

Protocols

A *protocol* is a set of rules and associated formats that govern the process of exchange of information (communication) between communicating peer entities:

- the set of valid messages
- the meaning of each message

A *protocol* provides a service – consider the post-office services as an example. E.g., certified letters, priority mail, express mail, bulk mailings

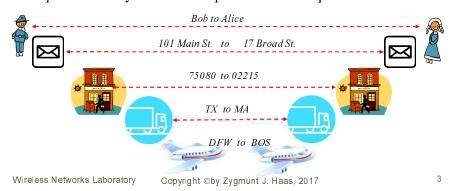
Peer entities use protocols to provide service to a higher-layer peer entity.

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- Protocols (con 't)

 ** A "practical networking system" will typically provide many services and, thus, requires many protocols.
- # Some services are dependent of one another (although some may be independent). This form of dependency is called layering. Consider the postal service example ...
- **X** A protocol may use another protocol as a step in its execution.



Protocols (con't)

- **#** A set of protocols is referred to as "open" if:
 - * the details of the protocols are publicly available
 - * the protocols are managed by an organization whose membership and transactions are open to the public
- **X** A system that implements open protocols is referred to as an "open system"
- # The International Organization of Standards (ISO) defined a standard that allows connecting open systems – the Open System Interconnect (OSI). This standard is referred to as the ISO/OSI protocol stack.

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Protocols (con't)

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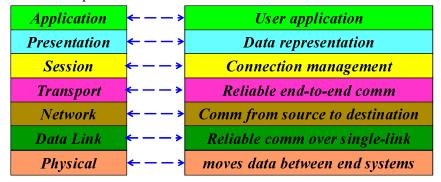
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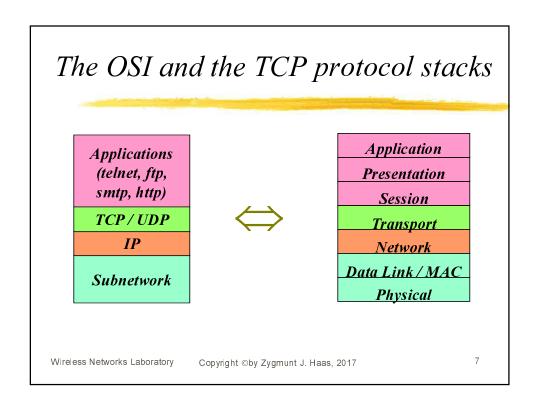
Protocols (con't)

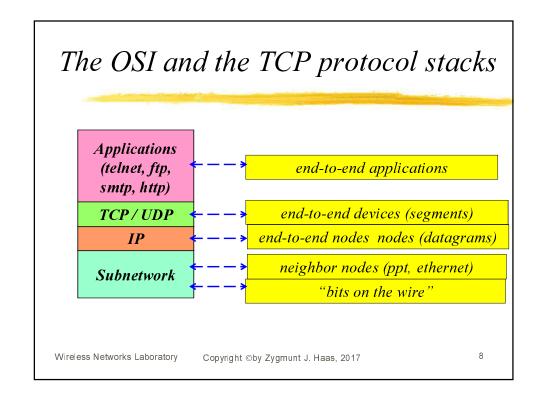
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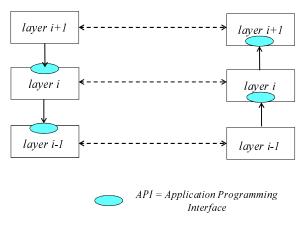
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Inter-layer Communications

- ❖ Each layer relies on services from layer below and exports services to layer above
- ❖ Interface defines interaction
- ❖ Hides implementation layers can change without disturbing other layers (black box)

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