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Attachment Transmission in Wireless Networks



Springer

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Preface

Wireless penetration has witnessed explosive growth over the last two decades. Accordingly, wireless devices have become much denser per unit area, resulting in an overcrowded usage of wireless resources. To avoid radio interferences and packet collisions, wireless stations have to exchange control messages to coordinate well. The existing wisdoms of conveying control messages could be classified into three categories: explicit, implicit, or hybrid. However, all these methods consume valuable communication resources, for example, control frames and data packets are transmitted in an alternate manner, either in time domain or in frequency domain, which introduces massive coordination overheads. Therefore, providing cost-effective coordination mechanisms becomes a critical problem in wireless design.

In this book, we present a novel PHY layer technique termed Attachment Transmission, which provides an extra control panel to deliver control messages with minimum overhead. In a traditional transmission paradigm, control messages compete for communication resources with data packets. On the contrary, attachment transmission enables control messages to be transmitted along with data packets, without degrading the effective throughput of the original data packets. In addition to the basic design, this book presents the design challenges, the theoretical model, and demonstrates the implementation on a GNU radio testbed. Extensive experiments demonstrate that attachment transmission is capable of exploiting and utilizing channel redundancy to deliver control messages, thus providing significant support to numerous higher layer applications.

To demonstrate the effectiveness of the attachment transmission, we apply it to a number of classic problems in wireless networks, including the multichannel allocation problem in OFDMA-based networks, the hidden and exposed terminal problems in ad hoc networks, and the multiple access problem in wireless local area networks (WLANs). For the multichannel allocation problem, attachment transmission provides cost-effective identifier signals. These identifiers help mobile stations learn the channel allocation strategy by themselves, and thus achieve cooperation without coordination. For hidden and exposed terminal problems, attachment transmission offers accurate Channel Usage Information (CUI) on who

is transmitting or receiving nearby. Therefore, wireless stations can identify hidden and exposed nodes in real time, and thus make the right channel access decisions. For the multiple access problem, wireless clients deliver transmission requests to the access point (AP) through attachments. Since the requests are “attached” on high speed data transmission, control messages will not occupy any resources, such as the communication channel or the transmission air time. In this way we can achieve lightweight control in WLANs. Besides the above scenarios, we believe that attachment transmission can be further exploited and benefit more communication systems.

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Contents

- 1 Introduction** 1
 - 1.1 Introduction 1
 - 1.2 Outline 4
 - References 5
- 2 Recent Advances in Wireless Communications** 7
 - 2.1 OFDM/OFDMA Preliminary 7
 - 2.1.1 OFDM Basis 7
 - 2.1.2 OFDMA Basis 9
 - 2.2 PHY-Layer Assist Communication Paradigms 10
 - 2.3 Review of Classic Problems in Wireless Networks 10
 - 2.3.1 Coordination Approaches for Wireless Communications 11
 - 2.3.2 Multichannel Allocation Problem 11
 - 2.3.3 Hidden and Exposed Terminal Problems 12
 - References 13
- 3 Attachment Transmission** 17
 - 3.1 Overview and Design Challenges 17
 - 3.2 Attachment Modulation and Demodulation 18
 - 3.2.1 Attachment Modulation 18
 - 3.3 Attachment Demodulation 19
 - 3.4 Attachment Cancelation and Data Recovery 20
 - 3.5 Theoretical Analysis 21
 - 3.5.1 Reliability of Data Transmission 22
 - 3.5.2 Feasibility of Attachment Transmission 23
 - 3.6 Performance Evaluation 24
 - 3.6.1 System Implementation 24
 - 3.6.2 Reliability of Data Transmission 25
 - 3.6.3 Feasibility of Attachment Transmission 27
 - References 28

4 Applications to Classic Problems	29
4.1 Harmless Attachment for Multiple Access in WLANs	29
4.1.1 Harmless Attachment Overview	30
4.1.2 System Architecture	30
4.1.3 Points of Discussion	31
4.1.4 Performance Evaluation	32
4.2 Attachment Learning for Multichannel Allocation	34
4.2.1 Attachment Learning Overview	35
4.2.2 Resource Allocation Game	36
4.2.3 System Architecture	40
4.2.4 Performance Evaluation	43
4.3 Attachment Sense for Hidden and Exposed Terminals	46
4.3.1 Attachment Sense Overview	47
4.3.2 Attachment Format	48
4.3.3 System Architecture	49
4.3.4 Points of Discussion	50
4.3.5 Performance Evaluation	51
4.4 Performance Evaluation for Variable Bit-Rates	55
References	56
5 Conclusion and Future Work	59
5.1 Conclusion	59
5.2 More Opportunities in Attachment Transmission	60
5.2.1 Attachment Transmission for QoS Control	60
5.2.2 Attachment Transmission for Coordination in CRNs	60
References	61
Index	63

Acronyms

ACK	Acknowledge
AST	Access Strategy Table
AT	Attachment Transmission
AP	Access Point
BAM	Binary Amplitude Modulation
CAS	Carrier Allocation Scheme
CE	Correlated Equilibrium
CP	Cyclic Prefix
CSMA	Carrier Sense Multiple Access
CSMA/CA	Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Avoidance
CUI	Channel Usage Information
CRF	Current Receiver Field
CRN	Cognitive Radio Network
CSF	Current Sender Field
CTL	Current Transmission List
CVF	Current Victim Field
ET	Exposed Terminal
FFT	Fast Fourier Transform
FSK	Frequency Shift Keying
HT	Hidden Terminal
IC	Interference Cancelation
IFFT	Inverse Fast Fourier Transform
MAC	Media Access Control
MAI	Multiple Access Interference
MCM	Multi-Carrier Modulation
MS	Mobile Station
MTU	Maximal Transmit Unit
NE	Nash Equilibrium
NHL	Neighborhood Hash List
OFDM	Orthogonal Frequency-Division Multiplexing
OFDMA	Orthogonal Frequency-Division Multiple Access

PRR	Packet Reception Rate
Qos	Quality of Service
RTS/CTS	Request To Send/Clear To Send
SLA	Service Level Agreement
WLAN	Wireless Local Area Network
WMAN	Wireless Metropolitan Area network