

SEEKER: An Adaptive and Scalable Location Service for Mobile Ad Hoc Networks

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ABSTRACT

Location-based routing protocols for mobile ad-hoc networks (MANETs) use geographic information to achieve higher scalability and lower control overhead than those of the topology-based routing protocols, e.g. AODV and DSR, etc. However, location-based routing protocols rely on location services to acquire the location information of the destination node so that they can forward packets to the destination properly. To keep the advantage of the location-based routing protocol, the location service should have high scalability and low control overhead. This paper proposes a location service called SEEKER to accomplish such goals. The basic idea of SEEKER is *aggregate update*, which integrates a group of position updates for the purpose of performing them altogether. In this way, a lot of location maintenance (update) overhead is reduced, while query success rate is still kept comparably high. Moreover, SEEKER can adapt to mobility by changing the frequency of location updates, which can further reduce the overhead. We simulate SEEKER and compare it with related location services. The results show that SEEKER has comparably good performances.

1: Introduction

The mobile ad hoc network (MANET) has attracted a lot of attention in recent years. A MANET consists of a collection of wireless mobile nodes that dynamically form a temporary network without the aid of pre-established infrastructure or centralized administration. A node in such a network acts as a host and a router; it sends data packets to other nodes and help forward packets for other nodes. Since the topology of a MANET changes frequently and unexpectedly, routing in it is a fundamental problem to be solved.

Existing routing protocols for MANETs can be classified into two categories: topology-based and location-based ones. Topology-based protocols assume no knowledge of mobile node's position. They can be further divided into proactive (for example, DSDV [25]), reactive (for example, DSR [26] and AODV [27]) and hybrid strategies (e.g., ZRP [28]). These protocols establish packet routes by flooding route requests to the entire network in an on-demand manner and/or by maintaining global (or zone-wide for hybrid protocols) node connection states constantly. As the network size or the number of nodes grows, such protocols' performances degrade dramatically

due to the enormous increase of control packet overheads. Topology-based routing protocols thus have limited scalability [12]. On the other hand, location-based routing protocols, such as GPSR [24] and DREAM [23], etc., forward packets by utilizing nodes' location information derived from positioning systems like GPS. Such protocols allow a node to forward data packets according to only the positions of itself and its neighbors. Location-based routing protocols are thus more scalable than topology-based ones.

To route a data packet by a location-based routing protocol, there must be a location service for the source node to retrieve the location of the destination node. The location service must be scalable to preserve the scalability of the location-based routing protocols. Several location service protocols [4], [5], [6], [7], [8], [9], [10], [11], [12], [13], have been proposed. They can be classified into two categories: flooding-based and rendezvous-based. The former demands a (destination) node to broadcast its location to every other node proactively, or demands a (source) node to flood queries over the entire network for looking up the destination node's location before sending data packets. On the other hand, the latter demands all nodes to agree upon a mapping that maps each node's ID to one or more other nodes serving as location servers. These will be the rendezvous nodes where location updates and queries happen. Since the latter are more scalable than the former, in the following text we will focus on the latter only. Existing rendezvous-based location service protocols utilize the concepts of quorum-based (like XYLS protocol [4]), hierarchical-based (like GLS protocol [7]), and hash-based (like SLURP protocol [9]), and so on.

This paper proposes a location service called SEEKER to achieve high scalability and low control overhead. The basic idea of SEEKER is *aggregate update*, which integrates a group of position updates for them to perform altogether. In this way, a lot of location maintenance (update) overhead is reduced, while query success rate is kept comparably high. Moreover, SEEKER can adapt to mobility by changing the frequency of location updates. This can make SEEKER save more location update overhead. We simulate SEEKER in terms of four metrics: the location maintenance cost, the location query cost, the query success rate, and the packet delivery rate for the comparison with two location services – GLS and HIGH-GRADE. The results show that SEEKER has comparably good performances.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we introduce some related work. In section 3, we present

the proposed protocol, SEEKER. A performance comparison study is described in section 4 and concluding remarks are drawn in section 5.

2: Related work

In this section, we first introduce location-based forwarding in section 2.1. We then introduce location services. There are a variety of location services, namely XYLS, GLS, HIGH-GRADE, SLURP, and GHLS. Those protocols can be classified into the quorum-based, the hierarchical-based and the hash-based location services. Figure 1 shows the classification of those location services. We will describe the basic idea for each category by introducing three representative services: XYLS, GLS and SLURP. HIGH-GRADE and GHLS combine some concepts of GLS and SLURP to improve them. It is noted that in location-based routing and location services, each node is assumed to know the positions of itself and its neighbors. This can be achieved by equipping each node with a positioning device and by demanding every node to periodically send Hello packet (or beacon packet) containing its ID and position.

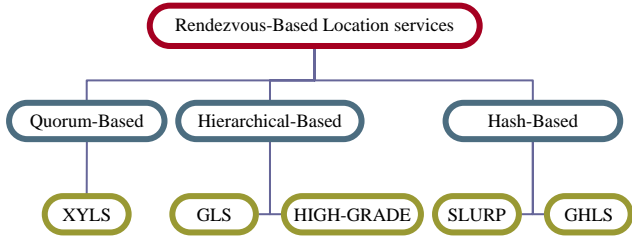


Figure 1: The classification of rendezvous-based location services

2.1 Location-based forwarding

Assume that a source node intends to send packets to a destination node. If the position of the destination node is known, then the source node can make the packet forwarding decision on the basis of positions of its immediate one-hop neighbors and the destination node [14].

The greedy forwarding strategy is a simple way to forward a data packet. Several mechanisms, such as MFR, NFP and compass routing, etc., utilize such a strategy. In *most forward within fixed transmission range (MFR)* strategy [15], a node forwards data packet to its neighbor that is closest to the destination node. Such a strategy tries to minimize the number of hops a packet has to travel before reaching the destination node. In *nearest with forward progress (NFP)* strategy [16], the node forwards the packet to its nearest neighbor which is closer to the destination. If a node adjusts its transmission power according to the distance from itself and the forwarding neighbor, this strategy can reduce the probability of packet collision dramatically. In *compass routing* [17], a node forwards the data packet to the neighbor who is closest to the straight line between the sender and the destination. This strategy tries to minimize the spatial distance a packet travels.

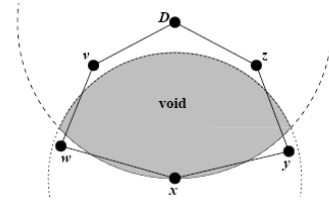


Figure 2: The local maximum problem (adapted from [24])

Unfortunately, by the greedy forwarding strategy, a node may fail to forward a data packet when a local maximum is encountered. As shown in Figure 2, such a situation causes a void area and leads to the so-called *Hole problem* that prevents the data packet from reaching the destination even though there actually exists a path between the source node and the destination node. The face routing [18] and the perimeter routing [19] can be used to solve the problem. Both protocols require a node to enter the recovery mode if a local maximum is encountered; otherwise, they command a node to enter the greedy mode and to forward the data packet by the afore-mentioned greedy strategies. In the recovery mode, the protocols first establish a connected planar graph with the aid of Gabriel graph [21] in a distributive manner. Data packets then traverse successively to the closer faces of the graph by the well-known right hand rule [20] until reaching a node closer to the destination, where greedy forwarding resumes.

2.2 Quorum-Based Location Service (XYLS)

In a quorum-based location service, a node updates its position by sending the information to a subset (update quorum) of nodes. When a source node wants to transmit a packet to a destination node, it requests the location for the destination from a subset (query quorum) of nodes. The two subsets must be designed properly to have common nodes. Therefore, the up-to-date location information can be obtained for any given destination. Several quorum-based location services have been developed [4], [7], [22], [31], [32], [33], [34], [35]. In the following, we will describe the details of XYLS location service to demonstrate how quorum-based location service works.

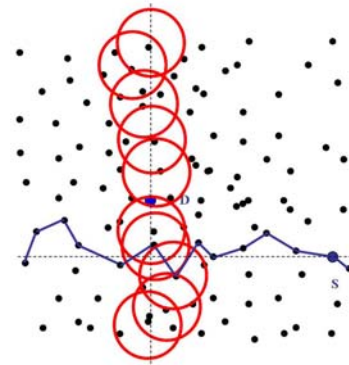


Figure 3: Location update and query in XYLS

XYLS [4] is also known as the column-row location service. When a node wants to update its current location, the node transmits the location information to an update quorum of nodes that are located along the north-south (column) direction please refer to Figure 3. In other words, all the nodes in the same geographical column receive the location information and serve as location servers. The thickness width of the column can be configured,

controlling the tradeoff between the update overhead and the robustness of the location service. Thicker columns lead to higher update overhead and higher degree of robustness. A column can be as thick as one north-to-south path. Thicker columns are constructed by commanding the nodes in the path to broadcast the update information. However, only specified nodes will rebroadcast the information to keep the update overhead low. Every node will keep the received location information for a specified time window. In XYLS, a node initiates location update dissemination after every movement of a threshold distance d .

When a source node wants to transmit a packet to a destination node, it sends a query request for the location of the destination to a query quorum of nodes that are located along the east-west (row) direction. That is, all the nodes in the same geographical row of the querying node receive the query request. The query contains the time of the most recent location known by the source. If a node along the row has location information that is more recent than that in the query request, it sends a reply packet back to the source node.

2.3 Hierarchical-Based Location Service (GLS)

For a hierarchical hash-based location service protocol, the area in which nodes reside is recursively divided into a hierarchy of grids (squares). For each node, one or more nodes in the grids at each level of the hierarchy are chosen as its location servers. Location updates and queries traverse up and down the hierarchy. There are several hierarchical rendezvous-based location services proposed in the literature. Below, we introduce Grid Location Service (GLS) [7].

In GLS, the network area is arranged as a hierarchy of grids (squares) of different sizes. The smallest square is called an order-1 square. Four order-1 squares form an order-2 square, four order-2 squares form an order-3 square, and so on. A node chooses its location server for a square by selecting nodes with the ID that is closest to and is circularly in advance of its own ID. A node will be its own location server for the order-1 square where it resides. Three nodes in the order-1 squares adjacent to the order-1 square where it resides are chosen as order-2 location servers. Three nodes in the order-2 squares adjacent to the order-2 square where it resides are chosen as order-3 location servers, and so on. Let's take an example shown in Figure 4. Node 17 selects nodes 2, 23, 63 as its order-2 location servers; nodes 26, 31, and 43, order-3 location servers.

When a source node wants to transmit a packet to a destination node, it sends a query request for "the best node" in order-1 square. The best node means the node with the ID that is closest to and is circularly in advance of the destination's ID. The paper [7] proves that the best node in order-1 square must know the best node in order-2 square, and so on. The query request can traverse the best nodes from lower-order square to higher-order square by location-based forwarding. Finally, the query request will reach one of the destination's location servers. The location update is similar to the location query. To be more precise, assume that a node u wishes to recruit a location server in some order- i square. It sends a position update request to that square by greedy forwarding. The first node in the square that receives the request then begins a location update process that closely resembles a query for u 's location. It is shown in [7] that the update request will

eventually reach the best nodes in order- i square.

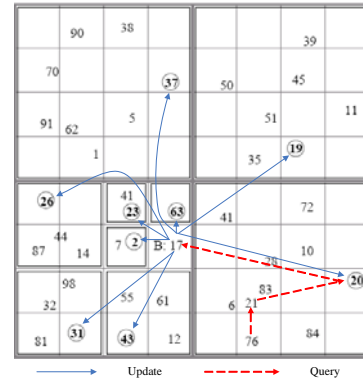


Figure 4: GLS update and query (adapted from [7])

2.4 Hash-based Location Service (SLURP)

The hash-based location service is also known as the home region location service. By the mapping of a hash function, each node is associated with a home region in such a service. A home region (also called a virtual region in [6] and [37], or called a home agent in [5]) of a node is either defined by a rectangular area or a circular area. One, some or all nodes in the area are supposed to be the location servers of the node. When the node wants to update its location, it sends the location information to its location servers in the home region by a location-based routing protocol. When a source wants to transmit a packet to a destination, it first figures out the home region by hashing destination node's ID. It then sends query requests to location servers residing in the home region by a location-based routing protocol. There are many home region location service protocols proposed. Below, we introduce SLURP (Scalable Location Update-Based Routing Protocol) [9] to demonstrate how home region location service works.

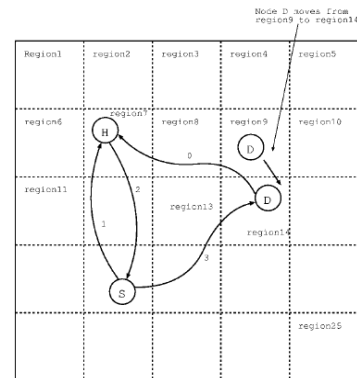


Figure 5: Location update and query in SLURP (adapted from [9])

In SLURP, the whole geographical area is divided into equal-sized squares (see Figure 5). A node is associated with one of the squares by the hashing function that maps the node's ID to the center of the associated square. The square is the home region of the node; all the nodes in the square are the location servers of the node. When a node moves out of its current square, it sends its new location information toward its home region by MFR forwarding. The information is relayed by unicast until it reaches one or more nodes located in the home region, where one of the nodes broadcasts the information to all other nodes in the same region. When a source node wants to send a packet to

a destination node, it uses the hashing function to derive destination's home region. It then sends query requests toward the home region for querying the destination's current location. Similar to the update information, the query request is unicasted until it reaches the home region. The first node in the home region receiving the unicast request replies the destination's current location to the source by a location-based routing protocol.

3: The SEEKER Location Service

In this section, we describe the proposed location service – SEEKER. The basic idea of SEEKER is aggregate update. By aggregate update, the proposed service not only reduces a lot of protocol control overhead but also achieves a high accuracy in location query. Moreover, SEEKER can adapt to mobility by changing the frequency of location updates, which can further reduce the overhead. We present the implementation details of the service as follows.

3.1 Assumption

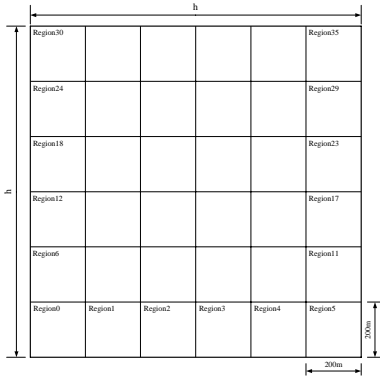


Figure 6: Location management in ad hoc networks

We assume that all nodes in the system are equipped with positioning hardware that provides them with their current locations. Each node is assumed to know the positions of itself and its neighbors, which is achieved by demanding every node to periodically send beacon packets containing its own ID and position. Also we assume that the whole network area is divided into $h \times h$ square regions. Figure 6 illustrates the network which is divided into $200m \times 200m$ squares.

3.2 Location update

SEEKER allows few nodes to initiate location updates; those nodes are called *initial nodes*. Initial nodes must send location update packets (*LOC* for short) periodically. A node checks its neighbors in the east and west directions. If there is no node to the east of the node, it will be the initial node to send LOC to the west direction. On the other hand, if there is no node to the west of the node, it will be the initial node to send LOC to the east direction. If there are no neighbors in both east and west directions, it indicates that the node is isolated. For such a case, the node need not send any packets. The initial node sets a *virtual destination* to deliver the LOC packet to. The virtual destination has the y coordinate the same as the initial node's y coordinate and has the x coordinate to the extreme in the west or east direction. The LOC packet is relayed by greedy forwarding until it reaches the *terminal node*, which is the westernmost (or easternmost) node closest to the west (or east) virtual

destination.

Every node periodically checks if itself is an initial node to deliver the LOC packet. Below, we describe the process of delivering the LOC packet. The initial node puts its own and all its neighbors' IDs and location information in the LOC packet. It then delivers the LOC packet to the virtual destination by greedy forwarding. On the way from the initial node to the terminal node, every intermediate node gathers from the LOC packet new node IDs and location information. It stores the gathered information and append to the LOC packet its own and all its neighbors' ID and location information. In this way, the nodes in the path from the initial node to the terminal node serve as the location servers for all the nodes in the same row of regions. We call the above process the *aggregate update* scheme.

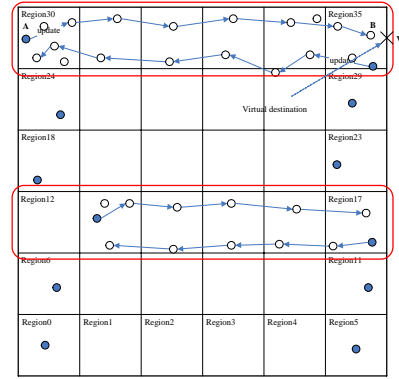


Figure 7: Location update in SEEKER

Figure 7 illustrates an example of the location update. Node A in region 30 is an initial node because there is no node in the same row to the west of itself. Node A will start to send a LOC packet to the virtual destination V in the east. The LOC packet is forwarded until it reaches the terminal node B, which is the easternmost node closest to the virtual destination V in region35.

3.3 Location query

When a source node wants to query where the destination is, it starts the query procedure. The procedure uses four types of packets: *QREQ*, *QREP*, *B-QREQ* and *B-QREP*. *QREQ* (Query request) is a unicast packet to query the location of the destination node, and *QREP* (Query reply) is also a unicast packet to reply the location of to the destination node. *B-QREQ* is a one-hop broadcast packet to query the destination's location, and *B-QREP* is also a one-hop broadcast packet to reply to the destination's location.

If the source node does not know the location of the destination node, it broadcasts the *B-QREQ* packets to query the location of the destination node and waits for a turn-around time to expect that any neighbor will reply. If one of its neighbors knows the destination's position, it will broadcast a *B-QREP* packet to the current node. In addition to replying to the *B-QREQ* packet, the *B-QREP* broadcast packet also has the function of prohibiting other source node's neighbors from sending *B-QREP* packets. When the source node successfully receives the *B-QREP* message the query procedure stops. Otherwise, the source node sends a *QREQ* packet to two of its neighbors by greedy forwarding to the north and the south extreme points. The north (resp. south) extreme point has the x coordinate equal to the source node's x coordinate and has the y coordinate to the

extreme in the north (resp. south) direction. After sending the QREQ, the source node will wait for a specific timeout interval for the replying QREP packet. After the timeout interval expires, the source node will restart the query procedure if there is no QREP packet received.

The node receiving the QREQ packet is called the *current node*. The behavior of the current node is similar to that of the source node. On receiving the QREQ packet, the current node checks if there exists location information of destination node. If so, the current node sends a QREP packet containing the destination node's location to the source node by using greedy forwarding. If not so, the current node must broadcast a B-QREQ packet and wait for a turn-around time to expect that any neighbor will reply. If one of its neighbors knows the destination's position, it will broadcast a B-QREP packet to the current node. After receiving B-QREP packet, the current node sends a QREP packet to the source node by greedy forwarding. On the other hand, if the current node does not receive QREP packet after the turn-around time, it must deliver the QREQ packet to the next hop node in the north (or south) direction. The resending of QREQ terminate when the node nearest to the north or south extreme point is reached.

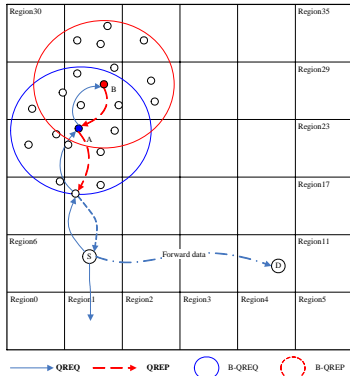


Figure 8: Location query and reply in SEEKER. The solid line represents the query request sending, and dotted line represents the query reply sending.

Figure 8 illustrates an example of the location query. First, the source node S sends B-QREQ to query where the destination is. If one of S's neighbors knows destination location, it will send B-QREP to S. But if no S's neighbor knows the location, S will forward two QREQ packets to one S's neighbor to the north and one S's neighbor to the south. When S forwards QREQ to the north and QREQ arrives node A, node A sends QREP to S by greedy forwarding and then drops the QREQ packet if node A knows destination's location. Otherwise, node A sends B-QREQ to its neighbors. Note that after S gets destination's location, it can forward data packets to the destination node D by greedy forwarding.

3.4 Adaptive Location Update

We observe that there is a tradeoff between the update interval and the moving speed. If we fix the update interval, then we will lose the query accuracy while the node speeds up. Thus, we would like the update interval to be adaptive to the moving speed. The basic concept is for the terminal node to calculate the **average speed** of nodes within the same row. We demand each node to embed its speed in the beacon packet which is sent periodically. For our location update procedure, we demand nodes to calculate the

average speed of itself and all neighbors and then to accumulate the speed inside a "*cumulate-speed*" field in the LOC packet as the packet visits each node. In this way, the terminal node can figure out the average speed for all nodes in the same row. Afterwards, the terminal node can decide the new update interval according to the average speed.

After obtaining the new update interval, the terminal node will broadcast the new update interval to its neighbors by beacon packets. When its neighbors receive the beacon packets, they will change their update interval to follow the new one. Only the terminal nodes can affect other node's update interval. In this way, the update interval of the nodes in the easternmost (or westernmost) regions will be changed.

The update interval is also embedded in the LOC packet. The LOC packet is delivered by greedy forwarding. On receiving the LOC packet, the node changes its update interval according to that of the LOC packet. Moreover, the node will also broadcast the new update interval to all its neighbors. In this way, the update intervals of the nodes in the same row of regions will be changed.

Below, we explain how to transform speed levels to update intervals. In Table 1, we define some speed levels with 1.25 m/s, 2.5 m/s, 5.0 m/s, 7.5 m/s, 10.0 m/s, and 12.5 m/s as the representative speeds. The update interval for a speed level is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Update interval} = \text{Transmission range} / \text{Representative speed}.$$

For example, if the average speed is 6 m/s, then the representative speed is 5.00 m/s and the update interval is 50 seconds (recall the transmission range is 250m)..

Table 1: The range of speed levels and their update intervals

Range of Speed Levels	Representative Speed	Update Interval
0 ~ 1.25 m/s	1.25 m/s	200 (s)
2.50 ± 1.25 m/s	2.50 m/s	100 (s)
5.00 ± 1.25 m/s	5.00 m/s	50 (s)
7.50 ± 1.25 m/s	7.50 m/s	30 (s)
10.00 ± 1.25 m/s	10.00 m/s	25 (s)
12.50 ± 1.25 m/s	12.50 m/s	20 (s)

4: Simulation Results

We simulate SEEKER by ns-2 [29], [30]. IEEE 802.11 [1] is used as the basis of wireless communication. The maximum number of nodes is assumed to be 600 and each node is assumed to have 2 Mbps communication bandwidth with 250m transmission range. The nodes are assumed to be placed at uniformly random position in the square area. The node density is kept about 100 nodes / km². For example, for the case of 600 nodes, the square area is 2400 m × 2400 m. We adopt random waypoint [2] as the mobility model. Every node is assumed to have a random destination and a random speed between 0 m/s and 10 m/s. Each time the node reaches the destination, it chooses a new destination and begins to move toward it immediately (i.e., there is no pausing time). We choose a beacon (hello packet) period of 2 seconds.

Several performance metrics are evaluated to compare SEEKER with GLS [7] and HIGH-GRADE [10]. Each data point is the average of 5 experiment results and each experiment runs for 300 seconds. Each node periodically

broadcasts its location information to its neighbors by using HELLO packets that generated every 2 seconds. Also each node generates on average 15 location queries for random destination nodes during the simulation. For example, in the case of 600 nodes, there will be totally 9000 queries. Like those in GLS and HIGH-GRADE, queries are not retransmitted.

Figure 9 shows the average location update cost as a function of the total number of nodes. The location update cost is measured by the number of location updates packets that are generated or forwarded per second. As shown in Figure 9, SEEKER has the smallest cost for almost all cases, and the cost grows very slowly with the increase of nodes.

Figure 10 shows the average location query cost as a function of the total number of nodes. Location query cost is the number of query packets (QREQ and B-QREQ) that are generated or forwarded per second (note that the query reply packet is excluded). We can see the cost of SEEKER is lower than GLS and HIGH-GRADE.

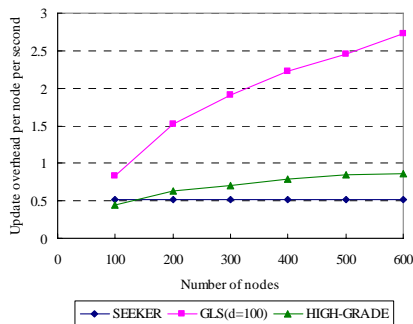


Figure 9: Update cost as a function of the number of nodes.

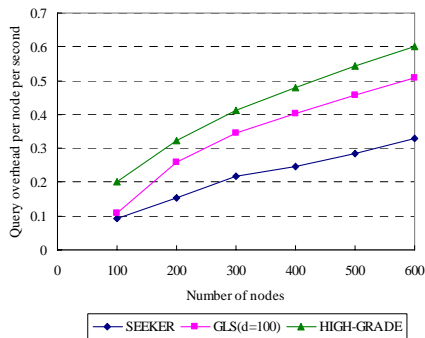


Figure 10: Query cost as a function of the number of nodes.

Figure 11 shows the query success rate as a function of the total number of nodes. Similar to the GLS, queries are not retransmitted, so success means that each query request succeeds on the first try. We can see that SEEKER outperforms GLS and HIGH-GRADE in terms of query success rate.

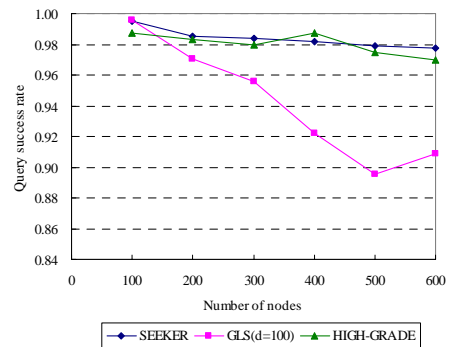


Figure 11: Query success rate as a function of the number of nodes.

Below, we show the simulation results under the environment of data traffic which is of constant bit rate (CBR) and is generated by half of the nodes. Each connection lasts 20 seconds and has four 128-byte data packet per second. For example, for the case of 600 nodes, the total connections are 300, and each connection has 80 packets to send. Connections are initiated randomly between 30 and 280 seconds. Figure 12 shows the packet delivery rate (PDR) as a function of the total number of node. We can see that SEEKER is better than GLS. (Because HIGH-GRADE does not provide data for PDR, we do not compare SEEKER with it.)

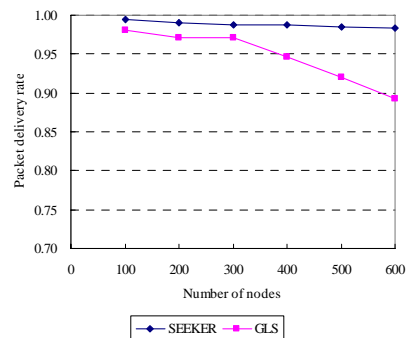


Figure 12: The packet delivery rate as a function of the number of nodes.

5: Conclusion

In this paper, we propose a scalable location service called SEEKER for location-based routing in mobile ad hoc networks. SEEKER uses the concept of aggregate update to reduce the location management overhead and to keep high query success rate. Moreover, SEEKER uses the concept of adaptive update to adjust location update interval according to the level of the moving speed to further reduce the overhead without sacrificing query success rate. We simulate SEEKER and compare it with related location services. The simulation results show that SEEKER has comparably good performances in terms of scalability, maintenance cost and query success rate.

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