MDSmartBracelets

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1 Introduction

2 Operating system

As operating system we decided to use TinyOS since the application is maily based on timers, which are easy to handle in TinyOS. Moreover, we decided to build a single application in common for the child and the parent to simulate the interaction both with Cooja and Tossim. We couldn't find a way to use Tossim with different applications, yet we preferred to use it since it's more dynamic and allows do define more test cases.

3 Communication

3.1 Pairing

The pairing protocol uses allows to pair two devices A and B. The protocol works as follows:

- 1. Mote A broadcast a PAIR message with its 20-bit key.
- 2. Mote B receives a PAIR message from A.
- 3. Mote B checks if the 20-bit key in the received message is the same as the one stored in memory.
- 4. Mote B replies with a PAIREND message.
- 5. Mote A, upon receiving the PAIREND message from B, stops broadcasting PAIR messages.
- 6. Mote A acknowledges B's PAIREND message.

The same procedure happens with inverted role and the whole procedure ends when both devices have received a PAIR message and the acknowledgement for the PAIREND response.

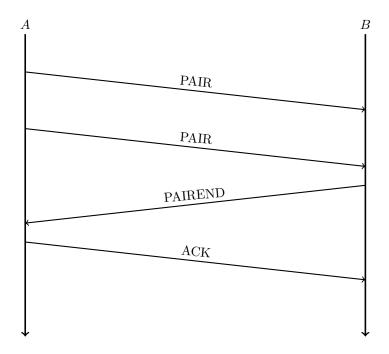


Figure 1: Pairing protocol from A's perpective.

3.2 State machine

A mote can logically be in one of three states:

- BROADCASTING: the mote broadcasts PAIR messages.
- PAIRING: the mote is pairing with another mote. No PAIR message is sent.
- OPERATION: the mote is exchanging information messages with the paired mote.

Initially, a mote is in the BROADCASTING state. Whenever a mote receives a message from a node with the same key as its, the mote goes in the PAIRING state. A mote in the pairing state goes in the OPERATION from the pairing state as soon as

- The mote receives an acknowledgement for a PAIREND message.
- The mote receives a PAIREND message.

3.3 Missing alerts

This section describes how missing alerts are handled. A parent can receive a missing alert when:

- The child is too far.
- The child's bracelet turns off.

To handle both cases we decided to reset the parent device, whenever it received a missing alert. This solution works well if the child's bracelet turns off (both bracelets are in the BROADCASTING state), however it requires more attention for the cases in which the bracelet is out of reach. In particular, the child's bracelet keeps sending INFO messages, however the parent's send PAIRING messages. To solve this problem, we decided to implement a keep-alive mechanism in which the parent's bracelet periodically sends a KEEP_ALIVE message so that, when the child's bracelet doesn't receive a KEEP_ALIVE, it realises that it went out of reach and it resets to the initial state (i.e., both devices are in the BROADCAST state). We know that, this solution is not power efficient, however, it allows to handle both cases in which a missing alert may rise. We also realise that, the same mechanism could be implemented with acknowledgements (i.e., the parent acknowledges INFO messages from the child), however this solution is more flexible since it allows to add some information in the KEEP_ALIVE message if required and it allows us to decide the rate at which messages are exchanged.