

The Electromagnetic Spectrum

Below is a description of standard Radio Frequency "Bands", as well as the applications that use them.

Band	Frequency
Extremely Low Frequency (ELF)	0 to 3 KHz
Very Low Frequency (VLF)	3 KHz to 30 KHz
<i>Radio Navigation & maritime/aeronautical mobile</i>	9 KHz to 540 KHz
Low Frequency (LF)	30 KHz to 300 KHz
Medium Frequency (MF)	300 KHz to 3000 KHz
<i>AM Radio Broadcast</i>	540 KHz to 1630 KHz
<i>Travelers Information Service</i>	1610 KHz
High Frequency (HF)	3 MHz to 30 MHz
<i>Shortwave Broadcast Radio</i>	5.95 MHz to 26.1 MHz
Very High Frequency (VHF)	30 MHz to 300 MHz
<i>Low Band: TV Band 1 - Channels 2-6</i>	54 MHz to 88 MHz
<i>Mid Band: FM Radio Broadcast</i>	88 MHz to 174 MHz
<i>High Band: TV Band 2 - Channels 7-13</i>	174 MHz to 216 MHz
<i>Super Band (mobile/fixed radio & TV)</i>	216 MHz to 600 MHz
Ultra-High Frequency (UHF)	300 MHz to 3000 MHz
<i>Channels 14-70</i>	470 MHz to 806 MHz
<i>L-band:</i>	500 MHz to 1500 MHz
<i>Canada DARS</i>	1452 MHz to 1492 MHz
<i>Personal Communications Services (PCS)</i>	1850 MHz to 1990 MHz
<i>Unlicensed PCS Devices</i>	1910 MHz to 1930 MHz

<i>S-band for DARS</i>		2310	MHz	to	2360	MHz
<i>microwave TV</i>		2500	MHz	to	2700	MHz
Superhigh Frequencies (SHF)		3	GHz	to	30.0	GHz
<i>C-band & big-dish 6-10'</i>		3600	MHz	to	7025	MHz
<i>X-band:</i>		7.25	GHz	to	8.4	GHz
<i>Ku-band & small-dish 1-4'</i>		10.7	GHz	to	14.5	GHz
<i>Ka-band</i>		17.3	GHz	to	31.0	GHz
Extremely High Frequencies (EHF) (Millimeter Wave Signals)		30.0	GHz	to	300	GHz
<i>Additional Fixed Satellite</i>		38.6	GHz	to	275	GHz
Infrared Radiation		300	GHz	to	810	THz
Visible Light		810	THz	to	1620	THz
Ultraviolet Radiation		1.62	PHz	to	30	PHz
X-Rays		30	PHz	to	30	EHz
Gamma Rays		30	EHz	to	3000	EHz

This chart derived from [ADEC](#) and [FCC](#) charts

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The point here is basically, **all** of the “usable” electromagnetic spectrum has been **allocated** to some application—and **new** applications are being developed all the time!

Thus, as radio engineers, we must **assume** that there is—or at least could be—a significant signal at **any** and **all** possible frequencies.

This is the **challenge** of a radio engineer. Effectively, there are thousands of people all **whispering** very softly—all at the **same time**. The radio engineers job is to amplify **one** of these voices, while **suppressing** all the others, so that single voice can be clearly **understood!**