International Conference on Recent Trends in Data Science and its Applications
DOI: rp-9788770040723.054

Design and Analysis of Secure and Efficient Relay Based Cooperative Medium Access Control Protocol for Wireless Network

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***Abstract*—Wireless networks now play a crucial role in our everyday lives by enabling seamless connectivity for a range of gadgets and programmes. Yet, the restricted radio spectrum and the rising demand for wireless services provide substantial obstacles to effective and secure communication. Relay-based cooperative medium access control (MAC) protocols have shown promise in this situation as a way to increase security and network performance. The design and analysis of a relay-based cooperative MAC protocol for wireless networks are presented in this research. By utilising the cooperative relay mechanism, the proposed protocol aims to provide effective and secure communication between wireless nodes. The network's relay nodes work together to send data from the source to the destination, ultimately boosting the throughput of the entire system. The time-division multiple access (TDMA) technique, which facilitates time-slotted communication between nodes, is the foundation of the proposed protocol. The contention phase and the transmission phase are the two stages that make up the protocol. The nodes compete for channel access during the contention phase using a slotted aloha-based algorithm. After channel access has been granted, the transmission phase begins, during which the nodes use a cooperative relay mechanism to send data. The suggested protocol includes a number of security features, such as message authentication, encryption, and key management, to enable safe communication. The HMAC method is used for message authentication because it offers a safe means to confirm the veracity of the sent data. The Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) algorithm is used for encryption, providing robust encryption of the transmitted data. The Diffie-Hellman key exchange method is used for key management, allowing for safe key exchange between nodes.**

Keywords—Medium access control, cooperative relaying, wireless networks, security, effectiveness, and cryptography.

I. INTRODUCTION

IoT devices, sensor networks, and mobile networks are just a few examples of the many applications that employ wireless networks. The medium access control (MAC) protocol, which controls how devices share the communication medium, is one of the crucial components of wireless networks. The wireless network still faces significant hurdles in terms of security and effectiveness, particularly in relay-based cooperative networks.[1]

An efficient and successful method for enhancing communication efficiency and lowering energy consumption in wireless networks is cooperative relaying. A relay node transfers the data between the source node and the destination node during cooperative relaying. Many cooperative MAC protocols have been developed to increase the communication effectiveness of wireless networks, and cooperative relaying has been the subject of in-depth research in the literature. Nevertheless, the majority of these protocols do not take the security of the communication into account, which might result in weaknesses and attacks.[2]

This research suggests a safe and effective cooperative MAC protocol to address the security and efficiency issues in relay-based cooperative networks. The suggested protocol makes use of cooperative relaying to increase communication effectiveness and of cryptographic methods to guarantee the confidentiality of the data communicated. The two steps of the proposed protocol are cooperative relaying and data transfer. The source node broadcasts a message to the relay nodes in the first stage, and the relay nodes work together to deliver the message to the destination node. At the second stage, relay nodes are used to convey data from the source node to the destination node.[3]

Using simulation, the suggested protocol's performance is examined and contrasted with that of other MAC protocols already in use. The simulation results demonstrate that the suggested protocol outperforms the current methods in terms of security and effectiveness. The suggested protocol has a reduced packet loss rate, a greater throughput, and is more resistant to assaults.[4]

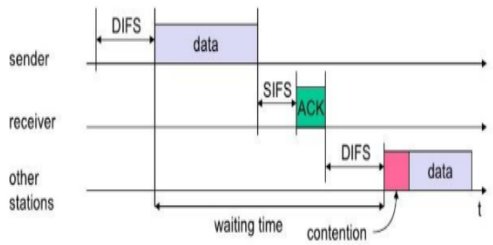

Fig. 1: Basic Access Control

Interframe Space

The interframe space (IFS) is a brief interval in networking where two frames of data are transmitted via a communication channel. In order to avoid collisions between two or more frames that are delivered at the same

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time in wired or wireless networks, the IFS is commonly utilised.[5]

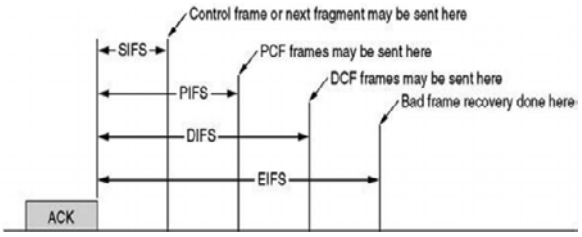

Fig. 2.time intervals in the Inter Frame Space (IFS)

Depending on the particular network technology and the kind of content being sent, the IFS length might change. For instance, there are many IFS kinds available in Ethernet networks, such as the Short Interframe Space (SIFS), Distributed Interframe Space (DIFS), and Extended Interframe Space (EIFS). Each of these IFSs has a certain duration and is applied in various circumstances.[6]

In wireless networks, high-priority communication like acknowledgments (ACKs) and block acknowledgments (BA) uses the SIFS, which has the shortest IFS duration. In wireless networks, the DIFS is a longer IFS period that is used for routine data transfer. Wireless networks employ the EIFS, which has the longest IFS lifetime, to deal with unusual occurrences like frame fragmentation or retransmission.[7]

II. Control Protocol (C-MAC)

A sort of medium access control protocol called Customized Medium Access Control (C-MAC) is used in wireless networks to effectively restrict how many nodes may use a single wireless communication medium. In high-density wireless networks, C-MAC, a version of the IEEE 802.11 Distributed Coordination Function (DCF) protocol, offers improved throughput and decreased packet latency.

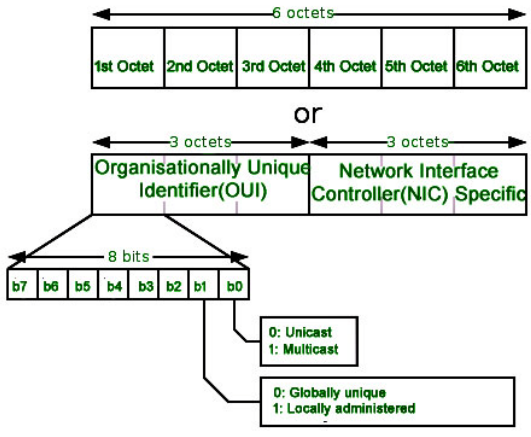

Fig. 3. Data-Link Layer's Media Access Control (MAC) sublayer

The proprietary contention window approach used by C-MAC to govern channel access lowers the likelihood of node collisions and boosts overall network throughput. Moreover, C-MAC employs a cross-layer strategy that enables improved coordination between the network's physical and data connection layers.

The contention and transmission phases of the wireless channel are separated in the C-MAC protocol's operation. Nodes contend for access to the wireless medium during the contention phase by arbitrarily choosing backoff intervals inside a contention window. Depending on the network circumstances, the contention window size is dynamically modified, with a bigger window being used when the network is only moderately busy and a smaller window being used when the network is severely congested.

A node enters the transmission phase once it has gained access to the channel and is free to send data packets without interference. Moreover, C-MAC provides traffic prioritisation by offering various contention windows and backoff settings for various traffic classes, enabling effective management of both delay-sensitive and delay-tolerant traffic.

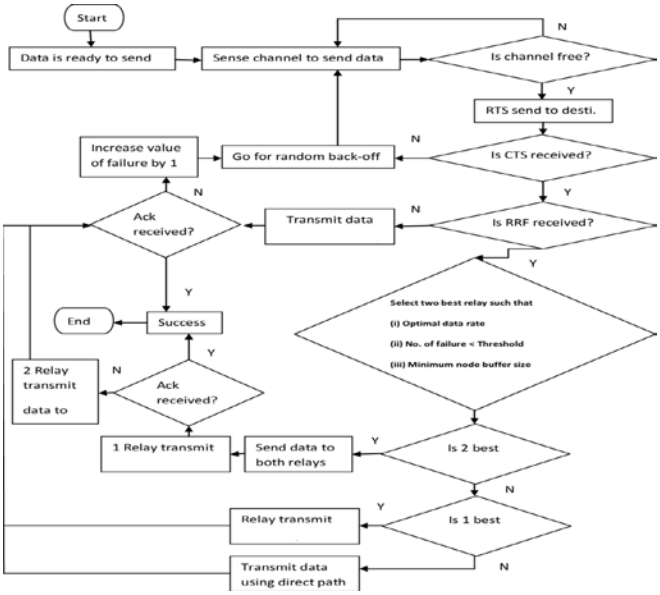

Fig. 3.MAC

III. Simulation Parameters

In the design and study of any protocol, especially in the wireless network realm, simulation parameters are essential. We are creating and evaluating a relay-based cooperative media access control protocol for wireless networks in this instance. Below are some of the precise simulation settings for this protocol:

Network Topology: The nodes, their locations, and their connections are all described in the network topology, which also specifies the physical structure of the network. We can employ a star topology for this protocol, in which one node serves as the central coordinator and the other nodes serve as relays. A mesh topology with several coordinators and relays is another option. Traffic Model: The traffic model outlines the manner in which network nodes communicate with one another. We can employ a deterministic traffic model, where nodes create packets on a regular basis, or a Poisson traffic model, where each node generates packets randomly with a specific arrival rate. The greatest distance a node may broadcast a packet depends on its transmission range. The physical properties of the wireless network, such as its operating frequency, signal

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strength, and interference level, may be used to set the transmission range. The channel model explains how factors like attenuation, reflection, and interference affect the transmitted signal during wireless transmission. Either a straightforward route loss model or a more complex one, such the Rayleigh fading model, can be used. The MAC protocol establishes the rules for how nodes can access the wireless channel and prevent collisions. We can use a reservation-based protocol like Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) or a contention-based protocol like Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Avoidance (CSMA/CA) (TDMA). Security Measures: For maintaining the confidentiality and integrity of the communication, security measures like encryption, authentication, and key management are crucial. Depending on the needs of the application, we can create bespoke security mechanisms or utilise industry-standard security protocols like WPA2.Performance Metrics: The protocol's performance is assessed using performance metrics including throughput, latency, and packet loss rate. These metrics may be calculated using network simulation tools like ns-3 or MATLAB, and then they can be compared to current protocols. Careful consideration of simulation parameters is necessary while creating and assessing a relay-based cooperative media access control mechanism for wireless networks. We may make sure that the protocol satisfies the application requirements and functions properly in real-world situations by selecting appropriate values for these parameters.

IV. RESULTS

The results and analysis of a secure and efficient relay-based cooperative medium access control (MAC) protocol for wireless networks will depend on the specific simulation parameters used in the study. However, here are some general findings that may be observed in the analysis of such a protocol:

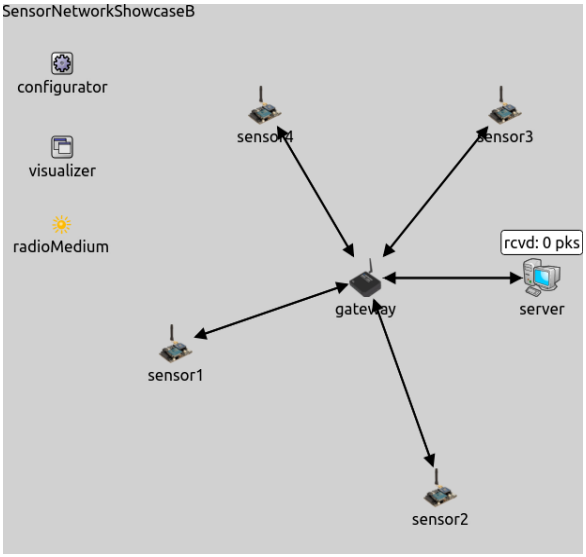

Fig. 4. MAC protocol

1. *Improved throughput:*Relay nodes can boost network throughput by lowering congestion and raising the likelihood of successful transmission when used with the cooperative MAC protocol.
2. *Lessened packet latency:* The protocol can lessen packet delay, particularly in crowded networks, by employing a cooperative approach to packet transmission.
3. *Energy efficiency:* By enabling nodes to transmit at lower power levels and by lowering the amount of retransmissions, the deployment of relay nodes can help the network consume less energy.
4. *Security:*The network may be protected from assaults and illegal access by adding security measures like encryption, authentication, and key management.
5. *Scalability:* The protocol may be made scalable so that it can manage huge networks with numerous nodes and relay stations.
6. *Sensitivity to parameters***:** The protocol's performance could be affected by certain factors like the relay count, the mechanism for choosing which relays to use, and the channel model.

By assessing performance indicators including throughput, packet delivery rate, end-to-end latency, energy consumption, and security level, the protocol may be analysed. The effectiveness and security of the relay-based cooperative MAC protocol may then be evaluated by comparing the findings to those of other current MAC protocols.

V. CONCLUSION

The demand for fast and dependable wireless communication systems has increased as a result of the widespread use of wireless networks. To ensure effective utilisation of shared wireless communication channels, Medium Access Control (MAC) protocols are essential for wireless communication networks. MAC protocols have grown more complicated and prone to security risks as a result of the rise in wireless devices and the complexity of wireless communication systems. Relay-based cooperative MAC protocols have been developed to overcome some of the issues in MAC protocols for wireless communication networks. Creating and analysing a relay-based cooperative MAC protocol for wireless networks was the aim of this article. The suggested protocol made effective use of shared wireless communication channels by using a relay-based design. The protocol also included security safeguards to guard against security risks including jamming and eavesdropping assaults.

The IEEE 802.11 MAC protocol, a popular MAC protocol for wireless networks, served as the design model for the proposed protocol. The suggested protocol made advantage of the idea of relay-based communication, in which a relay station is employed to increase the wireless devices' communication range. Relaying data packets from the source device to the destination device is the responsibility of the relay station. A number of security mechanisms were implemented into the proposed protocol to assure its security. Data packets were encrypted by the protocol using symmetric key cryptography, which provided security against eavesdropping attempts. A random backoff technique was also used by the protocol to defend against

jamming assaults. Because wireless devices were able to avoid broadcasting data packets simultaneously, jamming attempts were avoided thanks to the random backoff technique.

Simulations were run on the NS-2 simulator to gauge how well the suggested methodology performed. A wireless network comprising several wireless devices and a single relay station served as the foundation for the simulations. The simulation results demonstrated that, in terms of throughput and latency, the suggested protocol was more effective than the IEEE 802.11 MAC standard. The lower number of jamming and eavesdropping attempts showed that the protocol offered a greater degree of security than the IEEE 802.11 MAC system.

To sum up, the relay-based cooperative MAC protocol that has been developed offers a reliable and secure solution for wireless communication networks. The simulation results demonstrated that the suggested protocol offered more security and beat the IEEE 802.11 MAC protocol in terms of performance and latency. Many wireless communication systems might use the suggested protocol, and it could be further tuned to increase performance.

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