



# NETWORK AWARE RESOURCE SCHEDULING IN SENSOR CLOUD

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## ABSTRACT

In sensor cloud, multiple sensing and computing devices interconnected through an ad hoc network are presented as one powerful unified computing resource. One of the key issues in sensor cloud is resource scheduling which is concerned with identification of computing resources where the application tasks will be run. In literature, several resource scheduling schemes have been proposed but most of them are either targeted towards pre-existing network infrastructure-based systems or they do not consider the dynamic and distributed nature of sensor cloud. In this paper, an energy efficient and network aware resource scheduling scheme is proposed for scheduling of data intensive tasks on sensor cloud. The scheme uses multi-level transmission power and network information to reduce transmission energy consumption and data transfer time.

**Keywords:** *Sensor grid, Mobile cloud computing, Ad hoc sensor network, Task scheduling, Energy-aware*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In battlefield, soldiers may experience physical and mental problems. In such situations, various biomedical sensing devices, capable of acquiring vital signs such as blood pressure and flow, temperature, electro cardiogram, oxygen saturation, and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, can be used to continuously monitor the soldiers' psychophysiological health. The data generated by biomedical sensing devices then can be exploited 1) to assess the physical and mental stress and associate it with the current and past activities of the soldier, and 2) to perform rapid trauma triage in case of injuries. In addition, soldiers also need to rely on various sensing, processing and communication systems in the vicinity to achieve situational awareness and understanding of the battlefield. However, simultaneously executing computationally intensive models [1-4] for deriving physiological parameters from vital signs and for acquiring context and battlefield awareness in real time requires computing capabilities that go beyond those of an individual sensing and processing devices. In order to execute computationally intensive models, a sensor cloud is proposed.

A sensor cloud enables mobile computing and sensing devices to execute computationally intensive tasks in ad hoc environment. It consists of

multiple devices interconnected through an ad hoc network. Interconnected devices are dynamically provisioned and presented as one powerful unified computing resource.

The sensor cloud is the integration of cloud, sensors and ad hoc network. The cloud enables convenient and on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction [1]. Whereas ad hoc network is a wireless network of mobile devices that communicate with each other without any pre-existing network infrastructure [2].

One of the key issues in sensor cloud is resource scheduling which is concerned with identification of computing devices where the application tasks will be run. Compared to traditional cloud computing systems, resource scheduling in sensor cloud is difficult due to low bandwidth, limited battery power, and dynamic and infrastructure-less communication environment [1] [38].

In this paper, an energy efficient and network aware resource scheduling scheme is proposed for scheduling of data intensive tasks on sensor cloud. The scheme uses multi-level transmission power and network information to reduce transmission energy consumption and data transfer time. This



paper also investigates the relationship between data transfer time and transmission energy consumption.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. Section 2 discusses related works and Section 3 presents the system architecture. Resource allocation schemes are presented in Section 4. In Section 5, simulation results are discussed. Section 6 presents the conclusions to the paper.

## 2. RELATED WORK

A hybrid static and mobile grid computing system is proposed in [32] in which mobile and static computing devices and bio-sensing nodes are integrated and presented as a one unified system. The bio-sensors collect vital signs such as blood pressure, temperature, electrocardiogram, and oxygen saturation of an individual. The collected data is processed and analyzed on mobile grid computing infrastructure in order to determine the health of an individual. To deal with uncertainty, an idea of application waypoints has been introduced in which service provider executing application task reports to the broker with an estimate of residual task completion time. If the broker does not receive feedback about the estimated residual task completion time from the service provides at the specified waypoint, it marks service provider as failed and assigns additional resources to take over the incomplete tasks. A resource allocation algorithm to efficiently process telemedicine data in the grid is proposed in [37]. In proposed algorithm sensors attached to patient's body collect and send health related data to grid through a mobile device. A patient management application deployed on the grid processes and analysis the patient's data.

A sensor-cloud infrastructure proposed in [31] integrates sensors with cloud computing system. In sensor-cloud infrastructure, physical sensors integrated with cloud computing system are virtualized as virtual sensors and are provided as a service. A pull-based resource allocation algorithm is proposed in [33] in which a service provider node pulls tasks from the service broker nodes, executes them and submits results once task completes its execution. In [34] authors have proposed a sensor grid platform to combine real-time data about the environment with vast computational resources. The proposed sensor grid platform can be deployed using centralized architecture or decentralized architecture. In centralized architecture, a sensor network connected to grid collects data while

processing of data is carried out on the grid. In distributed architecture, a sensor network collects data and performs simple data processing tasks while computationally intensive data processing and analysis tasks are executed on the grid.

A sensor data collection network to integrate sensor data into grid applications is discussed in [35]. The sensor data collection network includes three key components: the data collection network, sensor entry points, and application entry points. The data collection network discovers, filters, and queries multiple sensor networks. Each sensor network has one or more sensor entry points that map application data requirements onto low-level sensor network operations. The application entry points provide application connectivity to data collection network. The proposed system is based on publish-subscribe paradigm. A sensor network publishes sensor data and metadata through service entry points while application subscribes to sensor network and receives a data in real time. In [36] authors have proposed a scalable proxy-based architecture for sensor grid in which nodes in wireless sensor network are provided as a service on the grid. The use of proxy-based architecture where proxy acts as an interface between grid and sensor network supports a wide range of sensor network implementations. The systems and schemes such as [9-19] and [31-37] assume pre-existing network infrastructure and therefore are not suitable for ad hoc and dynamic network environments.

The schemes proposed for ad hoc and dynamic network environments do not consider dependencies between tasks and connection quality between nodes. In addition, they are targeted towards processing energy consumption, load balancing and fault tolerance rather than application performance and energy-efficient communication between the tasks.

Compared to existing work, proposed scheme considers task dependencies and aims to reduce transmission energy consumption and application completion time. It uses multi-level transmission power and network information for decision making.

## 3. SYSTEM MODELS

A sensor cloud comprises a plurality of mobile computing and sensing devices communicating through an ad hoc network. Each node uses multiple transmission power levels. A sensor cloud

may include various types of devices such as audio and video sensors, smart mobile and stationary robots, and smart phones. An application consists of independent and interdependent tasks divided into three categories: computation-bound tasks, local communication-bound tasks, and remote communication-bound tasks [4].

#### 4. SCHEDULING IN SENSOR CLOUD

To schedule tasks there are three cases: (a) scheduling of an independent task, (b) scheduling of an interdependent task set and (c) scheduling of tasks that have a dependency with already scheduled task.

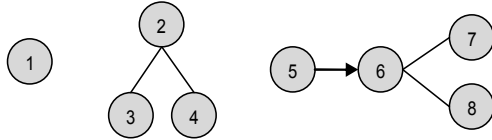


Figure 1: Three possible cases: a) task 1 is independent, b) tasks 2, 3 and 4 form an interdependent task set. Task 2 has parallel execution dependency with task 3 and 4 and vice versa, and c) task 5 is independent task while tasks 6, 7 and 8 form an interdependent tasks set. The task 6 in a set has a precedence dependency with task 5.

This paper addresses the problem of scheduling interdependent tasks set, which consists of tasks with parallel execution dependencies [5]. To schedule interdependent tasks set to closely located nodes there is need to search a group of closest nodes within the sensor cloud.

The problem of searching a group of closest nodes is modelled as a k-nearest neighbor (kNN) search problem in graph theory [5].

To discover kNN, every node broadcasts a discovery message at a minimum transmission power level. If the number of discovered nodes  $\geq k$  the search process stops and the discovered nodes are declared as kNN. After the discovery process, each node calculates weight using equation 1.

$$n_i^w = \sum_{i=1}^l TPL_i^w \cdot N_{TPL_i} \quad (1)$$

$TPL_i^w$  = weight of  $TPL_i$

$n_i^w$  = weight of node  $n_i$

$l$  = number of transmission power levels

$N_{TPL_i}$  = number of nodes accessible at  $TPL_i$

#### 4.1 Power-based Resource Scheduling

The power-based resource scheduling scheme schedules tasks on nodes reachable at minimum transmission power level. To schedule tasks set, each node uses kNN algorithm to discover KNN and calculate weight. The weight is sent to resource scheduler, which schedules task on a node with highest weight. The reader is referred to [4] for a detailed description of the kNN search algorithm and power based resource scheduling.

#### 4.2 Network-aware Resource Scheduling

In sensor cloud the bandwidth at different network portions fluctuates over the time and different nodes often experience different connection quality at the same time. Since connection quality between nodes is not same and varies over the time, an effective and efficient resource scheduling scheme should consider connection quality between nodes in addition to other factors such as processing speed, transmission power and distance between nodes.

##### Connection Quality

The connection quality is measured in terms of round trip time, packet loss probability and medium access delay.

$$C_j = \left( \frac{P_{size}}{T_{ready} - T_{received}} \right) * P_{loss} \quad (2)$$

$C_j$  = Connection quality

$P_{size}$  = Packet Size

$T_{ready}$  = time packet is ready to be transmitted

$T_{received}$  = time acknowledgement received

$P_{loss}$  = Packet loss ratio

Similar metrics have also been used in [14] and [16]. They only differ with respect to number of parameters taken into consideration. For example, a scheme proposed in [14] does not consider time to gain access to medium and also demonstrate that medium access delay does not have significant impact on the performance. The experiments were conducted with medium network size and moderate network load. On other hand, schemes such as [15] and [16] have reported that medium access delay plays a significant role as number of nodes and data transfers increase within a network.



*Resource Scheduling Scheme*

Each node manages connection quality data of kNN and based on this calculates rank. Resource scheduler schedules tasks set on a node with highest rank. The selected node receives tasks set and schedules tasks in a set to kNN based on CPU speed and task information. The rank is calculated using equation 4.

$$R_i^{total} = \sum_{j=1}^k C_j \quad (3)$$

$$n_i^r = R_i^{total} / k \quad (4)$$

$C_j$  = Connection quality between node  $n_i$  and  $n_j$

$n_i^r$  = rank of node  $n_i$

$k$  = Number of nearest neighbors

**4.3 Power-based versus Network-aware**

**Resource Scheduling**

In contrast to power based resource scheduling, network aware resource scheduling scheme may increase transmission energy consumption and network capacity. There is a trade-off between power based scheduling and network aware scheduling [5].

**4.4 Energy-efficient and Network-aware Resource Scheduling**

The weight calculated based on transmission power and rank calculated based on communication quality are used to calculate grade of a node. The weight reflects transmission energy consumption and network capacity whereas rank reflects data transfer time. Grade of a node is viewed as an attempt to balance between weight and rank.

$$n_i^g = (1 - \alpha) * n_i^w + \alpha * n_i^r \quad (5)$$

$n_i^r$  = rank of node  $n_i$

$n_i^g$  = grade of node  $n_i$

$n_i^w$  = weight of node  $n_i$

$\alpha$  = tunable parameter subject to  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$

To allocate an interdependent tasks set, the resource scheduling service first sends the  $m$  to member nodes, where  $m$  is the number of tasks in a set. Each member runs the kNN search algorithm, where  $k \geq m$ , calculates the grade and sends the

grade to the resource scheduling service. The resource scheduling service then selects the node with the highest grade. The decision to allocate tasks within a set is made by the selected node, which then allocates the tasks to its kNN according to task type.

SUMMARY

- ◇ Send  $m$  to member nodes, where  $m$  is number of tasks in a set.
- ◇ Each node check if  $kNN \geq m$
- ◇ If  $kNN$  are not discovered yet or  $kNN < m$ ,
  - Start kNN search process
  - Calculate
    - ◆ Weight using equation 1
    - ◆ Rank using equation 4
    - ◆ Grade using equation 5
  - Send grade to resource scheduling service
- ◇ Resource scheduling service select a node with a highest grade, which then allocates tasks in a set to its  $k$  nearest neighbors

**5. SIMULATION RESULTS**

The performance of proposed scheme (ENRA) is compared with power-based resource scheduling scheme (PRA) [4] and network aware rank-based resource scheduling scheme (NRA) [5]. Power-based resource scheduling scheme allocates interdependent tasks to nodes based on transmission power control mechanism while network aware rank-based scheduling scheme uses network information in order to make allocation decisions.

**5.1 Performance Metrics**

*Accumulative application completion time*

$$A_{CompTime} = \sum_{i=1}^n T_{CompTime}^i$$

*Task completion time*

$T_{CompTime}$  is defined as a time that task takes to complete its execution.

*Energy Consumption*

Energy consumed in transmission of data.

**5.2 Simulation Setup**



The network simulator NS2 was used for performance evaluation with a wide range of scenarios.

different scenarios using 3 different network setups and 2 applications as follows:

Table 1: Simulation Parameters

Simulation Time	7000 seconds
Number of Nodes	15-20
Transmission Power Levels	2-5
Transmission Range	90m-130m-170m-210m-250m
Simulation Area	1500m X 1500m
Number of Tasks	10-20-30-40
Transport Protocol	TCP
Ad Hoc Routing Protocol	ExClusterPOW
MAC Protocol	IEEE 802.11
Packet Size	512 Bytes
Value of tunable parameter $\alpha$	0.5

In order to make allocation decisions, three key services were implemented: monitoring service, discovery service and resource scheduling service. Monitoring service runs on nodes willing to share computing resources while resource scheduling and discovery services execute on node that requires additional computing resources. The parameters specific to scenarios are described in respective sections while simulation parameters are given in Table 1.

**5.3 Simulation Results**

The experiments are performed to evaluate the performance of the proposed scheme in various scenarios with respect to the network and the application configuration. The amount of data transfer between tasks is varied to reflect a range of applications such as automated video surveillance, distributed object tracking and 3-D scene construction. To evaluate the performance we set 6

Table 2: Network Setup

	Network setup 1	Network setup 2	Network setup 3
Number of nodes	15	20	20
Groups' size	Variable	Variable	Fixed
Maximum number of nodes in group	6	3	4
Min number of nodes in group	2	2	4
Distance between nodes in groups	20-50m	40-50m	50-100m
Distance between nodes across groups	100-250m	150-250m	100-250m
Number of nearest neighbors	3	3	3
Transmission power levels	3	3	2

Table 3: Application Configuration

	Application 1	Application 2
Max number of interdependent tasks in set	3	4
Min number of interdependent tasks in set	2	3
Data transfer size for each task	4-8 MB	4-8 MB
Inter-packet interval	10-300ms	10-100ms
Tasks arrival order	Order 1	Order 2
Ratio of interdependent task set of max size to interdependent task set of min size	1:1	1:2

Table 4: Scenarios Setup

	Network Setup	Application	Data transfers before allocation process
Scenario 1	1	1	*
Scenario 2	2	1	*
Scenario 3	3	1	*
Scenario 4	1	2	*
Scenario 5	2	2	*
Scenario 6	3	2	+

\* UDP based Constant bit rate applications were started

+ TCP based Constant bit rate applications were started

### 5.3.1 Accumulative Application Completion Time

Figures 2-4 demonstrate an AACT for scenarios 1-3. NRA improves performance by 3-5% in scenario 1 and 10-15% in scenario 2. While in scenario 3, the performance of both schemes is similar.

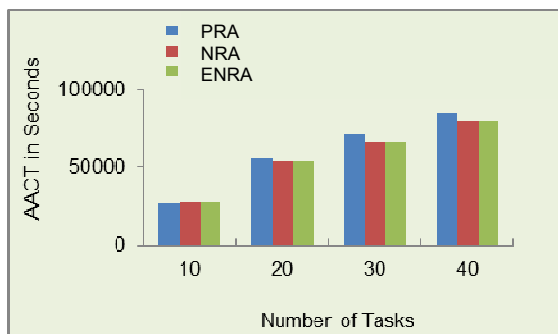


Figure 2: AACT for Scenario 1

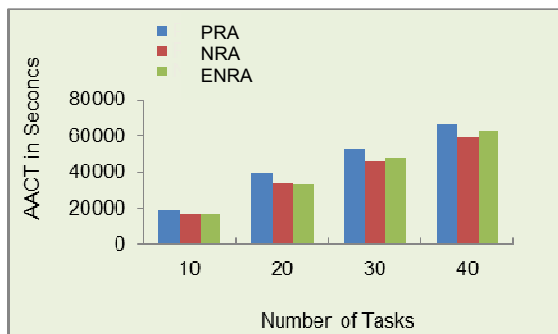


Figure 3: AACT for Scenario 2

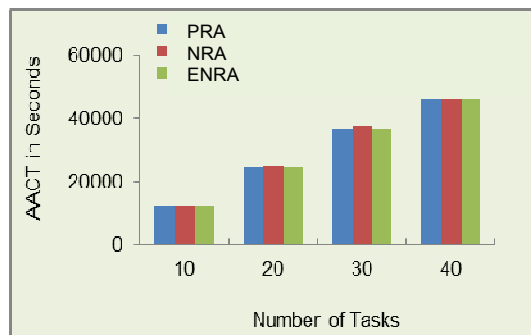


Figure 4: AACT for Scenario 3

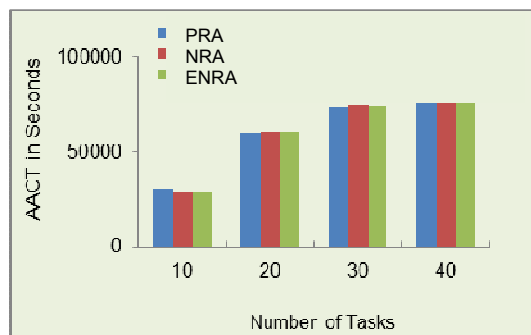


Figure 5: AACT for Scenario 4

In first scenario, 15 nodes divided into two large groups and two small groups were deployed in the region. Due to less number of nodes and group of nodes, there were few choices for allocation. Therefore, performance gains are not significant. In second scenario, large numbers of nodes were deployed into small groups, so there were several choices for allocation. NRA allocated task to nodes with better connection quality. Furthermore, when large numbers of tasks were submitted, they were evenly distributed to nodes in order to balance the data transfer load in the network. PRA allocated tasks to nodes based on transmission power and did not consider network conditions. Therefore, tasks were allocated to same group of nodes because they were accessible at minimum transmission power. This increased data transfers and degraded communication performance and connection quality between nodes in that region. Thus completion time of tasks allocated in that region was increased.

In scenario 3, both schemes have similar performance. This is because PRA did not result into network congestion or traffic overload in any region. The nodes were deployed in 5 groups of size 4. Inter-node distances in three groups were 50

m and in other two groups were 100 m. PRA always allocated tasks to nodes in three groups because nodes were accessible at less transmission power. The results for scenarios 4-6 are shown in Figures 5-7. NRA outperforms PRA in scenario 6 due to TCP traffic between nodes in few groups. Groups with TCP traffic were experiencing poor communication performance. NRA did not schedule tasks to that group whereas PRA allocated tasks to nodes in groups with TCP traffic.

to nodes without taking into account the network information.

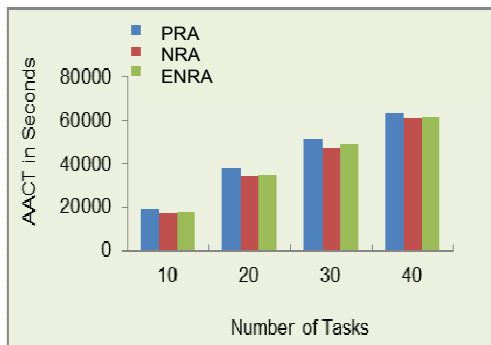


Figure 6: AACT for Scenario 5

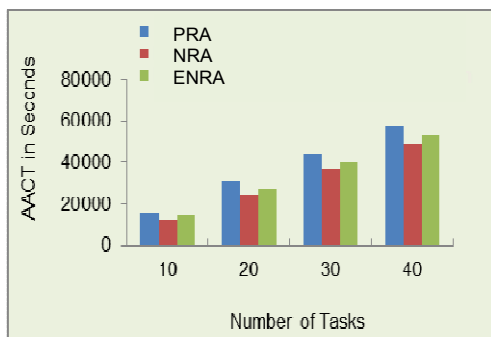


Figure 7: AACT for Scenario 6

If communication performance is similar in all network portions, the performance of ENRA and NRA is also similar. But in case of varying communication performance, ENRA achieves performance somewhere between PRA and NRA as demonstrated in Figures 3-6-7.

### 5.3.2 Transmission Energy Consumption

Transmission energy consumption for scenarios 1-3 is shown in Figures 8-10. In scenarios 1 and 3, PRA improves energy efficiency by 3% whereas in scenario 2, NRA performs better and reduces energy consumption by 2%. Since PRA schedules task on nodes reachable at min TPL, it improves performance in scenarios 1 and 3. In scenario 2, PRA does not perform well because it schedule task

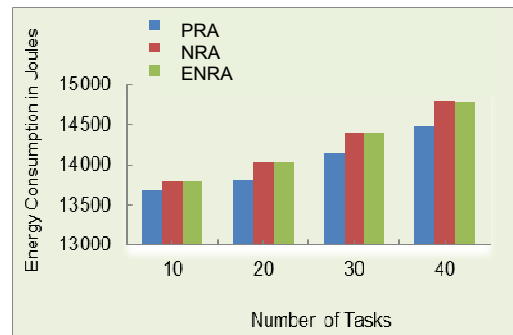


Figure 8: Energy Consumption for Scenario 1

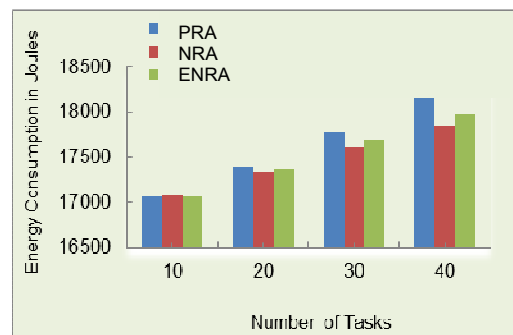


Figure 9: Energy Consumption for Scenario 2

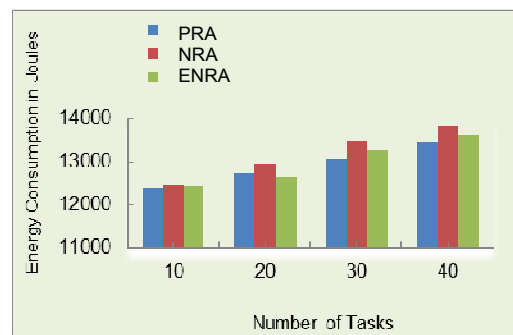


Figure 10: Energy Consumption for Scenario 3

Figures 11-13 demonstrate transmission energy consumption for scenarios 4-6. NRA performs slightly better against PRA in scenario 4 whereas in scenarios 5-6, PRA has better performance. In scenario 4, PRA increased the number of lost packets due to large amount of data transfers in some network regions and therefore consumed more energy. Theoretically, PRA should save more energy than NRA particularly in scenarios 6 due to transmission power control mechanism. But it does not achieve significant performance gains because

it consumes lot of energy due to increased communication cost incurred by poor resource allocation policy.

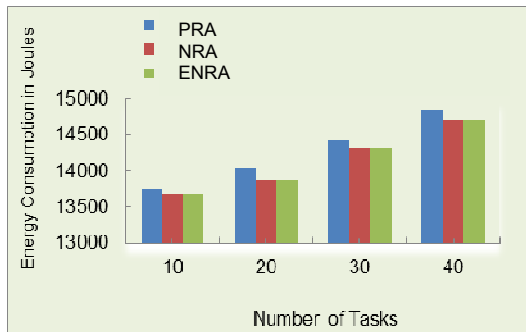


Figure 11: Energy Consumption for Scenario 4

The key factors that contribute to energy consumption are transmission power and communication cost. PRA resulted into network congestion and thus increased communication cost in both scenarios 4 and 6, but it has better performance in scenario 6 and poor in scenario 4. This is because in scenario 4 distances between nodes in group were same, so energy consumed due transmission power in both scheme was same. PRA performed worse because it consumed more energy due to increased communication cost. While in scenario 6, energy consumption due to communication cost was more than NRA, but energy saving due to transmission power control mechanism was more significant which dominated overall performance. This is because some nodes were accessible at minimum transmission power while others at maximum transmission power. PRA allocated tasks to nodes accessible to minimum transmission power and therefore conserved more energy. ENRA trades energy to reduce accumulative application completion time compared to PRA, but in scenario 5 it conserves more energy than other two schemes.

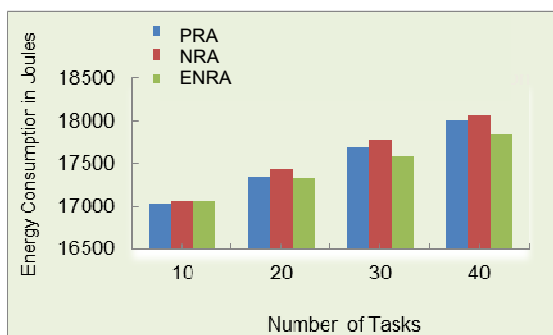


Figure 12: Energy Consumption for Scenario 5

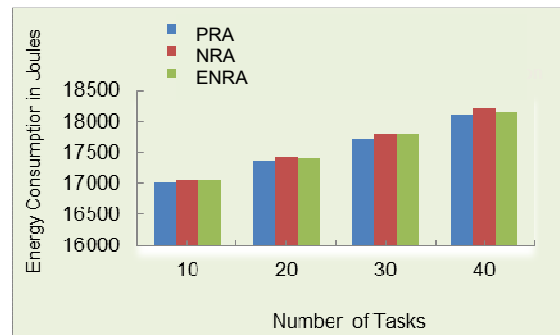


Figure 13: Energy Consumption for Scenario 6

### 5.3.3 Task Completion time

Task completion time for scenario 6 is given in Table 5. The amount of data transferred between tasks varied from 4-8 MB. As results show, both schemes have almost same minimum task completion time. But maximum task completion time of PRA is worse than NRA. As mentioned earlier, PRA allocates tasks to nodes where large amount of data transfers are already in progress. Allocation of additional tasks further degrades communication performance and thus increases data transfer times.

Table 5: Maximum, Minimum And Average Task Completion Time Of Scenario 6.

		PRA	NRA	ENRA
10 Tasks	Max	3886	1230	3858
	Min	1219	1218	1219
	Average	1517	1221	1499
20 Tasks	Max	4151	1235	4080
	Min	1220	1219	1218
	Average	1539	1223	1373
30 Tasks	Max	5949	2441	4169
	Min	1222	1220	1219
	Average	2200	1834	1988
40 Tasks	Max	6250	2465	6134
	Min	2453	2438	2447
	Average	2879	2447	2644

The task completion time for scenario 2 is given in Table 6. As demonstrated, both schemes have almost same minimum and maximum task completion times. But in case of average task completion time, NRA outperforms PRA. NRA has worse maximum task completion time because





it also allocated some tasks to nodes in overloaded network region due to unavailability of nodes. But in general very few tasks were allocated in overloaded network region compared to PRA which allocated large number of tasks and thus increased average task completion time. ENRA performs better than PRA but poor compared to NRA.

Table 6: Maximum, Minimum And Average Task Completion Time Of Scenario 2.

		PRA	NRA	ENRA
10 Tasks	Max	5300	5200	5311
	Min	1236	1234	1232
	Average	1878	1674	1674
20 Tasks	Max	5408	5335	5351
	Min	1240	1244	1219
	Average	1964	1679	1669
30 Tasks	Max	6370	6390	6333
	Min	1240	1244	1232
	Average	2640	2318	2295
40 Tasks	Max	6598	6570	6561
	Min	2482	2482	2438
	Average	3339	2960	2937

## 6. CONCLUSION

In this paper, an energy efficient and network aware resource scheduling scheme is proposed for scheduling of data intensive tasks on sensor cloud. The scheme uses multi-level transmission power and network information to reduce transmission energy consumption and data transfer time. The paper also investigates the relationship between data transfer time and transmission energy consumption. The performance of proposed scheme is compared with power-based resource allocation scheme and network aware resource allocation scheme. The experimental results obtained through simulations show that performance of scheme varies with respect to number of nodes, deployment mechanism, application configuration and network conditions. When some network portions are overloaded and are experiencing poor connection quality, network aware resource allocation scheme significantly reduces accumulative application completion time. Whereas with similar connection quality, the performance of all schemes with

respect to accumulative application completion time is similar but in term of transmission energy consumption power-based resource allocation scheme achieves significant performance gains.

In future, we aim to extend the scheme to address the problem of scheduling real time tasks on a sensor cloud.

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```

Sort tasks according to precedence and parallel execution dependencies
While (tasks are not allocated) do
  Get a task  $t_i$  or tasks set  $T^*$  from application dependency graph
  If ( $t_i$  is an independent task) then
    If ( $t_i$  is computation-bound task  $t_i^{cpu-bound}$ ) then allocate to high processing node
    Else ( $t_i$  is local or remote communication-bound task) allocate to low processing node
  Else If (interdependent tasks set  $T^*$ ) then Select a node with highest grade  $\max(n_i^g)$  within sensor cloud
    allocateTasks( $T^*$ ,  $\max(n_i^g)$ )
  Else /* one task  $t_r$  is already allocated and dependent tasks  $T^*$  need allocation */
    If (more than one dependent tasks - count( $T^*$ ) > 1) then
      Get a node  $n_r$  that hosts an already allocated task  $t_r$ 
      If ( $t_r$  or successor( $t_r$ ) is rc-bound and ( $T^*$  - successor( $t_r$ )) are not rc-bound) then
        Select a node with highest grade  $\max(n_i^g)$  within a range of  $n_r$  and allocateTasks( $T^*$ ,  $\max(n_i^g)$ )
      Else Select a node with highest grade  $\max(n_i^g)$  within ad hoc sensor cloud
        allocateTasks( $T^*$ ,  $\max(n_i^g)$ )
    Else /*only one dependent task*/
      Get a node  $n_r$  that hosts already allocated task  $t_r$ 
      Get neighbor nodes of  $n_r$ 
      If (neighbor nodes > 1) then
        If ( $t_i$  is computation-bound task  $t_i^{cpu-bound}$ ) then allocate to high processing neighbor node
        Else If ( $t_i$  is local or remote communication-bound task) then allocate to low processing neighbor node
      allocateTasks( $T^*$ ,  $n_i$ ) {
      For each task within tasks set  $T^*$  {
        If ( $t_i$  is computation-bound task  $t_i^{cpu-bound}$ ) then
          allocate to high processing node  $n_j \in n_i^{kNN}$ 
        Else ( $t_i$  is local or remote communication-bound task) then
          allocate to low processing node  $n_j \in n_i^{kNN}$ 
      }
    }
  
```

Algorithm 1: Pseudo Code Of Network Aware Resource Scheduling Scheme For Sensor Cloud