

18-452/18-750  
Wireless Networks and Applications  
Lecture 25: Localization

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

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## Outline

- Properties of localization procedures
- Approaches
  - » Proximity
  - » Trilateration and triangulation (GPS)
  - » Finger printing (RADAR)
  - » Hybrid systems

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## Properties of localization procedures

- Physical position vs data types
- Reference systems
- Processing: localized vs centralized
- Data quality
  - » Accuracy and precision
  - » Scale
- Deployment aspects
  - » Limitations
  - » Cost

➡ Very diverse systems – lots of research

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## Data types

- Many ways to measure location, e.g.
  - » GPS location of a mobile phone
  - » Area where an access point has sufficient reception
- Corresponding data types
  - » point locations in terms of coordinates:  
*physical* or *geometric locations*
  - » extended region locations given by names:  
*symbolic locations*

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## Spatial Information

- Sources of location information

- » Location of a device can be measured using positioning methods
- » Additional spatial information can be retrieved from a spatial information system

- Additional information

- » Geometric information
  - coordinate system and unit transformations
  - precision and accuracy of measurement
- » Region information
  - location hierarchies

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## Location-awareness

- Location model: data structure that organizes locations

- Location-based routing

- » symbolic location model
- » geometric location model
- » hybrid location model

Examples

- » symbolic location model:  
address hierarchy  
DH.Floor2.2105

- » geometric location model:  
GPS coordinate  
(12.3456°N, 123.456°E)

- » hybrid location model:  
combination of address and  
coordinate  
DH.Floor2.2105.Seat(0,4)

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## Quality of Position Information

**Positioning accuracy:**

largest distance between an estimated position and the true position

Only pairs of precision and accuracy make sense

**Precision:**

the ratio with which a given accuracy is reached, averaged over many repeated attempts

**Example:**  
average error of less than 20cm in 95% of cases

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## Approaches

- Proximity

- » estimate distance between two nodes

- Trilateration and triangulation

- » using elementary trigonometric properties: a triangle is completely determined,
  - if all two angles and a side length are known
  - if the lengths of all three sides are known
- » infer a 3d position from information about two triangles

- Fingerprinting (scene analysis)

- » using radio characteristics of a location as fingerprint to identify it

- Hybrid methods: combine multiple sources of information

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## Proximity and Distance

- **Binary nearness: using finite range of wireless communication and/or threshold**
  - » within range of a beacon signal from a source with known position
  - » yields region locations, e.g.: cell in cellular network
- **Distance measurement (ranging)**
  - » Received signal strength
  - » Time of flight (time of arrival)
  - » Time difference of arrival

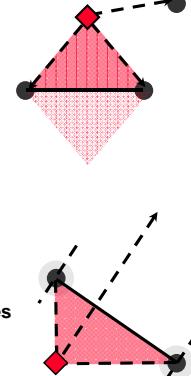
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## Measuring Location: Trigonometry Basics

### Triangles in a plane

- » **Lateration:** distance measurement to known reference points
  - a triangle is fully determined by the length of its sides
  - Time of Flight (e.g. GPS, Active Bat)
  - Attenuation (e.g. RSSI)
- » **Angulation:** measuring the angle with respect to two known reference points and a reference direction or a third point
  - a triangle is fully determined by two angles and one side as shown
  - Phased antenna arrays
  - aircraft navigation (VOR)



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## Mathematical Background

- Computing positions between three known positions  $(x_i, y_i)$  and an unknown position  $(x_u, y_u)$  given distances  $r_i$  btw  $(x_i, y_i)$  and  $(x_u, y_u)$
- Yields three equations  $(x_i - x_u)^2 + (y_i - y_u)^2 = r_i^2$
- Linear equations by subtracting 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>: quadratic terms  $x_u^2$  and  $y_u^2$  disappear
  - »  $2(x_3 - x_1)x_u + 2(y_3 - y_1)y_u = (r_1^2 - r_3^2) - (x_1^2 - x_3^2) - (y_1^2 - y_3^2)$
  - »  $2(x_3 - x_2)x_u + 2(y_3 - y_2)y_u = (r_2^2 - r_3^2) - (x_2^2 - x_3^2) - (y_2^2 - y_3^2)$
- In 3D: yields two points
- Positioning with imprecise information:
  - » Add redundancy: over determined solution
  - » Least squares estimates

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## GPS

- Radio-based navigation system developed by DoD
  - » Initial operation in 1993
  - » Fully operational in 1995
- System is called NAVSTAR
  - » NAVigation with Satellite Timing And Ranging
  - » Referred to as GPS
- Series of 24 satellites, in 6 orbital planes
- Works anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day, in all weather conditions and provides:
  - » Location or positional fix
  - » Velocity, direction of travel
  - » Accurate time

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## GPS involves 5 Basic Steps

- **Trilateration**
  - » Intersection of spheres
- **Satellite Ranging**
  - » Determining distance from satellite
- **Timing**
  - » Why consistent, accurate clocks are required
- **Positioning**
  - » Knowing where satellite is in space
- **Correction of errors**
  - » Correcting for ionospheric and tropospheric delays

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## How GPS works?

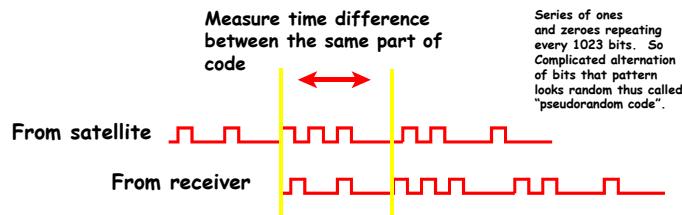
- Range from each satellite calculated
  - range = time delay  $\times$  speed of light
- Technique called **trilateration** is used to determine your position or “fix”
  - » Intersection of spheres
- At least 3 satellites required for 2D fix
- However, 4 satellites should always be used
  - » The 4<sup>th</sup> satellite used to compensate for inaccurate clock in GPS receivers
  - » Yields much better accuracy and provides 3D fix

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## Determining Range

- Receiver and satellite use same code
- Synchronized code generation
- Compare incoming code with receiver generated code



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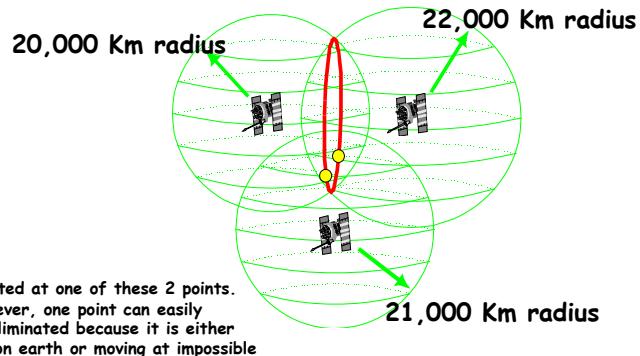
## Signal Structure

- Each satellite transmits its own unique code
- Two frequencies used
  - » L1 Carrier 1575.42 MHz
  - » L2 Carrier 1227.60 MHz
- Codes
  - » CA Code use L1 (civilian code)
  - » P (Y) Code use L1 & L2 (military code)

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## Three Satellite Ranges Known



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## Accurate Timing is the Key

- Satellites have very accurate atomic clocks
- Receivers have less accurate clocks
- Measurements made in nanoseconds
  - » 1 nanosecond = 1 billionth of a second
- $1/100^{\text{th}}$  of a second error could introduce error of 1,860 miles
- Discrepancy between satellite and receiver clocks must be resolved
- Fourth satellite is used to solve the 4 unknowns (X, Y, Z and receiver clock error)

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## Satellite Positioning

- Also required in the equation to solve the 4 unknowns is the actual location of the satellite.
- Satellites are in relatively stable orbits and constantly monitored on the ground
- Satellite's position is broadcast in the "ephemeris" data streamed down to receiver

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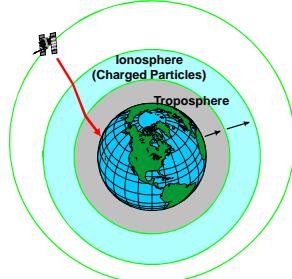
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## Sources of Errors

- Largest source is due to the atmosphere
  - » Atmospheric refraction
    - Charged particles
    - Water vapor
- Other sources:
  - » Geometry of satellite positions
  - » Multi-path errors
  - » Satellite clock errors
  - » SV position or "ephemeris" errors
  - » Quality of GPS receiver

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## How about Indoors?

- We can use received WiFi signal strength (RSS) to measure distance to APs with known location!
- Does not work in practice: too many factors affects RSS: objects, people, ...
  - » Triangulation based on RSS tends to results tend to give large, unpredictable errors
- How about using time of arrival?
  - » E.g., based on sound, radar-like techniques, ...
  - » Works better, but it is still hard
  - » Can work well but often requires special infrastructure
  - » Reflections can also create inaccuracies: longer path!

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## CAESAR: Carrier Sense-based Ranging

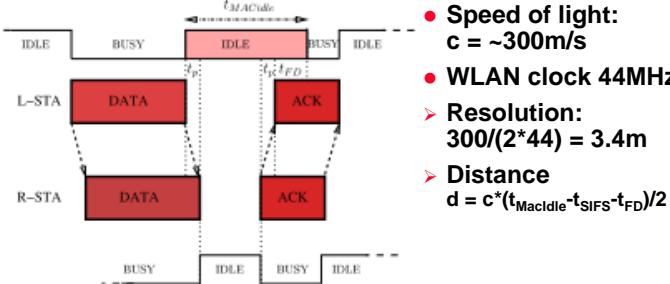
- Question: can we use time of flight ranging using commodity WiFi hardware?
- Yes, but it gets a bit messy
  - » Need to include SNR measurement
- Local station determines location of (mobile) remote stations
- Design criteria
  - » Exploit standard 802.11 protocol implementations
  - » Real time results
  - » Low cost (low network usage, no additional hardware, minimal calibration)

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## CAESAR: Key Idea

- Time of flight from ACKs



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## CAESAR: Adjustment to Noise

- Method depends on correct estimation of response time, which depends on the SNR
- Automatic gain control is used if
  - » Preferred region (PR): no AGC
  - » Strong signal detected (SSD): e.g. subtract 30dB from signal
  - » Weak signal detected (WSD): may need adjust signal to to bring it into PR (or signal is not detected)
- Proposed solution:
  - » Detect states SSD, WSD, and preferred range
  - » Use different values for Time for Frame Detection (t\_FD)

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## Outline

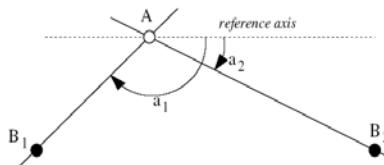
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## Angle of Arrival (AoA)

- A measures the direction of the incoming signal using a radio array.
- By using 2 anchors, A can determine its position
- Alternatively: the anchor measure the angle of A's signal and coordinate

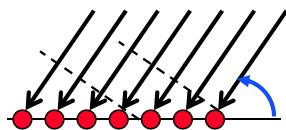


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## Angle of Arrival Techniques

- Antenna arrays are increasingly popular
- They are usually used to steer the signal, but can be used to identify the angle at which it arrives
- Difference in arrival time can be used to measure angle



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## Location Fingerprinting

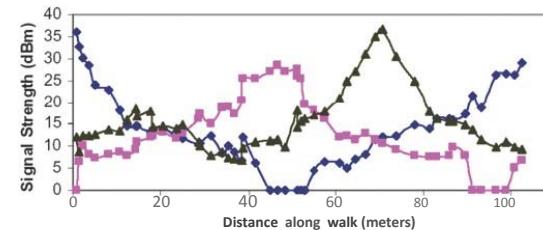
- Fingerprint Methods for Recognizing Locations
  - » Examples
    - Visual identification of places from photos
    - Recognition of horizon shapes
    - Measurement of signal strengths of nearby networks (e.g. RADAR)
  - » Method: computing the difference between a feature set extracted measurements with a feature database
  - » Advantages: passive observation only (protect privacy, prevent communication overhead)
  - » Disadvantage: access to feature database needed

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## RADAR: Key Idea

- RSS from multiple APs tends to be unique to a location

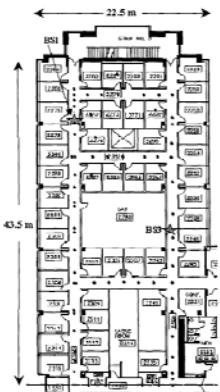


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## RADAR Approach

- Scenario: floor layout with three base stations (in the hallways)
- Empirical method
  - » offline phase: database is constructed
    - collect signal strength measurements from all three base stations at 70 distinct locations
    - store each of the 70 measurement triples together with the spatial location and orientation in a database
  - » online phase: position can be determined
    - measure the current signal strength from all three base stations
    - find the most similar triple(s) in the database
  - » Resolution 2.94m (50<sup>th</sup> percentile)



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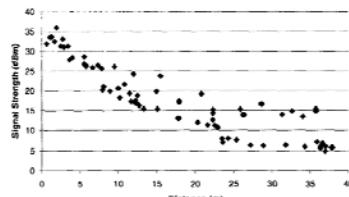
## Model-Based Radio Map

- Model set-up phase has high cost
- Alternative use radio propagation model and floor plan (instead of measurements)
  - » Considered models
    - Rayleigh fading model: small-scale rapid amplitude fluctuation to model multi-path fading
    - Rician distribution model: like Rayleigh but with additional LoS component
    - Floor Attenuation Factor propagation model: large scale path loss with building models
    - Wall Attenuation Factor model: considers effects from walls between transmitter and receiver
  - » Resolution 4.3m (50<sup>th</sup> percentile)

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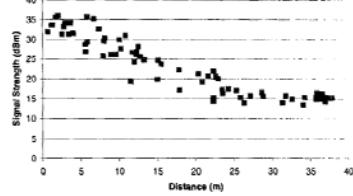
## Effects of applying correction



signal strength  
as a function of  
distance

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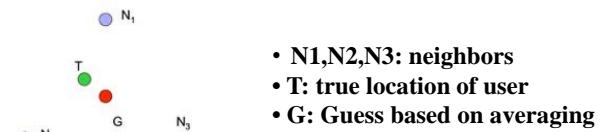
with correction  
for walls



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## Localization

- Find nearest neighbor in single space (NNSS)
  - » Default metric is Euclidean distance
- Physical coordinates of NNSS → estimated user location
- Refinement: k-NNSS
  - » Average the coordinates of k nearest neighbors



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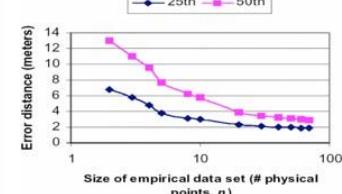
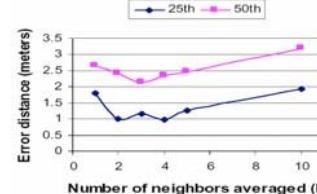
## Limits of Localization Using Signal Strength

- Measuring distance based on signal strength is an attractive idea for wireless sensor networks:
  - » RSS does not require additional hardware
  - » RSS declines with distance
  - » Many different promising methods proposed
- Experimental study:
  - » 802.11 technology with a range of methods and environments tested
  - » Median localization error of 10ft and 97<sup>th</sup> percentile of 30ft
- Fundamental limitations that require
  - » more complex environment models
  - » additional infrastructure

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## Results



Median error distance is 2.13 meters when averaging is done over 3 neighbors

Diminishing as the number of physical points mapped increased

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## Hybrid Technologies

- **Cell phones:** have many other sensors
  - » Accelerometer, compass, ...
- Can be used to estimate the user's walking speed, direction, ...
- This information can be combined with finger printing based techniques
- Especially useful if finger printing provides accurate location in specific points
  - » When entering a store, escalator, elevators
  - » Can use the other sensors starting with these well-known locations

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## Literature

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- P. Bahl and V. N. Padmanabhan (2000). RADAR: An In-Building RF-based User Location and Tracking System. IEEE INFOCOM 2000, pp. 775-784.
- E. Elnahrawy et al. (2004). The limits of localization using signal strength: a comparative study. IEEE SECON 2004, pp. 406-414 .
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