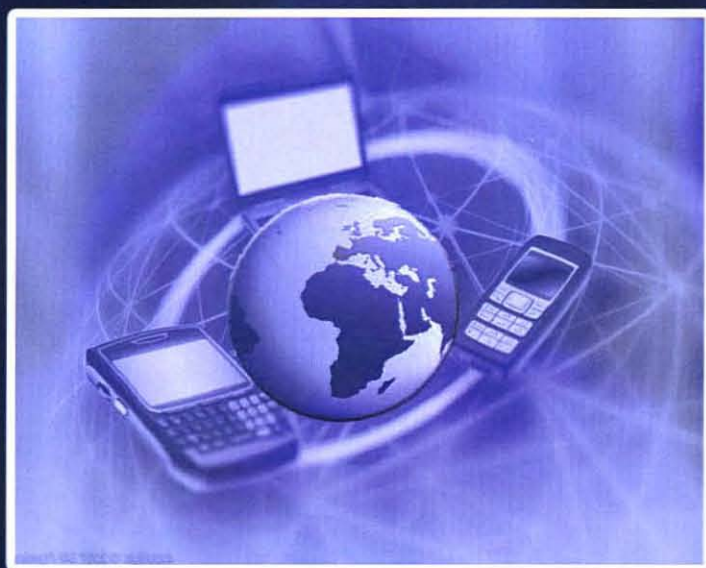


Research Issues in Wireless

Communications and Networking

Farhat Anwar
Wajdi Al-Khateeb



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CHAPTER 29

PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS OF COGNITIVE RADIO NETWORK ARCHITECTURES IN WIRELESS SENSOR NETWORKS

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29.1 INTRODUCTION TO COGNITIVE RADIO NETWORKS

Cognitive radio is a technique proposed by Mitola which provides a way to efficiently use precious radio spectrum resources [1, 2]. A cognitive radio recognizes, analyzes, and learns the situations of the radio spectrum and then employs various strategies to maximize spectrum usage. The concept of cognitive radio is to detect and ascertain which aspect of the spectrum is presently unused, and then perform data transmission at the newly discovered frequency band. An alternative cognitive radio scheme is to transmit signals on top of existing transmissions as long as the interference temperature measure is lower than threshold. Spectrum sharing, spectrum sensing, and spectrum management are the stages of a cognitive radio. Spectrum sensing gathers up-to-date spectrum usage data, spectrum management determines the optimal spectrum access timing and scheme, and spectrum sharing ensures that users are served in a fair and timely manner [2, 3].

29.2 TREND OF HIGH-SPEED NETWORKS

Researches on sensor networks have long focused on low power, low data rate systems due to the limitations on hardware complexity and battery lifetime. However, more and more applications require sensor network to support high data rate, and computational expense is getting cheaper and cheaper these days [2]. Therefore, this is one of the motivations for this chapter which delineates the key design issues and concepts in high speed sensor networks. Examples of high speed sensor networks are real-time video surveillance systems and battlefield monitoring systems. Imagine that on a battlefield, cameras mounted on soldiers' helmets are reporting real-time scenes back to squad leaders and commanders. Since there might be many squads on the battlefield, different transmissions might be happening at the same time to achieve high speed and low delay. In addition, sensors might have different characteristics and capabilities, or use different methods to communicate [3, 4].

Moreover, different units might not have time or capability to talk to each other before data transmission. This kind of network, in this chapter, can be viewed as a cognitive radio network [3]. In this chapter, it is proffered that high speed cognitive radio network architectures based on blind signal separation (BSS) methods should be developed. The idea of blind signal separation is to recover original messages by observing signals received from different antennas [4]. This chapter will consider three network scenarios. The first is a simple data collection problem. Two or more sensors want to report to the data collector simultaneously. These sensors can be either homogeneous or heterogeneous. This chapter suggests the consideration of cognitive radio networks without and with routing in the second and the third scenario, respectively. One of the key