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5G LENA: An E2E Simulator for 5G NR Networks. Models and evaluations in licensed and unlicensed bands.

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- Introduction and some history
- What is 5G NR?
- Ongoing projects
- Already released, to be released and future developments
- Collaboration with Interdigital and objectives
- NR-U system design
- Coexistence network simulator
- NR-U/WiGig coexistence evaluations
- Team and publications



- We started working on an extension of ns-3, targeting NR modeling in 2017, in the context of a collaboration with Interdigital.
- Objective to build a 5G simulator:
 - Wideband: FR1 and FR2
 - Coexistence frameworks below and above 7 GHz
 - Unlicensed 2.4GHz, 5GHz, 60 GHz
 - Shared 3.5 and 37 Ghz
- We opted to fork from the status in 2017 of mmWave (effort of NYU and Uni Padova) module, instead of LTE
 - It was more advanced in terms of beamforming, TDD, 3GPP channel models
 - Already prepared to work at higher bands
- At the moment the simulator relies on LTE for layers above MAC (RLC, PDCP, NAS, and EPC)
- We are building an NR RRC. In the public version we still rely on LTE RRC
- Has completely new PHY and MAC



What is 5G NR?

- NR is the new Radio Access Technology (RAT) for 5G
 - Inherent support for operation at high carrier frequencies (mmWave spectrum region) and wide bandwidth.
- Operation from low to very high bands: 0.4 100 Ghz
 - Release 15 till 52.6 GHz
 - Including standalone operation in unlicensed bands
 - Release 17 includes study item for operation till 71 GHz
- Very wide bandwidth
 - Up to 100MHz in < 7 GHz
 - Up to 400MHz in > 7 GHz
- Set of different numerologies for scaled, optimal operation in different frequency ranges.
- Native forward compatibility mechanisms
- New channel coding
 - LDPC (Low density parity check) for data channel
 - Polar coding for control channel
- Native support for Low Latency & Ultra Reliability
- Native end-to-end support for Network Slicing







3GPP work planning and schedule

- First phase of NR specs was published as part of Release 15 in 2018.
- The second phase has been released as part of Release 16 by the end of 2019.
- More extensions, agreed as part of Release 17 in December 2019, and still ongoing





ns-3 NR module: features available in Rel-0

- Released in Feb 2019. Presented in WNS3 2019/2020
- NSA architecture: 5G RAN and 4G EPC
- Flexible and automatic configuration of the NR frame structure through multiple numerologies
- Orthogonal Frequency-Division Multiple Access (OFDMA)-based access with variable TTIs
- Restructuring and redesign of the MAC layer, including new flexible MAC schedulers that simultaneously consider time- and frequency-domain resources (resource blocks and symbols) both for Time-Division Multiple Access (TDMA) and OFDMA-based access schemes with variable TTI.
- UpLink (UL) grant-based access scheme with scheduling request and 3GPPcompliant buffer status reporting
- NR-compliant processing timings
- New Bandwidth Part (BWP) managers and the architecture to support operation through multiple BWPs
- PHY layer abstraction, considering LDPC codes for data channels



- Currently the simulator is under development in two main directions
- S3 in collaboration with LLNL.
 - Extension of the simulator to study coexistence in spectrum sharing scenarios in 1695-1710 MHz and 1755-1780 MHz bands
 - The aim is to evaluate the impact on military assets from LTE/NR cellular technologies.
- NR V2X in collaboration with NIST
 - Extension of the simulator with Rel-16 NR V2X
 - Focus on data communications



- NR-U for coexistence with WiGig in 60 GHz
- LTE remodelling inside 5G-LENA
 - LTE in 5G LENA now calibrated to LTE in 4G LENA
- New multicell configuration helper to configure independently each eNB/gNB in the scenario (technology, band, numerology, BWP....)
- New REM helper: some examples in the following



5G-LENA LTE-REM at 2GHz

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1eNBs

2 eNBs

- Scenario configuration: UMa
- Scenario path: nr/examples/rem-example.cc (not public yet)
- Devices: Left 1 gNB and 1 UE (SNR up, SINR down) Right 2 gNBs and 1 UE per gNB
- RTDs:
 - gNB1 (0, 0, 1.5)
 - gNB2 (20, -30, 1.5)
 - gNBs antenna: 8x8
 - Iso
 - Frequency = **2e9**
 - Bandwidth = 20e6
 - gNB txPower: 1 dBm
 - Numerologies: gNB1 = 0
- RRD:
 - Ue1 with position (10, 10, 1.5)
 - Ue2 with position (25, -15, 1.5)
 - UE antenna: 1x1
 - Iso
 - Noise figure: 5 dBi



5G-LENA NR-REM at 28GHz: 1 beam example

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1 gNBs

2 gNBs



- Devices: Left 1 gNB and 1 UE (SNR up, SINR down) Right 2 gNBs and 1 UE per gNB
- RTDs:
 - gNB1 (0, 0, 1.5)
 - gNB2 (20, -30, 1.5)

Scenario configuration: UMa

- gNBs antenna: 8x8
- 3GPP
- Frequency = 28e9
- Bandwidth = 100e6
- gNB txPower: 1 dBm
- Numerologies: gNB1 = 4

• RRD:

- Ue1 with position (10, 10, 1.5)
- Ue2 with position (25, -15, 1.5)
- UE antenna: 1x1
- Iso
- Noise figure: 5 dBi





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5G-LENA NR-REM at 28GHz: coverage area

- Scenario configuration: UMa
- Scenario path: nr/examples/rem-example.cc (not public yet)
- Devices: Left 1 gNB and 1 UE (SNR up, SINR down) Right 2 gNBs and 1 UE per gNB
- RTDs:
 - gNB1 (0, 0, 1.5)
 - gNB2 (20, -30, 1.5)
 - gNBs antenna: 8x8
 - 3GPP
 - Frequency = 28e9
 - Bandwidth = 100e6
 - gNB txPower: 1 dBm
 - Numerologies: gNB1 = 4
- RRD:
 - Ue1 with position (10, 10, 1.5)
 - Ue2 with position (25, -15, 1.5)
 - UE antenna: 1x1
 - Iso
 - Noise figure: 5 dBi

1 gNBs

2 gNBs

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5G-LENA NR-REM at 28GHz with Buildings

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- Scenario configuration: UMa
- Scenario path: nr/examples/rem-example.cc (not public yet)
- Devices: Left 1 gNB and 1 UE (SNR up, SINR down) Right 2 gNBs and 1 UE per gNB
- RTDs:
 - gNB1 (0, 0, 1.5)
 - gNB2 (20, -30, 1.5)
 - gNBs antenna: 8x8
 - 3GPP
 - Frequency = 28e9
 - Bandwidth = 100e6
 - gNB txPower: 1 dBm
 - Numerologies: gNB1 = 4
- RRD:
 - Ue1 with position (10, 10, 1.5)
 - Ue2 with position (25, -15, 1.5)
 - UE antenna: 1x1
 - Iso
 - Noise figure: 5 dBi
- 1building in 1 gnb case / 2 buildings in 2 gnbs case

1 gNBs

2 gNBs

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C9 LTE in 4G LENA vs 5G LENA

	LTE in 4G LENA	LTE in 5G LENA
Duplexing modes	FDD	TDD and FDD
SINR computation	Based on PDCCH or mixed	Based on PDSCH
CQI feedback	Wideband and inband CQI	wideband
PHY DL error control models	available	not available yet (ongoing)
Basic PF/RR schedulers	Do not consider data available in RLC queue	Do consider data available in RLC queue
AMC	"Piro" model or "Vienna" model	"Piro" model or "Vienna" model
PHY data error models	TS36.213	TS36.213
Processing times	L1L2CtrlLatency UL_PUSCH_TTIS_DELAY	N1 and N2 to be configured appropriately
HARQ	IR, 8 processes	IR, CC, to configure 8 processes
RRC	Ideal/real, HO management, RLF	Only ideal, RLF unavailable, no mobility
SR and MAC PDU	simplified	Standard compliant



- Realistic Beamforming
- SRS modelling and Control error model
- RRC enhancements
- Improved X2/Xn interface
- ICIC
- UL power control
- Mobility and HO management



- Centre Tecnològic de Telecomunicacions de Catalunya
 - Long term collaboration with NIST, first in LTE D2D and now in NR V2X
 - Based on grant from fall 2019 to spring 2021
 - Objectives:
 - Extend 5G-LENA simulator with NR V2X capabilities
 - NR V2X evaluations on high fidelity, full stack network simulator
 - Output:
 - Open source network simulator for NR V2X evaluations
 - First release planned for 2Q 2021



- V2X extensions for NR in development, based on standardization in 3GPP Release 16
- Available features
 - Broadcast, groupcast, unicast.
 - FR1 (numerologies 0, 1, 2), FR2 (numerologies 2, 3).
 - Out-of-coverage scenario (in-coverage scenario).
 - Mode 2 resource allocation (UE selected), Mode 1 (gNB scheduled).
 - Omnidirectional tx/rx for SL.
 - Sensing based and random based semi-persistent scheduler (basic service messages), per packet scheduling
 - Time multiplexing of PSCCH and PSSCH, frequency multiplexing
 - Blind retransmissions, no feedback. HARQ, feedback channel (PSFCH)

Centre Tecnològic de Telecomunicacions COEXISTENCE @60 GHz

- Collaboration with ID started due to our previous experience with studies on coexistence at 5GHz, which we carried out with WFA and Spidercloud
- More than 2 years of collaboration between spring 2017 and fall 2019.
- Objectives

- Design operation of NR-U at 60 GHz, considering coexistence with WiGig
- Multi-RAT NR-WiGig evaluations on high fidelity, full stack network simulator
- Outputs
 - Open source network simulator for NR/NR-U/WiGig evaluations
 - Publications, patents, knowledge generation

- N. Patriciello, S. Lagen, B. Bojovic, L. Giupponi, An E2E Simulator for 5G NR Networks, Elsevier Simulation Modelling Practice and Theory (SIMPAT), vol. 96, 101933, Nov. 2019
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- We started analyzing the spectrum allocation and regulatory requirements
 - At the time we identified 60 GHz having similar requirement to 5 GHz band, wrt LBT (Listen Before Talk).
 - MCOT (Maximum Channel Occupancy Time) is 9 ms at 60 GHz, while at 5GHz depends on the channel access priority class.
 - Max EIRP (Equivalent Isotropically Radiated Power) is limited to 40 dB and PSD (Power Spectral Density) to 23 dBm/MHz
 - OCB (Occupied Channel Bandwidth) defined as the bandwidth with 99% of signal power, in 60% should be between 80 and 100% of Nominal Channel Bandwidth (NCB)
 - Frequency Reuse (FR)
 - Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS)



• The design focused on:

- Channel access procedure: LBT procedure may not be as useful as it was in omnidirectional scenarios.
- COT structure: it can be optimized for unlicensed-based access in TDD systems to meet the MCOT limit while reducing the access delay and enabling fast DL-UL responses when needed.
- Initial access procedure: need to be rethought to meet regulation, and to mitigate LBT impact on latency.
- HARQ procedure: similar to above.
- MAC scheduling: Impact of processing delays on the scheduler and relations with channel access procedure.
- We will only focus on channel access due to time limits

- We studied:
 - LBT for beam-based transmissions: LBT suffers from hidden and exposed node problems, which are emphasized by the directionality of transmission and reception.
 - Receiver-assisted LBT for beam-based transmissions: The receivers are in a better position to assess potential interference.
 - Intra-RAT tight frequency reuse: LBT operation based solely on ED is uncoordinated inherently, it may result in unnecessary blocking among different nodes of the same RAT.
 - Congestion Window Size (CWS) adjustment for beam-based transmissions: NACKs do not necessarily reflect collisions and introduce delays into the CWS update procedure. Under beam-based transmission, collisions may be due to interference coming from other directions.

LBT for Beam-based Transmissions

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- Omnidirectional LBT: senses omnidirectionally. Under directional transmissions, it overprotects because a transmission is prevented even if a signal is detected from a direction that may not create harmful interference. (exposed node)
- Directional LBT: senses in a directional manner within the transmit beam towards the intended receiver. On-going nearby transmissions might not be detected, and directional hidden node problems may cause interference.
- Paired LBT: performs directional sensing in paired directions, i.e., in the transmitting direction and its opposite direction(s).
- LBT switch: switches the type of carrier sense between omnidirectional and directional, based on the beamwidth configuration and density of neighboring nodes, HARQ feedbacks, UE measurements, etc.

- S. Lagen, L. Giupponi, and N. Patriciello, "LBT switching procedures for new radio-based access to unlicensed spectrum," in 2018IEEE Globecom Workshops (GC Wkshps), pp. 1–6, Dec 2018.

⁻ S. Lagen, L. Giupponi, B. Bojovic, A. Demir, and M. Beluri, "Paired listen before talk for multi-rat coexistence in unlicensed mmwayed bands," in 2018 IEEE International Conference on Communications Workshops (ICC Workshops), pp. 1–6, May 2018.





- Similar to WiFi RTS/CTS, LBR (Listen Before Receive)
- The gNB triggers the UE to perform carrier sense, and only if the UE responds, the gNB can initiate the transmission.

Initial evaluation: Scenario

- NR-WiGig coexistence scenario, composed of 20 NR connections (gNB-UE) and 20 WiGig connections (AP-STA). There is a total of K=40 connections, but we also vary K through simulations
- Dense indoor network deployment, for which the pair connections are randomly deployed in a 25x25m² area.
- Downlink-only evaluation:
 - Carrier freq: fc=60 GHz, bandwidth: BW=1 GHz, IEEE 802.11ad pathloss model
 - Transmit power: Ptx=10 dBm, noise PSD: -174 dBm/Hz
 - Normalized energy detection threshold: -74 dBm
- Channel access procedures:
 - APs use omniLBT
 - gNBs can adopt different procedures: no-LBT, omniLBT, dirLBT, pairLBT, or LBTswitch
 - We also combine these strategies with LBR
- We do not emulate backoff processes, and simply consider how many connections can get access to the shared channel and the obtained QoS, measured through the "rate":
 - rate=BW×log₂(1+SINR), based on the SINR, and assuming ideal link adaptation



- Directional transmission at gNBs/APs:
 - Transmit beams: 30° beamwidth and 10 dB mainlobe gain.
- Two reception configurations are used at UEs/STAs:
 - Omnidirectional reception
 - Quasi-omnidirectional reception → the receive beam gain at UEs/STAs is fixed to 7 dB with a receive mainlobe beamwidth of 90°.
- KPIs:
 - Sum-rate: "capacity"
 - Mean-rate during channel access: "QoS" per device, measured globally and separately for NR and WiGig pairs.
 - Number of NR and WiGig pairs that get access to the channel: "channel access success rate", fairness, measured separately for NR and WiGig pairs.



Results: omnidirectional reception at UEs/STAs

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adopted channel access procedure by gNBs



Results: Quasi-omni reception at UEs/STAs

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- Based on Rel. 15 NR, with LBT addition
- LBT is performed after MAC is executed, when data are ready at PHY to be sent
- Multiple CAM are supported: ON, OnOff, LBT Cat 1, 2, 3, 4 at gNB, Cat 1, 2 at UE
- Focus on omnidirectional LBT



Network simulations - models

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TABLE 1: NR-U and WiGig models.

NR-U		WiGig	
	TDD NR-compliant frame structure with slots and	TDD WiGig-compliant [23], [32]:	
	OFDM symbols of numerology-dependent length	- Beacon interval of 102.4 ms, including BTI, A-BFT,	
	[1], [31]:	ATI and DTI phases	
	- frame: 10 ms, subframe: 1 ms	- Beacon Transmission Interval (BTI) of 1.2 ms	
	- each subframe has 2^{μ} slots (associated to	- Association Beamforming Training (A-BFT).	
Frame structure	$15 \times 2^{\mu}$ kHz SCS)	composed of 8 slots and 16 frames per slot	
	- numerologies $\mu=0,1,2,3,4$ are supported	- Announcement Transmission Interval (ATI):	
	- each slot is composed of 14 OFDM symbols	currently deactivated	
	- 1st symbol: DL control, 14th symbol: UL control,	- Data Transmission Interval (DTI) of 98 ms:	
	2nd to 13th symbols flexibly allocated to DL	currently based on contention, but also supports	
	and III, data	contention-free and poling [32]	
	3GPP-compliant [38]:	3GPP-compliant [38]:	
Antenna models Beamforming methods	- Antenna arrays: 1 uniform planar array per AP/STA	- Antenna arrays: 1 uniform planar array per AP/STA.	
	$M \times N$ antenna elements, no polarization	$M \times N$ antenna elements, no polarization	
	- Antenna elements: isotropical radiation and	- Antenna elements: isotropical radiation and	
	directional radiation are supported	directional radiation are supported	
	Two methods are available: beam-search method and singular	Beam-search method, implemented with a real training	
	value decomposition (SVD)-based method [39]. Both are ideal	through BTI phase (to train AP beam) and A-BFT	
	in the sense that no resources are used for beam training.	phase (to train STA beam) [32]	
	- DL/UL data: transmitted and received directionally	- DL/UL data: transmitted and received directionally	
ananana o na bo	- DL control: sent quasi-omnidirectionally from gNBs	- DL control: sent directionally from APs	
DL/UL data/control channels	and received directionally at UEs	and received quasi-omnidirectionally at STAs	
	- UL control: sent directionally from UEs and	- UL control: sent directionally from STAs and	
	received quasi-omnidirectionally at gNBs	received quasi-omnidirectionally at APs	
	- NR PHY abstraction for DL and UL data channels	1	
	[40] including support for MCS Table1 and	60 CHz consitivity error model for DI /III	
Error models	MCS Table2 [41], LDPC coding and block	- 60 GHZ sensitivity error model for DL/OL	
	segmentation [42]	data and control frames	
	- No error model for DL/UL control		
Modulation	OFDM	Both single carrier and OFDM	
Channel Coding	LDPC	LDPC	
MCS	QPSK, 16-QAM, 64-QAM, 256-QAM	BPSK, QPSK, 16-QAM, 64-QAM	
HARQ	- NR PHY abstraction for HARQ including support	Not supported by the standard	
	for HARQ-IR and HARQ-CC	Not supported by the standard	
Retransmissions	Up to 4 with retransmission combining	Up to 7 without retransmission combining	
MAC	In DL OEDMA and TDMA accesses are supported		
	- IIIDL, OFDINA and IDMA accesses are supported	Contention-based access for DL and UL	
	with round-room, proportional-tair and maximum		
	In III TDMA access is supported		
Link adaptation	Two adaptive modulation and coding schemes are		
	supported: Error model and Shannon bound	Link adaptation based on the Shannon bound	
Operational modes	Standalone NR-U and Carrier Aggregation NR-U	Standalone WiGig	
Channel access	LBT. OnOff. AlwaysOn	CSMA/CA	
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TR38.889 with reduced distances to adapt to mmWave ranges

TABLE 2: Main scenario simulation parameters

Parameter	Value (baseline)	Value (tested variations)
Deployment and propagation parameters:		
Channel model	3GPP Indoor Hotspot Mixed Office	
Deployment	2 operators, 3 base stations and 12 users per operator	
gNB/AP/UE/STA height	1.5 m	
Channel bandwidth	2.16 GHz	
Central frequency	58 GHz	
Noise power spectral density	-174 dBm/Hz	
Traffic parameters:		
Direction	downlink	
Application packet size	1000 Bytes	
Application load	10 Mbps and 50 Mbps	
Device narameters:	то нюрь акі зо нюрь	
gNB/AP antennas	878	1+1
UE/STA antennas	4x4	7x7
gNB/AP transmit power	17 dBm	LAL
LIE/STA transmit power	17 dBm	
gNB/AP noise figure	7 dB	
UE/STA poise figure	7 dB	
NR-U noremeters and functionalities	700	
Frame structure	SCS=120 kHz	SCS=60 kHz SCS=240 kHz
Channel handwidth	2 16 GHz	400 MHz 800 MHz
Beamforming method	beam search	SVD based
Beam reciprocity	Vec	5 VD-based
Link adaptation	adaptive MCS (Shappon based adaptation)	
Error model	NR PHV abstraction based on FESM [40]	
MCS table	MCS Table1	
HARO method	HAROJR	
MAC	scheduled-based	
NB CAM	Cat/I BT	AlwayeOn OnOff
IE CAM	Cat2 LBT	Alwayson, OnOff
RLC mode	RIC-IM	Anayson, onon
RLC huffer size	9999999999 Bytes	
LBT CAM:	July By By By	
gNB ED threshold	-79 dBm (omniLBT)	-69 dBm -89 dBm
UF FD threshold	-69 dBm (dirLBT)	
CCA slot duration	5 us	
defer interval during CCA	8 115	
Maximum COT	9 ms	
Cat 4LBT minimum CWS	15	
Cat 4LBT maximum CWS	1023	
Cat 3 LBT CWS	15	
Cat 2 LBT defer period	25 us	
DL-UL switching points	one within COT	
OnOff CAM:		
duty cycle	50%: ON and OFF periods of 9 ms	
WiGig parameters and functionalities:		20
	BI length =102.4ms, BTI length=1.2ms, 8 SS slots	
Frame structure	and 16 SSW frames per slot, no ATI	
Channel bandwidth	2.16 GHz	
Beamforming method	beam search	
Beam reciprocity	yes	
Link adaptation	adaptive MCS (Shannon-based adaptation)	
Error model	60 GHz sensitivity model	
MAC	contention-based	
RTS/CTS	disabled	
PDU and SDU aggregation	enabled	
CSMA/CA:		
AP/STA ED threshold	-79 dBm (omniLBT)	
AP/STA preamble detection threshold	-96 dBm (omniLBT)	
CCA slot duration	5 us	
defer interval during CCA	8 us	
CSMA/CA minimum CWS	15	
CSMA/CA maximum CWS	1023	





- NR-U channel occupancy is higher than WiGig's, due to symbol level granularity.
 - For SCS 120 KHz, symbol is 8,92 us, while WiGig frame on average 3,5 us.
 - Effect decreases with LBT and OnOff, since packets are accumulated in queue during OFF periods. and transmission opportunity is better used.
 - The more conservative the LBT, the lower the occupancy.
- Higher occupancy makes that WiGig stats when coexisting with NR-U have more variability, also in terms of latency.

CTTC Impact of NR-U channel access



- WiGig vs WiGig: nodes see each other at -96 dBm (preamble detection).
- WiGig vs NR-U: nodes see each other at ED threshold, configured to -79 dBm.
 - More nodes (both WiGig and NR-U) gain the channel, which reduces the per node throughput, and increases the system throughput.
- Cat4/Cat2 offers the best system throughput performance, comparable to duty cycling.
- Always On access does not coexist properly, a coexistence mechanism is needed.





- SCS: 60, 120 KHz (we are further studying 240 KHz)
- NR-U latency goes down as expected
- Occupancy is not affected in alwaysON, but with OnOff and LBT we see a slight reduction in occupancy, because packets are aggregated and transmitted in shorter time.
- In AlwaysON case, occupancy is more bursty, this affects dispersion of latency and occupancy of WiGig



- For alwaysON, a lower numerology allows aggregation and so an access with less OFF to ON transitions. This results in better per user and system throughput.
- For OnOff and LBT, since they already naturally allow for packet aggregation during OFF periods, the higher numerology slightly improves the throughput, due to reduced transmission times.



Impact of NR-U ED threshold



- Lower NR-U ED threshold reduces access of NR-U nodes, and so the occupancy
- This results in reduced WiGig's latency





- Lower NR-U ED threshold results in:
 - Improved NR-U per user throughput
 - Improved WiGig's system throughput



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• S. Lagen, L. Giupponi, S. Goyal, N. Patriciello, B. Bojovic, A. Demir, M. Beluri, New Radio Beambased Access to Unlicensed Spectrum: Design Challenges and Solutions, IEEE

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• N. Patriciello, S. Lagen, B. Bojovic, L. Giupponi, NR-U and IEEE 802.11 Technologies

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