

Multi Duty Cycle Scheduled Routing in Wireless Sensor Network-lifetime Maximization

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Abstract: Cluster-based protocols are best for applications that require reliability and a continuous functioning environment with a sustainable lifetime of WSN. The dynamic nature of the sensor node makes energy conservation a challenging issue. Sensor node scheduled based on sensing error for energy conservation compromise the accuracy of prediction. The high data accuracy achieved using a single duty cycle controller at each node with compromised throughput and increased routing overhead. Duty Cycle Controller managing a great number of control messages at the network level leads to control packet interference with data packet transmission, increasing packet drop and minimizing throughput. Also, the single-duty cycle controller at the network level leads to increased control overhead. The proposed multilevel cluster-based approach focuses on the appropriate cluster design, selection of cluster head, and sensor nodes scheduling based on sensing error. The proposed method applies a multi-duty cycle controller at each cluster level, and control messages handled are related to nodes in a cluster. Thus has less interference and packet drop leading to maximum throughput than existing methods. The simulation results demonstrated that the proposed method with sensor nodes scheduled at individual cluster levels using a multi-duty cycle controller exhibited improved network lifetime, throughput, and reduced energy consumption compared with the state-of-the-art techniques.

Index Terms: Clustering, Energy efficiency, Error prediction, Routing, WSN.

1. Introduction

The [1-3] nodes in WSN have limits on power supply due to its difficulty of recharging in the harsh and remote environment. There also exists constraint on prolonged operation due to the limited bandwidth available for communication, processing speed, and memory capacity [4]. These limitations have given rise to many research works which exclusively focused on the maximizing the utilization of limited sensor resources [5, 6]. The clustering overcomes the efficient use of power during data transmission. Clustering improves network scalability, balances network traffic, and reduces the routing table size at the individual node [7]. Also, save up communication bandwidth in inter-cluster routing among CHs [8] and provide stabilized network topology [9].

For energy conservation, CH schedules activities in the cluster by switching the node in the active or sleep state [10-13]. Another advantage of clustering is that CH aggregates the data from cluster member nodes in its respective cluster to minimize packet count to be sent [14, 15]. Energy conservation achieved by clustering of sensor nodes sensing activities leads to power consumption. Many applications [16] require sensor nodes to sustain for weeks or even months together. Thus, there is a need to avoid unnecessary sensing activities to achieve an extended lifetime of all sensor nodes. Scheduling algorithms have developed to turn on the sensor when required and turn off the sensor whenever needed to save energy.

The proposed work, M multi-Duty cycle Scheduled Routing in Wireless Sensor Network-lifetime maximization (MDCSR), employs dynamic scheduling based on sensing error among collaborative sensors to optimize the tradeoff between energy consumption and the accuracy of predictions. The proposed scheme has an advantage over single node scheduling methods called “eSENSE energy-efficient stochastic sensing framework for wireless sensor platforms” (IES)

[17]. Sensor nodes are scheduled for data transmission and provide an effective way to conserve energy. It also reduces transmitting and sensing power while preserving sensing quality. Another critical parameter to increase the lifetime of the sensor node is to reduce power consumption. The MDCSR is an extension of Error Prediction Scheduling for Energy Efficient Routing in Wireless Sensor Network [18] with a simulation graph obtained by a varying number of nodes, intervals, and simulation time. The issue of control overhead due to single DCC at the network level in [19] Collaborative Scheduling in Dynamic Environments using Error Inference (CIES) overcome by multiple DCC in MDCSR.

The organization of the remaining part is as follows. Section 2 details related works, Section 3 specifies the methodology, and Section 4 discusses system design and working of MDCSR. In section 5, the performance of MDCSR compared with CIES and IES varying the number of nodes, interval, and simulation time. Section 6 concludes the paper.

2. Related Work

The research work carried out on collaborative sensing [19-22] specifies an efficient way to select a minimum number of sensor nodes to offer better coverage. Much of the existing work has focused on sensing activities based on coverage requirements. There is still scope to schedule sensing activities based on sensing error to provide data accuracy within desirable bounds.

Error Predictor model, referred to as the non-collaborative method, performs local error prediction. The non-collaborative system that is eSense uses this method. Sensors do not sense data continuously, and data reconstructed using an empirical model [23, 24], which is best for environmental monitoring. The sensor nodes use a local error predictor to predict the status of the environment and the actual data sensed by the sensor compared with the value indicated by the predictor. The error predictor generates a prediction error e_i for each node i . If the sensed data is not the same as the predicted value, switch the node to the sleep state. Else node remains in active state.

With a sensing and scheduling algorithm called CIES in [19], nodes share sensing error information and control sensing errors through neighborhood coordination. Also, the network can respond to dramatic environmental changes more quickly and can be used for monitoring applications to provide high data accuracy while conserving energy. The local sensing scheduler [22] uses the error information to schedule a single node in either sleep or active state. CIES share the error information among the neighbor nodes. The neighbor nodes trigger the sensing activity of other nodes if the inferred errors exceed the error tolerance.

In the existing approach, CIES the single duty cycle controller employed among all clusters in the network, which minimizes throughput due to message overhead during the scheduling of sensor nodes. The MDCSR cluster-based approach resolved the issue. The cluster-based approach ensures energy consumption as discussed in [25] by a selection of CH based on either, node density, residual energy metric, the average energy of the network, node degree, etc.

In [26], the division of the network into an optimal number of sectors, selection of the optimal number of CH, and then initialization of the network with one node as a CH in each sector and selection of the node with highest residual energy in the cluster as a vice CH helps to maintain the optimal number of CHs throughout the network lifetime. The author in [27] proposed an efficient clustering algorithm using spectral analysis, domain knowledge, and split-merge-refine approach to enhance the efficiency, quality and minimizes empty clusters.

The MDCSR employs multi-level clustering with a unique duty cycle controller (DCC) to schedule the nodes on sensing error in each cluster.

3. Methodology

Appropriate design of cluster and selection of CH minimize energy consumption during message communication and aggregation, which is one of the biggest design issues. The immense application of WSN in every field can be expanded by the efficient design of routing with its limited storage capability and battery life. The proposed method uses multi-level clustering to minimize energy consumption. Since member nodes communicate with the sub-cluster head and sub-cluster head communicate with the primary cluster head at next level in multi-level clustering, the transmission power required is less, and also interference is subjected to nodes within the cluster. Multi-level cluster-based architecture helps to minimize delay due to constant path from nodes within the cluster to CH and from CH to primary CH at the next level to sink even with the increase in the number of nodes. Thus, multi-level clustering achieves scalability, energy conservation, minimizes routing overhead and interface. For optimal energy balance routing, there is a need to develop efficient sensing and scheduling algorithm. Single DCC in CIES works at the network level. Each node performs neighbor inferred error estimation and shares the information for scheduling among many nodes in a network, which incurs more delay due to control message transmission. While in MDCSR, DCC works at the cluster level. DCC at the individual cluster carries out node error estimation and scheduling. Compared to non-collaborative approaches, the proposed approach meets performance requirements, i.e., increased network lifetime and throughput.

4. System Design and Working of MDCSR

The findings of the literature survey motivate to accomplish the following goals.

1. To develop a scheduling algorithm using a multi-duty cycle controller to increase network lifetime.
2. To achieve high throughput with minimized routing overhead using multilevel clustering.

These goals are realized by cluster-based architecture, as discussed next.

4.1. Cluster-based architecture

As depicted in figure 1, primary CH (PCH) selected as a node with the highest residual energy for every round of time period T along with sub-cluster formation. The PCH formed at level 3 in multilevel clustering. In respective clusters, a node with the highest residual energy was selected as CH at level 2. Another node with the highest energy among the remaining nodes in the respective cluster was chosen as DCC. In each chosen sub-cluster, the node is selected in the range 'R'. All member nodes are at level 1. Each DCC uses the Error prediction system to schedule nodes in the sub-cluster for energy balancing among cluster member (CM) nodes. The following section discusses the working of MDCSR.

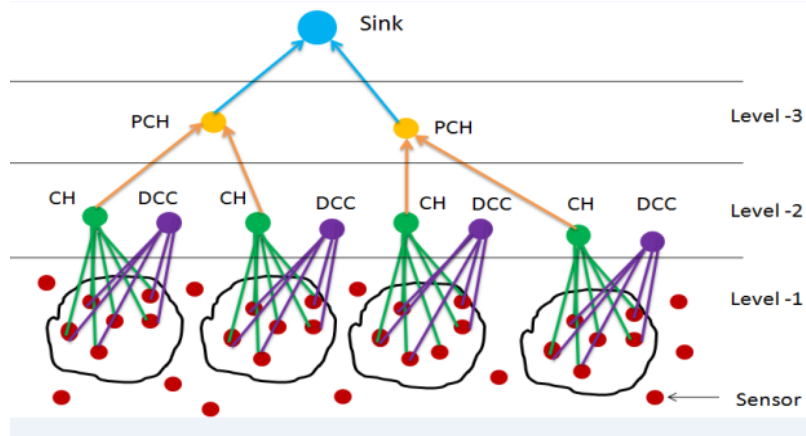


Fig.1. Cluster-based architecture for node energy balanced routing

4.2. Working of MDCSR

The MDCSR uses an error predictor shown in figure 2, generates prediction error e_i for each node i .

The sensed data sent as input to the predictor to estimate error. The predicted error sent to DCC performs error prediction at the neighbor node to compute the inferred error.

If the sensed data is not the same as the predicted value, store error, then store error e_i else considers predicted value. Each DCC in the cluster has information of all the CMs in a cluster. It collects observation $\{ob_1^i, ob_2^i, \dots, ob_n^i\}$ of each node i , where n denotes 'n' number of observations of node i . The observation vector obtained at time $T = \{t_1^i, t_2^i, \dots, t_n^i\}$. The process is repeated for each round to analyze sensing correlation among the nodes. The observation vector helps to compute the weight value $W(i, j)$ between node i and node j in the next step. Each MDCSR compares the active sensor node sensing value with the predicted value of the error predictor. The prediction error determines observation error e_i^n at sensor node i .

At node j the weighted average inferred error W_{e_j} is calculated as

$$W_{e_j} = \frac{\sum_k e_{kj} \times W_{kj}}{W_{kj}} \quad (1)$$

where,

$k \in N(j)$

k is a neighbor node of the node j

$N(j)$ is a list of neighbor nodes of node j

If W_{e_j} greater than the threshold value, then the neighbor node with a high weight value will have a greater chance of violating data accuracy. Then such nodes are made to sleep, and node j is switched to an active state.

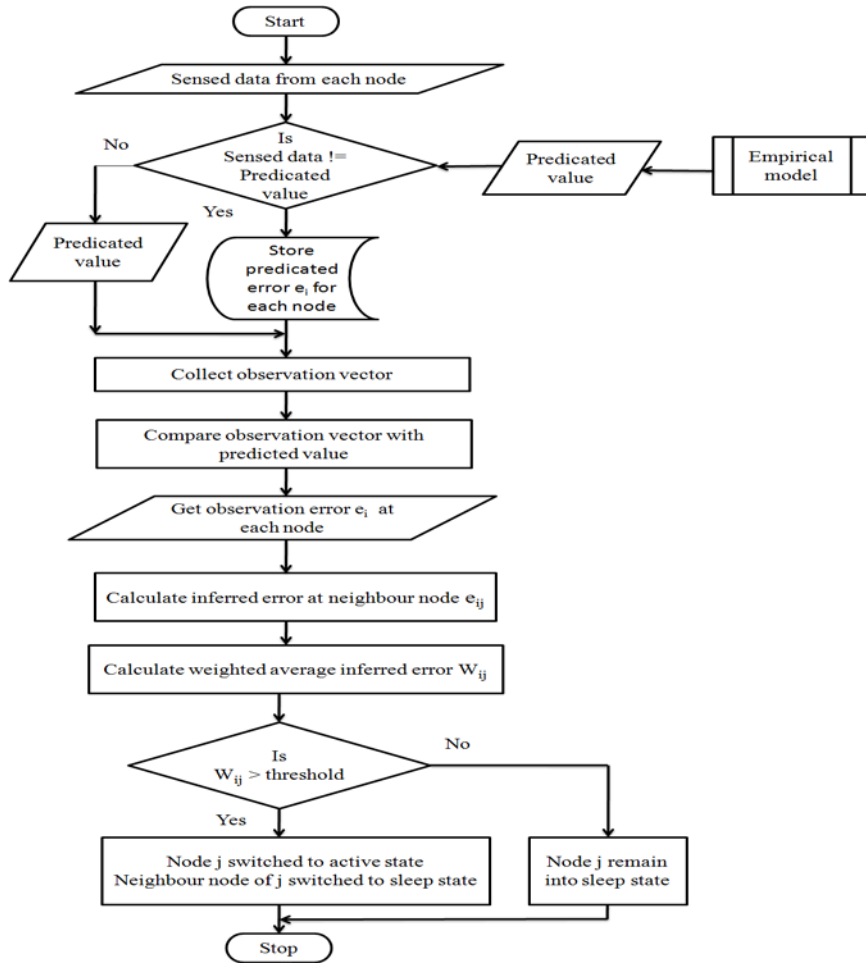


Fig.2. Depicts the working of MDCSR through flowchart representation.

4.3. Implementation of MDCSR

The MDCSR incorporates multiple DCC to provide energy-efficient data transmission in clustered-based WSN as discussed in algorithm Lifetime maximization using MDCSR.

Algorithm: Lifetime maximization using MDCSR

Step 1: Perform node deployment

Step 2: Select Primary CH as a node with the highest energy in a separate region of the sensor field at level 2.

Step 3: Primary CH forms clusters of nodes that are within range R.

Step 4: Select sub-cluster CH as a node with the highest energy among all nodes in each sub-cluster at level 1.

Step 5: Select DCC in each sub-cluster

Step 6: Calculate inferred error at each node

Step 7: Collect an observation vector

Step 8: Get observation error e_i at each node by comparison of the observation vector with predicted value

Step 9: Compute at sensor node i, the inferred error e_{ij} at neighbor sensor j using probability density mass function

Step 10: Calculate weighted average inferred error at neighbor node as per equation 1

Step 11: If $W_{e_j} > e_t$ then //neighbor node of a node j violates data accuracy

Step 11.1: Sensor node j switched to active mode by DCC

Step 11.2: Neighbor node i with high e_{ij} switched to sleep state

else

Step 11.1: Node j is in sleep mode

Step 12: Repeat step 6 to step 11 for every round and go to step 2 at the end of each round.

The MDCSR provides energy-efficient data transmission in the cluster-based WSN. The sensor nodes are randomly deployed and are assumed to be homogeneous. After deployment, the neighbor node sends the hello packets to ensure their availability. The residual energy of each node was calculated, and a set of PCH was selected with the highest energy for each round of time T . Next, sub-clusters formed by grouping nodes in a specific range. In each sub-cluster, CH and multiple DCC are selected. The MDCSR carries out an error prediction method for scheduling nodes. The error predictor predicts inferred error. Next, error prediction estimates and compare the error concerning the neighbor nodes compared with error tolerance. If the estimated error is higher than the error tolerance value, then the MDCSR switches the node j to active mode, and neighbor node i of node j turned to sleep mode. Else node j remains in sleep mode. For data transmission, each CM at level 2 transmits sensed data to its respective CH. Each CH at level 2 sends data to PCH at level 3. The PCH sends data to the sink.

5. Simulation and Analysis of Performance

The MDCSR performance was evaluated using an event-driven simulate, NS2 simulator [28]. The simulation environment has been discussed in the following subsection.

5.1. Simulation Environment

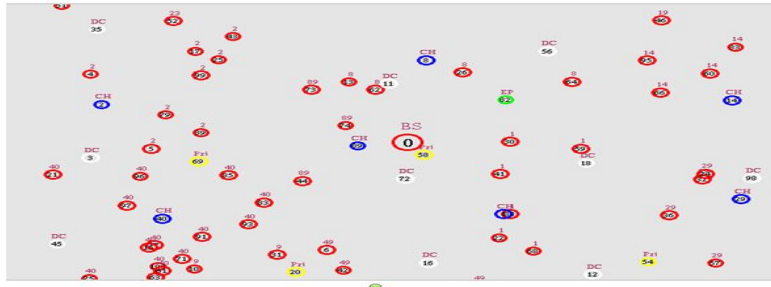


Fig.3. Simulation scenario

The network area of 500 X 500 established using a clustering approach. Figure 3 shows the simulation scenario with cluster-based topology with 100 nodes and one sink node for each node channel capacity set to $3e6$. MAC layer protocol uses IEEE 802.11, and the simulated traffic is CBR. The simulation runs for 200 seconds. The performance evaluated varying the number of nodes and changing the number of packets per second.

5.2. Simulation Parameters

The simulation conducted using parameters listed in table 1.

Table 1. Simulation parameters

Parameter	Value
Total no. of nodes	101
Area	500 x 500
Mac	802.11
Simulation time (seconds)	200
Traffic source	CBR
Transmit Power(J)	0.2
Receiving Power(J)	0.1
Initial energy(J)	100

5.3. Performance Evaluation Metrics

The performance of MDCSR has been evaluated using an event-driven simulate, NS2 simulator [29], considering the following QoS metrics [30].

1. Error Rate: Count of errors that result from the difference between sensed value (by the sensor) and predicted value (by predictor) defined as error rate.

$$\text{Error Rate} = \frac{\sum \text{Sensed value} - \text{predicted value}}{\text{Total number of nodes}} \quad (2)$$

2. Miss Ratio: The Miss ratio is the ratio of total W_{e_j} that are less than e_t to total event generated.

$$\text{Miss ratio} = \frac{\sum w_{e_j} < e_t}{\text{Number of events}} \quad (3)$$

where,

e_t = Error tolerance or threshold

3. Average Energy Consumption: It is a measure of the total energy consumed by all N sensor nodes during the data transmission operation.

$$\text{Average Energy Consumption} = \frac{\sum E_i - E_r}{N} \quad (4)$$

where,

E_i : Initial energy

E_r : remaining energy

$i = 1$ to N nodes

4. Control overhead: The control overhead used to compute routing overhead. Control overhead indicates the count of control messages generated apart from data packets generated.

$$\text{Control Overhead} = \text{count of control messages generated} \quad (5)$$

5. Routing overhead: The ratio of control packets generated by the routing protocol to total data packets generated is defined as routing overhead.

$$\text{Routing Overhead} = \frac{\text{Number of control packets sent}}{\text{Total number of data packets sent}} \quad (6)$$

5.4. Results

Performance of the proposed work MDCSR compared with existing work IES and CIES. The simulation results prove that MDCSR outperforms IES and CIES. In this section, the results obtained:

– By varying the number of nodes

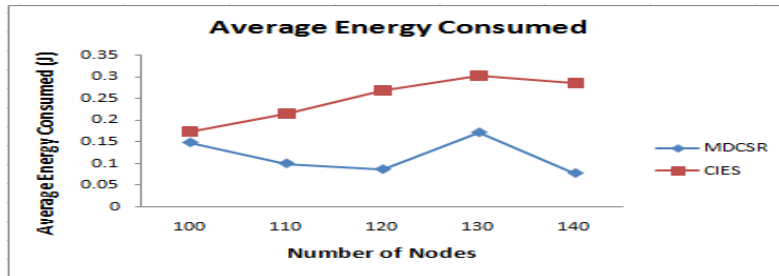


Fig.4. Average Energy Consumed Versus Node

Figure 4 depicts that the average energy consumed by MDCSR is less than CIES, even with an increase in the number of nodes. As the number of nodes increases, there are many nodes switched to active mode resulting in a reduced error rate. With the increase in node density (say 120 nodes onwards), more nodes are active and increase energy consumption. Further, these nodes incurred an increased error rate and switched to a sleep state. Hence lead to less average energy consumption for nodes more than 130. The increase in node density leads to more clusters with respective CH, Duty cycle controller, and PCH. The transmission range minimization between CM and CH and routing overhead limited to cluster results in less average energy consumption at 140 nodes. At 140 nodes, next-hop distance from CM to CH and from CH to PCH decreases which in turn leads to less average energy consumption due to multilevel clustering

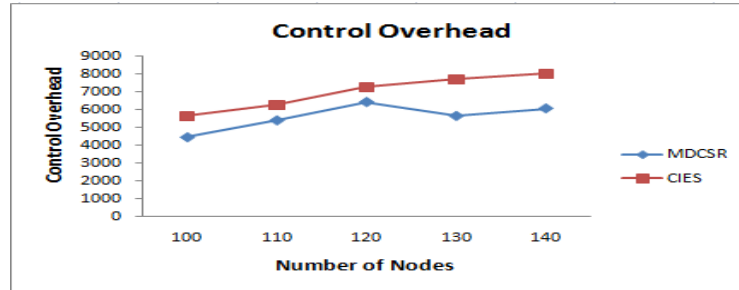


Fig.5. Control Overhead Versus Node

Figure 5 depicts that Control Overhead with CIES is more, as DCC works at the network level while in MDCSR, DCC works at the cluster level. The transmission of an observation vector between the DCC and CM is limited to total nodes in a cluster and has less control overhead.

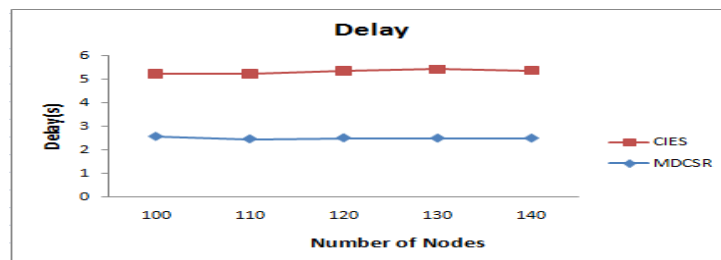


Fig.6. Delay Versus number of nodes

Figure 6 depicts that delay incurred by CIES is 25 % more compared to MDCSR. The DCC in CIES works at the network level. Each node performs neighbour inferred error estimation and shares the information for scheduling among many nodes in a network, which incurs more delay. While in MDCSR, DCC works at the cluster level. DCC at the individual cluster carries out node error estimation and scheduling. The increase in the number of nodes increases the number of clusters while the link connected from the level 1 nodes to level 2 nodes and link connected from the level 2 nodes to level 3 nodes remain the same in multi-level clustered routing. Hence, the delay from each cluster member node to sink remains the same.

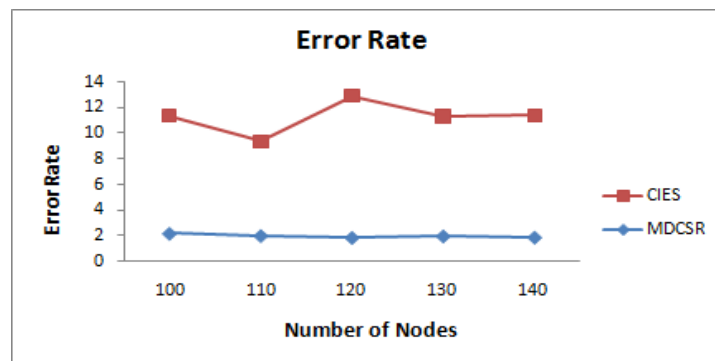


Fig.7. Error Rate Versus the number of nodes

Figure 7 depicts that by using cluster-based architecture in MDCSR, all CMs are scheduled based on error rate. As the node density increases, the number of nodes available to be awakened by the DCC in the respective cluster increases and reduces the error rate. The error rate with MDCSR is 70 % less than CIES.

Figure 8 depicts that jitter induced by MDCSR decreases with an increase in node density as the error rate is less with an increase in node density. More nodes are involved in data transmission without causing the delay. CIES incurs a reduced value of jitter but is comparatively more than MDCSR jitter value by 20%.

Figure 9 depicts that the miss ratio in the case of MDCSR is 45% less than CIES, with an increase in node density. As nodes are switched to active mode immediately, a high weighted inferred error leads to a less miss ratio.

Figure 10 depicts that overall residual energy is high using MDCSR than CIES, even with an increase in node number. As the number of nodes increases, more nodes switch to active mode, resulting in less node energy consumption. In the case of CIES, as the number of nodes increases, it incurs more message transmission to get the observation vector status among the sensor nodes in the network and reduces node residual energy.

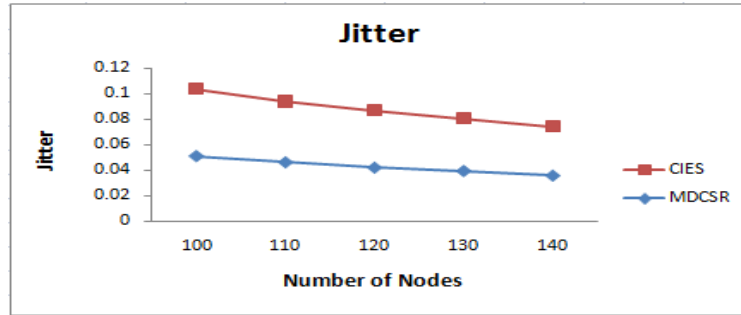


Fig.8. Jitter Versus the number of nodes

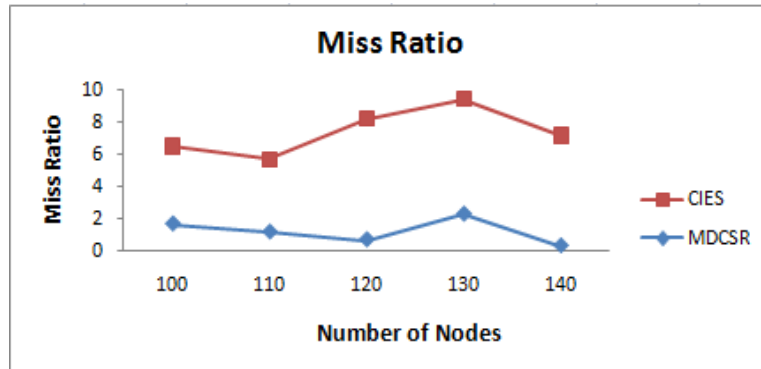


Fig.9. Miss Ratio Versus the number of nodes

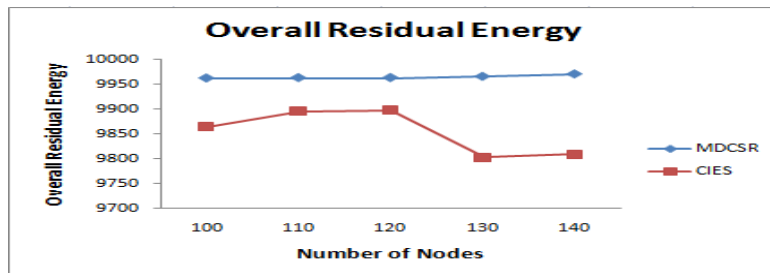


Fig.10. Overall Residual Energy Versus the number of nodes

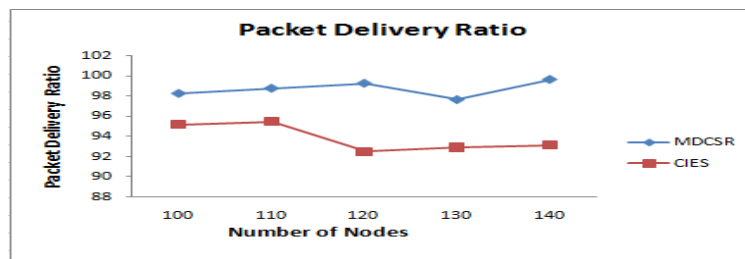


Fig.11. Packet Delivery Ratio Versus the number of nodes

Figure 11 depicts that the packet delivery ratio using MDCSR is more than CIES by using a cluster-based approach and by the scheduling of node at the cluster level.

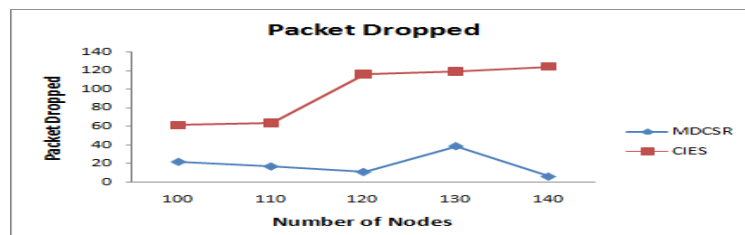


Fig.12. Packet Dropped Versus the number of nodes

Figure 12 depicts that the number of packets dropped by MDCSR is relatively minimal, with an increase in node count. The increase in node density increases the number of clusters, and intra-cluster communication is handled by respective CH using the TDMA schedule. Further avoids interference among the CMs in an individual cluster and packet drop.

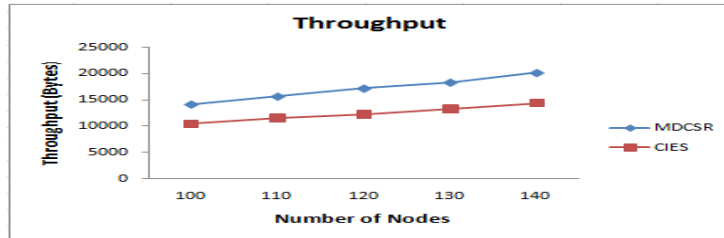


Fig.13. Throughput Versus the number of nodes

Figure 13 depicts that throughput achieved using MDCSR is 50% more than CIES due to simultaneous transmission from CMs to CH in the respective cluster. As DCC in CIES manages a large number of control messages at the network level leads to control packet interference with data packet transmission, increasing packet drop and minimizing throughput. In the case of MDCSR, DCC works at the cluster level, and control messages are related to nodes in a cluster. Thus has less interference and packet drop leading to maximum throughput than CIES.

- By varying Interval

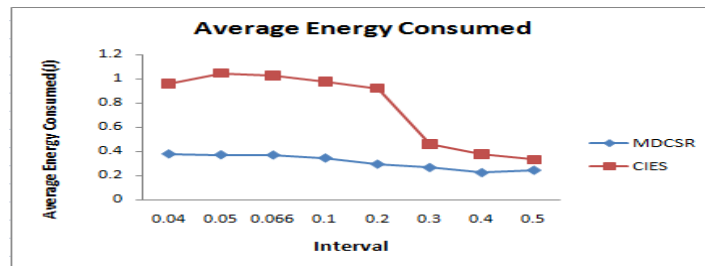


Fig.14. Average Energy consumption Versus Interval

Figure 14 depicts that the average energy consumed using MDCSR is less with an increase in the number of packets per second than CIES. As the number of packets increases in MDCSR, the node's residual energy decreases and increases the error rate. The DCC switches the node with high weighted error to sleep mode, minimizing average energy consumption. In the case of CIES, an increase in the number of packets causes more interference and the dropping of packets. The retransmission due to dropped packets leads to more average energy consumption.

Figure 15 depicts that control overhead increases with an increase in the number of packets per second using MDCSR but is relatively 40% less than CIES. The control message transmission is less and limited to the number of nodes in a cluster in MDCSR. CIES handles control messages among all the nodes in a network using a single DCC and results in more control overhead.

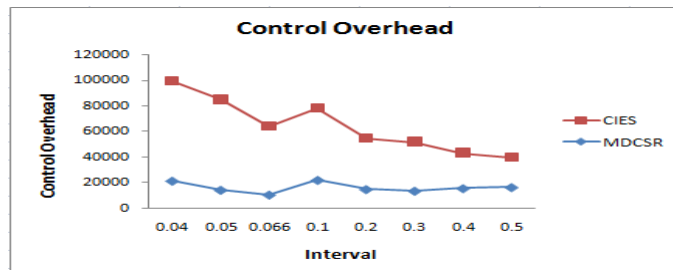


Fig.15. Control Overhead Versus Interval

Figure 16 depicts that the error rate incurred using MDCSR is relatively minimal, with an increase in the number of packets per second compared to CIES. Transmission of data packets at a specific TDMA schedule in MDCSR does not cause packet drop as in CIES by more interference due to significant packet rate. Packet drop leads to the retransmission of lost packet exhaustion node with more energy consumption, leading to more error rate.

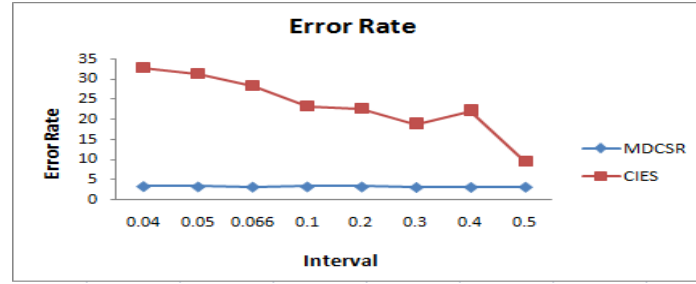


Fig.16. Error Rate Versus Interval

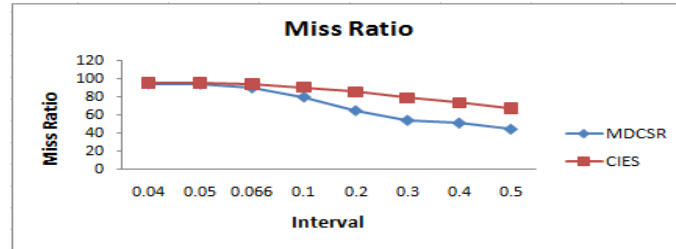


Fig.17. Miss Ratio Versus Interval

Fig. 17 depicts that the miss ratio using MDCSR increases with an increase in the number of packets but is relatively less than CIES. At the five packets per second, MDCSR achieves minimized miss ratio than CIES. Transmission of increased packet rate consumes more energy of nodes on the dedicated path, leading to a high miss ratio.

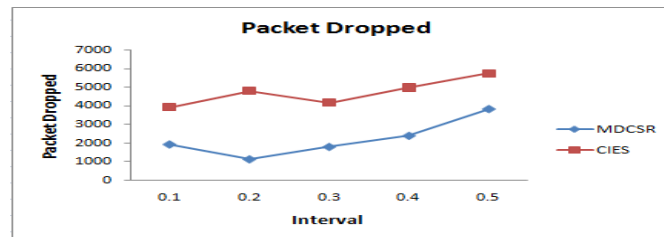


Fig.18. Packet Dropped Versus Interval

Figure 18 depicts that the number of packets dropped using MDCSR is minimal compared to CIES, even with an increase in the number of the data packets as packet transmission from CM to CH is performed at the specified schedule using TDMA.

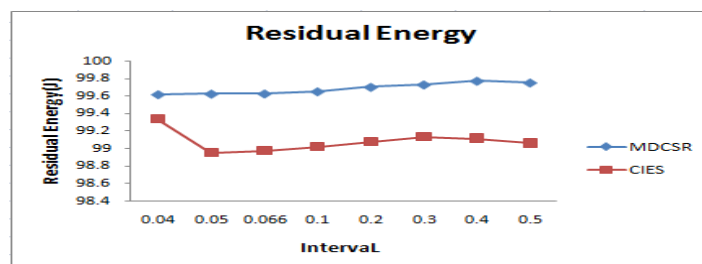


Fig.19. Residual Energy Versus Interval

Figure 19 depicts the low value of residual energy with an increase in the number of packets. To forward an increased number of packets per second, the sensor node energy utilized increases, resulting in a low value of the residual energy of a node. MDCSR incurs less consumption of residual energy compared to CIES.

Figure 20 depicts that throughput achieved using MDCSR is comparatively more than CIES using the cluster-based approach even with the increase in the number of packets per second. In CIES, an increase in the number of packets increase buffering delay, and in turn, leads to packet drop and retransmission. Retransmission of packet increase delay and minimize the throughput in CIES. MDCSR has minimal packet drop due to clustering nodes, achieving high throughput.

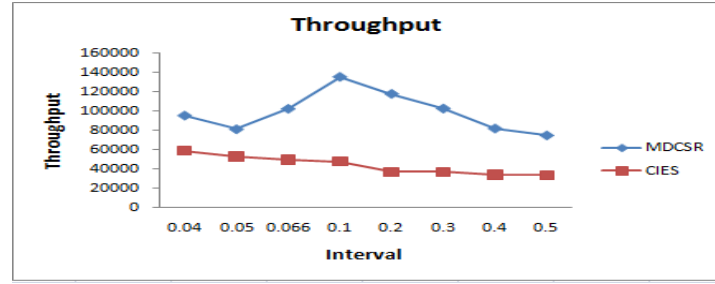


Fig.20. Throughput Versus Interval

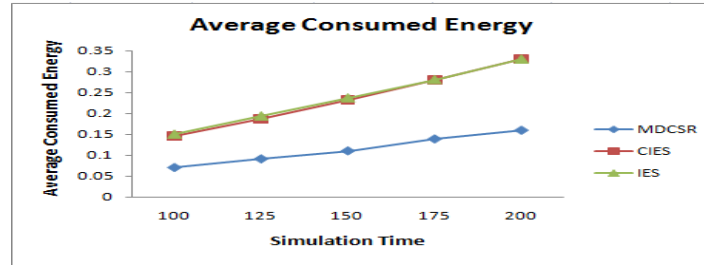


Fig.21. Simulation Time Versus Average Consumed Energy

Figure 21 shows the average consumed energy in the case of MDCSR increases with an increase in simulation time to maintain data accuracy for specific applications. This increase in average consumed energy is relatively less than 20% compared to CIES and IES. The average consumed energy with IES and CIES is 35% and with MDCSR is just 15%.



Fig.22. Error Rate Versus Simulation Time

Figure 22 shows the error rate versus simulation time. As IES performs error estimation at the node level, it cannot respond to a drastic change in the environment. These changes quickly lead to more error rates compared to CIES. CIES has error rates of 20% more than MDCSR.

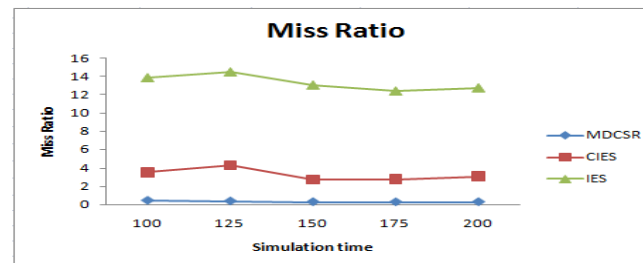


Fig.23. Simulation Time Versus Miss Ratio

Figure 23 depicts that the miss ratio using MDCSR decreases with an increase in simulation time. Since IES performs scheduling at the node level, the miss ratio is comparatively high than CIES and MDCSR. CIES tracks the past error rate at the network level and switches the node to the sleep state, resulting in a small miss ratio value. The MDCSR perform error estimation at DCC in each cluster while CM is concerned with only sensing task and results in the miss ratio's minimal value.

6. Conclusion

For the energy conservation of sensor nodes, there is a need to devise a routing technique considering the cluster-based approach. The proposed MDCSR employ multi-level structure, forming a cluster of nodes at level 1 used for just sensing task. The next level 2 is consisting of CH nodes that are responsible for data transmission from CM nodes to PCH nodes at level 2. The use of a cluster-based approach helps to schedule CM nodes using multi DCC based on sensing error. The application of multi-DCC achieves increased throughput with energy conservation and minimal control overhead compared to single DCC as in CIES. Since DCC works at the cluster level has a minimal error rate, miss ratio, and better performance than IES and CIES. Scheduling of node support energy-efficient routing for time-critical applications but demand reliable transmission of data. Also, the parallel transmission of observation errors from each node to the DCC controller is subjected to interference. The minimization of control packet interference to avoid packet drop can be considered as one of the future works. The packet drop due to the dedicated path with MDCSR can be improved using multi-path routing as a future work.

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