7.1.3.1.1 Protocol Version field

The Protocol Version field is 2 bits in length and is invariant in size and placement across all revisions of this standard. For this standard, the value of the protocol version is 0. All other values are reserved. The revision level will be incremented only when a fundamental incompatibility exists between a new revision and the prior edition of the standard. A MAC entity that receives a frame with a higher revision level than it supports shall discard the frame without indication to the sending STA or to LLC.

7.1.3.1.2 Type and Subtype fields

The Type field is 2 bits in length, and the Subtype field is 4 bits in length. The Type and Subtype fields together identify the function of the frame. There are three frame types: control, data, and management. Each of the frame types has several defined subtypes. In data frames, the most significant bit (MSB) of the Subtype field, b7, is defined as the QoS subfield. Table 7-1 defines the valid combinations of type and subtype. (The numeric values in Table 7-1 are shown in binary.)

Table 7-1—Valid type and subtype combinations

Type value b3 b2	Type description	Subtype value b7 b6 b5 b4	Subtype description
00	Management	0000	Association request
00	Management	0001	Association response
00	Management	0010	Reassociation request
00	Management	0011	Reassociation response
00	Management	0100	Probe request
00	Management	0101	Probe response
00	Management	0110–0111	Reserved
00	Management	1000	Beacon
00	Management	1001	ATIM
00	Management	1010	Disassociation
00	Management	1011	Authentication
00	Management	1100	Deauthentication
00	Management	1101	Action
00	Management	1110–1111	Reserved
01	Control	0000–0111	Reserved
01	Control	1000	Block Ack Request (BlockAckReq)
01	Control	1001	Block Ack (BlockAck)
01	Control	1010	PS-Poll
01	Control	1011	RTS
01	Control	1100	CTS
01	Control	1101	ACK
01	Control	1110	CF-End
01	Control	1111	CF-End + CF-Ack

Table 7-1—Valid type and subtype combinations *(continued)*

Type value b3 b2	Type description	Subtype value b7 b6 b5 b4	Subtype description
10	Data	0000	Data
10	Data	0001	Data + CF-Ack
10	Data	0010	Data + CF-Poll
10	Data	0011	Data + CF-Ack + CF-Poll
10	Data	0100	Null (no data)
10	Data	0101	CF-Ack (no data)
10	Data	0110	CF-Poll (no data)
10	Data	0111	CF-Ack + CF-Poll (no data)
10	Data	1000	QoS Data
10	Data	1001	QoS Data + CF-Ack
10	Data	1010	QoS Data + CF-Poll
10	Data	1011	QoS Data + CF-Ack + CF-Poll
10	Data	1100	QoS Null (no data)
10	Data	1101	Reserved
10	Data	1110	QoS CF-Poll (no data)
10	Data	1111	QoS CF-Ack + CF-Poll (no data)
11	Reserved	0000–1111	Reserved

Each Subtype field bit position is used to indicate a specific modification of the basic data frame (subtype 0). Frame Control bit 4 is set to 1 in data subtypes that include +CF-Ack, bit 5 is set to 1 in data subtypes that include +CF-Poll, bit 6 is set to 1 in data subtypes that contain no Frame Body field, and bit 7 is set to 1 in the QoS data subtypes, which have QoS Control fields in their MAC headers.

7.1.3.1.3 To DS and From DS fields

The meaning of the combinations of values for the To DS and From DS fields are shown in Table 7-2.

Table 7-2—To/From DS combinations in data frames

To DS and From DS values	Meaning
To DS = 0 From DS = 0	A data frame direct from one STA to another STA within the same IBSS, or a data frame direct from one non-AP STA to another non-AP STA within the same BSS, as well as all management and control frames.
To DS = 1 From DS = 0	A data frame destined for the DS or being sent by a STA associated with an AP to the Port Access Entity in that AP.
To DS = 0 From DS = 1	A data frame exiting the DS or being sent by the Port Access Entity in an AP.
To DS = 1 From DS = 1	A data frame using the four-address format. This standard does not define procedures for using this combination of field values.

