

ITUEvents

ITU-ML5G-PS-025: ML5G-PHY: Channel estimation  
(NC State University, USA )

3 July 2020

ITU  
**AI/ML in 5G**  
Challenge

*Applying machine learning in  
communication networks*

ai5gchallenge@itu.int

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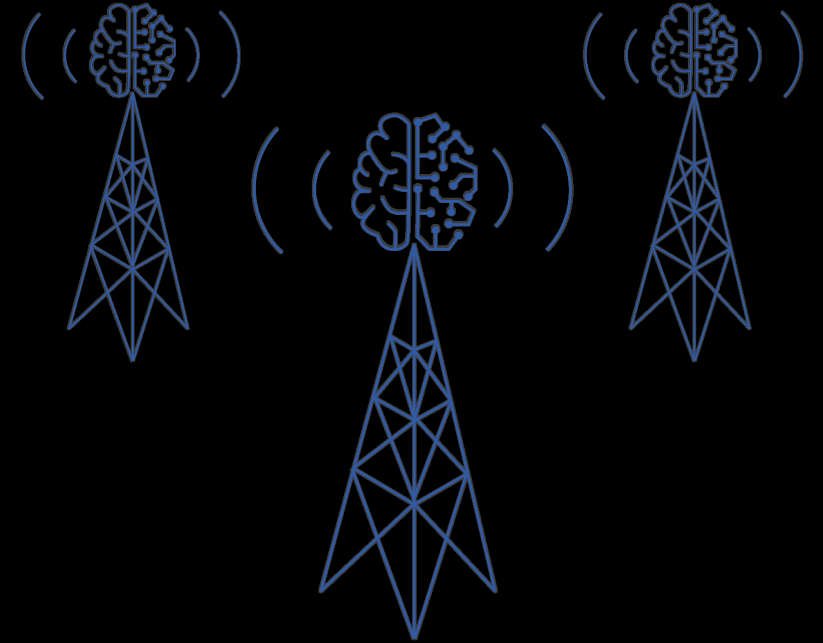
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**ML5G-PHY**  
**[channel estimation]**

**ITU Challenge AI/ML for 5G**

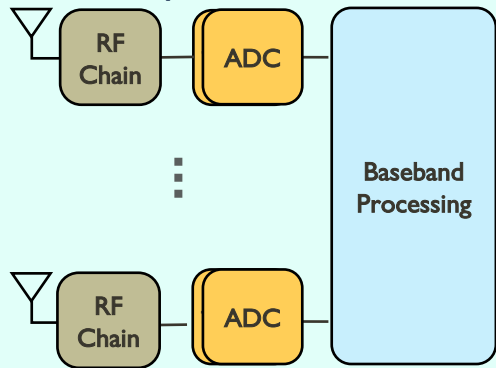
*Site specific-channel estimation with hybrid mmWave MIMO systems*

*Prof. Nuria González Prelcic*

# MIMO architectures @mmWave: analog vs. hybrid

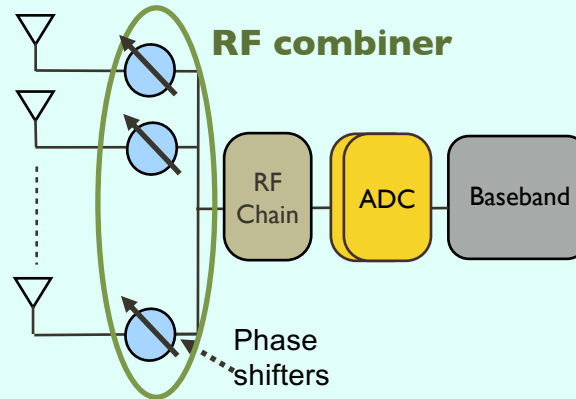
Conventional MIMO:  
all digital

# antennas = # RF  
= # pairs ADCs



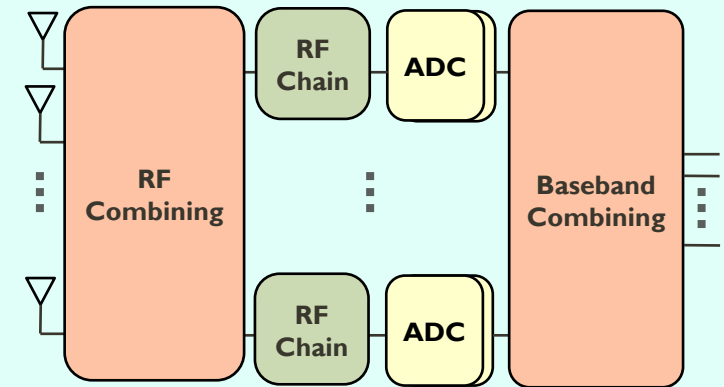
Feasible with small antenna arrays and low resolution ADCs

MmWave MIMO:  
analog architecture



Analog only precoding;  
single stream communication

MmWave MIMO:  
hybrid architecture

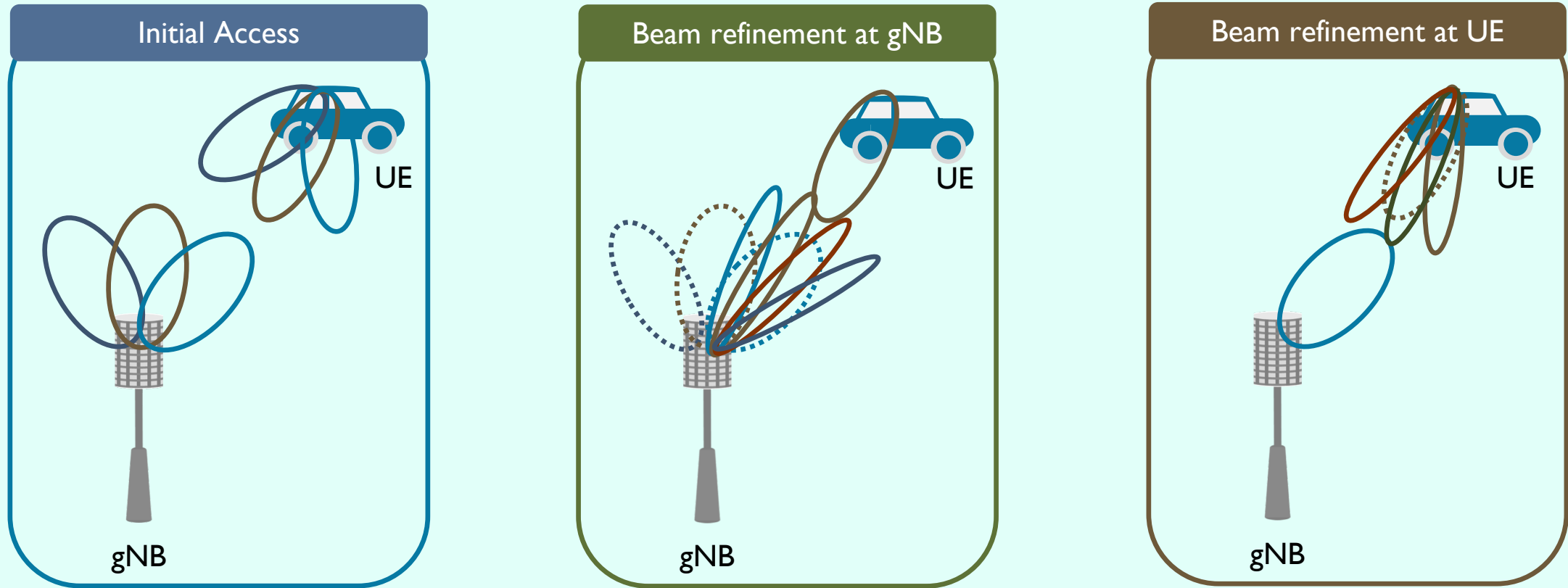


Split processing between analog and digital domains to reduce power consumption

Hybrid mmWave architecture is considered in mmWave cellular deployments

Main challenge is fast configuration of mmWave precoders and combiners [1]

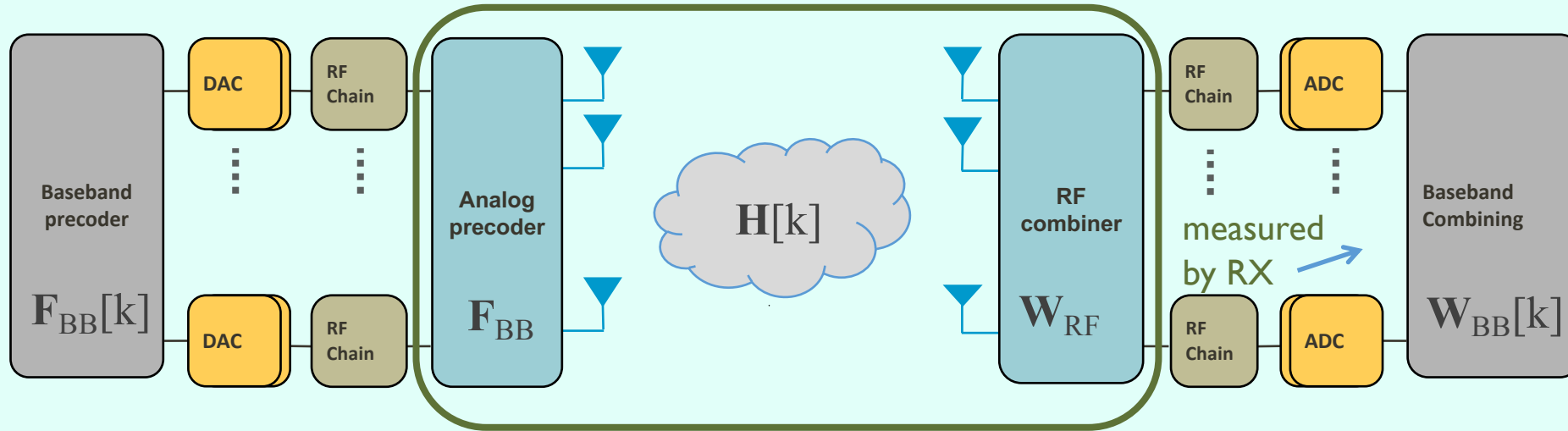
# 5G beam training with analog architectures



Try different combinations of transmit and receive beams, pick best

5G has a beam-based design, challenging for high mobility

# How to configure the arrays in hybrid architectures?



Hybrid precoder

$$\mathbf{F}[k] = \mathbf{F}_{\text{RF}} \mathbf{F}_{\text{BB}}[k]$$

Hybrid combiner

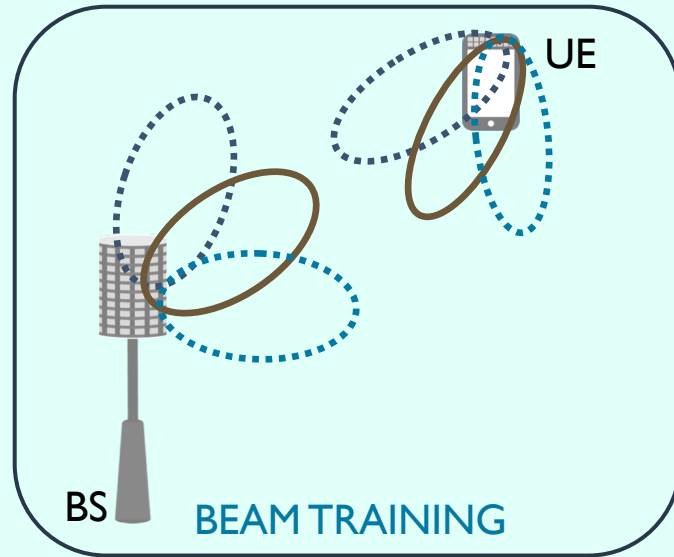
$$\mathbf{W}[k] = \mathbf{W}_{\text{RF}} \mathbf{W}_{\text{BB}}[k]$$

**Beam training + Low dimensional channel estimation**

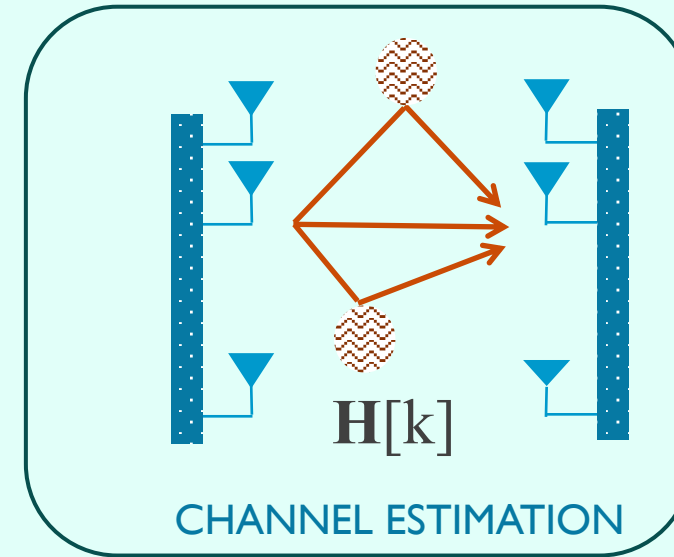
**Channel estimation**

Reconstruct the channel and then design precoders and combiners

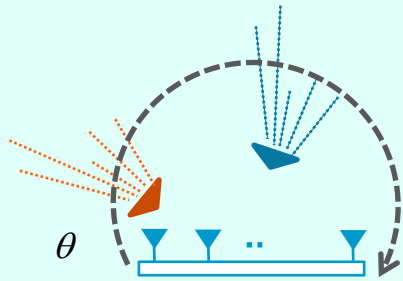
# Overcoming large overhead in array configuration with model-based strategies



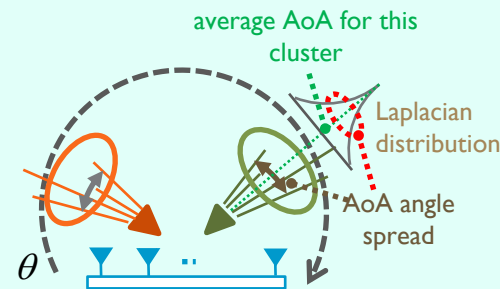
Prior work on model-based solutions



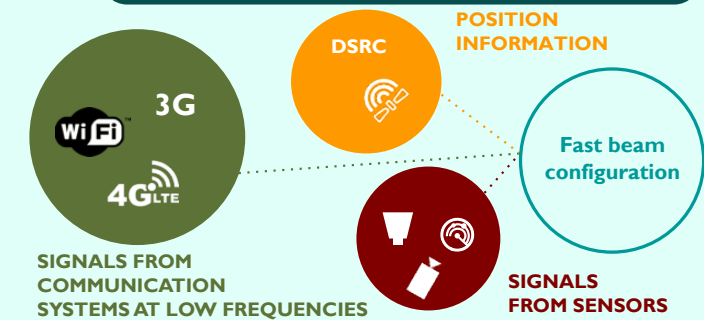
Exploiting channel structure (sparsity) [1,23]



Exploiting channel statistics and spatial consistency [4]



Exploiting out-of-band information [5]



- [1] R. Méndez-Rial, C. Rusu, N. González-Prelcic, A. Alkhateeb and R. W. Heath, "Hybrid MIMO Architectures for Millimeter Wave Communications: Phase Shifters or Switches?," in IEEE Access, vol. 4, pp. 247-267, 2016.
- [2] J. Rodríguez-Fernández, N. González-Prelcic, K. Venugopal, and R. W. Heath Jr, "Frequency-domain Compressive Channel Estimation for Frequency-Selective Hybrid mmWave MIMO Systems", IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications, vol. 17, no. 5, pp. 2946-2960, May 2018.
- [3] J. Rodríguez-Fernández and N. González-Prelcic, "Channel Estimation for Hybrid mmWave MIMO Systems with CFO Uncertainties", IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications, 2019.
- [4] N. González-Prelcic, H. Xie, J. Palacios and T. Shimizu, "Channel Tracking and Hybrid Precoding for Wideband Hybrid Millimeter Wave MIMO Systems," Submitted to IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications, 2019.
- [5] N. González-Prelcic, A. Ali, V. Va, and R. W. Heath Jr, "Millimeter Wave Communication with Out of Band Information", IEEE Communications Magazine, vol. 55, no. 12, pp. 140-146, Dec. 2017.

# Overcoming large overhead in array configuration with ML



ML based approaches learn the structure of the propagation environment from data [1,2]

[1] Y. Wang, N. Jonathan Myers, N. Gonzalez-Prelcic, and Robert W. Heath Jr., "Site-specific online compressive beam codebook learning in mmWave vehicular communication," submitted to IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications, May 2020, available in arXiv.

[2] A. Klautau, P. Batista, N. González-Prelcic, Y. Wang and R. W. Heath, "5G MIMO Data for Machine Learning: Application to Beam-Selection Using Deep Learning," in Proc. of the Information Theory and Applications Workshop (ITA), San Diego, CA, 2018, pp. 1-9.

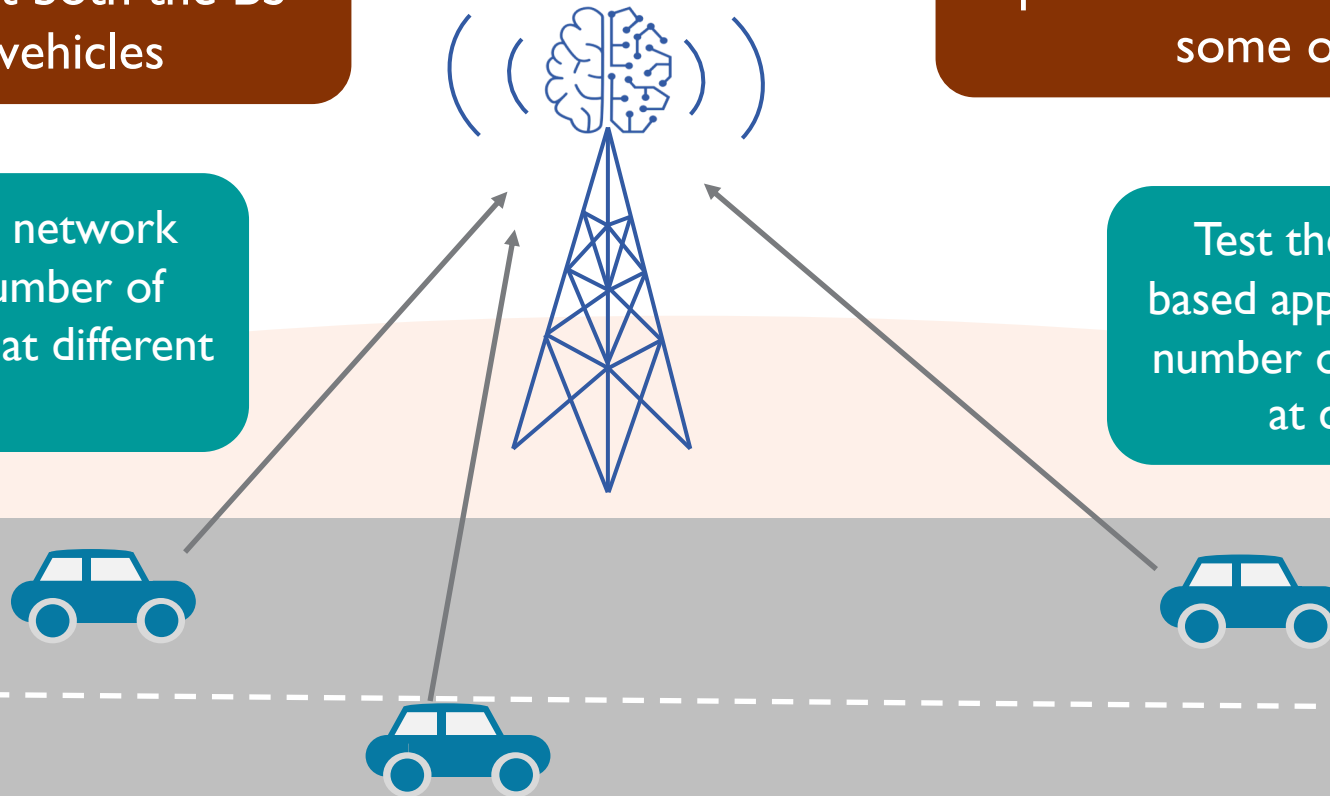
# Site-specific channel estimation: model-based vs. ML approaches

Consider a hybrid architecture at both the BS and the vehicles

Collect channels and received training pilots to learn the environment or some of its features

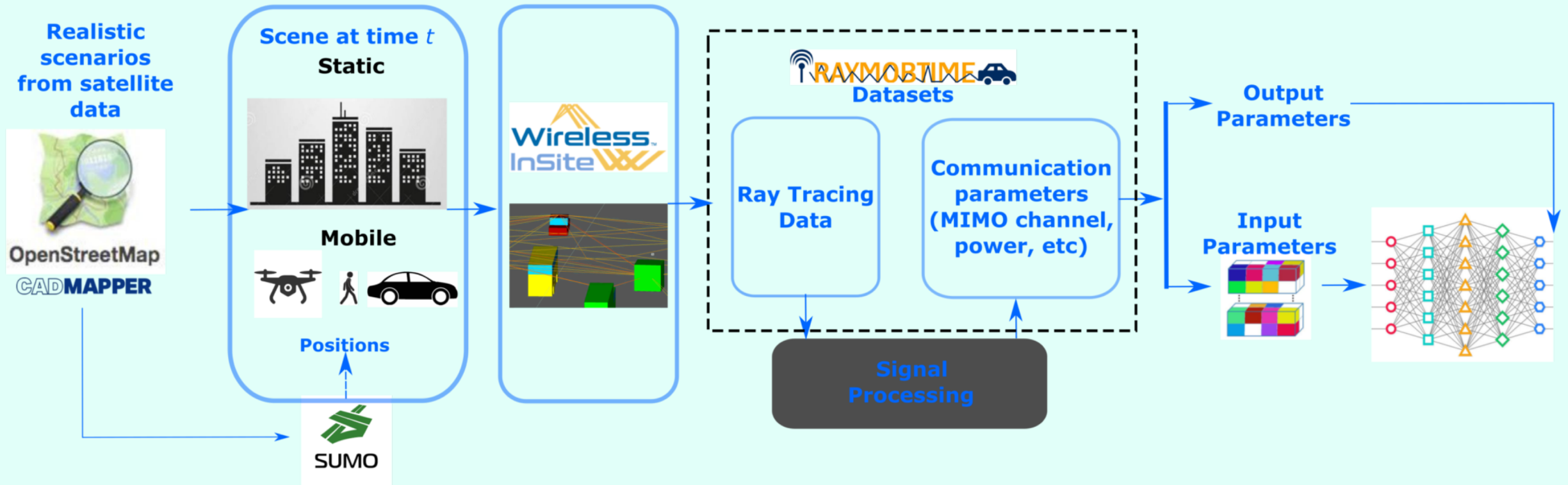
Test the trained network using a given number of received symbols at different SNR

Test the adjusted model based approach using a given number of received symbols at different SNR





# Raymobtime datasets



<https://www.lasse.ufpa.br/raymobtime/>

[6] A. Klautau, P. Batista, N. González-Prelcic, Y. Wang and R. W. Heath, "5G MIMO Data for Machine Learning: Application to Beam-Selection Using Deep Learning," in Proc. of the Information Theory and Applications Workshop (ITA), San Diego, CA, 2018, pp. 1-9.



## TRAINING

Collection of **10,000 channels** in HDF5 format obtained from **Raymobtime dataset s004**

Participants must use for training 100 received pilots in the frequency domain for each one of the provided channels (Matlab code provided) at SNR=-15,-10,-5 dB

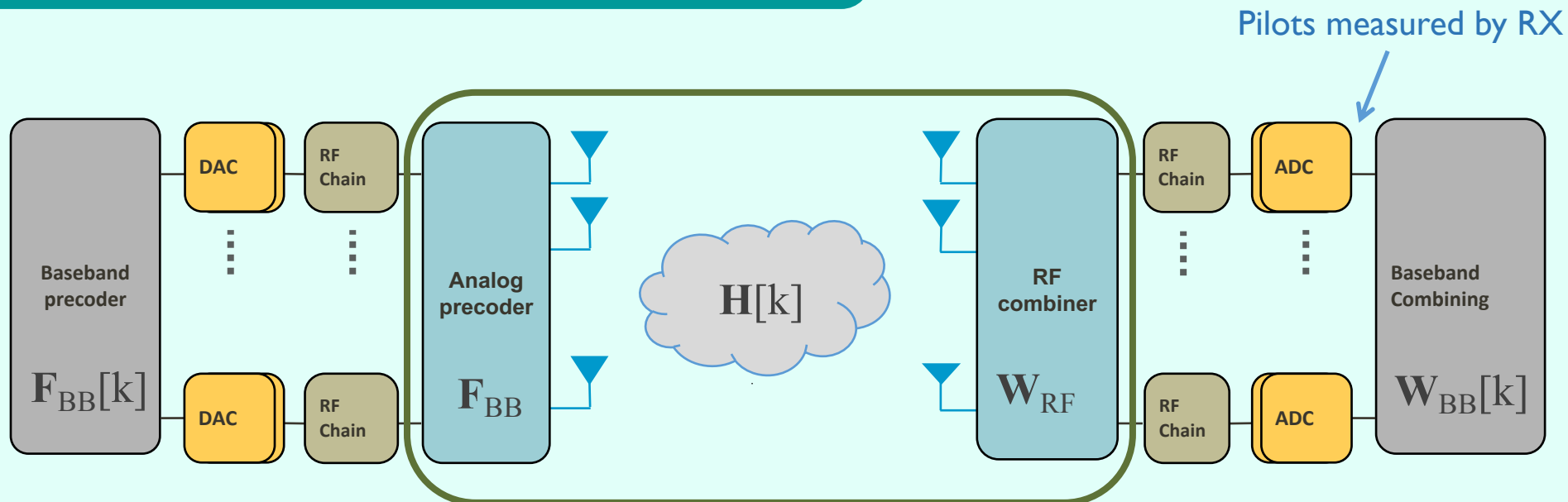
## Datasets



## TESTING

9 collections of training pilots obtained at SNRs ranging from -20 to 0 dB and 1000 channels different from the ones in the training datasets, but corresponding to the same site

Test datasets correspond to different SNR ranges and different number of training pilots



# Evaluation

Metric for the quality of the channel estimate is NMSE

Few training symbols (20)

Lowest SNRs

Highest SNRs

$$\begin{aligned} PS = & 0.5(0.5 \text{NMSE}(\text{Test Dataset 1 SNR1}) + 0.3 \text{NMSE}(\text{Test Dataset 1 SNR2}) + 0.2 \text{NMSE}(\text{Test Dataset 1 SNR3})) \\ & + 0.3(0.5 \text{NMSE}(\text{Test Dataset 2 SNR1}) + 0.3 \text{NMSE}(\text{Test Dataset 2 SNR2}) + 0.2 \text{NMSE}(\text{Test Dataset 2 SNR3})) \\ & + 0.2(0.5 \text{NMSE}(\text{Test Dataset 3 SNR1}) + 0.3 \text{NMSE}(\text{Test Dataset 3 SNR2}) + 0.2 \text{NMSE}(\text{Test Dataset 3 SNR3})) \end{aligned}$$

Many training symbols (80)

Obtained NMSE is weighted in a different way depending on the SNR range and training length, giving more weight to the more challenging settings

# Timeline



**Training and testing datasets are ready →**  
**<https://research.ece.ncsu.edu/ai5gchallenge/>**

**Registration → July 31, 2020, defined by ITU**

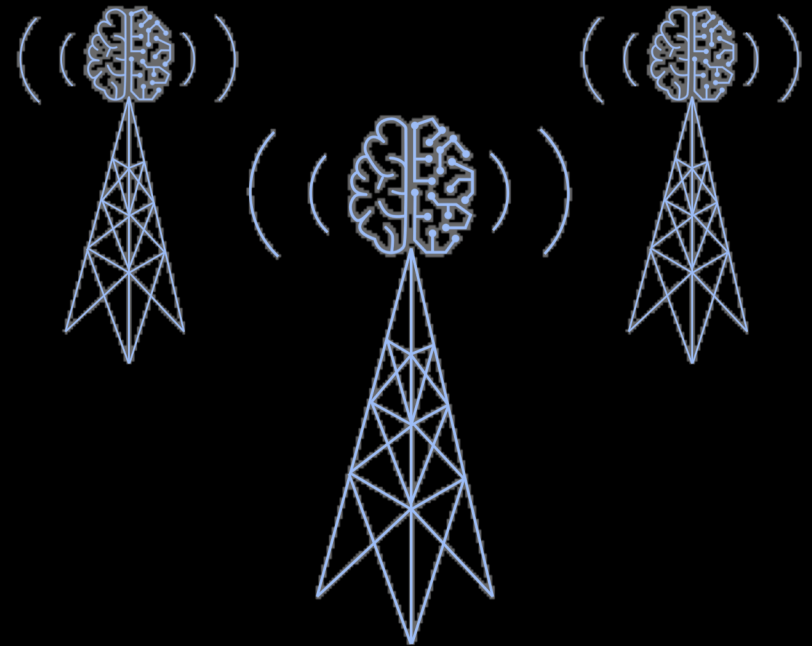
Team enrollment: [ml5g.ncsu@gmail.com](mailto:ml5g.ncsu@gmail.com)

**Submission (Global round) → October 2020, to be defined by ITU**

**Award (Global round) → October 2020, to be defined by ITU**

**Thanks!**

**NC STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



<https://research.ece.ncsu.edu/ai5gchallenge/>

[ml5g.ncsu@gmail.com](mailto:ml5g.ncsu@gmail.com)

ITUEvents

ITU-ML5G-PS-013: Improving the capacity of IEEE  
802.11 WLANs through Machine Learning

10 July 2020

(Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)

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