ECS455 Chapter 2

Cellular Systems

2.4 Traffic Handling Capacity

and Erlang B Formula

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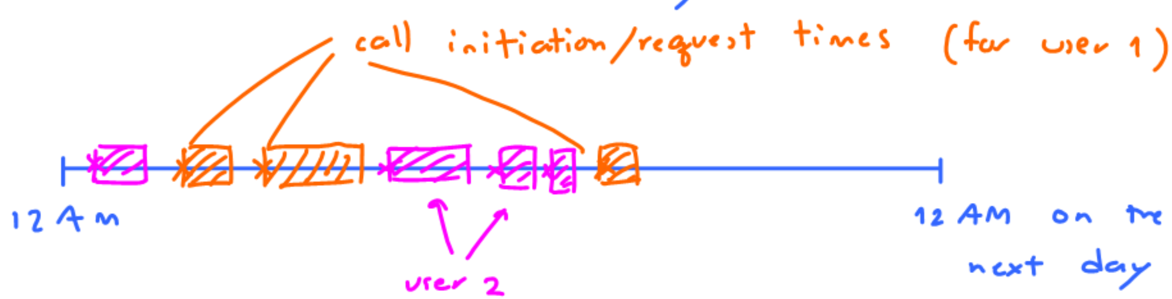
Capacity Concept: A Revisit

- Q: If I have *m* channels per cell, is it true that my cell can support only *m* users?
- A: Yes and No
- Let's try one example.
- How often do you make a call?
  - 3 calls (requests/times) per a day, on average. ← $\lambda_u = 3 \frac{\text{calls}}{\text{day}}$ (average request rate) — user
- How long is the call?
  - 10 mins (per call), on average. $H = \frac{1}{\mu}$ (average service duration)
- So, one person uses

$$3\ \frac{\text{calls}}{\text{day}} \times \frac{10\ \text{mins}}{\text{call}} = \frac{30\ \text{mins}}{\text{day}} = \frac{30\ \cancel{\text{mins}}}{24 \times 60\ \cancel{\text{mins}}} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{48}}_{\approx 2\%}\ [\text{Erlang}]$$



Capacity Concept: A Revisit

- If we can "give" the time that "User 1" is idle to other users,
  - then one channel can support $\frac{1}{48} = 48$ users!!

48x increase in capacity!

- True? (Not quite)

- 48 users is "possible" if we have a way to manipulate all 48 users to not make calls when another user is using the channel.

- Real users access the channel randomly. (call initiation/request times are random.)

- If we allow > 1 users, then we (and the users) will have to deal with congestion.

New Concepts

- Using *m* as the capacity of a cell is too small.
- We can let more than one user share a channel by using it at different times.
- The number of users that a cell can support can then exceed *m*.
- Call initiation times are random
- **Blocked call** happens if a user requests to make a call when all the channels are occupied by other users.
- **Probability of (call) blocking: P_b**
  - The likelihood that a call is blocked because there is no available channel.
  - 1%, 2%, 5%

Trunking

- Allow a large number (*n*) of users to **share** the relatively small number of channels in a cell (or a sector) by providing access to each user, **on demand**, from a **pool** of available channels.
- Exploit the **statistical behavior** of users.
- Each user is allocated a channel on a per call basis, and upon termination of the call, the previously occupied channel is immediately returned to the pool of available channels.

Common Terms (1)

- **Traffic Intensity**: Measure of channel time utilization (traffic load / amount of traffic), which is the average channel occupancy measured in **Erlangs**. In our example,
  - Dimensionless
  - Denoted by *A*.

one user utilizes $A_u = \frac{1}{48}$ Erlang.

$A = n \times A_u$ # users

- **Holding Time**: Average duration of a typical call.
  - Denoted by $\mathbf{H = 1/\mu}$. $= 10$ mins
- **Request Rate**: The average number of call requests per unit time. Denoted by $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$. $\lambda_u = 3$ calls/day $\lambda = n \times \lambda_u$
- Use $\mathbf{A_u}$ and $\boldsymbol{\lambda_u}$ to denote the corresponding quantities for one user.
- Note that $A = nA_u$ and $\lambda = n\lambda_u$ where *n* is the number of users supported by the pool (trunked channels) under consideration.

$A_u = \lambda_u \times H$

$A = \lambda \times H = \frac{\lambda}{\mu}$

Common Terms (2)

- **Blocked Call**: Call which cannot be completed at time of request, due to congestion. Also referred to as a **lost call**.
- **Grade of Service (GOS)**: A measure of congestion which is specified as the probability of a call being blocked (for Erlang B).
  - The AMPS cellular system is designed for a GOS of 2% blocking. This implies that the channel allocations for cell sites are designed so that 2 out of 100 calls will be blocked due to channel occupancy during the busiest hour.

Erlang B Formula

$$P_b = \frac{\frac{A^m}{m!}}{\sum_{i=0}^{m} \frac{A^i}{i!}}.$$

m = Number of trunked channels

Call blocking probability

$A =$ traffic intensity or load [Erlangs]

$$= \frac{\lambda}{\mu}$$

λ = Average # call attempts/requests per unit time

$\frac{1}{\mu} = H =$ Average call length

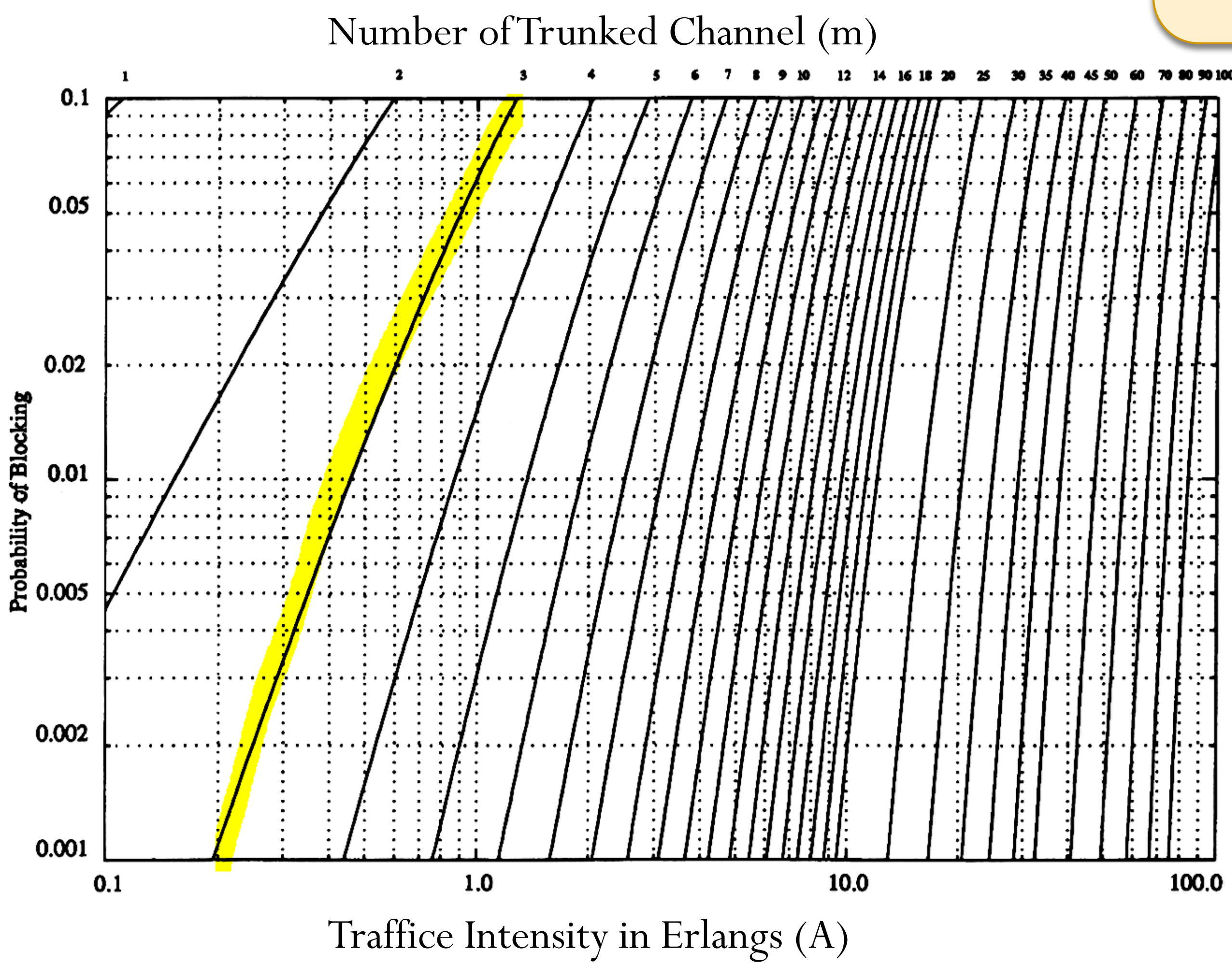
In MATLAB, use `erlangb(m,A)`

M/M/m/m Assumption

- **Blocked calls cleared**
  - No queuing for call requests.
  - For every user who requests service, there is no setup time and the user is given immediate access to a channel if one is available.
  - If no channels are available, the requesting user is blocked without access and is free to try again later.
- **Calls arrive as determined by a *Poisson process*.**
- There are memoryless arrivals of requests, implying that all users, including blocked users, may request a channel at any time.
- There are an **infinite** number of users (with finite overall request rate).
  - The finite user results always predict a smaller likelihood of blocking. So, assuming infinite number of users provides a conservative estimate.
- **The duration of the time that a user occupies a channel is** ***exponentially distributed***, so that longer calls are less likely to occur.
- There are m channels available in the trunking pool.
  - For us, m = the number of channels for a cell (C) or for a sector

Erlang B Formula and Chart

$$P_b = \frac{\dfrac{A^m}{m!}}{\displaystyle\sum_{i=0}^{m} \dfrac{A^i}{i!}}.$$



(log-log plot)

Example 1

- How many users can be supported for $\overset{0.005}{\overset{\shortparallel}{0.5\%}}$ blocking probability for the following number m of trunked channels in a blocked calls cleared system?

  (a) 5 $= m \rightarrow A = 1.13 \Rightarrow n = 11.3 \approx 11$ users

  (b) 10 $= m \rightarrow A = 3.96 \Rightarrow n = 39$ users.

- Assume each user generates $A_u = 0.1$ Erlangs of traffic.

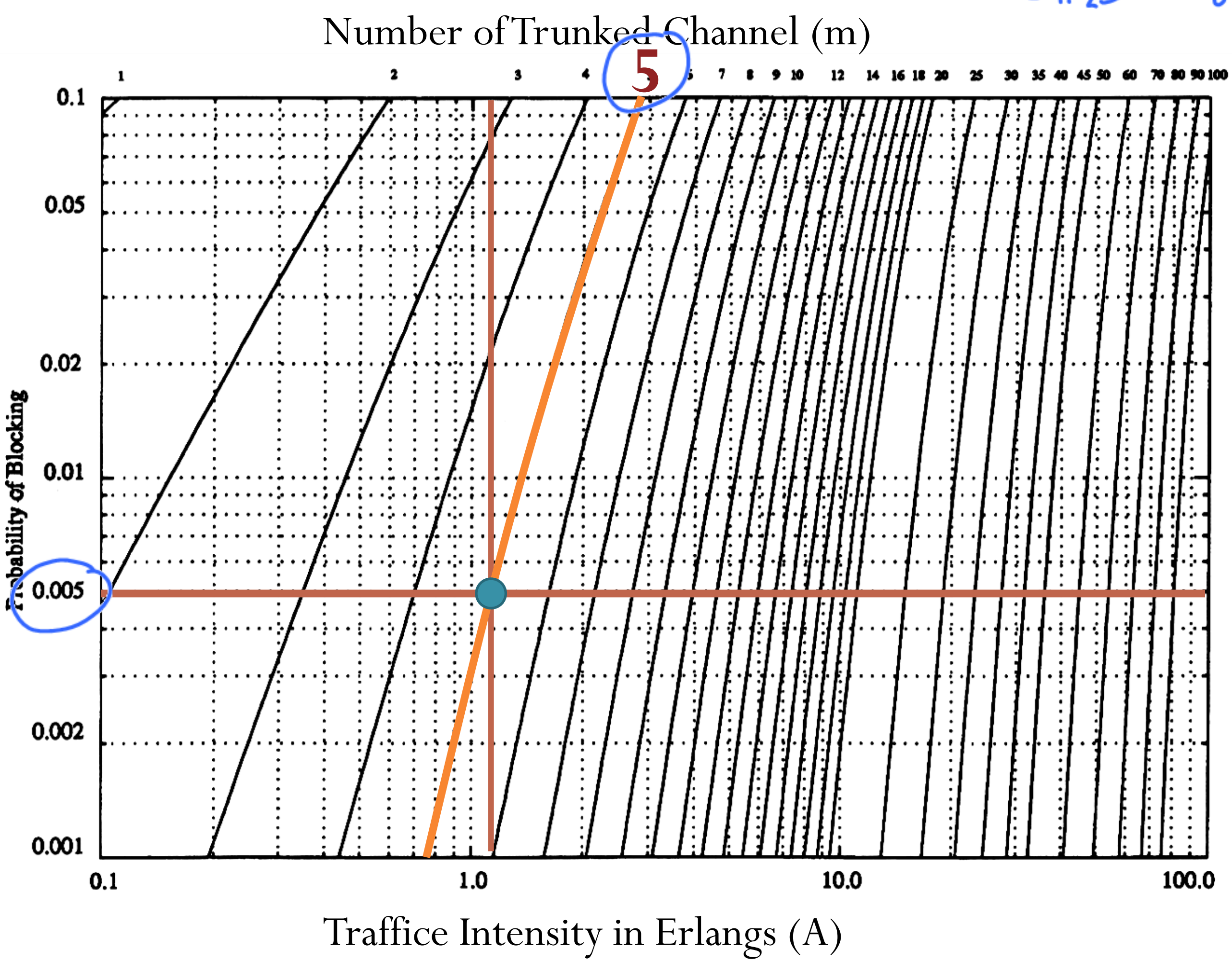
For example,
6 times/day
average 24 mins/call
$\rightarrow \frac{6}{24 \times 60} \times 24 = \frac{1}{10}$ Erlang.

Example 1a

MATLAB

erlangb(m, A)

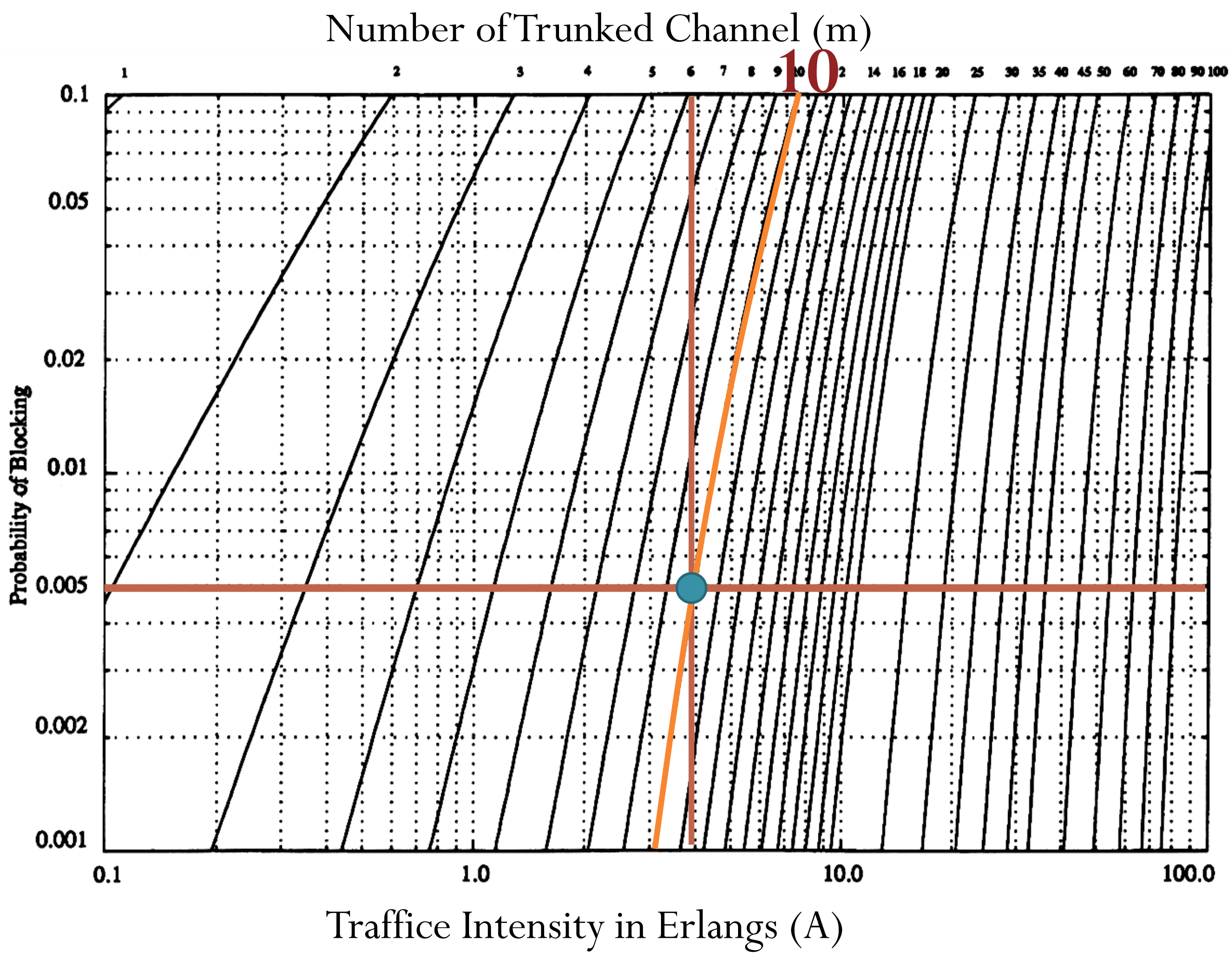
A	P_b
1.1	0.0045
1.13	0.0050
1.14	0.0051
1.15	0.0053
1.2	0.0063.



$A \approx 1 \Rightarrow n \approx 10$ users

Example 1b

A = 3.96



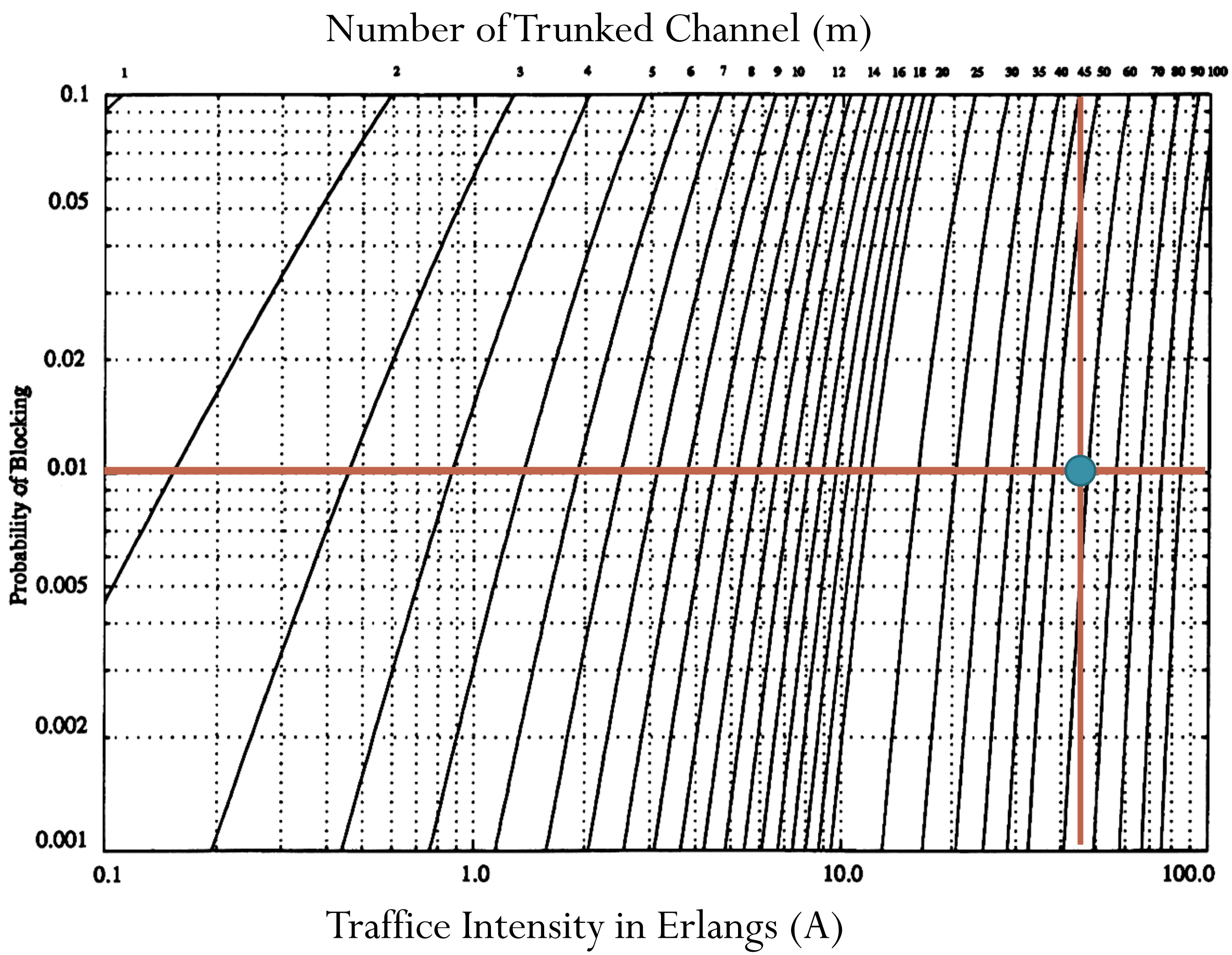
$$A \approx 4 \Rightarrow n \approx 40 \text{ users}$$

Example 2.1

- Consider a cellular system in which
  - an average call lasts two minutes $H = 2 \text{ mins} = \frac{1}{\mu}$
  - the probability of blocking is to be no more than 1%. $P_b \leq 0.01$
- If there are a total of 395 traffic channels for a seven-cell reuse system, there will be about 57 traffic channels per cell. $S =$ $N = 7$
- From the Erlang B formula, can handle 44.2 Erlangs or **1326 calls per hour**. A

[Rappaport, 2002, Ex 3.9, p 92]

Example 2.1: Erlang B



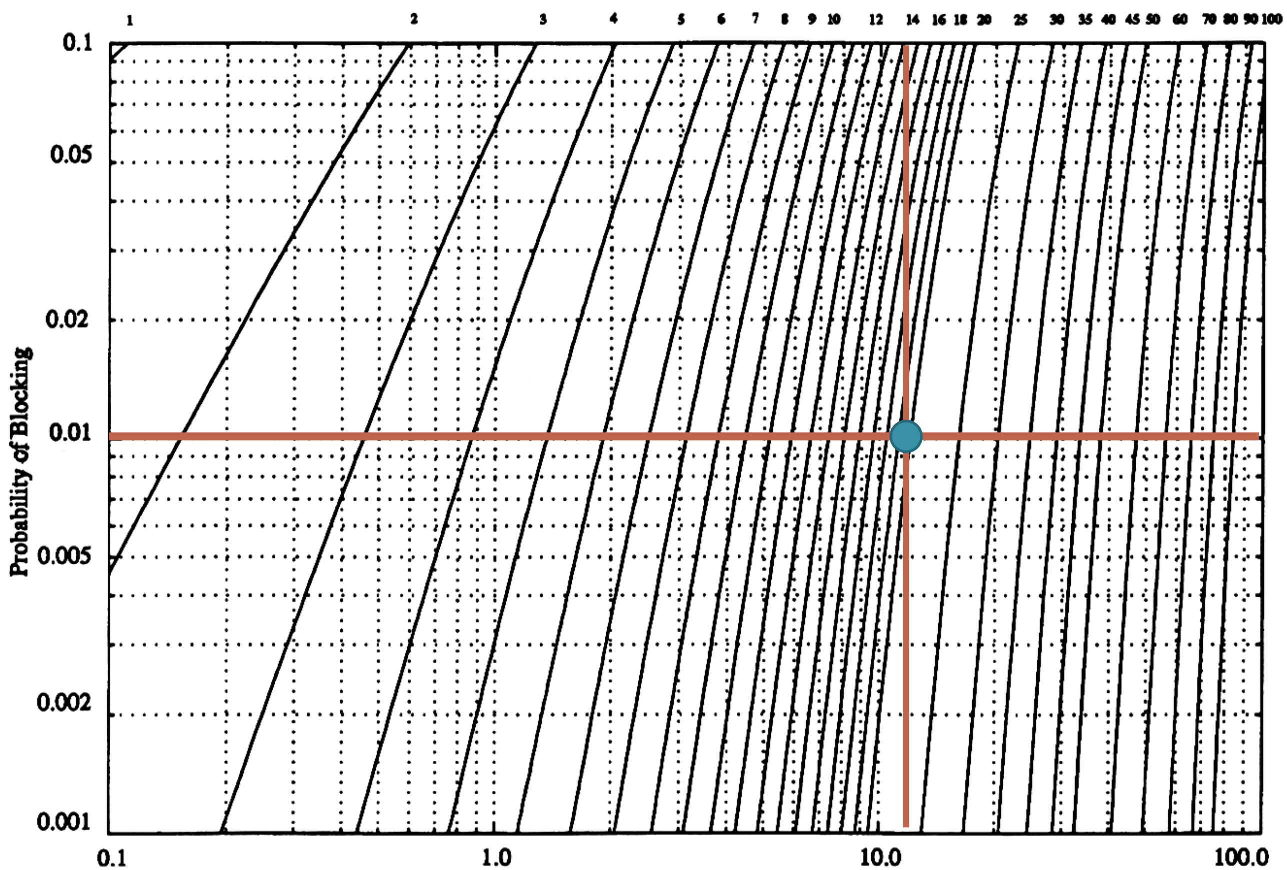
Example 2.2

- Now employing **120° sectoring**, there are only 19 channels per sector (57/3 antennas).
- For the same probability of blocking and average call length, each sector can handle 11.2 Erlangs or 336 calls per hour.
  33.6 Erlangs
- Since each cell consists of three sectors, this provides a cell capacity of $3 \times 336 =$ **1008 calls per hour**, which amounts to a 24% decrease when compared to the unsectored case.
- Thus, sectoring decreases the **trunking efficiency** while improving the SIR for each user in the system.

[Rappaport, 2002, Ex 3.9, p 92]

Example 2.2: Erlang B

Number of Trunked Channel (m)



Traffice Intensity in Erlangs (A)

Erlang B Trunking Efficiency

Table 3.4 Capacity of an Erlang B System

Number of Channels m		**Capacity (Erlangs) for GOS**		
	1% **= 0.01**	**= 0.005**	**= 0.002**	0.1% **= 0.001**
2	0.153	0.105	0.065	0.046
4	0.869	0.701	0.535	0.439
5	1.36	1.13	0.900	0.762
10	4.46	3.96	3.43	3.09
20	12.0	11.1	10.1	9.41
24	15.3	14.2	13.0	12.2
40	29.0	27.3	25.7	24.5
70	56.1	53.7	51.0	49.2
100	84.1	80.9	77.4	75.2

× 2

× > 2

[Rappaport, 2002, Table 3.4]

Summary of Chapter 2: Big Picture

S = total # available duplex radio channels for the system

Frequency reuse with **cluster size N**

Path loss exponent

"Capacity" $C = \frac{A_{\text{total}}}{A_{\text{cell}}} \times \frac{S}{N}$

Tradeoff

$$\frac{S}{I} \approx \frac{kR^{-\gamma}}{K \times \left(kD^{-\gamma}\right)} = \frac{1}{K}\left(\frac{D}{R}\right)^{\gamma} = \frac{1}{K}\left(\sqrt{3N}\right)^{\gamma}$$

m = # channels allocated to each cell.

Omni-directional: K = 6
120° Sectoring: K = 2
60° Sectoring: K = 1

Trunking

m = # trunked channels

λ = Average # call attempts/requests per unit time

Call blocking probability $P_b = \dfrac{\frac{A^m}{m!}}{\sum_{i=0}^{m} \frac{A^i}{i!}}$.

A = traffic intensity or load [Erlangs] $= \dfrac{\lambda}{\mu}$

Erlang-B formula

$\dfrac{1}{\mu} = H$ = Average call length

Example 3 (1)

- System Design
- 20 MHz of total spectrum.
- Each simplex channel has 25 kHz RF bandwidth.
- The number of duplex channels:

$$S = \frac{20 \times 10^6}{2 \times 25 \times 10^3} = 400 \text{ channels}$$

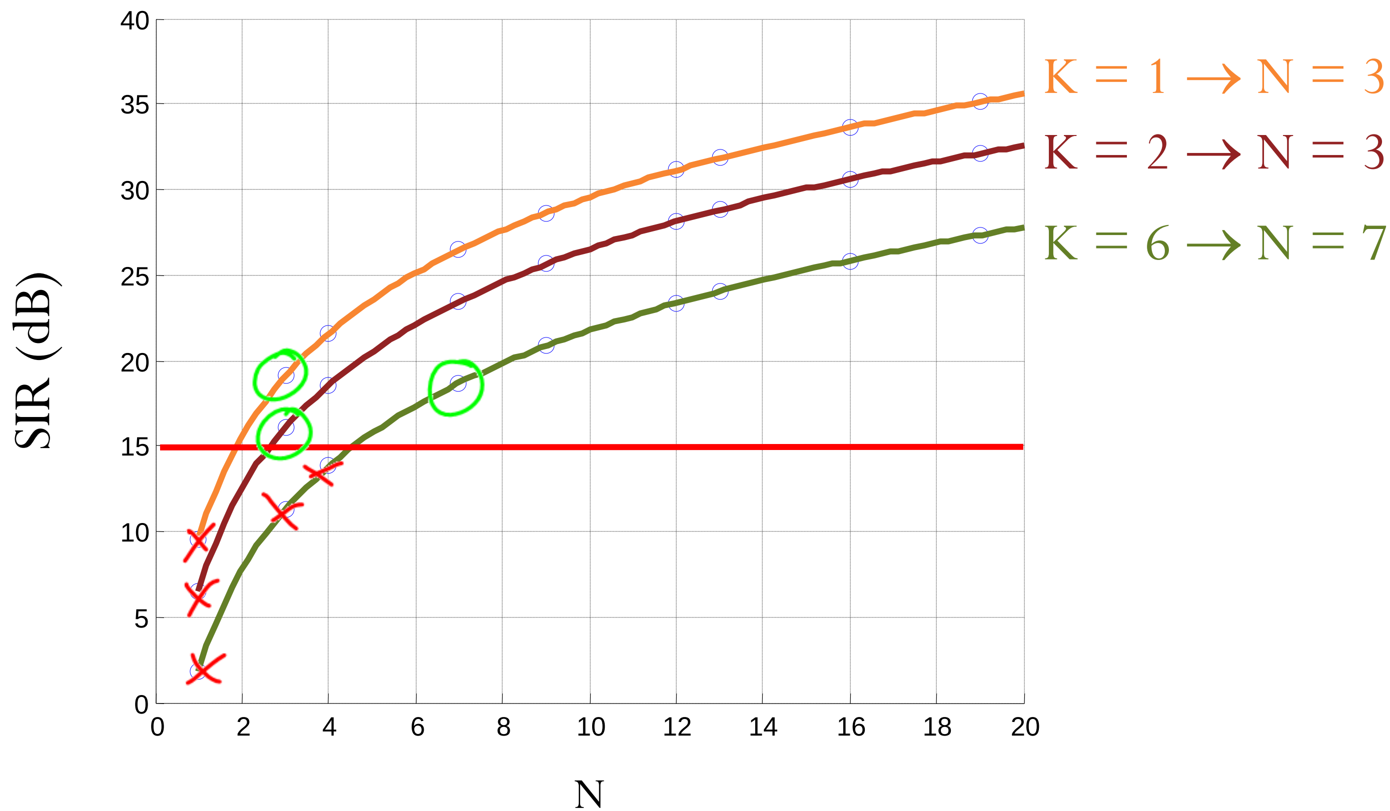
- $\gamma = 4$
- Design requirements:
  - SIR $\geq$ 15 dB
  - $P_b \leq 5\%$

Example 3 (2)

- SIR ≥ 15 dB

```
clear all; close all;
y = 4;
figure; grid on; hold on;
for K = [1,2,6]
    N = [1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 12, 13, 16, 19];
    SIR = 10*log10(1/K*((sqrt(3*N)).^y))
    plot(N,SIR,'o')
    N = linspace(1,20,100);
    SIR = 10*log10(1/K*((sqrt(3*N)).^y));
    plot(N,SIR)
end
```

$$\text{SIR} = \cancel{\frac{S}{I}} \approx \frac{1}{K}\left(\sqrt{3N}\right)^{\gamma}$$



Example 3 (3)

	Omnidirectional	Sectoring (120°)	Sectoring (60°)
K	6	2	1
N	7	3	3
SIR [dB]	18.7	16.1	19.1
#channels/cell	400/7 = 57	400/3 = 133	400/3 = 133
#sectors	1	3	6
m = #channels/sector	57	133/3 = 44	133/6 = 22
A [Erlangs]/sector	51.55	38.56	17.13
A [Erlangs]/cell	51.55	38.56×3 = 115.68	17.13×6 = 102.78
#users/cell	18558	41645	37001

Assume that each user makes 2 calls/day and 2 min/call on average → 1/360 Erlangs.

This is important.

Make sure that you understand where numbers in this table come from!