

## **Physical Layer**

**Aim:-** To understand working of physical layer and various transmission media.

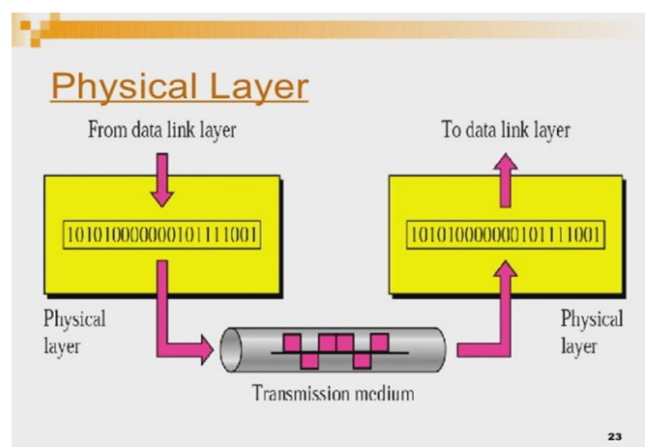
### **Theory:-**

Physical layer is the lowest layer of the OSI reference model. It is responsible for sending bits from one computer to another. This layer is not concerned with the meaning of the bits and deals with the setup of physical connection to the network and with transmission and reception of signals.

### **Functions of Physical Layer**

Following are the various functions performed by the Physical layer of the OSI model.

- Representation of Bits: Data in this layer consists of stream of bits. The bits must be encoded into signals for transmission. It defines the type of encoding i.e. how 0's and 1's are changed to signal.
- Data Rate: This layer defines the rate of transmission which is the number of bits per second.
- Synchronization: It deals with the synchronization of the transmitter and receiver. The sender and receiver are synchronized at bit level.
- Interface: The physical layer defines the transmission interface between devices and transmission medium.
- Line Configuration: This layer connects devices with the medium: Point to Point configuration and Multipoint configuration.
- Topologies: Devices must be connected using the following topologies: Mesh, Star, Ring and Bus.
- Transmission Modes: Physical Layer defines the direction of transmission between two devices: Simplex, Half Duplex, Full Duplex.



**Network Architectures:-**

**LAN:** A local-area network (LAN) is a computer network that spans a relatively small area. Most often, a LAN is confined to a single room, building or group of buildings, however, one LAN can be connected to other LANs over any distance via telephone lines and radio waves. Local Area Networks cover a small physical area, like a home, office, or a small group of buildings, such as a school or airport.

**WAN:** A computer network that spans a relatively large geographical area, generally having a radius of more than 1 km. . Typically, a WAN consists of two or more local-area networks (LANs). Computers connected to a wide-area network are often connected through public networks, such as the telephone system. They can also be connected through leased lines or satellites.

**MAN:** A metropolitan area network (MAN) is a network that interconnects users with computer resources in a geographic area or region larger than that covered by even a large local area network (LAN) but smaller than the area covered by a wide area network (WAN).

**SAN:** SAN (storage area network) is a high-speed network of storage devices that also connects those storage devices with servers. It provides block-level storage that can be accessed by the applications running on any networked servers. Storage Area Networks help attach remote computer storage devices, such as disk arrays, tape libraries, and optical jukeboxes, to servers in such a manner that they appear to be locally attached to the operating system.

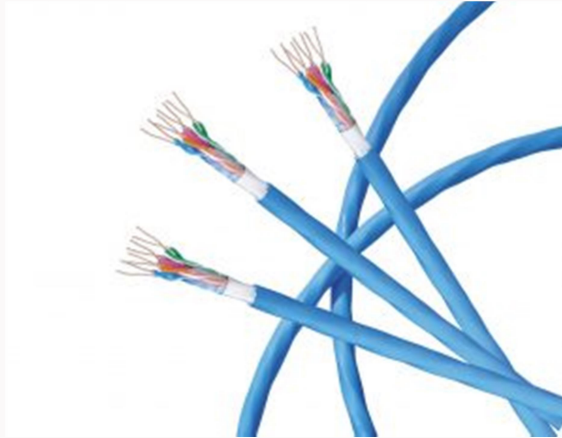
**CAN:** A Controller Area Network (CAN bus) is a vehicle bus standard designed to allow microcontrollers and devices to communicate with each other in applications without a host computer.

**PAN:** A personal area network (PAN) is a computer network used for data transmission amongst devices such as computers, telephones, tablets, personal digital assistants, fax machines and printers, that are located close to a single user.

**GAN:** A global area network (GAN) is a network used for supporting mobile across an arbitrary number of wireless LANs, satellite coverage areas, etc.

## Wired Media

### Twisted Pair Cables:



Twisted pair cables are literally a pair of insulated wires that are twisted together. While this does help to reduce outside noise, these cables are still very susceptible to it. Twisted pair cables are the most cost-effective option of the three – mostly due to their lower bandwidth capacity and [high attenuation](#). There are two types of twisted pair cables:

#### Unshielded twisted pair (UTP)

- ‘Unshielded’ meaning it does not rely on physical shielding to block interference
- Most commonly used cable of the two, often utilized for both residential and business use
- There are several UTP categories, which increase in bandwidth as you move up the scale, for example:
  - **CAT1** = up to 1Mbps | **CAT2** = up to 4 Mbps | **CAT5e** = up to 1Gbps

#### Shielded twisted pair (STP)

- ‘Shielded’ with a foil jacket to cancel any external interference
- Used primarily for large-scale enterprises, high-end applications, and exterior cabling that will be exposed to environmental elements.

### Coaxial Cables:



Coaxial cables are high-frequency transmission cables made up of a single solid-copper core that transfers data electrically over the inner conductor. Coax has **80X more transmission capacity** than twisted pair cables.

This type of cable is commonly used to deliver TV signals (its higher bandwidth makes it more suitable for video applications) and to connect computers in a network. Along with stable transmission of data, coax also has anti-jamming capabilities and can effectively protect signals

from being interfered. The cost is slightly higher than twisted pair but still more economical than fibre. There are also two types of coaxial cables:

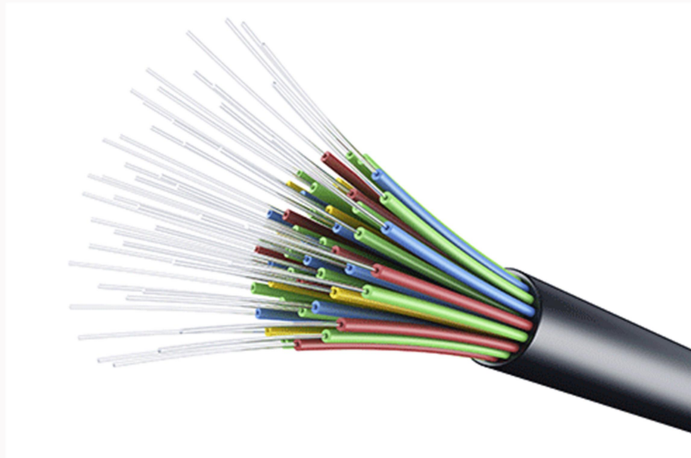
#### 75 Ohm

- Most commonly used to transmit video signals
- Often used to connect video signals between different components like DVDs, VCRs, or receivers commonly known as A/V cables

#### 50 Ohm

- Primarily utilized to transmit a data signal in a 2-way communication system
- Most commonly used for computer ethernet backbones, AM/FM radio receivers, GPS antenna, police scanners, and cell phone systems

### Fibre Optic Cables:



Fibre is the newest form of transmission cabling technology. Instead of transferring data over copper wires, these cables contain optical fibres that transmit data via light, rather than pulses of electricity. Each individual optical fibre is coated with plastic and contained in a protective tube. This makes fibre optic cables extremely resistant to external interference. The result is a super reliable, high speed connection with **26,000X more transmission capacity** than twisted-pair cables – but also a much higher cost. Again, there are two types of fibre cables:

#### Singlemode

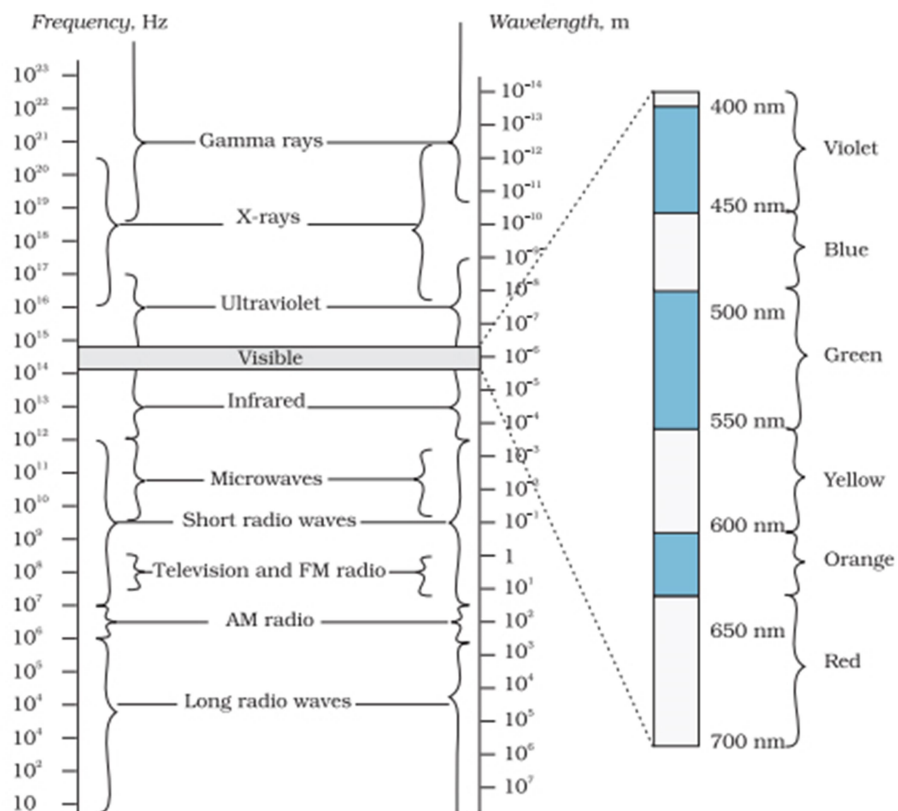
- Has a small core and only allows one mode of light to propagate at a time
- Because of this, the number of light reflections decrease as they pass through the core
- The result is low attenuation and data that is able to travel further and faster
- Commonly used in telecom, CATV networks, and Universities.

#### Multimode

- Has a larger core diameter that lets multiple modes of light propagate
- The amount of light reflections increase as they travel through the core, which allows more data to pass through
- Because of its high dispersion, multimode cables have lower bandwidth, higher attenuation and reduced signal quality further it travels
- Most commonly used for communication over short distances such as LAN, security systems, and general fibre networks.

## Electromagnetic Spectrum

Here is a quick look at the electromagnetic spectrum with common names for various regions.



## Radio Waves

- Radio waves are usually in the frequency range from 500 kHz to 1000 MHz.
- Also, the range of the AM (amplitude modulated) band is between 530 kHz and 1710 kHz.
- Further, shortwave bands use higher frequencies of up to 54 MHz.
- TV waves range from 54 MHz to 890 MHz.
- The FM (frequency modulated) radio band is from 88 MHz to 108 MHz.

- Cellular phones also use radio waves to transmit voice communication in an ultra-high frequency (UHF) band.

### **Generation of Radio Waves**

The accelerated motion of charges in conducting wires generates Radio waves. Radio and television communication systems widely use these waves.

### **Microwaves**

- Microwaves are short-wavelength radio waves with frequencies in the Gigahertz (GHz) range
- Best suited for the radar systems in aircraft navigation
- Another use of Radars is as speed-guns. These speed guns help time fastballs, tennis serves and automobiles.
- These waves form the basis of microwave ovens. In microwave ovens, the frequency of the microwaves is selected to match the resonant frequency of water molecules. This results in a direct transfer of energy from the waves to the kinetic energy of the water molecules raising the temperature of any food containing water.

### **Generation of Microwaves**

Special vacuum tubes called klystrons, magnetrons and Gunn diodes generate microwaves.

### **Infrared Rays**

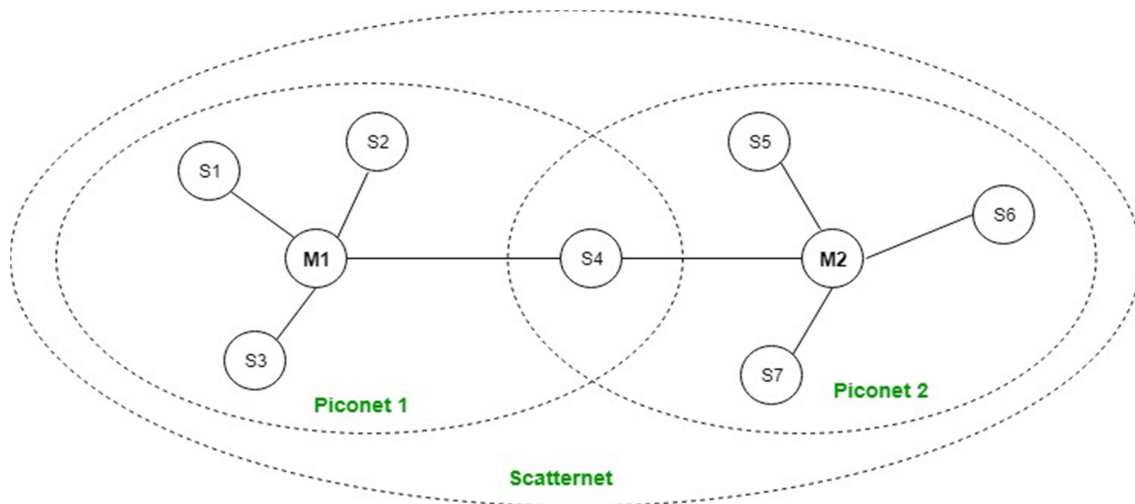
- 'Heat Waves' is another name for Infrared rays.
- Water molecules present in most materials readily absorb these rays.
- After absorption, their thermal motion increases which increases their heat and that of their surroundings.
- Many physical therapy treatments use Infrared lamps.
- These rays also play an important role in maintaining the earth's average temperature through the greenhouse effect.
  - *Greenhouse effect: The earth's surface absorbs the incoming visible light. Then, it re-radiates it as infrared radiations. The greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and water vapour trap these radiations.*
- Earth Satellites deploy Infrared detectors for military purposes and to observe the growth of crops.
- Remote switches of household appliances like TV, video recorders, etc. use infrared rays.

### **Generation of Infrared Rays**

Hot bodies and molecules generate Infrared rays. Also, the band lies next to the low-frequency or long-wavelength end of the electromagnetic spectrum.

## Bluetooth

It is a Wireless Personal Area Network (WPAN) technology and is used for exchanging data over smaller distances. This technology was invented by Ericson in 1994. It operates in the unlicensed, industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) band at 2.4 GHz to 2.485 GHz. Maximum devices that can be connected at the same time are 7. Bluetooth ranges upto 10 meters. It provides data rates upto 1 Mbps or 3 Mbps depending upon the version. The spreading technique which it uses is FHSS (Frequency hopping spread spectrum). A bluetooth network is called **piconet** and a collection of interconnected piconets is called **scatternet**.



## Zigbee

Zigbee is a wireless technology developed as an open global standard to address the unique needs of low-cost, low-power wireless IoT networks. The Zigbee standard operates on the IEEE 802.15.4 physical radio specification and operates in unlicensed bands including 2.4 GHz, 900 MHz and 868 MHz.

The 802.15.4 specification upon which the Zigbee stack operates gained ratification by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) in 2003. The specification is a packet-based radio protocol intended for low-cost, battery-operated devices. The protocol allows devices to communicate in a variety of network topologies and can have battery life lasting several years.

## Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is a low-cost wireless communication technology. A WiFi setup consists of a wireless router which serves as a communication hub, linking portable devices with an internet connection. This network facilitates connection of many devices depending on the router configuration. These networks are limited in range due to the low power transmission, allowing the user to connect only in the close proximity.



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### **Advantages**

- Information can be transmitted quickly with a high speed and accuracy.
- The internet can be accessed from anywhere, at any time without any cables or wires.
- Emergency situations can be alerted through wireless communication.
- Wireless, no bunches of wire running out.
- Communication can reach where wiring is not feasible and costly.

### **Disadvantages**

- An Unauthorized person can easily misuse the wireless signals which spread through the air.
- It is very important to secure the wireless network to protect information.
- High cost to set up the infrastructure.
- Wireless communication is influenced by physical constructions, climatic conditions and interference from other wireless devices.

### **WiMax**

WiMAX is one of the hottest broadband wireless technologies around today. WiMAX systems are expected to deliver broadband access services to residential and enterprise customers in an economical way.

Loosely, WiMax is a standardized wireless version of Ethernet intended primarily as an alternative to wire technologies (such as Cable Modems, DSL and T1/E1 links) to provide broadband access to customer premises.

More strictly, WiMAX is an industry trade organization formed by leading communications, component, and equipment companies to promote and certify compatibility and interoperability of broadband wireless access equipment that conforms to the IEEE 802.16 and ETSI HIPERMAN standards.

WiMAX would operate similar to WiFi, but at higher speeds over greater distances and for a greater number of users. WiMAX has the ability to provide service even in areas that are difficult



for wired infrastructure to reach and the ability to overcome the physical limitations of traditional wired infrastructure.

WiMAX was formed in April 2001, in anticipation of the publication of the original 10-66 GHz IEEE 802.16 specifications. WiMAX is to 802.16 as the WiFi Alliance is to 802.11.



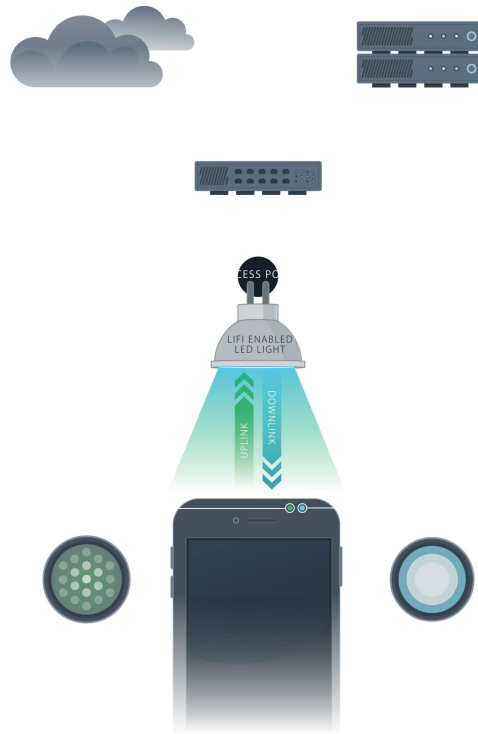
WiMAX is

Acronym for Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access.

- Based on Wireless MAN technology.
- A wireless technology optimized for the delivery of IP centric services over a wide area.
- A scalable wireless platform for constructing alternative and complementary broadband networks.
- A certification that denotes interoperability of equipment built to the IEEE 802.16 or compatible standard. The IEEE 802.16 Working Group develops standards that address two types of usage models –
  1. A fixed usage model (IEEE 802.16-2004).
  2. A portable usage model (IEEE 802.16e).

## Lifi

LiFi uses visible light as a medium for the transmission of data. As a type of VLC system, it requires two components: a photodiode and a light source. The photodiode acts as a transceiver that receives light signals and transmits them back. The light source transmits data using emitted light as the medium. In this case, light emitting diodes (LED) serve as the light source. They are outfitted with a chip that serves as the signal processing unit. LED light bulbs are semiconductors. This means current supplied to the bulb can be modulated, which in turn, modulates the light they emit. This process occurs at extremely high speeds that are unperceivable to the human eye. Data is fed into the light bulb and sends the data at extremely high speeds to the photodiode. It converts the data received into a binary data stream perceivable by humans such as video and audio applications.



## TD-SCDMA

One of the key elements of TD-SCDMA is the fact that it uses a TDD, Time Division Duplex approach. As seen with UMTS TDD this has advantages in a number of areas, enabling the balance to be changed between uplink and downlink to accommodate the different levels of data transfer. It also has advantages in terms of using unpaired spectrum, spectrum efficiency for certain loads and it does not require expensive duplexers in the handsets to enable simultaneous transmission on the uplink and downlink, although transmit / receive switching times must be accommodated and can reduce the efficiency of the system.

As a further advantage, TD-SCDMA uses the same RAN as that used for UMTS. In this way it is possible to run TD-SCDMA alongside UMTS, and thereby simplifying multi-system designs.

Although UMTS (W-CDMA) and cdma2000 are widely recognized as 3G cellular standards, TD-SCDMA is equally valid. In fact it has been adopted as the low chip rate (LCR) version of the 3GPP TDD standard.

## Conclusion:

Hence, I understood the working and use of physical layer in OSI model and also I got a chance to explore various wired and wireless transmission media.

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