

HCBHRP-CS: Effective Routing Protocol for Multi-level Heterogeneous Wireless Sensor Networks

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Abstract

A wireless sensor network (WSN) consists of thousands of sensor nodes with limited energy, memory, and computation capability. The applications of WSN in some extreme environment make sensor nodes difficult to replace once they use up the resource. Hence, many researchers in this field focus on how to design a proper routing protocol to prolong the life span of the network. The classical hierarchical protocols such as CBHRP, WEEC and IMP-EEL have better performance in saving the energy consumption. However, the energy consumed for data aggregation among the nodes will make the nodes that act as cluster heads too many times die early owing to the consumption of too much energy. In this paper, a heterogeneous cluster based hierarchical routing protocol using compressive sensing (HCBHRP-CS) is proposed, which efficiently improves data aggregation and therefore significantly reduce the energy consumed in the process of sampling and transmission, and lower the wireless bandwidth required for communication under heterogeneous environment in WSNs. Simulations show that our improved protocol performs better than the CBHRP, WEEC and IMP-EEL.

Keywords: *Algorithm design and analysis, Base stations, Clustering algorithms, Compressive sensing, Energy efficiency, Head, Routing protocols, Heterogeneous Wireless sensor networks.*

1. Introduction

WSN consists of more than hundreds of small sensor nodes which have limited power, memory, and computational capabilities. The application of the WSN involves many fields, such as the military battlefield, forest fire detection, and other extreme environments [1]. WSNs can be classified into two types, namely homogeneous and heterogeneous sensor networks. In a homogeneous sensor networks, all sensor nodes are identical in terms of energy resource, computation and wireless communication capabilities. In heterogeneous sensor networks, typically, a large number of inexpensive nodes perform sensing, while a few nodes having comparatively more energy perform data filtering, fusion and transport. This leads to the research on heterogeneous networks where two or more types of nodes are considered. One of the crucial challenges in the organization of the WSNs is energy efficiency and

stability because battery capacities of sensor nodes are limited and replacing them is impractical. Compressing sensing (CS) [2] is a new theory of sampling used successfully in many applications, including sensor networks, digital image processing and analog-to-digital convertors. CS offers a new method of compression and coding, in order to minimize storage and cost. This will result in extending the lifetime of the sensor network. The core operation of a WSN is to collect and process data at the network nodes, and transmit the necessary data to the BS for further analysis and processing. Cluster-based Hierarchical Routing Protocol (CBHRP) [4] is an extension of the LEACH [5] protocol that is a self-organized cluster-based approach for continuous monitoring. In CBHRP, each cluster is managed by a set of cluster heads (CHs) is called head-set. The head-set members are responsible for controlling and management of the network. On rotation basis, a head-set member receives data from the neighboring nodes and transmits the aggregated results to the distant BS. In this paper, we improve CBHRP by proposing a new heterogeneous routing protocol using CS. We assume three types of nodes (normal, advanced and super), the energy consumption of advanced is less than that of normal and the energy consumption of super is less than that of advanced. The network is randomly divided into several clusters, each managed by a set of CHs called a head-set. Each member of the head-set compresses the collected data using CS. Simulation results show that our proposed protocol can compress data efficiently, reduce energy consumption greatly and prolonging the lifetime and stability period of the whole network to a great extent. The remainder of the paper is organized as follows: related work is discussed in section 2. In section 3, we introduce the proposed system model. In section 4, we show the simulation results of our protocol compared with CBHRP, WEEC and IMP-EEL protocols. And finally, conclusions are given in section 5.

2. Related Work

In [5], Heinzelman et al. proposed LEACH (Low Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy) protocol, which is considered as the basic energy efficient hierarchical routing protocol. In the setup phase of LEACH, each node decides whether to become a CH for the current round, this decision is based on a predetermined fraction of nodes and the threshold $T(s)$ as follows:

$$T(s) = \begin{cases} \frac{p_{opt}}{(1-p_{opt})^{(r \bmod (1/p_{opt}))}} & \text{if } s \in G \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \quad (1)$$

where p_{opt} is the predetermined percentage of CHs, r is the count of current round, and G is the set of sensor nodes that have not been CHs in the last $1/p_{opt}$ rounds. Using this threshold, each node will be a CH at some round within $1/p_{opt}$ rounds. After $1/p_{opt}$ rounds, all nodes are once again eligible to become CHs. Many protocols have been derived from LEACH with some modifications and applying advance routing techniques. In [4], Rashed et al. proposed CBHRP, an extension of LEACH. CBHRP introduced a head-set to control and manage clusters. CBHRP divided the network into a few real clusters that are managed by a virtual CH. In [6], Behboudi proposed a weighted energy efficient clustering algorithm (WEEC). WEEC is an improvement of LEACH. It takes into consideration the distance of the

nodes to the BS as an important factor in CH selection phase and assigns a probability to each node which is analytically derived from the distance of the node to the BS. In [7], Madhav proposed an improved energy efficient LEACH (IMP-EEL) protocol. In IMP-EEL, the CHs are elected by a newly proposed energetic clustering probability based on the ratio between the residual energy of each node and the initial energy of the network. The node with high initial and residual energy has more chances to be the CHs than the low-energy node rotated in the epoch throughout the network. CS is a sampling theory, which leverages the compressibility of the signal to reduce the number of samples required for reconstruction. Under CS framework, any compressible signal $X \in \mathbb{R}^N$ can be represented in the form of

$$X = \Psi\alpha, \tag{2}$$

where $\Psi \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ is the transform matrix and α is the sparse representation of X . The measurements of X are $Y = \Phi X$, where $\Phi \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$ is a sampling matrix with far fewer rows than columns ($M \ll N$). The measurements $Y \in \mathbb{R}^M$ are much easier than the original networked data $X \in \mathbb{R}^N$ to be stored, transmitted, and retrieved since $M \ll N$. Therefore, the measurements can be expressed as Eq. (3). If $A = \Phi\Psi$ satisfies the restricted isometry property (RIP)[2] condition $M \leq cK \log(N/K)$ such that c is a small constant with $c > 0$, the vector α can be accurately recovered from Y as the unique solution of Eq. (4).

$$Y = \Phi\Psi\alpha, \tag{3}$$

$$\hat{\alpha} = \arg \min_{\alpha} \|\alpha\|_1 \quad s.t. \quad Y = \Phi\Psi\alpha, \tag{4}$$

The original networked data X may be sparse itself or can be sparsified with a suitable transform such as Discrete Cosine Transform or Discrete Wavelet transforms[8]. Usually, the networked data vector X is sparse with a proper transform Ψ in Eq. (2). In WSNs, sampling matrix Φ is usually pre-designed, i.e., each sensor locally draws M elements of the random projection vectors by using its network address as the seed of a pseudo random number generator. All the above protocols do not consider efficient data compression. In this paper we improve CBHRP by considering compression of data using CS under heterogeneous environment in WSNs. Simulation shows that the proposed protocol achieves a long network lifetime compared with CBHRP, WEEC and IMP-EEL.

3. System Model

In HCBHRP-CS, we have considered a heterogeneous network with three types of nodes (normal, advanced and super). The battery power of advanced is more than that of normal and the battery power of super is more than that of advanced. Each type has weighted election probability that determines the percentage of CHs from each type. Super node has probability to become CHs more than advanced and normal nodes and advanced node has probability to become CHs more than normal node. We have assumed the cluster head election is based on the battery power and residual energy of the node. Our model relies on the following key assumptions regarding the field and the sensor nodes:

1. Each node is assigned a unique ID to help identify one node from other neighboring nodes,
2. Each SN is static and aware of its own location. SNs can use location services to estimate their locations. For simplicity, we assume that every SN knows its location in space in terms of a (x, y) coordinate,
3. The CIR of each link between CH and any sensor is known at the BS,
4. A WSN consists of heterogeneous nodes in terms of node energy.

HCBHRP-CS divides the network into a few real clusters. Each cluster has a head-set that consists of several virtual CHs; however, only one head-set member is active at one time. Iteration consists of two stages: an election phase and a data transfer phase. At the beginning of election phase, a set of CHs are elected by using their weighted election probabilities. These CHs send a short range advertisement broadcast message. The sensor nodes receive the advertisements and choose their CHs based on the signal strength of the advertisement messages. Each sensor node sends an acknowledgment message to its CH. Moreover, in each iteration, the CHs choose a set of associate heads based on their weighted election probabilities and the signal strength of the acknowledgments. A head-set consists of a CH and the associates. In the data transfer phase, the head-set member (CH) receives data from the neighboring nodes, compresses the collected data using CS aiming at improving the network lifetime and reducing the network energy consumption, and then CH transmits the aggregated results to the distant BS. Finally, the BS decodes the networked data. Each data transfer phase consists of several rounds. Each member of head-set becomes a CH once during a round. An epoch consists of several iterations. In one epoch, each sensor node becomes a member of head-set for one time. All the head-set members share the same time slot to transmit their frames. The above communication stages are illustrated in Figure 1.

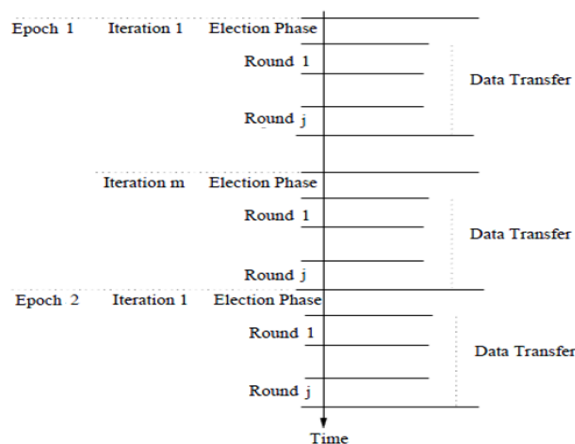


Figure 1: Communication Stages in HCBHRP-CS.

3.1. Radio Communication Model

We use the radio energy model proposed in [5]. According to the radio energy dissipation model illustrated in Figure 2, in order to achieve an acceptable Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) in transmitting a L -bit message over a distance d , the energy expended by the radio is given by Eq. (5), where E_{elec} is the energy dissipated per bit to run the transmitter or the receiver circuit, ϵ_{fs} and ϵ_{mp} depend on the transmitter amplifier model we use, and d is the distance between the sender and the receiver. By equating the two expressions at $d = d_0$, we have $d_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_{fs}}{\epsilon_{mp}}}$. To receive a L -bit message the radio expends $E_{Rx} = L \cdot E_{elec}$.

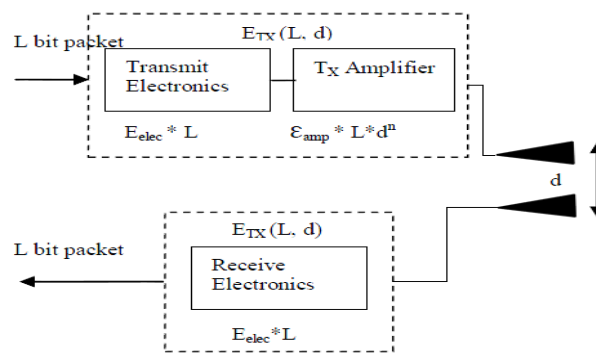


Figure 2: Radio Energy Dissipation Model.

$$E_{Tx}(L, d) = \begin{cases} L \cdot E_{elec} + L \cdot \epsilon_{fs} \cdot d^2 & \text{if } d \leq d_0 \\ L \cdot E_{elec} + L \cdot \epsilon_{mp} \cdot d^4 & \text{if } d > d_0 \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

3.2. Optimal Number of Clusters

We assume that we have an area $A = R \times R m^2$ over which N nodes are uniformly distributed. For simplicity, we assume that the sink is located in the center of the field, and the distance between any node to the sink or its CH is less than or equal to d_0 . Thus, energy consumed by a CH is estimated as follows:

$$E_{CH} = \left(\frac{N}{C} - 1\right) Y \cdot E_{elec} + \frac{N}{C} Y + Y \cdot E_{elec} + Y \epsilon_{fs} d_{BS}^2, \quad (6)$$

where C is the number of clusters, Y is the compressed data and d_{BS} is the average distance between CH and BS. The energy consumed by a non-CH node is given by:

$$E_{nonCH} = L \cdot E_{elec} + L \cdot \epsilon_{fs} d_{CH}^2, \quad (7)$$

where d_{CH} is the average distance between a cluster member and its CH. Assuming that the nodes are uniformly distributed, it can be shown that:

$$d_{CH}^2 = \int_{x=0}^{x_{max}} \int_{y=0}^{y_{max}} (x^2 + y^2) \rho(x, y) dx dy = \frac{R^2}{2\pi C}, \quad (8)$$

where $\rho(x, y)$ is the node distribution and R is the area of monitoring field. The energy dissipated in a cluster per round is given by:

$$E_{cluster} \approx E_{CH} + \frac{N}{C} E_{nonCH}, \quad (9)$$

The total energy dissipated in the network will be:

$$E_{tot} = Y(2NE_{elec} + \epsilon_{fs}(Cd_{BS}^2 + Nd_{CH}^2)), \quad (10)$$

By differentiating E_{tot} with respect to C and equating to zero, the optimal number of constructed clusters can be found:

$$C_{opt} = \sqrt{\frac{N}{2\pi}} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_{fs}}{\epsilon_{mp}}} \frac{R}{d_{BS}^2}, \quad (11)$$

The optimal probability of a node to become a CH p_{opt} , can be computed as follows:

$$p_{opt} = \frac{C_{opt}}{N}, \quad (12)$$

3.3. Cluster Head Election Phase

In HCBHRP-CS, we have assumed three types of sensor nodes normal, advanced and super nodes. The energy exhaustion of battery source is less in advanced and super nodes as compared to normal nodes in the system. Let us assume E_0 is the initial energy of each normal sensor node, m is the fraction of advanced nodes among normal nodes which are equipped with α times more energy than the normal nodes, and m_0 is the fraction of super nodes among advanced nodes which are equipped with β times more energy than the normal nodes. Note a new heterogeneous setting has no effect on the spatial density of the network so the setting of p_{opt} does not change. On the other hand, due to heterogeneous nodes the net energy of the network is changed as the initial energy of each supernode becomes $E_0(1 + \beta)$ and each advanced node becomes $E_0(1 + \alpha)$. Therefore, the total (initial) energy of the new heterogeneous setting is given by Eq. (13):

$$\begin{aligned} Total\ Energy &= (N.(1 - m).E_0 + N.m.(1 - m_0).E_0.(1 + \alpha) + N.m.m_0.E_0(1 + \beta)) \\ &= N.E_0.(1 + m.(\alpha - m_0.(\alpha - \beta))), \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Hence, the total energy of the system is increased by a factor of $(1 + m.(\alpha - m_0.(\alpha - \beta)))$. In order to optimize the stable period of the system; the new epoch must become equal to $(\frac{1}{p_{opt}}). (1 + m.(\alpha - m_0.(\alpha - \beta)))$ because the system has $m.(\alpha - m_0.(\alpha - \beta))$ times more energy. Virtually there are $N.(1 + m.(\alpha - m_0.(\alpha - \beta)))$ nodes with energy equal to the initial energy of a normal node. In order to maintain the minimum energy consumption in each round within an epoch, the average number of CHs per round per epoch

must be constant and equal to $N \cdot p_{opt}$. In the heterogeneous scenario the average number of CHs per round per epoch is equal to $\left(1 + m \cdot (\alpha - m_0 \cdot (\alpha - \beta))\right) \cdot N \cdot p_{nrm}$ (because each virtual node has the initial energy of a normal node). Therefore, the weighed probabilities for normal, advanced and supernodes are, respectively:

$$p_{nrm} = \frac{p_{opt}}{1 + m \cdot (\alpha - m_0 \cdot (\alpha - \beta))}, \quad (14)$$

$$p_{adv} = \frac{p_{opt}}{1 + m \cdot (\alpha - m_0 \cdot (\alpha - \beta))} \times (1 + \alpha), \quad (15)$$

$$p_{sup} = \frac{p_{opt}}{1 + m \cdot (\alpha - m_0 \cdot (\alpha - \beta))} \times (1 + \beta), \quad (16)$$

In Eq. (1), we replace p_{opt} by the weighted probabilities to obtain the threshold that is used to elect the CH in each round. We define $T_{s_{nrm}}$ as the threshold for normal nodes, $T_{s_{adv}}$ the threshold for advanced nodes and $T_{s_{sup}}$ the threshold for super nodes. Thus, for normal advanced and supernodes, we have:

$$T_{s_{nrm}} = \begin{cases} \frac{p_{nrm}}{(1 - p_{nrm} \times (r \bmod (1/p_{nrm})))} & \text{if } s_{nrm} \in G' \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \quad (17)$$

$$T_{s_{adv}} = \begin{cases} \frac{p_{adv}}{(1 - p_{adv} \times (r \bmod (1/p_{adv})))} & \text{if } s_{adv} \in G'' \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \quad (18)$$

$$T_{s_{sup}} = \begin{cases} \frac{p_{sup}}{(1 - p_{sup} \times (r \bmod (1/p_{sup})))} & \text{if } s_{sup} \in G''' \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \quad (19)$$

where r is the current round, G' is the set of normal nodes that have not become CHs within the last $1/p_{nrm}$ rounds of the epoch, and $T_{s_{nrm}}$ is the threshold applied to a population of $N \cdot (1 - m)$ normal nodes.

3.4. Setup Phase

In this phase cluster formation takes place. For every transmission round, nodes s_i calculate the probability threshold $T(s_i)$ and choose a random number between 0 and 1. If the number is less than threshold $T(s_i)$, s_i becomes a CH during the current round. The CHs then broadcast a short range advertisement message to the network and declare themselves as CHs. After this message, each regular node chooses its closest CH with the largest received signal strength and then informs the CH by sending a join cluster acknowledgment message. If no message is broadcast from any CH, it makes itself as CH. Furthermore, in each iteration, the CHs choose a set of associate heads based on their weighted election probabilities and the signal strength of the acknowledgments. A head-set consists of a CH and the associates. The head-set member is responsible for sending messages to the BS. The CH sets up a TDMA schedule and transmits it to the nodes in the cluster. After the TDMA schedule is known by all nodes in the cluster, the set up phase is completed and the next phase begins.

3.5. Data Transmission Phase

Once the clusters are formed and the TDMA schedule is fixed, the data transmission phase can begin. We consider N sensors randomly located in a field, each generating a data sample $x_j (j = 1, \dots, N)$ to be measured. The vector of data samples $X = [x_1, \dots, x_N]$ is called networked data, which will be transmitted to the BS. We use Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT) matrix as the sparsifying transform matrix and channel impulse response (CIR) matrix as the sampling matrix.

3.5.1. DCT Basis

We use Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT) to sparsify the networked data X . Once the BS knows the locations of all sensor nodes, DCT basis can be computed. DCT replaces the 2-D set of measurements with a set of transform coefficients that, for piecewise smooth fields, are sparser than the original data as in Eq. (20), where $S \in \mathbb{R}^N$ is the transform coefficient vector which contains $K (K \ll N)$ nonzero, and D is the DCT basis.

$$X = DS, \tag{20}$$

3.5.2. CIR BASIS

At each cluster, a head-set member CH receives data from the neighboring nodes, compresses the collected data using CS and transmits the aggregated results to the distant BS. The received signal vector at CH can be written as Eq. (21), where G the CIR matrix is whose component can be written as Eq. (22).

$$y = GX = GDS, \tag{21}$$

$$G[m, n] = d_{m,n}^{-\gamma} |h_{m,n}|. \tag{22}$$

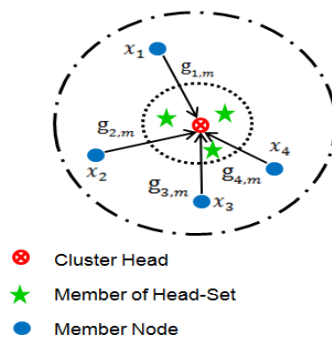


Figure 4: Transmission in Clusters.

where $d_{m,n}$ is the distance between the m^{th} CH and the n^{th} sensor node. γ is the propagation loss factor which is 2 for free space and takes on other values for different media [8]. $h_{m,n}$ is the Rayleigh fading coefficient modeled as complex Gaussian noise with zero mean and unit variance [8]. N sensor nodes transmit their samples to M CHs. Subsequently CHs transmit measurements Y to the BS independently. Finally, the BS decodes the networked data X from Y using for example the basis pursuit solver in Sparselab toolbox of Matlab [9].

4. Simulation Results

In this section, the analysis of the proposed HCBHRP-CS protocol is carried out using MATLAB to evaluate the energy consumption and maximize the lifetime of the sensor network. We describe the simulation environment, performance metrics and experimental results. The simulation parameters are summarized in the following table (Table 1):

Table 1: Simulation Parameters.

Description	Parameters	Values
Number of nodes	N	1000
Proportion of advanced nodes	m	0.2
Proportion of super nodes among advanced nodes	m_0	0.3
Energy factor for advanced nodes	α	3
Energy factor for super nodes	β	1.5
Initial energy level of normal nodes	E_0	0.5 J
Location of the BS	BS	(50,50)
Data packet size	L	4000 bit
Network area	$R \times R$	100 m ²
Transmit amplifier if $d_{BS} \leq d_0$	ϵ_{fs}	10 PJ/(bit * m ²)
Transmit amplifier if $d_{BS} \geq d_0$	ϵ_{mp}	0.0013 PJ/(bit * m ⁴)
Number of nonzero coefficients	K	10
Number of measurements	M	50
Propagation loss factor	γ	2

4.1. Performance Metrics and Experimental Results

Here, we present the performance results and the comparison of the proposed protocol with other existing protocols. The evaluation of performance metrics demonstrate the improvement and strength features of the proposed protocol compared with CBHRP, WEEC and IMP-EEL protocols.

4.1.1. Energy Consumption

Figure 5 illustrates the difference of the energy consumed per round in the proposed, CBHRP, WEEC, and IMP-EEL protocols. It shows that WEEC achieves better performance compared with CBHRP, whereas WEEC considers the distance of the nodes to the BS as an important factor in CH selection to reduce the energy dissipated in each round. Also, IMP-EEL performs better than WEEC; the reason is IMP-EEL selects more energetic CHs during every round. It is obvious that the energy consumption of the proposed scheme is much lower than that of CBHRP, WEEC and IMP-EEL. This is because HCBHRP-CS uses residual energy of nodes in electing CHs; nodes having higher residual energy have greater chances to be a CH, therefore, the energy efficiency is enhanced. Besides, HCBHRP-CS efficiently compresses data and at the same time guarantees fast data compression which is an important issue in WSNs due to the scarce resources of sensor nodes. Consequent to this compression, the total network energy consumption is minimized compared with CBHRP, WEEC and IMP-EEL.

4.1.2. Iteration Time

The estimated time for one iteration with respect to the network diameter considering the percentage of head-set size is shown in Figure 6. It is obvious that our proposed protocol outperforms CBHRP, WEEC, and IMP-EEL. Whereas, in the proposed protocol the extension of the network service duration is because HCBHRP-CS efficiently compresses data using CS and every sensor node independently elects itself as a CH based on its weighted election probability and also treat each heterogeneous node discriminatorily in terms of energy discrepancy. Therefore, HCBHRP-CS would extend the estimated time for one iteration, and consequently the battery lifetime would be extending to more than current lifetime. The iteration time is proportional to the initial energy and the network diameter found in this figure. The network will be alive for a longest period of time with initial energy when the head-set size is 50% of the cluster size. However, it is more or less with respect to the head-set size.

4.1.3. Number of Frames

Figure 7 shows the number of frames transmitted per iteration in the proposed, CBHRP, WEEC, and IMP-EEL protocols. It is clear that proposed protocol outperforms existing protocols because HCBHRP-CS has three types of nodes (normal, advanced and super), whereas the super nodes become CHs more than both the advanced and normal nodes. The advanced nodes take up the role of CH more frequently than the normal nodes. Moreover, using CS would optimize energy usage to reduce storage space and energy consumption. Also, it is shown that when the head-set size increases, there are more control and management sensor nodes. As a result, the iteration can last for a longer time, which is also consistent with the results shown in Figure 6. Consequently, the data collecting nodes can be used for a longer period of time. Our results show that the proposed protocol provides a more systematic approach of transmitting a higher number of data frames in contrast to CBHRP, WEEC, and IMP-EEL.

4.1.4. Stability

The stability period is the time interval from the start of network operation until the death of the first alive node, which is crucial for many applications where the feedback from the sensor network must be reliable. In terms of the length of the stability period, by varying m, m_0, α and β , we show that the stability of our HCBHRP-CS protocol exceeds existing protocols. Figure 8 shows the network stability when the first node dies. We observe that the stable period of HCBHRP-CS is extended in comparison with CBHRP, WEEC, and IMP-EEL protocols. The reason is HCBHRP-CS efficiently compresses data and uses head-set instead of only one CH within a cluster, besides more powerful sensor nodes act as CHs for more number of rounds, therefore, stability period of HCBHRP-CS is enhanced which is the main requirement for the lifetime of the WSN.

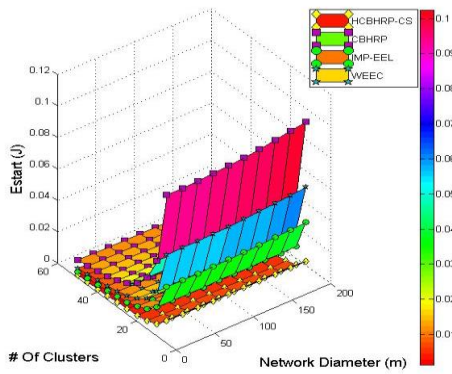


Figure 5: Energy Consumption

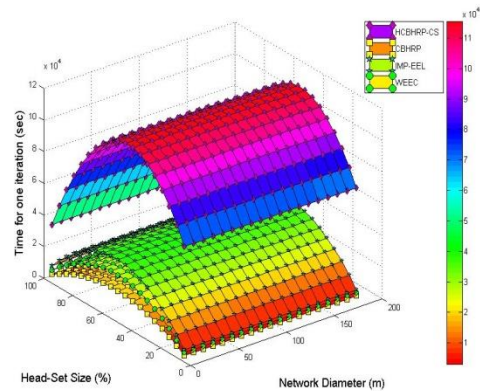


Figure 6: Time for Iteration

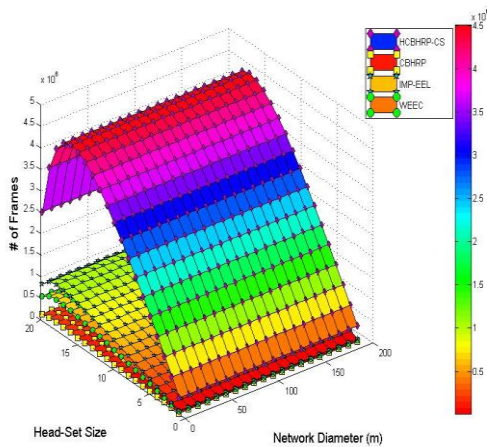


Figure 7: Number of Frames Transmitted per Iteration

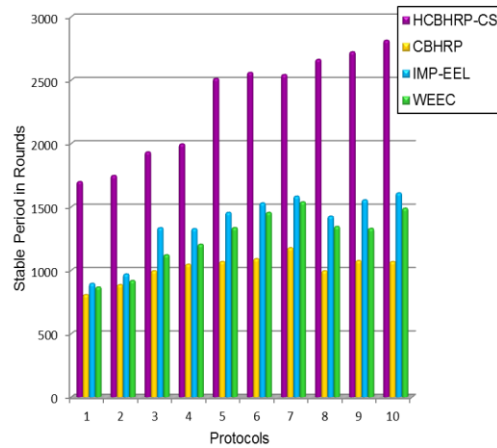


Figure 8: Network Stability

5. Conclusion

In this paper, we propose a compressive sensing (CS) enhancement for the CBHRP protocol under heterogeneous environment. CS measurements are obtained via cluster heads. Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT) is used as the sparsifying matrix and channel impulse response (CIR) matrix is used as the sampling matrix. Using head-set concepts within a heterogeneous three-tier node setting in a clustering algorithmic approach, nodes elect themselves as cluster heads based on their energy levels, retaining more uniformly distributed energy among sensor nodes. The simulation results show that our method decreases the energy consumption and therefore, prolongs the network lifetime and stability period and increases the number of frames transmitted per iteration compared with CBHRP, WEEC and IMP-EEL protocols.

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