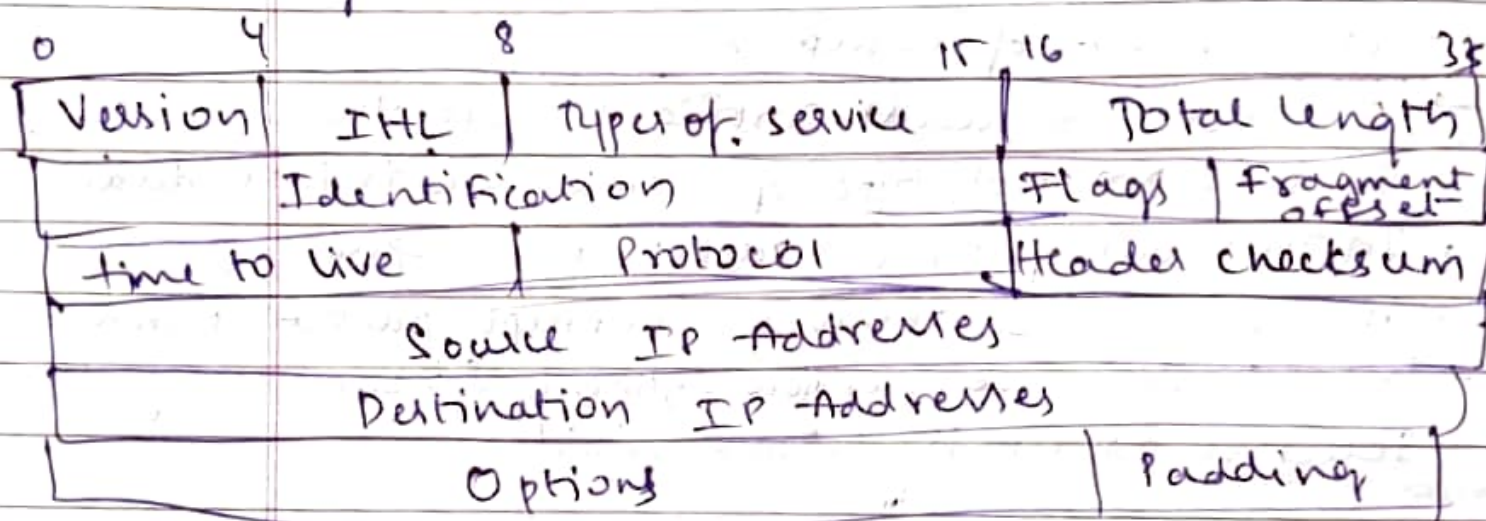


Chapter - 4

1) IPv4 datagram

- Internet Protocol version 4 (IPv4) is the 4th version of internet protocol.
- it is one of the core protocols of standards based internet networking methods in internet & other packet switched networks.
- IPv4 uses a 32-bit address space which provides 2^{32} unique addresses.
- IPv4 is a connectionless protocol & operates on a best effort delivery model.



- Fragmentation: An IP packet is broken down into smaller pieces if the packet size exceeds data link layer protocol limits. This is called fragmentation.
- & process can take place at originating device or intermediate router.
- to retrieve the message signal, the packet must be reassembled at destination device.
- Router can fragment packets, but it cannot reassemble them as fragments do not always take the same route to destination.

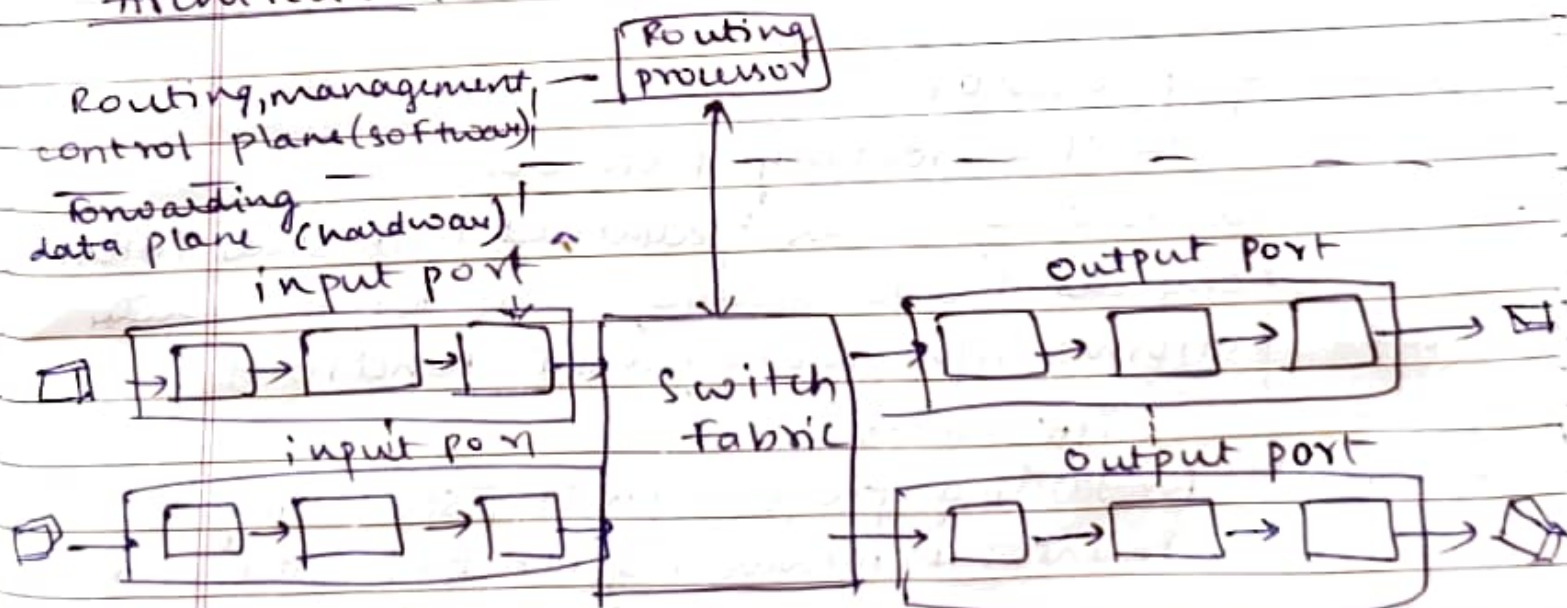
→ IP reassembly occurs at the final recipient of message after all fragmented datagrams have taken whatever lowest cost path was available to them have arrived.
 → Here a router would have to subsequently wait for all datagrams to arrive before attempting to reassemble, which would slow down the forwarding capability of the router significantly & any other traffic that it's processing.

2) Router Architecture

→ Router architecture is designed in a way that the router is equipped to perform two main functions

- ① process routable protocols
- ② uses routing algorithms

Architecture:



Components:-

* Input ports:

- it performs physical layer fnⁿ of terminating an incoming physical link at a router
- it also performs link layer functions needed to interoperate with the link layer at the other side of the incoming link
- lookup fn is also performed at IP port

→ Control packets are forwarded from an i/p port to the routing processor.

* Switching fabric:

→ SF connects the router's i/p ports to its o/p ports.

→ SF is completely contained within the router & network inside of a n/w router.

* Output ports :

→ An output port stores packets received from a switching fabric & transmits these packets on the outgoing link by performing necessary link-layer & physical layer functions.

→ When a link is bidirectional, an o/p port will typically be paired with an i/p port for a link on the same line card.

* Routing processor

→ it executes the routing protocols

→ maintains routing tables & attached link state information, & computes the forwarding table for the router.

→ also performs n/w management functions

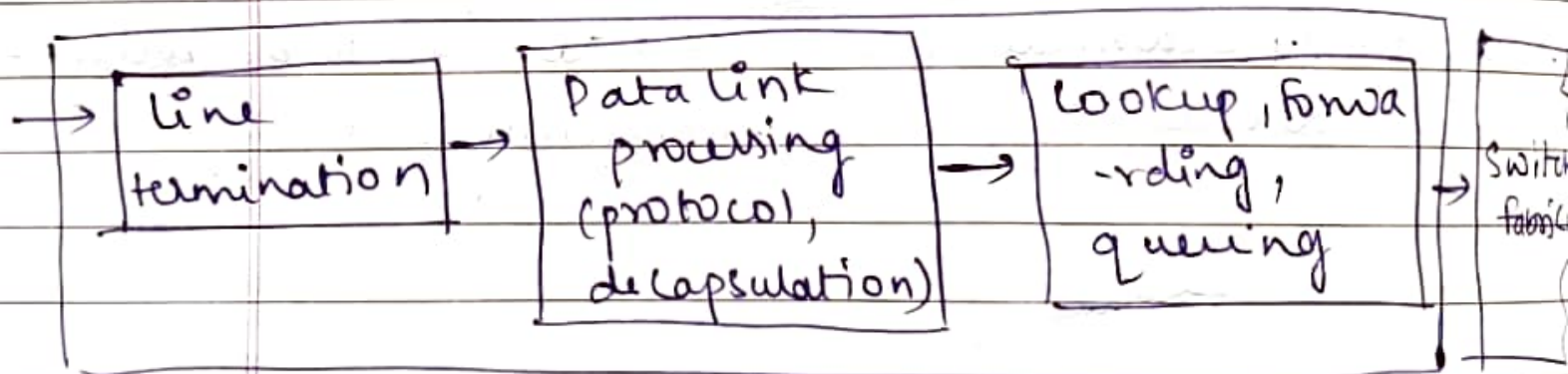
→ router's ^{i/p ports} ~~forwarding~~ & o/p ports & switching fabric together implement the forwarding function & are almost implemented in hardware

→ these forwarding functions are sometimes collectively referred to as the router forward plane

→ Why routing parameters are required

- it helps in determining the most efficient path from a source to destination.
- it ensures reliability & fault tolerance in the n/w
- in large networks, routing parameters are crucial for scalability.
- these parameters ensure that the n/w can adapt to changing conditions.

input port Rn



output port

