Network Layer: Data Plane

- Overview of Network Layer
- **What's Inside a Router?**
- The Internet Protocol
- Generalized Forwarding and SDN
- Middleboxes
- Summary

COMPSCI 453 Computer Networks

Professor Jim Kurose

College of Information and Computer Sciences

University of Massachusetts

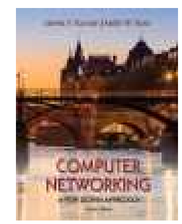
Class textbook:

Computer Networking: A Top-Down Approach (8th ed.)

J.F. Kurose, K.W. Ross

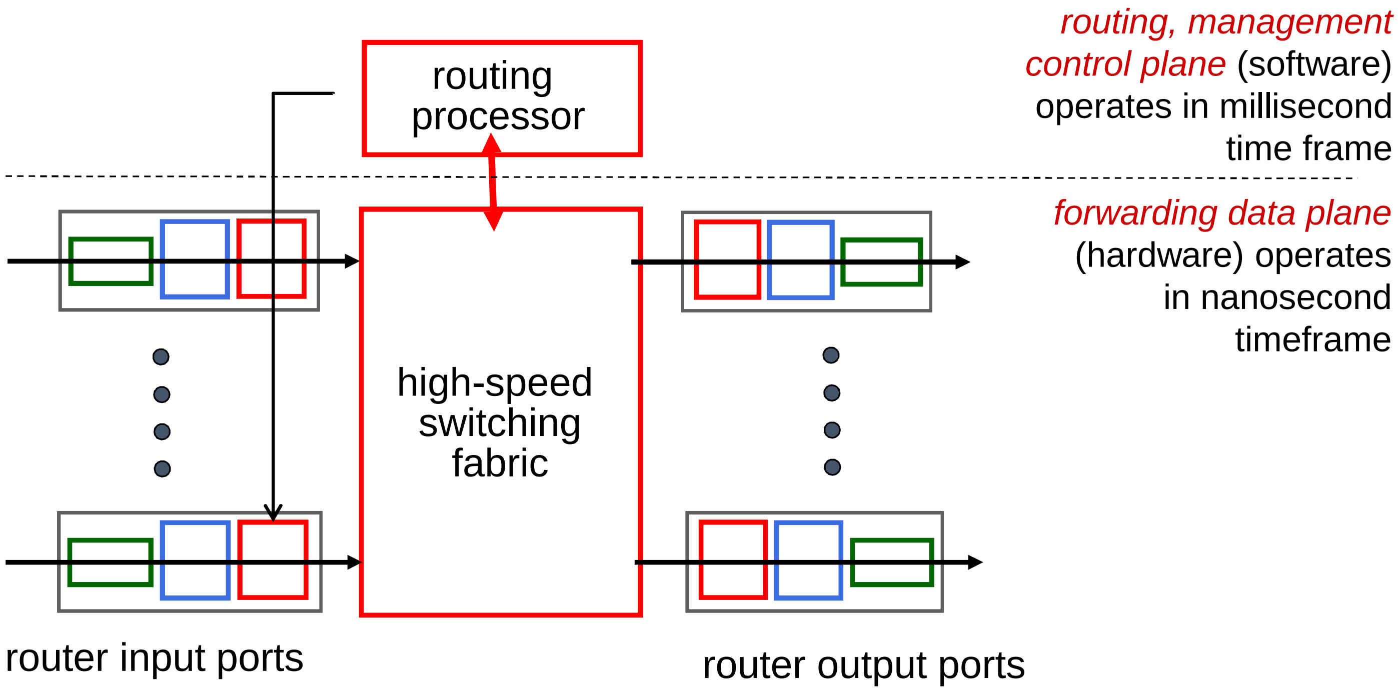
Pearson, 2020

http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose_ross

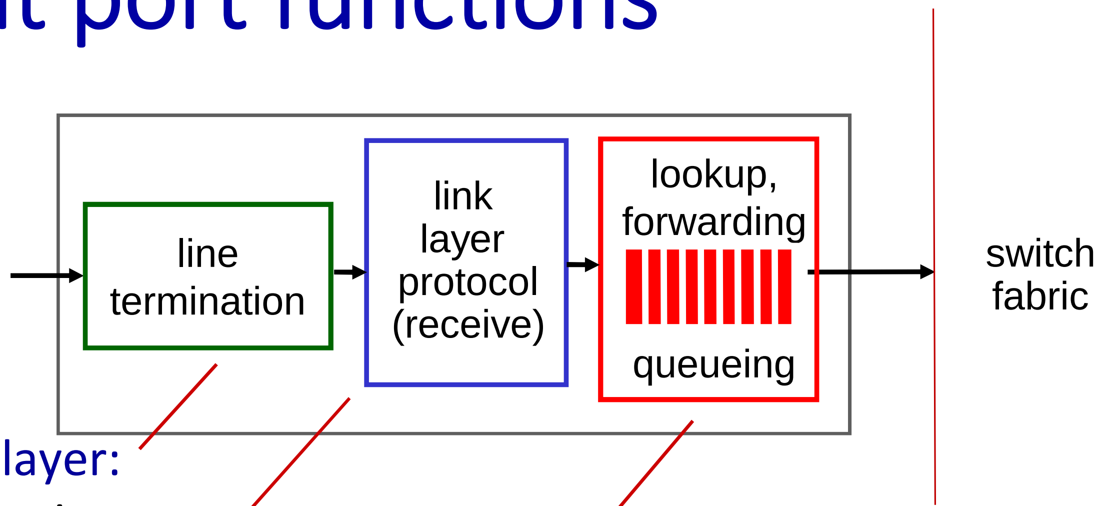


Router architecture overview

high-level view of generic router architecture:



Input port functions



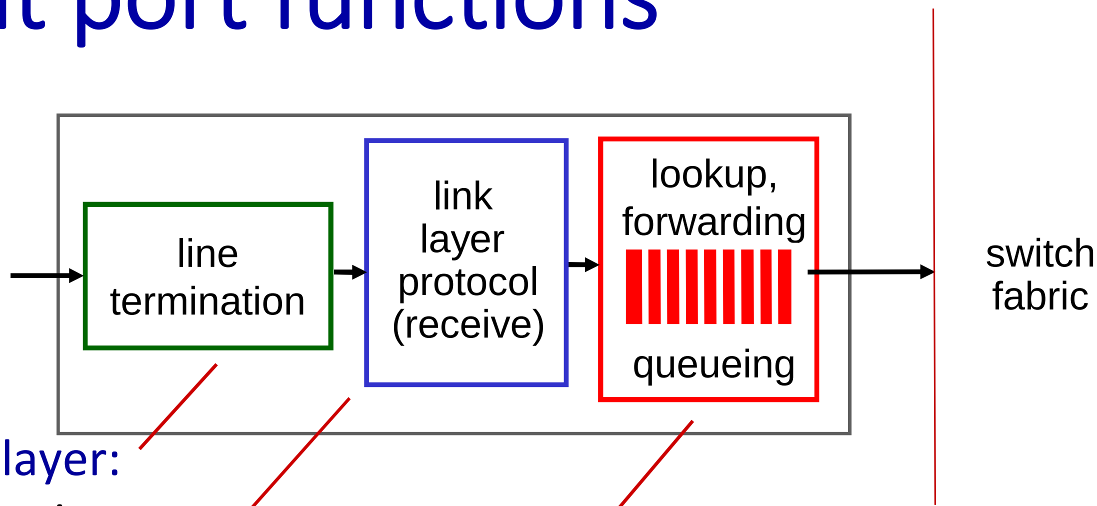
physical layer:
bit-level reception

link layer:
e.g., Ethernet
(chapter 6)

decentralized switching*:*

- using header field values, lookup output port using forwarding table in input port memory *("match plus action")*
- goal: complete input port processing at 'line speed'
- input port queuing: if datagrams arrive faster than forwarding rate into switch fabric

Input port functions



physical layer:
bit-level reception

link layer:
e.g., Ethernet
(chapter 6)

decentralized switching*:*

- using header field values, lookup output port using forwarding table in input port memory *("match plus action")*
- destination-based forwarding: forward based only on destination IP address (traditional)
- generalized forwarding: forward based on any set of header field values

Destination-based forwarding

forwarding table

Destination Address Range	Link Interface
11001000 00010111 00010000 00000000 through	0
11001000 00010111 00010000 00000100 through 11001000 00010111 00010000 00000111	3
11001000 00010111 00011000 11111111	
11001000 00010111 00011001 00000000 through 11001000 00010111 00011111 11111111	2
otherwise	3

Q: but what happens if ranges don't divide up so nicely?

Longest prefix matching

longest prefix match

when looking for forwarding table entry for given destination address, use *longest* address prefix that matches destination address.

Destination Address Range	Link interface
11001000 00010111 00010*** ********	0
11001000 00010111 00011000 ********	1
11001000 00010111 00011*** ********	2
otherwise	3

examples:

11001000 00010111 00010110 10100001 which interface?

11001000 00010111 00011000 10101010 which interface?

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examples:

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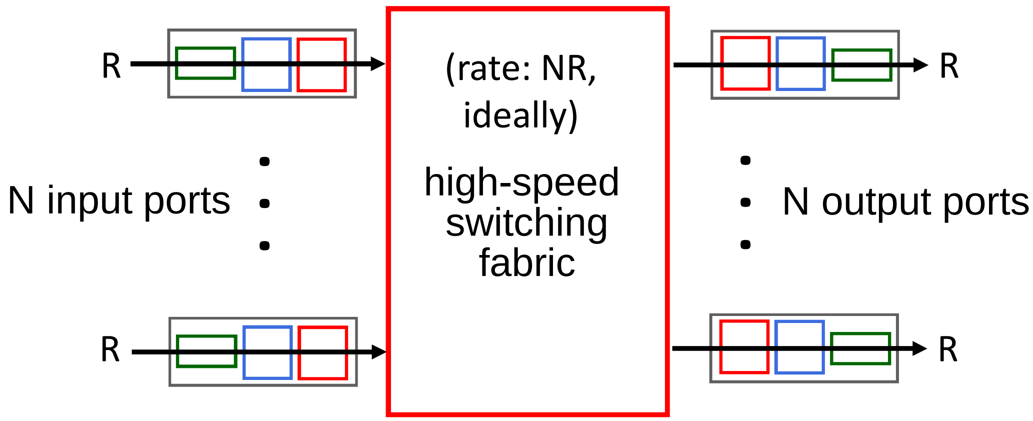
Longest prefix matching

- we'll see *why* longest prefix matching is used shortly, when we study addressing
- longest prefix matching: often performed using ternary content addressable memories (TCAMs)
  - *content addressable:* present address to TCAM: retrieve address in one clock cycle, regardless of table size
  - Cisco Catalyst: ~1M routing table entries in TCAM

Switching fabrics

- transfer packet from input link to appropriate output link
- switching rate: rate at which packets can be transfer from inputs to outputs
  - often measured as multiple of input/output line rate
  - N inputs: switching rate N times line rate desirable



Switching fabrics

- transfer packet from input link to appropriate output link
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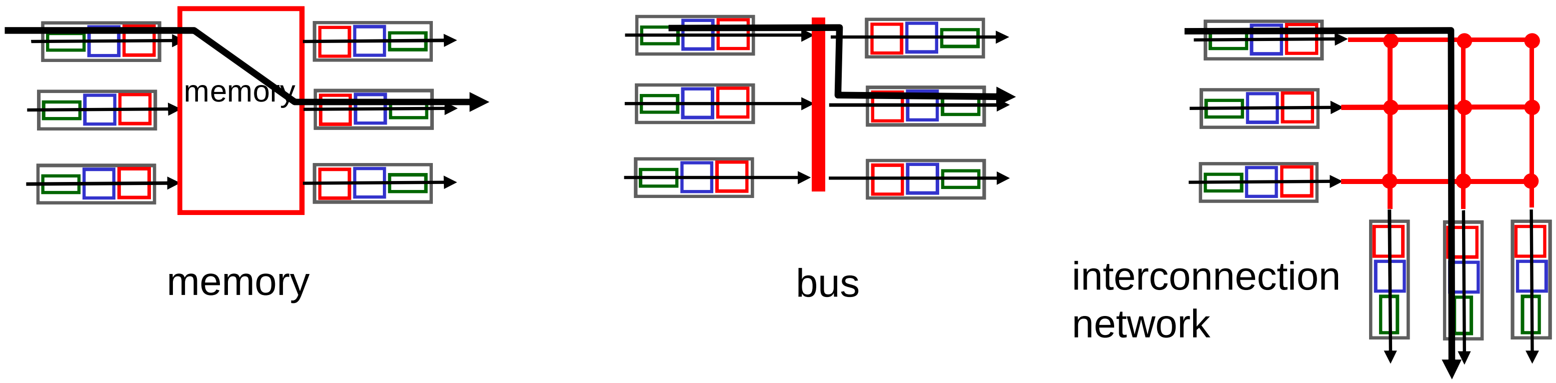
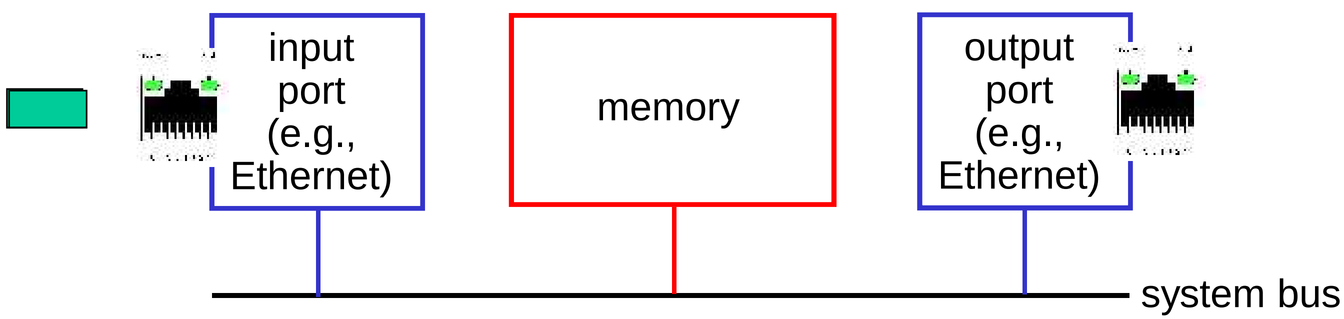
- three major types of switching fabrics:



Switching via memory

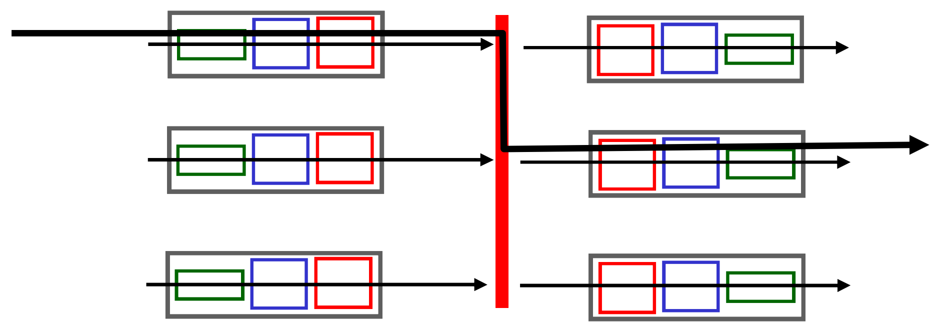
first generation routers:

- 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)



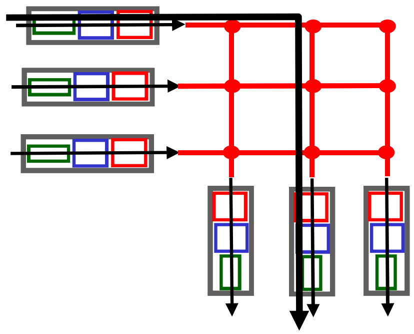
Switching via a bus

- datagram from input port memory to output port memory via a shared bus
- *bus contention:* switching speed limited by bus bandwidth
- 32 Gbps bus, Cisco 5600: sufficient speed for access routers

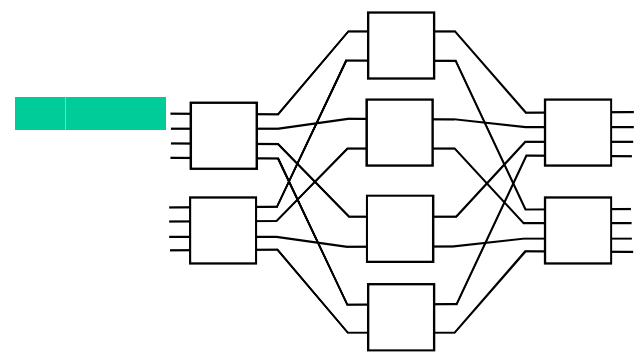


Switching via interconnection network

- Crossbar, Clos networks, other interconnection nets initially developed to connect processors in multiprocessor
- multistage switch: *nxn* switch from multiple stages of smaller switches
- exploiting parallelism:
  - fragment datagram into fixed length cells on entry
  - switch cells through the fabric, reassemble datagram at exit



3x3 crossbar

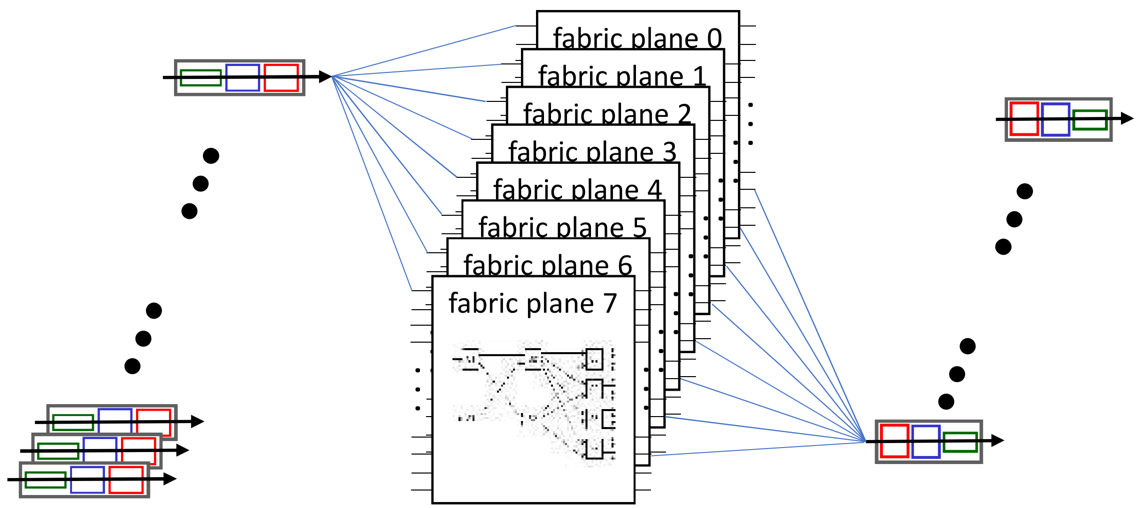


8x8 multistage switch
built from smaller-sized switches

Switching via interconnection network

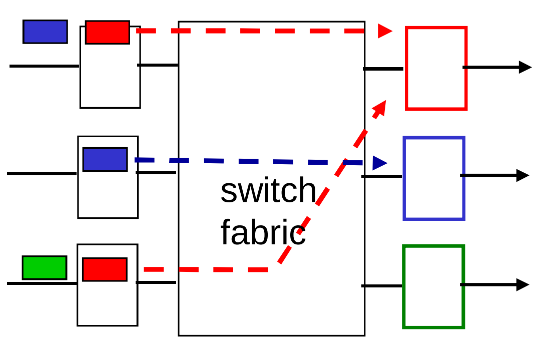
- scaling, using multiple switching "planes" in parallel:
  - speedup, scaleup via parallelism

- Cisco CRS router:
  - basic unit: 8 switching planes
  - each plane: 3-stage interconnection network
  - up to 100's Tbps switching capacity

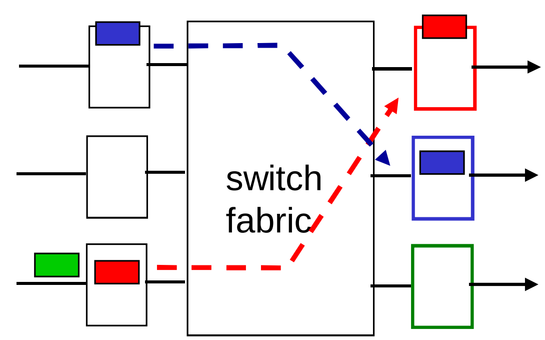


Input port queuing

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



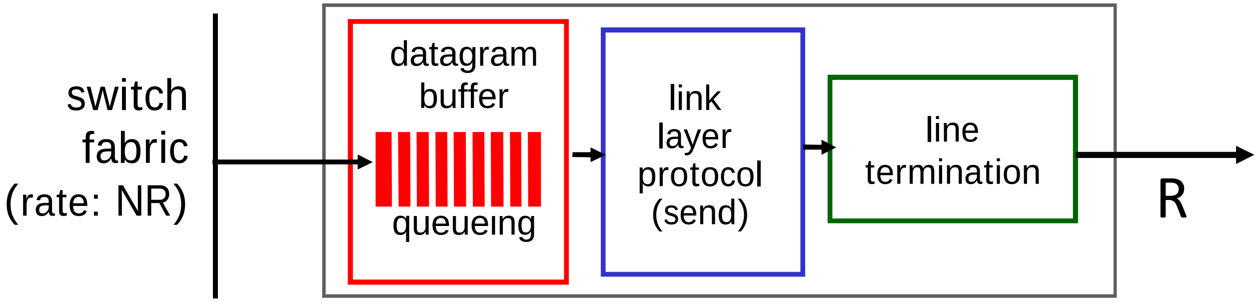
output port contention: only one red datagram can be transferred. lower red packet is *blocked*



one packet time later: green packet experiences HOL blocking

Output port queuing

This is a really important slide



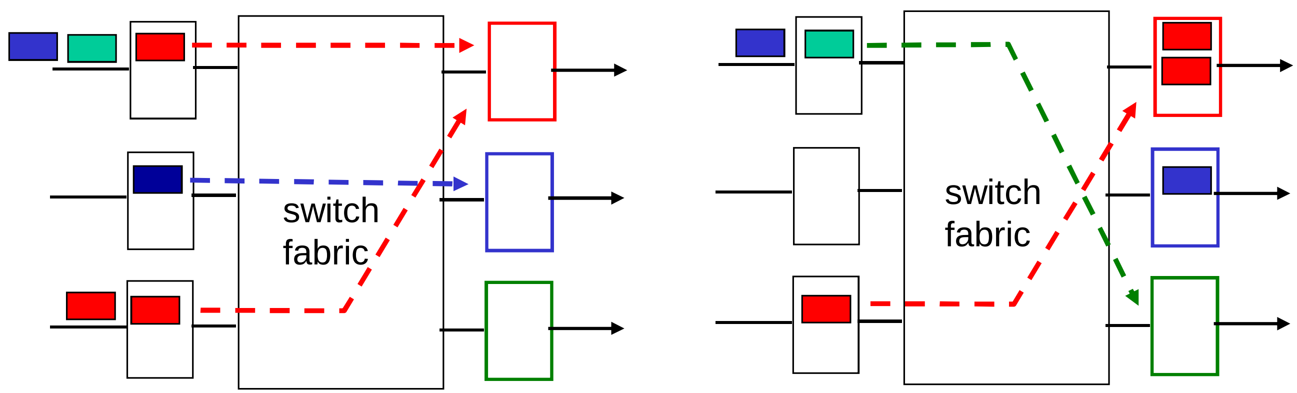
- *Buffering* required when datagrams arrive from fabric faster than link transmission rate. *Drop policy:* which datagrams to drop if no free buffers?

Datagrams can be lost due to congestion, lack of buffers

- *Scheduling discipline* chooses among queued datagrams for transmission

Priority scheduling – who gets best performance, network neutrality

Output port queuing



at *t*, packets more from input to output

one packet time later

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

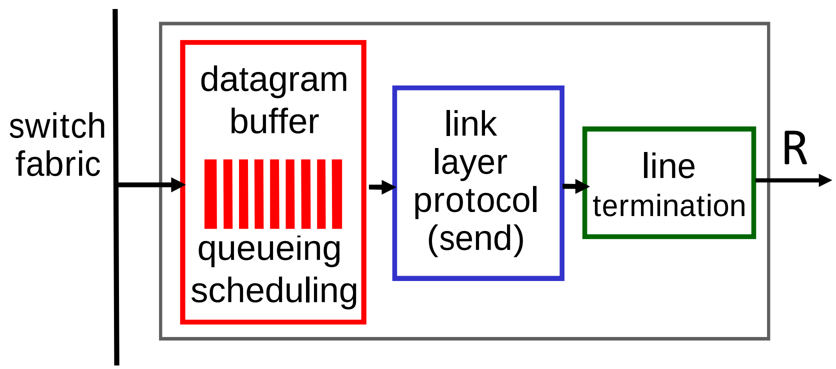
How much buffering?

- RFC 3439 rule of thumb: average buffering equal to "typical" RTT (say 250 msec) times link capacity C
  - e.g., C = 10 Gbps link: 2.5 Gbit buffer
- more recent recommendation: with *N* flows, buffering equal to

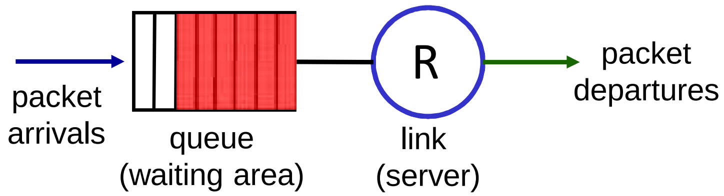
$$\frac{\mathrm{RTT} \cdot C}{\sqrt{N}}$$

- but *too* much buffering can increase delays (particularly in home routers)
  - long RTTs: poor performance for realtime apps, sluggish TCP response
  - recall delay-based congestion control: "keep bottleneck link just full enough (busy) but no fuller"

Buffer Management



Abstraction: queue



buffer management:

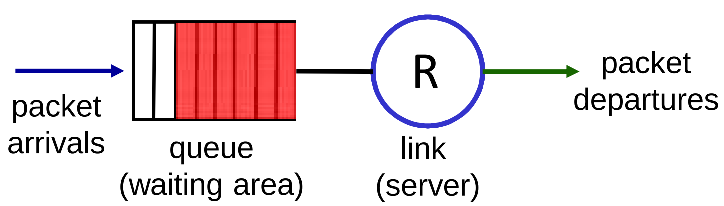
- drop: which packet to add, drop when buffers are full
  - tail drop: drop arriving packet
  - priority: drop/remove on priority basis
- marking: which packets to mark to signal congestion (ECN, RED)

Packet Scheduling: FCFS

packet scheduling: deciding which packet to send next on link

- first come, first served
- priority
- round robin
- weighted fair queueing

Abstraction: queue



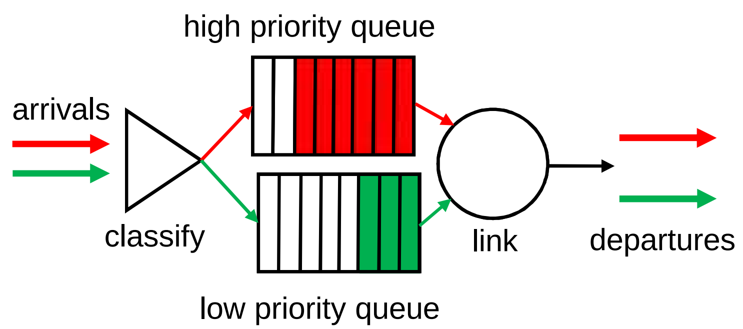
FCFS: packets transmitted in order of arrival to output port

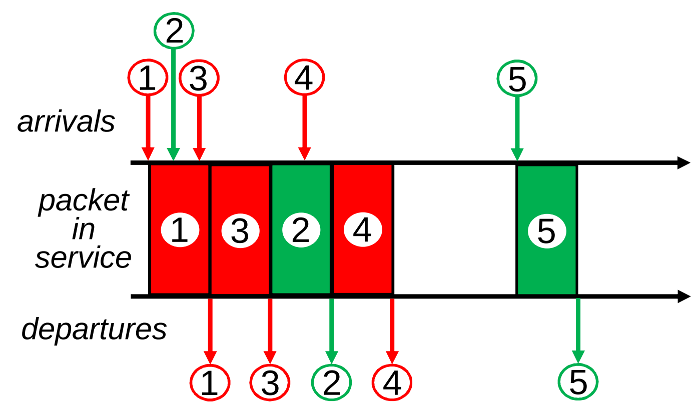
- also known as: First-in-first-out (FIFO)
- real world examples?

Scheduling policies: priority

Priority scheduling:

- arriving traffic classified, queued by class
  - any header fields can be used for classification
- send packet from highest priority queue that has buffered packets
  - FCFS within priority class

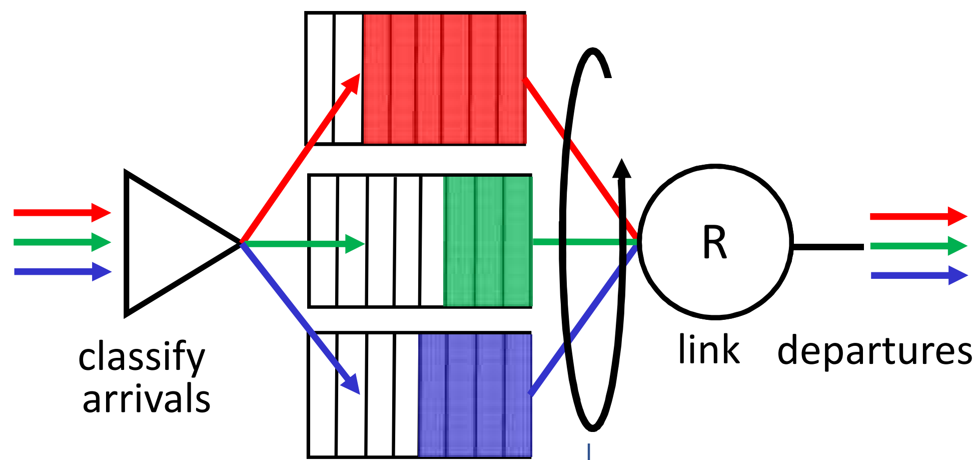




Scheduling policies: round robin

Round Robin (RR) scheduling:

- arriving traffic classified, queued by class
  - any header fields can be used for classification
- server cyclically, repeatedly scans class queues, sending one complete packet from each class (if available) in turn



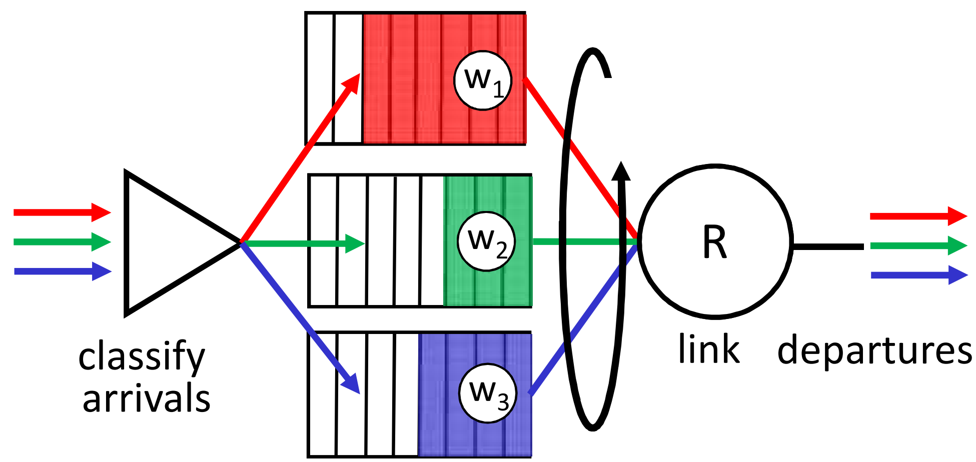
Scheduling policies: weighted fair queueing

Weighted Fair Queuing (WFQ):

- generalized Round Robin
- each class, *i,* has weight, w_i, and gets weighted amount of service in each cycle:

$$\frac{w_i}{\Sigma_j w_j}$$

- minimum bandwidth guarantee (per-traffic-class)



Sidebar: Network Neutrality

What is network neutrality?

- *technical:* how an ISP should share/allocation its resources
  - packet scheduling, buffer management are the *mechanisms*
- *social, economic* principles
  - protecting free speech
  - encouraging innovation, competition
- enforced *legal* rules and policies

Different countries have different "takes" on network neutrality

Sidebar: Network Neutrality

2015 US FCC *Order on Protecting and Promoting an Open Internet:* three "clear, bright line" rules:

- no blocking … "shall not block lawful content, applications, services, or non-harmful devices, subject to reasonable network management."
- no throttling … "shall not impair or degrade lawful Internet traffic on the basis of Internet content, application, or service, or use of a non-harmful device, subject to reasonable network management."
- no paid prioritization. … "shall not engage in paid prioritization"

ISP: telecommunications or information service?

Is an ISP a “telecommunications service” or an “information service” provider?

- the answer *really* matters from a regulatory standpoint!

US Telecommunication Act of 1934 and 1996:

- *Title II:* imposes “common carrier duties” on *telecommunications services*: reasonable rates, non-discrimination and *requires regulation*
- *Title I:* applies to *information services:*
  - no common carrier duties (*not regulated*)
  - but grants FCC authority “… as may be necessary in the execution of its functions”.[4]

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