

NETWORK CONNECTIVITY FOR IOT

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Mobile and Sensor Computing
Spring 2016

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

ETWORKING: “GLUE” FOR THE IOT

IOT’s “technology push” from the convergence of

Embedded computing

Sensing & actuation

Wireless networks

THE IOT CONNECTIVITY SOUP



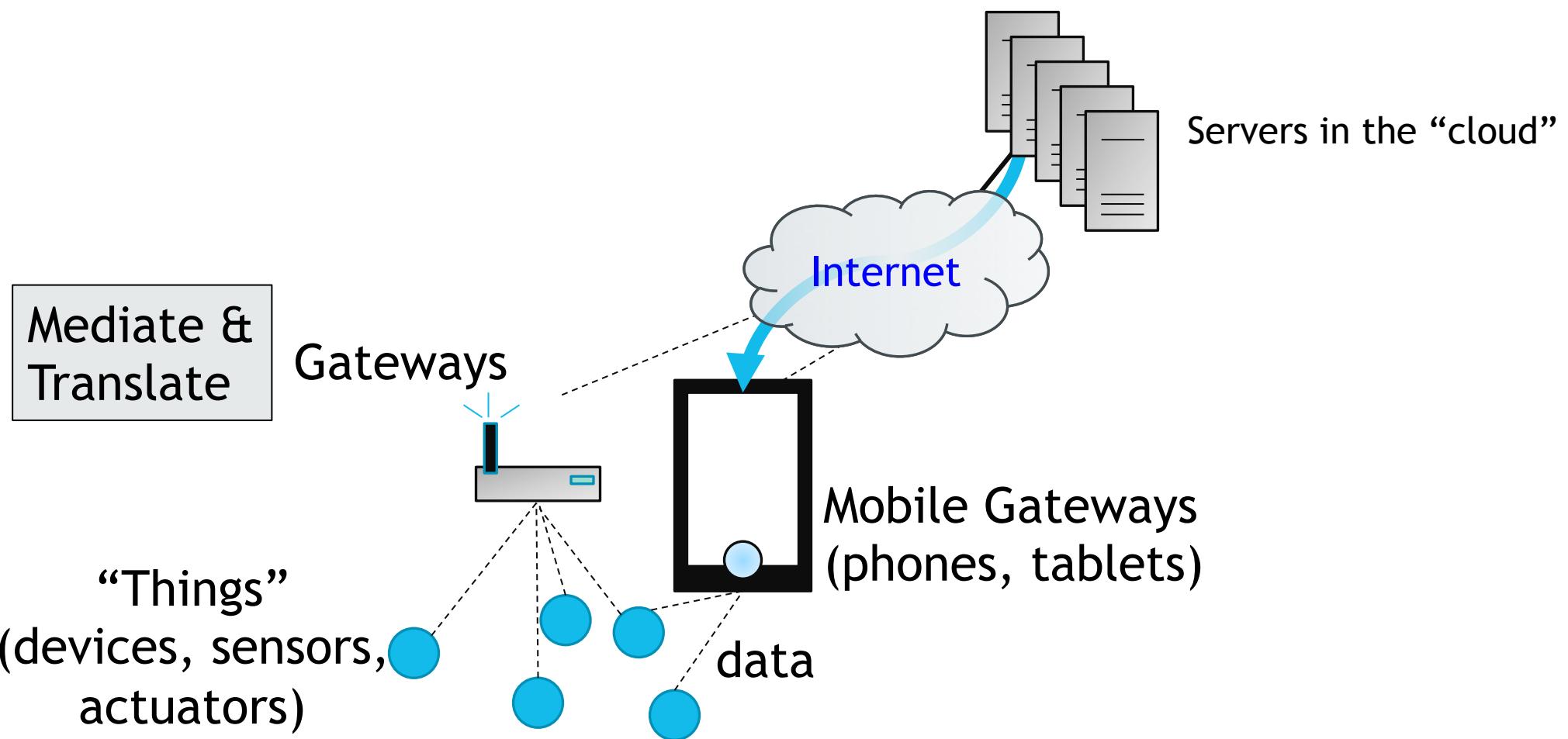
ETWORKING: “GLUE” FOR THE IOT

(too) many different approaches, (too) many different standards,
(too) much confusion

One size does not fit all: best network depends on application

What are the key organizing principles and ideas?

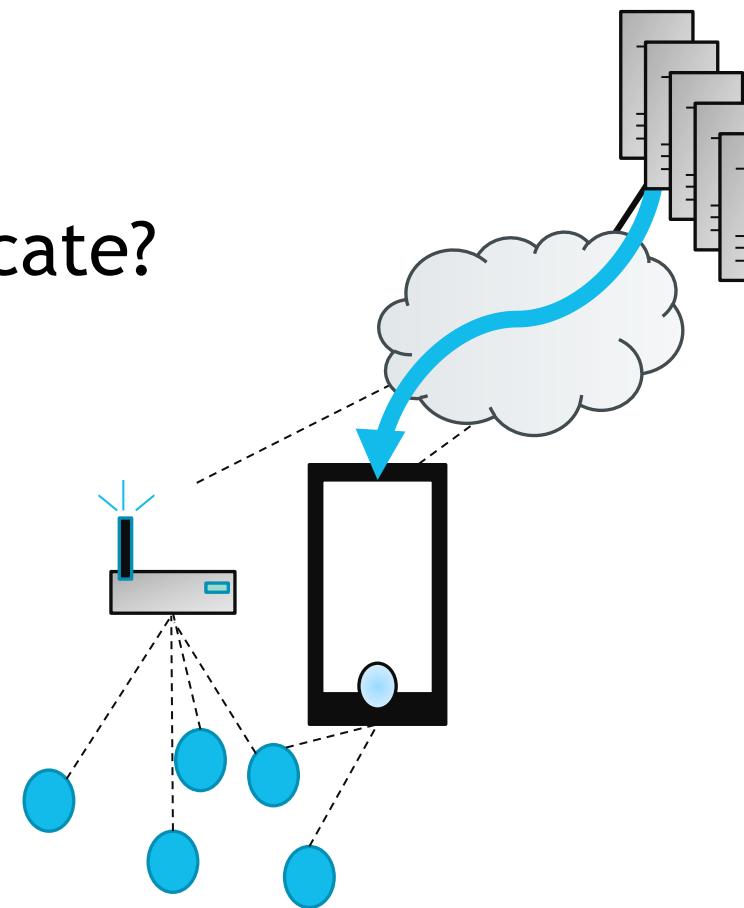
ARCHITECTURE, SIMPLIFIED



UT, IN FACT, A RICH DESIGN SPACE

How should gateways and things communicate?

any answers, many approaches

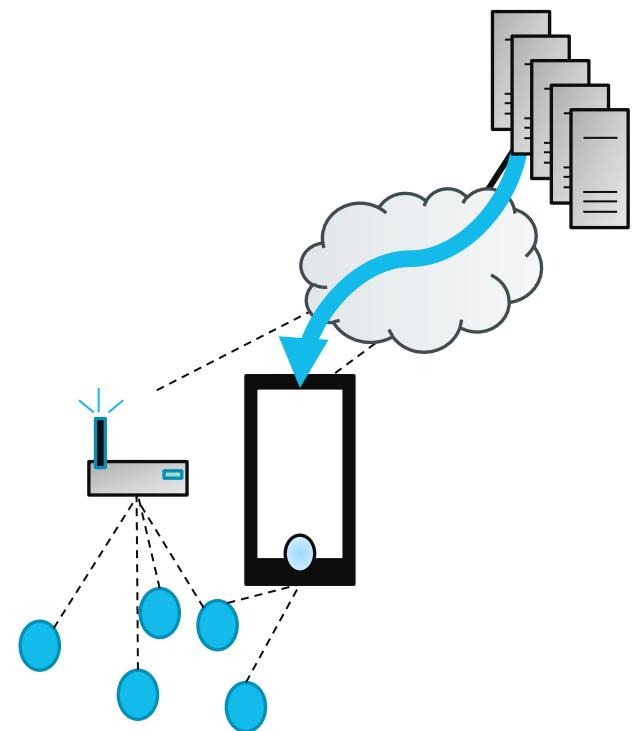


CAN'T WE JUST USE THE WIRELESS INTERNET?

Cellular and Wi-Fi

Yes, we can...

except when we can't!



WIRELESS INTERNET FOR IOT?

Cellular (LTE/4G, 3G, 2G) and Wi-Fi are

Widely available

High bandwidth (for most purposes), so can support high-rate apps

But, each has two big drawbacks

High power: not suitable for battery-operated scenarios

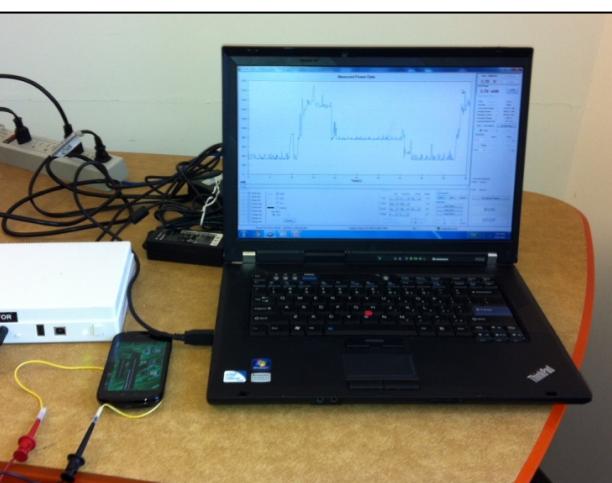
Cellular: often high cost (esp. per byte if usage-per-thing is low)

Wi-Fi: OK in most buildings, but not for longer range

Wi-Fi: In-building powered things (speakers, washers, refrigerators, ...)

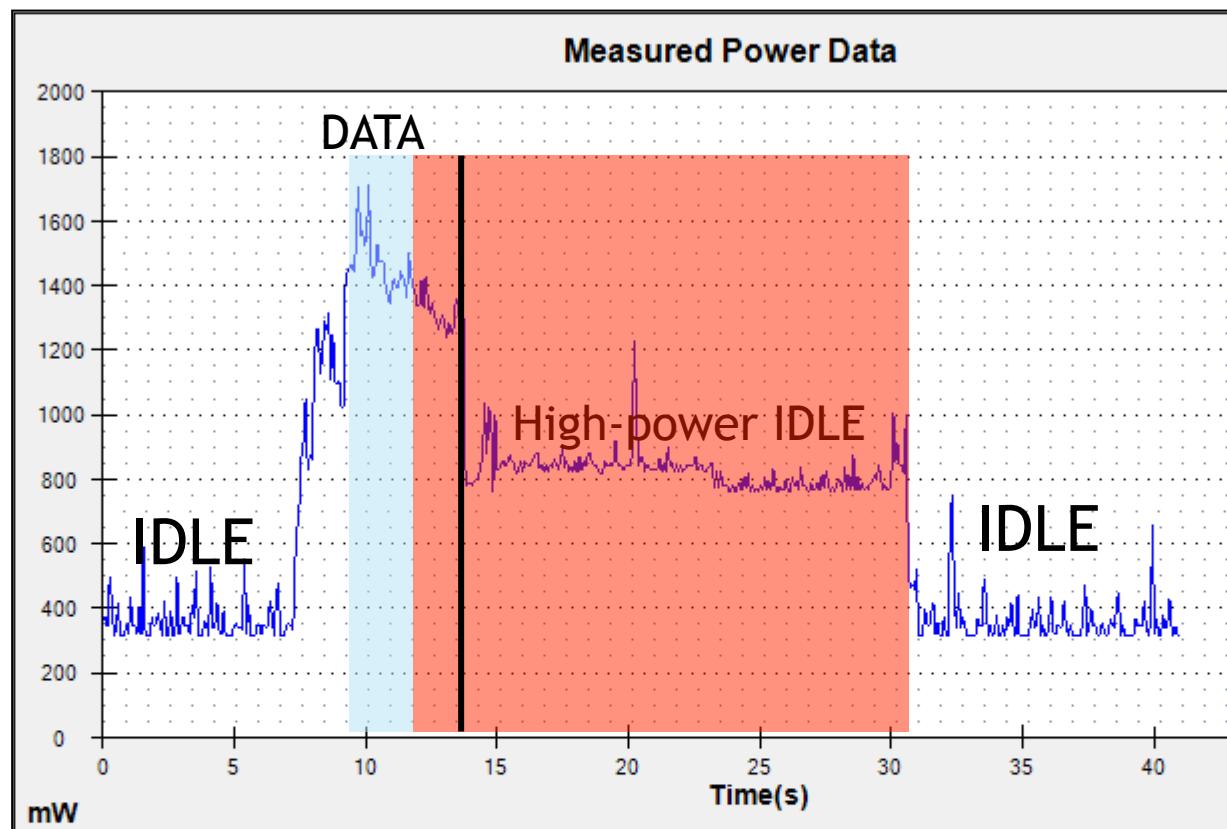
Cellular: High-valued powered things (e.g., “connected car”)

CELLULAR POWER CONSUMPTION

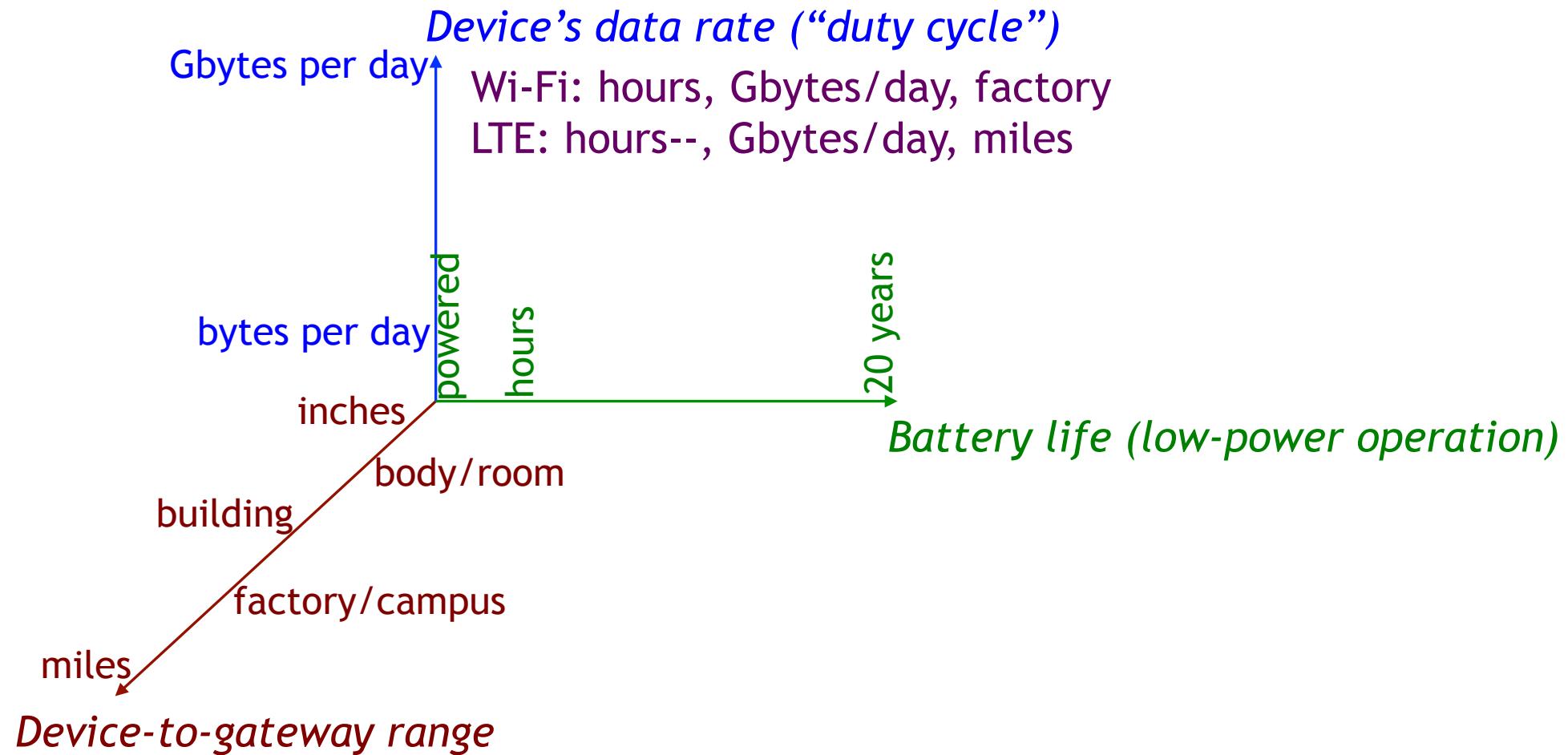


power monitor apparatus

& Balakrishnan, "Traffic-Aware Techniques to Reduce 3G/LTE Energy Consumption," CoNext 2012.



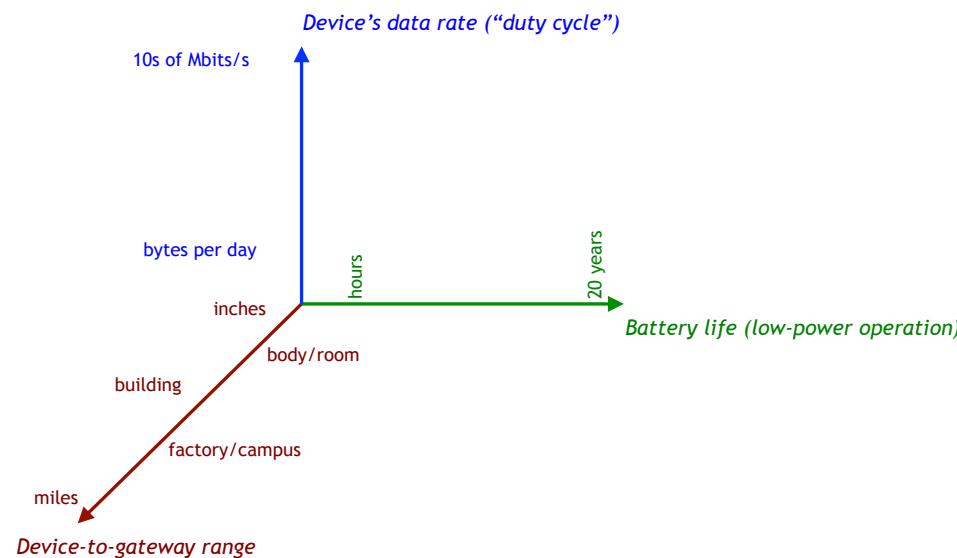
OT NETWORK DESIGN SPACE



WHY SO MANY IOT NETWORKS?

because engineers love inventing technologies!

but really because you can pick many interesting regions from this design space



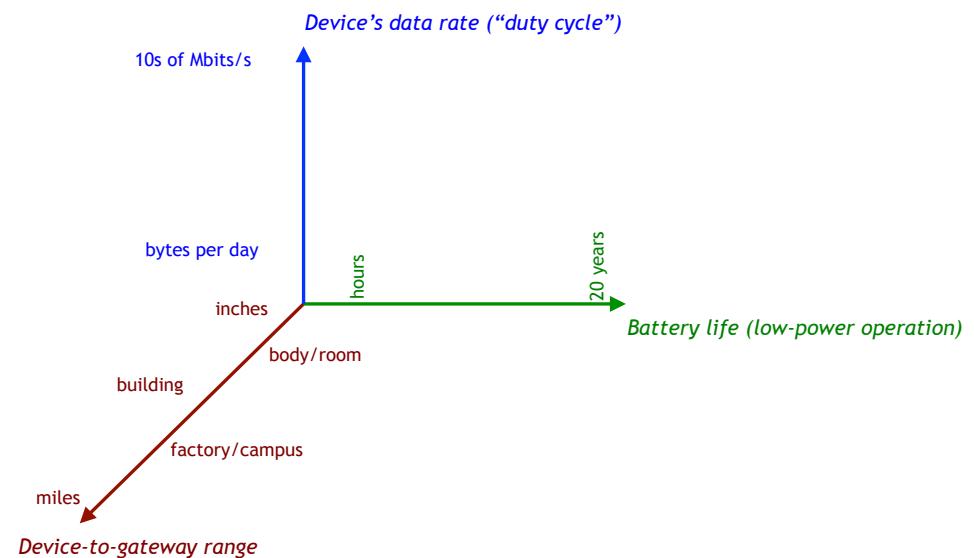
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Note, axes aren't independent

And technology evolves fast



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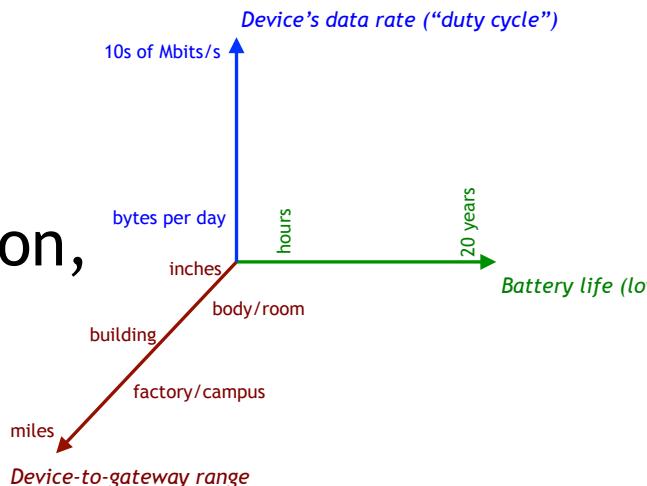
And technology evolves fast

And bundling into popular devices speeds-up adoption,
changing the economics

- Cf. Wi-Fi → laptops (without external cards)

- Bluetooth classic → cell phones → wireless headsets

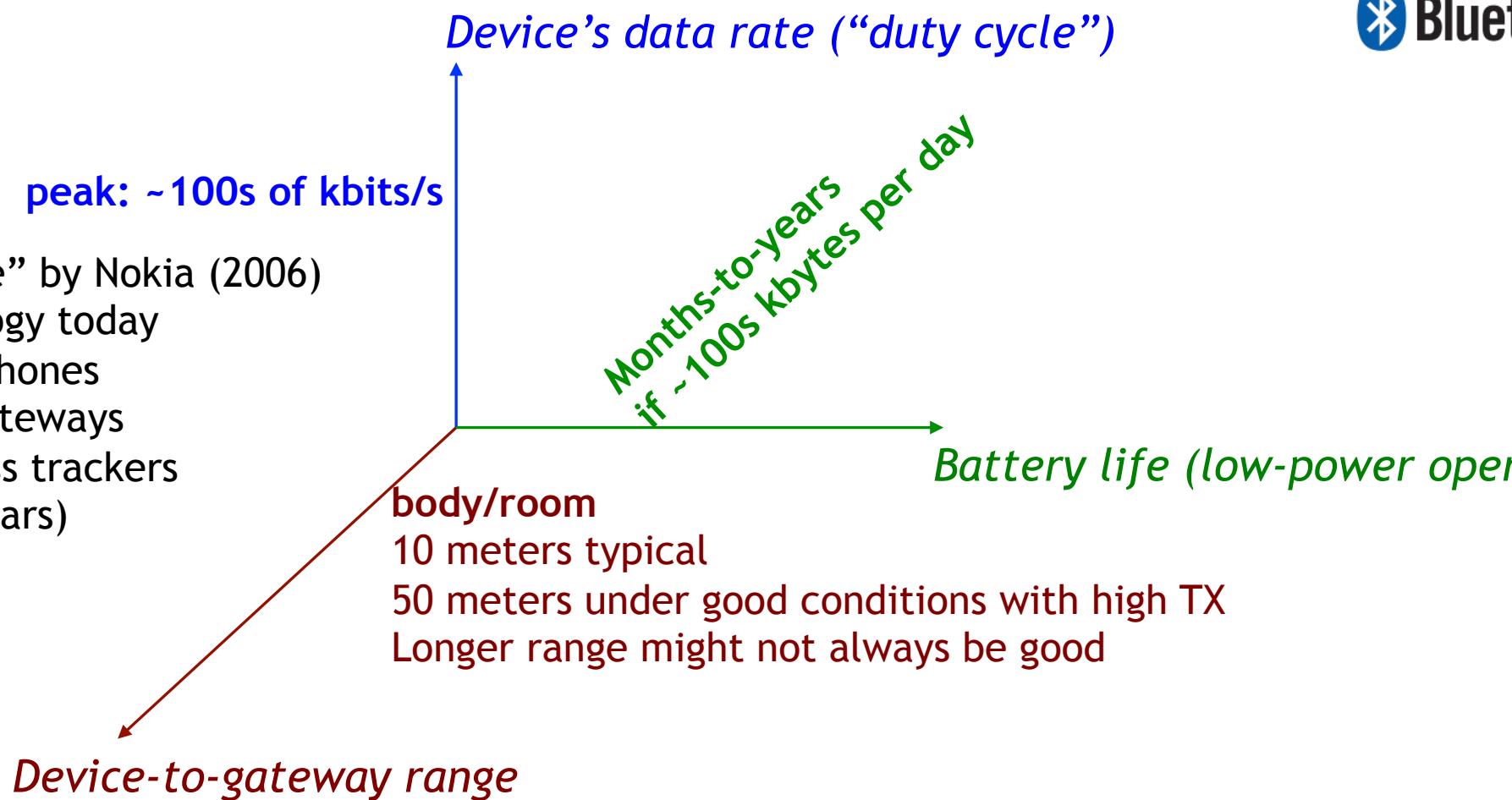
- Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) → iPhone then Android smartphones → “body/room” with months-to-years at low duty cycles



ODY/ROOM-AREA EXAMPLE: BLE



Started as “Wibree” by Nokia (2006)
Dominant technology today
Cause of smartphones
Smartphones as gateways
Wearables, fitness trackers
Vehicles (bikes, cars)



HOW DOES BLE WORK?

Two parts:

- Advertisements (aka “beaconing”) for device discovery
- Connection phase to exchange data

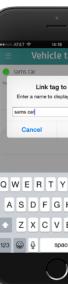


LE ADVERTISEMENTS ARE PERIODIC

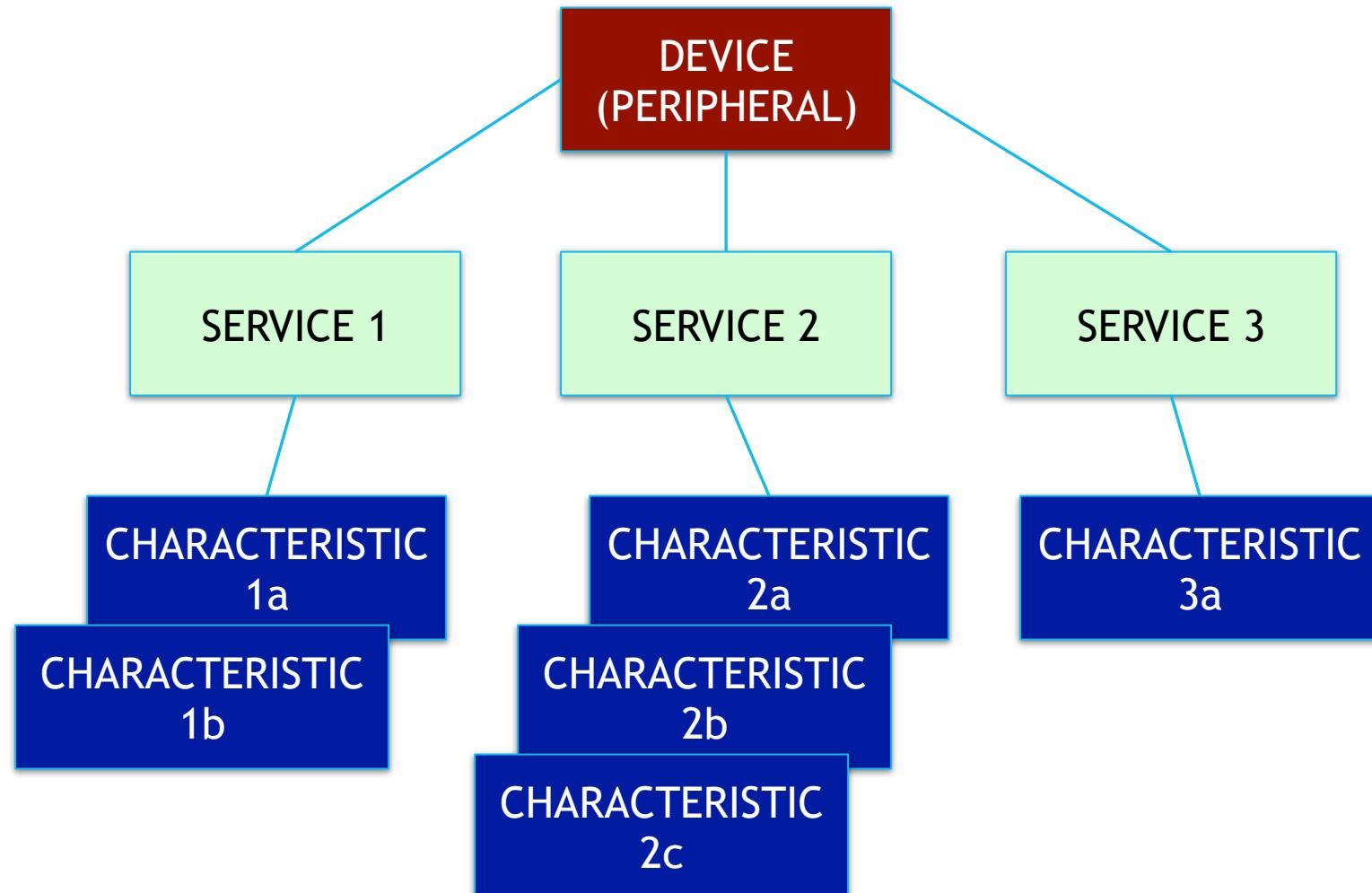
The screenshot shows the LightBlue app interface. At the top, it displays the carrier (AT&T), time (10:11 AM), battery level (96%), and signal strength. Below this, the main screen shows a device named "Hari's Apple Watch" with a UUID of "8939D0C9-E646-C8E4-D801-99F8CEA5B6A0". The status is "Connected". A section titled "ADVERTISEMENT DATA" shows "Yes" and "Device Is Connectable". Below this, under "Device Information", there are two entries: "Manufacturer Name String" (Apple Inc.) and "Model Number String" (Watch1,1). Further down, the UUID is listed again as "D0611E78-BBB4-4591-A5F8-487910AE4366". At the bottom, there is a "Log" button.

Typical period: 100 ms (“iBeacon”)
Less frequent is fine
Triggered advertisements are often a good idea

Trade-off between energy consumed
and discovery latency



ON CONNECTION



BLE
WRITE
CATIONS

support
over-the-air
files)

ON CONNECTION: MAC PROTOCOL

Central orchestrates data communication

Key idea: time-schedule to reduce energy consumption

Central connects: exchange parameters

Frequency hopping sequence

Connection interval, i.e., periodicity of data exchange (T milliseconds)

Every T milliseconds, Central and Peripheral exchange up to 4 packets,
alternating turns

Then Peripheral can go back to sleep until next interval

BATTERY LIFETIME CALCULATION

Consider an IoT system with coin-cell battery-powered nodes
battery: 250 mAh (milliamp-hours) capacity; 3 Volts

recall that power = voltage * current and energy = power * time

this battery has 0.75 amp-hour-volts = 0.75×3600 Joules = 2.7 kJ of energy

Example of BLE current draw:

Standby: 1 microAmp (typically in the 1-10 microAmp range)

Receive (RX): 3.3 mA

Transmit (TX): 4 mA

Suppose device transmits every second: how long does the battery last?

BATTERY CALCULATION (CONT.)

Consider an IoT system with coin-cell battery-powered nodes

Battery: 250 mAh (milliamp-hours) capacity; 3 Volts
To get all that power = voltage * current and energy = power * time
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Example of BLE current draw:

Standby: 1 microAmp (typically in the 1-10 microAmp range)
Receive (RX): 3.3 mA
Transmit (TX): 4 mA

Suppose device transmits every second: how long will the battery last?

4 mA for 1 millisecond

Why 1 millisecond?
125 bytes @1 Mbit/s

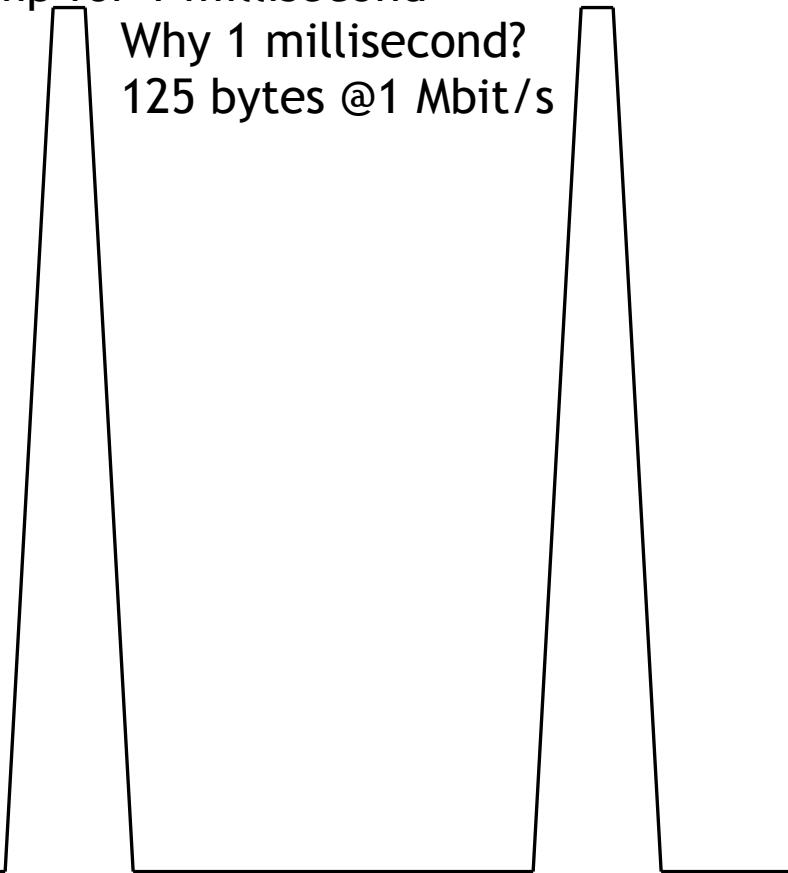
1 microAmp

BATTERY CALCULATION (CONT.)

4 milliAmp for 1 millisecond

Why 1 millisecond?

125 bytes @1 Mbit/s



Ramp-up and down: 1 milliAmp for 5 milliseconds

Over a 1 second interval, average current is

4 microAmps (xmit) +

5 microAmps (ramping) +

1 microAmp (standby)

= 10 microAmps

Therefore, battery lifetime

= 250 mAh / 10 microAmps

= 250 mAh / 0.01 mA

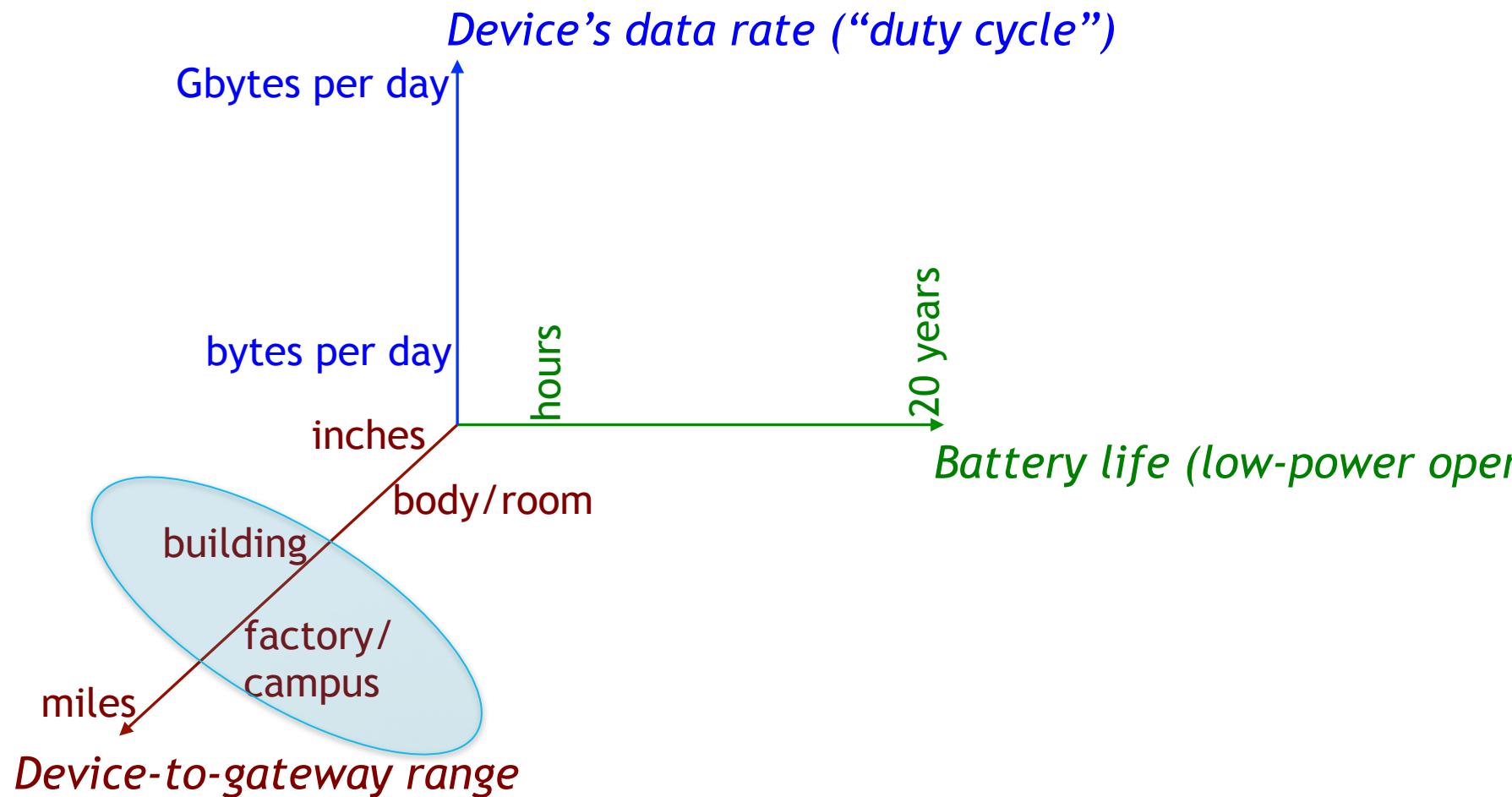
= 25,000 hours

= 2 years and 10 months

This works because it's sleeping most of the time

DT “GATEWAY PROBLEM” PAPER

EXTENDING COMMUNICATION RANGE



EXTENDING RANGE: MESH NETWORKS

80s: DARPA packet radio networks

The DARPA Packet Radio Network Protocols

JOHN JUBIN AND JANET D. TORNOW, ASSOCIATE, IEEE

Invited Paper

In this paper we describe the current state of the DARPA packet radio network. Fully automated algorithms and protocols to organize networks have been developed, implemented, and tested. By means of protocols, networks of about 50 packet radios can be organized and maintained under a fully distributed mode of control. We have described the algorithms and illustrated how the PRNET provides highly reliable network transports and datagram service, by dynamically determining optimal routes, efficiently performing reorganization, and fairly allocating the channel in the face of changing link conditions, mobility, and varying traffic loads.

I. INTRODUCTION

In 1973, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) initiated research on the feasibility of using packet-switched, store-and-forward radio communications to provide reliable computer communications [1]. This development was motivated by the need to provide computer network access to mobile hosts and terminals, and to provide computer communications in a mobile environment. Packet radio communications offers a highly efficient way of using a multiple-access channel, particularly with bursty traffic [2]. The DARPA Packet Radio Network (PRNET) has evolved through the years to be a robust, reliable, operational experimental network [3]. The development process has been of an incremental, evolutionary nature [4]; as algorithms were designed and implemented, new versions of the PRNET with increased capabilities were demonstrated. The PRNET has been in daily operation for experimental purposes for nearly ten years. In this paper we describe the current state of the DARPA PRNET.

We begin by providing a synopsis of the PRNET system concepts, attributes, and physical components in Section II. In Section III, we illustrate the mechanisms by which a packet radio automatically keeps track of a potentially continuously changing network topology. In Section IV, we de-

scribe the algorithms used to route a packet through the packet radio communications subnet. In Section V, we examine the protocols for transmitting packets. In Section VI, we describe some of the hardware capabilities of the packet radio that strongly influence the design and characteristics of the PRNET protocols. We conclude by looking briefly at some applications of packet radio networks and by summarizing the state of the current technology.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PACKET RADIO SYSTEM

A. Broadcast Radio

The PRNET provides, via a common radio channel, the exchange of data between computers that are geographically separated. As a communications medium, broadcast radio (as opposed to wires and antenna-directed radio) provides important advantages to the user of the network. One of the benefits is mobility; a packet radio (PR) can operate while in motion. Second, the network can be installed or deployed quickly; there are no wires to set up. A third advantage is the ease of reconfiguration and redeployment. The PRNET protocols take advantage of broadcasting and common-channel properties to allow the PRNET to be expanded or contracted automatically and dynamically. A group of packet radios leaving the original area simply departs. Having done so, it can function as an autonomous group and may later rejoin the original network or join another group.

The broadcasting and common channel properties of radio have disadvantages too. These properties, for all practical purposes, prohibit the building of a radio that is able to transmit and receive at the same time. Therefore, the PRNET protocols must attempt to schedule each transmission when the intended PR is not itself transmitting. Also, transmissions often reach unintended PRs and interfere with intended receptions. Therefore, the protocols must attempt to schedule each transmission when the intended PR is not receiving another PR's transmission.

B. Automated Network Management

The PRNET features fully automated network management. It is self-configuring upon network initialization, reconfigures upon gain or loss of packet radios, and has dy-

1990s: mobile ad hoc networks (MANETs)

A Performance Comparison of Multi-Hop Wireless Ad Hoc Network Routing Protocols

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Abstract

An ad hoc network is a collection of wireless mobile nodes dynamically forming a temporary network without the use of any fixed infrastructure or centralized coordination. In this environment, each node must be its own gateway to the Internet. Interactions among wireless network interfaces, multiple network "hops" may be needed for one node to exchange data with another across the network. In recent years, a variety of new routing protocols targeted specifically at this environment have been developed, but little performance information on each protocol is available. In this paper, we present the results of a detailed multi-hop wireless ad hoc network simulation comparing four multi-hop wireless ad hoc network routing protocols that cover a range of design choices: DSDV, TORA, DSR, and AODV. We have extended the ns-2 network simulator to support the MAC and physical layer behaviors of the IEEE 802.11 wireless LAN standard, including a realistic wireless transmission channel model, and present the results of simulations of networks of 50 mobile nodes.

1 Introduction

In areas in which there is little or no communication infrastructure or the existing infrastructure is expensive or inconvenient to use, wireless networking may still be the best choice. In such environments of *ad hoc networks*, such as a network, each mobile node operates not only as a host but also as a router, forwarding packets for other mobile nodes in the network that may not be within direct wireless transmission range of each other. Each node participates in an ad hoc routing protocol that allows it to discover "multi-hop" paths through the network to other nodes. The idea of using a broadcast channel is similar to that of a repeater-based backbone [13], since the mobile nodes in the network dynamically establish routing among themselves to form their own network "on-the-fly." Some examples of the possible uses of ad hoc networking include students using laptop computers to participate in an interactive lecture, business associates sharing information during a meeting, soldiers communicating information for situational awareness on the battlefield [12, 21], and emergency disaster relief personnel coordinating efforts after a hurricane or earthquake.

This work was supported in part by the National Science Foundation (NSF) under CAREER Award NCR-9304007, by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) under AFOSR Grant F49620-93-1-0150, and by the AT&T Foundation Special Purpose Grant in Science and Engineering. David Maltz was also supported under an IBM Cooperative Fellowship, and Yih-Chun Hu was also supported by an NSF Graduate Fellowship. The authors would like to thank the anonymous reviewers for their useful comments and suggestions. The authors would like to thank the anonymous reviewers for their useful comments and suggestions. The authors and should not be interpreted as necessarily representing the official policies or endorsements, either express or implied, of NSFC, AFOSR, DARPA, the AT&T Foundation, IBM, Carnegie Mellon University, or the U.S. Government.

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MOBICOM '98 Dallas Texas USA

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Many different protocols have been proposed to solve the multi-hop routing problem in ad hoc networks, each based on different assumptions and intuitions. However, little is known about the actual performance of these protocols, and no attempt has previously been made to directly compare them in a realistic manner.

This paper is the first to provide a realistic quantitative analysis comparing the performance of a variety of multi-hop wireless ad hoc network routing protocols. We present a detailed simulation showing the relative performance of four recently proposed ad hoc routing protocols: DSDV [18], TORA [14, 15], DSR [9, 10, 2], and AODV [17]. To enable these simulations, we extended the ns-2 network simulator [6] to include:

- *Node mobility.*
- A realistic physical layer including a radio propagation model supporting propagation delay, capture effects, and carrier sense [20].
- *Radio network interfaces* with properties such as transmission power, antenna gain, and receiver sensitivity.
- The IEEE 802.11 Medium Access Control (MAC) protocol using the Distributed Coordination Function (DCF) [8].

Our results in this paper are based on simulations of an ad hoc network of 50 wireless mobile nodes moving about and communicating with each other. We analyze the performance of each protocol and explain the design choices that account for their performance.

2 Simulation Environment

ns-2 is a discrete event simulator developed by the University of California at Berkeley and the VINT project [6]. While it provides substantial support for simulating TCP and other protocols over conventional networks, it provides no support for accurately simulating the physical aspects of multi-hop wireless networks or the MAC protocols needed for such environments. We have implemented ns code that provides some support for modeling wireless LANs, but this code cannot be used for studying multi-hop ad hoc networks as it does not support the notion of node position; there is no spatial diversity (all nodes are in the same collision domain), and it can only model directly connected nodes.

In this section, we describe some of the modifications we made to ns to allow accurate simulation of mobile wireless networks.

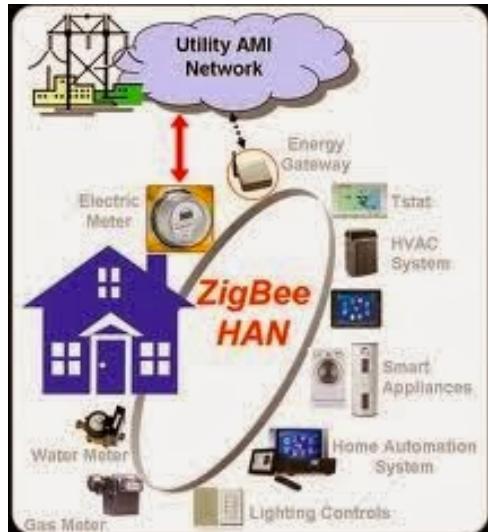
2.1 Physical and Data Link Layer Model

To model the propagation of radio waves between antennas close to the ground, radio engineers typically use a model that attenuates the power of a signal as $1/r^2$ at short distances (r is the distance between the antennas), and as $1/r^4$ at longer distances. The crossover point is called the *reference distance*, and is typically around 100 meters for outdoor low-gain antennas 1.5m above the ground plane operating in the 1-2GHz band [20]. Following this practice, our signal propagation model combines both a free space propagation model and a two-ray ground reflection model. When a transmitter is within the reference distance of the receiver, we use

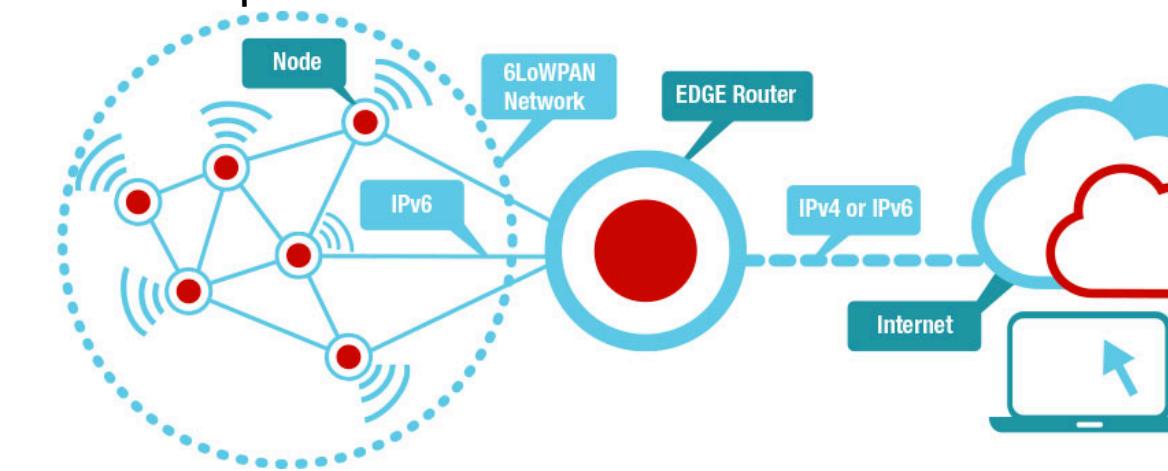
EXTENDING RANGE: MESH NETWORKS

010s: Mesh networks for IoT

gbee



6LoWPAN: IPv6 over low-power wireless personal area networks



<http://processors.wiki.ti.com/index.php/Contiki-6LOWPAN> (Creative commons)

Both (typically) run over the 802.15.4 MAC standard

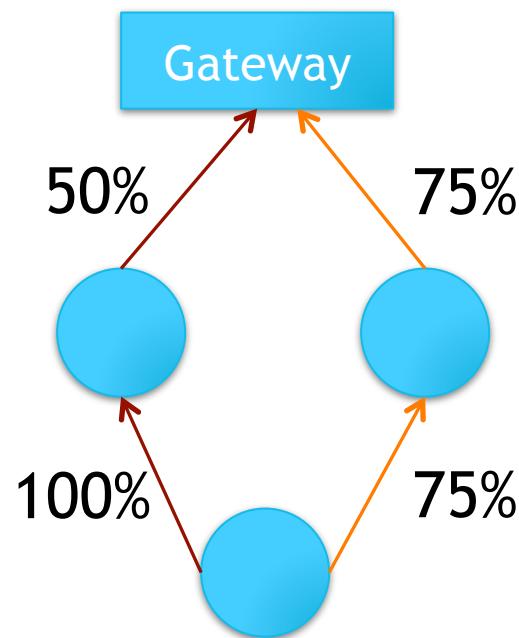
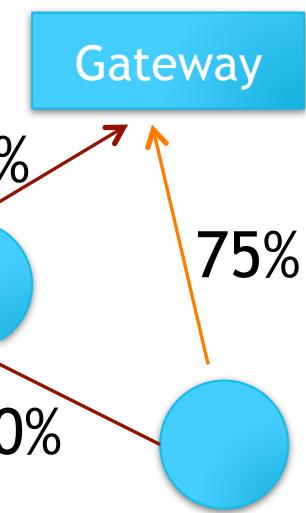
Routing protocol with different metrics, such as “expected transmission time”

Use case: devices communicating with gateway across multiple hops

Node duty cycles higher, some nodes do much more work

WIRELESS MESH ROUTING

Each link delivers a packet with some probability
What path should be used for a packet?

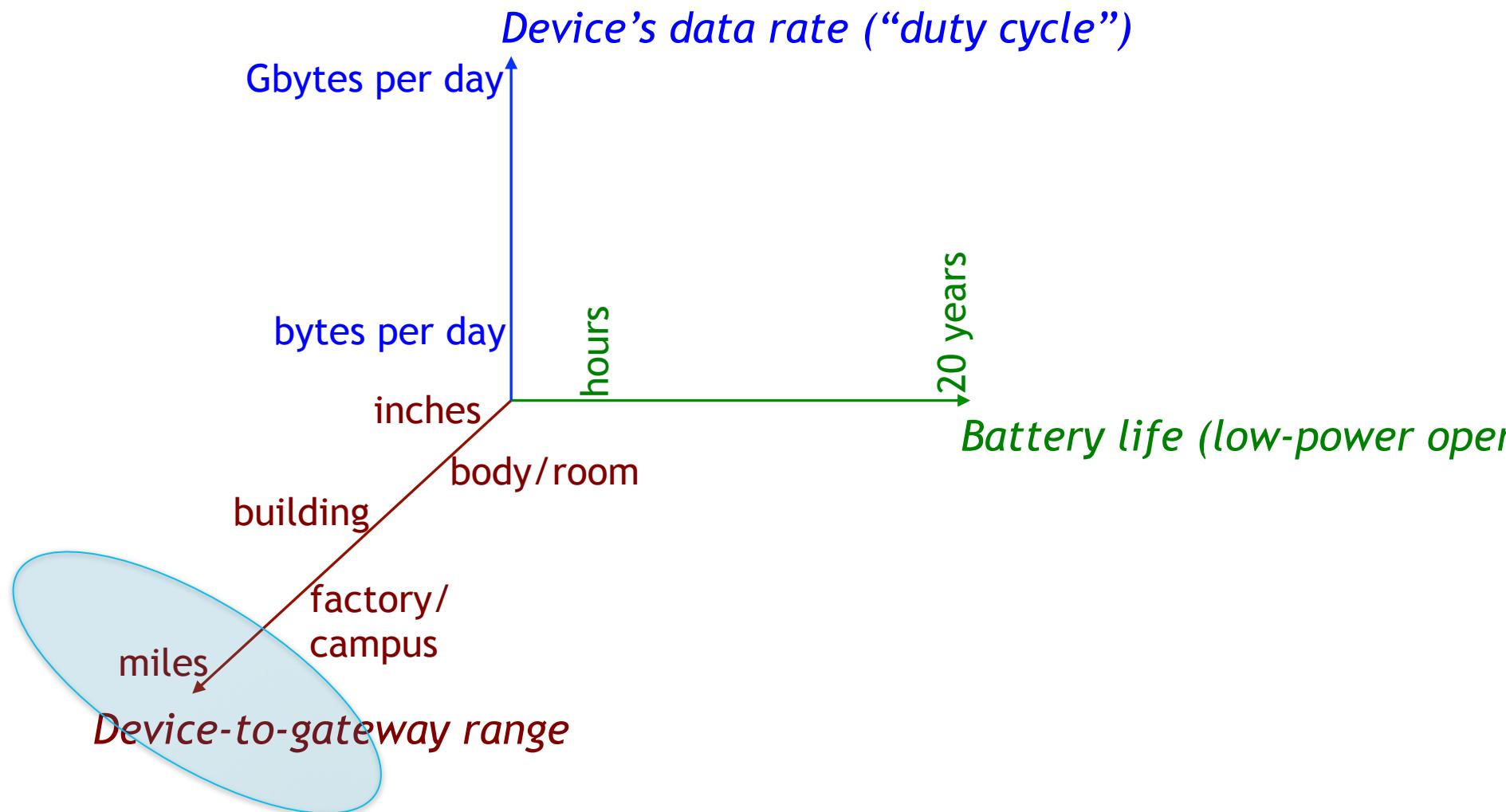


ETX: Expected Transmission Cost
(expected tx time if link rate = 1)

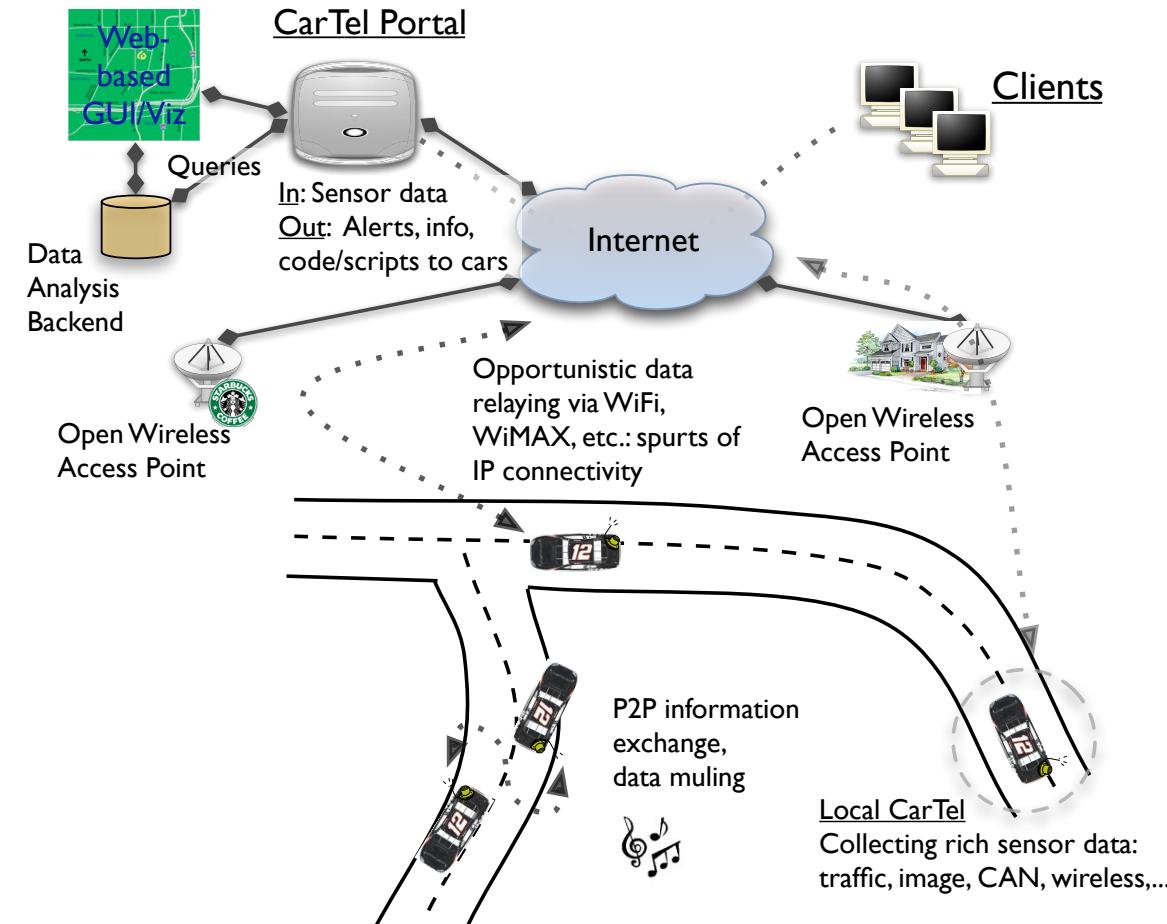
On single link =
$$1 / \text{Probability of packet delivery}$$

Add for each link on path and choose the smallest

IVEN LONGER RANGE (CITY-SCALE)



WHEN THE INTERNET IS MILES AWAY



Use mobile devices
as data mules

Trade-off: delay

Delay-tolerant network (



WHAT IF WE WANT LONG RANGE AND LOW DELAY?

“long-range IoT networks”

examples: Sigfox, LoRaWAN, cellular IoT proposals
narrowband LTE, etc.)

low-power designs (months to years of battery life)

low or ultra-low throughput (a few bytes per day to achieve long-enough battery life at a rate of a few kbps)
networks like LoRaWAN also include localization capabilities

WHAT IF WE WANT LONG RANGE AND LOW DELAY

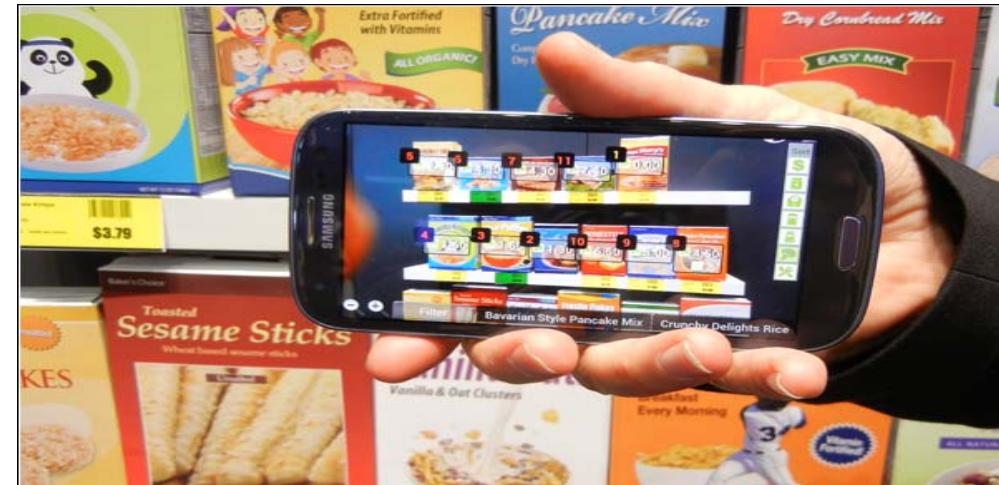
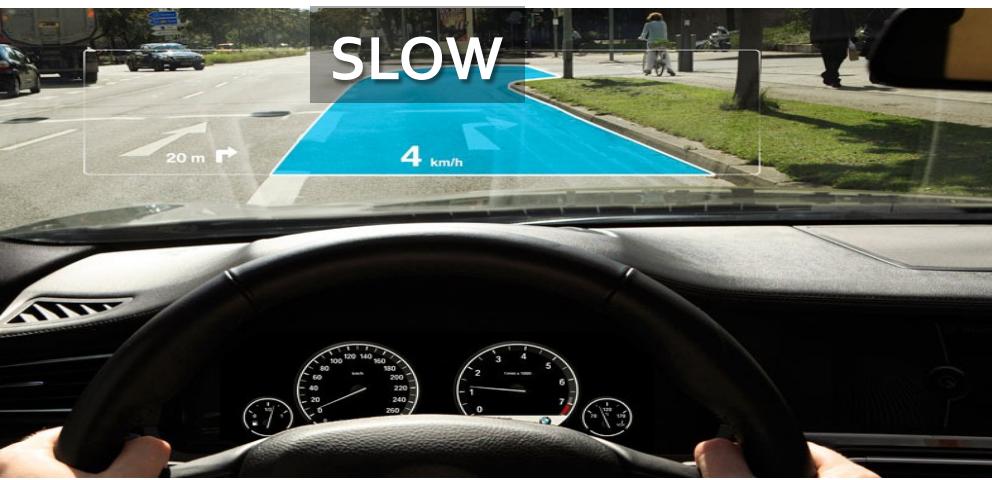
Second choice: Cellular (of course!)

Examples: LTE/4G, 3G, etc.

High-power consumption, so only when power isn't an issue

Delay still a concern for **data-intensive, latency-sensitive**
applications

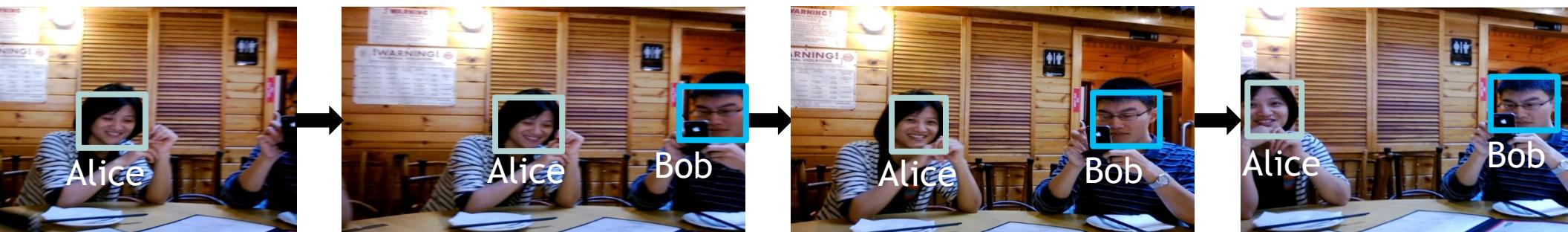
CONTINUOUS RECOGNITION APPS



LIMPSE: CONTINUOUS REAL-TIME RECOGNITION

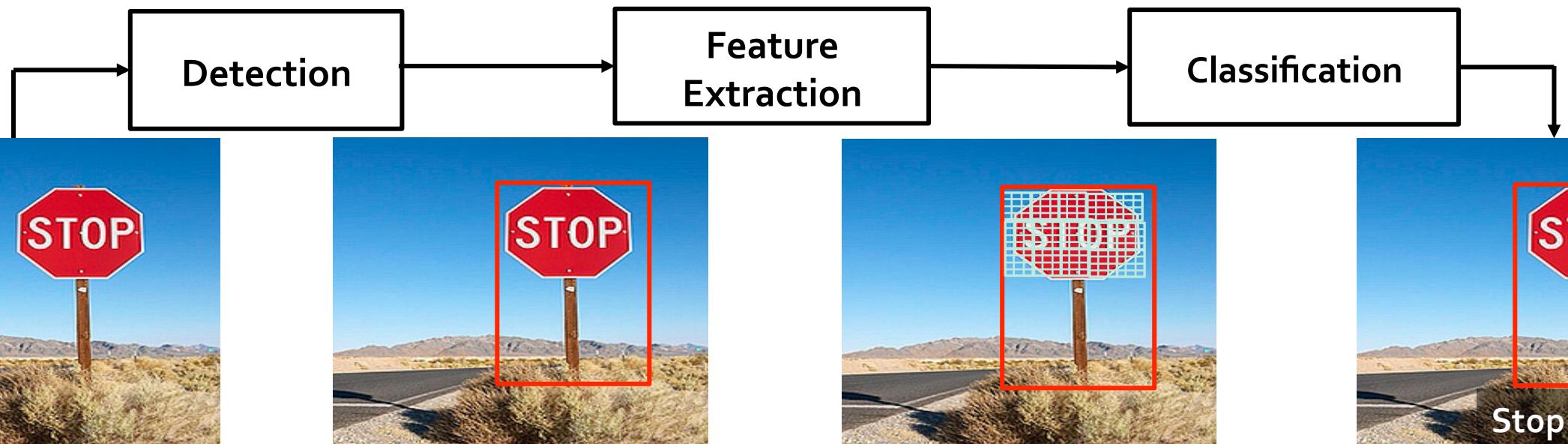
Continuous, real-time object recognition on mobile devices in a video stream

Continuously *identify* and *locate* objects in each frame



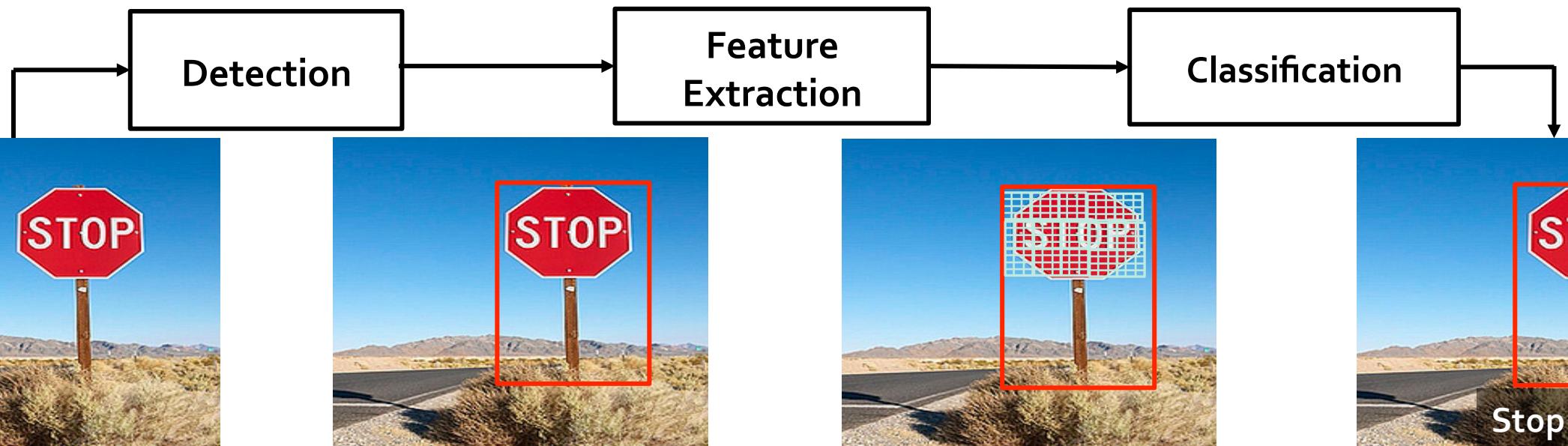
T. Chen, L. Ravindranath, S. Deng, P. Bahl, H. Balakrishnan, SenSys 2015

ECOGNITION PIPELINE



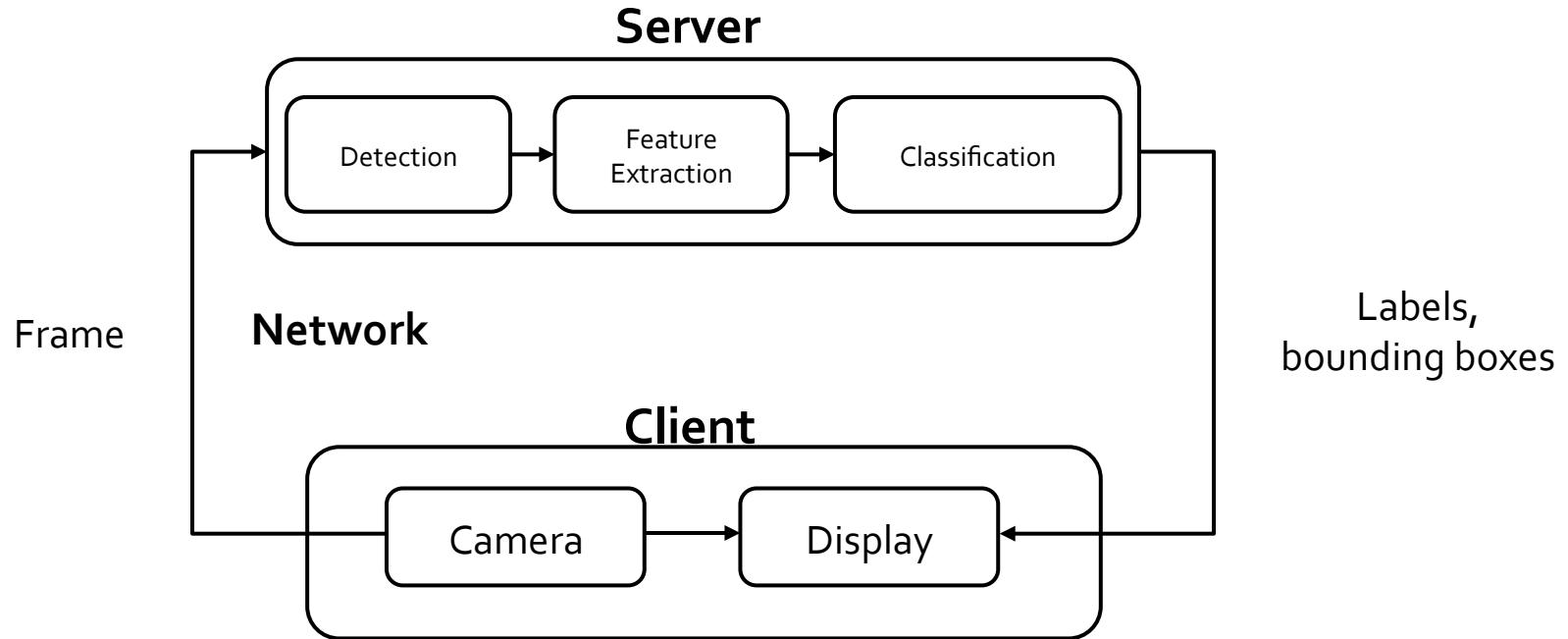
T. Chen, L. Ravindranath, S. Deng, P. Bahl, H. Balakrishnan, SenSys 2015

ECOGNITION PIPELINE



computationally expensive and memory-intensive
server is hundreds of times faster than embedded/mobile computer
scaling to large number of images requires servers

SOLUTION: SERVER OFFLOAD



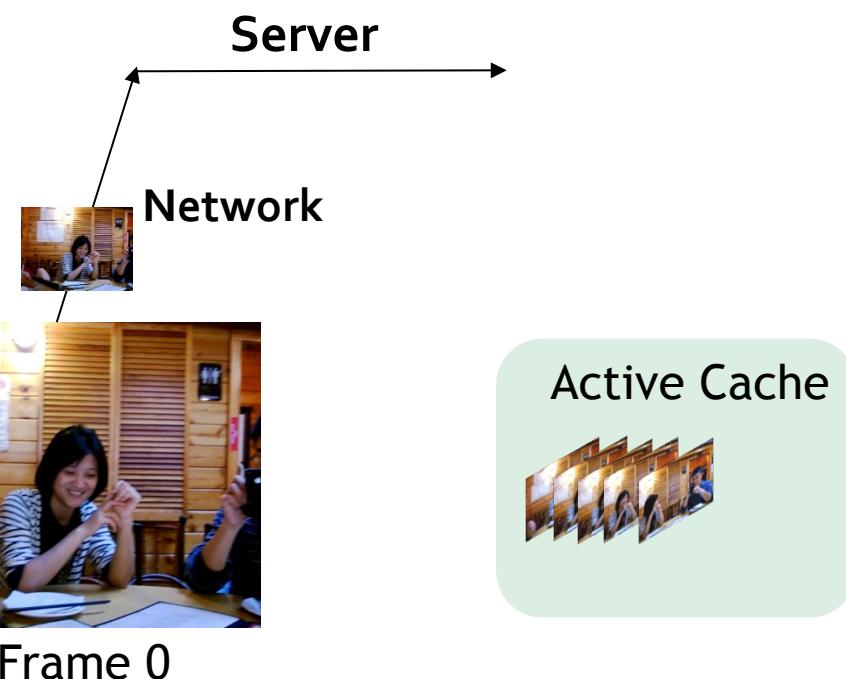
to big challenges

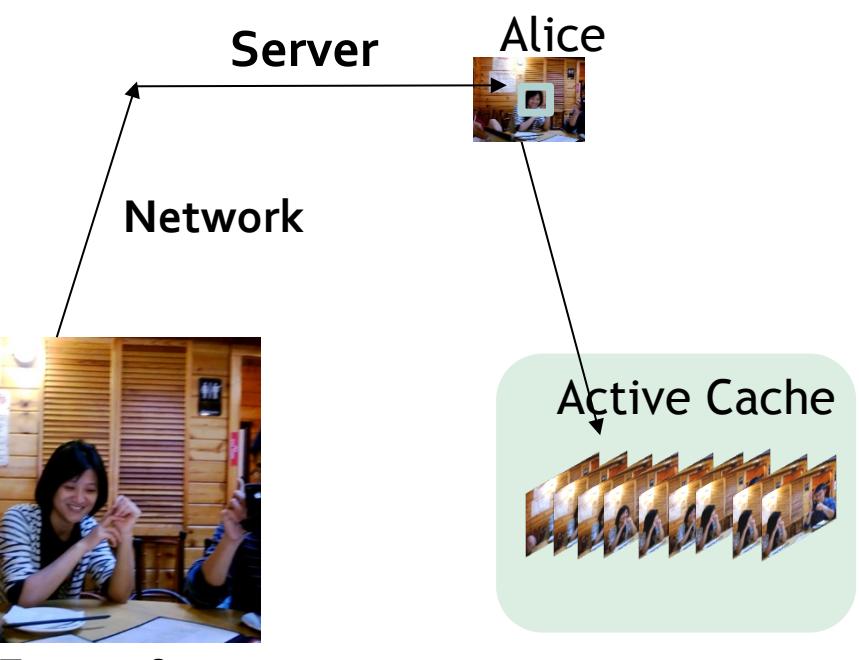
End-to-end latency lowers object recognition accuracy

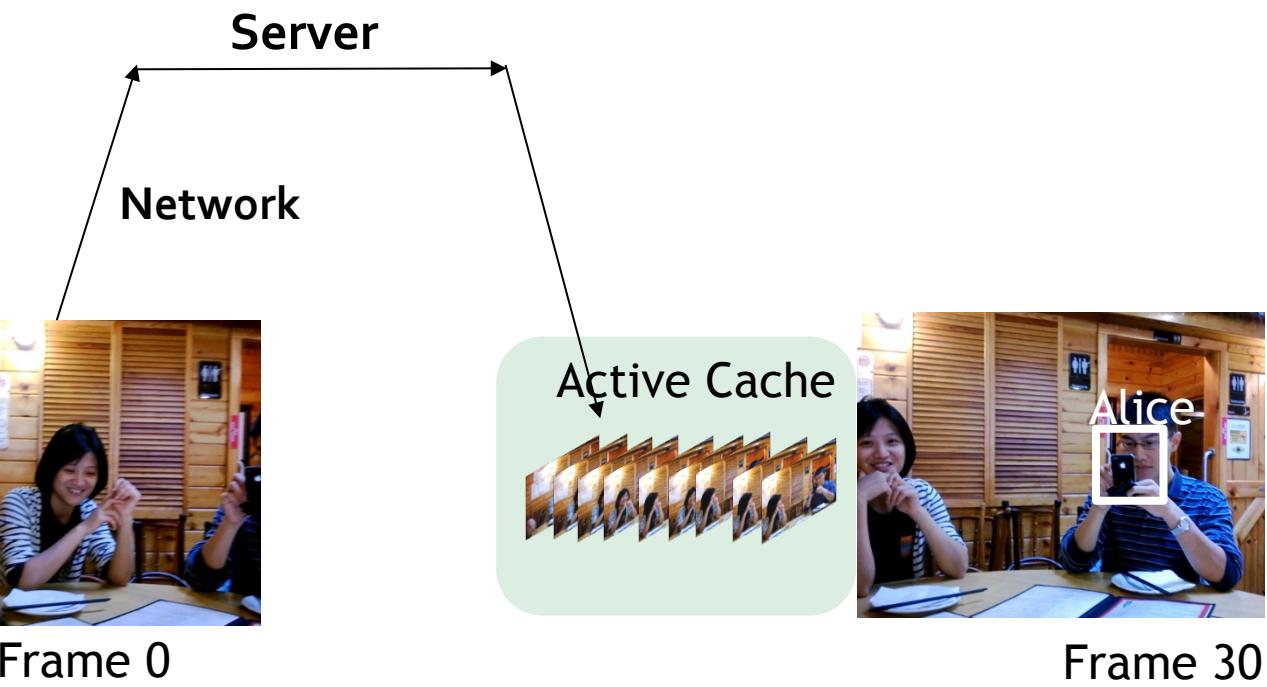
Bandwidth and battery-efficiency

IDEA: DEVICE-SIDE ACTIVE CACHE

cache and run tracking through the cached frames



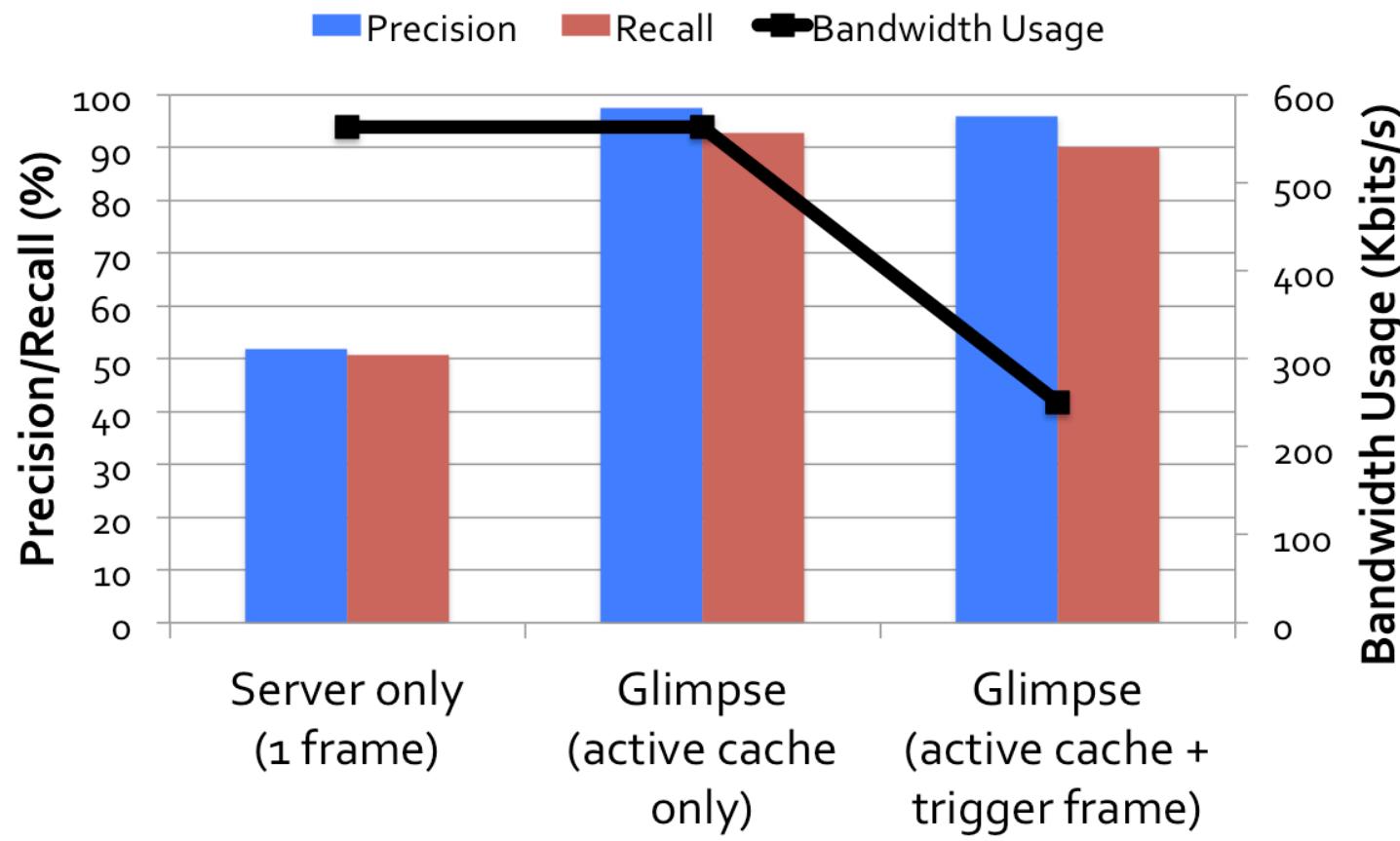




**Run tracking from
Frame 0 to Frame 30**

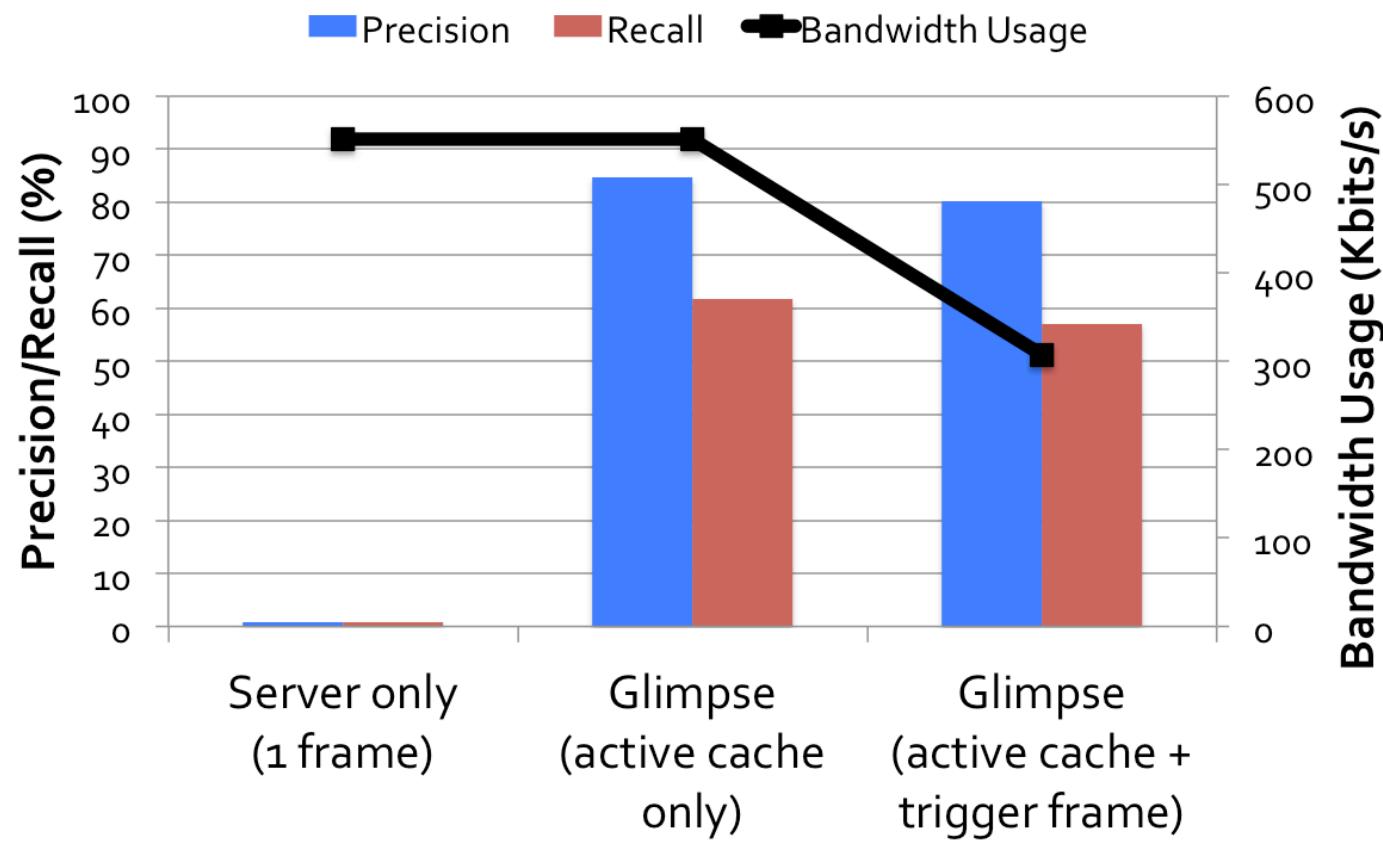
PERFORMANCE ON FACES

Average end-to-end frame delay to server and back: 430 ms



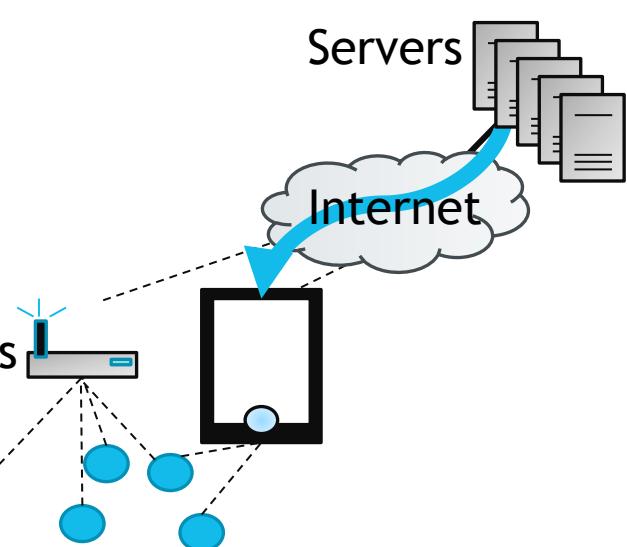
PERFORMANCE ON ROAD SIGNS

Average end-to-end frame delay to server and back: 520 ms



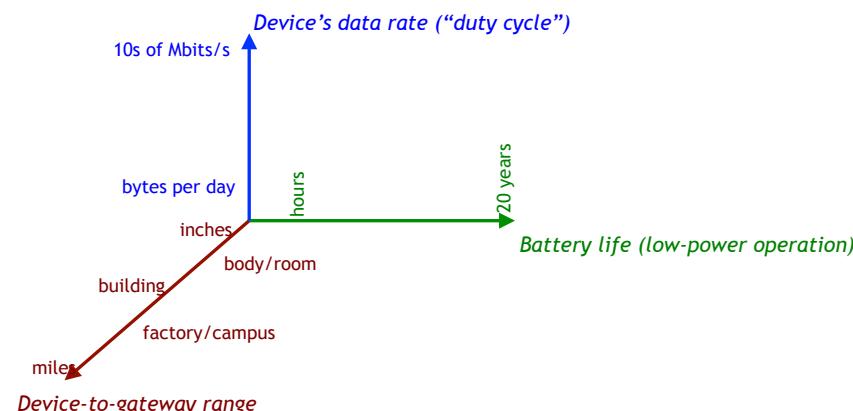
WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Search design space for
things-gateway
communication



Think along three dimensions:

1. data rate/duty cycle
2. battery
3. range



Three case studies

1. Low-power design (Bluetooth LE): advertisement, time-scheduled MAC
2. Range extension techniques: multi-hop meshing (Zigbee, 6LoWPAN)
3. Data-intensive IoT: continuous recognition

OPEN QUESTIONS AND FUTURE WORK

• are not even at the end of the beginning of IoT!
• who wants to turn on a light bulb by going to an app?!)

• what if you want city-scale, high-rate, low-power sensing?
• (e.g., high-fidelity vibration, weather, image sensors)

• current systems gated by standby power (microWatts)
• recent advances have shown nanoWatt standby power
• how will this change IoT networks?

• current IoT apps are “siloed” from each other
• how to integrate them?

E-SILOING

day: build IoT devices/sensors, build an app, build a cloud service
vertically-integrated: hard to integrate and slows innovation
Gateway functions are repeatedly invented

The issue: real value is in the data, not in the devices!

Possible (non-exclusive) approaches

Coordinate access to data via server-side APIs in the cloud

Provide access to data in smartphone apps via “kits”
(HomeKit, Healthkit, Google Fit, ...)

Develop a generic gateway (multiple technologies)

PREDICTIONS

Shake-up in standards: multiple winners, but they will divide up the “three-dimensional space”

Ultra-low power IoT systems and networks

Compute-intensive (data-intensive) IoT systems and networks

De-siloed architectures

Smartphone-centric v. hidden (ubiquitous) computing