

WINDOW BASED SMART ANTENNA DESIGN FOR MOBILE AD HOC NETWORK ROUTING PROTOCOL

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ABSTRACT

Mobile Ad hoc Networks (MANETs) have drawn considerable attentions of the researchers for the last few years. MANETs, consisting of mobile nodes, are self-organizing and self-configuring and hence can be deployed without any infrastructure support. MANETs also have some limitations including short-life, unreliability, scalability, latency, high interference, and limited resources. In order to overcome these limitations many innovations and researches have been done in this field. Incorporating smart antenna system with the mobile nodes is one of them. It has been shown in the literatures that smart antenna can improve network capacity, increase network lifetime, reduce delay, and improve scalability by using directional radiation pattern. But, there are some unsolved issues too. Smart antenna requires a large number of antenna elements that a resource constraint mobile node can hardly handle. Hence, one major design issue is to achieve a desired radiation pattern by using minimum number of antenna elements. Another important issue is the arrangement of antenna elements. Antenna elements can be arranged in linear, planar, and circular manners. In this paper we have addressed these issues. We have proposed a window based smart antenna design for MANETs. Our target is to improve the routing performance of MANETs. We have shown that by using appropriate window function a desired radiation pattern can be achieved with a minimum number of antenna elements.

KEYWORDS

Ad hoc networks, routing protocol, DSR, smart antenna, radiation, window, energy constraint, antenna array

1. INTRODUCTION

Wireless networking has been an active field of research since the early days of packet radio network introduced by Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) [1]. Recent developments in wireless devices and applications have caused exponential growth in wireless users. Wireless devices such as laptop computers, personal digital assistant (PDA), pagers, and cellular phones have become portable now. Users can carry these devices anywhere at any time. Hence, there is a need for a network that can be readily deployed at any place at any time without any centralized administration. In many scenarios infrastructure based network is hard to build and maintain. Wireless network operating in a battlefield (see Figure 1) is an example for such scenarios. In this scenario an infrastructure based network cannot support communication among

soldiers, warships, fighter planes, tanks, and other combating equipment because these constituents of the network are moving at different directions in an unpredictable manner. There are also some cases where infrastructure may not exist to build a network on it due to natural calamity like cyclone, tsunami, and tornado. Hence, there is always a need to set up and maintain a temporary network among a group of users without any pre-existing infrastructure. Mobile Ad hoc Network (MANET) is considered a suitable solution for this kind of temporary network.

MANET is consisting of a group of mobile nodes, which have limited battery capacity and have limited processing power. MANET is self-organizing and self-configuring. Initially, MANET has been developed to provide networking support in military applications, where infrastructure based network is almost impossible to set up and maintain. MANET also has other numerous applications such as crisis management, telemedicine, tele-geoprocessing, process control, personal communication, virtual navigation, education, and security [2]. These applications impose diversified design and performance constraints on MANET. In contrast to its wired counterpart MANET has many unique characteristics. It has dynamic topology. Mobile nodes can join and leave the network at any time. Hence route 'breakage' is a very frequent phenomenon in MANET. Since the medium of communication in MANET is wireless, it has high packet loss, inherent unreliability, high interference, and noise. Two other most addressed problems are limited capacity and short transmission range. MANET has limited bandwidth because mobile nodes share the wireless medium. Mobile nodes communicate with each other in a multi-hop fashion due their limited transmission range.

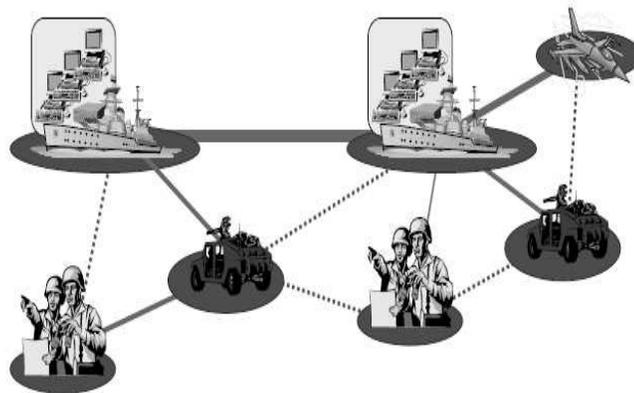


Figure 1 Mobile Ad hoc Networks (MANET)

Numerous research activities have been conducted in order to improve the performances of MANETs. Smart antenna integration with mobile node is one of them. In most of the applications mobile nodes in a MANET are equipped with omni-directional antennas. With omni-directional antenna a mobile node radiates power equally in a surrounding area and all mobile nodes within the transmission range receive that signal. Due to the omni-directional radiation and imposed medium access control (MAC) algorithm the neighboring nodes remain standby during their transmissions to avoid packet collision. In order to overcome this limitation there has been a rapidly growing interest in the use of smart antenna system in MANET [3-12]. Smart antenna system has the ability to radiate signal in a given direction. By using smart antenna a mobile node can adjust its transmission power to a required minimum level and hence can improve the network life-time. Smart antenna also reduces interference level in a network by steering antenna radiation's nulls toward the sources of interference and can support a number of simultaneous transmissions as shown in Figure 2.

There are also other advantages of using smart antenna in MANET. These advantages are addressed in [16]. In this paper we limit our effort only to investigate the effects of smart antenna on the routing protocol of MANET. There are many routing protocols have been proposed for MANET. Among these protocols Dynamic Source Routing (DSR) protocol is a popular one [17]. In this paper we propose a smart antenna system for MANET to improve the performance of the DSR routing protocol. The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents a brief introduction to smart antenna. Section 3 presents the basic operation of DSR protocol. The effects of smart antenna on the routing protocol have been described in section 4. Section 5 contains the smart antenna design issues for MANET. Section 6 introduces window functions and section 7 describes the side lobe minimization techniques by using window functions. The design trade-offs have been discussed in section 8. This paper is concluded with section 9.

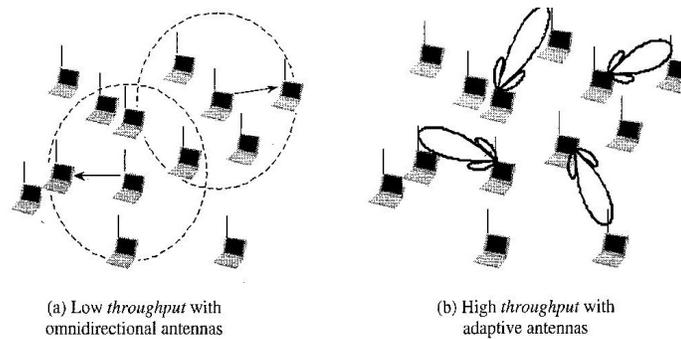


Figure 2 Capacity improvement of ad hoc network with smart antenna [10]

2. SMART ANTENNA

Smart antennas are composed of a collection of two or more antenna elements called antenna array. These antenna elements work together to establish a unique radiation pattern in a desired direction. A functional block diagram of a smart antenna system is shown in Figure 3. It is depicted in the figure that digital signal processor is the backbone of such system. Smart antenna system can locate and track desired signal called Signal of Interest (SOI) and also Signal of no Interest (SNOI). The smart antenna system can dynamically adjust the radiation of the antenna elements so that the resultant radiation is directed along the SOI and it can suppress the radiation pattern along the direction of SNOIs. In order to track the radiation pattern direction of arrival (DOA) or angle of arrival (AOA) algorithms is used. The DOA algorithm helps the antenna elements to set the desired excitation weights in terms of magnitude and phase so that the radiation can be directed in a desired direction.

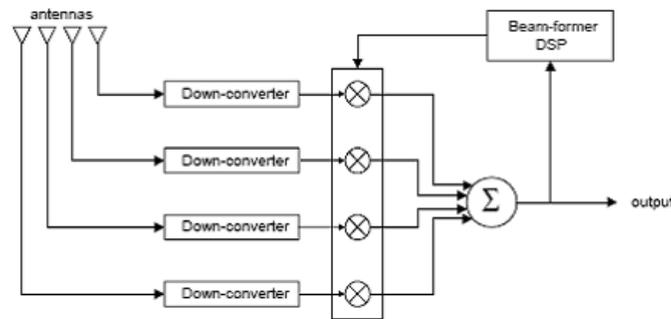


Figure 3 Smart antenna system

Antenna array can be arranged in many different ways. Most popular arrangements are linear array, circular array, and planer arrays. These arrangements are associated with different level of complexity in terms of hardware and software. Since mobile nodes in ad hoc networks are constrained with limited processing power and limited battery life, it is imperative to choose a suitable arrangement. In this paper we focus on two main issues. First, we have investigated different types of antenna arrangement for the mobile nodes so that the required radiation pattern can be achieved with minimum complexity. Second, we have investigated the required number of antenna elements for each type of arrangement. With too few antennas desired radiation pattern cannot be achieved. On the other hand too many antennas should not be selected for resource constraint mobile nodes. In this paper we investigate these issues so that an optimum number of antennas can be arranged in a proper arrangement and the performance of DSR routing protocol can be improved.

3. DYNAMIC SOURCE ROUTING PROTOCOL

The DSR protocol is an on-demand reactive routing protocol [17]. It consists of two main mechanisms namely (a) route discovery, and (b) route maintenance.

Route discovery is a mechanism by which a source node finds a route to a destination. If a source node wants to send some packets to a destination, it first searches its route cache to find a route. If the source node cannot find a route there, it initiates the route discovery process by transmitting a route request message. Each route request contains unique route request ID in addition to the source and destination addresses. All other nodes, within the range of the source, receive the request message. These nodes check the destination address of the request message. If the destination address does not match with the node's own address, it appends its address in the route request and re-broadcast the message. This process goes on unless the route request reaches its intended destination. Once the desired destination node receives the route request, it sends a reply packet to the source. The destination node copies the accumulated routing information from the route request packet to the route reply packet. When the source node receives the route reply packet, it records the newly discovered route in its route cache and starts sending data packet via this route. A typical route discovery mechanism is shown in the Figure 4. Here, the source node *S* initiates a route discovery to discover the route to the destination *D*. Mobile nodes *A* and *E* receive the route request message. Since these two nodes are not the destination, they add their addresses in the request packet and forward that request packets to their neighbors. This process goes on until the request packet is finally received by the destination node *D*, which sends reply to the source. In the scenario two routes have been discovered namely *S-A-B-C-D* and *A-E-F-G-H-I-D*. While generating the route reply packet, the destination copies these two routes from the route request packet to route reply packet. Once the reply packets are received by the source, it records these two discovered routes in the route cache and starts sending packet by using the shorter discovered route (i.e., *S-A-B-C-D*).

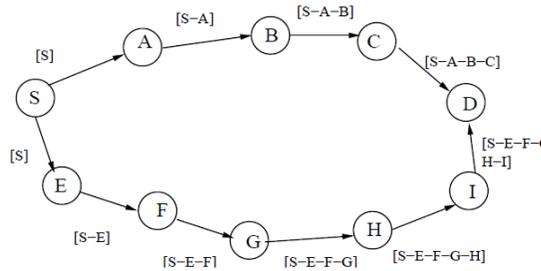


Figure 4 Route discovery of DSR protocol

Route maintenance mechanism helps a mobile node to detect changes in the network topology. If a node cannot send a packet to the destination due to ‘broken’ link, it initiates the route maintenance mechanism. By using this mechanism a mobile node sends a message to the source node (and other nodes on the same route) about the ‘broken’ link. The DSR protocol uses acknowledgment mechanism of the underlying Medium Access Control (MAC) protocol for the ‘broken’ link detection. For example, IEEE 802.11 Wireless LAN medium access layer provides acknowledgement for each packet. If the transmitting node does not receive any acknowledgement after sending a packet several times through a link, it treats that link as ‘broken’ and updates its route cache by marking the route as ‘invalid’. A typical route maintenance mechanism is illustrated in Figure 5. In this scenario it is assumed that mobile *C* exhausts battery and hence the link *B-C* is ‘broken’. Node *B* tries to send packets to *C* for several times and node *C* sends no acknowledgement packet. The node *B* assumes that the link *B-C* is broken. In order to let the source *S* and other nodes (i.e., *B* and *A*) lying on the same route, mobile node *B* generates a route error message and sends it to these nodes. Once route error message is received by the source *S*, it marks the route *S-A-B-C-D* invalid in the route cache and starts sending data packets by using the other alternative route (i.e., *A-E-F-G-H-I-D*).

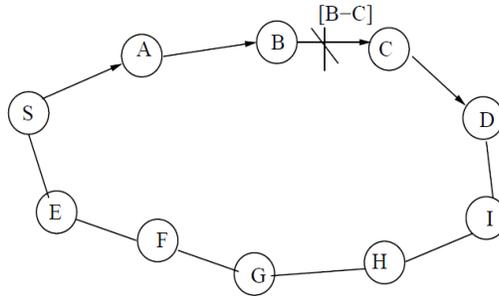


Figure 5 Route maintenance mechanism of DSR protocol

4. DSR PROTOCOL IMPROVEMENT BY SMART ANTENNA

The route request mechanism of DSR routing protocol can be made more efficient by using smart antenna. In DSR, a node can learn and cache multiple routes to a destination by means of a single route discovery. To ensure this multiple routing strategy work all neighboring nodes are obligated to re-broadcast once they receive a route request. The ultimate outcome of the re-broadcasting is ‘flooding’ of overhead packets in the network. Although some measures have been adopted in the DSR protocol to reduce flooding such as limiting the rate of route discovery by using random back-off algorithm, and imposing shorter hop count (‘ring zero search’ mechanism); flooding problem is still severe in the DSR protocol specially for a large network. Some of the drawbacks related to flooding are redundant re-broadcast, contention, and collision.

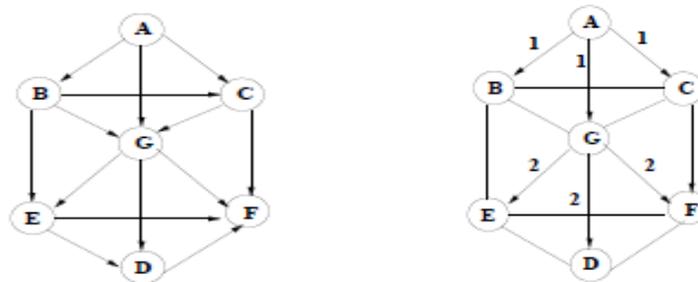


Figure 6 Broadcast reduction

The redundant broadcast occurs when a mobile node re-broadcasts a route request message to its neighbors, which may have already received that message from other nodes. The contention problem occurs when all neighbors of a node re-broadcast the request packet at the same time. These neighbors may severely contend with each other to get access to the medium. The collisions are more likely to occur when all neighboring nodes try to re-broadcast at the same time. Such kind of broadcasting is illustrated in Figure 6. In this scenario node *A* is the source and node *D* is the destination. When node *A* initiates the route discovery mechanism by broadcasting the route request packet, all the neighboring nodes namely *B*, *C*, and *G* receive the request packet and re-broadcast. Hence, there will be six copies of the request messages in the network. This type of redundant message can be easily reduced by using smart antenna. Let us assume that node *G*, equipped with smart antenna, can determine the angle of arrival (AOA) of the request message once it receives from the source node *A*. Hence, node *G* should broadcast in a direction that is in opposite of arrival direction estimated from the received request message. Finally, the destination node receives the request packet broadcast by the node *G* and hence sends reply back to the source *A*. The reply packet carries the information about the route *A-G-D*.

Smart antenna can also help to efficiently handle route reply packet. For example when the node *D* generates a route reply packet, it sends the packet through the route *D-G-A*. Since the node *D* and *G* already know the direction of the arrivals (DOAs) from the route requests, these nodes should send the reply packet in a desired direction. Hence, the route reply packets are not going to affect the other nodes (i.e., *E, F, B*, and *C*) transmissions; and these nodes can perform their normal network operation.

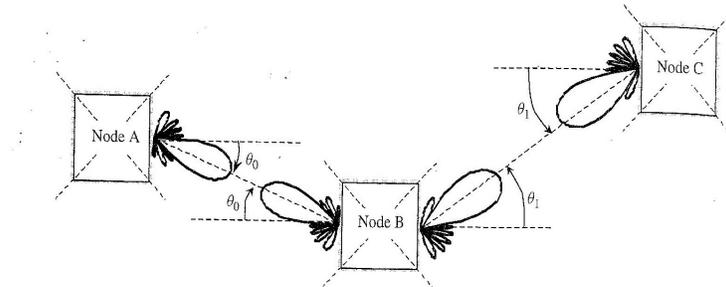


Figure 7 Data packet delivery

Once a route is discovered a source node starts sending data packet by using the discovered route. This kind of data packet delivery is illustrated in Figure 7. In this scenario node *A* is the source of the data packet. Node *C* is the destination node and node *B* is a forwarding node (i.e., router). Since the AOAs are known from the route reply packet, node *A* adjusts its antenna elements' weights accordingly. Hence, the resultant radiation pattern's main lobe will be directed toward node *B*. The node *B* also adjusts the weights of the antenna elements so that it can direct the radiation pattern toward node *C*. Since all the nodes involved in the data transmission have appropriately adjusted the antennas weights, their transmissions will not affect other surrounding nodes.

The smart antenna also helps in handling the route error message. Assume that the link between node *B* and *C* is 'broken' for some reason. The node *B* generates a route error message and sends it to node *A* to let it know that the route *B-C* is broken. While sending the route error message node *B* radiates the signal in the desired direction so that other nodes are not affected.

Although smart antenna system helps the MANETs to improve the routing performance as discussed above, it has some drawbacks too. One of the drawbacks is that mobile nodes should be equipped with transceivers that are much more complex than traditional transceiver. Determining the necessary weights for antenna elements is also computationally extensive and hence a very powerful processor needs to be associated with the mobile nodes. Moreover, mobile nodes should minimize the side lobes. Although the smart antenna helps the mobile nodes to direct main radiation lobe in a desired direction, there is always a chance of generating additional minor lobes as shown in Figure 7. One of the solutions for minimizing the minor lobes is to increase the number of antenna elements. This may not always be feasible because of the high cost and complexity associated with the increasing number of antenna elements. Hence, the main design objective will be to have a desired radiation pattern with the minimum number of antenna elements. Moreover, the antenna arrangement should be as simple as possible so that it can be easily equipped with the nodes.

5. SMART ANTENNA DESIGN FOR MANETS

In smart antenna system the antenna elements may be arranged in many different ways. Most common arrangements are linear, rectangular, and circular. Among these antenna array arrangements linear array is the simplest one. In this arrangement all antenna array elements are aligned along a straight line as shown in Figure 8. For the simplicity of our analysis we assume that the antenna array is composed of isotropic radiating antenna elements and the antenna elements are equally spaced by a distance d . We also assume that the far-field condition is satisfied (i.e., $r \gg d$). In general the array factor is given by

$$AF = 1 + e^{j(kd \sin \theta + \delta)} + e^{j2(kd \sin \theta + \delta)} + \dots + e^{j(N-1)(kd \sin \theta + \delta)} \tag{1}$$

where δ = electrical phase difference between two adjacent elements, d =element spacing, θ = angle measured from z-axis as shown in Figure 8.

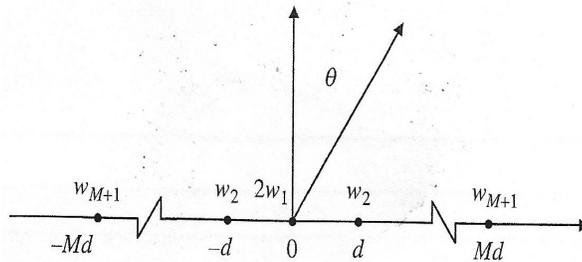


Figure 8 Linear Antenna Array

By adjusting the phase shift δ the main lobe of the radiation pattern can be directed toward a designed direction θ_0 . This can be achieved by setting $\delta = -kdsin\theta_0$. Then the AF defined in (1) can be modified as

$$AF = \frac{1}{N} \frac{\sin \left(\frac{Nkd}{2} (\sin \theta - \sin \theta_0) \right)}{\sin \left(\frac{kd}{2} (\sin \theta - \sin \theta_0) \right)} \tag{2}$$

A plot of the array factor for different antenna array size is illustrated in Figure 9. In this antenna array the phase shifts of the antenna elements have been adjusted to have a radiation pattern with main lobe directed toward $\theta_0=30^\circ$. It is depicted in this figure that the beam width of the main lobe is reduced with the number of elements (i.e., N) in the antenna array.

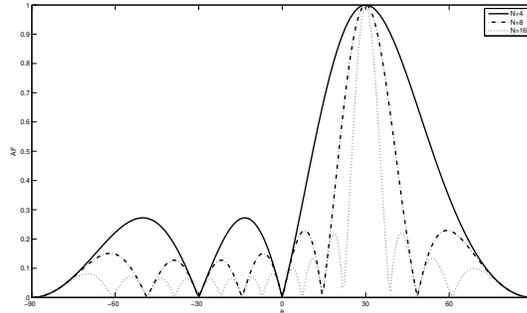


Figure 9 Array factor for a linear antenna array

Although linear array draws considerable attention for its simplicity in design, it is not considered suitable when mounted on the mobile nodes. Other arrangement like circular array is considered an alternative of linear array. Figure 10 shows the arrangement of circular antenna arrays. The antennas are located at the radius a as shown in the figure. The phase angle of the n th antenna element is denoted by ϕ_n . The array factor of circular array is defined as

$$AF = \sum_{n=1}^N e^{-j[ka \sin \theta \cos(\phi - \phi_n) + \delta_n]} \quad (3)$$

,where a =radius of the circular path, δ_n =phase angle of the n th antenna element. The plot of array factors for a typical circular antenna array is shown in Figure 11. In this array the antenna elements are placed on a circle of radius $a=1\lambda$, the size of the antenna array was varied from $N=4$ to $N=16$, and the radiation pattern was directed toward $\theta_0=30^\circ$. It is depicted in the figure that circular array shows larger side lobes compared to that of linear array for the same number of antenna elements. For the smallest array size (i.e., $N=4$) the side lobes are even equal to that of the main lobe.

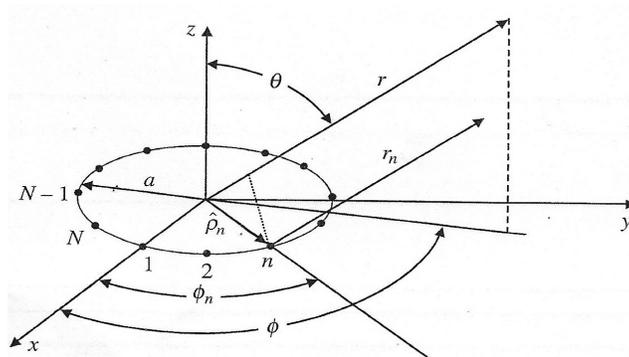


Figure 10 Circular Antenna Array

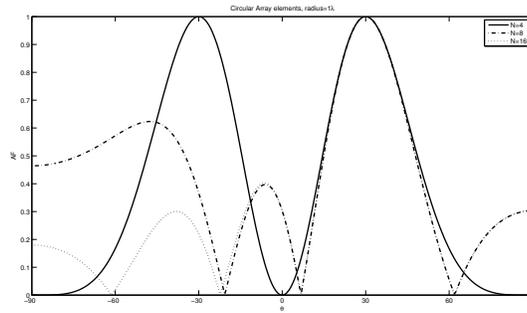


Figure 11 Array factor for circular array

Another mostly investigated antenna array is planar array. The planar array is more complex compared to linear array and circular array. The geometrical arrangement of the planar array is shown in Figure 12. The array has been positioned in the x-y plane. There are M elements in the x-direction and N elements in the y-direction. Hence, the size of the array is defined as M x N. The elements placed in the x-direction are separated by distance d_x and the elements placed in the y-direction are separated by distance d_y . The rectangular array can be considered a combination of two linear arrays: one lying in the x-direction and the other one is lying in the y-direction. Hence, the array factor is the multiplication of two array factors corresponding to two linear arrays. The array factors for the linear array along the x-axis and y-axis are given by

$$AF_x = \sum_{m=1}^M e^{-j(m-1)(kd_x \sin \theta \cos \phi + \beta_x)} \quad (4)$$

$$AF_y = \sum_{n=1}^N e^{-j(n-1)(kd_y \sin \theta \sin \phi + \beta_y)} \quad (5)$$

, where M=number of elements in the x-axis, N=number of elements in the y-axis, β_x = phase delay in the x-axis, β_y = phase delay in the y-axis. The array factors of rectangular planar array for different sizes are shown in the Figure 13. It is depicted in the figure that the main lobes are narrower compared to linear array. In addition the side lobes are smaller in size. But, all these advantages were achieved by using a large number of antenna elements (i.e., 4x4, 8x8, and 16x16). It is also depicted that a small size rectangular planar array cannot exploit the advantages of antenna array.

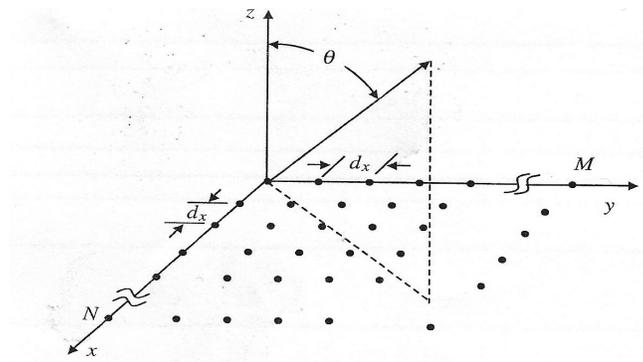


Figure 12 Rectangular planar array

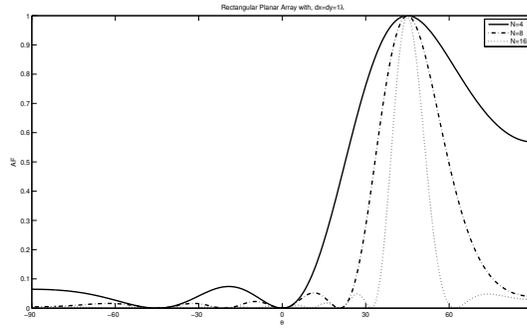


Figure 13 Array factor for rectangular planar array

6. THE WINDOW FUNCTIONS FOR SIDE LOBE MINIMIZATION

In the analyses of the different antenna array arrangements above we assume that all the antenna elements are isotropic in nature and all have unity amplitude. It was depicted in Figure 9, Figure 11, and Figure 13 that all the array factors have side lobes. In other words the antenna array elements not only radiate power in an intended direction, but also they radiate power in unintended directions. These unintended radiations may affect other mobile nodes' transmissions. Hence, it is imperative that these side lobes should be minimized as much as possible.

Table 1 Window functions

Name of Window	Time-domain sequence, $0 \leq n \leq M-1$
Binomial	Coefficients of : $(a + b)^{M-1} = a^{M-1} + (M-1)a^{M-2}b + \frac{(M-1)(M-2)}{2!}a^{(M-3)}b^2 + \dots$
Blackman	$0.45 - 0.5 \cos \frac{2\pi n}{M-1} + 0.08 \cos \frac{4\pi n}{M-1}$
Gaussian	$e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\alpha-n}{N/2}\right)^2}, \alpha=2.5$
Hamming	$0.54 - 0.46 \cos \frac{2\pi n}{M-1}$
Kaiser	$\frac{I_0 \left[\alpha \sqrt{\left(\frac{M-1}{2}\right)^2 - \left(n - \frac{M-1}{2}\right)^2} \right]}{I_0 \left[\alpha \left(\frac{M-1}{2}\right) \right]}, \alpha=0.5$
Chebyshev	$\frac{\cosh \left\{ M \cos^{-1} \left[\beta \cos \left(\frac{\pi k}{M} \right) \right] \right\}}{\cosh \left[M \cosh^{-1} (\beta) \right]} \quad k=0,1,2,\dots,(M-1)$ $\beta = \frac{\cosh \left[\frac{1}{M} \cosh^{-1} (10^0) \right]}{\cosh \left[M \cosh^{-1} (\beta) \right]} \quad \alpha=2,3,4$

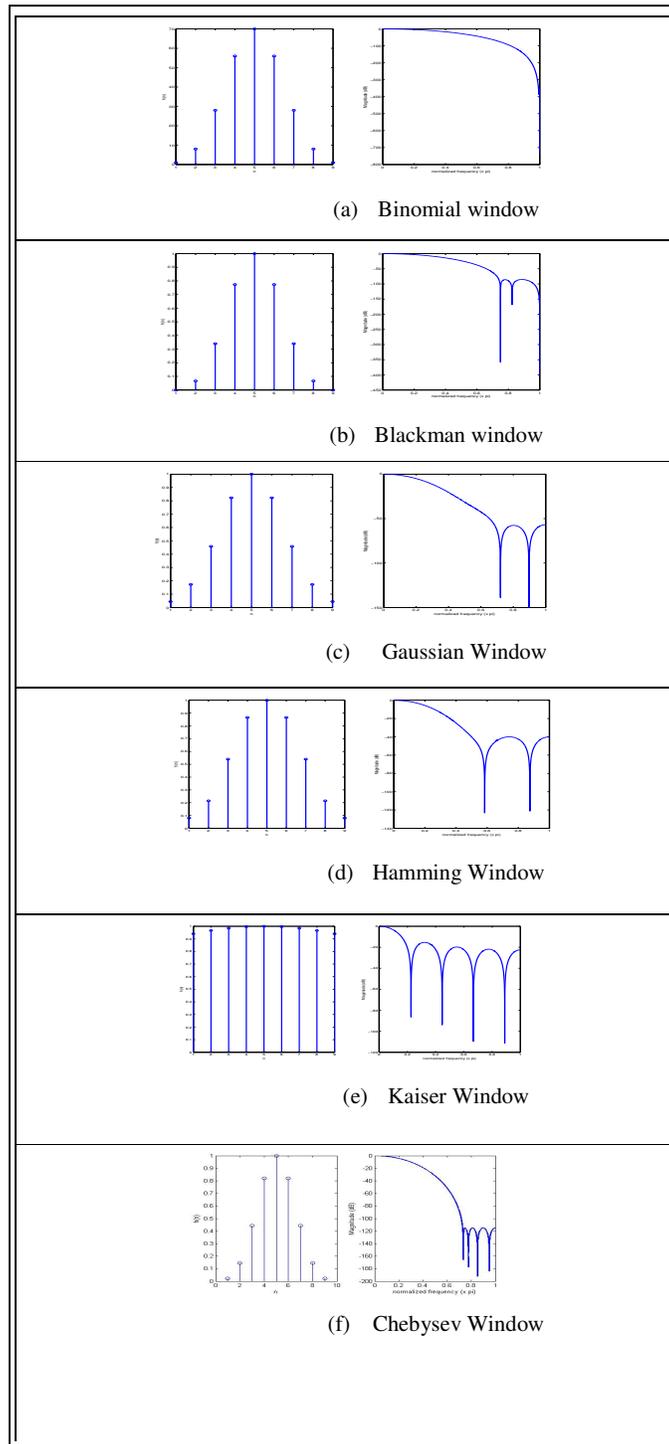
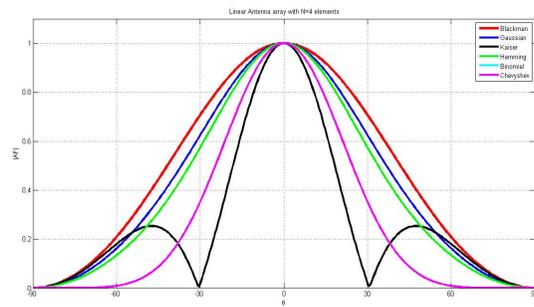
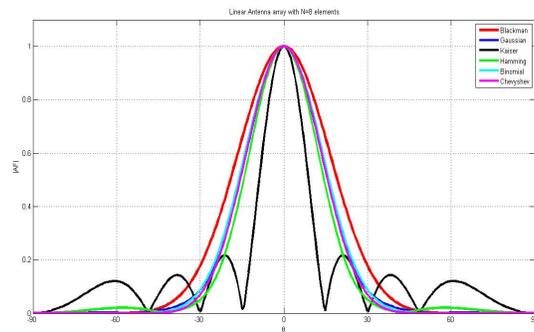


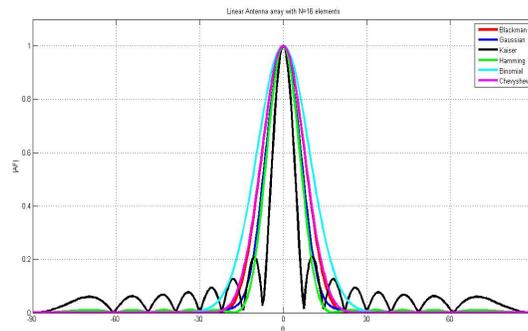
Figure 14 Windows and their spectrums



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 15 Linear array patterns for (a) $N=8$, (b) $N=16$, and (c) $N=32$

There have been many proposals to minimize the side lobes. In this work we consider window functions. A number of window functions can be found in the literatures [14-15]. In this paper we consider some popular window functions namely Binomial, Blackman, Gaussian, Hamming, Kaiser, and Chebyshev. Among these window functions Binomial and Chebyshev have drawn considerable attentions in the field of antenna array design. The other window functions have been extensively used in digital signal processing. We consider these window functions for

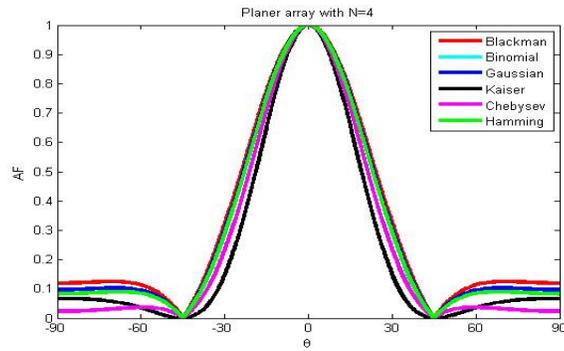
designing smart antenna for MANETs. Our prime objective is to minimize the side lobes by using a minimum number of antenna elements. Table 1 lists these window functions and Figure 14 illustrates the time-domain and frequency domain characteristics of the window functions.

The Binomial window is generated by using Pascal's triangle. The frequency domain characteristics of Binomial window show some minor side lobes. It is shown in Figure 14(a) that the minor lobes of binomial window are far below the main side lobe. The Blackman window also exhibits some side lobes. The first side lobe occurs at -100 dB below the main side lobe as shown in Figure 14(b). But, there are some other visible side lobes that have similar magnitude compared to other side lobes. The frequency characteristic of the Gaussian window is similar to that of Blackman window. In both cases the first side lobe occurs around -60 dB below the main lobe. The Hamming window is another popular window. In this window function the first side lobe occurs around -45 dB below the magnitude of the main lobe. The Kaiser window behaves differently compared to other window functions. But, the Kaiser window also produces some side lobes, which decay quickly. Another popular window is the Chebysev window. It is shown in the figure that the Chebysev window produces some side lobes. But the magnitude of these side lobes is far below the magnitude of the main lobe. Considering transition of the main lobe of the Kaiser window shows a steeper transition compared to other window functions. The transition of the Hamming window is slightly slower than the Kaiser window, but it is faster than the Gaussian, Binomial, and Blackman window. Although the Binomial window does not show any side lobe its transition bandwidth is the slowest one.

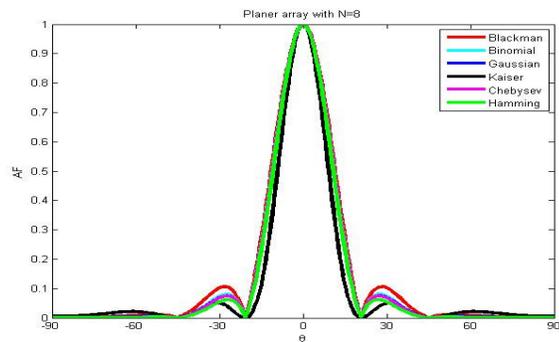
7. MINIMIZING SIDE LOBES

We consider again the three antenna arrangements as discussed in section 5. But, the excitation amplitudes of the antenna elements are now varied according to the window functions. In all cases the desired maximum radiation is $\theta=0^\circ$. The plot of the array factor for linear array consisting of different number of antenna elements is shown in Figure 15. In this figure it is depicted that the desired angle of the radiation pattern is $\theta=0^\circ$. But, the beam width becomes narrower with the increase in the number of elements. The beam width also varies with the window types. This figure shows that the Kaiser window provides the narrowest beam width. For example, the Half Power Beam Width (HPBW) for antenna array with four elements is 30° for the Kaiser window. But, the same is 15° and 7° for antenna elements eight and sixteen. The problem of the Kaiser window based linear array is that there exists some side lobes. The side lobe can be minimized by other window like the Chebysev window. It is depicted in the figure that the Chebysev window does not show any side lobe. But it shows a much higher HPBW (i.e., 54°) than the Kaiser window. Hence, an antenna array consisting of four elements the Chebysev window will be chosen. For antenna arrays consisting of eight elements and sixteen elements the Hamming window provides the narrowest HPBW and the minimum side lobes.

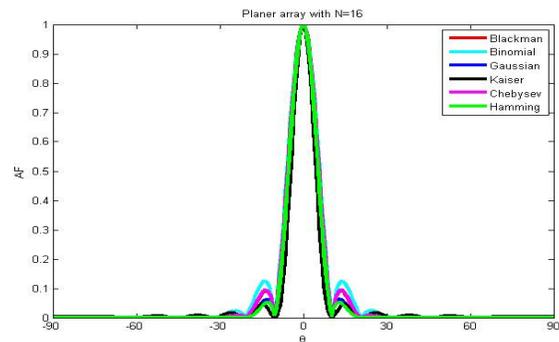
The radiation patterns for planar array are shown in Figure 16. For planar array with antenna elements 4×4 is shown in Figure 16(a). Compared to linear array (see Figure 15(a)) planar array has the same HPBW. But, all windows show side lobes. Hence, planar array with 4×4 antenna elements may not be considered suitable for antenna elements. Planar antenna arrays with 8×8 elements and 16×16 elements show narrower HPBWs. Although there are some side lobes exist in these cases, their magnitudes are not significant.



(a)



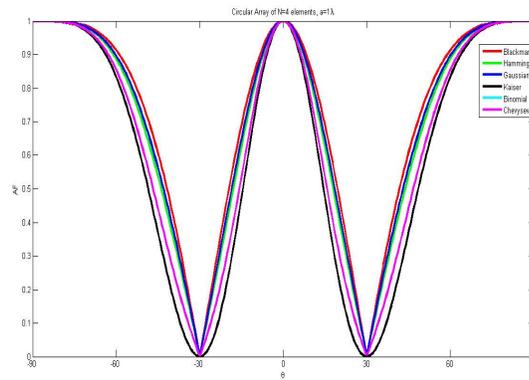
(b)



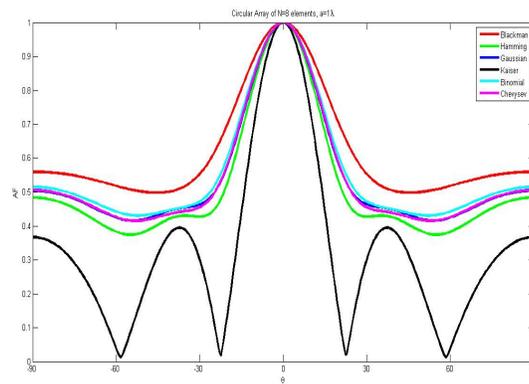
(c)

Figure 16 Planar array elements (a)4x4, (b) 8x8, and (c) 16x16

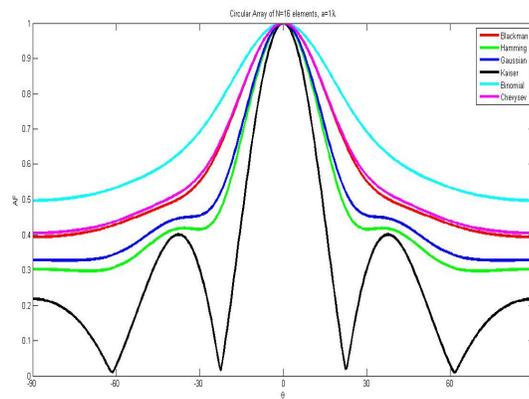
The radiation patterns for a circular array are shown in Figure 17. Although the circular antenna arrays have some advantages over linear array, its radiation pattern is not desirable. For example, the HPBW for circular array with 4 antennas are similar to those of linear and planar array. But, the side lobes have equal magnitude compared to the main lobe. The side lobes are minimized by increasing the number of elements as shown in Figure 17 (b) and 17 (c). Still, the HPBW does not narrow down like that of the linear and planar arrays. Considering the radiation patterns we conclude that circular array is not a good candidate for antenna array.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 17 Circular array with antenna elements $N=8$, $N=16$, and $N=32$

8. THE DESIGN TRADE-OFFS IN MANETS

Since the mobile nodes in MANETs have very limited processing power and battery power, we need to be very careful about selecting appropriate antenna array for them. Keeping these constraints in mind antenna array for MANETs should be designed with a minimum number of antenna elements. But, we have shown in Section 5 that the HPBW depends on the number of antenna elements. The more the number of elements, the narrower is the bandwidth. Hence, the desired design objective will be to select the minimum number of antenna elements at the same time to maintain the desired radiation pattern.

Among the three antenna arrays the linear antenna array provides the least flexibility. The linear antenna array allows radiation pattern to vary only in the θ direction only. We also notice that linear antenna array consisting of 16 antenna elements provides a very narrow HPBW. On the other hand, antenna array with 4 elements provides a very large HPBW. It has been shown in the literature that the performances of ad hoc network highly depend on the network density. In a highly dense network the interference level will be high and vice versa. Hence, we need to maintain a very narrow HPBW in a dense network and we need to equip the mobile nodes with a large number of antenna elements in a dense network. There is another problem too. Mobile node should have a high processing power to handle a large number of antenna elements. In this regard linear antenna array consisting of 16 antenna elements will be a good candidate. While selecting windows for minimization of the side lobes either the Kaiser window or the Hamming window can be used for such case. The Kaiser window provides the narrowest HPBW, but it shows some side lobes as shown in Figure 15(c). On the other hand the Hamming window provides a little bit higher HPBW, but it shows no side lobes.

On the other hand, a linear antenna array consisting of 4 elements may be good enough for a low density network to provide a moderate HPBW. Mobile nodes with low processing power will be good enough to handle these few antenna elements. Regarding the side lobe minimization the Kaiser window and the Chebyshev window will be the suitable ones. Again, the Kaiser window exhibits the narrowest HPBW, but it shows some side lobes. On the other hand the Chebyshev window exhibits higher HPBW compared to the Kaiser window, but it exhibits no side lobe.

The rectangular (or planar) array provides more flexibility in controlling the radiation pattern. In contrast to linear array rectangular antenna array allows the radiation pattern to vary both in θ and ϕ direction. The major limitation of the rectangular array is the complexity. A complex algorithm is used to set the magnitude and phase of the antenna elements. Another limitation is associated with the large number of antenna elements that are required to have a very narrow beam width for a dense network. It is shown in Figure 16 that an antenna array consisting of 256 elements (i.e. 16x16) provides a very narrow beam width, but it shows some side lobe irrespective of the window function used. It is very difficult to equip a mobile node with 256 antenna elements to achieve the desired radiation pattern. There will be similar complexity associated with antenna array consisting of 64 elements. Only suitable candidate for ad hoc network is 4x4 rectangular antenna array. But, this antenna array has two major limitations. One limitation is that it has a large HPBW as shown in Figure 16(a). The other limitation is the side lobes. Irrespective of window function used this antenna array always shows some side lobes.

Similar to rectangular antenna array circular array provides more flexibility compared to linear array. It allows the radiation pattern to vary both in θ and ϕ direction. The other advantage of circular antenna array is associated with its compact size as mentioned in earlier section. But, the major limitation of the circular array is that it does not provide a very narrow beam width. A very large antenna array even does not provide a very narrow beam width as shown in Figure 16. Hence, circular antenna array should be avoided in MANETs.

9. CONCLUSION

In this paper smart antenna design for MANETs has been addressed. Smart antenna design for MANETs is not a very straight forward because the mobile nodes have very limited processing power. Hence, smart antenna in ad hoc network should be very simple in architecture and also should be consisting of limited number of antenna elements. It is shown in this paper that a large antenna array is required for a densely populated MANETs to have a very narrow beam width. So, we should be very careful about using smart antenna in a dense network. Smart antenna can be used in a low density network because a small number of antenna elements can provide necessary beam width. It is also shown in this paper that linear antenna array is the best choice for an ad hoc network. By using appropriate window function a linear antenna array consisting of 8 elements is a good candidate for a low density network. A linear antenna array consisting of 16 elements may also be used in a dense network. The rectangular antenna array and circular antenna array will be avoided in MANETs due to their associated complexity.

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