

EEEN20060 Communication Systems

Link Layer Protocols – part 1

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Leictre, Leictreonáil agus
Cumarsáide UCD

Requirements

- Provide agreed service to network layer
 - using bit-transmission service of physical layer
- Organise stream of bits
 - identify start and end of groups of bits
- Make link reliable – no errors?
 - physical layer may introduce bit errors
- Make link reliable – flow control?
 - sender must slow down if receiver busy...



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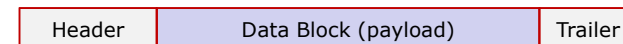
How to Eliminate Errors?

- First need to detect error(s) in a block of data
 - need extra information to do this...
- Option 1: arrange to re-transmit any bad block
 - need reverse path to do this – back to sender
 - will cause delay in data stream...
- Option 2: ignore any bad block
 - avoids using bad data, but no good data either
 - avoids delay in data stream...
- How big should the block of data be?
 - send entire file, then check?
 - send a few bits at a time?
 - will analyse this later...



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Link Layer Frame



- Need to work with blocks of data
 - optimum size range to be determined later
 - if given larger blocks, break them up
 - if given smaller blocks, group them
- Need to add extra information to each block
 - control info, to make link-layer protocol work
 - usually some before data block = header
 - and some after = trailer
- Header + data block + trailer = *frame*



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Extra Information? Examples:

- **Frame identification and structure**
 - receiver must identify start and end of frame
 - may include size - how much data carried?
 - usually includes *sequence number*...
- **Frame type**
 - carrying data? control info for protocol? etc.
- **Addresses – identify destination & source**
 - who should receive? who sent?
- **Error detection**
 - extra information to allow errors to be detected
 - various methods – will look at some examples
 - bits added for error detection called *check bits*



Link Layer Protocol Categories

- **Byte-oriented protocols – look at these now**
 - assume all data in groups of 8 bits
 - could be text characters or arbitrary data
 - control information also in bytes
 - simpler to implement, but not as flexible
 - developed earlier, when most data was text
- **Bit-oriented protocols – return to these later**
 - data may be any number of bits
 - not necessarily groups of 8...
 - but often multiples of 8 bits – computer processors...
 - control information can also be any length
 - protocol works at bit level
 - different techniques for identifying frames, error detection, etc.



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Question 1 – How to Detect Errors?

PPSN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	T
multiply	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	
add	8	14	18	20	20	18	14	= 112
modulo 23 (remainder after ÷ 23)								= 20 → T

- **Error detection widely used in important data**
 - PPS No., bank account, credit card number. . .
 - mainly to guard against human error!
 - in bar codes – possible mis-read by scanner
- **Communication systems**
 - binary data, usually received in order sent
 - common techniques: parity bits, checksum, cyclic redundancy check (CRC - later)



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Detecting Bit Errors

11000101 → 011000101
 10100111 → 110100111

count of 1s
in group is
always even

- **Add extra bits to a group of data bits**
 - according to some rule
- **Check at receiver, see if rule still obeyed**
- **Called *error-detecting code***
 - bits added called *check bits*
- **Even parity example – very simple code**
 - can only detect one error in the group
 - note that error in a check bit also possible!



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Error Bursts

TX 1 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 1
 RX 1 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 1

- On some channels, errors occur in bursts
 - group of consecutive bits, many errors
 - not necessarily all in error
- Simple parity bit as above cannot cope
 - what is probability of detecting error?
- Often use interleaving of data
 - transmit bits in different order
 - damaged bits not consecutive in message
 - can also use interleaved parity check scheme



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Interleaved Parity Check

- View bits in 2-D array
 - or sequence of bytes
 - calculate parity on columns
 - transmit row by row
 - check bits in last row
- Advantage of interleaving?
- Check bits usually at end
 - generated in hardware
 - often while data bits are being transmitted
 - checked in hardware
 - while bits being received...

1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1

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Checksum 1

- | | Binary view | Decimal | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 151 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 152 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 153 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 202 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 187 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 93 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 94 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 31 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 80 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 179 |
- View bits in 2-D array
 - or sequence of bytes
 - suits byte oriented protocol
 - each row/byte is a number
 - add all numbers, modulo N
 - remainder after divide by N
 - transmit result at end
 - Example - bytes
 - sum 1203,
 - modulo 256 get 179
 - gives 8-bit checksum
 - 8 check bits, or one byte
 - What does receiver do?

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Checksum 1 at Receiver

- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 151 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 152 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 153 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 234 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 187 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 89 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 94 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 31 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 80 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 207 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 179 |
- Errors have occurred
 - shown in red
 - Receiver also calculates checksum, same way
 - add all numbers, modulo N
 - at end, compare result
 - should match received checksum
 - Example
 - sum 1231
 - modulo 256 get 207
 - does not match - ERROR

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Checksum 2

- Alternative

- check bits are complement of sum
- so entire block (including check bits) adds to 0
- more work at tx, simpler task at rx...

- Example as before

- sum modulo 256 = 179
- transmit 256 – 179 = 77
 - subtraction modulo 256
- receiver adds all bytes, modulo 256
- result should be 0 (if no error)

1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1	151
1 0 0 1 1 0 0 0	152
1 0 0 1 1 0 0 1	153
1 1 0 0 1 0 1 0	202
1 0 1 1 1 0 1 1	187
0 0 1 1 1 1 0 0	60
0 1 0 1 1 1 0 1	93
0 1 0 1 1 1 1 0	94
0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1	31
0 1 0 1 0 0 0 0	80
0 1 0 0 1 1 0 1	77
<hr/>	
	0

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How Reliable is Checksum?

- Will detect any single bit error
 - no matter how large the block
- What about two bits in error?
- Error burst?
- Completely random data at receiver?
- Can improve by using larger checksum
 - e.g. modulo 65536, giving 16-bit result
 - even better if add 16-bit values to get it...
 - cost is increased overhead
- Other techniques for bit-oriented protocols...



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Question 2 – How to Recognise Frames

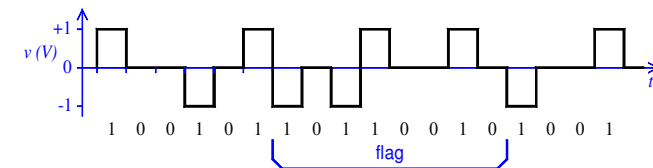
1 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1
 1 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 1

- Need to find start & end of every frame
 - receiver gets stream of bits from physical layer
 - sometimes divided into groups (bytes?)
- Possibilities?
 - use special signal at physical layer
 - e.g. violation of normal bit rules
 - count bits (or bytes)
 - use special marker bytes
 - only useful if already have bytes
 - common with byte-oriented protocols
 - use special marker bit sequence – flag
 - common in bit-oriented protocols



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Physical Layer Example



- Recall AMI (alternate mark inversion)
 - 3-level signal, 0 → 0 V, 1 → ±1 V alternately
- Could allow violation of normal rule
 - to mark start of frame only
 - e.g. two consecutive 1 bits of same polarity
 - maybe followed by two of opposite polarity, to maintain zero DC component
- Mixes link-layer with physical layer. . .



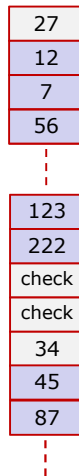
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Counting Example

- This example uses bytes...
- First byte of frame is no. data bytes
 - this is followed by those data bytes
 - then 2 bytes with check bits
- Byte after check bits must be start of next frame
 - and so on. . .
- Problems?
 - in practice, never used alone...



Each box is one byte – 8 bits
Value shown in decimal



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Using Marker Bytes

- Define some specific byte values
 - use one to mark start of header
 - maybe end of header, if variable length
 - also mark start and/or end of trailer
 - need to know where frame ends...
- Suits byte-oriented protocol
 - often view each byte as representing a character, so *character-oriented* protocol
- Problems?
 - marker byte values may occur in data?
 - or elsewhere in header, or in check bits
 - need stream of bytes - how?



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Character Coding

G = 1000111 71
a = 1100001 97

- Often need to transmit text
 - need to agree binary code for each character
 - this is presentation layer issue...
- ASCII – original 7-bit code, still common
 - American Standard Code for Information Interchange
 - with 7 bits, can represent 128 characters
 - 95 normal characters, printed or displayed
 - 33 control characters
 - some to control layout of text
 - others for use in Link Layer protocols
- Often extended to 8 bits
 - allows extra accented letters, symbols, etc.
 - moving to wider codes, for more languages



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ASCII – decimal values

0	NUL	16	DLE	32	SP	48	0	64	@	80	P	96	`	112	p
1	SOH	17	DC1	33	!	49	1	65	A	81	Q	97	a	113	q
2	STX	18	DC2	34	"	50	2	66	B	82	R	98	b	114	r
3	ETX	19	DC3	35	#	51	3	67	C	83	S	99	c	115	s
4	EOT	20	DC4	36	\$	52	4	68	D	84	T	100	d	116	t
5	ENQ	21	NAK	37	%	53	5	69	E	85	U	101	e	117	u
6	ACK	22	SYN	38	&	54	6	70	F	86	V	102	f	118	v
7	BEL	23	ETB	39	'	55	7	71	G	87	W	103	g	119	w
8	BS	24	CAN	40	(	56	8	72	H	88	X	104	h	120	x
9	TAB	25	EM	41	)	57	9	73	I	89	Y	105	i	121	y
10	LF	26	SUB	42	*	58	:	74	J	90	Z	106	j	122	z
11	VT	27	ESC	43	+	59	;	75	K	91	[	107	k	123	{
12	FF	28	FS	44	,	60	<	76	L	92	\	108	l	124	|
13	CR	29	GS	45	-	61	=	77	M	93	]	109	m	125	}
14	SO	30	RS	46	.	62	>	78	N	94	^	110	n	126	~
15	SI	31	US	47	/	63	?	79	O	95	_	111	o	127	DEL

Marker Bytes Example

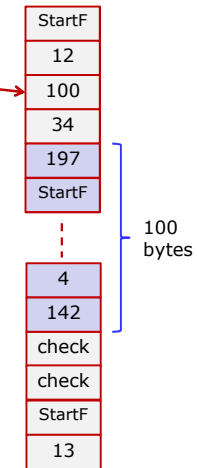
- ASCII control characters
 - some to mark parts of frame: e.g.
 - SOH = 1 = start of header
 - STX = 2 = start of text (payload)
 - ETX = 3 = end of text
 - EOT = 4 = end of transmission
- Easy if data does not use these values
 - e.g. simple text file
 - only visible characters and layout control
 - usually, all bytes < 128
- But how can we send arbitrary data?
 - e.g. send image as JPEG...?
 - could contain any byte value (8-bit pattern)



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Arbitrary Data – Byte Count

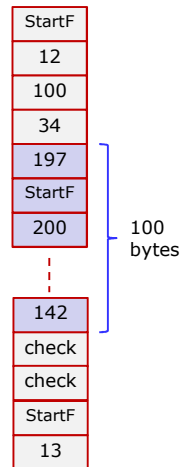
- Header includes byte count
 - receiver ignores all bytes in data part of frame
 - until specified number of bytes received
 - so can send arbitrary data...
- Depends entirely on start mark
 - and byte count in header
 - in example, fixed header size
 - so no end header marker needed
 - usually fixed trailer size
 - so no end frame marker needed
 - often included as safety check



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Byte Count Problems

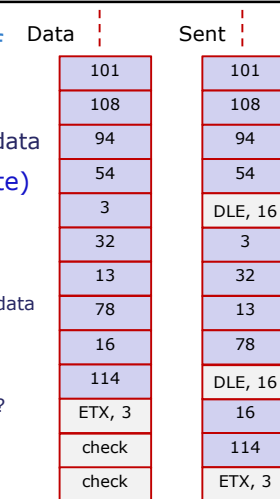
- Start mark corrupted
 - miss entire frame?
 - find start mark in data?
 - could we make this more reliable?
- Byte count corrupted?
 - use error detection on header?
 - at least know something wrong...
 - could just send byte count twice...
- How to get started?
 - sometimes receiver starts when transmission already in progress



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Arbitrary Data – Byte Stuff

- “Byte Stuffing”
 - allows any byte to occur in data
- Define *escape* character (byte)
 - e.g. ASCII DLE, code 16
 - Data Link Escape
 - meaning:
 - treat next character (byte) as data
- TX: *stuff* DLE into stream
 - during data part of frame
 - and most of header and trailer?
 - before any protocol byte
 - including before any DLE
- RX: ?



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Arbitrary Data - Encoding

77 M	1 SOH	97 a
0 1 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 1		
19 T	16 Q	5 F 33 h

- Encode data – using more bytes than needed
 - but restrict range of bytes in code
 - avoid bytes used in protocol
- Example – BASE64 encoding
 - often used for e-mail attachments
 - e-mail standards originally designed for text only...
 - encode three data bytes as four 6-bit groups
 - then map 6-bit groups to printable characters
 - A to Z, a to z, 0 to 9, +, /, in that order
 - so A represents 000000, B = 000001, / = 111111
 - only normal text characters in data, 7-bit ASCII
 - but 4 bytes sent for every 3 data bytes



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Byte Synchronisation – Link Layer

```
1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 0
0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 1
```

- How to find bytes in a stream of bits?
- 1. Continuous transmission
 - send special SYNC byte between frames
 - or in any idle time, so always transmitting
 - ignored by receiver, but keeps receiver synchronised
 - binary pattern with no internal repetition
- 2. Burst transmission
 - send a few SYNC bytes before start of frame
 - allow receiver to synchronise with bytes
 - example sends LSB first, StartFrame = 1
 - uses ASCII SYN: 00010110 (decimal 22)



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Byte Synchronisation – Physical Layer

- Physical layer recognises groups of bits
 - delivers stream of bytes to link layer
 - does not follow standard layer boundaries!!
- e.g. *Asynchronous Transmission*
 - asynchronous = not synchronous
 - no fixed timing signal
 - send group of bits (byte) whenever ready
 - designed to make it easy for receiver to recover timing
 - also to cope with sporadic data – human typing...
 - each group has start bit and stop bit for sync.
 - may also add parity bit for error detection
 - common at low speeds, e.g. PC serial port



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Link Layer Protocol Design

- Can now:
 - identify frames at receiver
 - detect errors in received frames
- Question 3
 - how to arrange re-transmission of bad frame?
 - frame has been received, but failed error check
 - must also cope if frame header damaged
 - maybe frame not recognised at receiver
- Ideas?
- To be precise, this is Logical Link Control
 - higher part of link layer protocol



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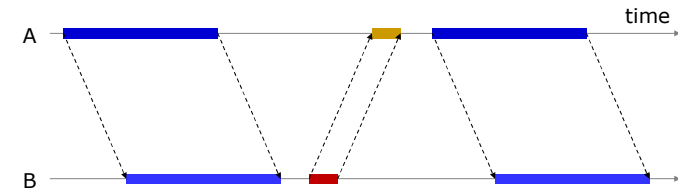
Acknowledgements

- Most designs use acknowledgement – ACK
 - sent by receiver, to confirm data block OK
 - may also mean “ready for more” – flow control
- Negative acknowledgement – NAK
 - indicates data block had errors
 - not always used – can just say nothing...
- Sent as short frame
 - byte-oriented protocol, could be single byte?
 - see ASCII table: ACK = 6, NAK = 21
 - but no protection against errors... other problems...
 - data transfer in both directions at same time?
 - can include ACK/NAK in header of data frame travelling in opposite direction



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Stop and Wait Protocol

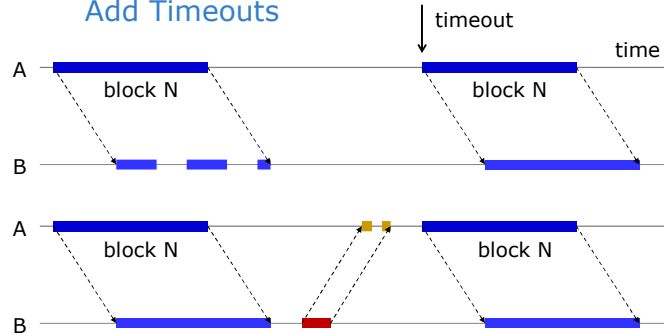


- Simplest way to solve the problem
 - sender sends block of data, wrapped in frame
 - then stops and waits for reply
 - receiver sends ACK or NAK, as appropriate
 - sender sends next block or re-sends last block
- What could go wrong?



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Add Timeouts

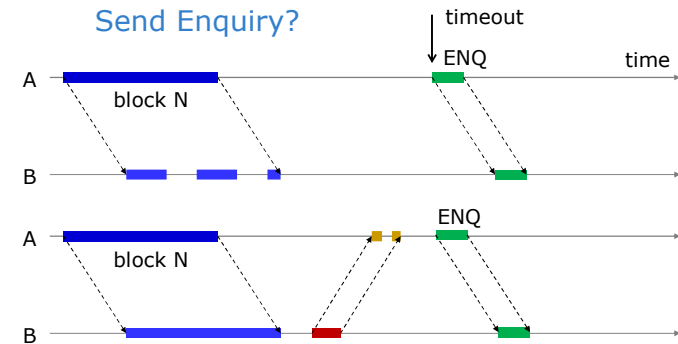


- Set maximum waiting time
 - if no reply from receiver, send data block again
 - (if time limit short, no need to send NAK...)
- What could go wrong?



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Send Enquiry?

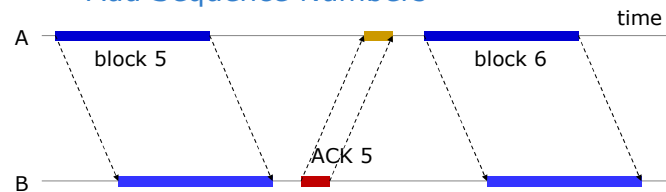


- Enquiry frame: repeat your last ACK/NAK
 - e.g. ASCII ENQ = 5
- What will receiver send back?
 - what will sender do then?



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Add Sequence Numbers

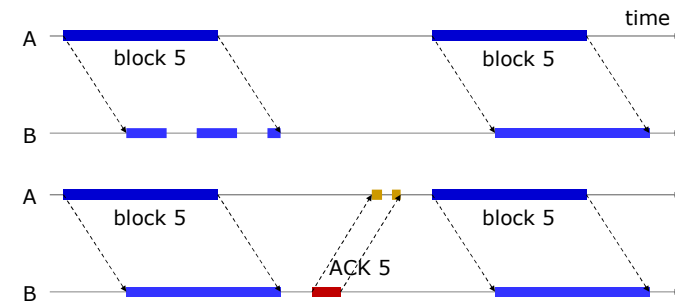


- In data frames and acknowledgments
 - sequence number identifies block of data
 - increments as each new **block** sent
 - not for each frame
 - no ambiguity about which block ack'ed
 - receiver can reject duplicate blocks
- Works with enquiry or re-sending



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Example with Re-transmission

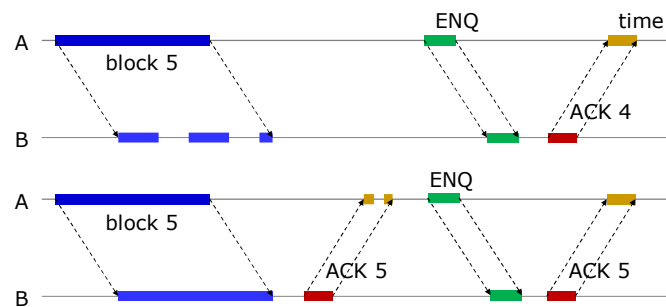


- What happens next?
 - how does receiver respond?
 - what will sender do then?



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Example with Enquiry



- Finite number of bits, so numbers repeat
 - e.g. 4-bit seq. no. is modulo 16
 - what range of seq. no. do we need?



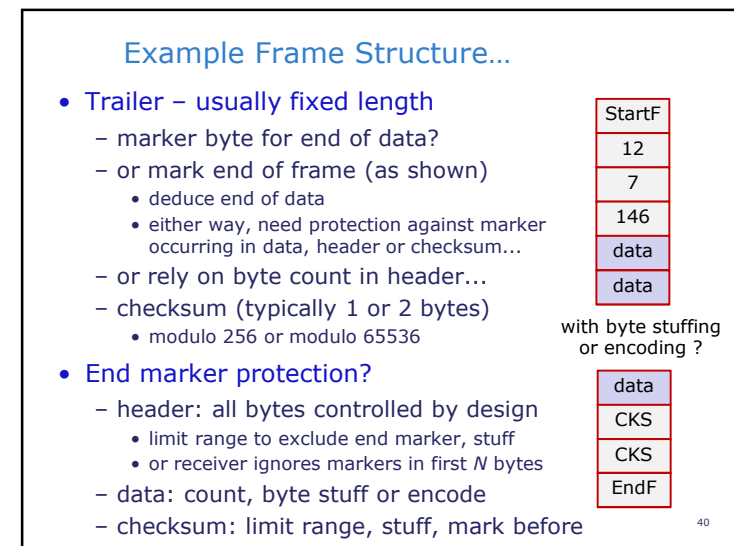
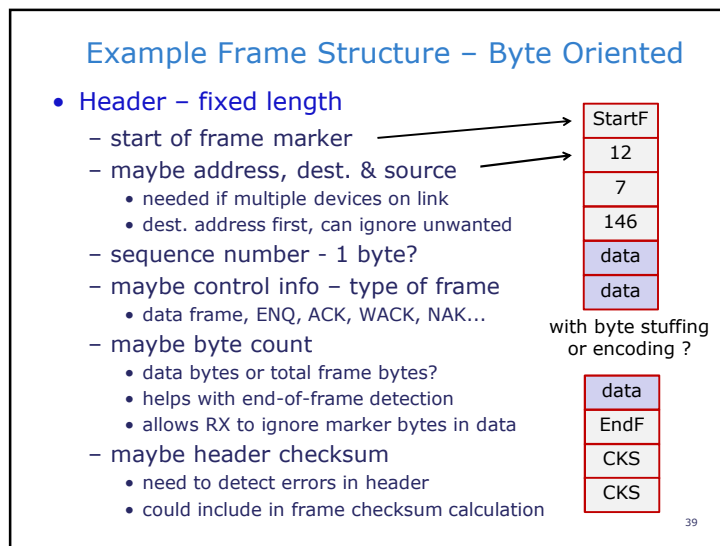
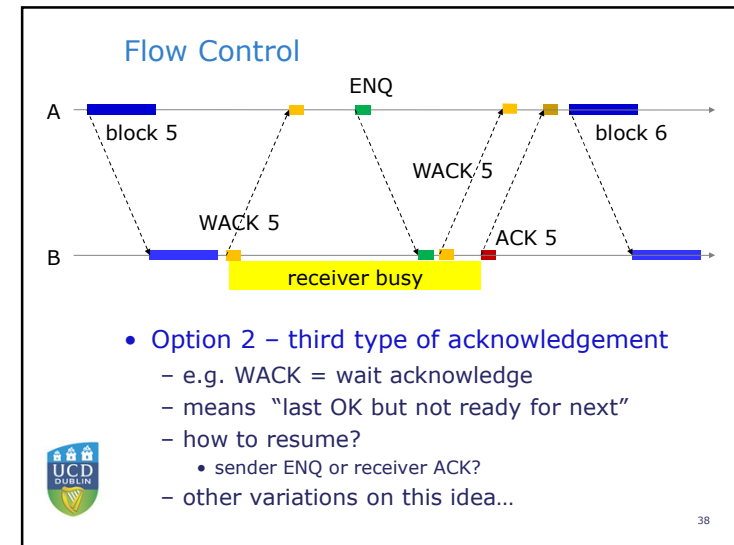
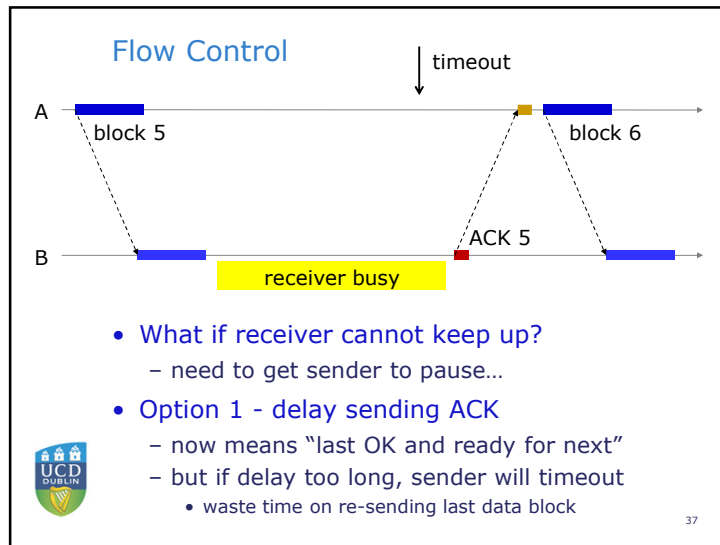
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Sequence Numbers

- Relate to block of data, not to frame
 - re-transmission has same number as original
- What sequence number does NAK carry?
 - sequence number from bad frame received?
 - why not?
- Often seq. number of last good block received
 - or sequence number of next block expected
 - always one after last good block received
- Some protocols use same no. for ACK & NAK
 - both carry sequence number of last good block
 - or both use next block expected by receiver
 - then no need to distinguish ACK from NAK...



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Example Response Frame...

- Responses – ACK, NAK, etc.
- Often just an empty frame
 - full header and trailer, but no data
 - type byte in header identifies function
 - must have sequence number
 - must have checksum – detect errors
- Alternative, for simple stop & wait
 - no type byte needed in header
 - all frames from A to B are data frames
 - all frames from B to A are responses
 - response is frame with 1 data byte (or none)
 - this byte indicates type of response, if required
 - normal header and trailer as above

StartF
24
7
146
CKS
CKS
EndF

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Recall: Link Layer Protocol Categories

- Byte-oriented protocols
 - assume all data in groups of 8 bits
 - could be text characters or arbitrary data
 - control information also in bytes
 - simpler to implement, but not as flexible
 - developed earlier, when most data was text
- • Bit-oriented protocols
 - data may be any number of bits
 - not necessarily groups of 8...
 - but often multiples of 8 bits – computer processors...
 - control information can also be any length
 - protocol works at bit level
 - different techniques for identifying frames, error detection, etc.



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Frame Marker: Special Bit Sequence

```
1 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 0
1 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 1 1
```

- Example:
 - define flag as sequence of exactly 6 1s
 - to get this, must transmit 0111110
 - use flag to mark start and end of frame
 - sometimes shared between two frames
- Frame can have any number of bits
 - no need to be multiple of 8 (but often is)
 - finding flag also gives byte synchronisation...
- Use bit stuffing on contents of frame
 - prevent flag from occurring when not intended



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Bit Stuffing

```
1 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 0
1 0 1 1 1 1 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 1 1 0 1 1
```

- At transmitter, inside frame (between flags)
 - whenever 5 consecutive 1s sent
 - stuff a 0 into the stream
- At receiver
 - see 5 1s followed by 0 remove the 0
 - see 6 1s followed by 0 FLAG
 - see 7 or more 1s abandon frame
- Exercise on received frame above
 - write down the content bits of the frame
 - interpret as bytes, LSB first



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Error Detection: Cyclic Redundancy Check – CRC

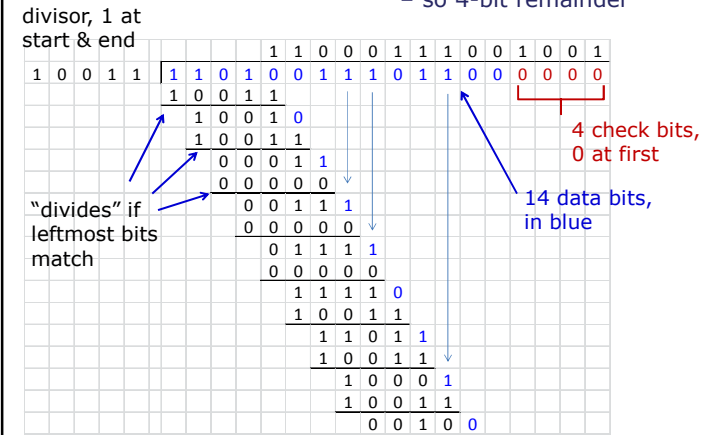
- Add check bits to end of block of data bits
 - usually 16 or 32 check bits
 - on block of up to several thousand bits
- View entire sequence of bits as binary number
 - most significant bit sent first, check bits last
- Rule for check bits:
 - when entire sequence is *divided* by a special number, remainder must be zero
 - division uses modulo-2 arithmetic
 - $0 + 0 = 0$, $1 + 0 = 1$, $1 + 1 = 0$ (no carry)
 - same for subtraction, same as exclusive-OR
 - like long division, but modulo-2 subtraction



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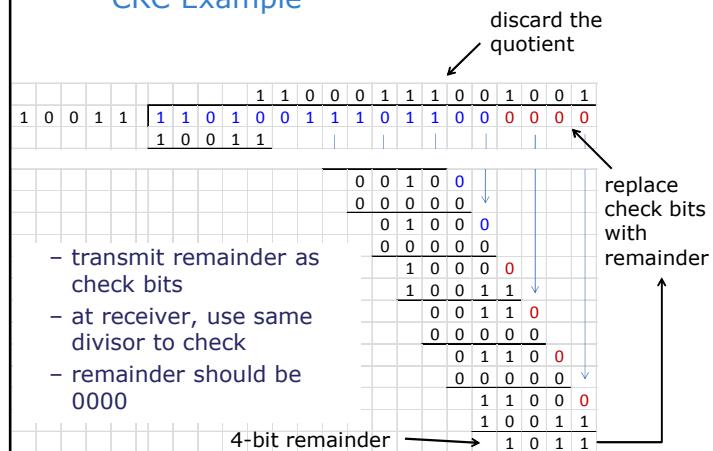
CRC Example

- 5-bit divisor
- so 4-bit remainder



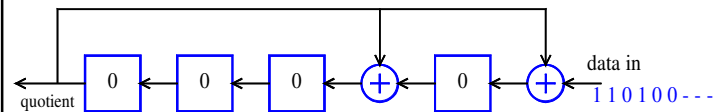
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CRC Example



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Division in Hardware

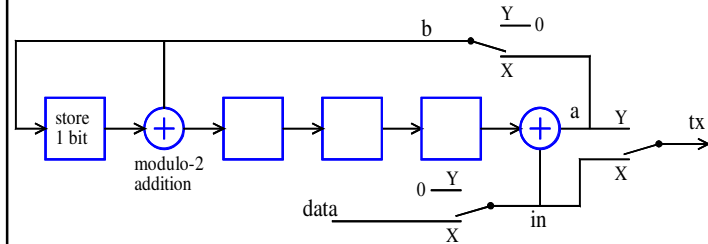


- storage element (flip-flop) holds one bit
 - all set to 0 initially
- modulo-2 adder is exclusive-OR gate (XOR)
 - positions match 1 bits in divisor (10011)
- data moves in from right to left
 - followed by 0s in check bit positions
- quotient available bit by bit on left
- after last bit, storage holds remainder



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CRC Implemented in Hardware



- modified so check bits ready when needed
 - switches at X to send data, Y for check bits
 - calculates check bits during data transmission
 - ready to send after last data bit...
- at receiver, no switches
 - just check remainder = 0000 at end



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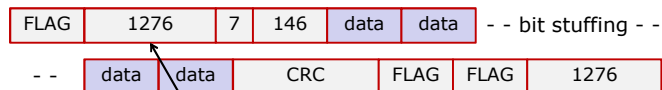
How Reliable is CRC?

- choose divisor carefully – *Generator Polynomial*
- 10011 is $G(x) = x^4 + x + 1$ where $x = 2$ here
- Analysis
 - let transmitted bits be number T
 - received bits $T + E$, where E is error pattern
 - divide by G to check, know $\frac{T}{G} = 0$, so $\frac{E}{G} = ?$
 - will detect any single error
 - can choose G to detect 2 errors in large block
 - e.g. 1100 0000 0000 0001 OK up to 32 768 bits
 - can choose G to detect any odd no. errors
 - will detect any burst of errors up to length of G
 - example: Ethernet and WiFi use 32 check bits
 - $G = 1\ 0000\ 0100\ 1100\ 0001\ 0001\ 1101\ 1011\ 0111$
 - blocks up to 12 000 bits



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Example Frame Structure – Bit Oriented



- Header: start with flag
 - maybe address: source, destination or both
 - sequence number, other control information
- Trailer
 - CRC (typ. 16 or 32 bits)
 - flag (maybe share with start of next frame)
- Acknowledgement
 - flag, ACK or NAK signal (or other)
 - sequence number
 - CRC, flag



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