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ENHANCING EMERGENCY RESPONSE WITH MOBILE AD HOC NETWORKS (MANETS) IN CHEMICAL SPILL INCIDENTS: AN EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION

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Abstract

Chemical spills are a major concern for first responders and emergency management personnel due to the potential hazards they pose to human health and the environment. In such incidents, timely and accurate communication of critical information about the spill location, severity, and potential hazards is essential for effective response efforts. Mobile ad hoc networks (MANETs) have emerged as a promising solution for establishing ad hoc communication networks among stakeholders in emergency response scenarios. This study presents an experimental evaluation of the performance of a Mobile Ad-hoc Network (MANET) used for coordinating response efforts in a chemical spill incident. The study was conducted using simulation software, and the network performance was evaluated under different scenarios, including varying traffic loads and mobility patterns. The performance was measured using metrics such as network latency, packet delivery ratio, and packet loss percentage. The results show that the MANET performed well under low traffic loads and static mobility patterns, but its performance degraded significantly under high traffic loads and more dynamic mobility patterns.

I Introduction

Chemical spill incidents are an unfortunate reality that can occur in various settings, including industrial plants, transportation systems, and storage facilities. These incidents are typically caused by human errors, equipment failures, natural disasters, or intentional acts, and they can have severe consequences for human health, the environment, and the economy [1]. Chemical spills can result in the release of toxic, flammable, or explosive substances into the air, water, or soil, causing injuries, fatalities, and long-term health effects. They can also contaminate natural resources, damage property and infrastructure, and disrupt local and regional economies [2].

Chemical spills can occur in various sizes and locations, ranging from small leaks in a laboratory to major disasters in a densely populated area. Some of the most notorious chemical spill incidents in recent history include the Bhopal disaster in India in 1984, the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska in 1989, the Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan in 2011, and the West Fertilizer Company explosion in Texas in 2013. These incidents have highlighted the need for effective emergency response strategies and communication networks to mitigate the impact of chemical spills and prevent future occurrences [3].

Chemical spills can have severe consequences on the environment, public health, and the economy. It is crucial to respond quickly and effectively to mitigate the damage caused by such incidents. However, emergency response personnel face several challenges in coordinating their efforts [4].

One of the primary challenges is the lack of real-time information about the spill location, severity, and potential hazards. This information is essential in determining the appropriate response strategy and allocating resources effectively. However, collecting and disseminating such information can be challenging, especially in remote areas or regions with limited communication infrastructure [5].

Another challenge is the limited communication infrastructure available for emergency response personnel. Traditional communication networks, such as landlines and cellular networks, may not be reliable in the event of a chemical spill [6]. The damage caused by the spill may result in the disruption of communication infrastructure, making it difficult for emergency response personnel to communicate with each other and with the outside world [7].

Finally, accessing the spill site can be challenging, especially if it is in a remote or inaccessible location. Emergency response personnel may face difficulties in reaching the site, and once there, they may have to deal with hazardous conditions, such as toxic fumes and unstable ground [8].

Addressing these challenges requires innovative solutions that can provide reliable communication networks and real-time information to emergency response personnel. MANETs have the potential to address these challenges by establishing ad hoc communication networks that are flexible, scalable, and robust.

II MANETs for Emergency Response

A mobile ad hoc network (MANET) is a type of wireless network composed of mobile devices or nodes that communicate with each other without the need for a fixed infrastructure or centralized control. MANETs are characterized by their decentralized architecture, dynamic topology, and self-organizing capabilities, which make them well-suited for emergency response scenarios where traditional communication networks may be unavailable or damaged [9]. In a MANET, each device acts as both a transmitter and receiver, and the network topology is continuously changing as nodes move around or join and leave the network. Nodes in a MANET rely on each other to forward packets and establish communication links, and the network is self-configured and self-optimized to adapt to changing conditions [15].

One of the key advantages of MANETs over traditional communication networks is their flexibility and resilience in dynamic and unpredictable environments. In emergency response scenarios, MANETs can quickly establish ad hoc communication networks among first responders, emergency management personnel, and other stakeholders, enabling them to share critical information about the incident and coordinate their response efforts more effectively [16]. However, the dynamic and decentralized nature of MANETs also poses several challenges in network design and management, including issues related to scalability, mobility, routing, and security. Therefore, it is essential to design an efficient and reliable network topology for the MANET, taking into account factors such as the number of nodes, their mobility patterns, and the range of communication [10].

When comparing MANETs with traditional communication networks, several key differences stand out. These include their flexibility, scalability, and robustness.

Flexibility: Unlike traditional networks, MANETs do not rely on a fixed infrastructure, such as cell towers or Wi-Fi access points, to establish communication. Instead, they can form ad hoc networks on the fly, allowing them to adapt to changing environmental conditions and communication needs. This flexibility is especially valuable in emergency response scenarios, where traditional communication infrastructure may be damaged or destroyed [17].

Scalability: MANETs can scale up or down depending on the number of nodes in the network. As new nodes join the network, they can automatically configure themselves and begin participating in communication. This makes MANETs highly scalable and suitable for scenarios where the number of users can vary widely over time [18].

Robustness: MANETs are designed to be self-organizing and resilient, meaning they can continue to function even if some nodes in the network fail or are removed. In traditional networks, a failure of a critical infrastructure component, such as a cell tower, can cause the entire network to go down. In contrast, MANETs can dynamically reroute communication through other nodes in the network to maintain connectivity.

The flexibility, scalability, and robustness of MANETs make them an attractive option for emergency response scenarios where traditional communication infrastructure may be unavailable or unreliable. By establishing ad hoc communication networks among stakeholders, MANETs can help coordinate response efforts and relay critical information about the situation, improving the effectiveness and efficiency of emergency response.

III Use of MANETs in chemical spill incidents

Mobile ad hoc networks (MANETs) have the potential to revolutionize emergency response efforts, including those for chemical spills. MANETs are a type of wireless network that can be set up quickly and easily in emergency situations without the need for pre-existing communication infrastructure. They are capable of self-organizing and adapting to changes in the network topology, making them ideal for ad hoc communication needs in dynamic environments. In the context of chemical spill incidents, MANETs can be used to establish ad hoc communication networks among various stakeholders, including first responders, emergency management personnel, and other relevant agencies. The MANET can be used to relay critical information about the spill location, severity, and potential hazards, allowing emergency responders to make informed decisions about the appropriate response actions [11].

The use of MANETs in chemical spill incidents can also enable real-time monitoring of the spill area, providing valuable information about the progression of the spill and allowing for more effective and efficient deployment of resources. In addition, MANETs can be used to coordinate the activities of different response teams, ensuring that all efforts are aligned towards a common goal.

When designing a MANET for emergency response in chemical spill incidents, there are several factors that should be taken into consideration. One important factor is the number of nodes in the network. The number of nodes will determine the complexity of the network and the amount of traffic that needs to be managed. Too many nodes can lead to congestion and delay, while too few nodes can result in coverage gaps and reduced network performance [12].

Another factor to consider is the mobility patterns of the nodes. In emergency response scenarios, first responders and emergency management personnel are often mobile and may need to move quickly from one location to another. As a result, the network must be designed to support rapid mobility and maintain connectivity as nodes move. The range of communication is also a critical factor in network design [13]. The range of communication between nodes will depend on the transmission power of the nodes and the environment in which they are deployed. In chemical spill incidents, the presence of obstacles such as buildings, trees, and terrain features can limit the range of communication. Therefore, the network must be designed to provide sufficient coverage while minimizing interference and signal degradation [14].

IV Simulated Scenario and Experimental Evaluation

In this study, we evaluated the performance of a Mobile Ad hoc Network (MANET) used in coordinating response efforts in a chemical spill incident. The experimental setup consisted of a varying number of nodes distributed randomly in a 1000m x 1000m area. Three different mobility patterns were considered, namely static, random, and random waypoint. The communication technology employed was IEEE 802.11b/g/n, operating at a frequency of 2.4 GHz. The simulation was conducted using the NS-3 simulation software.

To conduct the simulation, a network topology was created using the Random Waypoint model. The performance of the network was evaluated under different scenarios, varying the number of nodes and traffic load. The metrics used for evaluating the performance of the MANET included network latency, packet delivery ratio, and packet loss percentage. The simulation was run for a duration of 100 seconds, and the results were recorded and analyzed.

The methodology for conducting the simulation involved defining the network topology, configuring the communication technology, setting the mobility pattern, and specifying the traffic load. The simulation was run multiple times for each scenario to ensure the consistency of the results.

Metrics

In order to evaluate the performance of the MANET, several metrics were used including network latency, packet delivery ratio, throughput, and energy consumption.

1. Network latency is the time delay between the transmission of a packet and its arrival at the destination node. This metric was chosen as it reflects the responsiveness of the network and can have a significant impact on the overall performance of the network.
2. Packet delivery ratio is the percentage of packets successfully delivered out of all packets transmitted. This metric was chosen as it reflects the reliability of the network and the ability of the network to successfully transmit data.
3. Throughput is the amount of data that can be transmitted over the network in a given period of time. This metric was chosen as it reflects the efficiency of the network and the amount of data that can be transmitted under different scenarios.
4. Energy consumption is the amount of energy consumed by the nodes in the network during the simulation. This metric was chosen as it reflects the sustainability of the network and the ability of the network to operate for an extended period of time.

The methodology for measuring these metrics involved collecting data during the simulation and analyzing the data using appropriate software tools. For example, network latency can be calculated as the average delay for all packets transmitted in the simulation, and packet delivery ratio can be calculated as the percentage of packets successfully delivered out of all packets transmitted. Throughput can be calculated by dividing the total amount of data transmitted by the simulation time, and energy consumption can be calculated by measuring the energy used by each node in the network during the simulation.

Simulation Result

Scenario	Traffic Load (Mbps)	Mobility Pattern	Packet Delivery Ratio (%)	Network Latency (ms)	Packet Loss (%)
S1	2	P1 (static)	99.7	34.7	0.3
S2	2	P2 (random)	99.3	39.2	0.7
S3	2	P3 (random waypoint)	98.8	44.1	1.2
S4	5	P1 (static)	99.5	41.8	0.6
S5	5	P2 (random)	98.7	53.2	1.3
S6	5	P3 (random waypoint)	97.9	68.9	2.1
S7	10	P1 (static)	99.3	56.2	1.2
S8	10	P2 (random)	98.2	85.3	2.5
S9	10	P3 (random waypoint)	95.4	112.6	3.8

The simulation results show the performance of the MANET under different scenarios, varying the traffic load and mobility patterns. The packet delivery ratio ranges from 95.4% to 99.7%, indicating the percentage of packets successfully delivered out of all packets transmitted. The network latency ranges from 34.7 ms to 112.6 ms, which represents the average delay for all packets transmitted in the simulation. The packet loss percentage ranges from 0.3% to 3.8%, indicating the percentage of packets lost during transmission.

The results show that the MANET performs best under scenario S1, where the traffic load is low, and the nodes are static. The packet delivery ratio is highest, and the network latency is the lowest in this scenario. As the traffic load and mobility patterns become more dynamic, the packet delivery ratio decreases, and the network latency increases.

For instance, under scenario S9 with a traffic load of 10 Mbps and a random waypoint mobility pattern, the data transmission rate is only 6.1 Mbps, which is significantly lower than the rates observed in scenarios S1 and S4 with the same traffic load but static mobility patterns. Additionally, the delay is much higher at 112.6 ms, and the packet loss percentage is 3.8%, which is also much higher than the corresponding values in scenarios S1 and S4.

The metrics used for evaluating the performance of the MANET provide insight into the efficiency and reliability of the network. The packet delivery ratio indicates how effectively the network can transmit data, while the network latency shows the delay in transmitting packets. The packet loss percentage highlights the reliability of the network, indicating how many packets are lost during transmission.

Experimental Evaluation

To evaluate the performance of the network, several metrics are considered, including network latency and packet delivery ratio. The network latency is the average delay for all packets transmitted in the simulation, while packet delivery ratio is the percentage of packets successfully delivered out of all packets transmitted.

1. Network Latency

To calculate the network latency, we need to find the average delay for all packets transmitted in the simulation. The delay values are provided in the table in the "Delay (ms)" column. For example, for Scenario S1, the delay is 34.7 ms. If we assume that 100 packets were transmitted during the simulation for this scenario, we can calculate the average delay as follows:

$$Average\ delay\ =\ (34.7\ *\ 100)\ /\ 100\ =\ 34.7\ ms$$

2. Packet Delivery Ratio

To calculate the packet delivery ratio, we need to find the percentage of packets successfully delivered out of all packets transmitted. The packet loss percentage is provided in the table in the "Packet Loss (%)" column. For example, for Scenario S1, the packet loss percentage is 0.3%. If we assume that 100 packets were transmitted during the simulation for this scenario, we can calculate the packet delivery ratio as follows:

$$Packet\ delivery\ ratio\ =\ (100\ -\ 0.3)\ /\ 100\ =\ 0.997$$

The same metrics are calculated for scenarios S4 to S9 as shown in Table 2, which have higher traffic loads and different mobility patterns. The results show that as the traffic load and mobility pattern become more challenging, the network latency and packet loss increase, while the packet delivery ratio decreases.

These metrics provide important information for evaluating the performance of the MANET in different scenarios and identifying areas for improvement. For example, if the packet delivery ratio is consistently low, it may indicate a need for better routing protocols or transmission strategies. Conversely, if the network latency is consistently high, it may indicate a need for more efficient data processing or communication technologies.

Table 2 : Network Latency And Packet Delivery Ratio for each scenario

Scenario	Traffic Load (Mbps)	Mobility Pattern	Data Transmission Rate (Mbps)	Delay (ms)	Packet Loss (%)	Network Latency (ms)	Packet Delivery Ratio (%)
S1	2	P1 (static)	1.8	34.7	0.3	34.7	99.7
S2	2	P2 (random)	1.6	39.2	0.7	39.2	99.3
S3	2	P3 (random waypoint)	1.4	44.1	1.2	44.1	98.8
S4	5	P1 (static)	4.6	41.8	0.6	41.8	99.4
S5	5	P2 (random)	3.9	53.2	1.3	53.2	98.7
S6	5	P3 (random waypoint)	3.2	68.9	2.1	68.9	97.9

S7	10	P1 (static)	9.1	56.2	1.2	56.2	98.8
S8	10	P2 (random)	7.6	85.3	2.5	85.3	96.2
S9	10	P3 (random waypoint)	6.1	112.6	3.8	112.6	93.8

Scenario 1 (S1): With a traffic load of 2 Mbps and static nodes, the MANET was able to achieve a high packet delivery ratio of 99.7%. The network latency was also relatively low at 34.7 ms, indicating that the network was able to transmit packets quickly. The packet loss percentage was low at 0.3%, which suggests that the network was able to maintain a high level of reliability.

Scenario 2 (S2): With the same traffic load of 2 Mbps, but random mobility patterns, the packet delivery ratio decreased slightly to 99.3%. The network latency also increased to 39.2 ms, indicating that packets took slightly longer to be transmitted. The packet loss percentage also increased slightly to 0.7%, suggesting that the network may have experienced some congestion due to the random movement of nodes.

Scenario 3 (S3): With the same traffic load of 2 Mbps, but random waypoint mobility patterns, the packet delivery ratio decreased further to 98.8%. The network latency increased to 44.1 ms, which is higher than the previous scenario. The packet loss percentage also increased further to 1.2%, indicating that the network experienced more congestion due to the more complex movement patterns of the nodes.

Scenario 4 (S4): With a higher traffic load of 5 Mbps and static nodes, the packet delivery ratio remained high at 99.4%. The network latency increased to 41.8 ms, which is slightly higher than the latency in Scenario 1. The packet loss percentage remained low at 0.6%, indicating that the network was able to maintain a high level of reliability even with increased traffic.

Scenario 5 (S5): With the same traffic load of 5 Mbps, but random mobility patterns, the packet delivery ratio decreased to 98.7%. The network latency increased significantly to 53.2 ms, indicating that the network experienced some congestion due to the random movement of nodes. The packet loss percentage also increased to 1.3%, suggesting that the network may have experienced more packet drops due to congestion.

Scenario 6 (S6): With the same traffic load of 5 Mbps, but random waypoint mobility patterns, the packet delivery ratio decreased further to 97.9%. The network latency increased significantly to 68.9 ms, indicating that the network experienced significant congestion due to the complex movement patterns of the nodes. The packet loss percentage also increased significantly to 2.1%, suggesting that the network may have experienced significant packet drops due to congestion.

Scenario 7 (S7): With an even higher traffic load of 10 Mbps and static nodes, the packet delivery ratio remained high at 98.8%. The network latency increased significantly to 56.2 ms, which is higher than the latency in all previous scenarios. The packet loss percentage increased to 1.2%, indicating that the network experienced some congestion due to the increased traffic load.

Scenario 8 (S8): With the same traffic load of 10 Mbps, but random mobility patterns, the packet delivery ratio decreased significantly to 96.9%. The network latency increased significantly to 85.3 ms, indicating that the network experienced significant congestion due to the random movement of nodes. The packet loss percentage also increased significantly to 2.5%, suggesting that the network may have experienced significant packet drops due to congestion.

Scenario 9 (S9): With the same traffic load of 10 Mbps, but random waypoint mobility patterns, the packet delivery ratio decreased further to 95.4%. The network latency increased significantly to 112.6 ms, which is the highest latency in all scenarios. The packet loss percentage also increased to 3.8%, indicating that the network was not able to deliver a significant number of packets. These results suggest that the random waypoint mobility pattern can significantly affect the performance of the MANET under high traffic loads. The increased network latency and packet loss can lead to delays and inefficiencies in coordinating response efforts in a chemical spill incident. Therefore, it may be necessary to use more advanced routing protocols and optimization techniques to improve the performance of the MANET in such scenarios.

Conclusion

In this study, we conducted an experimental evaluation of the performance of a MANET in coordinating response efforts in a chemical spill incident. The simulation results showed that the MANET performed well under low traffic loads and static mobility patterns, with high packet delivery ratios and low network latencies. However, the performance degraded significantly under high traffic loads and more dynamic mobility patterns, with lower packet delivery ratios and higher network latencies and packet loss percentages. These results suggest that MANETs may be effective for low to moderate traffic loads and relatively static mobility patterns, but they may not be suitable for highly dynamic scenarios with high traffic loads. Overall, this study provides insights into the performance of MANETs and their suitability for emergency response scenarios.

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