Link layer, LANs: outline

5.1 introduction, services

5.2 error detection, correction

5.3 multiple access protocols

5.4 LANs

- addressing, ARP
- Ethernet
- switches
- VLANS

5.5 link virtualization: MPLS

5.6 data center networking

5.7 a day in the life of a web request

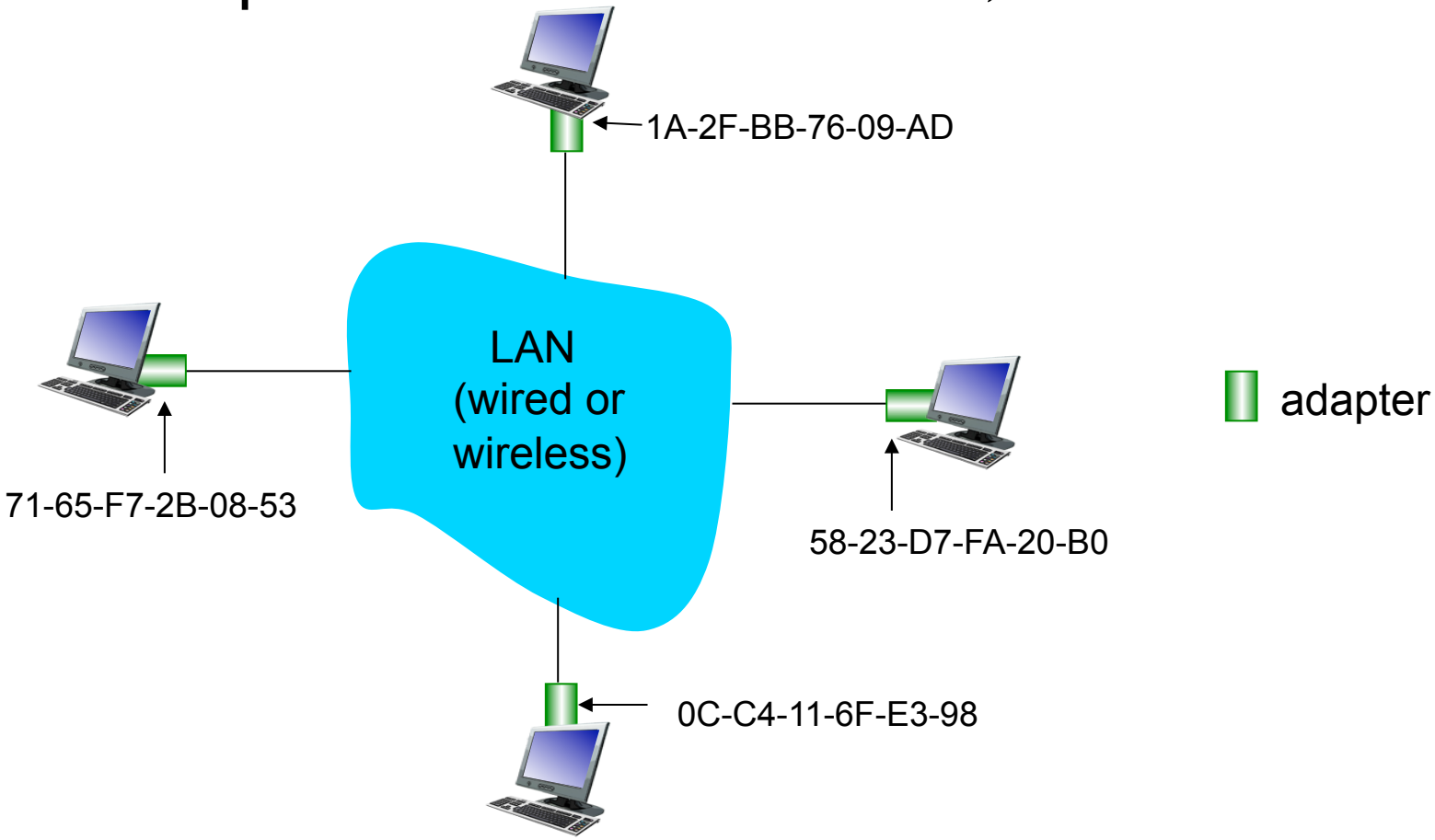
MAC addresses and ARP

- 32-bit IP address:
  - *network-layer* address for interface
  - used for layer 3 (network layer) forwarding
- MAC (or LAN or physical or Ethernet) address:
  - function: *used 'locally" to get frame from one interface to another physically-connected interface (same network, in IP-addressing sense)*
  - 48 bit MAC address (for most LANs) burned in NIC ROM, also sometimes software settable
  - e.g.: 1A:2F:BB:76:09:AD

hexadecimal (base 16) notation
(each "number" represents 4 bits)

LAN addresses

- each adapter on LAN has unique *LAN* address
- adapters on hosts and routers, not on LAN switches



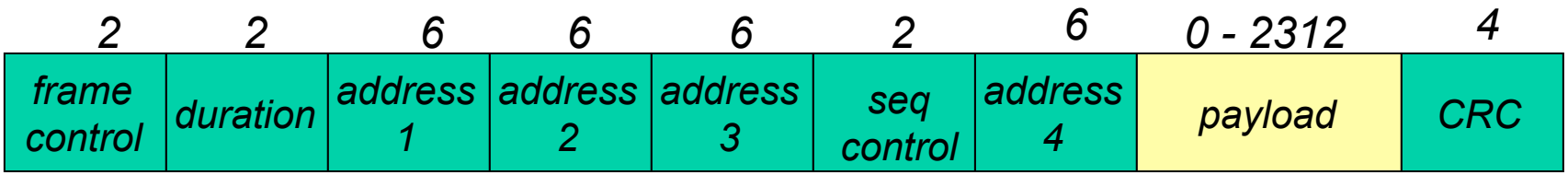
LAN addresses cont'd

- MAC address allocation administered by IEEE
- manufacturer buys portion of MAC address space (to assure uniqueness)
- analogy:
  - MAC address: like Social Security Number
  - IP address: like postal address
- MAC flat address ➜ portability
  - can move LAN card from one LAN to another
- IP hierarchical address *not* portable
  - address depends on IP subnet to which node is attached

Ethernet frame structure

sending adapter encapsulates IP datagram (or other network layer protocol packet) in Ethernet frame

[802.11 frame structure: addressing]



Address 1: MAC address of wireless host or AP to receive this frame (destination)

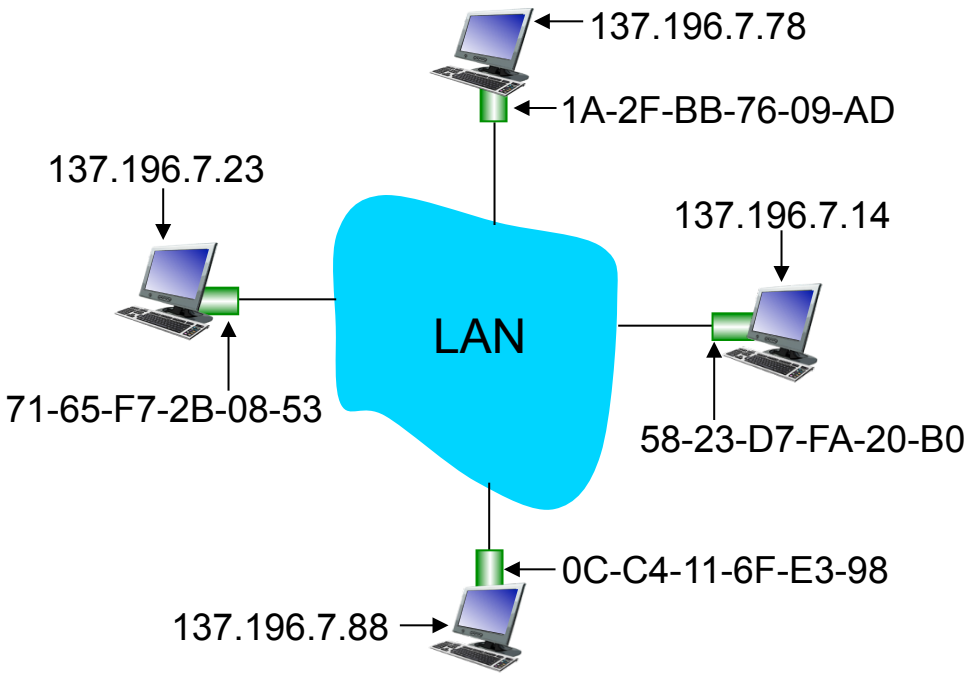
Address 2: MAC address of wireless host or AP transmitting this frame (source)

Address 3: MAC address of router interface to which AP is attached (first hop router; used for internetworking with wired LAN)

Address 4: used only in ad hoc mode

ARP: address resolution protocol

Question: how to determine interface's MAC address, knowing its IP address?



ARP table: each IP node (host, router) on LAN has table

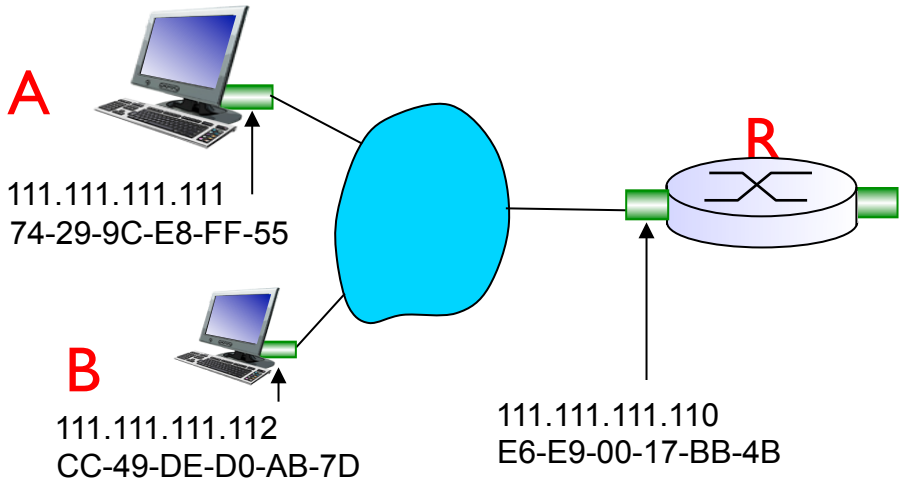
- IP/MAC address mappings for some LAN nodes:

  < IP address; MAC address; TTL>

- TTL (Time To Live): time after which address mapping will be forgotten (typically 20 min)

ARP protocol: same LAN

- A wants to send datagram to B
  - B's MAC address not in A's ARP table.
- A broadcasts ARP query packet, containing B's IP address
  - dest MAC address = FF-FF-FF-FF-FF-FF
  - all nodes on LAN receive ARP query
- B receives ARP packet, replies to A with its (B's) MAC address
  - frame sent to A's MAC address (unicast)

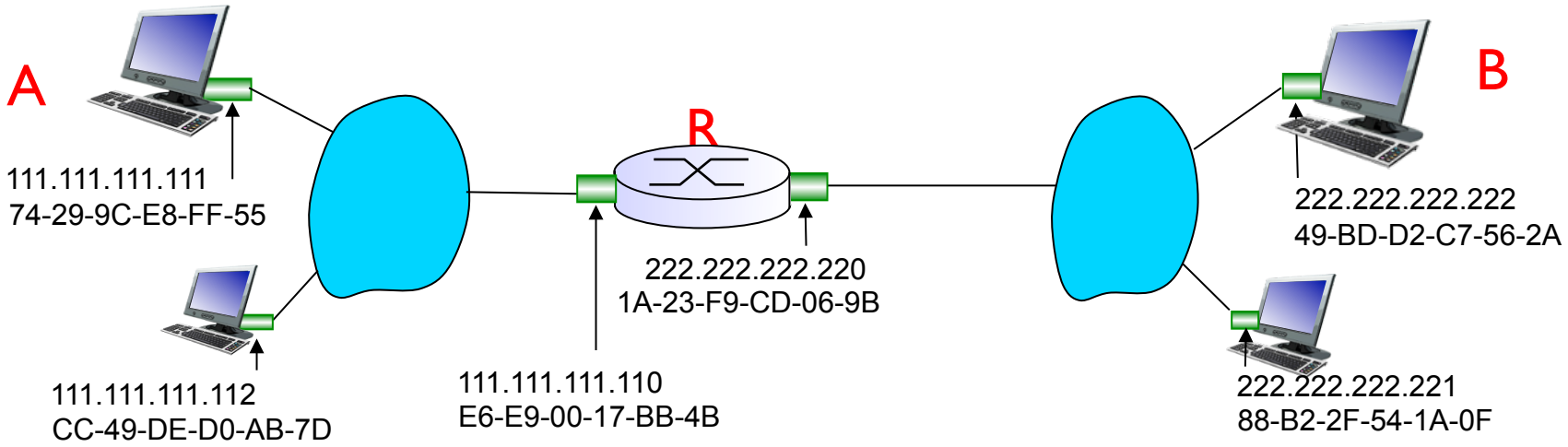


- A caches (saves) IP-to-MAC address pair in its ARP table until mapping times out
  - "soft state": information that times out (goes away) unless refreshed
- ARP is "plug-and-play":
  - nodes create their ARP tables *without intervention from net administrator*

Addressing: routing to another LAN

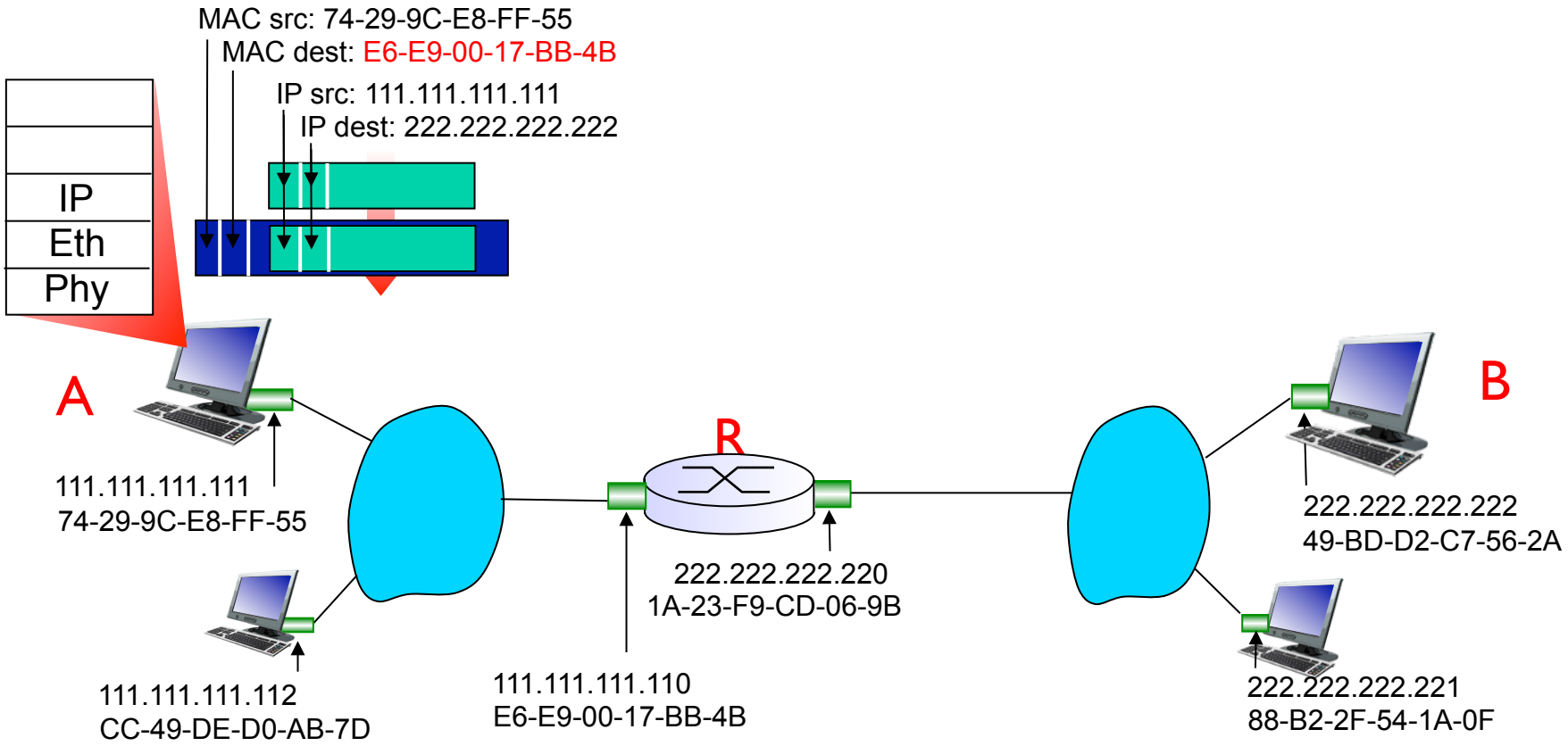
Send datagram from A to B via R

- focus on addressing – at IP (datagram) and MAC layer (frame)
- assume A knows B's IP address
- A doesn't know B's MAC; even if it did, it shouldn't use it!
- assume A knows IP address of first hop router, R (DHCP)
- assume A knows R's MAC address (ARP)



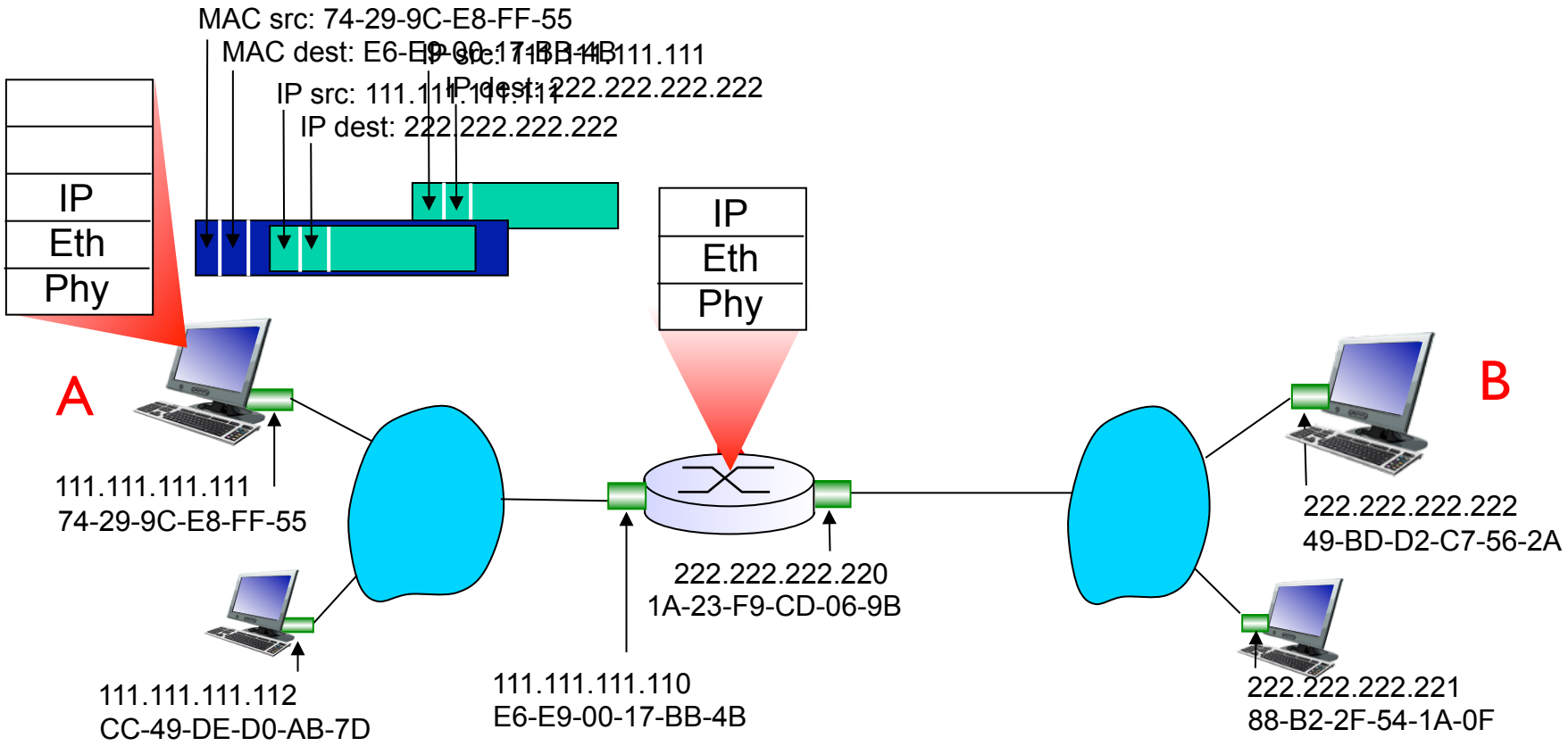
Addressing: routing to another LAN

- A creates IP datagram with IP source A, destination B
- A creates link-layer frame with R's MAC address as dest, frame contains A-to-B IP datagram



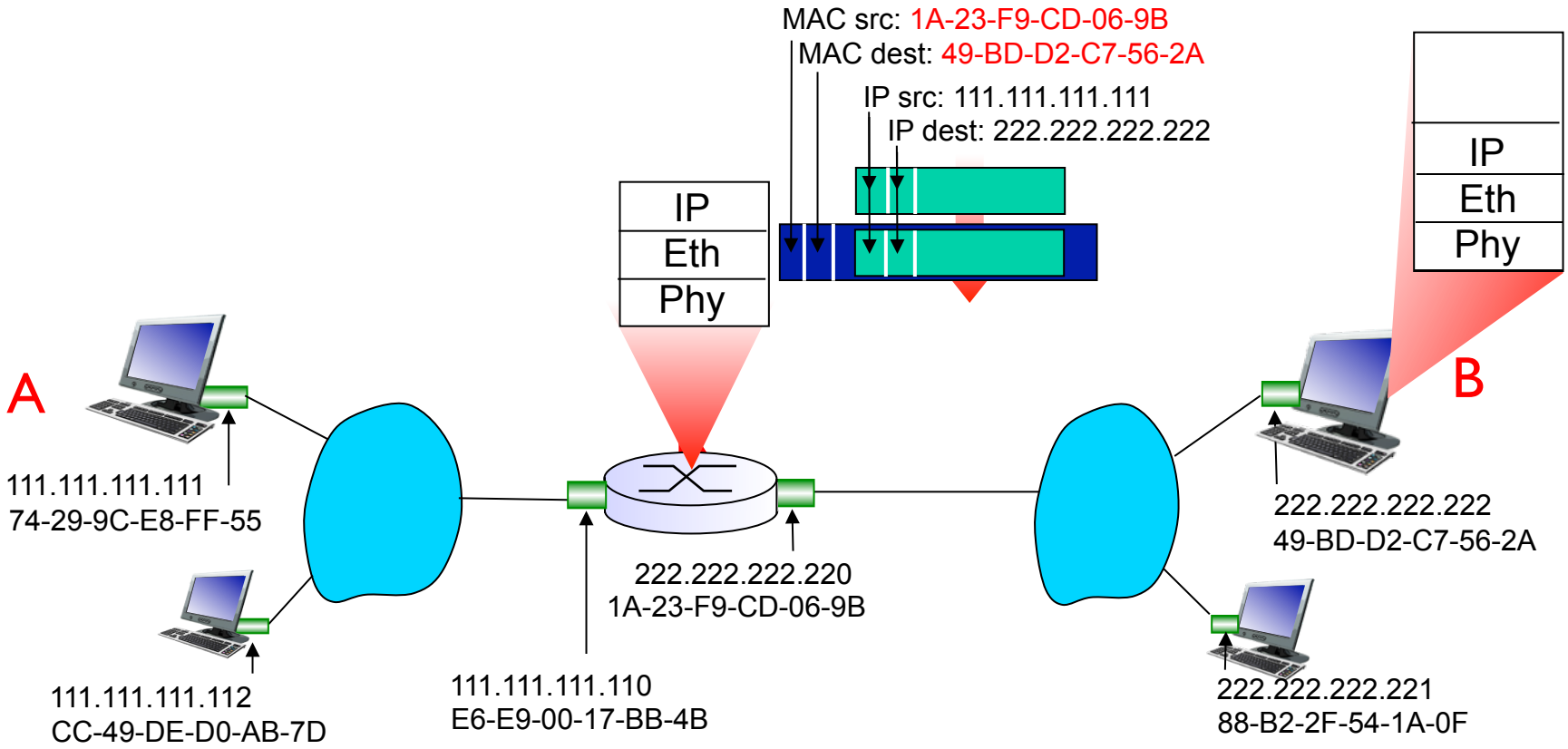
Addressing: routing to another LAN

- frame sent from A to R
- frame received at R, datagram removed, passed up to IP



Addressing: routing to another LAN

- R forwards datagram with IP source A, destination B
- R creates link-layer frame with B's MAC address as dest, frame contains A-to-B IP datagram



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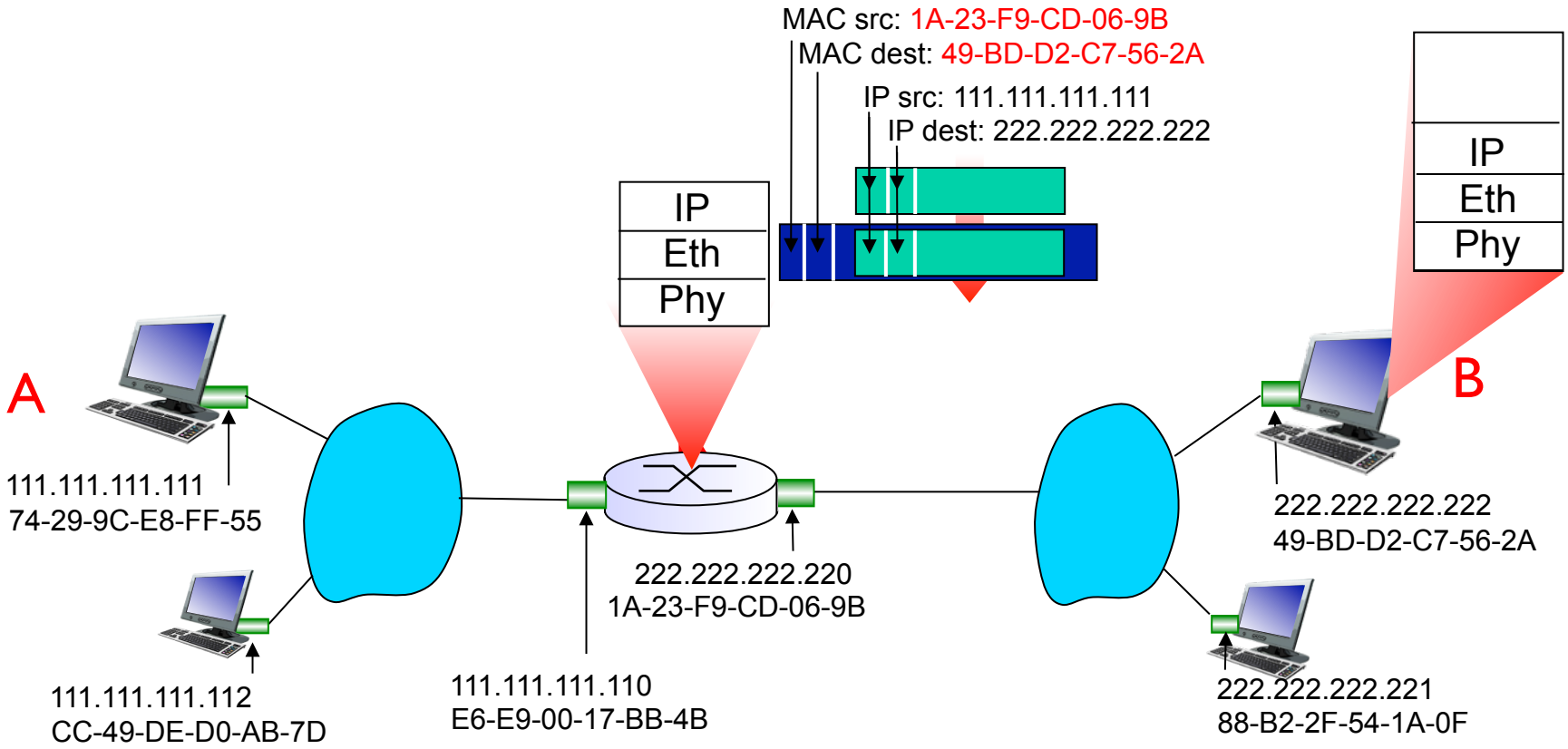

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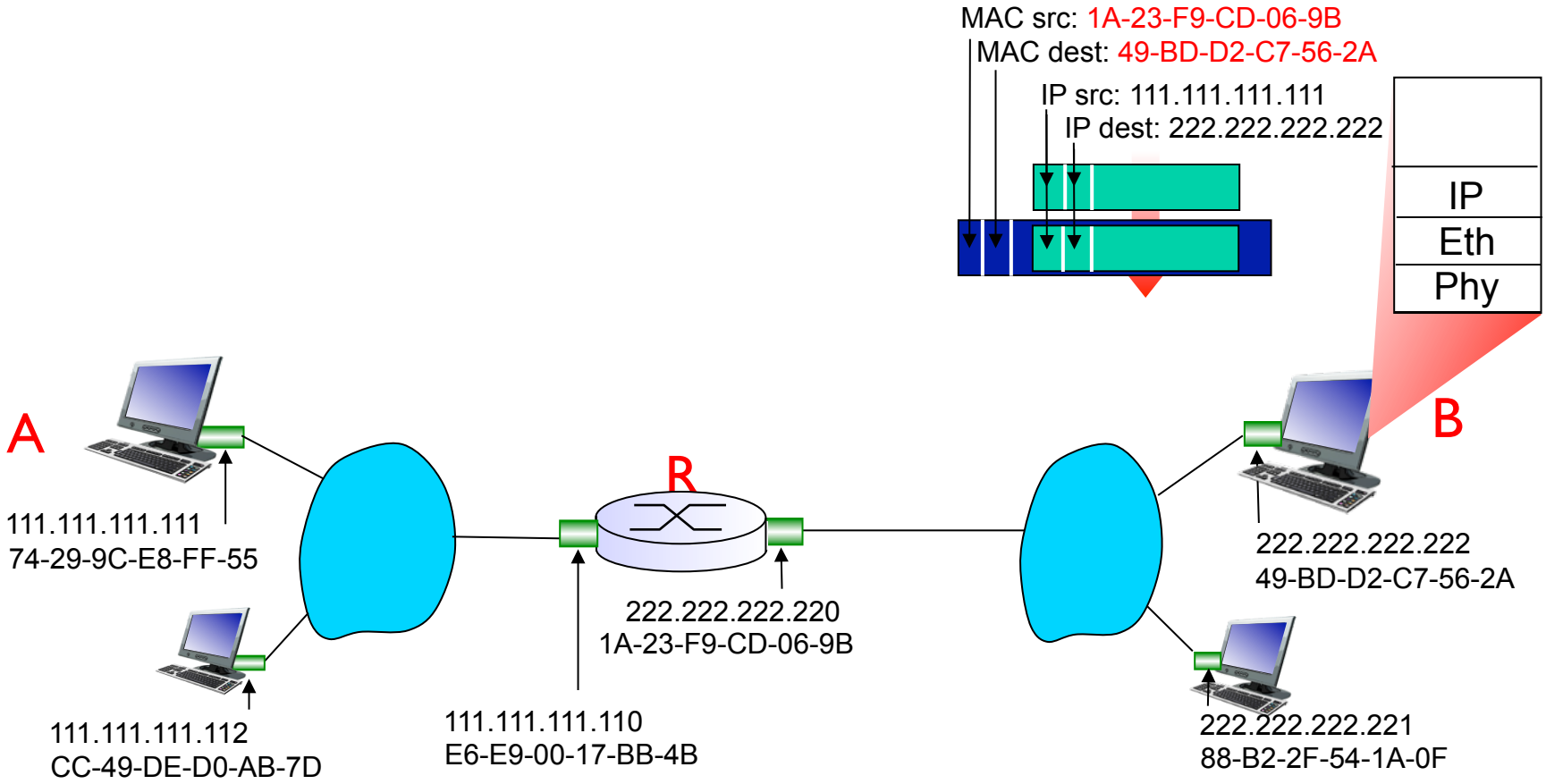

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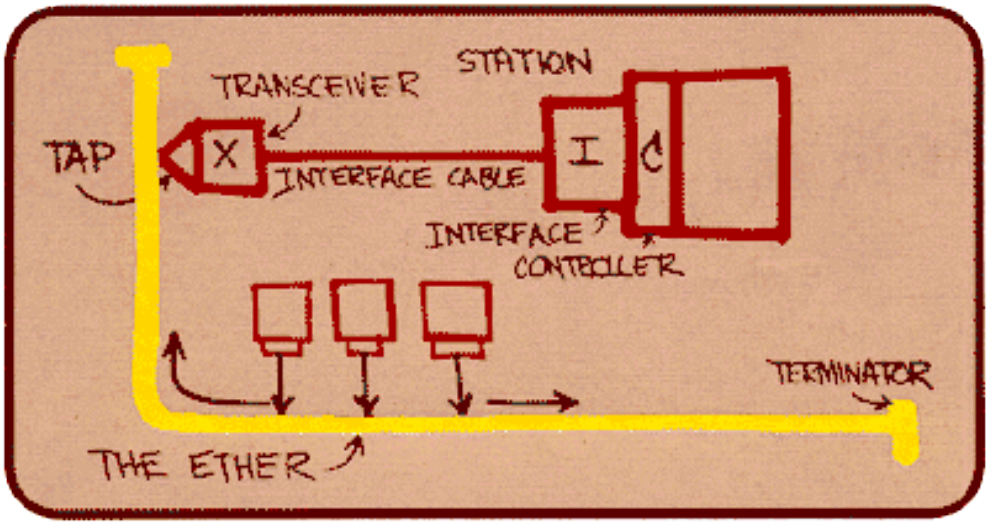
Ethernet

"dominant" wired LAN technology:

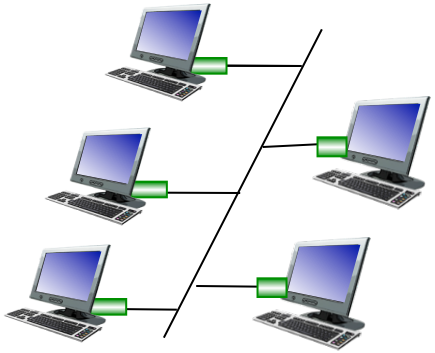
- cheap $20 for NIC
- first widely used LAN technology
- simpler, cheaper than token LANs and ATM
- kept up with speed race: 10 Mbps – 10 Gbps



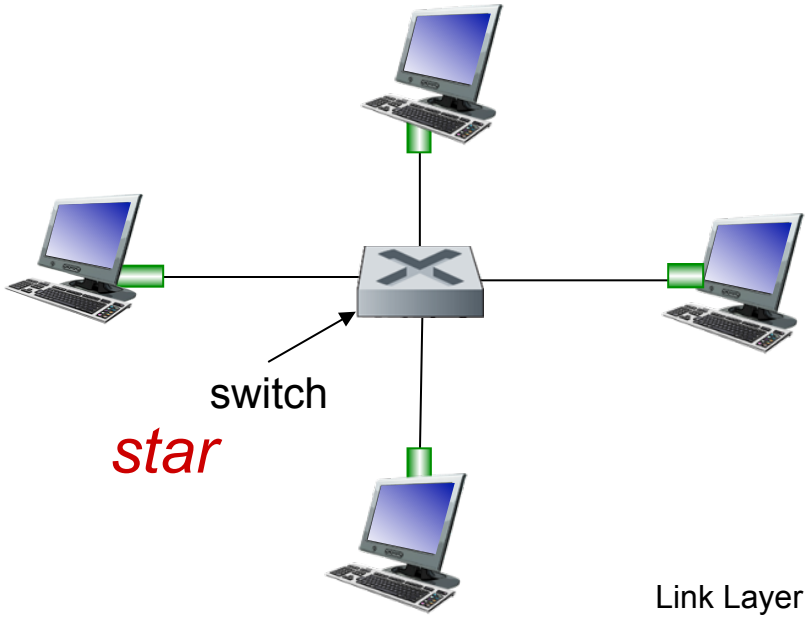
Metcalfe's Ethernet sketch

Ethernet: physical topology

- *bus:* popular through mid 90s
  - all nodes in same broadcast domain (can collide with each other)
- *star topology with passive hub:* still broadcast
- *star topology with active switch:* prevails today
  - each "spoke" runs a (separate) Ethernet protocol (nodes do not collide with each other)



bus: coaxial cable



star

[Ethernet frame structure]

sending adapter encapsulates IP datagram (or other network layer protocol packet) in Ethernet frame

preamble:

- 7 bytes with pattern 10101010 followed by one byte with pattern 10101011
- used to synchronize receiver, sender clock rates

[Ethernet frame structure (more)]

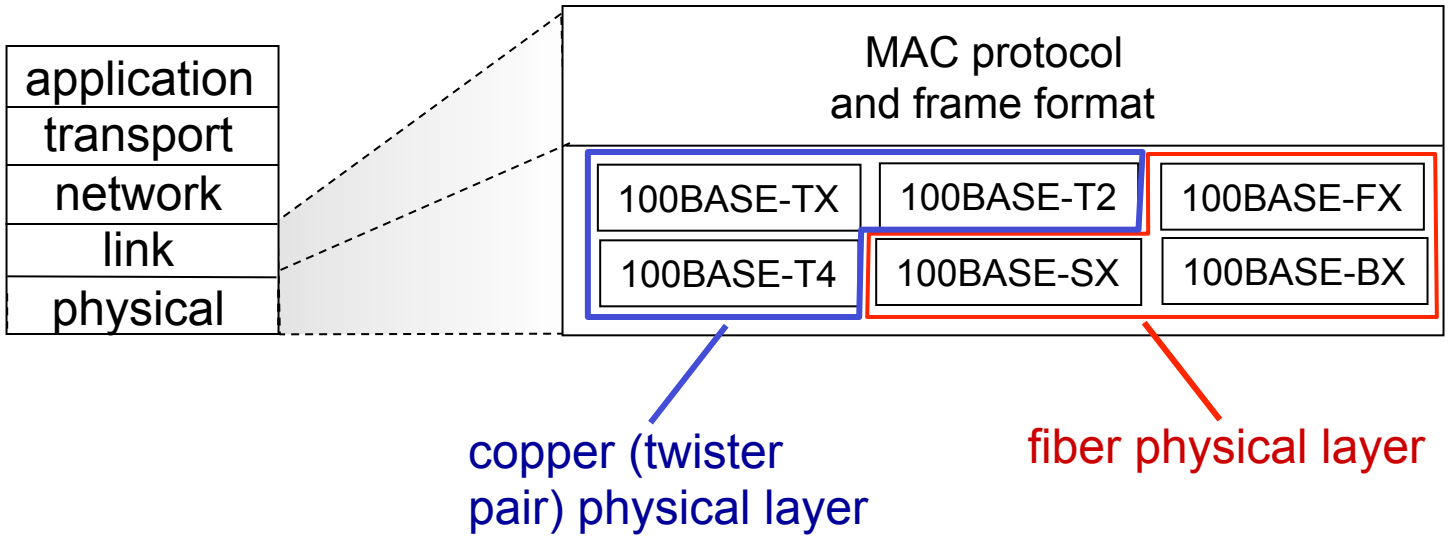
- *addresses:* 6 byte source, destination MAC addresses
  - if adapter receives frame with matching destination address, or with broadcast address (e.g. ARP packet), it passes data in frame to network layer protocol
  - otherwise, adapter discards frame
- *type:* indicates higher layer protocol (mostly IP but others possible, e.g., Novell IPX, AppleTalk)
- *CRC:* cyclic redundancy check at receiver
  - error detected: frame is dropped

Ethernet: unreliable, connectionless

- *connectionless:* no handshaking between sending and receiving NICs
- *unreliable:* receiving NIC doesn't send acks or nacks to sending NIC
  - data in dropped frames recovered only if initial sender uses higher layer rdt (e.g., TCP), otherwise dropped data lost
- Ethernet's MAC protocol: unslotted *CSMA/CD with binary backoff*

802.3 Ethernet standards: link & physical layers

- *many* different Ethernet standards
  - common MAC protocol and frame format
  - different speeds: 2 Mbps, 10 Mbps, 100 Mbps, 1Gbps, 10G bps
  - different physical layer media: twisted pair, fiber, cable



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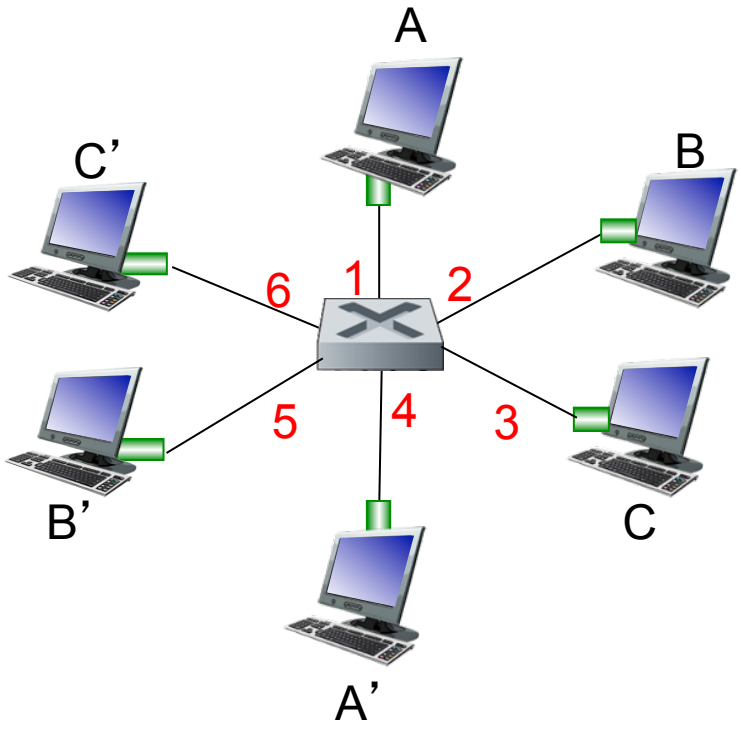
Ethernet switch

- link-layer device: takes an *active* role
  - store, forward Ethernet frames
  - examine incoming frame's MAC address, selectively forward frame to one-or-more outgoing links when frame is to be forwarded on segment, uses CSMA/CD to access segment
- *transparent*
  - hosts are unaware of presence of switches
- *plug-and-play, self-learning*
  - switches do not need to be configured

Switch: *multiple* simultaneous transmissions

- hosts have dedicated, direct connection to switch
- switches buffer packets
- Ethernet protocol used on *each* incoming link, but no collisions; full duplex
  - each link is its own collision domain
- *switching:* A-to-A' and B-to-B' can transmit simultaneously, without collisions

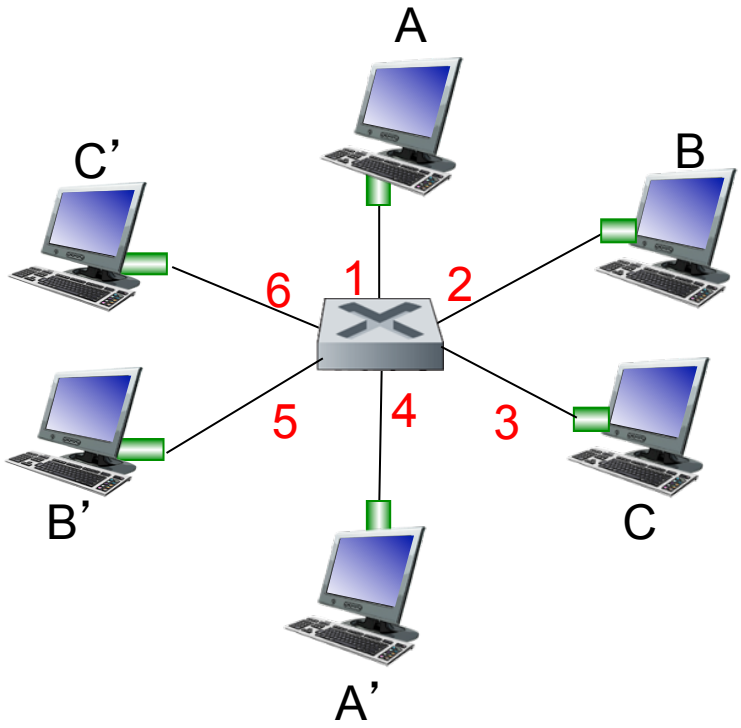


switch with six interfaces (1,2,3,4,5,6)

Switch forwarding table

Q: how does switch know A' reachable via interface 4, B' reachable via interface 5?

- A: *each switch has a switch table, each entry:*
  - *(MAC address of host, interface to reach host, time stamp)*
  - *looks like a routing table!*



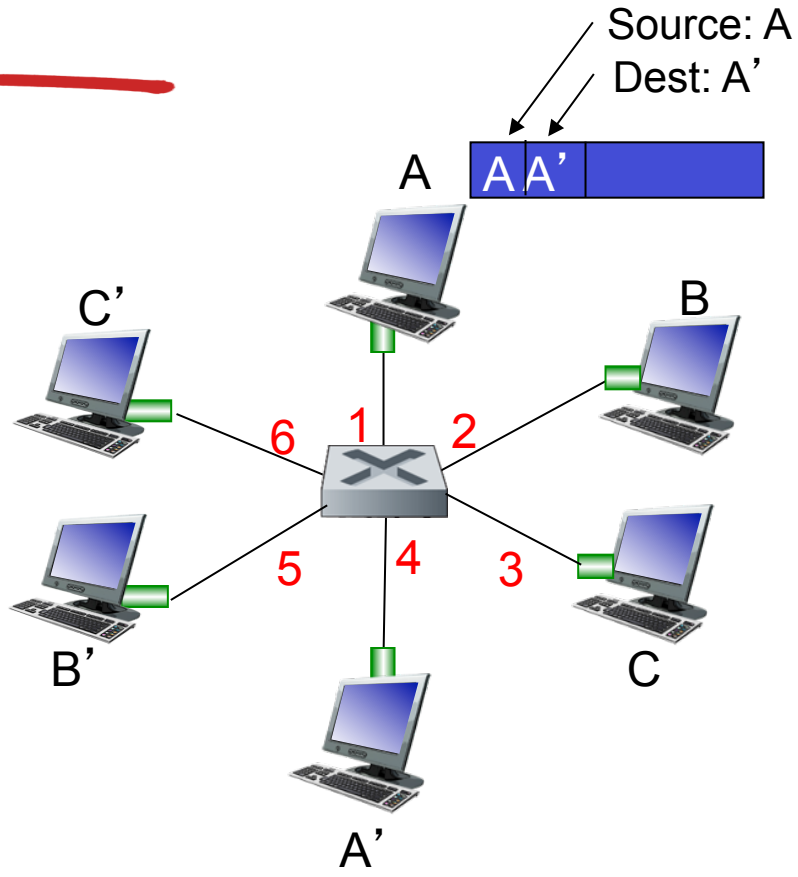
switch with six interfaces (1,2,3,4,5,6)

Q: *how are entries created, maintained in switch table?*

- *something like a routing protocol?*

Switch: self-learning

- switch *learns* which hosts can be reached through which interfaces
  - when frame received, switch "learns" location of sender: incoming LAN segment
  - records sender/location pair in switch table

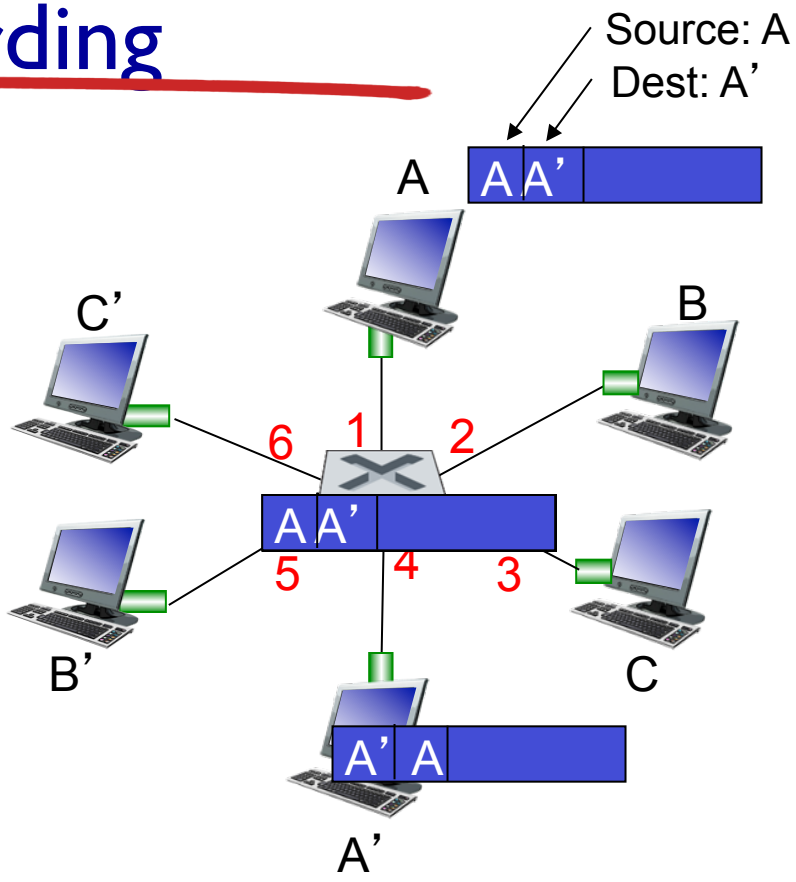


MAC addr	interface	TTL
A	*1*	*60*

Switch table (initially empty)

Switch: filtering, forwarding

- frame destination, A', location unknown: *flood*
- destination A location known: *selectively send on just one link*



MAC addr	interface	TTL
A	*1*	*60*
A'	*4*	*60*

switch table (initially empty)

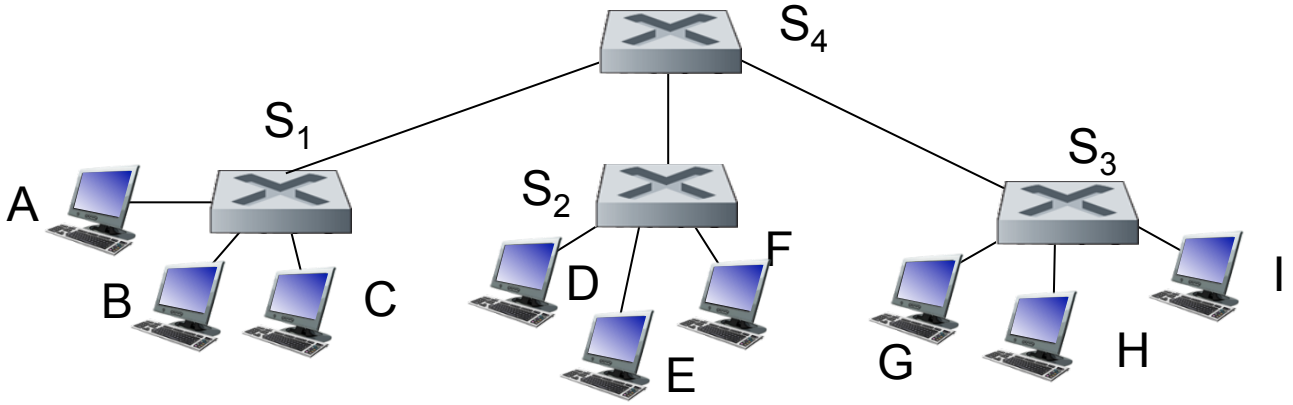
Switch: frame filtering/forwarding

when frame received at switch:

1. record incoming link, MAC address of sending host
2. index switch table using MAC destination address
3. if entry found for destination
   then {
   if destination on segment from which frame arrived
      then drop frame
      else forward frame on interface indicated by entry
   }
   else flood /* forward on all interfaces except arriving
                 interface */

Interconnecting switches

- switches can be connected together

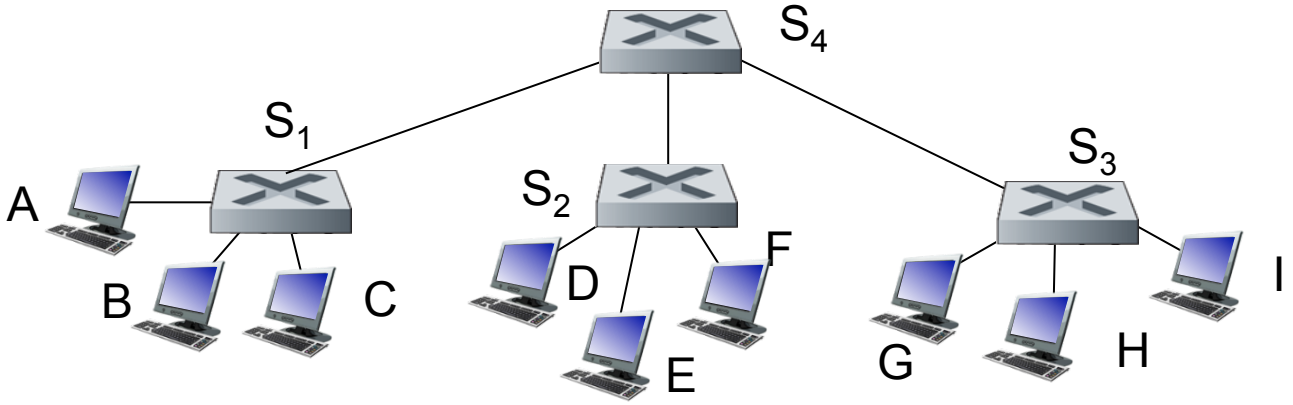


Q: sending from A to G - how does S_1 know to forward frame destined to F via S_4 and S_3?

- A: self learning! (works *exactly* the same as in single-switch case!)

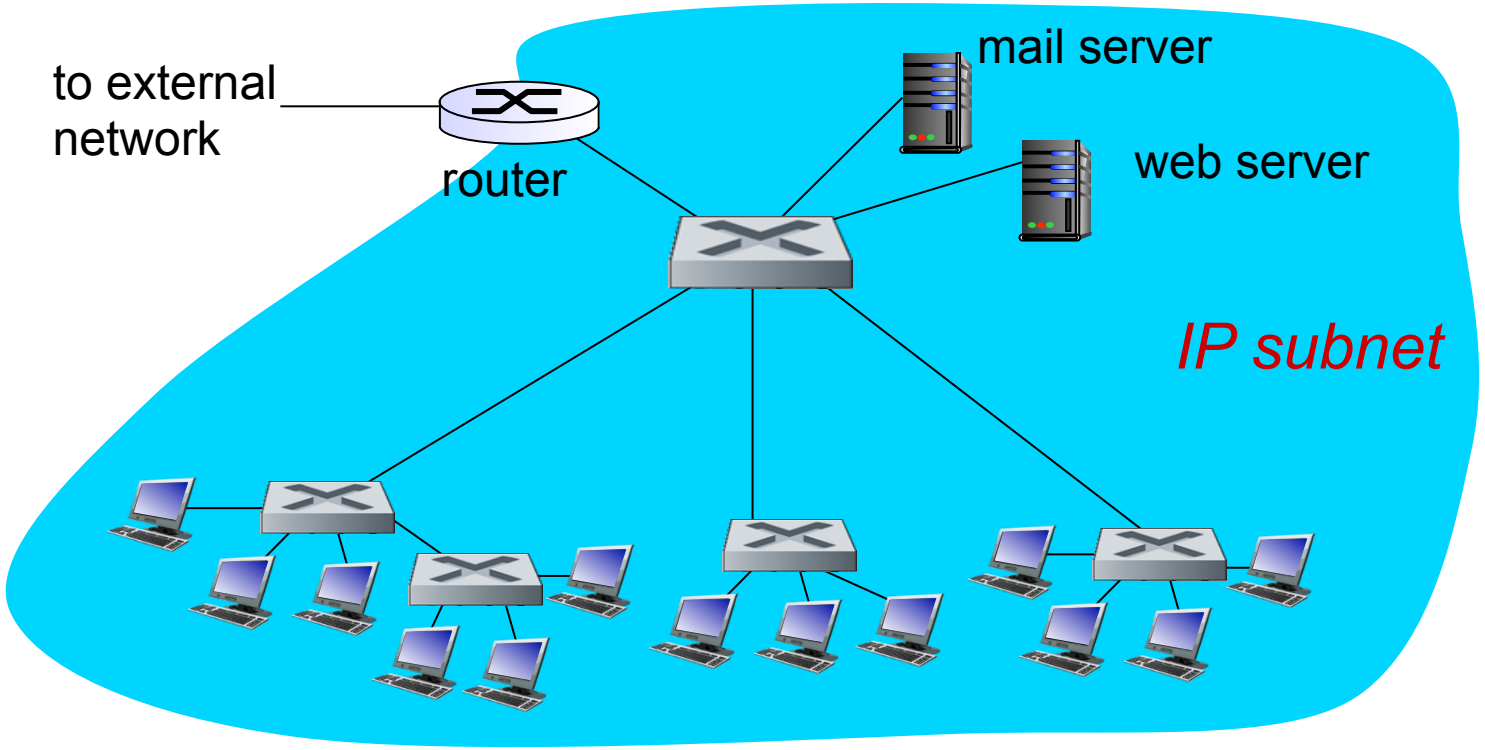
Self-learning multi-switch example

Suppose C sends frame to I, I responds to C



- Q: show switch tables and packet forwarding in S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4

Institutional network



Q: Why do we need hierarchy of switches?

- to handle large number of end hosts
- hierarchy of many small switches cheaper than vs. one big switch

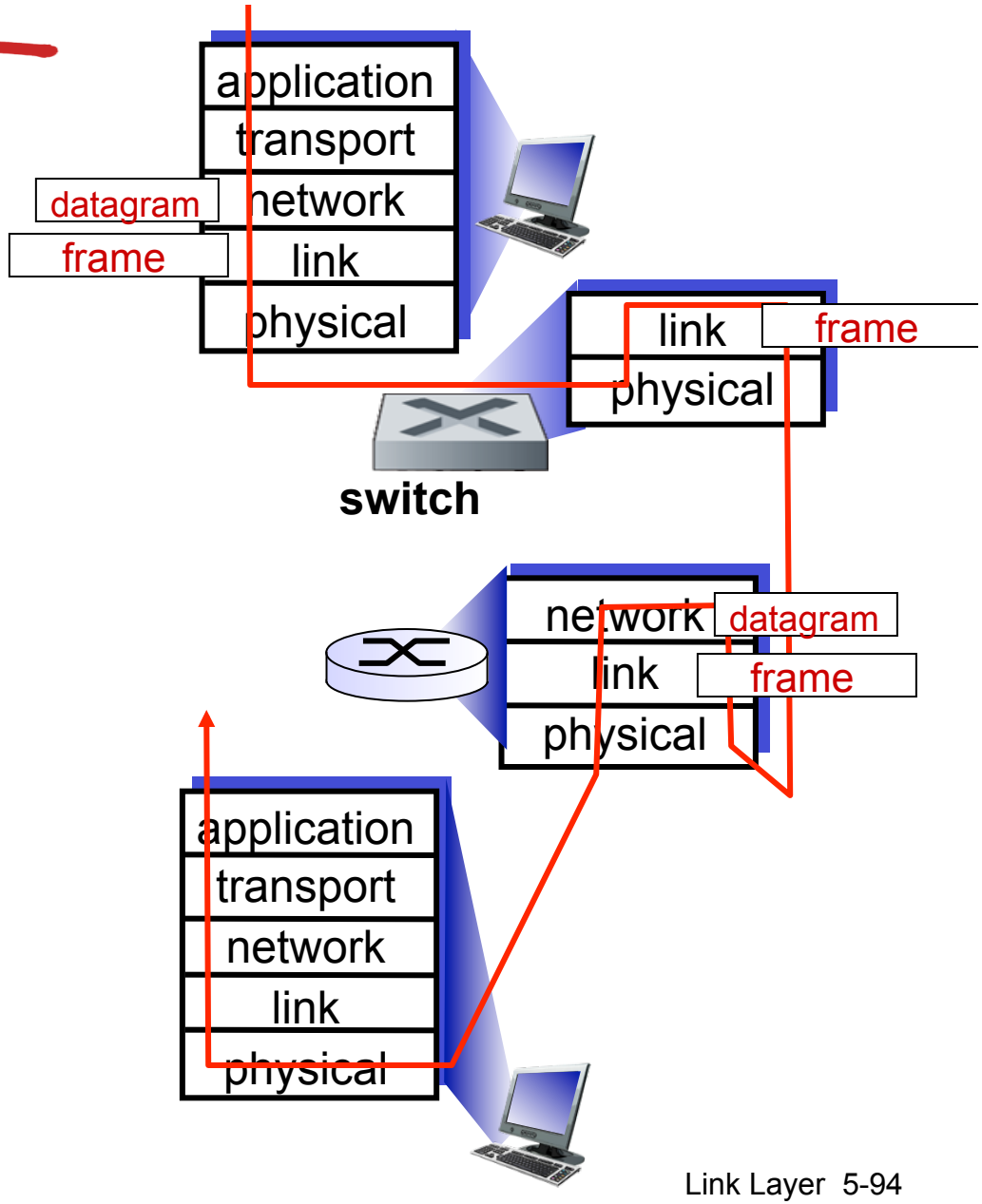
Switches vs. routers

both are store-and-forward:

- *routers:* network-layer devices (examine network-layer headers)
- *switches*: link-layer devices (examine link-layer headers)

both have forwarding tables:

- *routers:* compute tables using routing algorithms, IP addresses
- *switches:* learn forwarding table using flooding, learning, MAC addresses



Switches vs. Routers Cont'd

- Switches
  - Switching table:
    - <dest MAC, outgoing link>
  - Self-learning
  - Layer-2
    - Fast processing in hw
  - Isolation via forwarding/ filtering
  - Susceptible to broadcast storms (e.g. ARP)
    - Topology: spanning tree
  - On the order of 100s

- Routers
  - Forwarding Table
    - <dest IP, outgoing link>
  - Require configuration
  - Layer-3
    - Slower processing in sw
  - Isolation among subnets
    - No broadcast storms
    - Topology can be anything
    - Intelligent routing
  - Can support 1000s+

Why do we need both MAC and IP addresses?

- separation of layers
- routing using MAC addresses: flat domain
- link access using IP addresses: not portable, interrupted by all frames going on LAN