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Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Informazione
Corso di Laurea Specialistica in Scienze di Internet (Sdl) e Informatica (Inf)

Sistemi e Reti Wireless



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Ricevimento: sempre aperto .

Si consiglia di concordare via e-mail almeno un giorno prima
(informazioni in tempo reale sulla home page personale)

Figure-credits: some figures have been taken from slides published on the Web, by the following authors (in alphabetical order):

J.J. Garcia Luna Aceves (ucsc), James F. Kurose & Keith W. Ross, Jochen Schiller (fub), Nitin Vaidya (uiuc)

Background on wireless PHY layer

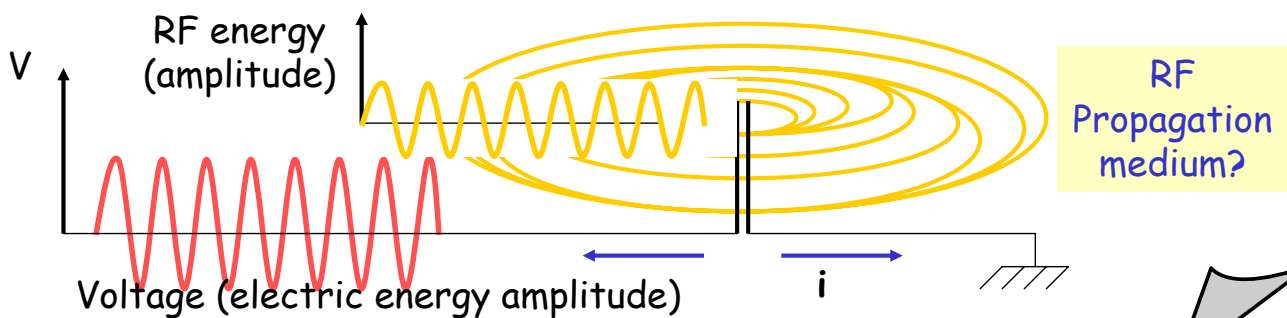
RF Properties

- **Understanding Radio Frequency**

- Generation, coverage and propagation issues
- Fundamental for wireless planning and management

- **Radio Frequency Signals**

- Electromagnetic energy generated by high frequency alternate current (AC) in antennas
- Antenna: converts the wired current to RF and viceversa



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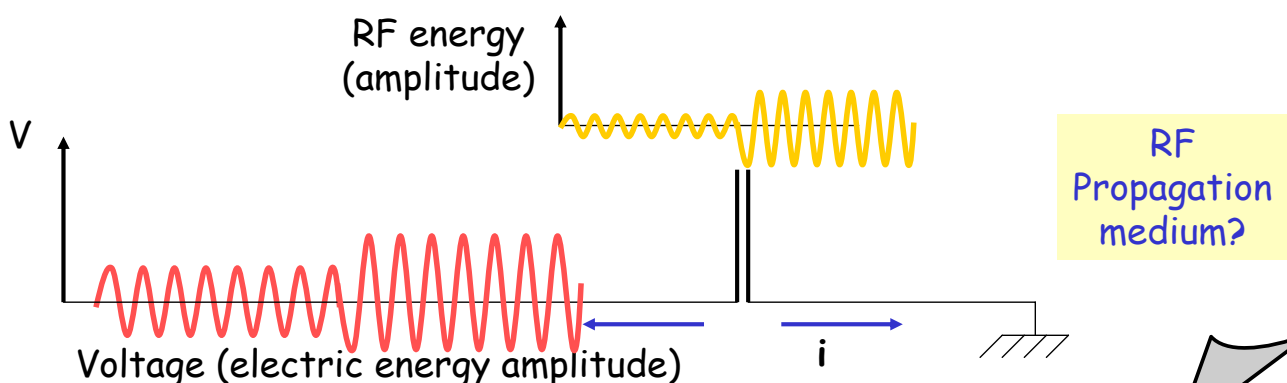
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RF Properties

- **Amplitude**

- Higher amplitude RF signals go farther
- Transmission Power (Watts) = Energy / Time = Joule / Sec
 - More energy (voltage) moves more electrons (current)
 - Power = Voltage * Current



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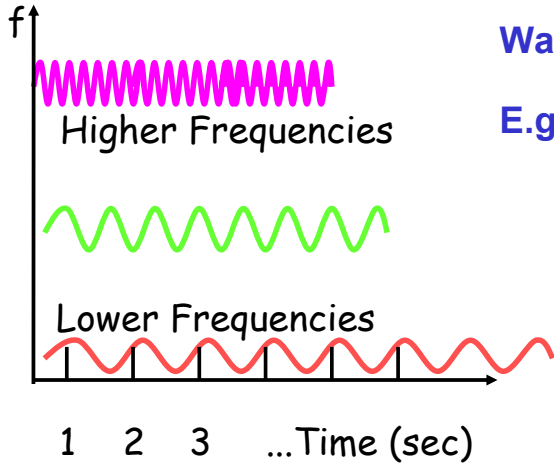
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RF Properties

- **Frequency (and Wavelength)**

- Wireless Spectrum (see next slides)
- Portion of wireless spectrum regulated by regional authorities and assigned to wireless technologies



Wavelength = c / frequency

E.g. 2.4 GHz (ISM band)

Wave Length =

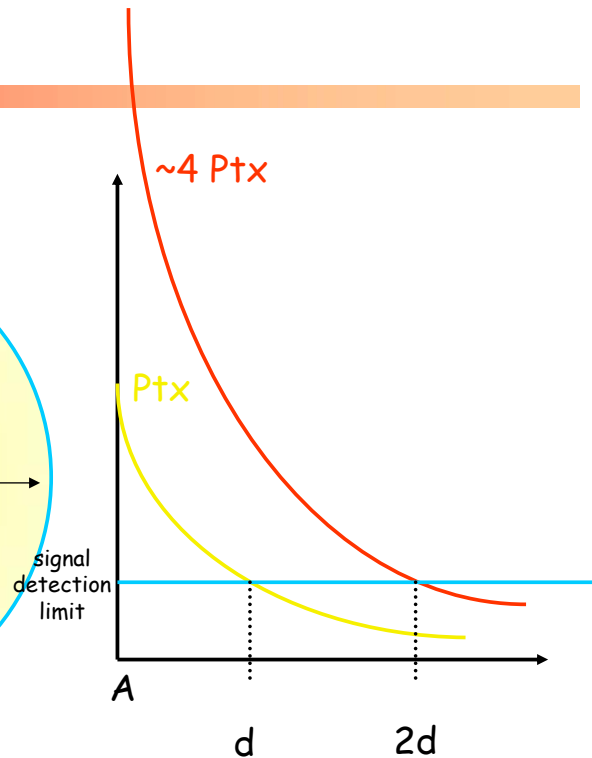
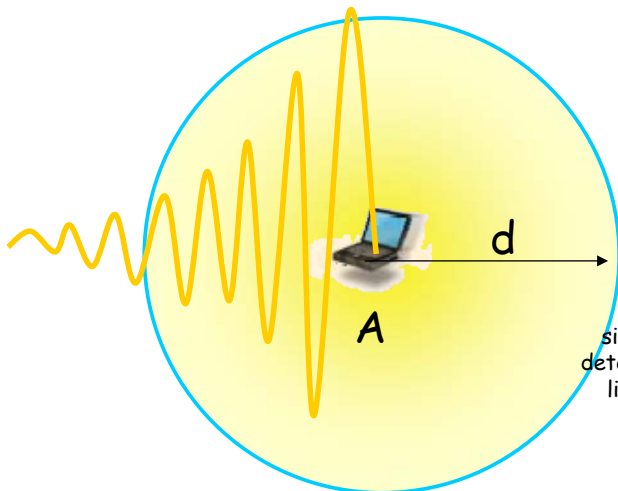
$300.000.000(\text{m/s}) / 2.400.000.000 \text{ Hz} = 0.125 \text{ m} = 12.5 \text{ cm}$

In practice:

Antennas work better with size = $1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}$ of wavelength (try to measure antenna size of your IEEE 802.11 device)

RF propagation

- **Radio transmission coverage**

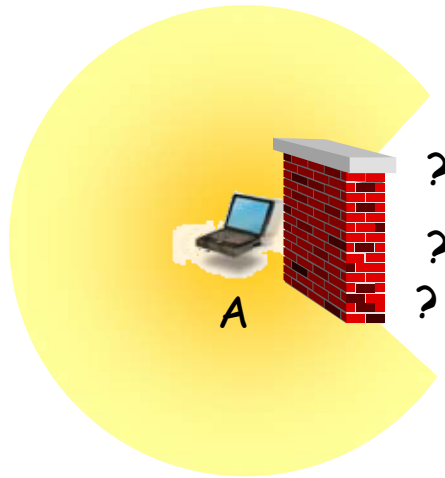


The range is a function of power transmission (P_{tx})
 Signal strength reduces with d^k \longrightarrow
 ($k \geq 2..3$, no obstacles, isotropic radiator)

In 3D, sphere:
 $V = (4 \pi r^3 / 3)$
 $S = (4 \pi r^2)$

Wireless networks' technology

Radio transmission coverage



Rules of thumb:

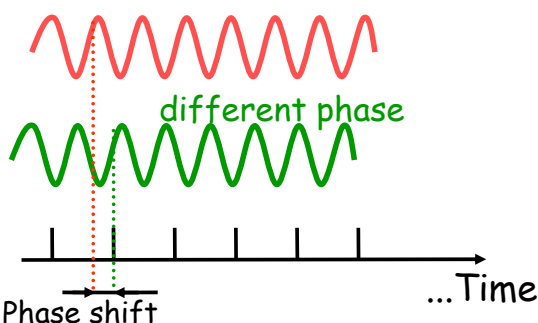
- high frequencies are good for short distances and are affected by obstacles
- low frequencies are good for long distances and are less affected by obstacles

obstacles can reflect or absorb waves depending on materials and wave frequencies

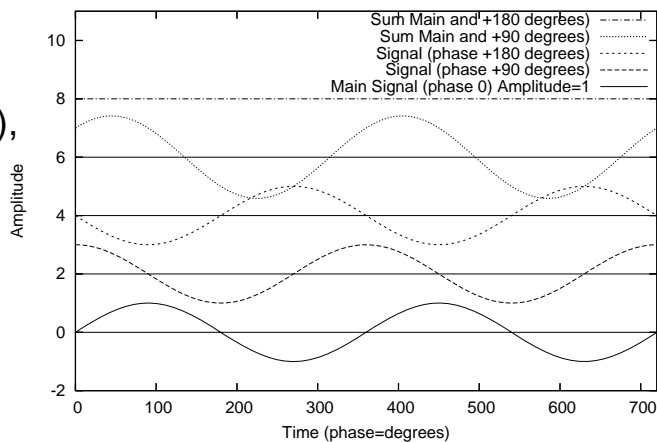
RF Properties

Phase: shift of the wave (in degrees or radians)

- Positive phase (left-shift), early wavefront
- Negative phase (right-shift), late wavefront



Example of signal composition with phase variations



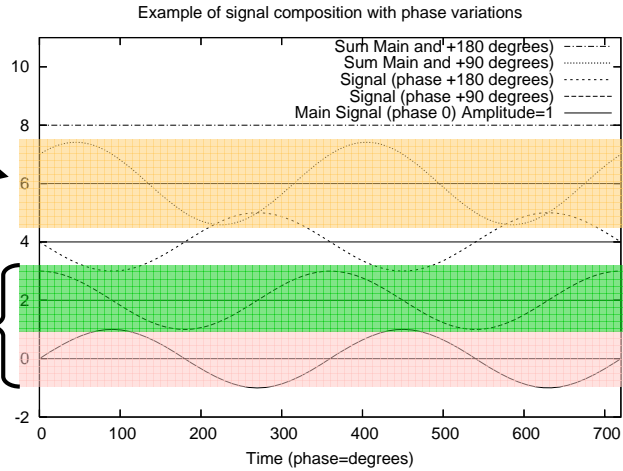
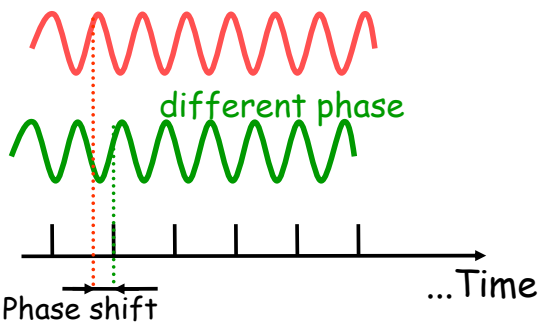
In practice:

RF echoes arriving at receivers with different phase may have positive or negative effects... Why?

RF Properties

Phase: shift of the wave (in degrees or radians)

- Positive phase (left-shift), early wavefront
- Negative phase (right-shift), late wavefront

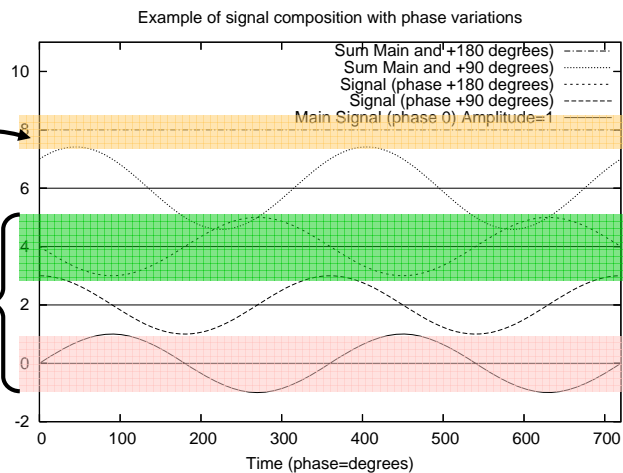
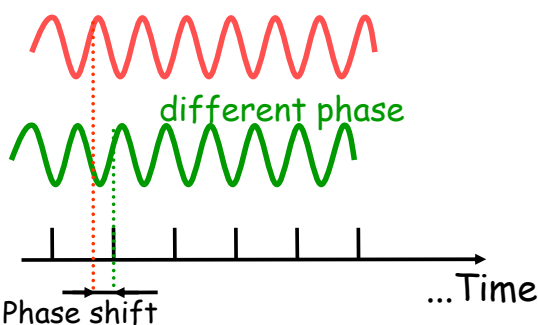


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RF echoes arriving at receivers with different phase may have positive or negative effects... Why?

RF Properties

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- Positive phase (left-shift), early wavefront
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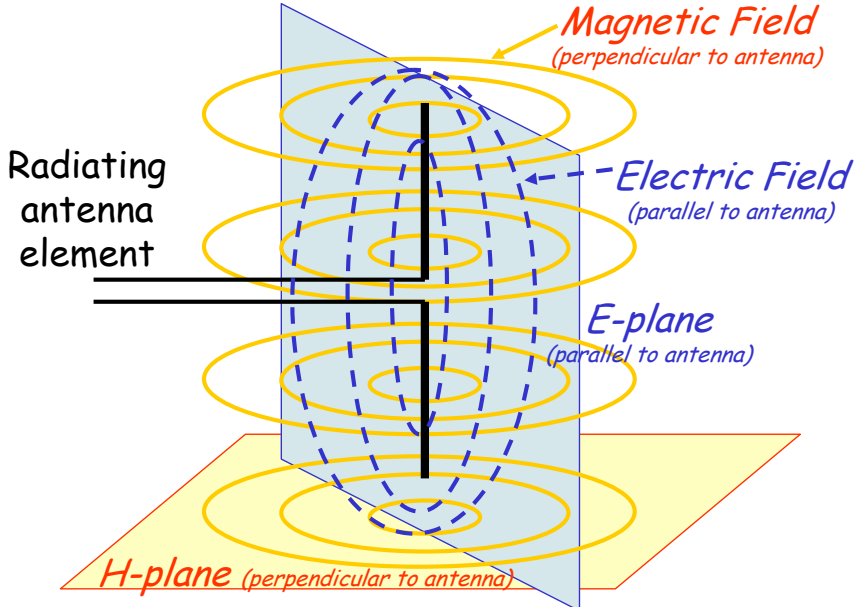


In practice:
RF echoes arriving at receivers with different phase may have positive or negative effects... Why?

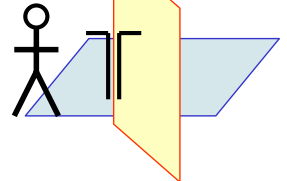
RF Properties

▪ Polarization: (physical orientation of antenna)

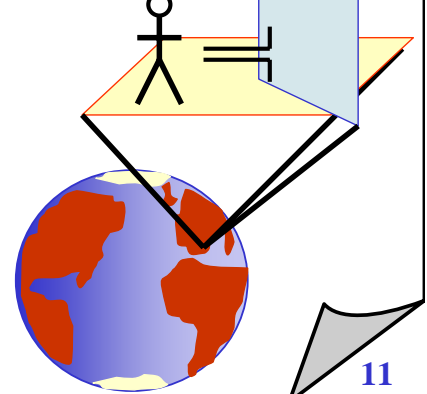
- RF waves are made by two perpendicular fields:
 - Electric field and Magnetic field



Horizontal Polarization
(electric field is parallel to ground)



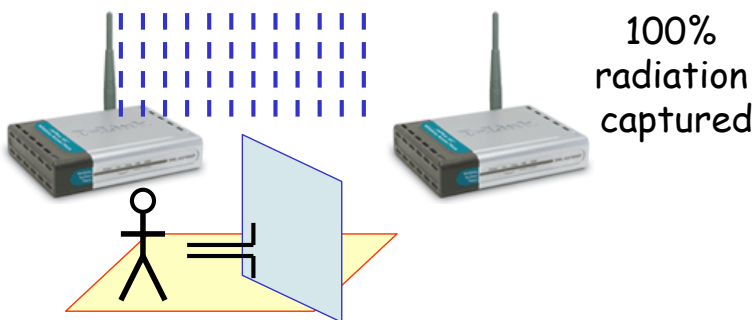
Vertical Polarization
(electric field is perpendicular to ground)



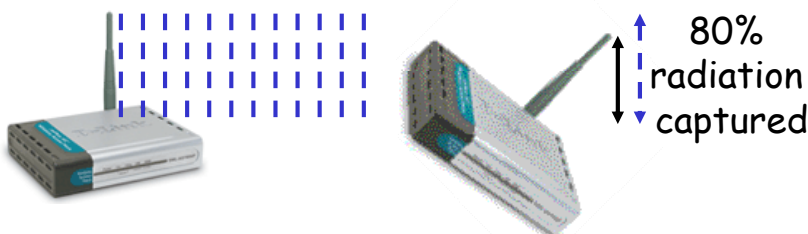
RF Properties

Vertical Polarization: typically used in WLANs

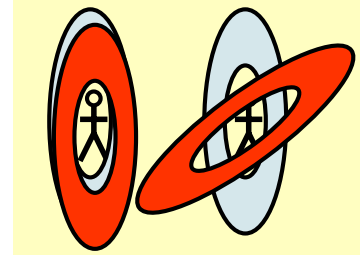
OK Transferred radiation OK



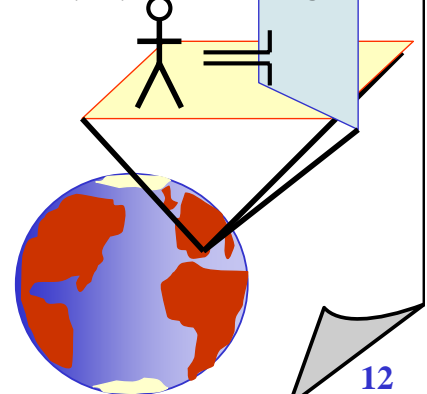
OK Transferred radiation NO



Intuitively....

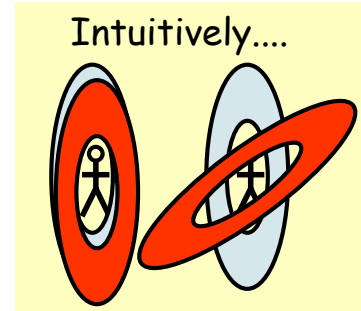
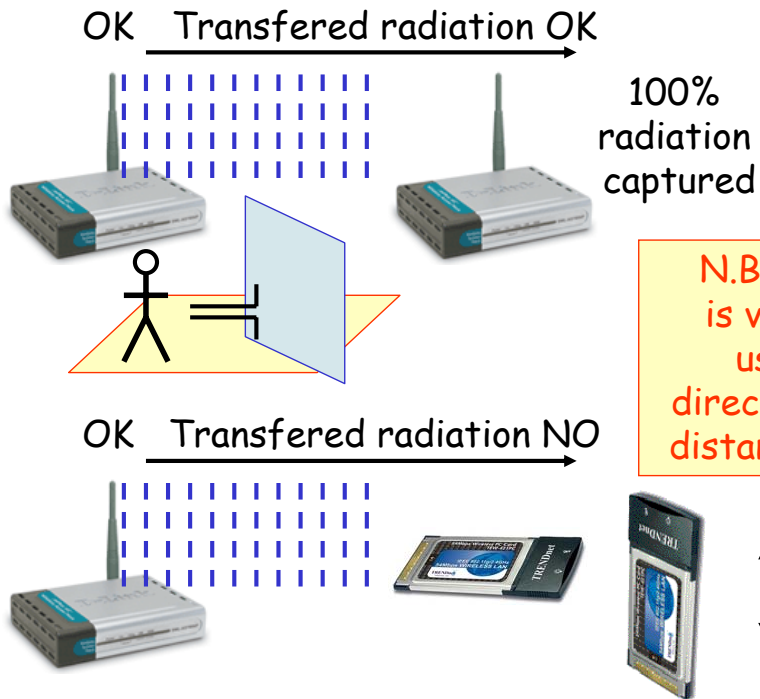


Vertical Polarization
(electric field is perpendicular to ground)



RF Properties

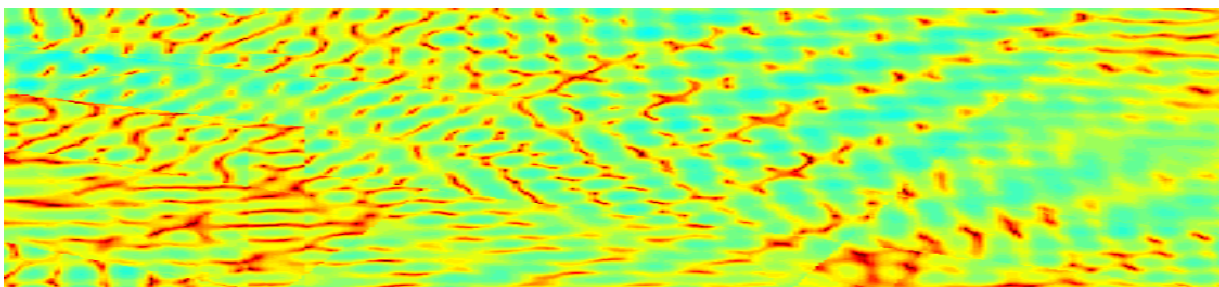
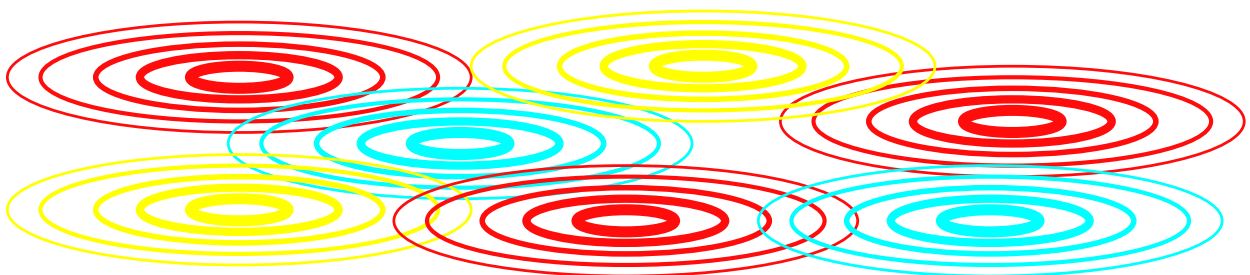
Vertical Polarization: the PCMCIA device problem



N.B. the polarization problem is very much important when using distant devices and directional antennas. With short distances signal reflections help!

RF Behaviors

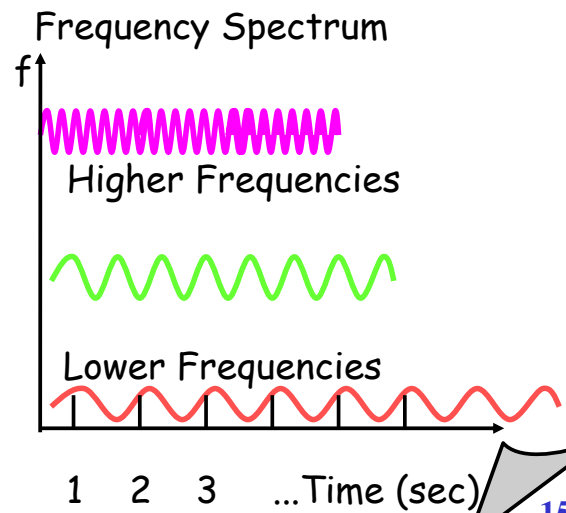
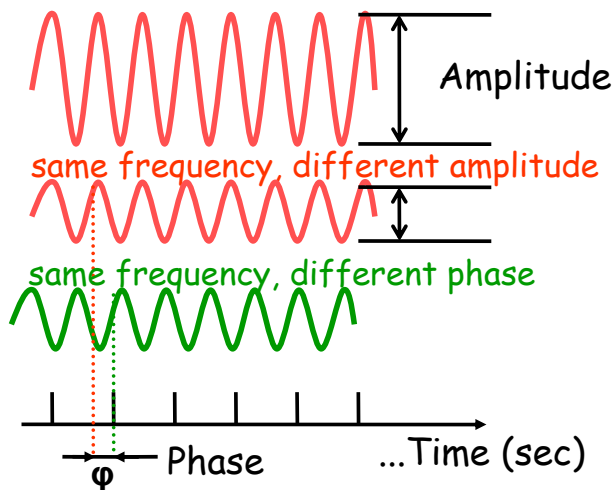
- Radio transmission interference



Wireless transmission: Electromagnetic waves

▪ Different parameters of electromagnetic waves:

- amplitude **M** proportional to transmission energy (loudness)
- frequency **f** (tone) measured in Hertz (Cycle/sec)
- phase ϕ (peak shift with respect to reference signal) (rad)



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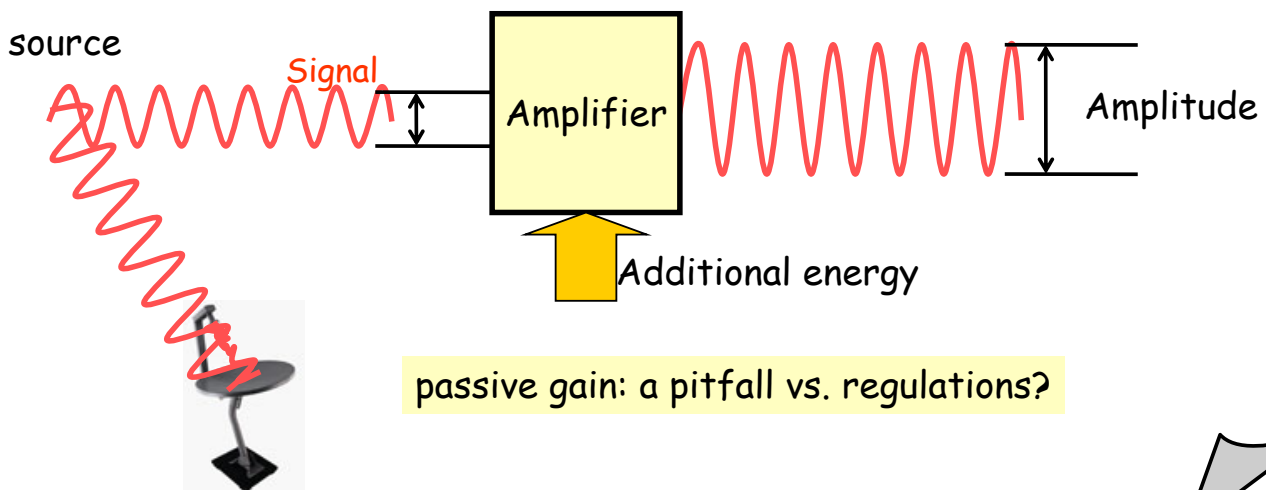
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Wireless transmission

▪ Signal Gain: (measured in Decibels, Db)

- Increase in amplitude **M** proportional to transmission energy
 - Active gain (amplifiers)
 - Passive gain (antennas focusing signal energy, and additive signal effects)



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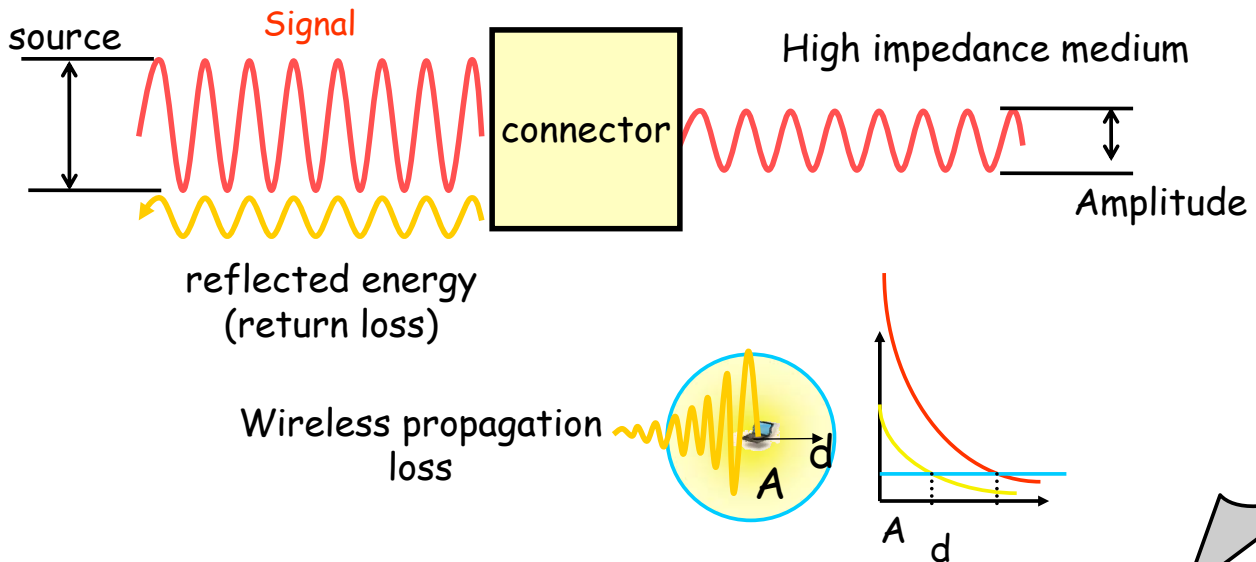
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Wireless transmission

▪ Signal Loss: (Db)

- Decrease in amplitude **M** proportional to energy waste
 - Intentional (resistance, signal attenuation -> heat)
 - Obstacles, e.g. (walls, water for 2.4 Ghz) and distance (wireless)



Wireless signal propagation ranges

▪ Transmission range

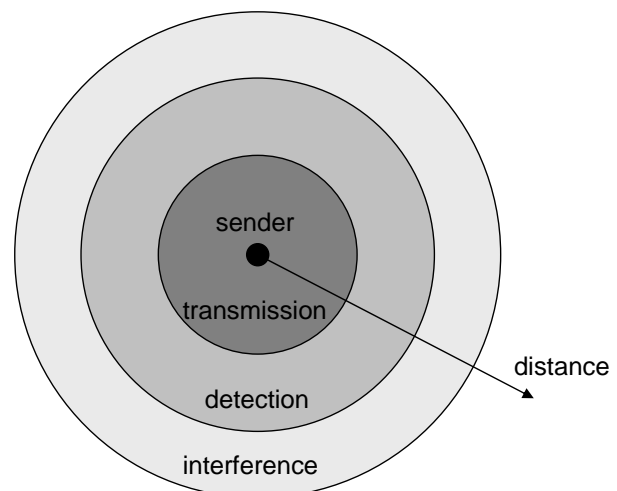
- communication possible
- low error rate

▪ Detection range

- detection of the signal possible
- no communication possible

▪ Interference range

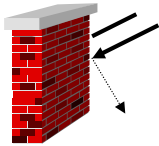
- signal may not be detected
- signal adds to the background noise



Ranges depend on receiver's sensitivity!

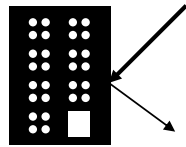
Wireless Signal propagation effects

- Propagation in free space always like light (straight line)
- Receiving power proportional to $1/d^2$
(d = distance between sender and receiver)
- Receiving power additionally influenced by
 - fading (frequency dependent)
 - shadowing
 - reflection at large obstacles
 - refraction depending on the density of a medium
 - scattering at small obstacles
 - diffraction at edges

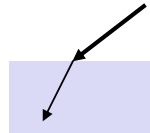


shadowing

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reflection



refraction

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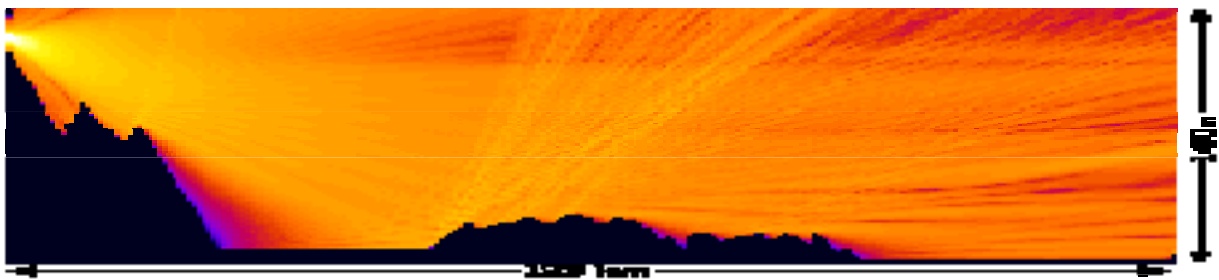
scattering



diffraction

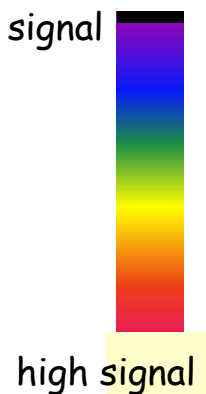
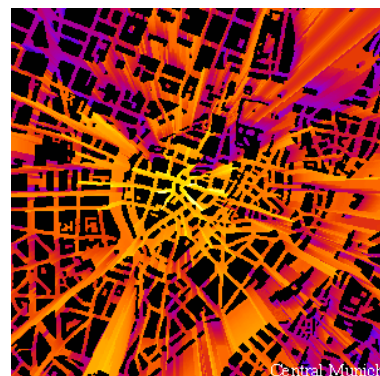
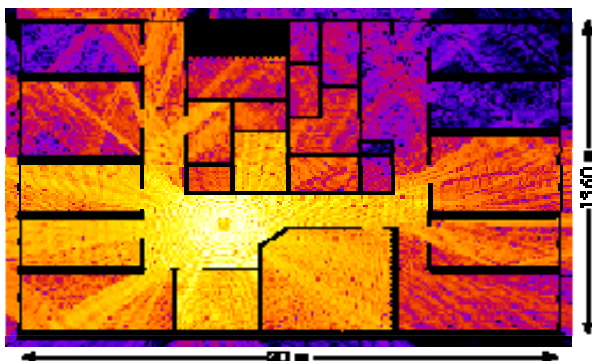
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Real world example



Raytracing examples

Low signal



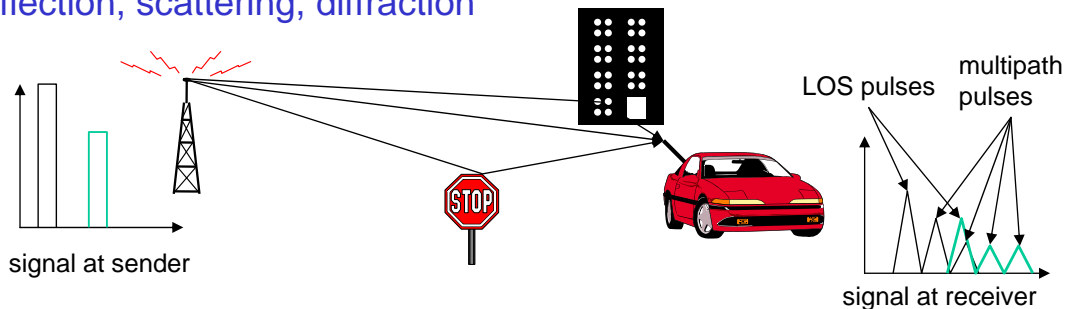
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Multipath propagation

- Signal can take many different paths between sender and receiver due to reflection, scattering, diffraction



- Time dispersion: signal is dispersed over time
→ interference with “neighbor” symbols, Inter Symbol Interference (ISI)
- The signal reaches a receiver directly and phase shifted
→ distorted signal depending on the phases of the different parts

Effects of mobility

- **Channel characteristics change over time and location**

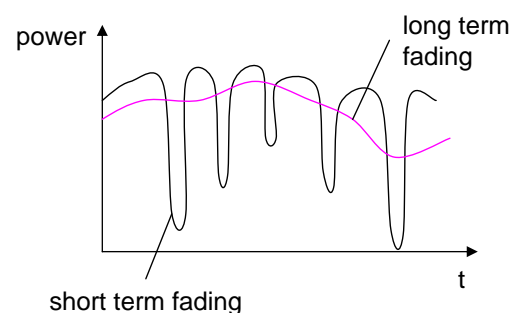
- signal paths change
- different delay variations of different signal parts
- different phases of signal parts

→ quick changes in the power received (short term fading)

- **Additional changes in**

- distance to sender
- obstacles further away

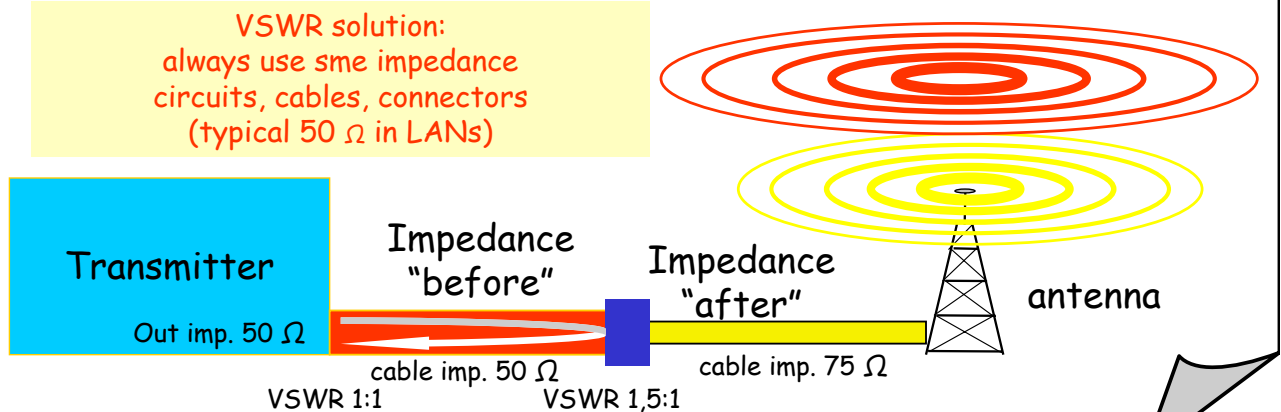
→ slow changes in the average power received (long term fading)



Voltage Standing Wave Ratio (VSWR)

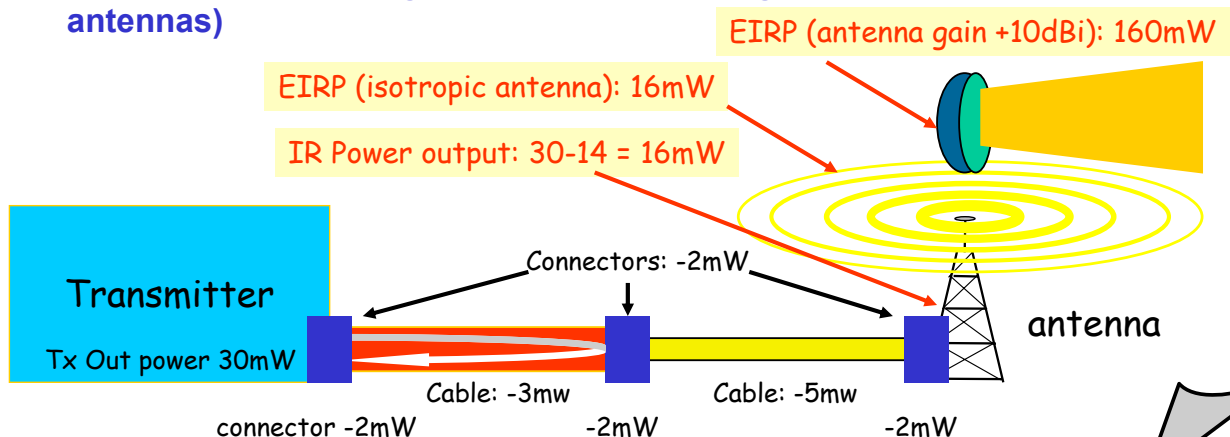
- **VSWR occurs with different impedance (Ohm) = resistance to AC current flow between transmitter and antenna**
 - VSWR is the cause of “return loss” energy towards the transmitter
 - Measured as ratio between impedance (before and after)
 - E.g. 1,5:1 (impedance ratio before/after is 1,5 times the ideal value)
 - 1 = normalized ideal impedance (1:1 means perfect VSWR)
 - VSWR Causes burnout of transmitter circuits, and unstable output levels

VSWR solution:
always use sme impedance
circuits, cables, connectors
(typical 50 Ω in LANs)



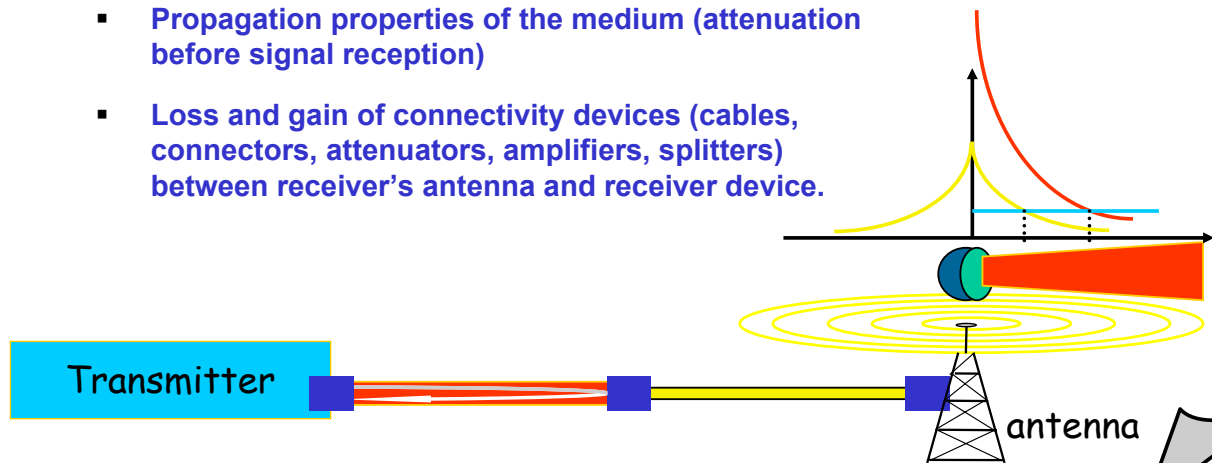
Intentional radiator and EIRP

- **(Intentional) radiator: (def.) RF device specifically designed to generate and radiate RF signals.**
 - ...Includes Tx RF device, cables and connectors (antenna excluded)
 - IR Power output: (subject to regulations) is the power output of last connector just before the antenna
- **Equivalent Isotropically Radiated Power (EIRP): the power radiated by the antenna (including the passive antenna gain effect of directional antennas)**



System design (under power viewpoint)

- **Many factors must be considered in the design of Wireless systems:**
 - **Power of transmitting device**
 - **Loss and gain of connectivity devices (cables, connectors, attenuators, amplifiers, splitters) between transmission device and transmitter's antenna**
 - **Power of the intentional radiator (last connector just before antenna)**
 - **Power radiated by antenna element (EIRP)**
 - **Propagation properties of the medium (attenuation before signal reception)**
 - **Loss and gain of connectivity devices (cables, connectors, attenuators, amplifiers, splitters) between receiver's antenna and receiver device.**

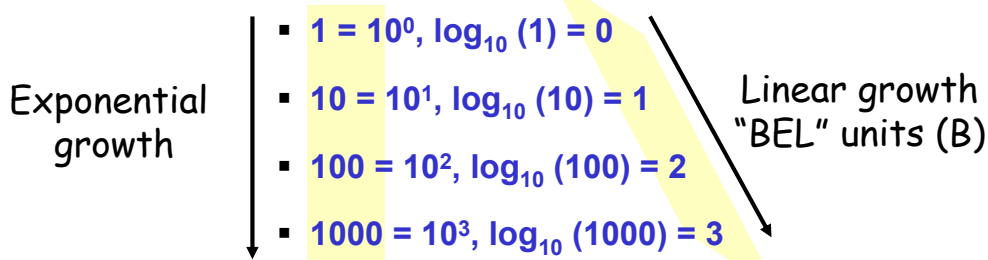


Power measurement

- **WATT: electric power unit**
 - **1 Watt = 1 Ampere * 1 Volt ($P=V*I$) also $P= R*I^2$ and $P = L/t$**
 - **Current (ampere) is the amount of charge (electrons) flowing as current in a wire**
 - **Voltage (Volt) is the “pressure” applied to the flow of charge**
 - **Resistance (impedance) is the obstacle to current flow**
 - **Power is the energy needed (in a given time unit) to apply a given “pressure” to a given “amount of charge”, by resulting in a flow of current.**
 - **Watt and dBm are units used for absolute power measurement**
 - **Typical RF power for WLANs:**
 - **AP: 30..100 mW (up to 250 mW outdoor), PCMCIA: 15..30 mW**

Power measurement

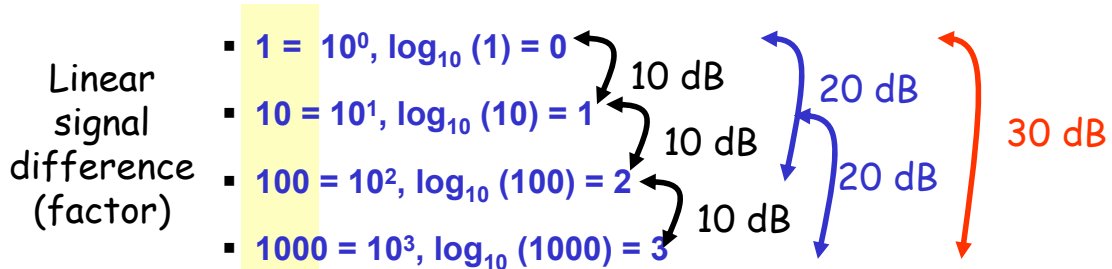
- **Decibel (dB): a power measurement unit designed to express power loss**
 - It is more practical to use given the logarithmic decay of wireless signals
 - It allows to make easy calculations on “resulting power”
- Decibel (dB) measures the logarithmic relative strength between two signals (mW are a linear absolute measure a energy)
 - $\text{Log}_{10}(X) = Y \iff 10^Y = X$



- How strong is a 10 dB signal? (it depends on the reference signal)

Power measurement

- **Decibel (dB): 1/10 of a Bel**
- E.g. 1000 is one Bel greater than 100 => 1000 is 10 dB greater than 100



- How strong is a 10 dB signal? (it depends on the reference signal)
 - Positive dB value is power gain, negative dB value is power loss
 - e.g. given 7 mW power, a +10 dB signal gain is 70 mW
 - e.g. given 7 mW power, a -10 dB signal gain (loss) is 0.7 mW
- Power Difference (in dB) between Tx and Rx signal:
 - Power Difference (dB) = $10 * \log(\text{Power Tx(Watt)} / \text{Power Rx (Watt)})$
- Gain and Loss are relative power measurements: dB is the unit

Power measurement

- **Advantage of dB: what is better?**
 - A signal transmitted at 100 mW is received at 0.000005 mW
 - A signal transmitted at 100 mW is received with gain (loss) -73 dB
- **Advantage of dB: what is better?**
 - A signal transmitted at 100 mW is received at 0.000005 mW, then it is amplified (*100) to 0.0005 mW
 - A signal transmitted at 100 mW is received with gain (loss) -73+20= -53 dB

-3 dB	½ power in mW (/ 2)
+3 dB	2x power in mW (* 2)
-10 dB	1/10 power in mW (/ 10)
+10 dB	10x power in mW (* 10)

Approximated table (values defined for ease of calculations)

Power measurement

- **Practical example:**
 - Signal Tx at 100 mW, cable -3dB loss, amplifier +10 dB gain
 - 100 mW / 2 (-3dB) = 50 mW * 10 (+10 dB) = 500 mW IR power output
 - Signal TX at 30 mW is received at the antenna as 6 mW
 - Intentional Radiator Gain (loss) = 30mW / 10 = 3mW * 2 = 6 mW
 - Intentional Radiator Gain (loss) = -10 dB + 3 dB = -7 dB
- **N.B. dBs are additive measures of gain (loss):** e.g. 6dB = +3+3 dB, 7dB = 10-3 dB
 - E.g. 100 mW -6 dB = 100 mW -3 -3 dB = 100 / 2 / 2 = 25 mW
 - E.g. 100 mW +7 dB = 100 mW +10 -3 dB = 100 *10 / 2 = 500 mW
 - E.g. 10 mW + 5 dB = 10 mW (+10+10-3-3-3-3)dB = 1000/32 = 31.25 mW
 - E.g. 10 mW + 11 dB = ?
 - E.g. 50 mW - 8 dB = ?

N.B. Approximated values (values defined for ease of calculations)

Power measurement

- **dBm: dB-milliWatt, the absolute measure of signal power**
 - Assumption: reference signal is 1 mW = 0 dBm(normalization factor)
 - Useful for gain/loss calculation without passing through mW
 - E.g. access point transmits 100 mW = 1mW (*10*10) =+20 dBm
 - PCMCIA card transmits at 30 mW = 1mW (*10*3) = +13 dBm
 - E.g. Tx= 30 mW, cable -2 dB, amplifier +9 dB:
 - 30 mW = 1mW *10 *3 = 13 dBm
 - IR power : 13 dBm -2dB +9dB = 20 dBm (100 mW)
 - In general, for converting mW to dBm and viceversa:
 - $P_{dBm} = 10 \log(P_{mW})$ and $P_{mW} = 10^{(P_{dBm} / 10)}$

Power measurement

- **mW - dBm: conversion table**

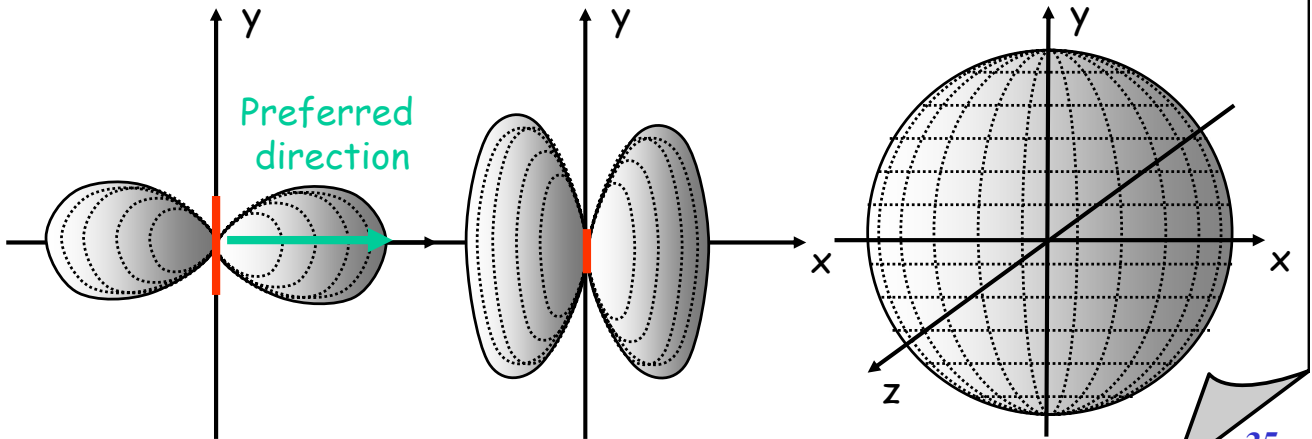
-40 dBm	-30 dBm	-20 dBm	-10 dBm	0 dBm	+10 dBm	+20 dBm	+30 dBm	+40 dBm
100 nW	1 µW	10 µW	100 µW	1 mW	10 mW	100 mW	1 W	10 W

-12 dBm	-9 dBm	-6 dBm	-3 dBm	0 dBm	+3 dBm	+6 dBm	+9 dBm	+12 dBm
62,5 µW	125 µW	250 µW	500 µW	1 mW	2 mW	4 mW	8 mW	16 mW

Power measurement

- **dBi: dB-isotropic, the normalized measure of antenna passive gain**
 - Real antennas always have a preferred direction where the power is greater than isotropic radiator: **gain is always positive in the preferred direction!**
 - **Example: 1 mW IR power applied to directional antenna with +10 dBi gain in the preferred direction, would translate in EIRP?**
 - **EIRP = 1mW + 10 dBi = (10x) = 10 mW EIRP**

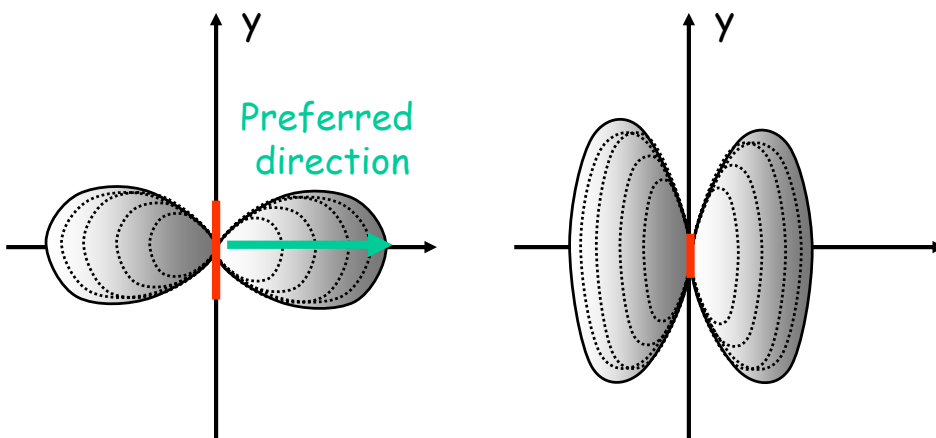
N.B. this does not mean that antenna generates more power!
Antenna concentrates power in preferred direction.



Power measurement

- **dBd: dB-dipole, the normalized antenna passive gain vs. 2.14 dBi half-wave dipole**
 - Reference is a half wave dipole with 2.14 dBi gain in **preferred direction!**
 - **Conversion rule:**
 - **0 dBd = 2.14 dBi, dBd = (dBi - 2.14), dBi = (dBd + 2.14)**

Reference dipole



Power monitoring (e.g. IEEE 802.11 devices)

- **(received) Power monitoring in IEEE 802.11 devices is needed for making device driver to work properly (typical sensitivity range is [-90..+10] dBm):**
 - Detect signal (below or above the sensitivity threshold?)
 - Detect signal power (selection of coding technique... That is bitrate!)
 - Detect channel status: idle? Ok, transmit! Busy? Ok, wait.
- **Received Signal Strength Indicator (RSSI)**
 - Index defined for IEEE 802.11 devices (check device analyzer, if any)
 - RSSI = function (dBm or mW received) = pure number reported to device driver!
 - Unfortunately the RSSI scale is not standard, that is, device dependent!
 - **This fact does not allow to compare if device A receives better than device B (assuming different manufacturer) based on RSSI measurement**
 - **Problem: device A indicates maximum RSSI=255 (8 bits) with -10 dBm signal (0.1 mW), and device B indicates maximum RSSI=32 (5 bits) with -15 dBm (0.03 mW). Q: when both A and B in (x,y,z) receive -15 dBm, which one is better device? That is, which one would you buy if you are a system admin?**

Antennas

- **Illustration of general issues**
 - **Convert electrical energy in RF waves (transmission), and RF waves in electrical energy (reception)**
 - **Size of antenna is related to RF frequency of transmission and reception**
 - **Shape (structure) of the antenna is related to RF radiation pattern**
- **Radiation patterns of different antenna types**
- **Positioning antennas**
 - **Maximum coverage of workspace**
 - **Security issues**
- **Real antenna types: omni-directional, semi-directional, highly-directional**

Omnidirectional antenna

- **Omni-directional antenna: radiates RF power equally in all directions around the vertical axis.**
- **Most common example: dipole antenna (see Access Points)**
 - See how to make it (**disclaimer: do not try this at home**):
<http://www.nodomainname.co.uk/Omnicolinear/2-4collinear.htm>
<http://www.tux.org/~bball/antenna/>
 - Info & fun: <http://www.wlan.org.uk/antenna-page.html>
 - More info: <http://www.hdtvprimer.com/ANTENNAS/types.html>

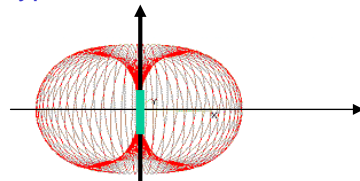


TV dipole

Q: Why TV dipole is bigger?
 A: 100 Mhz vs. 2.4 Ghz



AP dipole

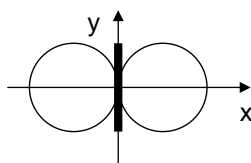


Omnidirectional antennas: simple dipoles

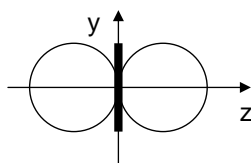
- **Real antennas are not isotropic radiators but, e.g., dipoles**
→ shape of antenna proportional to wavelength



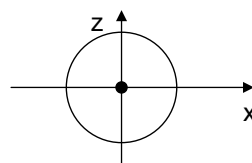
- **Example: Radiation pattern of a simple Hertzian dipole**



side view (xy-plane)



side view (yz-plane)



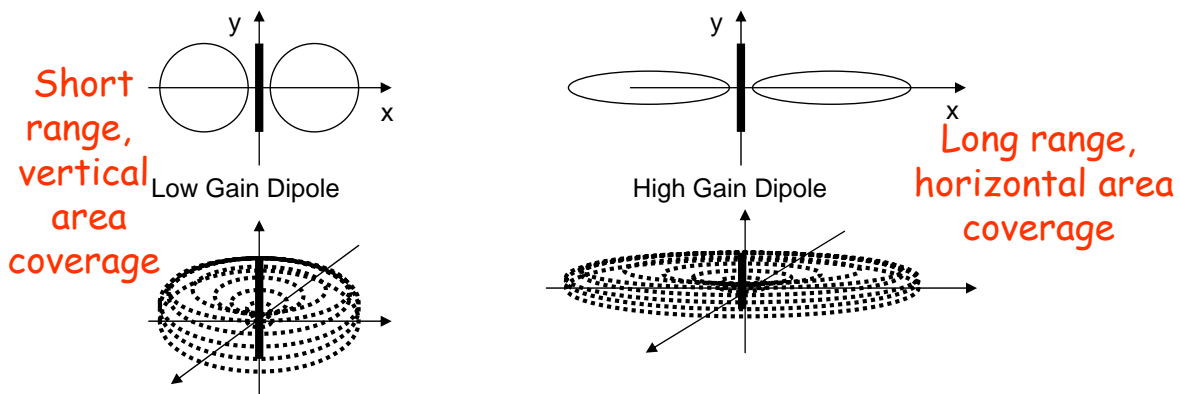
top view (xz-plane)

simple dipole

- **Gain: maximum power in the direction of the main lobe compared to the power of an isotropic radiator (with the same average power)**

Omnidirectional antennas: simple dipoles

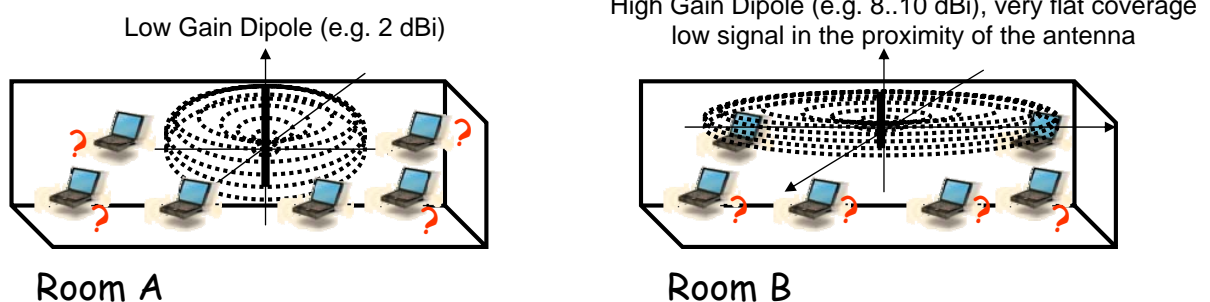
- **Dipole: passive gain is due to concentration (shape) of radiation**



- **Dipole: active gain is obtained with power amplifiers (needs external source of energy)**
- **N.B. near (below) the dipole the signal is weak! And better radiation is obtained in sub-areas around the dipole!**

Omnidirectional antennas: simple dipoles

- **Problem: how and when to mount omnidirectional antennas? And which gain is ok?**



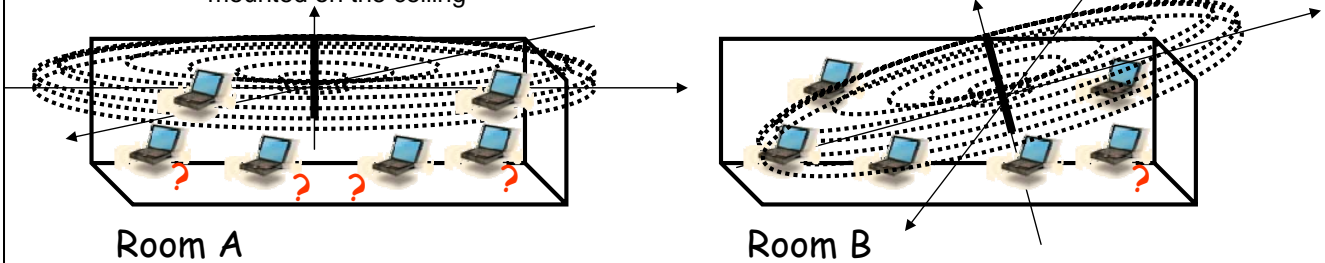
- **How: Ceiling? Wall? Client positions? Area? Many factors influence the planning...**
- **When:**
 - **need for uniform radio coverage around a central point**
 - **Outdoor: point-to-multipoint connection (star topology)**

Omnidirectional antennas: simple dipoles

- **Antenna Tilt:** degree of inclination of antenna with respect to perpendicular axis

High Gain Dipole (e.g. 8..10 dBi), very flat coverage mounted on the ceiling

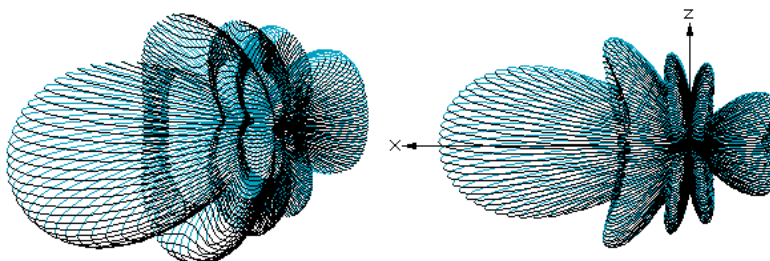
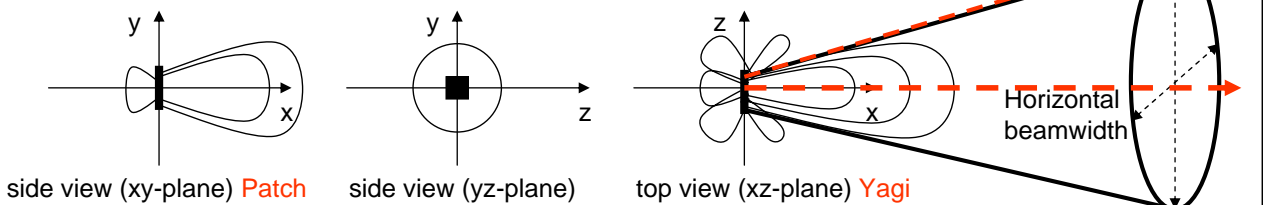
High Gain Dipole (e.g. 8..10 dBi), very flat coverage mounted on the ceiling with downtilt



- Some antennas allow a variable degrees **downtilt**.
- Half signal dispersed “in the sky”, 2nd half better exploited.

Semi-directional antennas

- **Patch** (flat antennas mounted on walls)
- **Panel** (flat antennas mounted on walls)
- **Yagi** (rod with tines sticking out)

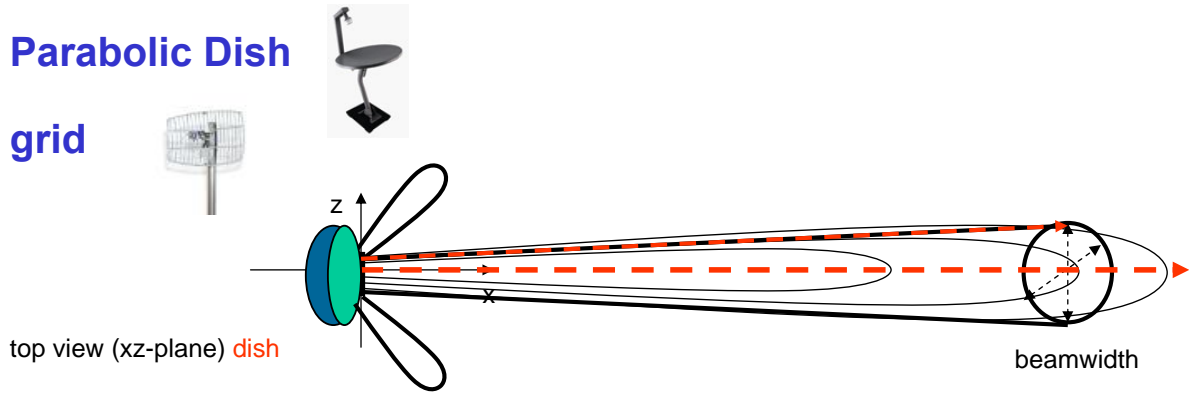


Semi-directional antenna

Beamwidth cone:
-3dB signal boundary off-axis

highly-directional antennas

- **Parabolic Dish**
- **grid**



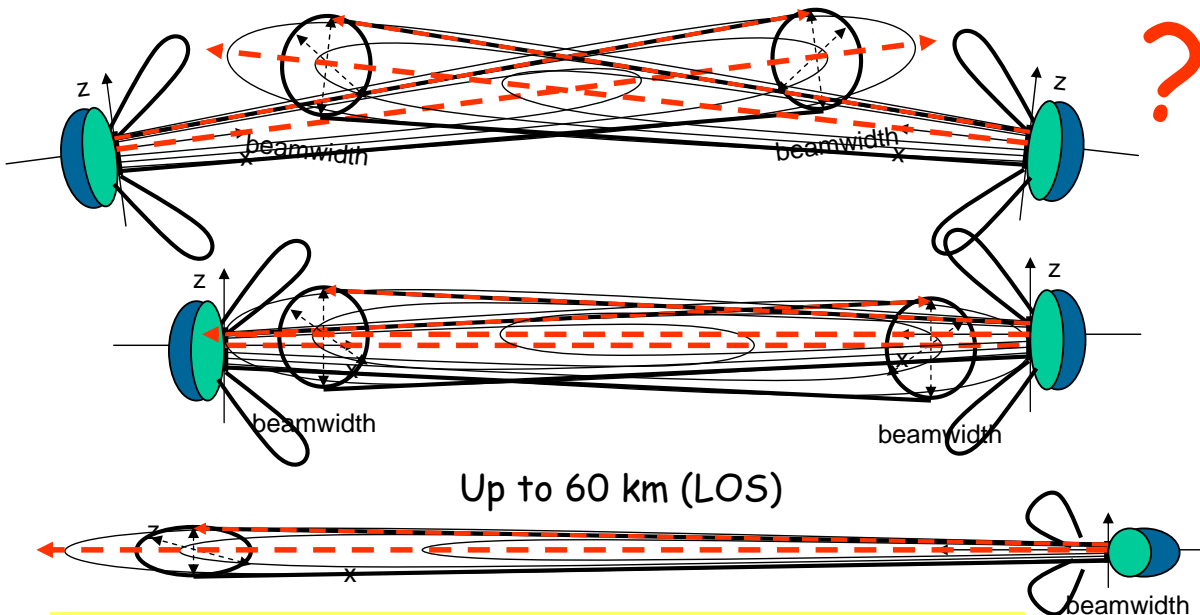
Antenna type	H beamwidth	V beamwidth
Omni-dir.	360°	7°.. 80°
Patch/panel	30° .. 180°	6° .. 90°
Yagi	30° .. 78°	14° .. 64°
Parabolic dish	4° .. 25°	4° .. 21°

Semi-directional antenna

Beamwidth cone:
-3dB signal boundary off-axis

highly-directional antennas

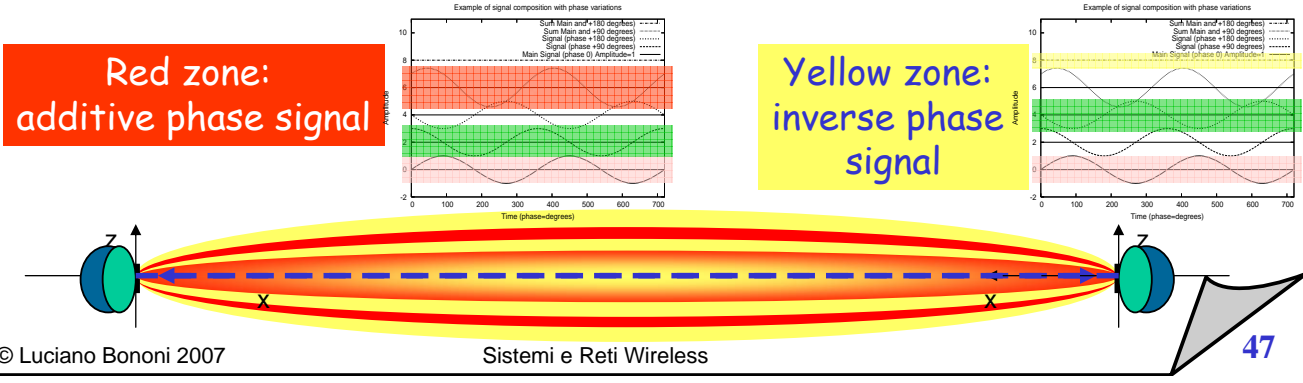
- **Common use: Point-to-point link** Out of beam alignment



Wind effect: better to have lower gain and wider beam

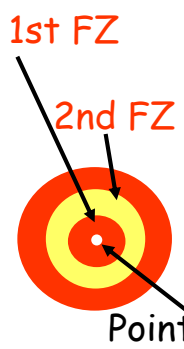
highly-directional antennas

- **Line of sight (LOS):**
 - Straight line between transmitter and receiver
 - No obstructions (outdoor long range reduces reflections)
 - Polarization is more important than in indoor scenarios
- **Fresnel Zone: RF is not laser light, RF signals diffuse energy in space**
 - Ellipse shaped area centered on the LOS axis
 - Most additive RF signal is concentrated in the Fresnel Zone
 - It is important that Fresnel Zone is free from obstacles



highly-directional antennas

- **Fresnel Zone (FZ)**
 - Blockage of Fresnel Zone causes link disruption
 - Caused by buildings, (growing) trees, foliage, etc.
 - Rule of thumb: < 20% obstruction of Fresnel Zone
 - Practical rule: calculate the radius of FZ leaving 60% unobstructed radius

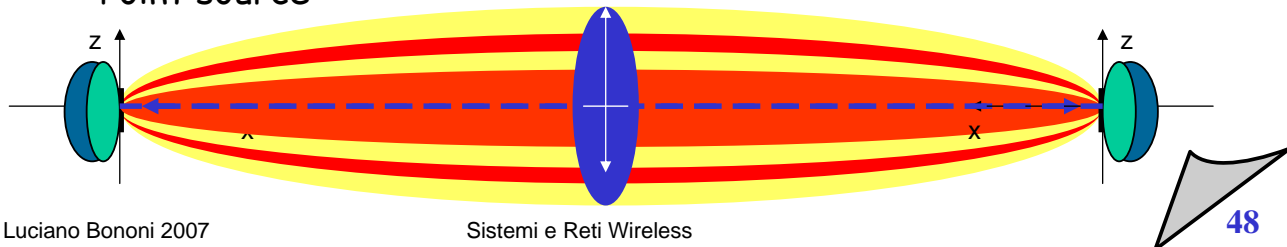


$$R_{60\%} = 43.3 \times \sqrt{(d/4f)}$$

R=radius of 60% central FZ (feet)
d=distance(Miles), f=freq (GhZ)

$$R_{100\%} = 72.2 \times \sqrt{(d/4f)}$$

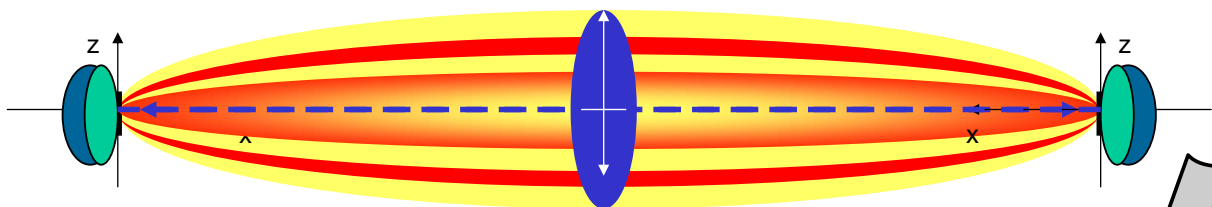
R=radius of 100% FZ (feet)
d=distance(Miles), f=freq (GhZ)



highly-directional antennas

▪ Fresnel Zone (FZ)

- N.B. the FZ radius depends only on the distance d between antennas, and frequency f of RF signal!
- Type of antenna, beam width (degree), and gain (dBi) have no effects!
 - E.g. +13 dBi Yagi (30 degree beam) vs. +24 dBi Dish (5 degrees) have the same FZ!!!!
- In practice: if FZ is partially obstructed, it is not useful to use higher gain antennas (with small degree beam) !!!



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Sistemi e Reti Wireless

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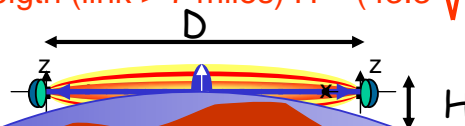
highly-directional antennas

▪ Fresnel Zone (FZ)

- Is not relevant in indoor scenarios (due to reflections...)

▪ Consider the Earth bulge!!!

- Very long point-to-point connections may have more than 40% FZ obstructed by Earth surface! Earth Bulge height = h (feet) = $D^2/8$
- Minimum antenna height (link > 7 miles) $H = (43.3 \sqrt{D/4F}) + D^2/8$

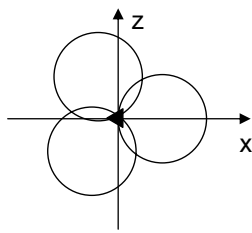


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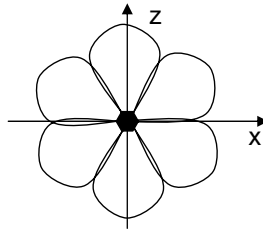
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Sectorized-directional antennas

Arrays of sectorized directional antennas



top view, 3 sector



top view, 6 sector



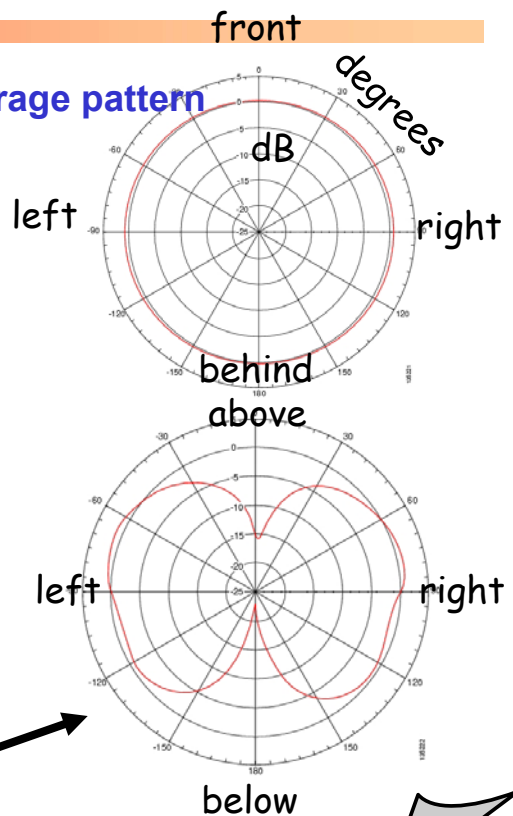
sectorized antenna

Space multiplexing (channel reuse)

Azimuth and Elevation antenna charts

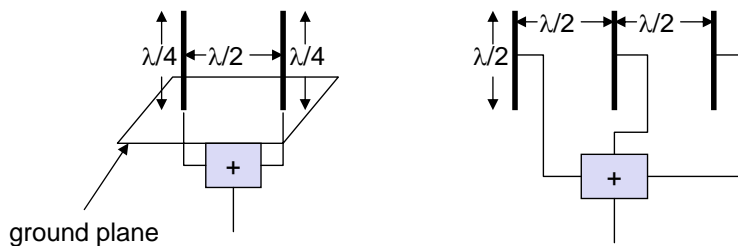
Charts for understanding antenna coverage pattern

- Azimuth chart** (pattern seen from front/right/behind/left)
 - Obtained with spectrum analyzer with central antenna frequency
 - Signal measured in dB around the antenna
 - E.g. Dipole pattern: almost circular
 - E.g. yagi pattern: high in front, low beside
- N.B. distance and Tx power is not relevant (signal strength in a location is relative to every other location in the chart, like with dB)
- Elevation chart** (pattern seen front/below/behind/above)



Antennas: diversity

- **Grouping of 2 or more antennas**
 - multi-element antenna arrays
- **Antenna diversity**
 - switched diversity, selection diversity
 - receiver chooses antenna with largest output
 - diversity combining
 - combine output power to produce gain
 - cophasing needed to avoid cancellation (phased antenna array... Requires processor)



Path Loss

- **Path Loss: RF signal “dispersion” (attenuation) as a function of distance**
 - E.g. Possible formulas (36.6 or 32.4)
 - Free space: Loss (in dB) = $36.6 + (20 \cdot \log_{10}(F)) + (20 \cdot \log_{10}(D))$
 - F (Mhz), D (miles)
- **Link budget issue: 6 dB rule**
 - Each 6 dB increase in EIRP (signal x 4) implies double Tx range (e.g. see table below: 2.4Ghz Path Loss vs distance)

100 meters	- 80.23 dB	↙ -6 dB
200 meters	- 86.25 dB	
500 meters	- 94.21 dB	↙ -6 dB
1000 meters	- 100.23 dB	
2000 meters	- 106.25 dB	↙ -6 dB
5000 meters	- 114.21 dB	
10000 meters	- 120.23 dB	↙ -6 dB

Link Budget Calculation

- **“Link Budget” or “System Operating Margin”**
 - Excess of signal between transmitter and receiver
 - Calculated for outdoor point-to-point connections
 - Measured in dB (relative) or dBm or mW (absolute)
 - Calculation:
 - Receiver sensitivity RS (weakest detectable signal)
 - The lower the better: e.g. IEEE 802.11 card (see device manual), -95 dBm (1Mbps), -93 dBm (2 Mbps), -90 dBm (5.5 Mbps), -87 dBm (11 Mbps)
 - Link Budget: received power (in dBm) - RS (in dBm)
 - E.g. RS = -82 dBm, received power = -50 dBm
 - Link budget = $-50 - (-82) = +32$ dBm
 - This means the signal has margin of +32 dB before it becomes unviable
- **Fade margin: extra margin for link budget (to cope with multipath variation in indoor/outdoor scenarios): typical [+10..+20] dB**

Link Budget Calculation: example

- **Example: design of transmission system, needs amplifier?**

