DESIGNING OPTIMIZED QOS AWARE RPL FOR SMART GRID COMMUNICATION NETWORK

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ABSTRACT: *Various applications with different requirments are rapidly developed in the smart grid. The need to provide Quality of Service (QoS) for such a communication network is inevitable. However, recently a protocol which is called RPL (Routing Protocol for Low Power and Lossy Network) is standardized and is known as a main solution for last mile communication network of smart grid. In this paper, by studying the existing methods and identifying the shortcomings, we propose a customized version of RPL which we name it OMC-RPL (Optimized Multi Class-RPL). Two principal advantages of the proposed method are: a holistic objective function including distinctive metrics related to QoS; and supporting the data classification which is an important requirement in this context. The main contribution in this paper is to make different objective functions proportional to the number of classes by using weighting parameters. The best values of these coefficients are determined by an optimization algorithm. OMC-RPL is evaluated in different aspects. Simulation results show that the new idea significantly decreases the end-to-end delay and increases the lifetime of the nodes that have limited source of energy. It seems that OMC-RPL could be a good substitution for the available methods.*

Keywords: Quality of Service (QoS), RPL, smart grid, communication network

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the basic issues in Smart Grid (SG) is a reliable and secure communication network that can support SG applications such as Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), Demand Response (DR), Distribution Automation (DA) and so on. Within the communication network associated with the power grid, the SG Neighbor Area Network (NAN) and Home Area Network (HAN), as shown in Figure 1, faced with subtantial communication challenges because of its size and traffic variation [1-3].

The IETF ROLL working group had a mission to propose a routing protocol for LLN (Low Power and Lossy Networks) which leads to RPL (Routing Protocol for LLN) standard in 2012 [4, 5]. LLNs are made up of a large number of embedded devices with limited power, memory, and resources that connect to each other using various communications protocols, such as IEEE 802.15.4, Wi-Fi, and power-line communication (PLC) [6]. RPL is the main candidate for acting as the standard routing protocol for IP smart object networks in NAN. This popularity is because of two reasons, one is its flexibility to adapt to different topologies, and the other is its capibility of QoS support [7]. Distinctive types of applications in the smart grid, especially in NAN and HAN are experiencing the same situation as LLN. This last mile network is made of highly limited devices interconnected by fairly unstable low-quality links that cause different QoS requirements, which is not the same as the traditional IP networks [8]. Eke the QoS is an essential component of the overall architecture in the smart grid [9]. Some data such as alert or control signals have real-time requirements. Ergo the networking infrastructure somehow should guarantee the quality of service, for example, decreasing the end-to-end delay. Due to the necessity of QoS in SG and usability of RPL, in this paper we propose optimized QoS aware RPL, which is completely suited for SG communication network (SGCN).

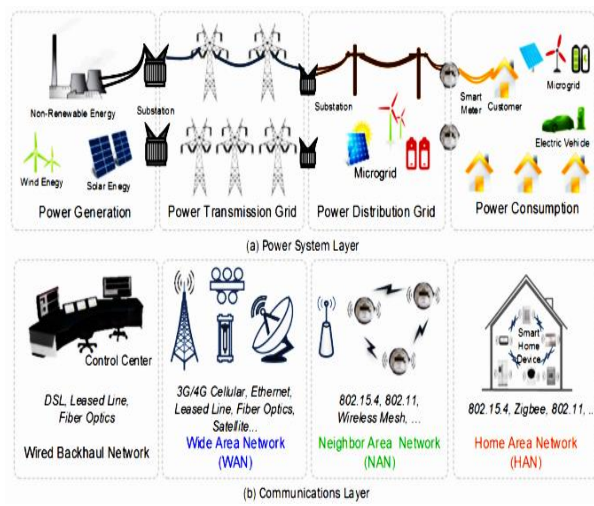

Figure 1: Smart Grid System Architecture [3]

The remaining of this paper is organized as follows. In section 2, the RPL is explained. In section 3 the related work on QoS in smart grid and especially those methods using RPL, are studied. Section 4 explains the proposed method. Finally, the last two sections are about simulation results and conclusion.

2. RPL

RPL is a distance-vector protocol that is based on the concept of a topological Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG). DAG uses a tree structure in which each node can have more than one parent. Specifically, RPL organizes these nodes into Destination Oriented DAGs (DODAG) whose roots are destination nodes – e.g., sinks, concentrators, or network gateways. Figure 2 shows a sample DODAG with a similar structure to a tree that specifies the conventional route between the LLN nodes [7].

DODAGs are created and managed based on the objective function (OF). The OF specifies routing metrics and optimization goals, and can construct routes to satisfy any requirements, such as quality of service. To construct a DODAG, the root sends the objective function via a standard IPv6 message to neighbor's nodes. The DODAG's creation is finalized when the nodes decide, using a general algorithm, their preferred parent and rank. The rank of a node [10] is also computed by the objective function, which expresses the distance of the node from its root in relation to the given metrics; nodes closer to the root should have lower ranks.

The RPL protocol's process helps to create a self-configuring, self-healing, loop detecting system that will be suitable for NAN and HAN networks in the smart grid.

The specification of RPL did not force any routing metric and left it open to implementations. The proposed objective functions by the IETF presented in [10] and [11] have defined some recommendations on how to implement OF without specifying usable routing metrics.

In RFC 6552 [10] the principle of the OF is described, which is called Objective Function Zero (OF0). As explained earlier, two main duties of an objective function are choosing a proper rank and the preferred parents. RFC 6552 describes the principles and rules of defining an objective function based on the required metrics and constrains. For instance, there is a rule that says, a node with the lowest rank should be chosen as a preferred parent, but note that this document does not consider any routing metric specified in [12]. The proposed objective function in this paper is also based on these foundations.

One typical OF based on the metric of link quality is Expected Transmission Count (ETX) [11]. The main idea of this objective function is the probable amount of transmission to send a packet successfully. This OF usually use in wireless environments. ETX has been widely used in the recent research papers [13, 14].

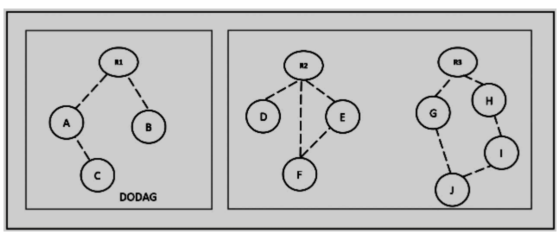

Figure 2: A Sample of DODAG

3. RELATED WORKS

In this section, we investigate about the related works in two parts. The first part is about the concepts and the methods that try to ensure the QoS in smart grid, but the second part is only about the techniques that using RPL algorithm to achieve this goal.

3.1. QoS in Smart Grid

There are too many studies on QoS in the smart grid. Some of them focus on challenges and requirements of QoS in this area. For instance, [15] discusses that one of the most important requirements is that each system architecture should support a diverse set of QoS classes with a wide range of rate and delay requirements. The other studies on this area usually propose specific ways that somehow improve the QoS in the smart grid. For example, [16] uses the Differentiated Service (Diff Serv) approach and some priority queues. [17] provides different services for various types of traffic in MAC layer for low cost protocols like ZigBee. [18] studies about the scheduling and routing methods based on Back-Pressure algorithm to guaranty the QoS.

3.2. Methods Using RPL to Guarantee QoS in Smart Grid

Although RPL has been released recently, several research studies have been presented to investigate about the subjects that are left open by the working group. In [19], two MAC-based routing metrics are used. The first one checks the ETX and the packet losses due to the MAC contention. The second metric selects the routes that have the acceptable traffic load by considering the power consumption, and the application required reliability. The proposed method is implemented by the author in a real test-bed composed of seven Telosb motes. The performance parameters in this paper are end-to-end reliability and the power consumption.

In [20] the impact of objective functions on the network topology is analyzed. LQL (Link Quality Level) is another objective function, which is based on the link condition. The author uses two objective functions (OF0 and LQL) for comparison. In [21] a combination of two routing metrics among hop counts, ETX, remaining energy and RSSI is used. In fact, the first metric is responsible to choose a parent with the lower rank. If the first values are equal, then the node with the lower rank of the second composition metric is selected as preferred parent.

[8] suggests a cross layer QoS mechanism that merges a priority queue with multiple instances of RPL. The focus of this paper is on the MAC level QoS sepration. Moreover, the both RPL instances are based on the same objective function and root but generate distinct DODAGs due to partitioning of the actual physical network (i.e., nodes are classified as regular or alarm, regular nodes are responsible for physical environment monitoring and generate data packets at a low rate; however, alarm nodes randomly generate small-size alert packets). This paper intends to extend the idea of QoS through multiple RPL instances by supporting priority traffic in MAC layer and exploring the effect of traffic differentiation at the network layer.

In [3] the QoS is guaranteed through traffic prioritization in MAC layer in a way that the random backoff mechanism is altered based on the traffic classes, and this is how they control the channel accessibility. The author compares the single instance RPL, multi instance RPL and multi instance RPL with prioritized channel backoff to see the effect of traffic differentiation at the network layer.

[9] proposes network-MAC cross layer protocol based on incorporation of RPL and SCSP (Sleep Collect and Send Protocol) in wireless sensor networks. In fact, SCSP is a power-saving mechanism and media access control protocol. The RPL-SCSP guaranties fast transmission for critical data while reducing the energy consumption. In RPL-SCSP the preferred parent is chosen based on the queue load; moreover, the nodes with empty queue will be switching to inactive state in order to extend the network life time.

[22] believes that in order to optimize the path to the DODAG's root, the existing objective functions rely either on a single metric or on the combination of two metrics. Thus a novel objective function based on the fuzzy parameters has been designed. Four different metrics, including end-to-end delay, hop counts, link quality and remaining energy are used to propose holistic objective function by using fuzzy logic. The proposed fuzzy system is a four-inputs controller with three membership functions for each input that leads to 81 rules. Eventually by using centroid defuzzification method,

control action based on several membership values is produced.

4. THE PROPOSED OMC-RPL (OPTIMIZED MULTI CLASS-RPL) PROTOCOL

As studied in related work section, the existing protocols that offer the QoS by using RPL usually face with two major shortcomings:

1) Most of the approaches do not provide a comprehensive and holistic objective function. For example, an OF may improve the end-to-end delay by finding the most proper path toward the sink, but as all packets try to use the same path, it is possible to have bad effect on energy consumption.
2) The data classification, which is one of the most important requirements in assuring the QoS is not supported by the available methods. The main reason is that if we categorize the data, then each class type has its own specification, and it should be treated in a distinctive way. It means that we need different objective functions for each class of data, which is a notable challenge. Although some studies use two classes of data or two different OF, but it is for multiple instances RPL. In fact, some networks may run multiple instances of RPL concurrently, but logically these instances are independent.

In this paper, we propose a customized RPL with holistic objective function. The proposed protocol is named OMC-RPL (Optimized Multi Class RPL) which can support data classification.

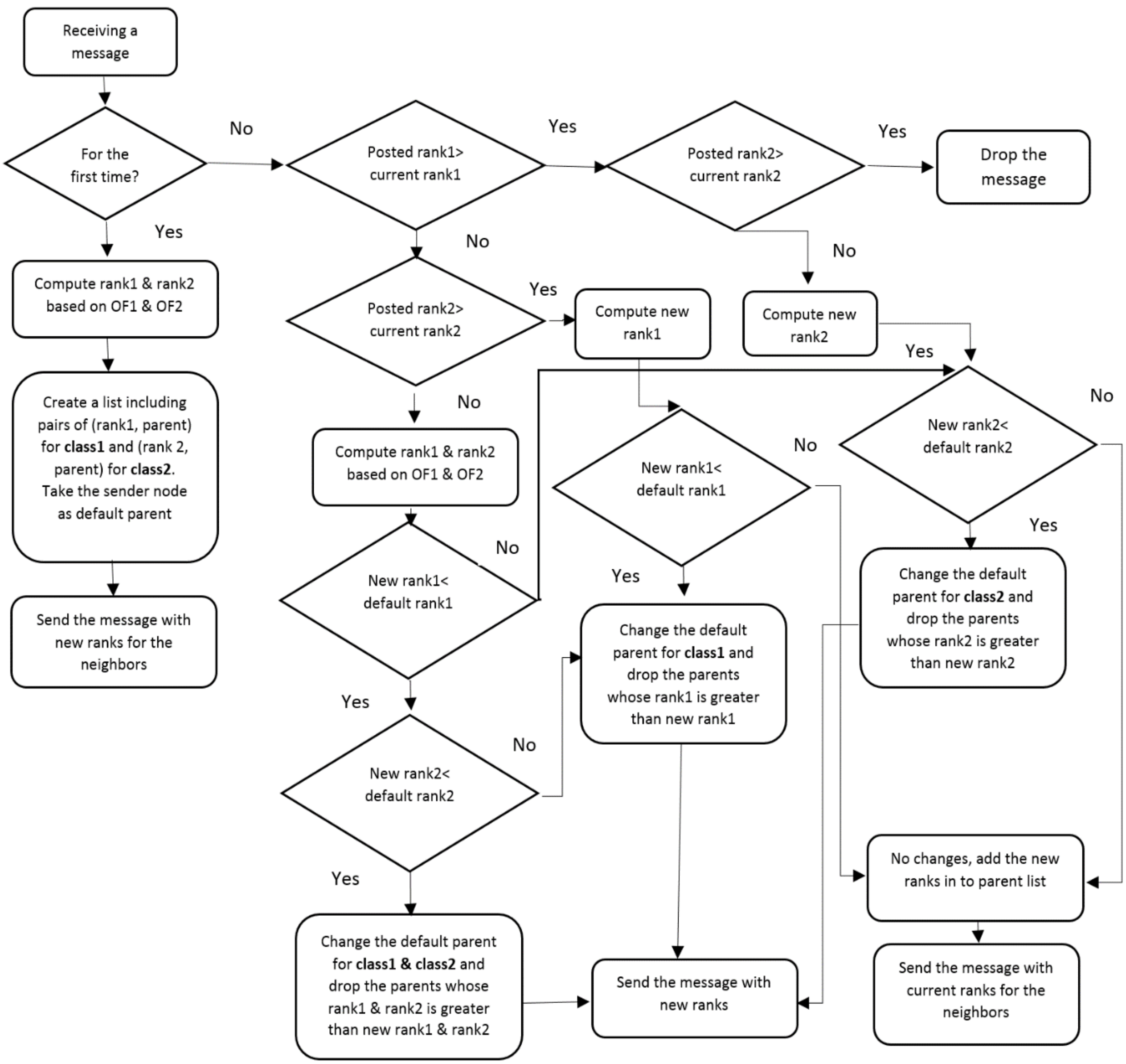

Figure 3: OMC-RPL Algorithm for Constructing DODAG with Two Classes

Although DODAG construction in RPL is clear but as OMC-RPL should support data classification, we need a new procedure. OMC-RPL is able to support several types of traffics. In order to better understand the DODAG construction process we provide a flowchart in Figure 3, that shows the steps of creating DODAG regarding just two classes of data with two ranks for each node.

In the first step, the root broadcasts a message (including default values for $rank_1$ and $rank_2$ and the two objective functions) to the nodes which are in its range. When a node receives a message from the root for the first time, the algorithm calculates two ranks for the node based on two different OFs sent by the root and creates a list which includes pairs of ($rank_1$, parent) and ($rank_2$, parent); naturally for the first time the root is the parent. In fact, we need two OFs to make the difference for two distinctive classes. The receiving nodes then broadcast a message with new routing information to their neighbors. Consequently, if it is not the first time that a node receives a message, the algorithm performs steps to decide if the message comes from a better parent with lower rank or not. Note that in DODAG, each node can have several parents one as preferred parent and the others as replacement in the case of failure. Furthermore, in our proposed method, each node may have different preferred parents proportional to the number of classes. Each parent is just suitable for its relevant class.

Steps that the algorithm chooses the preferred parents are as follows:

The receiving node checks the posted rank for each class, and if it is not greater than the current rank, then it is reasonable to find the new parents otherwise it drops the message.

The receiving node computes the new ranks based on the fresh information to see if it is really from a more suited parent, if so it updates the pairs of ($rank_i$ and parent) in its list and removes the parents with greater rank. To clarify the concern of overhead, we should notice that there is not separate routing tables, we just keep different ranks and preferred parents for each node.

When the DODAG is constructed, the upward route is clear because the only routing process for the intermediate nodes is to send their packets based on their class to the preferred parents, which is chosen during the DODAG's construction procedure.

We provide an example to better describe the proposed algorithm. Figure 4 shows a sample network of twenty nodes and two roots in HAN and NAN. Each node may be related to different applications such as DR (Demand Response), AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure), Smart Street light, Smart Home Devices, EVSE (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment), Etc. with various QoS requirements. The root could be a concentrator in a station. After performing the two classes OMC-RPL algorithm, a DODAG as shown in Figure **5** is created. It is obvious that this exemplary DODAG is formed based on a specific OF. If we change the objective function, probably we will face with another DODAG. As mentioned earlier, according to two classes of data, each node has two preferred parents (the parents could be different from each other), and also each node could have none or several reserved parents.

Algorithm 1 is the generalized OMC-RPL algorithm for n classes of data. Note that the messages in OMC-RPL are standard IPv6 message. These messages are modified easily by adding some fields for extra ranks.

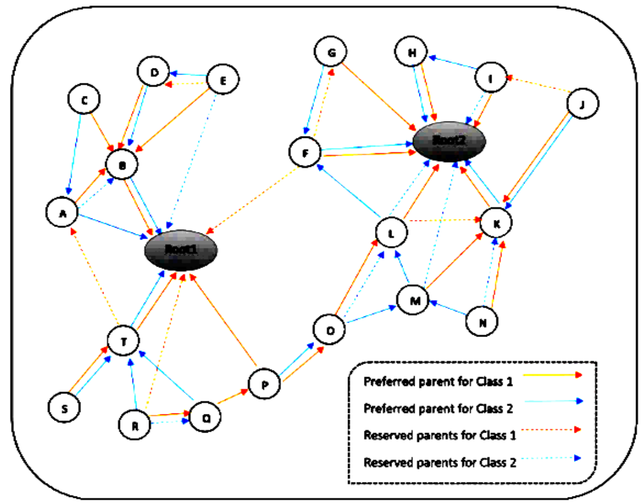

Figure 4: A Sample Network of Nodes of Various Applications in HAN and NAN

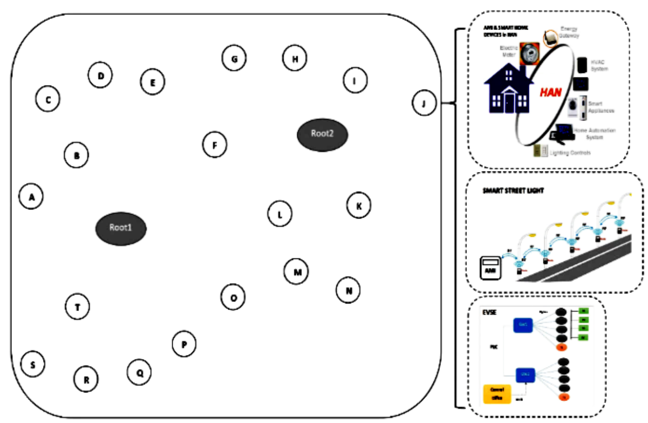

Figure 5: an Exemplary DODAG after Using OMC-RPL Based on Two Classes of Data

Now, the challenging issue is designing n objective functions for each class of data. According to [22] a good route should be real-time (low end-to-end delay), reliable (high delivery ratio) and energy efficient. Therefore, our goal is to propose comprehensive objective function that satisfies these properties. Instead of having n objective functions we suggest weighting parameters that make the difference for each class of data based on its requirements. Three main components of our proposed objective function are: the quality of the node, the quality of the link (henceforth, we name them NR (Node Rank), LR (Link Rank) respectively) and the energy efficiency, that we evaluate it by Remaining Energy (RE) in each node in percent. It is obvious that the RE is meaningful for the nodes that supplied by battery and have the energy concern; for the other nodes, we consider the RE equal to one.

The proposed objective function is given in Equation 1:

$$R_n(i) = R_n(p) + \frac{(\alpha_n NR + \beta_n LR)}{RE} + 1 \qquad (1)$$

Table 1 shows all the parameters and their definitions, which are used in the equations. According to the proposed objective function, the rank of each node for each class of data is the sum of its parent's rank in the same class, plus the ratio of link and node quality (the NR/LR coefficients are changed equivalent to the class type) to RE, plus one hop count. The weighting parameters are used to control the effectiveness of NR and LR based on the class type.

Algorithm 1: OMC-RPL Algorithm Based on *n* Classes

```
Input:
n classes of data
Objective Function {OF1, OF2 ... OFn}
Output:
List of {rank1- parent, rank2-parent ... rankn-parent} for each node
Method:
(1) Repeat
(2) If (receiving a message for the first time)
      {
      for (i = 0 to n)
            {
            Compute Ranki based on OFi
            Create list (ranki, parent)
            }
      Send message with new rank
      }
(3) else
      for (i = 0 to n)
      {
      if (posted ranki < current ranki)
            Compute new ranki
      if (new ranki < default ranki)
            {
            Change the default parent for class i
            Drop the parents whose ranki is greater than new ranki
            }
(4) until all nodes attach to DODAG
```

Distinctive types of traffics, and five classes of data related to LLN are presented in [23]. Each data class, faces with different QoS requirements. This issue is satisfied by changing the weighting coefficients. In fact, the data classification scale is the amount of allowed delay times for various types of applications. Packets with very low allowed delay, belong to critical, real-time and high-priority classes. Assume a spectrum of applications from real-time to non-real-time, that it can be divided into several classes; the first class is the most critical, and that last one is the most unimportant.When there are real-time packets, the values of weighting parameters should be selected in a way that the objective function offers the best path (appropriate nodes and links) towards the root. The qualities of node and link are determined by the proposed equations 2-6. Equation 2, 4 and 5 computes the node quality by multiply the ratio of service rate to arrival rate and the ratio of queue length to buffer length. Equation 3 is used to keep the history of node quality. This parameter is calculated, using the current and old values of NR. Equation 6 is the ETX, that we use it for the link quality.NR= $\rho\times\omega$ (2)

$\rho.\omega=(1-\gamma)\,(\rho.\omega)_{old} + \gamma(\rho.\omega)_{current}$ (3)

$\rho = \lambda/\mu$ (4)

$\omega = Q/L$ (5)

$LR_{((i,j))} = m/s$ (6)

Table 1: definition of parameters used in objective function

Parameters	Definition
$R_n(i)$	rank of node i for $n'th$ class
$R_n(p)$	the rank of preferred parent for $n'th$ class
α_n	Weighting coefficient for $n'th$ class between (0-1)
β_n	Weighting coefficient for $n'th$ class between (0-1)
NR	The amount of this parameter shows the node quality
LR	The amount of this parameter shows the link quality between two nodes
RE	Remaining Energy in percent
γ	Coefficient between (0-1)
λ	Arrival rate
μ	Service rate
Q	Queue length
L	Buffer length
m	data packets transmitted from node i to node j
s	Number of successful network layer transmission

In order to find the best values for the weighting coefficients, we use the PSO (Particle Swarm Optimization) algorithm. PSO is a population-based algorithm that was introduced by Kennedy and Eberhart in 1995. It is formed based on social behavior of swarm of birds and fishes that looking for food [24]. This algorithm is an appropriate solution for a large-scale non-convex optimization problem. Searching rules in this algorithm is easy and yet meaningful, the computation time is low and no need to much memory spaces; these advantages cause that it has been used by many applications of several problems. The procedure of PSO algorithm in finding optimal values follows the behavior of animal society by using the best personal/global experience of particles. PSO consists of a swarm of particles, where each particle represents a potential solution [25]. Although recently, there have been several modifications from original PSO but the main idea of PSO says that position of the particle toward the optimized answer is influenced by a velocity vector. Let $x_i(t)$ denote the position of particle i in the search space at time step t (denotes discrete time steps). According to equation 7, the new position of the particle is obtained by adding a velocity $v_i(t)$ to the current position. The velocity is calculated based on the equation 8 which is the outcome vector of previous velocity, local best and global best values [26].

$x_i(t+1) = x_i(t) + v_i(t+1)$ (7)

$v_i(t) = v_i(t-1) + c_1 r_1\big(localbest(t) - x_i(t-1)\big) + c_2 r_2\big(globalbest(t) - x_i(t-1)\big)$ (8)

In equation 8, $localbest(t)$ and $globalbest(t)$ respectively shows the best personal and the best neighborhood experience of particles in time slot t, $c_1 and\, c_2$ are acceleration coefficient and $r_1 and\, r_2$ are random numbers between 0 and 1. After a certain number of repetitions the algorithm will find the optimized answers in the search space. Despite the non-real-time classes, the critical and sensitive classes of data need a fast path; with regard to this issue, the NR coefficient is considered greater than the LR and for the less important classes, it happens vice versa. This classification idea causes the spread of traffic through the network. It leads to congestion prevention and the network life time increasing.

Eventually, the PSO procedure of finding the optimized values for weighting parameters is as follows: the required initial values are determined; the random weighting coefficient values are selected for the particles; the PSO objective function which we consider it the average end-to-end delay is implemented; then the best personal and global experiences are identified; algorithm is repeated based on the equation 7 to find the optimized values.

According to the aforementioned, and in order to have distinctive weighting coefficients for each class of data, The ranges for the coefficients, equivalent to the number of classes is specified in Figure 6. For example, in a case that there are two classes of data, the optimized NR coefficient for the first class should be found between 0.5 and 1, and the optimized LR coefficient should be found between 0 and 0.5. In the next section using the simulation, the performance of the proposed method is evaluated.

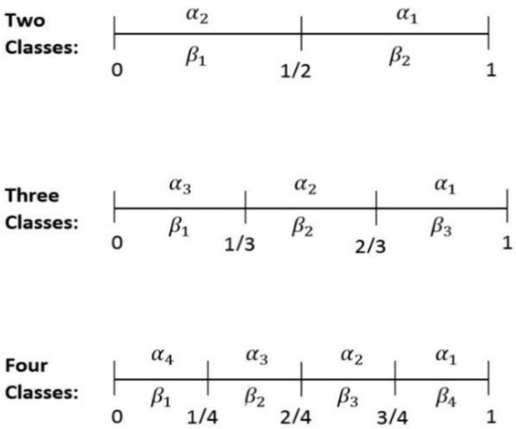

Figure 6: Specified Range of Weighting Coefficient for Two, Three and Four Classes of Data

4. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

In order to evaluate the OMC-RPL, we create a sample network with several nodes and sinks. This network generates different traffic types related to the various applications and classes. Furthermore, to support distinctive applications some of the nodes have energy concern and work with battery. Table 2 shows the general information of simulation environment.

Before evaluating the proposed method, we need to find the optimized values for weighting coefficients. In the current study, we consider three different cases, including two, three and four classes of data, with that in mind, the described PSO is implemented inside the simulation software, and we need to run the algorithm for each class. If we have two classes, then we should run the algorithm two times. The achieved values of parameters at different cases is shown in table 3. For example, in case of two classes of data and by using the achieved values, the objective functions for the first and second class is given in equation 9 and 10, respectively. Now the OMC-RPL is able to support different classes and have several OFs correspond to the number of classes.

Table 2: The General Information of Simulation Environment

Simulator	Riverbed 18.0
Simulation area	250×250m
Number of nodes	88
Number of sinks	3
Number of nodes work with battery	7
Initial node energy for battery base nodes	50 joule
Test duration for each scenario	1 Hour
Traffic patterns	Is defined based on the classes and specifications in [23]

$$R_1(i) = R_1(p) + \frac{(0.87\times NR + 0.33\times LR)}{RE} + 1 \quad (9)$$

$$R_2(i) = R_2(p) + \frac{(0.39\times NR + 0.76\times LR)}{RE} + 1 \quad (10)$$

Table 3: The Values of Weighting Coefficients

Two Classes	$\alpha_1 = 0.87$	$\beta_1 = 0.33$
	$\alpha_2 = 0.39$	$\beta_2 = 0.76$
Three Classes	$\alpha_1 = 0.90$	$\beta_1 = 0.13$
	$\alpha_2 = 0.54$	$\beta_2 = 0.43$
	$\alpha_3 = 0.16$	$\beta_3 = 0.88$
Four Classes	$\alpha_1 = 0.81$	$\beta_1 = 0.18$
	$\alpha_2 = 0.66$	$\beta_2 = 0.42$
	$\alpha_3 = 0.37$	$\beta_3 = 0.70$
	$\alpha_4 = 0.22$	$\beta_4 = 0.91$

In the following, we evaluate the performance of OMC-RPL in distinctive scenarios. In all scenarios four different cases, including OMC-RPL with two, three and four classes of data (which henceforth we call them case A, case B and case C respectively) and ordinary RPL that is based on ETX, are used for comparison. In the first scenario, we compare the end-to-end delay of these cases during the simulation time which the results is shown in . It shows that the classification idea outperforms the RPL with single OF. Although in the case B and C, the results are almost the same but both of them act better than the case A. It seems the diversity of applications are in a way that there is no difference for three and four classes of data.

In the second scenario we again investigate about the end-to-end delay but this time some nodes are congested randomly. This scenario is illustrated in . The peaks in regular RPL show the congestions, and the results demonstrate that in all cases OMC-RPL act better. In OMC-RPL the process of DODAG construction is continuously repeated and upon any changes in nodes and links, ranks are modified and a new DODAG is created, while in ordinary RPL, any changes in nodes are no matter and lead to increasing drop rate in case of congestions. That is why at these moments the end-to-end delay increase slightly in OMC-RPL and rises sharply in ordinary RPL.

Figure 9 is about the third scenario which depicts the end-to-end delay in a situation that some nodes are failed. When the failure happens in the ordinary RPL (ETX), the end-to-end delay increase significantly while this growth is negligible in each OMC-RPL case. We know that when a receiving node fails the algorithm easily uses the reserved parents. The variation of end-to-end delay in case B and C are more than the previous scenarios, then we can conclude that in case of node failure, more classes of data could act better.

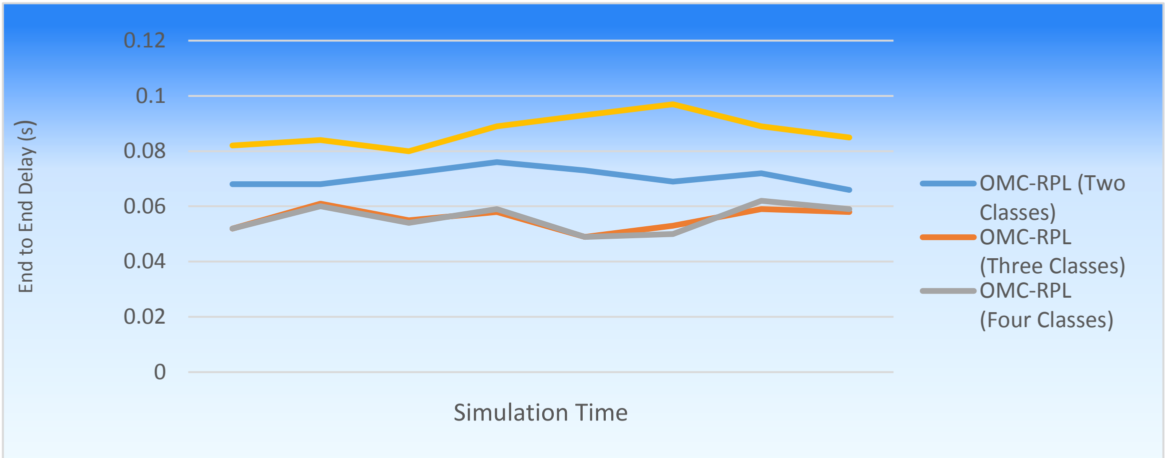

Figure 7: End to End Delay During the Simulation Time (All Nodes Work Normally

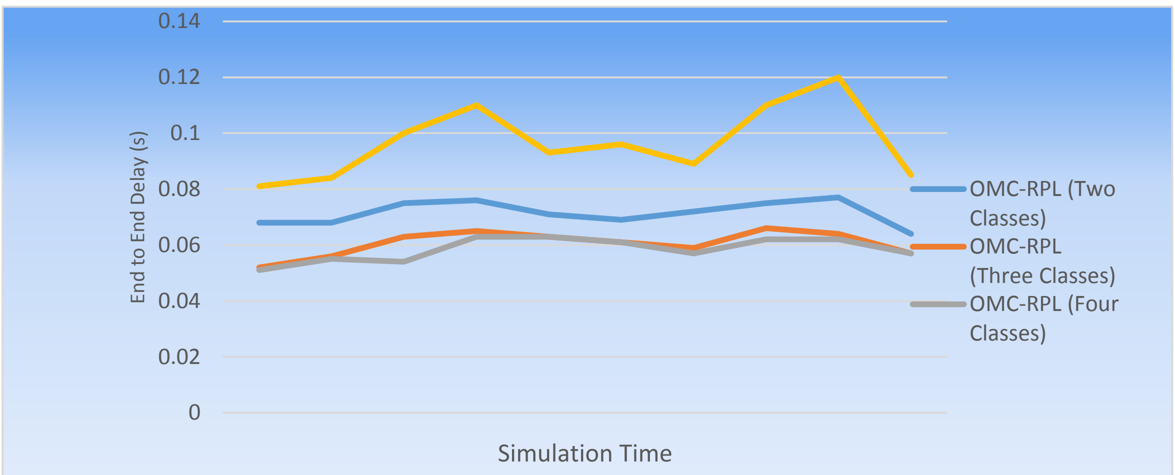

Figure 8: End to End Delay During the Simulation Time (Some Nodes Are Congested*)*

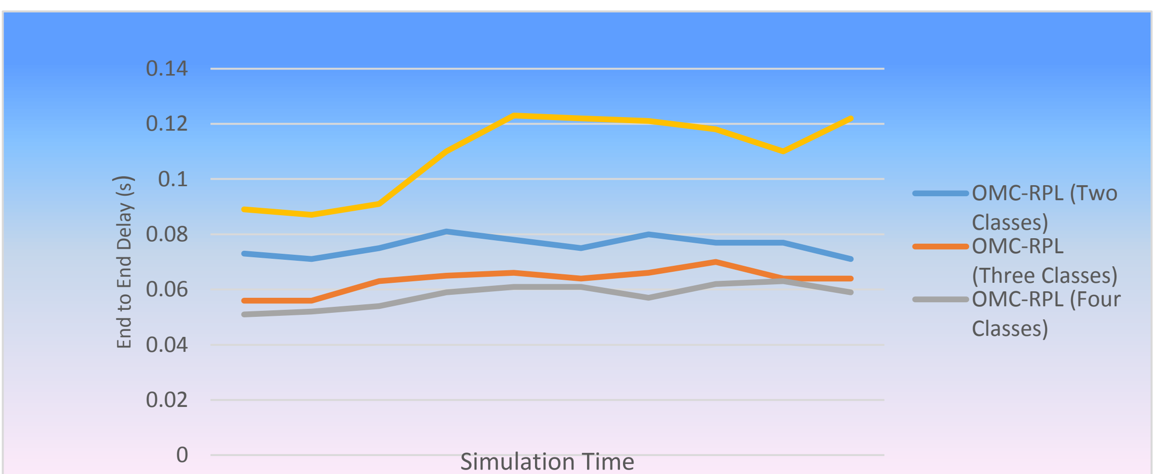

Figure 9: End to End Delay During the Simulation Time (Some Nodes Are Failed)

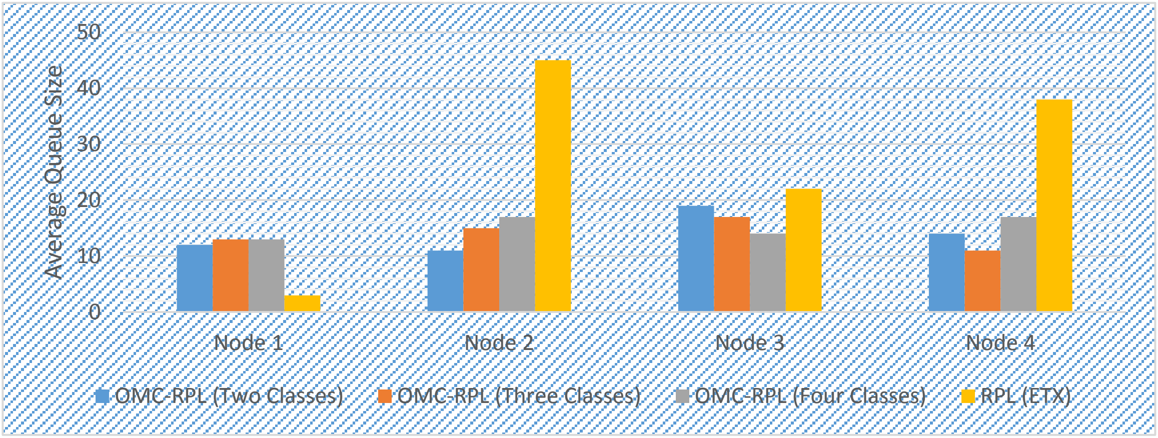

Figure 10: Average Queue Size for Four Sample Nodes

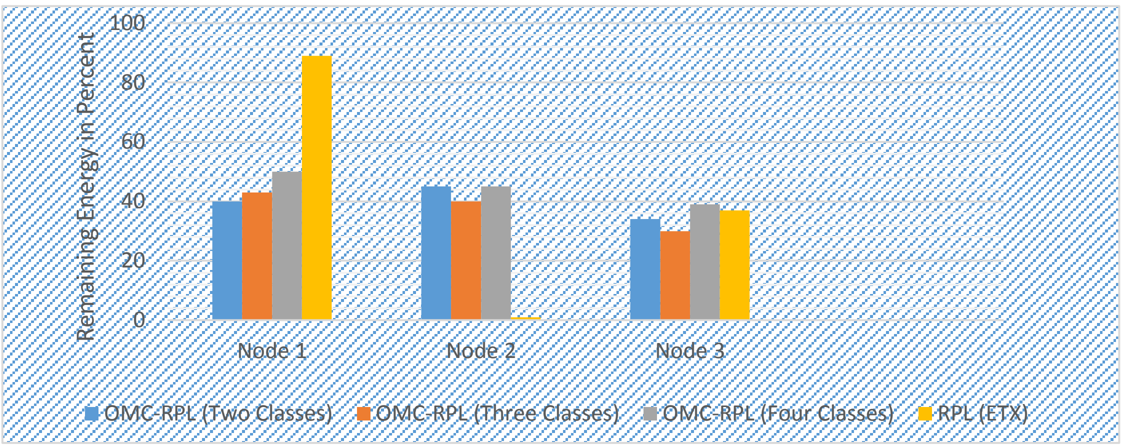

Figure 11: Remaining Energy in Percent for Three Sample Nodes that Work with Battery

The average node's queue size is a QoS metric. For the fourth scenario, we choose four sample nodes. Figure 10 shows the average queue size in the selected nodes during the simulation. Looking at the chart, it is obvious that when using RPL (ETX) a node like node 2 is too busy but conversely node 1 rarely is chosen as preferred parent and is idle. The average queue size in each case of OMC-RPL is not exceeded more than half of the capacity, in fact, OMC-RPL by using a holistic OF and various parameters balance the traffic load in all the nodes

The goal of the fifth scenario is the assessment of energy consumption in the nodes that works with battery. In this scenario, we choose three of the seven available nodes that have the energy concern; two of these nodes are common with the previous scenario (node 1 and 2). Figure 11 shows the remaining energy of nodes in percent. The leftover energy in node 1 is around 90 percent, which means that this node is not used very often, unlike node 2 that lost its energy completely. The achieved results from the both last scenarios prove that the ordinary RPL due to lack of proper objective function is not able to find the appropriate paths; therefore, some nodes are used a lot, and some others remain useless. The results for any cases of OMC-RPL show that the remaining energies in nodes are acceptable and OMC-RPL can help to increase the network life time. Among different instances of the proposed method, case C outperforms in terms of energy consumption.

5. CONCLUSION:

As mentioned earlier, recently RPL protocol has become a one of main solutions in the smart grid. Lots of researches have been done on this issue. In this paper by studying the shortcomings and challenges of RPL, we present a modified version of RPL with approach of QoS. Since data classification is a main requirement of providing QoS, the proposed method with comprehensive objective function regarding the QoS metrics is able to support multi classes of data, in this regard the PSO optimization algorithm is used to find the best values of coefficients that are used in OF. OMC-RPL with the different number of classes and various scenarios was simulated; the results in comparison with ordinary RPL are significant. Using OMC-RPL with any number of classes leads to decrease end-to-end delay, balance the traffic load in the network and increase the life time of battery supplied nodes. Although the results for three and four classes of data is so close but still in some scenarios, we experience better outcomes for four classes of data. Thereupon using the idea of multi class RPL can play an important role in the smart grid and can be used as an alternative solution. As future work, we can propose new OF with different metrics and approaches for specific cases; we can investigate about the stability of the network and also the optimized number of classes can be studied

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