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## Distributed Multi-weight Data-gathering and Aggregation Protocol in Fleet Wireless Sensor Networks: Optimal and Heuristic Algorithms

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**Abstract:** Clustering Algorithm is a kind of key technique used to reduce energy consumption, which can increase network scalability and lifetime. The main goal of this research is concerning protocols to contain in-motion sensor nodes in large-scale topologies, and constitute a fleet wireless sensor network which can assistant in-flight localization and alignment for carrier-based aircraft. In this paper, we abstract network model according to specific conditions of F-WSN, and select performance indicators to evaluate it. A distributed multiple-weight data gathering and aggregation protocol (DMDG) is proposed, which contains all-sided active clustering scheme and realizes long-range realtime communication by tacical data link under a TDMA/CSMA channel sharing mechanism. An analytical paradigm facilitating the most appropriate choice of the next relay is proposed. Experimental results have shown that DMDG scheme can balance the energy consumption and extend the network lifetime notably, outperform LEACH, PEACH, and DEEC in terms of network lifetime and coverage rate, especially in sparse node density or anisotropic topologies.

Keywords: Wireless sensor networks; Clustering algorithm; Data gathering; Lifetime; Carrier-based aircraft

#### 1. Introduction

With the development of the very-large-scale integration(VLSI), micro-electro-mechanism system (MEMS) and networking technology, wireless sensor networks (WSNs) have attracted more attention lately[1]. The envisioned applications of wireless sensor networks range widely, such as environment monitoring, disaster surveillance, millitary target tracking, and medical treatment, among others. Therefore, technics related to wireless sensors are under active research and development in recent years.

The finial purpose of this paper is to design a fleet wireless sensor network (F-WSN) which can meet the need of localization and in-flight alignment for carrier-based aircraft. There are many challenges when designing and deploying F-WSN in those conventional WSN protocol, and an unavoidable one is how to make full use of the limited sensor resource to provide a long and precise service.

Because of the network nodes are sparse and in-motion, a network has to be designed to utilize its sensing resource efficiently. Many efforts have been devoted to sensing resource efficiency of wireless sensor networks, most of which proposed new protocols to preserve sensing resource as much as possible during the process of collecting data[2,3]. Many researchers focused on next-hop selection strategies, which made one-hope neighboring nodes or multiple link candidates consume sensing resource evenly for transmitting data[4,5]. There are already some successful examples of fleet networks, including joint tactical information distribution system (JTIDS), MIDS etc. With the assistant of tactical data link(Link-16 or TTNT), the network provide precise navigation information including position (or relative position), velocity (or relative velocity), heading angle, and system clock. However, these networks were designed on the early ad-hoc technology, which was unperfect and had its inherent defects. So it is necessary to design an all-purpose F-WSN protocol frame based on the up-to-date progress of WSN theory.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows. Section 2 surveys related work, including basic concepts and model. Section 3 introduces the proposed DMDG protocol. Section 4 discusses the protocol performance. Section 5 concludes the paper.

## 2. Related work

Work in the area of cluster-based wireless sensor networks is quite extensive, with energy efficiency and scalability being the main focus of many of the clustering protocols proposed so far[6-10]. Similarly, much work has been done on sensor activation protocols, which focus on selecting a subset of the active sensor nodes that are sufficient to satisfy the network's coverage requirments. Compare to traditional WSNs, fleet sensor network has special characters in a couple of aspects, including high-powered links, high speed nodes, sparse and very-large-scale working range etc. In this section, we discuss the related work that has been done take account of these pionts.

#### 2.1 Network model

In this subsection, we first introduce the characteristics of WSN and then define the network model of WSN. We model the WSN as a graph,  $G=(C,E,R_c)$ , which consists of a set of mobile nodes,  $C = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_m\}$ , and a set of wireless links, E, each sensor node consists of components of sensing, computing and wireless transmission. Assume that each node has the same transmission radius  $R_{\star}$  and the same sensing radius  $R_s$ . The notations used in this paper are defined in Table 1.

Before discussing the nuture of this problem, we give the following assumptions for the feasibility of the F-WSN, which include monitor area, transmission channel and communication environment.

Assumption 1 (Monitor area). The monitor area of F-WSN  $A_c$  is a cylinder, which is equivalent with the tradition definition of defense area.

$$A_c = \{(x, y, z) | x^2 + y^2 \le R_{\text{cov}}, 0 \le z \le h_{\text{cov}} \}$$
 (1)

where  $R_{cov}$  is monitor radius,  $h_{cov}$  is monitor height.

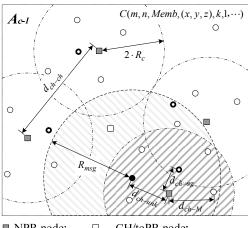
**Assumption 2** (Signal link). The transmission path adopts tactical data link. To meet the requirement of real-time performance and reliability,  $R_c$  is defined as 1/3-1/5 ratio to the effective tansmission radius

of the link, and assumped that the bit error rate (BER) is invariable.

Table 1. Notation and definition in F-WSN

Notation	<b>Definition</b>			
4	Work area of the fleet wireless sensor			
$A_c$	network			
$C = \{C_1, C_2, \cdots, C_m\}$	Set of F-WSN mobile nodes			
$E = \{(i,j)   s(i,j) \le 2R_c\}$	Set of wireless links			
$C_{Msg} \in G$	Structure message of F-WSN nodes			
	C = (ID, HD, Type, XYcord, Nbn, CP, Nbs[])			
$\mathit{Link}_{j}^{i}( au)$	Signal links between node $i$ and $j$			
	at time $\tau$			
$Type_k^i$	Type of the node $i$ in cluster $k$ ,			
	$Type_{k}^{i} \in \{Memb, CH, agent, NR, toCH, toNR\}$			
$R_{msg}(i)$	Maximum transmission range of			
	node i			
$R_c(i)$	Sensing radius of node i			
$T_{life}(i)$	Lifetime of network sensor i			

**Assumption 3** (Communication environment). The statistical property of the NLOS propagation accord with exponential distribution, while the time-delay accord with Bernoulli distribution. The coupling and interfere in electro magnetic environment are mutually independent white noise with zero means.



- NPR node; CH/toPR node;
- Memb/toCH node; o agent node;
- uncertain node;----- transmit radius/clusting-verge

Figure.1 Sketch map of F-WSN model

Fig.1 is an example of F-WSN, in which the type of area coverage  $A_{c-1}$  is considered.  $A_{c-1} \subset A_c$ , and  $d_{ch-ch}$ ,  $d_{ch-M}$ ,  $d_{ch-unk}$ ,  $d_{ch-ag}$  represent the distance between neighbor cluster-heads, cluster-head to cluster-member, cluster-head to uncertain node, and cluster-head to agent node respectively.  $2R_c$  is the cluster radius, and  $R_{msg}$  is the searching radius of uncertain node. Each interested grid has at least one sensor node within it or the grid can be sensed by neighbor sensors.

#### 2.2 Evaluating Indicator Used in F-WSN

#### (1) Coverage relavant model

Coverage is an important issue of WSNs and is narrowly related to energy saving, connectivity, network reconfiguration, etc[11-14]. The problem of how well a given area  $A_c$  can be monitored by the F-WSN which is known as coverage, can be described by two aspects. The following is the main methods we adopt to assess coverage, which comprise 3D k-coverage model and the NSC (necessary and sufficient condition).

**Definition 1.** (3D *k*-covered problem). Given a set of *N* sensors in area *P*, the radius of sensor node is  $R_c$ , if there is  $C_{i1}, \dots, C_{ik} \in \{C_1, \dots, C_n\}, k \ge 1$ . In this case, every position v in area P can meet the following formula

$$v \in \bigcap_{j=1}^{k} \left\{ x \middle| dist(x, C_{ij}) \le R_c \right\}$$
 (2)

Then area *P* is 3*D k*-coverage by  $\{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n\}$ .

Theorem1 is the necessary and sufficient condition used to determine the connected coverage set, which has been proved by Zhang H etal in literature [2].

**Theorem 1.** Given a set of N sensors C in three-dimensional area P,  $C = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_N\}$ , the communi-cating radius of sensor node is  $R_c$ , the sensing radius of sensor node is  $R_c \ge 2R_s$ .  $\exists C_i \subset C$ ,  $C_i = \{C_{i1}, \dots, C_{ik}\}$ . If sensing area of  $C_i$  can complete cover P, the set  $C_i = \{C_{i1}, C_{i2}, \dots C_{ik}\}$  is a connected coverage set.

#### (2) Link Consumption Indicator

Link quality is one of the key factors which affected the application of WSN technique. In this paper, we adopt tactical data link to extend it to solving the fleet-network-buildup problem, in which the following link consumption model is adopted.

For relatively short distances, the propagation loss is modeled as being inversely proportional to  $d^2$ , whereas for longer distance, the propagational to  $d^4$ . Power control can be used to invert this loss by setting the power amplifier to ensure a certain power at the receiver[15-17]. Therefore, to transmit

and to receive an l-bit packet in a distance d, the radio expends the following energy, respectively:

$$E_{Tx}(l,d) = l \cdot E_{Tx-elec} + E_{Tx-amp}(l,d)$$

$$=\begin{cases} l \times E_{elec} + l \times \varepsilon_{fl} \times d^2 & d < d_0 \\ l \times E_{elec} + l \times \varepsilon_{amp} \times d^4 & d \ge d_0 \end{cases}$$
 (3)

$$E_{Rx}(l,d) = E_{Rx-elec}(l) = l \times E_{elec}$$
 (4)

where  $d_0$  is the free space model and multipath fading model.  $E_{Tx-elec}$  is the electronics energy and depends on factors such as digital coding, modulation, and filtering of the signal before it is sent to the transmit amplofier. The parameters  $\varepsilon_{fi}$  and  $\varepsilon_{amp}$  depend on the required sensitivity and the noise figure of the receiver[12].

For the experiments decribed in this paper, we adopted the parameters of the radio chips similar to those in [6] to determine the parameters values in Eqs.(1) and (2). Then we have the representative values of the parameters  $\varepsilon_{amp} = 0.0013 pJ/bit/m^4$ ;  $E_{elec} = 50 nJ/bit$ ;  $\varepsilon_{ft} = 10 pJ/bit/m^2$ .

## 3. DMDG protocol

In this section, we present the distributed multiple-weight data gathering and aggregation protocol (DMDG) after describing the nerwork model and evaluating indicator adopted, which consists of three parts as described in the following subsection.

#### 3.1 Clustering algorithm

The hierarchical clustered sensor network is composed of a number of clusters. The follows are some important definitions used in the clustering algorithm.

**Definition 2.** (Initial probability for cluster-head).  $p_{init} = \beta \cdot ID_i/ID_{\max} + (1-\beta) \cdot GDOP_i/GDOP_{\max} \qquad (5)$  where  $ID_i$  is the initial priority of sensor node i,  $ID_{\max}$  is the maximum priority within the spheric radius  $r_c$ ,  $GDOP_i$  is the GDOP (geometric distribution of position) of sensor node i,  $GDOP_{\max}$  is the optimum GDOP within the spheric radius  $r_c$ , and  $\beta$  is a self-adapting weighing factor.

**Definition 3.** (Electing-factor for cluster head, EFCH).

$$W_{i} = \alpha \cdot \left(E_{ij} / \overline{E}^{r}\right) + (1 - \alpha)/2 \cdot \frac{d_{\max} - d_{toBS}^{i}}{d_{\max} - d_{toBS}}$$

$$+(1-\alpha)/2 \cdot GDP_k \tag{6}$$

where  $\alpha$  is a self-adapting weighing factor,  $\alpha = 1/(2+\beta)$ ,  $(\beta = E_{ij}/\overline{E}^r)$ .  $E_{ij}$  is the mean energy value of communicated comsumption between sensor node  $C_i$  and other nodes in the same cluster,  $\overline{E}^r = E_{total}(r)/m$ .  $d_{toBS}^i$  is the distance between  $C_i$  and cluster-head node  $CH_k$ .  $d_{toBS}$  is the distance between  $CH_k$  and the cluster-center,  $d_{toBS} = \sum_{i=1}^m d_{toBS}^i / m$ .  $GDP_k$  is the GDOP of cluster-head node  $CH_k$ .

Table 2. Main clustering procedure pseudo-code

**Input:** Sensing range Rs,maximum transmission range Rt,sensor nodes set V,and  $\varepsilon_0$ .

**Output:** agent,  $C_{CH}$ ,  $C_{PR}$ .

- 1. for all  $u,v \in V(G)$ ,  $i \in NEW(G)$  do
- 2. while round==1 // F-WSN initialization
- 3.  $C[v].\{ID,Type\} \leftarrow sensor[i].\{PRI,Power\}$
- 4. Subprogram GetFirst CHs();
- 5. end-while
- 6. while round==0 // F-WSN regular circuit
- 7. if(C.new $\cap V(G) = \emptyset ||C[i] \cap V(G) = \emptyset$ )
- 8. Subprogram NEW DEAD();
- 9. elseif(toCH[v]  $\cup$  toAgent[v] $\neq \emptyset$ )
- 10. Subprogram RENEW\_agent();
- 11. Subprogram RENEW\_CHs();
- 12.  $CHs[v] \leftarrow NEW\_CHs[v]$ ;  $AGs[v] \leftarrow NEW\_AGs[v]$ ;
- 13. end-if
- 14.  $CHs[u] \leftarrow CHs[v]; AGs[u] \leftarrow AGs[v];$
- 15. CHs.{} **⇒** Ags.{};
- 16. BroadcastMsg(Ags[*u*].{ID,nbn,*Level*,CP});
- 17. BroadcastMsg(CHs[*u*].{ID,nbn,*Level*,CP});
- 18. while(toPR[v] $\neq$ Ø&round==0)
- 19. Subprogram RENEW PRs();
- 20. BroadcastMsg(C[i].{ID,nbn,Level,CP})
- 21. end-while
- 22. BroadcastMsg(C[i].{ID,nbn,Level,CP});
- 23. end-for

#### **Definition 4.** (Correlation among sensor-nodes).

 $\forall C_i, C_j \in G(V)$ ,  $\exists R(C_i, C_j) \in R^+$ ,  $i \neq j$ , if  $||D(C_i, C_j)|| \le r$ ,  $||R(C_i, C_j)|| = 1$ ; else if  $||D(C_i, C_j)|| > r$ ,  $||R(C_i, C_j)|| = n+1$ , where n is the sensor number beween  $C_i$  and  $C_j$ , r is the average 1-hop distance, then

 $R(C_i, C_j)$  is called as the correlation between node  $C_i$  and  $C_i$ .

Now we describe our cluster formation algorithm in detail. The algorithm consists of three stages. In the initial stage, F-WSN nodes initiates the clustering procedure(Lines 2-5), round=1, fleet sensors <code>sensor[i]</code> join into the network and obtain their own <code>IDs</code> and <code>Types</code>, which are proportional to <code>PRI</code> and <code>power</code> of their link-terminal, then run the subprogram <code>GetFirst\_CHs()</code> to elect the first cluster-head and agent, which is direct ratio to <code>ID</code> and <code>Type</code>.

When F-WSN is formed, round=0, the program of regular circuit(Lines 7-21) will be performed. In the beginning of every cycle, cluster-heads should judge whether there are new-comming requisitions C.new or new-dead node, and judge whether there are new requisition for cluster-head toCH[v] and for agent to Agent[v], then executes relative treating subprograms NEW DEAD(),RENEW agent(), RENEW CHs(), in which the first one is related to IDs and Types, and the last two subprograms are mainly determined by  $p_{init}$  and  $W_i$  which is defined in Definition 2 and Definition 3. When CHs[i] is selected as a cluster head, it broadcasts message Msg() to all other nodes to indicate its identity and adjust TDMA format. The agent and cluster-head also communicate every cycle to backup information to preserve robustness and stability of the network. The procedure also handling the request for reference RENEW PRs() to realize renew of the network and assure load-balance of the clustering protocol.

#### 3.2 Data aggregation and communication

This subsection presents the data aggregation mechanism and the communication mode among F-WSN nodes. The data transmitted among network members mainly has four portions, including the communication between reference nodes  $C_{PR}$  and cluster-head  $C_{\it CH}$  , cluster-head  $C_{\it CH}$  and the neighbor cluster-head, cluster-head  $C_{CH}$  and the cluster member  $C_{CM}$ , and cluster member  $C_{CM}$  and the 2-hop neighbor node. Each transmission process has its own packet mode, including broadcast, data-centric, local transmission, and multicast. The data packets have an unified scheme, main portions of which are shown in Table 3. Mainly composed of synchronous head, node's structural information  $C_{Msg}$ , sphere coordinate coefficient  $TS_{CA}$ , relative velocity  $V_C$ , heading angle  $\phi_C$ , system time  $t_A$ 

etal. The received variables should accord with transmission demand and uniform formats, and the redundant information should be neglected.

Table 3. The format of data packet

Packet	head	$C_{Msg}$	$TS_{CA}$	$V_C$	$\phi_C$	$t_A$
NR-CH	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	_	$\sqrt{}$	
СН-СН	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	_	_		$\sqrt{}$
CH-CM	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	_		$\sqrt{}$
CM-CM	$\sqrt{}$	$\checkmark$		$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	_

The four packet formats which are put forward in Table 3 have their appointed operation occasion and objects. Then we analyze them detailedly as follow.

- **NR-CH:** The data packet between reference node and cluster-head node  $C_{CH}$  has three kinds of process: (1) the position reference nodes  $C_{PR}$  broadcast global coordinate information and the network distributing variable to cluster-head nodes  $C_{CH}$ ; (2) the time reference nodes  $C_{TR}$  broadcast system time  $t_A$  to  $C_{CH}$  and other network member; (3)  $C_{CH}$  uploads its own sensing parameter and cluster-member dynamic information to neighbor  $C_{PR}$ , which can be used for the next reference nodes' election.
- **CH-CH:** This transmiting process is to modify locali-zation information for each other, which is used to define cluster verge. It is also used to acquire *ID* of neighbor cluster-head node, which can be a relay node for multi-hop transmission.
- **CH-CM:** In this process, cluster-head  $C_{CH}$  collects sensing information from its own cluster members  $C_{CM}$ , which is used for data aggregation and fusion. Then  $C_{CH}$  transmits system time  $t_A$ , transition matrix  $TS_{CA}$ , and other information to  $C_{CM}$  under a TDMA channel sharing mechanism.
- **CM-CM:** In this process, cluster-head  $C_{CH}$  broadcast sensing information to neighbor cluster-heads in its own TDMA-based time slot. This information is mainly used to crrect navigation parameters including position, velocity(or relative velocity), and heading angle. Other information is calculated into evaluating indicators, which are diffined in section 2.2 and 3.1, for the next cluster-head election.

## 3.3 Three-dimensional routing algorithm

When the network is clustered, specific methods for intracluster and intercluster communications depend on applications. For intracluster communication, the nodes can directly send data to the cluster head using time-division multiple-access (TDMA) schedule, just as in LEACH[7].

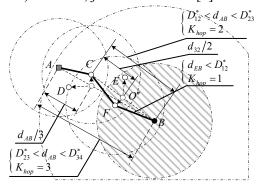


Figure.2 Geographic routing algorithm in F-WSN

As shown in Fig.2, when node B broadcasts a packet, all the one-hop neighbors receive that packet. In order to avoid recipient ambiguity in a local broadcast, the incoming label of a node must be unique at least in its 2-hop neighbors. In the label assignment phase, the cluster-head must execute an algorithm to ensure that each node is allocated a unique incoming label. A 3-D heuristic routing algorithm is proposed for this purpose, which can be expatiated in the following example.

- **Step 1:** When node A receive the request packet from the node B, firstly, estimate whether the distance between node B and A ( $d_{AB}$ ) satisfy the responsing condition,  $d_{AB} \le 2 \cdot R_c$ , and calculate the number of optimum hops ( $K_{hop}$ ) if the condition is satisfied, if not, ignore the request. As shown in Fig.2,  $K_{hop} = 3$ .
- **Step 2:** Node *A* computes the first trisectional point *O'* between *A* and *B* based on geographic position got from the request packet, then confirm point *O'* as the ideal next-hopposition.
- **Step 3:** Node A compares all the distance between one-hop neighbor (node C and D) and point O', then choose the next-hop node with the following equation,  $Hop = \min_{i} \{P_i P_{opt}\}$ , in which i is ID of one-hop neighbors. So in the case of Step 2, the next-hop neighbor of node A is C, which obtain the information pactet.
- Step 4: Node C repeats the steps (step(1),(2),

(3)), and confirm the next-hop relay E, where  $K_{hop}$ =2, then the node F obtain its next-hop relay B, where  $K_{hop}$ =1. So the route is confirmed, and the information transmitted through the route A-C-F to B, the routing procedure is over.

#### 4. Performance evaluation and simulation

To evaluate the performance of our scheme and compare it to both the association sponsor and central angles method, a set of simulations have been carried out, which are described in the following section.

## 4.1. Simulation set-up

The proposed DMDG protocols were evaluated by extensive computer simulations by Matlab 7.1 and compared with LEACH[7], DEEC and PEACH The performance compared includes network lifetime, costs associated to clustering and backbone formation, as well as the properties of generated clusters[19-24]. The simulations are conducted with  $R_{cluster} = 2 \cdot R_s$ , and main simulation parameters are summarized in Table 4. We assume that all the messages received from the cluster members can be aggregated into a single message.

Table 4 Main Simulation Parameters

Table. 4 Main Simulation Parameters				
Parameters	Values			
Network size(Rcov,h)(km)	20,2			
The number of sensor nodes	30 or 50			
Sensing range $(Rc)(m)$	5000~10000			
Maximum transmission range	15000			
(Rtmax)(m)				
Time interval for reporing data	30s			
MAC protocol	TDMA/CSMA			
Radio frequency (MHz)	960~1206			
$E_{elec}$ in the energy model( $\mu J/bit$ )	1.16			
$d_0$ in the energy model( $km$ )	10			
$\varepsilon_{f}$ in the energy model $(pJ/bit/m^2)$	10			
$\varepsilon_{amp}$ in the energy model( $pJ/bit/m^4$ )	0.0013			

## 4.2. Performance result and analysis

Fig. 3 presents the average power consumption per node obtained by using LEACH, DEEC and DMDG, and average number of hops versus the number of nodes when the maximum transmission range  $R_{msg} = 15000m$ , and the number of the node

increase from 5 to 50. It is clearly in Fig.3(a) that DMDG always achieves the lowest power consumption and a relative stable hop number,  $N_{hop} \approx 2$ , which is gradually increasing in LEACH and DEEC. The average power consumption using DMDG can be as low as 0.637 when compared to LEACH, and 0.824 when compared to DEEC. The stability in average number of hops results in stable of end-to-end delay, this can prove to be an advantage since it is convenient for estimating end-to-end delay and guarantee a data synchronism.

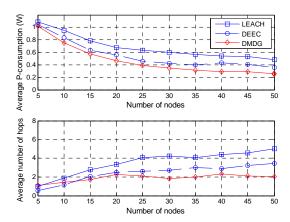


Figure.3 Average power consumption and average number of hops vs. the number of nodes, N

Fig. 4 presents the lifetime and stable periods of the related LEACH, DEEC, PEACH and DMDG protocol. The result is closely related with the topocol balance of the F-WSN. In the case of networks using DMDG with the maximum transmission range  $R_{msg} = 5000 \, m$ , the proportion of dead nodes(renew for mission) is 26% in lifetime, and increase slowly in stable period(about 51% in the fourth day), which is much better than other protocols.

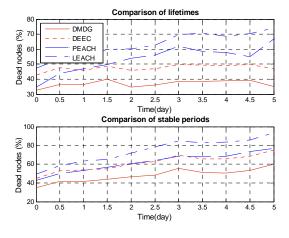


Figure.4 Comparison of lifetime and stable periods between LEACH, PEACH, DEEC and DMDG

Fig. 5 shows the coverage rate versus proportion of dead nodes in different sensing range  $R_c = 5,8,10 km$ . Comparing the tendency curves of coverage rate with the increasing dead node, in which adopt 3D-coverage model introduced in Definition.1, k = 2, and consider the interfere from in-motion nodes. The result shown that DMDG can achieve a full 2-coverage if the number of the dead nodes  $n_{dead} \le 11$  when  $R_c = 5km$ ,  $n_{dead} \le 20$  when  $R_c = 8km$ , and  $n_{dead} \le 29$  when  $R_c = 10km$ , this conclusion approve that the DMDG protocol can guarantee a high coverage environment in a fleet network with low density in-motion nodes.

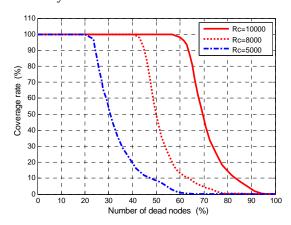


Figure 5 Coverage rate vs. number of the dead nodes  $(R_c = 5.8.10 \text{km})$ 

#### 5. Conclusion and future work

This paper presented a new clustering and routing scheme, the distributed multiple-weight data gathering and aggregation protocol (DMDG), which works under long distance sparse F-WSN and can efficiently guarantee a long stable coverage rate through a unit circle test. Simulation results also show that DMDG protocol can significantly extend the network lifetime when compared with other approaches. The F-WSN with DMDG protocol is equally applicable to the cases of three-demensional localization and in-flight alignment for carrier-based aircraft. The detail performance evaluation of these cases will be resolved in the following research.

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