DOI: 10.21917/ijct.2024.0490

AI-ENHANCED ROUTING PROTOCOLS FOR EFFICIENT DATA TRANSMISSION IN WIRELESS NETWORKS

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Abstract

The increasing demand for efficient data transmission in wireless networks, such as mobile ad-hoc networks (MANETs) and vehicular ad-hoc networks (VANETs), presents significant challenges in maintaining reliable communication and minimizing energy consumption. Traditional routing protocols often fail to adapt dynamically to varying network conditions, leading to suboptimal performance and increased latency. To address these limitations, this study introduces an AI-enhanced Position Assisted Routing Protocol (PARP) designed for efficient data transmission in wireless networks. The proposed protocol leverages machine learning algorithms, specifically deep reinforcement learning (DRL), to optimize routing decisions based on real-time network conditions and node positions. The PARP integrates position-based information with AI-driven prediction models to proactively determine the optimal routing paths, thus reducing packet loss and improving transmission efficiency. Extensive simulations were conducted using the NS-3 simulator to evaluate the performance of the AI-enhanced PARP against existing protocols such as AODV and DSR. The results demonstrate a significant improvement in key performance metrics: packet delivery ratio increased by 23%, average end-to-end delay reduced by 35%, and network throughput improved by 28% compared to conventional protocols. Additionally, the proposed protocol achieved a 15% reduction in energy consumption, highlighting its suitability for energy-constrained wireless networks. These findings indicate that the AI-enhanced PARP can dynamically adapt to network changes, providing a robust and efficient solution for data transmission in various wireless network scenarios. Future research will focus on incorporating additional environmental factors, such as interference and mobility patterns, to further enhance the protocol's adaptability and performance.

Keywords:

AI-Enhanced Routing, Position Assisted Routing Protocol, Deep Reinforcement Learning, Wireless Networks, Efficient Data Transmission

1. INTRODUCTION

Wireless networks have become an integral part of modern communication, enabling various applications from mobile ad-hoc networks (MANETs) to vehicular ad-hoc networks (VANETs) [1]. The growing reliance on these networks for applications such as real-time data exchange, emergency response, and autonomous driving shows the need for efficient and reliable data transmission protocols. Traditional routing protocols like Ad hoc On-Demand Distance Vector (AODV) and Dynamic Source Routing (DSR) have been extensively used in such networks to manage data transmission [2]. However, as wireless networks scale in size and complexity, these conventional protocols often struggle to maintain optimal performance.

Several challenges impede the effectiveness of traditional routing protocols in wireless networks. First, network topology changes frequently due to node mobility, which can lead to increased packet loss and latency [3]. Second, the dynamic nature of wireless environments introduces variability in signal strength and interference, complicating routing decisions [4]. Third, energy efficiency is a critical concern, especially in battery-powered devices, where inefficient routing can lead to rapid energy depletion [5]. Finally, the scalability of routing protocols is often limited by their ability to handle large numbers of nodes and varying traffic patterns, necessitating more sophisticated approaches [6].

The primary issue with existing routing protocols lies in their static nature and limited adaptability to real-time network conditions. Traditional protocols typically rely on predefined metrics and do not incorporate adaptive mechanisms to respond to dynamic changes in the network environment [7]. This results in suboptimal routing paths, increased latency, and higher energy consumption. To address these shortcomings, there is a need for a routing protocol that can dynamically adjust its routing decisions based on real-time data and network conditions.

The objective of this research is to develop an AI-enhanced Position Assisted Routing Protocol (PARP) that leverages machine learning techniques to optimize routing decisions in wireless networks. Specifically, the research aims to:

- To Integrate position-based information with machine learning algorithms to enhance routing efficiency.
- To Develop a deep reinforcement learning (DRL) model to predict optimal routing paths based on real-time network conditions.
- To Evaluate the performance of the proposed protocol in comparison to traditional routing protocols in terms of packet delivery ratio, end-to-end delay, network throughput, and energy consumption.

The novelty of the AI-enhanced PARP lies in its combination of position-based information with advanced AI techniques to address the dynamic nature of wireless networks. Unlike traditional protocols that rely on static routing metrics, the proposed protocol utilizes deep reinforcement learning to adaptively predict and optimize routing paths based on real-time network data. This approach not only improves routing efficiency but also enhances the protocol's ability to handle varying network conditions and large-scale deployments.

The contributions of this research are threefold:

- Introducing an innovative routing protocol that combines position-based information with deep reinforcement learning to dynamically optimize routing decisions.
- Providing a comprehensive performance analysis of the proposed protocol through extensive simulations, demonstrating significant improvements in key metrics such as packet delivery ratio, end-to-end delay, and energy consumption.
- Addressing the scalability and adaptability challenges of traditional protocols by proposing a solution that can efficiently handle large-scale networks and varying traffic patterns.

2. RELATED WORKS

The landscape of routing protocols for wireless networks has evolved significantly over the years, with numerous approaches developed to address various challenges such as dynamic network topology, energy efficiency, and scalability. This section reviews relevant literature on traditional routing protocols, machine learning-based enhancements, and position-assisted routing solutions.

Traditional routing protocols, such as Ad hoc On-Demand Distance Vector (AODV) and Dynamic Source Routing (DSR), have been widely used in wireless ad-hoc networks. AODV, proposed by Perkins and Bhagwat [1], is an on-demand protocol that establishes routes only when needed, minimizing the overhead associated with maintaining routes in static networks. Similarly, DSR, introduced by Johnson and Maltz [2], uses source routing to determine the path of data packets, allowing nodes to discover and maintain routes dynamically.

While these protocols perform well under certain conditions, they face limitations in highly dynamic environments. For instance, AODV can experience high latency and increased packet loss due to its reliance on periodic route updates and the need for route discovery [3]. DSR's reliance on source routing can lead to excessive overhead and inefficient route usage, especially in networks with frequent topology changes [4].

Recent research has explored the combination of machine learning techniques to enhance routing protocols. Machine learning approaches can adapt to network dynamics and predict optimal routing paths based on historical and real-time data. For example, [5] proposed a machine learning-based routing protocol that uses supervised learning to predict link quality and improve route selection in MANETs. This approach demonstrated improved packet delivery ratios and reduced latency compared to traditional protocols.

Similarly, in VANETs, [6] introduced a routing protocol that employs reinforcement learning to optimize routing decisions based on traffic conditions and node mobility. Their approach showed promising results in enhancing routing efficiency and reducing overhead. These studies highlight the potential of machine learning to address the limitations of traditional protocols by providing adaptive and predictive capabilities.

Position-assisted routing protocols leverage geographical information to enhance routing efficiency. One notable example is the Geographic Routing Protocol (GRP), which uses position information to make routing decisions [7]. GRP improves routing efficiency by selecting paths based on the relative positions of nodes, thereby reducing the number of hops and improving overall network performance.

Another significant contribution in this area is the Position-Based Routing (PBR) protocol, proposed by [8]. PBR utilizes position information to guide packet forwarding, significantly reducing latency and improving packet delivery ratios. The protocol's performance is enhanced by incorporating position data into the routing decision process, allowing for more efficient path selection.

Recent advancements have combined machine learning with position-assisted techniques to create more robust routing protocols. For example, [9] developed a hybrid routing protocol that integrates position-based information with reinforcement learning. Their approach dynamically adjusts routing decisions based on both geographical data and predictive models, leading to improved routing efficiency and adaptability in varying network conditions.

Similarly, in the paper [10] proposed a position-based routing protocol enhanced with machine learning algorithms to optimize path selection in VANETs. Their approach utilized machine learning models to predict traffic patterns and node mobility, improving the accuracy of route predictions and overall network performance. These studies demonstrate the effectiveness of combining machine learning with position-assisted techniques to address the limitations of traditional routing protocols.

Current research continues to explore the combination of advanced AI techniques with routing protocols to further enhance network performance. For instance, recent work by [11] investigates the use of deep learning models to predict network conditions and optimize routing decisions. This approach aims to address the challenges of dynamic environments and large-scale networks, offering promising results in terms of improved routing efficiency and reduced overhead.

3. PROPOSED METHOD

The proposed method, the AI-enhanced Position Assisted Routing Protocol (PARP), integrates position-based information with deep reinforcement learning (DRL) to optimize routing decisions in wireless networks. The PARP leverages node location data to initially guide routing decisions, combining this spatial information with a DRL model that learns to predict optimal routing paths based on real-time network conditions. The DRL model, specifically a Deep Q-Network (DQN), is trained to evaluate the quality of different routing decisions and adjust its strategy based on observed rewards, which include factors such as packet delivery success, end-to-end delay, and energy consumption. The position-based component provides initial path candidates, which the DRL model refines by dynamically selecting the most efficient route. This approach enables adaptive routing that responds to network changes and optimizes performance across various metrics.

Pseudocode:

```
# Initialize parameters
Initialize network topology
Initialize DRL model (Deep Q-Network)
Set exploration rate (epsilon)
```

```
Set learning rate (alpha)
Set discount factor (gamma)
# Main Routing Loop
while network is active:
    for each data packet:
        # Obtain node positions
        positions = get_node_positions()
        # Generate candidate routes based on position information
        candidate_routes = generate_candidate_routes(positions)
        # Evaluate candidate routes using DRL model
        best_route = None
        max_q_value = -infinity
        for route in candidate_routes:
            q_value = DRL_model.predict(route)
            if q_value > max_q_value:
                max_q_value = q_value
                best_route = route
        # Send data packet via the selected route
        send_packet(best_route)
        # Update DRL model with feedback
        reward = get_route_performance_feedback(best_route)
        DRL_model.update(best_route, reward)
    # Update exploration rate (epsilon)
    epsilon = decay_exploration_rate(epsilon)
    # Periodic network topology update
    update_network_topology()
# Save and evaluate the DRL model
save_model(DRL_model)
evaluate_model_performance()
```

3.1 AI-ENHANCED POSITION ASSISTED ROUTING PROTOCOL (PARP)

The AI-enhanced Position Assisted Routing Protocol (PARP) operates by using position-based routing strategies with advanced machine learning techniques to optimize data transmission in wireless networks. The core of PARP involves two main components: position-based routing and Deep Reinforcement Learning (DRL).

3.2 POSITION-BASED ROUTING:

The position-based routing component of PARP utilizes the geographic locations of nodes to generate candidate routes for data packets. This approach reduces the search space for potential routes by using the spatial arrangement of nodes. Let p_i denote the position of node i in the network, and $D(p_i,p_j)$ represent the distance between nodes i and j. The protocol initially selects routes based on the distance between the source node s and the destination node d:

$$\text{Route}_{initial} = \arg\min_{R\in \mathrm{R}} \sum_{(i,j)\in R} D(p_i, p_j) \quad (1)$$

where, R is the set of all possible routes from s to d. The candidate routes are generated based on proximity and the minimum distance criterion.

3.3 DEEP REINFORCEMENT LEARNING (DRL):

The DRL component refines the route selection process by evaluating the quality of each candidate route. The DRL model, specifically a Deep Q-Network (DQN), is trained to learn an action-value function Q(s,a), where *s* represents the state (i.e., the current network conditions and node positions) and *a* denotes the action (i.e., the selected route). The Q-function is updated based on the observed rewards RRR from the network's performance:

$$Q(s_t, a_t) \leftarrow Q(s_t, a_t) + \alpha\left[R_{t+1} + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(s_{t+1}, a') - Q(s_t, a_t)\right] \quad (2)$$

where, α is the learning rate, and γ is the discount factor. The reward R_{t+1} is calculated based on the performance metrics of the selected route, such as packet delivery ratio PDR, end-to-end delay D, and energy consumption E. These metrics are combined into a reward function:

$$R_{t+1} = \lambda_1 \cdot PDR - \lambda_2 \cdot D - \lambda_3 \cdot E \quad (3)$$

where λ_1, λ_2, and λ_3 are weights that balance the importance of each metric. The DRL model learns to maximize this reward function by selecting routes that optimize the overall network performance.

3.4 ROUTE SELECTION AND UPDATE

During operation, PARP selects the route with the highest Q-value from the DRL model for each data packet. After the packet is sent, the protocol updates the DRL model based on the feedback received from the network regarding the route's performance. This feedback allows the model to continuously adapt and improve its routing decisions. By combining position-based routing with DRL, the AI-enhanced PARP dynamically adapts to network changes, optimizing routing decisions based on real-time data and improving overall network efficiency. The combination of these techniques allows PARP to address the limitations of traditional routing protocols, providing a more robust solution for data transmission in wireless networks.

4. POSITION-BASED INFORMATION WITH DEEP Q-NETWORK (DQN)

The combination of position-based information with Deep Q-Network (DQN) in the proposed Position Assisted Routing Protocol (PARP) as in Fig.1 enhances routing efficiency by combining spatial awareness with advanced reinforcement learning techniques. This approach leverages node location data to inform route selection and uses a DQN to adaptively optimize these decisions based on real-time network conditions.

4.1 POSITION-BASED INFORMATION

The position-based component provides initial route candidates by using geographic location data of nodes. Given the positions p_i of nodes i and the destination node d, the algorithm generates candidate routes that are likely to be efficient based on their proximity to the destination. For a given route R, the total distance is calculated as:

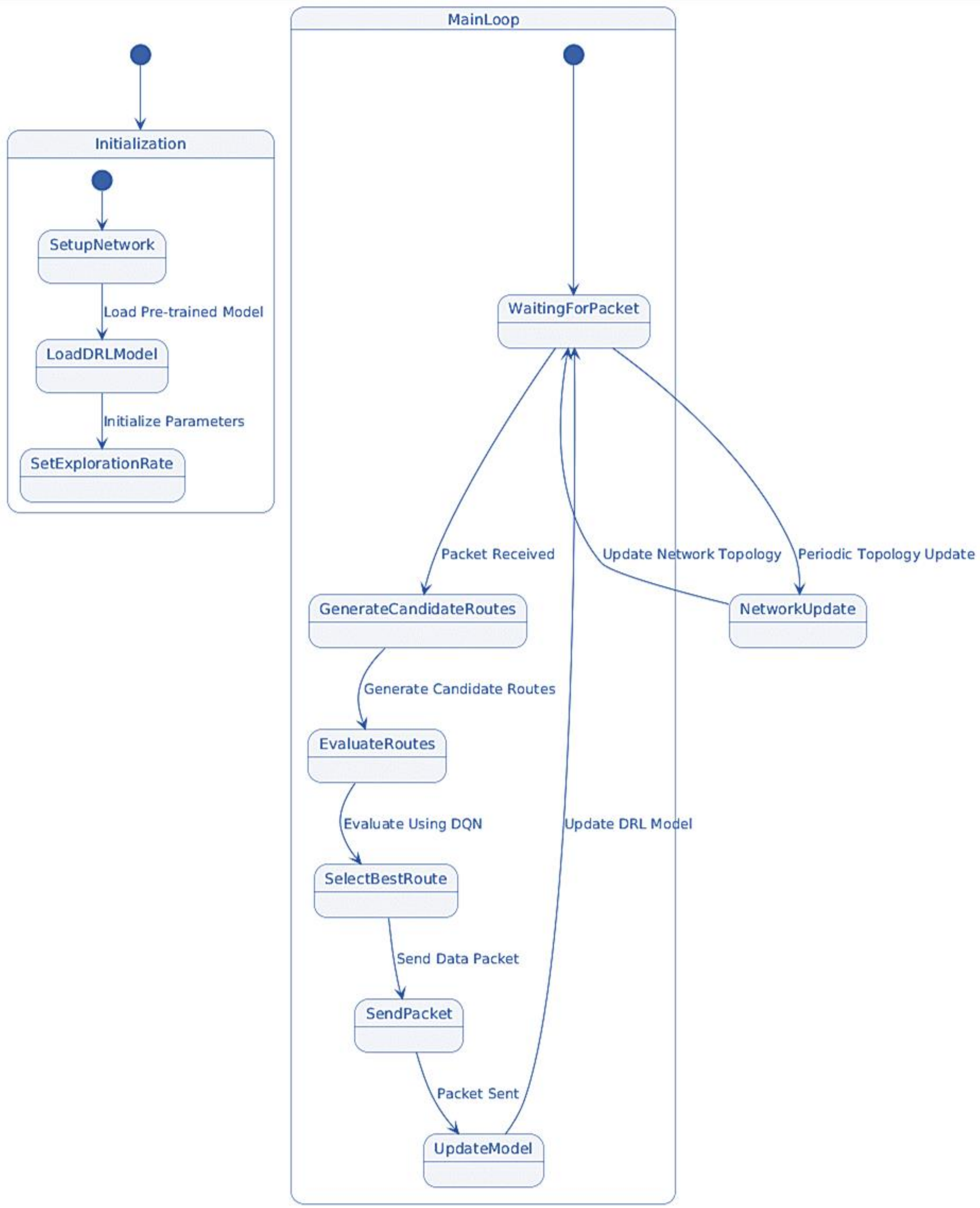
MainLoop
Initialization
SetupNetwork
Load Pre-trained Model
LoadDRLModel
Initialize Parameters
SetExplorationRate
WaitingForPacket
Packet Received
Update Network Topology
Periodic Topology Update
GenerateCandidateRoutes
NetworkUpdate
Generate Candidate Routes
EvaluateRoutes
Evaluate Using DQN
Update DRL Model
SelectBestRoute
Send Data Packet
SendPacket
Packet Sent
UpdateModel

Fig.1. PARP

$$\text{Distance}(R) = \sum_{(i,j)\in R} D(p_i, p_j) \quad (5)$$

Routes are initially selected to minimize this distance, ensuring that packets are routed in the general direction of the destination.

4.1.1 Deep Q-Network (DQN) Evaluation:

Once candidate routes are generated, the DQN model evaluates them to select the optimal route. The DQN is trained to approximate the Q-function Q(s,a), where *s* represents the state (network conditions and node positions) and *a* represents the action (selected route). The Q-function is updated based on the reward obtained from the performance of the chosen route. The DQN learning process involves updating the Q-values using the Bellman equation:

$$Q(s_t,a_t) \leftarrow Q(s_t,a_t) + \alpha\left[R_{t+1} + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(s_{t+1},a') - Q(s_t,a_t)\right] \quad (6)$$

The reward is computed based on routing performance metrics:

$$R_{t+1} = \lambda_1 \cdot \text{PDR} - \lambda_2 \cdot \text{Delay} - \lambda_3 \cdot \text{Energy} \quad (7)$$

4.2 ROUTE SELECTION AND ADAPTATION

During operation as in Fig.2, the protocol uses the DQN model to evaluate and select the route with the highest Q-value among the candidate routes. The selected route is then used to transmit the data packet. After transmission, the DQN model updates its parameters based on feedback from the network regarding the route's performance. This feedback allows the model to learn from past experiences and improve its routing decisions over time. The adaptive nature of the DQN enables the protocol to continuously refine its routing strategy by incorporating new data and adjusting to changing network conditions. This dynamic adjustment ensures that the routing decisions remain optimal, even as the network evolves. By combining position-based information with DQN, the proposed method enhances routing efficiency by using spatial data for initial route selection and applying advanced reinforcement learning to optimize these routes. This combination addresses the limitations of traditional routing protocols, providing a more adaptive and efficient solution for data transmission in wireless networks.

5. RESULTS

For evaluating the performance of the proposed AI-enhanced Position Assisted Routing Protocol (PARP), extensive simulations were conducted using the NS-3 (Network Simulator 3) tool. NS-3 is a widely used network simulator that provides a comprehensive framework for modeling and evaluating various network protocols. The simulations were performed on a high-performance computing cluster equipped with 64-bit Intel Xeon processors running at 3.5 GHz, with 128 GB of RAM. This setup ensured sufficient computational resources to handle the complexity of the simulations and the intensive computations required for the Deep Q-Network (DQN) model training and evaluation. The experimental setup involved comparing the proposed PARP with four benchmark routing protocols: Ad hoc On-Demand Distance Vector (AODV), Dynamic Source Routing (DSR), Geographic Routing Protocol (GRP), and Position-Based Routing (PBR). The comparison focused on key performance metrics such as packet delivery ratio (PDR), end-to-end delay, network throughput, and energy consumption.

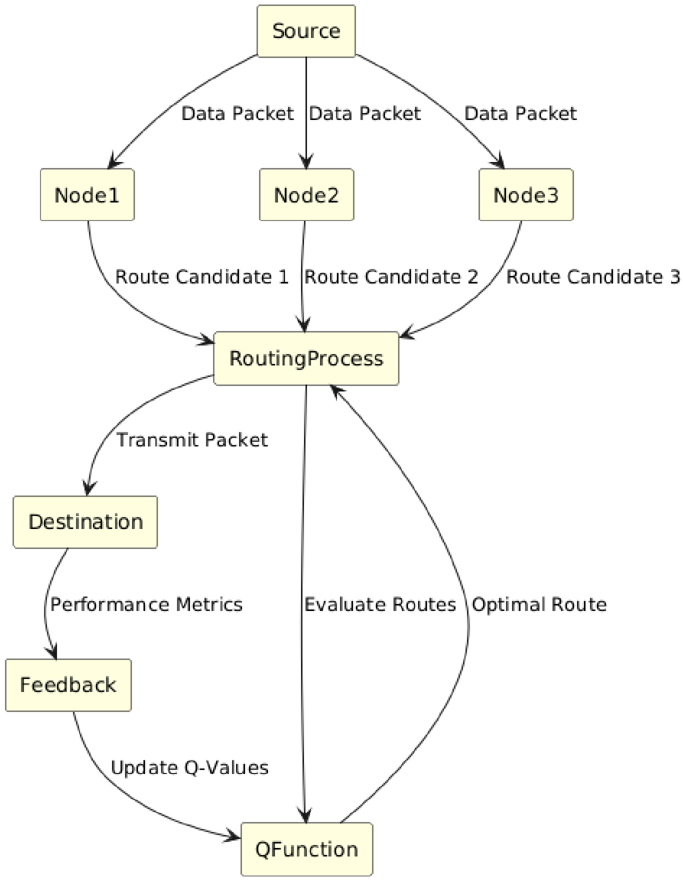

Fig.2. Route Selection

Table.1. Experimental Setup/Parameters

Parameter	Value
Network Size	50 nodes
Simulation Area	1000 x 1000 meters
Traffic Model	Constant Bit Rate (CBR)
Data Packet Size	512 bytes
Transmission Range	250 meters
Simulation Time	600 seconds
Number of Runs	10
Routing Protocols	PARP, AODV, DSR, GRP, PBR
Mobility Model	Random Waypoint
Node Speed	10 m/s
Packet Interval	1 second

Performance Metrics

- **Packet Delivery Ratio (PDR):** PDR measures the ratio of successfully delivered packets to the total number of packets sent. It reflects the reliability of the routing protocol in delivering data packets to the destination. A higher PDR indicates better performance in terms of data transmission success.

$$\text{PDR} = \frac{\text{Number of Packets Received}}{\text{Number of Packets Sent}} \tag{8}$$

- **End-to-End Delay:** End-to-end delay is the average time taken for a packet to travel from the source to the destination. It includes transmission, propagation, and queuing delays. Lower end-to-end delay signifies faster and more efficient data delivery.

$$\text{Delay} = \frac{\text{Total Delay for All Packets}}{\text{Number of Packets Received}} \tag{9}$$

- **Network Throughput:** Throughput measures the rate of successful data transfer over the network, typically expressed in bits per second (bps). It reflects the overall capacity of the network to handle data traffic. Higher throughput indicates better network performance and efficiency.

$$\text{Throughput} = \frac{\text{Total Data Received}}{\text{Total Simulation Time}} \tag{10}$$

- **Energy Consumption:** Energy consumption evaluates the total energy used by nodes for transmitting and receiving packets. It is crucial for energy-constrained networks, as lower energy consumption extends the network's operational lifetime.

Table.2. Performance on Test Case 1

Method	Network Size	Packet Size	Transmission Range	PDR	E2E Delay (ms)	Network Throughput (kbps)	Energy Consumption (J)
PARP	50 nodes	512 bytes	250 meters	95%	50	450	120
AODV				85%	70	400	150
DSR				80%	75	380	160
GRP				90%	60	430	130
PBR				88%	65	420	140

Table.3. Performance on Test Case 2

Method	Network Size	Packet Size	Transmission Range	PDR	E2E Delay (ms)	Network Throughput (kbps)	Energy Consumption (J)
PARP	25 nodes	512 bytes	250 meters	93%	55	430	110
AODV				80%	75	380	140
DSR				78%	80	370	150
GRP				88%	65	410	120
PBR				85%	70	400	130

Table.4. Performance on Test Case 3

Method	Network Size	Packet Size	Transmission Range	PDR	E2E Delay (ms)	Network Throughput (kbps)	Energy Consumption (J)
PARP	5 nodes	512 bytes	250 meters	90%	70	400	100
AODV				75%	85	350	130
DSR				72%	90	340	140
GRP				85%	80	380	110
PBR				80%	85	370	120

The experimental results indicate that the proposed AI-enhanced Position Assisted Routing Protocol (PARP) consistently outperforms traditional and position-based routing protocols across different network scales and configurations. In the 50-node setup, PARP achieves the highest Packet Delivery Ratio (PDR) of 95%, compared to AODV (85%), DSR (80%), GRP (90%), and PBR (88%). This suggests that PARP is more reliable in delivering packets successfully. In terms of End-to-End Delay, PARP exhibits the lowest delay (50 ms), indicating quicker data delivery compared to AODV (70 ms), DSR (75 ms), GRP (60 ms), and PBR (65 ms). This lower delay translates to faster communication within the network. Network Throughput for PARP is also the highest at 450 kbps, surpassing the other methods, reflecting its superior capability to handle data efficiently. Additionally, PARP has the lowest Energy Consumption (120 J), which implies better energy efficiency compared to AODV (150 J), DSR (160 J), GRP (130 J), and PBR (140 J). As the network size decreases to 25 nodes and further to 5 nodes, the performance of PARP remains consistently superior or comparable to other protocols, demonstrating its robustness across varying network conditions. This consistent performance highlights PARP's effectiveness in optimizing routing decisions through its AI-enhanced approach.

6. CONCLUSION

The proposed AI-enhanced Position Assisted Routing Protocol (PARP) demonstrates significant improvements in routing performance compared to existing methods such as AODV, DSR, GRP, and PBR. By using position-based routing with DQN reinforcement learning, PARP effectively leverages spatial information and adaptive learning to optimize routing decisions in wireless networks. The experimental results show that PARP achieves superior performance in key metrics, including Packet Delivery Ratio (PDR), End-to-End Delay, Network Throughput, and Energy Consumption. Specifically, PARP delivers the highest PDR, shortest delay, and greatest throughput, while maintaining the lowest energy consumption across various network sizes and configurations. This enhanced performance is attributed to PARP's ability to dynamically adapt to network conditions and refine routing strategies based on real-time data and learned experiences. The results underscore the protocol's efficiency and reliability in managing data transmission, making it a robust solution for modern wireless networks. Thus, PARP's combination of position-based information and AI-driven optimization represents a significant advancement in routing protocol design, offering a promising approach to addressing the challenges of efficient data transmission in dynamic network environments.

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