







5G is fast, 6G will be faster! How does it sound?

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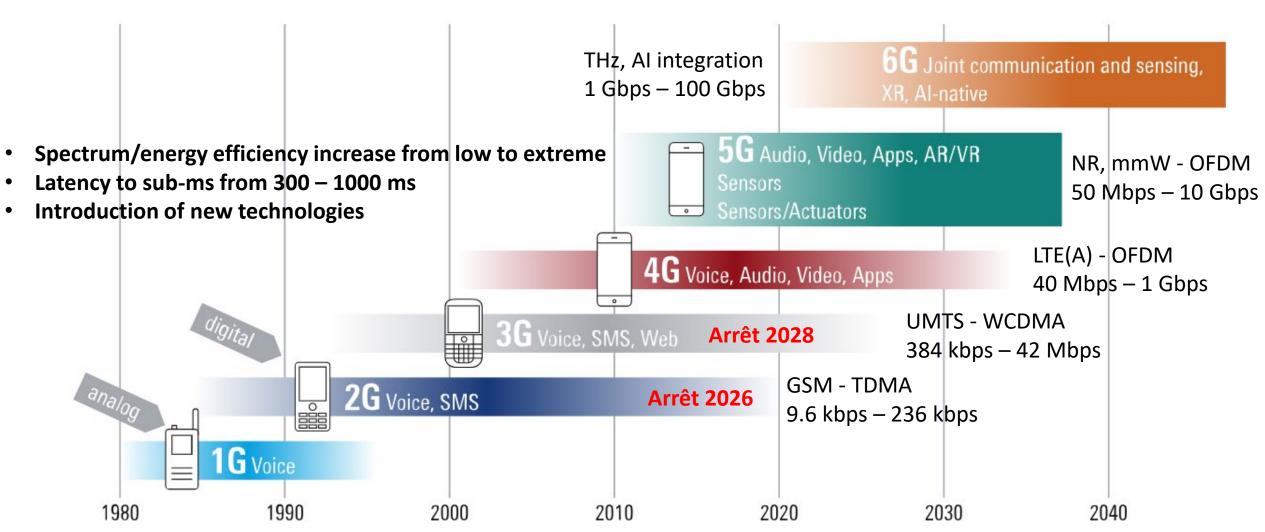
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Brief history from 1G to 6G

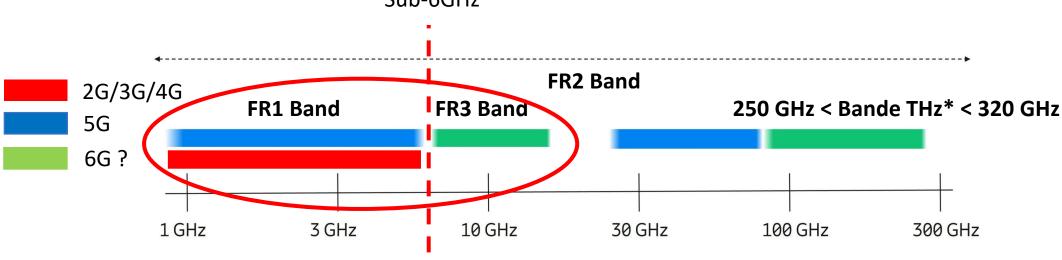


Frequency range for current/future access







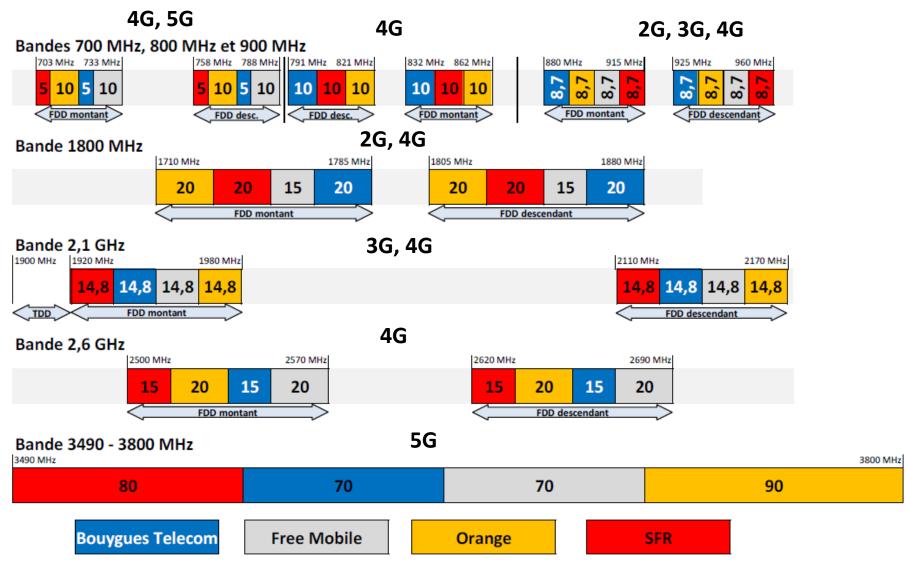


- Peak speeds of Tbps, reliability (10-9), latency (< 1 ms) with 1 Gbps/m² over a maximum bandwidth of 100 GHz
 - Traffic control and autonomous driving, remote health monitoring services, digital twins, virtual avatars
 - Integration of passive or active Reflective Intelligent Surfaces (RIS) to avoid LOS/NLOS blocking
- High-precision localization and imaging (1 mm in LOS and < 10 cm in NLOS)
 - Integrated or intelligent sensing and communication systems (ISAC)
 - Development of unit technologies for communications systems currently in progress for short-range links in specific industrial scenarios (TIMES6G)





Spectrum Allocation in France (02/2025)







ARCEP regulatory demands

		11-oct-19	31-déc-20	17-janv-22	31-déc-22	11-oct-23	17-janv-24	17-janv-27	08-déc-30
	Bande liée à l'obligation ²	2,6GHz	900MHz 1800MHz 2,1GHz	700MHz 800MHz	900MHz 1800MHz 2,1GHz	2,6GHz	800MHz	700MHz 800MHz	700MHz
R,	Métropole	60% de la population	Passage en THD mobile ¹ de 100% des sites hors ZBCB ³ + 75% des sites ZBCB ⁴		Passage en THD mobile ¹ de 100% des sites	75% de la population	98% de la population	99,6% de la population (800MHz) 98% de la population (700MHz)	99,6% de la population
R	Départements métropolitains						90% de la population	95% de la population (800MHz) 90% de la population (700MHz)	95% de la population
	Zone de déploiement prioritaire ⁵ (18% de pop et 63% du territoire)			90% de la population (800MHz) 50% de la population (700MHz)				97,7% ⁶ de la population (800MHz) 92% de la population (700MHz)	97,7% de la population
	Opérateurs	Bouygues Telecom Free Mobile Orange SFR	Bouygues Telecom Free Mobile Orange SFR	Bouygues Telecom Free Mobile (hors 800MHz) Orange SFR	Marriagues Lalacana	Bouygues Telecom Free Mobile Orange SFR	Bouygues Telecom Orange SFR	Bouygues Telecom Free Mobile (hors 800MHz) Orange SFR	Bouygues Telecom Free Mobile Orange SFR

https://www.arcep.fr/





5G NR Specifications and Technologies

Aspects	5G NR		
Waveform	OFDM		
Max. Bandwidth	100 MHz (<6 GHz) 1 GHz (>6 GHz)		
Subcarrier Spacing	15, 30, 60, 120, 240 KHz		
Spectrum Occupancy	Up to 98% of BW		
Frequency of Operation	Up to 6 GHz, ~28 GHz, other mmW bands		
Dynamic Analog Beamforming	Supported		
Digital Beamforming	Up to 12 streams		
Self-contained Subframe	Can be implemented		
Channel Coding	Control : LDPC Data: Polar Coding		

Specifications

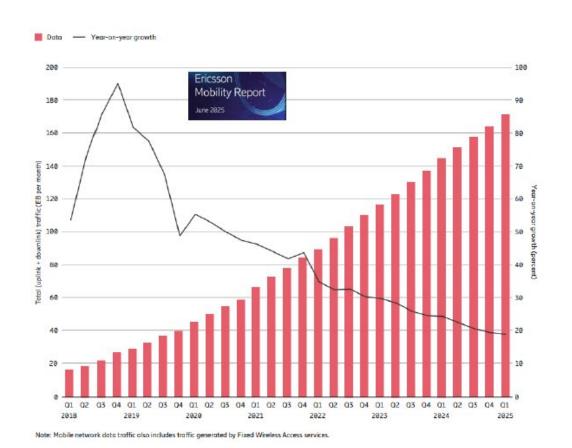
Densification	Massive Connexion	Antenna	Spectrum
 Self Backhauling Energy Efficiency Interoperability Massive MIMO 	Massive MIMO Long battery life Protocol optimization Signaling techniques Resource allocation	Massive MIMO Long range Deep coverage Antenna packaging and integration	 < 1GHz: IoT, mobile broadband 1 GHz to 6 GHz: mobile broadband > 6 GHz: extreme mobile broadband, indoor, backhaul point to point Spectral efficiency (Massive MIMO)

Technologies

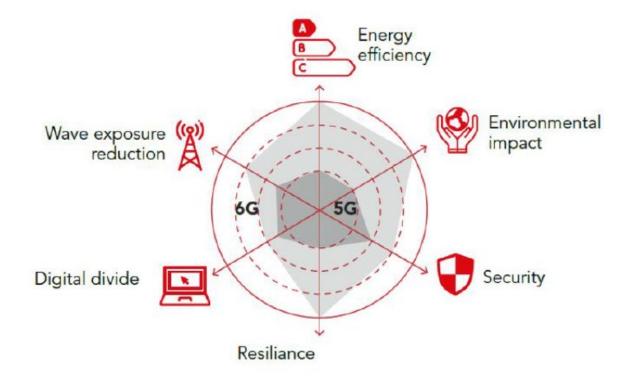




6G promises vs. 5G



- Spatial Multiplexing
- Frequency and bandwidth expansion



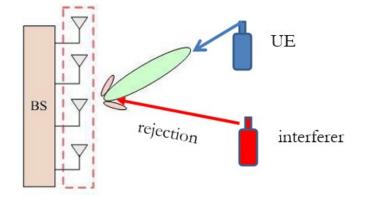
The promise of 6G lies in enabling the AI revolution, guaranteeing seamless connectivity for all, and strengthening resilience from everyday life to component sourcing.





MIMO Techniques (4G)

Smart antennas



Beamforming

Low to no MPC:

Reduce multi-user interference or focus energy toward specific direction or user.
Well adapted to SDMA

0.1

Spatial diversity

When MPC exist:

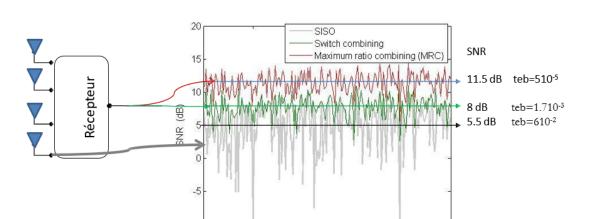
Increase the robustness of the communication: BER \downarrow ou SNR \uparrow

Spatial Multiplexing

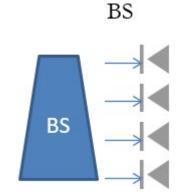
High density of MPC:

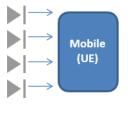
↑Cell capicity or throughput

UE (mobile-up to 4 antennas)

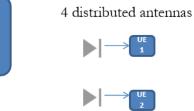


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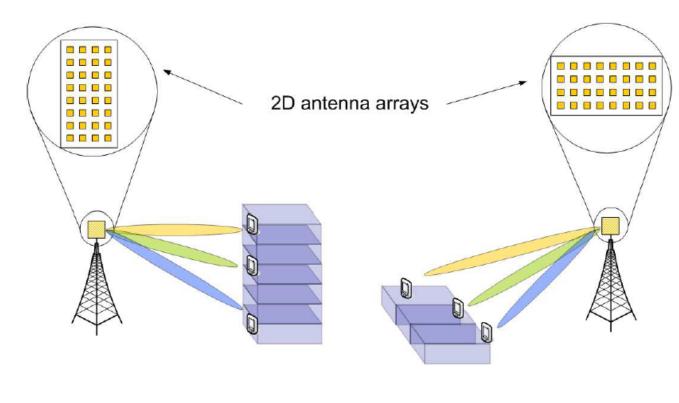


MU-MIMO





Massive MIMO (5G)



Beamforming in the elevation domain

Beamforming in the azimuth domain

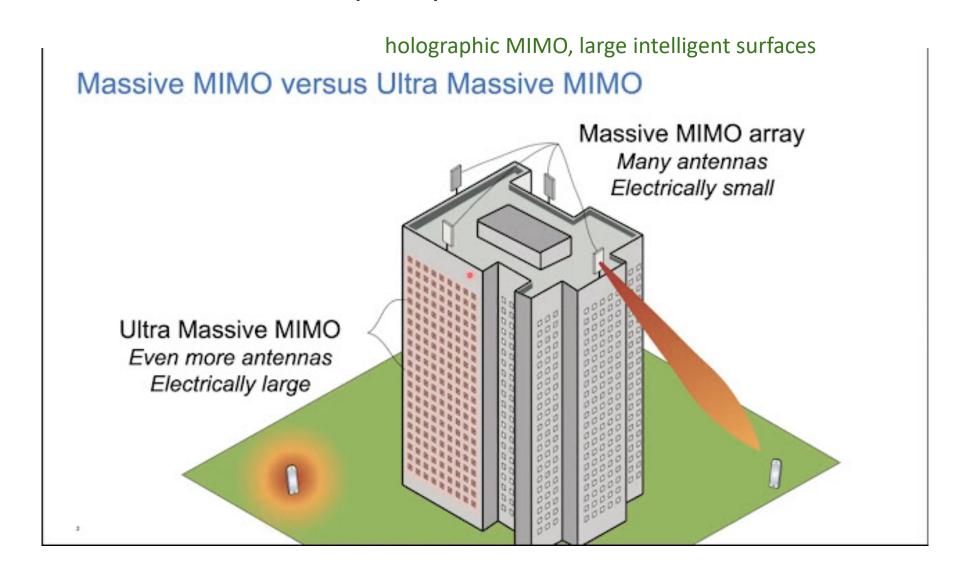
Main Advantages:

- Reduced Inter-user Interference
- Increased Spectral Efficiency
- Energy Efficiency
- Large array gains
 - Channel Hardening
 - High link reliability
 - Focus in small regions of space
 - Simple linear signal processing (ZF)
 - Efficient diversity & Multiplexing techniques in favorable propagation scenarios (rich MPC)





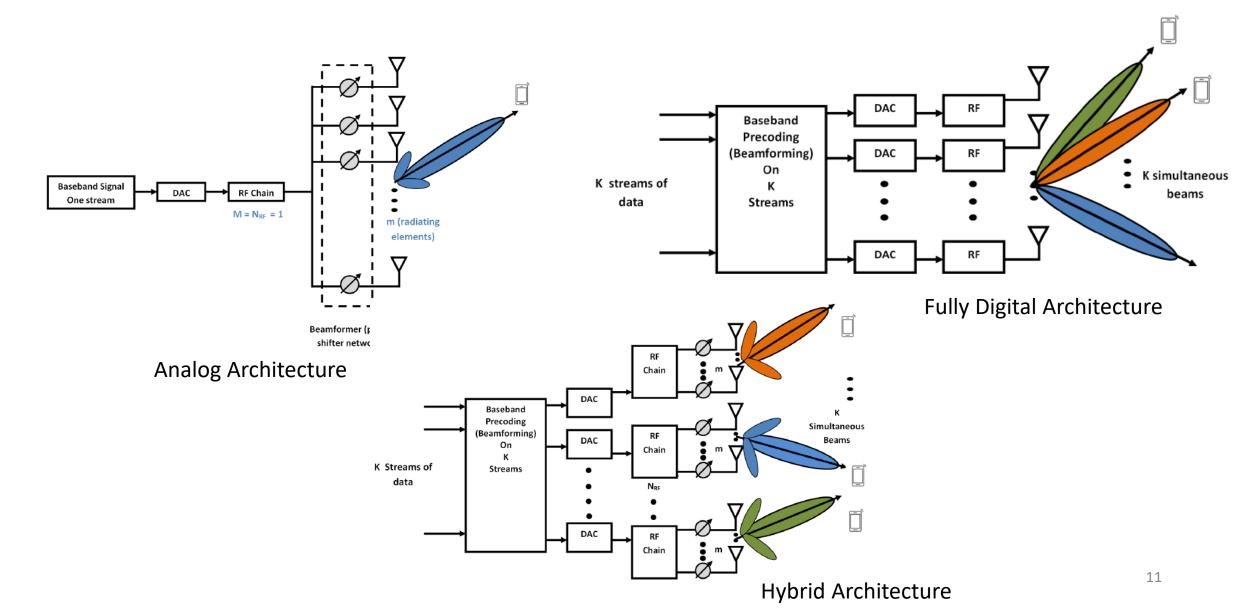
Ultra-Massive MIMO (6G)







Massive MIMO Beamforming Architecture

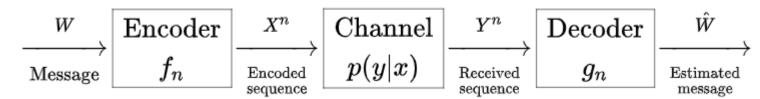




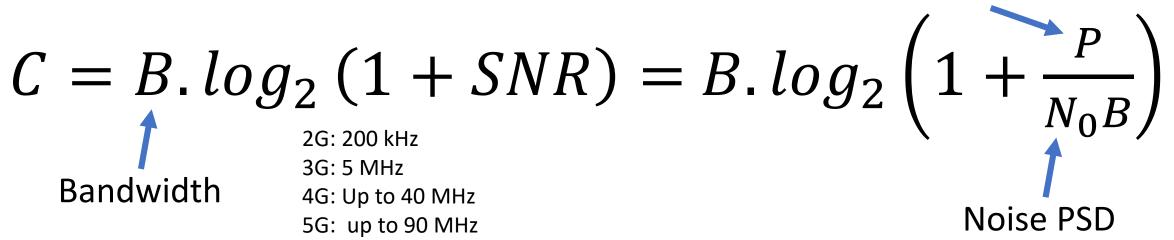
Power



Shannon Capacity



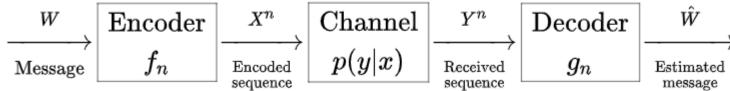
- Defined as the maximum Mutual Information of channel $C = \max_{f} I(X;Y)$
- Maximum error-free data rate a channel can support
- Theoretical limit
- Capacity in AWGN

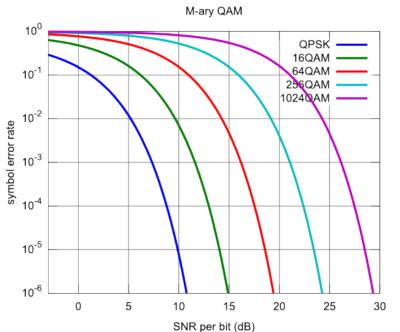






Shannon Capacity





- 3 bits/sym. 4 bits/sym.
- 6 bits/sym.
- 8 bits/sym.
- 10 bits/sym.

$$C = \max_f I(X;Y)$$

$C = B.log_2 (1 + SNR) = B.log_2$

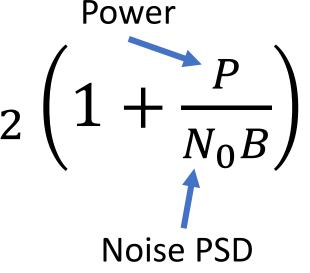
f Bandwidth

2G: 200 kHz

3G: 5 MHz

4G: Up to 40 MHz

5G: up to 90 MHz

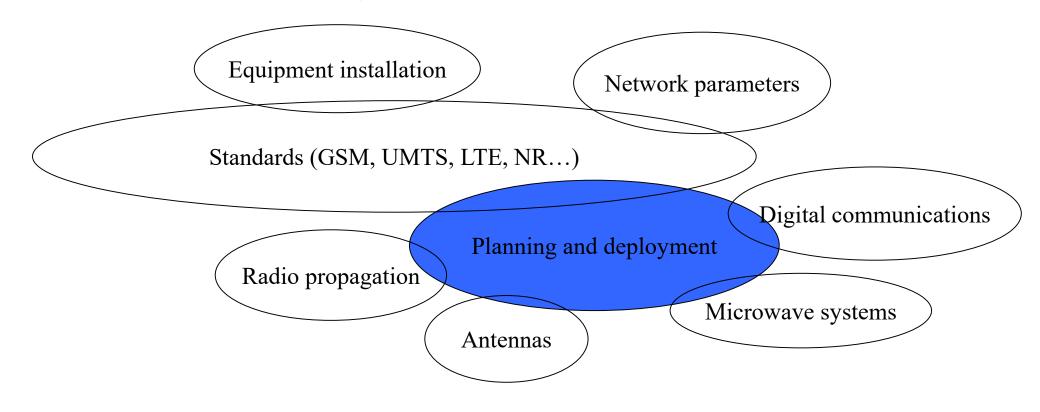






How operators deploy networks?

- Deployment of equipment's (access network) on a certain number of cells according to a marketing business plan and regulation.
- Ensure adequate coverage AND capacity AND quality

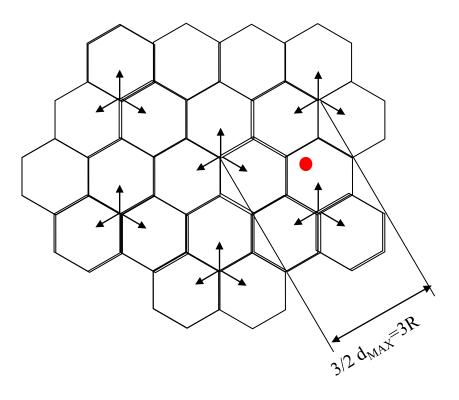






Hexagonal Architecture

Intersites distance in the tri-sectorized sites case:



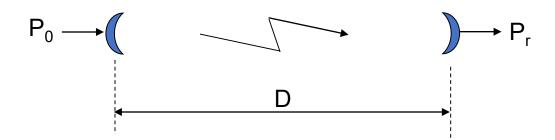
- Received Power
- SNR
- Interference
- Throughput
- Handover

How do you determine cell size?





Free Space Propagation – Friis Formula



Free space formula:

(Friis formula)

$$(P_r)_W = G_r \cdot \left(\frac{\lambda}{4\pi D}\right)^2 \cdot G_t \cdot (P_0)_W$$
 where $\lambda = \frac{c}{f}$

$$\lambda = \frac{c}{f}$$

10Log₁₀(.) or 10Log₁₀(./0,001)

$$\left(P_{r}\right)_{dBm} = \left(G_{r}\right)_{dBi} + 10Log_{10} \left(\frac{\lambda}{4\pi D}\right)^{2} + \left(G_{t}\right)_{dBi} + \left(P_{0}\right)_{dBm}$$



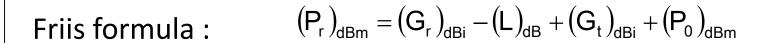


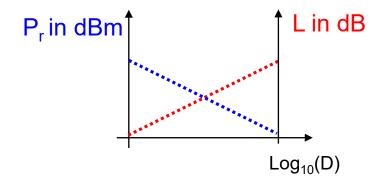
Free Space Propagation – Friis Formula

Free Space Losses (FSL): or Line Of Sight Pathloss

$$L = \frac{1}{\left(\frac{\lambda}{4\pi D}\right)^2}$$

$$(L)_{dB} = 10Log_{10}(L) = 32.4 + 20Log_{10}(f)_{MHz} + 20Log_{10}(D)_{km}$$

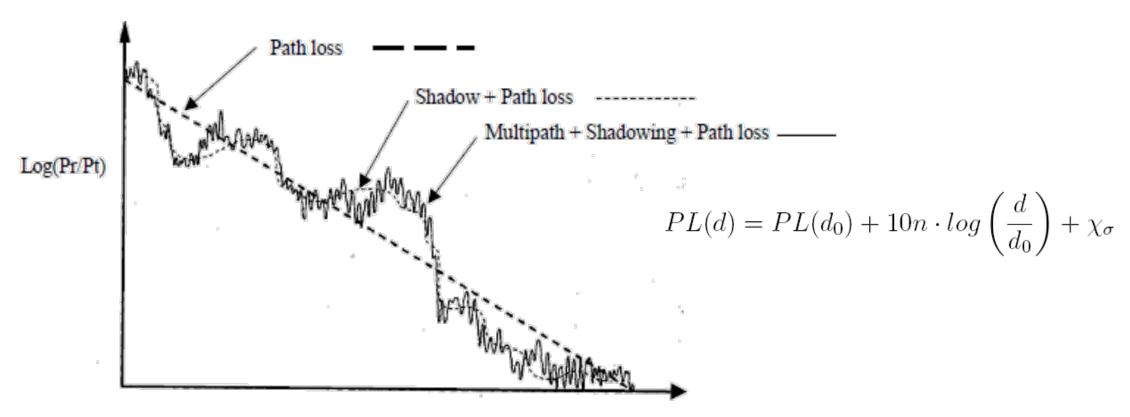








In more details: Narrowband Analysis



Gain as a function of distance Tx - Rx





GSM Downlink (DL) Link Budget

Pedestrian 2W in urban environment with 2 TRX

Limited Coverage	Excellent Coverage	Excellent Coverage
Ellillica coverage	LACCITCHE COVERAGE	Execute Coverage

	outdoor	window indoor	deep indoor
BS Tx power	43	43	43
Combiner loss	3	3	3
Feeder + jumper Loss	3	3	3
BS Antenna Gain	17	17	17
BTS EIRP	54	54	54
Body Loss	3	3	3
MS Antenna Gain	0	0	0
MS Rx sensitivity	-102	-102	-102
Log-normal margin	7	7	7
Mobility margin	6	6	6
Penetration margin	0	12	21
Engineering threshold	-86	-74	-65
Maximum Allowable PathLoss	140	128	119





Cell Size Computation

$$L_x = L_0 + 10\gamma Log(D) = L(D=1km) + 10\gamma Log(D_{km})$$

Ex : L = 126,4 + 35Log(D) in urban areas (GSM 900)

$$L_{MAX} = MAPL = L_0 + 10\gamma Log(D_{MAX})$$

Cell size:
$$D_{MAX} = 10^{\left(\frac{NIAPL-L_0}{10\gamma}\right)}$$

Outdoor:
$$d_{MAX} = 10^{\left(\frac{140-126.4}{35}\right)} = 2.5 \text{ km}$$

Indoor:
$$d_{MAX} = 10^{\left(\frac{128-126.4}{35}\right)} = 1.11 \text{ km}$$

Daylight window:
$$d_{MAX} = 10^{\left(\frac{124-126.4}{35}\right)} = 854 \text{ m}$$

Deep indoor:
$$d_{MAX} = 10^{\left(\frac{119-126.4}{35}\right)} = 614 \text{ m}$$





Propagation Phenomena

- In urban areas, indoors: Presence of multiple reflections and diffractions on obstacles between Tx and Rx and in their vicinity. In this course, we therefore assume that the size of the obstacles is greater than λ . We can thus apply geometric optics, for example ray theory or image theory => What about measurements?
- A large number of possible paths between Tx and Rx with different propagation phenomena come into play.

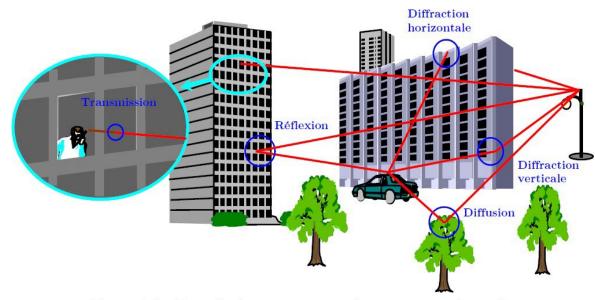


Figure 1-2 : Exemple de propagation multi-trajets en milieu urbain

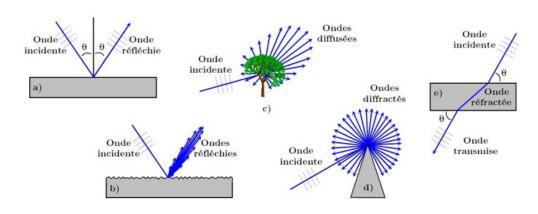


Figure 1-1 : Principales interactions macroscopiques entre onde et obstacle
a) Réflexion spéculaire b) Réflexion diffuse c) Diffusion d) Diffraction e) Transmissions





Wideband Analysis

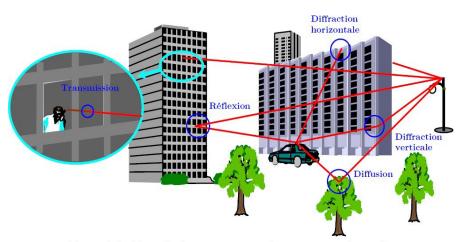
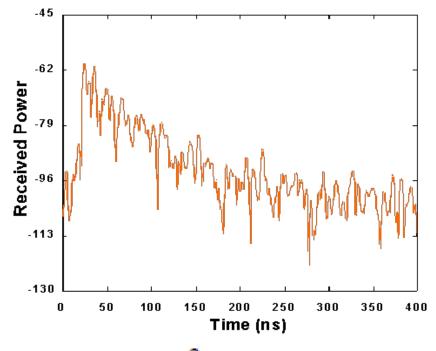
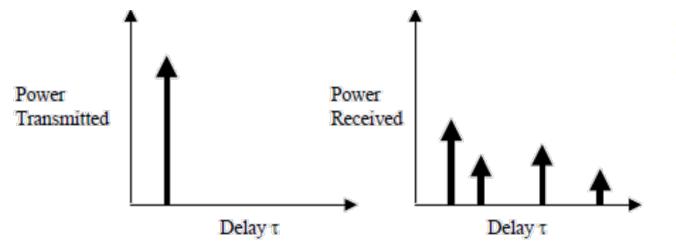
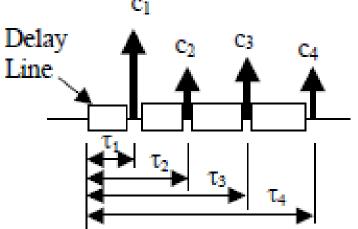


Figure 1-2 : Exemple de propagation multi-trajets en milieu urbain











Why do we need to "understand" the channel?

- Develop deployment tools and then interpret the results (and sometimes even incidents observed on the network).
- Enables the development of models that, when introduced into simulators, make it possible to estimate the performance of a communication chain before defining standards (optimizing coding algorithms, modulation, diversity techniques, the most suitable multi-antenna techniques, etc.).
- Need to characterize the propagation channel in order to develop models that will reproduce these characteristics

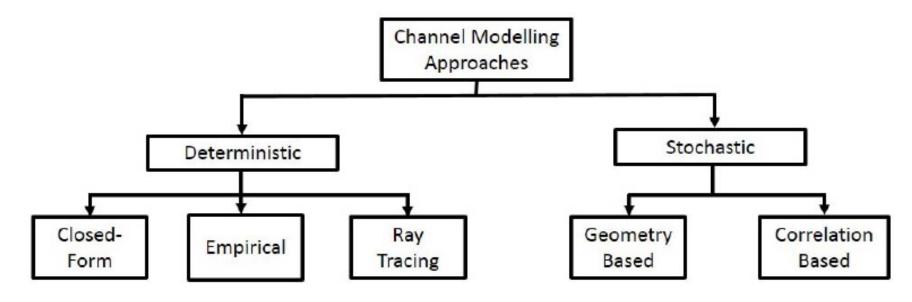


Atoll, Forsk





Channel modeling



NEED MEASUREMENTS!

• Deterministic models

- based on ray theory and diffraction theory. It takes into account the phenomena of reflection and diffraction. The problem is to find all possible paths between Tx and Rx
- Stochastic models
 - From the channel modeling point of view, it considers the channel as a superposition of a finite MPC number whose parameters are drawn from statistical distributions.



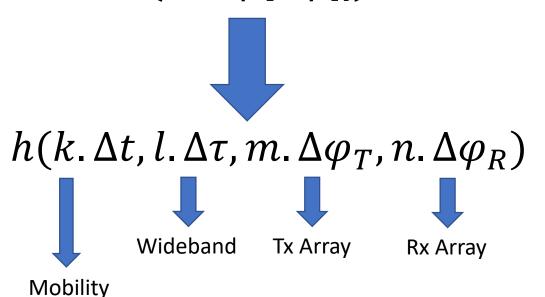


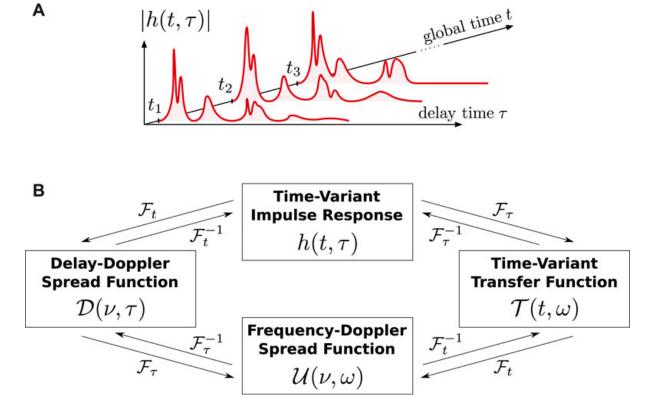
Multidimensional Channel Sounding

 High-quality radio technique to measure the time-varying channel seen as a filter

Digital radio metrology

$$h(t, \tau, \varphi_T, \varphi_R)$$









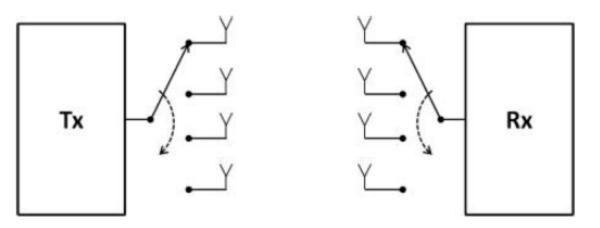
Channel Sounder Signal

- Pseudo-random sequence with maximum length
 - Constant envelop with no PAPR (Peak to Average Power Ratio)
 - Requires high sampling frequency for receiver and antialiasing filters
 - CIR obtained through sliding correlation using matched filter
 - Post-process often realized using programmable digital devices (DSP, FPGA)
- Chirp or multi-carrier sequence
 - Signal whose frequency increases (or decreases) linearly over band B during a time interval T
 - Heterodyne detector or matched filter can be used for receiver
 - Needs a data acquisition system with large bandwidth
 - Specific multi-carrier signal to obtain low PAPR values (like Chu-Zadoff in 4G)

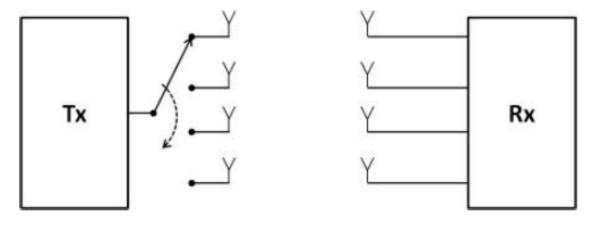




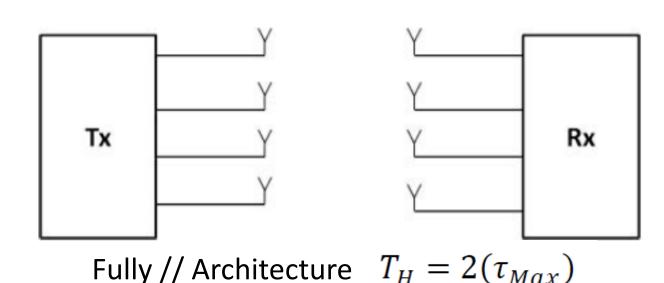
Port Switching Approaches



Full Tx and Rx Switching $T_H = 2(\tau_{Max}).M_t.N_r$



Tx Switching and // Rx $T_H = 2(\tau_{Max}).M_t$

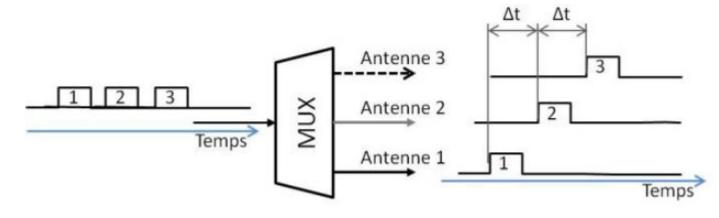


 T_H must be faster than the coherence time of the channel!

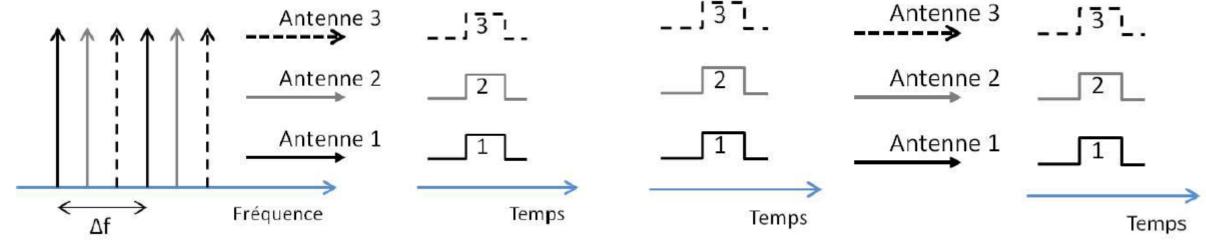




Multiplexing Techniques



1 - Time Multiplexing



2 - Frequency Multiplexing

3 - Code Multiplexing with pseudo-random codes ²⁸





Example of Sounder: Commercial VNA

- Vector Network Analyzer: "Poor's man tool"
 - Originally used to measure quadrupoles with high-quality multiport analysis
 - Single reference rubidium clock (10^{-11/12} ppm)
 - Supports large set of frequencies, bandwidth, number of frequency points (up to THz)
 - High dynamic range > 100 dB
 - Slow measurement (static scenarios)
 - No mobility support
 - Only few ports available
 - Indoor scenarios with small Tx Rx distance
 - Need controlled switching driver



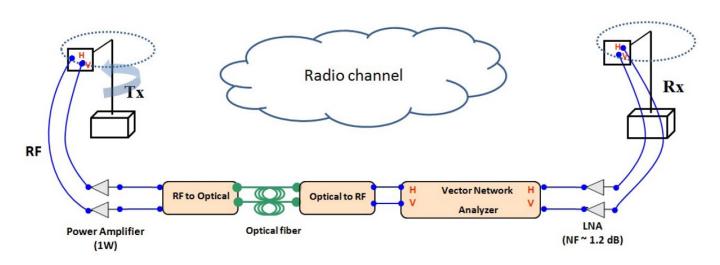
ZVA 67 for mmW measurements



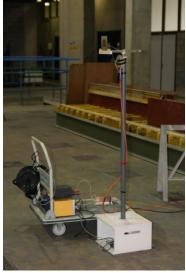


Virtual Channel Sounder

- Virtual Sounding (VNA)
 - Architecture TELICE (Agilent E5071C < 8.5 GHz)
 - Indoor & outdoor characterization @ 1.35 GHz
 - Architecture UPTC (R&S ZVA67 < 325 GHz)
 - 60 GHz, 94 GHz, 300 GHz indoor characterization





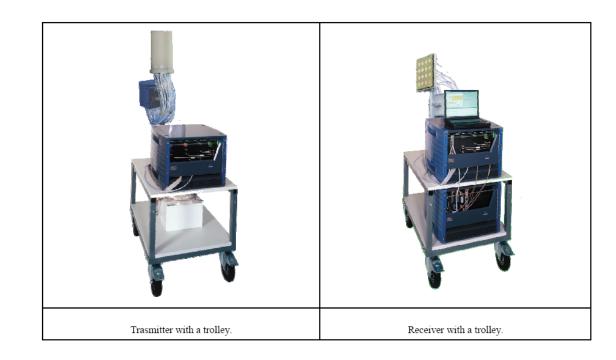




Example of Sounder: PropSound – Elecktrobit

Table 2-2 PropsoundTM characteristics

Propsound Property	Range of values		
RF bands	1.7 - 2.1, 2.0 - 2.7, 3.2 - 4.0, 5.1 - 5.9 GHz		
Sustained measurement rate	Up to 30,000 CIR/s (code length: 255 chips)		
Maximum cycle (snapshot) rate	1500 Hz		
Chip frequency	up to 100 Mchips/s		
Available code lengths	31 - 4095 chips (M-sequences)		
Number of measurement channels	up to 8448		
Measurement modes	SISO, SIMO, MIMO		
Receiver noise figure	better than 3 dB		
Baseband sampling rate	up to 2 GSamples/s		
Spurious IR free dynamic range:	35 dB		
Transmitter output	up to 26 dBm (400 mW), adjustable in 2 dB steps		
Control	Windows notebook PC via Ethernet		
Post processing	MATLAB package		
Synchronisation	rubidium clock with stability of 10 ⁻¹¹		



Pseudo-random sequence

Example of Sounder: RUSK — TUI-FAU (Meda Université



Table 2-5 Key features of the Medav RUSK TUI-FAU channel sounder.



GMBH), Ge

Stacked Polarimetric Uniform Circular Patch Array (SPUCPA4x24)

RUSK TUI-FAU Sounder Property	Range of values		
RF bands	56 GHz		
Max. meas. data storage rate	(2x)*160 Mbyte/s		
Test signal	Multi Carrier Spread Spectrum Signal (MCSSS)		
Sequence length	256 – 8192 spectral lines, depending on IR length		
(defines maximum excess delay)			
Number of measurement channels	up to 65536 (216)		
Measurement modes	SISO, SIMO, MIMO		
Sampling frequency	640 MHz at Tx and Rx		
Spurious free IR dynamic range	48 dB		
Transmitter output	up to 33 dBm (2 W),		
Propagation delay resolution	4.17 ns (1/bandwidth)		
Impulse response length	0.8 μs – 25.6 μs		
RF sensitivity	-88 dBm		
Control	Windows PC		
Post processing	MATLAB package		
Synchronisation	rubidium clock with stability of 10 ⁻¹⁰		





Port Switching Scheme

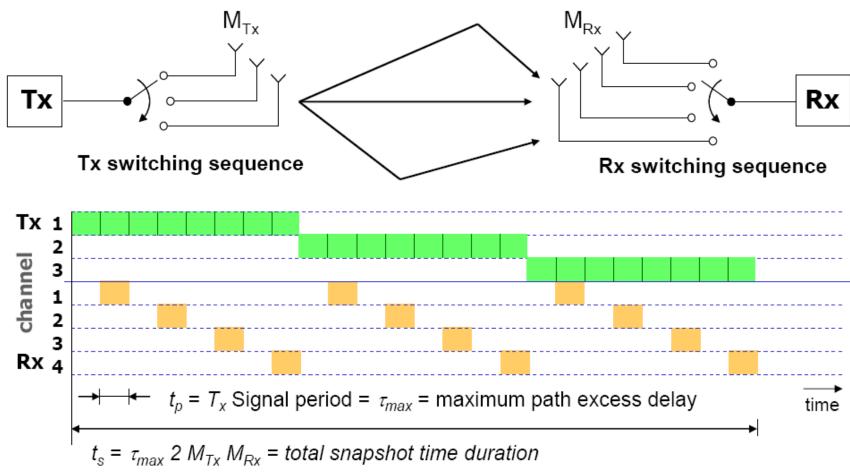


Figure 3-2: MIMO sounder switching time frame.

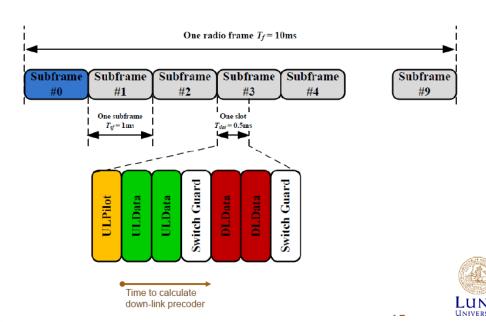




Channel Sounder: Massive MIMO Lund Univ.



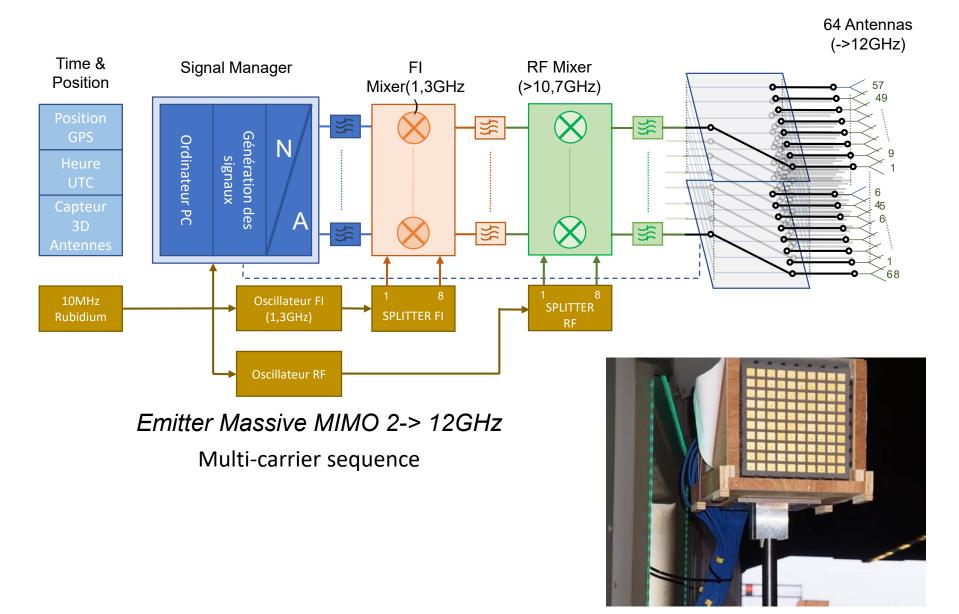








Massive MIMO ULille Sounder: MaMIMOSA







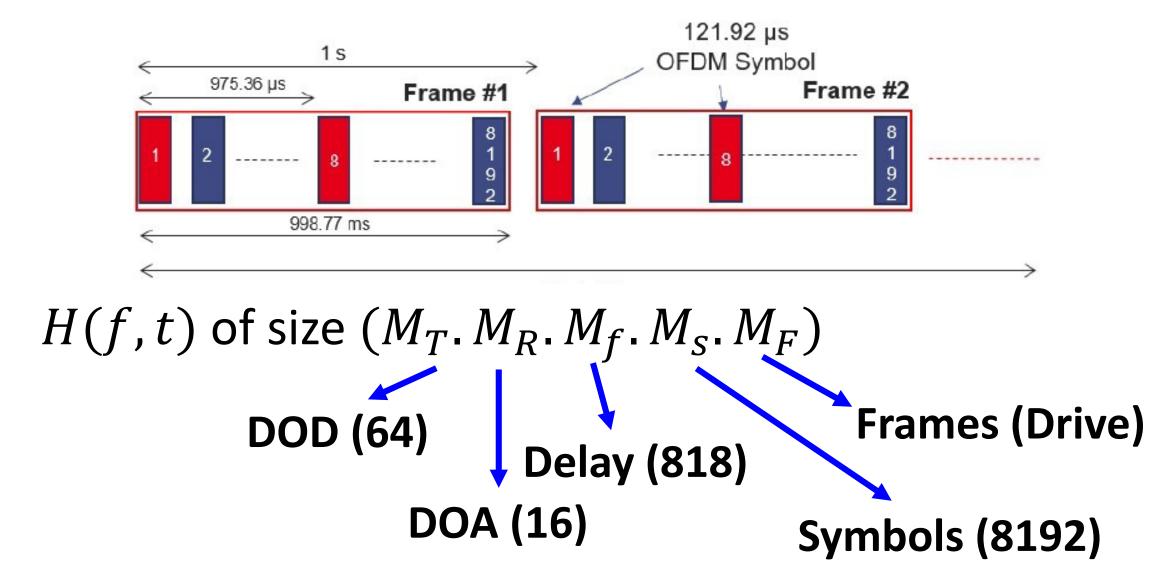
Massive MIMO ULille Sounder: MaMIMOSA

Signal en bande	de base	Radio Fréquence			
Multiplexage	IFDM	Frequencies	1.35 GHz / 5,89GHz		
Used sub carrier	6560	Bandwidth	80 MHz		
Outputs	8	N _{Tx} (switched mode)	8 (16 ou 64)		
N subcarrier / output	820	Power / Tx	0.001 to 1 W		
Delta frequency	97.7 kHz	N _{Rx}	16		
Symbol duration	81.92 μs	AGC Dynamic	63 dB		
Caractéristiques de sondage					
CIR*	10.24 μs	CIR Résolution	12.5 ns		
Max CIR*	50 M	Matrice H(16,16,1024) Matrice H(16,64,1024)	1 Mo 4 Mo		





What is the quantity of channels measured?



What can we extract from the measured

channels?





Urban micro-cell

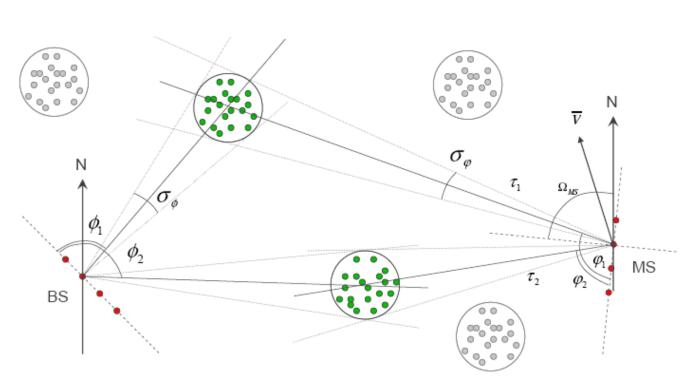


Figure 3-4. Single link.

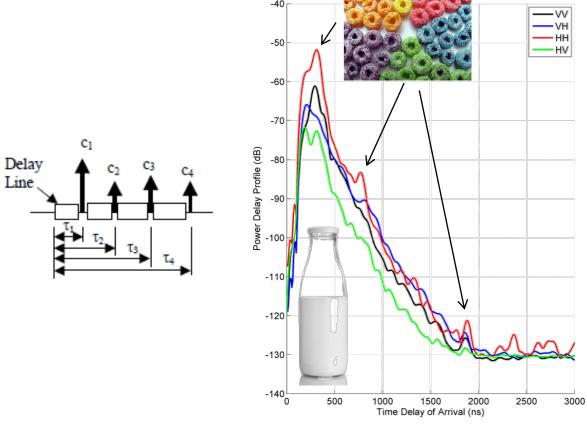
WINNER 2 Channel Model MIMO Single link

Scenarios			B1		
			LOS	NLOS	
Delay spread (DS)	μ		-7.44	-7.12	
log ₁₀ ([s])	σ		0.25	0.12	
AoD spread (ASD)	μ	İ□	0.40	1.19	
log ₁₀ ([°])	σ	ΙL	0.37	0.21	
AoA spread (ASA)	μ	T⊥	1.40	1.55	
log ₁₀ ([°])	σ	Ī⊥	0.20	0.20	
Shadow fading (SF) [dB]	σ	T_	3	4	
	μ	ĪĹ	9	N/A	
K-factor (K) [dB]	σ	Ť⊥	6	N/A	
	ASD vs DS	tΩ	0.5	0.2	
	ASA vs DS	İL	0.8	0.4	
	ASA vs SF	İĹ	-0.5	-0.4	
	ASD vs SF	İĹ	-0.5	0	
	DS vs SF	İL	-0.4	-0.7	
Cross-Correlations *	ASD vs ASA	Ī⊥	0.4	0.1	
	ASD vs K	ĪШ	-0.3	N/A	
	ASA vs K	ŤⅡ	-0.3	N/A	
•	DS vs K	tΤ	-0.7	N/A	
	SF vs K	t⊤	0.5	N/A	
Delay distribution			Exp	Uniform ≤800ns	
AoD and AoA distribution		†□			
Delay scaling parameter r_i		†⊥	3.2	_	
ven fini	μ	İ⊤	9	8	
XPR [dB]	σ	t⊤	3	3	
Number of clusters	· · · ·	tΤ	8	16	
Number of rays per cluster		† 🗀	20	20	
Cluster ASD	tΠ	3	10		
Cluster ASA			18	22	
Per cluster shadowing std ζ [dB]			3	3	
Correlation DS distance [m]		\prod	9	8	
ASD			13	10	
	ASA			9	
	SF	tΓ	14	12	
	K	tΤ	10	N/A	

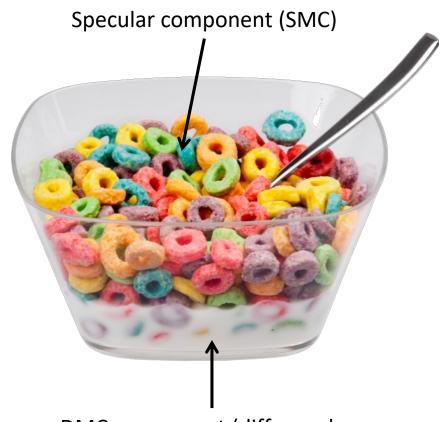




How do we extract MPC information?



Example of polarimetric PDP measured



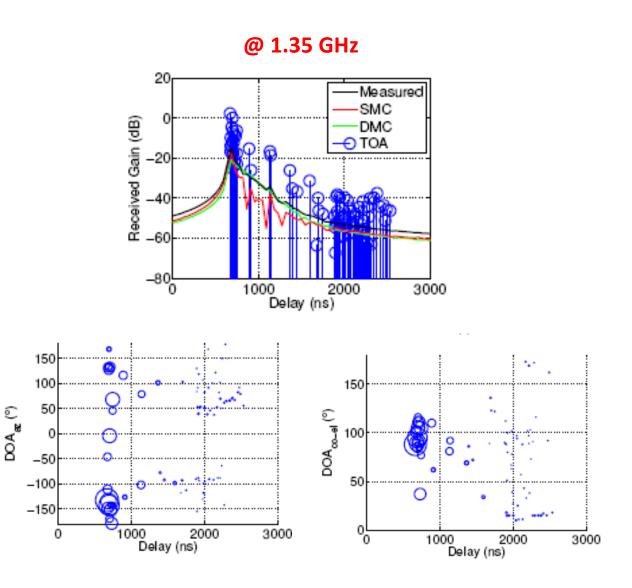
DMC component (diffuse + low specular SNR)

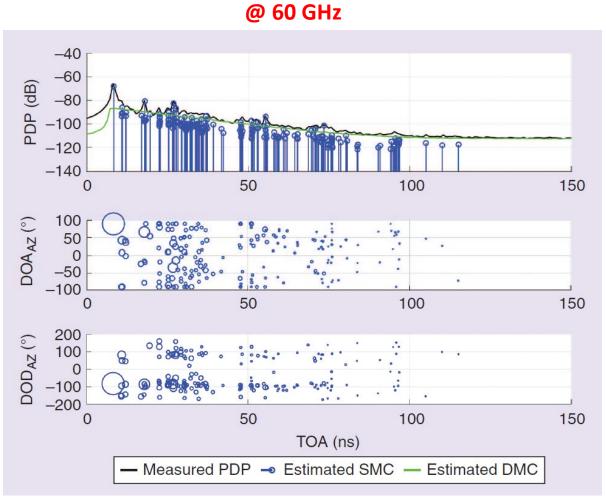
$$p(\mathbf{x}|\theta_{sp}, \mathbf{R}(\theta_{dan})) = \frac{1}{\pi^M det(\mathbf{R}(\theta_{dan}))} e^{-(x - \mathbf{s}(\theta_{sp}))^H \cdot \mathbf{R}(\theta_{dan})^{-1} \cdot (x - \mathbf{s}(\theta_{sp}))}$$





Example from measured Channels





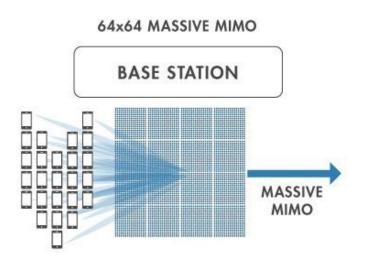
M.-T. Martinez-Ingles et al., IEEE Antennas Wireless Propag. Lett., 2014





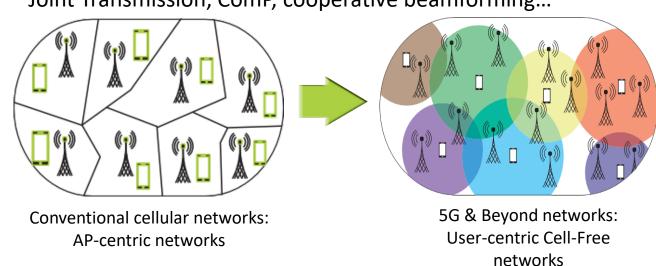
What about new networks for 6G?

Massive Multiple-Input Multiple Output (mMIMO)



- Spectrum for CF-mMIMO
 - FR1 (sub-6 GHz) : moderate attenuation
 - FR2 (26-28 and 40 GHz): increase of capacity

■ Distributed **Cell-Free networks** (CF)
Joint Transmission, ComP, cooperative beamforming...





Channel hardening & favorable propagation conditions



Larger, uniform SNR with AP selection and clustering algorithms



Inter-cell interference

CF-mMIMO provides seamless coverage, reduced latency and high throughput

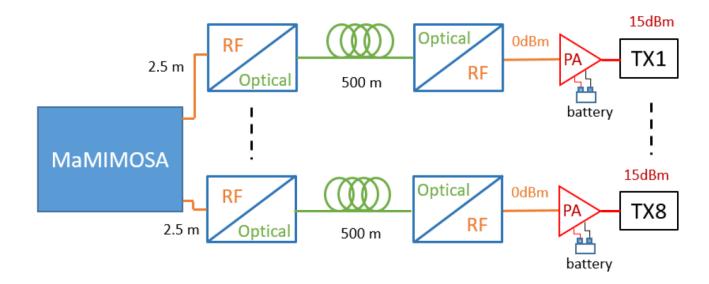
> promising candidate to fulfill the requirements of **future networks**

MaMIMOSA Distributed Radio Channel Sounding





- Upgrade of the Massive MIMOSA sounder:
 - 64 x 16 real-time sounder with 80 MHz bandwidth @ 5.89 GHz
 - Time-varying MIMO transfer functions computed "on the fly" with no additional post-processing
 - 8 x 16 using 500m-long 8 RF-over-Fiber (RoF) links with 0 dBM output power
 - Power amplifier (PA) on battery to generate 15 dBm output power with 40 dB SNR
 - Potential of X AP times Y-antenna arrays (X times Y = 64) to emulate a realistic cell-free network







Measurement campaign: TX & RX Description

TX



MaMIMOSA TX with 8 RoF links

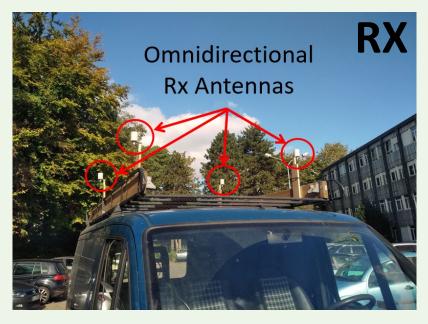






4 & 8 antennas / AP

Eight 6.5 dBi patch antennas at 2.5 m high with V-Polarization 4 tested AP configurations from fully distributed to fully co-localized network



MaMIMOSA RX in van with four 2 dBi EM6116 omnidirectional antennas

- Both TX & RX powered with Li-ion batteries for up to 8 hours of continuous measurements
- Back-to-Back calibration including RoF
- All antennas emit at same time & first detected antenna from RX side starts measuring

Measurement campaign: Investigated





Scenario

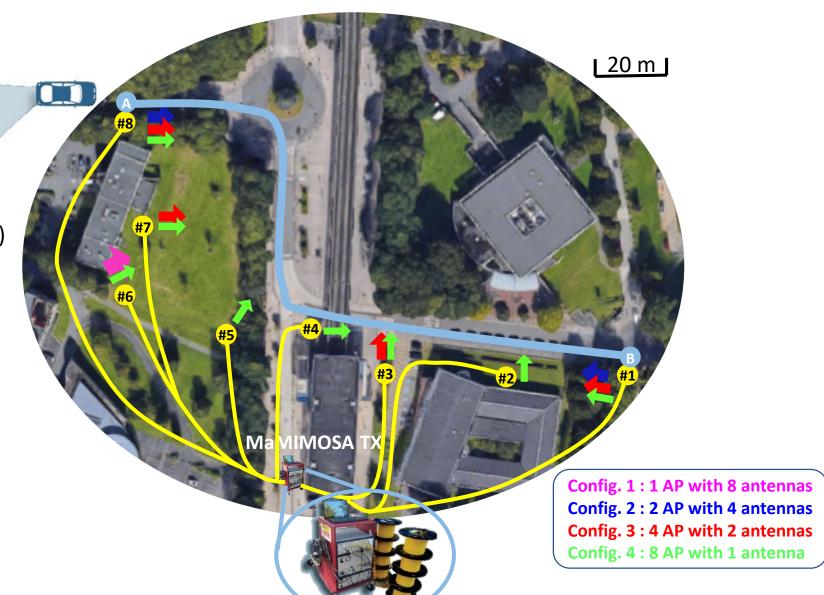


35 seconds drive-test from A and B with
 25 km/h average speed (275 m distance)

Up to 8 AP distributed in scenario with
 50 m distance between them

 Multiple antenna configurations to compare typical cellular with cell-free network

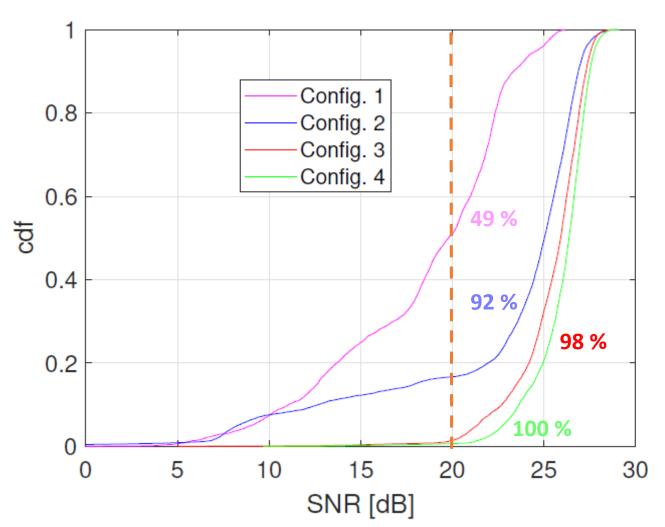
- LOS / NLOS shadowing conditions with foliage and buildings
- SNR distribution over covered area
- RMS delay spread
- Path loss characteristics

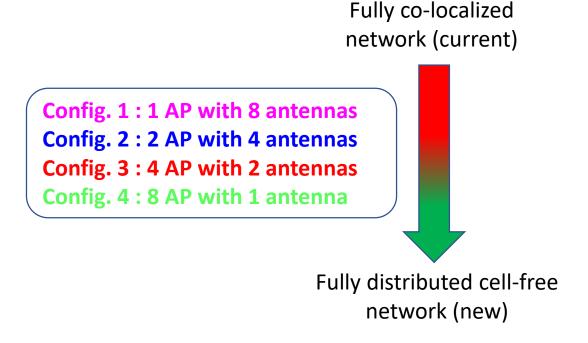






Results: SNR ECDF





- 100% of SNR values have an SNR > 20 dB for cell-free network compared to 49% with fully co-localized network
- Clear demonstration of the topology benefits even when both LOS/NLOS conditions coexist

First demonstration of a realistic cell-free network (robustness)!





Summary

- Radio channel sounding is key equipment to assess the characteristics of radio channels:
 - Realistic propagation models for specific use cases are badly needed for
 - Developing robust physical chains with new modulation schemes, processing techniques
 - Deploying current/future networks!
 - Optimize the performance of future networks (optimized capacity does not mean optimized energy efficiency)
- Modern sounders include advanced real-time processing with increasing complexity:
 - Frequency, bandwidth, number of Tx/Rx antennas, embedded processing, switching capabilities and number of RF chains
 - Distributed emitters with multiple antennas for CF-mMIMO networks
- Current problematic:
 - There is no universal sounder => specific use-cases in given scenarios (but in phase with "slicing")
 - Cost of increasing frequency and developing dedicated Tx/Rx RF chains
 - Systems can mostly treat single users with multiple antennas (SU-MIMO)
 - Going full MU-MIMO with distributed emitters AND receivers is missing (we work on that!)
- Acquisition is <u>FAST</u>, measured data is <u>HUGE</u> and post-process <u>TEDIOUS</u> (AI, data-mining)

Thank you for your attention!

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