

Coverage Hole Detection in Wireless Sensor Networks

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Abstract: *Wireless sensor network is the area where many researchers are focusing. The emerging technology of WSN is expected to provide a broad range of applications, such as battlefield surveillance, environmental monitoring and smart space and so on. Coverage is the important quality of service which is provided by the wireless sensor network. The coverage hole problem is a fundamental issue in WSN. This problem occurs when sensor nodes are arranged randomly in the area, poor installment or nodes whose power weaks and when the design of the network fails. This paper address the work of hole detection and healing in mobile WSNs and how reduce the redundancy in WSNs by various authors. By knowing the above issue, a modified hole detection and healing method is proposed that could remove the redundant nodes and moving the nodes that removes holes by using distributed virtual force based approach in WSNs.*

Keywords: Wireless sensor network, Coverage hole, Hole healing

1. Introduction

A wireless sensor network is a collection of small randomly dispersed autonomous sensors that are able to monitor physical and environmental conditions, in real time, such as temperature, pressure, light and humidity and to provide efficient, stable communications with the help of a wireless network. They cooperatively pass their data through the wireless network to a main location.

Wireless sensor network made of the small low-cost sensing nodes which collect and disseminate environment data. Many problem are occurs in wireless sensor network. They may be form of various types of coverage hole detection problem [1]. The total coverage of the complete network is defined as the common coverage of all nodes sensing gradients. It shows that how properly each point in the sensing area is covered. A coverage hole refers to in a volume in 3-dimensional space or in a continuous space in the sensing area which is not covered by the any sensing nodes [2].

WSN are highly dynamic and susceptible to network failures, mainly because of the physically harsh environment. The WSN has reduced the installation cost. The WSN is built of "nodes" – from a few to several hundreds or even thousands, where each node is connected to one (or sometimes several) sensors. WSNs are naturally self-organizing and self-healing.

Characteristic of a WSN

- Power utilization constrains for nodes using batteries or energy harvesting.
- Ability to cope with node failures.
- Mobility of nodes.
- Dynamic network topology
- Communication failures.
- Heterogeneity of nodes.
- Scalability to large scale of deployment.
- Ability to withstand incompatible environmental condition.

- Easy to use.
- More energy efficient routing.

2. Coverage Hole Detection

In an area when a group of sensing nodes does not work properly and not sensing the data and communication then it is a problem of hole in the network. The performance of the network are affected or degraded by the holes in the network [3]. Thus, the point of area coverage place an important role in sensor networks and there connectivity.

Coverage is one of the important part or concern in WSN. It is used to evaluating or calculating the quality of service (QoS) in WSN [4]. So coverage can be explained or classified into three categories:

- Area Coverage
- Point Coverage
- Barrier Coverage

The main aim of the area coverage is to maximize the coverage for a region of interest; point coverage covers a set of points and barrier coverage minimize the probability of an undetected penetration through a sensor network.

The dynamic solutions to find out and optimize the coverage in sensor networks are [5]:

- Exposure Based
- Mobility Based

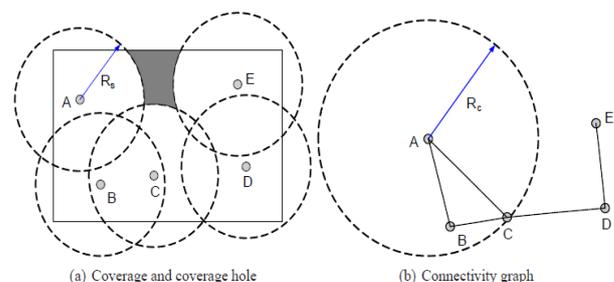


Figure 1: Coverage and Connectivity [2]

Exposure Based: It check out the unauthorized intrusion in the networks. It is a completely measure of how well the sensor network observe “an object which is moving on a different path over a period of time”.

Mobility Based: To get the better coverage condition it accomplishment moving properties of nodes and for the maximum coverage it tries to relocate sensor nodes to optimal locations.

There are four key elements that are critical for ensuring effective coverage in mobile WSNs:

- 1) Determining the boundary of the RoI.
- 2) Detecting Coverage Holes.
- 3) Determining the best target location to relocate mobile nodes to repair holes.
- 4) Minimizing the moving cost when dispatches mobile nodes to the target locations [6].

Coverage problem is a fundamental issue in WSN. This paper aims to address the work of hole detection and healing in WSNs.

3. Related Work

Wireless sensor network have become large area of research. There have been a large number of researches on detection of coverage and remove redundancy in WSNs over the last few years.

In this section some of the hole detection algorithms is analyzed and summarized. The substantial nodes are deployed randomly over the entire area; therefore, the sensing region of different nodes may be partially overlapped and this problem is known as the sensing coverage problem. So to remove this problem [7] defines a maximum sensing coverage region problem (MSCR) in WSN and used the algorithm to improve LEACH, a hierarchical protocol for WSN. They developed a simulation program to evaluate the performance of LEACH protocol using an algorithm. The experimental result shows that this method reduced total energy consumption in the whole system and increased significantly network lifetime.

There is a problem of hole detection and healing in mobile WSNs. The main problems are determining the boundary of the ROI (Region of Interest), detecting coverage hole and estimating their characteristics, determining best target locations and dispatching mobile nodes to the target locations. So to addresses these all problem [8] propose a solution called the holes detection and healing (HEAL). It is distributed and localized algorithm that operate in two phases, first one is identifies the boundary nodes and discover holes and second one is treats the hole healing. The first phase is done by using a lightweight localized protocol over the Gabriel graph of the network and second phase is done with hole haling area. HEALS deals with holes of various forms and sizes, and facilitate a cost-effective and an accurate solution for hole detection and healing.

Vinay Rana, Rani, Ravi [9] proposed a method to find the hole. They using the information generated about the network topology during route discovery and route maintenance. For detection of hole in network path, they

used three algorithms, namely routing protocol, hole detection protocol and optimal hop count. They used the swarm intelligence based technique to remove excess burden on the network or for hole detection by using these algorithms between source node to base station.

In WSN coverage problem is a major problem. In hybrid sensor networks, to enhance the area coverage mobility is exploited. The main objective for using mobile sensor nodes is to heal coverage holes when designing a hole healing algorithm. There are two issues related with this, first is to decide the existence and size of a coverage hole and second is to find the best location to relocate mobile nodes to repair coverage holes. So to remove this problem they use the triangular oriented diagram (HSTT). In this diagram they used circumcircle and incircle to achieve this. This diagram is simple for construction and has less calculation than Voronoi Diagram [10].

On the other hand Hwa-Chun Ma, Prasan Kumar Sahoo, Yen-Wen Chen [11] designed a computational geometry approach based distributed hole detection protocol to find out the coverage holes in area or dense forests. An efficient geometry method is used to detect the coverage holes where communication and sensing range of the nodes are same. They consider the two criteria to evaluate the performance of algorithms, first criteria is average hole detection time and second is average power consumption.

The quality of service i.e. provided by a sensor network depends on its coverage area. Yang-Tsung Hou, Chia-Mei Chen, Bingchiang Jeng [12] used the placement algorithm for improving barrier coverage. They deploy new sensors in order to improve the coverage of an existing network. Best and worst case coverage problem are observability of a path. The algorithm adds new nodes to the shortest path, so that the support of the sensor network is reduced the most.

Chi Zhang, Yanchao Zhang and Yuguang Fang [13] develop a deterministic method for boundary node detection. It is based on localized Voroni polygons, which originated from the computational geometry. It can be applied to any random deployed sensor network and require one hope neighbors information. It increased the scalability and energy efficiency of the detection algorithm. It provides a distributed protocol that allows each sensor node to identify them which is located on the coverage boundary.

Wei Li [14] provide a novel graphic approach to describe coverage hole in WSN. It divided into two phases, namely, coverage hole detecting and coverage hole describing. This method indicates the location and configuration of coverage hole. It also indicates the vulnerable parts in holes. The graphical description of this method can serve as a useful tool for healing coverage hole. The simulation result this method predict the coverage holes, and graphic holes can be exploited to heal actual holes. The computational complexity of proposed method is, $O(bn)$ where b indicates the nearby sensor in each node and n is the amount of sensor nodes in network.

To detect and localize coverage holes in sensor networks they used the algebraic topological methods to define coverage hole, and develop provably correct algorithm to detect a hole and partition the network into smaller subnetworks and checking for holes in each. By repeating this process leads to localize the coverage holes. In simulation observed that all the nodes in these subnetworks are always at most one hop away from the shortest cycles bounding a coverage hole [15].

The presence of coverage holes in WSN is a major issue. Yao Sun, Chengdong Wu, Yunzhou Zhang, Nan Hu [16] present an algorithm based on centroid calculation to locate the position of the coverage holes and uses a graphical method to detect coverage holes, and discusses the research on route planning for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). UAV is used to place the redeployment nodes.

Chia-Pang Chen, Cheng-Long Chaung, Tzu-Shiang Lin, Chia-Yen Lee, Joe-Air Jiang et al. [17] proposed a novel hybrid genetic algorithm (HGADSC). It comprise of genetic operations and fitness-improving local search strategy. Both these strategy divide all wireless sensor node into a number of disjoint set covers (DSCs). The HGADSC is used to solve the NP-complete problem. It guaranteed the longer network lifetime by switching disjoint set covers. The result shows that the network lifetime can be effectively improve by the proposed method. The network lifetime ranging from 0.54% to 36.1% under different simulation scenarios by using this method.

Move on wireless communication and Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS) have enabled the growth of low-cost, low-power, multi-functional, tiny sensor nodes which can sense the environment, perform data processing and communicate with each other untethered over short distances. Amitabha Ghosh, Sajal K. Das [18] used the one of the important criteria for being able to deploy an efficient sensor network is to find optimal node deployment strategies and efficient topology control techniques. Nodes can either be placed manually at predetermined locations or dropped from an aircraft. However, since the nodes are randomly scattered in most practical situation it is difficult to find a random deployment strategy that minimizes all the desirable metrics simultaneously, such as, sufficient coverage and connectivity, low-computation and communication overhead.

WSN is the collection of the independent and distributed sensor. It has an additional functionality or capacity of mobility. Mobility adds additional functionality to the wireless sensor network by providing self deployment and relocation of sensors. Many approaches have been used for this by considering different issues. Main issue of deployment is Coverage and Connectivity. When deploy mobile sensor other issues are also come like sensor relocation, energy efficient movements of sensors, obstacle adaptability, lifetime of network, fault tolerance etc. So, Mayur C. Akewar, Nileshsingh V.Thakur [19] defined the different types of deployment techniques and algorithms with different ways of deployment. The approaches are

virtual force based, movement assisted, computational geometry and pattern based approach.

The given approach should self-deploy the sensor into a connected ad-hoc network that has the maximum coverage. Non-uniform random distribution and exhausted energy of sensor nodes may lead to coverage holes problem in wireless sensor networks. So, to solve this problem of coverage holes in wireless sensor networks Wang Qing-Sheng, Gao hao [20] a geometry-based distributed coverage holes discovery algorithm. This algorithm is forming a triangle by sensor node and its two neighbor nodes, calculating circumradius and circumcenter of the triangle. This two neighbor nodes also judging existence of coverage holes under the guidance of relevant knowledge of geometric graphics. For the experimental or practical purpose MATLAB platform is used. The result shows that this algorithm is better than others algorithms and give better or high accuracy than the others algorithms.

The basic problem in Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) is the coverage problem. The coverage problem in WSNs causes the security environments is supervised by the existing sensors in the networks suitably. The coverage in WSNs is so important that it is one of the quality of service (QoS) parameters. If the sensors do not suitably cover the physical environments they will not be enough efficient n supervision and controlling. The other reasons which had increased the importance of the coverage problem are the topologic changes of the network. The changes are done by the damage or deletion of some of the sensors and in some cases the network must not lose its coverage. SO, Isa Maleki, Seyyed Reza Khaze, Marjan Mahmoodi Tabrizi, Ali Bagherinia [21] used the hybrid Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) and Differential Evolution (DE) algorithms. These are the Meta-Heuristic algorithms and have analyzed the area coverage problem in WSNs. Also a PSO algorithm is implemented to compare the efficiency of the hybrid model in the same situation. The results of the experiments show that the hybrid algorithm has made more increase in the lifetime of the network and more optimized use of the energy of the sensors by optimizing the coverage of the sensors in comparison to PSO.

Coverage is a major problem for wireless sensor networks (WSN) to examine a region of interest (ROI) and to provide a good quality of service. In many applications, full coverage is required, which means every point inside the region must be covered by at least one sensor node. The occurrence of hole is unavoidable in ROI due to the inner nature of WSN, random deployment, environmental factors, and external attacks. For ensuring successful coverage in WSNs the following key elements are critical: 1) Determining the boundary of the ROI, 2) Detecting Coverage holes, and 3) Determining the best target locations to relocate nodes to repair the holes. For maintaining the coverage quality of the given WSN, K.Kavitha, T.Thamarai Manalan, M.Suresh Kumar [22] proposed a low complexity distributed and localized algorithm (HEAL) to detect and heal the holes. This algorithm allows a local healing where only the nodes located at a proper distance from the hole will be involved in the healing process. For practical work

NS2 tool is used. Performance results through ns 2 simulator shows that HEAL can handle holes of various forms and sizes and provides a cost-effective and an accurate solution for hole detection and healing. They also improve the Distributed Virtual Forces Algorithm (DVFA) to deal with obstacles. Performance results show that DVFA provides an efficient deployment even if obstacles present in the monitoring area.

4. Contribution

In section 3rd work done by various researchers in the field of coverage hole detection and remove redundancy is studied. A modified hole detection and healing method is proposed that could remove the redundant nodes and moving the nodes that removes holes by using distributed virtual force based approach in WSNs. This proposed method could remove the drawback of existing algorithms. Virtual force based deployment is a strategies that is used in solving coverage problem in WSN. It is a distributed, robust and scalable deployment strategy. It is depend or rely on the sensors mobility, using virtual repulsive and attractive forces. In this strategy, to achieved the full coverage the sensors nodes are force to move away or towards each other. Unlike the existing algorithm, proposed strategy does the simulation of the movement first and at the end of the process only one time physical movement of nodes is done.

5. Conclusions

In this paper, a critical problem in Wireless Sensor Network that are detection of holes and redundancy remove in network is focused. Redundancy that waste lot of energy and more power consumption that makes network more expansive. The work done by the various authors are described in details. A related work to hole detection and remove redundancy in WSN is given or provided. To remove these drawbacks to make network more efficient and powerful, a modified hole detection and healing method is proposed that could remove the redundant nodes and moving the nodes that removes holes by using distributed virtual force based approach. Thus providing energy efficient and cost efficient hole detection and healing method with virtual force based strategy.

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