

# Visible Light Communication Technology – Challenges and Potentials for Connected and Autonomous Mobility Systems

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**Oliver Michler, Prof. Dr.-Ing.**

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[https://tu-dresden.de/bu/verkehr/vis/itvs?set\\_language=en](https://tu-dresden.de/bu/verkehr/vis/itvs?set_language=en)

# Agenda

1. CV, Chair and Topics of University Research
2. ICT-Systems - Information technology basics
3. Visible Light Communication (VLC) – Theoretical and Practical Foundation
4. Challenges and Potentials for VLC-based Mobility Systems
5. Conclusion and future outlook



# 1. CV Oliver Michler, University Full Professor



## Scientific and Professional Positions (since 1993)

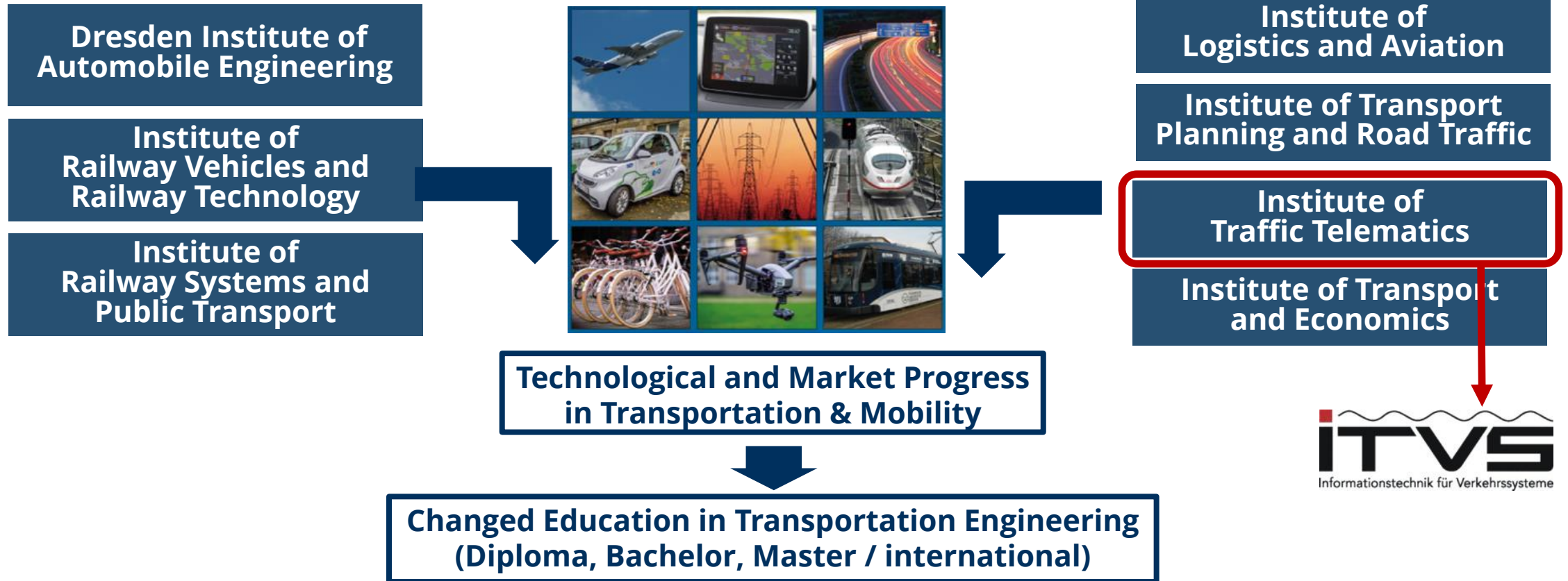
- 1993 - 1997 Scientific Staff and PhD-Research of TU Dresden, Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- 1997 – 2000 Scientific Project manager at Video-Audio-Design GmbH as a Telekom-Partner
- 2000 – 2005 Scientific Staff at Fraunhofer Institute for Transportation and Infrastructure Systems Dresden (FhG-IVI)
- 2005 – 2008 Professor at University of Applied Sciences Dresden in Signal Processing and Electronic Measurement Techniques
- 2010 – 2017 Head of department of TUD-Researchgroup at FhG-IVI
- 2008 – Full Professor at TU Dresden in Systems Information Technology, Faculty of Transportation and Traffic Sciences
- 2019 - Director of TU Dresden of Institute of Traffic Telematics
- 2017 - Scientific advisory board member of MRK AG, Metirionic and ISCons and aeroLifi as a knowledge and research transfer role

## Research topics

data-driven and model-based approaches, wireless mobility systems over all traffic carriers and services, autonomous driving, intelligent vehicle, next generation technologies based of communication/localization/sensing, software defined radio

# 1 University of Technology in Dresden (TUD) The "Friedrich List" Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences

A unique, interdisciplinary competence center for transportation sciences



# 1 Fields of competence (ITVS)

**Communication networks  
Pico cell  
(ZigBee, BLE, UWB, Lifi, ...)**

**Communication networks  
Micro cell  
(Mobil radio, WLANp, ...)**

**Communication networks  
Macro cell  
(DAB+, ...)**

**Environmental  
perception  
via LIDAR /  
Camera**

**Multi Modal Traffic Carriers  
Digital Synergies**

**Multi-GNSS-tracking  
(GPS, GALILEO, ...)**

**Environmental  
perception  
via Radar**

**Multi-sensor  
data fusion  
(Integrity)**

**Precise  
georeferencing**



Source: TTI-Education-Script,  
2020, TU Dresden, Faculty  
Transportation+TrafficScience

# 1 Traffic ICT and Research fields of Chair competence

- Overview:

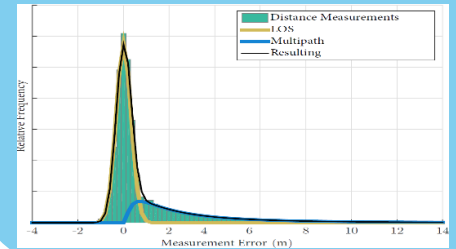
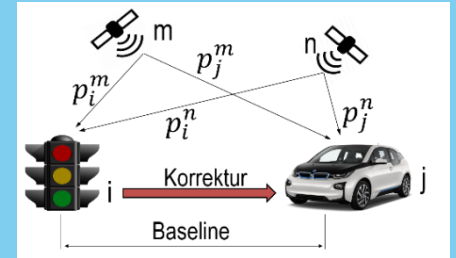
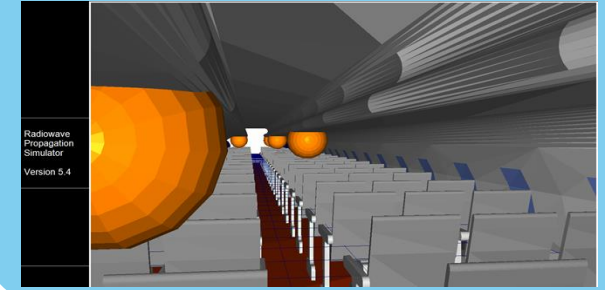
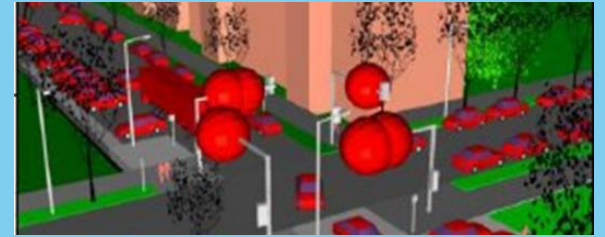


Simulation  
Emulation  
Radio planning

Networking  
Localisation  
Sensing

Lab Environment  
Experimental -  
Vehicles  
Test fields

Big data  
Statistics  
Methodology  
Procedures  
AI/ML



Source: TTI-Education-Script, 2020, TU Dresden, Faculty Transportation+TrafficScience

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1. CV, Chair and Topics of University Research
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# 2 Introduction - Modern Systems and ICT-based Goal Formulation

Everything moves  
and all is  
Connected

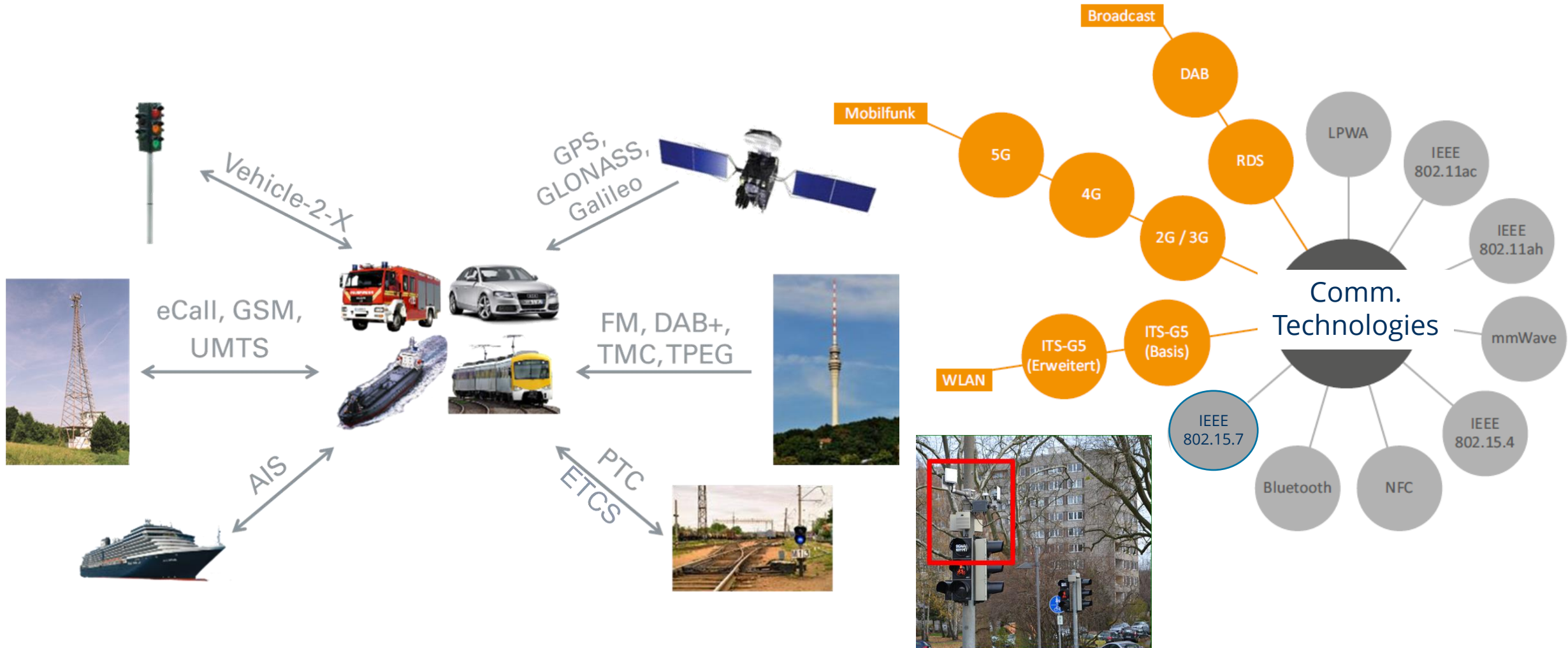
Video at the end  
Autonomous driving  
without traffic lights with  
LiFi as a part of critical V2X  
infrastructure

Source: TTI-Education-Script,  
2020, TU Dresden, Faculty  
Transportation+TrafficScience

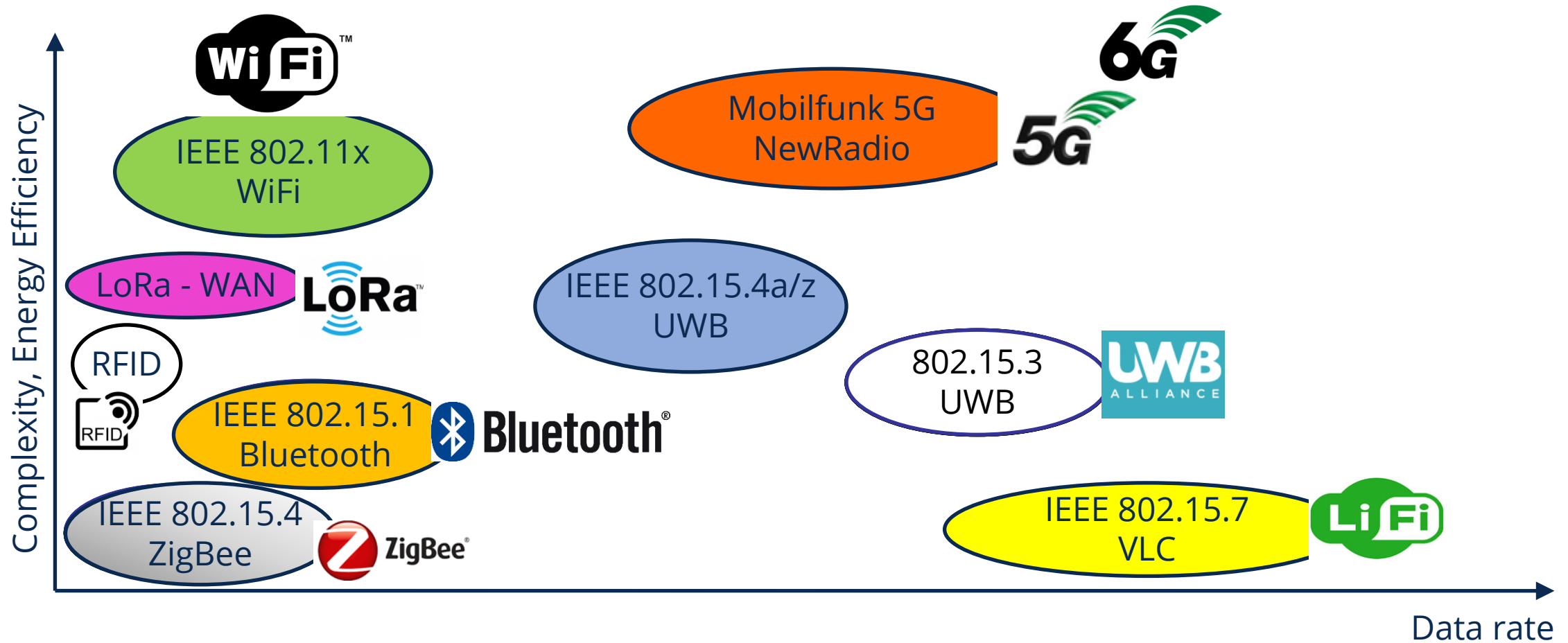




# 2 Variety of technologies and services for V2X / Classification



# 2 Variety of technologies and services for V2X / Performane

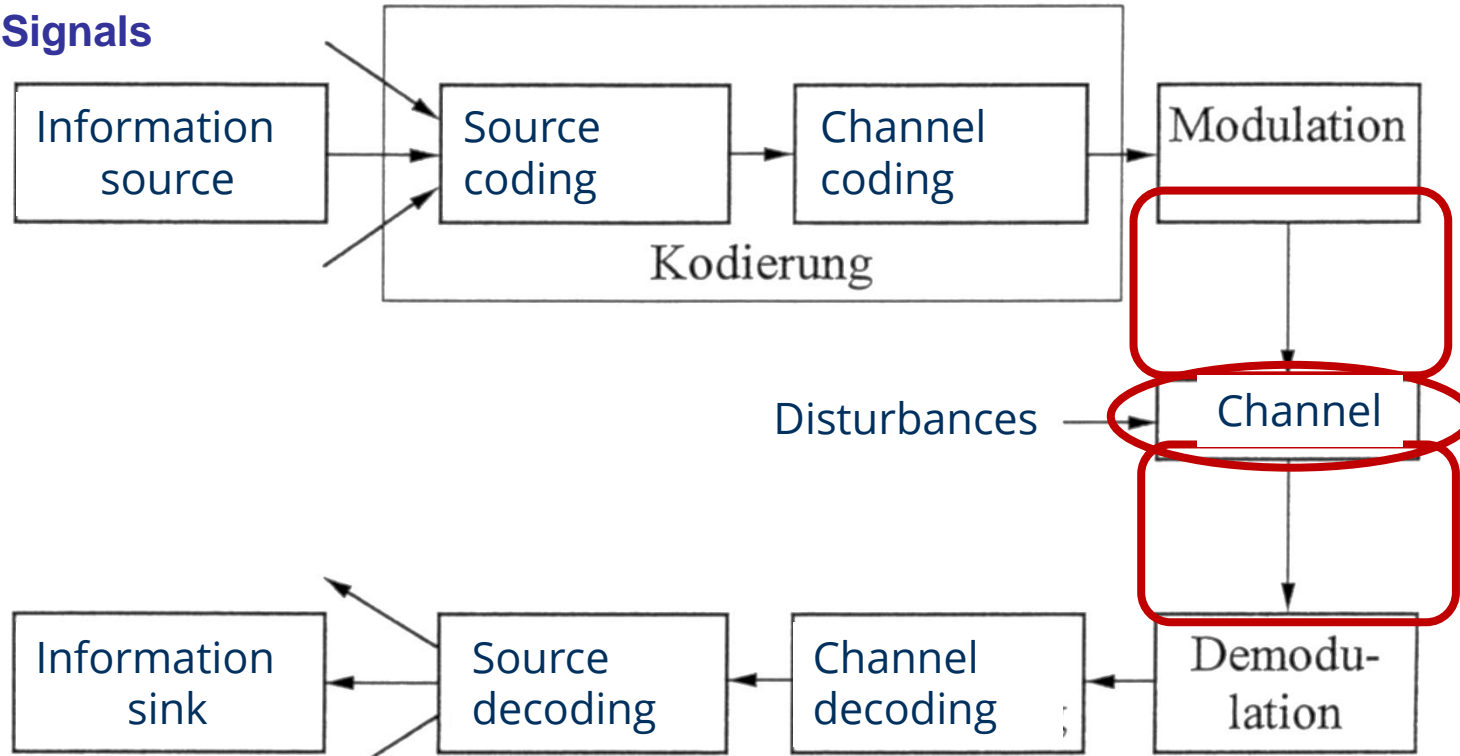


# 2 Information Technology Aspects / Chain and block structur

Source: TTI-Education-Script, 2020, TU Dresden, Faculty Transportation+TrafficScience

B  
e  
g  
i  
n

Signals



E  
n  
d

Transmitting Element (Antenna, ... ?)



Receiving Element (Antenna, ... ?)



# 2 Information Technology Aspects / Shannon bounds



## Shannon Channel Capacity Theorem (1948)

$$C = B \cdot \text{ld} \left( 1 + \frac{P_S}{P_N} \right)$$

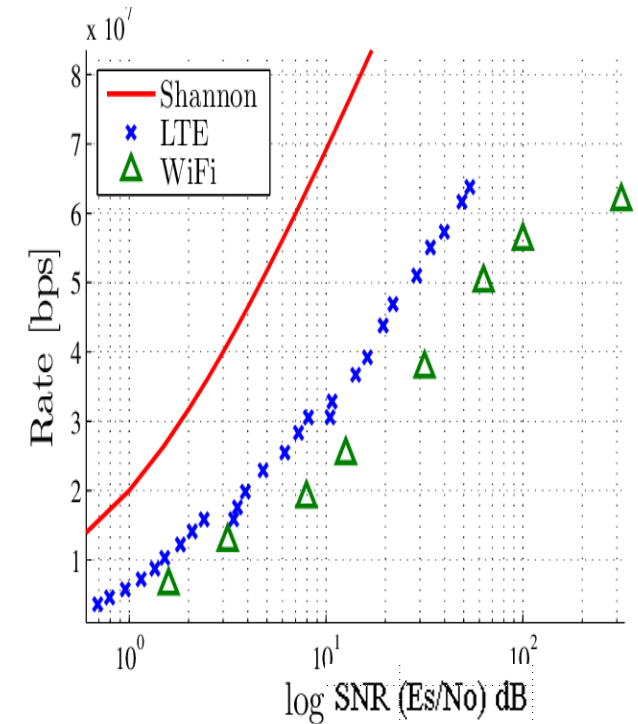
$$\text{ld}(x) = \frac{\lg(x)}{\lg 2} \quad \downarrow \quad \frac{P_S}{P_N} \gg 1$$

$$C \approx \frac{B}{3} \cdot \underbrace{10 \cdot \lg \left( \frac{P_S}{P_N} \right)}_{SNR_{dB}}$$

Channel capacity C  
max. Data rate  
[Mbps]

Bandwidth  
B / [MHz]

Signal-to-  
Noise Ratio  
SNR / [dB]

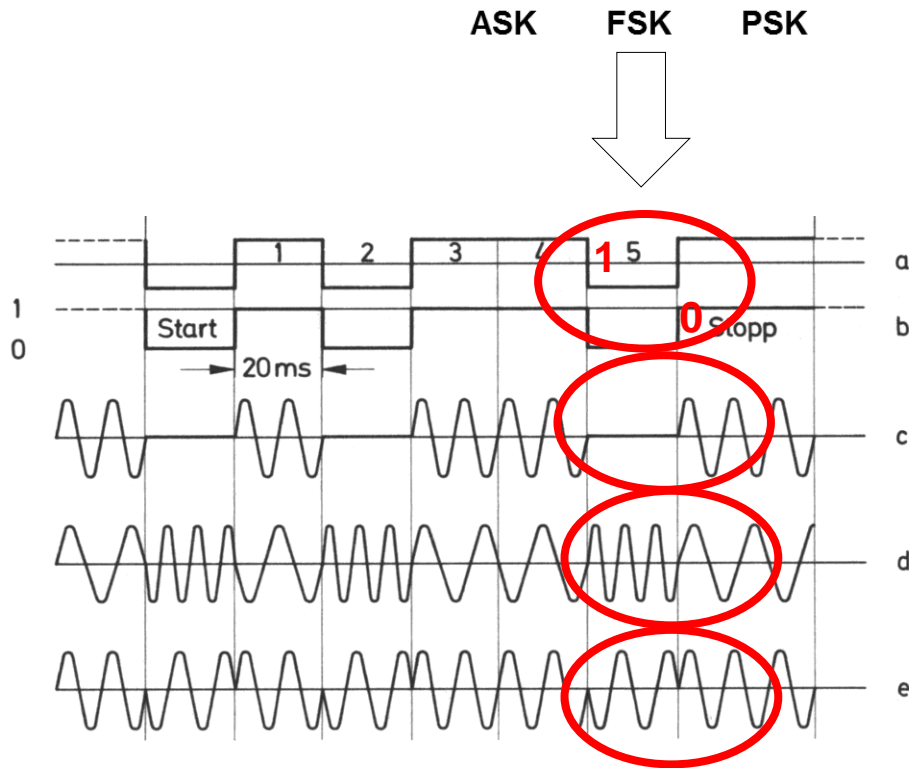


Quelle: <https://www.researchgate.net/>

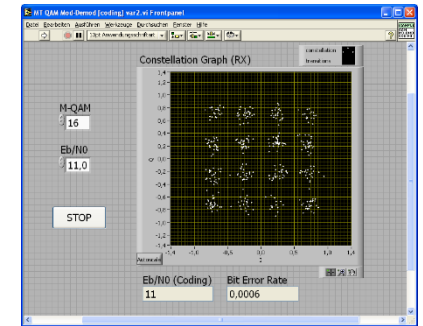
# 2 Information Technology Aspects / Modulation scheme

⇒ Carrier parameters:

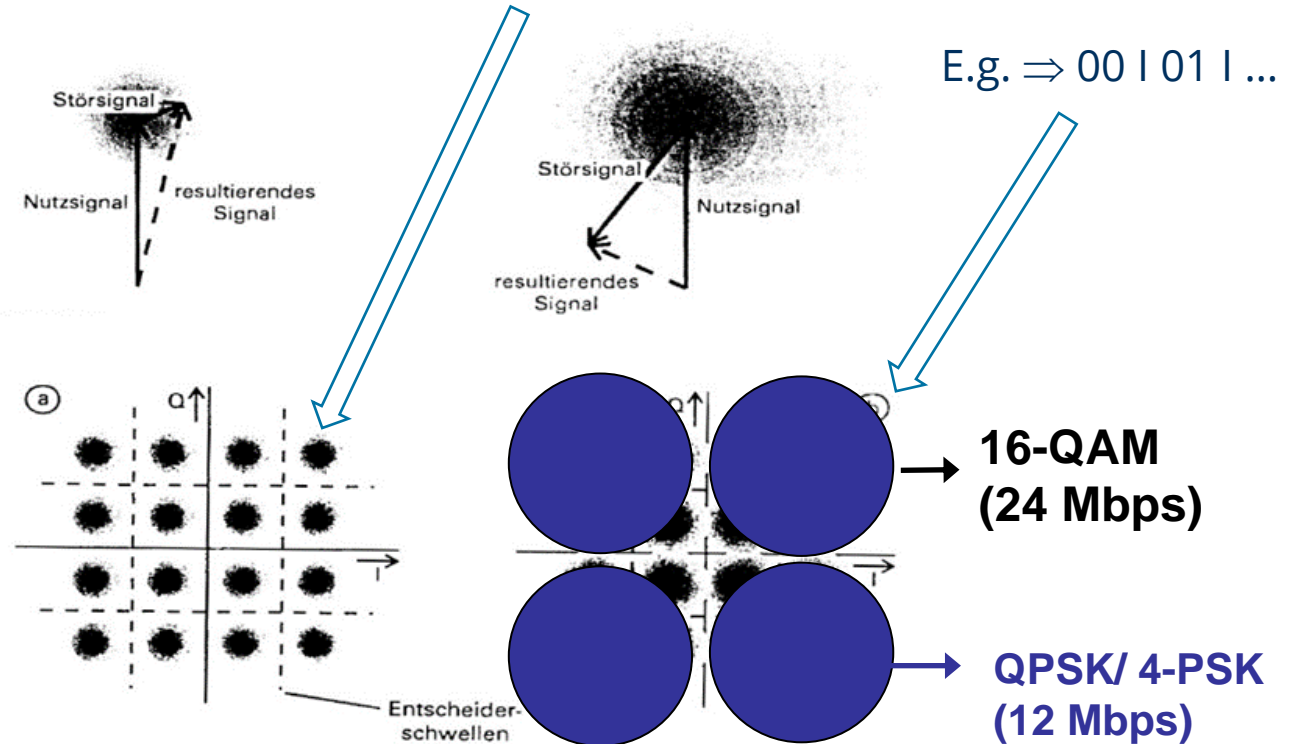
$$s_T(t) = S_0 \sin[\omega_0 t + \phi_0]$$



E.g. ⇒ 0000 | 0001 | ...



E.g. ⇒ 00 | 01 | ...



# Agenda

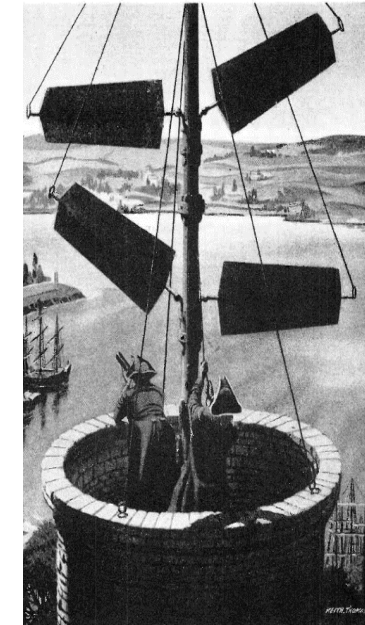
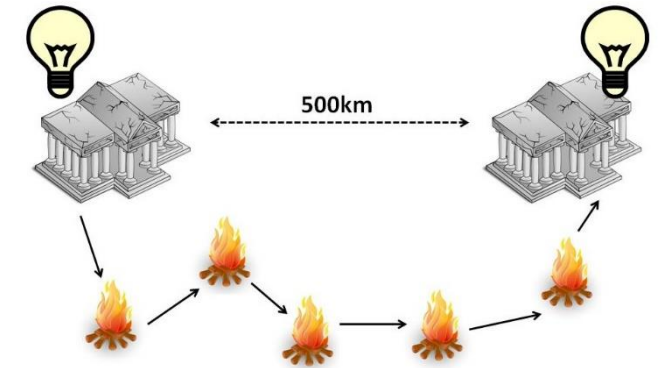
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# 3 Visible Light Communication – Theoretical and Practical Foundation

## ⇒ History / Background

- Light has been used for data communication since a few thousands of years
- Smoke and fire signals were used for transmission of short message over significant distances
- Greek victory over Troja in the 12th century BC was delivered by means of fire signaling over a 500 km distance from Troja to Argos
- Later, signaling towers were built for the purpose of optical communication
- First optical telegraph was developed in 1794 (Paris to Lille in 6 min. over 200km - because of mechanics ...)
- Optimized over signaling arms (paddels) , efficient encoding/encryption with a higher data rates could be realized



Source: TTI-Education-Script, 2020, TU Dresden, Faculty Transportation+TrafficScience

# 3 Visible Light Communication – Theoretical and Practical Foundation

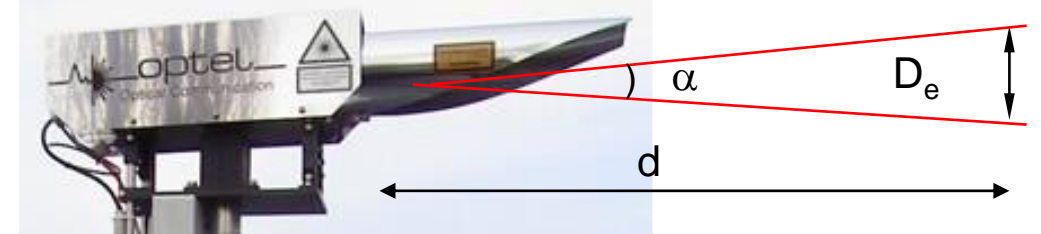
## ⇒ History / Free Space Optics (FSO) with Laser

### Requirements

- electrical pulse sequence
- Optical transmitter
- Beam focus
- Optical receiver
- Line of sight



Beam Divergence	Beam width 500 meters	Beam width 1,000 meters
1 mrad	0.5 m	1 m
2 mrad	1 m	2 m



### Geometric attenuation

$$a_{\text{geo}} / \text{dB} = 20 \cdot \log \left( \frac{\alpha \cdot d}{D_e} \right)$$

### Scattering attenuation

$$a_{\text{Streu}} / \frac{\text{dB}}{\text{km}} = f(\text{Visual range})$$

$$= \frac{17}{S / \text{km}} \left( \frac{0,55}{\lambda / \mu\text{m}} \right)^{0,195 \cdot S / \text{km}}$$

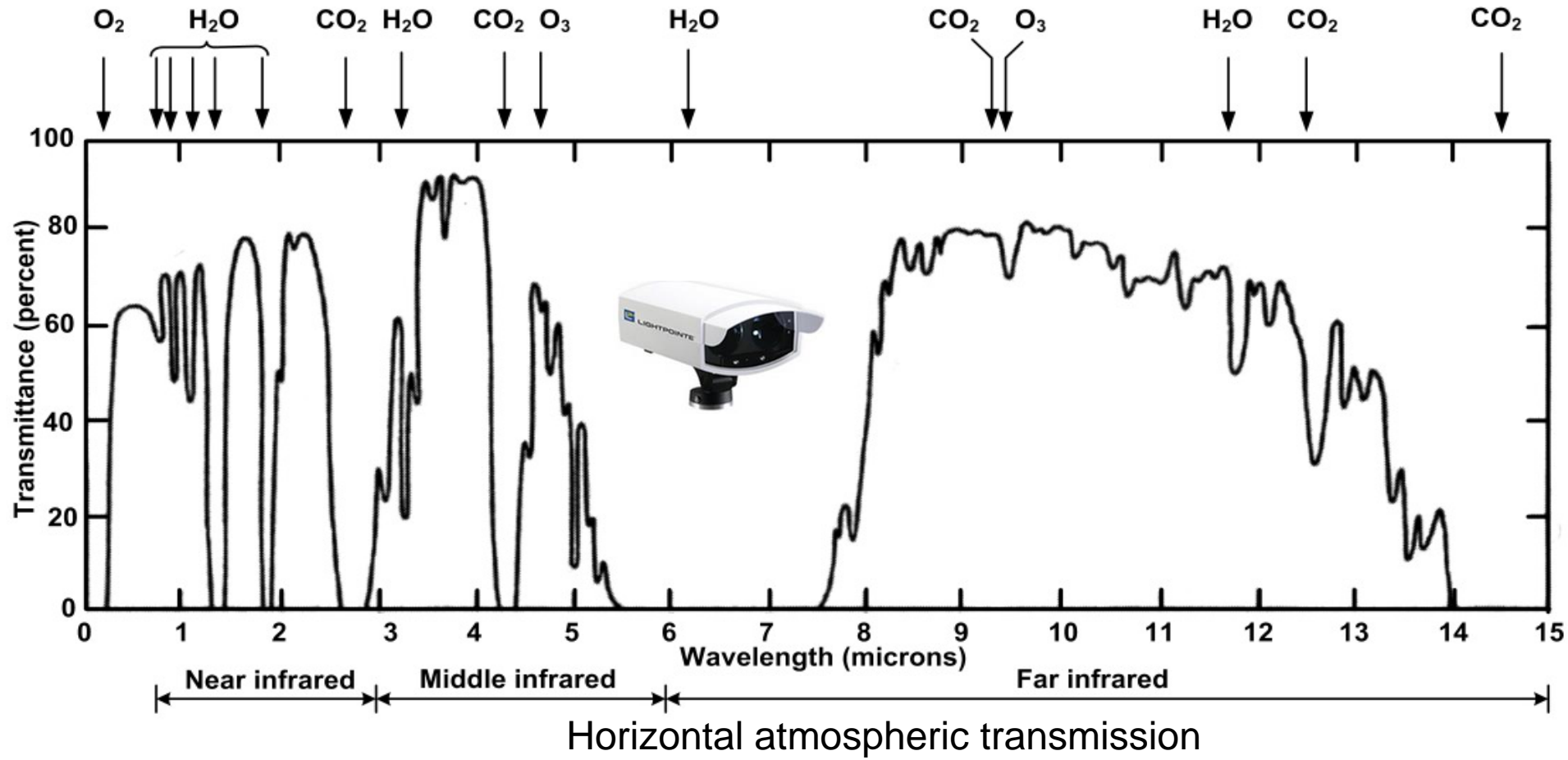
### Power loss

- Optical loss (transmittance of the optics with approx. 4dB)
- Geometric loss (divergence of optical beam, e.g. 4mrad)
- Alignment loss
- Atmospheric loss (scattering, absorption, turbulence, ...)



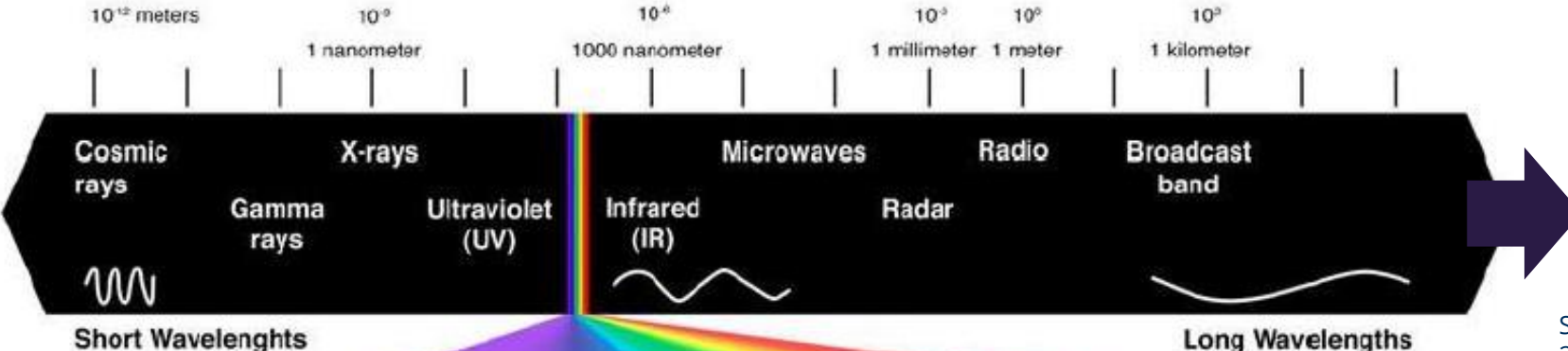
# 3 Visible Light Communication – Theoretical and Practical Foundation

⇒ History / Free Space Optics (FSO) – Optical windows and technical working area



# 3 Visible Light Communication – Theoretical and Practical Foundation

⇒ Free Space Optics (FSO) and Visible Light Communication (VLC) – Frequency range / classification

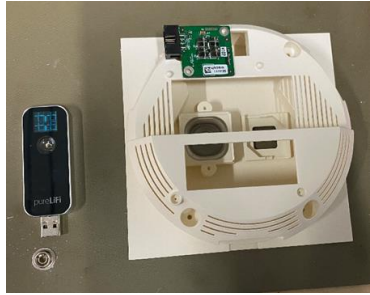


Source: TTI-Education-Script, 2020, TU Dresden, Faculty Transportation+TrafficScience

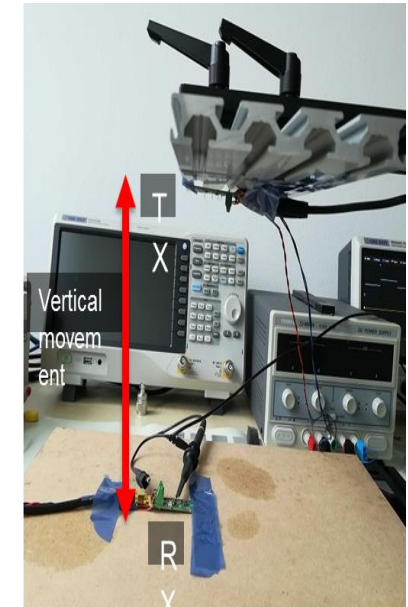
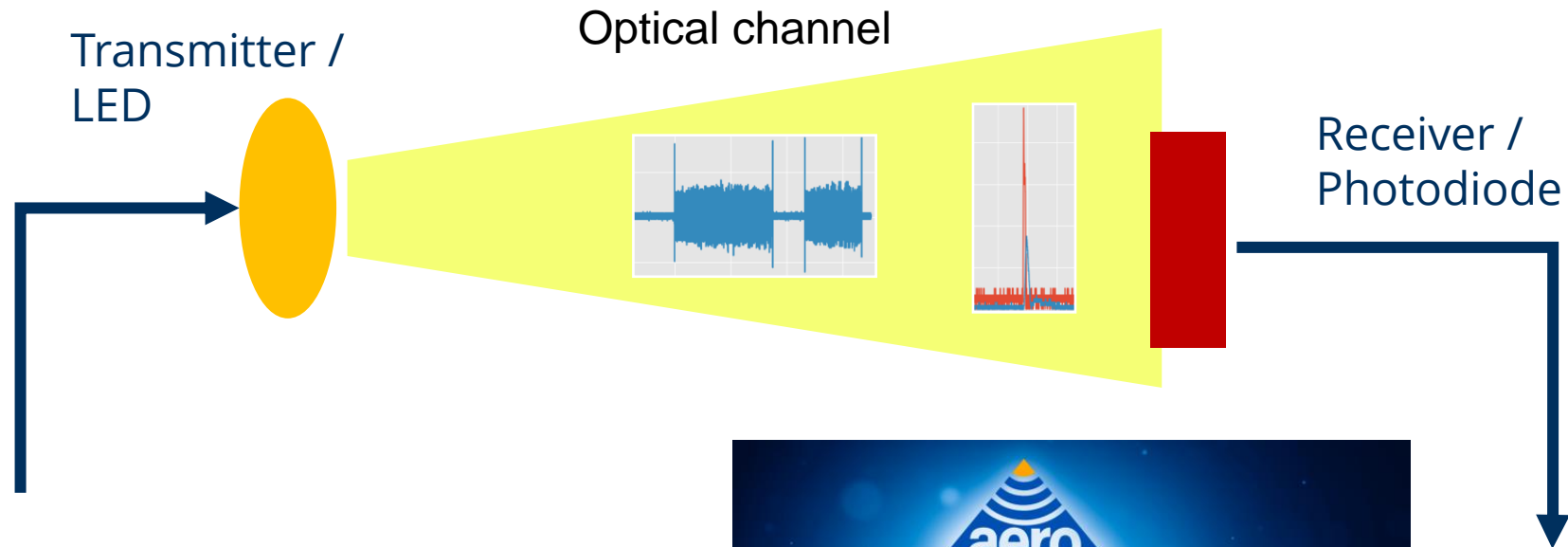


Visible Light Communications (VLC)

Free Space Optics (FSO)



# 3 Visible Light Communication – Theoretical and Practical Foundation



- Signal generation
- Pulse shape modulation
- Coding
- Information supply



Start up company Munic/Germany

- Raw data evaluation
- Channel equalization
- Decoding
- Data receiving

# 3 Visible Light Communication – Theoretical and Practical Foundation

## ⇒ Motivations for Using Visible Light Communication (VLC)

- Energy efficiency (infrastructure ready)
- Low-cost hardware (smart LED lamps)
- Huge unregulated bandwidth (spectral view)
- License-free operation (outside from regulation)
- High signal-to-noise ratio (beam focusing)
- Interference immunity (beam isolation)
- MIMO-functionality (RGB-color mix)
- Very high data rates up to 10 Gbps  
(higher modulation: QAM, MCM, DCSK)
- Area spectral efficiency (space diversity)
- Electromagnetic compatibility (RF-free)
- Data security (jamming-/spoofing-free)
- Interoperability (IEEE 802.15.7-Standard)

$$C \approx \frac{B}{3} \cdot \underbrace{10 \cdot \lg\left(\frac{P_S}{P_N}\right)}_{SNR_{dB}}$$

Channel capacity C  
max. Data rate [Gbps]

Bandwidth B / [GHz]

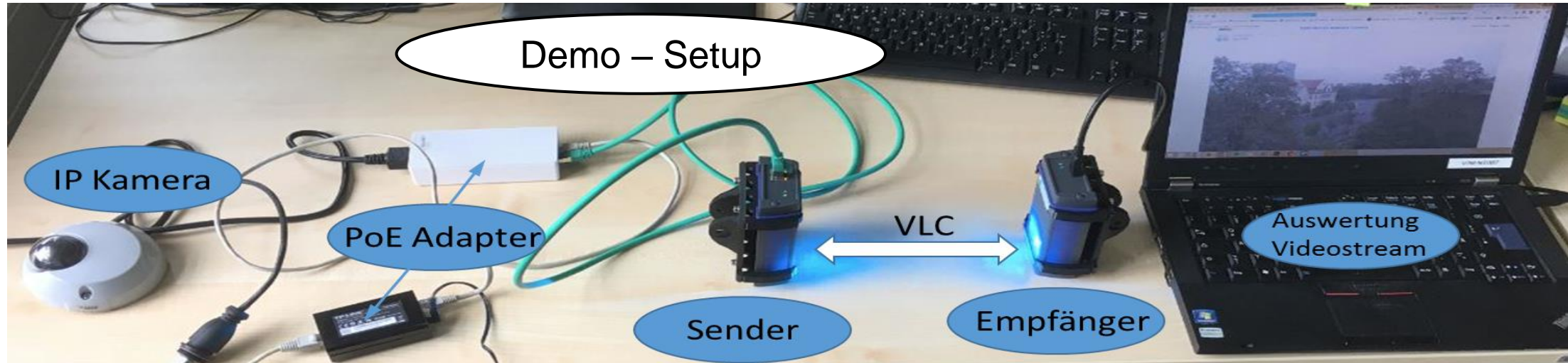
Signal-to-Noise Ratio SNR / [dB]

Source: TTI-Education-Script, 2020, TU Dresden, Faculty Transportation+TrafficScience



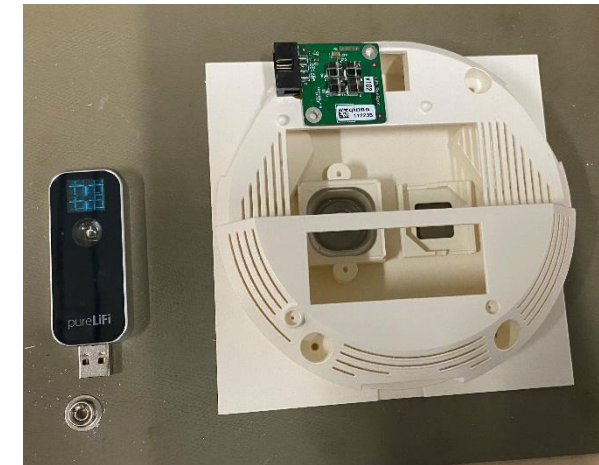
# 3 Visible Light Communication – Theoretical and Practical Foundation

⇒ Experiment test and technical environment (500 Mbps)



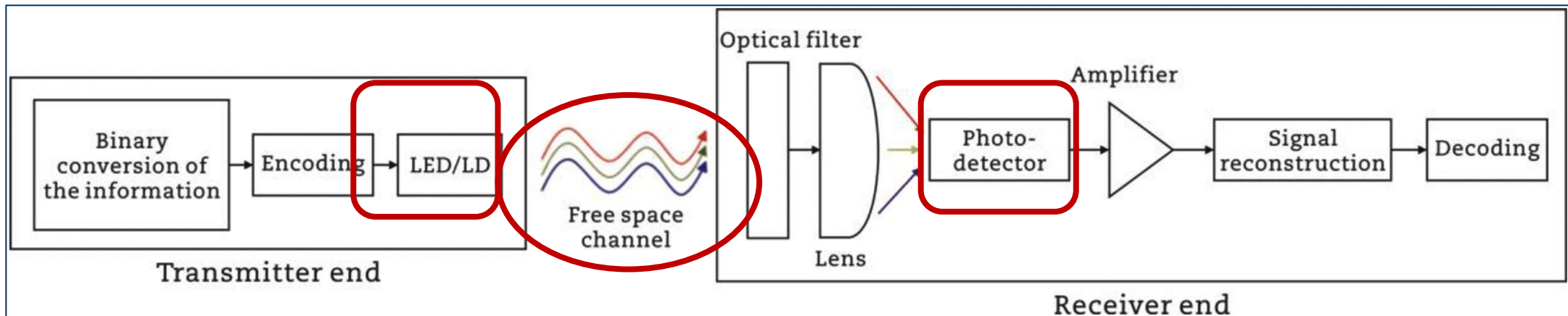
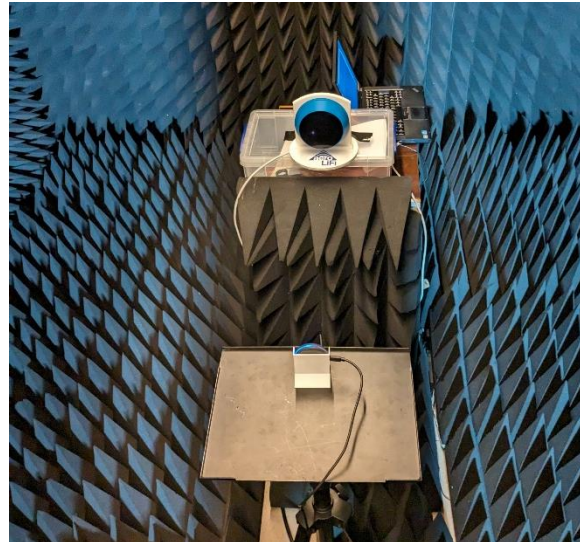
[Device](#)  
[Link](#)  
[Link Performance](#)  
[IP](#)  
[Ethernet](#)

Available Connections			
Device ID	MAC Address	Phy Tx (Mbps)	Phy Rx (Mbps)
2	00:04:e7:01:01:32	467	478



# 3 Visible Light Communication – Theoretical and Practical Foundation

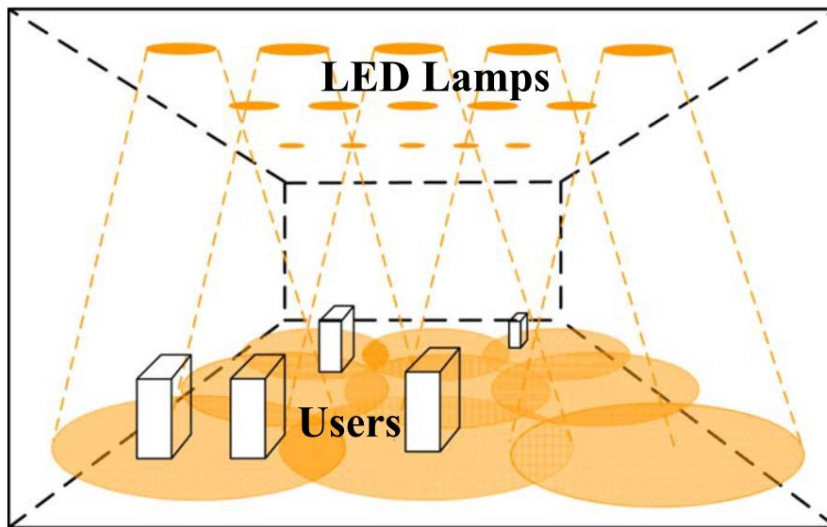
⇒ Experiment test and technical environment (10 Gbps)



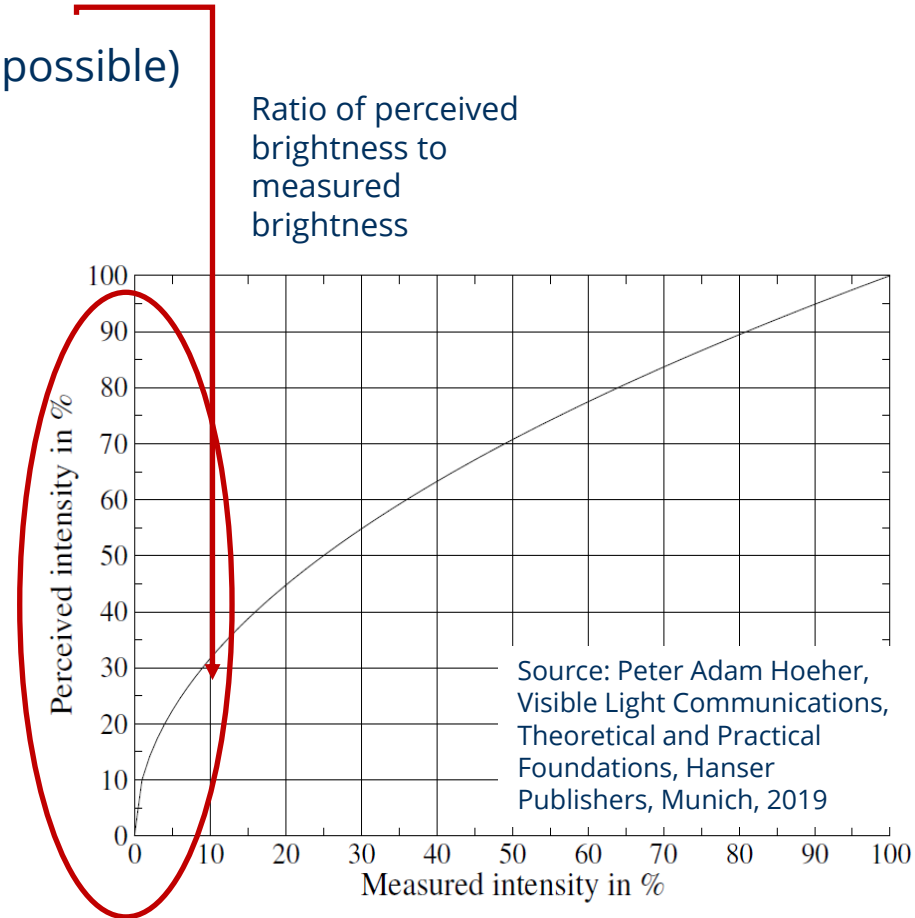
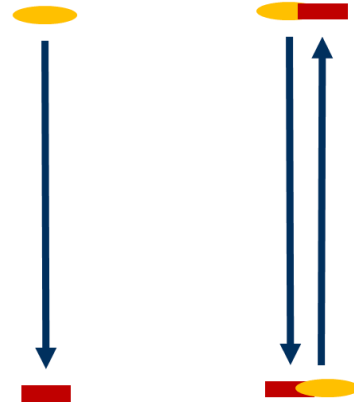
# 3 Visible Light Communication – Theoretical and Practical Foundation

## ⇒ Problems and boundaries for Using Visible Light Communication (VLC)

- Deactivation / Switching of light (IR, RF and residual light processing)
- Shadowing blocking (LOS missing but NLOS / diffraction or scattering possible)
- Interference with daylight (outdoor) and artificial / consumer Light
- Two way communication (Up-/Downlink, Duplex communication)
- Limited bandwidth per LED with 2MHz (white), 20 MHz (RGB), 50 MHz IR, but up to 500 MHz blue/cyan GaN-LEDs expected)
- Visibility for optical relaying



unidirektional      bidirektional



# Agenda

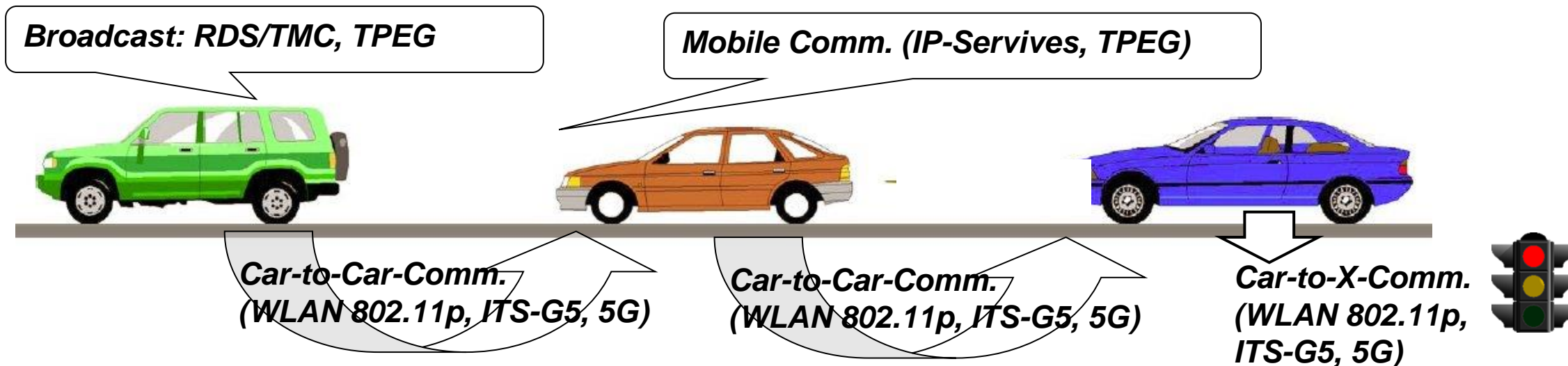
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# 4 Challenges and Potentials for VLC-based Mobility Systems

⇒ V2V and V2X: State of the art



⇒ LiFi / VLC Use case with V2V

- bidirectional communication (D2D)
- ranging (distance measurement)
- Monostatic/bistatic environment detection

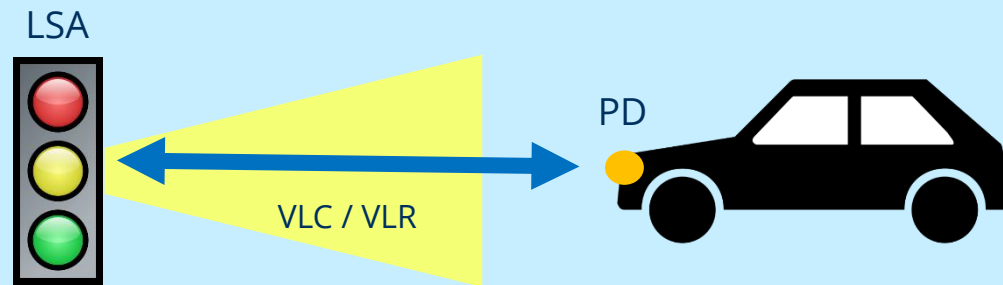
## Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V)



# 4 Challenges and Potentials for Mobility Systems

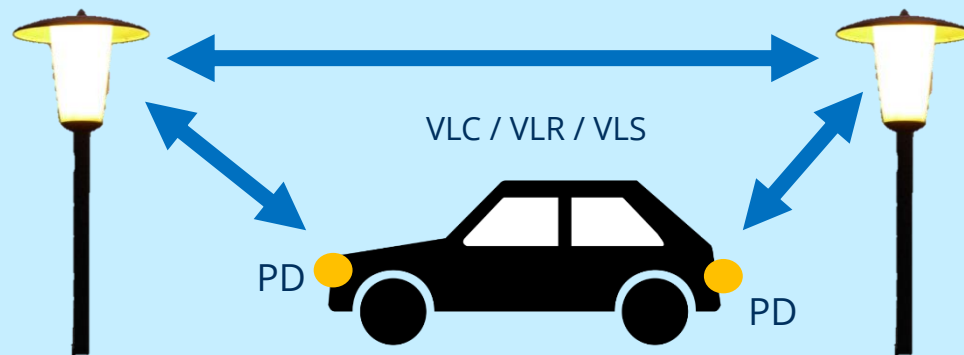
⇒ LiFi / VLC Use case with V2I

## Vehicle-to-Infrastructure (V2I)



- Communication - Transfer of signal signs of the traffic light system via communication channel
- Green Light Optimization Speed Advisory (GLOSA)
- Transmission of GNSS correction data + virtual reference station
- Distance measurement to the LSA via ranging / landmark (relative and absolute positioning)

## Vehicle-to-Infrastructure (V2I)



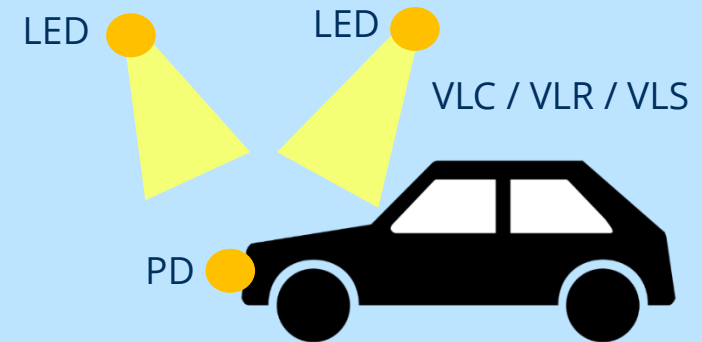
- Communication between streetlights
- Active and passive parking lot detection and vehicle detection
- Application as traffic flow sensor
- Use of the lantern as a landmark with specific ID for positioning

# 4 Challenges and Potentials for Mobility Systems

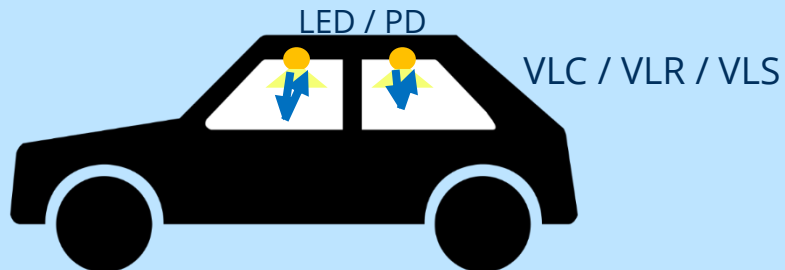
⇒ LiFi / VLC Use case with V2I

## Smart Parking - Parkhaus

- Parking lot occupancy
- Information exchange between infrastructure and vehicle
- Tracking of vehicles in the parking garage



## Vehicle Passenger Cell



- Seat-selective broadband communication
- Seat occupancy as passive radar
- Typically by means of LED array

# 4 Challenges and Potentials for Mobility Systems

⇒ Use Case Testbed Scenario A: Project PHYSICS – Critical infrastructure protection (1)



Dipl.-Ing. Jonas Ninnemann

Chair of Transport Systems Information Technology, Institute of Traffic Telematics, TU Dresden

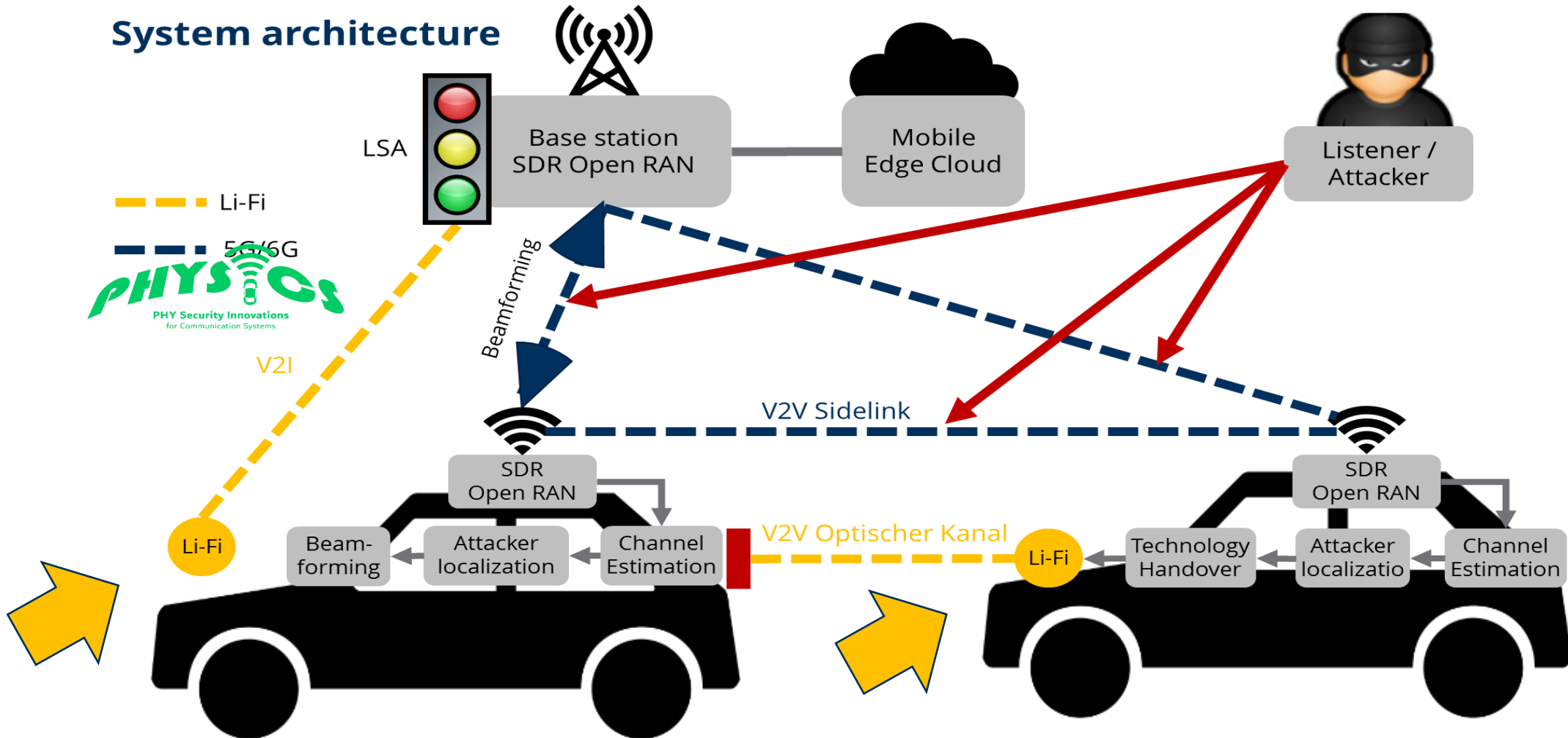
## PHY Security Innovations for Communication Systems (PHYSICS)

Januar 2023

# 4 Challenges and Potentials for Mobility Systems

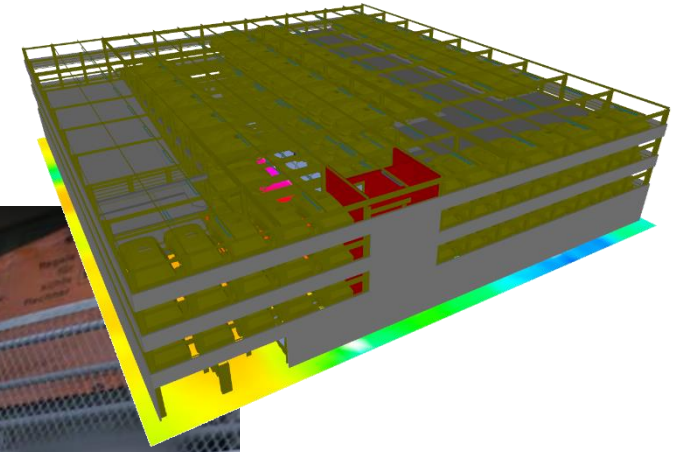
⇒ Use Case Testbed Scenario A: Project PHYSICS – Critical infrastructure protection (2)

## System architecture



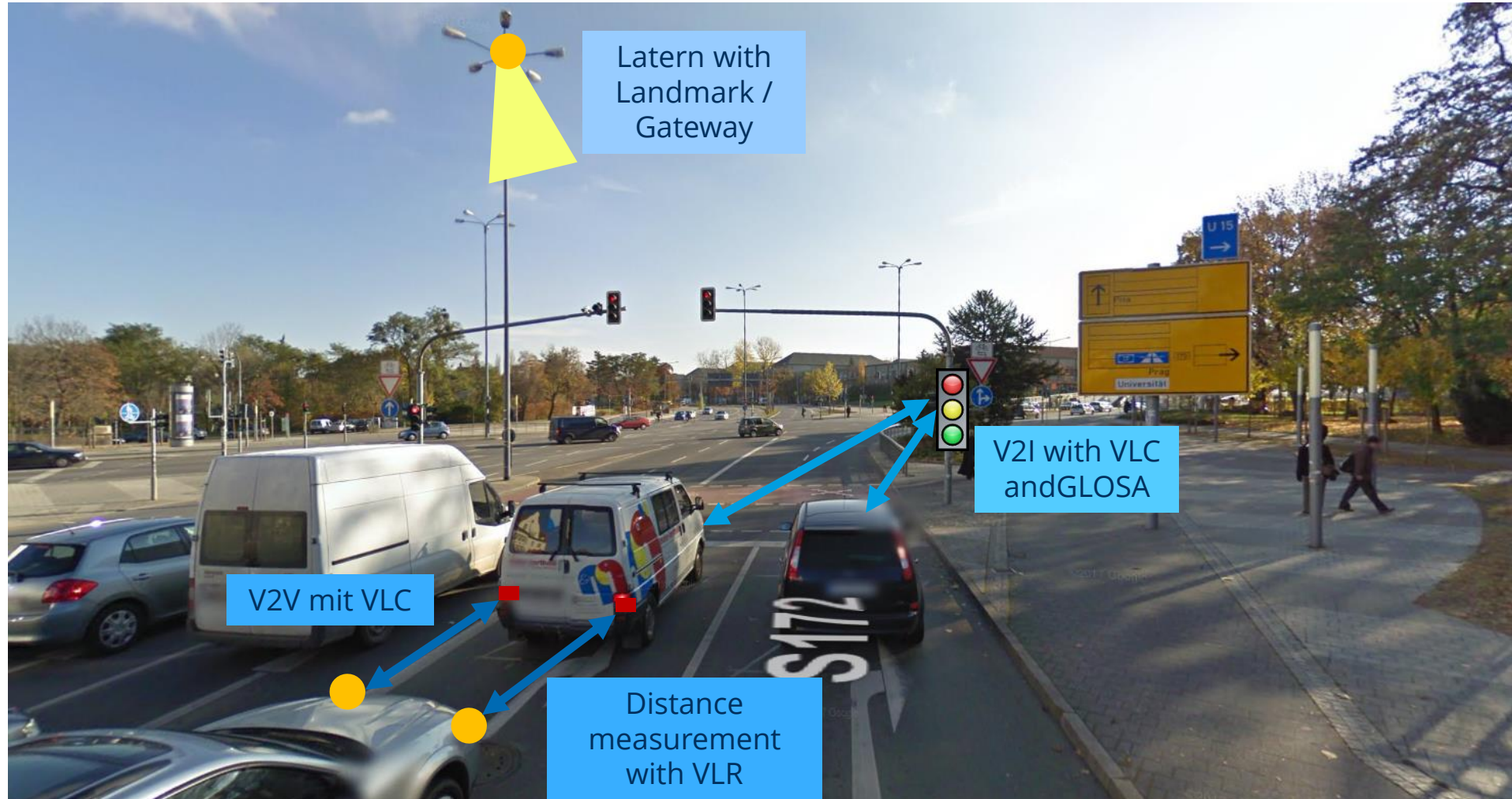
# 4 Challenges and Potentials for Mobility Systems

⇒ Use Case Testbed Scenario B: Parking House BIC Leipzig



# 4 Challenges and Potentials for Mobility Systems

⇒ Use Case Testbed Scenario C: Testfeld Highway B170/172



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# 5 Conclusion and future outlook



MixFutureTraffic

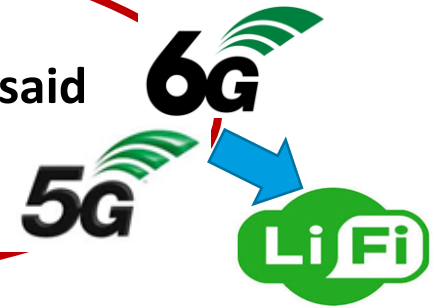


Fully saved and trusted  
(VLC?) connected  
vehicles in mixed  
traffic types

# 5 Conclusion and future outlook

- Introduction to VLC / LiFi as the next generation of standardized information technology
- Discussion of the information technology potential and limits of VLC / LiFi
- Challenges and potentials for VLC-based mobility systems, especially for connected and autonomous vehicles
- **Future:** Implementing of sensor-like properties in VLC / LiFi-systems as localization and sensing service (separate slide)

„If I had asked the people  
what they wanted, they would have said  
**faster horses** .“  
(Henry Ford / 1863-1947)



Source: www.duden.de



Soure: www.edle-oldtimer.de/ford-t-modell



Source: <https://www.ingenieur.de/technik/fachbereiche/raumfahrt/das-drohne-fuer-lufttransport-menschen/>

# Thank you for your attention!

Oliver Michler

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TU Dresden,

Chair of Transport Systems Information Technology

[https://tu-dresden.de/bu/verkehr/vis/itvs?set\\_language=en](https://tu-dresden.de/bu/verkehr/vis/itvs?set_language=en)