

Technical details of LPWAN applications

Smart Solutions based on Internet of Things

Máté LISZI

mate.liszi@rf.sze.hu

University of Győr
Faculty of Telecommunication
HUNGARY

15th of May, 2019 Valencia

Lecture outline

- Introduction
- LPWAN benefits
- Technologies
- The telecom. engineers job: planning coverage
- Everyday life example: the demand and motivation
- Application examples
- Definitions
- Key takeaways

Introduction

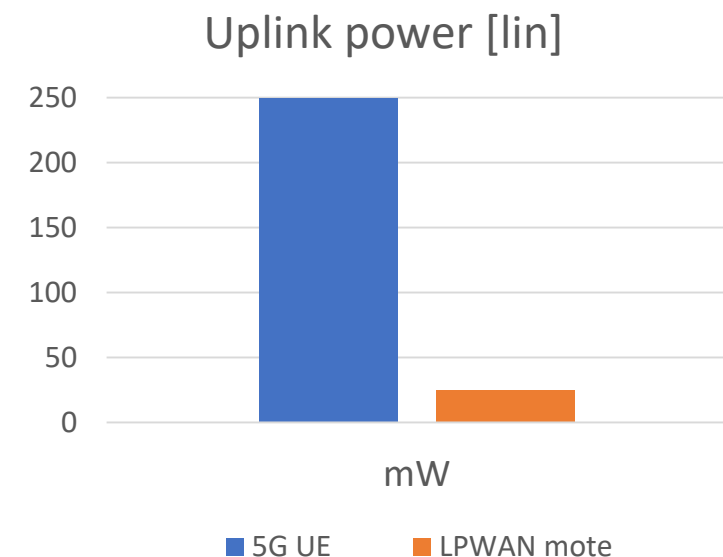
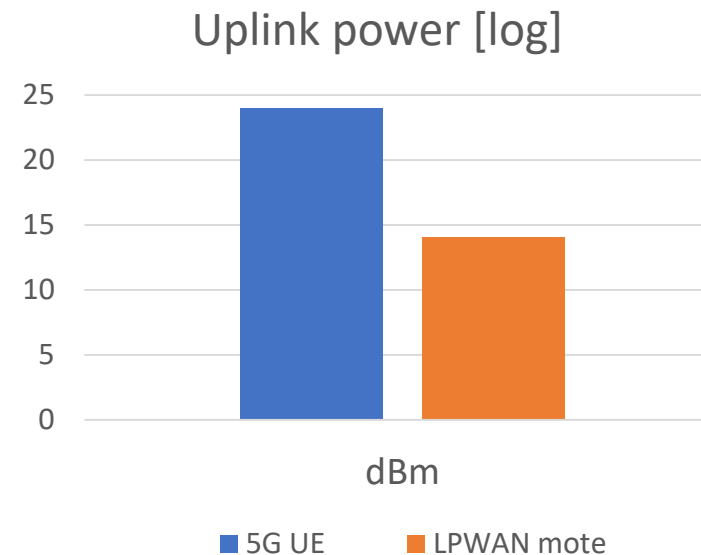
LPWAN

Low-Power Wide-Area Networks

LPWAN

Low-Power Wide-Area Networks

- $P_{out} = 25 \text{ mW}$
- ~10 years with one battery
- Short transmitting



LPWAN

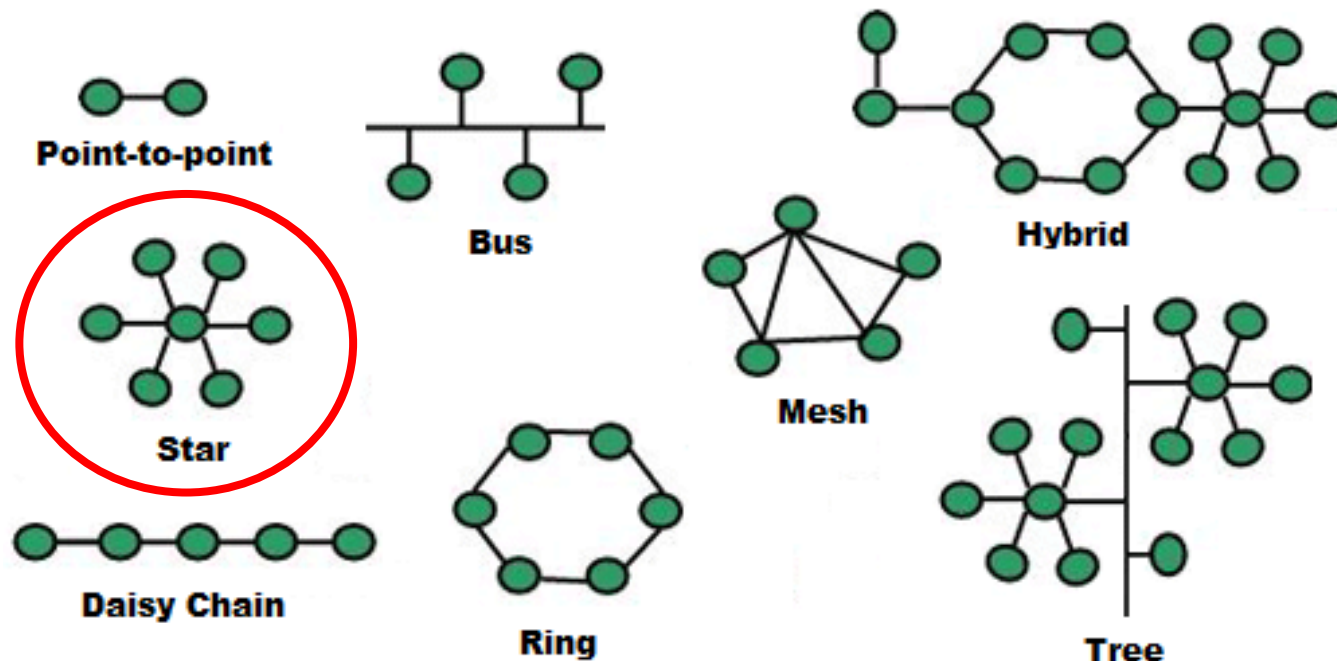
Low-Power Wide-Area Networks

- 2 - 3 km range in urban
- 15 - 50 km range in rural
- High receiver sensitivity



LPWAN

Low-Power Wide-Area Networks



- Star topology
- High density
- Asymmetric links
- Device initiated communication

LPWAN benefits

LPWAN benefits

In our case, we want

- Inexpensive units
- Low power consumption
- Great capacity
- Wide coverage

LPWAN benefits

Cheap

- Cheap end user modules
- Why:
 - ~10000# of modules/km²



- How:

1. The minimal important functions needs only
2. Simple architecture allows
3. Mass manufacturing on ONE chip [1] (mote)



LPWAN benefits

Low power consumption

- Modules have low power demand

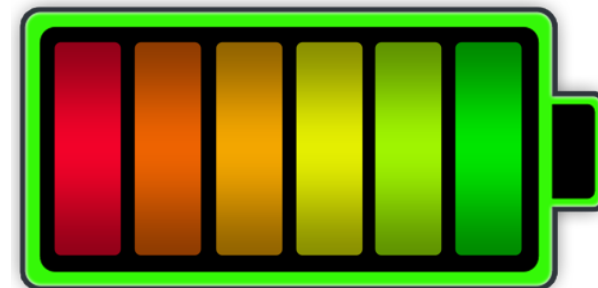
- Why:

- Limited source of electric power
- Can not connect to power source
- Small module size
- Energy harvesters are expensive



- How:

1. Short operational times (30sec/day) compared to
2. Long sleep intervals (99,965%) allows
3. ~10 years of satisfactory operation



LPWAN benefits

Capacity

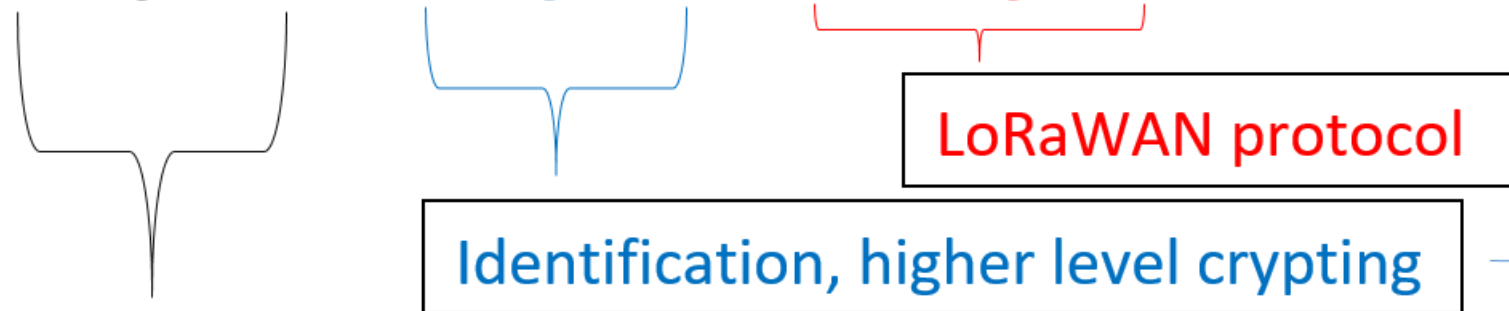
- Base stations / Access points have to handle ~10k units
- Why:
 - One transmitter per utility (electricity, gas, water) at every household
 - Star topology / no trunking, no multiplexing
- How:
 1. Short messages, few data sent
 2. ~1 packets / day
because
 3. Low data rate per message is satisfactory
allows
 4. Low overall inbound data at BS or AP

LPWAN benefits

Capacity

- Data throughput consideration

4 byte + *4 byte* + *13 byte* = *minimal packet size*



$$8 \times 4 = 32 \text{ payload bits} = 2^{32} = 4294967296$$

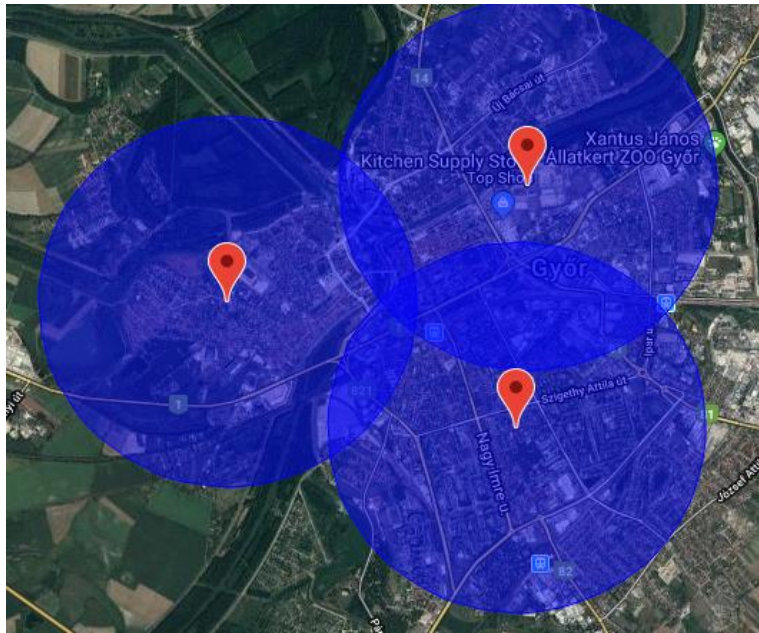
Max. measured volume: **4 294 967.296 m³ METER ID**

- ~1500 m³ consumed average / household

LPWAN benefits

Coverage

- Lets cover as much households as possible!
- Why:
 - Fewer Base Stations/Access Points means fewer maintenance/legal costs



- How:
 1. Longer message/symbol time because
 2. Receiver recognizes better the longer symbols allows
 3. Robustness to the transmission

Technologies [7]

Technology

sigfox

- 2010, Toulouse, France
- Startup
- Have to pay fees to access the infrastructure
- Narrow band, 100-600 bit/s





Technology sigfox



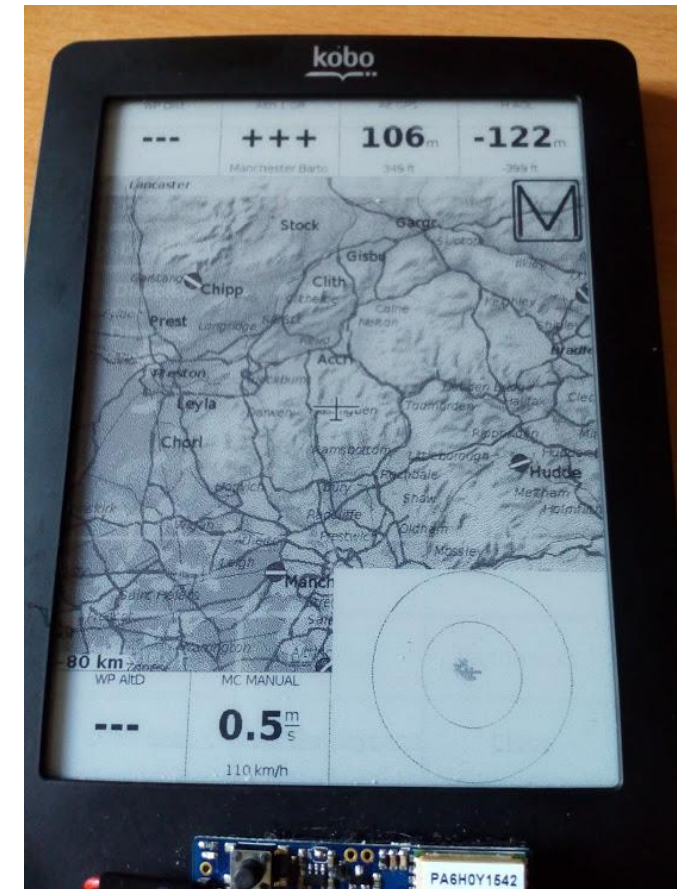
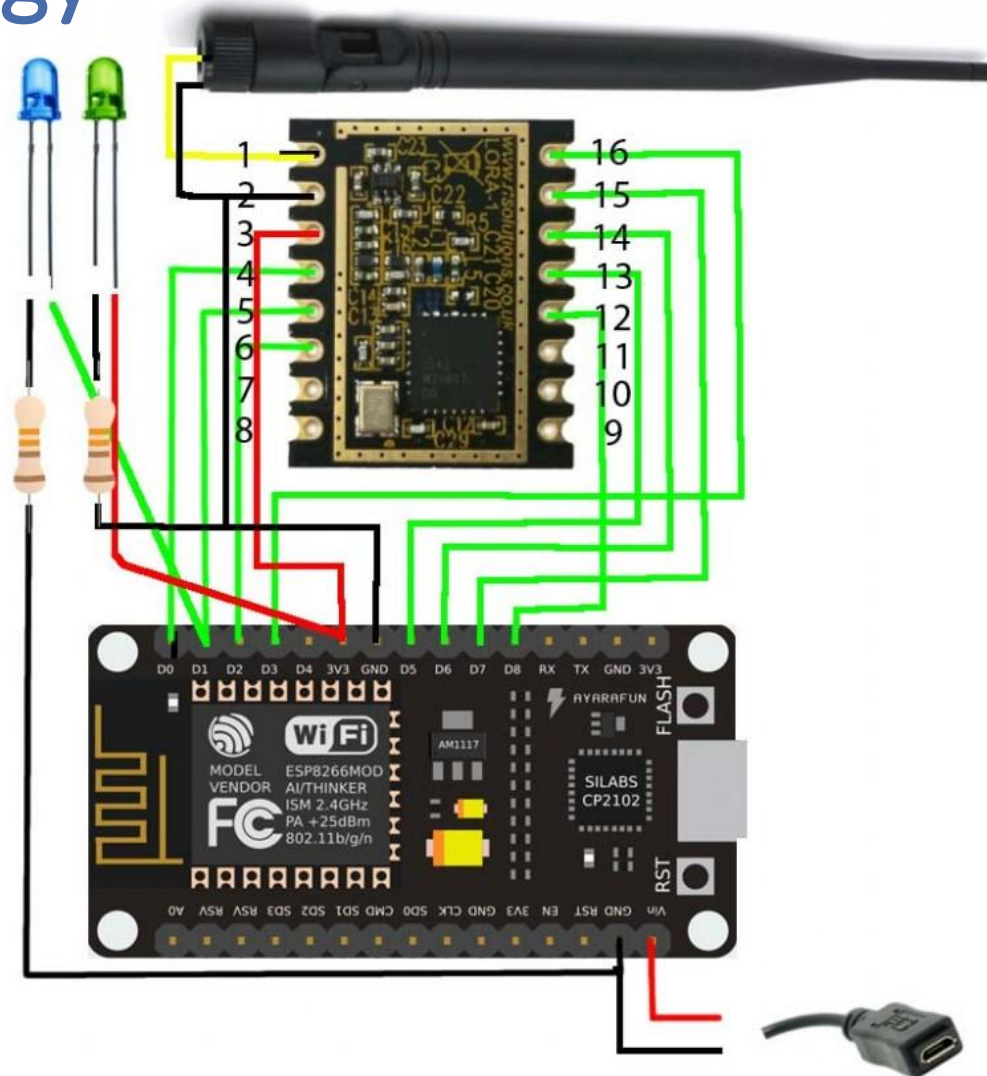
Technology

LoRa

- 2009
- Startup
- Semtech (USA) buys LoRa (2012)
- Utilizes unlicensed ISM bands
- High sensitivity / can be optimized
- Limited downlink accessibility / you have to set up manually



Technology LoRa



Technology WEIGHTLESS

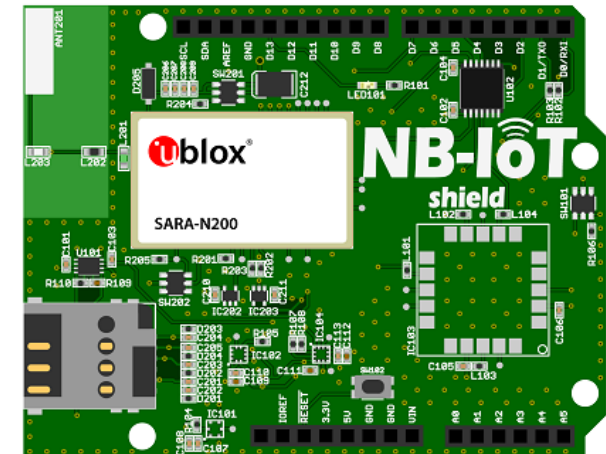
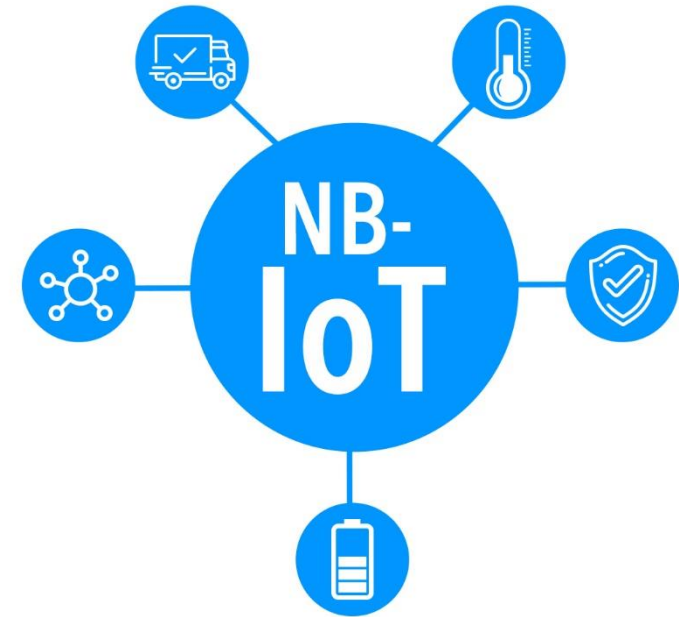


- 2008
- Open standard: “not owned” by any company
- Lowest power consumption
- Industrial and medical applications
- Low market penetration, but promising
- Secure at least as GSM, AES-128 and AES-256



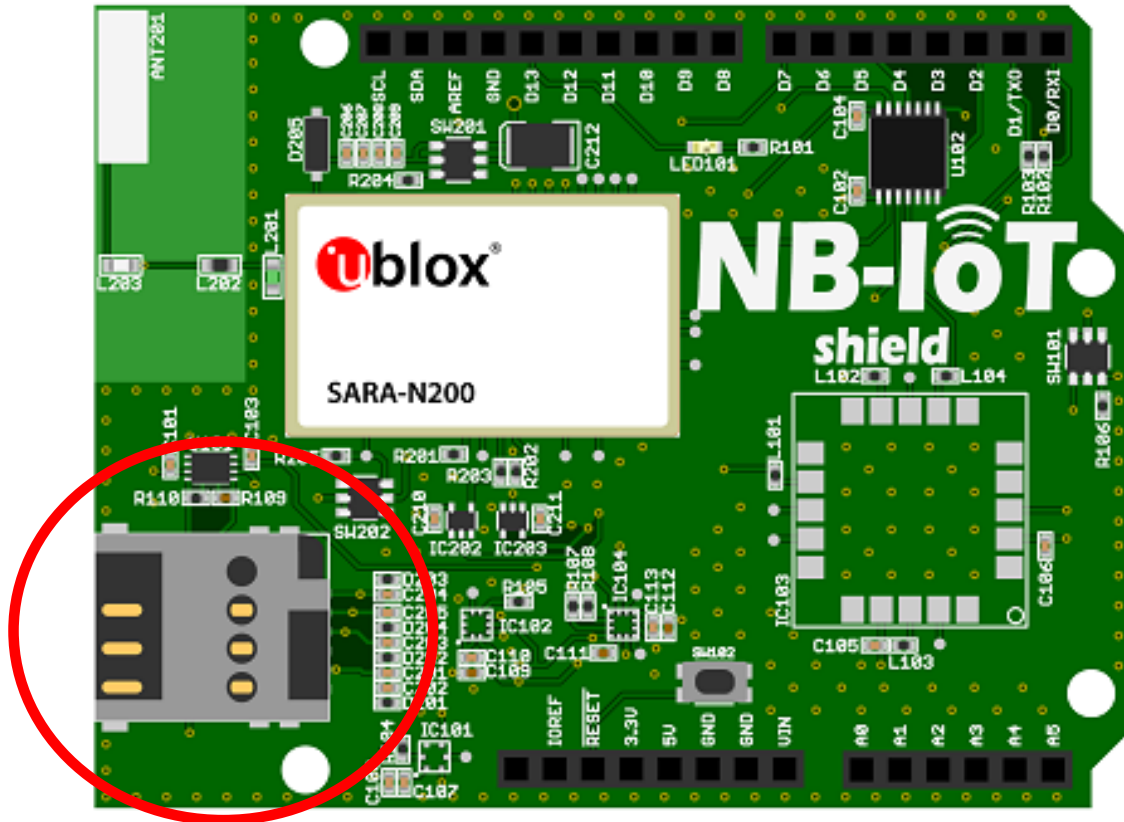
Technology NB-IoT

- 2016 3GPP (3rd Generation Partnership Project) standardized
- Using narrow bands between mobile application spectrum. LICENSED!
- Based on a DSSS modulation
- High QoS
- Low latency

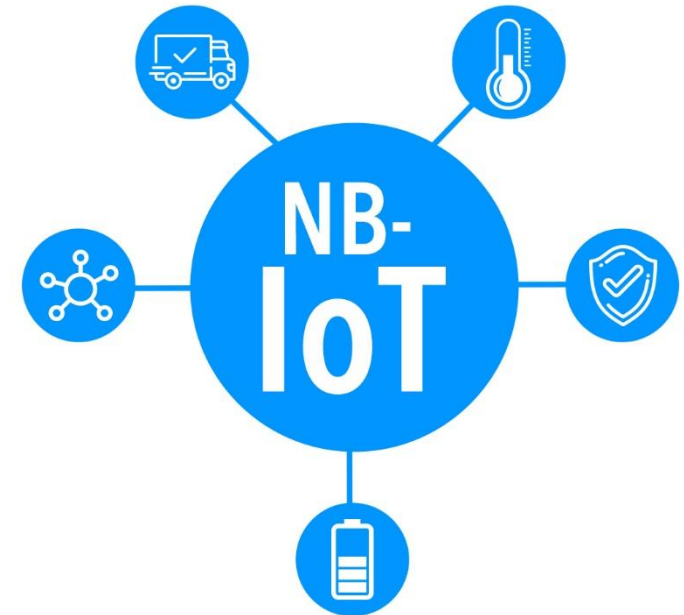




Technology NB-IoT



- SIM
- Arduino s

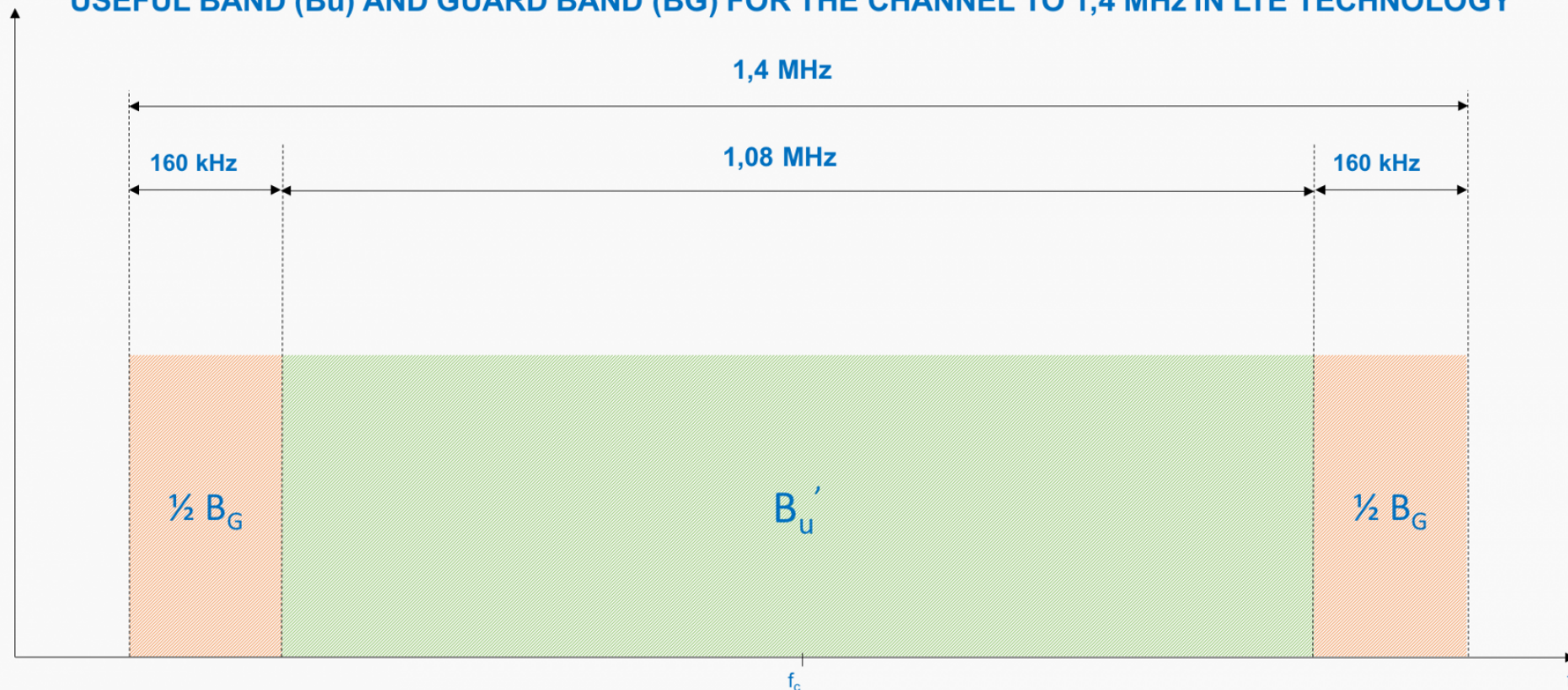




Technology NB-IoT

- Using narrow bands between mobile application spectrum. LICENSED!
- 2016 3GPP (3rd Generation Partnership Project) standard
- Based on a DSSS (Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum) modulation
- High QoS
- Low latency

USEFUL BAND (B_u) AND GUARD BAND (B_G) FOR THE CHANNEL TO 1,4 MHz IN LTE TECHNOLOGY



Technology

LTE - M

- Long Term Evolution for Machines
- 3GPP (3rd Generation Partnership Project) on LTE
- Costly, power consuming, LTE dependent
- High data rates, high QoS
- Better to use in roaming applications:
Drones, Vehicles
- Transition between M2M/4G



Technology

LTE - M

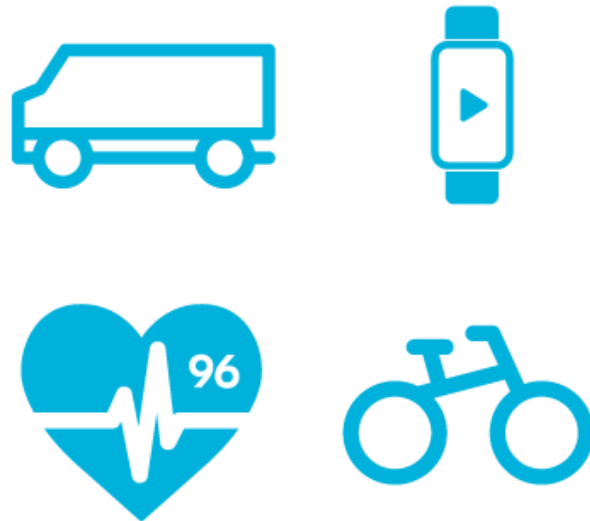
- Better to use in roaming applications:
Drones, Vehicles
- Wearables/medical device
- Device control

LTE-M 



Technology

LTE-M vs NB-IoT



LTE-M

Wide range IoT applications
with mobile support



NB-IoT

Highly optimized energy
efficient applications

The telecom. engineers job: planning coverage

Planning LoRa coverage

Made by: Balázs Lukács

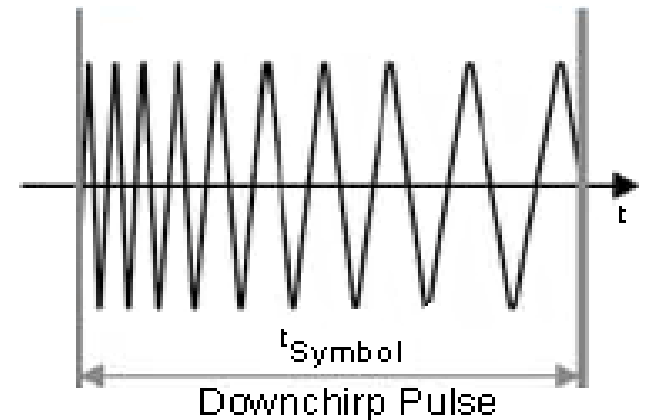
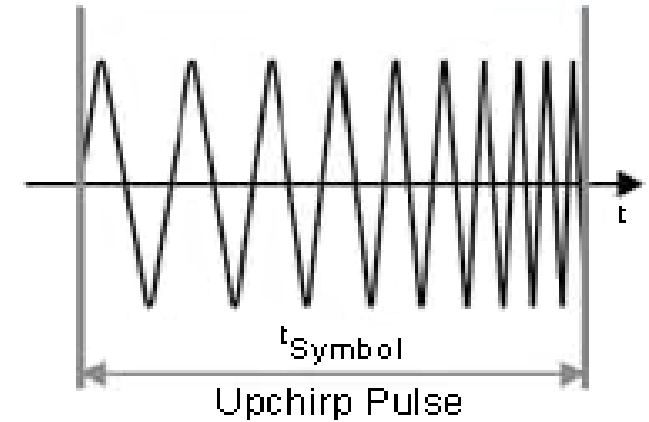
17.12.2018

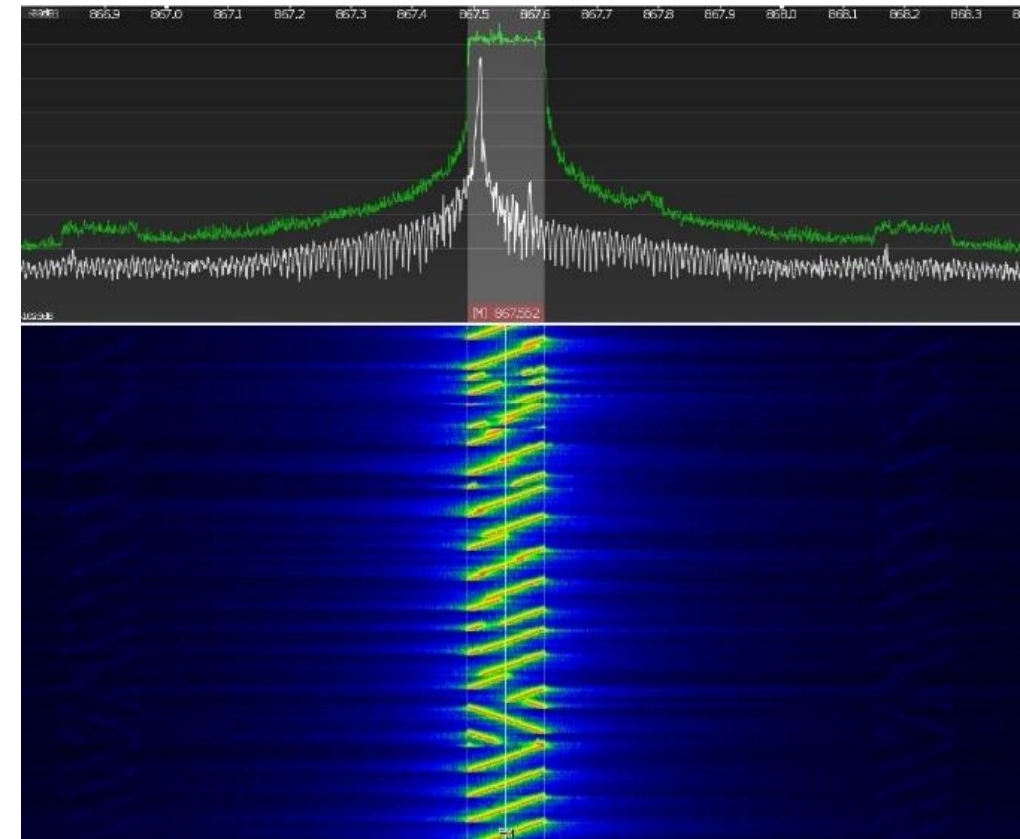
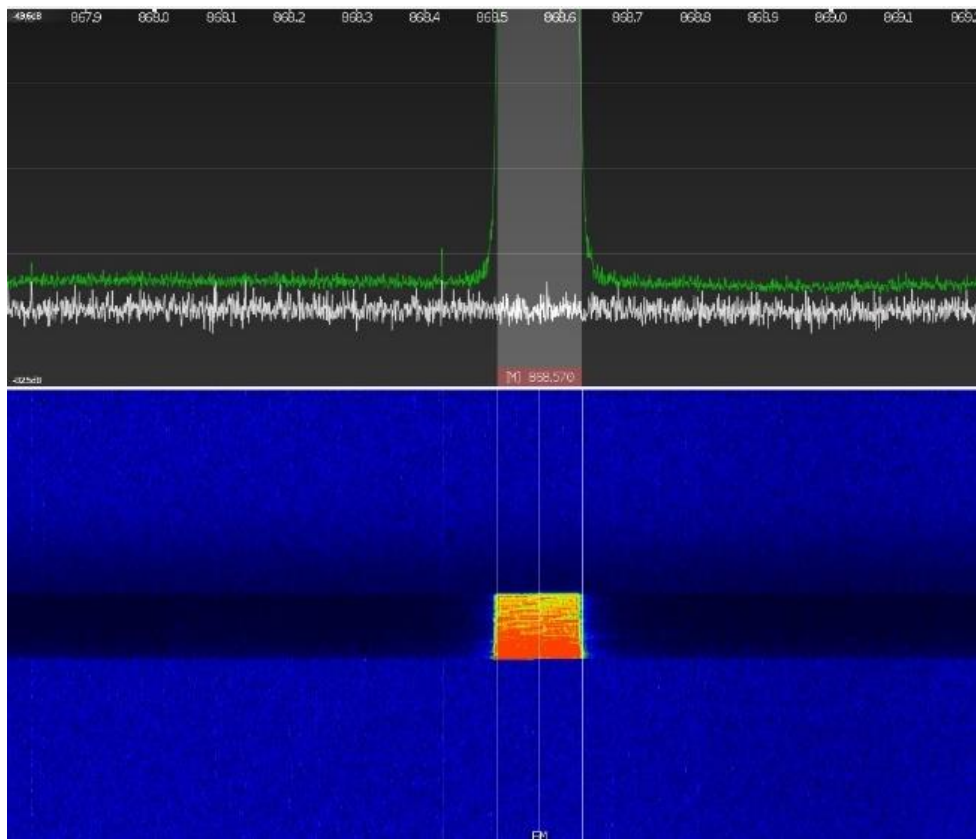
Sub-presentation sections

- LoRa and network introduction
- Packet collisions
- Coverage tests
- Current consumption tests
- Conclusions

Introduction of LoRa

- Exclusively for IoT application
- It is an LPWAN technology
- Low data at a time
- Rare, few packets sent daily
- LoRa modulation
- Spreading factor is important parameter





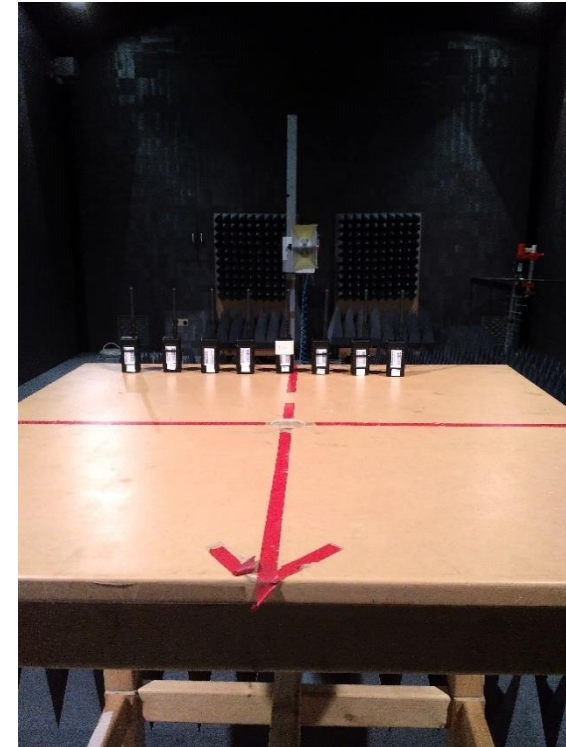
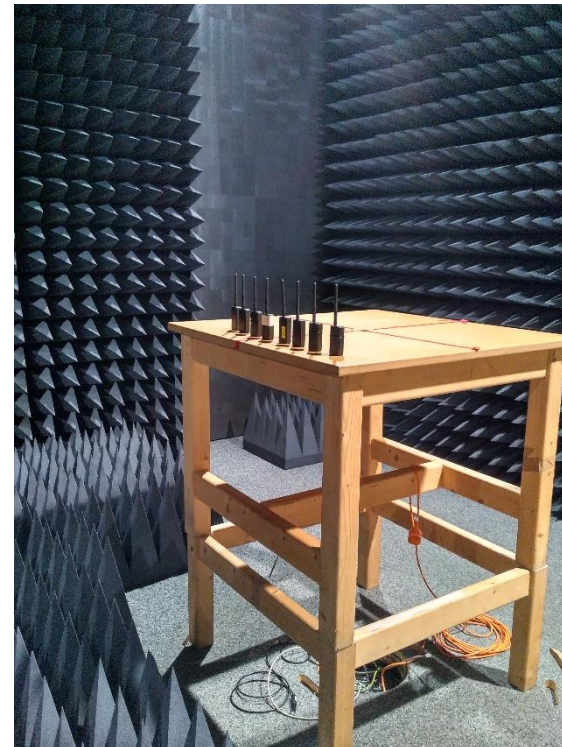
SF=12 => Datarate=0

-
-

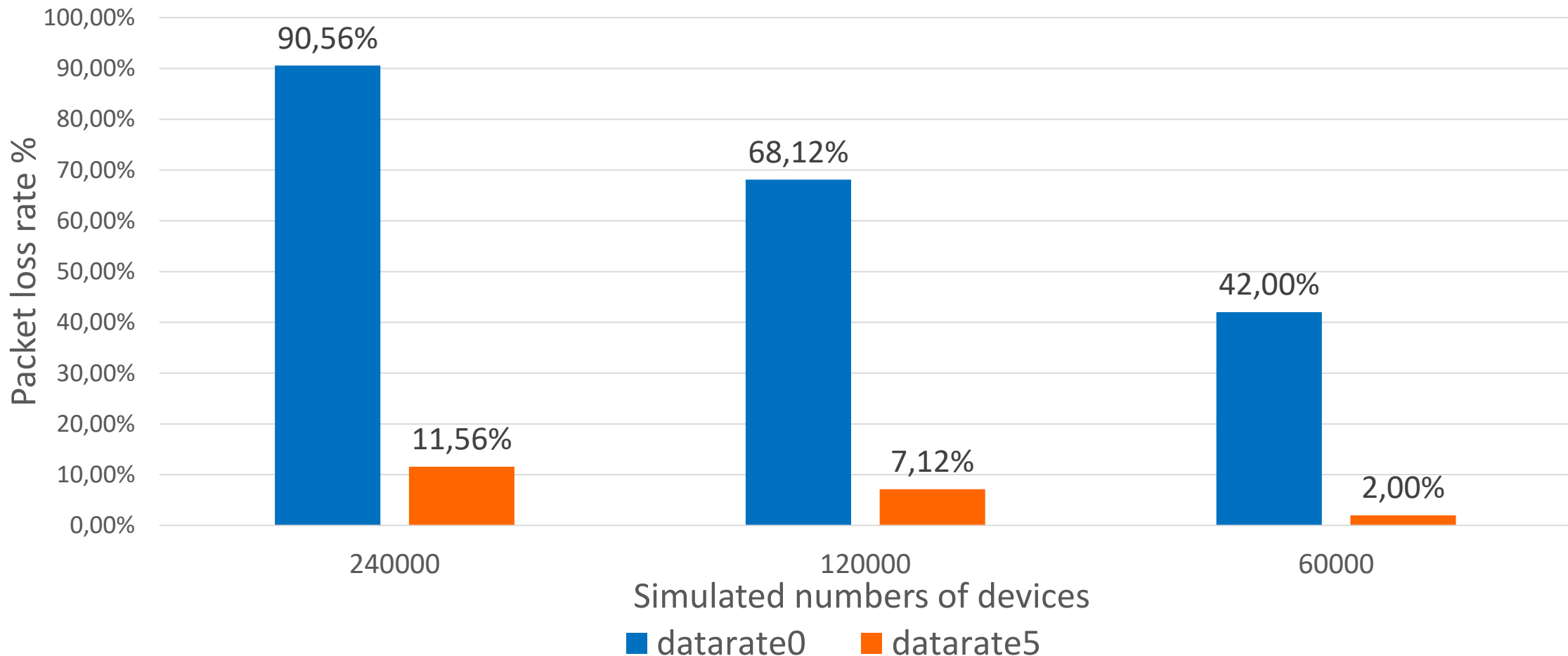
SF=7 => Datarate=5

Packet collision tests

- LoRaWan protocol utilizes similar access method with ALOHA, collisions occur
- Anechoic chamber, 8 device
- Channel numbers and datarate limited
- Packets sent often



Packet collision test results



Coverage tests

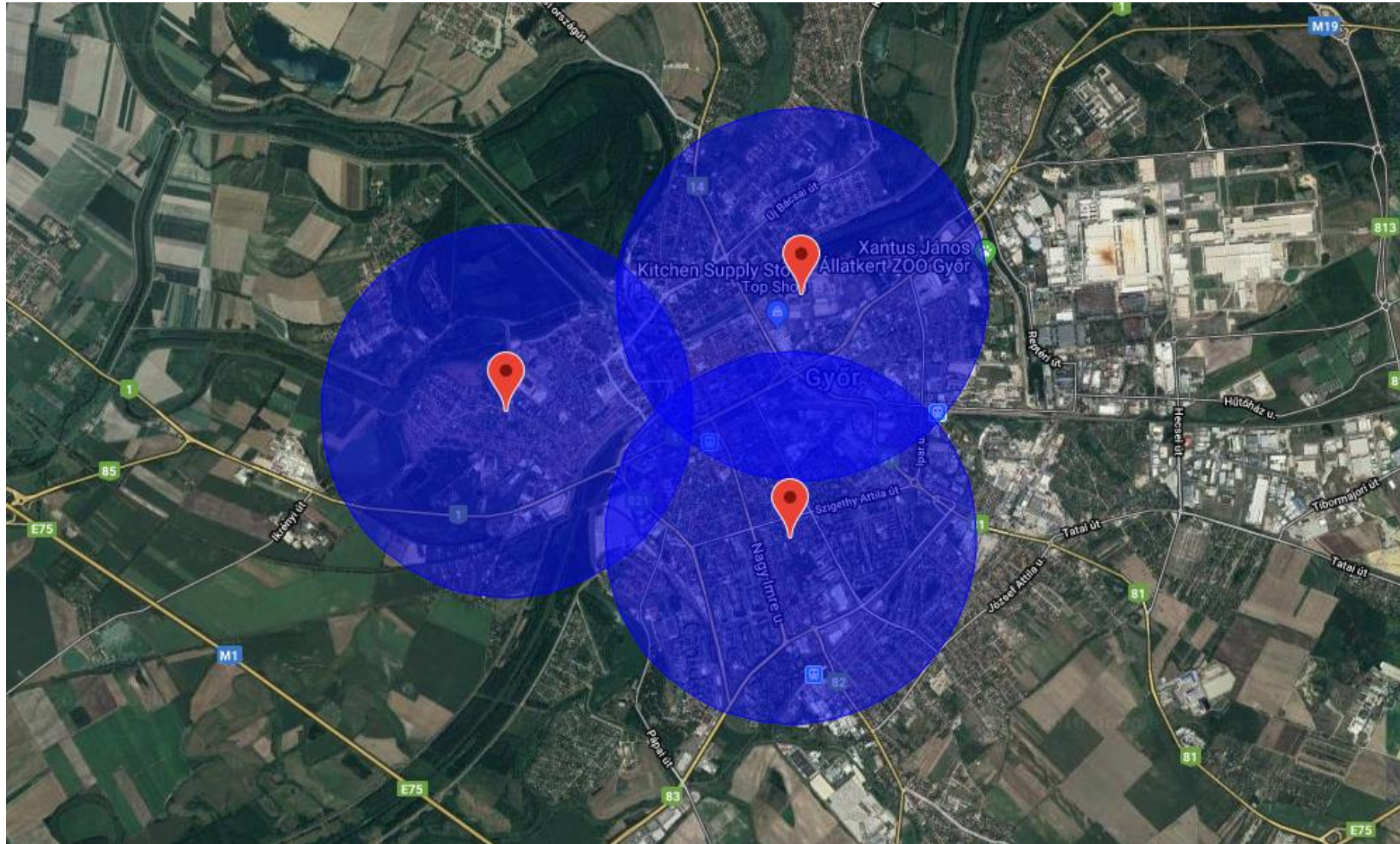
- Coverage of one gateway, test
- Only made with datarate=0 settings to reach maximal coverage
- Database and server installed to store and show the test results

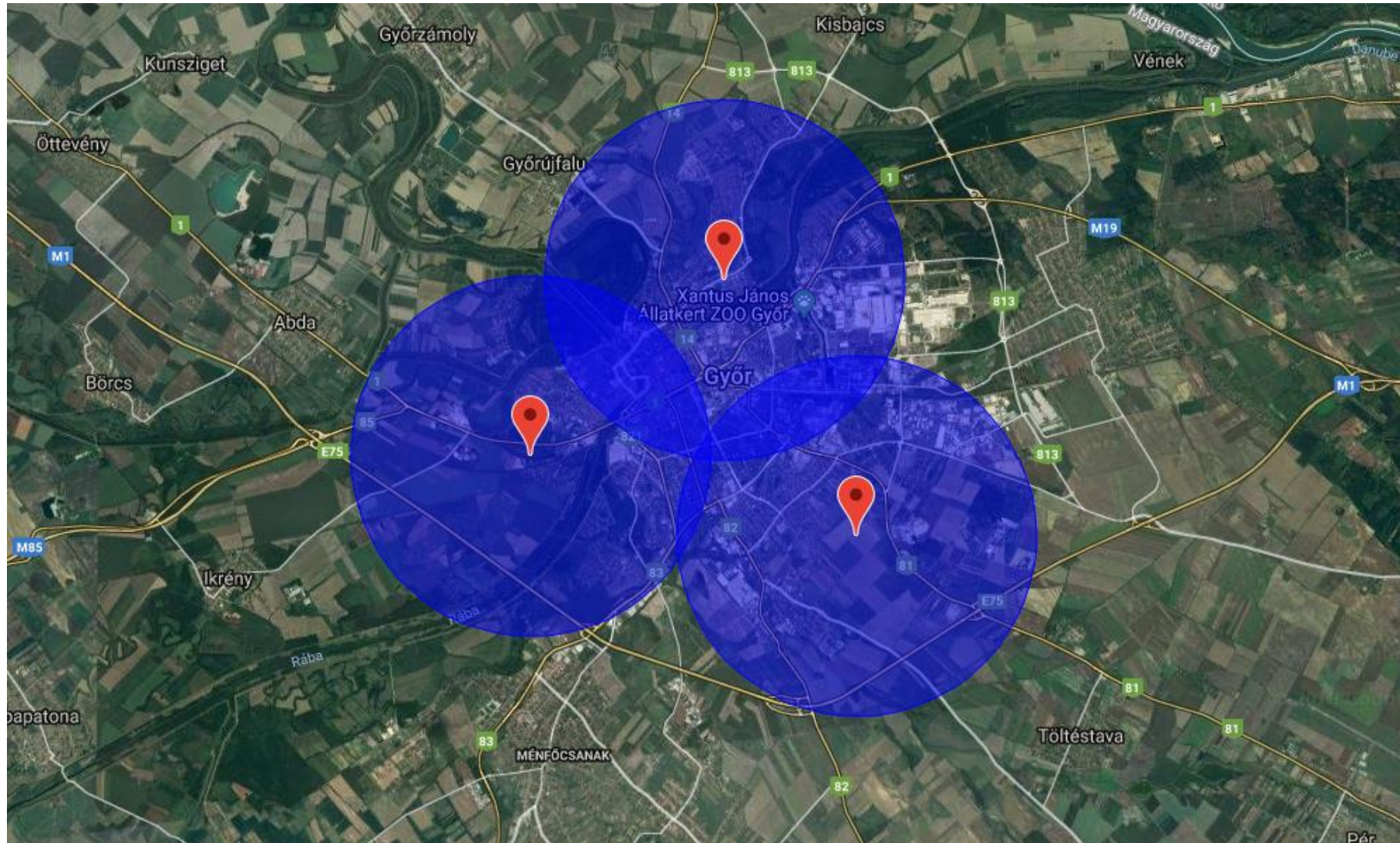
Wave propagation models

- Okumura
- Hata
- COST-Hata

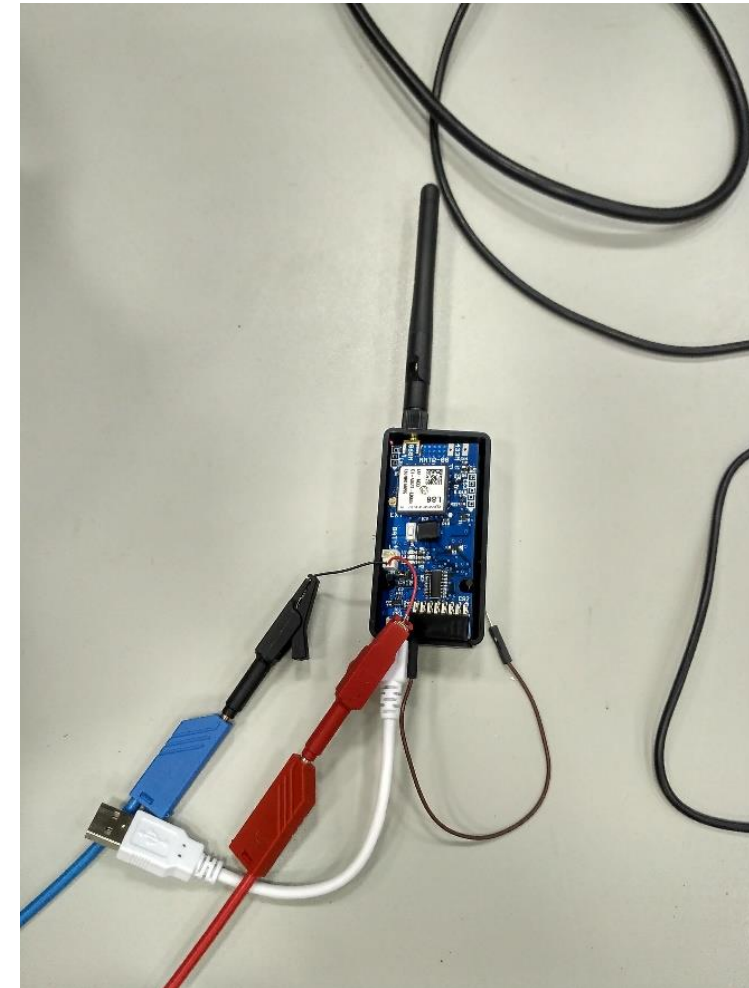
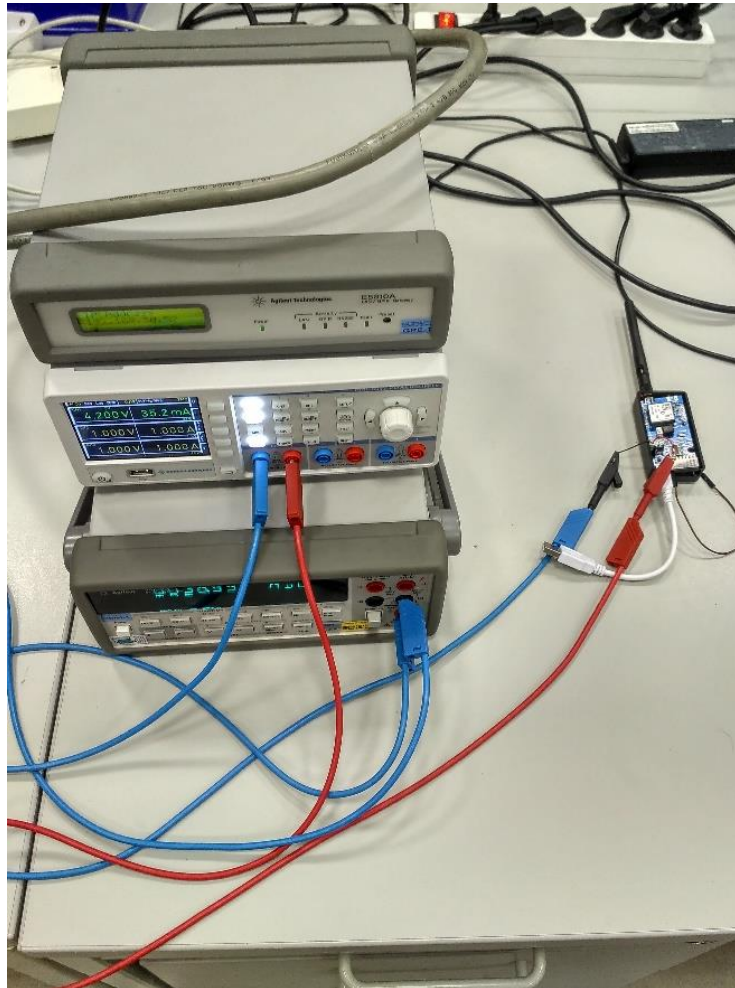
Maximal coverage radius with one and two fading margin applied

| | Okomura | Hata | COST-Hata |
|-----|---------|-------|-----------|
| One | 3300m | 2790m | 2850m |
| Two | 1700m | 1810m | 1800m |

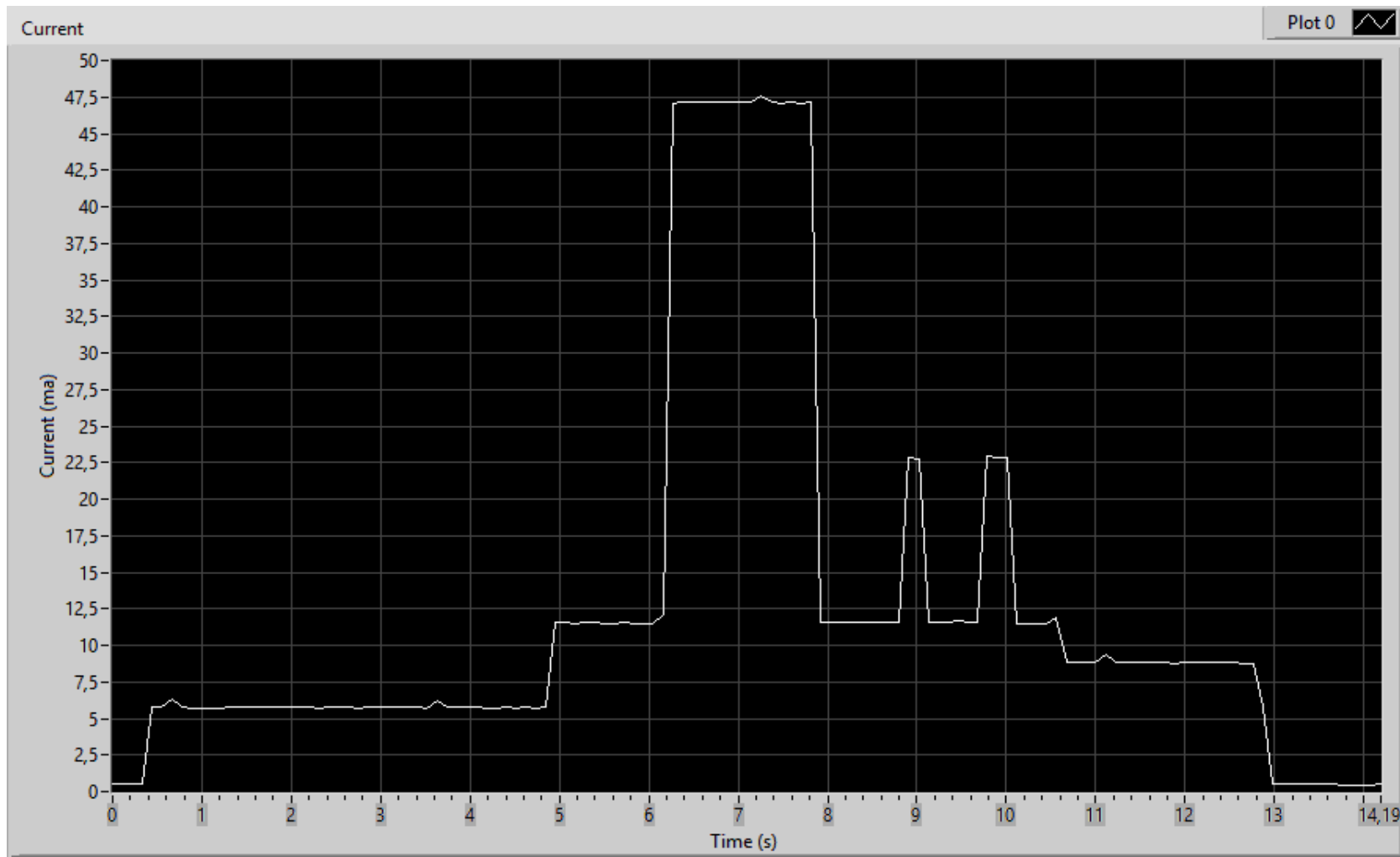




LoRa GPS mote current consumption

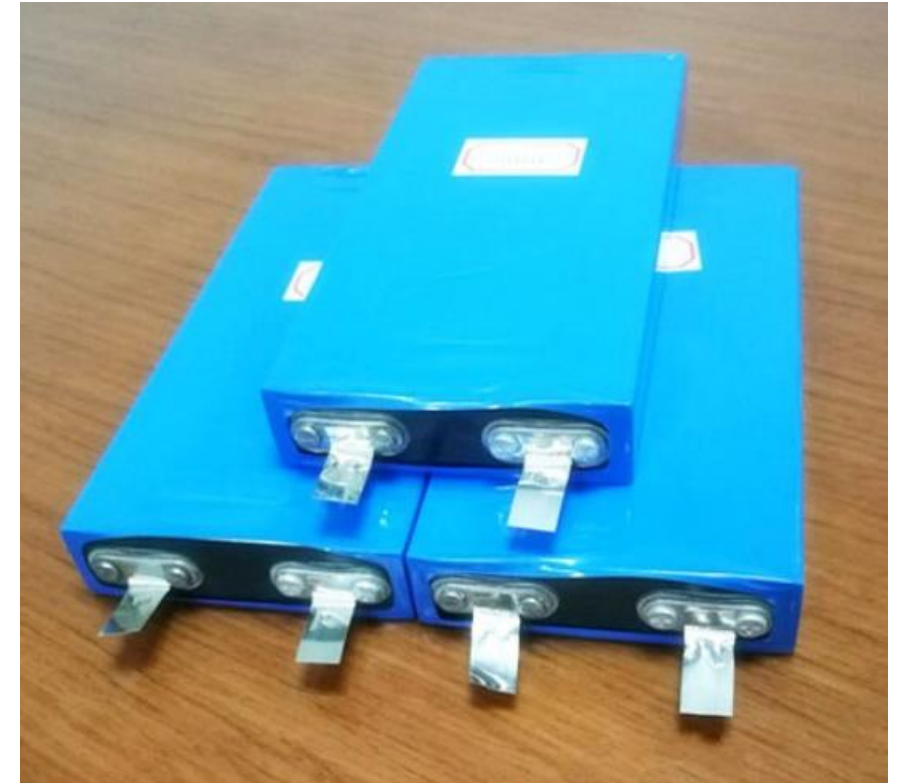


Current consumption in sensor mode

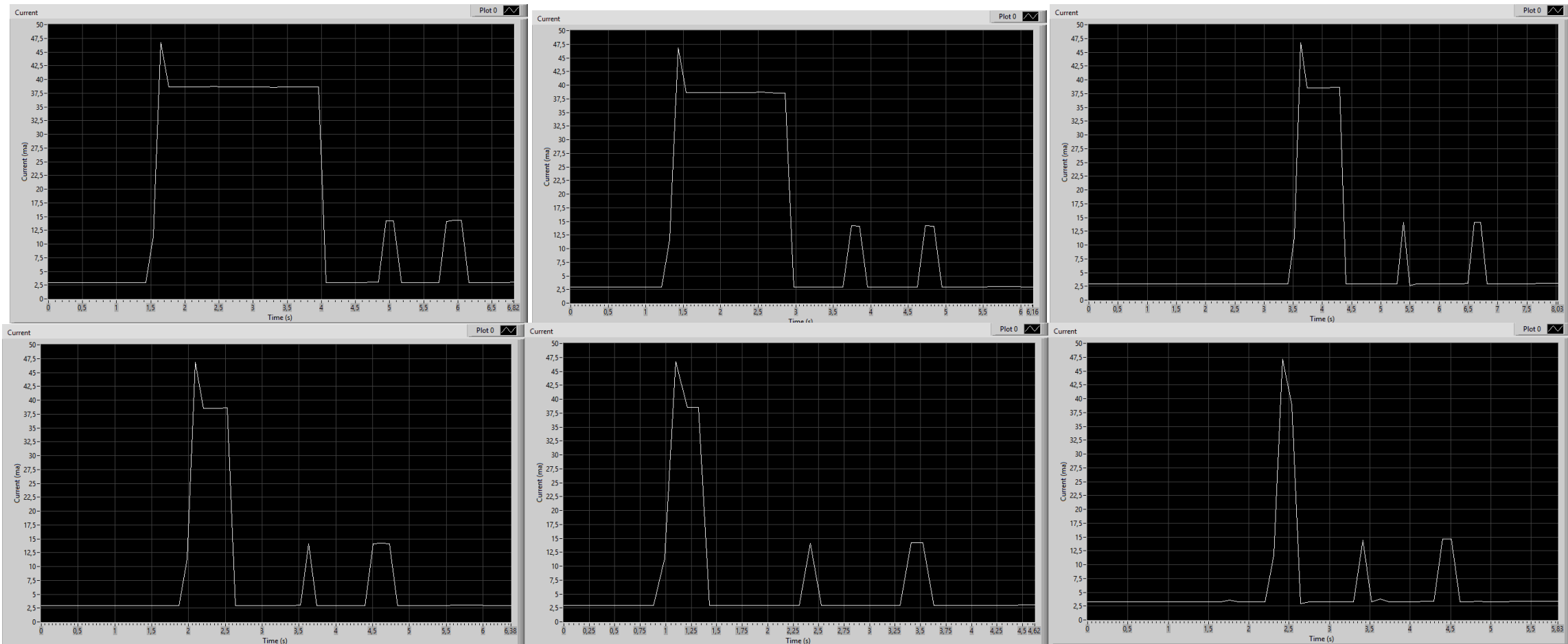


Operation time between 2 charging

- 750mAh capacity
 - Only sleep: 69,44 day
 - Daily one message sent: 69,16 day
 - Message sent every hour: 63,16 day
- 7,5 Ah capacity calculated: 691,6 day
- Battery size of a phone, 18 × 65 × 140 mm
- Prototype was consumed more than 100 μ A in sleep mode



Datarate risen – consumption time fallen



Conclusion

- More than ~100000 units handled in one access point coverage / gateway coverage
- Optimized batteries and current consumption resulting a decade of operational time
- 3 gateway for a small town (130 000 inhabitants, maximum 10 storeys block houses)

Everyday life example: the demand and motivation

Life example: the readings

- Provider notices customer: Leave accessible the meter for the technician!
- Uncomfortable, time wasting



Application examples

Application example: Immediate notice system

- Power outage
 - It is easier to detect, the measurement unit is basically a voltage meter
 - Smart grid application
- Water/Gas outage bc. broken pipe in my neighborhood,
 - It is harder to detect, as the meter is only measuring if there is consumption
- Info goes to the end user and the provider simultaneously, immediately

Definitions

Definitions

- Related terms to use when deciding about technologies to apply, or when an argument made.

Definitions

Licensed - unlicensed

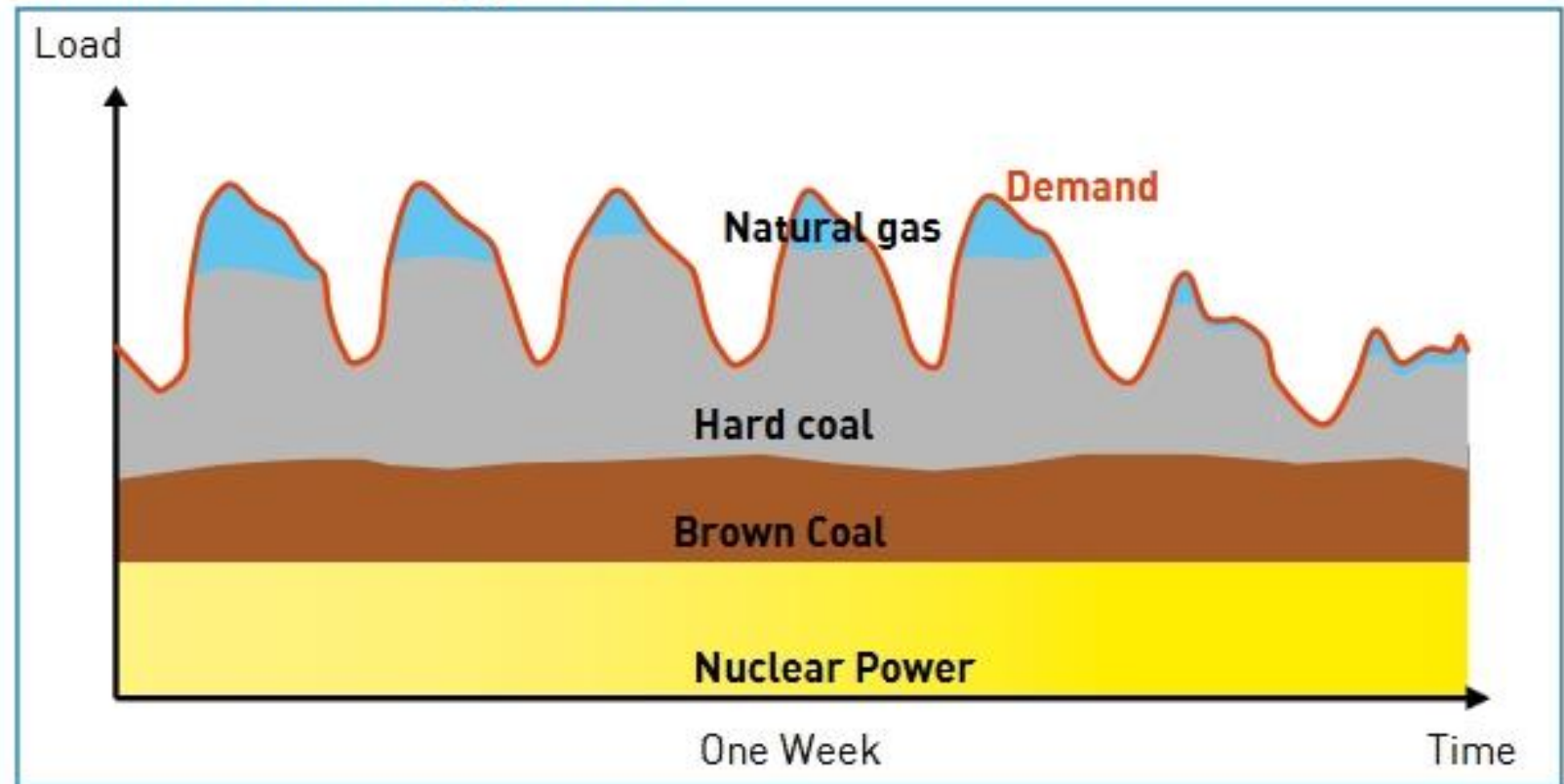
- Licensed frequency band: National Authorities are responsible for selling frequency bands for providers, and keeping it “clean” from interference.
 - Keeping up the equal competition national-wide.
- Unlicensed band: International Telecom. Union (ITU) declared industrial, scientific and medical band. Free to use, but the users has to be “fair” to each other, as the National Authorities are not responsible for its interference.
 - Giving space to the less profitable or less important applications.

Definitions

Baseload - Peaking power plants, Intermittent plant

- Peaking power
- Baseload power
- Intermittent energy

The use of conventional power plants to meet overall demand in a power plant park without renewable energy sources



[4]

Definitions

Baseload - Peaking power plants, Intermittent plant

- Baseload power: Non-adjustable plants generates this
- Nuclear, continuous coal and gas burning [5]

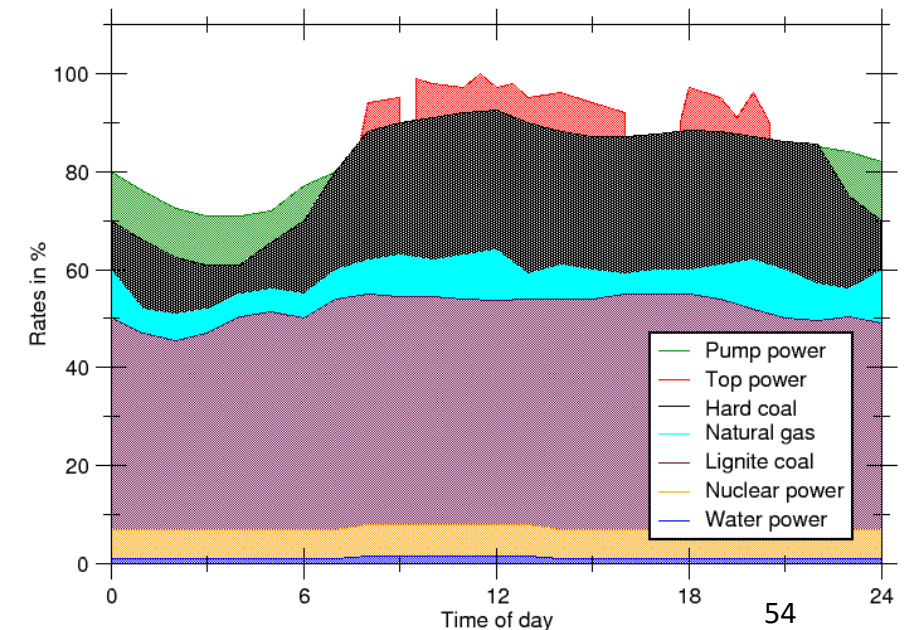


Definitions

Baseload - Peaking power plants, Intermittent plant

- Peak hours usually occur in the morning or late afternoon/evening depending on location
- Peaking power, peaker plants are generally gas turbines that burn natural gas

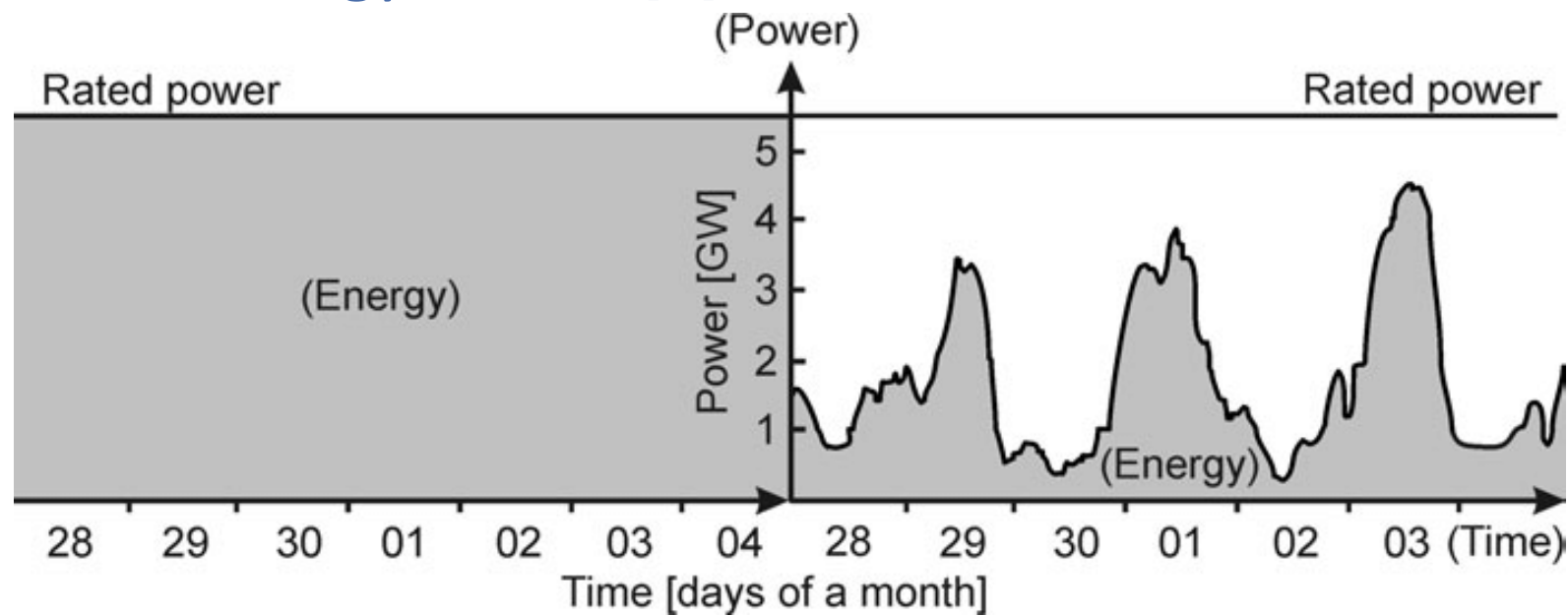
Daily consumption of electrical power



Definitions

Baseload - Peaking power plants, Intermittent plant

- An intermittent energy source is any source of energy that is not continuously available for conversion into electricity and outside direct control because the used primary energy cannot be stored.
- “Not reliable” energy source [3]



Key takeaways

Key takeaways – Technical aspect

- Viewpoints
 - Technologies have to be inspected with given viewpoints, probably a best method is to use a table to compare them
- Engineering, designing
 - Preliminary simulations and planning has to be made before building a viable system with optimized costs
 - Evaluating the simulation results with the real life experiences is very important in the company's life!

Key takeaways – Societal aspect

- Choosing the possible lowest level to start
 - If a company chooses that its tries to build a system of its own, it will be more independent, reliable, suitable.
 - In this way, more workplace generated in the region
 - Expensive
- Choosing and optimizing for the matching technology
 - If the technology fits the purpose, there is no need to modify or redefine the system, so money will be saved.
 - Preliminary market investigation, engineering simulating and planning pays off in the future!

Key takeaways – Business aspect

Where our profit is? At own work.

- Your idea is to get money from selling a solution to the energy provider.
 - The energy company grows dependence on startup companies.
- What if we go deeper in technical layers? We can optimize this solution.
 - If I can know the operation modes of a device, the needed bandwidths, the technical details, I can prevent my company to spend money to outsourcing.
- Be genuine, but in the process stay independent.
 - Stay in the right shine, ask for the same money, but lets develop our process cheaper. Avoid outsourcing.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).



Address: Unska 3, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia

E-mail: teamsoc21@fer.hr

Web: sociallab.education/teamsoc21

Facebook: facebook.com/teamsoc21

*This document has been prepared for the European Commission
however it reflects the views only of the authors, and the
Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be
made of the information contained therein.*

Project reference: **2017-1-HR01-KA203-035408**

References

- [1] <https://www.radioenge.com.br/en/solucoes/iot/17-lorawan-module.html>
- [2] <https://www.shutterstock.com/search/water+metering>
- [3] https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-difference-between-an-intermittent-and-a-non-intermittent-energy-source-of-equal_fig1_265007458
- [4] <https://grist.org/renewable-energy/why-germany-is-phasing-out-nuclear-power/>
- [5] <https://www.greenbiz.com/article/nuclear-industry-making-big-bet-small-power-plants>
- [6] <https://www.npower.com/business/-/media/nbus/header/mobile/business-meter-readings-mobile.ashx>
- [7] Mekki, K., Bajic, E., Chaxel, F. and Meyer, F. (2019). A comparative study of LPWAN technologies for large-scale IoT deployment. *ICT Express*, 5(1), pp.1-7.