

Cellular Networks

Mobile cellular networks
GSM to 5G



Wireless cellular network

Single hop widespread wireless connectivity to the wired world

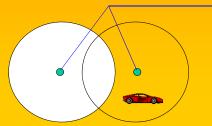
- Usually space divided into cells, and MTs assigned to a cell
- A base station is responsible for communicating with MTs in its cell – typical communication: a voice call.
- Handoff occurs when a MT starts communicating via a new base station, while busy on a call
- Battery drain low.

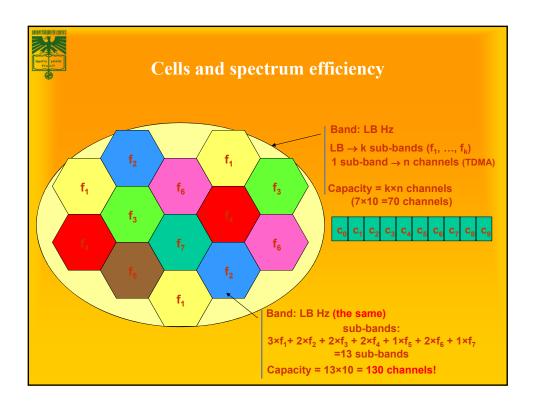
Cell size:

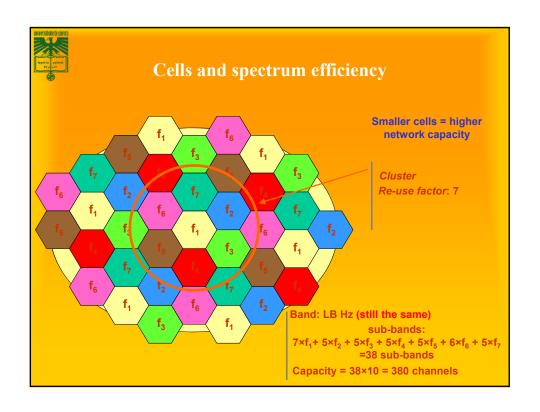
-Highly variable

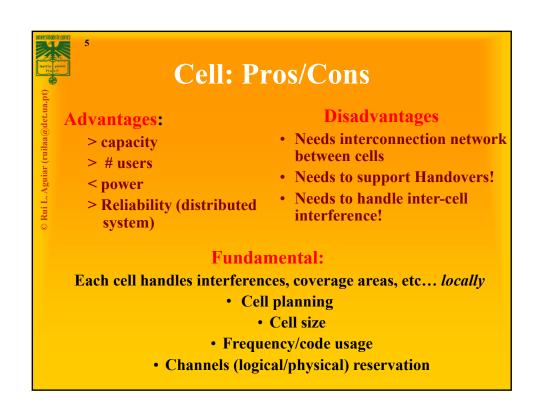
-Technology dependent

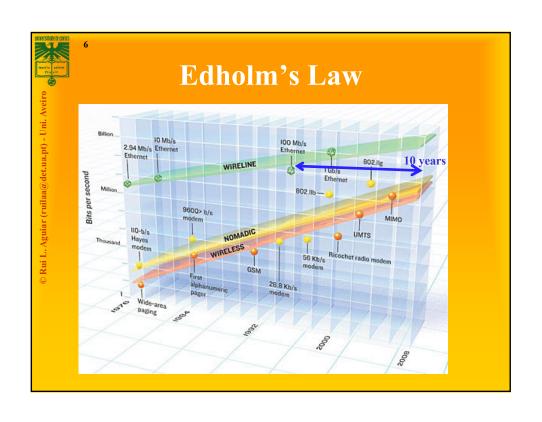
-Varies with number of users

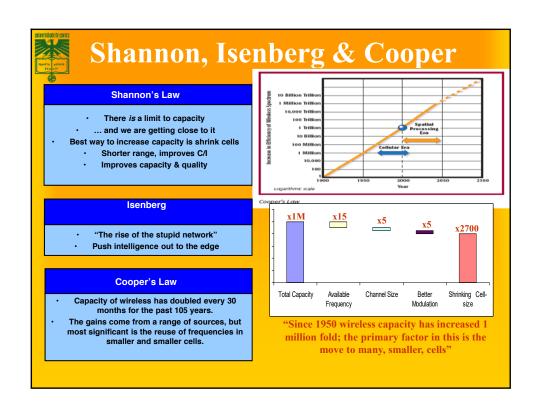


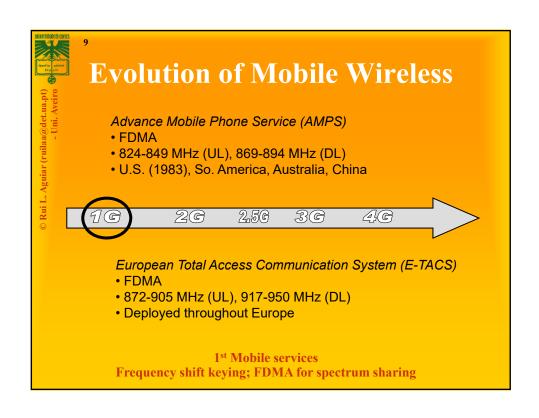


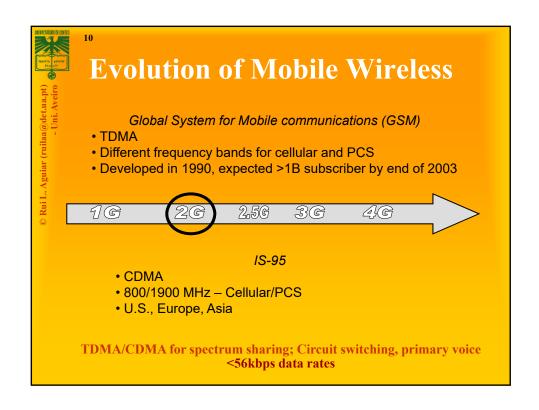


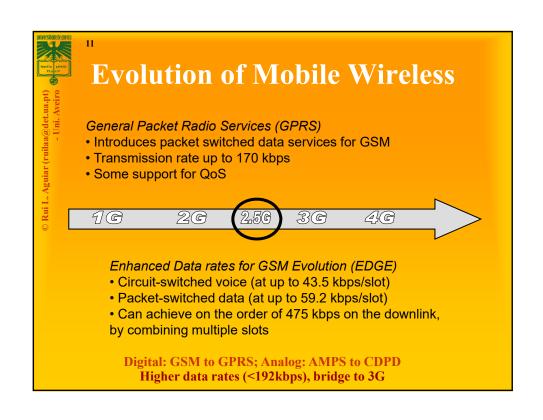














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Evolution of Mobile Wireless

Universal Mobile Telecommunication Systems (UMTS)

- Wideband DS-CDMA
- Bandwidth-on-demand, up to 2 Mbps
- Supports handoff from GSM/GPRS

1G

2G

2.5G





IS2000

- CDMA2000: Multicarrier DS-CDMA
- Bandwidth on demand (different flavors, up to a few Mbps)
- Supports handoff from/to IS-95

High speed, seamless integration of voice and data (Internet) services < 7 Mbps data rates, packet switching



First-Generation Analog

- Advanced Mobile Phone Service (AMPS)
 - In North America, two 25-MHz bands allocated to AMPS
 - One for transmission from base to mobile unit
 - One for transmission from mobile unit to base
 - Each band split in two to encourage competition
 - Frequency reuse exploited
- AMPS Operation
 - Subscriber initiates call by keying in phone number and presses send key
 - Network verifies number and authorizes user
 - Network issues message to user's cell phone indicating send and receive traffic channels
 - Network sends ringing signal to called party
 - Party answers; network establishes circuit and initiates billing information
 - Either party hangs up; network releases circuit, frees channels, completes billing



Differences Between First and Second Generation Systems

• Digital traffic channels

 first-generation systems are almost purely analog; secondgeneration systems are digital

Encryption

all second generation systems provide encryption to prevent eavesdropping

Error detection and correction

second-generation digital traffic allows for detection and correction, giving clear voice reception

Channel access

second-generation systems allow channels to be dynamically shared by a number of users



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2nd Generation: GSM

• Defined by CEPT/ETSI

• Requirements in terms of:

Services Portability, =PSTN

-QoS = PSTN

Security Low cost cipher

- RF Usage Efficiency

Network
 Numbering ITU-T, SS-7

- Cost Low



Basic Architecture

- Defines cells
- Defines a Mobile Terminal

Mobile Equipment + Subscriber Identity Module
(etc...; e.g. International Mobile Station Equipment Identity (IMEI))

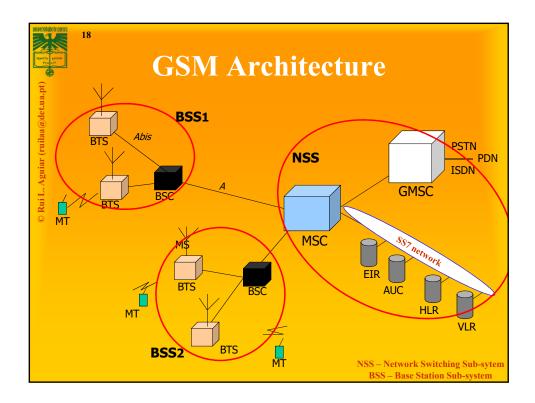
- Uses a Network Subsystem MSC; HLR, VLR
- Uses a Radio Subsystem BSS; BTransceiverS, BSController
- Defines a Operation Support Subsystem (security)



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Basic Architecture

- Each cell is controlled by a base station (BS)
- The Base Station Subsystem (BSS) is structure as base station controllers (BSC) + base transceiver station (BTS)
- BSCs are connected to the mobile switching center (MSC) through physical lines
- MSCs are interconnected to each other
- There are MSCs connected to the public network (PSTN), the gateway mobile switching center (GMSC).





Mobile Switching Center

• MSC = local switching center

Contains:

- Home Location Register (HLR)
- Visitor Location Register (VLR)
- Autentication Center (Au)
- Equipment Identity Registry (EIR)
- Connects the BSS (base station subsystem)

(Master of the cell, define channels and access to them...)

- Contains the registers for "their" mobile terminals
- Specific signalling channels
 - MT-BS (MSC): location, call setup, received call answer
 - BS (MSC)-MT: cell identification, location update, received call setup



Network Subsystem DBs

HLR - Home Location Register

- maintains permanent information about the subscribers of a GSM network (subscriber record)
 - Subscription data: IMSI, MSISDN, subscription type (restrictions, supplementary services, ...)
- tracks the location and state of the mobile terminal within the network
 - Location information: mobile VLR number.

VLR - Visitor Location Register

- maintains temporary information about the subscribers registered on a GSM network (including subscribers in roaming)
 - Data: IMSI, MSISDN, TMSI, MSRN, subscription type, location area,
- keeps up-to-date information about the location of the user within the network



Network Subsystem DBs

AuC – Authentication Center

- service responsible for the authentication of the subscribers
- maintains the encryption algorithms
- maintains the secret key (k_i) for each subscriber
- generates the session keys

• EiR – Equipment Identity Register

- provides security mechanisms for the mobile equipments
- keeps lists of mobile equipments
 - white list (authorized)
 - gray list (under "observation")
 - black list (blocked)



Mobile Station

- Mobile station communicates across Um interface (air interface) with base station transceiver in same cell as mobile unit
- Mobile equipment (ME) physical terminal, such as a telephone or PCS
 - ME includes radio transceiver, digital signal processors and subscriber identity module (SIM)
- GSM subscriber units are generic until SIM is inserted
 - SIMs roam, not necessarily the subscriber devices

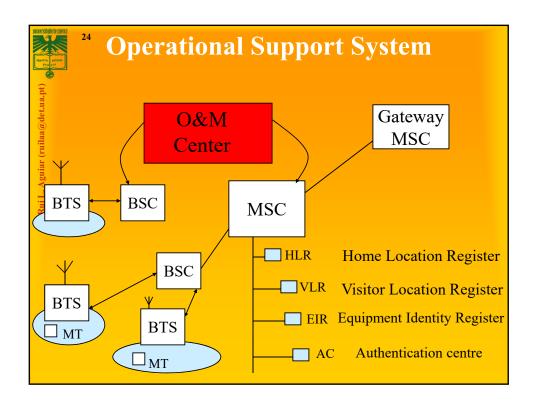


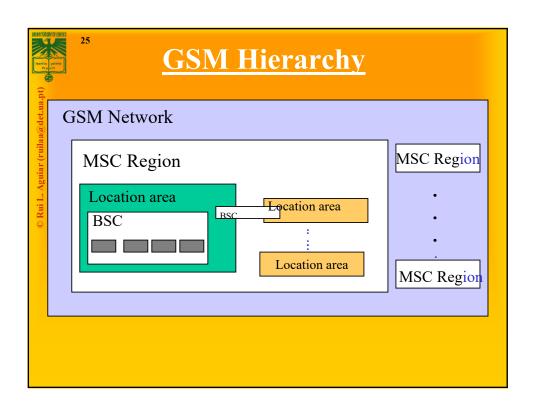
SIM: Suscriber Identity Module

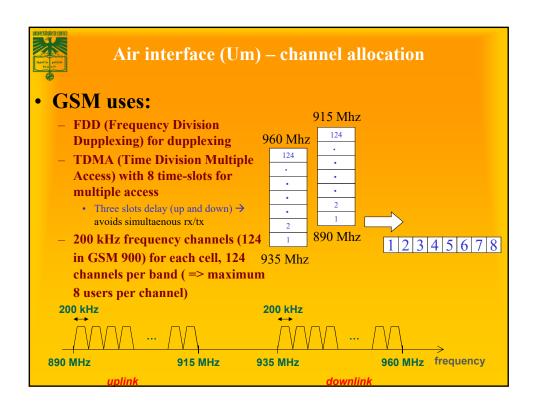
Informations:

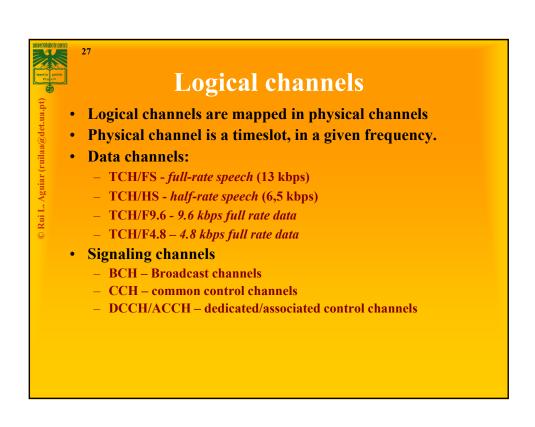
- subscriber identity, password (PIN), subscription information (authorized networks, call restrictions, ...), security algorithms, short numbers, last received/dialed numbers, last visited location area, ...
- SIM card + GSM terminal = access to GSM services.

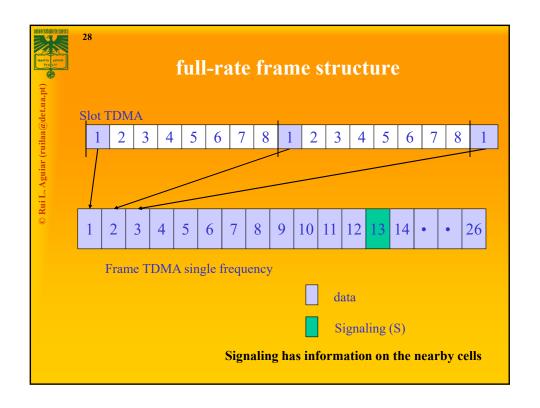
 SIM ROCK 'n Tree

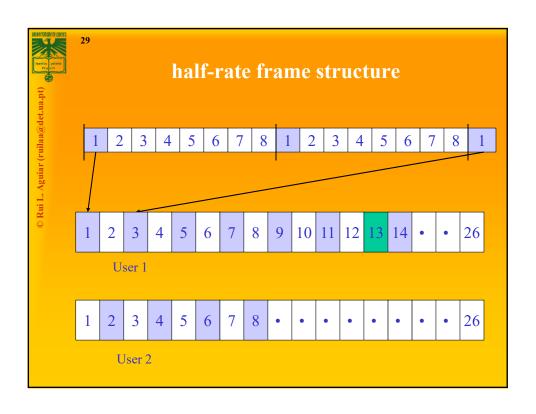














Control channels

Used for:

- Synchronizing MT with the cell
- Informing the MT about
 - Cell parameters
 - Nearby cells
 - Channel information
- Support paging
 - Search for the MT when in low power mode
- Allows the MT to access the network
 - Shared (contention) access
 - Essential for the MT to request connections



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Signalling Channels

BCH:

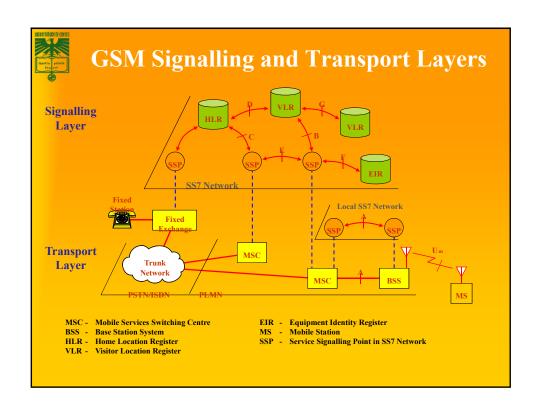
- Broadcast Control Channel (BCCH)
- Frequency Correction Channel (FCCH)
- Synchronization Channel (SCH)

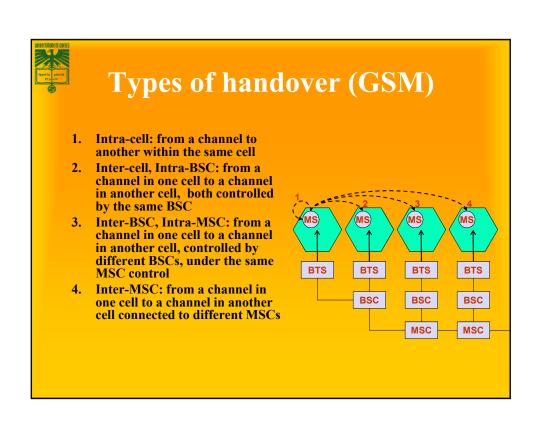
CCH:

- Random Access Channel (RACH)
- Paging Channel (PCH)

D/ACCH

- Stand-alone Dedicated Control Channel (SDCCH)
- Slow Associated Control Channel (SACCH)

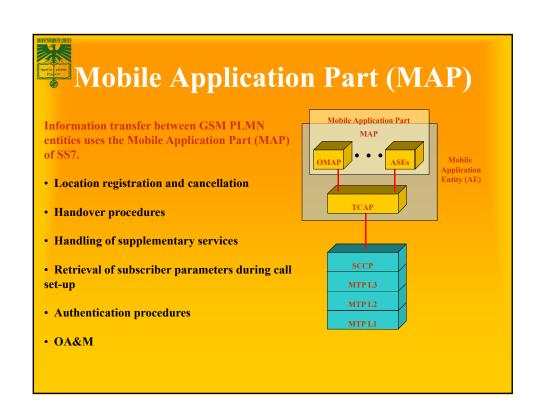


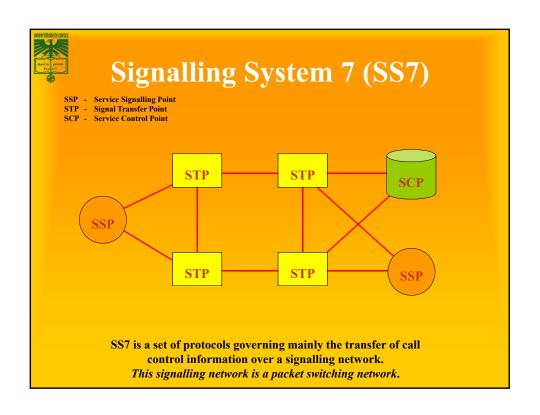


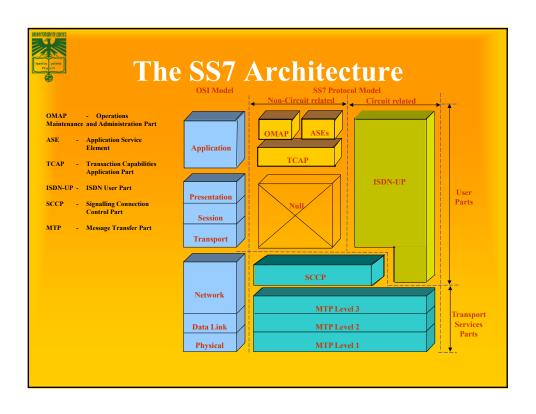


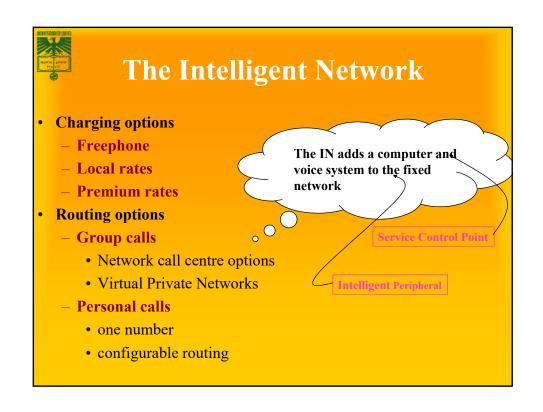
Functions Provided by Higher Protocols

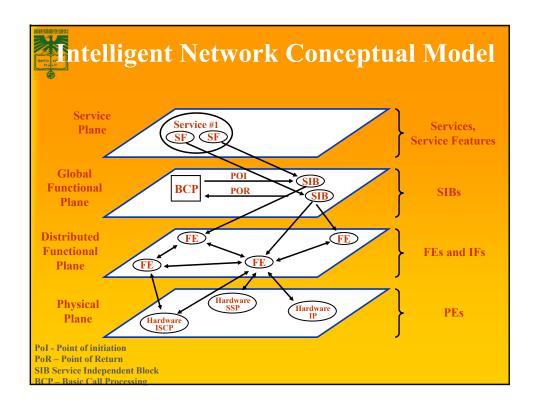
- Protocols above the link layer of the GSM signaling protocol architecture provide specific functions:
 - Radio resource management
 - Mobility management
 - Connection management
 - Mobile application part (MAP)
 - BTS management

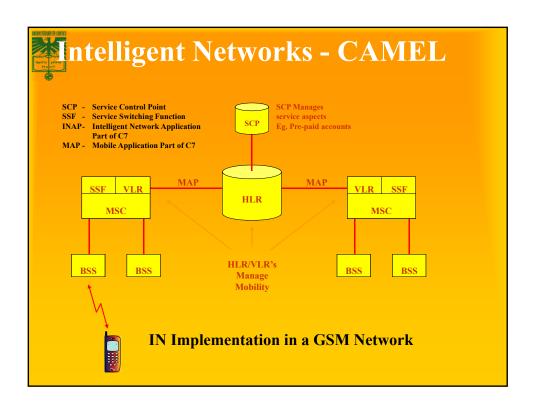














Short Message Service - SMS

- supports the transmission of messages up to 160¹ characters, between mobile terminals
- messages are transmitted through the signaling channels
- is used for a variety of applications:
 - text messages between users (very popular)
 - broadcast of information by the network operator (e.g. promotions)
 - broadcast of location-dependent information (e.g. local restaurants)
 - access to computing applications (e.g. home banking and e-mail)
 - configuration of mobile terminals over the air
- 1 When using (7 bits/charater); only 70 caracteres wehn using other codes (8 bits).



SIM Toolkit

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■ Principle: The SIM card can initiate actions on the terminal.

- ☐ Objectives: Allow exchanges between the network and the SIM through SMSs (without displaying them)
- **○** Value-added services provision.

Examples:

- Reservation in a restaurant (send a menu by the network, manages user choices and the SIM card sends back the reservation in an SMS).
 - Menus management (kiosk services).



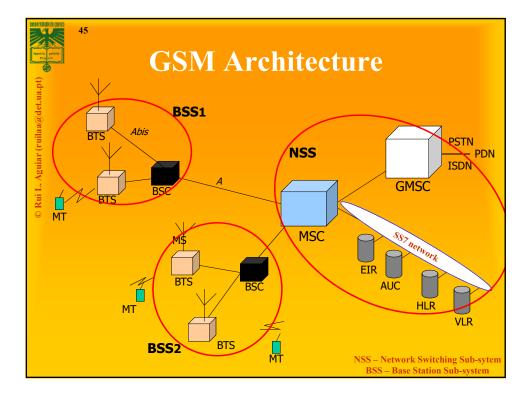
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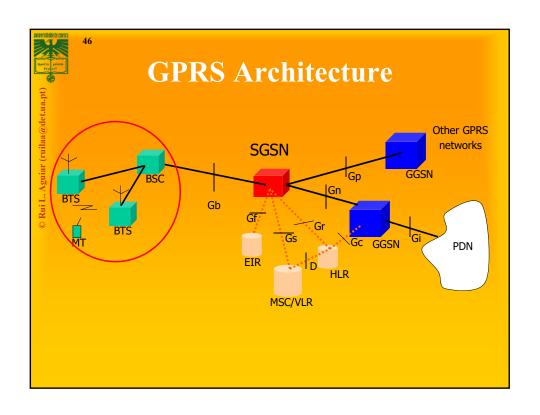
GPRS

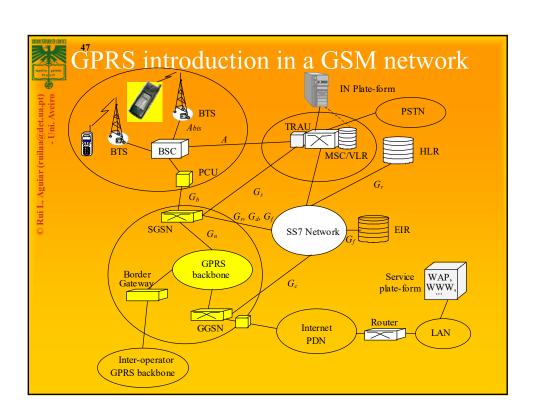
- Packet-oriented transport service, for data network connections (Internet). GPRS features:
 - Better transmission bit rates(max 150kbps).
 - Allows burst communications ("immediate": connections in <1s)
 - New network applications
 - New billing mechanisms (user-oriented: by traffic, p.ex.)

GPRS Architecture

- ➤ New entities are defined
 - ➤ SGSN serving GPRS support node
 - ➤ GGSN gateway GPRS support node
 - ➤ Interfaces between entities GPRS, GSM, core, e PSTN
- > Transmission plane
 - ➤ Data packets are transmitted by a tunnel mechanisms
- ➤ Control plane
 - > GTP: a protocol for tunnel management (create, remove, etc..)
- ➤ Radio interface
 - ➤ Changed the logical channels and how they are managed
 - ➤ Remains the concept of "master-slave"









GGSN (Gateway GPRS Support Node) Functions

Gateway:

- Allows the connection to other IP or GPRS networks.

Routing:

- IP router which supports dynamic or static routing,

Mobility management:

- Use of routing areas.
- Handover management between the BSCs and other SGSNs.
- Allows the routing of the packets towards the users SGSNs, according to their mobility.

• Sessions management:

 At each session, the SGSN activates a PDP (Packet Data Protocol) context, and allocates an IP address to the MT.



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GGSN (Gateway GPRS Support Node) Functions

• Security:

- Ciphers the communications towards or from the mobiles.
- Includes firewalls for filtering the packets coming from external IP networks.

• Authentication:

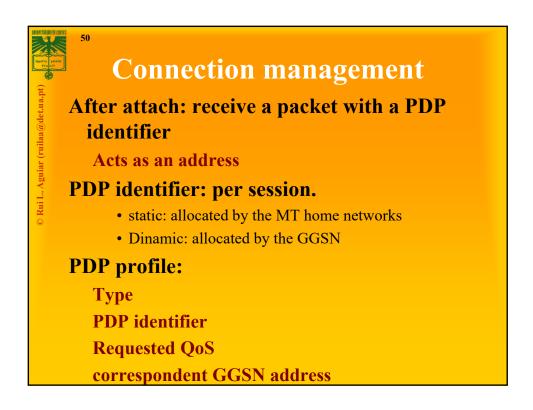
- At Attach and inter-SGSN RA updates.

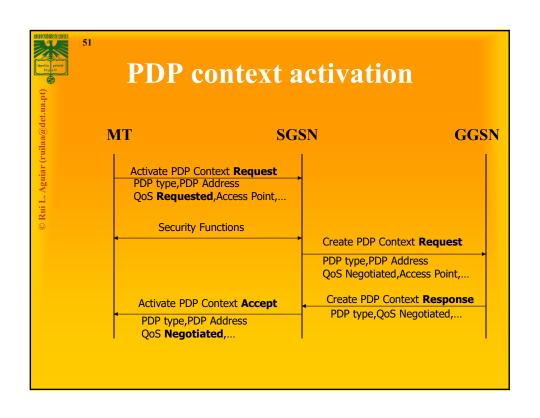
• Billing:

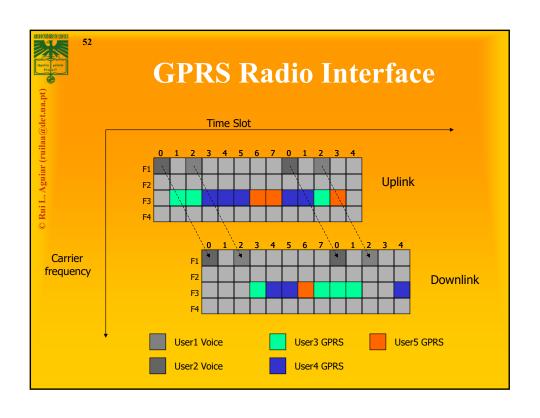
 Production of the CDRs according to the quantity of information and the session duration (attachment, duration of active PDP context).

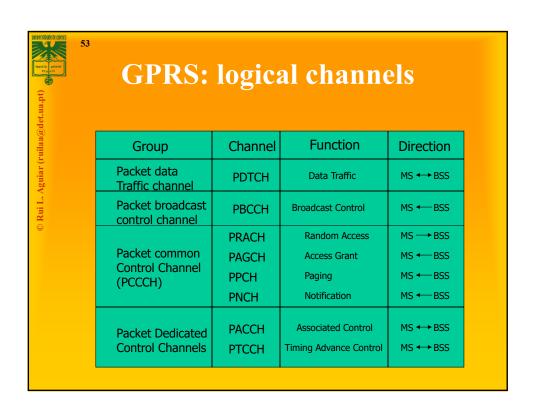
• *SMS*:

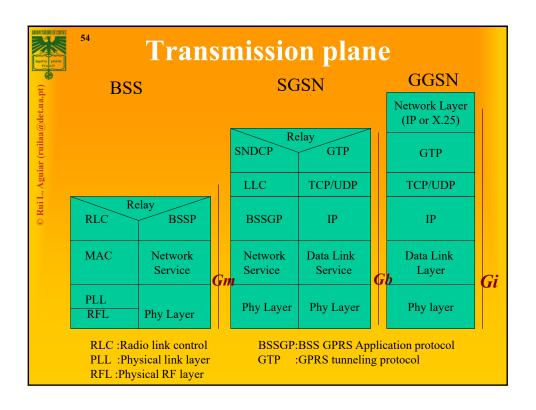
 Supports the Gd interface for the communications with the SMS-GMSC and the SMS-IWMSC.

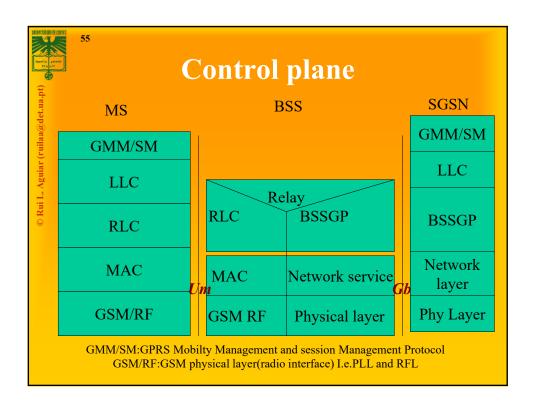




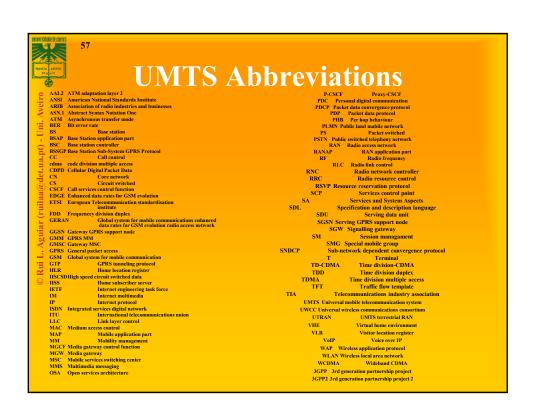


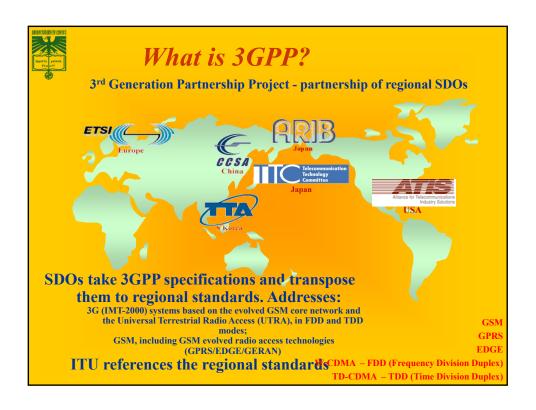


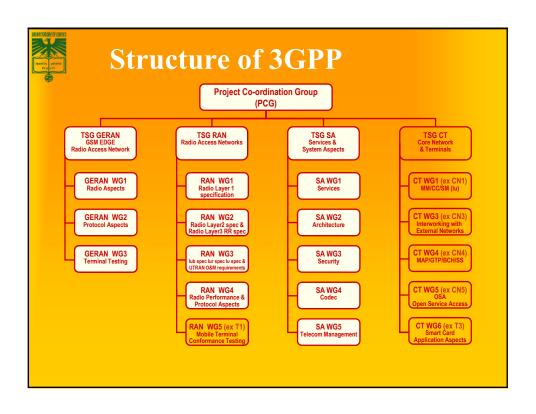


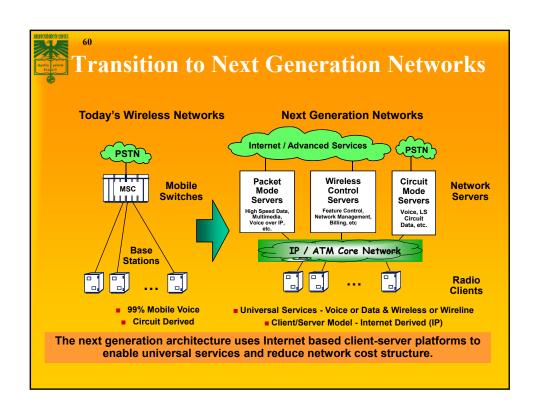


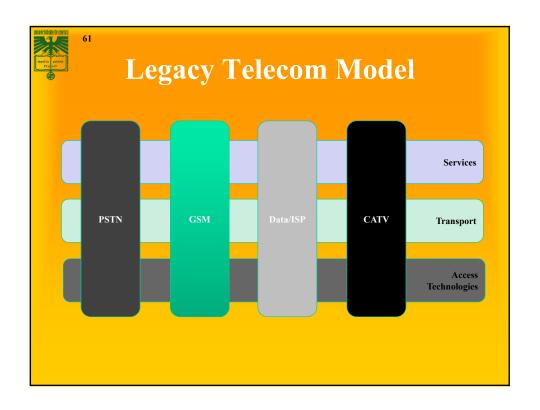


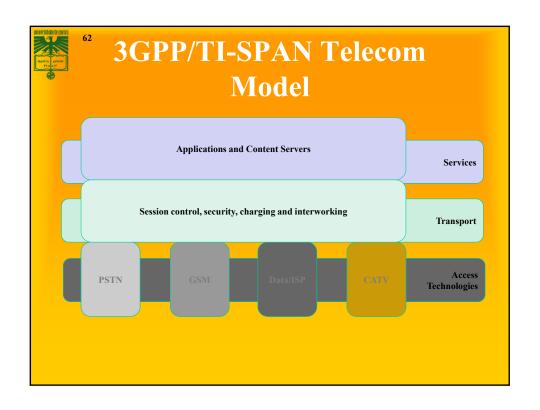










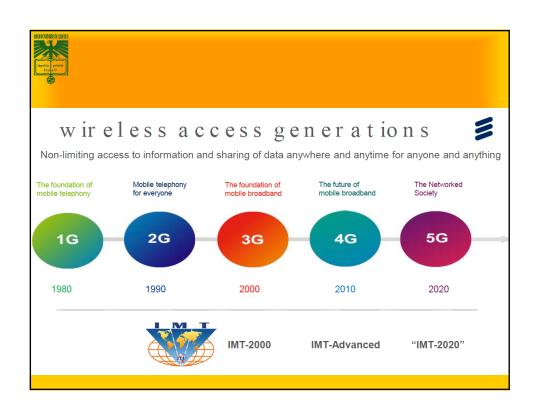




3GPP and service provision

- 3GPP is much more than radio
- It contains a full service exploitation context
 - Under consideration and evolution for telecom operators
 - Future integrated networks following from these trends
- Service support trends are not new
 - 2G systems also had their architectures (CAMEL)
 - Web brought some changes to this (hey, java, hey)
- Business models are paramount here
 - Walled garden concepts

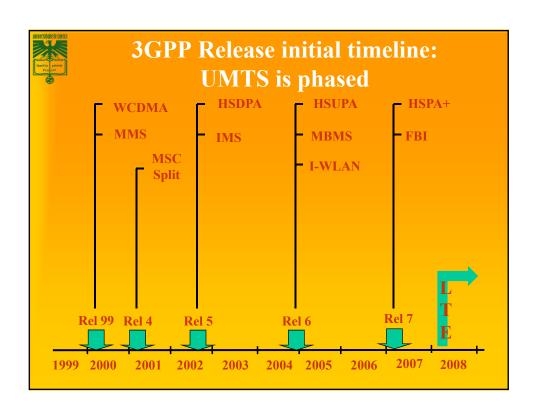
3G: Universal Mobile Telecommunication System





UMTS

- UMTS Universal Mobile Telecommunication System –3G system
- Oriented towards generalized service diffusion, and future user trends: combines "cellular, "wireless", "internet", etc...
- "multimedia everywhere"
- Developed in order to have na evolutionary path from 2.5G systems; progressive evolution (GPRS-EDGE-UMTS)





Implications

- Any Device
- Any Access Technology
- Any Where

ALWAYS BEST CONNECTED

- One Network, multiple access technologies
- Common Session Control
- Generic Application Servers
- Single set of services that apply network wide
- Consistent user experience
- Operational efficiency
- New services/applications



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UMTS (Universal Mobile Transport Service)

Specification

Flexible

Handles multiple multimedia flows in a single connection.

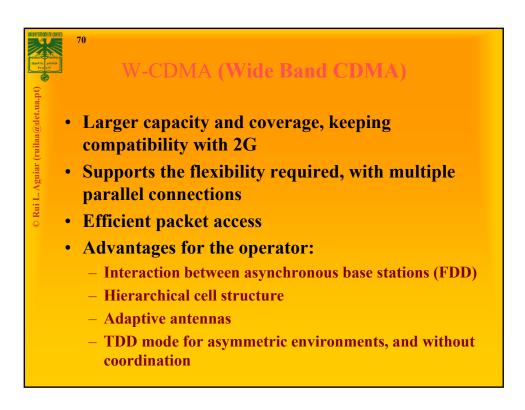
Support to packet transport

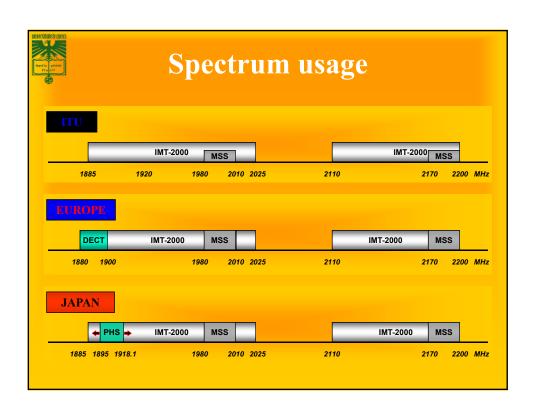
Flexible coding mechanisms (FDD/TDD WCDMA)

Variable transmission rates

Max. 384 Kbps for global coverage (initially)

Max. 2Mbps for local coverage (initially)







/2

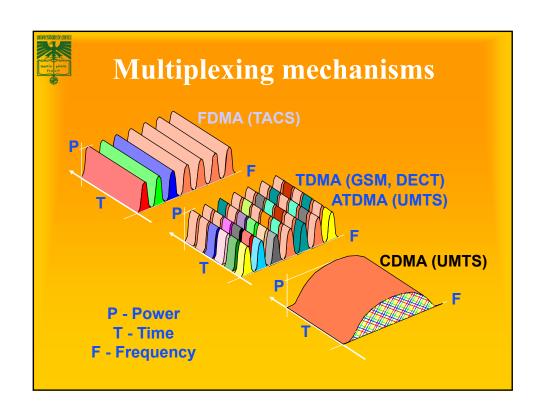
Multiplexing modes

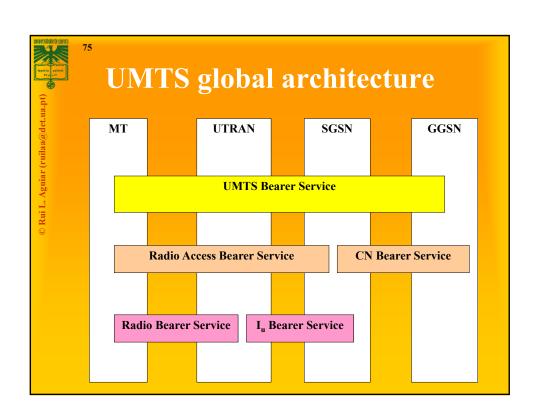
- FDD spectrum sharing based in the usage of different frequencies; good for symmetric services in large areas
- TDD spectrum sharing based in timeslots; good for asymmetric services; require timing synchronism.
- Different modes licensed in different countries
- Different frequencies licensed for each mode

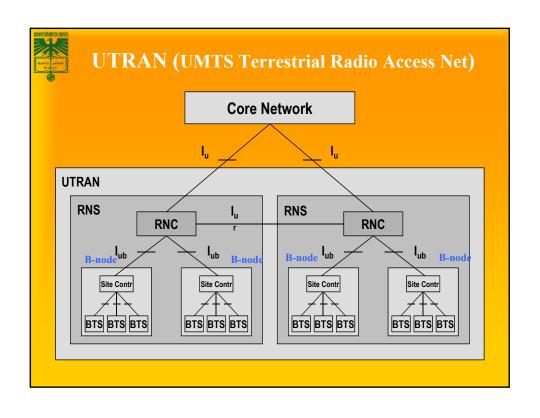


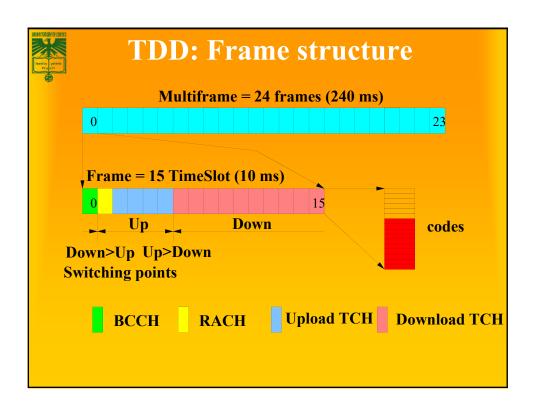
UMTS – air interface

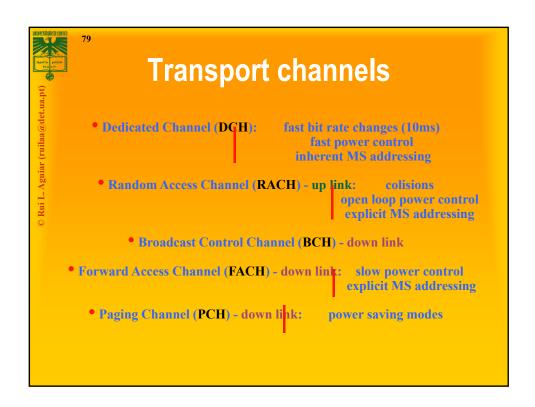
- UTRA-FDD:
 - uplink: 1920 1980 MHz (60 MHz)
 - downlink: 2110 2170 MHz (60 MHz)
- UTRA-TDD:
 - 1900 1920 MHz (20 MHz)
 - -2010 2025 MHz (15 MHz)
- In Portugal:
 - 2x15 MHZ for UTRA-FDD
 - 1x5 MHz for UTRA-TDD

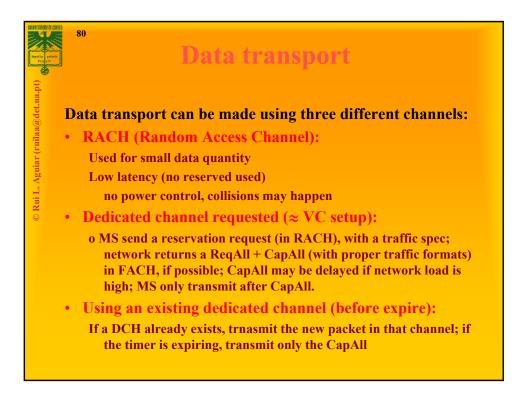


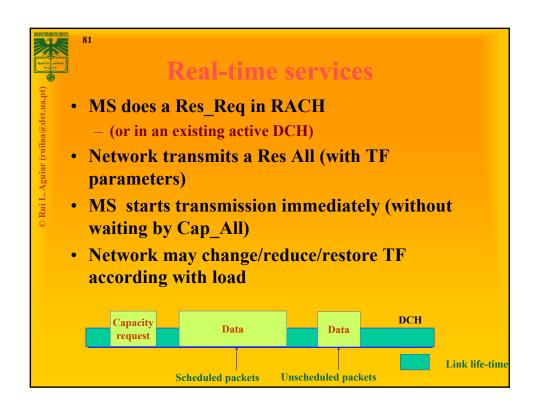


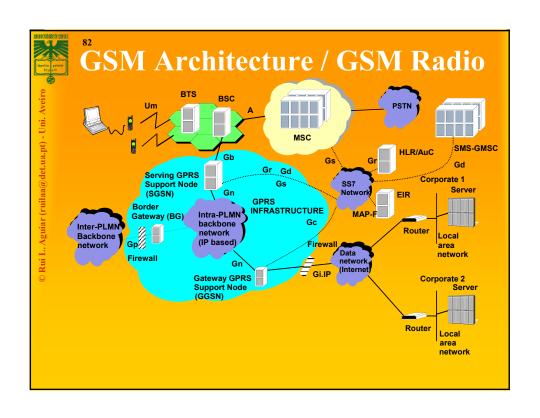


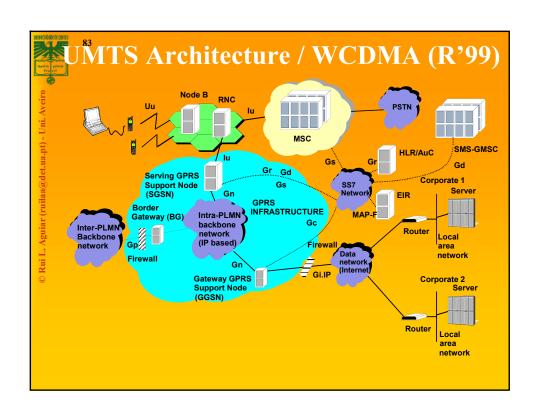


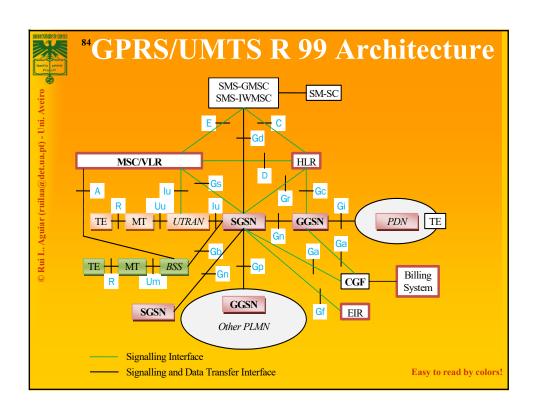


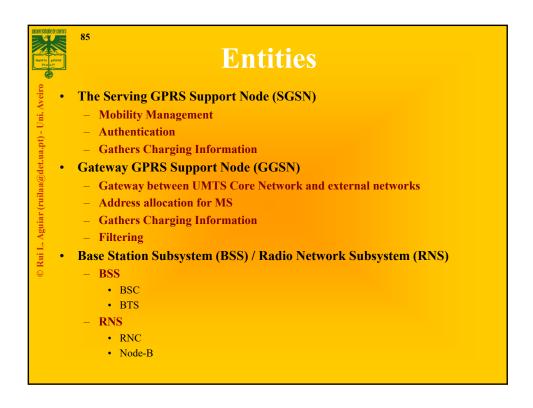


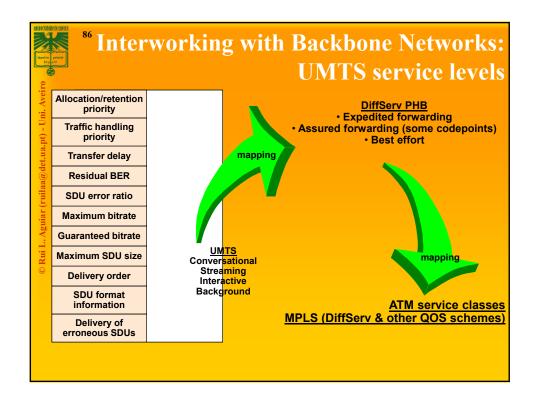


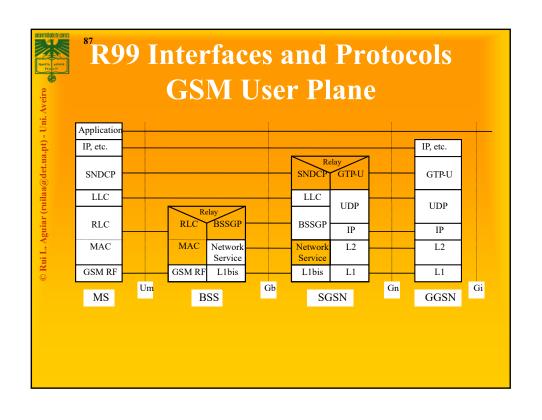


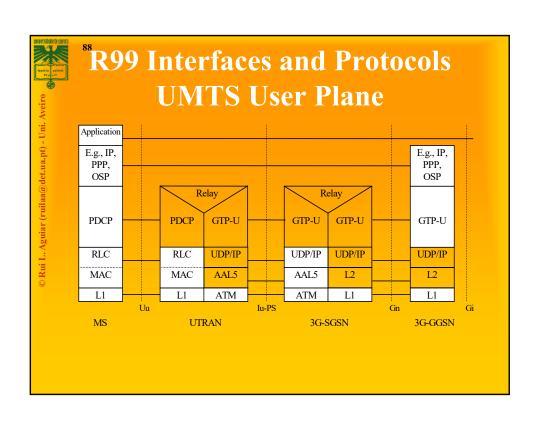


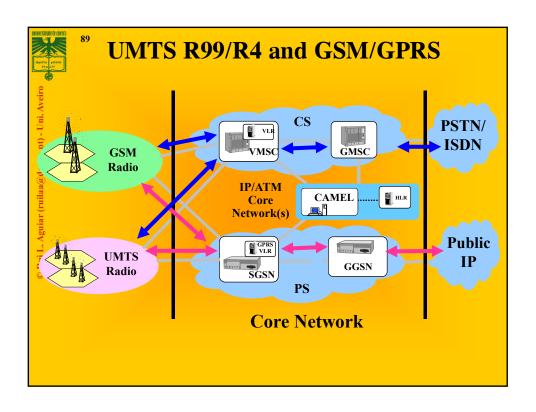


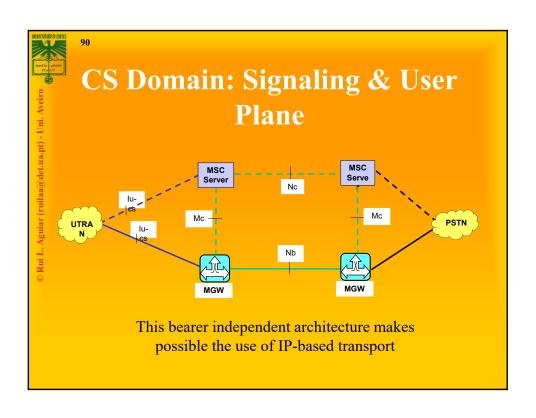


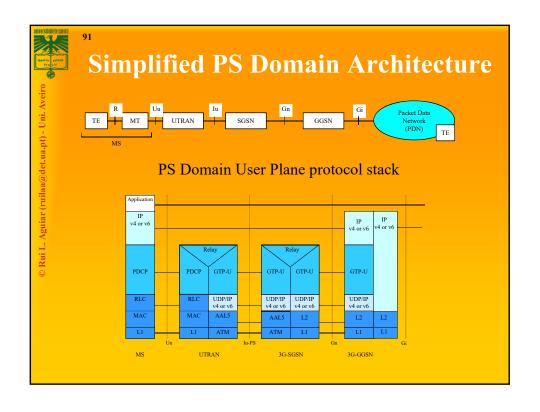


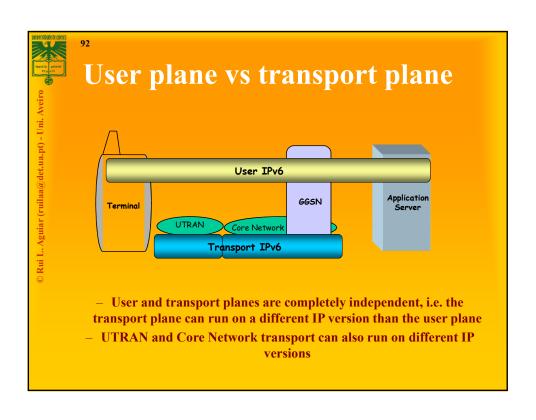


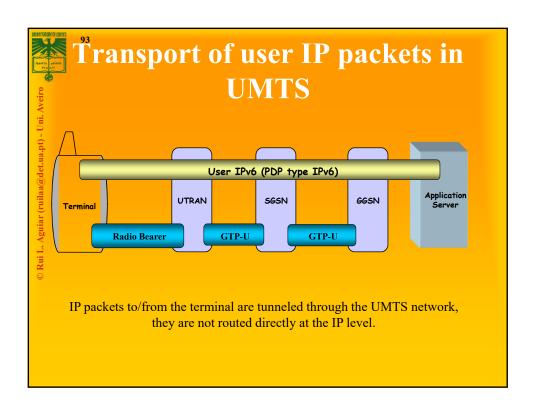


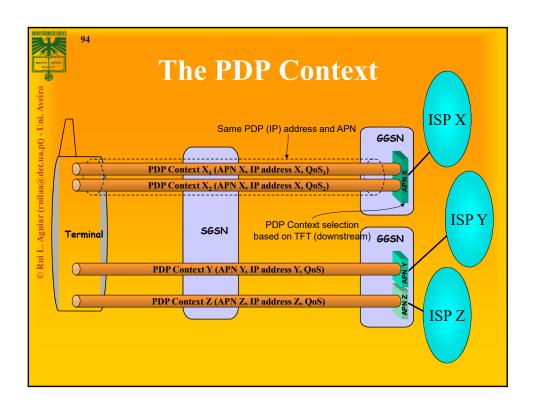












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GTP and PDP Context

- GPRS Tunneling Protocol is a simple tunneling protocol based on UDP/IP - used both in GSM/GPRS and UMTS.
- Identified by a Tunnel Endpoint Identifier (TEID)
- For every MS:
 - one GTP-C tunnel is established for signalling
 - Multiple GTP-U tunnels, one per PDP context (i.e. session), are established for user traffic.

PDP Context

- When an MS attaches to the Network:
 - SGSN creates a Mobility Management context with information about mobility and security for the MS.
 - At PDP Context Activation (PDP Packet Data Protocol), both SGSN and GGSN create a PDP context, with information about the session (e.g. IP address, QoS, routing information, etc.),



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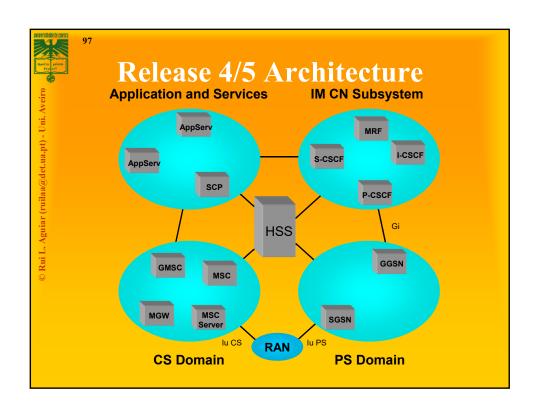
PDP Context

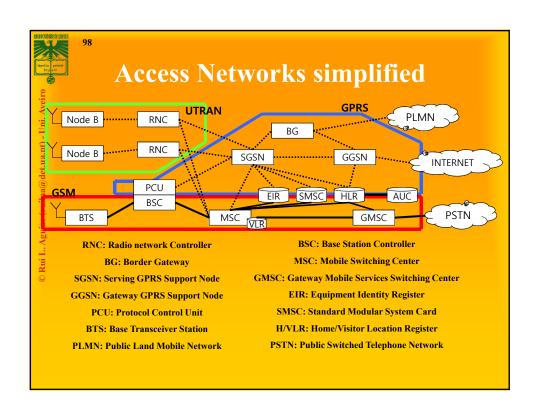
Packet Data Protocol (PDP) Context

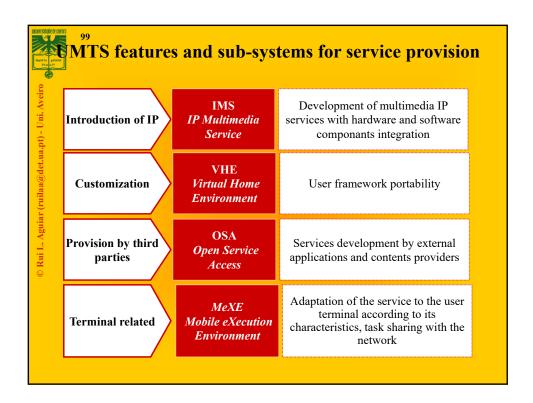
- Session
- Logical Tunnel between MS and GGSN
- Anchored GGSN for Session
- Multiple PDP Contexts
 - Per Mobile
 - Per PDP Address

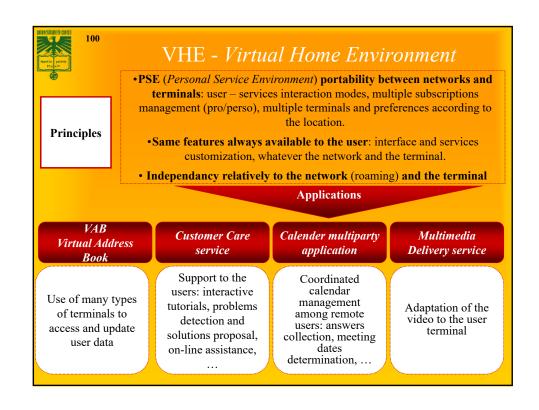
PDP Context Activities

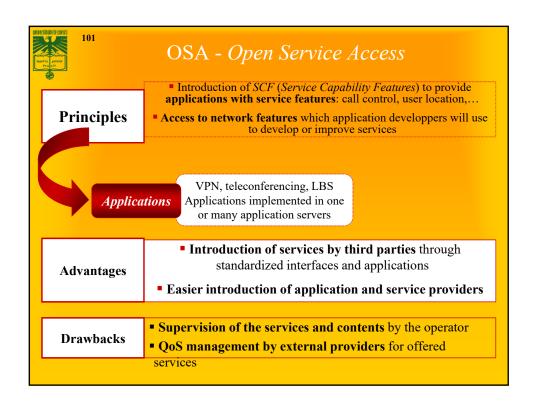
- Activation
- Modification
- Deactivation

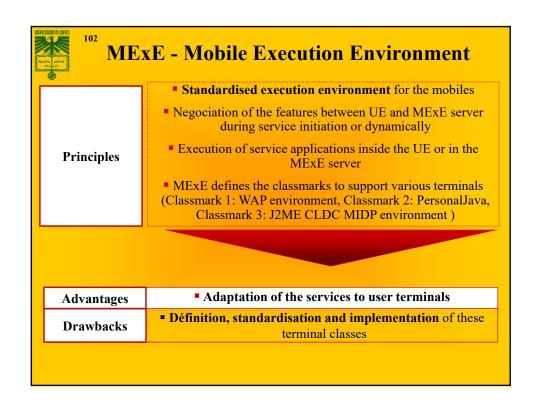


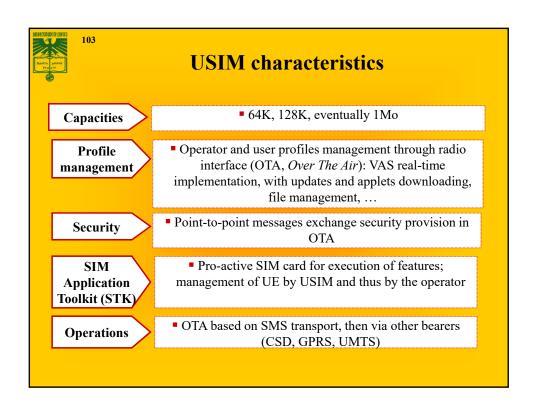


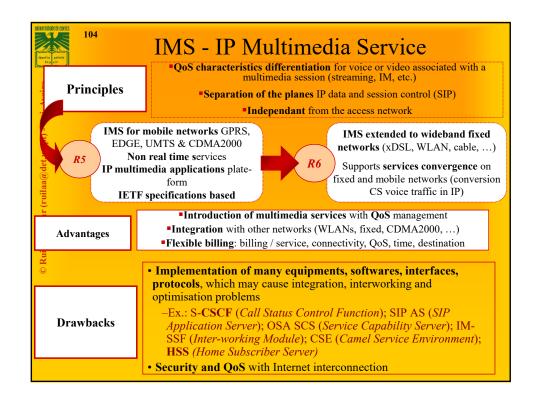














IMS – Key Architectural Border Functions Principals

- Access and Network Border Security
- QoS and Admission Control
- **Media and Signaling Adaptation**

Core Functions

- Subscriber Management Registration
- Session Switching Set-up and tear-down of session legs, Session state maintenance, Application Server invocation
- Session Routing Breakout to external networks
- Centralized Provisioning Subscriber and Routing data

Application Functions

- Access to legacy applications
- Native SIP Applications
- Service Brokering



SIP Protocol

Defined in IETF RFC 3261

- "... an application-layer control (signaling) protocol for creating, modifying, and terminating sessions with one or more participants. These sessions include Internet telephone calls, multimedia distribution, and multimedia conferences.
- SIP is to the Internet what SS#7 is to telephony
- In IMS, SIP is extended to include extra functionality
 - E.g. 3GPP TS 23.228

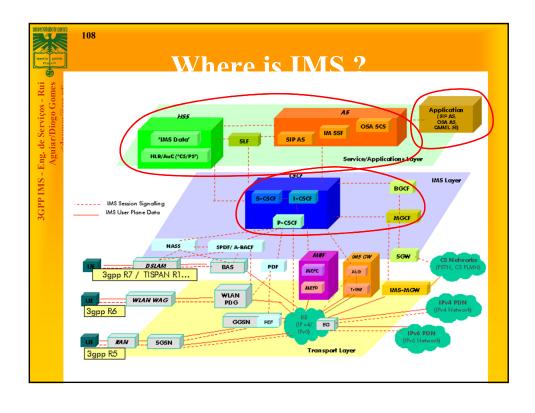
At the core of IMS there are several SIP proxies:

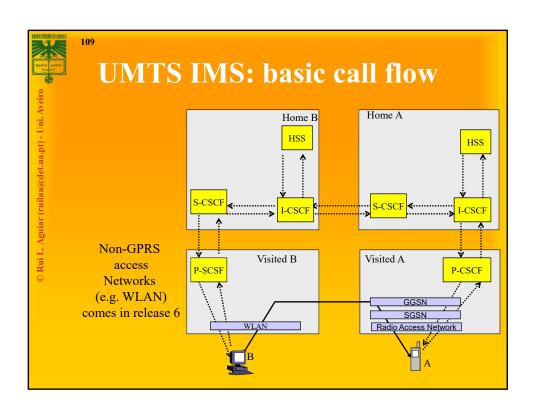
- I-CSCF, S-CSCF, P-CSCF
- The Call Session Control function (CSCF) is the heart of the IMS architecture
- The main functions of the CSCF:
 - provide session control for terminals and applications using the IMS network
 - secure routing of the SIP messages,
 - · subsequent monitoring of the SIP sessions and communicating with the policy architecture to support media authorization
 - · responsibility for interacting with the HSS.

Services in IMS

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- IMS is an advanced infrastructure enabling services. But the services are in the end points or peers (calls, etc.), not in the IMS
- Application Servers (AS) are the key part to endow IMS with services
- AS are not owned by the network operator
 (therefore not part of IMS)
- AS offered services enjoy all IMS advantages
- AS interact using SIP with the S-CSCF (which controls user's SIP session)
- AS can behave as another SIP proxy or as a SIP UA (terminal)
 - in this case they also receive and send media!









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P-CSCF

IMS contact point for the user's SIP signaling

- Several in a domain
- Located in the visited domain
- Terminals must know this proxy (e.g. DHCP used)
- Compresses and decompresses SIP messages
- Secures SIP messages
- Assures correctness of SIP messages



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I-CSCF

- domain's contact point for inter-domain SIP signaling
- one or more per domain
- In case there are more than one S-CSCFs in the domain, locates which S-CSCF is serving a user

