

## TUTORIAL

### Maching Learning for Spectrum Sharing in Wireless Networks

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# Speakers





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•Key message: Spectrum sharing is inevitable and mechanisms to solve coexistence challenges is still immature. Machine learning can provide efficient tools to deal with complex interactions in the coexistence settings.



- Outline:
  - Part I: Spectrum sharing essentials (10 mins)
  - Part II: Coexistence in unlicensed bands (30 mins)
  - Part III: Machine learning primer (20 mins)
  - Part IV: How ML helps for better coexistence (30 mins)
  - Part V: Summary and open research directions (5 mins)



# Part I Spectrum Sharing in Wireless Networks



- Why to share the spectrum?
- Modes of sharing
- Challenges in *harmonious* coexistence
- Current solutions for coexistence in wireless networks



# Sharing

• Spectrum sharing covers the scenarios where at least two technologies, systems, or users utilise or are authorized to utilize the same frequency bands in a non-exclusive manner



Artist: Alan Levine



- High increase in wireless devices, networks, users
- Massive and continuing growth in mobile data traffic
  - Special thanks to video traffic! 60% of total mobile traffic in 2016
- More to come with IoT, M2M, 5G
- Many (cutting-edge) proposals to cope with the *exponentially* increasing wireless data demand
  - small cells, MU-MIMO, D2D, etc.







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BUT: Scarcity of "good" spectrum for wireless communications is still the major bottleneck.



- Sub-6 GHz best performance
- Unlicensed bands:
  - 2.4 GHz (already very congested)
  - and 5 GHz
- New bands: *mmWave* etc.
  - for small cells and low mobility



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Dynamic spectrum sharing as a remedy to cope with exponential wireless data demand and solve the **artificial** scarcity due to mis-management of the spectrum



- Cheaper licenses for mobile network operators if operation on the licensed bands
- Additional revenue for network operators if selling their under-utilised bands
- More-efficient spectrum utilization if shared among multiple networks (use of underused assets by others)

Please see for sharing in the licensed bands: Tehrani, Roya H., et al. "Licensed spectrum sharing schemes for mobile operators: A survey and outlook." IEEE Communications Surveys & Tutorials18.4 (2016): 2591-2623.



## Spectrum authorities agree ...

• FCC's Notice of Inquiry July 13, 2017: Exploring Flexible Use in Mid-Band Spectrum Between 3.7 GHz and 24 GHz

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\_Releases/Daily\_Business/2017/db0713/DOC-345789A1.pdf

- Ofcom's A Framework for Spectrum Sharing in April 2015
  <a href="https://www.ofcom.org.uk/">https://www.ofcom.org.uk/</a> data/assets/pdf\_file/0032/79385/spectrum-sharing-framework.pdf</a>
- Report for EU Commission, on *Promoting the Shared Use of Europe's Radio Spectrum*, 2012, S. Forge et al.

https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/promoting-shared-use-europes-radio-spectrum





transmission range
 detection range
 interference range

Coping with interference is central to the coexistence of wireless systems.

Simon Forge, Robert Horvitz and Colin Blackman, report on *Promoting the Shared Use of Europe's Radio Spectrum*, 2012. <u>https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/promoting-shared-use-europes-radio-spectrum</u> 12/170





transmission range
 detection range
 interference range

*Co-existence* is when the operation of a radio system is capable of impairing the operation of another radio system but it does not.

Simon Forge, Robert Horvitz and Colin Blackman, report on *Promoting the Shared Use of Europe's Radio Spectrum*, 2012. <u>https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/promoting-shared-use-europes-radio-spectrum</u> 13/170



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- **Frequency**: each system operates on a different spectrum
- **Time**: same spectrum used on a time-sharing basis (*DSA*, *cognitive radio* in overlay mode)
- **Space**: systems coexist in different spatial domains (e.g., protection zones, exclusion zones)
- Code: e.g. CDMA



Han, You, et al. Spectrum sharing methods for the coexistence of multiple RF systems: A survey. Ad Hoc Networks, 2016 15/170







Main focus of this tutorial is on unlicensed bands



# What is an efficient coexistence?

Depends on the scenario (requirements of each system's operation)





## Coexistence metrics

- Fairness in usage of the shared resources
- Throughput
- Delay
- Spectrum utilisation (from the perspective of the regulatory bodies/ spectrum authority)



# Main challenges in wireless coexistence

#### Challenge #1 Heterogeneity

(other challenges are also mostly due to heterogeneity)



# Challenge #1: Heterogeneity

- Different rules of operation, different ethics
- PHY, MAC layer (packets may not be decoded by the other network)
- Different packet formats
- Power levels
- Different signal management functions
- Modulation schemes
- Data rates
- Channel bandwidths and separations
- Applications, communication vs. non-communication networks



# Main challenges in wireless coexistence

#### Challenge #2 Power asymmetry





# Challenge #2: Power asymmetry

• High-power systems vs. small-cell/low-power systems



- Asymmetric interference (different tx powers, different interference regions)
- WiFi vs. ZigBee



# Main challenges in wireless coexistence

#### Challenge #3 Lack of communication among co-existing networks



- Networks controlled by different operators
- Networks using different technologies
- No well-defined means for negotiation, e.g., residential WLANs



# Remember the cognition cycle

• Coexistence requires cognition





- **IEEE 802.19** Wireless Coexistence Technical Advisory Group (TAG) within the IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee: coexistence between unlicensed wireless networks
  - 802.19.1: Coexistence in TV bands
- IEEE 802.15 Task Group 2: Recommended Practice on Coexistence of IEEE 802.11 and Bluetooth
- P802.22b amendment: Self-coexistence protocol for 802.22
  networks: Coexistence Beacon Protocol (CBP)
- **P 1932.1:** Standard for Licensed/Unlicensed Spectrum Interoperability in Wireless Mobile Networks



- Sharing is vital for meeting the demand for wireless capacity
- Coexistence is the main challenge in shared spectrum access
- Heterogeneity of networks pose substantial difficulties
- Metrics and requirements still not totally agreed upon

# Further Reading for Part I

- Han, You, et al. "Spectrum sharing methods for the coexistence of multiple RF systems: A survey." *Ad Hoc Networks* 53 (2016): 53-78.
- Beltran, Fernando et al "Understanding the current operation and future roles of wireless networks: Co-existence, competition and co-operation in the unlicensed spectrum bands." *IEEE JSAC16*.
- P802.22b Coexistence Assurance Document, doc.: 22-14-0141-01-0000, Nov.2014 available at <a href="https://mentor.ieee.org/802.22/dcn/14/22-14-0141-01-0000-p802-22b-coexistence-assurance-document.docx">https://mentor.ieee.org/802.22/dcn/14/22-14-0141-01-0000-p802-22b-coexistence-assurance-document.docx</a>
- Bahrak, Behnam, and Jung-Min Jerry Park. "Coexistence decision making for spectrum sharing among heterogeneous wireless systems." *IEEE TWC* 14
- K. Bian et al., Cognitive Radio Networks, Chapter 2 Taxonomy of Coexistence Mechanisms, Springer 2014
- JSAC Special Issue on Spectrum Sharing I, II, and III, October, November, December 2016



## Part II Coexistence in unlicensed bands



- Wi-Fi overview
- Unlicensed LTE overview
- Coexistence Issues



#### WiFi + femtocells carried 60% of mobile data traffic

# The future is <u>unlicensed</u>

Success of WiFi attributed to operation in unlicensed bands



# A brief overview of Wifi





- 11a 20 MHz BW, 5GHz
- 11b 20 MHz BW, 2.4 GHz
- 11g 20 MHz BW, 2.4 GHz
- 11n 20 & 40 MHz BW, 2.4 and 5GHz
- 11ac 20 to 160 MHz BW, 5GHz
- 11ad 2 GHz BW, 60 GHz
- 11af 6/8 MHz, TV White Space
- 11ah- 1/2/4/8/16-MHz, 900 MHz





- 2.4 GHz ISM bands: already crowded
  - WiFi, Bluetooth, microwave ovens, Zigbee, etc.
  - WiFi: 802.11b/g/n at 2.4 GHz
  - Channels 1, 6, 11 are non-overlapping and should be used

#### • 5 GHz UNII bands: getting crowded

- WiFi, Radar, unlicensed LTE
- WiFi: 802.11a/n/ac at 5GHz and future standards 11ax
- Non-overlapping 20+ channels of 20 MHz




Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Avoidance (CSMA/CA)



# Distributed Control Function (DCF)

- Random access protocol
  - transmission (attempt) can happen anytime
- The same medium for all
  - uplink and downlink, control and data shares the medium
- Exponential backoff mechanism
  - Contention window size
- DIFS, SIFS amounts of waiting before continuing transmission
- Rate adaptation according to channel quality



### WiFi shares the airtime with its neighbours



• As two APs operate on the same channel airtime is shared, e.g., only one transmitter is active at a time



### WiFi shares the airtime with its neighbours





- Carrier sense (CS): decode the WiFi preambles
- Energy detection (ED): detect that there is some (e.g., non-WiFi) signal present in the channel above some ED threshold



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### Main challenge: chaotic WiFi deployments

- Enterprise WLANs:
  - centrally-managed, easier coexistence
- Residential/uncoordinated WLANs: *chaotic* deployment
  - independently controlled APs (or novice user control)
  - need for coexistence mechanisms
- Co-channel interference, adjacent-channel interference, non-WiFi interference, high channel occupancy
- Main mechanism for coexistence in WLAN:
  - Channel selection, LBT parameter tuning, power control



### **Residential WLANs**





### WiFi moving to 5 GHz

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015
802.11g	99.9%	99.9%
802.11n	95.7%	97.7%
5 GHz	48.9%	64.9%
40 MHz channels	23.4%	63.8%
802.11ac	2.5%	18.0%
Two streams	7.7%	19.3%
Three streams	2.4%	3.8%
Four streams	0.7%	1.8%

# Table 4: Client capabilities advertised by all clients that connected during the same week in January for two consecutive years.

Source: Biswas, Sanjit, et al. "Large-scale measurements of wireless network behavior." ACM SIGCOMM15 45/170



# A brief overview of unlicensed LTE



## LTE in unlicensed bands

- Cellular operators benefit from WiFi a lot, but
  - WiFi has low spectral efficiency under high number of users due to losses in **contention based access**
  - MAC efficiency<1</li>



Solution: LTE in the unlicensed bands (Qualcomm, 2013)



# Why LTE in unlicensed bands?

- Unified control at the same core:
  - authentication, management, and security procedures
- higher spectral efficiency in the unlicensed bands
  - Centrally-scheduled access
- •Better error control at LTE
  - HARQ vs. ARQ
- other interesting convergence solutions not discussed here: MuLTEfire, LWA



- Augment the licensed capacity with unlicensed capacity when the data boost is needed (opportunistic use)
- carrier aggregation: two or more carriers combined in a virtual bw.
- supplementary downlink (SDL), downlink: 80-90 % of total traffic



### Available spectrum in unlicensed bands



Source: Cui, Haixia, et al. "LTE in the Unlicensed Band: Overview, Challenges, and Opportunities." *IEEE Wireless Communications* (2017).



### Regional regulations for 5GHz bands



Wang, Xuyu et al. "A survey of LTE Wi-Fi coexistence in unlicensed bands." GetMobile: Mobile Computing and Communications 2017



- Current trend: small cells for better frequency reuse
- But additionally,
  - Unlicensed spectrum: power restrictions
  - 5 GHz: lower coverage compared to 2.4 GHz
- Hence, LTE unlicensed is for small cells





### Unlicensed LTE and WiFi coexistence

#### **Channel access**

LTE: centralized, strict time slots WiFi: contention-based random access

#### **Channel usage**

LTE: always on, frames WiFi: demand based, on-off

#### Scheduling

LTE: multiple users (time and freq) WiFi: one user

#### Interference

LTE: Cross/co-tier interference WiFi: Hidden/exposed terminal, collision





• Main problem: different PHY and MAC rules



 Expected result: WiFi suffers from LTE, if LTE does not adapt coexistence mechanisms! 54/170



### Two variants: LAA and LTE-U

- LBT required or not
  - License Assisted Access LAA: LBT mandatory
  - LTE Unlicensed (LTE-U): no LBT
- LAA: by 3GPP, LTE-U: by LTE-U forum
- LAA: Europe, Japan, LTE-U: US, Korea, China
- LAA: Release 13 (requires changes to LTE air interface)
- LTE-U: Release 10/11/12
- LAA: a global standard, LTE-U: faster time to market









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#### LTE-U duty cycle



can transmit during OFF periods

- MAC time sharing
- Duty cycle: Ton/(Ton+Toff)





- CSAT (carrier sense adaptive transmission): adaptive duty cycle
- Adaptation according to WiFi medium utilisation and number of WiFi nodes observed by user devices or small base stations 58/170



## How to set the ON-OFF durations?

- **Medium sharing**: if X is LTE's duty-cycle, airtime for WiFi is (1-X)
- But some caveats:
- Length of ON-duration: WiFi has to wait till the end of ON period which may affect latency-sensitive applications, e.g., high QoS frames.



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  - subframe puncturing
  - max ON duration 20 ms





# How to set the ON-OFF durations?

- **Medium sharing**: if X is LTE's duty-cycle, airtime for WiFi is (1-X)
- But some caveats:
- Length of ON-duration: WiFi has to wait till the end of ON period which may affect latency-sensitive applications, e.g., high QoS frames.
- Length of OFF-duration: typically 40/80 ms





Received LTE-U power at the WiFi AP

N. Jindal et al, "LTE-U and Wi-Fi: A coexistence study by Google," Wi-Fi LTE-U Coexistence Test Workshop, 2015. <u>https://goo.gl/x6r0Ac</u> 62/170



N. Jindal et al, "LTE-U and Wi-Fi: A coexistence study by Google," Wi-Fi LTE-U Coexistence Test Workshop, 2015. <u>https://goo.gl/x6r0Ac</u> 63/170



### LAA medium access



- LBT:
  - default -72 dBm ED threshold: adaptation based on bandwidth and transmission power
  - Congestion window size adaptation based on HARQ NACK
- DTX (Discontinuous transmission):
  - transmission time limited to 10 ms (4 ms in Japan, as opposed to 20 ms in LTE-U)
- A new frame type
- Type 3 frame: DL transmission can start at the next *slot* not next subframe

Kwon, Hwan-Joon, et al. "Licensed-Assisted Access to Unlicensed Spectrum in LTE Release 13." *IEEE Communications Magazine* 55.2 (2017): 201-207.



# 5 GHz not congested yet, but it is highly likely that it will soon

Coexistence mechanisms to be implemented



Coexistence goal of LTE unlicensed A better neighbour than WiFi

- with WiFi: no worse impact in terms of both throughput and latency than another WiFi network
- with LTE: *fair* resource sharing







### Peaceful Coexistence in Unlicensed Spectrum







- Homogeneous scenario: WiFi-WiFi
  - Intra-technology coexistence, self-coexistence
- Heterogenous scenario: LTE-U and WiFi coexistence
  - Inter-technology/cross-technology coexistence





### Current literature on WiFi self-coexistence

- Have a control channel among APs for coordination
  - ResFi [Zehl16], SAW [Herzen13]
- Have a controller. e.g., APs of the same network provider, OpenFlow SDN
  - COAP [Patro15]
- Beacon analysis based channel selection
  - Min-#of-STAs [Achanta06]
- For a more complete set of proposals, see: Surachai Chieochan et al, Channel Assignment Schemes for Infrastructure-Based 802.11 WLANs: A Survey, IEEE Tut.&Surveys, 2010



- Tuning these parameters efficiently not straightforward and depends on the scenario
- Duty-cycle: LTE defines the degree of fairness/sharing



### Selected Literature

- Make LTE and WiFi communicate via a control channel
  - LtFi [Gawlowicz17]
- Make LTE Base Station transmit WiFi channel reservation messages
  - ULTRON [Chai16]
- Cooperation through a cloud-based controller
  - [Maglogiannis17],[Al-Dulaimi15]
- Embed LTE-U within Wi-Fi Bands
  - Hyper AP[Chen17]
- Make WiFi estimate LTE airtime and duty cycle
  - WiPLUS [Olbrich17]



- coexistence in the unlicensed bands is vital for everybody
- difference in WiFi and LTE: random access vs. time scheduled access
- industry: LTE unlicensed is coexistence-friendly
- research and experiments: it is not, e.g., [ChaiMobicom16, Jindral2015]
- need for smarter and adaptive co-existence schemes
- coexistence test scenarios defined by Wi-Fi Alliance in 2016




- Florian Kaltenberger, Carrier Aggregation and License Assisted Access Evolution from LTE-Advanced to 5G, Summer school on Spectrum Sharing and Aggregation for 5G, 2016.
- Chen et al. "Coexistence of LTE-LAA and Wi-Fi on 5 GHz with corresponding deployment scenarios: A survey." IEEE Comm.SurveysTutorials, 2017.
- 3GPP TS 36.101 / TS 36.521-1 for UE testing
- 3GPP TS 36.104 / TS 36.141 for eNB testing
- 3GPP, "Study on licensed-assisted access to unlicensed spectrum," TR 36.889 TSG RAN, Rel. 13 v13.0.0, Jun. 2015
- Wang, Xuyu, Shiwen Mao, and Michelle X. Gong. "A survey of LTE Wi-Fi coexistence in unlicensed bands." *GetMobile: Mobile Computing and Communication, 2017*
- Beltran, Fernando, Sayan Kumar Ray, and Jairo A. Gutiérrez. "Understanding the current operation and future roles of wireless networks: Co-existence, competition and co-operation in the unlicensed spectrum bands." *IEEE JSAC 2016.*
- Voicu, Andra M., Ljiljana Simić, and Marina Petrova. "Inter-technology coexistence in a spectrum commons: A case study of Wi-Fi and LTE in the 5-GHz unlicensed band." IEEE JSAC 2016



### Part III A very brief overview of Machine Learning



- Supervised Learning
- Unsupervised Learning
- Reinforcement Learning







- For some tasks, we cannot easily write the algorithm: if this then that
  - there is no simple algorithm, e.g., autonomous cars
  - it is very challenging to define rules (e.g., dynamic environments)





#### Learn from data or past experience

- When we cannot write algorithm directly, we use learning from *data* or *past experience* (meta-programming)
- Machine learning: generalisation from examples, e.g., detect certain patterns or regularities
  - Because mapping from input to output is not random!

#### **Wireless communication: complex interactions**



### How to learn the mapping?

Based on the available data:

1.both the inputs and outputs are available: (x,y)

2.only the inputs are available (x)

3.no direct access to the **«correct**» output, but some measure of the quality of (x,y) mapping





## How to learn the mapping?

#### Learning Algorithms

categorized by the amount of knowledge or feedback provided to the learner



#### **Supervised Learning**

both the inputs and outputs are available **(x,y)** predict output y for a new x

#### **Unsupervised Learning**

only the inputs are available **(x)** *uncovering hidden patterns from unlabelled data* 

#### **Reinforcement Learning**

no direct access to the **«correct»** output an agent learns to select an action to maximize its payoff, e,g., AlphaGo



### Supervised Learning



#### Examples fed to the system



#### a binary classification problem

#### label: cat







label: dog



#### training data set (D<sub>train</sub>)



K examples

Input: N-dimensions (features, attributes)

$$X_{1} = (x_{1,1}, x_{1,2}, x_{1,3}, \dots, x_{1,N}) \longrightarrow Y_{0}$$
$$X_{2} = (x_{2,1}, x_{2,2}, x_{2,3}, \dots, x_{2,N}) \longrightarrow Y_{1}$$

$$X_i = (x_{i,1}, x_{i,2}, x_{i,3}, \dots, x_{i,N}) \longrightarrow Y_i$$

$$- X_{K} = (X_{K,1}, X_{2}, X_{3}, ..., X_{K,N}) \longrightarrow Y_{K}$$

Y: category or a class {cat, dog}

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# Classification and Regression

- Supervised Learning: given x, predict y
  - Classification: y is discrete
  - Regression: y is continuous

Predictive models

Unsupervised Learning: Descriptive models



- Learn a predictive function  $f: \mathsf{X} \to \mathsf{Y}$  , which maps the input variables into the output domain





- Learn a predictive function  $f: X \to Y$  , which maps the input variables into the output domain
- Approach: f predicts well on the training set D<sub>train</sub>
  - f(X) is a good predictor for the value of Y (f is called the **hypothesis**)





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### Supervised Learning Methodology

- 1. Decide what the **input-output** pairs are.
- 2. Decide how to **encode** inputs and outputs (X and Y).
- 3. Choose a class of **hypotheses**/representations F:
  - F known as **function family** of f.
- 4. Choose an error/loss function L to define the best hypothesis f\* in F
  - *Error, loss, cost* function to assess how wrong a hypothesis f predicts
- 5. Choose a way for finding the **best function f\* in F** efficiently through the space of hypotheses
- 6. Find the best function  $f^{\ast}$  in F, using L on  $D_{\text{train}}$
- 7. Tune your model
- 8. Test your model

slide credit:Doina Precup





#### •Underfit: model is too simple (high bias)

- even the prediction error on D<sub>train</sub> is high
- Increase the complexity of the hypothesis
- •Overfit: a model failing to generalize well (high variance)
  - learning even the noise or the random errors! Not desirable
  - add more training data
  - decrease complexity



# Checking for bias-variance error: validation data

Remember that D<sub>train</sub> and D<sub>valid</sub> and D<sub>test</sub> disjoint sets





# Checking for bias-variance error: validation data

 Similarly, learning curves to see the number of training examples needed (better to have smarter data than smarter models)



# of training examples







 Is this observed signal a WiFi signal, a Bluetooth, a ZigBee or Microwave Oven?



Source: Zheng, Xiaolong, et al. "ZiSense: towards interference resilient duty cycling in wireless sensor networks." ACM Sensys, 2014.





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### Classification algorithms

- K-Nearest Neighbour (KNN) Classifier
- Support Vector Machine (SVM)
- Logistic regression (probabilistic classifier)



## K-nearest neighbours (KNN)

- Memorize the example set
- Majority voting among the K nearest neighbours





## K-nearest neighbours (KNN)

- Memorize the example set
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## K-nearest neighbours (KNN)

- Memorize the example set
- Majority voting among the K nearest neighbours







- Deal with ties (odd number of neighbors)
- Distance measure, e.g., euclidean
- Weighted distance
- How to choose K?
- Imbalanced data problem
- Accuracy of classification:
  - Precision: TP/(all predicted pos.)
  - Specificity: TN/(TN+FP)
  - Recall: TP/(all real positives)
  - ROC curve



Dog





- No labeled data
- Can we group our data according to their feature?
- The main goal is to *classify* or *cluster* the input, find outliers
- Extracting useful information out of (big) data
- Dimension reduction (or summarization): identify the important components of the data while preserving much of the information



#### K-means clustering

- Measure of similarity
- Number of clusters, K
- Goal: maximum similarity within a cluster, low similarity among clusters





#### K-means clustering

- Step 1: Pick K random points as cluster centers (centroid)
- Step 2: Iterate till no points' assignments change

1. Assign data points to the closest centroid

2. Change the cluster centroid to the average of its cluster members

- K-means is a heuristic
- sensitive to outliers
- selection of initial cluster centers is important
- Run K-means multiple times and select the solution with the smallest cost function





reward

- No explicit supervision
- Learn through self-experience (*refine* the behavior based on *reward or punishment*)



Modeling approach: Markov Decision Processes (MDP)

- Four elements (S, A, R, P)
- S: finite set of states (remember scalability)
- A: actions (discrete)
- R: reward signal (a real number) for each (*state*, *action*) pair from the environment
  - (should reflect the purpose of the task)
  - undesired actions can be discouraged with a negative reward value
- P: state transition model P(s|s, a) with  $s' \in S P(s'|s, a) = 1$ .
- Goal: Find the **policy** that maximize the expected reward







- Q-value: expected discounted reward for executing action a at state s and following policy π
- Select action a at state s with probability ~ Q(a,s)
- Initiate Q-values
- store values in Q-table

# Practice makes perfect

- Exploit the past actions that have resulted in high reward
- Explore new/untried actions to discover reward-producing actions
- Tradeoff
- Examples: ε-greedy, softmax
- ε greedy policy:
  - probability ε, act randomly
  - probability 1-ε, act according to current policy
  - less exploration after some number of interactions: lower  $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}$  over time



source: Yau, Kok-Lim Alvin et al. "RL for context awareness and intelligence in wireless networks: Review, new features and open issues." JNCA12.106/170



# RL relevant terms

Yau, Kok-Lim Alvin et al. "RL for context awareness and intelligence in wireless networks: Review, new features and open issues." *JNCA*12.

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### Summary: important points

- Representation is very important: What are the right features?
  - Curse of dimensionality
  - Domain knowledge
- Data comes in all shapes and sizes
  - Normalization such that each feature has a mean of zero and unit variance
- Train, validate, test
- Overfitting, underfitting analysis




- Pascal Vincent, Introduction to Machine Learning, Deep Learning Summer School, 2015. <u>http://videolectures.net/deeplearning2015 vincent machine learning/</u>
- Doina Precup, Introduction to Machine Learning, Deep Learning Summer School, 2016. <u>http://videolectures.net/deeplearning2016\_precup\_machine\_learning/?q=Doina%20Precup</u>
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- Jiang, Chunxiao, et al. "Machine learning paradigms for next-generation wireless networks." IEEE Wireless Communications 24.2 (2017): 98-105.
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#### Part IV Machine Learning for Coexistence in Wireless Networks



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- 1.Is the channel idle or busy?
- 2. Which carrier should LAA BS select?
- 3. How to select the carrier and ON-time for LAA?
- 4.Can WiFi exploit ML for LTE-U duty cycle estimation?
- 5. Traffic analysis in a WiFi residential network?









#### Attention!

Please see the original papers for more details ACK: figures are adapted or copied from the relevant papers



### Case study #1

#### Is the channel idle or busy?

Classification

Thilina, K.M., Choi, K.W., Saquib, N. and Hossain, E., Machine learning techniques for cooperative spectrum sensing in CRNs. IEEE JSAC 2013 113/170



#### Is the channel idle or busy?





### Is the channel idle or busy?



- Cooperative spectrum sensing (CSS): N radios
   enter deciding on the state of the channel
  - Traditional approach: decision fusion with AND, OR, k-out-of-N rules
  - Performance metrics:
    - PU detection probability (true+)
    - False alarm probability (false+)
       Conflicting!



### ML approach for CSS in CRNs

- Binary classification problem:
  - class 1: idle, class 2: busy
- Different classifiers
  - unsupervised: K-means, Gaussian MM more practical
  - supervised: KNN, SVM needs real state of the channel

• Features:

- Energy level detected by each CR, N-dimensional vector



### CSS as binary classification problem

- M static primary users, N static cognitive radios
- Energy vector at the fusion centre:  $\mathbf{Y} = (Y_1, \dots, Y_N)^T$



• KM Thilina et al. "ML techniques for cooperative SS in CRNs." IEEE JSAC (2013)



### Unsupervised learning for CSS

- M primary users
- State of all PUs:  $\mathbf{S} = (S_1, \dots, S_M)^T$  Probability of state  $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{s}) = \Pr[\mathbf{S}=\mathbf{s}]$ Y: multivariate Gaussian  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{Y}|\mathbf{S}=\mathbf{s}} = (\mu_{Y_1|\mathbf{S}=\mathbf{s}}, \dots, \mu_{Y_N|\mathbf{S}=\mathbf{s}})^T$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{Y}|\mathbf{S}=\mathbf{s}} = \operatorname{diag}(\sigma_{Y_1|\mathbf{S}=\mathbf{s}}^2, \dots, \sigma_{Y_N|\mathbf{S}=\mathbf{s}}^2)$
- 2<sup>M</sup> cluster: {all PUs off, at least one is on, ....}
- Only cluster 1: channel is idle
- Other clusters: channel is busy





### Unsupervised learning for CSS



- Only 1 cluster: channel idle
- Others: channel busy

Training vectors are generated from a Gaussian mixture distribution for all PU state combinations (0,0), (0,1), (1,0), (1,1)119/170



### Unsupervised learning for CSS



decision boundary



#### K-means based classification

#### Training phase:

- Training examples:  $y = \{y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(L)}\}$
- Apply K-means to training examples
- First cluster centroid  $\alpha_1^*$  fixed to the mean of (Y|no primary signal)
- Other centroids: mean of training energy vectors in that cluster
- On-line classification phase: given y\* as test energy vector, channel is *busy* if:

First cluster  

$$||y^* - \alpha_1^*||$$

$$||y^* - \alpha_k^*|| \ge \beta$$

$$detection vs.$$
false alarm
$$121/170$$



### KNN-based classification

- Real labels **a** provided for each training example
- Training examples:  $y = \{(y^{(1)}, a^{(1)}), \dots, (y^{(L)}, a^{(L)})\}$
- majority voting of neighbors
- define a distance function
- choose K nearest neighbors
- **busy** if following holds







- training time, classification delay, ROC curve





#### Case study #2 Which carrier should LAA BS select?



Sallent, O., Pérez-Romero, J., Ferrús, R. and Agustí, R., 2015, June. Learning-based coexistence for LTE operation in unlicensed bands 2015 IEEE International Conference on Communication Workshop



Channel selection via learning for LAA interoperator coexistence

- Setting [Sallent-ICC15]:
  - Indoor scenario
  - M small cells from 2 operators
  - K channels
  - Bandwidth B MHz
  - LBT



#### Challenge:

Select a channel at each small cell to achieve high throughput in a cell

Learning approach: Q-learning

Why learning: quasi-static environment (deployment)





Channel selection via learning for LAA interoperator coexistence

- Reward: observed throughput in the channel
- Q-value (k, i) for small cell i if it selects channel k
- Initiate Q-values to some random value

$$Q(i,k) \leftarrow (1-\alpha)Q(i,k) + \alpha r(i,k)$$

Learning rate

reward of the transmission at ch k: throughput normalised by maximum exp. throughput

- Select a channel k with probability Pk ~ F(Q(i,k))
- F: exploitation vs. exploration (softmax)
- Decrease exploration by time (logarithmic cooling function)



Channel selection via learning for LAA inter-operator coexistence

Convergence analysis

SC3

• K >= M (one frequency for each LAA BS)









- Throughput a
  - comparison with optimal and random



Fig. 8. CDF of the achieved normalized throughput for *K*=4 when the two operators apply Q-learning.

#### carrier



Channel selection via learning for LTE-WiFi Coexistence: frequency domain coexistence

- Q-learning for inter-operator coexistence
- Extension to WiFi coexistence is straightforward
- Many parameters to tune
- What happens till convergence?
  - harmful interference, coexistence is an issue



### Case study #3

#### Carrier Selection and On-time Adaptation in LAA



Galanopoulos, Apostolos et al. "Efficient coexistence of LTE with WiFi in the licensed and unlicensed spectrum aggregation." IEEE Transactions on Cognitive Communications and Networking, 2016.



#### WiFi channel occupancy estimation using Qlearning in LAA



Fig. 1. Licensed Assisted Access (LAA) Deployment Model.

#### Setting:

Single LAA cell, multiple WiFi nodes/channels Goal: both high WiFi and LTE performance Challenge: which unlicensed carrier to aggregate? How long to transmit on this carrier?

Learning approach: Q-learning

#### What to learn?

unlicensed band activity



# LAA on-time based on WiFi channel occupancy

#### Channel-occupancy based channel and ON-time selection (COT)

- tune LAA ON-time according to channel occupancy
- Occupancy measurement of each channel via ED on subframes when LTE is not transmitting
- Channel occupancy = # of busy samples/ # of all samples
- ON-time =  $(1 occupancy)^* 10 \text{ ms}$
- Switch channel in the next frame if it has a smaller occupancy than the current one

#### • Q-learning based channel and ON-time selection

- learn from experience
- Idle time measurement of each channel via ED





- **States**: The channel selected for carrier aggregation {1,.., N}
- Actions: Transmission time in the selected carrier i {1,..., 9}ms
- Action time: At the beginning of each frame
- **Reward**: difference between real off time of the carrier off-time from the previous sensing period (Toff updated after each sensing)

$$r(s,a) = T_s^{off'} - T_s^{off}$$

#### Negative reward (punishment) for degrading WiFi performance!

$$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Constraint}\\ \textbf{Constraint}\\$$

• **Optimal action** (a: LAA transmission duration) depends on the selected channel's availability time

$$s_{t+1} = \arg\max_{s\in\mathcal{N}} Q_t(s,a)$$







WiFi performance Qlearning over performs COT-based access



#### Case study #4

## Can WiFi exploit ML for protecting itself from LTE interference?

#### yes, WiPLUS!



Olbrich, M., Zubow, A., Zehl, S. and Wolisz, A. "WiPLUS: Towards LTE-U Interference Detection, Assessment and Mitigation in 802.11 Networks", in European Wireless 2017 (EW2017), *Best Paper Award*, May, 2017. 139/170



### WiPLUS: detecting LTE duty cycle

- Estimate LTE-U ON and OFF phases
- Quantify available airtime for WiFi on each link

- Online algorithm running on WiFi AP,
- MAC-layer passive and low-complexity monitoring
- commodity 802.11 hardware
- covering the whole LTE-U interference range



Atheros AR95xx 802.11n chip 140/170



### Key idea of WiPLUS

- Analyse MAC Finite State Machine (FSM) transitions of the Network Interface Card (NIC)
  - States: RX, TX, IDLE, OTHER\_BUSY (=ED)
- Analyse the Automatic Repeat reQuest (ARQ) frame retransmissions
  - ACK\_FAIL
- If LTE is detected, calculate airtime and LTE-ON duration for a link





Received LTE-U power at the WiFi AP



Received LTE-U power at the WiFi AP



# Approach: data collection from the testbed




## ML approach: data analysis

#### Data:

- data collection via periodic samples from the NIC
- Fraction of time in each MAC-state, ARQ number of packet retransmissions during the respected sampling

#### Raw data

 $S_t^{\mathrm{TX}}, S_t^{\mathrm{RX}}, S_t^{\mathrm{OTHER}}, S_t^{\mathrm{ACK\_FAIL}}, \forall t \in 0 \dots W$ 



total MAC time spent in transmission in the sampling period

#### More useful

representation Rt which represents (possible) LTE ON-time 145/170



K-means clustering to detect the clusters of transmission duration and clean the outliers >



WiPLUS detector pipeline





- WiPLUS can estimate airtime quite accurately! (RMS < 3% for DL)
- Possible use of this capability: select channel based on observed LTE activity
- Python's Scikit-learn



## **Case study #5** WiFi performance estimation



Herzen, Julien, Henrik Lundgren, and Nidhi Hegde. "Learning Wi-Fi performance." IEEE SECON 2015

.2

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Selecting the best link in a multi-AP WiFi setting

- 802.11ac variable bandwidths (20, 40, 80, 160 MHz)
- Overlapping channel interference

Technische Universität Berlin

• How to estimate the link capacity for a given configuration (bandwidth, center f)?





### Coexistence in Uncoordinated WiFi Networks

- Modelling performance realistically due to complex PHY-MAC interactions is difficult
  - channel width, partial-overlaps with other links, transmission power, PHY rate
- Proposed approach: learn Wi-Fi Performance via measurements
- Estimate link capacity and decide on the best setting



The trend similar to LTE-U moderate interference level

**Takeaway**: theoretic analysis may fall short of capturing the reality



### Coexistence in Uncoordinated WiFi Networks

#### **State parameters**

- transmission power
- traffic load
- channel quality
- transmission bandwidth
- transmission channel





- **Step 1**: Real-world measurements from a testbed (public data: http:// www.hrzn.ch/data/lw-data.zip)
- Step 2: Supervised learning: different link configurations -> measured throughput
- **Step 3**: Prediction of a link throughput based on the learned black-box model
- **Step 4**: An AP selects the configuration using Gibbs sampling and estimated capacities



# Supervised learning framework

- Features (X): (commodity hw. can capture)
  - All received powers: 5K + 1
  - channel width of /, and its NL: K+1
  - spectral separation of channel of / and its NL: K
  - average traffic loads of NL: K
  - PHY rates of NL: K
- Labels (Y): measured throughput on link I
- **Goal:** Answer the question "given a setting, k<sub>1</sub>, k<sub>2</sub> what is the expected throughput of I?"



link of interest / neighbouring links (NL):



# Supervised learning framework

- Features (X): (commodity hw. can capture)
  - All received powers: 5K + 1
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- **Goal:** Answer the question "given a setting, k<sub>1</sub>, k<sub>2</sub> what is the expected throughput of I?"



link of interest / neighbouring links (NL):

#### This is a regression problem



## Used tools for this regression problem

- Regression tree, Gradient Boosted Regression Trees (GBRT), Support Vector Regression (SVR)
- Comparison baseline: SINR-based model
- accuracy of predictions: coefficient of determination R<sup>2</sup>, RMSE
- Python scikit-learn package
- 50-fold cross-validation



Improved prediction accuracy compared to SNIR model

In terms of R<sup>2</sup>-score, learned SVR and GBRT models improve the prediction accuracy by 54% and 71%, respectively, compared to SINR models



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How to use this information for coexistence?

- Select channel center frequency, bandwidth, and transmission power
- Distributed algorithm
- An AP randomly wakes up and collects information from its neighbours, e.g., via wired backbone
- The AP predicts the achievable throughput on each of its attached links, for each possible configuration of spectrum and transmit power
- AP samples a new configuration using the Gibbs distribution with more weight to configurations with large achievable utilities







# Learning helps increasing fairness

- Prediction-based configuration selection over performs SINR-based selection
- Fairness: key pillar of peaceful coexistence





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### Part IV Summary and open research directions



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Real coexistence scenario consisting of many networks



- Hybrid scenarios are more realistic
- More complex requiring more intelligence/adaptation



### Desirable properties of coexistence solutions

- standards compliance
- soft solutions rather than hardware based
- distributed vs centralized/controller based



## Challenges of applying ML approaches

- Feasibility in practical settings
  - Complexity
  - Real-time convergence time
  - What happens till convergence?
  - Is it really possible to learn?
    - Mobile or other dynamic environments
- Where to implement ML?
  - AP, nodes, network-core, cloud



## Challenges for wireless researchers

Machine learning requires lots of data to learn useful things

- bad news: researchers mostly are limited in access to such real data
- good news: publicly-available data (some better than none)
- <u>https://crawdad.cs.dartmouth.edu/</u>
- Limited applicability to computation-limited devices,
  - bad news: ML requires high resources which are mostly not available in e.g., embedded devices, IoT devices
  - good news: ML is very active and searching for smart algorithms with lower complexity
  - Fog/Cloud can be exploited for such devices
- Weka, R, Python



### DARPA challenge



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#### The Radio Frequency Spectrum + Machine Learning = A New Wave in Radio Technology

The radio frequency spectrum is becoming increasingly crowded and a new DARPA program will examine how leading-edge machine learning can help understand all the signals in the crowd

OUTREACH@DARPA.MIL 8/11/2017



https://www.darpa.mil/ news-events/2017-08-11a

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# Machine learning in 5G



FIGURE 2. Radio learning architecture.

Jiang, Chunxiao, et al. "Machine learning paradigms for next-generation wireless networks." *IEEE Wireless* 167/170 *Communications* 24.2 (2017): 98-105.



- The future is unlicensed
- Coexistence of such unlicensed networks is a big challenge
- ML can provide the capability to embrace uncertainty

