

# Fault-tolerant Gateway Connectivity Using Honey Badger Optimization Algorithm in LoRaWAN

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## ABSTRACT

Long Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN) stands out for its less energy consumption and cost-effectiveness. Existing studies have largely ignored the fault tolerance of LoRa networks in the event of failures. Addressing the problems of fault tolerance and reliability in LoRa networks is vital for the large-scale deployment of LoRa applications. In this paper, we propose to design a fault-tolerant gateway connectivity using Honey badger optimization algorithm (FTGC-HBO) in LoRaWAN. In this technique, backup gateways are deployed during gateway failures and interference, using HBO algorithm based on Received Signal Strength (RSS), data transfer time and load level metrics. By simulation results, it has been shown that FTGC-HBO technique achieves maximum energy efficiency and packet success rate with reduced packet loss rate.

**Keywords:** Long Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN), Marine Predator Optimization (MPO), Fault-tolerant, Gateway deployment, connectivity

## 1. INTRODUCTION

One of the common Internet of Things (IoT) communication standards is Low-Power Wide Area Networks (LPWAN) [1]. LPWAN acts as low-power alternatives to cellular networks. LPWANs provide essential features such as low energy consumption, extensive coverage, and low implementation costs. Amongst LPWAN technologies, LoRaWAN stands out for its less energy consumption and cost-effectiveness. Long Range (LoRa) is the physical layer of LoRaWAN that is registered by Semtech. It uses Chirp Spread Spectrum (CSS) modulation for robust transmissions. A LoRa radio is characterized by transmission parameters like coding rate, spreading factor, and bandwidth [2]. LoRaWAN is gaining attention in the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) because of its low data transfer volume, wide spatial range, and relatively low energy consumption when compared with other technologies [3].

In spite of these capabilities, several challenges obstruct the broader implementation of LoRa and LoRaWAN, predominantly related to scalability and reliability. Existing studies have largely ignored the fault tolerance of LoRa networks in the face of failures. The sparse distribution of gateways and long communication links make LoRa networks susceptible to gateway interference and failures. In contrast to traditional wireless networks, LoRa uses a single-hop broadcast and the Aloha MAC protocol, making conventional reliability-aware or fault-tolerant approaches through alternative path routing and scheduling inappropriate. Addressing the problems of fault tolerance and reliability in LoRa networks is vital

for the large-scale deployment of LoRa applications [4][5].

Fault-tolerant communications encounter several challenges, including the requirement for efficient fault detection and diagnosis mechanisms that operate in real-time without considerably increasing energy consumption, which is vital given the inadequate battery life of IoT devices [6].

## 2. RELATED WORKS

Bundle Protocol over LoRa (BPoL) has been presented by Schmidt et al. [7] as a workable LoRa-DTN overlay network that supports duty-cycle restrictions. This is extensible for various scenarios and standard routing algorithms, and integrates with an established implementation of the Bundle Protocol (BP) as defined in RFC 9171. An overlay network protocol is developed based on Protocol Buffers (protobufs) for controlling BPoL nodes, including bundle distribution, discovery, and network diagnostics, along with offering a novel convergence layer for BP-over-LoRa. Moreover, a wide range of LoRa transceivers is easily supported by expanding upon the rf95modem4 firmware.

Ribeiro et al. [8] concentrated on important management concerns within LoRaWAN. To improve security and availability in LoRaWAN environments, a secure key management architecture is built on private blockchain and smart contracts. Using open-source tools and commodity hardware, a functioning prototype was created to demonstrate the viability of the suggested architecture.

The core of IoT works and design problems, a discussion of its guiding principles, and IoT

development concepts are offered by Dymora et al. [9]. A thorough description of Wireless Sensor Network (WSN) as a crucial part of IoT infrastructure was provided. Fault-tolerance (FT) has emerged as a critical concern for IoT systems, as evidenced by the multiple failures that can occur at all levels of the IoT architecture, including sensor nodes, actuators, network linkages, as well as processor and storage components. When a routing algorithm is implemented correctly, it directly affects the power consumption of sensors, which in severe situations causes nodes to shut down because of battery degeneration. In order to investigate the resilience of IoT infrastructure, a ZigBee network topology was established and multiple node failure scenarios were replicated. Additionally, based on the link between throughput and the quantity of rejected packets, as well as the proportionality between the value of management traffic and other factors, such as the ratio of rejected packets, the results demonstrated the significance and influence of selecting the appropriate routing scheme.

LoRaWAN's low energy and implementation costs are offset by its packet delivery rate and latency, which are insufficient for the IIoT's real-time and dependability needs. According to Rezazadeh et al. [10], LoRaWAN fault tolerance can be achieved by foreseeing packet collisions. A unique technique to prevent packet loss is given by anticipating the occurrence of collisions. By enhancing packet delivery rate and reducing message retransmission, this reduction in packet loss enhances LoRaWAN reliability and efficiency in energy use. The evaluation findings demonstrate that the suggested method's PDR has converged to 88% and that there is an average 21% improvement in latency when compared to regular LoRaWAN.

### 3. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

In this paper, we propose to design fault-tolerant gateway connectivity for deploying gateways in LoRa network. In this technique, backup gateways are deployed during gateway failure by applying the HBO algorithm.

#### 3.1 Gateway Connectivity Constraints

Given a set of end devices' locations, how to place gateway and allocate transmission parameters at each end device to satisfy the following constraints:

- (i)  $RSS_{ij} > PDR_{req}$
- (ii)  $D_T < D_T^{min}$
- (iii)  $LL < L_{max}$

In constraint (i), RSS is the Received Signal Strength and PDRreq is the required Packet Delivery Ratio at the device i.

RSS computes the received signal strength from device i at the gateway j with transmit power (TxP) and path loss (PL), which is given by

$$RSS_{ij} = T_x P_i + G^{tx} + G^{rx} - PL_{ij} \tag{1}$$

where  $G^{tx}$  and  $G^{rx}$  are the antenna gains at transmitter and receiver, respectively.

$PL_{ij}$  is the path loss from the end device i to the gateway j, which is computed as

$$PL_{ij}(d) = \overline{PL(d_0)} + 10 \gamma \log_{10} \left( \frac{d}{d_0} \right) + N_\sigma \tag{2}$$

Where d is the distance between LoRa node and gateway,  $PL(d_0)$  is the mean path loss at reference distance  $d_0$ ,  $\gamma$  is the path loss exponent,  $N_\sigma$  is a zero-mean Gaussian variable with std. deviation  $\sigma$ .

In constraint (ii),  $D_T$  is the data transfer time and  $D_T^{min}$  is the minimum threshold of  $D_T$ . Data transfer time is the time taken for transmitting data between two nodes. It includes the processing delay ( $P_D$ ) and network delay ( $N_D$ ).

$$D_T = P_D + N_D \tag{3}$$

$P_D$  can be computed as

$$P_D = (S_T^j - A_T^j) + IC_T \tag{4}$$

Where  $S_T^j$  and  $A_T^j$  are the service time and arrival time of packet j and  $IC_T$  is the inter processor communication time.

$N_D$  is computed as

$$N_D = R_{xT} - T_{xT} \tag{5}$$

where  $R_{xT}$  and  $T_{xT}$  denote the time of packet receiving and packet sent, respectively.

In constraint (iii), LL is the load level of a node and  $LL_{max}$  is the maximum limit of the lode.

LL of a functional node  $n_i$  is defined as

$$LL_i = \frac{S_i}{C_i} \tag{6}$$

Where  $S_i$  is the data size and  $C_i$  is the capacity of the node.

In order to meet constraints, we will apply the Honey Badger Optimization (HBO) algorithm [13].

### 3.2 HBO Algorithm

The fitness function derived in terms of the constraints defined in Eq.(7)

$$Fit_{ij}() = f_1.(RSS_{ij} > PDR_{req}) + f_2(D_T < D_T^{min}) + f_3(LL < L_{max}) \quad (7)$$

The HBO algorithm selects the device and gateway such that the fitness meets all the 3 constraints. (ie) with RSS greater than the required PDR, data transfer time less than the minimum threshold and load level less than the maximum.

The metaheuristic algorithm HBO [11] is used for finding the optimal solution. There are three stages are involved in the HBO; they are initializing the population, evaluating the fitness function and when the best solution is obtained the process ends.

HBO influences the foraging characteristics of an Honey Nadder (HB). To identify food sources, the HB smells and follows honey guiding bird. There are two stages like digging and honey stages. In the digging stage, the HB utilizes its smell capacity to show the prey location. When the location is reached, the HB moves over the prey for selecting the proper area to dig and catch the prey. In the honey stage, HB considers the suggestion of honey guiding bird for locating beehive.

Following section briefly the digging and honey stages. HBO has the exploration and exploitation stages and it is the global optimal model. The candidate solution population of HBO is given as:

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} Y_{1,1} & Y_{1,2} & \dots & Z_{1,Dim} \\ Y_{2,1} & Y_{2,2} & \dots & Z_{2,Dim} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ Y_{m,1} & Y_{m,2} & \dots & Z_{m,Dim} \end{bmatrix} \quad (8)$$

where the dimension of solution is  $Dim$ , and current candidate's solution is  $Z$ .

**Initialization:** The population of HB is randomly produced as:

$$Y_j = r \times (ub_j - lb_j) + lb_j \quad (9)$$

where  $r$  is the random number,  $ub_j$  and  $lb_j$  are, upper and lower bounds.

**Describing Intensity:** The prey strength and distance among them and the  $j^{th}$  HB is called as Intensity. Prey's small intensity is  $I_j$ . The movement is fast when the smell is large and the movement is slow when the smell is less.

$$I_j = r_1 \times \frac{S}{4\pi \times dis_j^2} \quad (10)$$

where  $r_1$  is the random number,  $S$  is strength,  $dis_j$  is the distance of prey and  $j^{th}$  HB

**Updating density  $\beta$ :** The term  $\beta$  manages time varying randomization for ensuring better changing from exploration to exploitation. This  $\beta$  is given as:

$$\beta = K \times \exp\left(\frac{-t}{max\_iter}\right) \quad (11)$$

where  $max\_iter$  and  $K$  are the maximum iterations and constant number.

**Digging stage:** In this stage, the HB carries out the action in Cardioid shape and it is given as:

$$Y_{new} = Y_{prey} + F \times \alpha \times I \times Y_{prey} + F \times r_2 \times \beta \times dis_j \quad (12)$$

where  $Y_{new}$  is the new position,  $Y_{prey}$  is the prey position,  $\alpha$  is the search factor,  $r_2$  is the random number and  $F$  is the Flag that changes the search position.

**Honey stage:** In this stage, the HB follows honey guiding bird for reaching hive and it is expressed as:

$$Y_{new} = Y_{prey} + F \times r_3 \times \beta \times dis_j \quad (13)$$

For finding the best optimal parameter, the above stages are repeated till the termination strategy is obtained. Algorithm 2 shows the pseudocode of the parameter optimization using the HBO.

Algorithm 1: Pseudocode of HBO
<b>Input:</b> Initialize the parameters
<b>Output:</b> Solution best fitness value
Define the fitness of every position of HB using the Equation (7) and assign to $Y_j$
<b>Record</b> $Y_{prey}$ and fitness assigned to $f_{prey}$
<b>while</b> $t \leq max\_iter$ <b>do</b>
Updating density $\beta$ using the Equation (11)
<b>for</b> $j = 1$ to $N$ <b>do</b>
Describing Intensity using the Equation (10)
<b>when</b> $r < 0.5$ <b>then</b>
Update the $Y_{new}$ position using the Equation (12)
<b>Else</b>

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    Update the  $Y_{new}$  position using the Equation
(13)
end if
    Develop new positions and provided to the  $f_{new}$ 
when  $f_{new} \leq Y_j$  then
    Fix  $Y_j = Y_{new}$   $Y_j = f_{new}$ 
end if
when  $f_{new} \leq f_{prey}$  then
    Fix  $Y_{prey} = Y_{new}$   $f_{prey} = f_{new}$ 
end if
end for
end while ending criteria met
Return  $Y_{prey}$  (Best fitness value)
    
```

### 4. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

#### 4.1 Simulation Settings

The proposed FTGC-HBO technique has been implemented in the LoRaWAN cross-layer simulation framework. The performance is compared with the existing energy efficiency-driven heuristic LoRa (EE-LoRa) defined in [12]. The performance metrics packet success rate, packet loss rate, average residual energy and throughput are measured, by varying the nodes.

TABLE 1 shows the simulation settings.

Number of Devices	20 to 100
Size of the topology	150m X 150m
Propagation Model	Two Ray Ground
Antenna Model	OmniAntenna
MAC protocol	IEEE 802.15.4
Traffic Source	CBR
Packet size	512 bytes
Traffic Rate	50Kb
Initial Energy	18 Joules
Transmit power	0.3 watts
Receiving power	0.3 watts
Simulation time	100 seconds
Transmission range	30m

TABLE 1 Simulation Settings

#### 4.2 Results & Analysis

The performances of the techniques are evaluated by varying the number of devices from 20 to 100.

Devices	FTGC-HBO	EE-LoRa
20	0.9762	0.9461
40	0.9735	0.9413
60	0.9681	0.9365
80	0.9646	0.9328
100	0.9573	0.926

TABLE 2 Results for Packet delivery ratio

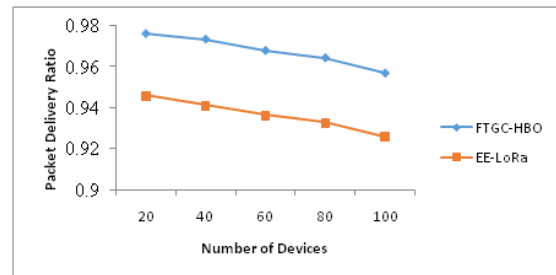


FIGURE 2 Results of Packet success rate

The packet delivery ratios of all the protocols are shown in Table 2 and Figure 2. From the figure, it can be seen that FTGC-HBO has 4% higher success rate than EE-LoRa.

Devices	FTGC-HBO	EE-LoRa
20	915	1108
40	1044	1165
60	1128	1254
80	1173	1287
100	1248	1419

TABLE 3 Results for Packet loss

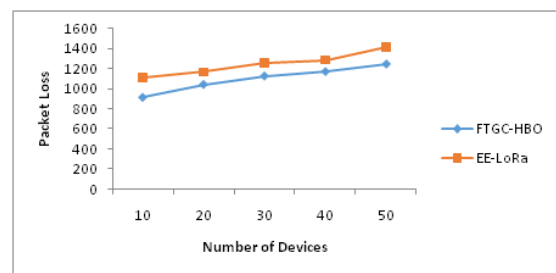


FIGURE 3 Results of Packet loss rate

The average packet loss rates of all the protocols are shown in Table 3 and Figure 3. From the figure, it can be seen that packet loss rate of FTGC-HBO is 12% lesser than EE-LoRa, for varying the devices.

Devices	FTGC-HBO	EE-LoRa
20	15.16	13.82
40	14.65	13.56
60	14.33	13.15
80	13.05	12.74
100	13.44	12.27

TABLE 4 Results for Residual energy

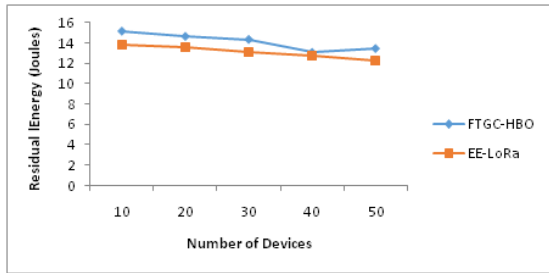


FIGURE 4 Results of average Residual Energy

The average residual energies of all the protocols are shown in Table 4 and Figure 4. From the figure, it can be seen that residual energy of FTGC-HBO is 7% higher than EE-LoRa, for varying the devices.

Devices	FTGC-HBO	EE-LoRa
20	0.823	0.754
40	0.832	0.772
60	0.848	0.784
80	0.89	0.812
100	0.926	0.825

TABLE 5 Results for Throughput

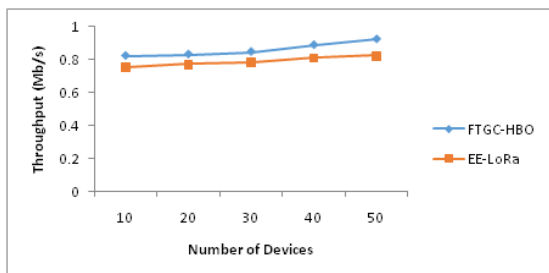


FIGURE 5 Results of Throughput

The throughput measured for all the protocols are shown in Table 5 and Figure 5. From the figure, it can be seen that throughput of FTGC-HBO is 8% higher than EE-LoRa, for varying the devices.

## 5. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we propose to design a fault-tolerant gateway connectivity using HBO algorithm in LoRaWAN. In this technique, backup gateways are deployed during gateway failures and interference, using HBO algorithm based on RSS, data transfer time and load level metrics. The proposed FTGC-HBO technique has been implemented in the LoRaWAN cross-layer simulation framework. The performance is compared with the existing EE-LoRa model. By simulation results, it has been shown that FTGC-HBO technique achieves maximum energy efficiency and packet success rate with reduced packet loss rate.

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