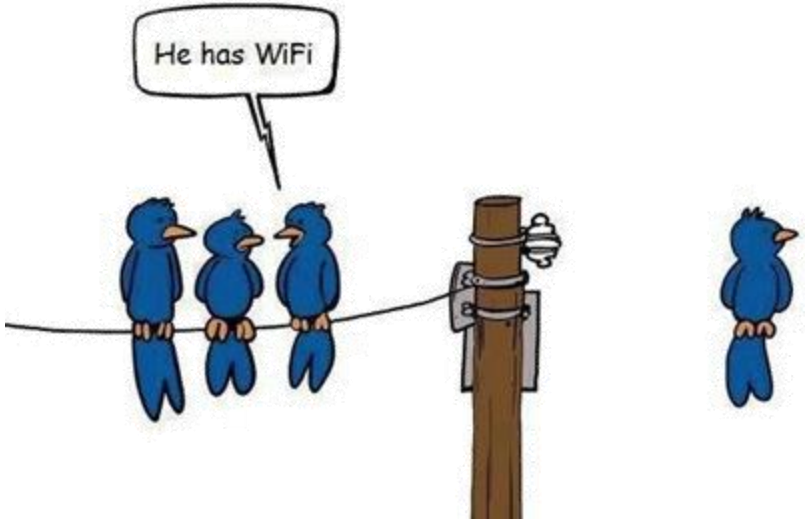
COM-405: Mobile Networks

Lecture 5.0: Cellular Networks I

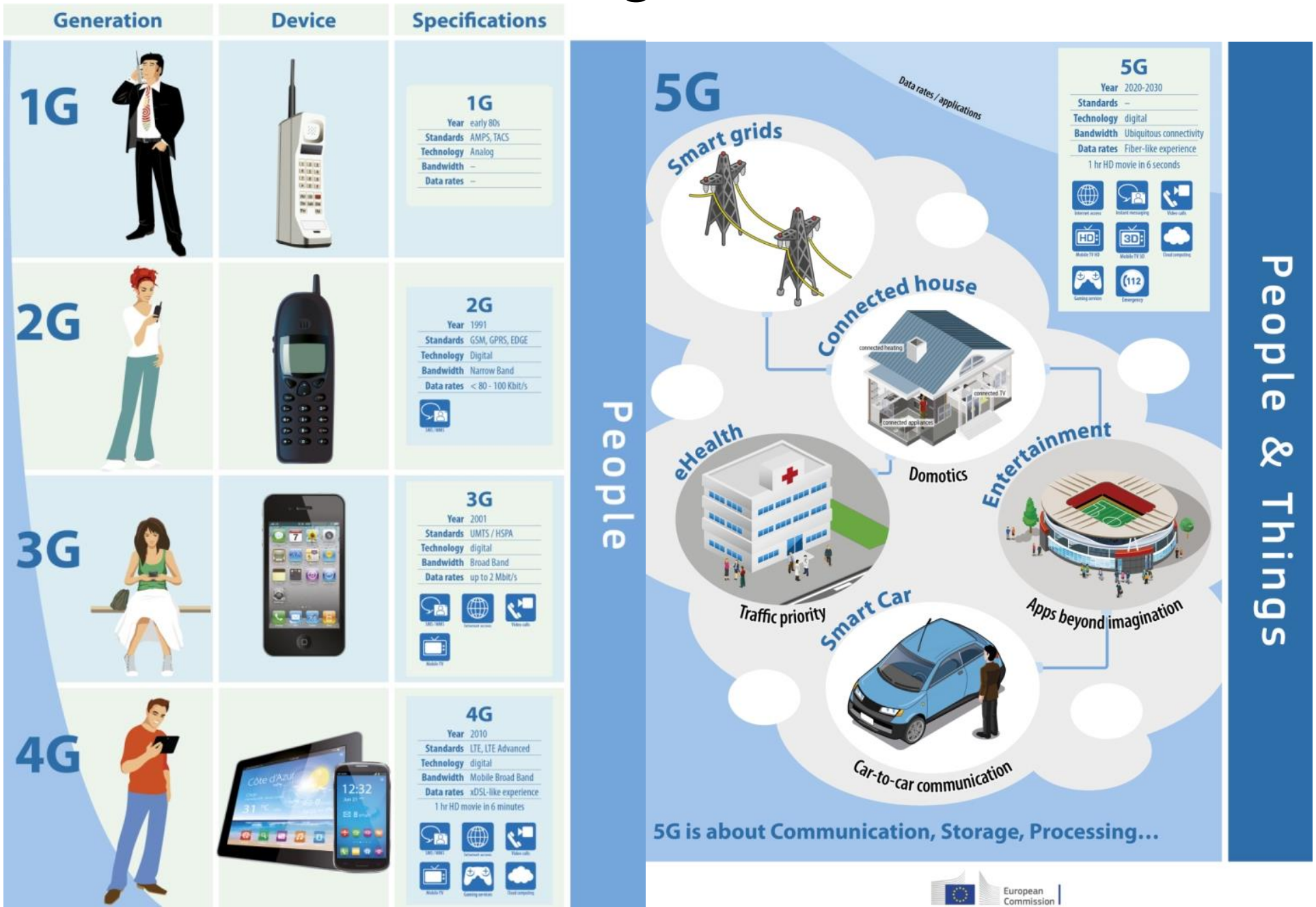
Haitham Hassanieh



EPFL

Laboratory of SEnsing
& Networking Systems

Mobile Technologies from 1G to 5G



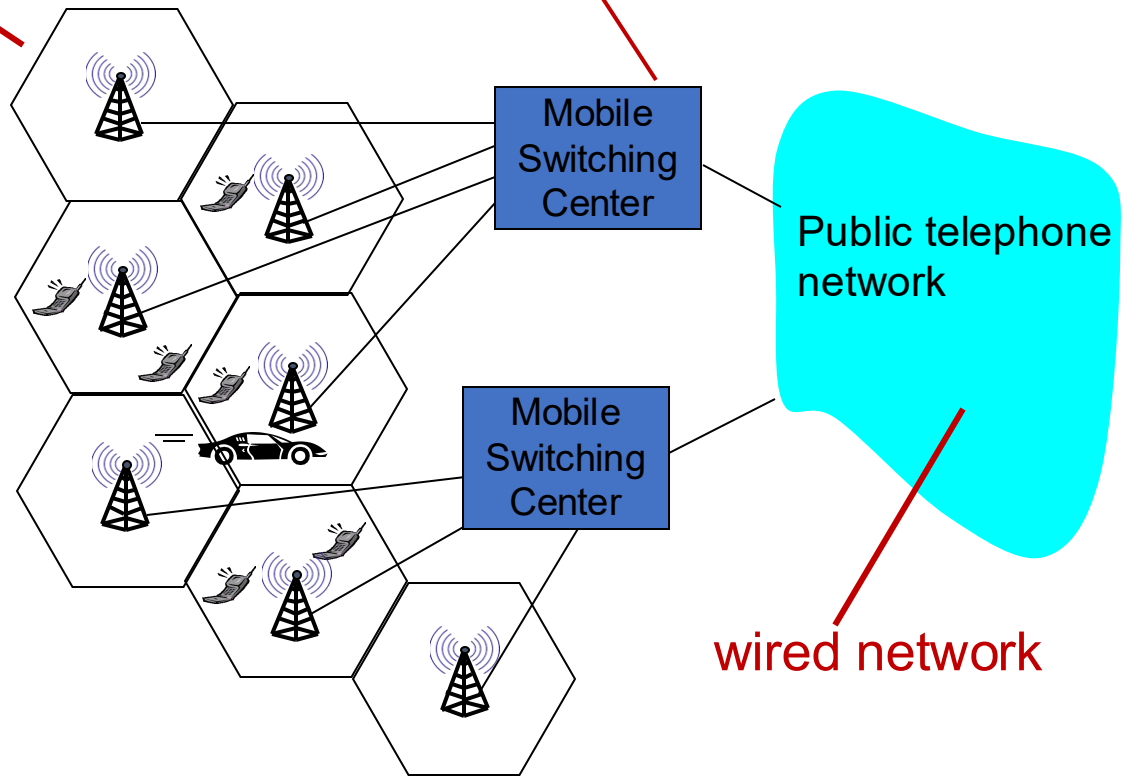
Components of cellular network architecture

MSC

- connects cells to wired tel. net.
- manages call setup
- handles mobility

cell

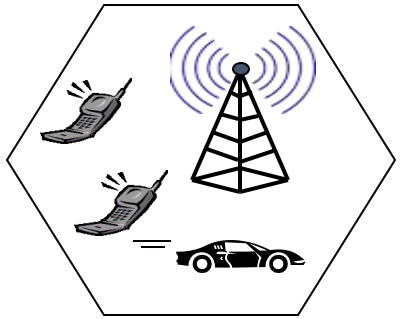
- covers geographical region
- *base station* (BS) analogous to 802.11 AP
- *mobile users* attach to network through BS
- *air-interface:* physical and link layer protocol between mobile and BS

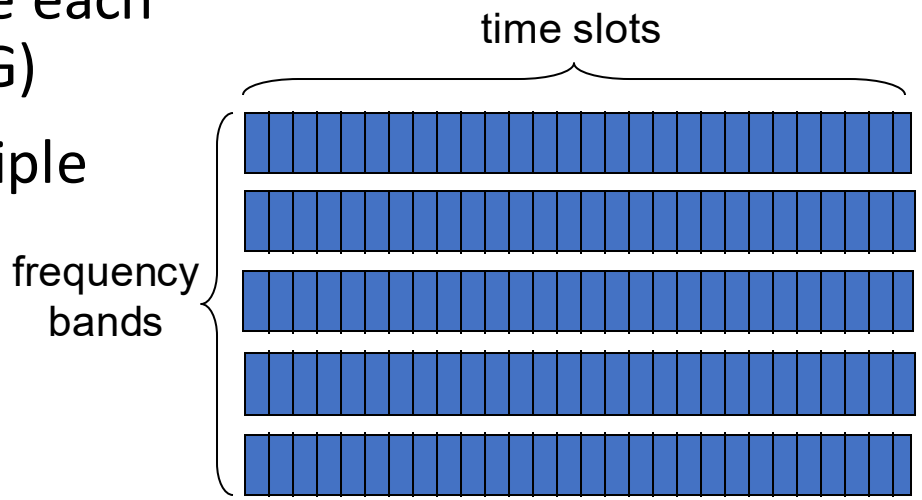


Cellular networks: the first hop

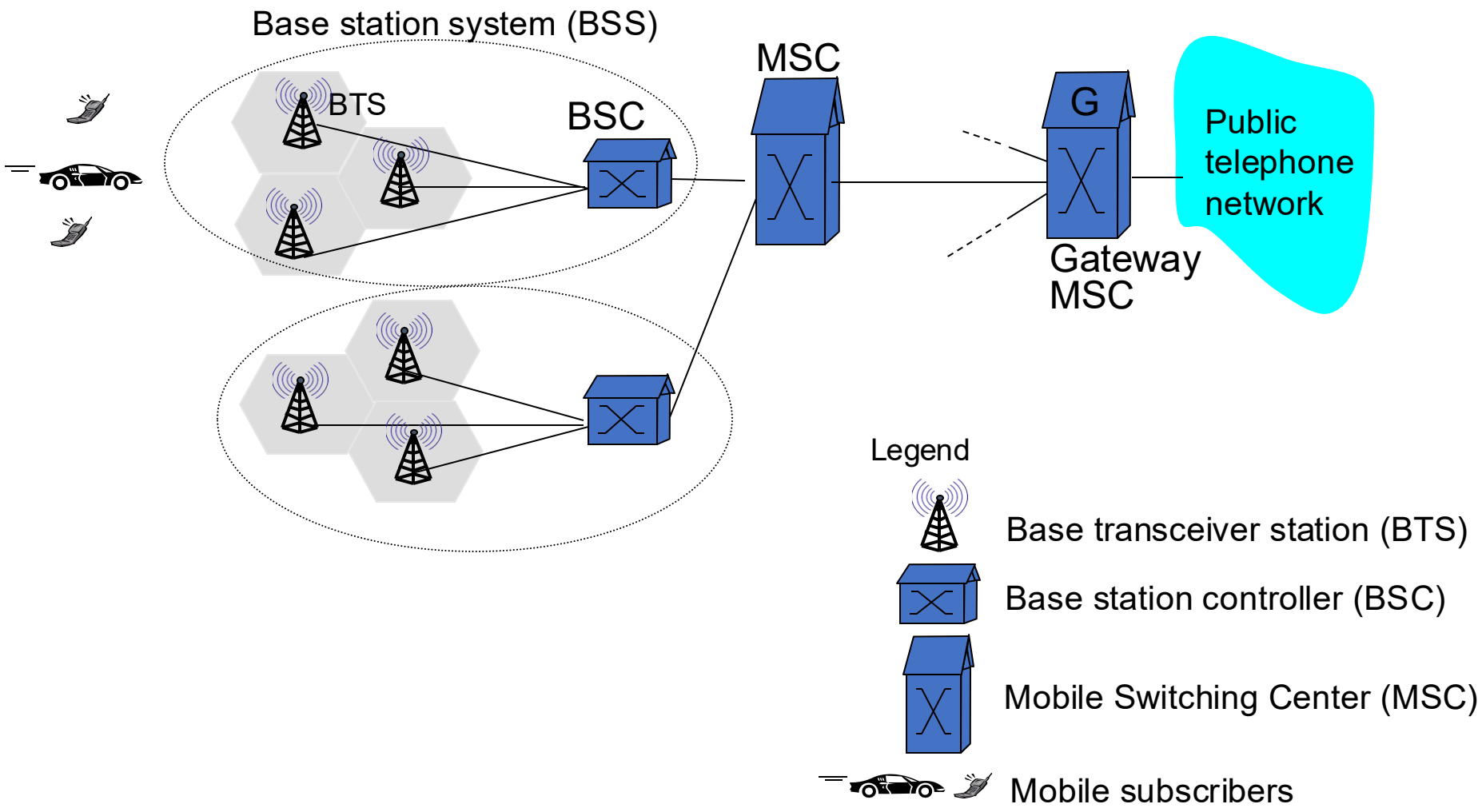
Two techniques for sharing mobile-to-BS radio spectrum

- combined OFDMA/TDMA: divide spectrum (subcarriers) in frequency channels, divide each channel into time slots (4G)
- CDMA: code division multiple access. (3G)

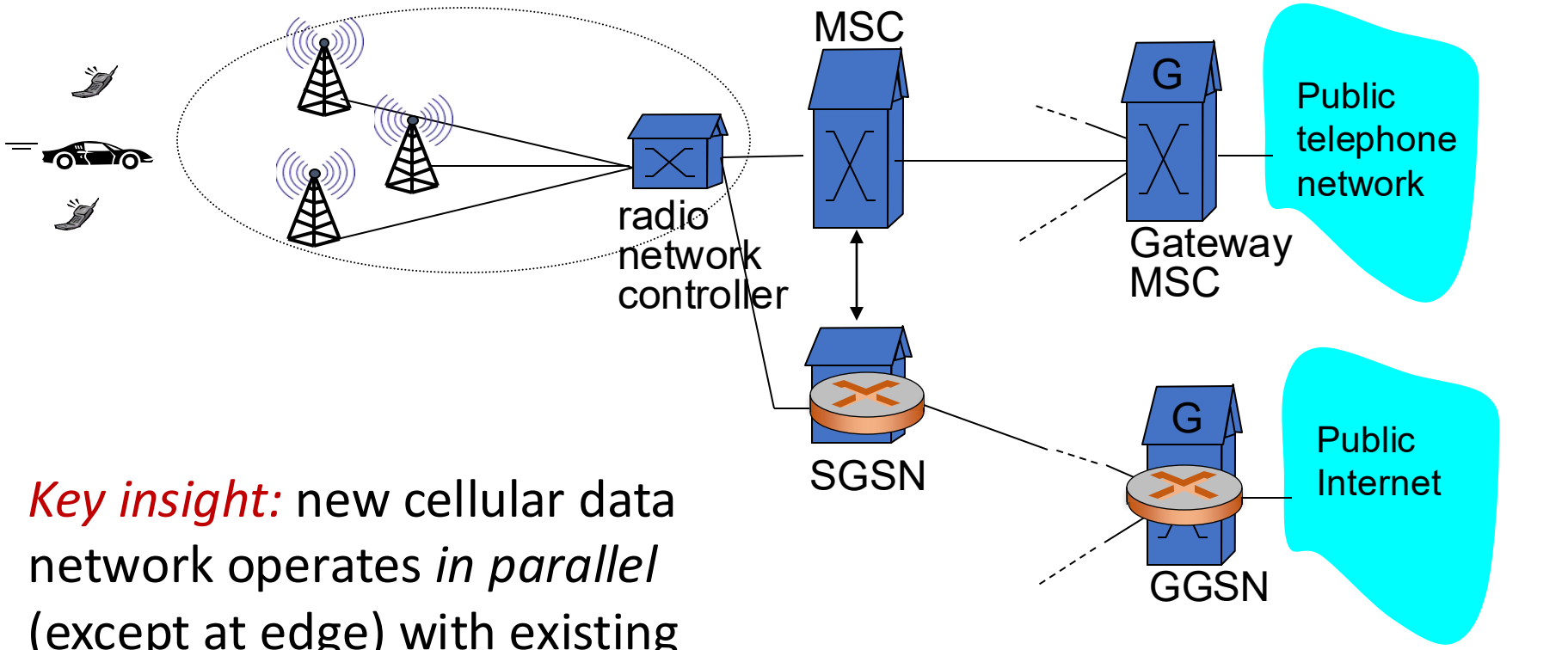




2G (voice) network architecture

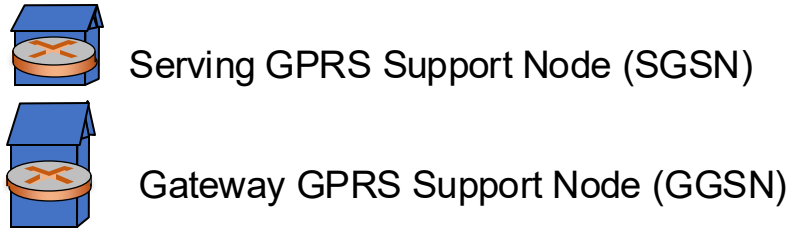


3G (voice+data) network architecture

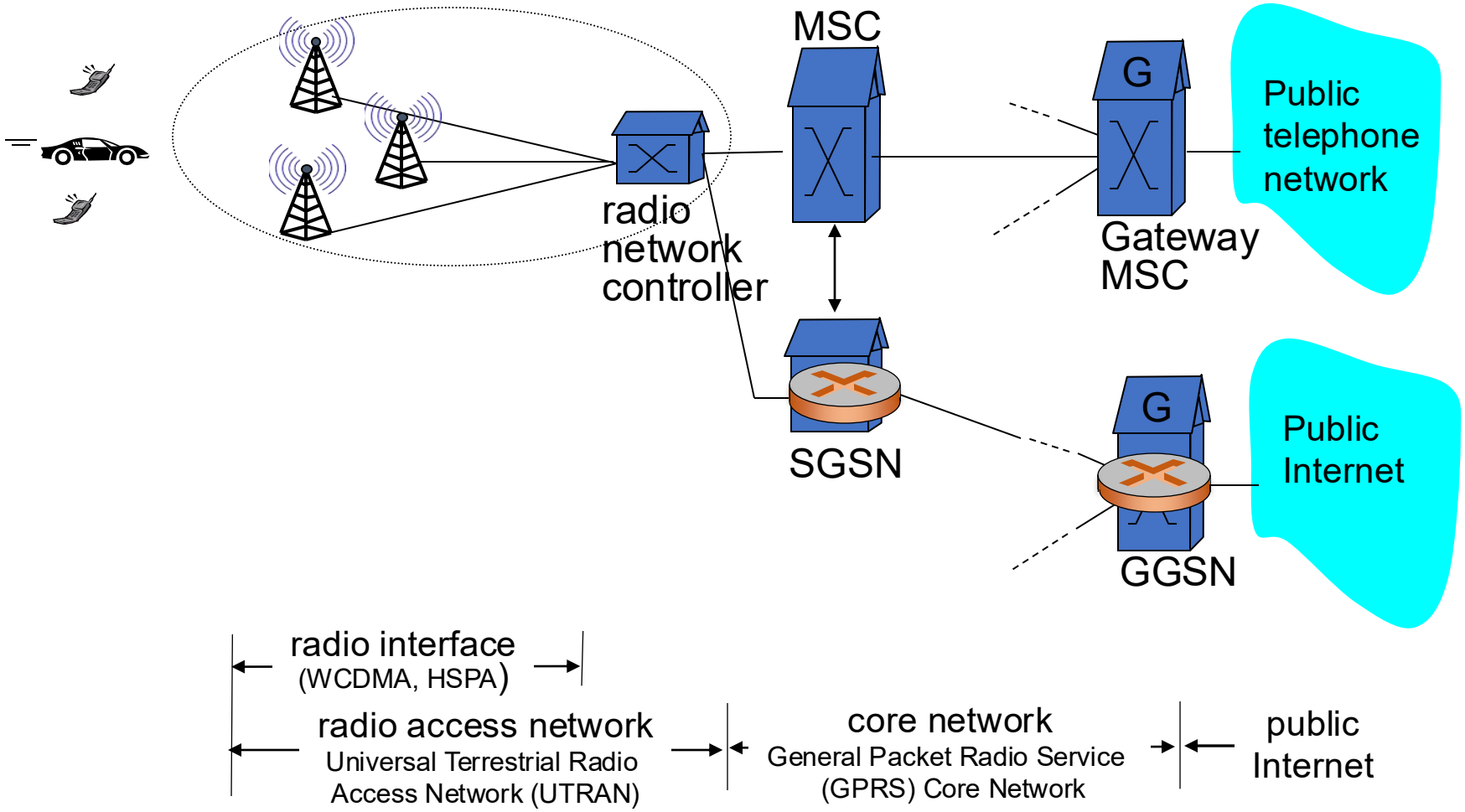


Key insight: new cellular data network operates *in parallel* (except at edge) with existing cellular voice network

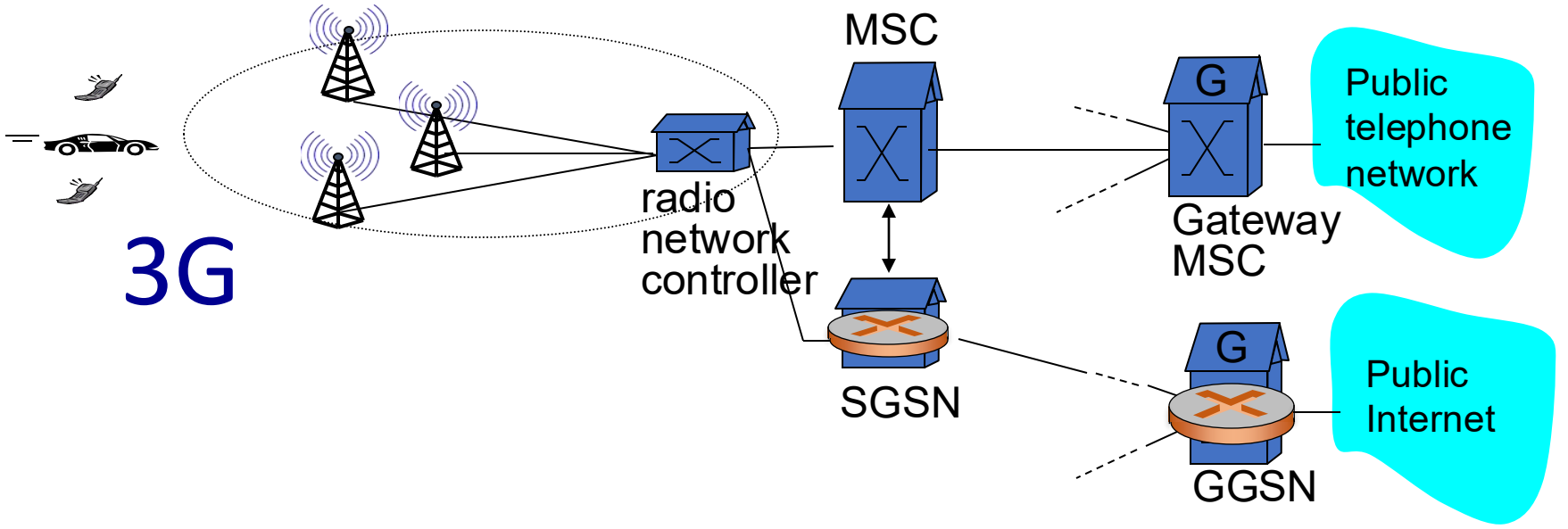
- voice network *unchanged* in core
- data network operates in parallel

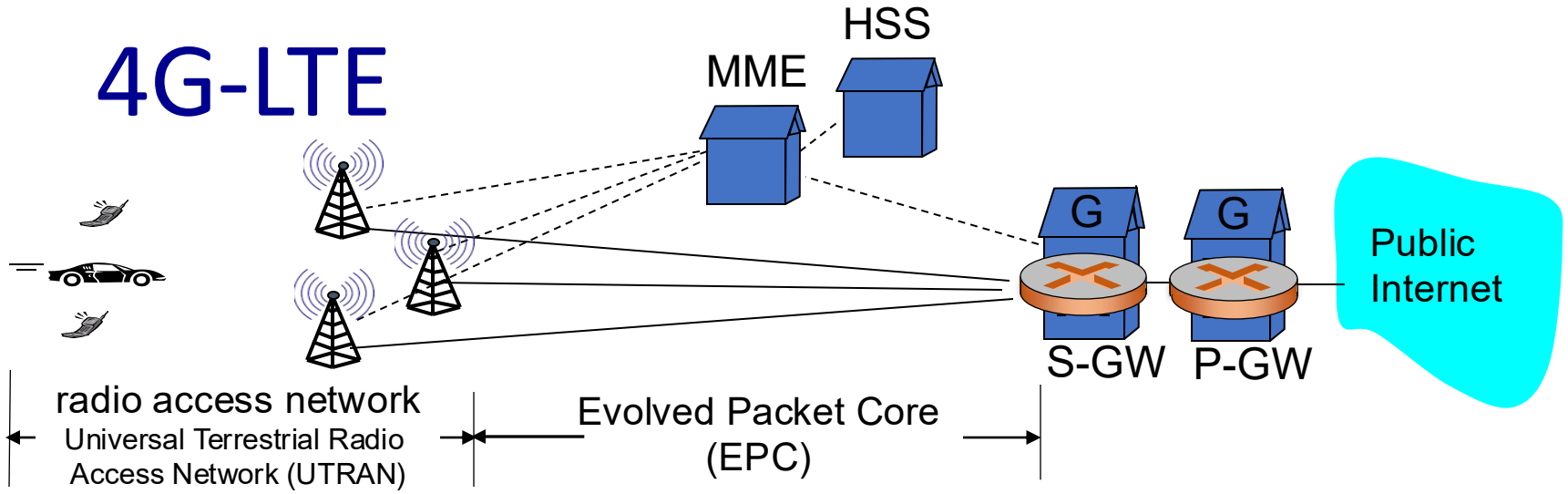


3G (voice+data) network architecture



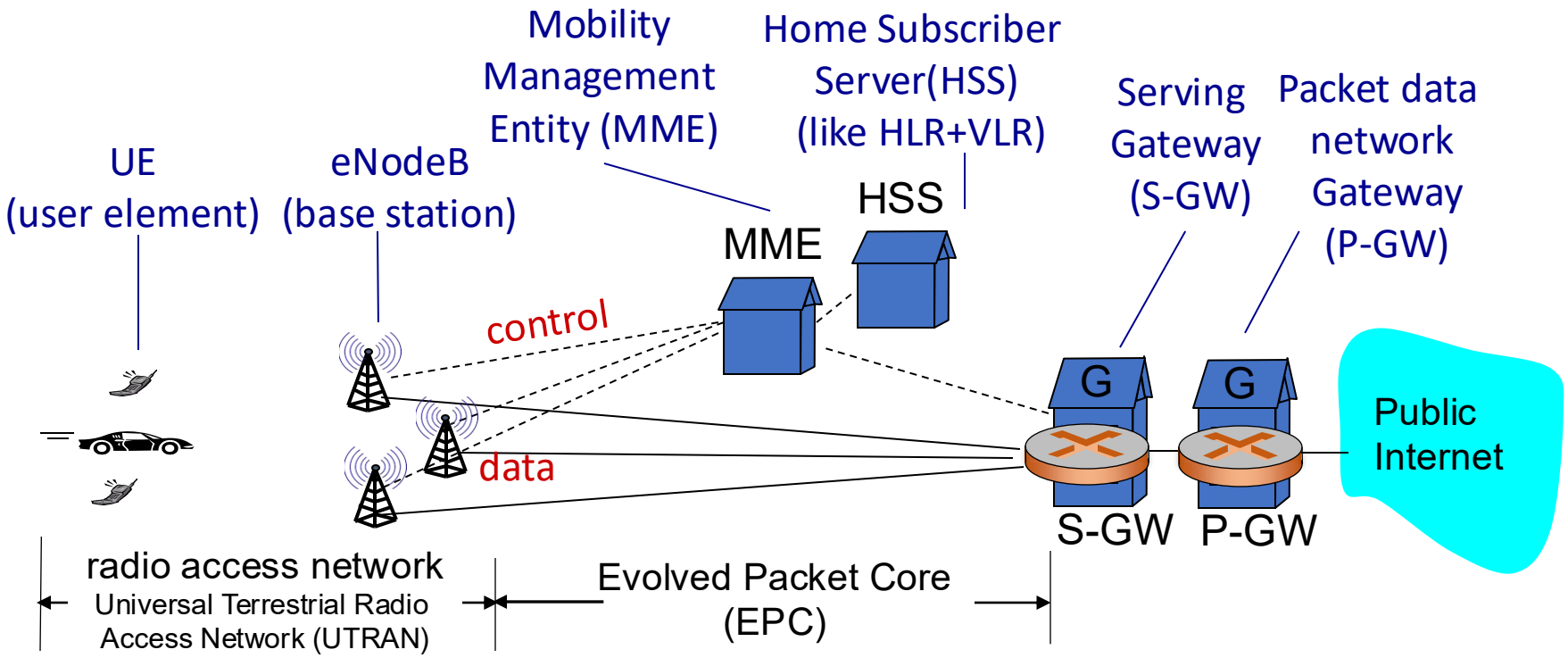
3G versus 4G LTE network architecture





4G: differences from 3G

- all IP core: IP packets tunneled (through core IP network) from base station to gateway
- no separation between voice and data – all traffic carried over IP core to gateway



Mobile fueled the last 30 years–interconnecting people

1980s
Analog voice
AMPS, NMT, TACS

1990s
Digital voice
D-AMPS, GSM, IS-95 (CDMA)

2000s
Mobile broadband
WCDMA/HSPA+, CDMA2000/EV-DO

2010s
Mobile Internet
LTE, LTE Advanced

A unifying connectivity fabric

Always-available, secure cloud access

5G

Enhanced mobile broadband

Mission-critical services

Massive Internet of Things

Unifying connectivity platform for future innovation

Convergence of spectrum types/bands, diverse services, and deployments, with new technologies to enable a robust, future-proof 5G platform

5G will redefine a wide range of industries

A platform for new connected services - existing, emerging and unforeseen

5G: Unified Air Interface

Enhanced mobile broadband

Massive Internet of Things

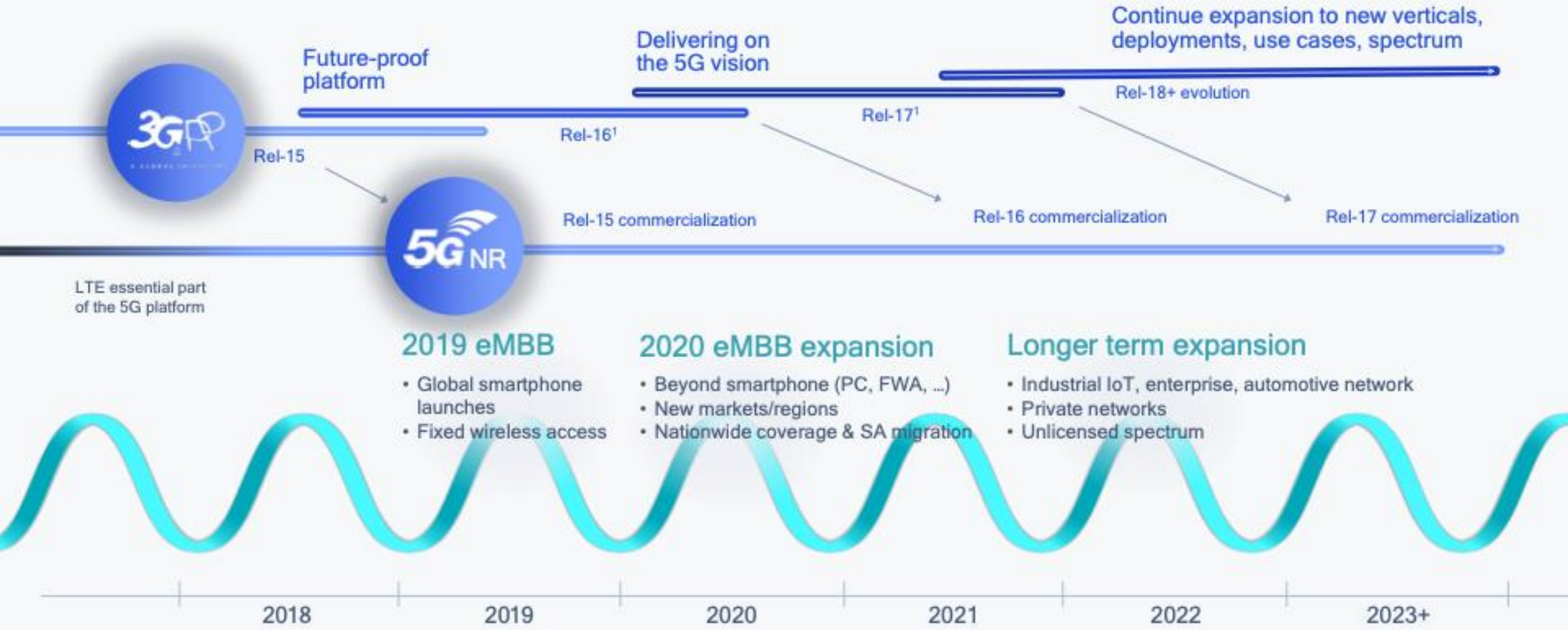
Mission-critical services

Enhanced Mobile Broadband (eMBB)	Massive Machine Type Communications (mMTC)	Ultra-Reliable, Low-Latency Communications (URLLC)
▪ 100+ Mbps avg. throughput ▪ 10+ Gbps peak throughput	▪ 10^6/km^2 connection density ▪ Low cost/energy connectivity	▪ 99.999% service availability ▪ 1 – 10 ms latency
▪ Mobile video and gaming ▪ Cloud computing and storage ▪ High speed connectivity	▪ Billions of connected devices ▪ Sensor networks ▪ IoT / M2M / D2D	▪ Tactile Internet ▪ Natural disaster relief ▪ E-Medicine and Health care

5G Radio Standard: NR (New Radio)

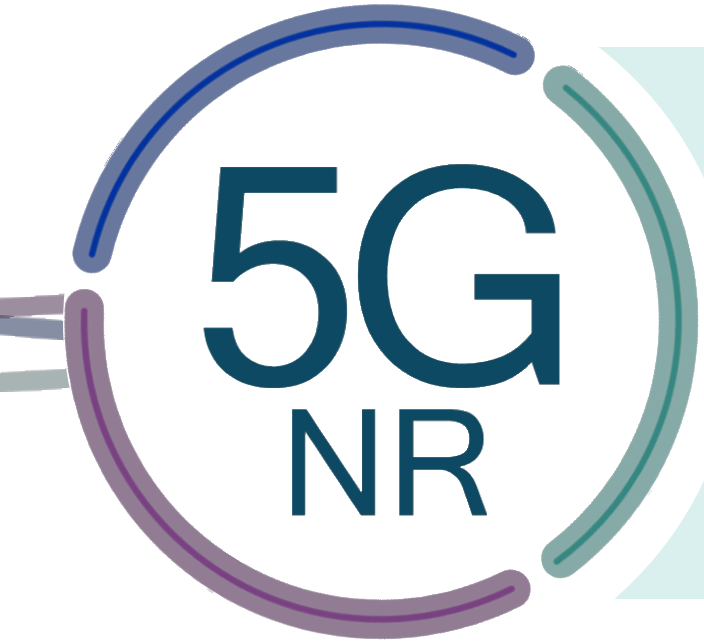
- Spectrum
  - Millimeter Wave (Very High Frequency Communication).
  - Dynamic Spectrum Sharing.
- Physical Layer
  - Massive MIMO (MIMO Beamforming with 100s of antennas)
  - LDPC & Polar Codes, F-OFDM, …
- Architecture
  - Small Cells (Extended from 4G)
  - Virtualization (NFV, SDNs)
  - Network Slicing
  - Cloud RAN (Radio Access Network)

Driving the 5G expansion



1. 3GPP start date indicates approval of study package (study item->work item->specifications), previous release continues beyond start of next release with functional freezes and ASN.1

Getting the most out of every bit of diverse spectrum



Low bands below 1 GHz: longer range for e.g. mobile broadband and massive IoT
e.g. 600 MHz, 700 MHz, 850/900 MHz

Mid bands 1 GHz to 6 GHz: wider bandwidths for e.g. eMBB and mission-critical
e.g. 3.4-3.8 GHz, 3.8-4.2 GHz, 4.4-4.9 GHz

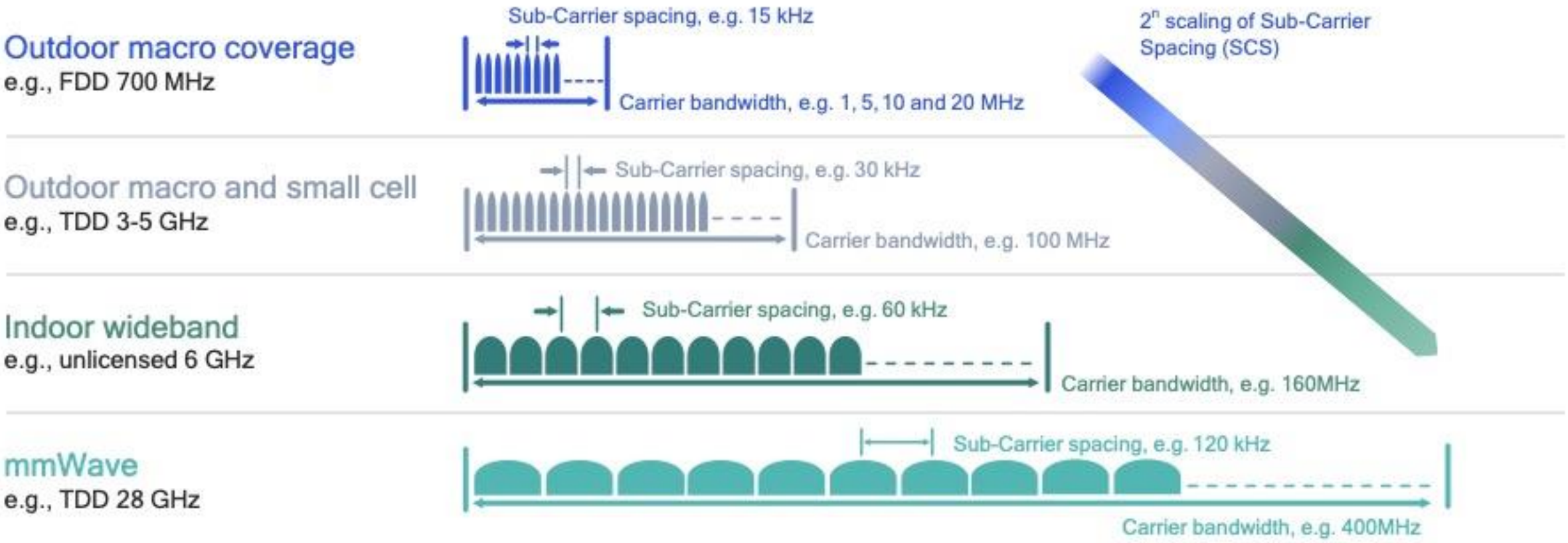
High bands above 24 GHz (mmWave): extreme bandwidths
e.g. 24.25-27.5 GHz, 27.5-29.5, 37-40, 64-71 GHz

Licensed Spectrum
Exclusive use

Shared Spectrum
New shared spectrum paradigms

Unlicensed Spectrum
Shared use

Scalable 5G NR OFDM numerology–examples

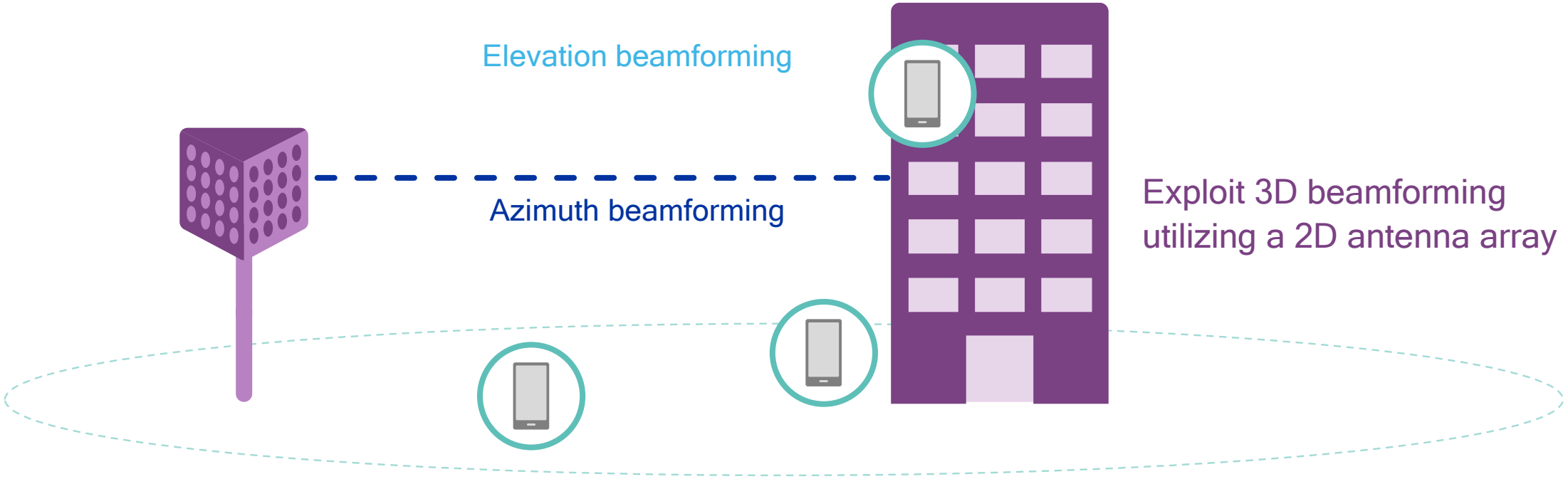


Efficiently address 5G diverse spectrum, deployments and services

Scaling reduces FFT processing complexity for wider bandwidths with reusable hardware

Many more antennas to increase coverage and capacity

Evolving towards Massive MIMO

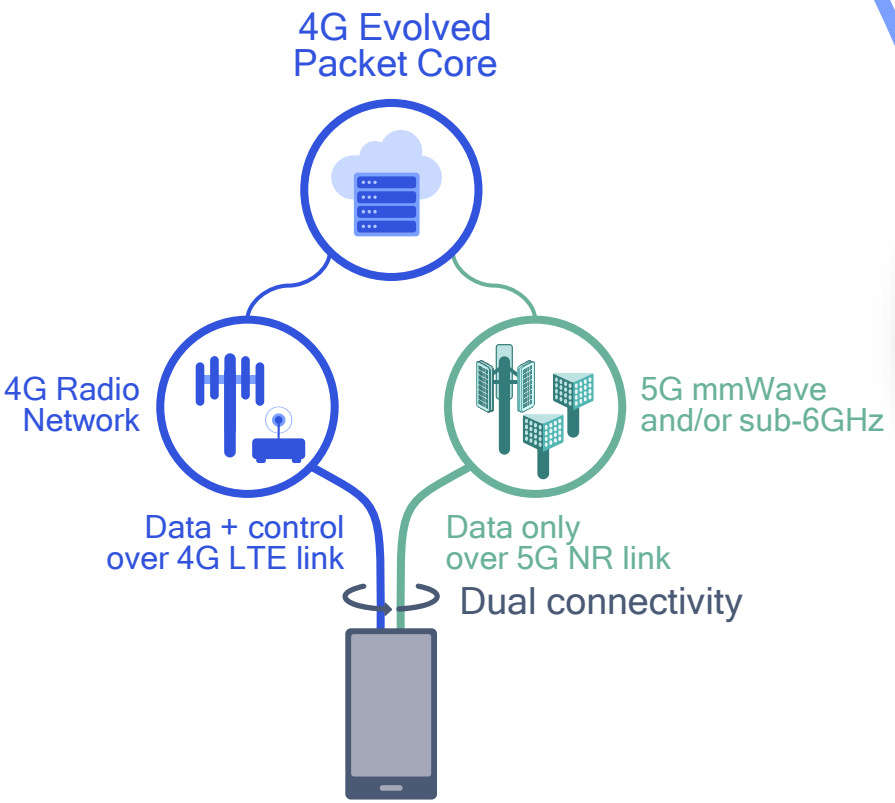


LTE Today
Fixed codebook for up to 8-antenna elements with azimuth beamforming only

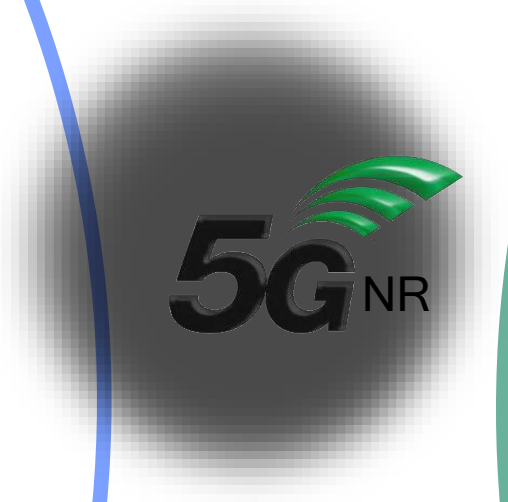
LTE Rel. 13 (FD-MIMO)
2D codebook support for 8-, 12- and 16-antenna elements with Reference Signal enhancements for beamforming

5G NR Rel. 15 (Massive MIMO)
Support even larger # of antenna elements (up to 256) with new features, e.g. hybrid beamforming, distributed MIMO

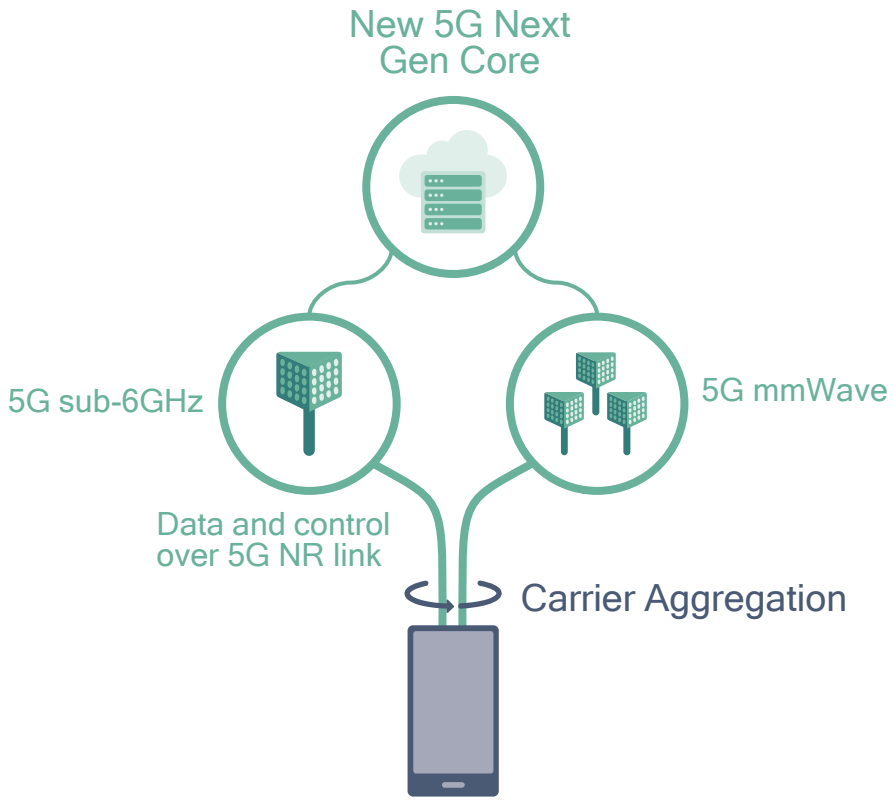
Non-Standalone (NSA) stepping stone to new core



Fast-to-launch | VoLTE & CS voice



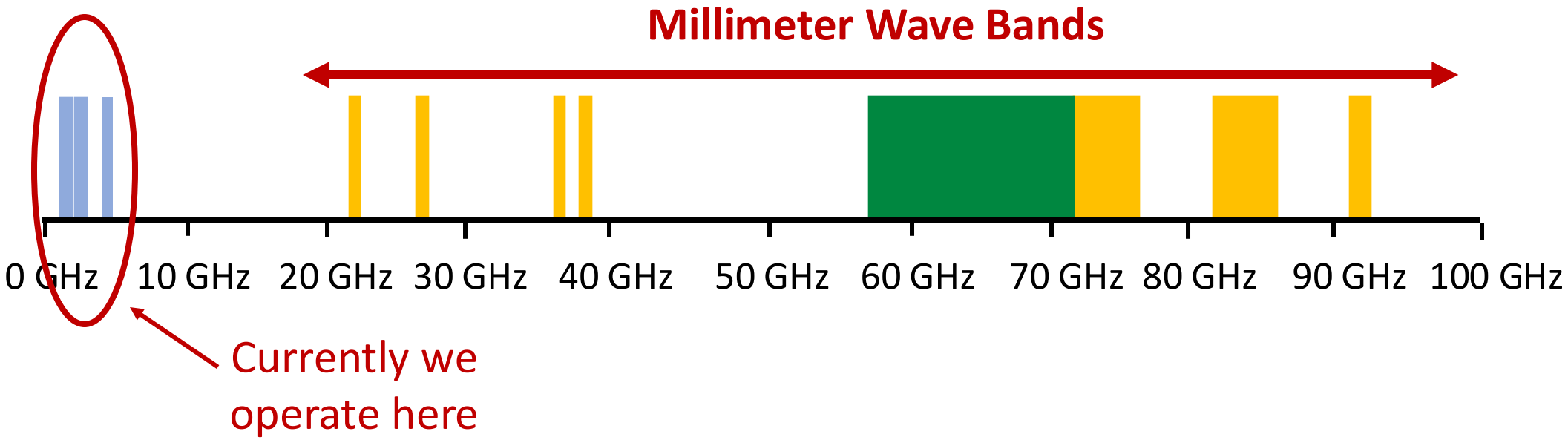
Standalone (SA) for new core benefits



NFV and SDN | VoNR & fallback to VoLTE

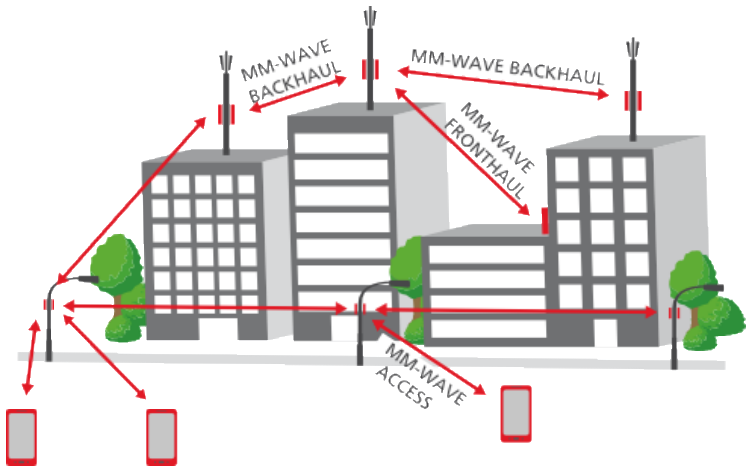
Millimeter Wave Technology

Huge bandwidth available at millimeter wave frequencies



Millimeter Wave can support data rates of multi-Gbps

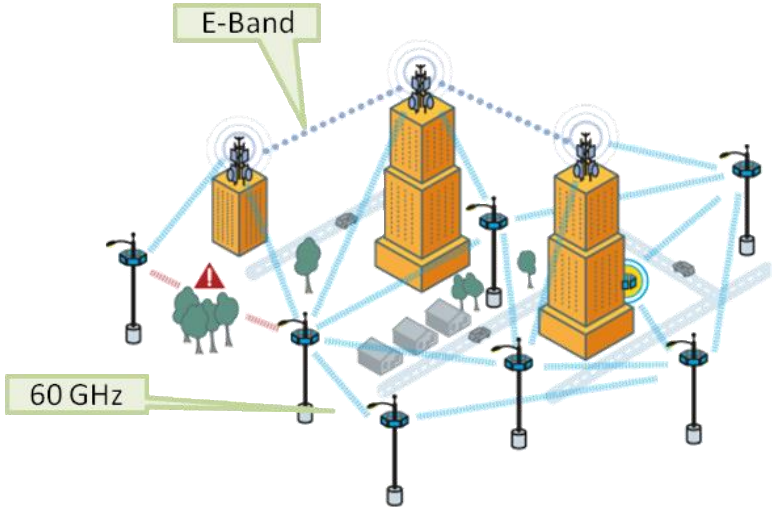
Millimeter Wave Wireless Applications



5G Wireless Backhaul & Access

Virtual Reality

Connected Vehicles



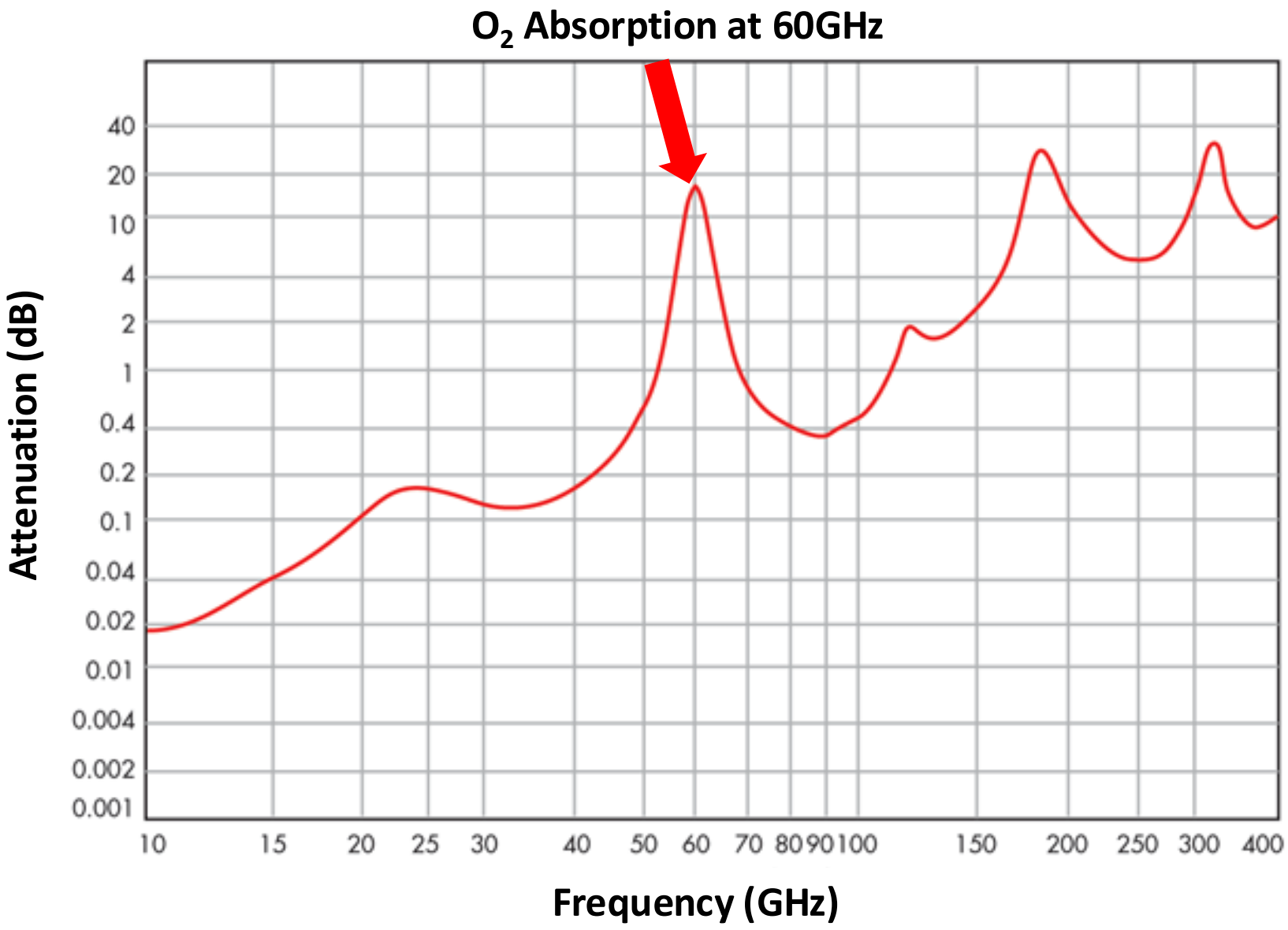
60 GHz WiGi Mesh Networks

Robotic Networks

Wireless Data Centers

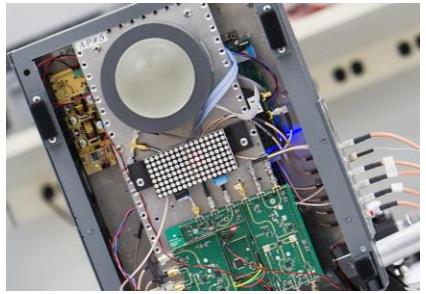
Significantly limits mobility & experience

Millimeter Waves Suffer from Large Attenuation



Millimeter Waves Suffer from Attenuation

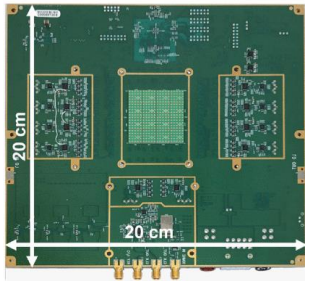
mmWave radios use phased antenna arrays to focus the power along one direction



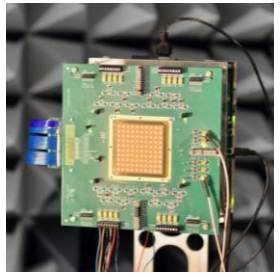
Nokia & National Instruments

UCSD
256 elements

UCSD
64 elements

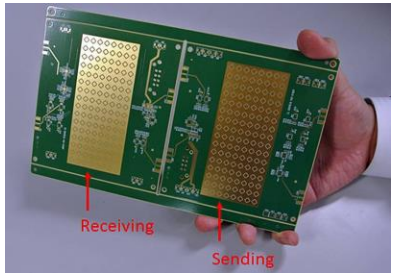


Bell Labs
384 elements



IBM
64 elements

Anokiwave
256 elements



Fujitsu
64 elements

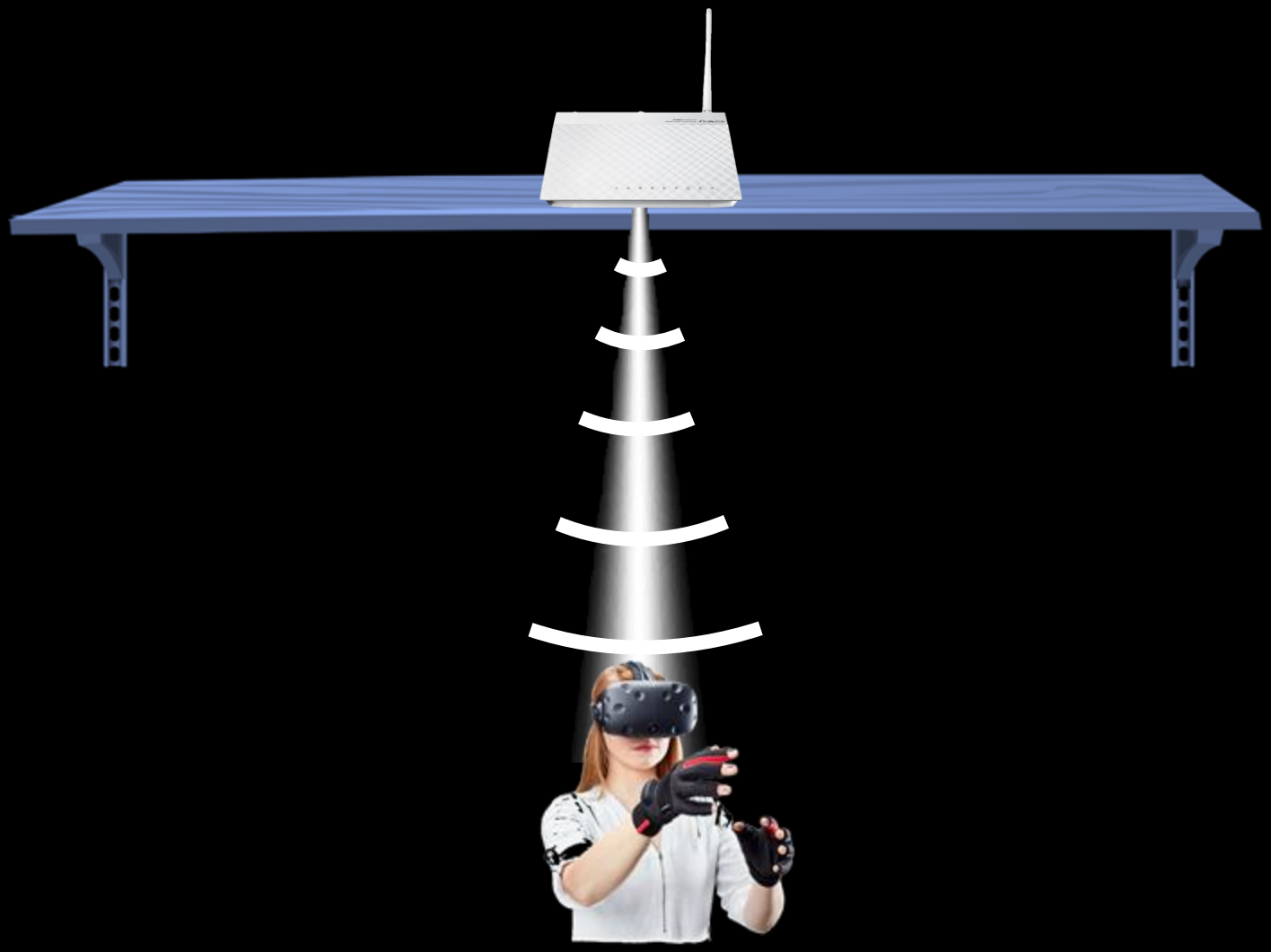
Small Wavelength enables thousands of antennas to be packed into small space

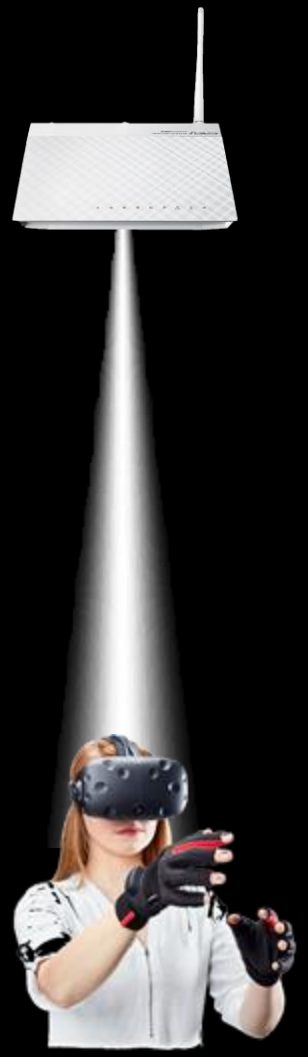
→ Extremely narrow beams

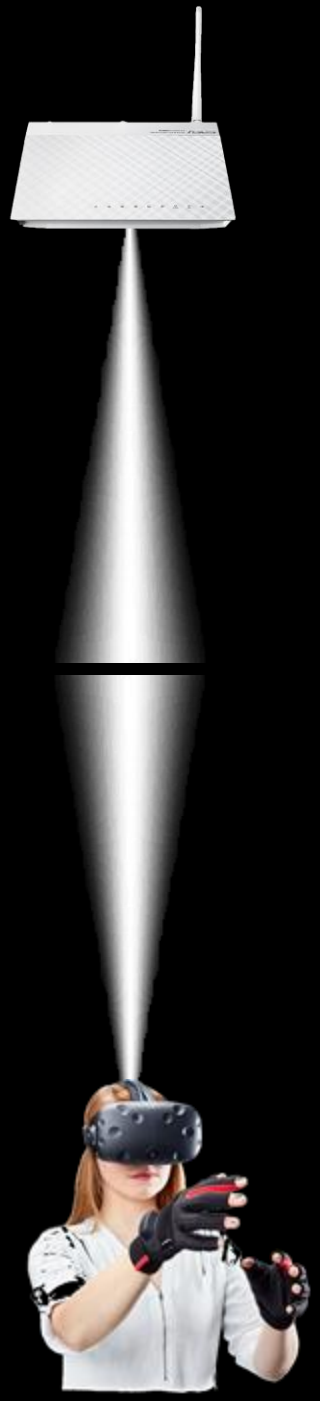
Today's Networks : Broadcast

mmWave changes how wireless systems operate

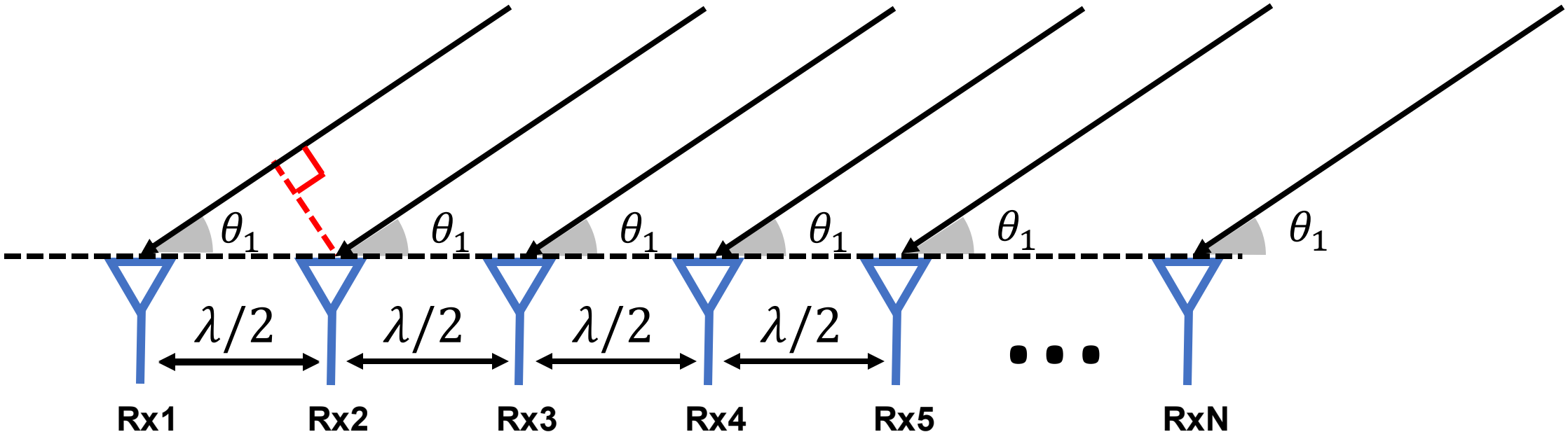
mmWave: Narrow-beam Antennas





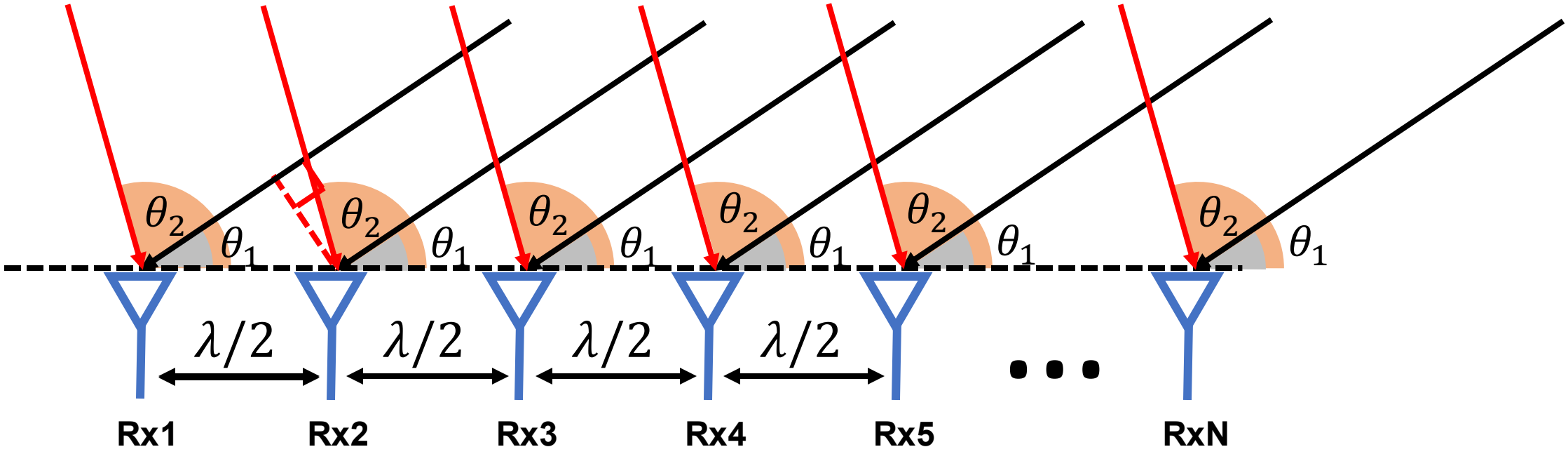


Antenna Arrays



$$h_k = \alpha_1 e^{-j2\pi \frac{d_1 - k\, s \cos\theta_1}{\lambda}} = \alpha_1 e^{-j\phi_1 + k\pi \cos\theta_1}$$

Antenna Arrays

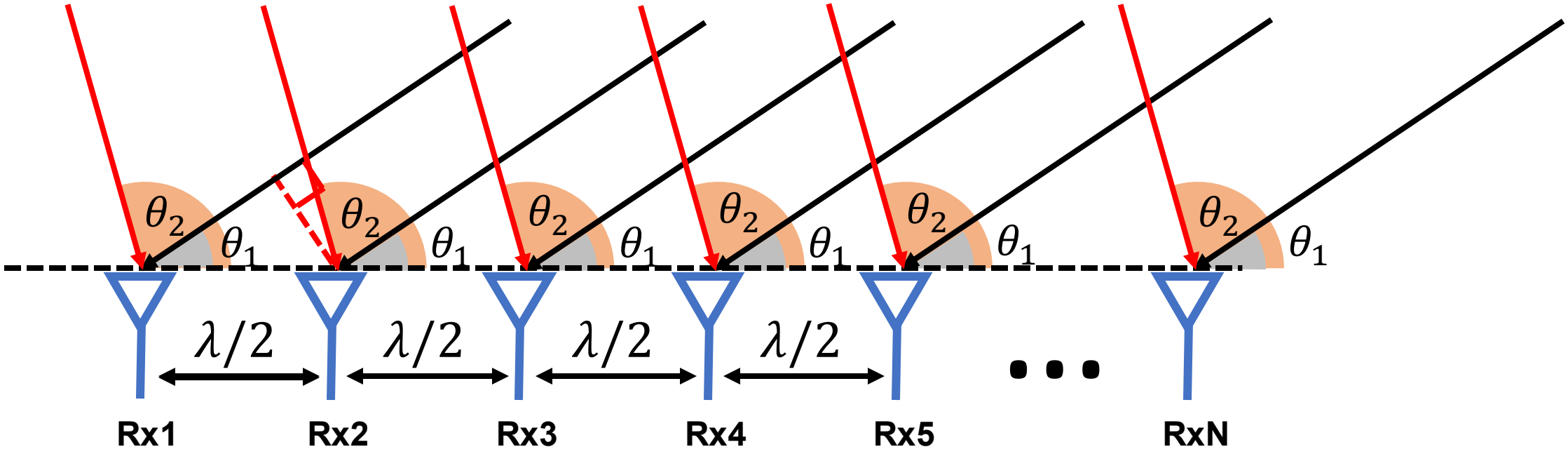


$$h_k = \alpha_1 e^{-j2\pi\frac{d_1 - k\,s\cos\theta_1}{\lambda}} = \alpha_1 e^{-j\phi_1 + k\pi\cos\theta_1}$$

$$+\alpha_2 e^{-j2\pi\frac{d_2 - k\,s\cos\theta_2}{\lambda}} \quad +\alpha_2 e^{-j\phi_2 + k\pi\cos\theta_2}$$

For L paths → $h_k = \sum_{l=1}^{L} \alpha_l e^{jk\pi\cos\theta_l - j\phi_l}$

Antenna Arrays



$$h_k = \sum_{l=1}^{L} \alpha_l e^{jk\pi \cos\theta_l - j\phi_l}$$

Multipath Profile: $P(\theta) = \left| \sum_{k=1}^{N} h_k e^{-jk\pi \cos\theta} \right|^2$

Antenna Arrays

$$P(\theta) = \left| \sum_{k=1}^{N} h_k e^{-jk\pi \cos\theta} \right|^2 \qquad h_k = \sum_{l=1}^{L} \alpha_l e^{jk\pi \cos\theta_l - j\phi_l}$$

$$P(\theta_1) = \left| \sum_{k=1}^{N} h_k e^{-jk\pi \cos\theta_1} \right|^2$$

$$= \left| \sum_{k=1}^{N} \left(\sum_{l=1}^{L} \alpha_l e^{jk\pi \cos\theta_l - j\phi_l} \right) e^{-jk\pi \cos\theta_1} \right|^2$$

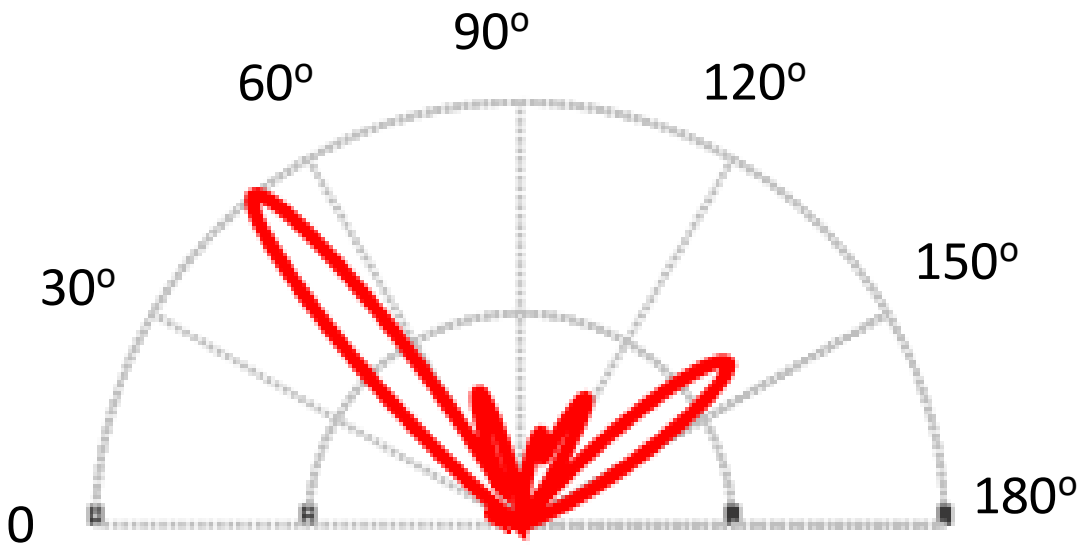
$$= \left| \sum_{k=1}^{N} \alpha_1 e^{-j\phi_1} + \sum_{k=1}^{N} \left(\sum_{l=2}^{L} \alpha_l e^{jk\pi(\cos\theta_l - \cos\theta_1) - j\phi_l} \right) \right|^2$$

$$= \left| N\alpha_1 e^{-j\phi_1} + \sum_{l=2}^{L} \alpha_l e^{-j\phi_l} \left(\sum_{k=1}^{N} e^{jk\pi(\cos\theta_l - \cos\theta_1)} \right) \right|^2 \approx N^2 \alpha_1^2$$

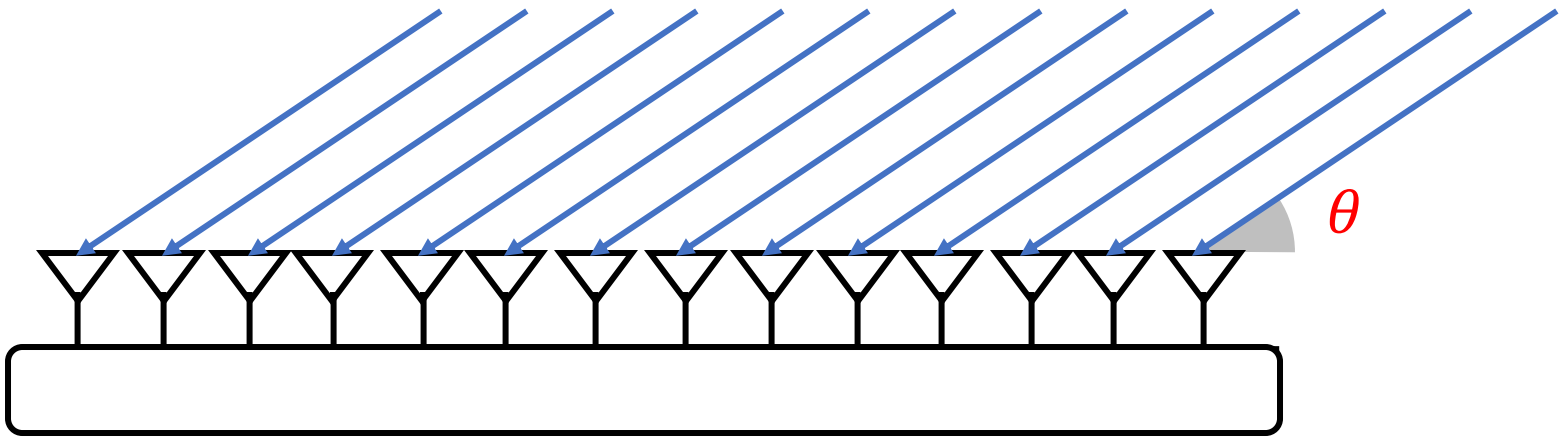
Antenna Arrays

$$h_k = \sum_{l=1}^{L} \alpha_l e^{jk\pi \cos\theta_l - j\phi_l}$$

$$Multipath\ Profile\colon\ P(\theta) = \left| \sum_{k=1}^{N} h_k e^{-jk\pi \cos\theta} \right|^2$$

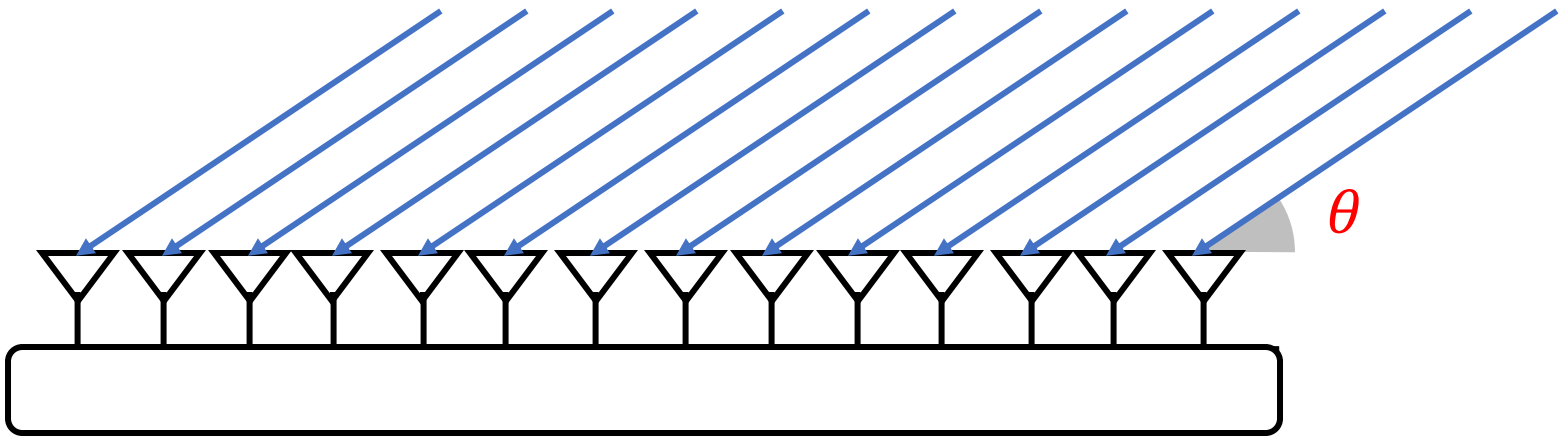


Antenna Arrays



$$h_k = \alpha_1 e^{-j2\pi \frac{d_1 - k\, s \cos\theta_1}{\lambda}}$$

Antenna Arrays



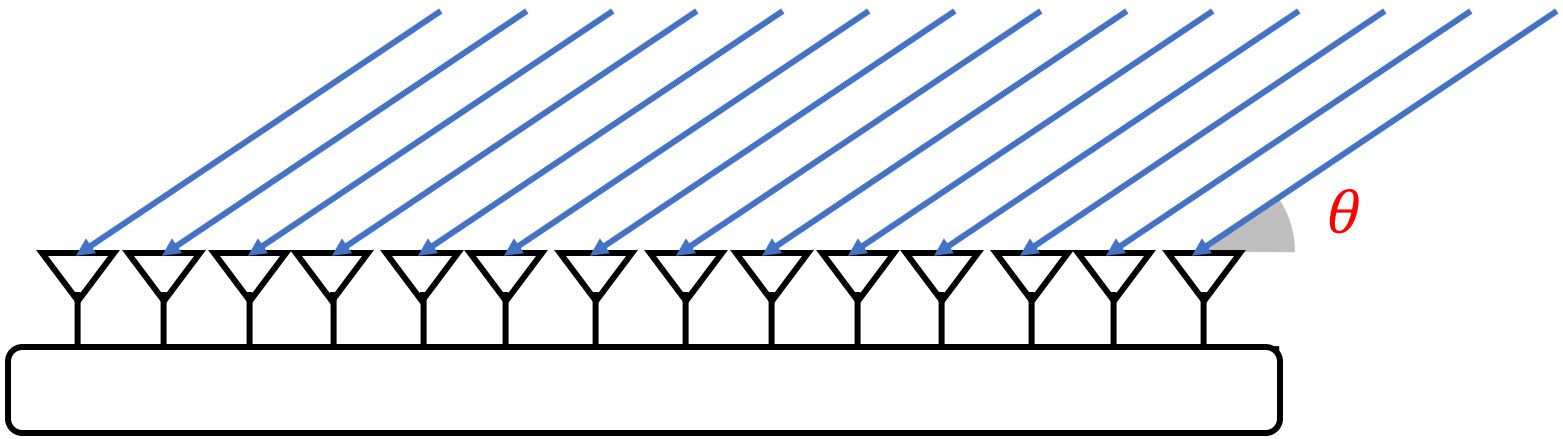
$$h_k = \sum_{l=1}^{L} \alpha_l e^{-j\phi_l} e^{j2\pi \frac{ks\cos\theta_l}{\lambda}}$$

Let: $f = \cos\theta$, $t = ks/\lambda$,
$P_{\cos\theta} = \alpha_l e^{-j\phi_l}$

$$h_t = \sum_f P_f e^{j2\pi f t} \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad x(t) = \sum_f X(f) e^{j2\pi f t}$$

Antenna Arrays are a Fourier Transform

Antenna Arrays



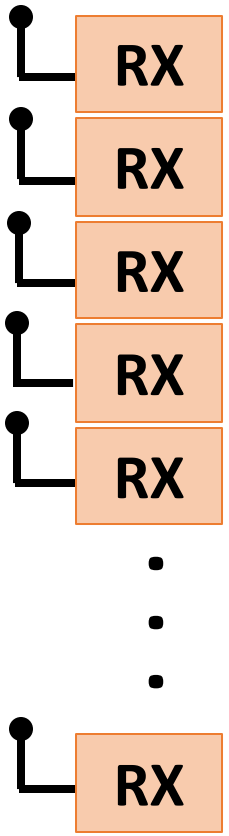
$$h_k = \sum_{l=1}^{L} \alpha_l e^{-j\phi_l} e^{j2\pi \frac{ks\cos\theta_l}{\lambda}} \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad x(t) = \sum_f X(f) e^{j2\pi f t}$$

Antennas $\Longleftrightarrow$ Time Samples

FFT FFT

AoA Directions $\Longleftrightarrow$ Frequencies

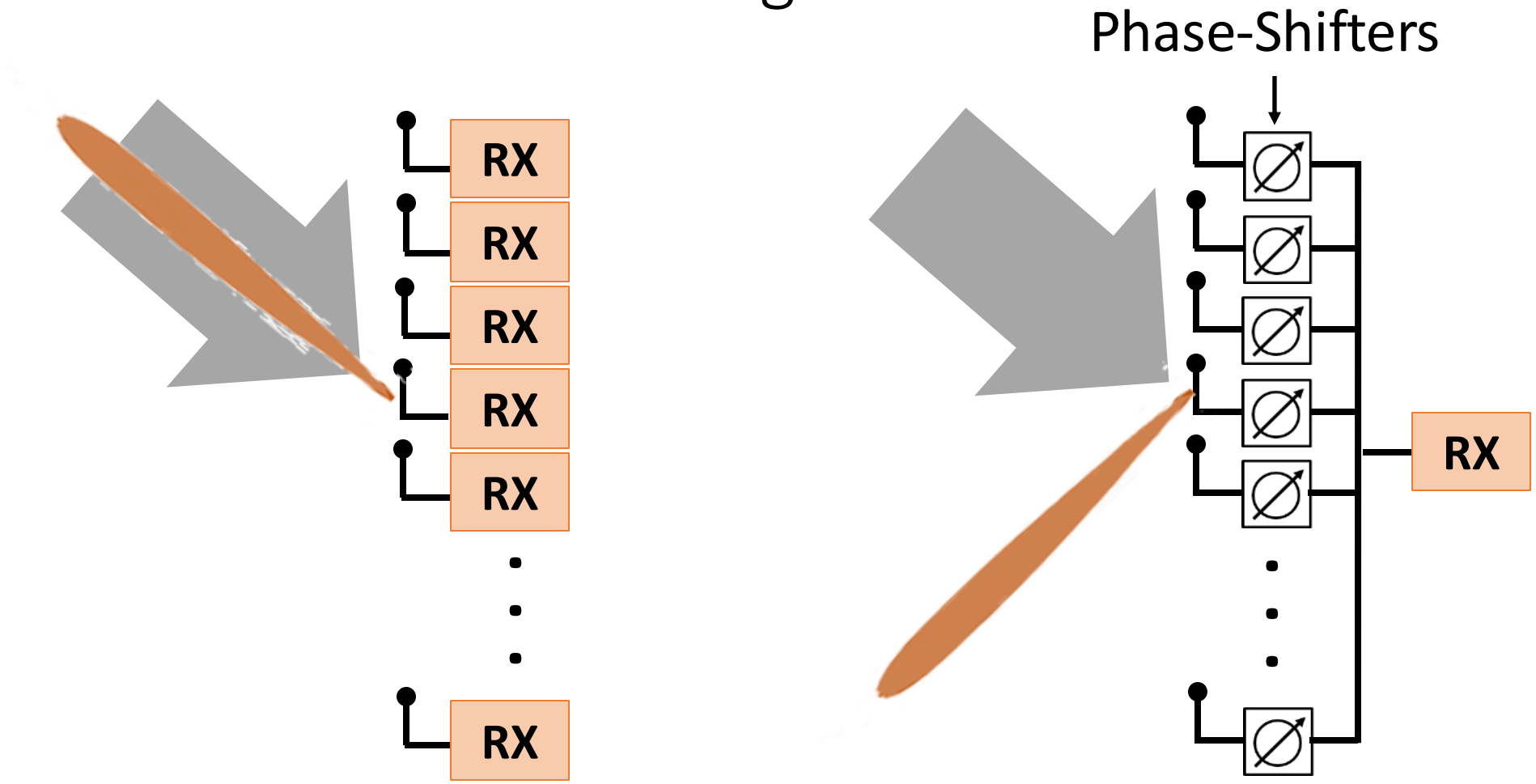
Why can't we estimate the direction of the signal?



Cannot have a TX/RX chain per antenna!

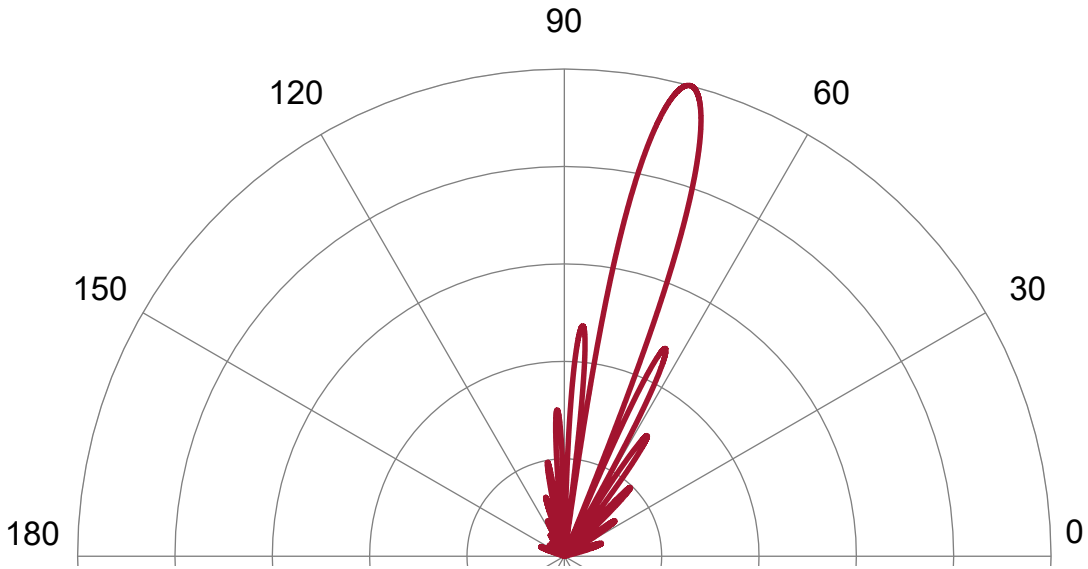
Cannot do digital beamforming

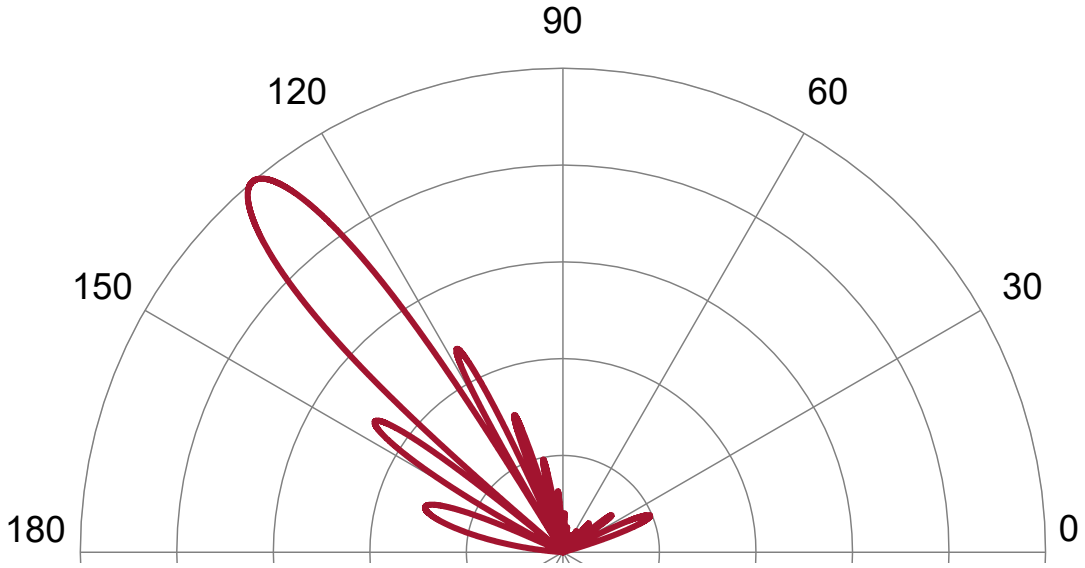
Why can't we estimate the direction of the signal?

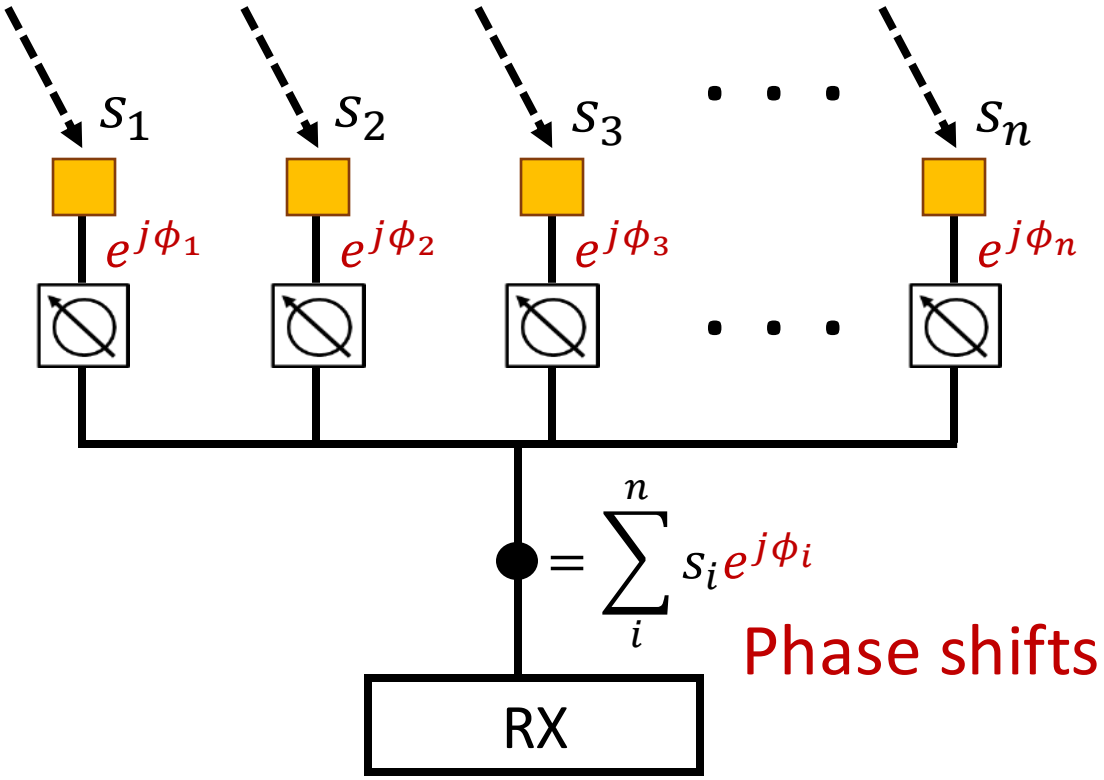


Need to scan the space and search for the direction of the signal → takes time!

How to control the beam pattern?



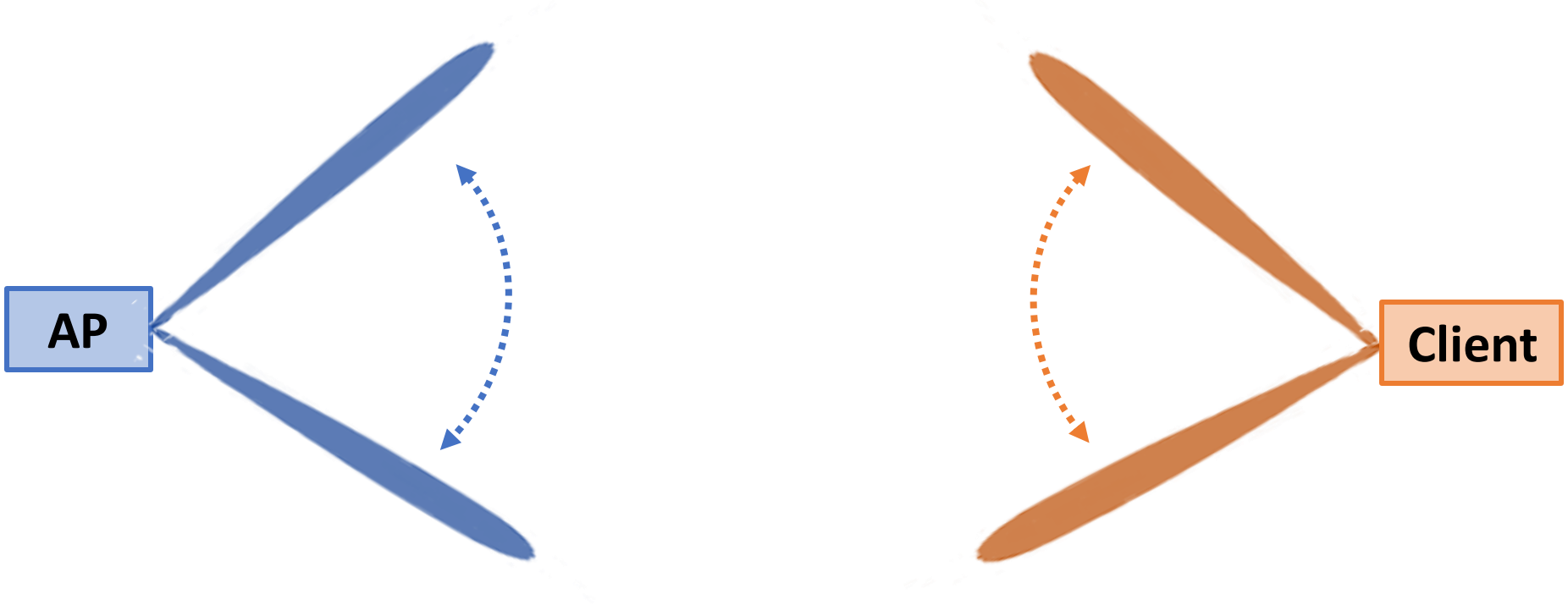




Phase shifts

How to align the beams of the AP and Client?

N : number of possible directions



How to align the beams of the AP and Client?

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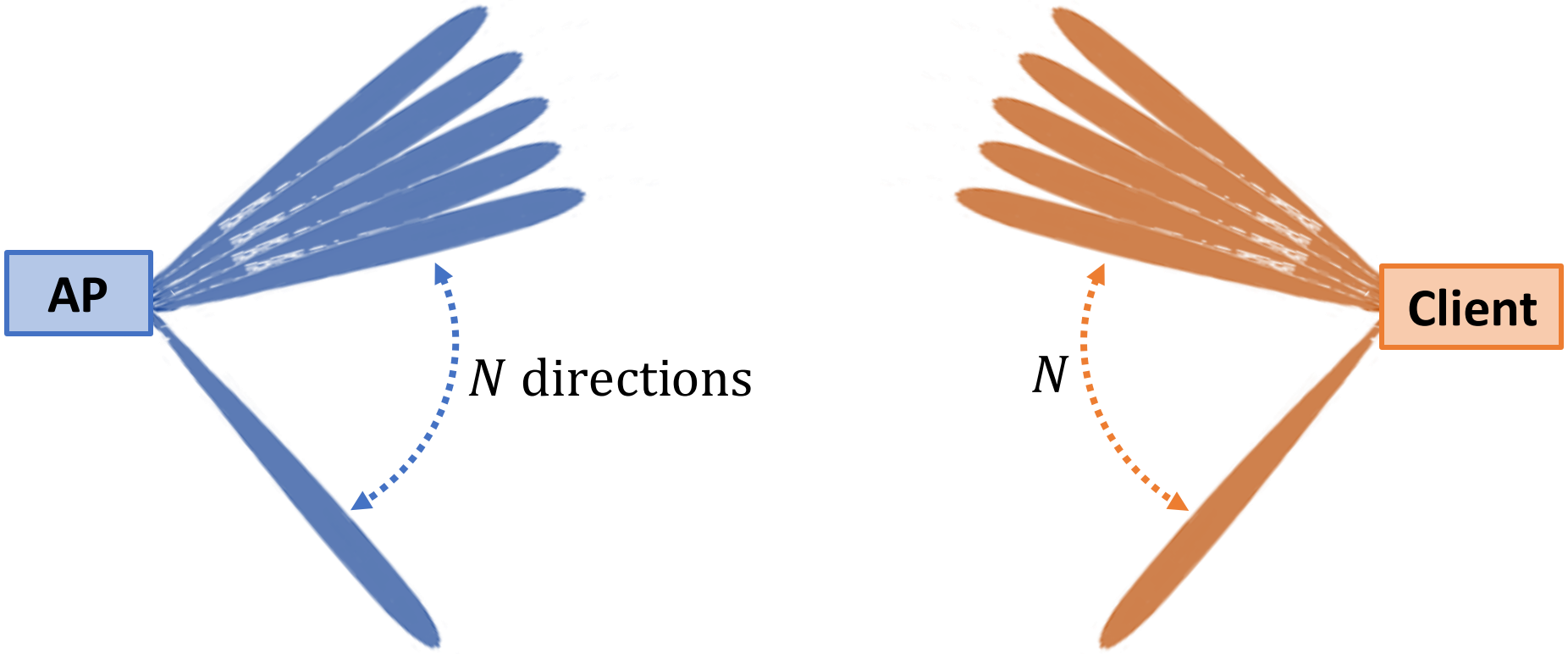
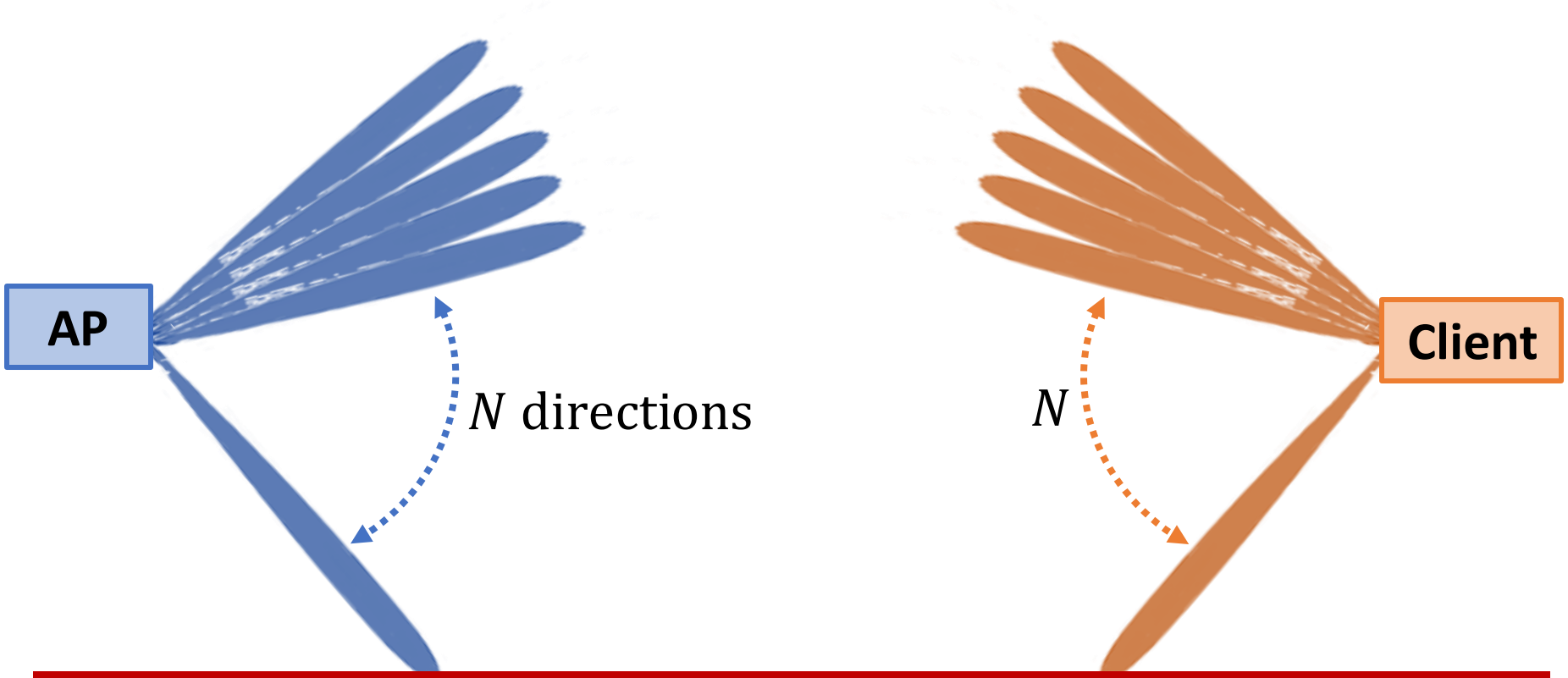


Naïve Algorithm: Exhaustive Scan

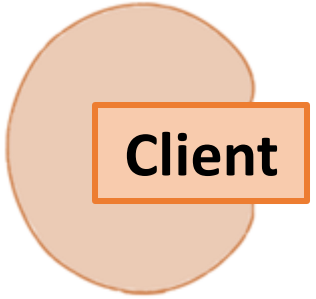
N : number of possible directions



$O(N^2)$ Beacon Packets → Too expensive

Multi-Stage Scan

Stage 1: Client uses omni-directional; AP scans directions



Multi-Stage Scan

Stage 2: AP uses omni directional; client scans directions

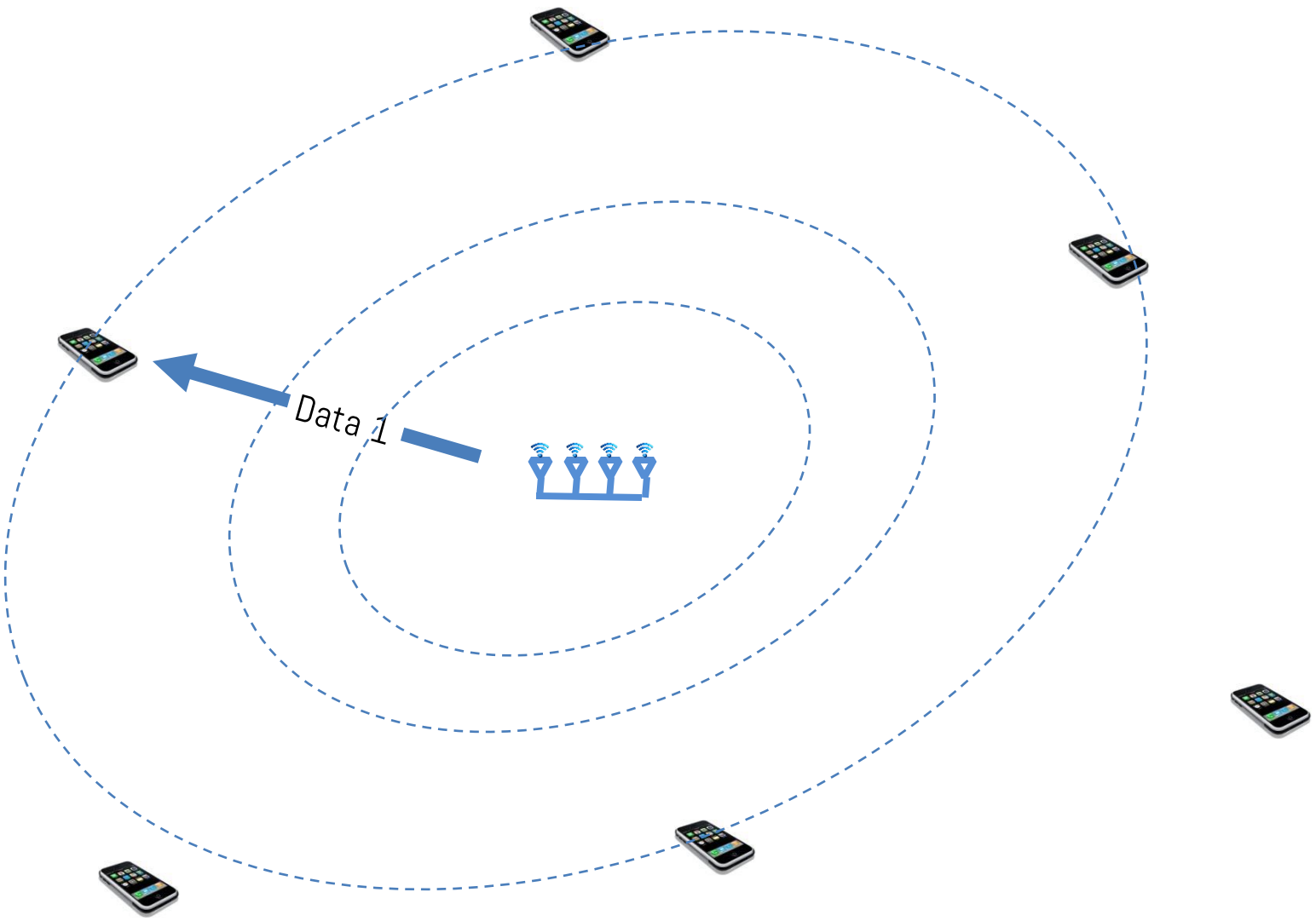
$O(N)$ Beacon Packets

→ Still Too Slow [MOBICOM'14, SIGMETRICS'15, NSDI'16]

Massive MIMO

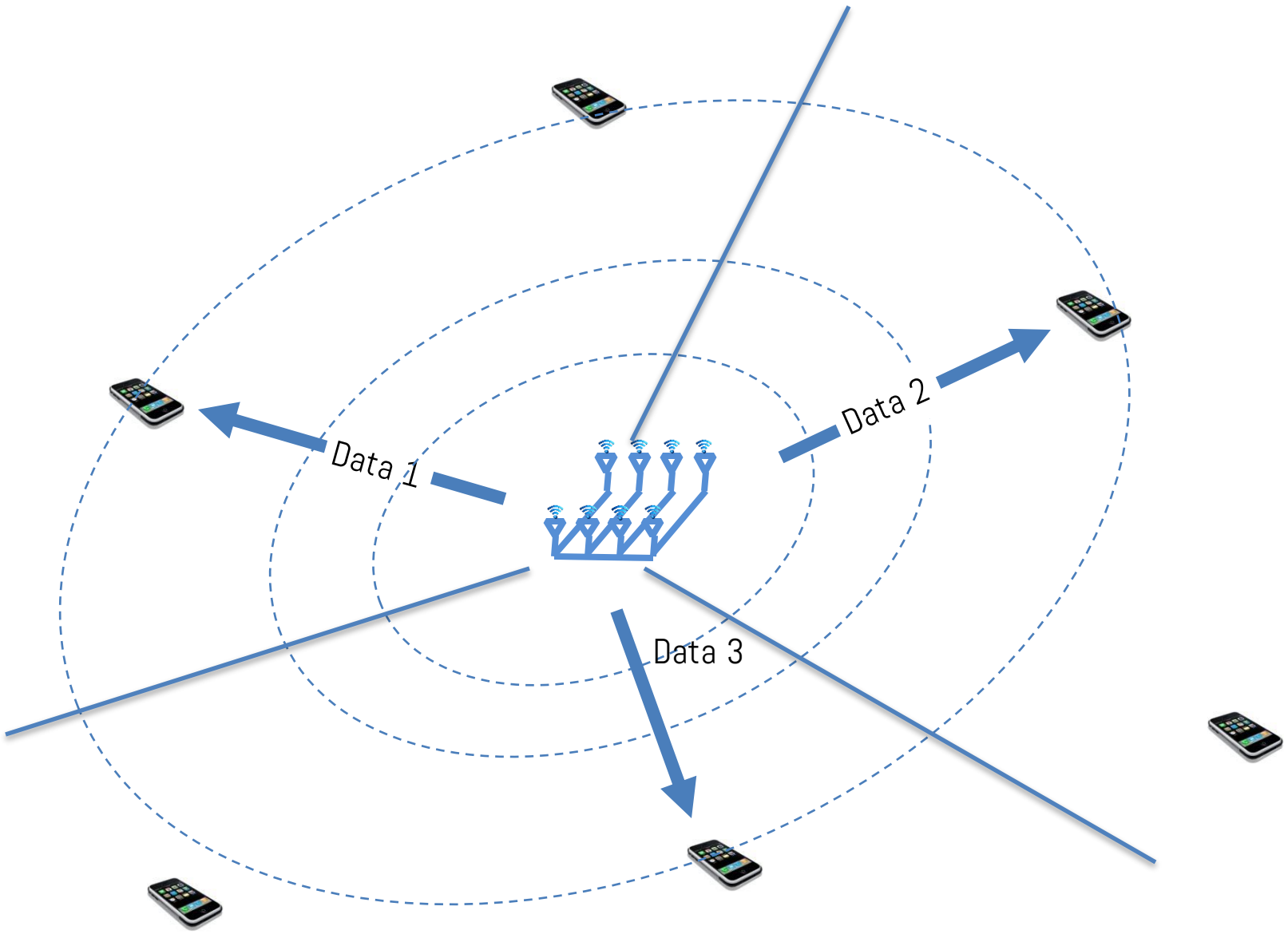
"Massive MIMO" uses phased array antennas on towers to enable beamforming at mmWave frequencies, improving signal quality and strength for users.

Omni-directional base station

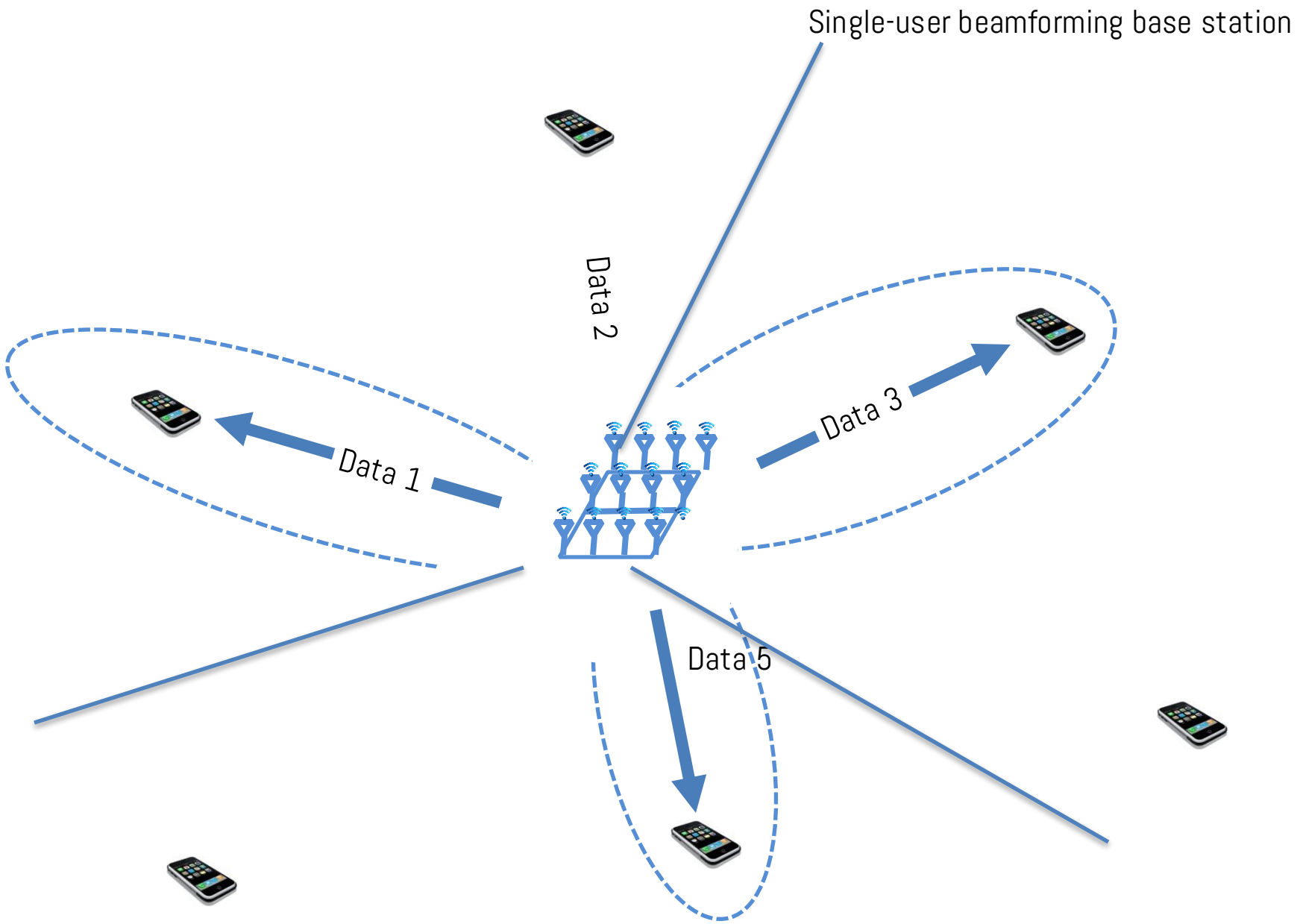


Poor spatial reuse; poor power efficiency; high inter-cell interference

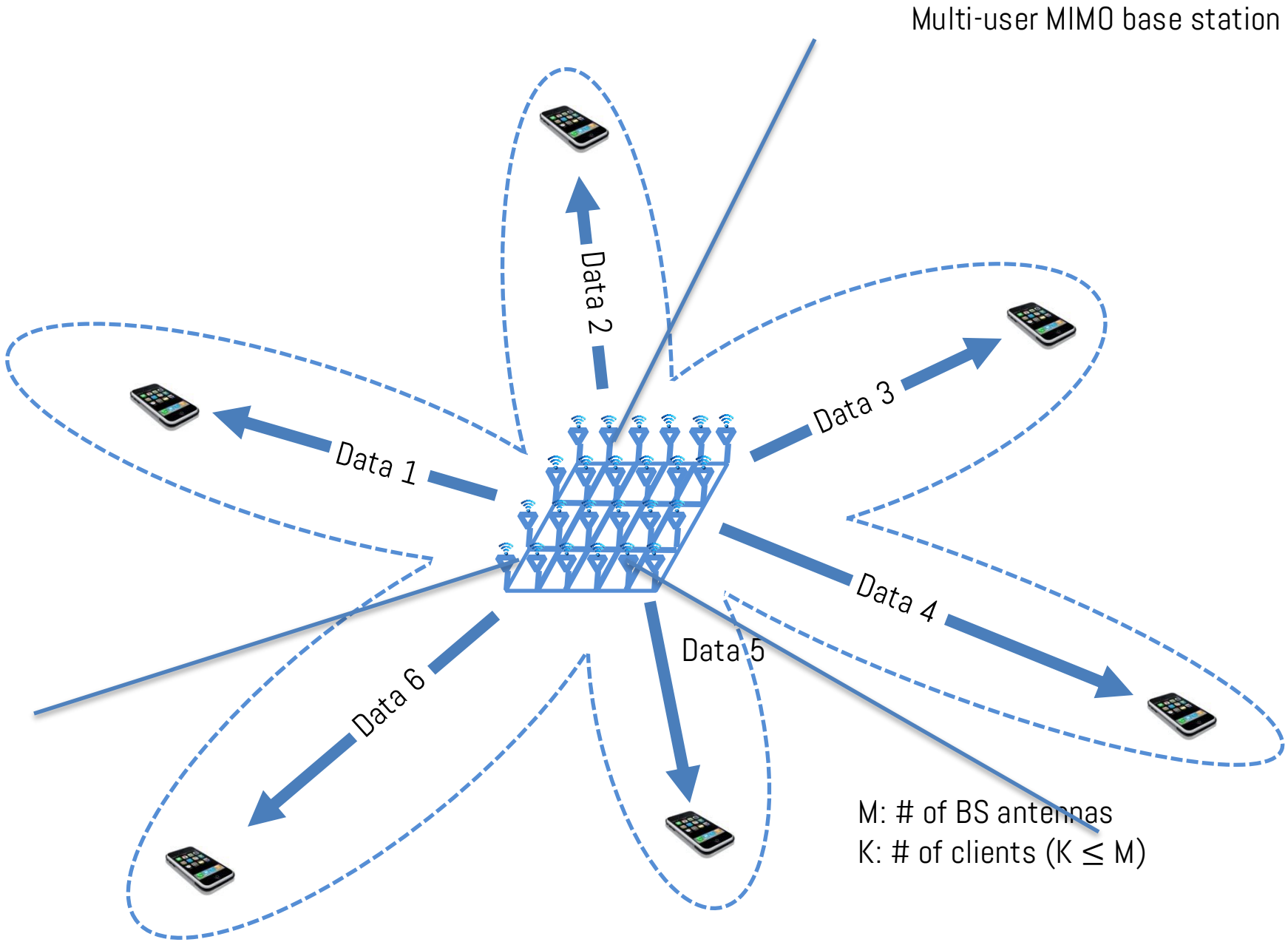
Sectored base station



Better spatial reuse; better power efficiency; high inter-cell interference

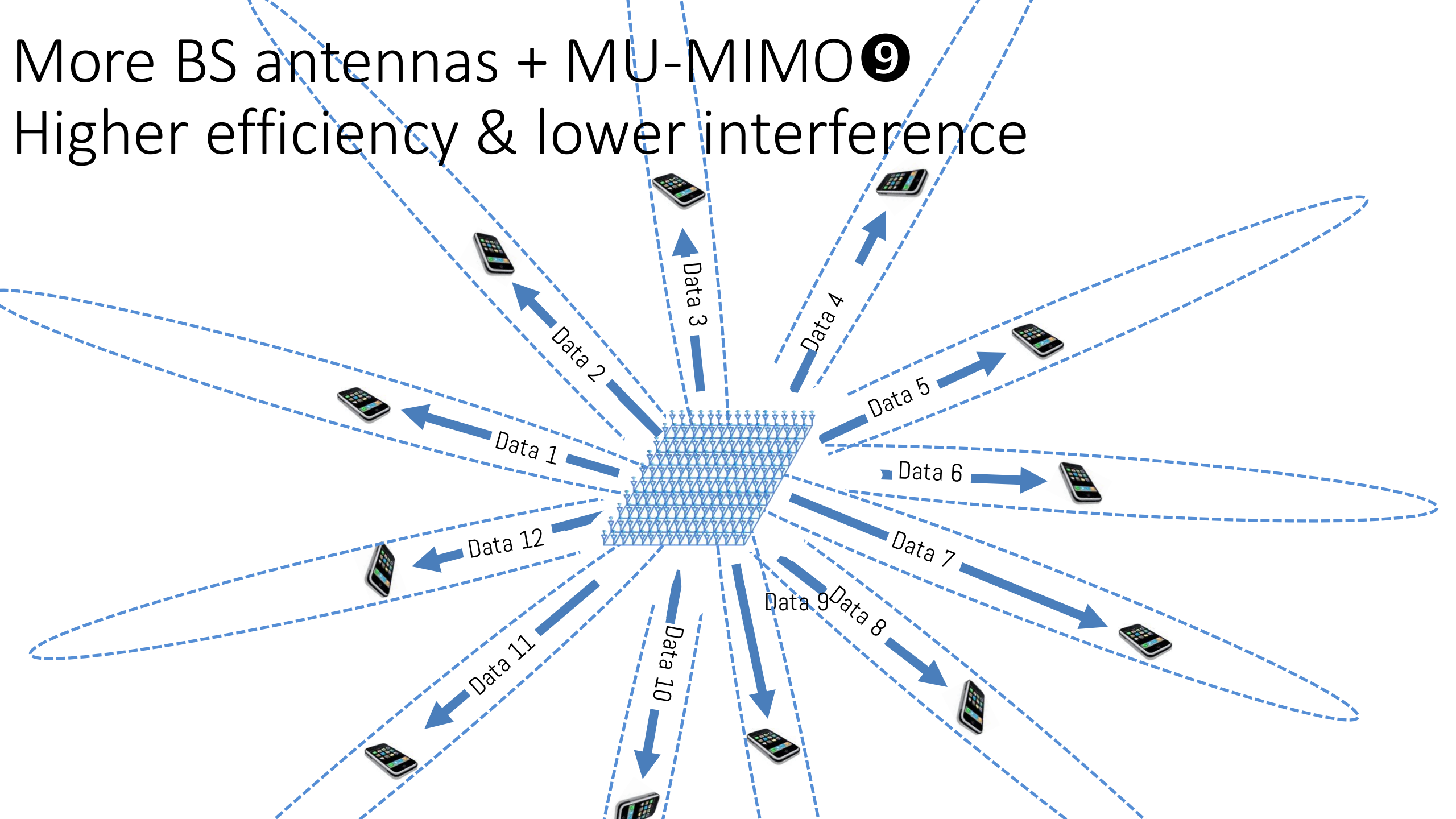


Better spatial reuse; best power efficiency; reduced inter-cell interference

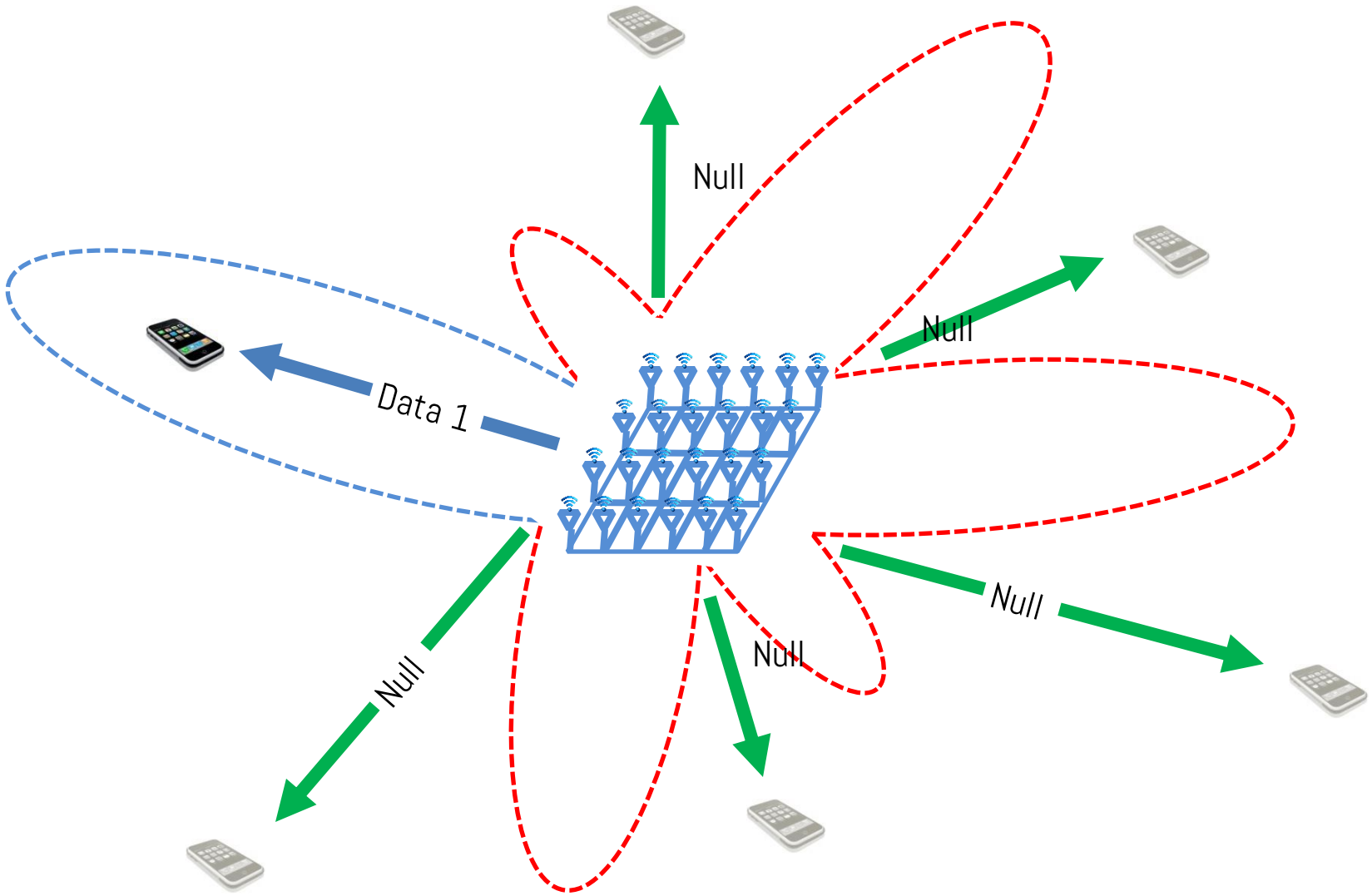


Best spatial reuse; best power efficiency; reduced inter-cell interference

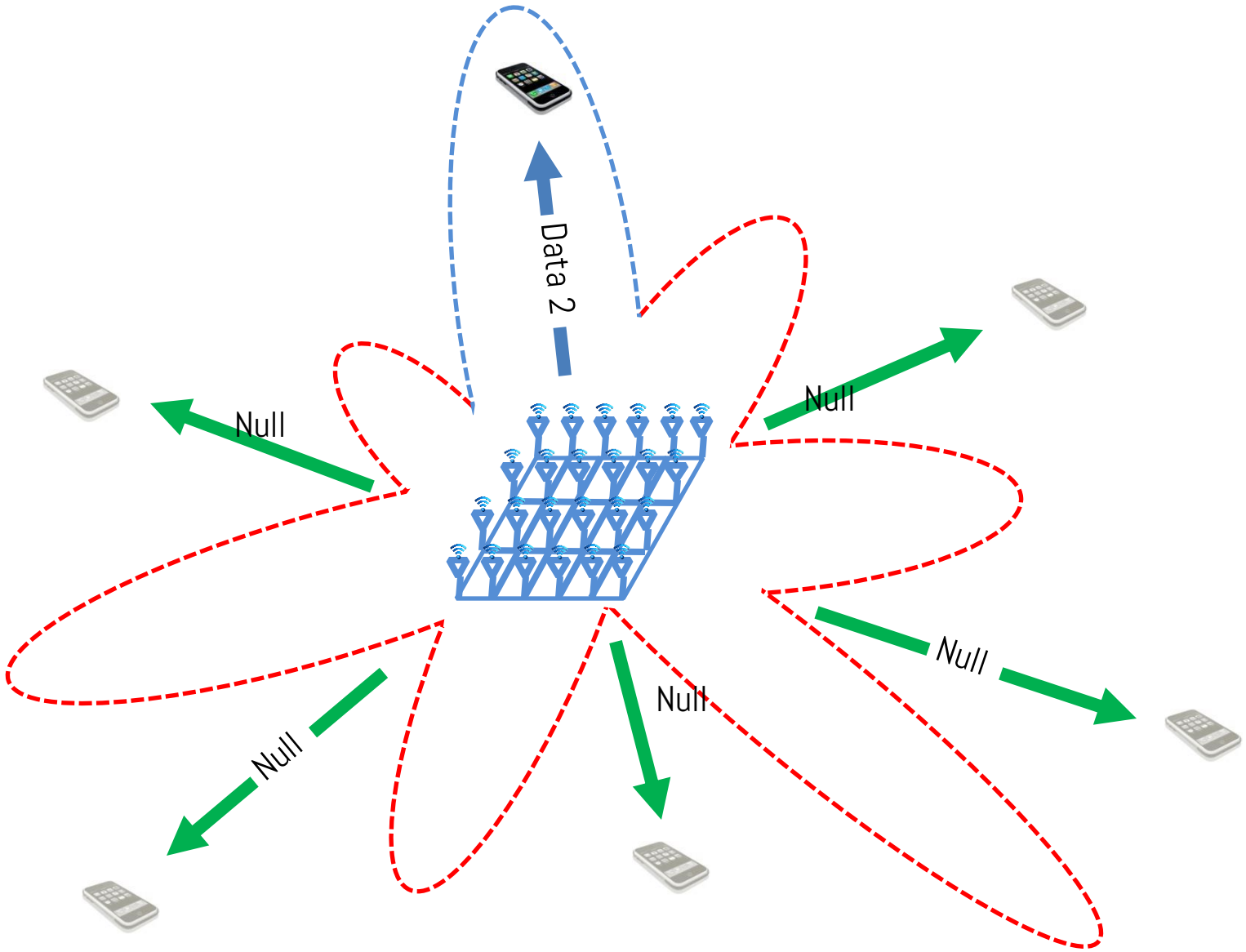
More BS antennas + MU-MIMO❾
Higher efficiency & lower interference



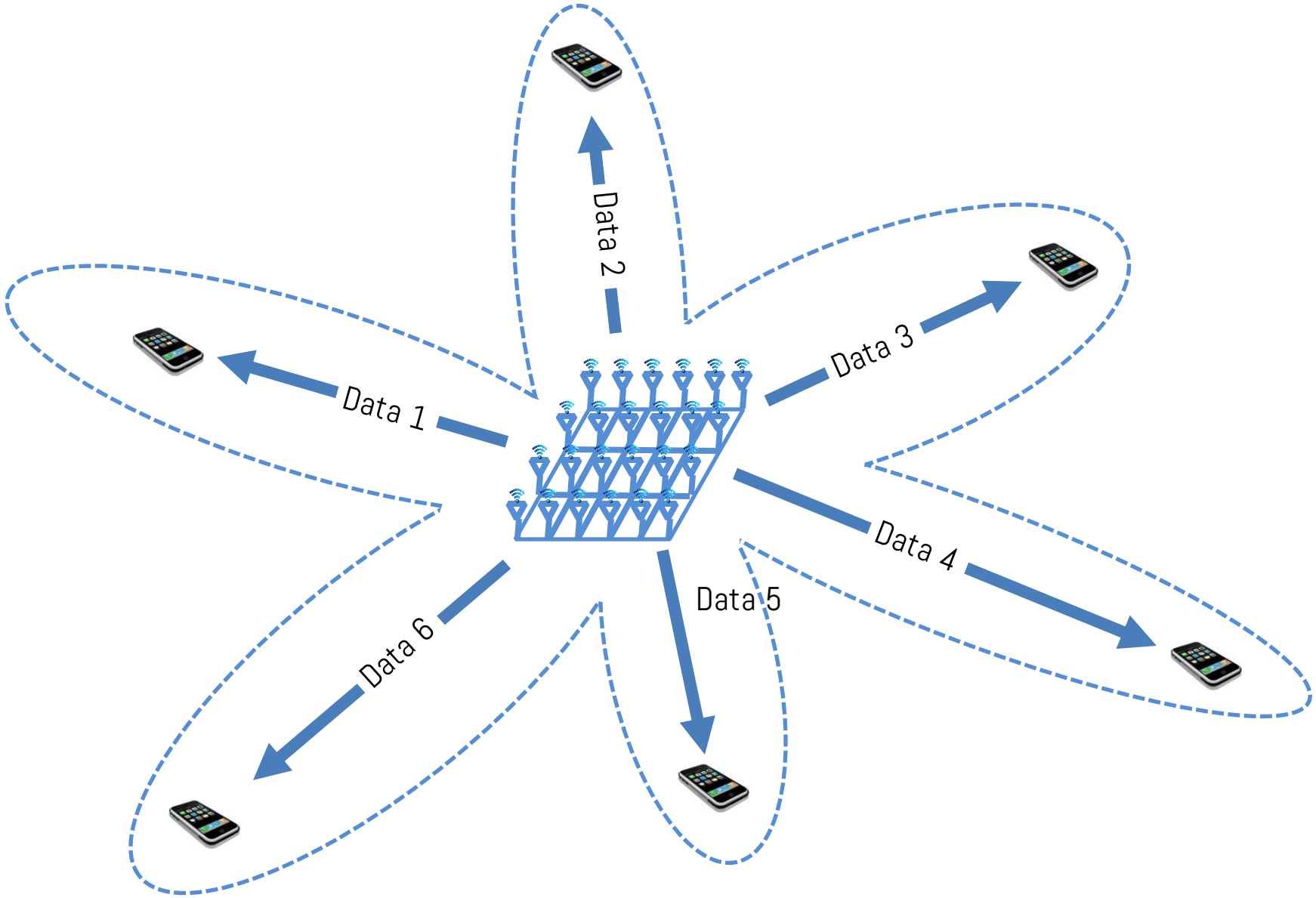
Zeroforcing precoder



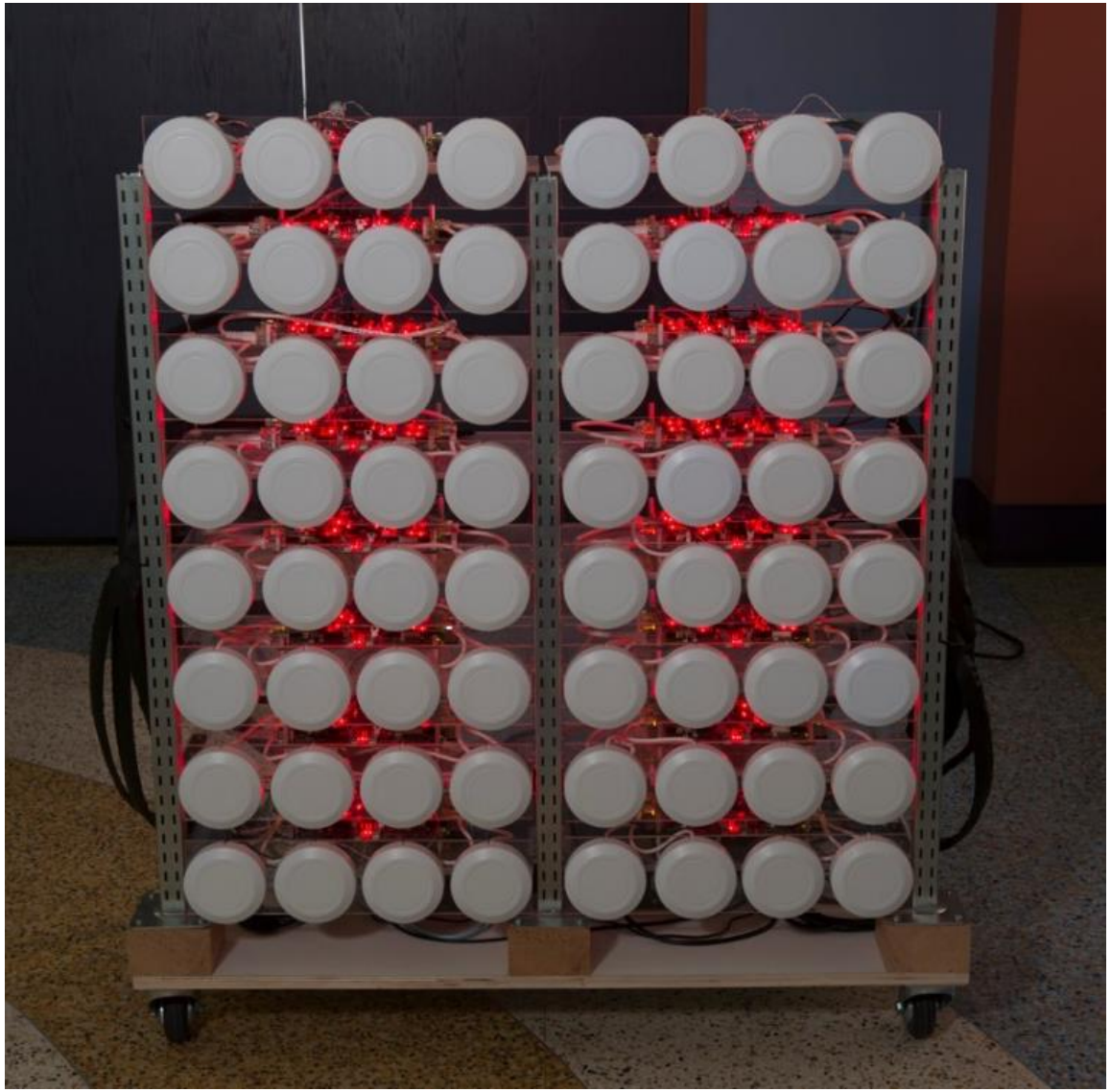
Zeroforcing precoder

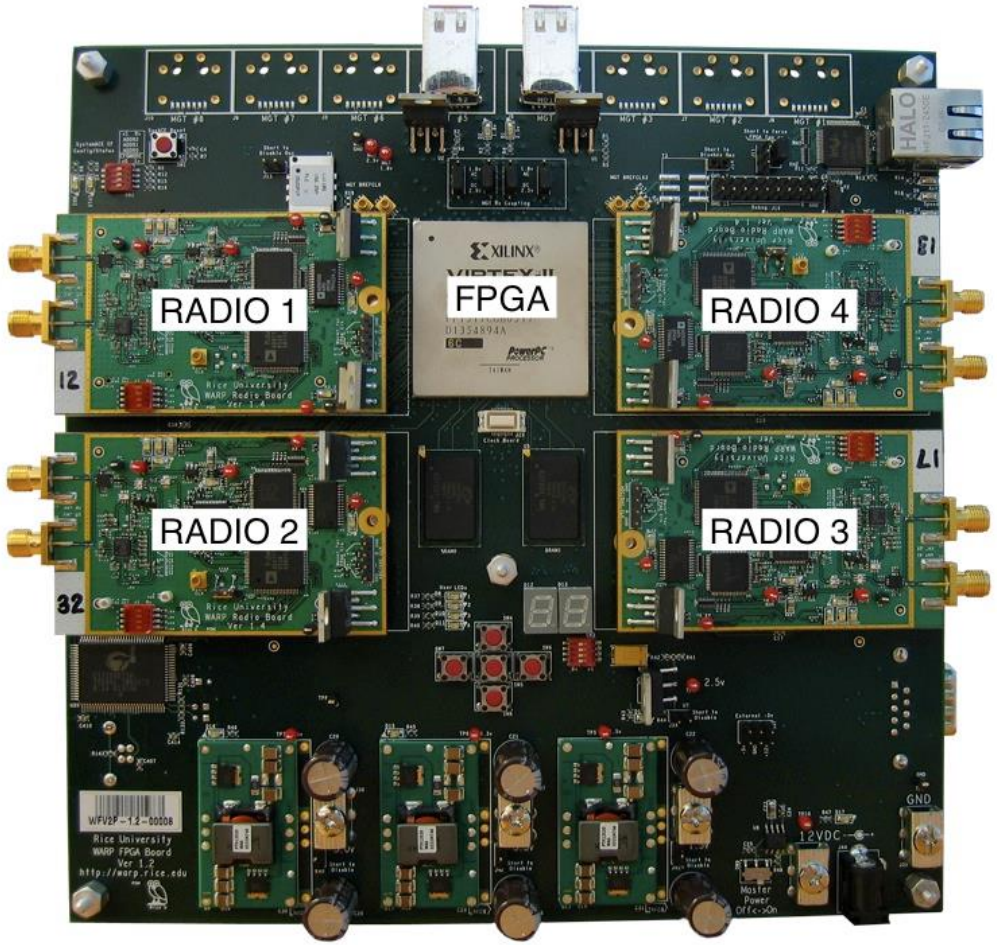


Zeroforcing precoder

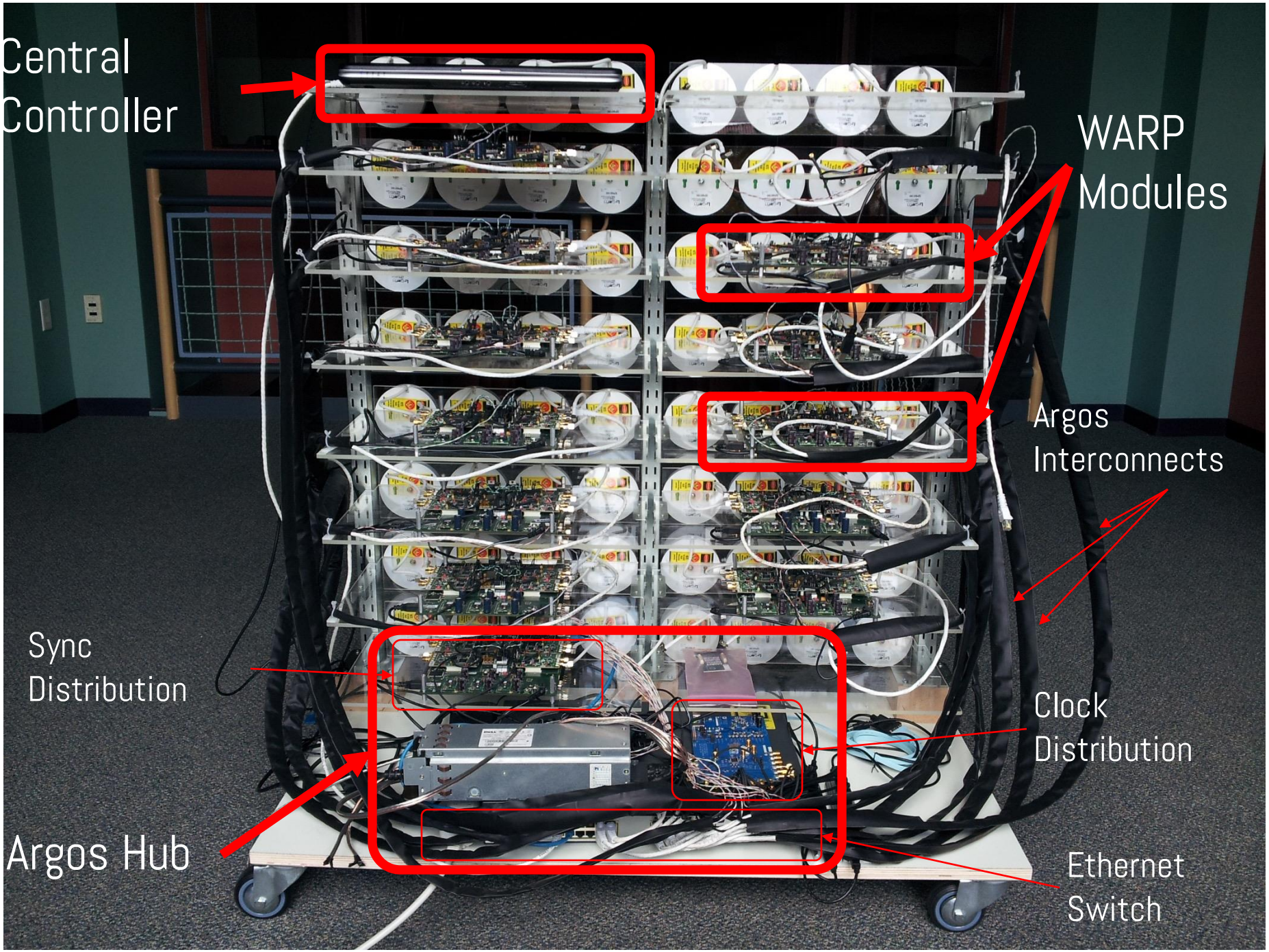
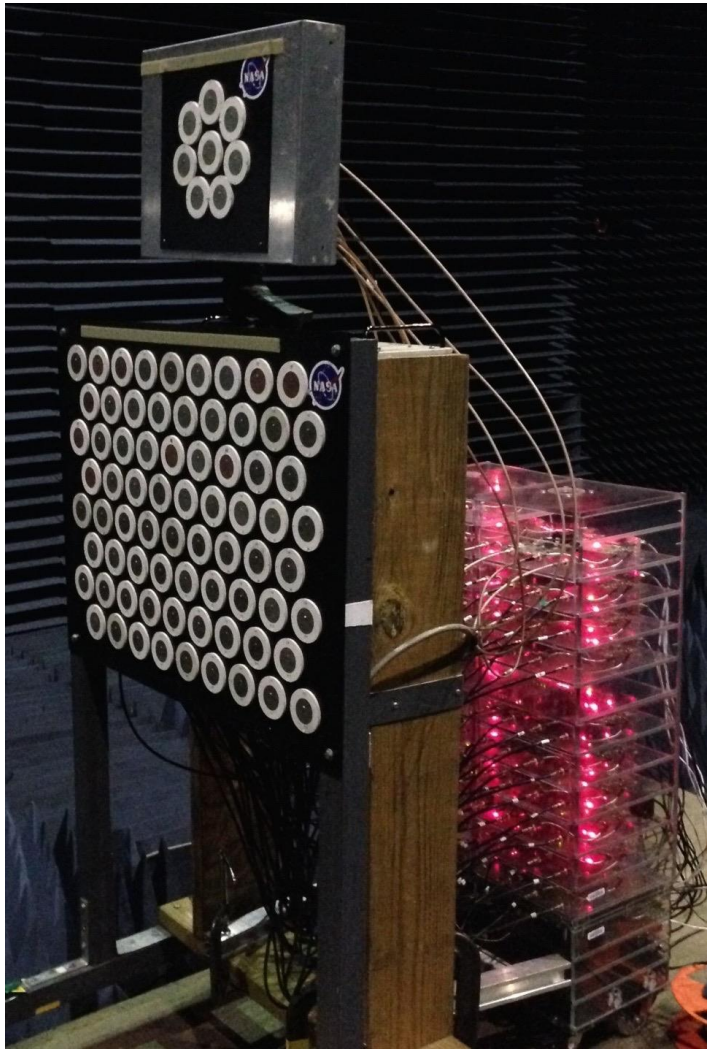
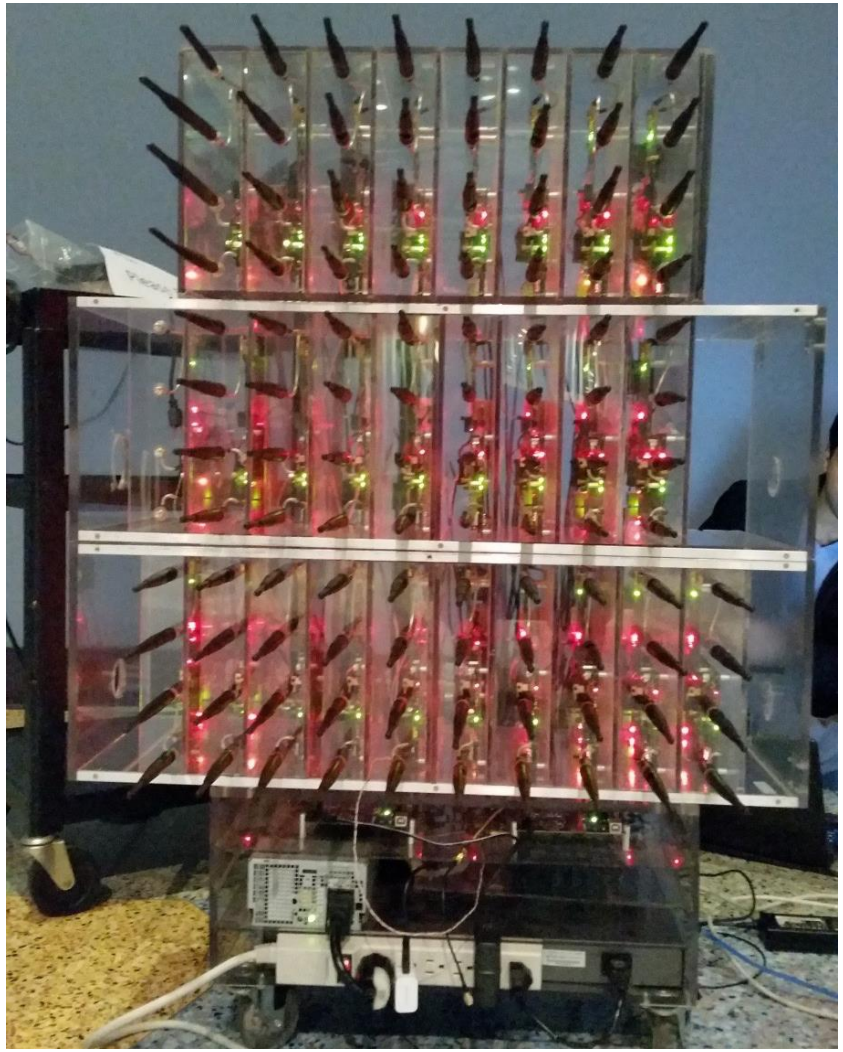
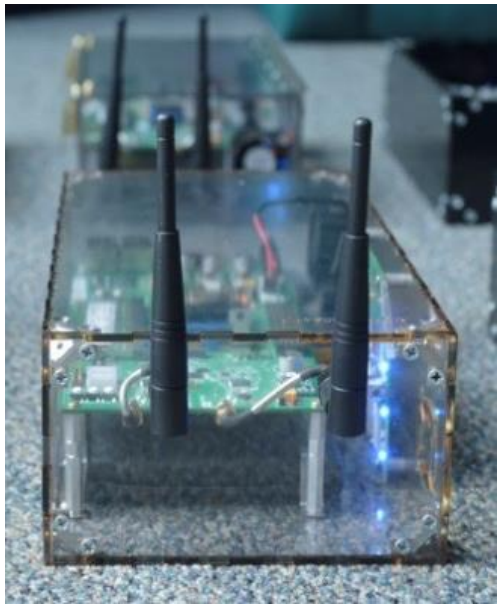


Argos V1 (2011): World's first Massive MIMO Testbed





WARP v1 as Module


Central Controller
WARP Modules
Argos Interconnects
Sync Distribution
Clock Distribution
Argos Hub
Ethernet Switch

Argos V2 (2013)
World’s first largest real-time massive MIMO testbed