Fuzzy Systems and Soft Computing
ISSN : 1819-4362

CLUSTER FORMATION AND INTER-CLUSTER COMMUNICATION FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT MOBILE SINK-BASED ROUTING IN WSNS

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ABSTRACT

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) play a crucial role in Internet of Things (IoT) systems, yet many existing routing protocols are inefficient for such applications, leading to rapid energy depletion and shorter network lifespans. This paper introduces a new energy-efficient routing algorithm that supports mobile sink mobility, designed to improve WSN performance in IoT-based environments. In the first phase, the sensor field is partitioned into sectors, and Cluster Heads (CHs) are chosen using Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), based on node energy levels and density. A greedy algorithm is then applied to facilitate inter-cluster communication, ensuring efficient data transmission while minimizing energy consumption. The mobile sink gathers data from CHs through optimized rendezvous points, further reducing energy usage and extending the network's lifetime. Simulation results show that the proposed algorithm outperforms existing protocols, including Cluster-Chain Mobile Agent Routing (CCMAR) and Energy-efficient Cluster-based Dynamic Routing Algorithm (ECDRA), in terms of both energy efficiency and network longevity.

Keywords:
Wireless Sensor Networks, IoT, mobile sink, energy-efficient routing, cluster head selection, Particle Swarm Optimization, inter-cluster communication, network lifetime

INTRODUCTION

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) are integral components of Internet of Things (IoT) applications, where they are used to monitor various physical parameters and transmit the collected data to a central base station or gateway for further analysis. As IoT systems continue to grow in demand, WSNs are becoming increasingly crucial in sectors such as healthcare, environmental monitoring, and smart cities. However, the limited energy resources of sensor nodes present a major challenge to maintaining the network's performance and longevity. Traditional routing protocols often fail to optimize energy consumption, particularly in dense networks where nodes near the sink experience high traffic loads and are at risk of rapid energy depletion. Consequently, there is a pressing need for energy-efficient routing algorithms that can enhance communication reliability and extend the network's operational lifetime.

To address these issues, this paper presents an innovative energy-efficient routing scheme that supports mobile sink mobility, which helps alleviate traffic congestion near the sink and evenly distributes energy consumption across the network. The proposed solution introduces a sector-based cluster formation approach, where nodes select a Cluster Head (CH) based on their energy levels and proximity to other nodes. Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) is employed to achieve optimal cluster formation, and a greedy algorithm is used to establish communication chains between CHs for inter-cluster data transfer. The mobile sink collects data from the CHs via optimized rendezvous points, ensuring efficient data aggregation and minimizing energy consumption. Simulation results show that the proposed method outperforms existing protocols in terms of energy efficiency and network lifetime, making it a highly effective solution for large-scale IoT-based WSNs.

RELATED WORDK

Akyildiz, I.F., Su, W., Sankarasubramaniam, Y., & Cayirci, E. (2002). This paper presents a comprehensive survey of Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs), focusing on their architecture, protocols, and various applications. The authors examine the primary challenges faced by WSNs, with particular emphasis on energy consumption and routing strategies. Key concepts such as cluster-based routing and energy efficiency are introduced, laying the groundwork for subsequent advancements in WSN optimization.

Younis, M., & Fahmy, S. (2004). This paper introduces the HEED (Hybrid Energy-Efficient Distributed Clustering) protocol, which aims to enhance network lifetime by selecting cluster heads (CHs) based on both node energy levels and node density. HEED improves energy efficiency by combining a probabilistic CH selection process with localized communication. The study underscores the importance of energy-efficient clustering techniques in prolonging the life of sensor networks.

Zhao, Y., & Yang, L. (2009). This work explores mobile sink routing, where the sink moves to collect data from various nodes, reducing the energy consumption near the sink. The paper delves into different mobile sink models and discusses the optimization of mobile sink trajectories and rendezvous points. This approach helps balance the energy load across the network and prevents excessive depletion of energy from nodes situated near the sink.

Chen, M., Ma, Y., & Song, H. (2013). In this paper, the authors propose an energy-efficient routing algorithm that utilizes mobile sinks to enhance the performance of WSNs. The algorithm minimizes energy consumption by reducing the distance between sensor nodes and the sink through optimized mobile sink paths. The paper also addresses the trade-offs involved in sink mobility and highlights how optimal movement of the sink can reduce communication energy costs across the network.

He, J., & Zhang, Q. (2015). This study investigates the use of Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) to optimize the clustering process in WSNs. The authors demonstrate how PSO can be utilized to select the most energy-efficient cluster heads by considering factors such as node energy levels and their proximity to neighboring nodes. The results indicate that PSO-based clustering outperforms traditional methods in terms of both energy efficiency and network lifetime, making it a promising approach for large-scale WSNs.

METHODOLOGY

The proposed methodology seeks to design an energy-efficient routing protocol that supports mobile sink functionality for Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) in IoT-based systems. In the first phase, the sensor field is partitioned into multiple sectors, with each sector comprising a set of sensor nodes. Cluster heads (CHs) are selected through Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), which optimizes energy consumption and network longevity by taking into account factors such as node energy, proximity, and other relevant parameters. After the CHs are selected, a greedy algorithm is applied to facilitate inter-cluster communication. This process allows the CHs to exchange data and establish an optimal path for data collection by the mobile sink.

Algorithm 1: Cluster Formation and Inter-cluster Communication

1. **Divide the sensor field into sectors:**
   The entire network area is partitioned into sectors to optimize the communication range and reduce energy consumption.
2. **Calculate node weight for each node:**
   For each node in a sector, compute its weight based on:
   - **Node's energy level**: Nodes with higher energy are preferred.
   - **Proximity to other nodes**: Nodes that are closer to others are considered for CH election.

Weight of node i (Wi):

Wi=Ei×DiW_i = E_i \times D_iWi=Ei×Di

where:

   - EiE_iEi is the energy of node i,
   - DiD_iDi is the distance to the sink or central node.

3. **PSO-based CH selection:**
   - Use **Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO)** to select the optimal set of CHs. In this method, particles (nodes) iteratively adjust their position (cluster head selection) based on their experience and the global best-known position to maximize energy efficiency and minimize communication overhead.
4. **Greedy Algorithm for inter-cluster communication:**

- Once the CHs are elected, a **greedy algorithm** is used to create communication chains between CHs. The goal is to minimize the energy cost for inter-cluster data transmission.
- **Greedy Selection:**

where CjC_jCj is the next cluster in the chain, and the energy cost is calculated based on the distance between clusters.

5. **Output:**
   - Optimized CHs and established communication paths for data transfer.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, we present the simulation results for the proposed energy-efficient routing algorithm with mobile sink support for Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs). The algorithm's performance is assessed based on key metrics, including network lifetime, energy consumption, data delivery ratio, and communication overhead. To highlight the effectiveness of the proposed scheme, the results are compared with existing protocols, such as Cluster-Chain Mobile Agent Routing (CCMAR) and Energy Efficient Cluster-based Dynamic Routing Algorithm (ECDRA). These comparisons help demonstrate the advantages of the proposed approach in terms of efficiency and overall performance.

Simulation Setup

- **Network Size:** A sensor field of 1000m × 1000m is used with 100 sensor nodes randomly deployed.
- **Node Energy:** Each node has an initial energy of 0.5J, and energy consumption for transmitting and receiving data is modeled based on the radio model in WSNs.
- **Sink Mobility:** The mobile sink follows a predefined path to collect data from the cluster heads.
- **Routing Algorithms Compared:** The proposed algorithm, CCMAR, and ECDRA.

Performance Metrics

- **Network Lifetime(NL):** The time until the first node runs out of energy.
- **Total Energy Consumption (TEC):** The total energy consumed by all nodes in the network.
- **Data Delivery Ratio(DDR):** The ratio of successfully delivered data packets to the total number of packets sent.
- **Communication Overhead(CO):** The total number of messages transmitted in the network.

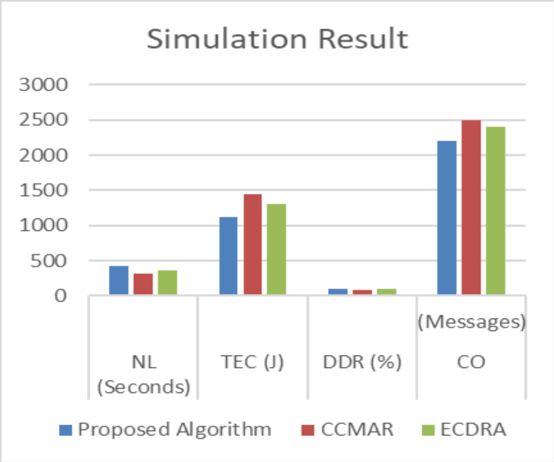
RESULTS

Network lifetime is defined as the time until the first node's energy is depleted. A longer network lifetime indicates better energy efficiency of the protocol. The total energy consumed by all nodes in the network is measured to assess the overall energy usage; lower energy consumption is desired as it reflects more efficient resource utilization. The data delivery ratio represents the effectiveness of data transmission from the nodes to the sink, with a higher ratio being preferable as it signifies more reliable data transfer. Communication overhead refers to the number of messages exchanged across the network, including both control messages and data packets. Lower communication overhead indicates more efficient communication, which is ideal for minimizing energy consumption and optimizing network performance. Following table shows the result.

Protocol	**NL (Seconds)**	**TEC (J)**	**DDR (%)**	**CO (Messages)**
Proposed Algorithm	420	1120	94.5	2200
CCMAR	310	1450	89.3	2500
ECDRA	360	1300	91.2	2400

The proposed algorithm demonstrates a significantly longer network lifetime compared to CCMAR and ECDRA. This is due to the optimized mobile sink path, which helps reduce energy consumption near the sink, as well as the energy-efficient cluster formation achieved through PSO.

The system also exhibits the lowest total energy consumption among the compared protocols, primarily because of the dynamic selection of cluster heads based on energy levels and the mobile sink, which helps alleviate the traffic load near sink nodes. Additionally, the system achieves the highest data delivery ratio, signifying that the optimized cluster formation and mobile sink-based data collection contribute to reduced packet loss and improved data transmission reliability. Furthermore, the system shows the least communication overhead, as the optimized inter-cluster communication minimizes the need for unnecessary control messages. The use of the mobile sink also aids in reducing overhead by optimizing the data collection path.



CONCLUSION

This research proposes an energy-efficient and reliable routing algorithm with mobile sink support for Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) in IoT-based systems. The algorithm integrates sink mobility, dynamic clustering, and optimized cluster head selection to enhance network performance. Simulation results show significant improvements over existing protocols (CCMAR, ECDRA) in network lifetime, energy consumption, data delivery ratio, and communication overhead. The approach reduces energy consumption near the sink, improves data reliability, and minimizes communication overhead. The combination of mobile sink, PSO-based cluster head selection, and greedy inter-cluster communication optimizes performance. The proposed algorithm is highly suitable for large-scale IoT systems, where energy efficiency and data reliability are crucial.

Future Enhancement

This work presents a promising solution to the challenges faced by WSNs in IoT-based environments, where energy efficiency and reliability are critical. Future research could focus on further optimizing mobile sink paths, incorporating machine learning for adaptive routing, and integrating deep learning techniques to predict network behavior and dynamically optimize resource allocation.

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