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Architectures and Deployment Strategies for Wireless Mesh Networks

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2.1 Introduction

Nowadays the development of the next-generation wireless systems (e.g., the fourth-generation (4G) mobile cellular systems, IEEE 802.lln, etc.) aims to provide high data rates in excess of 1 Gbps. Thanks to its capability of enhancing coverage with low transmission power, wireless mesh networks (WMNs) play a significant role in supporting ubiquitous broadband access [1]- [10].

Fig. 2.1 illustrates a multi-hop wireless mesh network, where only the central gateway G has a wireline connection to the Internet and other nodes (like node S) access to the central gateway via a multi-hop wireless communication. Each node in the WMN should operate not only as a client but also a relay, i.e., forwarding data to and from the Internet-connected central gateway on behalf of other neighboring nodes. The main difference between ad hoc networks and wireless mesh networks is the traffic pattern [2], as shown in Fig. 2.2. In a WMN, there will exist a central gateway and most traffic is either to/from the central gateway as shown in Fig. 2.2(a). In an ad hoc network, however, traffic flows are arbitrary between pairs of nodes, such as the flow between nodes $S1$ and $D1$ in Fig. 2.2(b).

In general, the advantages of wireless mesh networking technology can be summarized into five folds. First, WMN can be rapidly deployed in a large-scale area with a minimal cabling engineering work so as to lower the infrastructure and deployment costs [1]- [5]. Second, mesh networking technology can combat shadowing and severe path loss to extend service coverage area. Third, by means of short range communications, WMN can improve transmission rate and then energy efficiency. In addition, the same frequency channel can be reused spatially by two links at a shorter distance. Fourth, due to multiple paths for each node, an appealing feature of WMNs is its robustness [9], [10]. If some nodes fail (like node B in Fig. 2.3), the mesh network can continue operating by forwarding data traffic via the alternative nodes. Fifth, WMN can concurrently support a variety of wireless radio access technologies, thereby providing the flexibility to integrate different radio access networks [6]- [8]. Fig. 2.4 shows an example of integrated wireless mesh network, where 802.16 (WiMAX), 802.11 (WiFi), and 802.15 (Bluetooth and Zigbee)

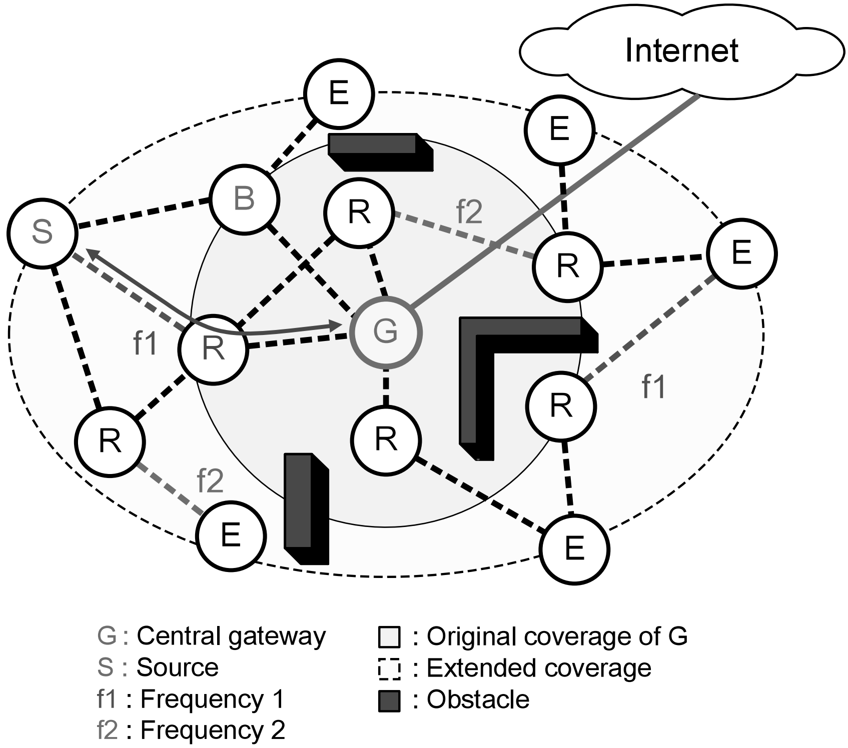
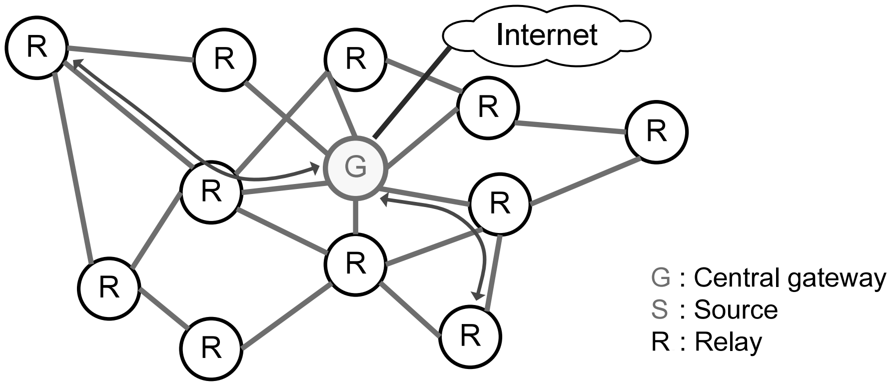


Fig. 2.1. Conceptual illustration of a multi-hop wireless mesh network.

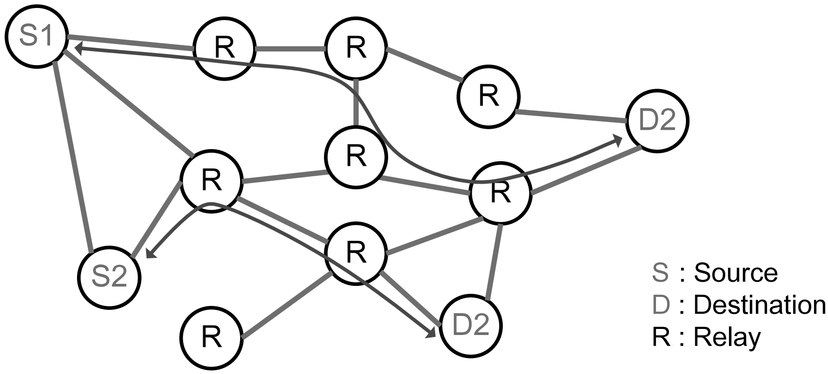
technologies are used for the wireless metropolitan area network (WMAN), the wireless local area network (WLAN), and the wireless personal area network (WPAN), respectively.

However, when the coverage area increases to serve more users, multi-hop networking suffers from the scalability issue [10]. This is because in the multi-hop WMNs throughput enhancement and coverage extension are two contradictory goals. On one hand, the multi-hop communications can extend the coverage area to lower the total infrastructure cost. On the other hand, as the number of hops increases, the repeatedly relayed traffic will exhaust the radio resource. In the meanwhile, the throughput will sharply degrade due to the increase of collisions from a large number of users. Therefore, it becomes an important and challenging issue to design a scalable wireless mesh network, so that the coverage of a WMN can be extended without sacrificing the system overall throughput.

In this chapter, we first discuss the major architectures of WMNs and briefly overview the existing mesh networking technologies, including the IEEE 802.11s and IEEE 802.16 systems. Then, we address the scalability issue of the WMN from a network deployment perspective. We introduce two scalable-WMN deployment strategies for the *dense-urban coverage* and *wide-area coverage scenarios* as shown



(a) Wireless mesh network



(b) Ad hoc network

Fig. 2.2. Comparisons of a wireless mesh network and an ad hoc network.

in Figs. 2.5 and 2.6 ([11, 12]). First, the cluster-based wireless mesh network for the dense-urban area is shown in Fig. 2.5. In this WMN, several adjacent access points (APs) form a cluster and are connected to the Internet through the same switch/router. In each cluster, only the central access point AP_0 connects to the Internet through the wires. Other APs are interconnected by wireless links. By doing so, the network deployment in the urban area becomes easier because the cabling engineering work is reduced. Second, a scalable multi-channel ring-based WMN for wide-area coverage is shown in Fig. 2.6, where the central gateway and stationary mesh nodes in the cell form a multi-hop WMN. Note that the mesh cell is divided into several rings allocated with different channels. In the same ring, the mesh nodes can follow the legacy IEEE 802.11 medium access control (MAC) protocol to share the radio

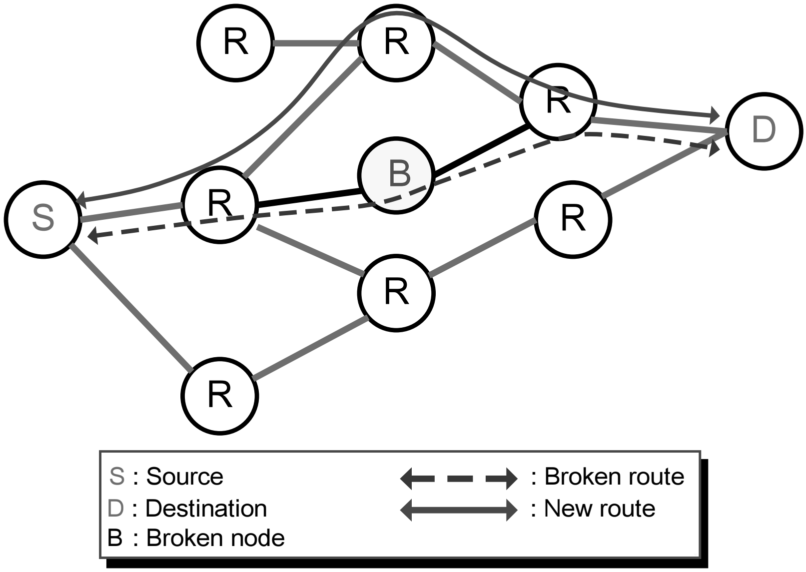


Fig. 2.3. Robustness of wireless mesh network.

medium. Besides, mesh nodes in the inner rings will relay data for nodes in the outer rings toward the central gateway. Based on this mesh cell architecture, the service coverage of the central gateway/AP can be effectively extended with a lower cost.

We will also investigate the optimal tradeoff between capacity and coverage for these two scalable WMNs. Most traditional wireless mesh networks are not scalable to the coverage area because the user throughput is not guaranteed due to the increase of collisions. By contrast, the WMNs shown in Figs. 2.5 and 2.6 are more scalable in terms of coverage because frequency planning with multiple channels can be easily applied in this architecture to resolve the contention issue. Thus the throughput can be ensured by properly determining the deployment parameters. We will apply the mixed-integer nonlinear programming (MINLP) optimization approach to determine the optimal deployment parameters, aiming to maximize the capacity and coverage simultaneously.

The rest of this chapter is organized as follows. Section 2.2 presents the major network architectures for WMNs. Sections 2.3 and 2.4 discuss the mesh networking technologies in the IEEE 802.11s and IEEE 802.16 systems, respectively. Section 2.5 describes the proposed scalable wireless mesh networks for the dense-urban coverage and the wide area coverage. In addition, we apply the optimization approach to determine the optimal deployment parameters, aiming at maximizing the coverage and capacity. At last, concluding remarks are given.

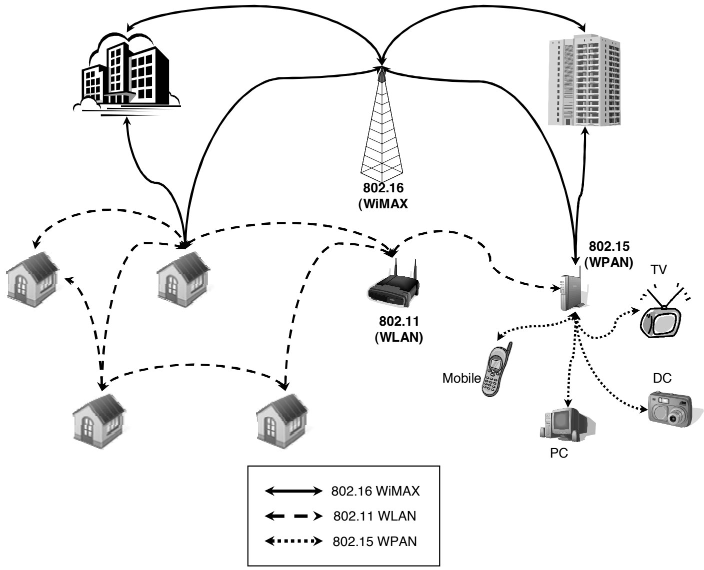


Fig. 2.4. An integrated 802.15/11/16 (WPAN/WLAN/WMAN) wireless mesh network.

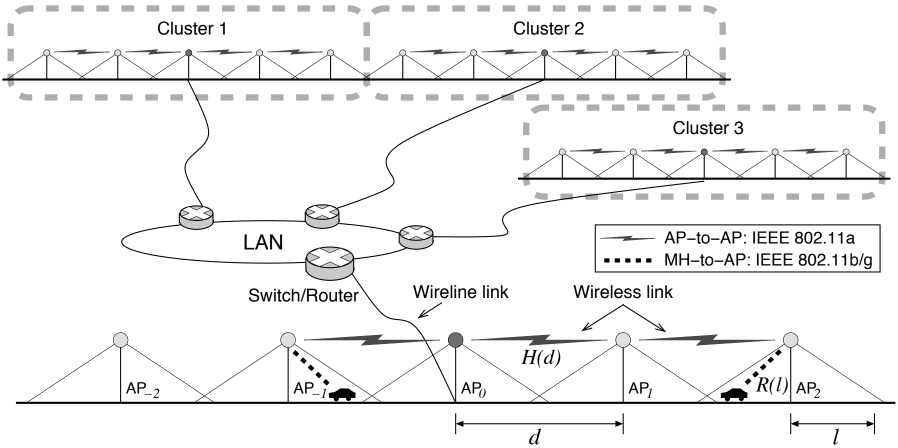


Fig. 2.5. Clusters of access points in the wireless mesh network for the dense-urban coverage.

2.2 Architectures for Wireless Mesh Networks

A wireless mesh network is an economical and low-power solution to support the ubiquitous broadband services. To provide uniform data-rate coverage, one straightforward solution is to densely deploy base stations (BSs) or access points (APs)

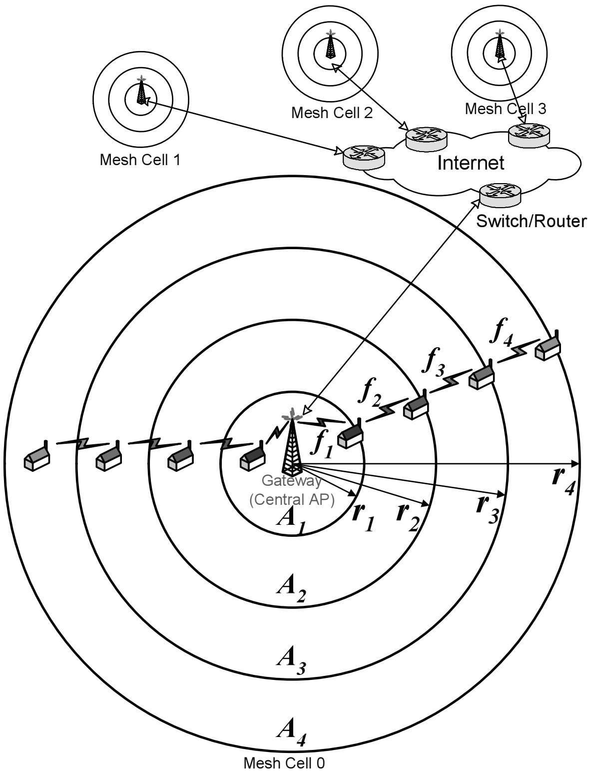


Fig. 2.6. Ring-based cell architecture in the wireless mesh network for wide-area coverage, where each ring is allocated with different allocated channel.

in the service area.[1] Fig. 2.7 shows an example of conventional broadband cellular/hotspot network, where all BSs are connected to the Internet via cables. Clearly, such a network architecture is not very feasible due to the high costs of expensive infrastructure and cabling engineering. Recently, mesh networks have become an interesting option for deploying the wireless broadband networks. In the WMN, only the central gateway has wireline connections to access the Internet directly. All the BSs are interconnected via wireless links. By means of low-power multi-hop communications, the coverage can be significantly extended. In addition, deploying such a network is easier owing to less cabling engineering work.

In the following, we discuss the major WMN architectures.

[1] Usually, the term *base station* is used for the traditional cellular systems, while *access point* used for the WLAN-based systems. Unless otherwise indicated, the term base station will refer to both the cellular BS and the WLAN AP.

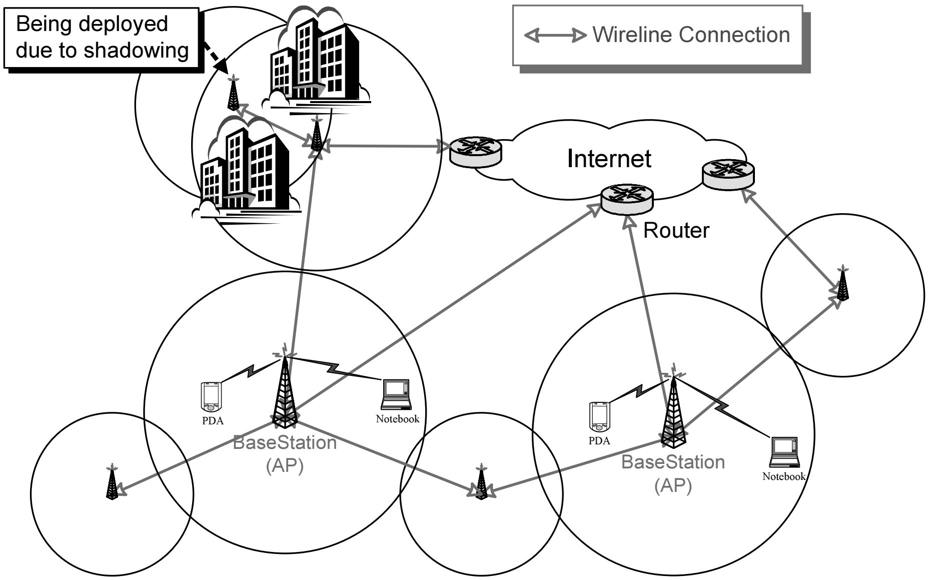


Fig. 2.7. Conventional cellular/hotspot broadband network architecture.

2.2.1 Backbone Wireless Mesh Network

Fig. 2.8 shows an example of *backbone wireless mesh networks*. In the figure, each base station also operates as a wireless relay to forward neighboring BS's traffic to the gateway. Such a wireless multi-hop backbone network provides the flexibility to integrate WMNs with the existing wireless communication systems. The base stations can concurrently integrate 2G/3G/WLAN/4G radio access technologies to provide voice and high-rate data services, and flexibly employ the emerging broadband radio technologies in the backbone networks.

The backbone WMN has the advantage of incremental deployment [2]. If necessary, more gateways can be added, by simply connecting more base stations to the Internet via wineline. Deploying more gateways in the WMNs can improve not only the network capacity but also the reliability. That is, if one gateway fails, the traffic can be delivered by alternative routes and gateways.

2.2.2 Backbone with End-user Wireless Mesh Network

Fig. 2.9 illustrates an example of *backbone with end-user WMNs*, where both the base stations and the end users play a role of wireless relays to forward neighboring nodes' traffic. That is, the end users are also capable of routing and self-organization.

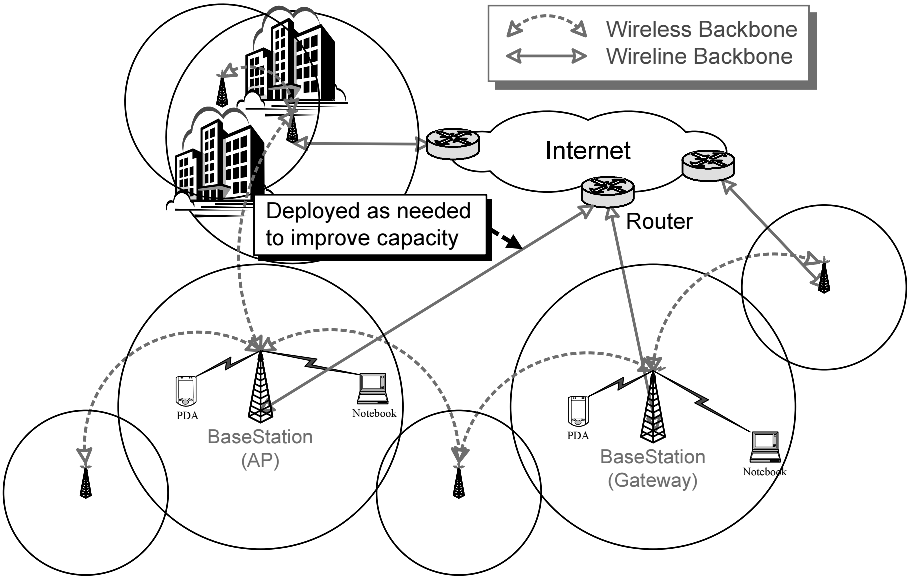


Fig. 2.8. Backbone wireless mesh network.

The end-user WMNs can improve the coverage of base station and network connectivity, thereby reducing the infrastructure costs due to fewer base stations needed. Noteworthily, the mobility issue in the end-user WMNs is challenging, since the network topology and connectivity will frequently change as users move. The mobility issue in end-user WMN includes seamless handoff, fast route selection, network organization and management.

2.2.3 Relay-Based Wireless Mesh Network

Fig. 2.10 shows an example of *relay-based wireless mesh networks*. The relay in this WMN acts as the *lightweight* BS/AP, which permits an economical design for the relays. The relaying systems can employ either *amplify-and-forward* or *decode-and-forward* schemes. In the amplify-and-forward scheme, the relays simply function as analog repeaters, thereby augmenting their own noise levels. In general, the relays in WMNs will operate in a decode-and-forward fashion. The relays can be digital repeaters, bridges, or routers, all of which will completely decode and encode the received signals before forwarding.

The objectives of deploying relays are to extend the coverage as well as to improve user throughput. If the density of relays is high enough, all the users can be served by nearby relays with a very short separation distance, thereby enhancing the link capacity between the relays and users. Then, the goals of robust and uniform data rate in the wireless networks can be achieved in a more economical way.

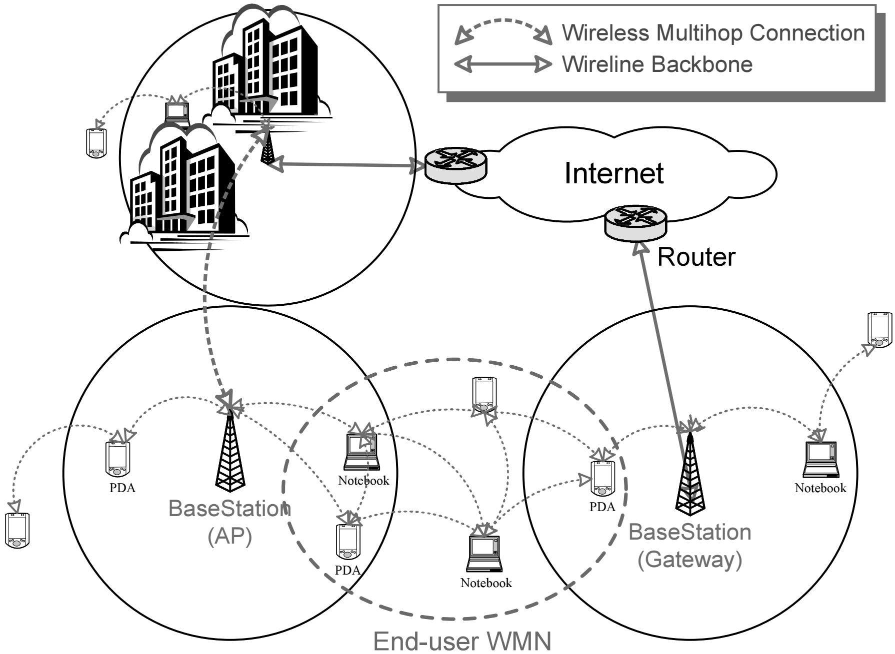


Fig. 2.9. Backbone with end-user wireless mesh network.

2.3 IEEE 802.11s Mesh Networking Technology

The IEEE 802.11 standards aim at defining the physical (PHY) layer and the MAC sublayer protocols for the wireless local area network. The IEEE 802.11b can achieve the peak rate of 11 Mbps, while the IEEE 802.11a/g WLANs achieve 54 Mbps. Furthermore, the IEEE 802.11e addresses the quality of service (QoS) issue, and the 802.11n intends to provide a data rate in excess of 200 Mbps. However, the IEEE 802.11a/b/e/g/n standards mainly focus on the one-hop infrastructure-based communications, where the stations (STAs) are directly connected to the APs. Due to lack of a scalable distributed MAC protocol, the legacy IEEE 802.11 WLANs will face the scalability issue that degrades the throughput severely in the multi-hop communications.

Therefore, the IEEE 802.11s task group (TG) is established to address the multi-hop issue for WLAN. This TGs aims to standardize the meshed WLANs by defining the PHY and MAC layer protocols to support broadcast/multicast/unicast transmissions under self-configured mesh network topology. In the IEEE 802.11s network, the WLAN mesh is defined as a set of mesh points interconnected via wireless links with the capabilities of automatic topology learning and dynamic path selection [13]. Fig. 2.11 shows an example of IEEE 802.11s WLAN mesh. In the figure, there are two classes of wireless nodes. The *mesh points* (MPs) are the nodes supporting wireless mesh services, such as mesh routing selection and forwarding, while the *non-*

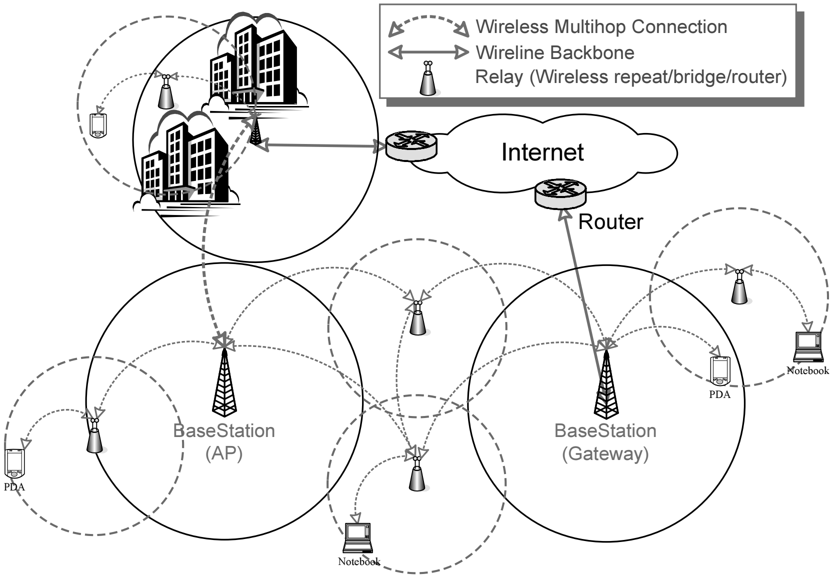


Fig. 2.10. Relay-based wireless mesh network.

mesh nodes are the pure client STAs. In addition to mesh services, the mesh access point (MAP) also provides wireless access services. The pure client STAs do not participate in the WLAN mesh, but they can associate with the mesh APs to connect to the mesh networks. The WLAN mesh can connect to other networks by the mesh portals (MPPs). Multiple WLAN meshes can also be connected by the MPP.

The IEEE 802.11s employs the IEEE 802.11e enhanced distributed channel access (EDCA) as the basis of the medium access mechanism. The enhanced MAC derived from the legacy 802.11 standard is compatible with the existing WLAN devices. To improve the network throughput and channel efficiency in the multi-hop communications, the intra-mesh congestion control and the multi-channel common channel framework (CCF) are suggested in the IEEE 802.11s [13]. By implementing a simple hop-by-hop congestion control mechanism at each MP, the intra-mesh congestion control can relieve the local congestion problem. This mechanism includes three essential elements, including the local congestion monitoring, the congestion control signaling, and the local rate control. The basic idea of the intra-mesh congestion control is to actively monitor the local channel utilization, and detect the local congestion. Through the congestion control signaling, a node can notify the upstream-hop nodes and the neighboring nodes of the local congestion. Once receiving the congestion notification, the nodes will employ the local rate control to relieve the congestion. The CCF framework provides the multi-channel MAC operation for the MP with single/multiple radio interfaces in order to boost the overall network capacity with multiple channels. In CCF, the MP in backoff will exchange the RTS/CTS-like channel negotiation message with the destination node. After suc-

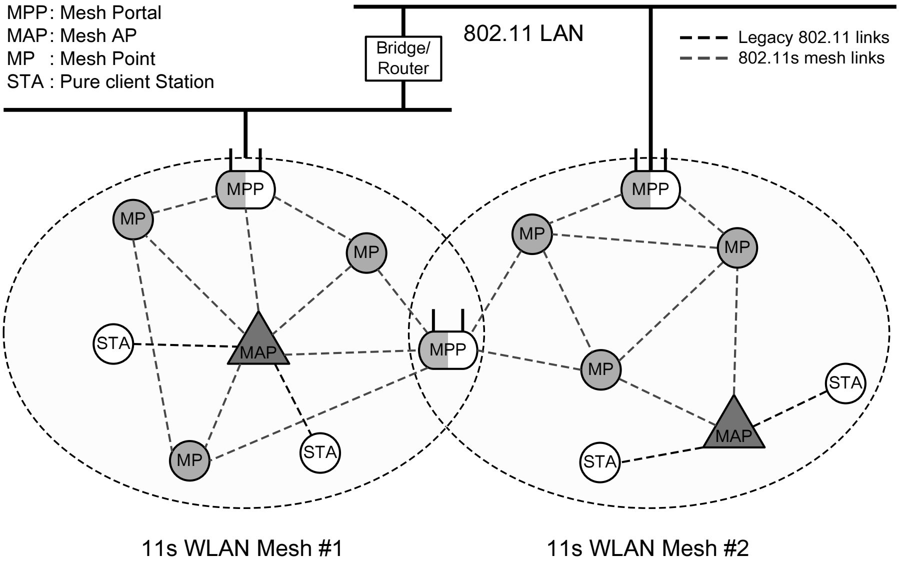


Fig. 2.11. The network architecture for the IEEE 802.11s WLAN mesh network.

cessful channel negotiation, MP pairs switch to the agreed channel to send/receive the data and acknowledge (ACK) frames. One advantage of CCF is that it can accommodate the legacy channel access mechanisms. That is, the common control channel for the nodes without supporting the CCF will appear as a traditional 802.11 channel.

In the IEEE 802.11s, the default hybrid wireless mesh protocol (HWMP) combines the flexibility of reactive on-demand route discovery and the efficiency of proactive routing [13, 14]. Specifically, the reactive on-demand mode in HWMP is based on the radio-metric ad hoc on-demand distance vector (RM-AODV) protocol, while the proactive mode is implemented by the tree-based routing. Such a combination in HWMP can achieve the optimal and efficient path selection. In addition, the HWMP can support various radio metrics in the path selection, such as throughput, QoS, load balancing, power-aware, etc. The default metric is the *airtime cost*, which considers the PHY and MAC protocol overhead, frame payload, and the packet error rate to reflect the radio link condition. To conclude, supporting the hybrid reactive and proactive schemes with a variety of radio metrics, the HWMP has an appealing benefit of flexibility and can be applied to a wide range of application scenarios, including fixed to mobile mesh networks.

2.4 IEEE 802.16 Mesh Networking Technology

The IEEE 802.16 WirelessMAN standard aims to define the PHY and MAC layer protocols to provide the broadband wireless services in the metropolitan area environment [15]. This standard supports the *point-to-multipoint* (PMP) broadband com-

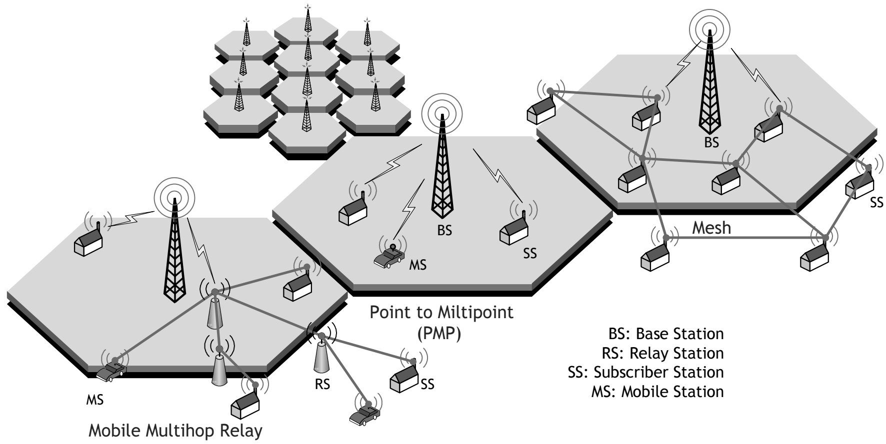


Fig. 2.12. An example of IEEE 802.16 networks. *Middle*: point-to-multipoint (PMP) mode. *Right*: mesh mode. *Left*: mobile multihop relay (MMR) mode.

munications, which operates in the licensed 10-66 GHz frequency band and requires the line-of-sight (LoS) link between the BS and the subscriber station (SS). In addition to the PMP mode, the IEEE 802.16a extension introduces the *mesh mode* to the IEEE 802.16 networks [16]. The mesh mode uses the lower frequency band of 2-11 GHz and allows the non-line-of-sight (NLoS) communications.

Fig. 2.12 shows an example of IEEE 802.16 network. In the figure, the SS in the PMP mode has to directly connect to the BS. On the contrary, the SS can communicate with the neighboring SSs in the mesh mode (see Fig. 2.12). Furthermore, the SS in the mesh mode can act as the wireless relay to forward others' traffic toward the central BS. Consequently, the coverage of BS can be extended, so that the infrastructure costs is substantially reduced.

However, the currently-developed mesh mode in IEEE 802.16 standard is not compatible with the original PMP mode. In the physical layer, the mesh mode has different frame structures and only supports the OFDM operation in both licensed and unlicensed bands. In the MAC layer, the network entry procedure in the mesh mode is also different. In addition, the mesh mode does not support the mobility of SS. Therefore, the IEEE 802.16 working group (WG) establishes the "*Mobile Multihop Relay (MMR)*" study group (SG), and then creates the 802.16j TG. The TG-j intends to enhance the normal PMP frame structure and develop the new relay networking protocols, with the goals of coverage extension and throughput enhancement. Different to the mesh mode, the MMR mode in the IEEE 802.16j extension focuses on efficiently providing the multi-hop relay connections between SSs/mobile stations (MSs) and the BS with a tree topology, as shown in Fig. 2.12. The MMR mode is required to be backward compatible to the PMP mode, and will support both the OFDMA and OFDM operations.

To design a practical mobile multihop relay system, many important issues still need to be addressed, including the enhanced frame structure, backward-compatible network entry procedure, synchronization and security in the multi-hop communications. To support the 802.16e MSs, the mobility management, the seamless handoff, the optimal and fast multi-hop route selection are essential issues in the 802.16j MMR systems. As for the radio resource management in MMR systems, the main challenges include interference management, spectrum efficiency, frequency reuse strategy, and scheduling policy.

2.5 Deployment Strategies for Scalable Wireless Mesh Networks

This section addresses the key challenge in WMN — the scalability issue from a network deployment perspective. We propose two scalable-WMN deployment strategies for the dense-urban and wide-area scenarios [11, 12].

2.5.1 Related Works

First, we discuss the issue of AP placement in WMNs for dense-urban coverage. Most works were based on the architecture that all the access points are directly connected to the Internet through cables [17]- [21]. In [17], an integer linear programming (ILP) optimization model was proposed for the access point placement problem, where the objective function was to maximize the signal level in the service area. In [18], an optimization approach was proposed to minimize the areas with poor signal quality and improve the average signal quality in the service area. The authors in [19] and [20] proposed optimization algorithms to minimize average bit error rate (BER). In [21], the AP deployment problem was also formulated as an ILP optimization problem with the objective of minimizing the maximum of channel utilization to achieve load balancing. In [17]- [21], the concept of wireless multi-hop communication was considered.

With respect to the performance issues for wireless mesh networks, it has been studied mainly from two directions [1]- [2], [22]- [25]. On one hand, from a coverage viewpoint, authors in [22] compared the coverage performance of a multi-hop WMN with that of a single-hop infrastructure-based network by simulations. On the other hand, from a capacity viewpoint, it was shown in [23] and [24] that the throughput per node in a uniform multi-hop ad hoc network is scaled like $O(1/\sqrt{k \log k})$, where k is the total number of nodes. Moreover, the authors in [2] showed that the achievable throughput per node in a multi-hop WMN will significantly decrease as $O(1/k)$ due to the bottleneck at the central gateway. To resolve the scalability issue of multi-hop network, authors in [25] proposed a multi-channel WMN to improve the network throughput. Fewer papers considered both the capacity and coverage performance issues for a WMN, except for [1] in a single-user case. The scalability issue of WMN was not well addressed in [1]- [2], and [22]- [25].

Table 2.1. Link data rates versus coverage ranges for the IEEE 802.11a/b WLANs.

(a) Transmission performance of IEEE 802.11a

Data link rate (Mbps)	54	48	36	24	18	12	9	6
Indoor range* (m) [26]	13	15	19	26	33	39	45	50
Outdoor range* (m) [26]	30				180			304
Link capacity† (Mbps) [27]	27.1	25.3	21.2	15.7	12.6	9.0	7.0	4.8

* 40 mW with 6 dBi gain patch antenna.
† PER = 10% and packet length = 1500 octets.

(b) Transmission performance of IEEE 802.11b.

Data link rate (Mbps)	11	5.5	2	1
Indoor range§ (m) [26]	48	67	82	124
Outdoor range§ (m) [26]	304			610

§ 100 mW with 2.2 dBi gain patch antenna.

2.5.2 Scalable Cluster-based Wireless Mesh Network for Dense-Urban Coverage

Architecture and Assumptions

This section presents the cluster-based WMN in the dense-urban area as shown in Fig. 2.5. In each cluster, only the central AP_0 has the wireline connection to the Internet. Other APs ae connected with wireless links. By this cluster-based WMN, the WLAN system can be rapidly deployed in the urban area with less cabling engineering work.

Specifically, in the proposed cluster-based WMN, the IEEE 802.11a WLAN standard is mainly used for data forwarding between APs, while the IEEE 802.11b/g is for data access between APs and user terminals. Recall that the IEEE 802.11a WLAN are assigned with eight non-overlapping channels for outdoor applications in the spectrum of 5.25 to 5.35 GHz and 5.725 to 5.825 GHz, whereas the IEEE 802.11b/g WLAN has three non-overlapping channels in the spectrum of 2.4 to 2.4835 GHz. To avoid the co-channel interference, frequency planing is applied to ensure two buffer cells between the two co-channel APs. Thus, the inter-cell co-channel interference is reduced and will not be considered in this work.

To deploy the WMN in a dense-urban environment, the coverage range of an AP is a key parameter. Table 2.1 shows the relationship between coverage range and link capacity for both the IEEE 802.11a/b WLANs [26]. Actually, these coverage ranges may vary depending on the environments. However, the proposed optimization approach is general enough to evaluate the performance of WMN with the various coverage ranges in different environments.

A. Throughput Model between Access Points

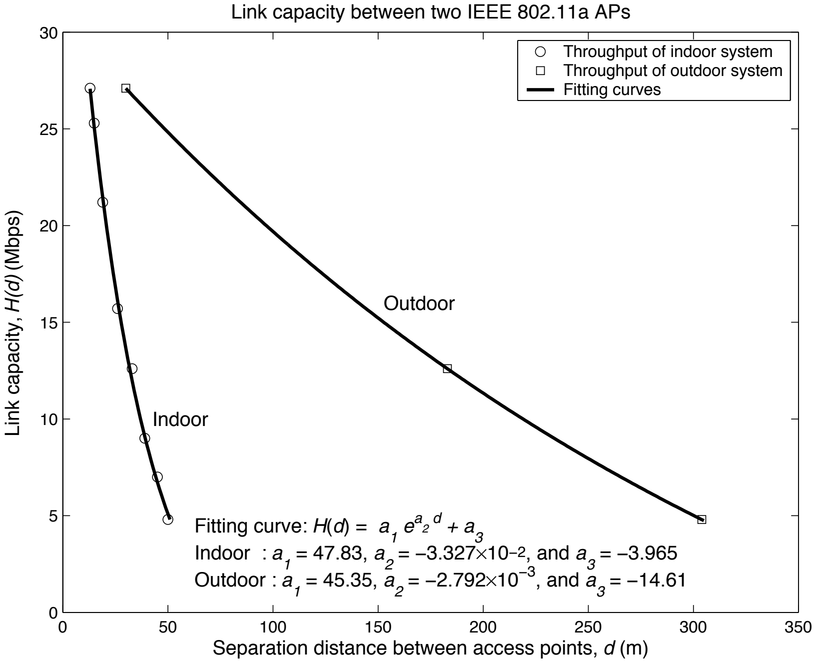


Fig. 2.13. The outdoor/indoor 802.11a link capacity performance $H(d)$ at a separation distance between access points d.

The throughput model between two APs follows the IEEE 802.11a WLAN specifications. Table 2.1 (a) lists the coverage range and link capacity for the IEEE 802.11a WLAN [26, 27]. As shown in Fig. 2.13, the radio link capacity $H(d)$ is a function of the separation distance d.

In this WMN, the maximum separation distance between two APs is limited by the maximum reception distance d_{max}. In addition, since the access points are mounted on the streetlamps, the separation distance d between access points should be $d = \Omega L_S$, where Ω is a positive integer and L_S is the separation distance between streetlamps.

B. Throughput Model between an AP and Users

The design of cell size in WMN for urban coverage can be considered from two folds. First, the maximum cell radius should be less than l_{max} to maintain an acceptable data rate. Second, the cell radius should be larger than l_{min} to lower the handoff probability.

In each cell, users share the medium and employ the carrier sense multiple access with collision avoidance (CSMA/CA) MAC protocol to communicate with an AP. We assume that the users are uniformly distributed on the road with density D_M (users/m). If the cell coverage (in radius) is l, the average number of users in a cell is $k = 2lD_M$. According to the method in [28], the cell saturation throughput $R_b(k)$

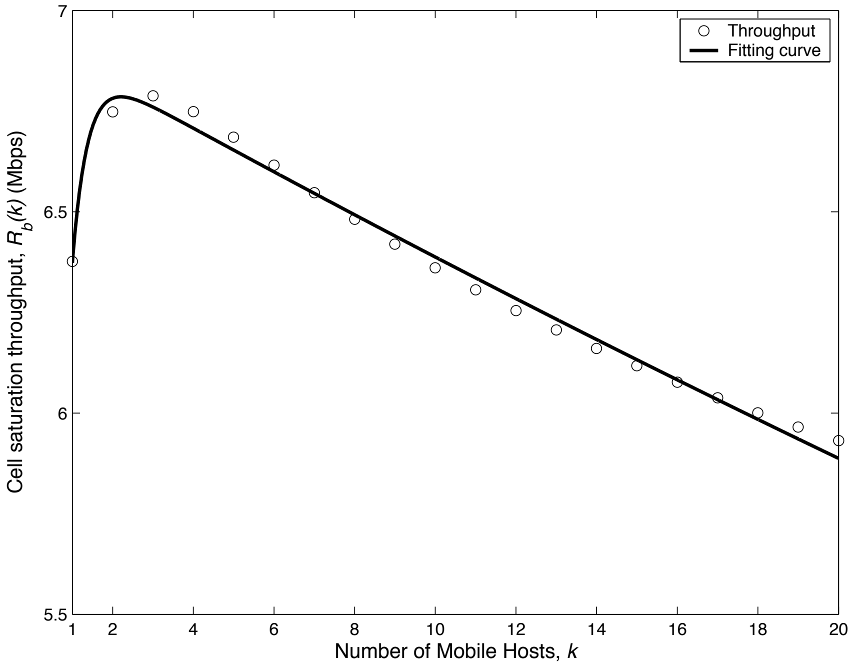


Fig. 2.14. The cell saturation throughput versus the number of users for the IEEE 802.11b WLAN.

of the IEEE 802.11b WLAN for various numbers of users k is shown in Fig. 2.14, where data rate is 11 Mbps and average packet payload is 1500 bytes.

Optimal Access Point Placement

A. Problem Formulation

Radio link throughput and coverage are two essential factors in placing APs in a WMN for dense-urban coverage. From the view point of coverage, a larger cell is preferred because less number of APs are required. From the standpoint of throughput, however, a smaller cell size will be better since it can achieve a higher data rate in the wireless link. In this work, we formulate an optimization problem to determine the best separation distance for APs with consideration of these two factors.

Fig. 2.15 illustrates an example of the cluster-based WMN. Since access points will be symmetrically deployed to the central access point AP_0 in a cluster, only one side of the cluster needs to be considered. The notations in Fig. 2.15 are explained as follows:

– n : the number of APs in the single side of the cluster;
– d_i : the separation distance between AP_{i-1} and AP_i;
– $H(d_i)$: the radio link capacity between AP_{i-1} and AP_i at a distance d_i, according

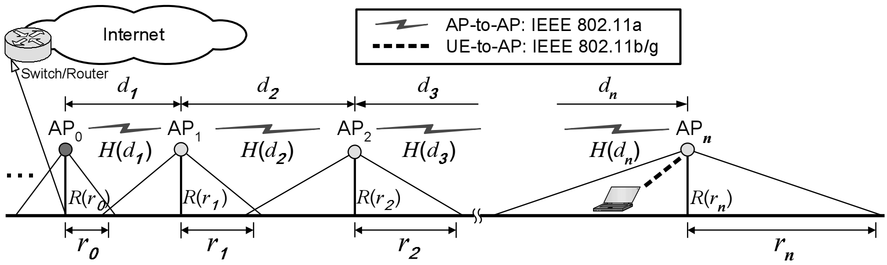


Fig. 2.15. A cluster of APs in the dense-urban environment (this is an example for the increasing-spacing placement strategy, where $d_1 \leq d_2 \leq \cdots \leq d_n$).

to the

IEEE 802.11a WLAN specification;
– l_i : the cell radius of AP_i;
– $R(l_i)$: the aggregated traffic load from all the users associated to AP_i, in which $R(l_i)$ = $2l_i D_M R_D$ and R_D is the average demanded traffic of each user.
Clearly, the separation distance between two APs can be written as

$$d_i = l_i + l_{i-1}, \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \tag{2.1}$$

and the aggregated traffic load in a cell should be constrained by the cell saturation throughput, i.e.,

$$R(l_i) \leq R_b(k). \tag{2.2}$$

In the considered scenario as depicted in Fig. 2.15, the total service area in a cluster of APs is $[2l_0 + 2\sum_{i=1}^{n} 2l_i]$. Therefore, the total carried traffic load of a cluster of APs through the wireline connection can be given as

$$2\left[l_0 + 2\sum_{i=1}^{n} l_i\right] D_M R_D.$$

The total cost for deploying a cluster of APs with one wireline connection is $(2n + 1 + \rho)$, which includes the total cost of $(2n + 1)$ access points and the fixed overhead cost due to the wireline connection ρ. For convenience, in this work the wireline overhead ρ has been normalized by the cost of one access point.

In this work, the AP placement problem will be formulated as a mixed-integer nonlinear programming (MINLP) problem with the following decision variables: n and $l_0, l_1, \ldots, l_n$. The objective is to maximize the ratio of the total carried traffic load to the cost for a cluster of APs. In the following, we discuss the two AP placement strategies: the increasing-spacing and the uniform-spacing placement strategies.

B. Increasing-Spacing Placement Strategy

Fig. 2.15 illustrates an example for the proposed increasing-spacing placement strategy, where $d_1 \le d_2 \le \cdots \le d_n$. In a cluster, the aggregated carried traffic load of the wireless link between AP_{i-1} and AP_i is a decreasing function of i. That is, the further the AP_i from the central AP_0, the less the carried traffic load in the wireless link between AP_{i-1} and AP_i. Accordingly, it is expected to deploy access points with increasing separation distance (i.e., $d_1 \le d_2 \le \cdots \le d_n$) to deliver a higher traffic load for a cluster of APs. The system parameters according to the increasing-spacing AP placement strategy can be obtained by solving the following MINLP optimization problem:

$$\underset{n,l_0,l_1,\ldots,l_n}{\mathbf{MAX}} \frac{\text{Total carried traffic load in a cluster of APs}}{\text{Total cost for deploying a cluster of APs}} = \frac{2\left[l_0 + 2\sum_{i=1}^{n} l_i\right] D_M R_D}{(2n+1+\rho)} \tag{2.3}$$

subject to

$$2l_i D_M R_D \le R_b(k),\ i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \tag{2.4}$$

$$H(d_i) \ge \sum_{j=i}^{n} R(l_j) = \sum_{j=i}^{n} 2l_j D_M R_D,\ i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \tag{2.5}$$

$$d_i = l_i + l_{i-1},\ i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \tag{2.6}$$

$$l_{min} \le l_i \le l_{max},\ i = 0, 1, \ldots, n \tag{2.7}$$

$$d_i \le d_{max},\ i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \tag{2.8}$$

$$d_i = \Omega_i L_S,\ i = 1, 2, \ldots, n. \tag{2.9}$$

In the following, we will explain the above constrains. Constraint (2.4) means that in each cell the total carried traffic load is constrained by the cell saturation throughput. Constraint (2.5) states the condition that the radio link capacity $H(d_i)$ between AP_{i-1} and AP_i should be greater than the aggregate carried traffic load from the cells served by AP_i, AP_{i+1}, ..., and AP_n. Constraint (2.6) is the relationship between the separation distance d_i and the cell radius l_i. Constraint (2.7) refers to the limits of cell radius, i.e., l_{min} and l_{max}. According to (2.8), the maximum separation distance between two access points is limited to d_{max}. With respect to (2.9), it is a limit on the separation distance d_i due to the distance between streetlamps.

C. Uniform-Spacing Placement Strategy

Referring to Fig. 2.5, the uniform-spacing placement strategy is to make all the cells in a cluster have the same radius, and thus the access points are uniformly deployed in the service area. Therefore, there are additional constraints for this placement, i.e., $l_i = l$ and thus $d_i = d = 2l$. Accordingly, $R(l_i) = R(l)$ and

Table 2.2. System parameters for numerical examples.

Symbol	Item	Nominal value
D_M	Road traffic density	0.08 users/m
L_S	Distance between two street lamps	30 m
R_D	Traffic demand of each user	0.2 Mbps
l_{min}	Min. of cell radius	45 m
l_{max}	Max. of cell radius	300 m
d_{max}	Max. distance between APs	300 m

$H(d_i) = H(d)$. Then, the MINLP formulation of access point placement problem can be modified as

$$\underset{n,l}{\mathbf{MAX}} \frac{(2n+1) \times 2lD_M R_D}{(2n+1+\rho)} \tag{2.10}$$

subject to

$$R_b(k) \geq R(l) = 2lD_M R_D \tag{2.11}$$
$$H(d) \geq nR(l) = n \times 2lD_M R_D \tag{2.12}$$
$$d = \Omega L_S. \tag{2.13}$$

Numerical Examples of Cluster-Based WMN

We compare the performance of the increasing-spacing placement strategy and the uniform-spacing placement strategy. The system parameters in the numerical examples are summarized in Table 2.2.

Fig. 2.16 compares the achieved profits of the objective function for the increasing-spacing and the uniform-spacing placement strategies with various wireline overheads ρ. Fig. 2.16 demonstrates the advantage of the increasing-spacing placement strategy over the uniform-spacing placement strategy. The achieved profit of the objective function is a concave function of the number of APs, n, as depicted in Fig. 2.16. Therefore, there exists an optimal solution of n to maximize the profit of the objective function. For example, when the wireline overhead $\rho = 4$, $n = 3$ will achieve the best performances for both placement strategies. The corresponding cell radii for the increasing-spacing placement strategy are $(l_0, l_1, l_2, l_3) =$ (113.3 m, 66.7 m, 143.3 m, 156.7 m) and that for the uniform-spacing placement strategy is $l =$ 105 m, respectively. Accordingly, the corresponding separation distances for the increasing-spacing placement strategy are $(d_1, d_2, d_3) =$ (180 m, 210 m, 300 m) and that for the uniform-spacing placement strategy is $d =$ 210 m, respectively. In this case, the increasing-spacing placement strategy can achieve 15% higher profit of the objective function than the uniform-spacing placement strategy. In Fig. 2.16, we can also observe that the best number of APs in a cluster can vary for different strategies. When the wireline overhead $\rho = 2$, $n = 2$ will achieve the best performance for the increasing-spacing placement strategy, and $n = 1$ for the uniform-spacing placement strategy. In this case, the achieved

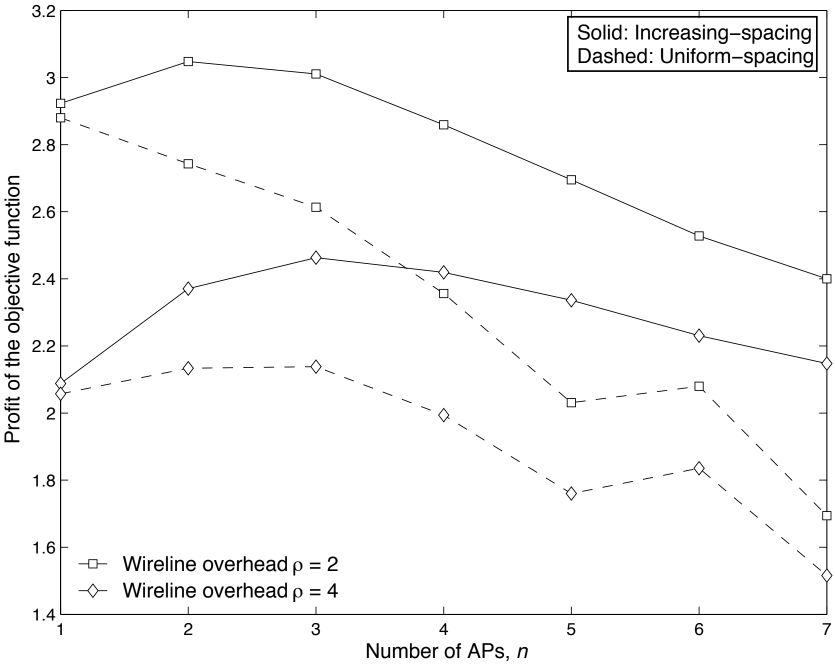


Fig. 2.16. Comparison of the increasing-spacing and the uniform-spacing placement strategies in terms of the achieved profit of the objective function for different wireline overheads ρ.

profit of the objective function for the increasing-spacing placement strategy is about 6% better than that for the uniform-spacing placement strategy.

Fig. 2.17 shows the sum of carried traffic load and the total service area for a cluster of $(2n+1)$ APs according to the increasing-spacing and the uniform-spacing placement strategies. One can observe that the total carried traffic load with the increasing-spacing placement strategy increases faster than that with the uniform-spacing placement approach as the number of APs in a cluster increases. Furthermore, the increment of the traffic load for the uniform-spacing strategy will gradually diminish or even decrease (see $n = 6$ to $n = 7$). Since the profit of the objective function is proportional to the total carried traffic load, and inversely proportional to the cost of a cluster of APs, the achieved profit of the objective function is a concave function of n as shown in Fig. 2.16.

2.5.3 Scalable Ring-Based Wireless Mesh Network for Wide-area Coverage

Network Architecture

Fig. 2.6 illustrates the scalable ring-based wireless mesh network for wide-area coverage. In each mesh cell, all users are connected to the central gateway in a multi-hop fashion. Each intermediate node operates as a wireless relay to forward data traffic to

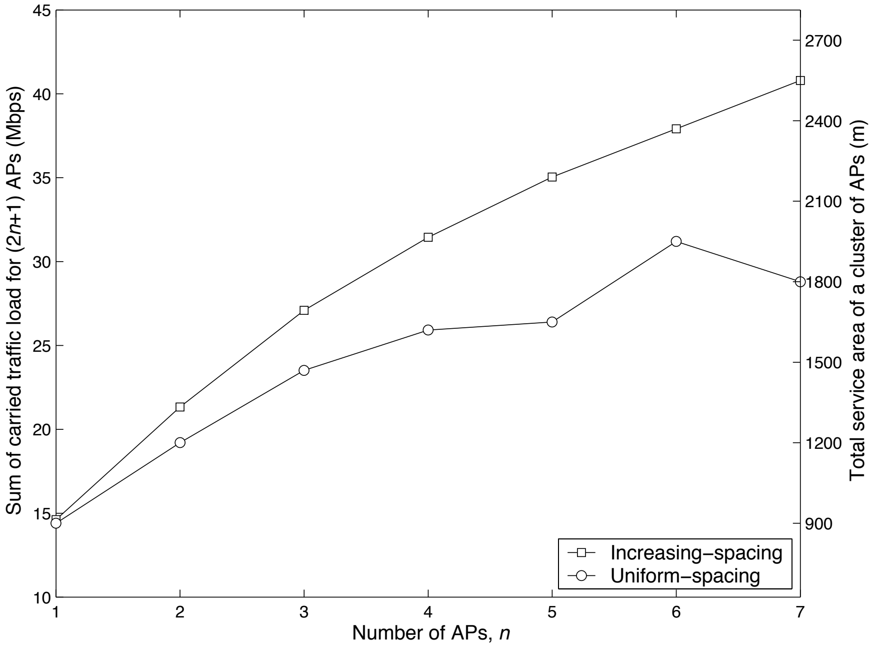


Fig. 2.17. Performance comparison of the increasing-spacing and the uniform-spacing placement strategies, from the viewpoint of one cluster.

the gateway. The gateway connects to the backbone network via a wired or wireless connection. Using this mesh architecture, the cabling engineering work for WMN deployment can be reduced.

In this work, we consider a multi-channel wireless mesh network. In this WMN, each mesh cell is divided into several rings, denoted by A_i, i = 1, 2, $\cdots$, n. The user in the ring A_i will connect to the central gateway via an i-hop communication. We assume that each node can concurrently receive and deliver the forwarded traffic as [7, 10, 25]. That is, each node is equipped with two radio interfaces, and the users in ring A_i will communicate with the users in rings A_{i-1} and A_{i+1} at two different channels f_i and f_{i+1}, respectively. By doing so, the multi-hop mesh network becomes scalable to the number of users since the contention issue can be resolved by the multi-channel arrangement in a ring-based network.

We assume that frequency planning is applied to avoid the co-channel interference, and thus the inter-ring co-channel interference will not be considered in this work. In a multi-channel network [25], the dynamic frequency assignment can flexibly utilize the available channels, but it needs a multi-channel MAC protocol that is sometimes complicated. In the considered ring-based WMN, however, the fixed frequency planning is simple because it only needs to consider the width of each ring to ensure an enough co-channel reuse distance.

The carried traffic load in each mesh node includes its own traffic and the forwarded traffic from other users. Assume that all the nodes in the inner ring A_i share the relayed traffic from the outer ring A_{i+1}. Suppose that the user density is ρ. The average number of nodes c_i in the ring A_i can be expressed as

$$c_i = \rho a_i = \begin{cases} \rho \pi r_i^2 \,, & \text{for } i = 1 \\ \rho \pi (r_i^2 - r_{i-1}^2) \,, & \text{for } 1 < i \leq n \end{cases} \tag{2.14}$$

where a_i and $(r_i - r_{i-1})$ are the area and the width of ring A_i, respectively. Let R_D and R_i be traffic load generated by each node and the total carried traffic load per node in ring A_i, respectively. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} R_i &= \frac{c_{i+1}}{c_i} R_{i+1} + R_D \\ &= \left[\frac{\sum_{j=i+1}^{n} c_j}{c_i} + 1 \right] R_D. \end{aligned} \tag{2.15}$$

For the outermost ring A_n, $R_n = R_D$.

Coverage and Capacity Maximization

A. Problem Formulation

In the following, we formulate an optimization problem to determine the best number of rings in a cell and the optimal width of each ring so as to achieve the optimal tradeoff between throughput and coverage. To begin with, we discuss the constraints in the optimization problem for the considered ring-based WMN as shown in Fig. 2.6.

- The relay link capacity $H_i(d)$ for a user in ring A_i should be greater than the traffic load carried at each node R_i, i.e., $H_i(d) \geq R_i$, where d is the separation distance between the node and the next-hop node. This constraint guarantees the minimum throughput for each user.
- The maximum reception range should be larger than the ring width $(r_i - r_{i-1})$, i.e., $(r_i - r_{i-1}) \leq d_{max} = d_1$.
- The ring width should be greater than the average distance d_{min} between two neighboring nodes, i.e., $(r_i - r_{i-1}) \geq d_{min}$, where $d_{min} = 1/\sqrt{\rho}$ m is dependent on the user node density ρ.

B. MINLP Optimization Approach

From the above considerations, the optimal coverage issue in a wireless mesh network can be formulated as an MINLP problem with the following decision variables: n (the number of rings in a mesh cell) and $r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_n$. The objective function is to maximize the coverage of a mesh cell as follows. In this scalable ring-based WMN, the ring-based frequency planning resolves the collision issue as cell coverage increases. Accordingly, the optimal coverage and capacity will be achieved simultaneously, since more users in a mesh cell can also lead to higher cell capacity. The

Table 2.3. System parameters for numerical examples.

Symbol	Item	Nominal value
ρ	User node density	$(100)^{-2}\text{m}^{-2}$
R_D	Demanded traffic of each user node	0.5 Mbps
d_{min}	Min. of ring width, i.e., $(1/\sqrt{\rho})$	100 m
d_{max}	Max. reception range	300 m
l_{RC}	Sensing range ($\gamma_I d_{max}$)	450 m

optimal system parameters for the ring-based WMN can be analytically determined by solving the following optimization problem:

$$\underset{n,r_1,r_2,\ldots,r_n}{\text{MAX}} \quad r_n \text{ (Coverage of a mesh cell)} \tag{2.16}$$

subject to

$$H_i(d) \geq R_i \tag{2.17}$$

$$d_{max} \geq (r_i - r_{i-1}) \geq d_{min} \tag{2.18}$$

where the cell coverage is defined as the cell radius r_n. A cross-layer analytical model to evaluate $H_i(d)$ was developed in [12].

Numerical Examples of Ring-Based WMN

Table 2.4. Relevant network parameters for an IEEE 802.11a WLAN.

PHY mode for data frame, m_a	$1 \sim 8$
PHY mode for control frame, m_c	1 (6Mbps)
Propagation Delay, δ	1 μs
SIFS	16 μs
DIFS	34 μs
Empty slot time, σ	9 μs
m_{bk}	6
Initial Contention Window, W	16

The system parameters are summarized in Tables 2.3 and 2.4. We considers a simple case where all the ring widths in a cell are the same, i.e., $(r_i - r_{i-1}) = r$. The control frames (RTS/CTS/ACK frames) are transmitted with PHY mode $m_c = 1$ for reliability. The mesh nodes are uniformly distributed with density $\rho = (100)^{-2}$ nodes/m. We assume the sensing range $l_{RC} = \gamma_I d_{max}$, where γ_I is 1.5. As in [29], the chosen data frame payload sizes for eight PHY modes are $\{425, 653, 881, 1337,$

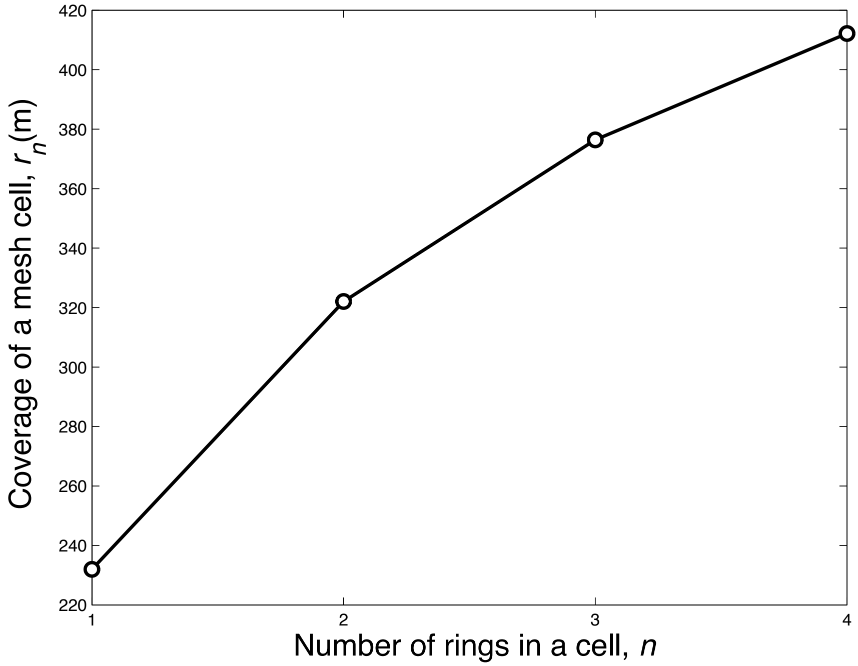


Fig. 2.18. Cell coverage versus the number of rings n in a mesh cell, where the demanded traffic per user is $R_D = 0.5$ Mbps.

1793, 2705, 3617, 4067 $(4095 - MAC_{hdr} - MAC_{FCS})\}$ bytes. Referring to the measured results [26], the corresponding average reception ranges are $d_j = \{300,$ 263, 224, 183, 146, 107, 68, 30$\}$ m. It is true that these reception ranges vary for different environments. However, the proposed optimization approach is general enough to evaluate the performances of different WMNs by adopting various reception ranges.

In Fig. 2.18, the achieved cell coverage against the number of rings in a mesh cell for $R_D = 0.5$ Mbps is shown. One can observe that the optimal achieved cell coverage is 412 m with $n = 4$. Compared with the coverage of the single-hop network ($n = 1$), the multi-hop mesh network improves the coverage by 77%. Fig. 2.19 illustrates the capacity performance against the number of rings in a cell, for $R_D = 0.5$ Mbps. In this example, the corresponding optimal cell throughput is 26.7 Mbps with $n = 4$. Compared with $n = 1$, the multi-hop mesh network improves the cell throughput by 215%.

Figs. 2.18 and 2.19 show that the proposed ring-based WMN can enhance the cell coverage and throughput compared with the single-hop network. More importantly, we find that the optimal number of rings is equal to $n = 4$ for $R_D = 0.5$ Mbps. In these figures, it is shown that the more the number of rings in a mesh cell, the better the coverage and capacity. However, the constraints on the mesh link throughput and the separation distance between the mesh nodes determine the optimal solution.

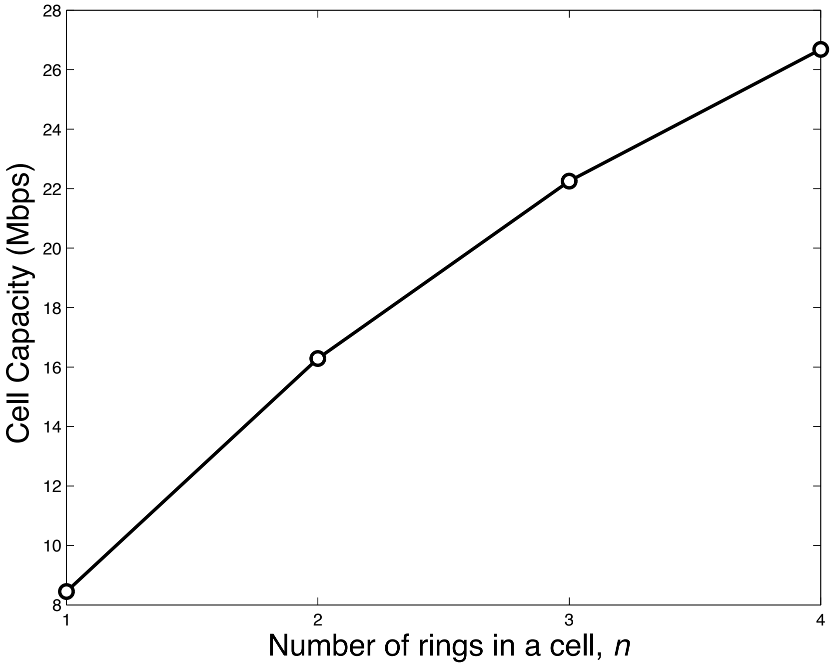


Fig. 2.19. Achieved cell capacity versus the number of rings n in a mesh cell, where $R_D = 0.5$ Mbps.

Fig. 2.20 shows the ring width for various number of rings n in a cell. Referring to this figure, when the number of rings increases, the ring width decreases. In general, when the number of rings n in a cell increases, the cell coverage also increases as shown in Fig. 2.18. For handling the increment of relay traffic as n increases, each ring width will decrease to shorten the hop distance and thus improve the link capacity. However, since the ring width should be larger than the average distance between two neighboring nodes, there exists a maximum value of n. In this example, the maximum allowable number of rings in a mesh cell is $n = 4$.

Conclusion

Wireless mesh networking is a promising solution for the next-generation communication system to support ubiquitous broadband services with low transmission power. In this chapter, we have provided a brief overview on the mesh networking technologies for the IEEE 802.11s and IEEE 802.16 systems. Then, we address the key challenge in WMN — the scalability issue from a network deployment perspective. We present two scalable-WMN deployment strategies for the typical WMN application scenarios, including the dense-urban and wide-area scenarios. The proposed WMNs are scalable in terms of coverage, since the frequency planning with multiple

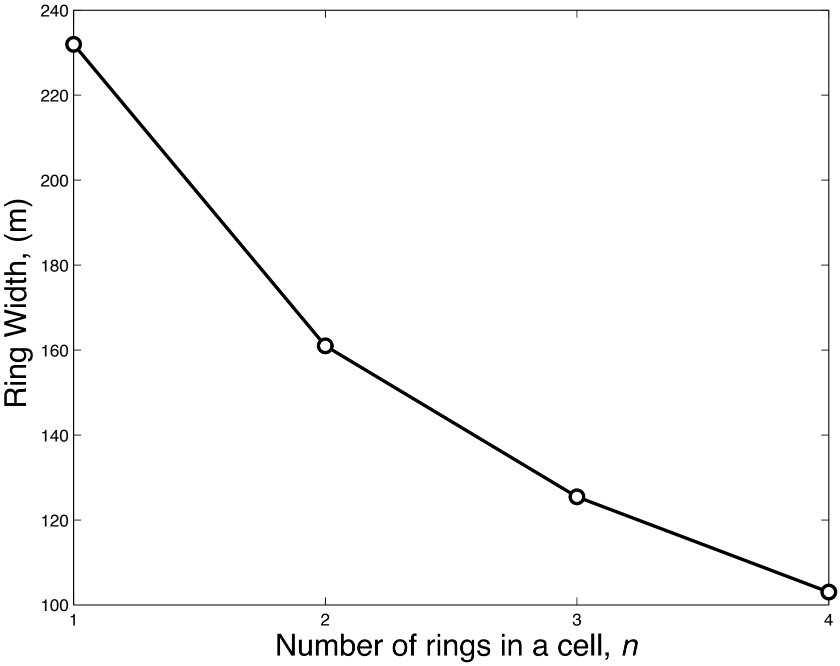


Fig. 2.20. Ring width r versus the number of rings n in a cell, where $R_D = 0.5$ Mbps.

available channels can effectively resolve the contention issue and thus the throughput can be ensured by properly designing the deployment parameters. This chapter also investigates the optimal tradeoff between capacity and coverage for the scalable WMNs. We have applied the mixed-integer nonlinear programming (MINLP) optimization approach to determine the optimal deployment parameters, subject to the tradeoffs between throughput and coverage.

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