

# Wireless Communications

Rembrandt Wireless

## 1.4 CURRENT WIRELESS SYSTEMS

The cellular digital packet data (CDPD) system is a wide-area wireless data service layered on the analog cellular telephone network. CDPD shares the FDMA voice channels of the analog systems, since many of these channels are idle owing to the growth of cellular. The CDPD service provides packet data transmission at rates of 19.2 kbps and is available throughout the United States. However, since newer generations of cellular systems also provide data services and at higher data rates, CDPD is mostly being replaced by these newer services. Thus, wide area wireless data services have not been very successful, although emerging systems that offer broadband access may have more appeal.

### 1.4.5 Broadband Wireless Access

Broadband wireless access provides high-rate wireless communications between a fixed access point and multiple terminals. These systems were initially proposed to support interactive video service to the home, but the application emphasis then shifted to providing high-speed data access (tens of Mbps) to the Internet and the World Wide Web as well as high-speed data networks for homes and businesses. In the United States, two frequency bands were set aside for these systems: part of the 28-GHz spectrum for local distribution systems (local multipoint distribution service, LMDS) and a band in the 2-GHz spectrum for metropolitan distribution service (multichannel multipoint distribution services, MMDS). LMDS represents a quick means for new service providers to enter the already stiff competition among wireless and wireline broadband service providers [5, Chap. 2.3]. MMDS is a television and telecommunication delivery system with transmission ranges of 30–40 km [5, Chap. 11.11]. MMDS has the capability of delivering more than a hundred digital TV channels along with telephony and access to the Internet. MMDS will compete with existing cable and satellite systems. Europe is developing a standard similar to MMDS called Hiperaccess.

WiMax is an emerging broadband wireless technology based on the IEEE 802.16 standard [16; 17]. The core 802.16 specification is a standard for broadband wireless access systems operating at radio frequencies between 2 GHz and 11 GHz for non-line-of-sight operation and between 10 GHz and 66 GHz for line-of-sight operation. Data rates of around 40 Mbps will be available for fixed users and 15 Mbps for mobile users, with a range of several kilometers. Many manufacturers of laptops and PDAs (personal digital assistants) are planning to incorporate WiMax once it becomes available to satisfy demand for constant Internet access and email exchange from any location. WiMax will compete with wireless LAN, cellular services, and possibly wireline services like cable and DSL (digital subscriber line). The ability of WiMax to challenge or supplant these systems will depend on its relative performance and cost, which remain to be seen.

### 1.4.6 Paging Systems

Paging systems broadcast a short paging message simultaneously from many terrestrial stations or satellites transmitting at very high power (hundreds of watts to kilowatts). Systems with terrestrial transmitters are typically localized to a particular geographic area, such as a city or metropolitan region, while geosynchronous satellite transmitters provide nationwide international coverage. In both types of systems, no location management or routing information is needed because the paging message is broadcast over the entire coverage area. The high complexity and power of the paging transmitters allows low-complexity, low-power receivers.

pocket paging receivers capable of long usage times from small and lightweight batteries. In addition, the high transmit power allows paging signals to easily penetrate buildings. Paging service also costs less than cellular service, both for the initial device and for monthly usage charge, although this price advantage has declined considerably in recent years as cellular prices dropped. The low cost, small and lightweight handsets, long battery life, and ability of paging devices to work almost anywhere indoors or outdoors are the reasons for their appeal.

Early radio paging systems were analog 1-bit messages signaling a user that someone was trying to reach him or her. These systems required callback over a landline telephone to obtain the phone number of the paging party. The system evolved to allow a short text message, including a phone number and brief text, to be sent to the paged user as well. Early paging systems were initially extremely successful, with a peak of 50 million subscribers in the United States alone. However, their popularity began to wane with the widespread penetration and competitive cost of cellular telephone systems. Eventually the competition from cellular phones forced paging systems to provide new capabilities. Some implemented "answer-back" capability (i.e., two-way communication). This required a major redesign of the pager because now it needed to transmit signals in addition to receiving signals, and the transmission distance to a satellite or base station can be very large. Paging companies also teamed up with palmtop computer makers to incorporate paging functions into these devices [18]. Despite these developments, the market for paging devices has shrunk considerably, although there is still a niche market among doctors and other professionals who must be reachable anywhere.

#### 1.4.7 Satellite Networks

Commercial satellite systems are another major component of the wireless communication infrastructure [2; 3]. Geosynchronous systems include Inmarsat and OmniTRACS. The former is geared mainly for analog voice transmission from remote locations. For example, it is commonly used by journalists to provide live reporting from war zones. The first-generation Inmarsat-A system was designed for large (1-m parabolic dish antenna) and rather expensive terminals. Newer generations of Inmarsats use digital techniques to enable smaller and less expensive terminals, about the size of a briefcase. Qualcomm's OmniTRACS provides two-way communications as well as location positioning. The system is used primarily for alphanumeric messaging and location tracking of trucking fleets. There are several difficulties in providing voice and data services over geosynchronous satellites. It takes a great deal of power to reach these satellites, so handsets are typically large and bulky. In addition, there is a large round-trip propagation delay; this delay is quite noticeable in two-way voice communication. Geosynchronous satellites also have fairly low data rates of less than 10 kbps. For these reasons, lower-orbit LEO satellites were thought to be a better match for voice and data communications.

LEO systems require approximately 30–80 satellites to provide global coverage. Plans for deploying such constellations were widespread in the late 1990s. One of the most ambitious of these systems, the Iridium constellation, was launched at that time. However, the cost to build, launch, and maintain these satellites is much higher than costs for terrestrial base stations. Although these LEO systems can certainly complement terrestrial systems in low-population areas and are also appealing to travelers desiring just one handset and

## 16.6 ENERGY-CONSTRAINED NETWORKS

separating the cooperating nodes. When there is less of a difference between the separation of the cooperating nodes and the transmission distance between these clusters, the energy cost required for the local exchange of information exceeds the energy benefits of cooperating. Cooperative MIMO is one form of cooperative diversity. Others were discussed in Section 16.3.3, and these other techniques may provide energy savings comparable to or exceeding those of cooperative MIMO, depending on the network topology.

### 16.6.3 Access, Routing, and Sleeping

Random access schemes can be made more energy efficient by (i) minimizing collisions and the resulting retransmissions and (ii) optimizing transmit power to the minimum required for successful transmission. One way to reduce collisions is to increase error protection, but collisions become more frequent [111]. Alternatively, adaptively minimizing power through power probing as part of the random access protocol has been shown to significantly increase energy efficiency [111; 38]. Another method for energy-efficient access is to formulate the distributed access problem using a game-theoretic approach, where energy and delay are associated with the game [112]. Several different approaches to energy-efficient access have been evaluated in [113]. However, no clear winner emerged because the performance of each protocol is highly dependent on channel characteristics. Delay and fairness constraints can be incorporated into an energy-efficient access framework, as investigated in [114]. Most of these techniques avoid collisions through a version of TDMA, although setting up centralized access under distributed control can lead to large delays.

If users have long strings of packets or a continuous stream of data, then random access works poorly since most transmissions result in collisions. Hence channels must be assigned to users in a more systematic fashion by transmission scheduling. Energy constraints add a new wrinkle to scheduling optimization. In [100] it was shown that the energy required to send a bit is minimized by transmitting it over all available bandwidth and time dimensions. However, when multiple users wish to access the channel, the system time and bandwidth resources must be shared among all users. More recent work has investigated optimal scheduling algorithms to minimize transmit energy for multiple users sharing a channel [115]. In this work, scheduling was optimized to minimize the transmission energy required by each user subject to a deadline or delay constraint. The energy minimization was based on continuously varying packet transmission time (and corresponding energy consumption) to match the delay constraints of the data. This scheme was shown to be significantly more energy efficient than a deterministic schedule with the same deadline constraint.

Energy-constrained networks also require routing protocols that optimize routes relative to energy consumption. If the rate of energy consumption is not evenly distributed across nodes then some nodes may expire sooner than others, leading to a partitioning of the network. Routing can be optimized to minimize end-to-end energy consumption by applying the standard optimization procedure described in Section 16.3.3, with energy per hop (in the presence of congestion or delay) as the hop cost [116]. Alternatively, the routes can be computed based on costs associated with the batteries in each node – for example, maximizing the minimum battery lifetime across all nodes in the network [116; 117]. Different cost functions to optimize energy-constrained routing were evaluated via simulation in [116] and were all roughly equivalent. The cost function can also be extended to include the traditional metric of

along with energy [118]. This method allows the route optimization to trade off between delay and energy consumption through different weighting of their respective contributions to the overall cost function. Note that computation and dissemination of routing tables entail significant cost; this can be avoided by routing traffic geographically (i.e., in the general direction of its destination), which requires little advance computation [119].

Energy-constrained nodes consume significant power even in standby mode, when they are just passive participants in the network with minimal exchange of data to maintain network status. The paging industry developed a solution to this problem several decades ago by scheduling "sleep" periods for pagers. The basic idea is that each pager need only listen for transmissions during certain short periods of time. This is a simple solution to implement when a central controller is available, but it is less obvious how to implement such strategies within the framework of distributed network control. Sleep decisions must take into account network connectivity, so it follows that these decisions are local but not autonomous. Mechanisms that support such decisions can be based on neighbor discovery coupled with heuristics for ordering decisions within the neighborhood. In a given area, the opportunity for sleep should be circulated among the nodes, ensuring that connectivity is not lost through the coincidence of several simultaneous decisions to sleep.

#### 16.6.4 Cross-Layer Design under Energy Constraints

The unique attributes of energy-constrained networks make them prime candidates for cross-layer design. If node batteries cannot be recharged, then each node can transmit only a finite number of bits before it dies, after which time it is no longer available to perform its intended function (e.g. sensing) or to participate in network activities such as routing. Thus, energy must be used judiciously across all layers of the protocol stack in order to prolong node lifetime and meet application requirements.

Energy efficiency at all layers of the protocol stack typically imposes trade-offs between energy consumption, delay, and throughput [120]. However, at any given layer, the optimal operating point on this trade-off curve must be driven by considerations at higher layers. For example, if a node transmits slowly then it conserves transmit energy, but this compromises access for other nodes and increases end-to-end delay. A routing protocol may use a centrally located node for energy-efficient routing, but this will increase congestion and delay on that route and also burn up that node's battery energy quickly, thereby removing it from the network. Ultimately the trade-offs between energy, delay, throughput, and node lifetime must be optimized relative to the application requirements. An emergency response operation needs on-the-scene information quickly, but typically the network supporting local information exchange need only last a few hours or days. In contrast, a sensor network embedded into the concrete of a bridge to measure stress and strain must last decades, though the information need only be collected every day or week.

#### 16.6.5 Capacity per Unit Energy

When transmit energy is constrained, it is not possible to transmit any finite number of bits with asymptotically small error probability. This is easy to see intuitively by considering the transmission of a single bit. The only way to ensure that two different values in a signal space (representing the two possible bit values) can be decoded with arbitrarily small

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