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RESEARCH ARTICLE

MULTI - CHANNEL ALLOCATION AND FAIR-PRIORITY MAC DESIGN FOR WIRELESS SENSOR NETWORKS

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Abstract- A wireless sensor network (WSN) consists of a number of Autonomous and inexpensive sensor nodes. Each of them is composed of sensors, a low-power radio transceiver, small amount of memory and processing capability as well as limited battery power supply. The WSN should consist of hundreds or thousands of such tiny devices deployed in adhoc manner, which are able to sense the environment, compute simple task and communicate with each other in order to achieve common objective, like environmental monitoring, target tracking, detecting hazardous chemicals and forest fires, monitoring seismic activity, military surveillance.

1. INTRODUCTION

The primary objective in WSN design is maximizing node/network lifetime, leaving the other performance metrics as secondary objectives. Since the communication of sensor nodes is more energy consuming than their computation, it is a primary concern to minimize communication while achieving the desired network operation. Media Access Control (MAC) is a key component to ensure the successful operation of WSNs and it has obtained intensive research attention. A MAC protocol

decides when competing nodes could access the shared medium to transmit their data and tries to ensure that no collisions occur. MAC protocol controls the activity of nodes' radio transceiver directly, and therefore makes a strong impact to the overall network performance and energy efficiency.

Popularity of WSNs is the result of technological advancements in Micro-Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS) for sensing, microelectronics for computation and communication, and wireless networking techniques for efficient transmission. Sensor nodes usually are equipped with a single transceiver utilizing a single channel. Therefore, WSNs cannot provide reliable and timely communication with high data rate requirements due to radio collisions and limited bandwidth. Here, the term "channel" is used upon a logical level, where it can be implemented as a frequency band under FDMA or an orthogonal code under CDMA.

Recent developments in sensor technology WINS nodes and the IEEE 802.15.4 Zigbee, have enabled support for single-transceiver, multi-channel communication. The task of channel assignment with minimum interference, also named as the 2-hop coloring problem, allows repetition of colors occurs only if the nodes are separated by more than 2 hops. Being NP complete, development of efficient heuristics for this coloring problem is an open research area and proposes the Dynamic Channel Allocation (DCA) algorithm as a novel solution.

Once channels are assigned, a Medium Access Control protocol must be devised so that channel selection, arbitration and scheduling occur with maximum energy savings and reduced message overhead, both critical considerations for sensor networks.

2. RELATED WORK

The problem of channel allocation is similar to the code assignment problem in Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) networks that eliminates collisions through spread spectrum techniques and orthogonal codes. Earlier works on CDMA code allocation have approached this as a graph coloring problem, where colors can be repeated only at 3 hops or more, unlike traditional graph coloring as surveyed. We shall henceforth refer to coloring under this constraint as the NP complete 2-hop coloring problem.

Centralized code assignment schemes are unsuitable when directly applied to sensor networks as it may be infeasible to establish direct communication between the base station (BS) and the individual sensor nodes. Past work has also involved presenting optimal 2-hop coloring algorithms for special topologies, such as the ring, bus, chain, tree and hexagonal grids.

In the analysis of our proposed Distributed Coloring Algorithm (DCA), we consider the more general case of random deployment of the sensor nodes. Recent work, including the algorithm proposed reduces, under assumptions of ordering, to the Hidden Primary Collision Avoidance (HP-CA) suggested and modified , when a node chooses a color, it is propagated to its 2-hop neighbors having an ID lower than itself.

The simple modification of making a node wait till it hears from all nodes having a higher ID and within its 2-hop range before announcing its own non-conflicting color provides an elegant solution. We call this HP-CAM with 'M' for modified. A node chooses a unique ID and broadcasts it amongst its 2-hop neighbors.

In case of a conflict, the information is conveyed back to the transmitting node and new ID is chosen thus repeating the process. Though simple, this process involves large message passing as n-1-re-tries may be required for each node in the worst case. In HP-CAM, each node is aware of its 2-hop information and generates an ordering based on node weight.

This results in reduced number of messages as there is no color conflict once an assignment has been done. There has recently been much interest in developing suitable MAC protocols for wireless sensor networks. Existing work in this area can be classified into the following categories: time-division multiple accesses (TDMA), contention-based and multiple-channel MAC protocols. TDMA based protocols, though not scalable, enable collision free communication and are simple to set up and maintain.

Local synchronization is required and they alternate between listen and sleep cycles. TDMAW requires non-repetition of the time slots over a 2-hop range, similar to the task of channel allocation in our case. The activity between a node and its neighbors is monitored at the end of every frame and this helps to further tune the wakeup period.

The authors propose a scheme in which centralized allocation of schedules is undertaken by a cluster head like node (gateway). This is however, typical of standard TDMA schemes and requires global synchronization. Concentrate on assigning non-overlapping 2-hop slots but allow nodes to join and leave the network.

They do not address issues of energy conservation, latency amongst others and need synchronization of the start and end of slot times. Sift is a randomized contention-based CSMA protocol which has a small, fixed size contention window (CW) with a non-uniform probability of transmission in each slot of the CW.

This scheme, however, does not accommodate sleep cycles and needs accurate time synchronization during the CW as slot times are small. S-MAC and protocols inspired by it, follow the listen and sleep cycles as described earlier, but contend for the channel during the listen cycles. Pair wise synchronization is usually sufficient and they trade fairness and latency for energy savings. By choosing to send a burst of data during the listen cycle, T-MAC shows performance improvement over SMAC, but at the cost of monopolizing a bottleneck node, the authors present AC-MAC which has an adaptive duty cycle based on the number of packets queued at the MAC layer as an indication of the traffic load.

While the above work assume a single radio, the idea of using an additional wakeup radio for sensor networks is not novel and is discussed in According to the authors in, this low power radio may only use 1 IW of energy compared to the high dissipation of the MR (order of mW), and hence is the ideal choice for channel monitoring when the MR is switched off.

In this work, however, the authors focus more on the channel allocation problem and the MAC protocol is left for future research. STEM and RATE-EST are similar in principle in which the authors assume the presence of two channels: primary channel for sending data and a wakeup channel used for the wakeup signals. Both these approaches use a busy tone

instead of encoded data for the wakeup signal. Energy savings are obtained by allowing the radio for data communication to enter the low power sleep mode until communication is desired.

The additional wakeup radio periodically listens to the channel using a low duty cycle. A node with data to send, begins transmitting continuously on the wakeup channel long enough to guarantee that all neighbors receive the wakeup signal.

The authors evaluate analytically the duty cycle for the wakeup radio and suggest a scheme that prevents a large number of nodes from being triggered into an active state at the same time. While similar to STEM, RATE-EST achieves greater energy savings by periodically listening on the primary channel and buffering packets. Our work differs from all these approaches in the respect that we assume a multi-channel scenario and in-band signaling. Here, each node is assigned a unique channel in 2-hop range with a single transceiver present for data communication.

In our work, we describe a scheme for the wakeup process and channel information exchange without any special control channel, thus saving bandwidth for the purpose of communication only.

Furthermore, our protocol allows for listening and replying to control messages even when a reception of a data packet is in progress at a sensor node, thus taking the first step towards solving the deafness problem in wireless networks.

Throughputs and expected delays

Since, we assume that packet arrivals follow Poisson process performance evaluation of random access schemes can be carried out by exploiting the busy period analysis, where the average busy time B and average idle time \bar{I} are used for determining the characteristics of various schemes. In the appendices, we derive the following probabilities for different multi-channel protocols using the busy period analysis: P_s is the probability of successful transmission, P_c is the probability of collision and P_b is the probability that the channel is sensed busy. In this section, we derive closed-form solutions for average access delays and throughputs of various multi-channel MAC schemes individually by exploiting derived probabilities. Theoretical results are confirmed by simulations. Examined protocols are G-McMAC, MMAC and SYN-MAC. In the case of G-McMAC and SYN-MAC, we derive the theoretical results rigorously. On the other hand, since MMAC uses finite contention windows, only approximations can be found in case of MMAC which are then justified by simulation results.

We specify throughput S as follows

$$S = gTP_s \quad (2)$$

where T is the packet size in discrete time slots τ . Next, we define average access delay. Average access delay is the sum of the initial access delay and the delay because of i unsuccessful transmissions. We denote the initial access delay with D_0 and the delay of i th retransmission with D_i . In general form, the total access delay in case of R retransmissions is

$$D = \sum_{i=0}^R D_i \quad (3)$$

Added to this, different retransmission policies induce different delays. By denoting the i th backoff delay as uniformly distributed random variable $W_i \sim U(1, 2^{i-1}\omega)$, where ω is the original backoff window in slots, we get the following expected delay for the i th backoff in case of Binary Exponential Backoff (BEB)

$$E[W_{bebi}] = 1 + 2i - 1\omega \quad (4)$$

and, respectively, in case of Uniform Backoff (UB) we have $W_i \sim U(1, \omega)$ and

$$E[W_{ub}] = 1 + \omega \quad (5)$$

A. Generic multi-channel MAC (G-McMAC)

First, we derive equations for the throughput and average access delay of G-McMAC. We exclude the beacon period from this analysis since beaconing may be used by other protocols as well, such as MMAC, or periodic beaconing may be required for time synchronization, routing, etc. For example, many routing protocols use broadcast messages to distribute routing information and hence, require a beacon period in practice to avoid transmission of a routing packet many times. Moreover, it is presumed that beacon periods are carried out rarely such that the impact of the period is negligible to the packet arrival process.

In G-McMAC, if a node generates a packet, it first senses the desired data channel to make sure that it is idle. After this, if the channel is sensed busy, a random backoff will be induced. On the other hand, if the desired channel is free the RTS/CTS message exchange will be carried out on the CCC. The receiver will sense the wanted data channel before replying. Finally, if the message exchange was performed successfully, nodes can start the data transmission on the chosen data channel. Figure 2 illustrates the operation of G-McMAC during CDPs in detail.

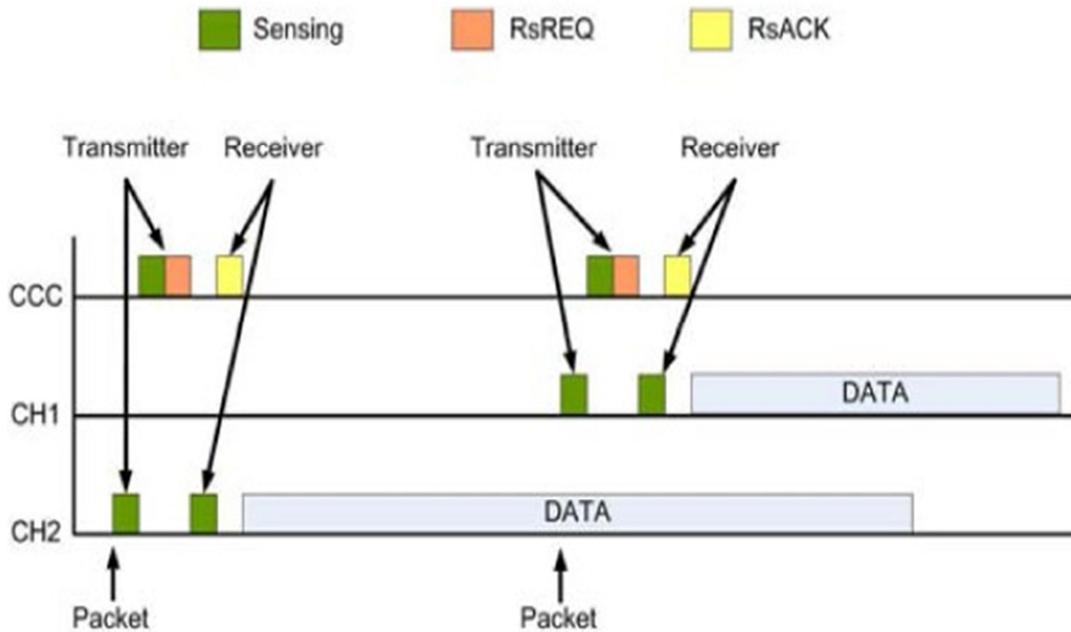


Fig 2.1 Operation of G-McMAC during a CDP

Average access delay of G-McMAC depends on two issues. First, the contention process on the CCC and possible collisions induce some delay. Second, if all data channels are occupied an extra delay will be added as well. We deduce the delay of the contention process first and the impact of occupied channels will be taken into account while deriving the probability of successful transmission in Appendix A.

Now, if the CCC is sensed busy, the latency time for the first unsuccessful transmission is

$$D1=(W1+1) \cdot \tau.(6)$$

Respectively, if the channel is sensed idle, the transmitter waits for 4τ to conclude whether there was a collision or not. In case of a collision, the delay time for the second unsuccessful transmission is

$$D2=(W2+4) \cdot \tau.(7)$$

Consequently, by denoting the number of retransmission because of the channel is sensed busy by K , the total delay time can be calculated as follows

$$D=D0+\sum_{K=1}^R(Ki=1(W1+1) \cdot \tau+\sum_{Rj=K+1}^R(W2+4) \cdot \tau=D0+\tau\sum_{Ri=1}^R(Wi+K\tau+4(R-K) \cdot \tau).(1)(2)(3)(8)$$

where $D_0 \sim U(5\tau, 6\tau)$ is the initial transmission delay in case of successful transmission and $0 \leq K \leq R$. Hence, $R - K$ is the amount of retransmission due to packet collisions during contention. The joint distribution of R and K is

$$P\{R=r, K=k\}=\prod_{rk} \prod_{k=0}^r P_k b P_{r-k} c P_s, 0 \leq k \leq r.(9)$$

and the used probabilities for G-McMAC are derived in Appendix A. Now, the expected delay conditioned on $R = r$ and $K = k$ for G-McMAC can be formulated as

$$E[D|R=r, K=k]=E[D0]+\tau\sum_{ri=1}^R E[Wi]+k\tau+4(r-k) \cdot \tau=\tau(2(\omega 2r+9r-6k+11-\omega).(1)(2)(3)(4)(10)$$

Moreover, to derive the average access delay we need to remove the conditioning on R and K . Therefore, the average access delay is given by

$$D = \sum_{\infty r=0} \sum_{r k=0}^r E[D—R=r, K=k] \cdot P\{R=r, K=k\}=\tau(2(\omega P_s 1-2(1-P_s)+9P_s-6P_b P_s+2-\omega), P_s>0.5,(1)(2)(3)(4)(11)$$

Where $P_s > 0.5$ is required to have a finite average delay. In addition, availability of channels causes additional delay as well. We model the impact of multi-channel communications using a Markov model and thus, the probability that all the data channels are occupied (P_{occ}) can be calculated using the Erlang B formula. As a result, the throughput of G-McMAC is

$$S=gT \cdot e^{-g\tau} 4-3e^{-g\tau} (1-P_{occ}), (12)$$

where

$$P_{occ} = GN - 1(N-1)! \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} G^i i!, (13)$$

and $G = gT$. Since the control channel is not used for data transmissions, only $N - 1$ channels are available for data transmissions. Figure 3 shows that the theoretical and simulated results match up well for different number of channels with respect to delay.

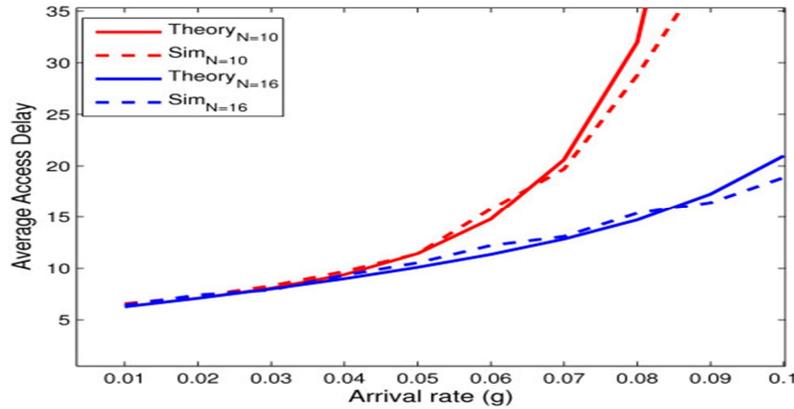


Fig 3 Theoretical and simulated results for average access delay of G-McMAC ($T = 100$, $\omega = 32$)

B. Multi-channel MAC (MMAC)

Next, we study split phase approaches using MMAC as an example. Operation of MMAC is divided into two parts which form a cycle. MMAC is designed for IEEE 802.11 networks and it exploits Ad hoc Traffic Indication Message (ATIM) windows of IEEE 802.11 Power Saving Mechanism (PSM) which are originally used only for power management. In MMAC ATIM windows are extended and channel reservations conducted during ATIM windows on the CCC. Data transmissions take place on all available channels afterwards. We denote the length of the ATIM window by T_{atim} and the length of the data interval by T , both in time slots. Thus, the total length of one cycle is $T_c = T_{atim} + T$. Lengths of these intervals are predetermined and hence, the intervals determine the average access delay as well. We set $T_{atim} = 0.2 \cdot T_c$ and $T = 0.8 \cdot T_c$ since these values were used in the initial simulation model in. Furthermore, it is assumed that packets fit perfectly to the chosen cycle structure.

Figure 4 depicts the operation of MMAC during ATIM windows.

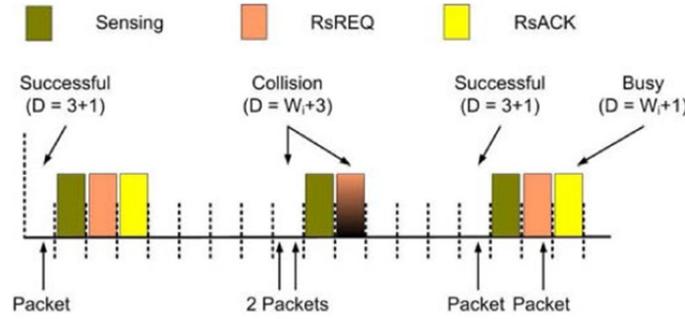


Fig 4: Negotiation during an ATIM window

In the case of MMAC, a node has to wait until the end of an ATIM window even though the initial transmission would be successful before transmitting data. Consequently, on average the initial transmission delay is

$$E[D_0] = T_{atim} \cdot 2 \cdot T_{atim} T_c + (T_D + T_{atim}) \cdot T_D T_c. \quad (14)$$

Moreover, if a node has not been able to reserve resources before the end of an ATIM window, it has to wait for the next data interval and an additional delay of T_c is added. Hence, the overall delay is

$$D = D_0 + M \cdot T_c, \quad (15)$$

where M denotes the number of additional cycles. If the delay due to CSMA operations during an ATIM window is larger than the length of the ATIM window or all of the channels are occupied before a node can reserve resources, a packet will be delayed. By denoting the latency of a packet during an ATIM window with L , this blocking probability can be represented as

$$P_{block} = P\{L > T_{atim}\} + P\{L \leq T_{atim}\} \cdot P\{Occupied\}. \quad (16)$$

Since all resource reservations will be made during ATIM windows, the packet arrival rate has to be scaled such that all packets are generated during an ATIM window in one cycle for theoretical analysis. Hence, in theory we have the following packet arrival rate for the contention phase

$$g_a = g \cdot T_c T_{atim}. \quad (17)$$

First, we find out the probability that a node can not reserve resources during an ATIM window due to the shortage of data channels. We approximate this by comparing the number of channel reservations to the number of channels. This is done by scaling the difference between the amount of successful negotiations and the number of channels with the amount of successful negotiations. All of the used probabilities are derived in Appendix B. The amount of successful data negotiations during an ATIM window is on average

$$E[\text{packets}] = P_{sga} T_{atim}. \quad (18)$$

In the beginning of each ATIM window all the channels are free and hence, the previously used Markov model can not be exploited. In consequence, we approximate the probability that a packet is blocked because of channel shortage as follows

$$P_{cblock} \approx \max\{0, P_{sga} T_{atim} - N P_{sga} T_{atim}\}. \quad (19)$$

Second, in the case of small ATIM windows, the performance will be bounded by the fact that only a certain amount of data channels can be reserved in time before the end of an ATIM window. Now, if a node senses that the control channel is busy during contention, it will backoff according to BEB. Same happens in case of collisions as well. During an ATIM window the latency of a successful RTS/CTS message exchange is 3τ . Since $\omega = 32$, the performance is dominated by $P\{R = 0\}$ and $P\{R = 1\}$ while the total delay is $L \leq 35$. Furthermore, while $35 < T_{atim} \leq 2\omega$, $P\{R \leq 2\}$ dominates. Finally, if $T_{atim} > 2\omega$ the effect of P_{cblock} becomes negligible since multiple retransmissions may take place and it is very unlikely that a packet is delayed due to the end of an ATIM window.

Figure 5 depicts theoretical and simulated results for different packet sizes. When the packet size is 100, the blocking probability is determined by P_{cblock} and with the packet size of 1,000, the blocking probability is determined by P_{dblock} . With moderate packet sizes, the blocking probability is determined by both probabilities and hence, the simulated and theoretical results do not match perfectly. Nevertheless, according to our results these approximations do not significantly under- or overestimate the performance of MMAC in case and hence, the use of these approximates is justifiable for adequate analysis.

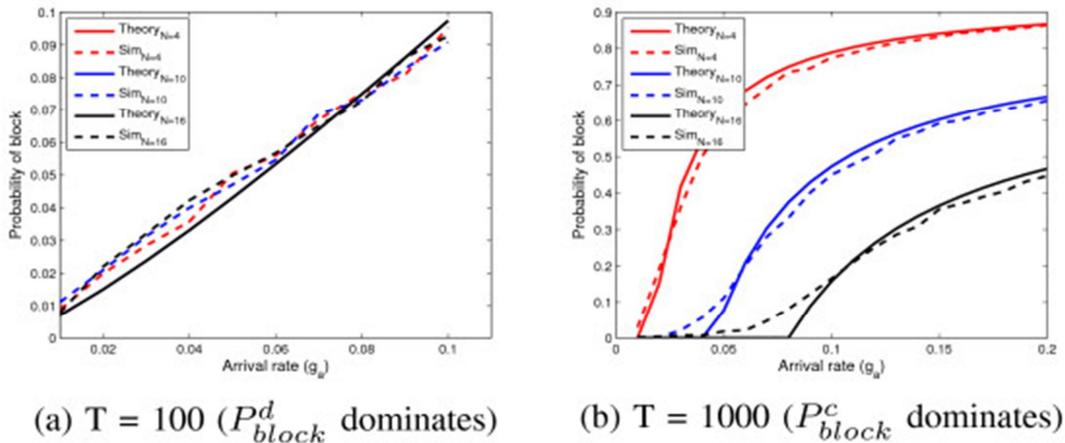


Fig 5 : Theoretical and simulated results for the probability of block as a function of arrival rate

3. DCA ALGORITHM

In this section we describe the DCA, which colors the network graph within the constraints of 2-hop coloring. We list our assumptions and provide a discussion on each of them:

(i) A 1-hop clustering structure is in place: the non-linear relationship between energy and distance makes a single bit transmission more energy efficient using several short, intermediate hops instead of one longer hop. Clustering allows sensors to communicate data over smaller distances, which then gets forwarded to the sink. We have adapted the generalized weight based clustering scheme presented in with the weight being decided by connectivity and ties resolved with node ID. Each cluster head (CH) knows the weights of the CHs of all nodes that are within 2-hop range of the nodes in its own cluster.

(ii) The sensor network is assumed to be static during the coloring process. No new nodes are added and nodes do not die out while coloring is in progress.

(iii) A CSMA/CA mechanism is in place during algorithm operation. At the point of termination of the algorithm, the channel is partitioned into disjoint sets and is essentially collision free, assuming no adjacent channel interference. We define the term neighbor set of a cluster i , NS_i , as the set of all those nodes, n , such that n is at most 2 hops away considering cluster 2, $NS_2 = \{x, a, b, s, t, c, CH_3, CH_4\}$.

The problem of color allocation is essentially coloring of a node such that there is no conflict with the already assigned colors of the nodes in the neighbor set.

In particular, consider two nodes, x and y linked through a and each belonging to a different cluster. This configuration poses a difficult task in assignment of non-conflicting color and we define it as the hidden cluster problem. This necessitates the longest chain of color information propagation across cluster boundaries.

The DCA begins at a point where each CH is aware of its own weight, $w(CH)$, as well that of the other CHs that serve its neighbor set, i.e., CH_2 knows $w(CH_1)$, $w(CH_3)$ and $w(CH_4)$. A CH proceeds to color its own cluster only when color assignment by the larger weight CHs of the neighbor nodes is complete.

If $w(CH_2) > w(CH_3) > w(CH_4) > w(CH_1)$, CH_2 starts coloring first, followed by CH_3 . On their completion, the color assignment is propagated and thus CH_1 , CH_4 begin coloring simultaneously ($x, CH_1 \in NS_4$). It should be noted that there is no possible color conflict in clusters 1 and 4, as the neighbor set of one has no common node from the other cluster. Each node in cluster i maintains a color table (CT) containing a list of its neighbor nodes belonging to a CH having an ID higher than its own CH, e.g., $CT_y = U$ while $CT_a = \{-v, y, CH_2\}$. As a node receives color information about these nodes, this list is updated and all these colors are forbidden for the node itself. In addition, the CH has a table, which we call as the cluster color table (CCT).

The CCT has an entry for each node in its cluster and the colors forbidden for it are continuously updated, as in the case of CT. A CH starts coloring only when this CCT is full, i.e., all the forbidden colors for each node in its cluster are available.

Each CH performs this check at the receipt of a message, in order to check whether the information contained in the CCT is sufficient to start the coloring process.

The DCA is entirely message driven, i.e. an action taken by a node is a function of the type and information contained in the incoming packet.

We define three types of messages:

The channel assignment message that is sent by the CH letting a node know of its assigned color, the update message aimed at 1-hop neighbors to make them aware of a forbidden color, and the information message which alleviates the hidden cluster problem while notifying the CH of a forbidden color for a node in its cluster. We now describe, through an example (Fig. 2), the actions taken by nodes for different control messages.

3.1. Message types

3.1.1. Channel assignment (CA) message

The CA message consists of an ordered pair of the type (node ID, assigned color) for each cluster member. A node first identifies whether

the message was sent by its CH. It then extracts its own color and that of nodes 1 hop away from it and member of the same cluster. Thus node *y* identifies the color assigned to it and that of CH2, *v*. *y* then broadcasts an UP packet containing this information. Similarly, if a node *c* is in 1-hop distance of a neighboring CH, i.e. CH4, it will receive a CA message not intended for its own cluster. It then extracts the colors of the 1-hop nodes appearing in its CT_{*c*} i.e. (CH4) and 2-hop nodes (*s* and *t*). In such a case, an INF message is generated by *c* and the change made in its CT is included in the message.

The INF message has a 1-hop list and a 2-hop list as payload containing ordered pairs of the type (node, color) which are updated with (CH4) and (*s* and *t*), respectively.

3.1.2. Update (UP) message

The UP message is targeted at nodes within transmission range of a recently colored node, notifying the former of the colors assigned to their 1- and 2-hop neighbors. When such a node, *a*, receives the UP message from *y*, CT_{*a*} is updated with the colors assigned to *y*, *v* and CH2. An INF message is broadcast that contains the colors and IDs of the 1-hop (*y*) and 2-hop (*v* and CH2) neighbors of *a*, that were updated due to the received UP message. As 1-hop clusters are formed, the INF message broadcast by any node lets its CH know that its CT is updated. CH3 is thus made aware through *a*'s INF broadcast that the colors assigned to *v*, *y*, and CH2 are now forbidden for *a*. Nodes belonging to the same cluster as the originator of the UP message, e.g. *v*, ignore it. As before, if a CH, say CH3, receives an UP message from non-cluster node, say *y*, it implies that the node *y* is in 2-hop range of every member of its cluster. It adds the color of node *y* as a forbidden color for every node in the cluster, including *a*, if this information is not already present. Also, CH3 adds the colors of all 1-hop cluster members of node *y*, i.e. *v* and CH2, as forbidden colors for itself.

3.1.3. Information (INF) message

It is generated on two separate occasions.

(1) The INF broadcast (IB) message is generated by a node as a result of an UP message is useful for its own CH and all other neighbor nodes.

(2) An INF unicast message (IU), directed at the CH, is generated when a node receives an IB from a sender not belonging to the same cluster. For example, The IB message sent by a is used by CH3 to update its CCT. An adjacent cluster node x, overhears the IB, extracts Message dependencies: the receipt of one type of message generates another. CTx. An IU message is then sent by x to CH1 having a single node-color pair (y, color).

We reason this as follows:

The IB message sent by a node a contains, in the 1-hop color table, the color assigned to node y, otherwise hidden from x. For node x, y is a 2-hop neighbor and hence must appear in the 1-hop list of the incoming IB message. Consequently, only this information is included in the IU message sent by x. This two stage INF propagation allows CH1 to assign a color to x such that it does not conflict with the color given to y, 2 hops away from x. If a node, b, receives an INF message from its own cluster member, a, it is ignored unless the receiving node is also the CH for that cluster.

We note that the INF is the most commonly generated message:

(1) The result of hearing a CA directly from another cluster,

(2) On receiving an UP message and

(3) Another INF broadcast message. Successive INF/UP messages received at the node from different source nodes may include color information that the node has already propagated earlier.

In our implementation, we adopt the following enhancement geared to reduce the number of messages in the network: the color information forwarded by a node in an INF or UP message is not sent again through another INF or UP, respectively.

3.2. Analysis of number of messages

In this section we derive expressions for the expected number of channel assignment, update and inform broadcast messages for the DCA. While the analysis presented in the following propositions is approximate owing to the restricting assumptions of multi-hop modeling, all equations derived are verified in Section 5 and found to be in good agreement. Consider N nodes to be distributed independently and uniformly in large area $R \in \mathbb{R}^2$ where \mathbb{R}^2 signifies the 2- dimensional Euclidian space. If R is large, the placement of the nodes essentially represents a Poisson process.

We assume:

1. All nodes have the same transmission radius r.

2. The average degree of a node is given by d_{avg} . Proposition 1. The total number of channel assignment messages transmitted is approximately Proof.

For a single node A, the coverage area is πr^2 . The probability that there are m nodes within its transmission range is given by: $P_m(A) = \frac{(\pi r^2)^m}{m!} \exp(-\pi r^2)$. The expected number of nodes within its 1-hop communication range, also the average degree d_{avg} , can be calculated as

$$E\{X} = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} m \cdot P_m(A)$$

$$= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} m \cdot \frac{(\pi r^2)^m}{m!} \exp(-\pi r^2)$$

$$= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(\pi r^2)^m}{(m-1)!} \exp(-\pi r^2)$$

$$= \pi r^2 \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\pi r^2)^m}{m!} \exp(-\pi r^2)$$

$$= \pi r^2 \exp(\pi r^2) \exp(-\pi r^2)$$

$$= \pi r^2$$

$$= \pi r^2 \exp(\pi r^2) \exp(-\pi r^2)$$

$$= \pi r^2$$

$$= \pi r^2 \exp(\pi r^2) \exp(-\pi r^2)$$

The weight based clustering algorithm forms 1-hop clusters by associating nodes with their 1-hop neighbors that have a higher weight, with ties being broken by node ID. If all the neighbors of a node A link with other higher weight CHs, A may be forced to announce itself CH of the single node cluster.

We now calculate the expected number of such single node clusters. We list the nodes in the 1-hop neighborhood of A, along with A itself, in the following rank table. The rank of a node in this table is decided by the highest weight of its 1-hop neighbor set. From Fig. 4, each neighbor of A is connected to another node having a weight higher than that of A, i.e. $W_1 > W(A)$, $W_2 > W(A)$ and $W_3 > W(A)$ and hence A forms a 1-hop cluster. A is at position 1 on the table with the increasing index indicative of increasing rank. Out of $d_{avg} + 1$ nodes, the probability of only A occurring in slot 1 of the rank table is given by $\frac{1}{d_{avg} + 1} \cdot \frac{1}{d_{avg} + 1} \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{1}{d_{avg} + 1}$

$$= \frac{1}{(d_{avg} + 1)^{d_{avg} + 1}}$$

$\frac{1}{4}$

1

$d_{avg} p_1$

d_{avg}

$\frac{1}{d_{avg} p_1 d_{avg}}$

This is also the probability of a node forming a single node cluster as all its neighbors have been drawn away by other higher weight 2-hop neighbors. The expected number of such single node clusters is

$\frac{CH_0}{4}$

N

$d_{avg} p_1$

d_{avg}

$\frac{1}{d_{avg} p_1 d_{avg}}$

The approximation to the average number of clusters having d_{avg} nodes is improved by subtracting single node clusters, i.e., $(N - CH_0)/d_{avg}$ and it follows that the total clusters formed is approximately, $E[\text{Clusters}] = (N - CH_0) / d_{avg} + CH_0$. The CA message is broadcast by the CH only and each cluster has a single CH. Hence $n(\text{CA}) = E[\text{Clusters}]$ giving the required result. **H Proposition 2.** The total number of update messages transmitted is approximately given by, $n(\text{UP}) = N - n(\text{CA})$. **Proof.** Every node (other than the CH itself) is assigned a color by the CH of its cluster. This color assignment occurs through the CA message sent by the CH (or an announcement done by the node itself if it is a single node cluster).

Each node of the cluster generates one UP message, on reception of the CA message. As colors are assigned only once, every non-CH node will transmit a single UP message during the coloring process. We note that the number of CH nodes = $n(\text{CA})$. It follows that the total number of UP messages equals the total number of non-CH nodes and hence, $n(\text{UP}) = N - n(\text{CA})$. **h 1 2 3 4 5 6 ... $\delta_{avg} + 1$ A 1 Hop Neighbors of A Fig. 4. Ranked table of adjacent nodes on the basis of 1 hop neighbor weights.**

The total number of inform messages are given by: $n(\text{INF}) = \{(2q/3)pr_2 - 1\}n(\text{UP})$ approximately. **Proof.** We prove the proposition in two parts. First we show that the average number of IB messages is given by $(d_{avg}/3) n(\text{UP})$. We begin with the simplifying assumption that clusters formed are approximately of the same size (each having a radius equal to the transmission range of a node). From geometric considerations, such a cluster can have at most six neighboring clusters. Consider one such cluster, 4, The CA broadcast by the CH is received by node A, which then sends an UP message.

All nodes that receive the UP message and send an IB in response have their locus shown by sector o-a-b that subtends an angle of 120° to the center o of cluster 1. Thus the average number of nodes in this sector gives the average number

of IB messages generated in response to a single UP message. For $n(\text{UP})$ messages, $n(\text{IB}) = q(120/360)pr2n(\text{UP}) = (q/3)pr2n(\text{UP})$. The IB messages sent by the nodes in sector o-a-b are received by nodes lying in sectors o00-d- c and o0-e-f in the adjacent clusters 2 and 3. These are the nodes that are eligible to generate IU for their CHs. The number of such nodes is given by: $2 \cdot q(120/360)pr2n(\text{UP}) = (2q/3)pr2n(\text{UP})$. But the above set of nodes generating IU also includes nodes that have already heard an UP by the member nodes of

Cluster 4 that originated the CA message. Similarly, a single node can hear more than one IB, and we suppress the generation of IU for multiple IB messages containing the same information. Thus, we subtract the number of nodes that have already received UP and IB messages to get the actual number of nodes that transmit the IU message, given by $n(\text{IU}) = (2q/3)pr2n(\text{UP}) - [n(\text{UP}) + n(\text{IB})]$. Hence, the average number of INF messages (both IU and IB) is: $n(\text{INF}) = n(\text{IU}) + n(\text{IB}) = (2q/3)pr2n(\text{UP}) - n(\text{UP}) = \{(2q/3)pr2 - 1\}n(\text{UP})$. H Propositions 1-3 are verified through simulations in Section 5. Having established the channel allocation algorithm, we now describe our proposed MAC protocol, CMAC, which leverages this channel assignment.

4. CONCLUSIONS

We presented a distributed channel assignment algorithm, DCA, which efficiently allocates channels to randomly deployed sensor nodes. Our proposed solution can be used as a base algorithm for several different schemes like allocating channels, assigning non overlapping TDMA slots and nodes addresses to sensor networks. Our de-synchronized multi-channel MAC protocol for sensor networks, CMAC, addresses the critical issue of energy conservation without trade-offs in latency and throughput.

Through a wakeup radio in addition to the main transceiver, multi-channel communication is accomplished resulting in a virtually collision-free protocol. CMAC enables maximum possible sleep-time, prevents overhearing and has minimal control overhead. In addition to the above, our protocol supports high data rates making it application independent. CMAC however needs an adequate number of available channels to satisfy the 2-hop coloring constraint.

The channel is accessed by sensors according to their priorities. For sensors with the same priority, they send frames in a round manner. In addition the fairness between different priorities is guaranteed. Simulation and experiment results indicate that FP-MAC protocol provides high channel utilization and bounded delays for real-time communication and can be well adapted in dynamic wireless sensor networks.

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