CISTER - Research Center in Real-Time & Embedded Computing Systems

Information Processing for Extreme Dense Sensing

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Björn Andersson, Nuno Pereira, Filipe Pacheco, Maryam Vehabi, Michele Albano, Raghuraman Rangarajan, Vikram Gupta, João Loureiro

Motivation:

Dense Sensing





3

- Moore's law
 - cost (and size) of a single embedded computer node with sensing, processing and (wireless) communication capabilities drops towards zero
 - economically feasible to deploy very large and dense computer networks of such nodes
 - to take very large number of sensor readings from the physical world
 - to compute quantities and take decisions out of those sensor readings
 - the trend is to connect embedded computers through communication networks in order to collaboratively infer and control the state of the physical processes

- large scale, dense sensor deployments
 - can cover a large area
 - can offer a better resolution
 - higher quality of sensing/control (e.g., capability of detecting the occurrence of an event)
 - but typically, applications are not interested in all sensor readings, but in computing a function based on sensor readings
 - e.g., MIN or AVERAGE
 - more complex functions
 - e.g., finding the most likely location of an object based on sensor readings



- but, these networked embedded computers are
 - resource-constrained
 - typically battery-operated
 - with reduced computing and communication capabilities
 - therefore energy-efficient operation is important
 - and, because of the physical interaction, it is often necessary that the delay from sensing until actuation (decision) is low and bounded

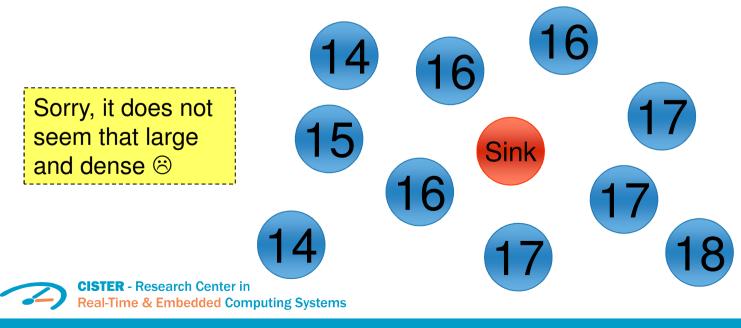
- ... the challenge is then how
 - to perform <u>scalable and efficient information processing</u> in such large-scale, dense cyber-physical systems
 - with:
 - (i) low delay
 - (ii) low resource usage
 - what do we mean by scalability and efficiency?
 - "efficient information processing"
 - the desired computation is performed while consuming very little resources (energy, communication links, memory, processor)
 - "scalable"
 - consumption of resources increases slowly or not at all as the number of sensor readings to be processed and/or the number of embedded computer nodes increases



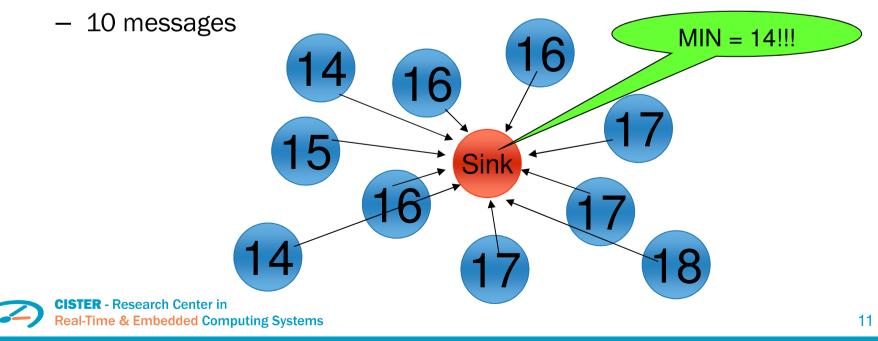


- the problem of performing scalable and efficient information processing in large-scale CPS must be solved
 - otherwise the usefulness of large scale, dense deployments is reduced significantly
- we believe that it is important to take a "cleanslate" approach
 - in order to attain the best possible performance for systems in the long term

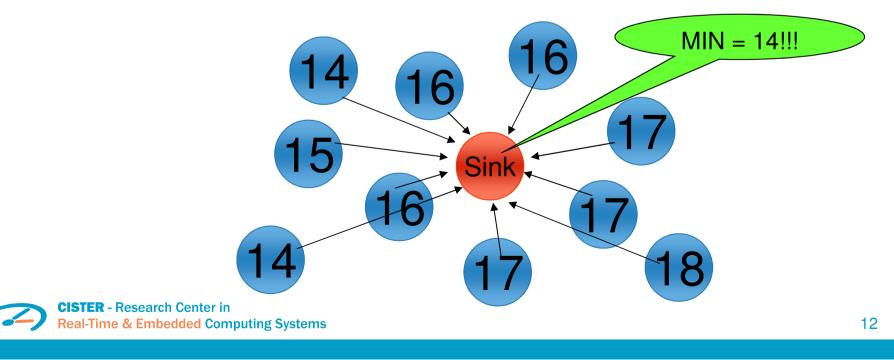
- consider the (simple) problem of computing a simple aggregate quantity such as MIN:
 - the minimum (MIN) sensed temperature (or other physical quantity) among the nodes at a given moment
 - assume the following as being a large and dense deployment
 - 10 nodes (just for the sake of exemplification)



- MIN is trivial, but for systems with large and dense deployment of nodes (such the one in Fig. below ⊕)
 - time-complexity as a function of number of nodes (no scalability)
 - this is true even if in-network data aggregation (e.g., convergecast trees) is used
 - since density reduces opportunities for parallel transmission



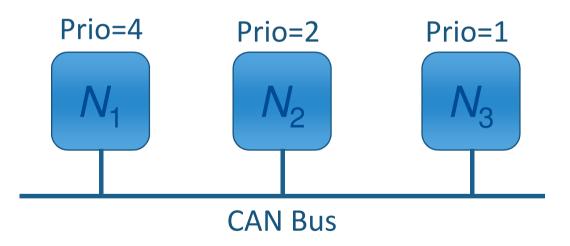
- we have an ambition, though:
 - compute MIN with a time-complexity that is independent of the number of nodes
 - in fact, with a time-complexity that is equivalent to the time of transmitting a single message
 - only possible if all send at the same time...



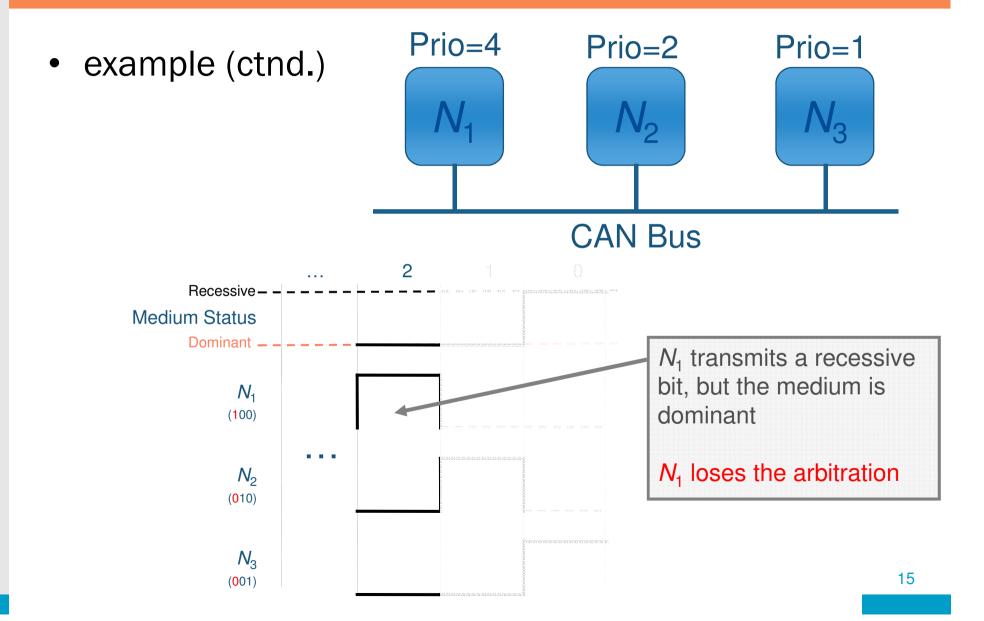
- is such a medium access control (MAC) possible?
 - CAN (Controller Area Network) uses a dominance/binary-countdown protocol (1979 Al Mok's paper "Distributed Broadcast Channel Access", *Computer Networks* 3(2))
 - developed by Robert Bosch GmbH
 - originally for the automotive industry
 - widely used in many other areas (building automation, industrial control, monitoring, ...)
 - · millions of nodes and systems deployed
 - characteristics of CAN
 - designed for a wired bus
 - each node (message) has a unique identifier (=priority)
 - lower values for priority mean higher priority
 - resolve bus contention using a bitwise arbitration (non-destructive collision)
 - if a node sends a '1' but hears a '0', he loses
 - · notion of recessive and dominant bits
 - 0 is dominant; 1 is recessive

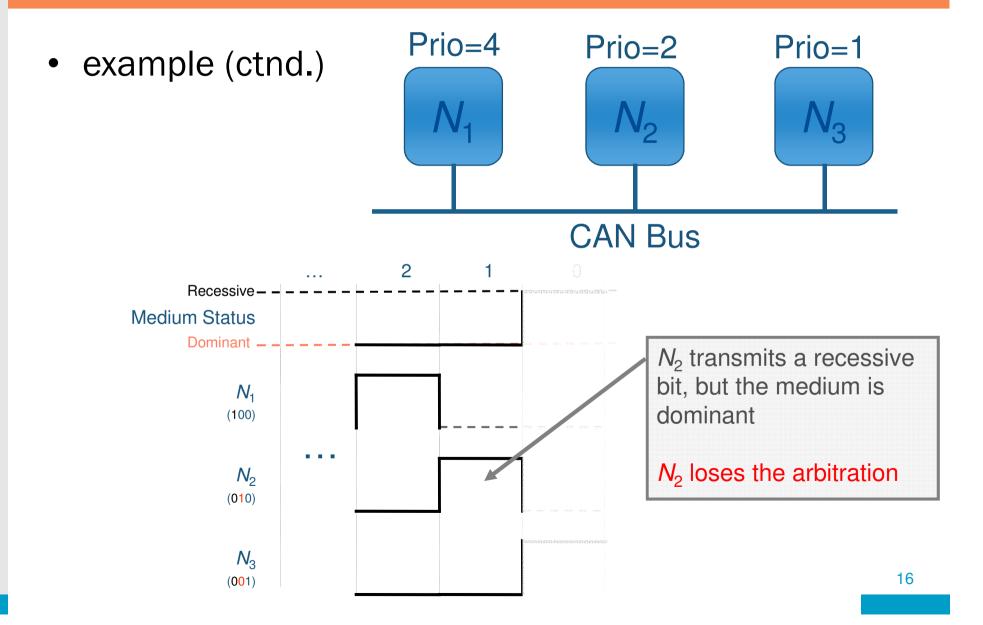


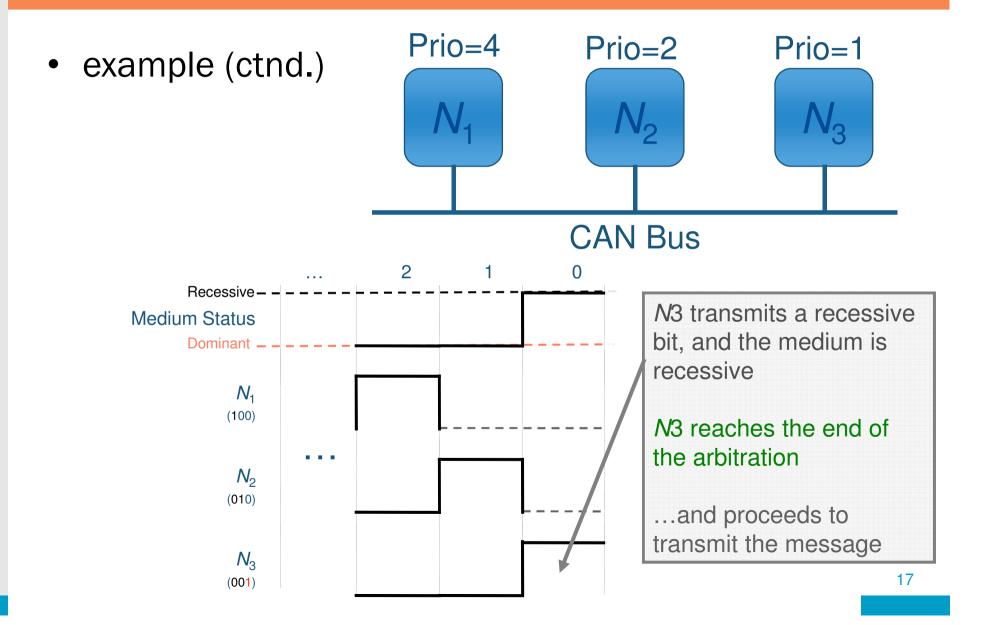
- example CAN network
 - three CAN nodes, with priorities (IDs) 4, 2 and 1

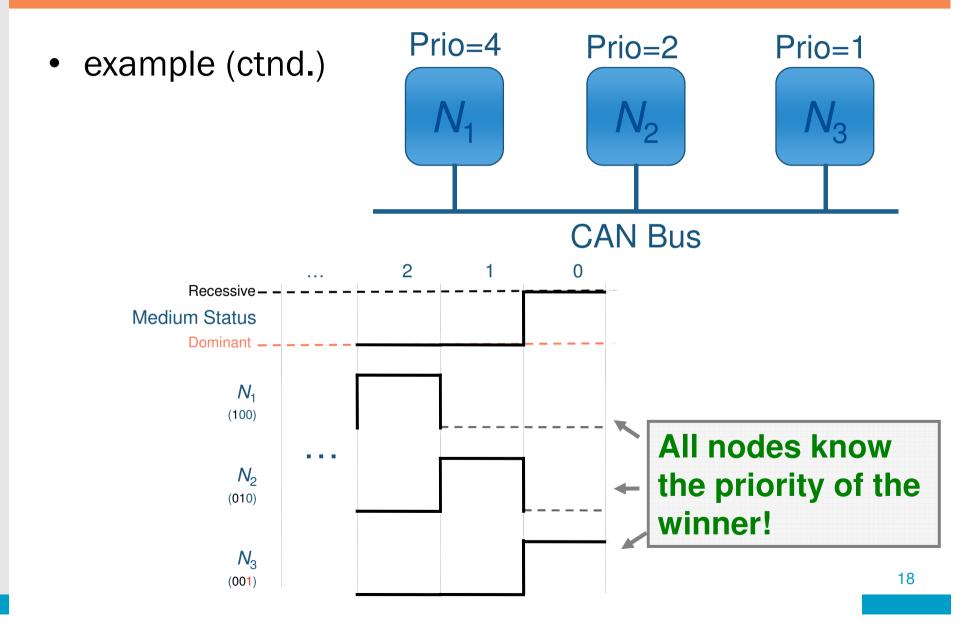












- we propose to use the contention field differently of CAN
 - during runtime, the contention (or priority) field is computed as a function of the physical quantity (or characteristic) of interest
 - it is a Physical Dynamic Priority Dominance ((PD)²) protocol
 - this will be an important building block for computing aggregate quantities with a low time-complexity
 - the (PD)² protocol is an example where communication and computation is tightly coupled with the physical environment
 - » a clear co-design feature

The End

Q & A

Co-Design Appro



20

For what the heck is "Min" useful?

Questions & Ans

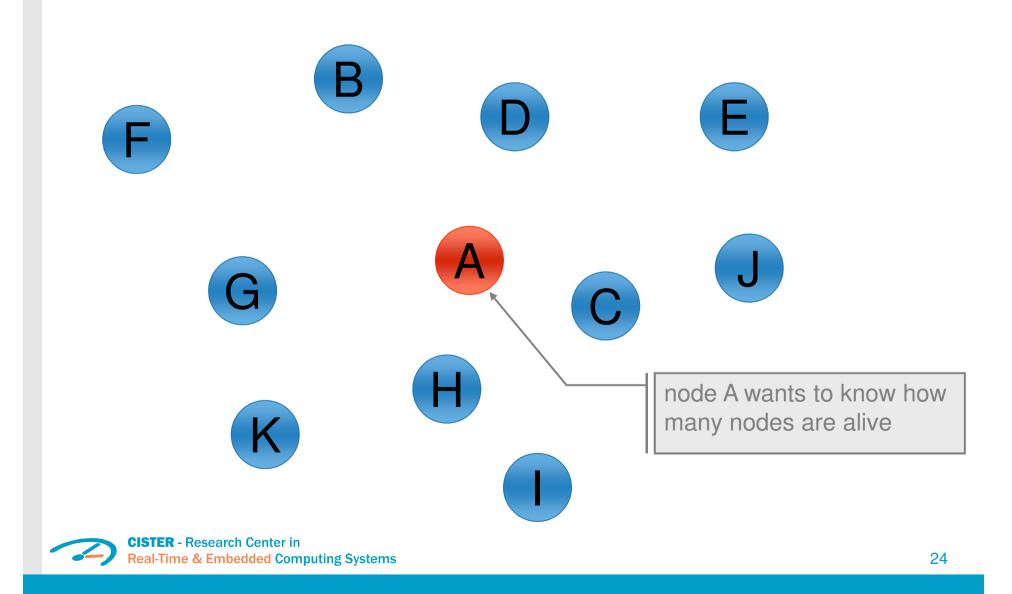


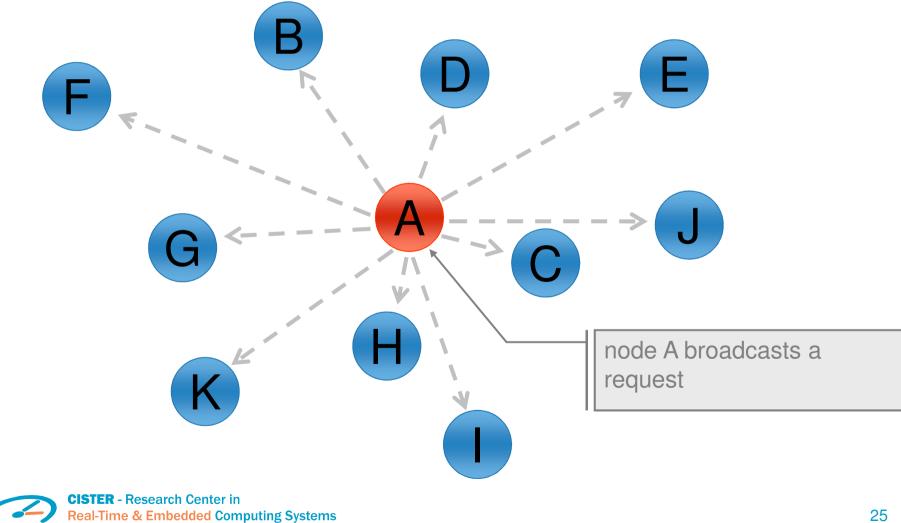
What the Heci

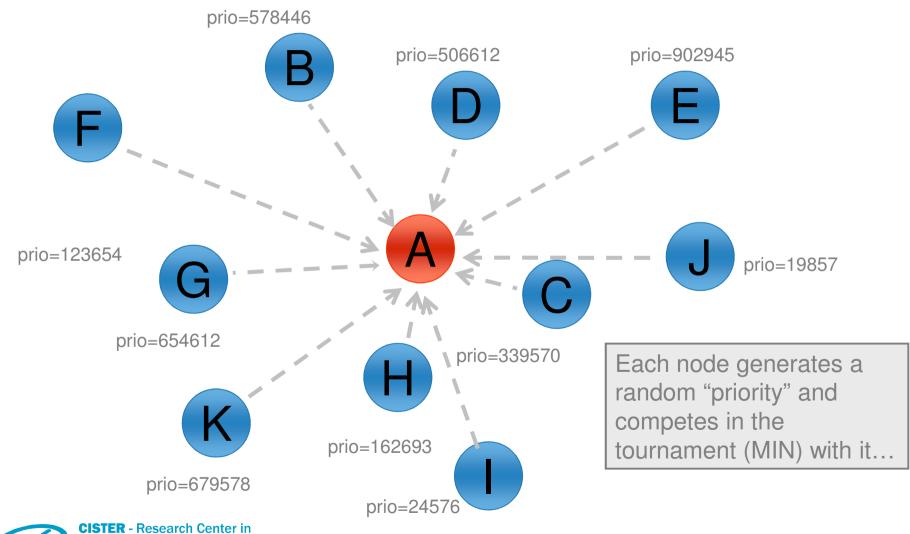


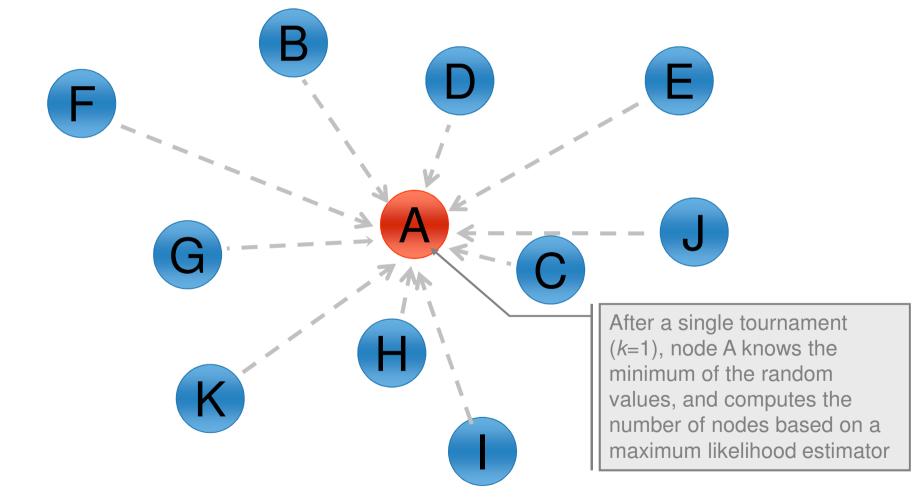
- intuition behind it

- if the contention field is a nonnegative random number obtained at runtime, then the probability that the minimum value of the contention field is 0 approaches 1 as the number of nodes get very large
- however, if there are only a few nodes, then it is highly unlikely that the minimum among the random values is zero
- it is then possible to estimate the number of nodes by computing the MIN of the random numbers
 - this can with *k* iterations and using Maximum Likelihood estimation
 - MIN is not a function of a sensed physical quantity, instead it is a function of a physical reality





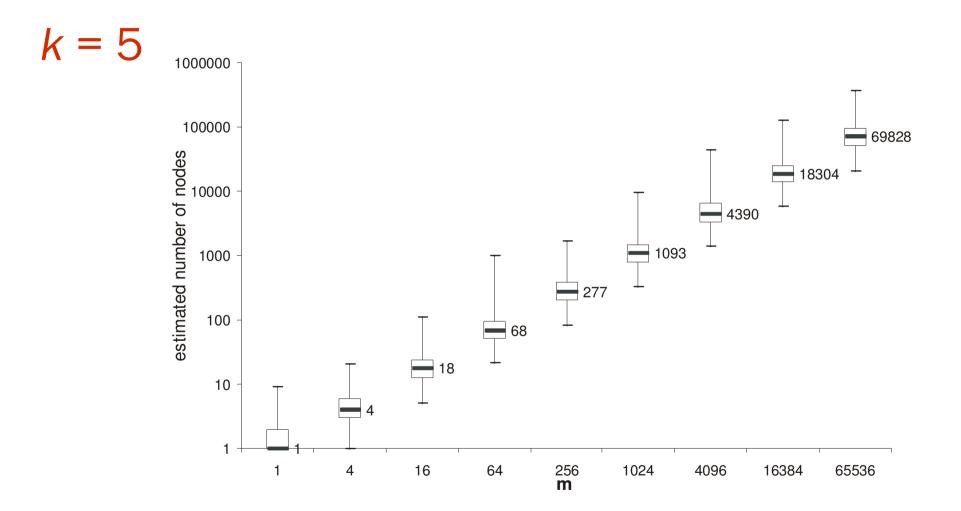


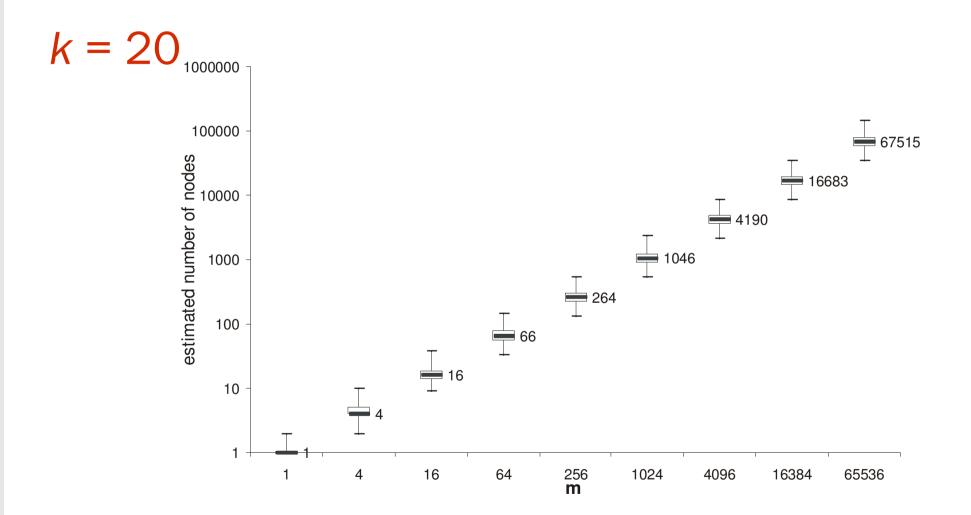


Algorithm 1 Estimating COUNT (the number of nodes)	Algorithm 2 Function ML_estimation
Require: All nodes start Algorithm 1 simultaneously.Input: active - a global boolean variable indicating if the node is considered in the COUNT1: function $nnodes(j : integer, x : array[1k] of integer)$ return a real2: $r : array[1k]$ of integer3: $x : array[1k]$ of integer4: $q : integer$ 5: for $q \leftarrow 1$ to k 6: if $(active = TRUE)$ then7: $r[q] \leftarrow random(0, MAXV)$ 8: else9: $r[q] \leftarrow MAXV$ 10: end if	1: function $ML_{estimation}(x : array[1k] \text{ of integer})$ re-
11: $x[q] \leftarrow \text{send_empty}(r[q])$ 12: end for 13: if $(\exists q : x[q] = MAXV)$ then 14: $est_nodes \leftarrow 1$ 15: else 16: $est_nodes \leftarrow ML_estimation(x[1], x[2],, x[k])$ 17: end if 18: return $est_nodes //$ the estimation of COUNT	

– in the two next plots:

- the box plots in are presented in a logarithmic scale
- depict the distribution of 1000 estimations for the different numbers of nodes
- each box stretches from 25^{th} percentile to the 75^{th} percentile
- the value of the median of the 1000 estimations is depicted as a line across the box
- the minimum values are depicted below the box and the maximum is above



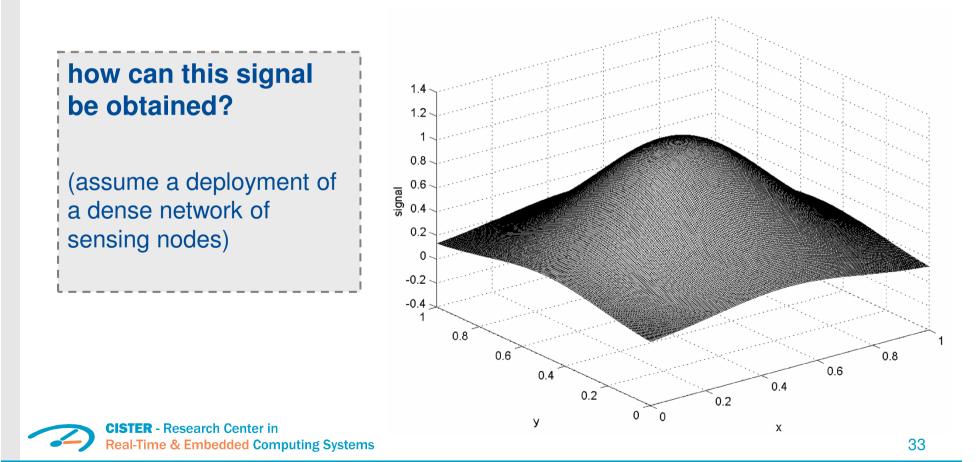




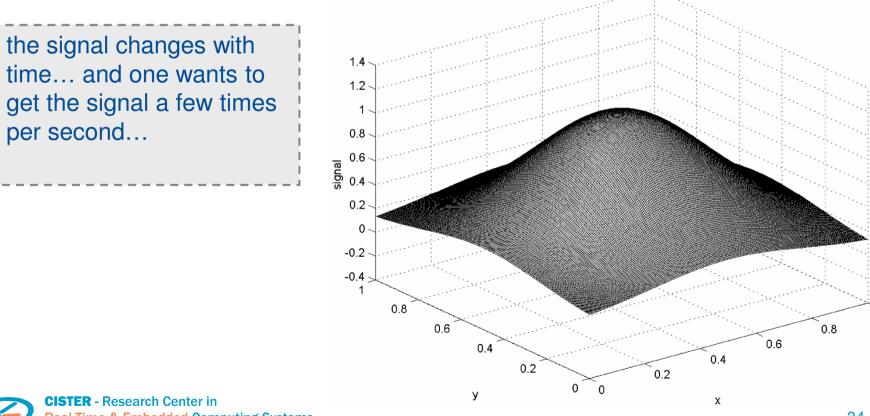


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 consider a signal (say concentration of a hazardous gas) that varies with location (x,y)

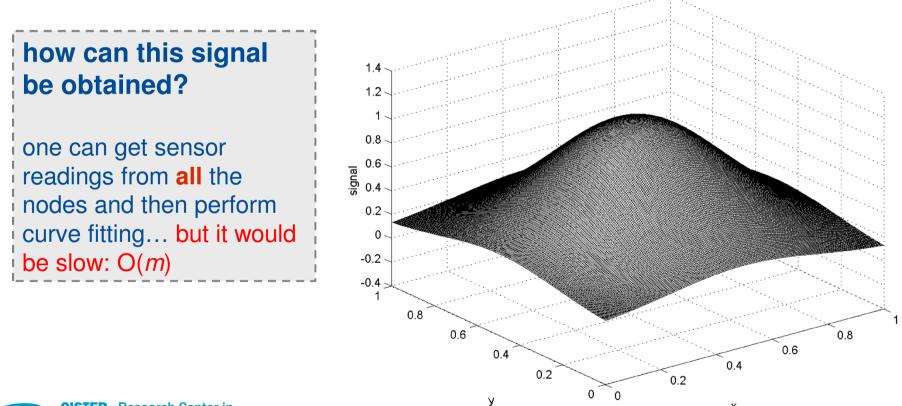


- consider a signal that varies with location (x,y)



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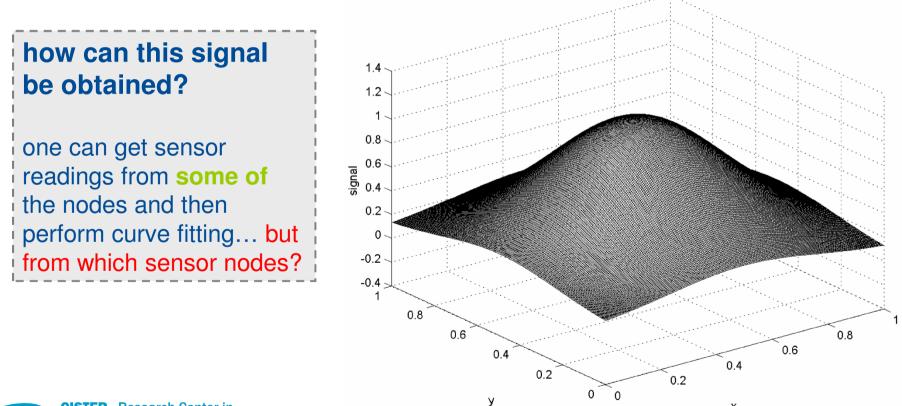
- consider a signal that varies with location (x,y)



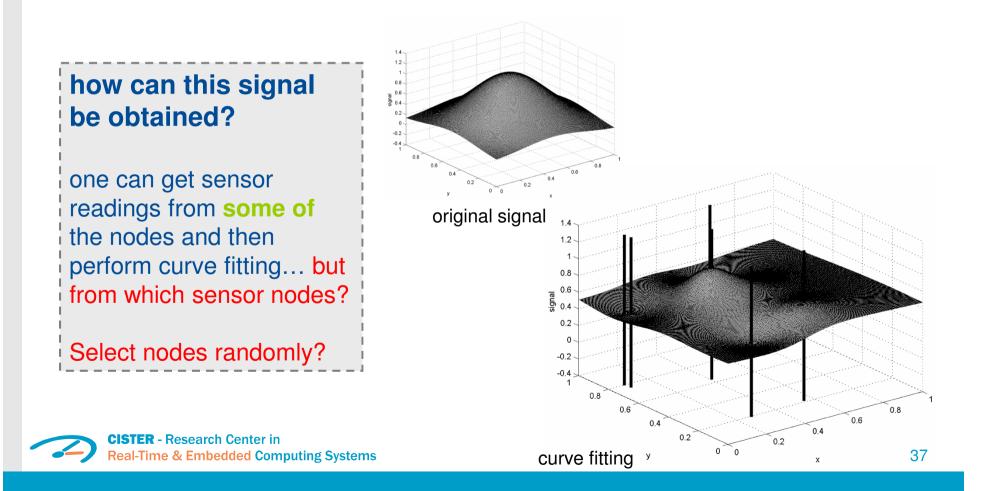
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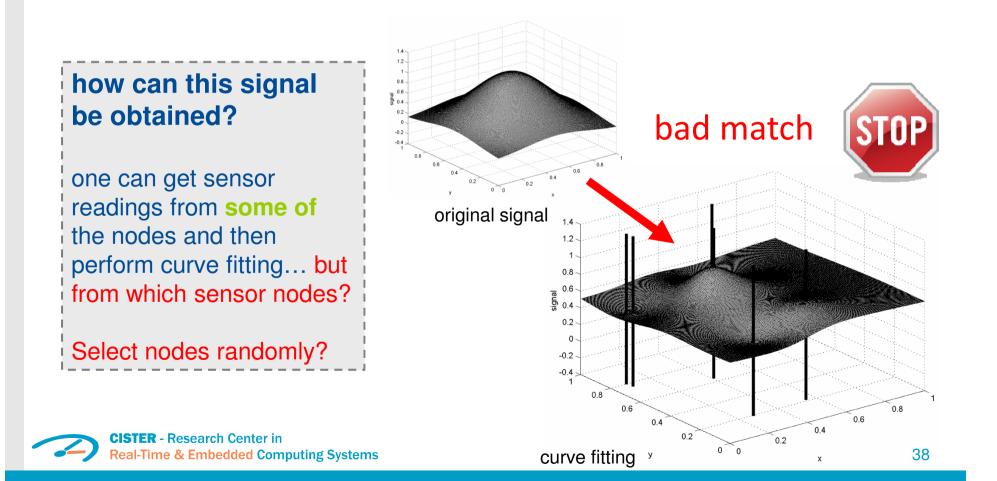
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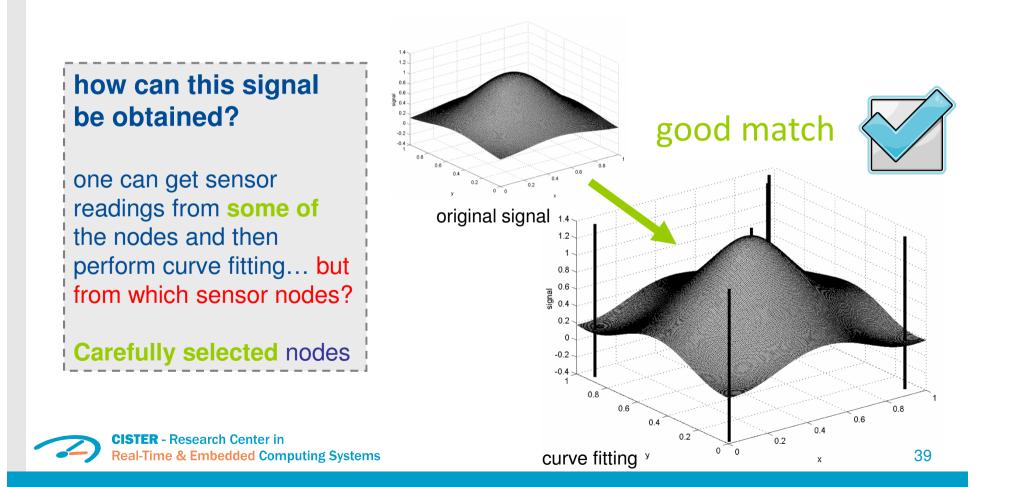
- consider a signal that varies with location (x,y)

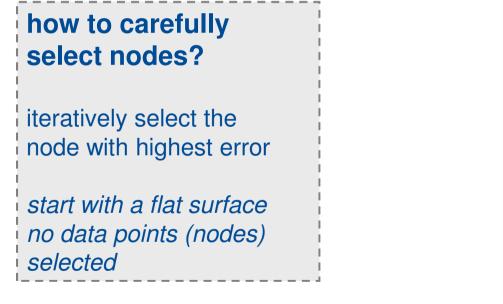


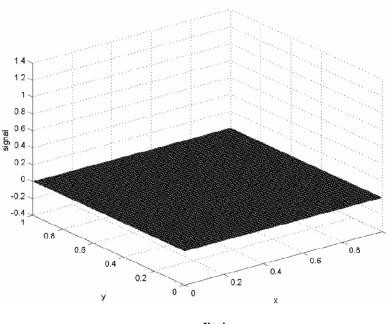
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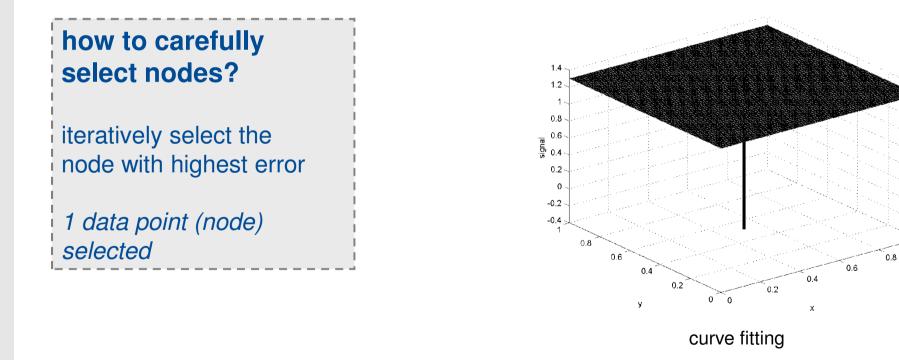


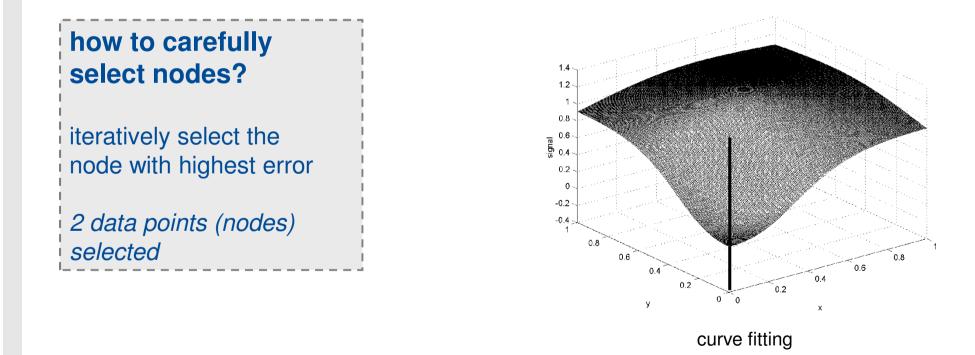


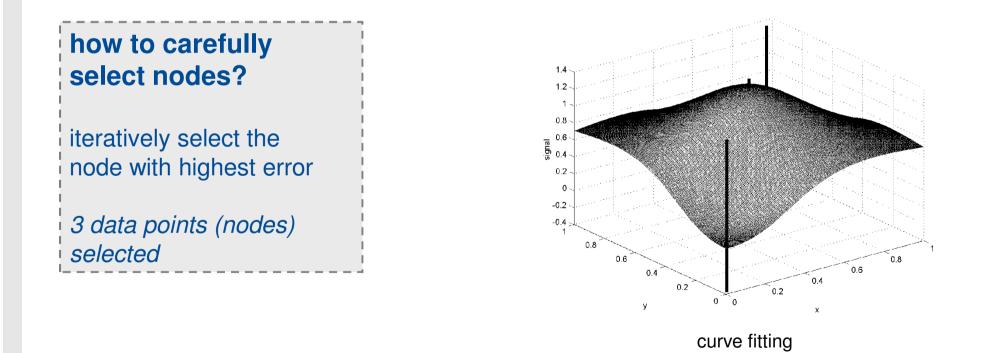


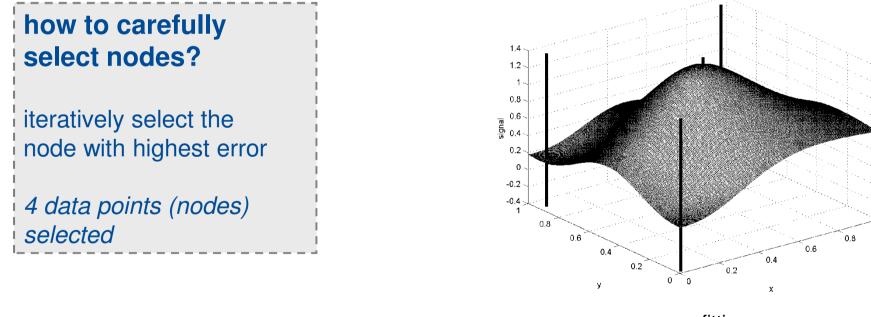


curve fitting

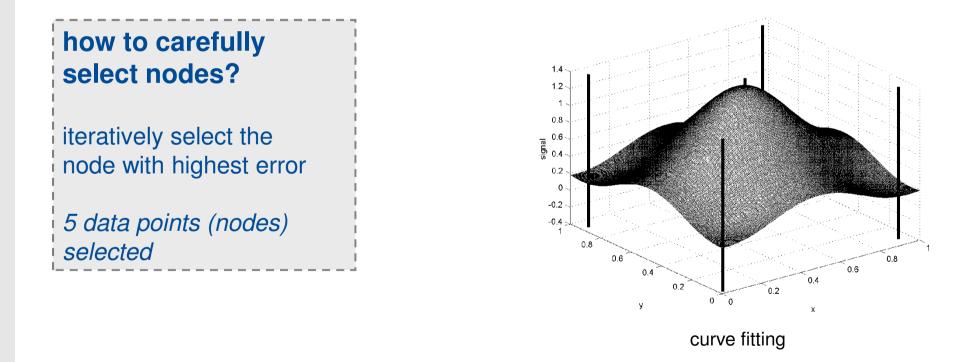


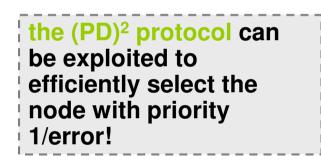


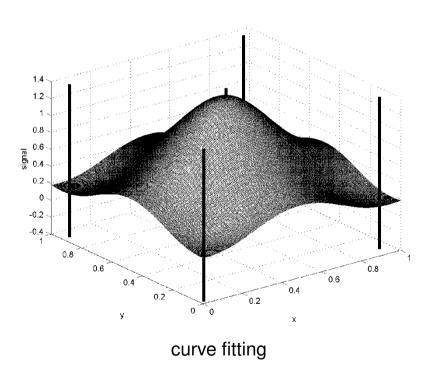




curve fitting







- the basic algorithm
 - let f(x,y) denote the function that interpolates the sensor data
 - let e, denote the magnitude of the error at node *N*; that is:

 $e_i = |v_i - f(x_i, y_i)|$

• and let e denote the global error; that is:

 $e = \max_{i=1..m} e_i$

- the goal is to find *f*(*x*,*y*) that minimizes *e* subject to the following constraint
 - the time required for computing *f* at a specific point is low
 - » motivated by the fact that it is interesting to track physical quantities that change quickly; it may be necessary to recompute the interpolation at a relatively high rate
 - therefore, a possibility is to use weighted-average interpolation (WAI) with a selection of relevant points

- the basic algorithm (ctnd.)
 - an approach

$$f(x,y) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } S = \emptyset;\\ v_i & \text{if } \exists N_i \in S \text{ with } x_i = x \land y_i = y;\\ \frac{\sum_{i \in S} v_i \cdot w_i(x,y)}{\sum_{i \in S} w_i(x,y)} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

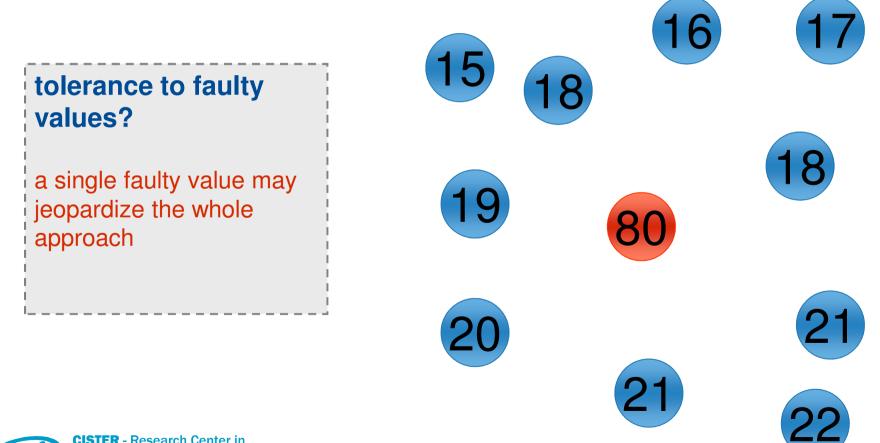
- where S is a set of sensor nodes used for interpolation and $w_i(x, y)$ is given by: $w_i(x, y) = \frac{1}{(x_i - x)^2 + (y_i - y)^2}$
- intuitively these equations state that the interpolated value is a weighted sum of all data points in S and the weight is the inverse of the square of the distance
 - many possible choices on how the weight should be computed as a function of distance
 - » the way stated above is intended to avoid calculations of square root in order to make the execution time small on platforms that lack hardware support for floating point calculations

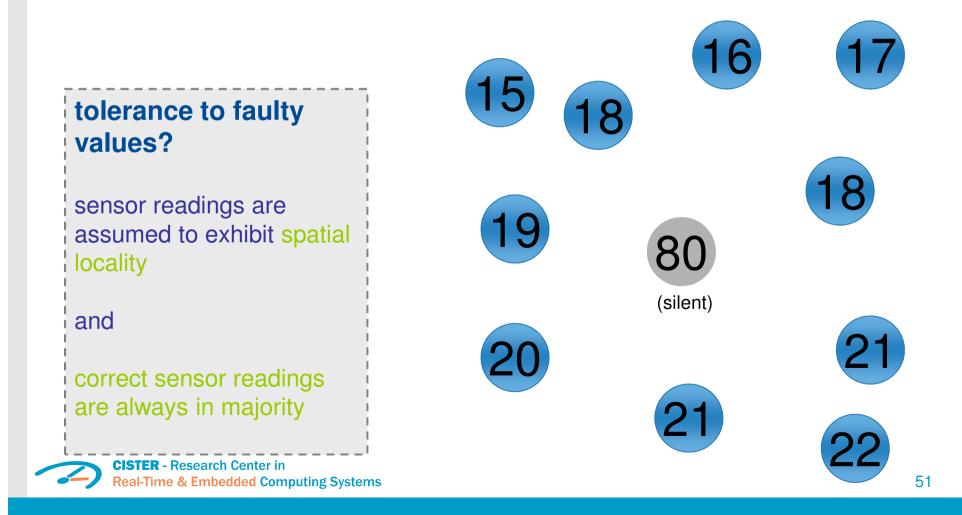
- the basic algorithm (ctnd.)

Algorithm 1 Finding a subset of nodes to be used in WAI

Require: All nodes start Algorithm 1 simultaneously. Require: k denotes the desired number of interpolation points. **Require:** A node N_i knows x_i, y_i and s_i . Require: MAXNNODES denotes an upper bound on m. Require: (MAXS+1)×(MAXNNODES+1)+MAXNNODES<MAXP. 1: function find_nodes() return a set of packets 2: myinterpolated value $\leftarrow 0$ 3: $num \leftarrow 0.0$ 4: denom $\leftarrow 0.0$ 5: 6: 7: $S \leftarrow \emptyset$ update_myinterpolation \leftarrow TRUE for $i \leftarrow 1$ to k do 8: error \leftarrow abs(s_i - to_integer(myinterpolatedvalue)) 9: prio \leftarrow MAXP - (error \times (MAXNNODES + 1) + i) 10: $snd_pack \leftarrow \langle s_i, x_i, y_i \rangle$ 11: <win_prio, rcv_pack $> \leftarrow$ send_and_rcv(prio, snd_pack) 12: if win_prio = prio then 13: update_myinterpolation \leftarrow FALSE 14: myinterpolated value $\leftarrow s_i$ 15: end if 16: if update_myinterpolation = TRUE then 17: $dx \leftarrow x_i$ - recv_pack.x 18: $dy \leftarrow y_i - recv_pack.y$ 19: weight $\leftarrow 1.0 / (dx \times dx + dy \times dy)$ 20: $num \leftarrow num + recv_pack.value \times weight$ 21: denom \leftarrow denom + weight 22: myinterpolatedvalue \leftarrow num/denom 23: 24: end if $S \leftarrow S \bigcup recv_pack$ 25: 26: end for return S27: end function







- as previously (algorithm 1), but then each pair of nodes that were selected in algorithm 1 is inspected and the difference between sensor readings relative to the distance is computed
 - if the value is greater than what is possible by the physical dynamics (a designer parameter) both nodes are declared SILENT
 - this is acceptable since we consider dense networks

Algorithm 2 Finding a subset of nodes to be used in WAI. This algorithm tolerates sensor faults.

Require: The same requirements as in Algorithm 1 1: All nodes run Algorithm 1 2: for each $N_i \in S$ do 3: $SILENT_i \leftarrow FALSE$ 4: end if
5: Let T denote an ordered set containing the elements in S 6: Any order is fine as long as T is the same on all nodes. 7: Note that S is the same on all nodes. 8: for each $N_j \in T$ do 9: for each $N_k \in T$ where N_j is earlier than N_k in T do sqrds := $(s_i - s_k)^2$ 10: 11: sqrdist := $(x_j - x_k)^2 + (y_j - y_k)^2$ 12: if $SILENT_i$ =FALSE and $SILENT_k$ =FALSE and 13: $sords > THRESHOLD \cdot sordist then$ 14: $SILENT_i \leftarrow TRUE$ 15: $SILENT_k \leftarrow TRUE$ 16: end if 17:end for 18: end for 19: All nodes N_i with $SILENT_i$ =FALSE run Algorithm 1

The End?

Q & A

Approximate Interpolation



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What kind of applications need this density?!?

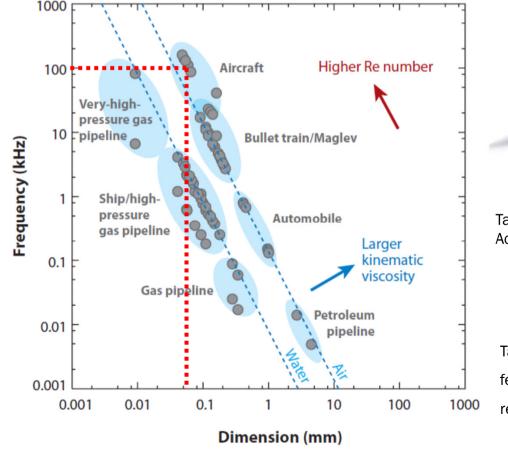
Questions & Ans



What Applicatio



 The spatial and temporal scales of the sensors have to be small enough compared to the turbulent structures. (100kHz and 0.1mm)



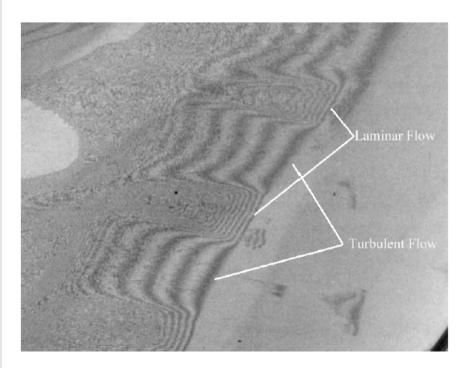


Taken from: Wireless Interconnectivity and Control of Active Systems (WICAS) Website

Taken from: "Microelectromechanical systems-based feedback control of turbulence for skin friction reduction," Kasagi et al. 2009

Picture of a pressure distribution over an aircraft wing (present well established patterns)

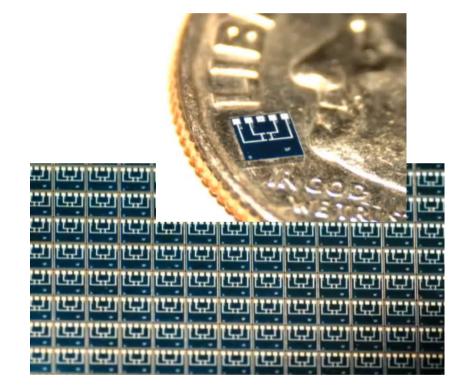
Sensing technology is already available



Interferograms of an oil film thinning beneath a turbulent boundary layer. Naughton et al. 2002



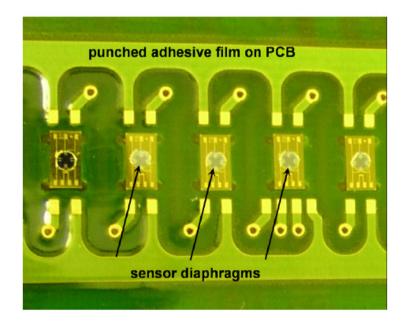
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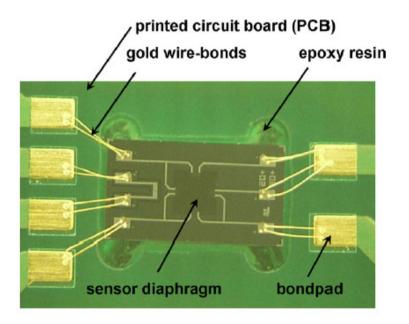


Hot wire shear stress sensor from FCAAP

Sensing technology is already available

High resolution 2.5×4.5×0.3 mm³ pressure sensor chip at 160kHz





A. Berns, U. Buder, E. Obermeier, A. Wolter, and A. Leder, "AeroMEMS sensor array for high-resolution wall pressure measurements," *Sensors and Actuators A: Physical*, vol. 132, no. 1, pp. 104-111, Nov. 2006.

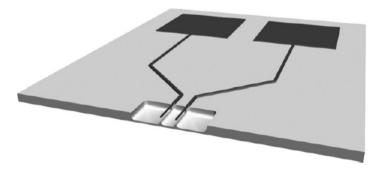


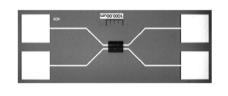
Sensing technology is already available

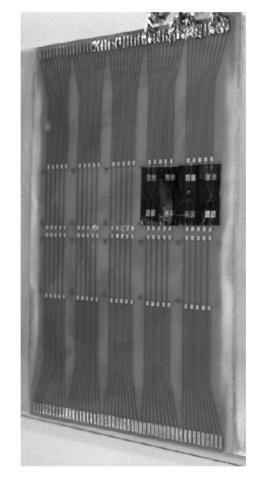
Double Hot-Wire Flow Sensor Dimensions: 800×600µm2

It indirectly measures flow speed, by measuring the heat transfer between two wires.

Signal processing and calculations are required to extract the desirable variable





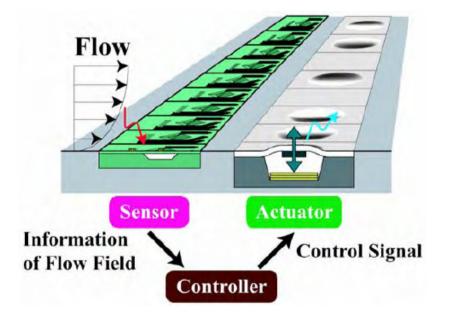


U. Buder, R. Petz, M. Kittel, W. Nitsche, and E. Obermeier, "AeroMEMS polyimide based wall double hot-wire sensors for flow separation detection," *Sensors and Actuators A: Physical*, vol. 142, no. 1, pp. 130-137, Mar. 2008.

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Active flow control: consists of manipulating a flow to affect a desired change in a closed loop

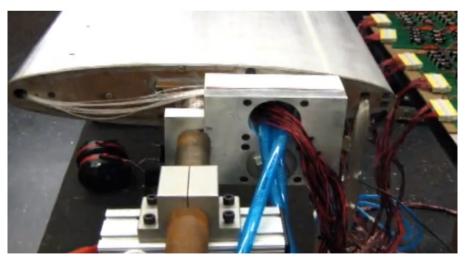
Depending on the technology, one or more sensors provide data for the actuation of one or more actuators.



The controller is usually centralized, external to the deployment

Wiring can be prohibitive



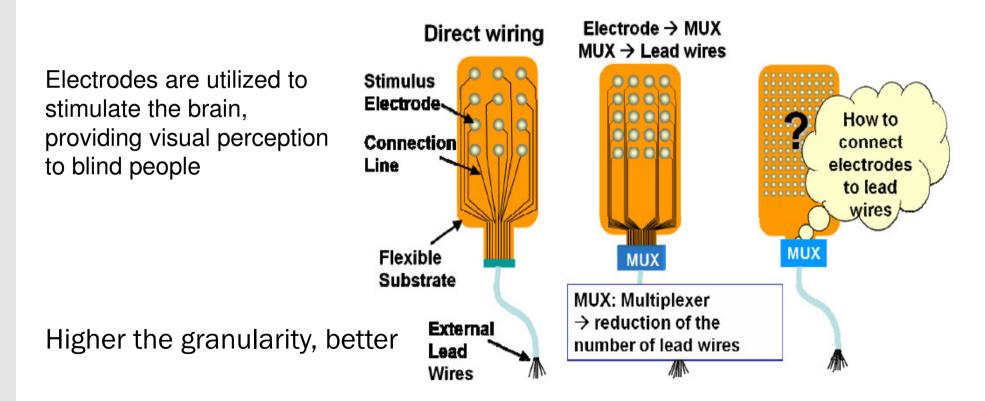




What Applicatio



Retinal prosthesis and brain implantable devices



Ohta, Jun, et al. "Implantable CMOS biomedical devices." Sensors (Basel, Switzerland) 9.11 (2009): 9073.



Retinal prosthesis and brain implantable devices

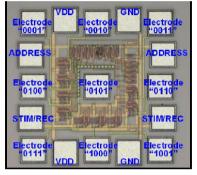
A network is required Shared buses (I2C like) and centralized V-H scanners are utilized

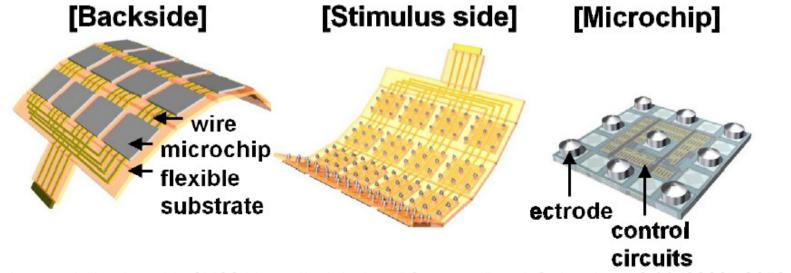
CMOS chip CMOS micro chip Electrode Control Circuits Connection CMOS micro chip (C)

Ohta, Jun, et al. "Implantable CMOS biomedical devices." Sensors (Basel, Switzerland) 9.11 (2009): 9073.

Retinal prosthesis and brain implantable devices

Each set of electrodes is have one digital controller, individually addressable in the network





Ohta, Jun, et al. "Implantable CMOS biomedical devices." Sensors (Basel, Switzerland) 9.11 (2009): 9073.

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Robotics

What Applicatio



Robotics

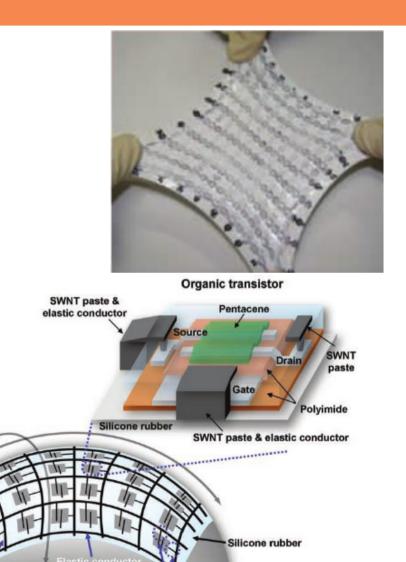
• e-Skins

Can enable sensing of quantities of all kinds: magnetic, capacitive, temperature, light, etc..

An efficient way of extracting data is required

Sekitani, Tsuyoshi, et al. "A rubberlike stretchable active matrix using elastic conductors." Science 321.5895 (2008): 1468-1472.





SWNT paste (interconnection)

(Bit-line)

nductor (Word-line)

68

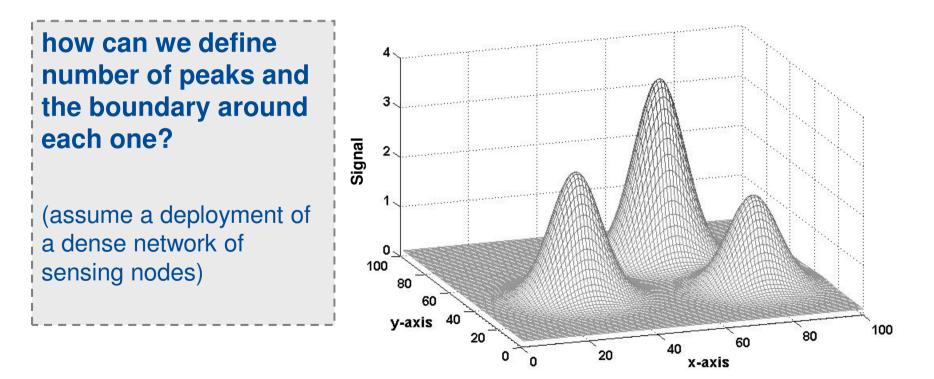
More Sophisticated Processing

What Applicatio



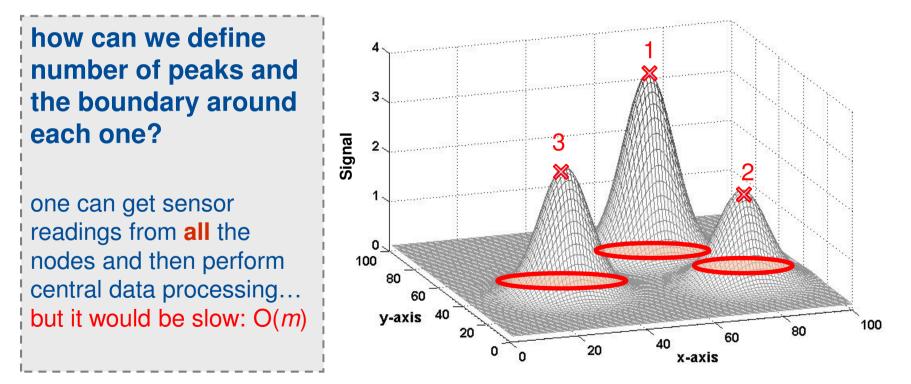
Feature Extraction

- feature extraction (1)
 - consider a signal (say concentration of a hazardous gas) that varies with location (x, y)



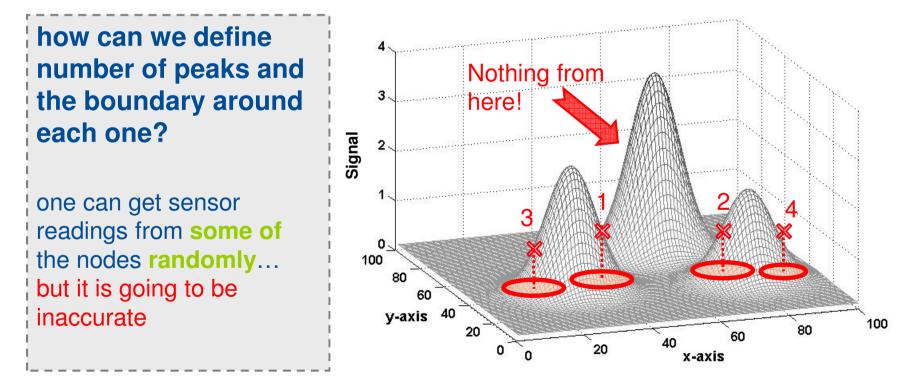
Feature Extraction

- feature extraction (2)
 - consider a signal (say concentration of a hazardous gas) that varies with location (x, y)

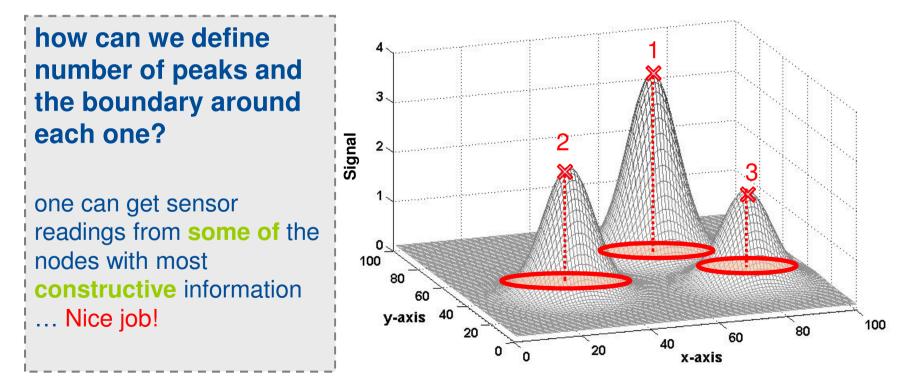


Feature Extraction

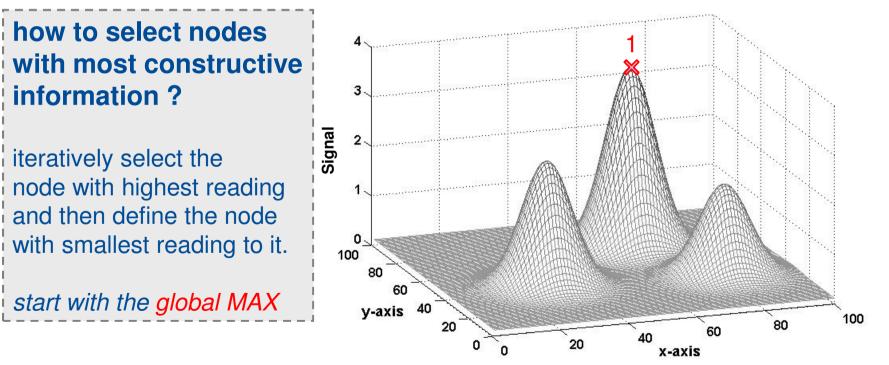
- feature extraction (3)
 - consider a signal (say concentration of a hazardous gas) that varies with location (x, y)



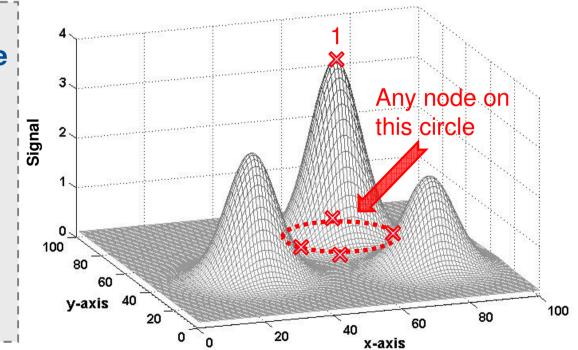
- feature extraction (4)
 - consider a signal (say concentration of a hazardous gas) that varies with location (x, y)



- feature extraction (5)
 - consider a signal that varies with location (x, y)



- feature extraction (6)
 - consider a signal that varies with location (x, y)



Number of readings: 2

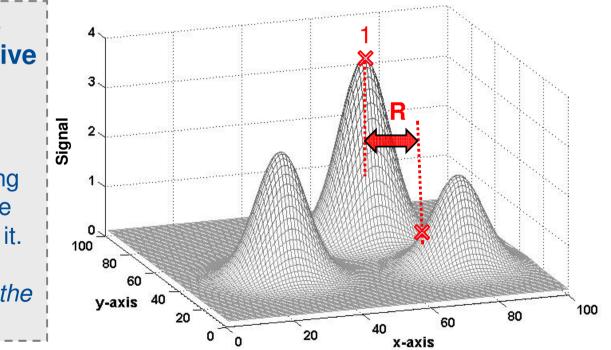
how to select nodes with most constructive

information ?

iteratively select the node with highest reading and then define the node with smallest reading to it.

find the nearest local Min to the defined global MAX

- feature extraction (7)
 - consider a signal that varies with location (x, y)



Number of readings: 2

how to select nodes with most constructive information ?

iteratively select the node with highest reading and then define the node with smallest reading to it.

determine the radius of the boundary

• feature extraction (8)

how to select nodes

information?

iteratively select the

node with highest reading

and then define the node

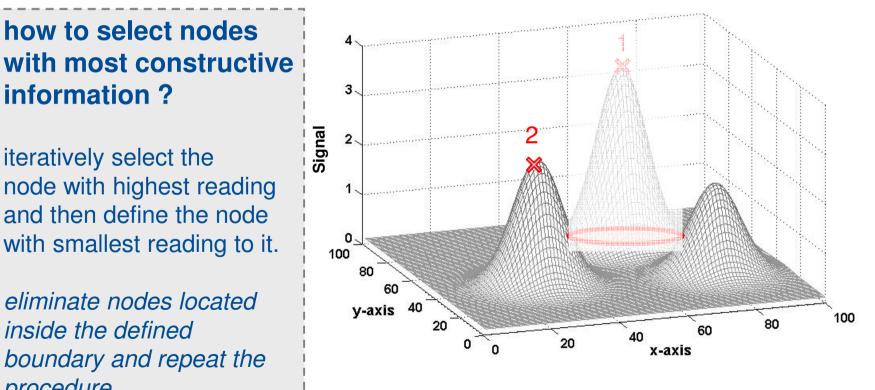
eliminate nodes located

boundary and repeat the

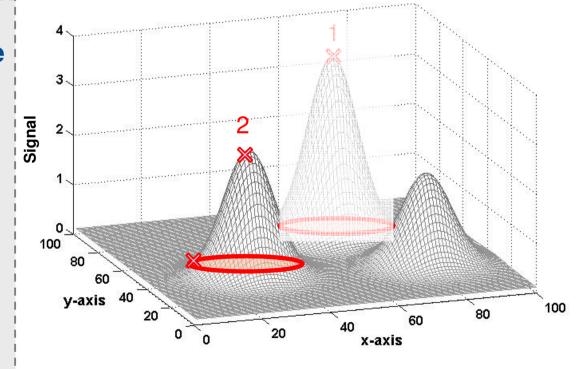
inside the defined

procedure

- consider a signal that varies with location (x, y)



- feature extraction (9)
 - consider a signal that varies with location (x, y)



Number of readings: 4

how to select nodes with most constructive information ?

iteratively select the node with highest reading and then define the node with smallest reading to it.

eliminate nodes located inside the defined boundary and repeat the procedure

feature extraction (10)

how to select nodes

information?

iteratively select the

node with highest reading

and then define the node

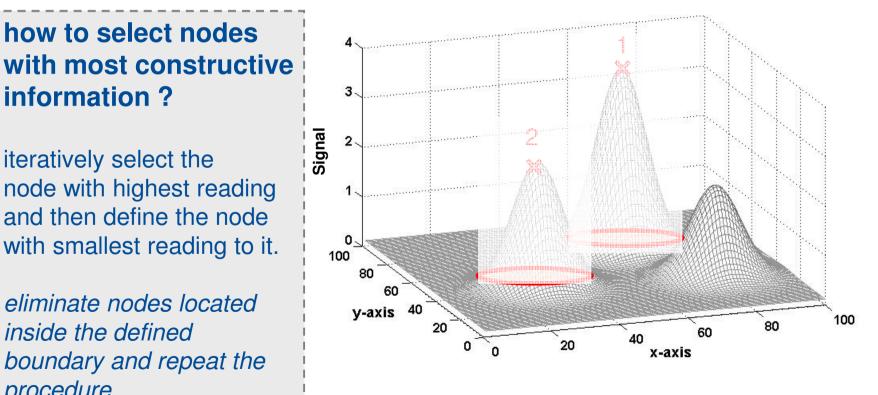
eliminate nodes located

boundary and repeat the

inside the defined

procedure

- consider a signal that varies with location (x, y)



• feature extraction (11)

how to select nodes

information?

iteratively select the

node with highest reading

and then define the node

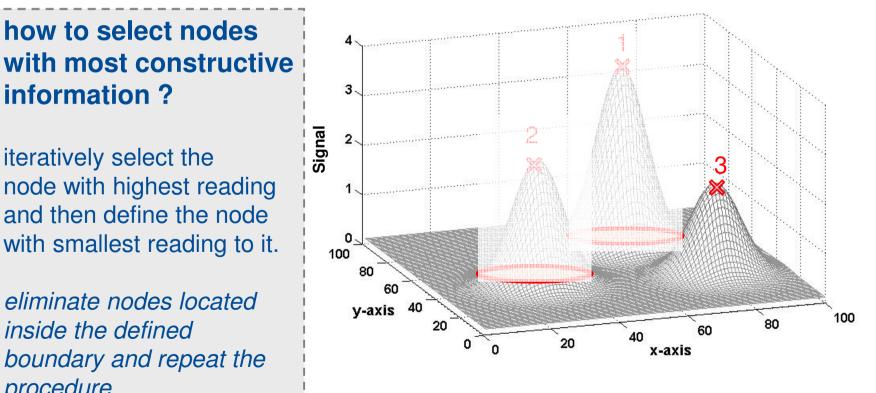
eliminate nodes located

boundary and repeat the

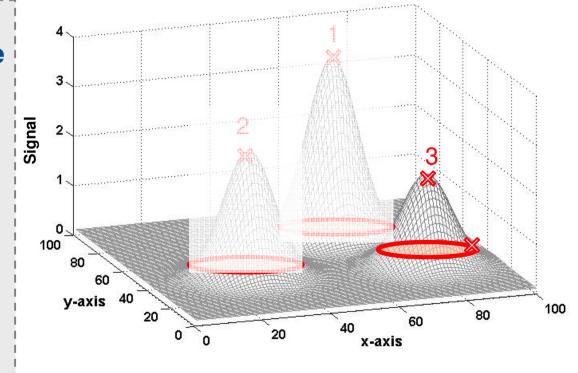
inside the defined

procedure

- consider a signal that varies with location (x, y)



- feature extraction (12)
 - consider a signal that varies with location (x, y)



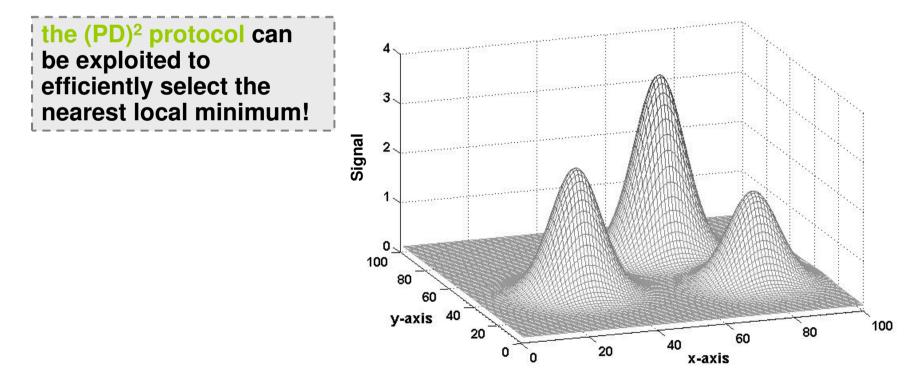
Number of readings: 6

how to select nodes with most constructive information ?

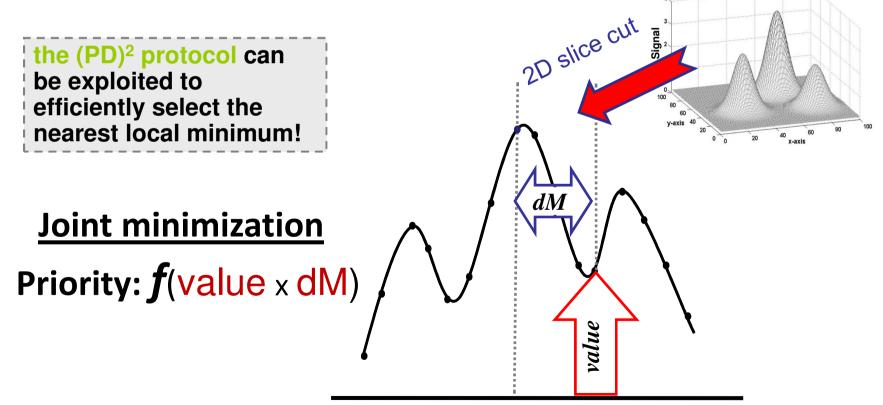
iteratively select the node with highest reading and then define the node with smallest reading to it.

eliminate nodes located inside the defined boundary and repeat the procedure

- feature extraction (13)
 - consider a signal that varies with location (x, y)



- feature extraction (14)
 - consider a signal that varies with location (x, y)

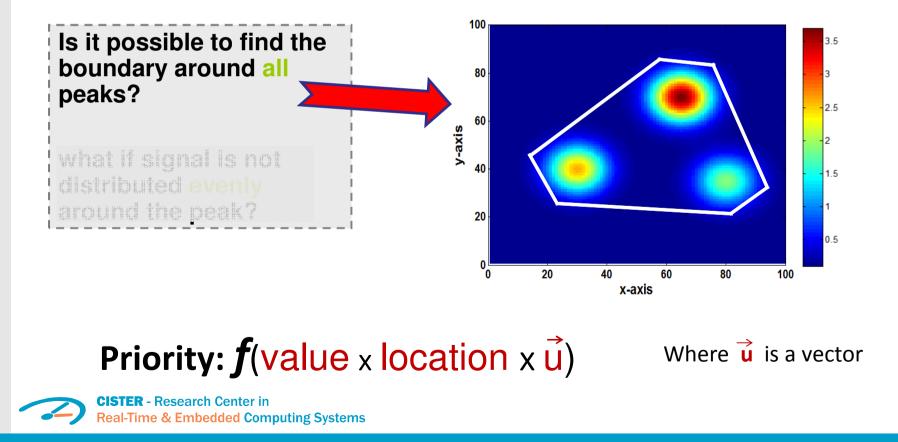


- feature extraction (15)
 - consider a signal that varies with location (x, y)

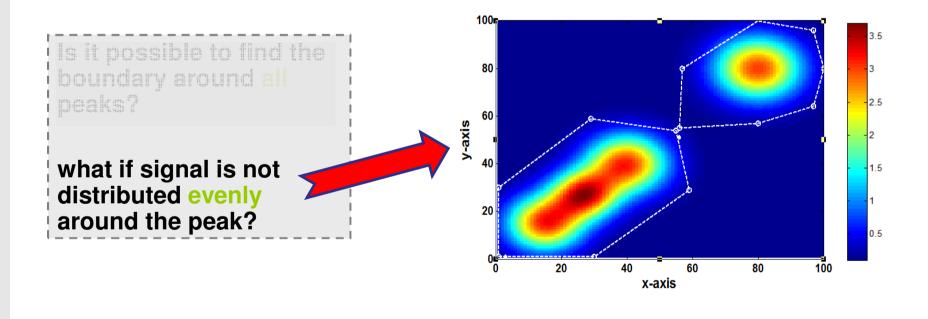
Is it possible to find the boundary around all peaks?

what if signal is not distributed evenly around the peak?

- feature extraction (16)
 - consider a signal that varies with location (x, y)



- feature extraction (17)
 - consider a signal that varies with location (x, y)



Priority: $f(value \times location \times dM \times \vec{u})$

Where $\overrightarrow{\mathbf{u}}$ is a vector

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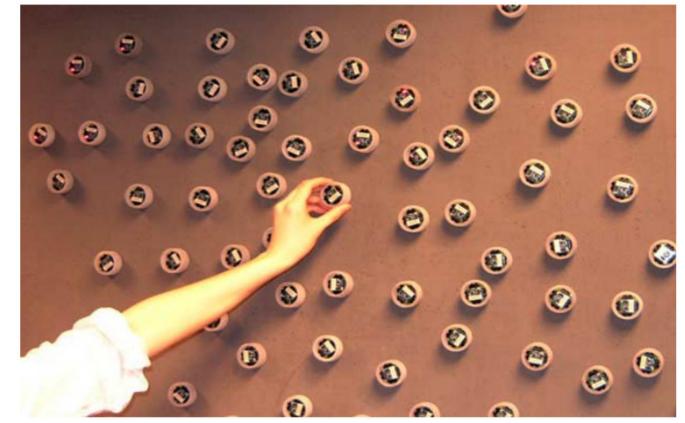
That's All Folks!



Implementation

• **Pushpin** Sensors

- Plug-n-Play



Lifton, Joshua, et al. "Pushpin computing system overview: A platform for distributed, embedded, ubiquitous sensor networks." Pervasive Computing. Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2002. 139-151.

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