18-759: Wireless Networks
Lecture 22:
Dynamic Spectrum Access

Peter Steenkiste
Departments of Computer Science and
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Spring Semester 2018
http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~prs/wirelessS18/

Overview

- Spectrum use background
- Concepts and approaches
- DSA technologies
- Case study: TV white spaces

- Some material based on slides by Ian Akyildiz, Raj Jain

Spectrum Availability

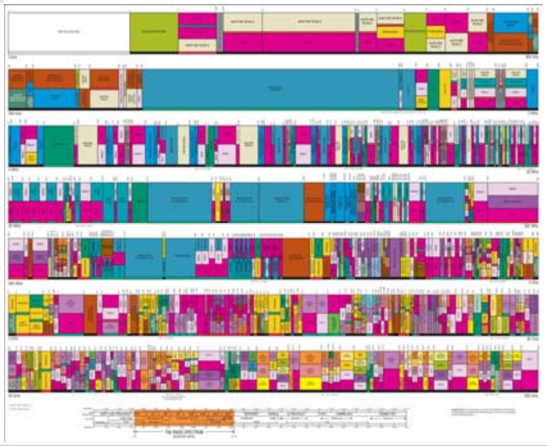
- 300 GHz is huge amount of spectrum!
  - Spectrum can also be reused in space
- Not quite that easy:
  - Most of it is hard or expensive to use!
  - Noise and interference limits efficiency
  - Most of the spectrum is allocated by FCC
- FCC controls who can use the spectrum and how it can be used.
  - Need a license for most of the spectrum
  - Limits on power, placement of transmitters, coding, ..
  - Need to optimize benefit: guarantee emergency services, simplify communication, return on capital investment, …
  - National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA) for federal government communications

Spectrum Allocation

http://www.ntia.doc.gov/osmhome/allochrt.html

- Most bands are (statically) allocated
- Industrial, Scientific, and Medical (ISM) bands are “unlicensed”
  - But still subject to various constraints on the operator, e.g. 1 W output
  - 433-868 MHz (Europe)
  - 902-928 MHz (US)
  - 2.4000-2.4835 GHz
  - Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (UNII) band is 5.725-5.875 GHz

Spectrum Allocation in US



5

Different Ways of Controlling Access to Bands

- Licensed spectrum: users need a license to use that part of the spectrum
  - Cellular, radio/TV broadcast, federal agencies, …
  - License typically provides exclusive use, i.e. license holder has full control over use of spectrum band
  - Commercial entities often pay for the license, e.g. through an auction
- Unlicensed spectrum: no user license required
  - Various constraints are placed on the radio to improve coexistence between users
    - E.g. transmit power, modulation, MAC, …
  - Devices must be licensed

New Spectrum is Scarce

- Suppose you need to find X MHz for a new technology or service
- All easy to use frequencies have been allocated
- Difficult to reallocate existing bands for new uses
  - Need to move current users somewhere
  - Significant investment in infrastructure

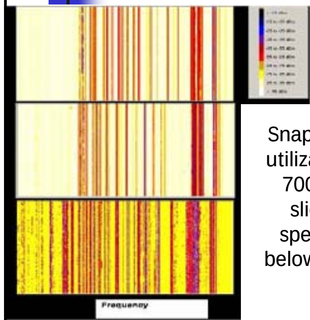
7

But Allocated Spectrum is not Used Effectively

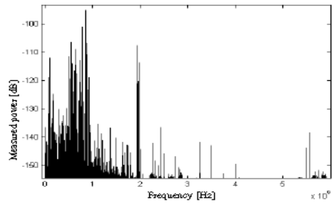
- Many bands only used in certain regions
  - E.g. big cities, airports, etc.
- Some bands have low utilization or are only used at certain times
  - Driven by events, seasonal, ..
  - Wrong predictions about demand and use
- Some bands are used inefficiently
  - Use outdated technology
  - Expensive to replace
- Static allocation is fundamentally inefficient
  - This is not an unusual problem!
  - But context is unique

8

Examples of Low Utilization



Snapshot of utilization of 700 MHz slice of spectrum below 1 GHz



• Utilization of 0.5% in the 3-4 GHz

• 0.3% in 4-5 GHz

- According to FCC spatial and temporal utilization of assigned spectrum ranges from 15% to 85%

Dynamic Spectrum Access

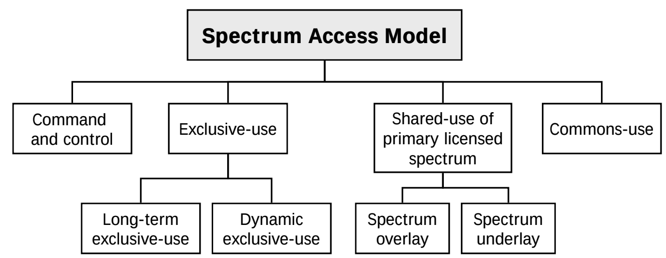
- Make allocation "more dynamic"
  - Can better adjust to allocation to needs
- Main concern: avoid interference to "incumbents"
  - Often have major investment in infrastructure
  - Interference can be fatal, e.g. first responders, affect business, ...
- Many models are possible:
  - License holder leases spectrum to third party
  - Allow secondary users that need to coexist with primary users – many models
- DSA makes use of "cognitive radios"
  - Radio parameters can be adapted at runtime based on its environments and goals
  - Can opportunistically operate in best available spectrum

Overview

- Spectrum use background
- Concepts and approaches
- DSA technologies
- Case study: TV white spaces

Dynamic Spectrum Access (DSA)

- Dynamic spectrum access allows different wireless users and different types of services to utilize radio spectrum

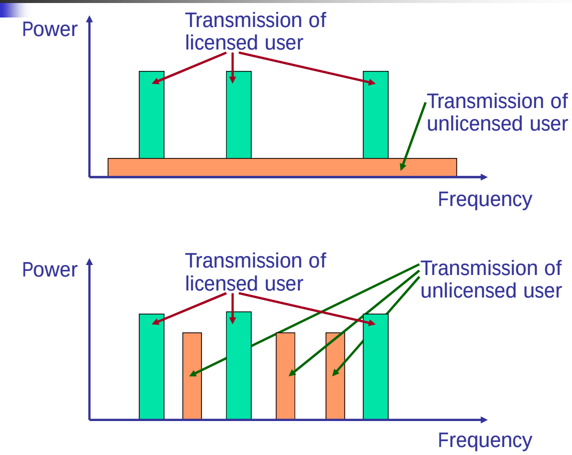


Exclusive-Use Model

Exclusively owned and used by single owner

- Long-term exclusive-use
  - E.g., cellular service licenses
  - Wireless technology can change (GSM, CDMA, OFDMA)
  - Owner and duration of license do not change
- Dynamic exclusive-use (micro-licenses)
  - Non-real-time secondary market
  - Multi-operator sharing homogeneous bands
    - dynamically change spatio-temporal allocation along with the amount of spectrum among multiple operators
    - different technology can be used
  - Multi-operator sharing heterogeneous services

Shared-Use of Primary Licensed Spectrum Model



Spectrum Underlay

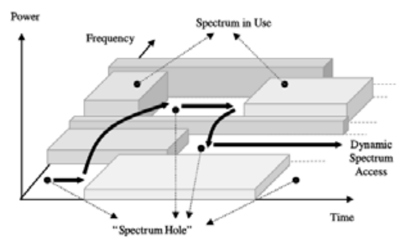
- Spectrum underlay approach constraints the transmission power of secondary users so that they operate below the interference temperature limit of primary users.
- One possible approach is to transmit the signals in a very wide frequency band (e.g., UWB communications) so that high data rate is achieved with extremely low transmission power.
- It is based on the worst-case assumption that primary users transmit all the time; hence does not exploit spectrum white space.

Spectrum Overlay

- Spectrum overlay approach does not necessarily impose any severe restriction on the transmission power by secondary users – allows secondary users to identify and exploit the spectrum holes defined in space, time, and frequency (*Opportunistic Spectrum Access*).
- Compatible with the existing spectrum allocation – legacy systems can continue to operate without being affected by the secondary users.
- Regulatory policies define basic etiquettes for secondary users to ensure compatibility with legacy systems.

Example

- Use of temporally unused spectrum, which is referred to as spectrum hole or white space.

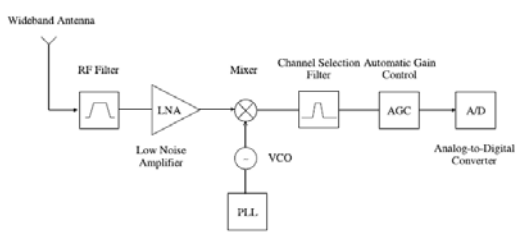


Overview

- Spectrum use background
- Concepts and approaches
- DSA technologies
- Case study: TV white spaces

Cognitive Radio - Architecture

- The novel characteristic of CR transceiver is a wideband sensing capability of the RF front-end.
  - RF hardware should be capable of tuning to any part of a large range of frequency spectrum.



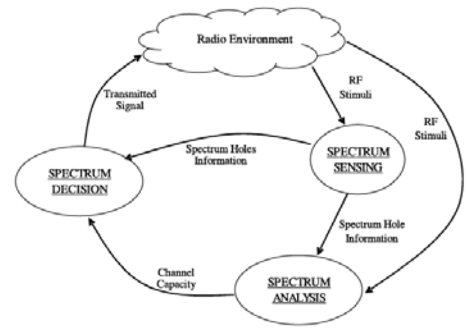
Cognitive Radio - Reconfigurability

- The capability of adjusting operating parameters for the transmission on the fly without any modifications on the hardware components.
  - Operating frequency
  - Modulation
    - Reconfigure the modulation scheme adaptive to the users requirements and channel conditions.
  - Transmission power
    - If higher power operation is not necessary, the CR reduces the transmitter power to a lower level to allow more users to share the spectrum and to decrease the interference
  - Communication technology

Main Function in DSA

- Spectrum sensing
  - Detecting unused spectrum and sharing the spectrum without harmful interference with other users
- Spectrum management
  - Capturing the best available spectrum to meet user communication requirements
- Spectrum mobility
  - Maintaining seamless communication requirements during the transition to better spectrum
- Spectrum sharing
  - Providing the fair spectrum scheduling method among coexisting users

DSA– Cognitive Cycle

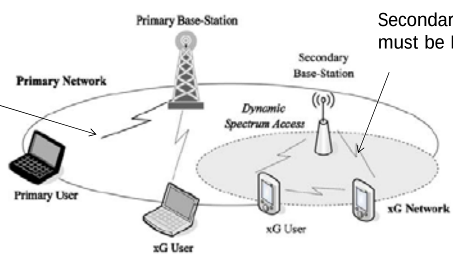


Example of DSA

- DSA networks is deployed to exploit the spectrum holes through cognitive communication techniques

Primary Network is typically a legacy network

Secondary network must be DSA capable

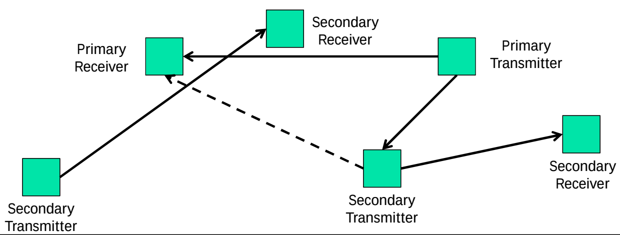


Network Applications

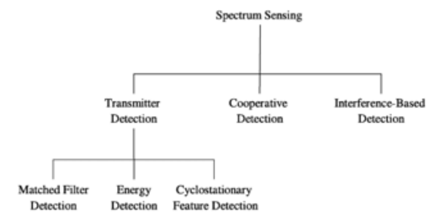
- Leased network
  - The primary network can provide a leased network by
    - allowing opportunistic access to its licensed spectrum with the agreement with a third party without sacrificing the service quality of the primary users.
  - e.g., Mobile Virtual Network Operator (MVNO)
- Cognitive mesh network
  - Networks have the ability to add temporary or permanent spectrum to the infrastructure links used for relaying in case of high traffic load.
- Emergency network
- Military network

Spectrum Sensing

- Secondary user monitors the spectrum
  - Must detect primary users that are receiving data within its communication range
- In practice, it is difficult for a cognitive radio to have a direct measurement of a channel between a primary receiver and a transmitter.



Classification of Spectrum Sensing Techniques



- Transmitter detection approach: the detection of the weak signal from a primary transmitter through the local observations
- Basic hypothesis

$$x(t) = \begin{cases} n(t) & H_0, \\ hs(t) + n(t) & H_1, \end{cases}$$

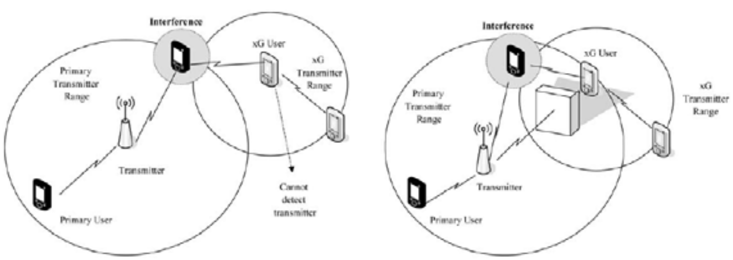
the AWGN ($n(t)$)

transmitted signal of the primary users ($s(t)$)

the amplitude gain of the channel (h)

Transmitter Detection Problem

- Transmitter detection problem
  - Receiver uncertainty (a)
  - Shadowing uncertainty (b)
- Even more difficult if receiver does not transmit



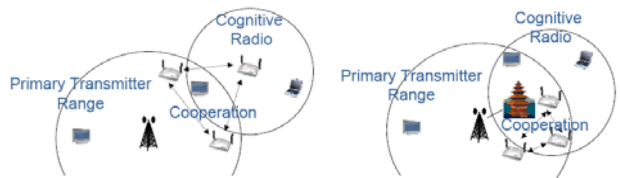
(a) (b)

Sensing Techniques

- Energy detection senses for energy in the time of frequency domain
  - Can be very difficult, e.g. receive only devices
- Matched filter can be used if a priori knowledge of primary user signal is available
  - E.g., modulation type, shaping signal, ...
  - Optimal because it maximizes SNR in AWGN channel
- Cyclostationary detectors look for signals with periodic properties
  - Modulated signals have a mean and autocorrelation that exhibit periodicity.
  - These features are detected by analyzing a spectral correlation function.

Cooperated Spectrum Sensing

- Cooperated spectrum sensing methods where information from multiple secondary users are incorporated for primary user detection.
  - allow to mitigate the multi-path fading and shadowing effects, which improves the detection probability in a heavily shadowed environment.



The primary receiver uncertainty problem caused by the lack of the primary receiver location knowledge is unsolved.

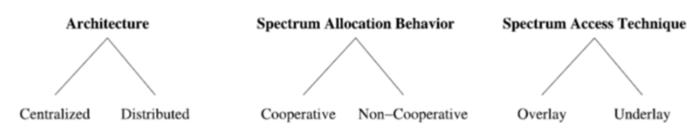
Spectrum Analysis

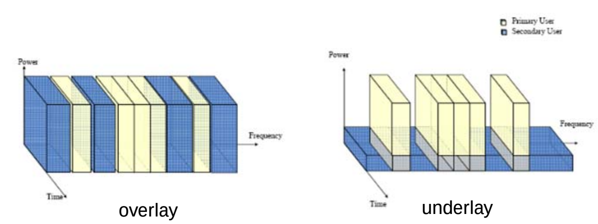
- The available spectrum holes show different characteristics which vary over time.
- Spectrum analysis enables the characterization of different spectrum bands,
  - which can be exploited to get the spectrum band appropriate to the user requirements.
- In order to describe the dynamic nature of DSA networks, each spectrum hole should be characterized considering
  - not only time-varying radio environment and
  - but also the primary user activity and the spectrum band information.

Spectrum Sharing Process

- Spectrum sensing
- Spectrum allocation
  - The allocation not only depends on spectrum availability, but it is also determined based on internal (and possible external) policies.
- Spectrum access
  - The access should be coordinated in order to prevent multiple users colliding in overlapping portions of the spectrum.
- Transmitter-receiver handshake
- Spectrum mobility

Classification of Spectrum Sharing

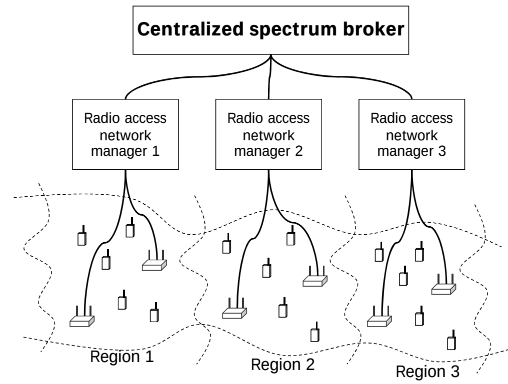




Cooperative/Centralized DSA

- A centralized server maintains a database of spectrum availability and access information (based on information received from secondary users, e.g., through a dedicated control channel).
- Spectrum management is simpler and coordinated and enables efficient spectrum sharing.

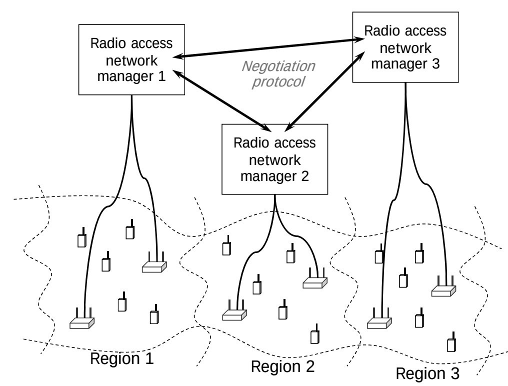
Cooperative/Centralized DSA



Cooperative/Distributed DSA

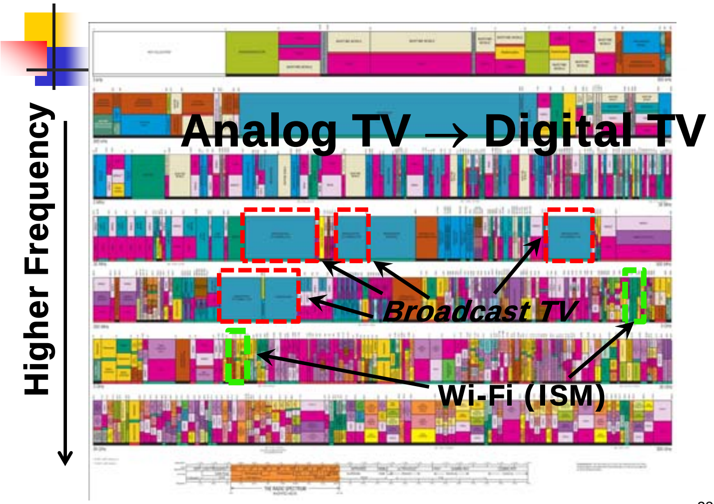
- Cooperative/distributed strategy relies on cooperative local actions throughout the network (to achieve a performance close to the global optimal performance).
- May suffer due to hidden node problem and large control overheads
- In both centralized and distributed strategies, the primary user may or may not cooperate.

Cooperative/Distributed DSA



Overview

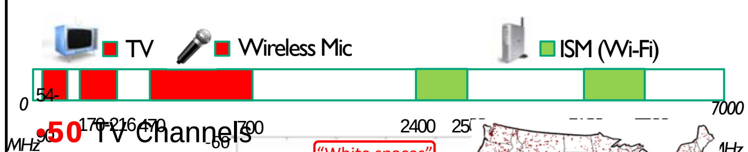
- Spectrum use background
- Concepts and approaches
- DSA technologies
- Case study: TV white spaces



TV White Spaces

- TV channels are “allotted” to cities to serve the local area
- Other licensed and unlicensed services are also in TV bands
  - Wireless microphones
- “White Spaces” are the channels that are “unused” at any given location by licensed devices
  - FCC regulation allows access by unlicensed devices subject to many rules

What are White Spaces?



•**50** TV Channels

•Each channel is ***6 MHz*** wide

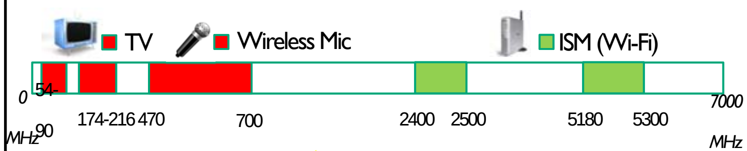
•FCC Regulations*

•*Sense TV stations and Mics*

•*Portable devices on channels 21 - 51*

White Spaces are *Unoccupied* TV Channels

The Promise of White Spaces



Up to 3x of 802.11g

More Spectrum

Longer Range

***at least* 3 - 4x of Wi-Fi**

Potential Applications

Rural wireless broadband

City-wide mesh

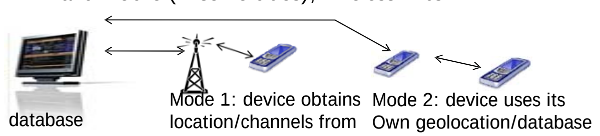
....
.
....
.

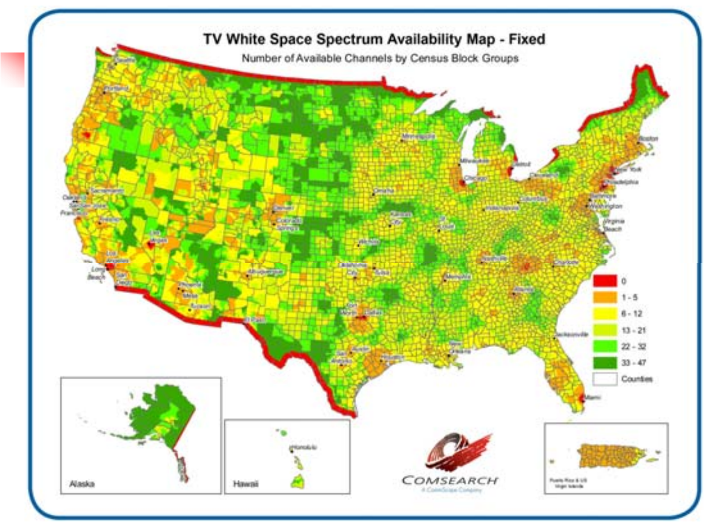
Use of Geolocation & Database

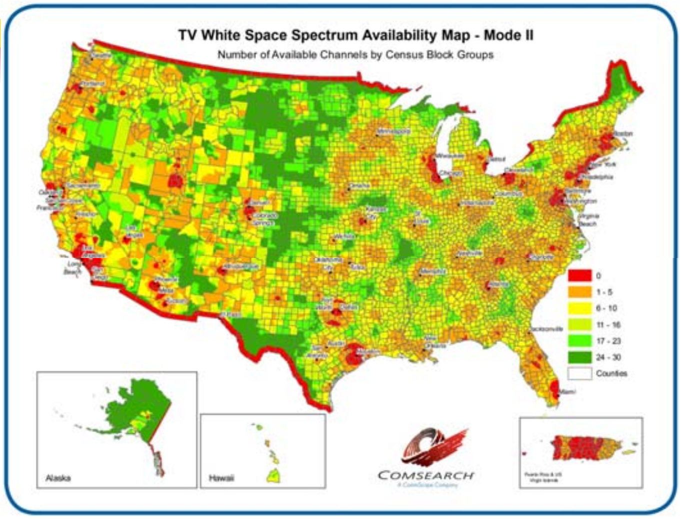
- Based on prototype test program sensing-only not sufficiently developed
  - Very long scan times, poor performance in presence of strong adjacent channel signal, ..
  - Difficult to reliably detecting wireless microphones
  - Inability to determine presence of passive receive sites
- Disagreement on technical parameters for sensing
  - What is detection threshold for determining presence of a signal? How is measurement accomplished? Type of detector
- Tradeoff between continuing to develop sensing technology vs. earlier
- Require geolocation capability in conjunction with a database to provide each device with a list of available channels specific to its location

TV White Space Rules

- Final rules adopted 9/2010; modified 4/2012
  - First new spectrum for unlicensed devices below 5 GHz in many years
  - Access based on geolocation & database
  - https://www.google.com/get/spectrumdatabase/
- Incumbent services protect by database
  - TV broadcast stations, translator and booster stations, cable TV headends, ..
  - Land mobile (in some cities); wireless mics







Standards for White Spaces

- IEEE 802.11af: Wireless Local Area Network
- IEEE 802.22: Cognitive Wireless Regional Area Network
- IEEE 802.15.4m: Wireless Personal Area Network
- IEEE 802.19.1: Coexistence in white spaces
- IETF PAWS: Database access
- Other standards organizations:
  - ETSI BRAN: European Telecommunications Standards Institute Broadband Radio Access Networks
  - CEPT ECC SE43: European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations Electronics Communications Committee Spectrum Engineering
  - ITU-WP1B: International Telecommunication Union Working Party 1B – Spectrum Management Methodologies

Coexistence Problem

- Exposed Terminal: 802.11af can not transmit because 802.22 keeps the channel busy
- Hidden Terminal: 802.11af interferes with 802.22 transmissions