

Energy-Neutral Wireless Sensor Networks

Oswaldo Simeone

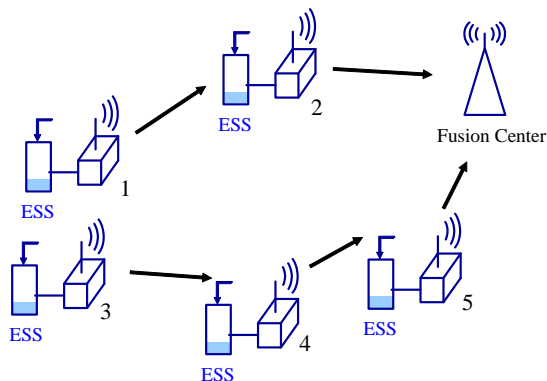
New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), USA

(joint work with Paolo Castiglione, Elza Erkip, Cristiano Tapparello,
Michele Rossi and Thomas Zemen)

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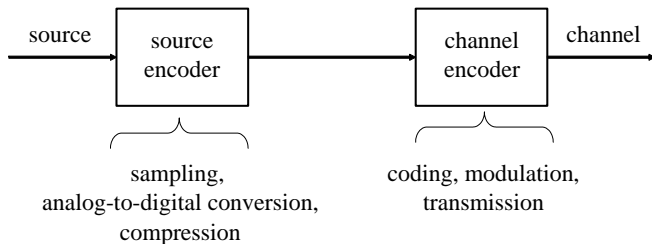
Introduction

- Energy-harvesting enables new applications for sensor networks (e.g., monitoring flocks of animals, structural health monitoring, ...)



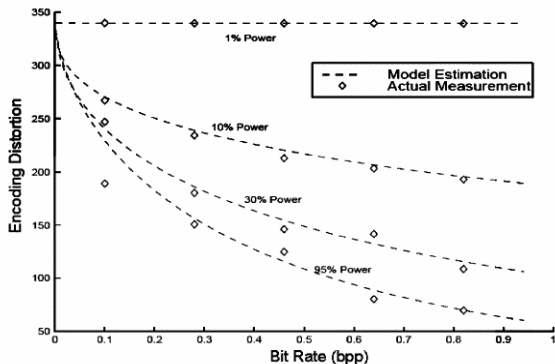
- Energy neutrality requires to balance the use of available and predicted energy

- Wireless sensor networks have source-channel coding capabilities



Introduction

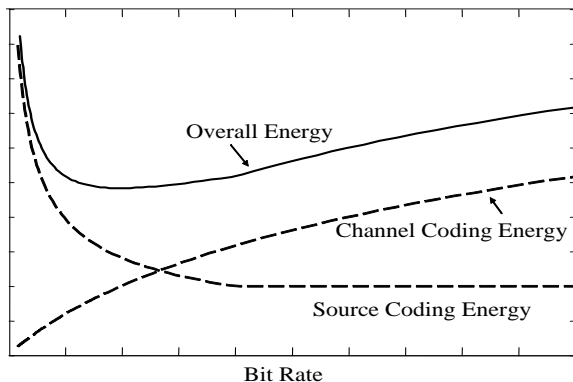
- The energy spent for *source digitization* is comparable that used for communication [Lu et al 03] [He and Wu 06] [Barr Asanovic 06]



[He and Wu 06]

Introduction

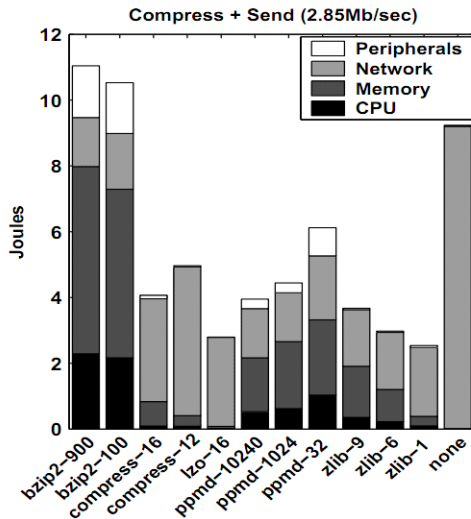
- The energy spent for *source coding* is comparable to that used for channel coding [Lu et al 03] [He and Wu 06]



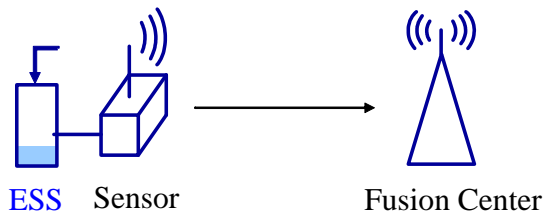
[Lu et al 03]

Introduction

- Ex.: WLAN card with web data [Barr Asanovic 06]

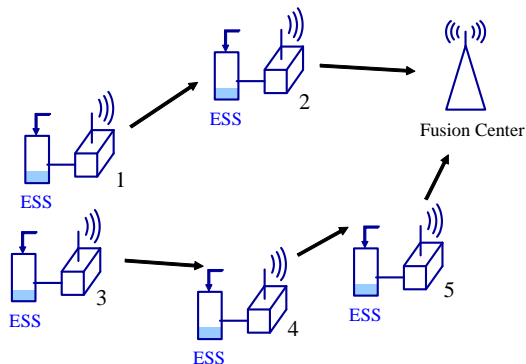


- Energy-neutral wireless sensor networks with source digitization and transmission costs



1. Point-to-point link:

- Optimal energy management policies (long-term average distortion) with arbitrarily large battery and data queue
- Trade-off distortion vs. data queue and battery sizes

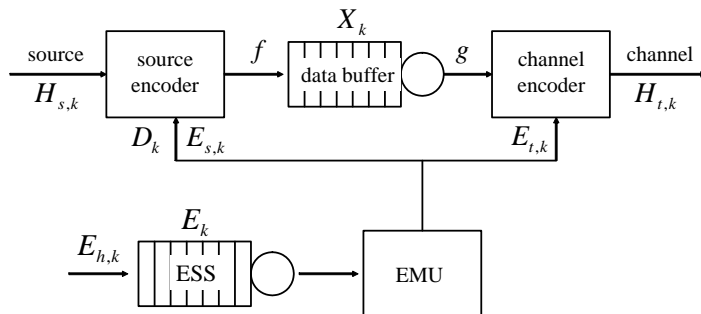


- **2. Multi-hop network:**

- Optimal joint routing and energy management policies (long-term average distortion) with arbitrarily large battery and data queue
- Trade-off distortion vs. data queue and battery sizes

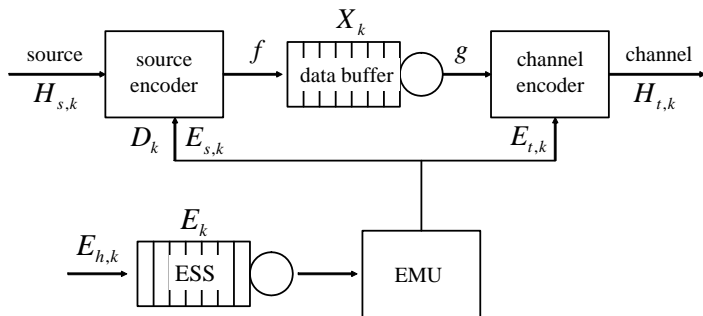
- *Energy-harvesting, transmission energy only:*
 - Information theory [Sharma et al 10][Ozel and Ulukus 10][Ozel et al 10][Devillers and Gunduz 11]
 - Medium Access Control [Iannello et al 10][Jeon and Ephremides 11]
 - Routing and queuing [Kansal et al 06][Lin et al 07][Gatzianas et al 10][Huang and Neely 10]
- *Battery-Powered, source digitization and transmission energy:*
[Neely and Sharma 08][Mastrorarde and van der Schaar 10]

Point-to-Point Link: System Model



- M samples of a given source measured in each slot
- Source state $H_{s,k} \in \mathcal{H}_s$ stationary ergodic process $\sim p_{H_s}(h_s)$
- Bits/source symbol generated by the source encoder: $f(D_k, E_{s,k}, H_{s,k})$ (separately continuous convex and non-increasing in D_k and $E_{s,k}$)

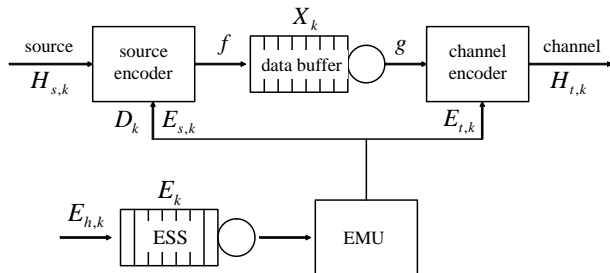
System Model



- Channel state: $H_{t,k} \in \mathcal{H}_t$ stationary ergodic $\sim p_{H_t}(h_t)$
- N channel uses ($b = N/M$ bandwidth ratio)
- Bits per channel use delivered successfully to the destination: $g(H_{t,k}, E_{t,k})$ (continuous, concave and non-decreasing in $E_{t,k}$)
- Data queue evolution (*infinite size*):

$$X_{k+1} = [X_k - g(H_{t,k}, E_{t,k})]^+ + f(D_k, E_{s,k}, H_{s,k})$$

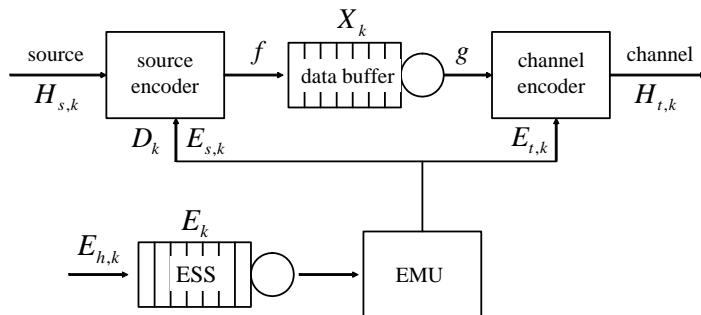
System Model



- Energy arrival $E_{h,k}$ stationary ergodic process $\sim p_{E_h}(e)$ [joule/channel use]
- Energy Storage System (ESS) of *infinite size*:

$$E_{k+1} = [E_k - (E_{s,k} + E_{t,k})]^+ + E_{h,k+1}$$

Definition of Policy



- Policy of Energy management unit (EMU):

$\pi := \{\pi_k\}_{k \geq 1}$, where $\pi_k := \{D_k(S^k), E_{s,k}(S^k), E_{t,k}(S^k)\}$
dependent on past system states $S^k = \{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$, where
 $S_i = \{E_i, X_i, H_{s,i}, H_{t,i}\}$

Minimization of Long-Term average Distortion

- Minimize over π

$$\bar{D} = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbb{E}[D_k]$$

subject to data queue is stability

- Data queue (steady state) stability: Distribution of X_k is asymptotically *stationary* and *proper* (so that $\Pr(X_k = \infty) \rightarrow 0$)

Theorem

The minimum distortion \bar{D} under stability constraints is lower bounded by the solution of the convex problem

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{D} \geq \bar{D}^* &= \arg \min \sum_{h_s} p_{H_s}(h_s) D^{h_s} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad &\sum_{h_s} p_{H_s}(h_s) f^{h_s}(D^{h_s}, E_s^{h_s}) \leq \sum_{h_t} p_{H_t}(h_t) g^{h_t}(E_t^{h_t}), \\ &\sum_{h_s} p_{H_s}(h_s) E_s^{h_s} \leq (1 - \alpha) \mathbb{E}[E_{h,k}], \\ &\sum_{h_t} p_{H_t}(h_t) E_t^{h_t} \leq \alpha \mathbb{E}[E_{h,k}], \end{aligned}$$

where minimization is done over the parameters $D^{h_s} \geq 0$, $E_s^{h_s} \geq 0$ for $h_s \in \mathcal{H}_s$, $E_t^{h_t} \geq 0$ for $h_t \in \mathcal{H}_t$, and $0 < \alpha < 1$.

Proof: Based on G/G/1 queuing results and on identifying appropriate variables.

Theorem

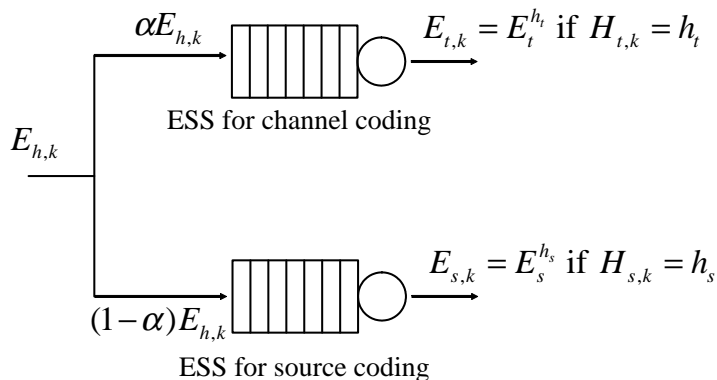
A policy π that achieves a distortion arbitrarily close to optimal is given by

$$\begin{cases} D_k = D^{h_s} & \text{for } H_{s,k} = h_s \\ E_{s,k} = \min \left[(1 - \alpha) E_k, E_s^{h_s} \right] & \text{for } H_{s,k} = h_s, \\ E_{t,k} = \min \left[\alpha E_k, E_t^{h_t} \right] & \text{for } H_{t,k} = h_t \end{cases}$$

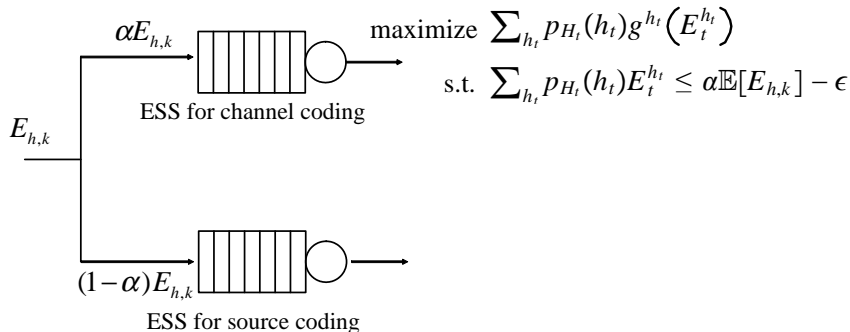
where parameters D^{h_s} , $E_s^{h_s}$, $E_t^{h_t}$ and $0 < \alpha < 1$ are obtained by solving the problem in the Theorem above with the three constraints modified by subtracting a parameter $\epsilon > 0$ arbitrarily small to the right-hand sides.

- *Stationary and separable policy:*
- *Source coding parameters $E_s^{h_s}, D^{h_s}$ adapted only to the source quality*
 $H_{s,k} = h_s$
- *Channel coding parameter $E_t^{h_t}$ adapted only to the fading state*
 $H_{t,k} = h_t$

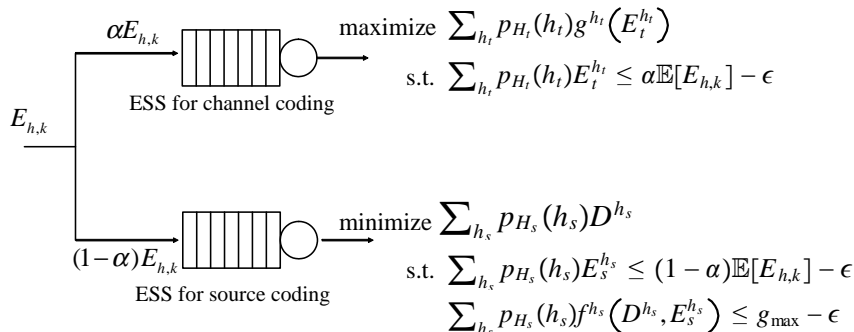
Optimal Policy: Comments



Optimal Policy: Comments



Optimal Policy: Comments



Optimal Policy: Comments

- Average energy used $\leq \mathbb{E} [E_{h,k}] - \epsilon$
- $\epsilon > 0 \rightarrow$ no underflow (as k grows large)
- This result hinges on infinite ESS

The Role of ESS: Suboptimal Policies

- Policies that do not use the ESS, or use it only partially
- *No ESS with adaptation*: For an optimized fraction $0 \leq \alpha^{h_s, h_t} \leq 1$

$$\begin{cases} D_k = D^{h_s, h_t} \\ E_{s,k} = \alpha^{h_s, h_t} E_{h,k} \\ E_{t,k} = (1 - \alpha^{h_s, h_t}) E_{h,k} \end{cases} .$$

- *No ESS with no adaptation*: $\alpha^{h_s, h_t} = \alpha$
- *Source-only ESS*
- *Channel-only ESS*
- ... *non-separable policies*

Numerical Results

- *Source model:*

i.i.d. source $U_{k,i} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, D_{max})$ with $i = 1, \dots, M$

measurement $\sqrt{H_{s,k}}U_{k,i} + Z_{k,i}$ where $Z_{k,i} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ i.i.d.

Rate-distortion-energy function is given [He and Wu 06]

$$f^{h_s}(D_k, E_{s,k}) = \frac{1}{b} \log_2 \left(\frac{D_{max} - D_{mmse}}{D_k - D_{mmse}} \right) \zeta(E_{s,k}),$$

(indirect) rate-distortion function with $D_{mmse} = (h_s + 1/D_{max})^{-1}$,
 $\zeta(T_{s,k}) = \zeta \max [(bE_{s,k}/E_{s,max})^{-1/\eta}, 1]$, with $\zeta > 1$, $\eta > 1$ and
 $E_{s,max}$ being design parameters

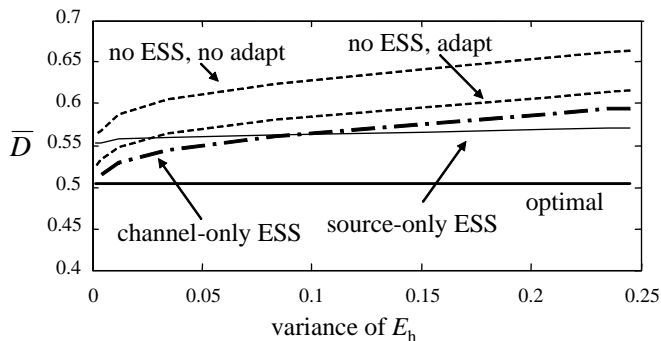
- *Communication model:* AWGN with channel SNR $H_{t,k}$,

$$g^{h_t}(E_t) = \log(1 + h_t E_t)$$

- $H_{s,k}$ and $H_{t,k}$ can take two possible values in $\mathcal{H}_s = \mathcal{H}_t = \{1, 10\}$ independently and with equal probability

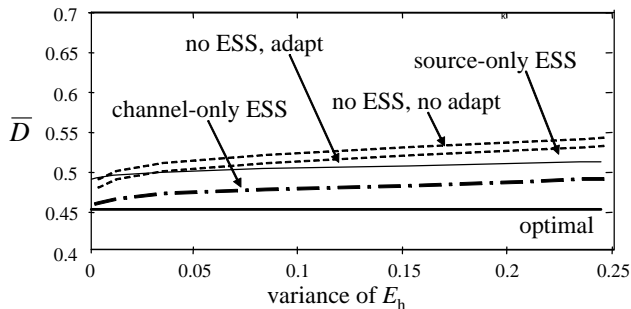
Numerical Results

- Beta distribution for $E_{h,k}$ with mean $\mathbb{E}[E_{h,k}] = 0.5$
- $E_{s,max} = 1$, $b = 1$ and $\eta = 3/2$



Numerical Results

- $\eta = 3$ ($f^{h_s}(D_k, E_{s,k})$ less convex in $E_{s,k}$)



Finite ESS and Data Queue

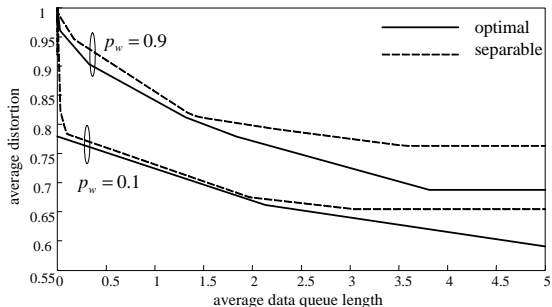
- Stability criterion does not provide any guarantee on the queue length (and thus, indirectly, on the delay)
- At the stability limit, the queue length becomes arbitrarily large
- Here we assume finite ESS and data queue
- Minimize *expected total discounted cost* ($0 \leq \lambda < 1$ is the discount factor and $0 \leq \gamma \leq 1$)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=0}^n \lambda^k [\gamma \mathbb{E}[D_k] + (1 - \gamma) \mathbb{E}[X_k]],$$

- Dynamic programming

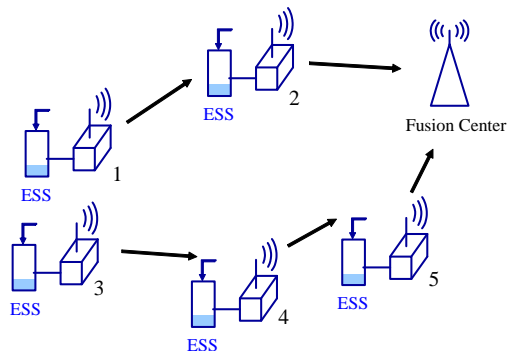
Numerical Results

- Data buffer length equal to 6, unit battery capacity, $D_k \in \{0.55, 0.75, 1\}$
- $p_{E_h}(0.5) = p_{H_t}(1) = p_{H_s}(1) = p_w$



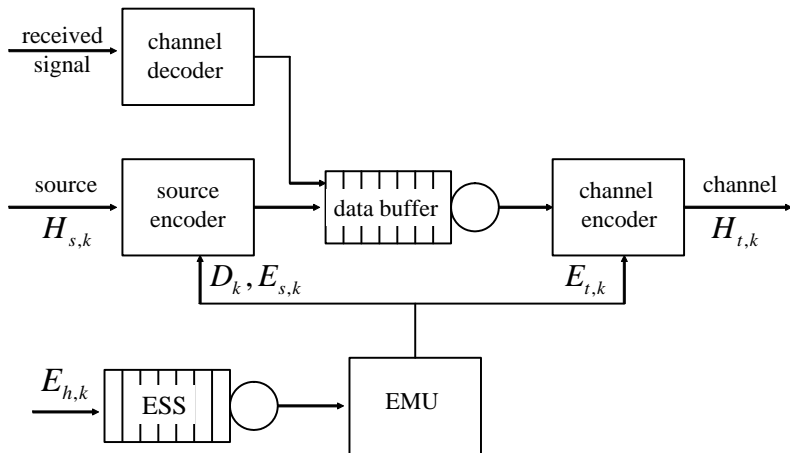
- Separable policy with two ESSs (assumes that the other encoder provides a constant and optimized rate in each slot)

Multi-hop Network: Introduction

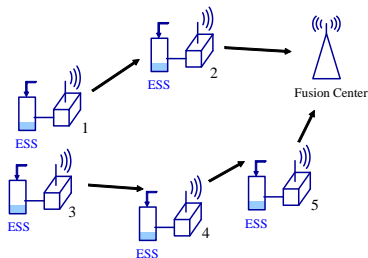


- Spatially correlated sources
 - Distributed source coding
 - In-network processing
- Interference
- Spatially correlated harvesting

System Model

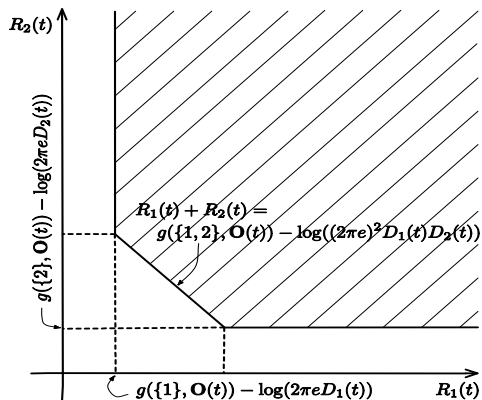


Source Coding Model



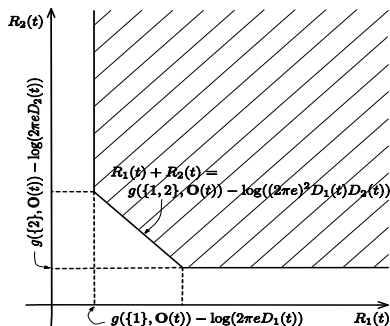
- Source state $\mathbf{O}(t) \in \mathcal{O}$ (finite) i.i.d.: joint spatial distribution of the sources $\sim \rho_{o_i}$
- ex.: $\mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{O}(t))$
- Source coding rate (bits per source symbol): $R_n(t) \leq R_{\max}$
- Distortion: $D_{\min} \leq D_n(t) \leq D_{\max}$, with $0 < D_{\min} \leq D_{\max} < \infty$

Source Coding Model: Distributed Source Coding



- Trade rates of different users for fixed distortion levels

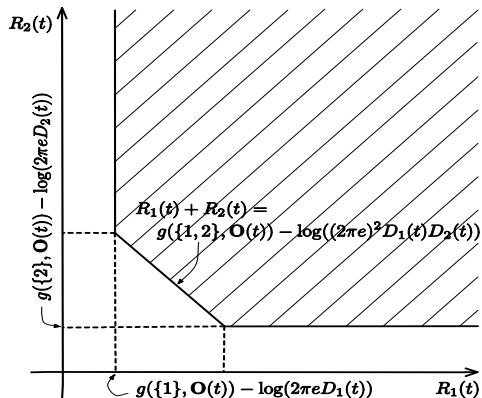
Source Coding Model: Distributed Source Coding



- High-resolution *rate-distortion constraints* [Zamir Berger 99]:

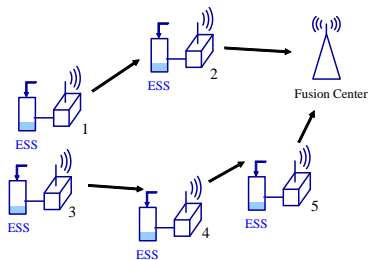
$$\sum_{n \in \mathcal{X}} R_n(t) \geq h(\mathcal{X}, \mathbf{O}(t)) - \log_2 \left((2\pi e)^{|\mathcal{X}|} \prod_{n \in \mathcal{X}} D_n \right)$$

Source Coding Model: Distributed Source Coding

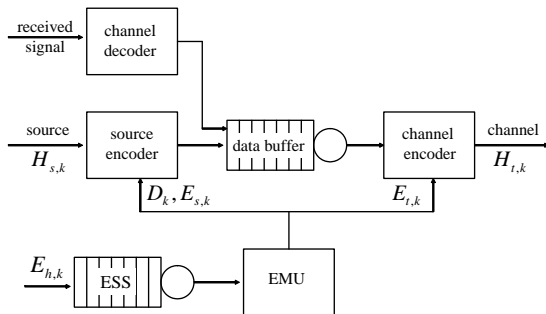


- Assume efficient distributed source codes: $P_c(R_n(t)) = \alpha_n R_n(t)$, $\alpha_n \geq 0$

Transmission Model [Georgiadis et al 06]



- Transmission power (per channel use) on (n, m) link: $P_{n,m}(t)$
- Channel state $\mathbf{S}(t) \in \mathcal{S}$ (finite set) i.i.d. $\sim \rho_{s_i}$
- Transmission rate $C_{n,m}(\mathbf{P}(t), \mathbf{S}(t))$ (bit per channel use) non decreasing in $P_{n,m}(t)$
- *Interference* is detrimental: $C_{n,m}(\mathbf{P}(t), \mathbf{S}(t)) \leq C_{n,m}(\mathbf{P}'(t), \mathbf{S}(t))$ if $P_{a,b}(t) = 0$ with $(a, b) \neq (n, m)$
- Ex: $\mu_{n,m}(t) = C_{n,m}(\mathbf{P}(t), \mathbf{S}(t)) = \log \left(1 + \frac{P_{n,m}(t)S_{n,m}(t)}{N_0 + \sum_{l \neq n} P_l(t)S_{l,n}(t)} \right)$



- Data received by other nodes: $\mu_{in}(t) = \sum_{m \neq n} \mu_{m,n}(t)$
- Data transmitted: $\mu_{out}(t) = \sum_{n \neq m} \mu_{n,m}(t)$

$$U_n(t+1) \leq \max \{ U_n(t) - \mu_{n,*}(t), 0 \} + \mu_{*,n}(t) + \frac{R_n(t)}{b}$$

Energy Model [Huang and Neely 10]

- Energy harvestable $H_n(t) \in \mathcal{H}$ (finite) i.i.d. $\sim \rho_{h_i}$
- Energy harvested: $0 \leq \tilde{H}_n(t) \leq H_n(t)$
- Battery evolution: $E_n(t+1) = E_n(t) - P_n(t) - P_c(R_n(t)) + \tilde{H}_n(t)$
- *Energy availability constraints* $P_n(t) + P_c(R_n(t)) \leq E_n(t)$

Problem Definition

- Policy $\pi := \{\pi(t)\}_{t \geq 1}$, where $\pi(t) := \{\mathbf{D}(t), \mathbf{R}(t), \mathbf{P}(t)\}_{\Theta(t)}$
- History of current and past states:
 $\Theta(t) = (\mathbf{U}(t'), \mathbf{E}(t'), \mathbf{S}(t'), \mathbf{O}(t'))_{t' \leq t}$
- Minimize over π

$$\limsup_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_n \mathbb{E} [f_n(D_n(t))]$$

- $f_n(D_n(t))$ convex and non-decreasing
- Strong stability constraint:

$$\limsup_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_n \mathbb{E} [U_n(t)] < \infty$$

- Energy availability and rate-distortion constraints

- By *relaxing* stability constraint to *mean rate* stability

$$\limsup_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_n \mathbb{E} \left[\mu_{*,n}(t) + \frac{R_n(t)}{b} \right] \leq \liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_n \mathbb{E} [\mu_{n,*}(t)]$$

and the energy availability constraint as

$$\limsup_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_n \mathbb{E} [P_n(t) + P_c(R_n(t))] = \liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_n \mathbb{E} [\tilde{H}_n(t)]$$

constrained Markov decision process

- Optimal strategy is randomized stationary [Ross 95]
- Policy depends on $(\mathbf{S}(t), \mathbf{O}(t))$

- Using Lagrangian relaxation: For any $V > 0$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_+^{L(2^N-1)}$, $\nu \in \mathbb{R}_+^N$, $\chi \in \mathbb{R}^N$

$$VF_0^* \geq d(\lambda, \nu, \chi)$$

with

$$d(\lambda, \nu, \chi) = \sum_{o_i \in \mathcal{O}} \rho_{o_i} \sum_{s_j \in \mathcal{S}} \rho_{s_j} \sum_{h_k \in \mathcal{H}} \rho_{h_k} d_{o_i, s_j, h_k}(\lambda^{(o_i)}, \nu, \chi),$$

Lower Bound

- with the definition $d_{o_i, s_j, h_k}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{(o_i)}, \boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\chi}) =$

$$\begin{aligned} & \inf_{\mathbf{R}^{(o_i)}, \mathbf{D}^{(o_i)}, \mathbf{P}^{(s_j)}, \tilde{\mathbf{H}}^{(h_k)}} \sum_n V f_n(D_n^{(o_i)}) \\ & + \sum_{m=1}^{2^N-1} \lambda_m^{(o_i)} \left[h(\mathcal{X}_m, o_i) - \log \left((2\pi e)^{|\mathcal{X}_m|} \prod_n D_n^{(o_i)} \right) - \sum_{n \in \mathcal{X}} R_n^{(o_i)} \right] \\ & + \sum_n \nu_n \left[\frac{R_n^{(o_i)}}{b} + \mu_{*,n}(\mathbf{P}^{(s_j)}, s_j) - \mu_{n,*}(\mathbf{P}^{(s_j)}, s_j) \right] \\ & + \sum_n \chi_n \left[P_n^{(s_j)} + \alpha_n R_n^{(o_i)} - \tilde{H}_n^{(h_k)} \right], \end{aligned}$$

under constraints $R_n^{(o_i)} \leq R_{\max}$, $D_{\min} \leq D_n^{(o_i)} \leq D_{\max}$ and $\tilde{H}_n^{(h_k)} \leq h_{n,k}$

- Consider the problem:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize } \limsup_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}[f(x(t), \phi(t))] \\ & \text{s.t. } \begin{cases} \limsup_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}[Q(t)] \leq \infty \\ x(t) \in \mathcal{X}_{\phi(t)} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

- $\phi(t)$ (state) i.i.d.
- Queue: $Q(t+1) = \max\{Q(t) + g(x(t), \phi(t)), 0\}$

- Lyapunov function: $L(t) = \frac{1}{2}Q(t)^2$
- Average drift: $\Delta(t) = \mathbb{E}[L(t+1) - L(t)|Q(t)]$
- Minimize

$$\begin{aligned} & \Delta(t) + V\mathbb{E}[f(x(t), \phi(t))|Q(t)] \\ \leq & B + Q(t)\mathbb{E}[g(x(t), \phi(t))|Q(t)] + V\mathbb{E}[f(x(t), \phi(t))|Q(t)] \end{aligned}$$

- Minimize

$$Q(t)g(x, \phi) + Vf(x, \phi) \text{ s.t. } x \in \mathcal{X}_\phi$$

(no need to know statistics of state $\phi(t)$)

- Relax the stability constraint: $\phi^* \leq VF^*$, where ϕ^* optimal solution of

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize } \limsup_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T V \mathbb{E}[f(x(t), \phi(t))] \\ \text{s.t. } & \begin{cases} \limsup_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}[g(x(t), \phi(t))] \leq 0 \\ x(t) \in \mathcal{X}_{\phi(t)} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

- Lagrange dual (weak duality): $d^* \leq \phi^* \leq VF^*$, where d^* is the solution of

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize } V \mathbb{E}[f(x(t), \phi(t)) | Q(t)] + \lambda \mathbb{E}[g(x(t), \phi(t)) | Q(t)] \\ \text{s.t. } & x(t) \in \mathcal{X}_{\phi(t)} \end{aligned}$$

- For the considered policy

$$\begin{aligned} & \Delta(t) + V\mathbb{E}[f(x(t), \phi(t))|Q(t)] \\ & \leq B + Q(t)\mathbb{E}[g(x(t), \phi(t))|Q(t)] + V\mathbb{E}[f(x(t), \phi(t))|Q(t)] \\ & \leq B + VF^* \end{aligned}$$

- Averaging over $Q(t)$ and summing over t

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{T}L(T) + \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T V\mathbb{E}[f(x(t), \phi(t))] \\ & \leq B + VF^* \end{aligned}$$

- By taking the limit, $\limsup_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}[f(x(t), \phi(t))] \leq \frac{B}{V} + F^*$

Perturbation-based Lyapunov Optimization

- Use Lyapunov based optimization with queues $\{U_n(t)\}$ and $\{E_n(t)\}$
- *Perturbed* Lyapunov function $\frac{1}{2}(E_n(t) - \theta_n)^2$
... drive the battery to a desired value so as to avoid underflow
[Huang Neely 10]

Proposed Policy

Fix a weight $\boldsymbol{\theta} = [\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N] \in \mathbb{R}_+^N$ and a parameter $V > 0$. At each time-slot t ,

- *Energy Harvesting*: For each node n , if $(E_n(t) - \theta_n) < 0$ set $\tilde{H}_n(t) = H_n(t)$; otherwise, $\tilde{H}_n(t) = 0$;
- *Rate-Distortion Optimization*: Choose the rate vector $\mathbf{R}(t)$ and the distortion levels $\mathbf{D}(t)$ as

$$\text{minimize } \sum_n [U_n(t)r_n - (E_n(t) - \theta_n)\alpha_n r_n + Vf_n(d_n)]$$

subject to the rate-distortion region constraint and to $0 \leq r_n \leq R_{\max}$ and $D_{\min} \leq d_n \leq D_{\max}$;

- *Power Allocation*: Define the weight of a link (n, m) as

$$W_{n,m}(t) = (U_n(t) - U_m(t) - \delta)^+,$$

where $\delta = I_{\max}\mu_{\max} + R_{\max}$, and choose the power matrix $\mathbf{P}(t)$ as

$$\underset{\mathbf{p}}{\text{maximize}} \sum_n (E_n(t) - \theta_n) p_n + \sum_{m \neq n, m} W_{n,m}(t) C_{n,m}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{S}(t)),$$

where $p_n = \sum_{m \neq n} p_{n,m}$, subject to constraints $0 \leq p_{n,m} \leq P_{\max}$;

- *Queues Update*

Distributed Implementation

- Rate-Distortion Optimization and Power Allocation require centralized optimization
- Distributed implementation of Power Allocation [Hoepman 04][Chen et al 06]
- Distributed implementation of Rate-Distortion Optimization: dual decomposition and subgradient

- Define the parameters $\beta_n = \min\{\alpha_n, 1\}$,
 $\gamma_n = \sup_{D_{\min} \leq d_n \leq D_{\max}} \left[\frac{f_n(d_n) - f_n(D_{\max})}{\log(d_n/D_{\max})} \right] < \infty$
- With $\theta_n = \alpha_n(H_{\max} + R_{\max}) + \frac{\gamma_n}{\beta_n}V + I_{\max}P_{\max}$,

1 Bounded energy and data queues for all t :

$$0 \leq E_n(t) \leq \theta_n + H_{\max},$$

and $0 \leq U_n(t) \leq \alpha_n H_{\max} + \gamma_n V + R_{\max}$

2 Cost function:

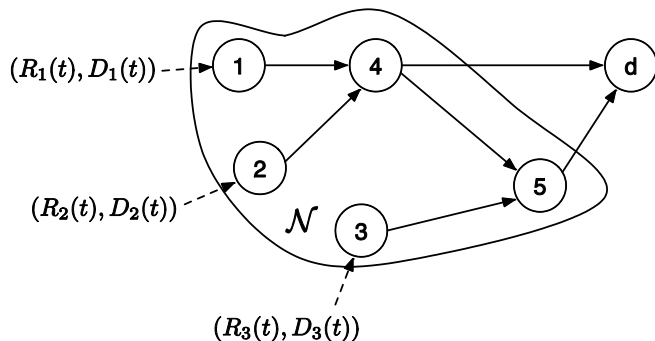
$$\sum_{n=1}^N f_n^{\pi} \leq F_0^* + \frac{B}{V},$$

where $B = N (\mu_{\max} (\mu_{\max} + R_{\max}) + R_{\max}^2 / 2) + N / 2 (H_{\max}^2 + \alpha_n^2 R_{\max}^2 + P_{\max}^2 + 2\alpha_n R_{\max} P_{\max}) + N \delta l_{\max} \mu_{\max}$

3 No battery underflow: If $P_n(t) > 0$ and/or $R_n(t) > 0$, we have that

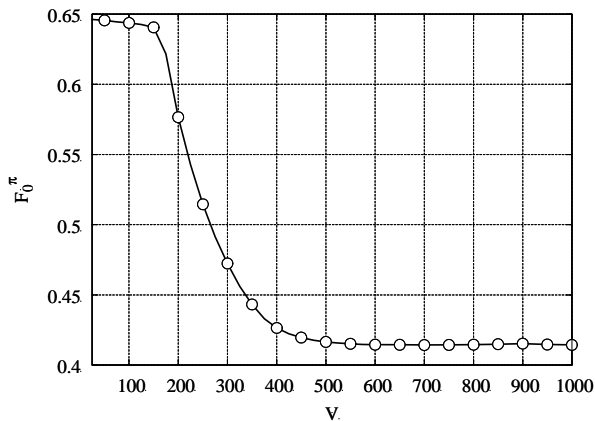
$$E_n(t) \geq \alpha_n R_{\max} + l_{\max} P_{\max}$$

Numerical Results



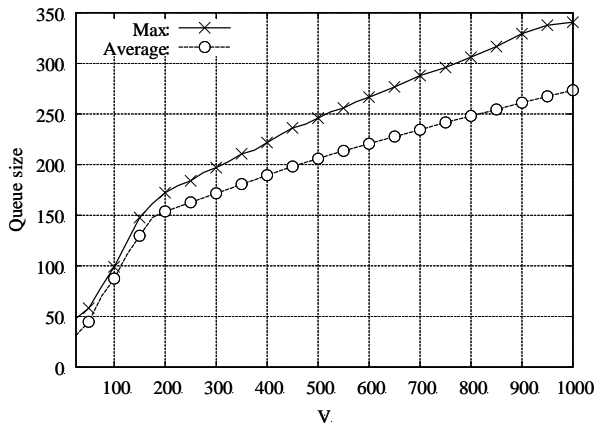
- $f_n(D_n) = D_n$ (sum-distortion)
- $S_{n,m}(t) \sim U(0, 1)$, $H_n(t) \sim U(0, 1)$
- Gaussian sources with correlation ρ
- $\alpha_n = 2$, $P_{\max} = 3$

Numerical Results: Impact of V



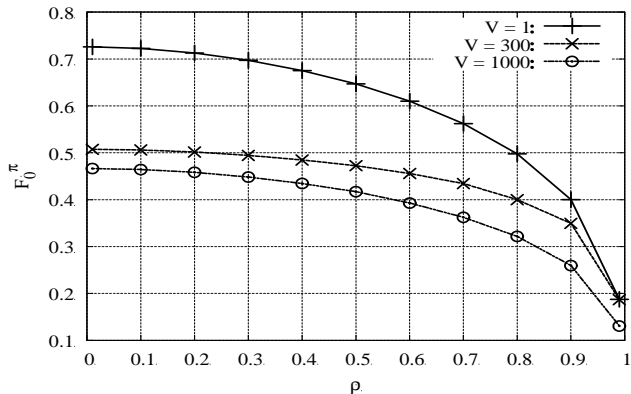
- $\rho = 0.5$

Numerical Results: Impact of V

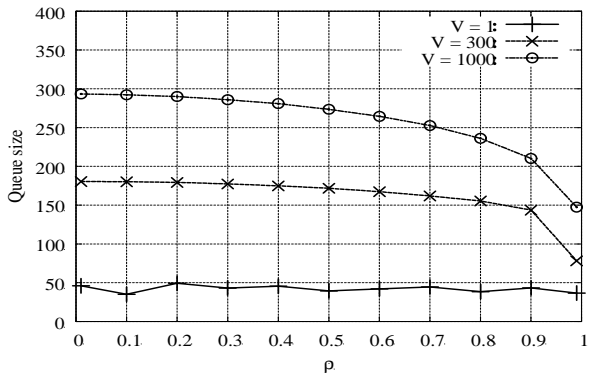


• $\rho = 0.5$

Numerical Results: Impact of Source Correlation



Numerical Results: Impact of Source Correlation



- Wireless sensor networks are a key component of cyber-physical systems
- Energy-harvesting enables new applications of wireless sensor networks
- Energy requirements of source and channel coding
- Point-to-point – With infinite data and energy buffers: separable policy is optimal
- With sufficiently large data and energy buffers: separable policy is approximately optimal
- Trade-off buffer sizes and performance