National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences

CS 3001 – COMPUTER NETWORKS

Lecture 23

Chapter 6

29th April, 2025

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Office Hours: 11:30 am till 01:00 pm (Every Tuesday & Thursday)

Chapter 6 The Link Layer and LANs

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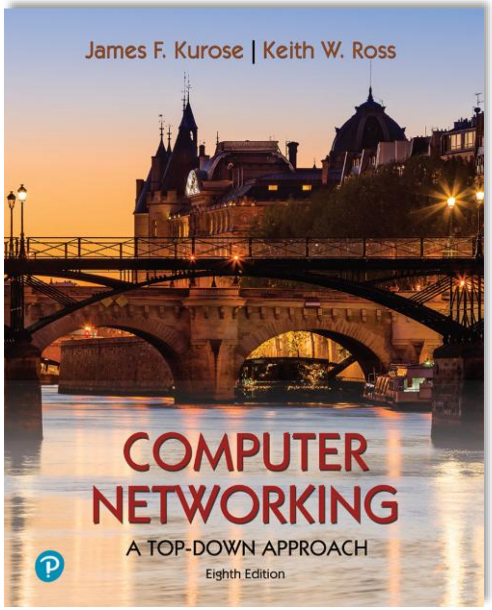


Computer Networking: A Top-Down Approach
8th edition
Jim Kurose, Keith Ross
Pearson, 2020

Link layer and LANs: our goals

- understand principles behind link layer services:
  - error detection, correction
  - sharing a broadcast channel: multiple access
  - link layer addressing
  - local area networks: Ethernet, VLANs
- datacenter networks
- instantiation, implementation of various link layer technologies

"Taking turns" MAC protocols

channel partitioning MAC protocols: (TDMA, FDMA)

- share channel *efficiently* and *fairly* at high load
- inefficient at low load: delay in channel access, 1/N bandwidth allocated even if only 1 active node!

random access MAC protocols (ALOHA, Slotted ALOHA, CSMA, CSMA/CD, CSMA/CA)

- efficient at low load: single node can fully utilize channel
- high load: collision overhead

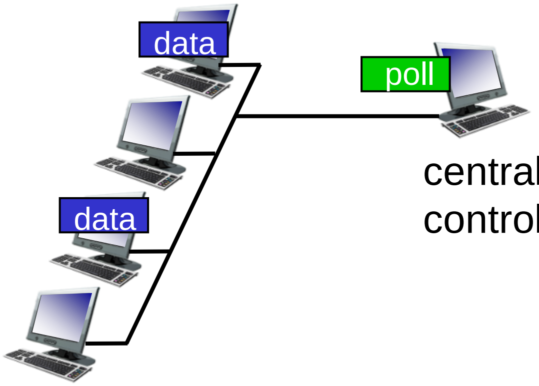
"taking turns" protocols

- look for best of both worlds!

"Taking turns" MAC protocols

polling:

- centralized controller "invites" other nodes to transmit in turn
- typically used with "dumb" devices
- concerns:
  - polling overhead
  - latency
  - single point of failure (master)
- Bluetooth uses polling



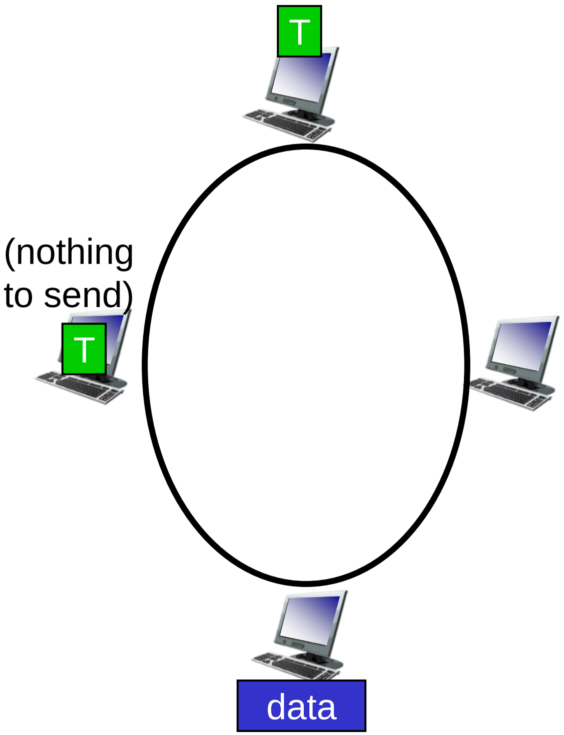
Advantages:

- eliminates collisions
- eliminates empty slots

“Taking turns” MAC protocols

token passing:

- control *token* (a small special purpose frame) message explicitly passed from one node to next, sequentially
  - transmit while holding token
- Advantages:
  - decentralized
  - highly efficient
- concerns:
  - token overhead
  - latency
  - single point of failure (token)



Summary of MAC protocols

- channel partitioning, by time, frequency or code
  - Time Division, Frequency Division, CDMA etc.
- random access (dynamic),
  - ALOHA, S-ALOHA, CSMA, CSMA/CD
  - carrier sensing: easy in some technologies (wire), hard in others (wireless)
  - CSMA/CD used in Ethernet
  - CSMA/CA used in 802.11
- taking turns
  - polling from central site, token passing
  - Bluetooth, FDDI, token ring

Link layer, LANs: roadmap

- introduction
- error detection, correction
- multiple access protocols
- LANs
  - addressing, ARP
  - Ethernet
  - switches
  - VLANs
- link virtualization: MPLS
- data center networking

- a day in the life of a web request

MAC addresses

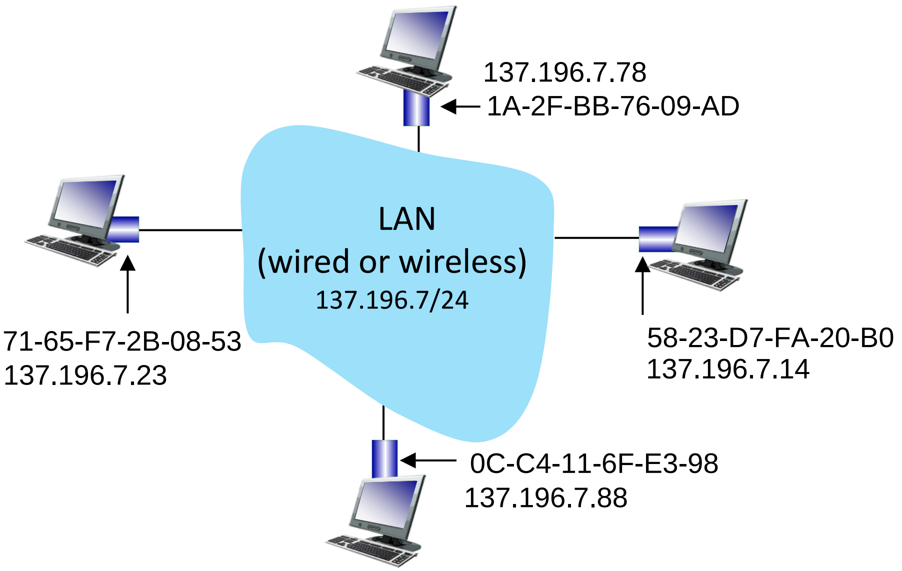
- 32-bit IP address:
  - *network-layer* address for interface
  - used for layer 3 (network layer) forwarding
  - e.g.: 128.119.40.136
- MAC (or LAN or physical or Ethernet) address:
  - function: used "locally" to get frame from one interface to another physically-connected interface (same subnet, in IP-addressing sense)
  - 48-bit (6 bytes) MAC address (for most LANs) burned in NIC ROM, also sometimes software settable (thus 2^{48} possible MAC addresses)
  - e.g.: 1A-2F-BB-76-09-AD (each byte of the address expressed as a pair of hexadecimal numbers)

hexadecimal (base 16) notation
(each "numeral" represents 4 bits)

MAC addresses

each interface on LAN

- has unique 48-bit MAC address
- has a locally unique 32-bit IP address (as we've seen)



MAC addresses

- MAC address allocation administered by IEEE
- manufacturer buys portion of MAC address space (to assure uniqueness)
- analogy:
  - MAC address: like Social Security Number
  - IP address: like postal address
- MAC flat address: portability
  - can move interface from one LAN to another
  - recall IP address *not* portable: depends on IP subnet to which node is attached

MAC Addresses

- Source and destination MAC addresses. These are the hardware addresses. They are 48-bits long each

Ethernet MAC Address

XX XX XX XX XX XX bytes

Vendor Part
24 bits

Vendor Assigned
24 bits

IEEE Organizationally Unique Identifier (OUI)
- allows vendor to build hardware with unique addresses

http://standards.ieee.org/regauth/oui/
http://www.cavebear.com/CaveBear/Ethernet/

Types of MAC Addresses

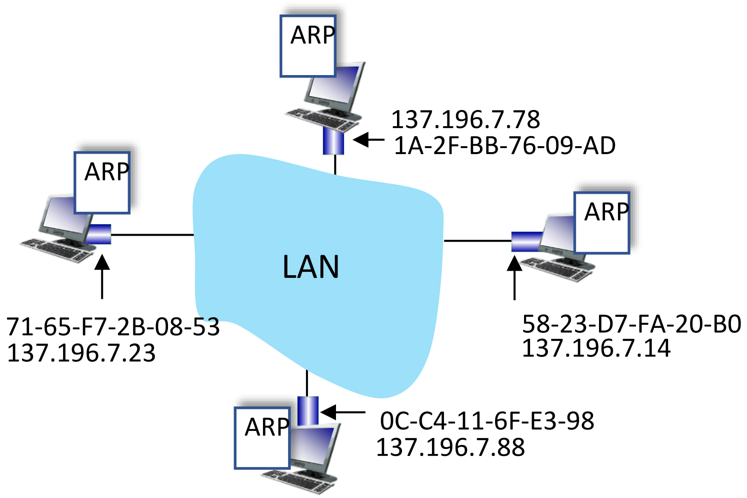
- **Unicast:** one interface to one interface
  - Means when an adapter receives a frame, it will check to see whether the destination MAC address in the frame matches its own MAC address. If there is a match, the adapter extracts the enclosed datagram and passes the datagram up the protocol stack. If there isn't a match, the adapter discards the frame, without passing the network-layer datagram up.
- **Broadcast:** all 1's destination address means that every attached interface to a LAN should read the frame.
  - MAC Address: FF:FF:FF:FF:FF:FF
- **Multicast:** an interface can be configured to read frames sent to one or more multicast addresses.

Key Questions

- How does a host/router get the MAC address of another host/router on the same LAN?
  - Answer: Address Resolution Protocol: ARP
- How does a host get the IP address of another host across the Internet?
  - Answer : Domain Name System: DNS
- How does a host get it's own IP address?
  - Answer: Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP)
- How do we distinguish between two or more applications running on the same host?
  - Answer: Port Numbers/Sockets

ARP: address resolution protocol

Question: how to determine interface's MAC address, knowing its IP address?



ARP table: each IP node (host, router) on LAN has table

- IP/MAC address mappings for some LAN nodes:

  < IP address; MAC address; TTL>

- TTL (Time To Live): time after which address mapping will be forgotten (typically 20 min)

ARP (Continued)

- Address Resolution Protocol binds an IP address to a media (link) address
- ARP is a simple request-response protocol
  - Host "A" broadcasts a request packet containing IP address of "B". Broadcast MAC address is FF:FF:FF:FF:FF:FF. All hosts receive the ARP inquiry
  - Host "B" recognizes its IP address
  - Host "B" sends a response (not a broadcast) packet to first host containing its MAC address
  - Host "A" caches address mapping for later use
- ARP is a local, "Plug and Play" Protocol. Nodes create their ARP tables without intervention from net administrator

ARP protocol in action

example: A wants to send datagram to B

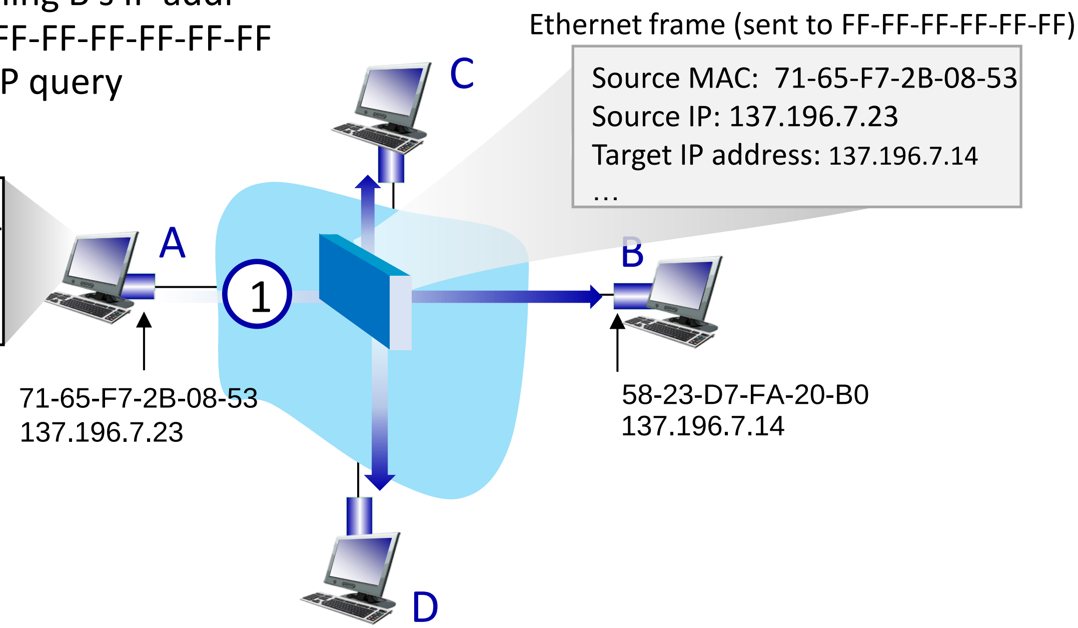
- B's MAC address not in A's ARP table, so A uses ARP to find B's MAC address

1 A broadcasts ARP query, containing B's IP addr

- destination MAC address = FF-FF-FF-FF-FF-FF
- all nodes on LAN receive ARP query

ARP table in A

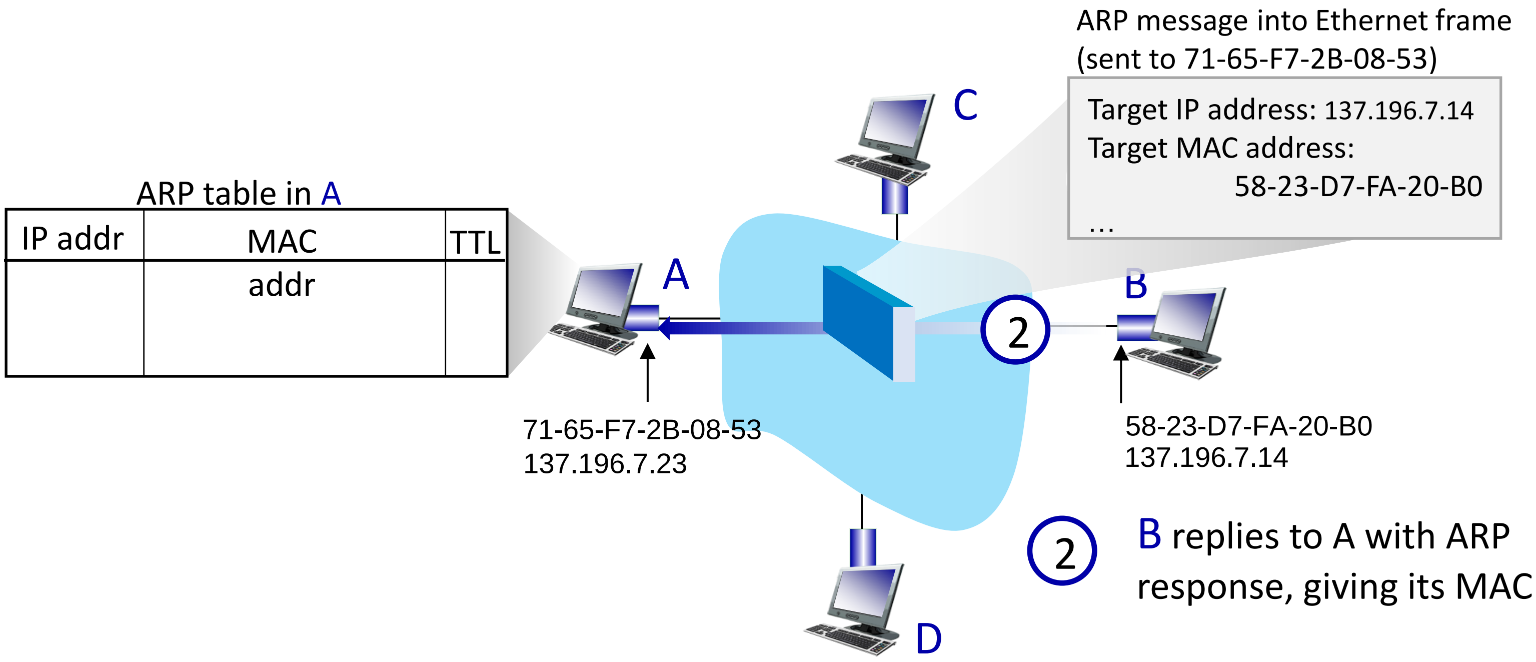
IP addr	MAC addr	TTL



ARP protocol in action

example: A wants to send datagram to B

- B's MAC address not in A's ARP table, so A uses ARP to find B's MAC address



2 B replies to A with ARP response, giving its MAC address

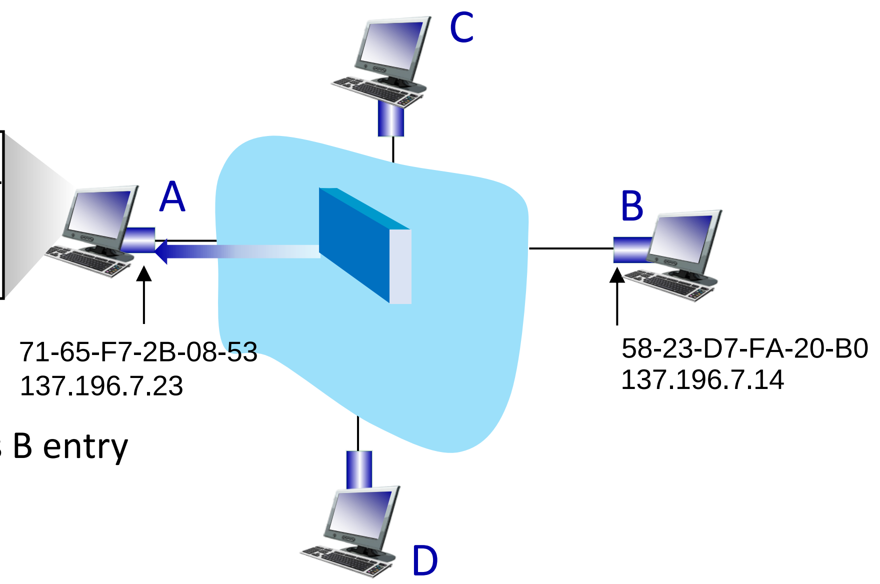
ARP protocol in action

example: A wants to send datagram to B

- B's MAC address not in A's ARP table, so A uses ARP to find B's MAC address

ARP table in A

IP addr	MAC addr	TTL
137.196.7.14	58-23-D7-FA-20-B0	500

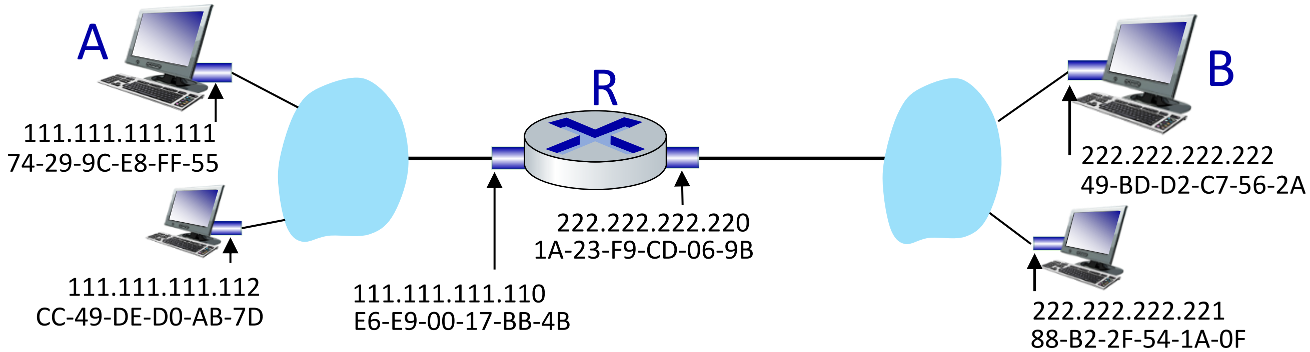


3 A receives B's reply, adds B entry into its local ARP table

Routing to another subnet: addressing

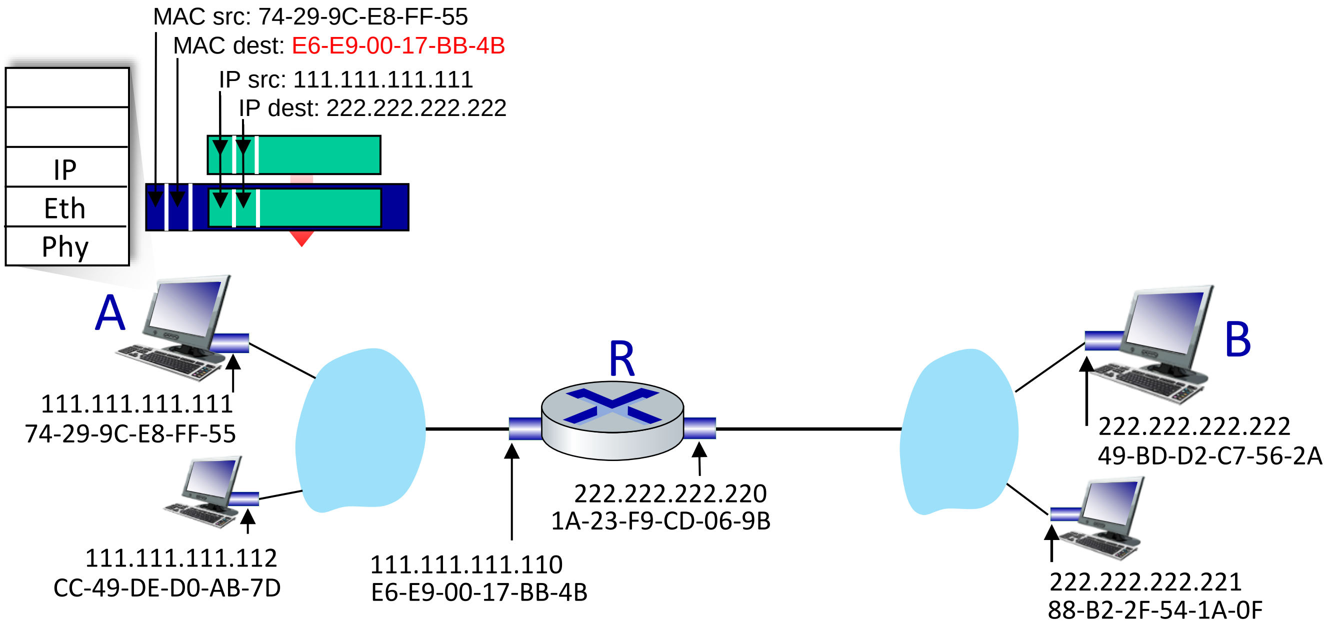
walkthrough: sending a datagram from *A* to *B* via *R*

- focus on addressing – at IP (datagram) and MAC layer (frame) levels
- assume that:
  - A knows B's IP address
  - A knows IP address of first hop router, R (how?)
  - A knows R's MAC address (how?)



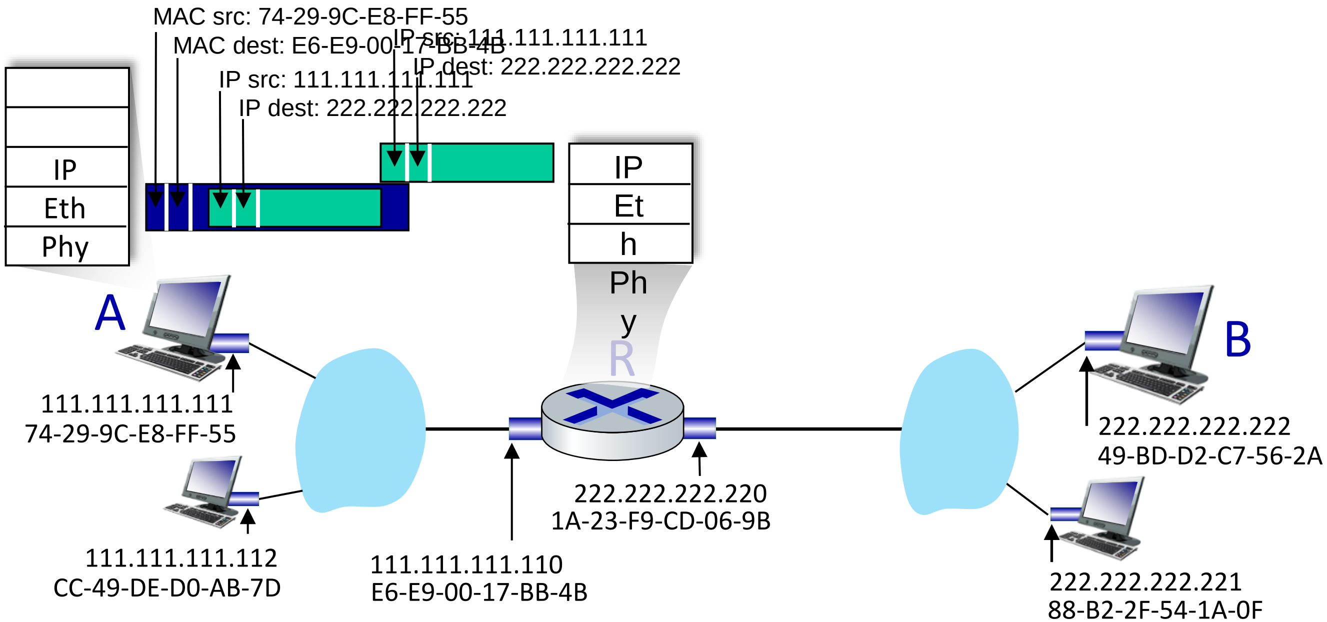
Routing to another subnet: addressing

- A creates IP datagram with IP source A, destination B
- A creates link-layer frame containing A-to-B IP datagram
  - R's MAC address is frame's destination



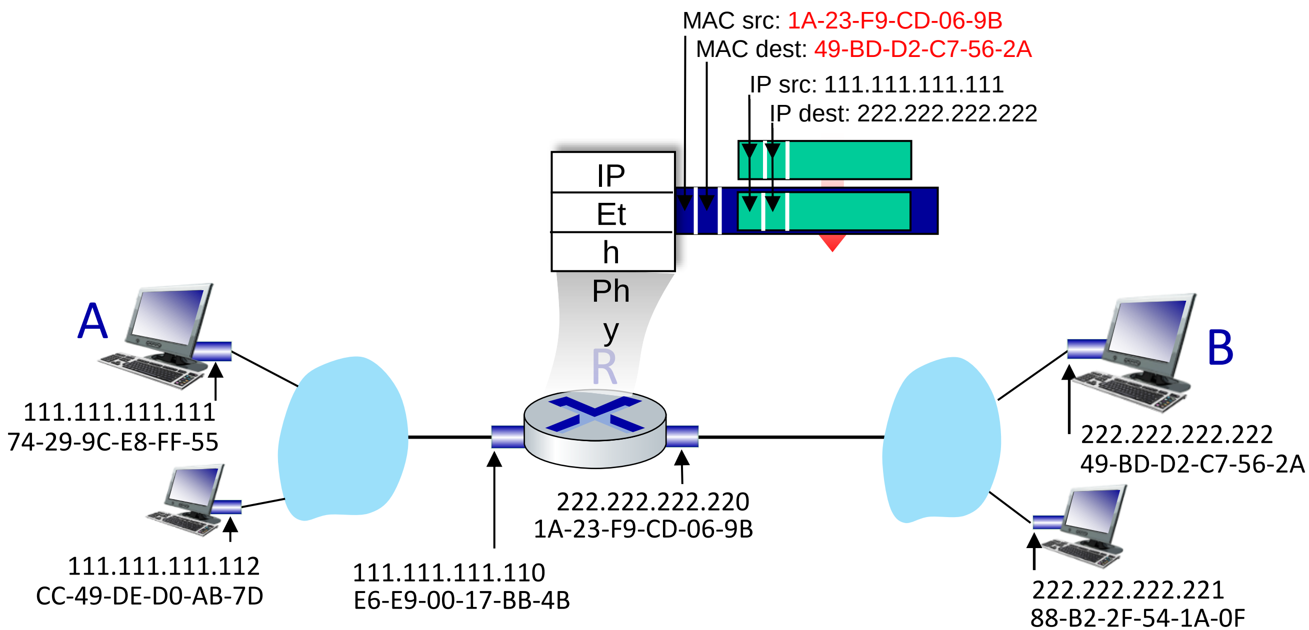
Routing to another subnet: addressing

- frame sent from A to R
- frame received at R, datagram removed, passed up to IP



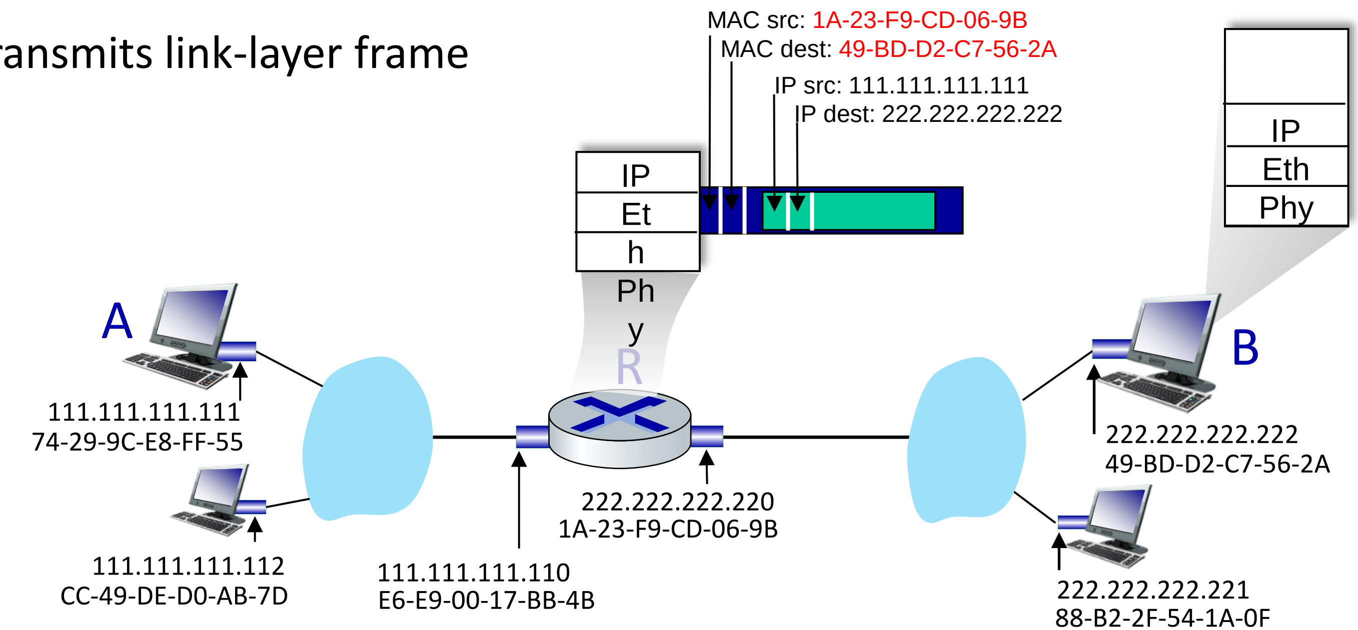
Routing to another subnet: addressing

- R determines outgoing interface, passes datagram with IP source A, destination B to link layer
- R creates link-layer frame containing A-to-B IP datagram. Frame destination address: B's MAC address



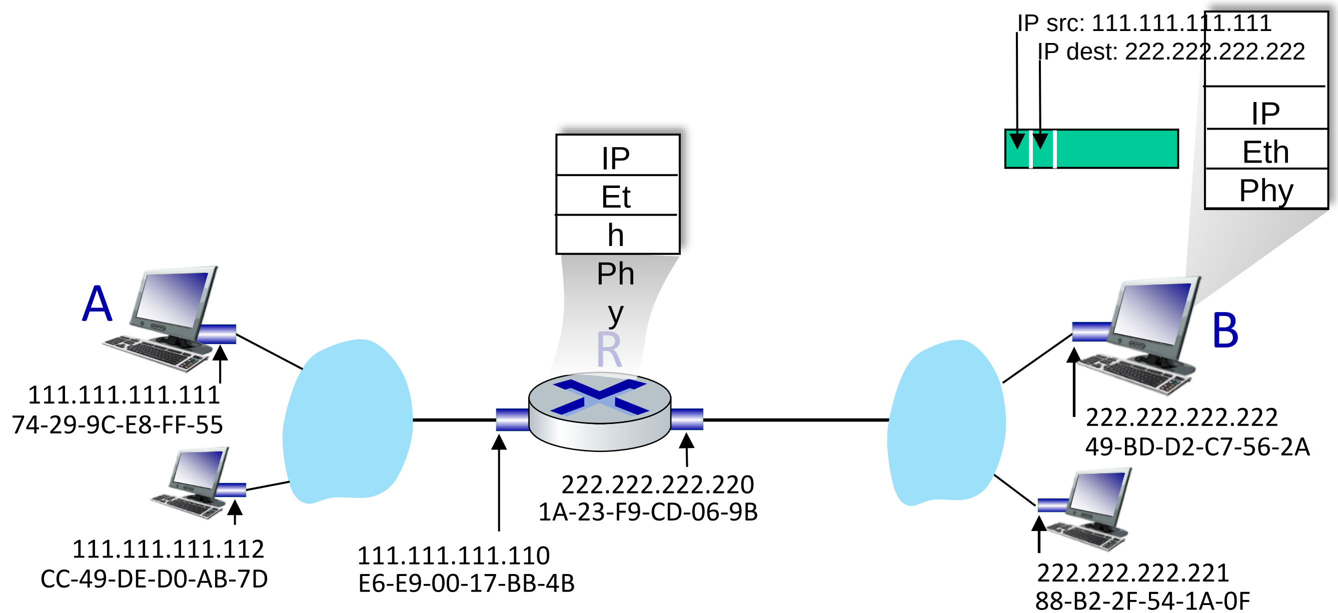
Routing to another subnet: addressing

- R determines outgoing interface, passes datagram with IP source A, destination B to link layer
- R creates link-layer frame containing A-to-B IP datagram. Frame destination address: B's MAC address
- transmits link-layer frame



Routing to another subnet: addressing

- B receives frame, extracts IP datagram destination B
- B passes datagram up protocol stack to IP

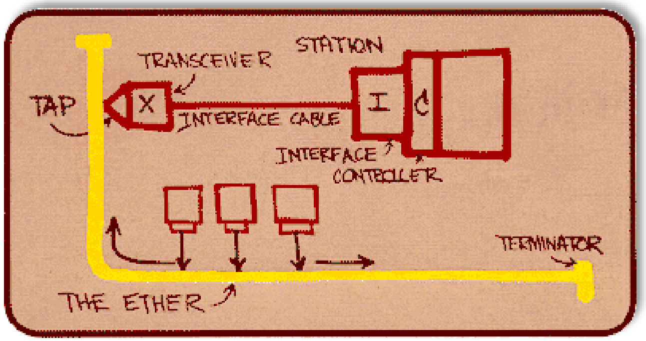


Ethernet

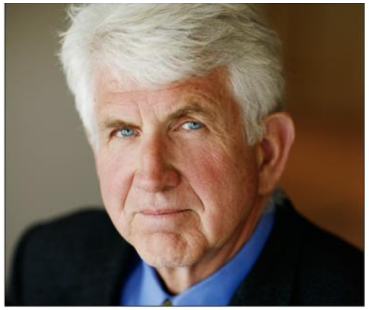
"dominant" wired LAN technology:

- first widely used LAN technology
- simpler, cheap
- kept up with speed race: 10 Mbps – 400 Gbps
- single chip, multiple speeds (e.g., Broadcom BCM5761)

Metcalfe's Ethernet sketch



Bob Metcalfe: Ethernet co-inventor, 2022 ACM Turing Award recipient

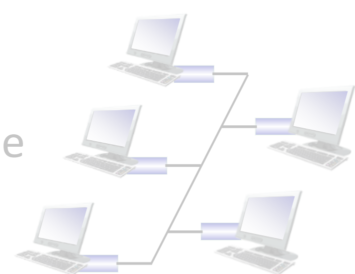


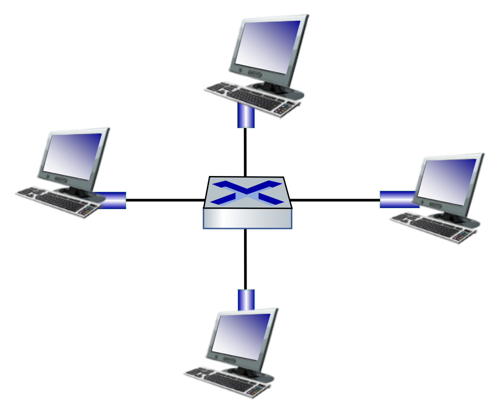
https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/journeys-innovation/audio-stories/defying-doubters

Ethernet: physical topology

- bus: popular through mid 90s (original Ethernet design)
  - all nodes in same collision domain (can collide with each other)
- switched: prevails today
  - active link-layer 2 *switch* in center
  - each "spoke" runs a (separate) Ethernet protocol (nodes do not collide with each other)

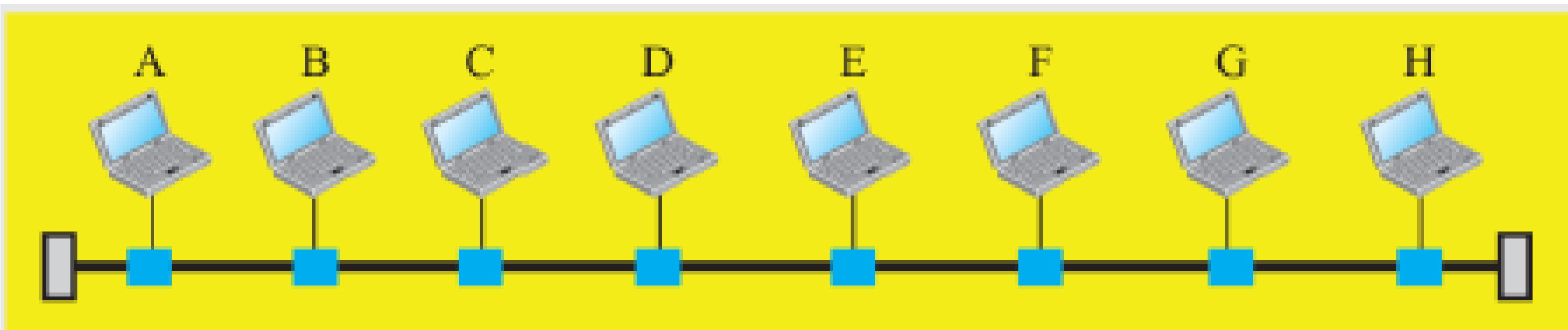
bus: coaxial cable



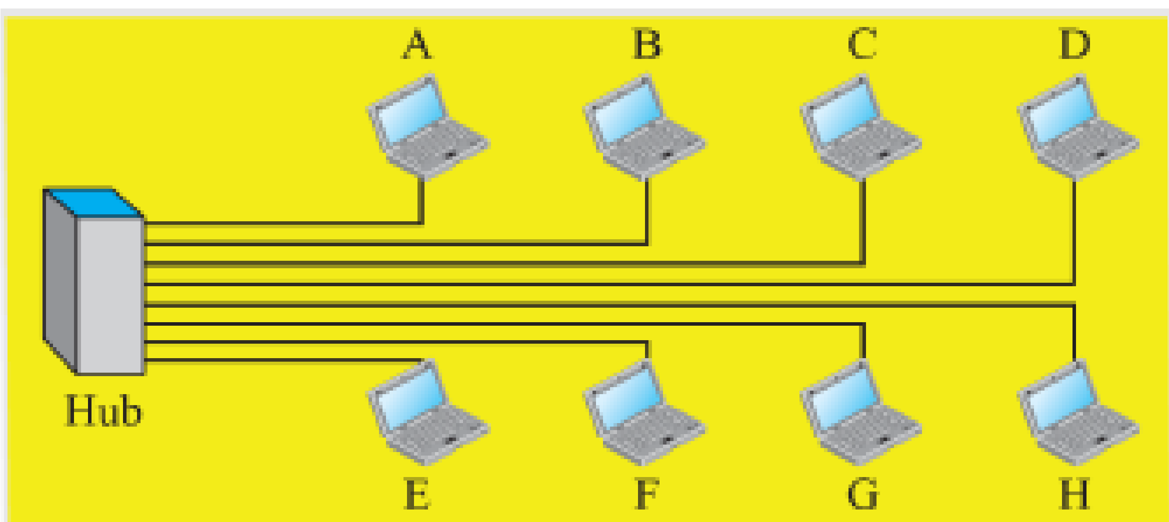


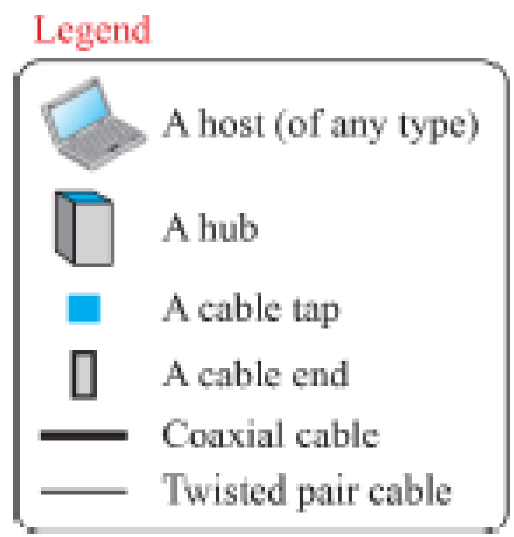
switched

Shared Ethernet Implementations



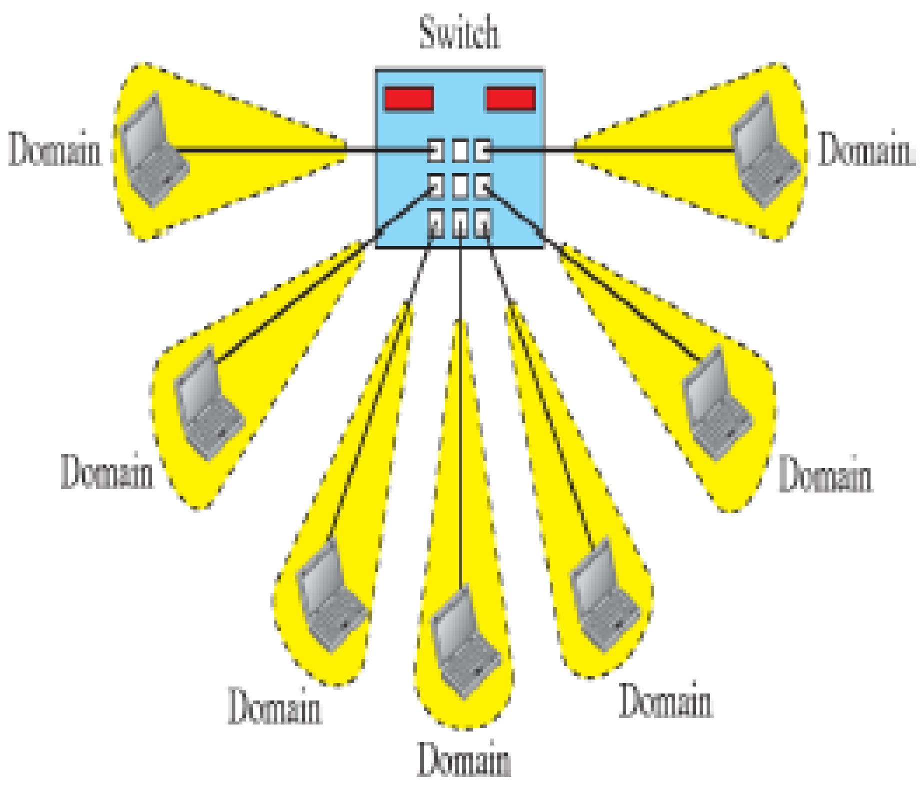
a. A LAN with a bus topology using a coaxial cable



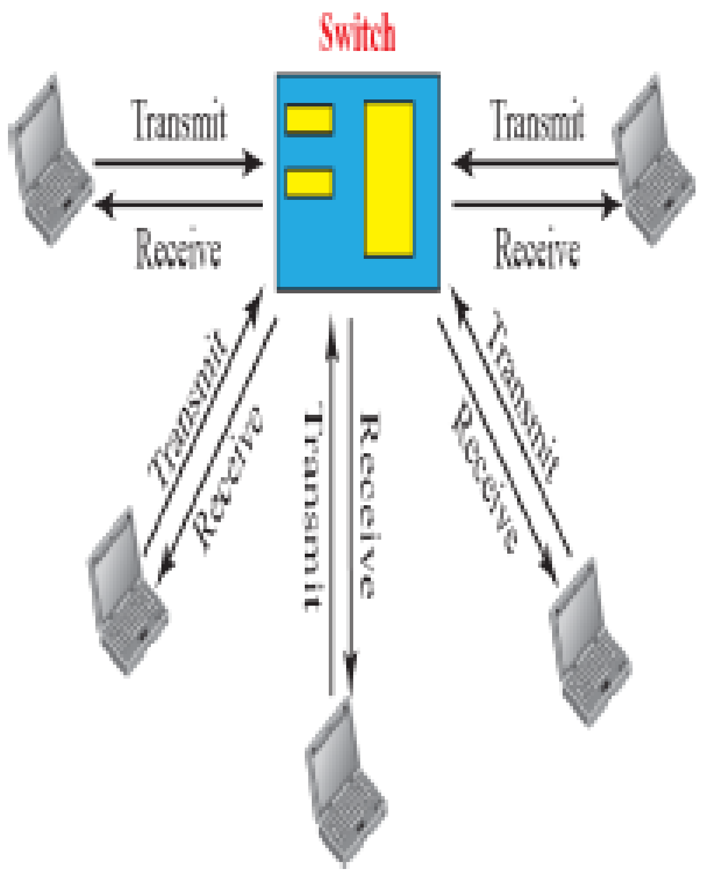


b. A LAN with a star topology using a hub

Switched Ethernet



No Collisions



Support FDX

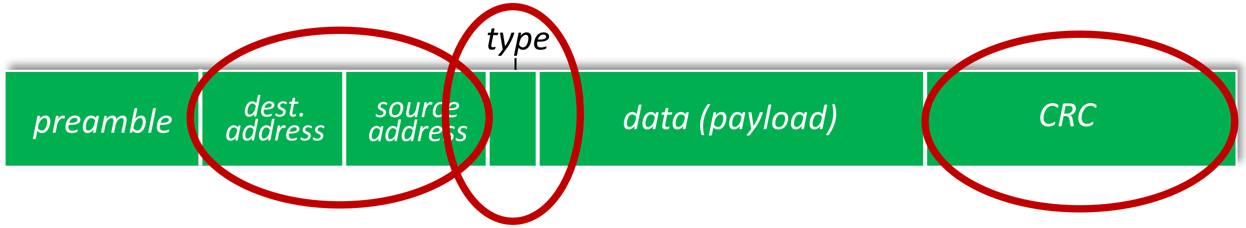
Ethernet frame structure

sending interface encapsulates IP datagram (or other network layer protocol packet) in Ethernet frame

preamble:

- used to synchronize receiver, sender clock rates
- 7 bytes of 10101010 followed by one byte of 10101011 (alternating 1s & 0s) followed by the last byte (8^{th} byte i.e. start frame delimiter flag - SFD) with pattern 10101011 (i.e. alternating 1s & 0s except last two bits which are 1s)

Ethernet frame structure (more)



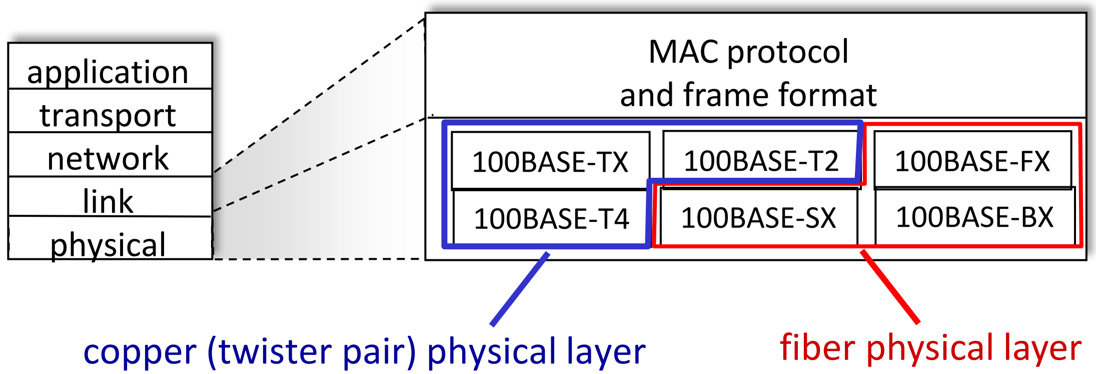
- addresses: 6 byte source, destination MAC addresses
  - if adapter receives frame with matching destination address, or with broadcast address (e.g., ARP packet), it passes data in frame to network layer protocol
  - otherwise, adapter discards frame
- type: indicates higher layer protocol
  - mostly IP but others possible, e.g., Novell IPX, AppleTalk, ARP
  - used to demultiplex up at receiver
- CRC: cyclic redundancy check at receiver
  - error detected: frame is dropped

Ethernet: unreliable, connectionless

- connectionless: no handshaking between sending and receiving NICs
- unreliable: receiving NIC doesn't send ACKs or NAKs to sending NIC
  - data in dropped frames recovered only if initial sender uses higher layer rdt (e.g., TCP), otherwise dropped data lost
- Ethernet's MAC protocol: unslotted CSMA/CD with binary backoff

802.3 Ethernet standards: link & physical layers

- *many* different Ethernet standards (many different flavours of Ethernet standardized by IEEE 802.3)
  - common MAC protocol and frame format
  - different speeds: 2 Mbps, ... 100 Mbps, 1Gbps, 10 Gbps, 40 Gbps, 80 Gbps
    - different physical layer media: fiber, cable



Link layer, LANs: roadmap

- introduction
- error detection, correction
- multiple access protocols
- LANs
  - addressing, ARP
  - Ethernet
  - switches
  - VLANs
- link virtualization: MPLS
- data center networking

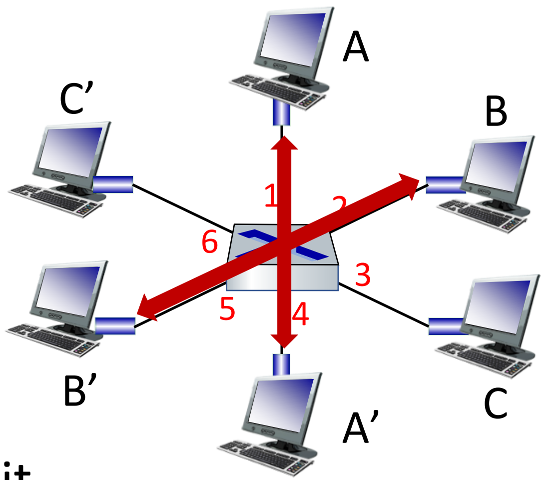
- a day in the life of a web request

Ethernet switch

- Switch is a link-layer device: takes an *active* role
  - store, forward Ethernet (or other type of) frames
  - examine incoming frame's MAC address, *selectively* forward frame to one-or-more outgoing links when frame is to be forwarded on segment, uses CSMA/CD to access segment
- transparent: hosts *unaware* of presence of switches
- plug-and-play, self-learning
  - switches do not need to be configured

Switch: multiple simultaneous transmissions

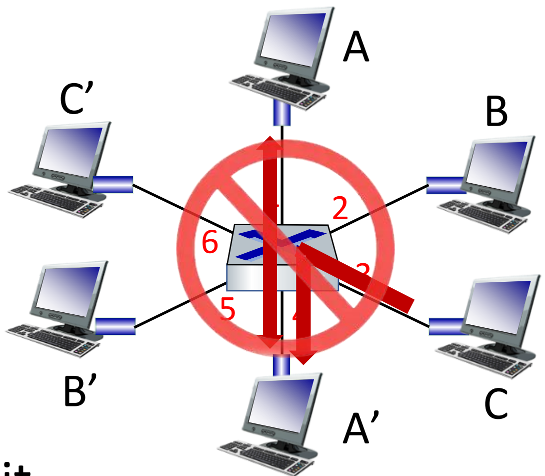
- hosts have dedicated, direct connection to switch
- switches buffer packets
- Ethernet protocol used on *each* incoming link, so:
  - no collisions; full duplex
  - each link is its own collision domain
- switching: A-to-A’ and B-to-B’ can transmit simultaneously, without collisions



switch with six interfaces (1,2,3,4,5,6)

Switch: multiple simultaneous transmissions

- hosts have dedicated, direct connection to switch
- switches buffer packets
- Ethernet protocol used on *each* incoming link, so:
  - no collisions; full duplex
  - each link is its own collision domain
- switching: A-to-A’ and B-to-B’ can transmit simultaneously, without collisions
  - but A-to-A’ and C to A’ can *not* happen simultaneously



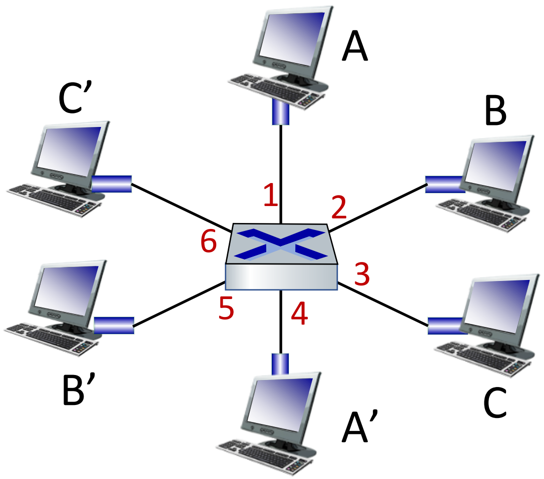
switch with six interfaces (1,2,3,4,5,6)

Switch forwarding table

Q: how does switch know A' reachable via interface 4, B' reachable via interface 5?

A: each switch has a switch table, each entry:

- (MAC address of host, interface to reach host, time stamp)
- looks like a routing table!

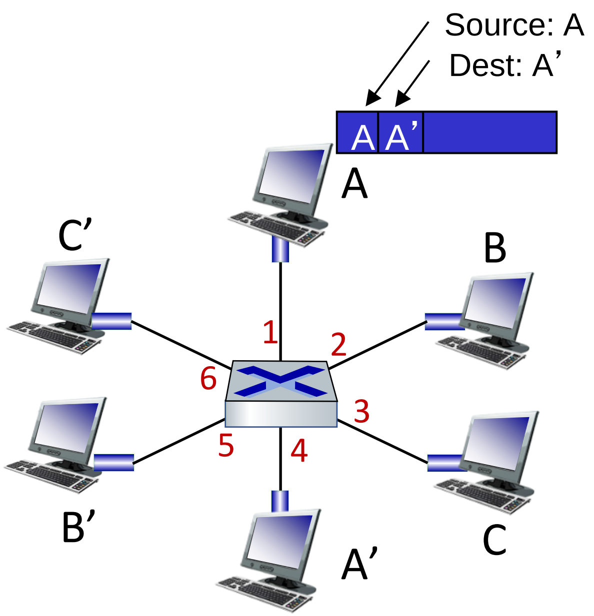


Q: how are entries created, maintained in switch table?

- something like a routing protocol?

Switch: self-learning

- switch *learns* which hosts can be reached through which interfaces
  - when frame received, switch "learns" location of sender: incoming LAN segment
  - records sender/location pair in switch table



MAC addr	interface	TTL
A	*1*	*60*

Switch table (initially empty)

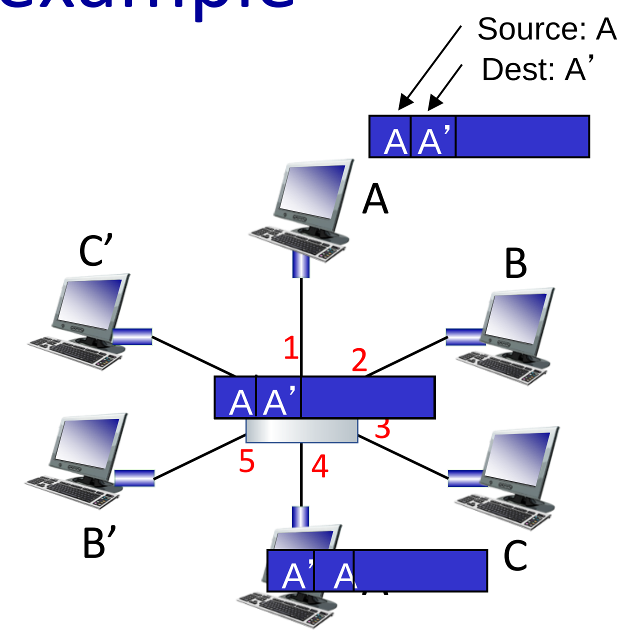
Switch: frame filtering/forwarding

when frame received at switch:

1. record incoming link, MAC address of sending host
2. index switch table using MAC destination address
3. if entry found for destination
   then {
   if destination on segment from which frame arrived
      then drop frame
      else forward frame on interface indicated by entry
   }
   else flood /* forward on all interfaces except arriving interface */

Self-learning, forwarding: example

- frame destination, A', location unknown: flood
- destination A location known: selectively send on just one link

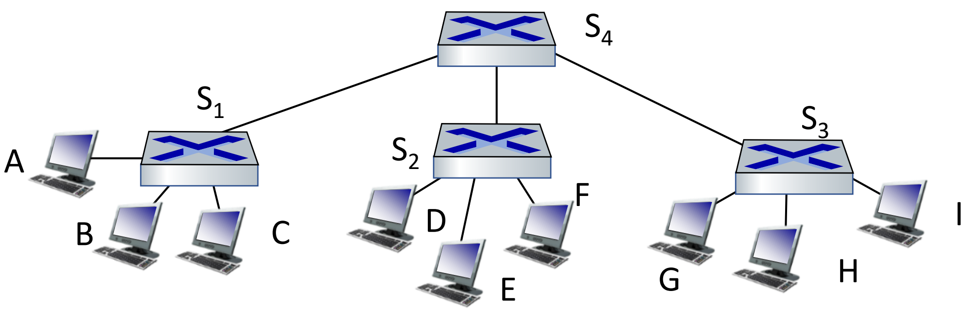


MAC addr	interface	TTL
A	*1*	*60*
A'	*4*	*60*

switch table (initially empty)

Interconnecting switches

self-learning switches can be connected together:

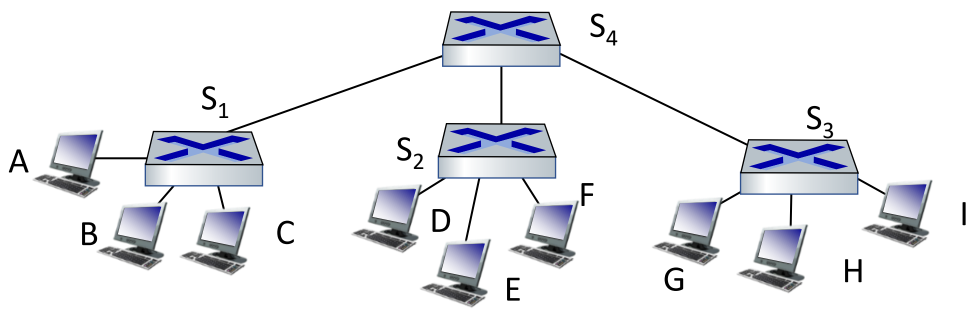


Q: sending from A to G - how does S_1 know to forward frame destined to G via S_4 and S_3?

- *A:* self learning! (works exactly the same as in single-switch case!)

Self-learning multi-switch example

Suppose C sends frame to I, I responds to C



Q: show switch tables and packet forwarding in S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4

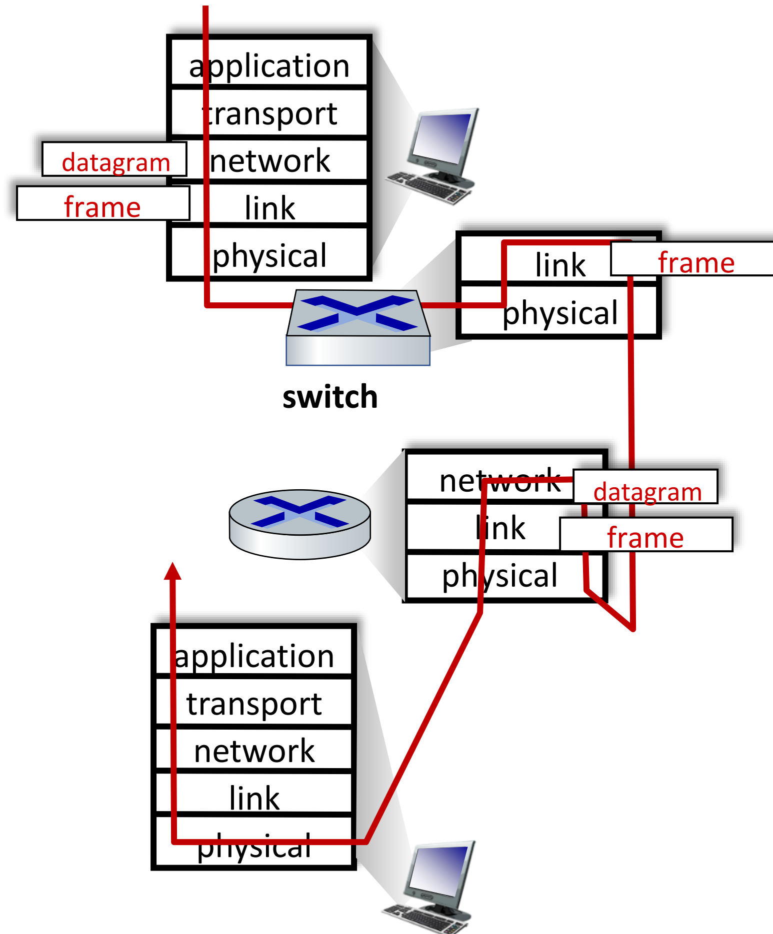
Switches vs. routers

both are store-and-forward:

- *routers*: network-layer devices (examine network-layer headers)
- *switches:* link-layer devices (examine link-layer headers)

both have forwarding tables:

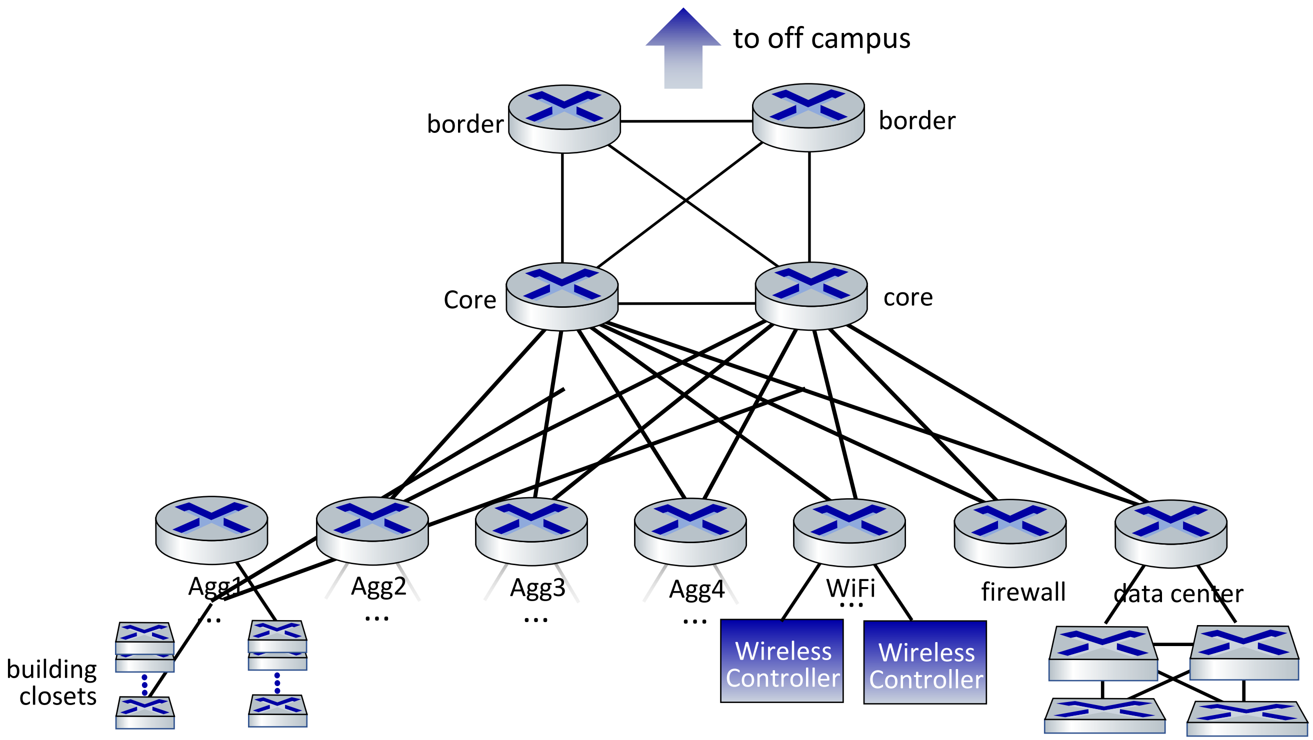
- *routers:* compute tables using routing algorithms, IP addresses
- *switches: self* learn forwarding table using flooding, learning, MAC addresses



Switches *vs.* Routers

- Switches do what routers do but don't participate in global delivery, just local delivery
  - switches only need to support L1, L2
  - routers support L1-L3
  - almost all boxes support network layer these days
  - Generally, when we say switch, we mostly mean a router

UMass Campus Network - Detail

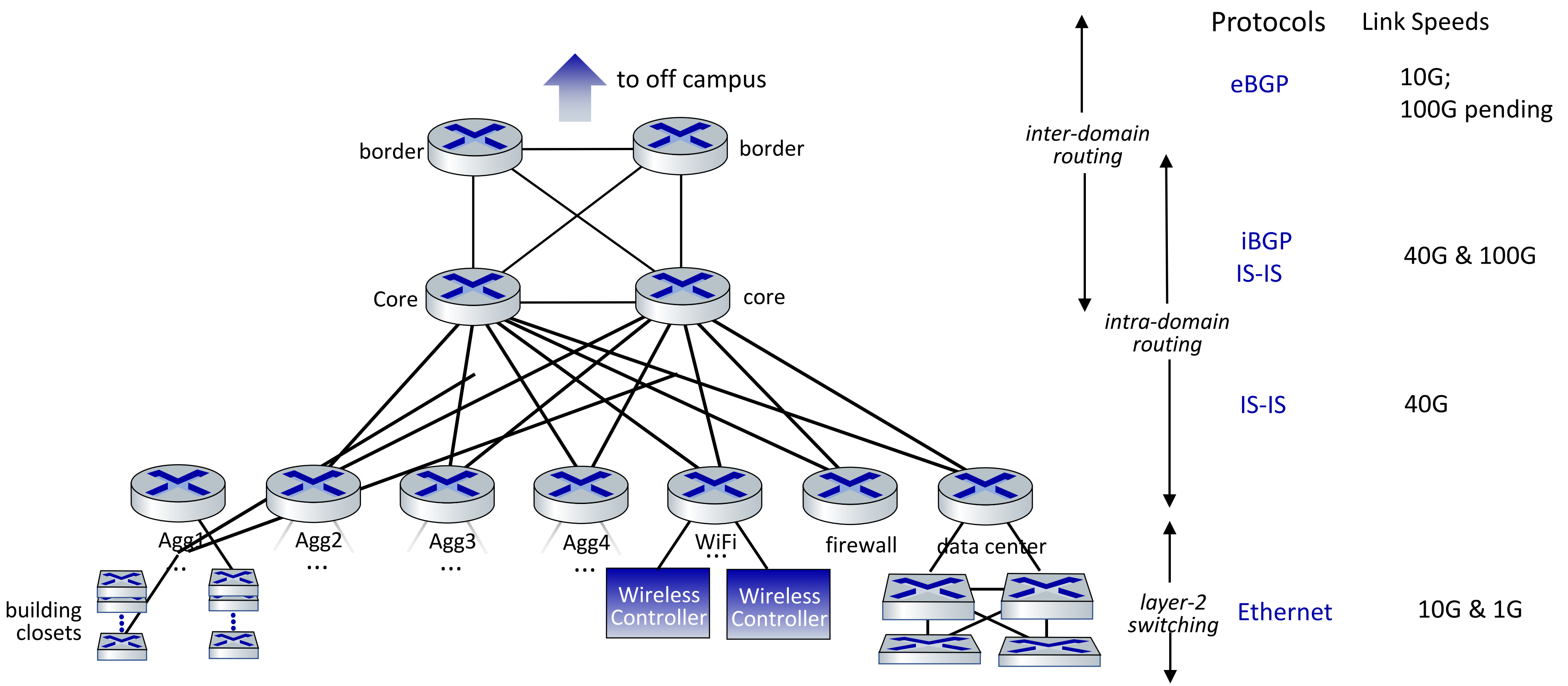


UMass network:

- 4 firewalls
- 10 routers
- 2000+ network switches
- 6000 wireless access points
- 30000 active wired network jacks
- 55000 active end-user wireless devices

… all built, operated, maintained by ~15 people

UMass Campus Network - Detail



Assignment # 6 (Chapter – 6)

- *6th Assignment will be uploaded on Google Classroom on Tuesday, 29th April 2025, in the Stream - Announcement Section*

- *Due Date: Tuesday, 6th May, 2025 (Handwritten solutions to be submitted during the lecture)*

- *Please read all the instructions carefully in the uploaded Assignment document, follow & submit accordingly*

Quiz # 6 (Chapter – 6)

- *On: Tuesday, 6th May, 2025 (During the lecture)*

- *Quiz to be taken during <u>own section class only</u>*

Quiz 5 – Chapter 5