Comparative Analysis of IEEE 802.15.4 Mobile ZigBee Networks with Stationary ZigBee

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Abstract: To provide efficient network access with overall geographical area control of sensor nodes in WSN deprived of distraction of services in aggregation with optimal Quality of Service, the ZigBee nodes mobility is the foremost requirement in current era of highly dependent WSN world. The mobility in ZigBee networks persuaded link failures, which are required to overwhelmed significantly in WSNs. This research work reported in this paper is an effort to reveal the inclusive inspection to regulate the effect of mobility of mobile ZigBee nodes over the performance of IEEE 802.15.4 ZigBee Networks, not reported in aforementioned efforts. The research efforts are performed using ZigBee Network along with DCF-MAC standard execution under diverse network load by dint of OPNET Modeler.

Keywords: IEEE 802.15.4 ZigBee Networks, Mobility, QoS.

INTRODUCTION

Technical progression & rivalry among mobile operative companies increases the growth of wireless equipment like mobile phones and mobile WSN networks, results in increased growth of mobile gadgets nearly to 2500 million in 2015 and is prophesied this evolution will endure to increase swiftly 5000 million on 2020 [1]. The wireless automation infrastructure started to connect sensors and actuators of commercial products a few years ago. ZigBee is one of the leading technologies, developed in 2003, provides the functionalities expected for a Wireless Sensor and Actuator Network (WSAN). Point-to-point connections, as well as star networks can be built using ZigBee [2]. The routing capabilities are the main feature of ZigBee, thus, can also be used to build mesh networks. Whenever WSANs are used in automation, they are expected to reliably provide their functionality. However, most of the wireless protocols in this context are based on indeterministic media access mechanisms [3]. This can lead to sudden system failures. Due to this unintended behavior, a new approach for predicting WSANs’ message transfer is required. In the past decades, wireless communications have promoted the development of protocol standardizing. ZigBee protocol has been proposed in order to meet the needs of long lifetime, low cost and low data rate in short range sensing network which is known as Wireless Sensor Network (WSN) based on the IEEE 802.15.4 [4].

ZigBee-compliant products works on unrestrained bands: 2.4 GHz (worldwide), 902 to 928 MHz (America), and 868 MHz (Europe). The ZigBee communication speed is 250 Kbs at 2.4 GHz (16 channels), 40 Kbs at 915 MHz band (10 channels), and 20 Kbs at 868 MHz band (1 channel). The broadcast area is from 10-75 mtrs., contingent on the diffused power [5,6]. Besides, the maximum output power of the radios is generally 1 mW [7]. ZigBee IEEE 802.15.4 is a low-rate Wireless Personal Area Networks (WPAN) standard with high level of simplicity and stability. ZigBee layered structure, consists basically four layers, that are physical, MAC Layer, Network Layer and application layer, where lower two layers (Physical & MAC Layer) came under IEEE 802.15.4 standard and upper two layers (Network and application under Zigbee alliance) [8]. IEEE 802.11.4 ZigBee physical layer uses 2.4GHz band, which is also used by the other wireless standards. The coexistence of the devices has become an important issue that they can operate without interference on each other [9]. Especially with IEEE802.11 stations, IEEE 802.15.4 nodes may be tremendously perilous if the similar carrier frequencies are designated. The setup results to respite of Physical Layer (PHY) as depicted in figure 1 [10].
The ZigBee network has deficiency of QoS as their short range, less data rate and absence of mobility in ZigBee nodes. Many researchers working on retrieving the identical ZigBee Coordinating stations, which causes network congestions, and it is very hard to maintain high QoS. Thus, degrade the overall performance of the ZigBee network. So, in this research paper, we work on Mobile ZigBee networks and to improve traffic congestion in mobile Zigbee networks [11]. Mobile ZigBee has a Mandatory handoff that contributes to the overall end-to-end communication delay, so proper routing mechanism should have to be chosen for proper traffic management and data delivery in Zigbee networks [12]. By working on mobile ZigBee networks under adhoc routing performance of the network may be improved extremely, which is not recorded in previous work. Accurate routing in mobile Zigbee networks is very hard because at the cell boundary mobile terminal experiences signal from serving ZigBee coordinator as well as from neighboring coordinator [13]. In this situation mobile terminal fluctuates between ZigBee coordinators due to which unnecessary handoff occur and loss of Zigbee traffic.

**SIMULATION SETUP**

The basic network model consists of a 50 ZigBee End Devices communicating with in the network using a coordinator. Two identical networks were made for Stationary and Mobile ZigBee Network. Figure 2 & 3 shows the Stationary and mobile ZigBee Network models respectively. The majority of the nodes have been configured with Random traffic; where nodes are configured as to send explicitly multimedia (video) information to the coordinator node for both networks as in present scenario maximum WSN network are working on multimedia applications [14]. The PAN in the mobile network is configure with a mobility of uniform 0.6-1 m/s as shown in figure 2 using Random Waypoint mobility. Routing scenario in both networks are constructed in form of Mesh Network. After mesh routes establishment, network traffic routes to smallest probable path to the coordinator in the simulation as a relay as shown in figure 3.

**EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS**

Figure 4 evaluates delay of each communicated packet throughout the simulation time and consist of all probable delays produced by buffering during route discovery expectancy, waiting time at queue, retransmission time at MAC, broadcast & transmission time [16]. Figure 4 shows comparative graph for End to End delay w.r.t simulation time in both stationary and mobile Network.

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**Figure 1: ZigBee Network Topology [10]**

![ZigBee Network Topology](image)

**Figure 2: Stationary ZigBee Network**

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**Figure 4:** Evaluates delay of each communicated packet throughout the simulation time and consist of all probable delays produced by buffering during route discovery expectancy, waiting time at queue, retransmission time at MAC, broadcast & transmission time [16]. Figure 4 shows comparative graph for End to End delay w.r.t simulation time in both stationary and mobile Network.
From the graph, it is clear that mobile network has maximum End-to-End Delays (nearly 0.69 sec.) as compare to Mesh networks (0.48 sec.).
The extra delays in mobile topology are usually caused by connection loss between end device and coordination due to the mobility of mobile nodes. Further connection interruption results in beacons loss to other ZigBee nodes that emit them queue route request messages before transmitting them which adds an extra delay [19]. ZigBee network Load is defined as the load(bits/sec) acqiesced to IEEE 802.15.4 Medium Access Layer through all upper layers of Wireless Personal Area Network stations of the simulated system [17]. Diagram 5 shows the comparative graph for overall Network Load w.r.t simulation time in both routing schemes.

![Diagram showing Network Load](image)

**Fig 5. Comparative Graph for Overall Network Load w.r.t Simulation Time**

Further, it has been observed from graph that the network traffic load is minimum in mobile ZigBee topology (nearly 21413.04 Kbits/sec.) is more as compared to stationary ZigBee Network (nearly 20795.88 Kbits/sec.) the higher network load in case of mobile ZigBee network is due to the reason that the interlinks within the itinerant ZigBee stations vary very fast, which results in recurrent changes in stations of Mobile ZigBee Network, resulting in frequent disparity of ZigBee setup results in network load on higher side [18]. Figure 6 describes Throughput comparison of ZigBee networks, depicts the total bits collected at receiver transport layer, which imitates the comprehensiveness and exactness of routing algorithm [15]. It has been observed from the graph that the Mobile ZigBee network scheme delivered higher throughput (21062.99) than the stationary ZigBee network (20390.74). Throughput is maximum in case of mobile topology as the nodes gets evenly clustered around the coordinator, which results in lesser collisions and lesser packet drops and maximum throughput in case of mobile topology [19]. It is worth to note that even traffic distribution can be seen by lesser no. of hops/route as in case of mobile ZigBee networks as shown in figure 7. Figure 6 depicts the stationary network uses only 1.29 hops/route on average as compared to mobile networks which use 1.18 hops/route, which results in lower throughput in case of stationary ZigBee topology.

**Table 3: QoS parametric Comparison between Mesh & Tree ZigBee Networks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network Size</th>
<th>Stationary ZigBee Network</th>
<th>Mobile ZigBee Network</th>
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<td><strong>Network Size</strong></td>
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<td>Stationary ZigBee Network</td>
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<td>End-to-End Delay (sec.)</td>
<td>Throughput (Kbits/sec.)</td>
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**CONCLUSION**

We analyze the performance of mobile ZigBee Network with stationary ZigBee network schemes. From the simulation results, it is concluded that the node mobility in ZigBee networks result in more delays and system load due to the reason that the node connections of mobile ZigBee nodes changes very fast, due to the fast-varying ZigBee stations in the mobile ZigBee systems, which results route failures. Though results are in terms of throughput and Hops/Route gets better with mobility as nodes gets evenly distributed over the entire network, which makes end nodes easier to communicate with coordinator.

**REFERENCES**


