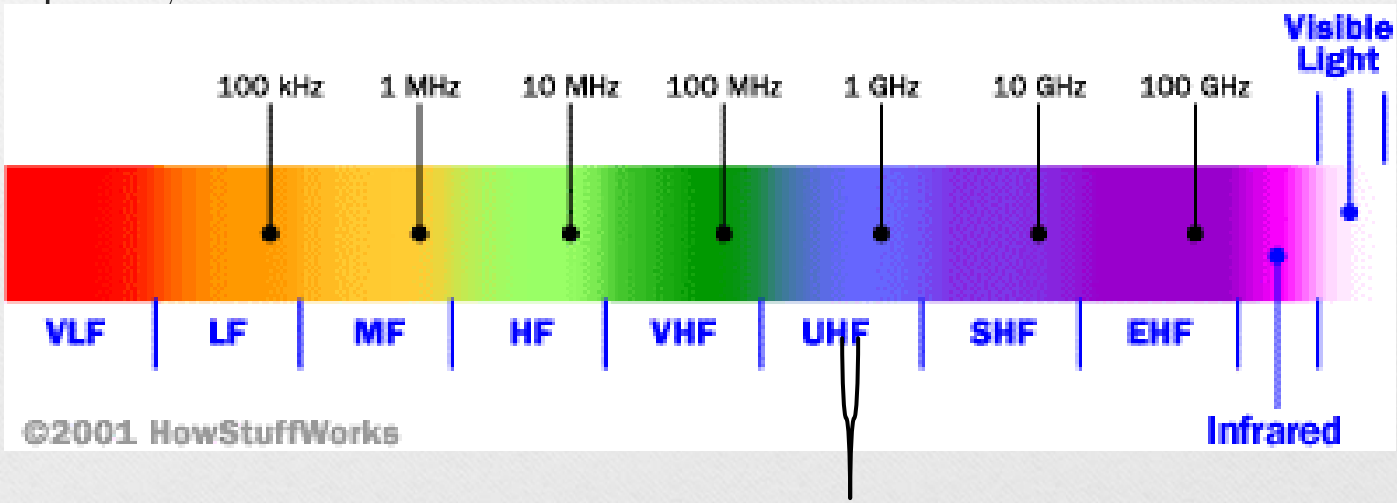
Mobile Handset Cellular Network

Cellular Network Basics

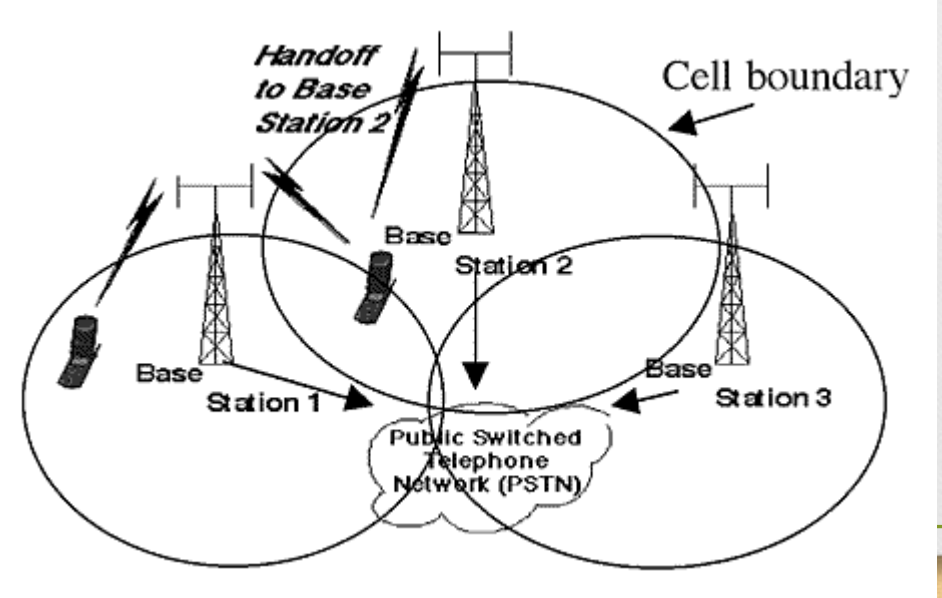
- There are many types of cellular services; before delving into details, focus on basics (helps navigate the "acronym soup")
- Cellular network/telephony is a *radio*-based technology; radio waves are electromagnetic waves that *antennas* propagate
- Most signals are in the 850 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, and 1900 MHz frequency bands



Cell phones operate in this frequency range (note the *logarithmic* scale)

Cellular Network

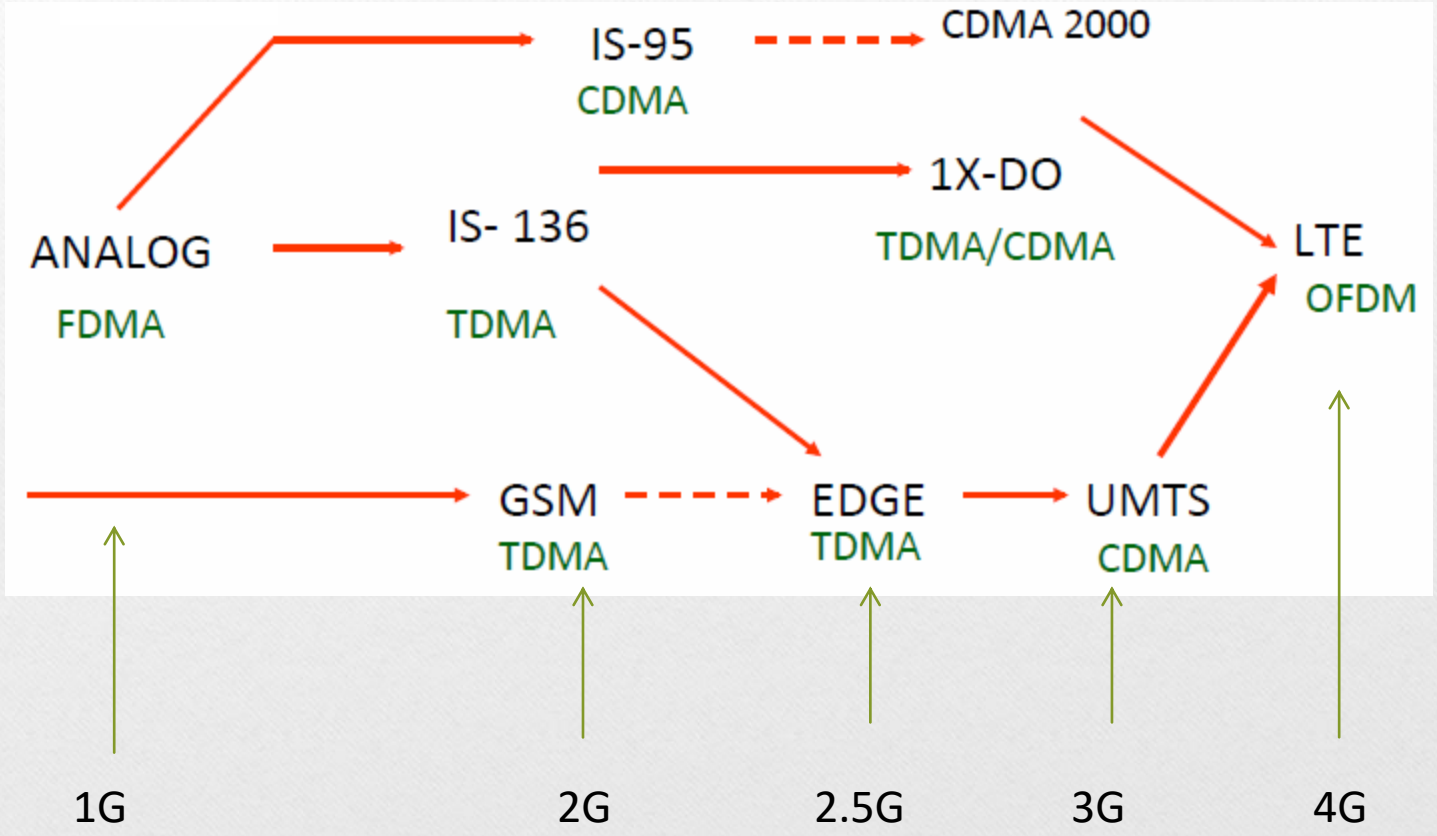
- Base stations transmit to and receive from mobiles at the assigned spectrum
  - ~~Multiple base stations use the same spectrum (spectral reuse)~~
- The service area of each base station is called a cell
- Each mobile terminal is typically served by the 'closest' base stations
  - Handoff when terminals move



Cellular Network Generations

- It is useful to think of cellular Network/telephony in terms of *generations*:
  - 0G: Briefcase-size mobile radio telephones
  - 1G: *Analog* cellular telephony
  - 2G: *Digital* cellular telephony
  - 3G: *High-speed* digital cellular telephony (including *video telephony*)
  - 4G: IP-based "anytime, anywhere" voice, data, and multimedia telephony at *faster* data rates than 3G (to be deployed in 2012–2015)

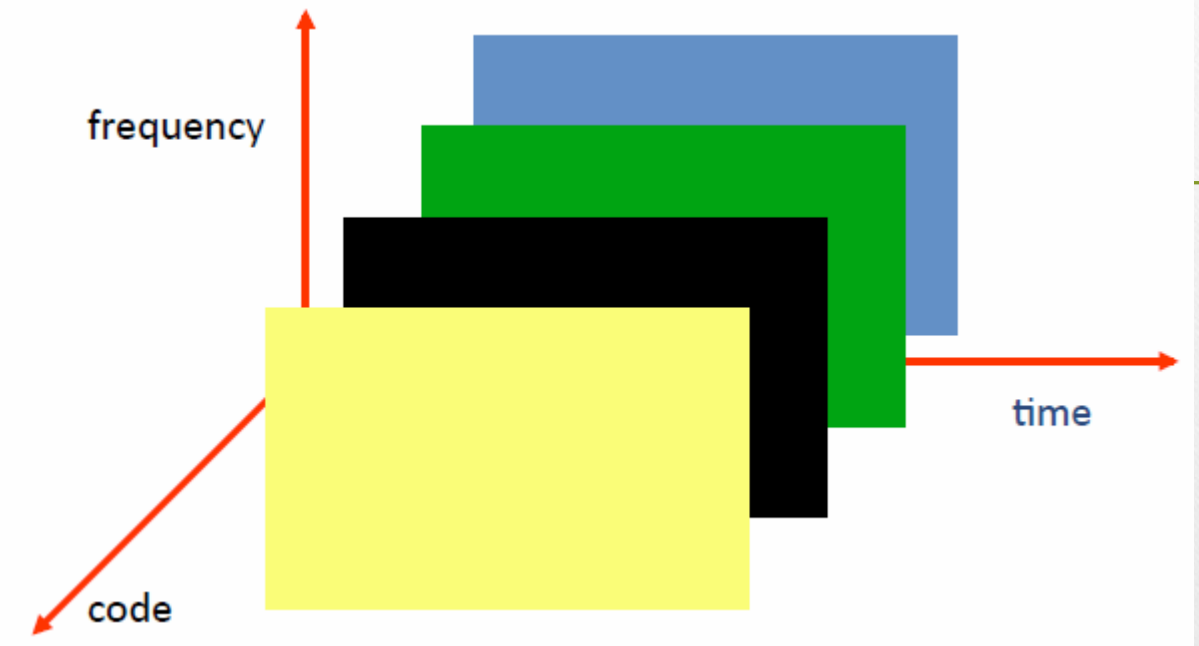
Evolution of Cellular Networks



The Multiple Access Problem

- The base stations need to serve many mobile terminals at the same time (both downlink and uplink)
- All mobiles in the cell need to transmit to the base station
- Interference among different senders and receivers
- So we need multiple access scheme

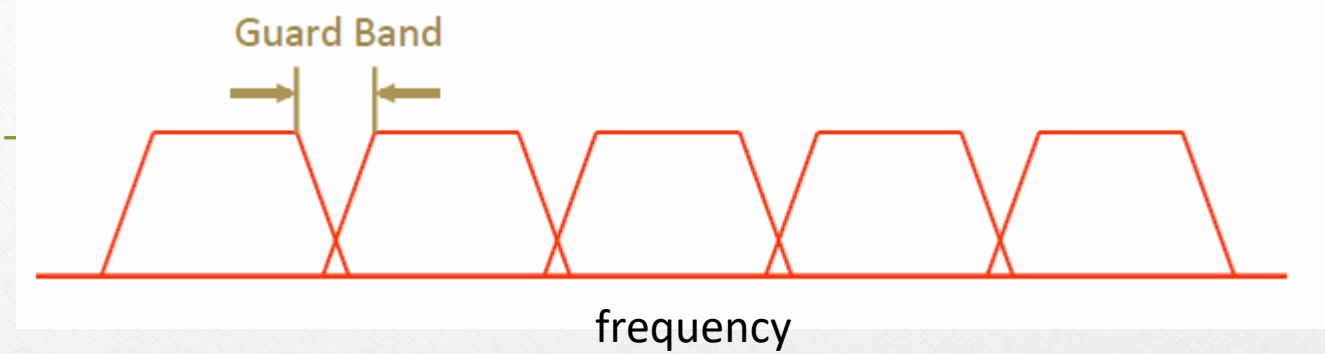
Multiple Access Schemes



3 orthogonal Schemes:

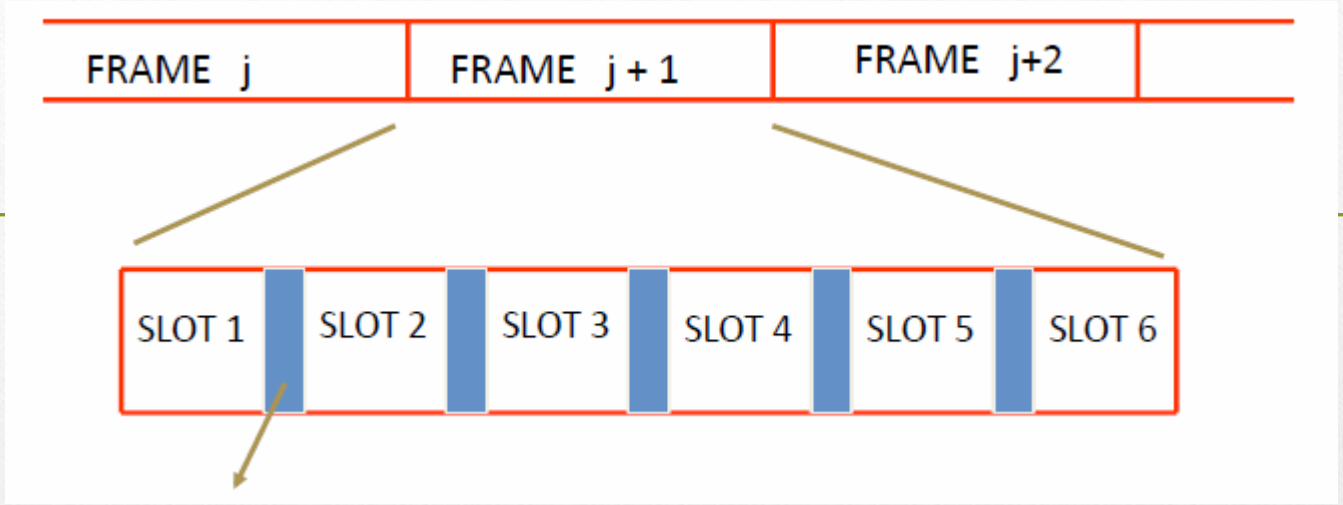
- Frequency Division Multiple Access (FDMA)
- Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA)
- Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA)

Frequency Division Multiple Access



- Each mobile is assigned a separate frequency channel for the duration of the call
- Sufficient guard band is required to prevent adjacent channel interference
- Usually, mobile terminals will have one downlink frequency band and one uplink frequency band
- Different cellular network protocols use different frequencies
- Frequency is a precious and scare resource. We are running out of it
  - Cognitive radio

Time Division Multiple Access



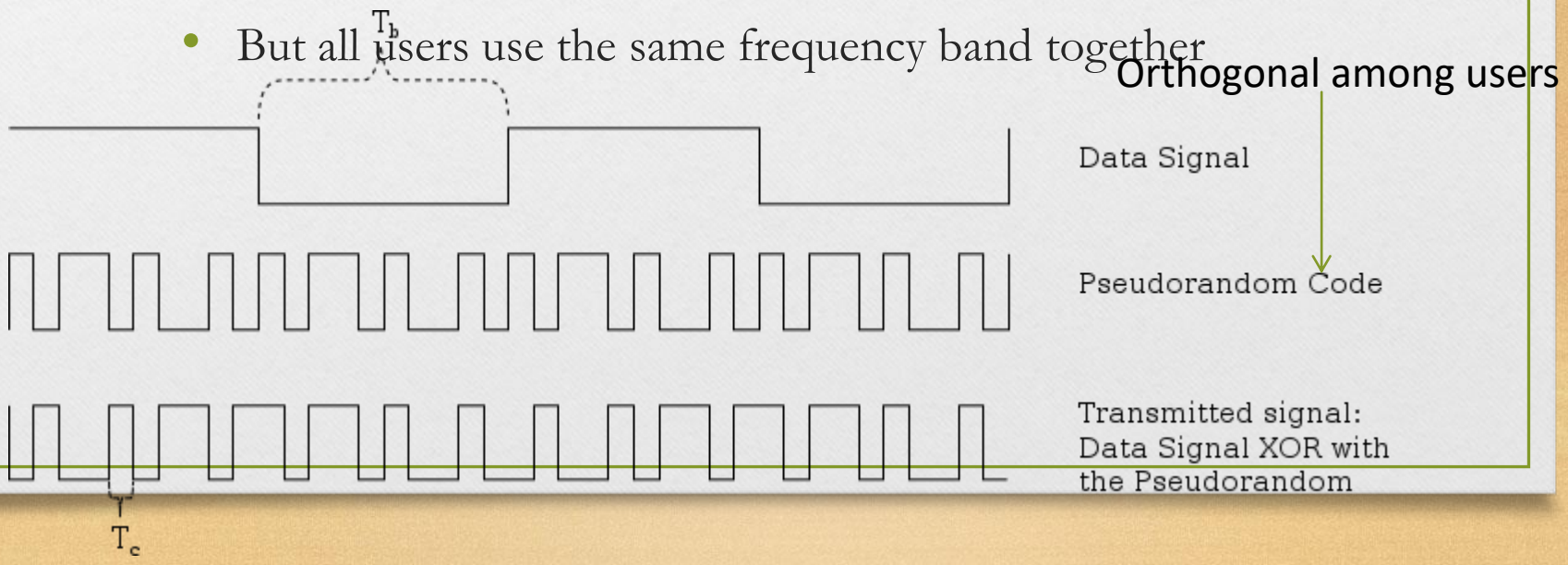
Guard time – signal transmitted by mobile terminals at different locations do no arrive at the base station at the same time

- Time is divided into slots and only one mobile terminal transmits during each slot
  - Like during the lecture, only one can talk, but others may take the floor in turn
- Each user is given a specific slot. No competition in cellular network
  - Unlike Carrier Sensing Multiple Access (CSMA) in WiFi

Code Division Multiple Access

- Use of orthogonal codes to separate different transmissions

- Each symbol of bit is transmitted as a larger number of bits using the user specific code – Spreading
  - Bandwidth occupied by the signal is much larger than the information transmission rate
  - But all users use the same frequency band together



2G(GSM)

GSM

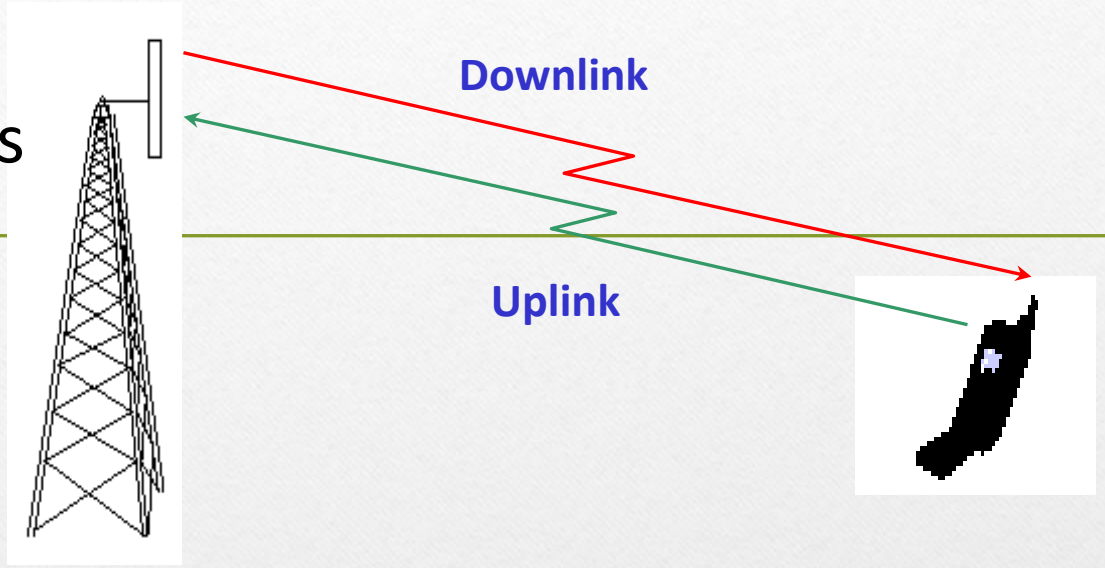
- Abbreviation for Global System for Mobile Communications
- Concurrent development in USA and Europe in the 1980's
- The European system was called GSM and deployed in the early 1990's

GSM Services

- Voice, 3.1 kHz
- Short Message Service (SMS)
  - 1985 GSM standard that allows messages of at most 160 chars. (incl. spaces) to be sent between handsets and other stations
  - Over 2.4 *billion* people use it; multi-billion $ industry
- General Packet Radio Service (GPRS)
  - GSM upgrade that provides IP-based packet data transmission up to 114 kbps
  - Users can "simultaneously" make calls and send data
  - GPRS provides "always on" Internet access and the Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) whereby users can send rich text, audio, video messages to each other
  - Performance degrades as number of users increase
  - GPRS is an example of 2.5G telephony – 2G service similar to 3G

GSM Channels

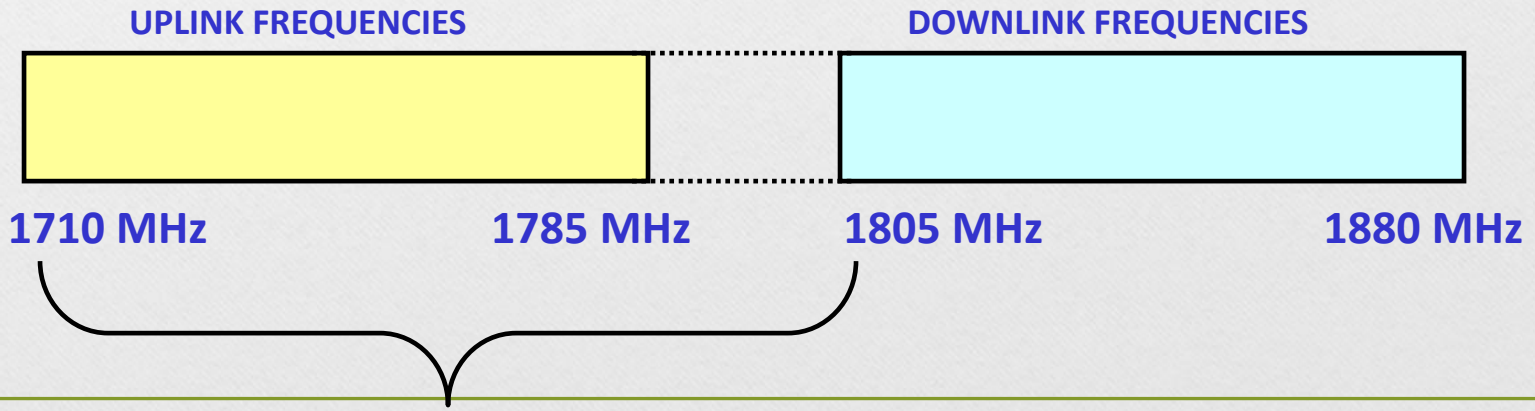
Channels



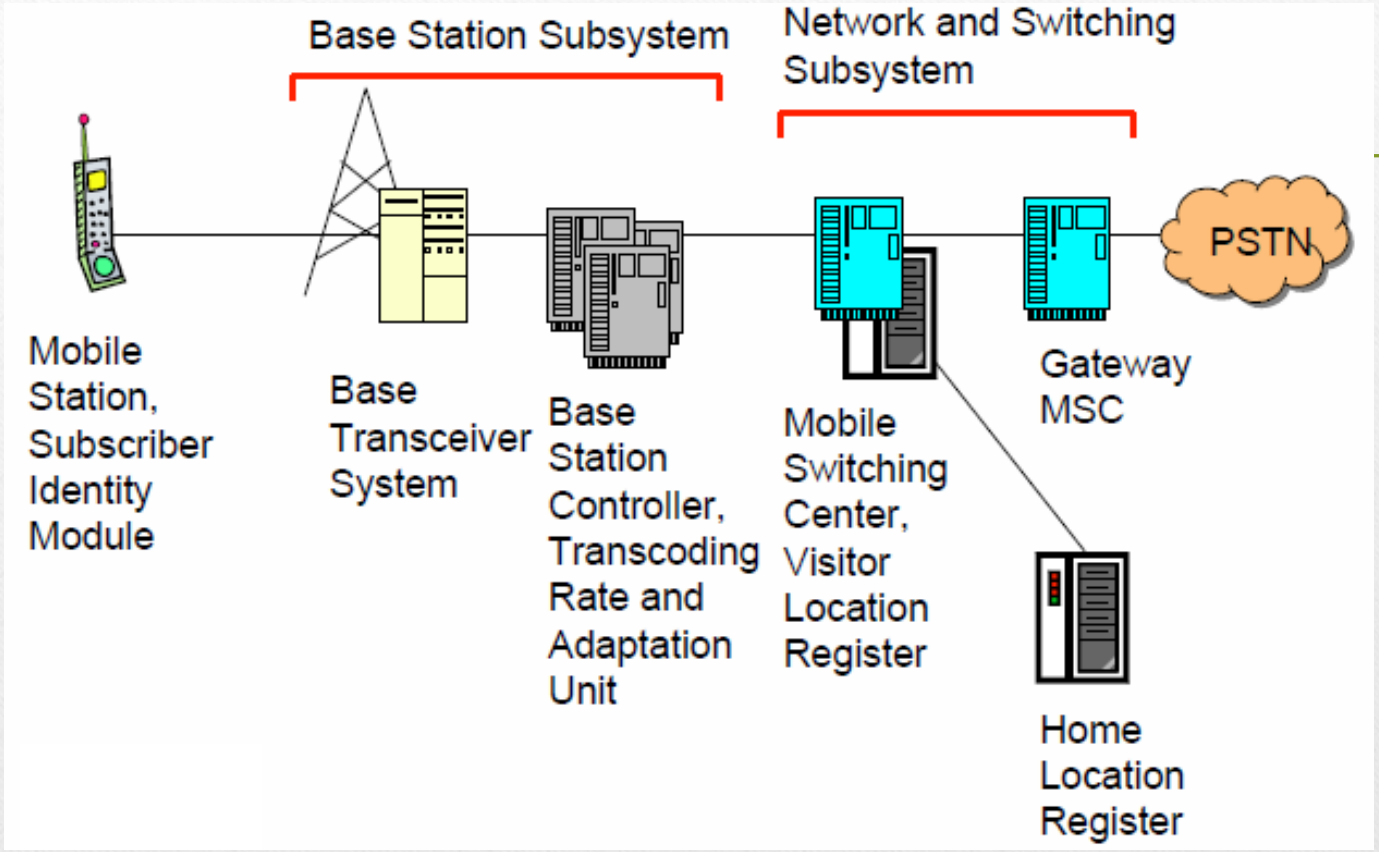
- Physical Channel: Each timeslot on a carrier is referred to as a physical channel
- Logical Channel: Variety of information is transmitted between the MS and BTS. Different types of logical channels:
  - Traffic channel
  - Control Channel

GSM Frequencies

- Originally designed on 900MHz range, now also available on 800MHz, 1800MHz and 1900 MHz ranges.
- Separate Uplink and Downlink frequencies
  - One example channel on the 1800 MHz frequency band, where RF carriers are space every 200 MHz



GSM Architecture

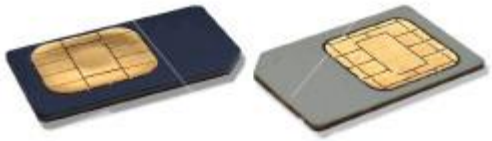


Mobile Station (MS)

- MS is the user's handset and has two parts
- Mobile Equipment
  - Radio equipment
  - User interface
  - Processing capability and memory required for various tasks
    - Call signalling
    - Encryption
    - SMS
  - Equipment IMEI number
- Subscriber Identity Module

Subscriber Identity Module

- A small smart card
- Encryption codes needed to identify the subscriber
- Subscriber IMSI number
- Subscriber's own information (telephone directory)
- Third party applications (banking etc.)
- Can also be used in other systems besides GSM, e.g., some WLAN access points accept SIM based user authentication



Base Station Subsystem

- Transcoding Rate and Adaptation Unit (TRAU)
  - Performs coding between the 64kbps PCM coding used in the backbone network and the 13 kbps coding used for the Mobile Station (MS)
- Base Station Controller (BSC)
  - Controls the channel (time slot) allocation implemented by the BTSes
  - Manages the handovers within BSS area
  - Knows which mobile stations are within the cell and informs the MSC/VLR about this
- Base Transceiver System (BTS)
  - Controls several transmitters
  - Each transmitter has 8 time slots, some used for signaling, on a specific frequency

Network and Switching Subsystem

- The backbone of a GSM network is a telephone network with additional cellular network capabilities
- Mobile Switching Center (MSC)
  - An typical telephony exchange (ISDN exchange) which supports mobile communications
  - Visitor Location Register (VLR)
    - A database, part of the MSC
    - Contains the location of the active Mobile Stations
- Gateway Mobile Switching Center (GMSC)
  - Links the system to PSTN and other operators
- Home Location Register (HLR)
  - Contain subscriber information, including authentication information in Authentication Center (AuC)
- Equipment Identity Register (EIR)
  - International Mobile Station Equipment Identity (IMEI) codes for e.g., blacklisting stolen phones

Home Location Register

- One database per operator
- Contains all the permanent subscriber information
  - MSISDN (Mobile Subscriber ISDN number) is the telephone number of the subscriber
  - International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) is a 15 digit code used to identify the subscriber
    - It incorporates a country code and operator code
  - IMSI code is used to link the MSISDN number to the subscriber's SIM (Subscriber Identity Module)
  - Charging information
  - Services available to the customer
- Also the subscriber's present Location Area Code, which refers to the MSC, which can connect to the MS.

Other Systems

- Operations Support System
  - The management network for the whole GSM network
  - Usually vendor dependent
  - Very loosely specified in the GSM standards
- Value added services
  - Voice mail
  - Call forwarding
  - Group calls
- Short Message Service Center
  - Stores and forwards the SMS messages
  - Like an E-mail server
  - Required to operate the SMS services

Location Updates

- The cells overlap and usually a mobile station can ‘see’ several transceivers (BTSes)
- The MS monitors the identifier for the BSC controlling the cells
- When the mobile station reaches a new BSC’s area, it requests an location update
- The update is forwarded to the MSC, entered into the VLR, the old BSC is notified and an acknowledgement is passed back

Handoff (Handover)

- When a call is in process, the changes in location need special processing
- Within a BSS, the BSC, which knows the current radio link configuration (including feedbacks from the MS), prepares an available channel in the new BTS
- The MS is told to switch over to the new BTS
- This is called a hard handoff
  - In a soft handoff, the MS is connected to two BTSes simultaneously

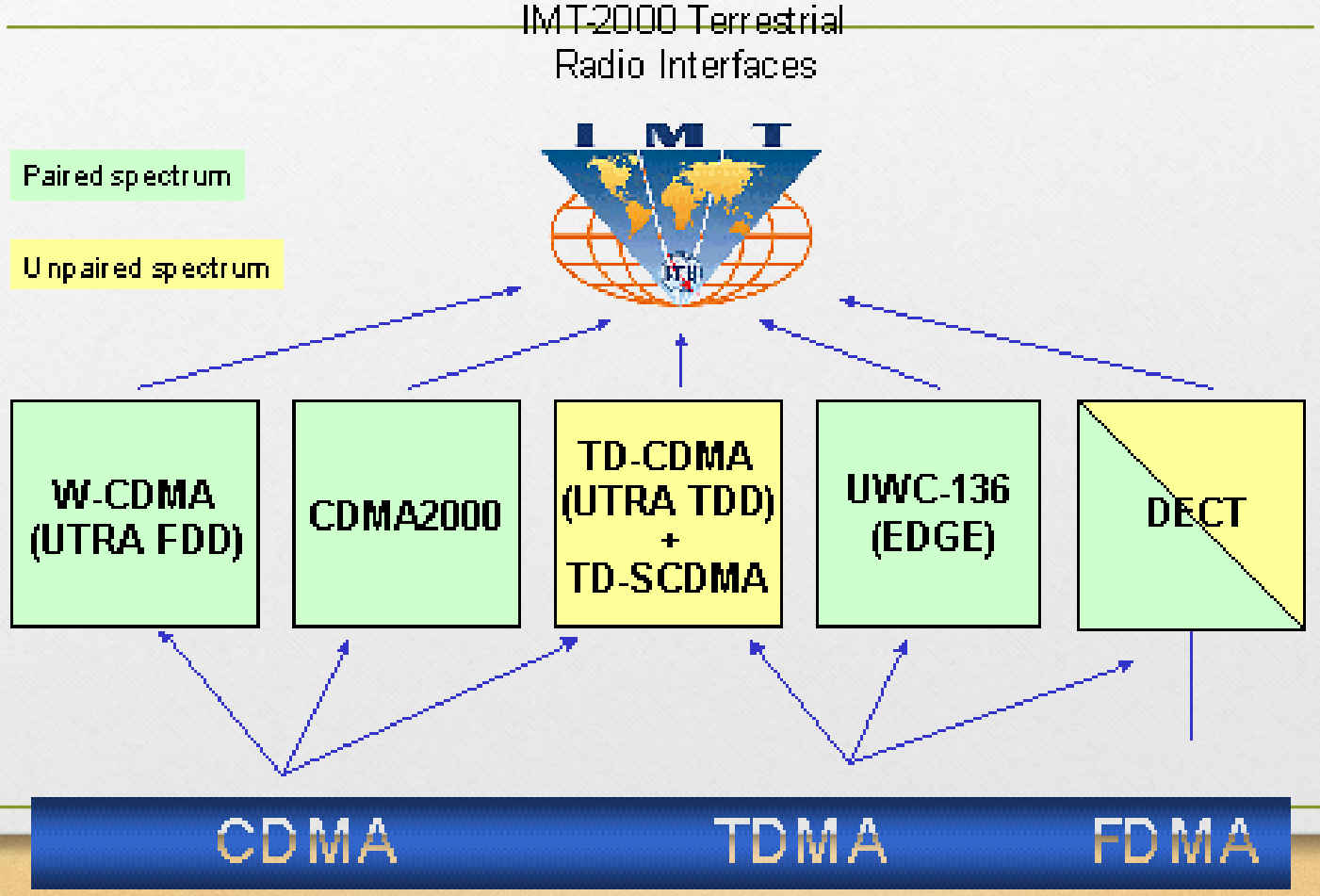
Roaming

- When a MS enters another operators network, it can be allowed to use the services of this operator
  - Operator to operator agreements and contracts
  - Higher billing
- The MS is identified by the information in the SIM card and the identification request is forwarded to the home operator
  - The home HLR is updated to reflect the MS's current location

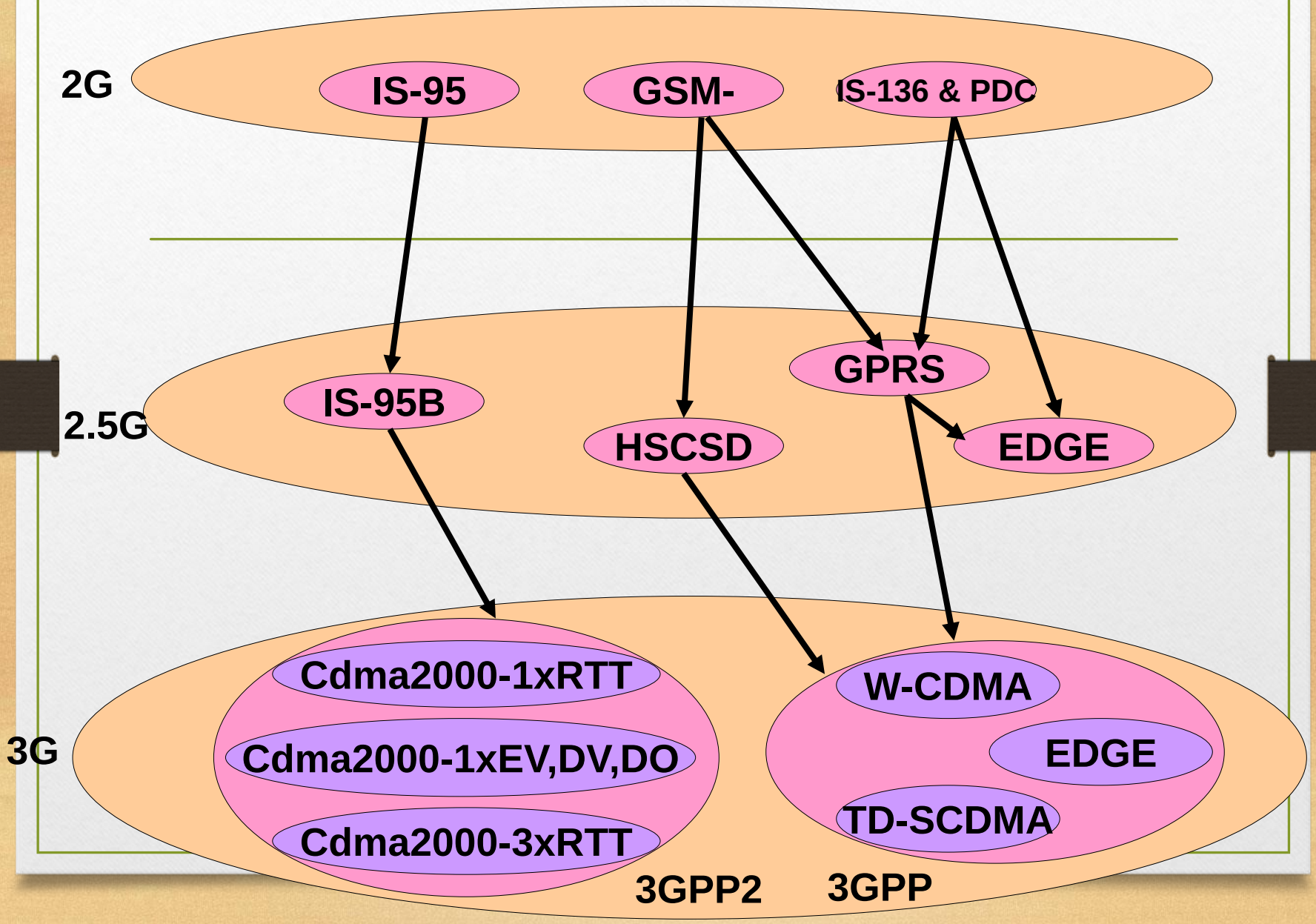
3G, 3.5G and 4G (LTE)

3G Overview

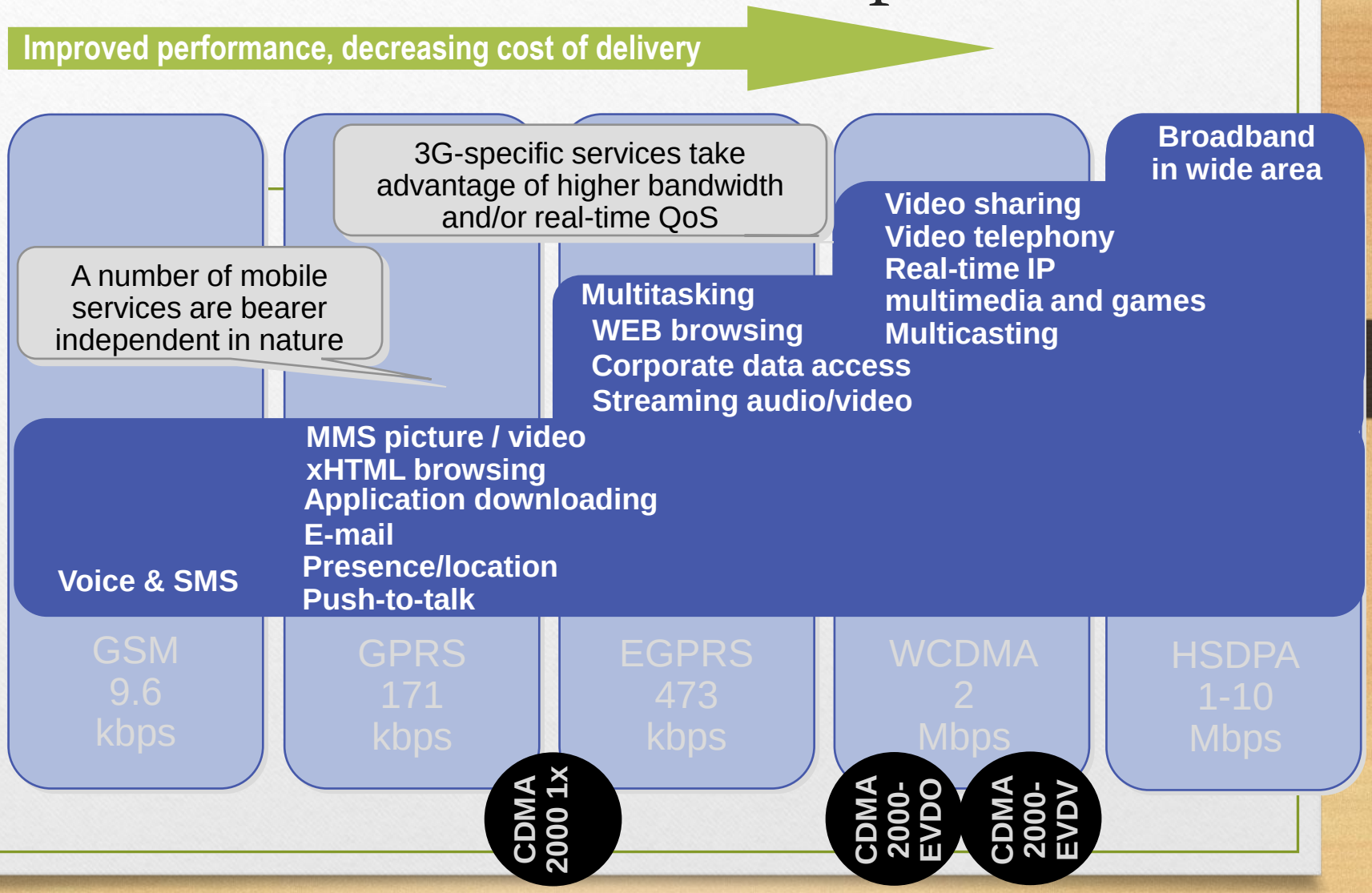
- 3G is created by ITU-T and is called IMT-2000



Evolution from 2G



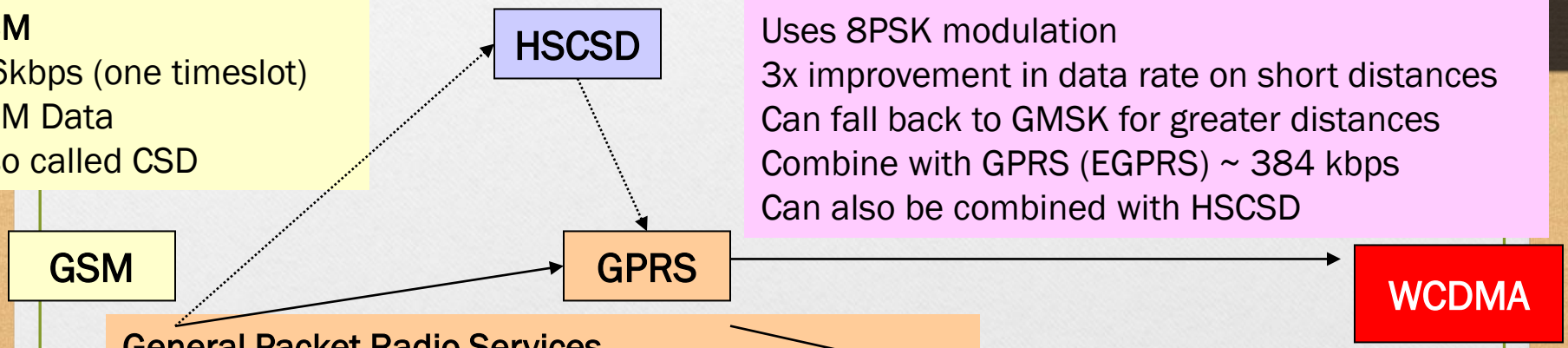
Service Roadmap



GSM Evolution to 3G

High Speed Circuit Switched Data
Dedicate up to 4 timeslots for data connection ~ 50 kbps
Good for real-time applications c.w. GPRS
Inefficient -> ties up resources, even when nothing sent
Not as popular as GPRS (many skipping HSCSD)

GSM
9.6kbps (one timeslot)
GSM Data
Also called CSD



Enhanced Data Rates for Global Evolution
Uses 8PSK modulation
3x improvement in data rate on short distances
Can fall back to GMSK for greater distances
Combine with GPRS (EGPRS) ~ 384 kbps
Can also be combined with HSCSD

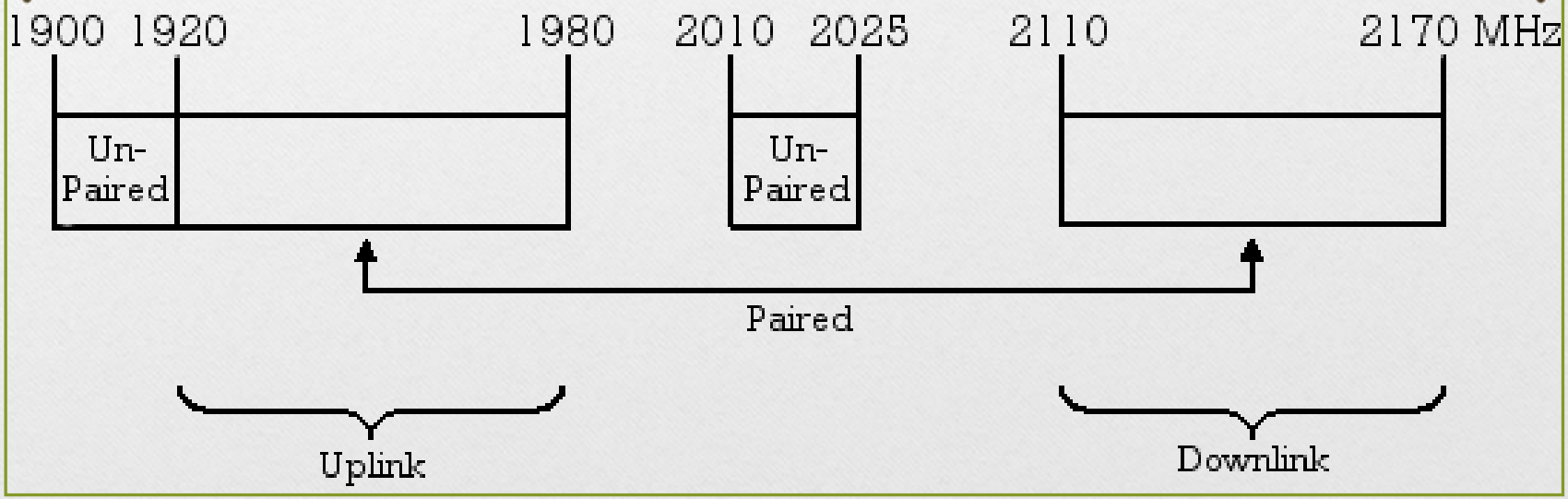
General Packet Radio Services
Data rates up to ~ 115 kbps
Max: 8 timeslots used as any one time
Packet switched; resources not tied up all the time
Contention based. Efficient, but variable delays
GSM / GPRS core network re-used by WCDMA (3G)

UMTS

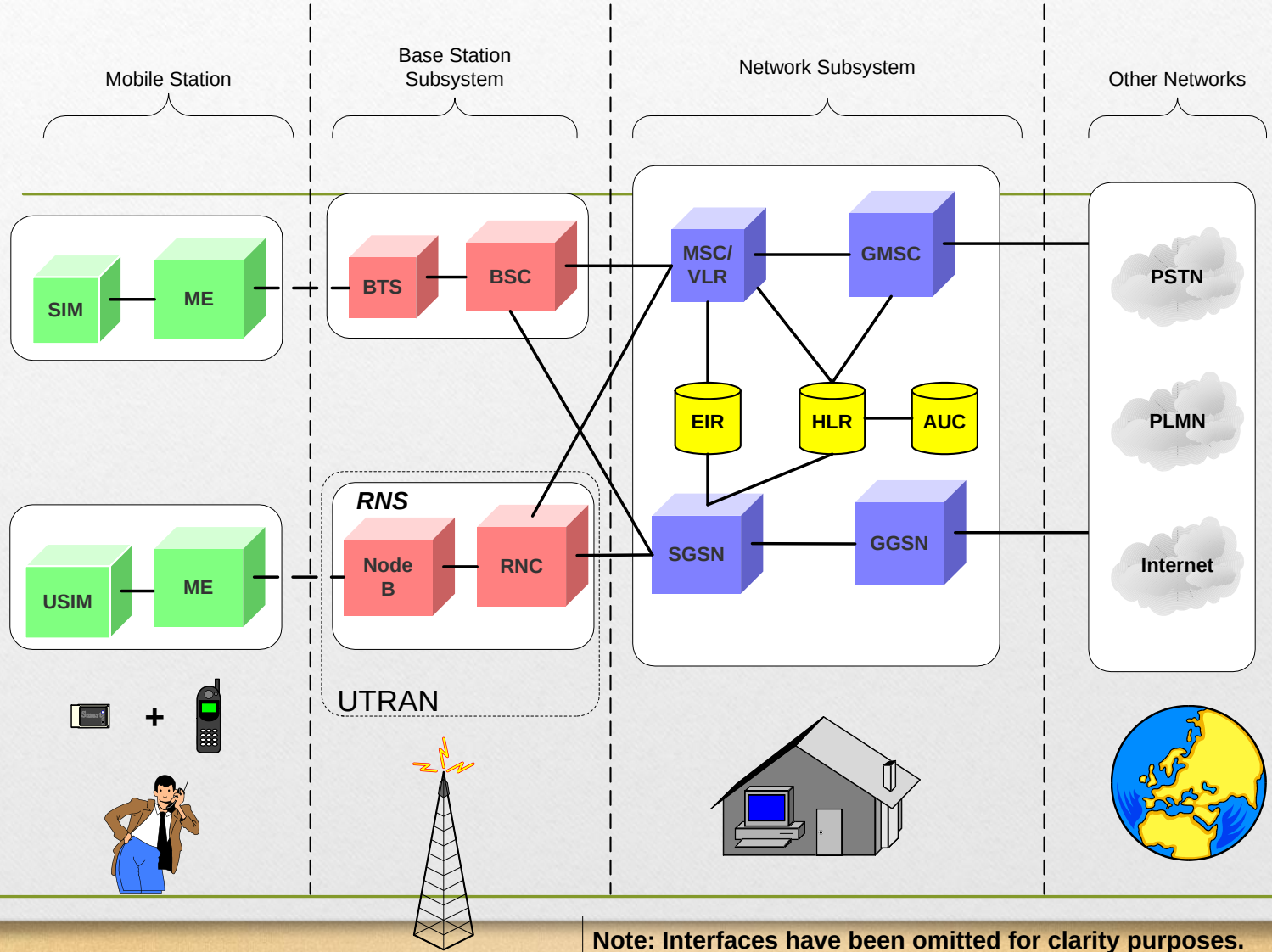
- Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS)
- UMTS is an upgrade from GSM via GPRS or EDGE
- The standardization work for UMTS is carried out by Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP)
- Data rates of UMTS are:
  - 144 kbps for rural
  - 384 kbps for urban outdoor
  - 2048 kbps for indoor and low range outdoor
- Virtual Home Environment (VHE)

UMTS Frequency Spectrum

- UMTS Band
  - 1900-2025 MHz and 2110-2200 MHz for 3G transmission
  - In the US, 1710–1755 MHz and 2110–2155 MHz will be used instead, as the 1900 MHz band was already used.



UMTS Architecture



Note: Interfaces have been omitted for clarity purposes.

UMTS Network Architecture

- UMTS network architecture consists of three domains
  - Core Network (CN): Provide switching, routing and transit for user traffic
  - UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network (UTRAN): Provides the air interface access method for user equipment.
  - User Equipment (UE): Terminals work as air interface counterpart for base stations. The various identities are: IMSI, TMSI, P-TMSI, TLLI, MSISDN, IMEI, IMEISV

UTRAN

- Wide band CDMA technology is selected for UTRAN air interface
  - WCDMA
  - TD-SCDMA
- Base stations are referred to as Node-B and control equipment for Node-B is called as Radio Network Controller (RNC).
  - Functions of Node-B are
    - Air Interface Tx/Rx
    - Modulation/Demodulation
  - Functions of RNC are:
    - Radio Resource Control
    - Channel Allocation
    - Power Control Settings
    - Handover Control
    - Ciphering
    - Segmentation and reassembly

3.5G (HSPA)

High Speed Packet Access (HSPA) is an amalgamation of two mobile telephony protocols, High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) and High Speed Uplink Packet Access (HSUPA), that extends and improves the performance of existing WCDMA protocols

3.5G introduces many new features that will enhance the UMTS technology in future. 1xEV-DV already supports most of the features that will be provided in 3.5G. These include:

- Adaptive Modulation and Coding
- Fast Scheduling
- Backward compatibility with 3G
- Enhanced Air Interface

4G (LTE)

- LTE stands for Long Term Evolution
- Next Generation mobile broadband technology
- Promises data transfer rates of 100 Mbps
- Based on UMTS 3G technology
- Optimized for All-IP traffic

Advantages of LTE

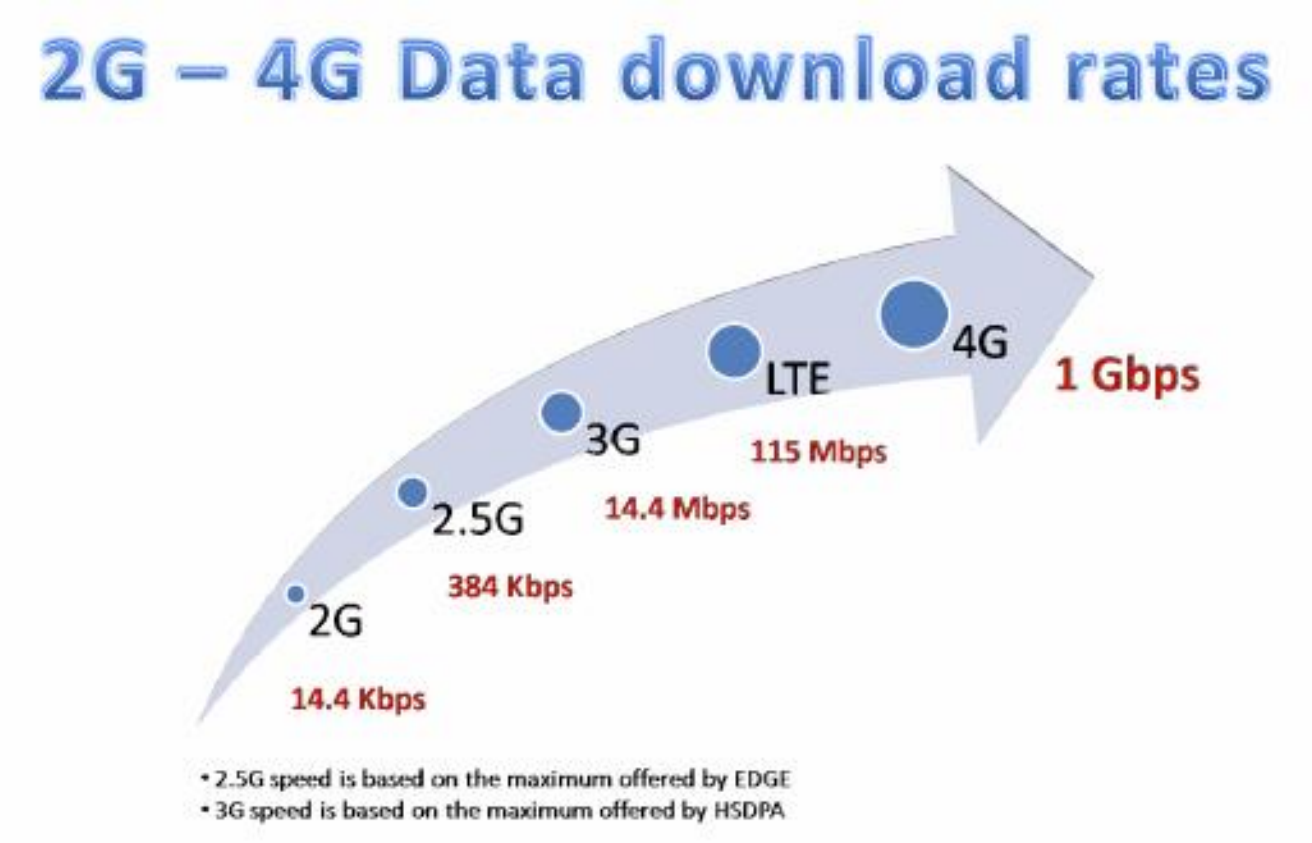
- High network throughput
- Low latency
- Plug & Play architecture
- Low Operating Costs
- All-IP network
- Simplified upgrade path from 3G networks

for Network Operators

- Faster data downloads/uploads
- Improved response for applications
- Improved end-user experience

for End Users

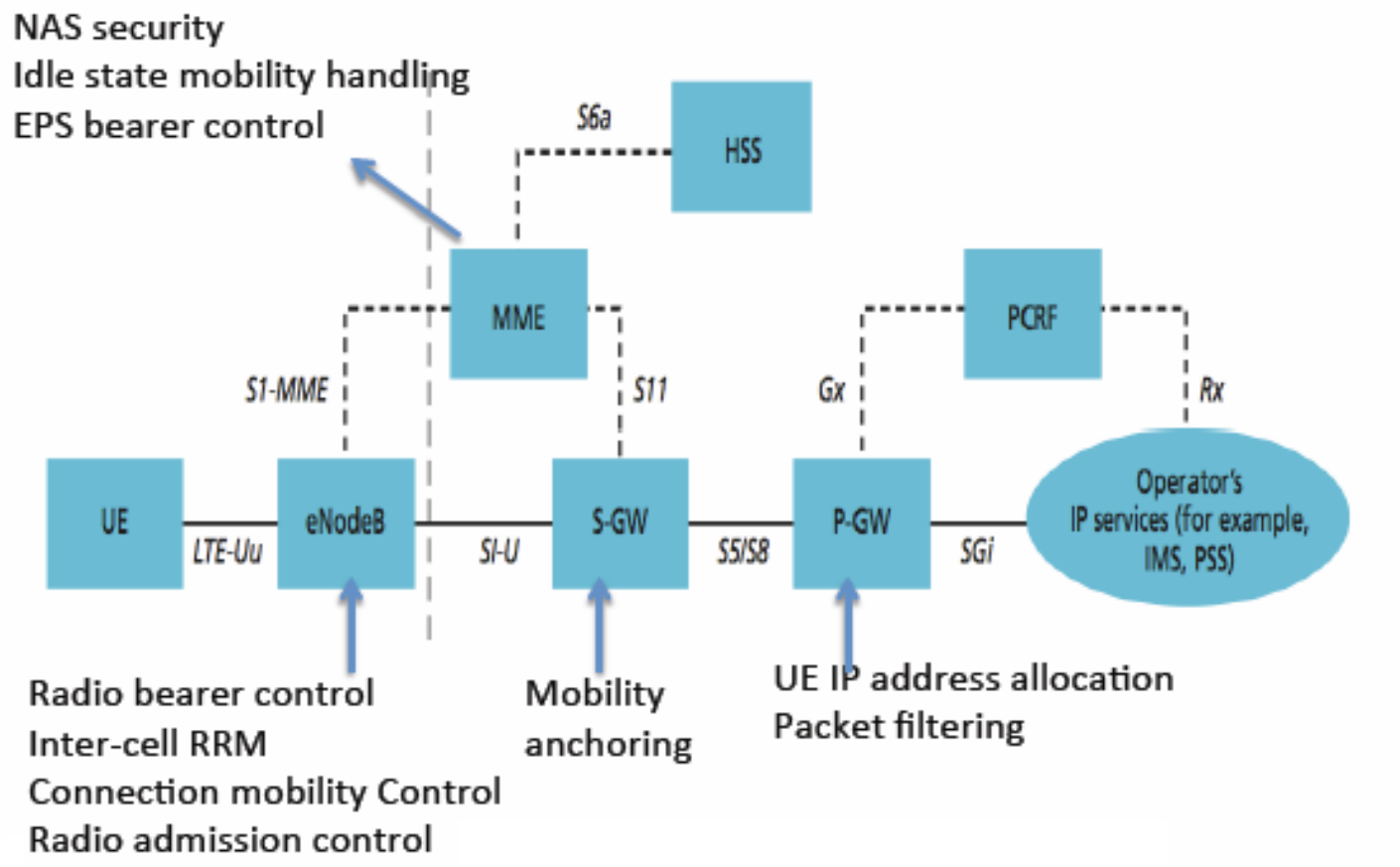
Comparison of LTE Speed



Major LTE Radio Technogies

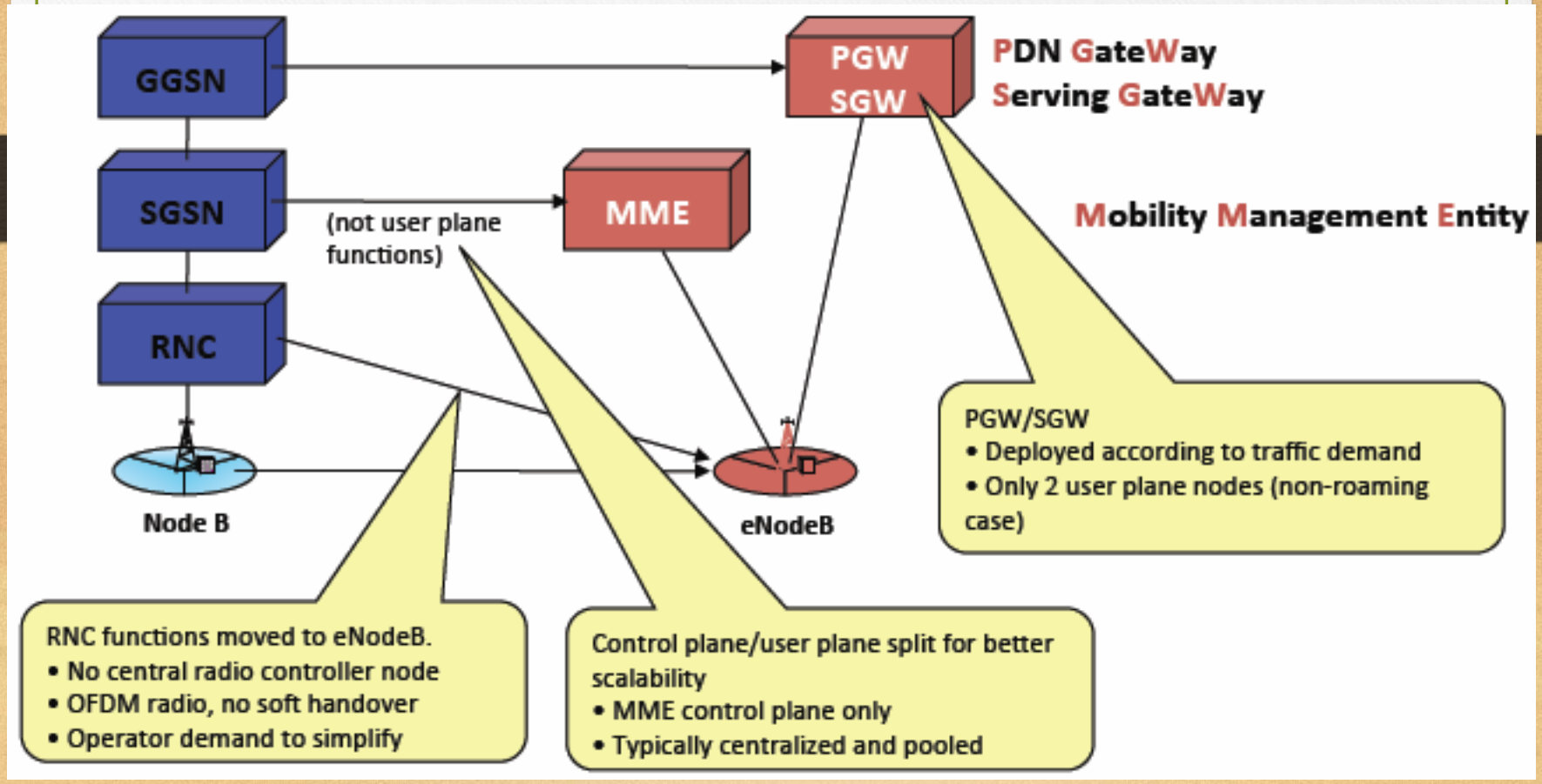
- Uses Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM) for downlink
- Uses Single Carrier Frequency Division Multiple Access (SC-FDMA) for uplink
- Uses Multi-input Multi-output(MIMO) for enhanced throughput
- Reduced power consumption
- Higher RF power amplifier efficiency (less battery power used by handsets)

LTE Architecture



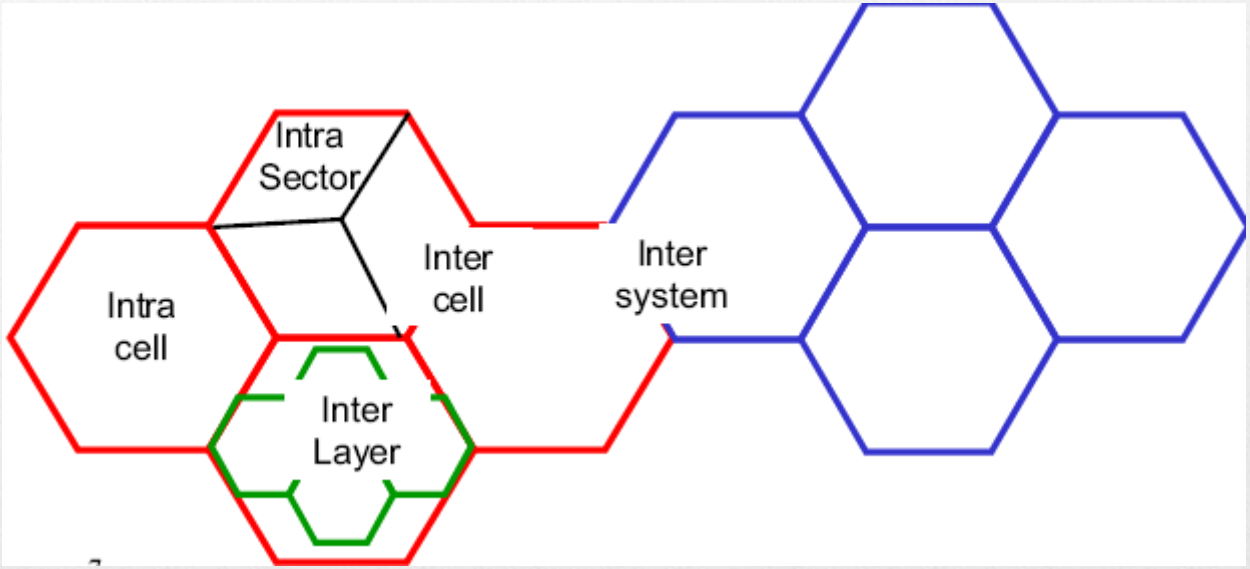
LTE vs UMTS

- Functional changes compared to the current UMTS architecture



3G (UMTS) HANDOVER ISSUES

Handover in network

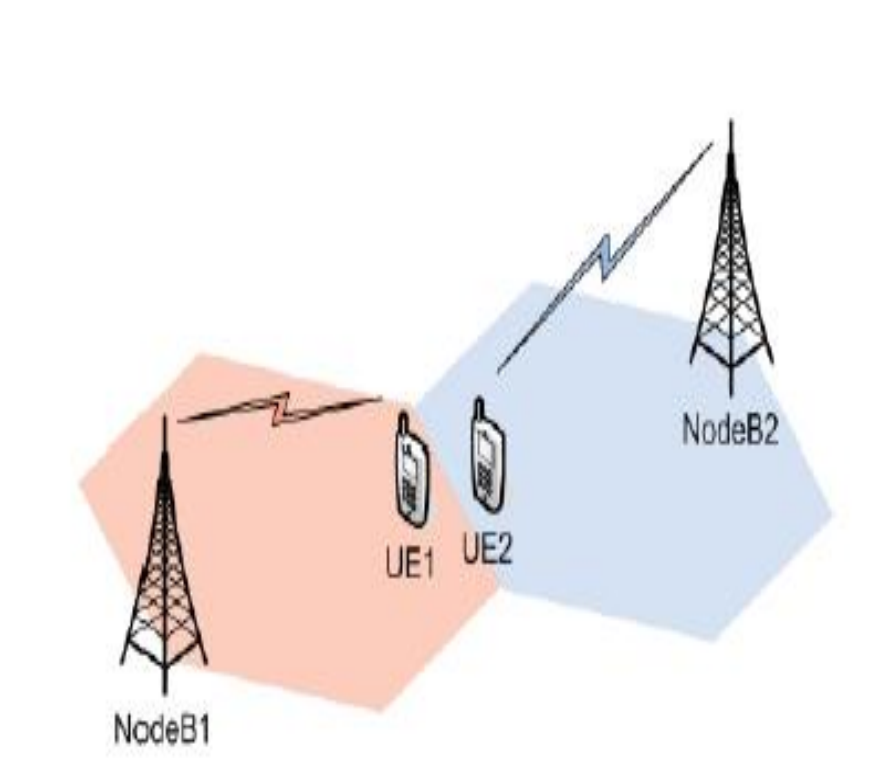


UMTS Handover

- Intra-system Handover:
- Intra-frequency HO
- Inter-frequency HO
- Inter-system HO
  - Different radio access technologies (e.g. UMTS and GSM/EDGE)
  - Different radio access modes (e.g. FDD/WCDMA and TDD/TD-CDMA)

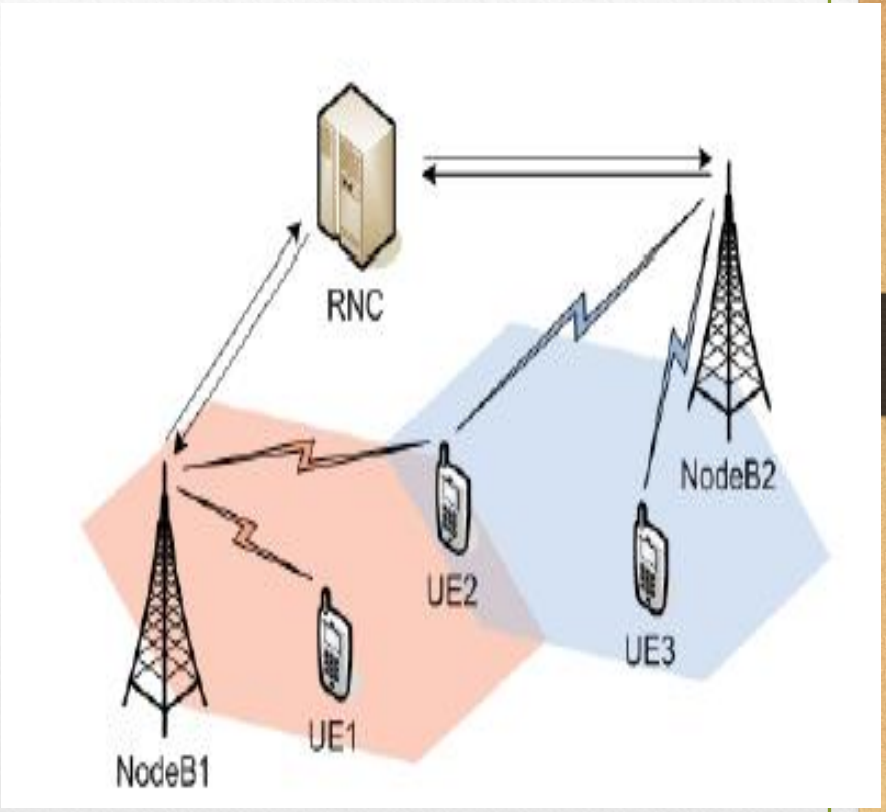
Hard handover

- Hard handover `break-before-make' is applied when the user’s equipment communicates with only just one Node B. Connection with the old Node B is broken before the new connection is established



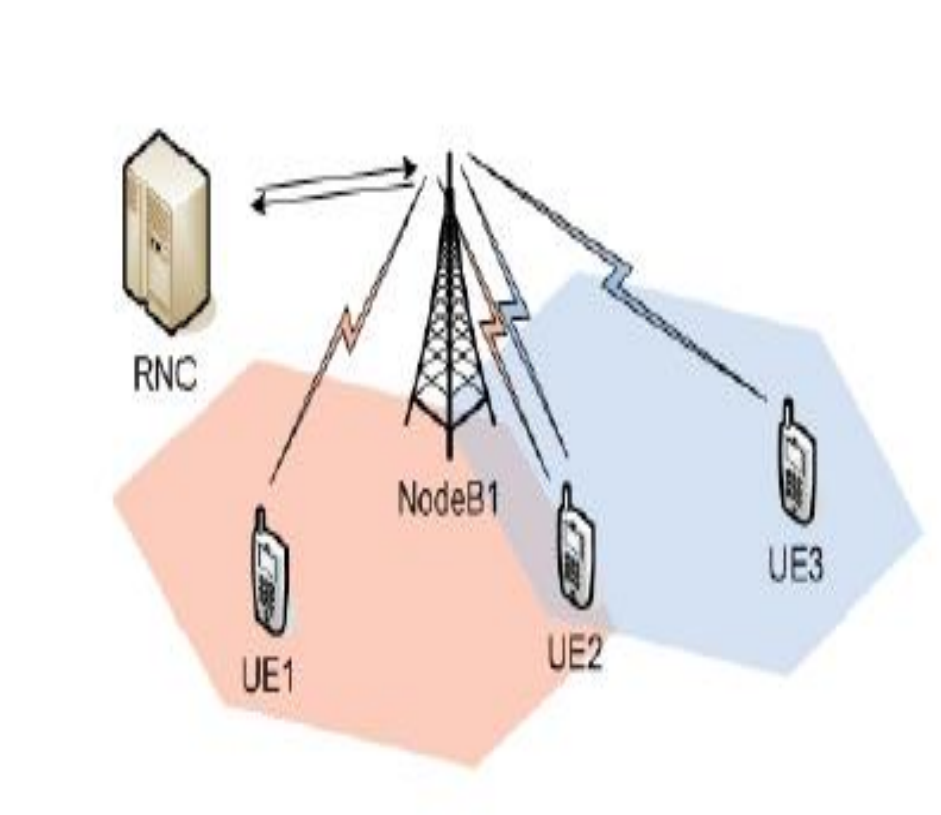
Soft handover

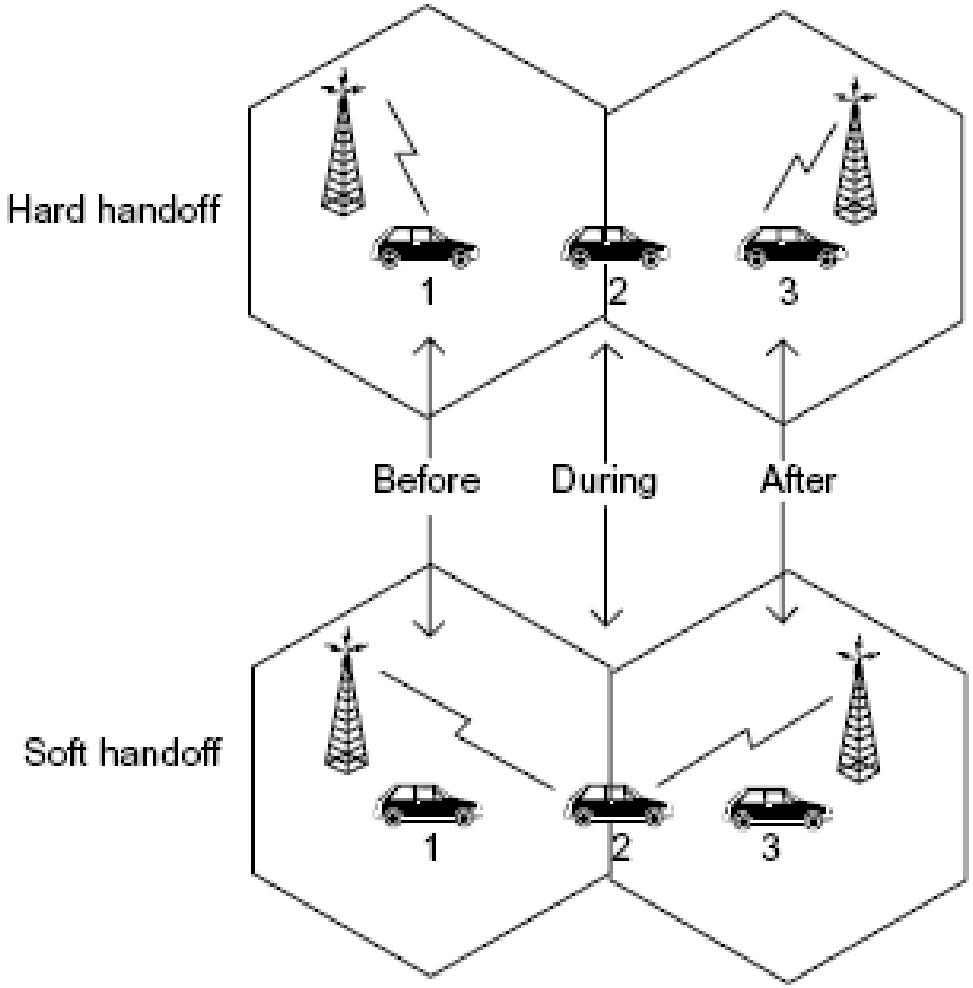
- UE is located in the coverage area of two or more different Node Bs. The UE simultaneously communicates with two or more Node Bs via two or more radio channels. A received signal in Node B is routed to the RNC (Radio Network Controller). The RNC compares the signal on the frame by- frame basis. The best frame is selected for the next processing; the others frames are discarded.



Softer handover

- Softer handover is similar to soft handover. The main difference between these two handovers resides in fact that a UE is located in the coverage area of two sectors of one Node B




Hard handoff
1
2
3
Before
During
After
Soft handoff
1
2
3

Handover Phases

- Handover detection
- Handover preparation
- Handover execution

Handover Detection

- One of the responsibilities of the handover entity is monitoring and triggering the handover.

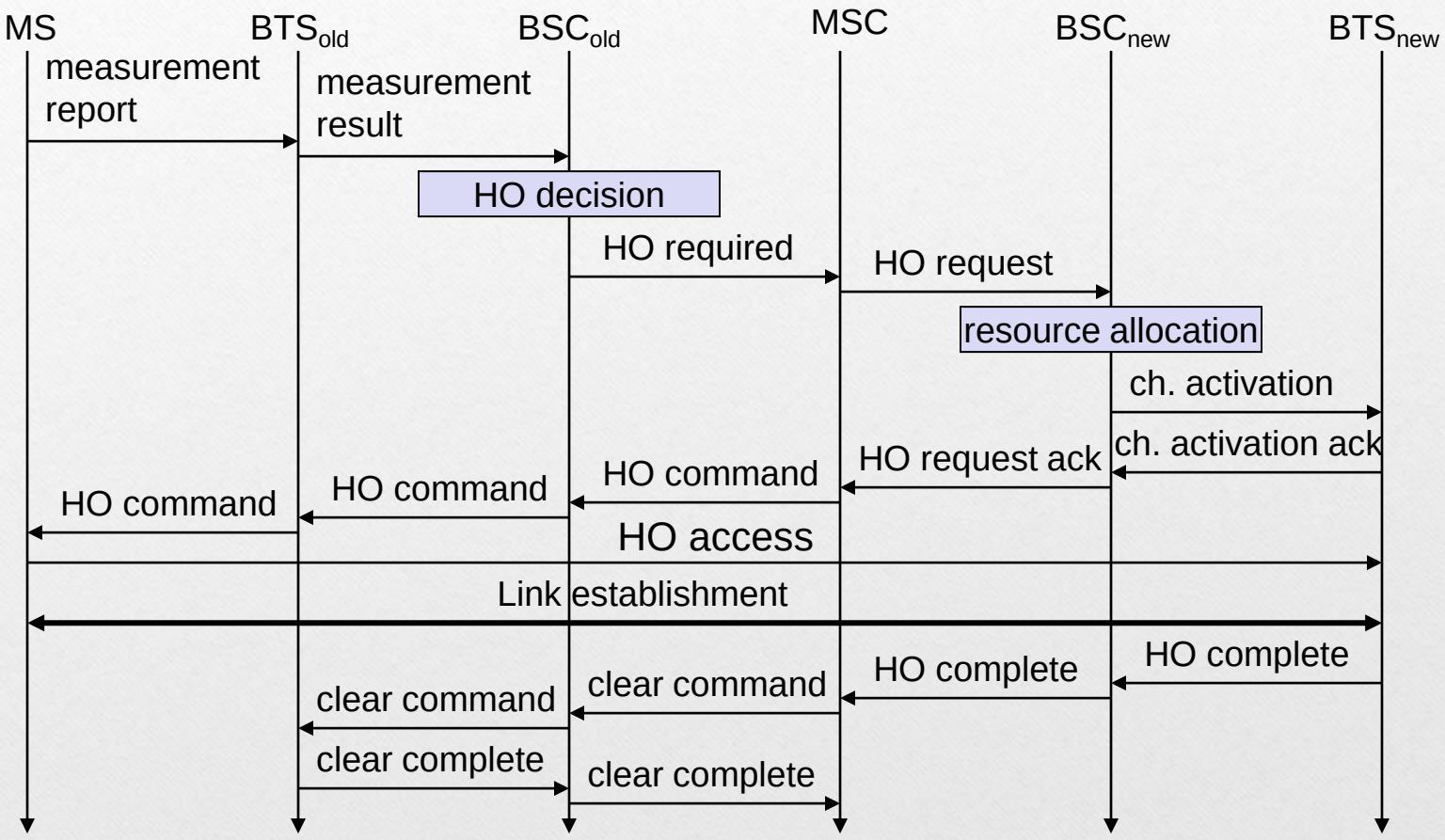
Handover Preparation

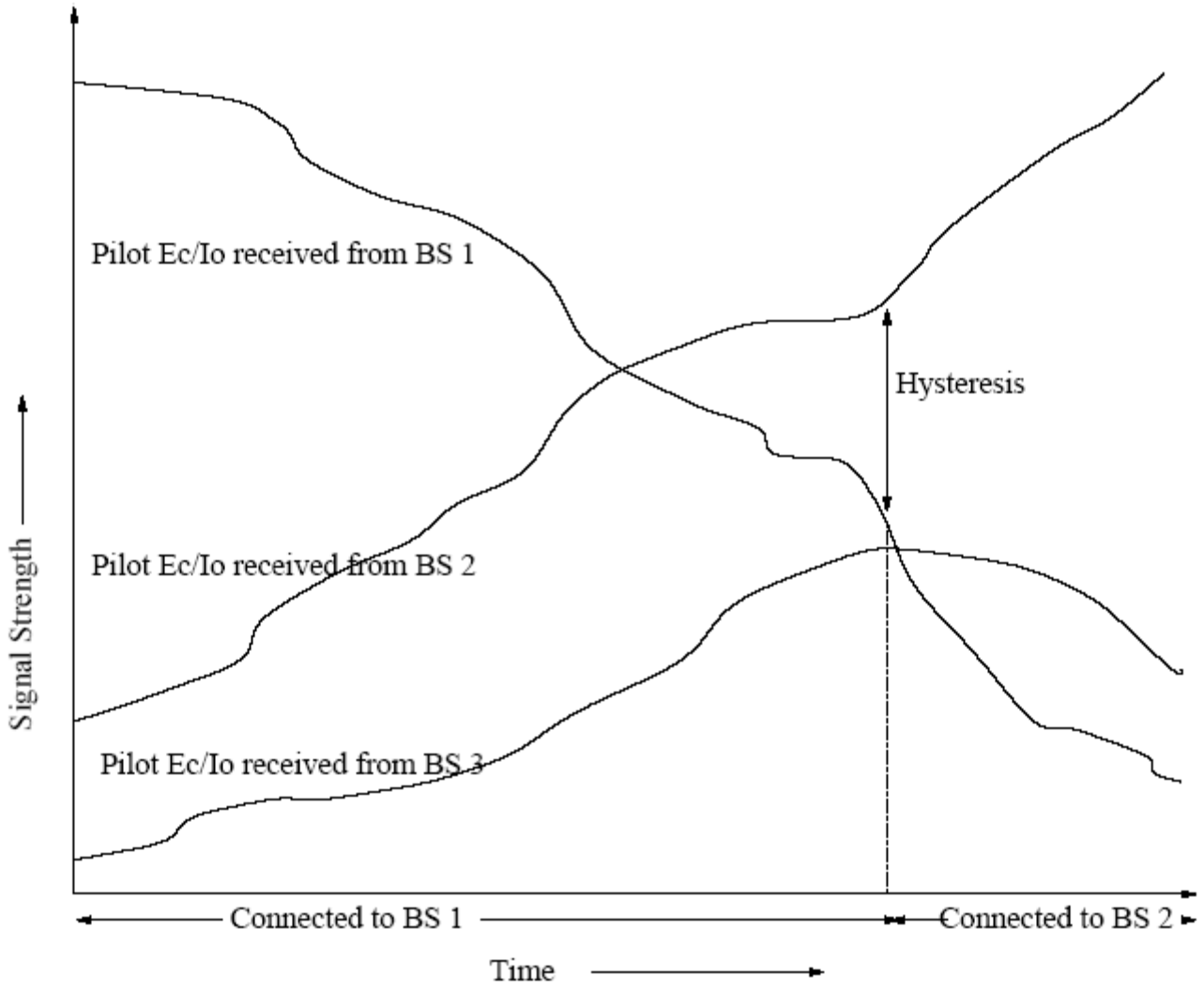
- In this phase, the handover entity requests for the other networks resource availability information.

Handover Execution

- A handover execution message is responsible for triggering the handover to another network and is sent by the handover entity.

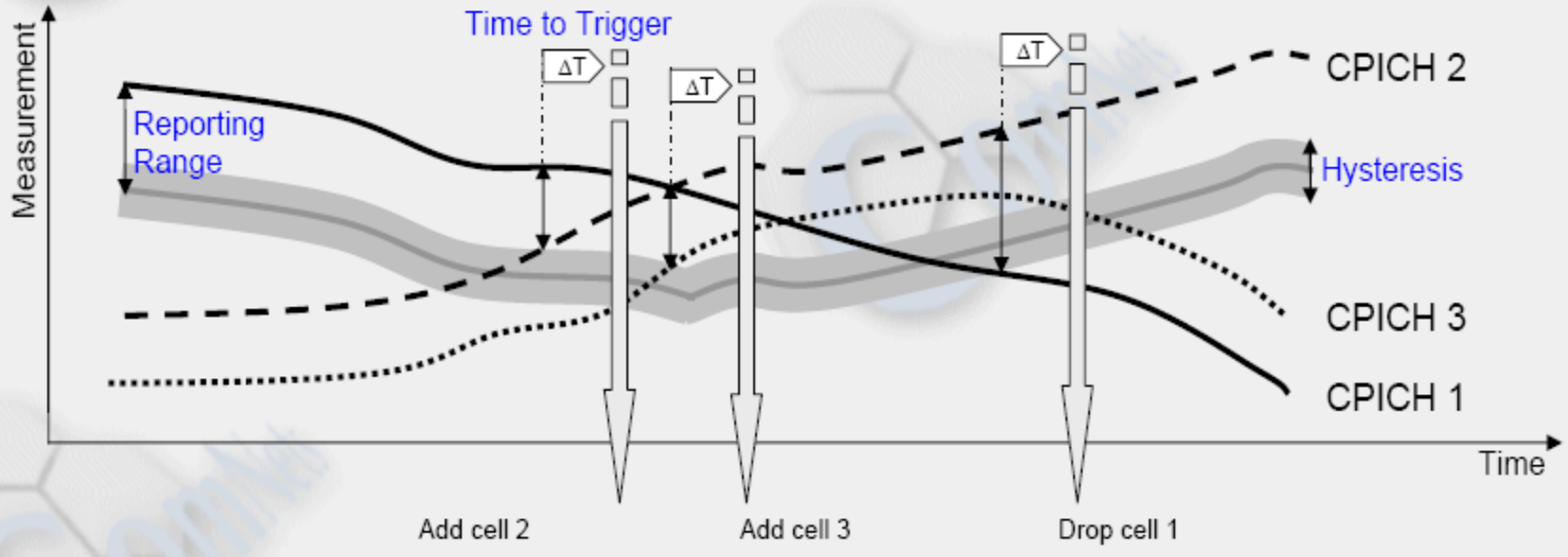
Handover Procedure

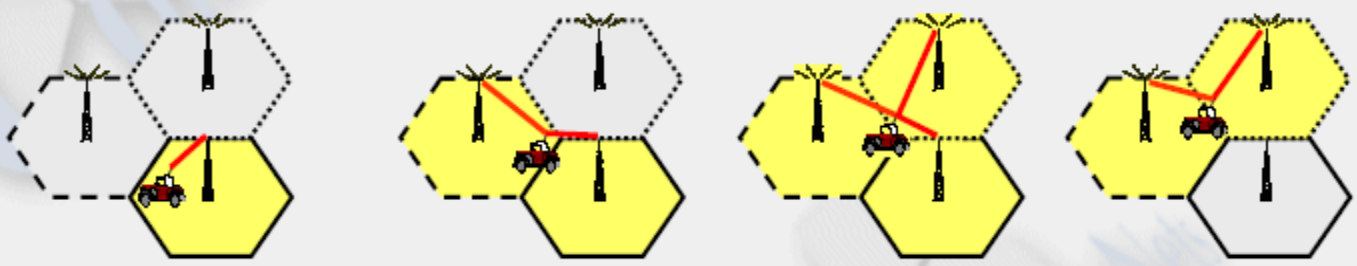




Hard Handoff Procedure

- Soft Handover (SHO) events defined by three parameters: Reporting range, Hysteresis and Time to Trigger





Connection to cell 1

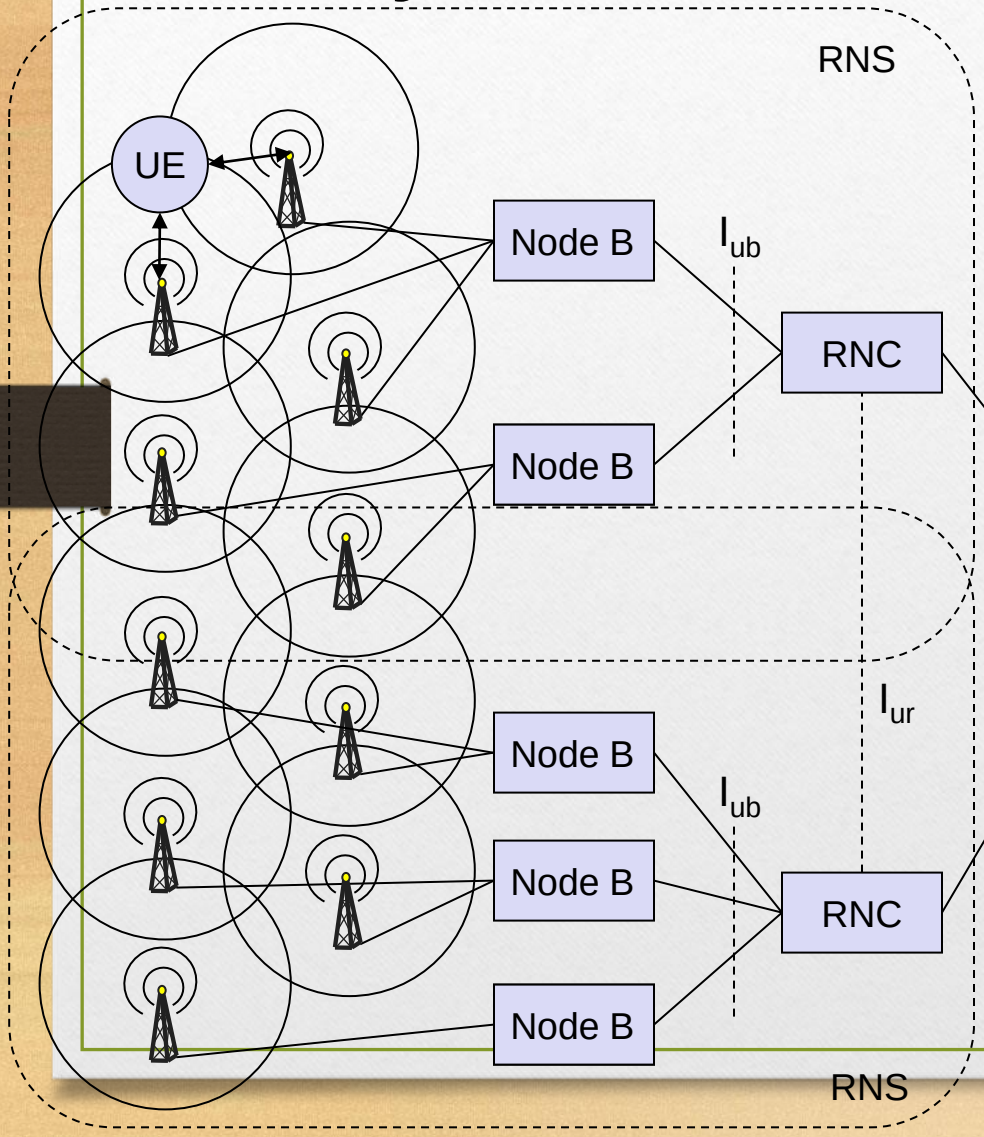
Connection to cells 1 & 2

Connections to cells 1,2 & 3

Connections to cells 2 & 3

Soft Handoff Procedure

UMTS Radio Access Network Architecture - Mobility and Handover Issues



RNC: Radio Network Controller

RNS: Radio Network Subsystem

UTRAN comprises several RNSs

Node B can support FDD or TDD or both

RNC is responsible for handover decisions requiring signaling to the UE

Cell offers FDD or TDD

UMTS HO Algorithm

- The algorithm samples the signal strength of the surrounding base stations every 1 sec.
- 3dB threshold for soft handover.
- 6dB threshold for hard handover.
- The size of the Active Set is 3 signals

SHO Algorithm

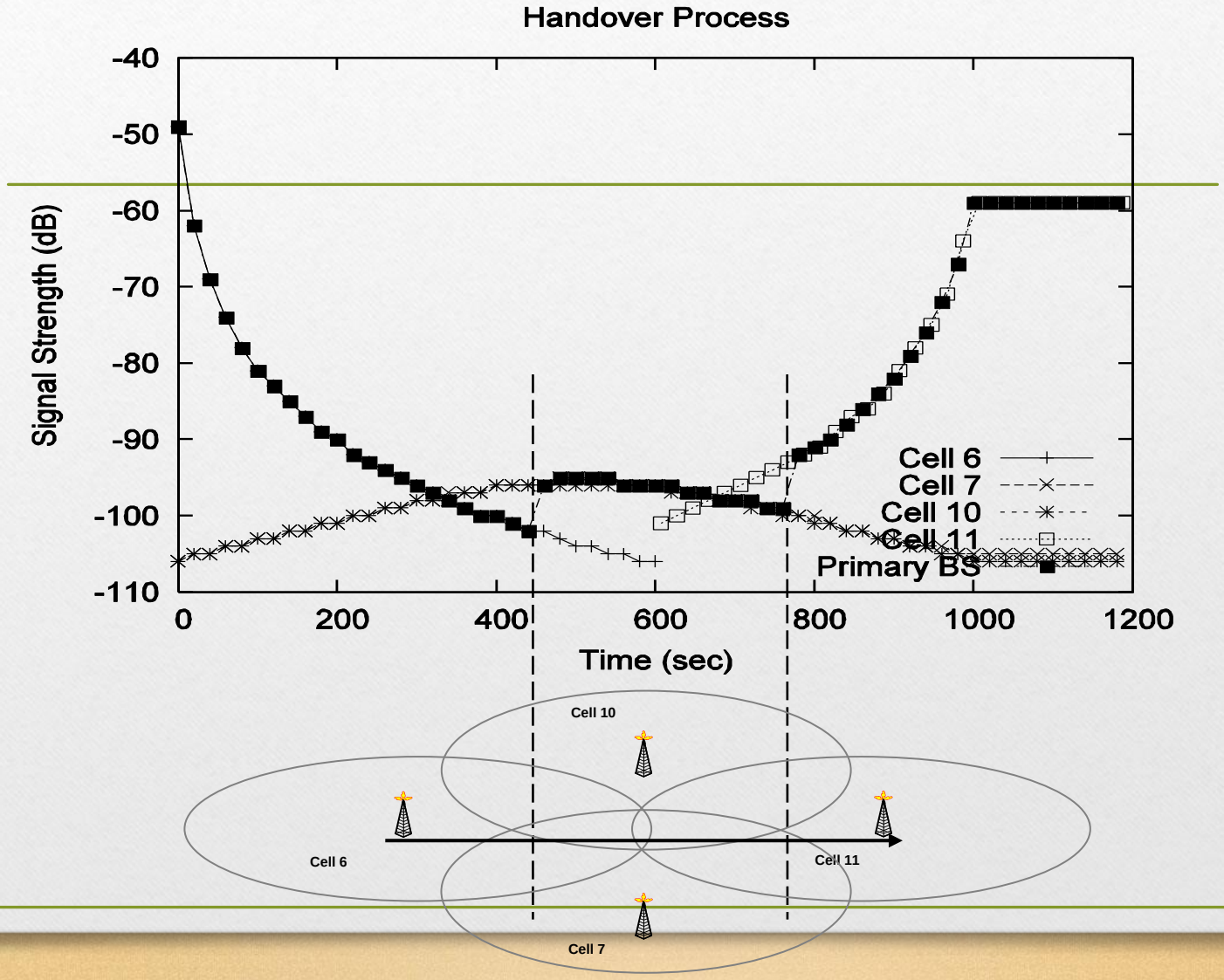
1. **Each UE is connected to its Primary_BS, and keeps an Active_ Set (2 “closest” cells)**
2. **Each UE measures the SIR received from the surrounding cells.**
3. **If (AS1_SIR – Pr_BS_SIR) >3dB OR (AS2_SIR – Pr_BS_SIR) > 3dB**
   - **UE enters Soft Handover**
   - **UE keeps a simultaneous connection to the Primary_BS and one or both of the Active_Set cells**

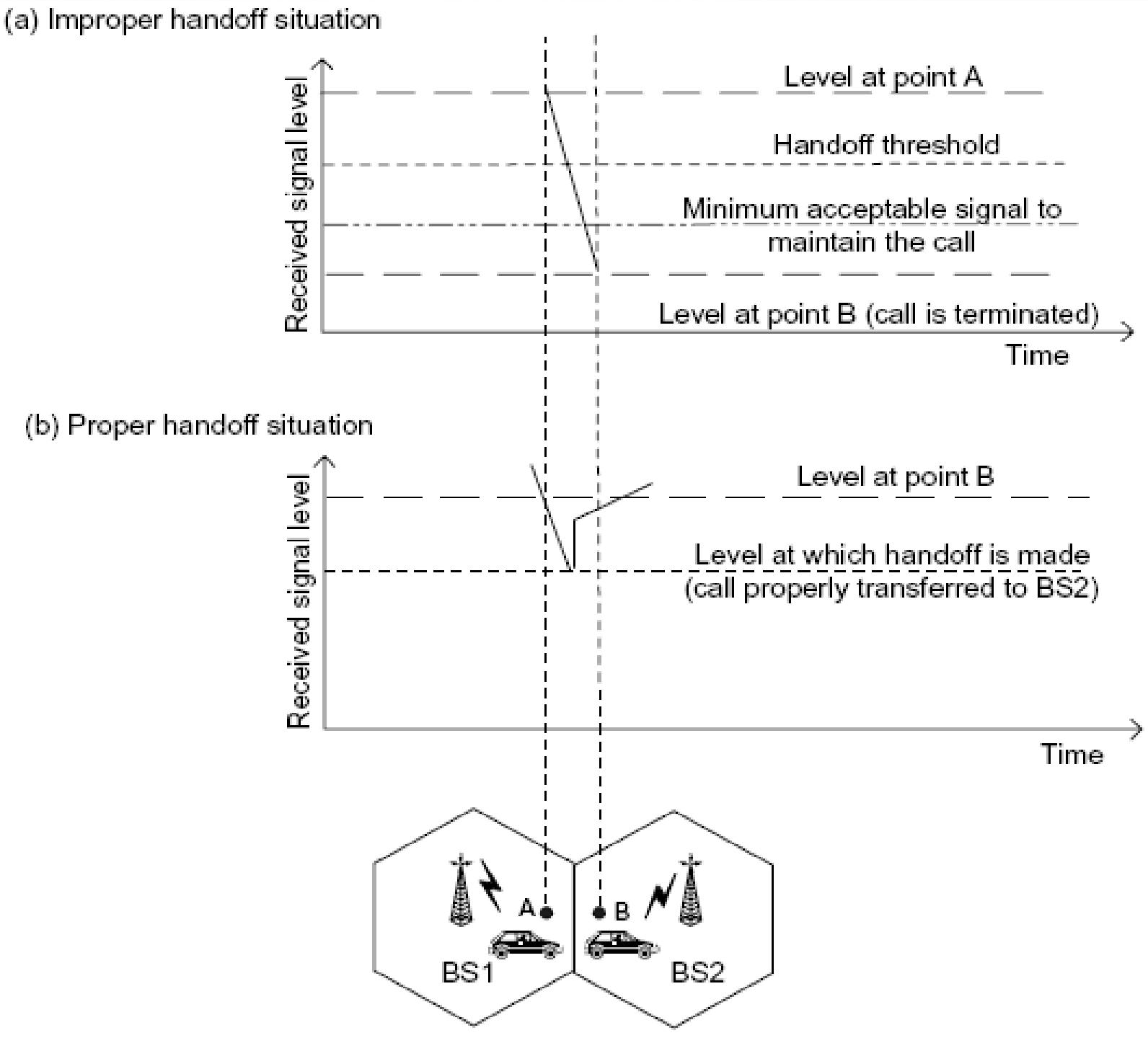
HHO Algorithm

Neighboring cells replace the cells in the Active_Set if their SIR exceeds the Active_Set cells' SIR by 6dB.

- **If (AS1_SIR – Pr_BS_SIR) > 6dB for three measurements in a row: AS1 becomes the Primary_BS**
- **If (AS2_SIR – Pr_BS_SIR) > 6dB for three measurements in a row: AS2 becomes the Primary_BS**

Hard & Soft HO in UMTS




(a) Improper handoff situation
Received signal level
Level at point A
Handoff threshold
Minimum acceptable signal to maintain the call
Level at point B (call is terminated)
Time
(b) Proper handoff situation
Received signal level
Level at point B
Level at which handoff is made (call properly transferred to BS2)
Time
A
B
BS1
BS2

Summary

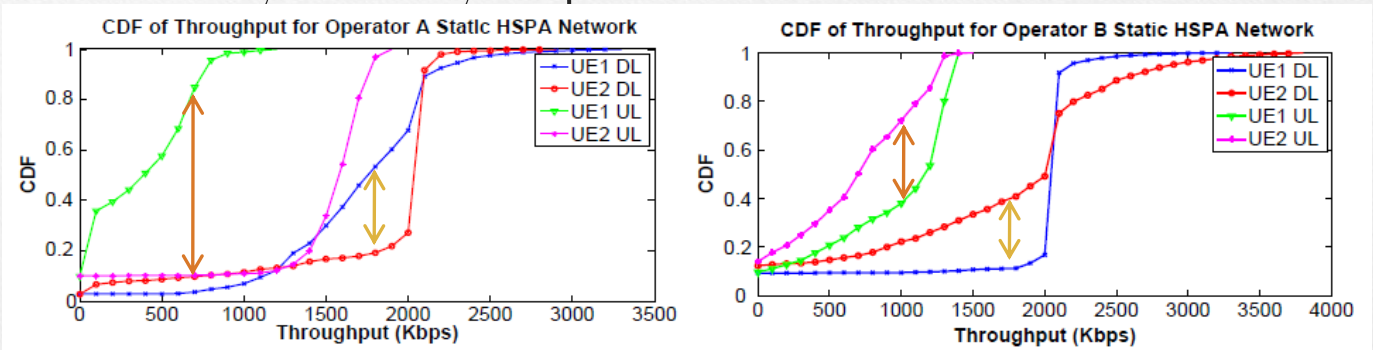
- Measurement Methodology
- General Impact of Mobility
- Mobility Impact on Bandwidth Sharing
- Mobility Impact in Transitional Region
- Conclusion

Measurement Routes

Type	Average Speed	Highest Speed	Characteristics
Trains	40 kmh	100 kmh	Surface ground
Subways	30 kmh	80 kmh	Underground
Self-driving Vehicles & Buses	50 & 30 kmh	80 kmh	Surface ground
Ferries	80 kmh	90 kmh	Sea, Surface ground

Bandwidth Sharing among Users

- Mobility actually improves the fairness of bandwidth

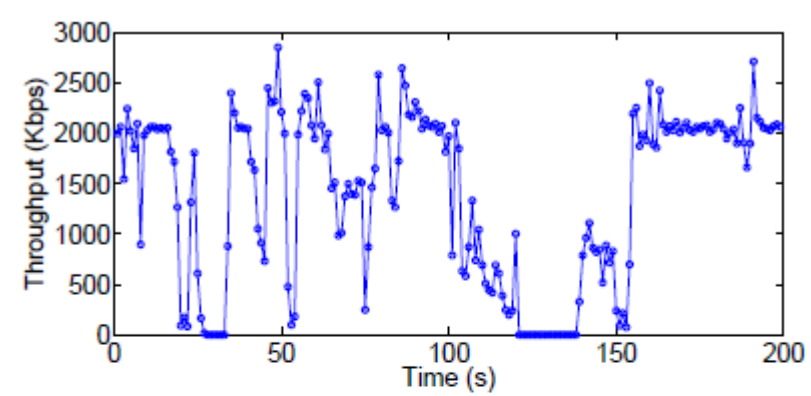


Bandwidth Sharing among Users

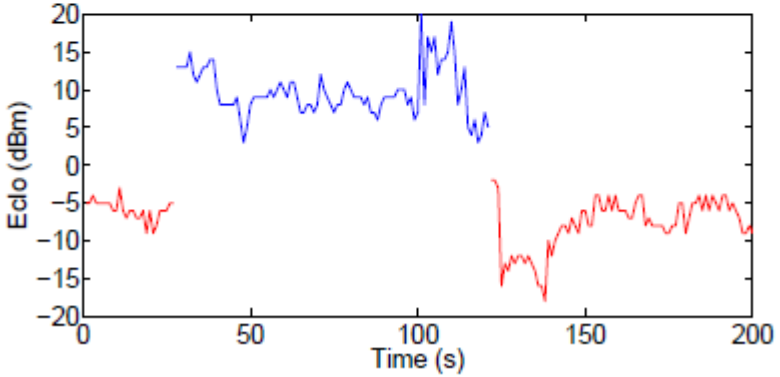
- UE can hardly keep its dominancy under rapid change of radio environment.
  - Mobile nodes may see better signal quality at new locations
- Cell to cell based scheduling algorithm prevent unfairness from propagating

Mobility Impact in Transitional Regions

- throughput often drops sharply, and sometimes, as high as 90% during handoff period.



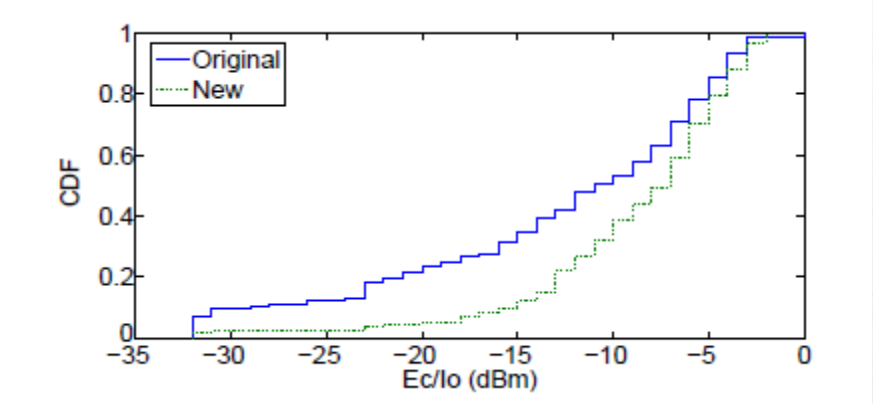
(a) Instantaneous Sample of Throughput



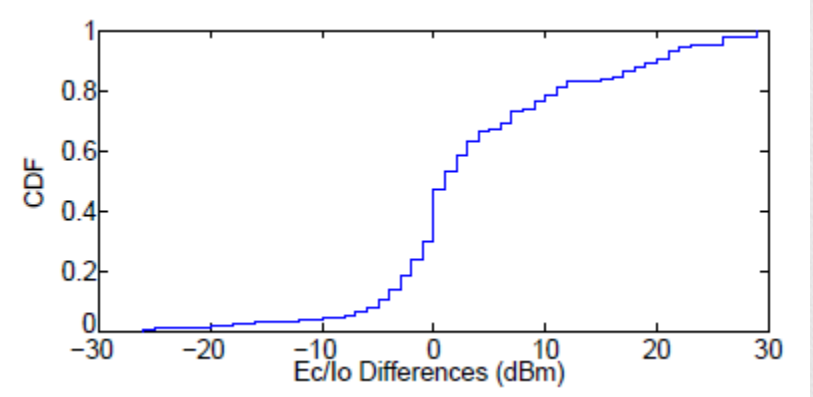
(b) Instantaneous Sample of Ec/Io

Mobility Impact in Transitional I

- Ec/Io of the new base stations are statistically better than the original base stations by 10dBm.



- But almost 30% of all the handoffs do not end up with a better base stations



Conclusion

- Mobility is a double edged sword
  - Degrades HSPA services, e.g. throughput
  - Improves fairness in bandwidth allocation among users and traffic flows
- Communication characteristics in HSPA transitional regions are very complicated