Performance Evaluation of "Dynamic Double Trickle Timer Algorithm" in RPL for Internet of Things (IoT)

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Abstract: Internet of Things (IoT) is a modern technology which used to support a variety of domains and applications in life. It is based on connecting various devices which can communicate with each other without the need for human intervention. Low Power and Lossy Networks (LLN), which already used IOT techniques, suffer from limited energy and resources. Special protocols have been designed for LLN, like RPL which uses the Trickle Timer algorithm, it turns to the act as a router and organizer for transmission of messages in the network. However, the trickle algorithm suffers from performance deficiency problems such as prolonged time and high power consumption. Therefore, there are such efforts to develop Trickle Timer algorithm to solve performance shortcomings in the algorithm. This work is an attempt to enhance the trickle timer algorithm to overcome delay and energy consumption problems, using dynamic doubling technique. Researchers used Cooja 2.7 simulator to evaluate the performance of the proposed algorithm by using several metrics: packet delivery ratio, convergence time and power consumption. The simulation examined under different scenarios. It also showed better results in performance and lower energy consumption of the proposed algorithm.

1 INTRODUCTION

Internet of Things (IoT) is a technology that based on any object in life which enable to communicate with other objects and formation of wireless networks with each other; in other words, they communicate with each other and exchange information without the need for human intervention (Madakam, 2015). These objects need sensors, to be connected with each other within wireless Sensor networks (Madakam, 2015). This technology has opened up an area for many services and applications in various fields such as healthcare systems, agriculture systems, smart cities systems, and so on. Low Power and Lossy Networks (LLN), are one form of networks which used IOT techniques. Routing Protocol for Low Power and Lossy Networks (RPL) is a routing protocol for LLN, RPL which used to choose the best path to transfer data within the network by using IPV6 distance vector proactive routing protocol (Winter et al., 2012)(Abuein et al., 2016). RPL consist of a set of algorithms, each algorithm has specific tasks. The main algorithm in RPL is the trickle timer algorithm. The major goal of the trickle timer algorithm is to

manage the transmission process in the network, while trickle organizes and routes the data between nodes in the network in an efficient manner to reduce the collision between the data during the messaging in the network, and to reduce the dissemination of messages that do not need to resent as repeated messages in the network. This is done by using two mechanisms. The first one when an asymmetric state occurs in the network, the algorithm increases the signaling rate of control and return to the harmonic mode in the network. The second one when repeating the same message in the network and nodes aren't longer needed to it; because it's connected to its neighbors, then the algorithm suppresses its transmission and this helps to reduce the messages spread to the network and the provision of energy (Djamaa and Richardson, 2015). Trickle timer algorithm assigns the main interval for each node in the network, this main interval starts from *lmin* and ends at Imax, Imin and Imax are variables. The node divides its own main interval to a group of subintervals, each subinterval starts from Istart and ends at *Iend*, *Istart* and *Iend* are variables. The start of the subinterval is at *Istart = Imin* and it ends with

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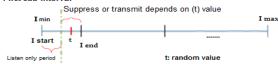
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Iend = Istart* 2 as shown in (Yassein and Aljawarneh, 2017). The execution starts from the first subinterval in the node, when the first subinterval finishes, next subinterval starts, and so on until ends up with all subintervals when the timer arriving into Imax value (Yassein et al., 2016), as shown in below Figure 4.

First sub interval



After doubling on the second sub interval

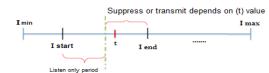


Figure 1: Standard Trickle Algorithm for Each Node (Yassein and Aljawarneh, 2017).

The standard trickle algorithm has three basic parameters:

- 1. Imax: maximum interval size
- 2. Imin: minimum interval size
- 3. *K*: redundancy constant

Furthermore, three variables are maintained by the algorithm (Levis et al., 2011):

- 1. I: size of the current interval
 - 2. C: counter
 - 3. T: specific time within the current interval

Whatever, the general goal Standard Trickle algorithm provides flow control of messages, by sending Hello messages. The main problem of the trickle timer algorithm is in the short listen period, that maybe not enough to receive all message requests from neighbors. There are some solutions that developed to solve this problem, but these solutions resulted in greater consumption of power and time. Therefore, the studies have continued on the algorithm to reduce the consumption of resources like power and time, especially since this algorithm supports networks with limited resources. This study is an attempt to improve the performance of the trickle timer algorithm. The proposed idea has developed an elastic algorithm that assigns the resources according to the node need, as resulted to reduce energy consumption and time to receive and transmit messages.

This paper is organized as follows: Section II provides an overview of related work. Section III

presents the proposed dynamic double trickle timer algorithm. Section IV shows the evaluation of the performance. Section V provides average results, and section VI provides the conclusion and future work.

2 RELATED WORK

Tickle timer algorithm has developed to manage and control messages deployment in wireless sensor networks. There are a lot of studies which focused on enhancing the performance of the trickle timer algorithm, to achieve optimal messages deployment between nodes, especially in the low power and the lost network's environment.

The authors in (Lin and Wang, 2015) proposed to change default parameters values when predetermined threshold value change the remaining power in the node change to be less than a threshold value, and when network condition has changed. In (Clausen and Herberg, 2011), the authors provided a set of notes and experiences when building RPL prototype products, and how to do the evaluation for products in the real world.

In (Meyfroyt et al., 2015), the authors proposed to use a Markov chain to manage messages broadcast process in the network by using Markov. They proved expectation the effect of a listen-only period and some mathematical analysis for the network. In (Vallati and Mingozzi, 2013)(Abdulraziq et al., 2018), the authors provided to perform an evaluation for RPL by using different Trickle parameters. The result was in the nondeterministic nature which leads to select a non-optimal path.

The authors of (Meyfroyt, 2013) (Park et al., 2016) (Shehadeh et al., 2018) studied the performance for the trickle timer algorithm based on parameter settings, they build mathematical models and analyze it. In (Meyfroyt et al., 2015) the authors continued to explore and discover in computing for a wireless sensor network.

The authors in (Meyfroyt et al., 2015) (Bani Yassein et al., 2018) detected the problem in load balancing between nodes inside the network, also there is no main cause to assign default parameters values for suppression mechanism, and they proposed to assign the suppression mechanism based on node density.

In (Ghaleb et al., 2015) (Yassein et al., 2017) (Yassein and Aljawarneh, 2017), the authors focused on a short listen problem in the trickle timer algorithm, they proposed a new version of the trickle to solve a Short-listen problem without a listen-only period. In (Ghaleb et al., 2016) (Abuein et al., 2016),

the authors proposed a new version of trickle called Trickle-Plus which increase elastic property in parameters value selection, to reduce time convergence and power consumption with better performance.

The authors of (Vučinić et al., 2017), the authors proposed a fairness problem solution, to achieve load balancing between all nodes with keeping the whole message count. The proposed idea is based on two steps. The first step is by simulating the network to detect parameters performance, and the second step is by building a new algorithm to adapt the redundancy parameter to achieve high load balancing. Recently, in (Yassein and Aljawarneh, 2017) the authors proposed elastic trickle algorithm to fix listen to the only problem, the proposed algorithm provided an elastic selection for listen-only was period based on the density of node. The result showed improvement in convergence time and power consumption with the same level in the packet delivery ratio.

3 DYNAMIC DOUBLE TRICKLE TIMER ALGORITHM

The interval, in the standard trickle timer algorithm, is divided into two halves: the listen-only period in the first half and the second half. During listen the only period a node stays listening and receiving messages from their neighbors and having no ability to transmit any message. When a new consistent message is received during listen the only period, there exist counter c for the node incremented by one. After the first half of the interval has spent, a random number t is chosen, so a node can transmit. Node first checks if the counter c that includes the number of receiving consistent messages is equal or greater than a threshold value k it, the node does not transmit. Otherwise, if counter c is less than k it transmits messages. Then the interval is doubled.

As mentioned above in the previous sections, the double value in trickle timer algorithm assigns as a static value, Idouble= 2 in all cases. This concept does not match in continuously changing environments, especially in networks environment which has different parameters and principles depends on the type of network and the goal from it. Double value is an important issue in the trickle timer algorithm because it has an influence on the whole execution performance. In this work, we attempt to find if there is an actual relationship between the double value and node status, as a number of neighbors for the node, which called node density. Performance evaluation for the trickle timer algorithm shows problems in performance, like high power consumption and long convergence time, one of these problems reasons is static doubling value. In the trickle algorithm, doubling value for subintervals always assigned for two value, Idouble =2, regardless of the status of the node if it's on high density or low density. Actually, if the node in high density, its needs for high doubling value, and vice versa. In the standard algorithm, in low density when sub interval doubles to two without need, it's caused low utility problem, and wasted power and time.

After the executed number of experiments, we have reached the double value was affected by the number of neighbors for the node, which is known as node density. The proposed algorithm has implemented to add more dynamically to the standard timer algorithm. In basic, the proposed algorithm developed to provide an elastic selection for the appropriate double value based on the node density. The node density should be measured in each node starts working (Yassein and Aljawarneh, 2017). Assuming the first subinterval double value is d1, then the second subinterval double value is d2 and so on, and assuming the number of neighbors for the first subinterval is n1, then the number of neighbors for the second subinterval is n2 and so on, n1<n2<n3.. etc., that means d1<d2<d3 and so on. In other words, whenever the number of neighbors for the node is higher, double values that that node need is higher also, and vice versa. This idea helps to reduce waste in time and power, each node takes enough double value.

But, when the node need for doubling? for each message arrived at the node during listening only period, the counter increase by 1, when the node needs to transmit the message, it does the following: its check if the neighbors count value C is less than or equal threshold value K, if yes, transmit, if no, the node waiting for ends the current interval and doubling the new interval. Below is the proposed double dynamic trickle timer algorithm.

As shown in Algorithm 1, all parameters of trickle assign at the beginning of the main interval, the counter (counter of consistent messages which received) is set to zero at the beginning of each subinterval and after an inconsistent state. After the listen-only period is dynamically random chosen between [I start, I end], the node will spend listening time and checking if it is in a consistent state or inconsistent. After listen-only period finish, trickle check the counter c is less than the threshold value, k, if yes, the node will transmit messages, if no and counter c is more than or equal k value the node will

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Algorithm 1: Dynamic Double Trickle Timer Algorithm.
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```
Input: Imin, Imax, threshold value (K),
nodes.
Output: control message flow
Imin = 2^12, Imax = 2^20, K=1, nodes
density= 20, 40
Istart = Imin
for (Imin ; Imin < = Imax ; Imin = Imin
* Dynamic double())
count=0
Iend = Istart * Dynamic_double()
for (Istart ; [ Istart ] < = Iend ; [
Istart | +1 )
Receiving ( )
t = random number chosen over [ Istart
 Tend 1
Sending( )
Istart = Iend
Dynamic_double( nodes, neighbor ,
current, min)
If ((neighbor > -1) && (neighbor <
nodes /6 -1)) {
    I=I*2 }
Else If ((neighbor > nodes /6 ) &&
(neighbor< nodes /3-1)) {</pre>
   I=I*4 }
Else If ((neighbor > nodes /3) &&
(neighbor< nodes /2-1)){</pre>
   I=I*8 }
Else If ((neighbor > nodes /2 ) ){
    T=I*16 }
Receiving ( )
if a message is the newest
    {
       C=C+1
    else
       break
Sending ( )
  if (C < K)
    {
       Transmit
    else
       Suppress
```

be suppressed message until the end of the current subinterval and call the dynamic double function. The interval is doubled to new subinterval by choosing one of four classes are provided based on node density. Below is the flowchart for the proposed double dynamic trickle timer algorithm.

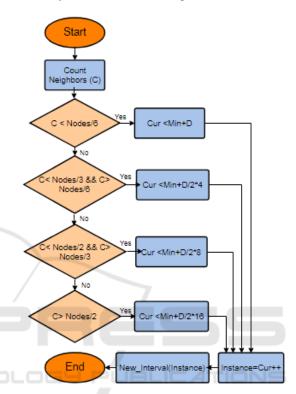


Figure 2: Proposed Double Dynamic Function.

4 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND DISCUSSION

This section will present the results of simulation experiments for the proposed algorithm, dynamic doubling algorithm, based on 3 measure parameters, power consumption, convergence time, and packet delivery ratio (PDR). Each measured parameter will present two sides, a standard trickle timer algorithm, and dynamic doubling algorithm. The simulator that used is Cooja 2.7 on the Contiki operating system, with random topology, and the sink placed in the center. Densities that used is 20 and 40, each type runs on 3 different Rx values, 20, 60, and 100, to take more reliable average results. Table I will present the specifications of computers that had run a simulation on it, and parameters values that used.

Below, it shows the simulation experiments results, for network density=20, depending on the three comparative parameters, convergence time, power consumption and PDR, The same thing goes for second network density=40.

Table 1: Simulation Parameters.

Parameter	value	
Simulator	Cooja 2.7	
Operating System	Contiki	
Computer	8 RAM, 64 bit	
Simulation Time	15 minute	
Network Density	40,20 Nodes	
Imin, Imax	2 ¹² ,2 ²⁰ Respectively	
Reception Ratio, Rx	20, 60, 100	
Transmission Ratio, Tx	100	
Transmission Rang	30	
Interference Range	30	
Network Topology	Randomly	
Radio Medium	UDGM	
Objective Function	MRHOF	

4.1 Convergence Time

This section presents the result of convergence time in simulation experiments when network density=20 and density=40, with random topology, sink in the center location, along with different Rx values, 20, 60, and 100.

4.1.1 Density 20

Figure 3 presents the convergence time for the proposed algorithm vs. the standard algorithm. As shown, the standard trickle algorithm takes more convergence time than dynamic double trickle algorithm. The cause of this long convergence time is when the node being in low density, its need for short double value, but in standard algorithm always doubling it to 2, the node uses short period and waste the remaining time, and the node waits for the end of this unused time.

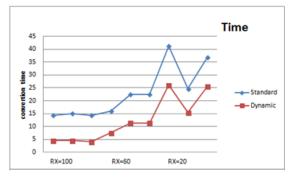


Figure 3: Convergence time for 20 nodes with different RX ratios.

4.1.2 Density 40

Figure 4 shows the convergence time for density= 40 nodes, as Figure 4 is shown, dynamic double also shows a less convergence time than the standard algorithm. Note that the whole convergence time is less than when density was 20, the cause of that when the number of nodes is larger, it be nearer to each other, this helps to receive the same messages by more neighbors.

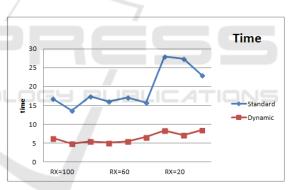


Figure 4: Convergence time for 40 nodes with different RX ratios.

4.2 **Power Consumption**

This section presents the result of power consumption in simulation experiments when network density=20 and density= 40, with random topology, sink in the center location, along with different Rx values, 20, 60, and 100.

4.2.1 Density 20

Figure 5 shows power consumption for density =20 nodes, as shown, when RX values under 100 and 60, power consumption is better or almost remained the same value of the standard algorithm. But when RX values under 20, power consumption are worse in

some experiments, increase low-value on power consumption compared with the standard algorithm. In performance evaluation, dynamic double considered as good, because it gives better or same power of standard, but when RX=20, it's better to achieve high improvement for time besides a low increase in power.

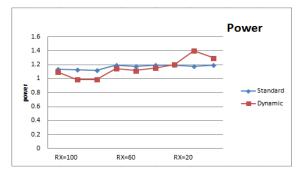


Figure 5: Power consumption for 20 nodes with different RX ratios.

4.2.2 Density 40

Figure 6 shows the power consumption for 40 nodes, as Figure 6 is shown, the dynamic double algorithm power consumption is better than or almost the same as the standard algorithm in all different RX ratios. Also, can be noted that the power consumption is higher than when density=20, this is due to more nodes need to more connections between them, this is caused more power.

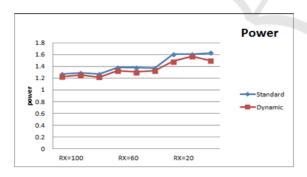


Figure 6: Power consumption for 40 nodes with different RX ratios.

4.3 PDR

Packet delivery ratio, known as PDR, expresses of the ratio of packets that successfully delivered, the mathematical expression for it is:

$$PDR = \frac{Receive}{Receive + Dups + Lost}$$
(1)

This section presents the result of PDR in simulation experiments when network density=20 and density=40, with random topology, sink in the center location, along with different Rx values, 20, 60, and 100.

4.3.1 Density 20

Figure 7 shows the PDR for 20 nodes, as shown, under RX=100 and 40, PDR in dynamic double is better or almost the same of the standard algorithm, but when RX=20, dynamic double shows decreasing in PDR. Performance evaluation for proposed algorithm considered good, because it gives bad results in limited cases when RX=20, just, compared with improvement in all remaining cases. In addition, the high improvement in time with a low decrease in PDR when RX=20 can balance.

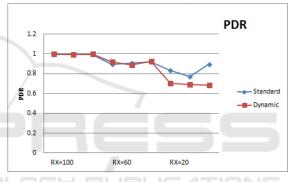


Figure 7: PDR for 20 nodes with different RX ratios.

4.3.2 Density 40

Figure 8 shows the PDR for 40 nodes, as shown, under RX=100, 40 and 20, PDR in dynamic double is better or almost the same of standard algorithm. Performance evaluation for proposed algorithm depends on RX value; when it equals 100, no probability to lost packets. In overall, dynamic double algorithm considered good.

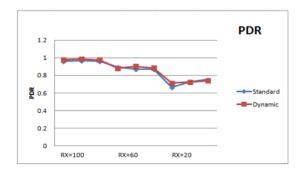


Figure 8: PDR for 40 nodes with different RX ratios.

5 AVERAGE RESULTS

5.1 Convergence Time

Figure 9 shows the whole average for convergence time of different scenarios. As shown, in overall dynamic double algorithm best from the standard algorithm in terms of convergence time and obvious improvement.



Figure 9: Average convergence time.

5.2 **Power Consumption**

Figure 10 shows the whole average for the power consumption of different scenarios. As shown, in overall dynamic double algorithm best from the standard algorithm In terms of convergence time and simple improvement.

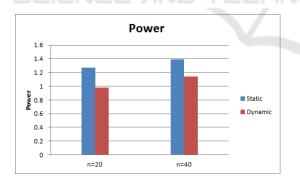


Figure 10: Average Power Consumption.

5.3 PDR

Figure 11 shows the whole average for the PDR of different scenarios. As shown, in overall dynamic double algorithm best from the standard algorithm In terms of convergence time and simple improvement.

Table 2 shows the average comparative parameters along with the percentage of the enhancement.

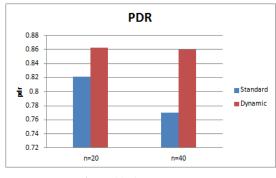


Figure 11: Average PDR.

Table 2: Average Convergence Time using Random Topology.

Number of nodes	Time enhancement percentage	Power enhancement percentage	PDR enhancement percentage	
Total node=20	51	.8	1	
Total node=40	42	.9	.9	
6 CONCLUSION				

RPL is routing protocol for low-power and lossy network (LLN), RPL consists of a set of algorithms that provides mechanisms to execute the various tasks of protocol, Trickle Timer algorithm one of these algorithms. The main goal of the trickle timer algorithm regulates the flow of control messages within the network (Yassein and Aljawarneh, 2017). Trickle timer algorithm still has problems and effects on the reduce performance, like high power consumption, long time and so on. One of the causes is static double value in the standard algorithm. In trickle algorithm when the node needs to double its own subinterval, trickle assign the value of double to 2 in all cases, regardless the node needs that may lead to load balancing problems, nodes in high density need to higher double value than nodes in low density. The proposed trickle algorithm based on the dynamic concept, assign an appropriate double value that depends on the node density rather than 2 for each. Performance evaluation was analyzed via three various parameters, power consumption, time and the PDR, the experiments had executed on Cooja 2.7 simulator. Simulation results revealed that the proposed algorithm shows better results compared

with the standard algorithm, the best improvements appeared in time, then a simple degree improves in power and PDR. The best performance was observed when RX value is high value, and some performance problems when being low. In general, the proposed helps great enhancement in time, at a rate of 51% when total node=20 and 42% when total node =40, for power consumption, proposed helps simple enhancement, at a rate of .8% when total node=20 and .9% when total node =40, for PDR, the proposed helps simple enhancement, at a rate of 1% when total node=20 and 9% when total node =40. For the future, we aim to study the dynamic double trickle algorithm with different topologies and noting the performance. Furthermore, we aim to study the dynamic double trickle algorithm in many different objective functions. We also aim to combine a dynamic double algorithm with other trickle timer optimization algorithms in order to achieve more enhancement on power consumption and PDR.

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