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# SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SCIENCES M.S. IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS

# "EXPLORING JAMMING ATTACKS USING OPNET 12.0"

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# Exploring Jamming Attacks using Opnet® 12.0.

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#### Abstract:

Ad-hoc Networks are one of the most important achievements of current technology; they can provide communication without needing a fixed infrastructure, which makes them suitable for communication in disaster areas or when quick deployment is needed. However, since this kind of network uses the wireless medium for communication, it is susceptible to malicious exploitation at different layers. One of these attacks is a kind of denial of service attack (DoS) that interferes with the radio transmission channel, this is also known as a jamming attack. In this kind of attack, an attacker emits a radio signal that disturbs the energy of the packets causing many errors in the packet currently being transmitted. Another version of this attack is to constantly emit random semi-valid packets to keep the medium busy all the time, preventing the honest nodes from switching from the listening mode to the transmitting mode. In rough environments where there is constant traffic, a jamming attack causes serious problems; therefore measures to prevent this attack are required. The purpose of this thesis is to explore the underlying principles of jamming attacks (i.e., the effects of modulation techniques, interarrival times of packets, transmitter's and jammer's power) using Opnet® as the simulation tool. This work will be helpful so that in future research a useful, practical and effective solution can be created to countermeasure the effects of jamming attacks. The objective here is to understand, modify, and employ the models in OPNET 12.0® to simulate jamming attacks and understand the limitations of the available models.

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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Wireless technologies have emerged to offer access to information or applications from any place without being attached to a wall or floor by using wires; instead they use electromagnetic waves to transmit information through the free-space medium. At the beginning, in Wireless Local Area Networks (WLANs), the radio communication ranges were restricted to small areas dictated by the transmission power of a central authority called the Access Point (AP). The AP also had the responsibility of controlling all the activity in the network and often required a fixed infrastructure. Ad-hoc networks emerged as a possible alternative for scenarios where a fixed infrastructure does not exist and the environment is not suitable to build a fixed network. An adhoc network is a kind of network that is easily deployed; the nodes only need to enter each other's radio range and the network configures itself; this is particularly important for communication after natural disasters or in old buildings that cannot be wired.

# 1.1 MOTIVATION

Since nodes in an ad-hoc network use the radio wireless medium to communicate with other nodes, it is pretty easy for an attacker to launch an attack against an honest node. There are many attacks that can be launched against an ad hoc wireless network such as: radio interference attacks, routing attacks, tunneling attacks, etc. In this thesis the focus is set to a special kind of radio interference attack known as jamming attack. A jamming attack prevents legitimate users from accessing the channel or by disrupting the communication between a sender and a receiver. Jamming attacks are a problem that has represented a difficult challenge since World War II, when they were launched against radars. Nowadays they still remain a serious problem even for the most refined communication protocols implemented in the most sophisticated devices.

In a jamming attack the malicious node can act in one of two ways: 1) the attacker can send a random radio signal to increase the background noise in the channel and thereby causing many errors in the packet so that when that packet reaches the receiver it cannot correct the errors in the packet, therefore discarding it; 2) in the second way, the attacker sends packets with a valid packet format, that contains a valid frame header, but the data in it is useless. Such a packet may

prevent other packets from being sent to its intended receiver or it may collide with a legitimate packet resulting in the loss of the packet in a similar way to the first way of attacking.

Nowadays, people need communication networks that can assure them that their information remains private, that the information they are sending and receiving remains unchanged while it is being transmitted, that the receiver is who it claims to be and finally that they can be communicated whenever they need it. Jamming attacks affect the network in the sense that they prevent all kinds of information exchange. As mentioned before, this problem remains an open problem in the communications field; this is the reason why this thesis focuses on the exploration of the underlying factors that can be exploited to prevent these kinds of attacks. Security problems are something that cannot be eradicated completely. Every network should determine an appropriate level of security depending on the user's requirements, but what is sure is that no network can claim it is safe or reliable if it cannot provide the required services whenever any user requests them.

#### 1.2 THESIS OVERVIEW

This thesis demonstrates the effect of jamming attacks over the performance of a wireless local network; it uses as input variables the distance between the sender and the receiver, the power of the jammer, the power of the transmitter and the packets' interarrival times. The objective here is to understand, modify, and employ the models in OPNET 12.0® to simulate jamming attacks and understand the limitations of the available models.

Other factors that are taken into consideration are the network infrastructure; two kinds of jamming attacks (random and deceptive) are simulated over client-server architectures. An adhoc network is also simulated, but only under a deceptive jamming attack. A misbehaving node is also simulated; it misbehaves in the sense that the node does not respect its MAC protocols and greedily sends its packets without any restriction.

A network not running the standard 802.11 is also simulated to demonstrate how some modulation schemes are more resistant to jamming attacks than others, which verifies that the

modulation scheme plays a significant role in a possible solution for the jamming attack problem.

#### 1.3 THESIS OUTLINE

This thesis is organized in five chapters: Chapter 2 provides the necessary background knowledge so that the reader can have a better understanding of the topic presented. It briefly describes how the communication takes place through the wireless channel, the MAC layer protocols that are used by the standard 802.11, the research done by other people regarding jamming attacks, and finally describes how the simulation tool OPNET® simulates wireless communications. Chapter 3 sets the design of the experiment; it starts by defining the problem and specifying the models used. Then the chapter is divided into 5 scenarios: the first scenario describes a jammer constantly emitting a radio signal that disrupts valid packets. The second scenario is a client-server network disrupted by a jammer constantly sending semi-valid packets. The third scenario is the same scenario as in scenario two, but the disruption is caused by a random jammer instead of a constant jammer. Scenario four presents an ad-hoc network disrupted by the same jammer as in the second scenario, and finally scenario 5 shows the effects of a misbehaving node that does not respect its MAC layer protocols, the node is located in an ad-hoc network. Chapter 4 shows the simulations results and the analyses of each of the results; this chapter is also divided into the scenarios specified in chapter 3. Finally, chapter 5 concludes the results obtained in this thesis and suggests some topics for future research.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

In this chapter the background material, required to understand and evaluate jamming attacks in wireless networks is presented. The main topics discussed in this chapter are: the physical layer, especially focusing on the characteristics of the wireless channel and the indoor path loss model; the data link layer, in which some of the MAC protocols used in 802.11b/g are presented; jamming attacks, which are categorized and explained; and finally the chapter focuses on OPNET® the application package used to simulate all the previous characteristics, protocols and attacks.

#### 2.1 THE WIRELESS CHANNEL

In the communications field there are typically three ways of transporting information from a sender to a receiver: 1) the wired medium, usually copper wires moving electrons; 2) the optical medium, usually optical fiber transporting *light quanta*; and 3) the wireless medium that transports information using electromagnetic radiation [1]. In this thesis when the term 'wireless channel' is used, it denotes the transmission of information over a distance between a sender and a receiver using the air as the communication medium.

As explained before the wireless channel, the wired channel and the optical channel are different in nature therefore each channel has its own characteristics and is affected by different factors. One of the most important differences is the way that each of them propagate the signals. In wireless communication the information is contained in electromagnetic waves that are highly affected by the environment itself. The environment can cause attenuation, reflection, diffraction and/or scattering, these factors greatly impact the amount of energy contained in the signal that reaches the receiver's antenna.

Attenuation can be defined as the reduction in amplitude and intensity of a transmitted signal. The attenuation of a signal in the wireless channel depends on the distance that it has to travel and it is measured in decibels (dB) [2]. When there are obstacles between the sender and the receiver the signal is rebounded many times until it reaches the receiver, this effect is known as

reflection. The reflection effect is usually accompanied by scattering, which takes place when a signal hits a sharp edge and it is broken into two or more signals with different phase and level of attenuation. As a consequence those signals will follow different paths and they will arrive at different times at the receiver making it difficult for the receiver to correctly detect and interpret the intended message. Another important factor that affects the propagation of the signal is the movement of mobile nodes while there is an ongoing transmission.

#### 2.1.1 Free space propagation

The model of free space assumes that the area between sender and receiver has no elements that could absorb or reflect an electromagnetic wave. When the receiver's antenna is isotropic the free-space-loss factor  $L_s$  can be expressed as [3]:

$$L_s(d) = \left(\frac{4\pi d}{\lambda}\right)^2 \tag{2-1}$$

Where:

d is the distance between sender and receiver,

 $\lambda$  is the wavelength of the propagation signal

Unfortunately since most communications take place near the earth's surface, where there are many elements that absorb or reflect the signals, the free space loss model is not very useful.

There are two types of fading effects that characterize mobile communication:

# 2.1.2 Large scale fading

Large scale can be defined as the reduction of power when a node is moving from one place to another in large areas [3].

Part of the early work made on path-loss models was done by Okumara [4], the equations were later transformed by Hata [5] into parametric formulas of the form:

$$L_p(d) = \left(\frac{d}{d_0}\right)^n \tag{2-2}$$

and

$$L_p(d)(dB) = L_s(d_0)(dB) + 10n\log\left(\frac{d}{d_0}\right)$$
 (2-3)

where  $d_0 = 1$ km for large cells, 100m for microcells, and 1m for indoor channels.

 $L_p(d)$  is the average path loss as a function of the distance d in (dB). In reality, the loss varies with location and it is usually characterized as a random variable having a log-normal distribution.

Thus, the path loss  $L_p(d)$  can be expressed in terms of an average  $L_p(d)$  plus a random variable  $X_{\sigma}$  as follows[7]:

$$L_{p}(d)(dB) = L_{s}(d_{0})(dB) + 10n\log_{10}\left(\frac{d}{d_{0}}\right) + X_{\sigma}(dB)$$
 (2-4)

Where:

 $X_{\sigma}$  = the zero-mean Gaussian random variable in dB, with standard deviation  $\sigma$  (in dB),  $X_{\sigma}$  is site-and-distance-dependent.

#### 2.1.3 Small scale fading

In large scale fading the change in the power of the signal is the result of moving over large distances. In the small scale fading this is done over short distances. Small scale fading manifests itself in two ways: 1) spreading of the signal over time and 2) as a time-variant behavior of the

channel. The channel is said to be time variant when the transmitter and the sender are moving, which results in propagation path changes [4].

# 2.1.4 Coding and Modulation.

When two nodes are communicating they usually represent their data as a sequence of symbols (i.e., 0s and 1s). Before modulating these symbols into an electromagnetic wave, they are passed through an encoder to introduce, in a controlled way, some redundancy that can help the receiver to overcome the effects of the noise and the interference encountered while the sequence is being transmitted. After encoding the sender modulates the encoded sequence. Modulation serves as the interface between the sender's transmission circuits and the communications channel. The main purpose of modulation is to map the encoded sequence into signal waveforms. Sometimes the modulator maps each different bit into a different waveform, for instance if a binary sequence is being used the modulator maps 0 into one waveform and 1 into another. Some other times the modulator transmits n bit of information at a time (M-ary modulation) using  $2^n$  distinct waveforms.

When the channel-corrupted signal reaches the receiver's antenna; it is passed through a demodulation process that reduces that waveform to a sequence of numbers that represent an approximation of the data originally sent. The result is then passed through a decoder, which attempts to reconstruct the original data using knowledge of the code used by the encoder and the redundancy contained in the received data.

A measure of how well the communication is taking place is the frequency with which errors occur in the decoded sequence. Generally speaking, the probability of error is a function of the code characteristics, the types of waveforms used, the characteristics of the channel (the background noise, etc.), and the method for demodulating and decoding.

#### 2.2 MAC PROTOCOLS IN 802.11

After giving a brief explanation about how the wireless channel behaves, in this section the MAC protocol used by the 802.11 standard is explored.

#### 2.2.1 802.11 Overview

The IEEE 802.11 specifications are wireless standards that specify how the communication "over-the-air" between a wireless client and a base station or access point or among wireless clients must be done [8]. The standard 802.11 was first created in the 90's and was developed by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). It has been widely accepted by the international community and has become one of the most used and continuously improved technologies in wireless networks. 802.11 is a standard that is flexible, it allows the creation of both infrastructure and infrastructure-free networks. In an infrastructure mode all the traffic in the network passes through a central access point. In an infrastructure-free mode the network nodes communicate directly among them without having to rely on a central authority.

As with any 802.x protocol, the 802.11 protocol covers only the MAC and physical layers; the standard currently defines a single MAC (see Figure 2.1) which interacts with several PHYs [13]:

- Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum in the 2.4 GHz band
- Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum in the 2.4 GHz band and
- InfraRed
- OFDM (Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing)
- CCK (Complementary Code Keying)
- etc.

802.2		DATA LINK	
802.11 MAC		LAYER	
FH	DS	etc.	PHY LAYER

Figure 2.1 802.11 layers

#### 2.2.2 MAC Protocols

The data link layer is the second layer in the seven-layer OSI model, and can be divided into two sublayers: the LLC sublayer and the MAC sublayer. This latter provides addressing and medium access mechanisms that make it possible for several computers to share files or communicate information using the same physical medium.

Some examples of multiple access protocols that are currently used in wireless networks are: CSMA/CA, slotted ALOHA, dynamic TDMA, CDMA and OFDMA.

#### 2.2.2.1 CSMA

CSMA is a probabilistic MAC protocol that was created as an enhancement made to ALOHA. In CSMA the sender listens for a random period of time trying to detect if there is a carrier wave so that it can verify the existence of traffic currently being transmitted before it inputs packets on a shared physical channel such as the wireless channel. If it senses that there is a radio signal currently travelling in the channel, the node waits for the transmission in progress to finish before it can initiate its own transmission.

In a pure non-enhanced CSMA, only carrier sensing is used to avoid collisions. If two nodes try to send a packet at almost the same time, neither one of them would be able to detect a carrier so both of them would begin to transmit. Since the transmitters can not detect the collisions of the packets, they transmit their entire packets wasting energy. The collision recovery depends completely on the ability of the receivers to detect packet errors and execute an error recovery algorithm.

#### 2.2.2.2 CSMA/CA

CSMA/CA is an improvement made to CSMA. This works as follows: once the transmitter senses the channel as idle, it emits a signal letting all other nodes know that it is going to initiate its transmission and that all other nodes have to wait, then it sends its frame. In 802.11, the sender continues to wait for a random interval, and checks to see if the channel is still idle, if it is still idle the node transmits and waits for an acknowledgment that indicates that the packet has been received correctly. A back-off scheme is used to guarantee some grade of fairness among all the nodes in the networks [10].

The use of CSMA/CA depends on the nature of the channel that is being used. CSMA/CA is used where CSMA/CD cannot be implemented. CSMA/CD is used in copper-wired networks and CSMA/CA is used in 802.11 based wireless LANs. The main problem of wireless LANs is that it is not possible to listen while the transmitter is sending; therefore collision detection is not possible. Another reason is the hidden terminal problem, where a node A, in range of the receiver R, is not in range of the sender S, and therefore cannot know that S is transmitting to R.

A further enhancement made to CSMA/CA was made to reduce the probability of a collision, because two transmitters cannot hear each other; the protocol defines a Virtual Carrier Sense mechanism that works as follows:

When a node wants to transmit it first sends a Request To Send (RTS) packet. When the packet reaches the receiver it senses the channel to make sure there is not an ongoing transmission. If it senses the channel free it replies with a Clear To Send (CTS) packet, which includes the duration of the transmission. Every node that listens to the RTC and CTS packets updates its local status and backs off for the duration of the transmission [13].

#### 2.3 JAMMING ATTACKS

Nowadays, wireless networks have become more affordable. As a consequence of this, they are being deployed almost everywhere in different forms, ranging from cellular networks to sensor and wireless local area networks. As these networks are gaining popularity, providing security and trustworthiness is also becoming a key issue. Many architectures have been designed to address the security problems in wireless networks [14]. So far, the proposed architectures that solve some of the security problems in wireless networks address only the traditional services:

Authentication: by authentication it is understood that any node in the networks is who it claims to be.

*Confidentiality*: a communication is confidential if and only if the information can be only seen and understood by the sender and the intended receiver(s).

*Integrity*: this refers to the fact that the packet must not be modified during its travel from the sender to the intended receiver by any intermediate malicious node.

However, wireless networks are susceptible to some other attacks that cannot be addressed by the architectures mentioned before. One class of these attacks are the radio interference attacks, which are also classified as a Denial of Service Attack (DoS).

Due to the wireless nature of the channel and that currently most of the network users can easily get access to sophisticated technology the wireless medium poses no resistance against eavesdropping or broadcasting attacks [15]. In a wireless domain it is really easy for an adversary to sense when two legitimate wireless nodes are communicating. This implies that launching a simple denial of service attack against a wireless networks by injecting fake messages is really easy. A Denial of Service attack can be defined as an attack that renders the network resources unavailable [16].

As explained in previous paragraphs, radio interference attacks cannot be defeated through conventional security mechanisms. An adversary can simply override its medium access control protocol (MAC) and continually send packets on the wireless channel. By doing so, it either

prevents users from being able to commence with legitimate MAC operations, or introduces packet collisions causing forced and repeated backoffs [15].

#### 2.3.1 Jammers classification

There are many different attack strategies that a jammer can perform in order to interfere with other wireless nodes. The most accepted classification by the research community is: constant jammers, deceptive jammers, random jammers and reactive jammers. This classification was proposed in [13] [18].

**2.3.1.1 Constant jammers:** A constant jammer continuously emits a radio signal that represents random bits; the signal generator does not follow any MAC protocol. If the signal transmitted is strong enough to be sensed by a sender, it will always sense the medium as busy. It is considered to be the most effective jammer because it usually drops the throughput to zero for a long period of time until it runs out of energy. It is also considered non-energy efficient.

**2.3.1.2 Deceptive jammers**: Different from the continuous jammers, deceptive jammers do not transmit random bits – instead they transmit semi-valid packets. This means that the packet header is valid but the payload is useless. Therefore, when the legitimate nodes sense the channel they sense that there is valid traffic currently being transmitted and they will backoff, since there is no gap between two consecutive packets a valid node cannot transmit any packet, because it is forced to remain in the 'listening' mode.

**2.3.1.3 Random jammers:** The two previous kinds of jammers are really efficient in terms of denying service. They drop the throughput to zero, but they are not energy efficient. Random jammers on the other hand are energy efficient but a little less efficient in denying service. They alternate between two modes. In the first mode the jammer jams for a random period of time (it can behave either like a constant jammer or a deceptive jammer), and in the second mode (the sleeping mode) the jammer turns its transmitters off for another random period of time. The energy efficiency is determined as the ratio of the length of the jamming period over the length of the sleeping period.

**2.3.1.4 Reactive jammers:** Another aspect is that the three previous kinds of jammers do not take the traffic patterns into consideration, meaning that sometimes they waste energy if they are jamming when there is no traffic being exchanged in the network (active jamming). A reactive jammer tries not to waste resources by only jamming when it senses that somebody is transmitting. Its target is not the sender but the receiver, trying to input as much noise as possible in the packet to modify as many bits as possible given that only a minimum amount of power is required to modify enough bits so that when a checksum is performed over that packet at the receiver it will be classified as not valid and therefore discarded [13].

#### 2.3.2. Jamming detection

Currently there is not a dependable method to determine whether a network is being jammed or it is only suffering from a weak connection, as [13] states: "Detecting radio interferences attacks is challenging as it involves discriminating between legitimate and adversarial causes of poor connectivity".

The most accepted parameters to determine if a network is being jammed are: Packet Delivery Ratio (PDR), signal strength and carrier sensing time.

**2.3.2.1 Packet Delivery Ratio:** Since the first thing that is affected by a jamming attack is the throughput, it implies that the Packet Delivery Ratio at the receiver is low or null. Here, the packet delivery ratio is defined as the number of packets that a node receives and classifies as packets with a valid CRC divided by the number of all the packets received. If the PDR falls drastically below the normal average (or a predefined threshold) then it can be said that the network is under a jamming attack.

The most difficult part to apply this technique is the traffic characterization. In most cases the transmission channel is not perfect; therefore the PDR is not perfect either, it is usually

something lower than 100%, it depends on many of the channel characteristics, such as the distance, the transmitter's transmission power, etc. Thus, the nature of the packet transmission does not allow us to characterize accurately the traffic, taking into consideration that some times there are unexpected situations, such as: network congestions, nodes failure, packet losses due to the channel, etc. A simple threshold mechanism based on the PDR value can be used to differentiate a jamming attack, regardless of the jamming model, from a congested network condition [15]. Although the threshold mechanism is quite effective to differentiate jamming from congestion it does not help to differentiate jamming from nodes failure or, in case of mobile communications, the lost of communication with a moving node.

**2.3.2.2 Signal strength**: When a jammer is introduced into a network the signal strength distribution is affected, two techniques have been proposed using the signal strength as the main metric: 1) characterizing the average power in the signal and comparing it with a preset threshold and 2) sampling the received signals and classifying their shape.

**2.3.2.3 Carrier Sensing:** As mentioned in <u>section 2.3.1</u> constant jammers and deceptive jammers keep the channel always busy, either with random or semi-valid traffic. This causes a valid node, trying to send a valid packet, to repeatedly sense the channel as busy. Therefore if a valid node determines that it has sensed the channel busy for a long period of time it can conclude that a jamming attack is in progress. However this approach does not work for all kind of jamming attacks, it might not be able to detect a random jammer or a reactive jammer.

As explained in this section, many metrics have been proposed to determine when a network is being jammed, but none of them by itself can exactly detect a jamming attack, some combination of these metrics have been proposed [15]. They increase the overall detection but they still cannot determine if a network is being jammed with a 100% of exactitude.

#### **2.4 OPNET**

OPNET is a reliable application-oriented simulator that contains a set of libraries to efficiently simulate wireless networks. Although OPNET simulation models are mostly created based on built-in models, modifying the core of these models is not as difficult as it could sound. The greatest requirement to be able to create simulations or modify the built-in models is to have some intermediate programming skills in c/c++. These were two of the most important reasons to use OPNET as the simulation tool for this thesis.

# 2.4.1 Radio Transceiver Pipeline

OPNET uses the Radio Transceiver Pipeline (RTP) to model wireless transmission of packets.

Whenever OPNET needs to simulate a wireless transmission it has to execute the fourteen-stage radio transceiver pipeline. Most of these fourteen stages must be executed on a per-receiver basis. However stage 0 is invoked only once for each pair of transmitting and receiving channels in the network, this is done to establish a static binding between each transmitting channel and the set of receiving channels that it is allowed to communicate with. Stage 1 is used to compute a result that is common to all destinations, and therefore can be executed just once per transmission. Finally each individual pipeline sequence might not be fully complete, depending on the result of stage 2, because this stage is responsibly for determining if communication between the transmitter and receiver is possible on a dynamic basis. Similarly, stage 3 might classify a transmission as irrelevant with regard to its effect on a particular receiver channel, thereby preventing the pipeline sequence from reaching the final stages [17].

The stages from 9 to 12 are invoked to evaluate the performance of the link according to changes in the signal condition.

OPNET complements its software with a full description of each stage [17]:

# STAGE 0: Receiver group

When the simulation process begins, the simulation kernel models the broadcast nature of the radio by implementing multiple radio links between the transmitting channel and a set of receiver channels. Each of the transmitters has to keep an updated list of all the possible candidates for receiving a transmission from that transmitter. The simulation kernel checks every possible transmitter-receiver channel pair, and creates a receiver group for each transmitter channel. However, since the transceiver characteristics can continually change during the simulation process, it is very difficult to keep the list in an updated state. What the kernel does to solve this problem is to include all the nodes that can possibly become receivers at any point of time during the simulation, future stages will help to discard some of the nodes, based on situations such as:

- Disjoint frequency bands: these are defined based on its base frequency and its bandwidth. If the transmitter and receiver frequencies do not overlap then the receiver transmission cannot affect the receiver's channel.
- Physical separation: Physical separation is an important issue in wireless communication and depends upon the path loss model as explained in <u>section 2.1</u>
- Antenna nulls: this applies when the model is using directional antennae.

This stage is really important because although including all the possible receivers for all possible transmitters guarantees a more accurate simulation it also increases the time to finish the simulation, causing slower simulations.

# STAGE 1: Transmission delay

This stage must be executed on a dynamic basis, being re-started each time a new transmission takes place. It is invoked immediately after the beginning transmission of a packet. The calculations depend on the channel data rate and the length of the packet. The packet's length is divided by the data rate to obtain the transmission delay.

In this stage the amount of time required for the entire packet to complete transmission is calculated. The value of this calculation is the result of the difference between the beginning of transmission of the first bit and the end of transmission of the last bit of the packet. The obtained result is used to schedule the end-of-transmission event at the kernel level. When this event occurs the kernel can either start the transmission of the next packet in the system queue or start an idle state if there is none. The transmission delay is used in conjunction with the result of the transmission delay to calculate the time at which the packet will be received at its destination (the time at which the last bit finishes arriving at the destination).

#### STAGE 2: Closure

This stage is invoked once for each receiver channel present in the transmitting channel's destination channel set. This stage was created to determine whether a particular receiver can be affected by a transmission. Closure is defined as the ability of a transmission to reach the receiver's channel.

This stage is based on whether the signal can physically attain the candidate's receiver channel and affect it in any way. Therefore this stage is particularly important for jamming attacks. Other factors affecting this stage are the obstruction of the signal (occlusion) by obstacles and/or the surface of earth.

The computation of the closure is done based on a ray-tracing line of sight model. This algorithm tests the line segment joining the transmitter and receiver for intersections with the earth's surface. If there an intersection exists, the receiver cannot be reached and the remaining of the stages are not performed. This algorithm does not take into consideration the wave-bending effect.

STAGE 3: Channel Match

This stage was created to classify the transmission with respect to the receiver channel. Three

possible classifications are defined:

- Valid: this classification is for the packets that are considered compatible with the

receiver channel and will possibly be accepted and processed by the receiving node.

- Noise: packets in this category are considered non-compatible with the receiver channel,

but have an impact on the receiver channel's performance by generating interference.

- Ignored: if the packet is both non compatible with the receiver's channel and does not

affect it in any way then it falls in this classification.

The characteristics analyzed by the module are: frequency, bandwidth, data rate, spreading code

and modulation.

STAGE 4: Transmitter Antenna Gain

The purposes of this stage us to calculate the gain provided by the transmitter's antenna. This is

done based on the direction of the vector leading from the transmitter to the receiver.

The concept of antenna gain is understood as the phenomenon of magnification or reduction of

the transmitted signal energy, this phenomenon depends on the direction of the signal path. The

received energy depends also on the physical structure characteristics of the antenna and possible

phase manipulations of the signal. Isotropic antennas do not provide any gain because they have

a perfectly symmetric behavior with respect to all possible signal paths.

STAGE 5: Propagation Delay

The propagation delay is defined as the amount of time required for the packet's signal to travel

from the radio transmitter to the radio receiver; this mainly depends on the distance between the

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sender and receiver. Since the channel is pre-specified as the wireless medium the default speed

of the signal is the speed of light. Sometimes the distance of propagation can vary during the

packet transmission due to possible mobility of nodes; therefore some times the kernel has to

calculate two delays one at the beginning of the transmission of the packet and another at the end

of the transmission of the packet.

STAGE 6: Receiver Antenna Gain

The purposes of this stage us to calculate the gain provided by the receiver's antenna. This is

done based on the direction of the vector leading from the transmitter to the receiver. The

concept of antenna gain is identical to that of the transmitter's antenna gain.

STAGE 7: Receiver Power

This stage is aimed to calculate the received power of the arriving packet's signal in watts. This

calculation depends on the distance separating receiver and transmitter, the power of the

transmitter, the transmission frequency, and transmitter and receiver antenna gains.

OPNET uses formula 2-1 to calculate the free space propagation loss.

As the final stage of the computation of the receiver carrier power, the transmitter and receiver

antenna gains are extracted from previous stages. Since the antennas gain are given in decibels

they must be converted to a non-logarithmic form and then they are multiplied with the other

variables of the link budget (transmission power, transmitter antenna gain, receiver antenna gain

and path loss).

STAGE 8: Interference Noise

This stage is only executed for a packet under one two possible circumstances:

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- The packet is classified as valid by the stage 3 and arrives at the destination channel while another packet is being received.
- The packet is classified as valid by stage 3 and starts being received by the destination channel when another packet arrives.

The objective of this stage is to keep a record of the transmissions that arrive at the same time to the same receiver channel. The kernel reserves a Transmission Data Attribute (DTA), whose value is increased each time a valid packet arrives to the receiver interfering with another packet. Once the packet completes reception the kernel subtracts its receiver power from the noise accumulator of all valid packets that are still arriving at the channel.

# STAGE 9: Background Noise

This stage calculates all other sources of noise that are not related to the interference noise. Other sources are: thermal or galactic noise, emissions from neighboring electronics and radio transmissions that are not modeled.

Background noise is characterized by an effective background temperature which is added to the effective device temperature of a receiver. The noise figure of the receiver is obtained to calculate the effective device temperature, assuming an operating temperature of 290K. The sum of these temperatures, each representing a separate source of noise, is multiplied by the bandwidth of the receiver channel and Boltzmann's constant to obtain the added noise contributed by the receiver to the processed signal.

The ambient noise power spectral density models sources of noise such as the urban noise in the frequency band of interest. Both the ambient noise and the added noise are added to model the overall effect of the modeled noise sources.

STAGE 10: Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR)

Stage ten was created to calculate the current SNR; this is usually based on previous results

obtained from stages 4 through 9. The SNR determines whether the receiver can correctly

receive the packets content. This value is given in double-precision floating point number

expressed in dB.

The Kernel models the SNR as follows: when the packet reaches stage 10 it already includes

values obtained in previous stages, such as the average received power, the background noise,

and the interference noise. This stage performs the calculation of the ratio of the average power

of the information signal to the accumulated average power of all background and interference

noises.

$$SNR = \frac{Average\_power}{background\_noise + interference\_noise}$$
(2-5)

STAGE 11: Bit Error Rate

The purpose of this stage is to derive the probability of bit errors during the interval of the SNR.

This is not an actual rate of bit errors, but the expected rate, which is usually based on the SNR

and also depends on the type of modulation used for the transmitted signal.

The process followed is: the kernel extracts the SNR calculated on stage 10 and adds it to the

processing gain to obtain the effective SNR. Then the effective SNR is converted from the log

scale and expressed as  $E_b/N_0$ . Where:

 $E_b$  is the received energy per bit (in joules)

 $N_0$  is the noise power spectral density (in watts/hertz).

Then the bit error rate is derived from the effective SNR based on a modulation curve assigned

to the receiver

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#### STAGE 12: Error Allocation

This part of the process estimates the number of bit errors in a packet segment where the bit error rate probability has been calculated. This process also calculates the actual Bit Error Rate obtained by dividing the number of errors in the segment by the size of the segment.

#### STAGE 13: Error correction

This is the final stage of the RTP, its purpose is to determine if a packet can be accepted and processed correctly by the receiving node. This stage is based on the ability of the receiving node to correct the errors detected on stage 12, if it is possible for it to correct all the errors it will forward the packet to the corresponding output stream, if it is not able to correct the errors the packet is destroyed.

#### 3.0 EXPERIMENT DESIGN

In chapter 3 the way the experiment was designed is explained. It starts by stating the problem addressed in this thesis, including the variables that are manipulated and the ones that are collected to measure the effects of a jamming attack. Later in the chapter the layouts for each of the scenarios is shown including a description of each of them.

#### 3.1 PROBLEM DEFINITION

The purpose of this thesis is to study the effects of jamming attacks on the throughput, the received power and the bit error rate probability in an 802.11 based wireless network by using as input variables the jammer's transmission power, the packet interarrival time at the jammer and the distance between jammers and nodes, all of this using OPNET as the simulation tool.

# 3.2 DATA ACQUISITION / MODEL SPECIFICATION

For this study the input variables are: jammer's transmission power, jammer's packet interarrival rate and the distance between the jammer and the nodes.

The jammer's transmission power will be considered in 3 discrete values [0.032W, 0.066W, 0.1W]. 0.032 W is the most common transmission power used in current 802.11g access points; and while 0.066 W is not widely used, it is the middle point between the most used transmission power and the maximum transmission power allowed; and 0.1 W is the maximum power accepted by the IEEE standards for a WLAN.

Packet interarrival times will also be considered in 3 discrete continuous values: [0.01sec, 0.05 sec, 0.1 sec]

In the first scenario the distance between the jammer and the receiver will constantly vary due to the use of a mobile jammer inside the scenario. In the remainder of the scenarios the distance will be fixed.

The outcomes for the first scenario will be plots of the energy received, the throughput and the bit error rate probability versus time. For the second and third scenarios the outcomes will be plots of the throughput, the time the access point's transmitting circuits are busy and the time the access point's listening circuits are busy. For scenario four the outcomes are plots of the throughput in nodes that are within and outside the jammer's transmission range. Finally for scenario five, the outcome is a graph that compares the cumulative throughput in the network when no misbehaving node is present and when it is.

#### **3.2.1 Scenario 1**

Scenario 1 simulates the simplest of the jamming attacks. This attack consists of a single transmitter (tx) sending valid traffic to a receiver (rx), both of them without any MAC protocol, and a single jammer that is constantly emitting random non-valid packets, trying to cause collision with valid packets to increase the probability of errors in them.

The simulation setup is as follows:

The scenario has a size of  $75 \times 75$  meters, which is the average coverage provided by an AP using the standard 802.11g [10]. The green line in Figure 3.1 shows the trajectory followed by the mobile jammer.

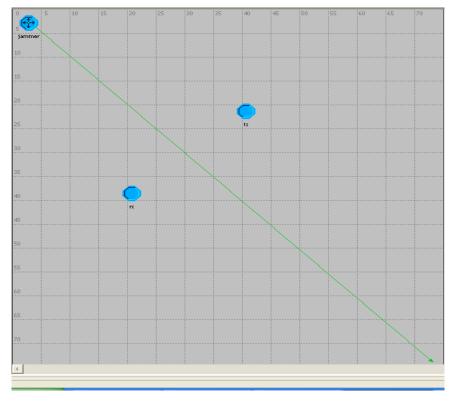


Figure 3.1: Scenario 1 layout.

# 3.2.1.1 Jammer characteristics:

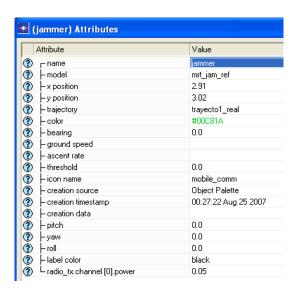


Figure 3.2: Jammer characteristics

<u>Figure 3.2</u> shows the jammer's characteristics, it is created using the *mrt\_jam\_ref* model. This mobile jammer will follow the trajectory specified by '*trayecto1\_real*' (green line in <u>Figure 3.1</u>), and with a transmission power of 0.05 W.

<u>Figure 3.3</u> shows that the inner structure of this jammer consists of three inner modules: the first one is a traffic generator that is connected to a radio modulator that is connected to an antenna.

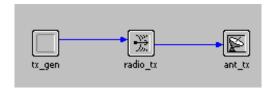


Figure 3.3 Jammer inner modules

In <u>Figure 3.4</u> it is shown that the jammer sends jamming packets with a constant length of 1024 bits at a constant rate of 1 packet per second. When those packets arrive at the wireless modulator they are converted into a suitable form to be transmitted by the antenna at a rate of 1024 bps with a power of 0.05 watts. The wireless modulator also specifies that the modulation scheme is '*jammod*' and all the processes that will apply to that packet. In this thesis the default RTP stages will be used (RTP stages are described in <u>section 2.4</u>).

Traffic generator		Radio modulator		Antenna	
characteristics		characteristics		characteristics	
∟name	tx_gen	∟name	radio_tx	⊢ name	ant_tx
process model	simple_jammer_source	⊡ channel ⊢rows	[]	– pattern	isotropic
icon name	processor	= row 0	'	pointing ref. phi	0.0
- Packet Interarrival Time	constant (1.0)	data rate (bps)	1,024	pointing ref. theta	180
Packet Size	constant (1024)	- packet formats	all formatted, unformatted	- target latitude	0.0
- Start Time	10.0	- bandwidth (kHz) - min frequency (MHz)	10 30	target longitude	0.0
L Stop Time	Infinity	- spreading code	disabled	- target altitude	0.0
		power (W)	0.05	Licon name	antenna
		bit capacity (bits)	infinity	- Icon Hame	antenna
		L pk capacity (pks)	1,000		
		- modulation	jammod		
		rxgroup model	dra_rxgroup		
		- txdel model	dra_txdel		
		- closure model	dra_closure		
		- chanmatch model	dra_chanmatch		
		- tagain model	dra_tagain		
		propdel model	dra_propdel		
		Licon name	ra_tx		

Figure 3.4 Characteristics of the jammer modules

# 3.2.1.2 Transmitter characteristics:

⊢ name	tx
- model	mrt_tx_ref
x position	40.7
y position	21.5
- threshold	0.0
icon name	fixed_comm
creation source	Object Palette
creation timestamp	00:27:25 Aug 25 2007
creation data	
L label color	black

Figure 3.5 Transmitter's characteristics

The transmitter is composed of exactly the same three modules as that of the jammer with the exact same flow of traffic, but with some different characteristics.

erator character	stics	Radio modul	ator characteristics
tx_gen	Attrib	oute	Value
simple_source	⊢n	ame	radio_tx
processor	⊟с	hannel	[]
NONE		– rows	1
constant (1.0)	<b>-</b>	row 0	
constant (1024)		– data rate (bps)	1,024
10.0		packet formats	all formatted, unformatted
Infinity		– bandwidth (kHz)	10
		min frequency (MHz)	30
		spreading code	disabled
		power (W)	0.032
		bit capacity (bits)	infinity
		Lipk capacity (pks)	1,000
	⊢ m	odulation	bpsk
	⊢n	group model	dra_rxgroup
	⊢b	del model	dra_txdel
	⊢c	losure model	dra_closure
	⊢c	hanmatch model	dra_chanmatch
	- ta	again model	dra_tagain
	ŀр	ropdel model	dra_propdel
	Lic	on name	ra_tx
	tx_gen simple_source processor NONE constant (1.0) constant (1024)	tx_gen  simple_source processor  NONE constant (1.0) constant (1024) 10.0 Infinity  -m -rx -tx -tx -cc	Attribute  simple_source processor  NONE  constant (1.0)  constant (1024)  10.0  Infinity  Attribute  name  channel  rows  data rate (bps)  - data rate (bps)  - packet formats  - bandwidth (kHz)  - min frequency (MHz)  - spreading code  - power (W)  - bit capacity (bits)

Figure 3.6 Transmitter's modules characteristics

The transmitter is created using the 'simple\_source' module included in OPNET's libraries. The traffic source creates packets with an interarrival time of 1 packet per second and a constant length of 1024 bits. The radio modulator uses the 'bpsk' modulation scheme to modulate the signal (bpsk stands for Binary Phase Shift Keying). Only traffic with this kind of modulation will be considered as valid traffic.

Within the jammer OPNET uses a special module called *simple\_jammer\_source*, which generates packets with random bits and uses the *simple\_source* module to generate valid traffic. Also, at the jammer side, OPNET uses a special kind of modulation technique called *'jammod'* that causes OPNET to interpret all traffic with this kind of modulation as interference.

The antenna has exactly the same characteristics as the one used in the jammer.

**3.2.1.3 Receiver characteristics:** At the receiver the traffic flows in the opposite direction of the traffic flow at the transmitter as shown in <u>Figure 3.6</u>:

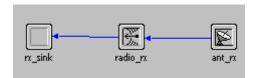


Figure 3.7 Receiver's modules

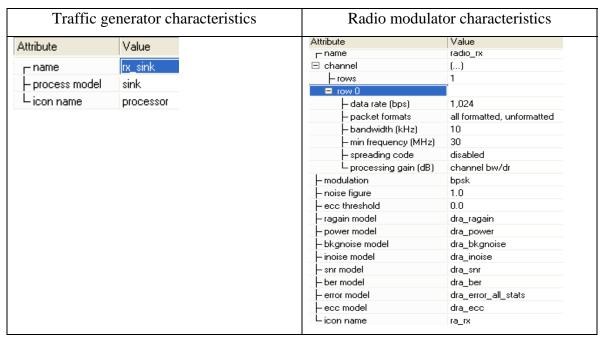


Figure 3.8 Receiver's modules characteristics

As it can be seen from the characteristics in <u>Figure 3.8</u>, the receiver catches the radio signal with the antenna. Then it is handed to the radio modulator to be demodulated and have the parameters of the signal to be analyzed. Upon completion, it is sent to the sink.

#### **3.2.2 Scenario 2**

Scenario 2 simulates a network using 802.11 protocols, implementing the CSMA/CA protocol at the MAC layer. The network is designed in a client-server fashion.

This scenario will be further divided in two sub-scenarios; in the first sub-scenario constant bit rate traffic is simulated, while in the second sub-scenario HTML traffic is simulated.

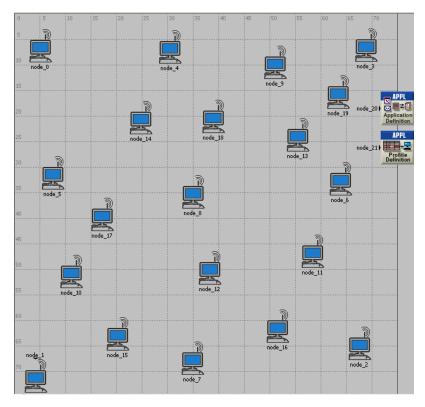


Figure 3.9 Scenario 2 layout.

In this scenario 20 nodes, 19 clients and 1 server (node\_8) are simulated, all of them created using the 'wlan\_wkstn' built-in model; the scenario size is the same as the one used in scenario 1.

**3.2.2.1 Application Definition and Profile Definition Characteristics:** The 'wlan\_wkstn' model requires the creation of a profile for the traffic in the network. This is done using two modules: in the first module the type of application creating the traffic is specified, for the first sub-scenario in this simulation the traffic is created using CBR traffic, for the second sub-scenario, the traffic is create using HTTP1.1 (See <u>Figure 3.10</u>).

Application definition	n characteristics	Profile definition chara	cteristics
Attribute	Value	Attribute	Value
_ name	node_20	r name	node_21
- model	Application Config	- model	Profile Config
x position	75	x position	75
y position	18.6	y position	26.3
threshold	0.0	- threshold	0.0
icon name	util_app	Licon name	util_profiledef
creation source	Object Palette	creation source	Object Palette
creation timestamp	23:09:20 Aug 27 2007	creation timestamp	23:09:24 Aug 27 2007
creation data		- creation data	
- label color	black	- label color	black
∃ Application Definitions	[]	☐ Profile Configuration	()
- rows	1	Frows	1
⊡ row 0		⊟ row 0	
– Name	HTML	Profile Name	HTML
☐ Description	()	·	
- Custom	Off	☐ Applications	()
- Database	Off	Frows	1
– Email	Off	□ row 0	11714
⊢ Ftp	Off	- Name	HTML
- Http	Image Browsing	- Start Time Offset (seconds)	uniform (5,10)
- Print	Off	Duration (seconds)	End of Profile
- Remote Login	Off	⊞ Repeatability	Unlimited
- Video Conferencing	Off	Operation Mode	Serial (Ordered)
LVoice	Off	- Start Time (seconds)	uniform (100,110)
▼ Voice Encoder Schemes	All Schemes	Duration (seconds)	End of Simulation
- hostname		⊞ Repeatability	Once at Start Time
minimized icon	circle/#708090	- hostname	
L <sub>role</sub>		- minimized icon	circle/#708090
		L <sub>role</sub>	

Figure 3.10 Profile and application definition characteristics

**3.2.2.2 Nodes characteristics:** The next figure (Figure 3.11) shows the behavior of the node when it is used as server. In this case it is used as a station running Solaris as the operative system, with a single CPU and a single core. The application parameters apply the application and profile definition (in this case heavily browsing images using HTML 1.1).

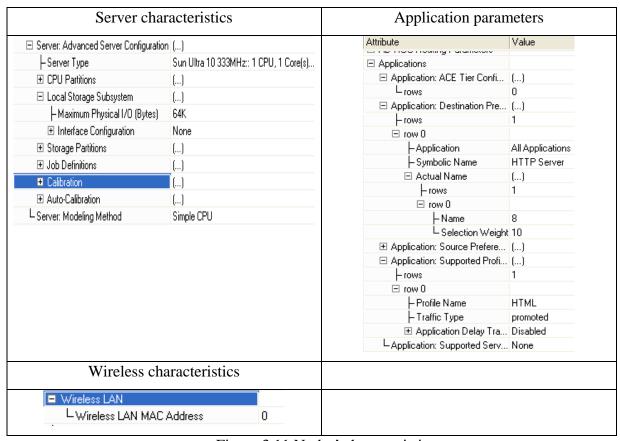


Figure 3.11 Nodes' characteristics

Nodes' modules: <u>Figure 3.12</u> is a graphical representation of the stack of protocols implemented in the standard 802.11.

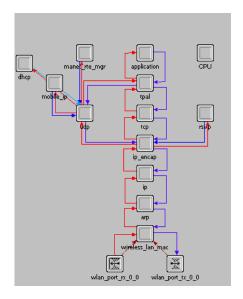


Figure 3.12 Node's modules

These modules are the basis of the model; therefore their characteristics are the nucleus of the simulation.

The following figures show the most relevant modules used for this thesis, they are: the MAC layer characteristics, the module for transmission, and the module for reception.

At the MAC layer the most important characteristics are the data rate, which is set to 11 mbps, and the reception threshold that is set to be -95 dBm.

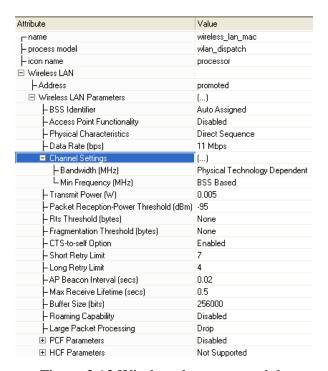


Figure 3.13 Wireless\_lan\_mac module

The receiver has a minimum frequency of 2401 MHz with a bandwidth of 100,000 KHz, and it uses 'dpsk' (differential phase shift keying) as the modulation scheme and the packets are set to pass through the fourteen stages of the RTP. All the remaining characteristics are shown in Figure 3.14.

Attribute	Value
⊢ name	wlan_port_rx_0_0
⊡ channel	[]
– rows	1
⊡ row 0	
data rate (bps)	1,000,000,000
packet formats	unformatted, wlan_control, wlan_mac
– bandwidth (kHz)	100,000
min frequency (MHz)	2,401
- spreading code	disabled
└ processing gain (dB)	channel bw/dr
- modulation	dpsk
noise figure	1.0
ecc threshold	0.0
ragain model	NONE
power model	wlan_power
- bkgnoise model	dra_bkgnoise
inoise model	dra_inoise
- snr model	dra_snr
ber model	wlan_ber
error model	wlan_error
ecc model	wlan_ecc
Licon name	ra_rx

Figure 3.14 Wlan\_port\_rx\_0\_0 module

The transmitter has almost the same as characteristics as the transmitter (channel match) but it also includes the transmit power at which the transmitter transmits.

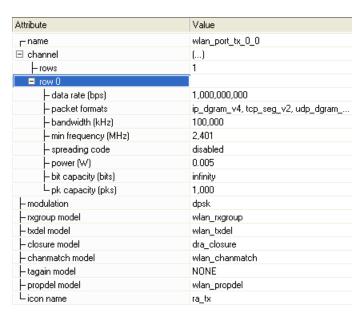


Figure 3.15 Wlan\_port\_tx\_0\_0module

**3.2.2.3 Jammer characteristics:** The jammer used was built based on the '*jam\_sb*' included in OPNET's libraries.

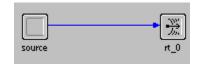


Figure 3.16 Jammer's modules

Attribute	Value	Attribute	Value
		⊢ name	rt_0
_ name	source	⊟ channel	()
process model	simple_jammer_source	⊢ rows	1
icon name	processor	⊡ row 0	
Packet Interarrival Time	constant (0.01)	data rate (bps)	1,000,000
	, ,	packet formats	unformatted
- Packet Size	constant (1024)	bandwidth (kHz)	100,000
Start Time	10.0	min frequency (MHz)	2,401
L Stop Time	Infinity	- spreading code	1.0
·	-	power (W)	0.03
		bit capacity (bits)	infinity
		⊢ pk capacity (pks)	1,000
		- modulation	jammod
		⊢rxgroup model ⊢txdel model	dra_rxgroup
		- closure model	dra_txdel dra_closure
		- chanmatch model	dra_closure dra_chanmatch
		- tagain model	NONE
		– propdel model	dra_propdel
		Licon name	ra_tx

Figure 3.17 Jammer's modules characteristics

# **3.2.3 Scenario 3**

Scenario 3 is a variation of scenario 2. While a constant jammer is used in scenario 2, in scenario 3 a random jammer (also known as pulse jammer) is used. The difference between the two kinds of jammers is explained in <u>Section 2.3.1</u>. For this thesis, the pulse jammer was *modified* to jam for a random period of time and sleep for another random period of time instead of using fixed periods as is done in the default OPNET model.

# 3.2.3.1 Jammer's Characteristics

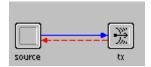


Figure 3.18 Pulse jammer's inner modules

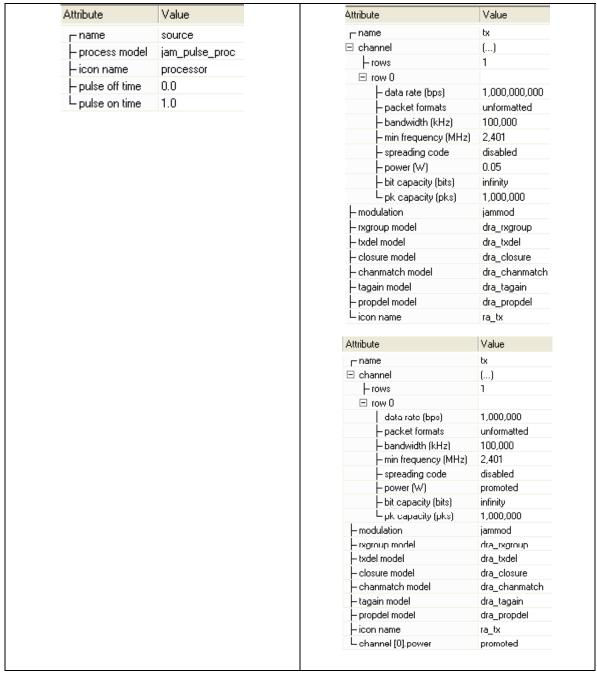


Figure 3.19 Modules characteristics

#### 3.2.4 Scenario 4

Scenario 4 simulates a network using 802.11 protocols in the same manner as in scenario 2; scenario 4 uses CSMA/CA at the MAC layer too. The difference is that in this scenario the network is implemented in an ad-hoc fashion.

The layout for this scenario is exactly the same as the one shown in <u>Figure 3.9</u>, with the same number of nodes, and the same model of nodes. However, the node used in <u>scenario 2</u> as an access point (AP) is used as a simple ad-hoc node in this scenario. The nodes are modified to simulate an ad-hoc network using Dynamic Source Routing (DSR) as the routing protocol.

**3.2.4.1 Nodes characteristics:** All the nodes characteristics are the same as the ones in the nodes for <u>scenario 3</u>, except for the ad-hoc routing parameters (<u>Figure 3.20</u>).

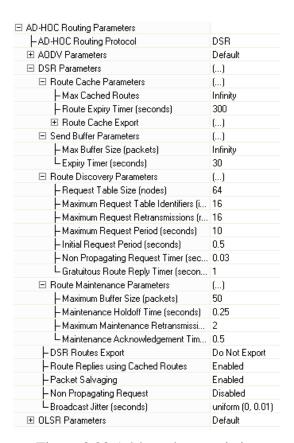


Figure 3.20 Ad-hoc characteristics

#### 3.2.5 Scenario 5.

Scenario 5 simulates a misbehaving node in the network. In this scenario there is no jammer – there are only valid nodes and one node that misbehaves. It misbehaves in the sense that it does not sense the channel and wait for a random period of time. It directly injects the traffic into the channel obtaining an unfair advantage over the other nodes.

The node was created based on the 'wlan\_wkstn\_adw' pre-built model, but without the 'wireless\_lan\_mac' module, which is the responsible for the MAC protocols. The resulting inner structure is shown in <u>figure 3.21</u>. The inner code of the TCP module was modified to simulate constant bit rate traffic (see appendix B).

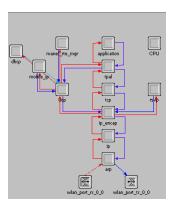


Figure 3.21: Misbehaving node inner structure.

The simulation will be run twice, the first with only three nodes, two well behaving nodes and one misbehaving node. The second run will be simulated with a normally dense network of 15 nodes. Both cases will be simulated using a client-server fashion.

#### 4.0 SIMULATIONS ANALYSIS

Chapter four analyzes the results obtained from each of the scenarios described in the previous chapter. The simulation results are shown in plots, each of them accompanied by a detailed explanation.

#### 4.1 SCENARIO 1

As described in the previous chapter the simulations in this thesis were divided in five different scenarios. The first scenario represents an area of  $75 \times 75$  meters, with 3 different nodes; the top-left node represents a mobile jammer, which follows a straight line (green line) for 90 minutes (the duration of the simulation). The node at the right of the green line represents an honest transmitter with the characteristics described in chapter 3; the node at the left is an honest receiver.

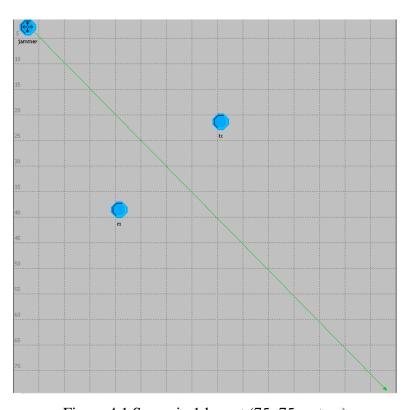


Figure 4.1 Scenario 1 layout (75×75 meters)

Under normal circumstances the traffic in this scenario achieves a throughput of 100% because it is an ideal scenario there are no obstacles, the background noise is considerably low and it is the only source of noise that OPNET takes into consideration (explained in section 2.4.1: background noise).

<u>Figure 4.2</u> represents the bit error rate, the received power, the signal to nose ratio and the throughput values under normal circumstances, the transmitter's power is: 0.032W and it has a packet interarrival time of 1 packet per second.

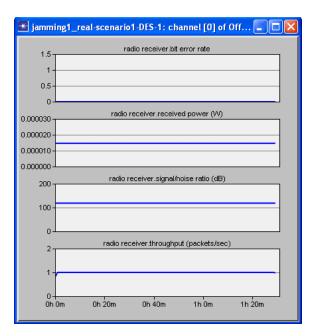


Figure 4.2 traffic characteristics under normal circumstances

After that, a jammer is introduced into the scenario. This jammer sends packets with energy levels similar to those created by the transmitter. The jammer's packets use a special kind of modulation implemented in OPNET, called 'jammod'.

After the transmitter sends the packet it is received at the receiver's antenna and the third stage of the pipeline sequence classifies this packet as valid. Parallel to this the jammer that was already introduced is constantly sending non-valid packets. Therefore the receiver receives two packets at the same time. The packet sent by the jammer is classified by stage 3 as interference.

Then Stage eight keeps a record of the transmissions that arrived at the same time at the same receiver channel.

When a packet A arrives to the receiver's antenna at the same time than a packet B, stage 8 classifies packet A as noise for packet B and vice versa. In addition, the kernel reserves a Transmission Data Attribute (DTA), whose value is increased each time a valid packet arrives to the receiver interfering with another packet. Also the

Next figure (<u>Figure 4.3</u>) shows what happens when a jammer with a transmission power of 0.032W is inserted in the scenario. The transmitter keeps its transmission power of 0.032W and uses 'bpsk' as the modulation scheme.

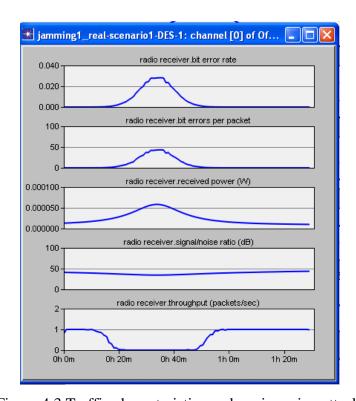
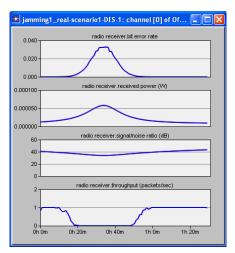


Figure 4.3 Traffic characteristics under a jamming attack.

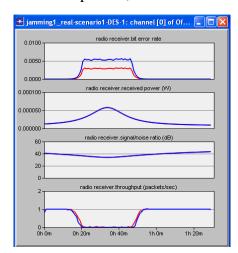
As it can be observed from the graph (Figure 4.3), when the jammer is inserted in the scenario, the bit error rate probability goes considerably up, reaching almost up to 4% of probability of error per bit. Although this probability does not seem to be high enough to cause an error in each bit the second plot titled 'bit errors per packet' demonstrates that in some cases more than 50 bits

are corrupted. It should also be recalled that sometimes only a couple of bits need to be modified to cause the whole packet to be discarded. The bit error rate in OPNET is not simulated – it is calculated from a table included in OPNET's core (this table can be also found in [17].) The third plot shows that the power at the receiver is also increased when the jammer is introduced, but the SNR decreases considerably increasing the probability of errors in the packets; errors that the receiver cannot correct which leads to a throughput of zero for around 30 minutes, until the jammer is away from the sender and receiver and they can resume normal operations.

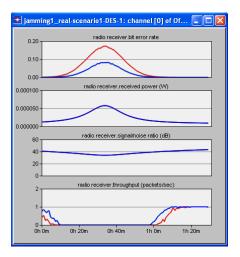
Other sets of simulations were run using different kinds of modulations, such as: Binary Phase Shift Keying (bpsk) and its variation bpsk\_pch; Complementary Code Keying (cck11 and cck55); Dual Phase Shift Keying (dpsk); Frequency Shift Keying and its variants; Gaussian Minimum Shift Keying (gmsk); Minimum Shift keying (msk); Phase Shift Keying (psk) and its variants; Quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM), and its variation; Quaternary Phase Shift Keying (QPSK) and Minimum Shift Keying (MSK). These graphs were run with the 'spread code' attribute disabled. The next set graphs show the results obtained for selected modulation schemes (to see the results for each modulation scheme go to appendix A). They show that the modulation scheme used to transmit the information is indeed important;

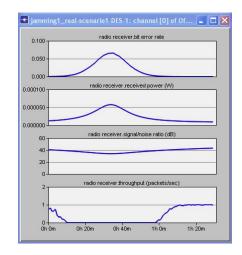


Bpsk in blue



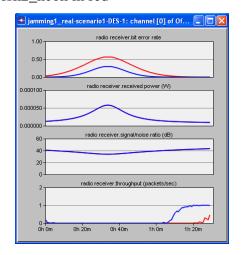
Cck11 in blue, cck55 in red





Fsk2 in blue, fsk2\_ncoh in red

Psk8 in blue



Qam16 in blue, Qam64 in red

Figure 4.4 Different modulation schemes under jamming attack

The previous graphs showed that there are some modulation schemes that are more capable of opposing jamming attacks, for instance it can be observed that qpsk, bpsk, gmsk, msk and cck are more resistant and have a throughput of zero only for approximately 30 minutes, while quam16, qam64 and fsk suffer a throughput of zero for more than 50 minutes

As explained in section 2.1.4 the M-ary modulation modulates n bits of information at a time (M-ary modulation) using  $2^n$  distinct waveforms. This means that the threshold (distance) between each of the waveforms (amplitude, angle, frequency) reduces when the number of waveforms increases. Therefore, when there are a lot of waveforms such as in Qam64 even the slightest

variation in the channel's background noise causes a lot of bit errors, this is the main reason why Qam 64 performs worse against a jamming attack. In the case of qpsk, bpsk, gmsk, msk and cck, that use a very small number of waveforms to transmit data, the threshold (distance) between each of those signals is bigger consequently they are more tolerant to the variation of the background noise caused by the jammers.

If the spread code is enabled there is no difference in the results.

One of the most important input variables that must be taken into consideration is the power that the jammer uses, for the next figure the power of the jammer was increased to 0.1 W

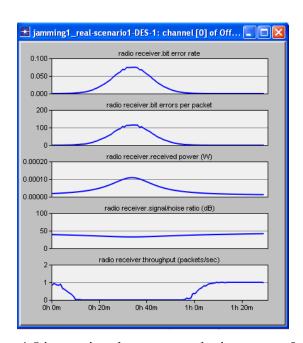


Figure 4.5 increasing the power at the jammer to 0.1 W.

<u>Figure 4.5</u> shows that the probability of bit error rate increases to an unacceptable level of almost 10%, causing a little more than 100 bits per packet to be in error; the received power at the receiver also was increased considerably; although the graphs now show much variation the resulting throughput shows that that little variation has a great impact, the throughput is affected for 1 hour and 10 minutes.

4.2 SCENARIO 2

In this scenario the focus is set on the communication between two nodes in a client-server

fashion. This scenario is divided in two parts, the first is simulated using a constant bit rate, and

the second one is simulated using the HTTP protocol under heavy web page browsing.

For both scenarios, the attacker first waits for 10 seconds to let the AP to reach a steady state,

and then it turns its radio jammer transmitter and starts sending out packets with valid but useless

packets. When a node has some traffic to send it senses the medium to avoid collisions but since

the jammer already started transmitting it will feel sensing the medium busy and it will be forced

to back off until the jammers ceases its jamming activity.

The most important input variables are: jammer's interarrival rate, the jammer's transmission

power and the distance between the jammer and the AP.

The output variables that must be observed are:

Throughput at the AP: since in this scenario there is only one AP in the network, all the traffic

must pass through it.

Transmitter's busy time: it is the time a node spends transmitting its data.

Receiver's listening time: this is the time a node spends listening to me medium waiting to access

it and transmit its data.

The first scenario consists of 19 hosts that are randomly distributed and 1 access point (AP)

located in the middle of the scenario; this scenario was designed so that each node is in the AP's

transmission range.

45

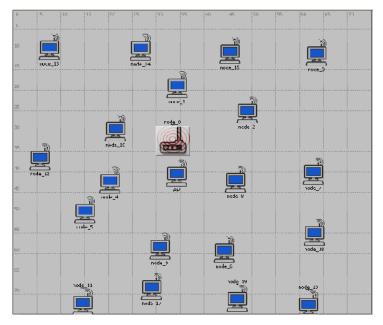


Figure 4.6 scenario 2 layout

Figure 4.7 shows the network's traffic under normal circumstances:

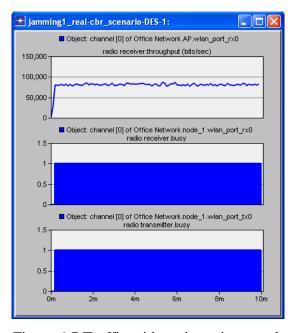


Figure 4.7 Traffic without jamming attack

The figure shows how the throughput at the AP is approximately 80 kbps due to the fact that there is only one AP for 19 nodes and therefore there are many collisions. It also can be seen that

the receiver is always busy, and the transmitter is always busy, which mean it is receiving and sending traffic.

<u>Figure 4.8</u> is a 30-second close-up of a node, showing how a node can alternate between sending and receiving.

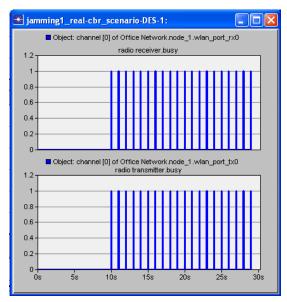


Figure 4.8 30-second close-up

Two important aspects play an important role in this scenario. The first is that the jammer must produce packets faster than honest nodes to prevent them from switching from listening to transmitting mode. The second is that the power of the node must be high enough to reach all nodes in the network if only one jammer is used, therefore the jammer must have greater power supply than honest nodes, for this simulation we assume that the jammer and all nodes have unlimited energy (that is the battery is not drained).

<u>Figure 4.9</u> shows that the introduction of a jammer - the upper graph shows that the jammer lowers the traffic at the AP to zero; the graph in the middle shows that the jammer keeps the nodes listening all the time, and the last graph shows that the nodes cannot transmit any packet.

Since the jammer is constantly injecting packets with a valid packet header, the AP is forced to receive all of them trying to decipher who to send it to or what to do with them, but since the

packets are useless the AP drops them. This is why the AP is kept in the listening mode all the time.

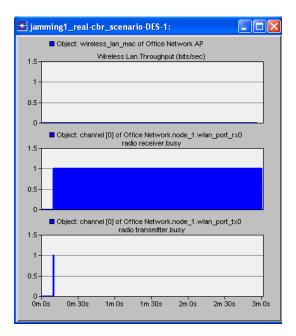


Figure 4.9 traffic when a jammer is introduced

A 30-second close-up was captured to show that the receiver is always active sensing the channel, it is busy all the time, and therefore it cannot switch to a transmitting mode.

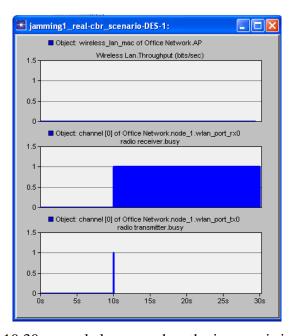


Figure 4.10 30-second close-up when the jammer is introduced

Another set of simulations was run, but instead of simulating traffic with a CBR the application and profile definitions were changed to a heavy-web-browsing scenario, with an exponential distribution instead of a constant distribution.

It was decided to use this sub-scenario because in real-world applications, the traffic is almost never constant. Therefore HTTP traffic was thought to be a good example of a real world traffic generator.

Figure 4.11 shows the traffic characterization before and after jamming. In the left graph it can be seen that there is traffic with an exponential distribution and that both the transmitter and the receiver are constantly busy; on the other hand, in the graph on the right, we can see that despite the fact that the receiver is always busy, there is no throughput in the node.

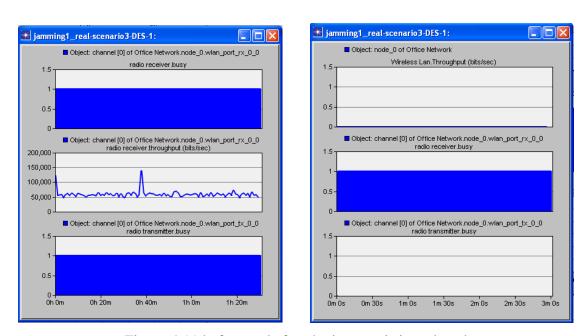


Figure 4.11 before and after the jammer is introduced

<u>Figure 4.1</u>1 shows the 30-second close-up, and it can be observed that the receiver has no time to switch from the listening mode to the transmitter mode.

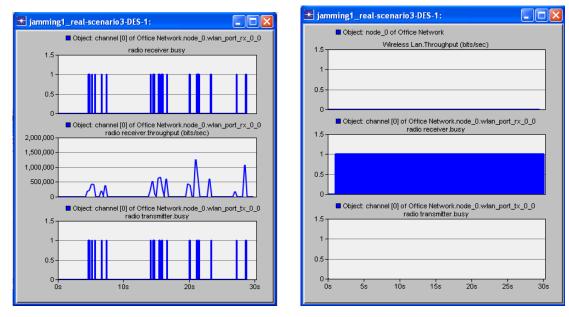


Figure 4.12 30-second close-up

#### 4.3 SCENARIO 3

All the previous scenarios were focused on analyzing the effects of constant and deceptive jammers in a client-server network. This scenario focuses on analyzing the effects of a random jammer in the client-server network.

The layout is the same used for the network on scenario 1; all the nodes have the same characteristics than those on scenario 2. The only difference is that in this scenario, the jammer, instead of constantly injecting packets into the network, only sends packets for a random period of time, and then goes to sleep for another random period of time. This kind of jamming is considered an energy efficient jamming attack.

The goal of this kind of jammer is not drop the throughput to zero, but to reduce the throughput considerably for a longer period of time.

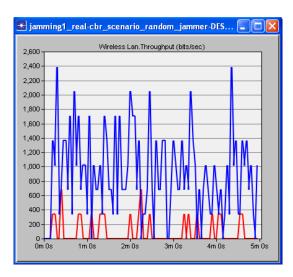


Figure 4.13. Traffic before (blue) and after (red) the random jamming attack

As it can be seen from the graph, the throughput before the jammer in some points reaches 2.4 kbps (blue line); when the random pulse jammer was introduced the throughput falls considerably to at most 800 bps.

#### 4.4 SCENARIO 4

As mentioned in the previous chapter, this scenario focuses on the communication among nodes in an ad-hoc fashion. Each node keeps a constant bit rate to better demonstrate the effects of a jamming attack

This scenario was decided to be  $10 \times 10$  kilometers so that the two effects can be shown: the first is the effect that a jamming attack has in an ad-hoc network, and the second, to show that although the networks connectivity is damaged due to the attack, if the distance is big enough, not all the nodes can be jammed and therefore some communication still exists in the network.

The scenario consists of 20 nodes with exponential-interarrival-time traffic and Dynamic Source Routing (DSR) as the routing algorithm (<u>figure 4.12</u> shows the layout). In this scenario the receivers are selected in a random fashion. There is also a jammer in the center of the scenario with the maximum power of 0.1W. The circle surrounding the node is the jammer's transmission range.

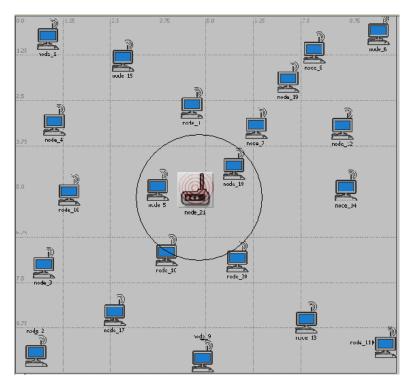


Figure 4.14 Layout for scenario 3

This ad-hoc network uses CSMA as the MAC protocol; what this means is that if the sender wants to send some traffic into the network, it first senses the channel and if this is free it sends its traffic. Otherwise it will back off for a random period of time before retrying. When the jamming attack is launched it keeps the medium busy and therefore an honest sender will never be able to access the channel.

The next figure (Figure 4.15) shows the traffic in four different nodes of the network when the network is not under attack. These four nodes were chosen because of their distance to the jammer; nodes 1, 6 and 12 were chosen because they are relatively far from the jammer and node 5 because it is relatively close to the jammer.

The graph on the left in Figure 4.15 shows the exponentially-distributed traffic in each of the four nodes before jamming attack; on the other hand, the graph on the right shows how the traffic in each node changes. It can be observed that since nodes 1 and 6 are really far from the jammer the traffic remains unaffected, thus showing that although some nodes have been disrupted, some services can still be provided.

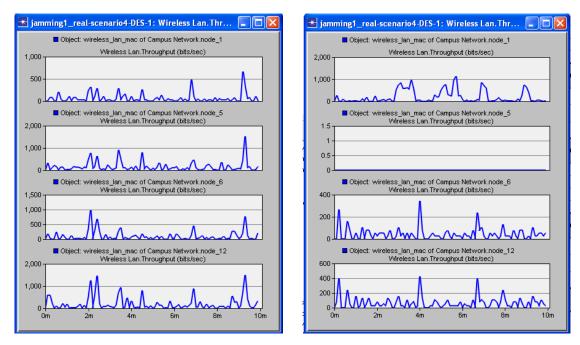


Figure 4.15 Traffic in 4 nodes before and after jamming

#### 4.5 SCENARIO 5

In this scenario a misbehaving node is simulated. The kind of misbehavior simulated is that the node does not respect the MAC layer protocols; it transmits the traffic it has as soon as it needs to. On the other hand, the other nodes are well behaved nodes; they wait until all they sense the channel is idle before start transmit.

This scenario was thought to be necessary because some users, in order to gain an unfair advantage, get access to the medium to transmit and at some point it could behave as a jammer if it continuously transmits traffic also causing unfair backoffs from its neighboring nodes.

The first part of the scenario consists of three nodes, two well behaved nodes exchanging traffic, and one misbehaving node (node-3). The topology used is a client-server architecture. The three nodes generate constant traffic. <u>Figure 4.16</u> shows the scenario layout.

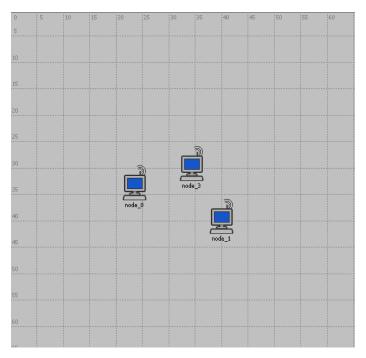


Figure 4.16 Scenario 5 layout

<u>Figure 4.17</u> shows that when the misbehaving node is not present in the network all the traffic remains constant; in this scenario no other security threat is assumed. After the misbehaving node is introduced the traffic reduced considerably. But differently from a jammer, it does not lower the traffic to less than half.

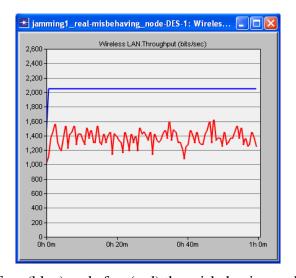


Figure 4.17 before (blue) and after (red) the misbehaving node is introduced

The same experiment was run with 15 well-behaved nodes and one misbehaving node close to the AP, one access point, <u>figure 4.18</u> shows that the results were similar to those presented in <u>figure 4.17</u>.

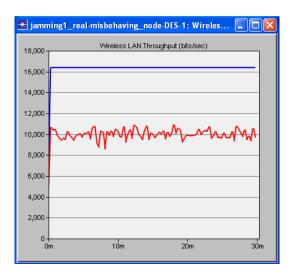


Figure 4.18 before (blue) and after (red) the misbehaving node is introduced in a more populated network.

The traffic drops considerably because of three reasons: 1) the misbehaving node is located close to the AP therefore it can inject its packets directly to it; 2) since it has an unfair advantage it causes unfair backoffs from their neighboring nodes (most of them neighbors of the AP); 3) collisions caused by the misbehaving node if a neighbor sent a packet before it.

#### 5.0 CONCLUSIONS

In this thesis, the underlying factors of a jamming attack over wireless networks were studied in OPNET. Scenario 1 demonstrated that some modulation schemes are more resistant to being jammed by a constant jammer that emits random bits; MSK demonstrated to be the most resistant modulation scheme to jamming, while 64-QAM was the one that offered less resistance.

<u>In scenario 2</u> it was demonstrated that a jammer can keep the channel busy dropping the throughput to zero; it also demonstrated the severity of a jamming attack - in this case the nodes were not able to communicate at all.

<u>In scenario 3</u> a pulse jammer was introduced to simulate a random jamming attack. It demonstrated that although the traffic does not fall to zero, it still has a great impact on the overall throughput.

<u>In scenario 4</u> an ad-hoc network was set in place with a constant jammer in the middle of the scenario. It demonstrated that it cannot render the entire network useless given the special properties of the ad-hoc networks; they tend to look for new routes when a network failure is detected.

<u>Scenario 5</u> demonstrated that a misbehaving node can also act as a jamming node when it does not respect the MAC layer protocols, but it is not as critical as a jamming node.

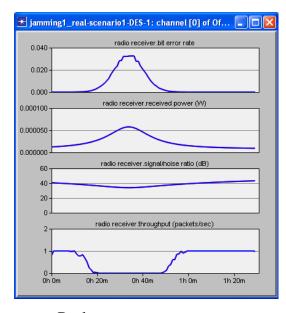
OPNET® demonstrated to be a powerful simulation tool that easily permits the simulation of different kind of wireless networks; it also certainly is suitable for simulating different kinds of jamming attacks. It has many built-in models to simulate: constant jammers, deceptive jammers, random jammers, and frequency hopping jammers, not only for wireless nodes, but also for satellites. However it OPNET as a tool is not perfect, it lacks some flexibility; for instance, when there is the need of creating a new kind of jammer, or modifying the code of some functions/modules/characteristics it is complicated.

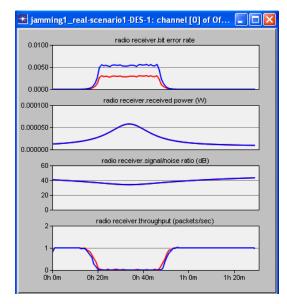
OPNET® offered the option of automatically collecting statistics and their corresponding graphics. In this aspect its performance is pretty good, but an important drawback is that if the user wants to measure an aspect of the network that is not included in the list of things OPNET can measure, it is difficult to create a routine to do it. Finally, OPNET offers many details in its models, but it also leads to slow-running simulations.

Some future work includes analyzing the effects of more than one jammer in each scenario, also the use of one mobile jammer instead of fixed ones. Further future work consist of proposing an algorithm to cope with jamming attacks and evaluating it through simulations.

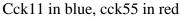
#### APPENDIX A

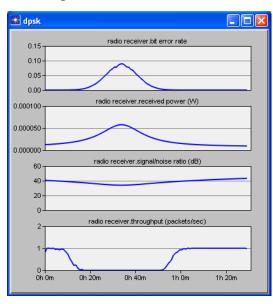
This appendix shows different modulation schemes under a jamming attack.

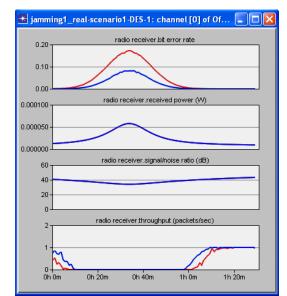




**Bpsk** 

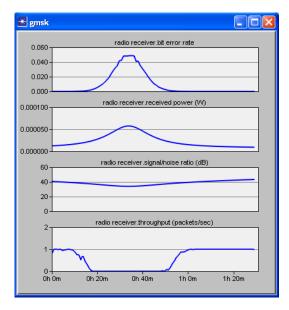






Dpsk

Fsk2 in blue, fsk2\_ncoh in red.



radio receiver bit error rate

0.040

radio receiver bit error rate

0.000000

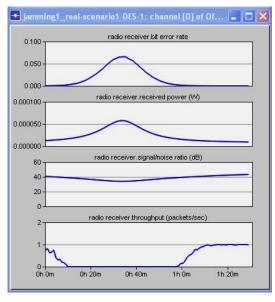
radio receiver signal/hoise ratio (dB)

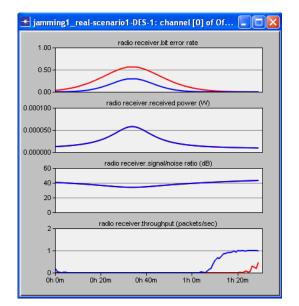
radio receiver throughput (packets/sec)

radio receiver throughput (packets/sec)

Gmsk

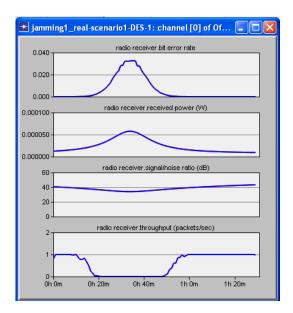
Msk in blue and msk\_pch in red.





Psk8

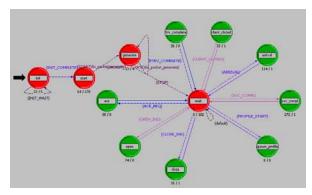
Qam16 in blue and Qam64 in red



qpsk

#### APPENDIX B

This appendix show the code used so that the module Application can create a constant bit rate without having to depend on the profile and application definitions.



# Init:

```
/* The initialization of this process model relies on
/* the completion of initialization of lower layers.
if \ (lower\_layer\_init\_intrpt\_count < GNAC\_LOWER\_LAYER\_INIT\_INTRPT\_COUNT)
              /* Schedule a self-interrupt to allow lower layers
              /* to be configured.
              evh = op_intrpt_schedule_self (0.0, GNAC_LOWER_LAYER_INIT_WAIT);
              /* Generate error if the lower layer synchronization event \ \ ^*/
              /* event not be scheduled.
              if (op_ev_valid (evh) == OPC_FALSE)
                             gna_clsvr_mgr_error ("Unable to schedule self interrupt to wait for lower layer initialization.");
              /* Increment the count of initialization interrupts
              /* observed.
              lower_layer_init_intrpt_count++;
else
              /* Schedule an interrupt to move on to performing
              /* its own initialization
              evh = op\_intrpt\_schedule\_self \ (op\_sim\_time \ (), \ GNAC\_SELF\_INIT\_START);
              /* Generate error if the lower layer synchronization event */
              /* event not be scheduled.
              if (op_ev_valid (evh) == OPC_FALSE)
                             gna_clsvr_mgr_error ("Unable to schedule self interrupt to initialize itself.");
              /* Initialize the index used of identifying custom managers */
              global\_custom\_mgr\_index = 0;
Generate:
```

```
/* At the enter execs of the "generate" state we schedule the
/* arrival of the next packet.
next_intarr_time = oms_dist_outcome (interarrival_dist_ptr);
```

<sup>/\*</sup> Make sure that interarrival time is not negative. In that case it \*/

```
/* will be set to 0.
if (next_intarr_time <0)
              next_intarr_time = 0;
next_pk_evh = op_intrpt_schedule_self (op_sim_time () + next_intarr_time, SSC_GENERATE);
Wait:
/** The server process can be operating in two modes, depending on
/** whether it supports the Custom MTA service.
/** 1. Support MTA: In this mode, it can be acting as a server (to
/** model remote client to server transactions) or as a client
/** session manager to to manage spawned client processes which
/** communicate with other servers.
/** 2. Does not support MTA: Only acts as server. Here it just
/** provides service back to the source end clients. There
/** exists session for each of the remote clients.
/* Get the current simulation time */
current\_sim\_time = op\_sim\_time\ ();
              Check for an ODB trace label.
trace\_active = op\_prg\_odb\_ltrace\_active \ ("gna") \ \| \ op\_prg\_odb\_ltrace\_active \ ("client\_server");
trace\_arch\_active = op\_prg\_odb\_ltrace\_active \ ("gna\_arch");
              Get interrupt parameters.
intrpt\_type = op\_intrpt\_type \ ();
if (intrpt_type != OPC_INTRPT_STRM)
              intrpt_code = op_intrpt_code ();
else
              intrpt_code = NASC_INVALID;
/* We want to go to Arrival state from Wait state in all cases
/* except when this a video or voice session.
Wait_To_Arrival = OPC_TRUE;
switch (intrpt_type)
              case OPC_INTRPT_PROCESS:
              case OPC_INTRPT_SELF:
              case OPC_INTRPT_ENDSIM:
               /* Do nothing. */
               break;
              case OPC_INTRPT_REMOTE:
              case OPC_INTRPT_STRM:
                            /* Extract the session information from this interrupt.
                            /* The lower layer (or a client process spawned by this
                            /* server) installs this information in the ICI
                            /* associated with this interrupt.
                             ici_ptr = op_intrpt_ici ();
                            if ( sip_intrpt_is_for_sip (ici_ptr) == OPC_TRUE)
                                          /* Redirect the interrupt to the SIP process */
```

```
/* Reset the interrupt codes to avoid any
                                             /* transition condition errors.
                                             intrpt_type = NASC_INVALID;
                                             intrpt_code = NASC_INVALID;
                             else if ( gna\_sup\_intrpt\_is\_for\_sup (ici\_ptr) == OPC_TRUE)
                                            /* Redirect the interrupt to the SIP process */
                                             gna_sup_redirect_intrpt_to_dest_proc (ici_ptr);
                                            /* Reset the interrupt codes to avoid any */
                                             /* transition condition errors.
                                             intrpt_type = NASC_INVALID;
                                             intrpt_code = NASC_INVALID;
                             else if ( traf_engine_intrpt_is_for_traf_engine (ici_ptr) == OPC_TRUE)
                                            /* Redirect the interrupt to the SIP process */
                                             traf\_engine\_redirect\_intrpt\_to\_traf\_engine\ (ici\_ptr);
                                             /* Reset the interrupt codes to avoid any */
                                            /* transition condition errors.
                                                                                                                       */
                                             intrpt_type = NASC_INVALID;
                                            intrpt_code = NASC_INVALID;
                             else\ if\ (is\_intrpt\_for\_remote\_storage\_access\ (ici\_ptr) == OPC\_TRUE)
                                             /* interrupt to be handled by either the remote storage access
                                             /* server or client.
                                            redirect\_intrpt\_to\_remote\_storage\_access \ (rsa\_mgr\_prohndl, ici\_ptr);
                                             /* Reset the intrpt type and code to indicate that this intrpt */
                                            /* has been handled. No more processing required.
                                            intrpt_type = NASC_INVALID;
                                             intrpt_code = NASC_INVALID;
                             else
                                             if ((ici_ptr == OPC_NIL) \parallel
                                                           (op\_ici\_attr\_get\ (ici\_ptr, "Application\ ID", \quad \&sess\_ptr) == OPC\_COMPCODE\_FAILURE)
                                                           (op\_ici\_attr\_get\ (ici\_ptr,\ "Sess\ Type", \\ &\&sess\_type) == OPC\_COMPCODE\_FAILURE)
                                                           (op\_ici\_attr\_get\ (ici\_ptr,\ "Application\ Type",\ \&app\_type) \ == OPC\_COMPCODE\_FAILURE))
                                                           gna\_clsvr\_mgr\_error\ ("Unable\ to\ get\ session\ information\ from\ ICI.");
                                                           }
                                            /* Check if this interrupt is for the case when this
                                                                                                        */
                                             /* server process is acting as the manager for spawned
                                             /* client processes (to talk to other client/server
                                             /* processes)
                                             if \, (((sess\_type == GNAC\_SESSION\_TYPE\_ACTIVE)) \, \| \\
                                                           ((app\_type == GnaC\_App\_Type\_Video\_Conferencing) \&\& (intrpt\_code != TPALC\_EV\_IND\_OPEN)) \parallel \\
                                                           ((app\_type == GnaC\_App\_Type\_Voice)
                                                                                                                                                    &&
                                                                                                                                                                     (intrpt_code
TPALC\_EV\_IND\_OPEN)) \parallel
```

sip\_redirect\_intrpt\_to\_sip (ici\_ptr);

```
(app\_type == GnaC\_App\_Type\_Ace))
                                                        /* Even when the server is acting as the manager,
                                                         /* it handles two cases where the interrupt is for
                                                         /* itself (i.e., the server):
                                                         /* 1. A session termination (this interrupt is
                                                         /* scheduled by the managed client.)
                                                         /* 2. Modeling request time delay (again this is
                                                             scheduled by the managed client) -- this
                                                             facilitates modeling of the server busy
                                                             condition for modelign the request delays.
                                                         if \ ((intrpt\_code == GNAC\_IND\_SESS\_OPEN\_FAILED) \ || \ (intrpt\_code == GNAC\_IND\_SESS\_CLOSED) \\
                                                                       \parallel (intrpt\_code == GNAC\_MODEL\_REQUEST\_TIME))
                                                                       /* Do nothing. The transition conditions will */
                                                                       /* figure out how to transition.
                                                                       cli_sess_ptr = (GnaT_Cli_Mgr_Session *) sess_ptr;
                                                         else
                                                                       /* Invoke the session process using the process
                                                                       /* handle from the session record.
                                                                       cli\_sess\_ptr = (GnaT\_Cli\_Mgr\_Session *) \ sess\_ptr;
                                                                       /* Check whether the client process is still alive.
                                                                       if (cli_sess_ptr != OPC_NIL)
                                                                                      if (op_pro_valid (cli_sess_ptr->prohndl) == OPC_TRUE)
                                                                                                                                     (cli_sess_ptr->prohndl,
                                                                                                                                                                    OPC_NIL)
                                                                                                              (op_pro_invoke
OPC_COMPCODE_FAILURE)
                                                                                                                  {
                                                                                                                  gna_clsvr_mgr_error ("Could not invoke session process to handle
received interrupt.");
                                                                       else
                                                                                     /* Process model doesn't exist any more.
                                                                                      if (intrpt_type == OPC_INTRPT_STRM)
                                                                                                    /* If interrupt is stream interrupt, destroy packet.
                                                                                                    op_pk_destroy (op_pk_get (op_intrpt_strm ()));
                                                                       /* Reset the interrupt codes to avoid any
                                                                       /* transition condition errors.
                                                                       intrpt_type = NASC_INVALID;
                                                                       intrpt_code = NASC_INVALID;
                                                         }
                                           /* If this is a video or voice session, do not go into arrival */
                                           /* state.
                                           if \ ((app\_type == GnaC\_App\_Type\_Video\_Conferencing) \ ||
                                                         (app\_type == GnaC\_App\_Type\_Voice))
                                                         Wait_To_Arrival = OPC_FALSE;
```

```
break;
}

default:

{
    gna_clsvr_mgr_error ("Received unexpected interrupt in wait state.");
    break;
}
}
```

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