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Michel Barbeau, Steve R. Cloutier, Joaquin Garcia-Alfaro. Quantum computing assisted medium access control for multiple client station networks. [Research Report] Dépt. Réseaux et Service de Télécom (Institut Mines-Télécom-Télécom SudParis); Services répartis, Architectures, MODélisation, Validation, Administration des Réseaux (Institut Mines-Télécom-Télécom SudParis-CNRS); School of Computer Science [Ottawa] (Carleton University). 2015, pp.18. hal-01263388

HAL Id: hal-01263388

<https://hal.science/hal-01263388>

Submitted on 27 Jan 2016

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Quantum Computing Assisted Medium Access Control for Multiple Client Station Networks

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Abstract. A medium access control protocol based on quantum entanglement has been introduced by Berces and Imre (2006) and Van Meter (2012). This protocol entirely avoids collisions. It is assumed that the network consists of one access point and two client stations. We extend this scheme to a network with an arbitrary number of client stations. We propose three approaches, namely, the qubit distribution, transmit first election and temporal ordering protocols. The qubit distribution protocol leverages the concepts of Bell-EPR pair or W state triad. It works for networks of up to four CSs. With up to three CSs, there is no probability of collision. In a four-CS network, there is a low probability of collision. The transmit first election protocol and temporal ordering protocols work for a network with any number of CSs. The transmit first election builds upon the concept of W state of size corresponding to the number of client stations. It is fair and collision free. The temporal ordering protocol employs the concepts of Lehmer code and quantum oracle. It is collision free, has a normalized throughput of 100% and achieves *quasi-fairness*.

Keywords: Quantum computing, quantum communications, medium access control, network protocol.

1 Introduction

The idea of a quantum computing assisted Medium Access Control (MAC) protocol has been introduced by Berces and Imre [3] and Van Meter [17]. The protocol is building upon the concept of quantum entanglement. It controls the access to a wireless channel. It is assumed that the network consists of one Access Point (AP) and two Client Stations (CSs), e.g., CS_1 and CS_2 . The AP is within communication range of both CSs. The medium is synchronous. It consists of a sequence of equal size Time Slots (TSs). There are two types of alternating TSs: AP and CS, see Figure 1. Only the AP is allowed to transmit in the AP TS. During each CS TS, only one CS is allowed to transmit. The right to transmit is determined by an entangled pair of qubits sent, by the AP to the CSs, during



Fig. 1. Alternating AP and CS TSs.

the preceding AP TS. Every CS gets one part of a Bell-Einstein Podolsky Rosen (Bell-EPR) entangled qubit pair [15]. One qubit is given to client CS_1 . The other is given to client CS_2 . This is modeled by the following equation:

$$|\Phi\rangle = \frac{|0\rangle_1 \otimes |1\rangle_2 + |1\rangle_1 \otimes |0\rangle_2}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (1)$$

The outcome resulting from the measurement of each qubit (subscripts 1 and 2) can be either 0 or 1. When qubit 1 (qubit 2) is measured first, the result is random, with both outcomes being equally probable. Then, when qubit 2 (qubit 1) is measured, the outcome is the opposite of qubit 1's (qubit 2's) outcome. There is a correlation between what is resulting from the measurements of qubits 1 and 2. Because they are entangled, when one qubit is measured by one of the CSs, the state of the qubit to be measured by the other CS is already determined. The CS that measures value one is allowed to send. The CS that measures value zero holds on. For balanced access by the two CSs, the probability amplitude is set to $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ in Eq. 1.

Arizmendi et al. [1] also proposed an adaptation of quantum communication in a 802.11 MAC protocol. They propose sending a combination of a Bell-EPR pair, to determine who transmits, and a W state entangled qubit triplet, to control the transmission. This proposal also only works for a two-CS network.

This article addresses the question: **How can quantum computing assisted MAC be extended to a network of an arbitrary number of CSs?** We propose three solutions that extend the idea to a network consisting of an arbitrary number of CSs. All three quantum assisted MAC protocols build upon the concept of quantum entanglement. They are all contention-free with Collision Avoidance (CA).

The first two protocols use the Bell-EPR pair and W state entanglement concepts. The *W state* is a model of multi-qubit entanglement [8]. It comprises two or several entangled qubits. The following equation models a three-bit entanglement case:

$$|W\rangle = \frac{|001\rangle + |010\rangle + |100\rangle}{\sqrt{3}} \quad (2)$$

Upon the complementation of the measurement of the three qubits, one of the three collapses to value one while the two others collapse to value zero. It has

been theorized that a W state can be generalized to n qubits. Thus, the quantum superposition has equal expansion coefficients of all possible pure states in which exactly one of the qubits is in an *excited state* $|1\rangle$, while all other ones are in the *ground state* $|0\rangle$, as in the equation:

$$|W\rangle = \frac{|100\dots 0\rangle + |010\dots 0\rangle + \dots + |000\dots 1\rangle}{\sqrt{n}} \quad (3)$$

In this paper, we assume a network consisting of a single AP and n CSs, where n is a positive non-null integer. The CSs are denoted as CS_1, CS_2, \dots, CS_n . Communications are AP-to-CS, and vice versa. There is a single multiple access channel. Time is divided into equal-length TSs. During each TS, the AP or CSs may attempt the transmission of data. If no station transmits, then the TS is idle. If a single node attempts to transmit, then the transmission-attempt is a success. If several network nodes attempt to transmit during the same TS, there is a collision condition. To prevent collisions between the AP and CSs, the TSs are either assigned to the AP or CSs. During an AP TS, solely the AP is allowed to transmit. During a CS TS, solely the CSs are allowed to transmit. To prevent collisions among the CS transmission-attempts, a quantum computing-based MAC protocol is followed. Building upon the concept of quantum entanglement, we present three new such quantum computing-assisted MAC protocols, namely, the

- qubit distribution,
- transmit first election and
- temporal ordering protocols.

All three protocols have a cyclic behavior. Each cycle consists of a frame of one or several AP TSs and one or several CS TSs. All three protocols use AP TSs to distribute entangled qubits to the CSs. The distribution of the qubits can be achieved using i) pre-sharing, ii) teleportation [2] or iii) free space-transmission [16]. The AP TS may be used to send the classical bits of teleportation or for free space-transmission of qubits.

TS_1	TS_2	TS_3	TS_4	TS_5	TS_6	TS_7	TS_8
AP	CS transmission time						

Fig. 2. Frame format for the *qubit distribution* protocol for a three-CS network.

The *qubit distribution* protocol works for a one to four-CS network. Each cycle consists of a multiple access frame. It is made of equal-length TSs. The number of TSs needed in one frame is two for a one-CS network, three for a two-CS network, eight for a three-CS network and sixteen for a four-CS network. The frame format for a three-CS network is shown in Figure 2. TSs are subscripted from one to eight. In TS_1 , the AP distributes entangled qubits to the three CSs. In TS_1 , the AP also listens in case there are requests from new CSs to join the

network. Every CS measures the qubits it receives. The result is interpreted as a Transmission Number (TN). This TN determines the index of a TS allocated to the CS. This behavior is executed repeatedly, frame-to-frame, involving all the CSs that participate to the network.

TS_1	TS_2	TS_3	TS_4	TS_5	TS_6	TS_7
AP	1st CS	AP	2nd CS	AP	3rd CS	4th CS

Fig. 3. Frame format for the *transmit first election* protocol for a four-CS network.

The *transmit first election* protocol works for any number n of CSs. Every cycle is made of $2n - 1$ TSs. Figure 3 shows a frame for a four-CS network. In TS_1 , the AP prepares a four-entangled qubit W state. It transmits one qubit to each of the four CSs. It also listens for requests from new CSs to join the network. Upon reception, every CS measures the entangled qubit. The CS that receives the state $|1\rangle$ transmits in TS_2 . This procedure is done two more times in TS_3 and TS_5 with respectively a three and a two-qubit W state. The CS that measures the state $|1\rangle$ in TS_2 does not participate in TS_3 and TS_5 . The CS that measures the state $|1\rangle$ in TS_3 does not participate in TS_5 . In the last step, the CS that receives the state $|0\rangle$ transmits in TS_7 . This behavior is executed repeatedly, frame-to-frame, with all the CSs that participate to the network.

The *temporal ordering* protocol leverages the concept of quantum oracle and Lehmer Code. The oracle performs the following quantum computation. A random number is generated. It is interpreted as the lexical order of a permutation of all CS identifiers, i.e., $1, \dots, n$. Using the factoradic system [12], this random number is mapped to a Lehmer code. It is an encoding of the corresponding permutation. The Lehmer code is decoded into that permutation. The qubits of each item in the permutation are dispatched to one of the CSs. The measurement of these qubits is mapped to a delay assigned to the CS. The delays computed by the CSs determine an access order to the TS. When its delay expires and if the medium is still idle, a CS may transmit in a TS. The frame format is as in Figure 1. The TSs are alternatively assigned to the AP and CSs.

Related work is reviewed in Section 2. The qubit distribution, transmit first election and temporal ordering protocols are respectively presented in Sections 3, 4 and 5. We conclude with Section 6.

2 Related Work

MAC protocols can be either without or with contention. A non-contention protocol ensures round-robin exclusive medium access to the CSs. This assures the absence of collisions during transmissions. However, the overhead of such a protocol has a toll on the transmission efficiency. Contention protocols, such as the Aloha and its numerous derivatives, have a simple logic. Any CS can transmit

at any time. There are collisions of transmissions when several CSs access the medium at the same time. When a collisions occurs, the involved transmissions are lost. The higher the collision number, the lower becomes the network efficiency.

Our work is related to MAC protocols without contention. The bit-map, binary-countdown assignment and assigned transmission frequencies are representative contention-free protocols [7]. The *bit-map* protocol handles a n -CS network. It has a cyclic behavior. Each cycle consists of n contention TSs followed by n transmission TSs. When CS_i wishes to transmit, it transmits a one in the i -th contention TS. After going through the n contention TS, the protocol begins a transmission cycle of a length equal to the number of CSs that declared their intention in the contention TSs. The order of transmission follows the declarations in the contention cycle. When all CSs have finished transmitting, the contention cycle is repeated again. Since every CS has a predetermined transmission TS, there are no collisions. This protocol overhead is n contention slots. Even if all CSs do not wish to transmit, n contention TSs are allotted.

With the *binary-countdown assignment* protocol, every CS is assigned a fixed length binary address. When it wishes to transmit, it first broadcasts its address, starting with the most significant bit. To determine a transmission priority, the binary addresses of all the CSs wishing to transmit are logically OR-ed together. For example, four CSs wishing to transmit have addresses of 0010, 0100, 1010 and 1001. They first transmit their address most significant bit, i.e., 0, 0, 1 and 1 respectively. These bits are OR-ed resulting in the first two CSs being dropped from the round. The other two CSs carry on since they both have a 1 as their most significant bit. The next bit for the remaining two CSs are both 0. They move on the third bit. The third bits are OR-ed together resulting in CS 1001 being dropped. CS 1010 has the highest address and therefore the right to transmit first. This behavior is repeated, for the remaining CSs wishing to transmit, until all CSs have had their turn. After all the CSs have transmitted, the behavior is repeated with all CSs wishing to transmit. Overhead is due to determining the order of transmission.

In the *assigned transmission frequencies* protocol, the AP uses a frequency to send information to all participating CSs. Each CSs gets its own individual frequency to transmit back to the AP. The protocol requires the assignment of bandwidth to each CS when it joins the network.

Our protocols leverage quantum computing and quantum communications. Ursin et al. have achieved free-space transmission of an entangled qubit over a record distance of 144 km [16]. Berces and Imre [3] and Arizmend [1] have explored medium access control protocols building upon the concept of quantum entanglement. In a multi hop wireless network, forwarding a quantum state is an important issue. The use of teleportation has been suggested [2]. Assuming that two parties pre share one part each of a Bell pair, the state of a qubit can be transferred from one location to another using two classical bits. Hence, teleportation has the ability to transfer a quantum state over a classical communication channel, e.g., using electromagnetic waves. Because pre-shared entanglement is

required between the parties, long-term storage of qubits is needed by the participants. Cheng et al. [6], Cao et al. [5] and Wang et al. [18] have developed wireless network protocols for *hop-by-hop* [4] teleportation of qubits. Li and Yang [14] use entanglement swapping [9] in wireless sensor networks to achieve confidentiality.

3 Qubit Distribution Protocol

The *qubit distribution* protocol uses Bell-EPR entangled qubit pairs or W state entangled qubit triads. The number of TSs in a frame corresponds to the number of CSs participating to the network, plus one AP TS. There is time allowed for users to transmit as well as to join the network. The first TS of each frame, i.e., TS_1 , is allocated to the AP. During that TS, the AP listens and accepts requests to join in from any new CS. On the other hand, a CS that has been idle for a number of cycles is eliminated from the network. It is not allocated space in the upcoming frames. To re-join the network, it has to request again. The network-entry-and-exit protocol is based on existing network-entry-and-exit Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) protocols. We consider that it is a separate issue, which is not discussed further in this paper. The qubit distribution

TS_1	TS_2
AP	CS

Fig. 4. Frame format for the qubit distribution protocol and a single-CS network.

protocol can handle a one, two, three or four-CS network. The frame format for a single-CS network is shown in Figure 4. The AP transmits and listens in TS_1 . The CS transmits in TS_2 .

TS_1	TS_2	TS_3
AP	TN=0	TN=1

Fig. 5. Frame format for the qubit distribution protocol and a two-CS network.

For a two-CS network, i.e., CS_1 and CS_2 , the AP distributes a pair of entangled qubits $|q_1\rangle|q_2\rangle$. They are entangled according to Eq. 1. Each CS receives one half of the pair. Qubit $|q_1\rangle$ is assigned to CS_1 . Qubit $|q_2\rangle$ is assigned to CS_2 . When they receive their qubit, the CSs measure them. One of the CSs obtains a zero, while the other gets a one. This is their Transmit Number (TN). Its determines the index of their allocated TS. When the TN of a CS is zero, it transmits in TS_2 . When it is one, it transmits in TS_3 . The frame format is shown in Figure 5.

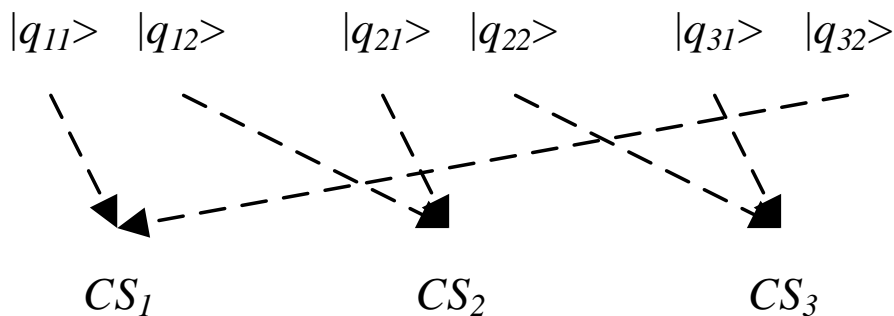


Fig. 6. Qubit pair distribution in a three-CS network.

For a three-CS network, i.e., CS_1 , CS_2 and CS_3 , the AP sends to each CS two qubits from two different entangled qubit pairs. As shown in Figure 6, the protocol requires the distribution of three pairs of entangled qubits: $|q_{11}\rangle|q_{12}\rangle$, $|q_{21}\rangle|q_{22}\rangle$ and $|q_{31}\rangle|q_{32}\rangle$. They are entangled according to Eq. 1. For a given pair, a CS receives one half while another CS receives the other half. Qubits $|q_{11}\rangle|q_{32}\rangle$, $|q_{12}\rangle|q_{21}\rangle$ and $|q_{22}\rangle|q_{31}\rangle$ are respectively distributed to CS_1 , CS_2 and CS_3 . When each pair is measured, one side yields a one, and the other a zero. When a CS measures a qubit q_{ij} of a pair i , it puts the result in position i in a three-bit number. For example, CS_1 receives $|q_{11}\rangle|q_{32}\rangle$. It puts the results obtained after measuring qubits $|q_{11}\rangle$ and $|q_{32}\rangle$ in positions one and three in a three-bit number. Every CS does not receive a qubit from one of the pairs. Because it does not receive a qubit for a pair with that index, every CS remains with an empty position. For example, CS_1 receives no qubit for position two. It puts a zero in that empty position. All eight possible combinations are shown in

Table 1. Valid TNs for the qubit distribution protocol and a three-CS network.

CS_1	CS_2	CS_3
1 0 1	0 0 0	0 1 0
1 0 1	0 1 0	0 0 0
1 0 0	0 0 0	0 1 1
1 0 0	0 1 0	0 0 1
0 0 0	1 0 0	0 1 1
0 0 0	1 1 0	0 0 1
0 0 1	1 0 0	0 1 0
0 0 1	1 1 0	0 0 0

Figure 1. This leaves every CS with an unique three-bit TN. The frame format is shown in Figure 7. This TN determines the TS index allocated to the CS, i.e.,

TS_1	TS_2	TS_3	TS_4	TS_5	TS_6	TS_7	TS_8
AP	CS transmission time						

Fig. 7. Frame format for the qubit distribution protocol and a three-CS network.

the index is $TN + 2$. For example, when the TN is 000 the CS transmits in TS_2 . When the TN is 110, it transmits in TS_8 .

Lemma 1: In a three-CS network running the *qubit distribution* protocol, at the beginning of each frame, after qubit measurement, each CS gets an unique TN in the range $0, \dots, 6$.

Proof: For i in $\{1, 2, 3\}$, let us assume that CS_i gets TN_i . Note that in TN_i , position $(i \bmod 3) + 1$ is empty and is assigned value zero. The minimum (maximum) value is zero (six) because the qubits used to define the other positions may all collapse to value zero (one). \square

Lemma 2: In a three-CS network running the *qubit distribution* protocol, at the beginning of each frame, after qubit measurement, each CS gets an unique TN.

Proof: For $1 \leq i < j \leq 3$, let us assume that CS_i and CS_j get TN_i and TN_j , with $TN_i = TN_j$. In TN_i , position $k = (i \bmod 3) + 1$ is assigned value zero. In TN_j , position $l = (j \bmod 3) + 1$ is assigned value zero. In both cases, position $m \notin \{k, l\}$ ($1 \leq m \leq 3$) is assigned the same value after measuring a qubit from the m -th pair. Which means that i and j are equal, a contradiction. \square

Since the combination 111 is never generated, only seven CS TSs are required, i.e., TS_2, \dots, TS_8 . Since there are only three CSs but seven CS TSs, in each frame there are four slots where no CSs transmit. These TSs can be used by the AP (covered in more details in the sequel).

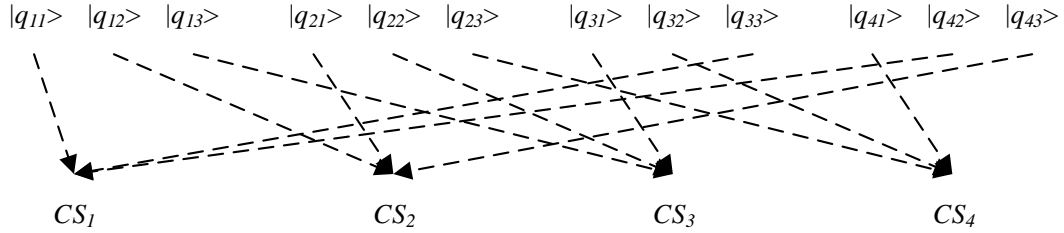


Fig. 8. Qubit triad distribution in a four-CS network.

For a four-CS network, the AP distributes four W state entangled qubit triads to the CSs: $|q_{11}\rangle|q_{12}\rangle|q_{13}\rangle$, $|q_{21}\rangle|q_{22}\rangle|q_{23}\rangle$, $|q_{31}\rangle|q_{32}\rangle|q_{33}\rangle$ and $|q_{41}\rangle|q_{42}\rangle|q_{43}\rangle$. They are entangled according to Eq. 2. As shown in Figure 8, for the four different triads, each CS receives one third of the triad while two other CSs receive the two other thirds. When each triad is measured, one of the three qubits yields a one. The other two yield zeros. For $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ and $j = 1, 2, 3$, when a CS measures a qubit q_{ij} of triad i , it puts the result in position i in a four-bit number. For example, CS_1 receives $|q_{11}\rangle|q_{33}\rangle|q_{42}\rangle$. It puts the results obtained after measuring qubits $|q_{11}\rangle$, $|q_{33}\rangle$ and $|q_{42}\rangle$ in positions one, three and four in a four-bit number. Every CS does not receive a qubit from one of the triads. Because it does not receive a qubit for a pair with that index, every CS remains with an empty position. For example, CS_1 receives no qubit for position two. It puts a one in that empty position. This leaves every CS with a unique four-bit TN. This TN determines the index of a TS allocated to the CS, i.e., the index $TN + 1$. For example when a CS has TN equal to 0001, it transmits in TS_2 . When it has a TN equal to 0101, it transmits in TS_6 . The frame format is

TS_1	TS_2	TS_3	TS_4	TS_5	TS_6	TS_{16}
AP	TN=0001				TN=0101	

Fig. 9. Frame format for the qubit distribution protocol and a four-CS network.

shown in Figure 9. In each frame, only four of them are used by the CSs. Leaving 11 TSs for the AP.

Lemma 3: In a four-CS network running the *qubit distribution* protocol, at the beginning of each frame, after qubit measurement, each CS gets a unique TN in the range $1, \dots, 15$.

Proof: For i in $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, let us assume that CS_i gets TN_i . Note that in TN_i , position $(i \bmod 3) + 1$ is empty and is assigned value one. The minimum (maximum) value is one (15) because the qubits used to define the other positions may all collapse to value zero (one). \square

Lemma 4: In a four-CS network running the *qubit distribution* protocol, at the beginning of each frame, after qubit measurement, a TN collision involves at most two CSs.

Proof: For $1 \leq i < j < k \leq 4$, let us assume that CS_i , CS_j and CS_k get TN_i , TN_j and TN_k , with $TN_i = TN_j = TN_k$. In TN_i , position $k = (i \bmod 4) + 1$ is assigned value one. In TN_j , position $l = (j \bmod 4) + 1$ is assigned value one. In TN_m , position $m = (j \bmod 4) + 1$ is assigned value one. In all cases, for position $n \notin \{k, l, m\}$ they are assigned the same value after measuring a qubit

from the n -th triad. Which means that i and j , or i and k or j and k are equal, a contradiction. \square

Table 2. Measurement outcomes leading to a double-collision with the qubit distribution protocol in a four-CS network. The table displays three blocks of measurement outcomes, for each of the four CSs. Each line shows the values assigned to the four-bit value determined by a CS. For example, in the first block the TNs (1100) obtained by CS_1 and CS_2 are equal and the TNs (0011) obtained by CS_3 and CS_4 are equal.

Outcome	CS	Bit positions			
		1	2	3	4
1	1	1	1	0	0
	2	1	1	0	0
	3	0	0	1	1
	4	0	0	1	1
2	1	0	1	0	1
	2	1	0	1	0
	3	0	1	0	1
	4	1	0	1	0
3	1	1	1	0	0
	2	0	0	1	1
	3	0	0	1	1
	4	1	1	0	0

Corollary 5: In a four-CS network running the *qubit distribution* protocol, for $1 \leq i < j \leq 4$, a collision occurs when position $l = (j \bmod 4) + 1$ in TN_i is assigned value one and position $k = (i \bmod 4) + 1$ is assigned value one in TN_j , while in each TN the other two non-empty positions are assigned zeros. There are three possible measurement outcomes creating double collisions, listed in Figure 2.

Proof: Note that if $TN_i = TN_j$, then for $i', j' \notin \{i, j\}$ ($1 \leq i' < j' \leq 4$) we have $TN_{i'} = TN_{j'}$. Hence, in a frame, collisions are always double. There are only three measurement outcomes that lead to that situation. \square

Lemma 6: In a four-CS network running the *qubit distribution* protocol, the probability of (double) collisions in a frame is $3/81$ (4%).

Proof: There are four W state triads. For each triad, there are three possible measurement outcomes, see Eq. 2. Hence, there are 3^4 , i.e., 81, possible different assignments to the four-tuple of variables TN_1, \dots, TN_4 . According to Corollary 5, there are three possible assignments creating double collisions. Hence, the probability of (double) collisions in a frame is $3/81$. \square

In a three or four-CS network, it has been determined that there are respectively four and eleven (thirteen when there is collision) TSs not allocated to the CSs. Since the AP is unable to know ahead of time what entangled qubit combinations each CS receives, it is unable to predict which slots are empty. To make use of that space, the AP listens during each CS TS. If after a short interval, no transmissions have yet to be received from a CS, it considers this to be an empty TS. The AP makes use of the remaining time in the empty TS. It can be used for (re)transmissions of packets intended for the CSs.

4 Transmit First Election Protocol

The transmit first election protocol uses W state entangled qubits. The one and two-CS network cases are handled as in the qubit distribution protocol. In a n -CS network, with $n \geq 3$, the AP sends to each CS a qubit from a W state entangled group of n qubits, as in Eq. 3. When it receives its qubit, each CSs measures it. Only one of the CSs in a group of n CSs measures a one, all the others $n - 1$ CSs measure a zero. Figure 3 is an example of the possible outcomes

Table 3. Four combinations resulting from the measurement of qubits distributed by the transmit first election protocol.

CS1	CS2	CS3	CS4
1	0	0	0
0	1	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	0	0	1

in the case where n is four. The CS that measures a one, transmits in the next TS. The remainder of the group repeat the cycle until there are only two of them left at which point they move onto the distribution protocol for a two-CS network. Figure 10 shows the total number of TSs that would be required if the

TS_1	TS_2	TS_3	TS_4	TS_5	TS_6	TS_7
AP	1st CS	AP	2nd CS	AP	3rd CS	4th CS

Fig. 10. Total Transmission Cycle in a four-CS network.

round started with four CSs.

A cycle is completed when all the CSs have had a chance to transmit. In the case of a one-CS networks, there are two TSs and $2n - 1$ TSs for an n -CS network, with n greater than one. The AP needs to transmit the qubits in

the AP TS, consecutively $n, n - 1, \dots, 2$ qubits, for a total of $n(n + 1)/2 - 1$ qubits in a complete cycle. If the AP has tasks that it needs to perform, such as forwarding packets, it does so in between cycles. This is also at that point that the AP reassesses the CSs that participate to the network. Because each CS participating to the network gets a TS in every cycle, the protocol is fair. It is also collision free.

5 Temporal Ordering Protocol

The temporal ordering protocol leverages the concept of Lehmer Code and quantum oracle.

5.1 Lehmer Code

A *permutation* of a set S is a bijection σ from S to itself. Let x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n be the elements of S . A permutation is described as the n -tuple

$$\sigma = (\sigma(x_1), \sigma(x_2), \dots, \sigma(x_n)).$$

The number of different permutations of n distinct elements is $n!$. In the sequel, we assume that the set S consists of the numbers $1, 2, \dots, n$, i.e., the CS identifiers. A permutation σ is denoted as

$$\sigma = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n).$$

A *Lehmer code* is an encoding of a permutation σ of n numbers $1, 2, \dots, n$ [13]. It is denoted as

$$(L(\sigma_1), L(\sigma_2), \dots, L(\sigma_n)).$$

For $i = 1, \dots, n$,

$$L(\sigma_i) = |\{j : j = i + 1, \dots, n \text{ and } \sigma_j < \sigma_i\}|.$$

Following item at position i in the sequence, it is the number of items σ_j that are smaller than σ_i . By definition, $L(\sigma_i)$ is between zero and $n - i$. For instance, let n be equal to 3 and σ be equal to $(2, 1, 3)$. The corresponding Lehmer code is $(1, 0, 0)$.

For $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, the pair i, j is called an *inversion* if i is lower than j but σ_i is greater than σ_j . An alternative interpretation of $L(\sigma_i)$ is the number of inversions for index i . Interestingly, the sum of inversions in σ , that is $L(\sigma_1) + L(\sigma_2) + \dots + L(\sigma_n)$, is the number of transpositions needed to transform an identity permutation into σ .

We now explain decoding of a Lehmer code $(L(\sigma_1), L(\sigma_2), \dots, L(\sigma_n))$ into a permutation $(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n)$. For i equal to n down to one, σ_i is initialized to $L(\sigma_i)$. Do for j in the range $i + 1, \dots, n$, if σ_j is greater than or equal to σ_i , then add one to σ_j . The resulting n -tuple $(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n)$ is a permutation of $\{0, \dots, n - 1\}$. Adding one unit to each element translates the n -tuple into

a permutation of $\{1, \dots, n\}$. For instance, Lehmer code $(1, 0, 0)$ is successively decoded as $(1, 0, 0)$, $(1, 0, 1)$, $(1, 0, 2)$ and finally $(2, 1, 3)$.

Another interesting property is that the Lehmer code of a permutation σ corresponds to its lexical order position in the list of $n!$ possible permutations of $1, 2, \dots, n$. Note that the first position has number zero and last position has number $n! - 1$.

An integer m in the range $0, \dots, n! - 1$ can be mapped to the Lehmer code at lexical position m using the *factoradic system* [12]. Let us define

$$s_i = \begin{cases} m & i = 1 \\ s_{i-1} \bmod (n - i)! & i = 2, \dots, n. \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

The corresponding Lehmer code is $(L(\sigma_1), L(\sigma_2), \dots, L(\sigma_n))$, where

$$L(\sigma_i) = \left\lfloor \frac{s_i}{(n - i)!} \right\rfloor. \quad (5)$$

5.2 Quantum Oracle

An *oracle* is a boolean function that maps a k -bit Boolean input to a l -bit output. An oracle can be transformed to a quantum oracle. The input and output of the corresponding *quantum oracle* are both $k + l$ -bit long. The computational model is as follows. There is a k -qubit input register, denoted as $|x\rangle$. The oracle output is represented as function $f(x)$, with corresponding unitary transformation U_f . A l -qubit register is used to represent $f(x)$.

The transformation U_f is applied to the computational basis $|x\rangle_k |y\rangle_l$ as follows:

$$U_f |x\rangle_k |y\rangle_l = |x\rangle_k |y \oplus f(x)\rangle_l \quad (6)$$

The operator \oplus denotes modulo-two bitwise addition. The input-output quregister is initialized as the superposition:

$$H^{\otimes k} \otimes I_l |0\rangle_k |0\rangle_l$$

The term $H^{\otimes k}$ denotes the tensor product of k Hadamard matrices, i.e., $H \otimes H \otimes \dots \otimes H$. Our quantum oracle is a function f that maps m in $0, 1, \dots, n! - 1$ to a permutation $(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n)$ of n . Let n be a non-null positive integer, corresponding to the number of CSs participating to a network. Let m be an integer in the range $0, \dots, n! - 1$. Function f proceeds according to the method described in Section 5.1. Firstly, using the factoradic system the integer m is mapped to a Lehmer code. Secondly, the Lehmer code is decoded into a permutation $(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n)$ of n . Let p be largest power of two, such that 2^p is smaller than or equal to $n!$. In Equation 6, the subscript k is set to $\log_2 p$. The subscript l is set to $n \log_2 n$. The general format of the quantum oracle's output is

$$|m\rangle_{\log_2 p} |f(m)\rangle_{n \log_2 n} \quad (7)$$

Let $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n$ denote n groups of $\log_2 n$ rightmost qubits in the output register. For i in $1, \dots, n$, the qubits σ_i are dispatched to client CS_i . Client CS_i

measures the qubits in group σ_i . The corresponding numerical value is the index of the TS allocated to CS_i . In the end, once all the CSs have measured their corresponding qubits, each of them get a value from the very same permutation. In other words, from all the 2^p superpositions, all the CSs *partly observe* exactly the same permutation.

Note that the system state may not collapse in every possible permutation of n . Indeed, the quantum oracle's input register solely contains the superpositions in the range $0, \dots, 2^p - 1$, which is lower than or equal to $n! - 1$. Hence, the ordering of the CSs is not fairly distributed.

5.3 Protocol

In the *temporal ordering protocol*, the frame format is as in Figure 1. The TSs are alternatively assigned to the AP then to the CSs. For each CS TS, the protocol distributes $n \log_2 n$ entangled qubits to the CSs. For each CS TS, each CS receives $\log_2 n$ qubits. There is a slot index i visible to all CSs. It is initialized to zero and incremented modulo the number of stations (n). This operation randomizes the access and mitigates the unfairness due to the fact that not every possible permutation of n is generated, see the fairness analysis in Section 5.4.

The arrivals of packets in each CS are backlogged and stored in a FIFO queue. When its FIFO queue is not empty, a CS is ready to transmit. At the beginning of each CS TS, every ready CS measures the $\log_2 n$ qubits it has received for this TS. The binary value resulting from the measurement determines an order among all the ready to transmit CSs. Let δ be a short delay, with $\delta \ll$ slot time. Let k be the binary value measured by a CS. The CS waits for a delay $\delta \cdot (k + i) \bmod n$ from the beginning of the TS. If the medium is sensed idle after the wait, then the CS transmits. Otherwise, it waits until the next CS TS and tries again.

5.4 Simulation

Using simulation, we compare the normalized throughput versus the offered load for the temporal ordering protocol and ALOHA protocol. We assume that the packets are of constant size, network is single data rate and packet arrival is λ packets per second ($\lambda \geq 0$). Because of the first and second assumptions, the packet transmission time is constant. Let τ denote the packet transmission time, in seconds per packet. The network *offered load* is the product $R = \lambda\tau$ Erlangs. The network *normalized throughput* (T) reflects the offered load and rate of successfully transmitted packets. A successfully transmitted packet is a packet not involved in a collision. The success rate S is the ratio of packets sent with success over total number of transmitted packets. Hence, the normalized throughput is $T = R \cdot S$.

Figure 11 shows the performance of the temporal ordering protocol versus the ALOHA protocol. The ALOHA's performance is consistent with the original analysis of Kleinrock and Tobagi [10, 11]. The normalized throughput peaks at 37%, when the offered load is one. It is used for reference purposes. Since the

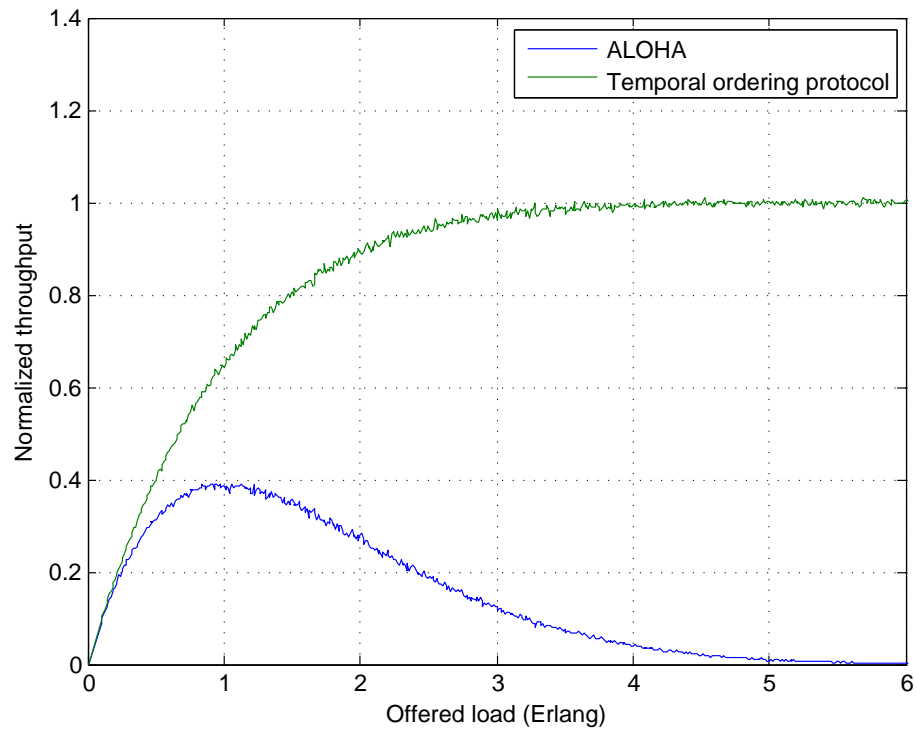


Fig. 11. Normalized throughput versus the offered load for the temporal ordering protocol and ALOHA protocols.

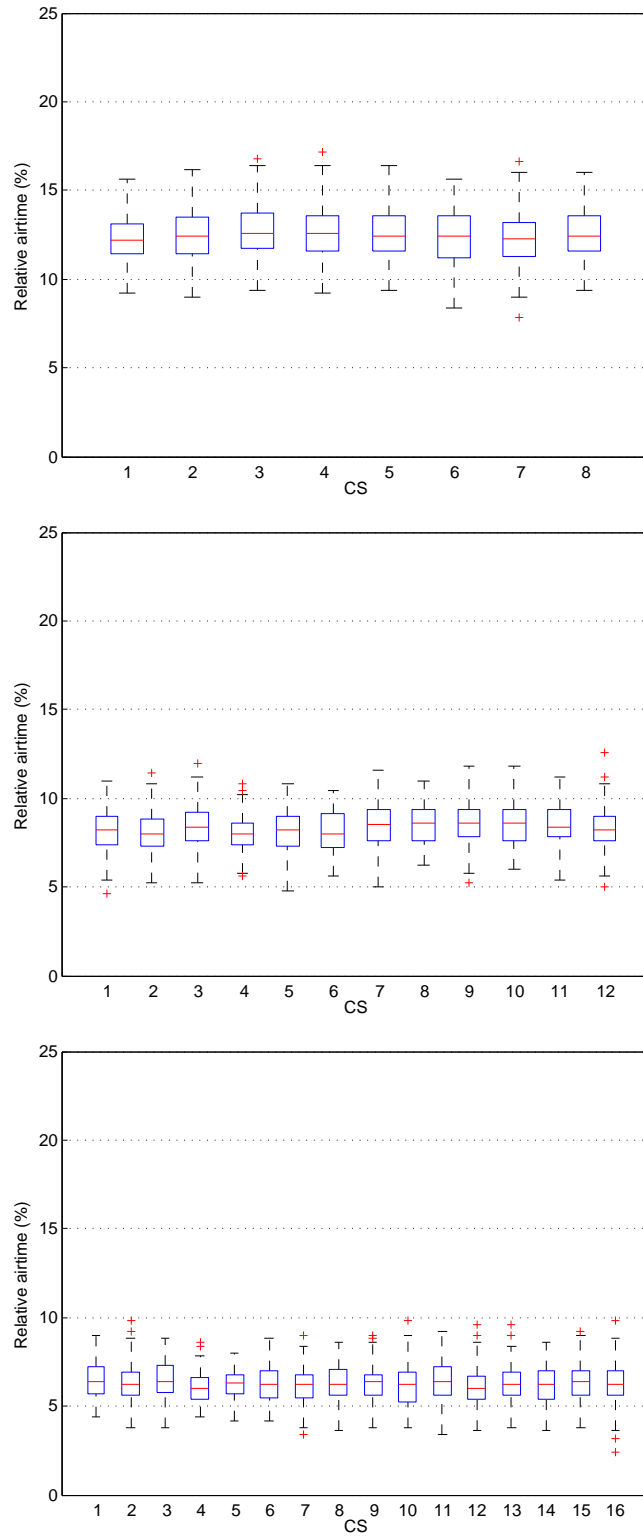


Fig. 12. Fairness analysis.

temporal ordering protocol entirely avoids collisions, its normalized throughput reaches 100%. From 100% normalized throughput, the network is saturated. The offered load remains one.

The results of a fairness analysis of the temporal ordering protocol are shown in Figure 12 for an eight, a 12 and a 16 CS-networks. The x -axis lists the indices of the CSs. The y -axis shows their relative airtime allocation. The boxplot describes the statistical dispersion of the data. For each value of m , the ranked data is divided into four equal groups. Each group, comprises a quarter of the data. They are delimited by three values called *quartiles*. The box bottom indicates the first quartile. The boxed horizontal bar corresponds to the second quartile, i.e., the median. The box top indicates the third quartile. The lowest bar corresponds to the lowest datum still within 1.5 of the interquartile range (i.e., difference between the second and first quartiles) down of the first quartile. The highest bar corresponds to the highest datum still within 1.5 the interquartile range (i.e., difference between the third and second quartiles) up of the third quartile. Crosses correspond to extremities, i.e., outliers. Quasi-fairness is obtained. In all cases, there is slight variation around the ideal relative airtime, which is 12.5%, 8.3% and 6.3% for the eight, a 12 and a 16 CS-cases.

6 Conclusion

We have extended to a network with an arbitrary number of CSs the MAC protocol, building on quantum entanglement, introduced by Berces and Imre [3] and Van Meter [17]. We have proposed three new protocols. The qubit distribution protocol can handle a one, two, three or four-CS network. It uses Bell-EPR entangled qubit pairs or W state entangled qubit triads. In a one, two or three-CS network, there are no collisions. In a four-CS network, the probability of collision is low (4%). The transmit first election and temporal ordering protocols can handle a network with any number of CSs. The transmit first election protocol is fair and collision free. It distributes $n(n+1)/2 - 1$ qubits in a complete cycle. The temporal ordering protocol entirely avoids collisions and achieves a normalized throughput of 100%. The protocol is *quasi-fair*. In a cycle comprising n CS TS, it distributes $n^2 \log n$ qubits. At this time, an important unknown is the exact mechanism that will achieve low-cost distribution of qubits to the CSs. This depends on further development in the science of quantum networking.

Acknowledgements — We acknowledge financial support from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and Spanish Ministry of Science (project TIN2011-27076-C03-02 CO-PRIVACY).

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