The Frame Body field is of variable size. The maximum frame body size is determined by the maximum MSDU size (2304 octets), plus the length of the Mesh Control field (6, 12, or 18 octets) if present, the maximum unencrypted MMPDU size excluding the MAC header and FCS (2304 octets) or the maximum A-MSDU size (3839 or 7935 octets, depending upon the STA's capability), plus any overhead from security encapsulation.

8.2.4 Frame fields

8.2.4.1 Frame Control field

8.2.4.1.1 General

The Frame Control field consists of the following subfields: Protocol Version, Type, Subtype, To DS, From DS, More Fragments, Retry, Power Management, More Data, Protected Frame, and Order. The format of the Frame Control field is illustrated in Figure 8-2.

	B0 B1	B2 B3	B4 B7	B8	B9	B10	B11	B12	B13	B14	B15
	Protocol Version	Type	Subtype	To DS	From DS	More Frag-ments	Re-try	Power Manage-ment	More Data	Protect-ed Frame	Or-der
Bits:	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Figure 8-2—Frame Control field

8.2.4.1.2 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. See 9.24.2.

8.2.4.1.3 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 8-1 defines the valid combinations of type and subtype. (The numeric values in Table 8-1 are shown in binary.)

Table 8-1—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	Timing Advertisement

Table 8-1—Valid type and subtype combinations *(continued)*

Type value b3 b2	Type description	Subtype value b7 b6 b5 b4	Subtype description
00	Management	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	Action No Ack
00	Management	1111	Reserved
01	Control	0000–0110	Reserved
01	Control	0111	Control Wrapper
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
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.

8.2.4.1.4 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 8-2.

Table 8-2—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, a data frame direct from one non-AP STA to another non-AP STA within the same BSS, or a data frame outside the context of a 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, or a group addressed Mesh Data frame with Mesh Control field present using the three-address MAC header format.
To DS = 1 From DS = 1	A data frame using the four-address MAC header format. This standard defines procedures for using this combination of field values only in a mesh BSS.

8.2.4.1.5 More Fragments field

The More Fragments field is 1 bit in length and is set to 1 in all data or management type frames that have another fragment of the current MSDU or current MMPDU to follow. It is set to 0 in all other frames.

8.2.4.1.6 Retry field

The Retry field is 1 bit in length and is set to 1 in any data or management type frame that is a retransmission of an earlier frame. It is set to 0 in all other frames. A receiving STA uses this indication to aid in the process of eliminating duplicate frames.

8.2.4.1.7 Power Management field

The Power Management field is 1 bit in length and is used to indicate the power management mode of a STA. The value of this field is either reserved (as defined below) or remains constant in each frame from a particular STA within a frame exchange sequence (see Annex G). The value indicates the mode of the STA after the successful completion of the frame exchange sequence.

In an infrastructure BSS, the following applies:

— The Power Management field is reserved in all management frames that are not bufferable management frames.
— The Power Management field is reserved in all management frames transmitted by a STA to an AP with which it is not associated.
— The Power Management field is reserved in all frames transmitted by the AP.
— Otherwise, a value of 1 indicates that the STA will be in PS mode. A value of 0 indicates that the STA will be in active mode.