

MAC Protocols for sensing systems

Internet of Things a.a. 2018/2019

Un. of Rome "La Sapienza"

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Energy-efficient MAC protocols

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W. Ye, J. Heidemann, D. Estrin “An energy efficient MAC Protocol for Wireless Sensor Networks”, IEEE Infocom 2002

Synchronized MAC based on duty cycle



1) Energy efficiency

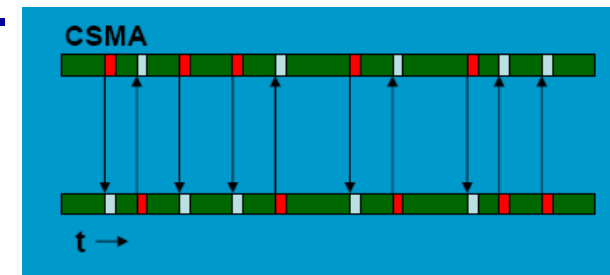
- Sources of energy waste

- *collision*. When a transmitted packet is corrupted it has to be discarded, and the follow-on retransmissions increase energy consumption. Collisions also increase latency.
- *overhearing*, meaning that a node picks up packets that are addressed to other nodes.
- *control packet overhead*
- *idle listening*, i.e., listening to receive possible traffic that is not sent (major source of energy consumption).

2) End-to-end latency

3) Fairness

4) Network capacity/scalability (to density and traffic)



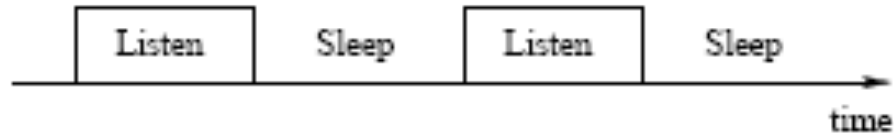


Fig. 1. Periodic listen and sleep.

- Nodes follow an awake/asleep schedule with a given duty cycle d
- In S-MAC nodes schedule are synchronized
 - all nodes transmit in the same slot and receive in the same slot if possible (**WHICH ARE THE PROS? WHICH ARE THE CONS?**)

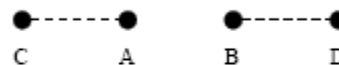


Fig. 2. Neighboring nodes A and B have different schedules. They synchronize with nodes C and D respectively.

- Periodic exchange of information is needed to resynch in case of clock drifts (if resynch every few tens seconds drifts remain limited)



- Before a node starts its periodic «listen and sleep» activity, it needs to choose a schedule and broadcast it to its immediate neighbors (schedule exchange).
 - at start up node x listens for some random time
 - ✓ if x receives a SYN from another node y, it synchronizes to its schedule (x is a *follower*). It waits for a random delay t_d and rebroadcasts its schedule.
 - follower of the same synchronizer do not collide (or collide with low prob) thanks to t_d
 - ✓ otherwise node x selects a random time T to sleep before waking up again and sends this value T to neighbors in a SYN (x therefore becomes a *synchronizer*)
 - ✓ if a node receives a different schedule after it selects its own, which is followed by more than one device, it adopts both schedules, broadcasting the new one
 - “border nodes” where two synch waves meet are the ones with multiple schedules
 - » they consume more energy
- Each node also maintains a *schedule table* that stores the schedules of all its known neighbors.



- It waits for the destination to be ON and sends the packet following CSMA/CA
 - performs carrier sense for a random interval
 - if no transmission within this interval the floor is taken (physical carrier sense) to transmit RTS/CTS
 - if the RTS/CTS is successful (virtual carrier sensing) DATA is sent which is followed by an ACK
 - NAVs are used for deciding for how long nodes should go to sleep before they can try to access again in case neighbors are transmitting
 - to better exploit the time needed to handshake (RTS/CTS) bursts of packets are transmitted if more packets are in queue for the same destination
 - ✓ Limited packet size and transmission of ACKs following reception avoids hidden terminal problem if nodes waking up wait for some limited time before transmitting



- Some initially exchanged SYN maybe lost e.g. due to collision, or new nodes maybe added

- Clock drifts

How do we keep nodes schedules up to date and synchronized?

- A node periodically sends a SYN.
- For nodes to receive SYN and DATA listen times are divided into two intervals

- Some initially exchanged SYN maybe lost e.g. due to collision, (
 - Clock drift
- How do we |
synchroni
- A node p
 - For node divided in

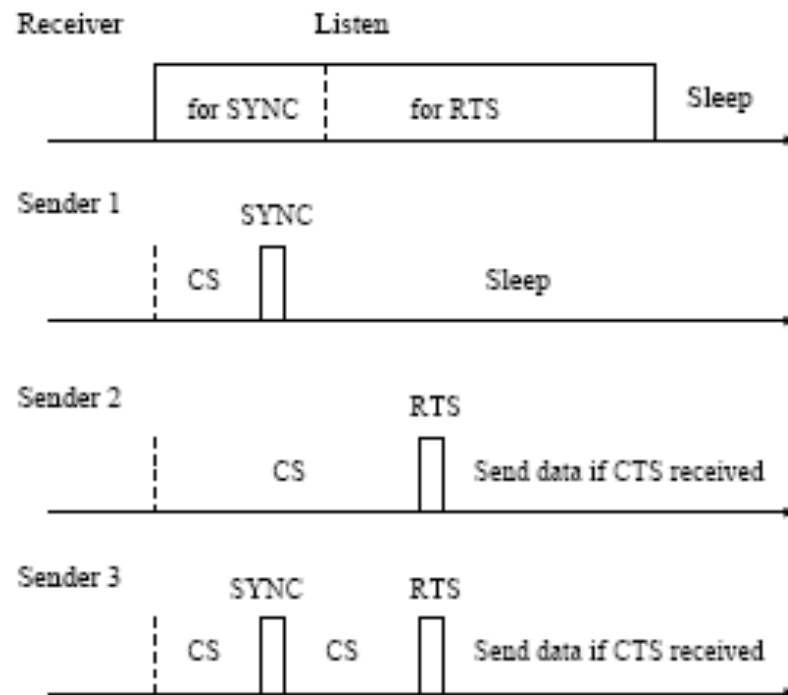


Fig. 3. Timing relationship between a receiver and different senders. CS stands for carrier sense.



- Needs synchronization
 - even if clock drifts are not a major problem synchronization adds control overhead which may impair long lifetimes (e.g., in those applications where communication needs are sporadic)
- Throughput is reduced since only the active part of the frame is used for communication
 - It is further reduced because tx/rx occur only during scheduled ON times (that are all synchronized)
- Latency increases since when a node generates a packet it has to wait for the next hop relay on time before the packet can be forwarded.



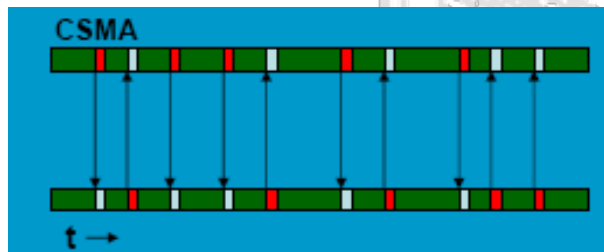
Tijs van Dam, Koen Langendoen “An adaptive energy efficient MAC Protocol for Wireless Sensor Networks”, ACM SenSys 2003

Synchronized MAC based on duty cycle





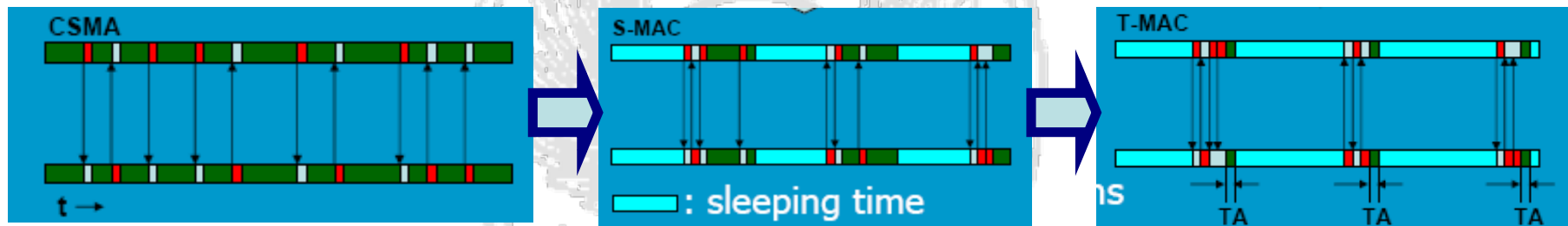
- Observation: In SMAC there are two critical parameters (the active time and the frame time)
 - a long frame time increases latency
 - given an active time the longer the frame time the lower the energy consumption
 - the active time should be dimensioned based on traffic: for a frame time the higher the traffic, the longer the active time should be



- In SMAC the two parameters are fixed
 - ✓ setting should depend on worst case
- in TMAC the frame time is fixed but the active time is dynamically adapted

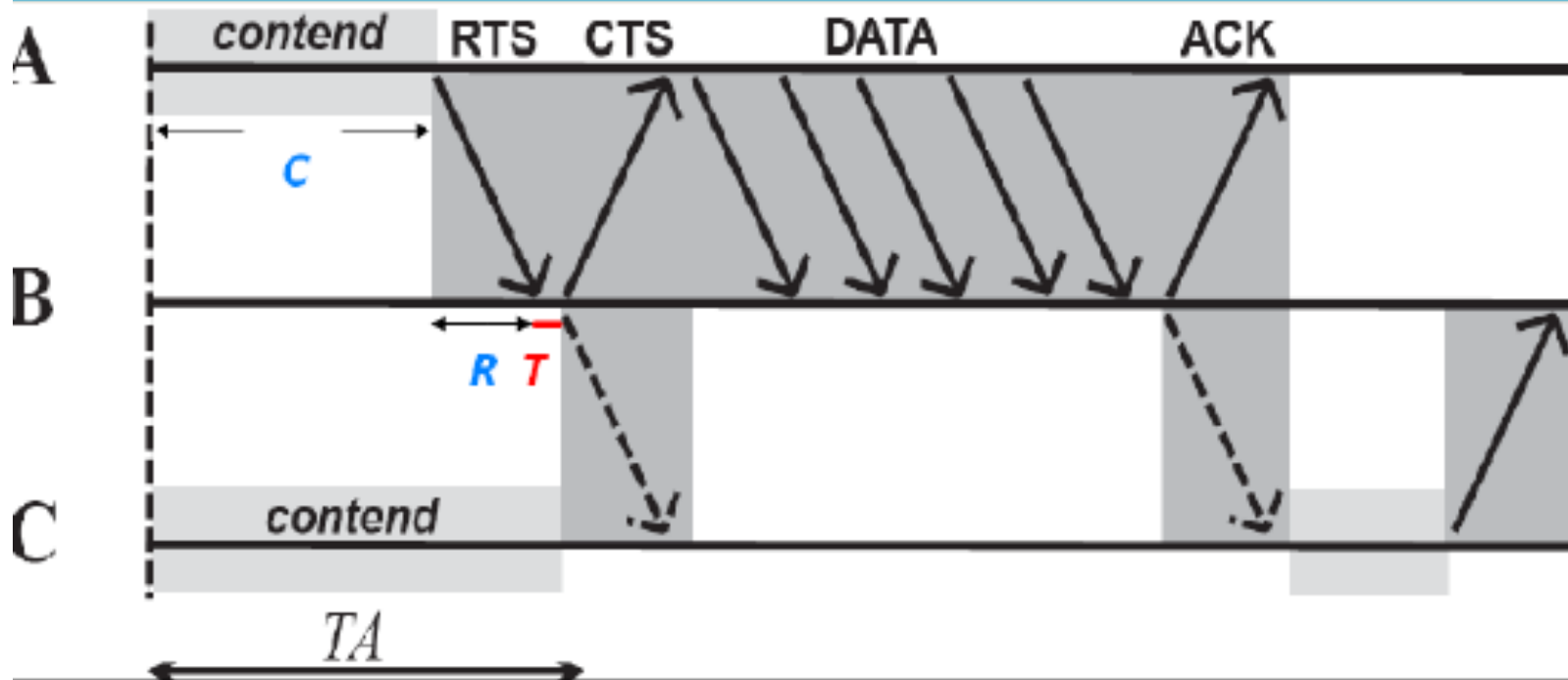


- Nodes synchronize their schedules using the SMAC virtual clustering approach.
- Within an active time CSMA/CA + back to back packet transmission in bursts are adopted
- Changes from S-MAC: if no transmission from neighbors for a time TA the active time is aborted and node goes to sleep



- TA timer is reset if: a) any data is received on the radio, b) communication (e.g, collision) is sensed on the radio, c) data are transmitted, d) RTS/CTS are exchanged by neighbors
 - ✓ A node should not go to sleep while its neighbors are still communicating since it maybe the receiver of a subsequent message

Determining of TA



- $TA > C+R+T$ (must be long enough to receive at least the start of the CTS packet)



- other changes from SMAC:
 - When a node sends an RTS but does not receive a CTS back this may be due to one of the following events:
 - ✓ 1) the RTS was not received due to collisions
 - ✓ 2) the receiving node cannot answer due to an RTS/CTS overheard
 - ✓ 3) the receiving node is sleepingIn cases 1-2) reducing the active time would be wrong
 - “a node should retry by resending the RTS at least twice before giving up and going to sleep”
 - early sleep may degrade throughput (while decreasing idle listening and energy consumption)
 - ✓ mechanisms introduced to signal to nodes there is traffic for them at the beginning of the active time to prevent them from going to sleep

Data gathering at the sink

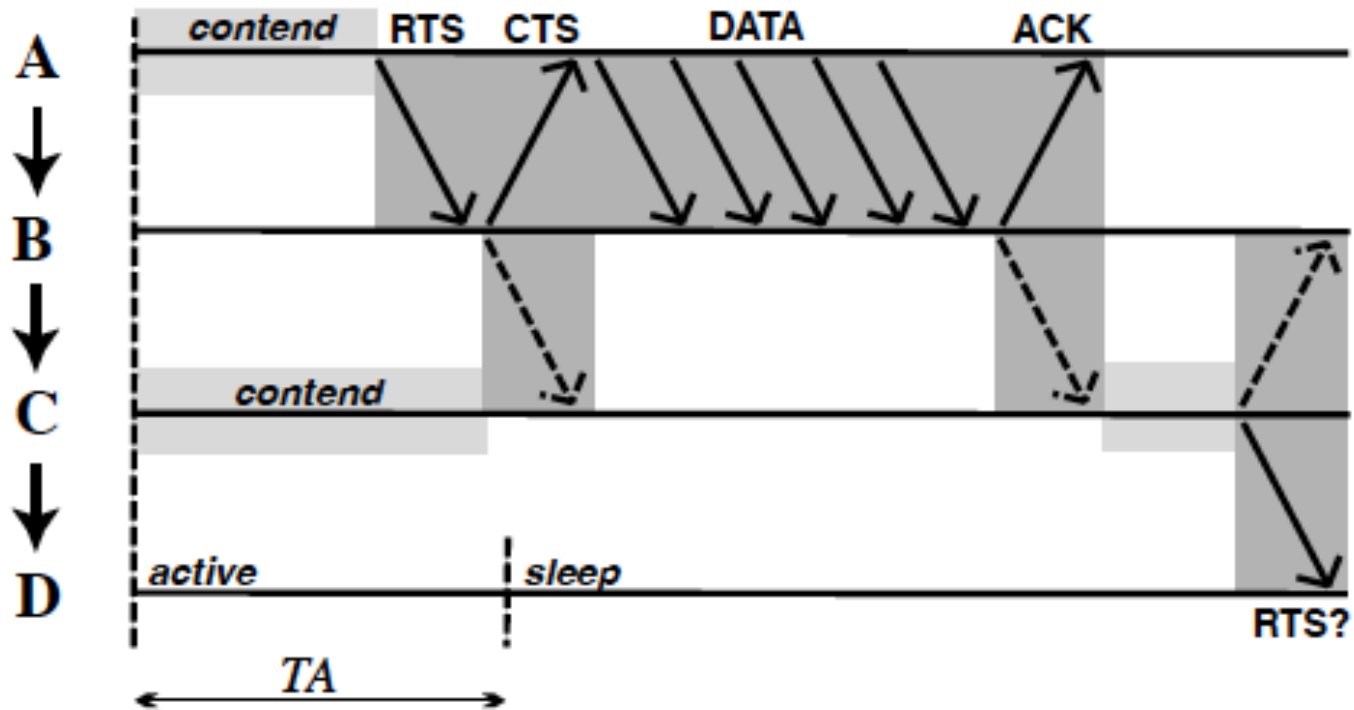


Figure 4: The *early sleeping* problem. Node D goes to sleep before C can send an RTS to it.

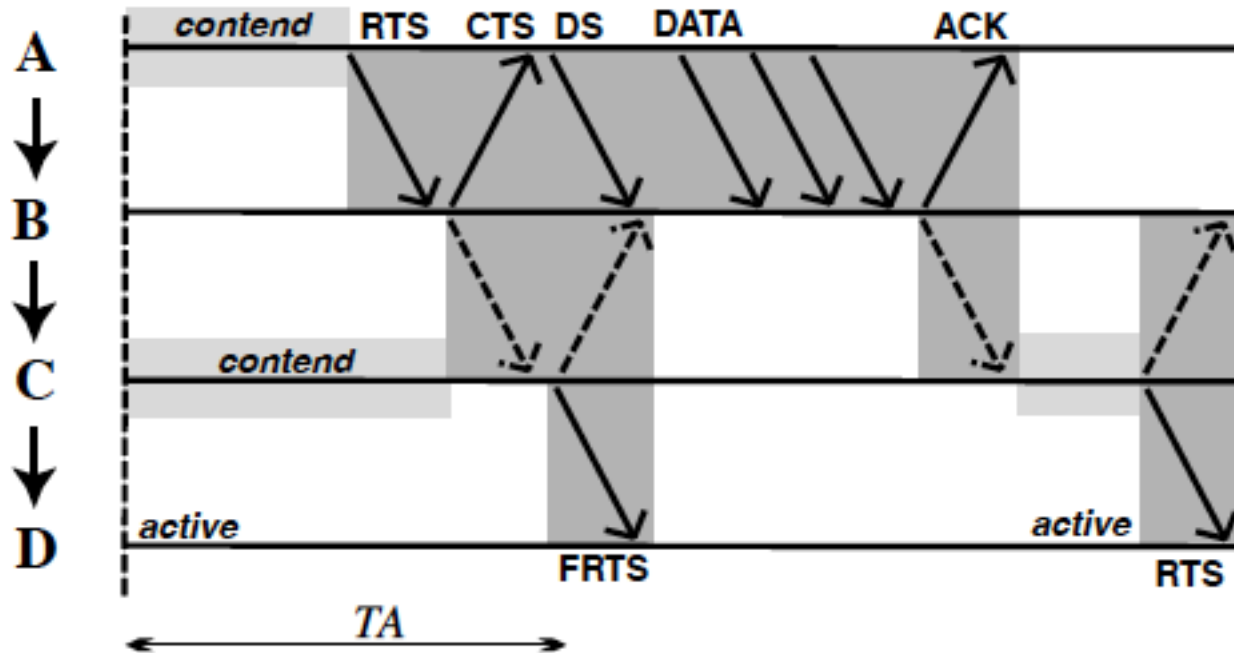


Figure 5: The future-request-to-send packet exchange keeps Node D awake.

The sender must wait before transmitting the real data that a FRTS is received. To maintain the channel floor in the meanwhile it transmits a dummy DS (Data Send) packet

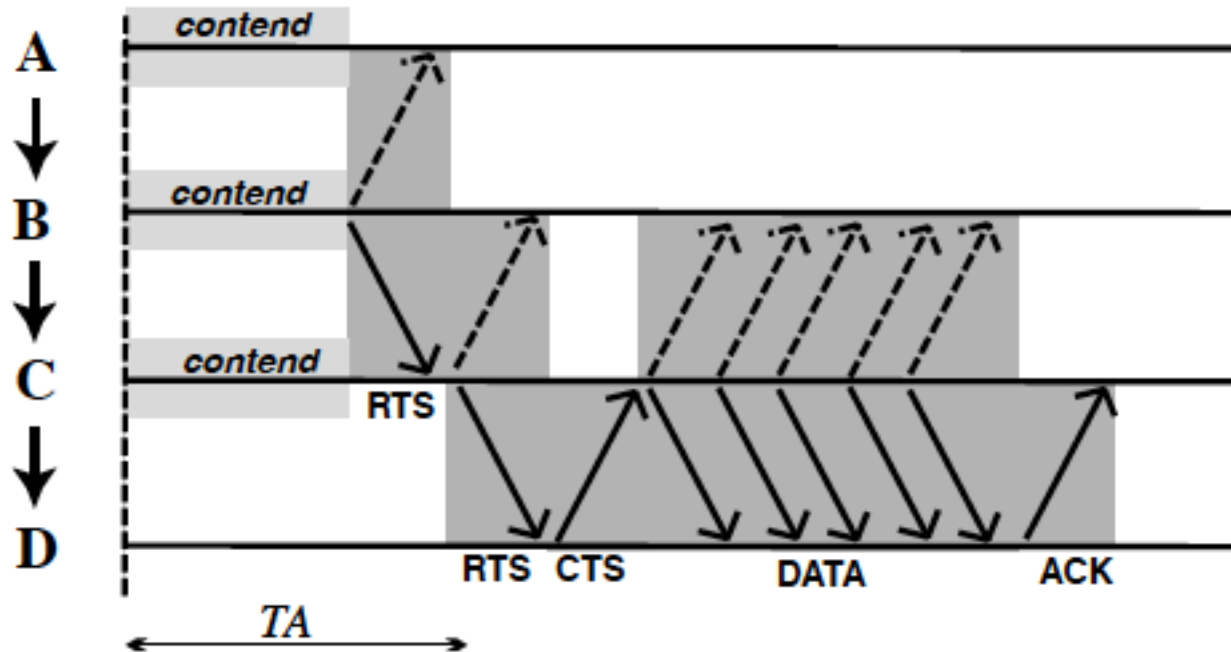
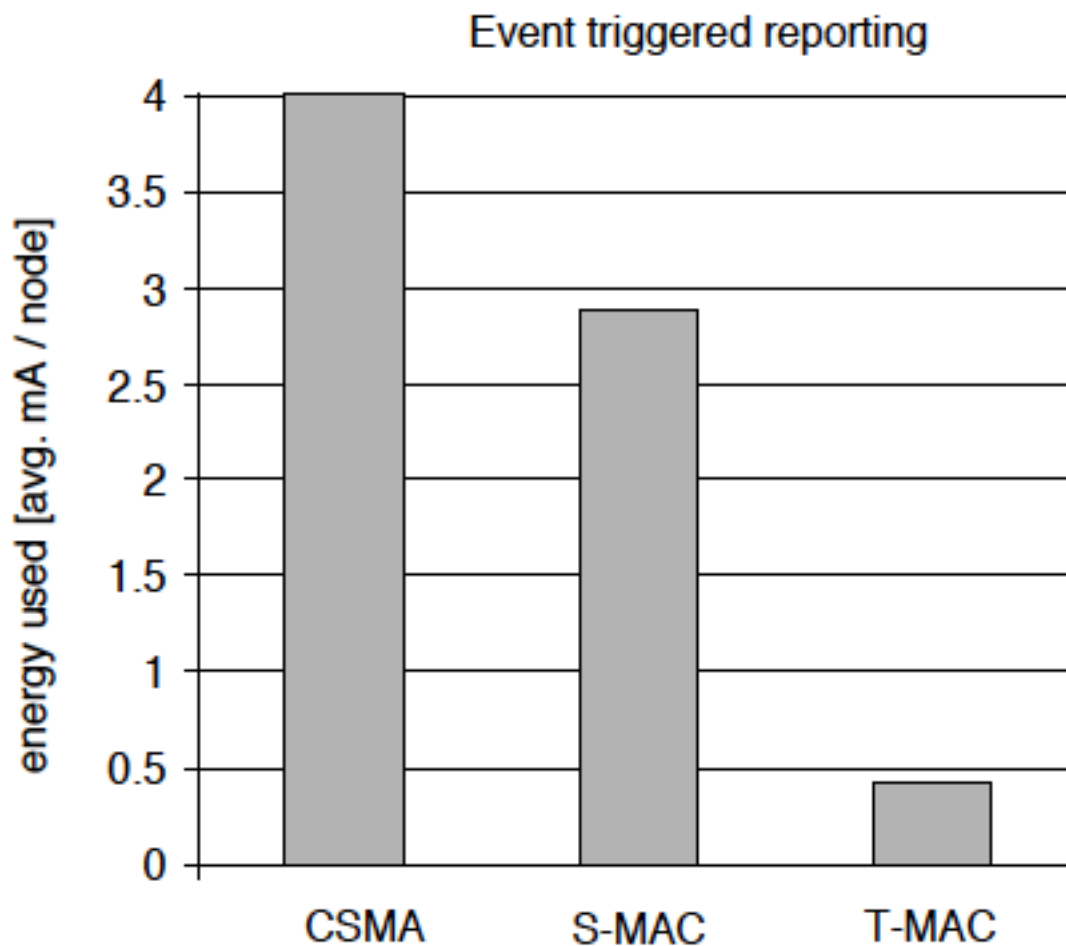


Figure 6: Taking priority upon receiving RTS.

Full buffer priority: upon receiving an RTS a node which has almost the buffer full instead of answering with a CTS sends immediately an RTS





BMAC (Berkeley Media Access Control)

- Polastre, Hill, Culler “Versatile Low Power Media Access for Wireless Sensor Networks” , ACM SenSys 2004
- Asynchronous MAC



Targets

- The MAC
- Should have low Power Operation
- Should perform effective Collision Avoidance
- Simple Implementation, Small Code and RAM Size
- Efficient Channel Utilization at Low and High Data Rates
- Reconfigurable by Network Protocols
- Tolerant to Changing RF/Networking Conditions
 - links can be dynamic
- Scalable to Large Numbers of Nodes



- For effective collision avoidance, a MAC protocol must be able to accurately determine if the channel is clear—Clear Channel Assessment or CCA
 - BMAC proposes a way to estimate the channel noise and to determine whether the channel is free (taking some samples and checking whether any of the sample is below the average noise level)
 - ✓ the proposed solution for channel assessment has been validated with experimental data
 - ✓ queue of RSSI samples (10), median of the samples used to compute an exponentially weighted moving average with decay factor α (0.06) \rightarrow noise floor estimation
 - ✓ CCA samples \rightarrow if no outlier out of 5 samples (outlier = below noise level) then busy; otherwise free



RECEIVER SIDE

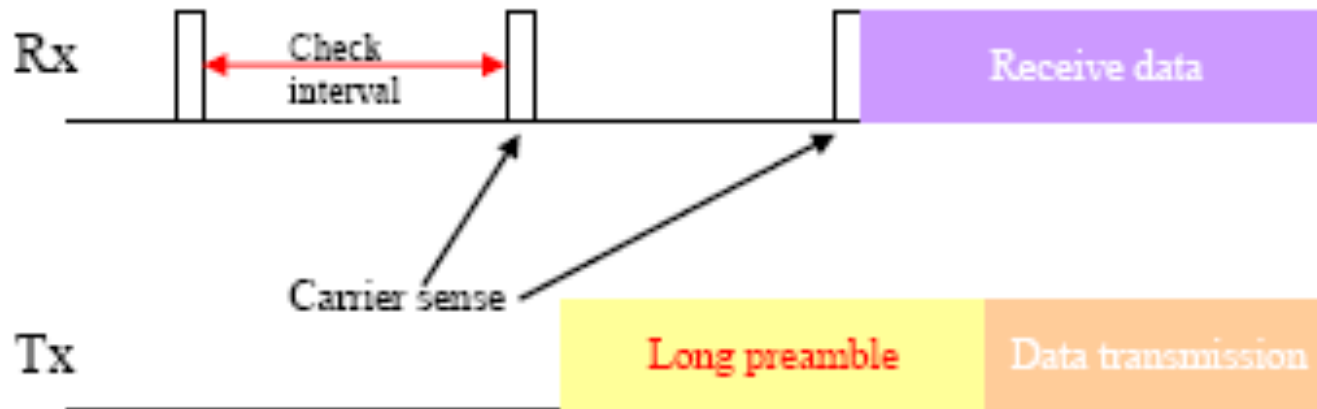
- B-MAC duty cycles the radio through periodic channel sampling, called Low Power Listening (LPL)
 - Each time the node wakes up, it turns on the radio and checks for **activity**. If activity is detected, the node powers up and stays awake for the time required to receive the incoming packet. After reception (or after a timeout expiration), the node returns to sleep.

TRANSMITTER SIDE

- The sender transmits a preamble, then the data
 - To reliably receive data, the preamble length is matched to the interval that the channel is checked for activity



Shifts most burden to the sender



Challenge

Check interval has to be short to ensure reasonable size preambles



XMAC

Buettner, Yee, Anderson, Han “X-MAC: A short preamble MAC protocol for duty cycled wireless sensor networks”, ACM SenSys 2006





Starting point for XMAC

- A key advantage of asynchronous low power listening protocols such as BMAC is that sender and receiver can be completely decoupled in their duty cycles
 - no need for synchronization
- BMAC long preamble in low power listening however leads to performance degradation
 - the receiver has to wait for the full period until the preamble is finished before the data/ack exchange can begin, even if the receiver has woken up at the start of the preamble
 - ✓ increase in latency and energy consumption
 - overhearing problem
 - ✓ receivers who are not in the target of the sender also wake up during the long preamble and have to stay on until the end of it to discover they are not the intended destination
 - Increase in energy consumption!
 - latency degradation
 - ✓ per hop latency lower bounded by preamble length



XMAC

- Ideas

- embed address info of the intended destination in the preamble
 - ✓ to avoid overhearing
- use a *strobed preamble*: the preamble is a series of short preambles. Pauses between the short preambles allow the destination to send a fast ACK when up
 - ✓ reception of an early ACK makes the sender stop sending short preambles
 - the preamble is automatically set to the right size

This approach also solves a practical problem ← packet radios not always able to send long preambles

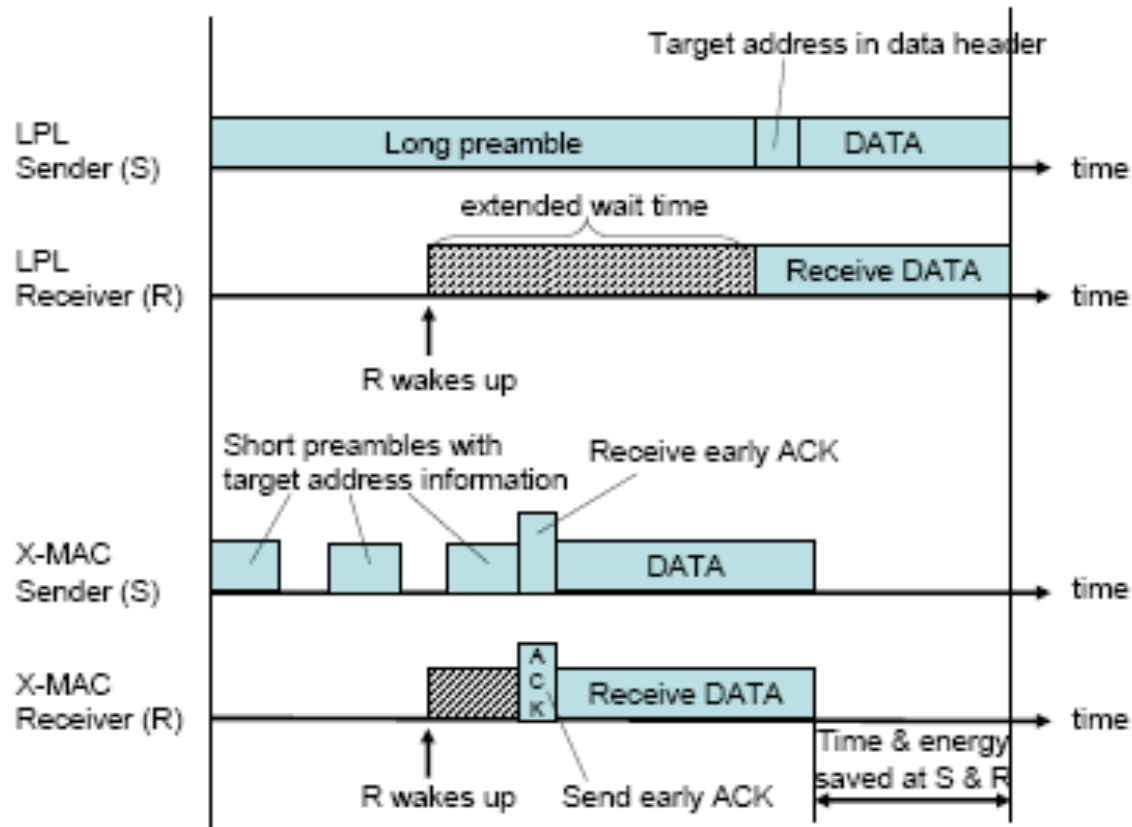


XMAC

- Idea

- en
- ✓

- us
- pre
- des
- ✓



reamble

ort
he

short

Figure 1. Comparison of the timelines between LPL's extended preamble and X-MAC's short preamble approach.

- star topology, 9 sending nodes, each transmitting on average one packet per second, 500ms preamble

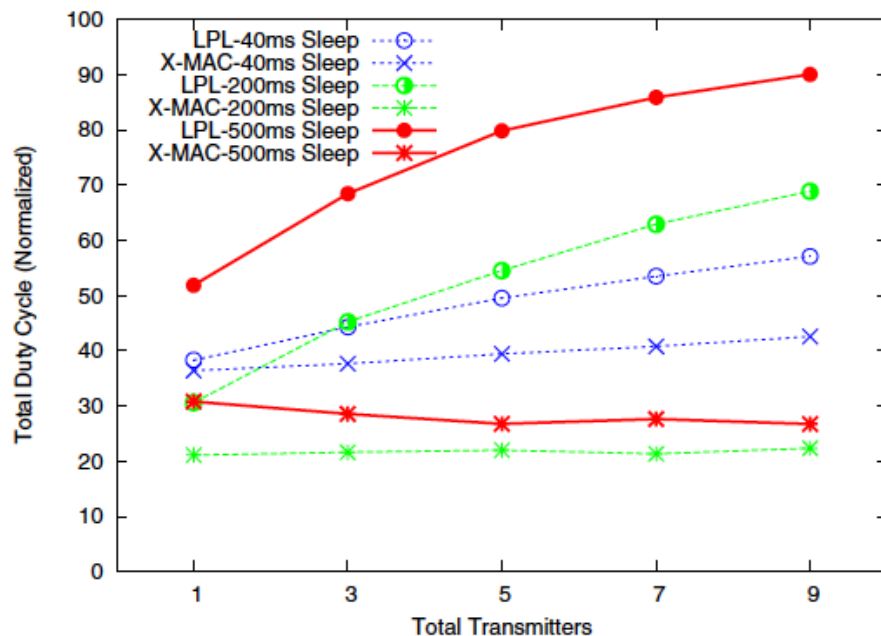


Figure 9. Duty cycle of contending senders, 1 packet per second.

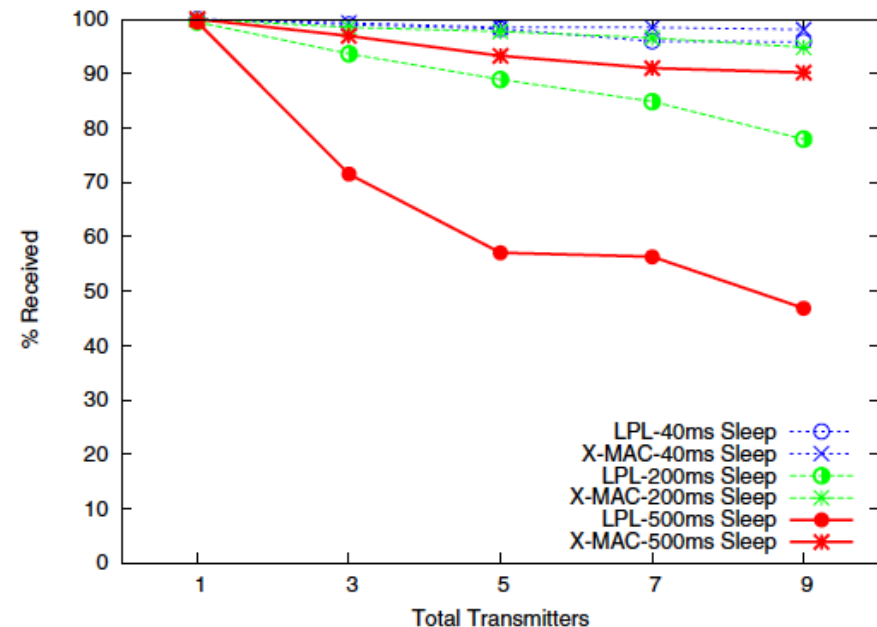


Figure 12. Reception success rate, 1 packet per second.



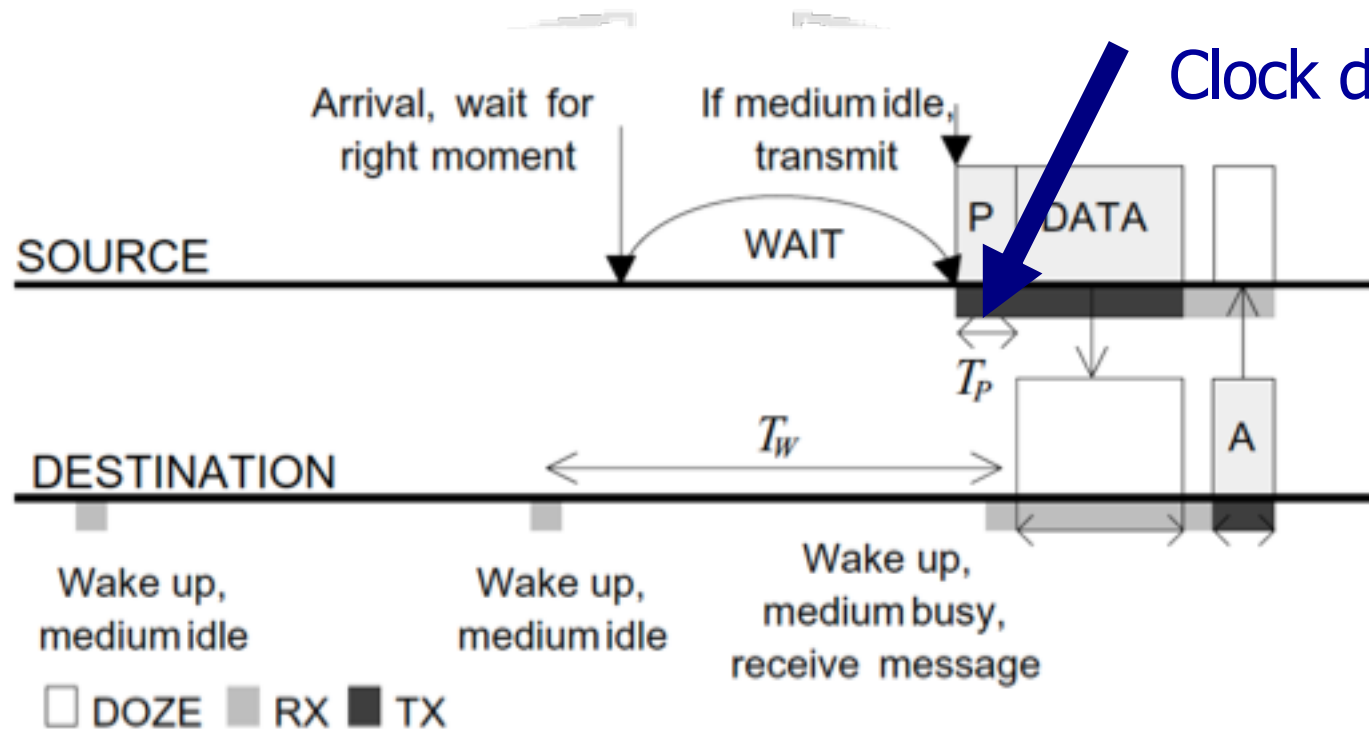
WiseMAC

- Amre El-Hoiydi and Jean-Dominique Decotignie
“WiseMAC: An Ultra Low Power MAC Protocol for Multi-hop Wireless Sensor Networks”, in proceedings of IEEE ISCC 2004
- Asynchronous MAC



WiseMAC

Accounts for
Clock drifts



Let θ be the frequency tolerance of the time-base quartz



Clock Drift

- Crystal Clock accuracy is defined in terms of ppm (ppm= parts per million).
- What is the error you will encounter when using a clock of a specific type with a specific accuracy?
- Realistic example: RTC clock on an IoT device with a drift around 10ppm.
- $10\text{ppm} = 10/10^6 = 10^{-5}$
- 86400 seconds in a day
- Total error of $86400 * 10^{-5} = 0,8\text{s}$ per day
- This translates in a max drift of about 300 seconds for 6 months of operation (each clock +/- θ according to the ppm error).

IoT Standardization

Internet of Things a.a. 2018/2019

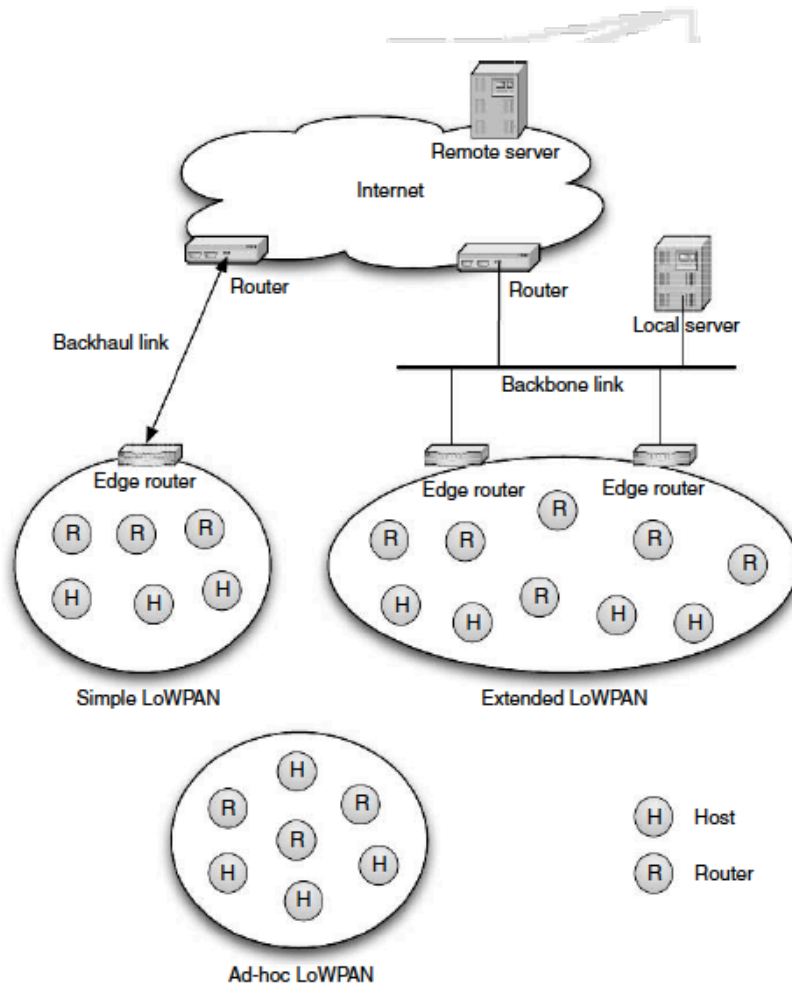
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- ✓ IEEE 802.15.4, first low-power radio standard (2003)
- ✓ ZigBee alliance: proprietary solutions for ad hoc control network (recently opened up to some ideas of 6LoWPAN)
- ✓ IPSO (IP Smart Objects alliance) founded in 2008 to promote use of IP protocols by smart objects and promote IoT
- ✓ IETF 6LoWPAN: enable effective use of IPv6 on low power low rate simple embedded devices (2005) ← initiated by the initiative also of a group of european industry and research organization, some preliminary contributions in the EC SENSEI project
- ✓ IETF Routing over low power and Lossy Networks (ROLL), 2008
- ✓ ISA 100 industrial automation standard (2008)



LOW POWER WIRELESS AREA NETWORKS (LOWPAN)

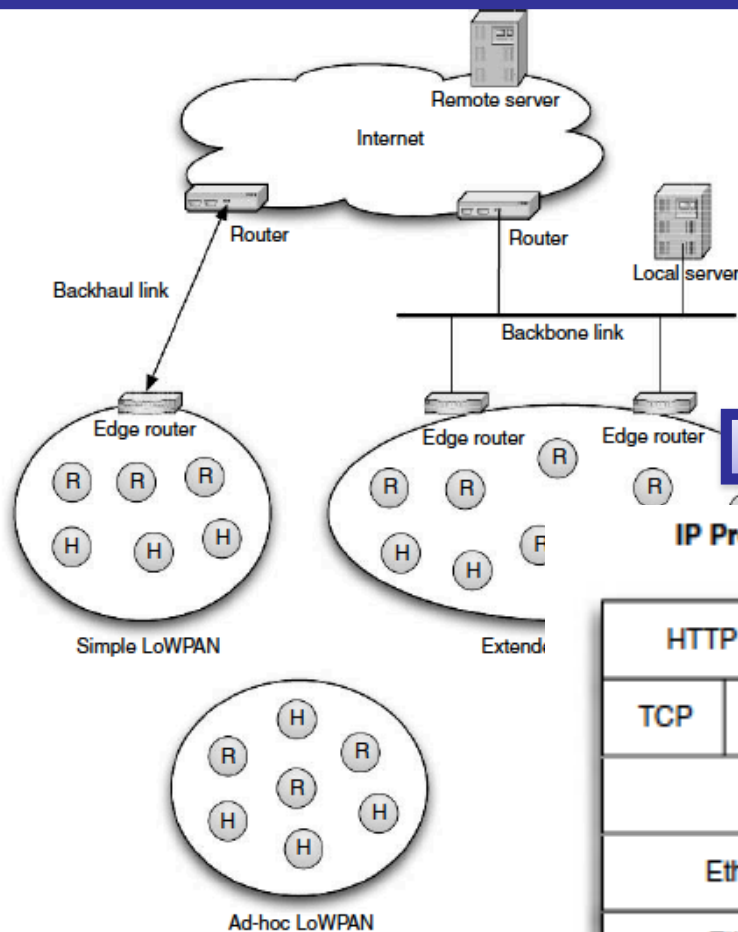
- ✓ STUB IPV6 NETWORK
- ✓ NODES SHARE IPV6
PREFIX
- ✓ CONNECTED THROUGH
THE INTERNET VIA A
ROUTER OR OPERATING
IN AD HOC MODE



All the solutions we have described are able to operate
in IEEE 802.15.4 compliant networks

LOW POWER WIRELESS AREA
NETWORKS (LOWPAN)

- ✓ STUB IPV6 NETWORK
- ✓ NODES SHARE IPV6 PREFIX
- ✓ CONNECTED THROUGH THE INTERNET VIA A ROUTER OR OPERATING IN AD HOC MODE



Adaptation layer

IP Protocol Stack

HTTP		RTP	
TCP	UDP	ICMP	
IP			
Ethernet MAC			
Ethernet PHY			

Control messages
Neighbor discovery

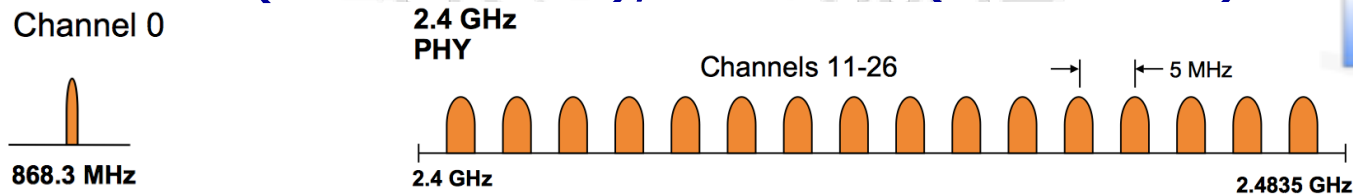
6LoWPAN Protocol Stack

Application	Application protocols	
Transport	UDP	ICMP
Network	IPv6	
Data Link	LoWPAN	
	IEEE 802.15.4 MAC	
Physical	IEEE 802.15.4 PHY	



Channel	Center Frequency (MHz)	Availability
ISM 2.4GHz Band	2.400 - 2.4835	Europe
ISM 2.4GHz Band	2.400 - 2.4835	Americas
ISM 2.4GHz Band	2.400 - 2.4835	World Wide

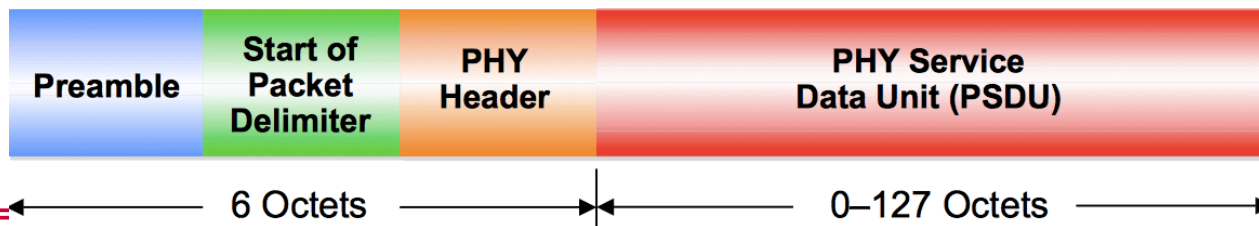
- ISM 2.4GHz (16 channels), 868MHz (1 channel)



- 20Kbps (868Mhz)-250Kbps (2.4Ghz)
- Phy PDU structure:

PHY Packet Fields

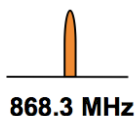
- Preamble (32 bits) – synchronization
- Start of Packet Delimiter (8 bits)
- PHY Header (8 bits) – PSDU length
- PSDU (0 to 1016 bits) – Data field





- ISM 2.4GHz

Channel 0



- 20Kbps (8

- Packet str

PH

- P
- S
- P
- P



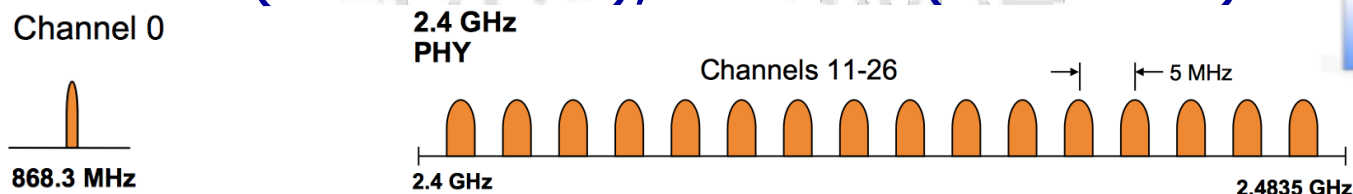
Pre

	Channel	Center Frequency (MHz)	Availability
868 MHz Band	0	868.3	 Europe
915 MHz Band	1	906	 Americas
	2	908	
	3	910	
	4	912	
	5	914	
	6	916	
	7	918	
	8	920	
	9	922	
	10	924	
2.4 GHz Band	11	2405	 World Wide
	12	2410	
	13	2415	
	14	2420	
	15	2425	
	16	2430	
	17	2435	
	18	2440	
	19	2445	
	20	2450	
	21	2455	
	22	2460	
	23	2465	
	24	2470	
	25	2475	
	26	2480	



Channel	Center Frequency (MHz)	Availability
ISM 2.4GHz Band	2.400 - 2.4835	Europe
ISM 2.4GHz Band	2.400 - 2.4835	Americas
ISM 2.4GHz Band	2.400 - 2.4835	World Wide

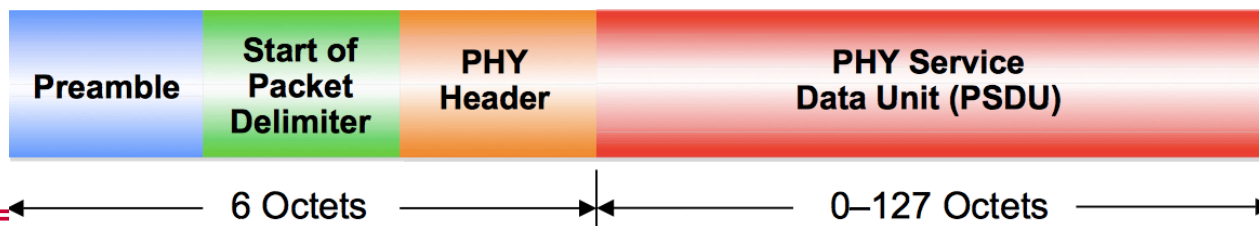
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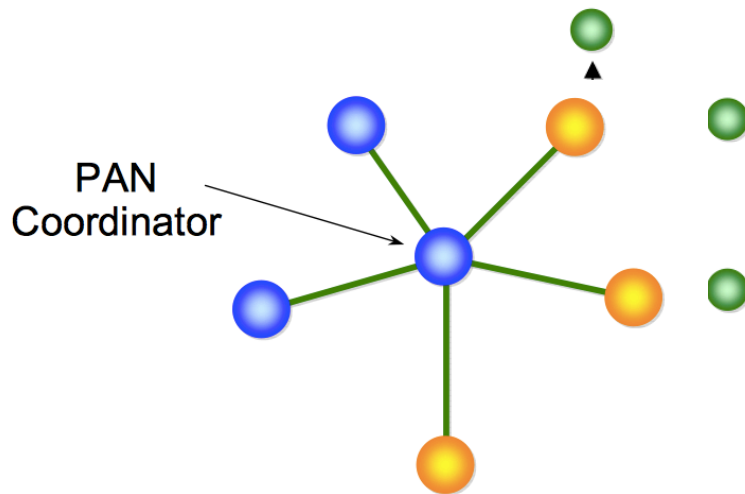
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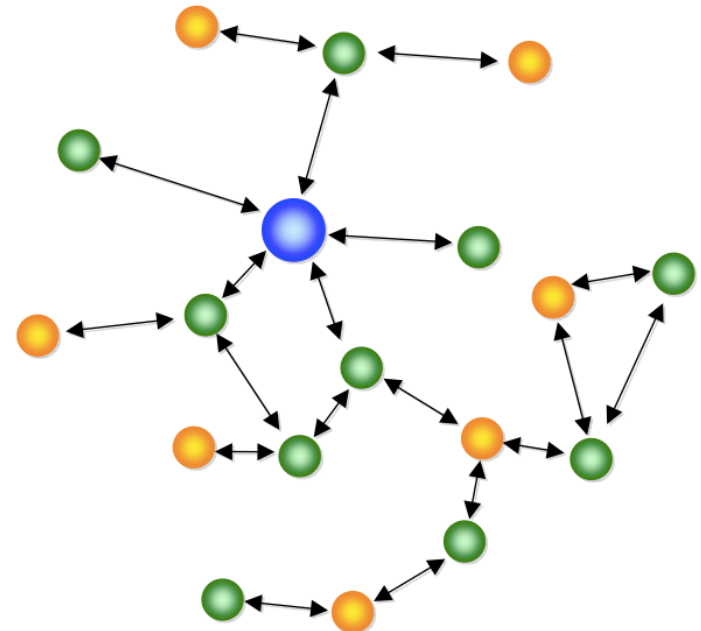


- Very low power
 - low power transmitter/receiver
 - nodes can duty cycle
- Topologies:

Star

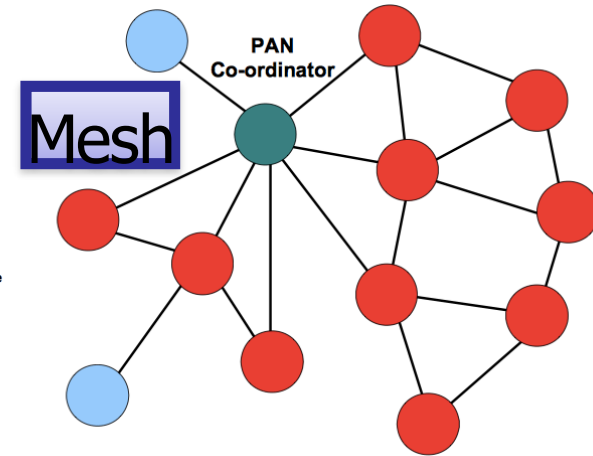
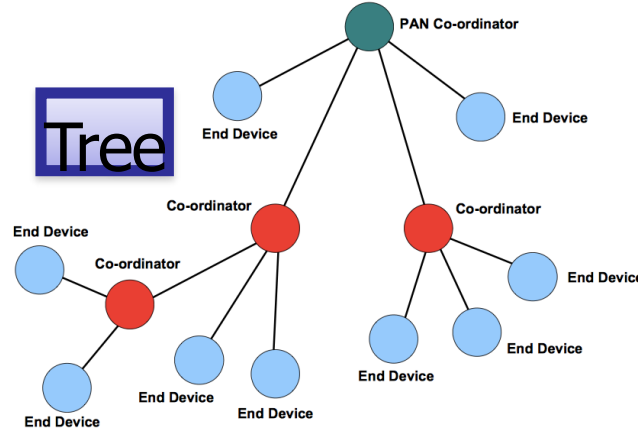
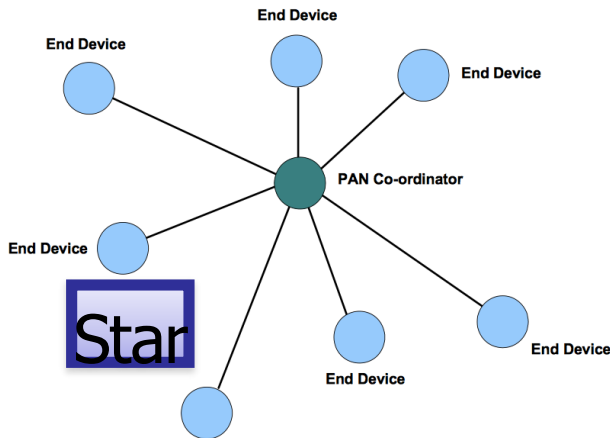


Mesh





- Very low power operation
 - low power transmitter/receiver
 - nodes can duty cycle
- Topologies:



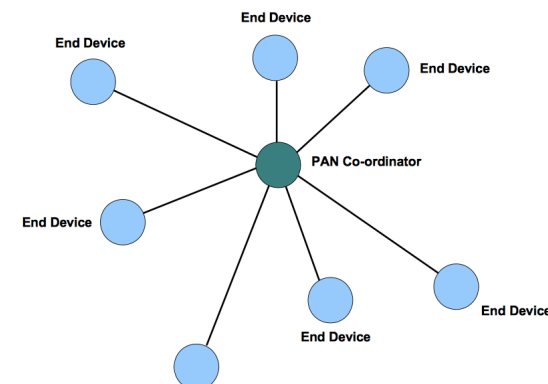
- PAN coordinator tasks: Net ID assignment; Frequency selection, handling request to join; packet relaying
- Co-ordinator: handling request to join; packet relaying

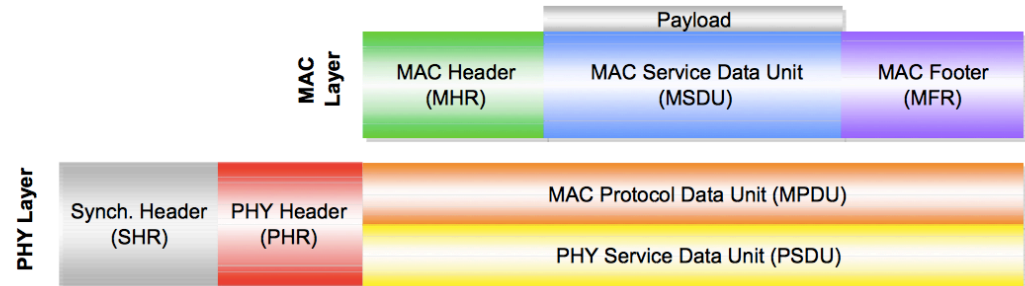


IEEE 802.15.4

How a network is started

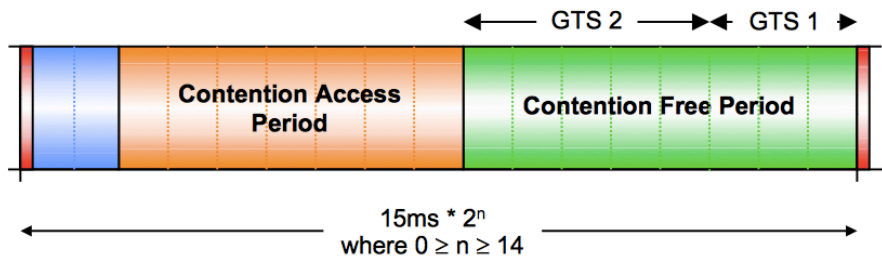
- PAN coordinator election
- PAN coordinator assigns itself a short 16 bit address (not IEEE 64 bit addresses)
- Selects the frequency
- Nodes entering the network perform active scan; discover coordinator
- Send an association request, which is ACK-ed
- PAN coordinator may assign a 16bit address to the joining node





✓ CSMA/CA Based in Beaconless Mode

✓ In Beacon Mode:

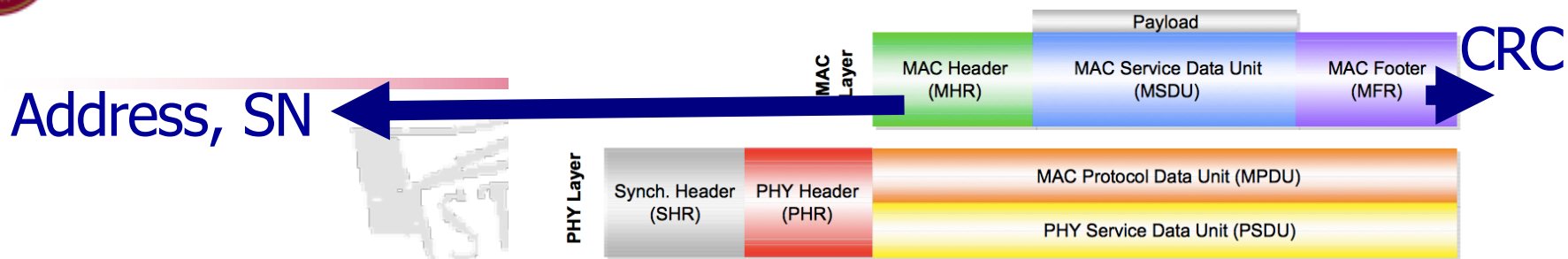


Network Beacon—Transmitted by network coordinator. Contains network information, frame structure and notification of pending node messages.

Beacon Extension Period—Space reserved for beacon growth due to pending node messages.

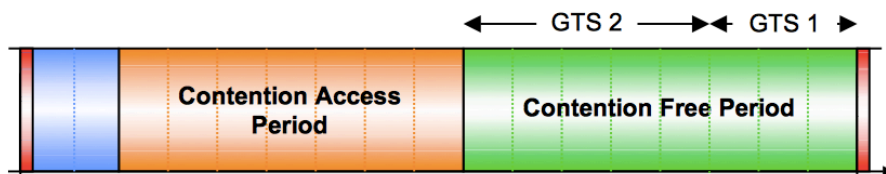
Contention Period—Access by any node using CSMA-CA.

Guaranteed Time Slot—Reserved for nodes requiring guaranteed bandwidth [$n = 0$].



✓ CSMA/CA Based in Beaconless Mode

✓ In Beacon Mode:



IEEE 802.15.4e envisions
Other types of MAC.
Standard extended also to
other bandwidth

Data frames for the transport of actual data, such as IPv6 frames packaged according to the 6LoWPAN format specification;

Acknowledgment frames that are meant to be sent back by a receiver immediately after successful reception of a data frame, if requested by the acknowledgment request bit in the data frame MAC header;

MAC layer command frames, used to enable various MAC layer services such as association to and disassociation from a coordinator, and management of synchronized transmission; and

Beacon frames, used by a coordinator to structure the communication with its associated nodes.



- CSMA/CA
- If a sender has a packet to transmit, it picks a random backoff delay then it listens to the channel (CCA)
- If free then it sends data which is acked
- If busy it retries after waiting for an increased backoff interval

All MAC protocols for sensing systems we have seen assume to operate on an IEEE 802.15.4 compliant networks operating in beaconless mode