

On the Statistical Analysis of Wireless Sensor vs. Wired Data Network Traffics

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Abstract—Not only the infrastructure of Wireless Sensor Network (WSNs) and classical wired IP data networks are very different but the statistical characteristics of data flows transferred on these environments have technology specific features, too. Based on the dynamic evolution in the last years WSNs became important elements of the small physical sized network architectures and are included as basic components in the Internet of Things (IoT) new concept. The challenge to transmit packets on optimum wireless path with minimum energy consumption affects all layer (physical, data link, network, transport, application) services of the WSN protocol stack. Wireless IP data technologies like GSM/UMTS/WiFi/WiMAX are utilized with success in WAN/MAN networks in contrast with WSN, which is usable only for small distances and reduced transfer capacity of bytes. Because of the energy consumption minimization the channel access mechanism should be simple as much as possible. Classical IP traffics in LAN/WAN environment do not confront with consequences of the energy constraints. The MAC algorithms are much more sophisticated than for WSNs. The difference in the layer functions implies difference in the traffic characteristics of this two network types. In this paper WSN and IP WAN/MAN data flows are analyzed as time series. The sensor data flows were collected with TinyDB tools at the Intel Berkeley Research lab in 2004. The high speed IP data flows are available from public database of TIER links¹. These significantly different types of data flows are investigated based on Lévy flights modeling. Long range dependence, self-similarity aspects of the inter-arrival time and the epoch ID time series are studied with sophisticated statistical analysis methods.

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