Lecture 1

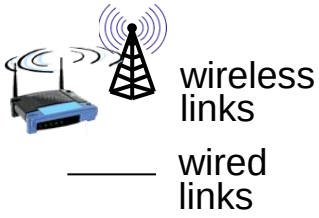
Introduction, Part I

Overview

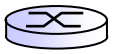
- what's the Internet?
- network edge
  - End-systems, access net, physical media
- network core
  - Packet switching, circuit switching, network structure
- performance: loss, delay
- protocol layers, service models
- backbones, NAPs, ISPs
- history

What's the Internet: "nuts and bolts" view

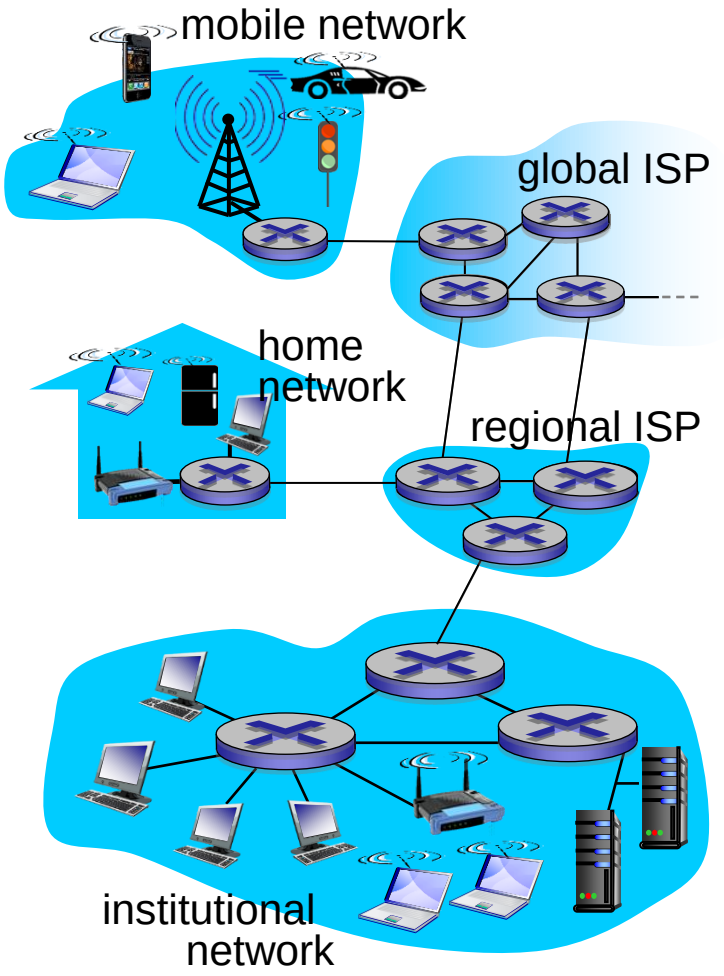
- billions of connected computing devices:
  - *hosts* = *end systems* running *network apps*



- *communication links*
  - fiber, copper, radio, satellite
  - transmission rate: *bandwidth*



- *packet switches:* forward packets (chunks of data)
  - *routers* and *switches*



"Fun" Internet-connected devices

IP picture frame
http://www.ceiva.com/

Web-enabled toaster +
weather forecaster

Tweet-a-watt:
monitor energy use

Internet
refrigerator

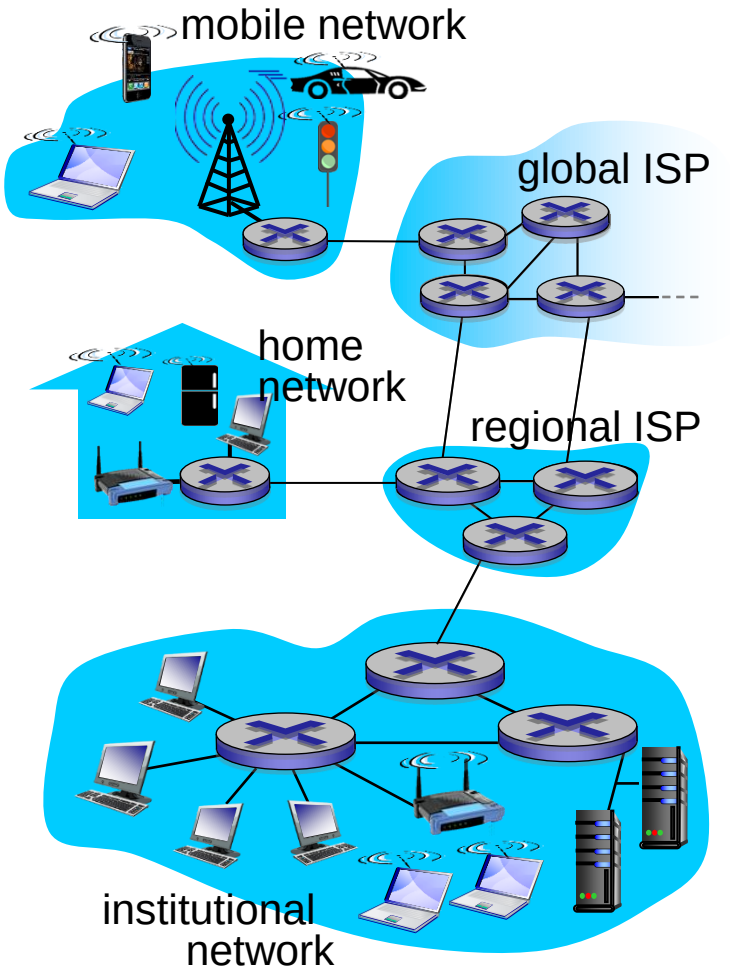
Slingbox: watch,
control cable TV remotely

sensorized,
bed
mattress

Internet phones

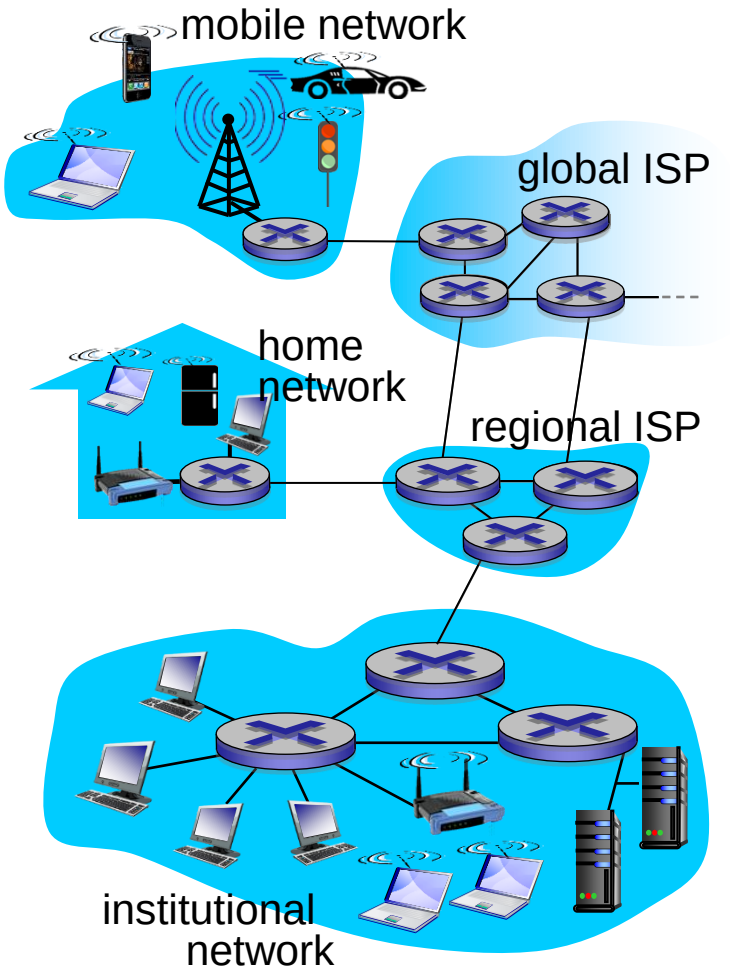
What's the Internet: "nuts and bolts" view

- *Internet:* "network of networks"
  - Interconnected ISPs
- *protocols* control sending, receiving of messages
  - e.g., TCP, IP, HTTP, Skype, 802.11
- *Internet standards*
  - RFC: Request for comments
  - IETF: Internet Engineering Task Force



What's the Internet: a service view

- *infrastructure that provides services to applications:*
  - Web, VoIP, email, games, e-commerce, social nets, …
- *provides programming interface to apps*
  - hooks that allow sending and receiving app programs to "connect" to Internet
  - provides service options, analogous to postal service



What's a protocol?

network protocols:

- machines rather than humans
- all communication activity in Internet governed by protocols

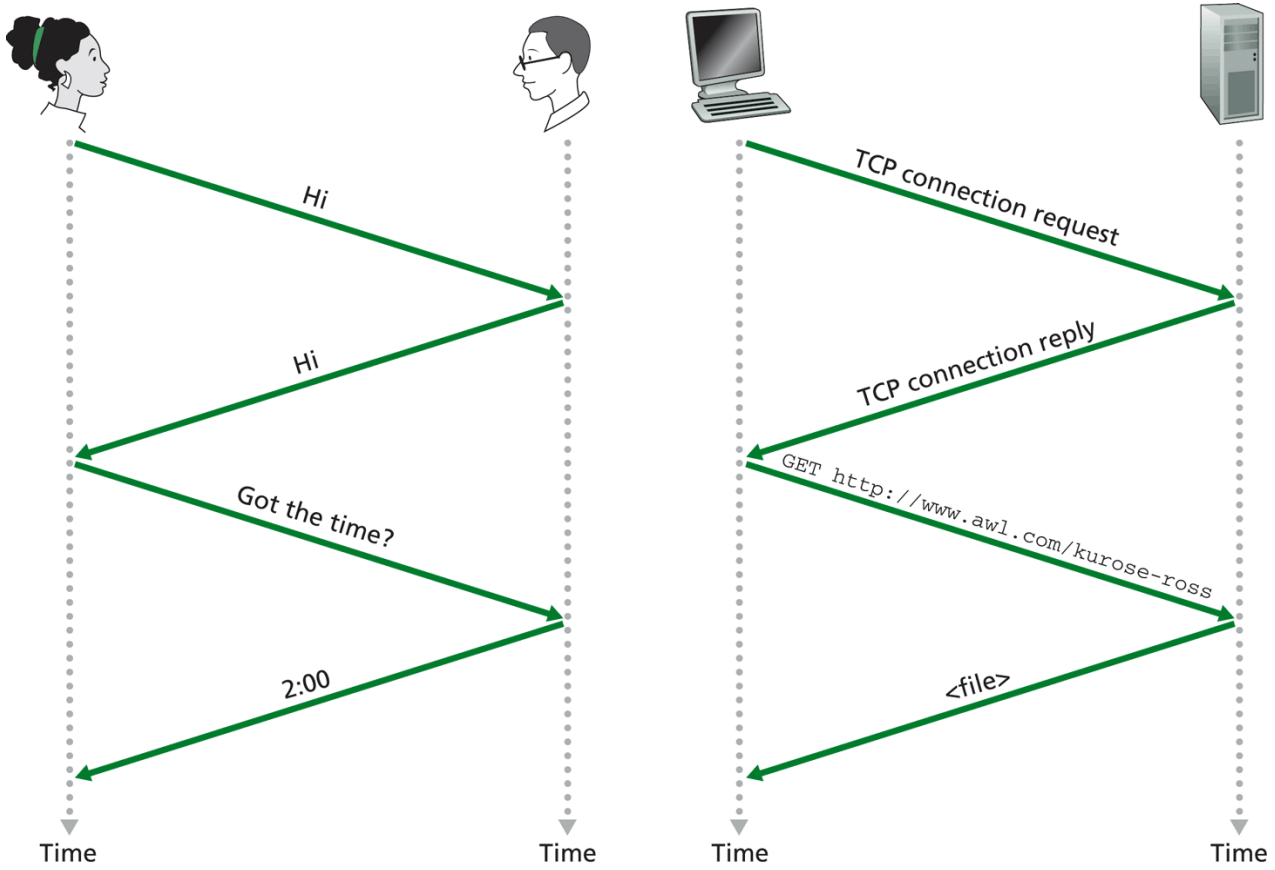
… specific msgs sent

… specific actions taken when msgs received, or other events

Protocols define format, order of msgs sent and received among network entities, and actions taken on msg transmission, receipt

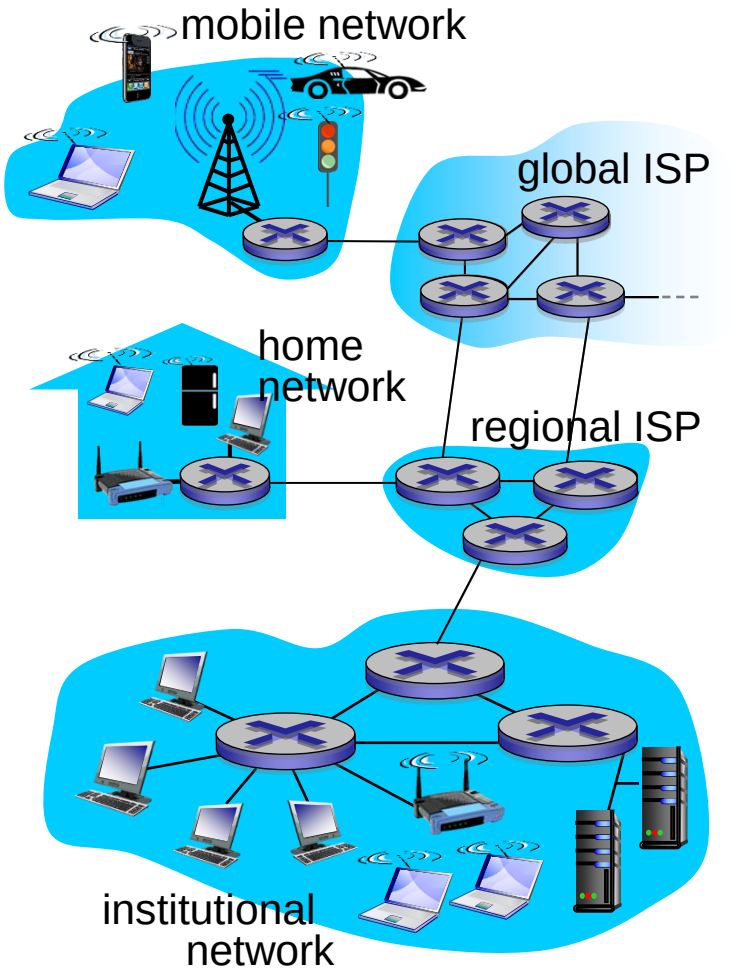
What's a protocol?

a human protocol and a computer network protocol:



A closer look at network structure:

- *network edge:*
  - hosts: clients and servers
  - servers often in data centers
- *access networks, physical media:* wired, wireless communication links
- *network core:*
  - interconnected routers
  - network of networks



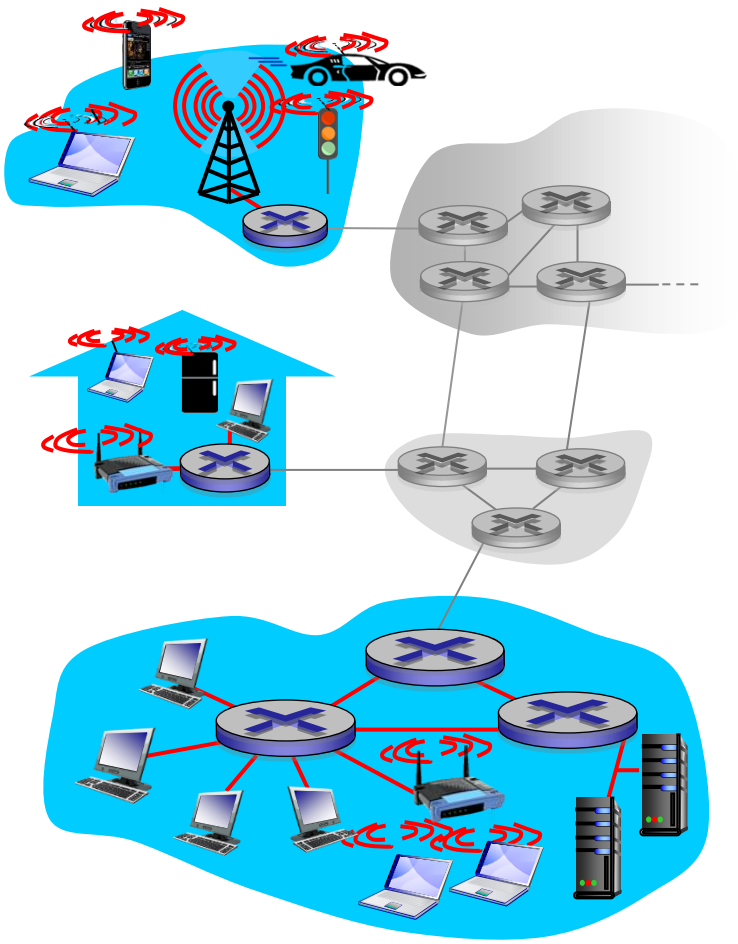
Access networks and physical media

Q: How to connect end systems to edge router?

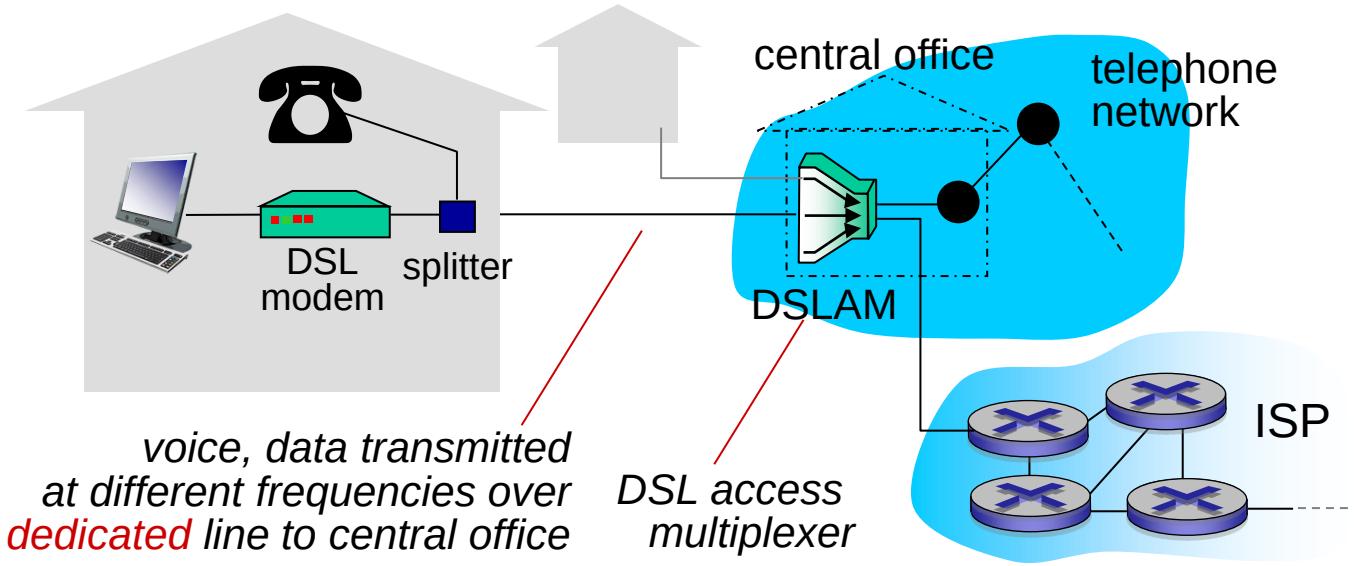
- residential access nets
- institutional access networks (school, company)
- mobile access networks

keep in mind:

- bandwidth (bits per second) of access network?
- shared or dedicated?

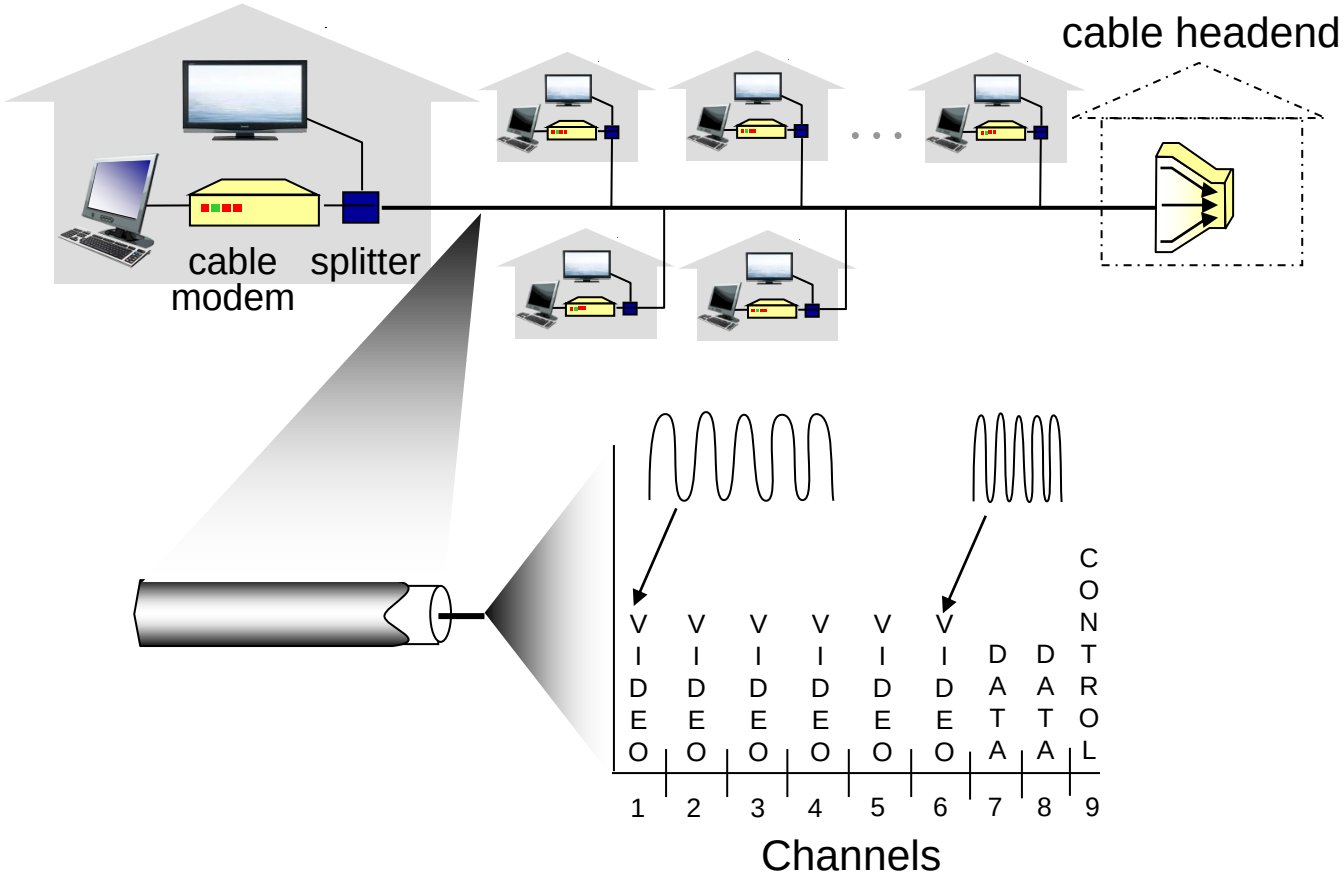


Access network: digital subscriber line (DSL)



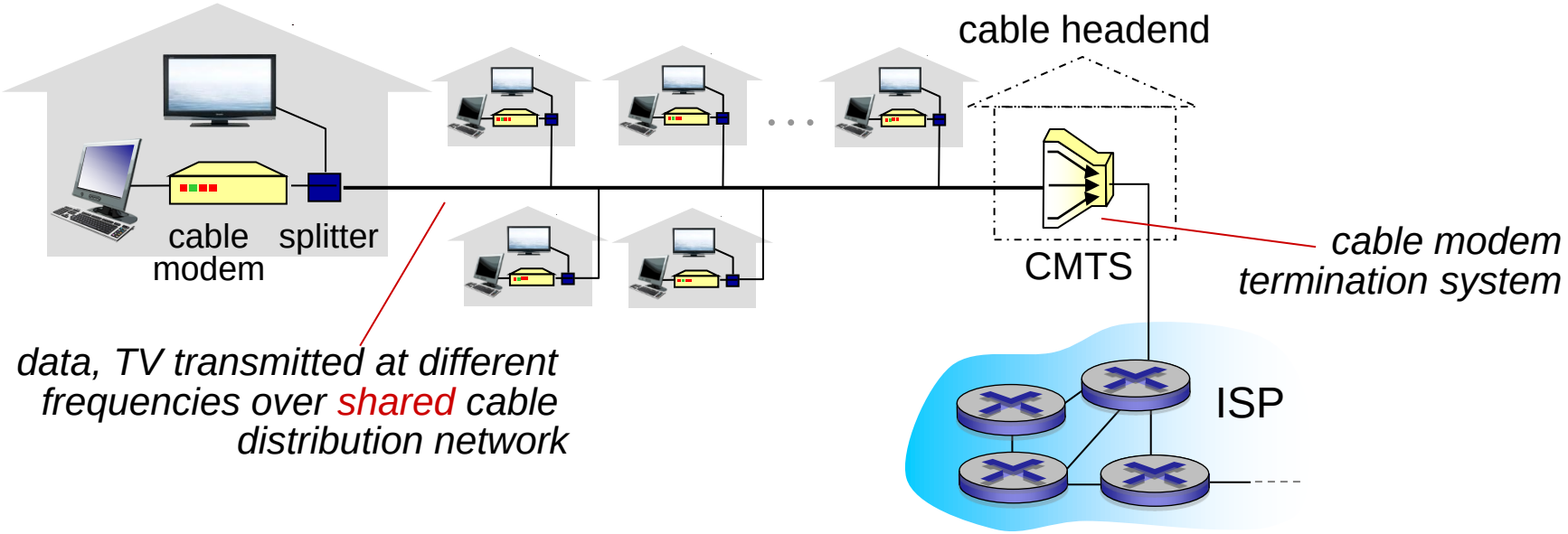
- use *existing* telephone line to central office DSLAM
  - data over DSL phone line goes to Internet
  - voice over DSL phone line goes to telephone net
- < 2.5 Mbps upstream transmission rate (typically < 1 Mbps)
- < 24 Mbps downstream transmission rate (typically < 10 Mbps)

Access network: cable network



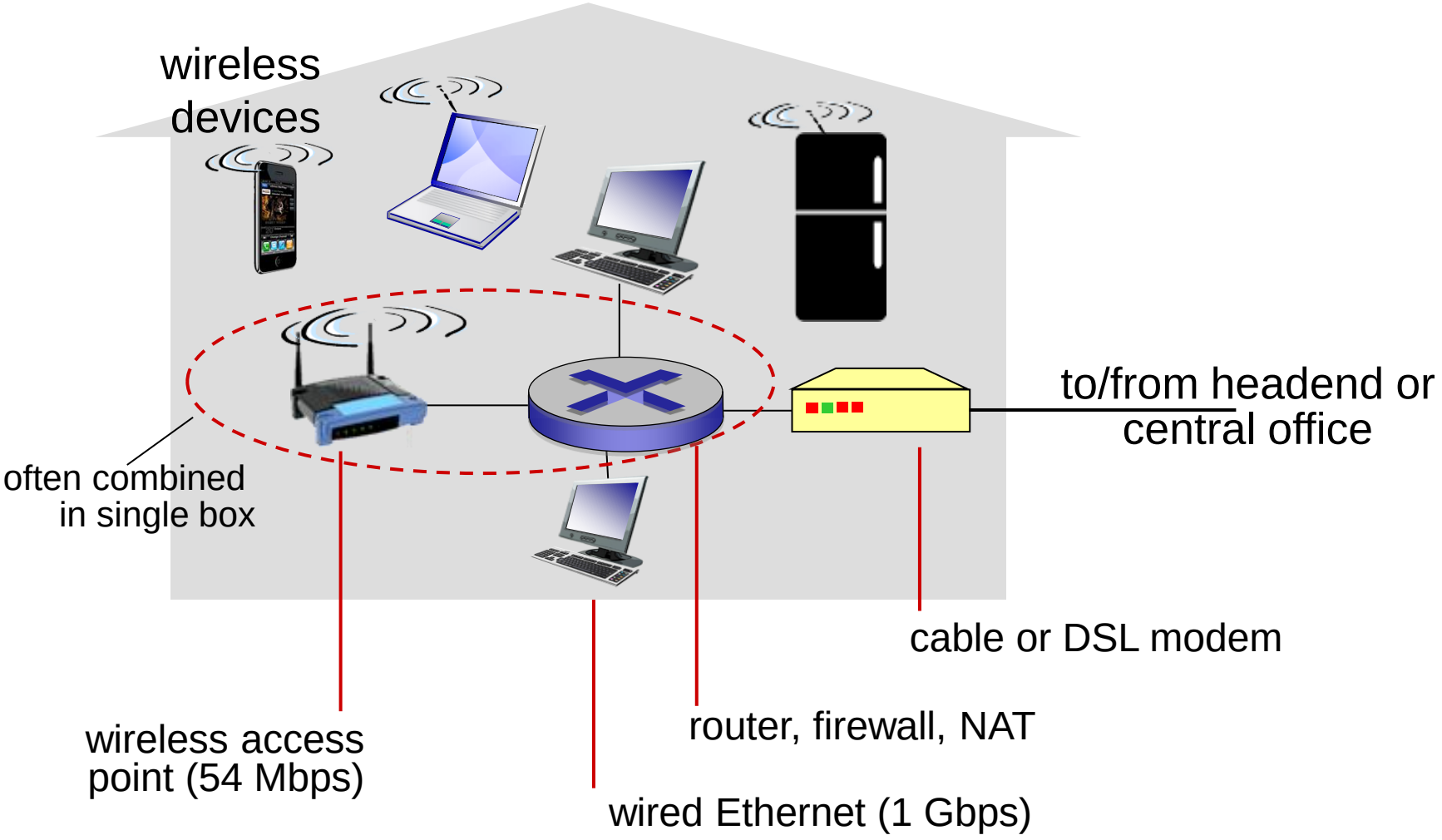
frequency division multiplexing: different channels transmitted in different frequency bands

Access network: cable network

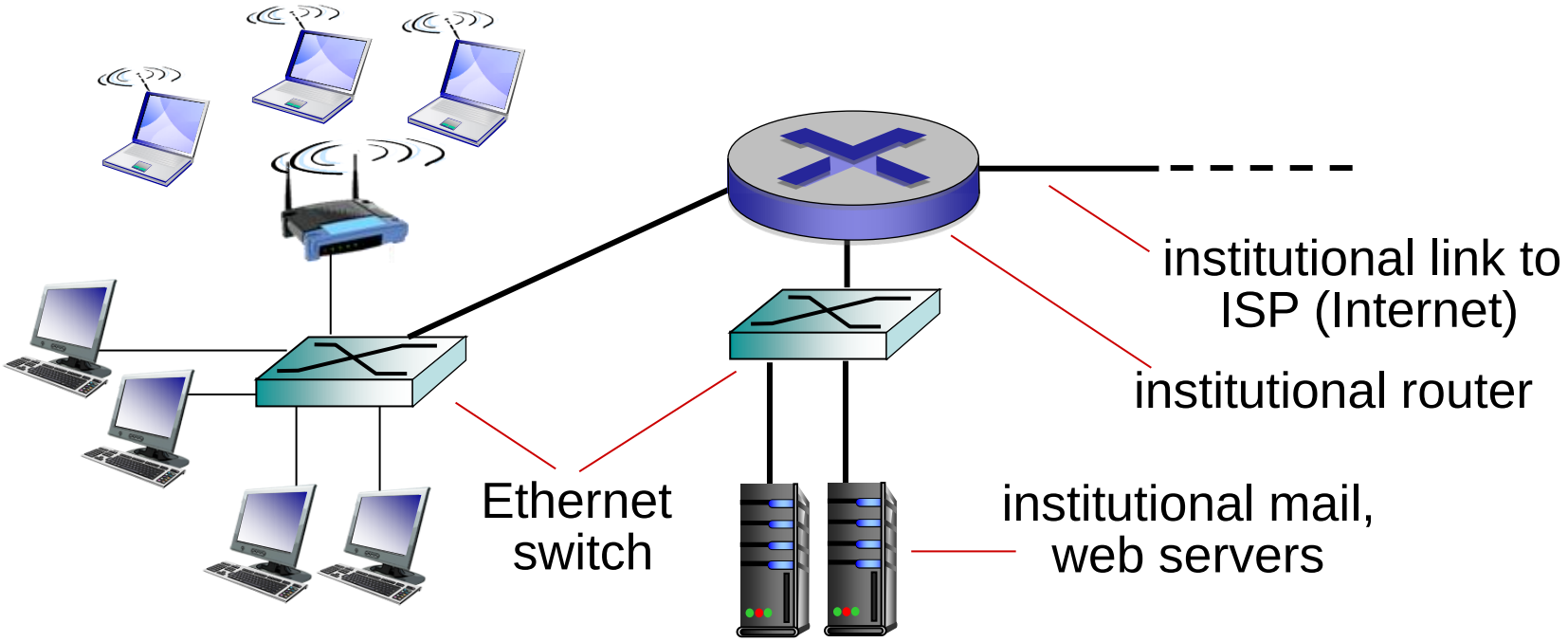


- HFC: hybrid fiber coax
  - asymmetric: up to 30Mbps downstream transmission rate, 2 Mbps upstream transmission rate
- network of cable, fiber attaches homes to ISP router
  - homes *share access network* to cable headend
  - unlike DSL, which has dedicated access to central office

Access network: home network



Enterprise access networks (Ethernet)



- typically used in companies, universities, etc.
  - 10 Mbps, 100Mbps, 1Gbps, 10Gbps transmission rates
  - Today, end systems typically connect into Ethernet switch

Wireless access networks

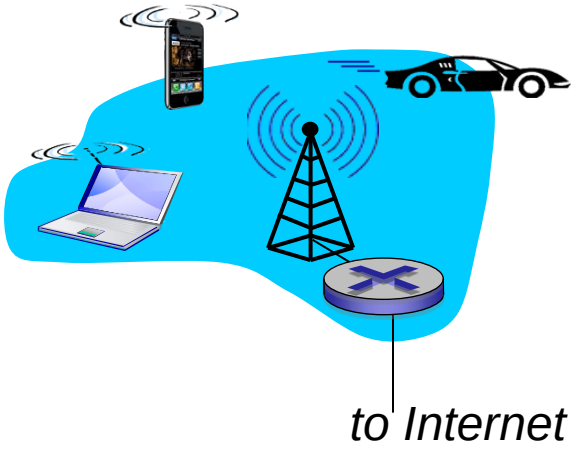
- shared *wireless* access network connects end system to router
  - via base station aka “access point”

wireless LANs:

- within building (100 ft.)
- 802.11b/g/n (WiFi): 11, 54, 450 Mbps transmission rate

wide-area wireless access

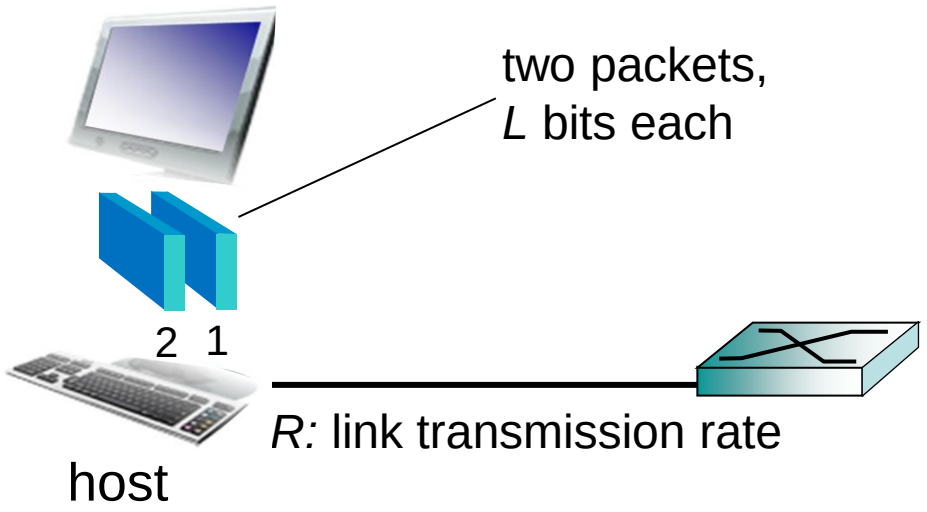
- provided by telco (cellular) operator, 10’s km
- between 1 and 10 Mbps
- 3G, 4G: LTE



Host: sends *packets* of data

host sending function:

- takes application message
- breaks into smaller chunks, known as *packets*, of length *L* bits
- transmits packet into access network at *transmission rate R*
  - link transmission rate, aka link *capacity, aka link bandwidth*



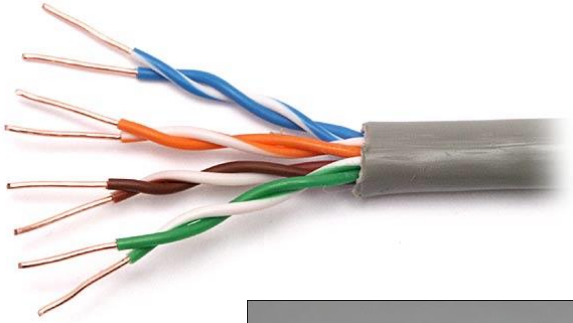
$$\text{packet transmission delay} = \text{time needed to transmit } L\text{-bit packet into link} = \frac{L \text{ (bits)}}{R \text{ (bits/sec)}}$$

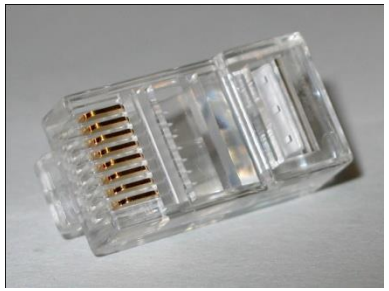
Physical Media

- physical link: transmitted data bit propagates across link
- guided media:
  - signals propagate in solid media: copper, fiber
- unguided media:
  - signals propagate freely
  - e.g., radio

Twisted Pair (TP)

- two insulated copper wires
  - Category 3: traditional phone wires, 10 Mbps ethernet
  - Category 5 TP: 100Mbps ethernet

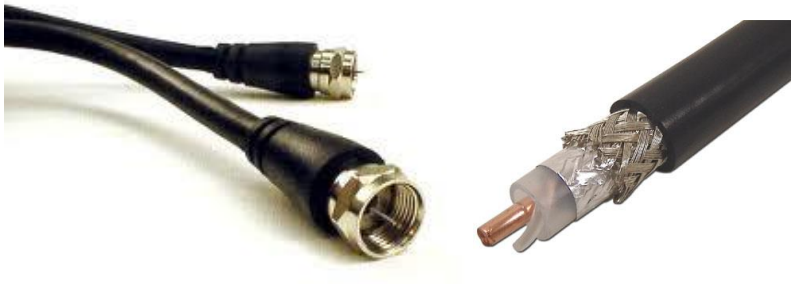




Physical Media: coax, fiber

Coaxial cable:

- wire (signal carrier) within a wire (shield)
  - baseband: single channel on cable
  - broadband: multiple channel on cable
- bidirectional
- common use in 10Mbs Ethernet



Fiber optic cable:

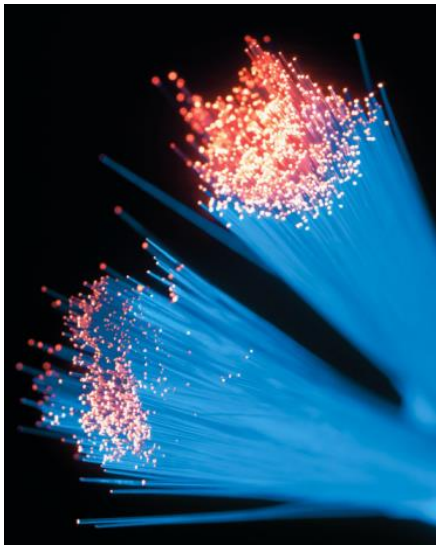
glass fiber carrying light pulses

high-speed operation:

100Mbps Ethernet

high-speed point-to-point transmission (e.g., 5 Gps)

low error rate



Physical media: radio

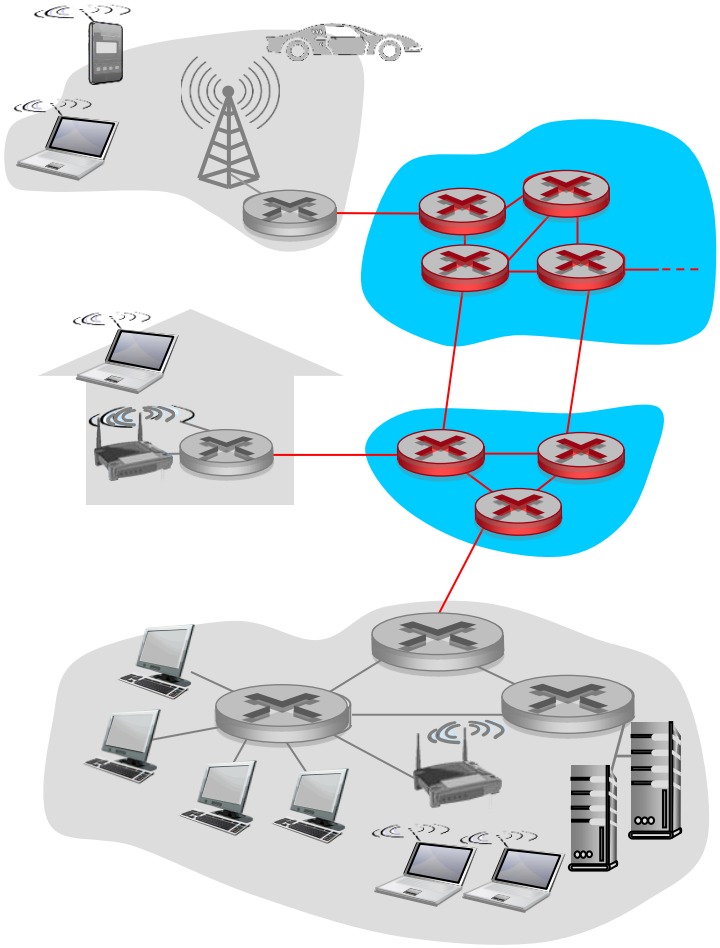
- signal carried in electromagnetic spectrum
- no physical "wire"
- bidirectional
- propagation environment effects:
  - reflection
  - obstruction by objects
  - interference

radio link types:

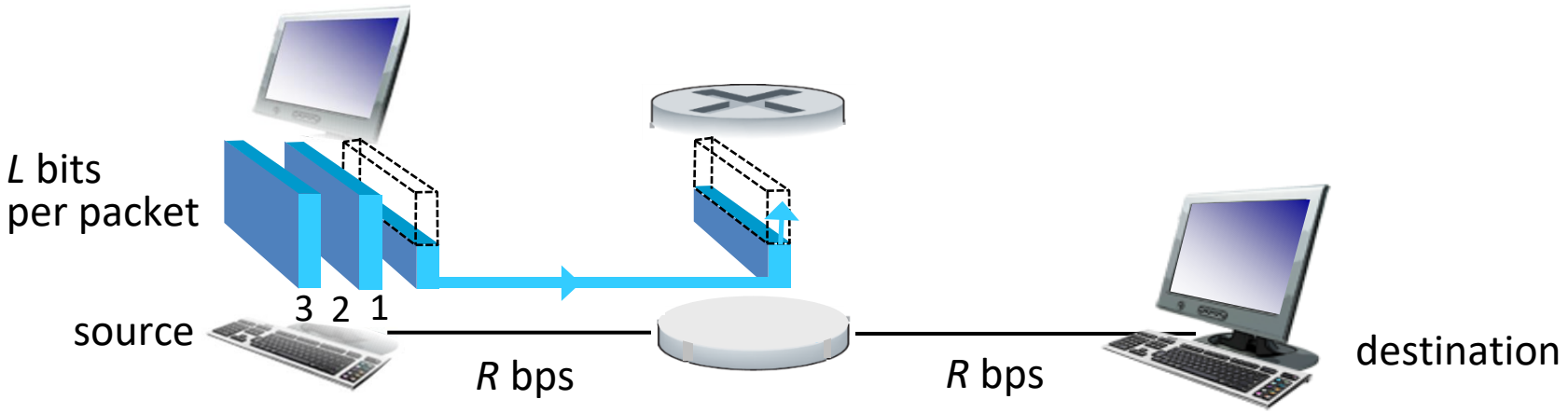
- terrestrial microwave
  - e.g. up to 45 Mbps channels
- LAN (e.g., WiFi)
  - 54 Mbps
- wide-area (e.g., cellular)
  - 4G cellular: ~ 10 Mbps
- satellite
  - Kbps to 45Mbps channel (or multiple smaller channels)
  - 270 msec end-end delay
  - geosynchronous versus low altitude

The network core

- mesh of interconnected routers
- packet-switching: hosts break application-layer messages into *packets*
  - forward packets from one router to the next, across links on path from source to destination
  - each packet transmitted at full link capacity



Packet-switching: store-and-forward



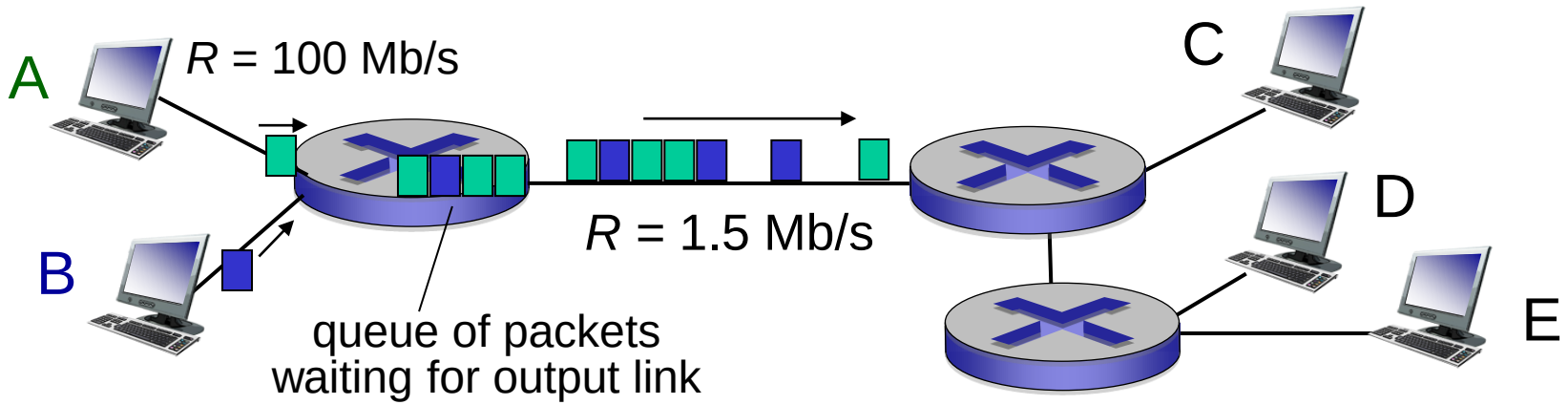
- takes L/R seconds to transmit (push out) L-bit packet into link at R bps
- *store and forward:* entire packet must arrive at router before it can be transmitted on next link
- end-end delay = $2L/R$ (assuming zero propagation delay)

one-hop numerical example:

- L = 7.5 Mbits
- R = 1.5 Mbps
- one-hop transmission delay = 5 sec

more on delay shortly …

Packet Switching: queueing delay, loss



queuing and loss:

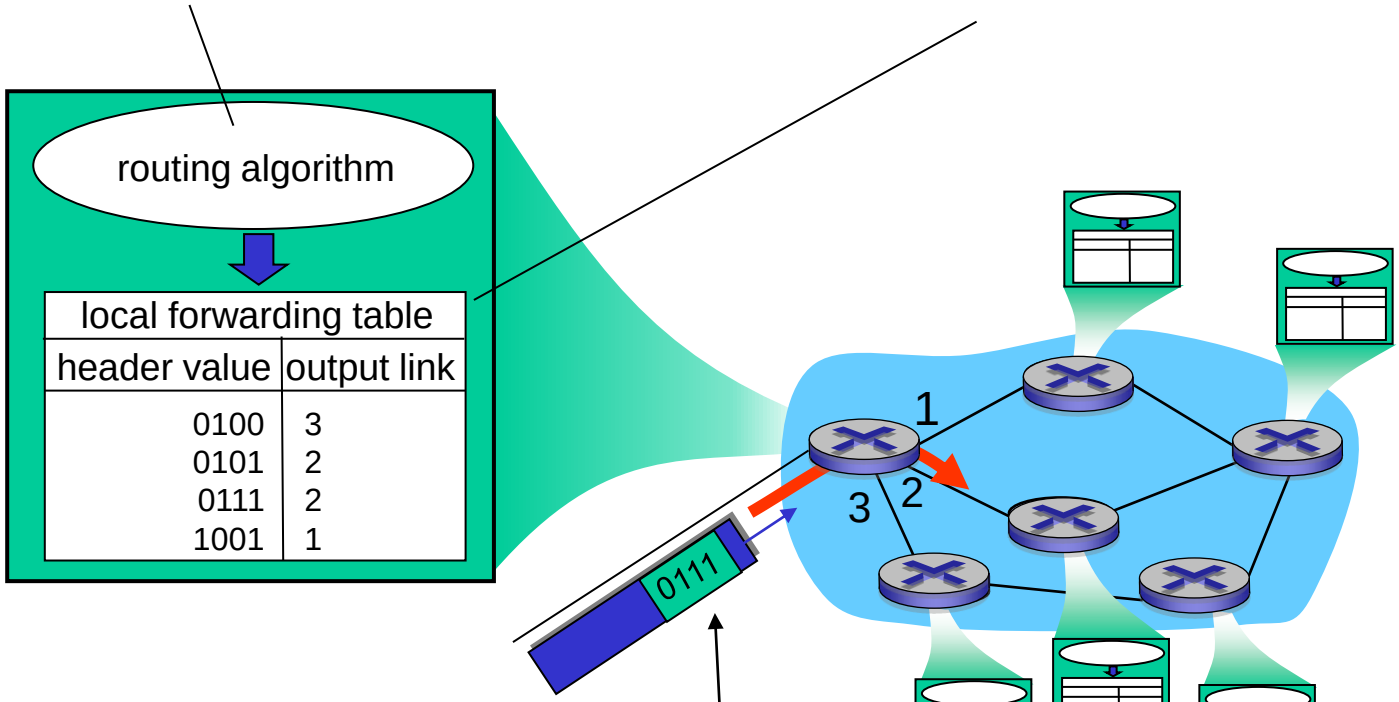
- if arrival rate (in bits) to link exceeds transmission rate of link for a period of time:
  - packets will queue, wait to be transmitted on link
  - packets can be dropped (lost) if memory (buffer) fills up

Two key network-core functions

routing: determines source-destination route taken by packets

- *routing algorithms*

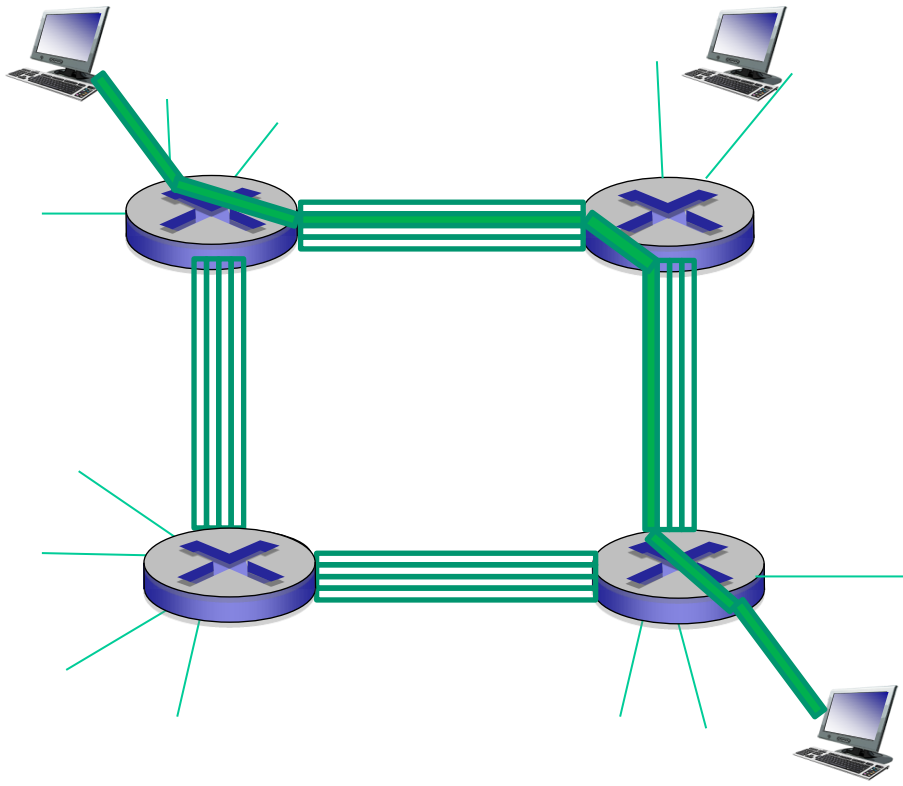
forwarding: move packets from router's input to appropriate router output



Alternative core: circuit switching

end-end resources allocated to, reserved for "call" between source & dest:

- in diagram, each link has four circuits.
  - call gets 2nd circuit in top link and 1st circuit in right link.
- dedicated resources: no sharing
  - circuit-like (guaranteed) performance
- circuit segment idle if not used by call *(no sharing)*
- commonly used in traditional telephone networks

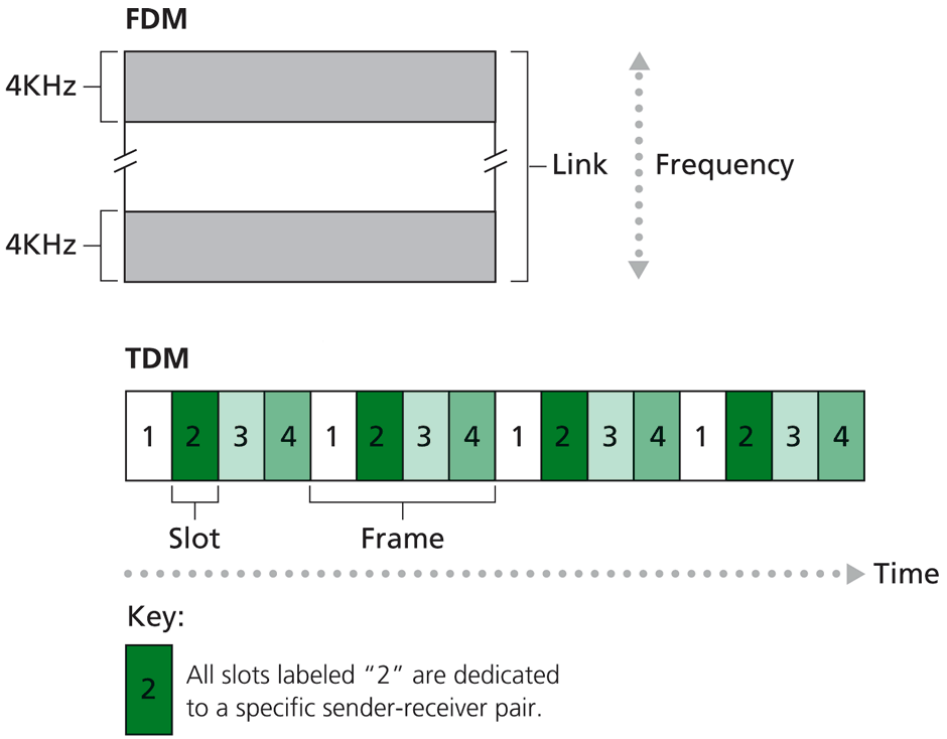


Network Core: Circuit Switching

Network Core: Circuit Switching

network resources (e.g., bandwidth) divided into "pieces"

- pieces allocated to calls
- resource piece *idle* if not used by owning call *(no sharing)*
- dividing link bandwidth into "pieces"
  - frequency division
    - e.g?
  - time division
    - e.g?

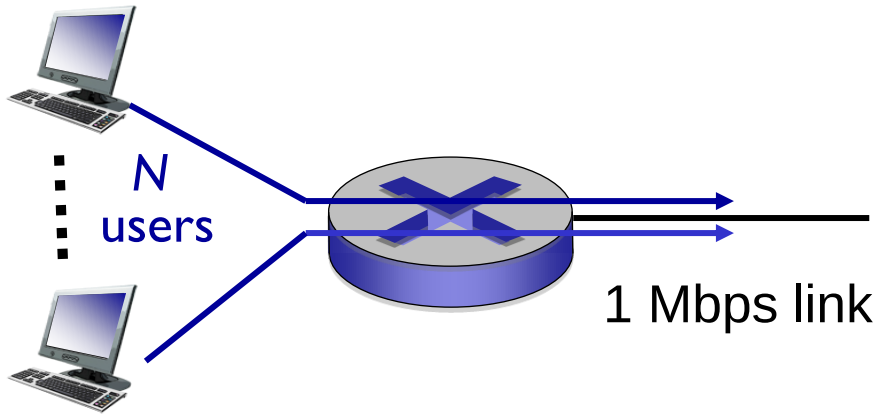


Packet switching versus circuit switching

packet switching allows more users to use network!

example:

- 1 Mb/s link
- each user:
  - 100 kb/s when "active"
  - active 10% of time



- *circuit-switching:*
  - 10 users
- *packet switching:*
  - with 35 users, probability > 10 active at same time is less than .0004 *

Q: how did we get value 0.0004?

Q: what happens if > 35 users ?

* Check out the online interactive exercises for more examples: http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose_ross/interactive/

Packet switching versus circuit switching

is packet switching a "slam dunk winner?"

- great for bursty data
  - resource sharing
  - simpler, no call setup
- excessive congestion possible: packet delay and loss
  - protocols needed for reliable data transfer, congestion control
- *Q:* How to provide circuit-like behavior?
  - bandwidth guarantees needed for audio/video apps
  - still an unsolved problem (chapter 7)

Q: human analogies of reserved resources (circuit switching) versus on-demand allocation (packet-switching)?