

Energy-efficient Routing and Secure Communication in Wireless Sensor Networks

A Thesis Submitted for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy

By

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Abbreviations

Abbreviations	Descriptions
6LoWPAN	IPv6 over Low-power Wireless Personal Area Network
AAP	Anonymous Authentication Protocol
ADC	Analog-to-Digital Converter
AES	Advanced Encryption Standard
AIMD	Additive Increase and Multiplicative Decrease
ARQ	Automatic Repeat reQuest
BER	Bit Error Rate
CoAP	Constrained Application Protocol
CODA	COngestion Detection and Avoidance
DoS	Denial-of-Service
DTLS	Datagram Transport Layer Security
EFMP	Energy-efficient Fire Monitoring Protocol
ESRT	Event-to-Sink Reliable Transport
FCFS	First-Come-First-Served
FND	First Node Dies
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol
IANA	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
ICE	Indisputable Code Execution
IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force

Abbreviations	Descriptions
IoE	Internet of Everything
IoT	Internet of Things
IP	Internet Protocol
LEACH	Low-Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy
LEACH-C	Low-Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy-Centralized
LLNs	Lower-power and Lossy Networks
LoS	Line-of-Sight
LND	Last Node Dies
MAC	Medium Access Control
MEMS	Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems
MTU	Maximum Transmission Unit
NLoS	Non-Line-of-Sight
PASCCC	priority-based application-specific congestion control clustering
RAM	Random-access memory
REST	REpresentational State Transfer
RFC	Request For Comments
RFID	Radio Frequency IDentification
ROM	Read-only memory
RRM	Registration Request Message
RSSI	Received Signal Strength Indicator
RTT	Round Trip Time

Abbreviations	Descriptions
SCUBA	Secure Code Update By Attestation
TCP	Transport Control Protocol
TDMA	Time Division Multiple Access
TLS	Transport Layer Security
UDP	User Datagram Protocol
URI	Uniform Resource Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
WSN	Wireless Sensor Network
DEEC	Distributed Energy-efficient Clustering
HEED	Hybrid Energy-efficient Distributed

Abstract

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) consist of miniature sensor nodes deployed to gather vital information about an area of interest. The ability of these networks to monitor remote and hostile locations has attracted a significant amount of research over the past decade. As a result of this research, WSNs have found their presence in a variety of applications such as industrial automation, habitat monitoring, healthcare, military surveillance and transportation. These networks have the ability to operate in human-inaccessible terrains and collect data on an unprecedented scale. However, they experience various technical challenges at the time of deployment as well as operation. Most of these challenges emerge from the resource limitations such as battery power, storage, computation, and transmission range, imposed on the sensor nodes.

Energy conservation is one of the key issues requiring proper consideration. The need for energy-efficient routing protocols to prolong the lifetime of these networks is very much required. Moreover, the operation of sensor nodes in an intimidating environment and the presence of error-prone communication links expose these networks to various security breaches. As a result, any designed routing protocol need to be robust and secure against one or more malicious attacks.

This thesis aims to provide an effective solution for minimizing the energy consumption of the nodes. The energy utilization is reduced by using efficient techniques for cluster head selection. To achieve this objective, two different cluster-based hierarchical routing protocols are proposed. The selection of an optimal percentage of cluster heads reduces the energy consumption, enhances the quality of delivered data and prolongs the lifetime of a network. Apart from an optimal cluster head selection, energy consumption can also be reduced using efficient congestion detection and mitigation schemes. We propose an application-specific priority-based congestion control protocol for this purpose. The proposed protocol integrates mobility and heterogeneity of the nodes to detect congestion. Our

proposed protocol uses a novel queue scheduling mechanism to achieve coverage fidelity, which ensures that the extra resources consumed by distant nodes are utilized effectively.

Apart from energy conservation issue, this thesis also aims to provide a robust solution for Sybil attack detection in WSN. In Sybil attack, one or more malicious nodes forge multiple identities at a given time to exhaust network resources. These nodes are detected prior to cluster formation to prevent their forged identities from participating in cluster head selection. Only legitimate nodes are elected as cluster heads to enhance utilization of the resources. The proposed scheme requires collaboration of any two high energy nodes to analyse received signal strengths of neighbouring nodes. Moreover, the proposed scheme is applied to a forest wildfire monitoring application. It is crucial to detect Sybil attack in a wildfire monitoring application because these forged identities have the ability to transmit high false-negative alerts to an end user. The objective of these alerts is to divert the attention of an end user from those geographical regions which are highly vulnerable to a wildfire.

Finally, we provide a lightweight and robust mutual authentication scheme for the real-world objects of an Internet of Thing. The presence of miniature sensor nodes at the core of each object literally means that lightweight, energy-efficient and highly secured schemes need to be designed for such objects. It is a payload-based encryption approach which uses a simple four way handshaking to verify the identities of the participating objects. Our scheme is computationally efficient, incurs less connection overhead and safeguard against various types of replay attacks.

List of Publications

Journal Papers

1. Mian Ahmad Jan, Priyadarsi Nanda, Xiangjian He, Ren Ping Liu, PASCCC: Priority-based application-specific congestion control clustering protocol, **Computer Networks**, vol. 74, pp.92-102, 2014. (Published-Tier A)
2. Mian Ahmad Jan, Priyadarsi Nanda, Xiangjian He, Ren Ping Liu, A Lightweight Mutual Authentication Scheme for IoT Objects, *Journal of Network and Computer Applications (JNCA)*, (Under Review-Tier A)
3. Mian Ahmad Jan, Priyadarsi Nanda, Xiangjian He, Ren Ping Liu, A Sybil Attack Detection Scheme for a Forest Wildfire Monitoring Application, *Future Generation Computer Systems (FGCS)*, (Under Review-Tier A)

Conference Papers

1. Mian Ahmad Jan, Priyadarsi Nanda, Xiangjian He, Energy Evaluation Model for an Improved Centralized Clustering Hierarchical Algorithm in WSN., *Wireless and Wired international Conference WWIC*, pp.154-167, 2013, Springer. (Published-Tier B)
2. Mian Ahmad Jan, Priyadarsi Nanda, Xiangjian He, Ren Ping Liu, Enhancing lifetime and quality of data in cluster-based hierarchical routing protocol for wireless sensor network, *10th International Conference on High Performance Computing and Communications & International Conference on Embedded and Ubiquitous Computing (HPCC_EUC)*, pp.1400-1407, 2013, IEEE. (Published-Tier B)
3. Mian Ahmad Jan, Priyadarsi Nanda, Xiangjian He, Ren Ping Liu, A robust authentication scheme for observing resources in the internet of things environment, *13th*

International Conference on Trust, Security and Privacy in Computing and Communications (**TrustCom**), pp.205-211, 2014, IEEE. (Published-Tier A)

4. Mian Ahmad Jan, Priyadarsi Nanda, Xiangjian He, Ren Ping Liu, A Sybil Attack Detection Scheme for a Centralized Clustering-based Hierarchical Network, 14th International Conference on Trust, Security and Privacy in Computing and Communications (**TrustCom**), 2015, IEEE. (Accepted-Tier A)