Multiplexing : Sharing a Medium

Making connections

- Synchronous vs asynchronous (temporal)
- Duplex vs simplex (directional)

Continue making connections – multiplexing

- Many into one; one into many (spatial)
  - Will use time and frequency to do it.

Introduction

Under the simplest conditions, a medium can carry only one signal at any moment in time.

For multiple signals to share one medium, the medium must somehow be divided, giving each signal a portion of the total bandwidth.

The current techniques that can accomplish this include

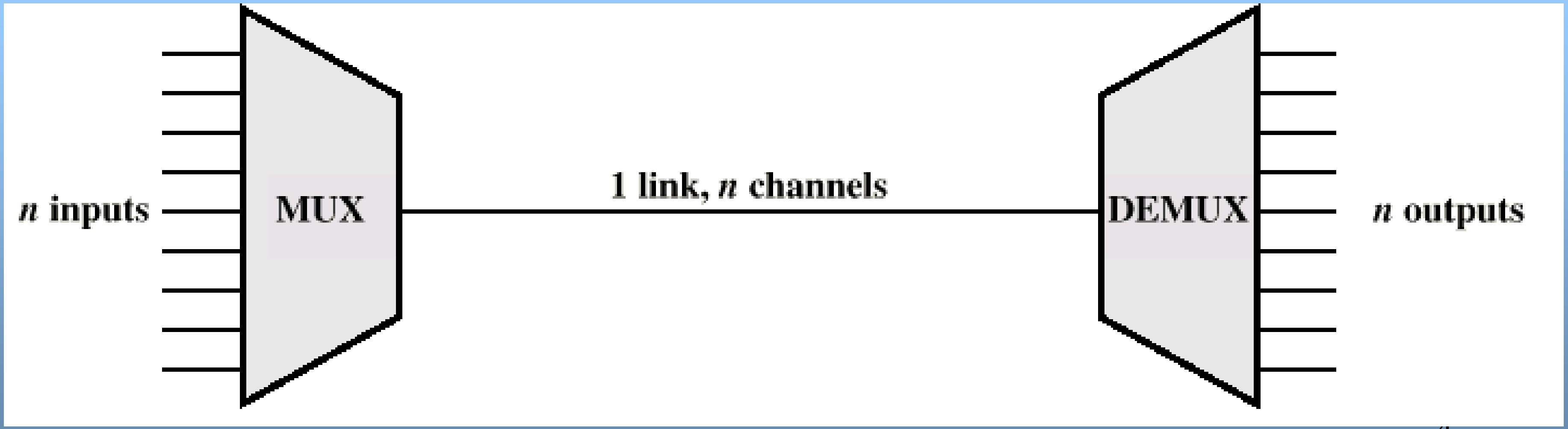
- frequency division multiplexing (FDM)
- time division multiplexing (TDM)
  - Synchronous vs statistical
- wavelength division multiplexing (WDM)
- code division multiplexing (CDM)

Multiplexing

Multiplexor (MUX)

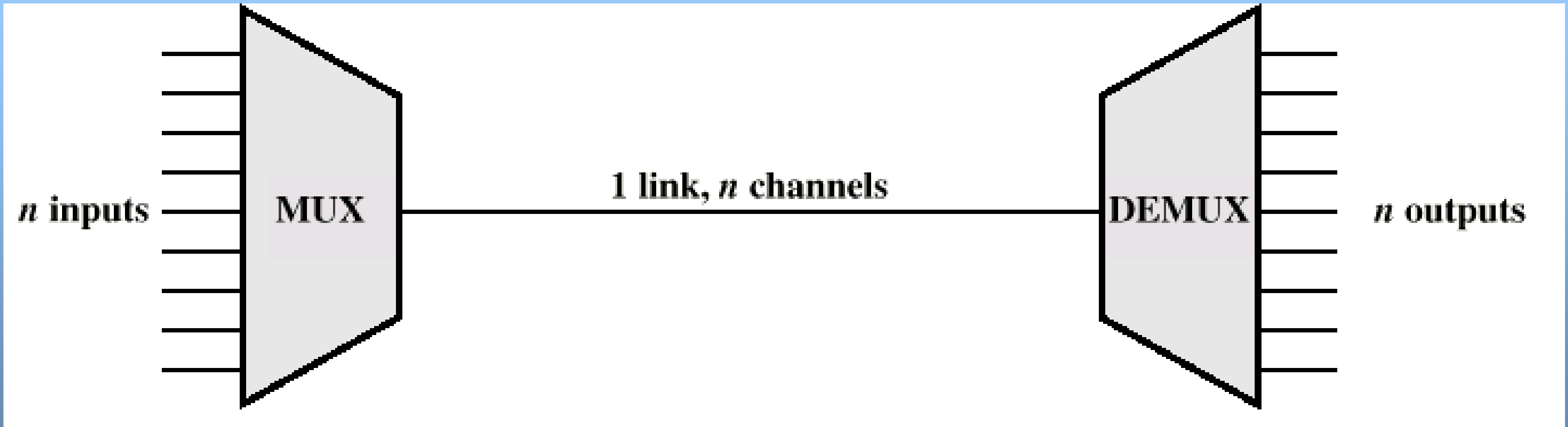
Demultiplexor (DEMUX)

Sometimes just called a MUX



Multiplexing

- Two or more simultaneous transmissions on a single circuit.
  - Transparent to end user.
- *Multiplexing costs less*.



Frequency Division Multiplexing

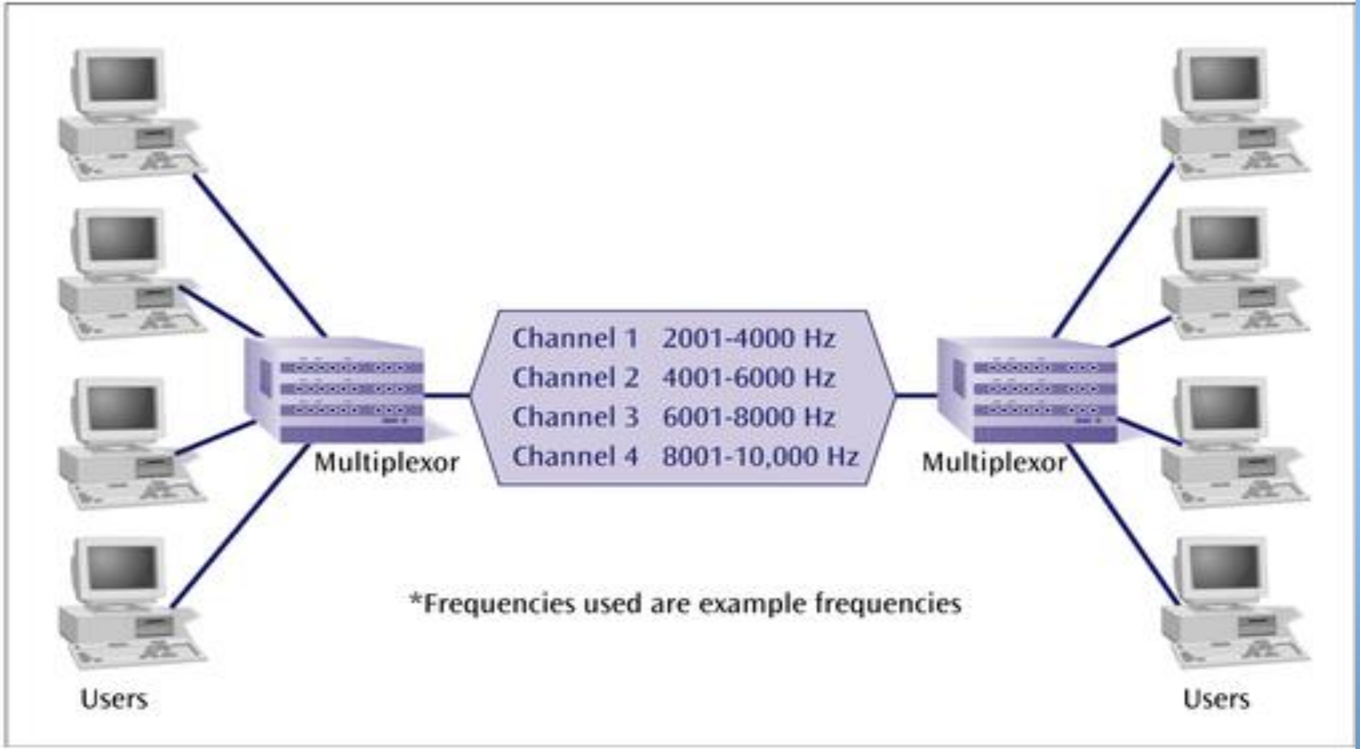
Assignment of non-overlapping frequency ranges to each "user" or signal on a medium. Thus, all signals are transmitted at the same time, each using different frequencies.

A multiplexor accepts inputs and assigns frequencies to each device.

The multiplexor is attached to a high-speed communications line.

A corresponding multiplexor, or demultiplexor, is on the end of the high-speed line and separates the multiplexed signals.

Figure 5-1
Simplified example of frequency division multiplexing



Frequency Division Multiplexing

Analog signaling is used to transmits the signals.

Broadcast radio and television, cable television, and the AMPS cellular phone systems use frequency division multiplexing.

This technique is the oldest multiplexing technique.

Since it involves analog signaling, it is more susceptible to noise.

Time Division Multiplexing

Sharing of the signal is accomplished by dividing available transmission time on a medium among users.

Digital signaling is used exclusively.

Time division multiplexing comes in two basic forms:

1. Synchronous time division multiplexing, and
2. Statistical, or asynchronous time division multiplexing.

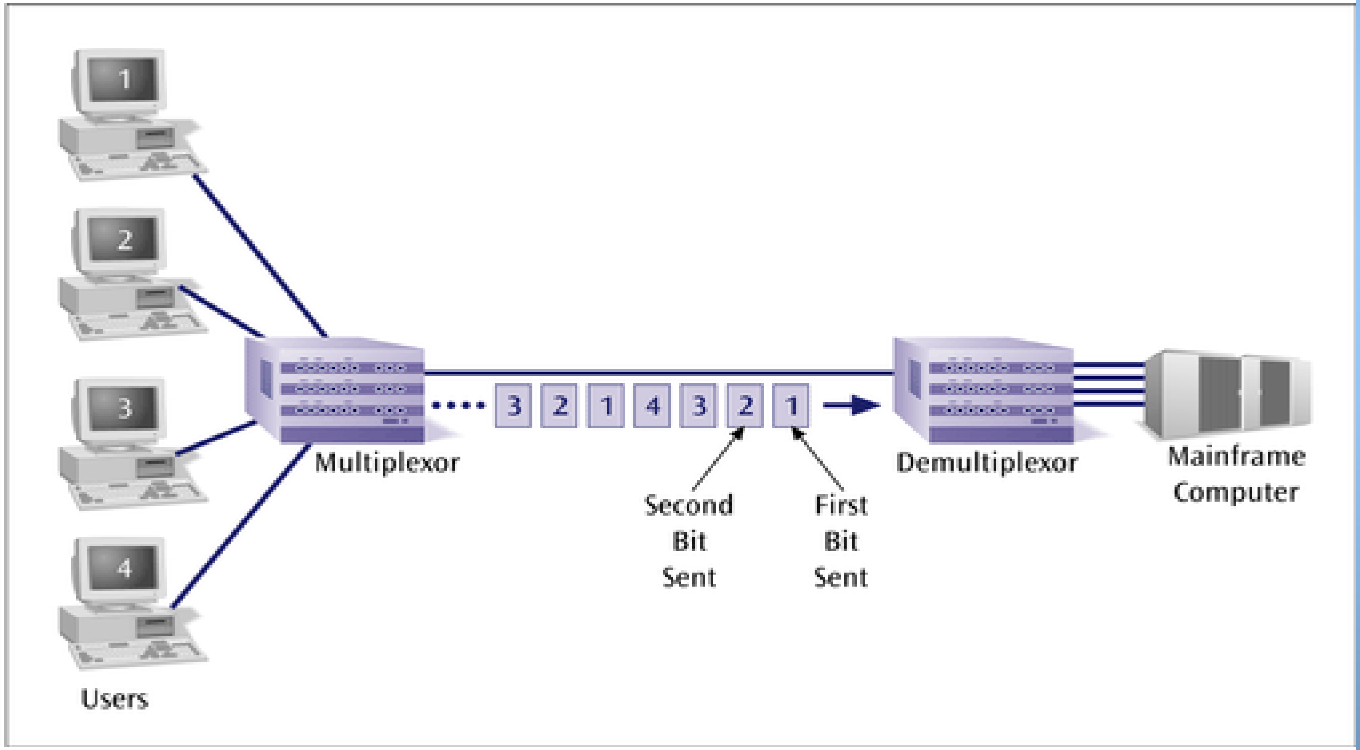
Synchronous Time Division Multiplexing

The original time division multiplexing.

The multiplexor accepts input from attached devices in a round-robin fashion and transmit the data in a never ending pattern.

T-1 and ISDN telephone lines are common examples of synchronous time division multiplexing.

Figure 5-2
Sample output stream generated by a synchronous time division multiplexor



Synchronous Time Division Multiplexing

If one device generates data at a faster rate than other devices, then the multiplexor must either sample the incoming data stream from that device more often than it samples the other devices, or buffer the faster incoming stream.

If a device has nothing to transmit, the multiplexor must still insert a piece of data from that device into the multiplexed stream.

Figure 5-3

A synchronous time division multiplexor system which samples device A twice as fast as the other devices

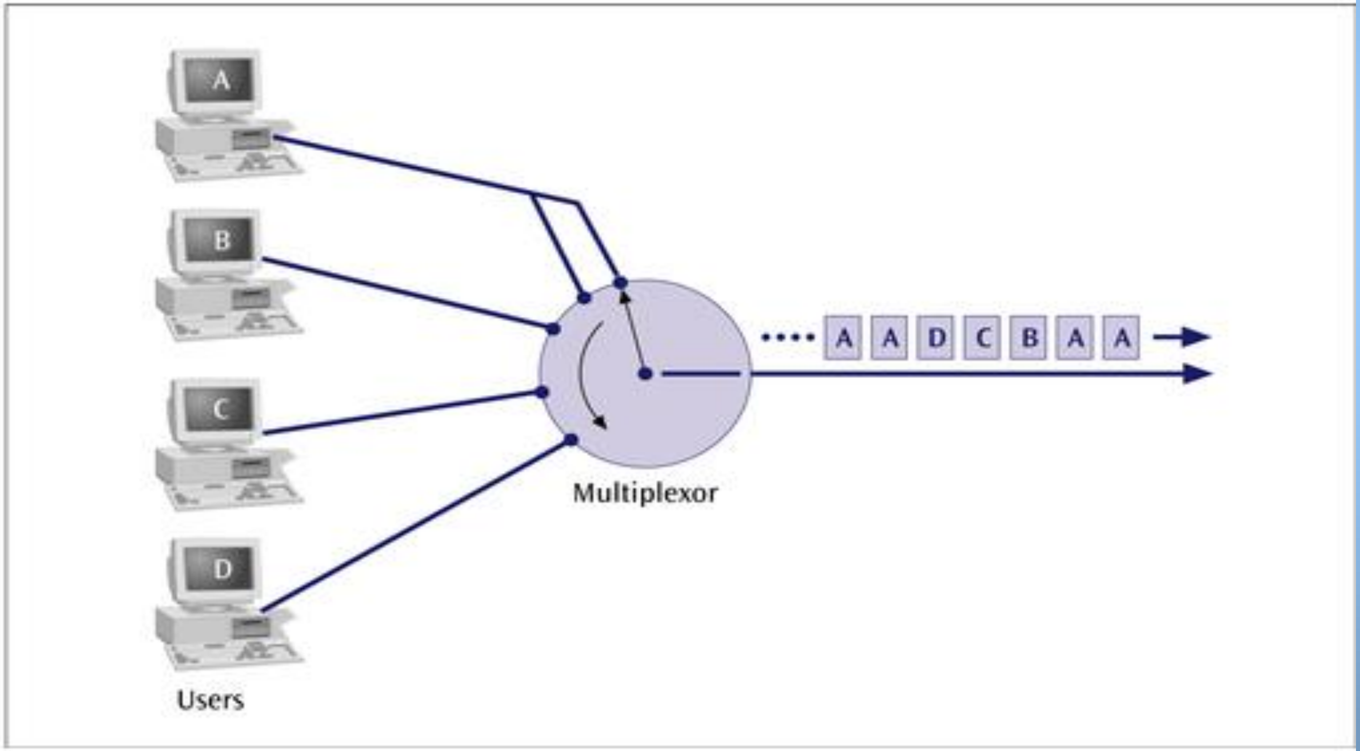
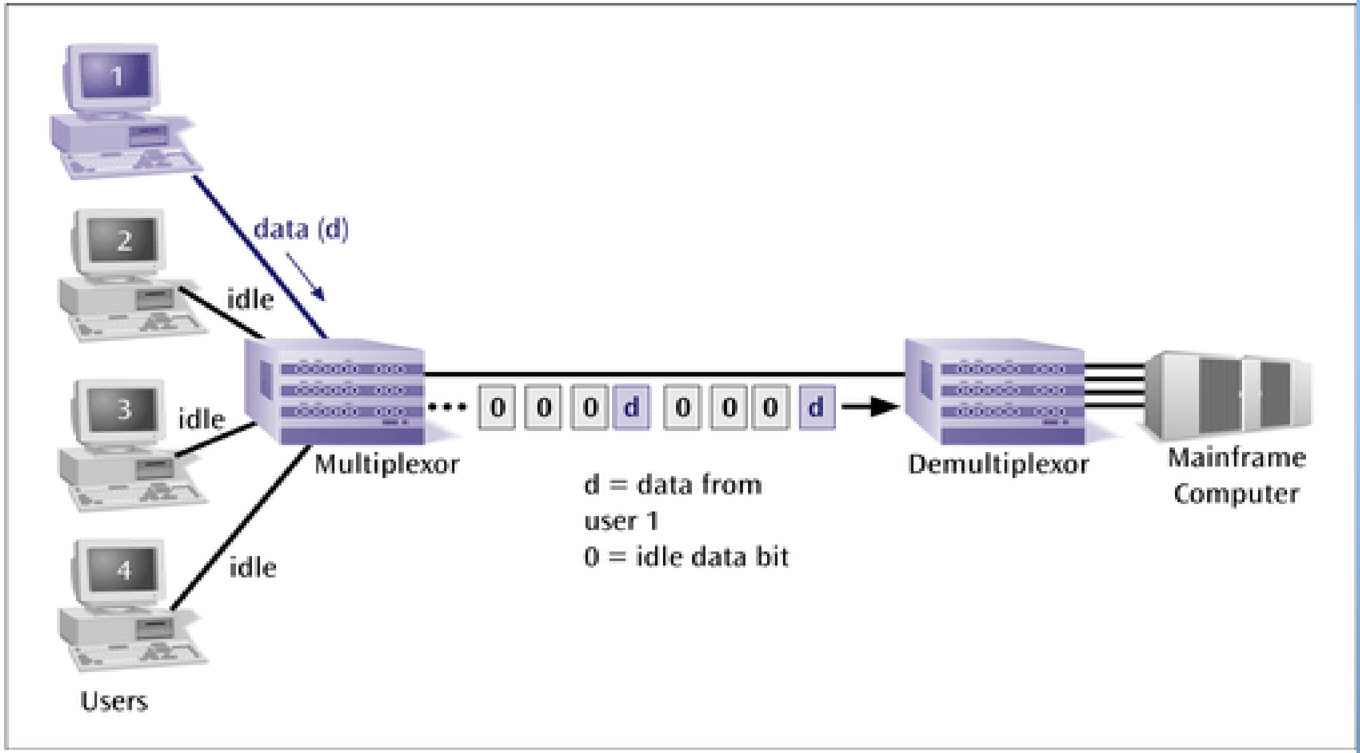


Figure 5-4
Multiplexor transmission stream with only one input device transmitting data



Synchronous TDM

- Very popular
- Line will require as much bandwidth as all the bandwidths of the sources

Statistical Time Division Multiplexing

A statistical multiplexor transmits only the data from active workstations (*or why work when you don’t have to*).

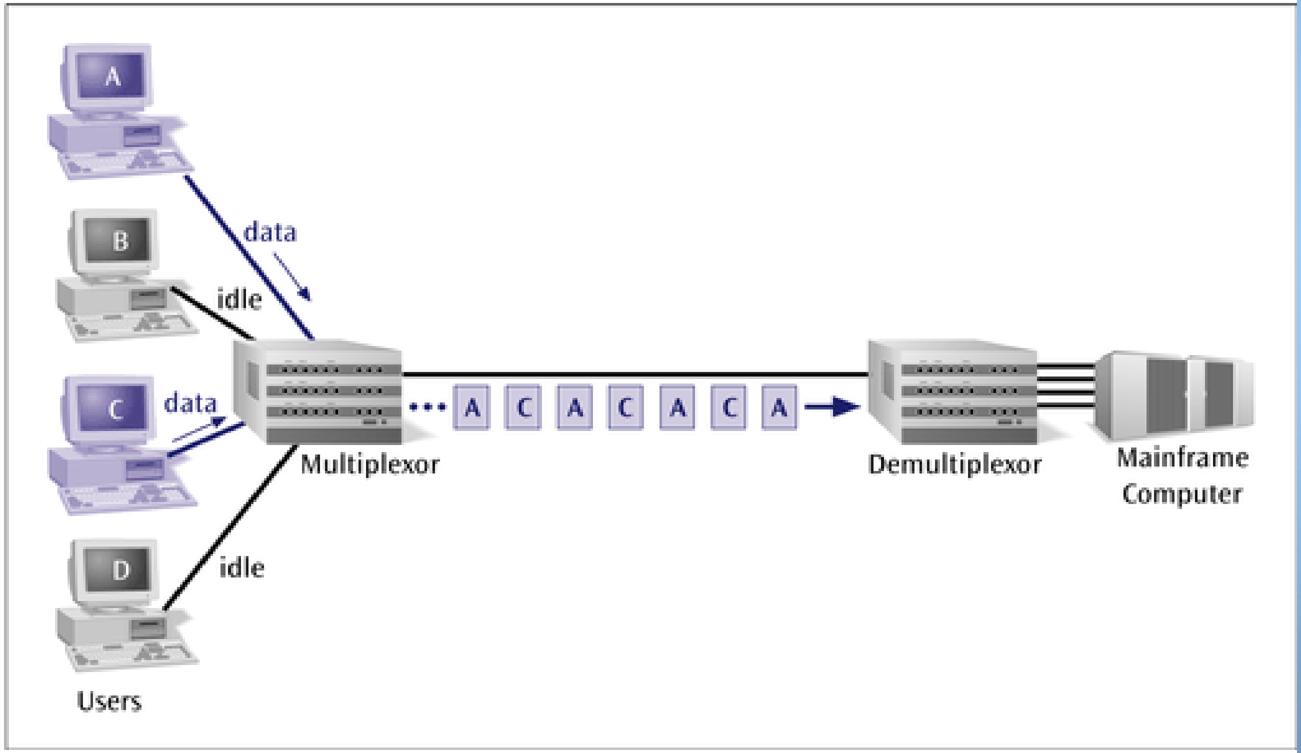
If a workstation is not active, no space is wasted on the multiplexed stream.

A statistical multiplexor accepts the incoming data streams and creates a frame containing only the data to be transmitted.

Data Communications and Computer Networks

Chapter 5

Figure 5-9
Two stations out of four transmitting via a statistical multiplexor



Statistical Time Division Multiplexing

A statistical multiplexor does not require a line over as high a speed line as synchronous time division multiplexing since STDM does not assume all sources will transmit all of the time!

Good for low bandwidth lines (used for LANs)

Much more efficient use of bandwidth!

Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM)

Give each message a different wavelength (frequency)

Easy to do with fiber optics and optical sources

Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM)

Dense wavelength division multiplexing is often called just wavelength division multiplexing

Dense wavelength division multiplexing multiplexes multiple data streams onto a single fiber optic line.

Different wavelength lasers (called lambdas) transmit the multiple signals.

Each signal carried on the fiber can be transmitted at a different rate from the other signals.

Dense wavelength division multiplexing combines many (30, 40, 50, 60, more?) onto one fiber.

Figure 5-13
Multiple lasers transmitting data signals down a single fiber optic line

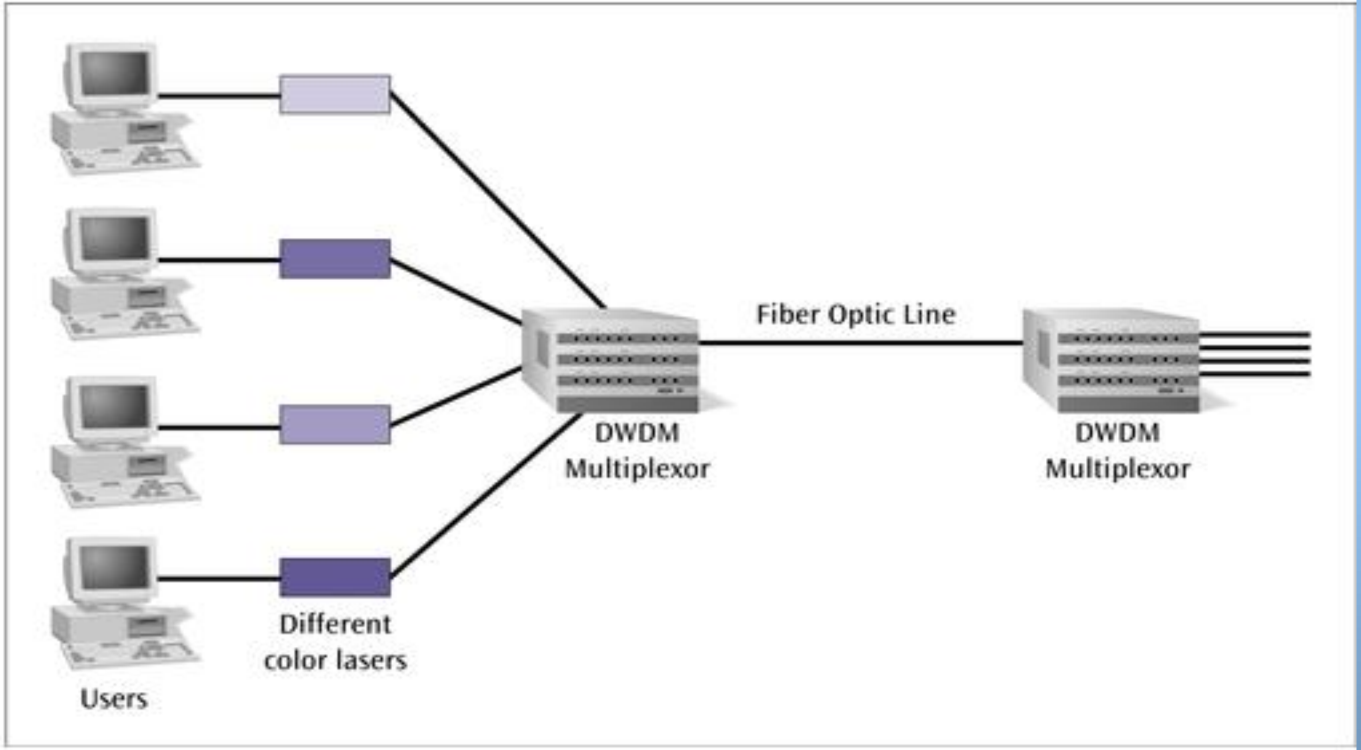


Figure 5-14
Fiber optic line using dense wavelength division multiplexing and supporting multiple-speed transmissions

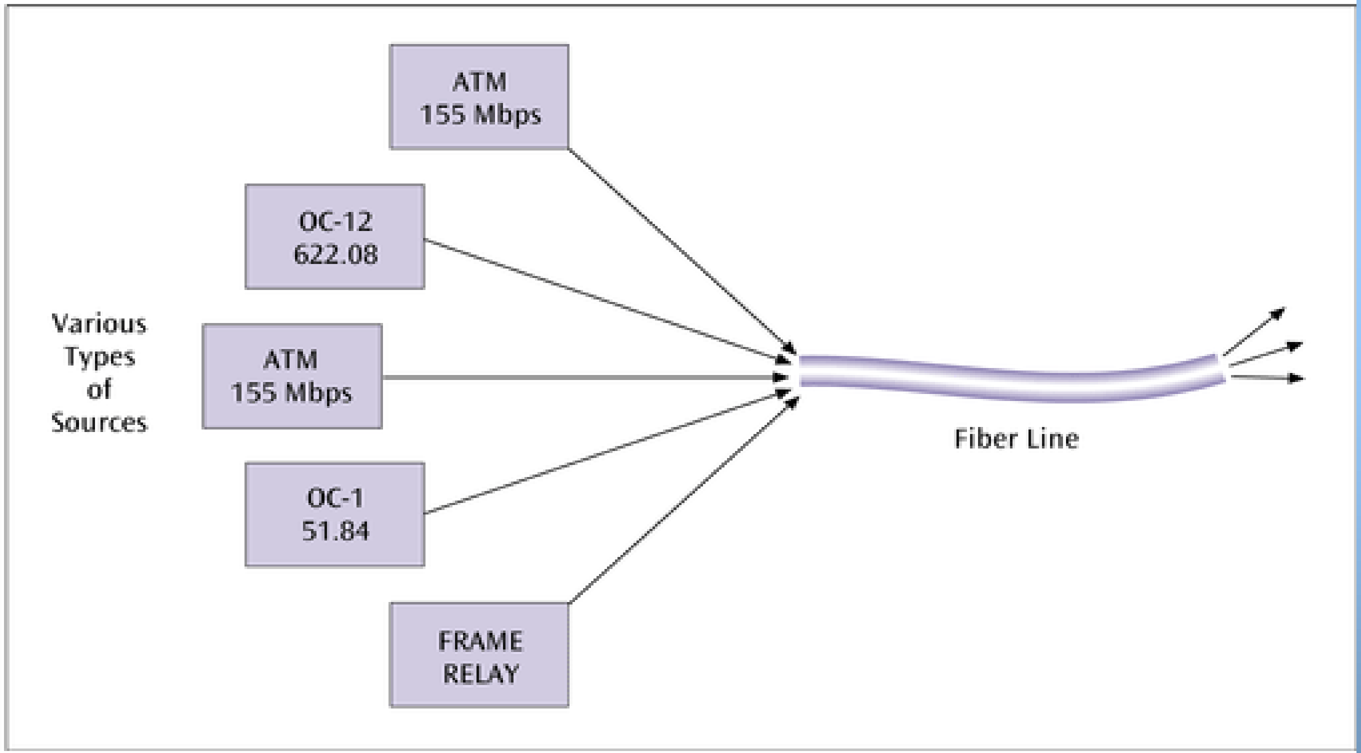


Table 5-3
Advantages and disadvantages of multiplexing techniques

Multiplexing Technique	Advantages	Disadvantages
Frequency Division Multiplexing	Simple	Analog signals only
	Popular with radio, TV, cable TV Relatively inexpensive All the receivers, such as cellular telephones, do not need to be at the same location	Limited by frequency ranges
Synchronous Time Division Multiplexing	Digital signals Relatively simple Commonly used with T-1 and ISDN	Wastes bandwidth
Statistical Time Division Multiplexing	More efficient use of bandwidth Packets can be various sizes Frame can contain control and error information	More complex than synchronous time division multiplexing
Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing	Very high capacities over fiber Scalable Signals can have varying speeds	Cost Complexity
Code Division Multiplexing	Large capacities Scalable	Complexity