Ch. 6: Wireless and Mobile Networks

**Background:**
- # wireless (mobile) phone subscribers now exceeds # wired phone subscribers (5-to-1)!
- # wireless Internet-connected devices equals # wireline Internet-connected devices
  - laptops, Internet-enabled phones promise anytime untethered Internet access
- two important (but different) challenges
  - wireless: communication over wireless link
  - mobility: handling the mobile user who changes point of attachment to network

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**Chapter 6 outline**

### Introduction

**Wireless**
- Wireless links, characteristics
- IEEE 802.11 wireless LANs (“Wi-Fi”)
- Cellular Internet Access
  - architecture
  - standards (e.g., GSM)

### Mobility
- Principles: addressing and routing to mobile users
- Mobile IP
- Handling mobility in cellular networks
- Mobility and higher-layer protocols
Elements of a wireless network

- Wireless hosts:
  - laptop, smartphone
  - run applications
  - may be stationary (non-mobile) or mobile
    - wireless does not always mean mobility
Elements of a wireless network

- **base station**
  - typically connected to wired network
  - relay - responsible for sending packets between wired network and wireless host(s) in its "area"
    - e.g., cell towers, 802.11 access points

- **wireless link**
  - typically used to connect mobile(s) to base station
  - also used as backbone link
  - multiple access protocol coordinates link access
  - various data rates, transmission distance
Characteristics of selected wireless links

- **Indoor**: 10-30m
- **Outdoor**: 50-200m
- **Mid-range outdoor**: 200m – 4 Km
- **Long-range outdoor**: 5 Km – 20 Km

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data rate (Mbps)</th>
<th>Indoor 10-30m</th>
<th>Outdoor 50-200m</th>
<th>Mid-range outdoor 200m – 4 Km</th>
<th>Long-range outdoor 5 Km – 20 Km</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>802.11n</td>
<td>802.11a,g point-to-point</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>802.11a,g</td>
<td>802.11a,g point-to-point</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>802.11b</td>
<td>4G: LTWE WIMAX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>802.15</td>
<td>3G: UMTS/WCDMA-HSPDA, CDMA2000-1xEVDO</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>802.15</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.056</td>
<td>802.15</td>
<td>2G: IS-95, CDMA, GSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elements of a wireless network

- **Infrastructure mode**
  - base station connects mobiles into wired network
  - handoff: mobile changes base station providing connection into wired network

Wireless, Mobile Networks 6-7
Elements of a wireless network

- **ad hoc mode**
  - no base stations
  - nodes can only transmit to other nodes within link coverage
  - nodes organize themselves into a network: route among themselves

Wireless network taxonomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>infrastructure (e.g., APs)</th>
<th>single hop</th>
<th>multiple hops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>host connects to base station (WiFi, WiMAX, cellular) which connects to larger Internet</td>
<td>host may have to relay through several wireless nodes to connect to larger Internet: <strong>mesh net</strong></td>
<td>no base station, no connection to larger Internet. May have to relay to reach other a given wireless node <strong>MANET, VANET</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no base station, no connection to larger Internet (Bluetooth, ad hoc nets)</td>
<td>host connects to base station (WiFi, WiMAX, cellular) which connects to larger Internet</td>
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Wireless Link Characteristics

*important* differences from wired link ….

- *decreased signal strength*: radio signal attenuates as it propagates through matter (path loss)
- *interference from other sources*: standardized wireless network frequencies (e.g., 2.4 GHz) shared by other devices (e.g., phone); devices (motors) interfere as well
- *multipath propagation*: radio signal reflects off objects ground, arriving at destination at slightly different times

…. make communication across (even a point to point) wireless link much more “difficult”
Wireless network characteristics

Multiple wireless senders and receivers create additional problems (beyond multiple access):

Hidden terminal problem
- B, A hear each other
- B, C hear each other
- A, C can not hear each other means A, C unaware of their interference at B

Signal attenuation:
- B, A hear each other
- B, C hear each other
- A, C can not hear each other interfering at B

IEEE 802.11 Wireless LAN

802.11b
- 2.4-5 GHz unlicensed spectrum
- up to 11 Mbps
- direct sequence spread spectrum (DSSS) in physical layer
  - all hosts use same chipping code

802.11a
- 5-6 GHz range
- up to 54 Mbps

802.11g
- 2.4-5 GHz range
- up to 54 Mbps

802.11n: multiple antennae
- 2.4-5 GHz range
- up to 200 Mbps

- all use CSMA/CA for multiple access
- all have base-station and ad-hoc network versions
802.11 LAN architecture

- Wireless host communicates with base station
  - Base station = access point (AP)
- Basic Service Set (BSS) (aka “cell”) in infrastructure mode contains:
  - Wireless hosts
  - Access point (AP): base station
  - Ad hoc mode: hosts only

802.11: Channels, association

- 802.11b: 2.4GHz-2.485GHz spectrum divided into 11 channels at different frequencies
  - AP admin chooses frequency for AP
  - Interference possible: channel can be same as that chosen by neighboring AP!
- Host: must associate with an AP
  - Scans channels, listening for beacon frames containing AP’s name (SSID) and MAC address
  - Selects AP to associate with
  - May perform authentication [Chapter 8]
  - Will typically run DHCP to get IP address in AP’s subnet
802.11: passive/active scanning

**passive scanning:**
1. beacon frames sent from APs
2. association Request frame sent: H1 to selected AP
3. association Response frame sent from selected AP to H1

**active scanning:**
1. Probe Request frame broadcast from H1
2. Probe Response frames sent from APs
3. Association Request frame sent: H1 to selected AP
4. Association Response frame sent from selected AP to H1

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IEEE 802.11: multiple access

- avoid collisions: 2^* nodes transmitting at same time
- 802.11: CSMA - sense before transmitting
  - don’t collide with ongoing transmission by other node
- 802.11: no collision detection!
  - difficult to receive (sense collisions) when transmitting due to weak received signals (fading)
  - can’t sense all collisions in any case: hidden terminal, fading
  - goal: avoid collisions: CSMA/C(ollision)A(voidance)
IEEE 802.11 MAC Protocol: CSMA/CA

802.11 sender
1. if sense channel idle for DIFS then
   transmit entire frame (no CD)
2. if sense channel busy then
   start random backoff time
   timer counts down while channel idle
   transmit when timer expires
   if no ACK, increase random backoff interval, repeat 2

802.11 receiver
- if frame received OK
  return ACK after SIFS (ACK needed due to hidden terminal problem)

Avoiding collisions (more)

idea: allow sender to “reserve” channel rather than random access of data frames: avoid collisions of long data frames

- sender first transmits small request-to-send (RTS) packets to BS using CSMA
  - RTSs may still collide with each other (but they’re short)
- BS broadcasts clear-to-send CTS in response to RTS
- CTS heard by all nodes
  - sendertransmits data frame
  - other stations defer transmissions

avoid data frame collisions completely using small reservation packets!
Collision Avoidance: RTS-CTS exchange

802.11 frame: addressing

Address 1: MAC address of wireless host or AP to receive this frame

Address 2: MAC address of wireless host or AP transmitting this frame

Address 3: MAC address of router interface to which AP is attached

Address 4: used only in ad hoc mode
**802.11 frame: addressing**

![Diagram showing 802.11 frame addressing](image)

**802.11 frame: more**

![Diagram showing 802.11 frame details](image)
**802.11: mobility within same subnet**

- H1 remains in same IP subnet: IP address can remain same
- switch: which AP is associated with H1?
  - self-learning (Ch. 5): switch will see frame from H1 and “remember” which switch port can be used to reach H1

**802.11: advanced capabilities**

*Rate adaptation*

- base station, mobile dynamically change transmission rate (physical layer modulation technique) as mobile moves, SNR varies

1. SNR decreases, BER increase as node moves away from base station
2. When BER becomes too high, switch to lower transmission rate but with lower BER
802.11: advanced capabilities

**power management**

- node-to-AP: “I am going to sleep until next beacon frame”
  - AP knows not to transmit frames to this node
  - node wakes up before next beacon frame
- beacon frame: contains list of mobiles with AP-to-mobile frames waiting to be sent
  - node will stay awake if AP-to-mobile frames to be sent; otherwise sleep again until next beacon frame

802.15: personal area network

- less than 10 m diameter
- replacement for cables (mouse, keyboard, headphones)
- ad hoc: no infrastructure
- master/slaves:
  - slaves request permission to send (to master)
  - master grants requests
- 802.15: evolved from Bluetooth specification
  - 2.4-2.5 GHz radio band
  - up to 721 kbps
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Components of cellular network architecture

- MSC
  - connects cells to wired tel. net.
  - manages call setup (more later!)
  - handles mobility (more later!)

- cell
  - covers geographical region
  - base station (BS) analogous to 802.11 AP
  - mobile users attach to network through BS
  - air-interface: physical and link layer protocol between mobile and BS
Cellular networks: the first hop

Two techniques for sharing mobile-to-BS radio spectrum

- **combined FDMA/TDMA**: divide spectrum in frequency channels, divide each channel into time slots
- **CDMA**: code division multiple access

2G (voice) network architecture

- Base station system (BSS)
- Base transceiver station (BTS)
- Base station controller (BSC)
- Mobile Switching Center (MSC)
- Mobile subscribers
3G (voice+data) network architecture

Key insight: new cellular data network operates in parallel (except at edge) with existing cellular voice network

- voice network unchanged in core
- data network operates in parallel

Wireless, Mobile Networks 6-33
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What is mobility?
- spectrum of mobility, from the network perspective:

  no mobility  high mobility
  mobile wireless user, using same access point
  mobile user, connecting/disconnecting from network using DHCP.
  mobile user, passing through multiple access point while maintaining ongoing connections (like cell phone)
**Mobility: vocabulary**

- **home network**: permanent "home" of mobile (e.g., 128.119.40/24)
- **home agent**: entity that will perform mobility functions on behalf of mobile, when mobile is remote
- **permanent address**: address in home network, can always be used to reach mobile (e.g., 128.119.40.186)

**Mobility: more vocabulary**

- **permanent address**: remains constant (e.g., 128.119.40.186)
- **visited network**: network in which mobile currently resides (e.g., 79.129.13/24)
- **care-of-address**: address in visited network. (e.g., 79.129.13.2)
- **foreign agent**: entity in visited network that performs mobility functions on behalf of mobile.
- **correspondent**: wants to communicate with mobile
How do you contact a mobile friend:

Consider friend frequently changing addresses, how do you find her?

- search all phone books?
- call her parents?
- expect her to let you know where he/she is?

I wonder where Alice moved to?

Mobility: approaches

- let routing handle it: routers advertise permanent address of mobile-nodes-in-residence via usual routing table exchange.
  - routing tables indicate where each mobile located
  - no changes to end-systems
- let end-systems handle it:
  - indirect routing: communication from correspondent to mobile goes through home agent, then forwarded to remote
  - direct routing: correspondent gets foreign address of mobile, sends directly to mobile
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end result:
- foreign agent knows about mobile
- home agent knows location of mobile
**Mobility via indirect routing**

1. Correspondent addresses packets using home address of mobile.
2. Home agent intercepts packets, forwards to foreign agent.
3. Foreign agent receives packets, forwards to mobile.
4. Mobile replies directly to correspondent.

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**Indirect Routing: comments**

- **mobile uses two addresses:**
  - **permanent address:** used by correspondent (hence mobile location is *transparent* to correspondent)
  - **care-of-address:** used by home agent to forward datagrams to mobile

- **foreign agent functions may be done by mobile itself**

- **triangle routing:** correspondent-home-network-mobile
  - inefficient when correspondent, mobile are in same network
Indirect routing: moving between networks

- suppose mobile user moves to another network
  - registers with new foreign agent
  - new foreign agent registers with home agent
  - home agent update care-of-address for mobile
  - packets continue to be forwarded to mobile (but with new care-of-address)
- mobility, changing foreign networks transparent: *ongoing connections can be maintained!*

Mobility via direct routing

1. correspondent requests, receives foreign address of mobile
2. correspondent forwards to foreign agent
3. foreign agent receives packets, forwards to mobile
4. mobile replies directly to correspondent
Mobility via direct routing: comments

- overcome triangle routing problem
- *non-transparent to correspondent*: correspondent must get care-of-address from home agent
  - what if mobile changes visited network?

Accommodating mobility with direct routing

- anchor foreign agent: FA in first visited network
- data always routed first to anchor FA
- when mobile moves: new FA arranges to have data forwarded from old FA (chaining)
Mobile IP

- RFC 3344
- has many features we’ve seen:
  - home agents, foreign agents, foreign-agent registration, care-of-addresses, encapsulation (packet-within-a-packet)
- three components to standard:
  - indirect routing of datagrams
  - agent discovery
  - registration with home agent

Mobile IP: indirect routing

Permanent address: 128.119.40.186

Care-of address: 79.129.13.2

Packet sent by home agent to foreign agent: a packet within a packet

Dest: 79.129.13.2 Dest: 128.119.40.186

Dest: 128.119.40.186 foreign-agent-to-mobile packet

Packet sent by correspondent

Dest: 128.119.40.186
Mobile IP: agent discovery

- **agent advertisement**: foreign/home agents advertise service by broadcasting ICMP messages (typefield = 9)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Checksum</th>
<th>Router Address</th>
<th>Sequence #</th>
<th>Registration Lifetime</th>
<th>RBHFMG</th>
<th>Reserved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard ICMP</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility agent</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile address</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 or more care-of-addresses</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

H,F bits: home and/or foreign agent

R bit: registration required

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Mobile IP: registration example

- **visited network**: 79.129.13/24
- **home agent**: HA: 128.119.40.7
- **foreign agent**: COA: 79.129.13.2
- **mobile agent**: MA: 128.119.40.186

**Registration Request**
- COA: 79.129.13.2
- HA: 128.119.40.7
- MA: 128.119.40.186
- Lifetime: 9999
- Identification: 714
- Encapsulation format

**Registration Reply**
- HA: 128.119.40.7
- MA: 128.119.40.186
- Lifetime: 4999
- Identification: 714
- Encapsulation format

**ICMP agent adv.**
- COA: 79.129.13.2
- HA: 128.119.40.7
- MA: 128.119.40.186

**Time**
Components of cellular network architecture

recall:

- wired public telephone network
- correspondent
- different cellular networks, operated by different providers

Handling mobility in cellular networks

- **home network**: network of cellular provider you subscribe to (e.g., Sprint PCS, Verizon)
  - **home location register (HLR)**: database in home network containing permanent cell phone #, profile information (services, preferences, billing), information about current location (could be in another network)
- **visited network**: network in which mobile currently resides
  - **visitor location register (VLR)**: database with entry for each user currently in network
  - could be home network
GSM: indirect routing to mobile

1. Call routed to home network
2. Home MSC consults HLR, gets roaming number of mobile in visited network
3. Home MSC sets up 2nd leg of call to MSC in visited network
4. MSC in visited network completes call through base station to mobile

GSM: handoff with common MSC

- **Handoff goal**: route call via new base station (without interruption)
- **Reasons for handoff**:
  - Stronger signal to/from new BSS (continuing connectivity, less battery drain)
  - Load balance: free up channel in current BSS
  - GSM doesn’t mandate why to perform handoff (policy), only how (mechanism)
- **Handoff initiated by old BSS**
**GSM: handoff with common MSC**

1. old BSS informs MSC of impending handoff, provides list of 1+ new BSSs
2. MSC sets up path (allocates resources) to new BSS
3. new BSS allocates radio channel for use by mobile
4. new BSS signals MSC, old BSS: ready
5. old BSS tells mobile: perform handoff to new BSS
6. mobile, new BSS signal to activate new channel
7. mobile signals via new BSS to MSC: handoff complete. MSC reroutes call
8. MSC-old-BSS resources released

**GSM: handoff between MSCs**

- **anchor MSC**: first MSC visited during call
  - call remains routed through anchor MSC
- new MSCs add on to end of MSC chain as mobile moves to new MSC
- optional path minimization step to shorten multi-MSC chain
GSM: handoff between MSCs

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(b) after handoff

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Mobility: GSM versus Mobile IP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GSM element</th>
<th>Comment on GSM element</th>
<th>Mobile IP element</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home system</td>
<td>Network to which mobile user’s permanent phone number belongs</td>
<td>Home network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway Mobile Switching Center, or “home MSC”. Home Location Register (HLR)</td>
<td>Home MSC: point of contact to obtain routable address of mobile user. HLR: database in home system containing permanent phone number, profile information, current location of mobile user, subscription information</td>
<td>Home agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited System</td>
<td>Network other than home system where mobile user is currently residing</td>
<td>Visited network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited Mobile services Switching Center. Visitor Location Record (VLR)</td>
<td>Visited MSC: responsible for setting up calls to/from mobile nodes in cells associated with MSC. VLR: temporary database entry in visited system, containing subscription information for each visiting mobile user</td>
<td>Foreign agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Station Roaming Number (MSRN), or “roaming number”</td>
<td>Routable address for telephone call segment between home MSC and visited MSC, visible to neither the mobile nor the correspondent.</td>
<td>Care-of-address</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wireless, mobility: impact on higher layer protocols

- logically, impact should be minimal …
  - best effort service model remains unchanged
  - TCP and UDP can (and do) run over wireless, mobile
- … but performance-wise:
  - packet loss/delay due to bit-errors (discarded packets, delays for link-layer retransmissions), and handoff
  - TCP interprets loss as congestion, will decrease congestion window unnecessarily
  - delay impairments for real-time traffic
  - limited bandwidth of wireless links

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