Chapter 4: Network Layer

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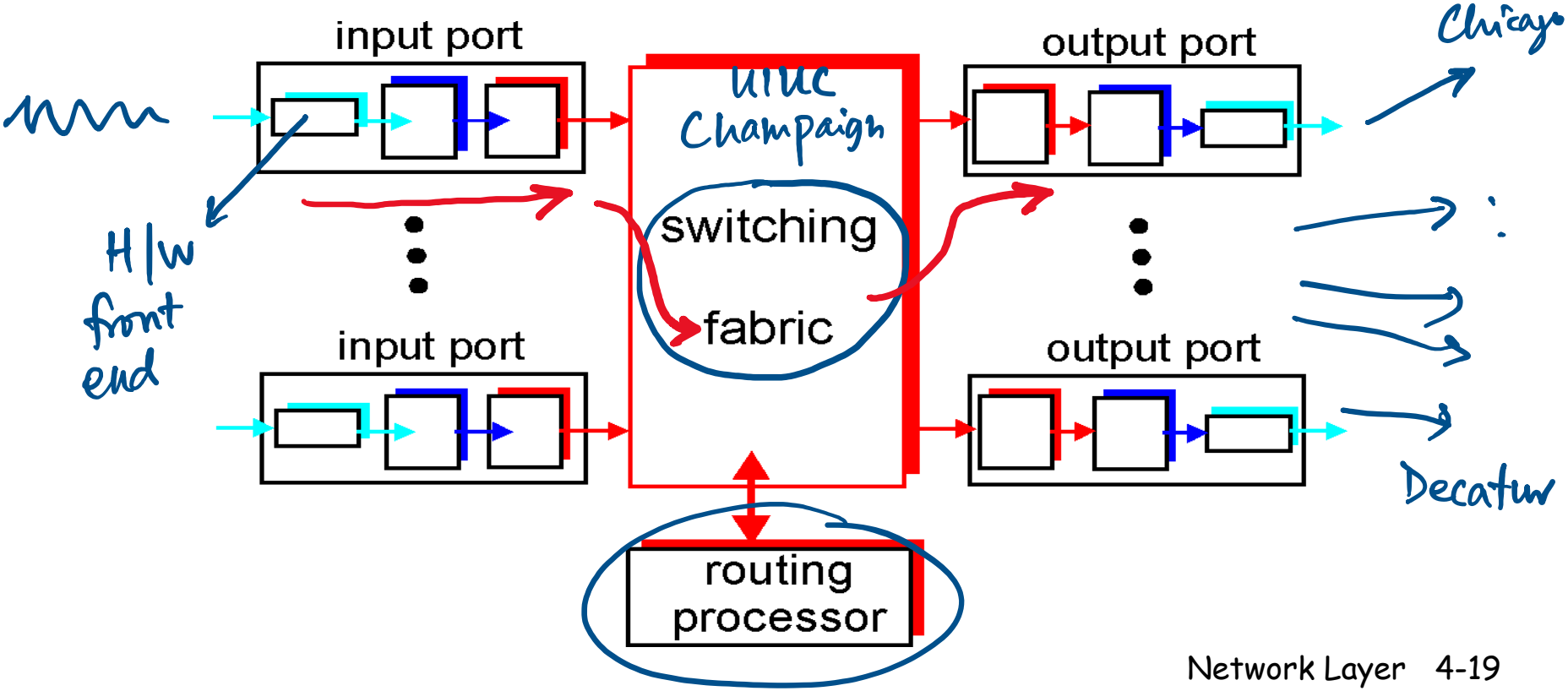
Router Architecture Overview

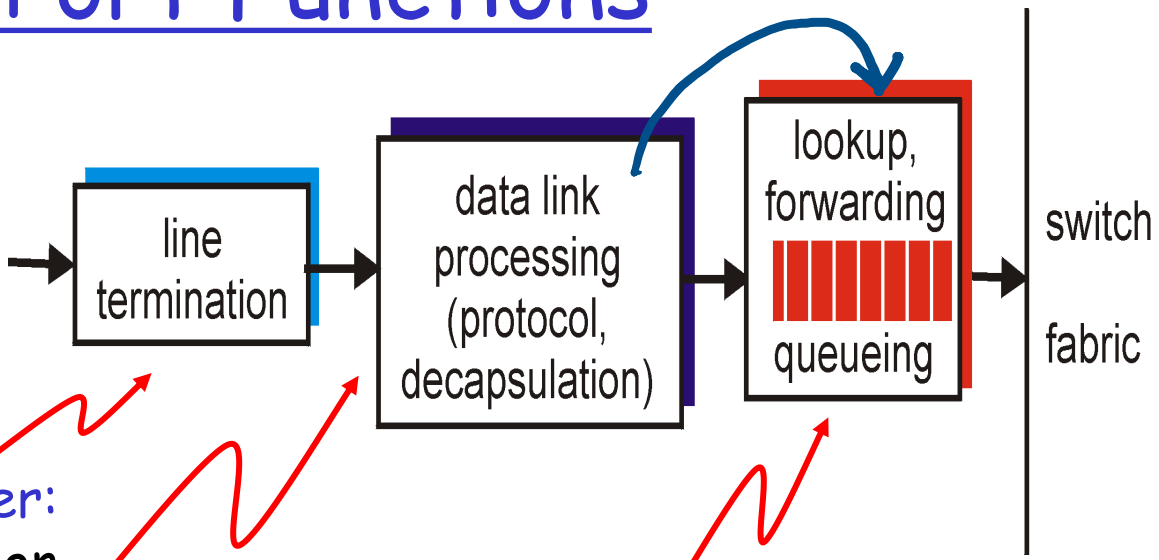
Routing Int. protocol

Two key router functions:

- run routing algorithms/protocol (RIP, OSPF, BGP)
- *forwarding* datagrams from incoming to outgoing link



Input Port Functions



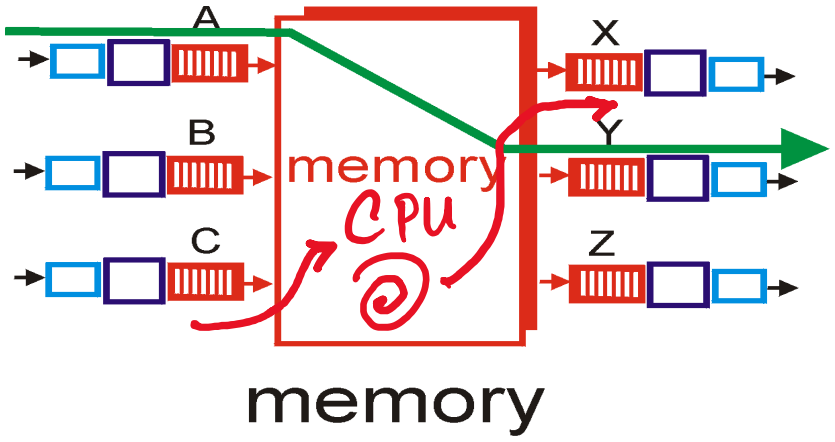
Physical layer:
bit-level reception

Data link layer:
e.g., Ethernet
see chapter 5

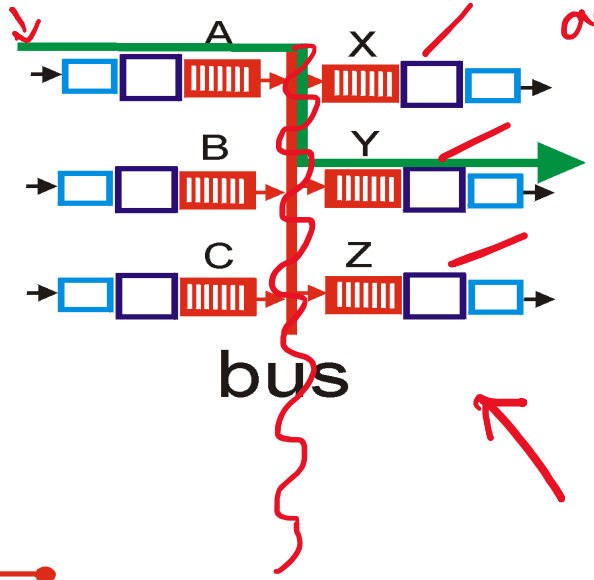
Decentralized switching:

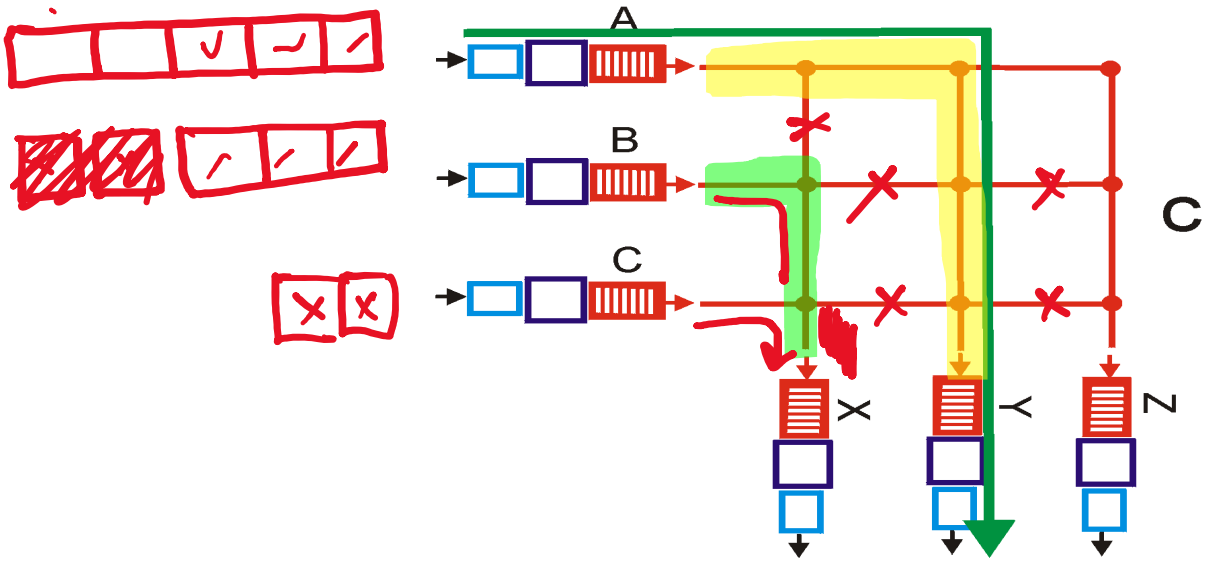
- given datagram dest., lookup output port using forwarding table in input port memory
- goal: complete input port processing at 'line speed'
- queuing: if datagrams arrive faster than forwarding rate into switch fabric

Three types of switching fabrics



memory





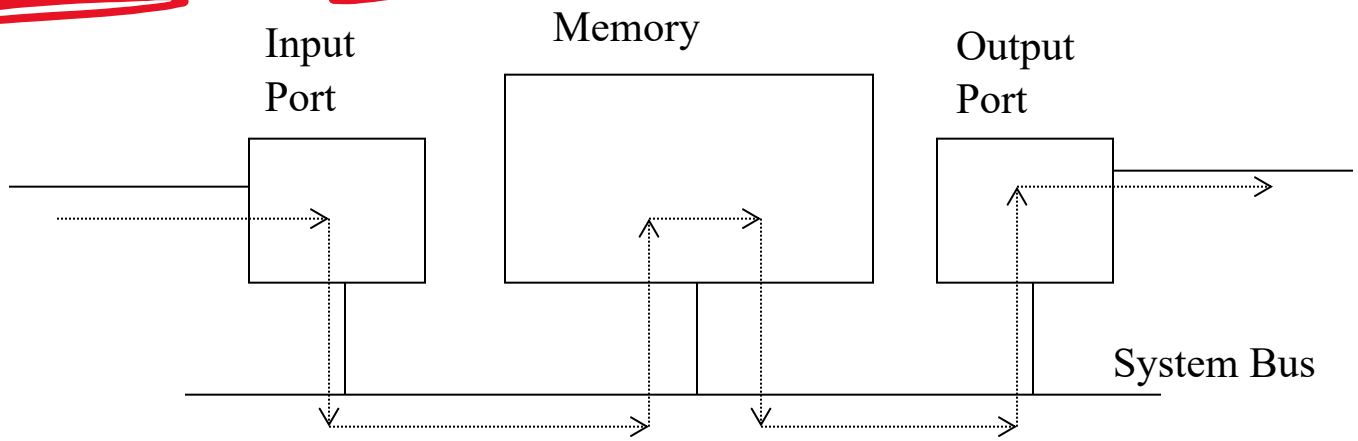
crossbar

parallel switching from input to output

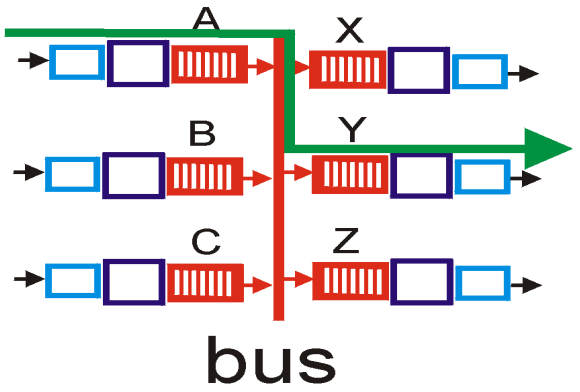
Switching Via Memory

First generation routers:

- traditional computers with switching under direct control of CPU
- packet copied to system's memory
- speed limited by memory bandwidth (2 bus crossings per datagram)



Switching Via a Bus



- datagram from input port memory to output port memory via a shared bus

- bus contention: switching speed limited by bus bandwidth

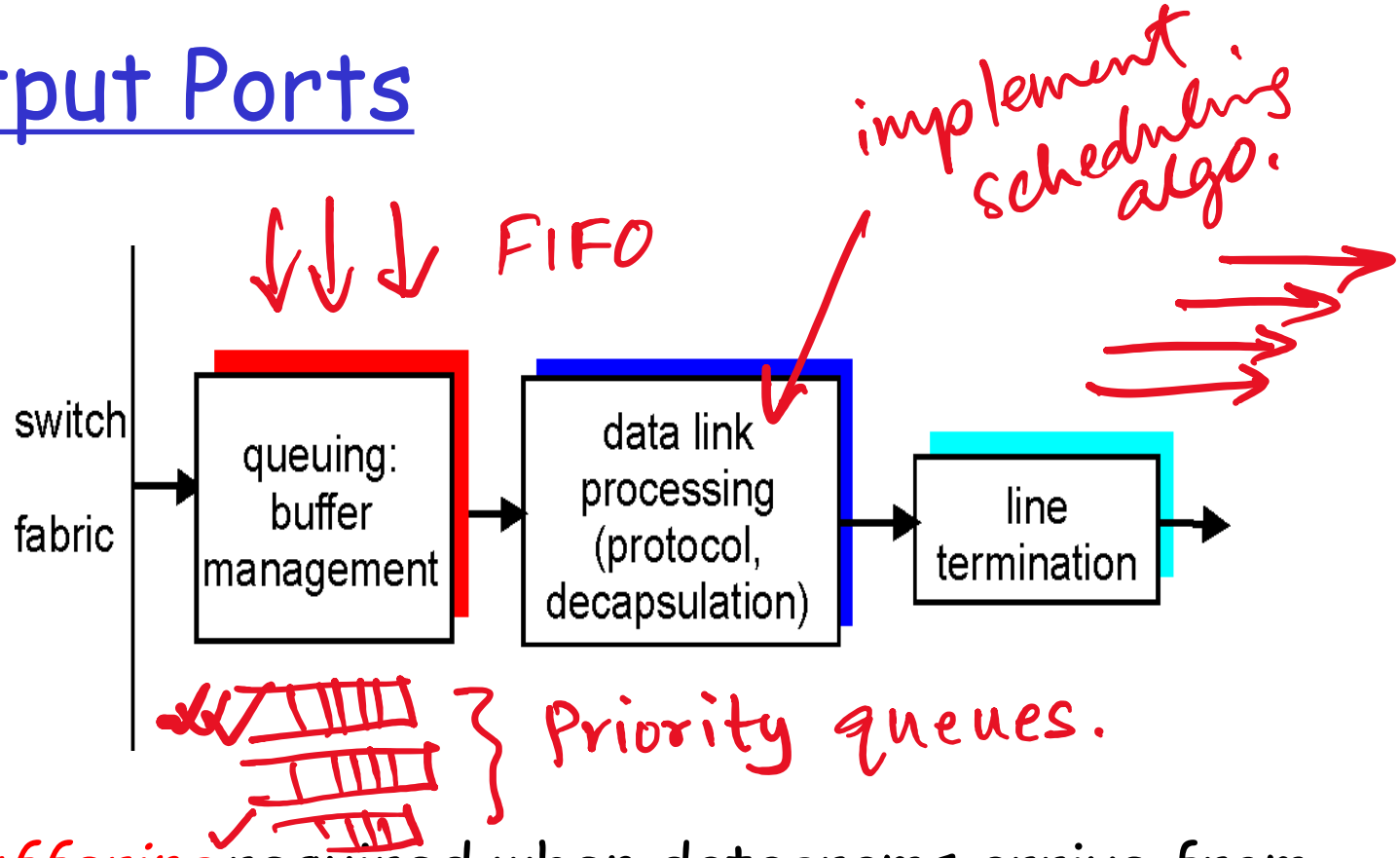
- 1 Gbps bus, Cisco 1900: sufficient speed for access and enterprise routers (not regional or backbone)

Switching Via An Interconnection Network

- overcome bus bandwidth limitations
- Banyan networks, other interconnection nets initially developed to connect processors in multiprocessor
- Advanced design: fragmenting datagram into fixed length cells, switch cells through the fabric.
  - Synchronous

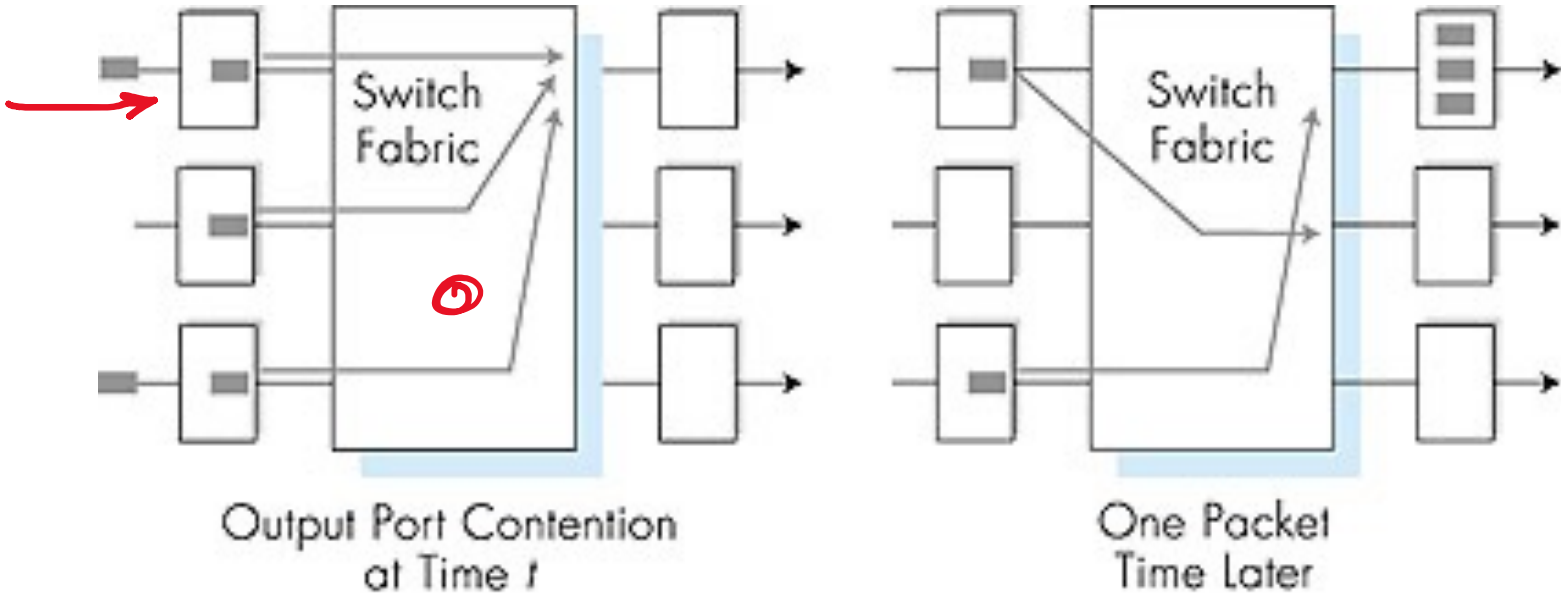
- Cisco 12000: switches Gbps through the interconnection network

Output Ports



- *Buffering* required when datagrams arrive from fabric faster than the transmission rate
- *Scheduling discipline* chooses among queued datagrams for transmission

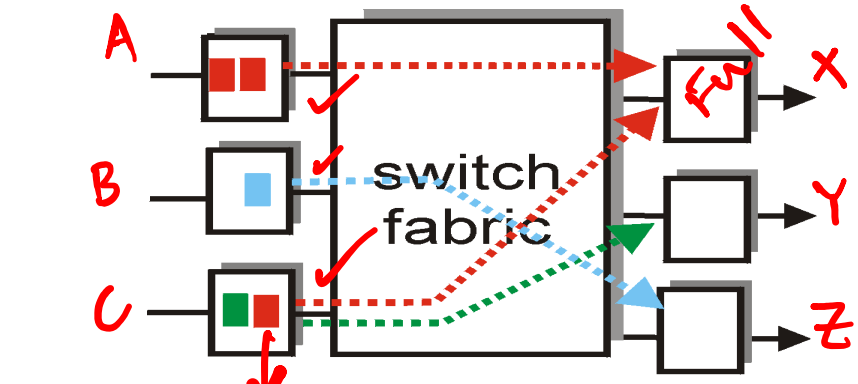
Output port queueing

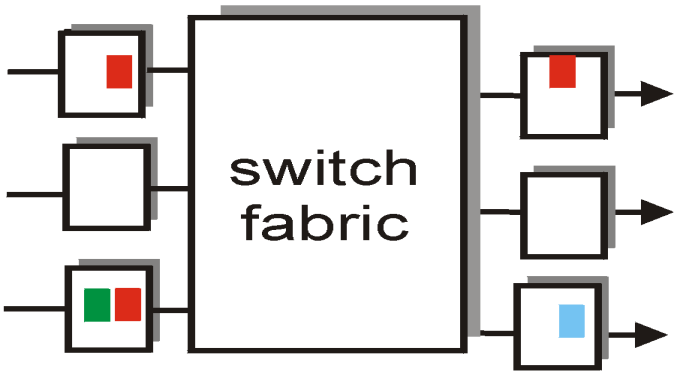


- buffering when arrival rate via switch exceeds output line speed
- *queueing (delay) and loss due to output port buffer overflow!*

Input Port Queuing

- Fabric slower than input ports combined -> queueing may occur at input queues
- Head-of-the-Line (HOL) blocking: queued datagram at front of queue prevents others in queue from moving forward
- *queueing delay and loss due to input buffer overflow!*





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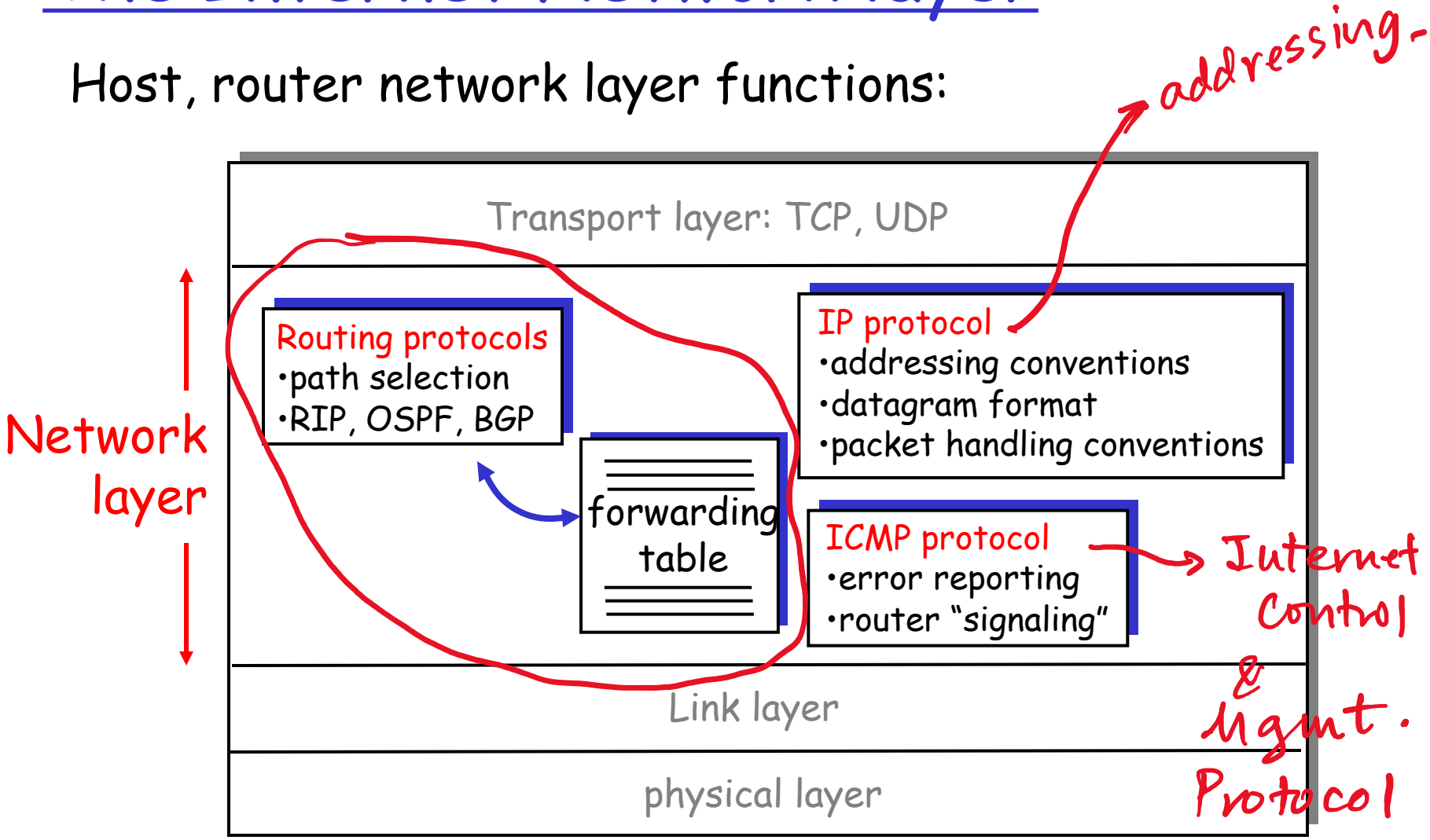
The Internet Network layer

Host, router network layer functions:



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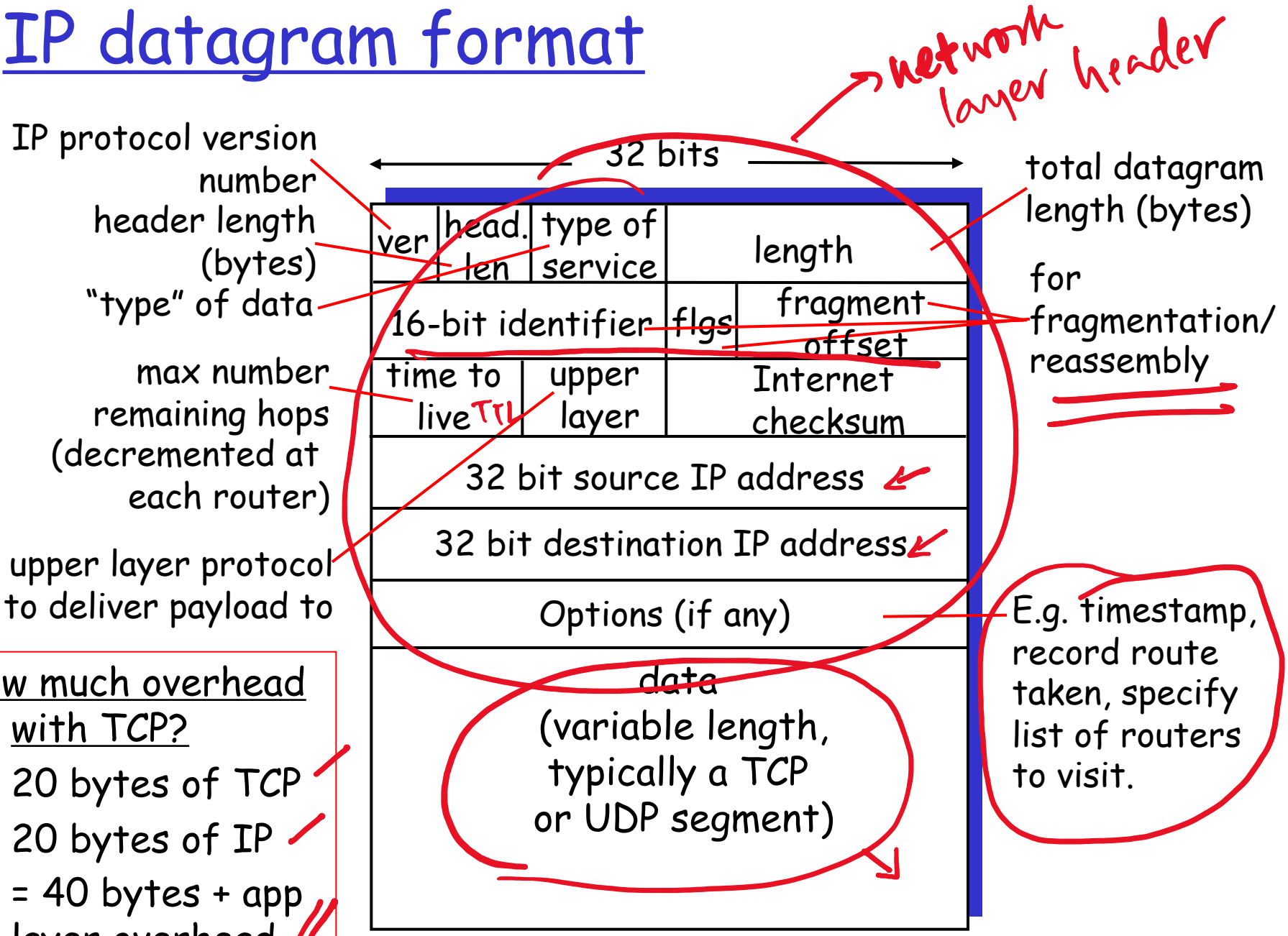
IP datagram format

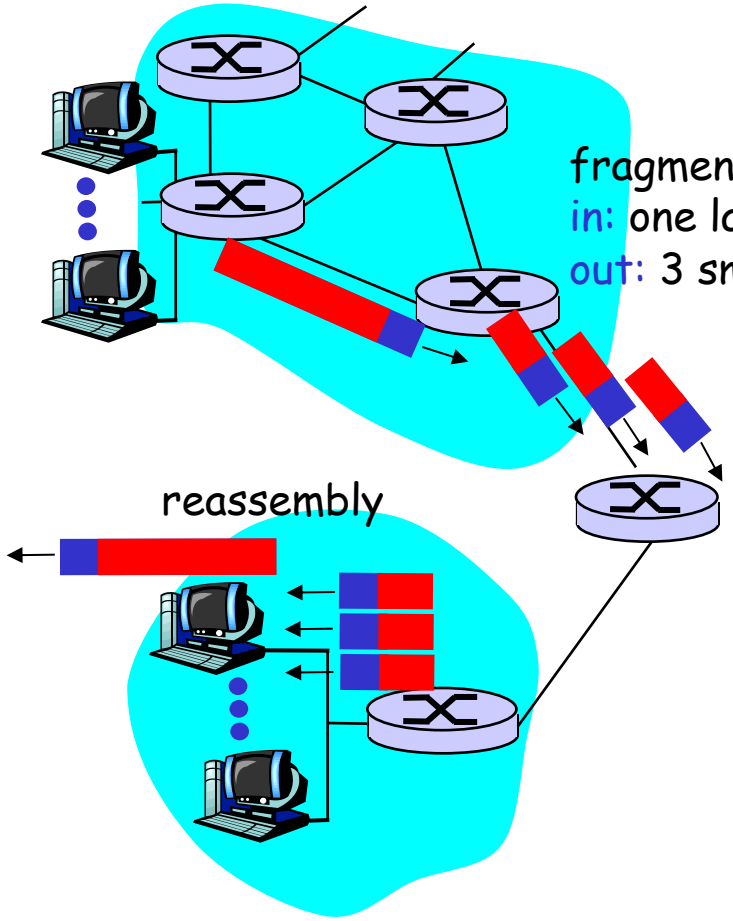


how much overhead with TCP?

- 20 bytes of TCP
- 20 bytes of IP
- = 40 bytes + app layer overhead

IP Fragmentation & Reassembly

- network links have MTU (max.transfer size) - largest possible link-level frame.
  - different link types, different MTUs
- large IP datagram divided ("fragmented") within net
  - one datagram becomes several datagrams
  - "reassembled" only at final destination
  - IP header bits used to identify, order related fragments



IP Fragmentation and Reassembly

including 20B header

Fragment #1

1500 = 1480 + 20

Example

- 4000 byte datagram
- MTU = 1500 bytes

Frg#2

1480 bytes in data field

offset = 1480/8 = 185

Max Transmission Unit

	length	ID	fragflag	offset	
	=4000	=x	=0	=0	

One large datagram becomes several smaller datagrams

	length	ID	fragflag	offset	
	=1500	=x	=1	=0	

	length	ID	fragflag	offset	
	=1500	=x	=1	=185	

13 bits

	length	ID	fragflag	offset	
	=1040	=x	=0	=370	

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