

Energy-efficient routing in wireless sensor networks for delay sensitive applications

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Introduction

- Certain applications such as volcanic monitoring ; where sensor nodes are deployed to monitor the seismic activities and emission levels of volcanic craters, are highly delay-sensitive.
- In these applications, data should be transmitted to the control center within a prescribed delay (time) in observance of any unusual activity.
- In this work, a new heuristic, routing strategy for solving delay-constrained, energy-efficient routing problem (DCEERP) is described.
- The strategy employs power control and also models the channel access delay caused by 802.11-like MAC layer to solve the DCEERP

Problem Formulation

- Let s be a sensor node generating time-sensitive data to be sent to the sink t ; d' be the maximum, tolerable, end-to-end delay in the transmission; let P denote the set of possible paths between s and t ; d_i and E_i denote end-to-end delay and energy consumed along the path $P_i \in P$. Given the above, the DCEERP can be formulated as:
- Find a path P_i^* , such that $P_i^* \in P^c$, and $E_i^* \leq E_j$ for every $P_j \in P^c$ where, $P^c = \{ P_i / P_i \in P \text{ and } d_i \leq d \}$

Assumptions

- The sensor nodes are stationary and are aware of their geographical locations.
- Each node is equipped with 2 radios:
 - Low-power radio for short range communication
 - High-power radio for long range communication
- Both radios (in each node) operate at different frequencies.
- Long range radio is only used when delay constraint cannot be satisfied using the short range radio.
- The sensor nodes use 802.11 –like channel access scheme for each of the 2 wireless channels

Network Architecture

- Geographical area under monitor is divided into sectors of angular width θ and angular bands of thickness b
- Sensed region viewed as a grid in polar co-ordinates
- Network grid is generated when the sink advertises the values of θ and b over the entire network
- Each grid cell has a gateway – a node close to the cell's center that aggregates the information sensed in that particular cell
- All the gateways in the network form a communication backbone
- After hearing the sink's advertised values of θ and b , sensor nodes located within a small distance ϵ from a cell's geographical center start a random timer.

Network Architecture(Contd)

- The node whose timer expires first advertises itself as the cell's gateway. Other nodes on hearing the advertisement cancel their timers.
- There are 2 phases ;– intra-cell and inter-cell phases in relaying data from a sensor node to the sink.
 - Intra-cell:- node-to-gateway transmission within same cell (within time $d'' < d'$)
 - Inter-cell :- gateway-to-sink transmission (within time $d' - d''$)
- A gateway can only act as an intermediate hop for sensory data that originates in the same sector as the gateway

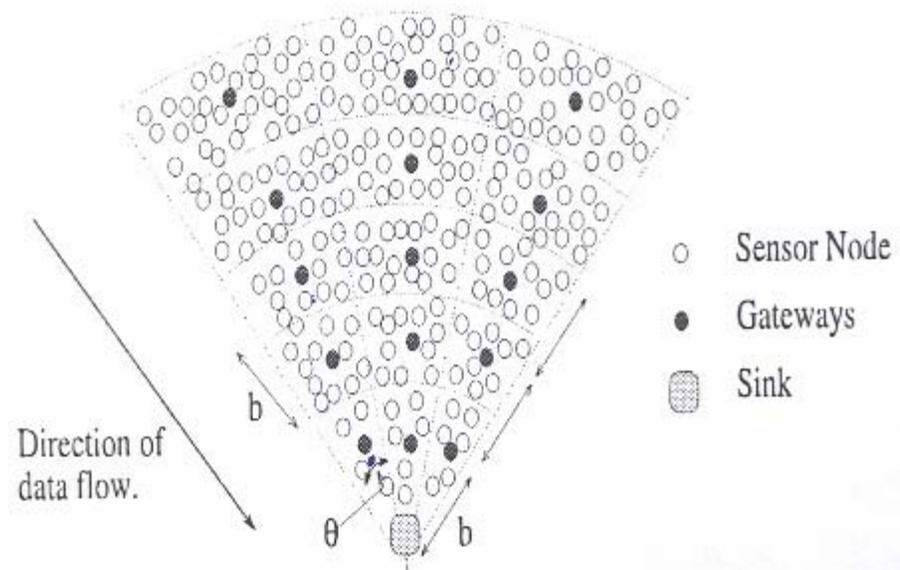


Fig. 1. Network Architecture.

Solution Algorithm

- 1) If the delay along g_N 's basis path is less than d ,
 - a) The basis path from any given gateway is its DCEERP solution.
 - b) Return.
- 2) Else
 - a) For each $n = 1$ to N ,
 - i) Since the delay across short-range links can be calculated, remove all paths from \mathcal{P}_n that may not satisfy the delay constraint.
 - ii) Arrange members of \mathcal{P}_n in the increasing order of energy consumption.
 - b) $U \rightarrow \emptyset$
 - c) Iterate the following until the delay for the solution path from each of the gateway does not change anymore.
 - i) For $n = N$ to 2,
 - A) Use the current value for U to determine the lowest index path $P_n^* \in \mathcal{P}_n$ that satisfies the delay constraint.
 - B) Modify U to add any new gateway in P_n^* that may use its long range radio. Add the appropriate range as well.
 - d) Return.

Fig. 2. Procedure to determine DCEERP solution paths.

Conclusion

- A new heuristic approach for finding energy-efficient paths that satisfy the delay constraint in sensor network is presented.