A Comprehensive Sensor Selection Method based on Energy Constraints for Cooperative Spectrum Sensing

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Abstract—In order to improve the accuracy of the identification of Primary Users (PU) in Cognitive Radio Networks (CRNs), Cooperative Spectrum Sensing (CSS) has been introduced. However, there are various challenges in the implementation of CSS which should be properly addressed. One of the most challenging issues which should be considered is the energy consumption for CSS. In this paper, the purpose is to solve such an issue through the effective management of sensors for CSS. In order to do so, a sensor selection algorithm for CSS is proposed for a CRSN including sensors with various detection capabilities. The proposed algorithm selects the appropriate sensors satisfying the desired exactitude of CSS while their energy constraints are carefully considered. The simulation results confirm the benefits of the proposed algorithm in term of energy efficiency compared to other state-of-the-art methods.

Index Terms—Energy consumption; Sensing accuracy; Sensor selection; Network lifetime.

I. INTRODUCTION

To solve the problems of scarcity of the spectrum resources and the increased number of requests for wireless services, Cognitive Radio Networks (CRNs) have been proposed. In such networks, unlicensed Secondary Users (SUs) opportunistically transmit data on the bandwidth dedicated to some licensed Primary Users (PUs) [1]. SUs should not cause harmful interference with PU’s transmissions [1,2]. Cognitive Radio Sensor Networks (CRSNs), as an important subset of CRNs, are wireless sensor networks in which the cognitive radio capability is added to sensors. The problem of resource scarcity in CRSNs is solved by opportunistic access to the available spectrum resources [3].

In order to improve the reliability of spectrum sensing, Cooperative Spectrum Sensing (CSS) has been extensively used in the literature [2,4-9]. In CSS, several SUs cooperatively sense the spectrum and jointly decide about the presence of PU on the frequency spectrum. False alarm and detection probabilities are two parameters which determine the exactitude of CSS. The former is the probability of false identification of PU when it is actually not present. The latter represents the probability of correct detection of PU on the frequency spectrum when it is actually present.

The significant benefits of CSS appear in terms of improved reliability. However, there are important problems in its implementation. Each SU that participates in CSS should listen to the frequency spectrum and reports its sensing result to a Fusion Center (FC). Then, FC makes the final decision about the presence of PU on the spectrum based on a special rule. Significant energy consumption for performing CSS by power-limited sensors is an important problem of CSS that should be properly managed. Several research works have been proposed in [4-9] to reduce energy consumption for CSS. An energy saving method is proposed in [4] in which some sensors sleep during the sensing phase of CSS and a subset of sensors sensing the spectrum censor their results and do not transmit them to FC. However, one of the main assumptions of such a study is to consider all sensors with the same values of received SNR from PU. Such an assumption is not practical. Two energy efficient methods for CSS have been proposed in [5-6]. The main idea of such methods is to dynamically choose proper sensors for CSS with respect to their energy constraints. Such methods help to increase the average number of live sensors. However, the sensors of CRSN receive approximately same SNRs from PU.

In [7] a sensor selection method for CSS is proposed to minimize the energy consumption for CSS per frame. The proposed method gives priorities to sensors based on their detection probabilities and the energy amounts they consume for CSS. However, such a selection method leads to the unfair rapid battery drain of the sensors with higher priorities and imperfect coverage of the network. Another sensor selection method has been proposed in [8] which periodically calculates a function for all sensors to dynamically determine their priorities for participation in CSS. The function considers the remaining energy of sensors and their detection probabilities. However, the implementation of such a method requires a considerable volume of computations which should be periodically performed.

In this paper, a CRSN is considered which includes sensors with different values of received SNR from PU. First, all the subsets of sensors that can satisfy the desired accuracy of CSS are formed. Then, the average energy consumption for CSS is computed. It is shown that the average energy consumption for CSS increases when more sensors are engaged in CSS. Thus, a CSS framework is designed for such a network in which a minimum number of sensors are engaged in CSS in each time frame while their
remaining energy values are carefully considered. Then, a heuristic algorithm is proposed to solve such an optimization problem.

The structure of this paper is as follows. System model and main assumptions are described in section II. The problem formulation has been described in section III. The novel heuristic algorithm for solving the optimization problems is presented in section IV. Numerical results and comparisons are explained in section V. Finally, Section VI consists of the concluding remarks.

II. SYSTEM MODEL

A CRSN with interweave structure consisting of $N$ sensors is considered. The $j$th sensor is denoted by $s_j$. The sensors have the duty of sensing some environmental parameters and transmitting the obtained information to FC. Frequency spectrum belongs to one Primary Base Station. The sensors can opportunistically use the bandwidth, if the presence of PU is not detected on the frequency spectrum. The sensors use energy detection method for spectrum sensing. The network model is presented in Fig. 1.

![Fig. 1. The structure of system model.](image)

To make reliable decisions about the presence of PU, CSS is used. The chosen sensors for CSS should satisfy the desired sensing accuracy. A time slotted channel is considered where time is divided in equal frames. Duration of each frame is equal to $T$ second. The structure of frame is shown in Fig. 2. There are three phases in each frame called sensing, reporting and data transmission. The maximum number of sensors that participate in CSS per frame and can satisfy the desired sensing accuracy is denoted by $M$.

![Fig. 2. The structure of frame.](image)

At the beginning of each frame, the sensors engaged in CSS collect sufficient samples during the sensing phase. In the reporting phase, each sensor that is engaged in CSS has the right of transmitting its result about the presence of PU by one bit. The value of such a bit is “1” for the presence of PU and “0” for the absence of PU. In the following, $p_{dj}$ ($j = 1, \ldots, N$) and $pf$ denote the detection probability of $s_j$ and the false alarm probability of each sensor, respectively. The rule used in FC to combine the sensors’ sensing results is OR like most previous studies [4,7,8]. Let us denote the detection and false alarm probabilities obtained through cooperation between sensors in the $n$th frame by $P_d^n$ and $P_f^n$, respectively. $P_d^n$ and $P_f^n$ are computed for OR rule as follows.

$$P_d^n = 1 - \prod_{s \in P(n)} (1 - pd_j)$$

$$P_f^n = 1 - (1 - pf)^M$$

Where in (1-2) $P(n)$ denotes the set of sensors engaged in CSS at the beginning of $n$th frame. To continue, $\Delta_{sf}, \Delta_{se}, \Delta_{rj}, \Delta_{lj}$ and $E_n^f$ are introduced. $\Delta_{sf}$ represents the energy amount consumed for collecting sufficient samples in the sensing phase by each sensor that participates in CSS. $\Delta_{se}$ indicates the energy amount consumed by each sensor for sensing the environmental parameter. $\Delta_{lj}$ indicates the amount of energy consumption to report one bit result by $s_j$. When a sensor’s decision is “absence of PU” or “0”, its one bit report has no effect on the result of an OR operation. Thus, because of OR rule in FC, only those sensors whose decisions are “1” send their decisions to FC and the rest of sensors engaged in CSS, avoid transmission of their results. The amount of energy consumption of $s_j$ for data transmission in the transmission phase is indicated by $\Delta_{lj}$. Let $E$ denote the initial energy level of all sensors. The remaining energy level of $s_j$ at the beginning of $n$th frame is denoted by $E_n^f$, $n \geq 1, 1 \leq j \leq N$. Based on the above explanations, we can write,

$$E_n^f = E_{n-1}^f - 1(\Delta_{se}) - 1(\Delta_{lj}) - 1(\Delta_{sf}) - 1(\Delta_{rj})$$

where $1(\Delta_{se}) = \Delta_{se}$ if $s_j$ participates in sensing environment. Otherwise, $1(\Delta_{se}) = 0$. Description of $1(\Delta_{sf}), 1(\Delta_{lj})$ and $1(\Delta_{rj})$ are same as $1(\Delta_{se})$ and is not repeated. To follow this section, we introduce $p^{(se)}_{n,j}$, $p^{(pu)}_{n,j}$ and $p^{(s)}_{n,j}$. In this paper, we consider the time-driven applications where sensors sense the environment with a certain period denoted by $r$ frames [10-11]. The probability of sensing the environment by $s_j$ at the beginning of $n$th frame is denoted by $p^{(se)}_{n,j}$. Note that $s_j$ starts to sense environment from the frame the number of which is equal to the remnant of dividing $j$ by $r$. Thus,

$$p^{(se)}_{n,j} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n = kr + j \mod r, k = 0,1, \ldots, j = 1, \ldots, N \\ 0, & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

In the following, $p^{(pu)}_{n,j}$ denotes the probability of identification of PU on the frequency spectrum at the beginning of $n$th frame. We can write,

$$p^{(pu)}_{n,j} = P(H_0)P_{fj}^n + P(H_1)P_{dj}^n$$

Where in (5) $P(H_0)$ and $P(H_1)$ denote the probabilities of absence and presence of PU on the spectrum, respectively.
Let $p_{i,j}$ indicate the probability of producing the result of "1" by $s_j$ in the sensing phase. In fact, we have,

$$p_{i,j} = P(H_0)p_f + P(H_1)p_d$$

Finally, we can easily find $P(E_n^i|E_{n-1}^j) \geq 1$ using equations (3)-(6) as follows.

$$P(E_n^i = E_n^i - a\Delta_se - b\Delta_c - c\Delta_d - d\Delta_f) = \left(p_{n-1,s}^{(au)} \right)^{a-1} \left(p_{n-1,c}^{(bf)} \right)^{b-1} \left(p_{n-1,f}^{(cf)} \right)^{c-1} \left(p_{n-1,d}^{(cf)} \right)^{d-1} \times (1-p_{n-1,s}^{(au)})^{a-1} (1-p_{n-1,c}^{(bf)})^{b-1} (1-p_{n-1,f}^{(cf)})^{c-1} (1-p_{n-1,d}^{(cf)})^{d-1}$$

Equations (3)-(6) as follows.

\[
\begin{align*}
P(E_n^i = E_n^i - a\Delta_se - b\Delta_c - c\Delta_d - d\Delta_f) & = \left(p_{n-1,s}^{(au)} \right)^{a-1} \left(p_{n-1,c}^{(bf)} \right)^{b-1} \left(p_{n-1,f}^{(cf)} \right)^{c-1} \left(p_{n-1,d}^{(cf)} \right)^{d-1} \\
& \times (1-p_{n-1,s}^{(au)})^{a-1} (1-p_{n-1,c}^{(bf)})^{b-1} (1-p_{n-1,f}^{(cf)})^{c-1} (1-p_{n-1,d}^{(cf)})^{d-1}
\end{align*}
\]

Let $k$ be the number of sensors satisfying the desired sensing accuracy. The set of all possible $k$-sets in $S_N$ is defined as $C_k$.

$$C_k = \left\{ f_k \mid f_k = \left\{ s_j \mid 1 - \prod_{i=1}^{k} (1 - p_{i,j}) \geq \delta_c, 1 \leq i \leq k, s_j \in S_N \right\} \right\}$$

Where in (9) $\delta_1$ and $\delta_2$ denote the minimum acceptable detection and maximum acceptable false alarm probabilities, respectively. In the following, $f_k$ is called $k$-set for simplicity. The set of all possible $k$-sets in $C_k$ is defined as $C_k$.

$$C_k = \left\{ f_k \mid f_k = \left\{ s_j \mid 1 - \prod_{i=1}^{k} (1 - p_{i,j}) \geq \delta_c, 1 \leq i \leq k, s_j \in S_N \right\} \right\}$$

Each set which belongs to $C_k$ can be considered as a candidate group for CSS. Without loss of the generality the members of $C_k$ (i.e. the $k$-sets for CSS) are numbered from 1 to $|C_k|$ where $|C_k|$ is the number of $k$-sets in $C_k$. Let us denote the $i^{th}$ member of $C_k$ by $g_i^k$ that is $g_i^k = \left\{ s_{i,1}, s_{i,2}, \cdots, s_{i,k} \right\} \in C_k, s_{i,l} \in S_N, 1 \leq l \leq k$. In the following, $\sum_{i=1}^{k} p_{i,j}$ denotes the average detection probabilities of the sensors that belong to $g_i^k$.

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k} p_{i,j} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{k} p_{i,j}}{k}$$

The average energy consumption for CSS when the members of $g_i^k$ are chosen for CSS is denoted by $e_i^k$. We can write,

$$e_i^k = k\Delta_f + \sum_{j\in g_i^k} p_{i,j} 1(\Delta_r)$$

Where $k\Delta_f$ indicates the total energy amount consumed for sensing by all the members of $g_i^k$. Also, the second term in (12) indicates the average reporting energy consumption for the members of $g_i^k$.

In most practical cases, the more number of sensors participate in CSS, the more average energy amount is consumed for CSS. In fact, the following condition is true.

$$\forall C_i, C_k, j < k \text{ and } \forall g_i^k \in C_i, g_i^k \in C_k: e_i^k > e_i^k$$

The reason is that the following condition is usually true in most practical cases in CRSNs.

$$\forall i, l, 1 \leq l \leq |C_k|, 1 \leq l \leq |C_k+1|:
\Delta_f + \sum_{j\in g_i^k+1} p_{i,j} 1(\Delta_r) \geq \sum_{j\in g_i^k} p_{i,j} 1(\Delta_r)$$

Note that $\Delta_f$ is usually greater than $p_{i,j} 1(\Delta_r)$. In this paper, we consider the cases where the above condition is true for. Verification of the other cases is the subject of future studies.

B. Problem Definition

In this section, our aim is to minimize the number of sensors engaged in CSS (i.e. $\left| \left| P(n) \right| \right|$) during each frame. Therefore, the optimization problem is as follows.

$$\begin{align*}
P1: \min_{g_i^k} & \left| \left| P(n) \right| \right| \\
\text{s. t.} & \quad E_i^k \geq \lambda_{th}, \forall s_j \in g_i^k
\end{align*}$$

Where in (15-1) $\lambda_{th}$ is an energy threshold value by which it is possible to categorize the $k$-sets formed by (9-10) based on the remaining energy levels of sensors. Using such an energy threshold, the energy constraints of sensors can be considered in the sensor selection for CSS. Based on the optimization problem defined in (15), our goal is to find the minimum number of sensors (i.e. an appropriate candidate $k$-set, $g_i^k$) for CSS in each frame.

After some frames, it may be possible that the constraint (15-1) is not valid for any $k$-set, $k = 1, \ldots, M$, that is $P1$ cannot be solved. In such a case it is reasonable to change the constraint of (15-1) to the constraint of $E_i^k \geq E_{i,\infty}^k, \forall s_j \in g_i^k$. Thus, the optimization problem $P1$ is changed to the optimization problem of $P2$ as follows.
In this section, a heuristic algorithm is proposed to solve the optimization problems defined in the previous section.

Before describing the proposed heuristic algorithm, it is necessary to introduce two subsets $S(n)$ and $P(n)$ of $C^k$. Let $S(n)$ denote a subset of $k$-sets where the energy levels of the members of such $k$-sets are more than $\lambda_{th}$ at the beginning of $n^{th}$ frame. In other words,

$$S^k(n) = \{ g_k^i \mid \forall S_j \in g_k^i, E_{j}^{i} \geq \lambda_{th}, 1 \leq i \leq |C^k| \}$$  \hspace{1cm} (17)

Let $P(n)$ denote a subset of $k$-sets where the members of such $k$-sets are alive at the beginning of $n^{th}$ frame. In fact, we have,

$$T^k(n) = \{ g_k^i \mid \forall S_j \in g_k^i, E_{j}^{i} \geq E_{min}^{i}, 1 \leq i \leq |C^k| \}$$  \hspace{1cm} (18)

A. OSSEC Algorithm

In this section, a heuristic algorithm called Optimum Sensor Selection with Energy Constraints (OSSEC) is proposed to solve the optimization problems. The pseudo-code for OSSEC algorithm is presented in Fig. 3.

In line 2 the average detection probabilities of all candidate groups are calculated. In line 3, all the candidate groups that belong to $C^k$, $k = 1, ..., M$ are sorted based on the values of average detection probabilities in an ascending order. Then, a loop is executed to periodically choose proper sensors for CSS at the beginning of each frame (lines 4 to 28). The loop is repeated until it is not possible to form a suitable group for CSS due to the battery drain of sensors (lines 20 to 22). To satisfy constraint (15-1), the algorithm searches the candidate sets that the energy levels of their members are more than the pre-defined threshold, $\lambda_{th}$. Thus, we search all $S^k(n)$ ($k = 1, ..., M$) to find the first one that includes at least one candidate set (lines 7 to 12). After choosing the proper $S^k(n)$, one of its candidate sets having the least average detection probability is chosen for CSS (line 9). If it is impossible to find a $S^k(n)$ that includes at least one candidate set, it means that no candidate set can satisfy constraint (15-1). In such a situation, we begin to solve the optimization problem P2. As can be observed in lines 14 to 19 of Fig. 3, to solve P2, we search all $P^k(n)$ ($k = 1, ..., M$) to find the first one which consists of at least one candidate set. If it is not possible to find a $P^k(n)$ with such a condition, the algorithm stops due to the battery drain of sensors. If the proper candidate set is chosen for CSS, the energy levels of its sensors are updated according to their energy consumptions (lines 24 to 26).

B. Determination of $P^{(s\ell)}_{n,j}$

Herein, the probability of the engagement of $S_j$ in CSS at the start of $n^{th}$ frame is computed. Using such a probability, it is possible to compute $P(E_{n+1}^{i} | E_{n}^{i})$ (See section II).

In the following, $X^j$ denotes the set of all formed subsets such that $S_j$ belongs to them. In other words,

$$X^j = \{ g_k^i \in C^k | S_j \in g_k^i, 1 \leq j \leq N \}$$  \hspace{1cm} (19)

If $p_{n}(g_k^i)$ denotes the probability of performing CSS by $g_k^i$ at the beginning of the $n^{th}$ frame, we can write,

$$p_{n,j}^{(s\ell)} = \sum_{g_k^i \in X^j} p_{n}(g_k^i)$$  \hspace{1cm} (20)

Where in (20) the value of $p_{n}(g_k^i)$ for OSSEC algorithm, can be obtained as follows.

$$p_{n}(g_k^i) = \begin{cases} 
0, & \text{if } |S^{k-1}(n)| \geq 1 \\
0, & \text{if } |S^{k-1}(n)| = 0, P_{\ell}^{k} \neq \min_{g_k^i \in S^{k-1}(n)} P_{\ell}^{k} \\
1, & \text{if } |S^{k-1}(n)| = 0, P_{\ell}^{k} = \min_{g_k^i \in S^{k-1}(n)} P_{\ell}^{k}
\end{cases}$$  \hspace{1cm} (21)

Fig. 3. The pseudo code for OSSEC algorithm.
In this section, we compare the performance of OSSEC with several important research works. The type of sensors is Chipcon CC2420 transceiver which works based on IEEE 802.15.4/Zigbee [14]. The sensors are uniformly placed in a circular field with a radius of 100 m. The location of FC is at the center of the field. Table 1 presents the values of parameters used in the simulations. The research works selected to be compared with the proposed algorithms are introduced in the following.

1-Modified Energy Efficient Sensor Selection (MEESS) [7],

In MEESS, the sensors receive priorities for CSS based on a function. The priority function for \( s_j \), \( cost(j) \), is presented as follows [7].

\[ cost(j) = \Delta_s^f + \Delta_f + \lambda pd_j \]  

Where in (26) \( \lambda \) is a multiplier weighting the effect of \( pd_j \), 2-

Network Lifetime Improvement Sensor Selection (NLISS) [8],

In NLISS, FC should periodically compute a function to prioritize sensors for CSS. Let us denote the priority function for \( s_j \) by \( pri - func(j) \). \( pri - func(j) \) is presented as follows [8].

\[ pri - func(j) = 0.5 (E_{ij} - (\Delta_s^f + e_{amp}d_j^2)) + \frac{\lambda}{2\epsilon_j} \frac{pd_j FD - \eta}{\epsilon_j} \]  

Where in (27) \( E_{ij} \) and \( d_j \) denote the remaining energy value and the distance of \( s_j \) from FC, respectively. Also, \( e_{amp} \) is the required amplification to satisfy receiver sensitivity at FC. \( \lambda, \eta, \) and \( \epsilon_j \) are the multipliers that should also be updated during each frame.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta_s^f )</td>
<td>( (0.07, 0.48) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta_e^s )</td>
<td>0.1 μj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta_e^f )</td>
<td>0.2 μj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta_e^i )</td>
<td>( (0.07, 0.48) ) μj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \delta_1 )</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \delta_2 )</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \lambda_\alpha )</td>
<td>100 μj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( N )</td>
<td>10-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( r )</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( pd_j )</td>
<td>( (0.42, 0.82) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( p_f )</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 4 presents the maximum lifetime of network, \( F(\alpha) \), versus different values of \( \alpha \). As can be seen in Fig. 4 for different values of \( \alpha \) between 0.2 and 0.8, the maximum lifetime of network in OSSEC is considerably more than those of MEESS and NLISS. However, for the values of \( \alpha \) between 0.9 and 1, the maximum network lifetime in NLISS is more than OSSEC. The reason is that it periodically calculates a priority function to assign priorities to sensors for CSS. It should be noted that a significant volume of computations should be performed to periodically calculate such a priority function (see Equation (27)). Thus, the better performance of NLISS in terms of network lifetime for the values of \( \alpha \) between 0.9 and 1 is obtained at the price of such periodic computations.

Table 2 presents the percentage of frames during which \( |P(n)| = 2, 3, 4 \) for OSSEC, MEESS and NLISS algorithms. As can be observed in the table, more than 90 percent of frames in OSSEC are the frames in which only two sensors take part in CSS. Such a percent is significantly more than those of MEESS and NLISS. On the other hand, the percentage of frames during which three or more sensors participate in CSS in OSSEC is considerably lower than that of other algorithms. This implies that in the majority of frames in OSSEC, CSS is performed by the minimum number of sensors satisfying the desired detection and false alarm probabilities. Such a characteristic for OSSEC leads to network lifetime improvement, because the candidate groups
with less number of sensors consume less average energy amount for CSS.

![Fig. 4. Maximum network lifetime, $F(\alpha)$, vs. different values of $\alpha$ in MEESS, NLISS and OSSEC.](image)

Table 2. The percentage of frames during which $|P(n)|$ has a special value in OSSEC, MEESS and NLISS.

| $|P(n)|$ has a special value | Algorithm |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| $|P(n)|=2$                   | OSSEC     |
| 0.935                       |           |
| 0.715                       | MEESS     |
| 0.535                       | NLISS     |

![Fig. 5. Energy consumption for CSS vs. the number of sensors in MEESS, NLISS and OSSEC.](image)

Fig. 5 presents the total energy amount consumed for CSS during the network lifetime, $E_c$ and total energy consumption for reporting the sensing results to FC, $E_{rep}$, versus different number of sensors. As can be observed, the values of $E_c$ and $E_{rep}$ in OSSEC algorithm are considerably lower than those in MEESS and NLISS algorithms.

![Fig. 5. Energy consumption for CSS vs. different values of $\alpha$ in MEESS, NLISS and OSSEC.](image)

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORKS

In this paper a novel idea was proposed to make all the categories of sensors that can satisfy the desired sensing accuracy. Also, a new parameter was introduced to measure the average energy consumption for CSS for each formed category. It was mentioned that in most practical cases the subsets of sensors which include less number of sensors, consume the less average energy amount for CSS. Thus, it is reasonable to minimize the number of sensors participating in CSS in each frame. Then, an algorithm was proposed to do so. The simulation results show that the proposed algorithm has better performance in term of energy efficiency compared to other existing methods. To investigate the cases where it is possible to find the subsets with more sensors which consume less average energy amount for CSS is the subject of future studies.

REFERENCES


