



### 3D Localization in Wireless Sensor Networks

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**Abstract:** Wireless sensor network has grown to one of the most promising fields of research. One primary aspect of WSN is the localization of nodes before any data can be successfully transmitted. Various algorithms have been proposed for the localization of nodes in 2D and in 3D. The 2D localization algorithms work mainly on flat terrains and hence 3D localization algorithms are needed to provide better results in harsh terrain. This paper aims at reviewing different algorithms which are available for 3D localization. Recent works in 3D localization have been covered with the aim to have a better understanding of localization in 3D.

**Keywords:** Beacon Node, Localization Algorithm, Unknown Nodes, Wireless Sensor Networks.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Nodes are the building blocks of any wireless sensor network. A node is used to gather the data from the surroundings and transmit it to the users via base stations [21]. WSN find their applications in various fields such as habitat and environment monitoring, battlefield surveillance, underwater discoveries, health applications etc. Every node must be aware of its exact location before transmitting the data as the data is relevant only if the source address is known [3]. A simple sensor network consists of nodes from 50 to 1000. For a large network the number of nodes is even more and hence it is almost impossible for the base station to calculate the location of the data source. This leads to the necessity of localization of nodes. The term "Localization" means to find the exact location in any geographical area with the help of reference node [2]. Localization can be done manually which involves human interaction and calculations. Manual localization involves node deployment by a human and calculations can then be performed. But this approach has disadvantage in certain real world applications such as in military field, nodes are deployed with the help of airplanes. In such deployment the calculation accuracy is rather less as compared to the manual deployment. Manual localization involves use of GPS which has its own disadvantages. Use of GPS requires antenna which increases the size of the node considerably. Another issue with the use of GPS is the limited battery life of sensor nodes. Many other issues such as cost, line-of-sight etc. makes manual localization inefficient.

Localization algorithms make use of reference nodes and anchor nodes to perform the task of localization. Most of the localization algorithms are focused on 2D plane, i.e. x and y plane. The 2D algorithms for localization are accurate on flat terrain and produce less accurate results in harsh terrain. Hence, 3d algorithms are designed with the aim to provide better accuracy in harsh terrain as well[2][4][6].

#### II. LOCALIZATION

In order to uniquely determine the coordinate system three anchor nodes are required in a 2D space where as in a

3D space, four anchor nodes are needed. The methods for localization in both i.e. for 2D space as well as for 3D space are the same. Similar to the 2D space, the 3D localization also has two methods:

##### A. Range based:

This method is used in 3D localization for point to point information delivery [3]. This method is more accurate as it ensures delivery of the data. Range based method has certain disadvantages such as, for updated information the method requires additional hardware. Hence the cost and size are a serious concern for the range based methods. Some of the prominent range based techniques are discussed below.

##### a. Time of Arrival (TOA):

It is used to obtain range information with the help of signal propagation time. GPS is an example of a system using TOA [33] [21]. This solution is considered to be costly as the wireless sensor networks are limited by hardware and energy. Since the GPS system requires costly and energy-consuming devices, TOA is a costly method of localization [8].

##### b. The Time Difference of Arrival (TDOA):

It is used for measuring the distance (approximate) between two communicating nodes. There are various infrastructure based systems which use TDOA [1][12][28]. AHLos [30][31] also allow the use of TDOA in infrastructure-free sensor networks. TDOA also depends upon extensive hardware and hence is not suitable for low power sensor networks.

##### c. Angle of Arrival (AOA):

The AOA technique is used to estimate and map relative angles between neighboring nodes [27]. The drawback with AOA is its need of extensive hardware which increases the overall cost and the size of the network.

##### d. Received Signal Strength Indicator (RSSI):

This technique is used for systems which are hardware constrained. This technique uses either empirical or theoretical models to translate signal strength into distance

estimates. Range estimation is inaccurate in certain cases such as in RF systems [1][15]. Inaccurate estimation is because of multipath fading, background interference, and irregular signal propagation characteristics. Various methods such as robust range estimation [11], two-phase refinement positioning [29], [31], and parameter calibration [9] [34] have made the RSSI technology more reliable and much more accurate. RSSI based solutions are efficient in controlled environment, but the question that remains unanswered is the distance that can be determined based on signal strength, propagation patterns, and fading models.

### B. Range free:

Range free method for 3D localization is simple and yet efficient method for localization [10] [7]. The nodes are self-organizing and hence the overhead is low. Because of the hardware limitations of WSN devices, solutions in range-free localization are being pursued as a cost-effective alternative to more expensive range-based approaches. Errors in wireless sensor networks can be masked through aggregation, redundancy and by other means. Masking methods vary according to the behavior of the localization protocol being used. The extensive hardware requirement by range based methods led the researchers to focus on alternate range free methods for node localization in wireless sensor networks [19] [23] [24].

#### a. Centroid Localization:

Powerful nodes with established location information in a heterogeneous network have been considered in the work proposed by N. Bulusu and J. Heidemann [13]. The anchor nodes beacon their position to neighbors so that they can keep an account of all received beacons. The work focuses on the use of the proximity information and a centroid model to estimate the location of the listening node. The Centroid localization algorithm is advantageous because of its simplicity. Further work by N. Bulusu [14] proposes an algorithm, HEAP, which reduces the estimation errors.

#### b. DV-Hop localization:

D. Niculescu and B. Nath [35] proposed the DV-HOP algorithm for node localization in wireless sensor networks. The algorithm is based on an idea similar to distance vector routing. The traditional single hop broadcast is not used in the algorithm, instead, a single anchor node is used to flood the network with the location of the anchor node. The anchor node also maintains a running hop count at each node. The location of the node is determined on the basis of the location of the anchor node. The number of hops from the anchor node and the average distance per hop are the other two parameters which are used to determine the node location.

#### c. Amorphous Positioning:

The amorphous positioning algorithm improves the location estimation by making use of offline hop distance estimations. Just like DV-Hop, using the beacon propagation, each node obtains the hop distance to the anchor node. After collecting the neighbors hop distance, an average of all the neighboring node distance is calculated. In order to reduce the error caused due to low resolution, half of the radio range is deducted from the average distance of the neighboring nodes. The algorithm is based on the assumption that the network density,  $n_{local}$ , is known a priori.

This assumption allows the algorithm to calculate the hop size offline as proposed by Kleinrock and Slivester formula [18].

## III. 3D LOCALIZATION

Node localization is broadly classified into two categories [26] [20]:

### A. Centralized:

The main feature of centralized localization is central base station. Increased overhead and cost are the primary disadvantages of this technique.

### B. Distributed:

In distributed localization the computations are performed by the nodes on their own. Communication between the nodes enables the node to determine their positions[ 25][16] [32].

Recent works in 3D localization has enabled enhanced accuracy of wireless sensor networks in harsh terrain. Some recent algorithms for 3D localization are discussed below.

#### a. New 3-dimensional DV-Hop Localization Algorithm:

A new 3-D DV-Hop localization algorithm is proposed by Li Wang et.al [1], analyzing the lack of existing 3-D localization algorithm, extending the rang-free algorithm of DV-Hop to 3-D space, and improving the aspects of traffic, positioning error. This algorithm can position the sensor nodes in the 3-dimensional environment effectively, the beacon nodes' density and communication radius has little effect on the positioning error and the coverage, and the positioning accuracy and coverage relative to other algorithms have improved significantly.

#### b. Three-dimensional azimuthally defined area localization algorithm (3D-ADAL):

This algorithm uses a mobile beacon which is equipped with a rotary and tilting directional antenna [2]. The antenna can be also be used by unknown nodes- Omni-directional antenna. During the localization process, the mobile beacon is responsible for broadcasting the messages to the sensor nodes. The x-y plane co-ordinates are used to determine the position of the node in horizontal plane and the altitude of the mobile beacon is determined with the help of the co-ordinates of the z-plane. Altitude of each sensor node is then determined with the help of local yz-plane (vertical plane) of the mobile beacon.

#### c. Unitary Matrix Pencil Algorithm for Range-Based 3D Localization:

This 3D localization method is based on time-of-arrival (TOA) estimation of ultra wideband signal using unitary matrix pencil (UMP) algorithm [12]. It is a combination of unitary matrix pencil (UMP) algorithm, multilateral localization and three-dimensional Taylor algorithm. An extension of UMP algorithm allows estimation of the time of arrival (TOA) between nodes so as to measure the propagation distance between them. The use of the centro-hermitian property by the UMP reduces the processing time significantly.

**d. Approximate Point-In-Triangulation Test (APIT):**

Point-In-Triangulation Test is basically a theoretical method to narrow down the probable area in which a particular node might be found. Anchors sending the beacon are an important part of this test. A node randomly selects any three anchors, which are within the communication range and are sending the beacon. The node then determines its own position whether it lies inside the triangle formed by connecting the selected anchors [5]. The Approximate Point-In-Triangulation Test repeats this process with different combinations of audible anchor nodes until all the options have been tested and or the desired accuracy level is reached. The centre of gravity (COG) of the intersection of all of the triangles in which a node resides is then calculated to determine its expected position.

**e. The three-dimensional accurate positioning algorithm:**

This algorithm uses the maximum likelihood estimation method to determine the location of the unknown node. The loss of signal between nodes is used to determine the distance between them. The algorithm makes use of the parameter matching technique to determine the exact position of any node. The algorithm also uses techniques like role switching between beacon node and unknown node under a particular situation and RSSI ranging to convert the RSSI value to distance between unknown and beacon node [11].

**f. connectivity-based and anchor-free three-dimensional localization (CATL):**

This approach is proposed for large scale sensor networks with concave regions. The algorithm is different from its predecessors as it is capable of working in both 2D and 3D spaces containing holes or concave regions. The algorithm uses connectivity information only to recover the network topology. CATL aims at determining the notch nodes, and for this purposes it uses an iterative protocol that uses a notch-avoiding multi alteration mechanism to localize the network [29]. The main advantage of this algorithm is that it is independent of the network boundaries knowledge. Because of this ability of functional independency and localization ability, CATL is used in various other applications such as boundary detection, routing etc.

**g. Novel Centroid Algorithm for 3D:**

This algorithm uses the Centroid algorithm for node localization in 3D wireless sensor networks. The Centroid theorem that uses the coordinate-tetrahedron in the volume-coordinate system for estimation is the backbone of this localization technique [22]. The algorithm works by all the anchor nodes sending their co-ordinates to all the other unknown nodes. Every unknown node collects all the incoming co-ordinates from various reference points and randomly selects any four anchor nodes within its range only to form a series of tetrahedrons. As in the Centroid theorem, the Novel Centroid Algorithm for 3D calculates the barycentre of each tetrahedron. An average of the barycentre's is calculated which is used as the final position of the unknown node.

**h. Localization using GPS enabled mobile sensor nodes for three dimensional wireless sensor networks.:**

A range free localization scheme for wireless sensor networks that operate in a three dimensional space is proposed in this work. The nodes are categorised in two categories mobile and static sensor nodes. The mobile nodes are equipped with GPS enabled devices and are supposed to be aware of their position at any instance. The mobile nodes move in the network space and periodically broadcast beacon messages about their location. On the other hand, static sensor nodes receive these messages as soon as they enter the communication range of any mobile node. The combination of the mobile and the static nodes work in such a way that on receiving messages the static nodes calculate their individual position based on the equation of sphere [17]. The proposed scheme gains in terms of computational and memory overhead as compared to existing approaches. The proposed approach makes use of the basic principle of three-dimensional geometry, that is "if any point is at the surface of sphere then it will satisfy the sphere equation". The proposed approach makes use of the assumption that, all the mobile sensor nodes deployed in a field have same the radio communication range.

**i. Sensor position determination with flying anchor in three dimensional wireless sensor networks:**

The work proposed by Ou and Ssu [36] is based on range free technique. In this scheme, a GPS enabled flying anchor is moved around the region under surveillance with the help of helicopter or aerial robot. All other sensor nodes compute their location from the beacons received from the flying anchor. This approach works on basic principle that, perpendicular line passing through the center of a sphere's circular cross section also passes through the center of that sphere [36]. The flying anchor continuously broadcasts beacon messages about its location in the region. Static sensor nodes receive the beacon messages whenever the flying anchor position instance falls in the sensing range of the former node. It records the beacon messages that are at the surface of its sensing range. When four such beacon messages are received, it builds two circular cross sectional areas and chords passing through the respective centers. These cross sectional areas help in location computation. The approach follows a constraint in selecting the beacons for the circular cross sectional areas i.e. chords built with these beacons must have angle greater than 10 degrees between them. The approach makes an assumption that static sensor nodes are aware of their sensing range sphere radius. It will result in three unknown variables, if the position coordinates of the flying anchor nodes are fed into the corresponding sphere equation [36]. To solve for the value of three unknown variables, a minimum of three equations is needed. Hence, beacon message and its related overhead can be solve one by one.

**j. Localization and synchronization for 3d underwater acoustic sensor networks:**

Tian, Liu, Jin, Wang and Mo [37] addressed a scheme for underwater acoustic sensor network. This scheme localizes the sensor nodes deployed over three dimensional volumes in underwater with time synchronization. In the scheme sensors are deployed in distributive manner over a three dimensional underwater space. This space is

partitioned into equal sized non-overlapping cells. These cells are truncated octahedron in shape (as it resembles most with sphere [39]). In order to maintain the connectivity, the distance between two consecutive nodes in neighboring tier are made not to exceed their transmission range [38]. The scheme uses multi-alteration and acoustic ranging techniques for localization. Firstly, a set of anchor nodes are placed at the surface of water. The nearby un-localized nodes get localized and synchronized with the help of these anchor nodes. These newly localized nodes now become new anchor nodes and thereafter broadcast newer synchronization packets. The process gets repeated tier to tier. Thus, the whole network gets localized in short latency. The major drawback with this approach is that in the localization process, the localization error at any level or tier is added further tier by tier. Also, it reaches very high if the network goes beyond the fifth tier.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

Table-1 Given the constraints of wireless sensor networks and the accuracy expected from localization algorithms in 3 dimensional spaces, range free localization algorithms are better as compared to the range based algorithms. The range free algorithms are cost effective and accurate as well. After the extensive survey of recent works and after studying various algorithms for 3D localization, APIT scheme is found to perform better in harsh terrain and can be used in various applications.

The APIT algorithm has less overhead is cost effective and the performance does not degrades when random node placement or irregular radio patterns are considered. The review of recent works in 3D localization makes it clear that the range free methods for localization in 3D plane are much more effective and accurate as compared to the range based methods.

The study shows that the range free methods are capable of supporting various applications in sensor networks in a much efficient ways as compared to other methods available.

The table 1 compares different algorithms available for 3D localization. These algorithms and their working was studied in detail and various parameters were considered for a fair comparison.

Table 1

S.No.	Localization Algorithm	Energy Uses	Hardware Requirement	Cost Effectiveness	Accuracy	Node Mobility	Density	No. Anchor Nodes	Area Covered
1	New 3D DV-Hop	Average	Minimum	High	Good	Yes	Medium	Medium	Large
2	3D-ADAL	High	High	High	Good	Yes	Medium	Medium	large
3	UMPA for 3D	Average	Minimum	High	Good	No	Medium	Medium	large
4	APIT	Average	Minimum	High	Good	No	High	High	Large
5	3D APG	High	Minimum	Low	Good	Yes	Medium	Medium	Average
6	CATL	Average	Minimum	High	Good	No	Medium	-NA-	Large
7	NCA for 3D	Average	Minimum	High	Good	Yes	Low	Medium	Average
8	L-GPS-MN-3D-WSN	High	Average	Low	Good	Yes	Medium	Medium	Large
9	SPD-FA-3D-WSN	High	Average	Low	Good	Yes	Medium	High	Large
10	LS-3D-UASN	High	Average	Low	Good	Yes	High	High	Very Large

From the Table1, it becomes very clear that although there are many algorithms available for the purpose of 3D localization, most of them need to improve their performance in some or the other field. The table 1 shows a comparative study in between 10 algorithms and clearly points out their major advantages and disadvantages.

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