

Inter-BSS interference in WLANs

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Authors:

| Name | Company | Address | Phone | E-mail |
|----------------|---------|--|---------------------|------------------|
| Hyunduk Kang | ETRI | 138 Gajeong-Ro, Yuseong-Gu, Daejeon, 305-700, South Korea | +82-42-860- 1074 | henry@etri.re.kr |
| Gwangzeen Ko | ETRI | | | |
| Myung-Sun Song | ETRI | | | |
| Jae-ick Choi | ETRI | | | |
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Abstract

- **This contribution provides issues on inter-BSS interference mitigation among overlapping BSSs**

Multiple BSSs and Overlapping BSSs

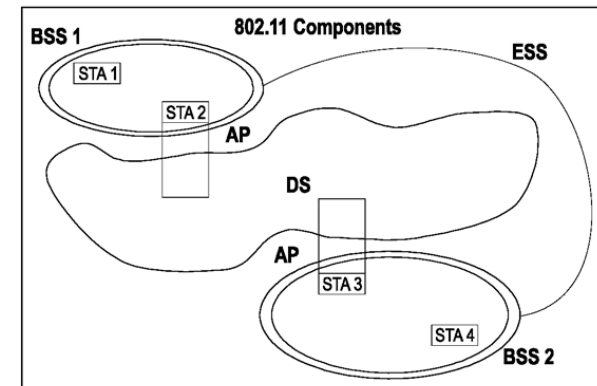
- **Explosion of data traffics drives Wi-Fi network deployment more densely which consist of multiple Basic Service Sets (BSSs)**
- **Multiple BSSs with high density deployment may result in an overlap of adjacent BSSs, a.k.a. Overlapping BSSs (OBSSs), which cause inter-BSS interference (IBI)**
- **With no doubt, IBI is one of important problem needed to be solved for High Efficiency WLAN (HEW)**

Type of BSS [2]

- **IBSS(Independent BSS)**
 - A self-contained network, and in which no access to a distribution system (DS) is available.
- **Infrastructure BSS**
 - The infrastructure includes the distribution system medium (DSM), access point (AP), and portal entities.
 - It is also the logical location of distribution and integration service functions of an extended service set (ESS).
 - An infrastructure contains one or more APs and zero or more portals in addition to the distribution system (DS).

Type of BSS [2]

- **DS(Distributed System)**
 - Group of infrastructure BSSs interconnected
- **ESS (Extended Service Set)**
 - The large coverage network consisted of DS and infrastructure BSSs
- **MBSS (Mesh BSS)**
 - No central entity like the AP and infrastructure BSS

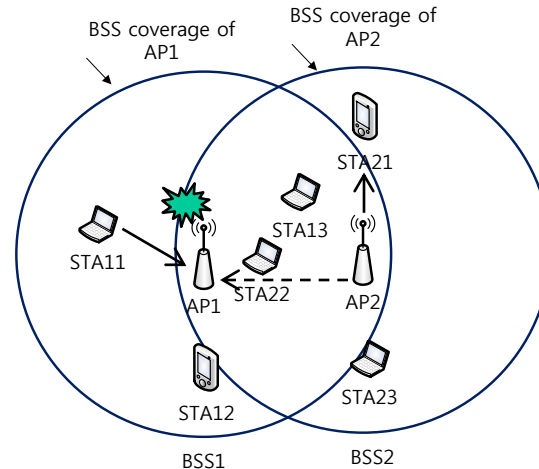


Inter-BSS Interference (IBI)

- **Inter-BSS interference stems from interference among multiple BSSs located nearby each other**
- **There are three types of inter-BSS interference**
 - AP-AP IBI
 - AP-STA IBI
 - STA-STA IBI

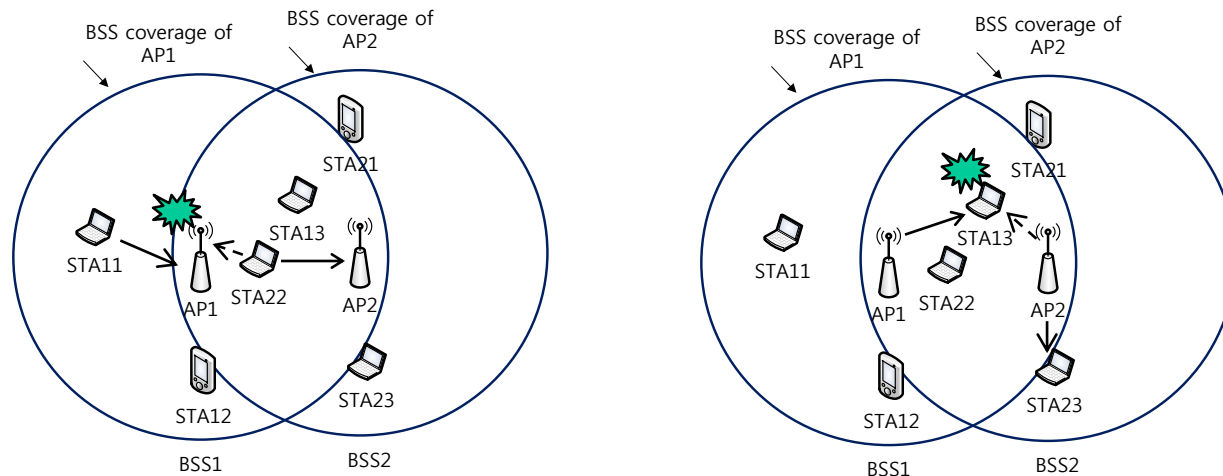
Inter-BSS Interference: AP-AP

- It occurs when a AP receiving data from its associated STA is interfered by a neighbor AP transmitting data to its associated STA, and vice versa.



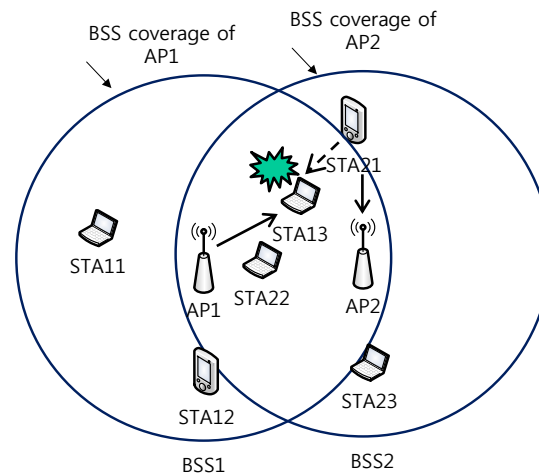
Inter-BSS Interference: AP-STA

- It occurs when a AP receiving data from its associated STA is interfered by a neighbor AP transmitting data to its associated STA, and vice versa.



Inter-BSS Interference: STA-STA

- It occurs when a STA receiving data from its associated AP is interfered by a neighbor STA transmitting data to its associated AP, and vice versa.

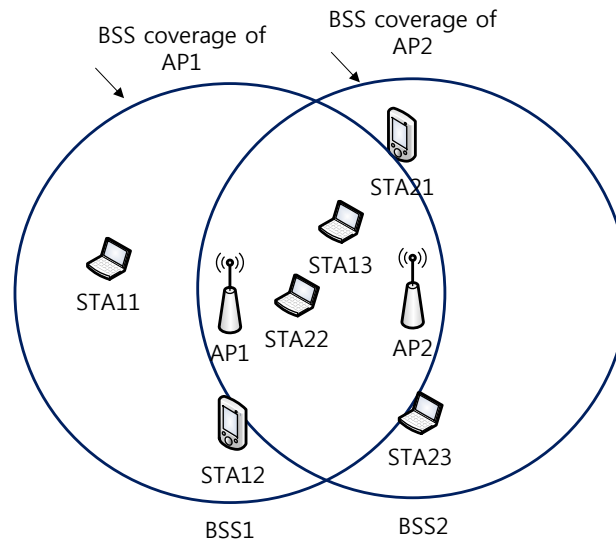


Overlapping Geography

- **It is possible to categorize overlapping geography based on inter-BSS interference classification**
- **Types of overlapping [1]**
 - AP-AP overlapping
 - BSS-BSS overlapping
 - STA-STA overlapping

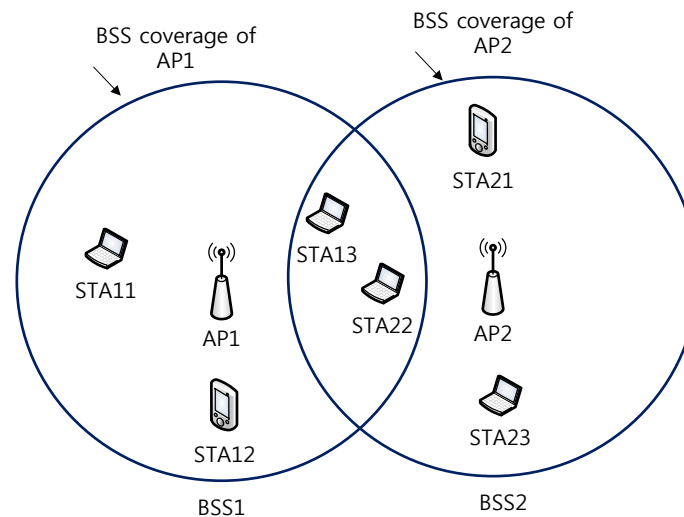
AP-AP Overlapping

- **AP1 and AP2 directly can hear each other**
- **APs and STAs might suffer from**
 - AP-AP IBI
 - AP-STA IBI
 - STA-STA IBI



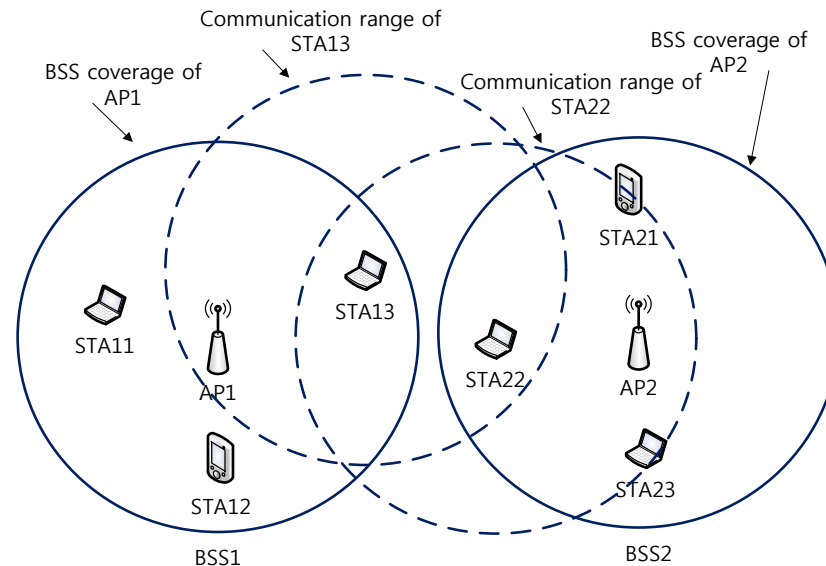
BSS-BSS Overlapping

- **AP1 and AP2 directly can NOT hear each other**
- **APs and STAs might suffer from**
 - AP-STA IBI
 - STA-STA IBI



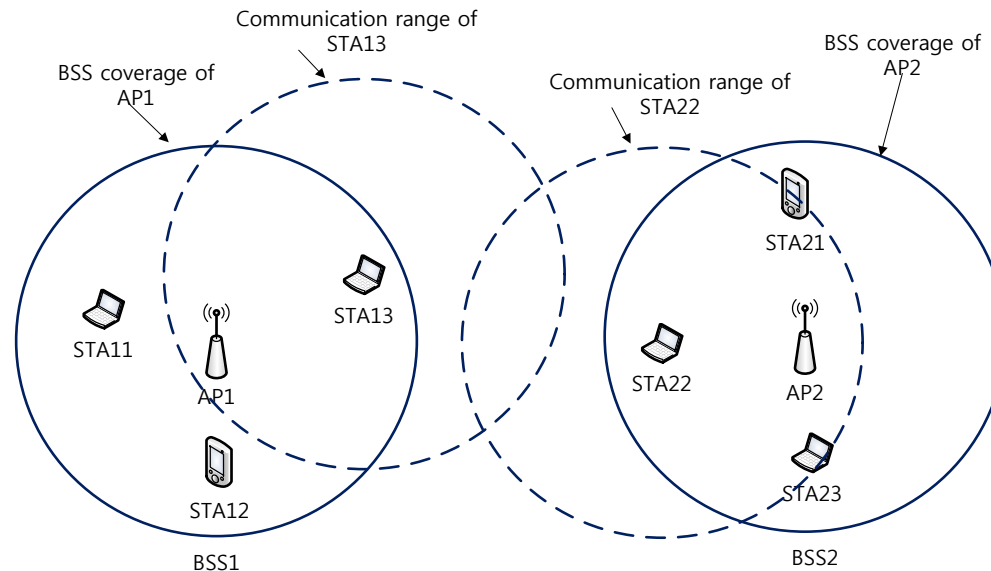
STA-STA Overlapping

- **AP1 and AP2 directly can NOT hear each other**
- **STAs might suffer from**
 - STA-STA IBI



No Overlapping: BSS-BSS Separation

- **There is no interference between BSSs**
- **Ideal spatial reuse is possible**



Comparison among Types of Overlap

- **AP-AP could get lot of co-channel interference. However, it might be favorable to mitigate interference since AP can hear each other directly**
- **BSS-BSS seems to difficult to mitigate co-channel interference since APs are blinded each other**

| Type of overlapping | Inter-BSS interference: AP-AP | Inter-BSS interference: AP-STA | Inter-BSS interference: STA-STA | Amount of Inter-BSS interference | Hidden neighbor AP |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| AP-AP | YES | YES | YES | Heavy | - |
| BSS-BSS | - | YES | YES | Medium | YES |
| STA-STA | - | - | YES | Light | YES |
| No | - | - | - | - | - |

Intuition on Inter-BSS Interference Mitigation (IBIM)

- **Which AP is interfering on which channel? (Seen/Hidden)**
 - How to identify OBSSs which interfere MYBSS
- **“Stay on the channel” or “Switch to new channel”**
 - Determination based on what grounds?
 - What is useful information for decision?
- **Stay on the channel with which channel sharing method?**
 - Existing methods in WLAN is enough or do we need a new one?
- **Select to new channel with which channel allocation method?**
 - Existing methods in WLAN is enough or do we need a new one?

Issues related to IBIM

- **Identification of OBSSs which interfere MYBSS**
- **Exchanging necessary information among OBSSs to help IBIM**
- **Managing operating channels among OBSSs to avoid co-channel interference**

Identification of OBSSs which interfere MYBSS

- **Ways based on current WLAN spec.**
 - BSS color: 802.11ah-D2.0
 - Neighbor report: 802.11-2012, 802.11ac-2013
 - Reduced neighbor report: 802.11af-2012
 - Radio measurement: 802.11-2012, 802.11ac-2013
 - Active/Passive scanning: Beacon, probe request/response: 802.11-2012, 802.11ac-2013
- **Q: Current neighbor discovery for STAs to help association to an AP. Do we need methods or parameters for OBSS discovery under various OBSSs environment**

Exchanging Necessary Information among OBSSs to help IBIM

- **Ways based on current WLAN spec.**
 - Radio measurement: 802.11-2012, 802.11ac-2013
 - Active/Passive scanning: Beacon, probe request/response: 802.11-2012, 802.11ac-2013
 - Channel Load Report: 802.11-2012, 802.11ac-2013
 - Qload Report: 802.11aa-2012
 - RLSS (Registered Location Secure Server): 802.11af-2013
 - CAQ (Channel Availability Query): 802.11af-2013
- **Q: What information is required and how to exchange them among OBSSs to help IBIM?**

Managing Operating Channels among OBSSs to avoid Co-channel Interference

- **Ways based on current WLAN spec.**
 - LBT/CCA, TPC, DFS, ECS: 802.11-2012, 802.11ac-2013
 - Channel selection using QLoad report: 802.11aa-2012
 - Sharing in an OBSS situation; proportional vs. on-demand: 802.11aa-2012
 - CSM (Channel Schedule Management), NCC (Network Channel Control): 802.11af
- **Q: What AP management method is required on what condition?**
 - AP type: Managed vs. unmanaged
 - Coordination capability: Coordinated vs. uncoordinated
 - Decision topology: Centralized vs. distributed

Summary

- **Inter-BSS interference is one of important problems 11ax should solve to achieve High Efficiency WLAN (HEW)**
- **Three topics related to IBIM are considered**
 - Identification of OBSSs which interfere MYBSS
 - Exchanging necessary information among OBSSs to help IBIM
 - Managing operating channels among OBSSs to avoid co-channel interference

References

- [1] Yue Fang et al, “A two-level carrier sensing mechanism for overlapping BSS problem in WLAN”, LANMAN 2005
- [2] IEEE Std. 802.11-2012
- [3] IEEE Std. 802.11aa-2012
- [4] IEEE Std. 802.11ac-2013
- [5] IEEE Std. 802.11af-2013
- [6] 802.11ah-D2.0