

# Computer Networking

## Slide Set 1

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# Topic 1 Foundation

- Administrivia
- Networks
- Channels
- Multiplexing
- Performance: loss, delay, throughput

# Course Administration

## Commonly Available Texts

- ❑ Computer Networks: A Systems Approach

Peterson and Davie

<https://book.systemsapproach.org>

<https://github.com/SystemsApproach/book>

- ❑ Computer Networking : Principles, Protocols and Practice

Olivier Bonaventure (and friends)

Less GitHub but more practical exercises

<https://www.computer-networking.info/>

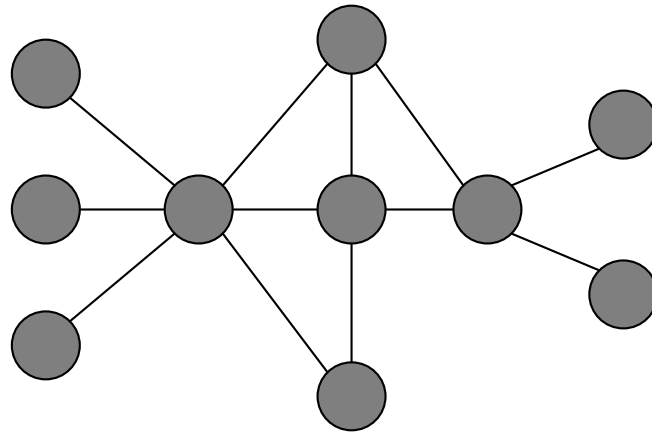
Other textbooks are available.

# Thanks

- Slides are a fusion of material from to Stephen Strowes, Tilman Wolf & Mike Zink, Ashish Padalkar , Evangelia Kalyvianaki, Brad Smith, Ian Leslie, Richard Black, Jim Kurose, Keith Ross, Larry Peterson, Bruce Davie, Jen Rexford, Ion Stoica, Vern Paxson, Scott Shenker, Frank Kelly, Stefan Savage, Jon Crowcroft , Mark Handley, Sylvia Ratnasamy, Adam Greenhalgh, and Anastasia Courtney.
- Supervision material is drawn from Stephen Kell, Andy Rice, and the [TA teams of 144 and 168](#)
- Finally thanks to the fantastic past Part 1b students and Andrew Rice for all the tremendous feedback.

# What is a network?

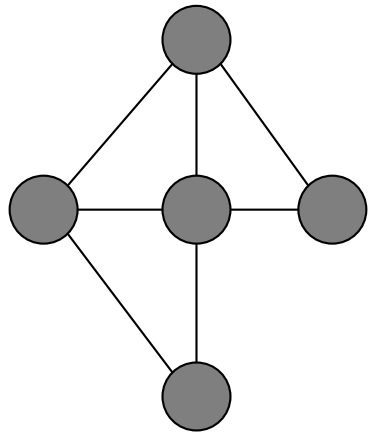
- A system of “links” that interconnect “nodes” in order to move “information” between nodes



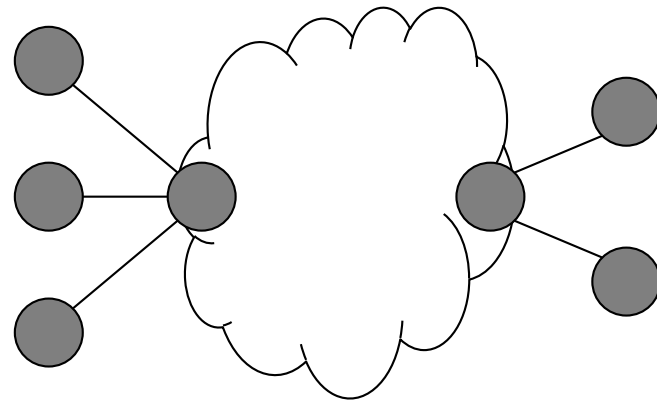
- Yes, this is all rather abstract

# What is a network?

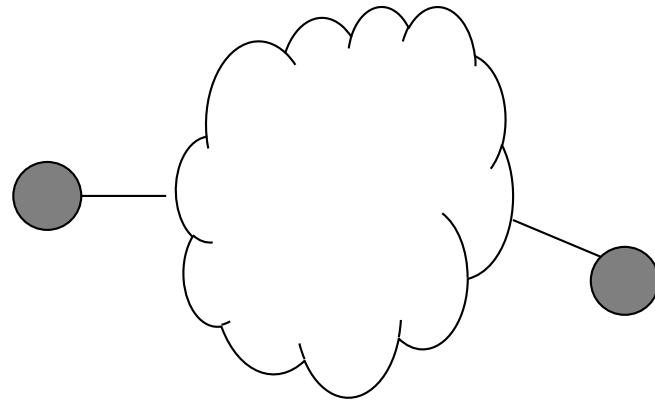
- We also talk about



or



or even



- Yes, abstract, vague, and under-defined....

# There are *many* different types of networks

- Internet
- Telephone network
- Transportation networks
- Cellular networks
- Supervisory control and data acquisition networks
- Optical networks
- Sensor networks

We will focus almost exclusively on the Internet

# The Internet has transformed everything

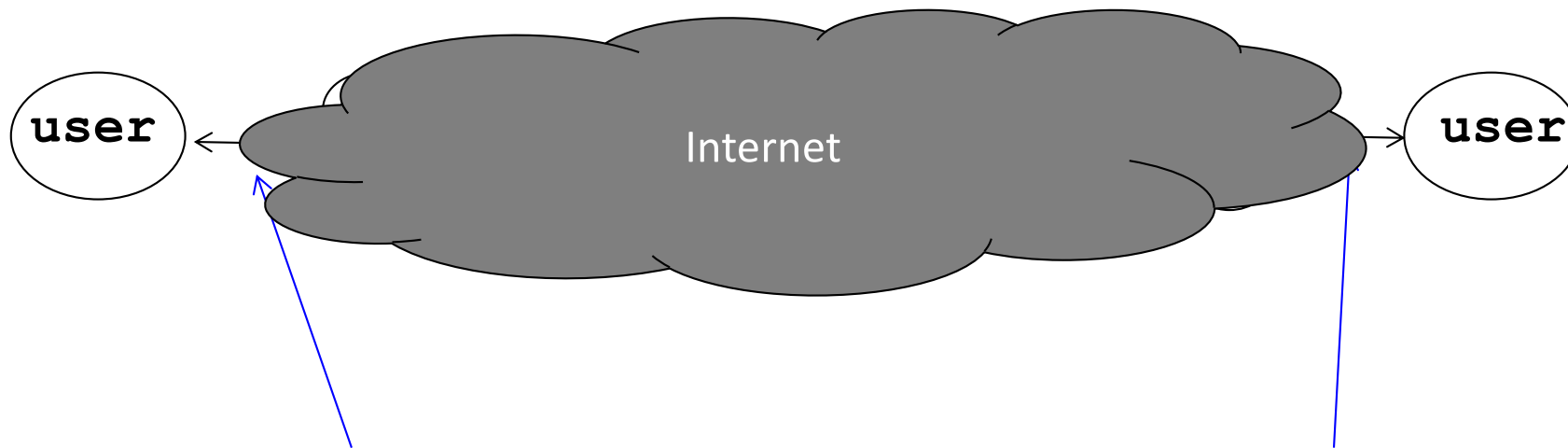
- The way we do business
  - E-commerce, advertising, cloud-computing
- The way we have relationships
  - Facebook friends, E-mail, IM, virtual worlds
- The way we learn
  - Wikipedia, search engines
- The way we govern and view law
  - E-voting, censorship, copyright, cyber-attacks



# A few defining characteristics of the Internet

# A federated system

- The Internet ties together different networks
  - >20,000 ISP networks (the definition is fuzzy)



**Tied together by IP -- the "Internet Protocol"** : a single common interface between users and the network and between networks

# A federated system

- The Internet ties together different networks
  - >20,000 ISP networks
- A single, common interface is great for interoperability...
- ...but tricky for business
- Why does this matter?
  - ease of interoperability is the Internet's most important goal
  - practical realities of incentives, economics and real-world trust, drive topology, route selection and service evolution

# Tremendous scale (2020 numbers – so some ‘weird’)

- 4.57 Billion users (58% of world population)
- 1.8 Billion web sites
  - 34.5% of which are powered by the WordPress!
- 4.88 Billion smartphones (45.4% of population)
- 500 Million Tweets a day
- 100 Billion WhatsApp messages per day
- 1 Billion hours of YouTube video watched per day
- 500 hours of Youtube video added per minute
- 2+ billion TikTok installs
- 60% video streaming
  - 12.5% of the Internet traffic is native Netflix

# Tremendous scale (2020 numbers – so some ‘weird’)

- 4.57 Billion users (58% of world population)
- 1.8 Billion web sites
  - 34.5% of which are powered by Google
- 4.88 Billion smartphones (67% of population)
- 500 Million text messages sent every day
- “Internet Scale” refers to such systems
- 1.5 Billion WhatsApp messages per day
- 1 Billion hours of YouTube video watched per day
- 500 hours of Youtube video added per minute
- 2+ billion TikTok installs
- 60% video streaming
  - 12.5% of the Internet traffic is native Netflix

# Enormous diversity and dynamic range

- Communication latency: nanoseconds to seconds ( $10^9$ )
- Bandwidth: 100bits/second to 400 Gigabits/second ( $10^9$ )
- Packet loss: 0 – 90%
- Technology: optical, wireless, satellite, copper
- **Endpoint devices**: from sensors and cell phones to datacenters and supercomputers
- **Applications**: social networking, file transfer, skype, live TV, gaming, remote medicine, backup, IM
- **Users**: the governing, governed, operators, **malicious**, naïve, savvy, embarrassed, paranoid, addicted, cheap ...

# Constant Evolution

1970s:

- 56kilobits/second “backbone” links
- <100 computers, a handful of sites in the US (and one UK)
- Telnet and file transfer are the “killer” applications

Today

- 400+Gigabits/second backbone links
- 40B+ devices, all over the globe
  - 27B+ IoT devices alone

# Asynchronous Operation

- Fundamental constraint: **speed of light**
- Consider:
  - How many cycles does your 3GHz CPU in Cambridge execute before it can possibly get a response from a message it sends to a server in Palo Alto?
    - Cambridge to Palo Alto: 8,609 km
    - Traveling at 300,000 km/s: 28.70 milliseconds
    - Then back to Cambridge:  $2 \times 28.70 = 57.39$  milliseconds
    - $3,000,000,000 \text{ cycles/sec} \times 0.05739 = 172,179,999$  cycles!
- Thus, communication feedback is always *dated*

How much can change with 172 Million instructions



# Prone to Failure

- To send a message, **all** components along a path must function correctly
  - software, wireless access point, firewall, links, network interface cards, switches,...
  - Including **human operators**
- Consider: 50 components in a system, each working correctly 99% of time → 39.5% chance communication will fail
- Plus, recall
  - scale → lots of components
  - asynchrony → takes a long time to hear (bad) news
  - federation (**internet**) → hard to identify fault or assign blame

# Recap: The Internet is...

- A complex federation
- Of enormous scale
- Dynamic range
- Diversity
- Constantly evolving
- Asynchronous in operation
- Failure prone
- Constrained by what's practical to engineer
- Too complex for (simple) theoretical models
- “Working code” doesn't mean much
- Performance benchmarks are too narrow

# An Engineered System

- Constrained by what technology is practical
  - Link bandwidths
  - Switch port counts
  - Bit error rates
  - Cost
  - ...

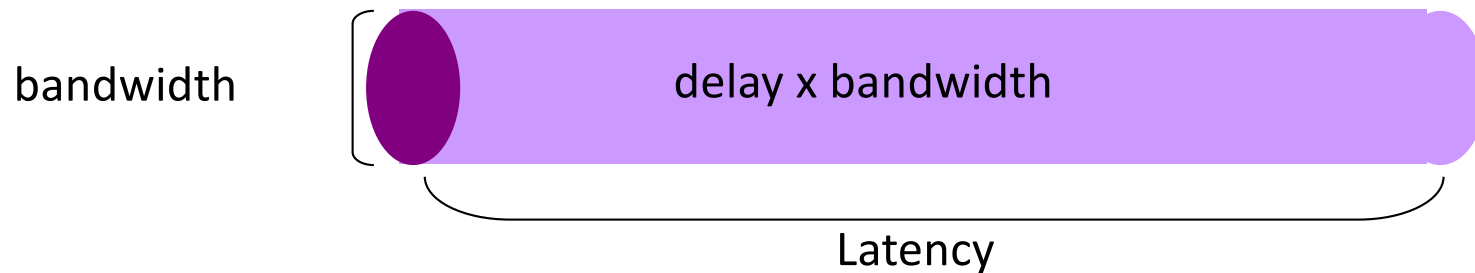
# Nodes and Links



Channels = Links

Peer entities = Nodes

# Properties of Links (Channels)



- Bandwidth (capacity): “width” of the links
  - number of bits sent (or received) per unit time (bits/sec or bps)
- Latency (delay): “length” of the link
  - propagation time for data to travel along the link (seconds)
- Bandwidth-Delay Product (BDP): “volume” of the link
  - amount of data that can be “in flight” at any time
  - propagation delay  $\times$  bits/time = total bits in link

# Examples of Bandwidth-Delay

- Same city over a slow link:
  - BW~100Mbps
  - Latency~10msec
  - BDP ~  $10^6$ bits ~ 125KBytes

$17\text{km} * c = 56\mu\text{s} \ll 10\text{ms}$
- Intra Datacenter:
  - BW~100Gbps
  - Latency~30usec
  - BDP ~  $10^6$ bits ~ 375KBytes

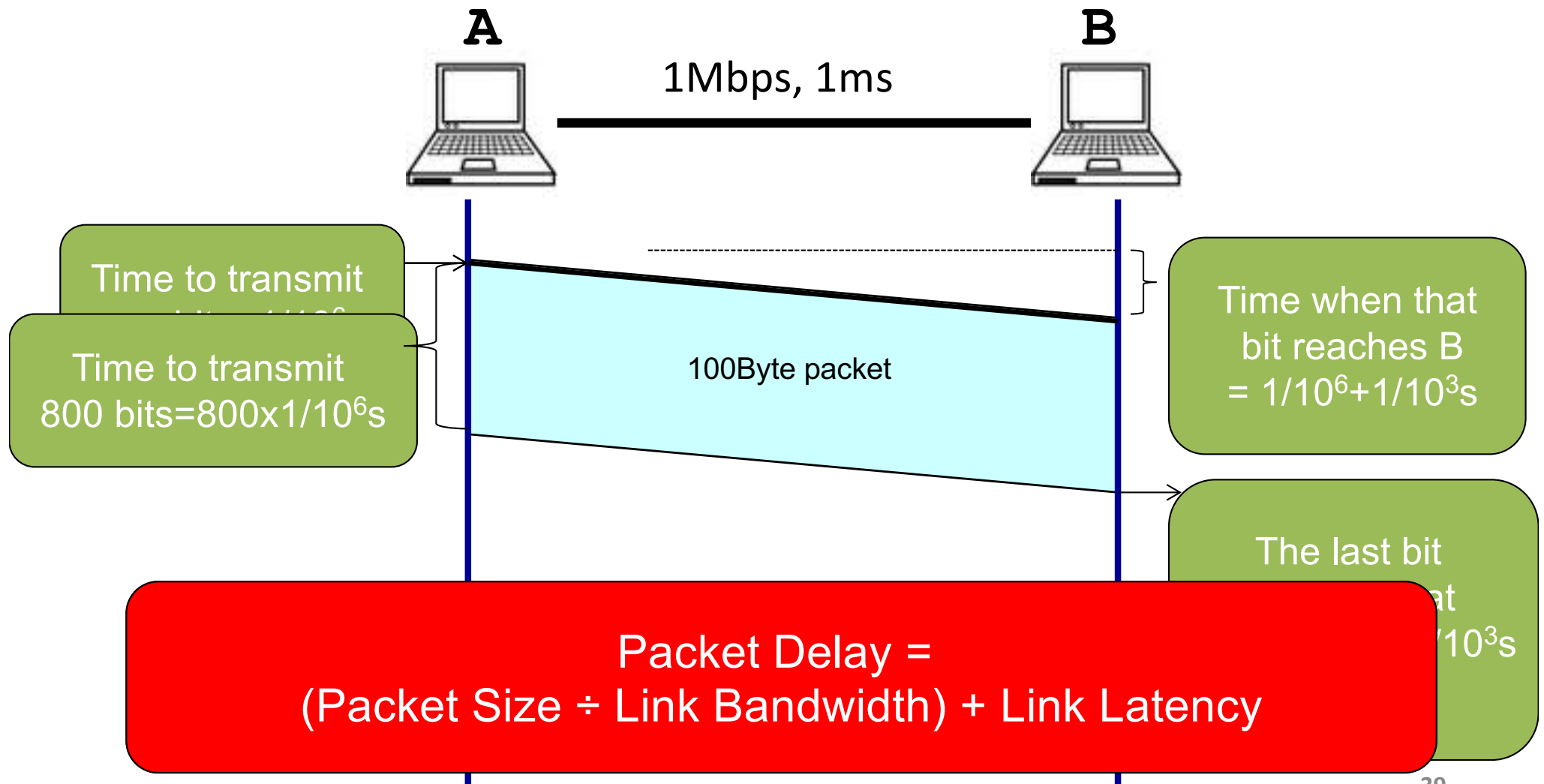
$750\text{m} * c = 56\mu\text{s} \cong 30\mu\text{s}$
- To California over a fast link:
  - BW~10Gbps
  - Latency~140msec
  - BDP ~  $1.4 \times 10^9$ bits ~ 175MBytes

$9708\text{km} * c = 32\text{ms} \ll 140\text{ms}$
- Intra Host:
  - BW~100Gbps
  - Latency~16nsec
  - BDP ~ 1600bits ~ 200Bytes

$25\text{cm} * c = 83\text{ps} \ll 16\text{ns}$

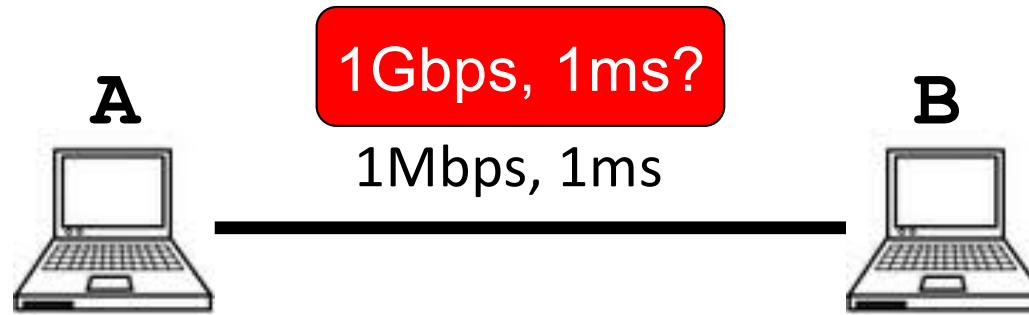
# Packet Delay

*Sending a 100B packet from A to B?*



1GB file in 100B packets **ay**

*Sending a 100B packet from A to B?*



The last bit in the file  
reaches B at  
 $(10^7 \times 800 \times 1/10^9) + 1/10^3\text{s}$   
= 8001ms

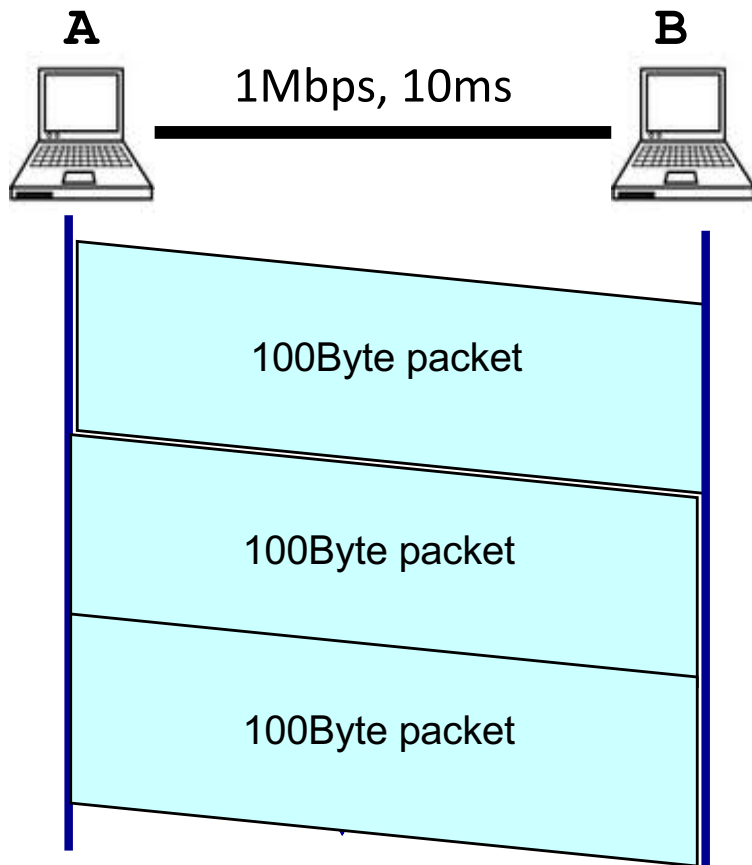
The last bit  
reaches B at  
 $(800 \times 1/10^9) + 1/10^3\text{s}$   
= 1.0008ms

The last bit  
reaches B at  
 $(800 \times 1/10^6) + 1/10^3\text{s}$   
= 1.8ms

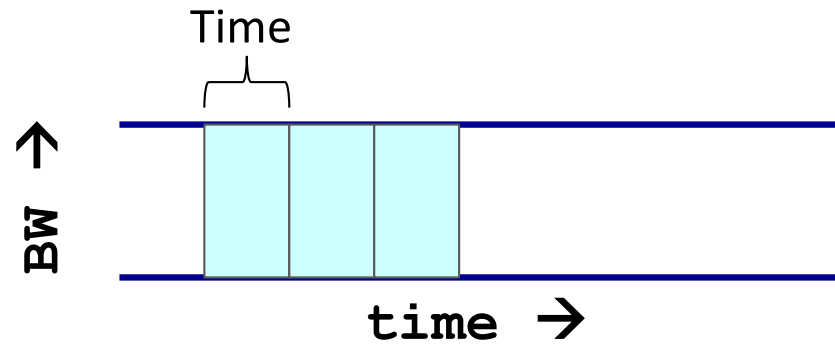


# Packet Delay: The “pipe” view

*Sending 100B packets from A to B?*

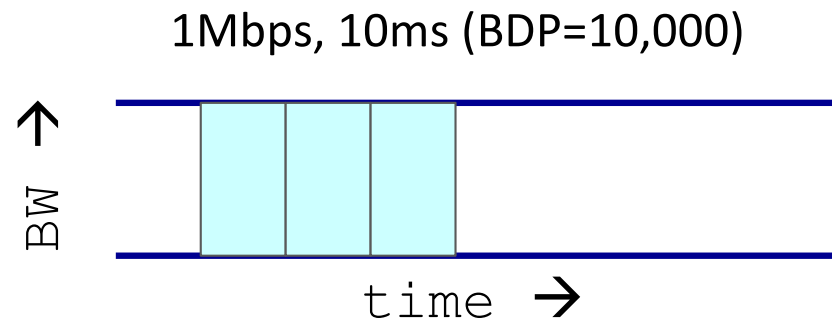


Packet Transmission

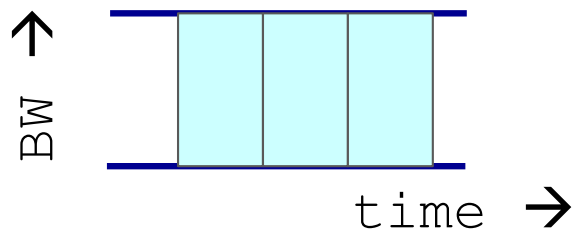


# Packet Delay: The “pipe” view

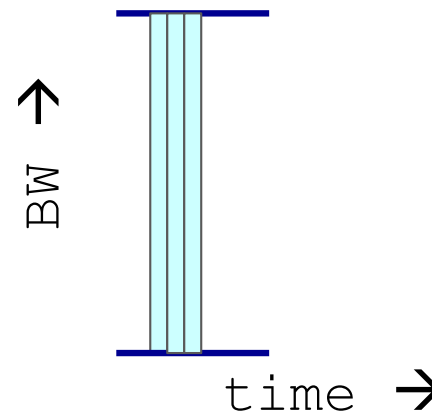
*Sending 100B packets from A to B?*



1Mbps, 5ms (BDP=5,000)

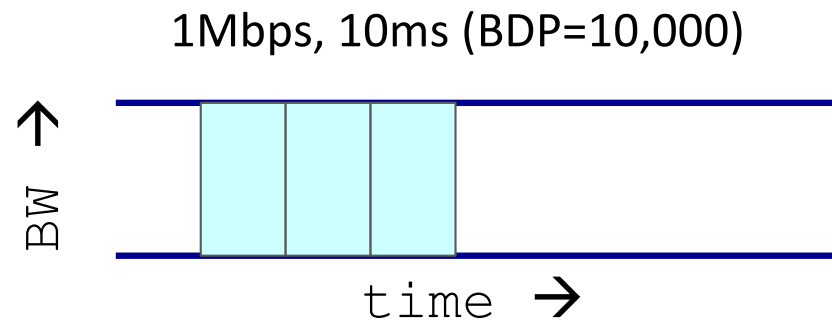


10Mbps, 1ms (BDP=10,000)

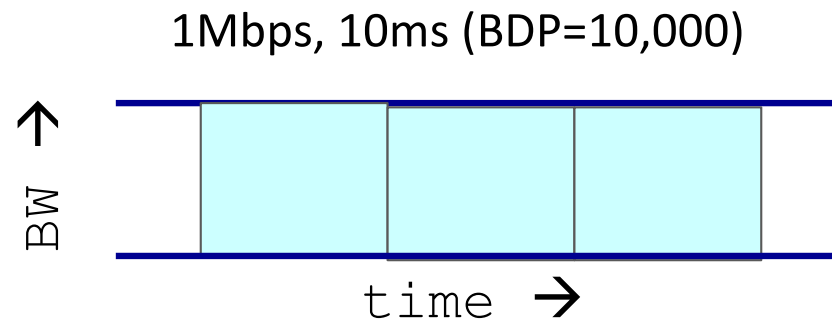


# Packet Delay: The “pipe” view

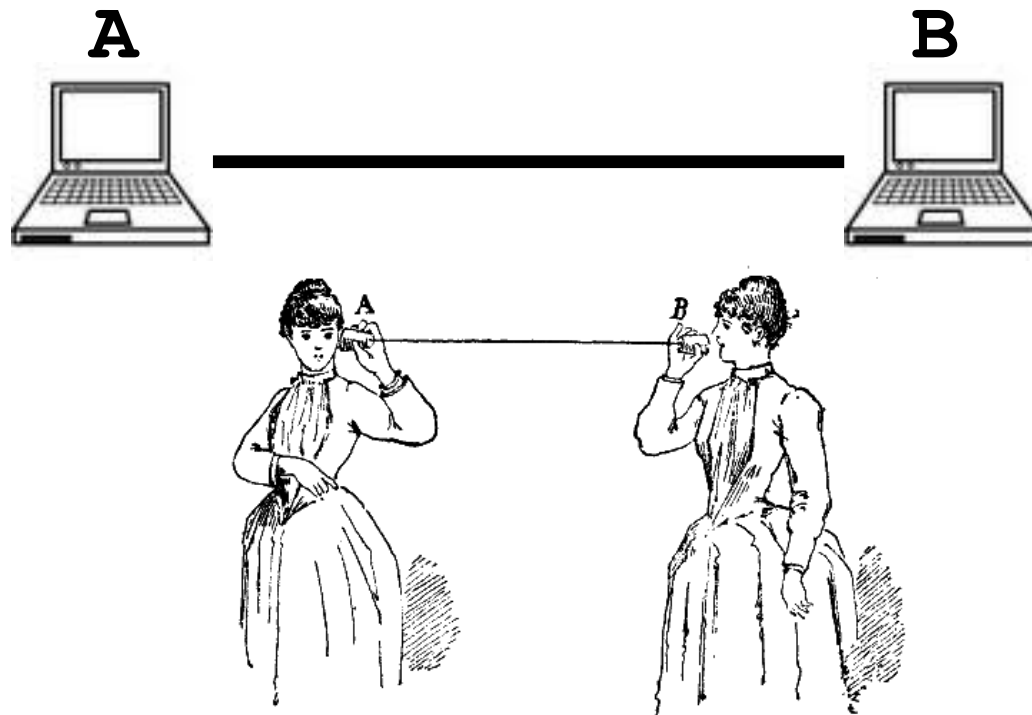
*Sending 100B packets from A to B?*



What if we used *200Byte packets??*

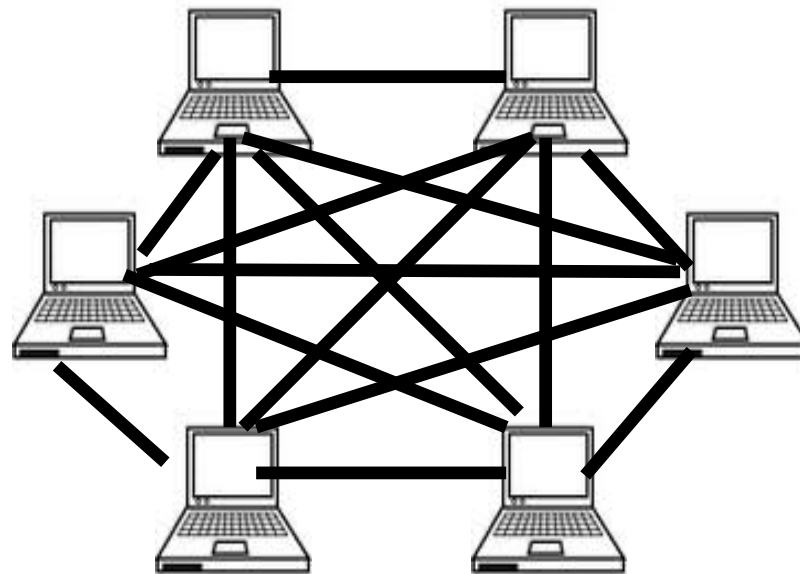


# Recall Nodes and Links



# What if we have more nodes?

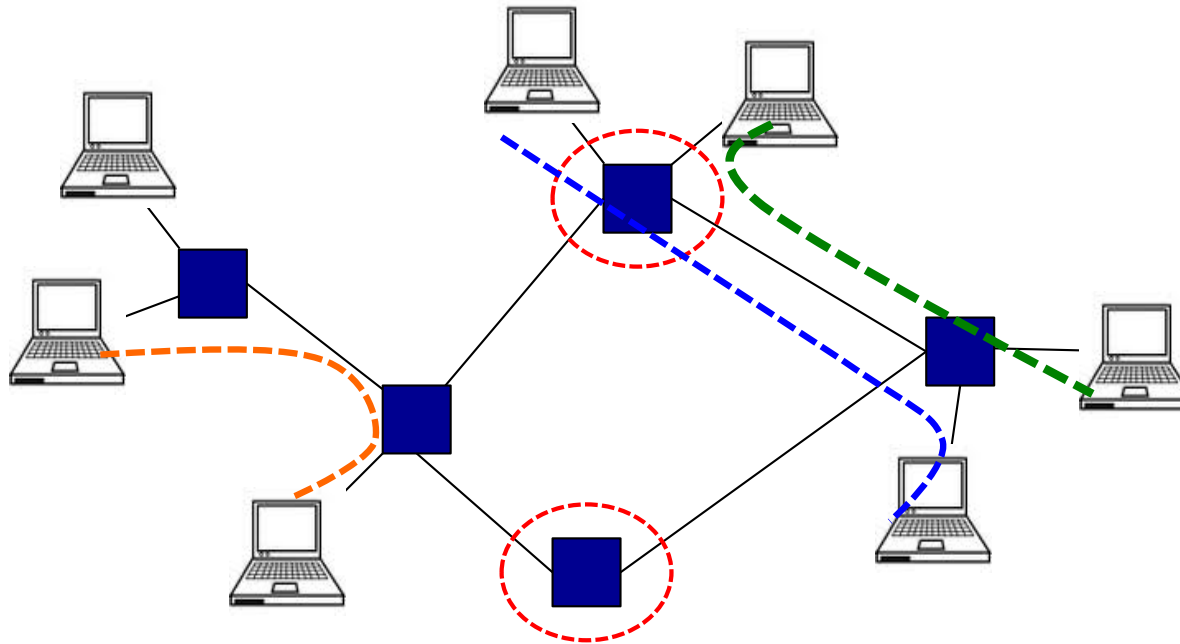
One link for every node?



Need a scalable way to interconnect nodes

# Solution: A switched network

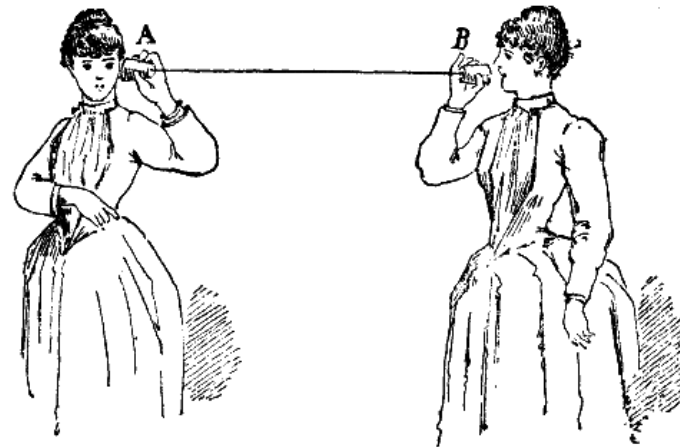
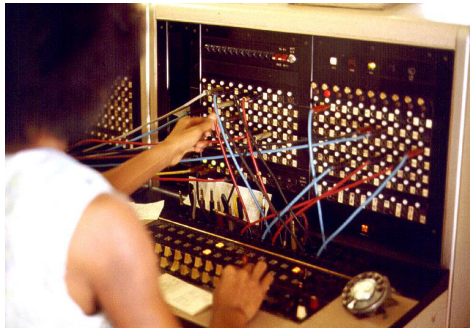
Nodes share network link resources



How is this sharing implemented?

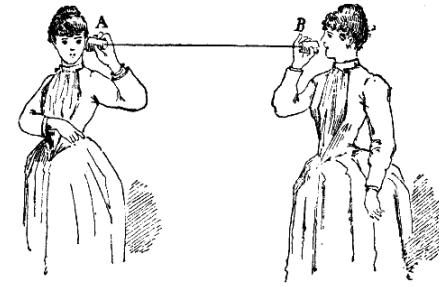
# Two examples of switched networks

- Circuit switching (used in the *POTS*: Plain Old Telephone system)

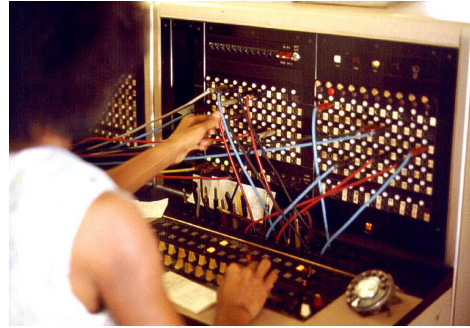


- Packet switching (used in the Internet)

# Circuit switching



Telephone



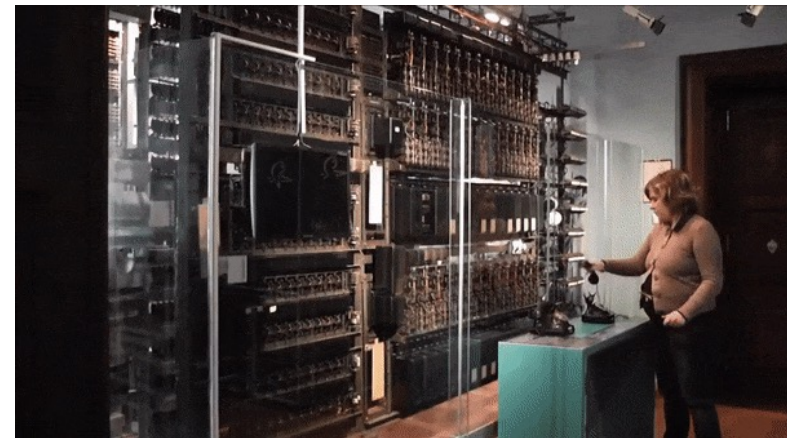
Exchange



Exchange



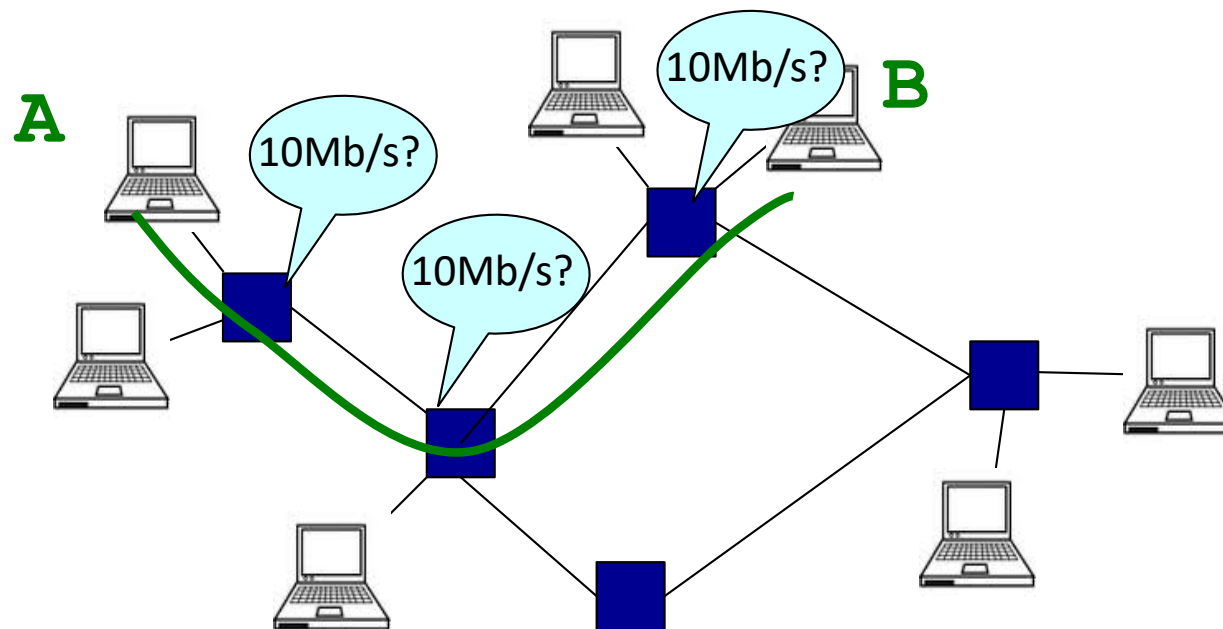
Telephone





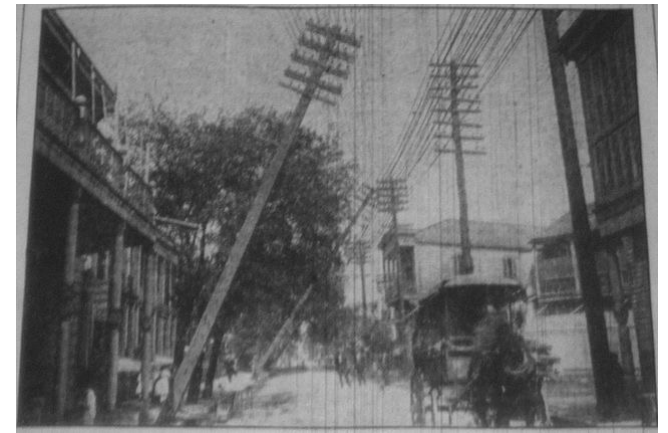
# Circuit switching

Idea: source **reserves** network capacity along a path



- (1) Node A sends a reservation request
- (2) Interior switches establish a connection -- i.e., "circuit"
- (3) A starts sending data
- (4) A sends a "teardown circuit" message

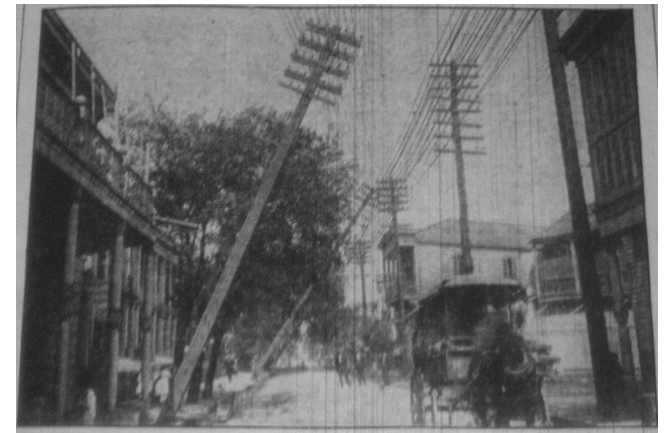
# Multiplexing



Sharing makes things efficient (cost less)

- One airplane/train for 100's of people
- One telephone for many calls
- One lecture theatre for many classes
- One computer for many tasks
- One network for many computers
- One datacenter many applications

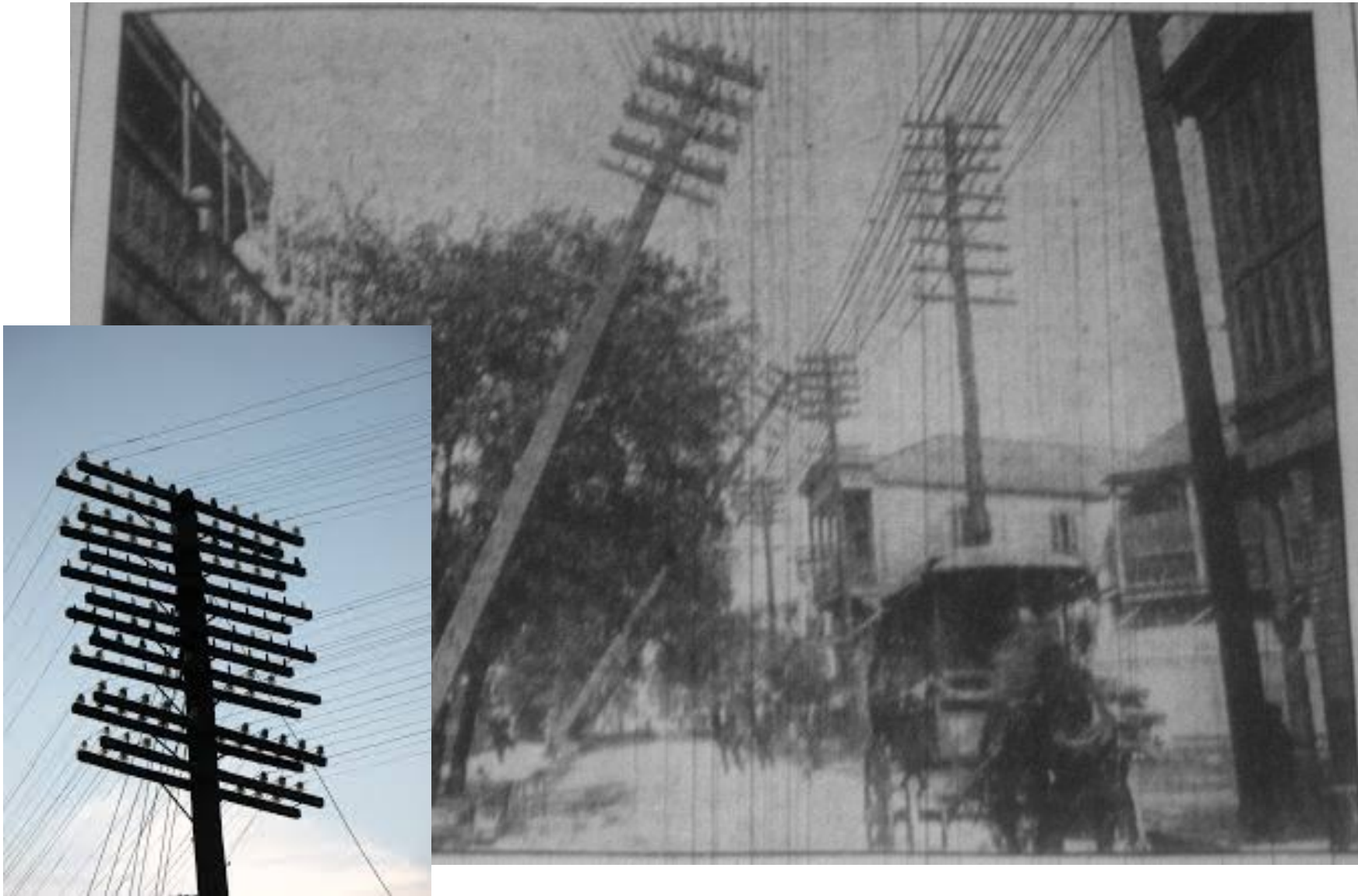
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- One airplane/train for 100's of people
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- One ~~Lecture theatre~~ Lecturer? for many classes
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# Old Time Multiplexing

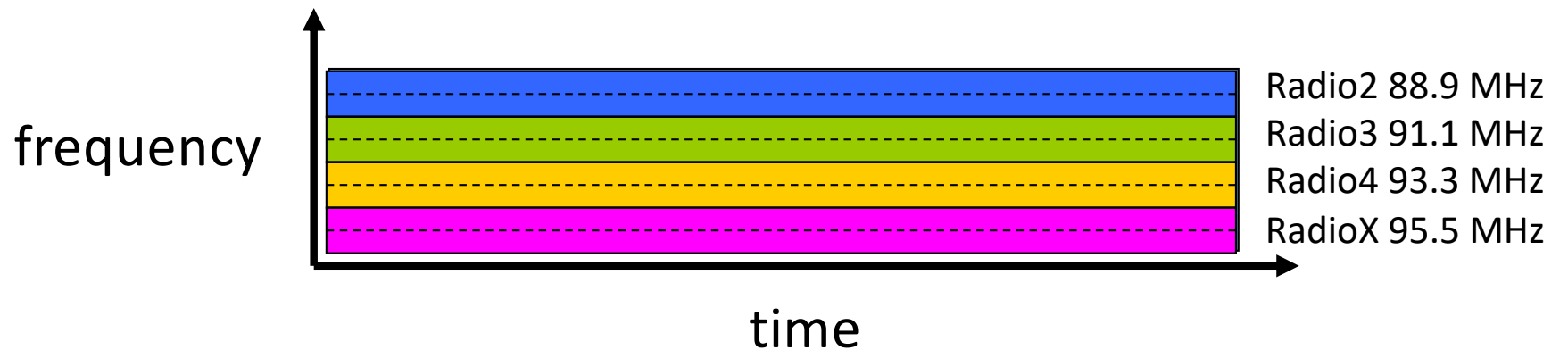


# Sharing Circuit Switching: FDM and TDM

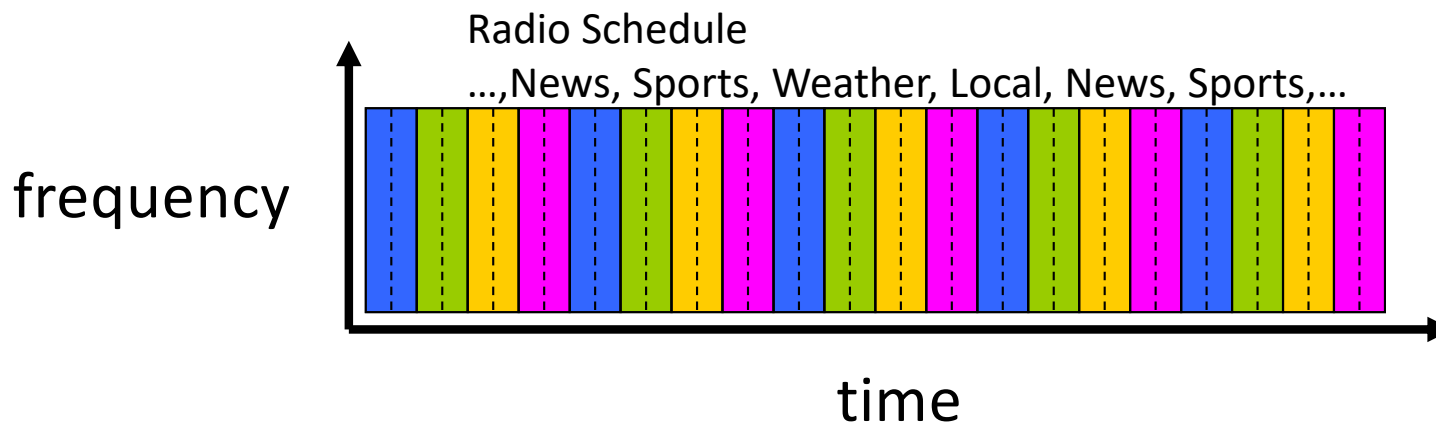
Frequency Division Multiplexing

Example:

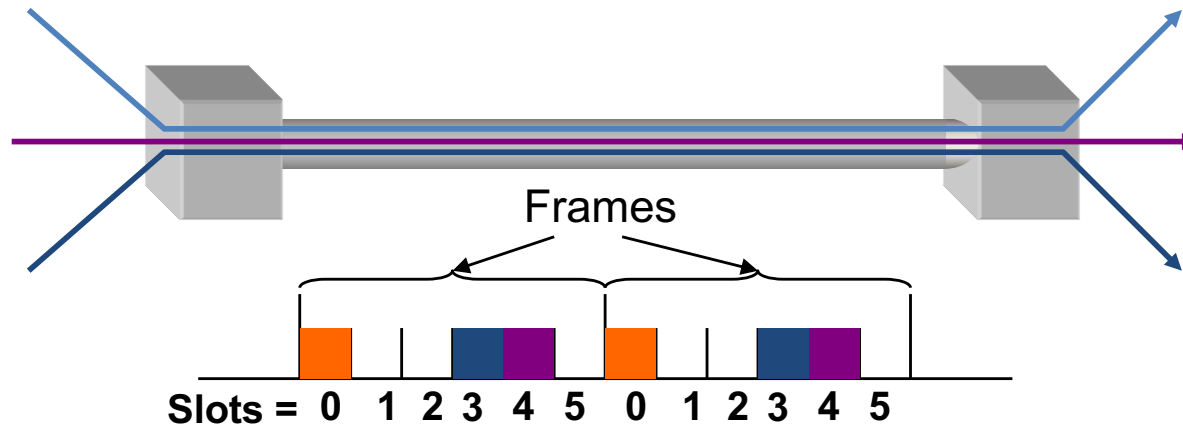
4 users



Time Division Multiplexing

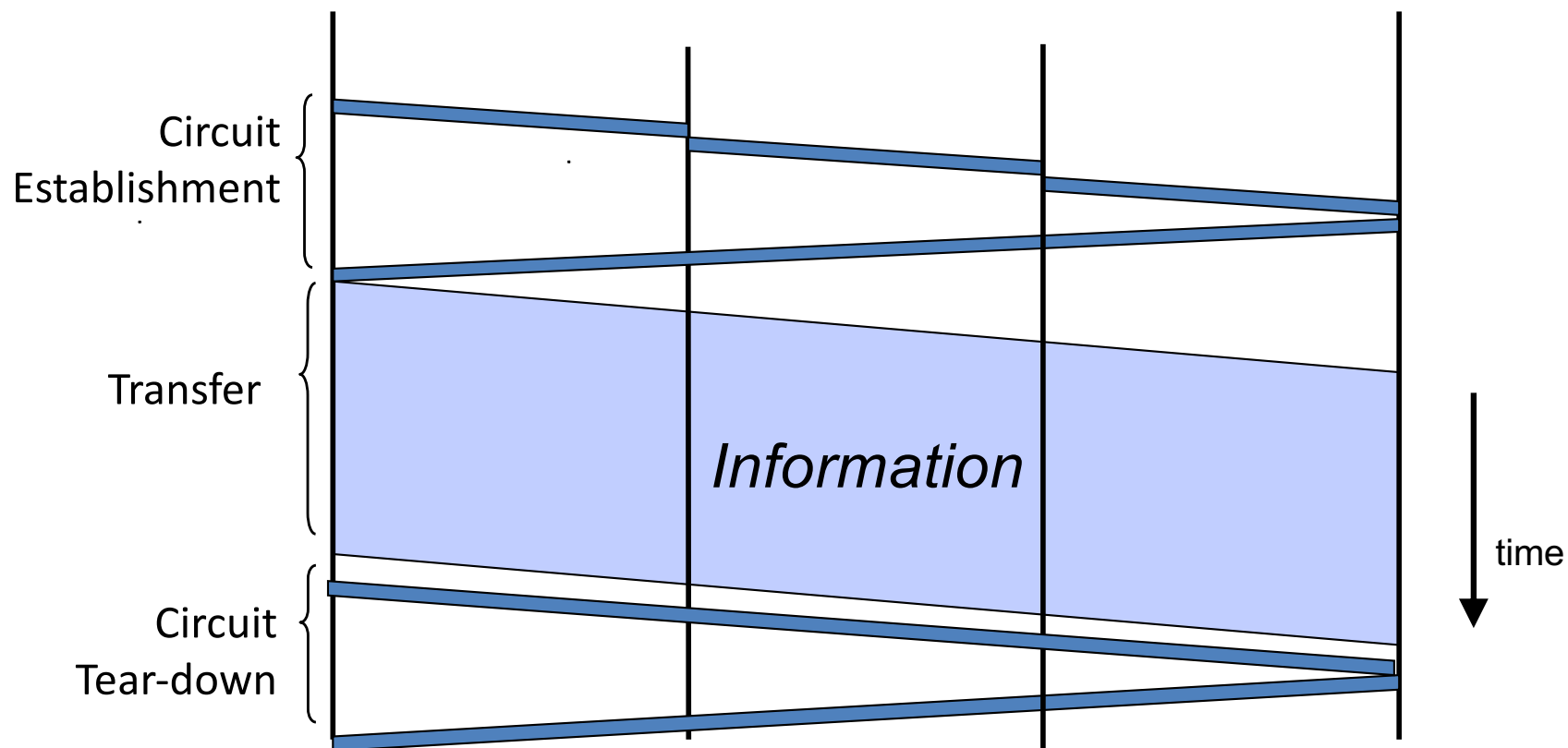
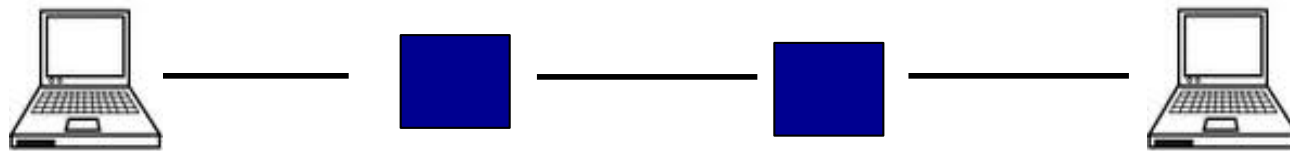


# Time-Division Multiplexing/Demultiplexing



- Time divided into frames; frames into slots
- Relative slot position inside a frame determines to which conversation data belongs
  - e.g., slot 0 belongs to **orange** conversation
- Slots are reserved (released) during circuit setup (teardown)
- If a conversation does not use its circuit **capacity is lost!**

# Timing in Circuit Switching

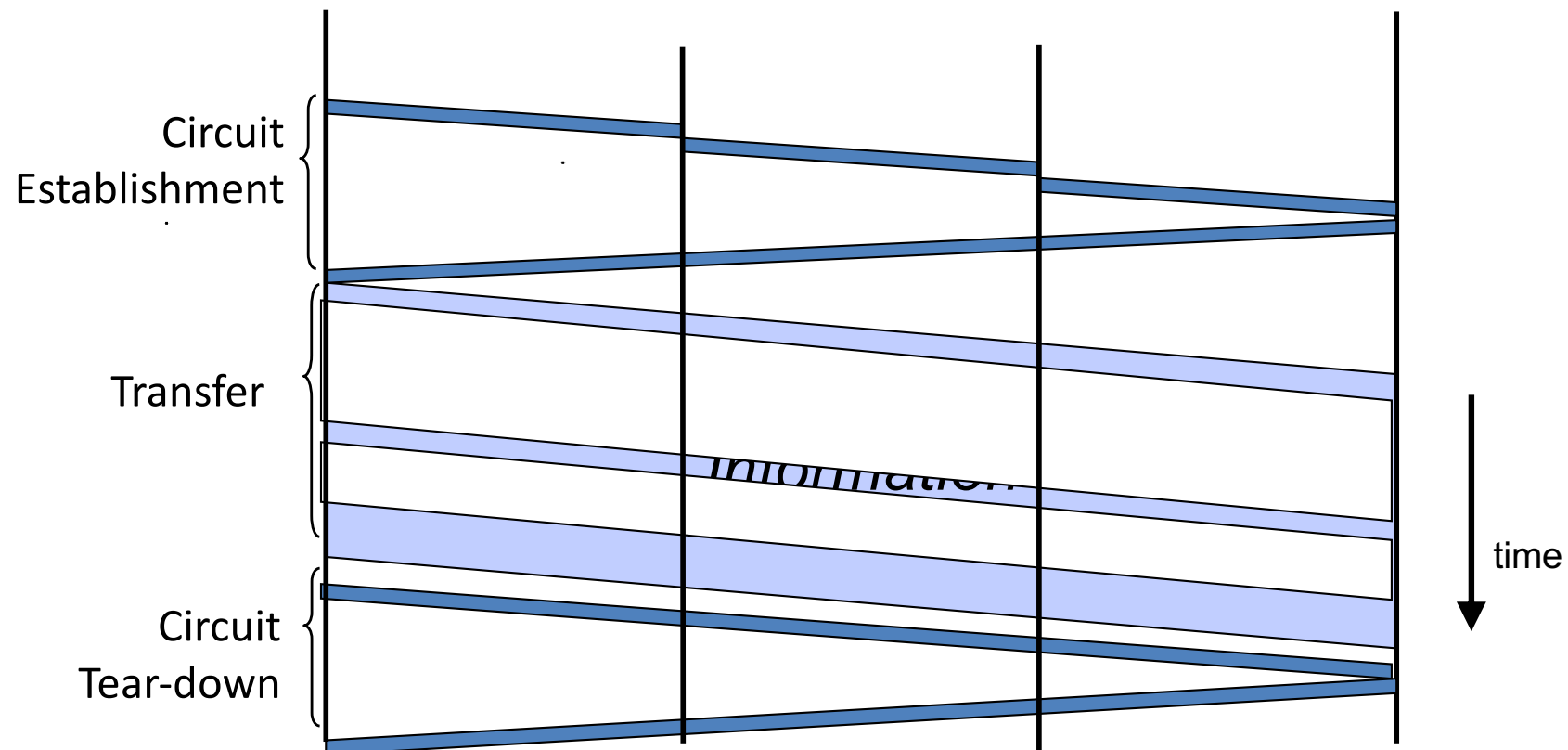
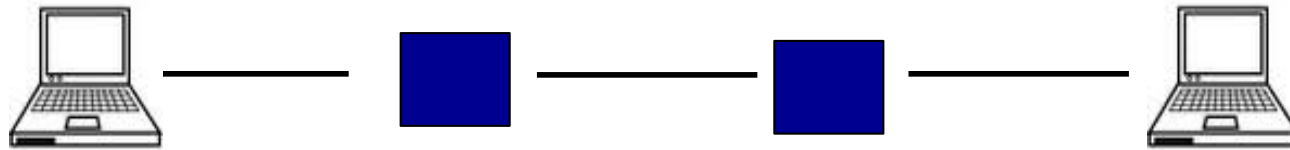


# Circuit switching: pros and cons

- Pros
  - guaranteed performance
  - fast transfer (once circuit is established)
- Cons



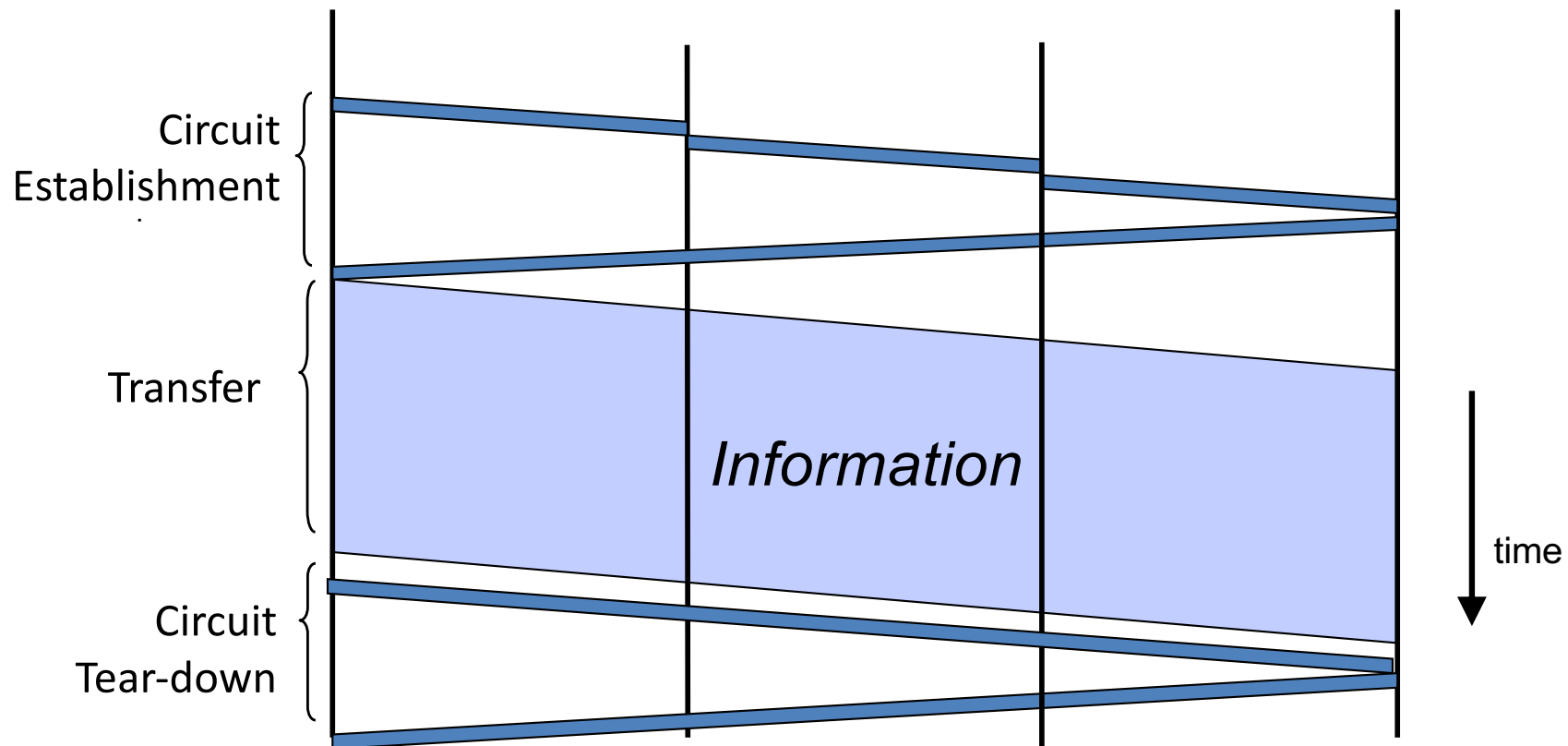
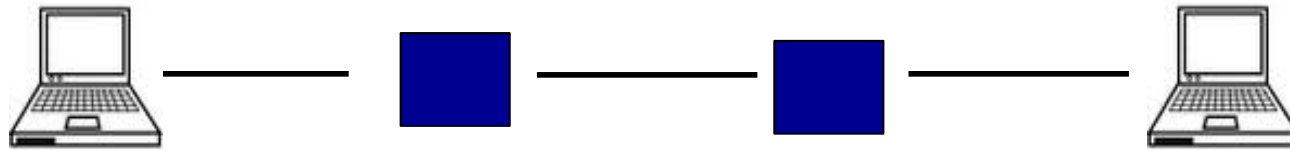
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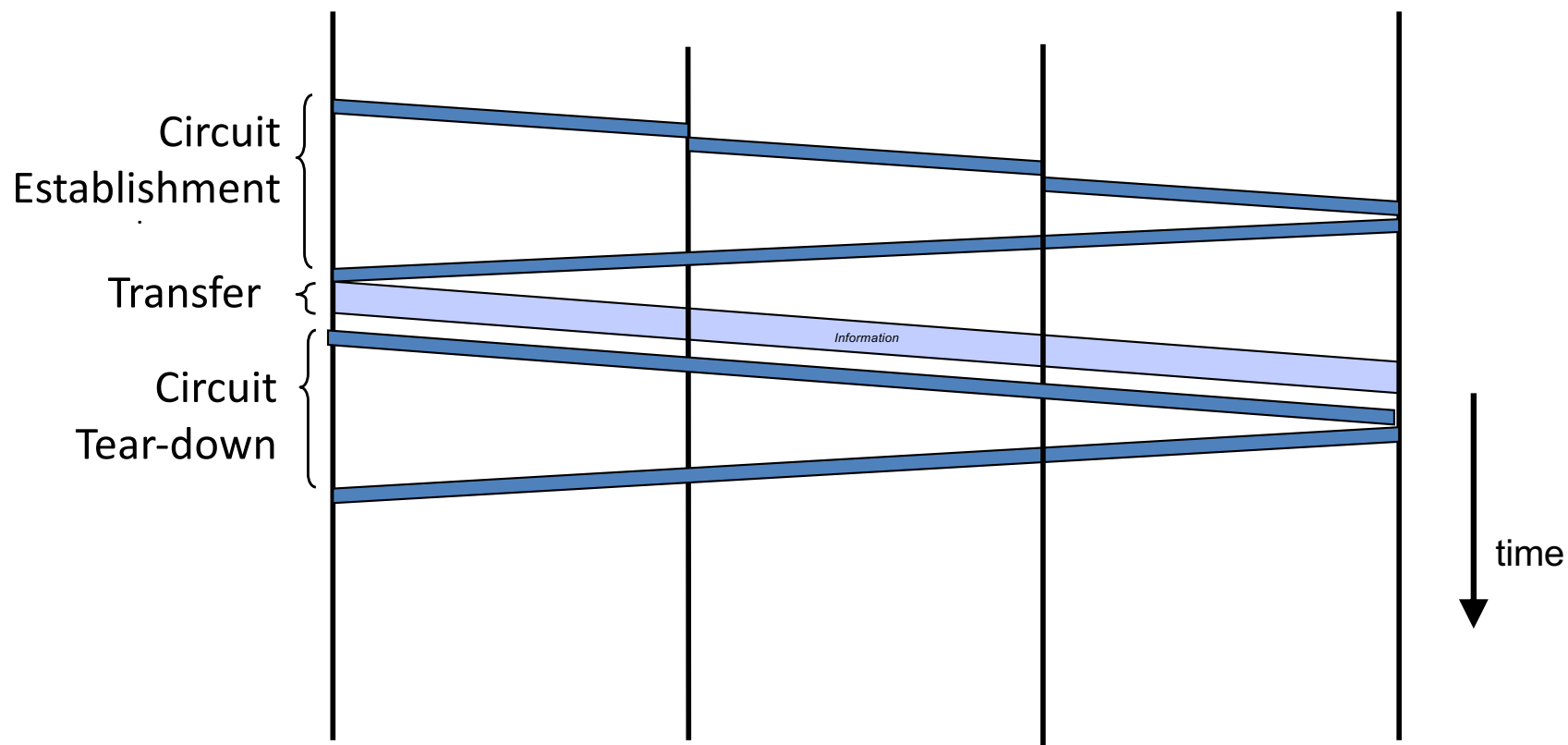
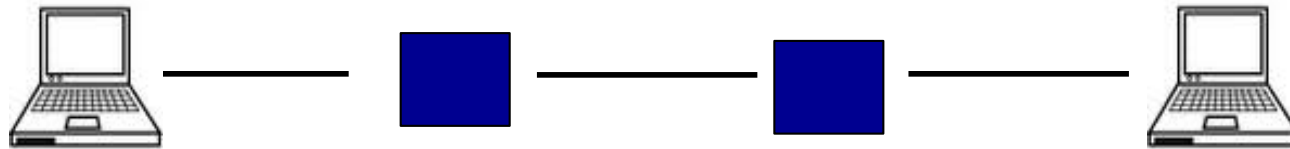
# Circuit switching: pros and cons

- Pros
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- Cons
  - **wastes bandwidth if traffic is “bursty”**

# Timing in Circuit Switching



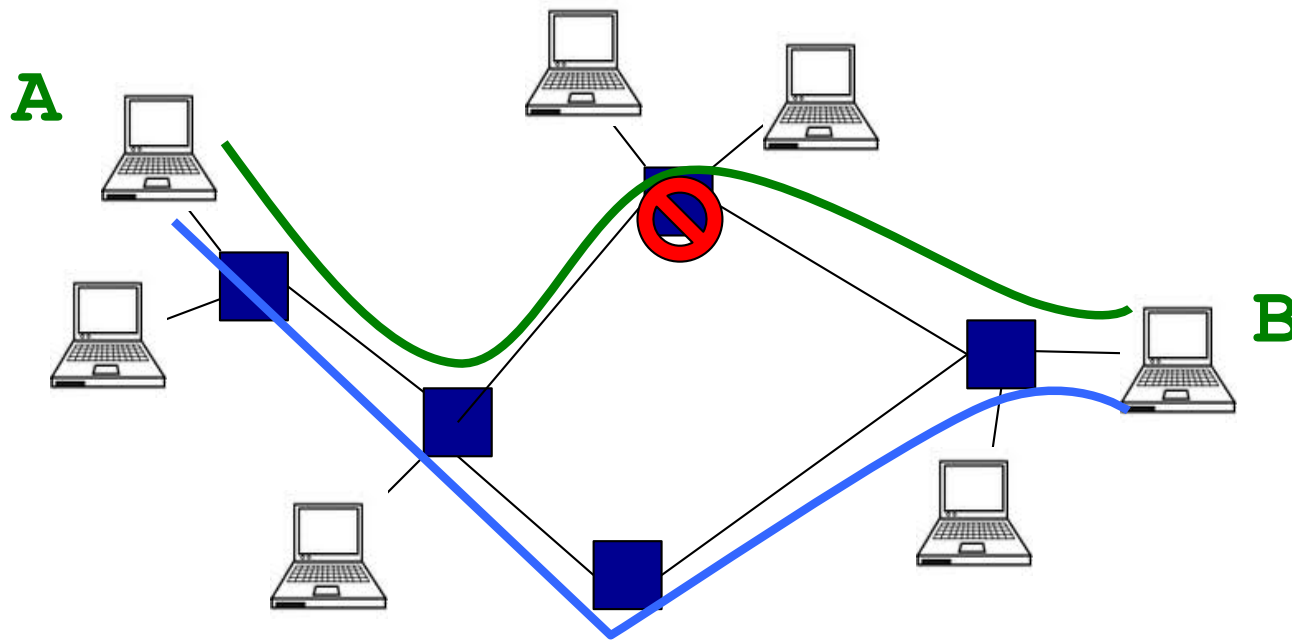
# Timing in Circuit Switching



# Circuit switching: pros and cons

- Pros
  - guaranteed performance
  - fast transfers (once circuit is established)
- Cons
  - wastes bandwidth if traffic is “bursty”
  - **connection setup time is overhead**

# Circuit switching



Circuit switching doesn't "route around failure"

# Circuit switching: pros and cons

- Pros
  - guaranteed performance
  - fast transfers (once circuit is established)
- Cons
  - wastes bandwidth if traffic is “bursty”
  - connection setup time is overhead
  - **recovery from failure is slow**

# Numerical example

- How long does it take to send a file of 640,000 bits from host A to host B over a circuit-switched network?
  - All links are 1.536 Mbps
  - Each link uses TDM with 24 slots/sec
  - 500 msec to establish end-to-end circuit

Let's work it out!



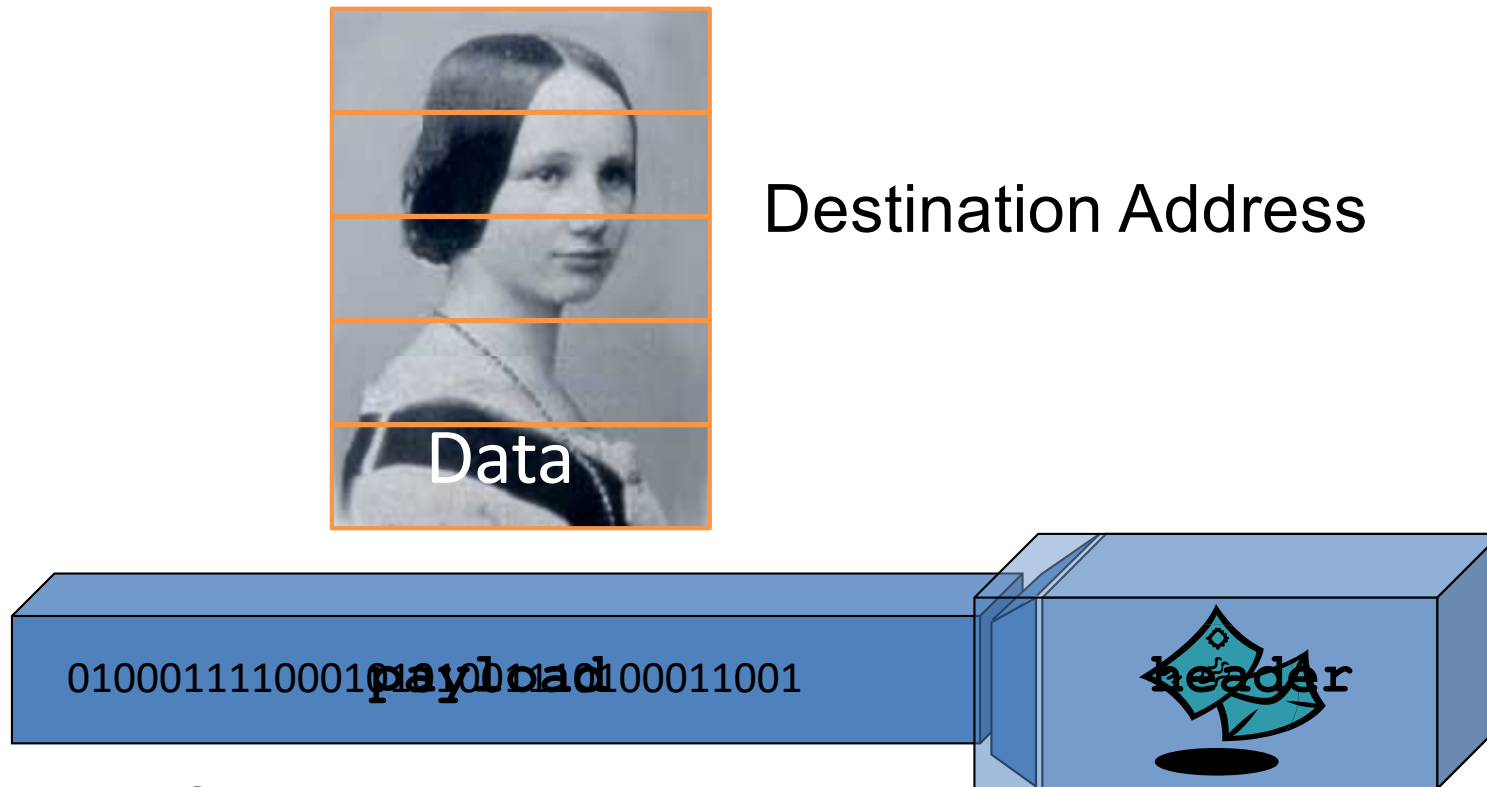
# Two examples of switched networks

- Circuit switching (used in the *POTS*: Plain Old Telephone system)
- Packet switching (used in the Internet)



# Packet Switching

- Data is sent as chunks of formatted bits (**Packets**)
- Packets consist of a “**header**” and “**payload**”\*



# Packet Switching

- Data is sent as chunks of formatted bits (**Packets**)
- Packets consist of a “**header**” and “**payload**”<sup>\*</sup>
  - payload is the data being carried
  - header holds instructions to the network for how to handle packet (think of the header as an API)
  - In this example, the header has a destination address
  - More complex headers may include
    - How this traffic should be handled? (first class, second class, etc)
    - Do I acknowledge this? Who signed for it?
    - Were the contents ok?

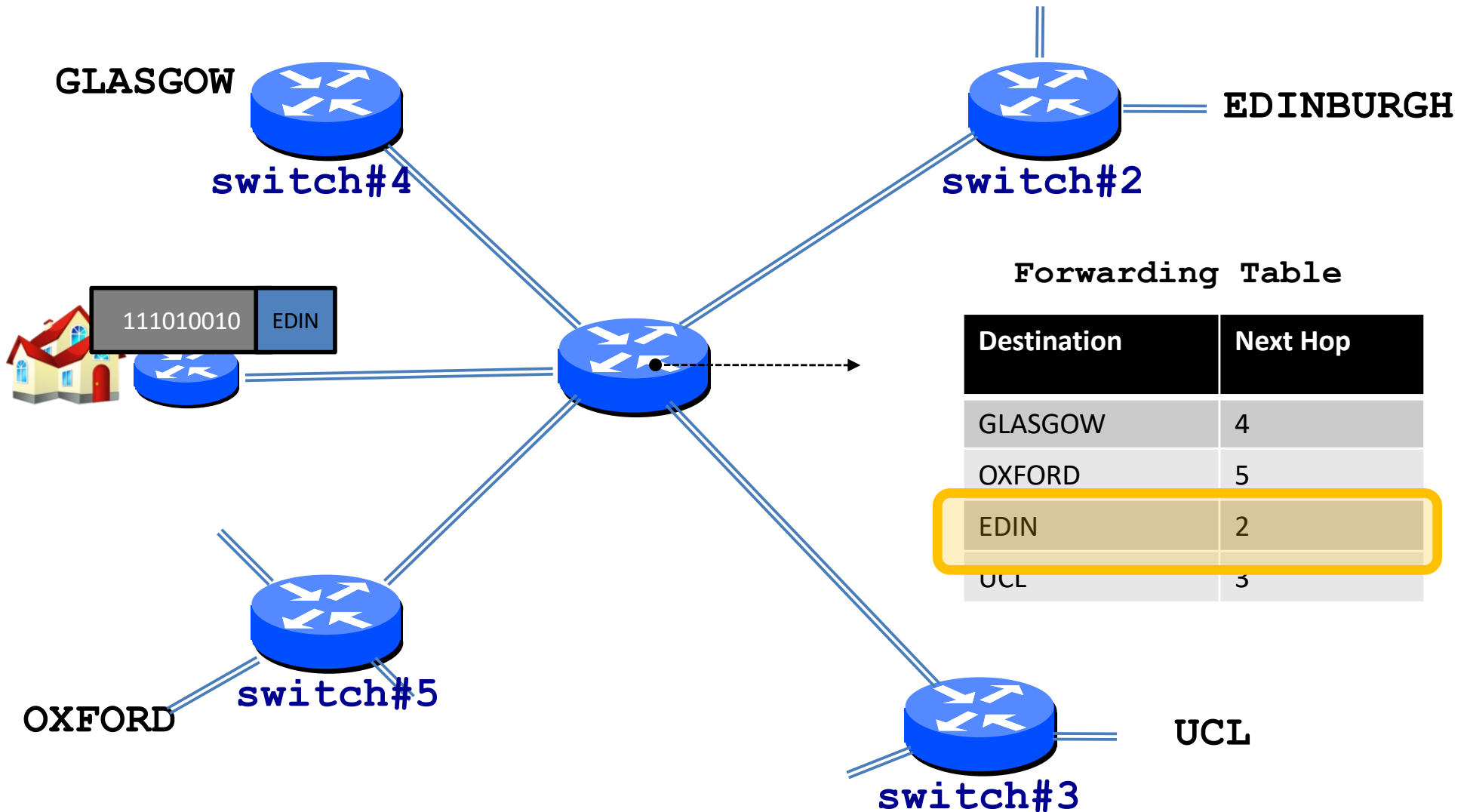
# Packet Switching

- Data is sent as chunks of formatted bits (Packets)
- Packets consist of a “header” and “payload”
- Switches “forward” packets based on their headers

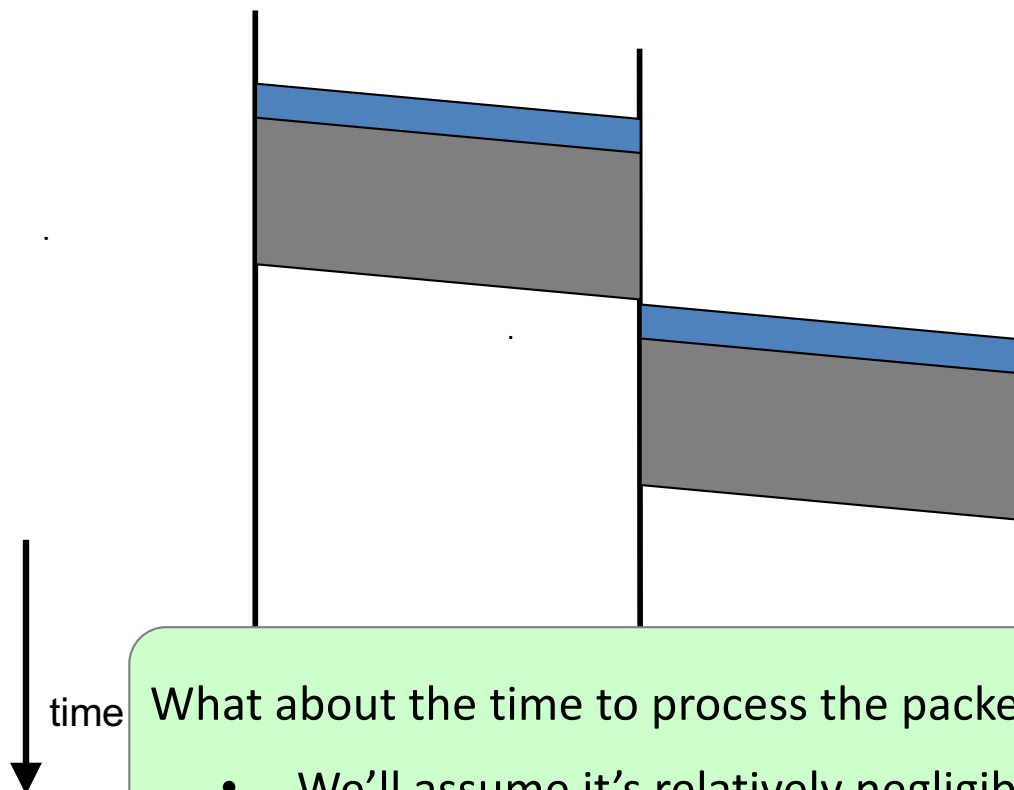
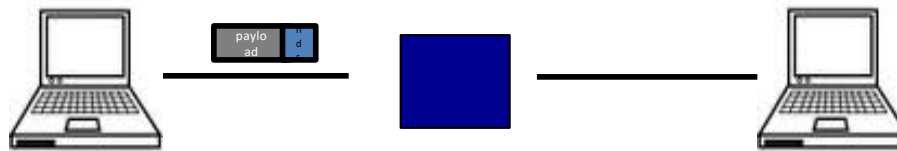
*A switch looks at the header and immediately decides which physical port*

***In a switch: address maps to port***

# Switches forward packets



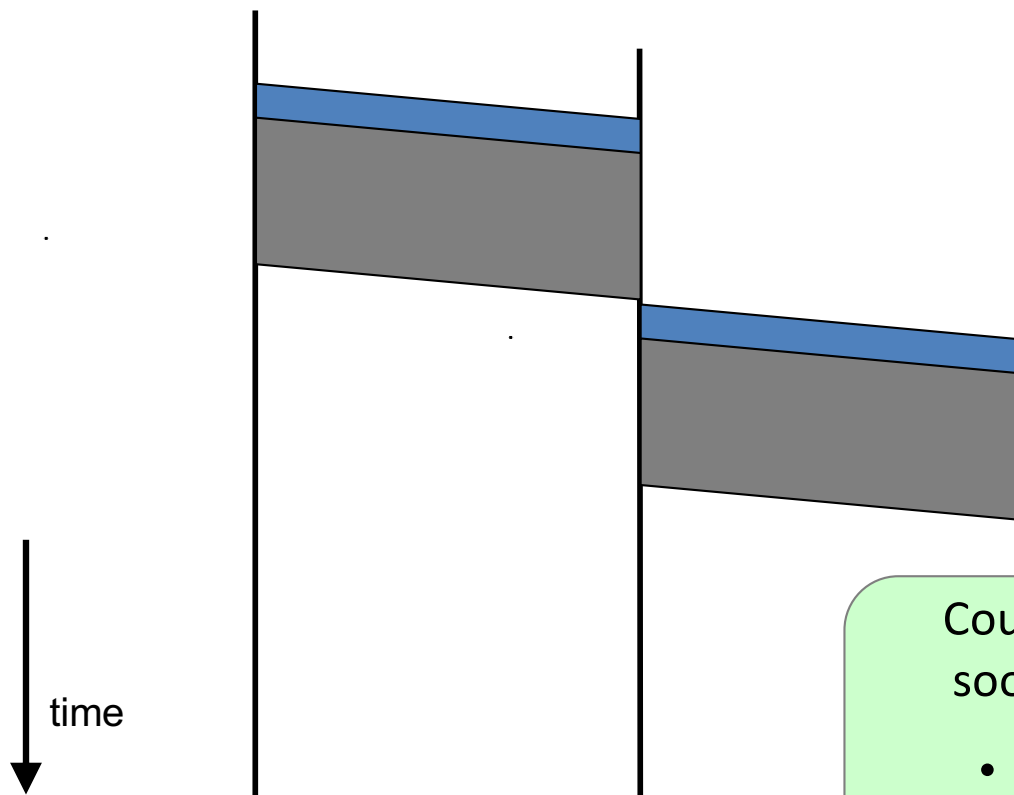
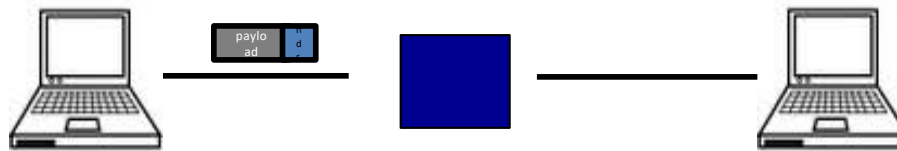
# Timing in Packet Switching



What about the time to process the packet at the switch?

- We'll assume it's relatively negligible (mostly true)

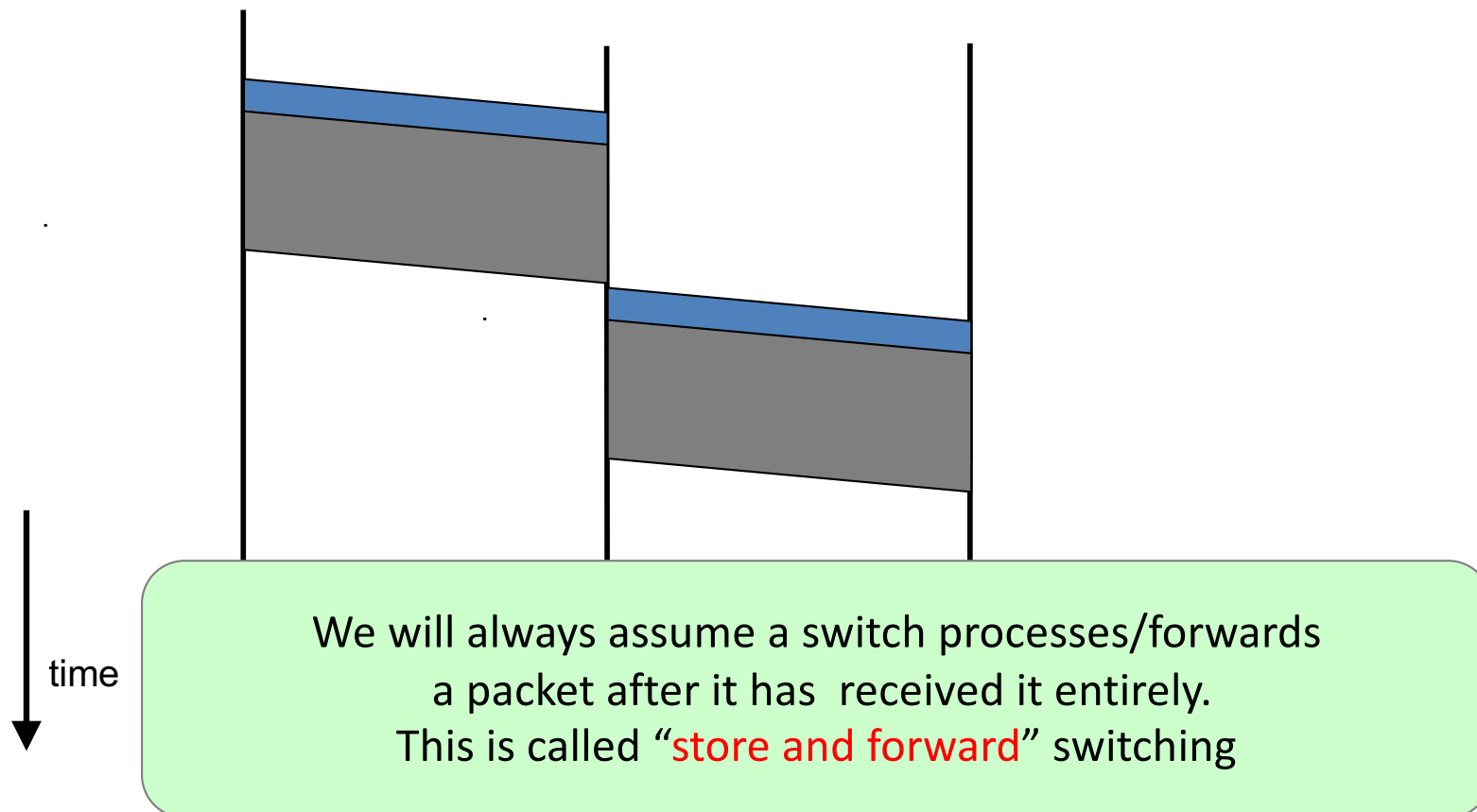
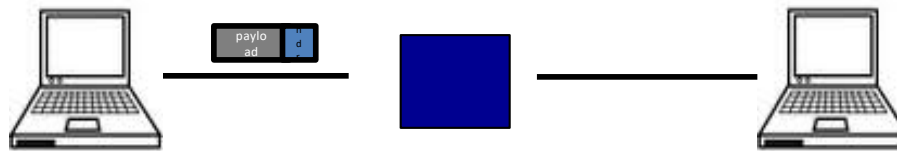
# Timing in Packet Switching



Could the switch start transmitting as soon as it has processed the header?

- Yes! This would be called a “cut through” switch

# Timing in Packet Switching





# Packet Switching

- Data is sent as chunks of formatted bits (Packets)
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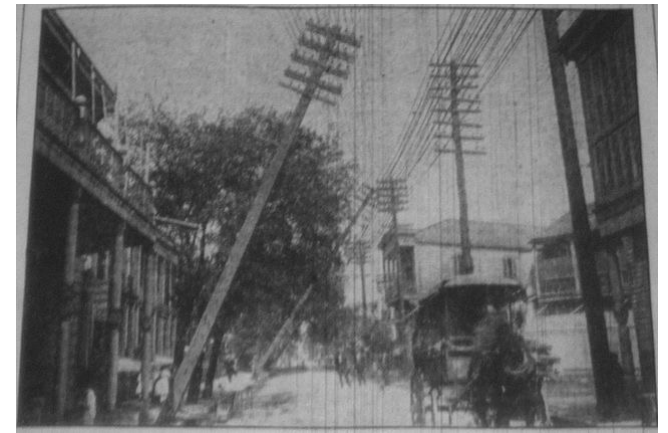
# Packet Switching

- Data is sent as chunks of formatted bits (Packets)
- Packets consist of a “header” and “payload”
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- Each packet travels independently
  - no notion of packets belonging to a “circuit”

# Packet Switching

- Data is sent as chunks of formatted bits (Packets)
- Packets consist of a “header” and “payload”
- Switches “forward” packets based on their headers
- Each packet travels independently
- No link resources are reserved in advance. Instead packet switching leverages **statistical multiplexing** (stat muxing)

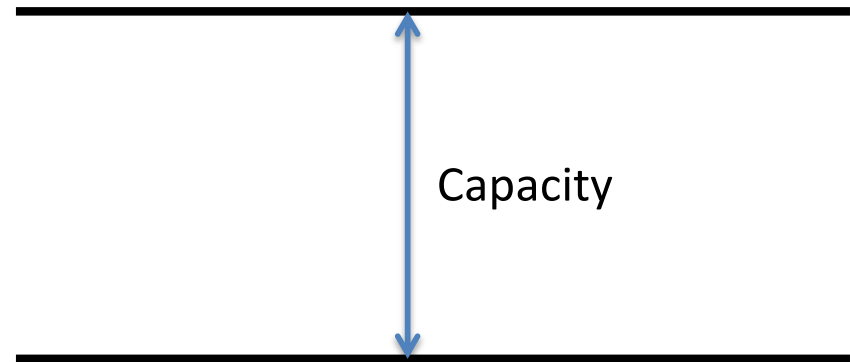
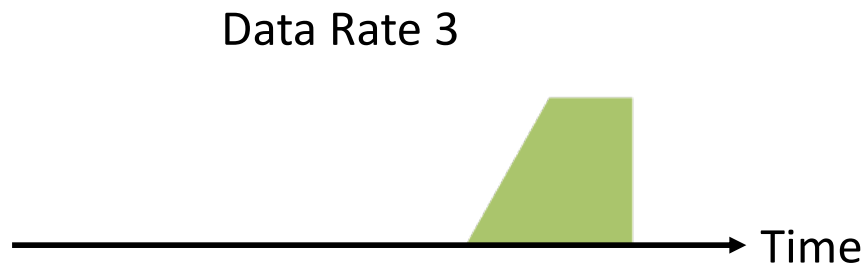
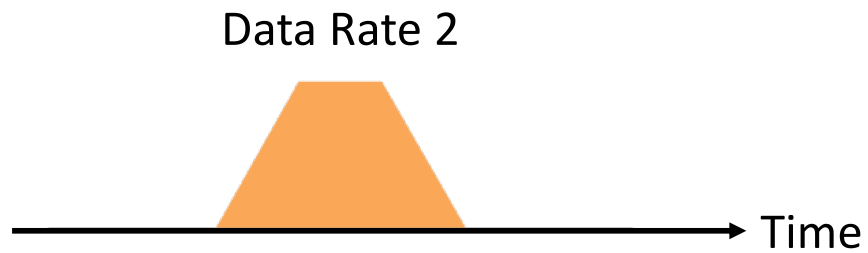
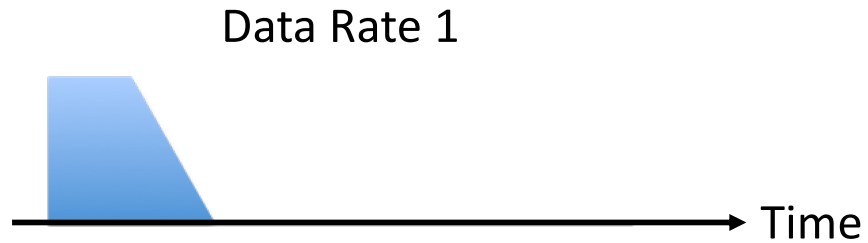
# Multiplexing



Sharing makes things efficient (cost less)

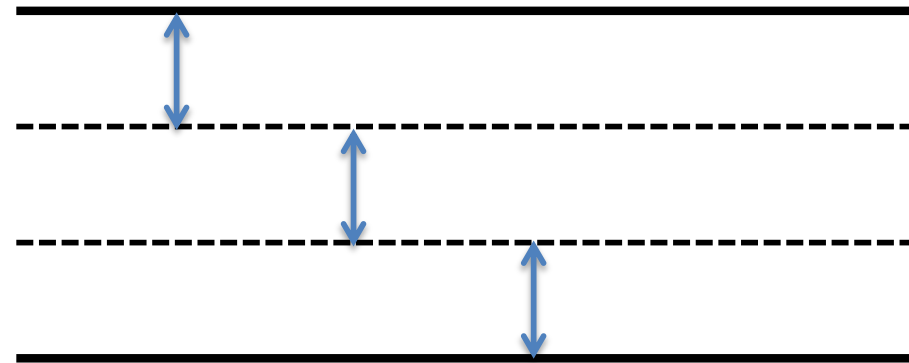
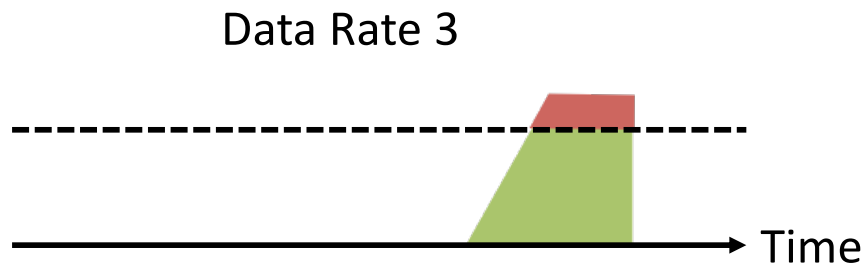
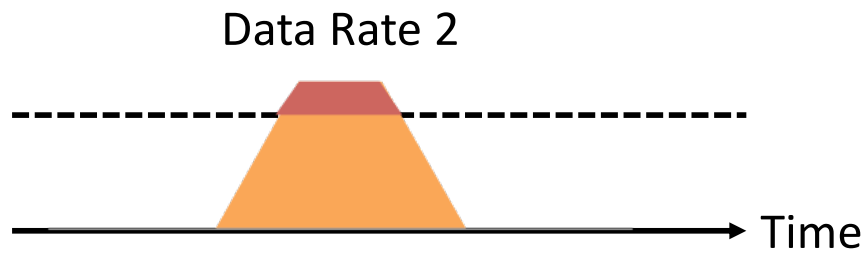
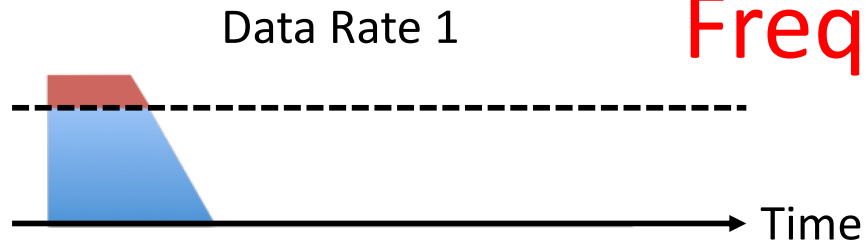
- One airplane/train for 100's of people
- One telephone for many calls
- One lecture theatre for many classes
- One computer for many tasks
- One network for many computers
- One datacenter many applications

# Three Flows with Bursty Traffic



# When Each Flow Gets 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Capacity

## Frequent Overloading



# When Flows Share Total Capacity

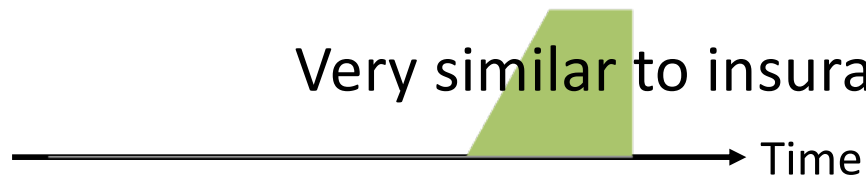


No Overloading

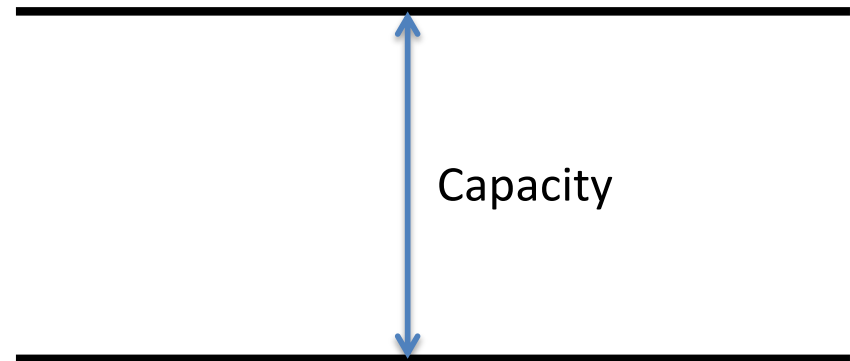
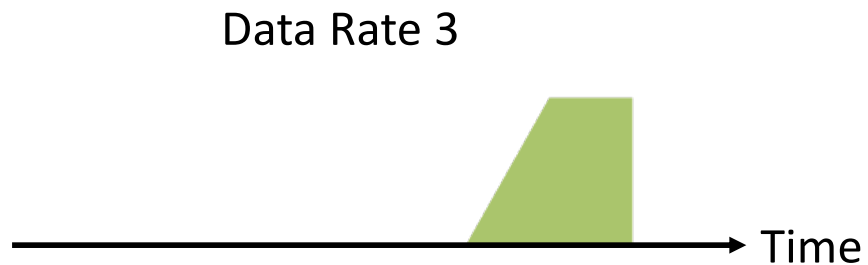
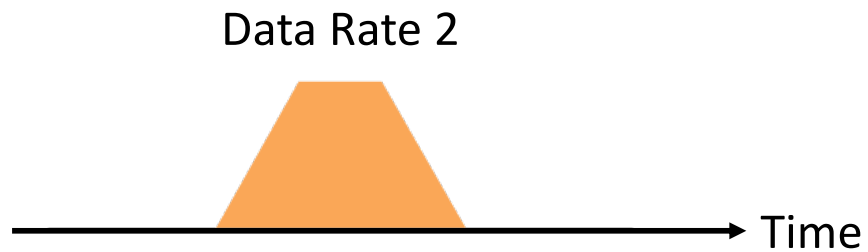
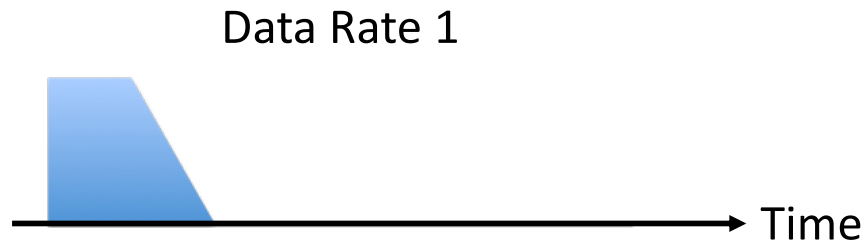


Statistical multiplexing relies on the assumption that not all flows burst at the same time.

Very similar to insurance, and has same failure case



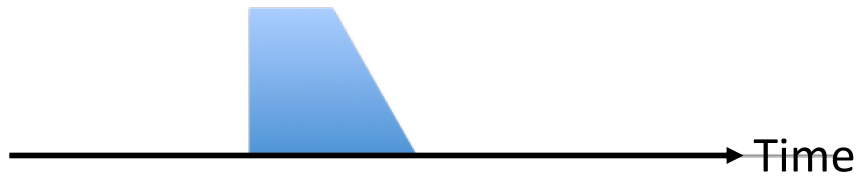
# Three Flows with Bursty Traffic



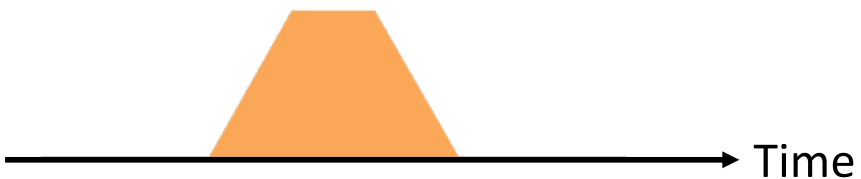


# Three Flows with Bursty Traffic

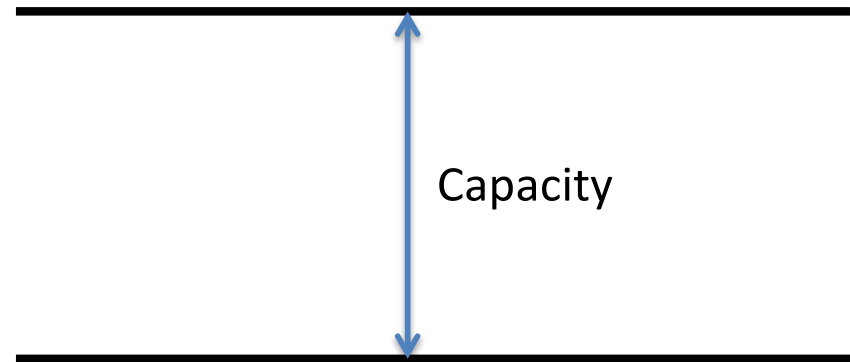
Data Rate 1



Data Rate 2

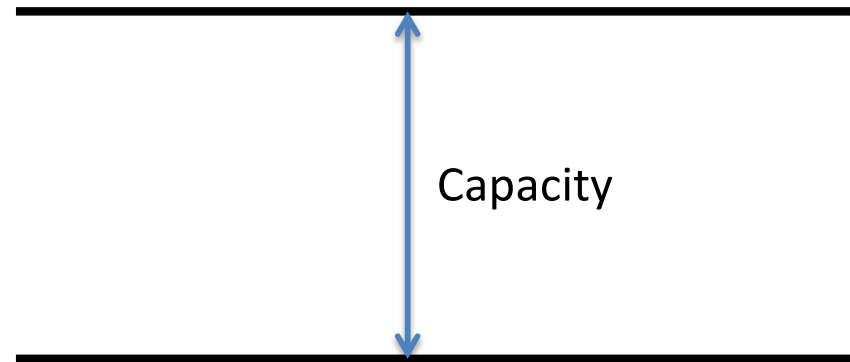
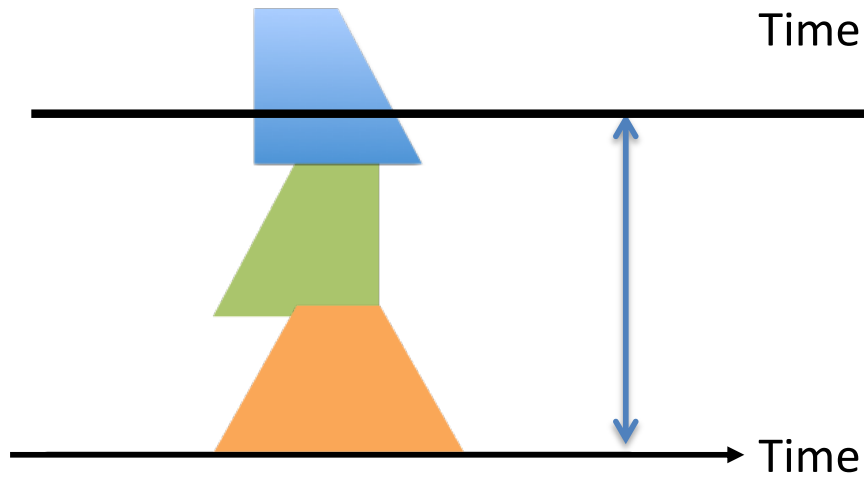


Data Rate 3



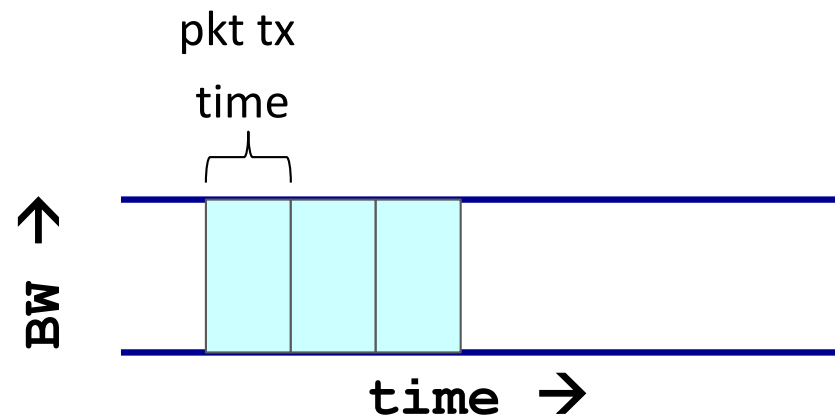
# Three Flows with Bursty Traffic

Data Rate  $1+2+3 \gg$  Capacity

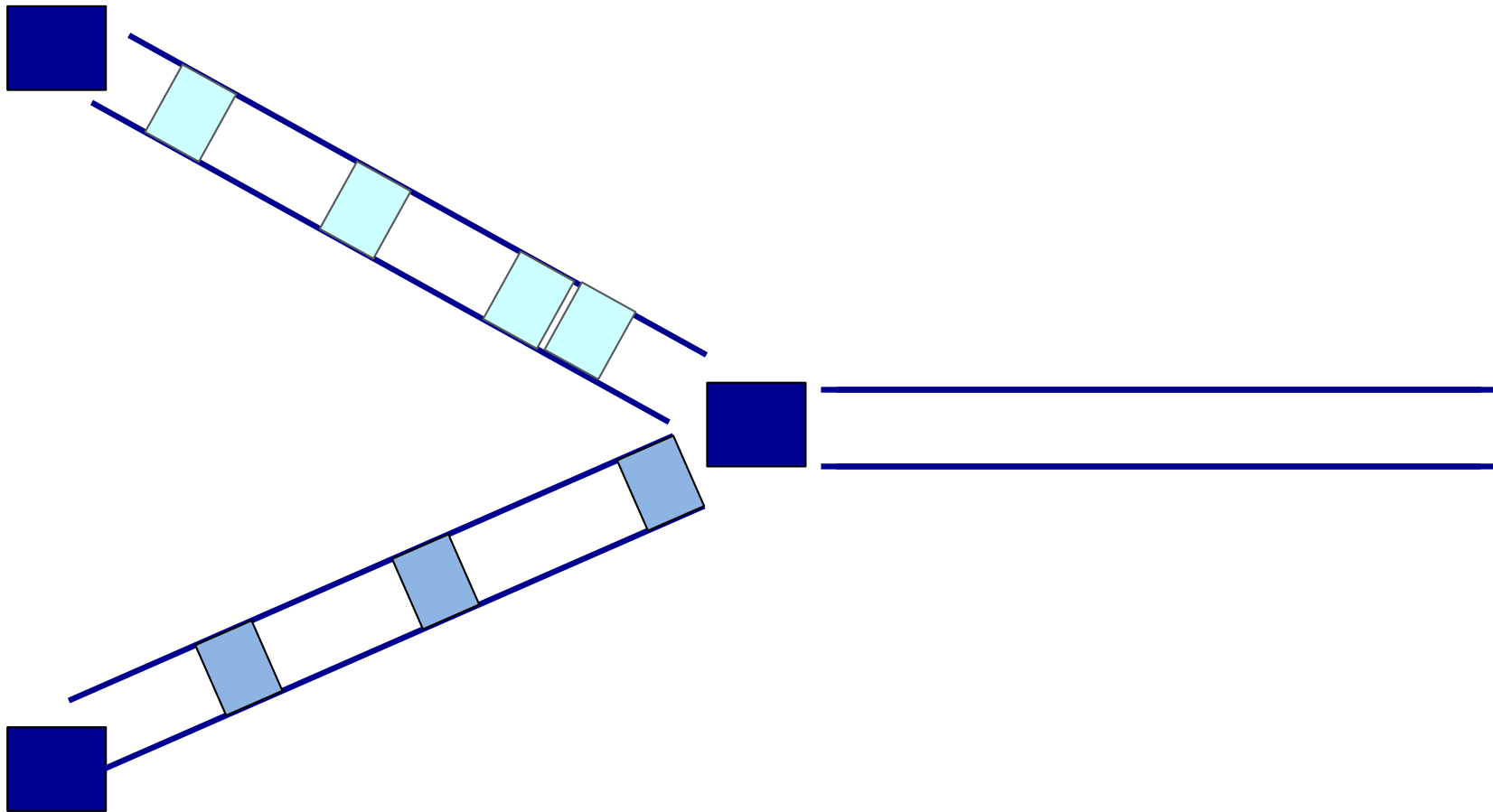


What do we do under overload?

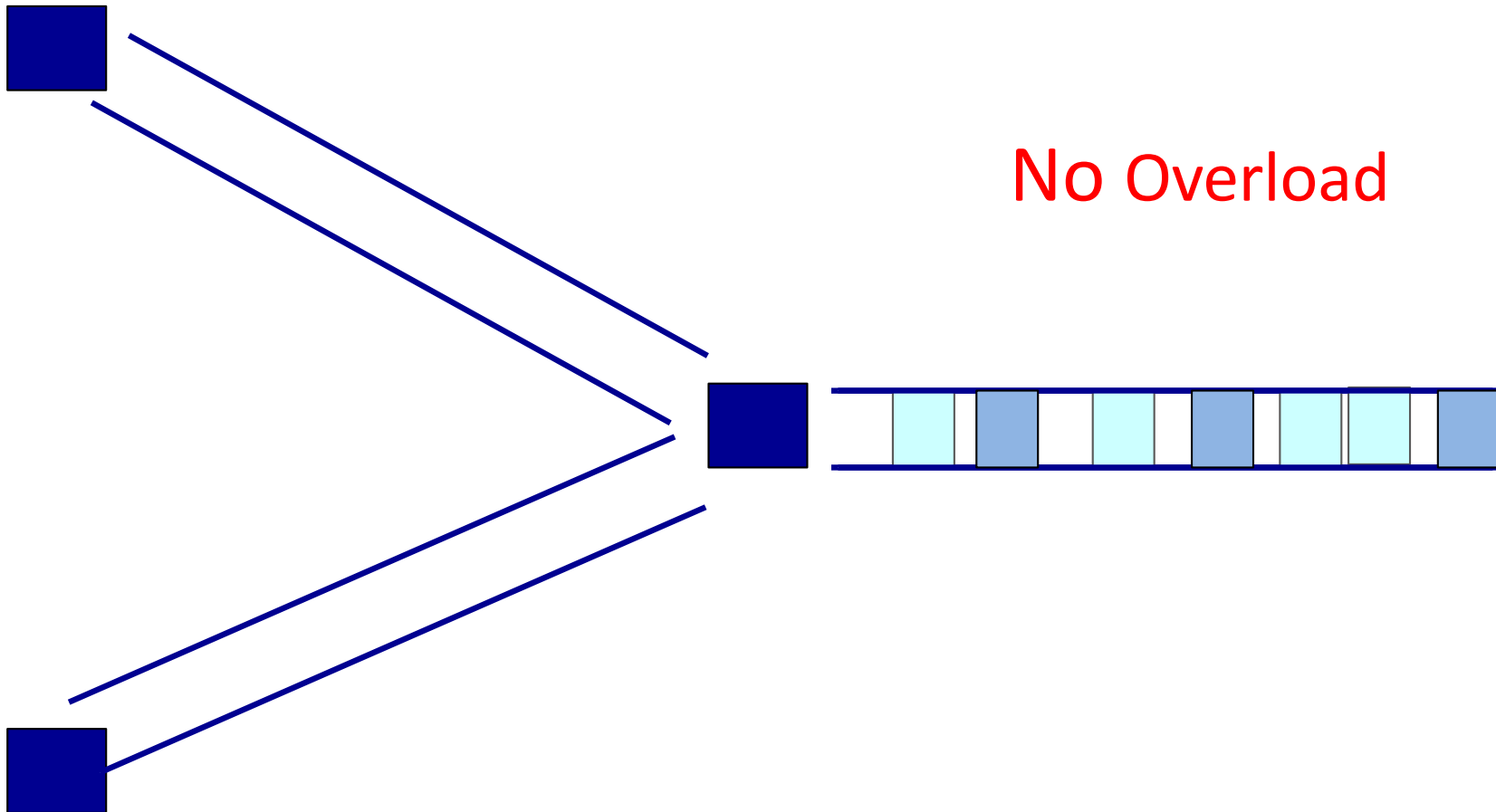
# Statistical multiplexing: pipe view



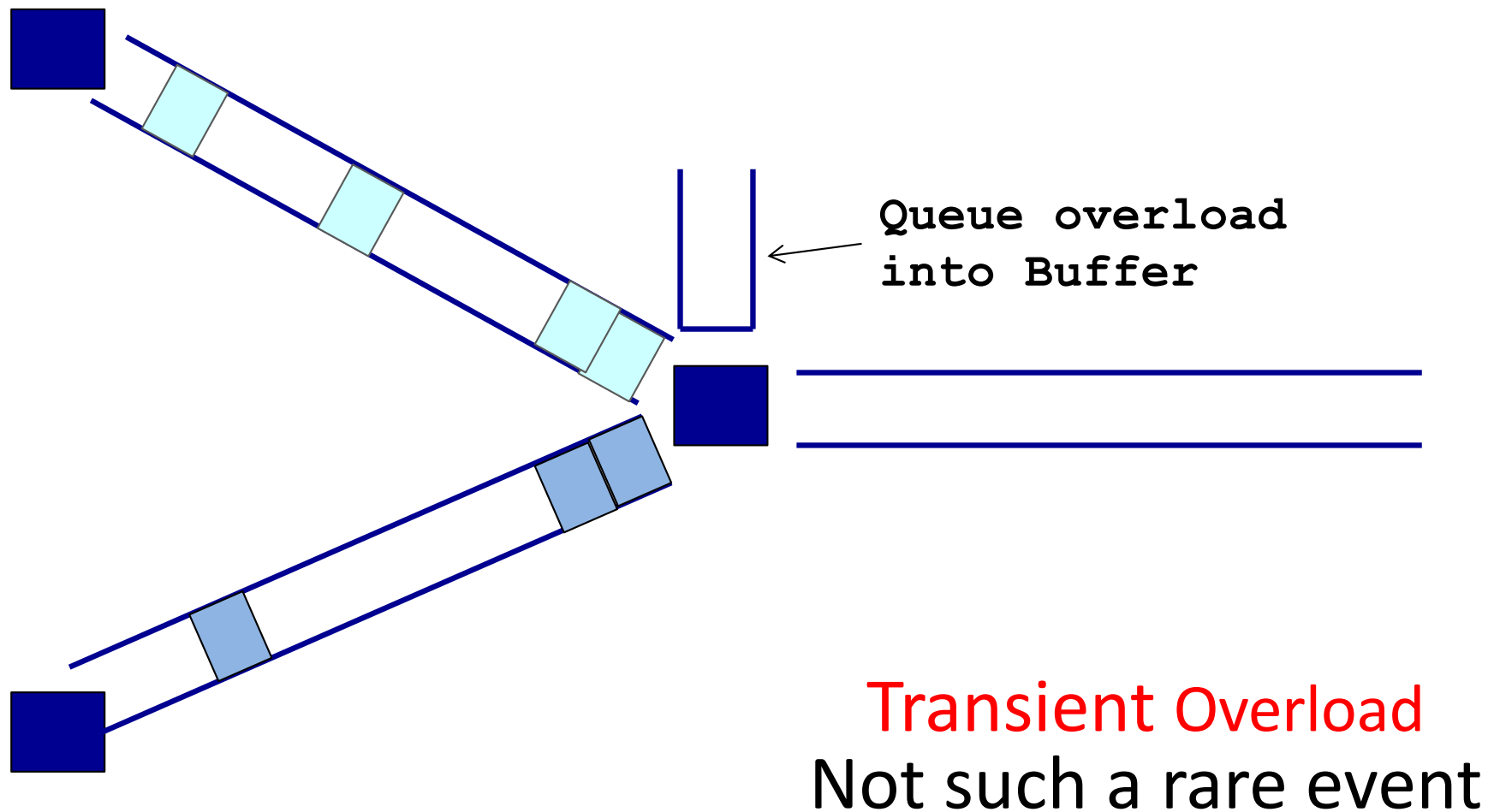
# Statistical multiplexing: pipe view



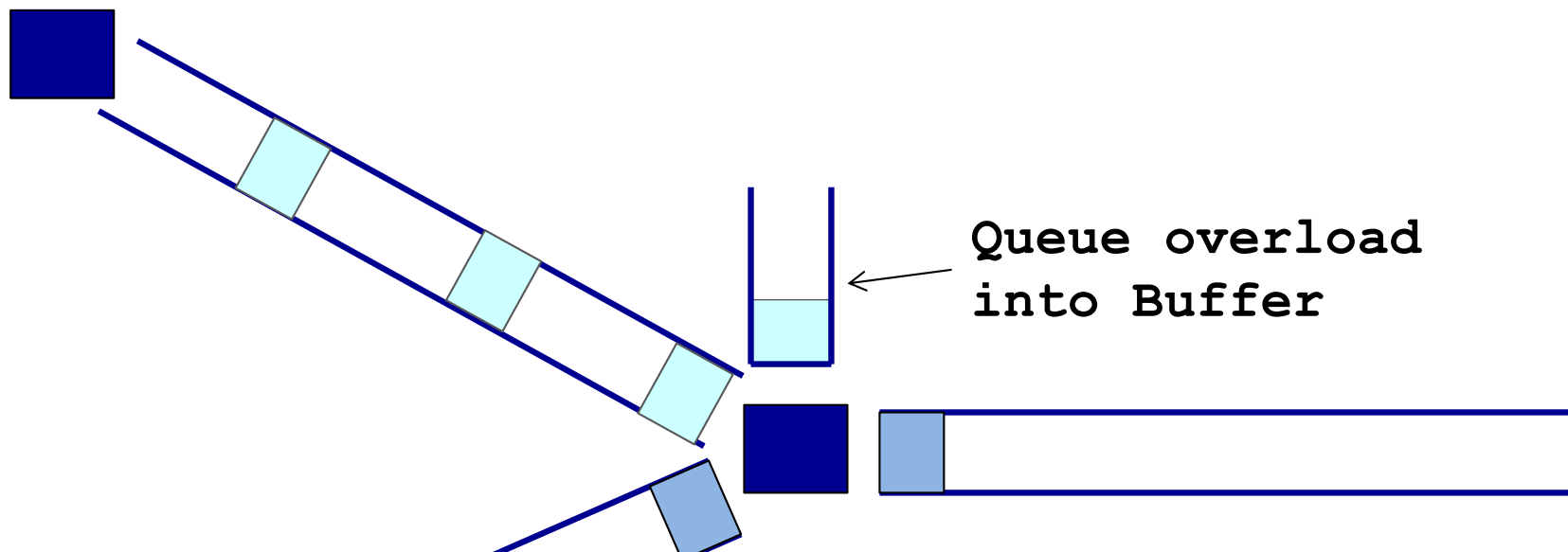
# Statistical multiplexing: pipe view



# Statistical multiplexing: pipe view

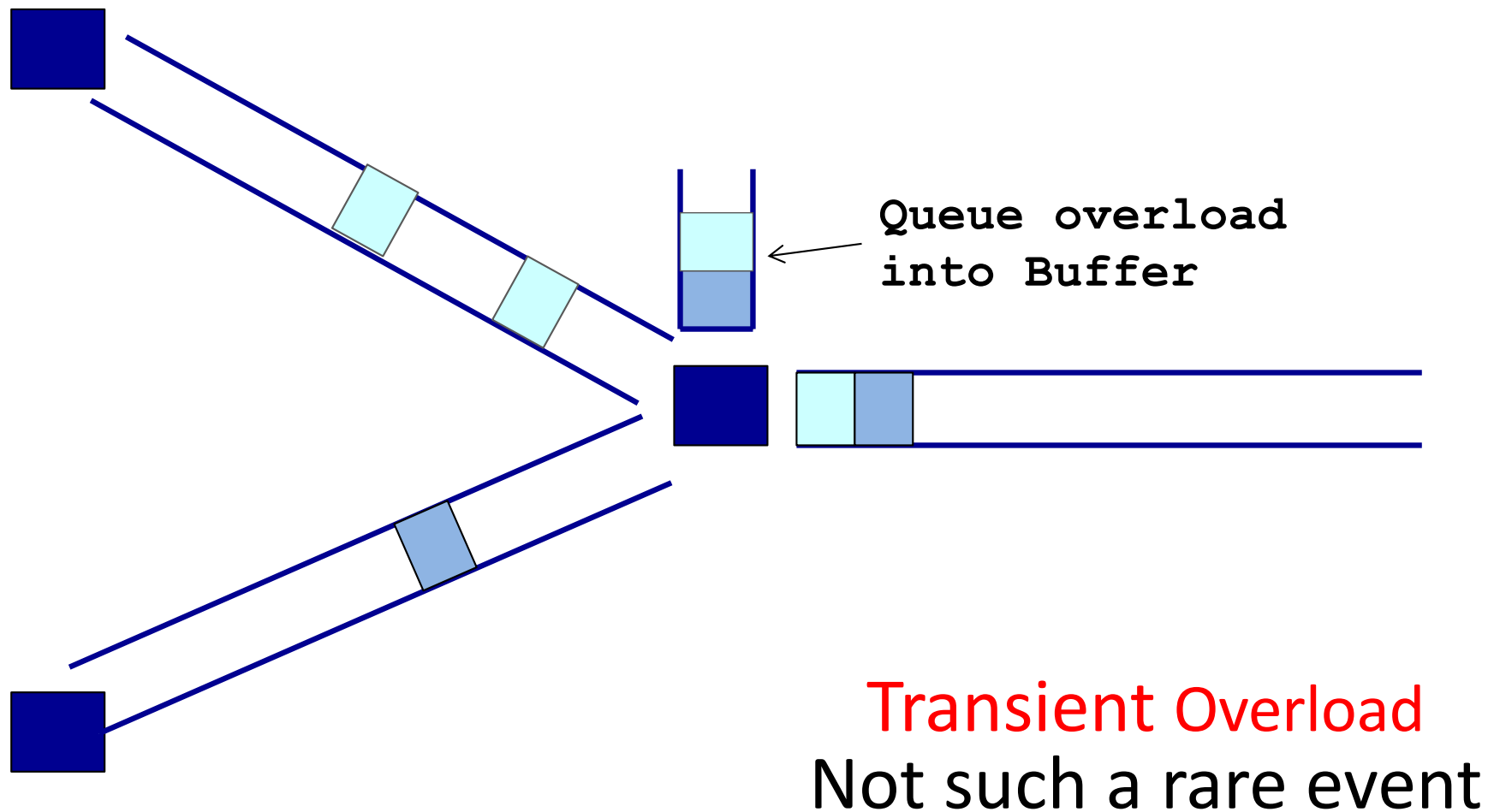


# Statistical multiplexing: pipe view



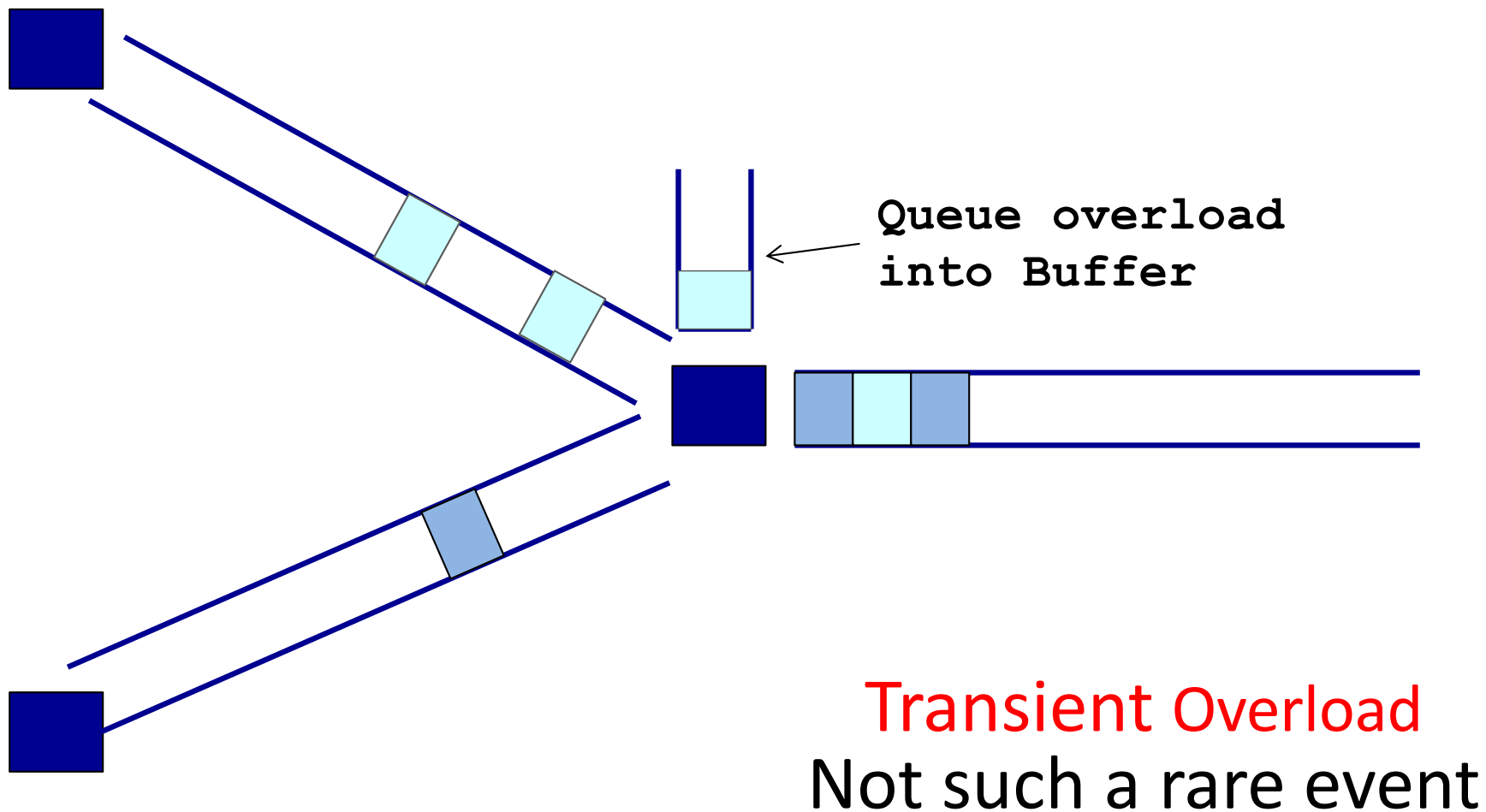
**Transient Overload**  
Not such a rare event

# Statistical multiplexing: pipe view

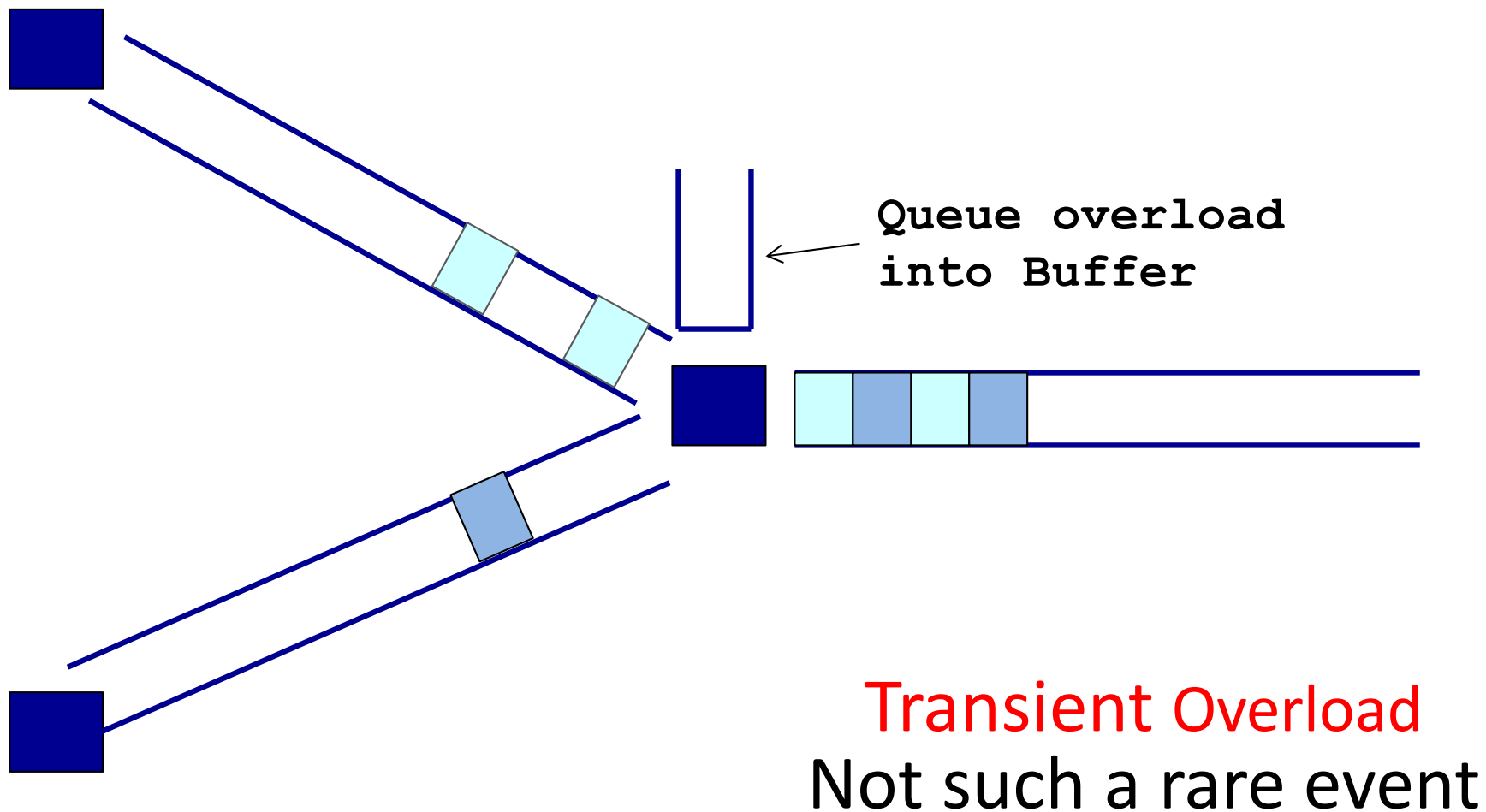




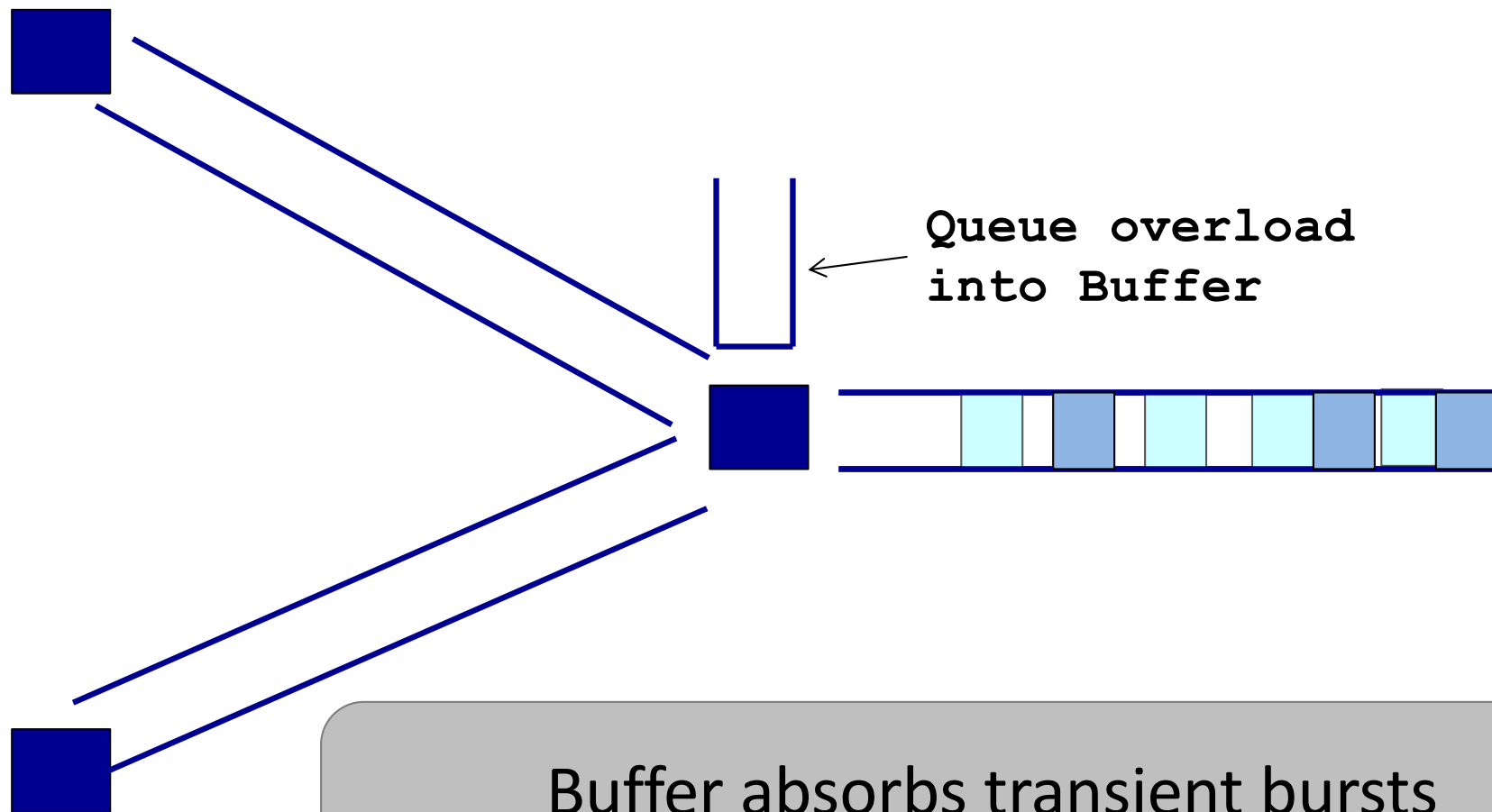
# Statistical multiplexing: pipe view



# Statistical multiplexing: pipe view

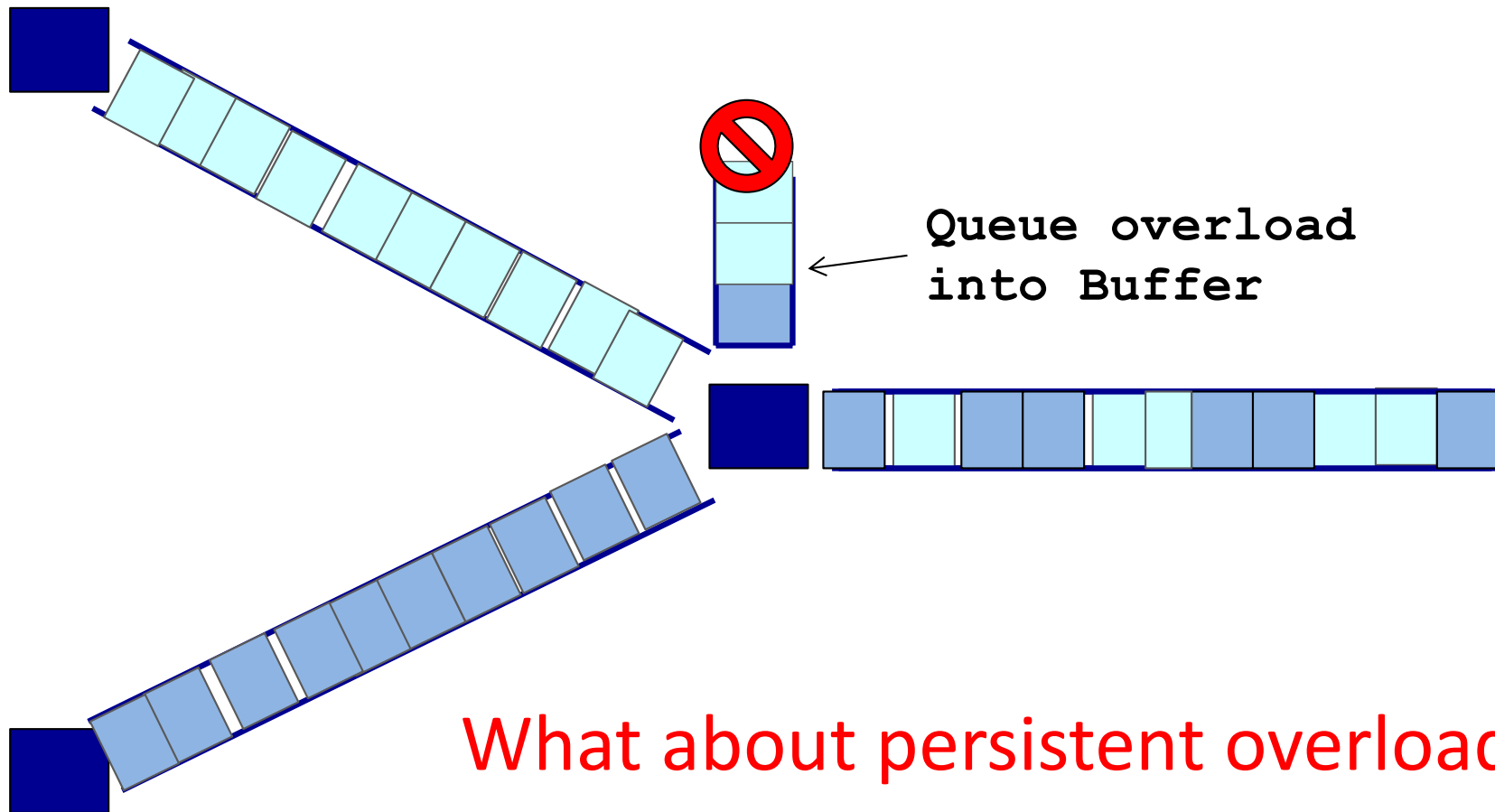


# Statistical multiplexing: pipe view



Buffer absorbs transient bursts  
But *NOT* additional capacity

# Statistical multiplexing: pipe view



What about persistent overload?

Will eventually drop packets

# Queues introduce queuing delays

- Recall,

packet delay = transmission delay + propagation delay (\*)

- With queues (statistical multiplexing)

packet delay = transmission delay + propagation delay + queuing delay (\*)

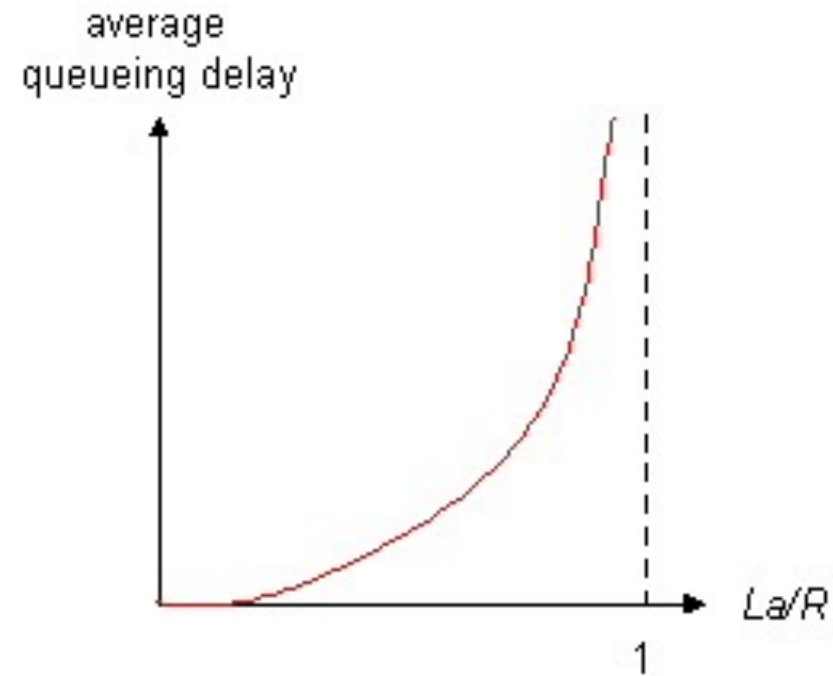
- Queuing delay caused by “packet interference”
- Made worse at high load
  - less “idle time” to absorb bursts
  - think about traffic jams at rush hour  
or rail network failure

(\* plus per-hop *processing* delay that we define as negligible)

# Queuing delay extremes

- $R$ =link bandwidth (bps)
  - $L$ =packet length (bits)
  - $a$ =average packet arrival rate
- rate

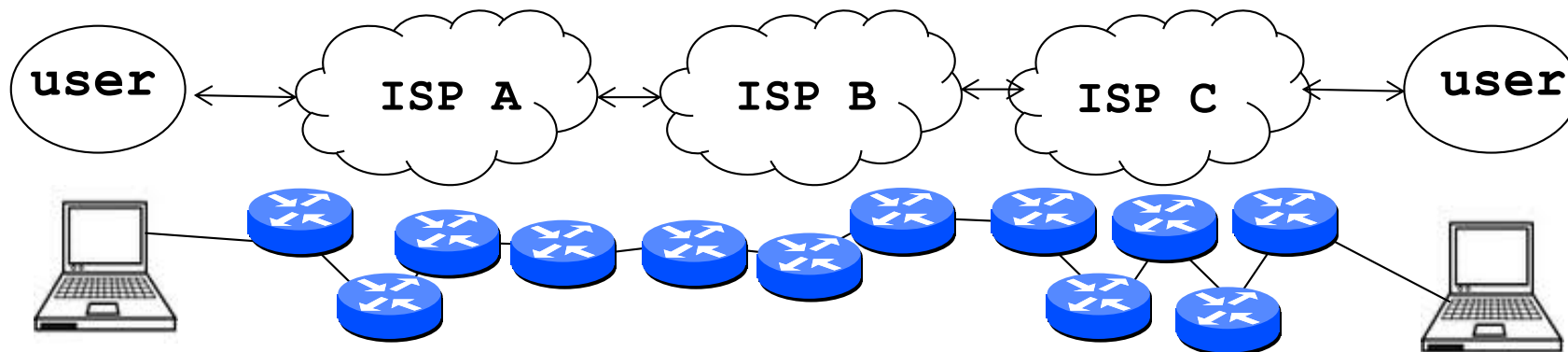
traffic intensity =  $La/R$



- ❑  $La/R \sim 0$ : average queuing delay small
- ❑  $La/R \rightarrow 1$ : delays become large
- ❑  $La/R > 1$ : more “work” arriving than can be serviced, average delay infinite – or data is lost (*dropped*).

# Recall the Internet *federation*

- The Internet ties together different networks
  - >20,000 ISP networks



We can see (hints) of the nodes and links using traceroute...

# “Real” Internet delays and routes

traceroute: rio.cl.cam.ac.uk to people.eng.unimelb.edu.au

(tracepath on winows is similar)

Three delay measurements from

rio.cl.cam.ac.uk to gatwick.net.cl.cam.ac.uk

```
awm22@rio:~$ traceroute people.eng.unimelb.edu.au
traceroute to people.eng.unimelb.edu.au (128.250.59.37), 30 hops max, 60 byte packets
 1  vlan101.gatwick.net.cl.cam.ac.uk (128.232.32.2)  1.520 ms  1.822 ms  0.709 ms
 2  cl-wgb.d-mw.net.cam.ac.uk (193.60.89.5)  0.259 ms  0.256 ms  0.227 ms
 3  d-mw.c-ce.net.cam.ac.uk (131.111.6.53)  0.231 ms  0.381 ms  0.357 ms
 4  c-ce.b-ec.net.cam.ac.uk (131.111.6.82)  0.317 ms  0.481 ms  0.476 ms
 5  ae0.lowdss-ban1.ja.net (146.97.41.37)  2.842 ms  2.846 ms  2.821 ms
 6  ae26.lowdss-sbr1.ja.net (146.97.35.245)  2.877 ms  2.805 ms  2.795 ms
 7  ae28.londhx-sbr1.ja.net (146.97.33.17)  6.191 ms  6.109 ms  6.325 ms
 8  janet.mx1.lon.uk.geant.net (62.40.124.197)  6.319 ms  6.245 ms  6.258 ms
 9  138.44.226.6 (138.44.226.6)  169.704 ms  169.722 ms  169.682 ms
10  et-7-3-0.pe1.wmlb.vic.aarnet.net.au (113.197.15.28)  250.954 ms  251.163 ms  251.116 ms
11  * * *
12  4000v-eng-web-people-l.eng.unimelb.edu.au (128.250.59.37)  251.943 ms  251.952 ms  251.962 ms
13  4000v-eng-web-people-l.eng.unimelb.edu.au (128.250.59.37)  252.053 ms  252.018 ms  251.966 ms
14  * * *
15  4000v-eng-web-people-l.eng.unimelb.edu.au (128.250.59.37)  252.215 ms  252.088 ms  252.118 ms
16  4000v-eng-web-people-l.eng.unimelb.edu.au (128.250.59.37)  253.361 ms  253.109 ms  253.461 ms
17  4000v-eng-web-people-l.eng.unimelb.edu.au (128.250.59.37)  253.077 ms  253.832 ms  253.298 ms
18  * * *
....
29  * * *
30  * * *
```

Direct London-Perth

Australian link

\* means no response (probe or reply lost, router not replying)



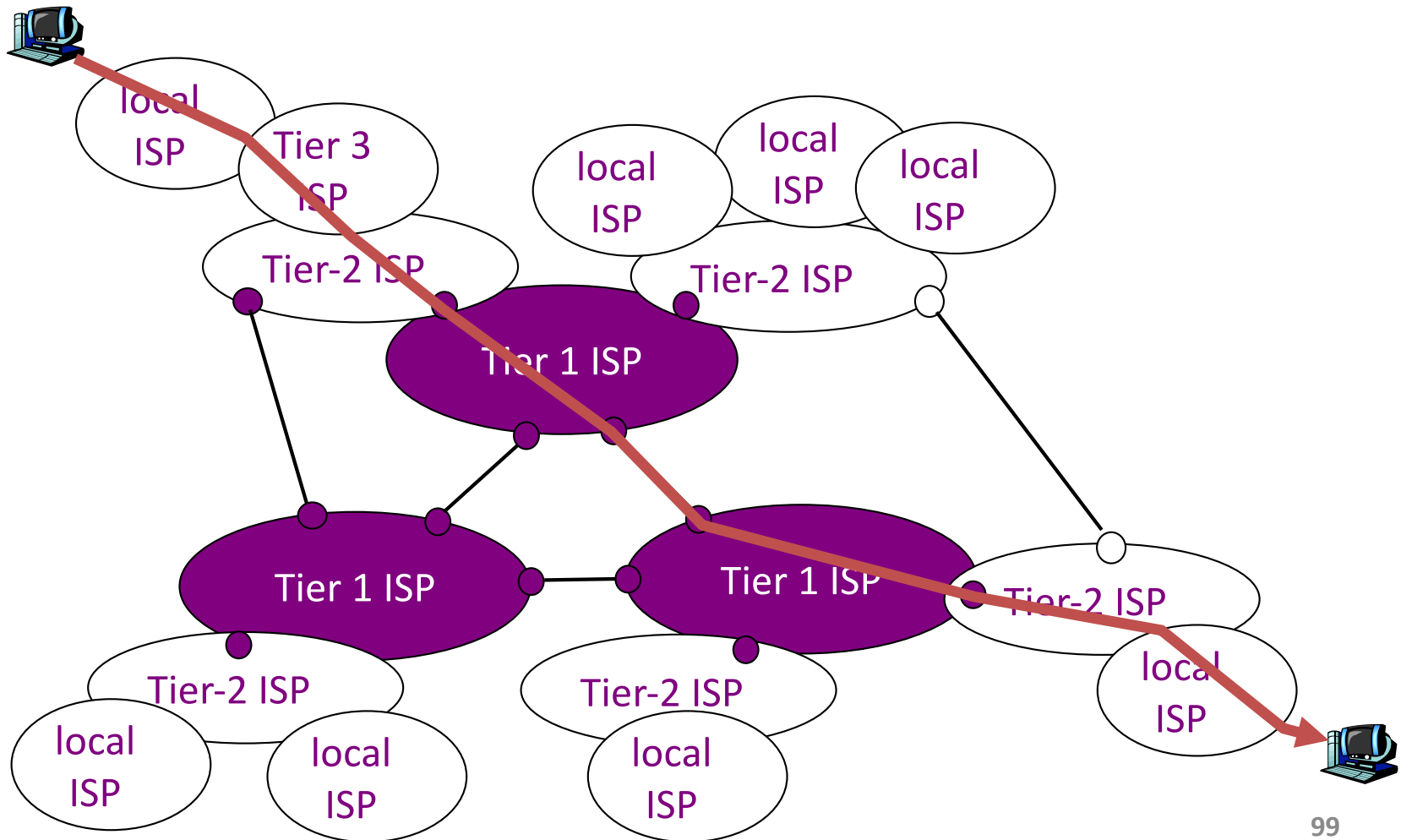
# traceroute: rio.cl.cam.ac.uk to www.caida.org

```
rio:~$ traceroute --resolve-hostnames www.caida.org
traceroute to www.caida.org (192.172.226.122), 64 hops max
 1 128.232.64.2 (vlan398.gatwick.net.cl.cam.ac.uk) 3.760ms 2.060ms 1.226ms
 2 193.60.89.5 (cl-wgb.d-mw.net.cam.ac.uk) 53.777ms 67.458ms 0.556ms
 3 131.111.7.53 (d-mw.c-hi.net.cam.ac.uk) 0.638ms 0.621ms 0.658ms
 4 131.111.7.82 (c-hi.b-jc.net.cam.ac.uk) 0.353ms 0.346ms 0.338ms
 5 131.111.7.217 (ips-out.b-jc.net.cam.ac.uk) 0.582ms 0.441ms 0.397ms
 6 146.97.41.37 (ae0.lowdss-ban1.ja.net) 2.754ms 2.648ms 2.701ms
 7 146.97.35.245 (ae26.lowdss-sbr1.ja.net) 2.852ms 2.728ms 2.738ms
 8 146.97.33.25 (ae30.erdiss-sbr2.ja.net) 5.412ms 5.177ms 4.474ms
 9 146.97.33.21 (ae31.londpg-sbr2.ja.net) 8.408ms 8.213ms 8.293ms
10 62.40.125.57 (janet-bckp.mx1.lon2.uk.geant.net) 9.199ms 9.140ms 9.108ms
11 62.40.98.64 (ae2.mx1.lon.uk.geant.net) 10.119ms 9.818ms 9.756ms
12 62.40.124.45 (internet2-gw.mx1.lon.uk.geant.net) 95.065ms 95.962ms 95.434ms
13 163.253.1.120 (fourhundredge-0-0-0-0.4079.core2.ashb.net.internet2.edu) 152.834ms 153.562ms 154.448ms
14 163.253.1.139 (fourhundredge-0-0-0-1.4079.core2.clev.net.internet2.edu) 154.008ms 153.800ms 154.429ms
15 163.253.2.17 (fourhundredge-0-0-0-2.4079.core2.eqch.net.internet2.edu) 155.463ms 154.863ms 154.334ms
16 163.253.1.66 (fourhundredge-0-0-0-18.4079.core1.eqch.net.internet2.edu) 153.802ms 153.600ms 154.553ms
17 163.253.1.206 (fourhundredge-0-0-0-1.4079.core1.chic.net.internet2.edu) 154.783ms 154.926ms 154.796ms
18 163.253.2.29 (fourhundredge-0-0-0-1.4079.core2.kans.net.internet2.edu) 152.851ms 152.414ms 154.916ms
19 163.253.1.250 (fourhundredge-0-0-0-1.4079.core2.denv.net.internet2.edu) 155.571ms 155.047ms 154.572ms
20 163.253.1.169 (fourhundredge-0-0-0-3.4079.core2.salt.net.internet2.edu) 153.369ms 153.824ms 154.321ms
21 163.253.1.114 (fourhundredge-0-0-0-8.4079.core1.losa.net.internet2.edu) 153.786ms 153.549ms 154.839ms
22 137.164.26.200 (hpr-lax-agg10--i2.cenic.net) 152.552ms 153.465ms 152.493ms
23 137.164.25.89 (hpr-sdg-agg4--lax-agg10-100ge.cenic.net) 154.682ms 154.604ms 154.752ms
24 137.164.26.43 (hpr-sdsc-100ge--sdg-hpr3.cenic.net) 167.094ms 154.553ms 154.627ms
25 192.12.207.46 (medusa-mx960.sdsc.edu) 154.854ms 154.646ms 156.379ms
26 192.172.226.122 (proxy.caida.org) 154.581ms 154.390ms 154.477ms
```

A little more interesting because each hop resolves to a name (caida is in San Diego)

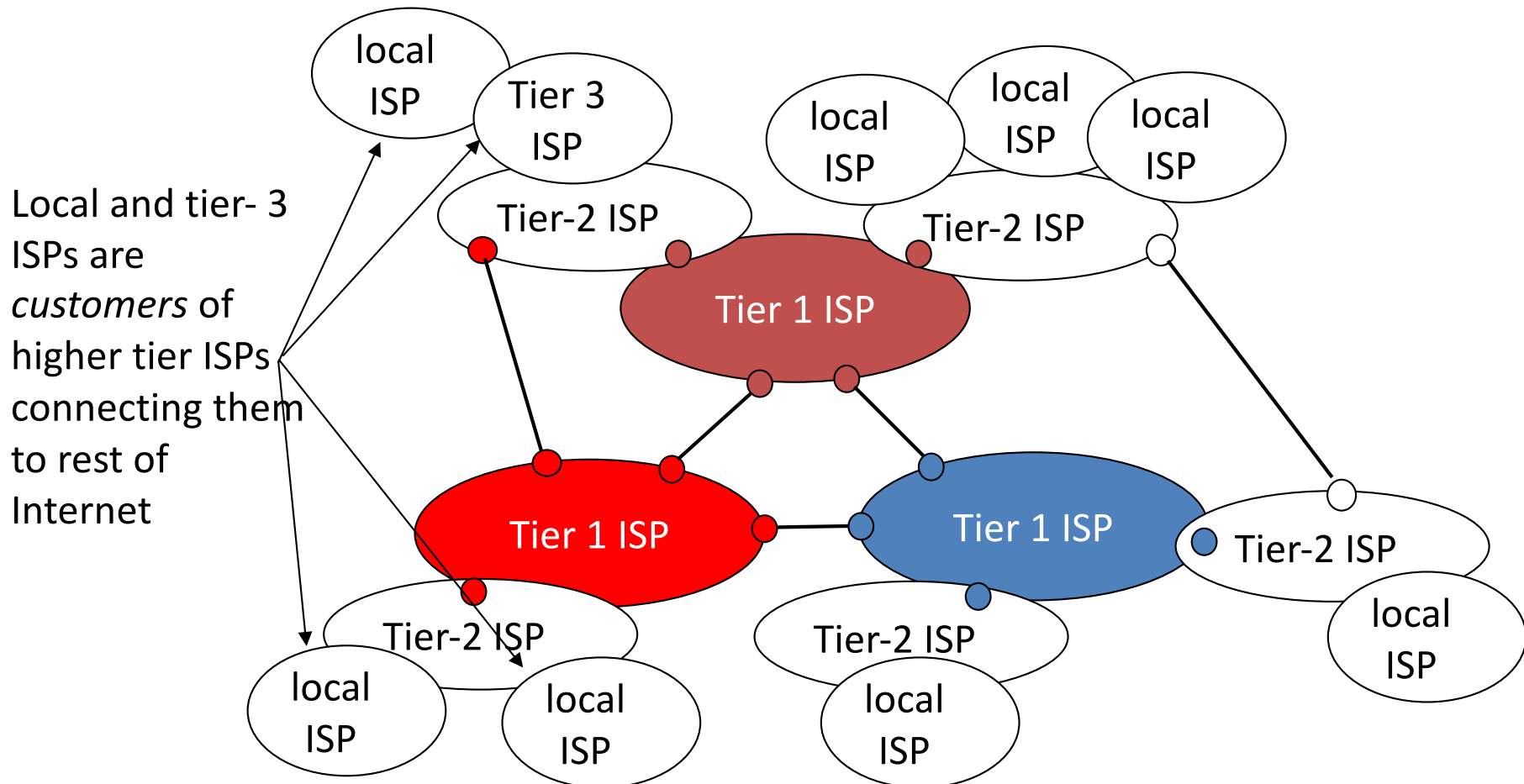
# Internet structure: network of networks

- a packet passes through many networks!



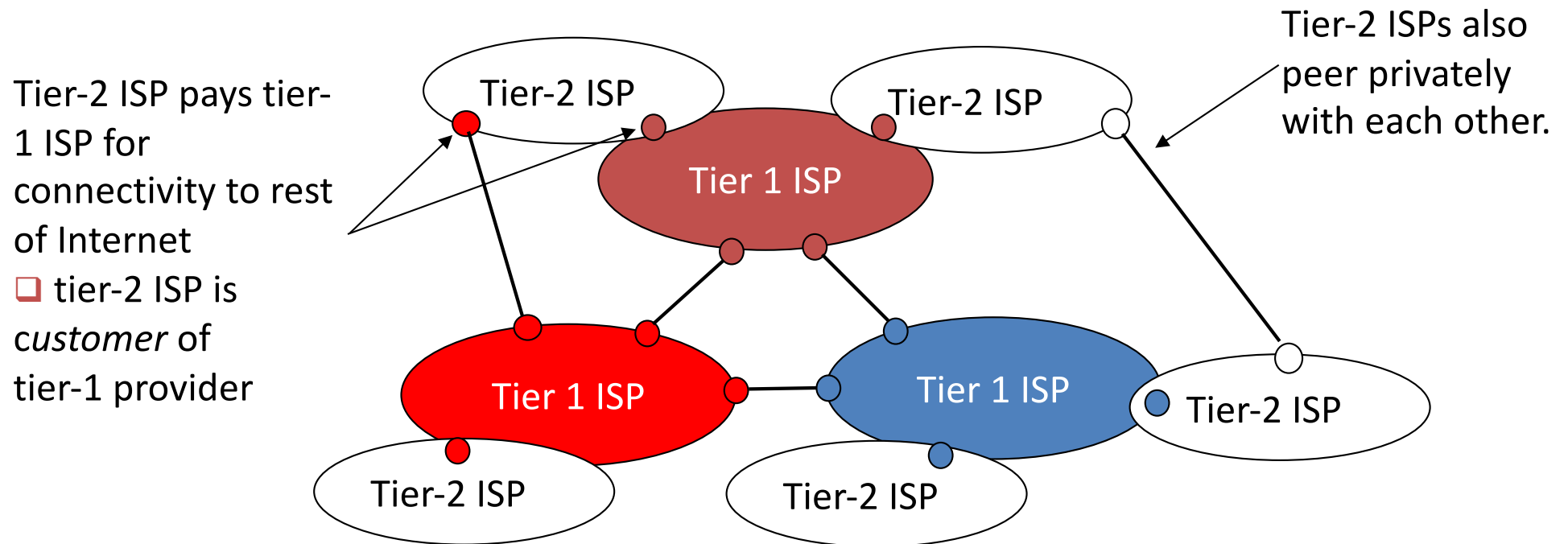
# Internet structure: network of networks

- “Tier-3” ISPs and local ISPs
  - last hop (“access”) network (closest to end systems)



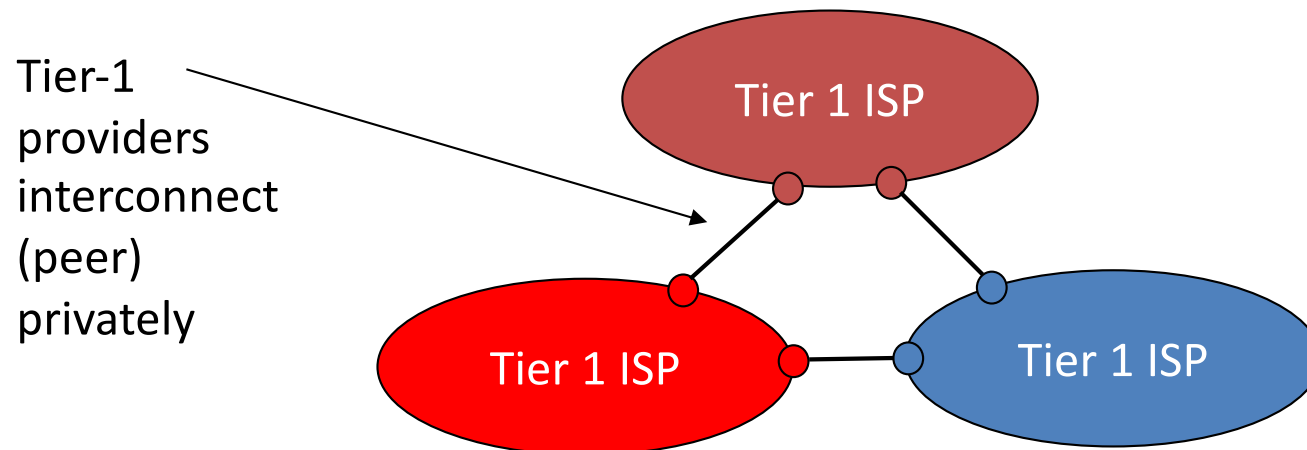
# Internet structure: network of networks

- “Tier-2” ISPs: smaller (often regional) ISPs
  - Connect to one or more tier-1 ISPs, possibly other tier-2 ISPs

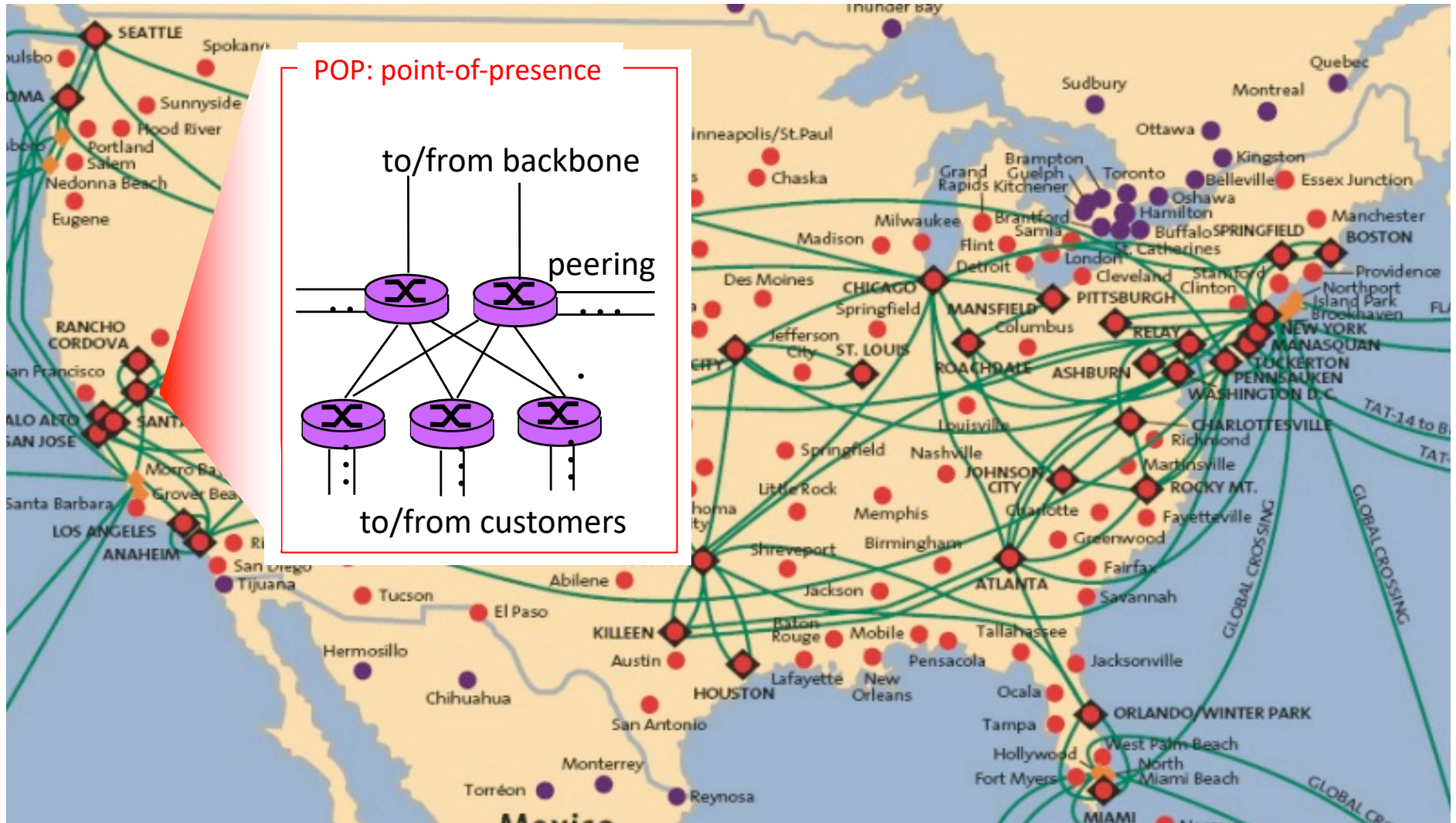


# Internet structure: network of networks

- roughly hierarchical
- **at center: “tier-1” ISPs** (e.g., Verizon, Sprint, AT&T, Cable and Wireless), national/international coverage
  - treat each other as equals



# Tier-1 ISP: e.g., Sprint



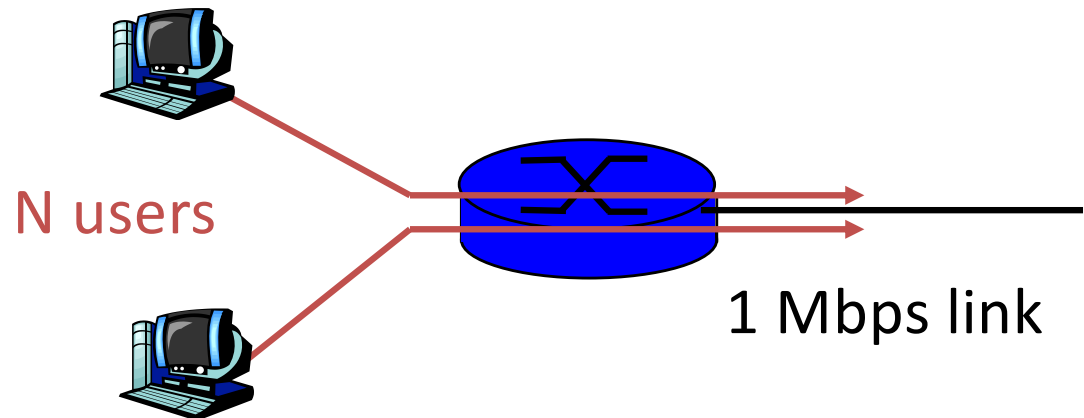
# Packet Switching

- Data is sent as chunks of formatted bits (Packets)
- Packets consist of a “header” and “payload”
- Switches “forward” packets based on their headers
- Each packet travels independently
- No link resources are reserved in advance. Instead packet switching depends on **statistical multiplexing**
  - allows efficient use of resources
  - but introduces queues and queuing delays

# Packet switching versus circuit switching

*Packet switching may (does!) allow more users to use network*

- 1 Mb/s link
- each user:
  - 100 kb/s when “active”
  - active 10% of time
- *circuit-switching:*
  - 10 users
- *packet switching:*
  - with 35 users, probability > 10 active at same time is less than .0004



Q: how did we get value 0.0004?



# Packet switching versus circuit switching

Q: how did we get value 0.0004?

- 1 Mb/s link
- each user:
  - 100 kb/s when “active”
  - active 10% of time
- *circuit-switching:*
  - 10 users
- *packet switching:*
  - with 35 users, probability > 10 active at same time is less than .0004

Let  $U$  be number of users active  
 $N$  the total users  
 $P$  is 0.1 in our example to get 0.0004

$$P(U = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

$$\left[ \because P(U \leq K) = \sum_{k=0}^K \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} \right] \left[ P(U > K) = 1 - \sum_{k=0}^K \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} \right]$$

for  $n = 35$ ,  $K = 10$

$$P(U \leq 10) = \sum_{k=0}^{10} \binom{35}{k} p^k (1-p)^{35-k}$$

where  $p = 0.1$ :

$$P(U \leq 10) = 0.99958$$

$$\therefore P(U > 10) = 0.00042$$

# Circuit switching: pros and cons

- Pros
  - guaranteed performance
  - fast transfers (once circuit is established)
- Cons
  - wastes bandwidth if traffic is “bursty”
  - connection setup adds delay
  - recovery from failure is slow

# Packet switching: pros and cons

- Pros

- efficient use of bandwidth (stat. muxing)
- no overhead due to connection setup
- resilient -- can `route around trouble`

- Cons

- no guaranteed performance
- header overhead per packet
- queues and queuing delays

# Summary

- A sense of how the basic `plumbing' works
  - links and switches
  - packet delays = transmission + propagation + queuing + (negligible) per-switch processing
  - statistical multiplexing and queues
  - circuit vs. packet switching