Abstract—In this paper, we consider the joint design of data compression and 802.15.4-based medium access control (MAC) protocol for smartgrids with renewable energy. We study the setting where a number of nodes, each of which comprises electricity load and/or renewable sources, report periodically their injected powers to a data concentrator. Our design exploits the correlation of the reported data in both time and space to efficiently design the data compression using the compressed sensing (CS) technique and the MAC protocol so that the reported data can be recovered reliably within minimum reporting time. Specifically, we perform the following design tasks: i) we employ the two-dimensional (2D) CS technique to compress the reported data in the distributed manner; ii) we propose to adapt the 802.15.4 MAC protocol frame structure to enable efficient data transmission and reliable data reconstruction; and iii) we develop an analytical model based on which we can obtain efficient MAC parameter configuration to minimize the reporting delay. Finally, numerical results are presented to demonstrate the effectiveness of our proposed framework compared to existing solutions.

Index Terms—CSMA MAC protocols, renewable energy, compressed sensing, smart grids, and power line communications.

I. INTRODUCTION

The future energy grid is expected to integrate more distributed and renewable energy resources with significantly enhanced communications infrastructure for timely and reliable data exchanges between the control center and various grid control and monitoring points [1]. Smartgrid is an example of the cyber-physical system (CPS) that integrates different communications, control, and computing technologies [2]. Smartgrid communications infrastructure is an important component of the future smartgrid that enables to support many critical grid control, monitoring, and management operations and emerging smartgrid applications [2]-[4]. The smartgrid communications infrastructure is typically hierarchical, i.e., data communications between customer premises (smart meters (SMs)) and local concentrators and between local concentrators and the utility company are supported by field/neighborhood area networks and long-haul wide area networks, respectively [5]-[8]. The former is usually based on the low bandwidth communications technologies such as Zigbee, WiFi, and power line communications (PLC) while the later is required to have higher capacity, which can be realized by employing LTE, 3G cellular, WiMAX, and fiber optics for example.

Our current work concerns the design of data compression and MAC protocol for the field/neighborhood area network where PLC is employed to report injected powers from grid reporting points to the local concentrator. In fact, several smartgrid projects in Spain [5], and France [6] have chosen PLC for smartgrid deployment since PLC can be realized with low-cost modems and it can utilize available electricity wires for data communications. In addition, as reported in Italy’s Telegestore project, SMs have been installed at customer premises to send data to a concentrator via PLC [9]. We focus on reporting injected powers at different grid reporting points once in every reporting interval (RI) [9], [10]. This is motivated by the fact that information on injected powers can be very useful for various grid applications such as line failure prediction [11]-[13] or congestion management and grid control applications [14], [15]. Furthermore, the utility control center can utilize the collected data to further estimate the complete phasor data at different nodes [16] which can be then used in the control of voltages and reactive powers or in the active load management [9], [10], [17], outage management [18], [19] as well as illegal electricity usages and data intrusion/anomaly detection [20], [21].

There have been some existing works that study data compression and MAC protocol design issues in both smartgrids and wireless network contexts. There are two popular standards for the PLC technology, namely PRIME and G3-PLC, whose physical- and MAC-layer design aspects are investigated via simulations in [22]-[25]. In addition, the authors in [9] study the state estimation problem where the voltage phasors at different nodes are recovered based on limited collected data. Li et al. [26] propose to employ the CS technique for sparse electricity data compression. The authors in [27] consider random access exploiting the CS capability for energy efficiency communications in wireless sensor networks. However, none of these existing works considers the joint design of communications access and data compression that supports the communication for a large number of nodes (e.g., in smartgrid communication infrastructure). We aim to fill this gap in the current work. In particular, we make the following contributions.

- We propose the CS-based data compression and PRIME MAC protocol design that supports the communication between a number of grid reporting points and a data concentrator using PLC and random access. Specifically, we consider a distributed random reporting (DRR) mechanism where each node decides to report its data in the probabilistic manner by using the 802.15.4-based MAC protocol. Then the Kronecker CS technique (2D CS), which can exploit the spatio-temporal correlation of data, is employed for data reconstruction at the control center.
We develop an analytical model for the MAC protocol, which enables us to achieve efficient and reliable data reconstruction using compressed sensing. In addition, we present an algorithm which determines efficient configuration for MAC parameters so that the average reporting time is minimized. Also, we analyze the energy consumption and bandwidth usage for our proposed design.

We present numerical results to demonstrate the significant performance gains of our proposed design compared to the non-compressed solution and the centralized time division multiple access (TDMA) scheme. These performance gains are demonstrated for reporting delay, energy consumption, and bandwidth usage.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section II presents the system model and Section III describes a CS-based data compression. Section IV describes our design and performance analysis. Numerical results are demonstrated in Section V followed by the conclusion in Section VI.

II. System Model

We consider the communications between \( n_S \) grid reporting points and one data concentrator which corresponds to the point-to-multipoint communication in the field area network illustrated in Fig. 1. There would be a large number of data concentrators collecting various types of monitoring and control data in the distribution network; however, we focus on the design of the point-to-multipoint communication for one such data concentrator without loss of generality. For brevity, we refer to the grid reporting points as nodes in the following.

Each node is assumed to comprise a load and/or a solar/wind generator. Deployment of such renewable generators in large scale at customer premises, light poles, or advertising panels has been realized for several urban areas in Europe [5]–[8].

We further assume that each node is equipped with a SM, which is capable of reporting power data to the data concentrator using the PLC. Upon reaching the data concentrator, the collected data is forwarded to the utility control center via the high-speed backhaul network, which is assumed to be error free\(^1\). The data concentrator can be installed at the same place as the transformer to collect power data from its nodes as shown in Fig. 1 which enables reliable communications. Note, however, that data concentrator can be deployed in the place as the transformer to collect power data from its nodes, which allows reliable communications. These design issues are addressed in the following sections.

III. CS-Based Data Compression

A. CS-Based Data Processing

Without loss of generality, we consider data reconstruction of one data field for \( n_T \) RIs and \( n_S \) nodes. Let \( Z \) be an \( n_S \times n_T \) matrix whose \((i,j)\)-th element denotes the injected power at node \( i \) and RI \( j \). We will refer to the data from one RI (i.e., one column of \( Z \)) as one data block. From the CS theory, we can compress the data of interest if they possess sparsity properties in a certain domain such as wavelet domain. Specifically, we can express the data matrix \( Z \) as

\[
Z = \Phi_S A \Phi_T^T
\]

where \( \Phi_S \in \mathbb{R}^{n_S \times n_S} \) and \( \Phi_T \in \mathbb{R}^{n_T \times n_T} \) denote wavelet bases in space and time dimensions, respectively [32], [33]. The sparsity of \( Z \) can be observed in the wavelet domain if matrix \( A \) has only \( K \) significant (nonzero) coefficients where \( K < n_S \times n_T \).

We now proceed to describe the data compression and reconstruction operations. Let us denote \( \Phi_S \in \mathbb{R}^{m_S \times n_S} \) (for space) and \( \Phi_T \in \mathbb{R}^{m_T \times n_T} \) (for time) as the two sparse observation matrices where entries in these two matrices are i.i.d uniform random numbers where \( m_S < n_S \) and \( m_T < n_T \). Then we can employ \( \Phi_S \) and \( \Phi_T \) to sample the power data from which we obtain the following observation matrix

\[
Y = \Phi_S Z \Phi_T^T.
\]
Let $N_\Sigma = n_T n_S$ and $M = m_T m_S$ be the number of elements of $Z$ and $Y$, respectively. From the CS theory, we can reliably reconstruct the data matrix $Z$ by using the observation matrix $Y$ if $m_T$ and $m_S$ are appropriately chosen. For the considered smartgrid communication design, this implies that the control center only needs to collect $M$ injected power elements instead of $N_\Sigma$ values for reliable reconstruction of the underlying data field.

We now describe the data reconstruction for $Z$ by using the observation matrix $Y$. Toward this end, the control center can determine matrix $A$, which corresponds to the wavelet transform of the original data $Z$ as described in [1], by solving the following optimization problem

$$\min_A \|A\|_2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|\text{vec}(Y) - \bar{Y}\|_2 \leq \epsilon \quad (3)$$

where $\bar{Y} = (\Phi_S \otimes \Phi_T)(\Psi_S \otimes \Psi_T)\text{vec}(A)$, $\otimes$ is the Kronecker product, $\text{vec}(X)$ denotes the vectorization of the matrix $X$, which stacks the rows of $X$ into a single column vector. We can indeed solve problem (3) by using the Kronecker CS algorithm [32] to obtain $A^* = \arg\min_A \|A\|_2$. Then, we can obtain the estimation for the underlying data as $\text{vec}(Z^*) = \Psi_S \otimes \Psi_T A^*$. More detailed discussions of this data reconstruction algorithm can be found in [32].
Now there are two questions one must answer to complete the design: 1) how can one choose \( m_S \) and \( m_T \) to guarantee reliable data reconstruction for the underlying data field?, and 2) how can one design the data sampling and MAC protocol so that the control center has sufficient information for data reconstruction? We will provide the answers for these questions in the remaining of this paper.

**B. Determination of \( m_S \) and \( m_T \)**

We would like to choose \( m_S \) and \( m_T \) so that \( M = m_S m_T \) is minimum. Determination of the optimal values of \( m_S \) and \( m_T \) turns out to be a non-trivial task. So we propose a practical approach to determine \( m_S \) and \( m_T \). It is intuitive that \( m_S \) and \( m_T \) should be chosen according to the compressibility in the space and time dimensions, respectively. In addition, these parameters must be chosen so that the reliability of the data reconstruction meets the predetermined requirement, which is quantified by the mean square error (MSE).

To quantify compressibility in the space and time, we consider two other design options, viz. temporal CS and spatial CS alone. For the former, the control center reconstructs data for one particular node by using the observations of only that node (i.e., we ignore spatial correlation). For the later, the control center reconstructs the data in each RI for all nodes without exploiting the correlation over different RIs. For fair quantification, we determine the MSE for one data field (i.e., for data matrix \( \mathbf{Z} \) with \( n_S \times n_T \) elements) for these two design options where \( \text{MSE} = \| \mathbf{Z} - \hat{\mathbf{Z}} \|_2^2 / \| \mathbf{Z} \|_2^2 \).

For each spatial CS and temporal CS cases, we generate 1000 realizations of the injected powers based on which we perform the data reconstruction using the 1D CS for different values of \( m_S \) and \( m_T \), respectively. Note that we randomly choose \( m_S \) and \( m_T \) out of \( n_S \) nodes and \( n_T \) RIs for spatial CS and temporal CS, respectively. Then, we obtain the empirical probability of success for the data reconstruction versus \( M_S = m_S n_T \) and \( M_T = n_S m_T \), respectively where the “success” means that the MSE is less than the target MSE. From the obtained empirical probability of success, we can find the required values of \( M_S \) and \( M_T \), which are denoted as \( M_{S,\text{thresh}} \) and \( M_{T,\text{thresh}} \), respectively, to achieve the target success probability. Having obtained \( M_{S,\text{thresh}} \) and \( M_{T,\text{thresh}} \) capturing the compressibility in the space and time as described above, we choose \( m_S \) and \( m_T \) for the 2D CS so that \( m_S / n_T = n_S / M_{S,\text{thresh}} / M_{T,\text{thresh}} \). Similarly, we obtain the empirical probability of success for the 2D CS based on which we can determine the minimum value of \( M_{\text{thresh}} = m_S m_T \) to achieve the target success probability.

To obtain numerical results in this paper, we choose target \( MSE = 0.05 \) and target success probability equal 0.95. Fig. 3 shows the empirical probability of success versus \( M_{\text{thresh}} = m_S m_T \) for \( n_S = n_T = 128 \) where \( M_{\text{thresh}} \) in the horizontal axis represents the \( M_{S,\text{thresh}}, M_{T,\text{thresh}}, \) and \( M_{\text{thresh}} \) for 1D and 2D CS for simplicity. The data model for the injected power will be described in Section IV-A. For this particular setting, we can obtain the ratio \( m_S / m_T = 0.691 \) from which one can obtain the values of \( m_S = 47 \) and \( m_T = 68 \).

Similarly, we determine the \( M_{\text{thresh}}, m_S \) and \( m_T \) for different scenarios whose corresponding \((n_S, n_T)\) values are given in Table I. For all cases, we can observe that \( m_S < n_S \) and \( m_T < n_T \), which demonstrates the benefits of data compression by using the 2D CS. Having determined \( m_S \) and \( m_T \) as described above, the remaining tasks are to design the DDR mechanism and MAC protocol that are presented in the following.

**IV. DDR AND MAC PROTOCOL DESIGN**

**A. Distributed Data Reporting**

In any RI, to perform reconstruction for the data field corresponding to the latest \( n_T \) RIs, the control center must have data in \( n_T \) RIs, each of which comprises \( n_S \) injected powers from \( m_S \) nodes. With the previously-mentioned rolling implementation, the control center can broadcast a message to all nodes to request one more data block (the last column of data matrix \( \mathbf{Z} \)) if it has only \( n_T - 1 \) data blocks to perform reconstruction in the current RI. At the beginning, the control center can simply send \( m_T \) broadcasts for \( m_T \) randomly chosen RIs out of \( n_T \) RIs and it performs data reconstruction at RI \( n_T \) upon receiving the requested data blocks.

**B. MAC Protocol Design**

If there is a broadcast message from the control center, we assume that each node participates in the contention process with probability \( p_s \) using the slotted CSMA/CA MAC protocol in any RI. The slotted CSMA/CA MAC protocol \cite{802.15.4} with the proposed frame structure is employed for data transmissions as described in the following. We set the optionally contention-free period to zero since we focus on distributed access design in this work. Moreover, we assume there are \( K \) superframes (SFs) in the contention period of any RI where \( SF_i = SF_0 \times 2^{BO_i} \) is the length of SF \( i \), \( SF_0 \) is the base length of SF, \( BO_i \in [0, BO_{\max}] \) is the beacon order at SF \( i \). Therefore, the reporting time (RT) in the underlying RI is \( \sum_{i=1}^{K} SF_i \). We will optimize the parameters \( K \) and \( \{BO_i\} \) to minimize the RT while guaranteeing the desirable data reconstruction quality later. The superframe structure in one RI is illustrated in Fig. 4.

In each SF, the nodes that choose to access the channel (with probability \( p_s \)) perform the contention using the standardized slotted CSMA/CA protocol as follows. A contending node
randomly chooses a number in $[0, W_0]$ as the backoff counter ($W_0 = 2^{\text{priority}}$) and starts counting down. If the counter reaches zero, the node will perform the clear channel assessment (CCA) for priority times (we set priority = 2). It will transmit data and wait for ACK if all CCAs are successful. The reception of ACK is interpreted as a successful transmission, otherwise this is a collision. In the case of failure in any CCA, the node attempts to perform backoff again with doubling backoff window. In addition, each node is allowed to access channel up to $NB+1$ times. Since the length of the SF is limited, a node may not have enough time to transmit its data and ACK packets at the end of the last SF. In this case, we assume that the node will wait for the next SF to access the channel. We refer to this as the deference state in the following.

**C. MAC Parameter Configuration for Delay Minimization**

We consider optimizing the MAC parameters $(K, p_s, \{BO_i\})$ to minimize the reporting time in each RI by solving the following problem:

$$
\begin{align*}
\min_{K, p_s, \{BO_i\}} & \quad D(K, p_s, \{BO_i\}) \\
\text{s.t.} & \quad \Pr \{K_{\text{succ}} \geq m_S\} \geq P_{\text{succ}} , \\
& \quad 0 \leq K \leq K_{\text{max}}, 0 \leq BO_i \leq BO_{\text{max}}, 0 \leq p_s \leq 1 , \\
\end{align*}
$$

(4)

where $D(K, p_s, \{BO_i\}) = \sum_{i=1}^{K} SF_0 \times 2^{BO_i}$ is the reporting time. Recall that $K_i$ is the number of SFs in one RI where $SF_i$ is the length of SF $i$ and $SF_0$ is the base length of SF. $BO_i \in [0, BO_{\text{max}}]$ is the beacon order at SF $i$, $BO_{\text{max}}$ is the maximum value of $BO_i$, $p_s$ is the probability that each node performs a contention for a possible channel access.

In (4), the first constraint means that the control center must receive $m_S$ packets (i.e., $m_S$ injected power values from $m_S$ nodes) with probability $P_{\text{succ}} \approx 1$. Note that one would not be able to deterministically guarantee the reception of $m_S$ packets due to the random access nature of the DDR and MAC protocol. The probability in this constraint can be written as

$$
\Pr \{K_{\text{succ}} \geq m_S\} = \sum_{h=m_S}^{n_S} \Pr \{\tilde{m}_S = h\} = \sum_{h=m_S}^{n_S} \Pr \{K_{\text{succ}} = h\} \prod_{i=1}^{K_{\text{max}}} \sum_{i=1}^{K_{\text{succ},i}} \Pr \{K_i = K_{S,i} \mid h_i\} \Pr \{K_{\text{succ},i} \mid K_{S,i}, h_i\}.
$$

(5)

where $K_{\text{succ}}$ denotes the number of successfully transmitted packets in the RI and $\Pr \{\tilde{m}_S = h\}$ is the probability of $h$ nodes joining the contention. Since each node decides to join contention with probability $p_s$, $\Pr \{\tilde{m}_S = h\}$ is expressed as

$$
\Pr \{\tilde{m}_S = h\} = \binom{n_S}{h} p_s^h (1 - p_s)^{n_S - h}.
$$

(7)

In (5), we consider all possible scenarios so that the total number of successfully transmitted packets over $K$ SFs is equal to $K_{\text{succ}}$ where $K_{\text{succ}} \in [m_S, h]$. Here, $K_{\text{succ},i}$ denotes the number of successfully transmitted packets in SF $i$ so that we have $\sum_{i=1}^{K_{\text{max}}} \Pr \{K_{\text{succ},i} \mid K_{S,i}\} = K_{\text{succ}}$. In particular, we generate all possible combinations of $\{K_{\text{succ},i}\}$ for $K$ SFs and $\Xi$ represents the set of all possible combinations (|$\Xi$| is the number of possible combinations).

For each combination, we calculate the probability that the control center receives $K_{\text{succ}}$ successful packets. Note that a generic frame may experience one of the following events: success, collision, CCA failure and deference. Also, there are at most $K_{S,i,\text{max}}$ frames in any SF $i$ where $K_{S,i,\text{max}} = \lfloor SF_i / \min \{NB + 1, L_s + 2\} \rfloor$ since the smallest length of a CCA failure frame is $NB + 1$ slots while the minimum length of a successful frame is $L_s + 2$ where $L_s$ is the required time for one successful transmission and 2 represents the two CCA slots. We only consider the case that $K_{\text{succ},i} \leq K_{S,i} \leq K_{S,i,\text{max}}$, $\forall i \in [1, K]$.

In (6), $\Pr \{K_i = K_{S,i} \mid h_i\}$ is the probability that there are $K_{S,i}$ generic frames in SF $i$ given that $h_i$ nodes join contention where $h_i = h$ and $h_i = h - 1 - K_{\text{succ},i-1}$ since successfully transmitting node will not perform contention in the following frames. Moreover, $\Pr \{K_i = K_{S,i} \mid K_{S,i}, h_i\}$ is the probability that $K_{\text{succ},i}$ nodes transmit successfully in SF $i$ given that there are $h_i$ contending nodes and $K_{S,i}$ generic frames.

In order to calculate $\Pr \{K_i = K_{S,i} \mid h_i\}$ and $\Pr \{K_i = K_{S,i} \mid K_{S,i}, h_i\}$, we have to analyze the Markov chain capturing detailed operations of the MAC protocol. For simplicity, we set $NB_i = NB = 5$, which is the default value. We analyze the Markov chain model in Appendix A. Then we determine $\Pr \{K_i = K_{S,i} \mid h_i\}$ and $\Pr \{K_i = K_{S,i} \mid K_{S,i}, h_i\}$ as follows:

1) Calculation of $\Pr \{K_i = K_{S,i} \mid h_i\}$: In SF $i$ there are $h_i$ contending nodes and $K_{S,i}$ generic frames where frame
of frames with collision, deference, and CCA failure, respectively. Summation is the probability of one specific combination. Also, the product behind the double product represents the different numbers of success, collision, CCA failure, and deference frames. Therefore, we generate all possible combinations each of which is equal to

$$P = \sum_{j=0}^{K_{S,I}-K_{succ,i}} \sum_{k=0}^{1} \sum_{i, j, k, l} \mathbb{P}(K_{S,I}, j, k, l) \mathbb{P}(K_{succ,i}, j, k, l) \mathbb{P}(h, i, j, k, l) \mathbb{P}(d, i, j, k, l)$$

where $K_{succ,i} + j + k + l = K_{S,I}$; $j$, $k$, and $l$ represent the number of frames with collision, deference, and CCA failure, respectively. Moreover, $\mathbb{P}(K_{succ,i}), \mathbb{P}(h, i, j, k, l), \mathbb{P}(d, i, j, k, l)$ denote the probabilities of success, collision, CCA failure, and deference, respectively, whose calculations are given in Appendix B.

### D. MAC Parameter Configuration Algorithm

#### Algorithm 1 Optimization of MAC Parameters

1. for each value of $K_{\tau} \in [1, K_{\tau,\text{max}}]$ do
2.   for each possible set $\{BO_i\}$ do
3.     Find optimal $\bar{p}_s$ as $\bar{p}_s = \arg\min_{0 \leq p_s \leq 1} \mathcal{D}(K_{\tau}, \{BO_i\}, p_s)$.
4.   end for
5. The best $\{BO_i\}$ for each $K_{\tau}$ is $\{BO_i\}$ such that $\bar{p}_s = \arg\min_{\{BO_i\}} \mathcal{D}(K_{\tau}, \{BO_i\}, \bar{p}_s)$.
6. end for
7. The final solution $(\{BO_i\}, \bar{p}_s)$ is determined as $(\bar{K}_{\tau}, \{BO_i\}, \bar{p}_s) = \arg\min_{\{BO_i\}} \mathcal{D}(\bar{K}_{\tau}, \{BO_i\}, \bar{p}_s)$.

The procedure for finding $(\bar{K}_{\tau}, \bar{p}_s, \{BO_i\})$ can be described in Alg. 1. Since there are only finite number of possible choices for $K_{\tau} \in [1, K_{\tau,\text{max}}]$ and the set $\{BO_i\}$, we can search for the optimal value of $p_s$ for given $K_{\tau}$ and $\{BO_i\}$ as in step 3. Then, we search over all possible choices of $K_{\tau}$ and the set $\{BO_i\}$ to determine the optimal configuration of the MAC parameters (in steps 5 and 7).

#### E. Bandwidth Usage

To quantify the bandwidth usage, we consider a particular neighborhood with $N > n_S$ nodes, whose simultaneous transmissions can collide with one another. In addition, these $N$ nodes must report injected power data to a control center. In this case, we would need $N/n_S$ orthogonal channel to support these communications. Suppose that the considered smartgrid application has a maximum target delay of $D_{\text{max}}$.

We should design the group size with $n_S$ nodes as large as possible while respecting this target delay in order to minimize the required bandwidth (i.e., number of channels).

Let the maximum numbers of nodes for one group under TDMA and CSMA-CS schemes while still respecting the target delay be $n_{S_{\text{TDMA}}}$ and $n_{S_{\text{CSMA-CS}}}$, respectively. Note that the TDMA scheme uses all $n_T$ RIs for data transmission while the CSMA-CS scheme only chooses $m_T$ RIs for each $n_T$ RIs to transmit the data. Thus, the CSMA-CS scheme allows $n_T/m_T$ groups to share one channel for each interval of $n_T$ RIs. As a result, the number of channels needed for $N$ nodes is $N/n_{S_{\text{TDMA}}}^T$ for the TDMA scheme and $N/n_{S_{\text{CSMA-CS}}}^T \times m_T/n_T$ for the CSMA-CS scheme.

#### F. Energy Consumption

We now calculate the average energy consumption for data reporting of one data block. In each RI, there are $K_{\tau}$ SFs where the number of contending nodes decreases over the SFs. Let $E_i$ denote the energy consumption per node in SF $i$ with $h_i$ contending nodes. The derivation of $E_i$ is given in Appendix C. Then, the average energy consumption in one RI can be expressed as follows:

$$E = \sum_{h=1}^{n_S} \Pr\{m_S = h \} \sum_{K_{\text{succ}} = m_S}^{n_S} \prod_{i=1}^{K_{\text{succ}}} \sum_{h_i}^{K_{\tau}} h_i E_i$$

Here, similar to derivation of $\Pr\{K_{\text{succ}} \geq m_S\}$ in Section IV-C, we generate all combinations of $\{h_i\}$, which represents the number of contending nodes in SF $i$. For one such combination, we derive the total average energy in $K_{\tau}$ SFs. Note that $\sum_{i=1}^{K_{\tau}} h_i E_i$ is the total average energy corresponding to $\{h_i\}$. As a result, the average consumed energy for reporting one data field (with size $n_S x n_T$) is $E = m_T E$.

### V. Performance Evaluation and Discussion

#### A. Data Modeling and Simulation Setting

In order to evaluate the performance of our proposed data compression and MAC protocol, we synthetically generate the data for power loads and distributed generation powers by using available methods [25–31, 36–38] because real-world data is not available. There are various probabilistic and stochastic methods to model power data in the literature. While independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.) normal and Weibull [41] distributions are commonly used to generate these types of data, the considered power data generated once for every 5-minute RI in this work would be highly dependent. Therefore, autoregressive models [41], which belong to the correlated time-series category, are selected to generate the required simulation data.

To model the load power, we employ the autoregressive moving average (ARMA) [41] as a time series model which consist of two components, namely, deterministic and stochastic parts [36–38]. Hence, the load power can be expressed as

$$X_t = X_t^d + X_t^f$$

(12)
where $t$ is the time index, $X$ commonly represents active load power ($P_t$) and reactive load power ($Q_t$). $X^d_t$ is the deterministic component of $X$ and $X^s_t$ is the stochastic part of $X$. The deterministic component, which captures the trend of data, is represented by the trigonometric functions $(36)-(38)$ as

$$X^d_t = \chi_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{m_h} \left( \chi_{e,i} \sin \left( \frac{2\pi k_i t}{288} \right) + \chi_{im,i} \cos \left( \frac{2\pi k_i t}{288} \right) \right)$$  \hspace{1cm} (13)$$

where $m_h$ is the number of harmonics (i.e., the number of trigonometric functions), $\chi_{e,i}$ and $\chi_{im,i}$ are the coefficients of the harmonics, $\chi_0$ is the constant, and $k_i \leq 288/2$ for $\forall i \in \{1, \ldots, m_h\}$. This form consists of a constant $\chi_0$ (i.e., the first quantity in [13]) and $m_h$ trigonometric functions (i.e., the second quantity in [13]). This general model indeed offers flexibility where we can define suitable formulas to present the effects of seasonality and special days which are extensively studied in [36], [37]. Now, the stochastic component is modeled by the first-order autoregressive process AR(1) which is the simple form of ARMA($n, m$) (i.e., $n = 1, m = 0$) [41] as follows:

$$X^s_{t+1} = \varphi_t X^s_t + U_t$$ \hspace{1cm} (14)

where $\varphi_t$ is the AR(1) coefficient and $U_t$ is the white noise process with zero mean and variance of $(1 - \varphi_t)$. Here, we use AR(1) as an appropriate and simple data model; however other more complicated methods can be used as well [36], [37], [41].

We now present the method to determine the parameters ($\chi_0, \chi_{e,i}, \chi_{im,i}, m_h, \varphi_t$) in (13) and (14). These parameters are coupled as indicated in (13) and (14). However, we can separately estimate the parameters for these deterministic and stochastic components without significantly increasing estimation errors compared to those due to joint estimation [36]. To estimate these parameters, we use online data set [42] which represents the active and reactive load powers from 2006 to 2010. Specifically, we use the ordinary least squares (OLS) [41] to estimate $\chi_0, \chi_{e,i}, \chi_{im,i}$, and $m_h$ [36], [38]. Moreover, we employ the Bayesian information criterion (BIC) [41] to determine $m_h$ significant harmonics which is usually less than $5$ for the selected data in [42]. Then we also use OLS algorithm to estimate the AR(1) coefficient, i.e., $\varphi_t$ for every 5-minute interval over one day [36], [38]. We should note that these parameters are updated and stored in every 5-minute interval over one day. Then we can generate the required power data in such the way that the output of the current interval is the input of the next interval.

We can similarly generate the distributed generation power data, which exhibits the temporal and spatial correlation. In particular, distributed generation power data model also comprises deterministic and stochastic parts as described in [12], [13] and [14]. In addition, all parameters in these models are estimated by using online data of wind speeds [43] which represent the 5-minute wind speeds in 2006–2010. These data can be transformed to output power data as follows [31], [39]:

$$S_g = \begin{cases} 
0 & v \leq v_{ci} \text{ or } v > v_{co} \\
A + Bv + Cv^2 & v_{ci} < v \leq v_r \\
Pr & v_r < v \leq v_{co}
\end{cases} \hspace{1cm} (15)$$

where $v_{ci}$, $v_{co}$, $v_r$ and $P_r$ are the cut-in, cut-out, nominal wind speeds, and the rated power output, respectively. These parameters and $(A, B, C)$ are determined as in [40]. Finally, the spatial correlation of distributed generation powers can be modeled as in [29]–[31] where the correlation coefficient between 2 distributed generators $i$ and $j$ is $\rho_{i,j} = \exp (-d_{i,j}/d)$ where $d = 20km$ is a positive constant and $d_{i,j}$ is the distance between generators $i$ and $j$, which is randomly chosen in $(0, 1km)$.

We assume that wind/solar generators are installed at a half of total nodes for all following experiments. We ignore the node index $i$ in these notations for brevity. The RI is set as $\tau_T = 5$ minutes. The target probability in the constraint [4] is chosen as $P_{\text{safe}} = 0.9$. The MAC parameters are chosen as $L_s = T_p + t_{\text{ACK}} + L_{\text{ACK}}, T_p = 5 + L_{\text{MAC}}$ slots ($L_{\text{MAC}} = 2$ is the MAC header), $L_{\text{ACK}} = 2$ slots, $t_{\text{ACK}} = 1$ slot, $t_{\text{ACK},ii} = 4$ slots where $T_p$ is the length of packet, $t_{\text{ACK}}$ is the idle time before the ACK, $L_{\text{ACK}}$ is the length of ACK, $t_{\text{ACK},ii}$ is the timeout of the ACK. $BO_{\text{max}} = 8$, $K_T, \text{max} = 10$. For all the results presented in this section, we choose $n_T = 256$.

B. Numerical Results and Discussion

1) Sufficient Probability: In Fig. 5(a), we show the variations of sufficient probability, namely $\text{Pr}\{K_{\text{succ}} \geq m_s\}$, versus $p_s$ for different values of $BO_t = BO$ (i.e., all SFs employ the same $BO$) where $m_s = 16$, $K_T = 3$, and $n_S = 64$. It can be observed that there exists an optimal $p_s$ that maximizes $\text{Pr}\{K_{\text{succ}} \geq m_s\}$ for each value of $BO$. This optimal value is in the range $[0.3, 0.5]$. Furthermore, $BO$ must be sufficiently large ($BO \geq 4$) to meet the required target value $P_{\text{safe}} = 0.9$. In addition, larger values of $BO$ lead to longer SF length, which implies that more data packets can be transmitted. In Fig. 5(b), we show the probability $\text{Pr}\{K_{\text{succ}} \geq m_s\}$ versus $p_s$ for different values of $K_T$ where we set $n_S = 64$ and $BO = 3$. This figure confirms that the maximum $\text{Pr}\{K_{\text{succ}} \geq m_s\}$ becomes larger with increasing $K_T$ where we can meet the target probability $P_{\text{safe}} = 0.9$ if $K_T \geq 6$.

Now we fix $BO_t = BO = 4$, $K_T = 3$, then we study $\text{Pr}\{K_{\text{succ}} \geq m_s\}$ versus $p_s$ for different values of $n_S$. Note that $m_S$ can be calculated for each value of $n_S$ as presented in Section III-B. Specifically, $m_S$ is equal to 13, 16, 19, and 22 for $n_S = 48, 64, 80$, and 96, respectively. Fig. 5(c) demonstrates that smaller number of nodes $n_S$ (e.g., $n_S = 48, 64$) can achieve the target value of $P_{\text{safe}}$ at the optimal $p_s$. However, as $n_S$ increases to 80 and 96, there is no $p_s$ that meets the target value of $P_{\text{safe}}$. This is because the collision probability is lower for the smaller number of nodes, which results in larger values of $\text{Pr}\{K_{\text{succ}} \geq m_s\}$.

2) Reporting Delay: We now show the optimal reporting delay $D$ in one RI versus the number of nodes $n_S$ for different schemes, namely TDMA, CSMA, TDMA-CS, and our proposed CSMA-CS schemes in Fig. 6. Here, $X$-CS refers to scheme $X$ that integrates the CS-based data compression and $X$ refers to scheme $X$ without data compression. Moreover, TDMA is the centralized non-contention time-division-multiple-access MAC, which always achieves better performance than the CSMA scheme. For both CSMA and CSMA-CS schemes, their MAC parameters are optimized by using Alg. 1. It can be seen that our proposed CSMA-CS protocol achieves much smaller delay than the CSMA scheme, which
confirms the great benefits of employing the CS. In addition, TDMA-CS outperforms our CSMA-CS protocol since TDMA is a centralized MAC while CSMA is a randomized distributed MAC. Finally, this figure shows that our CSMA-CS protocol achieves better delay performance than the TDMA scheme.

We illustrate the variations of the optimal reporting delay with $P_{err}$ for different schemes where $P_{err} = 1 - \Pr\{K_{\text{succ}} \geq mS\}$ and $n_S = 64$ in Fig. 7. This figure shows that as $P_{err}$ increases, the reporting delay decreases. This indeed presents the tradeoff between the reporting delay and $P_{err}$. Note that the delay of the TDMA-CS scheme is the lower bound for all other schemes. Interestingly, as $P_{err}$ increases the delay gap between the proposed CSMA-CS and the TDMA-CS schemes becomes smaller.

We compare the delay performance with partial and full optimization of the MAC protocol for our proposed scheme. Specifically, we consider two following cases in which we set default value for one of three optimization parameters i) $BO_i = BO = 3$ for all SFs; ii) $p_s = 0.45$. For these two cases, we optimize the remaining parameters to achieve minimum reporting delay in each RI. Fig. 8 shows that our proposed CSMA-CS protocol with full optimization outperforms the others with the partial optimization. Furthermore, the performance for case i) with fixed $BO$ is pretty poor since we only choose the optimal configuration for $p_s$ and $K_\tau$ to minimize the delay performance in this case. However, the delay performance degrades more moderately as we fix the access parameter at $p_s = 0.45$.

3) Energy Consumption: We present the energy consumption for different schemes in Figs. 9 under the following parameter setting: $E_{idle} = 0.225\mu\text{J/slot}$, $E_{tx} = 10.022\mu\text{J/slot}$, $E_{rx} = 11.290\mu\text{J/slot}$, and $E_{sens} = E_{tx}$.

Fig. 5. $\Pr\{K_{\text{succ}} \geq m_S\}$ vs. $p_s$ for (a) $(n_S, m_S, K_\tau) = (64, 16, 3)$ and different values of $BO$, (b) $(n_S, m_S, BO) = (64, 16, 3)$ and different values of $K_\tau$, (c) $(BO, K_\tau) = (4, 3)$ and different values of $n_S$.

Fig. 6. Reporting delay $D$ vs. $n_S$.

Fig. 7. Reporting delay $D$ vs. $P_{err}$.

Fig. 8. Optimal $D$ vs. $n_S$ with full and partial optimizations.

Fig. 9. Energy consumption $E$ vs. $n_S$ for one RI.
completeness, we also show the energy consumption for one data field (i.e., for $n_T$ RIs and $n_S$ nodes) in Fig. 10. Recall that in the proposed framework, only data blocks corresponding to $(m_S, m_T)$ are reported where $(m_S, m_T)$ can be determined for each $(n_S, n_T)$ as described in Section III-B. Specifically, we have $(m_S, m_T) = \{10, 194\}, \{13, 190\}, \{16, 180\}, \{19, 166\}, \{22, 151\}$ for $n_T = 256$ and $n_S = \{32, 48, 64, 80, 96\}$, respectively. Again, this figure confirms that the proposed CSMA-CS scheme outperforms the TDMA scheme. Moreover, the consumed energy of the proposed CSMA-CS scheme is slightly higher than that due to the TDMA-CS scheme.

4) Bandwidth Usage: We now examine the bandwidth usage due to different schemes. To ease the exposition, we do not show the results of the CSMA and TDMA-CS schemes. The group sizes for TDMA and CSMA-CS protocols, namely $n_{TDMA}^S$, $n_{CSMA-CS}^S$, can be determined for a given target delay $D_{\text{max}}$ by using the results shown in Fig. 6. Specifically, we have $n_{TDMA}^S = \{40, 75\}$ and $n_{CSMA-CS}^S = \{55, 128\}$ for TDMA and CSMA-CS schemes for the target delay values of $D_{\text{max}} = \{400, 750\}$ slots, respectively. Then we calculate the required bandwidth (i.e., number of channels) for TDMA and CSMA-CS schemes with a given number of nodes $N$.

In Fig. 11, we show the required number of channels versus $N$. It can be observed that our proposed CSMA-CS scheme requires less than half of the bandwidth demanded by the TDMA scheme. Also when the network requires smaller target delay, we need more channels for both schemes as expected. Finally, Fig. 12 illustrates the variations in the number of channels versus the target delay for $N = \{2048, 8192\}$. Again, our proposed CSMA-CS scheme provides excellent bandwidth saving compared to the TDMA scheme.

In Fig. 13, we show the required number of channels versus $n_S$ for $N = \{2048, 4096\}$. These results can be obtained as follows. Suppose that the target delay in one RI is 650 slots then the group sizes for TDMA and CSMA-CS protocols can be determined from the results in Fig. 6 as $\{n_{TDMA}^S, n_{CSMA-CS}^S\} = \{65, 96\}$. Then using the results in Fig. 13, the numbers of required channels for TDMA and CSMA-CS protocols are $\{64, 25\}$ for $N = 4096$ and $\{32, 13\}$ for $N = 2048$. We can observe that the number of required channels for our proposed scheme is always less than that due to the TDMA protocol, which again demonstrates the efficacy of our proposed design.

VI. CONCLUSION

We have proposed the joint design of data compression using the CS technique and CSMA MAC protocol for smart-grids with renewable energy. We have shown how to choose the compression levels in the space and time dimensions to maintain desirable reconstruction performance. Then, we have presented the design and optimization of the MAC protocol to minimize the reporting delay. Furthermore, we have derived the bandwidth usage and energy consumption for our proposed scheme. Numerical results have confirmed the significant performance gains of the proposed design compared to other non-compressed solutions.

APPENDIX A

MARKOV CHAIN MODEL FOR CSMA PROTOCOL

We study the Markov chain model for the slotted CSMA/CA protocol, which is similar to the one in [23]. We consider the
case with $h_i$ contending nodes and we use the same notations as in [44]. However, our analysis has the additional “deference state”, which was not considered in [44].

We consider the 2D Markov chain (MC) for slotted CSMA/CA MAC protocol $(s(t), c(t))$ where $s(t) = -1$ represents the transmission state, and $s(t) = [0, NB]$ captures the backoff stages (BK); $c(t) = -1, -2$ denote the first and second CCAs; $c(t) = [0, L-1]$ represents transmission slots and $c(t) = [0, W_s-1]$ describes the states of backoff counter.

The detail of superframe structure in one RI is demonstrated in Fig. 4. Here, $L$ is used to denote the general transmission time where $L = L_s = T_p + t_{ACK} + L_{ACK}$ for a successful transmission and $L = L_c = T_p + t_{ACK, ii}$ for a collided transmission. $T_p$ is packet transmission time, $L_{ACK}$ is the ACK time, and $t_{ACK, ii}$ is the ACK timeout. Fig. 14 shows the transition diagram of this MC.

Let $b_{i,k} = \lim_{t \to \infty} \Pr(s(t) = i, c(t) = k)$ denote the stationary probability of the Markov chain. In this paper, we assume that $NB = d$ as in [23] where $d = macMaxBE - priority$, priority $= 2$ is the priority of node and also the number of CCAs. In addition, $macMaxBE$ is the maximum backoff exponent and $NB = macMaxAttempt - 1$ is the maximum number of backoffs. We define the following parameters: $\lambda = \alpha + \beta - \alpha \beta$, $\omega = \lambda (1 - P_d)$, where $\alpha$ and $\beta$ are the probabilities that a node fails to identify an idle channel during $CCA_1$ and $CCA_2$, respectively; $P_d = L_s/SF$ is the probability of deference.

Using the analysis similar to that in [44], we can arrive at the following relationship for the steady-state probabilities: $b_{i,0} = \omega b_{i,0}, b_{i,-1} = b_{i,0}(1 - P_d), b_{i,-2} = b_{i,0}(1 - P_d)(1 - \alpha)$ (for $i \in [0, NB]$), and $b_{-1,k} = (1 - P_d)(1 - \alpha)(1 - \beta)\sum_{i=0}^{NB} b_{i,0}, b_{i,k} = \frac{W_s - k}{W_s} b_{i,0}$ (for $i \in [0, NB], k \in [-2, \max(W_s - L_s, -1)]$). Since we have $\sum_{k} b_{i,k} = 1$, substitute the above results for all $b_{i,k}$ and perform some manipulations, we can obtain

$$1 = \frac{b_{0,0}}{2} \left\{ W_0 \frac{1 - (2\omega)^{NB+1}}{1 - 2\omega} + \frac{1 - \omega^{NB+1}}{1 - \omega} \times [3 + 2(1 - P_d)(1 + (1 - \alpha)(1 + (1 - \beta)L_s))]) \right\}. $$

From these results, we can find the relationship among $b_{0,0}, \alpha, \beta, \phi$ as follows [44]:

$$\phi = \sum_{i=0}^{NB} b_{i,0} = \frac{1 - \omega^{NB+1}}{1 - \omega} b_{0,0} \quad (17)$$

$$\phi = 1 - \left( \frac{\alpha}{L_s(1 - \omega)} \right)^{\frac{1}{\phi}} \quad (18)$$

$$\phi = 1 - \left( \frac{1 - \beta_{ACK}}{(1 - \beta_{ACK}) (2 - P_{coll})} \right)^{1/\phi} \quad (19)$$

where $\phi$ is the probability that a node is at the $CCA_1$ state after backoff, $L' = T_p + L_{ACK} (1 - P_{coll})$, $P_{coll} = \frac{h_{\phi(1-\phi)^{k-1}}}{2 - P_{coll}}$, $\beta_{ACK} = \frac{h_{\phi(1-\phi)^{k-1}}}{2 - P_{coll}}$. From (16), (17), (18) and (19), we can determine $b_{0,0}, \alpha, \beta, \phi$ by using the standard numerical method.

**APPENDIX B**

**CALCULATION OF $\bar{T}_i$ AND $\sigma_i^2$**

In this appendix, we determine $\bar{T}_i$ and $\sigma_i^2$ for a particular SF $i$. For simplicity, we again omit the index $i$ and $h_i$ in all related parameters when this does not create confusion. First, we can express the probability generating function (PGF) of the generic frame, $T(z)$ which includes success, collision, CCA failure and deference, as

$$T(z) = P_{succ}T_S(z) + P_{coll}T_C(z) + P_{ccas}T_F(z) + P_dT_D(z) \quad (20)$$

Here we denote $P_{ccas}, P_{coll}$ and $P_{succ}$ as the probabilities of CCA failure, collision and success, respectively. These probabilities can be calculated as $P_{ccas} = (1 - P_d)\lambda^{NB+1}$, $P_{coll} = p_c(1 - P_d)(1 - \lambda^{NB+1})$, and $P_{succ} = 1 - P_{coll} - P_{ccas} - P_d$, where $p_c = 1 - (1 - \phi)^{k-1}$. Moreover, we also denote $T_S(z), T_C(z), T_F(z)$ and $T_D(z)$ as the PGFs of durations of success, collision, CCA failure and deference, respectively. These quantities can be calculated as in [45].

Finally, we can determine $\bar{T}$ and $\sigma^2$ from the first and second derivation of $T(z)$ at $z = 1$, i.e.,

$$\bar{T} = \frac{dT}{dz}(1); \sigma^2 = \frac{dT}{dz^2}(1) + \bar{T} - (\bar{T})^2. \quad (21)$$
These parameters $\bar{T}$ and $\sigma^2$ will be utilized in \[8\].

APPENDIX C

CALCULATION OF $E_i$

The energy consumption per node in SF $i$ with $h_i$ contending nodes can be expressed as

$$E_i = E_{b,i} + E_{ccas,i} + E_{suc,i} + E_{d,i}$$

(22)

where $E_{b,i}$, $E_{ccas,i}$, $E_{suc,i}$, and $E_{d,i}$ are the average energy consumption due to backoffs, CCAs, transmissions (successful/failed transmissions), and deference, respectively. Let us denote $E_{idle}$, $E_{sens}$, $E_{tx}$ and $E_{rx}$ as the energy consumption corresponding to idle, CCA sensing, transmitting and receiving slots, respectively; then, these quantities are determined as follows. For brevity, we again omit the index $i$ and $h_i$ in all related parameters if this does not create confusion. First, the energy consumption during backoff duration is $E_{b,i} = E_{idle} \sum_{j=0}^{N_B} W_j j!$. After some simple manipulations, we can arrive at

$$E_{b,i} = E_{idle} / 2 \left( \sum_{j=0}^{N_B} 1 - \frac{(2\omega)^{j+B} - 1}{2\omega} + 3\phi \right).$$

(23)

Also, $E_{ccas,i}$ can be determined as

$$E_{ccas,i} = \sum_{j=0}^{NB} b_{j+2} - b_{j-1} \cdot W_j j!.$$  

Moreover, $E_{suc,i}$ is given as

$$E_{suc,i} = E_{idle} \sum_{k=0}^{T_p-1} b_{k+T_p} - b_{k} \cdot (1 - p_c) \frac{L_{1-i}}{T_p} \sum_{k=T_p+1}^{T_p+L_{ACK}-1} b_{k+T_p} - b_{k-1} \cdot (1 - p_c) \frac{L_{1-i}}{T_p} \sum_{k=T_p+1}^{T_p+L_{ACK}-1} b_{k+T_p} - b_{k-1}$$

(24)

Finally, $E_{d,i}$ can be expressed as

$$E_{d,i} = E_{idle} P_d D_s.$$  

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