

18-452/18-750  
Wireless Networks and Applications  
Lecture 18:  
Cellular: 1G, 2G, and 3G

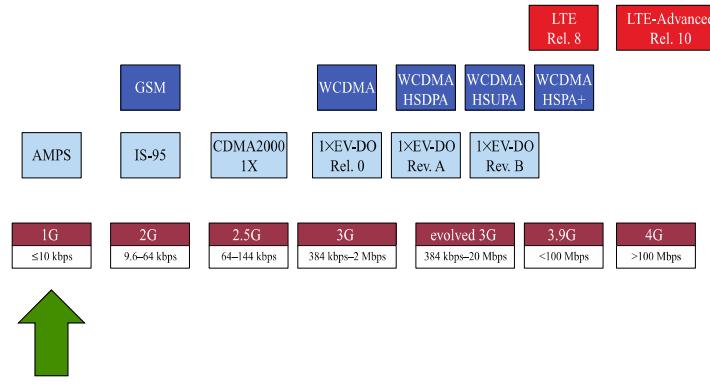
Peter Steenkiste

Spring Semester 2017  
<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~prs/wirelessS17>

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## Evolution of Cellular Wireless Systems



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## Outline

- 1G: AMPS
- 2G: GSM
- 2.5G: EDGE, CDMA
- 3G: WCDMA

Some slides based on material from  
“Wireless Communication Networks and Systems”  
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## Advanced Mobile Phone Service (AMPS)

- In North America, two 25-MHz bands were allocated (DL: 869–894 MHz, UP: 824–849 MHz)
  - » Deployed since early 80's by two providers
- Channels are spaced by 30 KHz, allowing for 416 channels (21 control, 395 for voice calls)
  - » Control channels are full duplex data channels at 10 Kbps
  - » Includes preamble, word sync, and Digital Color Code identifying the base station
  - » Can send urgent control in data channels
- Conversations carried in analog using frequency modulation
  - » Effectively extends analog telephone over wireless
- Cell size = 2–20Km, frequency reuse is exploited

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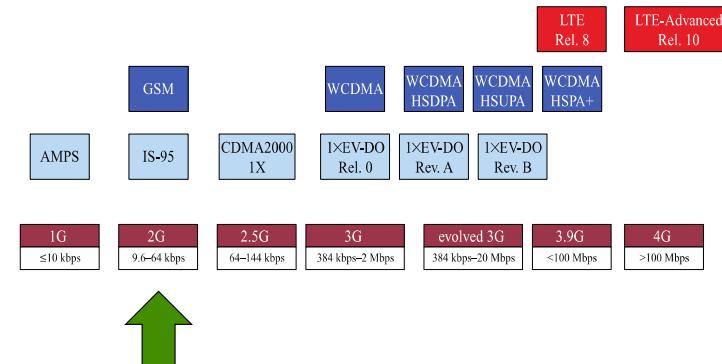
## AMPS Operation

- When unit wakes up, it sends telephone and serial number to the Mobile Telephone Switching Office (MTSO) over control channel
  - Both stored in read-only memory
  - Used for billing purposes and to detect stolen phones
- Steps in placing a call:
  - User dials in a number – sent to the MTSO
  - MTSO verifies validity of service request
  - MTSO notifies user of channels to use for up/down link
  - MTSO sends ring signal to the called party
  - MTSO completes circuit when party picks up
  - When either party hangs up, MTSO releases circuit and wireless channels, and completes billing

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## Differences Between First and Second Generation Systems

- Digital traffic channels – first-generation systems are almost purely analog; second-generation systems are digital
  - Using FDMA/TDMA or CDMA
- Encryption: second generation systems use encryption to prevent eavesdropping
- Error detection and correction: digital encoding allows for error detection and correction, giving clear voice reception
- Channel access – channels can be dynamically shared by a number of users
  - I.e., multiplexing in time and frequency

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## Motivation for Switch from Analog to Digital

- Higher quality
- Compression
- Encryption
- Error Detection and Correction
- Multiplexing channels by different users
  - I.e. TDMA

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## Global System for Mobile (GSM) - Background

- **GSM is a set of ETSI standards specifying the infrastructure for a digital cellular service**
  - » European Telecommunications Standards Institute
  - » Developed to provide a common second-generation technology for Europe
- **The standard was used in approx. 109 countries around the world including Europe, Japan and Australia**
- **Order 44 million subscribers**
  - » For 2G only – 2-3 Billion if you include all versions

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## Design Requirements for GSM-like 2G Systems

- **Degree of multiplexing: at least 8**
  - » Not worth adding TDMA complexity otherwise
- **Maximum cell radius: ~35km**
  - » Needed for rural areas
- **Frequency: around 900 MHz**
- **Maximum speed: 250 km/hr – high-speed train**
- **Maximum coding delay: 20 msec**
  - » Do not want to add too much to network delay (voice!)
- **Maximum delay spread: ~10  $\mu$ sec**
- **Bandwidth: up to 200 KHz, ~25 kHz/channel**

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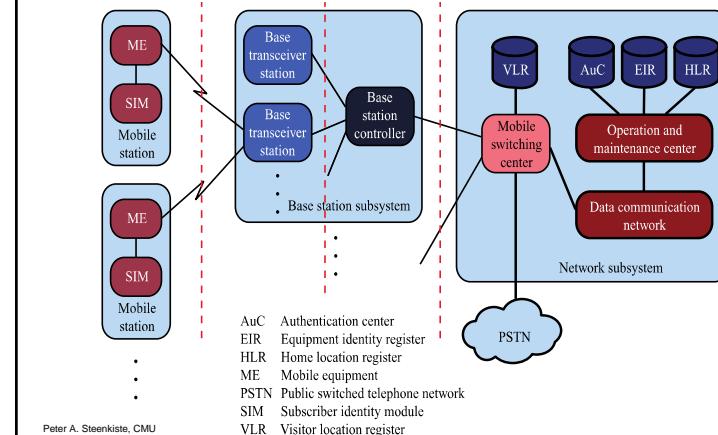
## GSM Features

- **Hybrid FDMA/TDMA approach**
- **Mobile station communicates across the air interface with base station in the same cell as mobile unit**
- **Mobile equipment (ME) – physical terminal, such as a telephone or PCS**
  - » ME includes radio transceiver, digital signal processors and subscriber identity module (SIM)
- **GSM subscriber units are generic until a SIM is inserted**
  - » SIMs roam since they are based on single standard
  - » Not necessarily the case for subscriber devices – may use different versions of the protocol

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## Global GSM System



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## GSM SIM

- Users have a **Subscriber Identity Module (SIM)** – a smart card
- The user identity is associated with a mobile through the SIM card
- The SIM is portable and transferable
- All cryptographic algorithms (for authentication and data encryption) can be realized in the SIM
- May also store short messages, charging info, ..
- **SIM implications:**
  - » Equipment mobility and user mobility are not the same
  - » International roaming independent of the equipment and network technology

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## Base Station Subsystem (BSS)

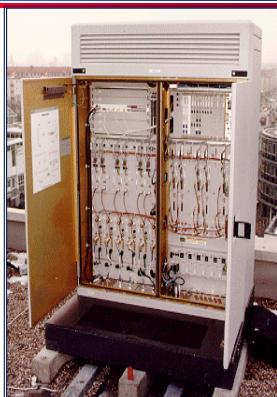
- **BSS** consists of base station controller (BSC) and one or more base transceiver stations (BTS)
- **BSC** reserves radio frequencies, manages handoff of mobile unit from one cell to another within the BSS, and controls paging
- **Each BTS defines a single cell**
  - » Includes radio antenna, radio transceiver and a link to a base station controller (BSC)

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## Base Transceiver Station

- Radio transmission/reception management (modulation/demodulation, equalisation, interleaving ...)
- Physical layer management (TDMA transmission, SFH, coding, ciphering ...)
- Link layer management
- Received signal quality and power measurement



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## Base Station Controller

- **Interface between MSC and BTSs**
  - Forwarding of traffic
  - Coordination of and with BTSs
- **Radio resource management for the Base Station Subsystem**
  - Channel allocation
  - BTS measures processing
  - BTS and MS power control
  - Handover
  - ...

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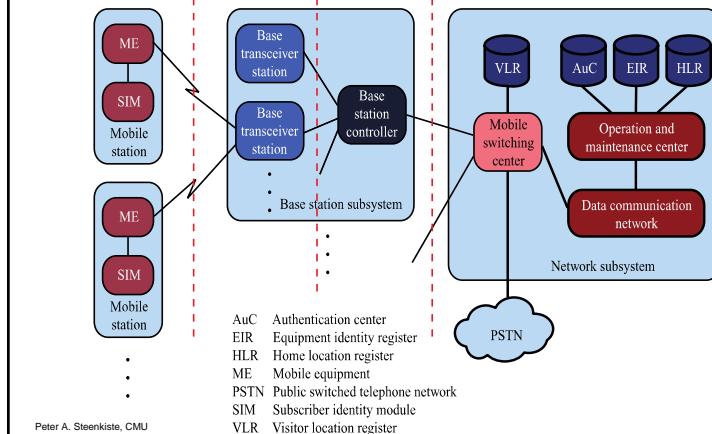
## Network Subsystem (NS)

- NS provides link between cellular network and public switched telecommunications networks (PSTN)
  - » Controls handoffs between cells in different Base Station Subsystems
  - » Authenticates users and validates accounts
  - » Enables worldwide roaming of mobile users
- Central element of NS is the Mobile Switching Center (MSC)

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## Global GSM System



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## Mobile Switching Center

- Management of the communication between mobiles and the fixed network
  - The Gateway Mobile Switching Controller forms the gateway for calls to and from external networks
- MSC is also responsible for mobility management
  - Handover between Base Station Subsystems
  - Roaming across networks



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## Handover

- Executed by BSC (channels) and by MSC (routing)
- Initiated by base station:
  - » BS monitors the signal coming from the MT
  - » Low signal => HO! Need to do handover
- Mobile-terminal aided
  - » BS transmit beacon
  - » MT, hearing better beacon, request join
    - Sends the identity of the old BS to the new BS
  - » BS accepts the MT, calls are then forwarded
- Inter-system system handover is managed MSC
  - » With extra connections to the HLR/VLR

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## Mobile Switching Center (MSC) Databases

- Home location register (HLR) database – stores information about each subscriber that belongs to this MSC
- Visitor location register (VLR) database – maintains information about subscribers currently physically in the region
- Authentication center database (AuC) – used for authentication activities, holds encryption keys
- Equipment identity register database (EIR) – keeps track of the type of equipment that exists at the mobile station

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## Home Location Register

- One per “Public Land Mobile Network”
  - » Basically an operator
- Contains entries for every subscriber and every mobile ISDN number that is homed in the respective network
- Permanent subscriber data and relevant temporary information
- Current location of the mobile station
- All administrative activities of the subscriber happen here!

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## Visitor Location Register

- One per MSC
- Stores data on all mobile stations which are currently in the administrative area of the respective MSC
- 1 VLR could be responsible for more than 1 MSC
- A roaming MS may be registered in a VLR of its home network or the foreign network depending on its location
- MS registers upon entering a LA. The MSC passes the identity of the MS and LAI to VLR

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## GSM Addressing Hierarchy

- Device
  - » IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identifier)
- User
  - » IMSI (International Mobile Subscriber Identifier)
  - » MSISDN (Mobile Subscriber ISDN Number)
    - “Real phone number”
  - » MSRN (Mobile Station Roaming Number)
  - » TMSI (Temporary Mobile Subscriber Identity)
  - » LMSI (Local Mobile Subscriber Identity)
- Other
  - » LAI (Location Area Identity)
  - » CI (Cell Identity)

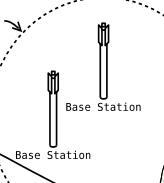
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## GSM Address Lookup ("registers")

Home Location Register
*Phone Number (MSISDN)
*(Current) VLR

Visitor Location Register
Subscriber Id (IMSI)
Roaming Number (MSRN)
Location Area Id (LAI)
Temporary Subsriber Id (TMSI)



- **Hard state: Current MSC/VLR, LAI**
  - » (Necessary to page phone, updated whenever mobile moves)
- **Soft-ish state:**
  - » MSRN, cell ID, TMSI

Note: Grossly simplified for your safety and sanity!

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## GSM Multiple Access

- Combination of FDMA and TDMA
- 890-915 MHz for uplink
- 935-960 MHz for downlink
- Each of those 25 MHz bands is sub divided into 124 single carrier channel of 200 KHz
  - » Each with a data rate of 270.833 kbps
- In each uplink/downlink band there is a 200 KHz guard band
- Each 200 KHz channel carries 8 TDMA channels

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## Additional GSM Features

- **GSM uses GMSK modulation**
  - » Gaussian Minimum Shift Keying
  - » Optimized version of Frequency Shift Keying (FM)
- **Slow frequency hopping: successive TDMA frames are sent over a different frequency**
  - » Switches every 4.615 msec
  - » Spreads out effect of multipath fading
  - » Also helps with co-channel interference
- **Delay equalization**
  - » Mobile stations sharing a frame can be at different distances from the base station
  - » Tail bits and guard bits provide margin to avoid overlap

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## Generalized Packet Radio Service (GPRS)

- **Packet-oriented data transport service**
  - » Bursty, non-periodic traffic typical for Internet access
- **Uses a new architecture for data traffic**
  - » Allows users to open a persistent data connection
  - » Sending data traffic over a voice connection would add too much setup and teardown overhead
- **Uses the same frame structure as voice**
  - » 21.4 kbps from a 22.8 kbps gross data rate
  - » Can combine up to 8 GSM connections
    - Overall throughputs up to 171.2 kbps
  - » Enhanced Data Rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE) further increased rates using a more aggressive PHY

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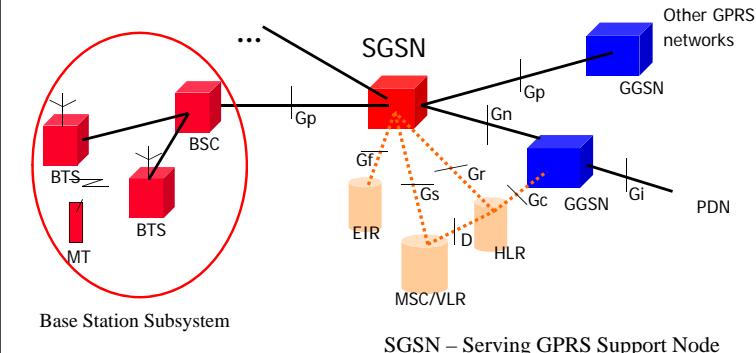
## GPRS Architecture

- Network Subsystem includes several new entities:
  - Serving GPRS Support Node (SGSN): data transfer between Base Station and Network Subsystem
  - Gateway GPRS Support Node: connects to other GPRS networks and the packet data network (Internet)
  - New interfaces between the various entities
- Transmission plane
  - Data packets are transmitted by a tunnel mechanisms
- Control plane
  - Protocol for tunnel management: create, remove, ...
  - GPRS Tunnel Protocol
- Radio interface
  - Changes the logical channels and how they are managed

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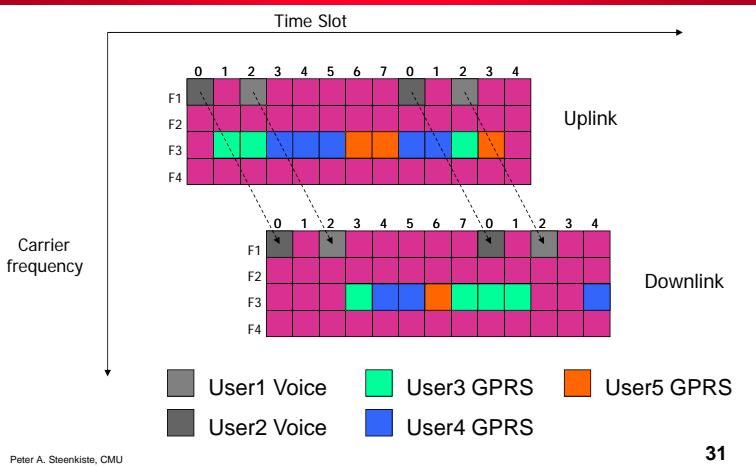
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## GPRS Architecture



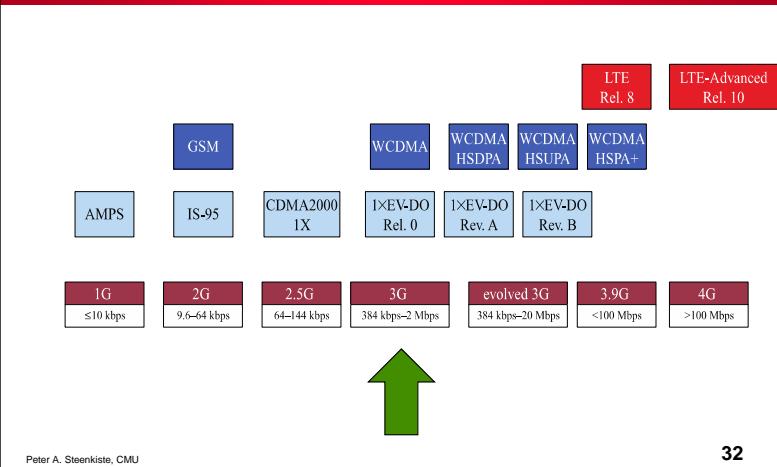
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## GPRS Radio Interface



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## Who is Who

- International Telecommunications Union (ITU) - agency of the United Nations responsible for:
  - » Assisting in the development and coordination of world-wide standards
  - » Coordinate shared use of the global spectrum
  - » Defined the International Mobile Telecommunications 2000 (IMT-2000) project for 3G telecommunications
- Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP)
  - » A group of telecommunications associations that represent large markets world-wide
  - » Defined a group of 3G standards as part of the IMT-2000 framework in 1999
  - » Originally defined GSM, EDGE, and GPRS
  - » Later defined follow-on releases and also LTE (4G)

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## UMTS and WCDMA

- Part of a group of 3G standards defined as part of the IMT-2000 framework by 3GPP
- Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS)
  - » Successor of GSM
- W-CDMA is the air interface for UMTS
  - » Wide-band CDMA
  - » Originally 144 kbps to 2 Mbps, depending on mobility
- Basically same architecture as GSM
  - » Many GSM functions were carried over WCDMA
  - » But they changed all the names!

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## Later Releases Improved Performance

- High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA): 1.8 to 14.4 Mbps downlink
  - » Adaptive modulation and coding, hybrid ARQ, and fast scheduling
- High Speed Uplink Packet Access (HSUPA): Uplink rates up to 5.76 Mbps
- High Speed Packet Access Plus (HSPA+): Maximum data rates increased from 21 Mbps up to 336 Mbps
  - » 64 QAM, 2x2 and 4x4 MIMO, and dual or multi-carrier combinations
- Eventually led to the definition of LTE

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## Advantages of CDMA for Cellular systems

- Frequency diversity – frequency-dependent transmission impairments have less effect on signal
- Multipath resistance – chipping codes used for CDMA exhibit low cross correlation and low autocorrelation
- Privacy – privacy is inherent since spread spectrum is obtained by use of noise-like signals
- Graceful degradation – system only gradually degrades as more users access the system

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## Mobile Wireless CDMA Soft Hand-off

- Soft Handoff – mobile station temporarily connected to more than one base station simultaneously
- Requires that the mobile acquire a new cell before it relinquishes the old
- More complex than hard handoff used in FDMA and TDMA schemes

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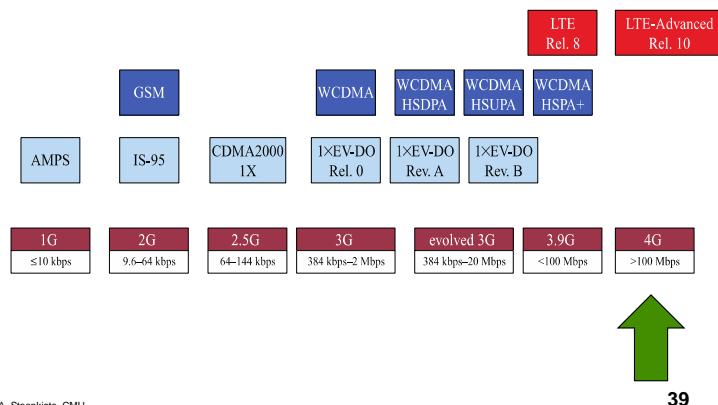
## Drawbacks of CDMA Cellular

- Self-jamming – arriving transmissions from multiple users not aligned on chip boundaries unless users are perfectly synchronized
- Near-far problem – signals closer to the receiver are received with less attenuation than signals farther away
  - » Need power control

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