

Agenda: Networking, part 1

- Scope
- **Criteria for IoT Networks**
- Properties of the Physical Layer
- **Overview of relevant IoT Network Options in 2018**
- Link budgets, dBms, etc
- Some cases, with discussion

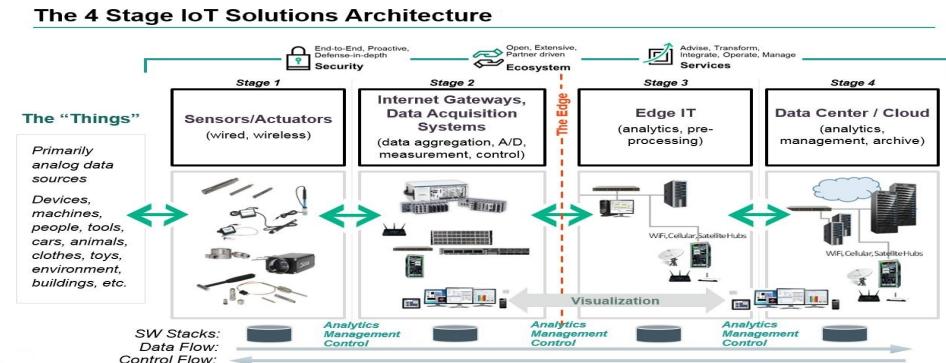
A little introductory discussion

We call it the **Internet of Things** - why?

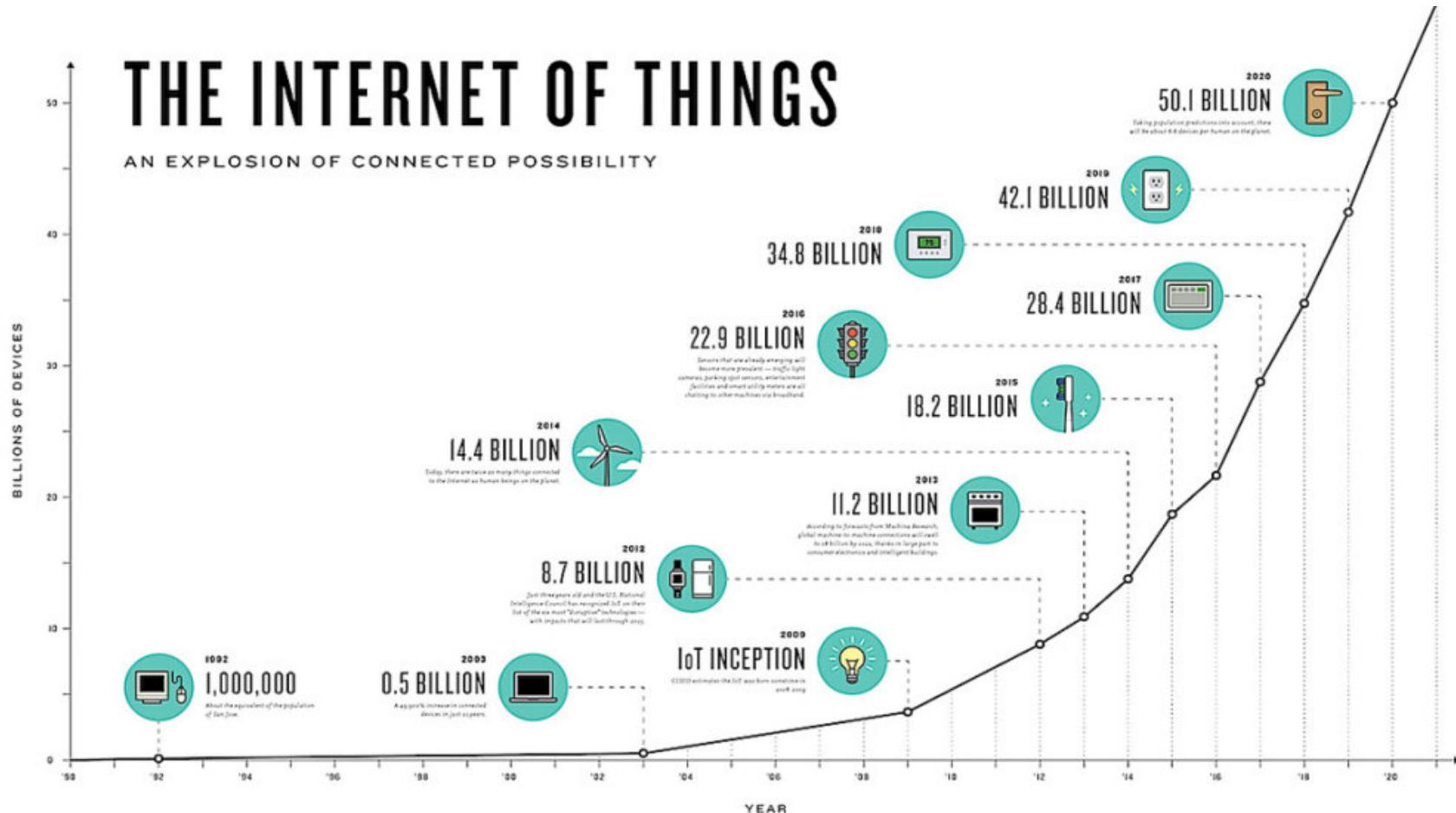
What about it is “Internet”, and in what way?

Scope

- Between the four (or more) stages/tiers in IoT systems: **networks**
- While connectivity in the **backend is mostly of conventional type** (general internet infrastructure - fiber, cables, etc - tcp/ip, https, ...),
connectivity on the first meters, for the actual “things”
(from sensors, nodes, motes to gateways, APs, base stations)
is still an **emerging landscape with many competing options**
- This lecture is mostly about **networking of “things”**,
less about the backend.



Number of things



Options for networking things:

- LPWAN (Low Power Wide Area Networks)
- Cellular (GSM, LTE, ...)
- Human connectivity networks (WiFi, Bluetooth)
- Satellite
- Wires & cables



NB-LTE



nwave

LTE-M



IEEE 802.11ah



EC-GSM



ZigBee3.0



Criteria

In order to navigate the confusing landscape, we need a clear understanding of our **criteria** – how do we choose the right option (or one of them) for a given case?

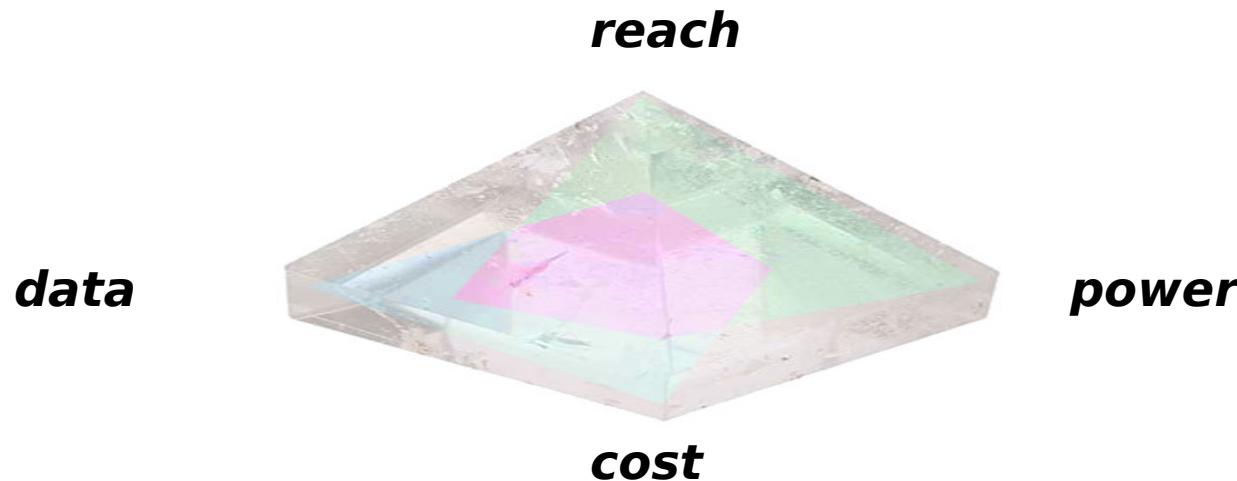
The ideal IoT network

**reaches far and wide
to send a lot (and fast!)
over a long time
at little cost
(in a legal manner)**

*(reach, coverage)
(data rates, bandwidth)
(power, autonomy)
(business aspects)*

Criteria

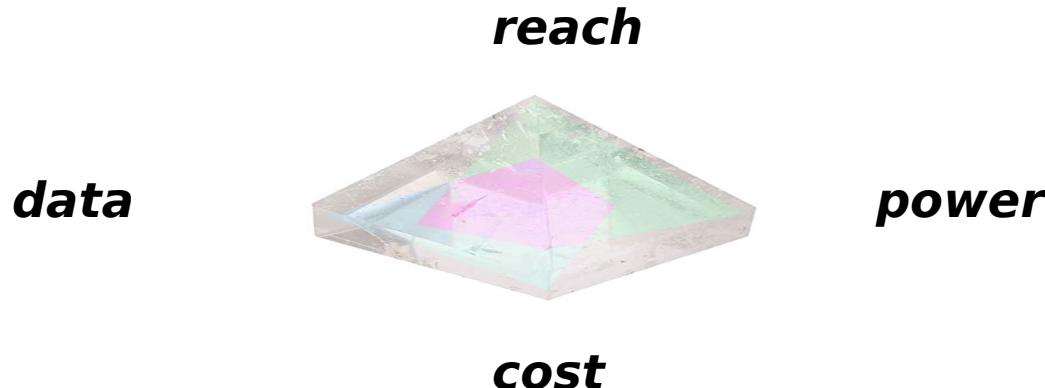
In reality, we will not be able to have all of it, at the same time – luckily, we typically do not need all of it either.



Criteria

IoT Networks often are characterized by

- very low bandwidth – just a few bytes
- low power – long lifetime
- low cost per node
- range/reach may vary



Criteria

reach

LOS (line of sight) / NLOS (non line of sight)

Coverage: local / regional / global? One/many locations? Mobility?

bandwidth / data rates

packet sizes - how much do I need to send?

flexibility of packets - does size vary?

latency - sync/async - do I need my data real-time?

capacity/scale - how many nodes?

up/downlink - do I need to push updates etc to nodes?

power (is its own chapter)

cost (\$)

cost of hardware, networks, infrastructure

business model - provider, self-driven, public, ...?

legalities/regulations - in all locations

Criteria - Power

Some comments on power

(The main power cost is transmission/networking

(no rule without exception though – need to verify!)

Processor: typically < 1 nJ per Instruction

Acquiring a digital data sample from a sensor: order of 1 nJ

Networking: Example: WiFi

100 mW (pure radio power, no periphery) gives you in the range of 10 Mb/s ==> 10 nJ/bit ==> 100 nJ / 10bit sample

Power uptake of radio chips is typically several times the radio output power
(scales quadratically with distance)

==> Sending the sample requires 100x more power than sampling it!

Criteria -

Have we not forgotten something?

Yes.

The “S” in IoT stands for Security.

Criteria - Security

The “S” in IoT stands for Security.

Security deserves its own chapter.

**While it is obviously one of our criteria,
it is very dangerous to choose a networking option based on security,
and then assume that the system is “secure”.**

Vulnerabilities on the physical network layers are just some of many more.

**Obviously, we will demand certain minimal security features on the networking level - device authentication, session encryption, etc
Some of these may be additional, not supplied by the networking platform as such.**

Criteria

A quote by Nick Hunn - <http://www.nickhunn.com/lora-vs-lte-m-vs-sigfox/>

There's a battle going on for the infrastructure technology that will support the Internet of Things. Currently the three most talked about contenders are Sigfox, LoRa and LTE-M. There are a lot of other alternatives and it's quite possible that none of LoRa, Sigfox nor LTE-M0 will win, but that's another story. If you search for LPWAN (Low Power Wireless Area Networks) you'll see that the battle for supremacy is a hot topic. It's largely because of the impending loss of the GPRS networks which power much of today's M2M business. As a result, almost every day you'll find another article debating their respective technical merits.

I'm going to argue that these comparisons miss the point. Which technology will win depends far more on the business model than on the underlying technology. The three technologies listed above are interesting to compare, as they exemplify three significantly different approaches to an IoT business, which can be broadly summed up as:

Sigfox - become a global Internet of Things operator

LoRa - provide a technology that lets other companies enable a global Internet of Things

LTE-M - evolve an existing technology to make more money for network operators

Properties of the physical layer

A quick view on the physical layer (Layer 1)

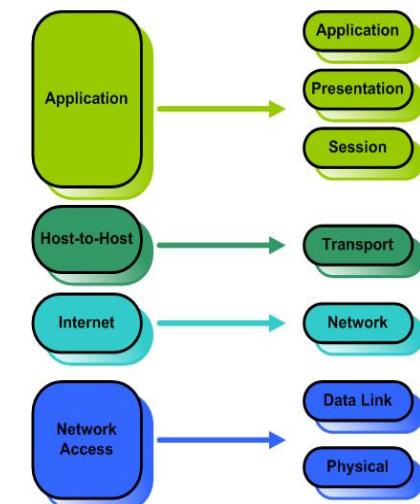
The first, raw physical layer (PHY) consists of

Copper, glass, electromagnetics, optics,
Waves, beams -

before any modulation (Layer 2, MAC)
or protocols of higher layers comes into effect.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_layer

The TCP/IP and OSI Models



Properties of the physical layer

For all wireless (electromagnetic, radio) communications, some simplified rules:

Low frequency

Long wavelength

Better penetration

Longer range

Better NLOS capability

Less data *

High frequency

Short wavelength

Easily blocked

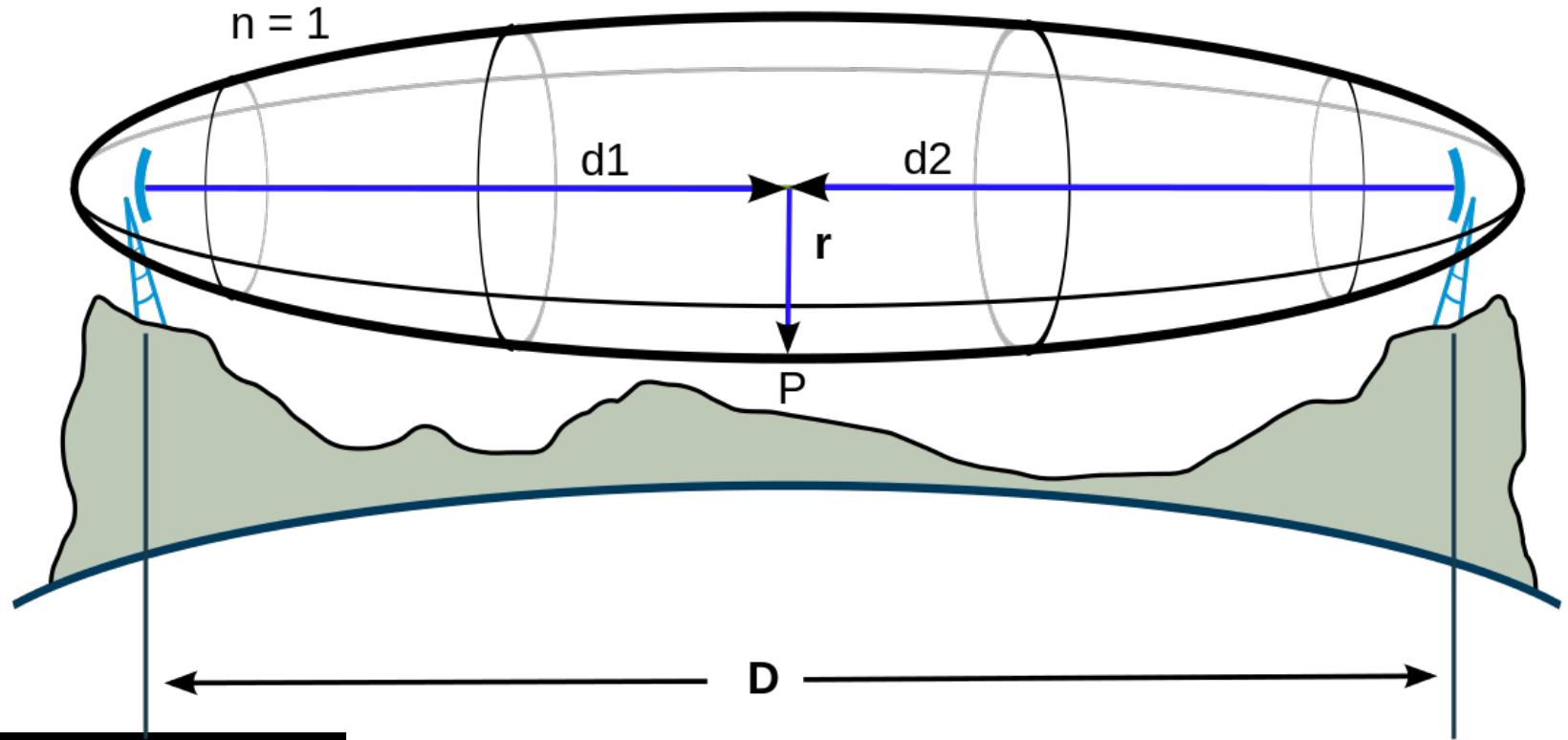
Shorter range

Strictly LOS

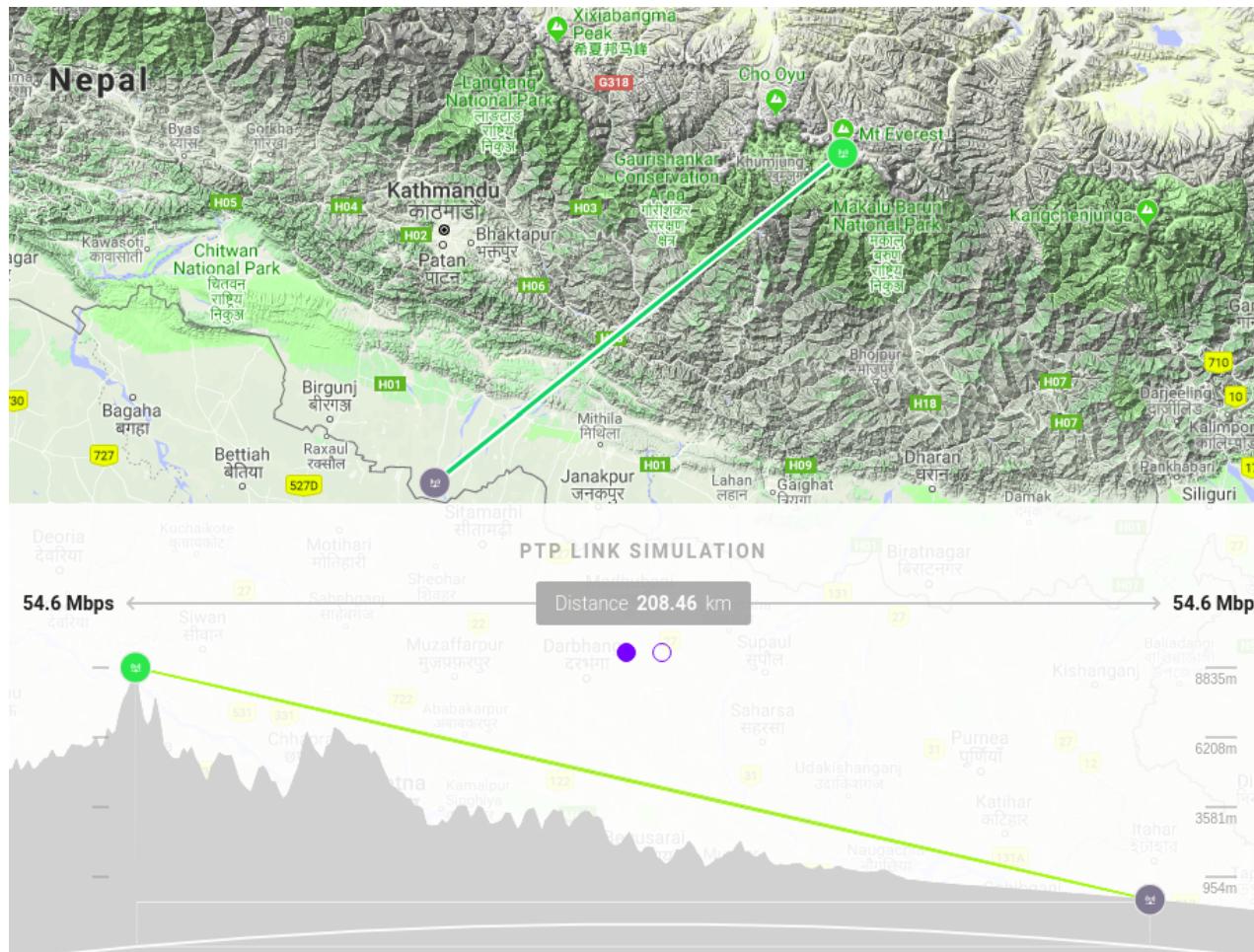
More data *

*** because more bandwidth is available at higher frequencies**

Line-of-sight (LOS), non-Line-of-sight (NLOS)
Fresnel zones



The case for ... mountains



Mountain topologies
help us get around
Earth Curvature

Link simulation for a
Nepal project, 2019

The case for ... satellites

The screenshot shows the talia.net website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links to "Our Network", "Products & Services", "Support", "About Us", and "Contact Us", along with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and a search bar.

The main content area features a world map with several blue shaded regions indicating satellite coverage. A large central region covers Europe, North Africa, and parts of the Middle East and South Asia. Other smaller regions are shown over North America, South America, and Australia. A dashed red line on the right side of the map indicates a zoomed-in view of the North Pacific Ocean region.

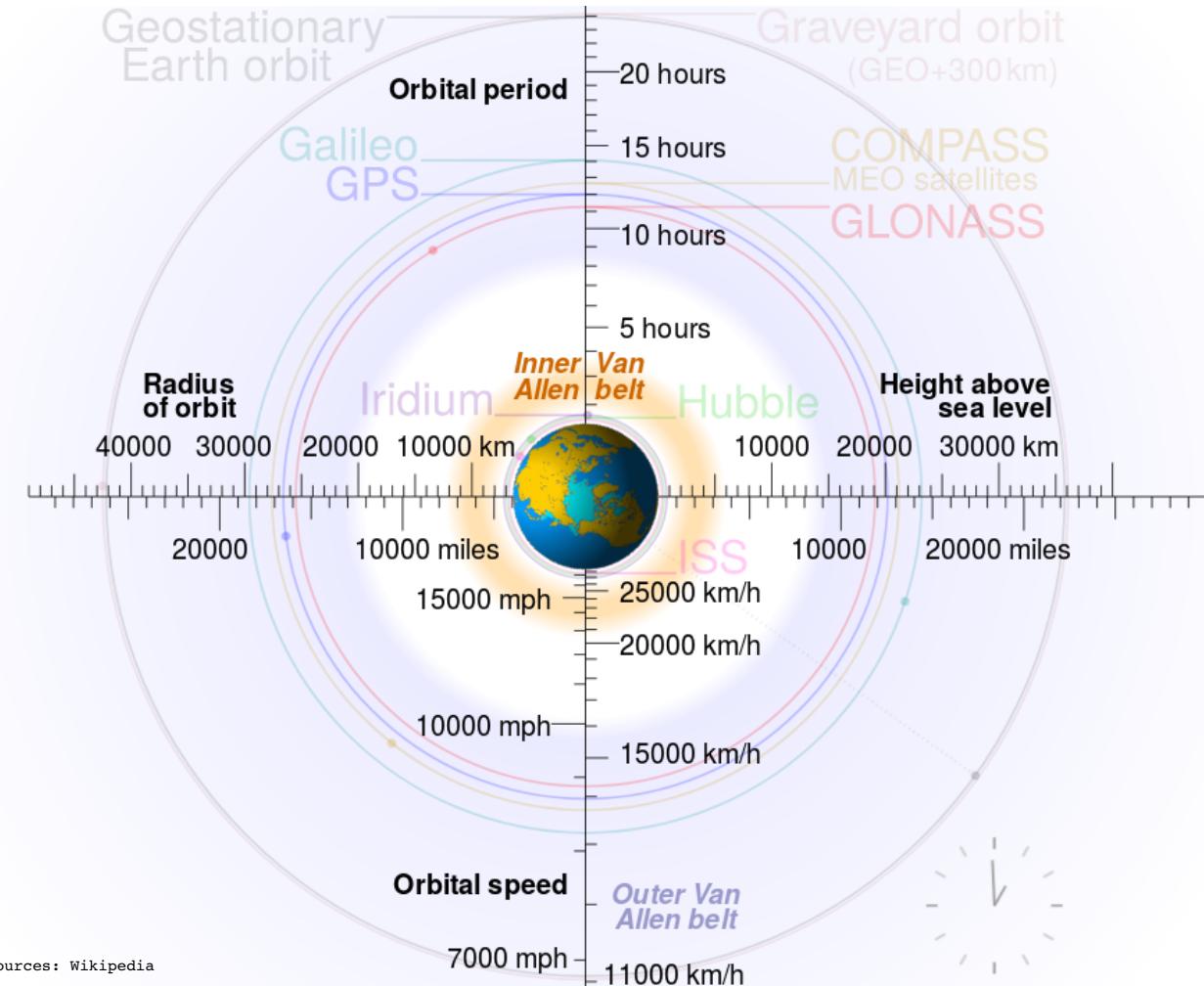
On the left side of the map, there's a vertical sidebar with a "Map" tab selected, showing a close-up image of satellite hardware with various components and cables. Below the map, there's a "Google" logo and a zoom control with plus and minus signs.

At the bottom, there's a horizontal bar with several satellite service descriptions:

- Telstar 12: Europe (15°W) Ku Band
- NSS12 Central & South Asia (57°E) Ku Band
- Arabsat 5A (30.5°E) C Band
- Telstar 11N: West, Central, and South Africa (37.5°W) Ku Band
- Eutelsat (113°W) Ku Band
- Arabsat 5C Ka Band

A speech bubble icon is located at the bottom right of the service bar.

Satellite orbits



Bandwidth, throughput, data rates

The **Shannon-Hartley theorem** describes the **maximum rate** at which information can be transmitted over a communications **channel** of a specified **bandwidth** in the presence of **noise**.

Statement of the theorem [\[edit source\]](#)

The Shannon-Hartley theorem states the **channel capacity** C , meaning the theoretical tightest upper bound on the **information rate** of data that can be communicated at an arbitrarily low **error rate** using an average received signal power S through an analog communication channel subject to **additive white Gaussian noise** of power N :

$$C = B \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{S}{N} \right)$$

where

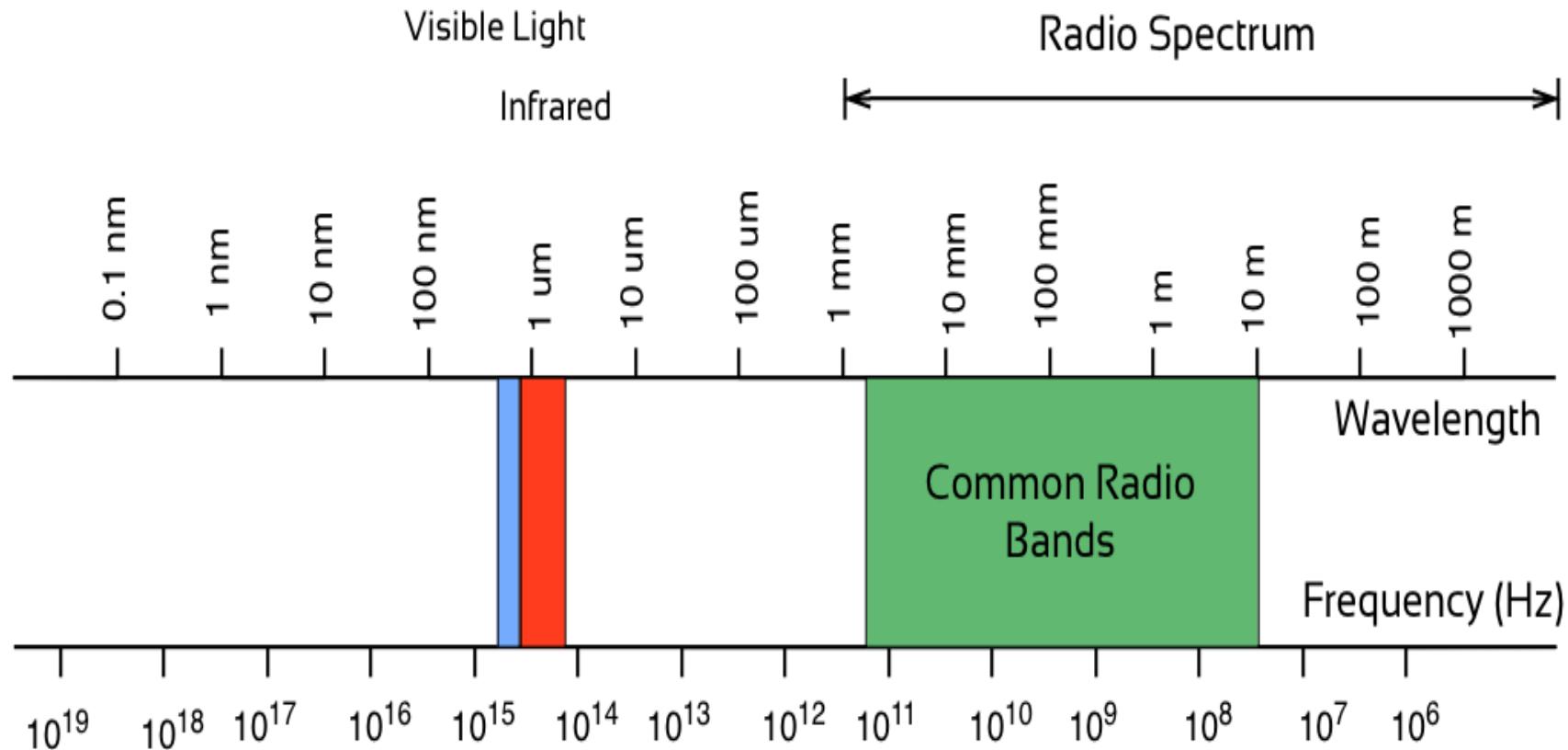
- C is the **channel capacity** in **bits per second**, a theoretical upper bound on the **net bit rate** (information rate, sometimes denoted I) excluding error-correction codes;
- B is the **bandwidth** of the channel in **hertz** (**passband bandwidth** in case of a bandpass signal);
- S is the average received signal power over the bandwidth (in case of a carrier-modulated passband transmission, often denoted C), measured in watts (or volts squared);
- N is the average power of the noise and interference over the bandwidth, measured in watts (or volts squared); and
- S/N is the **signal-to-noise ratio** (SNR) or the **carrier-to-noise ratio** (CNR) of the communication signal to the noise and interference at the receiver (expressed as a linear power ratio, not as logarithmic **decibels**).

The Essence of the Shannon-Hartley Theorem

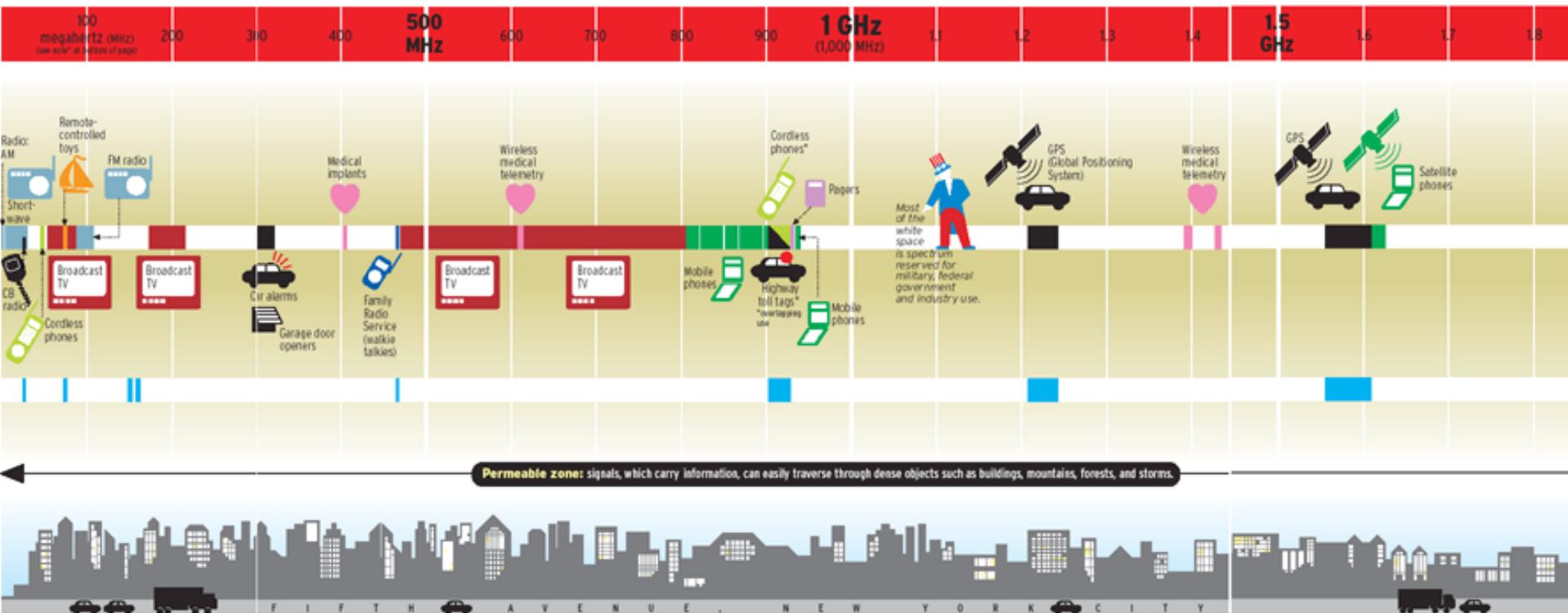
Capacity ~ Bandwidth x log(Signal-to-Noise)

Capacity (Data Rate) does NOT directly depend on operating frequency, however larger bandwidths are available at higher frequencies.

Frequency spectrum



Frequency spectrum



- * Radio waves are transmitted at different frequencies measured in **hertz (Hz)**. A slice of spectrum contains a band of frequencies. The wider the band, the more information carrying capacity it has. (It has more "bandwidth").

Wireless bandwidth is generally counted in megahertz.

Abbreviations: kilohertz (1,000 hertz) is written as **kHz**,
megahertz (1 million hertz) is written as **MHz**, and
gigahertz (1 billion hertz, or 1,000 megahertz) is written as **GHz**.

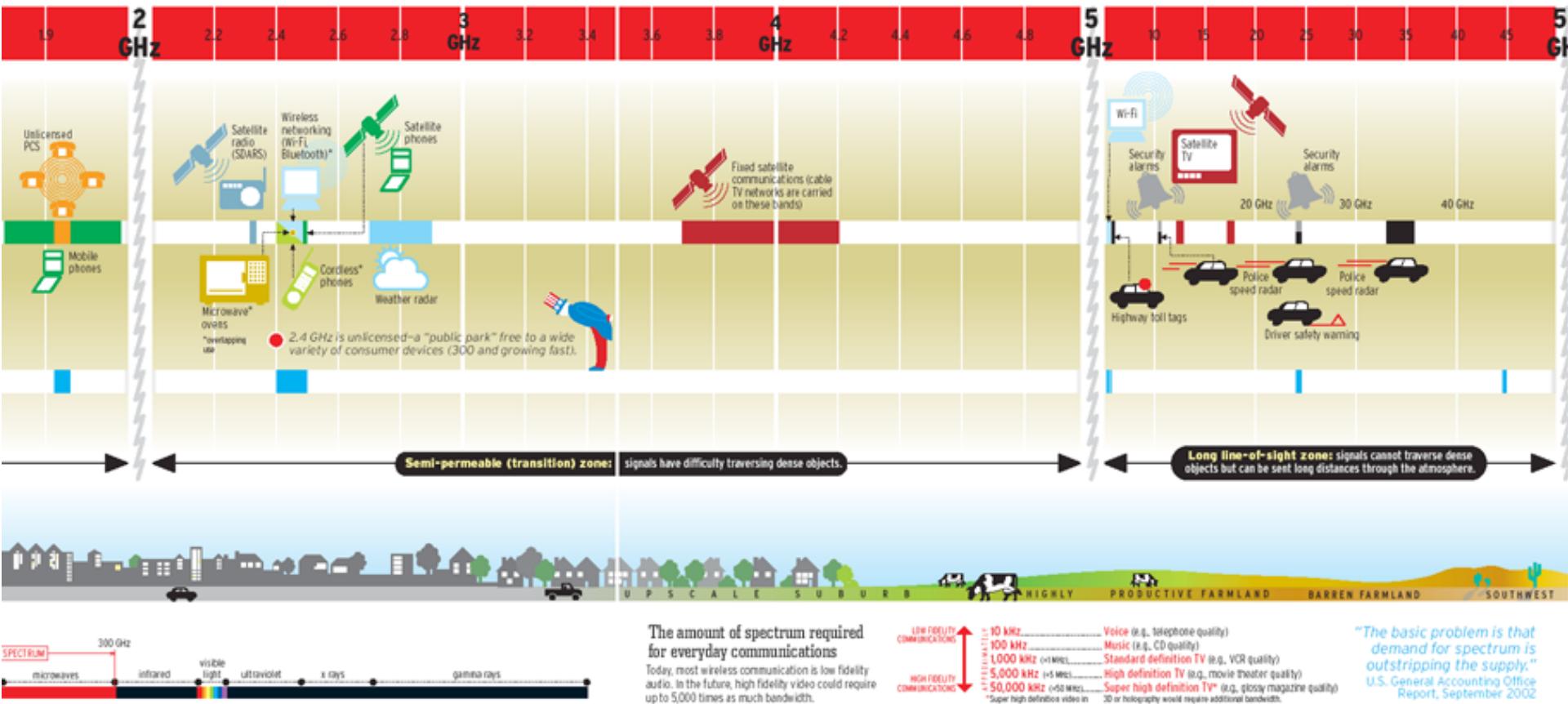
A **wavelength** is the distance between the recurring peaks of a wave.

The size of the wavelength influences the ability of a wave to pass through objects. Generally, as a wavelength decreases in size, its value also decreases.

The **radio spectrum** (enlarged in the charts above) is the portion of the total electromagnetic spectrum distinguished by its value for communication.

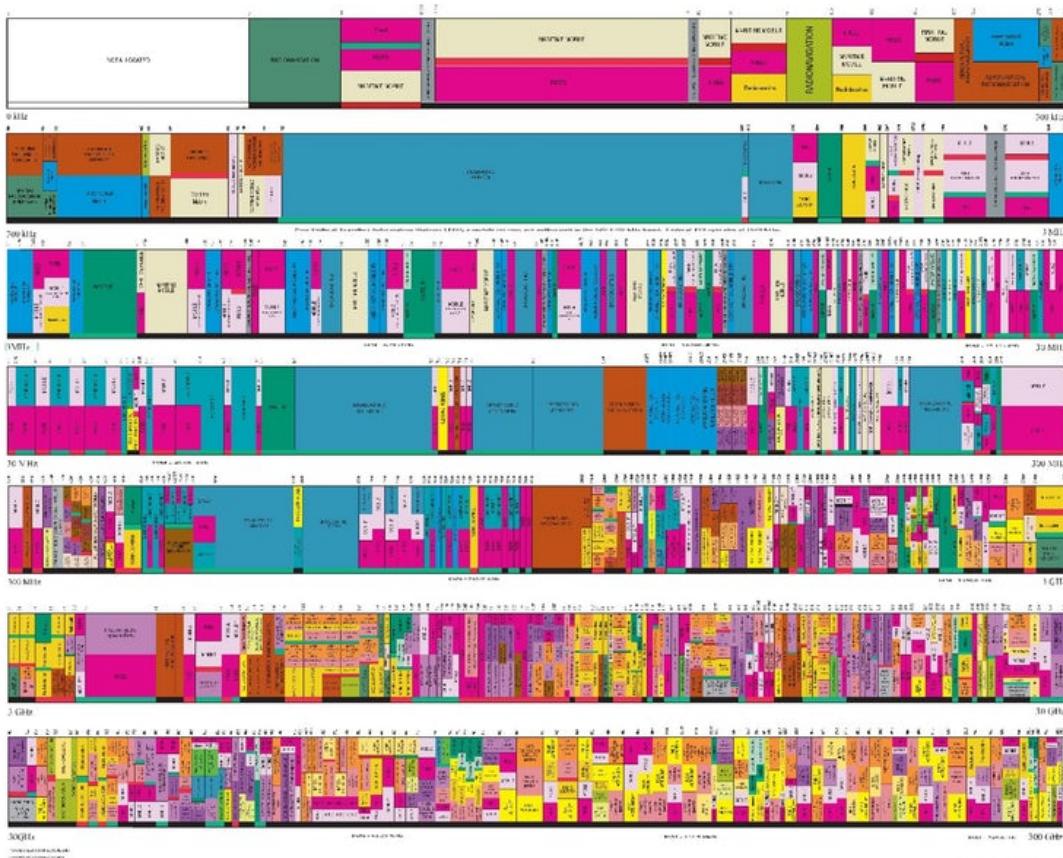


Frequency spectrum



Frequency allocation

**UNITED
STATES
FREQUENCY
ALLOCATIONS**



Frequencies relevant to us

- **ISM** (Industrial Scientific Medical - license exempt) bands at
 - 169 MHz – 170 cm - emerging ...
 - 433 MHz – 70 cm
 - 868 (EUR, Africa) / 915 (US) MHz – 35 cm
 - 2.4 GHz – 802.11b/g – 12 cm
 - 5.x GHz – 802.11a – 5...6 cm
- Other (non-ISM) bands interesting to us
 - 470 – 790 MHz (TVWS)
 - 700-800-900 MHz (GSM)
 - All cellular (e.g. 1.8 – 2.7 GHz)
 - New 5G bands FR1 (<6 GHz, e.g. 3.5 GHz), FR2 (>26 GHz)
 - Other proprietary

Modulation & encoding

In electronics and telecommunications, **modulation is the process of varying one or more properties of a periodic waveform, called the carrier signal, with a modulating signal that typically contains information to be transmitted.** Most radio systems in the 20th century used frequency modulation (FM) or amplitude modulation (AM) to make the carrier carry the radio broadcast.

Modulation techniques include

Spread Spectrum (e.g. FHSS Frequency Hopping) used in Bluetooth, direct-sequence spread spectrum (DSSS) used in 802.11b, Orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing (OFDM) used in 802.11a/g/n/c, Chirp spread spectrum (CSS) as used in LoRa.

These techniques are crucial for the **robustness against noise and utilization of spectrum.**

Read more here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frequency-hopping_spread_spectrum

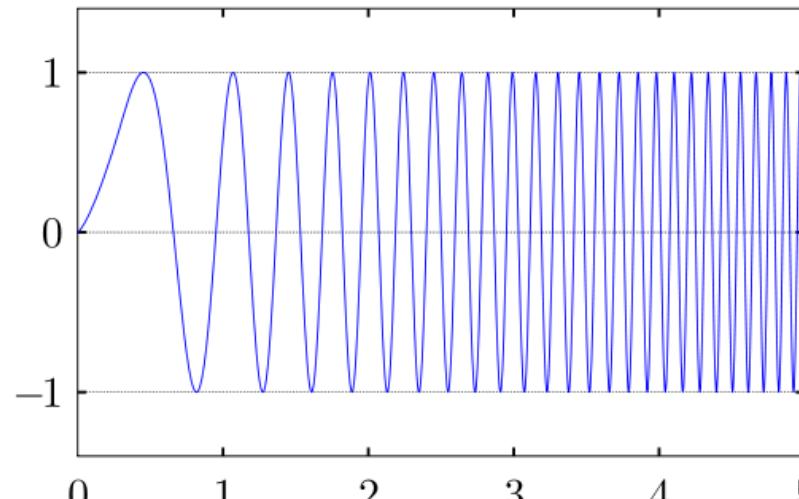
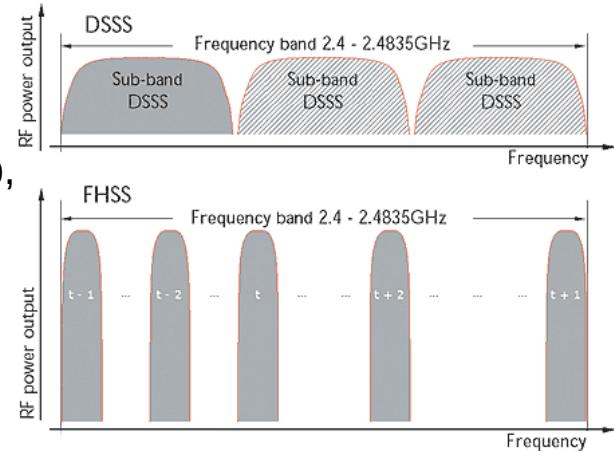
Modulation & encoding

Spread Spectrum (e.g. **FHSS Frequency Hopping**)

used in Bluetooth,

direct-sequence spread spectrum (DSSS) used in 802.11b,

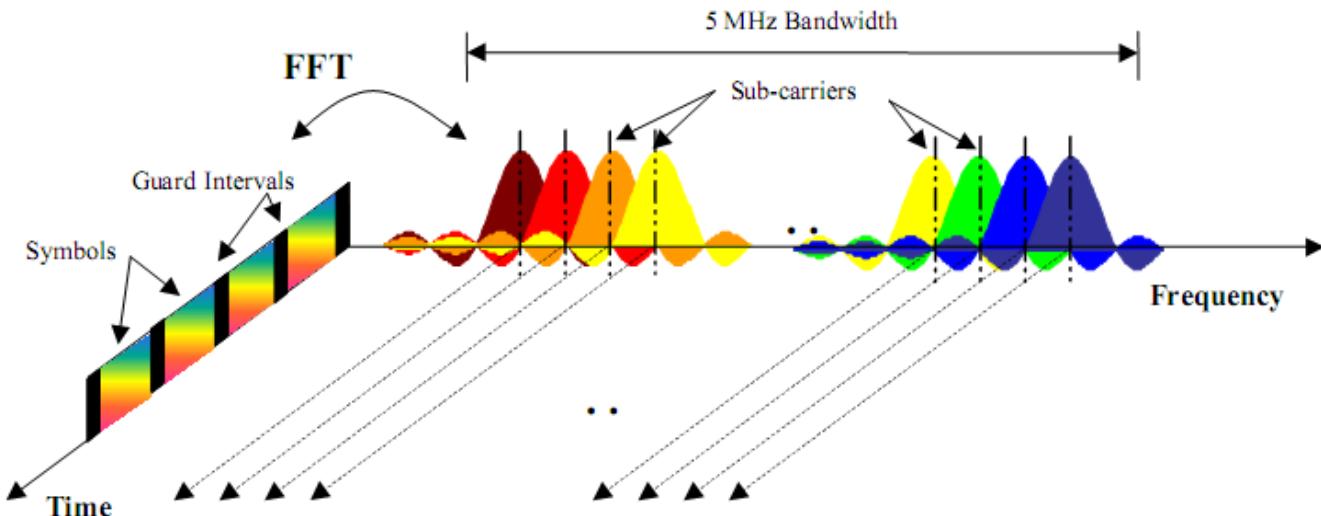
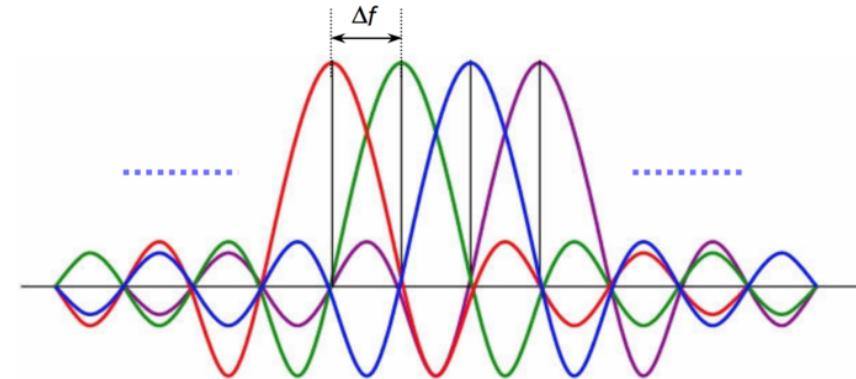
Chirp spread spectrum (CSS) as used in LoRa.



Source:
IEBMedia <http://www.iebmedia.com/index.php?id=4466>,
wikipedia

Modulation & encoding: OFDM

Idea: Overlapping carriers with a spacing such that neighbouring carriers' sidebands cancel each other out.
(Orthogonality)



Source:
IEBMedia <http://www.iebmedia.com/ir>
wikipedia

IoT Options – rough overview

	Frequency	Modulation	Reach	Bandwidth	Data Rates	Power	Cost
LoRa	433, 868/915 MHz	Chirp SpreadS	10s of kms	125 kHz	Some 100 Bytes	low	Low (...)
Sigfox	868/915 MHz	UNB	10s of kms	100 Hz	Some Bytes	low	Low
LTE-_	1.8-2.7 GHz	OFDM	(km)	200 kHz	high	Mid	Mid
WiFi	2.4/5 Ghz	OFDM	100m .. 100 km	20/40 MHz/channel	high	high	Mid
Bluetooth	2.4 GHz	FHSS	10 m	1 MHz/channel	mid	mid	Low
RPMA	2.4 GHz	DSSS	10s of kms	80 MHz	(flexible)	low	Low (...)
Zigbee	433, 868/915 MHz	DSSS	100 m	MHz	bytes	Low	Low

IoT Options – detailed comparisons

The main thing to look at when looking at the following comparison tables:

- where they come from, i.e. which **bias** you might find.
(also in these slides!)

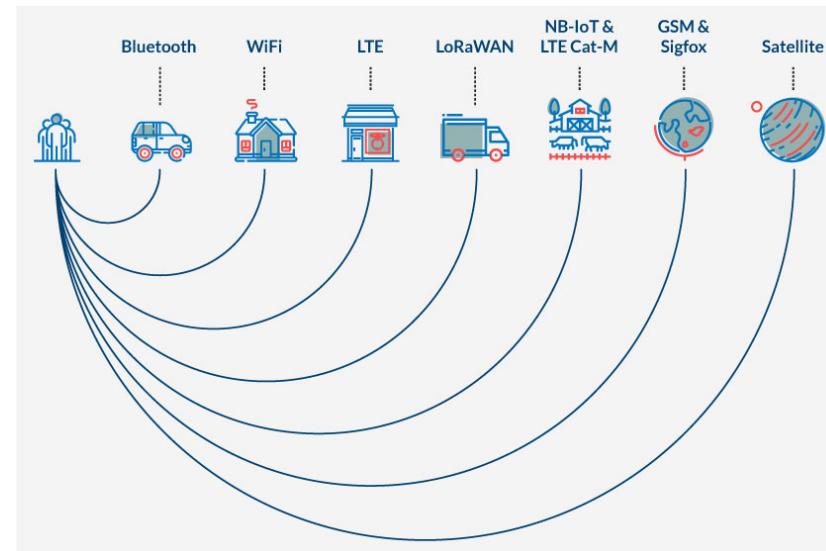
Even the most simple column in such overviews is almost impossible to fill with credible values -

e.g. what is the range/distance?

How far does LoRa go?

What about WiFi?

Sigfox?



IoT Options - detailed overviews

Comparison of Low-Power WAN Alternatives										
Name of Standard	Weightless			SigFox	LoRaWAN	LTE-Cat M	IEEE P802.11ah (low power WiFi)	Dash7 Alliance Protocol 1.0	Ingenu RPMA	nWave
	-W	-N	-P							
Frequency Band	TV whitespace (400-800 MHz)	Sub-GHZ ISM	Sub-GHZ ISM	868 MHz/902 MHz ISM	433/868/780/915 MHz ISM	Cellular	License-exempt bands below 1 GHz, excluding the TV White Spaces	433, 868, 915 MHz ISM/SDR	2.4 GHz ISM	Sub-GHz ISM
Channel Width	5MHz	Ultra narrow band (200Hz)	12.5 kHz	Ultra narrow band	EU: 8x125kHz, US 64x125kHz/8x125kHz, Modulation: Chirp Spread Spectrum	1.4MHz	1/2/4/8/16 MHz	25 KHz or 200 KHz	1 MHz (40 channels available)	Ultra narrow band
Range	5km (urban)	3km (urban)	2km (urban)	30-50km (rural), 3-10km (urban), 1000km LoS	2-5k (urban), 15k (rural)	2.5- 5km	Up to 1Km (outdoor)	0 – 5 km	>500 km LoS	10km (urban), 20-30km (rural)
End Node Transmit Power	17 dBm	17 dBm	17 dBm	10µW to 100 mW	EU:<+14dBm, US:<+27dBm	100 mW	Dependent on Regional Regulations (from 1 mW to 1 W)	Depending on FCC/ETSI regulations	to 20 dBm	25-100 mW
Packet Size	10 byte min.	Up to 20 bytes	10 byte min.	12 bytes	Defined by User	~100 ~1000 bytes typical	Up to 7,991 Bytes (w/o Aggregation), up to 65,535 Bytes (with Aggregation)	256 bytes max / packet	Flexible (6 bytes to 10 kbytes)	12 byte header, 2-20 byte payload
Uplink Data Rate	1 kbps to 10 Mbps	100bps	200 bps to 100 kbps	100 bps to 140 messages/day	EU: 300 bps to 50 kbps, US:900-100kbps	~200kbps	150 Kbps ~ 346.666 Mbps	9.6 kb/s, 55.55 kbps or 166.667 kb/s	AP aggregates to 624 kbps per Sector (Assumes 8 channel Access Point)	100 bps
Downlink Data Rate	1 kbps to 10 Mbps	No downlink	200 bps to 100 kbps	Max 4 messages of 8 bytes/day	EU: 300 bps to 50 kbps, US:900-100kbps	~200kbps	150 Kbps ~ 346.666 Mbps	9.6 kb/s, 55.55 kbps or 166.667 kb/s	AP aggregates to 156 kbps per Sector (Assumes 8 channel Access Point)	--
Devices per Access Point	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	1M	Uplink:>1M, Downlink:<100k	20k+	8191	NA (connectionless communication)	Up to 384,000 per sector	1M
Topology	Star	Star	Star	Star	Star on Star	Star	Star, Tree	Node-to-node, Star, Tree	Typically Star, Tree supported with an RPMA extender	Star
End node roaming allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Allowed by other IEEE 802.11 amendments (e.g., IEEE 802.11r)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Governing Body	Weightless SIG			Sigfox	LoRa Alliance	3GPP	IEEE 802.11 working group	Dash7 Alliance	Ingenu (formerly OnRamp)	Weightless SIG
Status	Limited deployment awaiting spectrum availability	Deployment beginning	Standard in development. Scheduled release 4Q 2015	In deployment	Spec released June 2015, in deployment	Release 13 expected 2016	Targeting 2016 release	Released May 2015	In Deployment	In Deployment

Source: EDN.com - Copyright 2015 UBM Americas

Rev. 9/15/15

Source: <https://www.cnx-software.com/2015/09/21/comparison-table-of-low-power-wan-standards-for-industrial-applications/>

IoT Options – detailed overviews

COMPARISON – main LPWAN technologies



Feature	LORAWAN	SIGFOX	LTE Cat 1	LTE M	NB - LTE
Modulation	SS chip	UNB / GFSK / BPSK	OFDMA	OFDMA	OFDMA
Rx Bandwidth	500 – 125 KHz	100 Hz	20 MHz	20 – 1.4 MHz	200 KHz
Data Rate	290bps – 50Kbps	100 bit / sec 12 / 8 bytes Max	10 Mbit /sec	200 kbps – 1 Mbps	Average 20K bit / sec
Max. # Msgs/day	Unlimited	UL: 140 msgs / day	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Max Output Power	20 dBm	20 dBm	23 – 46 dBm	23/30 dBm	20 dBm
Link Budget	154 dB	151 dB	130 dB+	146 dB	150 dB
Battery lifetime – 2000 mAh	105 months	90 months		18 months	
Power Efficiency	Very High	Very High	Low	Medium	Med high
Interference immunity	Very High	Low	Medium	Medium	Low
Coexistence	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Security	Yes	No	Yes Oui	Yes	Yes
Mobility / localization	Yes	Limited mobility, No localization	Mobility	Mobility	Limited mobility, No localization

Source: LoRAWAN Alliance, 2015

www.vertical-m2m.com

Source: LoraWAN Alliance, 2015

Two categories of LPWA technologies

1. Proprietary / Unlicensed bands



2. Standardized / Licensed bands

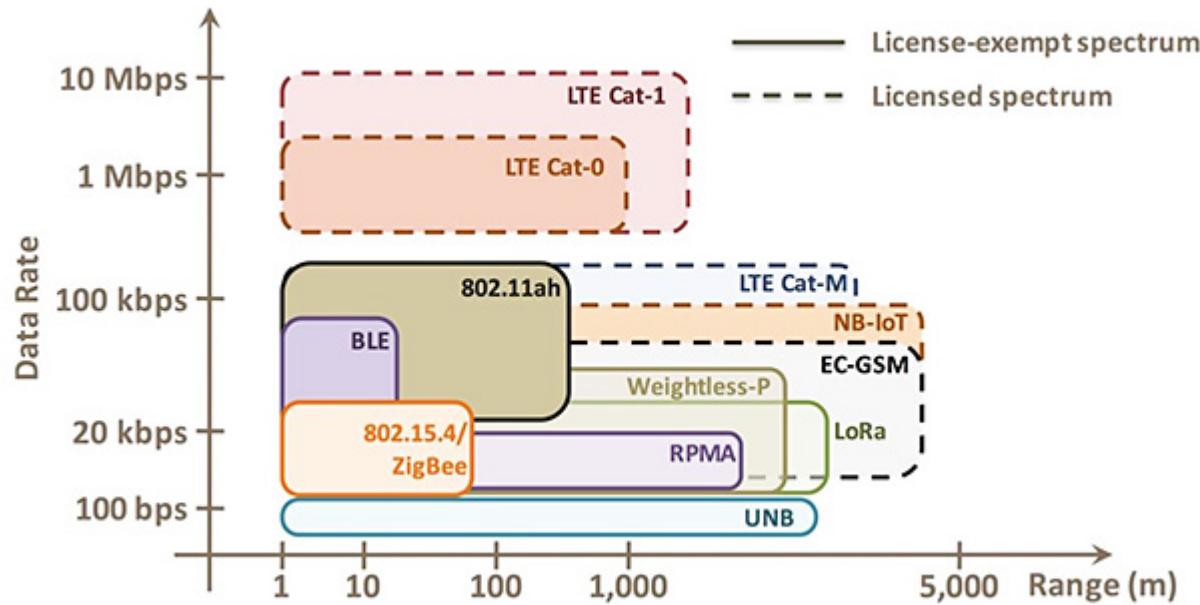


1. **LTE-M** (aka LTE-MTC, Cat-M1)
2. **NB-IOT** (aka Cat-NB1)
3. **EC-GSM-IOT** (aka EC-GPRS)



Proprietary and Confidential | 8

IoT Options – views: range



“LoRa – provide a technology that lets other companies enable a global Internet of Things”

LoRa PHY is a **proprietary**, chirp spread spectrum (CSS) radio modulation technology for LPWAN used by LoRaWAN, Haystack Technologies, and Symphony Link.

LoRaWAN is a media access control layer (MAC) protocol for managing communication between LPWAN gateways and end-node devices, maintained by the LoRa Alliance.

LoRaWAN defines the communication protocol and system architecture for the network while the LoRa physical layer enables the long-range communication link.

LoRa works on 169, 433 and 868/915 MHz ISM bands.

TheThingsNetwork is a “people’s IoT” project based on LoRa.

Commercial providers include **LORIOT.IO**, **Linklabs**

“Sigfox - become a global Internet of Things operator”

Like LoRa, Sigfox works on 433 and 868/915 MHz ISM bands.

It uses UNB (Ultra narrow band) modulation technique.

A main difference lies in the business model: Sigfox is provided by an (exclusive) provider, just like mobile networks, on a subscriber basis.

In Denmark offered by <http://iotdanmark.dk/>

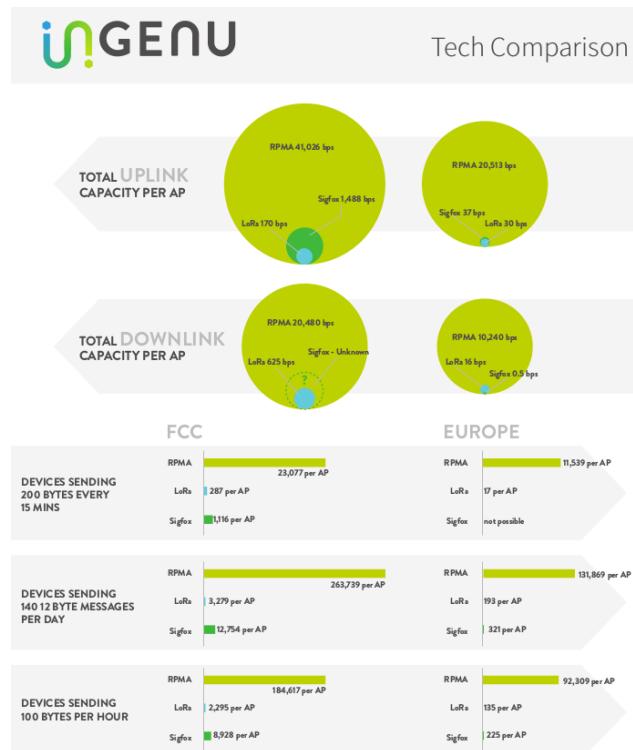
The screenshot shows the homepage of IoTDenmark.dk. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: NEWS, IOT - REDEFINED, SIGFOX ADVANTAGES, THE LONG RUN, APPLICATIONS, THE TEAM, JOBS, CONTACT, and OPERATIONS. Below the navigation bar, there are several news cards arranged in a grid:

- ISS nedbringer sine administrative opgaver med simple Sigfox baserede IoT løsninger** (ISS reduces its administrative tasks with simple Sigfox-based IoT solutions)
- Kom og besøg os på High Tech Summit** (Come and visit us at the High Tech Summit)
- Tingenes Internet er kommet til Bornholm** (Tingenes Internet has arrived in Bornholm)
- Banebrydende IoT-netværk er klar med hjælp fra Intego** (Pioneering IoT network is ready with help from Intego)
- Glem smarte køleskabe – sig godtgå til Internet of småthings** (Forget smart refrigerators – get a taste of the Internet of small things)
- Bestil en Sens'it** (Order a Sens'it)
- Fremtiden byder på flere digitale services i byggebranchen** (The future offers more digital services in the construction industry)
- More digital services is the future of construction industry**
- Bedre IoT-net i Danmark – også til transporten** (Better IoT network in Denmark – also for transport)
- IoT Denmark A/S celebrates nationwide network**
- Lynby bliver testlaboratorium for ny Internet of Things-teknologi fra Sigfox** (Lynby becomes a test laboratory for new Internet of Things technology from Sigfox)
- Danmark får nu et landsdækkende netværk til 'tingenes internet'** (Denmark now has a nationwide network for 'things internet')

RPMA (Ingenu) (former On Ramp)

“M2M in the WiFi band”

RPMA (Random Phase Multiple Access)



“LTE-M - evolve an existing technology to make more money for network operators”

Utilizing existing 5th generation mobile networks, seeking to enable those for IoT.

LTE-M capabilities

LTE-M basic features (LPWA)

Low power

Up to 10 years (1msg/day)



Long Range

Up to 10 km (+15dB)



Low cost

Target cost module ~ 5\$



Source: Orange

LTE-M specific features

Bidirectional



Uplink & Downlink

Fast mobility



Up to 300 Km/h (connected HO)

Throughputs



Up to 1 Mbps (Full duplex)

4G evolution



4G Network Software upgrade

Low latency



Down to 200ms

Secure



(e)SIM encryption/authentication

Roaming



Roaming worldwide (3GPP)

Voice



VoLTE support

802.15.4 is a Layer 1 & 2 standard, comparable to 802.11 for wireless

Zigbee is a specification for a suite of high level communication protocols using small, low-power digital radios based on the IEEE 802.15.4-2003 standard for Low-Rate Wireless Personal Area Networks (LR-WPANs).

It specifies a.o. mesh routing, a slightly modified the AODV (Ad hoc On-Demand Distance Vector) standard (compare e.g. 802.11s)

6lowPAN = IPv6 over LoW Power wireless Area Networks.
6lowpan is the name of a working group in the internet area of the IETF. IPv6 packets over IEEE 802.15.4 based networks.
RFC 4944/ RFC 4919.

Link budget

is the calculation of losses and gains along a full signal path.

(Demonstrate by example)

Margin

Is the remaining signal left along the whole link

dB

Is the common unit used in radio link budgets

- **Definition:** $10 \times \log_{10} (P_1 / P_0)$
- 3 dB = double power
-3dB = half the power
10 dB = one order of magnitude up = $\times 10$
-10 dB = one order of magnitude down = $/10$
- Calculating in dBs is easier :)
- Relative dBs
 - dBm = relative to 1 mW
 - dBi = relative to ideal isotropic antenna

- **Definition:** $10 \times \log_{10} (P_1 / P_0)$

- 1 mW = 0 dBm
- 100 mW = 20 dBm
- 1 W = 30 dBm
- An omni antenna with 6 dBi gain
- A parabolic dish with 29dBi gain
- A cable (RG213) with 0.5 dB/m loss
- Maximum power of LoRa: 14 dBm =?
- WiFi?

Radio link

- **Effective transmit power:**

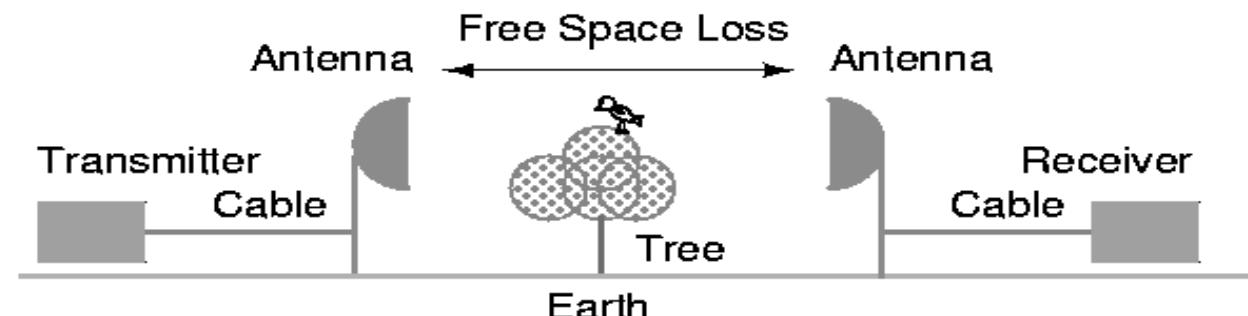
transmit power [dBm]
- (cable + connector) loss [dB]
+ amplifier gain [dB]
+ antenna gain [dBi]

- **Propagation loss [dB]:**

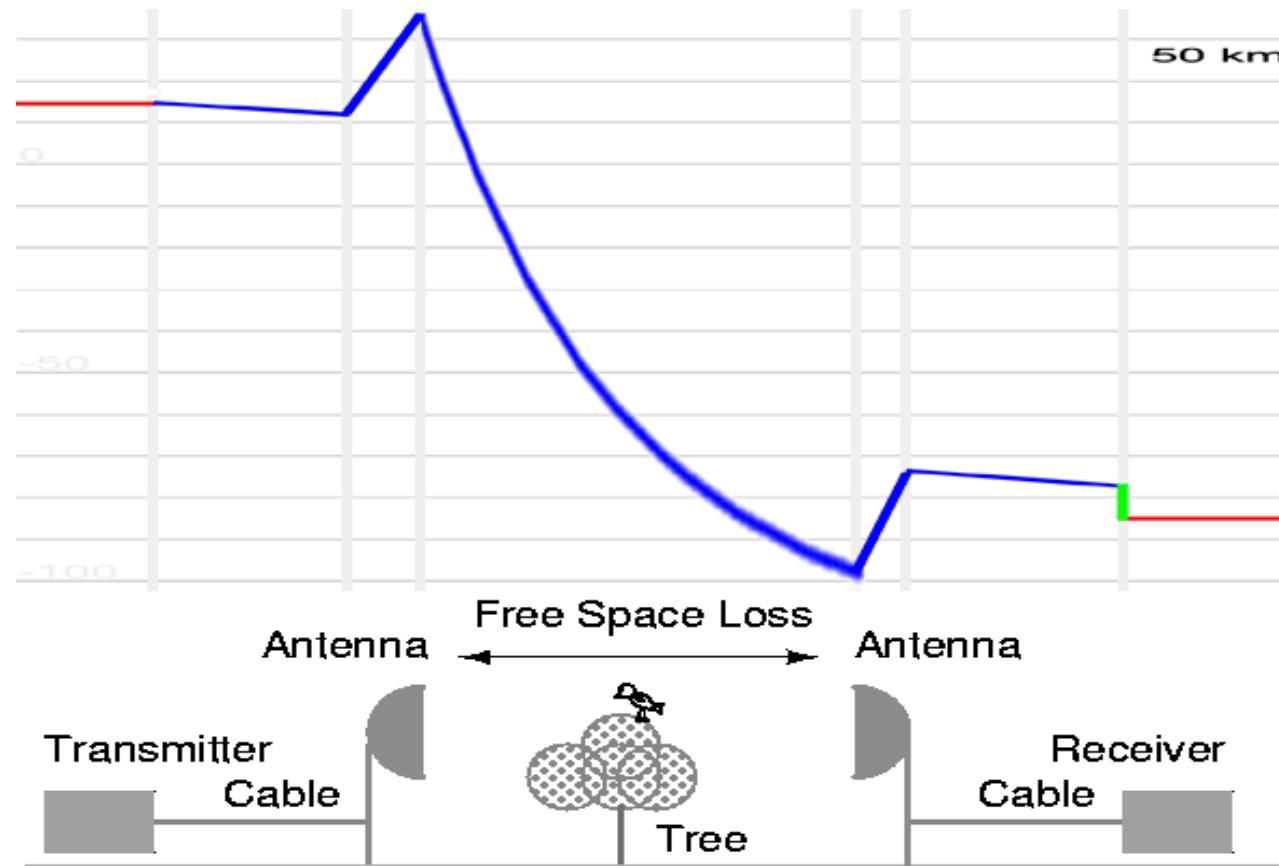
Free space loss [dB]

- **Effective receiving sensibility:**

antenna gain[dBi]
+ amplifier gain [dB]
- cable loss [dB]
- receiver sensitivity [dBm]



Link budget



Take-Aways

- Criteria for networking options in IoT:
Power, reach, bandwidth, cost,
security, business aspects and more
- Properties of the physical layer: Frequency, bandwidth and their impact
- Basic terms: LPWA(N), LOS/NLOS, Modulation (Spread Spectrum)
- The most relevant options (in 2018) and their main characteristics:
LoRa, Sigfox, RPMA, Zigbee, Bluetooth, WiFi, Cellular (GSM, LTE-..)