

# Determinism in the IoT

The example of 6TiSCH and OpenWSN

Thomas Watteyne

IRTF T2TRG meeting  
22 March 2015, Dallas, TX, USA

# Goals (and outline)

2

- Contextualize the work in the 6TiSCH WG
  - ▣ Present the base technology: IEEE802.15.4e TSCH
  - ▣ Present the *mechanisms* we are defining in 6TiSCH
  - ▣ Highlight the different *policies* which can be built using these mechanisms
- Research around 6TiSCH and IoT IETF WG
  - ▣ Research needs
  - ▣ Research tools, the example of the OpenWSN project
- Highlight the challenges around standards-based research, and the need for an RG around IoT

**3**


Step 1/3: IEEE802.15.4e and 6TiSCH

# IEEE802.15.4e: Status

4

- Published 16 April 2012
- Only amends MAC layer of IEEE 802.15.4-2011:
  - ▣ Does not modify PHY layer
- “Timeslotted Channel Hopping” (TSCH) mode:
  - ▣ Ultra low-power operation by synchronizing nodes
  - ▣ Ultra high reliability through channel hopping

IEEE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION



IEEE Standard for  
Local and metropolitan area networks—

**Part 15.4: Low-Rate Wireless Personal Area  
Networks (LR-WPANs)**

**Amendment 1: MAC sublayer**

IEEE Computer Society

Sponsored by the  
LAN/MAN Standards Committee

---

IEEE  
3 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10016-5997  
USA

IEEE Std 802.15.4e™-2012  
(Amendment to  
IEEE Std 802.15.4™-2011)

16 April 2012

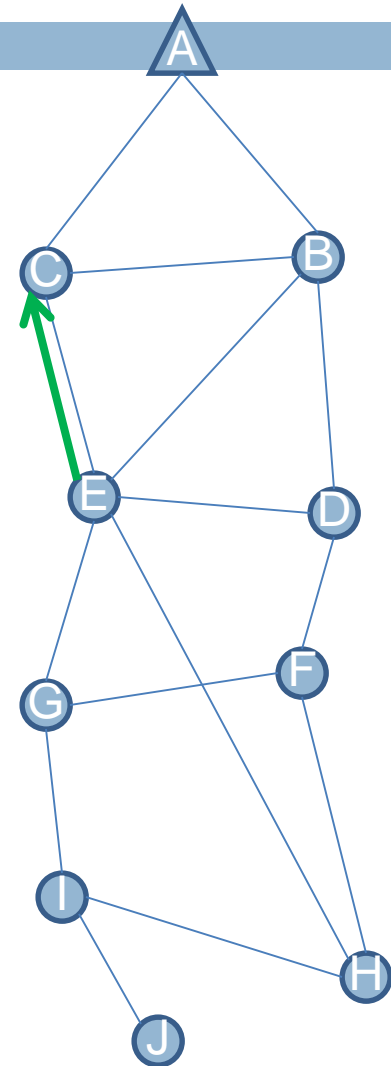
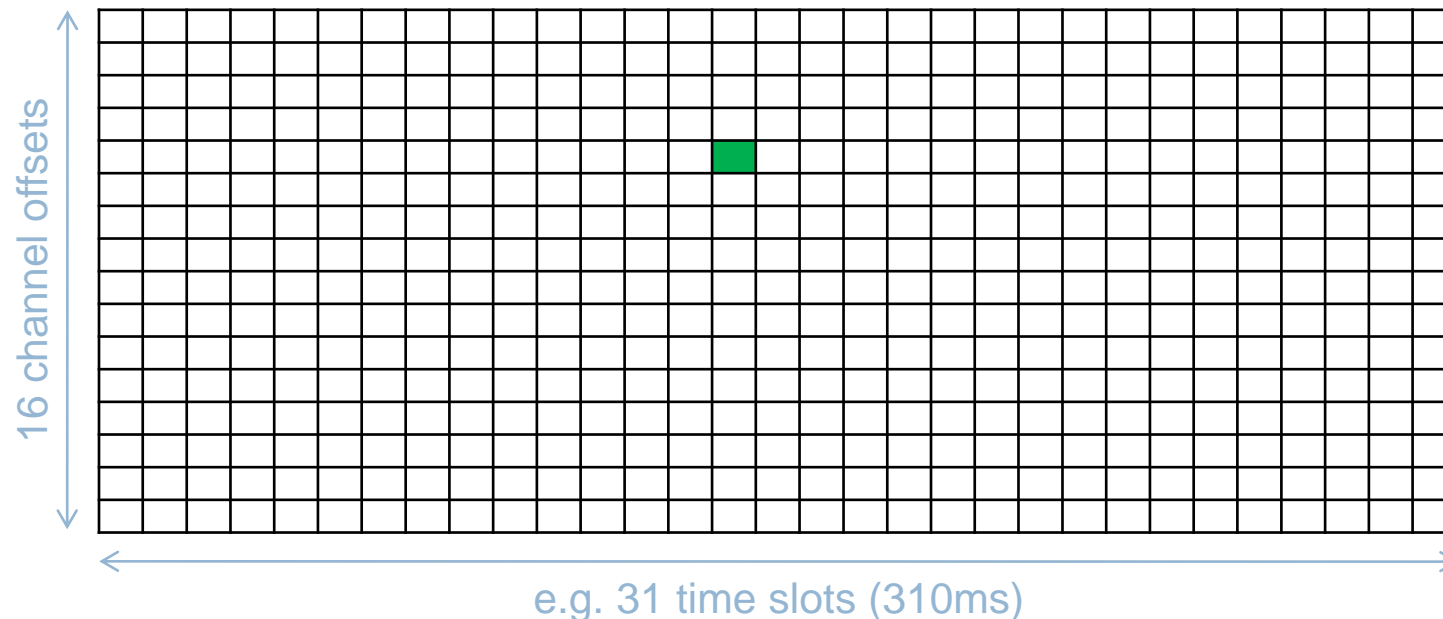
Authorized licensed use limited to: Thomas H. Kuhn. Downloaded on 02-May-2012 from the IEEE Standards Store. Restrictions apply. Copyright IEEE.

# IEEE802.15.4e: Communication Schedule

5

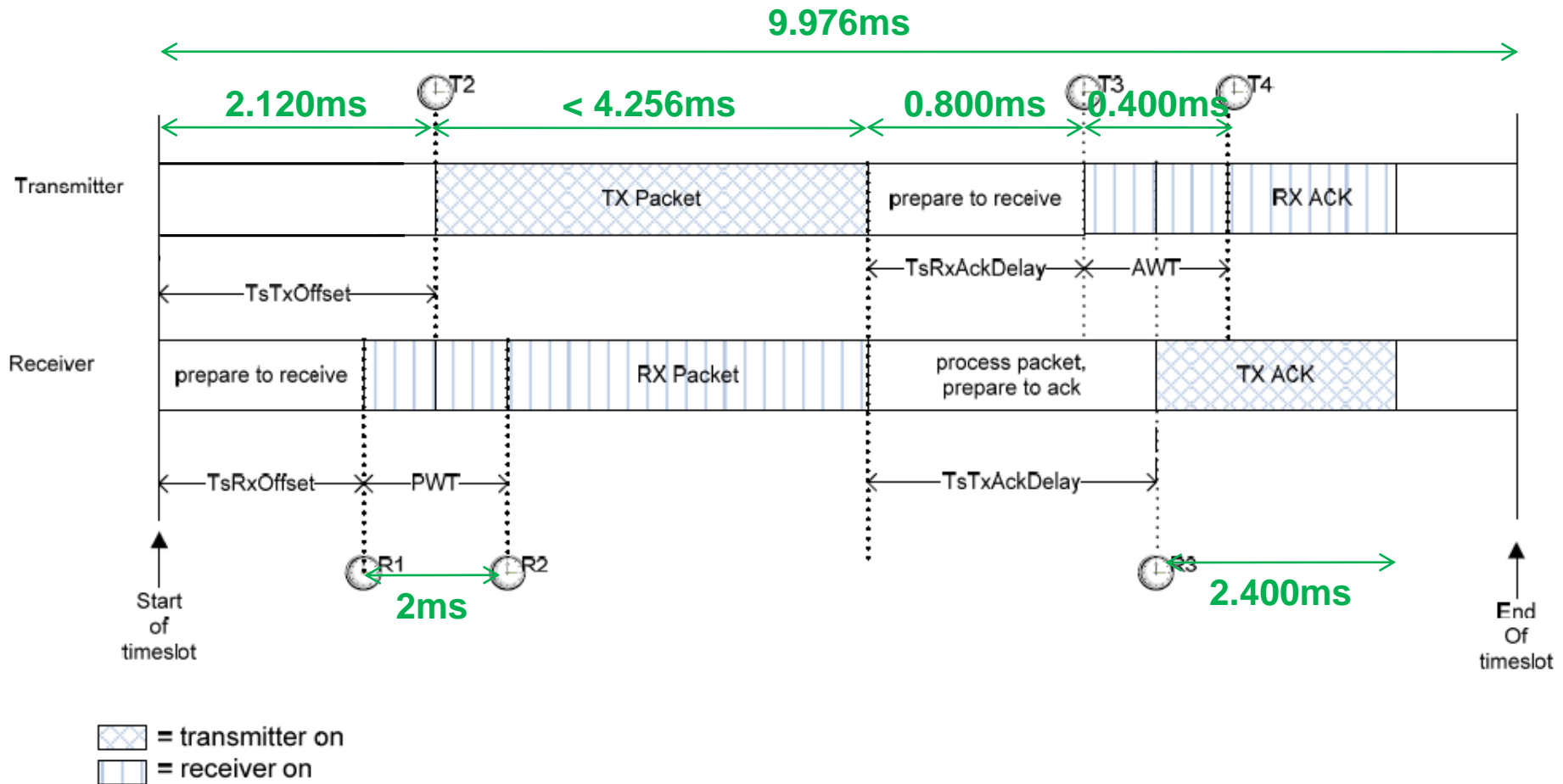
A super-frame repeats over time

- Number of slots in a superframe is tunable
- Each cell can be assigned to a pair of motes, in a given direction



# IEEE802.15.4e : a Slot

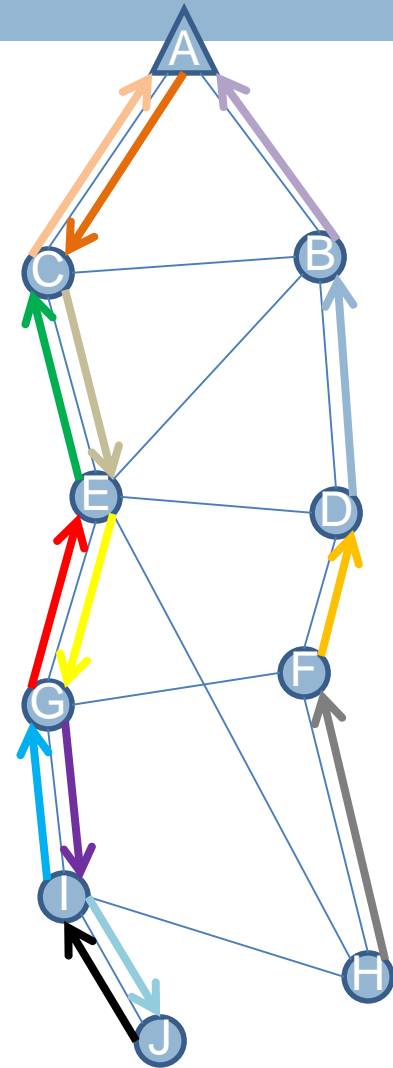
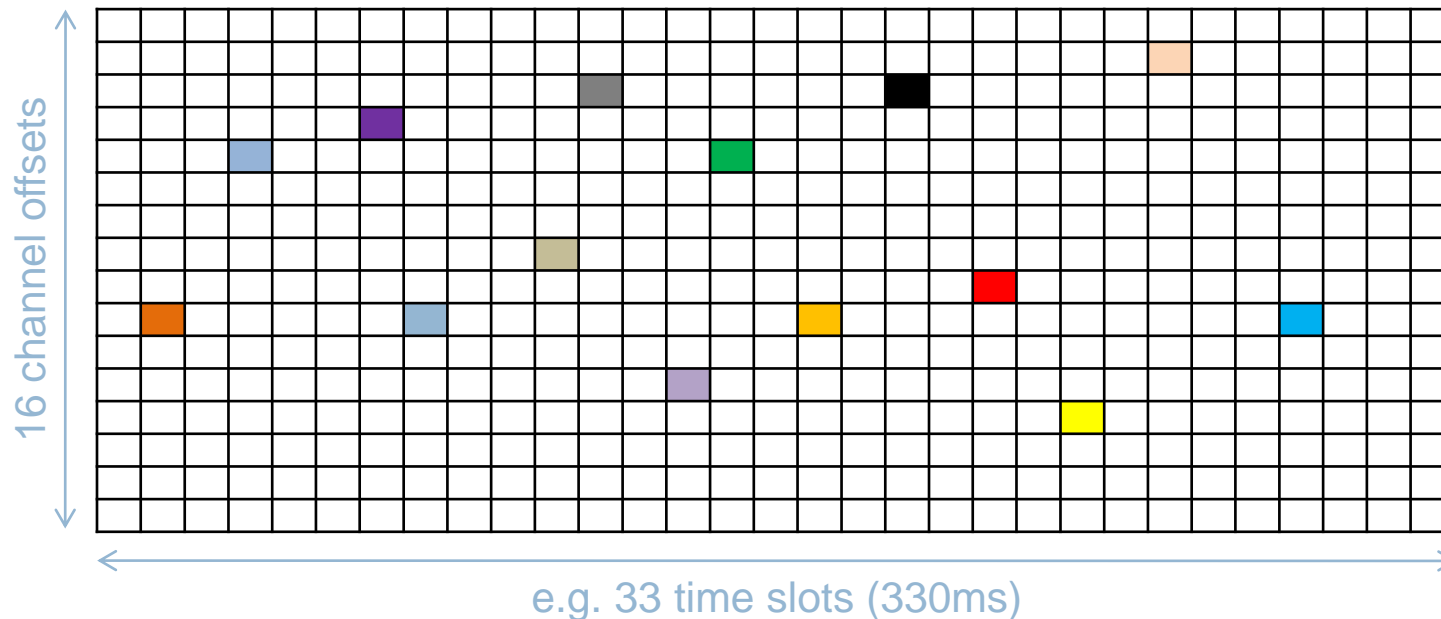
6



# IEEE802.15.4e - Slotted Structure

7

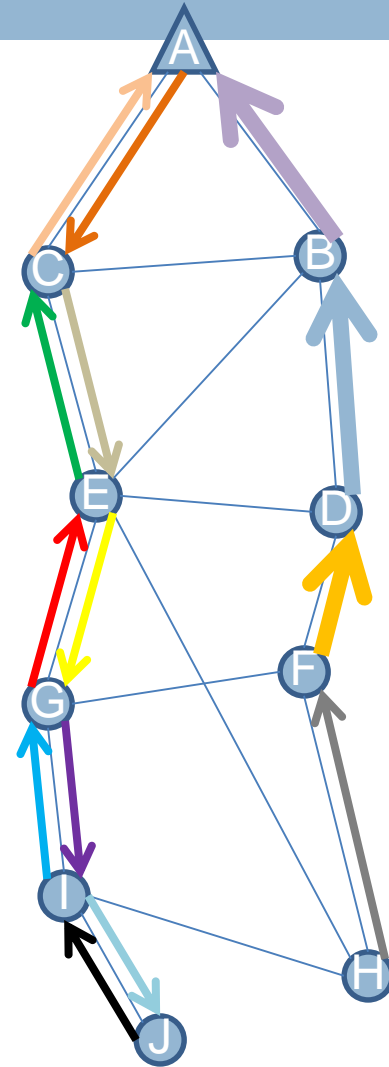
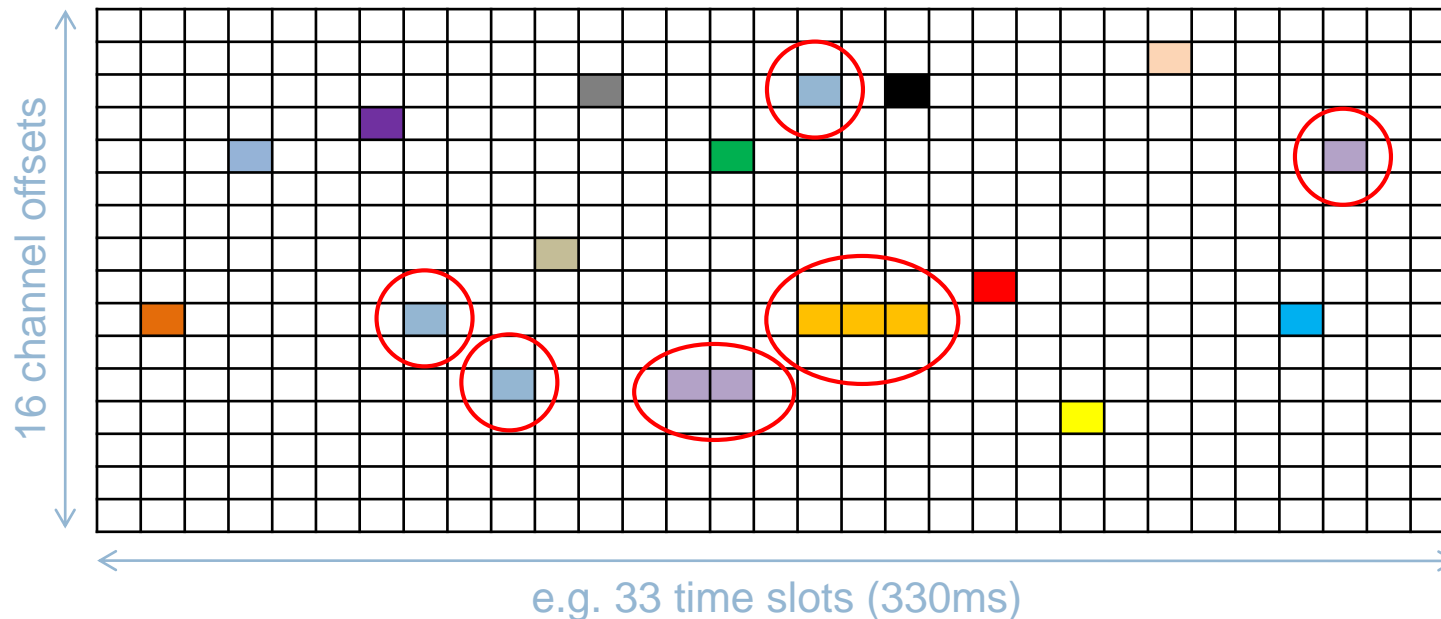
- Cells are assigned according to application requirements



# IEEE802.15.4e - Slotted Structure

8

- Cells are assigned according to application requirements
- Tunable trade-off between
  - packets/second
  - ...and energy consumption

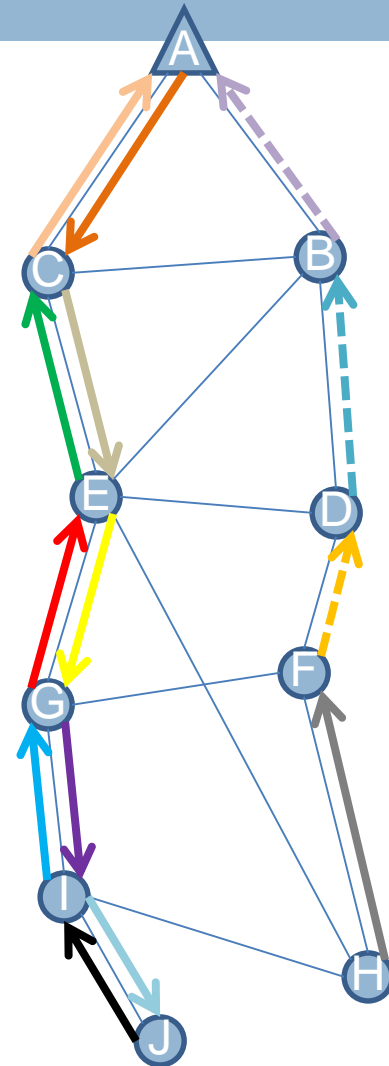
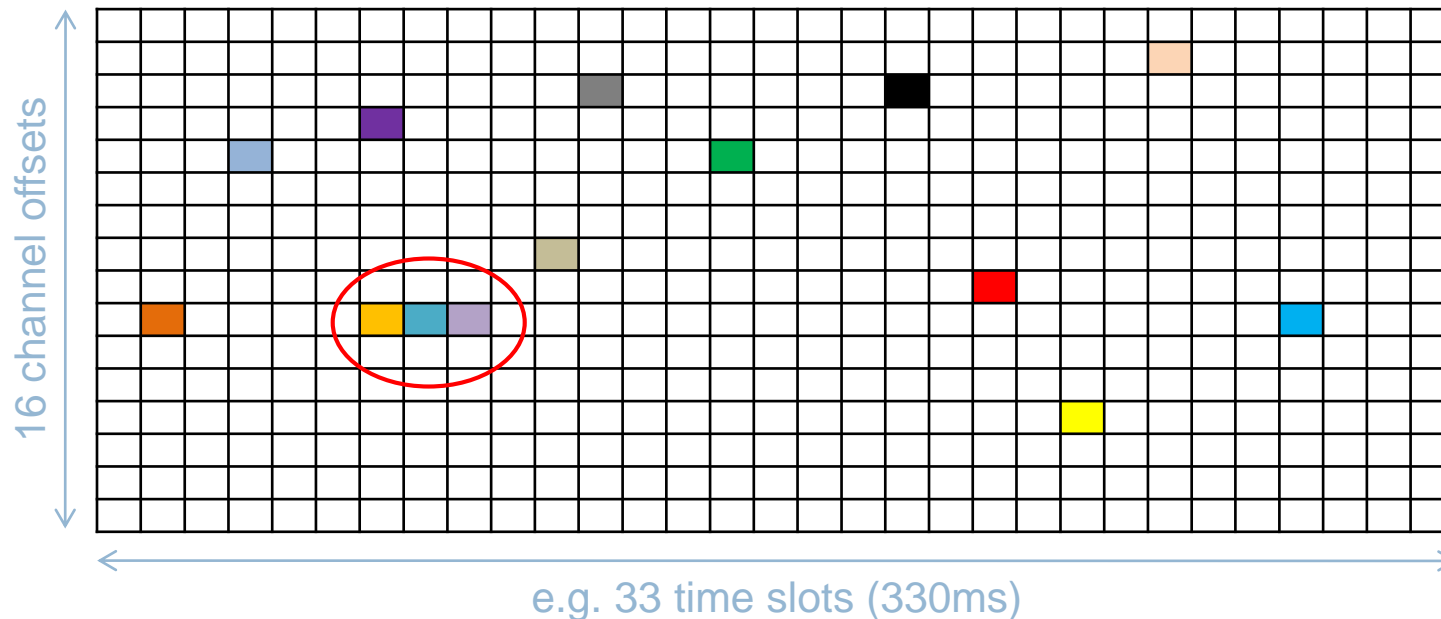




# IEEE802.15.4e - Slotted Structure

9

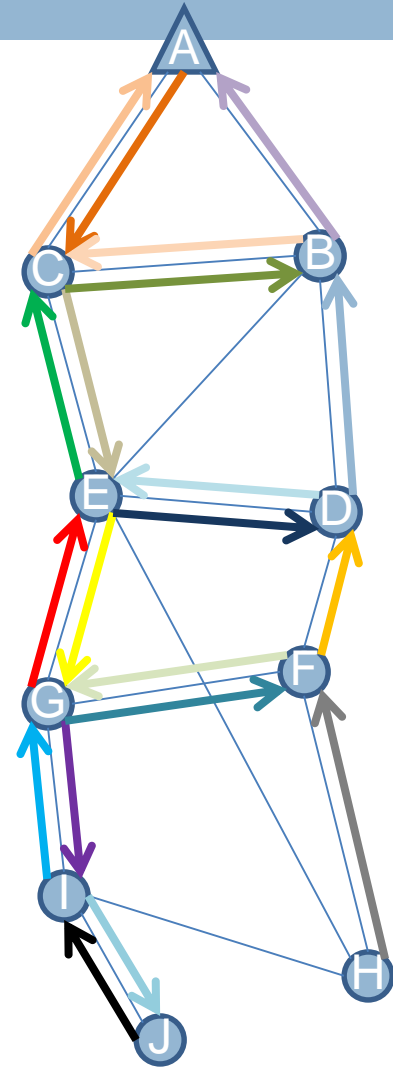
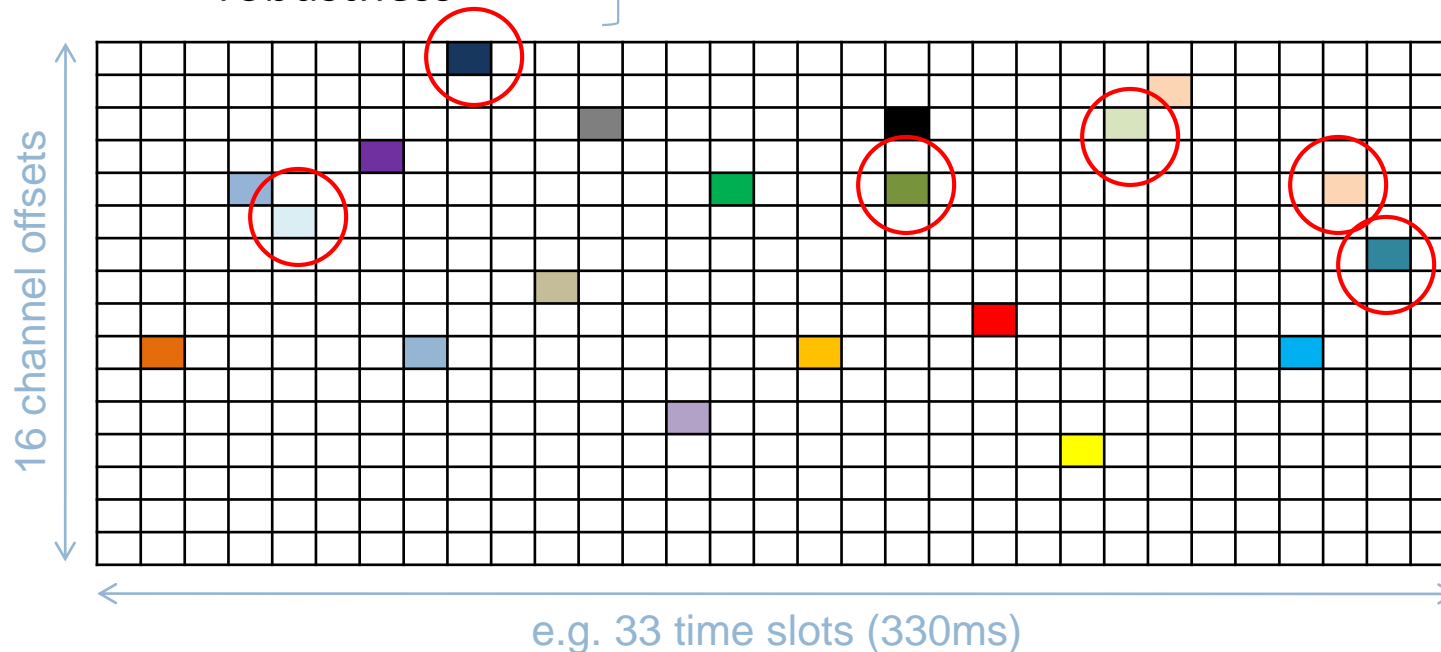
- Cells are assigned according to application requirements
- Tunable trade-off between
  - packets/second
  - latency...and energy consumption



# IEEE802.15.4e - Slotted Structure

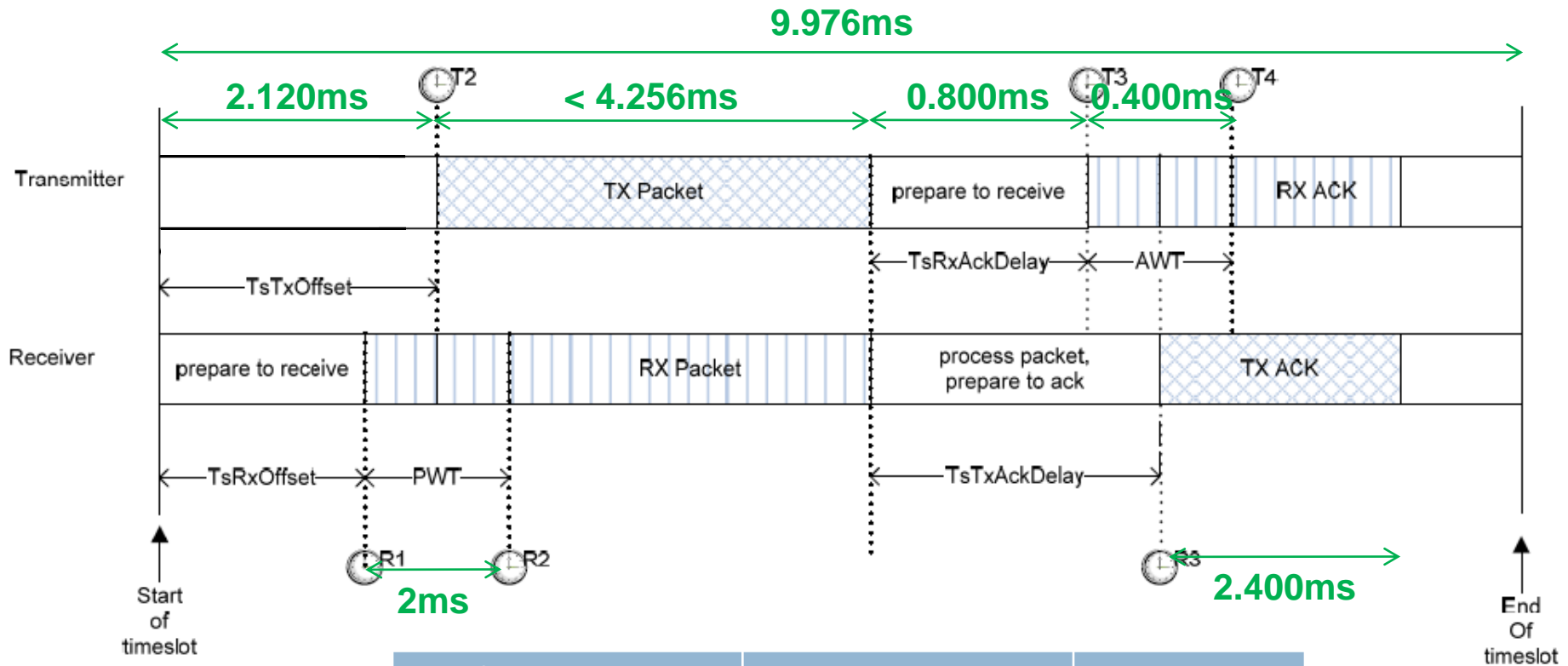
10

- Cells are assigned according to application requirements
- Tunable trade-off between
  - packets/second
  - latency
  - robustness...and energy consumption



# IEEE802.15.4e - Energy Consumption

11



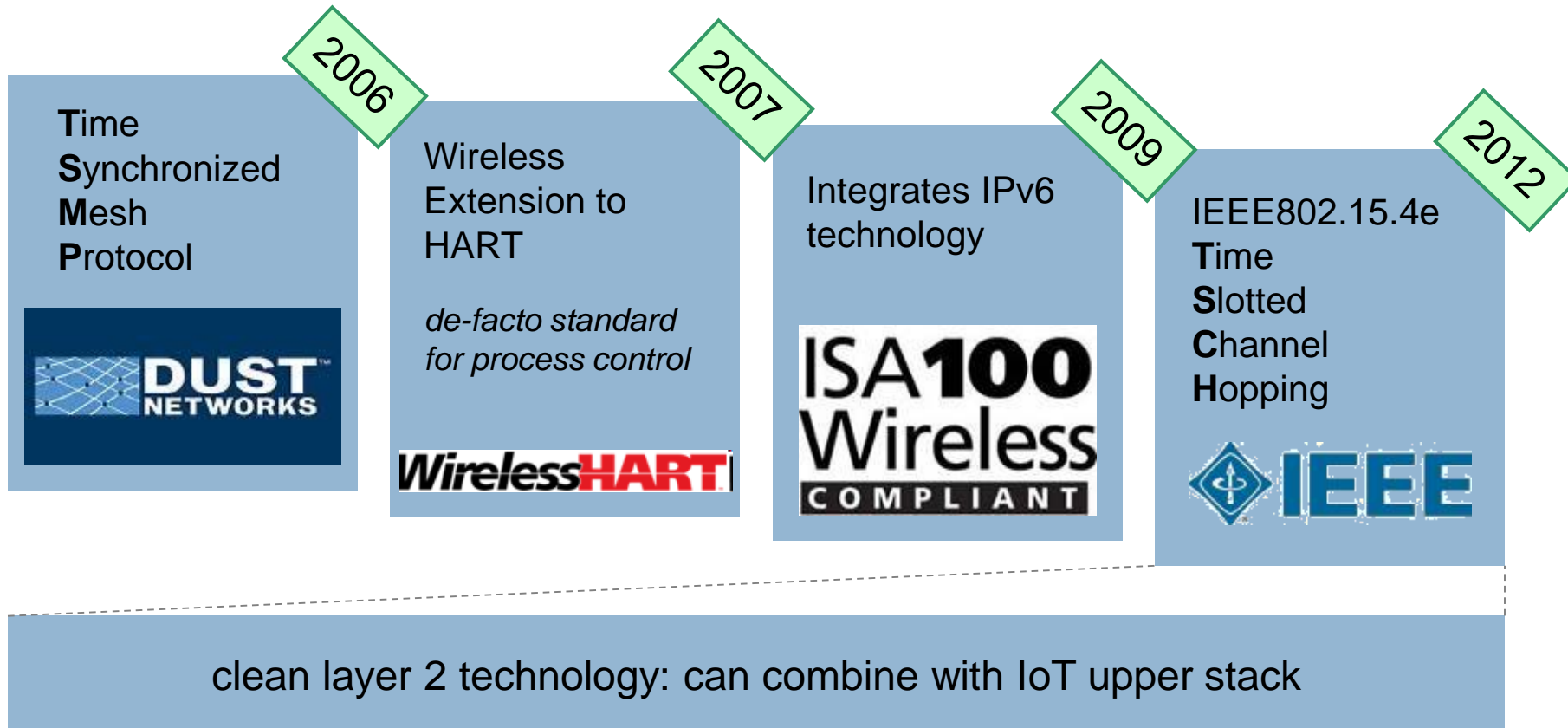
= transmitter on  
 = receiver on

Type of slot	Transmitter	Receiver
"OFF"	-	-
transmission w. ACK	6.856ms	7.656ms
Transmission w.o. ACK	4.256ms	5.256ms
Listening w.o. reception	-	2.000ms

} "atomic"  
 operations

# Time Synchronized Channel Hopping

12



Complementarity between commercial, standardization, open-source implementations and large-scale testbeds

# IETF 6TiSCH



13

- created October 2013
- ***IPv6 over the TSCH mode of IEEE 802.15.4e***
- 304 members (mix between academic and non-academics)
- Face-to-face meetings at IETF86, IETF87, IETF88, IETF89, IETF90, IETF91, IETF92
- Over 100 meetings (incl. telcos)
- Plugfest March 2014, July 2014
- Plugtest July 2015, Nov. 2015

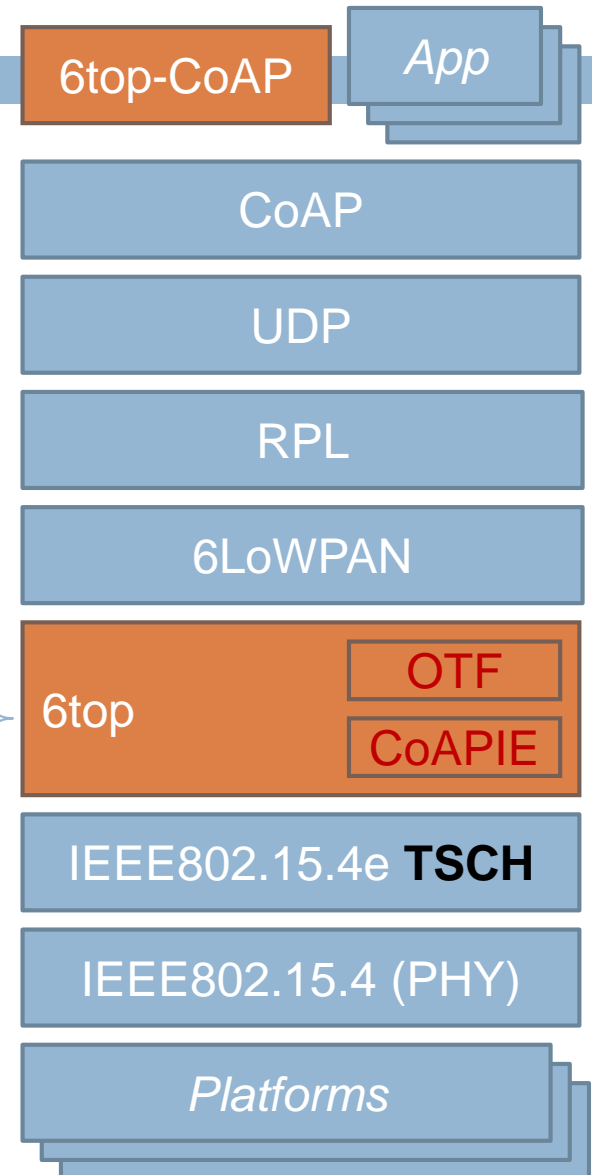


# IETF 6TiSCH

14

- Goal: management of the TSCH schedule
- Introduce determinism in: throughput, latency, reliability
- Provide mechanisms to support both centralized and distributed ...
- ... in a secure manner.

interface &  
sublayer



## legend

chartered

not chartered

**15**

Step 2/3: Research around 6TiSCH with OpenWSN

# Mechanisms vs. Policy

16

## Mechanisms

- Packet formats
- Interaction models between entities
- APIs

IETF

## Policy

- Different scheduling “paradigms”
- Identify limits
- Which one to use when

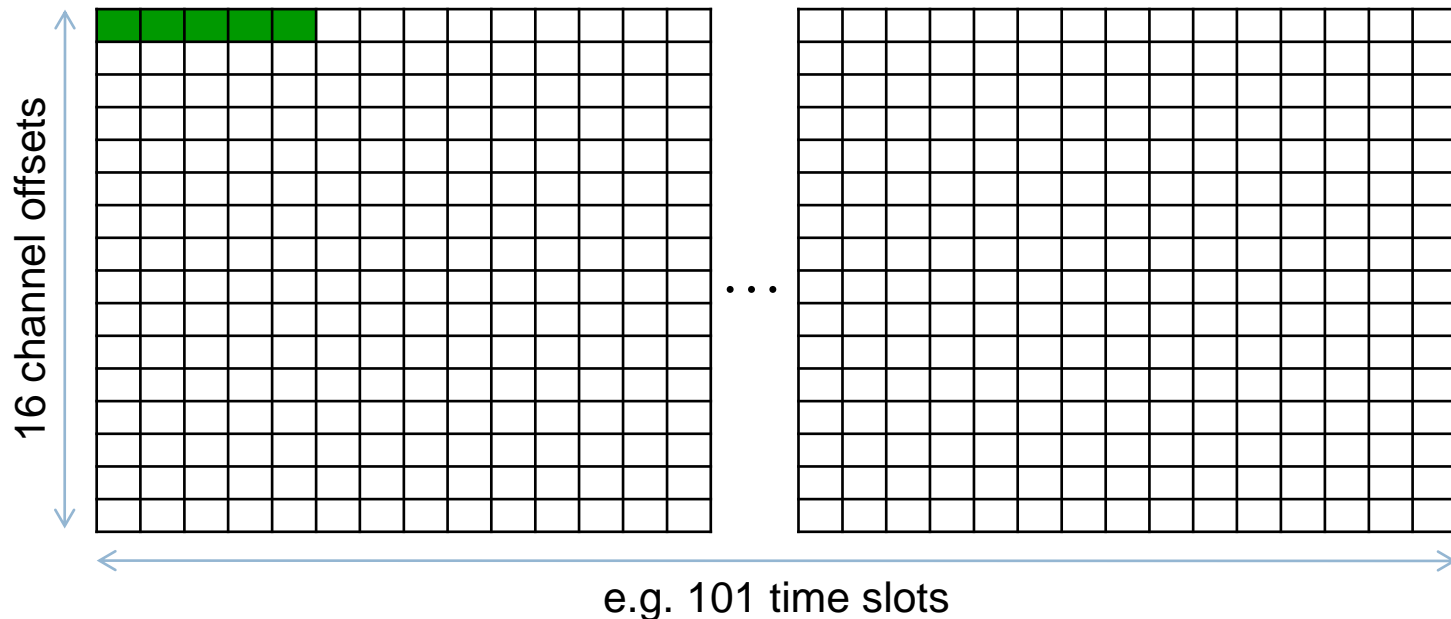
“research”  
(not per se IRTF?)



# 6TiSCH: Static Schedule

17

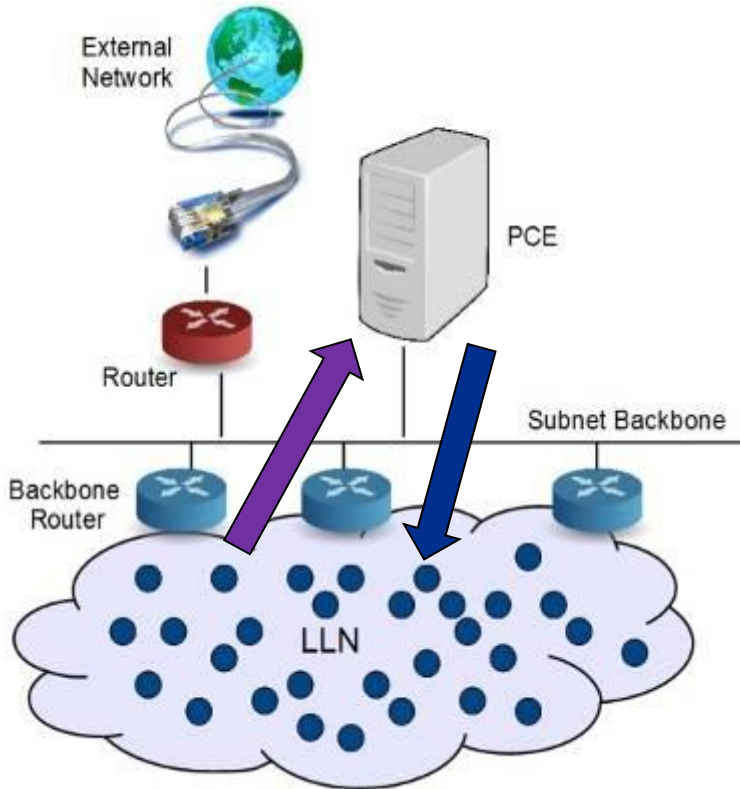
- “Minimal” approach
  - ▣ [draft-ietf-6tisch-minimal](#)
  - ▣ Static schedule, slotted-Aloha access
  - ▣ **Questions**: energy/latency/throughput limits?



# 6TiSCH: Dynamic Scheduling

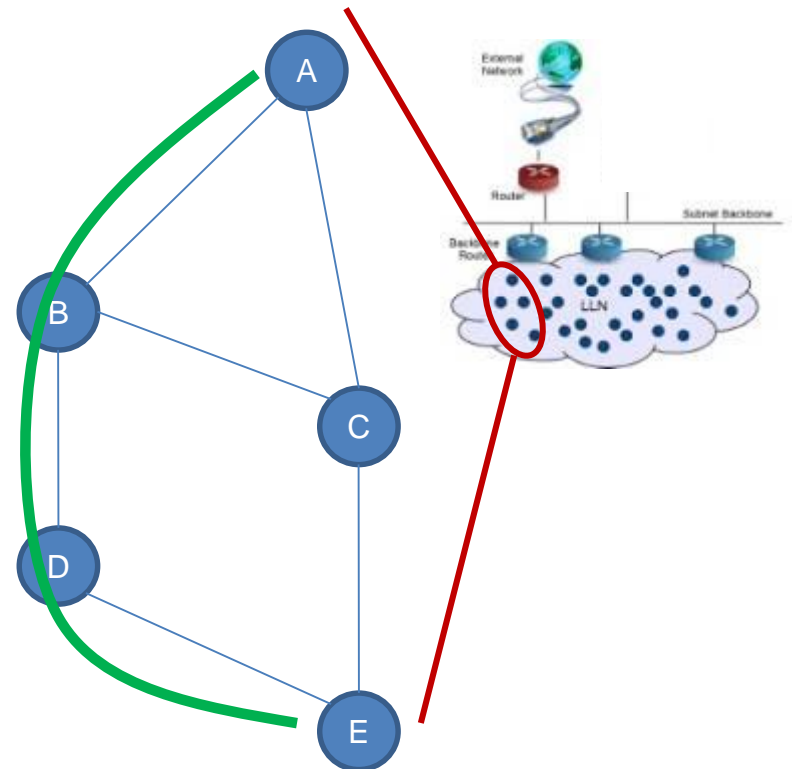
18

## Centralized



vs.

## Distributed



- **questions**: scalability, reactivity?

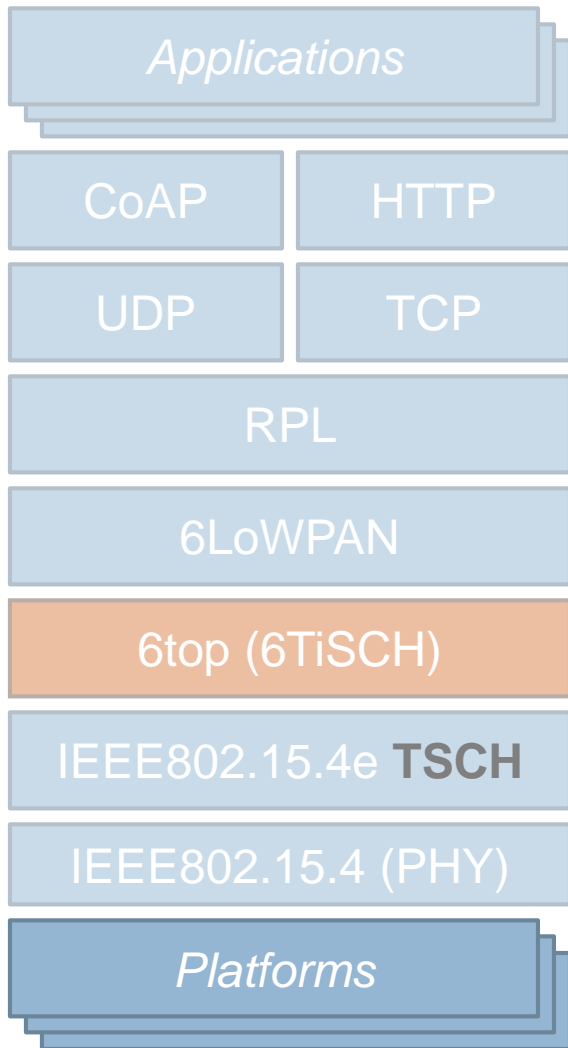
- e.g. “On-The-Fly” scheduling  
[draft-dujovne-6tisch-on-the-fly-02.txt](#)
- **questions**: reactivity, performance?



# OpenWSN.berkeley.edu

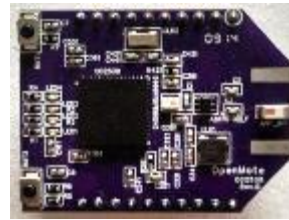


20

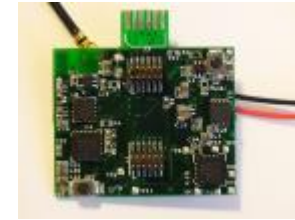


90% hardware independent

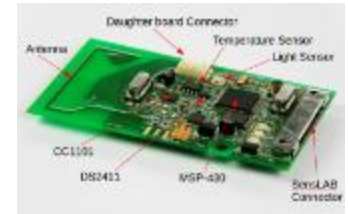
10% BSP



OpenMote-CC2538



GINA



WSN430v13b



WSN430v14



Z1



TelosB



OpenMoteSTM



SAM R21



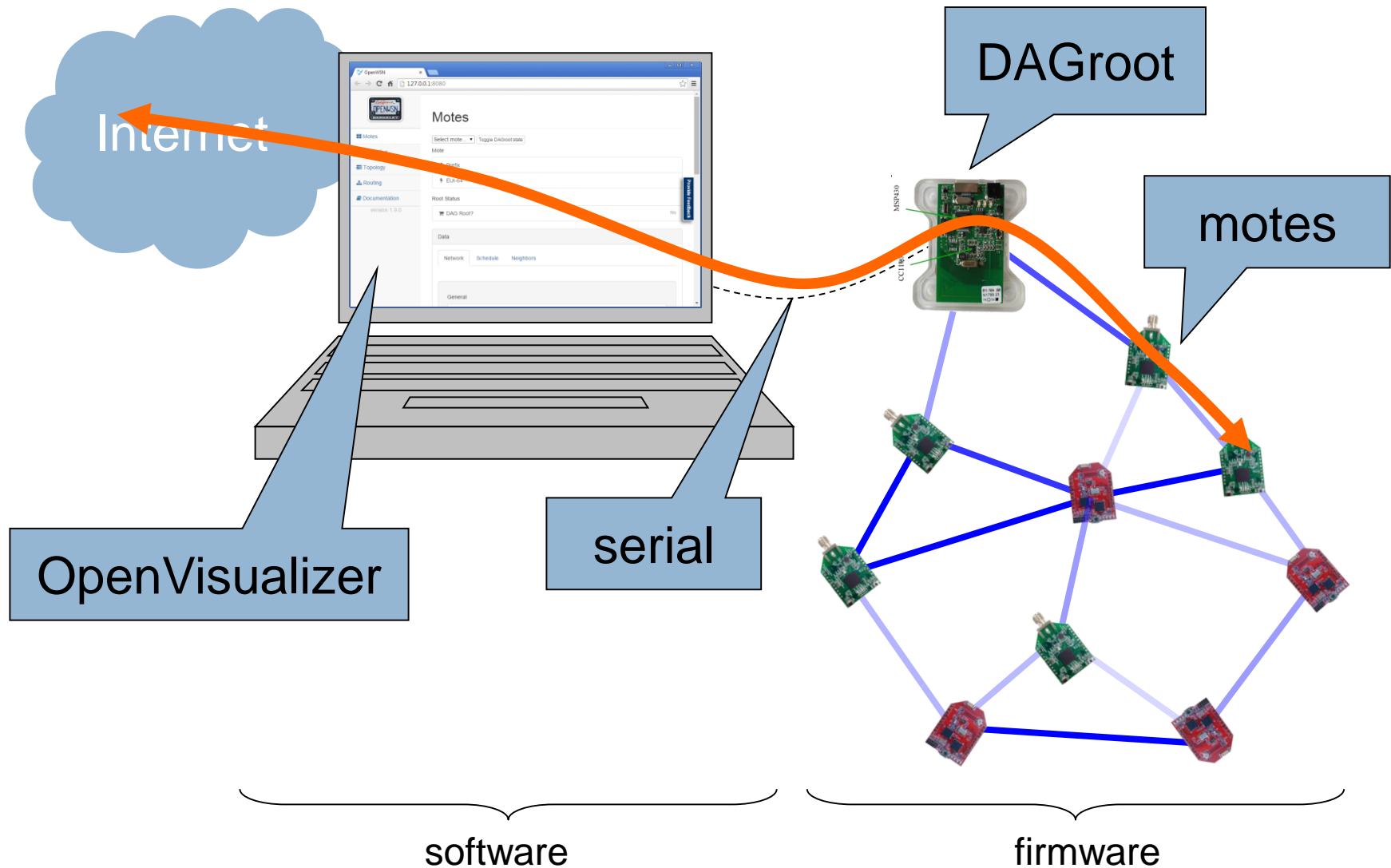
IoT-LAB\_M3



AgileFox

# Architecture

21



# RIOT integration



Thomas Eichinger



Oliver Hahm

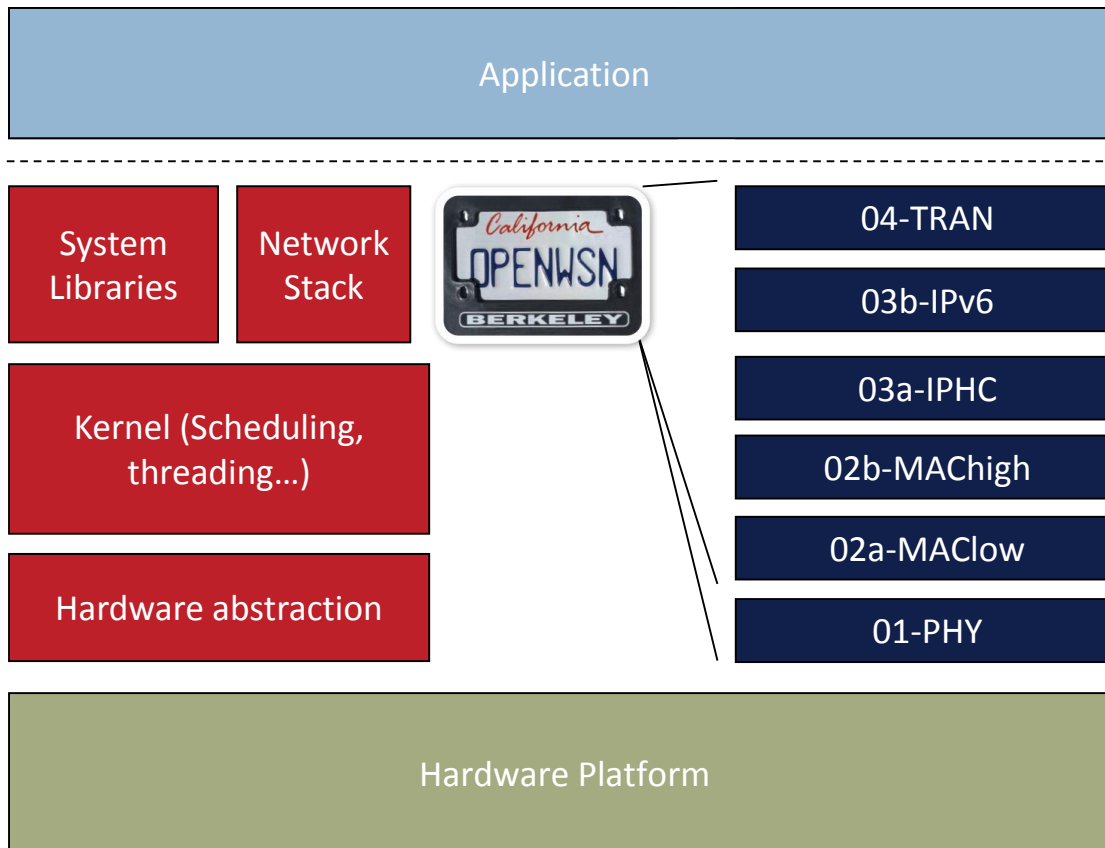


Emmanuel Baccelli

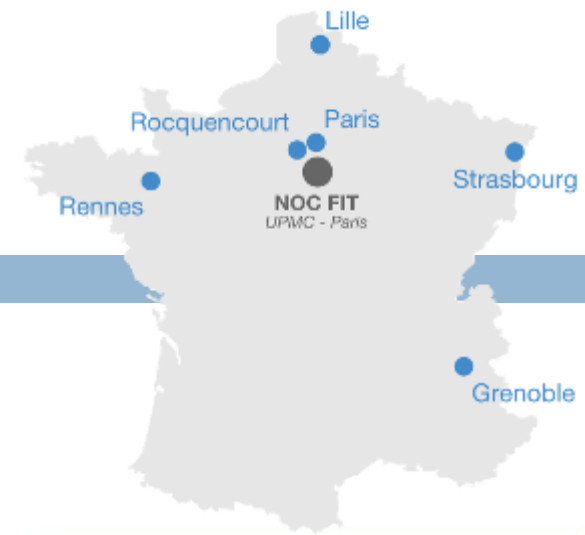
22

Inria/Freie Universitat Berlin, Germany

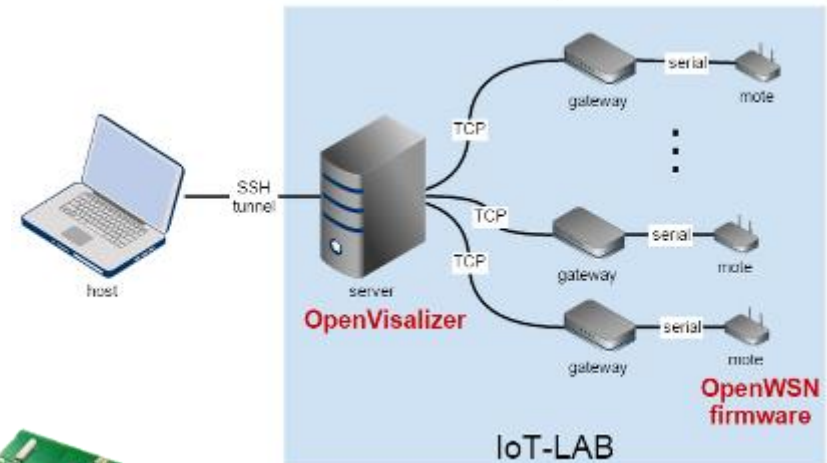
- Goal: combine the RIOT preemptive scheduler with the OpenWSN protocol stack



Demonstrated during 6TiSCH plugfest at IETF90, Toronto, July 2014.



- 2728 wireless sensor nodes
- 6 deployment sites across France
- web interface to:
  - reserve nodes for an experiment
  - upload binary images
- free for academic use
- officially launched this morning
- Full OpenWSN support



MSP430f1611  
CC2420



STM32F (Cortex)  
AT86RF231



Cortex-A8  
(Linux)



# OpenMote-STM



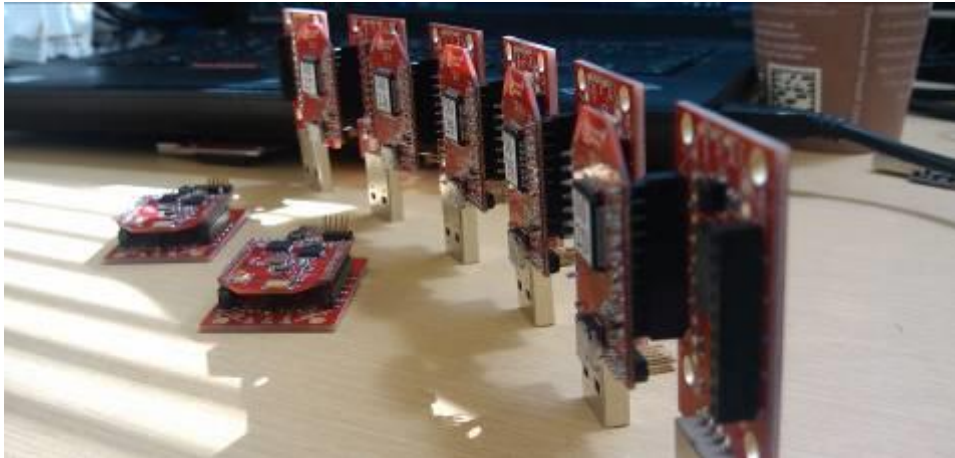
Tengfei Chang



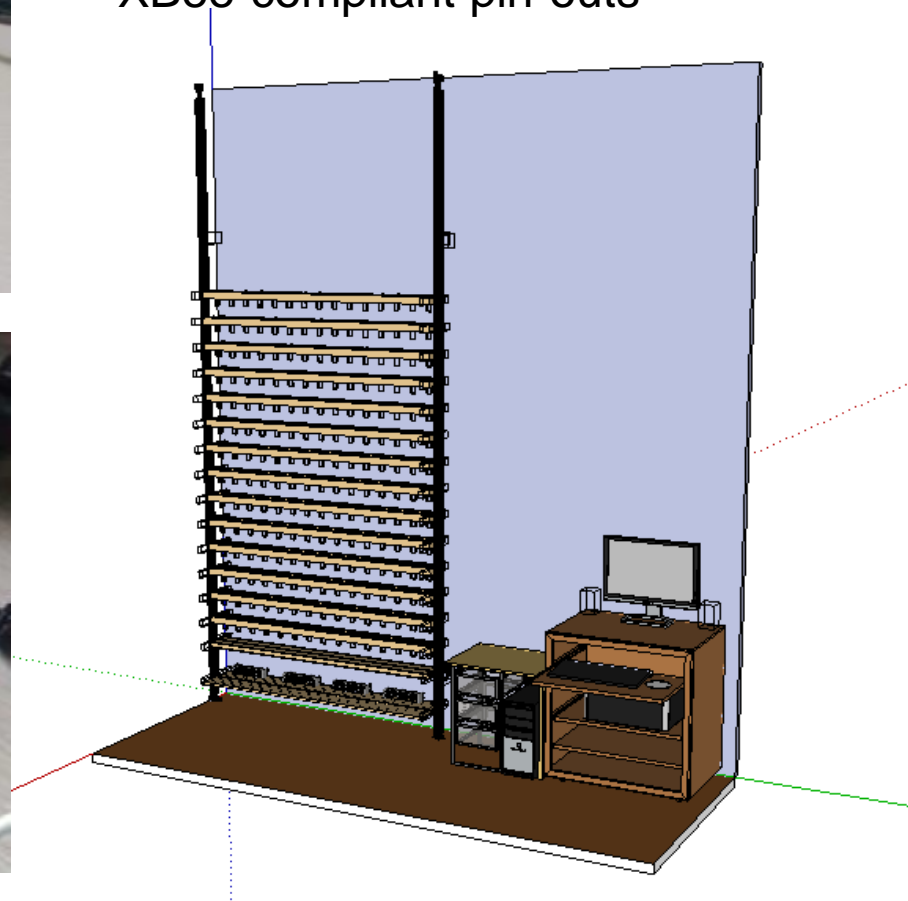
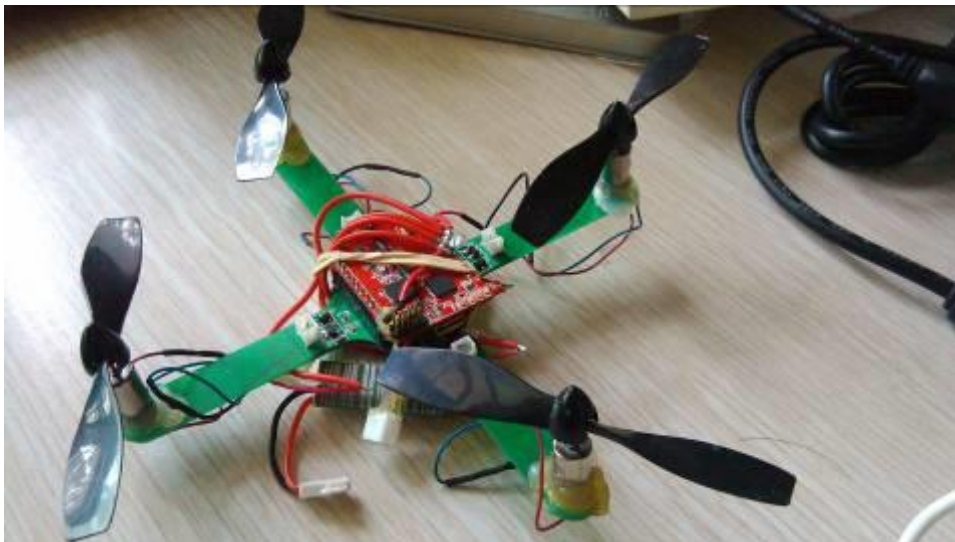
Qin Wang

24

University of Science & Technology Beijing, China



- STM32 micro-controller,
- Atmel AT86RF231 radio
- XBee-compliant pin-outs







Xavi Vilajosana



Pere Tuset

OpenMote, Barcelona, Catalunya

25

- An easy-to-use ecosystem of IoT hardware
- Centered about the OpenMote-CC2538

### OpenMote

TI CC2538 SoC  
(Cortex M3 + radio)  
4 LEDs, 2 Buttons  
2 antennas



### OpenBase

Ethernet PHY+MAC  
USB-to-UART port  
10-pin ARM JTAG



### OpenBattery

Temp./Humd.  
Acceleration  
Light  
2xAAA batteries



# 6TiSCH plugfests

26



IETF89, London, March 2014

IETF90, Toronto, July 2014



# Challenges

28

## □ 6TiSCH-related

- ▣ Limits of TSCH
- ▣ centralized vs. distributed approach
- ▣ IRTF? **Probably not**: too specific & addressed by research community

## □ IoT-related

- ▣ Putting together the “building blocks” for management:
  - publish detailed description
  - evaluate overhead
  - reference implementations and tools
- ▣ Ditto for “security”:
  - *same points as above*

## □ More general

- ▣ Challenge of “putting it all together”
  - e.g. RPL and IP-in-IP
- ▣ How to stress importance of “running code”
- ▣ How to ask research community of input
  - Maintain list of research challenges?
- ▣ How to get feedback from research into standardization activities
  - performance studies
  - research challenges?