

## Improvement in Quality of Service (QoS) within VANETs: A Survey

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**Abstract:** VANETs have gained great focus among the researchers since last few decades. The areas of great interest are the types of routing, and quality of service (QoS). The main challenge is to find the ways to counter the continuously changing VANETs topologies and its high speed nature, and then determining which routing protocols are best suited for a particular transmission type; and which ones provide more consistent and stable routing performances. Due to special characteristics of VANETs, QoS (Quality of Service) provisioning in these networks is a challenging task. QoS is the capability of a network for providing superior service to a selected network traffic over various heterogeneous technologies. In this paper we present an overview of Vehicular Networks, QoS Concepts, QoS challenges in VANETs and approaches which aim to enhance the Quality of Service in Vehicular Networks.

**Index Terms:** VANET, Vehicular Networks, Quality of Service (QoS), Delay, Packet loss, Throughput

### I. INTRODUCTION

Traffic safety is a major challenge recognized by the major players in the automotive industry and by many governments. According to which each year thousands of road accidents are reported in any country. Traffic accidents are most of the times a result of the driver's failure to access quickly and correctly the driving conditions. Normally drivers have imperfect information about road situations, speed and position of vehicles around them and usually are compelled to make decisions like breaking and lane changing without the benefit of whole data. "The need for communication when the deployment of any fixed infrastructure is impossible and the advancement of computer and wireless communication technologies, led to the development of Mobile Ad-hoc Networks (MANETs)" [7]. MANETs are kinds of wireless networks which are self-configuring and infrastructure-less. Nodes are connected together without any fixed topology and each device in MANET is free to move independently in any direction, and will therefore change its links to other devices repeatedly. All nodes that take part in such a networks must forward the traffic unrelated to its own use, and play the role of a router. During the last years, researchers awarded a great interest to the deployment of MANETs to improve road safety, then, and as a result, Vehicular Ad-hoc Networks emerged [7]. Vehicular Ad-hoc Networks as a subset of Mobile Ad-hoc Networks which provide data exchange via Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V), Vehicle to Roadsides (V2R) and Vehicle to Infrastructure (V2I) communications and a car which takes part in such a network is equipped with a WLAN and cellular communication device [9]. VANETs is also defined as a wireless communication technology which is also able to enhance driving safety and velocity by exchanging real-time transportation information, and "it should upon implementation, collect and distribute safety information to massively reduce the number of accidents by warning drivers about the danger before they actually face it" [8]. In addition, VANETs are also able to minimize incidents and improve traffic conditions by providing vehicles, drivers and passengers with information about the road condition. VANET has its own unique characteristics when compared with other types of MANETs, the unique characteristics of VANET include: predictable mobility, lack of power constraints, variable network density, Rapid changes in network topology, High computational ability and large scale networking [11].

Safety services information such as traffic accidents and road congestion which are sensitive to reliable and real-time communication should be broadcasted immediately. Data transmission in such environment is critical and has to be distributed in multiple paths to improve the end-to-end delay. Some stale routes are generated in the routing table which lead to unnecessary routing overhead causing frequent link failures as well as route discoveries. Therefore the discovered route between couple of vehicles should be as stable as possible to satisfy QoS requirements. [1] A critical component in providing QoS support in VANETs is the routing algorithm [7]. The chosen routing algorithm must discover and reserve routes that meet certain constraints between source vehicles and destination vehicle. In addition, such routes must be as stable and reliable as possible in order to satisfy the stringent requirements of QoS and real-time safety applications in VANET. The

actual QoS constraints that ought to be met are delay, bit error rate, bandwidth, route duration etc, in addition to VANET specific requirements like route stability and router reliability. Providing end-to-end QoS support guarantee for real time traffic data in VANET is even more challenging [7, 8], because in a high speed mobility context. Thus, multiple nodes contend for a common channel which make many data packets to be lost and the failure notifications together with the overhead due to route repairs increase significantly. In an effort to reduce the number of re-transmission of packets, several research works that were initially designed for mobile ad-hoc networks (MANET) are modified to suit VANET. However, VANET perform in different approach which dominate the MANET research because of the high speeds, driver behavior as well as mobility constraints. These features make the existing clustering algorithms for MANET unsuitable and stable for vehicular networks. The intermittent nature and short-live of these algorithms, make the created clusters to provide scalability with lower communication overhead.[1]

## **II. QUALITY OF SERVICE**

Quality of Service (QoS) is the ability of a network to provide improved service to selected network traffic over various underlying technologies, including frame relay, ATM, Ethernet, SONET, and IP-routed networks and offers flexibility, scalability, efficiency, adaptability, software reusability, and maintainability. "QoS is also defined as a set of service requirements that needs to be met by the network while transporting a packet stream from a source to its destination" [4], in fact it is the measure of how satisfying a service is as presented to the end-user. QoS provisioning often needs negotiation between host and network, call admission control, resource reservation, and priority scheduling of packets [13]. QoS can be rendered in network through several ways: per flow, per link, or per node. In particular, QoS features provide improved and more predictable network service by supporting dedicated bandwidth, improving loss characteristics, avoiding and managing network congestion, network traffic shaping, and setting traffic priorities across the network [14].

As it is mentioned, QoS is quantitatively defined in terms of guarantees or bounds on certain network performance parameters. The most important performance parameters are the bandwidth, delay, jitter, and packet loss. The term bandwidth describes the size of the pipe that an application program needs in order to communicate over the network. The channel bandwidth determines the channel capacity, which is the maximum information rate that can be transmitted [15]. The delay of a network specifies how long it takes for a bit of data to travel across the network from source to destination. It is typically calculated in multiples or fractions of seconds. Jitter is defined as a variation in delay of received packets. The sending side transmits packets in continuous stream and spaces them evenly apart. "Because of network congestion, improper queuing, or configuration errors, the delay between packets can vary instead of remaining constant" [16]. Packet loss is one of the other important QoS parameters. Actually there are some applications which may not function perfectly, or may not work at all, when the packet loss rate is high. For instance, when streaming video frames, after certain number of lost frames, the video streaming may become useless, this number may be zero in certain cases, therefore, certain guarantees on the number or rate of lost packets may be required by certain applications for QoS to be considered. Packet loss can occur because of packet drops at congestion points when the number of packets arriving significantly exceeds the size of the queue. Corrupt packets on the transmission wire can also cause packet loss [15]. Providing QoS support in ad-hoc networks is a dynamic research area. VANETs have certain unique characteristics that facade several intricacy in QoS provisioning. The characteristics that affect QoS provisioning in these kinds of networks are: dynamic varying network topology, inaccurate state information, lack of central coordination, error prone shared radio channel, hidden terminal problem, limited resource availability and insecure medium [13]. There are several approaches in literature specially designed for providing QoS in MANETs but could not be used in VANETs, because they do not

consider the high mobility constraints, large scale node population and large scale networking in urban areas [17]. QoS parameters such as packet loss, throughput, jitter and latency are the main requirements in vehicular communications. Each application in VANETs has its own requirements, for example; safety warning applications should have minimum End to End (E2E) delay, because if a warning message receives at destination with high delay, that message could not be helpful for preventing an accident. Accordingly, packet loss and throughput are two other factors that are very important in active safety applications [12].

### *A. Improving QoS in VANET Using MPLS*

Authors in [12] investigated Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) in a roadside network to improve overall QoS of VANET. This approach is useful for sound and video transportation in VANETs, which will be the most important applications of VANETs in near future. MPLS is a forwarding method which can assign packets to different forwarding equivalent class (FEC) for receiving the required service from the network to support QoS. MPLS is considered as layer 2.5 protocol [18] and it is compatible with any layer 2 technology, like Ethernet and ATM. Moreover, MPLS directs data from one network node to the next, based on short path labels rather

than long network addresses, avoiding complex lookups in a routing table. Using MPLS in communication networks provides many advantages such as faster routing, providing better QoS and traffic engineering. However, MPLS is a suitable technology for communication networks with fixed nodes and infrastructure, therefore MPLS has its overhead for the wireless nodes in VANETs that move with fast speed more than 100 Km/h. Utilizing MPLS in wireless nodes that are vehicles in VANET for V2V communication may not have positive effect on QoS parameters like E2E delay, because negative effects of MPLS overhead on QoS may be more than MPLS benefits for it. Therefore, in [12] vehicular communications are divided into two categories; Vehicular Ad-hoc Networks which includes V2V communications and a Roadside Network which consists of Roadside Access Network (RAN) and Roadside Backbone Network (RBN). RAN enables the V2I communications and RBN represents the backbone network of RSUs, in which RSUs communicate with each other [18]. In this paper it is assumed that each vehicle is covered by a base station, which has its own domain of service, and base stations are connected with a wired network named RBN and MPLS is enabled in the wired backbone network (Fig. 3. shows the proposed architecture in [12]. As we mentioned, there are two types of communications in this work: V2V and cell-based communications. V2V ad-hoc communications is done by using AODV routing protocol internally in VANET [18] and the cell-based communications which transmits packets to other base stations and vehicles by using the MPLS enabled RBN. The hypothesis is that, if vehicles send their data through the base stations (the wired infrastructure- RBN), it is possible to gain higher QoS than V2V ad-hoc communication. Finally authors used SUMO [12] to design Manhattan mobility model and then they exported the output of SUMO to NS2.34 for the main test. Results show that in comparison to AODV (for V2V ad-hoc communications), the MPLS enabled road side backbone network provides better QoS in terms of E2E delay, packet loss and throughput.

#### *B. Improving QoS in VANET Using TDMA-based routing scenario*

Researchers in [1] consider moving vehicles in a city area connected via highway to show the impact on the performance of the routing algorithm. The grid area of the city differs from each other with the number of moving with an average speed. Vehicles rely on multi-hop ad-hoc fashion to deliver the data packages especially when they are not in proximity with each other. In their proposed scenario, the exchange of information is among the vehicle as there are no road side units (RSU). The density of the network is an important factor in communication in VANETs. In order to perform multi-hop communication in timely fashion, the network of vehicles should have a certain amount of density. The minimum level of density required for communication is dependent on the wireless communication range, and varies in different environments. They concentrate on the problem of transmission of real-time traffic information for V2V communications in a dense environment without deploying roadside infrastructure. Flooding of the packets in the network. The clustering approach considers mobility aspect of vehicle to increase the route stability, and reduces the amount of routing control overhead. This could be feasible because vehicles moving in the same direction shall express the same speeds and moving patterns which relatively leads to stable network topology [2].

Researchers in [1] have analyzed that the percentage of the packets loss increases as the traffic load increases, as a result of high packet collisions particularly when density gets higher. This indicates that in a high dense traffic, the normal scenario receives no guaranteed QoS because of the high loss rate. In TDMA only one pair of sender and receiver is active, thus collisions are always avoided. The vehicle head move faster than the behind ones in order to find an alternative route when the link to the second vehicle breaks, especially in a high speeds. The proposed TDMA scheme obtained relatively low packet loss when the time slots are sufficient as compared to the normal scenario which experiences a sudden increase in packet loss. This is because increase in traffic load results in increase in the contention for channel access and more collisions are likely to occur. This indicates that the TDMA-based scenario performs better with as much as 75% decrease compared to the normal scenario.

#### *C. Utilizing Mobile IP and MPLS to Improve QoS in VANET*

Mobile IP is the running standard for supporting IP mobility of mobile nodes in the wireless networks with infrastructure. Moreover, Mobile IP enables the mobile node to access internet and changes its access point without losing the connection [13]. Mobile node (MN), Home Agent (HA), Foreign Agent (FA) and Care-of-Address (CoA) are the main components of Mobile IP. When the MN moves away from HA to the foreign network, a CoA is assigned to it in order to inform the HA of its current location. This operation enables MN to send and receive at any location without going through HA. In the last section we discussed about using MPLS in a wired backbone network and the results showed that an MPLS based roadside backbone network improves QoS. In order to connect moving vehicles to the infrastructure, which can be an Internet router, packets must have address that is valid for both wired network and also Ad hoc network of vehicles. When a vehicle moves far from the coverage area of its access point or base station, to be able to send and receive packets of Internet server to/from it, packets should be addressed dynamically. The mobile node in VANET which is a vehicle

should be in the coverage range of Mobile IP base station and must be connected to it directly. Therefore authors in [14] integrate VANET with QoS support using MPLS for forwarding (which is proposed in [12] and Mobile IP for continuous connection between vehicles and base stations. Simulating the proposed idea, 3 methods are compared in terms of throughput, packet loss and delay. In the first method, packets are sent by source nodes to the destination vehicles or base stations in a completely wireless mode through base stations and vehicles by using AODV routing protocol. The second method, which is proposed in [12], base stations are connected through an MPLS enabled wired backbone network and in the third method, the wired backbone network is used with MPLS, and Mobile IP is enabled on each node to have stable connection for mobile nodes. Although using Mobile IP instead of static addressing imposes overhead for network, but packet loss and throughput of network is improved. The achieved results show that in comparison to MPLS enabled scenario in [12], using Mobile IP doesn't have positive effect on delay but improvement is seen in packet loss rate and throughput.

#### *D. Improvement of QoS in VANET with Different Mobility Patterns*

In [3], authors concentrate on the different routing protocols i.e. AODV, AOMDV, DSR, and DSDV. Ad-hoc On-Demand Distance Vector (AODV) is a reactive protocol that discovers routes on an as needed basis using a route discovery mechanism. It uses traditional routing tables with one entry per destination. Without using source routing, AODV relies on its routing table entries to propagate an RREP (Route Reply) back to the source and also to route data packets to the destination. AODV uses sequence numbers maintained at each destination to determine freshness of routing information and to prevent routing loops. All routing packets carry these sequence numbers. Ad-hoc On-demand Multipath Distance Vector Routing (AOMDV) protocol is an extension to the AODV protocol for computing multiple loop-free and link disjoint paths. The routing entries for each destination contain a list of the next-hops along with the corresponding hop counts. All the next hops have the same sequence number. This helps in keeping track of a route. For each destination, a node maintains the advertised hop count, which is defined as the maximum hop count for all the paths, which is used for sending route advertisements of the destination [4, 5]. Dynamic Source Routing (DSR) is a routing protocol for wireless mesh networks. It is similar to AODV in that it forms a route on-demand when a transmitting computer requests one. However, it uses source routing instead of relying on the routing table at each intermediate device. Destination-Sequenced Distance-Vector Routing (DSDV) is a table driven routing scheme for ad hoc mobile networks based on the Bellman-Ford algorithm. The main contribution of the algorithm was to solve the routing loop problem. Each entry in the routing table contains a sequence number, these sequence numbers are generally even if a link is present; else, an odd number is used. The number is generated by the destination, and the emitter needs to send out the next update with this number. Routing information is distributed between nodes by sending full dumps infrequently and smaller incremental updates more frequently [6]. The authors have considered three different scenarios i.e. high speed highway environment, variable speed vehicles environment and city environment. In each network base station is mounted in the centre. The coverage area of the base station antenna is more than existing VANET. In all three different environments, they communicate vehicles with base station, base station with vehicles and vehicle to vehicle. They have changed the modulation technique according to the channel condition by using AMC technique. Also they have transmitted and received the data by MIMO technique.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

Vehicular ad-hoc networks are radio communication networks in that traffic message is dispersed as of lots of originator to numerous destinations. In this paper we surveyed, some of the routing protocol and QoS parameters associated with the vehicular networks. Efficiency of VANET communication is increased using these QoS parameters. QoS fulfills the VANET services such as multimedia information, safety related messages without any delay. Efficient routing is possible using the Vehicular ad-hoc Network by satisfying the Quality of Service. QoS parameters and metrics by a considerable amount increase VANET proper communication. Research on Quality of Service in VANET is still going on so a lot of development need in this area.

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