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Estimating the Coverage Performance of a Wireless Senso r Network Considering Boundary Effects in the Presence of Sensor Failure

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Abstract: Coverage is one of the most critical performance metric of wireless sensor networks (WSNs) because it shows how well a region of interest (RoI) is being monitored by the deployed network. In general, the RoI is either circular or rectangular in shape which have boundary regions. Sensor nodes (SNs) deployed in these regions suffer boundary effects (BEs), i.e., the useful coverage area of an SN deployed near the boundary regions is less as compared to the SNs deployed in the middle of the RoI. It is imperative to consider these BEs while evaluating the performance of WSNs because analytical results derived for large networks are not valid for finite networks. In addition, SNs of a deployed WSN are prone to failure due to a large number of factors such as battery drainage, high temperature, and other environmental conditions. Earlier researchers have ignored the impact of BEs in the presence of sensor failure while evaluating the coverage performance of WSNs. In this work, we derive an analytical model by considering BEs and sensor failure to achieve a closed form expression for the *k*-coverage performance of a WSN deployed in a rectangular RoI. Further, we analyze the influence of various network parameters such as number of SNs, sensing range, and sensor failure rate on the *k*-coverage performance of the network. The results obtained using the proposed model show a good match with simulations outcomes with Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) no more than 0.03, thus, validating our model. For r_s = 80 m and N = 100, 1-coverage probabilities are found to be 0.9874, 0.9313 and 0.8069 for k = 1, 2 and 3 respectively showing that the *k*-coverage probability deriorates with the increase in the value of *k*.

Keywords: wireless sensor networks; binary sensing model;*k*-coverage probability; sensor failure rate; boundary effects.

1. Introduction

This is the era of technological advancements and innovations in the field of wireless communication. As a result, devices with wireless communication abilities such as SNs can be produced at a large scale in different shapes and sizes. These wireless SNs are deployed to create different types of wireless networks such as WSNs, wireless multihop networks, wireless ad hoc networks and so on[1, 2)]. The popularity of these networks is due to the reason that they can be formed on the fly easily and operate in a decentralized fashion without requiring any fixed infrastructure such as base station[3)]. As a result, they are being deployed for a large number of military and civilian applications such as border surveillance, enemy tracking andreconnaissance, precision agriculture, landslide monitoring, wildlife monitoring, seismic activity monitoring, industrial automation, ubiquitous and pervasive computing, health industry and so on[4,5,6,7,8,9)].

Coverage and connectivity are two essential performance metrics of WSNs because coverage determines how well an RoI is being monitored by the deployed network and the connectivity allows the network nodes to send their sensed data to the sink node[10,11,12,13)]. As per the application requirements, the coverage metric of a network can obtained in terms of point coverage, partial area coverage, full area coverage, and *k*-coverage. Some critical applications such as military surveillance require consistent monitoring of the region and cannot bear coverage holes caused by the nodes failure and other environmental conditions, thus, they demand *k*-coverage of the network to have a network which is robust against nodes failure.

It has been observed that analytical models developed for large networks cannot be applied for finite networks because of BEs, i.e., the useful coverage area of a node deployed in boundary regions is less than the useful

coverage area of the node in inner region. It is due to the reason that BEs distort the linearity and dependencies between the network parameters and variables which in tern lead to the dynamic behavior of network[14,15]. There exits a plethora of literature addressing the coverage issue in WSNs[16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24]. Real time monitoring of mines and tunnels is crucial to avoid anycatastrophe. Thus, a WSN capable of detecting underground tunnels and open-pit mines damage in real times is proposed in refernce[16]. In literature[17], the authors have proposed a distributed border surveillance system for a WSN deployed in a circular and rectangular RoI. They have obtained the number of barrier paths using binary and log-normal shadowing sensing range model and observed that the log-normal shadowing sensing range model out performs binary sensing range model. The work presented in literature[18] studied the weak *k*-barrier coverage for underwater WSNs and proposed an efficient algorithm to obtain two-dimensional weak *k*-barrier coverage from three-dimensional weak *k*-barrier coverage. Authors in literature[19] have rendered an analytical model to investigate the *k*-barrier coverage probability for the intrusion detection in WSN. Further, they have examined the impact of sensing range, node density, and sensor speed on the intrusion detection probability. The authors in[20] have rendered a method to track and detect the boundary of a consistent object using WSNs. Further, an effective probabilistic sensing range model for the intrusion detection in mobile sensor networks has been proposed in literature[21]. The authors have observed that coverage performance of the network improves with the increase in the speed of sensor nodes and becomes equal to the intruder detection time considering Boolean sensing range model. The wireless channel environment have a large number of natural phenomena taking place in it such as interference, multipath fading, scattering, reflection and refraction. The work presented in literatures[22,23] studied the impact of wireless channel environment on the coverage metric of WSNs and found that interference and multipath fading have severely deteriorating influence on the cov- erage metric of the deployed network. Nowadays, artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms are being applied in the domain of WSNs[24, 25, 26]. In literature[25], the authors have proposed three machine learning algorithms to predict the average localization error in the position of SNs at the time of deployment. The authors found that their proposed algorithms are very efficient with Root Mean Square Error (RMSE = 0.147m).

Another work presented in literature[26] employed proposed a Gaussian regression based method to estimate the *k*-barrier coverage probability for the intrusion detection in WSNs. The authors have also investigated the impact of sensing range, number of nodes, sensor to intruder speed ration, and static to mobile sensor ration on the *k*-barrier coverage probability of the network.

Although, the above discussed work are very effective and can be implemented for various civil and military applications, but, they have major drawback of ignoring BEs and sensor nodes failure on the coverage performance of the networks. In this work, we have formulated an analytical model by considering BEs and sensor nodes failure to estimate the k coverage probability of a WSN deployed in a rectangular RoI. Following are the major contributions of the paper in hand:

1.An analytical model comprising of boundary effects and sensor nodes failure to estimate the k coverage probability of a wireless sensor network deployed in a rectangular region.

2.Assessing the influence of number of sensor nodes, sensing range, and sensor node failure rate on thek coverage probability of the deployed network.

Rest of the paper is arranged as follows: System model comprising of node distribution model, sensing range model and nodes' failure rate is discussed in Section 2. In Section 3, we have calculated the useful coverage area of nodes in boundary and non-boundary regions. Then, the analytical formulation of *k*-barrier coverage probability is presented in Section 4. The analytical and simulation results are discussed in Section5. Finally, the paper is concluded in Section 6.

2. System Model

We have considered a rectangular RoI having length l and width w meters. A finite number (N) of identical immobile SNs are deployed uniformly and independently inside the RoI. Each SNs is assumed to have identical computational, sensing and transmission capabilities. Therefore, the sensing range of each node is assumed to be r_s meters and the coverage area is πr_s^2 while neglecting the BEs. An arbitrary point inside the RoI is said to be covered if it lies within the sensing range of at least one node. Furthermore, the RoI is said to be covered by the deployed network if every point inside the RoI lies within the sensing range of at least one node. In addition, the system model comprises of a node distribution model, sensing range model and nodes failure rate which are explained below:

2.1. Node Distribution Model

In a realisticscenarios such as forests fire, battlefields, enemy territories and so forth, the deterministic deployment of SNs is not possible. This is where the uniform distribution is very handy and can be obtained easily with the help of low flying aeroplanes. According to this model, the SNs are spread uniformly and independently inside a given RoI, i.e., the probability of lying on any point inside the rectangular RoI is same for every SN and is independent of the position of other SNs.

2.2.Sensing Range Model

There exists a variety of sensing range models such as binary sensing range model, Elfes' sensing rage model,

shadowing sensing range model, two ray ground propagation model, and so on[4,27]. To keep it mathematically tractable, we consider the most widely used binary sensing range model. According to this model, a random point inside the RoI will be covered by an SN if and only if it lies within the sensing range of the SN. Mathematically, it can be represented by Eq. 1.

$$P_{cov}(r) = \begin{cases} 1, r \leq r_s \\ 0, r > r_s \end{cases} \qquad (1)$$

2.3. Node failure probability

An SN is an electronic device whose lifetime may follow an exponential, a normal or a weibull distribution model. These distribution models have been used to model the lifetime of SNs in many research articles[27]. All these models provide the lifetime of SNs in terms of probability, i.e., the probability that an SN will not fail before a given period of time. Therefore, to avoid the mathematical complexities of these model, we have considered the SN failure probability representing chances of failure for a given SN.

3. Useful Coverage Area of an SN

Here, we compute the useful coverage area of an SN lying inside a rectangular RoI. For this reason, the whole rectangular RoI is divided into different boundary and non-boundary regions as shown in Fig. 1. Then, we compute the average useful coverage area of an SN lying in these boundary and non-boundary regions, which in turn is used to compute the *k*-coverage probability of the deployed WSN.

3.1 Useful coverage area of an SN without BEs

For a rectangular RoI where a given number of SNs N are distributed uniformly and independently. The probability that the an SN will lie at a given point $P\ (x, y)$ inside the RoI is P_I=$(1/lw)$. If the dimensions of the rectangular region are very high, then the BEs diminish and have negligible impact on the network coverage. Therefore, the useful coverage area of an SN will be a circular disk of radius r_s, i.e., $A_1 = \pi r_s^2$. Therefore, the average probability that an arbitrary point inside the RoI will be covered by an SN is computed using Eq. 2.

$$E(C) = P_I A_I \qquad (2)$$

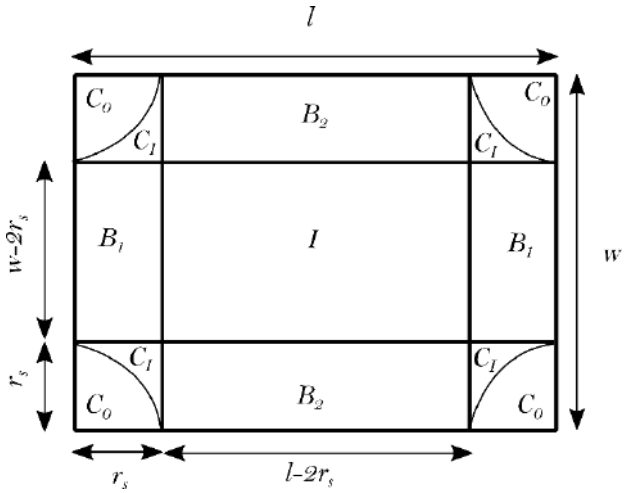

Fig.1: Boundary(B_1, B_2, C) and non-boundary (I) regions of a rectangular region.

3.2. Useful coverage area of an SN with BEs

It is an established fact that the BEs have a deteriorating impact on the coverage and connectivity performance of WSNs[3,28]. For a given sensing range of SNs, the whole rectangular RoI can be partitioned into an inner region (I), lateral boundary regions B_1, and B_2, and corner regions C as shown in Fig. 1. It is noteworthy that the number of boundary regions for each B_1 and B_2 are two. Furthermore, each corner region is divided into two sub-regions, *viz.*, inner corner C_I and outer corner C_O as shown in Fig. 1. The useful coverage area an arbitrary SN lying in these regions is calculated as follows:

Inner region (I): In this region, a node lying at a point $P_I\ (x, y)$ does not suffer any kind of BEs as shown in Fig. 2, as a result, the useful coverage area of node in region *I* is a circular disk of radius r_s and is given by Eq. 3

$$A_I = \pi r_s^2 \qquad (3)$$

and the probability that an arbitrary sensor node will lie in inner region *I* of the rectangular region is given by Eq. 4

$$P_I = \frac{(l - 2r_s) \times (w - 2r_s)}{l \times w} \qquad (4)$$

Lateral boundary region (B_1): Let us assume that an SN is lying at a point $P_{B1}\ (x, y)$ in lateral boundary region B_1. In this region, the useful coverage area of the SN will be less than πr_s^2 because some of thecoverage area of the SN lies outside the RoI as shown in Fig. 2.

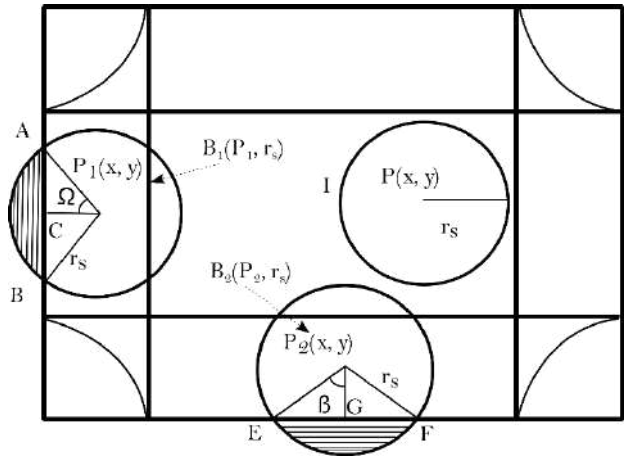

Fig.2: Useful coverage area of a node in region I, B_1, and B_2.

Therefore, the useful coverage area of theSN in region (B_1) is obtained by subtracting the circular area lying outside the RoI from πr_s^2. The circular region lying outside the region can be obtained by subtracting the area of the triangular portion from the circular arc of radius r_s. The average useful coverage area of a node in region (B_1) and (B_2) are equal[12] and be computed using Eq. 5.

$$A_{lat} = A_{B_1} = A_{B_2} = \left(\pi - \frac{2}{3}\right) r_s^2 \qquad (5)$$

and the probability that an arbitrary sensor node will lie in a lateral boundary regions is given by Eq. 6.

$$P_{lat} = \frac{2r_s \times (l - 2r_s) + 2r_s \times (w - 2r_s)}{l \times w} \qquad (6)$$

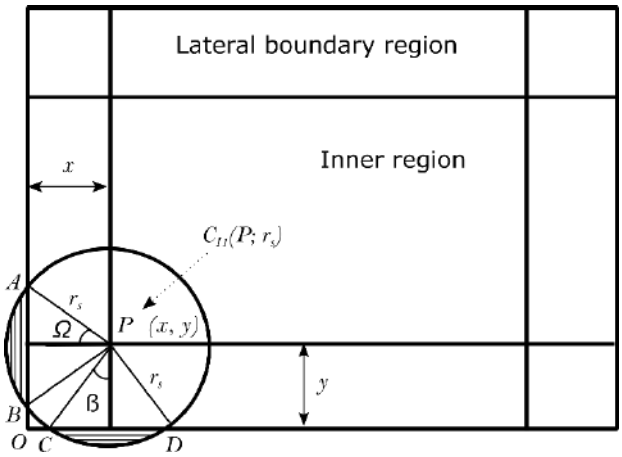

Fig.3: Useful coverage area of a node in inner corner region C_I

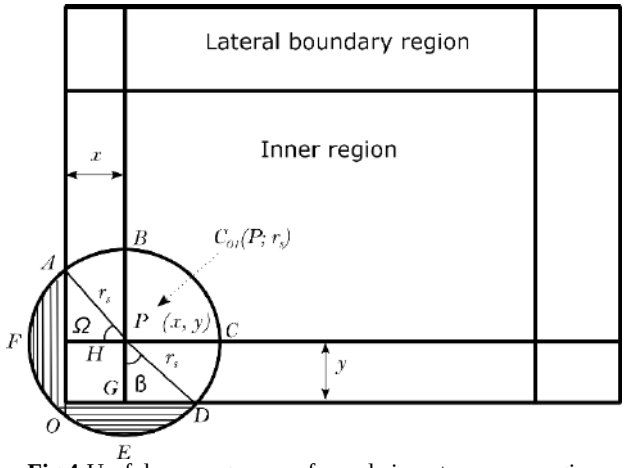

Fig.4: Useful coverage area of a node in outer corner region C_O.

Inner corner region (C_I): Let us assume that an SN is lying at a point $P_{CI}(x, y)$ in inner corner region C_I of the rectangular RoI. Here, it is important to notice that the coverage area of the SN is affected by two lateral boundaries B_1 and B_2 as shown in Fig. 3. Therefore, the useful coverage area of the SN in inner corner region (C_I) can be computed by subtracting the area of two circular segments formed outside B_1 and B_2 from πr_s^2. Thus, the average useful coverage area of an SN in inner corner region $C_I$is given by Eq. 7(refer[12]).

$$\mathrm{A_{C_I}} = \left(\frac{\pi^2 + 1}{2\pi}\right) \mathrm{r_s^2} \qquad (7)$$

Outer corner region (C_O): Let us assume that an SN is lying at a point $P_{CO}(x, y)$in outer corner region C_O of the rectangular RoI. Here, the coverage area of the SN is lying outside lateral boundary regions B_1, B_2 and vertex V_I as shown in Fig. 4. Therefore, the average useful coverage area of the SN in outer corner region (C_O) can be calculated by subtracting the area of two circular segments formed outside $\mathrm{B_1}$and $\mathrm{B_2}$ and the area lying outside vertex V_I from πr_s^2 and is given by Eq. 8.

$$A_{C_O} = \frac{4r_s^2(\pi - \frac{4}{3} - \frac{\pi^2}{8})}{(4 - \pi)} \qquad (8)$$

The expected useful coverage area of an SN lying in a corner region is obtained by averaging over the entire circular region and is given by Eq. 9

$$A_C = \left(\pi - \frac{29}{24}\right) r_s^2 \qquad (9)$$

and the probability that an arbitrary SN will be lying in a corner region can be computed using Eq. 10.

$$P_C = \frac{4r_s^2}{l \times w} \qquad (10)$$

4. Coverage Probability

Let $P_i$and $A_i$denote the probability that an arbitrary SN is positioned in region i and the useful coverage area of the SN in region i respectively, where $i \in [I, B_1, B_2, C]$.Therefore, the expected coverage of an arbitrary SN can be calculated using Eq. 11

$$E(C) = \frac{P_I A_I + P_{lat} A_{lat} + P_C A_C}{l \times w} \quad (11)$$

If $P_f$denotes the failure probability of an SN, then the probability (P_c) that a random point within the RoI will be covered by an arbitrary SN is given by Eq. 12

$$P_C = E(C)\left(1 - P_f\right) \quad (12)$$

Then, the probability that the target would not be covered by any SN of the network can be computed by Eq. 13

$$P_{NC} = \{1 - E(C)\left(1 - P_f\right)\}^N \quad (13)$$

Finally, the probability that the target would be covered by at least one SN of the network, i.e., 1-coverage of the network can be calculated using Eq. 14

$$\begin{aligned} P_{Net} &= 1 - P_{NC} \\ &= 1 - \{1 - E(C)(1 - P_f)\}^N \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

In order to achieve a robust network against node failure, we estimate the *k*-coverage probability of the network. The probability that an arbitrary point inside the given RoI will be covered by exactly *k* distinct SNs can be computed using Eq. 15.

$$P_k = \binom{N}{k}(P_C)^k(1 - P_C)^{N-k} \quad (15)$$

and the probability that an arbitrary point inside the RoI will be covered by at least *k* distinct SNs is given by Eq. 16

$$\begin{aligned} C_k &= 1 - \sum_{K=0}^{k-1} P_k \\ &= 1 - \sum_{K=0}^{k-1} \binom{N}{k} (P_C)^k (1 - P_C)^{N-k} \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

5. Results and Discussion

In this section, we present the analytical and simulation results. The analytical results for *k*-coverage probability are obtained by putting Eq. 2 (without BEs) and Eq. 11 (with BEs) in Eq. 16.

Table 1. Simulation parameters

Parameter	**Value(s)**
Dimension of the rectangular region (*l*,*w*)	*l* = 500 m, *w* = 400 m
Number of sensor nodes (*N*)	5-200
Sensingrange (r_s)	0-120 m
Sensor failure rate (P_f)	0-0.8
Required *k*	1-3

5.1. Simulation Setup

Simulation results are obtained through the extensive simulations on MATLAB 2018b using the parameters given in Table 1. The entire rectangular region is divided into many alike squares of area 1m × 1m. For each iteration, it is checked whether a given square regions falls within the sensing range of an SN or not without changing the topology. Then, the square is considered to be covered by the network if and only if its center is detected by at least one SN. Then, the network coverage is achieved by diving the number of covered squares by the total number of squares in entire network. Eventually, the single *k*-coverage outcome is obtained by taking the mean of 10000 iterations for a randomly spread network.

5.2. Influence of sensing range on network coverage

In this section, we assess the influence of sensing range of SNs on the *k*-coverage metric of the network at different values of P_f. We have observed that the *k*-coverage probability of the network improves with the increase in the sensing range of SNs at a given value of $P_f$as shown in Fig. 5, and Fig. 6. For instance, the 1-coverage probabilities of the network are found to be 0.7004, 0.8784 and 0.9608 when the sensing ranges are 30 m, 40 m and 50 m respectively at P_f = 0.4 (refer Fig. 5). This is because of the reason that sensors with large sensing range can cover points lying at large distances inside the RoI. As a results, the number of squares covered increases which in tern improves the *k*-coverage probability. However, the *k*-coverage probability deteriorates with the increase in the value of sensor failure rate (P_f) at a given value of SNs (N) and sensing range (r_s) as indicated in Fig 5, and Fig 6. For instance, at r_s = 50m and N = 150, 1-coverage probabilities are found to be 0.9950, 0.9867, 0.9608, 0.8835 and 0.6576 when the values of P_f are 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6 and 0.8 respectively. This is caused by the fact that at higher values of P_f, the expected number failed SNs will be high, thus a less number of active SNs will cover a small fraction of the squares which in tern will decrease the 1-coverage probability. We have observed the similar trends while increase the value of *k* for *k*-coverage probability as shown in Fig 6. The *k*-coverage probability decreases with the increase in the value of k because a large value of *k* demands that a given point inside the RoI

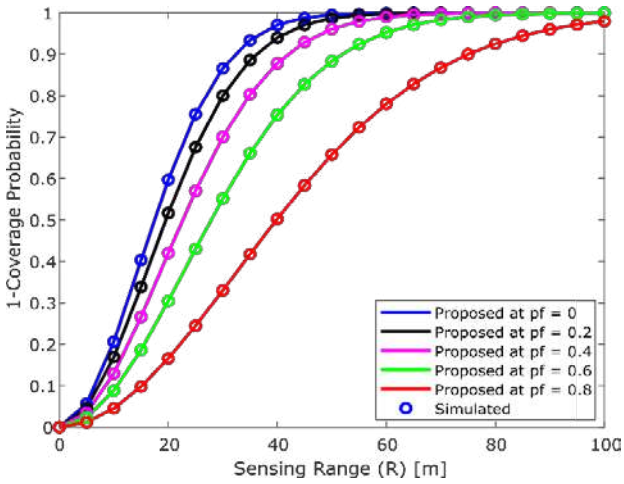

Fig.5: Impactofsensingrangeon1-coverageprobabilityatdifferentvaluesofnodefailurerate(P_f)and$N$=150.

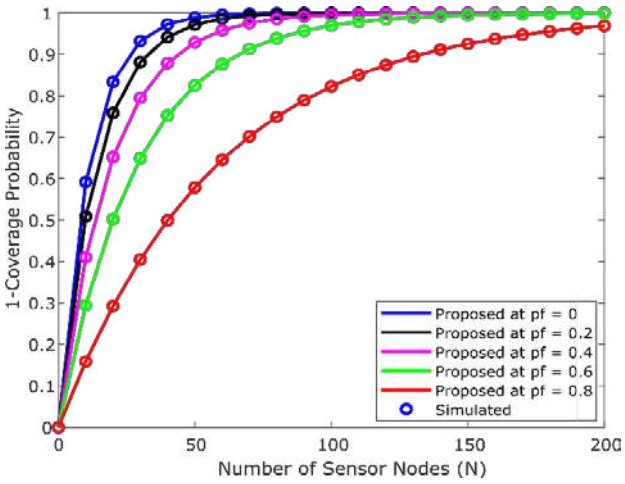

Fig.7: Impact of number of SNs on 1-coverage probability at different values of node failure rate (P_f) andr_s= 80 m.

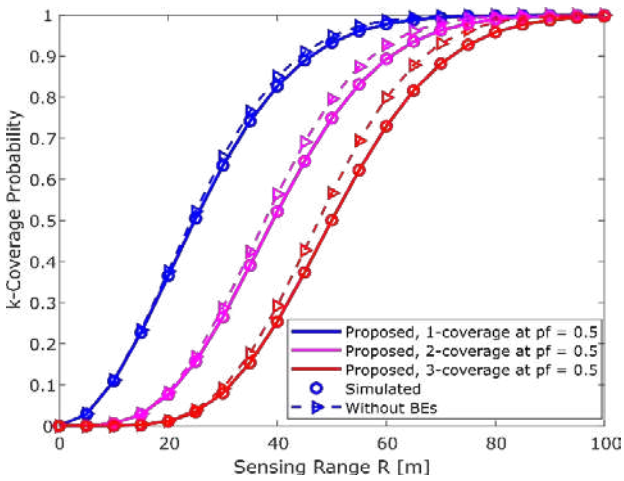

Fig.6: Impact of sensing range on *k*-coverage probability when node failure rate (P_f= 0.5) and N= 150.

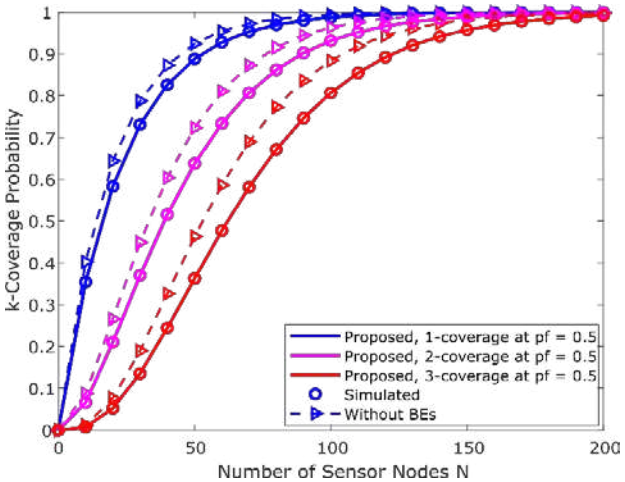

Fig.8: Impact of number of SNs on *k*-coverage probability when node failure rate (P_f= 0.5) and r_s= 80 m.

must be covered by at least *k* distinct SNs at a given value of *N* and r_s. In addition, Fig. 6 also shows that there is a significant difference between the results ignoring and incorporating BEs. The simulation results match with the results obtained through the proposed model, thus confirming our model.Here, we investigate the influence of number of SNs on the *k*-coverage metric of the network at different values of P_f. We have noticed that the *k*-coverage probability of the network enhances with the increase in the number of SNs at a given value of P_f as shown in Fig. 7, and Fig 8. For instance, the 1-coverage probabilities of the network are found to be 0.8766, 0.9386, 0.9694 and 0.9848 when the number of SNs are 60, 80, 100 and 120 respectively at P_f = 0.6 (refer Fig. 7). The reason behind this enhancement is that there exists a large number of SNs to cover any arbitrary square inside the rectangular RoI.Therefore, the number of squares covered increases with the increase in the number of SNs which in tern improves the *k*-coverage probability.

As discussed in the subsection 5.2, the *k*-coverage probability deteriorates with the increase in the value of sensor failure rate (P_f). For instance, at r_s = 80m and N = 100, 1-coverage probabilities are found to be0.9998, 0.9992, 0.9949, 0.9694 and 0.8224 when the values of P_f are 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6 and 0.8 respectively as shown in Fig 7. This is caused by the fact that at higher values of P_f, the expected number of failed nodes will be high, thus a less number of active SNs will available to cover entire region which in tern will decrease the 1-coverage probability.

Similarly, an increase in the value of *k* will result in the decrease of *k*-coverage probability as shown in Fig. 6. For instance, at r_s = 80m and N = 100, 1-coverage probabilities are found to be 0.9874, 0.9313 and 0.8069 for k = 1, 2 and 3 respectively (refer Fig. 8).The k-coverage probability decreases with the increase in the value of k because a large value of *k* requires that a given point inside the RoI must be covered by at least k distinct SNs at a given value of *N* and r_s.

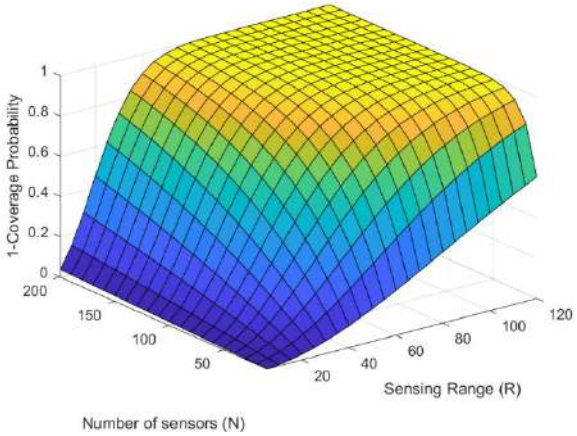

Fig.9: Three dimensional visualization of 1-coverage w.r.t. sensing range and number of SNs when (P_f = 0.5).

Here also, we found a major difference between the results with BEs and ignoring BEs as shown in Fig. 8. The simulation results match with the results obtained through the proposed model, thus validating our model. The simultaneous influence of both number of SNs and the sensing range on the 1-coverage probability of the network is shown in Fig. 9.

6. Conclusion

In this work, we have formulated an analytical model by considering BEs to study the influence of sensor failure rate (P_f) and the network parameters such as number of SNs N and sensing range (r_s) on the k-coverage probability of the network. The SNs with identical sensing range are assumed to spread uniformly and independently inside a rectangular RoI. It is observed that the k-coverage probability improves with the increase in the number of SNs and sensing range of SNs while deteriorates with the increase in the sensor failure rate (P_f). The analytical results are validated through simulation results obtained through MATLAB 2018b and are found to be matching, thus confirming the proposed model. The proposed model will be useful for the researchers working in the area of WSNs as the model can be used to predict the coverage performance of the network before its actual deployment. In future work, we wish to examine the impact of various sensing range models along with the sensor failure rate on the k-coverage probability of the network.

As a part of future work, we can use various optimization[29,30] and machine learning-based algorithms[31,32,33,34] to further improve the model performance.

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