

Computer Networks

COL 334/672

Using layering magic to make it work

Tarun Mangla

Sem 1, 2025-26

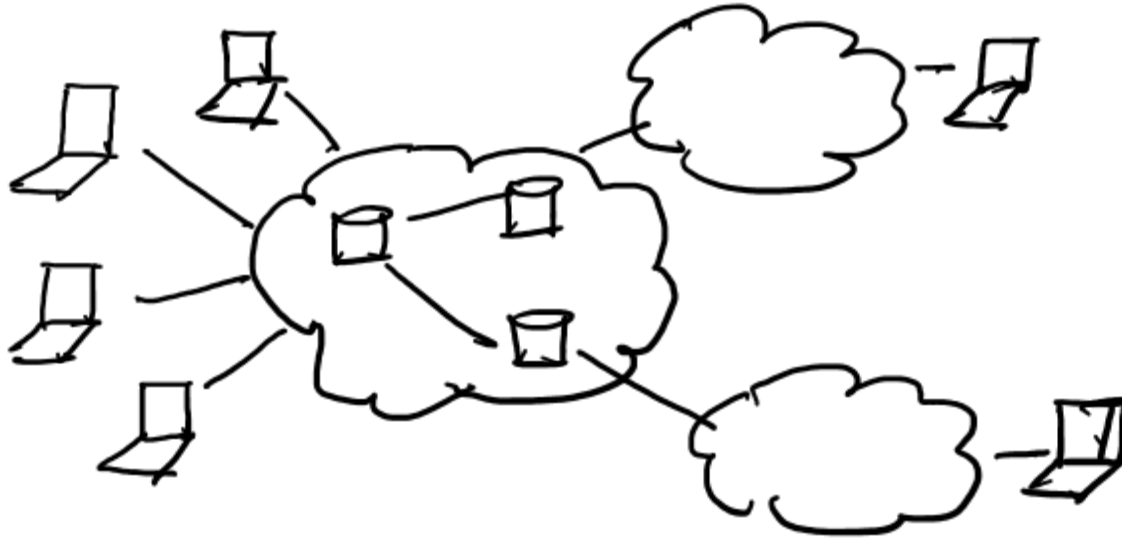
Quiz: Moodlenew

- Password: baran

Recap

- How to send data across distributed networks?
- Requirement 1: Cost-effective resource sharing
 - Uses packet switching *vs circuit switching*
 - Implications on other network services and network equipment design
per-packet processing at the routers
- Requirement 2: Common network services
 - Where to implement those?
 - • End-to-end design principle
- This class: How does Internet architecture look like?

How To Send Data over Distributed Network?



How to implement them?

can we modularize these functions?
If yes, how.

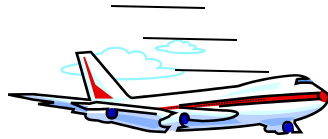
N/w functions

- Encoding (bits to signal)
- Addressing, Routing
- Resource sharing
 - Packet switching
- Reliability → Voice or video call
- In-order delivery
- Congestion control
- ...

→ Routers
will
implement

End
host

Example: organization of air travel → layered Architecture



———— end-to-end transfer of person plus baggage —————→

ticket (purchase)

baggage (check)

gates (load)

runway takeoff

airplane routing

ticket (complain)

baggage (claim)

gates (unload)

runway landing

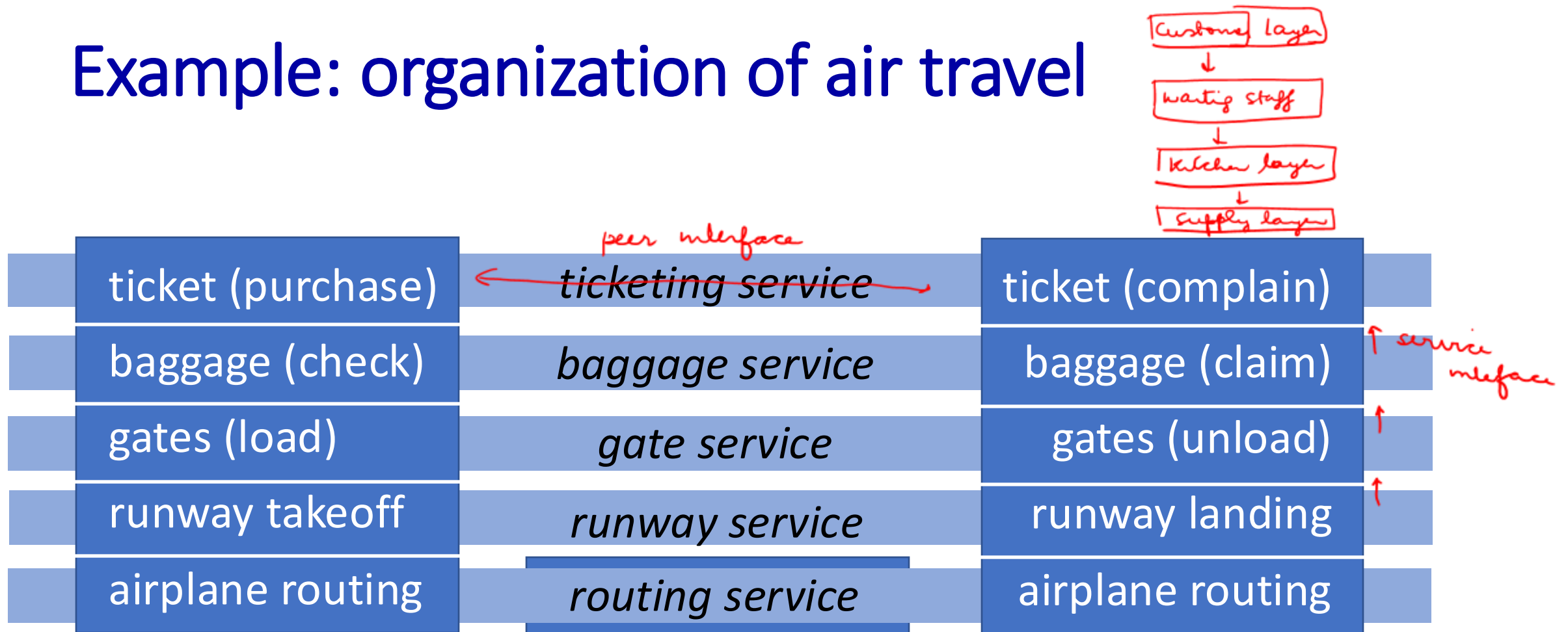
airplane routing

airplane routing

How would you *define/discuss* the *system* of airline travel?

- a series of steps, involving many services

Example: organization of air travel



layers: each layer implements some services

- via its own internal-layer actions
- relying on services provided by layer below

Why layering?

Approach to designing/discussing complex systems:

- explicit structure allows identification, relationship of system's pieces
 - layered *reference model* for discussion
- modularization eases maintenance, updating of system
 - change in layer's service *implementation*: transparent to rest of system
 - e.g., change in gate procedure doesn't affect rest of system

How can we layer the network?



Channel Abstraction



Layered Internet protocol stack

Protocol : implementation
of a layer
↓
Service primitives

Request / Response protocol

- **application**: supporting network applications

• HTTP, IMAP, SMTP, DNS, FTP

- **transport**: process-process data transfer

~ • TCP, UDP → Proc to proc connectivity

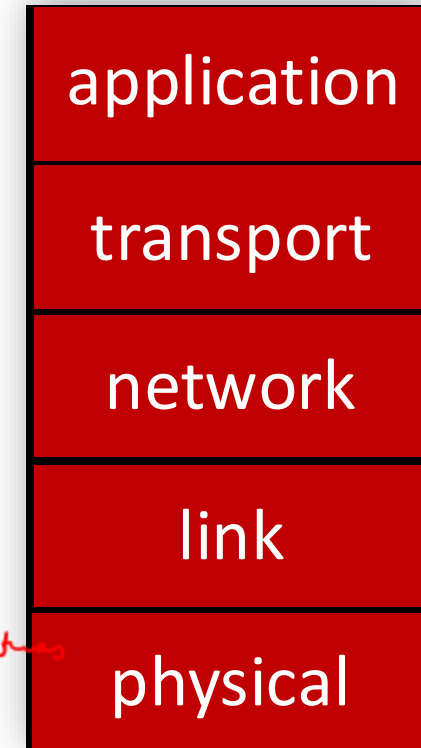
- **network**: routing of datagrams from source to destination

• IP, routing protocols

- **link**: data transfer between neighboring network elements

• Ethernet, 802.11 (WiFi), PPP

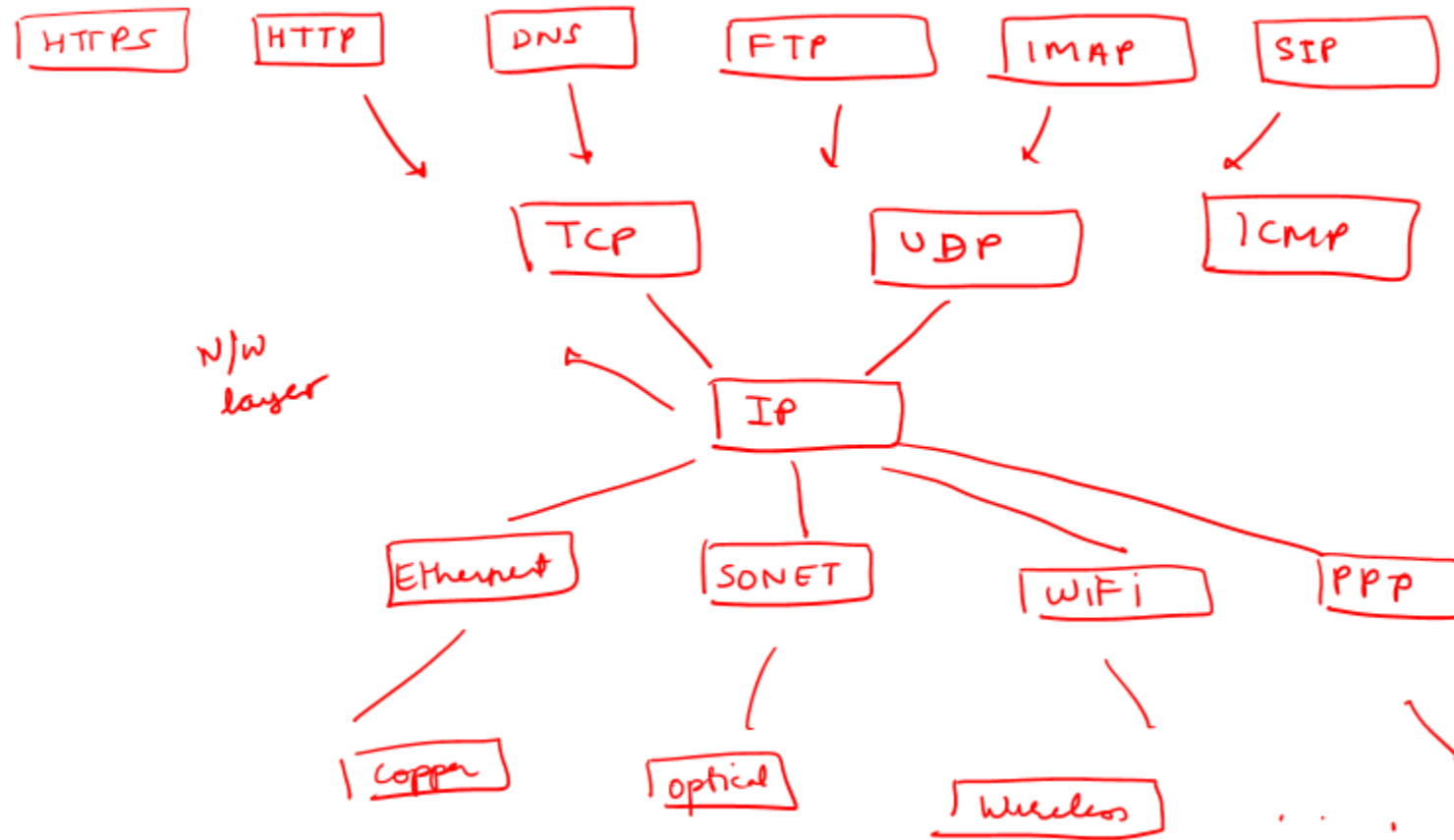
- **physical**: bits “on the wire”



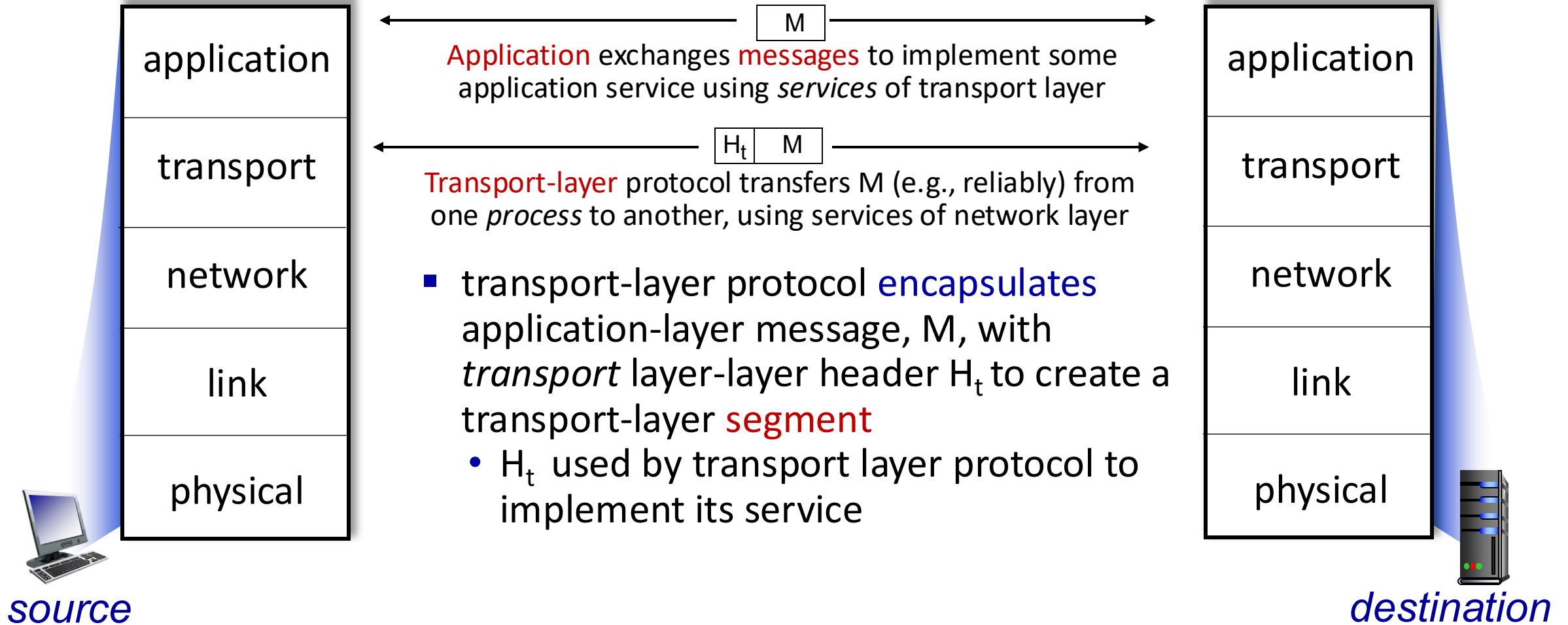
↑ service primitives
Protocols

Proc to proc:
Reliable
In-order
Congestion
control

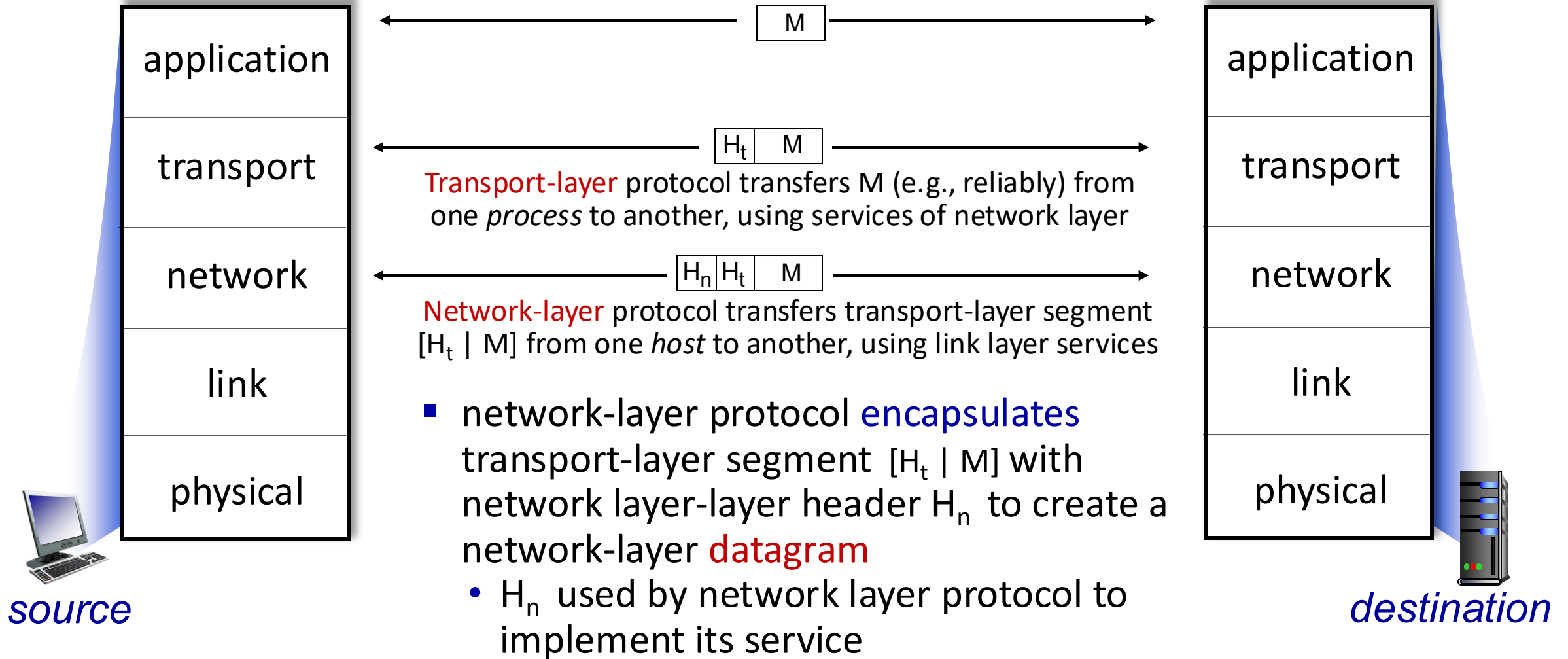
Hourglass Model



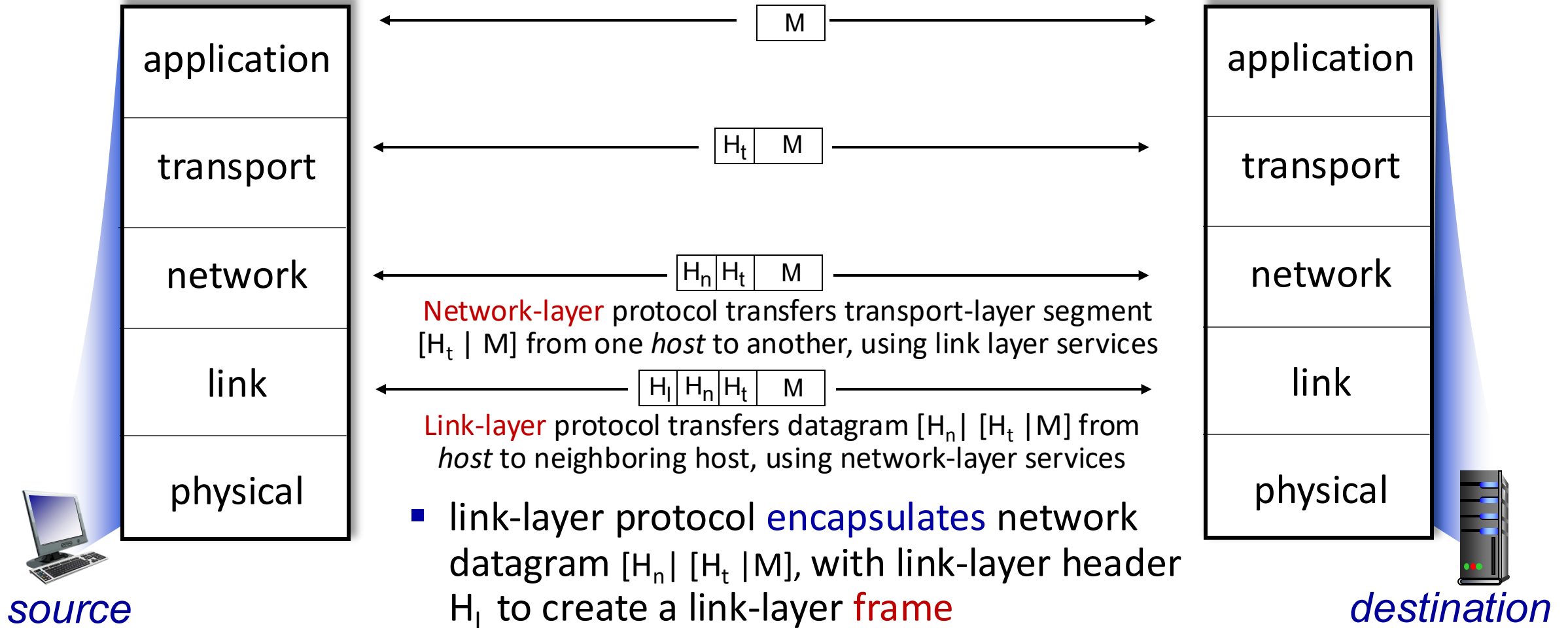
Services, Layering and Encapsulation



Services, Layering and Encapsulation

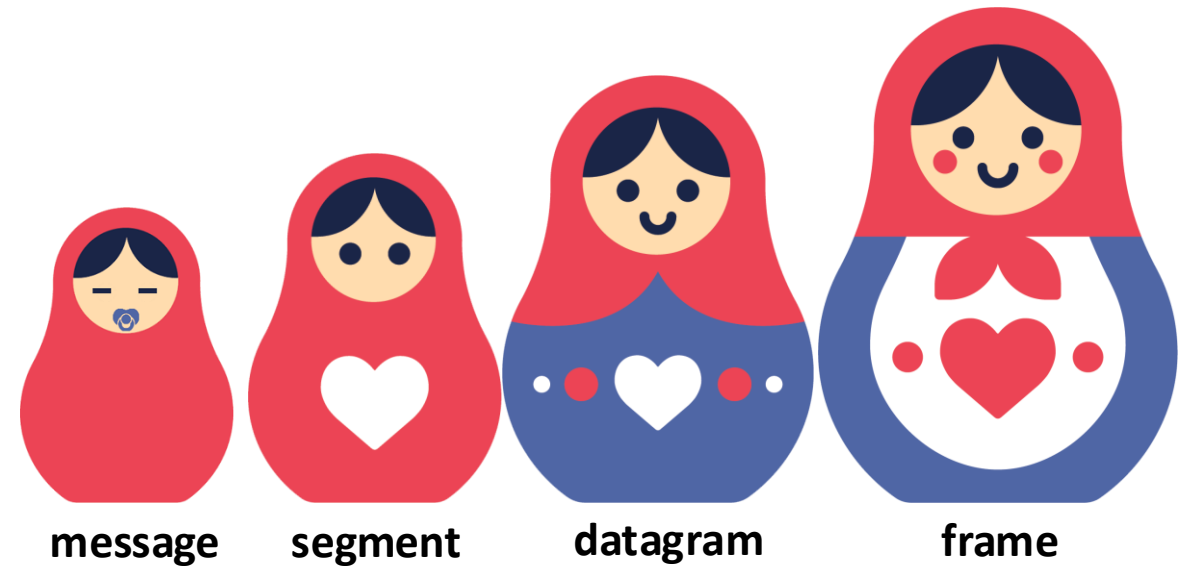


Services, Layering and Encapsulation

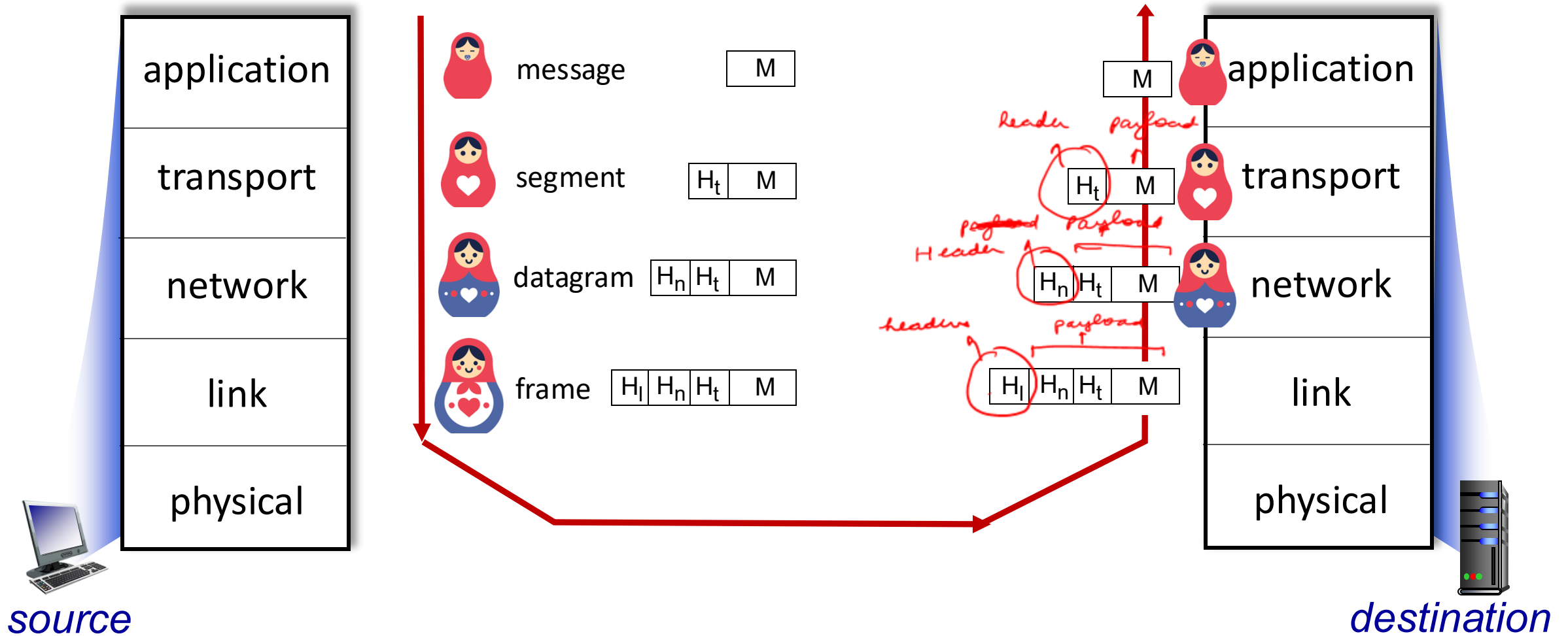


Encapsulation

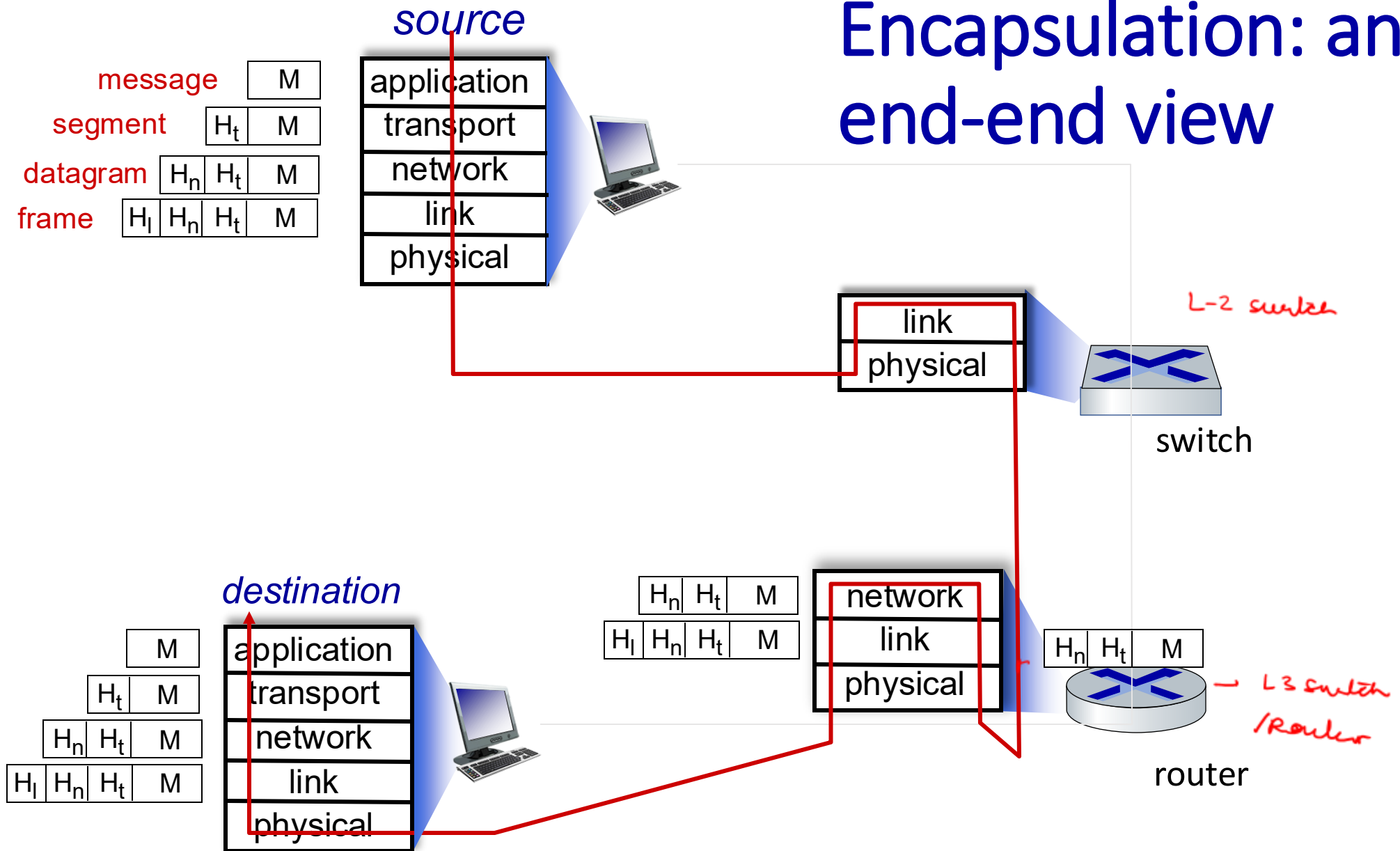
Matryoshka dolls (stacking dolls)



Services, Layering and Encapsulation



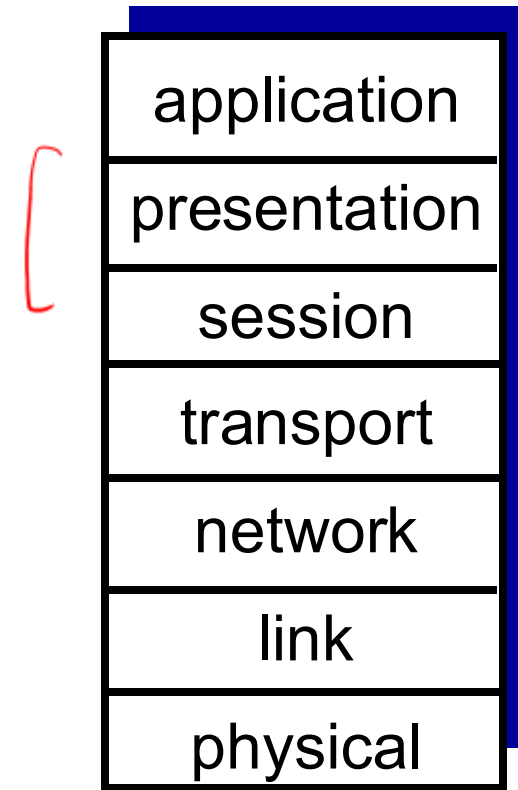
Encapsulation: an end-end view



An alternative model: OSI reference model

Two layers not found in Internet protocol stack!

- *presentation*: allow applications to interpret meaning of data, e.g., encryption, compression, machine-specific conventions
- *session*: synchronization, checkpointing, recovery of data exchange
- Internet stack “missing” these layers!
 - these services, *if needed*, must be implemented in application
 - needed?

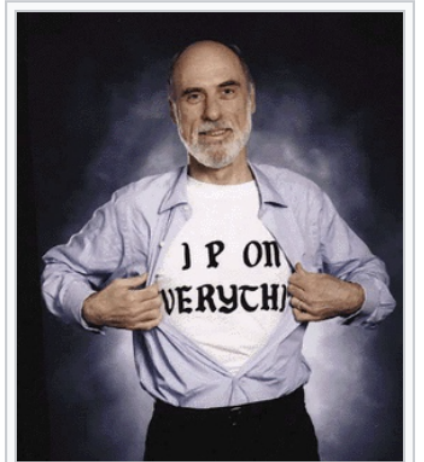


The seven layer OSI/ISO reference model

Protocol Wars

Philosophical and cultural aspects [\[edit \]](#)

Historian Andrew L. Russell wrote that Internet engineers such as Danny Cohen and Jon Postel were accustomed to continual experimentation in a fluid organizational setting through which they developed TCP/IP. They viewed OSI committees as overly bureaucratic and out of touch with existing networks and computers. This alienated the Internet community from the OSI model. A dispute broke out within the Internet community after the [Internet Architecture Board](#) (IAB) proposed replacing the Internet Protocol in the Internet with the [OSI Connectionless Network Protocol](#) (CLNP). In response, Vint Cerf performed a striptease in a [three-piece suit](#) while presenting to the 1992 [Internet Engineering Task Force](#) (IETF) meeting, revealing a T-shirt emblazoned with "IP on Everything". According to Cerf, his intention was to reiterate that a goal of the IAB was to run IP on every underlying transmission medium.^[163] At the same meeting, [David Clark](#) summarized the IETF approach with the famous saying "We reject: kings, presidents, and voting. We believe in: rough consensus and running code."^[163] The [Internet Society](#) (ISOC) was chartered that year.^[164]



[Vint Cerf](#) emphasized [🔍] the goal of running "IP on everything", notably with a T-shirt he wore while presenting to the 1992 [IETF](#) meeting.^[163]

Summary

- Layering, a useful construct, to organize Internet architecture
- Internet uses a 5-layered architecture
- Each layer provides services to the layer above
- Encapsulation used for adding layer information
- **Next class: How do study performance of this system?**