

## Chapter 2 (Subset of topics)

### Getting Connected

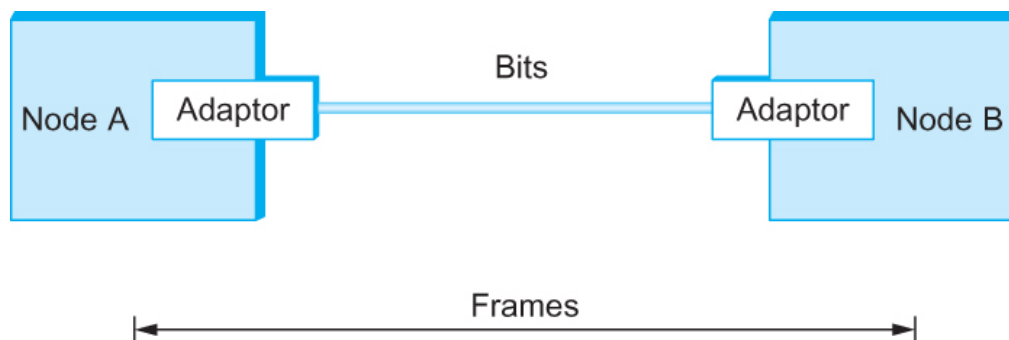
- Framing
- Error Detection. Reliable Transmission
- Sharing: Ethernet and Multiple Access Networks, Wireless Networks

# Framing, Reliability, Sharing

- Delineating the sequence of bits transmitted over the link into complete messages that can be delivered to the end node
- Techniques to detect transmission errors and take the appropriate action (conceptually same as RPC)
- Making the links reliable in spite of transmission problems
- Media Access Control Problem
- Carrier Sense Multiple Access (CSMA) networks
- Wireless Networks with different available technologies and protocol

# Framing

- We are focusing on packet-switched networks, which means that blocks of data (called *frames* at this level), not bit streams, are exchanged between nodes.
- It is the network adaptor that enables the nodes to exchange frames.



Bits flow between adaptors, frames between hosts

# Framing

- When node A wishes to transmit a frame to node B, it tells its adaptor to transmit a frame from the node's memory. This results in a sequence of bits being sent over the link.
- The adaptor on node B then collects together the sequence of bits arriving on the link and deposits the corresponding frame in B's memory.
- Recognizing exactly what set of bits constitute a frame—that is, determining where the frame begins and ends—is the central function of the adaptor

# Framing: Byte oriented

- BISYNC – original Sentinel Approach (late 60s, IBM)
  - Frames transmitted beginning with leftmost field
  - Beginning of a frame is denoted by sending a special SYN (synchronize) character
  - Data portion of the frame is contained between special sentinel character STX (start of text) and ETX (end of text)
  - SOH : Start of Header
  - DLE : Data Link Escape
  - CRC: Cyclic Redundancy Check



BISYNC Frame Format

# Framing: Bit-oriented Protocol

- HDLC : High Level Data Link Control Beginning and Ending Sequences: 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0
- Sender: any time five consecutive 1's have been transmitted from the body of the message sender inserts 0 before transmitting the next bit (bit stuffing)
- Receiver: 5 consecutive 1's received:
  - Next bit 0 : Stuffed, so discard it
  - Next bit 1 : Either End of the frame marker, Or Error has been introduced in bitstream
  - If 0 ( 01111110 ) → End of the frame marker
  - If 1 ( 01111111 ) → Error, discard the whole frame



HDLC Frame Format

# Error Detection

- Bit errors are introduced into frames
  - Because of electrical interference and thermal noises
- Common technique for detecting transmission error
  - CRC (Cyclic Redundancy Check)
    - Used in HDLC, CSMA/CD
  - Other approaches
    - Checksum (IP)

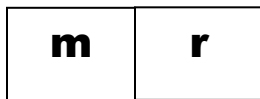
# Error Detection

- Basic Idea of Error Detection
  - To add redundant information to a frame that can be used to determine if errors have been introduced
  - Imagine (Extreme Case)
    - Transmitting two complete copies of data
      - Identical → No error
      - Differ → Error
      - Poor Scheme ???
        - $n$  bit message,  $n$  bit redundant information
        - Error can go undetected
    - In general, we can provide strong error detection technique efficiently
      - $k$  redundant bits,  $n$  bits message,  $k \ll n$
      - In Ethernet, a frame carrying up to 12,000 bits of data requires only 32-bit CRC

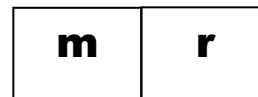


# Error Detection

- Extra bits are redundant
  - They add no new information to the message
  - Derived from the original message using some algorithm
  - Both the sender and receiver know the algorithm
  - IP weak checksum (sum of '16 bit' words)
  - Link Level: CRC (see book/wikipedia for details as interested)



Sender



Receiver

Receiver computes  $r$  using  $m$ , If they match, no error

# Error Correction

- Need to: Detect Error, Correct/Recover from Error
- Two approaches when the recipient detects an error
  - Using error correction algorithm, the receiver reconstructs the message
    - The overhead is often considered too high for wired links...more relevant to wireless...some errors go uncorrected
    - Corrupt frames must be discarded.
  - “Notify” the sender that the message was corrupted, so the sender can send again.
    - If the error is rare, then the retransmitted message will be error-free

# Reliable Transmission

- A link-level protocol that wants to deliver frames reliably must recover from discarded frames.
- Combination of two fundamental mechanisms
- An *acknowledgement* (ACK for short) is a small control frame that a protocol sends back to its peer saying that it has received the earlier frame.
  - A control frame is a frame with header only (no data).
- The receipt of an *acknowledgement* indicates to the sender of the original frame that its frame was successfully delivered.

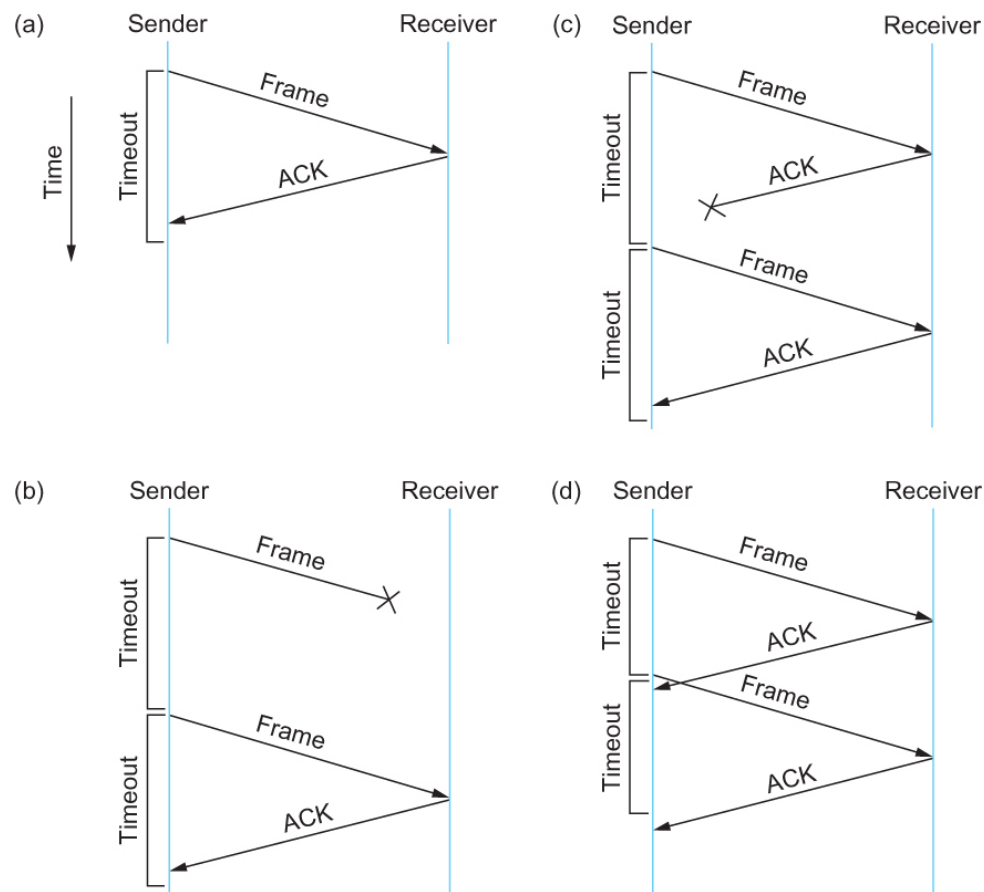
# Reliable Transmission

- If the sender does not receive an *acknowledgment* after a reasonable amount of time, then it retransmits the original frame.
- The action of waiting a reasonable amount of time is called a *timeout*.
- The general strategy of using *acknowledgements* and *timeouts* to implement reliable delivery is sometimes called Automatic Repeat reQuest (ARQ).
- Build up the concept so you understand why we don't use the simplest form...

# Stop and Wait Protocol

- Idea of stop-and-wait protocol is straightforward
  - After transmitting one frame, the sender waits for an acknowledgement before transmitting the next frame.
  - If the acknowledgement does not arrive after a certain period of time, the sender times out and retransmits the original frame

# Stop and Wait Protocol



Timeline showing four different scenarios for the stop-and-wait algorithm.

(a) The ACK is received before the timer expires; (b) the original frame is lost; (c) the ACK is lost; (d) the timeout fires too soon

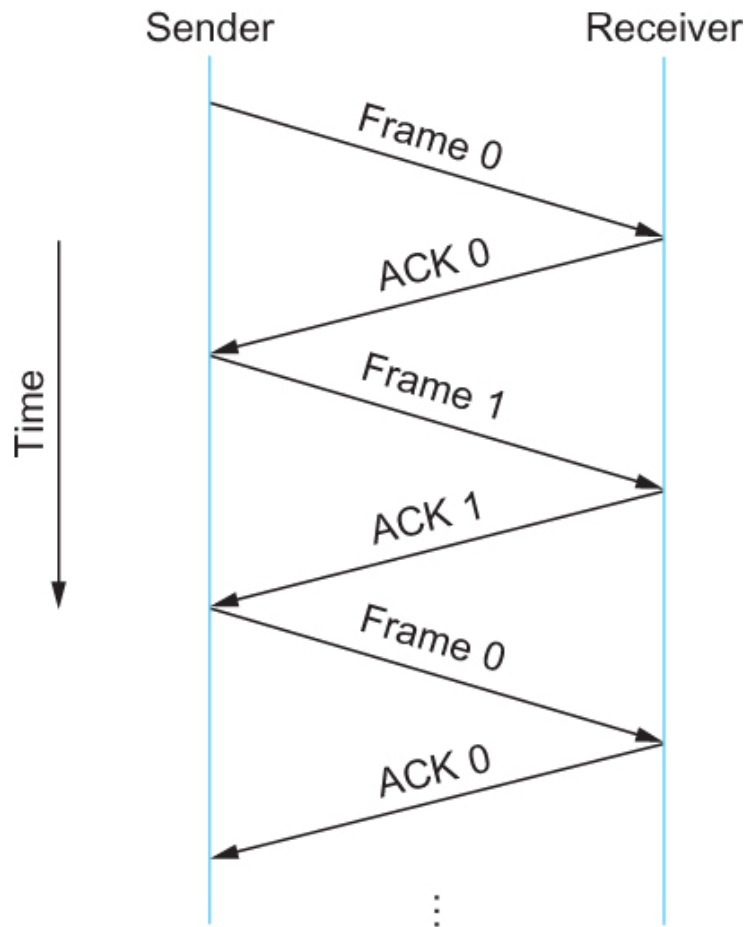
# Stop and Wait Protocol

- If the acknowledgment is lost or delayed in arriving
  - The sender times out and retransmits the original frame, but the receiver will think that it is the next frame since it has correctly received and acknowledged the first frame
  - As a result, duplicate copies of frames will be delivered
- How to solve this

Same conceptual issue as with TCP, RPC

  - Use 1 bit sequence number (0 or 1)
  - When the sender retransmits frame 0, the receiver can determine that it is seeing a second copy of frame 0 rather than the first copy of frame 1 and therefore can ignore it (the receiver still acknowledges it, in case the first acknowledgement was lost)

# Stop and Wait Protocol



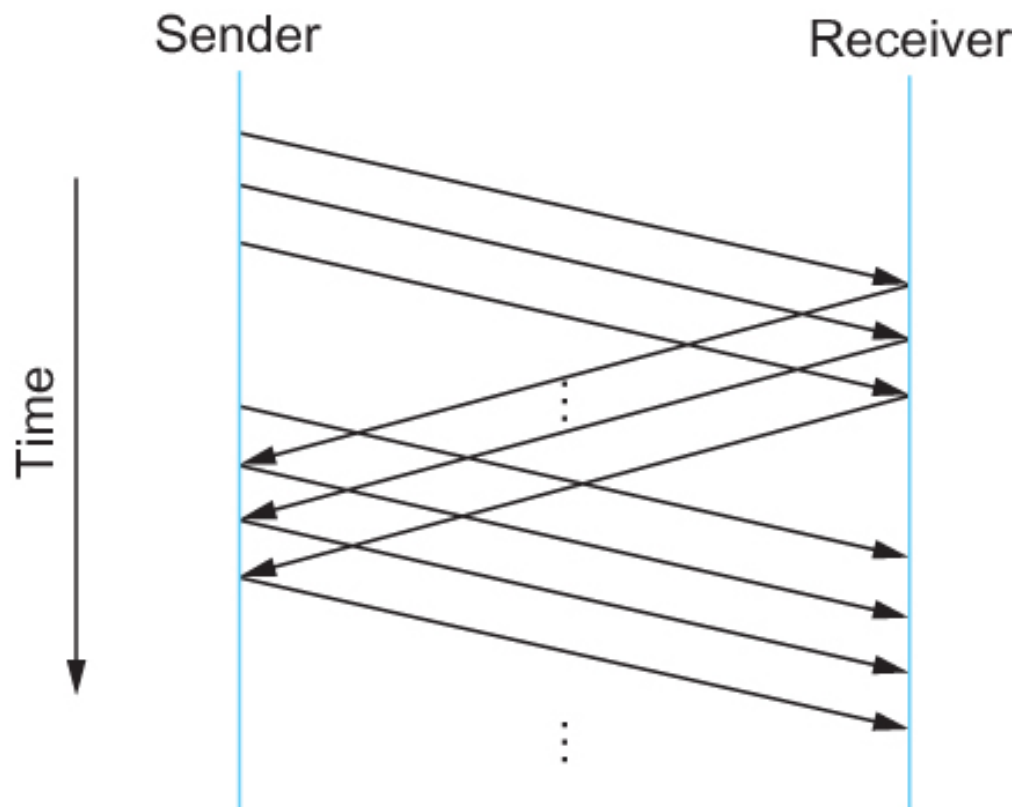
Timeline for stop-and-wait with 1-bit sequence number



# Sender Stop and Wait Protocol -- Limitations

- The sender has only one outstanding frame on the link at a time
  - This may be far below the link's capacity
- Consider a slow 1.5 Mbps link with a 45 ms RTT
  - The link has a delay  $\times$  bandwidth product of 67.5 Kb or approximately 8 KB
  - Since the sender can send only one frame per RTT and assuming a frame size of 1 KB
  - Maximum Sending rate
    - $\text{Bits per frame} \div \text{Time per frame} = 1024 \times 8 \div 0.045 = 182 \text{ Kbps}$   
Or about one-eighth of the link's capacity
  - To use the link fully, then sender should transmit up to eight frames before having to wait for an acknowledgement
  - QUIZ QUESTION

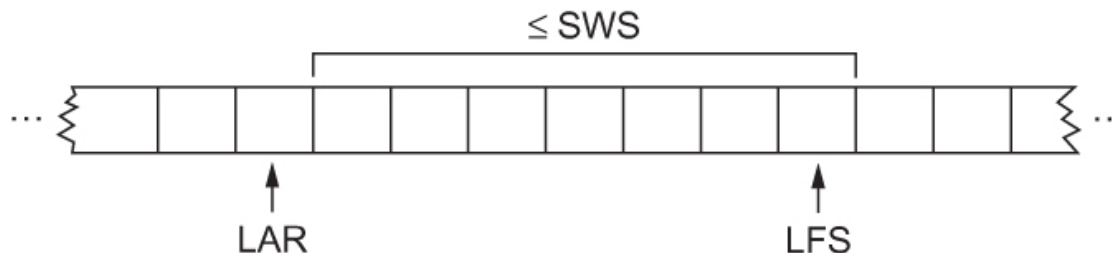
# Sliding Window Protocol: Parallelism



Timeline for Sliding Window Protocol

# Sender Sliding Window Protocol

- Sender assigns a sequence number denoted as SeqNum to each frame
- Sender maintains three variables
  - Sending Window Size (SWS)
    - Upper bound on the number of outstanding (unacknowledged) frames that the sender can transmit
  - Last Acknowledgement Received (LAR)
    - Sequence number of the last acknowledgement received
  - Last Frame Sent (LFS)
    - Sequence number of the last frame sent
- Sender maintains invariant:  $LFS - LAR \leq SWS$

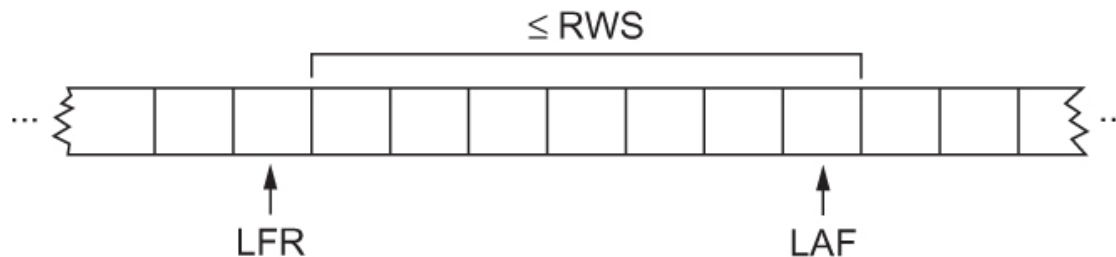


# Sender Sliding Window Protocol

- When an acknowledgement arrives
  - the sender moves LAR to right, thereby allowing the sender to transmit another frame
- Also the sender associates a timer with each frame it transmits
  - It retransmits the frame if the timer expires before the ACK is received
- Note that the sender has to be willing to buffer up to SWS frames

# Receiver Sliding Window Protocol

- Receiver maintains three variables
  - Receiving Window Size (RWS)
    - Upper bound on the number of out-of-order frames that the receiver is willing to accept
  - Largest Acceptable Frame (LAF)
    - Sequence number of the largest acceptable frame
  - Last Frame Received (LFR)
    - Sequence number of the last frame received
- Receiver maintains invariant:  $LAF - LFR \leq RWS$



# Receiver Sliding Window Protocol

- When a frame with sequence number  $\text{SeqNum}$  arrives:
  - If  $\text{SeqNum} \leq \text{LFR}$  or  $\text{SeqNum} > \text{LAF}$ 
    - Discard it (the frame is outside the receiver window)
  - If  $\text{LFR} < \text{SeqNum} \leq \text{LAF}$ 
    - Accept it
  - Decide whether or not to send an ACK
    - Let  $\text{SeqNumToAck}$  Denote the largest sequence number not yet acknowledged, such that all frames with sequence number less than or equal to  $\text{SeqNumToAck}$  have been received
  - The receiver acknowledges the receipt of  $\text{SeqNumToAck}$  even if higher-numbered packets have been received
    - This acknowledgement is said to be cumulative.
  - The receiver then sets
    - $\text{LFR} = \text{SeqNumToAck}$  and adjusts
    - $\text{LAF} = \text{LFR} + \text{RWS}$

# Sliding Window Protocol Inefficiencies

- When timeout occurs, the amount of data in transit decreases
  - Since the sender is unable to advance its window
- When the packet loss occurs, this scheme is no longer keeping the pipe full
  - The longer it takes to notice that a packet loss has occurred, the more severe the problem becomes
- How to improve this -- Will discuss nuances in context of TCP in future lecture
  - Negative Acknowledgement (NAK)
  - Additional Acknowledgement
  - Selective Acknowledgement

# NAKs, Duplicate Acks, Selective Acks...

- Negative Acknowledgement (NAK)
  - Receiver sends NAK for frame 6 when frame 7 arrive (in the previous example)
    - However this is unnecessary since sender's timeout mechanism will be sufficient to catch the situation
- Additional Acknowledgement
  - Receiver sends additional ACK for frame 5 when frame 7 arrives
    - Sender uses duplicate ACK as a clue for frame loss
- Selective Acknowledgement
  - Receiver will acknowledge exactly those frames it has received, rather than the highest number frames
    - Receiver will acknowledge frames 7 and 8
    - Sender knows frame 6 is lost
    - Sender can keep the pipe full (additional complexity)



# Sequence numbers

- How to distinguish between different incarnations of the same sequence number?
  - Number of possible sequence number must be larger than the number of outstanding frames allowed
    - Stop and Wait: One outstanding frame
      - 2 distinct sequence number (0 and 1)
    - Let `MaxSeqNum` be the number of available sequence numbers
    - $SWS + 1 \leq \text{MaxSeqNum}$ 
      - Is this sufficient?

# Sequence number space

$$\text{SWS} + 1 \leq \text{MaxSeqNum}$$

- Is this sufficient?
  - Depends on RWS
  - If  $\text{RWS} = 1$ , then sufficient
  - If  $\text{RWS} = \text{SWS}$ , then not good enough
- For example, we have eight sequence numbers  
 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7  
 $\text{RWS} = \text{SWS} = 7$   
 Sender sends 0, 1, ..., 6  
 Receiver receives 0, 1, ..., 6  
 Receiver acknowledges 0, 1, ..., 6  
 ACK (0, 1, ..., 6) are lost  
 Sender retransmits 0, 1, ..., 6  
 Receiver is expecting 7, 0, ..., 5
- To avoid this, If  $\text{RWS} = \text{SWS}$ ,  $\text{SWS} < (\text{MaxSeqNum} + 1)/2$

# Sharing Links

- Ethernet
- Wifi

# Ethernet

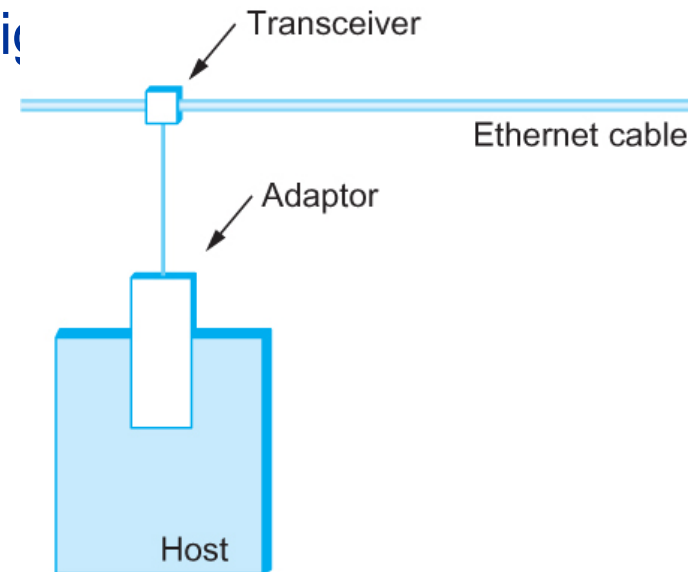
- Most successful local area networking technology of last 30 years.
- Developed in the mid-1970s by researchers at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Centers (PARC).
- Uses CSMA/CD technology
  - Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Detection.
  - A set of nodes send and receive frames over a shared link.
  - Carrier sense means that all nodes can distinguish between an idle and a busy link.
  - Collision detection means that a node listens as it transmits and can therefore detect when a frame it is transmitting has collided with a frame transmitted by another node.
- Interesting design lessons for higher level distributed systems (pub/sub bus)

# Ethernet -- Origins

- Uses ALOHA (packet radio network) as the root protocol
  - Developed at the University of Hawaii to support communication across the Hawaiian Islands (early '70s).
  - For ALOHA the medium was atmosphere, for Ethernet the medium is a coax cable.
- DEC and Intel joined Xerox to define a 10-Mbps Ethernet standard in 1978.
- This standard formed the basis for IEEE standard 802.3
- 802.3 was later extended to include a 100-Mbps Fast Ethernet and a 1000-Mbps Gigabit Ethernet.

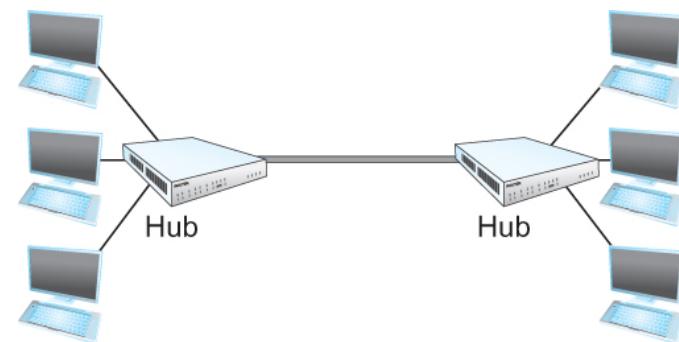
# Ethernet -- hardware

- Ethernet segment – original was coaxial cable of up to 500 m.
  - Up to 5 segments can be joined by *repeaters* -- total reach 2500 m.
  - Later thinner cable known as 10Base2 up to 200 m; Twisted pair 10Base1 up to 100 m (used with Ethernet Hubs that xmit onto all links)
- Hosts connect to an Ethernet segment by tapping into it.
- A transceiver (a small device directly attached to the tap) detects when the line is idle and drives signal when the host is transmitting, and receives incoming signal when the host is receiving.
- Ethernet adaptor plugs into host and implements protocol



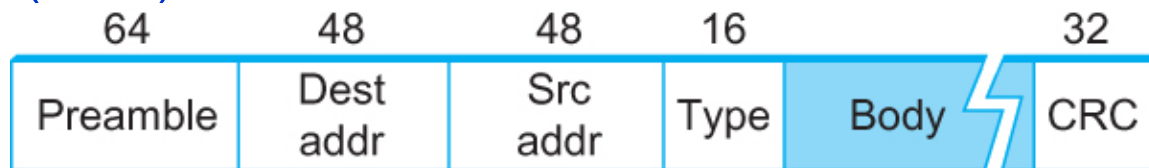
# Ethernet is a “Bus”

- Any signal placed on the Ethernet by a host is broadcast over the entire network
  - Signal is propagated in both directions.
  - Repeaters forward the signal on all outgoing segments.
  - Terminators attached to the end of each segment absorb the signal.
- Ethernet hubs rebroadcast onto all attached links so still one broadcast network



# Access Protocol for Ethernet -- Framing

- Ethernet's Media Access Control (MAC).
  - implemented in Hardware on the network adaptor.
- Frame format
  - Preamble (64bit): allows the receiver to synchronize with the signal (sequence of alternating 0s and 1s).
  - Host and Destination Address (48bit each).
  - Packet type (16bit): acts as demux key to identify the higher level protocol.
  - Data (up to 1500 bytes)
    - Minimally a frame must contain at least 46 bytes of data.
    - Frame must be long enough to detect collision.
  - CRC (32bit)





# Ethernet Addresses

- Each host on an Ethernet (in fact, every Ethernet host in the world) has a unique Ethernet Address.
- The address belongs to the adaptor, not the host.
  - It is usually burnt into ROM.
- Ethernet addresses printed in a human readable format
  - sequence of six numbers separated by colons.
  - Each number corresponds to 1 byte of the 6 byte address and is given by a pair of hexadecimal digits, one for each of the 4-bit nibbles in the byte; Leading 0s are dropped.
  - 8:0:2b:e4:b1:2 is  
00001000 00000000 00101011 11100100 10110001 00000010
- Each manufacturer of devices is allocated a different prefix prepended to address on every adaptor they build (AMD assigned 24bit prefix 8:0:20)

# Ethernet Receiver

- Each frame transmitted on an Ethernet is **received** by every adaptor connected to that Ethernet.
- **Each adaptor recognizes those frames addressed to its address and passes only those frames on to the host.**
- In addition, to *unicast* address, an Ethernet address consisting of all 1s is treated as a *broadcast* address.
  - All adaptors pass frames addressed to the *broadcast* address up to the host.
- Similarly, an address that has the first bit set to 1 but is not the *broadcast* address is called a *multicast* address.
  - A given host can program its adaptor to accept some set of *multicast* addresses.

# Ethernet Transmitter – Listen before Talk

- When the adaptor has a frame to send and the line is idle, it transmits the frame immediately.
  - **The upper bound of 1500 bytes in the message means that the adaptor can occupy the line for a fixed length of time.**
- When the adaptor has a frame to send and the line is busy, it waits for the line to go idle and then transmits immediately. (“Carrier Sense”=Listen before talk)
- The Ethernet is said to be 1-persistent protocol because an adaptor with a frame to send transmits with probability 1 whenever a busy line goes idle.

# Ethernet Transmitter – Collision Detection

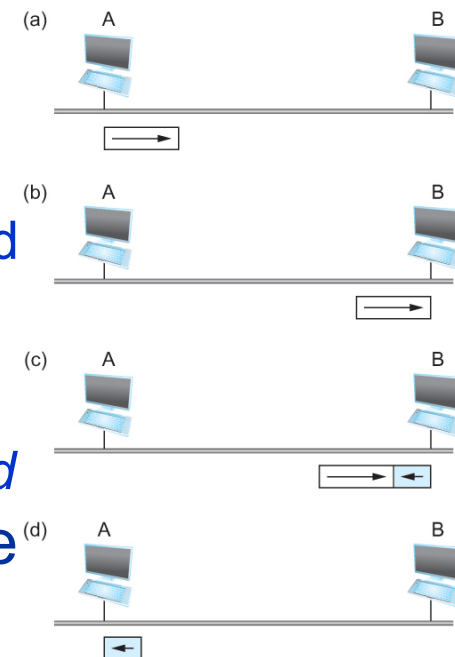
- Since there is no centralized control it is possible for two (or more) adaptors to begin transmitting at the same time,
  - Either because both found the line to be idle,
  - Or, both had been waiting for a busy line to become idle.
- The two (or more) frames are said to be *collide* on the network.
  - Each sender is able to determine that a collision is in progress (signal is abnormal) by “Listening while transmitting”.
- At the moment an adaptor detects that its frame is colliding with another, it first makes sure to transmit a 32-bit jamming sequence and then stops transmission.
  - Transmitter minimally sends 96 bits in the case of collision with nearby host: 64-bit preamble + 32-bit jamming sequence

# Collision Detection not instantaneous

- The worst case scenario happens when the two hosts are at opposite ends of the Ethernet.
- To know for sure that the frame its just sent did not collide with another frame, the transmitter may need to send as many as 512 bits.
  - Every Ethernet frame must be at least 512 bits (64 bytes) long.
    - 14 bytes of header + 46 bytes of data + 4 bytes of CRC
  - The farther apart two nodes are, the longer it takes for a frame sent by one to reach the other, and the network is vulnerable to collision during this time

# Collision detection delay

- A begins frame at time  $t$ ;  $d$  is one link latency
- The first bit of A's frame arrives at B at time  $t + d$
- Suppose an instant before host A's frame arrives, host B begins to transmit its own frame
  - B's frame will immediately collide with A's frame and this collision will be detected by host B
  - Host B will send the 32-bit jamming sequence
  - Host A will not know that the collision occurred until B's frame reaches it, which could happen at  $t + 2 * d$
- Host A must continue to transmit until this time in order to detect the collision (listen while talking)
  - Host A must transmit for  $2 * d$  to be sure that it detects all collisions ( $d = 51.2 \mu s$  if 2500 m  $\rightarrow$  transmit 512 bits on 10 Mbps Ethernet)



# Ethernet Transmitter Algorithm

- Consider that a maximally configured Ethernet is 2500 m long, and there may be up to four repeaters between any two hosts, the round trip delay has been determined to be  $51.2 \mu\text{s}$ 
  - Which on 10 Mbps Ethernet corresponds to 512 bits
- The other way to look at this situation,
  - We need to limit the Ethernet's maximum latency to a fairly small value ( $51.2 \mu\text{s}$ ) for the access algorithm to work efficiently
    - Hence the maximum length for the Ethernet is on the order of 2500 m.

# Exponential backoff

- What if the network is very busy – lots of host want to transmit a lot – Collision rate goes up
- Once an adaptor has detected a collision, and stopped its transmission, it waits a certain amount of time and tries again.
- **Each time the adaptor tries to transmit but fails, it doubles the amount of time it waits before trying again.**
- This strategy of doubling the delay interval between each retransmission attempt is known as *Exponential Backoff*.



# Exponential backoff w/ randomization

- The adaptor first delays either 0 or 51.2  $\mu\text{s}$ , selected at random.
- If this effort fails, it then waits 0, 51.2, 102.4, 153.6  $\mu\text{s}$  (selected randomly) before trying again;
  - This is  $k * 51.2$  for  $k = 0, 1, 2, 3$
- After the third collision, it waits  $k * 51.2$  for  $k = 0 \dots 2^3 - 1$  (again selected at random).
- In general, the algorithm randomly selects a  $k$  between 0 and  $2^n - 1$  and waits for  $k * 51.2 \mu\text{s}$ , where  $n$  is the number of collisions experienced so far.

# Experience with Ethernet

- Ethernets work best under lightly loaded conditions.
  - Under heavy loads, too much of the network's capacity is wasted by collisions.
- Most Ethernets are used in a conservative way.
  - Have fewer than 200 hosts connected to them which is far fewer than the maximum of 1024.
- Most Ethernets are far shorter than 2500m with a round-trip delay of closer to 5  $\mu$ s than 51.2  $\mu$ s.
- Ethernets are easy to administer and maintain.
  - There are no switches that can fail and no routing and configuration tables that have to be kept up-to-date.
  - It is easy to add a new host to the network.
  - It is inexpensive.
    - Cable is cheap, and only other cost is the network adaptor on each host.

# Wireless Links

- Wireless links transmit electromagnetic signals
  - Radio, microwave, infrared
- Wireless links all share the same “wire” (so to speak)
  - The challenge is to share it efficiently without unduly interfering with each other
  - Most of this sharing is accomplished by dividing the “wire” along the dimensions of frequency and space
- Control Range through transmit signal power
- Control Frequency through frequency hopping, spread spectrum...

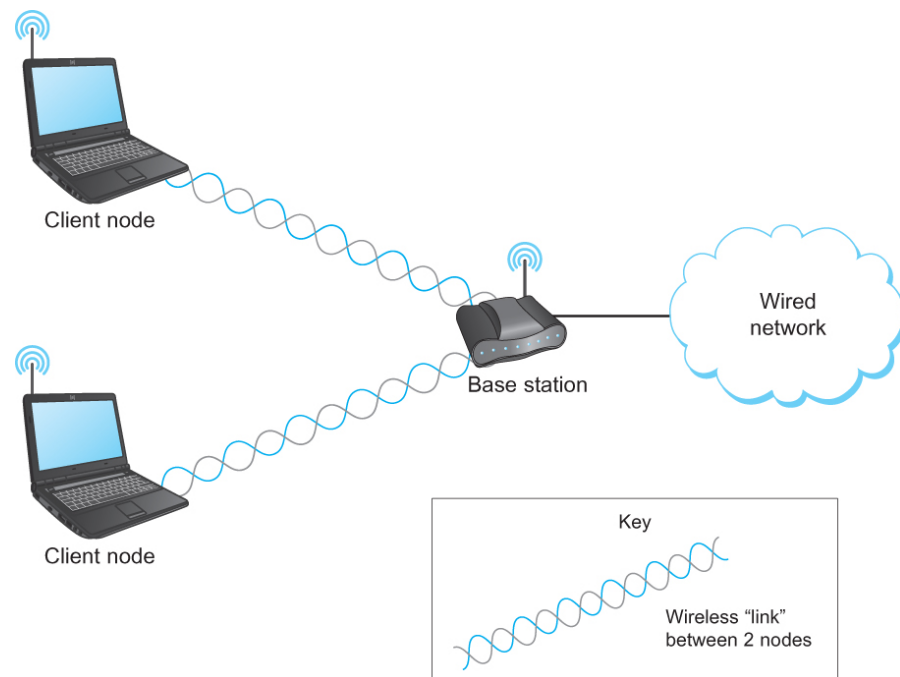
# Wireless across various scales

- Wireless technologies differ in a variety of dimensions
  - How much bandwidth they provide
  - How far apart the communication nodes can be
- Four prominent wireless technologies
  - Bluetooth; Wi-Fi (more formally known as 802.11); WiMAX (802.16); 3G-4G cellular wireless

	Bluetooth (802.15.1)	Wi-Fi (802.11)	3G Cellular
Typical link length	10 m	100 m	Tens of kilometers
Typical data rate	2 Mbps (shared)	54 Mbps (shared)	Hundreds of kbps (per connection)
Typical use	Link a peripheral to a computer	Link a computer to a wired base	Link a mobile phone to a wired tower
Wired technology analogy	USB	Ethernet	DSL

# Most wireless networks use asymmetry

- Mostly widely used wireless links today are usually asymmetric--  
Two end-points are different kinds of nodes
  - One end-point usually has no mobility, but has wired connection to the Internet (known as **base station** or **Access Point (AP)**)
  - The node at the other end of the link is often mobile



# IEEE 802.11

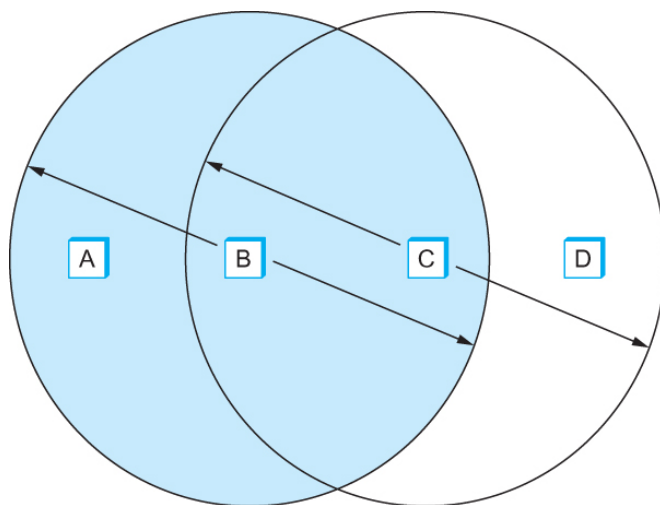
- Also known as Wi-Fi
- Like its Ethernet and token ring siblings, 802.11 is designed for use in a limited geographical area (homes, office buildings, campuses)
  - Primary challenge is to mediate access to a shared communication medium – in this case, signals propagating through space
- 802.11 supports additional features
  - power management and
  - security mechanisms
- Many variants over time, many details, will focus on shared concepts

# IEEE 802.11

- Original 802.11 standard defined two radio-based physical layer standard
  - One using the frequency hopping
    - Over 79 1-MHz-wide frequency bandwidths
  - Second using direct sequence
    - Using 11-bit chipping sequence
  - Both standards run in the 2.4-GHz and provide up to 2 Mbps
- Then physical layer standard 802.11b was added
  - Using a variant of direct sequence 802.11b provides up to 11 Mbps
  - Uses license-exempt 2.4-GHz band
- Then came 802.11a which delivers up to 54 Mbps using OFDM
  - 802.11a runs on license-exempt 5-GHz band
- Most recent standard is 802.11g which is backward compatible with 802.11b
  - Uses 2.4 GHz band, OFDM and delivers up to 54 Mbps

# Wireless channels more challenging

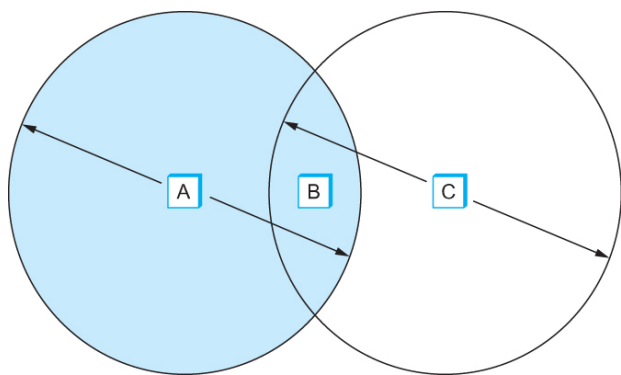
- Example: each of four nodes able to send and receive signals with select other nodes – not all
  - B can exchange frames with A and C, but it cannot reach D
  - C can reach B and D but not A
- If they were all connected to an Ethernet they would all reach each other





# Collision management challenge -- Hidden nodes

- Suppose both A and C want to communicate with B and so they each send it a frame.
  - A and C are unaware of each other since their signals do not carry that far
  - These two frames collide with each other at B
    - But unlike an Ethernet, neither A nor C is aware of this collision
  - A and C are said to *hidden nodes* with respect to each other



The “Hidden Node” Problem. Although A and C are hidden from each other, their signals can collide at B. (B’s reach is not shown.)

# IEEE 802.11 – Collision Avoidance

- 802.11 addresses these two problems with an algorithm called Multiple Access with Collision Avoidance (MACA).
- Key Idea – “less random access, more coordination”
  - Sender and receiver exchange control frames with each other before the sender actually transmits any data.
  - This exchange informs all nearby nodes that a transmission is about to begin
  - Sender transmits a *Request to Send* (RTS) frame to the receiver.
    - The RTS frame includes a field that indicates how long the sender wants to hold the medium
      - Length of the data frame to be transmitted
  - Receiver replies with a *Clear to Send* (CTS) frame
    - This frame echoes this length field back to the sender

# IEEE 802.11 – Collision Avoidance

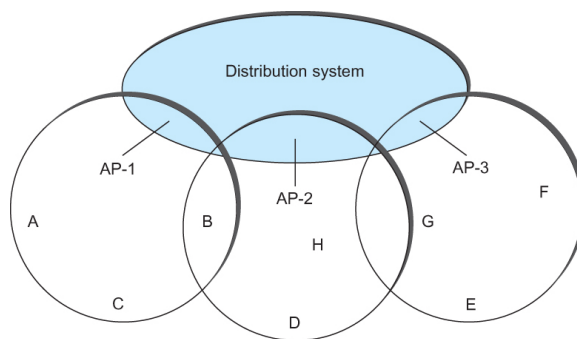
- Any node that sees the CTS frame knows that
  - it is close to the receiver, therefore
  - cannot transmit for the period of time it takes to send a frame of the specified length
- Any node that sees the RTS frame but not the CTS frame
  - is not close enough to the receiver to interfere with it, and
  - so is free to transmit

# IEEE 802.11 – Collision Avoidance

- Using ACK in MACA
  - Proposed in MACAW: MACA for Wireless LANs
- Receiver sends an ACK to the sender after successfully receiving a frame
- All nodes must wait for this ACK before trying to transmit
- If two or more nodes detect an idle link and try to transmit an RTS frame at the same time
  - Their RTS frame will collide with each other
- 802.11 does not support collision detection
  - So the senders realize the collision has happened when they do not receive the CTS frame after a period of time
  - In this case, they each wait a random amount of time before trying again.
  - The amount of time a given node delays is defined by the same *exponential backoff* algorithm used on the Ethernet.

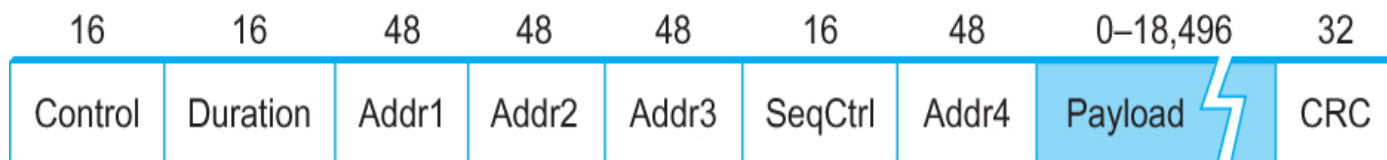
# IEEE 802.11 – Access Point Distribution System

- Following figure illustrates a distribution system that connects three access points, each of which services the nodes in the same region
- Each of these regions is analogous to a cell in a cellular phone system with the APs playing the same role as a base station
  - Each nodes associates itself with one access point
  - For node A to communicate with node E, A first sends a frame to its AP-1 which forwards the frame across the distribution system to AP-3, which finally transmits the frame to E



# Frame Format for Distribution across APs

- Source and Destinations addresses: each 48 bits
- Data: up to 2312 bytes; CRC: 32 bit
- Control field: 16 bits  
6 bit **Type** field: indicates whether the frame is an RTS or CTS frame or being used by the scanning algorithm; A pair of 1 bit fields : called **ToDS** and **FromDS**
- Simplest case: Both DS bits are 0 -- one node sends directly to another, Addr1 identifies the target node, and Addr2 identifies the source node
- Complex case: Both DS bits are 1 -- message went from wireless node onto distribution system, and from distribution system to another wireless node
  - Addr1 identifies the ultimate destination,
  - Addr2 identifies the immediate sender (the one that forwarded the frame from the distribution system to the ultimate destination)
  - Addr3 identifies the intermediate destination (the one that accepted the frame from a wireless node and forwarded across the distribution system)
  - Addr4 identifies the original source
  - Addr1: E, Addr2: AP-3, Addr3: AP-1, Addr4: A



# IEEE 802.11 – AP association

- How do the nodes select their access points
- How does it work when nodes move from one cell to another
- The technique for selecting an AP is called *scanning*
  - The node sends a *Probe* frame
  - All APs within reach reply with a *Probe Response* frame
  - The node selects one of the access points and sends that AP an *Association Request* frame
  - The AP replies with an *Association Response* frame
- A node engages this protocol whenever
  - it joins the network, as well as
  - when it becomes unhappy with its current AP
    - This might happen, for example, because the signal from its current AP has weakened due to the node moving away from it
    - Whenever a node acquires a new AP, the new AP notifies the old AP of the change via the distribution system

# Bluetooth

- Used for very short range communication between mobile phones, PDAs, notebook computers and other personal or peripheral devices
- Operates in the license-exempt band at 2.45 GHz
- Has a range of only 10 m
- Communication devices typically belong to one individual or group
  - Sometimes categorized as Personal Area Network (PAN)
- Version 2.0 provides speeds up to 2.1 Mbps
- Power consumption is low



# ZigBee

- ZigBee competes with Bluetooth
- Devised by the ZigBee alliance and standardized as IEEE 802.15.4
- It is designed for situations where the bandwidth requirements are low and power consumption must be very low to give very long battery life
- It is also intended to be simpler and cheaper than Bluetooth, making it financially feasible to incorporate in cheaper devices such as a wall switch that wirelessly communicates with a ceiling-mounted fan