

# Car To Car Communication For Enhancing Highway Safety And Cooperative Collision Avoidance

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## Abstract

This paper proposes a vehicle-to-vehicle communication protocol for cooperative collision warning. Emerging wireless technologies for vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) and vehicle-to roadside (V2R) communications such as DSRC are promising to dramatically reduce the number of fatal roadway accidents by providing early warnings. One major technical challenge addressed in this paper is to achieve low-latency in delivering emergency warnings in various road situations. Based on a careful analysis of application requirements, we design an effective protocol, comprising congestion control policies, service differentiation mechanisms and methods for emergency warning dissemination. Simulation results demonstrate that the proposed protocol achieves low latency in delivering emergency warnings and efficient bandwidth usage in stressful road scenarios.

## Introduction

Recently, Inter-Vehicle Communication Systems (IVC) has attracted considerable attention from the research community and automotive industry. Many automobile manufacturers started planning to build communication devices into their vehicles for purposes of safety, comfortable driving, and entertainment. In IVC systems, broadcast is a frequently used method. Possible applications relying on broadcast include sharing emergency, traffic, weather, and road data among vehicles, and delivering advertisements and announcements. These applications generate packets of various lengths at

different rates. For example, accident warnings are short packets that are generated infrequently. Another type of warning packet generated when the road is slippery because of ice or rain is also short but these packets may be sent in bursts. Finally, advertisement packets of restaurants or hotels can be broadcast in very long packets that carry pictures, directions, or even small videos. When a message is disseminated to locations beyond the transmission range, multi-hopping is used. Unfortunately, interference, packet collisions, and hidden nodes can stop the message dissemination during multi-hop broadcast. Moreover, multi-hop broadcast can consume significant amount of wireless resources because of unnecessary retransmissions. These facts increase the importance of a MAC layer design for efficient and reliable multi-hop message dissemination. In addition, broadcast communication has another challenge in urban areas. Especially in an urban area crowded with tall buildings around intersections, it is difficult to disseminate the packets to different road segments shadowed by these buildings. The topology and the node movement of an IVC network is constrained by roads. The resulting communication network is a special kind of Mobile Ad-Hoc Network (MANET) where the mobility rate is high but movement direction and speeds are predictable. In MANETs, flooding the network blindly is the first approach to achieve broadcasting since above limitations result in large delay in propagating emergency warnings when depending on brake lights and human responses. Environmental conditions such as bad weather or curved roads may further impair human perception in cases of emergency.

**Contributions of this paper include:**

- Identifying application requirements for vehicular cooperative collision warning.
- Achieving congestion control by developing rate adjustment algorithms for emergency warning messages based on the application requirements.
- Showing that the proposed protocol can satisfy application requirements without causing too much communication overhead, allowing cooperative collision warning application to

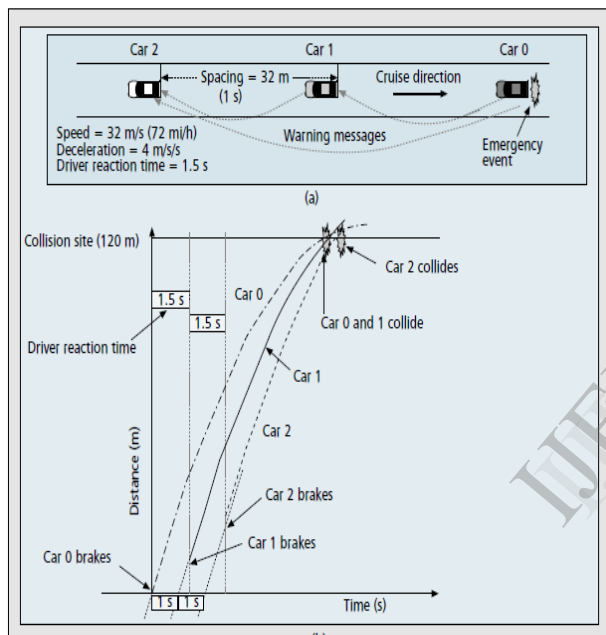


Figure 2. Model for chain car collisions: a) a three-car highway platoon; b) chain car collisions when drivers react only on the tail light of the car ahead.

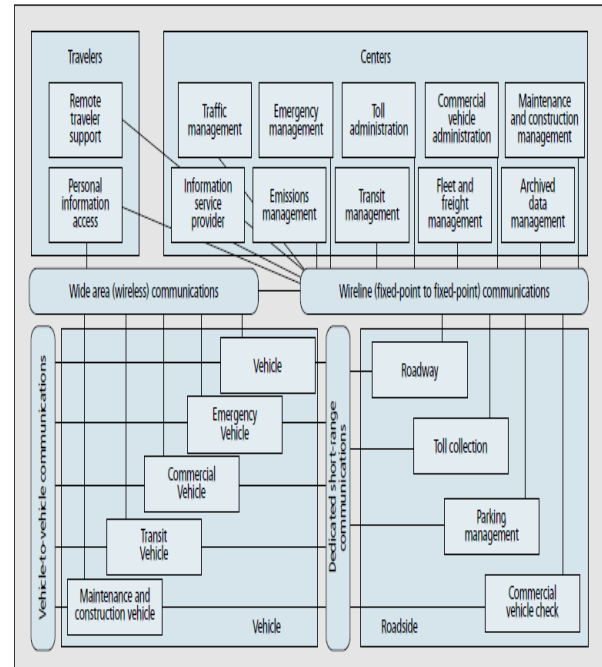


Figure 1. Proposed national ITS architecture (U.S. DOT, 2003).

## Architecture

The mechanism of CCA is explained using a three-car highway platoon example, as shown in Fig. 2a. In the example, all cars are assumed to cruise initially at a steady speed of 72 mph (32m/s), and with an intercar spacing (or headway) of 1 s (32 m). Figure 2b illustrates the platoondynamics after the front car (car 0) initiates an emergency deceleration (at 4 m/s<sup>2</sup>) as a result of an emergency event. As shown in the figure, the driver in car 1 starts to decelerate when he sees the tail brake light of car 0, and the driver in car 2 does so when he sees the brake light of car 1. With an assumed driver's reaction time of 1.5 s, car 0 gets hit by car 1 at a distance of 120 m, and subsequently, car 1 is hit by car 2. The conclusion from this example is that if drivers react

## State of the current research

Protocol research for vehicle-to-vehicle communication can be broadly categorized in the areas of Medium Access Control (MAC) and data forwarding across moving vehicles. IEEE 802.11a is considered to be the de facto MAC protocol for DSRC-based communication. Although 802.11a provides a means for rapid application development, in dynamic vehicular environments

the protocol suffers from a number of performance limitations as reported in [1]. The first limitation is a hop-unfairness problem due to which the effective data throughput of a multihop flow over 802.11 MAC can be severely limited due to 802.11's self-competition between adjacent nodes in the same flow. The second limitation is a lack of MAC protocol stability, and its subsequent performance inefficiency in highly mobile vehicular environments. Although a number of improvements, including better fairness, quality of service, and the support for differentiated services have been proposed in the literature [2], the basic nondeterministic nature of 802.11 is still an issue for its applicability to dynamic DSRC applications. A set of Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA)-based slotted MAC protocols have been proposed for avoiding the inherent randomness and delay unpredictability of 802.11 [3]. A slot reservation MAC protocol (R-ALOHA) for intervehicle communication was proposed in [4]. Several other slot reservation MAC protocols were proposed for the Fleetnet project [5].

#### 4 Network Layer: The Role of Location Awareness

Almost all unicast routing protocols proposed for IVC are position-based. Basically, any existing position-based routing protocol for ad hoc networks can be applied to IVC, but the protocols can be optimized by taking into account the special features of vehicles. For example, GPS, Geographic Information System (GIS), and digital map can help a node to be aware of its location and the surrounding, like road topology. Since the road topology somewhat implies the network topology in IVC, this knowledge does help to make the routing protocol more efficient. Furthermore, one of the most recent results on position-based routing proposes a forwarding scheme avoiding the need of beacons for improved efficiency. One of the real implementations, demonstrated by FleetNet, has not exploited these special features of vehicles yet. Their protocol behaves like a reactive routing protocol by requesting the location of a destination when sending a packet. Then greedy geographical forwarding is used to forward packets. We also notice that most people try to solve the problem of unicast routing just because "it is challenging in ad hoc networks". Actually, by looking at those applications mentioned in Section 1 (which involve almost group-oriented rather than pairwise communications), we are really wondering if unicast routing still has the same significance as in "general" ad hoc networks. The application of broadcast is usually to disseminate traffic information. Most literatures suggest scoped-flooding for broadcasting. Thanks to the peculiarity of this

application, certain optimizations can be applied. For example, Wischhof et al. adaptively change the intertransmission interval according to the significance of the event conveyed by the message in transmission, while Briesemeister et al. use a randomized interval. If the locations of vehicles are again taken into consideration, a multiresolution data structure can be used to express information in the message. The intuition here is that the further a vehicle is from the event, the less detail it needs. Summary Considering the application requirements for IVC, broadcast routing that disseminates information to a set of nodes that could be far from each other seems to be a necessary supporting mechanism; it could be optimized according to the requirement of an application. On the contrary, unicast routing might be superfluous in most cases.

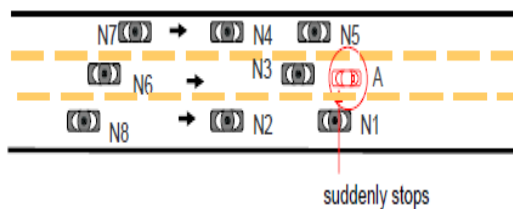
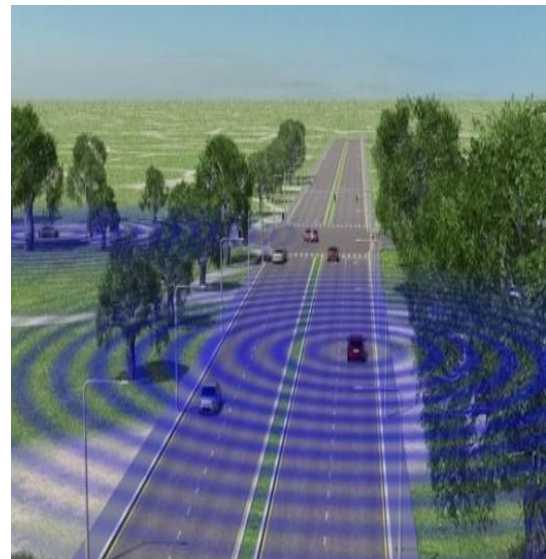
Vehicle Related Parameters	
Platoon Size	50 vehicles
Vehicle Speed	70 m/hr (32 m/s)
Inter-vehicle Spacing	$[0.3 - 0.9] s = [9.6 - 28.8] m$
Vehicle Length	4 m
Emergency Deceleration	$8 m/s^2$
Regular Deceleration	$4.9 m/s^2$
Drivers' Reaction Time	$[0.75 - 1.5] s$
Network Related Parameters	
MAC Protocol	IEEE 802.11 with custom link-layer priority for ITS safety applications
Radio model	Two ray ground
Routing Protocol	Direction-aware broadcast forwarding
W-CWM Message Size	64 bytes
W-CWM Period	100 ms
I-BIA Random Wait Time	$[0 - 10] ms$
Background ITS Traffic	$[80 - 800] kb/s/vehicle$

## Application challenges

Fundamentally, there are two different ways to achieve cooperative collision warning: a *passive* approach and an *active* approach.

- **Passive Approach:** In the passive approach, all vehicles frequently broadcast their motion information (e.g. location, speed, and acceleration). It is the receiving vehicles' responsibility to determine the potential danger for itself. For example, in Figure 2, by receiving messages from vehicle  $\square$ , vehicle  $\square$  may find that the inter-vehicle distance is below a certain threshold.  $\square$  then warns its driver of potential collision. This requires high-precision vehicle motion information, together with high refresh rate (i.e., the rate at which the messages are sent), to avoid false warning or missed warning.
- **Active Approach:** In the active approach, when a vehicle on the road acts abnormally, e.g., deceleration exceeding a certain threshold, dramatic change of moving direction, major mechanical failure, etc., it becomes an abnormal vehicle (AV). Only when an abnormal event occurs, the correspondingly AV actively generates Emergency Warning Messages (EWMs), which include the geographical location, speed, acceleration and moving direction of the AV, to warn other surrounding vehicles. A receiver of the warning messages can then determine the relevancy to the emergency based on the relative motion between the AV and itself. For the example in Figure 2, it is vehicle A's responsibility to warn other vehicles when an abnormal event occurs at  $\square$ .

- Each car would be receiving its location through GPS & will send the Driver vehicle information to nearby cars.
- Driver vehicle information consists of car's location, car speed & where it is going i.e. its Line of sight.
- On the basis of received data from other car through RF, it will manipulate with its own location.
- According to the result of manipulation it will warn the driver and apply automatic brakes.



### An example scenario

### Working Design

- Two cars are communicating to each other through RF i.e. Radio Frequency.

### Conclusion

This paper proposes a Vehicular Collision Warning Communication (VCWC) protocol to improve road safety. In particular, it defines congestion control policies for emergency

Warning messages so that a low emergency warning message delivery delay can be achieved and a large number of coexisting abnormal vehicles can be supported. It introduces a method to eliminate redundant emergency warning messages, exploiting the natural chain effect of emergency events. It also enables the cooperative collision warning application

to share a common channel with other applications using service differentiation mechanisms.

In this article we have presented an overview of vehicle cooperative collision avoidance (CCA)

Application using the emerging Dedicated Short-Range Communication (DSRC)

infrastructure for intervehicle wireless networking.

The concept of CCA has been introduced with an overview, and its implementation issues have been analyzed in light of specific requirements from the MAC and routing-layer protocols of the underlying wireless networks. Specific constraints and future research directions have then been identified for packet-routing protocols to support an effective CCA system within the DSRC environment. To explain the interactions between CCA and its underlying networking protocols, we have presented example safety performance of CCA from simulated intraplatoon vehicle crash experiments. The results from these experiments were also used to demonstrate the need for network data prioritization for safety-critical applications such as CCA. Finally, the performance sensitivity of CCA to unreliable wireless channels has been discussed using these experimental results.

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