

# Pearls in Life

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## Simulate Random MAC Protocol in NS2 (Part III)

Dec 15th, 2013

Now we have the [simulation script](#), and also [added our protocol to the NS2 simulator](#), which is still a placeholder. Now we're going to actually implement our own random MAC protocol.

### Protocol Description

According to the project specification, when sending out a packet, our protocol is supposed to send out  $x$  copies of the packet at random time before sending out next packet. As long as the receiver receives at least one of the  $x$  duplicates, we say this packet was successfully delivered.

### Protocol Parameters

From the protocol description, it's obvious that we need to know:

- How many copies to send for one packet? I.e., the  $x$
- The interval of sending packet from up layer, so that we can schedule resending before up layer passes down the next packet.

So we add two class variables in `mac/rmac.h`

```
1 int repeatTx_;  
2 double interval_;
```

And in the constructor function of `RMAC` class, we need to bind the variables through TCL so that we can pass values in TCL script.

```
1 bind("repeatTx_", &repeatTx_);
2 bind("interval_", &interval_);
```

## TCL Object Binding

We also need to let TCL runtime to *know* our protocol. That is, when we write this in TCL script.

```
1 set val(mac) Mac/RMAC
```

TCL runtime would have to know the corresponding class of the `Mac/RMAC`.

Since we copied code from `mac-simple.cc` and also made the changes, this part has been done, but let's just review the code snippet that does the binding.

```
1 static class RMACClass : public TclClass {
2     public :
3         RMACClass() : TclClass("Mac/RMAC") {}
4         TclObject* create(int, const char* const*) {
5             return (new RMAC());
6         }
7 } class_rmac;
```

Here the `Mac/RMAC` string will be our protocol name.

## Interaction with Adjacent Layer

The most important function in any NS2 MAC protocol is the `recv` function. It's the interface to upper (Network Layer) and also lower (Physical Layer) layers.

The `recv` of our MAC protocol will look like this.

```
1 void
2 RMAC::recv(Packet *p, Handler *h) {
3
4     struct hdr_cmn *hdr = HDR_CMN(p);
5     /* let RMAC::send handle the outgoing packets */
6     if (hdr->direction() == hdr_cmn::DOWN) {
7         sendDown(p,h);
8     }
9     else {
10         sendUp(p,h);
11     }
12 }
```

Here we first get the header of the packet, and check it's directory. `hdr_cmn::DOWN` means this packet is from upper layer, and we need to send it out. `hdr_cmn::UP` means this packet is from lower layer (received packet), we need to deliver it to upper layer.

## Repeat Sending

The key part of our MAC protocol is to repeated send multiple copies when sending out a packet. So we need to mainly modify the `sendDown` function.

```

1 double max_delay = 0;
2
3 // generate repeatTx_ number of random delays
4 double* delays = new double[repeatTx_];
5 for (int i = 0; i < repeatTx_; i++) {
6     delays[i] = (rand() % 100) / 100.0 * interval_;
7     if (delays[i] > max_delay) {
8         max_delay = delays[i];
9     }
10 }
11
12 // use dummy tx handler for first repeatTx_-1 packets
13 for (int i = 0; i < repeatTx_; i++) {
14     if (delays[i] != max_delay) {
15         Scheduler::instance().schedule(&resendHandler_, (Event*)p->copy(), delays[i]);
16     }
17 }
18 delete delays;
19
20 waitTimer->restart(max_delay);
21 if (rx_state_ == MAC_IDLE ) {
22     // we're idle, so start sending now
23     sendTimer->restart(max_delay + ch->txtime());
24 } else {
25     // we're currently receiving, so schedule it after
26     // we finish receiving
27     sendTimer->restart(max_delay + ch->txtime()
28         + HDR_CMN(pktRx_)->txtime());
29 }

```

We first generate `repeatTx_` number of delays before next interval. Except for the `max_delay`, which will be the last copy to send, we use the `Scheduler` to resend the duplicated packets, and for last packet, we just use the timer scheme of `SimpleMac`.

Here is the `resendHandler_` looks like.

```

1 void
2 RMACResendHandler::handle(Event* p) {
3     mac_->resend((Packet*) p);
4 }
5
6 void
7 RMAC::resend(Packet* p) {
8     downtarget_->recv(p, NULL);
9 }

```

You can find the complete code for `rmac.cc` and `rmac.h` [here](#).

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