

ITUEvents

ITU-ML5G-PS-012: ML5G-PHY: Beam Selection  
(Universidade Federal do Pará, Brazil )

26 June 2020

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

*Applying machine learning in  
communication networks*

ai5gchallenge@itu.int

Bronze sponsor:



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ITU Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning in 5G Challenge  
**An Overview of the ITU-ML5G-PS-012**  
**"ML5G-PHY [beam selection]"**

**Aldebaro Klautau**  
**Federal University of Pará (UFPA) / LASSE**  
**<http://ai5gchallenge.ufpa.br>**

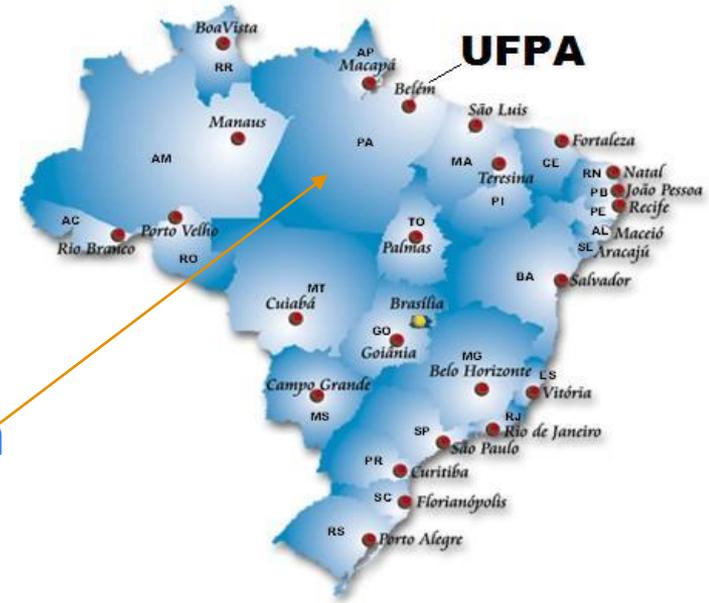
Joint work with Profs. Diego Gomes (UNIFESSPA), Francisco Müller (UFPA), Nuria González-Prelcic (NCSU), Robert Heath (UT) and several students

June 26, 2020

# UFPA

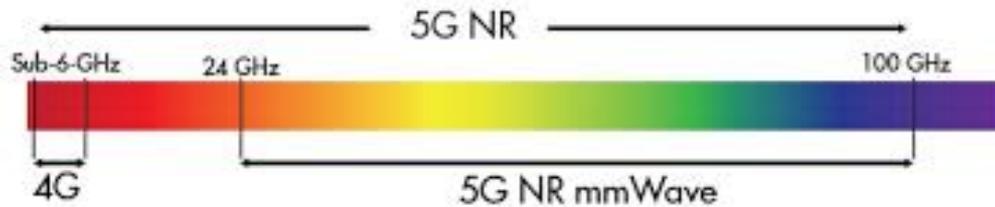
## Federal University of Pará

- Established in **1957**
- Largest academic and research institution in **Amazon** (Pará state in North Brazil)
- One of the largest **Brazilian** universities with total population (students + staff) of ~61k people
- One of the missions is the sustainable development of the region through science and technology



# Importance of beam selection in 5G MIMO

Using large bandwidths at millimeter waves (mmWaves) is key to achieve high bit rates



AWGN channel capacity:

$$C = BW \log_2 (1 + \text{SNR})$$

Bandwidth (Hz)

Signal-to-noise ratio

Disadvantage: stronger attenuation in mmWaves than in sub-6 GHz

Remedy: use multiple antennas in MIMO systems → enable generation of programmable directional beams that increase reach and minimize interference

# Steering mmwave beams with antenna arrays

Array form factor decreases when frequency increases

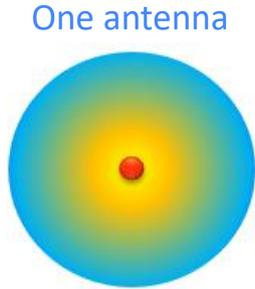
Sub-6 GHz

mmWave

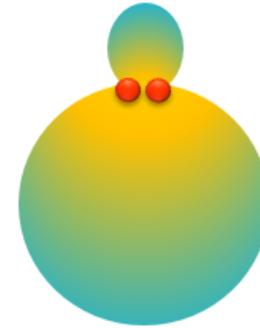


Wavelength  $\lambda=c/f$   
 $\lambda=5$  mm when  $f=60$  GHz  
Space between antenna elements =  $\lambda/2$

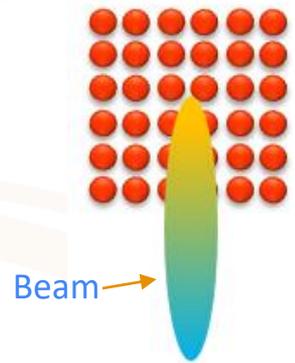
Radiation patterns:



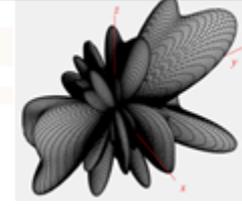
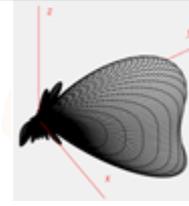
2 antennas



36 antennas



Vector of angles imposes the radiation pattern of phased antenna arrays and (pointy) beam steering



# Example of antenna array for 5G phones

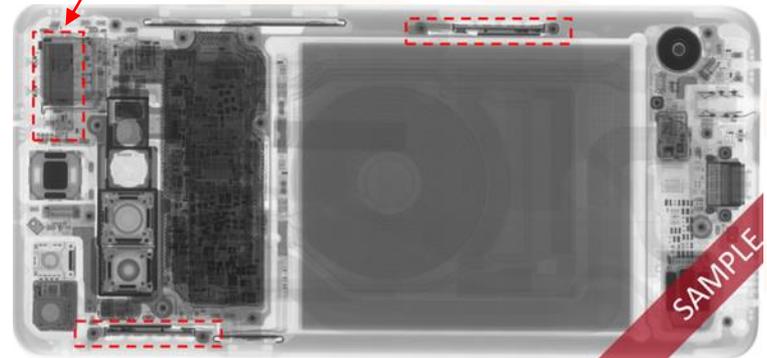
## Features:

- mmWave frequency bands (28 GHz, etc.)
- Supports beam forming and tracking
- Small form factor
- Estimated 64 antenna elements

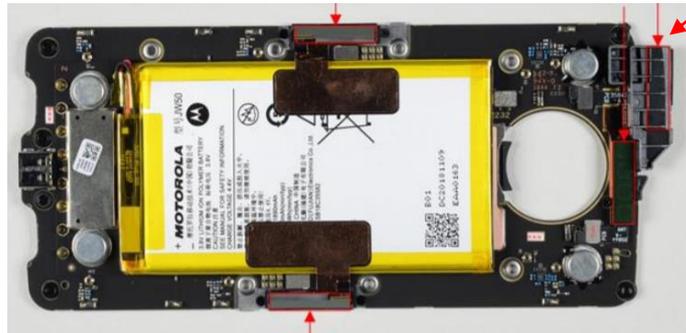
Qualcomm QTM052 antenna module



Samsung Galaxy S10 5G (3 modules)



Motorola Moto Mod 5G (4 modules)



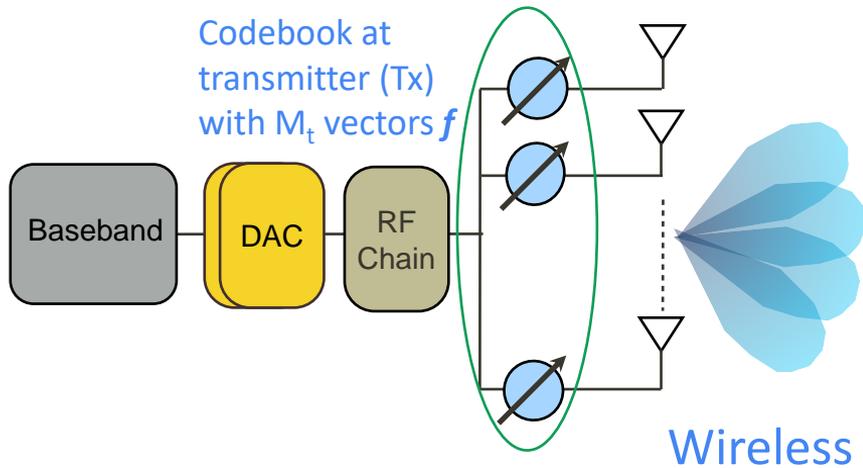
Hard to deal with blocking → several antenna modules  
 Vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) scenario → +predictability

[1] SystemPlus Consulting – Motorola Mod 5G teardown  
 [2] Tech Insights - <https://www.techinsights.com/blog/qualcomm-qtm052-mmwave-antenna-module>  
 [3] <https://www.microwavejournal.com/articles/31448-first-5g-mmwave-antenna-module-for-smartphones>

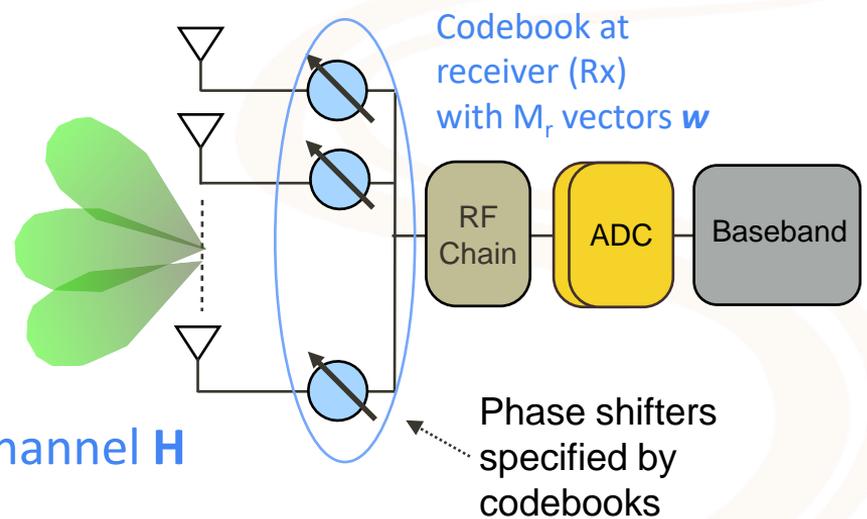
# Beam training (selection) in 5G mmWave

After initial *selection*, beam can be *tracked* with less overhead

## Analog beamforming



## Analog combining



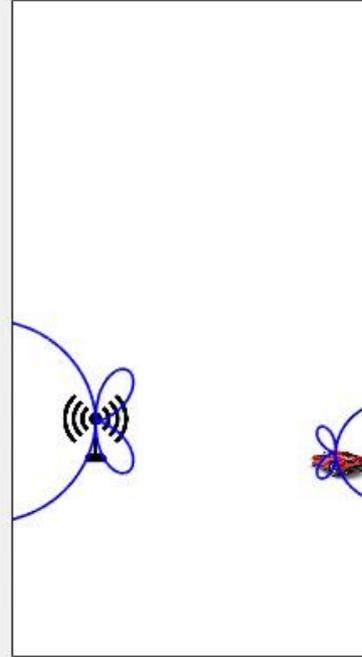
Brute force to find best: try all possible  $M_t \times M_r$  pairs of indices

# Beam selection in vehicular networks (V2I)

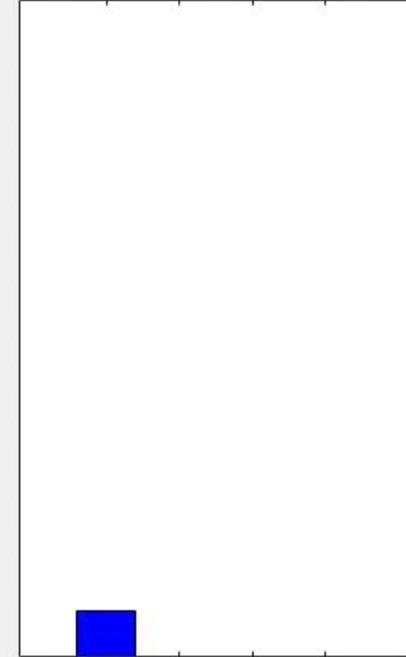
High mobility but  
predictable  
trajectories

Communication  
overhead increases  
with number of  
antennas

Machine learning can  
decrease overhead by  
choosing subset of  
candidates



Overhead



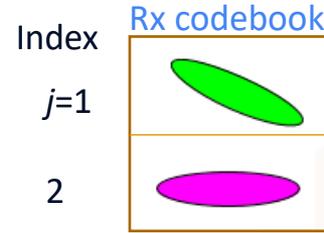
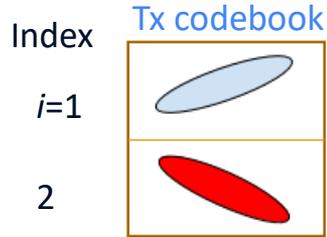
4 8 16 32  
Number of antennas

[1] Y. Wang, M. Ribero, M. Narasimha, and R. W. Heath Jr., "MmWave vehicular beam training with situational awareness", 2019

[2] Y. Wang, A. Klautau, M. Narasimha, and R. W. Heath Jr., "MmWave beam selection with situational awareness", 2019

# Output of the machine learning module

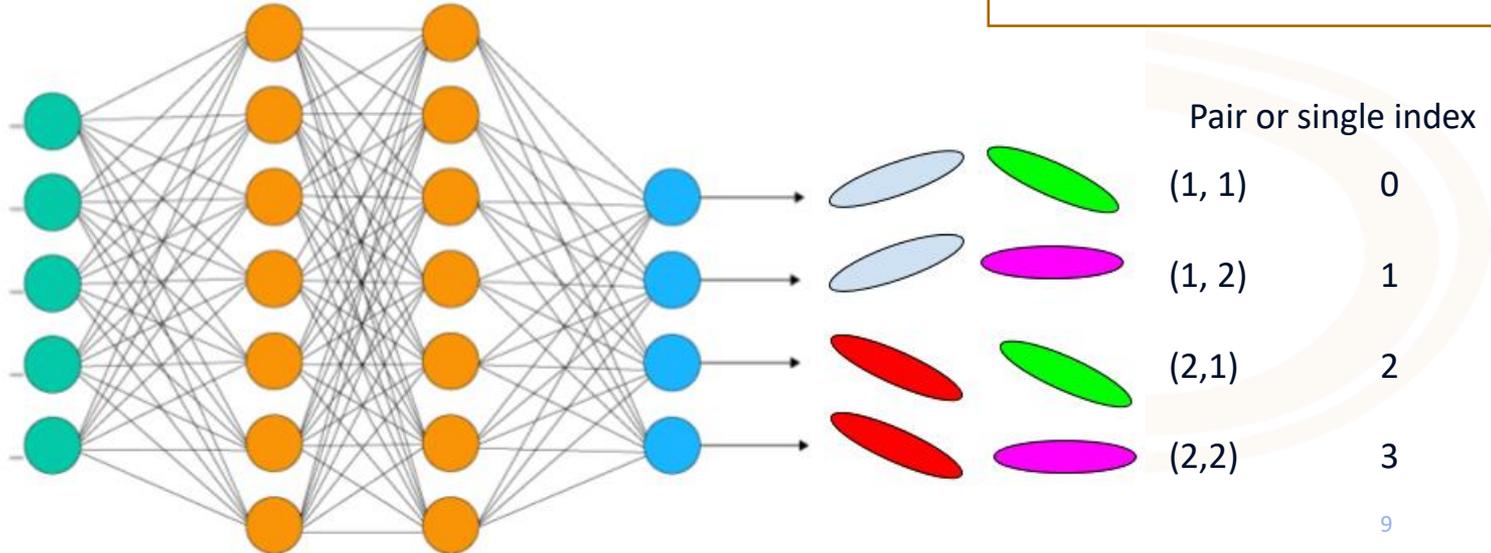
Example with  $M_t = M_r = 2$  vectors per codebook



Goal: maximize magnitude of combined channel:

$$y(i, j) = |w_j^H H f_i|$$

Inputs obtained from sensors other than from communication system



# High level description of the ITU-ML5G-PS-012 (ML5G-PHY Beam selection)

Selection of subset of  $k$   
beams cannot use the  
communication system

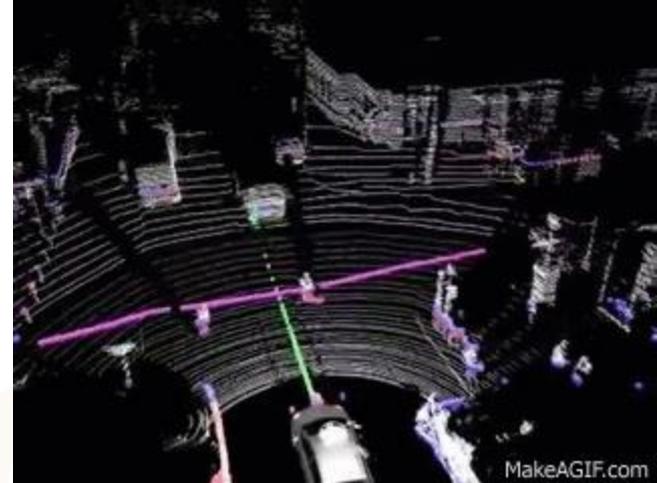


ML can use data from LIDAR,  
cameras and GNSS (e.g. GPS)  
for top- $k$  classification

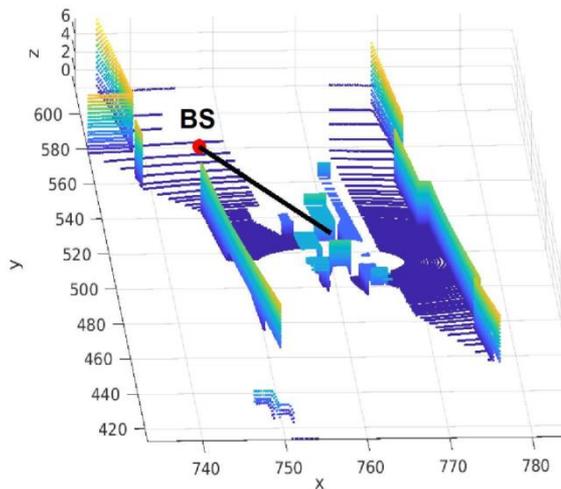
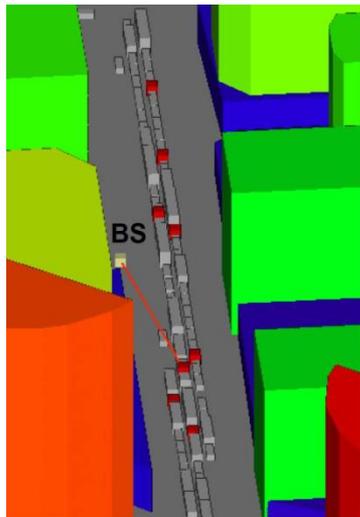


# ML-based beam selection using LIDAR

Given the 3D scene of a V2I MIMO communication system and the LIDAR (“light detection and ranging”) data from the vehicle’s receiver, choose  $k$  pairs of beams



A base station (BS) in a urban canyon is the transmitter, while some cars (red) have receivers



The LIDAR PCD is processed by a frontend and the obtained features are the input to a convolutional neural network

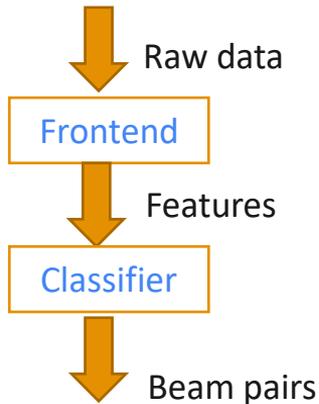
# Beam selection using LIDAR data

PCD files are large. There are deep networks that can have point clouds as inputs, but here we assume a frontend

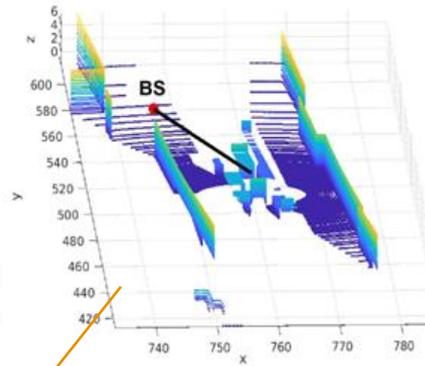
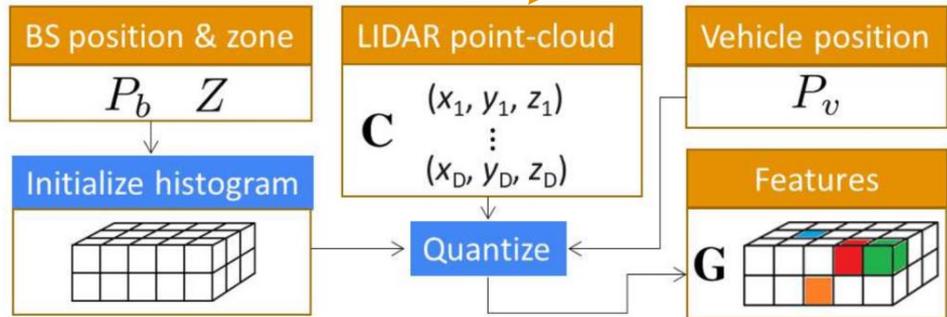
# .PCD v.7 – PCD file format

```

VERSION .7
FIELDS x y z rgb
SIZE 4 4 4 4
TYPE F F F F
COUNT 1 1 1 1
WIDTH 213
HEIGHT 1
VIEWPOINT 0 0 0 1 0 0 0
POINTS 213
DATA ascii
0.93773 0.33763 0 4.2108e+06
0.90805 0.35641 0 4.2108e+06
0.81915 0.32 0 4.2108e+06
0.97192 0.278 0 4.2108e+06
0.944 0.29474 0 4.2108e+06
0.98111 0.24247 0 4.2108e+06
0.93655 0.26143 0 4.2108e+06
...
    
```



Example of frontend for feature extraction:

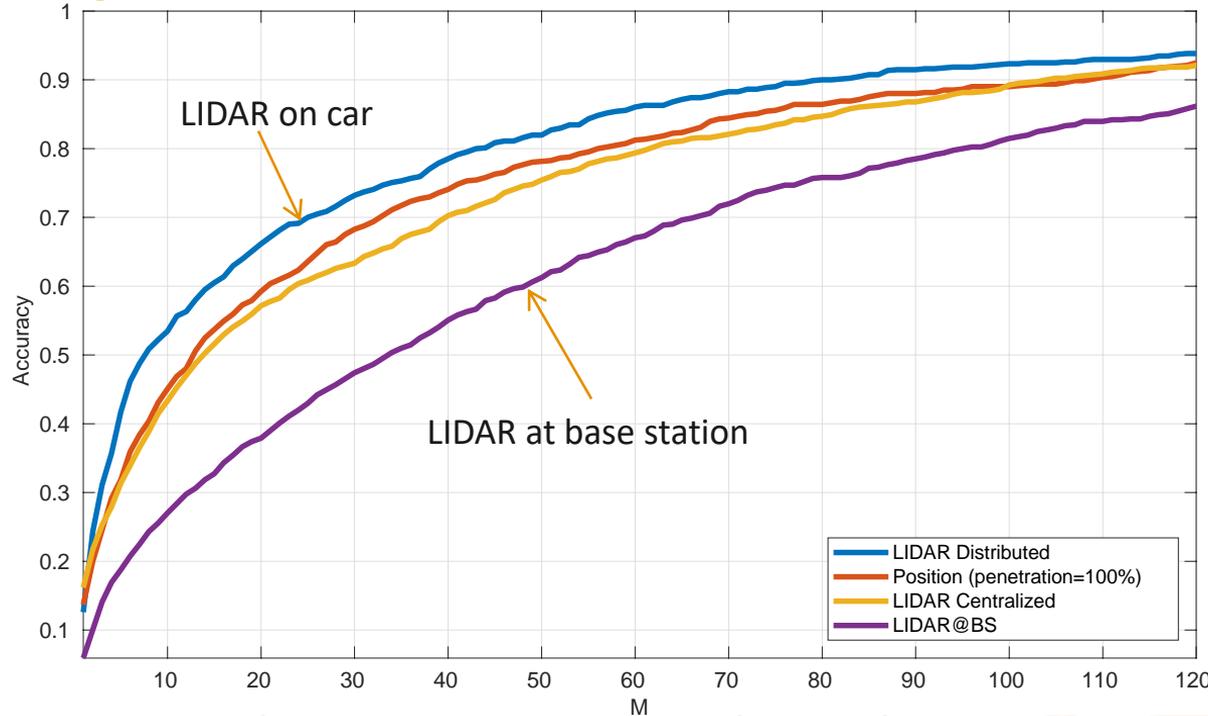


For the urban canyon example: **G** can be a 3D grid of dimension 20 x 200 x 10, with elements 1, -1 and -2, indicating obstacle, receiver and BS, or zero otherwise. The **customized frontend** quantizes PCD

[1] [http://pointclouds.org/documentation/tutorials/pcd\\_file\\_format.htm](http://pointclouds.org/documentation/tutorials/pcd_file_format.htm)

[2] A. Klautau, N. González-Prelcic and R. W. Heath, "LIDAR Data for Deep Learning-Based mmWave Beam-Selection", IEEE Wireless Communications Letters, 2019.

# Example of results with LIDAR: “Top-M” classification for channels without line-of-sight (harder)



Deep nets with LIDAR data as inputs enable testing only 40 beam pairs instead of 264 (15% of the original communication overhead)

Obs: There figures of merit other than top-M classification, e.g., throughput ration:

$$TR = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \log_2(1 + y_{\widehat{(p,q)}})}{\sum_{i=1}^N \log_2(1 + y_{(p,q)})}$$

Number M of pre-selected beam pairs out of a total of 264 possible pairs (ITU-ML5G-PS-012 uses 256 pairs)

[1] A. Klautau, N. González-Prelcic and R. W. Heath, “LIDAR Data for Deep Learning-Based mmWave Beam-Selection”, IEEE Wireless Communications Letters, 2019.

# Two options: Work with baseline or raw data

A screenshot of a Nextcloud web interface. The browser address bar shows the URL 'nextcloud.lasseufpa.org/s/FQgjXx...'. The page title is 'Raymobtime\_s008' shared by 'admin'. A context menu is open over the 'raw\_data' folder, with the option 'Download all files (16 GB)' highlighted by a red box. The file list below shows four folders: 'raw\_data', 'processed\_raw\_data', 'baseline\_data', and 'auxiliary\_simulation\_files'.

nextcloud.lasseufpa.org/s/FQgjXx...

Raymobtime\_s008  
shared by admin

Download all files (16 GB)

Direct link  
<https://nextcloud.lasseufpa.org/s/F>

Add to your Nextcloud

Name

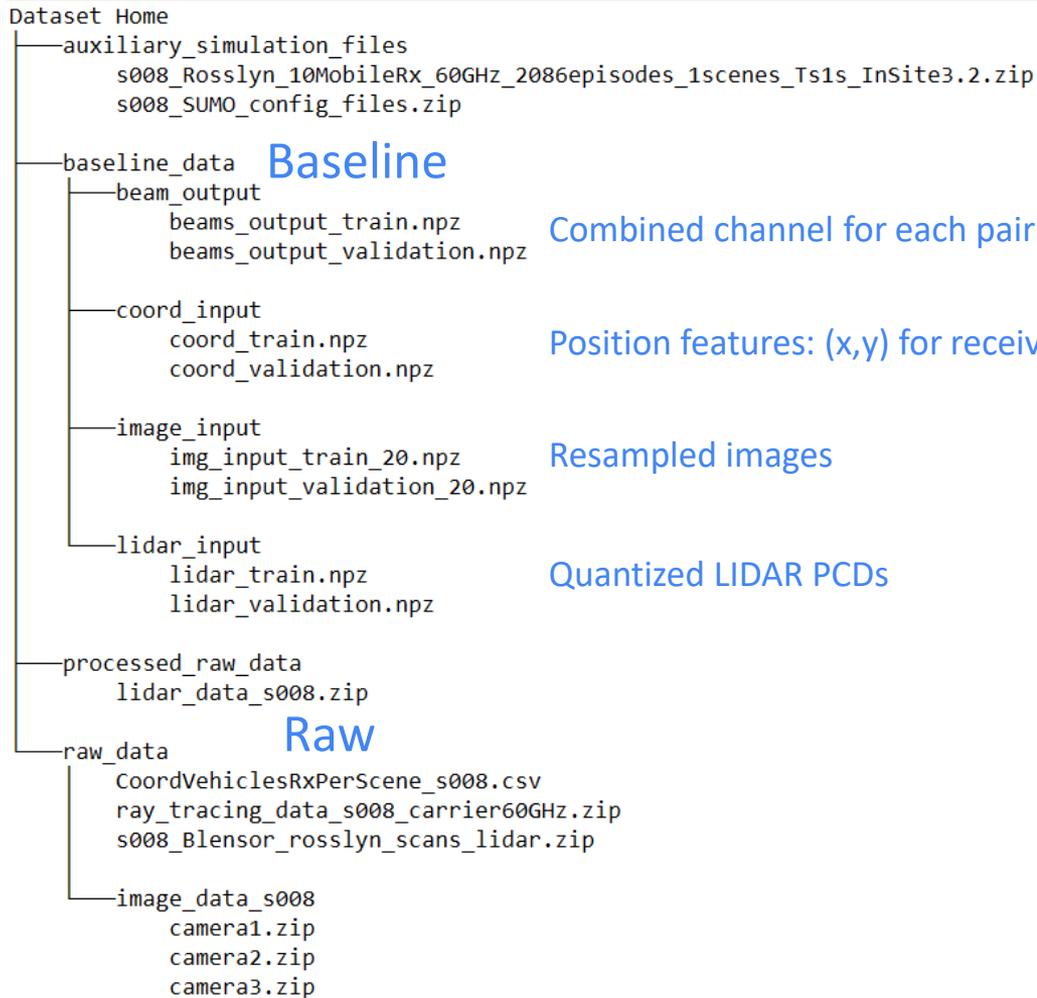
- raw\_data
- processed\_raw\_data
- baseline\_data
- auxiliary\_simulation\_files

Site: <http://ai5gchallenge.ufpa.br/> or  
directly:  
<https://www.lasse.ufpa.br/raymobtime/>

Download all data  
(including raw,  
~16 GB)

Or download only  
baseline data (~512  
MB)

# Repository structure:

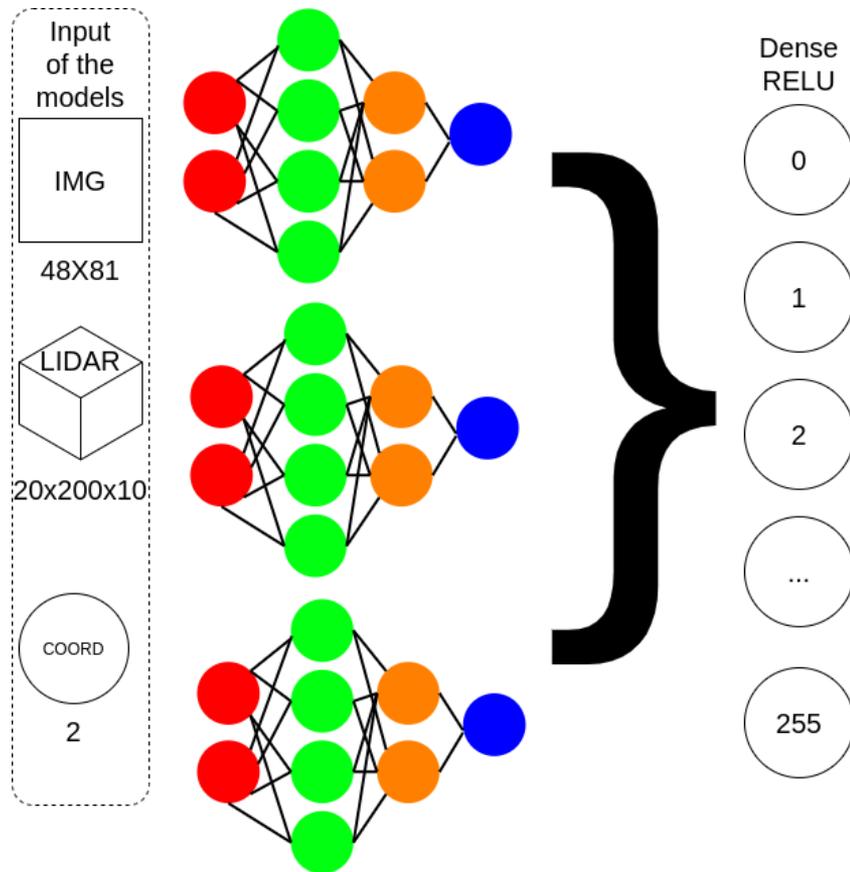


# Baseline code

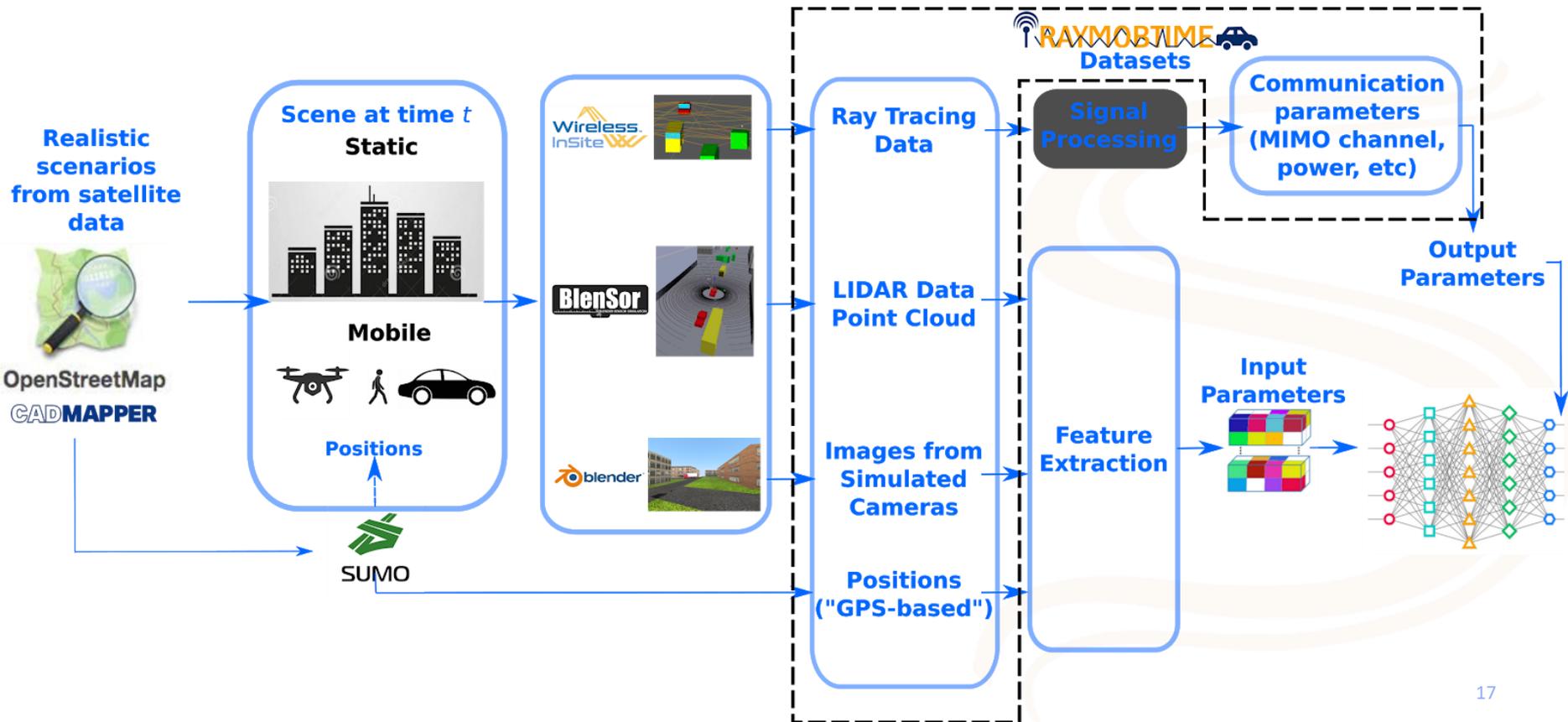
From folder Beam\_selection of <https://github.com/lasseufpa/ITU-Challenge-ML5G-PHY>



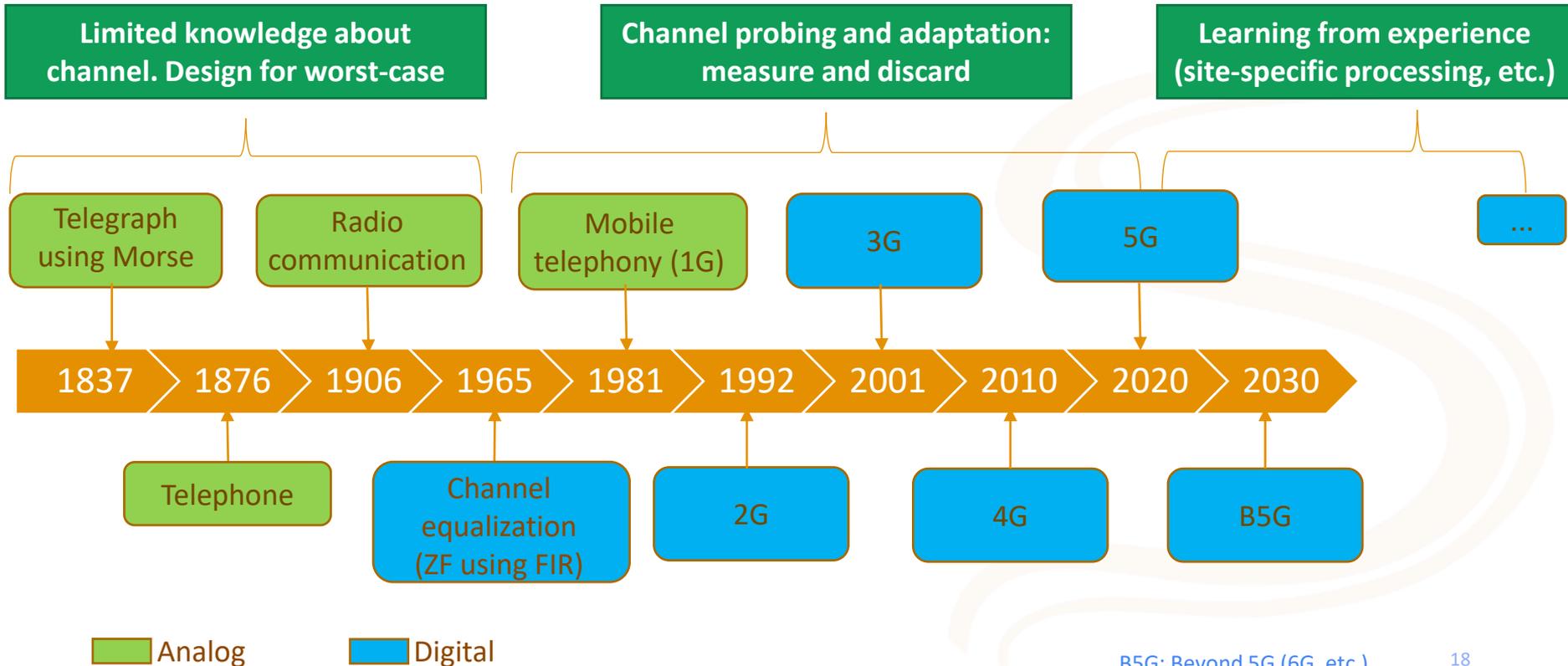
```
1 coord_model = modelHand.createArchitecture('coord_mlp', num_classes,  
2                                           coord_train_input_shape[1], 'complete')  
3 img_model = modelHand.createArchitecture('light_image', num_classes,  
4                                           [img_train_input_shape[1],  
5                                           img_train_input_shape[2], 1],  
6                                           'complete')  
7 lidar_model = modelHand.createArchitecture('lidar_marcus', num_classes,  
8                                           [lidar_train_input_shape[1],  
9                                           lidar_train_input_shape[2],  
10                                          lidar_train_input_shape[3]],  
11                                          'complete')  
12  
13 model = Model(inputs=[lidar_model.input, img_model.input,  
14                  coord_model.input], outputs=2)  
15  
16 model.compile(loss=categorical_crossentropy,  
17              optimizer=opt,  
18              metrics=[metrics.categorical_accuracy,  
19                      metrics.top_k_categorical_accuracy,  
20                      top_50_accuracy])  
21  
22  
23 hist = model.fit([X_lidar_train, X_img_train, X_coord_train], y_train,  
24                 validation_data=([X_lidar_validation, X_img_validation,  
25                 X_coord_validation], y_validation),  
26                 epochs=num_epochs, batch_size=batch_size)
```



# Raymobtime: understanding the raw data



# Motivation for learning Raymobtime (raw data) in ML5G-PHY: timeline

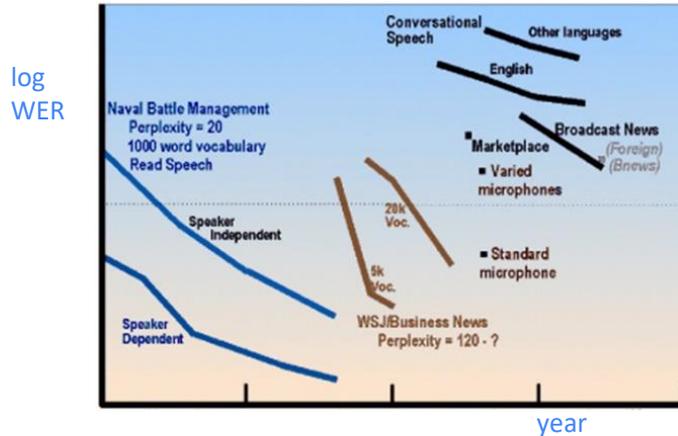


# Importance of realistic channel data for 5G and B5G: analogy with speech recognition

Speech recognition

Goal: mimic human brain  
Nature gives: spoken language

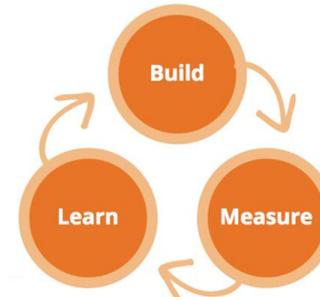
Datasets by Linguistic Data Consortium and DARPA competitions



Physical layer of mobile communication systems

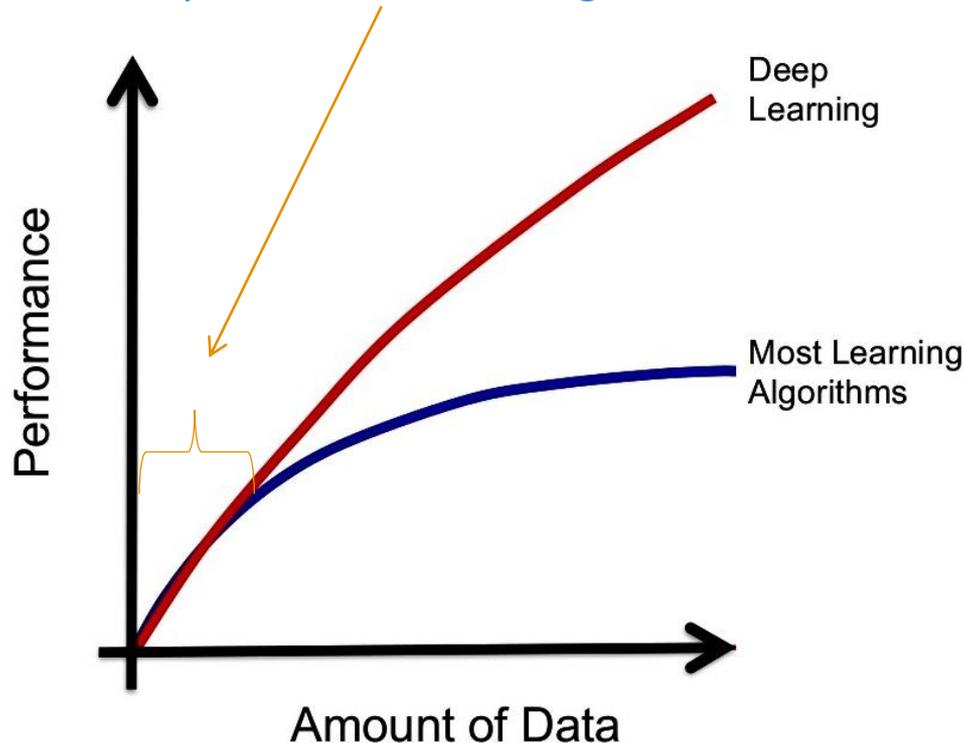
Goal: design comm system  
Nature gives: channel

ITU AI/ML in 5G Challenge



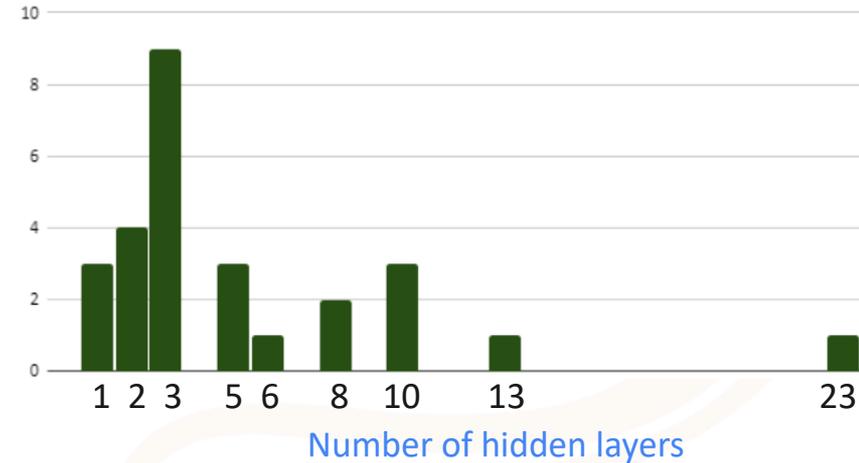
# For instance, we do need data for advanced deep learning in 5G

Escape the **small data** regime



Papers (~40) published in 2019 in IEEE ComSoc journals, collected via IEEExplore on Aug 16, 2019, and having deep learning in their titles

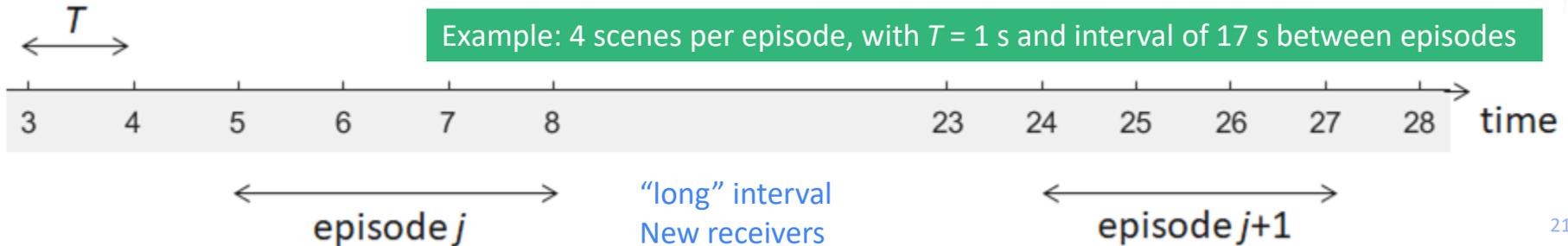
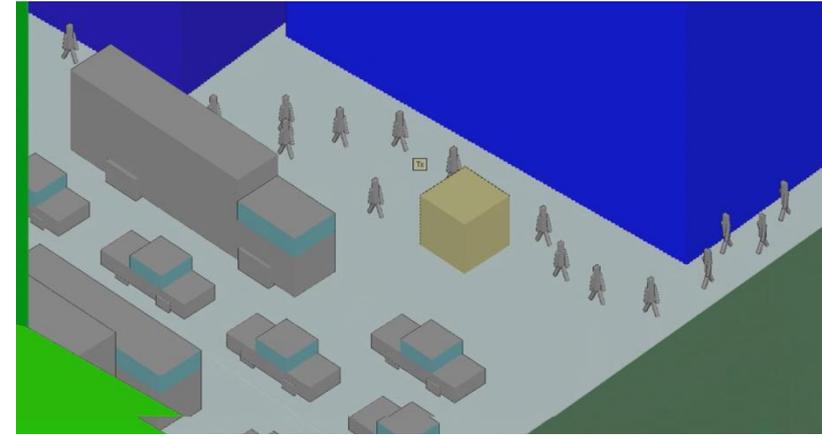
Histogram:



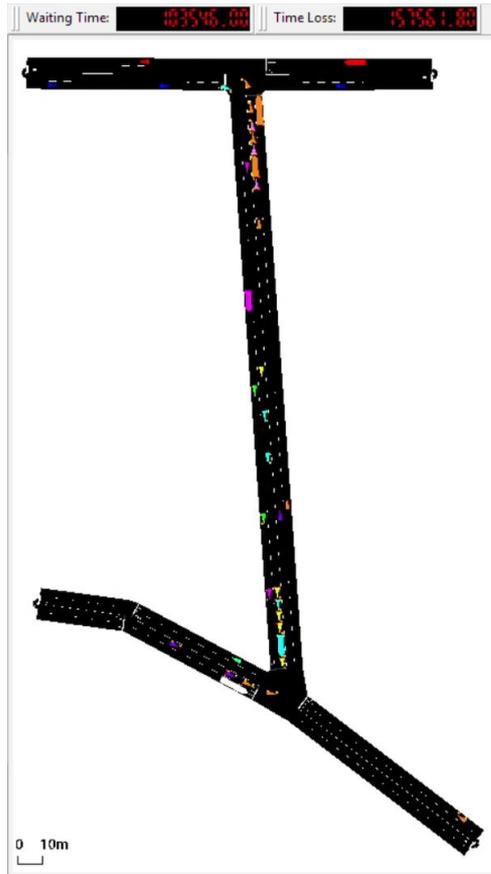
# Raymobtime: control mobility and incorporate time dimension

Information periodically stored as snapshots (**scenes**) spaced by  $T$  seconds

Group of scenes composes an **episode**, which are supposed to be independent (while scenes are correlated)



# Invoke ray-tracing software for each “snapshot”



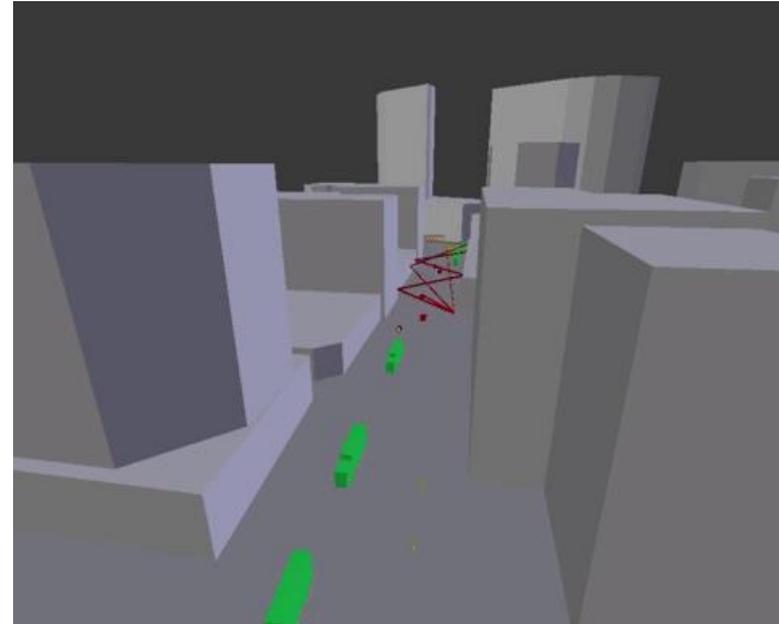
1 **for** *each*  $t$  (“snapshot”) **do**

2 SUMO: positions of vehicles, pedestrians, etc.;

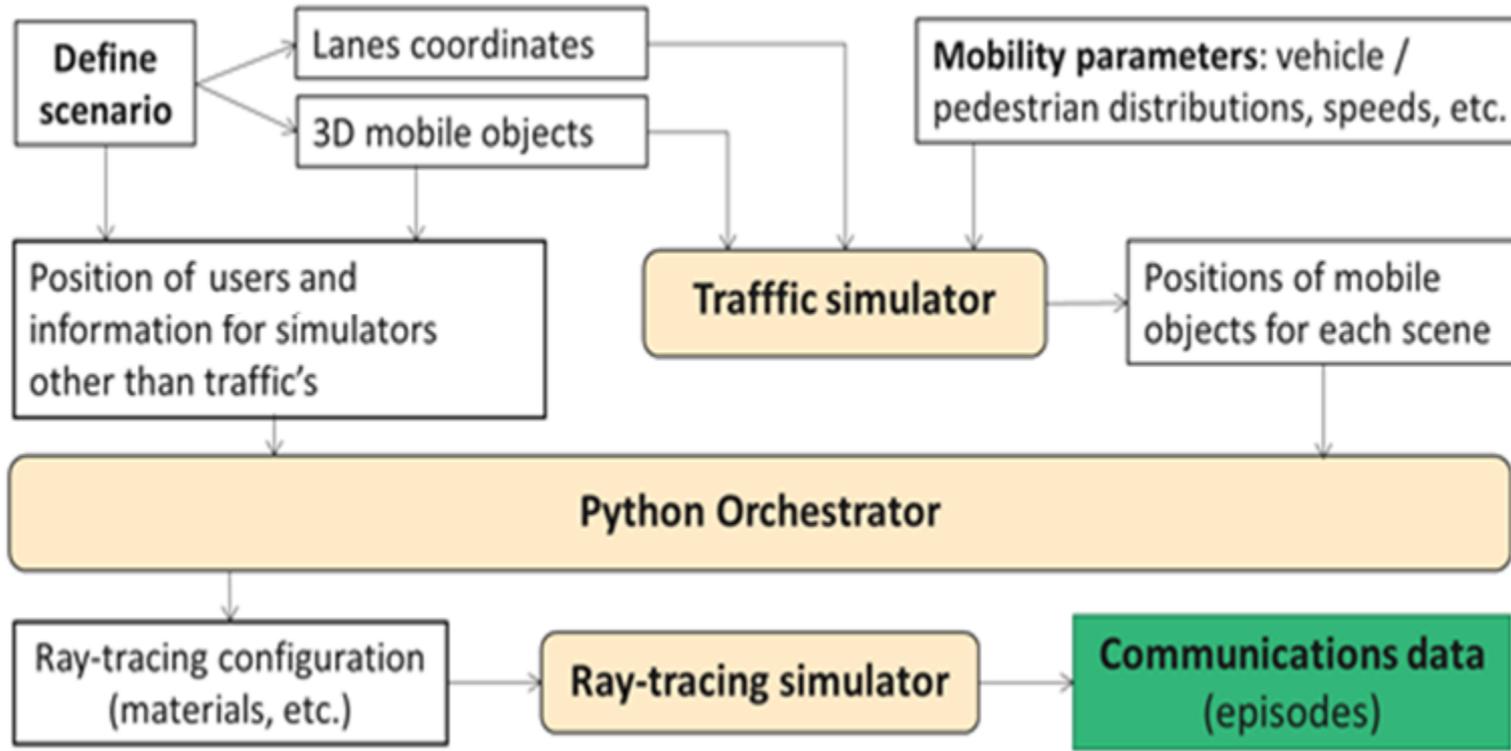
3 Wireless Insite: channels via ray-tracing;

Control mobility via  
open-source SUMO

Ray-tracing performed  
by Remcom’s Wireless  
Insite → channels with  
*consistency* over time,  
frequency and space



# Positioning mobile objects for ray-tracing



# Outdoor site-specific data by collecting realistic 3D scenarios from Web



Dongcheng  
District,  
Beijing

Rosslyn, Virginia, USA



Kista, Stockholm



# Some of the steps to obtain realistic outdoor 3D Scenario from Web



CADMAPPER

- Export 3D CAD file
- Complemented with terrain (\*.ter) profiles from open sources websites as NASA

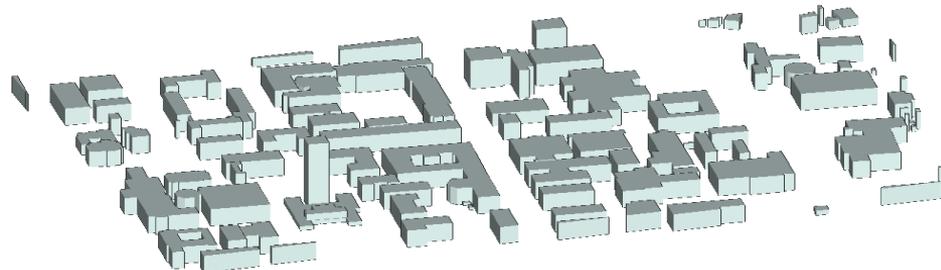
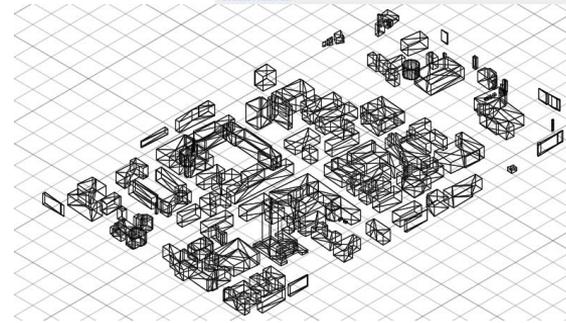
AutoCad

- Organize CAD by layers
- Convert to format supported by InSite (polyface meshes and polylines)

Wireless Insite

- “Building” layer imported as a “feature” called “city”
- Assign electromagnetic properties to each feature

Create a Map



# Realistic Mobility Scenario from Web Data

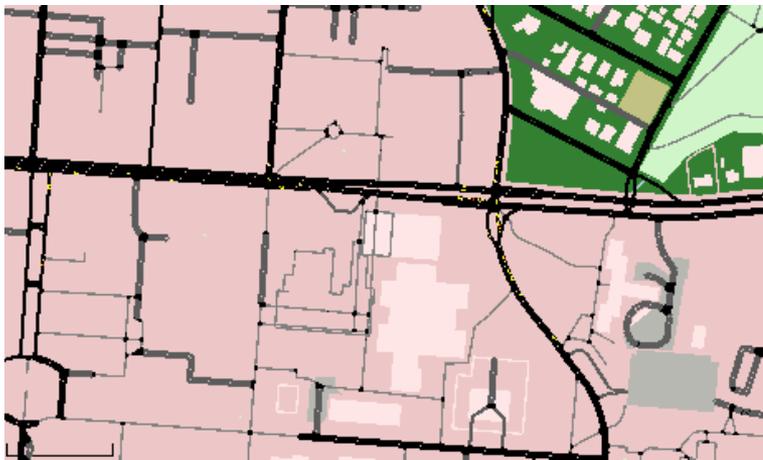


OpenStreetMap

- Export streets
- OSM file

SUMO

- Import converted streets
- Generate vehicles traffic



OpenStreetMap Edit History Export

GPS Traces User Diaries Copyright Help

Search Where is this? Go

Export

30.2928	
-97.7410	-97.7307
30.2839	

Manually select a different area

Licence

OpenStreetMap data is licensed under the Open Data Commons Open Database License (ODbL).

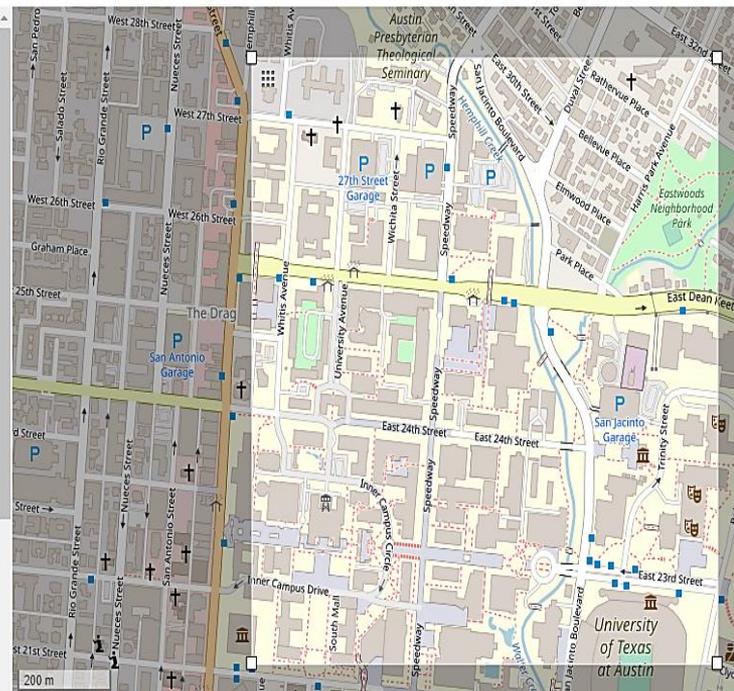
Export

If the above export fails, please consider using one of the sources listed below:

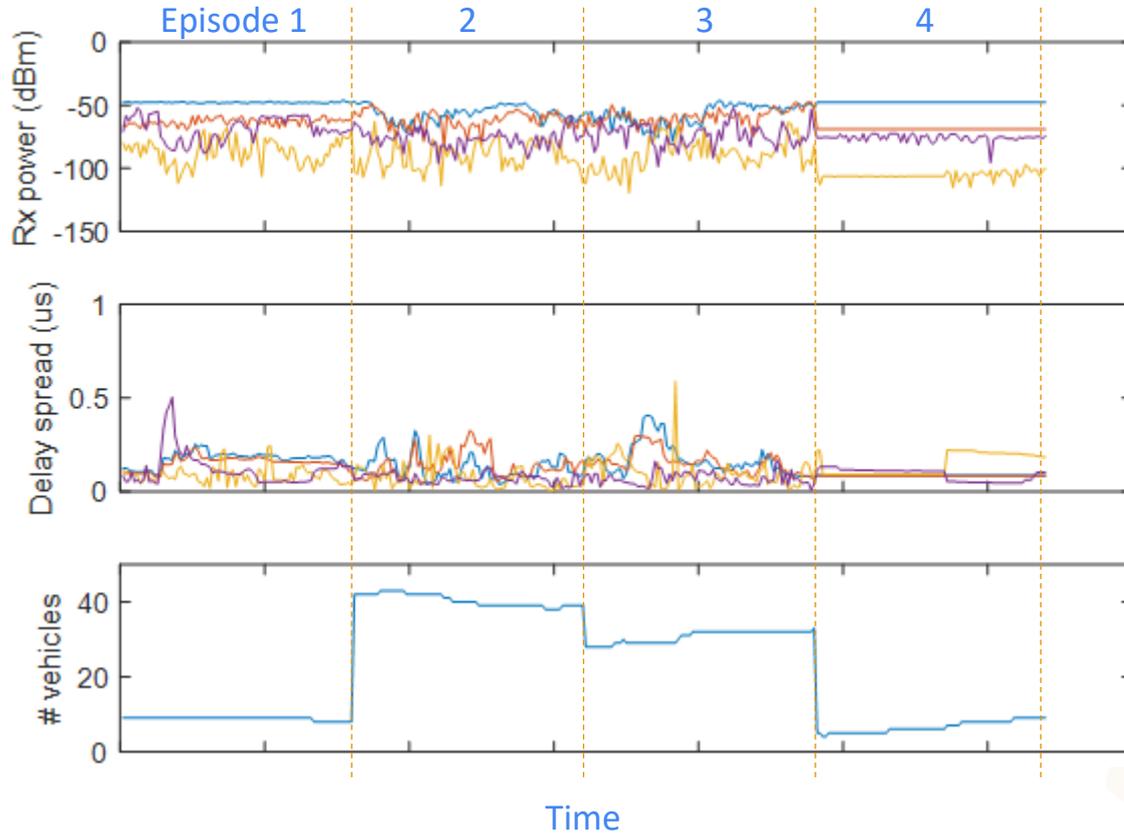
Overpass API

Download this bounding box from a mirror of the OpenStreetMap database

Planet OSM



# Example of mobility-controlled generated data



Examples of large scale parameters for 4 receivers using 4 episodes of 80 scenes each, with time sampled at  $T_s = 50$  ms

We can model “seasonal” aspects, mimicking mobility over “day”, “night”, etc.

# Raymobtime datasets



Currently ~316 k channels (multimodal, paired frequency bands, distinct sites, etc.)

Id	Insite Version	3D Scenario	Carrier frequencies (GHz)	# Rx and type	Time between scenes	Time between episodes	# episodes	# scenes per episode	# valid channels
s000	3.2	Rosslyn	60	10 Mob	100 ms	30 s	116	50	41 K
s001	3.2	Rosslyn	2.8; 5	10 Fix	5 ms	37 s	200	10	20 K
s002	3.2	Rosslyn	2.8; 60	10 Fix	1 s	3 s	1800	1	18 K
s003	3.2	Rosslyn	2.8; 5	10 Fix	1 ms	35 s	200	10	20 K
s004	3.2	Rosslyn	60	10 Mob	1 s	30 s	5000	1	35 K
s005	3.2	Rosslyn	2.8; 5	10 Fix	10 ms	35 s	125	80	100 K
s006	3.2	Rosslyn	28; 60	10 Fix	1 ms	35 s	200	10	20 K
s007	3.3	Beijing	2.8; 60	10 Mob	1 s	5 s	50	40	15 K
s008	3.2	Rosslyn	60	10 Mob	100 ms	30 s	2086	1	20 K
s009	3.3	Rosslyn	60	10 Mob	500 ms	10.5 s	2086	42	27 K

Multimodal:

Raymobtime data can be used in other ML5G problems related to the physical (PHY) layer such as:

- Channel estimation / channel tracking
- Channel state information (CSI) compression



# Information from Remcom's ray-tracing and SUMO

- base
- run00000
- run00001
- run00002
- run00003
- run00004
- run00005
- run00006
- run00007
- run00008
- run00009
- run00010
- run00011
- run00012
- run00013
- run00014
- run00015
- run00016
- run00017
- run00018
- run00019

- study
  - base.object
  - base.Study.xml
  - base.txrx
  - config.py
  - gen.study.diag
  - gen.study.xml
  - model.setup
  - model.study.diag
  - model.study.xml
  - model.txrx
  - model.vw
  - random-line.object
  - Rosslyn.city
  - Rosslyn\_DTED.ter
  - sumoOutputInfoFileName.txt
  - wri-simulation.info

```
"episode_i,scene_i,receiverIndex,veh,veh_i,typeID,xinsite,  
1,0,-1,flow1.3,0,Car,821.0478041067474,670.5316156209215,1  
1,0,0,flow1.4,1,Truck,701.5696363406028,670.6104839169602,  
1,0,-1,flow10.2,2,Truck,825.8731519854772,376.063572094098  
1,0,-1,flow11.2,3,Truck,753.017692519877,660.6729232075145  
1,0,1,flow11.3,4,Truck,755.6199900347314,623.4887034577746  
1,0,-1,flow11.4,5,Car,798.8337632109863,397.06184393058413  
1,0,-1,flow12.0,6,Car,749.2870510835293,666.7392428299806,  
1,0,-1,flow12.1,7,Bus,749.6323441782471,661.805142289681,9  
1,0,2,flow12.2,8,Car,752.2975512983977,623.7203960473837,9
```

Comma-separated values (CSV) text file

Each “run” is a scene with at most 10 “valid” receivers. The rays information is saved as hdf5 files using NaN to indicate invalid receivers

# Example of a sumoOutputInfoFileName.txt

episode_i	scene_i	receiverIndex	veh	veh_i	typeID	xinsite	yinsite	x3	y3	z3	lane_id	angle	speed	length	width	height
0	1	0	flowA.0	0	Car	326.7969	221.0916	1450.3269	5454.0116	0.0	L12_1	181.4397	16.0524	4645	1775	1.59
0	1	1	flowA.1	1	Car	327.8680	263.2337	1451.3980	5496.1537	0.0	:734520421_1_0	181.9185	15.1823	4645	1775	1.59
0	1	2	flowA.2	2	Car	329.4418	303.2133	1452.9718	5536.1333	0.0	L13_1	182.4141	14.2401	4645	1775	1.59
0	1	3	flowA.3	3	Truck	337.4475	369.7200	1460.9775	5602.6400	0.0	L14_1	179.7979	13.1329	12.5	2.5	4.3
0	1	4	flowA.4	4	Truck	337.2692	420.2615	1460.7992	5653.1815	0.0	L14_1	179.7979	11.3736	12.5	2.5	4.3
0	1	-1	flowA.5	5	Truck	337.1295	459.8664	1460.6595	5692.7864	0.0	L14_1	179.7979	3.5375	12.5	2.5	4.3
0	1	-1	flowA.6	6	Car	337.0768	474.8257	1460.6068	5707.7457	0.0	L14_1	179.7979	0.0000	4645	1775	1.59
0	1	5	flowB.0	7	Bus	329.4690	200.0077	1452.9990	5432.9277	0.0	L21_1	1.4397	12.7879	9.0	2.4	3.2
0	1	6	flowB.1	8	Truck	328.5713	164.2898	1452.1013	5397.2098	0.0	L21_1	1.4397	14.4235	12.5	2.5	4.3
0	1	7	flowB.2	9	Truck	327.7365	131.0727	1451.2665	5363.9927	0.0	L21_1	1.4397	12.3693	12.5	2.5	4.3
0	1	8	flowB.3	10	Car	327.3777	89.4747	1450.9077	5322.3947	0.0	L11#V_1	356.7047	4.4145	4645	1775	1.59
0	1	9	flowB.4	11	Truck	328.5826	68.5476	1452.1126	5301.4676	0.0	L11#V_1	356.7047	7.0470	12.5	2.5	4.3
0	1	-1	flowB.5	12	Truck	329.7657	47.9995	1453.2957	5280.9195	0.0	L11#V_1	356.7047	0.0000	12.5	2.5	4.3

- “episode\_i”: Episode
- “scene\_i”: Scene
- “receiverIndex”: Rx 1 to 10, or -1 to invalid
- “veh”: SUMO flow identification
- “veh\_i”: ID of vehicle in SUMO
- “typeID”: type of vehicle

- “xinsite” and “yinsite”: coordinates of vehicles in InSite
- “x3”, “y3” and “z3”: coordinates of vehicles in SUMO
- “lane\_id”: SUMO street ID,
- “angle”: Angle of the receiver/vehicle in relation to the North (positive Y)
- “speed”: Speed of the receiver/vehicle
- “length”, “width” and “height”: dimensions of the vehicle,

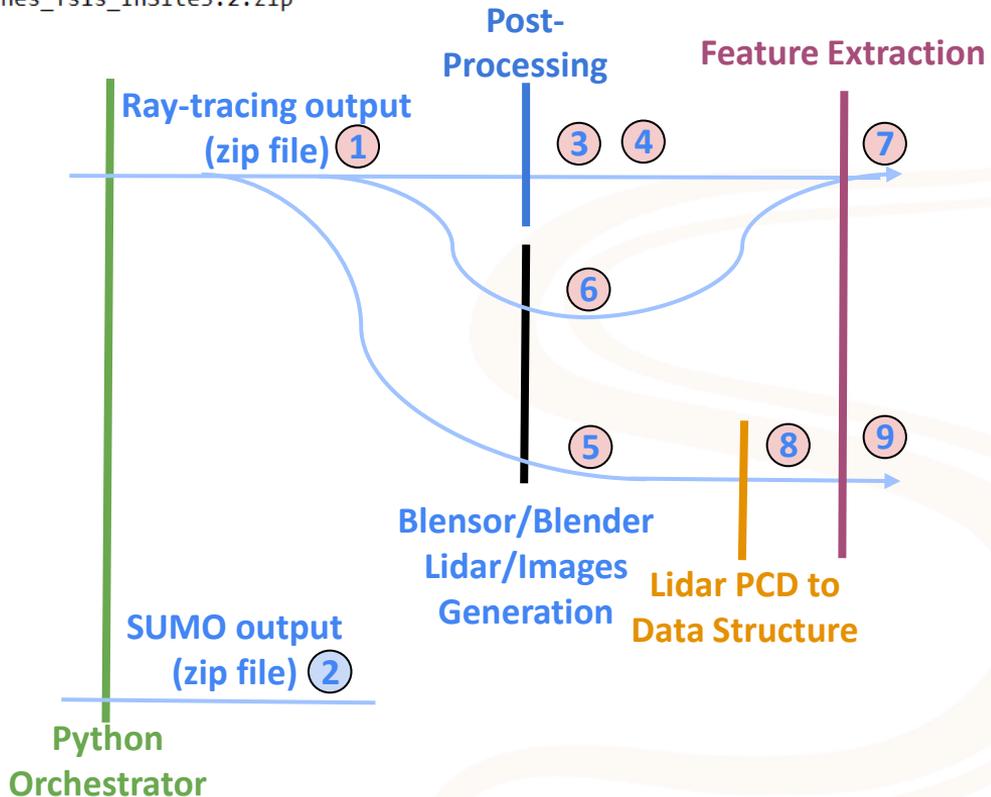
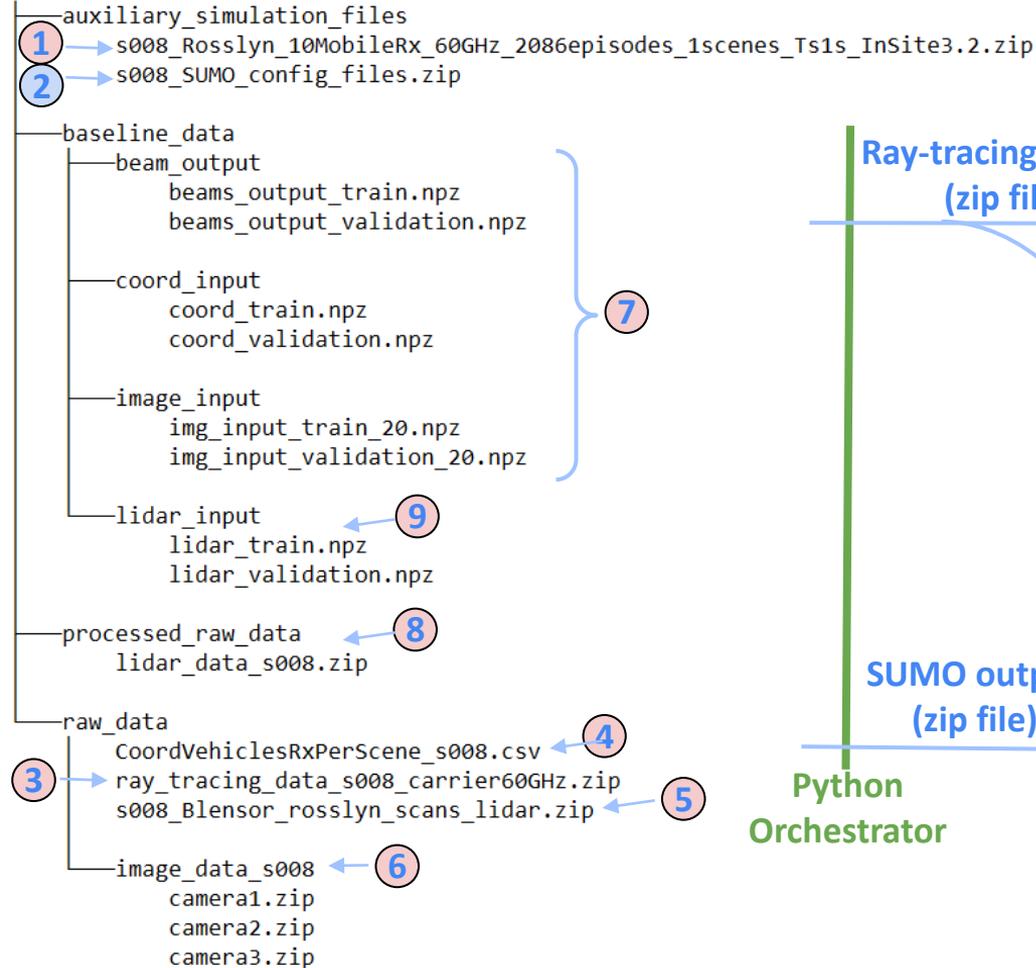
# CoordVehiclesRxPerScene\_s008.csv



Concatenates information from all sumoOutputInfoFileName.txt files and shows that the s008 dataset has 2086 scenes, 11194 (out of 20860) receivers with valid communication channels and 6482 (57.9%) in line-of-sight (LOS)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Val	EpisodeID	SceneID	VehicleArrayID	VehicleName	x	y	z	rays	LOS
2	I	0	0	0	flow1.2	704.18681848265	670.58971778045	1.59	25	LOS=0
3	V	0	0	1	flow11.0	753.3833848633	655.44754663915	4.3	25	LOS=0
4	I	0	0	2	flow12.0	783.94351941255	408.6253222917	1.59	25	LOS=1
5	I	0	0	3	flow12.1	832.2173789167	371.13676687655	3.2	25	LOS=0
6	V	0	0	4	flow3.0	756.6564658932	514.19045865405	1.59	25	LOS=1
7	V	0	0	5	flow6.1	746.9595274421	652.75583972565	1.59	25	LOS=1
8	I	0	0	6	flow7.2	748.77667946875	420.2445837159	4.3	20	LOS=0
9	I	0	0	7	flow7.3	702.74528273365	445.1358988597	3.2	25	LOS=0
10	I	0	0	8	flow7.4	688.1055462007	452.2591859074	1.59	25	LOS=0
11	V	0	0	9	flow9.0	765.5127845235	433.64539792815	3.2	25	LOS=1
...										
20858	V	2085	0	6	flow9.2527	753.8278324045	649.0968373349	1.59	25	LOS=1
20859	V	2085	0	7	flow9.2528	760.93045037305	547.60755494775	3.2	25	LOS=1
20860	V	2085	0	8	flow9.2529	765.0030061009	489.41482092565	1.59	25	LOS=1
<b>20861</b>	I	2085	0	9	flow9.2531	669.807737267	451.45323012395	3.2	25	<b>LOS=0</b>

Dataset Home



# ML5G-PHY

[BEAM SELECTION] ITU AI/ML 5G CHALLENGE

- **Registration is now open to all participants**
- **Challenge duration** → May 22<sup>nd</sup>-Oct 21<sup>st</sup> (≈5-month duration)
- **Registration deadline** → **Jun 30<sup>th</sup>**
- **Winners (top 3) official announcement** → Oct 21<sup>st</sup>
- **ITU final conference and awards** → Nov-Dec 2020

Details at <http://ai5gchallenge.ufpa.br/>

# Thanks to all Raymobtime team



Aldebaro  
Klautau



Ailton  
Oliveira



Arthur  
Nascimento



Brenda  
Vilas Boas



Ilan Correa



Diego  
Gomes



Robert Heath Jr

Francisco  
Müller



Isabela  
Trindade



Marcus  
Dias



Virgínia  
Tavares



Pedro  
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Walter  
Tadeu



Nuria González-  
Prelcic



Yuyang Wang



Jamelly  
Ferreira

ITUEvents

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

3 July 2020

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