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# Ethernet, Fast Ethernet, Switching, Routing Options

4 December 2024  
Lecture 5

Some Slides Credits: Steve Zdancewic (UPenn)

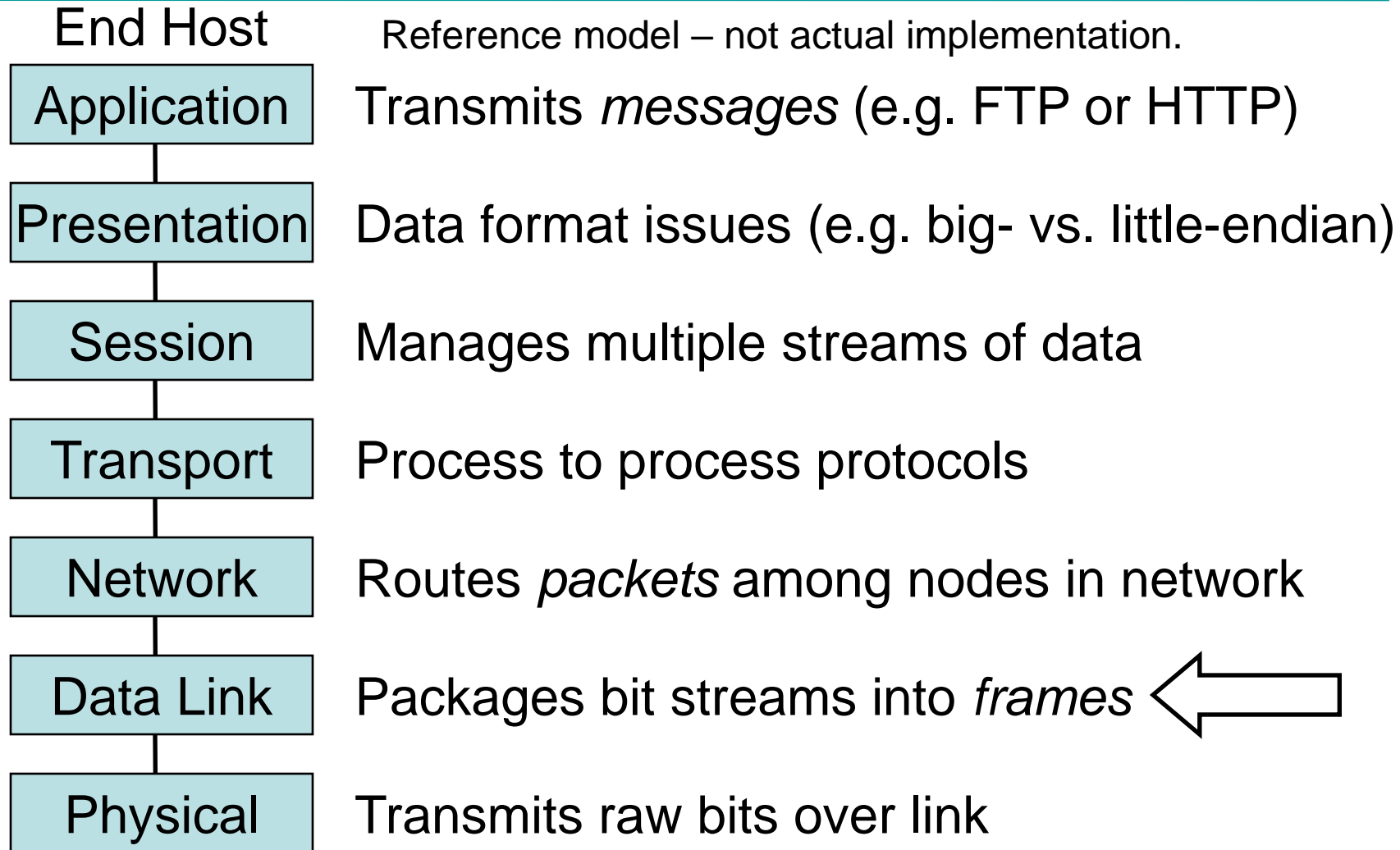
# Topics for Today

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- Ethernet
- Fast Ethernet
  - 100 Mbps
  - 1 Gbps
- Switching
  - Layer 2 (Link)
  - Layer 3 (Network)
    - Datagram
    - Virtual Circuit
- Source: PD 2.8, 3.2, 4.1

# Open Systems Interconnection (OSI)

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# IEEE 802 network standards

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The IEEE 802 committee produces standards & specifications for Local Area Networks (LAN):

- **802.3 CSMA/CD Networks (Ethernet)**
- 802.4 Token Bus Networks
- 802.5 Token Ring Networks
- 802.6 Metropolitan Area Networks
- **802.11 Wireless LAN (Wifi)**

# Ethernet (802.3)

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- A standard for local area networks (LAN)
- Developed in mid-70's at Xerox PARC
  - Descendent of Aloha, a U. of Hawaii radio packet network
  - DEC, Intel, and Xerox standard: 1978 for 10Mbps
  - IEEE 802.3 standard grew out of that
- Physical implementations:
  - 10Base5, 10Base2, 10BaseT, 10BaseF, 100BaseT, 1000BaseT...
  - Speed: 10Mbps, 100Mbps, 1000Mbps, ...

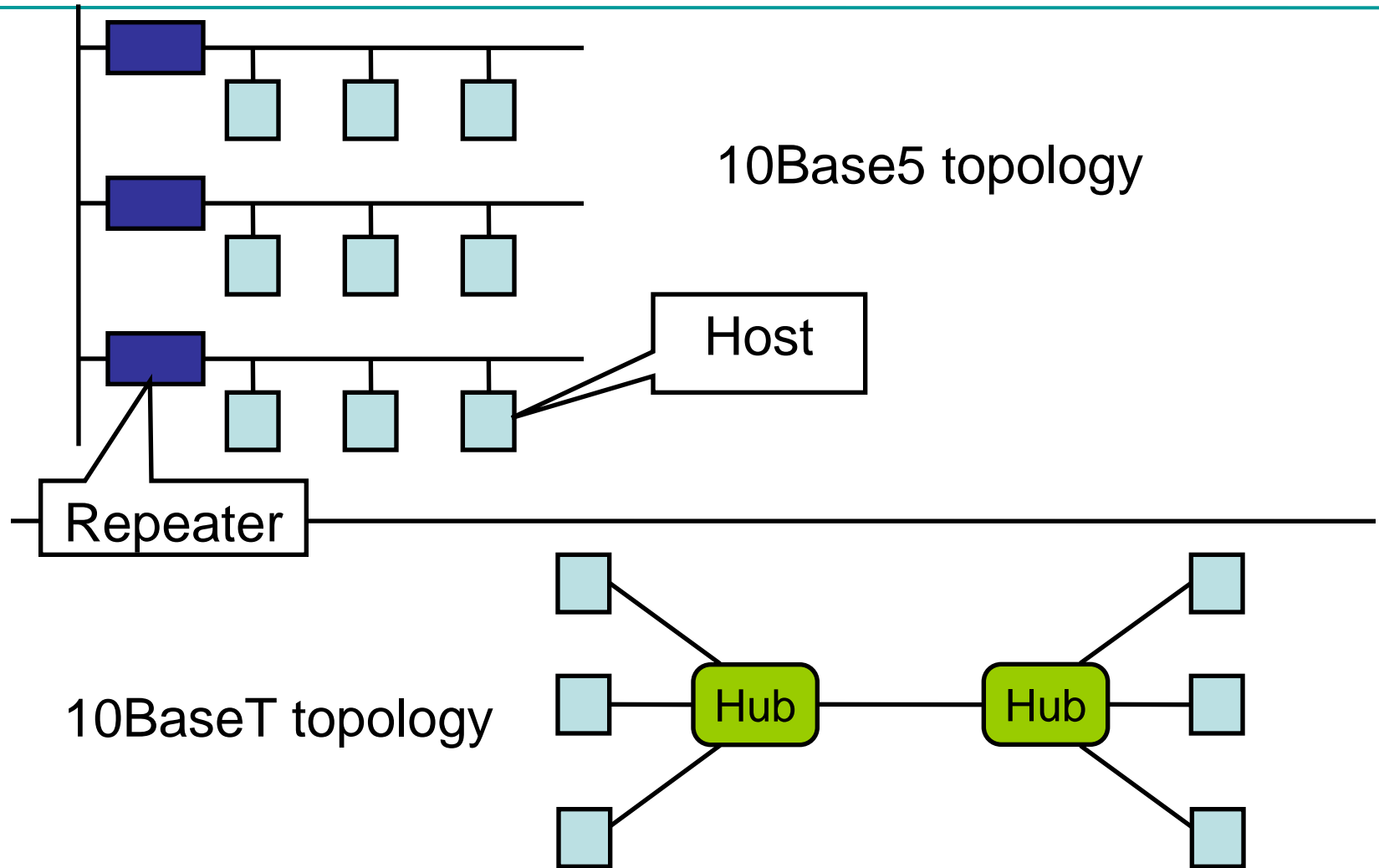
Name	Cable	Max Seg. Length	Nodes per Seg.	Advantages
10Base5	Thick coaxial	500 m	100	Original cable; obsolete
10Base2	Thin coaxial	185 m	30	No hub needed
10Base-T	Twisted pair	100 m	1024	Cheapest system
10Base-F	Fiber optics	2000 m	1024	Best between buildings, secure

# Ethernet Physical links

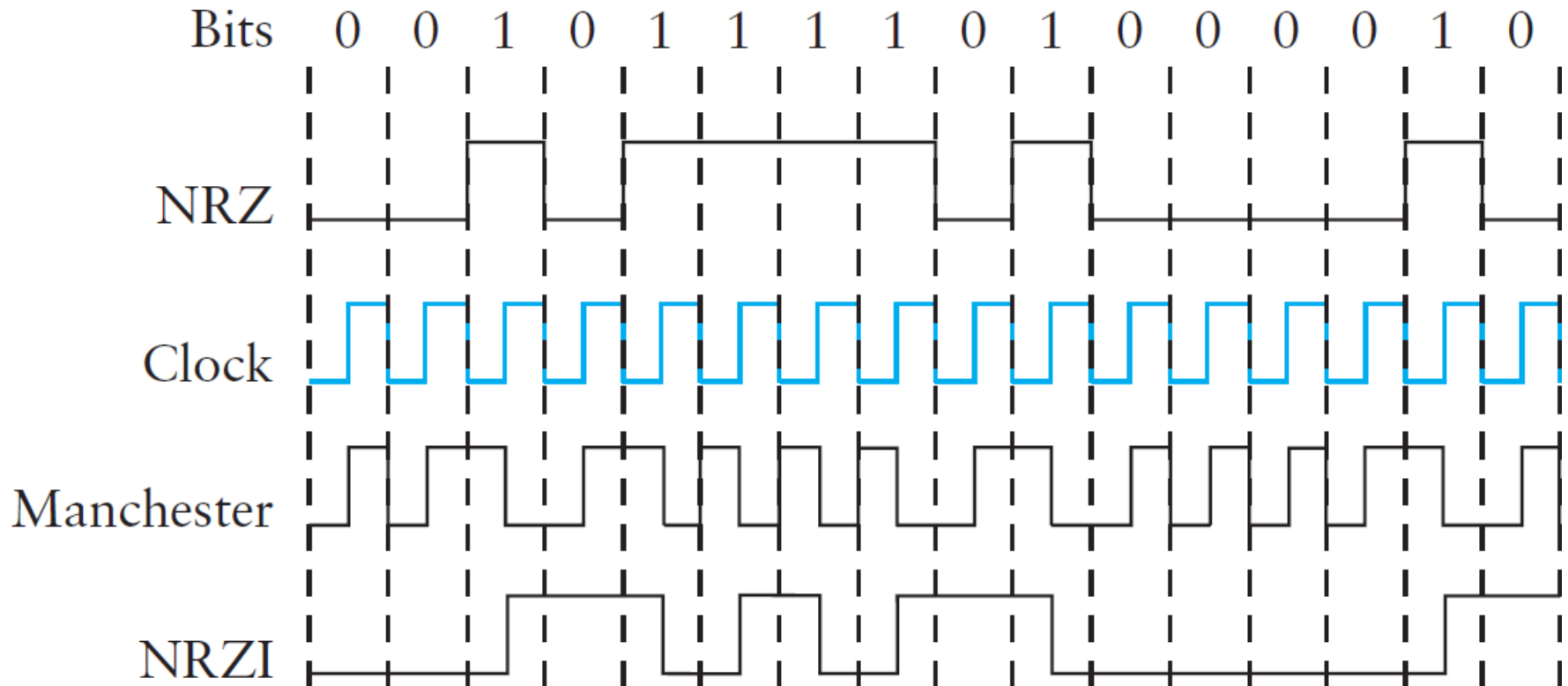
- Originally used “Thick-net” **10Base5**
  - 10 = 10Mbps
  - 5 = maximum of 500 meters segments
  - Up to 4 repeaters between two hosts  
= 2500m max
- More common: **10BaseT**
  - 10 = 10Mbps
  - T = Twisted pair (typically Category 5),  
Maximum of 100 meter segments
  - Connected via *hubs* (still 2500m max)
- Today’s standards: **100BaseT**, **1000BaseT**



# Ethernet topologies



# Ethernet Encoding: Manchester





# Ethernet basics

The Ethernet link is  
*shared*

- Signal transmitted by one host reaches *all* hosts

Method of operation:  
**CSMA/CD**

- Carrier Sense, Multiple Access, with Collision Detection

Hosts competing for the same link are said to be in the same  
**collision domain**

Good news: easy to  
exchange data

Bad news: must regulate  
link access

Protocol: **Media Access Control (MAC)**



# Ethernet Addresses

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- Every adapter manufactured has a unique address

6 bytes (48 bits)  
usually written in  
hexadecimal

## Examples

- 00-40-50-B1-39-69
- 8:0:2b:e4:b1:2

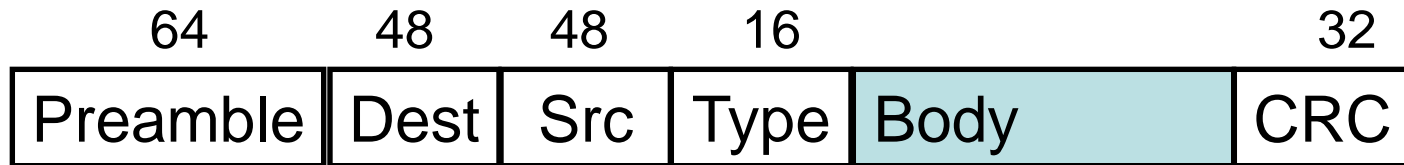
Each manufacturer  
is assigned 24bit  
prefix

Manufacturer ensures  
unique suffixes

- <https://www.wireshark.org/tools/oui-lookup.html>

# Ethernet Frame Format

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- Preamble – repeating pattern of 0's & 1's
  - Used by receiver to synchronize on signal
  - In Manchester this is 10MHz square wave for 6.4  $\mu s$
- Destination and Source – Ethernet Addresses
- Type – demultiplexing key
  - Identifies higher-level protocol
- Body – payload
  - Minimum 46 Bytes
  - Maximum 1500 Bytes

# Addresses in an Ethernet frame

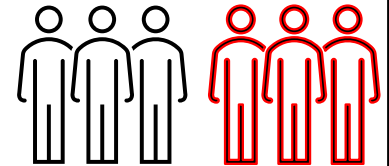
First bit = 0 indicates  
*unicast address*

- Sent to one receiver



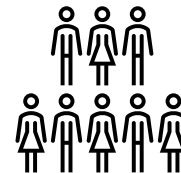
First bit = 1 indicates  
*multicast address*

- Sent to a group of receivers



All bits = 1 indicates  
*a broadcast address*

- Sent to all adapters



# Ethernet Adapter Algorithm

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## Always

- Frames addressed to the **broadcast** address
- Frames addressed to its **own** address

## If programmed to

- Frames sent to **multicast addresses**

## All frames

- If the adapter has been put into ***promiscuous mode***

# Ethernet Transmitter Algorithm

If the link is idle  
transmit the frame  
immediately

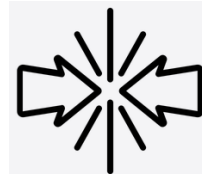
- Upper bound on frame size means adapter can't monopolize link

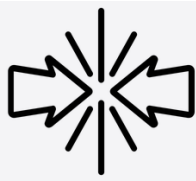
If the link is busy

- Wait for the line to go idle
- Wait for  $9.6\mu s$  after end of last frame (**sentinel**)
- Transmit the frame

Two (or more) frames may *collide*

- Simultaneously sent frames interfere



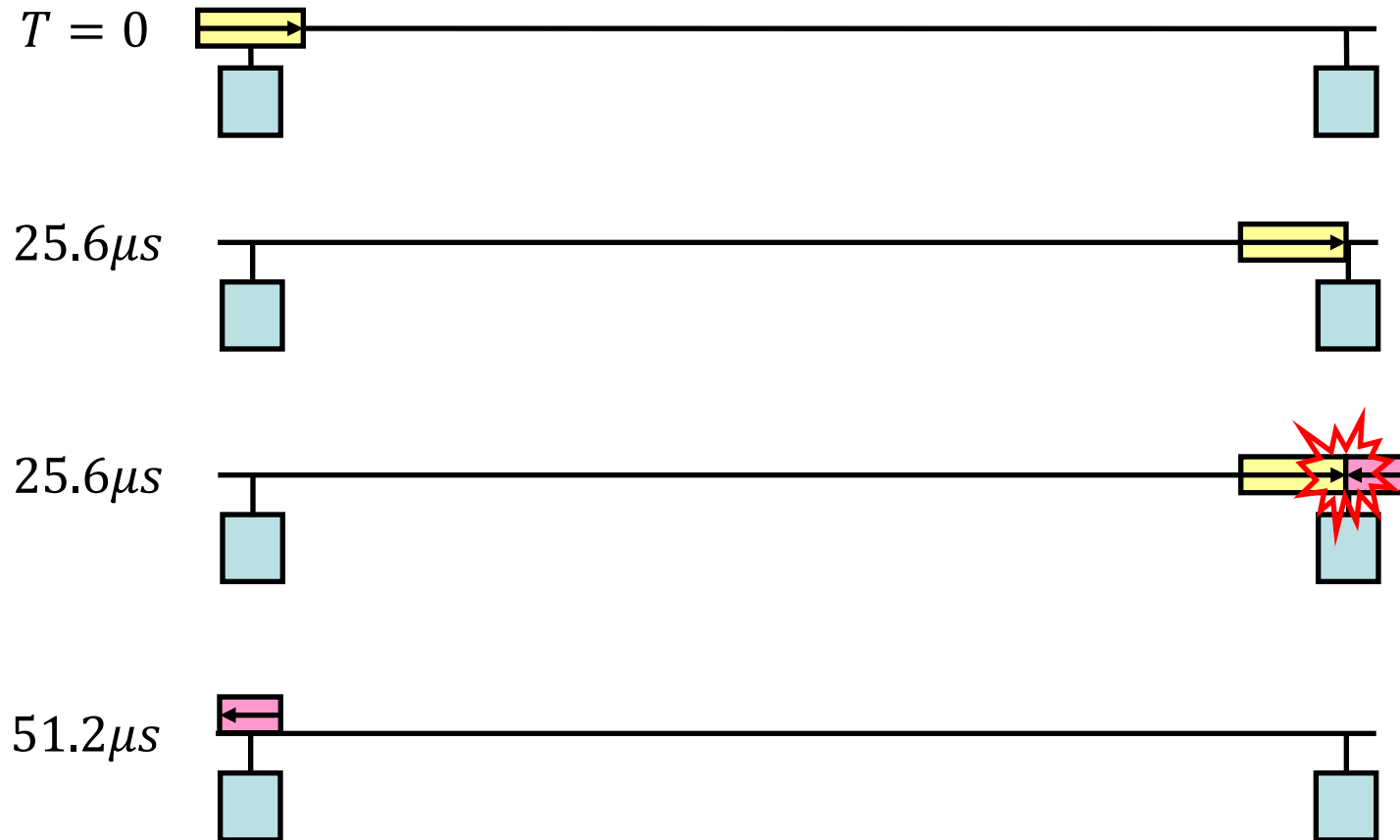


# Collision Detection

- When an adapter detects a collision
  - Immediately sends 32-bit *jamming signal* (alternating 1's and 0's)
  - Stops transmitting
- A  $10Mbps$  adapter may need to send 512 bits to detect a collision. Why?
  - $2500m + 4$  repeaters gives RTT of  $51.2\mu s$
  - $51.2\mu s$  at  $10Mbps = 512$  bits
  - Fortunately, minimum frame (excluding preamble) is 512 bits = 64 Bytes
    - 46 Bytes data + 14 Bytes header + 4 Bytes CRC



# Ethernet Collision (Worst Case)



# Exponential Backoff

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- After it detects 1<sup>st</sup> collision
  - Adapter waits either 0 or  $51.2\mu s$  before retrying
  - Selected randomly
- After 2<sup>nd</sup> failed transmission attempt
  - Adapter randomly waits 0, 51.2, 102.4, or  $153.6\mu s$
- After  $n^{\text{th}}$  failed transmission attempt
  - Pick  $k$  in  $0 \dots 2^n - 1$
  - Wait  $k \times 51.2\mu s$
  - Give up after 16 retries  
(but cap  $n$  at 10)

# Ethernet Efficiency

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- How efficient is Ethernet? Compare it to “Just send”
- Model:  $k$  computers, each sends with probability  $p$
- Chance one of them gets to send:  $p(1 - p)^{k-1}$
- Chance **any** one gets to send:  $A = kp(1 - p)^{k-1}$
- $A$  is maximized when  $p = \frac{1}{k}$ 
  - Then  $k \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow A \rightarrow \frac{1}{e}$
- Chance  $j$  slots until someone gets to send:  $A(1 - A)^{j-1}$
- Mean number of slots until some gets to:  $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} jA(1 - A)^{j-1} = \frac{1}{A}$
- Since optimal  $A$  is  $\frac{1}{e}$ , optimal number of slots:  $e$
- Assume a one-way time of  $\tau$
- The slot time is  $2\tau$
- So the average wait time in optimal conditions is:  $2\tau e$

# Channel Efficiency

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- Assume it takes  $P$  seconds to transmit:

$$\text{Channel efficiency} = \frac{P}{P + \frac{2\tau}{A}}$$

- In ideal conditions,  $2\tau e$

- 
- For frame length  $F$ , bandwidth  $B$ , cable length  $L$ , speed of light  $c$ , ideal conditions ( $A = \frac{1}{e}$ ) :
    - Note that  $P = \frac{F}{B}$

$$\text{Channel efficiency} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{2BLE}{cF}}$$

# What does that mean?

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$$\text{Channel efficiency} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{2BLE}{cF}}$$

- Increase the frame size → higher efficiency
- Increase the **bandwidth** → **lower** efficiency
- Increase the **length** → **lower** efficiency

Problems?

- We keep increasing the bandwidth (and length)

# So Far

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- Ethernet
- Fast Ethernet
  - 100 Mbps
  - 1 Gbps
- Switching
  - Layer 2 (Link)
  - Layer 3 (Network)
    - Datagram
    - Virtual Circuit

# Fast Ethernet: Problem

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In 1995, IEEE reconvened the 802.3 group to improve Ethernet

**The Goal:** Get Ethernet up to 100 Mbps

**But —**

- Same **frame** format
- Same/Similar physical layer
- Same protocol **properties** (minimum frame size, maximum frame size)

How?

# Fast Ethernet: Solution

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## Fundamental ideas:

- Cut the maximum distance from 2500m to about 200m (reduce the length to 10%)
  - Increase the baud of the line (this got tricky)
- 

## The details:

- Three physical media were approved, each with pluses and minuses

Name	Cable	Max. Seg. Length	Advantages
100Base-T4	Twisted pair	100 m	Uses category 3 UTP
100Base-TX	Twisted pair	100 m	Full duplex at 100Mbps (Cat 5 UTP)
100Base-FX	Fiber optics	2000 m	Full duplex at 100Mbps; long runs



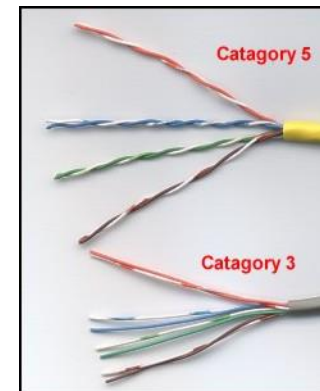
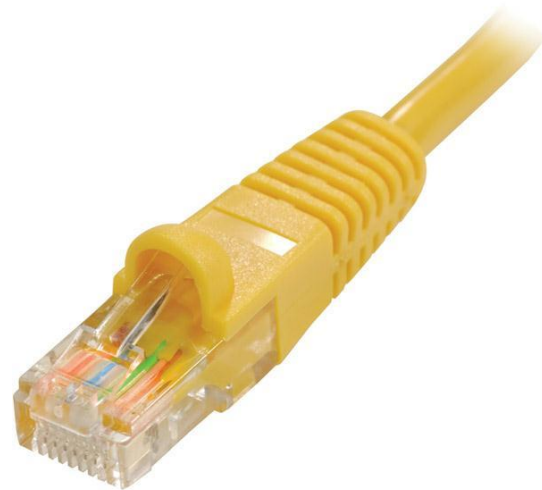
# Category 5 UTP

Cat 5 can handle 125 *MHz* at 100m

- We don't need the tricks for Cat 3

## Solution:

- Forget Manchester (50% efficient) - use 4B/5B instead (80% efficient)
  - 4B/5B only uses some 5 bit combinations for data
  - The rest are forbidden or used for in-band signaling
- Use one line upstream, one downstream
  - $1 \text{ bit} \times 100 \text{ MHz} = 100 \text{ Mbps}$



# Fiber Optics

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Fiber can easily handle 100 *Mbps* at full duplex

The length is more than 200m, so all fiber cables **must go through switches** – no hubs

- Means no collisions, so no CSMA/CD



# Gigabit Ethernet: Problem

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In 1999, IEEE released **Gigabit Ethernet** – 1 *Gbps*

Same requirements:

- Similar hardware
- Same packet format
- Same protocol properties (minimum, maximum packet sizes)

How?

# Gigabit Ethernet: Solution

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In “Normal” Gigabit Ethernet, everything goes via switches

- No more hubs, no more collisions, no more CSMA/CD
- 

What if you want to use hubs?

**Non-Solution:**

- Reduce maximum distance to 25 *m*

**Solution:**

- Leave the maximum distance at 200*m*
- Raise the minimum packet size to 512 Bytes (!)
  - **Frame Bursting** allows multiple frames to be sent at once if they are less than 512 Bytes.
  - The Ethernet NIC silently pads packets with 0s if they are less than 512 (**Carrier Extension**)
    - What's the efficiency for an old minimum packet?

# Gigabit Ethernet: Cabling

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Fiber Optics have special requirements

- LEDs couldn't go on/off at  $1ns$ , so used lasers
- Maximum distance affected by wavelength and thickness of the fiber
  - Different laser wavelengths:
    - Short wave length 1000Base-SX
    - Long wave length 1000Base-LX
- Uses 8B/10B encoding scheme

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Twisted pair options too

- Using Cat 5 cables (all four internal wires are active)
- Cat 5e and Cat 6 cables (more insulation)

# Gigabit Ethernet: Flow Control

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Gigabit Ethernet is **fast**:

- In  $1ms$ , 1953 frames can arrive
- If the processor is busy for a few milliseconds, the buffers may be overrun

Gigabit Ethernet standard uses **flow control**

- Receiver can send a PAUSE frame to the sender
- Control frames have special type ( $0x8808$ )
- Pause command tells how many 512 *nsec* intervals to wait (can make the sender wait up to 33.6 *msec*)

# Next generations

- 2002 - **10 Gigabit Ethernet**
  - Uses only switches, so **no CSMA/CD**
- 25/50 *Gbps* Ethernet now out for data centers
- Power over Ethernet
- 2010 - 40 *Gbps* and 100 *Gbps* Ethernet
  - 40 *Gbps* for use in data centers
  - 100 *Gbps* for long haul backbone use ( $4 \times 25\text{Gbps}$ )
- Now: Working on 400 *Gbps* and 1 *Terabit* Ethernet
  - Want to preserve Ethernet frame format and frame size
  - Up to 10KM runs

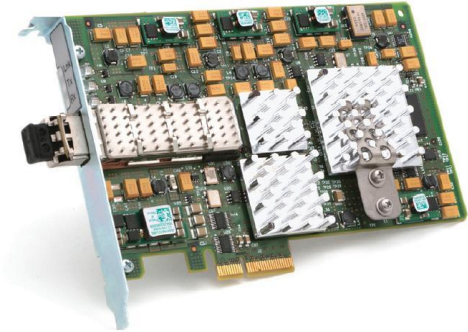


Figure 1. Cisco ASR 9000 Series 2-Port 100 Gigabit Ethernet Line Card



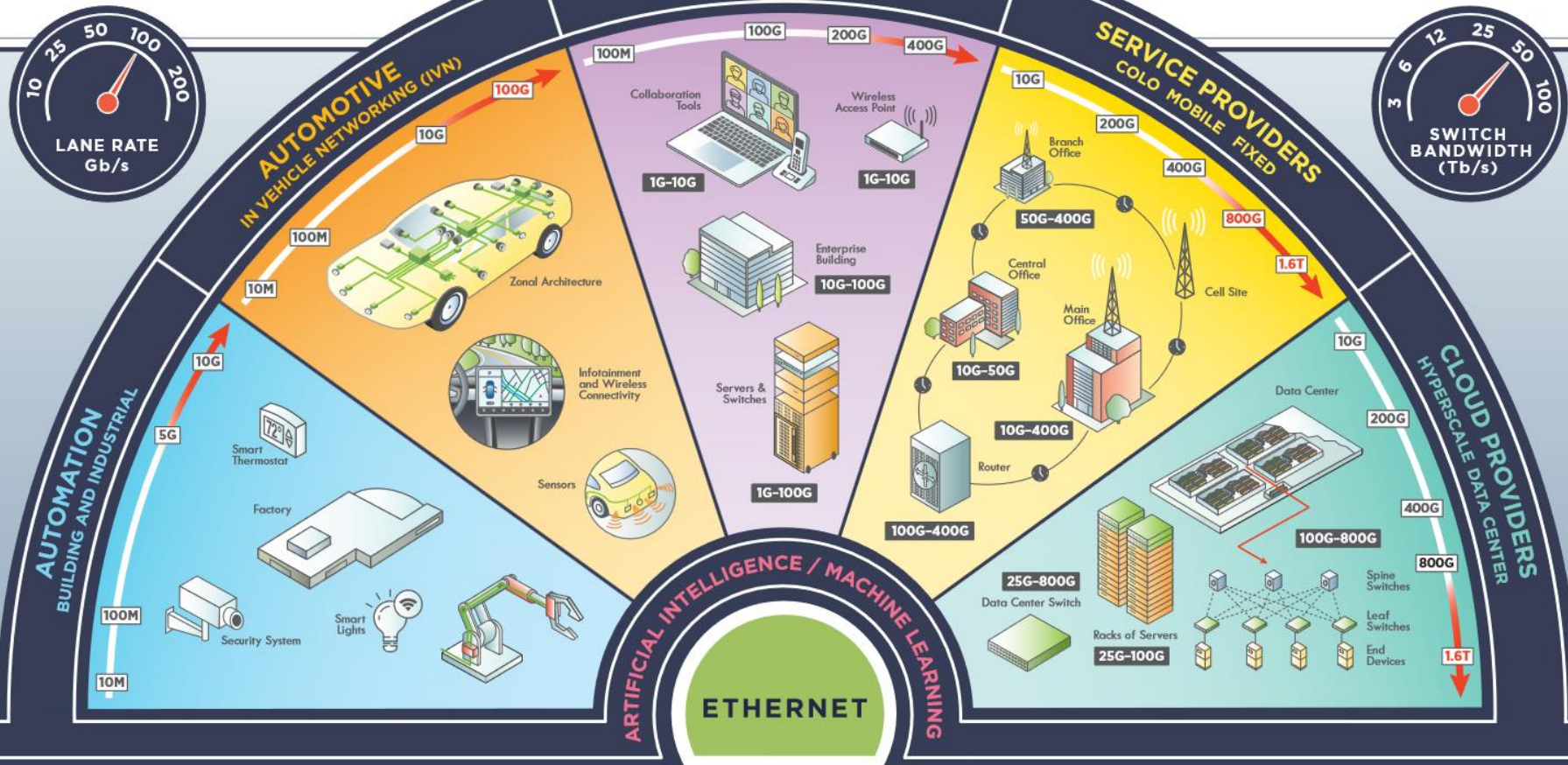


# Ethernet Alliance 2024 Roadmap

cars. Meanwhile, Ethernet is reducing the weight of the vehicle of tomorrow by enabling the consolidation of multiple electrical systems into a unified zonal architecture similar to other converged networks.

100G/400G TO 20/100G

shows no signs of changing. The aggregated bandwidth seen in service provider networks continues to push for increased Ethernet speeds, currently reaching for 1.6 Tb/s. SyncE (Synchronous Ethernet) has become a critical technology used in the Telco rollout of 5G networks and services, a massive adoption of this technology is expected over the next few years.





# So Far

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# Switches

- A switch is a box of electronics with 4 – 32 *cards*
- Each card contains 1 – 8 ports
  - The cards are connected by a high speed (*Gbps*) backplane
  - Each port connects to one computer (or a hub)



Two kinds of cards:

1. Each card has a buffer
  - Means only one computer can talk on the card at a time
  - Cuts down collision domains to just the ports on the same card
2. Each port has a buffer
  - Means each port has its own send/receive buffer
  - No collisions possible (since each port is independent)

# Switched Ethernet

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- A *switch* adds
  - Queuing
  - A *routing table*
  - Selective forwarding
- Switches have the following rules when a frame from *Y* destined for *X* arrives
  - If *X* *has* an entry in the routing table
    - If the frame came from *X*'s *outbound* link, *drop it*
    - Otherwise, forward it on *X*'s outbound link
  - If *X* *does not* have an entry in the routing table
    - Send out the frame on all links ***except the one it arrived on***
  - If *Y* *does not* have an entry in the routing table
    - Add the *inbound* link as the *outbound* link for *Y*

# Switch Advantages

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- We get:
  - Divided up collision domains (dividing Ethernets)
  - Queuing
  - Adaptation to multiple subnet speeds
- Switches are a bit more expensive than hubs
  - 10/100/1000 switch costs \$25-\$100
    - 10/100 hub costs is basically impossible to find now to buy

# Ethernet Security Issues



Image copyright Sony Pictures Classics and Sony Pictures Entertainment

## Promiscuous mode

- *Packet sniffer* detects all Ethernet frames

## Less of a problem in *switched* Ethernet

- Why?

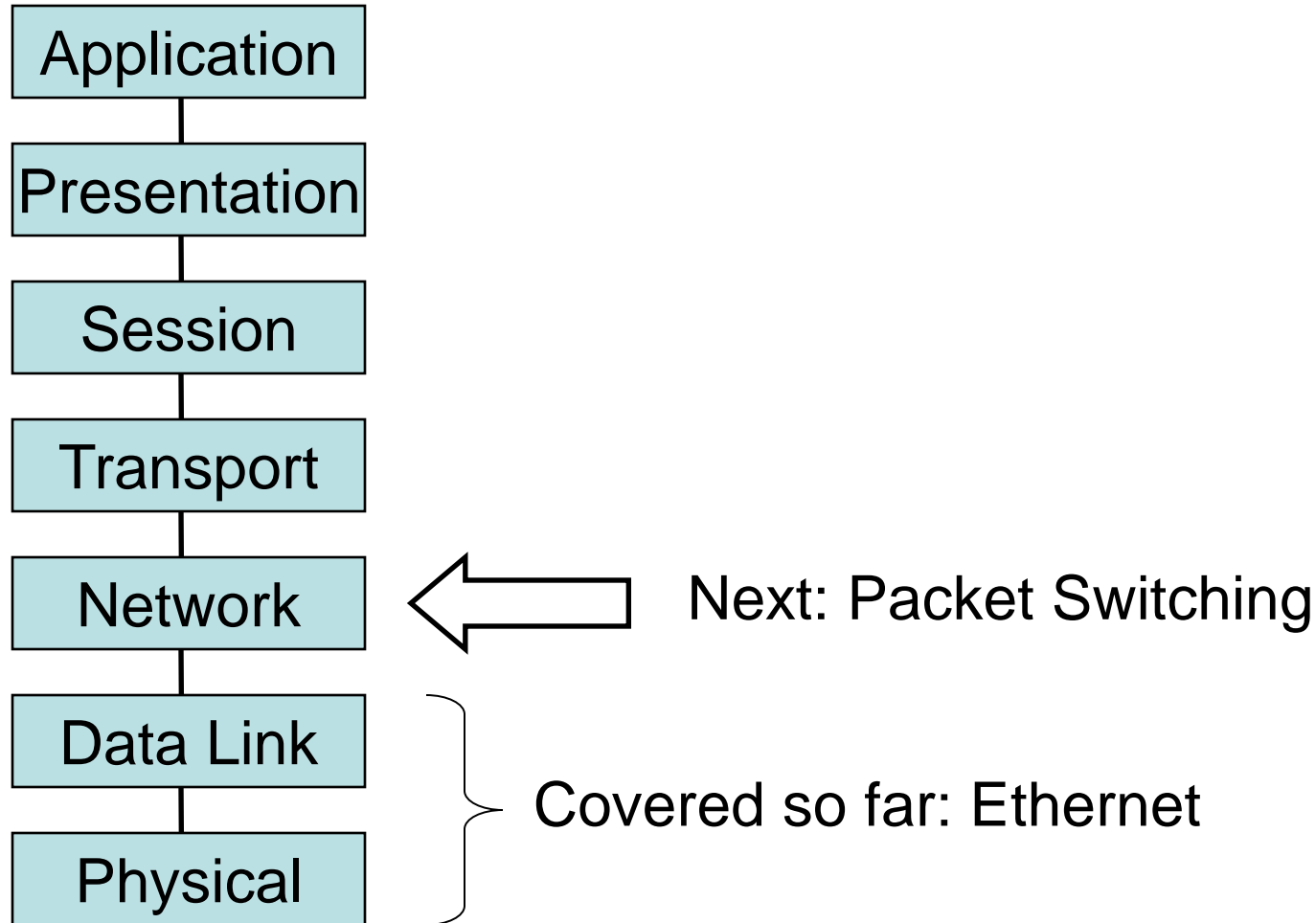
# So Far

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# OSI Reference Model

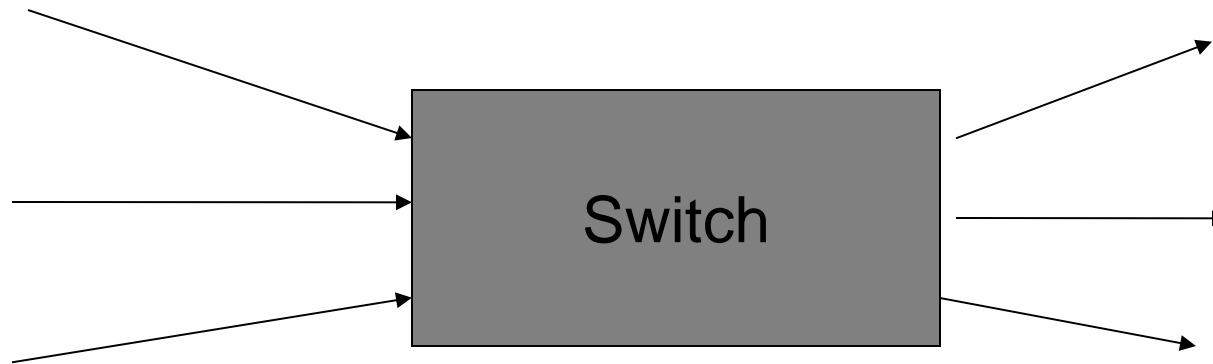
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# Packet Switching

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- *A switch*
  - Has many inputs and many outputs
  - Takes packets that arrive on an input and forwards them to the right output



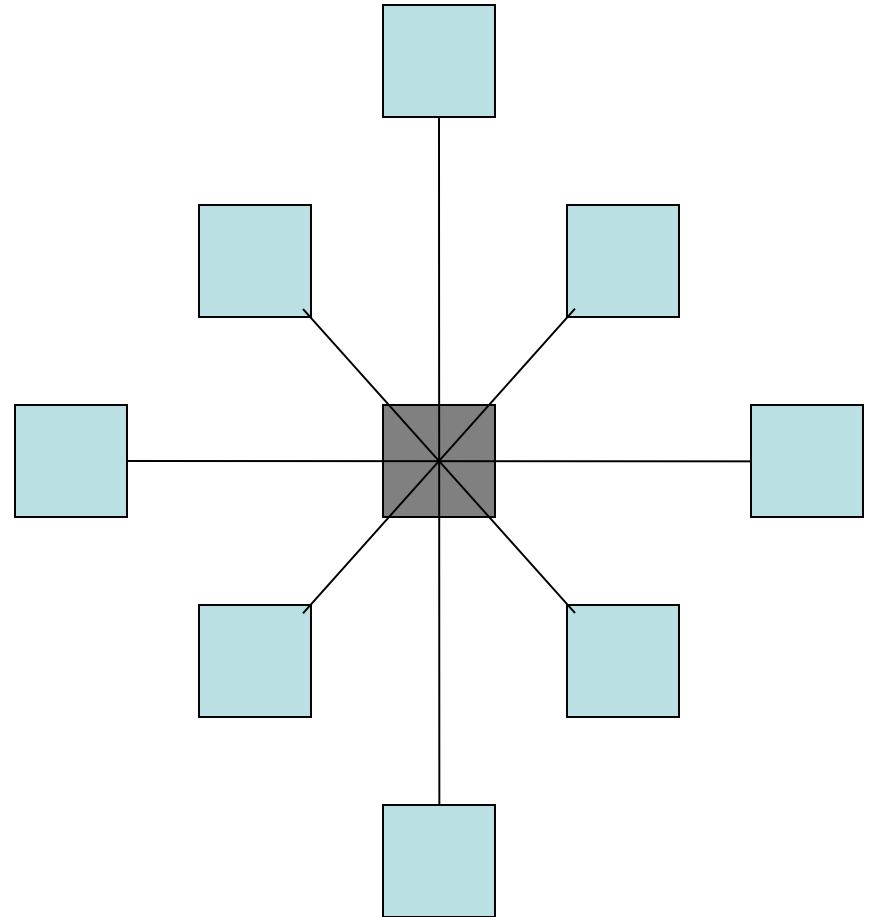
- Key problem: finite output bandwidth



# Star Topology

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- Scalability
  - Large networks can be built by interconnecting switches.
  - Can connect via high bandwidth point-to-point links = large distances.
  - Adding a new host to a switch doesn't necessarily degrade performance.



# Switching Issues

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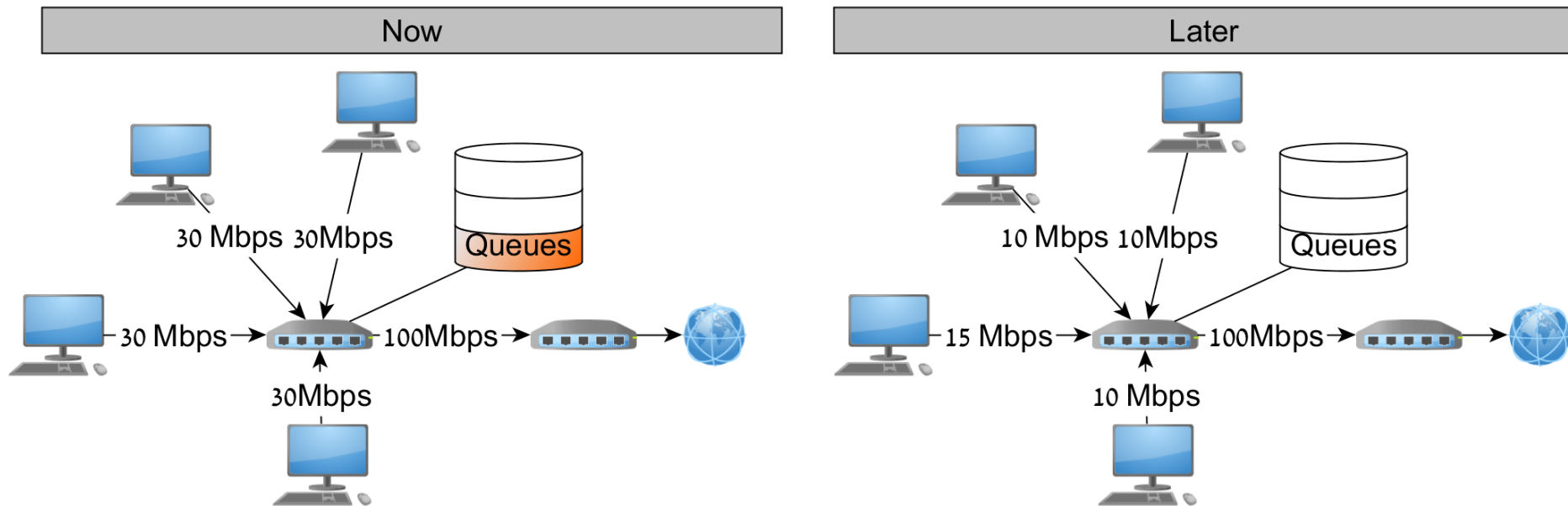
## ***Contention***

- Arrival rate of packets going to the same output exceeds output capacity
- Switch buffers packets

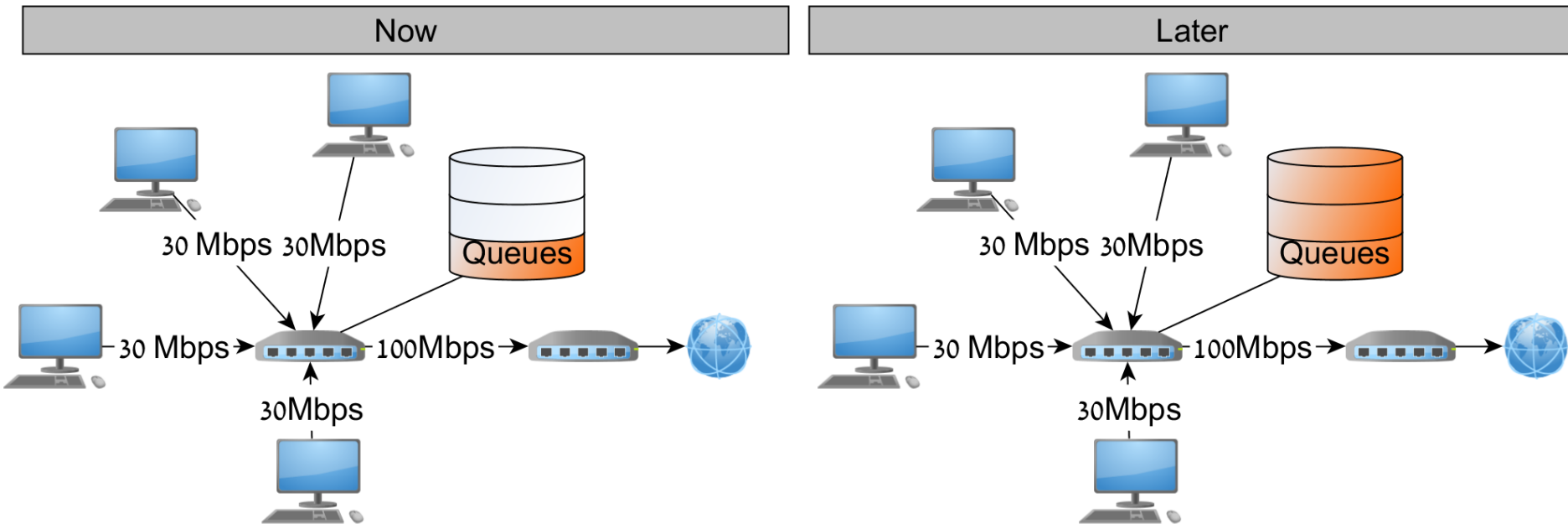
## ***Congestion***

- Switch runs out of buffer space
- Forces packets to be dropped

# Contention



# Congestion



# Forwarding Decision

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- How does the switch know where to forward a packet?
  - Looks at the packet header to make the decision
- Common approaches

Datagram (or  
*connectionless*)

- e.g. IP

Virtual Circuit (or  
*connection-oriented*)

- e.g. Frame Relay, ATM

Source routing

- Less common

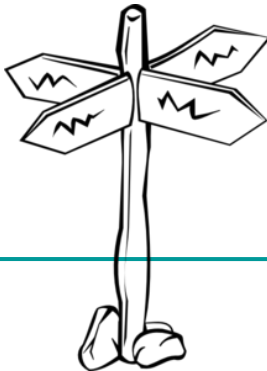
# Routing: Drive to Afula

## Option 1:

The road authority puts a sign at each intersection to show which way to go

If there are 200 potential destinations, there are 200 arrows at each intersection

At each intersection I must search through 200 arrows to find the one for Afula.

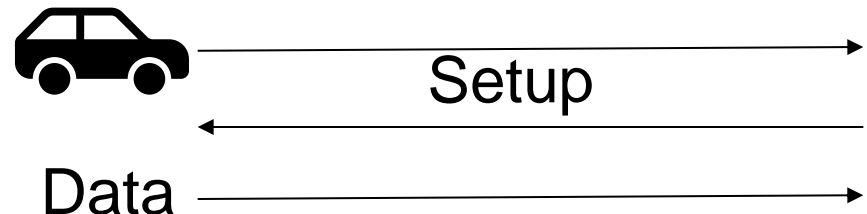


## Option 2:

First send someone who knows the way. He puts a sign at each intersection with the name “Michael” and the direction to travel.

There only have to be as many signs at each intersection as there are travelers.

Route setup costs one round trip



# Drive Kinneret to Afula

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**Problem:** What if more than one person named “Michael” need to travel through a given intersection?

**Solution:**

Ensure that each person has a unique name at each intersection (doesn't need to be global).

At each intersection put three pieces of information: (a) name, (b) direction, (c) name for the next intersection.

**Example:**

**At צומת צמח:** Michael, go straight. Next name: Noah

**At צומת כנרת :** Noah, turn left. Next name: Otto.

**At צומת אלומות:** Otto, go straight. Next name: Paul.

**At צומת יבנאל :** Paul, go right. Next name: Quentin.

# Datagram approach

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Every packet contains a complete destination address

- Enough information so that any switch can decide where the packet should go.
- 

Features of datagram approach

- Packets can be sent *anywhere at any time*
- Sender *doesn't know* if network can deliver the packet (or if destination host is *available*)
- Each packet is forwarded *independently* (two packets may take *different routes*)
- Possible to *route around* switch or link failures

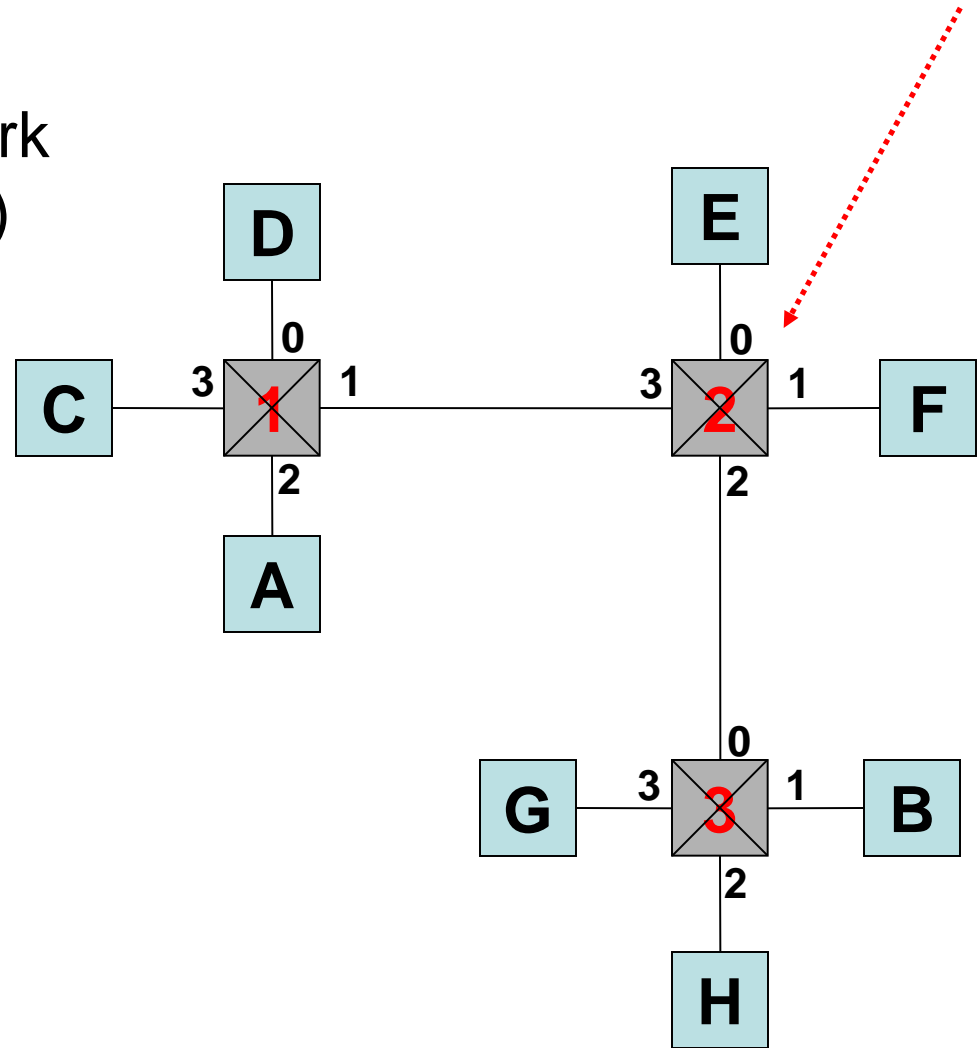


# Forwarding Tables

- Provide route information
- Easy to determine if network is known (and unchanging)

Forwarding table  
for switch 2

Dest.	Port
A	3
B	2
C	3
D	3
E	0
F	1
G	2
H	2



# Virtual circuit approach

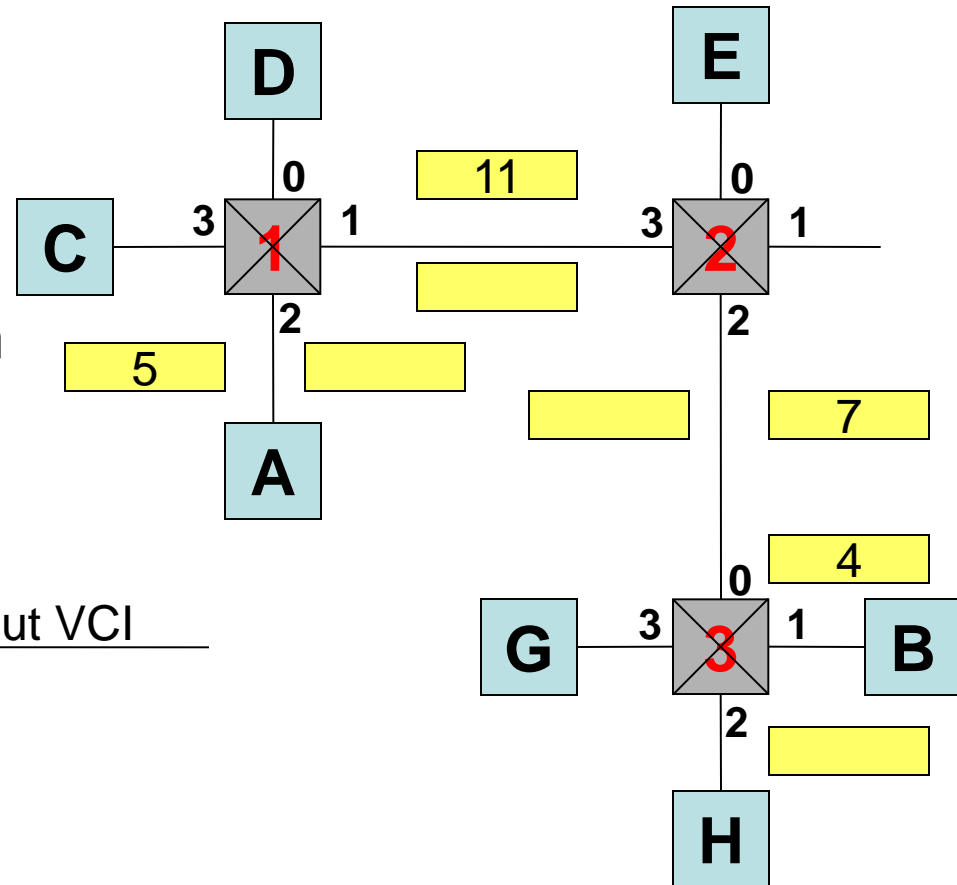
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- Set up the connection **before data transfer**
  - Allocate resources on circuits
  - Set up forwarding tables
- Benefits of virtual circuit approach
  - Performance: per-packet switching cost is low
  - Reliability: predictable latency and throughput
- Drawbacks
  - Setup time is long
    - At least one RTT – why?
  - Fault tolerance
    - What if the circuit fails during the transmission?

# Virtual Circuit Switching

- VCI = Virtual Circuit Identifier
- Incoming port + VCI uniquely identify virtual circuit
- Setup phase constructs circuit table entries at each switch

A wants to send to B



Switch	In Port	In VCI	Out port	Out VCI
1				
2				
3				

# Conclusion

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