

Computer Networks

COL 334/672

Link Layer

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Slides adapted from KR

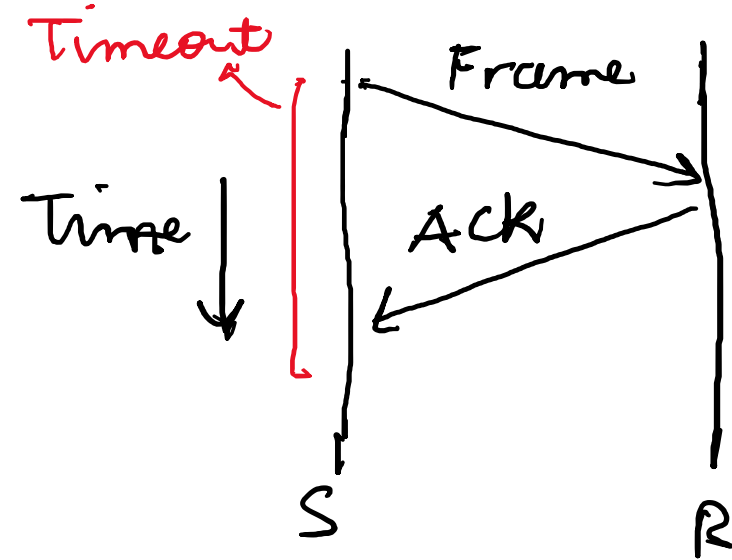
Sem 1, 2024-25

Link Layer: Services

- Framing
- Error detection
- **Reliability**
- Link access

ARQ Protocol: Stop and Wait

- Transmit one frame, wait for an acknowledgement
 - If no ack and timer expires, resend



Stop and Wait

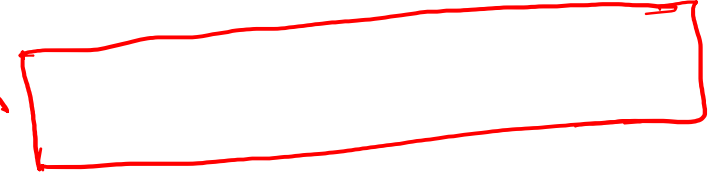
- Transmit one frame, wait for an acknowledgement
 - If no ack and timer expires, resend
- How to handle duplicate frames?
 - Sequence numbers for duplicate frames

Stop and Wait

Bandwidth delay product
↳ Bandwidth \times delay / Frame Size

- Transmit one frame, wait for an acknowledgement
 - If no ack and timer expires, resend
- How to handle duplicate frames?
 - Sequence numbers for duplicate frames
- Any limitation?
 - Under-utilization of link
 - Example, 4 Mbps link, RTT – 10ms, Frame size – 1 KB.
What is the link utilization? $11\text{KB}/20\text{ms} = 512\text{bps}$
 - How to achieve higher link utilization?
 - Allow sending more than one unacknowledged packets
 - How many packets to get maximum utilization?
 - Bandwidth delay product

Bandwidth



delay / RTT

High BDP network

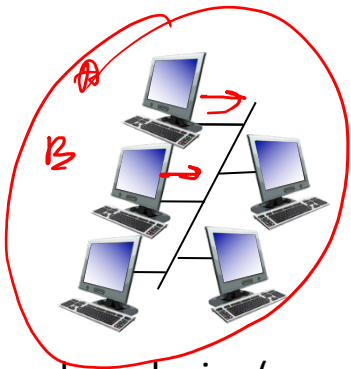
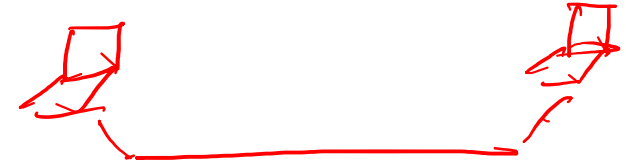
Link Layer: Services

- Framing
- Error detection
- Reliability
- **Link access**

Multiple access links, protocols

two types of “links”:

- point-to-point
 - point-to-point link between Ethernet switch, host
 - PPP for dial-up access
- broadcast (shared wire or medium)
 - old-school Ethernet
 - upstream HFC in cable-based access network
 - 802.11 wireless LAN, 4G/4G. satellite



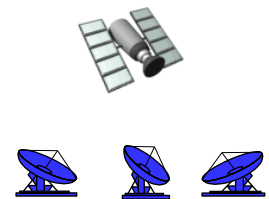
shared wire (e.g.,
cabled Ethernet)



shared radio: 4G/5G



shared radio: WiFi



shared radio: satellite

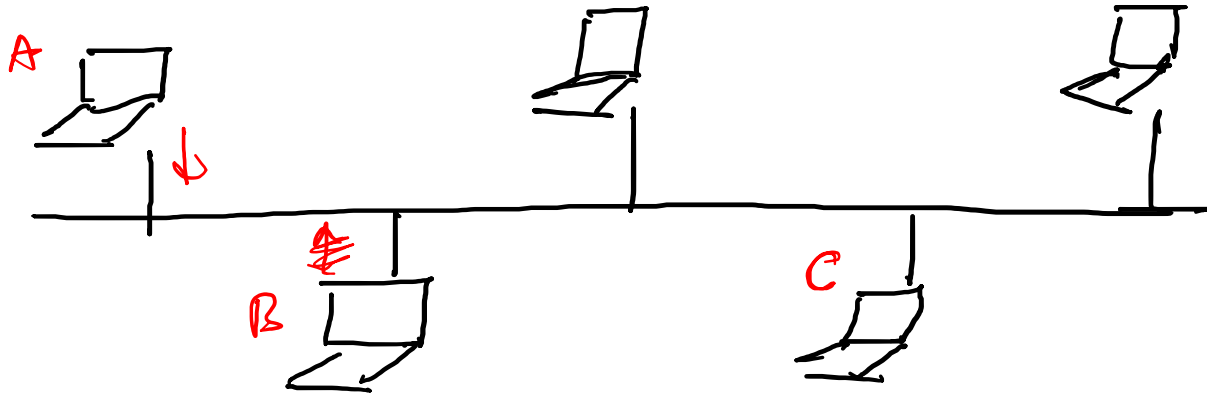
Multiple access protocols

- single shared broadcast channel
- two or more simultaneous transmissions by nodes: interference

multiple access protocol

- distributed algorithm that determines how nodes share channel, i.e., determine when node can transmit
- communication about channel sharing must use channel itself!
 - no out-of-band channel for coordination

Multiple access protocol



collision if node receives two or more signals at the same time

Energy of signal $> th_1$
 $th_2 > th_1$
 $> th_2$
↳ collision

FDMA
Frequency Division Multiple Access

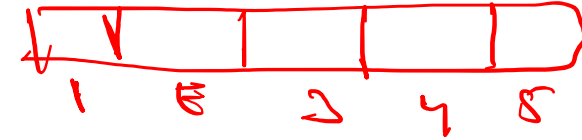
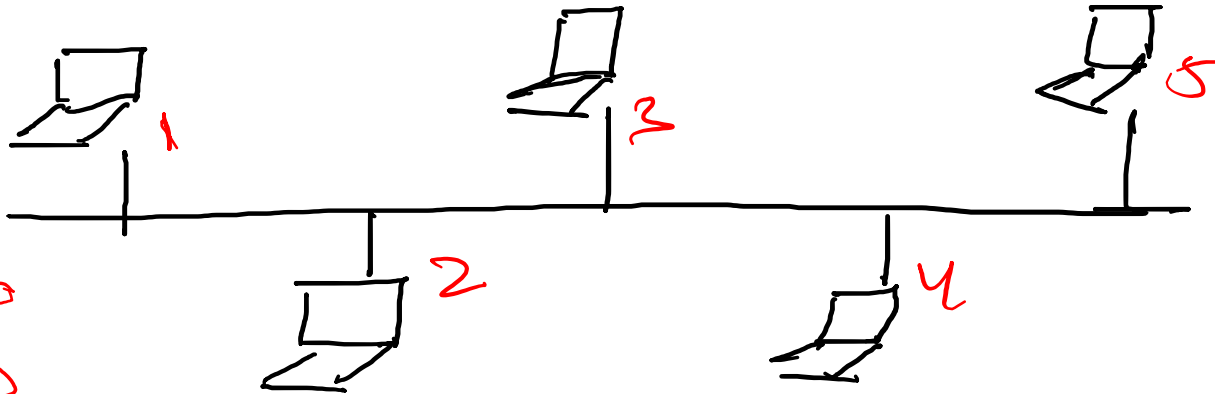
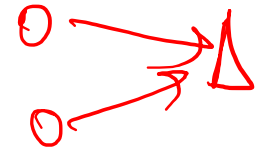
TDMA: Time Division Multiple Access

multiple access protocol

- distributed algorithm that determines how nodes share channel, i.e., determine when node can transmit
- communication about channel sharing must use channel itself!
 - no out-of-band channel for coordination

Multiple access protocol

Polling : Taking Turns Protocol
5 slots



Ideals of MAC

- ✓ ① link to be shared equally amongst nodes (fairness)
- ✗ ② If a node has data to send, it should get R b/w (utilization should be high)

random access

- channel not divided, allow collisions
- “recover” from collisions

channel partitioning

- divide channel into smaller “pieces” (time slots, frequency, code)
- allocate piece to node for exclusive use
- Limitation: unused slots go idle

collision if node receives two or more signals at the same time

③ Simple

④ Decentralized

SPF
D

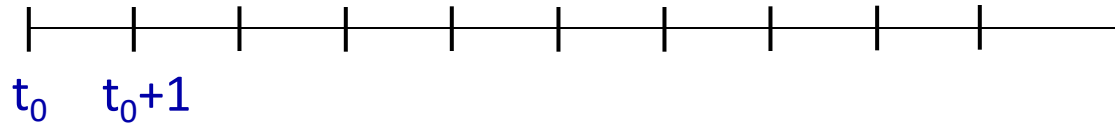
controlled
/ host

Random access protocols

- when node has packet to send
 - transmit at full channel data rate R
 - no *a priori* coordination among nodes
- two or more transmitting nodes:
“collision”
- random access protocol specifies:
 - how to detect collisions
 - how to recover from collisions (e.g., via delayed retransmissions)
- examples of random access MAC protocols:
 - ALOHA, slotted ALOHA
 - CSMA, CSMA/CD, CSMA/CA

↳ Ethernet ↳ WiFi

Slotted ALOHA



assumptions:

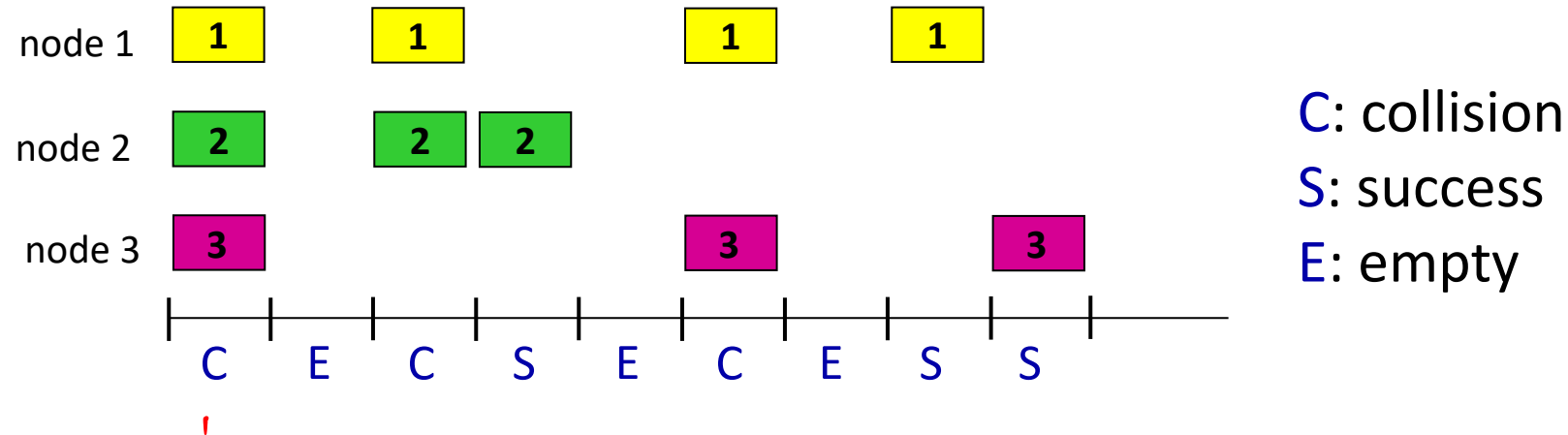
- all frames same size
- time divided into equal size slots (time to transmit 1 frame)
- nodes start to transmit only slot beginning
- nodes are synchronized
- if 2 or more nodes transmit in slot, all nodes detect collision

operation:

- when node obtains fresh frame, transmits in next slot
 - *if no collision*: node can send new frame in next slot
 - *if collision*: node retransmits frame in each subsequent slot with probability p until success

randomization – why?

Slotted ALOHA



Pros:

- single active node can continuously transmit at full rate of channel
- highly decentralized: only slots in nodes need to be in sync
- simple

Cons:

- collisions, wasting slots
- idle slots
- nodes may be able to detect collision in less than time to transmit packet
- clock synchronization

Slotted ALOHA: efficiency

$$N p (1-p)^{N-1} \rightarrow 1/N$$

efficiency: long-run fraction of successful slots (many nodes, all with many frames to send)

- *suppose:* N nodes with many frames to send, each transmits in slot with probability p
 - prob that given node has success in a slot = $p(1-p)^{N-1}$
 - prob that *any* node has a success = $Np(1-p)^{N-1}$
 - max efficiency: find p^* that maximizes $Np(1-p)^{N-1}$
 - for many nodes, take limit of $Np^*(1-p^*)^{N-1}$ as N goes to infinity, gives:

$$\text{max efficiency} = 1/e = .37$$

- *at best:* channel used for useful transmissions 37% of time!



CSMA (carrier sense multiple access)

simple **CSMA**: listen before transmit:

- if channel sensed idle: transmit entire frame
- if channel sensed busy: defer transmission

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CSMA/CA

CSMA/CD: CSMA with *collision detection*

- collisions *detected* within short time
- colliding transmissions aborted, reducing channel wastage
- collision detection easy in wired, difficult with wireless