

ZigBee Technology for WPAN

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ABSTRACT

A ZigBee Technology is a latest technology that is used in wireless sensor network for controlling and monitoring data with low cost, low consumption of power and time-consuming battery life. ZigBee network provide self-organized and Self-healing network in which various patterns of data traffic is managed. It is used in those applications in which data is controlled and managed by using of sensing devices. Low consumption of power provides time-consuming battery life, high reliability and bulky area range is provided by Mesh networking. This paper presents introduction, design, implementation, and characteristics of ZigBee network. In different technology of wireless communication for LR-WPAN, ZigBee has many features like as low cost, low consumption of power, time-consuming battery life and low data rate.

KEYWORDS: *Low rate Wireless personal area network (WPAN), direct sequence spread spectrum (DSSS), Binary phase shift keying (BPSK), quadrature phase shift keying (O-QPSK), Carrier sense multiple access with collision avoidance (CSMA-CA), Medium access control (MAC)*

Date of Submission: 05-June-2015



Date of Accepted: 15-June-2015

I. INTRODUCTION

A ZigBee is an IEEE802.15.4 standard that is used for WPAN. ZigBee\IEEE 802.15.4 is a standard based wireless technology that allows constituting a WPAN. Sensing within wireless networks is the main use of ZigBee due to very low consumption of power. ZigBee provides connectivity between small packet devices. LR-WPAN/ZigBee is used for devices that have less data rates, low consumption of power and are thus characterize by long battery life. Main objectives of LR-WPAN are simple installation; data transfer is very reliable, very low cost, time-consuming battery life, operation of short range. ZigBee is designed for applications that need to transmit small quantity of data while being battery powered so the architecture of the protocols and the hardware is optimized for low consumption of power of end devices. It provides time-consuming battery life. The application of a ZigBee network are home and building control, automation, wireless sensor network, security, industry control, medical controls, remote control, interactive toys. ZigBee technology is used for these applications that offer time-consuming battery life, reliability of data transfer, the capability to add or remove nodes easily within network and low cost of system.

II. ZIGBEE ARCHITECTURE

ZigBee standard is established by ZigBee alliance. In 2002, ZigBee alliance has formed as a organization of nonprofit. ZigBee standard has adopted MAC (medium access control) layer and physical layer (PHY) of IEEE 802.15.4 standard. Main use of ZigBee networks is in sensor networks of low duty cycle (<1%). Within a network, association and recognition of a new node may be in about 30 mSec, a sleeping node wake up in about 15 mSec to access a channel and transmit data. ZigBee applications have the ability to quickly attach information, detach and go to deep sleep, which provides low power consumption and long battery life.

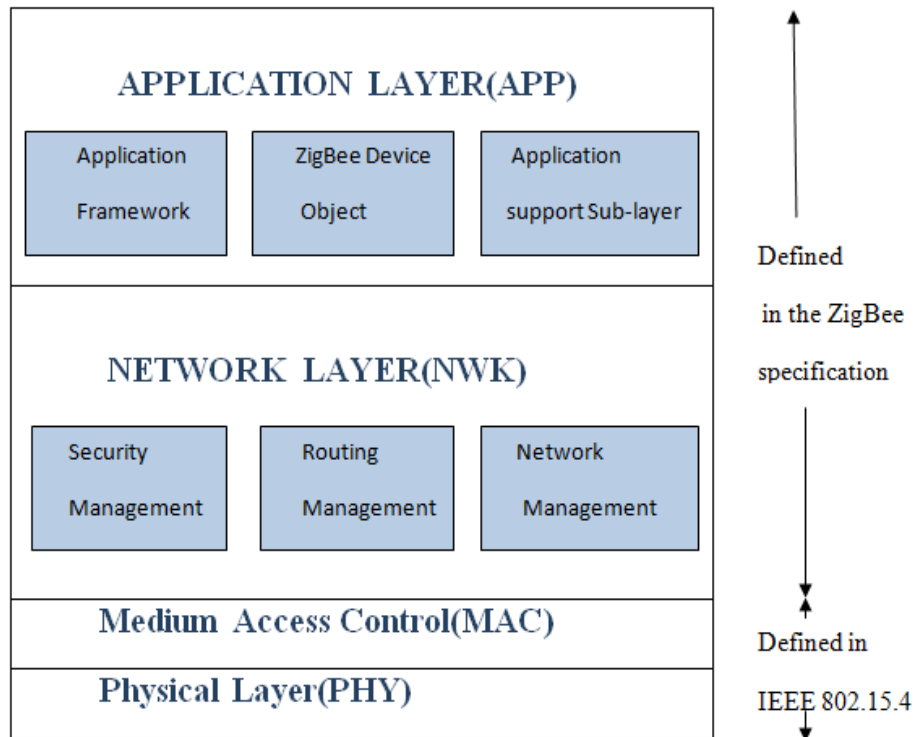


Figure 1: ZigBee Stack Architecture

The IEEE 802.15.4 tells how to establish a connection to a coordinator and disestablish a connection from a coordinator and how to convey messages between End devices and Coordinator. ZigBee standard consist of four layers i.e. the PHY layer, MAC layer, NWK layer and APP layer. The lowest layer i.e. PHY layer and MAC layer is defined by IEEE 802.15.4 standard. The ZigBee specification defines NWK layer, security service and APP layer in which configuration of a network, manipulation and routing of message is provided by network layer, and the intended function of the device is provided by APP layer.

2.1 ZigBee characteristics

ZigBee/IEEE 802.15.4 standard include the features of low power consumption needed for only two major modes i.e. Tx/Rx or sleep, low data rates, high density of nodes per network, low cost and simple implementation. These features are provided by the following characteristics:

- Low power consumption: ZigBee consume low power that provides longer battery life with ranging from months to years.
- Low cost: ZigBee provides low cost of a device, low cost of an installation and low cost of a maintenance.
- Data rates: 20Kbps@868MHz; 40 Kbps@902-928 MHz and 250Kbps@2.4GHz.
- Channel access: Two modes that are used to access of channel. First mode is Carrier sense multiple access with Collision avoidance(CSMA-CA)
- Addressing space: up to 64 bit IEEE Address devices, 65,535 networks.
- Typical range from 10 to 70m.
- Completely reliable “hand-shake” protocol of data transfer
- Different network topologies are used i.e. Star topology, Tree topology and Mesh topology.
- Low latency and high throughput for low duty cycle sensor networks.

2.2 frequency band

ZigBee devices operate in unlicensed radio frequency band(ISM). ISM radio band includes 27 channels categories in three frequency bands i.e. first is 868 MHz, second is 902-928 MHz and third is 2.4 GHz.

Frequency Band	Baud Rate	Modulation	Channel Number	Area Range	Geographical Area
868 MHz	20 Kbps	BPSK	1	10-70 meters	Europe
902-928 MHz	40 Kbps	BPSK	1-10	10-70 meters	America, Australia
2.4 GHz	250 Kbps	QPSK	11-26	10-70 meters	Global

Table1: Characteristics of different ZigBee Frequencies

In range of 868 MHz, channel 0 will be operating and 20 Kbps data rates; in the range of 902-928 MHz, channel 1-10 will be operating and 40 Kbps data rates; Remaining channel of 2.4 GHz frequency band is 11 to 26 will be operating and 250 Kbps data rate. 2.4 GHz is more well-liked frequency band because of; it is used as worldwide. 868 MHz is primarily used for European whereas 902-928 MHz frequency band is used in Canada, United States, a few others countries. Frequency band of 2.4 GHz has higher data rates i.e. 250 Kbps and worldwide availability because of it, this is most advantageous frequency band. In this frequency band, offset Modulation technique of Offset-Quadrature phase shift keying (O-QPSK) is used. In other frequency band i.e. 868 and 902-928 frequency band, direct sequence spread spectrum (DSSS) is used with Modulation technique of binary phase shift keying (BPSK). The use of O-QPSK and BPSK reduce complexity and minimize power consumption.

2.3 Mode of operation

ZigBee employs either of two modes, beacon or non-beacon

Beacon mode: Beacon mode is used when coordinator runs on batteries and thus offers maximum power savings.

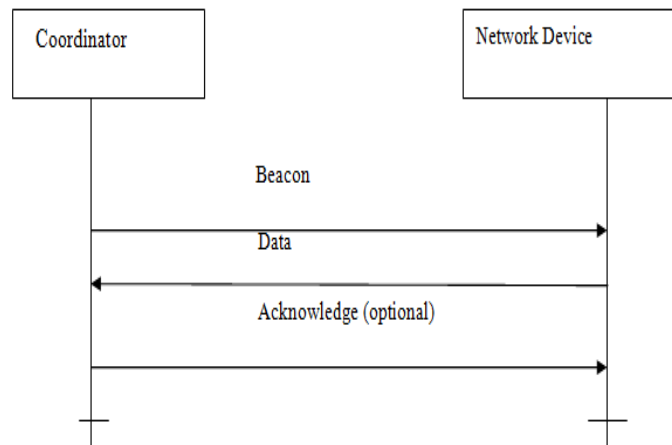


Figure2: Beacon Network Communication

Non-Beacon network: In non beacon mode, devices are ‘asleep’ nearly, as in Burglar alarms and Smoke detectors. The devices get up and sure their presence continued at random intervals within the network

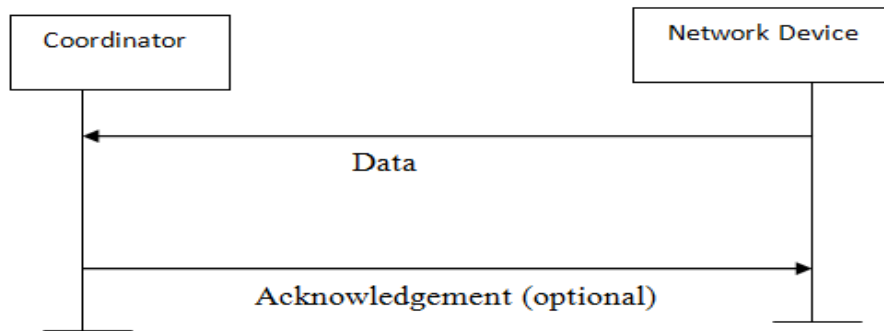


Figure3: Non-Beacon Network communication

2.4 CHANNEL ACCESS AND ADDRESSING

In IEEE 802.15.4, two mechanisms are implemented for accessing a channel. In a beacon enabled network, first mechanism of a channel access is slotted CSMA-CA (Carrier Sense Medium Access – Collision Avoidance). CSMA-CA communicates with +ve acknowledgment for received packets successfully. Slotted CSMA/CA is also used to transmit data. Second mechanism for accessing a channel is Superframe structure i.e. used to channel access. Superframe is a setup by the coordinator of a network to transmit beacon at predefined interval and is separated into 16 equally sized slots. Beacon in the first slot of each Superframe is transmitted. Beacon is used to start Superframes, synchronize with other devices and announce the existence of a PAN and inform pending data in coordinators. Superframe is characterized into 2 parts i.e. active and inactive period. Each portion is equal to 8 slots. Active period of Superframe is known as Superframe duration. Each active period is further characterized into two parts that is called CAP (contention access period) and CFP (contention free period). GTS (Granted time slots) is a group of time slots. Within the CFP, it contains up to 7 GTSs and each GTS contains many time slots. Data of each GTS can transfer either in the direction of transmit that is from child node to parent node (flow of upstream) or in the direction of receive (flow of downstream). Complete portion of active and inactive period is called as a BI (beacon interval) or Superframe. The time among two succeeding periods is called as Beacon interval or Superframe.

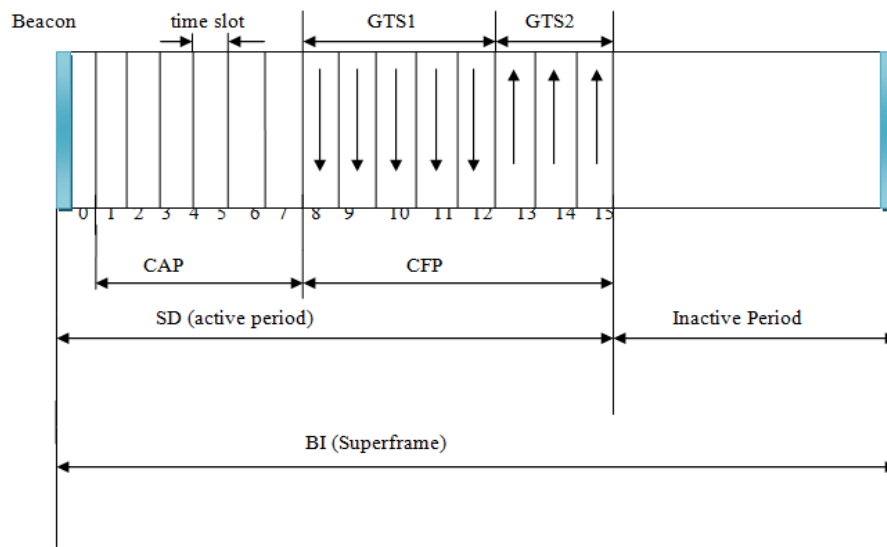


Figure4| Superframe Structure

The Superframe structure is controlled by two parameters that is Superframe Order (SO) and Beacon Order (BO). The Superframe length is defined by BO and the length of an active period of Superframe is also defined by SO parameters. In a beacon enabled network, the BO and SO parameters should assure the condition $0 \leq SO \leq BO \leq 14$ for 11 to 26 channels.

$BI = \text{abaseSuperframeduration} \cdot 2^{BO}$

$SD = \text{abaseSuperframeduration} \cdot 2^{SO}$

The range of Superframe length (abaseSuperframeduration) can be from 15.36 mSec to 215.7 Sec. active period of each device will be $2^{-(BO-SO)}$ and sleep period will be $1-2^{-(BO-SO)}$.

IEEE 802.15.4 standard has 4 basic frame types which are beacon frame, data frame, acknowledgement (ACK) frame and MAC frame.

Beacon frame: Coordinator uses beacon frame to convey beacons. It wake up client devices which listen for their address and go back to sleep if they do not receive it.

Data frame: Data frame is used for transfer of all data. It allowed a payload of up to 104 bytes. The frame is numbered to confirm that all packets are tracked and Frame check sequence (FCS) confirms that without errors of packets are received. It increases reliability in different condition.

ACK frame: Successful frame reception is confirmed by using ACK frame. Feedback from receiver to sender is provided to confirm that the packets were received with no error.

MAC frame: all MAC peer entity control transfer is handled by using MAC frame. It allows the mechanism for arrangement of client nodes and remote control.

2.5 DEVICE ADDRESSING

The ZigBee standard contains 64-bit addresses and short addresses of 16-bit. When more devices communicate on the same physical channel create a WPAN. A WPAN contains at least one PAN coordinator that is a full function device (FFD). Each device with in a network contains a unique 64 bits extended address. PAN uses 64 bits address for direct communication. A device contains 16 bits short address that is used by PAN coordinator for association of device with its coordinator. Short address supports 65535 nodes with in network.

III. DEVICE TYPE

The device type which is used in a LR-WPAN is defined by IEEE 802.15.4 standard which are FFD and RFD. There are two device types:

1. FFD is used for control and monitoring of sensing information. FFD operate in 3 modes by serving as End devices, Routers and PAN coordinator. FFD is used as a simple device, as a coordinator, as PAN coordinator. It communicates with either other RFD or FFD. PAN coordinator always remains fixed but end devices and routers are either fixed or movable. Knowledge of overall network is managed by FFD. Power computing and most memory is required by it. It can become a coordinator of network and talk to any other devices.

2. In simple application, RFD is used because it doesn't require transmitting small amounts of data and it has to communicate only with a specific FFD. FFD operates in only one mode by serving as Device. RFD can't used as a coordinator of a network but it talks to coordinator of a network. It has very easy implementation that is restricted to Star topology. RFD is only used for sensing information.

IV. NETWORK TOPOLOGY

IEEE 802.15.4/ZIGBEE has 3 types of network topology i.e.

- I. Star topology
- II. Peer to Peer topology
- III. Mesh topology

1) **Star topology:** in this topology, a coordinator is used and all other devices are associated with coordinator are end devices. A coordinator is responsible for the network and all end devices talk directly with the coordinator. In a time critical applications, this topology is perfect for networks with a centralize device.

2) Peer to Peer topology: Here devices are placed closed enough together to create a successful communication link, device can communicate directly with any other device.

All FFDs participate in relaying the messages. Cluster tree topology is a form of peer to peer network. Initial network is established by a PAN coordinator in cluster tree topology. Coordinators create branches further after that relay messages. End devices don't participate in routing of message.

3) Mesh topology: in this topology, coordinators are responsible for network initiating and maintenance. Network can be extended by using of routers. A mesh network is called Self-Healing so that if a node fails for delivery of data other route is used to transfer data.

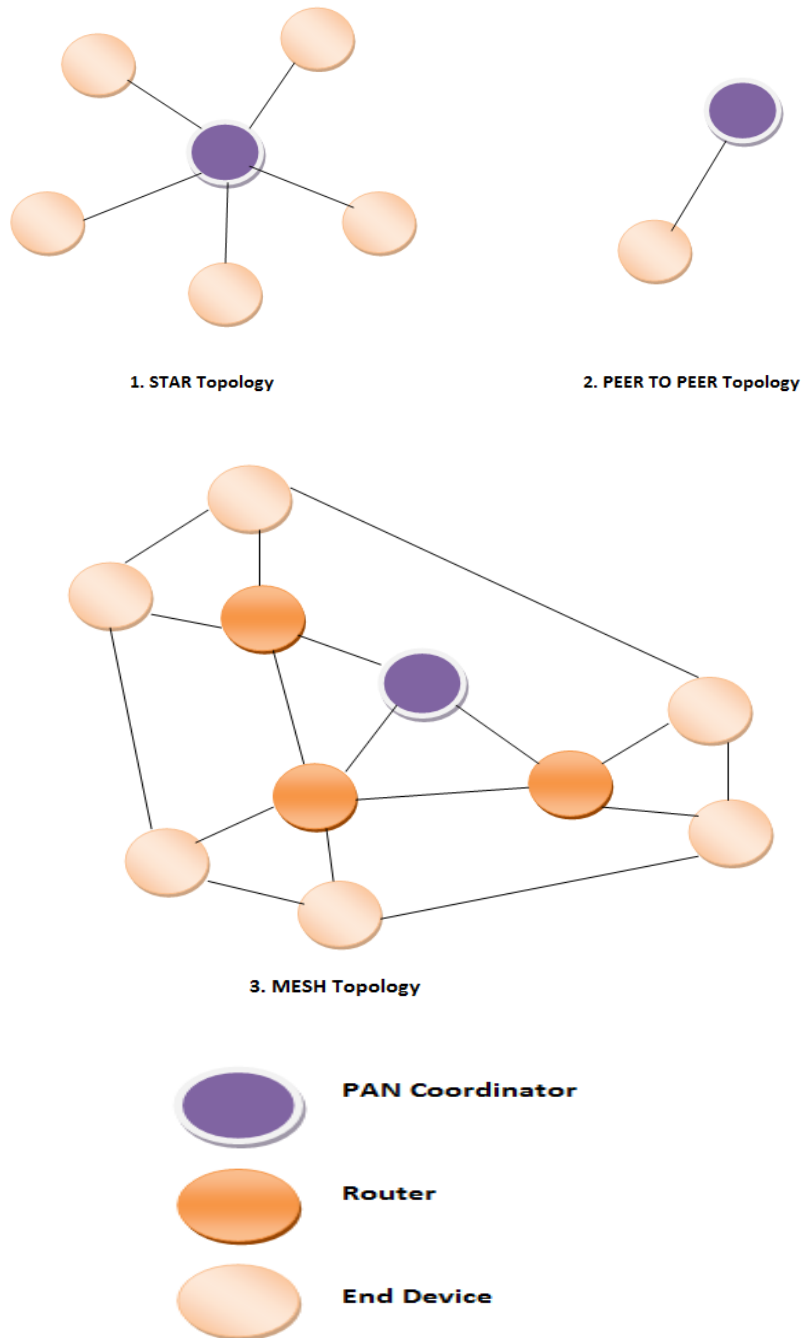


Figure5: ZigBee Network Topology

Wireless Comm. Tech.	ZigBee	Wi-Fi	Bluetooth
Features	IEEE 802.15.4	IEEE 802.11	IEEE 802.15.1
Bandwidth	250 Kbps	Up to 54 Mbps	1Mbps
Range	10-100 meters	50-100 meters	10 meters
Topology	Ad-hoc, star or mesh	Point to access point	Ad-hoc, small networks
Frequency	868 MHz(Europe) 900-928 MHz(NA) 2.4 GHz(global)	2.4 and 5 GHz	2.4 GHz
Battery life	Years	1 week	1 week
Advantages	Low power, cost	Speed, Ubiquity	Convenience
Typical application	Monitoring and control sensor network	Internet access	File transfer

Table2: Comparisons between different wirelesscommunication technologies

CONCLUSION

In communication technology, ZigBee will be most useful in future. ZigBee is very useful where a large number of nodes are used with small data packets. In this paper, we studied about ZigBee technology in which information about ZigBee is included. In different wireless communication technology for LR-WPAN, we found that ZigBee is perfect where low cost, low consumption of power, reliability in data transfer and time-consuming battery life, need of small amount of data, low data rate are required. Some applications where ZigBee is perfect for wireless communication are home automation, building automation, wireless sensor network, medical control, remote control and sensor, industry control etc.

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