

# Fuzzy Clustering with Multi-Constraint QoS Service Routing in Wireless Sensor Networks

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**Abstract**—This paper presents a fuzzy logic-based, service differentiated, QoS aware routing protocol (FMSR) offering multipath routing for WSNs, with the purpose of providing a service differentiated path meant for communication between nodes, based on actual requirements. The proposed protocol initially forms a cluster by fuzzy c-means. Next, the building of a routing follows, so as to establish multiple paths between nodes through the modified QoS k-nearest neighborhood, based on different QoS constraints and on optimum shortest paths. If one node in the path fails due to lack of residual energy, bandwidth, packet loss, delay, an alternate path leading through another neighborhood node is selected for communication. Simulation results show that the proposed protocol performs better in terms of packet delivery ratio, delay, packet drop ratio and throughput compared to other existing routing protocols.

**Keywords**—fuzzy logic, QoS, routing, WSN.

## 1. Introduction

Energy efficient routing is the main objective of wireless sensor networks (WSNs). In WSNs, sensor nodes collaborate with each other by communicating with neighboring nodes. They also perform basic computations based on the data collected and complete different tasks, such as neighborhood node discovery, smart sensing and optimal efficient routing – at every layer. The routing protocols are classified in terms of QoS aware protocols and performance [1]–[3]. In order to provide QoS in the applications, in most of the cases fuzzy logic-based selection of cluster head is used in the course of the routing process, which provides a non-probabilistic approach with two fuzzy variables: one is base station distance and the other is residual energy of the sensor nodes.

Multi-hop communication is used for the selection of cluster head (CH). This has the authority to communicate with other CHs and with BS. Various methods are used to identify the next forwarding node. The selection of nodes is based on different techniques, such as fuzzy logic, neuro fuzzy and the mobility of nodes [4].

Flooding is also used to set up possible routes to destinations which rely on bandwidth, node energy or link quality. As a consequence, these strategies may lead to unneces-

sary message transmissions, network jamming, longer delays and loss of packets. To avoid these problems, it is essential to come across the optimal path between nodes using the existing resources in the network. However, attempting to choose a route that satisfies many constraints may result in conflicts and the process may be complicated. Therefore, it is recommended to deploy multi-metrics in WSNs, with path and packet communication based on differentiated services [5].

An effective, optimal, multipath, service-differentiated routing protocol, known as the fuzzy-based service-differentiated QoS-aware routing protocol (FMSR), is proposed, which initially forms a cluster by fuzzy c-means and uses multiple metrics, such as link bandwidth, residual energy, packet loss and delay to choose the neighborhood nodes. Multiple paths are subsequently established between the source and the destination, leading through these neighborhood nodes, by means of the k-nearest neighborhood method, thus forming an optimal route for differentiated services. If a neighborhood node along the path fails due to lack of bandwidth or energy, an alternative path is established.

In Section 1 an introduction to the paper is presented. Section 2 contains a short survey of the existing routing protocols. The plan of the proposed work is described in Section 3. Finally, performance, simulation results and conclusions are summarized in Sections 4 and 5.

## 2. Related Work

Several studies have been conducted to attempt, with varying degrees of success, to address the problem of energy-efficient, delay-constrained routing in WSNs and multiple metrics are used for routing, considering link rate and packet loss, i.e. [6].

Soft computing methods have been truly helpful in a variety of areas and have shown capable outputs. Novel clustering algorithms are based on the fuzzy c-means concept, where the selection of the cluster head is based on its proximity to the middle of the cluster and to the node having the highest residual energy. Non-cluster head nodes broadcast sensed data to the cluster head perform data aggregation and transmit data straight to the base station [7], [8].

Fuzzy logic control, known as BOKHARI-SEPFL, based on distance of nodes from the base station, density of nodes and energy level, as well as traditional threshold values are used to enhance the process of cluster head election to improve the lifetime and throughput of the WSN [9].

An energy efficient adaptive routing is proposed in the form of a fuzzy-based clustering protocol that makes use of the direct transmission technique, depending upon the criticality and the location of sensor nodes [10].

Mamdani's fuzzy inference system is used to identify the ability of a sensor node to become a group cluster head, depending on the distance of the input parameter and the energy of the sensing nodes. The heuristic search algorithm is used to find the minimum path length from the source to the receiving node. The aggregated data packets are routed from the originating CH to the receiving node along the selected route [11].

Energy-aware routing protocols have been proposed for WSNs. Most of them are energy savers and there is not much focus on energy balancing. Though, the lifetime of WSNs severely depend energy use; so, energy management is a necessary job to be considered [11], [12]. The energy aware routing protocol – FEAR which balances energy and energy saving, is considered. It shows an appropriate trade-off between the saving of energy and energy balancing by a fuzzy set scheme. Based on examination of energy expenditure for the data transceiver, a single-hop forwarding system is proved to provide less energy than multi-hop forwarding [13], [14].

The main advantage of the fuzzy logic control-based QoS management (FLC-QM) method consists in changing traffic load. It utilizes a fuzzy logic controller, relying on the source sensor node to get the sampling period and the deadline miss ratio for the transmission of data from the sensor to the actuator [15], [16].

A protocol has been introduced that exchanges roles between regular nodes and cluster heads in a round robin manner, following the token ring methodology. The equi-distribution of cluster head burden over all sensors in the same cluster reduces the need of expensive periodic re-clustering. The domain memberships of edge sensors are handled through fuzzy logic, based on the residual energy [17].

The rumor routing algorithm in WSNs allows the query source to distribute the query to identify a source which helps get a timely query message, but energy efficiency is improved by relying on the hierarchical clustering formation method, while the fuzzy logic method is used to increase network efficiency [18].

Intelligent multipath routing has been used, which uses fuzzy stochastic multipath routing (FSMR) for providing hop count, battery power and signal strength. Nodes are stochastically forwarded with path selection, which results in automatic load balancing and fault tolerance [19], [20]. Geographic opportunistic routing (GOR) used to provide QoS with end-to-end reliability and delay restrictions in WSNs, for different opportunities, has been proposed to

ensure multi control service quality in WSNs – a problem that may be formulated as one involving multi-objective optimization, i.e. selection and prioritization of a set of candidates for efficient forwarding. The solution is suitable for WSN in terms of efficiency energy, latency and temporal complexity [21].

An adaptive multi-constraint multipath routing protocol which minimizes loss rate, energy consumption and delay between clusters, based on a weighted cost function and on such parameters as loss rate, residual energy and delay, is presented in [18]. An approach to calculate approximately probabilistic timeliness guarantees end-to-end communication delivery delays in WSNs and is used at run-time to build a metric which estimates the probability density function of the end-to-end latency of a path [22]. In fuzzy stochastic multipath routing (FSMR), multiple metrics are used to determine hop count, battery power, signal strength and fuzzy logic is used to offer multiple optimal paths [23]. A novel relative mobility metric for mobile ad hoc networks (MANETs), which is based on power level ratios changing at every node due to consecutive receptions from its neighbors, is addressed in [24].

### 3. System Architecture and Methodology

The proposed work identifies multiple paths between nodes, leading through candidate nodes, based on different QoS constraints. The proposed architecture is shown in Fig. 1. It comprises 3 parts:

- cluster formation by using fuzzy c-mean,
- optimal shortest routing by using k-nearest neighborhood method,
- providing service differentiations based on service requirements.

QoS nodes based on different constraints are known as candidate nodes and are chosen from the CH set. These nodes are chosen based on residual energy, bandwidth, packet loss and delay. The distance of the CH from the sink is essential for energy efficiency and is crucial for balancing energy spending and network lifetime. Hence, the formation of clusters between sensor nodes is given priority. The fuzzy c-means clustering approach is used in cluster formation to determine the set of  $k$  clusters in  $d$ -dimensional space. In the network structure, each sensor node has maintained a routing table with neighbor node distance, residual energy, bandwidth and packet loss between nodes. Before starting any operation, each sensor node initializes each sensor by exchanging the routing table. After initiating, each node starts the transmission phase. Before the transmission, it checks the required bandwidth, delay, residual energy and packet loss by comparing it with the threshold value set. The routing path is a set of applicant nodes based on different QoS parameters. If any QoS applicant

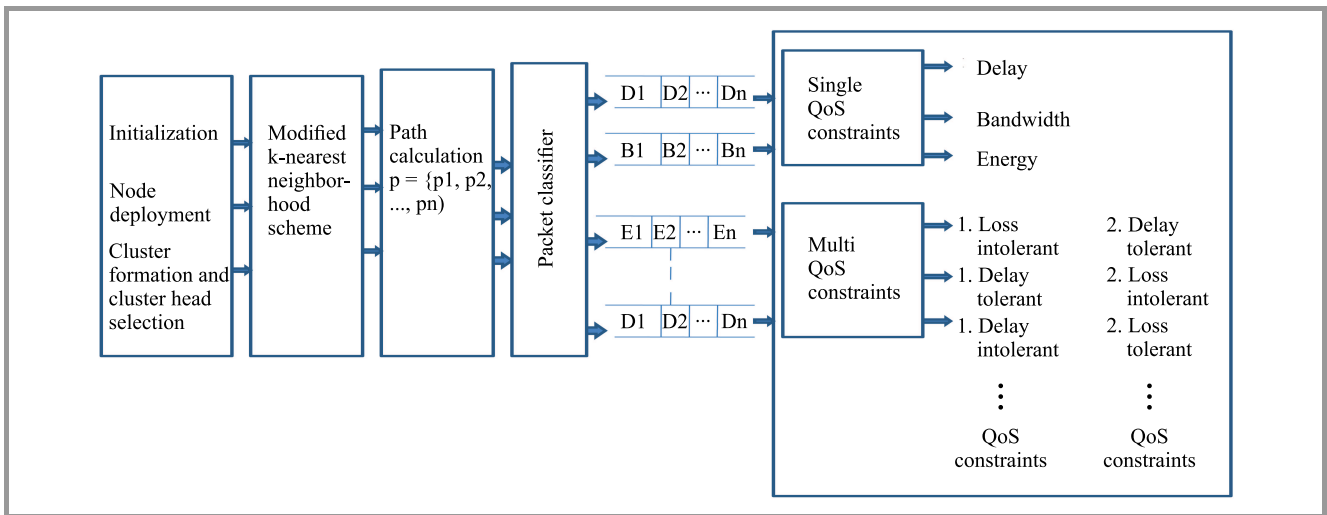


Fig. 1. System architecture.

node in the path fails because it does not meet the requirements related to bandwidth, residual energy, packet loss, an alternate path is established.

In the initialization phase, every sensor node telecasts a hello message to neighboring nodes, keeping in mind that the end goal is to have enough high quality information. Every sensor node maintains and updates a table with neighboring nodes during this stage. The table contains a list of the sensor node’s neighboring nodes. While establishing each path, the sensor node sends a hello packet to another node. If the parameters are met, then the path is established (Fig. 2).

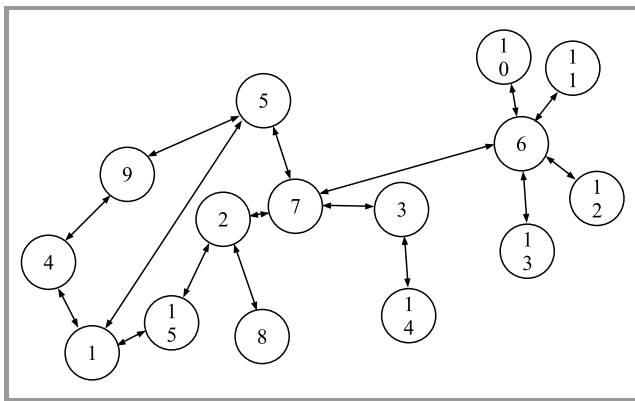


Fig. 2. Route initialization phase.

Next, cluster formation proceeds and the fuzzy c-means clustering algorithm is applied. It uses the information about its members to select the right option. Then, cluster head formation is calculated and the cluster head is selected for each cluster.

In the neighborhood scheme, a modified QoS k-neighborhood algorithm is used. The distance between CH and sink is calculated by the Euclidian distance (Algorithm 1). This demonstrates how to route data information based

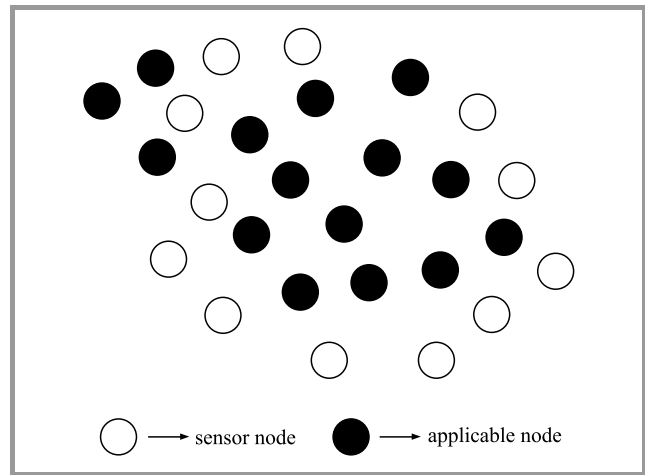


Fig. 3. Applicable cluster node selection.

on QoS parameters: residual energy, delay, bandwidth and packet loss. Within the network structure, each sensor node maintains a routing table that contains neighbor node distance, residual energy, bandwidth and packet loss experienced while communicating with other nodes, as shown in Fig. 3. Before commencing any operation, each sensor node is initialized, i.e. it exchanges the routing table. After initiating the transmission phase, but before the transmission, it checks the minimum bandwidth, delay, residual energy and packet loss.

To validate the routing, four metrics are used:

- **Bandwidth.** When a node intends to transport data, it has to be conscious of the local bandwidth and the interference and transmission range of the neighboring nodes. Therefore, the node needs to monitor the channel and estimate local bandwidth (LBW) which depends on the idle-to-busy time ratio. Residual energy is computed by the node over a given period of time.

- **Packet loss rate (PLR).** The packet loss rate is calculated as the ratio between the amount of data packets received and the total amount of data packets sent.
- **Delay** – is the time difference between the time when the packet was sent from source and the time when it arrives at the other node.

**Algorithm 1 : Modified QoS k-nearest neighbor**

Let  $(X_i, C_i)$  where  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  be data points. Let  $x$  be a point related count class.  
 Calculate using k-nearest neighbor along with QoS parameters:  
 Step 1. Compute  $d(x, x_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , where  $d$  represents the Euclidean distance between the points along with the QoS parameter  
 Step 2. Arrange the calculated  $n$  Euclidean distance form  
 Step 3. Let  $k$  be a positive integer, take the first  $k$  distances from this sorted list based on the QoS parameters  
 Step 4. Find individuals  $k$ -points matching to these  $k$ -distances and QoS parameter considerations  
 Step 5. Let  $k_i$  denotes the number of points belonging to the  $i$ -th class among  $k$  points, i.e.  $k \geq 0$ . Consider those nodes which satisfy the QoS based on a single constraint and multiple constraints

In the next step service differentiations are provided based on service requirements. Packet and path classifiers are determined as well (Fig. 4). Packets are classified based on QoS constraints. If packets are delay sensitive, then they are sent to the delay sensitive path. If packets are bandwidth sensitive, then they are sent to the bandwidth sensitive path. If packets are energy sensitive, then they are sent to the energy sensitive path. The best available path matching the service type is considered for routing the data. The path with the lowest energy consumption, delay, bandwidth and packet loss is considered to be the optimal path.

**3.1. Path Discovery Phase**

When a source node intends to broadcast a data packet to a target node, it initiates the multipath routing detection process between the source and the destination. This initiates the routing process. The source node must first check its routing table to determine whether the routing table contains information. If a route is established, the source will make use of the route to send the data packet instantly, or else, the source node will broadcast a route request (RREQ) packet.

The state of  $d$  node indicates whether the node is designated as a candidate node or a non-candidate node. When a node receives an RREQ packet, it will forward the packet to all its neighbors. When an intermediate node receives an RREQ packet, if it has previously received an RREQ packet with a similar series number and destination ID, it drops the unnecessary RREQ packet. When an intermediate node receives an RREQ packet for the first time, it updates its routing table with the source ID and destination ID and the previous hop node ID and its state and appends its state to the RREQ message in the node state field and analyzes the destination ID. When the destination node receives the RREQ message, it appends its state to the route reply (RREP) and unicasts the reply message on the reverse path toward the source. The destination performs this action for every RREQ it receives. At the same time, an intermediate node receives the RREP message, it appends its state to the message, updates its routing table and unicasts the RREP in the direction of the source using the formerly stored hop node information. The source chooses a path of applicable nodes to transmit the data packet.

**3.2. Data Transmission Phase**

Figure 5 shows the optimal path's source (thin line, path 3) and destination nodes, indicated by a square box. The ser-

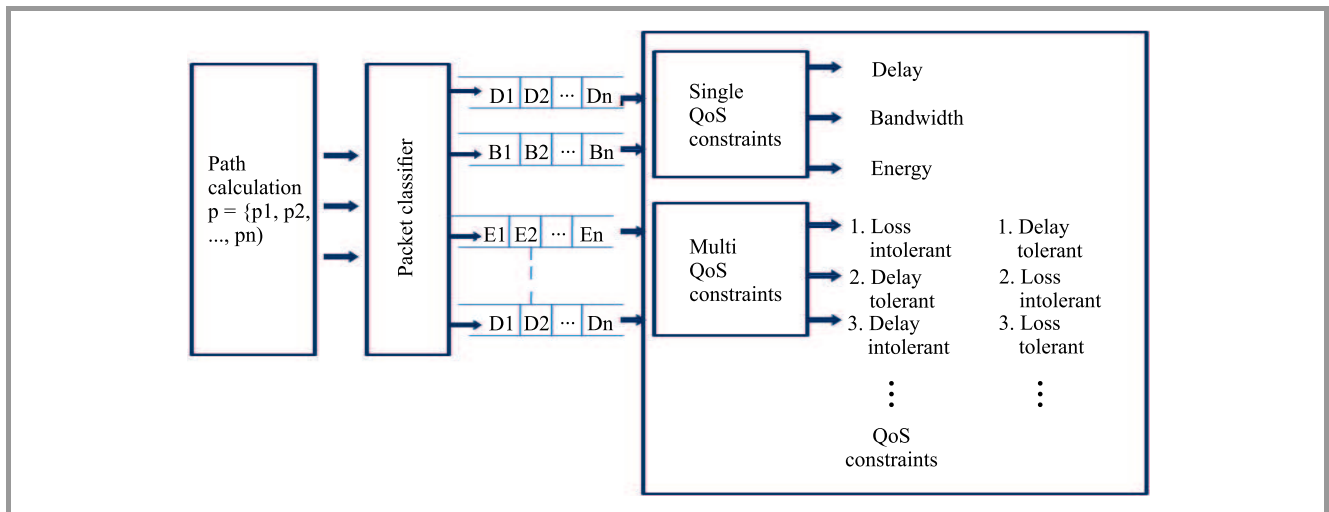


Fig. 4. Packet and path classifier.

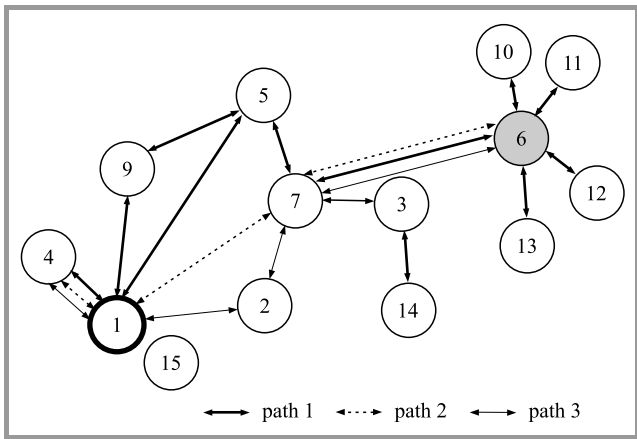


Fig. 5. Path discovery.

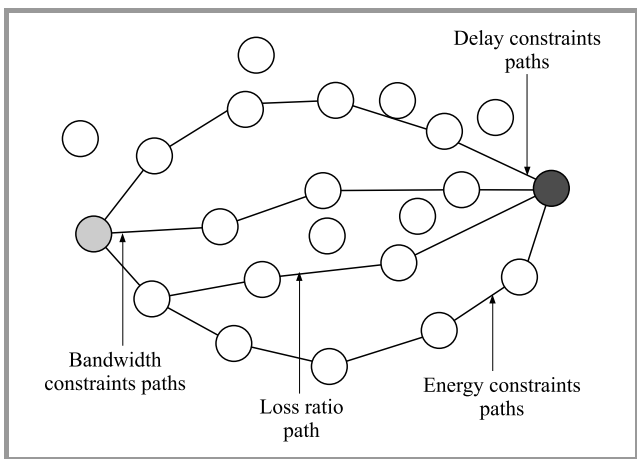


Fig. 6. Service differentiation paths.

vice differentiation paths are shown in Fig. 6. After receiving transferring of sense data it represented output results by the graph. For example, in the figure shown, node 6 wants to send data to node then it will find a destination node using multipath paths are For example in the figure, node 6 wants to send data to node then it will find a destination node using multipath paths are:

- 1.6-7-5-9-1 – in this path, the hop count is larger, it consumes more energy and node 9 is busier than in other paths,
- 2.6-7-1-4 – in this path the hop count is lower, less energy is consumed and BW is greater,
- 3.6-7-2-1-4 – in this path the hop count is higher, more energy is consumed and BW is lower compared to path 6.

Checking all parameters, select the optimized path used to transmit data from the source to the destination.

### 4. Simulation System and Parameters

A comparison of the proposed protocol with existing protocols is performed using the NS-2 network simulator [25].

The simulation models use a network of 100 nodes in a  $500 \times 500$  m region, with the number of sensor nodes varying from 0 to 100. The average of 10 runs has been performed for simulation purposes. Each and every node randomly selects a position and moves in the direction of that position. Once the node arrives at the position, it stays there for a predefined period of time. After that time, it selects a new position and repeats the process. The simulations run lasts for 200 s.

The evaluation of the proposed protocol is based on relevant parameters - the number of packets dropped, delay, bandwidth and hop count.

#### 4.1. Comparative Analysis

Figure 7 shows a comparison between the packet delivery ratio (PDR) in the proposed network and in the existing protocol [14], with varying times. As the time increases, the number of packets delivered increases in the existing protocol. The existing protocol's FSMR chooses the optimal route for transmission and finds an alternate path through the applicable nodes when the path breaks. When applicable nodes are selected, no other nodes are involved and they are sent to sleep mode. Consequently, it offers better PDR in terms of different QoS constraints.

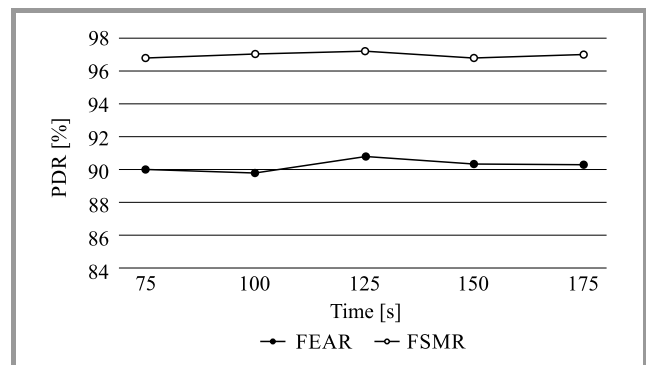


Fig. 7. PDR versus time.

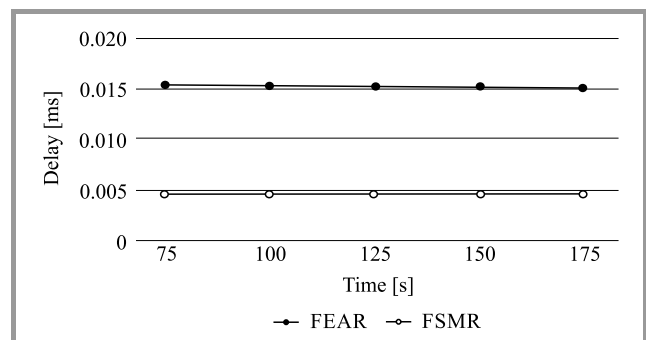


Fig. 8. Delay versus time.

Figure 8 shows that the delay in FSMR will be lower than in FEAR, because of the fact that applicable nodes have already considered the delay parameter, and if the link breaks, another applicable node will be chosen to estab-

lish the route. FSMR offers also a better service based on QoS constraints, and a separate path with a specific delay is maintained. It checks whether the QoS delay parameter is satisfied or not for each link. It separates all available paths only by considering the most prominent delay, and selects one optimal path based on the delay constraint and the shortest path to transmit the packet.

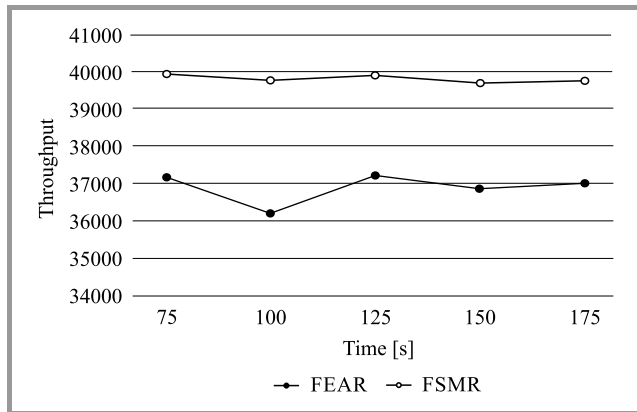


Fig. 9. Throughput versus time.

Figure 9 shows that the delay of FEAR increases as the time increases, because the longer time may deplete more energy. This may lead to packet loss, buffer overflow, degradation in throughput and frequent route breaks. Therefore, it results in a longer end-to-end delay. FSMR achieves the best path to transmit the data from the source to the destination before transmitting any packets, so the link selecting process has to be performed. The selected path should have a lower mean end-to-end delay.

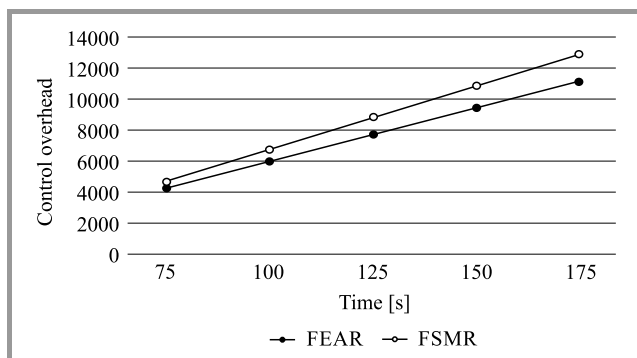


Fig. 10. Control overhead versus time.

Figure 10 shows the behavior of the proposed protocol according to the control overhead. It shows the packets that are sent and received with the use of a specific route. A different simulation time has been adopted here for each of the iterations, while the characteristics (initial power, node distribution and distance from sink) remain the same. The average of 10 simulation runs have been conducted to evaluate performance.

The overall control overhead is reduced for FSMR, because adopting fuzzy logic, and also by using the selected nodes

only to establish the route for servicing the packets for particular services.

## 5. Conclusion

The purpose of the proposed protocol is to find the optimized path between nodes, using relevant nodes. The node selection process is performed using the modified QoS k-nearest neighborhood technique. Simulation performed in the NS2 simulator shows that the proposed technique reduces the delay, as well as increases the packet delivery ratio and throughput.

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