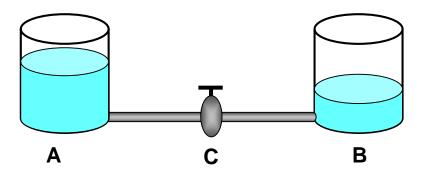
ICA0008 Fundamentals of Wireless LANS

Tauseef ahmed, PhD

Radio Frequency and Antenna Fundamentals

Parameters & Units of Measure

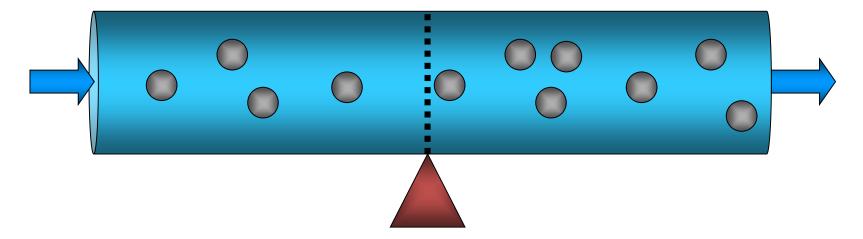
- Voltage
 - electric potential or potential difference expressed in volts.
- Volt
 - a unit of potential equal to the potential difference between two points on a conductor carrying a current of 1 ampere when the power dissipated between the two points is 1 watt.



Parameters & Units of Measure

Current

- a flow of electric charge (electrons); The amount of electric charge flowing past a specified circuit point per unit time.
- Ampere



Parameters & Units of Measure

Power –

 The rate at which work is done, expressed as the amount of work per unit time.

Watt

 An International System unit of power equal to one joule per second. The power dissipated by a current of 1 ampere flowing between 1 volt of differential.

$$P = I \times E$$

 $P = 1A \times 1V = 1W$

Metric SI Prefixes

• SI prefixes combine with any unit name to give subdivisions and multiples.

Prefix	Symbol	Magnitude	Multiply by
femto-	f	10 ⁻¹⁵	0.000 000 000 000 001
micro-	μ(mu)	10 ⁻⁶	0.000 001
milli-	m	10 ⁻³	0.001
kilo-	k	10+3	1000
Mega	М	10+6	1 000 000
Giga	G	10 ⁺⁹	1 000 000 000

Power, Watts and milli-watts

1 W = 1000 mW,
$$1000 \times 10^{-3} = 1 \times 10^{+3} \times 10^{-3} = 1$$
W

$$30 \text{ mW} = 0.030 \text{ W}$$

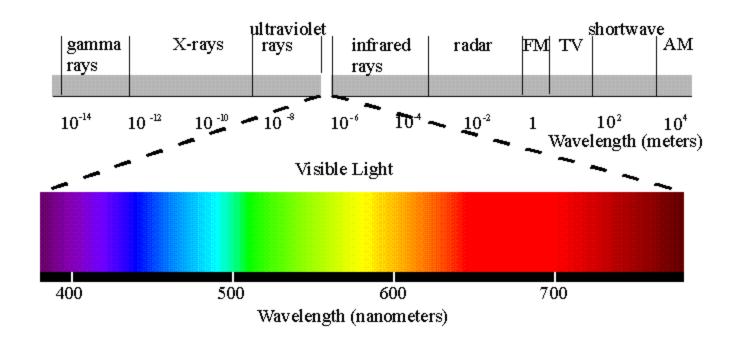
$$300 \text{ mW} = 0.3 \text{ W}$$

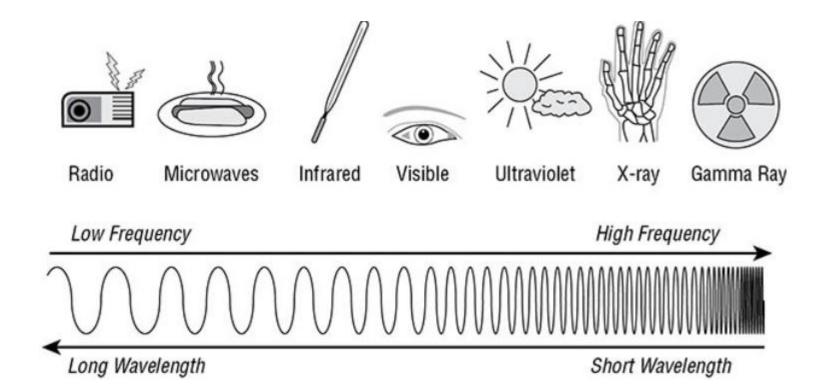
$$4 W = 4000 \text{ mW}$$

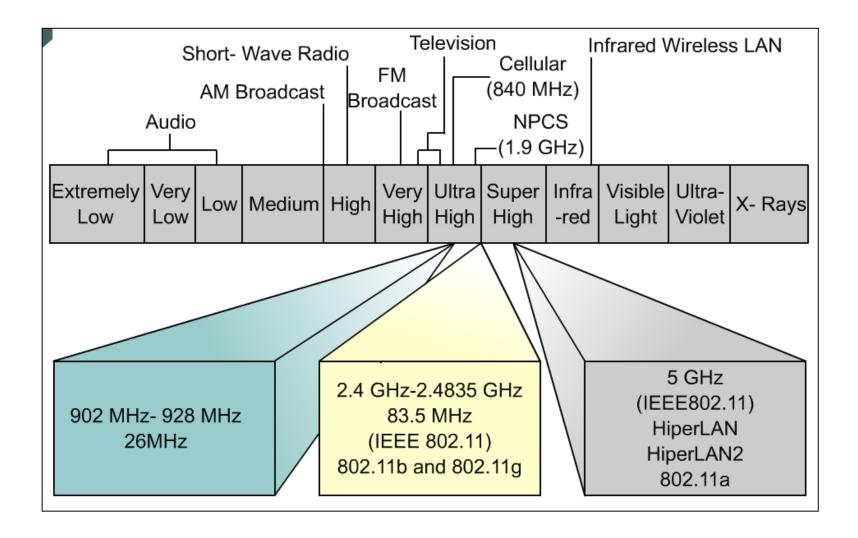
$$4 \text{ mW} = 0.004 \text{ W}$$

Radio and the Electromagnetic Spectrum

Radio frequencies are part of the electromagnetic spectrum









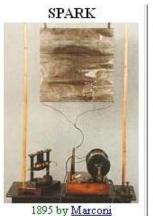
Early Radio



Marconi at his Instrument in the station on Signal Hill, St John's, Newfoundland, from Scientific American

- 1895 Marconi was not the first
- 1906 Reginald Fessenden, 11 miles land to sea
- 1927 First transatlantic telephone
- 1924 Bell Labs two-way voice carrying radio
- Radio first used for voice and broadcast
- Then used by military











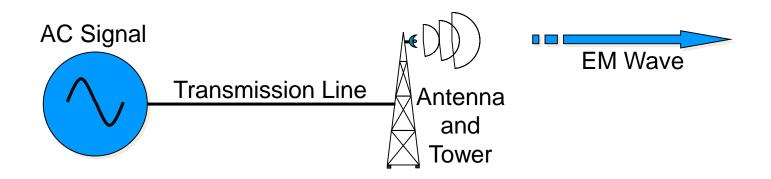




crystal radio receiver 1921 from GEC Archives

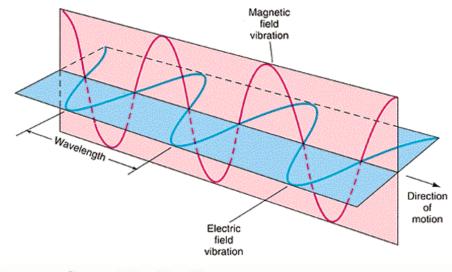
Radio Frequency

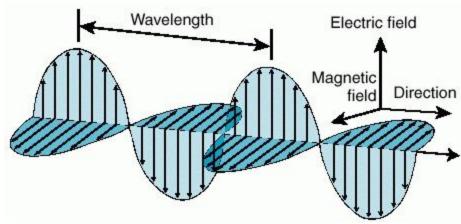
- Radio frequency, (RF)
 - is a term that refers to alternating current, (AC) having characteristics such that, if the current is input to an antenna, an electromagnetic (EM) field/wave is generated suitable for wireless communications.
 - Frequency (f Hz)
 - Frequency is the number of occurrences of a repeating event per unit time.



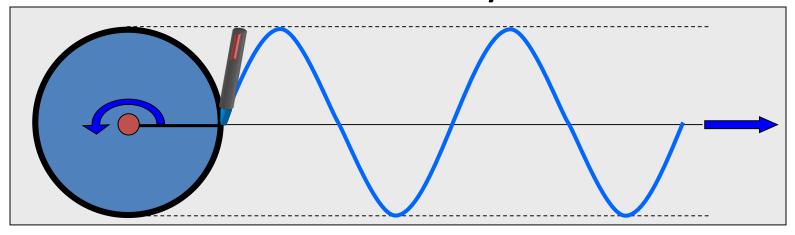
Electromagnatic Waves

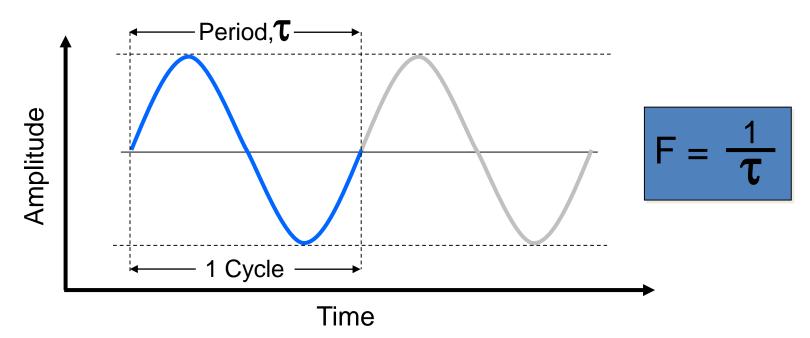
- Electromagnetic waves are made up of electric wave and magnetic waves at right angles
- The wave moves at right angle to the electric and magnetic waves
- In a vacuum the wave moves at the speed of light (3x10⁸ meter/sec)
- Electric field is the force on an electric charge
- A moving electric field will produce a moving magnetic field, which produces a moving electric field, ad infinitum





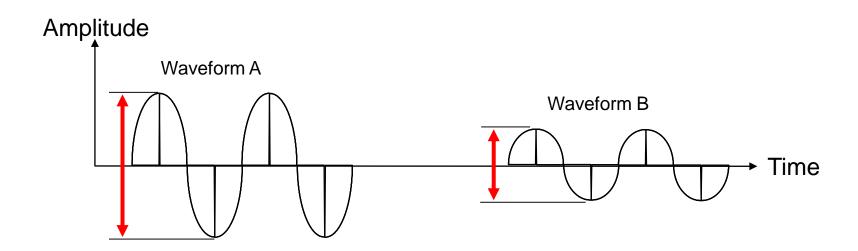
Sine Wave Cycle





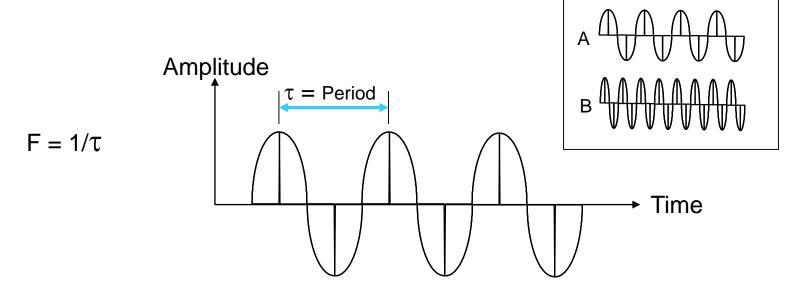
Amplitude

 The amount of a signal. Amplitude is measured by determining the amount of fluctuation in air pressure for sound or the voltage of an electrical signal.

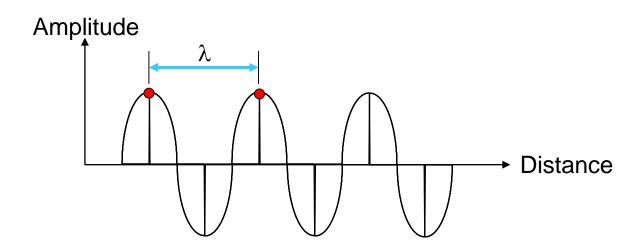


Frequency

 The number of repetitions per unit time of a complete waveform, measured in Hertz. The number of complete oscillations per second of electromagnetic radiation.



- Wavelength, λ
 - The distance that a wave travels in the time it takes to go through one full 360 degree phase change, or one cycle.



Wavelength 1 Wavelength, λ

$$\lambda = \frac{300,000,000 \text{ m/s}}{2.45 \text{ GHz}}$$

$$\lambda = 0.122 \,\text{m} = 12.2 \,\text{cm}$$

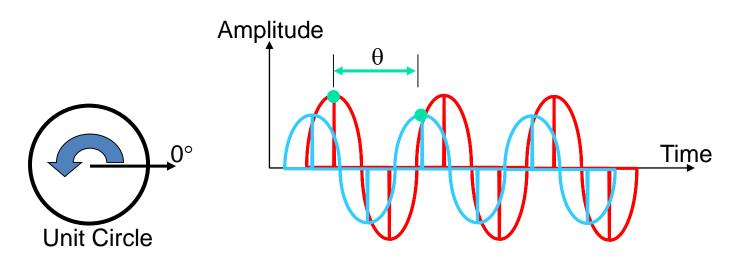
$$\lambda = \frac{300,000,000 \text{ m/s}}{\text{Frequency (Hz)}}$$
 $\lambda = \frac{984,000,000 \text{ f/s}}{\text{s}}$

$$\lambda = \frac{984,000,000 \text{ f/s}}{\text{Frequency (Hz)}}$$

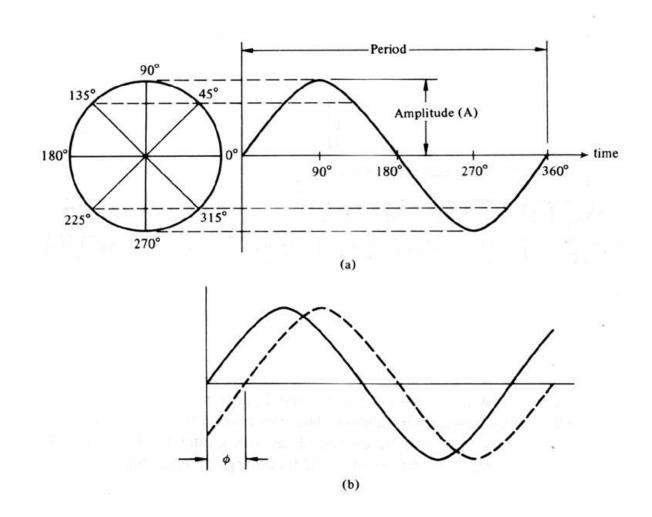
In a Vacuum

• Phase, θ

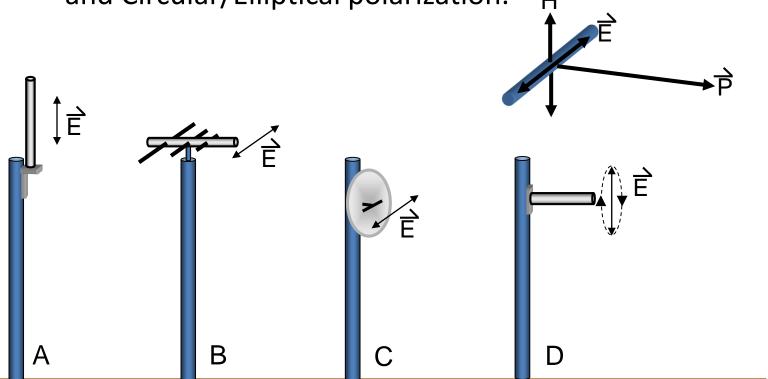
 Time based relationship between a periodic function and a reference. In electricity, it is expressed in angular degrees to describe the voltage or current relationship of two alternating waveforms.



Frequency – Amplitude – Period – Phase



Polarization

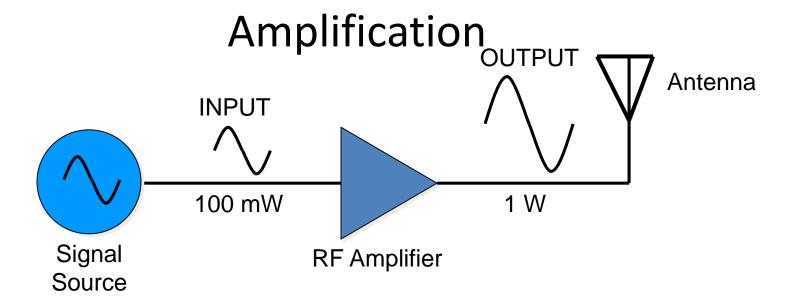


RF Spectrum

Designation	Abbreviation	Frequencies
Ultra High Frequency	UHF	300 MHz - 3 GHz
Super High Frequency	SHF	3 GHz - 30 GHz
Very Low Frequency - Extremely High Frequency	VLF - EHF	9 kHz – 300 GHz

Amplification and Attenuation

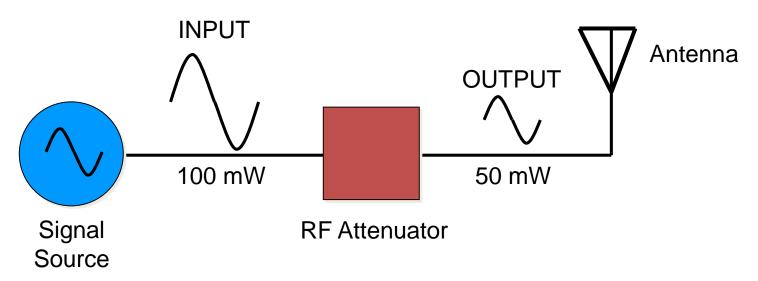
- Amplification/Gain
 - An increase in signal level, amplitude or magnitude of a signal. A device that does this is called an amplifier.
- Attenuation/Loss
 - A decrease in signal level, amplitude, or magnitude of a signal. A device that does this is called an attenuator.



The power gain of the RF amplifier is a power ratio.

Power Gain =
$$\frac{\text{Power Output}}{\text{Power Input}} = \frac{1 \text{ W}}{100 \text{ mW}} = 10 \text{ no units}$$

Attenuation



The power loss of the RF attenuator is a power ratio.

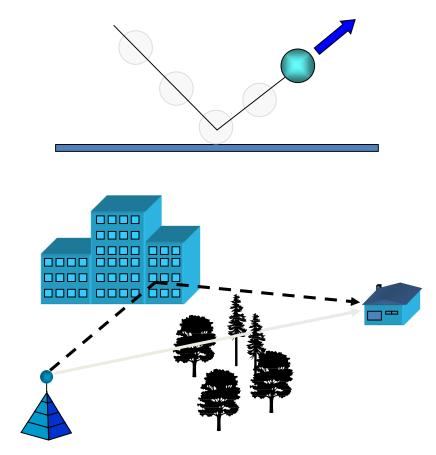
Power Loss =
$$\frac{\text{Power Output}}{\text{Power Input}} = \frac{50 \text{ mW}}{100 \text{ mW}} = 0.5 \text{ no units}$$

Loss: Negative difference in amplitude between signals

- Attenuation
- Can be intentional or unintentional
- Intentional loss may be necessary to decrease signal strength to comply with standards or to prevent interference
- Unintentional loss can be cause by many factors

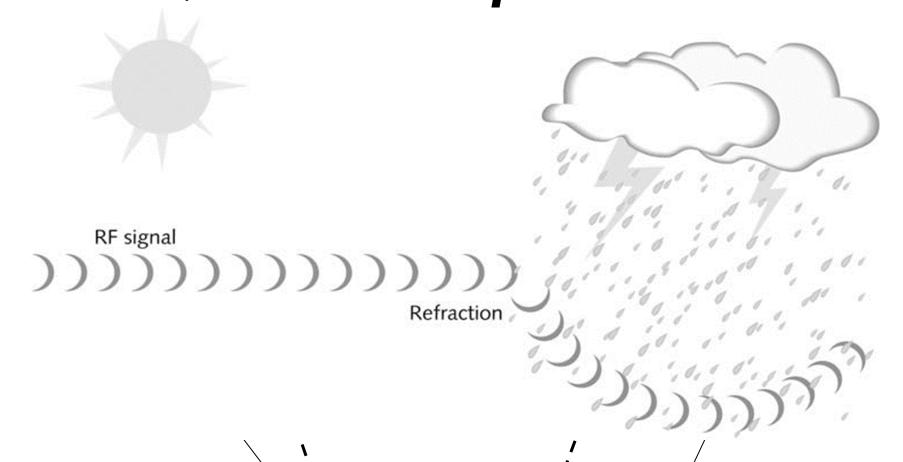
Reflection

• cast off or turn back, (bouncing).



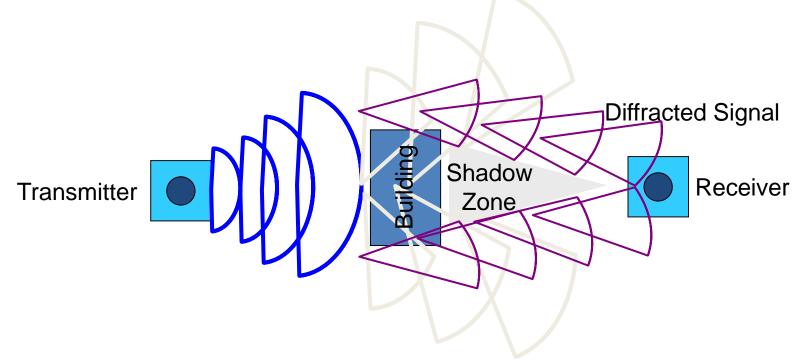
Refraction

 deflection from a straight path, (bending through a medium).



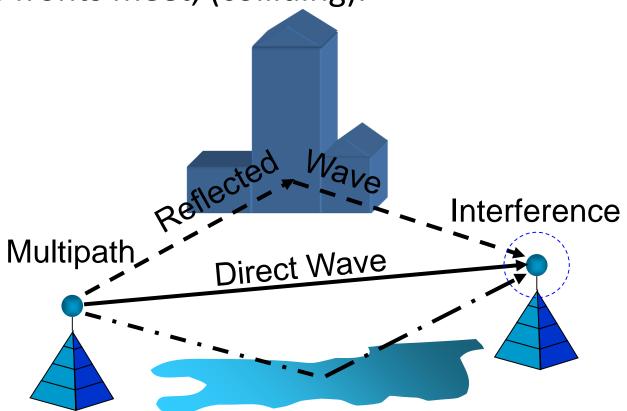
Diffraction

 Change in the directions and intensities of a group of waves when they pass near the edge of an EM opaque object (at sharp edges), (bending around object).



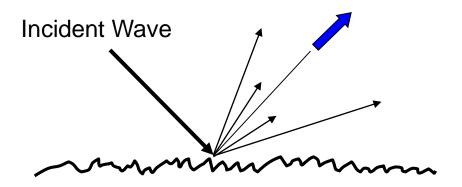
Interference

 hinders, obstructs, or impedes. When two or more wave fronts meet, (colliding).



Scattering

• A specification of the angular distribution of the electromagnetic energy scattered by a particle or a scattering medium, (dispersion).



Decibels

 The decibel is defined as one tenth of a bel where one bel is a unit of a logarithmic power scale and represents a difference between two power levels.

$$P_x$$
 and P_{ref} or P_{out} and P_{in}

The definition of a dB is:

$$dB = 10 \log_{10}(P_x / P_{ref})$$

Relative and Absolute dB

Relative dB is selecting any value for P_{Ref}

dB

 Absolute dB is selecting a standard value for P_{Ref} and identifying the standard value with one or more letter following the dB variable.

dBm

dBW

dBV

dBspl

What are log's?

- log's or logarithms are way of representing a large range of numeric values. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logarithm http://www.math.utah.edu/~pa/math/log.html
 - Very small numbers and very large numbers
- The logarithm of a number y with respect to a base b is the exponent to which we have to raise b to obtain y.
- We can write this definition as
- $x = log_b y <---> b^x = y$ and we say that x is the logarithm of y with base b if and only if b to the power x equals y.

Free Space Path Loss

- Free space path loss, sometimes called free space loss (FSL) or just path loss, is a weakening of the RF signal due to a broadening of the wave front.
 - This broadening of the wave front is known as signal dispersion.

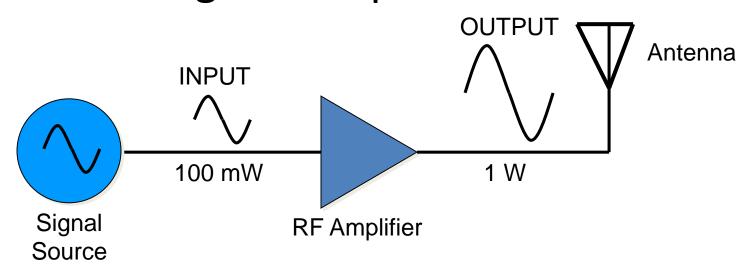
$$LP = 36.6 + (20 \times \log_{10}(F)) + (20 \times \log_{10}(D))$$

 where LP is the free space path loss in dB, F is the frequency in MHz, and D is the path length in miles

$$LP = 32.4 + (20 \times \log_{10}(F)) + (20 \times \log_{10}(D))$$

 where LP is the free space path loss in dB, F is the frequency in MHz, and D is the path length in km

dB gain Sample Problem

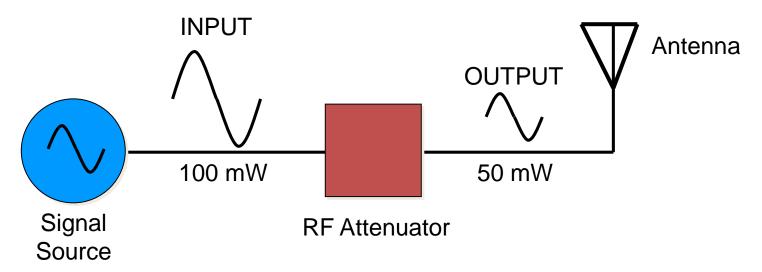


Compute the relative power gain of the RF Amplifier in dB.

$$dB = 10 \log_{10} (1W / 100 \text{ mW}) = 10 \log_{10} (10) = 10 (1) = 10 dB$$

$$P_{Ref}$$

dB loss Sample Problem

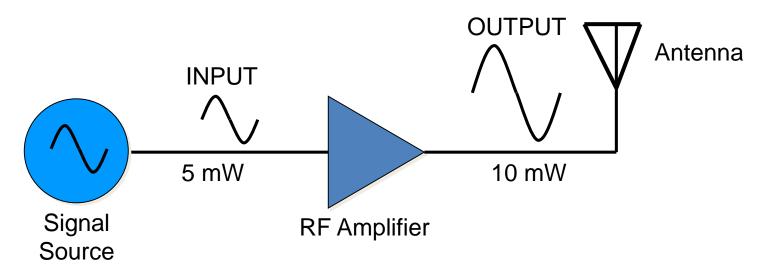


Compute the relative power loss of the RF Amplifier in dB.

$$dB = 10 \log_{10} (50 \text{ mW} / 100 \text{ mW}) = 10 \log_{10} (.5) = 10 (-0.3) = -3.0 dB$$

$$P_{Pof}$$

dB Gain Sample Problem



Compute the absolute dBm power level at the output of the RF Amplifier.

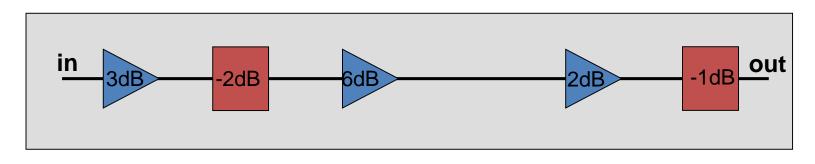
$$dBm = 10 log_{10} (10 mW / 1 mW) = 10 log_{10} (10) = 10 (1) = 10 dBm P_{Ref}^{\uparrow}$$

$$dB = 10 \log_{10} (10 \text{ mW} / 5 \text{ mW}) = 10 \log_{10} (2) = 10 (0.3) = 3 dB$$

$$P_{Ref}^{\uparrow}$$

Helpful Hints

- dB's are additive
- loss = -dB
- gain = +dB
- For Power
 - A doubling or halving is 3 dB
 - A ten times or one-tenth is 10 dB



Rules of 10 and 3's

Table 1

n	Log(n)
1/1000	-3
1/100	-2
1/10	-1
1	0
10	1
100	2
1000	3

Table 2

Power Ratio	dB
Half the power ½ or 0.5	-3
Double the power X 2	+3
One-tenth the power 1/10 or 0.1	-10
Ten times the power X 10	+10

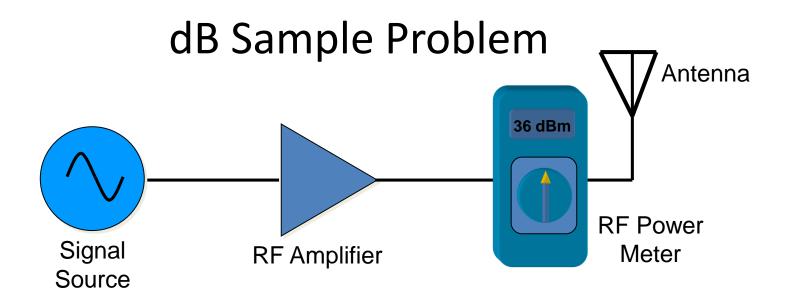
Using rules of 10's and 3's

How do you estimate dB gain when the values are not multiples of 2 and 10? Given a value of dB, come up with a series of 10's and 3's that when added equals the given dB.

Gain in dB	Expression in 10s and 3s
1	+10-3-3-3
2	+3+3+3+3-10
3	+3
4	+10-3-3
5	+3+3+3+3+3-10
6	+3+3
7	+ 10 – 3
8	+10+10-3-3-3-3
9	+3+3+3
10	+ 10

$$10x1/2x1/2x1/2 = 1.25$$
$$2x2x2x2x1/10 = 1.60$$
2

$$10x10x1/2x1/2x1/2x1/2 = 6.25$$



Compute the power level in watts at the output of the RF Amplifier.

$$36 \text{ dBm} = 10 \log_{10} (P_x / 1 \text{ mW})$$

$$3.6 = \log_{10} (P_X / 1 \text{ mW})$$

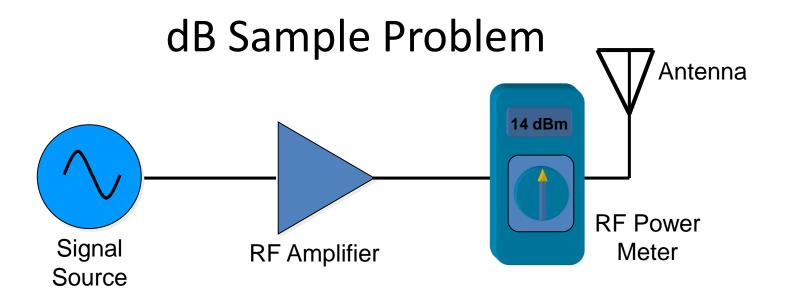
antilog (3.6) = antilog
$$log_{10}(P_X / 1 mW)$$

$$3,980 = (P_X / 1 \text{ mW})$$

$$3,980 \times 1 \text{ mW} = P_X$$

$$P_X = 3.98 \text{ W} \cong 4 \text{ W}$$

 $36 \text{ dBm} = (10 + 10 + 10 + 3 + 3) \text{dB}, \quad 1 \text{ mW} \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 = 1 \text{W} \times 2 \times 2 = 4 \text{ W}$



Compute the power level in watts at the output of the RF Amplifier.

$$14 \text{ dBm} = (10 + 3 + 1) \text{dB}$$
 $1 \text{mW} \times 10 = 10 \text{mW} \times 2 = 20 \text{mW} > 20 \text{mW}$

$$1 dB = (10 - 9)dB$$

 $1 dB = 10 \times 0.5 \times 0.5 \times 0.5 = 1.25$

 $1 \text{ mW} \times 10 \times 2 \times 1.25 = 25 \text{ mW}$

a. 10 mW

____b. 25 mW

c. 50 mW

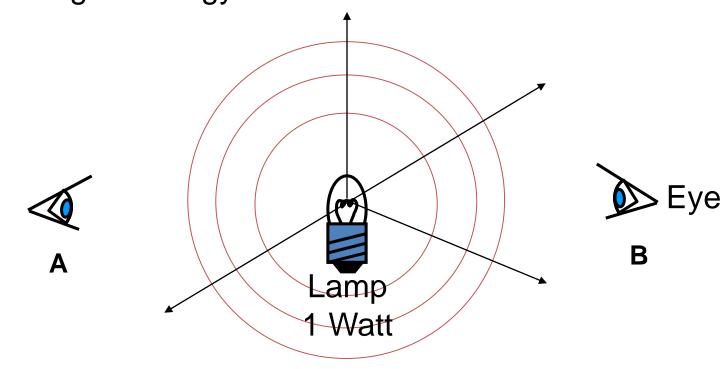
d. 100 mW

Antenna Gain

Measure of the ability of the antenna to <u>focus</u> radio waves in a particular direction. It is the ratio of the power required at the input of a <u>reference antenna</u> to the power supplied to the input of the given antenna to produce the same <u>field strength</u> at the same location.

Antenna Gain

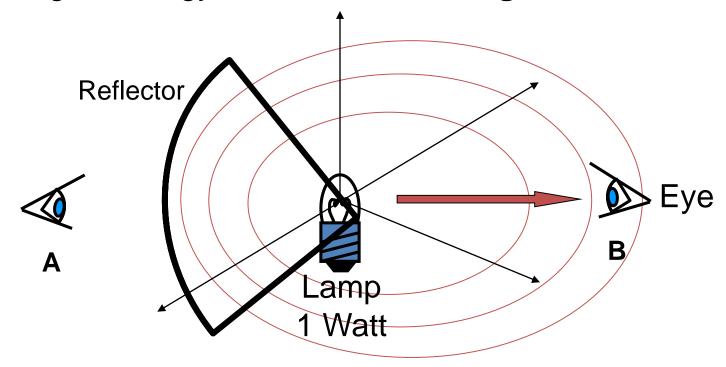
The light analogy. Reference device



Omni-directional Radiation Pattern

Antenna Gain

The light analogy. Focus/Field Strength



Directional Radiation Pattern

Two reference Antennas

 Isotropic Antenna - A hypothetical antenna that radiates or receives energy equally in all directions.

dBi or G_i

 Dipole Antenna - a straight, center-fed, oné-half wavelength antenna.

dBd or G_d

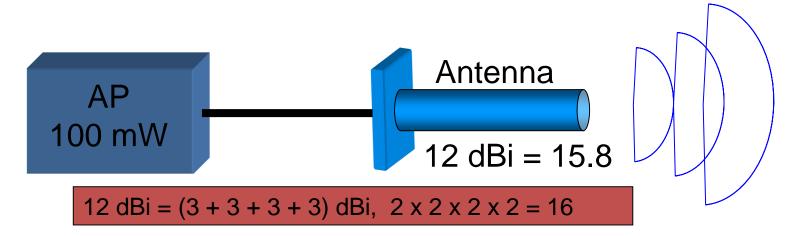


EIRP

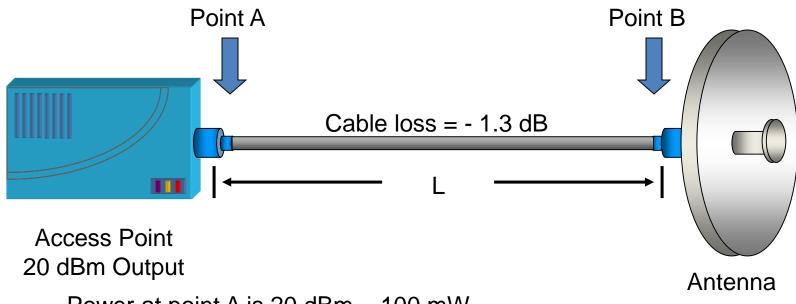
- EIRP Effective Isotropic Radiated Powe
- The product of the power supplied to the antenna and the antenna gain in a given direction relative to a reference isotropic antenna.

EIRP =
$$P_{in} \times G_{i}$$

1.58 W = 100 mW x 15.8



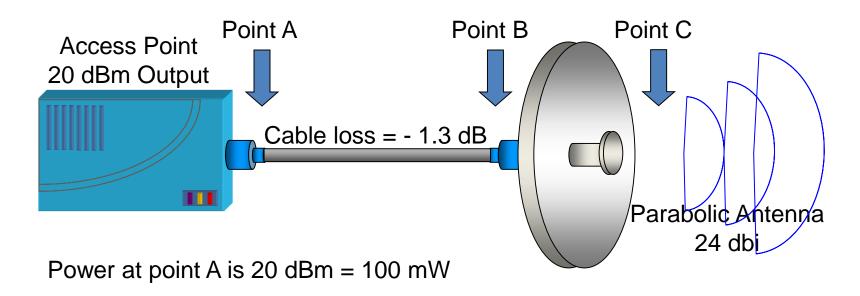
dB Sample Problem



Power at point A is 20 dBm = 100 mW

Power at point B is 20 dBm - 1.3 dB = 18.7 dBm = 74.1 mW

EIRP Example



Power at point B is 20 dBm - 1.3 dB = 18.7 dBm = 74.1 mW

EIRP at point C is 74.1 mW x 251 = 18.6 W

Another method:

0dBm + 20db - 1.3dB + 24dB = 42.7 dBm = 40 dB + 3dBApproximately = 1mw x 10,000 x 2 = 20 mw

dBd and dBi

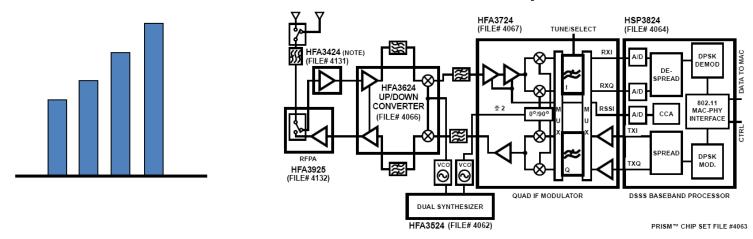
- dBi is the gain of an ideal antenna isotropic radiator
 - Isotropic antenna radiates equally in all directions (think sphere)
- dBd is the calculation of directional gain compared to a dipole antenna (d =dipole)
- A dipole gain = 2.14 dBi
- To convert: 0 dBd = 2.14 dBi
- Ex: an antenna with 7 dBd = 9.14 dBi (7+2.14=9.14)

SNR and RSSI

- SNR is Signal to Noise Ratio
- The RF signal power relative the background noise level –expressed in dB's
- Important measure of signal strength and the reliability of the connection
- RSSI is Received Signal Strength Indicator
- An arbitrary measurement of received signal strength defined by IEEE 802.11
- Not all vendors use the range of values

RSSI

 Received Signal Strength Indication. RSSI is a measurement of the strength (not necessarily the quality) of the received signal strength in a wireless environment, in arbitrary units.



Note: Cisco Systems RSSI range is 0 to 100. An Atheros based card's range is 0 to 60. RSSI may be one byte values for 256 levels.

Link Budget and System Operating Margin

- Link budget is an accounting of gains and losses of all RF components. Includes:
 - Gain, loss, receiver sensitivity, fade margin, cable loss, connectors, antenna gain and free space loss
 - Fade Margin signal loss due to weather, trees other variables
- System Operating Margin (SOM) is the amount of received signal strength (S) relative to the client device's receiver sensitivity (RS)

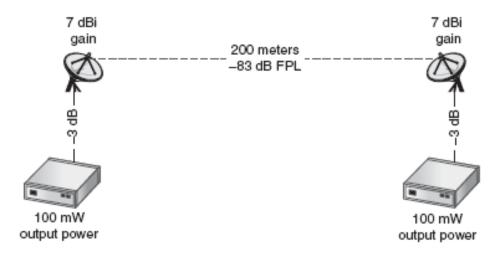
$$SOM = RS - S$$

Ex: RS= -94 dBm, S= -65 dBm SOM = (-94) –(-65) =-29dBm This means the signal (S) can in theory weaken by 29 dB and the system will work

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Link Budget Calculation

Link budget calculation



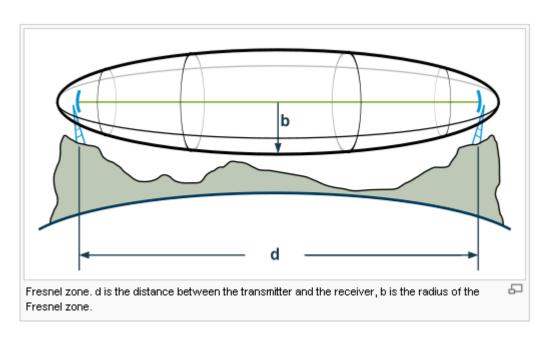
Let's consider an actual example of a link budget calculation. Figure 2.18 shows a site-to-site link being created across a distance of 200 meters with IEEE 802.11 bridges. Based on the output power of the bridge, the attenuation of the cables, the gain of the antennas, and the free space path loss, we can calculate the link budget, since the receive sensitivity of both bridges is -94 dBm. The calculations are as follows:

Link budget calculation 1:
$$100 \text{ mW} = 20 \text{ dBm}$$

Link budget calculation 2: $20 \text{ dBm} - 3 \text{ dB} + 7 \text{ dBi} - 83 \text{ dB} = -59 \text{ dBm}$
Link budget calculation 3: $(-94 \text{ dBm}) - (-59 \text{ dBm}) = 35 \text{ dBm}$
 $SOM = 35 \text{ dBm}$

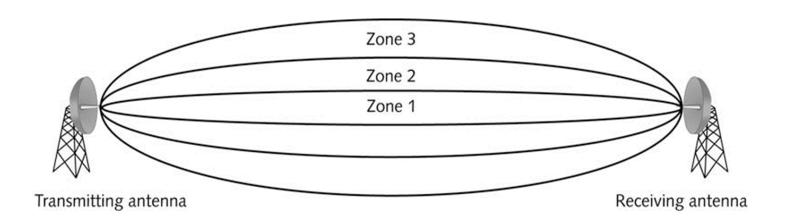
Antenna Concepts

- Visual Line of Site (visual LOS) straight line site
- RF LOS is a more sensitive measure of LOS which takes in to account the Fresnel Zone
- Fresnel Zone is the ellipsoidal shape necessary to support RF transmission



Fresnel Zones

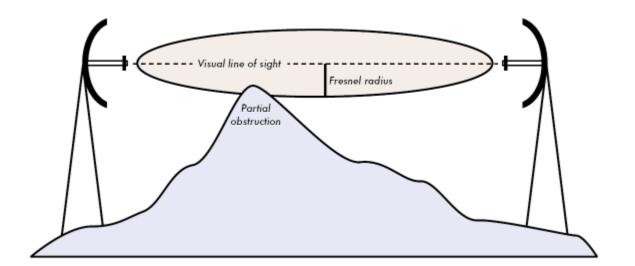
- Theoretically, infinite number of ellipsoidal areas around the LOS in an RF link
- Many engineers refer to the Fresnel zone when it is more proper to refer to the first Fresnel zone, 1FZ
- First Fresnel zone is the zone with the greatest impact on a RF link



Fresnel Equation

Good link is:

- http://www.vias.org/wirelessnetw/wndw 04 08b.html
- Radius = 72.2 x SQRT (D/(4xF))
- Where D is the distance of the link(miles) and F is transmission frequency (GHz). Radius will be in feet



Fresnel Equation

- Important: blockage of the 1FZ of more than 40 percent can cause the link to become nonfunctional.
- Minimum the 60 percent radius should be clear, to ensure the RF LOS, use the following formula:

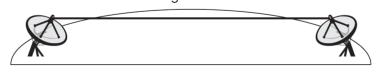
Radius =
$$43.3 * \sqrt{\frac{D}{4*F}}$$

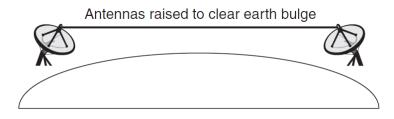
 To be on safe side, engineers choose to a 20 percent blockage or 80 percent clearance:

Radius = 57.8 *
$$\sqrt{\frac{D}{4*F}}$$

Earth Bulge and the Fresnel Zone

- Another factor that should be considered in 1FZ blockage is the Earth itself.
- If the wireless link is over distances greater than 7 miles using WLAN technologies, the Earth bulge must be considered in antenna-positioning formulas.
- The formula to calculate the extra height of the antennas will need to compensate for Earth bulge is:
 - Height = $D^2 / 8$
 - where height is the height of Earth bulge (feet) and D is the distance between antennas (miles).





Minimum Antenna Height

- To bring all the discussion of Fresnel zones together, it is important that to deal with 1FZ obstructions and the Earth bulge all together in a single formula.
- To calculate the height of antenna (in feet)
- Minimum Antenna Height = $57.9 * \sqrt{\frac{D}{4*F} + \frac{D^2}{8}}$

Antennas

Sample semi-directional antennas



Yagi Antenna



Patch Antenna



Panel Antenna





Sample omni-directional antennas



Omni Pillar Mount Antenna

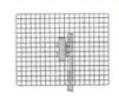


Omni Ground Plane Antenna



Omni Ceiling Mount Antenna

Sample of a highly-directional grid antenna





Antenna Concepts

Directionality

- Omni (360º coverage) directional
- Directional (limited range of coverage)

Gain

- Measured in dBi and dBd (0 dBd = 2.14 dBi)
- More gain means more coverage in certain directions

Polarization

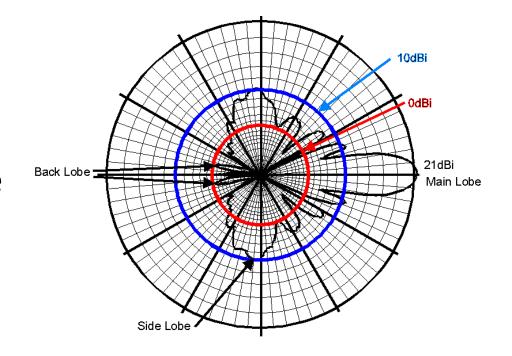
- Vertical (Elevation)
- Horizontal (Azimuth)

Antenna Concepts

- Main beam is the region around the direction of maximum radiation The main beam is centered at 90 degrees
- Sidelobes are smaller beams that are away from the main beam. Radiate in directions other than the main beam and can never be completely eliminated.
- Half Power Beamwidth (HPBW) is the angular separation in which the magnitude of the radiation pattern decrease by 50% (or -3 dB) from the peak of the main beam.
- Null to Null Beamwidth. the angular separation from which the magnitude of the radiation pattern decreases to zero (negative infinity dB) away from the main beam.

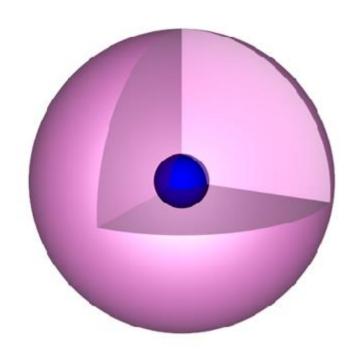
Antenna Issues

- Antennas have gain in particular directions
- Direction other than the main intended radiation pattern, are typically related to the main lobe gain



Isotropic Radiator

- A theoretical isotropic antenna has a perfect 360º vertical and horizontal beamwidth
- This is a reference for ALL antennas
- This is a fictional antenna
- The Isotropic antenna is the a reference for all antennas (dBi)

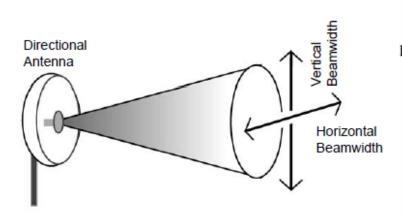


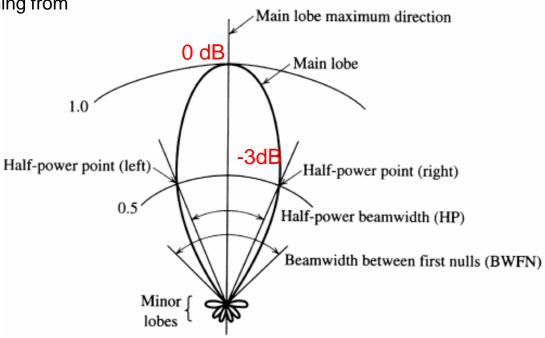
Beamwidths

 measurement of how broad or narrow the focus of the RF energy is as it propagates from the antenna along the main lobe.

 The main lobe is the primary RF energy coming from the antenna.

 Beamwidth is measured both vertically and horizontally in angles

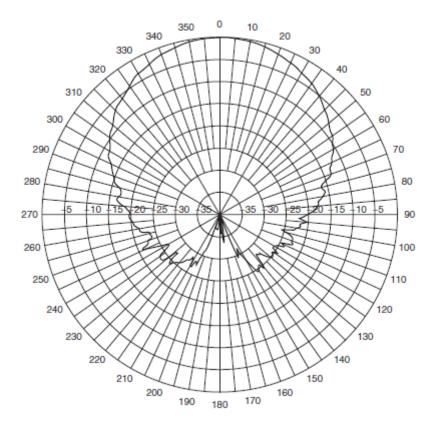




Antenna Type	Horizontal Beamwidth (in degrees)	Vertical Beamwidth (in degrees)
Omni-directional	360	Ranges from 7-80
Patch/Panel	Ranges from 30-180	Ranges from 6-90
Yagi	Ranges from 30-78	Ranges from 14-64
Parabolic Dish	Ranges from 4-25	Ranges from 4-21

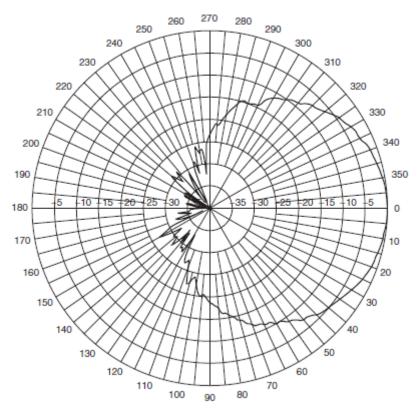
Azimuth and Elevation

Azimuth chart



Azimuth chart shows a top-down view of the propagation path (to the left, in front, to the right, and behind the antenna)

Elevation chart



Elevation chart shows a side view of the propagation path (above, in front, below, and behind the antenna)

Polarization

- A factor that greatly impacts the performance of RF antennas is the polarization of the antennas.
- Antenna polarization refers to the physical orientation of the antenna in a horizontal or vertical position.
- The electromagnetic wave is made up of electric and magnetic fields. The electric field forms what is known as the E-plane, and the magnetic field forms what is known as the H-plane.
- The E-plane is parallel to the radiating antenna element, and the H-plane is perpendicular to it.
- The E-plane, or electric field, determines the polarization of the antenna, since it is parallel to the antenna. Therefore,
 - If the antenna is in a vertical position, it is said to be vertically polarized.
 - If the antenna is in a horizontal position, it is said to be horizontally polarized.
- Vertical polarization means that most of the signal is being propagated horizontally
- horizontal polarization means most of the signal is being propagated vertically.

2.4 GHz Omni-Directional Antennas

2 dBi Dipole "Standard Rubber Duck"



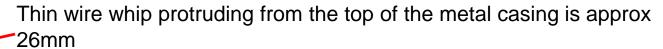


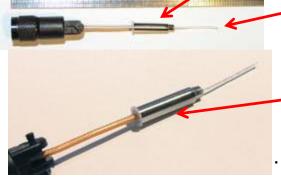
Rubber Ducky Antenna Construction



Each half of the dipole is a 1/4 wavelength, with the length corrected based on the velocity of the coax being used. Assuming a centre frequency for 802.11b of 2.441GHz, a 1/4 wavelength in free space is 30.7mm.

Length of the metal casing is approx 24mm, with a total length of 50mm.



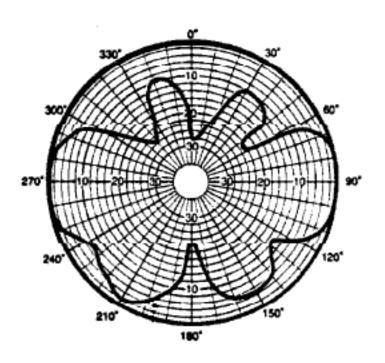


Metal casing is a "decoupler", and is typically used to tune the antenna, by moving the decoupler up and down to vary the VSWR



2.4 GHz Omni-Directional Antennas

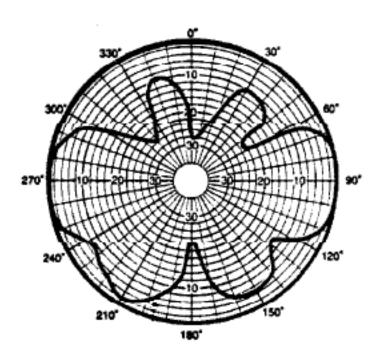
5.2 dBi Mast Mount Vertical





2.4 GHz Omni-Directional Antennas

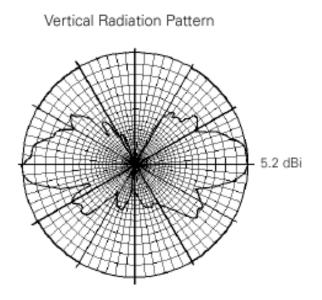
• 5.2 dBi Ceiling Mount





2.4 GHz Omni-Directional Antennas

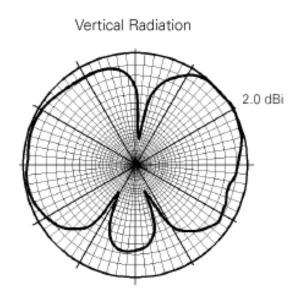
5.2 dBi Pillar Mount Diversity





2.4 GHz Diversity Omni-Directional Antennas

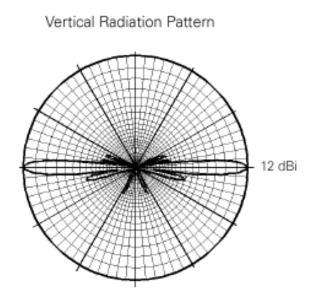
 2 dBi Diversity Omni-Directional Ceiling Mount





2.4 GHz Omni-Directional Antennas

12 dBi Omni-Directional (Outdoor only)





5 GHz Omni-Directional Antennas

9 dBi omni (Vertical polarization)



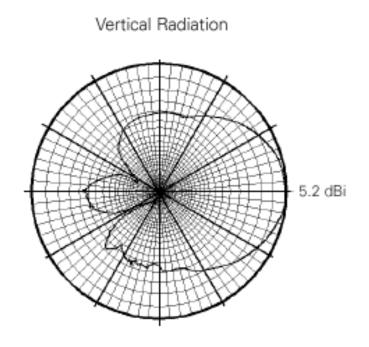
5 GHz Omni-Directional Antennas

9.5 dBi sector (H or V polarization)



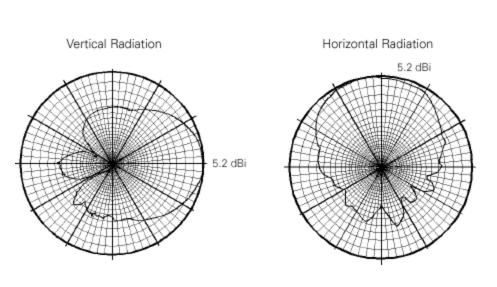
2.4 GHz Diversity Antennas

• 6.5 dBi Diversity Patch Wall Mount – 55 degree



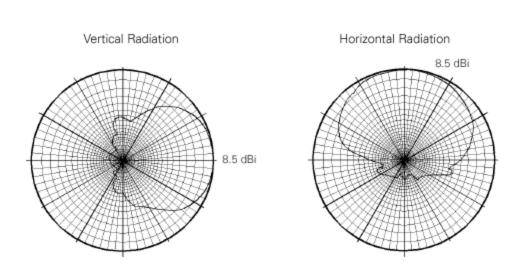


• 6 dBi Patch Antenna – 65 degree



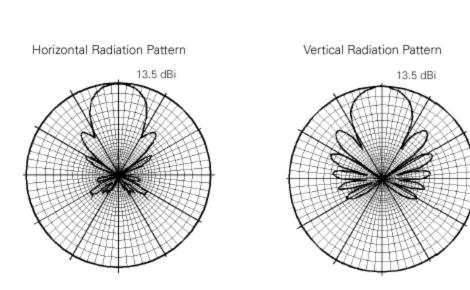


• 8.5 dBi Patch Antenna – 60 degree





• 13.5 dBi Yagi Antenna – 25 degree

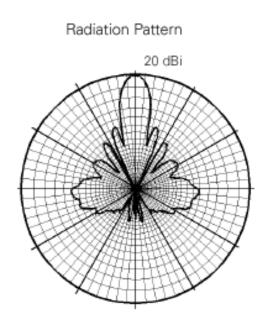


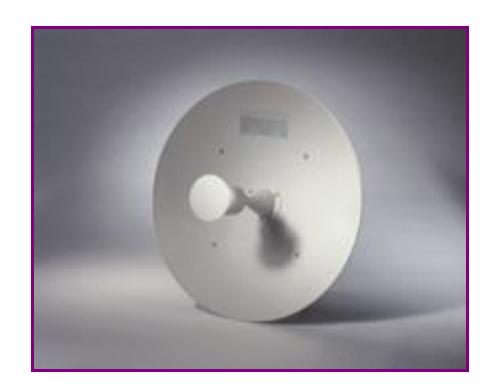


13.5 dBi Yagi Antenna—Inside view



• 21 dBi Parabolic Dish Antenna – 12 degree





5 GHz Omni-Directional Antennas

28 dBi dish (H or V polarization)



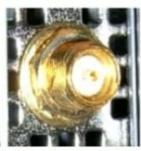
Antenna Connectors



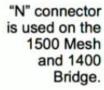
"RP-TNC" connector is used on most Cisco APs.







"RP-SMA" connector is used on some Linksys products.







"SMA" connector is used on "pig-tail" type cable assemblies.