

**This lecture is being recorded**

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**18-452/18-750**

**Wireless Networks and Applications**

**Lecture 21: Sensor Networks**

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**CS and ECE, Carnegie Mellon University**

**Spring Semester 2022**

**<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~prs/wirelessS22/>**

# Announcements

Rough deadlines for various assignments					
Exact deadlines are in the handouts for each assignment					
Week	Project 1	Project 2	Midterm	Surveys	Homeworks
Jan 17					
Jan 24	Out Fr				
Jan 31					HW 1 out Th
Feb 7					HW 1 due Fr
Feb 14		Team/Topic, Mo			HW2 out Wed
Feb 21	Due Mon				HW2 due Th
Feb 28		Proposal, Mo	Wed, Mar 2	Topics/Team, Mo	
Mar 7	Midterm week				
Mar 14					HW 3 out Fr
Mar 21					
Mar 28		Checkpoint, Wed			
Apr 4				Drafts due	HW4 out Fr
Apr 11		Checkpoint, Fr			
Apr 18				Mo and Wed	
Apr 25		Presentation, Mo Final Report Fr			HW4 due Wed

# Some Thoughts about Surveys

- **Many students use the google templates, which as generally a disaster (24pt)**
  - » **No slide numbers**
  - » **Tiny font sizes (12pt) – I want to be bigger! (18pt)**
  - » **50%-80% of the slide is empty**
  - » **Use the space wisely!**
- **Outline generally looks like:**
  - » **Background: why useful, challenges, design options, etc.**
  - » **Discussion on the three papers:**
    - **What is the key idea – this should be clear (figures!)**
    - **Some sample results illustrating benefits**
    - **Do not use terminology specific to the paper!**
  - » **Personal opinion on pros or cons (global or per paper)**

# Outline

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- **Example applications**
- **Early sensor networks**
  - » Power management
  - » Routing
  - » Efficient data collection
- **Today's sensor networks**

**Based on slides by Prof JP Hubaux (EPFL), Lama Nachman (Intel), Revathy Narayanan (CMU)**

# Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN)

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- **Wireless sensors have limited compute, energy, memory, and bandwidth resources, but:**
- **Sensing capabilities → Can observe properties the physical world**
- **CPU and actuators → Can control some aspects of the physical world**
- **Small physical size → Can be embedded throughout the physical environment**
- **Basis for “Cyber physical” systems, “Internet of Things”**

# Architecture for Wireless Sensor Networks

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- **There is no such thing!**
- **Early systems: highly specialized, relatively small-scale deployments**
  - » Home security systems, HVAC systems, security, ...
- **Later systems: focus on scaling, conserve battery, collaboration between sensors**
  - » A lot of research on multi-hop ad hoc networks that reduce energy consumption
- **Today: trend towards more general, highly scalable, very low energy systems**
  - » Must be easy to deploy and maintain

# WSN Applications

- **Commercial Applications**
  - » Light/temperature control
  - » Precision agriculture (optimize watering schedule)
  - » Asset management (tracking freight movement/storage)
- **Monitoring tools supporting Scientific Research**
  - » Wild life Habitat monitoring projects Great Duck Island (UCB), James Reserve (UCLA), ZebraNet (Princeton).
  - » Building/Infrastructure structure (Earthquake impact)
- **Military Applications**
  - » Shooter Localization
  - » Perimeter Defense (Oil pipeline protection)
  - » Insurgent Activity Monitoring (MicroRadar)

# Cold Chain Management

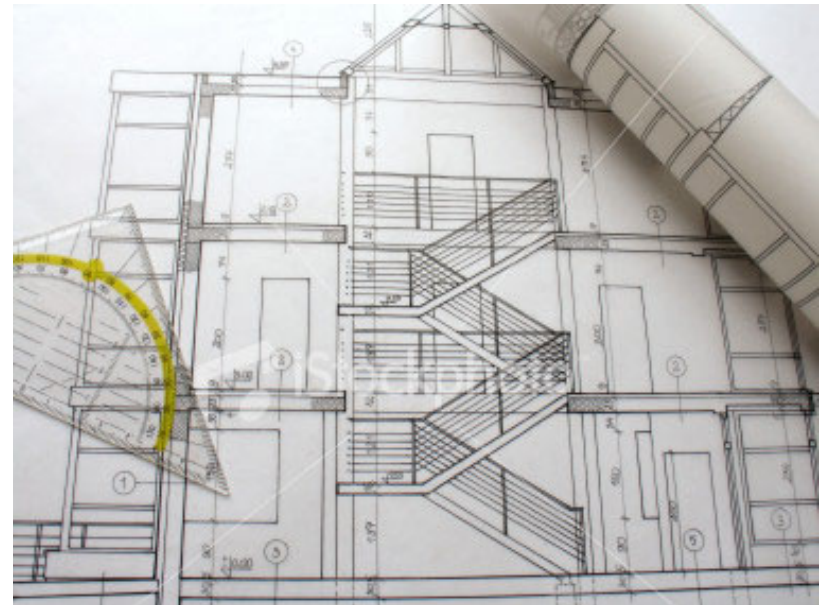
- **Supermarket chains need to track the storage temperature of perishable goods in their warehouses and stores.**
- **Tens if not hundreds of fridges should be monitored in real-time**
- **Whenever the temperature of a monitored item goes above a threshold**
  - » **An alarm is raised and an attendant is warned (pager, sms)**
  - » **The refrigeration system is turned on**
- **History of data is kept in the system for legal purpose**
- **Similar concept can be applied to pressure and temperature monitoring in**
  - » **Production chains, containers, pipelines**





# Home automation

- **Temperature management**
  - » Monitor heating and cooling of a building in an integrated way
  - » Temperature in different rooms is monitored centrally
  - » A power consumption profile is to be drawn in order to save energy in the future
- **Lighting management:**
  - » Detect human presence in a room to automatically switch lights on and off
  - » Responds to manual activation/deactivation of switches
  - » Tracks movement to anticipate the activation of light-switches on the path of a person
- **Similar concept can be applied to**
  - » Security cameras, controlling access, ...



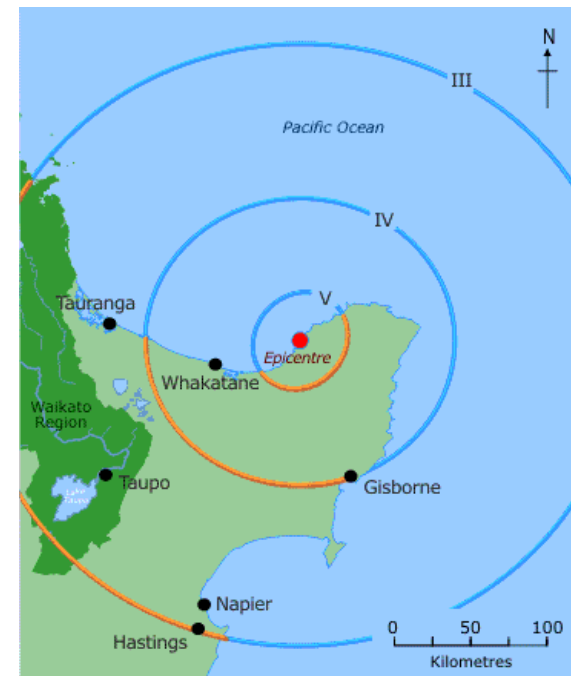
# Precision Agriculture Management

- **Farming decisions depend on environmental data (typically photosynthesis):**
  - Solar radiation
  - Temperature
  - Humidity
  - Soil moisture
- **Data evolve continuously over time and space**
- **A farmer's means of action to influence crop yield :**
  - Irrigation
  - Fertilization
  - Pest treatment
- **To be optimal, these actions should be highly localized (homogenous parcels can be as small as one hectare or less)**
- **Environmental impact is also to be taken into account**
  - Salinization of soils, groundwater depletion, well contamination, etc.



# Earthquake detection

- The occurrence of an earthquake can be detected automatically by accelerometers
- Earthquake speed: around 5-10km/s
- If the epicenter of an earthquake is in an unpopulated area 200km from a city center, instantaneous detection can give a warning up to 30 sec before the shockwave hits the city
- If a proper municipal actuation network is in place:
  - » Sirens go off
  - » Traffic lights go to red
  - » Elevators open at the nearest floor
  - » Pipeline valves are shut
- Even a warning of a few seconds, can reduce the effects of the earthquake
- Similar concept can be applied to
  - » Forest fire, landslides, etc.



# Economic Forecast

- **Industrial Monitoring (35% – 45%)**
  - Monitor and control production chain
  - Storage management
  - Monitor and control distribution
- **Building Monitoring and Control (20 – 30%)**
  - Alarms (fire, intrusion etc.)
  - Access control
- **Home Automation (15 – 25%)**
  - Energy management (light, heating, AC etc.)
  - Remote control of appliances
- **Automated Meter Reading (10-20%)**
  - Water meter, electricity meter, etc.
- **Environmental Monitoring (5%)**
  - Agriculture
  - Wildlife monitoring
- **Other areas:**
  - Performance monitoring in sports
  - Patient monitoring in health/medicine
  - Wireless sensor in vehicular networks

**Recent forecast: 7 Billion \$ by 2026**

# Outline

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- **Example applications**
- **Early sensor networks**
  - » Power management
  - » Routing
  - » Efficient data collection
- **Today's sensor networks**

**Based on slides by Prof JP Hubaux (EPFL), Lama Nachman (Intel), Revathy Narayanan (CMU)**

# WSN Characteristics and Design Issues

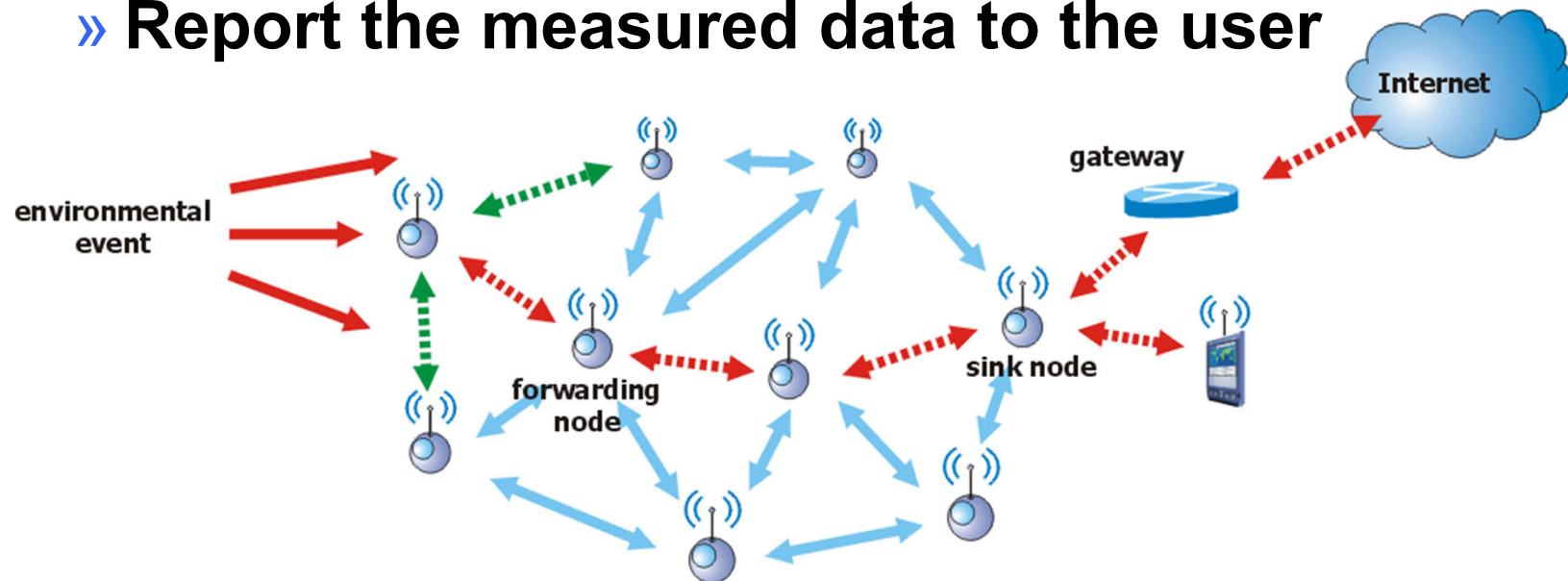
- **Characteristics**
  - » Distributed data collection
  - » Many-to-one (rarely peer-to-peer)
  - » Limited mobility
  - » Data collection (time and space resolution)
  - » Event detection
- **Design issues**
  - » Low-cost (hardware and communication)
  - » Extended life-time – long battery life
  - » Reliable communication
  - » Efficient integrated data processing
  - » Hybrid network infrastructure
  - » Security

**Wireless helps  
but may not  
be required!**

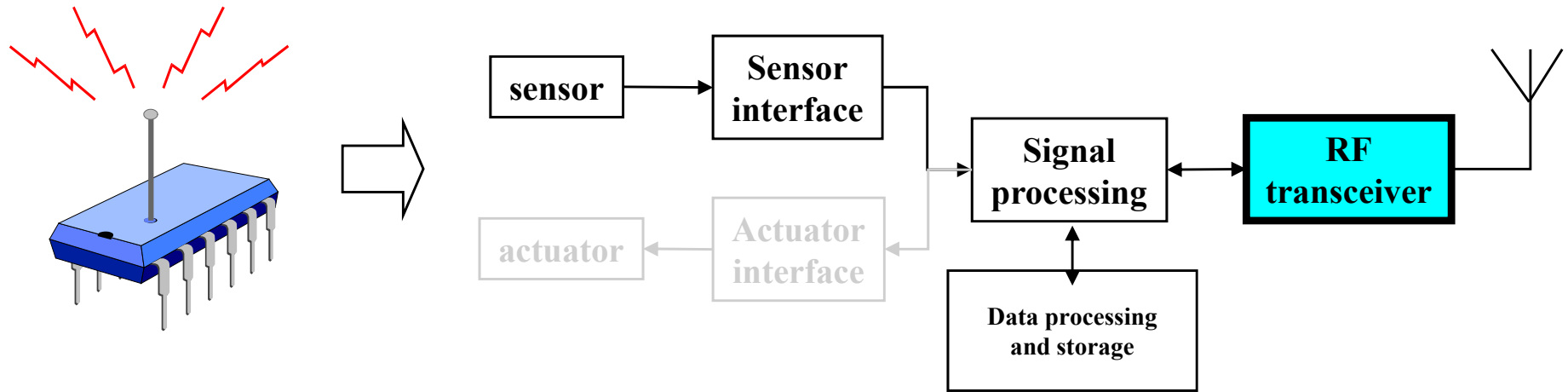


# Second Generation Wireless Sensor Network

- **Numerous sensor devices**
  - » Modest wireless communication, processing, memory capabilities
  - » Form Ad Hoc Network (self-organized)
    - Uses short-range wireless technologies
  - » Report the measured data to the user



# Sensor Node architecture



- **A sensor node can be an *information source*, a *sink* and a *router***
- **Autonomous  $\Rightarrow$  *low-power***
- **Combine *sensing*, *signal conditioning*, *signal processing*, *control* and *communication capabilities***



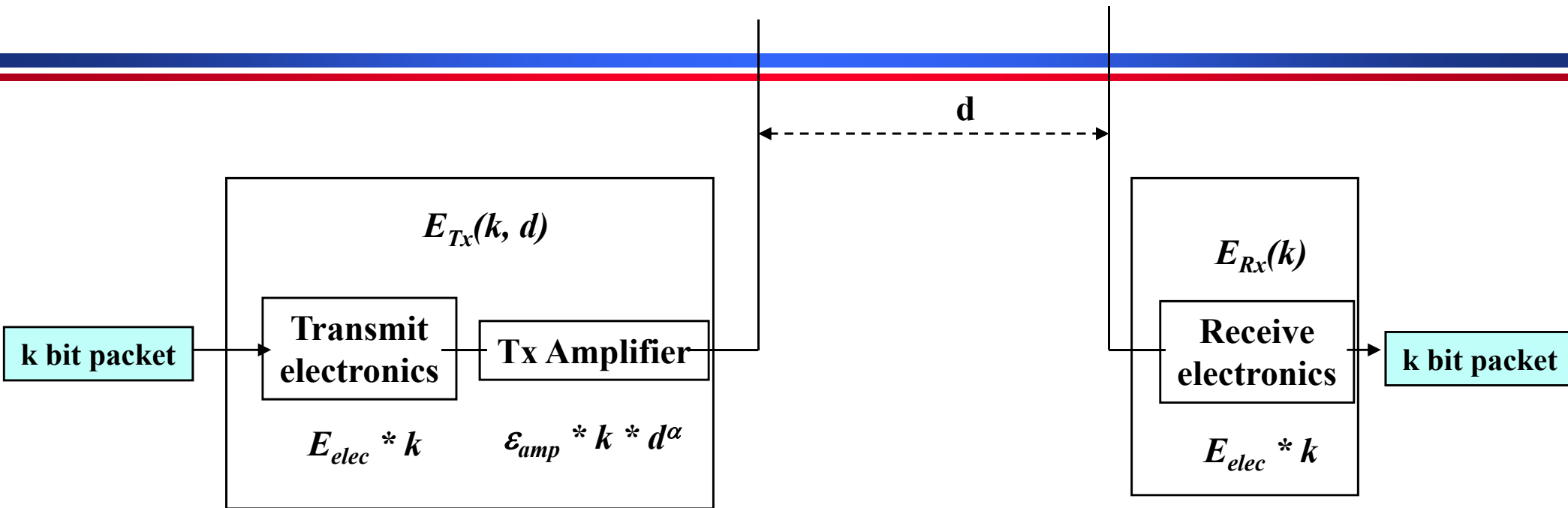
# Design Issue: Low-cost

- **Hardware**
  - » **Low-cost radio**
  - » **Low cost internal clock**
  - » **Limited storage and processing capabilities**
  - » **Not tamper-proof**
  - » **May have to withstand tough environmental conditions**
- **Communication**
  - » **Cannot rely on existing pay-per-use cellular infrastructure**
  - » **Use unlicensed spectrum to reach a “gateway” that has internet connectivity**
    - **Wired, WiFi, drive-by, cellular, ...**

# Network Design Focus: Power Management

- **Traditional metrics for network optimization: bandwidth, latency, economics (\$\$), ...**
- **Wireless sensor networks: power efficiency**
  - » Energy-efficient routing
  - » Load balancing to distribute power consumption
  - » In network aggregation to reduce traffic load
  - » Minimize up-time of sensors
- **Requires new network technologies**
  - » Different routing algorithms
  - » New MAC protocols

# Simple Model for Energy Consumption



$$E_{Tx}(k, d) = E_{elec} * k + \epsilon_{amp} * k * d^\alpha$$

$$E_{Rx}(k) = E_{elec} * k$$

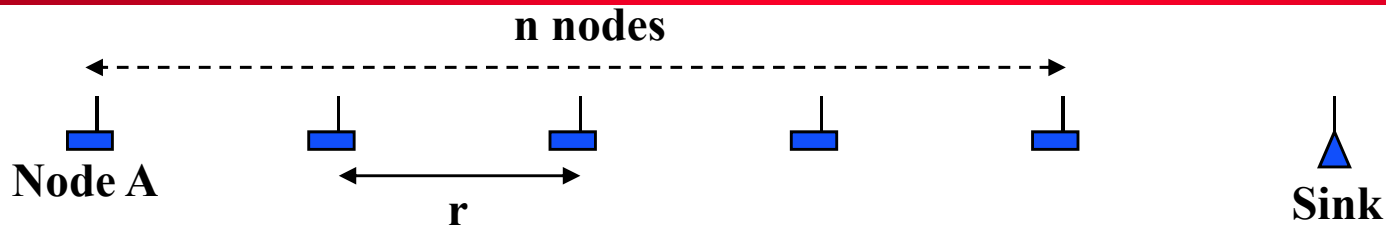
**Typical values:**

$$\alpha = 2 \dots 6$$

$$E_{elec} = 50 \text{ nJ/bit}$$

$$\epsilon_{amp} = 100 \text{ pJ/bit/m}^\alpha$$

# Energy-efficient Routing : Example



Transmitting a single  $k$ -bit message from node A (located at distance  $nr$  from Sink) to Sink:

**Direct transmission:**  $E_{direct} = E_{Tx}(k, d = n*r) = E_{elec} * k + \epsilon_{amp} * k * (nr)^\alpha = k(E_{elec} + \epsilon_{amp} n^\alpha r^\alpha)$

**Multi-Hop Transmission:**  $E_{multi-hop} = n * E_{Tx}(k, d = r) + (n-1) * E_{Rx}(k)$

$$= n(E_{elec} * k + \epsilon_{amp} * k * r^\alpha) + (n-1) * E_{elec} * k = k((2n-1)E_{elec} + \epsilon_{amp} nr^\alpha)$$

MultiHop routing requires *less* energy than direct communication if:

$$\frac{E_{elec}}{\epsilon_{amp}} < \frac{r^\alpha (n^{\alpha-1} - 1)}{2}$$

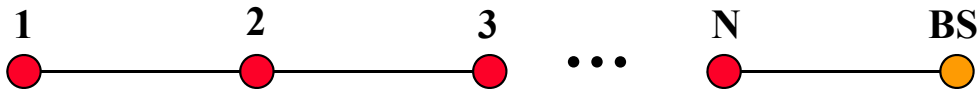
Assuming  $\alpha = 3, r = 10m$ , we get  $E_{multi-hop} < E_{direct}$  as soon as  $n \geq 2$

# Load-balancing

- **Assumption: in a multi-hop many-to-one sensor network, data collection follows a spanning tree.**
  - » All data is collected on a single node
- **Per-node power consumption for data transmission and reception grows exponentially from the leaves to the root of the tree**
  - » Number of transmits and receives is the size of the subtree
- **Consequence: the power sources of the nodes close to the sink deplete faster.**
  - » They limit the network lifetime

# Load-balancing

## Line topology



$P_{tx}$  : Average transmission power consumption

$P_{rx}$  : Average reception power consumption

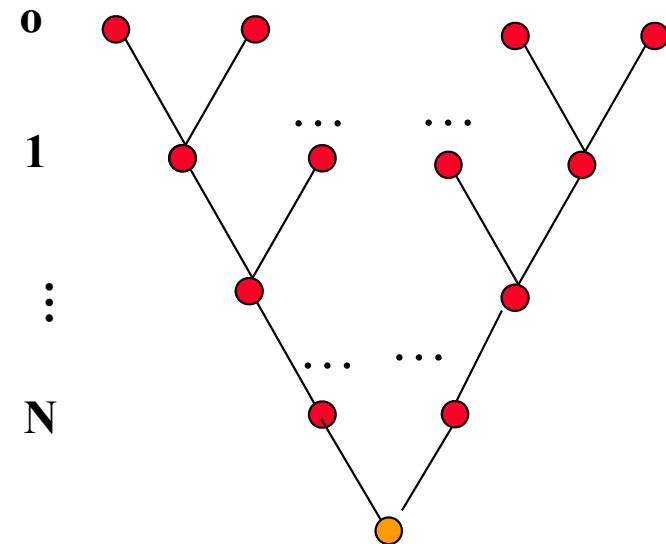
$P_{pr}$  : Average processing power consumption

$P_T(k)$  : Total power consumption of node k

$$P = P_{pr} + P_{tx} + (k - 1)(P_{tx} + P_{rx})$$

$P$  grows linearly with the distance from the leaf node

## Tree topology



$d$  : distance from leaf

$F$  : number of messages forwarded

$P$  : Power consumption

Assumptions:

1) all nodes have either 0 or  $n_k > 2$  children

2) all leaves are at the same distance from the sink

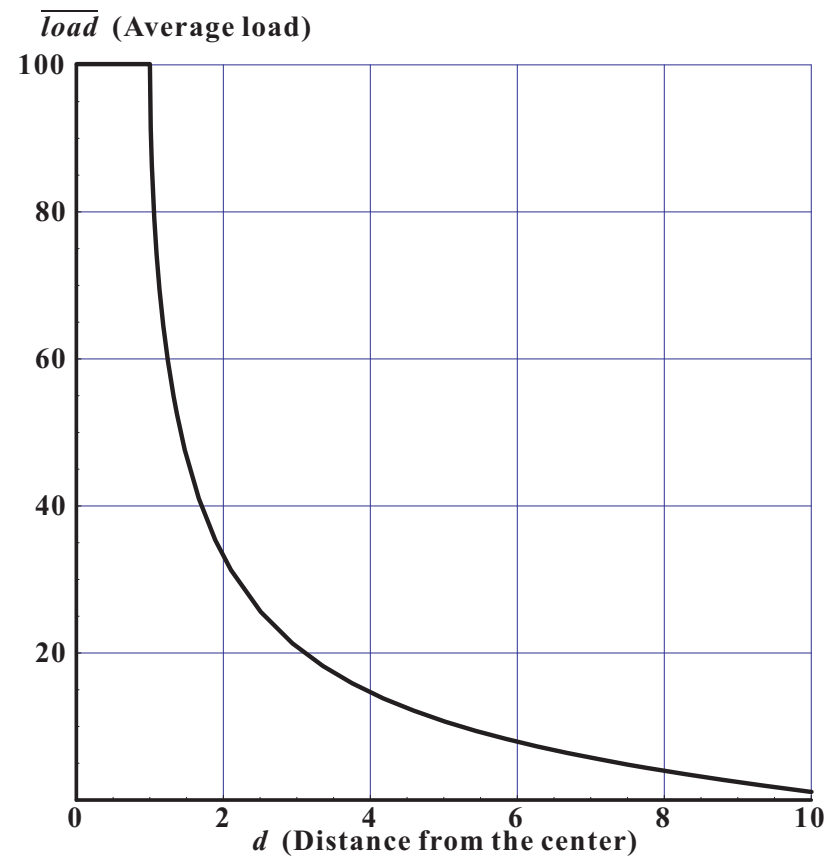
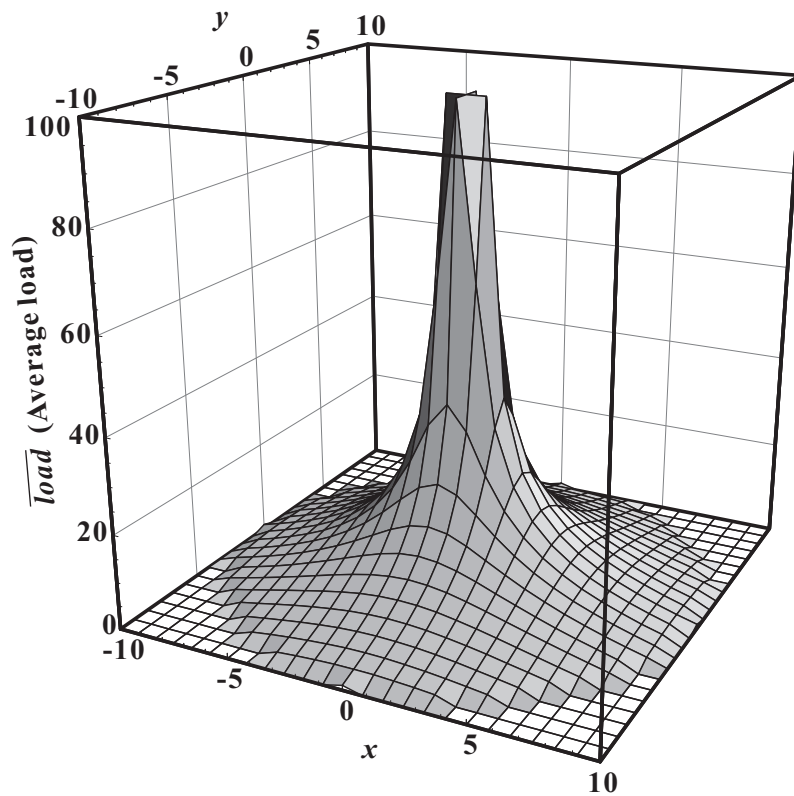
$$F(d) \geq 2^d$$

$$P(d) \geq P_{tx} + 2^d (P_{tx} + P_{rx})$$

$P$  grows exponentially with distance from leaf node

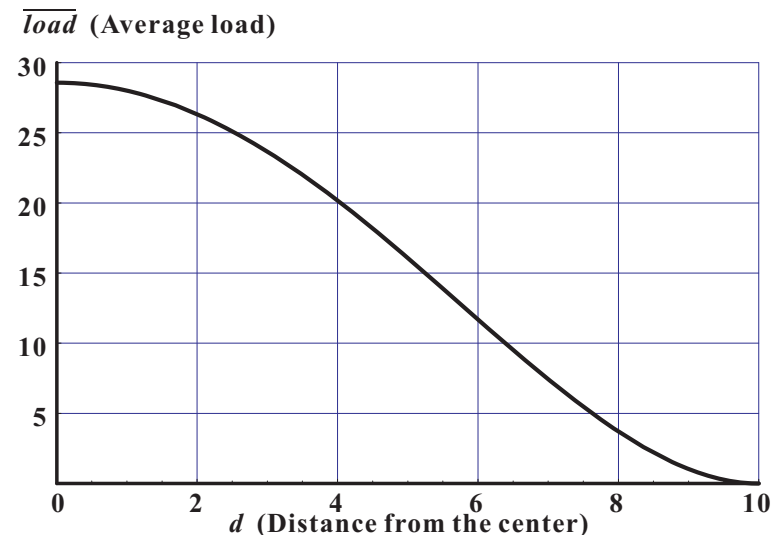
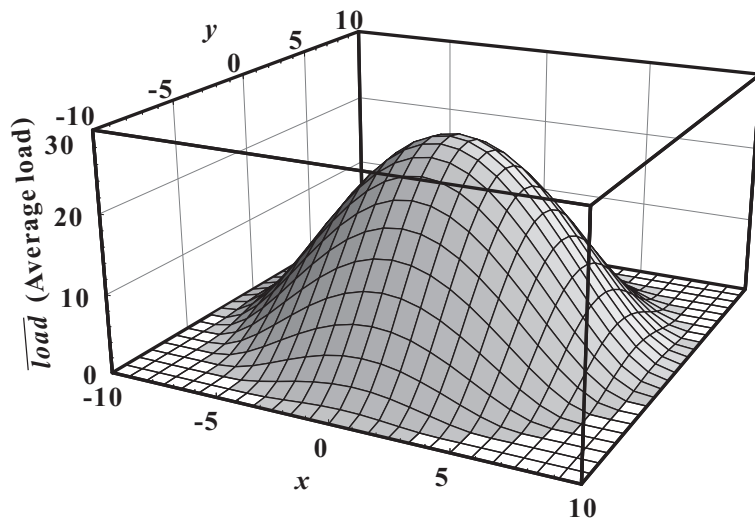
# Load balancing

- Power consumption increases at least linearly when nodes are closer to the sink
- Typical case is much worse



# Use Mobility for Load-balancing

- Move the base station to distribute the role of “hot spots” (i.e., nodes around the base station) over time
- The data collection continues through multi-hop routing wherever the base station is, so the solution does not sacrifice latency





# In-network Data Aggregation

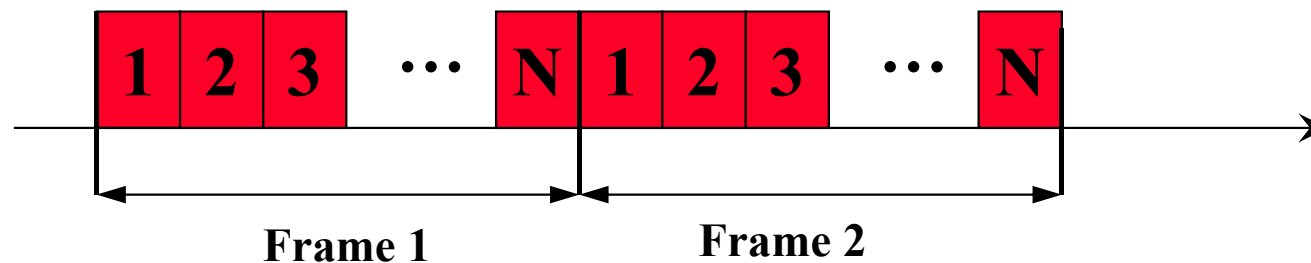
- To mitigate cost of forwarding, compute relevant statistics along the way: *mean*, *max*, *min*, *median* etc.
- Forwarding nodes aggregate the data they receive with their own and send one message instead of relaying an exponentially growing number of messages
- Issues
  - » Location-based information (which nodes sent what) is lost
  - » Distributed computation of statistics
    - *mean*: node needs to know both the mean values and the sizes of samples to aggregate correctly
    - *median*: only an approximated computation is possible
- Especially useful in a query-based data collection system
  - » Queries regard a known subset of nodes
  - » Aggregation function can be specified

# Medium-Access Control

- **MAC attributes:**
  - » Collision avoidance
  - » Energy efficiency
  - » Scalability and adaptivity
- **The goal is that nodes are asleep most of the time**
  - » Energy consumption in receive state or in radio-on idle state are comparable
  - » Idle state (idle listening) is a dominant factor in power consumption
- **Nodes transmit very intermittently**
- **When a node transmit, we must ensure that the receiver is awake**
- **How can we achieve this in an energy efficient way?**

# Synchronous MACs

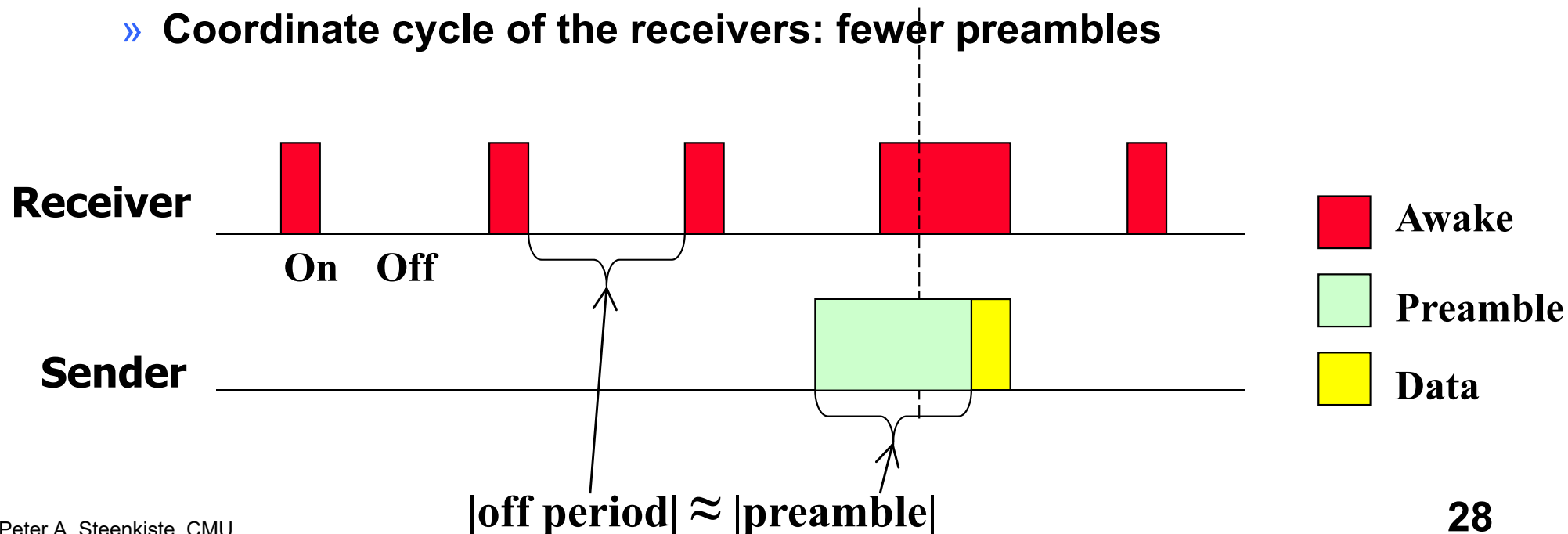
- **TDMA: each node pair has a time slot**



- **Shortcomings**
  - » Necessity to organize nodes in clusters and cluster hierarchies
  - » Gets complicated in larger networks with multiple collision domains
- **Possible solution: each node maintains two schedules**
  - » Its parent schedule
  - » The schedule it sets for its children
  - » Beacons are used to compensate for clock drifts

# Example Asynchronous MAC: B-MAC

- Receiver wakes up periodically
- Before each transmission, the Sender sends a long preamble
  - » Equal to the period of the receiver
- It then sends the packet – Receiver is awake
- Refinements:
  - » Sender and receiver synchronize clocks: shorter preamble
  - » Coordinate cycle of the receivers: fewer preambles



# Delay Tolerant Network with Data Mules

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- **Clusters are not directly connected by a network to the server**
- **Cluster heads store data from the cluster nodes**
- **“Data mules” collect the data periodically**
  - » Cars, robots, plane, etc.
- **When a cluster-head detects a mule, it uploads to it the data it had in store**

# Outline

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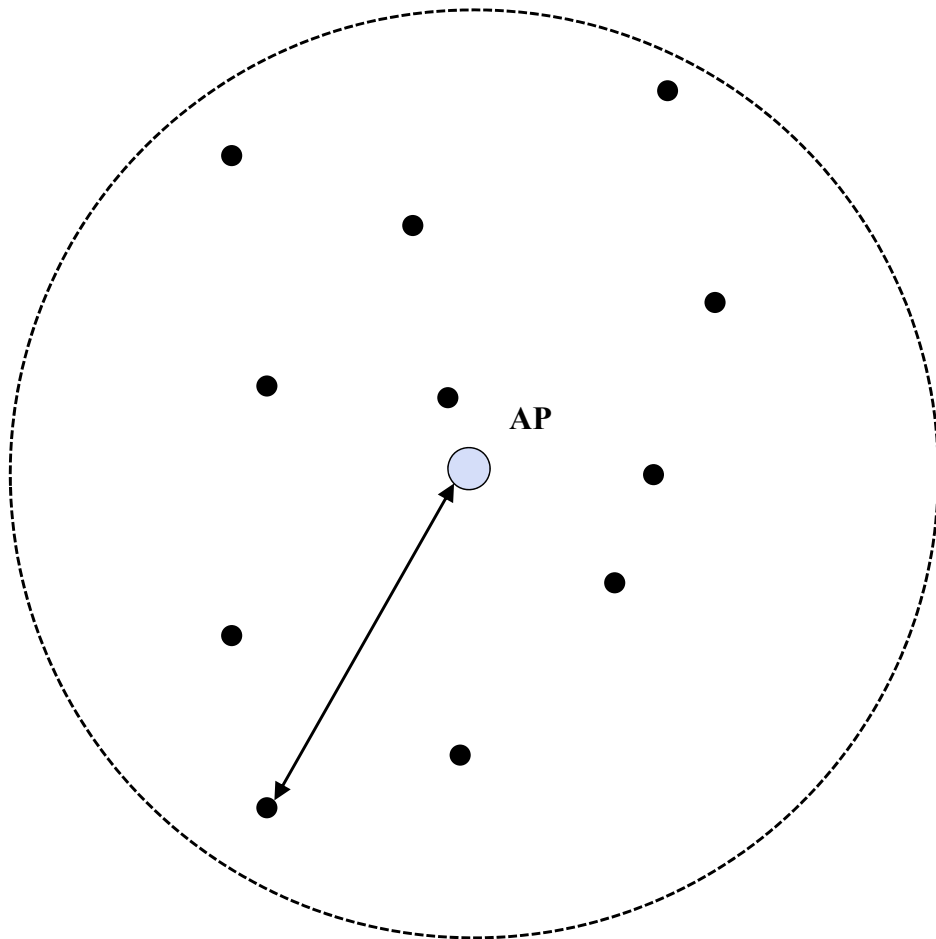
- **Example applications**
- **Early sensor networks**
  - » Power management
  - » Routing
  - » Efficient data collection
- **Today's sensor networks**

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# Today's Sensor Networks

- **Push toward diverse set of low-power wireless technologies**
  - » Differ in MAC, licensed/unlicensed, range, power, target bit rates, ...
- **New types of MAC technologies**
  - » IEEE WiFi and PAN technologies: both WiFi and PAN
    - Zigbee, Bluetooth Low Energy, 802.11ah
  - » Cellular: LTE-M, NB-IoT
  - » Industry-driven technologies using diverse PHY and MAC protocols
    - LoRa, Sigfox, Z-Wave, ...
    - Often use spread spectrum
    - Protocols are often very simple, e.g., Aloha

# Impact of Low Power Communications



- **Goals:**
  - » WiFi: high throughput
  - » IoT: minimize power and maximize range
- **How do we avoid collisions?**
  - » WiFi: Carrier sense
  - » IoT: How well will that work?
  - » Hidden terminals, more complex radios
- **What can we do?**
  - » Make communication very robust, e.g., spread spectrum
  - » Use very simple protocols, e.g., Aloha with or without retransmission



# WiFi HaLow – 802.11ah

- **Low power version of WiFi operating in the unlicensed 900 MHz band (2017)**
  - » Increased range (1km), lower transmit power
- **Based on 802.11a/g but uses 1 MHz channels**
  - » 26 channels; can do channel bonding up to 16 MHz
  - » Transmit rates in range of 0.3 to 347 Mbps
- **Support for relaying, limiting contention, and power save mode**
  - » Relays: increase AP coverage; increase bit rates thus reducing power
  - » Contention-free periods for AP-stations, timed access
  - » Sectorization: groups of nodes can only send in certain time windows, e.g., to reduce hidden terminal effects

# IEEE PAN - ZigBee

- **802.15.4 PHY layer is used by Zigbee (2003) and some non-IEEE protocols**
  - » Defined for the 900 MHz and 2.4 GHz unlicensed bands
- **Uses Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum**
- **MAC uses CSMA-CA**
- **Can create star and point-to-point topologies**
  - » See PAN lecture
- **Targets low-bandwidth, relatively short range applications**
  - » Up to 250 Kbps, range 10-100 m
  - » 127 byte packets

# Bluetooth Low Energy

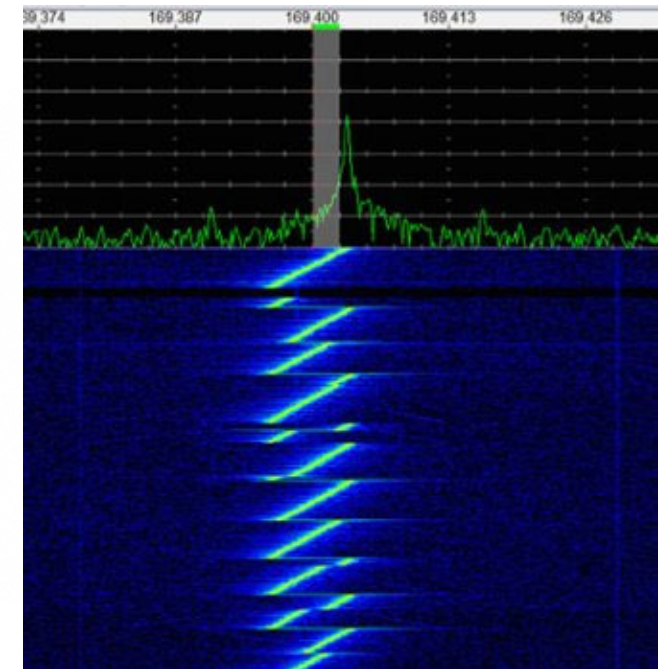
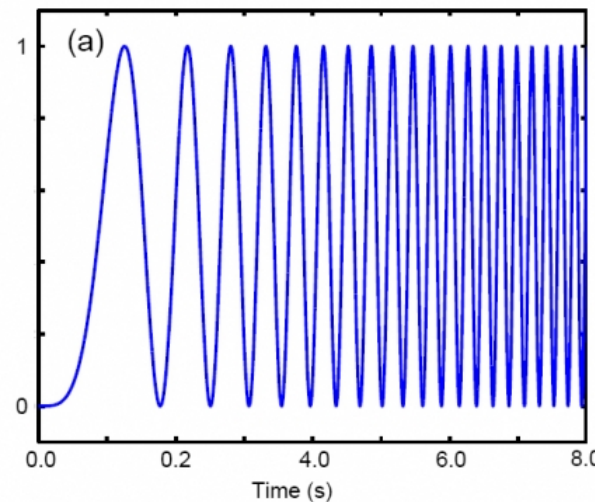
- **Lower power consumption and cost than Bluetooth but similar transmissions range**
- **Not backwards compatible with Bluetooth**
  - » Uses the same 2.4 GHz frequencies to radio can be shared
- **Uses frequency hopping on 40 2-MHz channels**
  - » Compared to 79 1-MHz channels for Bluetooth classic
  - » Also some differences in the frequency hopping
  - » Similar modulation (Gaussian frequency shift keying)
- **Targets applications with low bit rates**
  - » PHY rates up to 1 Mbps (2 Mbps for Bluetooth 5)
  - » Actual data rates much lower: up to 0.5 Mbps for Bluetooth 5

# Low Power Cellular

- **Narrowband – IoT (NB-IoT) – 2016**
  - » Focus on indoor coverage, low bitrates, dense deployments
  - » Two categories with different performance
  - » Uplink typically faster: 16-159 kbps vs 26-127 kbps
- **LTE-M machine type communication - 2016**
  - » Higher bandwidth including voice, mobility
  - » Lower latency but higher cost compared with NB-IoT
  - » Uplink 1-7 Mbps – Downlink 1-4 Mbps
- **Both standards are defined by 3GPP**
- **Simple node design: single antenna, SISO**
  - » Half duplex: always for NB-IoT, optional for LTE-M

# LoRaWAN

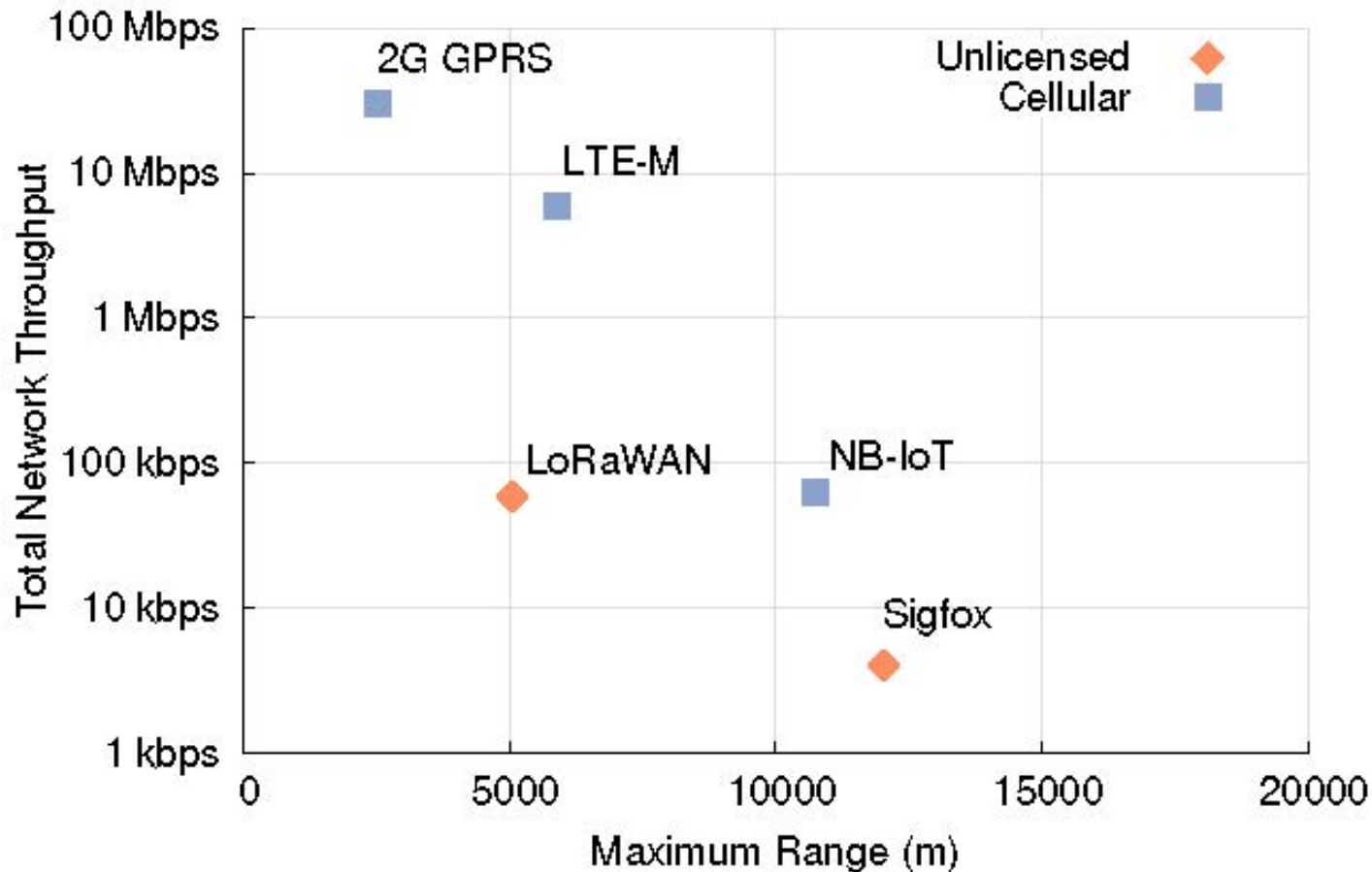
- **Longer range to simplify deployment**
  - » “Metropolitan” area – city-wide sensor network
  - » Star topology, up to 10 km of range
- **Based on spread spectrum across 125+ KHz band**
  - » Chirp spread spectrum
- **Sub-GHz bands**
  - » 900 MHz in US
- **Low throughput**
  - » 0.25-27 Kbps
  - » Payload up to 243B
- **Aloha protocol**
  - » What about capacity?



# SigFox

- **Ultra-narrowband technology:**
  - » Transmits in 200 Hz in 200 KHz of sub-GHz spectrum
  - » Low data rate 100s of bits/sec
  - » Uses differential BPSK – phase modulation
- **Based on Aloha protocol: transmitter picks a carrier frequency; receiver decodes full band**
- **Very basic protocol: small packets, no encryption, single bitrate**
  - » Payload is 12 bytes uplink, 8 bytes downlink
- **Also uses star topology**
- **Radios are cheaper than LoRaWAN**
  - » With roughly double the range

# Comparison Throughput versus Range



“Challenge: Unlicensed LPWANs Are not Yes the Path to Ubiquitous Connectivity”,  
Branden Ghena et. al., ACM Mobicom’19

<https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3300061.3345444>

# Power Efficiency

Network Technology	Average Power (uW)			
	84 Bytes Per 1 Hour	84 Bytes Per 4 Hours	200 Bytes Per 24 Hours	1000 Bytes Per 24 Hours
Sigfox (155 dB)	110	29	11	56
LoRaWAN (143 dB)	12	3.0	1.1	5.1
LTE-M (144 dB)	50	25	12	13
LTE-M (164 dB)	2200	620	150	440
NB-IoT (144 dB)	62	22	13	15
NB-IoT (164 dB)	1800	520	100	240

