

# A Survey on Distributed Detection of Byzantine Attacks in WSNs

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**Abstract**— Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) have played a vital role, and is believed to be one of the vast and emerging technologies as there are several innovative applications both for public sector and military systems. The type of sensing technology used in WSNs combined with the processing power continues to be rich and get to be utilized in abundance in the forthcoming applications. Thus, due to their unlimited prospective views, WSNs are currently receiving substantial attention in several fields of inquiry. Additionally, despite the fact that WSNs are characterized by severely constrained computational and energy resources, they are still complemented by their limitless potential and hence they are currently getting trivial interest. Nevertheless, it is yet too early in the life of such systems to get established, as there are many research challenges that are still to be seen. Therefore, much research has been concentrated on making sensor networks feasible and useful rather than concentrating much on the security aspects of the deployment.

**Keywords**— Sensor Security in WSNs, Byzantine Attacks, Distributed Detection. MANETs.

## I. INTRODUCTION

A WSN is a wireless network consisting of spatially distributed autonomous devices using sensors to cooperatively monitor physical or environmental conditions, such as temperature, sound, vibration, force per unit area, motion or pollutants, at different placements. Fig.1 shows the typical Multi-hop WSN architecture. The development of WSNs was originally prompted by military applications such as battlefield surveillance.

However, WSNs are now employed in many industrial and civilian application areas, including industrial process monitoring and control, machine health monitoring, environment and habitat monitoring, health care applications, home automation, and traffic control.

In addition to one or more sensors, each node in a sensor network is typically equipped with a radio transceiver or other wireless communications device, a small microcontroller, and an energy source, usually a battery. The envisaged size of a single sensor node can vary from shoebox-sized nodes down to devices the size of grain of dust, although functioning 'motes' of genuine microscopic dimensions have yet to be created. The monetary value of sensor nodes is similarly variable, running from hundreds of pounds to a few pence, depending on the size of the sensor network and the complexity required of individual sensor nodes. Size and price constraints on sensor nodes result in corresponding constraints on resources such as vitality, memory, computational speed and bandwidth [1].

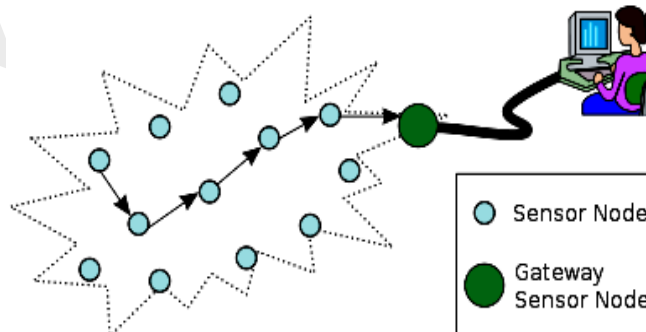


Fig. 1 Multi-hop WSN Architecture

Byzantines intend to deteriorate the detection performance of the network by suitably modifying their decisions before transmission to the Fusion Center (FC). Byzantine Attacks are not only considered to be the most severe threat to WSNs, but they

tend to make it more challenging to protect it from gaining full control over some of the authenticated nodes, eventually, which may lead to the uninformed behavior to disrupt and collapse the system.

Distributed Detection is a classical subject in signal processing and has attracted recent interest due to the possible deployment of wireless detectors for a diversity of applications from environmental monitoring to military surveillance. Most of the research in the field of Distributed Detection has been carried out under the assumption of a secure network. But in the recent past, researchers have looked into the problem of security threats on sensor networks [1].

The rest of this paper is structured as follows. Section II presents distributed detection problems. An overview of existing distributed detection in MANETs is described in section III. Then, in section IV research issue is explained. Finally conclusion presented in the section V.

## II. ISSUES IN DISTRIBUTED DETECTION

The classical problem of Distributed Detection considered in the work [2], limits the sensors to get compromised by an intruder. As a result, all the compromised sensors which refer to as Byzantine tend to get reprogrammed by the intruder to attack the FC by transmitting fictitious observations. The uncompromised sensors that are referred to as honest can then follow the expected rules of operation. But, in the context of distributed detection, sensors are more vulnerable to tampering due to the Byzantine Sensor problem which is particularly motivated by the applications of envisioned WSNs. However, the wireless sensors then can be made of low cost devices adhering to the severe constraints on battery power. But, this requires that such practical limitations make use of sophisticated encryption, which eventually makes it more unrealistic.

Furthermore, the wireless transmission medium is more vulnerable to eavesdropping, which makes it possible for the attacker to extract information from sensor transmissions. As a result, the adversary can employ a wide range of strategies, including deploying its own sensors aimed at jamming the transmission of honest sensors or, in a more sophisticated way, transmitting optimally designed signals to confuse the FC.

The analytical characterization of the ability that Byzantine Sensors can affect the decision at the FC is considered is further elaborated in this study [2]. Specifically, this work is proposed from the intruder's perspective, and suggests the most effective attacking strategies by the Byzantine Sensors. As a result, it is evident that when too many sensors are compromised, the FC will lose its ability to detect the underlying phenomenon. But this work proposed lack in defining 1. The minimum population size of the Byzantine Sensors such that the fusion network is rendered completely ineffective. 2. The achievable performance without knowing which sensor is compromised in a situation where a decision maker is bound by an upper bound or with the given sensor population.

The work proposed in [3], a standard model in Distributed Detection under binary Hypotheses  $H_0$  versus  $H_1$  with known distributions is studied. In such a model, all the sensors are assumed to draw observations that are independent, and identically distributed (i.i.d) and conditioned on the unknown hypothesis. But, as studied in [4], the classical assumption of conditional independent and identically distributed (i.i.d) observations may not always be valid in practice and the literature is evident of such complications of correlated observations. Therefore, the work studied in [3], recognizes the limitations, and makes the conditional independent and identically Distributed (i.i.d) assumption for analytical tractability and gain insights into how Byzantine Sensors can affect the overall performance.

Recent researches in wireless communication and portable computers with two or more mobile nodes already issued a temporary network without the use of network infrastructure or centralized management of the sensor mobile network you can create. Source and destination mobile node to communicate with each other, if not within the scope of the data packets to the mobile parts which is between the relaying transmissions through other mobile hosts in the mobile host is not allowed to do. A sensor node, the node captured from the same identity (ID) number of copies of the lead, and malicious activities, and strategic levels of the network makes the replicas. Possible security metrics and efficiency metrics of distributed detection in WSN are given below.

Distributed Detection in the presence of Byzantine Sensors created by an intruder is studied. Further, this work characterizes the power of attack analytically. As a result, this work is able to provide closed-form expressions for the worst detection error exponent of an optimized NP detector at the FC, and for the corresponding attacking distributions. The work further gives an expression of the minimum attacking power above which the ability to detect is completely destroyed. As in the case of vector

observations, they find that an intruder infecting less than 50% of the nodes cannot completely impair the system, regardless of the distributions of the sensors' observations. Metrics need to be considered in distributed detection are presented at a lower place.

#### A. Security Metrics

- *Node revocation:* When replicated nodes are detected, the WSN should be capable of revoking them quickly. To prevent a node replication attack, an efficient scheme has to detect whether the nodes are compromised or not. Therefore, an intruder cannot use this malicious nodes eavesdrop on the communication of other sensors, or inject false data reports that make a server misjudge.
- *Collusion resistance:* If a number of nodes leave the network or are compromised by the intruder, the intruder cannot use these nodes' security element to compromise the whole network. A good detection mechanism must resist the collusion of malicious nodes.
- *Resilience:* When an intruder physically captures several sensor nodes and collects all secret elements. Then he inserts the secret element in his malicious sensor nodes and deploys the malicious sensor nodes into the network. If resilience is high, the network is still available. Otherwise, if resilience is low, it may make the whole network broken down.
- *Lightweight:* Sensor nodes are usually composed of low memory, energy and computation. Sensors cannot afford the heavy replication detection mechanism which will consume large power and complex computation. Therefore, a lightweight detection scheme is an important principle for resource-constrained wireless sensor network.

#### B. Efficiency Metrics

- *Memory:* Sensor's memory always stores node's identity that can identify each legitimate sensor node in the network, security element, such as node's public, private key and session key.
- *Energy:* Energy consumption is one of the most important things that have to be concerned in wireless sensor network. Complex computation will lead to an amount of energy consumption, so designing an efficient detection scheme is a necessary task.

### III. PRIOR STUDY WORK

Wang and Tseng [5] proposed systematical solutions to the k-coverage sensor placement problem and distributed sensor dispatch problem. Their placement solutions allow an arbitrary relationship of sensors' communication distance and their sensing distance, and can work properly under both binary and probabilistic sensing models. It is verified that the interpolating placement scheme requires fewer sensors to ensure k-coverage of the sensing field and connectivity of the network as compared with the duplicate placement scheme. Their dispatch solutions are based on the competitive nature of a distributed network. Simulation results have shown that the competition-based dispatch scheme performs better than the greedy and pattern-based dispatch schemes. However, by selecting sufficient seed locations, the pattern-based scheme can work as efficient as the competition-based scheme.

Bharathidasan et al. [6] have done a survey on the various issues in sensor networks like energy efficiency, routing and localization and the various schemes proposed for these issues and have given brief descriptions of these schemes and conventional routing protocols being used in sensor networks also simulators for sensor networks are discussed. Further work is necessary in the areas of media access control, security and privacy.

Chong et al. [7] introduced more than two decades ago, it was more a vision than a technology ready to be exploited. The early researchers in DSN were severely handicapped by the state of the art in sensors, computers, and communication networks. Even though the benefits of sensor networks were quickly recognized, their application was mostly limited to large military systems. Technological advances in the past decade have completely changed the situation. MEMS technology, more reliable wireless communication, and low-cost manufacturing have resulted in small, inexpensive, and powerful sensors with embedded processing and wireless networking capability..

Perrig et al. [8] presented a suite of security building blocks optimized for resource constrained environments and wireless communication. SPINS has two secure building blocks: SNEP and  $\mu$ TESLA. SNEP provides the following important baseline security primitives: Data confidentiality, two-party data authentication, and data freshness. A particularly hard problem is to provide efficient broadcast authentication, which is an important mechanism for sensor networks.  $\mu$ TESLA is a new protocol which provides authenticated broadcast for severely resource-constrained environments. They implemented the above protocols,

and show that they are practical even on minimal hardware: the performance of the protocol suite easily matches the data rate of their network. Additionally, they demonstrate that the suite can be used for building higher level protocols.

Rodhe et al. [9] proposed a protocol for query authentication in a sensor network where there is multi-hop communication and the queries are broadcasted by the base station into the network. Authenticating the queries is important so attackers cannot modify existing queries because this would lead to wrong readings; or insert new ones into the network because this would lead to waste of energy. They propose a layered query authentication protocol that ensures that, in the presence of less than  $n$  captured nodes, unauthorized queries are stopped after a small number of hops.

Zhang et al. [10] demonstrated in this paper a novel message authentication approach which adopts a perturbed polynomial-based technique to simultaneously accomplish the goals of lightweight, resilience to a large number of node compromises, immediate authentication, scalability, and non-repudiation. Extensive analysis and experiments have also been conducted to evaluate the scheme in terms of security properties and system overhead.

Chan et al. [11] presented the first algorithm for provably secure hierarchical in-network data aggregation. Their algorithm is guaranteed to detect any manipulation of the aggregate by the adversary beyond what is achievable through direct injection of data values at compromised nodes. In other words, the adversary can never gain any advantage from misrepresenting intermediate aggregation computations.

Awerbuch et al. [12] illustrated a detailed description of several Byzantine attacks (black hole, flood rushing, wormhole and overlay network wormhole), analyze their mechanisms and describe the major mitigation techniques. Through simulation, they perform a quantitative evaluation of the impact of these attacks on an insecure on-demand routing protocol.

Marano et al. [13] considered distributed detection in the presence of Byzantine sensors created by an intruder, and characterized the power of attack analytically. They are able to provide closed-form expressions for the worst detection error exponent of an optimized NP detector at the fusion center, and for the corresponding attacking distributions.

Kosut et al. [14] demonstrated an explicit characterization of the region of achievable rates for a Byzantine attack on distributed source coding with variable-rate codes, deterministic fixed-rate codes, and randomized fixed-rate codes. They saw that a different set of rates were achievable for the three cases, and gave converse proofs and rate achieving coding schemes for each. Variable-rate achievability was shown using an algorithm in which sensors use randomness to make it unlikely that the traitors can fool the coding process.

In the work proposed in [15], the problem of FDR based Distributed Detection in the presence of Byzantines is discussed. Firstly, it studies the work proposed in [2] and is observed that deflection coefficient is not the best heuristic for the design of FDR based Distributed Detection framework in non-asymptotic cases. Hence, in this work, there are several observations made:

- It is observed that the optimization is performed offline by finding the optimal parameter value through brute-force search.
- Through empirical studies and analytical justifications, it is observed that system performance can be improved by the use of Kolmogorov-Smirnov distance as the design heuristic.

#### IV. RESEARCH ISSUES

Distributed Detection in the presence of Byzantine Sensors created by an intruder is studied. Further, this work characterizes the power of attack analytically. As a result, this work is able to provide closed-form expressions for the worst detection error exponent of an optimized NP detector at the FC, and for the corresponding attacking distributions. The work further gives an expression of the minimum attacking power above which the ability to detect is completely destroyed. As to the case of vector observations, they find that an intruder infecting less than 50% of the nodes cannot completely impair the system, regardless of the distributions of the sensors' observations.

Therefore, there are number of future research challenges:

- It may be of interest to consider a Bayesian formulation with a priori probabilities assigned to the hypotheses, so that the asymptotic performance can be measured in terms of the Chernoff information in such a setting.

- The tools and schemes that were used in this work can be further exploitable for studying the attacks of a less dangerous intruder that does not know the true state of the nature.

Variable-Rate Distributed Source Coding in the Presence of Byzantine Sensors is studied assuming that the traitors have access to all the source values. However, such an assumption is considered to be vital in many of the converse proofs that are dealt in this work. But, this is a significant assumption that may not be all that realistic. Therefore, it would be worthwhile, though perhaps it appears to be more difficult, to perform the following in the future research line.

- Firstly, to characterize the achievable rate region without this assumption.
- Secondly, performing the variable-rate source coding by assuming that the traitors have access only to their own source values or possibly degraded versions of those of the honest sensors. Finally, considering the Byzantine Attacks on other sorts of multi-terminal source coding problems, such as the rate distortion problem still remain as the future research challenge.

Interest in WSNs across industry and academia continues to be very high, even though now a day's experiencing a bit of a "backlash" due to the large number of academic research groups getting involved and few successes commercially to date. The vast popularity of WSNs as a research field for academia has left some to feel that it is becoming difficult to make fundamental contributions although the field is still very young. There is also a sense of ossification behind the Tiny OS and mote platforms which are premature since many application domains involve quite different hardware and software demands than provided by that system. This "second system effect" will likely subside over the next year or so and it will become clearer where the lasting contributions and research directions lie.

Some of the research issues are:

- *Transducer design*: Developing new sensor transducers that are compact, low power, and cost effective. Bio-degradable / environment-friendly sensor design.
- *Electronic system design*: The system design is one of the promising challenge areas where several new breakthroughs are possible in the near term leading to fundamentally new design directions. Integrating sensors with the appropriate electronic circuitry to extract digital data, using sensor feedback to enhance the data collection within the electronics, and providing low noise outputs using sensor arrays.
- *Node design*: Developing low power sensor nodes with appropriate processing and networking capabilities.
- *System Design*: Developing sensor networks of several nodes and integrating them with application specific information systems.
- *Protocol*: Distributed algorithms, Power Aware Routing, Dissemination, Time Synchronization, Security, Middleware, Localization of sensors, Data aggregation Techniques, Multimodal sensor fusion, Energy-Efficient real-time Scheduling.

## V. CONCLUSION

In this paper a detailed review of Multi-hop WSN Architecture is provided. The problems in distributed detection in wireless sensor networks are presented; an extensive literature survey on distributed detection of byzantine attack in wireless sensor network is summarized. Grounded on this literature survey and issues in distributed detection, subject research issues are presented.

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