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## Research Article

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# Implementation of Intelligent Algorithms for Localization of Wireless Sensor Network for secure wireless communication applications

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## Abstract—

Sensors are important devices to collect the information for many applications. The present era is using internet of things (IOT) which is basically working on sensors. The inputs or status of the system is monitored using these sensors embedded in the system under consideration. These sensors need to be small in size, has to consume less power, more reliable and consistence. Wireless sensor network (WSN) is a collection of sensors which work together to do a particular task. This cluster of sensors are called nodes and has its own power and ability to communicate to other nodes in the cluster. The location of sensors in the cluster is required to be identified for proper data analysis. When the data is received from the sensor the location is also mapped with it then only proper action can be taken based on signal and location. In WSN few sensor locations are known which are called anchors, from these anchors, the location of unknown sensors are estimated. In this paper, intelligent algorithms firefly and flower pollination algorithm (FPA) are used to find the location of the sensors. The performance of the algorithms is compared with their accuracy to find the location, and convergence speed.

## Keywords—

Wireless sensor network, intelligent algorithm, firefly algorithm, flower pollination algorithm, sensor node localization.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Smart city, smart home, and many other smart controls are the intelligent operation of the system, which operates independently without human supervision. These intelligent control techniques require monitoring of the environment and change in the state. The monitoring is possible by sensors, and most of the time its wireless. For the smart and better control, many inputs at different locations either with same time or at particular time slot is essential. This forms the network of wireless sensors [1]. A sensor is a node in WSN, which is tiny and has sensing elements, power backup for its functionality, analog to digital (ADC) converter required to convert the sensed analog quantity into digital format as required by the WSN. It also has a small memory unit, a transmitter, a receiver and a processing unit. The anchor nodes positions are known and other nodes positions are not known in the WSN. Localization or finding the location of these unknown nodes depends on terrain, signal strength, hardware functions and irregularities of WSN space [2]. These sensors may be wearable and helpful for the humans in need. Patients in need of external support and suffering from memory loss may use these sensors. The monitoring of such sensors from the hospital or in central control unit requires to find the locations of the sensors. In a predefined search space, artificial neural network (ANN) may train based on the past history to find the present location of the sensors. ANN is an intelligent algorithm and

is used to find the locations of the sensors with maximum of 6% error [3]. In practical applications, hundreds of sensor nodes are deployed to form a WSN and they communicate among them in wireless medium. Accurate location of the sensor nodes is important to make proper control scheme. GPS is the best method but it is expensive and made the sensor nodes bulky and not suitable for many applications. The location may be in 2 dimensional or 3 dimensions

based on the applications for which the WSN is designed [4]. Optimization algorithms are widely used for the following applications in WSN namely sensor localization, energy efficient clustering, optimal coverage and data aggregation. Bio inspired optimization techniques are commonly used for this optimization in WSN [5]. Localization is the process of finding the location of the unknown sensor node from the reference of anchor or base station nodes. A cluster consists of few anchor nodes and many unknown nodes. The process of localization is to find the position of unknown nodes based on the position of anchor nodes [6]. WSN applications are extended to healthcare, military, autonomous vehicle and many more. Most of these applications require self localization of the unknown node in the WSN. It is a challenging task for the WSN of low cost and low power application as compared to high power GPS [7]. Many intelligent and bio inspired algorithms are used for the WSN for localization, energy efficient clustering and optimal coverage. One among them is the firefly algorithm. It uses the intelligence of the firefly insects for the optimization technique. The firefly is the insect which emits light on its stomach. This light is flashing at some frequency based on the need of the insect [8]. The firefly emits its light and it observes the light of the brightest firefly then the firefly moves towards the brighter one. This makes the faster convergence of the firefly insect with its groups. The same technique is used in the optimization to get the faster convergence for the localization of the unknown nodes [9]. Firefly is a random search which has attraction between the two light emitting insects, the brighter gives more attraction and fast movement towards the best results. The less attraction among the firefly makes premature convergence and hence care to be taken for the implementation of this algorithm [10]. Constraint firefly algorithm finds the solution in the space bounded by the boundary conditions is helpful for the real time application [11]. Flowering plants survive in the universe for many billions of years and its characteristic is used to develop the algorithm called flower pollination algorithm (FPA) [12]. The steps involving in the FPA is simple and has only two steps, they are local pollination and global pollination. In global pollination the insects or animals or birds are involved [13]. The insects' behavior is modeled with levy flight constant and included in the global pollination [14]. The switching constant decides

the pollination of the flower to be local or global pollination. The global pollination pollinates the flowers with the global flower, and in the local pollination, the global flower is not involved in the pollination process [15]. The section 2 gives the problem formulation, section 3 explains the firefly algorithm, section 4 explains flower pollination algorithm, section 5 explains results and discussion, and section 6 concludes the paper.

## II. PROBLEM FORMULATION

The unknown sensor node location is estimated using the known location of anchor node. Minimum of three anchor nodes are required to identify the correct location of the sensor node. The distance between the sensor node and the anchors are recalculated and based on this, the location is fixed. The root mean square error is estimated for the sensor node from all the anchor nodes. When the root mean square error is zero, then the correct location is arrived for the sensor node.

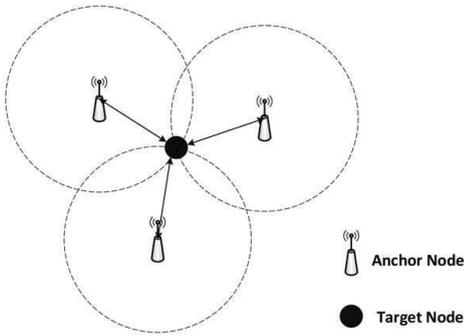


Fig. 1. Three anchor nodes to locate the sensor node

$$D_i = \sqrt{\left\langle \left( (x_{est} - x)_a \right)^2 + \left( (y_{est} - y)_a \right)^2 \right\rangle} \quad (1)$$

The distance between unknown sensor node and the anchor is calculated using the equation (1).  $X_{est}$  and  $Y_{est}$  are the estimated X, Y directions distance between anchor and unknown sensor node.  $X_a$  and  $Y_a$  are the actual distance of the unknown sensor node from the anchor node. The mean square error distance is the objective function of the localization problem and given in the equation (2).

$$f(d) = \left[ \sqrt{\left( (x_{est} - x)_a \right)^2 + \left( (y_{est} - y)_a \right)^2} - D \right]_i \quad (2)$$

The equation (2) is the function of distance and it calculates the square root of the distance error. When this error is zero then the actual position of the unknown sensor node location is arrived.

## III. FIREFLY ALGORITHM

It is a nature inspired optimization algorithm. The intelligence of firefly insect is observed and this algorithm is developed by Xin-She Yang [8]. These insects live as social group. This swarm of insects moves from one place to another in search of food. The behavior of these insects emits light at its stomach called flashing lights. The flashing frequency is different for each insect. More insects will emerge where there is more source of food. From this, one can understand that more brightness indicates the availability of more insects and more food available for them. A firefly

which is away from the swarm has to observe the brightness of the light and it has to move towards the brighter spot to get food and to get mating partner. Figure 2 shows the firefly moving towards the brighter firefly in the group.

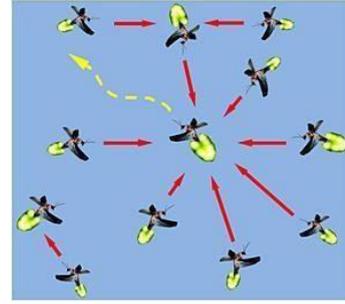


Fig. 2. Firefly moves towards the brighter firefly

For the development of the intelligent algorithm, few idealizations are added into the algorithm. They are, firefly moves towards the brighter firefly irrespective of the sex of the insects. The attractiveness between the firefly depends on the brightness of the emitted light intensity and inversely proportional to the distance between them. Distance is the destructive factor of attractiveness. When a firefly finds no brighter firefly, then it moves randomly to explore the better solution for the considered problem. The brightness is calculated using the objective function of the problem. For the maximization problem, brighter indicates the better result. For the minimization problem, the objective function is inversely considered as the fitness function of the firefly.

### A. Attractiveness

A firefly moves towards the brighter firefly based on the attractiveness among them. The calculation of this attractiveness is given in the equation (3).

$$\beta(x) = \beta_0 e^{-\gamma \cdot x^m} \quad (3)$$

In the above equation (3),  $\beta$  is the attractiveness,  $\beta_0$  is the initial attractiveness,  $x$  is the distance between the fireflies,  $\gamma$  is absorption coefficient and  $m$  is the dimension of the solution space. Most of the problem uses 2 dimensional spaces as a search space and considered in this paper.

### B. Distance

The distance between the fireflies under consideration for the movement is given in the equation (4)

$$x = \|x_i - x_j\| \quad (4)$$

The distance is the norm 2 distance between the two fireflies'  $x_i$  and  $x_j$ .

### C. Movement

The firefly updates its position of moving towards the brighter firefly using the equation (5).

$$F_{i,p+1} = F_i^p + \beta(x) \times x + a \times (r - 0.5) \quad (5)$$

In the above equation (5),  $F_i$  is the firefly position to be updated,  $p$  is the iteration count,  $\beta(x)$  is the attractiveness,  $x$  is the distance,  $a$  is the randomizing parameter,  $r$  is the random number.

#### D. Algorithm

The firefly algorithm for the localization of the unknown sensor nodes is given below.

- Step 1: Initial population of firefly which contributes to the position in the locations space are created.
- Step 2: Set iteration count = 1.
- Step 3: Localization error is considered as the fitness for the firefly.
- Step 4: Attractiveness between the considered firefly and brighter firefly is calculated.
- Step 5: Distance between fireflies is calculated.
- Step 6: The firefly moves toward the brighter firefly.
- Step 7: Step 4 to 6 is repeated for all the fireflies.
- Step 8: Increment the iteration count and check for the maximum value.
- Step 9: If the iteration count is less than maximum then jump to step 3 else stop the iteration and print the results.

#### IV. FLOWER POLLINATION ALGORITHM

It is a nature inspired algorithm. The flowering plants generation and survival are implemented in this algorithm. This algorithm has two simple steps, one is self-pollination and another one is cross or global pollination. Flowering plants are aimed to produce the seeds of the plant to extend its generation. To produce the seeds the pollen is transferred to ovary of the flower. About 10 percent of flower does not need help from the insects. Honeybee is one of the important insect which helps the flower to produce seeds.

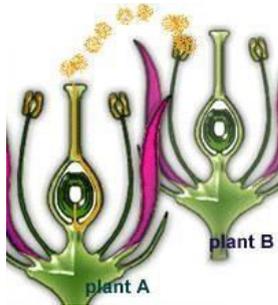


Fig.3. Global pollination of the flower – A

Transfer of pollen from one plant's flower to another plant's flower is called global pollination and shown in the figure 3. The pollen of plant - B is transferred to plant - A's flower ovary. This process needs the help of wind or insects or animal or birds. The two-pollination process is given below.

#### A. Local pollination

The pollen of the flower in the same plant is transferred to the ovary of the flowers. This process is called local pollination and the mathematical equation for the process is given in the equation (6).

$$F_i^{p+1} = F_i^p + \xi (F_j^p - F_i^p) \quad (6)$$

In the above equation (6),  $F_i$  is the flower,  $i$  is the flower undergoing for the pollination,  $j$  and  $k$  are the flowers of the same plant,  $\xi$  is scaling factor and  $p$  is the iteration count.

#### B. Global pollination

The pollen from the flower of plant - B is transferred to the plant - A flower by means of insects or any other biotic nature. This process is given in the equation (7).

$$F_i^{p+1} = F_i^p + L (F_G^p - F_i^p) \quad (7)$$

In the above equation (7),  $F_i$  is the flower,  $i$  is the flower undergoing for the pollination, subscript  $G$  is the global flower having best results in it, and  $p$  is the iteration count.

#### C. Algorithm

The flower pollination algorithm for the localization of the unknown sensor nodes is given below

- Step 1: Initial population of flower which consists of position of the sensor nodes are created.
- Step 2: Localization error is considered as the fitness of the flowers.
- Step 3: Set iteration count = 1.
- Step 4: Set flower count = 1.
- Step 5: For every flower, generate a random number, if the random number is less than the switching constant then execute step 7.
- Step 6: For the flower - local pollination is done using equation (6). After pollination go to step 8.
- Step 7: For the flower - global pollination is done using equation (7).
- Step 8: Increment flower count, and if it is less than number of flower population then go to step 5.
- Step 9: Increment iteration count, and if it is less than maximum number then go to step 4. Else print the results.

#### V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

For the implementation of the firefly and flower pollination algorithm a test case consisting of 40 nodes are considered. In this 40 sensor nodes, 8 sensor nodes are considered as anchor nodes and those locations are known. Rest of the 32 sensor nodes locations are unknown, the intelligent algorithm has to estimate the correct location of these 32 sensor nodes [1]. The boundary of 0 to 100 units is considered for the search space for the 40 sensor nodes. The 40 nodes locations are randomly generated by the MATLAB software. Among them 8 anchor nodes are identified and fixed to estimate the location of other 32 sensor nodes. This search space is two dimensional. The location is  $x, y$  position in the search space of (0,0) to (100,100) units. The unknown sensor nodes locations are estimated one by one. The maximum number of iterations is taken as 100 iterations. If the location of the sensor node is not identified then the best near location is considered. Then next sensor node location is searched in the solution space. Same steps are used to identify all the 32 unknown sensor nodes. The results of the intelligent algorithm are given below.

### A. Firefly algorithm

Forty sensor nodes are created in the solution bounded by the (0, 0) and (100, 100) units of the two-dimensional search spaces. Eight anchor nodes are considered and rest of the 32 unknown sensor nodes are to be located in the solution space.

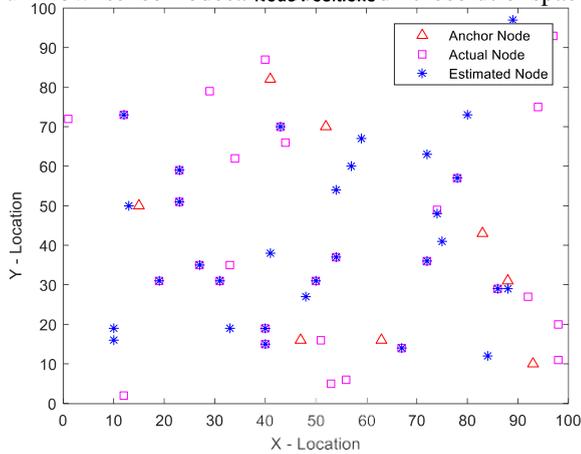


Fig.4. Firefly algorithm localization

In the figure 4, triangles are anchor nodes used to find the location of other unknown nodes. The pink colour square boxes are the actual location of the sensor nodes. Blue colour stars are the estimated location of the algorithm. From the figure it is evident that 15 nodes location are not identified and 17 nodes are identified correctly.

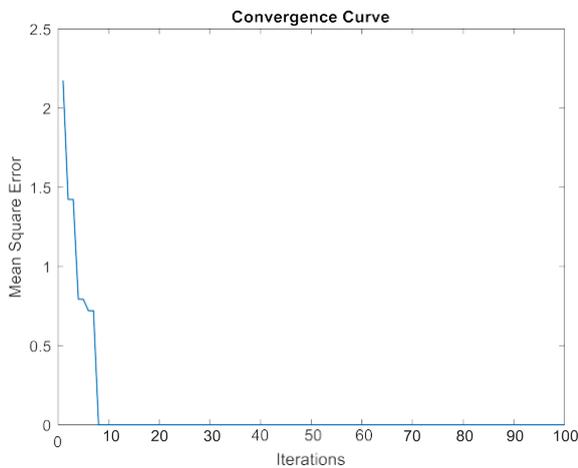


Fig.5. Firefly algorithm convergence curve

Figure 5 shows the convergence curve for one of the identified sensor nodes. The location is estimated correctly at a round 8<sup>th</sup> iteration of the algorithm.

### B. Flowerpollination algorithm

Same localization system is considered for the flowerpollination algorithm for the comparison. In this algorithm also 40 nodes are created in the solution space of (0, 0) and (100, 100) two dimensional space. Figure 6 shows 40 nodes in the solution space. In that 8 anchor nodes are given as red triangle. Based on this position, rest of 32 sensor nodes are estimated. Actual node locations are shown as square box and estimated nodes are shown as blue colour stars.

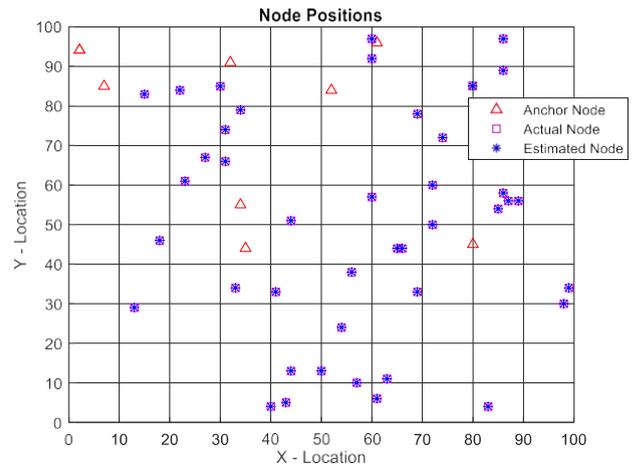


Fig.6. Flowerpollination algorithm localization

From the figure 6, all the unknown sensor nodes are identified.

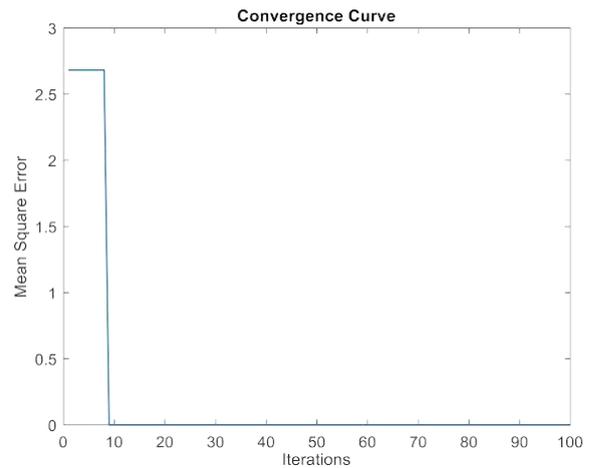


Fig.7. Flowerpollination algorithm convergence curve

Figure 7 shows the convergence curve of the flowerpollination algorithm. The nodes are identified and one of its node convergence is shown in the above figure. The node is identified after about 9 iterations.

Both the algorithms, firefly and flowerpollination algorithms are used to identify the location of the unknown sensor nodes. Firefly algorithm is unable to find all the nodes in the solution space. In flowerpollination all the unknown sensor nodes are identified and shown in the figure 6.

Table I, compares two algorithms considered, from this we can know that flowerpollination algorithm gives better localization.

TABLE I. COMPARISON OF ALGORITHMS

Parameters	Firefly Algorithm	Flower Pollination Algorithm
Total Nodes	40	40
Anchor nodes	8	8
Unknown sensor Nodes	32	32
Identified Nodes	15	32
Values of constants	$\beta_0=1, \gamma=0.96,$ $\alpha=0.2$	$\epsilon=0.3,$ $r=1 \text{ to } 100$

## VI. CONCLUSION

Wireless sensor networks are common and are increasing their use day by day. Due to cost efficiency and miniature size, GPS is not included in these sensor nodes. The localization of these sensor nodes is important to take valid and better monitoring and control of the system. Nature inspired algorithms firefly algorithm and flower pollination algorithm are used to identify the location of the unknown sensor nodes. For this, a case study with 40 sensor nodes are considered. To identify unknown sensor nodes, anchor nodes are used. The intelligent algorithm finds the location of the sensor nodes. In the comparison study, flower pollination algorithm performs better and identifies all the nodes in the solution space.

This investigation finds its application in optimizing mechanical engineering designs such as design of springs, pressure vessels, speed reducers, robotics. Wireless sensor networks on the whole finds its application in the mechanical engineering stream mainly in the security aspect in the environmental sensing, structural health and equipment monitoring in the aspect of condition monitoring and in the evaluation and improvement in process automation.

## Declarations

### 1. Funding

Not Applicable

### 2. Conflicts of interest/Competing interests

There is no conflict of interest from all the authors in the manuscript.

### 3. \*Availability of data and material

Not Applicable

### 4. \*Code availability (software application or custom code)

Not Applicable

### 5. \*Authors' contributions

T Ashok – Overall concepts, literature survey, Working and ideology, Results development

R Prabhakaran – Supervising, Proof editing

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