

Capacity and delay-throughput tradeoff in ICMNs with Poisson contact process

Yin Chen  · Yulong Shen · Jinxiao Zhu ·
Xiaohong Jiang

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Abstract Intermittently connected mobile networks (ICMNs) serve as an important network model for many critical applications. This paper focuses on a continuous ICMN model where the pair-wise contact process between network nodes follows a homogeneous and independent Poisson process. This ICMN model is known to serve as a good approximation to a class of important ICMNs with mobility models like random waypoint and random direction, so it is widely adopted in the performance study of ICMNs. This paper studies the throughput capacity and delay-throughput tradeoff in the considered ICMNs with Poisson contact process. For the concerned ICMN, we first derive an exact expression of its throughput capacity based on the pairwise contact rate therein and analyze the expected end-to-end

packet delay under a routing algorithm that can achieve the throughput capacity. We then explore the inherent tradeoff between delay and throughput and establish a necessary condition for such tradeoff that holds under any routing algorithm in the ICMN. To illustrate the applicability of the theoretical results, case studies are further conducted for the random waypoint and random direction mobility models. Finally, simulation and numerical results are provided to verify our theoretical capacity/delay results and to illustrate our findings.

Keywords Intermittently connected mobile network (ICMN) · Delay tolerant networks (DTN) · Throughput capacity · Delay-throughput tradeoff · Poisson process

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Y. Chen (✉)
Graduate School of Media and Governance, Shonan Fujisawa
Campus, Keio University, Fujisawa-shi, Kanagawa 252-0882,
Japan
e-mail: yin@ht.sfc.keio.ac.jp; ychen1986@gmail.com

Y. Shen
State Key Laboratory of Integrated Services Networks, School of
Computer Science and Technology, Xidian University,
Xi'an 710071, Shaanxi, People's Republic of China
e-mail: ylshen@mail.xidian.edu.cn

J. Zhu
Advanced ICT Research Institute, National Institute of
Information and Communications Technology (NICT),
4-2-1 Nukui-Kitamachi, Koganei, Tokyo 184-8795, Japan
e-mail: jxzhul986@gmail.com

X. Jiang
School of Systems Information Science, Future University
Hakodate, Hakodate, Hokkaido 041-8655, Japan
e-mail: jjiang@fun.ac.jp

1 Introduction

A mobile ad hoc network (MANET) consists of a collection of self-autonomous mobile nodes that communicate with each other via peer-to-peer wireless links without any support from preexisting infrastructures. Intermittently connected mobile networks (ICMNs) or delay tolerant networks (DTNs) represent a class of sparse MANETs where complete end-to-end path(s) between a node-pair may never exist so that nodes mainly rely on mobility as well as basic packet storing, carrying, and forwarding operations to implement end-to-end communication (see e.g., [1] for a survey). ICMNs are highly flexible, robust and rapidly deployable and reconfigurable, so they serve as an important model for many critical applications such as wildlife tracking and monitoring, battlefield communication, vehicular networks, low-cost Internet service for remote communities.

By now, much academic activity has been devoted to the performance study on ICMNs. In the seminal work of [2, 3], Groenevelt et al. demonstrated that the ICMN model

with Poisson contact process can approximately fit an important class of mobility models such as random waypoint, random direction and random walk. Based on this ICMN model, the authors of [3] conducted Markov chain-based analysis to evaluate the performance under two-hop routing and epidemic routing algorithms in terms of the packet delivery delay, i.e., the time it takes for a packet to reach its destination node after it departs from its source node. Following this work, the packet delivery delay performance was extensively studied in literature [4–7]. Notice that while the Markov chain-based analysis enables the distribution of delivery delay to be calculated, the analysis quickly becomes cumbersome and computationally impractical as the network size (i.e., the number of network nodes) increases. Motivated by this observation, Zhang et al. [4] developed a theoretical framework based on ordinary differential equations which significantly reduces the complexity involved in the delivery delay analysis for large scale ICMNs. For ICMNs with two-hop routing and packet life time constraint and ICMNs with spray and wait routing, the corresponding delivery delay performance was reported in [5] and [6, 7], respectively. Another important performance metric extensively investigated in ICMNs is the delivery ratio [8], i.e., the ratio of number of packets successfully delivered to the number of messages created. For the throughput performance, Subramanian et al. explored the achievable throughput of ICMNs under two-hop routing [9, 10] as well as under multi-hop routing [11].

While the above research are helpful for us to have a preliminary understanding on the performance of ICMNs, further deliberate studies are needed to reveal the fundamental performance limits of such networks. First, the available throughput studies discussed above [9–11] only focus on the throughput in ICMNs under a specified routing algorithm. The throughput capacity, i.e., the maximum throughput over any routing algorithm, is still unknown for the ICMN model with Poisson contact process. Second, the delivery ratio study focuses on the light-traffic scenario where the effect of queuing process on throughput performance is largely neglected. Third, the studies on delivery delay, which constitutes only a part of the fundamental end-to-end packet delay, can not be directly applied to investigate the inherent tradeoff between the end-to-end delay and throughput in ICMNs. Since the throughput capacity and delay-throughput tradeoff in ICMNs indicate the “best” performance (i.e., theoretical limits) that the network can stably support, it is expected that understanding these fundamental performance limits will provide profound insight to facilitate the design and optimization for these networks [12].

In this paper, we focus on the ICMNs with homogeneous Poisson contact process and study the throughput capacity and inherent delay-throughput tradeoff in such networks,

where the proof techniques are inspired by the prior work of Neely and Modiano in [13]. The main difference between [13] and this work is the network models under study. The work of [13] focused on a time-slotted and cell-partitioned network model where the network nodes there move following an i.i.d. mobility model. We study in this paper a time continuous ICMN model with homogeneous Poisson contact process, which is known to serve as a good approximation to a more general and important class of mobility models [2, 3] and hence has been widely adopted in the performance study for ICMNs [4–7]. To the best of our knowledge, this paper is the first work that studies and derives exact expressions for the throughput capacity and related throughput-delay tradeoff in ICMNs. The main contributions of the paper are summarized as follows.

- For the concerned ICMN model with Poisson contact process, we first derive an exact expression on its throughput capacity based on the pairwise contact rate between network nodes there. The analysis on the expected end-to-end packet delay under one capacity achieving routing algorithm is also provided.
- We then explore the inherent tradeoff between the expected end-to-end packet delay and throughput and establish a necessary condition for such tradeoff that holds under any routing algorithm in the concerned ICMNs.
- Case studies for typical random waypoint and random direction mobility model are further conducted to illustrate the applicability of our theoretical results on the throughput capacity and delay-throughput tradeoff developed in this paper.
- Finally, we provide simulation/numerical results to verify our theoretical capacity/delay results and to illustrate our findings.

The rest of the paper is outlined as follows. The related work is introduced in Sect. 2. Section 3 presents system models and some basic definitions. The main theoretical results on throughput capacity and delay-throughput tradeoff are derived in Sect. 4. Section 5 provides simulation/numerical results and corresponding discussion. Finally, we conclude this paper in Sect. 6.

2 Related works

Since the seminal work of Grossglauser and Tse [14], the throughput capacity and delay-throughput tradeoff have been extensively studied for MANETs under various mobility models, most of which focused on deriving order-sense results and scaling laws, i.e., to find asymptotic bounds $\mathcal{O}(f(n))$ for throughput capacity, where the function $f(n)$ represents the order of magnitude of throughput capacity

as the number of network nodes n increases.¹ The result of [14] indicates that the long-term per flow throughput can be bounded by constant functions even as n tends to infinity. Gamal et al. [15, 16] studied a cell-partitioned MANET divided evenly into $n \times n$ cells, on which the nodes move independently according to a symmetric random walk. For the considered MANET, the authors of [15, 16] investigated its optimal scaling behavior of the delay-throughput tradeoff and discovered that the $\Theta(1)$ per flow throughput is achievable at the cost of an average delay of order $\Theta(n \log n)$. A similar delay-throughput tradeoff was shown to also exist in MANETs under restricted mobility model [17]. In the work of [18], Li et al. proposed a controllable mobility model for cell-partitioned MANETs and derived upper and lower bounds on the achievable throughput and expected delay for the considered networks. Besides, the scaling laws of the throughput capacity and related delay-throughput tradeoff have also been explored under other mobility models, such as Brownian mobility model [19, 20], hybrid mobility model [21], correlated mobility model [22] and ballistic mobility model [23]. For a survey on the scaling law results of throughput capacity and delay in wireless networks, please refer to [24].

It is notable that although the study on order sense results and scaling laws can help us to understand the asymptotic behavior of the throughput capacity and delay-throughput tradeoff as the number of network nodes increases, they provide little information on the actually achievable throughput/delay performance of these networks, which is of more interest from the view of network designers. Noting the limitation of scaling law results, some preliminary research have been conducted for the exact expressions of throughput capacity [13, 25–27]. In particular, Neely and Modiano [13] computed the exact throughput capacity and delay-throughput tradeoff in a cell-partitioned MANET under an i.i.d. mobility model where the locations of each network node in steady-state are independently and uniformly distributed over all cells. Following the model of [13], Urgaonkar and Neely further investigated the relation between throughput capacity and energy consumption in [25]. Recently, Chen et al [27] studied the exact throughput capacity for a continuous MANET with the i.i.d. mobility model and an ALOHA protocol for medium access control.

Despite the insight provided by existing exact results on the throughput capacity, the results developed there largely rely on an independent and uniform distribution of the locations of network nodes in steady-state and hence are only applicable to networks under the i.i.d. mobility model.

¹ In this paper, for two functions $f(n)$ and $g(n)$, we denote $f(n) = O(g(n))$ iff there exist positive constants c and n_0 , such that for all $n \geq n_0$, the inequality $0 \leq f(n) \leq cg(n)$ is satisfied; $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$ iff $g(n) = O(f(n))$; $f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$ iff both $f(n) = O(g(n))$ and $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$ are satisfied.

This paper studies the exact throughput capacity and related delay-throughput tradeoff under a more widely accepted ICMN model and the result developed in this analysis can be applied to ICMNs under a general class of mobility models that can approximately fit the Poisson contact process, irrespective of the stationary distribution of the locations of network nodes.

3 System models and definitions

In this section, we first introduce the network model, mobility model and traffic model, and then define the performance metrics involved in this study.

3.1 Network model

We consider a sparse network that consists of n identical mobile nodes randomly moving within a continuous square of side-length L . Each node has a maximum transmission distance d . We call that two nodes have a contact when their distance is less than d and thus they can conduct communication. At the beginning of each contact, either of the two nodes is randomly selected as the transmitter of this contact with equal probability. Since the network is very sparse, we assume that the effect of co-channel interference from other simultaneous transmitting nodes is negligible. The total number of bits transmitted during a contact is fixed and normalized to one packet (Table 1).

Remark 1 We consider only uni-directional data transmission here to simplify analysis. Please notice that allowing bi-directional data transmission will not improve the throughput capacity performance since it does not introduce more communication resources into the network but only allows the two communicating nodes to share the total amount of data that can be transmitted during a contact event.

3.2 Mobility model

We consider the Poisson contact model introduced in [2] for node mobility. Under this mobility model, the contact processes between each pair of nodes follow mutually independent and homogeneous Poisson processes with pairwise contact rate $\beta > 0$, which is also the expected number of contacts that occur per unit time. Equivalently stated, the pairwise inter-contact times, i.e., the time that elapses between two consecutive contacts of a given pair of nodes, are mutually independent and exponentially distributed with mean $1/\beta$. It has been demonstrated in previous studies that this mobility model serves as a good approximation to a lot of typical mobility models like random waypoint, random direction and random walk models [2, 4,

Table 1 Summary of differences in system models and results

	Network model	Mobility model	Result
Grossglauser and Tse [14]	Continuous	I.i.d. model	Order sense
Neely and Modiano [13, 25]	Cell-partitioned	I.i.d. model	Exact expression
Chen et al. [27]	Continuous	I.i.d. model	Exact expression
This work	Continuous	Poisson contact process	Exact expression

5]. In particular, let β_{RW} denote the pairwise contact rate under the random waypoint (RW) model and β_{RD} denote that under the random direction (RD) model. The result of [2] has shown that β_{RW} and β_{RD} can be approximated as

$$\beta_{RW} \approx \frac{2c_1 d\mathbb{E}\{V^*\}}{L^2}, \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_{RD} \approx \frac{2d\mathbb{E}\{V^*\}}{L^2}, \quad (1)$$

respectively, where $c_1 = 1.3683$ is a constant and $\mathbb{E}\{V^*\}$ is the average relative speed between two nodes (see [3] for the numerical calculation of $\mathbb{E}\{V^*\}$). In the special case that each node travels at a constant speed v , we have $\beta_{RW} \approx \frac{8c_1 dv}{\pi L^2}$ and $\beta_{RD} \approx \frac{8dv}{L^2}$.

3.3 Traffic model

Regarding traffic pattern, we consider the traffic model [22]. Under this model, there are n unicast traffic flows in the network and each node is the source of one traffic flow and also the destination of another traffic flow. Denoting $\varphi(i)$ the destination node of the traffic flow originated from node i , the source-destination pairs are matched in a way that the sequence $(\varphi(1), \varphi(2), \dots, \varphi(n))$ is just a derangement of the set of nodes $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.² The packet arrival process at each node is assumed to be a Poisson arrival process with rate $\lambda > 0$. For throughput capacity analysis, we consider that there is no constraint on packet life time and the buffer size in each node is sufficiently large such that packet loss due to buffer overflow will never happen.

3.4 Performance metrics

The performance metrics involved in this study are defined as follows.

Throughput The throughput of a traffic flow is defined as the time average of number of packets that can be delivered from its source to destination.

End-to-end packet delay The *end-to-end delay* of a packet is the time it takes for the packet to reach its destination after it arrives at its source.

Network stability For an ICMN under a routing algorithm, if the packet arrival rate to each node is λ , the network is called *stable* under this rate if the average number of packets waiting at each node, i.e., the average queue

length, does not grow to infinity with time and thus the average end-to-end packet delay is bounded.

Throughput capacity The *throughput capacity* μ of the concerned ICMN is defined as the maximum value of packet arrival rate λ that the network can stably support where the optimization is over any possible routing algorithm [13].

4 Throughput capacity and delay-throughput tradeoff

In this section, we first establish a theorem regarding the throughput capacity in the considered ICMN based on the pairwise contact rate therein, and provide necessity and sufficiency proofs for this theorem. Then, we proceed to explore the tradeoff between the end-to-end delay and throughput. Finally, specific case studies are further conducted for ICMNs under the random waypoint and random direction mobility models.

4.1 Throughput capacity

Theorem 1 For the concerned ICMN with n mobile nodes and pairwise contact rate β , its throughput capacity can be determined as

$$\mu = \frac{n}{4} \beta. \quad (2)$$

The proof of Theorem 1 involves proving that $\lambda \leq \mu$ is necessary and $\lambda < \mu$ is sufficient to ensure network stability. We will establish the necessity in Sect. 4.1.1 by showing that μ is an upper bound on the throughput under any possible routing algorithm in the considered ICMN. Our proof relies on the fact that the transmission opportunities result from nodes' contacts in the concerned network, so the sum of packet transmission rates is upper bounded by the sum of contact rates between network nodes. This fact implies that when the sum of packet arrival rates is greater than that of contact rates, the network traffic becomes saturated unavoidably. Then, we will prove the sufficiency in Sect. 4.1.2, where a routing algorithm is presented and it is shown that the network is stable under this routing algorithm for any rate $\lambda < \mu$. The basic idea of the sufficiency proof is that under the considered routing algorithm, the queuing process of each traffic is statistically identical, so

² A derangement is a permutation that has no fixed point, i.e., $\varphi(i) \neq i, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

if we focus on one arbitrary traffic flow and show it is stable under $\lambda < \mu$, then it follows that all the other traffic and thus the whole network are stable as well. The proof of Theorem 1 follows the techniques developed in [13].

4.1.1 Proof of necessity

Lemma 1 For the concerned ICMN with n mobile nodes and pairwise contact rate β , its throughput under any possible routing algorithm is upper bounded by

$$\mu = \frac{n}{4}\beta. \quad (3)$$

Proof Consider an arbitrary routing algorithm. Let $X_h(T)$ denote the total number of packets transferred through h hops from their sources to destinations in time interval $[0, T]$. Notice that to ensure network stability, the sum of arrival rates of all traffic flows should be not greater than the sum of throughputs, since otherwise the amount of packets waiting in the network will grow to infinity as time evolves. Formally, it is necessary that for any given $\epsilon > 0$, there must exist an arbitrarily large T such that the following inequality holds

$$\lambda n - \epsilon \leq \frac{1}{T} \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} X_h(T), \quad (4)$$

where λ denotes the packet arrival rate at each node.

Notice the fact that during the time interval $[0, T]$, the total number of packet transmissions is lower bounded by $\sum_{h=1}^{\infty} hX_h(T)$ and upper bounded by the total number of contacts between all node pairs during this time interval, denoted by $Y(T)$ in the following. Thus, we have from the transitivity that

$$\sum_{h=1}^{\infty} hX_h(T) \leq Y(T). \quad (5)$$

From (4) and (5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{T} Y(T) &\geq \frac{1}{T} X_1(T) + \frac{2}{T} \sum_{h=2}^{\infty} X_h(T) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{T} X_1(T) + 2 \left[(\lambda n - \epsilon) - \frac{1}{T} X_1(T) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

and thus

$$\lambda \leq \frac{1}{2n} \left[\frac{1}{T} Y(T) + \frac{1}{T} X_1(T) + 2\epsilon \right]. \quad (7)$$

Since a packet can be transferred from its source to destination through single hop only when the source conducts a transmission directly to the destination, the term $X_1(T)$ in (7), i.e., the number of packets transferred from source to destination within one hop during $[0, T]$, is upper bounded by $Y_{sd}(T)$, i.e., the number of direct transmissions from each source node to its destination during the time

interval $[0, T]$. Notice that in the network there are $\binom{n}{2} = \frac{(n-1)n}{2}$ node-pairs and based on the property of the Poisson contact process, the contact rate of each pair of nodes is β . It follows that the expectation of the number of transmissions occurring in the network is just equal to $\frac{(n-1)n}{2}\beta$. Applying the law of large numbers, we have as $T \rightarrow \infty$

$$\frac{1}{T} Y(T) \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} \frac{(n-1)n}{2} \beta. \quad (8)$$

Similarly, the expectation of the number of transmissions conducted from source nodes to their destination directly is equal to $\frac{n}{2}\beta$, so as $T \rightarrow \infty$

$$\frac{1}{T} Y_{sd}(T) \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} \frac{n}{2} \beta. \quad (9)$$

Using (8) and (9) into (7), it follows that

Algorithm 1 Routing Algorithm.

- 1: Suppose that there is a contact between two nodes, transmitter Tx and receiver Rx , respectively.
 - 2: **if** Rx is the destination of the traffic generated from Tx **then**
 - 3: Tx conducts a *source-to-destination* transmission:
 - 4: **if** Tx has packet(s) in its local queue **then**
 - 5: Tx transmits the head-of-line packet of the queue to Rx .
 - 6: **else**
 - 7: Tx remains idle.
 - 8: **end if**
 - 9: **else**
 - 10: Tx flips an unbiased coin;
 - 11: **if** it is the head **then**
 - 12: Tx conducts a *source-to-relay* transmission:
 - 13: **if** Tx has packet(s) in its local queue **then**
 - 14: Tx transmits the head-of-line packet of the queue to Rx .
 - 15: **else**
 - 16: Tx remains idle.
 - 17: **end if**
 - 18: **else**
 - 19: Tx conducts a *relay-to-destination* transmission:
 - 20: **if** Tx has packet(s) in the relay queue destined for Rx **then**
 - 21: Tx the head-of-line packet of the queue to Rx .
 - 22: **else**
 - 23: Tx remains idle.
 - 24: **end if**
 - 25: **end if**
 - 26: **end if**
-

$$\lambda \leq \frac{n}{4}\beta + \frac{\epsilon}{n}, \text{ as } T \rightarrow \infty. \quad (10)$$

Since ϵ can be arbitrarily small, the result then follows.

4.1.2 Proof of sufficiency

For the proof of sufficiency, we present a routing algorithm in Algorithm 1 and will derive the expected end-to-end packet delay in the considered ICMN under this routing algorithm in Lemma 2. To support the operation of Algorithm 1, we assume that each node maintains one source queue to store packets locally generated and $n - 2$ relay queues to store packets of other flows (one queue per flow). All these queues follow the FIFO (first-in-first-out) discipline. The proof of Lemma 2 uses the reversibility of continuous time $M/M/1$ queues.

Lemma 2 For the concerned ICMN with n mobile nodes and pairwise contact rate β , if the packet arrival process at each node is an i.i.d. Poisson process with rate λ and Algorithm 1 is adopted for packet routing, the corresponding expected end-to-end delay $\mathbb{E}\{D\}$ is determined as

$$\mathbb{E}\{D\} = \frac{n-1}{\mu-\lambda}, \quad (11)$$

where μ is the upper bound determined in Lemma 1.

Proof Notice that under Algorithm 1, there are three types of transmissions, i.e., source-to-destination transmission, source-to-relay transmission and relay-to-destination transmission. It takes a packet at most two hops to reach its destination and the packet delivery processes of the n traffic flows are independent from each other. Based on the properties of the mobility model and Algorithm 1, we can see that the packet delivery process in the considered ICMN under Algorithm 1 consists of n identical queuing processes (one queuing process per flow). Without loss of generality, we focus on in the analysis the queuing process of an arbitrary traffic flow illustrated in Fig. 1. It can be seen from Fig. 1 that packets of this flow experience a two-stage queuing process if the packet is not directly transmitted to the destination, i.e., the queuing process at the source node (first stage) and the queuing process at one of the $n - 2$ relay nodes (second stage).

Consider first the source queue. The input to this queue is a Poisson arrival process with rate λ . According to Algorithm 1, a “service” comes when the source node conducts either a *source-to-destination* transmission or a *source-to-relay* transmission. Based on the property of Poisson contact process and Algorithm 1, the service process is a Poisson process with service rate equal to

$$\mu = \beta/2 + \beta(n-2)/4 \quad (12)$$

$$= \frac{n}{4}\beta, \quad (13)$$

where the first term in (12) is the rate associated with the particular source having a contact with its destination and multiplied by 1/2 for the probability that the source is chosen to transmit, and the second term is the rate of this source having a contact with any one of the $n - 2$ relay nodes and multiplied by the 1/4 for the probability that the source is chosen to transmit and the source-to-relay transmission is selected. Then, it follows that the source queue is an $M/M/1$ queue with input rate λ and service rate μ . Based on the result from queuing theory, the mean queuing delay of the source queue $\mathbb{E}\{D_s\}$ is given by

$$\mathbb{E}\{D_s\} = \frac{1}{\mu - \lambda}. \quad (14)$$

Moreover, since $M/M/1$ queues are reversible, so the departure process from the source queue is also a Poisson process with rate λ [28].

Consider now the queuing process at one of the $n - 2$ relay nodes. Notice that with probability $\frac{1}{n}$ a packet departure from the source node will enter this relay node, so the input to this relay queue is a Poisson process with rate $\frac{\lambda}{n}$. In this relay queue, a “service” arises when this relay node conducts a *relay-to-destination* transmission to the destination node of the concerned traffic flow, so the service process of the relay nodes is a Poisson process with rate $\mu' = \frac{\beta}{4}$. We can see that the relay queue is again an $M/M/1$ queue. The mean queuing delay $\mathbb{E}\{D_r\}$ at a relay node is given by

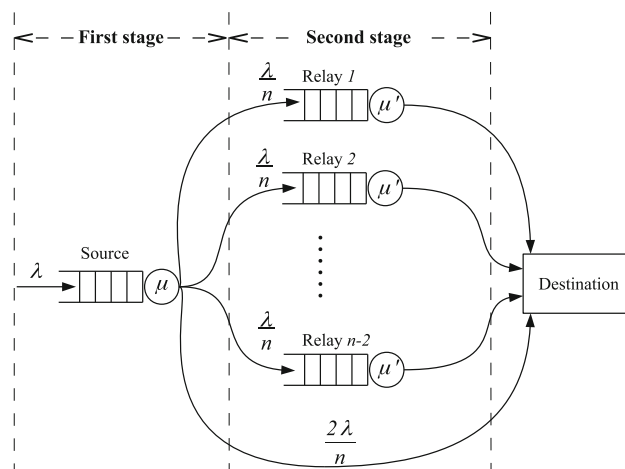


Fig. 1 Two-stage queuing process under Algorithm 1. In the figure, the inter-service times in the source node and relay nodes are exponentially distributed with rate $\mu = \frac{n}{4}\beta$ and rate $\mu' = \frac{\beta}{4}$, respectively

$$\mathbb{E}\{D_r\} = \frac{1}{\mu' - \lambda/n}. \quad (15)$$

Summing up the above results, we have that the expected end-to-end packet delay is

$$\mathbb{E}\{D\} = \mathbb{E}\{D_s\} + \frac{n-2}{n}\mathbb{E}\{D_r\} = \frac{n-1}{\mu - \lambda}, \quad (16)$$

which proves the lemma.

4.2 Delay-throughput tradeoff

In the following theorem, we establish a necessary condition on the tradeoff between the end-to-end packet delay and throughput under any routing algorithm that stabilizes the network. This result is independent of the routing protocol used. The proof follows the technique developed in [13].

Theorem 2 Consider an ICMN with n mobile nodes and pairwise contact rate β and the packet arrival rate at each node is λ . A necessary condition for any routing algorithm that can stabilize the network with rate λ while maintaining a bounded expected end-to-end delay $\mathbb{E}\{D\}$ is given by

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}\{D\}}{\lambda} \geq \frac{1 - \log(2)}{2(n-1)\beta^2}. \quad (17)$$

Proof Consider that the packet arrival rate to each of the n traffic flows is λ and that there is a general routing algorithm that stabilizes the network under this rate and results in an expected end-to-end delay of $\mathbb{E}\{D\}$.

Let random variable D_i denote the end-to-end delay of a packet in flow i under the routing algorithm and $\mathbb{E}\{D_i\}$ represent its expectation. The expected end-to-end packet delay of the network $\mathbb{E}\{D\}$ can be calculated by

$$\mathbb{E}\{D\} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}\{D_i\}. \quad (18)$$

Let random variable R_i denote the redundancy of a packet in flow i , i.e., this packet is distributed into R_i different nodes (including the destination) in the network, and $\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}$ be its expectation. Notice that the sum of the generating rates of packet redundancy in the network is

$$\lambda n \cdot \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}\{R_i\} = \lambda \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}\{R_i\}. \quad (19)$$

This quantity is upper bounded by the sum of pairwise contact rates in the network, due to the fact that during each contact at most one copy of a packet is transmitted from one node to another. Formally, it is expressed as

$$\lambda \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}\{R_i\} \leq \binom{n}{2} \beta = \frac{(n-1)n}{2} \beta. \quad (20)$$

For traffic flow i , its expected end-to-end delay $\mathbb{E}\{D_i\}$ satisfies the following inequality

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}\{D_i\} &= \mathbb{E}\{D_i | R_i \leq 2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\} \Pr\{R_i \leq 2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\} \\ &\quad + \mathbb{E}\{D_i | R_i > 2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\} \Pr\{R_i > 2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\} \\ &\geq \mathbb{E}\{D_i | R_i \leq 2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\} \Pr\{R_i \leq 2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}\{D_i | R_i \leq 2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\}, \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

where (21) is due to that $\Pr\{R_i \leq 2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\} \geq \frac{1}{2}$ holds for any non-negative random variable. Now, we consider a virtual network where there are n nodes and $2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}$ of them initially possess a copy of a packet destined for some other node. Let D_i^* denote the time elapsed from the initial moment until the moment that one of the $2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}$ nodes has a contact with the destination node of the packet. D_i^* is exponentially distributed with parameter $2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\beta$, so that $\mathbb{E}\{D_i^*\} = \frac{1}{2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\beta}$.

Notice that $\mathbb{E}\{D_i | R_i \leq 2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\}$ is not necessarily lower bounded by $\mathbb{E}\{D_i^*\}$, because the redundancy R_i may be correlated with certain events in the mobility process, so conditioning on the event $\{R_i \leq 2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\}$ may skew the memoryless property of the Poisson contact process. However, since $\Pr\{R_i \leq 2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\} \geq \frac{1}{2}$, we have the following bound:

$$\mathbb{E}\{D_i | R_i \leq 2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\} \geq \inf_{\Theta} \mathbb{E}\{D_i^* | \Theta\}, \quad (22)$$

where the left-side conditional expectation is minimized over all possible events Θ that occurs with probability greater than or equal to $1/2$. The inequality holds because the event yielding the mobility patterns of the type encountered when $\{R_i \leq 2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\}$ is also included in the events set, over which the conditional expectation is minimized.

Since D_i^* is a continuous variable, so the event minimizing the conditional expectation in (22) is just $\{D_i^* \leq \omega\}$ such that ω is the smallest value satisfying $\Pr\{D_i^* \leq \omega\} = \frac{1}{2}$. Since D_i^* is exponentially distributed with rate $2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\beta$, so $\omega = \frac{\log(2)}{2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\beta}$ and $\inf_{\Theta} \mathbb{E}\{D_i^* | \Theta\}$ is determined as

$$\begin{aligned} \inf_{\Theta} \mathbb{E}\{D_i^* | \Theta\} &= \mathbb{E}\{D_i^* | D_i^* \leq \omega\} \\ &= \frac{\mathbb{E}\{D_i^*\} - \mathbb{E}\{D_i^* | D_i^* > \omega\} \Pr\{D_i^* > \omega\}}{\Pr\{D_i^* \leq \omega\}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\beta} - \frac{1}{2}(\omega + \frac{1}{2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\beta})}{1/2} \\ &= \frac{1 - \log(2)}{2\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}\beta}. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Substituting (23), (22) and (21) into (18) leads to

$$\mathbb{E}\{D\} \geq \frac{1 - \log(2)}{4\beta} \cdot \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}} \quad (24)$$

$$\geq \frac{1 - \log(2)}{4\beta} \cdot \frac{1}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}\{R_i\}}, \quad (25)$$

where (25) results from Jensen's inequality, since the function $f(x) = 1/x$ is convex for $x > 0$. Combining (20) and (25), $\mathbb{E}\{R_i\}$ is eliminated and we have

$$\mathbb{E}\{D\} \geq \frac{1 - \log(2)}{4\beta} \cdot \frac{2\lambda}{(n-1)\beta} = \frac{1 - \log(2)}{2(n-1)\beta^2} \cdot \lambda. \quad (26)$$

Multiplying $1/\lambda$ on both sides of (26) proves the theorem.

4.3 Case studies under random waypoint and random direction models

So far, we have derived the throughput capacity and delay-throughput tradeoff for the concerned ICMNs with Poisson contact process. To illustrate the applicability of these theoretical results, we also do case studies for the random waypoint and random direction mobility models, where parameter-matching is conducted on these model to fit the studied Poisson contact process. It will be demonstrated in Sect. 5 via simulation that the results derived here can serve as good approximations for networks under these mobility models.

Throughput capacity For an ICMN with n mobile nodes, side-length L and maximum transmission distance d , when $d \ll L$, the throughput capacities μ_{RW} under the random waypoint model and μ_{RD} under the random direction model can be approximated as

$$\mu_{RW} \approx \frac{c_1 n d \mathbb{E}\{V^*\}}{2L^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_{RD} \approx \frac{n d \mathbb{E}\{V^*\}}{2L^2}, \quad (27)$$

respectively, where $c_1 = 1.3683$ is a constant and $\mathbb{E}\{V^*\}$ is the average relative speed between a pair of nodes. In the special case of constant traveling speed v , we have $\mu_{RW} \approx \frac{2c_1 n d v}{\pi L^2}$ and $\mu_{RD} \approx \frac{2n d v}{L^2}$, respectively.

Delay-throughput tradeoff: For an ICMN with n mobile nodes, side-length L and maximum transmission distance d , when $d \ll L$, a necessary condition for any routing algorithm that can stabilize the network with packet arrival rate λ while maintaining a bounded expected end-to-end delay $\mathbb{E}\{D\}$ is given by

1. for the random waypoint mobility model:

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}\{D\}}{\lambda} \geq \frac{(1 - \log(2))L^4}{8(n-1)(c_1 d \mathbb{E}\{V^*\})^2}, \quad (28)$$

2. for the random direction mobility model:

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}\{D\}}{\lambda} \geq \frac{(1 - \log(2))L^4}{8(n-1)(d \mathbb{E}\{V^*\})^2}, \quad (29)$$

where $c_1 = 1.3683$ is a constant and $\mathbb{E}\{V^*\}$ is the average relative speed between a pair of nodes. In the special case of constant traveling speed v , the necessary condition is given by

1. for the random waypoint mobility model:

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}\{D\}}{\lambda} \geq \frac{(1 - \log(2))\pi^2 L^4}{128(n-1)(c_1 d v)^2}, \quad (30)$$

2. for the random direction mobility model:

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}\{D\}}{\lambda} \geq \frac{(1 - \log(2))L^4}{128(n-1)(d v)^2}. \quad (31)$$

Remark 2 Notice that for both the random waypoint and random direction mobility models, if we consider that the L and n increase while the node density $\tau = n/L^2$ remains constant, then we have the following observations:

- The results of (27) reduce to $\mu_{RW} \approx c_1 \tau d \mathbb{E}\{V^*\}$ and $\mu_{RW} \approx \tau d \mathbb{E}\{V^*\}$, indicating that a constant throughput capacity is still achievable in a large scale ICMN. Meanwhile, the result in (11) indicates that the average end-to-end delay under Algorithm 1 will increase linearly with the number of nodes n .
- The results in (30) and (31) indicate that the delay-throughput scales as $\mathbb{E}\{D\}/\lambda > O(n)$.

5 Simulation and numerical results

In this section, we first provide simulation measurements to verify the accuracy of the theoretical results developed in Sect. 4, and then apply these results to illustrate the performance of the concerned ICMNs under different settings of system parameters.

5.1 Simulation validation

To validate the accuracy of the theoretical results, we will compare the theoretical throughput capacity and delay results with those obtained from simulation. The simulation results were obtained from a self-developed discrete event simulator that implements the packet delivery process under Algorithm 1. The simulator accepts pairwise nodes' contact traces as input, which is obtained from the NS-2 formatted mobility traces and the *calcdet* tool.

5.1.1 Mobility models

The mobility models considered in the simulation are summarized as follows.

Random waypoint mobility model [2]: Under this model, initially network nodes are uniformly distributed in the network area and each node travels at a travel speed randomly and uniformly selected in (v_{\min}, v_{\max}) with $v_{\min} > 0$ towards a destination randomly and uniformly selected in the network area. After arriving at the destination, the node may pause for a random amount of time and then chooses a new destination and a new travel speed, independently of previous ones. It is notable that the locations of the nodes in steady-state under the random waypoint model are not uniformly distributed. Particularly, it was reported in [29] that the stationary distribution of the location of a node is more concentrated near the center of the network region.

Random direction mobility model [2] Under this mobility model, initially network nodes are uniformly distributed in the network area and each node randomly selects a direction, a speed and a finite traveling time. The node travels towards the direction at the given speed for the given duration of time. When the travel time duration has expired, the node could pause for a random time, after which it selects a new set of direction, speed and time duration, independently of all previous ones. When the node reaches a boundary, it is either reflected (i.e., it is bounced back to the network area with the angle of θ or $\pi - \theta$) or the area wraps around so that it appears on the other side. It was shown in [30] that the stationary distribution of nodes' locations is uniform for arbitrary distributions of direction, speed and travel time duration, irrespective of the boundaries being reflecting or wrapped around.

Truncated Levy walk mobility model [31] Under this model, the mobility process of each node consists of an independent sequence of random travel steps that the node makes. A travel step is a tuple $(l, \theta, \Delta_{tf}, \Delta_{tp})$, where l is the travel length, θ is the travel direction, Δ_{tf} is the travel time duration and Δ_{tp} is the time duration of a pause during which the node stays after arriving at the destination of this travel. The l and Δ_{tp} follow Levy distributions with scale factors c_l and c_{tp} and exponents α_l and α_{tp} , respectively. A Levy distribution can be expressed in terms of a Fourier transformation:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-itx - |ct|^\alpha} \quad (32)$$

where parameters c and $0 < \alpha < 2$ are the scale factor and exponent, respectively. The direction θ is uniformly distributed in $(0, 2\pi]$. Under this model, initially network nodes are uniformly distributed in the network area and then for each node, a tuple $(l, \theta, \Delta_{tf}, \Delta_{tp})$ is randomly

generated following their distributions. If l and Δ_{tp} are negative or greater than predefined truncation factors τ_l and τ_p , the tuple is discarded and a new one is generated. When a node completes its travel and pause, a new travel step is generated. When a node reaches a boundary, it is reflected. This mobility model has been validated against real mobility trace in [31]. Noticing that due to lack of knowledge on the inter-contact times distribution, we will use simulation measurement for its pairwise contact rate β_{TLW} .

5.1.2 Simulation setting

In our simulation, we consider a square network of side-length $L = 2000$ m and number of nodes $n = 20$. The travel speed is constant and equals to $v = 40$ m/s. For the truncated Levy walk mobility model, we consider a parameter setting of $\alpha_l = 0.66$, $\alpha_{tp} = 0.49$, $c_l = 10$, $c_{tp} = 1$, $\tau_l = 1293.6$ m and $c_{tp} = 1.0$ s. There is no pause time for the random waypoint and random direction mobility model.³ We consider transmission distances of $d = \{20, 50, 100\}$, where the corresponding pairwise contact rates are calculated as $\beta_{RW} = \{6.96 \times 10^{-4}, 1.74 \times 10^{-3}, 3.48 \times 10^{-3}\}$ for the random waypoint mobility model and $\beta_{RD} = \{5.09 \times 10^{-4}, 1.27 \times 10^{-3}, 2.55 \times 10^{-3}\}$ for the random direction mobility model according to (1) and measured as $\beta_{TLW} = \{4.69 \times 10^{-4}, 1.15 \times 10^{-3}, 2.22 \times 10^{-3}\}$ for the truncated Levy walk mobility model through simulation. For the simulation measurements of the throughput and average end-to-end delay under Algorithm 1, we focus on a specific traffic flow and measure its throughput and average packet delay over a time duration of 1.0×10^7 seconds for each system load $\rho = \lambda/\mu$.

5.1.3 Simulation results

To demonstrate the efficiency of the developed throughput capacity result, we summarize in Fig. 2 the simulation results of throughput for different values of system load. In Fig. 2, the dots represent the simulation results and the dashed lines are the corresponding theoretical throughput capacities calculated by (27). We can observe from Fig. 2 that for all the mobility models here, its throughput increases linearly as ρ increases from 0 to 1 and approaches μ when ρ grows further beyond 1. This is expected since the queuing system in the network is underloaded when $\rho < 1$, and it saturates as ρ approaches 1 and beyond. The results in Fig. 2 indicate clearly that our

³ Notice that according to (27), the pause time mainly indirectly affects the performance via its impact on the average speed $\mathbb{E}\{V^*\}$ in this study.

theoretical throughput capacity result developed based on the Poisson contact process provides a good estimation of the throughput capacity of the concerned ICMNs with the mobility models considered here. Moreover, it also indicates that this throughput capacity can be achieved by adopting Algorithm 1 as routing algorithm in the network.

We then proceed to validate the efficiency of our end-to-end delay model. Particularly, we compare in Fig. 3 the simulation results of the average end-to-end packet delay to those of theoretical ones calculated by substituting the results in (27) into (11). We can see from Fig. 3 that for the considered mobility models, the theoretical results nicely agree with the simulation ones. This observation indicates that our delay model of (11) is accurate and can efficiently capture the delay behavior under Algorithm 1 in the considered network.

5.2 Numerical results and discussions

Based on our theoretical models, we first explore the impacts of nodes' traveling speed on the throughput capacity and end-to-end delay. We summarize in Fig. 4 how the μ varies with average pairwise relative speed $\mathbb{E}\{V^*\}$ in a network of $n = 20$, $d = 20$ m and $L = 2000$ m. Figure 4 shows that as the $\mathbb{E}\{V^*\}$ increases, the throughput capacities under both the random waypoint and random direction models increase linearly. This is mainly due to that a higher average travel speed will lead to an increase on the pairwise contact rate as shown in (1), and hence to a higher throughput capacity. For the same network setting, we then present in Fig. 5 how the average delay $\mathbb{E}\{D\}$ under Algorithm 1 varies with $\mathbb{E}\{V^*\}$ under system load $\rho = 0.8$. It can be observed in Fig. 5 that increasing $\mathbb{E}\{V^*\}$ will cause a lower average delay, which is because the $\mathbb{E}\{D\}$ is inversely proportional to the throughput capacity μ as indicated in (11).

We then present in Figs. 6 and 7 how the throughput capacity μ and average end-to-end packet delay vary with transmission distance d for a network of $n = 20$, $\mathbb{E}\{V^*\} = 40$ m/s, $L = 2000$ m and $\rho = 0.8$ (for delay). It can be seen from in Figs. 6 and 7 that the impacts of the transmission distance d on the behavior of capacity and delay are similar to those of the $\mathbb{E}\{V^*\}$, for the reason that d is also a factor in the evaluation of β as shown in (1). Notice that we do not provide any figure regarding how the performance varies with different node densities. This is because this research is focused on a very sparse network so that the interference from other simultaneous transmissions is negligible. It is notable that as the node density increases, the above assumption may not be satisfied, so the figures of performance versus node density obtained from the equations of this paper will provide misleading results. For the

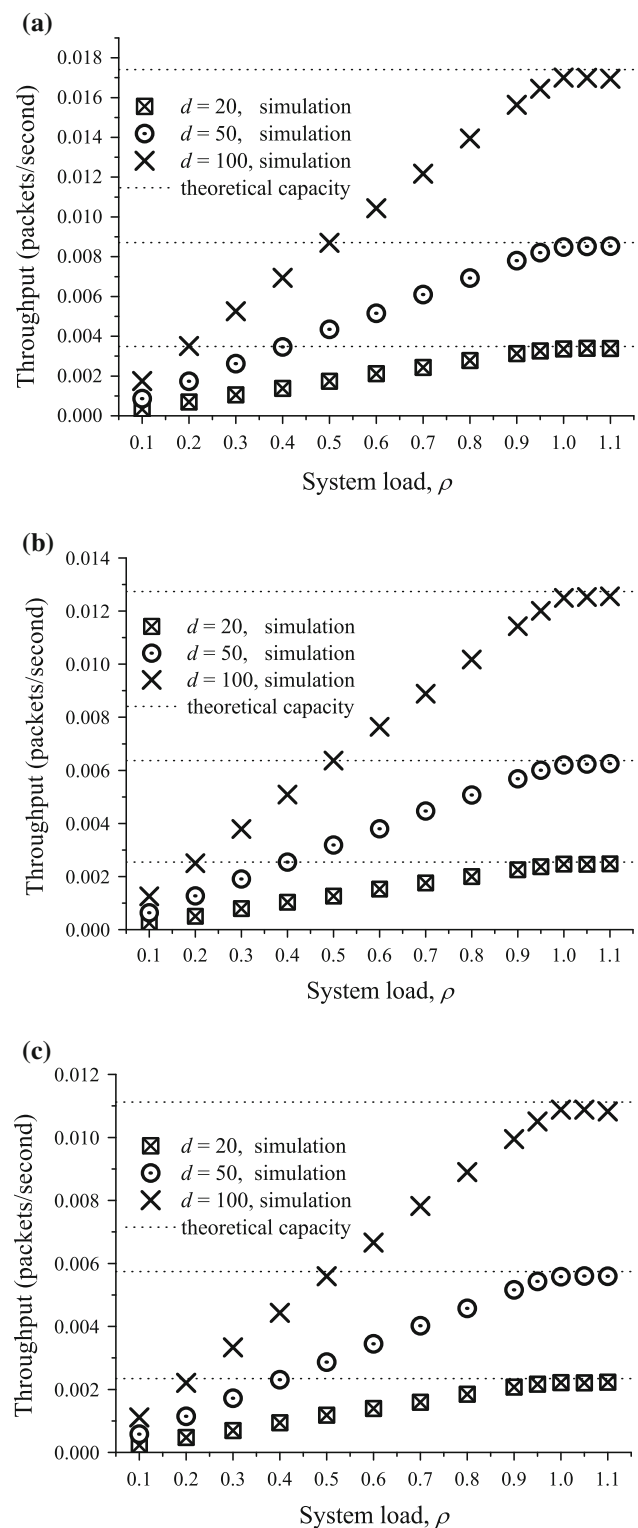


Fig. 2 Throughput versus system load ρ . **a** Random waypoint model. **b** Random direction model. **c** Truncated Levy walk model

throughput capacity study in interference-limited scenario, we refer to the work of [27].

It is also interesting to see that from Figs. 4, 5, 6 and 7 that the random waypoint mobility model provides a

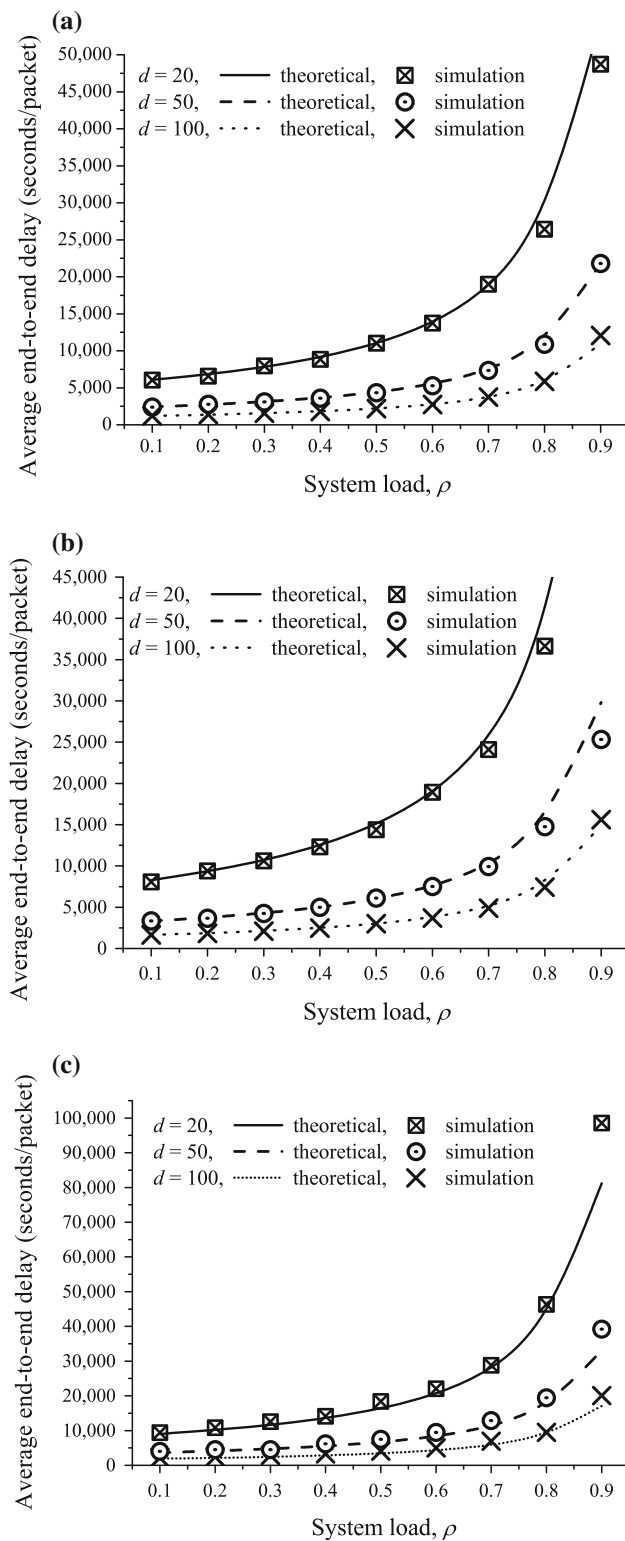


Fig. 3 Average end-to-end delay versus system load ρ . **a** Random waypoint model. **b** Random direction model. **c** Truncated Levy walk model

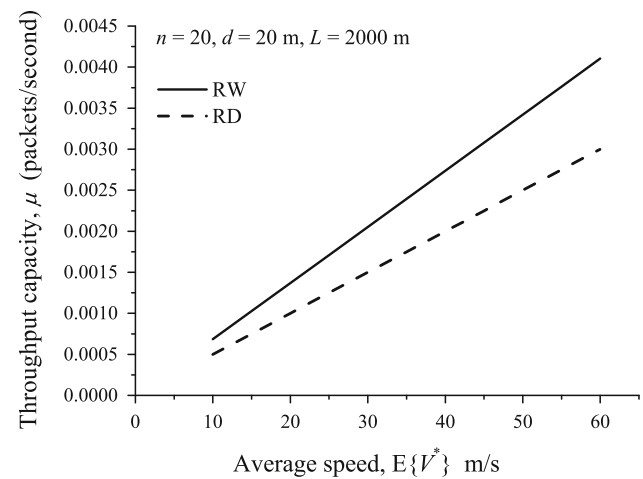


Fig. 4 Capacity μ versus average speed $E\{V^*\}$

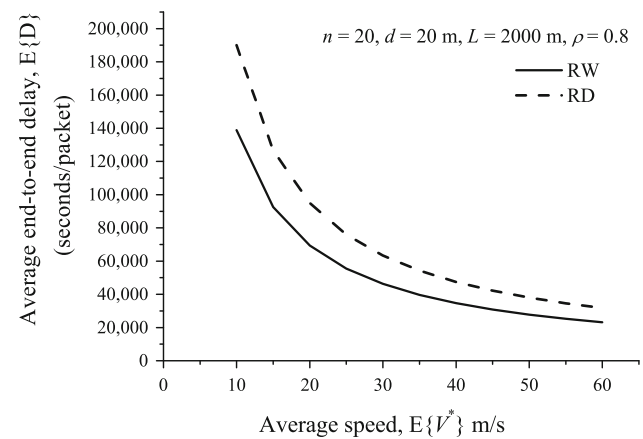


Fig. 5 Average end-to-end delay $E\{D\}$ versus average speed $E\{V^*\}$

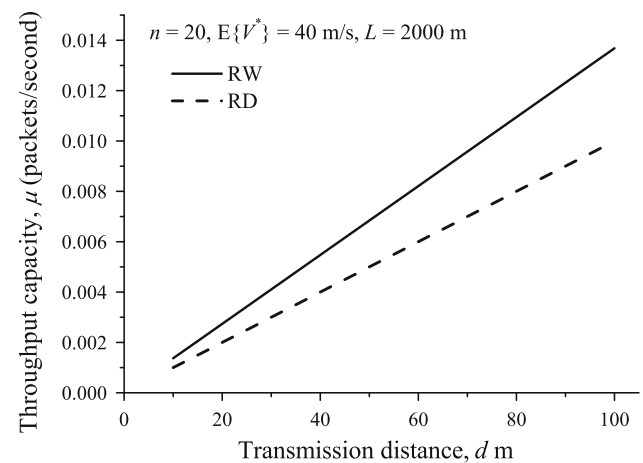


Fig. 6 Capacity μ versus transmission distance d

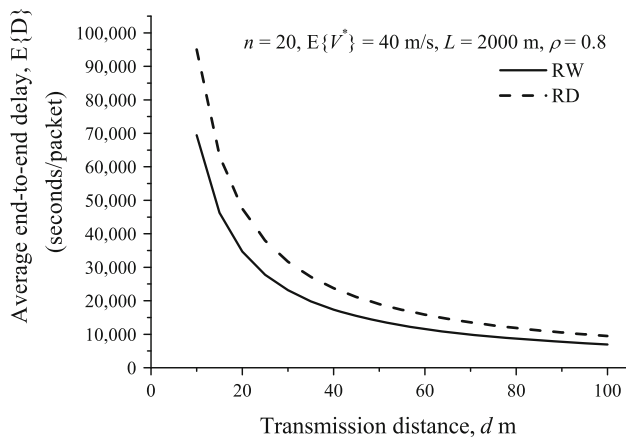


Fig. 7 Average end-to-end delay $\mathbb{E}\{D\}$ versus transmission distance d

performance better than that of the random direction mobility model for the network settings here. Recall that compared with the random direction model that has a uniform stationary distribution of nodes location, the stationary distribution of the location of a node under the random waypoint mobility model is more concentrated near the center of the network region (see Sect. 5.1.1). Therefore, the random waypoint mobility model leads to a higher nodes' pairwise contact rate [see (1)] and hence a higher throughput capacity, for the same network setting of L , $\mathbb{E}\{V^*\}$ and d .

6 Conclusions

This paper studied the throughput capacity and delay-throughput tradeoff in an ICMN with Poisson contact process. Based on the pairwise contact rate in the concerned ICMN, an exact expression of the throughput capacity is derived, which indicates the maximum throughput that the network can stably support. To reveal the inherent relationship between the end-to-end packet delay and achievable throughput, a necessary condition on the delay-throughput tradeoff is also established. To illustrate the applicability of these theoretical results developed based on the Poisson contact process, we conducted parameter-matching to fit the random waypoint and random direction models to the Poisson contact process and obtained approximations to the throughput capacity and delay-throughput tradeoff with these mobility models. Besides random waypoint and random direction models, we also conducted simulation for the truncated Levy walk mobility model. Simulation results demonstrate that our theoretical throughput capacity result serves as a good estimation for the throughput capacity in those mobility models.

Remark 2 indicates that under the random waypoint or random direction mobility, a constant throughput capacity is achievable even in a large scale ICMN as far as the node density can be kept constant, but at the cost of a linearly increasing expected end-to-end delay. Since the throughput capacity is optimized over any routing algorithm in such networks, so if a network designer wants to achieve a throughput performance higher than the throughput capacity, improving only the routing algorithm is inadequate. He/she has to enhance the architecture of the network, e.g., introducing fixed basestations or ferry nodes [32]. Our results also reveal that by increasing the average node traveling speed or transmission range in an ICMN, an improvement on both its throughput and end-to-end delay performance might be expected.

This study indicates that the throughput capacity and throughput-delay trade-off in ICMNs are largely determined by the nodes contact process therein, so effective modeling of nodes' contact process would serve as a key role in conquering the complicated throughput capacity problem in these networks. It is expected that the theoretical analysis developed in this paper will be helpful for exploring the throughput capacity and delay-throughput tradeoff in other ICMN scenarios. In particular, we would like to highlight the following future directions. In this paper, only ICMNs with homogeneous Poisson contact process was studied where the inter-contact times between each pair of nodes are identically and exponentially distributed. It is notable, however, both basic intuition and the study of realistic scenarios indicate that mobility with heterogeneous contact rates is more frequently encountered in practice [33]. Moreover, previous research have shown that the realistic mobility often incurs heavy-tail inter-contact time distributions [34]. As a result, one of our future directions is to extend the study of this paper to conduct throughput capacity analysis for ICMNs with heterogeneous contact rates [35] and more realistic nodes contact process. It is envisioned, however, that the queuing analysis in this paper cannot be extended in a straightforward way to characterize the packet routing process (and thus throughput capacity) under these scenarios, so a new and deliberate study is deserved. Another possible future direction is to study the gap between the throughput capacity determined in this paper and the optimal throughput performance of specific routing protocols and how to improve these routing protocols, accordingly.

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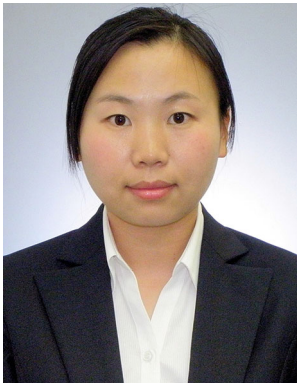
Yin Chen received his B.S. and M.S. Degrees both in Computer Science from Xidian University, China in 2008 and 2011 and Ph.D. Degree in Systems Information Science from Future University Hakodate, Japan in 2014, respectively. Dr. Chen is currently serving as a research assistant professor in Shonan Fujisawa Campus, Keio University, Japan. From Apr. to Oct. 2014, he was working as a postdoctoral researcher in Future University Hakodate. His research interests

are in wireless communication and networks. In particular, his current research is focused on the modeling and performance evaluation of wireless networks based on queueing theory and stochastic geometry.



Yulong Shen received the B.S., M.E. and Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from Xidian University, China, in 2002, 2005, and 2008, respectively. He is now a Professor at the School of Computer Science and Technology, Xidian University and a researcher at the State Key Laboratory of Integrated Services Networks, China. He has also served on the technical program committees of several international conferences, including ICEBE, INCoS, CIS and SOWN. He is an IEEE and ACM

member. His research interest is wireless network security.



Jinxiao Zhu received her B.S. and M.E. degrees both in Software Engineering from Xidian University, China in 2008 and 2011 and Ph.D. Degree in Systems Information Science from Future University Hakodate, Japan in 2014, respectively. Dr. Zhu is currently a researcher in National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), Japan. From Apr. 2014 to Jan. 2015, she was working as a postdoctoral researcher in Future University Hakodate. Her

research interests are mainly focused in information-theoretic security for

wireless communications and performance evaluation of wireless networks.



Xiaohong Jiang received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D degrees in 1989, 1992, and 1999 respectively, all from Xidian University, Xi'an, China. He is currently a full professor of Future University Hakodate, Japan. Before joining Future University, Dr. Jiang was an Associate professor, Tohoku University, from Feb. 2005 to Mar. 2010. Dr. Jiang's research interests are mainly on wireless networks and optical networks. He has published over 260 technical papers at premium interna-

tional journals and conferences, which include over 50 papers published in the top IEEE journals and top IEEE conferences, like IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking, IEEE Journal of Selected Areas on Communications and IEEE INFOCOM. He is a Senior Member of IEEE, a Member of ACM and IEICE.