



Cluster Head Selection Algorithm to Minimize Energy Consumption in Wireless Sensor Network

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ABSTRACT: To prolong the lifetime of Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs), design of energy-efficient algorithms has become an important factor. Sensor nodes are limited strongly in terms of energy since their batteries cannot be usually recharged. Energy is consumed during sensing, data processing, and communication. Hence, there is a necessity for energy-conserving protocols for WSNs. In this paper, an improved version of LEACH protocol [1], is compared with LEACH protocol [2], with respect to the energy consumed by each of them. The improved version of LEACH protocol takes into consideration the residual energy at each node, distance between a node and the Base Station (BS) and the number of successive rounds in which a node has not been a CH, as parameters for threshold calculation [1] during CH selection. From simulation results, it is seen that the improved version of LEACH protocol [1] could minimize energy consumption and thus, lengthen network lifetime.

KEYWORDS: LEACH, energy-efficiency, EECHS, wireless sensor networks

I. INTRODUCTION

Wireless Sensor Network (WSN) is a wireless network that has spatially distributed sensor devices to sense various environmental conditions and accumulate the sensed data at a central location, such as a Base Station (BS). Since energy is an important factor in WSN design, a number of routing protocols have been proposed, that aim to achieve minimum energy consumption and hence, maximize network lifetime,. Generally, data aggregation and hierarchy are used in WSNs to reduce energy consumption [3].

LEACH [2] is a hierarchical based routing protocol for WSNs. One of the drawbacks of LEACH is the random election of CHs leading to imbalance in the energy level of the sensor nodes [1]. In EECHS [1], the CHs are chosen considering the factor of residual energy at each node, distance of the node from the BS and the number of consecutive rounds in which the node has not been a CH. Thus, EECHS algorithm improves the CH selection strategy and minimizes energy consumption in the network as shown by simulation results.

II. IMPORTANCE OF HIERARCHICAL PROTOCOLS IN WSNs

Routing protocols for WSNs are classified based on network structure as flat, hierarchical and location-based. In particular, hierarchical routing is an efficient way of reducing energy consumption by means of data aggregation and data fusion, which minimizes the number of messages transmitted to the BS. Hierarchical routing is divided into two levels: One is used to select the CHs and the other one is used for routing in particular. Hence, cluster formations and special task assignments to CHs can specifically contribute to increasing the scalability, lifetime, and energy efficiency of the whole network.

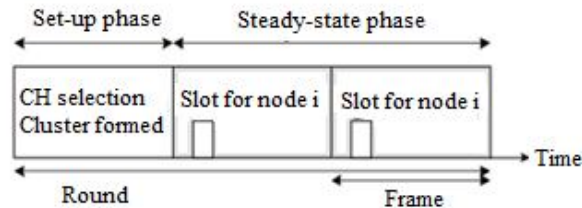


Fig. 1 Operation of LEACH

The important advantages of using clustering techniques in WSNs are as follows: (i) Clusters make the WSN more scalable, i.e., it can localize the route set up within the cluster and thus reduce the size of the routing table stored at the individual sensor nodes [4]. (ii) Data aggregation/fusion performed by the CH removes redundancy in data transmission from CH to the BS. (iii) Clustering techniques help to increase network lifetime. The reduced energy consumption due to clustering techniques causes an increase in the lifetime of the network. Thus, hierarchical protocols reduce energy consumption and increase network lifetime and scalability.

III. LEACH AND IT'S DESCENDANTS

Heinzelman [2] introduced a hierarchical clustering algorithm for sensor networks, called Low Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy (LEACH). LEACH is a protocol based on clusters. It handles the distributed information from the clusters. LEACH randomly selects a few sensor nodes as cluster heads (CHs) and rotates this role to evenly distribute the energy consumption among the sensors in the network.

LEACH's operation is divided into rounds. Each round is divided into two phases: set-up phase and the steady-state phase. CHs are chosen in the set-up phase and the data are transferred from the nodes to the CH and onto the BS during steady-state phase.

In LEACH, cluster-heads are stochastically selected. In order to select cluster-heads each node n determines a random number between 0 and 1. If the number is less than a threshold $T(n)$, the node becomes a cluster-head for the current round.

The threshold for LEACH is given as [2]:

$$T(n) = \frac{p}{1 - p * (r \bmod \frac{1}{p})} \quad \forall n \in G$$

$$T(n) = 0 \quad \forall n \notin G \quad (1)$$

with p as the cluster-head probability, r as the number of the current round and G as the set of nodes that have not been cluster-heads in the last $1/p$ rounds. This algorithm ensures that every node becomes a cluster-head exactly once within $1/p$ rounds.

In LEACH, the cluster head (CH) nodes compress data arriving from nodes that belong to the respective cluster, and send an aggregated packet to the base station in order to reduce the amount of information that must be transmitted to the base station. However, data collection is centralized and is performed periodically. Therefore, this protocol is most appropriate when there is a need for constant monitoring by the sensor network. A user may not need all the data immediately. Hence, periodic data transmissions are unnecessary which may drain the limited energy of the sensor



International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering

(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Vol.2, Special Issue 2, May 2014

International Conference On Advances in Computer & Communication Engineering (ACCE - 2014)

on 21st & 22nd April 2014, Organized by

Department of CSE & ISE, Vemana Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, India

nodes. After a given interval of time, a randomized rotation of the role of the CH is conducted so that uniform energy dissipation in the sensor network is obtained.

LEACH has a few drawbacks. Firstly, the random election of CHs causes an imbalance in the energy consumption of the sensor network. Secondly, the threshold $T(n)$ is function of only the CH probability, p and the number of the current round, r .

To overcome the shortcomings of LEACH mentioned above, improvised versions of LEACH have been proposed and a few of them are as follows [5-8]:

- **LEACH-C:** This protocol uses a centralized clustering algorithm and the same steady-state phase as LEACH. LEACH-C protocol can produce better performance by dispersing the cluster heads throughout the network [5].
- **TL-LEACH:** CH collects data from other cluster members as original LEACH [2], but rather than transfer data to the BS directly; it uses one of the CHs that lies between the CH and the BS as a relay station [6].
- **Multihop-LEACH:** This protocol selects optimal path between the CH and the BS through other CHs and use these CHs as a relay station to transmit data over through them [7].
- **VLEACH:** In V-LEACH [8], besides having a CH in the cluster, there is a vice-CH that takes the role of the CH when the CH dies.
- **EECHS-LEACH:** In this protocol, [1] it considers residual energy of the nodes, distance between the nodes and the BS, the number of consecutive rounds in which a node has not been a CH, as parameters in time of CH selection.

In EECHS [1], LEACH's stochastic cluster head selection algorithm is extended by adjusting the threshold $T(n)$ denoted in equation (1), considering residual energy of the nodes, distance between the nodes and the base station and the number of consecutive rounds in which a node has not been a cluster head as parameters. Therefore,

$$T(n) = \frac{p}{1 - p * \left(r \bmod \frac{1}{p}\right)} * [E(i) + (1 - D(i)) + (s \text{ div } r)] \quad \forall n \in G$$

$$T(n) = 0 \quad \forall n \notin G \quad (2)$$

Here, residual energy factor is

$$E(i) = (E_{\text{residual}}(i)/E_{\text{initial}}) \quad (3)$$

where E_{residual} is the remaining amount of energy and E_{initial} is the initial energy of node before transmission. Variable i indicates the serial number of nodes.

Here, the distance factor is

$$D(i) = d_{iB}/D_{\text{Farthest}} \quad (4)$$

where d_{iB} is the distance from node i to BS as follows:

$$d_{iB} = \sqrt{(X_{iB} - X_{BS})^2 + (Y_{iB} - Y_{BS})^2} \quad (5)$$

and d_{Farthest} is the distance of the farthest node from the BS. Here $(\langle X_{BS}, Y_{BS} \rangle)$ is the location of the Base Station.

In third parameter $(s \text{ div } r)$ of equation (2), s is the number of consecutive rounds in which a node has not been a cluster head and r is the number of the current round. And p , n and G express the same meaning as in equation (1).

IV. NETWORK MODEL

A few reasonable assumptions of the network model are made based on [1] and they are:

(i) There exists only one base station and it is fixed at a far distance from the sensor nodes. (ii) The sensor nodes are homogeneous and energy constrained with uniform energy. (iii) Sensor nodes are immobile and all nodes are able to reach BS. (iv) The RAM size for each node must be sufficient enough to store the distance of the node from BS.

V. RADIO ENERGY DISSIPATION MODEL

The four main components of a typical sensor node are: a data processing unit, a sensor unit, a radio communication subsystem that consists of transmitter/ receiver electronics, antenna, and amplifier; and a power supply unit. The energy dissipation associated with the radio component is mainly considered although energy is dissipated by the first three components of a sensor node.

A simple model for the radio hardware energy dissipation is assumed where the transmitter dissipates energy to run the radio electronics [5].

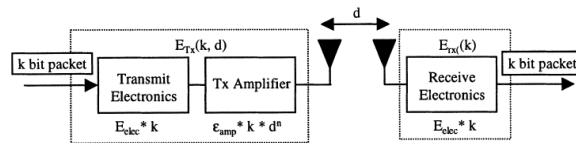


Fig. 2 Radio Energy Dissipation Model

Here, both free space (fs) and multipath (mp) fading channel models have been used, depending on the distance between the transmitter and receiver, for simulation. If the distance is less than a threshold, the free space (fs) model is used; otherwise, the multi path (mp) model is used [5]. Thus, to transmit a k -bit message over a distance d , the radio expends:

$$E_{Tx}(k, d) = E_{Tx-elec}(k) + E_{Tx-amp}(k, d) \quad (6)$$

$$E_{Tx}(k, d) = \begin{cases} E_{elec} * k + \epsilon_{fs} * k * d^2 & \text{if } d < d_0 \\ E_{elec} * k + \epsilon_{mp} * k * d^4 & \text{if } d \geq d_0 \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

Where the threshold d_0 is given as:

$$d_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_{fs}}{\epsilon_{mp}}} \quad (8)$$

To receive the message, the radio expends:

$$E_{Rx}(k) = E_{Rx-elec}(k) = E_{elec} * k \quad (9)$$

VI. SIMULATION RESULTS

The simulation environment is composed of 100 sensor nodes and they are distributed in a region of 100mX100m. Table 1 lists the simulation parameters.

TABLE I
SIMULATION PARAMETERS

Parameter	Value
No. of nodes	100
Network size	100X100 m ²
BS's Location	(100,100)
Cluster Head probability	.05
Initial energy of node	1 Joule
Node Distribution	Random
Data Packet	4000 bits
E _{elec}	50 nJ/bit
ε _{mp}	0.0013pJ/bit/m ⁴
ε _{fs}	10pJ/bit/m ²
D _{Farthest}	100m
Energy for data aggregation (EDA)	5nJ/bit/signal

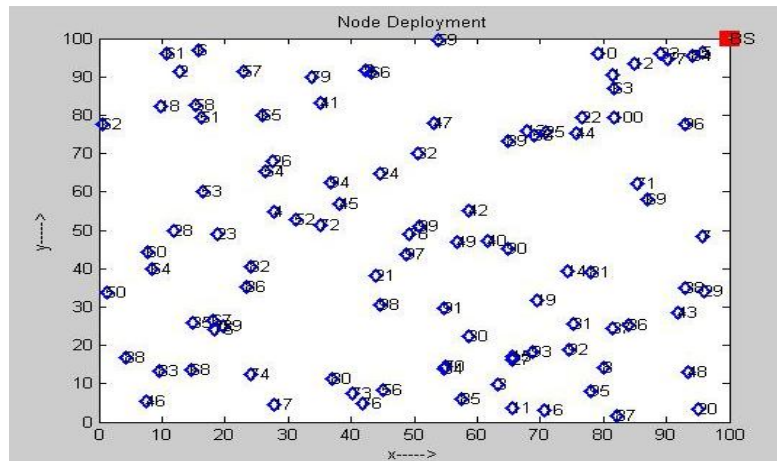


Fig. 3 Node Deployment in 100mX100m area

Figure 3 shows the randomly distributed 100 sensor nodes in a 100mX100m area with the Base Station (BS) located at the coordinates (100,100).

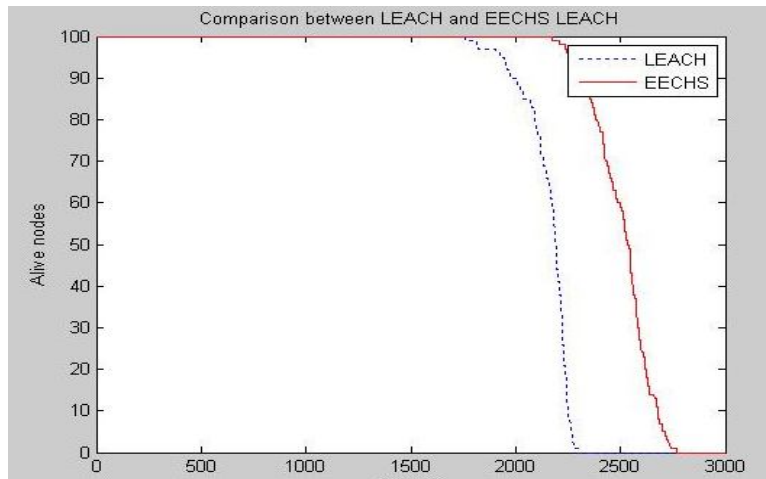


Fig. 4 Plot for number of alive nodes

Figure 4 shows the plot of number of alive nodes in the network versus number of rounds, for LEACH and EECHS-based LEACH protocol. From the plot it is seen that, EECHS shows better performance than LEACH.

Figure 5 shows the amount of Energy consumption of LEACH and EECHS-based LEACH based on number of rounds. EECHS shows better performance than LEACH.

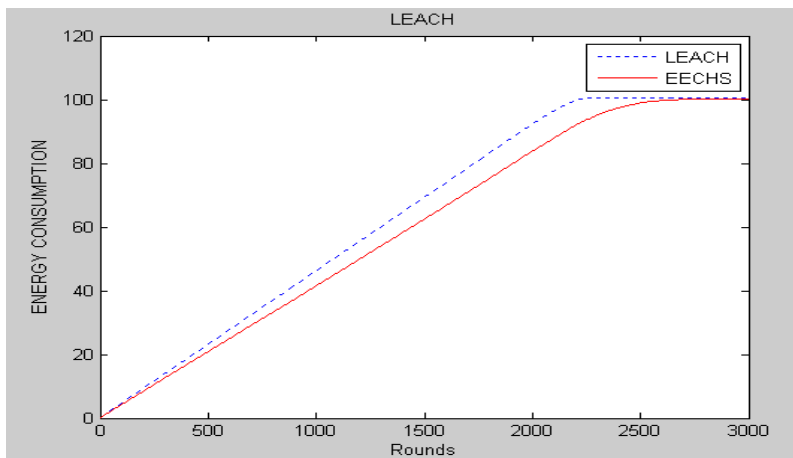


Fig. 5 Plot for energy consumption

Table 2 shows the comparison of network lifetime with respect to the parameters FND and LND for LEACH and EECHS-based LEACH.

Figure 6 shows a bar graph representation of the network lifetime. As indicated in the graph, the network lifetime is prolonged in EECHS LEACH [1] when compared to LEACH protocol [2].

International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering

(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Vol.2, Special Issue 2, May 2014

International Conference On Advances in Computer & Communication Engineering (ACCE - 2014)

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TABLE II

COMPARISON OF NETWORK LIFETIME WITH RESPECT TO FND AND LND

Protocol (initial energy= 1J/node)	Round First Node Dies (FND)	Round Last Node Dies (LND)
LEACH	1757	2296
EECHS	2178	2768

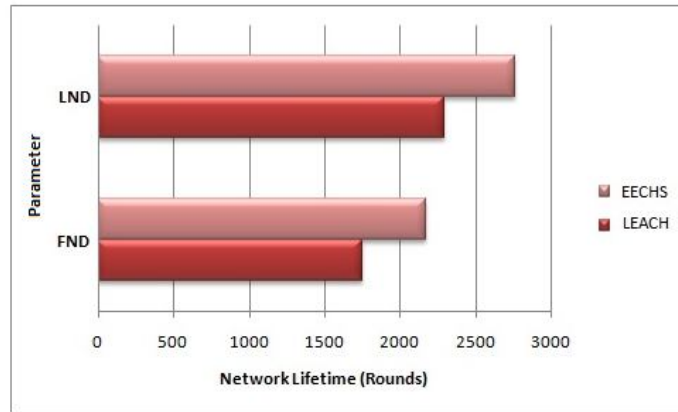


Fig. 6 Comparison of Network Lifetime (initial energy= 1J/node)

Table 3 shows the comparison of network lifetime with respect to parameters FND and LND, for different amounts of initial energy of the node.

TABLE III

COMPARISON OF NETWORK LIFETIME WITH DIFFERENT AMOUNT OF INITIAL ENERGY

Initial Energy (J/node)	Protocol	Round First Node Dies (FND)	Round Last Node Dies (LND)
0.5	LEACH	883	1146
	EECHS	985	1442
0.75	LEACH	1350	1695
	EECHS	1577	2119
1	LEACH	1757	2296
	EECHS	2178	2768



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VII. CONCLUSION

This paper presents a comparison between LEACH and an improved version of LEACH known as EECHS [1]. In EECHS, selection of the CH differs from that in LEACH in the set-up phase. The steady-state phase in EECHS is same as in LEACH. The CH selection in EECHS considers residual energy of the node, the distance of the node from the BS and the number of rounds in which the node has not become CH, which results in the minimization of energy consumption in the WSN. This is because EECHS improves LEACH protocol by improving the CH selection algorithm.

Simulation results show that EECHS exhibits better performance than LEACH with respect to the number of alive nodes and energy consumption, with number of rounds as the reference. Here, EECHS is 23.96% better than LEACH with respect to the parameter FND. And, EECHS is 20.55% better than LEACH with respect to the parameter LND.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors wish to thank Prof. B.V. Nityananda, Head of the Department, Department of E & C, St. Joseph Engineering College, Mangalore, for his support and valuable inputs.

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