IIT KHARAGPUR

NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSES

COMPUTER NETWORKS AND INTERNET PROTOCOLS

Circuit Switching and Packet Switching

SOUMYA K GHOSH
COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
IIT KHARAGPUR

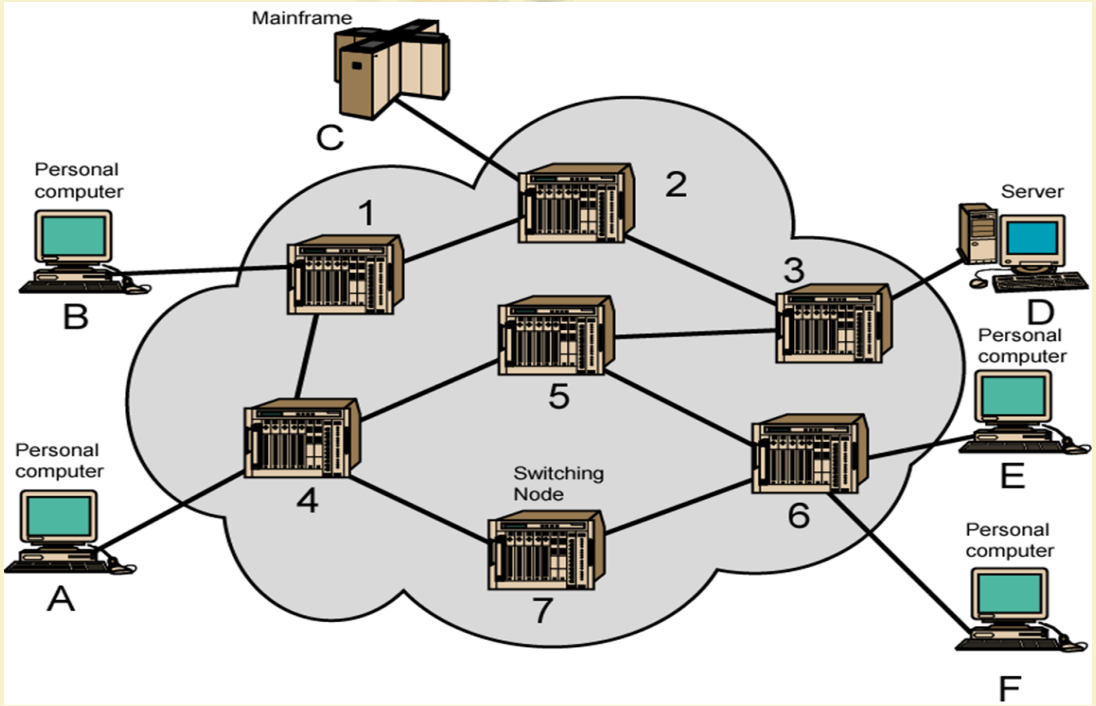
SANDIP CHAKRABORTY
COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
IIT KHARAGPUR

Switched Network

- Communication between distant stations/ end-devices is typically done over a network of switching nodes.
- Switching nodes do not concern with content of data. The purpose is to provide a switching facility that will communicate/transmit the data from source to destination via intermediate node(s).
- A collection of nodes and connections forms a communications network.
- In a switched communications network, data entering the network from a source station are routed to the destination by being switched from node to node.

Ref: Data & Computer Communications by William Stallings

Typical Switching Network



Ref: Data & Computer Communications by William Stallings

Switching Technologies

- Switching nodes may connect to other nodes, or to some stations.
- Network is usually partially connected
  - However, some redundant connections are desirable for reliability

- Two different switching technologies
  - Circuit switching
  - Packet switching

Ref: Data & Computer Communications by William Stallings

Circuit Switching

- Dedicated communication path between two stations
- Three phases
  - Establish
  - Transfer
  - Disconnect
- Must have switching capacity and channel capacity to establish connection
- Must have intelligence to work out routing

Ref: Data & Computer Communications by William Stallings

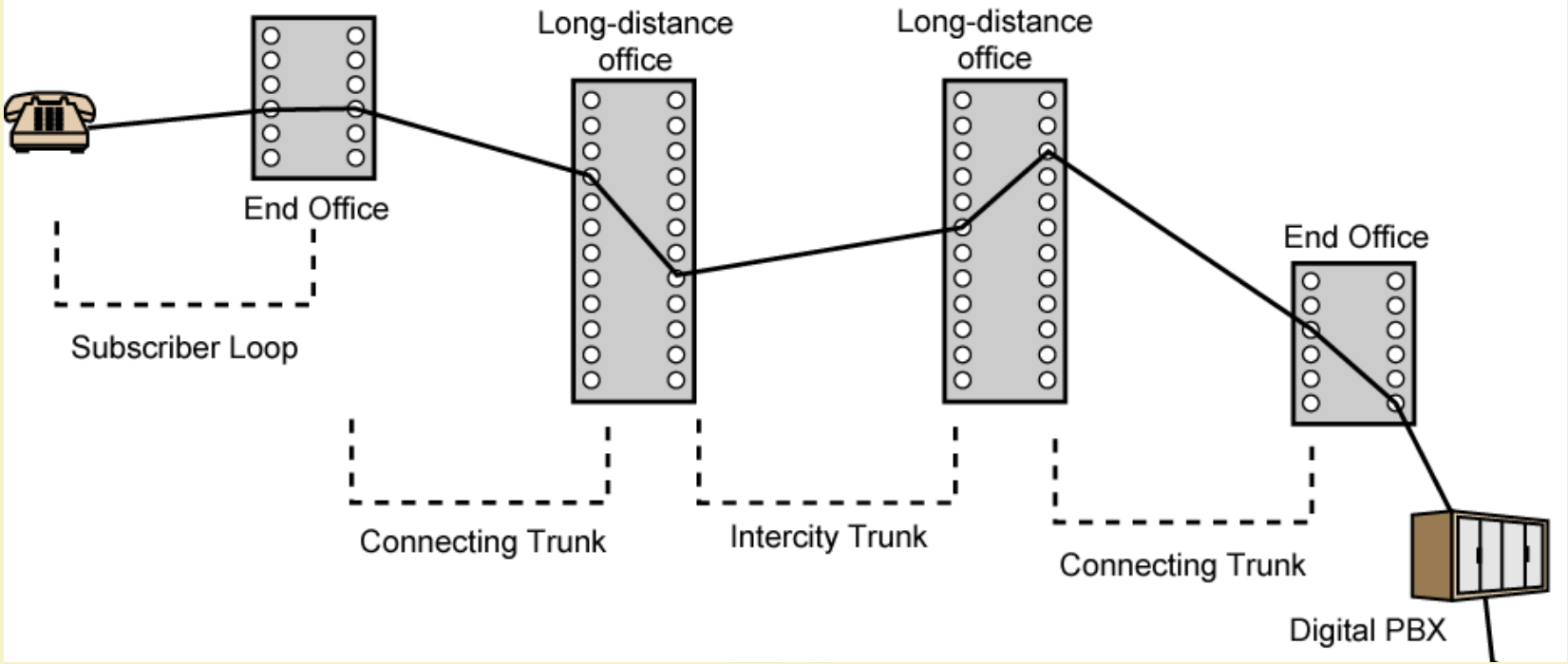
Packet Switching

- A station breaks long message into packets
- Packets are sent out to the network sequentially, one at a time
- The stream of packets are routed through the network and are delivered to the intended destination?
  - Two approaches
    - **Datagram** approach
    - **Virtual circuit** approach

Circuit Switching - Approaches

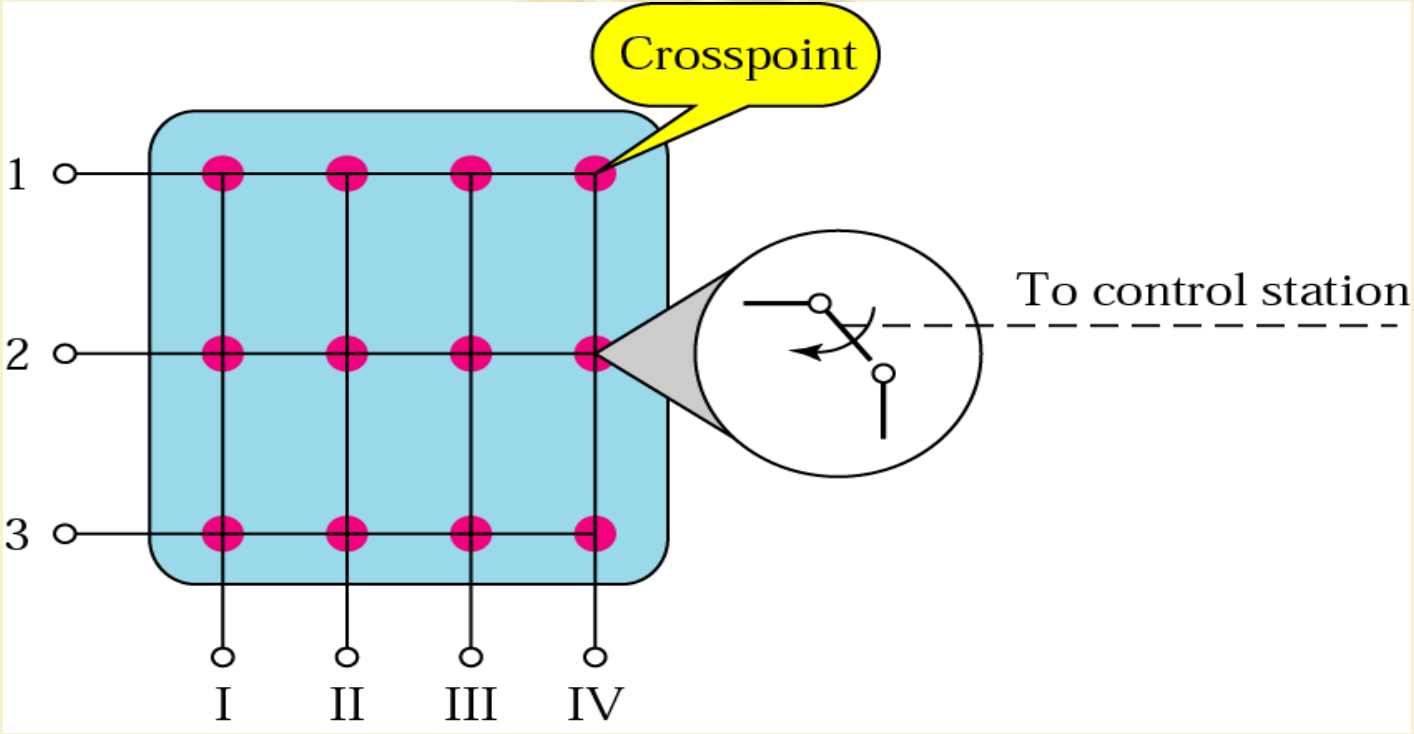
- Space-Division Switch
- Time-Division Switch
- TDM Bus
- Combinations

Circuit Switching - Approaches



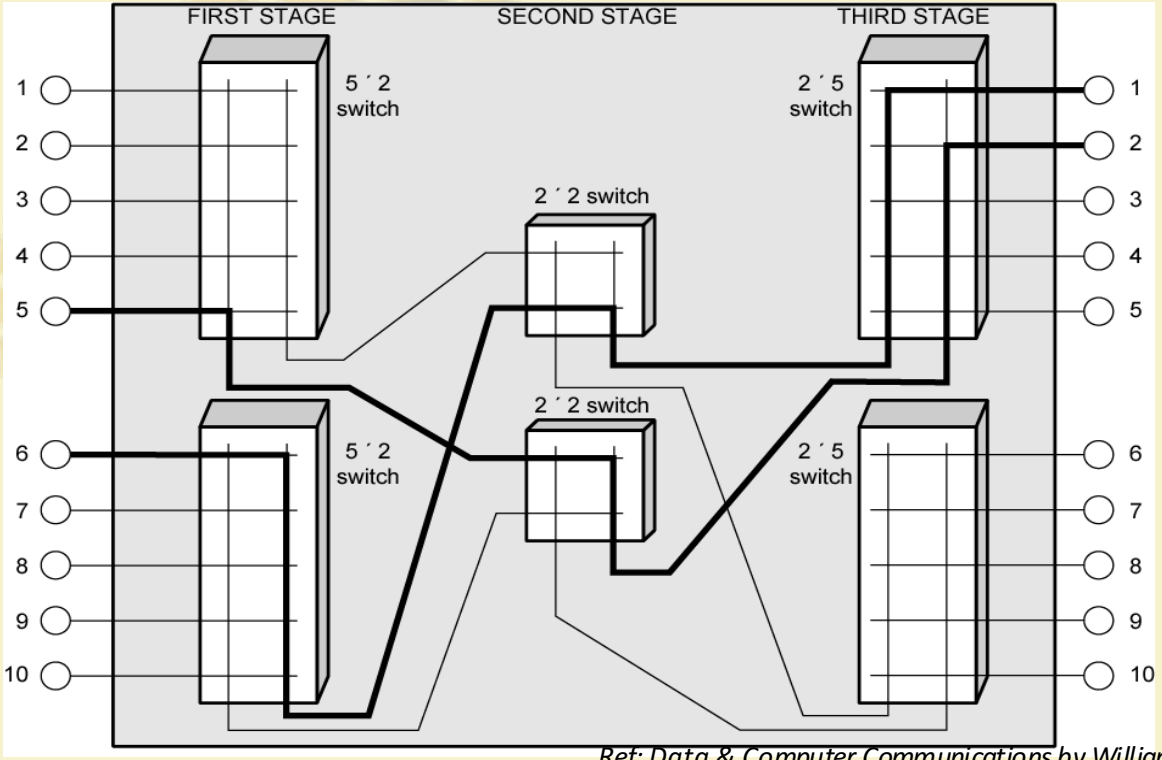
Ref: Data & Computer Communications by William Stallings

Circuit Switching – Space Division Switch



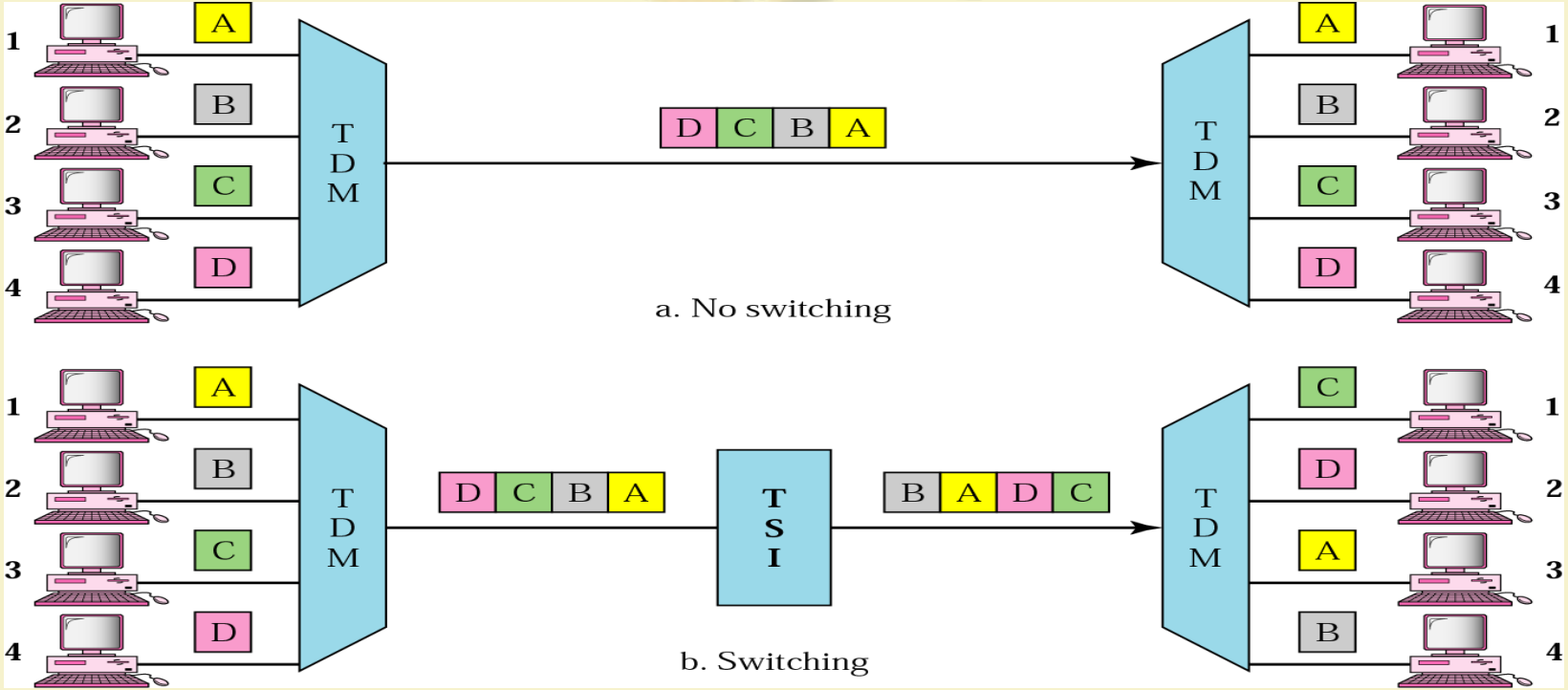
Circuit Switching – Multi-stage Space Division Switch

3-stage Space Division Switch



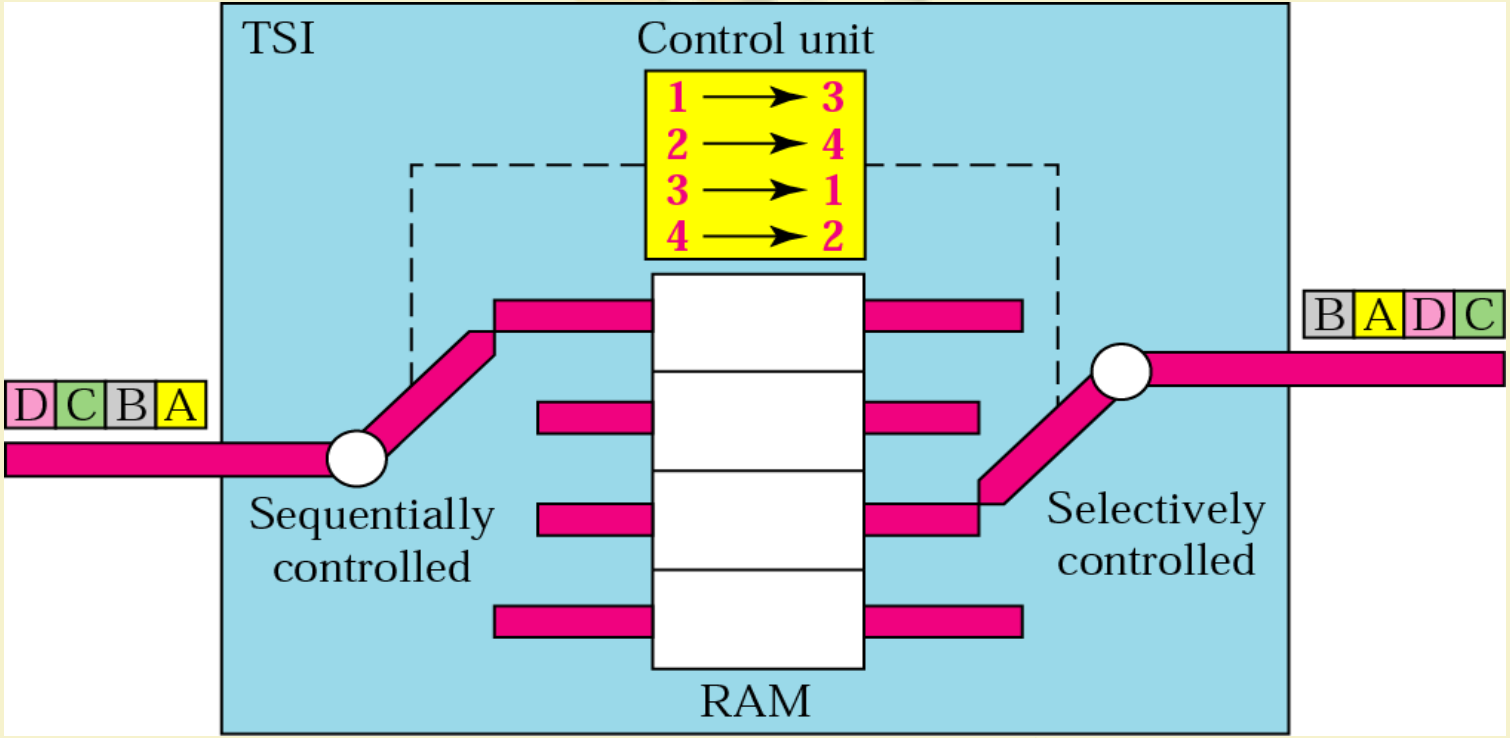
Ref: Data & Computer Communications by William Stallings

Circuit Switching – Time Division Multoplexing



Ref: Data & Computer Communications by William Stallings

Circuit Switching – Time Slot Interchange



Ref: Data & Computer Communications by William Stallings

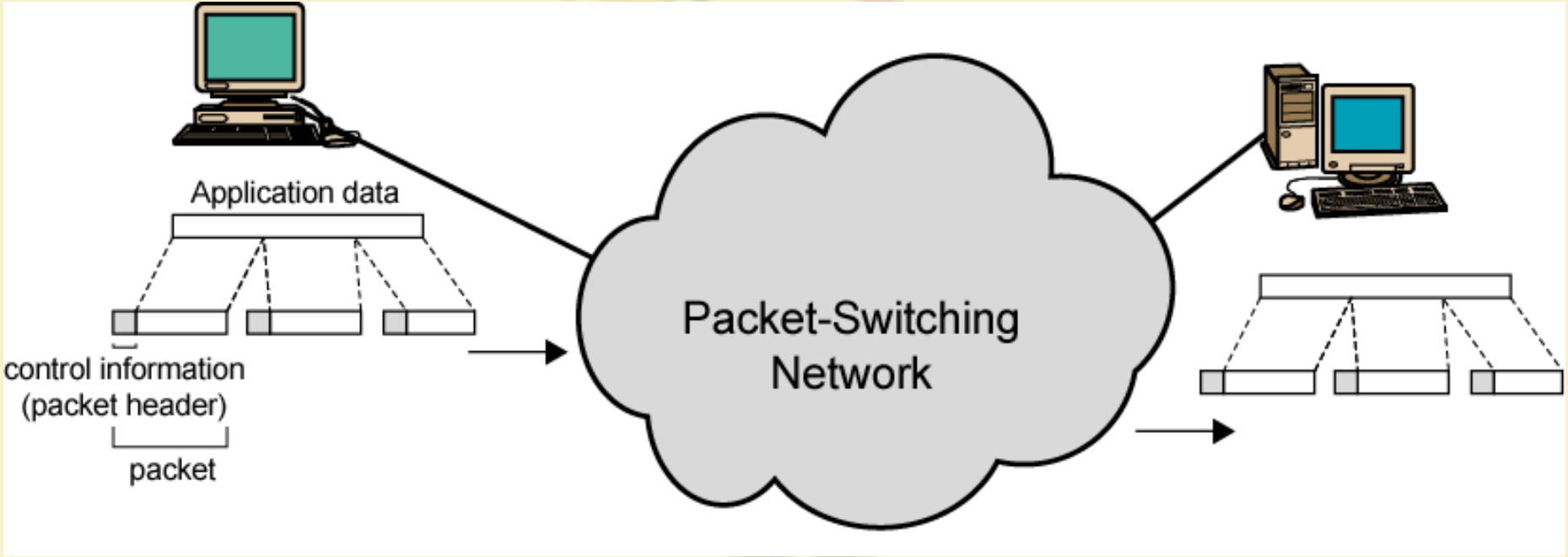
Circuit Switching – Properties/Issues

- Once connected, transfer is transparent
- Developed for voice traffic (phone)
- Inefficient
  - Channel capacity dedicated for duration of connection
  - If no data, capacity wasted
- Set up (connection) takes time
- Data rate is fixed - Both ends must operate at the same rate

Packet Switching – Basics

- Data transmitted in small packets
  - Typically 1000 octets (8 bit byte)
  - Longer messages split into series of packets
  - Each packet contains a portion of user data plus some control info
- Control info
  - Routing (addressing) info
- Packets are received, stored briefly (buffered) and passed on to the next node
  - Store and forward

Packet Switched Network



Ref: Data & Computer Communications by William Stallings

Packet Switching – Advantages

- Line efficiency
  - Single node to node link can be shared by many packets over time
  - Packets queued and transmitted as fast as possible
- Data rate conversion
  - Each station connects to the local node at its own speed
  - Nodes buffer data if required to equalize rates
- Packets are accepted even when network is busy
  - Delivery may slow down
- Priorities can be used

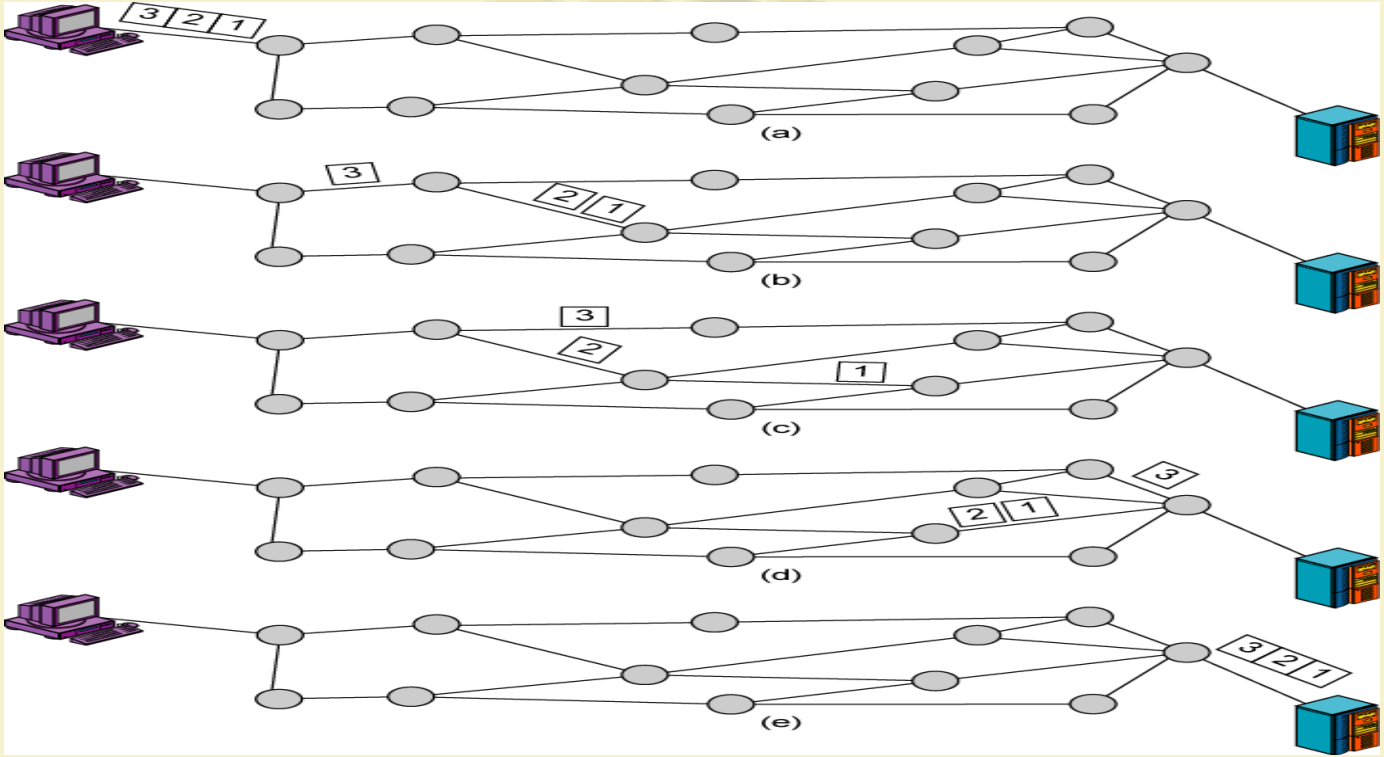
Packet Switching – Techniques

- Station breaks long message into packets
- Packets sent one at a time to the network
- Packets are handled in two ways
  - Datagram
  - Virtual circuit

Packet Switching – Datagram

- Each packet treated independently
- Packets can take any practical route
- Packets may arrive out of order
- Packets may get lost or delayed
- Up to receiver to re-order packets and recover from missing packets

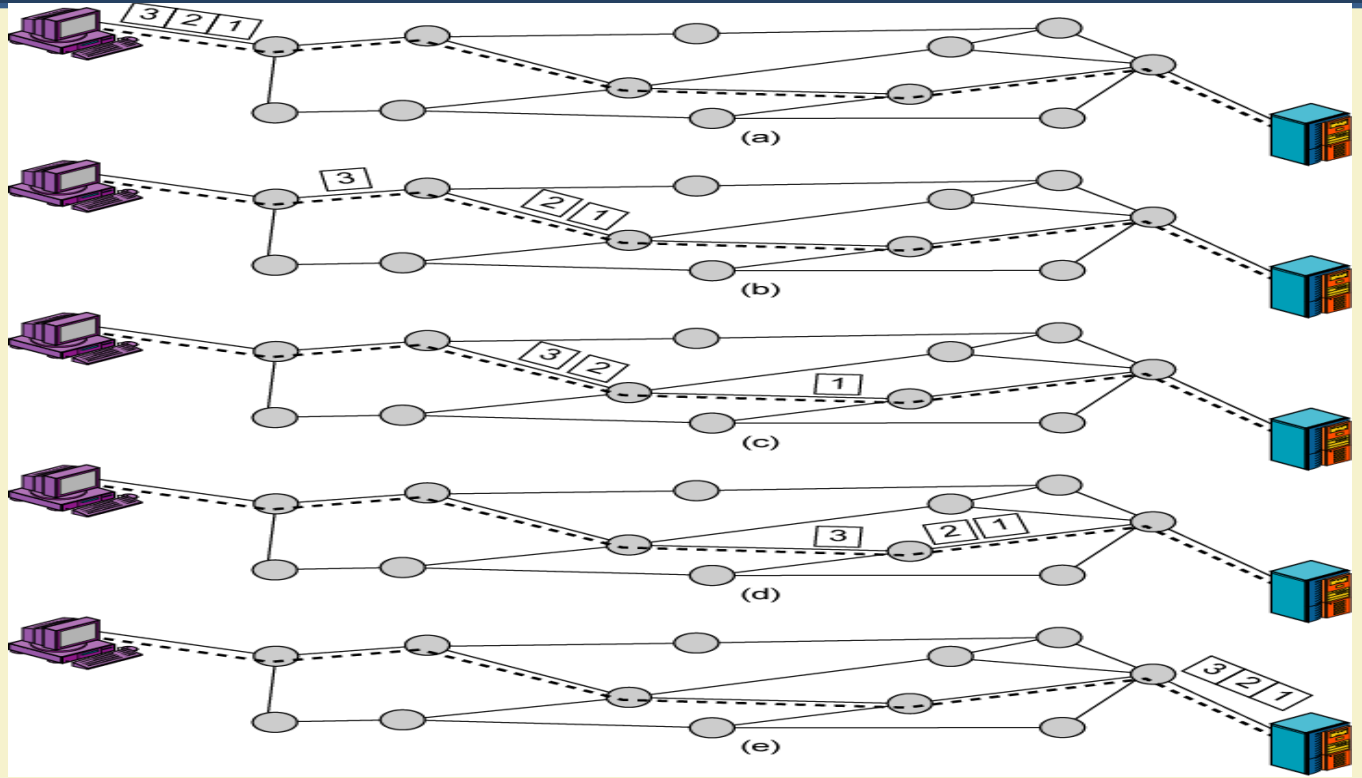
Packet Switching – Datagram



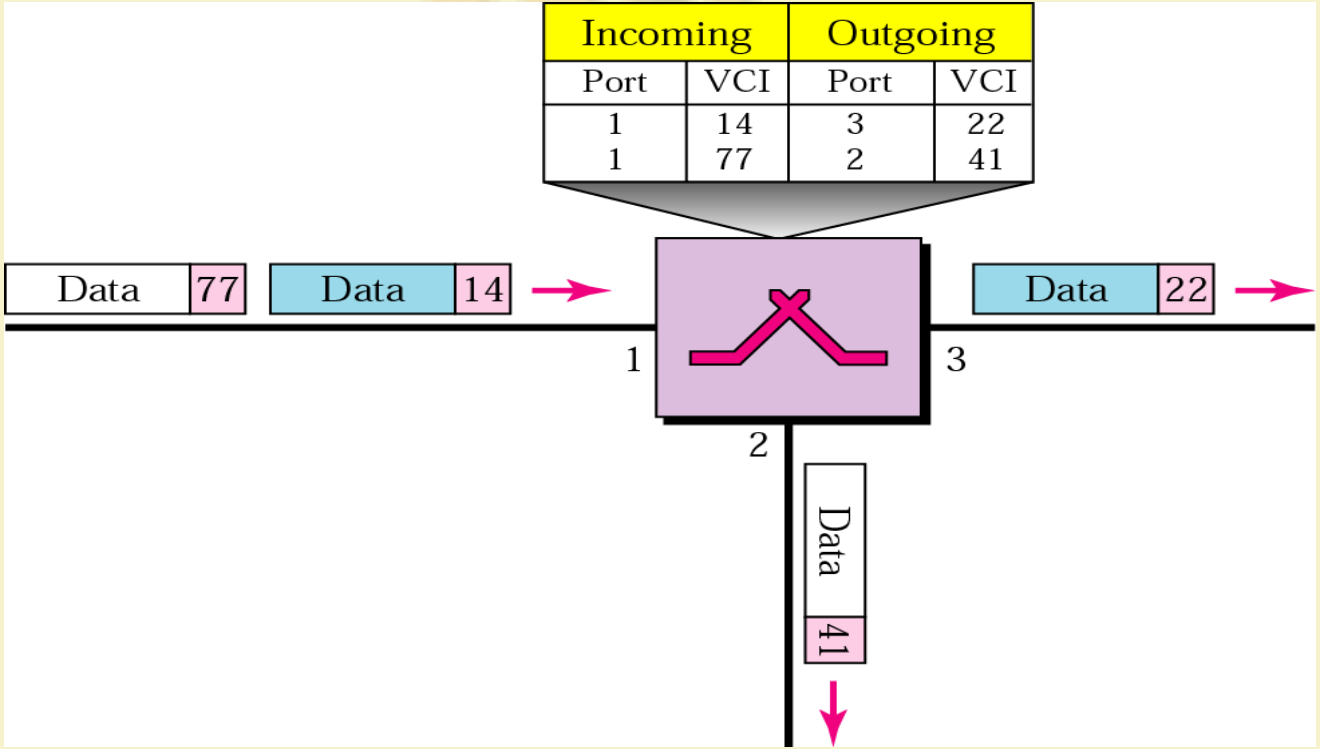
Packet Switching – Virtual Circuit

- Preplanned route established before any packets sent
- Call request and call accept packets establish connection (handshake)
- Each packet contains a virtual circuit identifier instead of destination address
- No routing decisions required for each packet
- Clear request to drop circuit
- Not a dedicated path

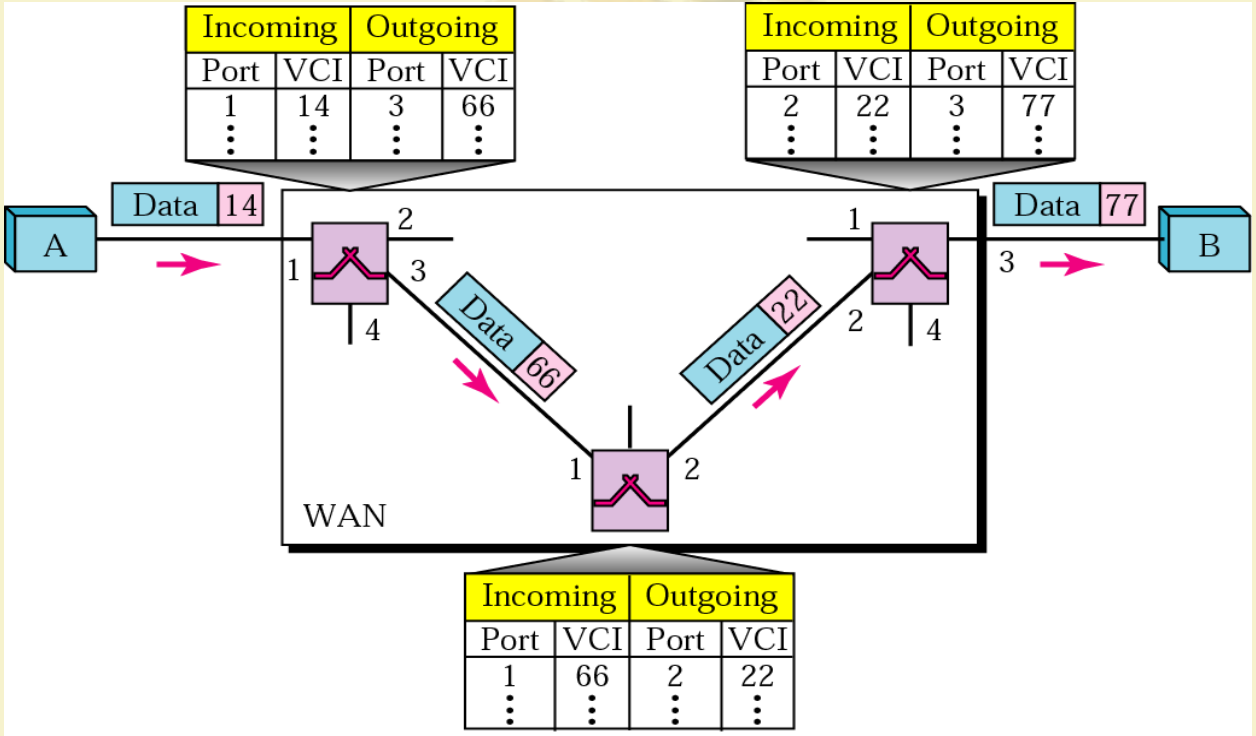
Packet Switching – Virtual Circuit



Packet Switching – VC Switching Table



Virtual Circuit – Source to Destination



Packet Switching – Virtual Circuits vs Datagram

- Virtual circuits
  - Network can provide sequencing and error control
  - Packets are forwarded more quickly
    - No routing decisions to make
  - Less reliable
    - Loss of a node loses all circuits through that node
- Datagram
  - No call setup phase
    - Better if few packets
  - More flexible
    - Routing can be used to avoid congested parts of the network

Circuit vs. Packet Switching

Circuit Switched

- Bandwidth guaranteed
- Circuit capacity not reduced by other network traffic
- Circuit costs independent of amount of data transmitted, resulting in wasted bandwidth
- Suitable for voice communication

Packet Switched

- Bandwidth dynamically allocated on as-needed basis
- May have concurrent transmissions over physical channel
- May have delays and congestion
- More cost-effective, offer better performance
- Suitable for data communication

thank you!