to an autonomous, goal-oriented functional framework that empowers AI agents to perceive, reason, plan, and execute actions in dynamic environments. It provides the capability to orchestrate heterogeneous demands through intent-driven, multi-step tasks, involving multi-agent cooperation and autonomous optimization. The

comparison between an AI agent and Agentic AI is summarized in Table 1.

Agentic AI represents a transformative shift in the design and deployment of intelligent systems. By equipping AI agents with autonomy, adaptability, and multi-agent collaboration capabilities, Agentic AI moves beyond the limitations of traditional AI, enabling intelligent behavior in unpredictable, real-world physical environments.

3 Integration Framework for Agentic AI in 6G

During the AI/ML for the NR-RAN phase of 3GPP 5G-A, the topic “AI/ML for NG-RAN” has been discussed from Release 17 through the current Release 20. The functional framework for RAN intelligence (as shown in Fig. 1a) and AI/ML-assisted use cases have been studied and specified in RAN3^[11]. Additionally, RAN1 and RAN2 have designed their own functional frameworks for RAN intelligence on the air interface, as shown in Fig. 1b^[5]. RAN3 focused more on data transmission, e.g., input, output and feedback, between AI/ML functions, while RAN1, besides data transmission, also emphasized model management within the lifecycle management (LCM).

Since AI in future 6G networks requires multi-domain collaboration, considering AI/ML functions from only a single layer limits the research on Agentic AI in 6G. Therefore, based on the existing functional framework, we propose a new functional framework for RAN Intelligence that integrates AI/ML data transmission, model management within LCM, and the increasingly important concept of Agentic AI in 6G.

Firstly, Agentic AI consists of several key components, encompassing the essential parts shown in Fig. 2.

- Perception: This enables the agent to perceive its network environment, allowing it to receive and process multimodal inputs such as text, images, audio, radio conditions or other data types.

Table 1. Comparison between AI agent and Agentic AI

Feature	AI Agent	Agentic AI
Autonomy	Reactive (requiring specific inputs or conditions to act)	Proactive (actively identifying intentions and preventing problems)
Processing	Rule-based (relying on pre-defined processes)	Goal-oriented (autonomously optimizing strategies)
Learning capability	Static (based on data for static modeling)	Dynamic (learning in real time from data and building knowledge bases across domains)
Architecture	Single agent	Multiple agents (including physical agents); orchestrating multiple agents
Application scenarios	Single-task execution	Collaboration with multiple agents across domains to handle complex and long-term tasks

AI: artificial intelligence

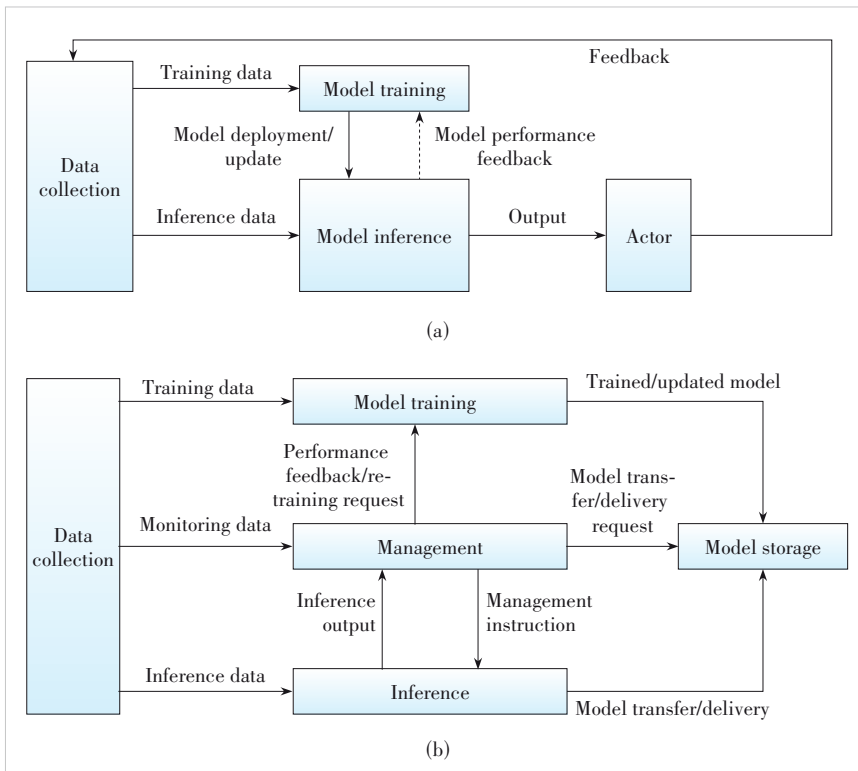


Figure 1. Functional framework for (a) RAN intelligence and (b) air interface

- Decision-making (Knowledge): This empowers the agent with autonomous decision-making and planning capabilities, enabling it to handle and execute more complex tasks effectively.
- Knowledge storage: This provides the agent with memory functions, where internal storage holds the agent’s accumulated knowledge, skills, and experiences for reference and learning.
- Action: This equips the agent with the ability to interact with the network environment, allowing it to perform actions

that, combined with perception, enable the autonomous completion of increasingly complex tasks.

Agentic AI can be deployed in all domains, including the CN, RAN and intelligent end devices.

Given this, we depict a new functional framework (Fig. 3) for 6G by combining the existing frameworks and the AI agentic architecture.

1) Data collection: This function provides input data to model training and model inference functions.

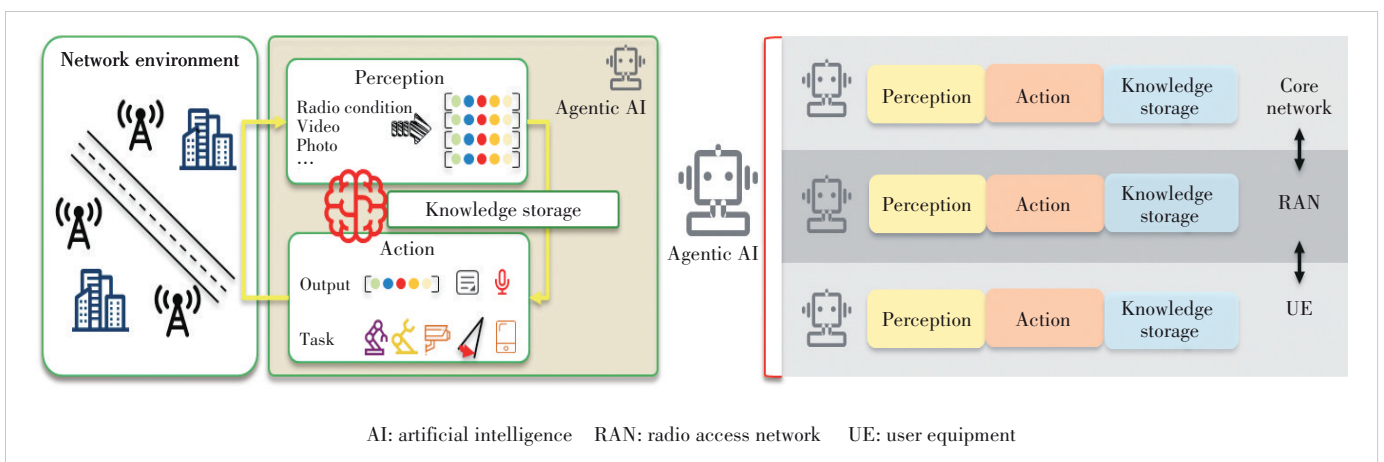
- Training data: data needed as input for the AI/ML model training function.

- Monitoring data: data required for the management of AI/ML models or functionalities, including data retrieval from the network environment to monitor the performance of AI/ML models or functionalities.

- Inference data: data needed as input for the AI/ML model inference function.

2) Model training: This function performs AI/ML model training, validation, and testing, generating model performance metrics that can be used as part of the model testing procedure. The model training function is also responsible for data preparation (e.g., pre-processing and cleaning, formatting, and transformation) based on the training data delivered by the data collection function, if required.

3) Model inference: This function generates outputs by applying AI/ML models or functionalities, using inference data provided by the data collection function as input. Similar to training, this function handles necessary data preparation (e.g., pre-processing and cleaning, formatting, and transformation) for the inference data.



AI: artificial intelligence RAN: radio access network UE: user equipment

Figure 2. Agentic AI architecture in 6G

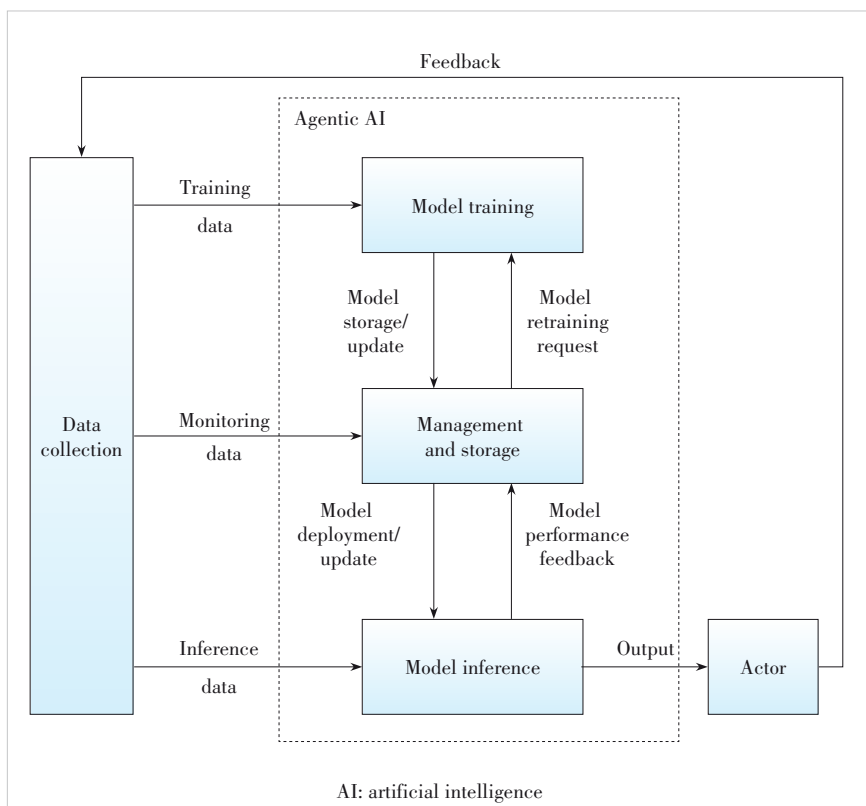


Figure 3. Functional framework for RAN intelligence in 6G

- **Model storage/update**: Trained or updated models are delivered to the management and storage function. Trained models are stored awaiting invocation, while updated models replace existing ones.

4) **Management and storage**: This function oversees the operation and monitoring of AI/ML models or functionalities, including the management of model training and inference, as well as orchestrating model collaboration between network elements. It also includes knowledge storage. For example, in a distributed learning architecture, this function coordinates the training and inference processes across various network elements.

- **Model retraining request**: Based on model performance feedback and monitoring data, model retraining can be triggered if the model’s performance does not meet the requirements.

- **Model deployment/update**: It is used to initially deploy a trained, validated, and tested AI/ML model to the model inference function or to deliver an updated model to the model inference function.

Furthermore, compared with legacy AI/ML and Agentic AI, the short-term memory and long-term memory are critical for optimizing LLM performance. Therefore, the storage function here includes not only the AI/ML models but also the knowledge storage.

5) **Actor**: This function receives the output from the model

inference function or Agentic AI, and triggers or performs corresponding actions. The actor may trigger actions directed toward other entities or the actor itself.

- **Feedback**: Information needed to derive training data and inference data, or to monitor AI/ML model performance and its impact on the network through key performance indicator (KPI) updates and performance counters.

6) **Agentic AI**: It refers to an autonomous, goal-oriented functional framework that empowers AI agents to perceive, reason, plan, and execute actions in dynamic environments, particularly in complex network systems. Agentic AI integrates advanced capabilities for model training and inference to enable real-time perception of the network environment. These models are grounded in a knowledge base and prior knowledge. Given that, Agentic AI can iteratively dynamically refine its decision-making, adapt to uncertainties, and orchestrate multi-entity collaborations to fulfil complex tasks.

4 Agentic AI-Enabled 6G Network and Service

Based on the concept of Agentic AI and the proposed Agentic AI functional framework above, AA6NS is proposed as a new paradigm to empower a user-centric ecosystem with Agentic AI. From a customer perspective, users can directly subscribe on-demand to personalized services provided by one or more Agentic AI-enabled service groups from operators or authorized service providers. Communities, schools, and airports utilize Agentic AI-enabled service groups to provide subscribed or customized services, as illustrated in Fig. 4.

For operators, AA6NS enables a transformative shift from traditional bit-pipe models to value providers through task- and attribute-based charging, e.g., billing based on device groups or AI compute usage. It supports multi-device collaboration via group capabilities and ensures security through a native, end-to-end 3GPP 6G security framework. For consumers—both businesses and individuals—AA6NS offers cost-effective deployment by orchestrating devices with specific capabilities (e.g., video, audio, flight capability, diving capability) instead of relying on expensive “do-it-all” devices. This approach enables proactive, always-on services, plug-and-play operation, service context-awareness, and flexible, customizable subscription models tailored to individual needs.

4.1 Applicable Scenarios

AA6NS supports a wide range of application scenarios in our daily lives. The following examples illustrate the capabili-

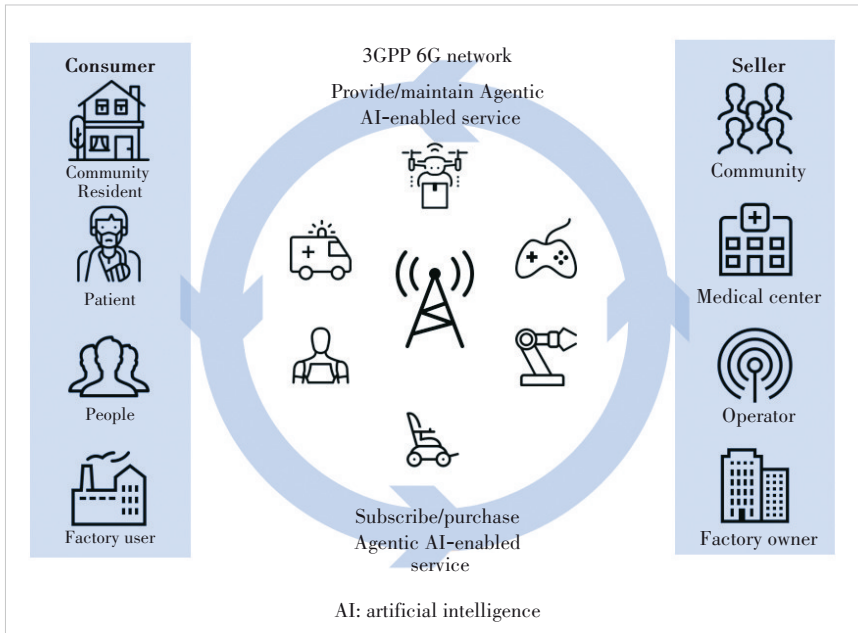


Figure 4. User-centric 6G ecosystem: empowering all scenarios with Agentic AI-enabled 6G networks and services

ties of the AA6NS.

1) Last meter delivery

In a 6G-enabled smart community as shown in Fig. 5, a user’s natural language command, like “bring the package from the locker to my home”, is instantly interpreted by the network into a precise, service-aware task with defined latency and security needs. Recognizing access restrictions, the system dynamically assembles an Agentic AI service group, e.g., a public robot for outdoor delivery and a private home robot for indoor handling, automating task distribution without user intervention. The network continuously adapts to real-world conditions. For instance, if it starts raining, it proactively updates robot behavior and allocates extra network and compute resources to maintain delivery speed, precision, and synchronization, ensuring seamless, end-to-end task execution from high-level intent to physical fulfillment.

2) Collaborative safe care

In this scenario, an elderly user is safeguarded by a dynamic Agentic AI service group, including a smartwatch, robot companion, and integrated sensing and communication (ISAC) sensor, driven by the high-level intent of ensuring continuous safety. When the user is distracted during a conversation and approaches a slippery surface, the ISAC device detects the risk and correlates it with

the user’s behavior. As shown in Fig. 6, the system triggers a rapid, coordinated response: devices communicate via ultra-low-latency wireless technologies, e.g., Device-to-Device (D2D) or network-assisted communication, to relay a hazard warning to the user. The accompanying robot then executes a real-time action to ensure user safety, which prevents accidents through proactive, autonomous collaboration within the group via 6G networks.

3) Emergency rescue

In a critical situation where a user suffers a sudden cardiac event, the local Agentic AI service group, initially just a smartwatch and support robot, detects the anomaly. The 6G network interprets the high-level intent as “Immediate Life Preservation” and translates it into actionable service needs, such as rapid automated external defibrillator (AED) delivery. The system in Fig. 7 dynamically expands the service group by recruiting a nearby delivery drone, which is allowed to override its original task. It reconfigures network resources for ultra-low latency and prioritizes control and video streams. The drone autonomously retrieves an AED and navigates the optimal route to the user, enabling a rapid, coordinated life-saving response.

Furthermore, all the above tasks can be regarded as individual subscription-based paid services or packaged as a whole subscription-based paid service, such as a “24-Hour

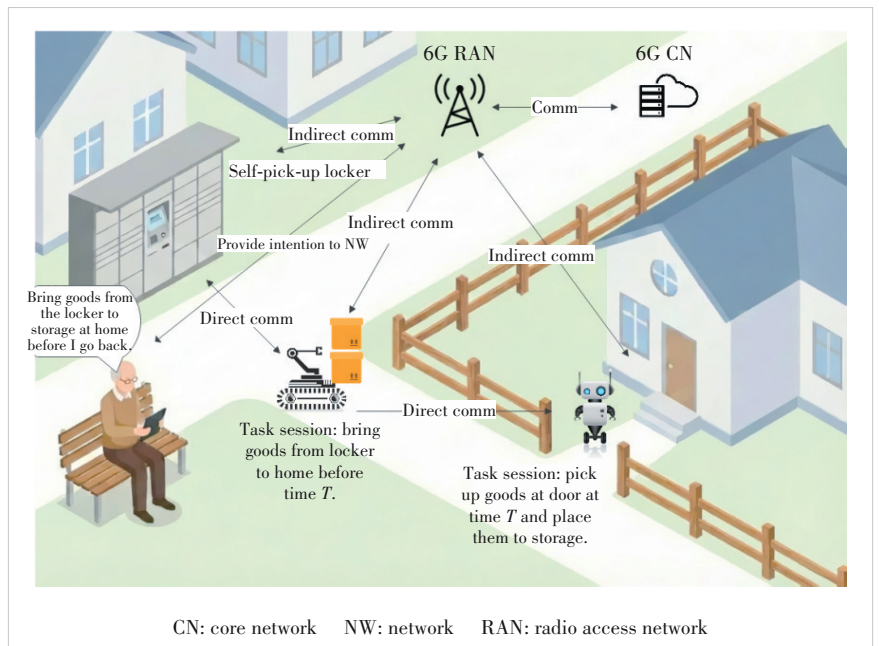


Figure 5. An illustration of last meter delivery

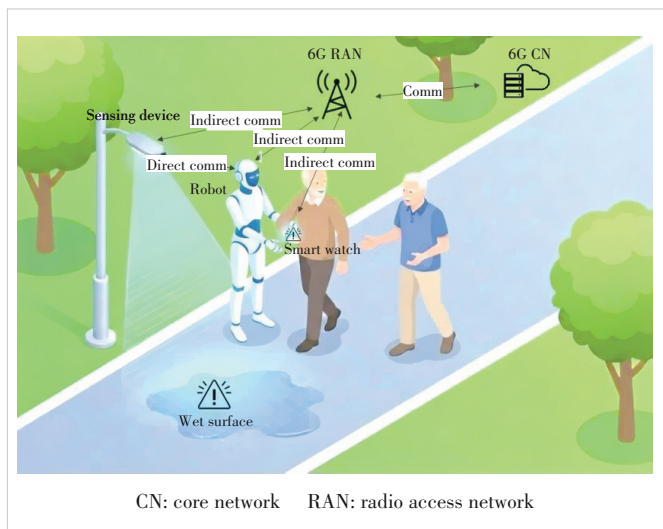


Figure 6. Collaborative safe care

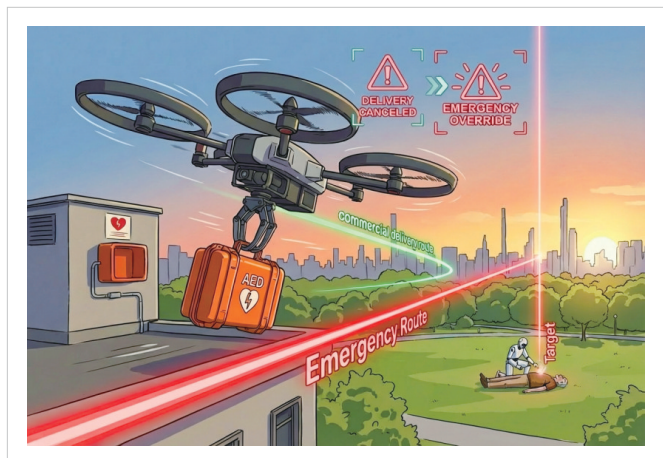


Figure 7. Emergency rescue

Community Butler”. Users can directly subscribe to the service from operators or community property management, ultimately shaping a future society where all physical agents collaborate to serve people and fulfill user intents.

4.2 Architecture

By combining the proposed functional framework for RAN intelligence with the concept of AA6NS, the overall architecture integrated with Agentic AI is shown in Fig. 8. As explained above, customers first subscribe to the AA6NS from operators or third-party service providers (e.g., community property management, hospitals, and factories). Then, customers input intent requests to the application layer, which translates and forwards the intent to the 6G network leveraging the Agentic AI. After that, the 6G CN further analyzes the intent, triggers the corresponding protocol data unit (PDU) sessions toward multiple end devices, and provides the service-aware information to the RAN. Particularly, Agentic AI is deployed

in each layer of the 6G network, facilitating knowledge sharing across domains. Thus, upon receiving service-aware information, the RAN can dynamically manage the real-time task-level QoS, perform the corresponding PDU sessions, monitor the task level QoS/QoE performance, and manage the collaborative Agentic AI-enabled service groups (e.g., express delivery, auto parking, intelligent care) to realize consumer intents. Agentic AI-enabled services are inherently performed with multiple tasks by multiple devices, which may require coordinated interactions among devices with differentiated capabilities within a service group. Task-associated PDU sessions are orchestrated accordingly, each provisioned with legacy QoS and task-level QoS parameters. Customers can also provide service quality feedback through the application layer. Network performance feedback and user performance feedback information can be collected within 6G networks and used for service quality evaluation or as part of the knowledge information.

4.3 Potential Technical Features

As previously discussed, the Agentic AI on applications may invoke 3GPP services based on the intent. In contrast, Agentic AI on 6G networks may provide the 3GPP service to customers or third parties based on the received service request, which will be triggered in the form of one or multiple task-associated PDU sessions towards one or multiple devices.

The 6G CN is capable of further analyzing intents from the application layer and triggering the corresponding PDU sessions toward multiple devices. As shown in Fig. 9, an Agentic AI-enabled service group is initiated based on the translation of user intents, service requirements and device capabilities.

To support AA6NS, the 6G network shall support the following basic functions: authorization and registration of task devices, service-aware information exposure, task-associated PDU session management and task-level QoS/QoE monitoring, and service group management, as illustrated in Fig. 10.

Agentic AI-enabled end devices report service capability information to the CN, which performs authorization and configures the set of allowed tasks for each device. Either the CN or the device may initiate service requests to establish a PDU session corresponding to certain tasks to achieve a specific Agentic AI enabled service. When the Agentic AI-enabled service is activated, service-aware information may be provided to the RAN for network performance monitoring and dynamic management of service group devices to meet specific task requirements. Task-associated PDU session management also includes PDU session setup, modification, and release. When the task-level QoS cannot be fulfilled, the RAN may also trigger the notification towards the CN. Additionally, task-level QoE/QoS monitoring for real-time status and performance tracking is also supported.

In addition, Fig. 11 illustrates the group management procedures. Initially, all participating devices join the Agentic AI-enabled service group, with Device1 and Device2 successfully

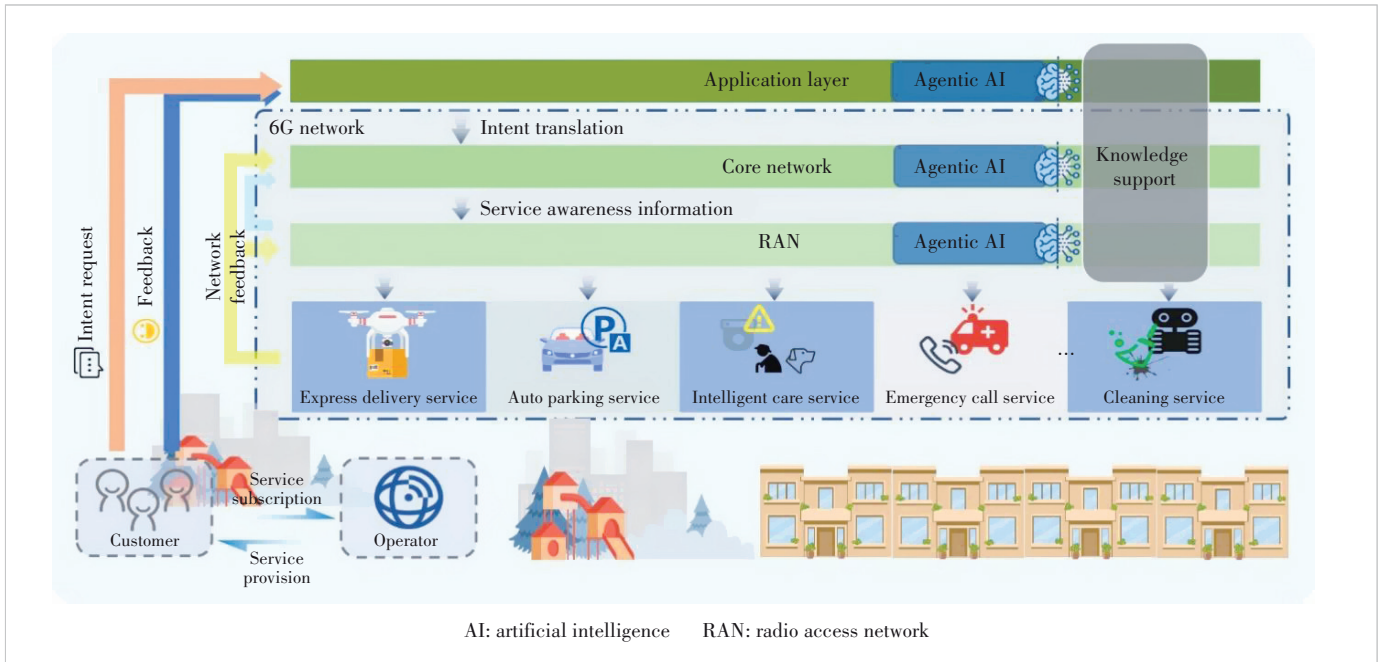


Figure 8. Architecture of Agentic AI-enabled 6G networks and system

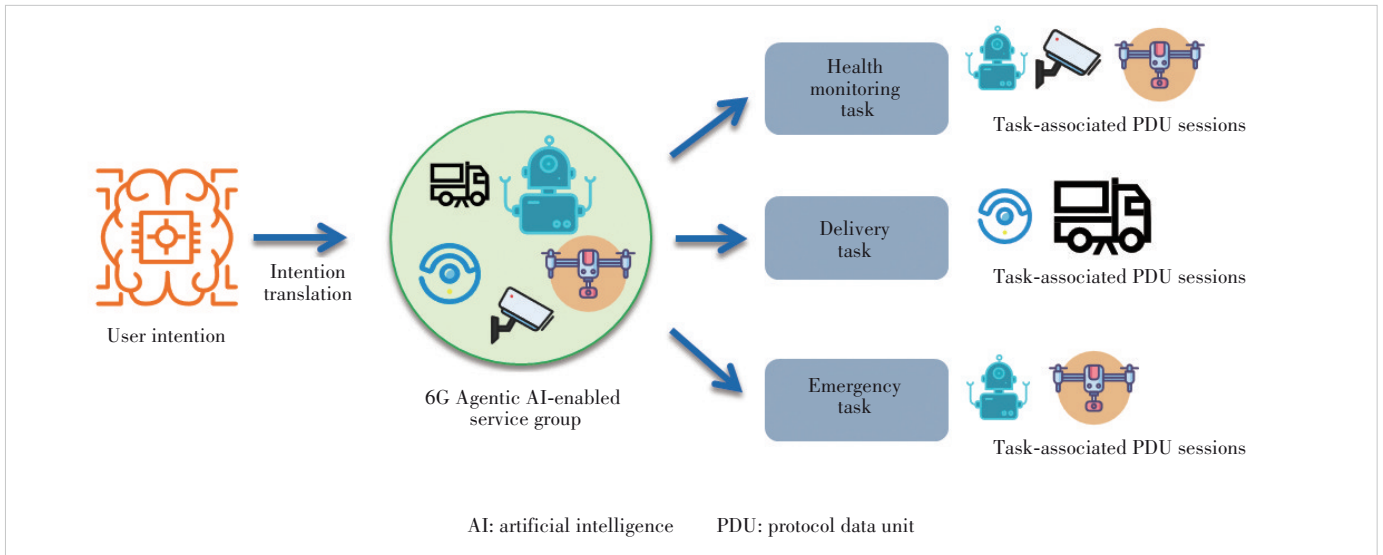


Figure 9. Relation between Agentic AI-enabled service group and tasks

establishing task-level PDU sessions. Based on the data collected from devices and the network, the 6G network determines that Device2 is deemed no longer suitable for its assigned task. As a result, the 6G network initiates the establishment of a new task-level PDU session for Device3, and subsequently releases the PDU session associated with Device2.

Privacy and security protection is essential, especially as Agentic AI makes autonomous decisions based on sensitive user data. Techniques such as confidential computing, federated learning, and zero-knowledge proofs can enhance data protection, while subscriber identity module (SIM) identities ensure actions are traceable and auditable. This framework fa-

cilitates secure access control and ensures that only authorized device can interact on behalf of consumers.

The above outlines the technical features that we believe 6G networks need to possess in the future to support the proposed AA6NS.

5 Conclusions

The emergence of Agentic AI marks a transformative shift in the AI paradigm, bridging the gap between the digital and physical worlds. By enabling real-time perception, interaction, and actuation within the physical environment, 6G networks will play a foundational role as the intelligent infrastructure that

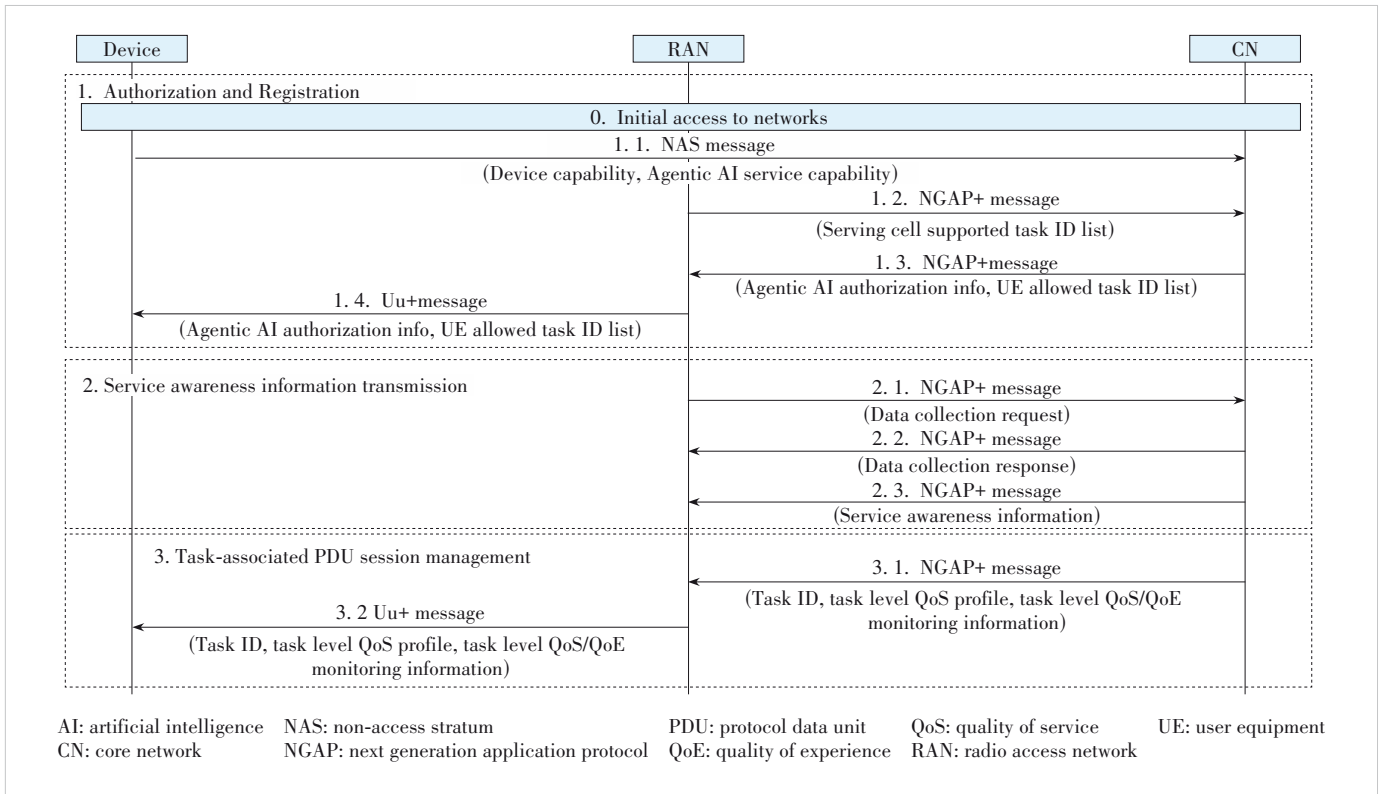


Figure 10. Examples of call flow on Agentic AI-enabled 6G networks and services

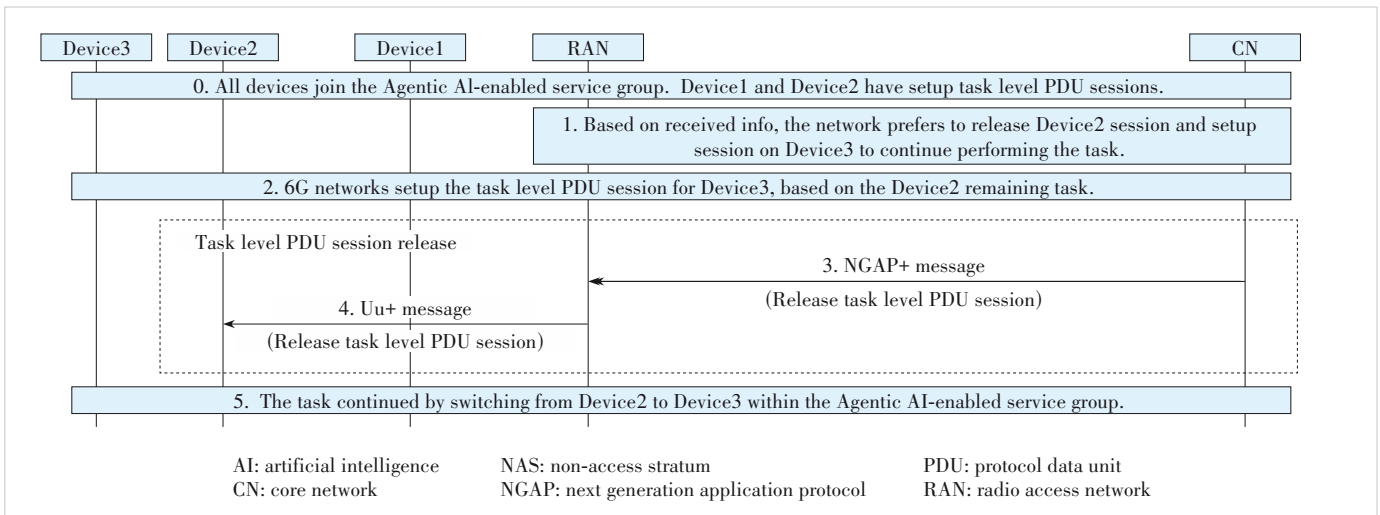


Figure 11. Call flow on group management

connects humans and Agentic AI-enabled machines through ultra-reliable, low-latency, and service-aware communication.

The proposed functional framework for RAN intelligence and the concept of AA6NS illustrate how future networks can dynamically manage intent-driven Agentic AI-enabled services. By utilizing Agentic AI across all layers of the 6G architecture, the network can interpret user intents, orchestrate multi-device and multi-step task execution, and ensure real-

time task-level QoS and QoE performance.

As 6G networks evolve to support AA6NS, key enabling capabilities—such as authorization and registration of task devices, service awareness, task-associated PDU session management, task-level QoS/QoE monitoring, and service group management—become indispensable. Ultimately, this architecture lays the groundwork for a fully agentic, intelligent, and adaptive physical-digital ecosystem, where Agentic AI-

enabled networks and services can seamlessly meet human needs across diverse application scenarios, fulfilling the vision of a truly user-centric ecosystem.

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Biographies

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Xiang Jiying is the Chief Scientist of ZTE Corporation, leading research and development initiatives across 3G, 4G, 5G, B5G, and 6G technologies. He is a recipient of the Special Prize and Second Prize of the The State Science and Technology Progress Award, as well as The State Technological Invention Award. He has also been honored with titles such as “Contributor to China’s Communication Industry Technology” and “Outstanding Engineer of China”.