#### Could North Korea's 4,300 Tanks Crush America in a War?

Dave Majumdar The National Interest October 16, 2017

#### Will Flood of Weinstein Accusers Bring Sweeping Change to Hollywood?

by **CLAIRE ATKINSON** 

## Has Social Media Become Worse than Slavery?

DateViewsSeptember 19, 20172803

ews By 803 M Green

D 8 Comments

THE A.V. CLUB HOSTED BY JOHN TETI

#### **ARE THERE SITCOMS ON MARS?**

## Could homeopathy help to tackle the H1N1 virus?

Will the Blockchain make art disappear?

#### **Does Topology Control Reduce Interference?**\*

Martin Burkhart, Pascal von Rickenbach, Roger Wattenhofer, Aaron Zollinger Department of Computer Science ETH Zurich

## No.

#### (Betteridge's Law of Headlines)

# Is There Any **Practical Theory?**

Roger Wattenhofer

ETH Zurich – Distributed Computing – www.disco.ethz.ch

## **Theory & Practice**

PODC FOCS

ICALP

SODA

STOC

SPAA

A

EC

OSDI Multimedia IPSN Ubicomp Mobicom SIGCOMM



[Just my personal observation]

## Sensor Networks

## Data Gathering

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[PermaSense]

## **Efficiency and Reliability**





[Google Trends]

"This paper does a great job at a complete cross-layer design spanning the MAC, link, routing, and application layers to achieve very low power and high reliability for data collection. In some sense this is the first paper I'd give someone working on communication in sensor nets, since it nails down how to do it right."

[Matt Welsh, Best of CS 263]

### Dozer

[Burri, von Rickenbach, W]

## **Energy Efficiency**





## **Energy Efficiency**



## **Energy Efficiency**



duty cycling, wake up e.g. every 10 seconds parent synchronizes children no network wide synchronization mean energy consumption: 0.066mW, 10y battery

## Reliability



## Reliability



nodes send beacons to reconnect orphans collisions are explicitly accepted availability & reliability: 99% to 99.999%

Wireless vehicle detection systems for outdoor parking lots

#### [tinynode]

## Where's the Theory?

"no network wide synchronization"

## Network Synchronization is Hard

## **Network Synchronization**



## **Tree Based Protocols**



Synchronization Error	FTSP	PulseSync
Average (t > 2000s)	23.96 µs	4.44 μs
Maximum (t > 2000s)	249 μs	38 µs

## **Error with Distance**



## **Neighbor Synchronization**



## Neighbor Synchronization?





Tree-based Algorithms e.g. FTSP Neighborhood Algorithms e.g. GTSP

## Theorem: Neighbor Sync is Somewhat Hard

## Model: Drift & Jitter



## Reasonable Time Must Behave!



no stopping

no jumping



sync to fastest neighbor message delay = 1



sync to fastest neighbor message delay = 1



sync to fastest neighbor message delay = 1
















Sync To Fastest Neighbor: Local Skew Can Be Diameter Average of Neighbors: Local Skew Can Be Diameter Squared

### Better Protocol?

### **Reminder: Drift & Jitter**



# Theorem: Neighbor Sync is Somewhat Hard

#### neighbor sync error = log diameter lower bound: difficult proof matching upper bound: not trivial as well

[Lenzen, Locher, W, JACM]

# Speaking of Synchronization

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### The Capture Effect



#### **Constructive Interference**



PRR

### Accurate Synchronization

neighbor sync error: 0 ... 0.25  $\mu$ s transmission timing: 0 ... 0.25  $\mu$ s

[König, W]



### Or...



# Header O



# Payload



# Playing With Radios: Alarming

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#### Just Send Waves



### Slotos



[Flury, W, IPSN]

### Surprisingly Reliable

False Positives: 0.8% False Negatives: 0.08%

### Alarming with Packets?





### The Capture Effect



### **Protocol Layering**



### **Protocol Layering**



[König, W]

### Packet in Packet



### Naïve Injecting





### After Clock Sync





### Symbols Descrambled





### Measurements



[König, W]
# Speaking of Power Control

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## Offending the Audience



#### Power Control: Theory vs. Practice

accept

accept accept accept

accept

accept

trivial outdated lacks strategy old resubmit to STOC out of scope 10 years ago



#### Power control is old

e.g. LTE

#### ... but ...

## Lots of theory progress how to schedule & power wireless transmissions in a network

[Moscibroda, W] [Goussevskaia, Halldórsson, W] [Kesselheim]

## Many Variants and Extensions

models on top of SINR robustness results different approximation criteria distributed algorithms etc.







## Is the Theory Practical?

about 30% more throughput more reliable communication links

(but still too much overhead)

#### "Dutch Propositions"

#### Proposition

## In sensor systems, theory $\neq$ practice.\*

\*There are exceptions. Unfortunately, practical research does not seem to believe that these exceptions exist.

## Sensor Network Theory

How many lines of pseudo code Can you implement on a sensor node?

My advice: invest your research £££s in ... impossibility results and lower bounds!



## Summary



Professor Position @ ETH Zurich Embedded Information Systems