應用於物聯網之 BLE 4.0 省電機制的設計 An Efficient Power Saving Mechanism in BLE 4.0 for IoT

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摘要

本論文主要在研究運用 Bluetooth Low Energy 4.0 (BLE 4.0)模組的狀態模式切換,來讓 BLE 4.0 更加省電。藍牙技術提供裝置之間無線通訊、傳輸資料的能力,這項能力正好應用於物聯網的概念。 BLE 4.0 最重要的特性即是省電能力,除了本身的可被偵測模式就較傳統藍牙的更加省電外,BLE 4.0 還支援更加省電的休眠模式,然而,BLE 4.0 本身無法自行切換休眠模式。為解決此問題,本研究將使用 Arduino 模組,來控制 BLE 4.0 模組,使其能在可被偵測模式及休眠模式之間轉換,以達到更加省電,卻又不影響使用功能的目的。

關鍵字:BLE 4.0, Arduino, 省電機制,物聯網。

一、前言

藍牙協議是由 Erisson 公司於 1999 年 5 月提出,並與其他領先的業界開發商一同制定的技術標準,最終將此種無線通信技術命名為 Bluetooth(藍牙)。藍牙技術是一種使電子設備在 10-100 m 的空間範圍內建立連線,並進行數據傳輸或者語音通話的無線通信技術[1]。

Bluetooth Low Energy 4.0 (BLE 4.0)核心架構 具有單工與雙工模式 (Single Mode & Dual Mode)[2]。透過單工模式經由精簡的搜尋程序、可 靠的單點對多點資料傳輸設計與有效的省電技術, 以達到最低成本與低耗電傳輸的目的。而雙工模式 的運作架構,是可以使不同的藍牙規格(例如 BT 2.1 + EDR 或是 BT 3.0 + HS) 互相結合,使用者可 根據需求切換高速或者是低耗電的運作方式。因此, 單工模式可應用在一些需長時間連結,但非持續傳 輸資料的裝置(例如 iBeacon 的應用[3],屬於 Peripheral Mode,可被外部 BLE 4.0 之設備偵測, 並採用單工模式傳送,告知周遭訊息),而雙工模式 則適合需要同時與不同類型產品(如電腦或手機) 進行傳輸的裝置。因此,BLE 4.0 的技術規範讓傳 統藍牙、高速藍牙與低功耗藍牙三種技術,不僅可 以單獨存在,也可以共同運作。BLE 4.0 之核心架

構[2],如圖 1 所示,圖左為藍牙基本設計架構;圖中央為結合低功耗的雙工模式;圖右為 Wibree 技術的設計架構。

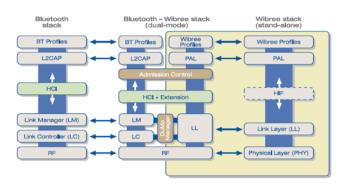


圖 1 BLE 4.0 之核心架構 [2]

二、相關研究

已經有部分文獻在討論 BLE 的相關研究,而 其中有些也有討論到能源消耗的問題。

文獻[6]描述一個能源監控系統,利用低耗電藍牙(Bluetooth Low Energy, BLE 4.0)做為資料傳送方式,來增強資料傳送效率,同時收集整合多多電用具的能源消耗數據。本方法利用 BLE 的單環播模式,從測量設備傳遞能源消耗數據到 BLE 的行動裝置。行動裝置扮演數據收集器的作用 BLE 的作素置於實數據收集器的作用,因此,不需要額外的收集裝置。結果,每個裝置的此,不需要額外的收集裝置。結果,每個裝置的地源消耗數據都能夠以低能量消耗的通信,有效地源為起來,其消耗的能源較 ZigBee 還要低。然而,作者並沒有明確提出實際數據證明耗電較 ZigBee低,而且,收集了能耗數據,但不知道是如何整合的,也沒有討論到裝置可否睡眠或甦醒的狀況,這是我們可以提出來修正的地方。

文獻[7]利用模組實際測量 BLE 的能源消耗,並比較 BLE 和 ZigBee 模組兩者的能源效率。其中有確切的研究數據證明 BLE 的能源消耗較 ZigBee 還有效,另外也有研究 IPv6在 BLE 通訊上的能耗,這是我們可以參考的地方之一。然而,有提到設計實行上的一些門檻限制,但沒有明確說明是何種限

制,以及如何去解決這些限制的具體方式。我們可 參考其測量方式以及比較的方式和項目,作為我們 檢測省電機制的依據。

文獻[8]設計了一個測量平台,可以自動發送睡眠或甦醒的要求到接入點,並且測量在每個點的能源消耗。比較了 Bluetooth、802.15.4、SmartPlug、和 External 802.11 module 四種不同的技術,進行了多次的實驗以評估四種技術在控制和管理接入點的過程。此篇論文提到一個裝置必須要深度睡睡入點的進真正達到省電節能。然而,作者認為,在省下表的方案,可使兩者達到理想的平衡,但並沒有找出來。我們參考了其設計的測量平台,以及讓裝制的方法和測試方式之一。

文獻 [9] 主要是在分析 NDP(Neighbor Discovery Process)在 BLE 中的表現,而 Neighbor Discovery 中所使用的參數值會直接影響到 NDP的表現,好的參數值可以使裝置發現鄰居前的等待時間(發現延遲)和能源消耗之間取得平衡,也就是說,延遲和能耗是派生的。然而,這個模型設置雖然簡易,但 BLE 裝置可以同時設置在多種模式或狀況下,該模型在這樣的情況下不一定能夠正確地做出分析,它必須要根據各種 BLE 應用程序來選擇理想的 NDP 參數值。

三、BLE 4.0 規範標準和系統架構

本節將詳細說明主動式 BLE 4.0 規範標準與 系統架構。

■ BLE 4.0 規格:

表 1 Bluetooth Low Energy Factsheet [5]

BLE 4.0 的特性	相關數值
Range	~ 150 meters open field
Output Power	~ 10mW(10dBm)
Max Current	~ 15mA
Latency	3 ms
Topology	Star
Connections	> 2 billion
Modulation	GFSK @ 2.4 Ghz
Robustness	Adaptive Frequency
	Hopping, 24bit CRC
Security	128bit AES COM
Sleep current	~ 1μA
Modes	Broadcast, Connection,
	Event Data Model
	Read/Write

BLE 4.0 於 2010 年被制定出來,其規範標準, 如表 1 所示。藍牙在空曠場地的傳輸範圍約可達 150 公尺、輸出功率為 10mW(10dBm)、最大電流 為 15mA、延遲時間 3 毫秒、採用星狀網路、可連線設備達 20 億以上、傳輸頻率為 2.4Ghz、128 位元的加密技術、休眠模式電流為 1 微安培、支援廣播以及資料的讀取與寫入。在[4]的結論提到,因為 BLE 4.0 具有低成本、高速傳輸和高安全性的特性 [4]。目前市面上支援 BLE 4.0 的智慧手機與平板,其功能比過去版本的藍牙功能還要強大,傳輸距離可達 60 公尺,若搭配上不同的硬體規格或程式碼,在不同的環境傳輸能力可能有所改變。

■ 系統架構

BLE 4.0 系統架構,如圖 2 所示,包含用戶端的 Mobile Device,傳統藍牙 BT HC-05,BLE 4.0,Arduino 與 Ethernet W5100,並連結雲端網路。

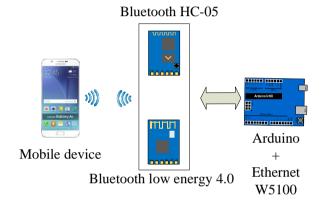


圖 2 BLE 4.0 系統架構圖

其中 Arduino 開發板,如表 2 所示,微控制器型號為 ATMEGA328,其 EEPROM 有 1KB,使用的開發語言為 C 語言,工作電壓為 5V。Bluetooth Low Energy 4.0(BLE 4.0)模組,如表 3 所示,傳輸距離有 10 公尺,具有 iBeacon 功能及休眠功能,工作電壓為 5V。

表 2 Arduino 開發板

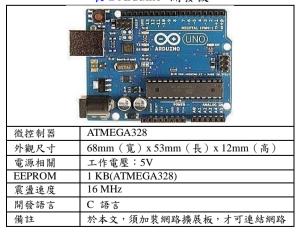
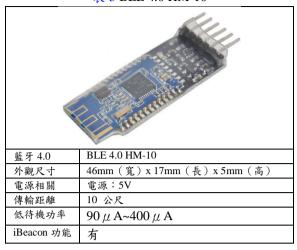


表 3 BLE 4.0 HM-10



傳統藍牙模組,如表 4 所示,傳輸距離有 10 公尺,輸入電壓為 3.6-6V,最遠發射範圍為 60 公尺。網路擴展板,如表 5 所示,接於 Arduino 開發板之上。

BLE 4.0 除了具有傳統藍牙傳輸功能之外,還增加了休眠模式 (Sleep mode) 以及 iBeacon 功能,此兩項功能,需靠 Arduino 開發版控制才能發揮作用,因此,本論文將以 Arduino 開發版控制 BLE 4.0,探討其有效省電機制的運作,以達到更加省電目的。

表 4 傳統藍牙 HC-05

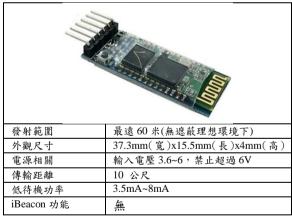
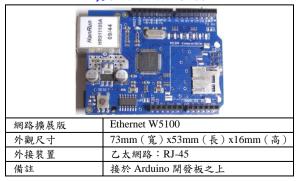


表 5 Ethernet W5100



BLE 4.0 包含三種功能模式,BT Classic Mode,BLE Central Mode 與 BLE Peripheral Mode。其中BT Classic Mode 代表 BT 傳統模式,其可支援非BLE 4.0 藍牙設備。BLE Central Mode 代表 BLE master 模式,可以偵測到其他 BLE 4.0 設備,並且向其設備要求連線與配對。BLE Peripheral Mode代表 BLE client 模式,可以被外部之 BLE 4.0 設備偵測。如表 6 所示。

表 6 BT classic mode、BLE central modem 與 BLE peripheral mode 功能

peripheral mode 3) he		
BT / BLE mode	Description	
BT Classic Mode	BT 傳統模式,支援非 BLE 4.0 藍牙設備	
BLE Central Mode	BLE master 模式,可以偵 測到其他 BLE 4.0 設備,並 且向其設備要求連線與配 對。	
BLE Peripheral Mode	BLE client 模式,可以被外部之 BLE 4.0 設備偵測。	

BLE 4.0 之狀態,如圖 3 所示,具有 Scanning, Standby, Initiating, Advertising 以及 Connection 等 五個狀態。

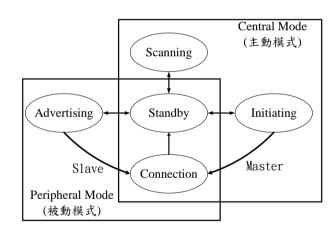


圖 3 Central Mode (主動模式)和 Peripheral Mode (被動模式)[5]

Central Mode:

在此模式下,主動端的 BLE 4.0 模組,在 Scanning 狀態之下,具有掃描周圍 BLE 4.0 被動端 裝置的功能,並可以對已經被掃瞄到的裝置要求連 線,連線成功時,會從 Standby 狀態轉到 Initiating 狀態,然後轉換到 Connection 狀態,並於斷線後回 到 Standby 狀態。

Peripheral Mode:

在此模式下,被動端 BLE 4.0 具有廣播模式 (Advertising Mode),可以告知周圍的主動端裝置本 身(被動端 BLE 4.0)是否存在。當有外部主動端藍 牙裝置要求連線時,被動端 BLE 4.0 則會從 Advertising 狀態轉換到 Connection 狀態,並於斷線 時,從Connection狀態轉換到Standby狀態。

如表 7 所示的實際檢測結果,傳統藍牙沒有 休眠模式,平常狀態下都是處於可被偵測模式,此 時的耗電量極高。如表 8 所示, BLE 4.0 模組在可 被偵測模式下的耗電量較傳統藍牙低了5倍,而休 眠模式(仍可被偵測)下又低了至少 50 倍,如圖 4 所示。

7		
電壓:4.06(V)		
Peripheral Mode	HC-05	
可被偵測模式	43mA~45mA	
Advertising mode		
(Sensing mode)		
連線狀態(-無傳輸資料)	3.5mA~8mA	
On-line mode without		
data transmission		
連線狀態(+資料傳輸)	20mA~28mA	
On-line mode with data		
Transmission		
休眠模式(+可被偵測)	無此功能	
Sleening mode		

表 7 傳統藍牙電流檢測

表 8 BLE 4.0 電流檢測

電壓:4.06(V)	
Peripheral Mode	BLE 4.0 module
可被偵測模式	8.48 mA~9.35mA
Advertising mode	
(Sensing mode)	
連線狀態(-無傳輸資料)	9.3mA
On-line mode without	
data transmission	
連線狀態(+資料傳輸)	9.4mA~10.9mA
On-line mode with data	
Transmission	
休眠模式(+可被偵測)	0.5mA~0.9mA
Sleeping mode	



圖 4 傳統藍牙與 BLE 4.0 省電技術的耗電量比較

四、結合 Arduino 之 BLE 4.0 省電機制實作

本節將詳細說明如何實作結合Arduino之BLE 4.0 省電機制。

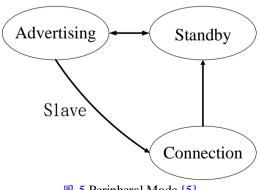
BLE 4.0 省電機制設計:

根據實驗結果發現,BLE 4.0 模組具有在休眠 模式下,仍然可被其他主動端行動裝置偵測到的特 性,意即 BLE 4.0 的休眠模式和 BLE 4.0 可被偵測 模式同樣都可被其他裝置偵測,但耗電量遠低於 BLE 4.0 可被偵測模式。

而同樣根據實驗結果,發現 BLE 4.0 模組本 身,具有無法從可被偵測模式下,自動轉換到休眠 模式的問題。因此,本論文將以 Arduino 開發版控 制 BLE 4.0,探討其有效省電機制的運作,以達到 更加省電目的。

BLE 4.0 在 Peripheral Mode 下之狀態:

如圖 5 所示,為 Peripheral Mode 下的狀態, 由於 BLE 4.0 模組具有休眠模式,但是無法靠 BLE 4.0 模組本身自動轉換成休眠模式,因此必須由 Arduino 開發板來控制成為休眠模式,我們將以 Peripheral Mode 狀態做修改,來使 BLE 4.0 更加省 電。



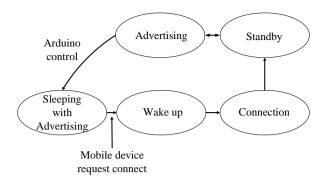


圖 6 結合 Arduino 之 BLE 4.0 省電機制狀態圖

如圖 6 所示,為 Arduino 開發板控制 BLE 4.0 模組之省電機制狀態圖,當 BLE 4.0 模組的狀態為 Advertising 時, Arduino 開發板會控制 BLE 4.0 進入 Sleeping with Advertising 狀態,使 BLE 4.0 較原本的 Advertising 狀態時所消耗的電流小 10 倍。當有行動裝置要求連線時,BLE 4.0 模組則會從 Sleeping with Advertising 狀態醒來,並且進行連線。並於斷線後,回到 Standby 狀態,接著回到 Advertising 狀態。

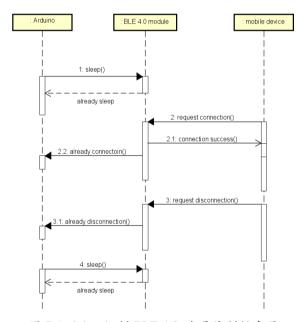


圖 7 Arduino 控制 BLE 4.0 省電機制循序圖

如圖 7 所示,為 Arduino 控制 BLE 4.0 module 之循序圖,其動作分別為:

- Arduino 要求 BLE 4.0 module 進入休眠模式: BLE 4.0 module 轉回休眠模式後,回報給 Arduino,告知其已經進入休眠模式,此時 BLE 4.0 module 為休眠模式並且仍可被偵測,如圖 6 所示的 Sleeping with Advertising 狀態。
- 2. 行動裝置向 BLE 4.0 module 要求連線:

- 2.1. BLE 4.0 module 會先甦醒,如圖 6 所示的 Wake up 狀態,接著進入連線,如圖 6 所示的 Connection 狀態,並回報行動裝置已成功連線。
- 2.2. BLE 4.0 module 告訴 Arduino 目前進入連線 狀狀態。
- 3. 行動裝置向 BLE 4.0 module 要求斷線:
 - 3.1. BLE 4.0 module 告訴 Arduino 目前已經斷線, 此時,BLE 4.0 module 不為 Sleeping with Advertising 狀態,需再透過 Arduino 控制, 將 BLE 4.0 module 由 Advertising 狀態轉變 為 Advertising Sleep 狀態,如圖 6 所示。
- 4. Arduino 向 BLE 4.0 module 要求進入休眠模式: BLE 4.0 module 回傳 Arduino 已進入休眠模式, BLE 4.0 module 由 Advertising 狀態轉變為 Sleeping with Advertising 狀態,如圖 6 所示。

五、結論

本論文提出一個新的有效省電機制,來提高BLE 4.0 的省電能力,雖然 BLE 4.0 模組本身具有省電的休眠模式,然而在可被偵測模式下,存在有無法自動轉換成休眠模式的問題。因此,我們利用該有效的省電機制,並藉由 Arduino 開發板來對BLE 4.0 模組進行控制,使其能在無其他外來行動裝置要求連線時,進入休眠模式,同時還保有廣播功能,以提供其他裝置尋求連線之機制。

我們以可被偵測模式來做比較,BLE 4.0 較傳統藍牙節省約 5 倍耗電量,透過 Arduino 開發板控制 BLE 4.0 進入休眠模式,可以使 BLE 4.0 較傳統藍牙節省約 50 倍耗電量。未來,可以延伸更多 BLE 4.0 相關服務應用於 IoT 產業與工業 4.0。

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