

Mobile and Cyber-Physical Systems

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Introduction

Network mobility history starts in the 80s with the first generation technology where a voice signal could be delivered using a circuit switched analog system. Circuit switching is a method to enable two nodes to communicate with each other over a dedicated physical link is reserved in the network.

Since 2.5G the circuit switched communication is complemented by a packet switched one for data transmission while, at least in the older generations, the voice signal was still transmitted via circuit switching.

As seen in figure 1 the 5G technology provides an improvement of different orders of magnitude in respect to the existing standards. Still it is reductive to refer to 5G just as an improvement in respect to previous technologies: the softwarization of the network functions and the enlargement of the frequency bands are a radical change in communication science.

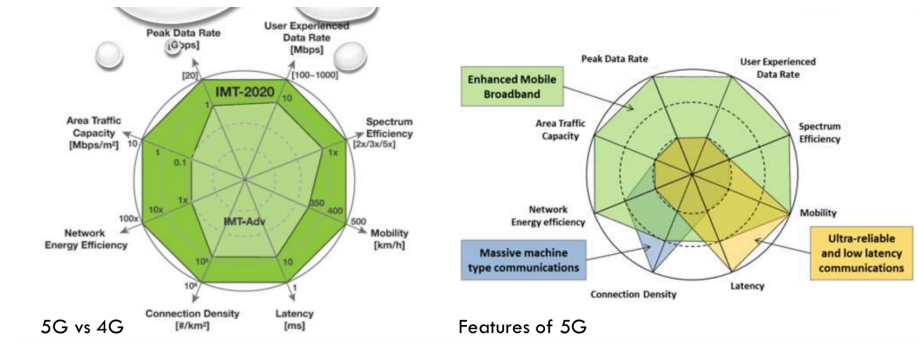


Figure 1: 5G feature comparison

MANETS

With the acronym MANETS, for Mobile ad-hoc networks, we refer to a decentralized type of wireless network. In a MANET the nodes are autonomous and independent, also since their mobile and dynamic behaviour they have to be battery powered and able to communicate by exchanging packets via radio waves.

Originally the MANET approach was thought as a replacement for the first and second generation technologies of over twenty years ago. By now the applications are limited, but given its robustness and the rapid deploying they

are now essential to very specific use cases like emergency management, or communication in remote or hostile environments.

The absence of a fixed network infrastructure is dealt by the nodes via cooperation in a peer-to-peer fashion, this realizes a pure distributed system able to be reconfigured on the fly. A fundamental concept in a MANET is the relation of neighborhood between nodes that share the same physical layer. Given the indefiniteness of radio waves boundaries a non trivial Media Access Control (MAC) protocol is required, leading to an high bit error rate.

In IP networks the address is strictly correlated to the position of the device, even in mobile connectivity the range is given by a fixed router. This does not hold for MANETS where frequent link failures and disconnections change arbitrarily the network topology, this implies the need for a dynamic multi-hop routing protocol where each node is a router.

Over the datalink and network layers, that are as we described different from the known IP stack, the usual transport layers protocols (TCP, UDP) are usable, providing a transparent implementation for the users.

Wireless Sensor Networks

The sensors are devices used to monitor an environment and gather informations. Conventionally they are thought to be simple transducers connect by a cable to a centralized control device.

Wireless sensors are instead smart and autonomous battery powered devices, that must handle the wireless communication logic. The need for a limited but unavoidable computational power can also be used to pre-process data and build a network when the communication is not limited to the sensor-controller channel.

The distribution of the devices and their peer-to-peer behaviour resembles the ad-hoc networks, but there are some fundamental differences that justify the separation of the two concepts. First of all the sensors of a WSN can be in number several orders of magnitude more than the nodes in a MANET, also the devices are strongly constrained in power, computational capacities and memory, so they're not general purpose but instead tightly integrated with their task.

The range of possible applications for WSN is wide and comprises different domains, it is interesting to deepen the user localization task to compare WSN to other simpler and cheaper technologies like barcodes and RFIDs. Both of them delegate the greatest part of the complexity to the reader and to obtain informations the user have to activate them at a very short distance. While a barcode only carries a static information, RFIDs can be connected to little chemical sensors to provide dynamic information.

The greatest advantage of wireless sensors is the absence of user intervention. In the context of user localization we could think of a WSN that periodically sends

signals from all of its sensors, then the receiver on the user can infer its position by interpolating the signal directions and strengths.

IOT

There are many definitions of IOT, choose one! The “things” are devices that are in some way related to electronics, software, sensors and network connectivity.

Currently the number of computer per person is rising up, surpassing in 2008 the number of living people in the world, with most of the devices that are not directly in use by human beings. It is reasonable to state that the IOT technology was born during the transition from IPv4 and IPv6, where the huge number of possible devices interconnected reasonably freed humanity from preparing for another painful transition and simplified the strategies to assign addresses.

There is a strict correlation between sensors and cloud, as of today the computation of the produced data is delegated to external data centers making intense use of technologies like NO-SQL databases that are more flexible and prone to horizontal scaling.

The usual path of the information goes from the sensor to the cloud using a gateway, and to actuators from the cloud always using a gateway. This multi-hop procedure can grow expensive in latency and other time measurements, leading to faults and inefficiencies when the relationship between sensors and actuators has real-time constraints.

The problem of this approach are even more evident in context where the sensors and the actuators are in the same environment, under the same gateway. In this scenario it is certainly a better choice to create a closed loop between sensors and actuator, by moving part of the logic to the devices. Of course this adaptation has costs and can be computational expensive to locally gather and process information from multiple sensors, given that in most cases the valuable informations are given by the WSN entirety and not by each single sensor. Despite of this many times this quasi-optimal technical solution is not implemented because of business constraints about the retain of user data in private cloud solutions to enforce vendor lock-in.

Wireless Networks

A wireless network is a network of mobile hosts connected by wireless links. Such networks can operate using an infrastructure with base stations or without any centralized coordinator as an ad-hoc network.

A base station is a device typically connected to a wired network and it's responsible as a relay between the wireless hosts in its area and an outer network. Other than the different architectures, wireless networks could be classified by the number of hops needed to deliver a package.

Multiple issues are specifics of the wireless medium, for instance:

- Decreased signal strength, the radio signal attenuates quicker as it propagates respect to the wired attenuation.
- Interference from other sources, the standard wireless frequencies are shared by multiple wireless devices, and possibly by other tools (engines, microwave ovens, etc.)
- Multipath propagation, the radio signal reflects off objects or ground, arriving at destination at slightly different times.

Two possible metrics to validate the effect of these issues are the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) and in the bit-error-rate (BER). These problematic characteristic of the medium also produce multiple challenges for wireless communication:

- Limited knowledge, a terminal cannot hear from all the others in the network, producing the hidden/exposed terminal scenarios.
- Limited terminals, the battery life, the memory, the computational power and the transmission range of a device are limited.
- Mobility/Failure of terminals, that can move in the range of different base-stations or move away from each other.
- Privacy, undermined by the easiness eavesdropping of ongoing communication.

CSMA/CD

In a wired network a single channel is available for all the stations. If frames are sent simultaneously the resulting signal is garbled, generating a collision detectable by all the hosts.

Given these context many different protocols were developed, culminating in the widely adopted Carrier-sense multiple access with collision detection (CSMA/CD) protocol:

- When a station has a frame to send, it listens to the channel to check if it's busy, waiting until it becomes idle.
- If a collision occurs the station waits a random amount of time and repeats the procedure.
- If a station is communicating and detects a collision it aborts immediately. (CD)

The random amount of time is selected by the binary exponential backoff technique. This method uses contention slots equal to the double of the time necessary for the farthest stations to communicate. After the i collision each station waits a number of contention slots comprised in the interval $[0, 2^i - 1]$, up to a maximum of $i = 16$ after which the failure is reported to upper levels.

In CSMA/CD the interferences are detected by the transmitter, while in the wireless networks what matters are interferences at the receiver. Using CSMA/CD in

wireless networks leads to two known problematic scenarios: the hidden terminal and the exposed terminal.

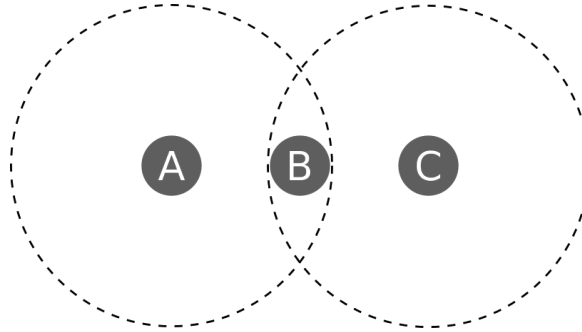


Figure 2: Hidden terminal

In the hidden terminal problem there are three stations, A, B and C. Suppose that A and C want simultaneously to send a packet to B, and that A is not in the range of C and vice versa. Both the senders would sense the medium as free, while B will only receive noise due to the collision in its range.

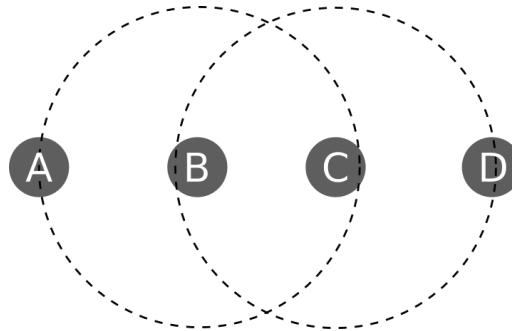


Figure 3: Exposed terminal

Suppose now that A and C are both in the range of B and that B is sending a packet to A. In the exposed terminal scenario using CSMA/CD C must refrain to send any packet, while there could be a station D out of the range of B to which C could communicate without any problem.

MACA protocol

The Multiple Accesses with Collision Avoidance (MACA) protocol offers a simple solution to overcome the technical limitations of CSMA/CD in wireless networks. The basic idea concerns stimulating the receiver using a short frame (Ready-to-send, RTS) into transmitting a short frame in turn (Clear-to-send, CTS). Once

the CTS has been received from the sender it can start transmitting the data frame.

The other stations hearing the CTS should refrain from requesting the media during the transmission of the data frame, of which the length is known since it is contained both in the RTS and the CTS. This is sufficient to solve both the hidden and the exposed terminal issues.

If a station receives multiple RTS detects the collision and doesn't respond with a CTS. The sending stations noticing that no CTS has been received assume a collision at the receiver and so they start binary exponential backoff before retrying.

The MACAW protocol offers various improvements over MACA:

- An ACK frame is introduced to acknowledge a successful data frame.
- Carrier sensing is required to keep a station from transmitting RTS when a nearby station is also transmitting an RTS to the same destination.
- Exponential backoff is run for each separate pair source/destination and not for the single station.
- A mechanisms to exchange information among stations and recognize temporary congestion problems is introduced.

IEEE 802.11

IEEE 802.11 is part of the IEEE 802 set of LAN protocols, and specifies the set of media access control and physical layer protocols for implementing wireless local area networks in various frequencies, including but not limited to 2.4 GHz, 5 GHz, and 60 GHz frequency bands. Introduced in the late 90s, different versions have been released during the years, improving the physical layers but leaving the unchanged the use of CSMA/CA in the MAC sublayer.

In the 802.11 architecture a group of stations operates under a given coordination function, this function can be decentralized (Distributed Coordination Function, DCF) or controlled by a unique station (Point Coordination Function, PCF). The presence of a base station, know as access point (AP), requires the other stations to communicate with each other by channeling all the traffic through the centralized AP. The access point can provide connectivity with other APs and so other groups of stations via a fixed infrastructure. In the absence of an AP, 802.11 supports ad-hoc networks which are as always under the control of a single coordination function, but without the aid of an infrastructure network.

The DCF must be implemented by all stations, and DCF and PCF can be active at the same time in the same cell.

Distributed Coordination Function

In the DCF the carrier sensing is performed both at the physical and the virtual level, and the channel is marked busy if either one of this two indicators is

considered to be active:

Physical carrier sensing detects the presence of other active nodes by analyzing all the detected packets and detecting any activity in the channel due to other sources. Virtual carrier sensing is performed by sending duration information in the header of an RTS, CTS or data frame and keeping the channel virtually busy up to the end of the data frame transmission.

The access to the medium is controlled through the use of growing inter-frame spaces (IFS): Short IFS, Point IFS and Distributed IFS.

This is the essence of the DCF based communication:

- The source senses the channel until it becomes idle, then waits DIFS and checks if the channel is still idle.
- The source sends the data, all the stations detecting the frame set a Network Allocation Vector (NAV) to mark the channel virtually busy for the time required for the data to be transmitted and the ACK to be received.
- The destination waits SIFS after receiving the data and then it sends the ACK.

A collision could happen because of multiple stations sending a data frame in the same instant, in that case the whole frame is sent before using binary exponential backoff to resend. The contention time depends on the physical layer, anyway the backoff can be interrupted if the channel is sensed as busy and then the timer reprises after DIFS when it becomes idle again.

To avoid this situation, the RTS/CTS mechanism already seen in MACA can be implemented for all the possible frames or only for the enough big ones, in this case the other stations set multiple shrinking NAVs for the RTS, CTS and the data frame.

Also fragmentation can be useful to improve reliability, the frames are sent in sequence but each one waits for the acknowledgement of the previous. In the case a fragments isn't correctly delivered the transmission reprises from that last one and not from the start, even in this case the NAV is specialized for the different fragments length other than for the RTS/CTS. It should be noticed that if present, the RTS/CTS mechanism is used only for the first fragment.

Point Coordination Function

In this operative mode the communication is under the control of the point coordinator (PC) that performs polling and enables stations to transmit without contending for the channel. As previously stated this method must coexist with DCF.

According to a repetition interval, `CFP_RATE`, the PC periodically waits PIFS and sends a beacon frame to notify the start of a portion of time allocated for contention-free traffic. The contention-free portion has a maximum time

duration `CFP_MAX_DURATION` shared between all the stations, but the actual length is determined inside the beacon frame by the PC. The contention-free period is always closed by a Contention Free End (CFE) frame.

Inside the contention-free period the communication are always initialized by the PC station, that can send data and/or a poll frame to a station, this can be done multiple times inside the same contention-free window. After having received a beacon frame each station sets a NAV for the duration of the contention-free period, in that period they can only respond to data received using SIFS+ACK, or send data to any other station if polled by the PC.

With this model PC can also send to a non-PCF aware station that only has DCF, since this station will respond with an ACK, also messages can be fragmented as in DCF.

Frame format specification

A frame of the 802.11 protocol most contain other important informations other than the obvious source and destination addresses and the data buffer.

The version of the protocol is needed, since given the interoperability at the MAC layer different protocols can coexist in the same cell. There are three types of frames: management (association/dissociation, synchronization, authentication), control (handshaking, acknowledgement) and data (data transmission, possibly combined with polling and ACK in PCF). Also the subtype of the frame may be specified to identify special frames like RTS, CTS and ACK.

Further informations regard the fragmentation, the encryption, the estimated time to complete the transmission and the CRC for error detection.

Cellular networks

A cellular network is composed by a set of a cells, each one covering a distinct geographical region and connected by a Mobile Switching Center (MSC) that also manages the call setup and handles mobility. A cell is composed by a base station (BS), that has analogous functions to an access point of 802.11, and its mobile users.

The radio spectrum used for the mobile-to-BS communication can be handled in two different ways:

- Combined FDMA/TDMA, where the spectrum is divided in frequency channels, and each channel into time slots.
- CDMA, Code Division Multiple Access.

A Base Station System (BSS) is composed by multiple base stations grouped by a Base Station Controller. It should be noticed that up to 3G the data communication was parallel in respect to the voice one, that still used old circuit switching techniques.

Mobility

Each host in a network holds a permanent address in its home network, this address can always be used to reach the host. The home agent is the entity that will perform mobility functions on behalf of the host when the host is not in the home network but in another visited network. In a visited network a care-of-address is assigned to the host, and a foreign agent also have to cooperate with the home agent to perform mobility functions.

The mobility could be handled by the routing mechanism, letting the routers advertise permanent address of mobile-nodes-in-residence via usual routing table exchange, but this cannot scale to millions of mobile devices like it's required nowadays.

The alternative is to let the end-systems handle the mobility. The first step is the registration of a mobile-device in a visited network: the mobile contacts the foreign agent and receives the care-of-address, after that the home agent is notified that its mobile device is resident in the visited network.

After the registration the communication can be routed in two ways: indirected or directed.

In indirect routing, a correspondent communicates to the home network that is responsible to forward the packets to the visited network, this replies directly to the correspondent. It should be noticed that the foreign agent functions may be done by the mobile itself. Also the mobile user can maintain on going connections by simply notifying the home network of the new position by the next foreign agent. This technique is obviously inefficient if the correspondent and the host are in the same visited network, because of the necessary triangularization.

In direct routing the correspondent gets the address of the visited network from the home agent and then it communicates directly with the mobile device in the visited network. In this way the communication is not transparent, also if the mobile device changes visited network chaining is used. In chaining the first visited network is called the anchor, and all of the traffic must be forwarded to the anchor even when the mobile changes visited network.

Global System for Mobile communications

In the context of GSM cellular networks, the home network is the network of the provider the host is subscribed to (TIM, Vodafone, etc.) that maintains a database called home location register (HLR). A similar database is kept by the visited network containing all the actual connected devices, called visitor location register (VLR).

In GSM indirect routing is used, so the correspondent packets pass trough the home network and the visited network, consulting respectively the HLR and the VLR.

Inside the same network, so under the same Mobile Switching Center the mobile could change Base Station System using a procedure called handoff initialized by the old BSS. There are various reasons to perform handoff, like signal power issues and load balance. Anyway the GSM standard only defines how to perform handoff and not the reasons why it should be performed.

The handoff protocol is the following:

1. Old BSS inform MSC of impending handoff, providing a list of BSS
2. MSC chooses one BSS and notifies it to the selected one
3. New BSS allocates radio channel for the upcoming mobile device
4. New BSS notifies, through the MSC, that it's ready
5. Old BSS notify the mobile device to perform handoff to the new BSS
6. Mobile device contact the new BSS to activate the new channel
7. Mobile notifies the MSC through the new BSS that the handoff is complete
8. Old BSS releases the resources after the MSC notifies it of the outcome of the overall operation

Handoff could also be performed between different MSCs, in that case chaining mechanism is used between all the traversed MSC.

Managing mobility in ad-hoc

In ad-hoc networks we can recognize different goals to achieve:

- Quickly adaptation to topology changes
- No centralization
- Loop free routing
- Load balancing among different routes in case of congestion
- Supporting asymmetric communications
- Low overhead and memory requirements
- Security

The proactive approach attempt to maintain consistent, up to date routing information from each node to every other node in the network. In the reactive one the route to a destination is discovered only when it's desired by the source node.

In the following discussion we will represent each terminal/station as a node in a graph, a directed edge from a node to another represents the faculty of a source to directly send packets to a destination. Assuming the same radio range for all the nodes and a circular transmission area we can state the links are symmetric, and so we can use an undirected graph.

Dynamic Source Routing (DSR)

The DSR is a protocol proposed in 1994 to quickly react to changes in the network without a centralization point and with a low overhead. The protocol is

based on the following assumptions:

- The nodes are cooperative, all of them want to participate fully in the network protocol and will forward packets for other nodes.
- The network diameter is small, the number of hops needed to travel from any node at the extreme edge of the network is small (5-10) but greater than 1.
- Corrupted packets can be recognized and discarded by their destination.
- The nodes may move in the network at any time without notice, but their speed is moderate with respect to the packet transmission latency, meaning that in general the topology change should be infrequent and unlikely to occur during the route discovery.

The route discovery (RD) is the mechanism by which a node wishing to send a packet obtains a route to the destination if not already present. The other basic mechanism of DSR is the route maintenance (RM) by which the source route is able to detect that topology has changed and so that the route for the required destination is no longer available.

S searches for a source route R to D in its route cache, if it finds it S places R in the header of the new packet and sends it, otherwise it start a route discovery protocol sending a route request (RREQ) to all the nodes it can reach directly via local broadcast. Each copy of the RREQ contains the unique IDs of the source and the destination, and the list of nodes through which the particular RREQ has been forwarded.

When a node receives the RREQ and it's not the target checks if it has already received, in that case it discards it, otherwise it appends its unique ID and local broadcast it. When the target receives the RREQ returns a reply to S (RREP) including a copy of the accumulated route record, if the destination has not a path to the original source it has to start a route discovery combined with the RREP, this is obviously not needed if all the links are bidirectional. The target can receive possibly different paths, it can independently chose one of them based on latency, number of hops, energy levels or other metrics.

While the packets to be sent wait for a route discovery to be completed they are kept in a send buffer, they can expire and be deleted after a timeout, also they can be evicted with some policy (FIFO) to prevent send buffer from overflowing. Also the source node occasionally starts a route discovery, using exponential backoff to delay further route discoveries for the same destination to avoid overflowing the network in case the target is unreachable.

When sending a packet along a route each node in the route is responsible of the receipt of the packet at the following hop in the route. If a device detects that a route link is down a route error is returned to the sender stating the status of the link, the sender then removes all the routes containing the broken link from the cache, also the route error is reported to the upper layers.

A possible improvement is for all the nodes in the network to cache not only

the results of a route discovery procedure, but also the accumulated routes in a route request/reply and the sources in a data packet. Also it's possible to reply to route request using cached routes, sharing the internal knowledge of the node without local broadcasting the request up to the target. In this case many nodes may have a route, so to avoid collisions and to favour shortest routes a node must wait for a random period before replying to the route request, this period is computed as following:

$$D = L(H - 1 + R)$$

Where H is the hop-length of the route to be returned, R is a random number between 0 and 1, and L is a constant at least twice the maximum wireless link propagation delay.

Further improvements could include limit the time-to-live of RREQ, automatically cut out intermediate hops that are no longer needed in a route and cache broken links to prevent their use in other routes.

The DSR packets are standard IP packets that uses special flags in the option header.

Ad-Hoc On-Demand Distance Vector (AODV)

AODV is a project proposed in 1994 with the same goals of DSR, but the also integrates unicast, multicast and broadcast messages. The assumptions are similar to the ones for DSR, the nodes must be cooperative but also the links must be bidirectional, this could be enforced by pruning unidirectional links.

The protocol uses one route table for unicast and one for multicast. Each table contains at most one route for each destination, maintaining the next hop and a precursor. If the entry is not used within a lifetime timer it is removed.

Each node also maintains a monotonic sequence number, this value is increased each time a node detects a change in its neighborhood. Each multicast group maintains a separate sequence number.

When a source originates a packet for a destination non present in it's routing table it broadcasts a route discovery message RREQ and sets a timer to wait for a reply. Since flooding the network with RREQ could be expensive a growing TTL is used by the source to try different route requests up to a fixed constant maximum, when a route is established the distance to the destination is recorded to set the initial TTL in the next route discovery for the same destination. The RREQ contains:

- IP address of source and its current sequence number, which is incremented
- IP address of the destination and its last known sequence number
- Broadcast ID, which is incremented
- Hop count initially set to zero

When an intermediate node, known also as rely, receives a RREQ checks if it has already received it by comparing both IP source and broadcast id with a cache of all received RREQ in the near past. If the request is new it is processed by inserting in its routing table the reverse route for the source node, to be able to forward to it a RREP if it is received.

A rely node is able to directly respond to a RREQ if it contains a unexpired entry for the destination in its route table with a sequence number at least great as the one included in the RREQ, this is needed to avoid loops. If a rely node is not able to respond to RREQ it increments the hop count field in the RREQ and broadcasts the packet to its neighbors.

When the RREQ finally reaches the destination a RREP is generated, containing more or less the same information of the RREQ, but also the route lifetime and the sequence number of the destination which is incremented by one.

If a rely node receives a RREP sets up a forward path for the destination in its route table and forwards the RREP by updating the hop count with its distance from the destination.

Each node periodically sends to its neighbors special HELLO packets to inform its neighbors of its presence in the neighborhood, technically this packages are unsolicited RREP with TTL equal to 1 to prevent resend.

For what concerns route maintenance each node back-propagates RERR packets to all its precursors, marking the unreachable destination with an infinite distance.

Multicast

Each multicast group has a leader and a bidirectional multicast tree, a message to a group is routed using the tree starting from the first node in the group reached. A multicast group has a sequence number maintained by the leader.

When a node wishes to join a group or to send data to a group it starts a route request including the known sequence number for the group.

Dynamic Manet On Demand Routing (DYMO)

The DYMO protocol has been proposed in 2011 and tries to simplify AODV and merge the features of both DSR and AODV.

The assumptions of the protocol are the same already seen: cooperative nodes, bidirectional symmetric links, recognition of corrupted packets and slow mobility nodes.

In DYMO route discovery and route maintenance work in similar way as in AODV, using sequence numbers to prevent loops. Like DSR instead HELLO packets are not used, favoring timers, and RREQ and RREP messages carry information on all intermediate nodes, and are used for creating table entries for all intermediate nodes, not only for source and destination as in AODV.

The sequence numbers are incremented when a source node, generates a new RREQ or when a destination node answers with a RREP, also when an intermediate node adds its information in a routing packet. Also when a node is rebooted it must not set its sequence number to 0, since this could produce loops due to old entries in other node's tables, so the sequence number should be kept in persistent memory if possible.

Wireless sensor networks

A Wireless Sensor Network is a peculiar ad-hoc wireless network characterized by the fact that its nodes are small autonomous sensors with low power. The sensors are equipped with little amounts of memory storage and computational power, other than the radio transceivers needed to perform communication.

Energy consumption

Of the many issues in the WSN design one of the most important is the energy consumption, since the sensors are battery-powered and so they need efficient solutions. The wireless communication is obviously costly and so the radio should be turned off as much as possible, this should be applied to all the components in a sensor. In any case switching on and off the components consumes power as well, so a balance must be found.

The activities of a sensor are mostly repetitive: sense, process, store, transmit and receive. Each sensor alternates a period of activity and a period of inactivity, this defines a duty cycle.

Formally the duty cycle of a component μ is the fraction of the period in which the component is active.

$$\sum_{s \in S_\mu} dc_\mu^s = 1$$

The energy cost of any component μ can be computed as:

$$E_\mu = \sum_{s \in S_\mu} c_\mu^s \cdot dc_\mu^s$$

The total energy cost for the sensor is obtained as:

$$E = \sum_{\mu} E_\mu$$

Given an initial capacity B_0 for the battery of the sensor it's possible to compute the ideal lifetime of a sensor as:

$$n = \frac{B_0}{E}$$

Actually the battery is an object that loses its capacity during the time, so also the battery leaks must be formalized:

$$n = \frac{B_0 - L(n)}{E}$$

Given that the overall battery leaks L also depends on the lifetime the formulation of a problem leads to the following recurrence equation, where the term ϵ represents the leaks per cycle and $\gamma = 1 - \epsilon$ is used to simplify the notation.

$$\begin{aligned} B_n &= B_{n-1} \cdot (1 - \epsilon) - E \\ B_n &= B_0 \cdot \gamma^n - E \cdot \frac{\gamma^n - 1}{\gamma - 1} \end{aligned}$$

The lifetime n is so the first value for which $B_n \leq 0$.

Reducing the duty cycle is a good solution to reduce the energy consumption and improve the efficiency. Anyway it should be noticed that while turning off the processor is a local decision, turning off the radio requires a global decision, since when the node is down the sensor can't contribute to the network, that as we already have seen is a requirement of multiple cooperative routing algorithms. Because of this the decisions about the state of the radio are usually directly managed by the MAC protocols for the WSN.

Multi-hop communication and mobility

Assuming a wireless channel model without interference we can define P_A as the power used by node A to send a message and P_B^r as the intensity of the received signal at node B and β as the minimal intensity to correctly receive the message.

$$\begin{aligned} P_B^r &= \frac{P_A}{PL(A, B)} \\ P_B^r &> \beta \end{aligned}$$

The path loss PL is assumed to be proportional to $d(A, B)^\alpha$, where d is the euclidean distance between the nodes and α is a constant depending on the environment, normally assumed in the range $[2, 6]$.

Assuming $\alpha = 2$ and using the law of cosines it's possible to state that $D(A, B)^2 > D(A, C)^2 + D(C, D)^2$ when $\gamma \geq \frac{\pi}{2}$, or equivalently when the node C is in the circle of the figure 4. Because of this two short links should be preferred when sending a message from A to B.

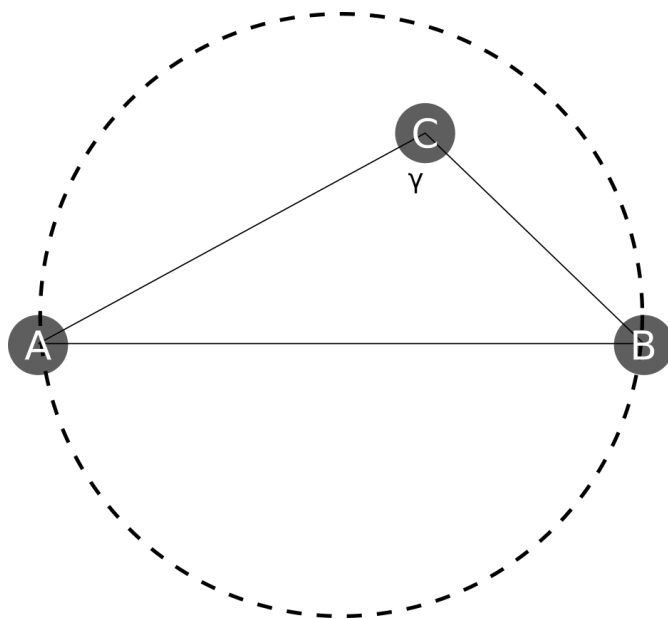


Figure 4:



Figure 5:

Another possible problem in multi-hop communication is given by the interferences. Assume that the node **A** sent a packet to node **B**, the packet is correctly received if and only if for any other node **C** that transmits simultaneously:

$$d(C, B) \geq (1 + \Delta)d(A, B)$$

Where Δ is a constant that depends on the features of the radio.

For this reason in scenario like the one in figure 5 is always better to use multiple short links than a wider one, since in this way we can allow other communications of other sensors. This can be proved by using Hölder inequality.

MAC Protocols

In a WSN the use of MAC protocols is not confined to media arbitration, but it is also useful for energy efficiency. The objectives are to reduce the radio duty cycle and to maintain network connectivity, so the tradeoff is between the energy consumption of each sensor and the performances of the whole network.

S-MAC

This protocol exploits local node synchronization, alternating listen and sleep periods when the sensor is not able to detect any incoming message. The synchronization of the nodes is a desirable condition since if the nodes are synchronized they can turn on the radios simultaneously.

Adjacent sensors synchronize their listen periods by means of periodical local broadcasts of **SYNC** packets that contain the schedule of the sensor. If a sensor detects adjacent sensors with a predefined listen period it uses the same period, otherwise it chooses its own period advertising it to the neighbors. Even after the initialization of the sensor it's possible to revert to something else's schedule, if its own schedule is not shared with anybody else.

Since a sensor can receive a packet only in its listen period, the sender may need to turn on its radio also outside its listen period, so it should know all the listen periods of its neighbors. Before sending a packet the media is sensed, if busy it tries again in the slot, the collision avoidance mechanism used is based on RTS/CTS as in IEEE 802.11.

While travelling across a multihop path a packet may have to wait in the worst case for the listen period of each intermediate node, accumulating latency at each hop. This situation should be mitigated by the fact that hopefully a certain number of sensors will converge towards the same schedule, even though there is not any guarantee of convergence. In fact depending on the topology it may be impossible for a sensor to have a listen period compatible with all its neighbors.

B-MAC

In B-MAC a node can send whenever it wants using packets that contain a very long preamble in the header. The receiver activates its radio periodically to check if there is a preamble on the air, this activity is called preamble sampling and it is based on a low-power-listening mode. Obviously the preamble should be longer than the sleep period, because of this B-MAC costs more in transmission but save energy in reception since the preamble sampling can be very short and cheap.

The energy consumption can be modeled as follows. Assume that f_c is the frequency of checking the medium for each sensor and that the medium is sensed for t_c seconds, then the duty cycle in a second of time is:

$$dc^{\text{check}} = f_c \cdot t_c$$

Given a packet length in seconds of t_d and a preamble length in seconds of t_p , the duty cycle for a transmitter is:

$$dc^{\text{tx}} = f_d \cdot (t_p + t_d)$$

Assuming ϵ to be the fraction of the preamble that has been captured by the receiver, its duty cycle is:

$$dc^{\text{rx}} = f_d \cdot (t_p \cdot \epsilon + t_d)$$

Now assuming that power in Watt required to transmit to be p_{tx} and to receive p_{rx} it is possible to compute the energy spent in Joule using for t seconds.

$$E = \sum_{s \in \{\text{check}, \text{tx}, \text{rx}, \text{none}\}} p_s \cdot dc^s$$

$$E(t) = t \cdot E$$

This simple and transparent protocol may turn to be expensive in the long run since the preamble sampling is not negligible.

X-MAC

This protocol is an evolution of B-MAC aimed to reduce the impact of long preambles. The transmitter fragments the preamble and inserts the ID of the receiver in each of this fragments. The correct receiver of the packet is so able to interrupt the preamble to request the packet.

The protocol BoX-MAC is a further development of X-MAC that sends the actual packet instead of a preamble, so that the receiver only has to respond with an acknowledgement to stop the repetition of the message.

Polling

Polling is an asymmetrical MAC technique that is combined with synchronization.

One master node issues periodic beacons, while several slaves can keep the radio off whenever they want. If the master receives a message for a slave it stores the message and advertises it in the beacon, when the slave turns on the radio it waits for the beacon and recognizing that there is a pending message it requests it to the master.

Network Protocols

Sensor networks are mostly data centric, so the identification of a node is less meaningful than its capabilities, nonetheless traditional routing protocols are not practical because of the large routing tables and the size of packet headers.

Because of this reasons it's important to use data centric routing protocols that are able to aggregate informations and are location aware being able to manage both the implosion and the overlap problem.

Directed diffusion

The directed diffusion protocol has been presented in the year 2000 as a coordination protocol to perform distributed sensing of environmental phenomena. The sensor network is programmed to respond to location and movement-aware queries.

All the data generated by sensors are named by attribute-value pairs. The sink disseminates a sensing task in the network as an interest for named data. The dissemination of interests sets up gradients. Data matching the interest flow towards the sink along multiple paths. The sink reinforces one, or a small number of these paths. The directed diffusion protocol works also in presence of multiple sinks.

Interests are named by a sequence of attribute-value pairs that describe the task, for example the type of data requested, the interval of events, the duration of the whole sensing request and the region of interested sensors. Also the data sent in response to the interest is also named using a similar naming scheme.

The interests are periodically generated by the sink, the first broadcast is exploratory while the following ones are refreshes of the same interest, this is necessary because dissemination of interests is not reliable. The nodes receiving an interest may forward the interest to a subset of neighbors. The node from which an interest has been received is called a gradient, it should be noticed that the same interest could be received by multiple nodes. A gradient is associated to a direction and a data rate and they are used to route data matching the interest towards the sink.

Each node preserves in an internal cache the received interest, possibly aggregating them. The interests in the cache expire when the duration time is

elapsed.

When a sensor detects an event matching with an interest in cache starts sampling the event at the largest sampling rate of the corresponding gradients. The sensor sends sampled data to the neighbors interested in the event, by eventually lowering the rate according to the request of the gradient. The neighbors forward the data if and only if a corresponding interest, with a gradient, is still in the cache.

The reinforcement is used when the sink starts receiving data matching an exploratory interest from a sensor. The sink reinforces the given sensor to improve the quality of received data, exploratory interests usually have a low sampling rate, reinforces of an interest with higher sampling rate.

The implicit assumption of directed diffusion is that the overall system can survive to lost messages, considering they will flow constantly.

The protocol can be easily represented using a two-state machine, and it's suitable for implementation on low-end devices. It's a scalable and robust protocol that results to be effective in applications that do not require complex data aggregation/preprocessing.

This tree structure constructed by the sink is scalable as we already mentioned but it's not completely fair for what concerns power consumption. In a grid-connected network the nodes closer to the sink are those that consume more energy. Also in an arbitrary connected network bottlenecks are common, especially between nodes that are close to sink.

Greedy Perimeter Stateless Routing (GPSR)

This protocol tries to overcome the limitations of directed diffusion and of other similar protocols, providing arbitrary node-to-node routing and assuming limited resources and communication overhead. The protocol is scalable since there is no use for route discovery and few control packets are used.

The nodes in the network must be aware of their position and of the position of their neighbors in a two dimensional space. When sending a message the source knows the coordinate of the destination, so packet headers contain the destination coordinate.

GPSR actually comprises two different modes: Greedy forwarding and Perimeter forwarding.

In greedy forwarding, considering a packet with destination D, the forwarding node x select as next hop a neighbor y such that y is closer to D than x and among the neighbors y is the closest to the destination. Greedy forwarding fails if the packets encounters a void, that is the actual node is closest to the destination but it can't reach it.

Perimeter mode forwarding is used when greedy forwarding fails, routing around

the void using a rule (usually Right-Hand-Rule RHR) to define rotation order, exploring the edges of the polygon enclosing the void.

The graph of the WSN is a non-planar embedding of a graph, so edges may cross and the RHR may take a degenerate tour that does not trace the boundary of a closed polygon. For this reason, GPSR applies the perimeter mode to a planar graph P obtained from the Relative Neighborhood Graph and the Gabriel Graph of the original non-planar graph G . If G is connected then P is connected, also P is obtained from G by removing edges and is computed with a distributed algorithm executed along with the perimeter mode packet forwarding.

The greedy mode forwarding uses all the links in G , while the perimeter mode forwarding uses only the links in the planar graph P .

The relative neighborhood graph RNG of G is the set of all the edges s.t.

$$(u, v) \in \text{RNG} \iff (u, v) \in G \wedge d(u, v) \leq \max_{w \in N(u) \cup N(v)} (d(u, w), d(w, v))$$

The Gabriel Graph is similar but it regards only a circular area.

The GG keeps more links than RNG, and actually RNG is a subgraph of GG, anyway both are suitable to GPSR.

Should be improved the part about perimeter mode.

GPSR switches back to greedy whenever it finds a node that is closer than the first one failing to the destination.

GPSR relies on updated information about the position of the neighbors because it needs a freshly planar version of the graph to avoid performance degradation. Performing planarization at each topology change is not good since node may move within a node's transmission range, continuously changing the selection of links by GG or RNG. A proactive approach is used: nodes periodically communicate their position to their neighbors. This beacon is used to keep updated the list of neighbors and to force planarization when the line changes are excessive.

Planarization could fail due to unidirectional links caused for example by obstacles or because the assumption of unit disk graph does not hold anymore. This could lead to possible loops.

One solution is to use bidirectional links to avoid loops, this is enforced by the mutual witness rule. Even this can fail due to undetectable cross links, but there is another solution called Cross Link Detection Protocol, study that.

Data-Centric Storage

In a wireless sensor network there is an important tradeoff between the transmission and the storage of the informations. Once the user sends instructions to

the nodes each node can either:

1. Send information to an external storage through the sink
2. Store information internally in a local storage
3. Use a data-centric storage

Let's define the asymptotic costs in terms of the number of nodes n , the cost for flooding a WSN is $O(n)$, while the cost for unicast is reasonably $O(\sqrt{n})$.

If using an external storage for each single event the cost is $O(\sqrt{n})$, because it accounts the transmission of each information to the sink. Dealing with local storage the sensor does not incur in any communication cost, but the user should look for the information in the WSN, each query costs $O(n)$ and each reply $O(\sqrt{n})$. Using data-centric storage the cost is $O(\sqrt{n})$ to direct the information to a specific node and $O(\sqrt{n})$ to send the response of the query to the sink.

Geographic Hash Tables

Physical and virtual coordinates

Clustering in WSN