

# Millimeter wave wireless networking and sensing



Upamanyu Madhow (UCSB)



Xinyu Zhang (UCSD)



## The Plan

- Introduction: why mm wave
- The millimeter wave channel
- Mm wave networking standards
- Compressive tracking
- Protocol-level approaches to blockage & mobility
- Mm wave sensing
- LoS MIMO
- Open issues



## Introduction

### Upamanyu Madhow ECE Department University of California, Santa Barbara







## 2 decades of wireless growth



- Digital cellular is now global
  - 6B mobile phone subscribers today!
  - Connects the most remote locations to the global economy
- WiFi is pervasive and growing
  - Huge growth in carrier and enterprise markets
  - Huge potential in residential markets in developing nations
- Technology is was converging

   MIMO, OFDM part of all modern standards

#### mmWave represents a fundamental disruption



## mm-wave: what's different?

- System goals: multiGbps wireless
- Bandwidth no longer a constraint
- Channel characteristics
  - Sparse rather than rich scattering
- The nature of MIMO
  - Beamforming, diversity, multiplexing all different at tiny wavelengths
- Signal processing at multiGbps speeds
   ADC is a bottleneck, OFDM may not be the best choice
- Networking with highly directional links

#### So really, everything is different!



## Interdisciplinary approach is essential

## Example: NSF GigaNets project



Rodwell (UCSB)



Buckwalter (UCSB)



Arbabian (Stanford)



**Circuits** 

**Systems** 



Madhow (UCSB)



Zheng (U. Chicago)



Zhang (UCSD)



## The Opportunity

Technology and Applications

#### The end of spectral hunger?



#### 60 GHz: 14 GHz of unlicensed spectrum!



E/W bands: 13 GHz of semi-unlicensed spectrum



Bands beyond 100 GHz becoming accessible as RFIC and packaging technology advances



#### To put it in perspective





## Initial industry focus: indoor 60 GHz networks

- WiGig spec/IEEE 802.11ad standard: up to 7 Gbps
- Support for moderately directional links
- 32 element antennas that can steer around obstacles



www.technologyreview.com



## Progress due to push for WiGig

- 60 GHz CMOS RFICs 🗸
  - WiFi-like economies of scale if and when market takes off
- Antenna array in package (32 elements)
  - Good enough for indoor consumer electronics applications
- MAC protocol supporting directional links  $\checkmark$ 
  - Good enough for quasi-static environments
  - Does not provide interference suppression
  - Does not scale to very large number of elements
- Gigabit PHY 🗸
  - Standard OFDM and singlecarrier approaches
  - Does not scale to 10 Gbps at reasonable power consumption (ADC bottleneck)

## Now: mmWave for 5G



#### Driven by exponential growth in cellular data demand

Figure 2. Global Mobile Data Traffic Forecast by Region







NEED EXPONENTIAL INCREASE IN CELLULAR NETWORK CAPACITY (without breaking the bank) Industry consensus on the need for Cellular 1000X







## 1000X via mm-wave

$$C = nWlog(1 + SNR)$$



8/8/2019



#### mm-wave comm: a snapshot













## In addition...mmWave commodity radar





#### Vehicular situational awareness

Gesture recognition

Designs constrained by cost, complexity and geometry Very different from classical long-range military radar



## Challenges

#### (aka Research Opportunities)



#### Must revisit all key concepts in wireless design

- Revisiting channel models for tiny wavelengths
  - Sparse, easily blocked
  - Critical role of directionality
  - Geometric rather than statistical view of MIMO
- Revisiting signal processing architectures
  - The ADC bottleneck
- Revisiting networking
  - Highly directional links change MAC design considerations
  - Multi-band operation (e.g., 1-5 GHz and 60 GHz)
- Revisiting radar
  - Short-range geometry and hardware constraints
- Inherently cross-layer even at the level of comm and estimation theory
  - Node form factor, hardware constraints, propagation geometry



## **Channel Modeling**

#### Slides mostly due to: Maryam Eslami Rasekh





## Step 0: can we close the link?

Take-away from link budget Low-cost silicon works for indoor links Low-cost silicon also works for short outdoor links (~100 meters)

## Is propagation on our side?



- Can we attain the kind of system specs we want with technology compatible with the mass market?
  - Link budget for indoor links
  - Link budget for outdoor links (oxygen absorption)
- CMOS power amps: sweet spot 0-10 dBm
- SiGe power amps can go higher
- Using antenna arrays, can we go far enough so it is interesting?

## Free space propagation



The simplest model for how transmit power translates to received power

Isotropic transmission → at range R, the power is distributed over the surface of a sphere of radius R Receiver antenna provides an aperture with an effective area for catching a fraction of this power

$$P_{RX} = rac{P_{TX}}{4\pi R^2}$$
 Receive antenna aperture

If the transmitter uses a directional antenna:

$$P_{RX} = rac{P_{TX}}{4\pi R^2}$$
  $A_{RX}$   
Transmit antenna gain



## Relating gain to aperture

Antenna gain = ratio of aperture to that of an isotropic antenna



#### Remarks

--For given aperture, gain decreases with wavelength

 --Aperture roughly related to area → at lower carrier frequencies (larger wavelengths) we need larger form factors to achieve a given antenna gain



## Friis' formula for free space propagation

Given the antenna gains:

$$P_{RX} = P_{TX} \ G_{TX} \ G_{RX} \ \frac{\lambda^2}{16\pi^2 R^2}$$

For fixed antenna gains, the larger the wavelength the better

Given the antenna apertures:

$$P_{RX} = P_{TX} \ \frac{A_{TX} A_{RX}}{\lambda^2 R^2}$$

For fixed antenna apertures (roughly equivalent to fixed form factors), the smaller the wavelength the better, provided we can point the transmitter and receiver at each other



## Applying Friis' formula

Going to the dB domain:

 $P_{RX,dBm} = P_{TX,dBm} + G_{TX,dBi} + G_{RX,dBi} + 10\log_{10}\frac{\lambda^2}{16\pi^2 R^2}$ 

More generally:

$$P_{RX,\mathrm{dBm}} = P_{TX,\mathrm{dBm}} + G_{TX,\mathrm{dBi}} + G_{RX,\mathrm{dBi}} -$$
  
Plug in your  
favorite model  
for path loss

Free space path loss model gives us back the first formula:

$$L_{pathloss, dB}(R) = 10 \log_{10} rac{16 \pi^2 R^2}{\lambda^2}$$

## Link budget



Given a desired receiver sensitivity (i.e., received power), what is the required transmit power to attain a desired range? OR

what is the attainable range for a given transmit power? Must account for transmit and receive directivities, path loss, and add on a link margin (for unmodeled, unforseen contingencies)

$$P_{TX,dBm} = P_{RX,dBm}(min) - G_{TX,dBi} - G_{RX,dBi} + L_{pathloss,dB}(R) + L_{margin,dB}$$

## Link budget analysis



Basic comm theory maps modulation & coding scheme to Eb/NO requirement; we then need to map to received power needed

**Receiver sensitivity:** minimum received power required to attain a desired error probability (depends on the modulation scheme, bit rate, channel model, receiver noise figure)

We can now design the physical link parameters: transmit and receive antennas, transmit power, link range

**Link budget:** Once we know the receiver sensitivity, we can work backward and figure out the physical link parameters required to deliver the required received power (plus a margin of safety)

## Example 60 GHz indoor link budget

2.5 Gbps link using QPSK and rate 13/16 code operating 2 dB from Shannon limit

 $(E_b/N_0)_{reqd} \approx 2.5 dB$ 

Noise figure 6 dB

#### **Receiver sensitivity = -71.5 dBm**

4x4 antenna array at each end, 2 dBi gain per element
→ 14 dBi gain at each end

10 m range → free-space path loss is about 88 dB

Transmit power with 10 dB link margin is only about -1.5 dBm! (→ can use less directive antennas)

# Example 100 m outdoor 60 GHz link

Using 10 m indoor link budget as reference

Free space propagation loss increases by 20 dB

Oxygen absorption (16 dB/km) leads to 1.6 dB additional loss

Rain margin (25 dB/km for 2 inches/hr): 2.5 dB

Required transmit power goes up to **22.6 dBm** For 4x4 array, TX power per element is **10.6 dBm** (doable with CMOS, easy with SiGe) EIRP = 22.6 dBm + 14 dBi = **36.6 dBm** < FCC EIRP limit of 40 dBm



## What the link budgets tell us

- 60 GHz is well matched to indoor networking and to picocellular networks
  - Oxygen absorption has limited impact at moderate ranges
  - Heavy rain can be accommodated in link budget
  - Moderate directivity suffices
  - Electronically steerable links give flexibility in networking
  - Low-cost silicon implementations are possible
- For truly long range, need to avoid oxygen absorption
  - 64-71 (unlicensed), 71-76, 81-86 GHz (semi-unlicensed)
  - Bands above 100 GHz
  - Need very high directivity (can we steer effectively?)



## Step 1: Channel Characterization

Take-away

Sparse, geometrically predictable channels Very different from statistical models used at lower frequencies



### Basics of channel modeling

- Sum of propagation paths
  - Free space propagation (LOS)
  - Specular reflection
  - Propagation through dielectric obstacles
  - Diffraction and scattering



All these components are strong in conventional lower frequency bands (<6GHz) but in mmwave..?



## REFLECTION


### Reflection

• Plane wave traveling in homogenous environment





### Reflection

• Plane wave reflection and transition: Snell's law



 $\mu_1, \varepsilon_1 \qquad \mu_2, \varepsilon_2$ 



### **Reflection coeffs**

- Fresnel formula derived from Maxwell's equations
  - Depend on magnetic permeability and electric permittivity

$$\rho_{\perp} = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{\mu_2}{\varepsilon_2}}\cos\theta_i - \sqrt{\frac{\mu_1}{\varepsilon_1}}\cos\theta_t}{\sqrt{\frac{\mu_2}{\varepsilon_2}}\cos\theta_i + \sqrt{\frac{\mu_1}{\varepsilon_1}}\cos\theta_t}$$



$$\rho_{\parallel} = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{\mu_2}{\varepsilon_2}}\cos\theta_t - \sqrt{\frac{\mu_1}{\varepsilon_1}}\cos\theta_i}{\sqrt{\frac{\mu_2}{\varepsilon_2}}\cos\theta_t + \sqrt{\frac{\mu_1}{\varepsilon_1}}\cos\theta_i}$$





### Reflection coeffs have mild freq dependence

• Quasi-plane wave:





### Main freq dependence is from rough scattering

• Reflection from **rough** surfaces: part of wave energy is **scattered** 

Path Loss 
$$\approx \left(\frac{\lambda}{4\pi(d_1+d_2)}\right)^2 |\rho(\theta_i)|^2 \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{4\pi h_s \cos \theta_i}{\lambda}\right)^2\right)$$

 $h_s = \text{std}$  deviation of surface height \*

Excess Loss 
$$\approx |\rho(\theta_i)|^2 \exp(-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{4\pi h_s \cos \theta_i}{\lambda})^2)$$



⇒ Higher loss at higher frequencies (exponential) (surfaces are *rougher* at shorter wavelengths)

\* assuming Gaussian distribution of surface heights without sharp edge and shadowing effects



# Roughness: 5 GHz vs 60 GHz

- Surface roughness std deviation varies from 0 (e.g. glass) to a few mm
- At low frequencies (f < 6 GHz, λ > 5 cm) most surfaces are smooth

$$h_s < 2 \text{ mm}, \ \lambda > 5 \text{ cm} \Rightarrow \exp(-8(\frac{\pi h_s \cos \theta_i}{\lambda})^2) \ge 0.88$$

 $roughness \ loss \le 0.55 \ dB$ 

 At 60 GHz a surface with 0.6 mm roughness causes 5 dB of excess loss

$$h_s = 0.6 \text{ mm}, \ \lambda = 5 \text{ mm} \Rightarrow \exp(-8(\frac{\pi h_s \cos \theta_i}{\lambda})^2) = 0.32$$

roughness loss = 4.95 dB



### **Take-away on reflections**

One bounce path is usable (typically 5-10 dB weaker than LoS)

Multi-bounce paths usually too weak to be useful (bonus: less worry about interference)



# BLOCKAGE



51

### Propagation through dielectrics



#### $\Rightarrow$ Penetration loss increases exponentially with depth and frequency

\* for substances with conductivity  $\sigma$ , effectively  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon' - j\varepsilon'' - j\frac{\sigma}{2\pi f}$ 



## Propagation through dielectrics

Example: relative permittivity of concrete @ 5 GHz:  $\varepsilon_r = 4.8 - j0.6$ @ 60 GHz:  $\varepsilon_r = 3.3 - j0.38$   $\Rightarrow$  Loss of a 3 cm thick slab of concrete @ 5 GHz: Loss = exp( $-2\pi \times 5 \times 10^9 \times 0.33 \times 10^{-8} \times \sqrt{4.8} \times \frac{0.6}{4.8} \times 0.03) = 3.7 \text{ dB}$ @ 60 GHz: Loss = exp( $-2\pi \times 60 \times 10^9 \times 0.33 \times 10^{-8} \times \sqrt{3.3} \times \frac{0.38}{3.3} \times 0.03) = 34 \text{ dB}$ 

How thick can a slab of concrete be for <10dB attenuation?

- @ 5 GHz: 8.04 cm
- @ 60 GHz: 8.8 mm

#### **Mm-wave cannot propagate through obstacles**

### Can we diffract *around* obstacles?



#### Need Huygen's principle to understand this



wavefront decomposition for plane wave

#### wavefront decompo for point source



# Huygens' principle

• If part of wavefront is blocked, contribution of that portion is lost





# Huygens' principle

• If part of wavefront is blocked contribution of that portion is lost





# Huygens' principle

• If part of wavefront is blocked contribution of that portion is lost







Fresnel zone heuristic

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda \ d_1 d_2}{d_1 + d_2}}$$

 $d_1 = 20 \text{ m}, \ d_2 = 2 \text{ m}, \ \lambda = 5 \text{ mm} \rightarrow r \approx 10 \text{ cm}$ 

Can't diffract around human obstacles in picocells, for example



### **Take-away on blockage**

# When a path is blocked, it's blocked (can't burn through it, can't diffract around it)

Must steer around obstacles



# **OVERALL CHANNEL MODEL**



# Quasi-deterministic modeling



#### Example lamppost-to-lamppost link

LoS + single bounce reflections from side walls and road Can vary lamppost heights and street width to get multiple realizations



# Basic ray tracing



Relative delays: compute using geometry

Path strength: reflection model, propagation distance, beam patterns Relative phase: uniform (small path length differences cause large phase differences)

# Sparse channel impulse response





# Easily extends to multiple antennas



# Need to be careful with relative phases



Example SIMO system: relative channel gains are

$$h_1 = 1 - \alpha e^{-j\phi}$$
,  $h_2 = 1 - \alpha e^{-j(\phi + \gamma)}$ 

Phase difference:

$$\gamma = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \Delta L_{reflected} \approx \frac{4\pi r d}{R\lambda}$$

$$\Delta L_{reflected} = \sqrt{R^2 + (2r+d)^2} - \sqrt{R^2 + (2r)^2} \approx \frac{2rd}{R}$$



### Take-away on millimeter wave channel

### Sparse and geometrically predictable



## Take-way on millimeter wave channel Sparse and geometrically predictable

## Do measurements back this up?



# Measurements on UCSB campus

Measurements at different locations on campus

16-element phased array @ 60 GHz

Steers beam in horizontal plane (azimuth)



#### Facebook Terragraph node



(Narrow vertical beam  $\rightarrow$  ground reflection not present on typical measurements)









# Consistent with 2 rays







# Another 2-ray channel





# Reflected path for 2<sup>nd</sup> ray





# We expect only the LoS path here



RX



# 1-ray model





# Other measurement campaigns show similar results



# Previous measurement results

Measurement campaign by Weiler et al: Transmitter performs beamsteering in 2D (azimuth and elevation) Receiver is omnidirectional



Weiler, R.J., Keusgen, W., Maltsev, A., Kühne, T., Pudeyev, A., Xian, L., Kim, J. and Peter, M., 2016, April. Millimeter-wave outdoor access shadowing mitigation using beamforming arrays. In *Antennas and Propagation (EuCAP), 2016 10th European Conference on* (pp. 1-5). IEEE.



# Previous measurement results




#### First location



Line of sight free:

Line of sight blocked:



#### Second location





#### WORTH REPEATING

### Millimeter wave channel is sparse and geometrically predictable



#### BEAMFORMING



## Beamforming is critical for utilizing sparse mm-wave channels

Link budgets require directionality Tiny wavelength → compact steerable antenna arrays



#### **BEAMFORMING BASICS**



#### Beamforming

Wave front incident from angle  $\theta$  reaches elements with different phases

The signal reaching neighboring elements will have phase lag of  $k dsin(\theta)$ 





### Beamforming

Receive beamforming: multiply by conjugate of phase offsets for constructive reception of signal coming from angle  $\theta$ 





### Beamforming

Transmit beamforming: excite elements with phase offset to generate wave in direction  $\theta$ 



# Array pattern (as a function of spatial frequency)

When array is beamformed toward angle  $\theta$ , what is the signal received from angle  $\theta + \Delta \theta$ ?

array response: 
$$\mathbf{a} = [1, e^{-j(\omega + \Delta\omega)}, e^{-j2(\omega + \Delta\omega)}, ..., e^{-j(N-1)(\omega + \Delta\omega)}]$$
  
normalized weights:  $\mathbf{w} = \frac{1}{N} [1, e^{j\omega}, e^{j2\omega}, ..., e^{j(N-1)\omega}]$   
response  $= |\langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{a} \rangle| = \frac{1}{N} |\sum_{n=0}^{N-1} e^{jn\Delta\omega}| = \frac{\sin(N\Delta\omega/2)}{N\sin(\Delta\omega/2)}$   
Pattern of a 16 element array with  $\lambda/2$  spacing



### Array pattern (as a function of physical angle)

When array is beamformed toward angle  $\theta$ , what is the signal received from angle  $\theta + \Delta \theta$ ?

array response: 
$$\mathbf{a} = [1, e^{-j(\omega + \Delta\omega)}, e^{-j2(\omega + \Delta\omega)}, ..., e^{-j(N-1)(\omega + \Delta\omega)}]$$
  
normalized weights:  $\mathbf{w} = \frac{1}{N} [1, e^{j\omega}, e^{j2\omega}, ..., e^{j(N-1)\omega}]$   
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Pattern of a 16 element array with  $\lambda/2$  spacing

0

θ

0.5

-0.5

0

-1.5

$$\Delta \omega = \pi \sin(\theta + \Delta \theta) - \pi \sin(\theta)$$

1.5

 $\omega = \pi \sin \theta$ 



#### What we do today Digital Beamforming

Today's systems have a small #antennas #RF chains can't keep up with mm-wave array scaling



#### In order to scale to large arrays RF beamforming

Single RF chain Less flexible, more scalable





#### We will assume RF beamforming

But hybrid models are worth exploring