



Efficient Cluster Head Replacement LEACH Protocol for Wireless Sensor Networks

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ABSTRACT

In this work, M-LEACH (Modified Distributed Energy Efficient Clustering) protocol, a new variant of LEACH is proposed after survey of LEACH. The proposed M-LEACH is designed for three different segregations for the nodes to elongate the stability & lifetime of the network. Hence, it increases the heterogeneity & energy level of the network. In LEACH, amplification energy is set same for all kinds of transmissions. Using low energy level for intra cluster transmissions with respect to cluster head to BS transmission leads in saving much amount of energy. Moreover, multi power levels also reduce the packet drop ratio, collisions and/ or interference for other signals. The proposed M-LEACH outperforms to existing classical LEACH.

Keyword: LEACH, WSN, Routing Protocol, M-LEACH, WSN's, Cluster Head, Threshold

I INTRODUCTION

Everybody in current scenario need immediate information in every aspect of our lives. For achieving this need, several networks are designed to pass information. Ad-Hoc networks give infrastructure-less communication. Multi hop networks were designed to give more liberty of movement. In case of wireless sensor networks, that device normally is termed as a sensor, node or mote and it has its own limitations i.e. it must be capable of sensing, processing and transmitting/ receiving. Each node hence also require a power source to perform all these operations. Considering applications of wireless sensor networks, installing a battery on each sensor node is a better solution. Furthermore, limiting use of power is one of the key challenges in wireless sensor networks. These

batteries must be smart enough to give a node maximum life despite of being tiny sized.

Any technology that is in process of its development, give a lot of challenges. In the same way, wireless sensor networks do. Sensing, computing and transceiving by tiny sized sensors with power constraint is not a simple thing. Hence this is the major concern for scientists and researchers. To optimize node's life time, we need to focus on such algorithms, protocols and physical circuitries that can make maximum out of limited power source.

In any network especially wireless multi hop networks, for efficient performance, its protocols must be very efficient. Numerous protocols are developed that address power problem in sensor networks. Most prominent routing algorithms can be categorized into three types i.e. direct transmission algorithms, hop to hop transmission algorithms and cluster based algorithms.

Another problem that persists is to handle bulk of information sensed and passed over by every node of a network. (A WSN may consist of thousands of nodes). For that data aggregation and data fusion algorithms work, however there is always a room for betterment. In an efficient wireless sensor network, we need efficient routing protocol that has low routing overhead and well organized data aggregation mechanisms to increase good put of network and to save limited power of sensor node.

In next sections, we discuss about the work done on cluster based routing of wireless sensor networks

along with areas which need modifications to enhance efficiency. Later, some modifications are made in one of most prominent routing protocol. Finally, experiments along with comparisons are made and discussed briefly.

II. RELATED WORK

Wireless Sensor Networks are regarded as significant developments of 21st century [1] and have gained worldwide attention due to their intensive use in surveillance systems, medical, home and military operations. The sensor nodes are deployed in extremely large number in these networks to enable reliable surveillance and effective monitoring of environment. In recent years, most of the researchers have shown interest in designing energy efficient protocols for gathering essential data from the environment. This is because sensor nodes are battery operated which depletes quickly with each operation. Cluster-based protocols are known to provide better results than other routing protocols in terms of resilience, energy efficiency, data integration and scalability. In this paper, we discuss the most effective hierarchical clustering protocol called as LEACH (Low Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy) along with its issues and drawbacks. An exhaustive search on variants of LEACH protocol has been conducted. We present the taxonomy of various descendants of LEACH protocol and compare their performances based on metrics such as scalability, data aggregation, mobility etc.

A popular protocol, in the context of dynamic clustering, is the Low Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy (LEACH) protocol [2]. LEACH protocol distributes cluster head selection randomly through all nodes, allowing more efficient power distribution, resulting in being one of the widely known protocols in WSNs. There are many existing clustering protocols that aim at making the sensor network stay functioning longer out of which Low-Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy (LEACH) [2] and Threshold-based LEACH (T-LEACH) protocols. T-LEACH protocol takes advantage of LEACH main deficiency, which is about having high control overhead. In other words, T-LEACH proposes that cluster heads do not have to turn over every round but rather every batch of rounds. Nodes will keep serving as cluster heads as long as their energy is higher than a threshold energy. This article imposes upon major drawbacks of T-LEACH and proposes a Modified Threshold-based Cluster Head Replacement (MT-

CHR). In MT-CHR, a new probability of being a cluster head, for any node in any round, has been proposed which agrees fairly with the assumptions introduced in LEACH protocol [2].

The sensors node around the base station (BS) will act as communicator for the sensors which are far from BS [3], so by using the clustering algorithms associate with Kmeans method can help the sensor nodes to extended and maintain their live time which extends the live time of the network overall. There are different ways to design cluster-based WSNs. Since all neighboring sensor nodes normally have the same data of the same event and each node transmit to BS individually, this cause energy consumption and the nodes will last very short time. Cluster-Head architectures reduce the energy consumption. All the Cluster-Head transmit the data directly to (BS) but the other nodes will only transmit the collected data to CH. Hence the cluster-head selection will determine the lifetime of the network [3].

In the previous years, many new routing procedures have been established for wireless sensor network [4]. Low Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy (LEACH) procedure is possibly the main important clustering procedure for wireless sensor network which accomplishes the standard routing protocol by using adaptive gathering system [5]. It uses single hop communication and works in series and every round is additionally distributed into two parts:

1. Setup phase
2. Steady-state phase.

In the setup phase, the nodes are distributed into some clusters dynamically and a cluster-head (CH) is elected randomly among the cluster nodes for every cluster. While making clusters, an integer in the series 0 to 1 is elected randomly and the same is linked with a threshold, $t(h)$. The node is made as a group head for the present round, if chosen value $t(h)$; else the node continues to stay as a child node. The threshold $t(h)$ is designed with the support of equation (1).

$$t(h) = \begin{cases} \frac{P_b}{(1 - P_b)^{\lfloor r_n \bmod \left(\frac{1}{P_b}\right) \rfloor}} & \text{if } h \in G_1 \\ 0 & \text{if } h \notin G_1 \end{cases}$$

Where P_b = amount of the CH nodes between all the

Nodes,

r_n = number of the round

G_t = group of the nodes that have not yet been CH nodes throughout the first $1/P_b$ rounds.

Based on TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access) schedule, a node directs its recognized and stored data to its CH. Once a CH collects all the statistics from its member nodes, it sends the collective value to the BS [4].

In steady phase, cluster nodes send their data to the cluster head. The member sensors in each cluster can communicate only with the cluster head via a single hop transmission. Cluster head aggregates all the collected data and forwards data to the base station either directly or via other cluster head along with the static route defined in the source code. After predefined time, the network again goes back to the set-up phase.

MERITS AND DEMERITS:

1. The Cluster Heads aggregates the whole data.
2. Single hop routing from nodes to cluster head it results in saving energy
3. It increases the lifetime of the sensor network.
4. Clusters are divided randomly, which results in uneven distribution of Clusters.
5. Uses homogeneous network.
6. Number of clusters to be formed is not optimized.

To cover with these constraints, initially direct transmission approach was discussed [6]. In direct transmission, a node sense data from its environment and transmits it straight to base station. This method, no doubt, ensures data security however; on the other hand we have to compromise on node's life time due to excessive power consumption (if BS is far away). Hence, using direct transmission technique, nodes that are far away from BS die early as they require more power to propagate their signal, making a portion of field vacant for sensing.

To solve this problem, minimum transmission energy (MTE) emerged. In this technique, data is transmitted to base stations via multi hop. This gives birth to almost same problem we faced in direct transmission. Difference is only this that in minimum transmission energy algorithm, far away nodes remain alive longer with respect to the nodes nearer to BS. Reason behind early expiry of nearer nodes is routing of all data traffic to base station. Moreover, transmitting bulk of

sensed data from each node use much energy. To overcome this problem, concept of Directed Diffusion was introduced that discuss data processing and dissemination [2]. Estrin et.al [3] worked on an hierarchical clustering mechanism dealing with asymmetric communication for power saving in sensor nodes. Jiang et.al presented a cluster based routing protocol (CBRP) [4]. According to this mechanism, all participating nodes of network are distributed in 2-hop cluster. Though this protocol is not much energy efficient for wireless sensor nodes however, it gives way to hierarchical clustering algorithms. Clustering for energy conservation is proven as efficient mechanism for wireless sensor networks [5, 6]. When a sensor network is deployed, nodes establish clusters and nominate one node from each cluster as a cluster head. These cluster head nodes are responsible for receiving data from other nodes of cluster, do data aggregation/ fusion of received data and transmit it to base station. In this way, bandwidth consumption and life time of network is optimized [7]. In [8] authors give concept of inter cluster communication. They prove that regardless of transmitting fused data direct from cluster head to base station, if data is transmitted in multiple hops i.e. from one cluster head to another and finally to base station, it would further enhance network life time.

M. Tahir *et.al* [21] introduces link quality metric to divide a network into three logical portions resulting in lower routing overhead. Authors of [22] preserve energy in WSN's by differentiating idle and operational mode of a sensor node.

Authors of [9, 10] states that nodes having high initial energy will be selected as cluster heads (in case of heterogeneous sensor networks). While according [11, 12, and 13] any node that lie within network can be elected as a cluster head. Stable Election Protocol (SEP) gives weighted probability to each node of becoming a cluster head [11]. In DEEC [12] existing energy in node is election criteria of a node to become a cluster head.

LEACH [1], TEEN [14], SEP [11], DEEC [12] and PEGASIS [15] are prominent routing techniques for wireless sensor networks. Main procedure of electing a cluster head was given by LEACH and that is further enhanced by SEP and DEEC. TEEN introduces the concept of thresholds that gives good results in network life time by showing reactive

nature. These thresholds can be implemented in any routing protocol to enhance its performance with respect to utility or application. Considering LEACH, the algorithm is divided into three parts, i.e. advertising phase, Cluster Set up phase and Scheduling phase.

LEACH gives birth to many protocols. The procedures of this protocol are compact and well coped with homogeneous sensor environment. According to this protocol, for every round, new cluster head is elected and hence new cluster formation is required. This leads to unnecessary routing overhead resulting in excessive use of limited energy. If a cluster head has not utilized much of its energy during previous round, than there is probability that some low energy node may replace it as a cluster head in next cluster head election process. There is a need to limit change of cluster heads at every round considering residual energy of existing cluster head. Hence an efficient cluster head replacement algorithm is required to conserve energy.

In clustering protocols as LEACH, nodes use same amplification energy to transmit data regardless of distance between transmitter and receiver. To preserve energy, there should also be transmission mechanisms that specify required amplification energy for communicating with cluster head or base station. For example, transmitting a packet to cluster head with same amplification power level as required by a node located at farthest end of network to base station results in wastage of energy. One solution can be having global knowledge of network and then nodes decide how much they need to amplify signal. Locating and calculating distances with in full network topology needs lot of routing and so, this approach do not work for saving energy. To solve above mentioned problems, we propose two mechanisms i.e. efficient cluster head replacement and dual transmitting power levels.

III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

Our work is based on LEACH protocol that can be extended further for other protocols. Basically, we introduce two techniques to raise network life time and throughput. To understand our proposed scheme, we have to understand mechanism given by LEACH. This protocol changes the cluster head at every round and once a cluster head is formed, it will not get another chance for next $1/p$ rounds. For every round,

cluster heads are replaced and whole cluster formation process is undertaken. We, in this work, modify LEACH by introducing “*efficient cluster head replacement scheme*”. It is a threshold in cluster head formation for very next round. If existing cluster has not spent much energy during its tenure and has more energy than required threshold, it will remain cluster head for the next round as well. This is how, energy wasted in routing packets for new cluster head and cluster formation can be saved. If cluster head has less energy than required threshold, it will be replaced according to LEACH algorithm. Besides limiting energy utilization in cluster formation, we also introduce two different levels of power to amplify signals according to nature of transmission. Basically there can be three modes of transmission in a cluster based network.

1. Intra Cluster Transmission
2. Inter Cluster Transmission
3. Cluster Head To Base Station Transmission

Intra Cluster Transmission deals with all the communication within a cluster i.e. cluster member's sense data and report sensed data to cluster head. The transmission/ reception between two clusters heads can be termed as inter cluster transmission while a cluster head transmitting its data straight to base station lies under the caption of cluster head to base station transmission.

Minimum amplification energy required for inter cluster or cluster head to BS communication and amplification energy required for intra cluster communication cannot be same. In LEACH, amplification energy is set same for all kinds of transmissions. Using low energy level for intra cluster transmissions with respect to cluster head to BS transmission leads in saving much amount of energy. Moreover, multi power levels also reduce the packet drop ratio, collisions and/ or interference for other signals. In this context, we assume that a cluster at maximum may spread into an area of $10 \times 10 m^2$ in a field of $100 \times 100 m^2$. Energy that is enough to transmit at far ends of a field of $100 \times 100 m^2$ must be lowered 10 times for intra-cluster transmission. When a node act as a Cluster head, routing protocol informs it to use high power amplification and in next round, when that node becomes a cluster member, routing protocol switches it to low level power amplification. Finally, soft and hard threshold schemes are also implemented in M-LEACH that gives better results.

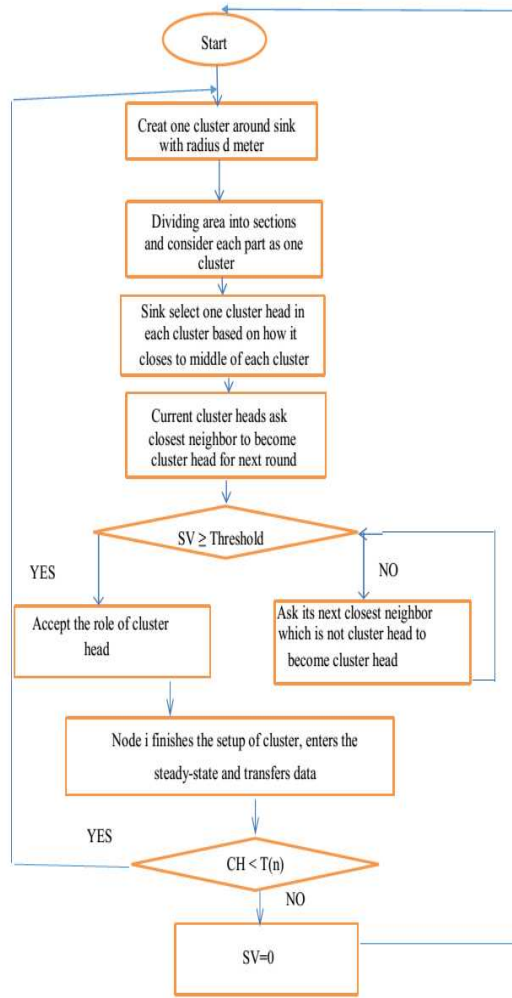


Figure 1: Proposed M-LEACH Flow Chart

FND (First Node Dead): The time span from start to when the first node dead is called FND (First Node Dead).

HND (Half number of Nodes Dead): What’s more, the round when half of the nodes die is called HND (Half number of Nodes Dead).

LND (Last Node Dead): Another measure is LND (Last Node Dead), which is the time span from the time zero to when there is no a live node in the network.

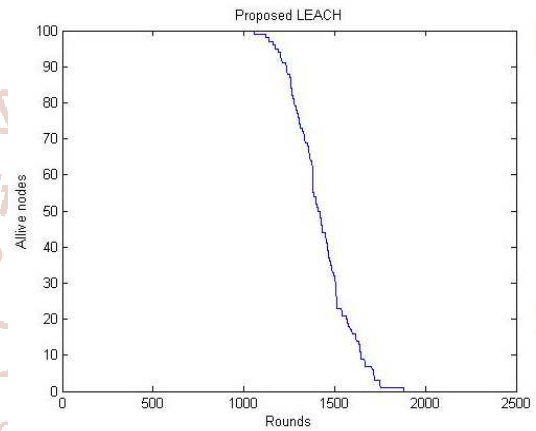


Figure 2: Number of Alive Nodes vs Rounds

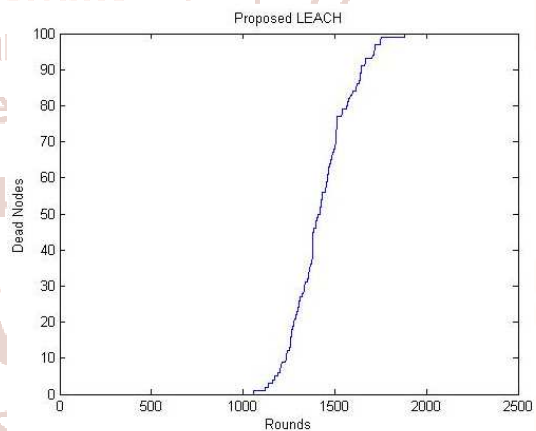


Figure 3: Number of Dead Nodes vs Rounds

IV. SIMULATION RESULTS & DISCUSSION

All the simulations are conducted using MATLAB (R2013b). For the simulation in MATLAB following parameters are taken as the benchmark:

Network Parameters	Value
Network Field Size	100 × 100 m ²
Number of Nodes	100
Initial Energy of Sensor Nodes (E _o)	0.5 J
Packet / Message Size	4000 bits
Transceiver idle state energy consumption (E _{idle})	50 nJ/bit
Data Aggregation/ Fusion Energy consumption (E _{fa})	10 nJ/bit/report
Amplification Energy (Cluster to BS) (E _{amp})	0.0013pJ/bit/m ²
Energy Consumption of Data Gathering Cluster Head (E _{DA})	5nJ/bit/signal
Threshold Distance (d _o)	70 m
P _{opt}	0.1

Table 1: Parameters for simulation of our proposed M-LEACH implementation

IV.1 NETWORK LIFE TIME / DEAD & ALIVE NODES

To examine the performance of wireless sensor networks some characterization parameters are generally used. These parameters are related to number of nodes, alive or dead & network life time span. Some of them are:

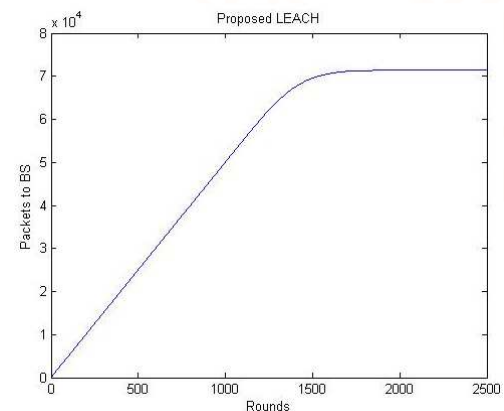


Figure 4: Packet sent to Base Station vs Rounds

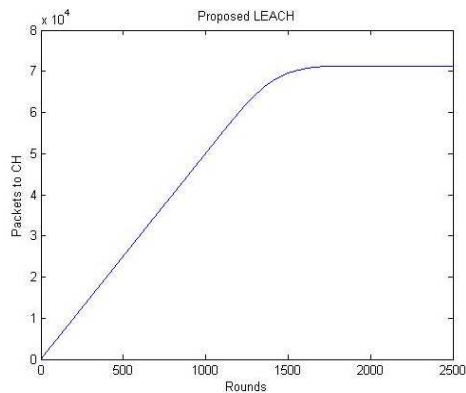


Figure 5: Packet sent to Cluster Head vs Rounds

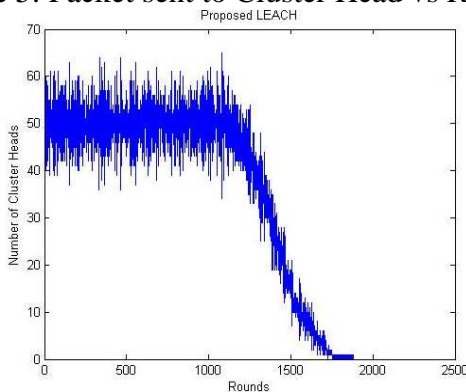


Figure 6: Number of Cluster Heads vs Rounds

V. CONCLUSION

In this work, we give a brief discussion on emergence of cluster based routing in wireless sensor networks. We also propose M-LEACH, a new variant of LEACH that can further be utilized in other clustering routing protocols for better efficiency. In this work, M-LEACH (Modified Distributed Energy Efficient Clustering) protocol, a new variant of LEACH is proposed. The proposed M-LEACH is designed for three different segregations for the nodes to elongate the stability & lifetime of the network. Hence, it increases the heterogeneity & energy level of the network. In LEACH, amplification energy is set same for all kinds of transmissions. Using low energy level for intra cluster transmissions with respect to cluster head to BS transmission leads in saving much amount of energy. Moreover, multi power levels also reduce the packet drop ratio, collisions and/ or interference for other signals. The proposed M-LEACH outperforms in all other existing LEACH variants when compared for FND, HND & LND.

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