

# **Wirless Networks And Mobile Applications**

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# Disclaimer

Hello guys!

These notes contain all the concepts and arguments which are explained during professor's lessons. However they are not intended in any sense as a replacement for professor's lessons, but as a help for studying and preparing the exam. There could be also the presence of some errors and we don't take any responsibility for them. If you like to contribute for any correction, here is the link to the repository:

<https://github.com/filippobrugnolaro/WNMA-notes>

You can create a new branch with all modifications and create a pull request. We'll be pleased for any correction in order to improve the quality of the document. Hope it could be useful.

Cheers :)

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Wireless Development

### Present

it is constantly growing due to higher use of laptops or devices which can connect to internet. This implied an important growth of WiFi and n-G (3G, 4G, 5G) technologies also thanks to the emerging of apps with both low and high data demand. Smartphones open to new wireless scenarios such as AR, VR, MR, tele-presence. . . Other topics are Tactile Internet (combination of low latency, high availability, reliability and security) and Web Squared (integration of web 2.0 with technologies of sensing).

### Future

it is based on ubiquitous communication among people and devices. So this implies to take into account some requirements such as bandwidth, delay, energy and connectivity.

### Challenges

- Wireless channels are a difficult and capacity-limited broadcast communications medium (with respect to the wired counterpart);
- Traffic patterns, user locations, and network conditions are constantly changing;
- Applications are heterogeneous with hard constraints required by the network;
- Energy and delay constraints change design principles across all layers of the stack.

### Multimedia requirements

	Voice	Data	Video	Game
Delay	low	irrelevant	low	low
Packet Loss	low	no	low	low
Bit Error Rate	$10^{-3}$	$10^{-6}$	$10^{-6}$	$10^{-3}$
Data Rate	8-32 Kbps	1-100 Mbps	1-20 Mbps	32-100 Kbps
Traffic	Continuous	Bursty	Continuous	Continuous

One-size-fits-all protocols and design

- are used by wired networks → poor results;
- do not work well → Crosslayer design.

**Crosslayer Design**

It's made of 5 layers:

Application	→ Meet delay, rate and energy constraints
Network	→ Adapt across design layers
Access	→ Reduce uncertainty through scheduling
Link	→ Provide robustness via diversity
Hardware	

**1.2 Wireless Systems**

There are different types of current wireless systems:

- Cellular Systems;
- Wireless LANs;
- Satellite Systems;
- Bluetooth;
- ...

And others which are emerging:

- Ad hoc Wireless Network;
- Mesh Network;
- Sensor Network;
- Distributed Control Network;
- MANET/VANET/FANET;
- Underwater Networks;
- RFID;
- Nano-networks;
- ...

**1.2.1 Cellular Systems**

Characteristics:

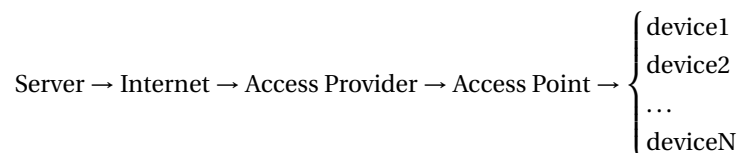
- every geographic region is divided into cells
  - more transmission distance  $\Rightarrow$  more power;
- frequency/timeslots/codes are reused at separated locations;
- co-channels interference between same color cells;

- base stations has control of functions and handoff;
- it can be shrunk to increase capacity and relax networking burden.
- it supports both voice (continuous) and data (bursty) requiring different:
  - access
  - routing strategies
- About connectivity:
  - 3G: packet-based switching for both voice and data (up to 7.2 Mbps)
  - 4G - 5G: are more focused on data (high bandwidth, high reliability, low latency)

### 1.2.2 Wireless Local Area Networks (WLANs)

Characteristics:

- devices are connected (wireless) to an AP<sup>1</sup>
  - it is wired-connected to internet;
- breaks data into packets ( $\approx 1500$  B) → AP<sup>1</sup> in even smaller size (500 B);
- MAC layer control access to shared channel (random access);
- backbone internet provides best-effort service
  - bandwidth cannot be determined!
  - users pay subscription only for home-access provider distance
    - ⇒ it can be bottleneck if the backbone is faster
  - having QoS (subscription) here can increase digital gap



There are different versions (802.11):

- b (old gen): only 2.4 GHz, speed 1-11 Mbps, range 100m
- g (legacy std): 2.4-5 GHz, speed up to 54 Mbps
- n (current gen): 2.4-5 GHz, speed up to 300 Mbps, multiple I/O
- ac (emerging gen): 2.4-5 GHz, speed up to 500 Mbps, multiple I/O
- s: used for mesh networks
- p: used for vehicular networks

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<sup>1</sup>Access Point

### 1.2.3 Satellite Systems

Satellites haven't been used so much until starlink which is gaining popularity because, even if they make light pollution, they are very lightweight and easy to wake up. There are many types of satellites:

- GEO (Geostationary Earth Orbit);
- MEO (Medium Earth Orbit);
- LEO (Low Earth Orbit).

In particular satellites:

- can cover large areas depending on their height in the space:
  - $> \text{height} \Rightarrow > \text{covered area}, > \text{latency}, < \text{bandwidth}$
  - $< \text{height} \Rightarrow < \text{covered area}, < \text{latency}, > \text{bandwidth}$
- for one-way transmission are optimised (i.e. radio and movie broadcasting);
- for two-way transmission are given up because of costs and few ambitions.

### 1.2.4 Bluetooth

Characteristics:

- it is a low cost replacement for cables;
- it covers a short range up to 100m with multihop
  - it requires exponential energy as distance grows
- frequency 2.4 GHz
- 4 channels (3 for voice, 1 for data up to 700 Kbps)
- Widely supported by telecommunications, PC...
  - it is a standard de facto (also BLE...)

### 1.2.5 Ad Hoc Networks

Characteristics:

- it is a peer-to-peer communications (born for military purposes)
- there isn't any backbone infrastructure
- routing is very hard because of:
  - dynamic topology;
  - typically multihop → to extend coverage area or reduce interferences

Problems:

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • hops;                | • energy consumption;   |
| • bandwidth;           | • topology;             |
| • collisions handling; | • dependency on device. |

### 1.2.6 Mesh Networks

Characteristics:

- Ad hoc opportunistic extension of a fixed urban infrastructure  
→ full of wireless access point which can connect to other ones
- it is easier than ANET because of almost static topology;
- creation of wireless coverage which is:
  - low-cost
  - easily deployable
  - high performing
- Challenges to face:
  - QoS
  - routing protocols optimisation for fairness and load balancing
  - automatic setup on infrastructure's failures

### 1.2.7 Sensor Networks

Characteristics:

- there is at least one sensor as device in the network;
- energy is the principal constraint (low or no battery)
- data flows to centralised locations;
- low per-node rate → up to 100K nodes and they can cooperate in:
  - ★ transmission
  - ★ reception
  - ★ compression
  - ★ signal processing

### 1.2.8 Distributed Control over Wireless Links

Characteristics:

- it is a possible scenario where there is control over something;
- it has to be robust to failures;
- Packet loss and delays impact controller performance;
- used mainly on automated vehicles such as cars, UAVs...



**1.2.9 Mobile Ad Hoc Networks (MANET)**

Characteristics:

- ANET with a dynamic topology using:
  - Infrastructure Network (WiFi or 3G/4G)
  - Ad Hoc Multihop wireless Network
- Instantly deployable and re-configurable (for temporary needs);
- Portable (i.e. sensors) and mobile (i.e. cars);

**1.2.10 Opportunistic Ad Hoc Networks**

Characteristics:

- they are created when needed;
- Driven by “commercial” application needs:
  - Indoor WLAN extended coverage
  - Bluetooth sharing
  - Peer-to-Peer networking on vehicles
- Access to internet available
  - BUT if too costly or inadequate ⇒ replacement with Ad Hoc Network

**1.2.11 Vehicular Ad Hoc Networks (VANET)**

Characteristics:

- ANET for vehicles
- it has 1000m range
- it supports 5.9 GHz
- it has 6-27 Mbps data rate depending on range
- it is more predictable → it may deduce infos ⇒ useful for crosslayers

**1.2.12 Flying Ad Hoc Networks (FANET)**

Characteristics:

- ANET for flying objects (i.e drone, mixed vehicles...)
- there is a 3D topology → protocols needs to be redesigned

**1.2.13 Underwater Sensor Networks**

Characteristics:

- communication happens by sound → messages propagate in circles;
- important to compute when message arrives → avoid collisions.

**1.2.14 Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)**

Characteristics:

- it is based on tags (low cost), readers (high cost) and eventually a server;
- tags can have:
  - ★ no battery → emitter charges the tag with energy (steal control,...)
  - ★ battery → tag periodically emits its ID (check of product history, control with sensors,...)
- systems can be built:
  - lot of tags + one emitter ⇒ cheap
  - lot of emitters + one tag ⇒ expensive
- it can identify specific instance of a product! (not only type like barcode)

## 2 Radio Frequency

Most wireless communications are based on this technology.

### 2.1 Properties

Here is some characteristics and properties of radio frequency:

- Antenna:
  - it has high frequency alternate current  $\Rightarrow$  generates electromagnetic energy
  - it converts wired current to radio frequency and viceversa
  - it can produce radio frequency with different frequency/amplitude
    - as signal propagates  $\Rightarrow$  it becomes weaker and weaker
- Frequency  $\rightarrow$  it is the number of waves in a second:
  - there is a wireless spectrum (regulated and free areas)
  - wavelength =  $\frac{c}{\text{freq}}$   $\Rightarrow$  distance between spikes
    - it gives antenna's recommended length
    - it works better if size is  $\frac{1}{2\pi}$  length of wavelength
- Amplitude:
  - higher amplitude signals  $\Rightarrow$  it goes further
  - transmission power =  $\frac{\text{energy}}{\text{time}} \rightarrow \frac{\text{joule}}{\text{s}}$
- Coverage:
  - as distance grows  $\Rightarrow$  signal becomes weaker in an exponential decline
    - you can detect a weak signal  $\rightarrow$  but you can't really use it  
(weak for exchanging messages)
  - problems:
    - \* obstacles  $\rightarrow$  can reflect or absorb waves
      - it depends on material and frequency
      - rules of thumbs
        - high frequency  $\rightarrow$  short distances, more affected by obstacles
        - low frequency  $\rightarrow$  long distances, less affected by obstacles
    - \* phase shifting  $\rightarrow$  positive/negative aspects  $\rightarrow$  early/late wavefront
      - signals can be null and overlap each other
  - polarisation  $\rightarrow$  physical orientation of antenna
    - \* radio frequency is made up of 2 perpendicular fields (electric/magnetic)  $\Rightarrow$  the presence of:
      - Horizontal polarisation  $\rightarrow$  electric field parallel to ground
      - Vertical polarisation  $\rightarrow$  electric field perpendicular to ground  $\rightarrow$  if 2 antennas are perpendicular to ground  $\Rightarrow$  better transmission

## 2.2 Wireless Transmission

It happens through electromagnetic waves. There is a dependency on amplitude, frequency and phase values → each combination produces a new signal

Characteristics:

- Range:
  - Transmission: communication possible, low error rate
  - Detection: detection of signal, no exchanging messages
  - Interference: no detection for too much noise depending from many factors (distance, environment...)

Detection requires more energy than communication

- Propagation:
  - it is at the light speed in free spaces
  - receiving power depends from distance between sender/receiver  
 $rp = \frac{1}{d^2} \rightarrow rp$  influenced by:
    - \* fading (dependent on frequency)
    - \* shadowing (obstacles)
    - \* reflection (large obstacles)
    - \* refraction (density of obstacles)
    - \* scattering (small obstacles)
    - \* diffraction (at edges)
  - signal can follow different paths due to refraction, scattering, diffraction.  
So there is:
    - \* Time dispersion → signal is dispersed over time
    - \* Phase shifting → signal is distorted
- Power measurement
  - It is the Decibel (dB) → expression power loss
  - It is more practical to use logarithmic decay → easy calculations
  - Decibel measures the logarithmic relative strength between 2 signals
  - Values of power measurements:
    - \* positive → power gain
    - \* negative → power loss

## 2.3 Antennas

Characteristics:

- it converts electrical energy in radio frequency waves (transmission) and viceversa (reception)
- its size → depends on radio frequency of transimission/reception
- its shape → depends on radio frequency radiation pattern
- position important to have max coverage

There are different types of antennas:

- Omnidirectional antennas
- Semi-directional antennas
- Highly-directional antennas
- Sectorised-directional antennas

### 2.3.1 Omnidirectional antennas

Characteristics:

- radio frequency power is equally distributed in all direction around Y-axis
- used when:
  - need of uniform radio coverage
  - point-to-multipoint connections (star topology)
- Tilt → it is degree of inclination of antenna with respect to Y-axis
- Example of dipole antenna
  - passive gain due to concentration of radiations
  - active gain obtained with power amplifiers
  - signal is weak near the dipole
  - there is also:
    - \* low gain → high signal near antenna, low far
    - \* high gain → low signal near antenna, high far

### 2.3.2 Semi-directional antennas

Characteristics:

- radio frequency power is equally distributed only on  $\frac{1}{2}$  direction (also few goes behind that direction)
- Types:
  - Patch → flat antennas mounted on walls
  - Panel → flat antennas mounted on walls
  - Yagi → rod with tines sticking out

### 2.3.3 Highly-directional antennas

Characteristics:

- radio frequency power is distributed on a specific direction and antenna could be as:
  - parabolic dish
  - grid
- it is used for long distances → point-to-point link
- there is what is called LoS (Line of Sight):
  - straight line between sender and receiver
  - needs no obstruction
- there is also the Freshnel Zone:
  - it is an area which is centered on LoS axis
  - most additive radio frequency signal is concentrated here
  - there is the need of no obstacles  
(useless increasing power if Freshnel Zone is not free)
  - it depends on distance and frequency
    - ⇒ there is no dependency from type, degree, gain of antennas

### 2.3.4 Sectorised-directional antennas

Characteristics:

- there are multiple antennas → each one points to a direction
- it is applied the space multiplexing (channel reuse)
  - ⇒ assigned the same frequency for antennas which do not collide each others

### 3 Wireless Physical Layer

There are different frequency areas which can be regulated or free.

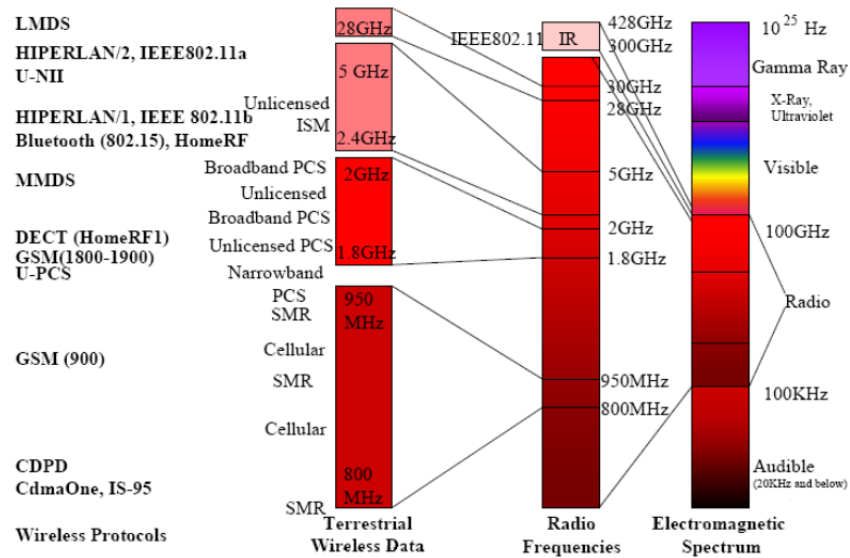


Figure 1: Wireless spectrum

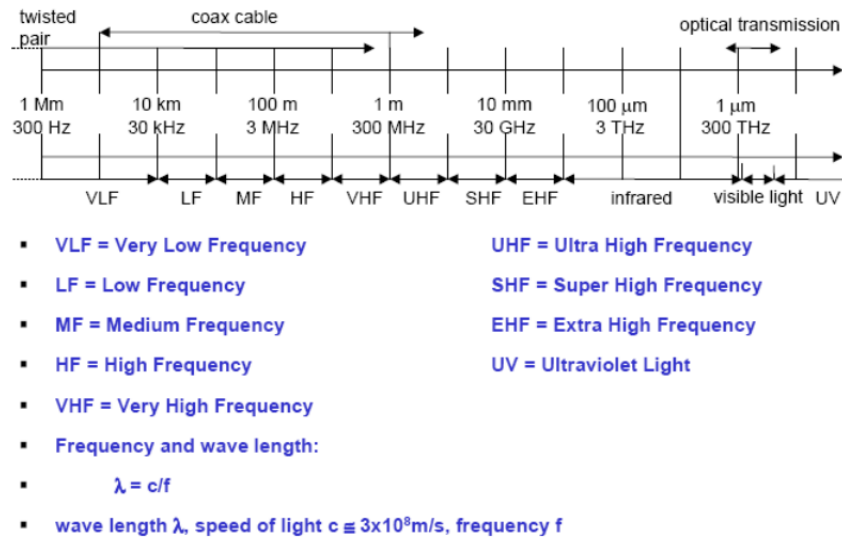


Figure 2: Wireless frequency

### 3.1 Characteristics

In this section there is some description about the main concepts of wireless physical layer

**Bandwidth** → maximum transfer capacity

- it can vary between each wireless channel
- bits go at the same speed (light physical limit) → gain in encoding/decoding
- spectrum can be bigger → more space ⇒ more risks (errors, interferences, ...)
- time to accomodate (less time, ...)

**Coverage**

- both isolated ⇒ they can't hear each others
- if A receives B, but B don't receive A ⇒ unidirectional link
- if A receives B and viceversa ⇒ bidirectional link
- Bidirectional links can be:
  - symmetric: A & B communicate with same speed
  - asymmetric: A & B communicate with different speed

**Technology**

There are different types of technologies used for wireless networks:

- Narrowband Radio System
  - used for long distance, LoS needed
  - send/receive using a single, licensed, narrowing radio frequency
  - cross-talks require coordination/license for each site (low rate)
- Spread Spectrum it can be of 2 types:
  - Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum
    - \* it can changes frequency in the way which is known by the receiver/transmitter
    - \* unintended receivers may listen to FHSS<sup>2</sup> as impulse noise
    - \* lower power/cost/throughput than DSSS<sup>3</sup>
  - Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum
    - \* redundant bit pattern spreaded over a large spectrum
      - long chips can increase the possibility to recover the original bits
      - ⇒ it may avoid retransmission

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<sup>2</sup>Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum

<sup>3</sup>Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum



- \* unintended receivers may listen to DSSS<sup>4</sup> as low power wideband noise
- \* high performance, low interferences, good security, more expensive
- Infrared
  - it is just below visible light ⇒ it can't go beyond obstacles
  - LoS is the key (it limitates mobility) → short range (indoor, LANs, ...)
  - high data-rate potential
  - high bandwidth, easily obstructed, inexpensive

	PROS	CONS
Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum (FHSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use less power than DSSS</li> <li>• Lower cost</li> <li>• Increased security due to frequency switching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower throughput than DSSS</li> </ul>
Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum (DSSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High performance</li> <li>• Low interference</li> <li>• Increased security due to chip coding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expensive</li> </ul>
Narrowband Microwave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long distance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Line-of-sight with satellite dish</li> <li>• Requires FCC license</li> <li>• Not designed for WLAN use</li> </ul>
Infrared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High bandwidth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easily obstructed</li> <li>• Inexpensive</li> </ul>

Figure 3: Wireless technologies comparison

### Coverage Areas

There are different coverage areas:

- Wireless Wide/Metropolitan Area Network (WWAN & WMAN)
 

It is characterised by the use of:

  - satellites
    - \* GEO → 3 of them cover the entire world → 500ms Round Trip Time
    - \* LEO → more mobility, low coverage → nodes have to switch between them
  - cellular/multistructure WLAN
    - \* lots of Access Point all connected to local Mobile terminals
    - \* local Mobile terminals connected to internet backbone

<sup>4</sup>Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum

- Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN)

It can be of 2 types:

→ Ad-Hoc

- \* it is a Peer-to-Peer "on the fly" communication
- \* there is no administration, no setup, no costs

→ Infrastructure

- \* it is a centralised control unit (Access Point + Local Server)
- \* there is roaming between cells
- \* there is resource sharing and backbone connection

- Wireless Personal Area Network (WPAN)

- it is used for alternative cable connection for in-home/offices
- common protocols are HomeRF, Bluetooth, ...

### Environment

There are some challenges to take into account:

- capability to maintain needs for apps/services
- limited resources such as bandwidth, energy (battery constraints) ...
- device limits (I/O, keyboards, mouse, ...)
- mobility (number of users in the system, ...)
- QoS<sup>5</sup> problems, reliability, negotiation...

### Multiplexing

- Goal → to reach the multiple use of a shared channel  
⇒ bandwidth to a large amount of devices
- There are multiple options and each one needs to have a guard spaces  
⇒ avoid interferences, ...
- Types:
  - Space Multiplexing:
    - \* devices are far away from each other
    - \* devices have all the same frequency → no interference
    - \* guard → safety physical space
  - Frequency Multiplexing:
    - \* channel's spectrum is divided into smaller bands
    - \* host use a single piece for the whole time

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<sup>5</sup>Quality of Service → guarantee a certain amount of bandwidth

- \* guard → safety frequency between bands

- \* Pros:

- no dynamic coordination
- it works also for analog systems

- \* Cons:

- inflexibility → traffic unbalanced ⇒ bandwidth waste

→ Time Multiplexing:

- \* one carrier (round-robin) at a time uses the whole bandwidth

- \* guard → time between transitions

- \* Pros:

- high throughput for many users

- \* Cons:

- require precise synchronization

→ Code Multiplexing:

- \* how it works:

1. each channel has a unique code
2. each medium transmits at the same time
3. messages overlapping
4. signal combination
5. receiver decode only what of interest

- \* Pros:

- no synchronization
- more bandwidth
- good protection in security/interferences

- \* Cons:

- lower data rates
- more expensive → it needs to regenerate the signal (receiver)

### 3.2 Wireless vs Wired

Here there is a comparison between wireless and wired networks.

Attribute	Wireless PAN/LAN	Wired PAN/LAN
Throughput	10-100 Mbps	10-100 Mbps (and more)
Integrity & Reliability	Subject to interference	Highly reliable
Simplicity/ Ease of Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No need to pull cable</li><li>• Set up time is significantly lower</li><li>• Moves, additions &amp; changes much simpler</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cable required</li><li>• Set up time is significantly higher</li></ul>
Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Susceptible to interception</li><li>• Encryption</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not as susceptible to interception</li></ul>
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Initial HW investment high</li><li>• Installation expenses and maintenance low</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Initial HW investment low</li><li>• Installation expenses and maintenance high</li></ul>
Scalability	Simple to complex networks	Simple to complex networks
Safety	Little exposure to radio frequency energy	No exposure to radio frequency energy
Mobility	Provides access to real-time info anywhere	Does not support mobility

Figure 4: Wireless vs wired comparison