

Dual Channel Acoustic Communication Protocol

Aker BP – QinetiQ SWiG Review

Dr. Edmary Altamiranda, Aker BP ASA – Technology R&D
Neil Judell, Optimal Systems Lab on behalf of QinetiQ



Challenges (Why)

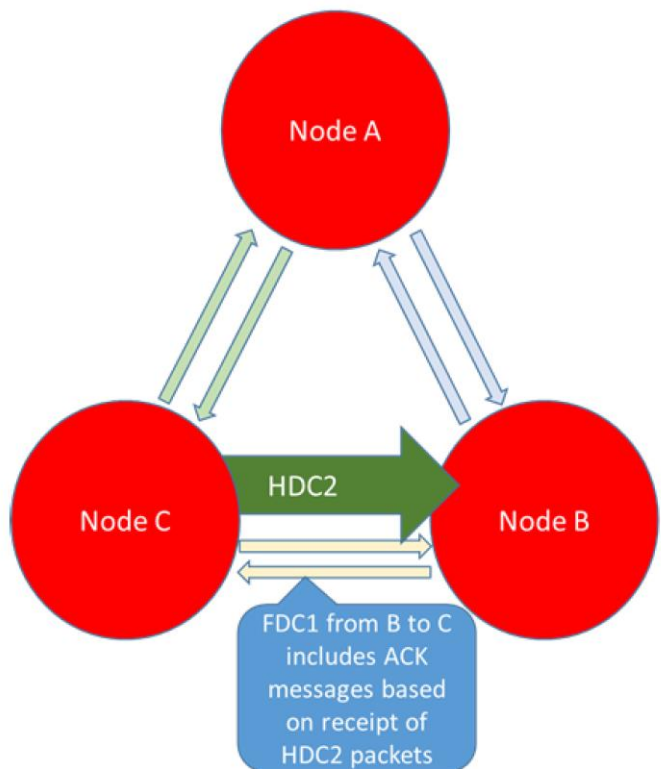
Limitation Factors for multiple nodes to interoperate in an underwater acoustic network and share large amounts of data

- Physics of Underwater Environment
- Efficiency of traditional Half Duplex methods
- Limited capacity for shared channels among users
- High data-rate, high spectral efficiency modulations are not compatible with SMAM (Simultaneous Multiple Access Modulation)
- Available standard (JANUS) has limited capabilities. SWiG level 1 is based on JANUS

Motivation & Value Creation Drivers (Why)

- Increased interoperability across devices for different applications and backward compatibility with half duplex legacy devices. Including compatibility with SWiG Accoustic Level 1 & JANUS.
- Enable efficient management of various types of data transmission in a network
- Enable improved data throughput in an underwater network and situational awareness among all nodes
- Increased flexibility to support a wide range of applications, in terms of frequency range and modulation
- Develop an attractive standard for suppliers to adopt freely inside and outside Oil & Gas domain
- Accelerate protocol development, documentation and standard delivery
- Contribute with value adding initiatives to SWiG

Dual Channel Acoustic Communication Protocol (What)



FDC1 – a low bit-rate, simultaneous multiple access channel to cover cases of network nodes coordinating, negotiating & exchanging small bits of information. It can operate in full duplex or half duplex mode.

HDC2 – a high bit-rate, single access channel for high-speed communications. Coexists with FDC1 on an as-needed basis.

Dual Channel, Full Duplex Acoustic Communication Network Protocol (What)

High Level Scope

1. Protocol Requirements definition

1.1 Establish Network Requirements

1.2 Establish modem requirements, system performance requirements

1.3 Identify ideal modem functionality and capability to be simulated

1.4 Identify available modem functionality and capability to be implemented for verification of simulation
(Next Phase)

Deliverable - Agreed on Requirements Documentation (pending agreement with SWiG)

2. Protocol Development (ongoing)

2.1 Develop protocol – handling strategies for re-queuing and dealing with legacy (half-duplex) modems

2.2 Review protocol with SWiG via teleconference meeting

2.3 Simulate protocol for evaluation and development for the ideal modem

2.4 Simulate protocol for available modem (Next Phase)

2.5 Determine minimum decoupling/cancellation requirements needed for protocol

2.6 Identify key parameters for protocol compliance and initial requirements for compliance testing.

2.7 Protocol Definition –Standard Documentation and Simulation Report

Deliver proposed protocol definition in IEEE standard format with simulation report.

Protocol Requirements Definition (How)

■ Preliminary Work:

- Meeting with SWiG to present Dual Channel Protocol Concept
- Sent a Survey to gather inputs on proposed concept relevant and comments prior starting the work
- Meeting with SWiG to present survey results and proposed way forward considering member inputs
- Defined Stakeholder Requirements based on preliminary SWiG inputs. **(Strong focus on backward compatibility with existing half duplex devices without hardware changes to accelerate implementation as base case)**

■ System Requirements Identification:

- ✓ A Survey was developed and sent to SWiG members to identify the needs on :
 - Network Requirements
 - Shared (Low data rate) Channel Requirements (FDC)
 - High Data Rate Channel Requirements (HDC)
- ✓ Existing SWiG use cases and case studies were mapped, analysed and expanded with additional SWiG members inputs
- ✓ Information from Survey and Use cases was collated to define system requirements
- ✓ Ongoing work on commands definition for the SWiG main document have been also considered

AkerBP



Systems Requirements Definition Inputs

Survey Developed and Submitted to SWiG Members to capture Network Physical Characteristics and Data Requirements covering details on

- 1.1.1.1 Desired number of nodes
- 1.1.1.2 Desired geometry (i.e. range, distribution within range)
- 1.1.1.3 Messaging requirements for command/status:
 - 1.1.1.3.1 Number of payload bits
 - 1.1.1.3.2 Number of messages per node per minute/hour/day
 - 1.1.1.3.3 Destinations of messages
 - 1.1.1.3.4 Active acknowledgement required?
- 1.1.1.4 Messaging requirements for large data transfer (if needed)
 - 1.1.1.4.1 Fraction of nodes with this requirement for TX
 - 1.1.1.4.2 Fraction of nodes with this requirement for RX
 - 1.1.1.4.3 Fraction of nodes with this requirement for TX/RX (i.e. high speed required in both directions)
 - 1.1.1.4.4 Number of payload bits
 - 1.1.1.4.5 Number of messages per node per minute/hour/day
 - 1.1.1.4.6 Destinations of messages
 - 1.1.1.4.7 Active acknowledgement required?
- 1.1.1.5 Special needs
 - 1.1.1.5.1 Mesh network has been requested.
 - 1.1.1.5.2 Store/forward requirements?
 - 1.1.1.5.3 Broadcast requirements?
 - 1.1.1.5.4 Large, blank area for special requirements
 - 1.1.1.5.5 Special waveform or MIMO requirements for HD channel

Note: Numbering above as per Scope / Detailed tasking Document

Summary of survey results

- Number of nodes ranged 2 to 200 (combination of fixed and moving nodes)
- Bits per second per node from 0 to 44 bps (for FD1 channel)
- Water column depth 1-5000 meters
- Point to point range 1 meter to 15 km
- Interference sources: Other acoustic equipment using same frequency, Vessel noise (dynamic positioning), production system noise: choke movements, leaks, AUVs, ocean life acoustic noise (shrimps, mammals,...), IMR/I&C nearby activity. Other interference in the form of acoustic reflections, at boundaries (sea floor, sea surface and equipment).
- User packet size 100 bits to 800 bits
- Message per hour: 50-200 messages
- Network Definition: Ad hoc networks (with first-contact protocol) and pre-programed formation
- Routing: Point to point, store & forward and mesh networks
- Mixed use ranging / communication
- TDMA needed for some SWiG members
- UUID not mandatory but may be required in the future
- Waveforms for HDC: SISO ASK or FSK, BFSK, QPSK, OFDM, CDMA-BPSK and MIMO-OTFS
- Special needs: Doppler tolerance to 5 mts/sec
 - Adjustable center frequency and bandwidth
 - Open -source platform independent desirable



Systems Requirements Definition Inputs

Existing SWiG use cases and case studies were mapped, analysed and expanded with additional SWiG members inputs. Some summary results are listed as follows

- Application & Technology Area: structures monitoring, drilling control, BOP wireless control, cathodic protection monitoring, dredging, environmental monitoring, tsunami monitoring, seismic survey, seabed subsidence monitoring, riser lifecycle monitoring, asset vibration monitoring, pipeline monitoring, outflow monitoring, Wireless WOCS, Resident & Non-resident UID data exchange with docking stations, surface vessels, rigs, subsea structures, other UID and ROV, Supervised autonomy, Swarm of AUVs, etc.
- Modulations: FHSS, MSK, DSSS, QPSK, CDMA, S2C
- Center Frequency (kHz): 10 kHz to 63 kHz
- Bandwidth (kHz): 3 kHz – 30 kHz
- Point to point range (m): 1-15000 m
- Area long dimension (m): 15000 -30000 m
- Area short dimension (m): 1-5000 m
- Burst bit rate (bps): 100-2400 bps
- Water depth (m): 20-6000 m
- Power Level (dB): 177-202 [dB re 1 microPa at 1m]
- Number of nodes: 2-4000 nodes (However for definition of this protocol, a Max of 200 nodes has been used)
- MAC : Yes
- Routing: Point to point, one way & bi-directional enabled
- Usage: ranging and data
- Network throughput low & high estimates (bps) (100-10000).
Much higher data rates are desired for some applications, but the defined range is set as base, considering the majority of the use cases and can be expandable.
- Duration: From 5 days to 365 days and from 1 to more than 10 years

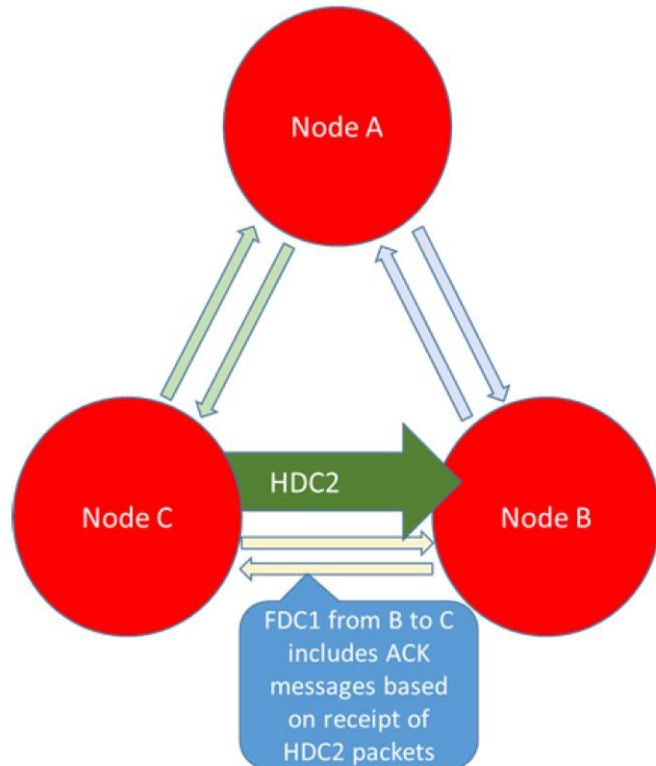
Seismic use case with 4000 nodes not considered at this stage as use case significantly exceeds SISO multiuser channel capacity. A separate development will need to be considered to address this case

SWiG 2-Channel Acoustic Protocol

Neil Judell, Optimal Systems Laboratory, Inc.
On behalf of QinetiQ



Network Architecture - 2 Channels



- FD1 – a low bit-rate, simultaneous multiple access channel. Channel capable of reconfiguring to lower bandwidth, lower bit-rate to permit operation of
- HD2 – a high bit-rate, single access channel for high-speed communications. Coexists with FD1 on an as-needed basis. Both channels can operate simultaneously by frequency division multiple access (FDMA)



Points of note

- Software-based protocol
- Immensely flexible, supporting:
 - Single-transducer half-duplex, receiving only FD or HD at a time
 - Single-transducer half-duplex, receiving both FD and HD simultaneously
 - Multiple-transducer, supporting wide frequency range for HD
 - Multiple-transducer, supporting full-duplex
 - Both open-source and proprietary modulations for HD channel
 - Point-to-point, store-and-forward, mesh routing



Relationship to OSI model

Layer		Protocol Data Unit	Function	Dual Channel Protocol
7	Application	Data	High level APIs	User level
6	Presentation		Translation of data between network and application	User level
5	Session		Managing communication sessions	User level
4	Transport	Segment, datagram	Reliable communication, including segmentation, acknowledgement (ACK) & multiplexing (MUX)	ACK and MUX defined in protocol, segmentation at user level
3	Network	Packet	Addressing, routing & traffic control	Defined in packet bits
2	Data link	Frame	Reliable transmission of data frames	Forward error correction, preamble
1	Physical	Bit, symbol	Transmission and reception of raw streams	Modulator definition



Delivered items

- Protocol Requirements Definition document
 - Network requirements, modulation requirements, operational requirements, configuration requirements
- Signaling, Routing, Physical Layer Access, Protocols document
 - Brief document summarizing multiple access modulations, media access control (MAC), routing, configuration, and the simulator
- Simulation document
 - In-depth detail document, describes the simulation software classes, describes the protocol elements that are defined by the software classes, as well as relevant simulation results
- Simulation software
 - Matlab objects that define the protocol and its behaviors, as well as simulation scripts using these objects to simulate relevant scenarios based on stakeholder requirements



Network Requirements Summary (Requirements Document)

Distilled from down-selected use cases and survey

Characteristic	Min	Max	Median	Detailed Tasking Paragraph number
Number of nodes	2	200	40	1.1.1.1
Point-to-point-range	1 meters	15,000 meters	5,000 meters	1.1.1.2
Doppler	0	5 meters/sec	N/A	1.1.1.5.4 (From member)
Ranging pulses per node per hour	0	30	30	1.1.1.5.4 (From use case)
TDMA	NO	YES		1.1.1.5.4 (From Survey)
Ad hoc network	Yes	Yes	Yes	1.1.1.5.4
Acknowledgement required	NO	Critical messages only		1.1.1.4.7
Packet size (small) (bits)	80	800	100	1.1.1.3.1
Small packets per node per second	0	0.06	0.06	1.1.1.3.2
Node throughput (BPS - FD)	0	44	44	1.2.2.1
Network throughput (BPS – FD)	10	2400	480	1.2.2.2
Network throughput (BPS - HD) (NOTE – this is the same as node-node for HD)	100	10000	2400	1.2.2.2
Message passing	Point-to-point	Store-forward/mesh	N/A	1.1.1.5.2
Power level (dB)	177	202	190	Based on use cases
Center Frequency	10 kHz	63 kHz	16.5 kHz	Based on use cases
Bandwidth	3 kHz	30 kHz	8 kHz	Based on use cases



Potential FD-Channel (low data-rate, shared) Modulations (Requirements Document)

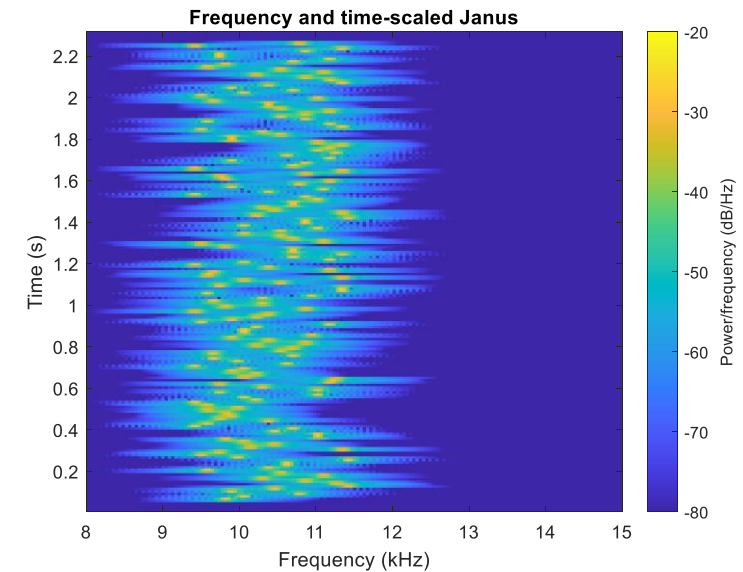
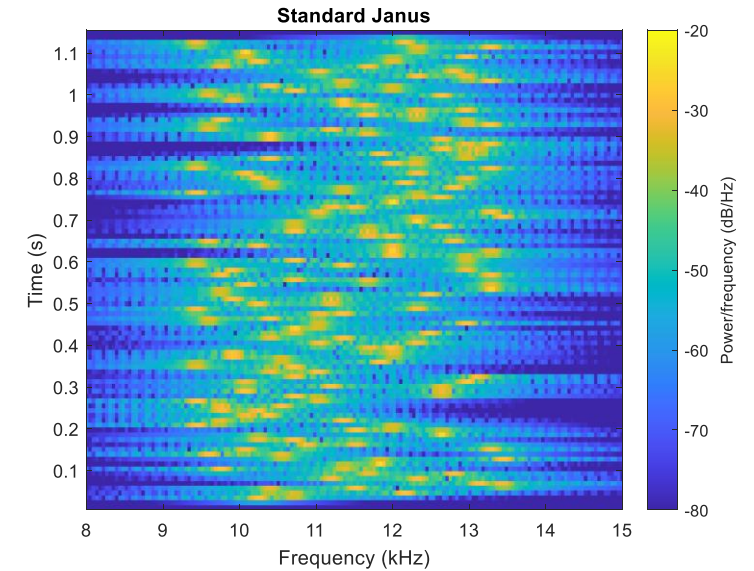
Modulation method	Network throughput	Doppler behavior	Ranging behavior	Other
SWiG level 1 (slow FHSS - BFSK)	110 bps	Poor	Poor	Poor collision behavior
SWiG Level 1 modified bandwidth/center frequency	Up to 250 bps	Poor	Poor	Poor collision behavior
Zadoff-Chu slow FHSS	Up to 250 bps	Excellent	Good	Good collision behavior
CDMA	Up to 4,000 bps	Fair (requires somewhat complex algorithm)	Excellent	Good collision behavior
SSC/S2C	Up to 4,000 bps	Good	Good	Good collision behavior



Frequency & Time Scaling Modulation

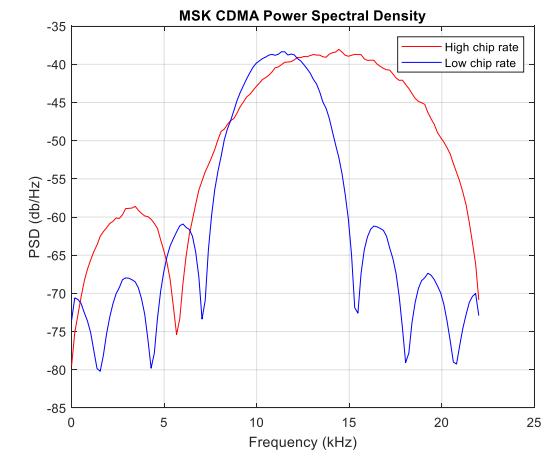
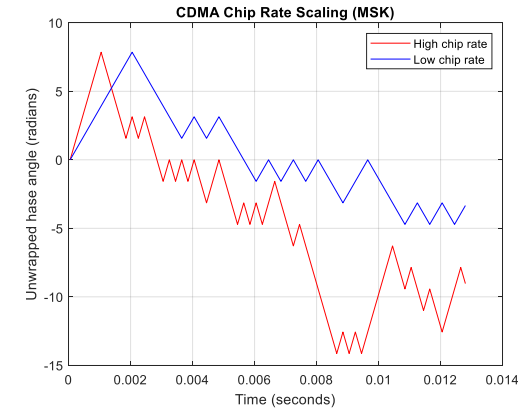
- Needed for configuring channel for reduced bandwidth, reduced bit rate for FD/HD sharing

FHSS: scale tone intervals down, scale duration up.



Frequency & Time Scaling Modulation

For CDMA: time scale the chip rate, but keep codes constant. Shift carrier frequency to match lower edge. Result is occupying a lower fraction of original spectrum, at reduced bit rate



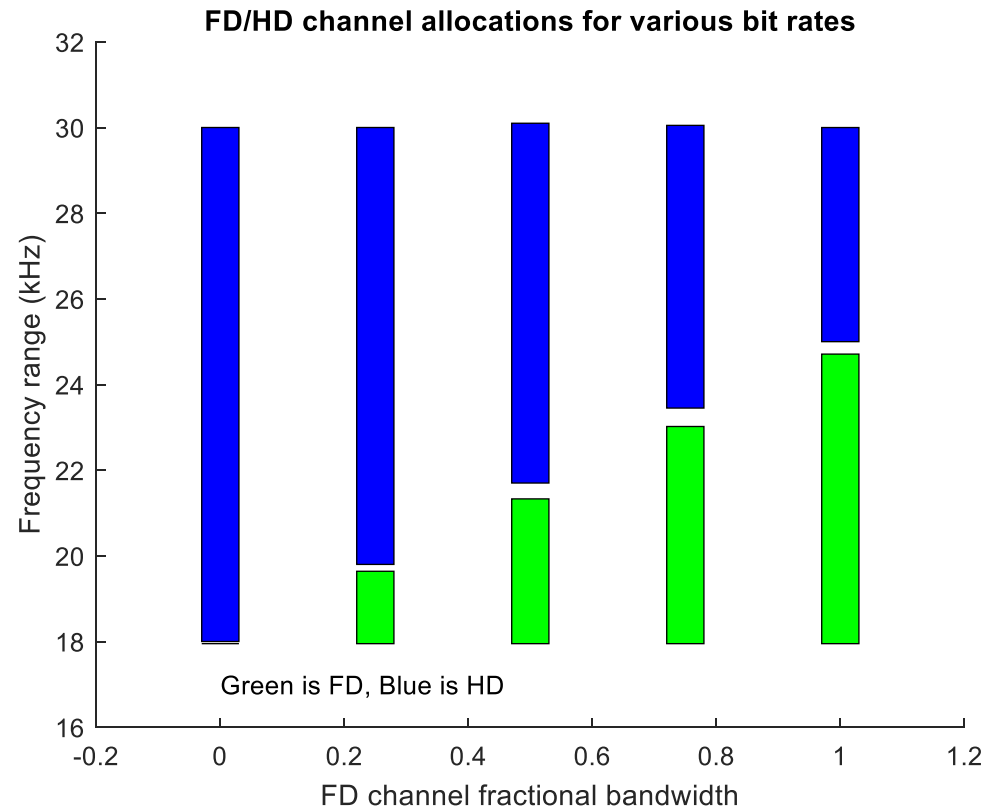
Modulations and Configurations Specified (Requirements Document)

- FD1
 - Modulation methods (such as SWiG level 1, slow FHSS, Zadoff-Chu slow FHSS, CDMA, S2C)
 - Reduced symbol rate, with bandwidth of 0, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ full FD bandwidth
 - Access methods (such as CSMA, TDMA, SMAHD, SMAFD)
- HD2
 - QPSK streaming
 - DQPSK differential coding
 - 2:1 convolutional code
 - ISI filter
 - Rates: 10 Kbits/sec, 8.6 Kbits/sec, 7.3 Kbits/sec, 6Kbits/sec, 4.2 Kbits/sec
 - QPSK packets
 - BPSK with ISI header/training waveform
 - Short silence
 - DQPSK with ISI coded either BCH(511,250) hard without CRC or BCH(511,259) soft with CRC
- Additional open source Additional open-source definitions will be made for the following modulations (based on member inputs):
 - BFSK
 - BPSK-CDMA
 - OFDM
 - MIMO-OTFS (if a suitable open-source arrangement can be made)
- Other modulation manufacturer can define that does not interfere with FD1 by use of FDMA (note that this requires Class A or true Class D power amplifier – Class S will distort into FD1, for these cases shutting down FD1 channel during HD2 operation is recommended)



Spectrum Use for FD1/HD2 examples

Frequency/time-scaling
SWiG for FD1,
Frequency/time-scaling
QPSK for HD2



Signaling, Routing, Physical Layer Access, Protocols document

- Primarily addresses reasoning for design selection
 - Addresses FD1 modulations, HD2 modulations
 - Addresses MAC variants
 - Addresses routing choices
 - Discusses protocol very briefly
 - Bibliography of references reviewed in making design decisions



Network Simulator: Fundamental Types of Interest

- Modulators: derived from base class modulatorClass, includes SWiG Level 1, advanced SWiG, generic DSSS, QPSK. Includes modulation type, access method (CSMA, full-duplex, half-duplex, etc.), interference susceptibility value, packet loss function, center frequency, bandwidth
- Packets: derived from packetClass, consists of data, source, destination, type of modulation used for transmission, whether or not this packet requires acknowledgment, whether this packet IS an acknowledgment
- Nodes: derived from nodeClass, consists of modulators supported by the node, store and forward routing table, mesh routing table, logic for configuring and running the network

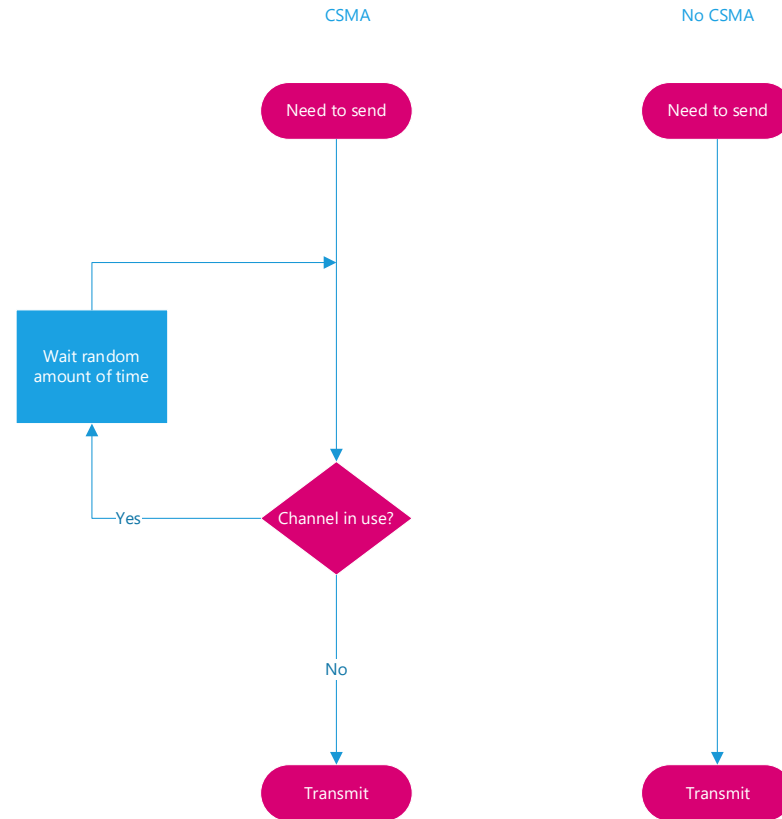


Network Simulator: Physical Layer Protocol

- Modulation waveforms specified by selection of modulator(s)
- Center frequency and bandwidth configurable based on messaging
- Time to revert to original center frequency and bandwidth based on time from configuration messaging
- Noise, interference and packet loss naively modeled
- Susceptibility to preamble overlap specified (SWiG Level 1 is particularly sensitive)
- MAC (configured at the modem level to emulate hardware/software)
 - CSMA half-duplex
 - Half-duplex no waiting
 - Full-duplex (with realistic self-interference)
- Decoding capability
 - Single signal (first received)
 - Simultaneous multiple decoding

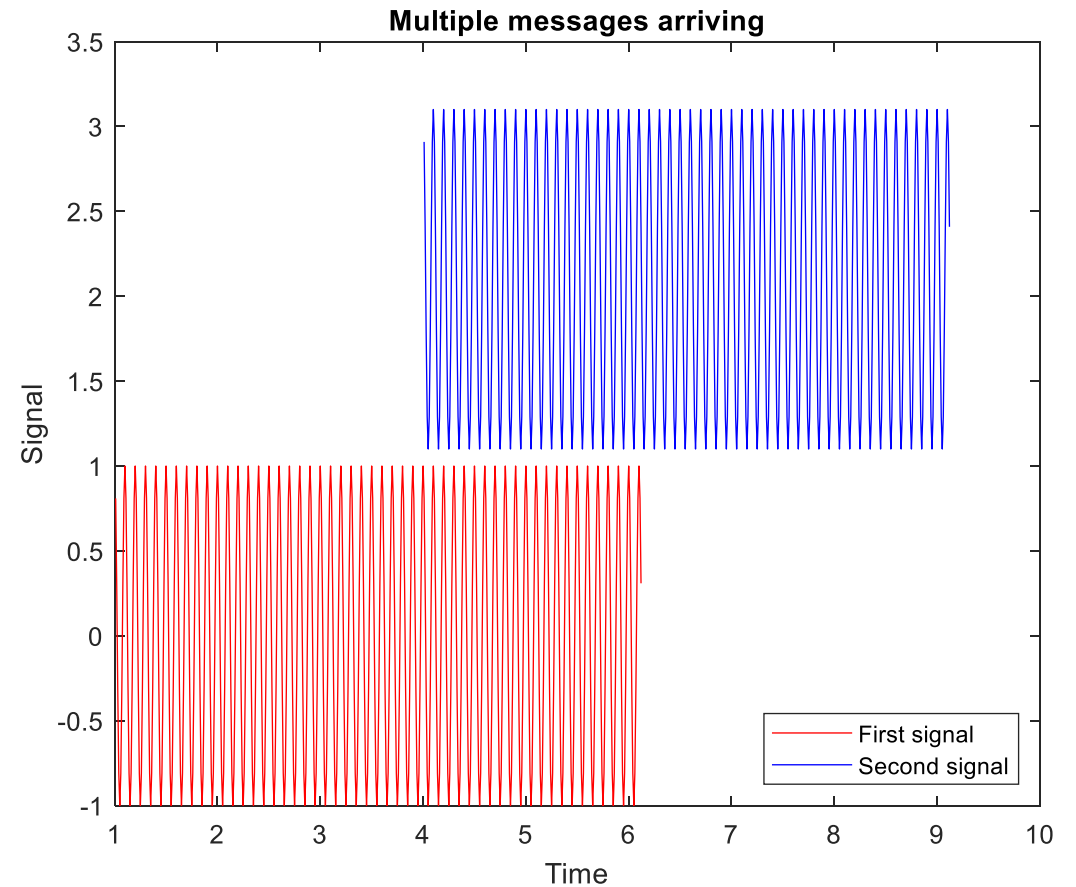


MAC – CSMA (Carrier Sense Multiple Access) vs no CSMA



Simultaneous multiple access, multiple decode

- No simultaneous multiple access: Second signal interferes with first – neither decodes
- Single decode – First signal decodes, second signal ignored (contributes to interference, but signal design permits rejection)
- Multiple decode – Both signals decoded at receiver



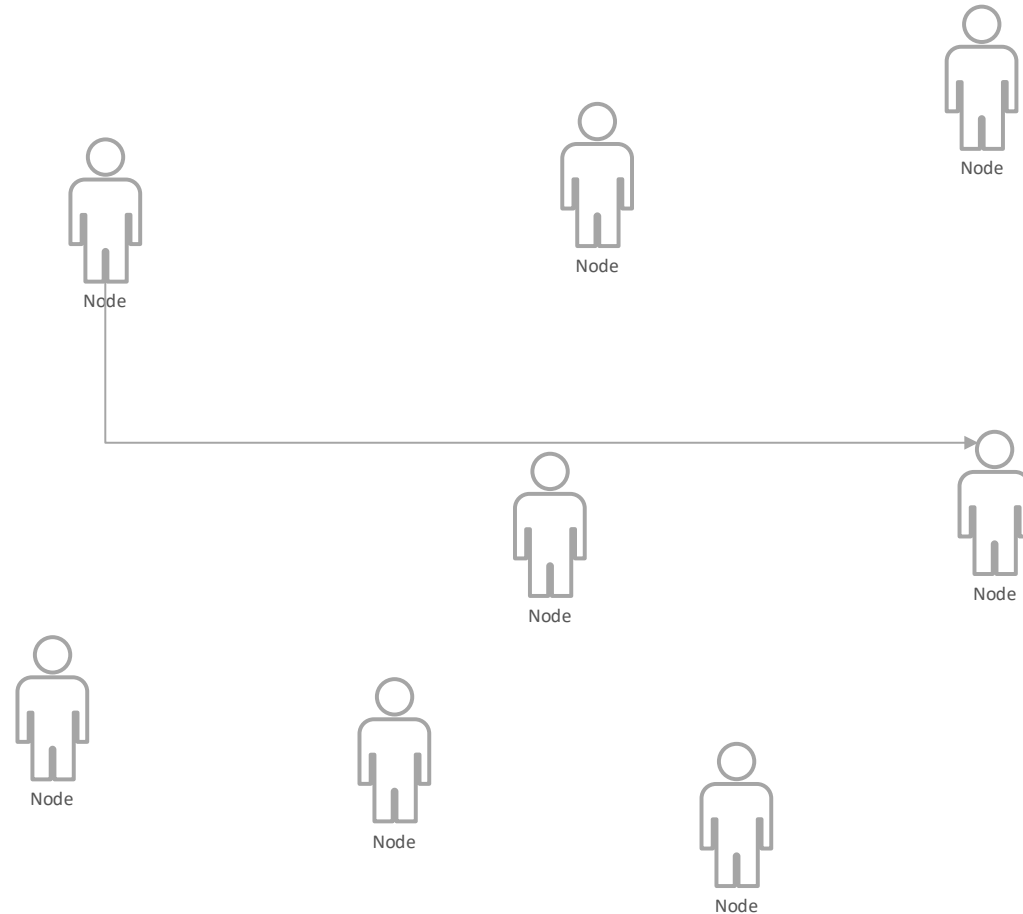
Simulator: Routing

- Point-to-point (configured by setting no routing tables for a node)
- Store-and-forward (configured by setting a store-and-forward routing table for a node)
- Mesh (configured by setting a mesh routing table for a node)



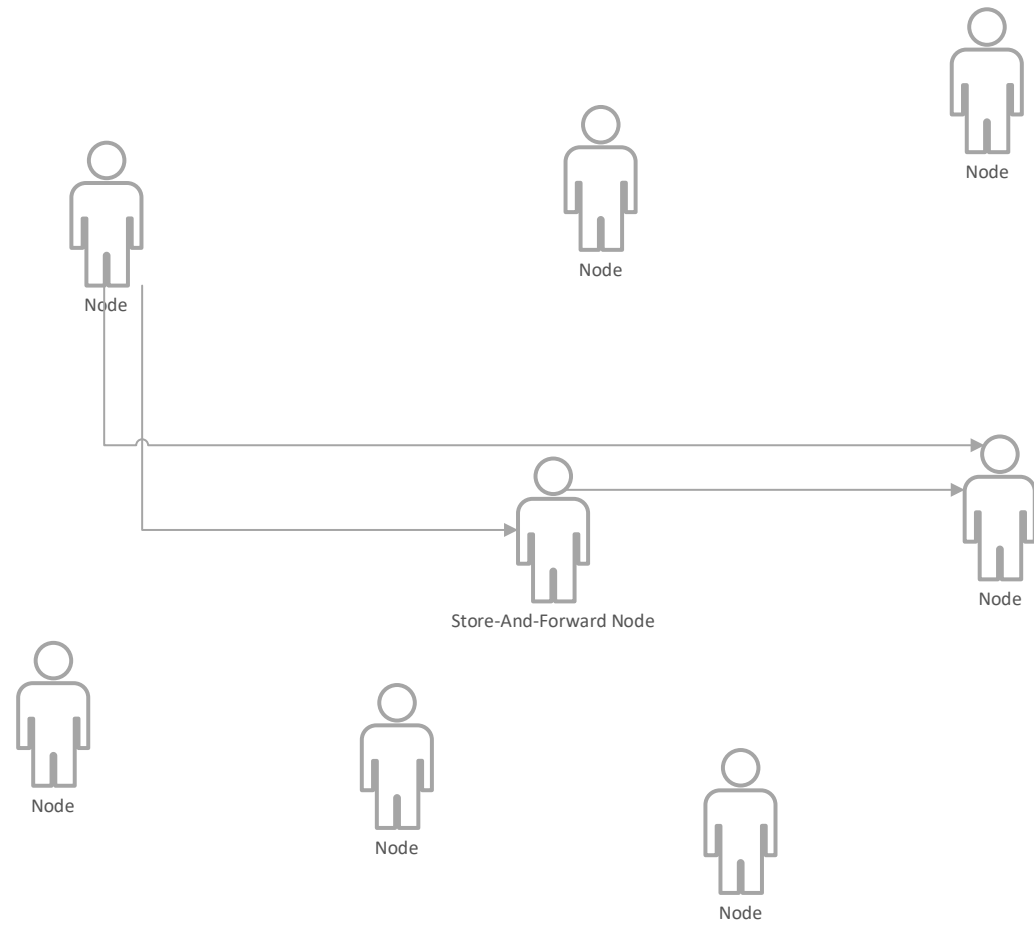
Routing – point-to-point

Each node transmits message, hoping it will reach destination



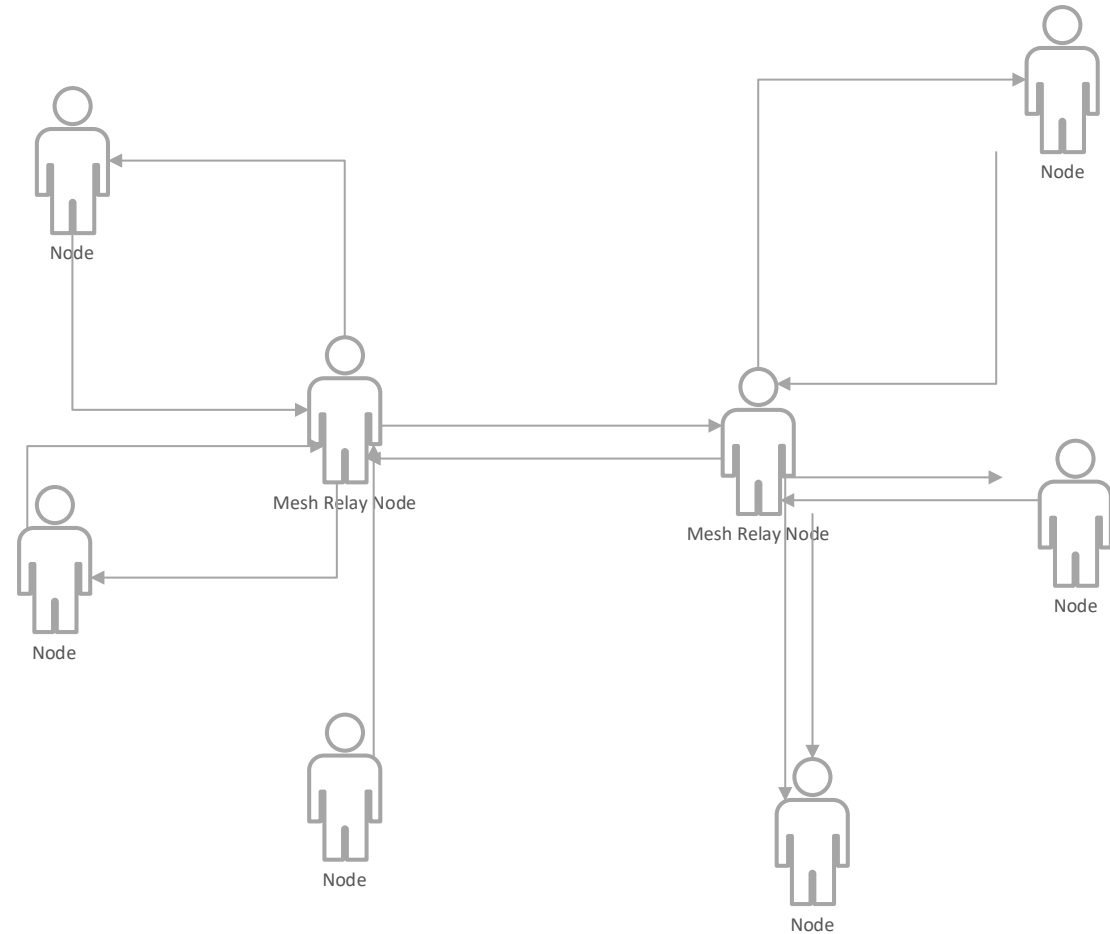
Routing – store-and-forward

- With store-and-forward, node transmits message, hoping to reach destination
- Store-and-forward relays message, increasing probability of receipt by destination



Routing - Mesh

- Normal nodes communicate only with own mesh relay nodes
- Mesh relay nodes communicate with own normal nodes and own other mesh relay nodes
- Greatest flexibility of message passing

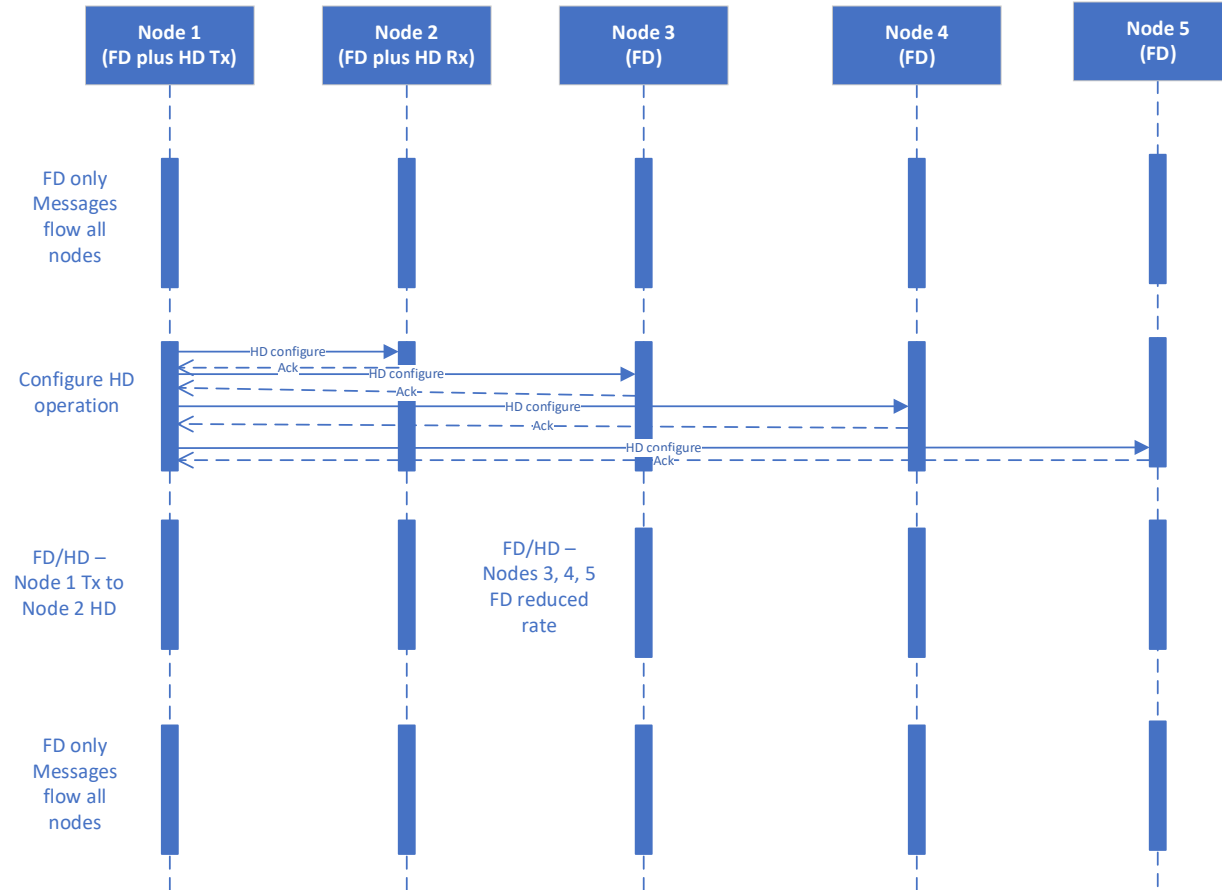


Network Simulator: Network and message operations

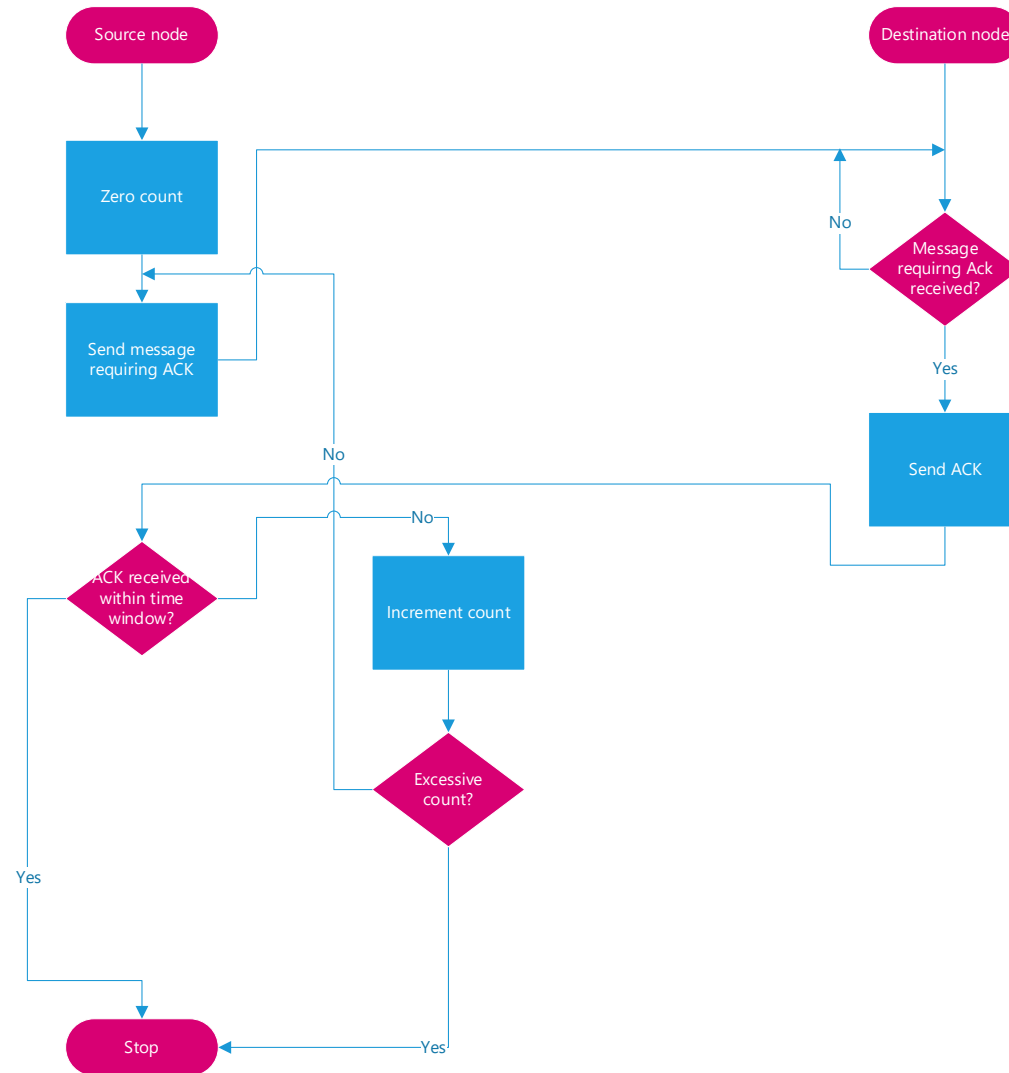
- Send message: message may or may not require ACK. If message requires ACK and none received in a timely fashion, message resent. Receiving nodes automatically ACK messages sent to them, if required. This function works whether modulator is set to FD1 or HD2
- Schedule HD channel event. A node pushes configuration messages to all other nodes, requiring ACK from all. A time to begin HD2 operations is in the message, as well as duration of the HD2 operation. Configuration data includes new FD1 center frequency and bandwidth. Originating node will wait for the latter of : all ACKS, or time to start. HD operation will then begin with originating node as primary sender.



HD channel configuration and use – sequence diagram



ACK messaging sequence



Simulator: Definition of protocol

- Best understanding of protocol definition is to see examples in provided simulator scripts
- Protocol is defined as methods within objects, so protocol is effectively specified as both basic elements and an application programming interface (API)
- SWiG can define the API that manufacturers can supply, providing uniform application capability for end-users



Simulation Results: Self-cancelling vs. not self-cancelling: no CSMA vs. CSMA

15 nodes in a 6km x 6km x 600m uniform distribution

DSSS, SC, no CSMA	0 repeaters	1 repeater	2 store & forward	4 store & forward	2 Mesh	4 Mesh
Fraction messages lost	0.3/0.2	0.03/0	0.02/0	0.006/0	0.06/0.02	0.3/0.2
Mean latency	2.6/5.0	3.5/4.6	3.6/4.3	3.7/4.2	3.5/4.1	2.8/4.2
Sigma latency	0.9/9.6	1.7/6.2	1.8/4.6	1.8/4.6	1.8/5.7	1.2/7.8
Median latency	2.7/2.8	3.2/3.2	3.2/3.4	3.3/3.3	3.1/3.1	2.7/2.7
Max latency	4.5/92	11.3/38	13/37	11/37	14/39.9	10/64
FD throughput (bps)	328	448	442	453	413	337

DSSS, NSC, no CSMA	0 repeaters	1 repeater	2 store & forward	4 store & forward	2 Mesh	4 Mesh
Fraction messages lost	0.4/0.3	0.3/0	0.3/0	0.2/0	0.3/0.03	0.4/0.2
Mean latency	2.7/47.5	3.1/29.2	3.2/33	3.5/22	3.1/37.9	2.7/56.8
Sigma latency	0.9/200	1.3/74	1.5/89	1.9/57	1.3/99.1	1.1/191
Median latency	2.8/2.9	2.9/3.6	2.9/3.6	3.1/3.8	2.9/3.8	2.7/3.1
Max latency	5/2197	6.8/577	10.1/757	12/607	9.6/997	8.5/1566
FD throughput (bps)	271	345	342	348	325	277

DSSS, NSC, CSMA	0 repeaters	1 repeater	2 store & forward	4 store & forward	2 Mesh	4 Mesh
Fraction messages lost	0.4/0.3	0.4/0.3	0.4/0.4	0.4/0.4	0.4/0.4	0.4/0.4
Mean latency	172/203	482/488	414/431	516/584	429/446	199/199
Sigma latency	211/243	537/514	423/443	487/485	623/651	245/225
Median latency	87/88	278/295	263/261	372.436	170/166	113/138
Max latency	1199/1154	2558/2432	2361/2075	2325/2258	3174/2534	1406/1427
FD throughput (bps)	268	282	266	263	261	271

Repeaters or mesh essential

CSMA does not help DSSS

Self-cancellation significantly reduces packet loss and latency, improves throughput



Simulation Results: DSSS vs. SWiG Level 1

15 nodes in a 6km x 6km x 600m uniform distribution

DSSS, NSC, no CSMA	0 repeaters	1 repeater	2 store & forward	4 store & forward	2 Mesh	4 Mesh
Fraction messages lost	0.4/0.3	0.3/0	0.3/0	0.2/0	0.3/0.03	0.4/0.2
Mean latency	2.7/47.5	3.1/29.2	3.2/33	3.5/22	3.1/37.9	2.7/56.8
Sigma latency	0.9/200	1.3/74	1.5/89	1.9/57	1.3/99.1	1.1/191
Median latency	2.8/2.9	2.9/3.6	2.9/3.6	3.1/3.8	2.9/3.8	2.7/3.1
Max latency	5/2197	6.8/577	10.1/757	12/607	9.6/997	8.5/1566
FD throughput (bps)	271	345	342	348	325	277

Primitive SWiG, NSC, CSMA	0 repeaters	1 repeater	2 store & forward	4 store & forward	2 Mesh	4 Mesh
Fraction messages lost	0.5/0.5	0.5/0.4	0.5/0.4	0.5/0.5	0.4/0.4	0.6/0.6
Mean latency	169/184	341/342	341/342	708/706	543/564	160/156
Sigma latency	227/230	437/400	432/400	706/750	514/527	149/155
Median latency	93.0/90.0	177/197	177/197	451/420	377/401	112/94.3
Max latency	1804/1120	2386/1896	2386/1896	3094/3111	2615/2162	700/749
FD throughput (bps)	22.5	22.9	22.9	19.8	24.1	19.5

DSSS plus store-and-forward or mesh significantly reduces packet loss and latency, improves throughput



Simulation Results: Simultaneous FD and HD

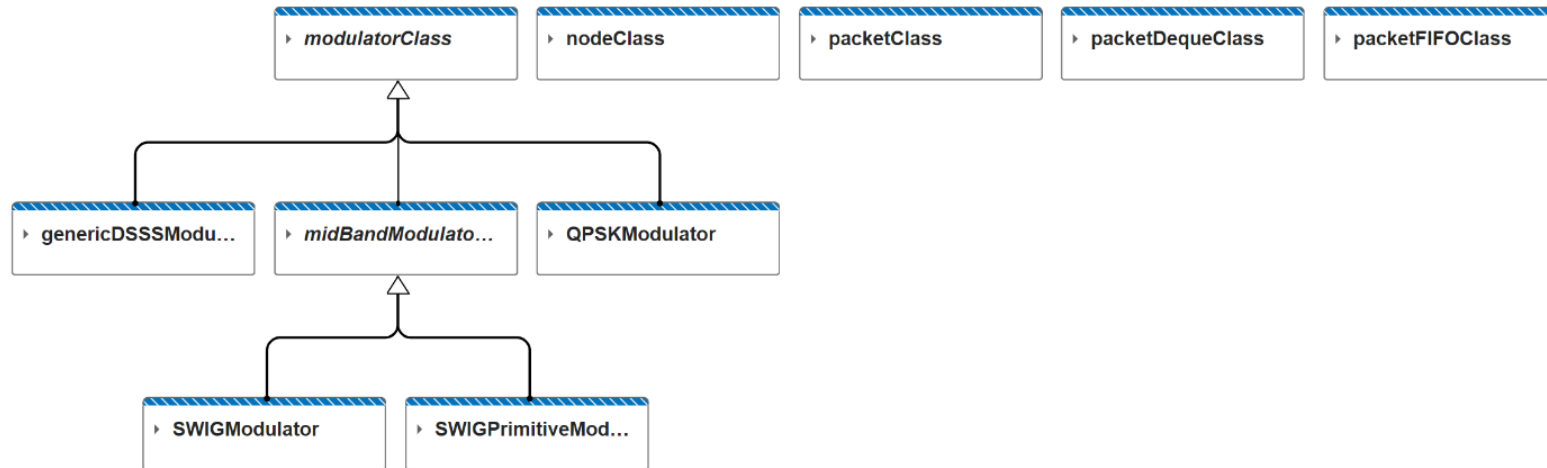
8 nodes in a 2km x 2km x 200m uniform distribution

HD Simulation	SWiG Level 1	DSSS, SC, no CSMA
FD fraction of messages lost	0.07/0.06	0.03/0
FD mean latency	8.1/9.8	1.5/3.6
FD sigma latency	13/14	0.5/9.8
FD median latency	4.3/2.6	1.4/1.6
FD max latency	112/64	5.7/62
Overall FD throughput	20.7	222
FD throughput when HD unused	20.9	222
FD throughput when HD in use	16.5	219
HD throughput	8667	8532
HD fraction of packets lost	0.04	0.05

FD and HD operations can coexist



Network Simulation Software : Classes defining protocol



Network Simulator Software : Class methods defining protocol

nodeClass
Properties
Methods
ACKasNeeded
addTransmittedPackets
forwardMeshAsNeeded
forwardStoredAsNeeded
getDelay
getLocation
getModulator
getUnacknowledgeMessages
handleFDConfigurationChan...
handleReceivedACKS
handleReceivedFDConfigurat...
handleTimedOutACKS
isSending
nodeClass
pushPacketsToSend
receivingPackets
run
scheduleHDChannelEvent
sendAsNeeded
setBandwidthFraction
setCenterFrequency
setMeshRouteTable
setModulator
setStoreAndForwardTable
validatePackets

modulatorClass
Properties
Methods
<i>attenuation</i>
getBandEdges
getBandOverlapFraction
getBandwidth
getBandwidthFraction
getCenterFrequency
getCSMA
getDuplex
getMaxInterferenceIn_dB
<i>getModulatorType</i>
getPacketDuration
getPacketLength
getPreambleDuration
<i>isHDModulator</i>
isPreambleCollisionFatal
modulatorClass
<i>packetValid</i>
resetModulator
setBandwidthFraction
setCenterFrequency

packetClass
Properties
Methods
<i>copyElement</i>
getData
getDestination
getHop
getIDack
getIDsend
getModulator
getPacketDelay
getPacketDuration
getPacketStart
getResponseRequired
getSource
packetClass
setHop
setModulator
setPacketDelay
startPacket



Network Simulation Software

■ Available at GitHub:

- [git@github.com:QinetiQ-US/SWiG.git](https://github.com:QinetiQ-US/SWiG.git) or
- <https://github.com/QinetiQ-US/SWiG.git>

