

Pervasive Systems

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Lecture 22:
Distributed Algorithm Engineering with Wiselib



Implementing Algorithms for Wireless Sensor Networks



Distributed Algorithm Engineering

- In Theoretical Computer Science, researchers tend to design an algorithm in an abstract way.
- An algorithm should be able to be used in many different situations.
- It is up to the developer to decide the way it should be turned into code for a real system.
- Going from theory into practice is hard – requires programming skills in addition to knowledge in algorithm theory.
- The developer also finds many limitations due to the given hardware and software specifications.
- In WSN this is further augmented due to the extremely limited resources and also due to the heterogeneous nature (both in terms of hardware and software).



Implementing Algorithms for Wireless Sensor Networks

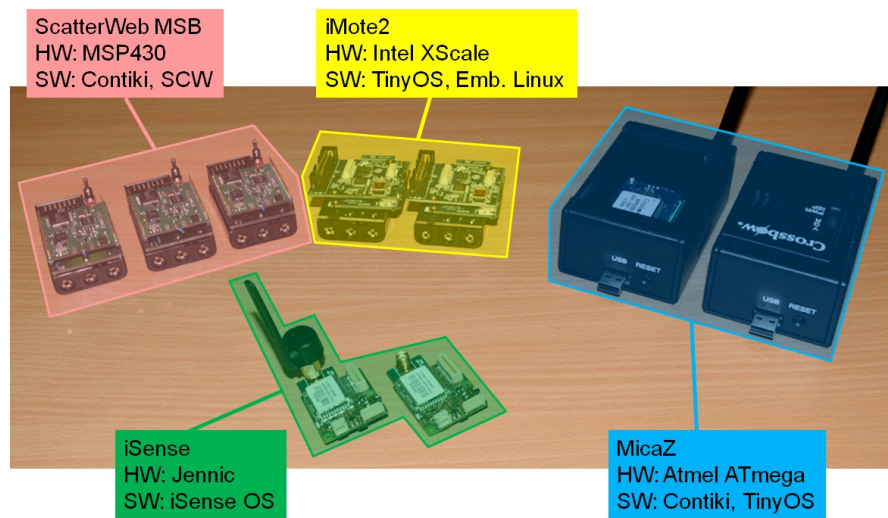
ScatterWeb MSB
HW: MSP430
SW: Contiki, SCW



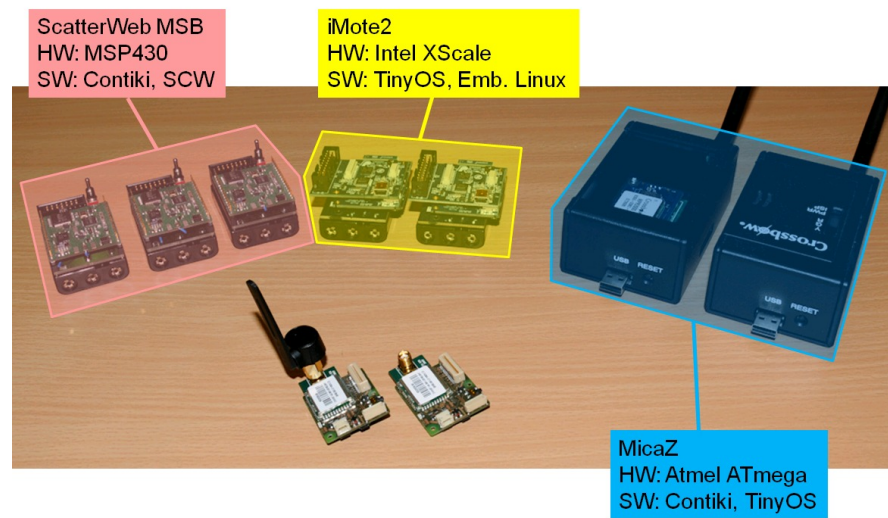
Implementing Algorithms for Wireless Sensor Networks



Implementing Algorithms for Wireless Sensor Networks



Implementing Algorithms for Wireless Sensor Networks

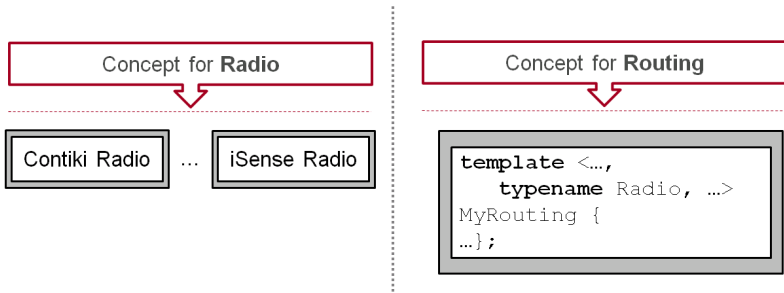


Wiselib: A Generic Algorithm Library for WSN

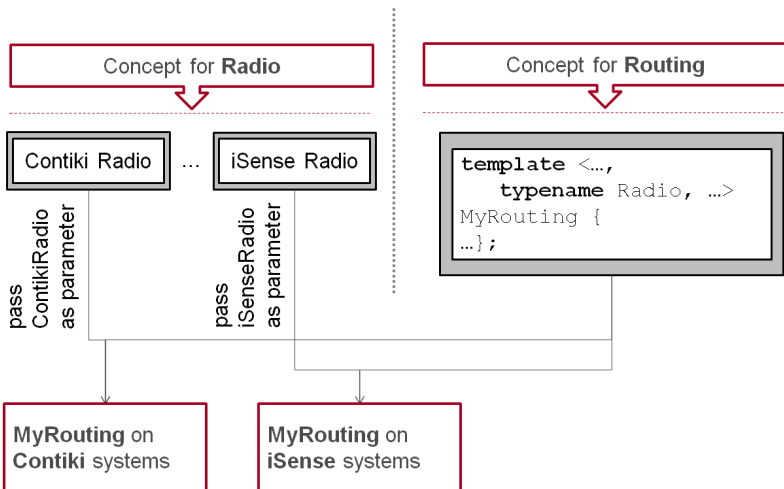
- **Algorithm library** for heterogeneous sensor networks
- **Easy integration** into available systems
 - Sensor Node OSs such as iSense, Contiki, TinyOS
 - Simulation environments, for example Shawn
- **Hide complexity** of underlying architecture
- **Flexible** architecture for algorithm development
- Algorithms are **interchangeable**
- Possible to create **layered structure** of algorithms
- Allow for **cross-layer design**



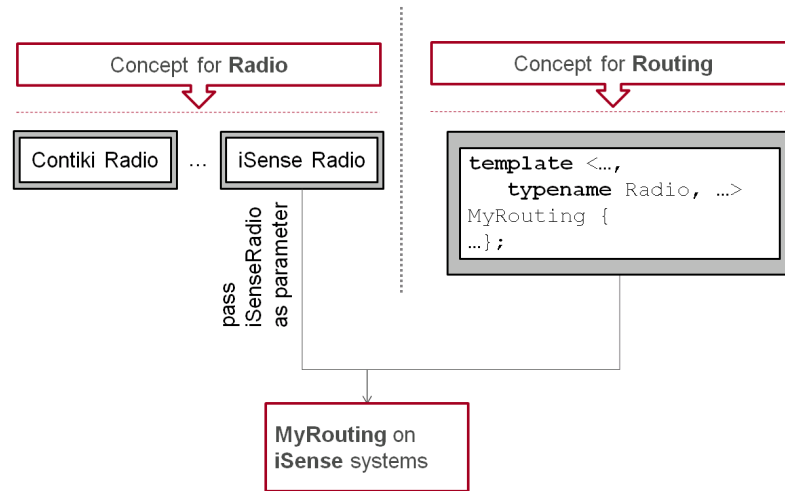
Basic Design Idea



Basic Design Idea



Basic Design Idea



Supported Platforms

| | OS | Radio (TX Power Ext.) (RSSI/LQI Ext.) | Timer | Logging | Clock (Set Clock Ext.) | Serial Comm. | Random |
|-------------|----|---------------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|--------------|--------|
| WP2 OSA | ⊕ | ○ | ○ | ○ | | | |
| Contiki | ⊕ | ⊕ ● | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | |
| TinyOS | ⊕ | ⊕ ● | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | |
| iSense | ⊕ | ⊕ ● ● | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ ● | ⊕ | ⊕ |
| ScatterWeb2 | ⊕ | ○ | ⊕ | ⊕ | | | |
| Shawn | ⊕ | ⊕ ● ● | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ |
| Linux | ⊕ | ⊕* | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | | ⊕ |
| Feuerware | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | | | |
| TriSOS | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | | |
| iOS | ⊕ | ⊕* | ⊕ | ⊕ | | | |
| Android | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | | | |



(⊕ = fully supported, ○ = works / proof of concept, ● = with extension)

WISEBED - Wireless Sensor Network Testbeds - <http://wisebed.eu>



The Radio Facet

Radio Facet

Concept

```

1 concept RadioFacet {
2   // ...
3
4   typedef ... block_data_t;
5   typedef ... size_t;
6   typedef ... message_id_t;
7
8   enum SpecialNodeIds {
9     BROADCAST_ADDRESS = ...,
10    NULL_NODE.ID = ...
11  };
12  enum Restrictions {
13    MAX_MESSAGE.LENGTH = ...
14  };
15
16  int enable_radio();
17  int disable_radio();
18  int send(
19    node_id_t receiver,
20    size_t len, block_data_t *
21    data
22  );
23  node_id_t id();
24  int reg_rcv_callback(...);
25  int unreg_rcv_callback(int idx)
26  };
27 }
    
```



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21    data
22  );
23  node_id_t id();
24  int reg_rcv_callback(...);
25  int unreg_rcv_callback(int idx)
26  };
27 }
    
```

Usage example

```

1 class MyApp {
2   void init(Os::AppMainParameter& amp) {
3     radio_ = &wiselib::FacetProvider<...>(
4       amp);
5
6     radio_ -> enable_radio();
7     radio_ -> reg_rcv_callback<MyApp, &
8       MyApp::rcv>(this);
9
10    char *m = "Hello World";
11    radio_ -> send(
12      Os::Radio::BROADCAST_ADDRESS,
13      strlen(m), (Os::Radio::block_data_t
14        *)m)
15  );
16  }
17
18  void rcv(Os::Radio::node_id_t from,
19    Os::Radio::size_t size,
20    Os::Radio::block_data_t *buf) {
21    debug_ -> debug("got %s from %d", from,
22      buf);
23  }
24 }
    
```




The Radio Facet

Radio Facet

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26  };
27 }
    
```




Implementations

- Radio models for all platforms
- Virtual and encrypting radio
- Routing algorithms

The Radio Facet


Problems when Sending Messages

- How to pass a message when network is heterogeneous?
 - Different bit widths
 - Alignment issues
 - Byte order
- How to identify own messages?
 - Radio may be used by multiple algorithms
- How to flexibly register a callback?
 - No virtual inheritance
 - No C function pointers



Problems when Sending Messages

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Heterogeneity

Bit Width

Write int

| | | | | |
|--------|--|--|--|--|
| Jennic | | | | |
| MSP430 | | | | |

Alignment

uint16_t at odd address


| | | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
| Shawn (Desktop) | | | | |
| MSP430 | | | | |

Byte Order

Write an uint32_t

| | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|
| Big Endian | A | B | C | D |
| Little Endian | D | C | B | A |

- IEEE Standard for Floating-Point Arithmetic (IEEE 754)
 - Single precision: 4 bytes
 - Double precision: **8 bytes**
- E.g., msp430-g++ (default)
 - Single precision: 4 bytes
 - Double precision: **4 bytes**



Solution

- Make use of **fixed size** data types
 - Include header `stdint.h`
 - Use data types `uint16_t`, `int32_t`, ...
- Provide “clever” read/write methods
 - Take care of platform differences
 - Do the right thing for all datatype/platform combinations
- Template specialization
 - Only needed conversions will be compiled
 - Easy to add new conversion rules for new platforms/datatypes

⇒ Developer does not have to worry about platform details!



Templated Serialization provided by the Wiselib

```

1 template<typename OsModel_P, typename BlockData_P, typename Type_P>
2 inline Type_P read( BlockData_P *target )
3 {
4     return Serialization<OsModel_P, OsModel_P::endianness, BlockData_P, Type_P>
5         ::read( target );
6 }
7
8 template<typename OsModel_P, typename BlockData_P, typename Type_P>
9 inline void read( BlockData_P *target, Type_P& value )
10 {
11     value = Serialization<OsModel_P, OsModel_P::endianness, BlockData_P, Type_P>
12         ::read( target );
13 }
14
15 template<typename OsModel_P, typename BlockData_P, typename Type_P>
16 inline typename OsModel_P::size_t write( BlockData_P *target, Type_P& value )
17 {
18     return Serialization<OsModel_P, OsModel_P::endianness, BlockData_P, Type_P>
19         ::write( target, value );
20 }
    
```

- Basic functions for `read()` and `write()`
- Use `Serialization` class: Passing OS, endianness, block data, type
- Template specialization: Automatically generate platform dependent code



Serialization

Read/write an `uint16_t`

```

1 block_data_t buffer [...];
2
3 uint16_t read_value() {
4     return read<OsModel, block_data_t, uint16_t>(buffer);
5 }
6
7 OsModel::size_t write_value(uint16_t value) {
8     return write<OsModel, block_data_t, uint16_t>(buffer, value);
9 }
    
```

- read and write care for heterogeneity
- Template specialization for each specific platforms (**possible**)
- Where not specialized, use default implementation



Example: Generic Implementation and Specialization

- Generic implementation: Used by default

```

1 template <typename OsModel_P, Endianness, typename BlockData_P, typename
2     Type_P>
3 struct Serialization
4 {
5     static inline size_t write( BlockData *target, Type& value )
6     {
7         for ( unsigned int i = 0; i < sizeof(Type); i++ )
8             target[ sizeof(Type) - 1 - i ] = *((BlockData*)&value + i);
9     }
10    ...
    
```

- Specialization for big endian (default for all data types)

```

1 template <typename OsModel_P, typename BlockData_P, typename Type_P>
2 struct Serialization <OsModel_P, WISELIB_BIG_ENDIAN, BlockData_P, Type_P>
3 {
4     static inline size_t write( BlockData *target, Type& value )
5     {
6         for ( unsigned int i = 0; i < sizeof(Type); i++ )
7             target[ i ] = *((BlockData*)&value + i);
8     }
9     ...
10    ...
    
```



Generic Message Composition

- When sending message over radio, **cast message to block data**:

```
1 radio().send( destination , message.buffer_size() , (block_data_t*)&message );
```
- On reception, **cast block data to message**:

```
1 MyMessage *message = (MyMessage *)buffer;
```



Solution: pSTL

- “pico” version of the STL
 - implements a subset of the STL
 - but usable on limited platforms
 - does not require new/delete, exceptions, RTTI
 - not even a dynamic memory
 - resource-efficient implementation
 - replace pSTL with “normal” STL any time if you need something pSTL doesn’t provide
- Almost full STL power even on limited nodes
 → Code can be easily ported between STL and pSTL



Problems with STL

- STL uses all kinds of C++ features like...
 - new/delete
 - RTTI
 - Exceptions
 ⇒ Bad, some platforms do not support those!
- That’s even true for other “slim” versions like the uSTL (<http://ustl.sourceforge.net>)



pSTL Design

- STL-Code works with small modifications
- But don’t use const, new, etc... (code size and portability)
- Only ++iter supported, not iter++ (easier to maintain)
- Currently only statically sized containers available (will change soon) (do not require dynamic memory)
- Some details (like allocator passing) are different (because allocation is different)



Implementations Example: MapStaticVector

Containers

- vector_static
- list_static
- map_static_vector
- priority_queue
- queue_static
- set_static
- pair

Algorithms

- for_each
- find / search
- min / max
- copy
- heap operations
- sorting
- etc...

```

1 #include <iostream>
2
3 #include "util/pstl/map_static_vector.h"
4 #include "external_interface/pc/pc_os_model.h"
5
6 typedef wiselib::PCOsModel Os;
7 typedef wiselib::MapStaticVector<Os, int, const char*, 5> map_t;
8
9 int main(int argc, char** argv) {
10  map_t map;
11
12  map[1] = "first";
13  map[9876] = "over 9000";
14  map[42] = "the answer";
15  map.erase(9876);
16  map[815] = "flight no.";
17
18  map_t::iterator iter;
19  for (iter = map.begin(); iter != map.end(); ++iter) {
20    std::cout << iter->first << " => " << iter->second << "\n";
21  }
22  return 0;
23 }
    
```



The need for Scalable Network Structures The need for Adaptation

- Current off-the-shelf WSN technologies:
 - 1 allow short range message exchanges.
 - 2 employ flat network organization structures for message exchanges, data aggregation and actuators operation.
 - 3 typically allow the operation of a few dozens of nodes.
- Many of the proposed applications assume large node populations densely deployed over sizable areas.
 - City Scale deployments: CitySense, SmartSantander . . .
- It is important that future WSN have scalable network structures that
 - achieve appropriate levels of organization and integration.
 - are achieved seamlessly and with appropriate levels of flexibility.

- A large variety of approaches have been proposed for grouping nodes in order to achieve network scalability.
- Some have been proposed as stand alone methods, others incorporated as sub protocols in larger solutions.
- Unfortunately, none of them has been widely adopted by the community
 - 1 extremely few software implementations for real WSN
 - 2 cluster formations remain static throughout the execution of the networks
- Technology expects future WSN to be dependable and adaptive to:
 - 1 "external changes" that affect the topology of the network (e.g., due to node failures).
 - 2 "internal changes" requested by the application (e.g., to reduce cluster sizes).



Self-Organizing Leader Election

- Each node u maintains an internal list with all the leader nodes that are within $k - hop$ distance.
- The list is continuously broadcast to all neighboring nodes.
- A node u that has an empty list nominates itself as a local leader and inserts $\{id_u, dist_u = 0, null\}$.
- When a node v that receives a list from a neighboring node u :
 - 1 for each entry $\{id_u, dist_u = 0, null\}$ it adds $\{id_u, dist_u = 1, v\}$
 - 2 for each entry $\{id_x, dist_x, u\}$ it adds $\{id_x, dist_x + 1, v\}$
 - 3 It drops duplication entries.
 - 4 It merges entries with the same id using the entry with the minimum id and with the minimal dist.
 - 5 Deletes entries with $dist > k$.



Self-Organizing Grouping (2)

- Next, each active local leader starts a breadth-first search to identify all nearby nodes and invite them in its cluster.
- Nodes receiving the search message of local leader u respond by joining the cluster of the leader.
- Since each node v may follow a different local leader in its neighborhood, if v decides to join the cluster formed by node u it sends back to u a response message.
- This process requires an additional $O(k)$ rounds.

The algorithm is self-organizing and the convergence time is $O(k)$ rounds.

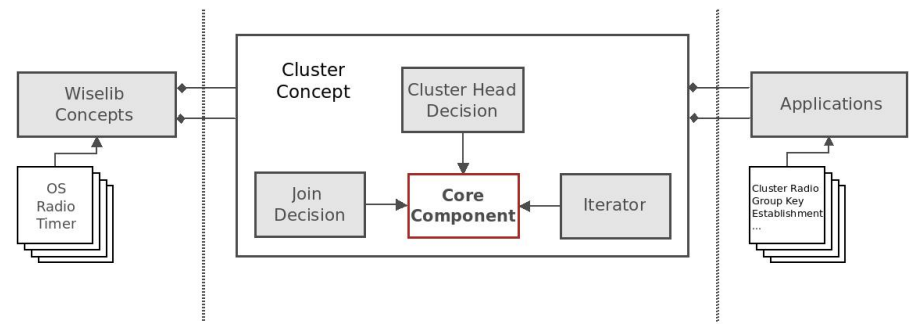


Self-Organizing Grouping (1)

- As soon as a node nominates itself as a local leader it enters a waiting period of $O(k)$ period of time.
- It waits for the self-stabilizing update algorithm to collect the other identifiers and notify for the leader identity all nearby nodes within at most $O(k)$ rounds.
- If there does not exist a node u with distance less than k from v , with lower id than v , then v is a stable leader and initiates the cluster construction phase.
- If another node u is identified (with lower id) then v exits the waiting period and becomes passive.



Basic components and relation with Wiselib



- **Cluster-head Decision (CHD)**. Responsible for the leader election (and re-election).
- **Join Decision (JD)**. Methodology by which nodes decide to join cluster-heads.
- **Iterator (IT)**. Categorizing and storing information related to neighboring nodes for other algorithms to be able to use it.



Core Component

- 1 CHD is invoked to determine if the node will become a cluster head or not.
- 2 If the node is a cluster-head: JD sends JOINREQUEST messages to nearby nodes.
- 3 Upon receiving a *Join Request* message:
 If JD decides to join, a JOINACCEPT message is sent back, IT is notified to store the node's *Cluster-head*.
 If JD decides not to join, a JOINDENY message is sent back.
- 4 If a JOINDENY message is received, the IT is notified in order to keep track of which neighbors have joined the cluster and which have not.
- 5 When all nodes have been examined the membership tables are generated by the IT and the process of cluster formation completes.



Implementation Details

The Cluster Head Decision is defined in Wiselib as follows:

```

1 template<typename Radio, typename Debug>
2 class ClusterheadDecision {
3 public:
4     void init(Radio&, Debug&);
5     void enable(void);
6     void disable(void);
7
8     void set_parameters(parameters_t *);
9     bool is_cluster_head(void);
10    bool calculate_head();
11 };
    
```



Implementation Details

The Core Component is defined in Wiselib as follows:

```

1 template<typename OsModel,
2     typename Radio,
3     typename Timer,
4     typename Debug,
5     typename HeadDecision,
6     typename JoinDecision,
7     typename Iterator>
8 class CoreComponent {
9 public:
10    void init(Radio&, Timer&, Debug&, CHD&, JD&, IT&);
11    void enable(void);
12    void disable(void);
13
14    void set_parameters(parameters_t *);
15    void find_head(void);
16
17    template<typename T, void(T::* TMethod)(uint8_t)>
18        int reg_changed_callback(T* obj);
19
20    node_id_t parent();
21    cluster_id_t cluster_id();
22    bool is_cluster_head(void);
23    ...
24 };
    
```



Implementation Details

The Join Decision is defined in Wiselib as follows:

```

1 template<typename Radio, typename Debug>
2 class JoinDecision {
3 public:
4     void init(Radio&, Debug&);
5     void enable(void);
6     void disable(void);
7
8     int hops();
9     void get_join_request_payload(block_data_t *);
10    void get_join_accept_payload(block_data_t *);
11    void get_join_deny_payload(block_data_t *);
12    size_t get_payload_length(int);
13    bool join(uint8_t *, uint8_t);
14 };
    
```



Component-based Implementation

Implementation Details

The Iterator is defined in Wiselib as follows:

```

1 template<typename OsModel,
2     typename Radio,
3     typename Timer,
4     typename Debug>
5 class Iterator {
6 public:
7     void init(Radio&, Timer&, Debug&);
8     void enable(void);
9     void disable(void);
10
11     cluster_id_t cluster_id(void);
12     node_id_t parent(void);
13     node_id_t next_neighbor();
14
15     template<typename T, void (T::*TMethod)(uint8_t)>
16     int reg_next_callback(T* obj);
17
18 private:
19     vector_t cluster_neighbors_;
20     vector_t non_cluster_neighbors_;
21     node_id_t parent_;
22     ...
23 };
    
```



Neighborhood Discovery

Neighbor Discovery

Low Power and Lossy AdHoc Wireless Sensor Networks



Neighborhood Discovery

Neighbor Discovery

- Basic Network Operation.
- Self maintenance, self configuration.
- Base for development of new protocols and algorithms.



Neighborhood Discovery

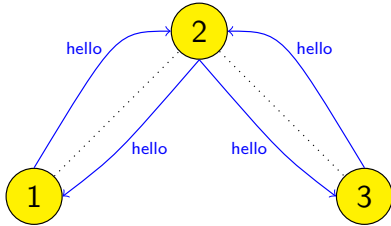
How ND fits in the bigger picture

- Notification mechanism to applications.
- Messaging mechanism to send messages to neighbors.



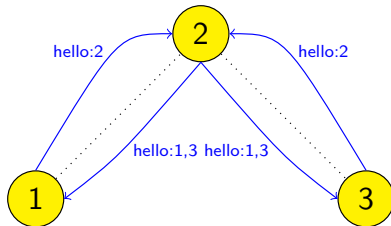
New Neighbor Identification Beacons every 1sec

After 1 Second



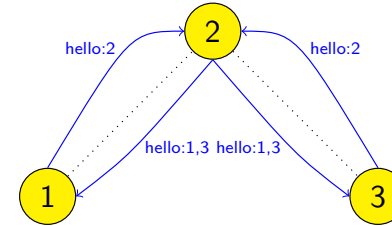
New Neighbor Identification Beacons every 1sec

After 3...+ Seconds



New Neighbor Identification Beacons every 1sec

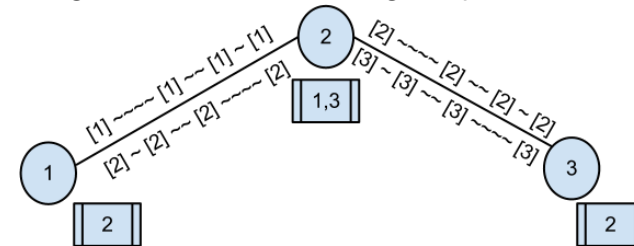
After 2 Seconds



Why An Adaptive ND?

We propose to adapt the Beacons every 1sec based on the Neighborhood changes.

- no changes → relaxed discovery
- any change → increase beaconing & update information



Experimental Driven Research

- Simulations are important – they suffer from imperfections: Artificial assumptions on radio propagation, traffic, failure patterns and topologies
- We decided to evaluate the performance of our algorithm in real hardware environment.
- However, testbeds are expensive to set up and to maintain, hard to reconfigure for a different experiment and usually feature a fixed number of nodes.
- We decided to use WISEBED¹: a Pan-European network of wireless sensor networks
- Consists of 750+ heterogeneous sensor nodes (such as TelosB, Mica2, iSense or Sun Spot equipped with different sensors)



Evaluation Setup

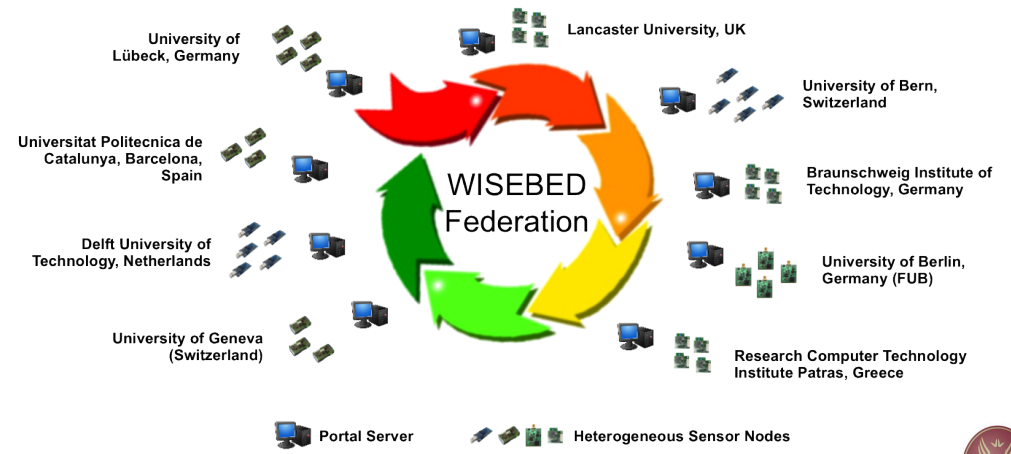
- WSN Simulator Shawn
 - scalability and performance
 - ✓ Network Density and Size
 - ✓ Controlled Message and Node Failureswww.itm.uni-luebeck.de/ShawnWiki/



- WISEBED testbed facilities
 - real world implications
 - ✓ Mobility and Low-Power Scenarios
 - ✓ Different locations around the E.U.
 - ✓ Federated Experiments<http://wisebed.eu>

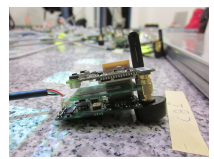


WISEBED: Wireless Sensor Networks Testbed



Real Hardware Testbeds

- We used 3 WISEBED testbed sites: UZL, GENEVA and CTI
 - 66 iSense nodes (20 in UZL, 26 in UNIGE, 20 in CTI)
 - 30 telosB nodes (15 in UZL, 15 in CTI)



iSense Platform

- 16 MHz 32 bit RISC – 96K RAM/128K Flash
- C++

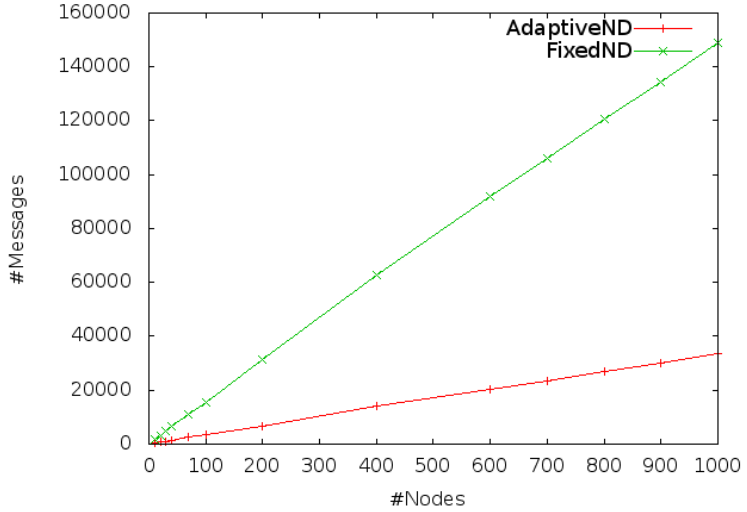


TelosB Platform

- MSP430 16 bit RISC – 10K RAM/48K Flash
- nesC



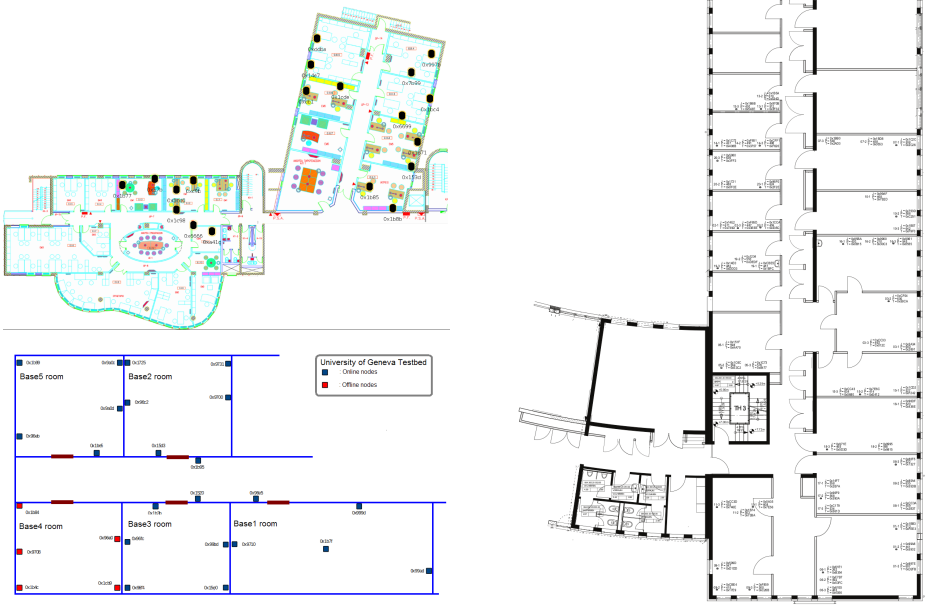
Simulations: Scalability



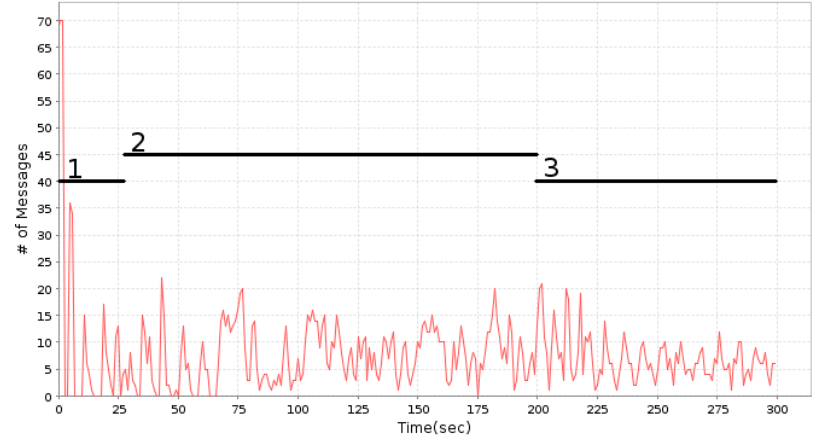
Up to 90% less beacons exchanged in stable environments.



Physical Topology of Testbeds



Simulations: Device Failures

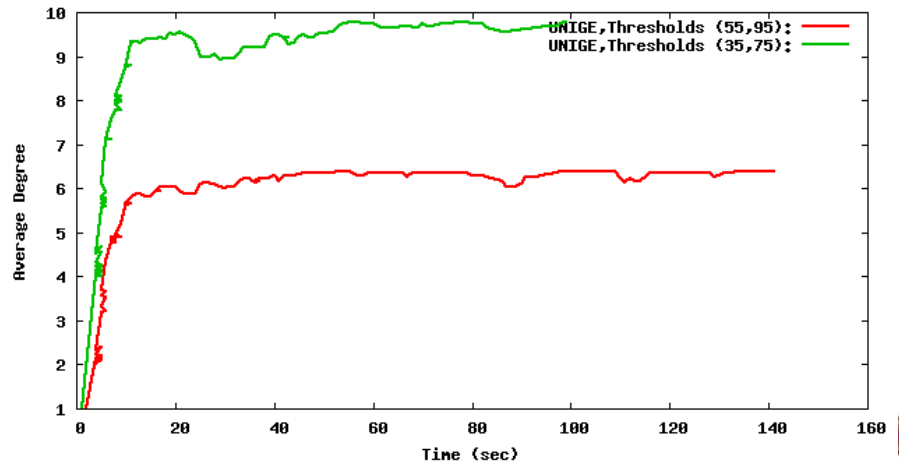


Significantly increased Beacons during the Failure Period (2).



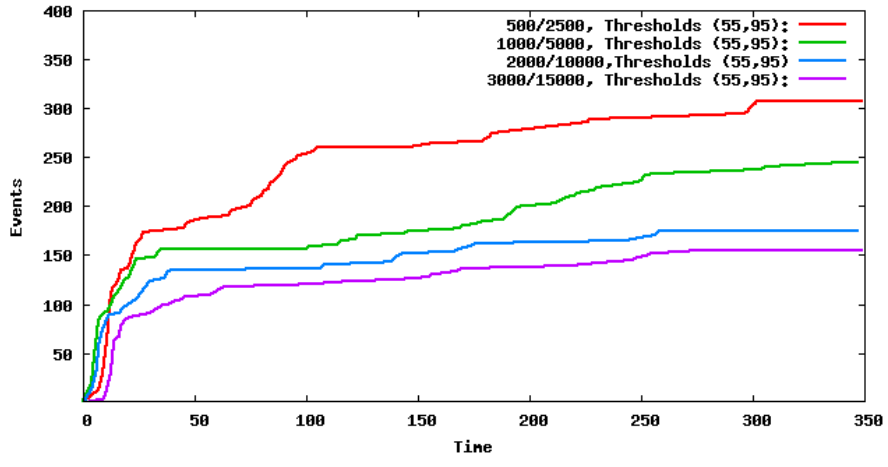
Adaptive Neighborhood Discovery – LQI Thresholds

We examine the Average neighborhood size with different LQI thresholds

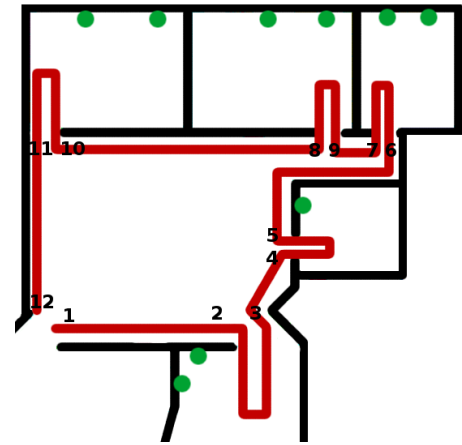


Adaptive Neighborhood Discovery – Beacon Interval

We examine the impact of beacon interval period and the neighbor timeout period in the detection of neighboring nodes

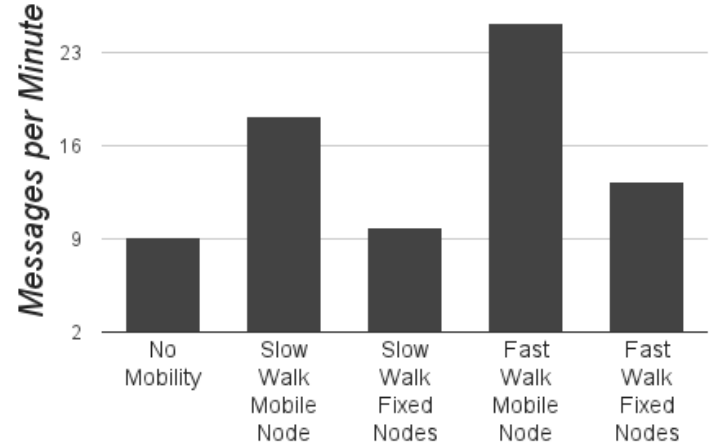


Real World: Mobility Experiments (Setup)

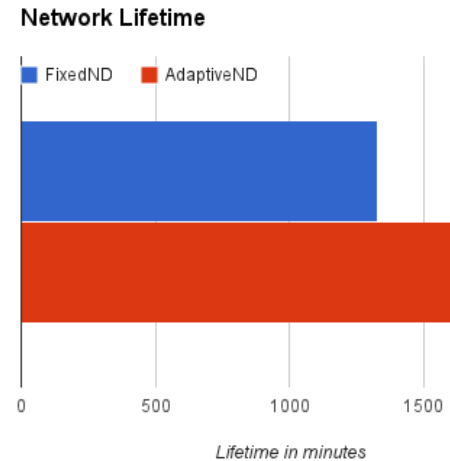


Walk path for the mobile device and positions of fixed devices.

Real World: Mobility Experiments



Real World: Lifetime Experiments



20% Extended Lifetime


Mobility Effect on Neighborhood Discovery

AdaptiveND offers:

- Reduced messaging rates by 90%.
- Increased network lifetime by 20%.
- Lower network traffic.

Next Steps

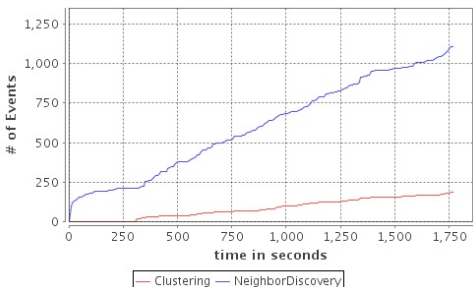
- Evaluate Duty Cycling Strategies. (ongoing)
- Use AdaptiveND together with other Protocols. (ongoing)
- Large Scale Federated Experiments using Wisebed. (planned)



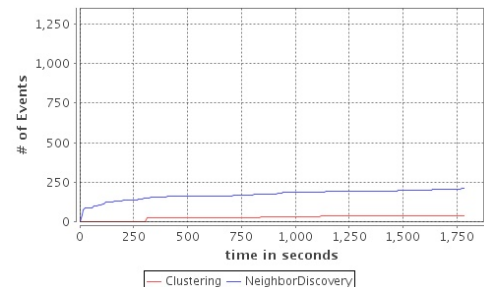
Speed and Quality of Adaptation

Propagation of Events across Modules


We examine the events generated by the Clustering while reacting to events generated by the Neighborhood discovery module



Interval 500ms / 2500ms




Interval 3000ms / 15000ms



Effect of Channel Failures on Adaptation Process

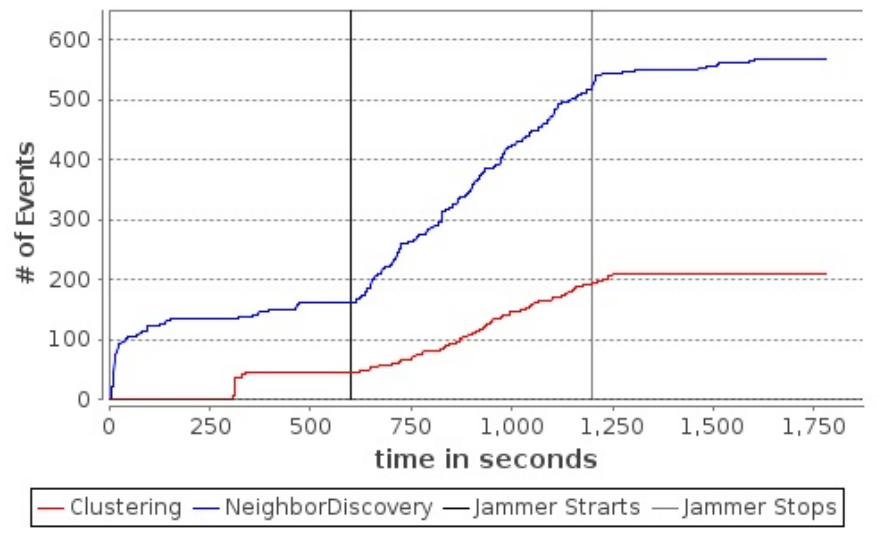
- Channel failures refer to a situation where a node is unable to successfully send most of its outgoing messages due to temporary noise on the wireless communication medium.
- We emulate by using a node called “the Jammer”: continuously broadcasts big messages in order to create collisions, reduce link quality and in general reduce the message delivery rate.
- The Jammer has normal communication range, identical to all other nodes.
- We position it in such a way to disrupt almost 50% of the network.



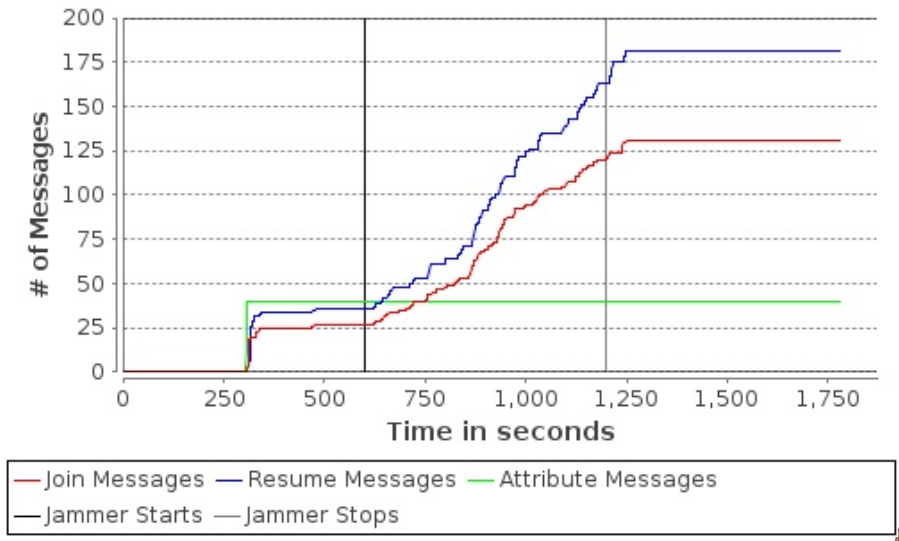
Jammer position in WISEBED/CTI testbed




Total Number of Events generated



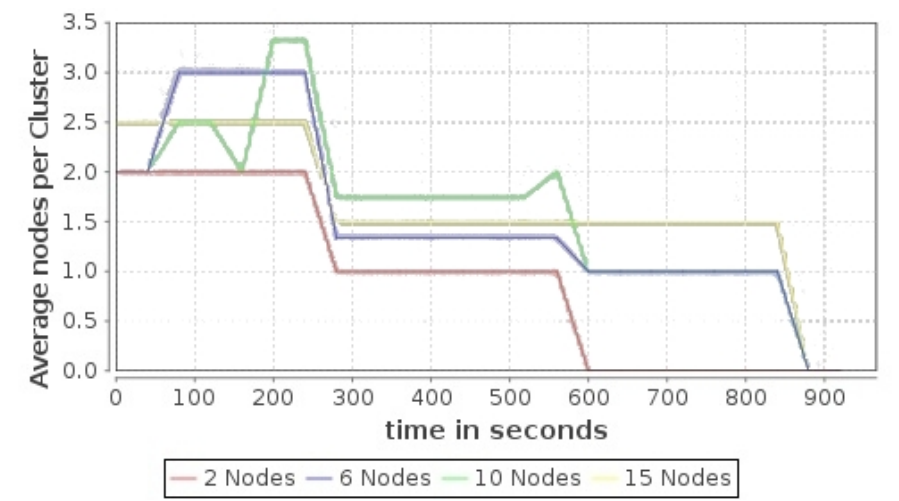
Total Number of Messages exchanged



Effect of Node Failures on Adaptation Process

- Node failures refer to a situation where a node suddenly stops communicating with its neighboring node.
- We emulate node failures by switching off the “faulty” nodes.
- We conduct experiments in which, after five minutes, the running nodes randomly disable themselves with a 50% chance.
- Then after an additional five minutes, the remaining running nodes randomly disable themselves with a 50% chance.

Average Cluster Sizes



Total Number of Events generated

