**Questions & Answers** 

## **UNIT-VI**

# **1.Discuss the concept of frequency management concern to the numbering the channels and grouping into the subset.**

## **Frequency Management:**

The function of frequency management is to divide the total number of available channels into subsets which can be assigned to each cell either in a fixed fashion or dynamically (i.e., in response to any channel among the available channels). The terms "frequency management" and "channel assignment" often create some confusion. Frequency management refers to designating setup channels and voice channels (done by the FCC), numbering the channels (done by the FCC), and grouping the voice channels into subsets (done by each system according to its preference). Channel assignment refers to the allocation of specific channels to cell sites and mobile units. A fixed channel set consisting of one more subsets is assigned to a cell site on a long-term basis. During a call, a particular channel is assignment per call is handled by the mobile telephone switching office (MTSO). Ideally channel assignment should be based on causing the least interference in the system. However, most cellular systems cannot perform this way.

### Numbering the channels:

The total number of channels at present (January 1988) is 832. But most mobile units an systems are still operating on 666 channels. Therefore we describe the 666 channel numbering first. A channel consists of two frequency channel bandwidths, one in the low band and one in the high band. Two frequencies in channel 1 are 825.030 MHz (mobile transmit) 870.030 MHz (cell-site transmit). The two frequencies in channel 666 are 844.98 MHz (mobile transmit) and 898 MHz (cell-site transmit). The 666 channels are divided into two groups: block A system and block B system. Each market (i.e., each city) has two systems for a duopoly market policy. Each block has 333 channels, as shown in Fig.1.1.

The 42 set-up channels are assigned as follows.

Channels 313-333	block A	
Channels 334-354	block B	
The voice channels are assigned as follows.		
Channels 1-312 (312 voice channels)		block A
Channels 355-666 (312 voice channels)		block B



Fig.1.1. Frequency management chart

These 42 set-up channels are assigned in the middle of all the assigned channels to facilitate scanning of those channels by frequency synthesizers. In the new additional spectrum allocation of 10 MHz (sec Fig. 1.2.), an additional 166 channels are assigned. Since a 1 MHz is assigned below 825 MHz (or 870 MHz) in the future, additional channels will be numbered up to 849 MHz (or 894 MHz) and will then circle back. The last channel number is 1023. There are no Channels between channels 799 and 991.



Fig.1.2. New additional spectrum allocation

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#### Grouping into subsets:

The number of voice channels for each system is 312. We can group these into any number of subsets. Since there are 21 set-up channels for each system, it is logical to group the 312 channels into 21 subsets. Each subset then consists of 16 channels. In each set, the closest adjacent channel is 21 channels away, as shown in Fig.1.1. The 16 channels in each subset can be mounted on a frame and connected to a channel combiner. Wide separation between adjacent channels is required for meeting the requirement of minimum isolation. Each 16- channel subset is idealized for each 16-channel combiner. In a seven- cell frequency-reuse cell system each cell contains three subsets, iA+iB+iC, where i is an integer from 1 to 7. The total number of voice channels in a cell is about 45. The minimum separation between three subsets is 7 channels. If six subsets are equipped in an omnicell site, the minimum separation between two adjacent channels can be only three (21/6> 3) physical channel bandwidths.

For example, 1A+1B+1C+4A+4B+4C or 1A+1B+1C+5A+5B+5C

# 2. What are the different techniques to utilize the frequency spectrum, give a brief explanation?

### **Frequency** –**Spectrum** Utilization:

Since the radio-frequency spectrum is finite in mobile radio systems, the most significant challenge is to use the radio-frequency spectrum as efficiently as possible. Geographic location is an important factor in the application of the frequency-reuse concept in mobile cellular technology to increase spectrum efficiency. Frequency management involving the assignment of proper channels in different cells can increase spectrum efficiency. Thus, within a cell the channel assignment for each call is studied.

The techniques for increasing frequency spectrum can be classified as

1. Increasing the number of radio channel using narrow banding, spread spectrum, or time division.

2. Improving spatial frequency-spectrum reuse.

3. Frequency management and channel assignment.

4. Improving spectrum efficiency in time.

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- 5. Reducing the load of invalid calls
- a. Off-air call setup—reducing the load of setup channels
- b. Voice storage service for No-Answer calls
- c. Call forwarding
- d. Reducing the customers' Keep-Dialing cases
- e. Call waiting for Busy-Call situations
- f. Queuing

# 3. Explain in detail about grouping of Set-up channels.

Set-up channels also called control channels are the channels designated to setup calls. We should not be confused by fact that a call always needs a set-up channel. A system can be operated without set-up channels. If we are choosing such a system all the 333 channels in each cellular system (block A or block B) can be voice channels; however each mobile unit must then scan 333 channels continuously and detect the signaling for its call. A customer who wants to initiate a call must scan all the channels and find an idle (unoccupied) one to use.

In a cellular system, we are implementing frequency-reuse concepts. In this case the set-up channels are acting as control channels. The 21 set-up channels are taken out from the total number of channels. The number 21 is derived from a seven-cell frequency-reuse pattern with three 120° sectors per cell, or a total of 21 sectors, which require 21 set-up channels. However, now only a few of the 21 setup channels are being used in each system. Theoretically, when cell size decreases the use of set-up channels should increase. Set-up channels can be classified by usage into two types: access channels and paging channels. An access channel is used for the mobile-originating calls and paging channels for the land originating calls. For this reason, a set-up channel is sometimes called an 'access channel' and sometimes called a 'paging channel.' Every two- way channel contains two 30-kHz bandwidth... Normally one set-up channel is also specified by two operations as a forward set-up channel (using the upper band) and a reverse set-up channel (using the lower band). In the most common types of cellular systems, one set-up channel is used for both access and paging. The forward setup channel functions as the paging channel for responding to the mobile-originating calls. The reverse set-up channel functions as the access channel for the responder to the paging call. The forward set-up channel is transmitted at the cell site, and the reverse set-up channel is transmitted at the mobile unit. All set-up channels carry data information only.

# 4. Explain in detail access channels and operational techniques.

Access channels:

In mobile-originating calls, the mobile unit scans its 21 set-up channels and chooses the strongest one. Because each set-up channel is associated with one cell, the strongest set-up channel indicates which cell is to serve the mobile-originating calls. Th. mobile unit detects the system information transmitted from the cell site. Also, the mobile unit monitors the Busy/Idle status bits over the desired forward setup channel. When the idle bits are received, the mobile unit can use the corresponding reverse set-up channel to initiate a call.

Frequently only one system operates in a given city; for instance, block B system might be operating and the mobile unit could be set to "preferable A system." When the mobile unit first scans the 21 set-up channels in block A, two conditions can occur.

1. If no set-up channels of block A are operational, the mobile unit automatically switches to block B.

2. If a strong set-up signal strength is received but no message can be detected, then the scanner chooses the second strongest set-up channel. If the message still cannot be detected, the mobile unit switches to block B and scans to block B set-up channels.

# The operational functions are described as follows:

**1.** Power of a forward set-up channel [or forward control channel (FOCC)]: The power of the set-up channel can be varied in order to control the number of incoming calls served by the cell. The number of mobile-originating calls is limited by the number of voice channels in each cell site, when the traffic is heavy, most voice channels are occupied and the power of the set-up channel should be reduced in order to reduce the coverage of the cell for the incoming calls originating from the mobile unit. This will force the mobile units to originate calls from other cell sites, assuming that all cells are adequately overlapped.

**2. The set-up channel received level**: The setup channel threshold level is determined in order to control the reception at the reverse control channel (RECC). If the received power level is greater than the given set-up threshold level, the call request will be taken.

**3. Change power at the mobile unit**: When the mobile unit monitors the strongest signal strength from all Set-up channels and selects that channel to receive the messages, there are three types of message.

**a. Mobile station control message.** This message is used for paging and consists of one, two, or four words -DCC, MIN, SCC and VMAX.

**b. System parameter overhead message.** This message contains two words, including DCC, SID, CMAX, or CPA.

**c. Control-filler message.** This message may be sent with a system parameter overhead message, CMAC—a control mobile attenuation code (seven levels).

**4. Direct call retry.** When a cell site has no available voice channels, it can send a direct callretry message through the set-up channel. The mobile unit will initiate, the call from a neighboring cell which is on the list of neighboring cells in the direct call-retry message.

# 5. Explain about paging channels.

# **Paging channels:**

Each cell site has been allocated its own setup channel (control channel). The assigned forward set-up channel (FOCC) of each cell site is used to page the mobile unit with the same mobile station control message.

Because the same message is transmitted by the different set-up channels, no simulcast interference occurs in the system. The algorithm for paging & mobile unit can be performed in different ways. The simplest way is to page from all the cell sites. This can occupy a large amount of the traffic load. The other way is to page in an area corresponding to the mobile unit phone number. If there is no answer, the system tries to page in other areas. The drawback is that response time is sometimes too long.

When the mobile unit responds to the page on the reverse set-up channel, the cell site which receives the response checks the signal reception level and makes a decision regarding the voice channel assignment based on least interference in the selected sector or underlay-overlay region.

# 6. Write the concept of the self location scheme at the mobile unit and the autonomous registration.

### Self -location scheme at the mobile unit:

In the cellular system, 80 percent of calls originate from the mobile unit but only 20 percent originate, from the land line. Thus, it is necessary to keep the reverse set-up channels as open as possible. For this reason, the self-location scheme at the mobile unit is adapted. The mobile unit selects a set-up channel of one cell site and makes a mobile-originating call. It is called a self-location scheme.

However, the self-location scheme at the mobile unit prevents the mobile unit from sending the necessary information regarding its location to the cell site. Therefore, the MTSO does not know where the mobile is. When a land-line call is originated, the MTSO must page all the cell sates In order to search for the mobile unit. Fortunately, land-line calls constitute only 20 percent of land-line originating calls, so the cellular system has no problem in handling them. Besides, more than 50 percent of land-line originating calls are no response.

### Autonomous registration:

If a mobile station is equipped for autonomous registration, then the mobile station stores the value of the last registration number (REGID) received on a forward control channel. Also, a REGINCR (the increment in time between registrations) is received by the mobile station. The next registration ID should be

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NXTREG = REGID + REGINCR

This tells the mobile unit how long the registration should be repeatedly sent to the cell site, so that the MTSO can track the location of the mobile. This feature is not used in cellular systems at present. However when the volume of land-line calls begins to increase or the number of cell sites increases, this feature would facilitate paging of the mobile units with less occupancy time on all set-up channels.

# 7. Write about fixed channel assignment schemes in detail.

# **Fixed Channel Assignment Schemes:**

# **Adjacent-Channel Assignment:**

Adjacent-channel assignment includes neighboring-channel assignment and next-channel assignment. The near-end–far-end (ratio) interference, can occur among the neighboring channels (four channels on each side of the desired channel). Therefore, within a cell we have to be sure to assign neighboring channels in an omnidirectional-cell system and in a directional-antenna-cell system properly. In an omnidirectional-cell system, if one channel is assigned to the middle cell of seven cells, next channels cannot be assigned in the same cell. Also, no next channel (preferably including neighboring channels) should be assigned in the six neighboring sites in the same cell system area (Fig. 7.1a). In a directional-antenna-cell system, if one channel is assigned to a face, next channels cannot be assigned to the same face or to the other two faces in the same cell. Also, next channels cannot be assigned to the other two faces at the same cell site (Fig. 7.1b). Sometimes the next channels are assigned in the next sector of the same cell in order to increase capacity. Then performance can still be in the tolerance range if the design is proper.

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Fig.7.1 Adjacent channel assignment (a) Omni direction antenna cells; (b) Directional antenna cells

# **Channel Sharing:**

Channel sharing is a short-term traffic-relief scheme. A scheme used for a seven-cell three-face system is shown in Fig. 7.2. There are 21 channel sets, with each set consisting of about 16 channels. Figure 7.2 shows the channel set numbers. When a cell needs more channels, the channels of another face at the same cell site can be shared to handle the short-term overload. To obey the adjacent-channel assignment algorithm, the sharing is always cyclic. Sharing always increases the trunking efficiency of channels. Since we cannot allow adjacent channels to share with the nominal channels in the same cell, channel sets 4 and 5 cannot both be shared with channel sets 12 and 18, a indicated by the grid mark. Many grid marks are indicated in Fig. 7.2 for the same reason. However, the upper subset of set 4 can be shared with the lower subset of set 5 with no interference. In channel-sharing systems, the channel combiner should be flexible in order to combine up to 32 channels in one face in real time. An alternative method is to install a standby antenna.



Fig.7.2. Channel sharing algorithm

# **Channel Borrowing:**

Channel borrowing is usually handled on a long-term basis. The extent of borrowing more available channels from other cells depends on the traffic density in the area. Channel borrowing can be implemented from one cell-site face to another face at the same cell site. In addition, the central cell site can borrow channels from neighboring cells. The channel-borrowing scheme is used primarily for slowly-growing systems. It is often helpful in delaying cell splitting in peak traffic areas. Since cell splitting is costly, it should be implemented only as a last resort.

# 8. What are the advantages of sectorized cells?

# Advantage of Sectorization:

The total number of available channels can be divided into sets (subgroups) depending on the sectorization of the cell configuration: the 120°-sector system, the 60°-sector system, and the 45°-sector system. A seven-cell system usually uses three 120°sectors per cell, with the total number of channel sets being 21. In certain locations and special situations, the sector angle can be reduced (narrowed) in order to assign more channels in one sector without increasing neighboring-channel interference. Sectorization serves the same purpose as the channel-borrowing scheme in delaying cell splitting. In addition, channel coordination to avoid cochannel interference is much easier in sectorization than in cell splitting. Given the same number of channels, trunking efficiency decreases in sectorization.

# 9. Compare the omni cells and sectorized cells.

# Comparison of Omni cells (Non sectorized Cells) and Sectorized Cells:

# **Omni cells:**

If a K = 7 frequency-reuse pattern is used, the frequency sets assigned in each cell can be followed by the frequency-management chart. However, terrain is seldom flat; therefore, K = 12 is sometimes needed for reducing cochannel interference. For K = 12, the channel-reuse distance is D = 6R, or the cochannel reduction factor q = 6.

Sectorized Cells: There are three basic types.

1. The 120°-sector cell is used for both transmitting and receiving sectorization. Each sector has an assigned a number of frequencies. Changing sectors during a call requires handoffs.

2. The 60°-sector cell is used for both transmitting and receiving sectorization. Changing sectors during a call requires handoffs. More handoffs are expected for a 60° sector than a 120° sector in areas close to cell sites (close-in areas).

3. The 120° or 60°-sector cell is used for receiving sectorization only. In this case, the transmitting antenna is omnidirectional. The number of channels in this cell is not sub- divided for each sector. Therefore, no handoffs are required when changing sectors. This receiving-sectorization-only configuration does not decrease interference or increase the D/R ratio; it only allows for a more accurate decision regarding handing off the calls to neighboring cells.

# 10. Explain about the Underlay-Overlay Arrangement.

# **Underlay-Overlay Arrangement:**

In actual cellular systems cell grids are seldom uniform because of varying traffic conditions in different areas and cell-site locations.

**Overlaid Cells:** To permit the two groups to reuse the channels in two different cell-reuse patterns of the same size, an "underlaid" small cell is sometimes established at the same cell site as the large cell (see Fig. 10a). The "doughnut" (large) and "hole" (small) cells are treated as two different cells. They are usually considered as "neighboring cells."



Fig.10. Underlaid-overlaid cell arrangements. (a) Underlay-overlay in omnicell; (b) Underlay-overlay in sectorized cell; (c) Two level handoff scheme

The use of either an omnidirectional antenna at one site to create two sub ring areas or three directional antennas to create six subareas is illustrated in Fig. 10b. As seen in Fig.10, a set of frequencies used in an overlay area will differ from a set of frequencies used in an underlay area in order to avoid adjacent-channel and cochannel interference.

The channels assigned to one combiner—say, 16 channels—can be used for overlay, and another combiner can be used for underlay.

# **Implementation:**

The antenna of a set-up channel is usually omnidirectional. When an incoming call is received by the set-up channel and its signal strength is higher than a level L, the underlaid cell is assigned; otherwise, the overlaid cell is assigned. The handoffs are implemented between the underlaid and overlaid cells. In order to avoid the unnecessary handoffs, we may choose two

levels L1 and L2 and L1 > L2 as shown in Fig. 10(c). When a mobile signal is higher than a level L1 the call is handed off to the underlaid cell. When a signal is lower than a level L2 the call is handed off to the overlaid cell. The channels assigned in the underlaid cell have more protection against cochannel interference.

# 11. Present the reuse partition scheme in overlaid cell system, mention the advantages associated with it.

# **Reuse Partition:**

Through implementation of the overlaid-cell concept, one possible operation is to apply a multiple-K system operation, where K is the number of frequency-reuse cells. The conventional system uses K = 7. But if one K is used for the underlaid cells, then this multiple-K system can have an additional 20 percent more spectrum efficiency than the single K system with an equivalent voice quality. In Fig. 11(a), the K = 9 pattern is assigned to overlaid cells and the K = 3 pattern is assigned to underlaid cells. Based on this arrangement the number of cell sites can be reduced, while maintaining the same traffic capacity. The decrease in the number of cell sites which results from implementation of the multiple K systems is shown in Fig. 11(b). The advantages of using this partition based on the range of K are



(a)



Fig.11. Reuse partition scheme (a) Reuse partition Ka=3; Kb=9; (b) Reuse partitioning performance

1. The K range is 3 to 9; the operational call quality can be adjusted and more reuse patterns are available if needed.

2. Each channel set of old K = 9 systems is the subset of new K = 3 systems. Therefore the amount of radio retuning in each cell in this arrangement is minimal.

3. When cell splitting is implemented, all present channel assignments can be retained.

# 12. What do you understand by non-fixed channel assignment? Describe the corresponding algorithms.

Non Fixed Channel Assignment Algorithms:

**1. Fixed Channel Algorithm:** The fixed channel assignment (FCA) algorithm is the most common algorithm adopted in many cellular systems. In this algorithm, each cell assigns its own radio channels to the vehicles within its cell.

**2. Dynamic Channel Assignment:** In dynamic channel assignment (DCA), no fixed channels are assigned to each cell. Therefore, any channel in a composite of N radio channels can be assigned to the mobile unit. This means that a channel is assigned directly to a mobile unit. On the basis of overall system performance, DCA can also be used during a call.

**3. Hybrid Channel Assignment:** Hybrid channel assignment (HCA) is a combination of FCA and DCA. A portion of the total frequency channels will use FCA and the rest will use DCA.

**4. Borrowing Channel Assignment:** Borrowing channel assignment (BCA) uses FCA as a normal assignment condition. When all the fixed channels are occupied, then the cell borrows channels from the neighboring cells.

**5. Forcible-Borrowing Channel Assignment:** In forcible-borrowing channel assignment (FBCA), if a channel is in operation and the situation warrants it, channels must be borrowed from the neighboring cells and at the same time, another voice channel will be assigned to continue the call in the neighboring cell. There are many different ways of implementing FBCA. In a general sense, FBCA can also be applied while accounting for the forcible borrowing of the channels within a fixed channel set to reduce the chance of cochannel assignment in a reuse cell pattern. The FBCA algorithms based on assigning a channel dynamically but obeying the rule of reuse distance. The distance between the two cells is reuse distance, which is the minimum distance at which no cochannel interference would occur. Very infrequently, no channel can be borrowed in the neighboring cells. Even those channels currently in operation can be forcibly borrowed and will be replaced by a new channel in the neighboring cell or the neighboring cell of the neighboring cell. If all the channels in the neighboring cells cannot be borrowed because of interference problems, the FBCA stops.

# 13. Compare the average blocking in spatially uniform and non uniform traffic distribution for FCA, BCA and FBCA.

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On the basis of the FBCA, FCA, and BCA algorithms, a seven-cell reuse pattern with an average blocking of 3 percent is assumed and the total traffic service in an area in 250 Erlangs. The traffic distributions are

(1) Uniform traffic distribution—11 channels per cell;

(2) A non uniform traffic distribution—the number of channels in each cell is dependent on the vehicle distribution (Fig.13.1).

The simulation model is described as follows:

- 1. Randomly select the cell (among 41 cells).
- 2. Determine the state of the vehicle in the cell (idle, off-hook, on-hook, and handoff)



Fig. 13.1 Cellular system Vehicle and radio-channel distribution in the busy rush hour

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3. In off-hook or handoff state, search for an idle channel. The average number of handoffs is assumed to be 0.2 times per call. However, FBCA will increase the number of handoffs.

**Average Blocking:** Two average blocking cases illustrating this simulation are shown in Fig. 13.2. In a uniform traffic condition (Fig. 13.2a), the 3 percent blocking of both BCA and FBCA will result in a load increase of 28 percent, compared to 3 percent blocking of FCA. There is no difference between BCA and FBCA when a uniform traffic condition exists.

In a non uniform traffic distribution (Fig. 13.2b), the load increase in BCA drops to 23 percent and that of FBCA increases to 33 percent, as at an average blocking of 3 percent. The load increase can be utilized in another way by reducing the number of channels. The percent increase in load is the same as the percent reduction in the number of channels.





Fig.13.2. Comparison of average blockings from three different schemes (a) Average blocking in spatially uniform traffic distribution; (b) average blocking in spatially non uniform traffic distribution.

**Handoff Blocking:** Blocking calls from all handoff calls occurring in all cells is shown in Fig. 13.3. Handoff blocking is not considered as the regular cell blocking which can only occur at the call setup stage. In both BCA and FBCA, load is increased almost equally to 30 percent, as compared to FCA at 3 percent handoff blocking in uniform traffic (Fig. 13.3a). For a non uniform traffic distribution, the load increase of both BCA and FBCA at 4 percent blocking is about 50 percent (Fig. 13.3b), which is a big improvement, considering the reduction in interference and blocking. Otherwise, there would be multiple effects from interference in several neighboring cells.



Fig.13.3. Comparison of handoff blocking from three different schemes (a) Handoff blocking in spatially uniform traffic distribution; (b) handoff blocking in spatially non uniform traffic distribution.