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基于大偏差的无线传感网中采样速率策略研究

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摘要: 针对具有能量捕获装置以及可充电电池的无线传感网,为了使无线传感器具有根据可用能量自适应调整数据采样速率的能力,所获得的能量具有随机性,定义了可等价表示信息获取度量的能量不足概率. 将调节数据采样速率的问题定义为约束优化问题,使数据采样速率最大化,同时将能量不足概率保持在阈值以下. 利用经典的大偏差理论估计能量不足概率. 实验结果表明,所提出的算法具有自适应能力,既能适应能量动态变化,又能适应信道动态变化,提高了信息采集效率.

关 键 词: 无线传感网络; 能量捕获; 大偏差理论; 在线测量

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Adaptive Data Sampling Rate Adjustment Based on Large Deviation Theory in Wireless Sensor Networks

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Abstract: We consider the wireless sensor network which is equipped with an energy harvesting device and a rechargeable battery, and the aim is to enable the sensor having the ability of adaptively adjusting the data sampling rate according to the available energy. Since the stochastic nature of the harvested energy, we define the energy deficiency probability for equivalently characterizing an information acquisition metric. We formulate the problem of adjusting data sampling rate as a constrained optimization problem, maximizing the data sampling rate while keeping the energy deficiency probability below a threshold. The classic large deviation theory is invoked for estimating the energy deficiency probability. Our experimental results verify that the algorithms proposed have the adaptation capability to accommodate both the energy-dynamics and the channel-dynamics for improving the information acquisition.

Key words: wireless sensor network; energy harvesting; large deviation theory; online measurement

In recent years, the energy harvesting(EH) technology is leading to significant interests in systems powered by harvested ambient energy. In contrast to traditional systems powered by battery, using energy from nature not only reduces the carbon emission but also

sustains device equipped with a rechargeable battery with an infinite lifetime. However, the intermittent and stochastic nature of the harvested energy put forward a fundamental challenge when applying EH technique. Hence, in this paper, we propose an adaptive policy

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for adjusting data sampling rate to maximize the effective information in wireless sensor application.

The application of EH technology in wireless sensor network has attracted substantial research attention, especially to seek novel EH scheduling policies for improving the system performance. To mitigate efficiency loss of workload, Ref. [1] proposed an architecture to achieve maximum energy efficiency tracking for the overall sensor node. In Ref. [2], the authors studied the properties of the conditional expected rewards and further presented a sub-optimal threshold-based transmission scheduling policy for EH sensors nodes through maximizing the conditional expected rewards with respect to data storage and energy storage, respectively. By using virtual queues and techniques from Lyapunov optimization, Ref. [3] formulated a long-term time-averaged joint scheduling and sensing allocation problem in wireless sensor networks with finite energy and data buffers. Based on realistic energy and network models, the authors of Ref. [4] incorporated CPU-intensive edge operations with sensing and networking to jointly optimize EH wireless sensor network performance. Further, a MIMO network control system with an EH sensor was considered in Ref. [5], and MIMO precoding was designed at the sensor so as to stabilize the unstable dynamic plant. The work in Ref. [6] proposed a two-stage water filling policy to achieve throughput maximization in EH and power grid coexisting wireless communication systems. In Ref. [7], the power-delay tradeoff is formulated as a stochastic optimization problem, and solved by Lyapunov optimization technique. The scenario that one user harvests energy from an energy access point to power its information transmission to a data access point is investigated in Ref. [8]. It should be noted that the works mentioned above focus on the energy efficiency optimization. But currently the EH technology offers only a small amount of energy storage and is capable of harvesting only a trivial amount of energy. Therefore, new technique for managing the energy associated with sensor node is required.

In this paper, we focus on the estimation of energy deficiency probability (EDP) for characterizing the

degree of matching between the energy demand and the harvested energy. We employ the large deviation theory (LDT) to formulate a model for estimating the EDP, which is applied to assist the sensor in promptly controlling the data sampling rate. The proposed method relies on online measurements instead of any prior statistical knowledge of the harvested energy and the channel state. The main contributions of this paper are summarized as follows:

1) We transform the requirement of information efficiency into the energy deficiency which is kept lower than a desired level. Accordingly, the problem of adjusting data sampling rate over EH aided wireless sensor system is formulated as maximizing the sampling rate subject to a constraint imposed on the EDP in order to guarantee high information efficiency.

2) An EDP estimation model based on LDT is proposed by monitoring the energy-buffer fullness and its variations in the rechargeable battery. By applying LDT, this model accurately characterizes the probability of the rare events of energy deficiency, which assists the sensor in controlling the data sampling rate.

3) We conduct numerical simulations for demonstrating the effectiveness of the proposed data sampling rate adjustment algorithm. Q-learning, a greedy algorithm is implemented as our benchmark algorithms. The simulation results show that the proposed method achieves an improved performance.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 1 describes the system model and formulates the data sampling rate adjustment problem. In Section 2, we propose the EDP estimation method based on the LDT. Section 3 derives the online measurement based adaptive data sampling rate adjustment algorithm based on the EDP estimation model. Our simulation results and performance analysis are presented in Section 4. Finally, the conclusions are offered in Section 5.

1 System model

We consider a wireless sensor equipped with an EH device and a rechargeable battery having a limited capacity, as depicted in Fig. 1. The device can collect natural renewable energy from the ambience and

store in the battery. By utilizing the observations of the energy-buffer fullness and its variations in the rechargeable battery, the prediction calculator estimates the EDP for instructing the decision-maker to generate the data sampler commands. The data sampler executes the data sampling and forms a data stream to control panel.

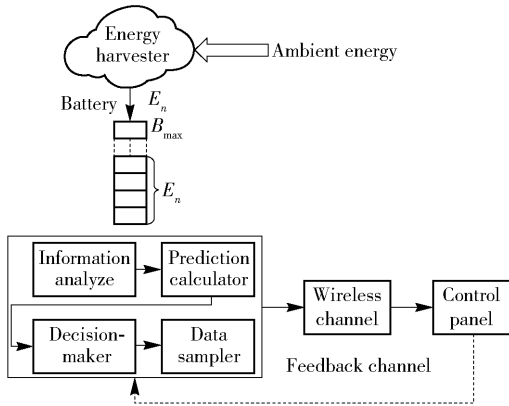


Fig. 1 System architecture for sensor wireless communication

We assume that this wireless sensor operates in a time-slotted fashion which means the time is divided into slots of equal duration and normalized to unity. At the beginning of each time slot, the decision-maker makes the data sampling rate command to control the data sampler based on the battery level. Let R_n be the data sampling rate made by decision-maker at time slot n . $R_n \in \{R_0, R_1, \dots, R_{\max}\}$ characterizes the sensor operation level. Higher R_n , implies more precise information will transmit to control panel. Correspondingly, the size of data that should be delivered is given by:

$$D_n = f(R_n) \quad (1)$$

Where $f(\cdot)$ indicates the relationship between the data sampling rate and data size. The wireless channel is assumed to be constant over a slot duration, but it changes at the slot boundaries. Let N_0 be the white Gaussian noise and W the wireless band width, according to Shannon's capacity formula, the amount of transmission power in the n th time slot is

$$P_n = \frac{W}{N_0 H_n} (2^{\frac{D_n}{dW}} - 1) \quad (2)$$

where H_n is the channel state and d is the duration of a slot.

Since the channel state H_n and the amount D_n of the data are available for transmission during the time slot n , the amount of energy E_n^t required to transmit D_n bit is calculated as:

$$E_n^t = P(H_n, D_n) d \quad (3)$$

Let $E_n^h \in \mathcal{E} = \{0, 1, \dots, e_{\max}\}$ denote the amount of energy harvested in the n th time slot. The process E_n^h is assumed to be an i. i. d random variable. Let B_n represent the energy stored in the battery at the beginning of the n th time slot, and the capacity of the battery is B_{\max} . The energy E_n^h harvested in the n th slot, is available until the beginning of the $(n+1)$ th slot. Hence, the dynamics of the energy in the battery are characterized by

$$B_{n+1} = B_n - E_n^t + E_n^h, \quad n = \{1, 2, \dots\} \quad (4)$$

For sensor operation, the data transmission interruptions substantially reduce the precision of information. Hence, it is desired that the battery always holds sufficient energy for transmitting data of the forthcoming time slots in order to avoid transmission interruptions. Motivated by this, we define a low threshold of B_{\min} as an indicator of the battery being partially depleted. In order to characterize the energy deficiency, we define the EDP as

$$p_{ED} = P(B < B_{\min}) \quad (5)$$

where B is a random variable representing the energy-buffer fullness. Higher EDP, p_{ED} , implies a lower energy fullness in the near future, hence energy deficiency is more likely to occur.

In order to achieve a more accurate data service, the EDP should be kept low. Hence, the data transmission problem in wireless sensor system is interpreted as that of choosing the maximum data sampling rate for maximizing the information precision subject to a given EDP, which can be formulated as

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{R_n \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}} R_n \\ & \text{s. t. } P(B < B_{\min}) \leq p_{\text{SIR}} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where p_{SIR} is a given threshold value of sufferable interrupt rate. In this optimization problem, we transform the transmission interruptions into a probability constraint that the EDP is kept below a certain tolerable level. Different values of p_{SIR} correspond to different

SIR levels.

2 Estimation model of energy deficiency probability

We assume that the index of the current time slot is n , and the current battery level is B_n , while R_n represents the data sampling rate during the time slot. We predict the EDP at the $(n + N)$ th ($N > 0$) slot under the condition of supporting the data sampling rate R_n in the future N time slots. Let P_{ES}^{n+N} denote the EDP at the $(n + N)$ th slot, which is defined as

$$P_{ES}^{n+N} = P(B_{n+N} < B_{\min}) \quad (7)$$

where N is the length of the prediction interval.

2.1 Reinterpretation of energy deficiency probability

For a given time slot k , the reduction of the energy available for the transmitter is characterized by

$$\Delta E_k = E_k^i - E_k^h \quad (8)$$

where $\Delta E_k \in \{-e_{\max}^h, \dots, 0, 1, \dots, e_{\max}^l\}$. Let $\pi_i = P(\Delta E_k = i)$ denote the probability that the energy reduction of the battery is $\Delta E_k = i$. Since E_k^i is the energy consumed in the k th slot and E_k^h is the energy collected in the k th slot, the difference ΔE_k characterizes the instantaneous energy mismatch between the energy required for keeping R_n data sampling rate and the harvested energy.

The total reduction of the energy in the rechargeable battery during the period spanning from the n th slot to the $(n + N)$ th slot is characterized as

$$\Delta E^{n+N} = \sum_{i=1}^N \Delta E_{n+i} \quad (9)$$

Then, the energy-buffer fullness B_{n+N} in the $(n + N)$ th time slot is given as

$$B_{n+N} = B_n - \Delta E^{n+N} \quad (10)$$

According to Eq. (7), the EDP at the $(n + N)$ th slot is rewritten as

$$P_{ES}^{n+N} = P(B_n - \Delta E^{n+N} < B_{\min}) \quad (11)$$

We define the maximum tolerable average energy reduction during each of the forthcoming N slots as

$$a_{ES} = \frac{B_n - B_{\min}}{N} \quad (12)$$

and the expected value of the average reduction of the energy fullness in the battery in each slot during the

future n slots as

$$m_{ES} = E \left[\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \Delta E_{n+i}}{N} \right] \quad (13)$$

where $E[\cdot]$ denotes the expectation operator. Furthermore, $m_{ES} \geq a_{ES}$ implies while keeping the current data sampling rate, after the forthcoming N slots, transmission interruption will definitely occur.

Let us rewrite Eq. (11) as

$$\begin{aligned} P_{ES}^{n+N} &= P(B_n - \Delta E^{n+N} < B_{\min}) = \\ &P \left(\frac{\Delta E^{n+N}}{N} > \frac{B_n - B_{\min}}{N} \right) = \\ &P \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \Delta E_{n+i}}{N} > a_{ES} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

The term $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \Delta E_{n+i}}{N}$ in Eq. (14) represents the

average variation of the energy in the battery in each slot, which is determined by the energy collection and consumption, while a_{ES} is the tolerable average energy reduction in each of the forthcoming N slots, which is determined by the energy fullness of the battery in the n th slot.

2.2 Large deviation theory based EDP estimation

Since our objective is to provide an interruption-free data transmission, the occurrences of the transmission interruption are expected to be rare events. According to Ref. [9], the LDT can be employed to estimate the probability of rare or tail events. Hence, Cramér's theorem applied in the context of the LDT constitutes an appropriate method of estimating the EDP in Eq. (7).

According to Cramér's theorem^[10], the sequence $\Delta E_i (i = 1, 2, \dots)$ obeys the LDT which is rewritten as

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log P \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N R_i > a \right) = -I(a) \quad (15)$$

where the function $I(a)$ is referred to as the "rate function". Therefore, if $a_{ES} > m_{ES}$, we have

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log P \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \Delta E_{n+i} > a_{ES} \right) = -I(a_{ES}) \quad (16)$$

where

$$I(a_{\text{ES}}) = \sup_{\theta > 0} \{ a_{\text{ES}} \theta - \log M(\theta) \} \quad (17)$$

and

$$\log M(\theta) = \log \left\{ \sum_{i=-e_{\text{max}}^h}^{\theta_{\text{max}}^l} \pi_i \exp[i\theta] \right\} \quad (18)$$

The rate function $I(a_{\text{ES}})$ is usually referred as the Fenchel-Legendre transform or convex conjugate^[9]. Note that both $\log M(\theta)$ and the rate function $I(a_{\text{ES}})$ are convex^[9].

Since Eq. (16) is logarithmically asymptotic, for a sufficiently large N , the EDP of the $(n + N)$ th slot can be approximated by

$$P_{\text{ES}}^{n+N} \approx \exp[-N I(a_{\text{ES}})] \quad (19)$$

Owing to the rapid exponential decay of the EDP estimate with N , a moderate value of N can be used to acquire an accurate EDP estimate.

2.3 Online estimation of energy deficiency probability

In order to estimate the EDP according to Eq. (19), a_{ES} , m_{ES} , π_i are required. It is straightforward to calculate a_{ES} according to Eq. (12). However, because of the absence of any prior knowledge about the probability distribution of ΔE_k , it remains an open challenge to derive analytical expressions for m_{ES} and π_i . Consequently, we have to utilize historical observations for estimating these parameters by invoking a sliding window-based method.

Let us denote the observed sequence of the energy fullness decrements in the battery by $\Delta E_1, \Delta E_2, \Delta E_3, \dots$. The sliding window covers the N_s most recent entries in this sequence, which is slid over this sequence. For the n th window, the observation vector is denoted by $W_n = [\Delta E_n, \Delta E_{n-1}, \dots, \Delta E_{n-N_s+1}]$.

The parameter m_{ES} can be approximated by the sample mean of the observation vector W_n , yielding

$$\hat{m}_{\text{ES}} = \frac{\sum_{i=n-N_s+1}^n \Delta E_i}{N_s} \quad (20)$$

For the parameter π_i , $i \in \{-e_{\text{max}}^h, \dots, 0, 1, \dots, e_{\text{max}}^T\}$, we propose the following estimation technique.

Let N_i denote the number of $\Delta E_k = i$ events happening within the sliding window, which is counted by

$$N_i = \sum_{k=n-N_s+1}^n I_{|i|}(\Delta E_k) \quad (21)$$

where

$$I_{|i|}(\Delta E_k) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \Delta E_k = i \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

is an indicator function. Then, the frequency of $\Delta E_k = i$ can be estimated as

$$\hat{q}_i(n) = \frac{N_i}{N_s} \quad (23)$$

Having too small an N_s may result in an excessive estimation error of $\hat{q}_i(n)$, while too large a value may reduce the sensitivity of the estimation model to the variance. Hence, N_s should be set to a moderate value according to the timescale.

Although $\hat{d}_i(n)$ may be used for estimating in Eq. (18), it may result in an undesired fluctuation of the EDP. Hence, we invoke an exponential smoothening of the estimated value, which is formulated as

$$\hat{\pi}_i(n) = \rho \hat{\pi}_{i-1} + (1 - \rho) \hat{q}_i(n) \quad (24)$$

where the forgetting parameter $\rho \in [0, 1]$ controls the weighting of historical estimates. This smoothening method is especially useful in a non-stationary environment. If ρ approaches 1, the current estimate $\hat{\pi}_i(n)$ largely depends on the most recent past estimate $\hat{\pi}_i(n-1)$, while if $\rho = 0$, the past estimates are neglected, and $\hat{\pi}_i(n)$ entirely depends on the current estimate $\hat{q}_i(n)$. Specifically, $\rho \in [0.7, 0.9]$ is recommended in Gardner's report^[11]. By invoking the estimation of π_i in Eq. (18), we can now calculate $\log M(\theta)$ and finally estimate the EDP according to Eq. (17) and Eq. (19).

3 Online measurement-based algorithm for data sampling rate adjustment

In this section, we will discuss the details of our online measurement-based algorithm conceived for data sampling rate adjustment, which invokes the online EDP estimation model of Section 2 for finding the highest data sampling rate under our SIR constraint. The problem(6) that maximizes the data sampling rate in the n th slot can be solved according to:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} P(B_n - E_n^t(R_n) + E_n^h < B_{\min}) &\leq p_{\text{SIR}} \\ P(B_n - E_n^t(R_n + 1) + E_n^h < B_{\min}) &\geq p_{\text{SIF}} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (25)$$

where $E_n(R_n)$ denotes the energy allocated for trans-

mitting the data with R_n data sampling rate. Since the current data sampling rate is R_n , the sequence $E_n^t(R_n + 1)$ is not observable. Hence, the EDP in the second inequality of Eq. (25) cannot be directly calculated according to the steps of Section 2.3. Here, we consider a heuristic iteration policy for solving Eq. (25). The basic idea is to constrain the data sampling rate adjustments to a single level, yielding $R_n \in \{R_{n-1}, R_n, R_{n+1}\}$.

For the case of $\hat{m}_{\text{ES}} \geq a_{\text{ES}}$, the average reduction of the energy is higher than the tolerable reduction per slot in the future N time slots. This implies that the battery energy would run out after N slots, if the R_n data sampling rate is executed. Correspondingly, the transmission of the data stream would be interrupted because of energy exhaustion. Therefore, in order to prevent future information deficiency, the sensor should reduce the transmission energy consumption by reducing data sampling rate, which can be expressed as

$$R_{n+1} = \max(R_n - 1, R_0) \quad (26)$$

By contrast, for the case of $\hat{m}_{\text{ES}} < a_{\text{ES}}$, the average reduction of the energy fullness in the forthcoming N slots is below the tolerable average energy reduction per slot. However, this does not necessarily imply that no energy deficiency will happen in the future N time slots, because \hat{m}_{ES} represents the average reduction per slot, which cannot exactly characterize the specific energy reduction in a single slot. Hence, energy deficiency may still occur. Since $\hat{m}_{\text{ES}} < a_{\text{ES}}$, energy deficiency remains a rare event. Hence, the LDT is immediately applicable to characterize the EDP.

According to the estimation model of Section 2, the EDP in the $(n + N)$ th slot can be approximated as

$$\hat{P}_{\text{ES}}^{n+N} = \exp[-NI(a_{\text{ES}})] \quad (27)$$

Thus, the EDP $\hat{P}_{\text{ES}}^{n+N}$ of the $(n + N)$ th slot can be estimated by applying the online measurement-based method of Section 2.3 using a moderate prediction interval of N .

Based on the above discussions, the proposed online measurement-based adaptive data sampling (OM-ADS) is summarized in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1 OM-ADS

Data: the historical observations: B_i , E_i^t , and E_i^h ($i = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$); the data sampling rate in the n th slot: R_n ;

the desired SIR level: p_{SIR} ; the SIR threshold P_t ; a given constant K_T ; a temporary counter K .

While true **do**

Calculate \hat{m}_{ES} and a_{ES} according to Eq. (20) and Eq. (12).

if $\hat{m}_{\text{ES}} \geq a_{\text{ES}}$ **then**

$j_{n+1} \leftarrow j_n - 1$

else

Calculate $\hat{P}_{\text{ES}}^{n+N}$ according to the steps in Section 2.3.

if $\hat{P}_{\text{ES}}^{n+N} \geq P_{\text{SIR}}$ **then**

$j_{n+1} \leftarrow j_n - 1$

else

if $\hat{P}_{\text{ES}}^{n+N} \leq R_T$ **then**

$K \leftarrow K + 1$

if $K \geq K_T$ **then**

$j_{n+1} \leftarrow j_n + 1$

$K \leftarrow 0$

end

end

end

end

end

4 Experimental results

In this section, we carried out a series of experiments for evaluating the performance of the proposed methods. In order to quantify the attainable performance improvements, we also implemented a heuristic greedy method, an online Q-learning method^[12] as benchmark algorithms.

We consider a nondispersive Rayleigh fading channel with bandwidth $w = 2$ MHz and noise spectral density of $N_0 = 4 \times 10^{-9}$ W/Hz. The amount of the energy harvested is assumed to follow the Poisson distribution. We also consider different data sampling rates for different data transfers. In order to characterize the capability of adaptive data sampling rates, we set the harvest energy, varying expectations

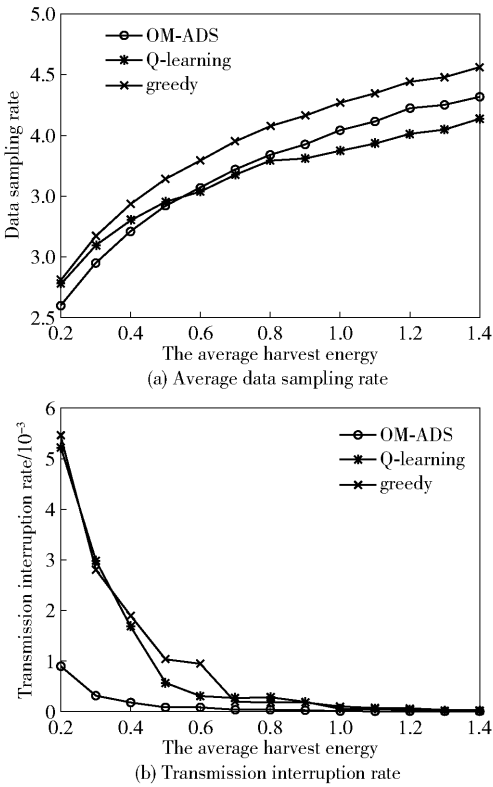


Fig. 2 Performance comparison for different energy harvesting rates

from 0.2 to 1.6 with the step size of 0.2. The amount of the energy harvested is assumed to follow the Poisson distribution.

For the proposed OM-ADS, the parameters were set as follows: the length of sliding window was $N_s = 110$, the size of prediction interval was $N = 50$, the forgetting parameter was $\rho = 0.7$, the desired EDP level was $P_{\text{SIR}} = 0.001$ and the low threshold value was $P_T = 0.1 \times P_{\text{SIR}}$. For the Q-learning method, we follow to set the learning rate and the discount factor to 1 and 0.8, respectively.

Fig. 2 (a) characterizes different data sampling rates versus the average energy harvest rate, while Fig. 2(b) characterizes the transmission interruption rates that reflect the integrity of data collection versus the average energy harvest rate. It can be observed that although the greedy method performs better than the other methods in terms of data sampling rates, it suffers from a higher transmission interruption rate, especially in situation of low energy harvest rate. This is because the greedy method maximizes the data sampling rate

according to the current available energy in the battery, it frequently suffers from energy scarcity, which lead to the highest transmission interruption rate, thus reducing the integrity of the sampled data. This implies that excessive data collection may result in energy insufficient in the future. Similarly, as the Q-learning method merely aims for maximizing the system's throughput by adjusting the data sampling rate according to the system's state, but without considering energy storage. This implies that excessive data collection may result in energy insufficient in the future. The proposed OM-ADS method achieves a slightly worse data sampling rate, but it gains a much lower transmission interruption rate. The reason for this trend is that the OM-ADS benefits from evaluating the energy shortage probability of the forthcoming slot in each time slot for prudently adjusting data sampling rate for keeping the likelihood of energy shortage under a certain tolerance level.

We also can see that as the capture energy increases, the data sampling rate of each algorithm increases and the probability of transmission interruption is reduced, and it meets our expectations.

5 Conclusions

We discussed the SIR-guaranteed adaptive data sampling rate adjustment in wireless sensor network. The SIR constraint is interpreted as keeping the energy deficiency probability below a given threshold, in order to reduce the rate of transmission interruptions that substantially reduce the information efficiency. Large deviation theory was invoked for estimating the EDP via online measurements. A heuristic method, OM-ADS, was proposed based on the EDP estimation to maximize the information efficiency associated with the EDP constraint. The experimental results demonstrated that the proposed adaptive data sampling rate adjustment methods is capable of effectively improving the information efficiency while keeping the energy available for the future.

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