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Statistical method for performance analysis of WBAN in time-saturation

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Abstract

Performance analysis of carrier sense multiple access with collision avoidance (CSMA/CA) scheme based on IEEE 802.15.6 standard has been discussed in many literatures. In previous works on IEEE 802.15.6 and another standards, the performance was analyzed by using access probability in one slot duration and the Markov chain model was proposed to calculate the access probability in both saturation and non-saturation models. However, for both saturation and non-saturation models, the access probability or the packet arrival rate was assumed to be fixed and the effect of remained packets that was transmitted unsuccessfully due to busy channel or collision was not considered. In this paper, in order to evaluate the system performance more accurately, the effect of the remained packet is taken into account and a statistical method is proposed to calculate the successful probability of wireless body area networks (WBANs). Moreover, a time-saturation model is defined as a system model in which the system performance is changed following the operating time, and then, the change between three models, i.e., saturation, non-saturation, and time-saturation models, is analyzed. The calculation result indicates that the proposal method can achieve the same performance as the Markov chain method in both saturation and non-saturation models. However, in the time-saturation model, the proposal statistical method is more accurate.

Keywords: CSMA/CA based on IEEE 802.15.6 standard; Saturation model; Non-saturation model; Time-saturation model; Performance analysis of WBAN

1 Introduction

The aging society, the limited health care resources, the miniaturization of biomedical sensors, and a wide application market have triggered the concept of wireless body area networks (WBANs) and received considerable attentions in the academy and industry. The WBAN applications contain medical applications, entertainment applications, and disability-assistance applications. The IEEE 802.15 has established Task Group 6 (TG6) for an appropriate communication standard for WBANs, called IEEE 802.15.6. The first version of the standard had been issued in February 2012 [1].

An efficient media access control (MAC) protocol is very important to guarantee the timely delivery of emergency traffic. Therefore, the analysis of IEEE 802.15.6 is necessary, and there have been some works on MAC

protocol. The efficient MAC protocols to improve the energy consumption were proposed in [2,3]. Comprehensive investigations of WBAN were represented in [4,5]. For in-body communications, RF technologies and MAC protocols were introduced in [6,7].

In the IEEE 802.15.6 standard, user priorities (UPs) are divided into eight levers for different applications. A sensor may initiate frame transaction in different contention-based access phases using carrier sense multiple access with collision avoidance (CSMA/CA) and Slotted Aloha. A coordinator of WBANs has the ability of arranging committed scheduled allocation intervals, unscheduled bi-link allocation intervals on the best-effort basis, and improvised polled and posted allocation intervals in contention-free access phases. The detailed overview of MAC and physical (PHY) functionalities in IEEE 802.15.6 was represented in [8-10].

The performance analysis of the CSMA/CA scheme based on IEEE 802.15.6 has been discussed in many literatures. The theoretical maximum throughput and minimum delay limit of IEEE 802.15.6 was described

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for different frequency bands and data rates in [11-13]. Rashwand et al. are focusing on the impact of different access phase lengths to evaluate the network performance [14-17]. The analytical model based on the Markov chain and the throughput performance of IEEE 802.11 were proposed [18]. In [19,20], authors represented the network performance of different access categories in IEEE 802.11e and IEEE 802.15.4, respectively.

In the previous works on IEEE 802.15.6 and another standard, the performance was analyzed by using the access probability in one slot duration. The Markov chain model was proposed to calculate the access probability in both saturation and non-saturation models. The saturation model is defined as the system model in which there is at least one sensor that has a packet to send, whereas the non-saturation model is the system model that does not always have a sensor that has a packet to send. However, for both saturation and non-saturation models, the access probability and/or the packet arrival rate meaning the number of generated packets per second were assumed to be fixed. The effect of remained packets that were not transmitted successfully due to busy channel or collision was not considered. It means that the system performance was analyzed in 1 s from the start.

In this paper, the effect of the remained packet is taken into account and the statistical method to calculate a convergence of throughput based on CSMA/CA scheme of IEEE 802.15.6 is proposed. The term of time-saturation model is defined as a system model whose performance is changed following the operating time. In the previous works, the system model was assumed to be the saturation or the non-saturation model and then the performance was analyzed. However, based on the proposal calculation method, we indicate that the successful probability as well as the system throughput converge on values and the time-saturation model can be the saturation or non-saturation model according to the system parameters. Therefore, the proposal method is more flexible

and expected to be more accurate. The relation between three models, i.e, saturation, non-saturation, and time-saturation models, is analyzed and the change between these three models based on the system parameters is represented.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. We introduce the main concept of IEEE 802.15.6 standard in Section 2. Section 3 shows the performance analysis of WBAN by the discrete-time Markov chain method and the proposal method. The numerical evaluation is described in Section 4. Finally, Section 5 concludes the paper.

2 Related description of the IEEE 802.15.6 standard

In this section, we describe some parts of the IEEE 802.15.6 standard that relate to our research. The detail of this standard is represented in [1].

2.1 Physical layer

The current IEEE 802.15.6 standard defines three PHY layers, i.e., narrowband (NB), ultra wideband (UWB), and human body communications (HBC) layers. The selection of each PHY depends on requirements of application. In this work, since we focus on performance analysis of WBAN based on CSMA/CA scheme, NB is considered as an example.

The NB PHY is responsible for activation/deactivation of the radio transceiver, clear channel assessment (CCA) within the current channel, and data transmission/reception. The physical protocol data unit (PPDU) frame of NB PHY contains a physical layer convergence procedure (PLCP) preamble, a PLCP header, and a PHY service data unit (PSDU) as given in Figure 1. The PLCP preamble helps the receiver in the timing synchronization and carrier-offset recovery. It is the first component being transmitted at the given symbol rate. The PLCP header conveys information necessary for a successful decoding

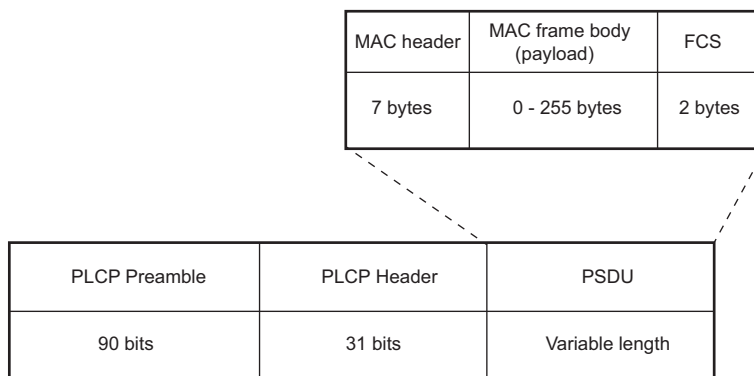


Figure 1 IEEE 802.15.6 PPDU structure.

of a packet to the receiver. The PLCP header is transmitted after the PLCP preamble using the given header data rate in the operating frequency band. The last component of PPDU is PSDU which consists of a MAC header, MAC frame body (also called as payload), and frame check sequence (FCS) and is transmitted after the PLCP header using any of the available data rates in the operating frequency band. A WBAN device should be able to support transmission and reception in one of the frequency bands summarized in Table 1. (Further detail for modulation and channel coding can be found in [1,10]).

2.2 Introduction of CSMA/CA based on IEEE 802.15.6

In IEEE 802.15.6, there are three access mechanisms that are comprehensively discussed in the standard. 1) Random access mechanism, which uses either CSMA/CA or a slotted aloha procedure for resource allocation; 2) Improved and unscheduled access (connectionless contention-free access), which uses unscheduled polling/posting for resource allocation; and 3) Scheduled access and variants (connection-oriented contention-free access), which schedule the allocation of slots in one or multiple upcoming superframes, also called 1-periodic or m-periodic allocations. Since the CSMA/CA is considered in our analysis, the basic procedures of this protocol is explained as defined in the standard.

Table 1 Main parameter for NB

Frequency band	Packet component	Symbol rate (Ksps)	Data rate (Kbps)
420 to 450 MHz	PLCP header	187.5	57.5
	PSDU	187.5	75.9
	PSDU	187.5	151.8
	PSDU	187.5	187.5
863 to 870 MHz	PLCP header	250	76.6
	PSDU	250	101.2
	PSDU	250	202.4
	PSDU	250	404.8
950 to 956 MHz	PLCP header	250	607.1
	PSDU	300	91.9
	PSDU	300	121.4
	PSDU	300	242.9
902 to 928 MHz	PLCP header	300	485.7
	PSDU	300	728.6
	PSDU	600	91.9
	PSDU	600	121.4
2360 to 2400 MHz	PLCP header	600	91.9
	PSDU	600	121.4
	PSDU	600	242.9
	PSDU	600	485.7
2400 to 2483.5 MHz	PLCP header	600	971.4
	PSDU	600	971.4
	PSDU	600	971.4
	PSDU	600	971.4

In CSMA/CA, a sensor sets its backoff counter to a random integer number uniformly distributed over the interval $[1, W]$ where $W \in (W_{\min}, W_{\max})$ denotes the contention window. The values of W_{\min} and W_{\max} change depending on the UPs as given in Table 2. The sensor decreases the backoff counter by one for each idle CSMA slot of duration. Particularly, the sensor treats a CSMA slot to be idle if it determines that the channel has been idle between the start of the CSMA slot and $pCCATime$. If the backoff counter reaches zero, the sensor transmits a packet of data. If the channel is busy because of transmission of another sensor, the sensor locks its backoff counter until the channel is idle. The W is doubled for even number of failures until it reaches W_{\max} . The failure means that the sensor fails to receive an acknowledgement from the coordinator. Further details about the CSMA/CA procedure can be found in the standard [1].

2.3 Calculation of service time

The service time (T) is defined as the total time to transmit a packet including the *backoff* time (T_W), the time to transmit a data packet (T_{data}), short interframe spacing (T_{pSIFS}), the time of acknowledgement packet (T_{ACK}), and delay time (α) that is defined as the sum of propagation delay and signal processing delay.

$$T = T_W + T_{DATA} + T_{ACK} + 2T_{pSIFS} + 2\alpha. \quad (1)$$

As mentioned above, according to the IEEE 802.15.6 standard, the W is doubled for even number of failures until it reaches W_{\max} , hence the value of the average backoff time can be obtained as

$$T_W = \begin{cases} \frac{W_{\min}T_s}{2} + P_{\text{fail}}^2 W_{\min}T_s + P_{\text{fail}}^4 \frac{W_{\max}T_s}{2} & \text{for even UPs,} \\ \frac{W_{\min}T_s}{2} + P_{\text{fail}}^2 \frac{W_{\max}T_s}{2} & \text{for odd UPs,} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

here, P_{fail} represents the transmission failed probability and T_s denotes a CSMA slot length.

As shown in Figure 1, since a data packet consists of a preamble, physical header, MAC header, MAC frame

Table 2 Contention window bound for CSMA/CA

User priority	W_{\min}	W_{\max}
0	16	64
1	16	32
2	8	32
3	8	16
4	4	16
5	4	8
6	2	8
7	1	2

Table 3 Other parameters

Clear channel assessment [bits]	63
MAC header [bits]	56
MAC footer [bits]	16
Short interframe spacing time T_{sifs} [μs]	75
Preamble [bits]	90
Delay time τ [μs]	1

body, and frame check sequence, the time to transmit a data packet is represented as follows.

$$T_{DATA} = T_P + T_{PHY} + T_{MAC} + T_{BODY} + T_{FCS}, \quad (3)$$

here T_P , T_{PHY} , T_{MAC} , T_{BODY} , and T_{FCS} represent the time to transmit a preamble, physical header, MAC header, MAC frame body, and frame check sequence, respectively.

Since an immediate acknowledgement carries no payload, its transmission time is given by

$$T_{ACK} = T_P + T_{PHY} + T_{MAC} + T_{FCS}. \quad (4)$$

The other parameters to calculate the service time are summarized in Table 3.

3 Performance analysis for CSMA/CA based on IEEE 802.15.6

3.1 Previous researches

The discrete-time Markov chain (DTMC) method has been applied to calculate the throughput of WBAN based on IEEE 802.15.6 for both the saturation and the non-saturation models in many literatures [14-17]. Figure 2 shows an example of the discrete-time Markov chain method for the non-saturation model; here ρ , $P_{i,fail}$, $P_{i,idle}$,

and m represent a probability of having a packet to send in a slot time, transmission failed probability, channel idle probability, and retry limit number, respectively.

By using the state transition probabilities, the stationary distribution $b_{i,0,0}$ and the access probability in one slot duration τ_i are calculated.

$$\tau_i = \frac{1 - P_{i,fail}^{m+1}}{1 - P_{i,fail}} b_{i,0,0}. \quad (5)$$

Let P_{tr} and $P_{i,suc}$ denote the transmission probability and the successful probability, respectively. The transmission probability is defined as the probability that there is at least one sensor that accesses the medium in the given slot. The successful probability is defined as the probability that the data packet is successfully received at the coordinator. Therefore, the throughput of sensors in the i^{th} UP can be represented by

$$S_i = \frac{P_{i,suc} P_{tr} E[x]}{(1 - P_{tr}) T_s + P_{i,suc} P_{tr} T + (1 - P_{i,suc}) P_{tr} T_c}, \quad (6)$$

here, T_c and $E[x]$ denote the average time the channel is sensed as busy by each station due to a collision and the average packet payload size, respectively.

However, the probability of having a packet to transmit (the changing of stationary distribution from $b_{i,j,0}$ (j denotes a backoff stage and is bound by a retry limit m , $j = 0, \dots, m$) to $b_{i,0,W}$ ($W = 1, \dots, W_0$)) is considered as ρ . Practically, it should be considered in a duration time in which the sensor has been trying to transmit the generated packet. The probability of having a packet to send is much more than ρ and changes depending on the value of j . In case the probability of having a packet to send is not fixed, the calculation of access probability becomes

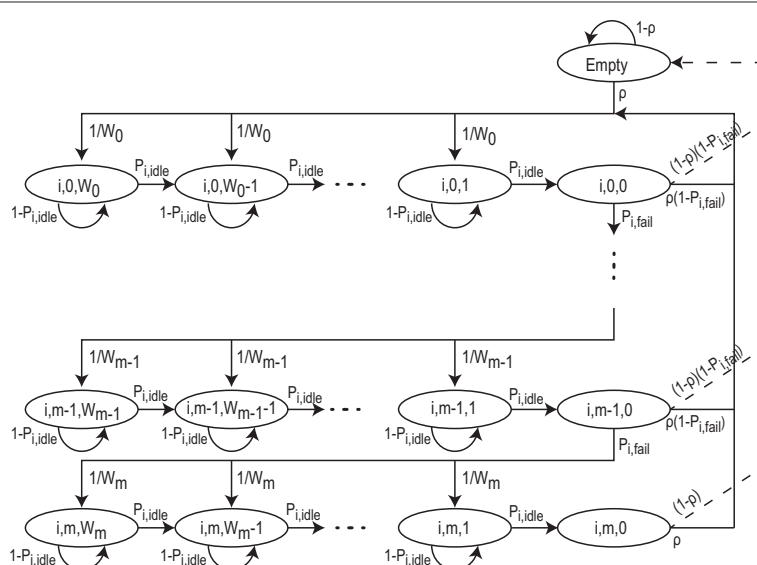


Figure 2 Discrete-time Markov chain method.

considerably complicated. Therefore, we propose the statistical method to analyze the performance.

3.2 Proposal method

In our method, the average backoff time is used. Therefore, the average service time T is considered and, the performance in each service time is analyzed. All sensors are assumed to be in the same UP. The probability that there is a packet to transmit after T duration time is described by

$$\rho = 1 - e^{-\lambda T}, \quad (7)$$

here, λ denotes the packet arrival rate. A packet is successfully transmitted if 1) only one sensor has a packet to send (scheme 1) and 2) more than one sensor has packet to send; however, only one sensor accesses the channel (scheme 2). The probability of scheme 1 is represented as follows.

$$P_{\text{suc}_1} = \binom{N}{1} \rho (1 - \rho)^{N-1}, \quad (8)$$

here, $\binom{N}{j}$ denotes the binomial coefficient indexed by j and i ; N denotes the number of sensors. In scheme 2, the number of sensors that have a packet to send is denoted as i ; only one sensor successfully transmits when its backoff counter is the smallest and there is not another sensor that has the same backoff counter. As mentioned above, the average backoff counter is used,

$$\bar{W} = \begin{cases} \frac{W_{\min}}{2} + P_{\text{fail}}^2 W_{\min} + P_{\text{fail}}^4 \frac{W_{\max}}{2} & \text{for even UPs,} \\ \frac{W_{\min}}{2} + P_{\text{fail}}^2 \frac{W_{\max}}{2} & \text{for odd UPs.} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

The smallest backoff counter is assumed to be set as $W \in [1, \bar{W} - 1]$. The backoff counter of other sensors therefore should be higher than W meaning it should be within $[W + 1, \bar{W}]$. The probability that the backoff count of a sensor is set as W is represented as $\binom{i}{1} \frac{1}{\bar{W}}$, and the probability that the backoff count of the other sensors is within $[W+1, \bar{W}]$ is represented as $\left(\frac{\bar{W}-W}{\bar{W}}\right)^{i-1}$. Therefore, the probability of scheme 2 is described as

$$P_{\text{suc}_2} = \sum_{i=2}^N \binom{N}{i} \rho^i (1-\rho)^{N-i} \sum_{W=1}^{\bar{W}-1} \binom{i}{1} \frac{1}{\bar{W}} \left(\frac{\bar{W}-W}{\bar{W}}\right)^{i-1}. \quad (10)$$

Since $0^0 = 1$ and $0^x = 0$ ($x \neq 0$), the successful probability of both schemes 1 and 2 can be unified as

$$P_{\text{suc}} = P_{\text{suc}_1} + P_{\text{suc}_2} = \sum_{i=1}^N \binom{N}{i} \rho^i (1-\rho)^{N-i} \sum_{W=1}^{\bar{W}} \binom{i}{1} \frac{1}{\bar{W}} \left(\frac{\bar{W}-W}{\bar{W}}\right)^{i-1}. \quad (11)$$

The throughput in each T duration time is calculated as

$$S_T = P_{\text{suc}} E[x], \quad (12)$$

and the throughput of the system in 1 s is described as

$$S = n_T S_T, \quad (13)$$

here, n_T denotes the number of T duration times in each second, $n_T = \text{floor}(\frac{1}{T})$.

However, this method is just used to analyze the performance of the system in 1 s after starting. The throughput in (13) is the same as the average throughput of previous researches. However, as explained in Section 1, the convergence of throughput should be estimated. In order to discuss the effect of the remained packet, the successful probability after t times of T should be considered. The successful probability in (11) is rewritten as

$$P_{\text{suc}}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^N \binom{N}{i} (P_{\text{pac}}(t))^i (1-P_{\text{pac}}(t))^{N-i} \sum_{W=1}^{\bar{W}} \binom{i}{1} \frac{1}{\bar{W}} \left(\frac{\bar{W}-W}{\bar{W}}\right)^{i-1}, \quad (14)$$

here, $P_{\text{pac}}(t)$ denotes the probability that a sensor has a packet to send after t times of T . Notice that

$$P_{\text{pac}}(t) = \rho, \quad \text{for } t = 1. \quad (15)$$

$$P_{\text{pac}}(t) = \rho + P_{\text{pac}}(t-1) - \frac{P_{\text{suc}}(t-1)}{N}, \quad \text{for } t > 1.$$

In the CSMA/CA scheme based on IEEE 802.15.6, the packet is discarded after the retry limit. However, according to the application, the time-out data is deleted; even the number of retransmission does not reach the retry limit. The time-out of data is set as k times of T . It means that at the time $t = k + 1$ the packets that were generated at time $t = 1$ are discarded. Hence, the probability $P_{\text{pac}}(t)$ is changed as

$$P_{\text{pac}}(t) = \rho, \quad \text{for } t = 1.$$

$$P_{\text{pac}}(t) = \rho + P_{\text{pac}}(t-1) - \frac{P_{\text{suc}}(t-1)}{N}, \quad \text{for } 1 < t \leq k,$$

$$P_{\text{pac}}(t) = \rho + P_{\text{pac}}(t-1) - \frac{P_{\text{suc}}(t-1)}{N} - P_{\text{pac}}(t-k) \prod_{l=t-k}^{t-1} \frac{P_{\text{fail}}(l)}{N}, \quad \text{for } t > k, \quad (16)$$

here, $P_{\text{fail}}(t)$ denotes the transmission failed probability at time t . A collision occurs when at least two sensors have

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1 : Initialization: N, λ, CWmin, CWmax and other parameters
2 : Calculation: ρ, T,  $\overline{CW}$  and set  $P_{pac}(1)=\rho$ .
3 : While (the throughput of system isn't convergent).
4 :   For each number of T
5 :     Calculate  $P_{pac}(t)$  by eq. (16) and  $P_{pac}(t)=\min(P_{pac}(t),1)$ .
6 :     For each number of sensors that has a packet to send
7 :       For each contention window
8 :         Calculate the successful probability by eq. (14).
9 :       End for
10 :    End for
11 :    Calculate the transmission failed probability by eq. (17).
12 :    Calculate throughput in each T by eq. (19).
13 :  End for
14 :  Calculate throughput in each  $t_n$  second by eq. (19).
15 : End while
    
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Figure 3 The calculation method of system throughput with one user priority.

a packet to send and the backoff counter of at least two sensors is set as the smallest value.

$$P_{fail}(t) = \sum_{i=2}^N \binom{N}{i} (P_{pac}(t))^i (1 - P_{pac}(t))^{N-i} \times \left(1 - \sum_{W=1}^{\overline{W}} \binom{i}{1} \frac{1}{\overline{W}} \left(\frac{\overline{W} - W}{\overline{W}} \right)^{i-1} \right). \quad (17)$$

Furthermore, in some scenarios, a sensor may have more than one packet to send and then the probability $P_{pac}(t)$ is over one. In these scenarios, the data in the

newest packet is updated and the data in the other packets is outdated. Therefore, only the newest packet is remained to send; the other packets are deleted as the time-out packet, and then, the probability $P_{pac}(t)$ is redefined as

$$P_{pac}(t) = \min(P_{pac}(t), 1), \quad \text{for all } t. \quad (18)$$

The system throughput after t_n seconds is changed as

$$S_T(t) = P_{suc}(t)E[x], \quad (19)$$

$$S(t_n) = \sum_{t=t_n-nT}^{t_n} S_T(t).$$

4 Numerical evaluation

The system model is the same as mentioned above. The parameters summarized in Tables 1, 2, and 3 are used, and the calculation method of throughput is given in Figure 3. The algorithm stops when the throughput is convergent meaning the throughput at t_n^{th} second is the same as the throughput at t_{n-1}^{th} second.

The bandwidth frequency, the payload, the number of sensors, and W_{min} are fixed as 2,360 to 2,483.5 MHz, 250 bytes, 20, and 16, respectively. The time-out is set as $k = nT$; it means the packet is discarded after 1 s. The probability of having a packet to send and the probability of having no packet to send as well as the successful probability of each T duration in cases the lambda is fixed as 2 and 10 packets/second are shown in Figures 4 and 5, respectively. The result of the DTMC method and the proposal method is compared in both figures.

As shown in Figure 4, when the lambda is small, the probability of having a packet to send is low, and then, the probabilities of having a packet to send and having

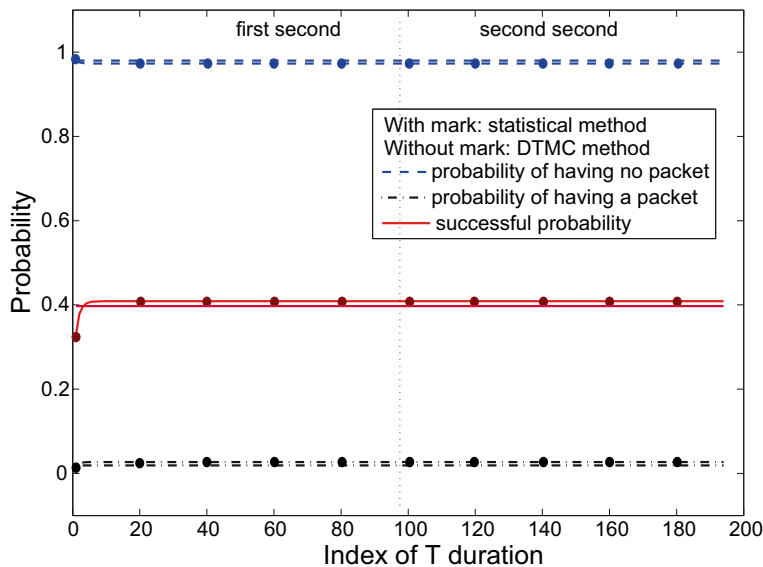


Figure 4 The probability in each T duration when the lambda = 2 packets/second.

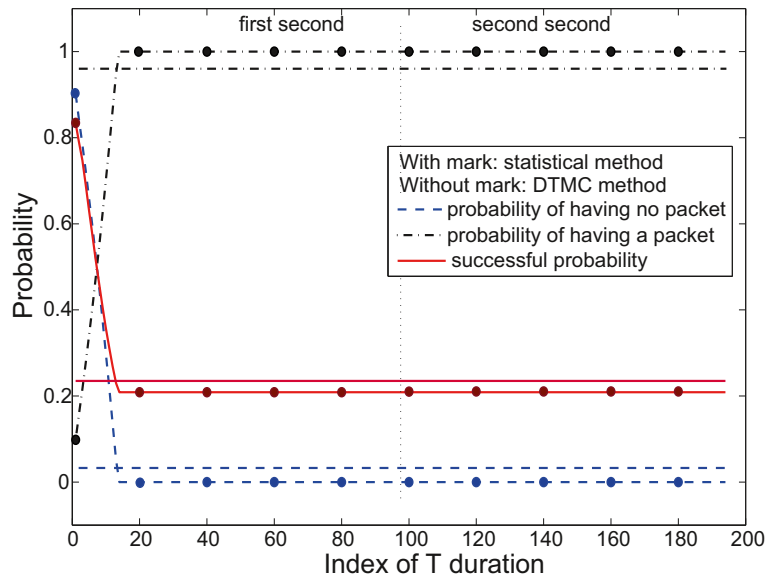


Figure 5 The probability in each T duration when the $\lambda = 10$ packets/second.

no packet to send are constant after some T durations. Hence, the successful probability is fixed as the total probabilities of having a packet to send. This system model can be considered as the non-saturation model.

On the contrary, when the λ is large (Figure 5), the probability of having a packet to send reaches 1 after some T durations. It means that all sensors always have a packet to send, and the successful probability is fixed as a low value due to the high transmission failed probability. This system model can be considered as the saturation model.

Compared to the DTMC method, the result of the proposal method in both the non-saturation (Figure 4) and saturation (Figure 5) models is almost the same.

Compare the successful probability of DTMC method in both cases, the λ is 4 and 10 packets/second. The successful probability when the λ is 4 packets/second (Figure 6) is higher than that when the λ is 10 packets/second (Figure 5). The reason is that the DTMC method does not consider the remained packet; therefore the probability of having a packet when the

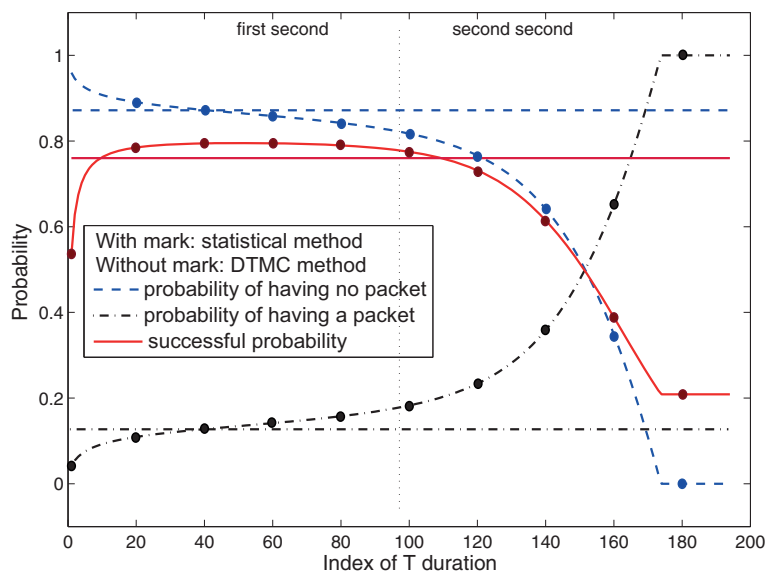


Figure 6 The probability in each T duration when the $\lambda = 4$ packets/second.

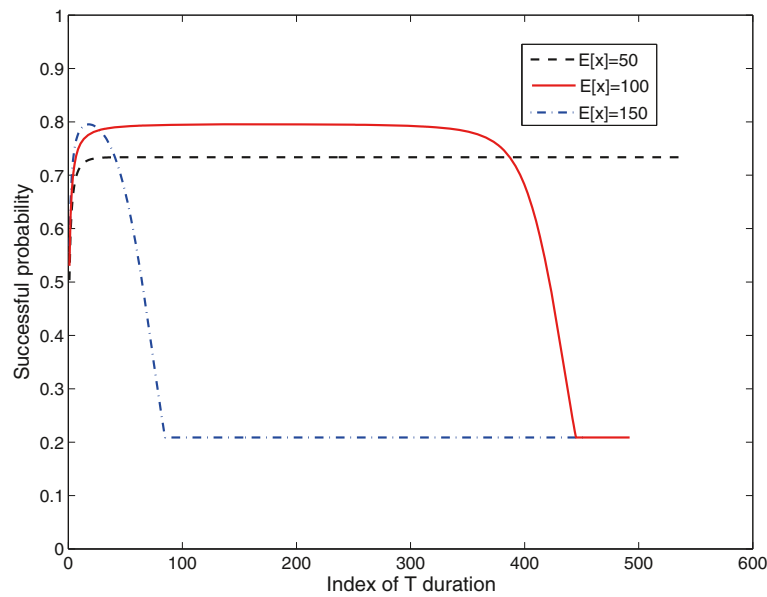


Figure 7 The change between three models when the $\lambda = 10$ packets/section and the payload is changed.

$\lambda = 10$ packets/second is higher, and then, the collision probability is higher. As a result, the successful probability is lower than that when the λ is 4 packets/second.

However, for the proposed method, as shown in Figure 6, when the λ is 4 packets/second, the probabilities are changed gradually. The probability of having a packet increases slowly and achieves one due to the effect of remained packet. Therefore, the successful probability decreases after increasing and reaches the convergent probability when the probability of having a packet achieves one. It means the system model changes from the non-saturation model to the saturation model; this model is called as the time-saturation model. It is different to the saturation and the non-saturation models; in the time-saturation model, the result of the DTMC method and the proposal method is different. The reason can be explained that since the remained packet is not considered in the DTMC method, the collision probability of DTMC method is low meaning the successful probability is high. However, in fact, the remained packet lets the collision probability increase and the successful probability decrease. Therefore, the proposal method that takes the remained packet into account is considered to be more accurate.

Furthermore, a system model can change between the saturation, the non-saturation, and the time-saturation models depending on the system parameters, such as the packet arrival rate, the payload, the retry limit, the number of sensors, the UPs, and so on. Figure 7 shows the change between three models of system in which the λ is fixed as 10 packets/second and the payload is

changed, i.e., 50, 100, and 150 bytes. When the payload is 50 bytes, the system model is the non-saturation model; however, when the payload increases to 150 bytes, the system model changes as the saturation model. Additionally, when the payload is 100 bytes, the system model acts as the time-saturation model. It means that a system can change between three models depending on the payload. Moreover, the time-saturation model can be considered as a connection model between the non-saturation and the saturation models.

Figure 8 shows the successful probability when the λ is fixed as 4 and the k is changed, i.e., n_T , 16 and

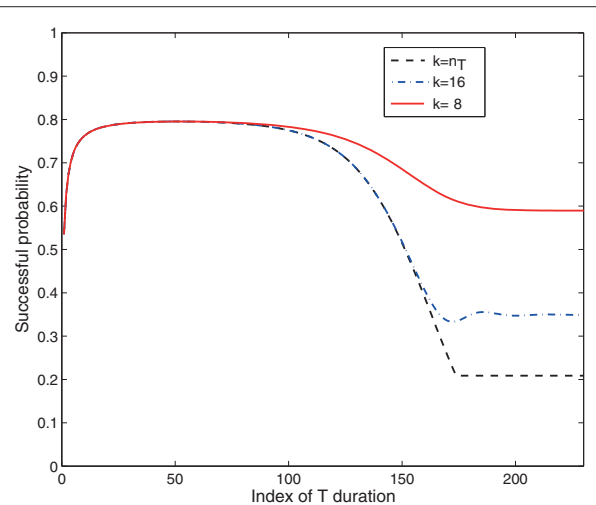


Figure 8 The change between three models when $\lambda = 4$ packets/second and the k is changed.

8. When the k reduces, it means that the time-out of packets is short; a system can change from the time-saturation model to the non-saturation model and has the higher successful probability.

5 Conclusions

In this paper, the term of time saturation has been defined and the new method has been proposed to analyze system performance in saturation, non-saturation, and time-saturation models. Compared to the DTMC method, the result of the proposal statistical method is more accurate because of taking the remained packet into account. Moreover, the proposal method is more simple because the mathematical calculation is not necessary. The relation between non-saturation, saturation, and time-saturation models was analyzed, and the change between all models depending on the system parameters was described.

However, since the performance of non-saturation and saturation system has been analyzed in several literatures, in this paper, another object, such as delay, energy, and so on, was not considered. Furthermore, we proposed a new method for one user priority; the performance analysis of multiple user priorities is left to the future works.

Competing interests

The author declares that he has no competing interests.

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