

Optimal Network Design for Efficient Energy Utilization in Wireless Sensor Networks

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Abstract: Problem statement: This research presents a study of the optimal network design for efficient energy utilization in continuous data-gathering Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs). We first examine the problem of minimizing the network cost through the minimum number of relay-station installation. Then we further investigate the problem of minimizing the energy consumption of the sensor nodes. **Approach:** We model the network design problem as an integer linear programming. Our key contribution is that the proposed models not only guarantee the network lifetime but also ensure the radio communication between the energy-limited sensor nodes so that the network can guarantee packet delivery from sensor nodes to the base station. **Results:** Numerical experiments were conducted to evaluate and demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed methods in various network scenarios. **Conclusion:** The results demonstrate the capabilities of the proposed methods to design WSNs with more efficient energy utilization compared with other methods in term of total energy consumption and average energy consumption of SNs in the networks.

Key words: Network design, wireless sensor networks, energy efficiency, Integer Linear Programming (ILP), assignment problem, network optimization, energy consumption, energy minimization, network lifetime

INTRODUCTION

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) have become potential solutions for a wide range of applications such as farm monitoring, building and factory management and military controls (Bojkovic and Bakmaz, 2008). Gathering environmental information is a common function that makes use of WSNs, in which the Sensor Nodes (SNs) are deployed in the sensing field and the Base Station (BS) is used to collect and analyze the sensing data. SNs send data to BS directly or indirectly via other intermediate SN(s). SNs usually operate by using limited energy sources such as batteries. It may be undesirable to replace or recharge SNs due to high maintenance cost. In this case, Relay Stations (RSs) are deployed (as shown in Fig. 1) to receive and forward data from SNs to BS so that the energy-limited SNs can live for a desired period of the network lifetime. RSs may equip with more sophisticated energy sources such as solar cells with larger batteries. In order to operate WSNs under efficient energy utilization of SNs, we need effective network design approaches considering practical issues such as limitation of network cost, energy and radio communication range.

Several study have devoted to the study of WSN design problems in which the energy limitation of sensor nodes is the main concern (Shi *et al.*, 2009; Paul *et al.*, 2010; Azad and Chockalingam, 2006; Chan *et al.*, 2008; Luo and Hubaux, 2010; Zahariadis *et al.*, 2009; Narayanan and Bhaskar, 2004; Levendovszky *et al.*, 2008; Guo *et al.*, 2008). In (Shi *et al.*, 2009; Paul *et al.*, 2010; Azad and Chockalingam, 2006; Chan *et al.*, 2008), the authors present the study of the WSN design in term of the base station placement problems. Particularly, in (Shi *et al.*, 2009; Paul *et al.*, 2010) the objective is to maximize the network lifetime for a given number of base stations to be installed in the network. Besides optimal base station placement, in (Chockalingam, 2006; Chan *et al.*, 2008) the authors consider determining the optimal number of base stations.

Other approaches proposed to address the network lifetime problems include optimal routing (Luo and Hubaux, 2010; Zahariadis *et al.*, 2009) and optimal rate allocation (Narayanan and Bhaskar, 2004; Levendovszky *et al.*, 2008). Assuming the transmitting power level of sensor nodes can be adjusted based on the distance, (Luo and Hubaux, 2010) focuses on the shortest path problems to find optimal route from sensor nodes to BS.

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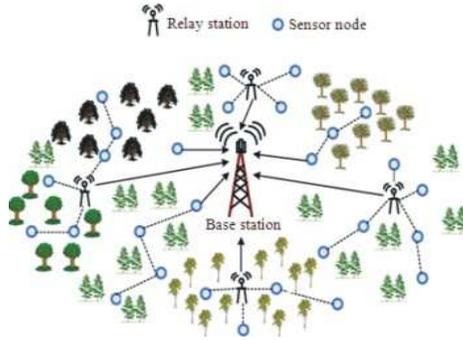


Fig. 1: Relay station deployment in WSN

Zahariadis *et al.* (2009) considered the remaining energy of SNs in their routing protocol. In (Narayanan and Bhaskar, 2004), the maximum data extraction problem was investigated with special consideration on the limitation of SN battery energy. Levendovszky *et al.* (2008) proposed the packet forwarding protocol that aims to maximize the network lifetime.

Guo *et al.* (2008), the authors proposed a Binary Integer Programming (BIP) for the relay node placement and assignment problems. The objective is to maximize the number of packets received at the base station and achieve a specified network lifetime. While their contribution is significant, the proposed method did not consider flow conservation constraints and could not provide packet delivery guarantee. Furthermore, the network cost was not taking into account and the number of hops between SN and BS is limited to two hops. For this reason, more flexible and effective approaches for the WSN design with the use of relay stations are needed.

In our study we propose a novel WSN design approach, accounting for the flow conservation and the network cost consideration in the network design process. Specifically, we aim to solve the RS placement and assignment problem for WSNs that can guarantee network lifetime and guarantee packet delivery from all SNs in the network by utilizing multiple hop RSs at the minimum network cost and minimum energy consumption.

The rest of the study is organized in four sections as followed. The next section, Materials and Methods, provides the problem definition and describes the problem formulation. Then, the Results-section report our investigation about the effects of network sizes and the distribution of SNs on the performance of the network configurations designed by the proposed model. After that the Discussion-section presents numerical comparisons and analysis of various network

design scenarios. The last section, Conclusion, summarizes our research study and describes our ongoing research.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Problem formulation:

Problem definition:The proposed WSN design in this study focuses on RS placement and assignment problems which involve selecting locations to install RSs from a set of candidate sites and determining a set of SNs and their routes to deliver sensing information to suitable RS for efficient energy utilization. Here the network configuration is formed in the way that SNs can communicate directly to BS or indirectly via other SNs and/or the selected RS which connects to BS. Specifically, the proposed model aims to determine the minimum number of RSs and the optimal locations to install them in the sensing field. Moreover, the proposed model aims to determine routes to deliver sensing information from a set of SNs to the suitable RS so that the resulting network configuration can guarantee the required network lifetime and ensure the radio communication between SNs so that the network can guarantee packet delivery from SNs to BS.

Here the network lifetime is defined as the duration from starting the network until the first SN depletes its battery power. This is a common definition of the WSN lifetime (Al-Turjman *et al.*, 2009). It is assumed that the SNs are distributed across the sensing field and the sensing data can be delivered continuously through other SNs and/or RS in a multi-hop manner.

Problem formulation:The proposed WSN design problem is formulated as Integer Linear Programming (ILP) models. We propose two network design models, including the RS placement and assignment problem and the minimum energy-RS placement problem. Table 1 defines notations used in the proposed models.

RS placement and assignment problem:The RS placement and assignment problem, denoted as RPAP, aims to minimize the number of RSs and find optimal locations to install them so that the radio communication between nodes in the network and the required network operation period can be guaranteed. We incorporate the network design requirements into the following mathematical model, consisting of the objective function 1 and constraints 2-12.

Objective function:

$$\text{Minimize } \sum_{v \in J} x_j \quad (1)$$

Table 1: Notations

Sets	
I	A set of Sensor Nodes (SNs)
J	A set of candidate sites to install Relay Stations (RSs)
M	A set of Base Stations (BSs)
Decision variables	
x_j	A binary $\{0, 1\}$ variable that equals 1 if the RSs installed at site j ; $j \in J$; 0 otherwise
s_{ik}	Data sent from SN i to SN k ; i and $k \in I$
r_{ij}	Data sent from SN i to RS j ; $i \in I$ and $j \in J$
b_{im}	Data sent from SN i to BS m ; $i \in I$ and $m \in M$
Constant parameters	
C_{t_SN}	Energy consumption coefficient for transmitting data from sensor node i to SN k ; i and $k \in I$
C_{t_RS}	Energy consumption coefficient for transmitting data from sensor node i to RS j ; $i \in I, j \in J$
C_{t_BS}	Energy consumption coefficient for transmitting data from sensor node i to BS m ; $i \in I, m \in M$
C_r	Energy consumption coefficient for receiving data
P_{t_SN}	The received signal strength threshold for SNs
P_{t_RS}	The received signal strength threshold for RSs
P_{t_BS}	The received signal strength threshold for BS
P_{ik}	The signal strength that a SN k receives from SN i ; i and $k \in I$
P_{ij}	The signal strength that a RS j receives from SN i ; $i \in I$ and $j \in J$
P_{im}	The signal strength that a BS m receives from SN i ; $i \in I$ and $m \in M$
M	Buffer size limitation of RSs
T	The required network lifetime
E_i	Initial energy of battery of SNs
g_i	Data generating rate of SNs

Constraints:

$$s_{ik} (P_{ik} - P_{t_SN}) \geq 0, \forall i, k \in I, i \neq k \quad (2)$$

$$r_{ij} (P_{ij} - P_{t_RS}) \geq 0, \forall i \in I, \forall j \in J \quad (3)$$

$$b_{im} (P_{im} - P_{t_BS}) \geq 0, \forall i \in I, \forall m \in M \quad (4)$$

$$(T^* g_i) + \sum_{v \in I} s_{vi} = \sum_{v \in I} s_{iv} + \sum_{v \in J} r_{vj} + \sum_{v \in M} b_{vm}, \forall i \in I \quad (5)$$

$$\sum_{v \in I} (T^* g_v) = \sum_{v \in J} \sum_{i \in I} r_{ij} + \sum_{v \in M} \sum_{i \in I} b_{im} \quad \forall j \in J \quad (6)$$

$$\sum_{v \in I} r_{vj} = M x_j \quad \forall j \in J \quad (7)$$

$$\sum_{v \in I} C_{t_SN} s_{vi} + \sum_{v \in I} C_{t_SN} s_{iv} + \sum_{v \in J} C_{t_RS} r_{vj} + \sum_{v \in M} C_{t_BS} b_{vm} \leq E_i \quad \forall i \in I \quad (8)$$

$$x_j \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall j \in J \quad (9)$$

$$s_{ik} \geq 0 \quad \forall i, k \in I, i \neq k \quad (10)$$

$$r_{ij} \geq 0 \quad \forall i \in I \forall j \in J \quad (11)$$

$$b_{im} \geq 0 \quad \forall i \in I \forall m \in M \quad (12)$$

The objective function 1 aims to minimize the number of RSs that will be installed in the network. Constraints 2-4 ensure the radio connectivity between nodes in the network by assessing the signal strength received at each node. These constraints enforce that the received signal strength must be greater than the specified threshold. Constraint 5 is a flow balancing Eq. 1-13 of each SN in the network. It states that sensing information g_i generated by SN i plus all incoming bits from other SNs is equal to total outgoing bits sent from SN i to other SNs or RSs or BS. Constraint 6 states that all sensing information generated by SNs can be sent to RSs or BS. It guarantees packet delivery from SNs to RSs or BS. Constraint 7 enforces that RS must be installed at the site j if a communication link between SN i and RS at site j is established. Moreover it specifies the buffer size limitation of the RS j . Constraint 8 specifies the energy limitation of each SN. It states that the total energy consumption (for receiving and transmitting the sensing information) at each SN during the required network lifetime cannot exceed the initial node energy. Constraint 9 states that x_j are binary 0-1 variables. Finally, constraint 10-12 state that s_{ik} , r_{ij} and b_{im} are non-negative variables.

Minimum energy-RS placement problem: The minimum energy-RS placement problem, denoted as MERP, aims to minimize energy consumption of SNs in the network with the use of mathematical model written in 13. Furthermore, we enforce that the resulting network can guarantee the required network lifetime and the packet delivery from all SNs to BS. We incorporate these network design requirements through a set of constraints 2-12 described earlier:

$$\text{Minimize } \sum_{v \in I} \left(\sum_{k \neq i} s_{ki} C_r + \sum_{v \in I} s_{iv} C_{t_SN} + \sum_{v \in J} r_{vj} C_{t_RS} + \sum_{v \in M} b_{vm} C_{t_BS} \right) \quad (13)$$

RESULTS

We present numerical study and analysis demonstrating the WSN design using the RPAP model. Particularly, we investigate the effects of network sizes and the distribution of SNs on the performance of the network configurations designed by the RPAP model.

We first describe the energy consumption model and the radio propagation model used in the experiments. Next the experiment setup and the numerical results are presented.

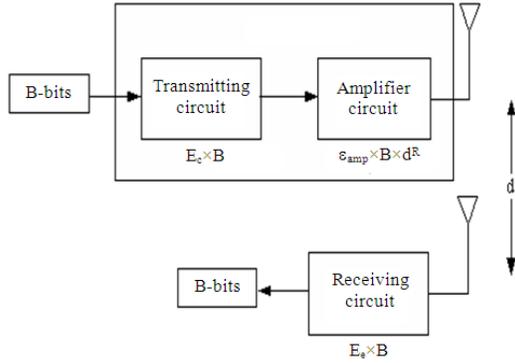


Fig. 2: Transmitting and receiving node model

Energy consumption model:In our experiments, the energy model Fig. 2 is used to compute the energy consumption for transmitting and receiving signal which are rewritten here in Eq. 14 and 15 (Ding *et al.*, 2007; Heinzelman *et al.*, 2000):

$$T_x = (E_c \times B) + (\epsilon_{amp} \times B \times d^n) \quad (14)$$

$$R_x = E_r \times B \quad (15)$$

Where:

E_c = Energy consumption in transmitting and receiving circuit (nJ/bit)

ϵ_{amp} = Energy consumption in amplifier (pJ/bit/mⁿ)

B = Number of bits (bits)

d = Distance between transmitter and receiver (m)

n = Index path-loss exponent

Radio propagation model:It is necessary to compute the received signal strength at SNs, RSs and BS and input the obtained values in the RPAP model to find the optimal locations to install RSs. This computation can be done by using the propagation model. In this study we use the Simplified path-loss model to evaluate the path loss in WSN (Goldsmith, 2005).

The received signal strength at SNs, RSs and BS (P_{ik} , P_{ij} and P_{im}) are pre-computed by using the simplified path loss model presented in (Goldsmith, 2005) and it is written here in Eq. 16. The pre-computed values are input into the RPAP model to find the optimal locations to install RSs:

$$P_r = P_t + K - 10n \log_{10} \left[\frac{d}{d_0} \right] \quad (16)$$

$$K(\text{dB}) = 20 \log_{10} \frac{\lambda}{4\pi d_0} \quad (17)$$

Where:

P_r = The received signal strength (dBm)

P_t = The transmit power (dBm)

n = The index path loss exponent

d = A distance between the transmitting node and the Receiving node (m)

d_0 = A reference distance for the antenna far field (m)

λ = The signal wavelength (m)

Experiment setup: In numerical experiments, we consider the sensing field of size 500×500 m in which one base station is located in the middle. To observe the effects of the network sizes (the number of SNs) on the energy consumption of the networks, we consider three different network sizes which represent the real network in practice, including the networks of size 30, 50 and 80 SNs. Figure 3-5 show the considered network scenarios, in which 110 candidate sites to install RSs are denoted with the symbol '+'. The network lifetime of 800 sec is considered here for the preliminary network design experiments.

We consider the WSN standards IEEE 802.15.4 in the numerical experiments. Table 2 shows the parameters used in the numerical experiments (Levendovszky *et al.*, 2008; Guo *et al.*, 2008) for more details. The received signal strength threshold to ensure the radio connectivity between nodes in the network is set to -90 dBm.

In the experiment, we input the set of SNs, their locations, the required network lifetime and other parameters to the RPAP model. We then solve the WSN design by implementing the RPAP model with the ILOG-OPL development studio and solving with CPLEX 5.2 optimization solver. Computations are performed on an Intel Centrino Core2 Duo Processor 2.0 GHz and 2GB of RAM.

Numerical results and analysis: Figure 6 shows the cumulative distribution function comparing the average energy consumption in the networks of different sizes. It can be observed that as the network sizes enlarge (in term of the number of SNs used in the sensing field), the energy consumption of the sensor node increases. In the case of the network size of 30 SNs, 80% of SNs consume energy less than 32 joules whereas the energy consumption of 80% of SNs in the network size of 50 and 80 SNs are 39 and 66 joules, respectively.

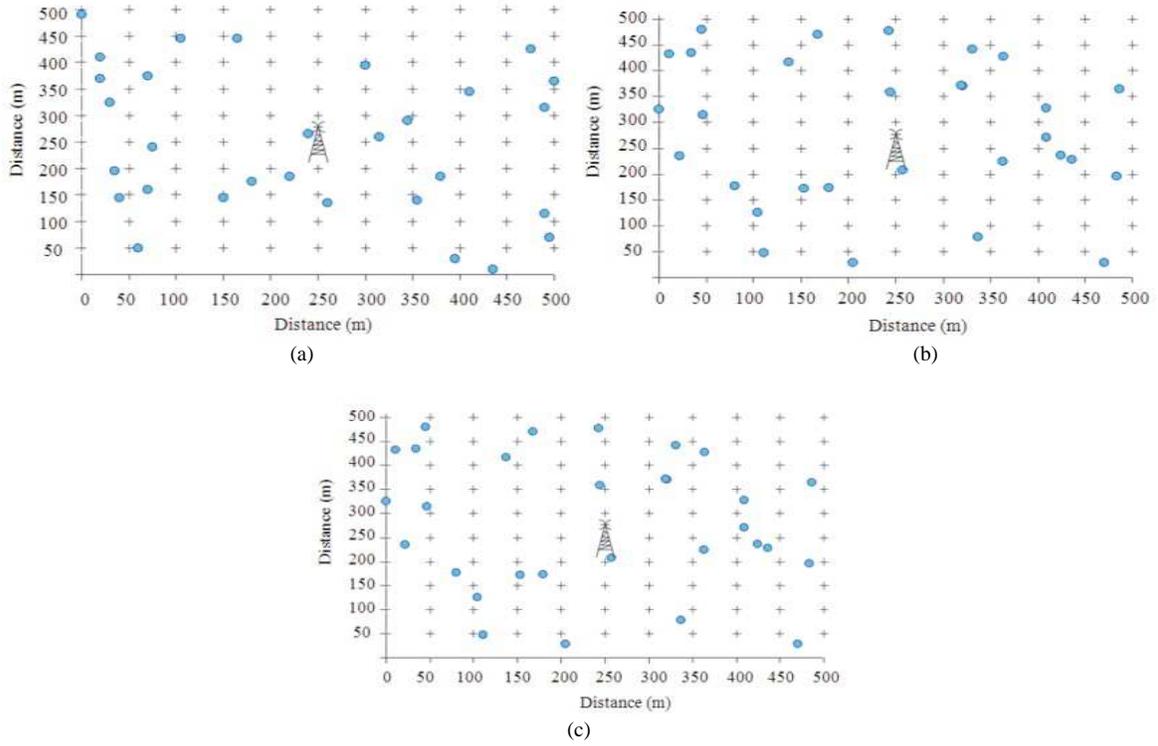


Fig. 3: Network scenarios of 30 sensor nodes (a) Network 30A (b) Network 30B (c) Network 30C

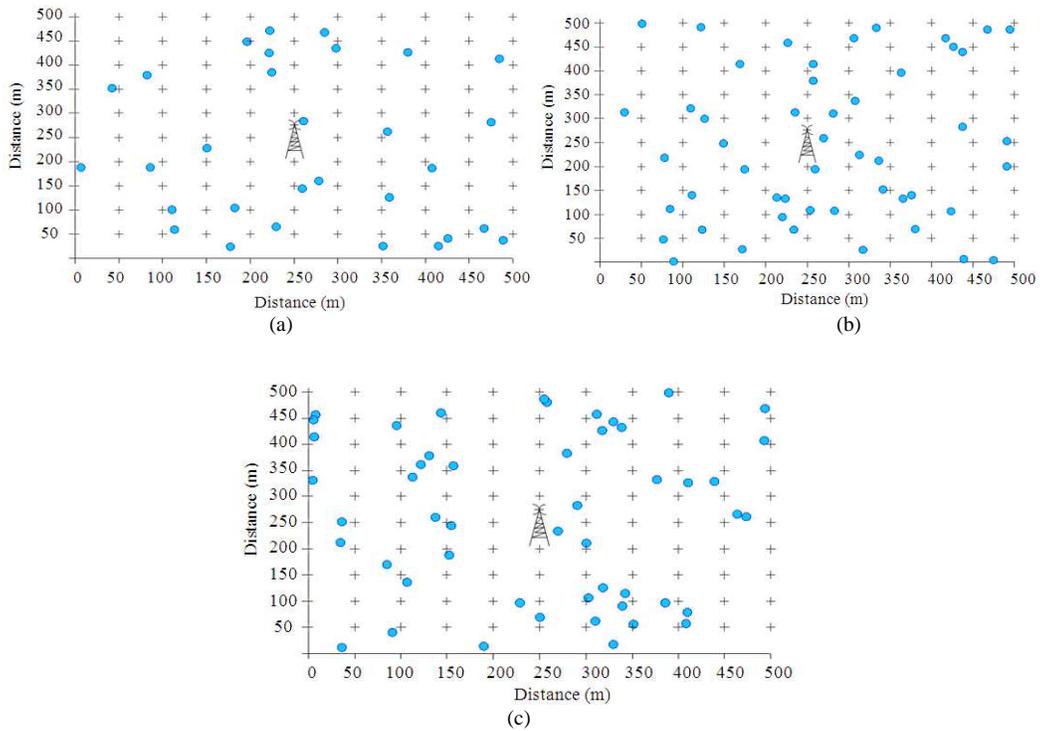


Fig. 4: Network scenarios of 50 sensor nodes (a) Network 50A (b) Network 50B (c) Network 50C

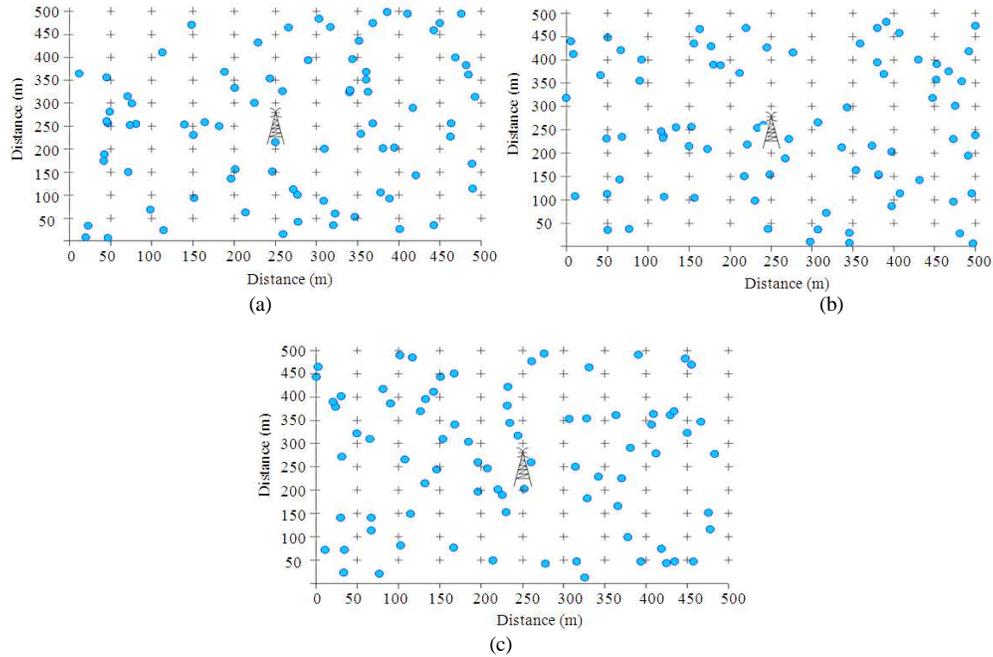


Fig. 5: Network scenarios of 80 sensor nodes (a) Network 80A (b) Network 80B (c) Network 80C

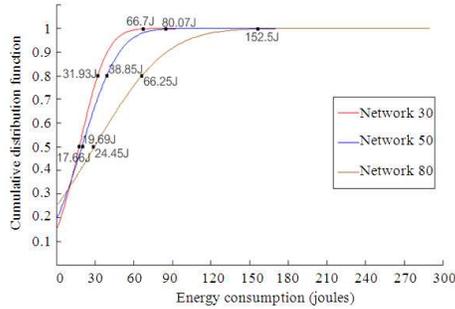


Fig. 6: Comparison of energy consumption in difference network sizes (when using RPAP model)

Table 2: Parameters used in numerical experiments

Parameters	Value
Receiver sensitivity threshold	-90 dBm
Communication data rate	2.5 kbps
Operating frequency	2.4 GHz
Initial energy of sensor nodes	35,160 joules
Buffer size at relay stations	10,000,000 bits
Transmit power	32mW
Reference distance	1m.
Path loss exponent	4

Figure 7-9 illustrate the cumulative distribution functions of energy consumption in different networks sizes consisting of 30, 50 and 80 SNs, respectively. Each figure shows the CDF graph of the energy consumption of SNs in the networks of the same size (denoted as network A, B and C, in which locations of SNs are varied).

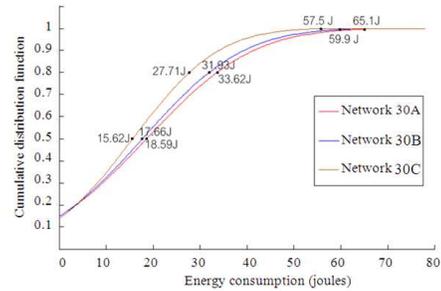


Fig. 7: Cumulative distribution function of the energy consumption in networks of 30 SNs (using RPAP)

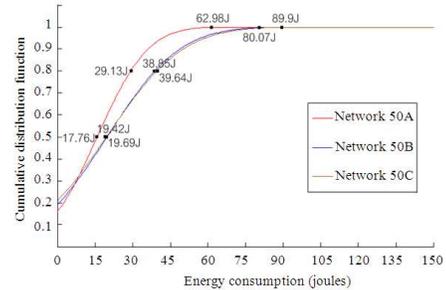


Fig. 8: Cumulative distribution function of the energy consumption in networks of 50 SNs (using RPAP)

We can see that for each network size, as locations of SNs change, the energy consumption of SNs in the network remains almost the same.

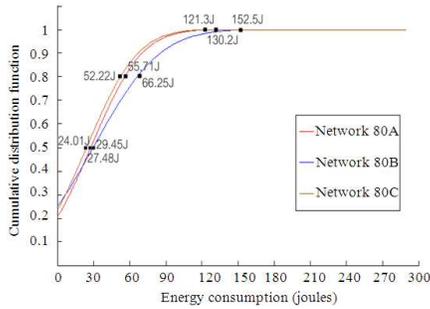


Fig. 9: Cumulative distribution function of the energy consumption in networks of 80 SNs (using RPAP)

The reason is that each SN has to send its sensing data to BS either directly or indirectly via neighbour SNs or RS. Thus the average energy consumption of SNs depends mainly on the number of SNs in the sensing field.

DISCUSSION

We present discussion and analysis demonstrating the WSN design using the proposed RPAP and MERP model. We compare our model with those presented in (Shi *et al.*, 2009) of which the objective function is to maximize the network lifetime with constraints on SNs' battery energy and RSs are not used. We call it a MNL (Maximize Network Lifetime) model. RPAP model, on the other hands, aims to minimize the RS installation cost while maintaining the required period of the network lifetime. We incorporate the path loss function in the constraints where we calculate the received signal strength to guarantee the sufficient signal strength that can ensure the radio communication between nodes in WSNs. Moreover, we enforce the flow conservation rule to guarantee packet delivery from SNs to BS.

Here we consider two version of MERP. MERP1 aims to minimize the energy consumption of SNs in the network and guarantee the required period of the network lifetime as described in the problem formulation.

Another version, MERP2, also aims to minimize the energy consumption and guarantee the required period of the network lifetime. In MERP2, We apply an additional constraint on the number of RSs that can be used in the network to take into account the network budget limitation. The following describe the experimental setup and present numerical comparisons and analysis.

Experiment setup: In numerical experiments, we consider the sensing field of size 500×500m and consider three different network sizes consisting of 30, 50 and 80 SNs as shown in Fig. 3-5, respectively. There are 110 candidate locations to install RSs which are represented by the symbol '+'. Here the WSN standards IEEE 802.15.4 are considered in the numerical experiments as well. Table 2 shows the parameters used in the numerical experiments ((Levendovszky *et al.*, 2008; Guo *et al.*, 2008) for more details).

First of all, MNL model is used to derive the maximum network lifetime with constraints on SNs' battery energy for the case that no RS is deployed. We apply the SN's initial energy of 61,560 joules which is computed by considering the use of four AA batteries and the current consumption of 0.1 amps for the duration of 10⁵ sec. We obtained the network lifetime of 13,825 sec and set this value as the required network lifetimes for the WSN design by using other models.

We input the set of RS candidate sites, the required network lifetime and other parameters to the RPAP, MERP1 and MERP2 model and solve the WSN design by implementing the proposed models with the ILOG-OPL development studio and solving with CPLEX 5.2 optimization solver. Computations are performed on an Intel Centrino Core2 Duo Processor 2.0 GHz and 2GB of RAM.

Numerical comparisons and analysis: Table 3 shows numerical results comparing the number of relay stations used in the network and total energy consumption of the network designed by MNL, RPAP, MERP1 and MERP2 model for the network size of 30, 50 and 80 SNs. We can see that MNL results in highest energy consumption whereas in case of RPAP, MERP1 and MERP2, SNs use much less energy. The reason is that MNL does not deploy RS and the intermediate SNs use lot of energy to receive and forward sensing data to BS. We can observe that the minimum energy consumption is in the case of using MERP1 in which the number of installed RSs is highest. In case of MERP2, the energy consumption is higher than that of MERP1. Comparing the energy consumption of RPAP and MERP2, we can see that MERP2 could improve the energy efficiency in the network that uses the same number of RSs as that used in RPAP model. The reason is that the objective of MERP2 is to minimize network energy consumption whereas the objective of RPAP aims to minimize network cost (i.e., the number of RSs).

Table 4 shows maximum and minimum energy consumption of SNs in the networks of different sizes. We can see that MNL results in highest energy consumption for both maximum and minimum values compared with those of other methods whereas MERP1 results in the lowest energy consumption for both the maximum and minimum values. Comparing the values of RPAP and MERP2, we can see that the maximum energy consumption of MERP2 is less than that of the RPAP.

Table 3: Number of relay stations installed in the sensing field and total energy consumption

Network design models	Number of relay stations installed	Total energy consumption of all sensor nodes (joules)
Network 30		
MNL	-	1,514,307
RPAP	16	12,621
MERP1	27	3,628
MERP2	16	7,254
Network 50		
MNL	-	2,748,142
RPAP	17	27,014
MERP1	37	5,865
MERP2	17	15,405
Network 80		
MNL	-	3,295,265
RPAP	17	75,661
MERP1	59	9,099
MERP2	20	26,575

Table 4: Maximum and minimum energy consumption of a sensor node in the networks

Network design models	Maximum energy consumption (joules)	Minimum energy consumption (joules)
Network 30		
MNL	61,560	329
RPAP	1,185	82
MERP1	180	84
MERP2	697	84
Network 50		
MNL	61,560	68
RPAP	2611	83
MERP1	379	83
MERP2	1,185	83
Network 80		
MNL	61,560	186
RPAP	8,341	82
MERP 1	413	82
MERP 2	1400	83

Table 5: Average energy consumption of sensor nodes in the networks and standard deviation

Network design models	Average energy consumption (joules)	SD (joules)
Network 30		
MNL	50,476	20,902
RPAP	420	259
MERP1	120	26
MERP2	241	159
Network 50		
MNL	54,962	16,722
RPAP	540	539
MERP1	117	60
MERP2	308	267
Network 80		
MNL	41,190	212,105
RPAP	945	1,359
MERP1	113	50
MERP2	332	288

Table 5 shows average energy consumption of sensor nodes and standard derivation of energy consumption. We can see that MNL results in highest average energy consumption and highest standard

deviation whereas MERP1 results in lowest average energy consumption and lowest standard deviation.

Figure 10-12 show effects of different network design models on the energy consumption in network of size 30, 50 and 80 SNs, respectively. The cumulative distribution function in Fig. 10 shows that RPAP results in highest energy consumption of SNs. We can see that in the network consisting of 30 SNs, 80% of SNs consume up to 639.4 joules per node whereas those of MERP1 and MERP2 model consume up to 143.9 and 375.8 joules per node, respectively. The reason is that RPAP used the objective function that minimized the number of RSs to achieve the required network lifetime for a given amount of initial energy of SNs. On the other hand MERP1 aims to minimize energy consumption and find sufficient number of RSs to achieve the required network lifetime. So, MERP1 results in lowest energy consumption. As for MERP2, it aims at minimize energy consumption by using the same number of RSs as used in RPAP model. We can see that although using the same number of RSs, MERP2 consume less energy than that of RPAP. The reason is that MERP2 uses the objective function that minimized the energy consumption for a given number of RSs to achieve the required network lifetime. Fig. 11 and 12 show similar trend of energy consumption of different models in network size of 50 and 80 SNs.

Figure 13-15 show effects of network sizes on the energy consumption when using MERP1, MERP2 and RPAP model, respectively. The cumulative distribution functions show that in case of MERP1, network sizes have little effects on the energy consumption whereas in case of RPAP, network sizes affect the energy consumption of each node in higher degree. From Fig. 13, we can see that energy consumption of SNs in network sizes of 30, 50 and 80 SNs are not that much different. The reason is that MERP1 aims to minimize energy consumption and find sufficient number of RSs to be used in the network. In this case there is no limit on the number of RSs. Thus, the energy consumption of SNs could be compromised by the utilization of RSs.

Figure 14 and 15 show higher degree of the effects of network sizes. These two figures show that the bigger the network size (i.e., the network consisting of more number of SNs) the higher level of energy consumption of each node in the network. The reason is that RPAP and MERP2 put restriction on the number of installed RSs. Thus, as the number of SNs in the network increases, intermediate SNs have to receive and forward more sensing data to RSs and/or BS.

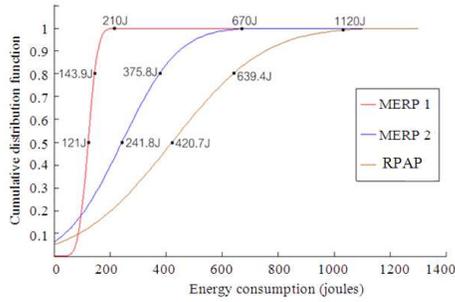


Fig. 10: Effects of different network design models on the energy consumption in network of 30 SNs

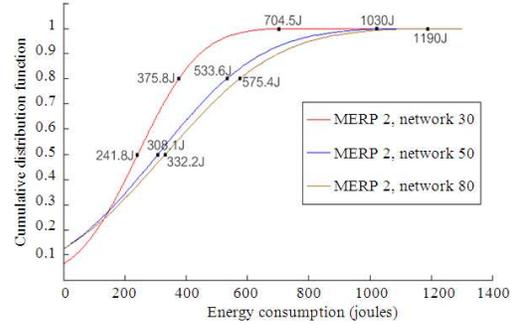


Fig.14: Effects of network sizes on the energy consumption when using MERP2

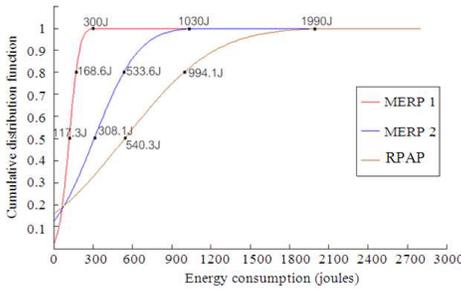


Fig. 11: Effects of different network design models on the energy consumption in network of 50 SNs

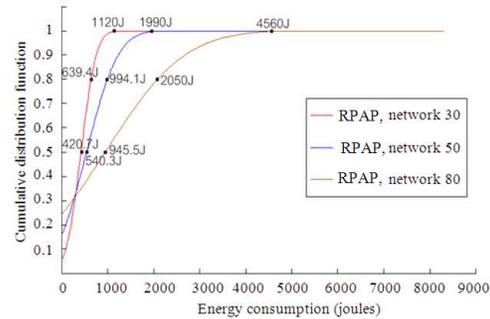


Fig. 15: Effects of network sizes on the energy consumption when using RPAP

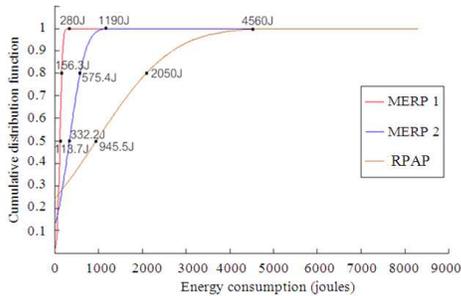


Fig. 12: Effects of different network design models on the energy consumption in network of 80 SNs

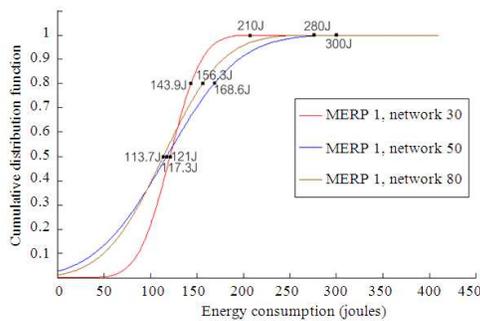


Fig. 13: Effects of network sizes on the energy consumption when using MERP1

CONCLUSION

In this study, the optimal network design for efficient energy utilization in continuous data-gathering Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) is investigated. Given location of Base Station (BS) and Sensor Nodes (SNs) with specified sensing rate, we propose integer linear programming models for two important problems of the WSN design, including the relay station placement and assignment problem and the minimum energy-RS placement problem.

The proposed network design models determine the optimal number and locations of Relay Stations (RSs) and the flow assignment from SNs to BS with constraints on radio communication range of SNs and the required network lifetime. Various numerical experiments were conducted to investigate the effects of network sizes and the distribution of SNs on the performance of the designed network configurations. In addition, we studied the effects of different network design models on the energy consumption of SNs in the network. Numerical experiments show that the proposed models yield WSNs with more efficient energy utilization compared with other methods in term of total energy consumption and average energy consumption of SNs in the network.

Our ongoing study investigate the diversity of the data transmission paths to enhance the quality of delivery in noisy environments, considering the real sensor networks deployment scenarios.

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