Applied!

Computer Networks

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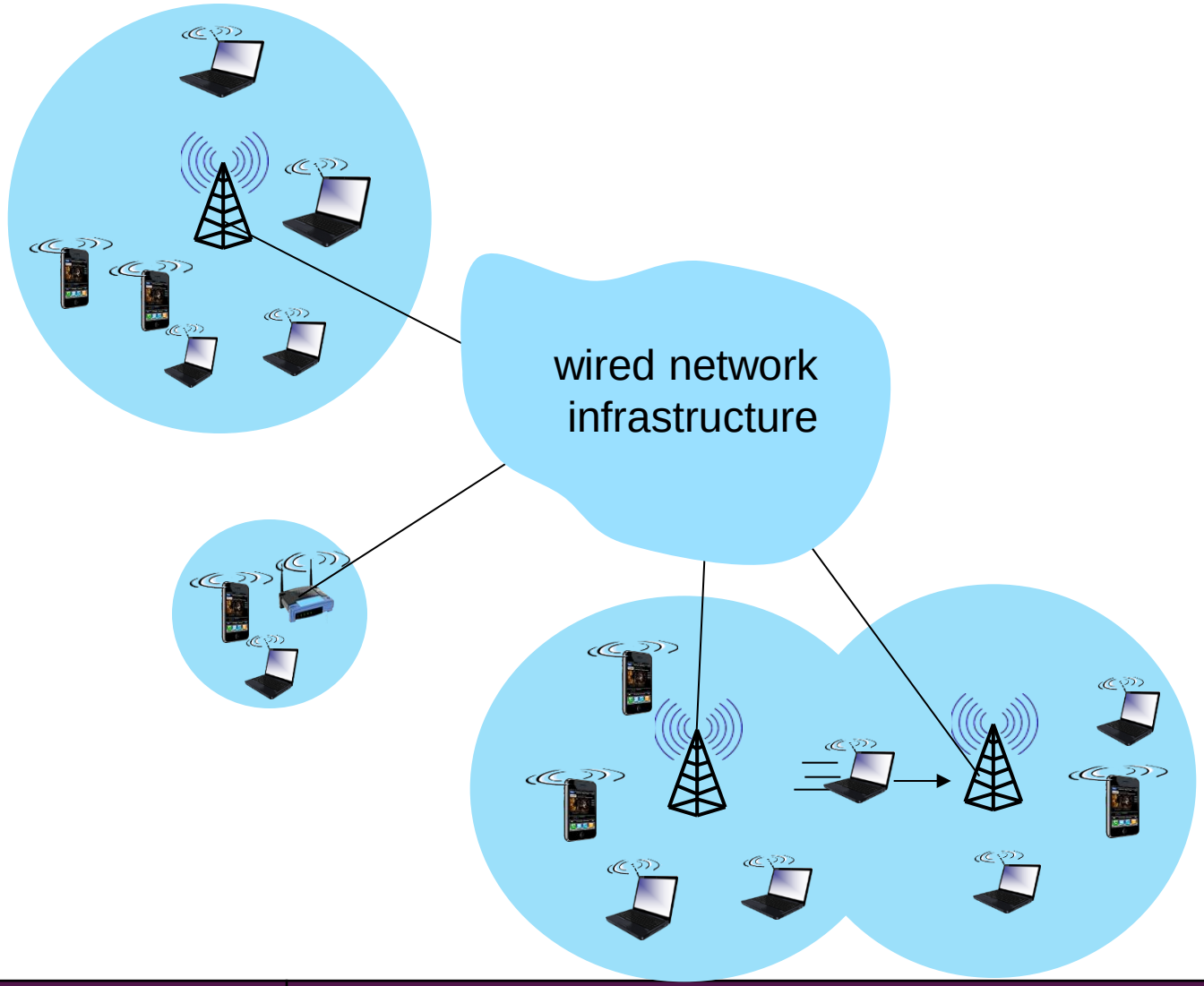
Wireless Networks

Based on https://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose_ross/index.php

Wireless and Mobile Networks

- more wireless (mobile) phone subscribers than fixed (wired) phone subscribers (10-to-1 in 2019)!
- more mobile-broadband-connected devices than fixed-broadband-connected devices devices (5-1 in 2019)!
  - 4G/5G cellular networks now embracing Internet protocol stack, including SDN
- two important (but different) challenges
  - wireless: communication over wireless link
  - mobility: handling the mobile user who changes point of attachment to network

Elements of a wireless network



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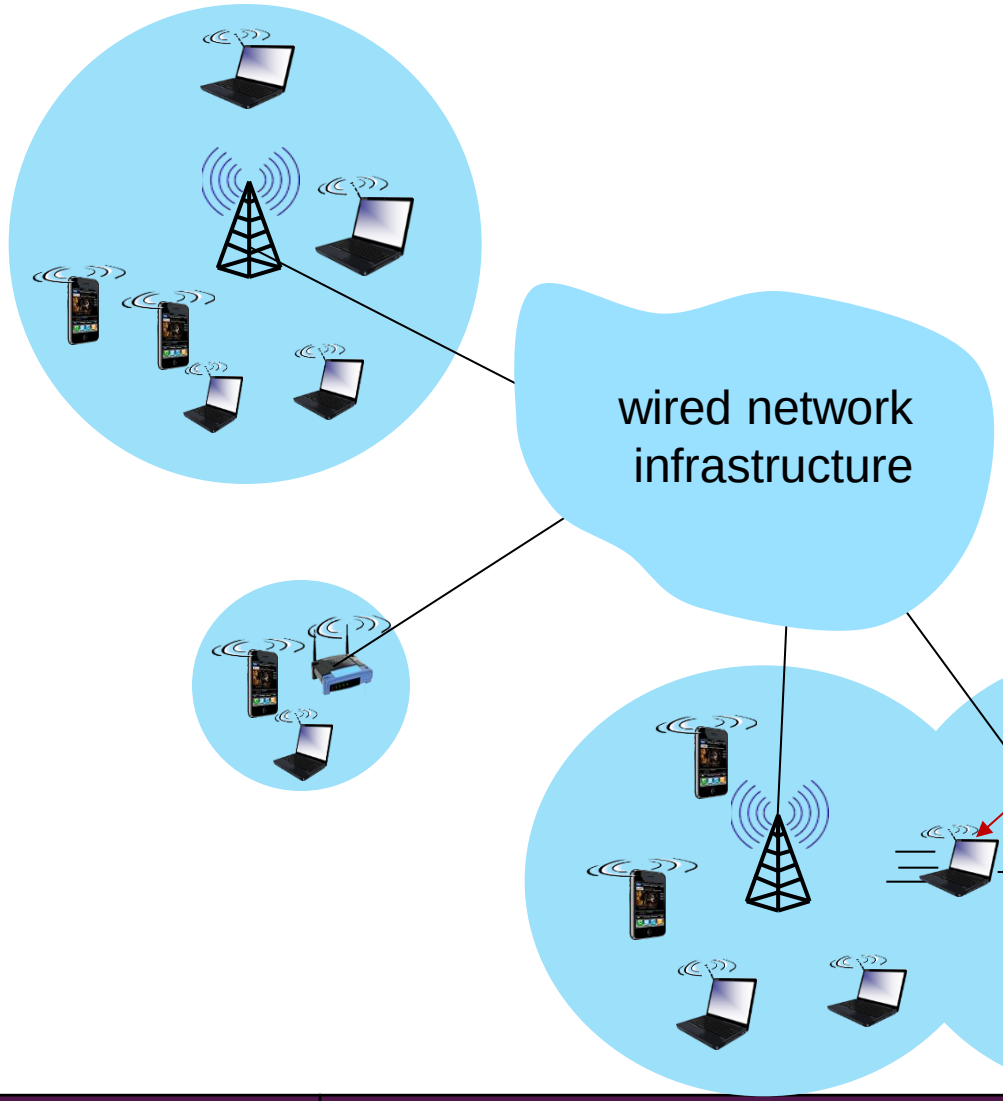

wireless hosts

- laptop, smartphone, IoT
- run applications
- may be stationary (non-mobile) or mobile
  - wireless does *not* always mean mobility!

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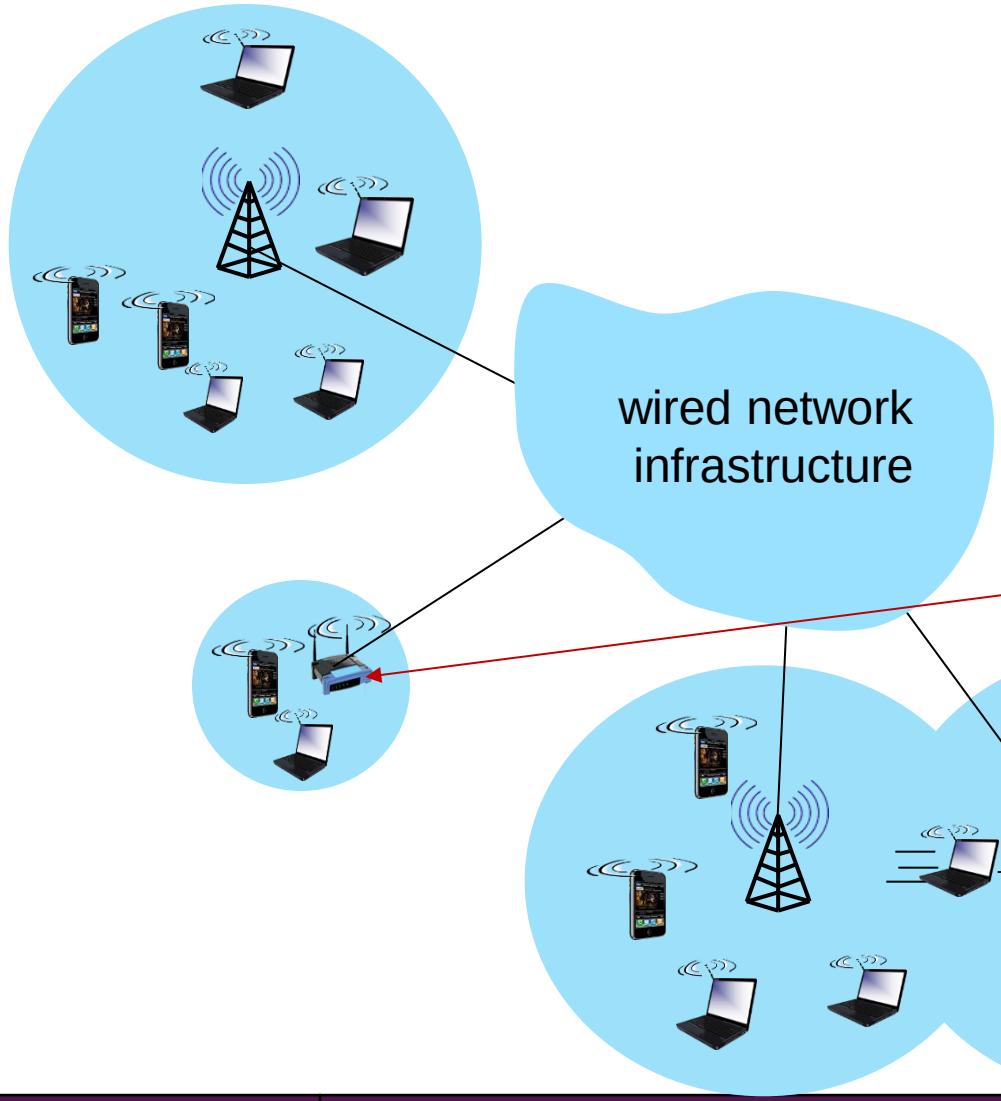
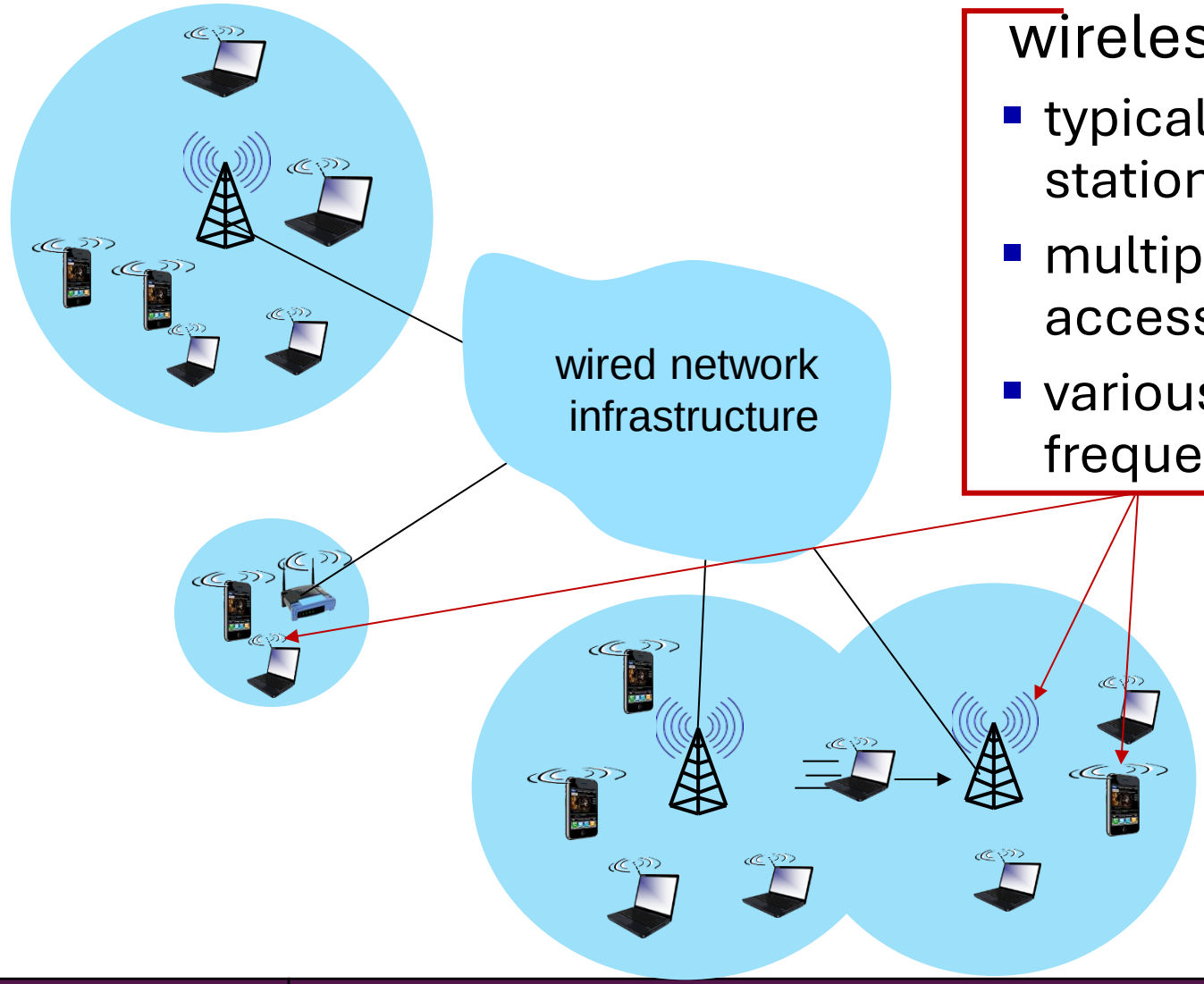


base station

- typically connected to wired network
- relay - responsible for sending packets between wired network and wireless host(s) in its “area”
  - e.g., cell towers, 802.11 access points

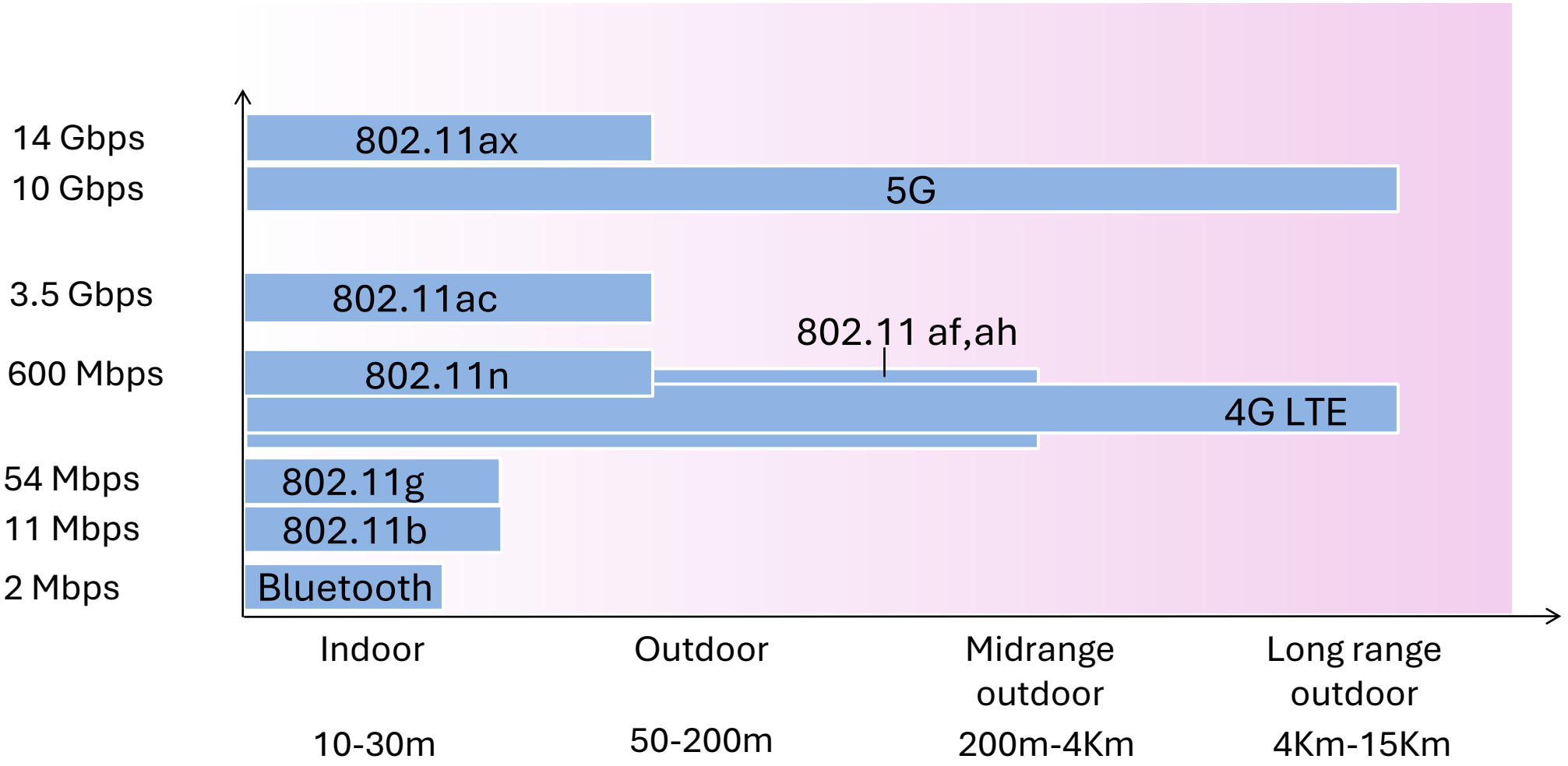
Elements of a wireless network



wireless link

- typically used to connect mobile(s) to base station, also used as backbone link
- multiple access protocol coordinates link access
- various transmission rates and distances, frequency bands

Characteristics of selected wireless links



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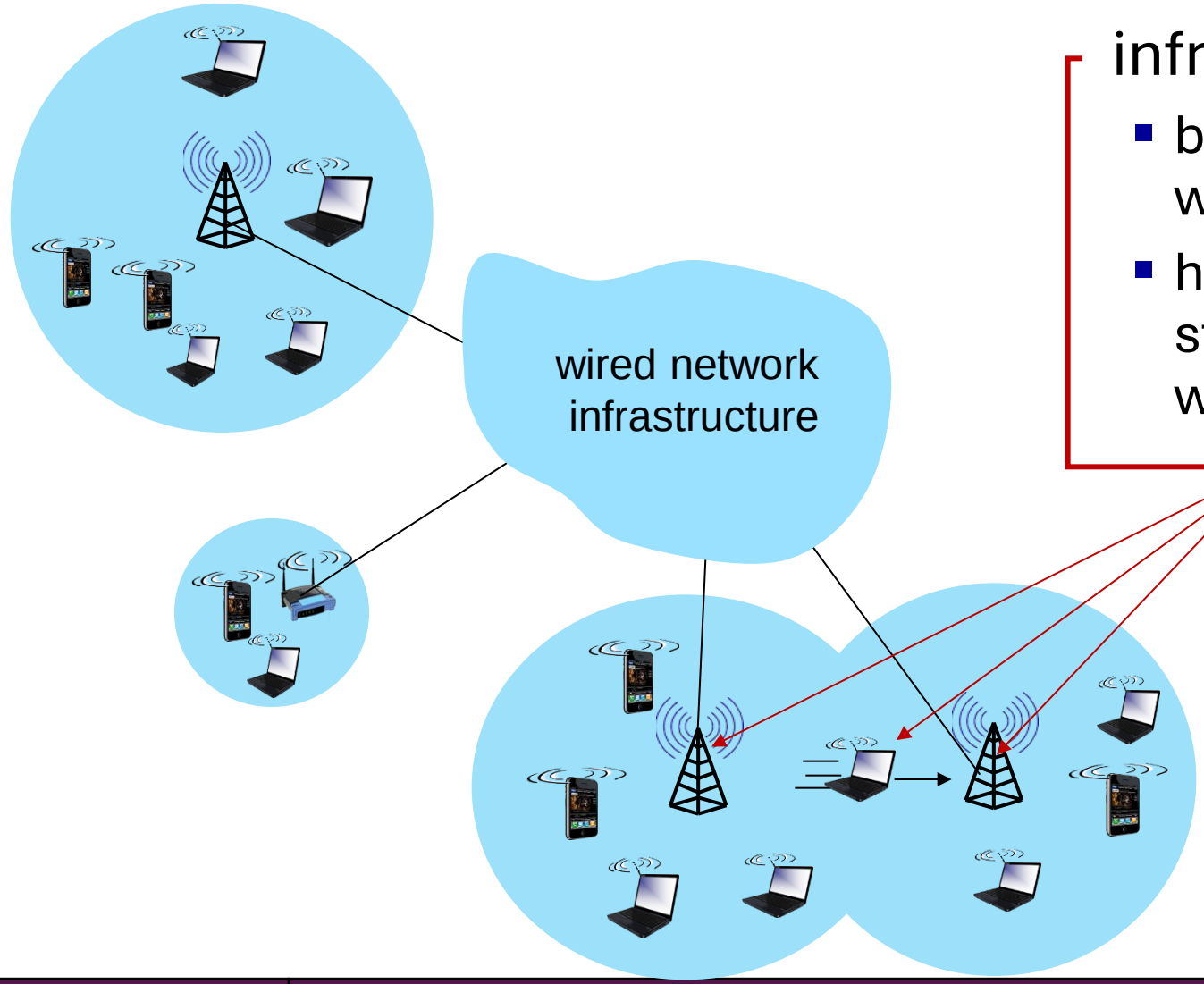
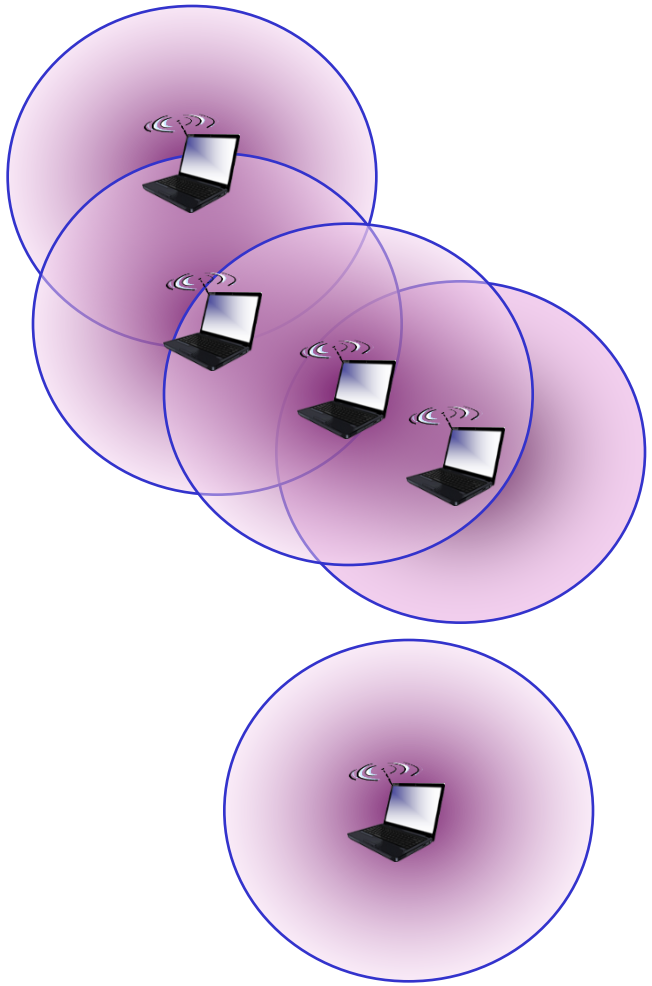


infrastructure mode

- base station connects mobiles into wired network
- handoff: mobile changes base station providing connection into wired network

Elements of a wireless network



ad hoc mode

- no base stations
- nodes can only transmit to other nodes within link coverage
- nodes organize themselves into a network: route among themselves

Wireless network taxonomy

	single hop	multiple hops
infrastructure (e.g., APs)	host connects to base station (WiFi, cellular) which connects to larger Internet	host may have to relay through several wireless nodes to connect to larger Internet: *mesh net*
no infrastructure	no base station, no connection to larger Internet (Bluetooth, ad hoc nets)	no base station, no connection to larger Internet. May have to relay to reach other a given wireless node MANET, VANET

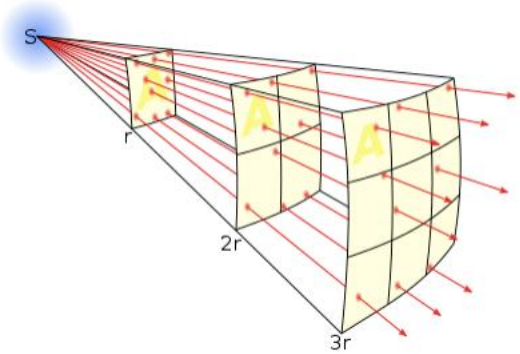
Wireless Networks

Wireless link characteristics: fading (attenuation)

Wireless radio signal attenuates (loses power) as it propagates (free space "path loss")

Free space path loss ~ $(fd)^2$

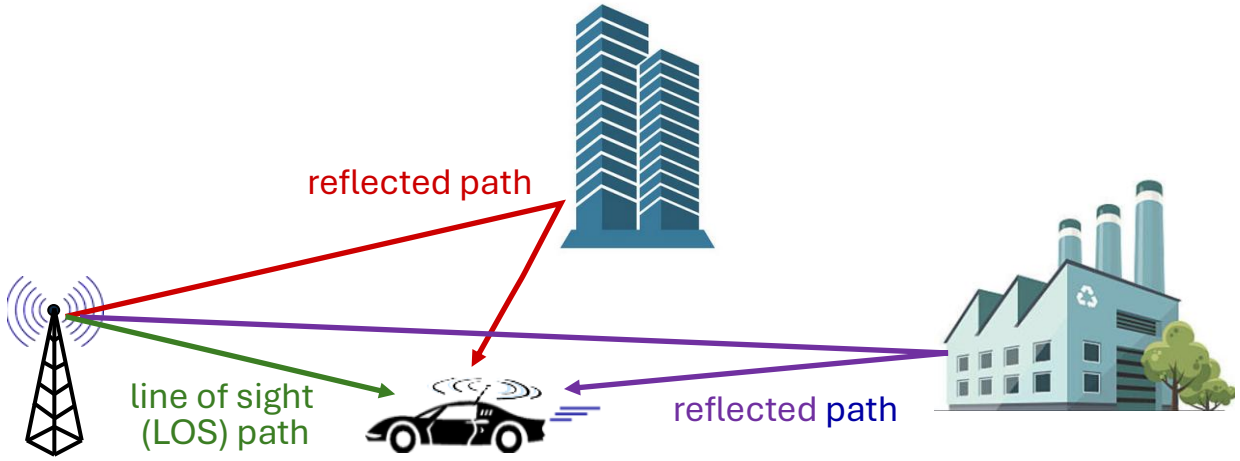
f: frequency
d: distance



higher frequency or longer distance → larger free space path loss

Wireless link characteristics: multipath

multipath propagation: radio signal reflects off objects ground, built environment, arriving at destination at slightly different times



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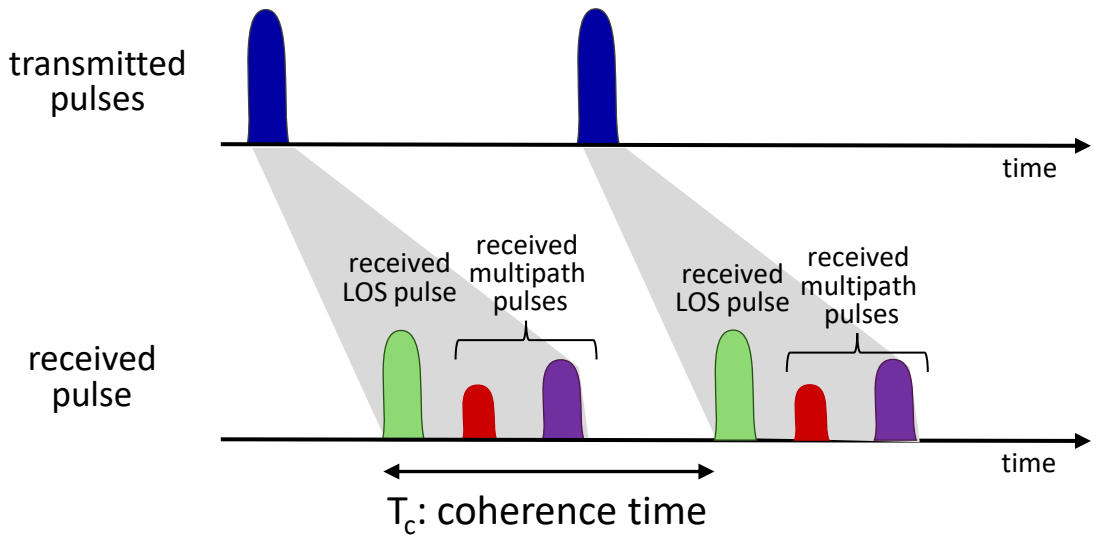
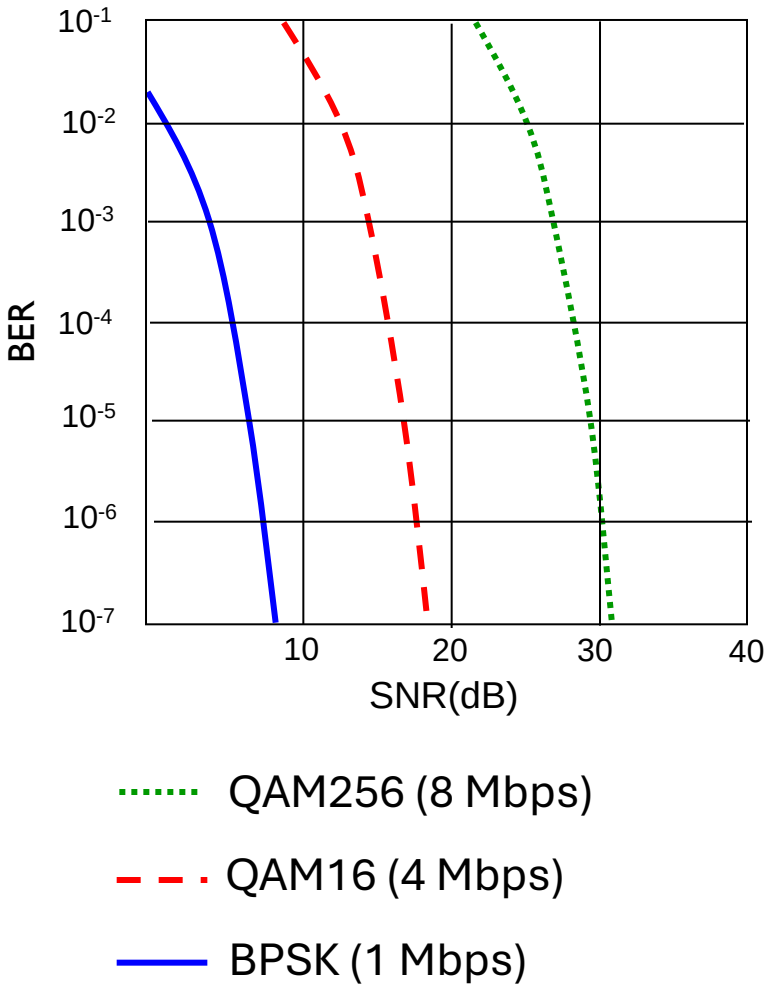


Coherence time:

- amount of time bit is present in channel to be received
- influences maximum possible transmission rate, since coherence times can not overlap
- inversely proportional to
  - frequency
  - receiver velocity

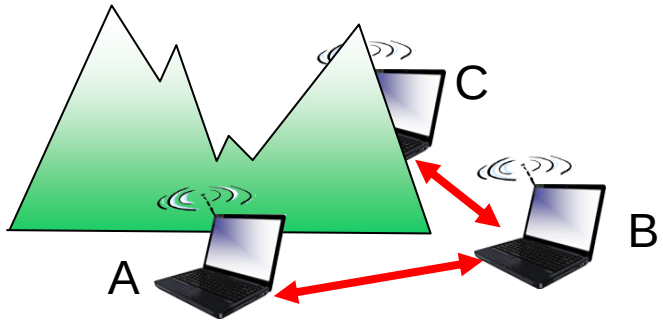
Wireless link characteristics: noise

- interference from other sources on wireless network frequencies: motors, appliances
- SNR: signal-to-noise ratio
  - larger SNR – easier to extract signal from noise (a “good thing”)
- SNR versus BER Bit Error Rate tradeoff
  - *given physical layer:* increase power -> increase SNR->decrease BER
  - SNR may change with mobility: dynamically adapt physical layer (modulation technique, rate)



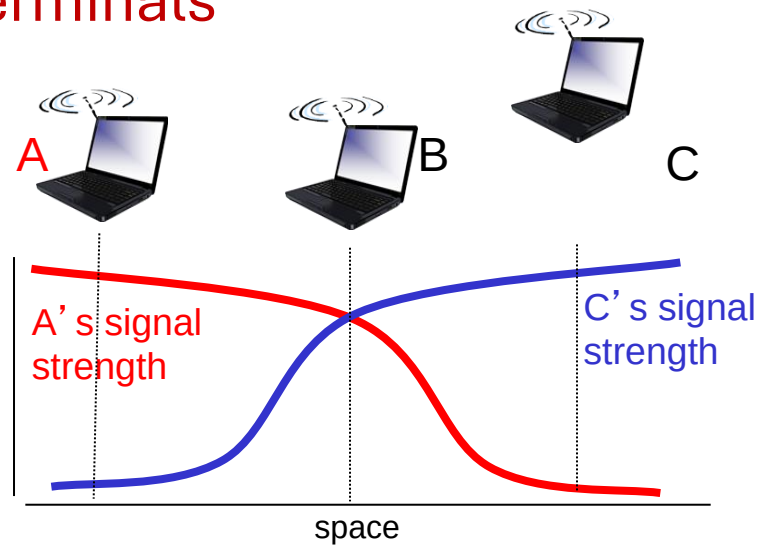
Wireless link characteristics: hidden terminals

Hidden terminal problem



- B, A hear each other
- B, C hear each other
- A, C can not hear each other means A, C unaware of their interference at B

Attenuation also causes "hidden terminals"



- B, A hear each other
- B, C hear each other
- A, C can not hear each other interfering at B

CDMA: code division multiple access

Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA)

- unique “code” assigned to each user; i.e., code set partitioning
  - all users share same frequency, but each user has own “chipping” sequence (i.e., code) to encode data
  - allows multiple users to “coexist” and transmit simultaneously with minimal interference (if codes are “orthogonal”)
- encoding: inner product: (original data) X (chipping sequence)
- decoding: summed inner-product: (encoded data) X (chipping sequence)

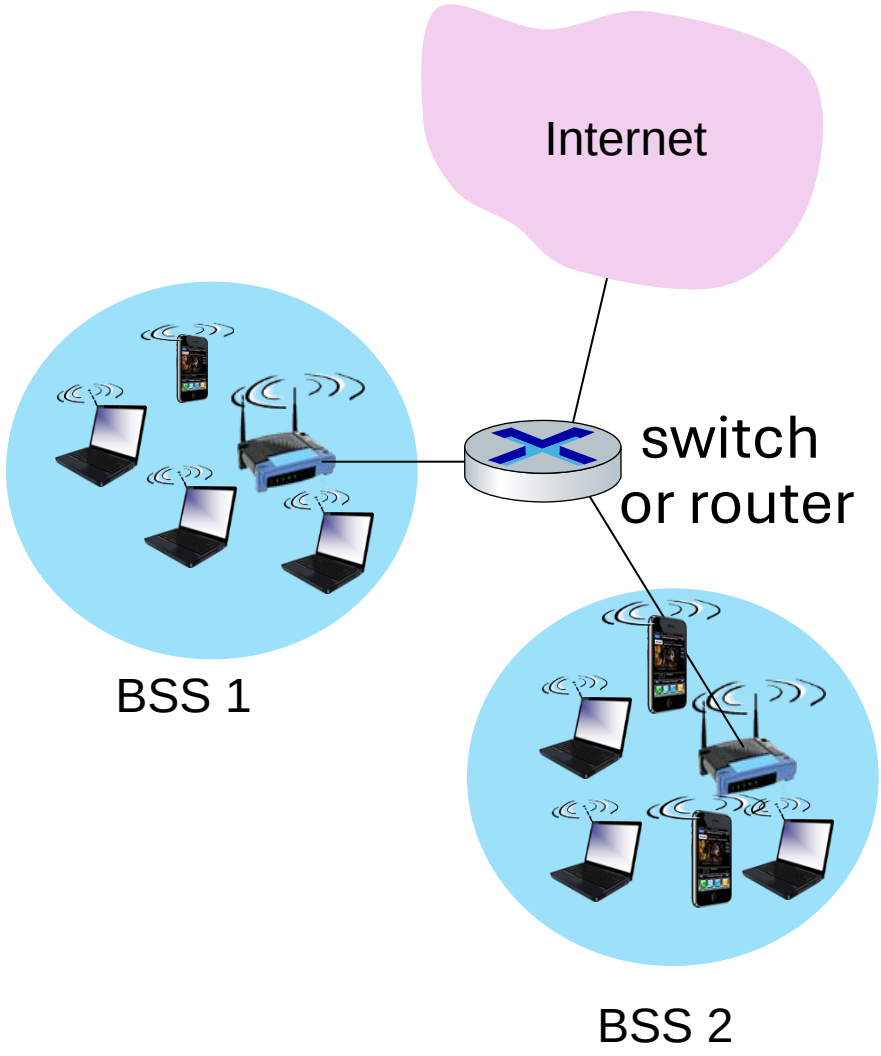
WiFi: 802.11 wireless LANs

IEEE 802.11 Wireless LAN

IEEE 802.11 standard	Year	Max data rate	Range	Frequency
802.11b	1999	11 Mbps	30 m	2.4 Ghz
802.11g	2003	54 Mbps	30m	2.4 Ghz
802.11n (WiFi 4)	2009	600	70m	2.4, 5 Ghz
802.11ac (WiFi 5)	2013	3.47Gpbs	70m	5 Ghz
802.11ax (WiFi 6)	2020 (exp.)	14 Gbps	70m	2.4, 5 Ghz
802.11af	2014	35 – 560 Mbps	1 Km	unused TV bands (54-790 MHz)
802.11ah	2017	347Mbps	1 Km	900 Mhz

- all use CSMA/CA for multiple access, and have base-station and ad-hoc network versions

802.11 LAN architecture

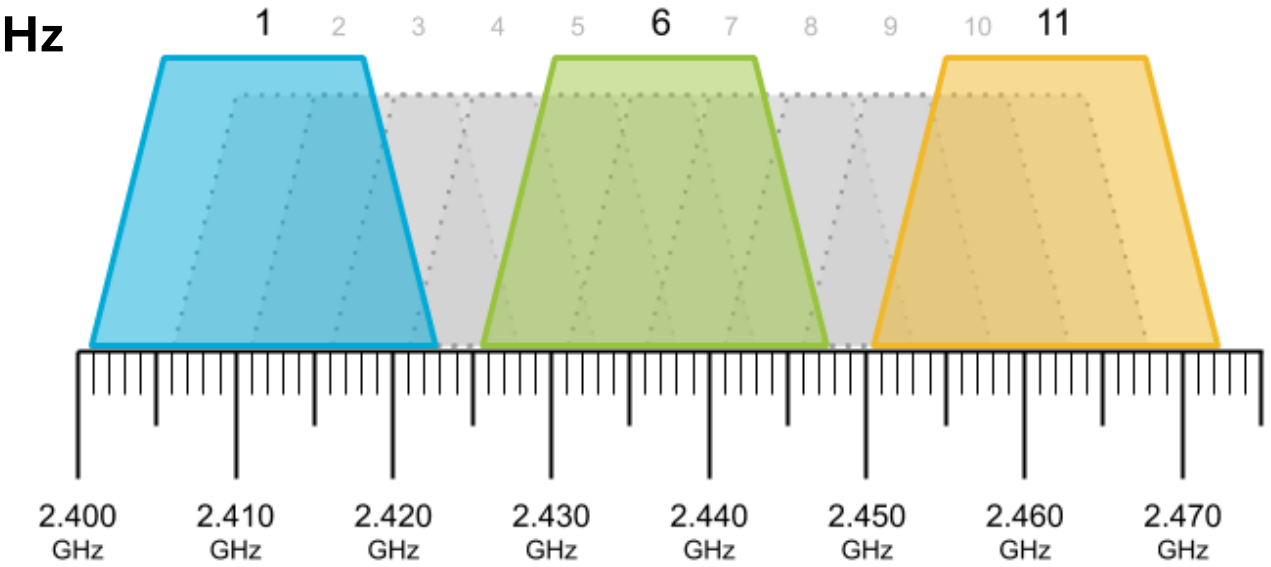


- wireless host communicates with base station
  - base station = access point (AP)
- Basic Service Set (BSS) (aka “cell”) in infrastructure mode contains:
  - wireless hosts
  - access point (AP): base station
  - ad hoc mode: hosts only

802.11: Channels

- spectrum divided into channels at different frequencies
  - AP admin chooses frequency for AP
  - interference possible: channel can be same as that chosen by neighboring AP!

Example: 2.4 GHz

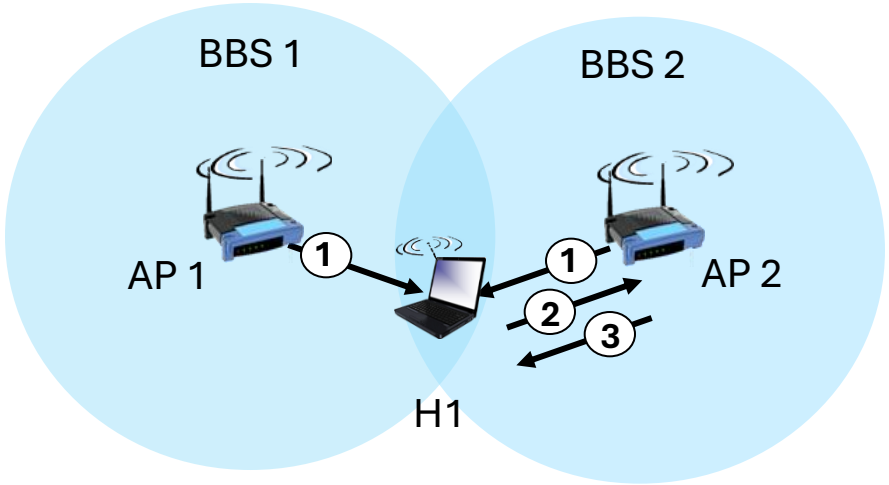


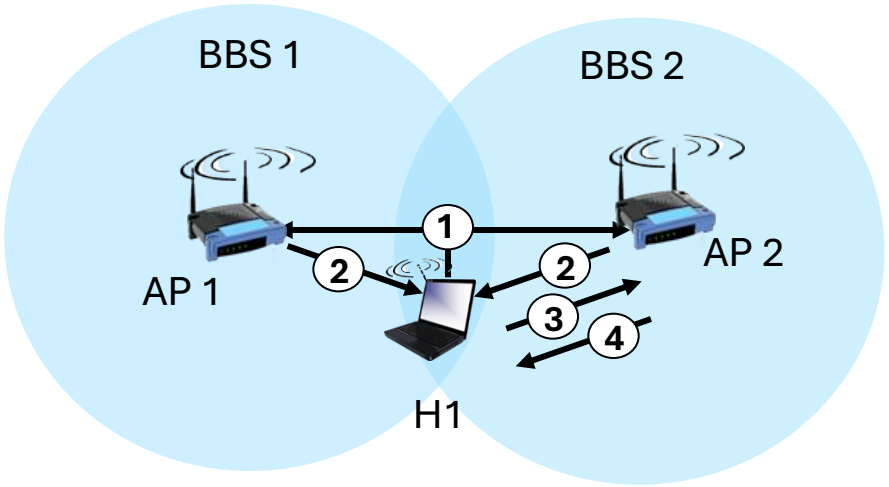
802.11: Association

- arriving host: must associate with an AP
  - scans channels, listening for *beacon frames* containing AP's name (SSID) and MAC address
  - selects AP to associate with
  - then may perform authentication [Chapter 8]
  - then typically run DHCP to get IP address in AP's subnet

BSS

802.11: passive/active scanning





passive scanning:

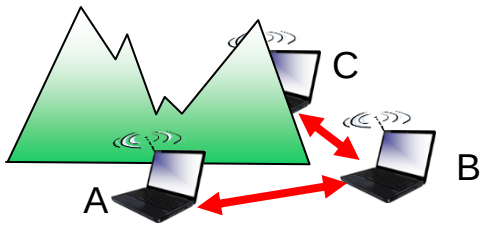
(1) beacon frames sent from APs
(2) association Request frame sent: H1 to selected AP
(3) association Response frame sent from selected AP to H1

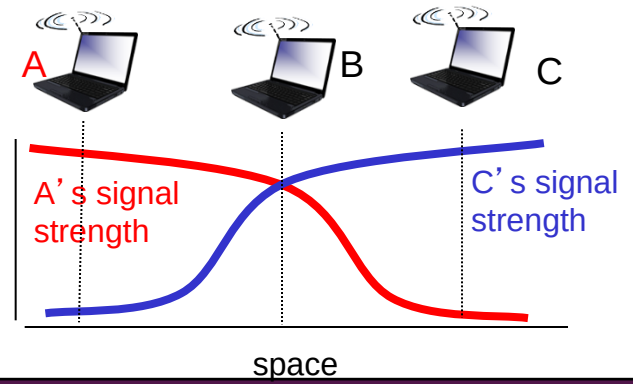
active scanning:

(1) Probe Request frame broadcast from H1
(2) Probe Response frames sent from APs
(3) Association Request frame sent: H1 to selected AP
(4) Association Response frame sent from selected AP to H1

IEEE 802.11: multiple access

- avoid collisions: 2^+ nodes transmitting at same time
- 802.11: CSMA - sense before transmitting
  - don't collide with detected ongoing transmission by another node
- 802.11: *no* collision detection!
  - difficult to sense collisions: high transmitting signal, weak received signal due to fading
  - can't sense all collisions in any case: hidden terminal, fading
  - goal: *avoid collisions:* CSMA/CollisionAvoidance





IEEE 802.11 MAC Protocol: CSMA/CA

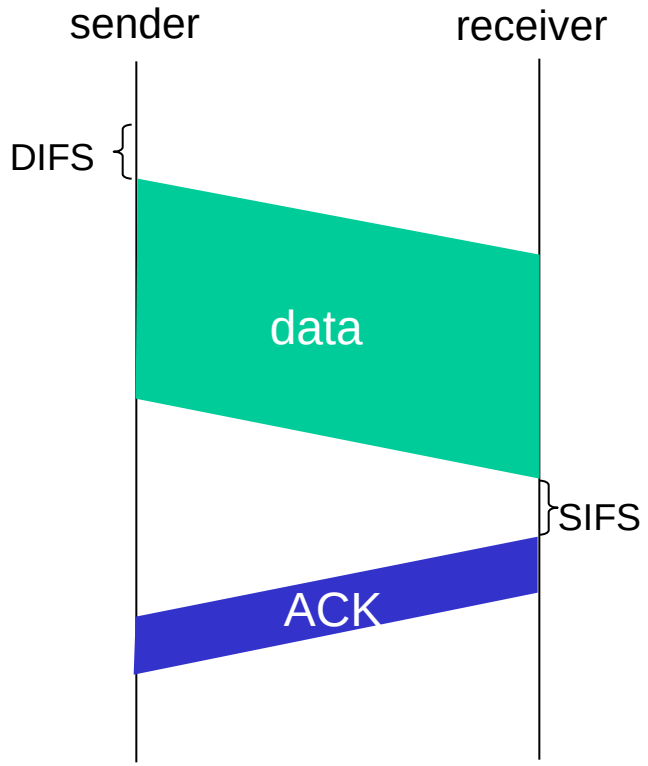
802.11 sender

1 if sense channel idle for **DIFS** then
transmit entire frame (no CD)

2 if sense channel busy then
start random backoff time
timer counts down while channel idle
transmit when timer expires
if no ACK, increase random backoff interval, repeat 2

802.11 receiver

if frame received OK
return ACK after **SIFS** (ACK needed due to hidden terminal problem)

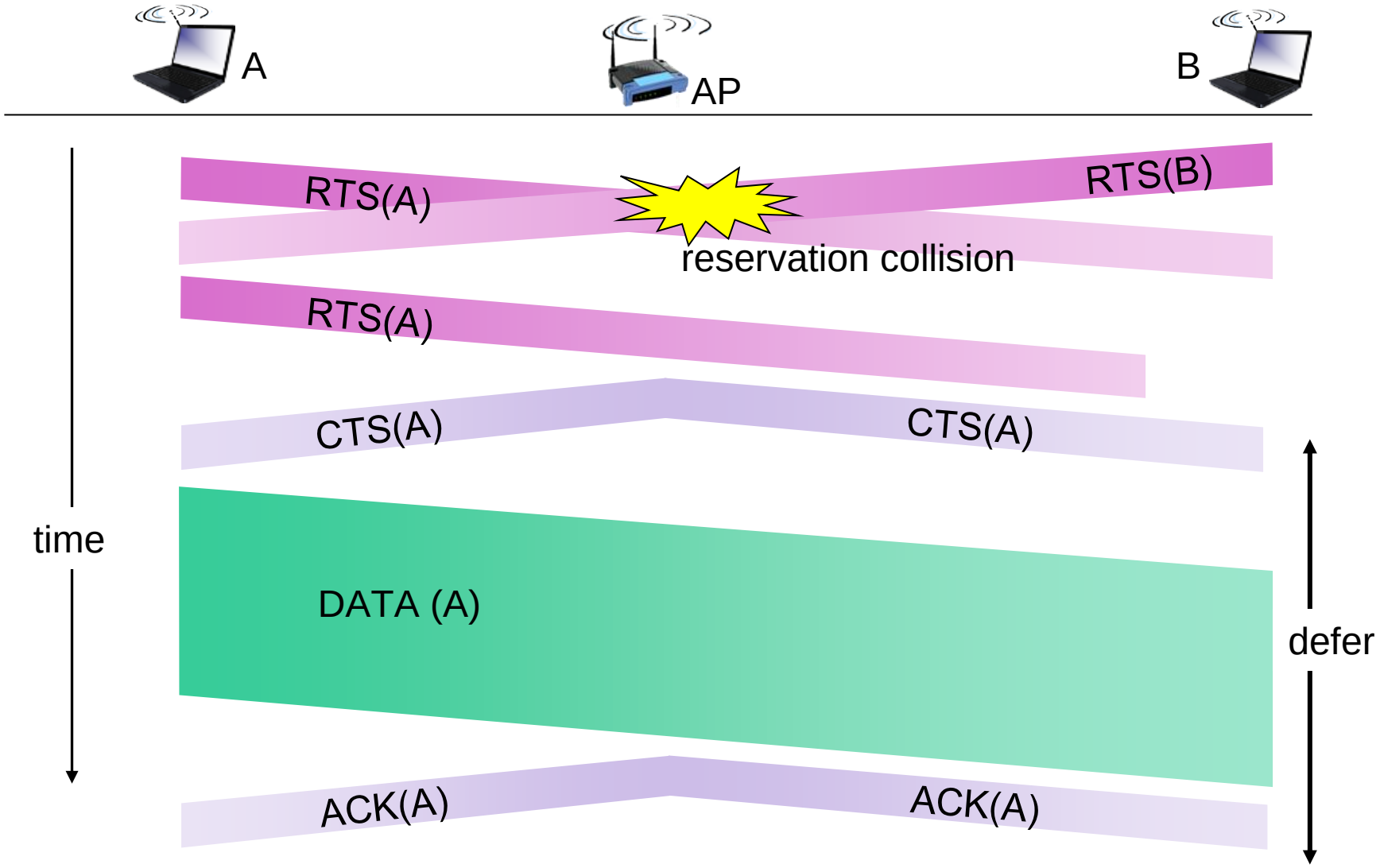


Avoiding collisions (more)

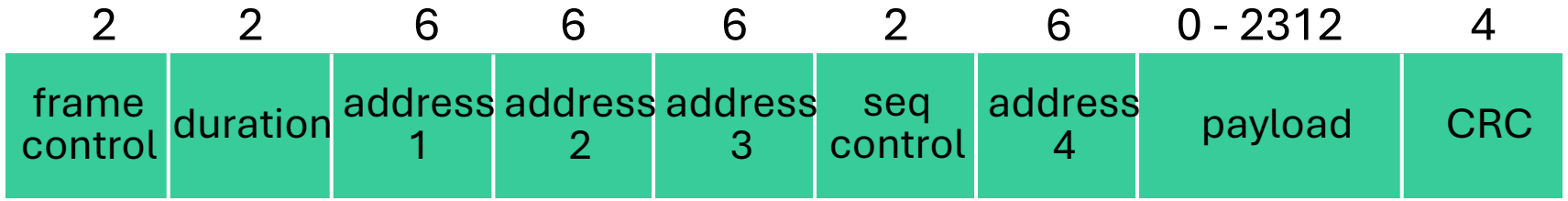
idea: sender "reserves" channel use for data frames using small reservation packets

- sender first transmits *small* request-to-send (RTS) packet to BS using CSMA
  - RTSs may still collide with each other (but they're short)
- BS broadcasts clear-to-send CTS in response to RTS
- CTS heard by all nodes
  - sender transmits data frame
  - other stations defer transmissions

Collision Avoidance: RTS-CTS exchange



802.11 frame: addressing



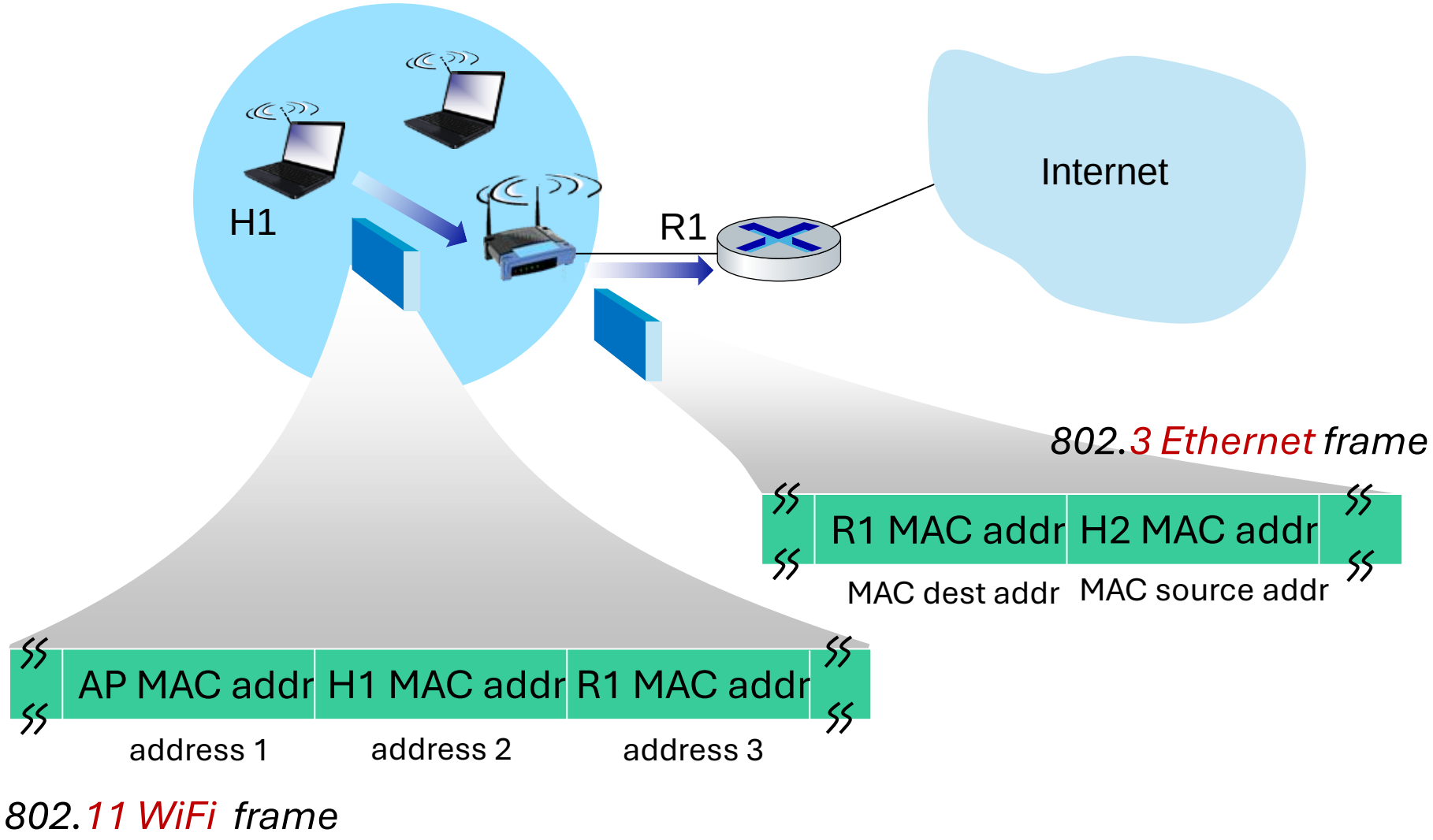
Address 1: MAC address of wireless host or AP to receive this frame

Address 2: MAC address of wireless host or AP transmitting this frame

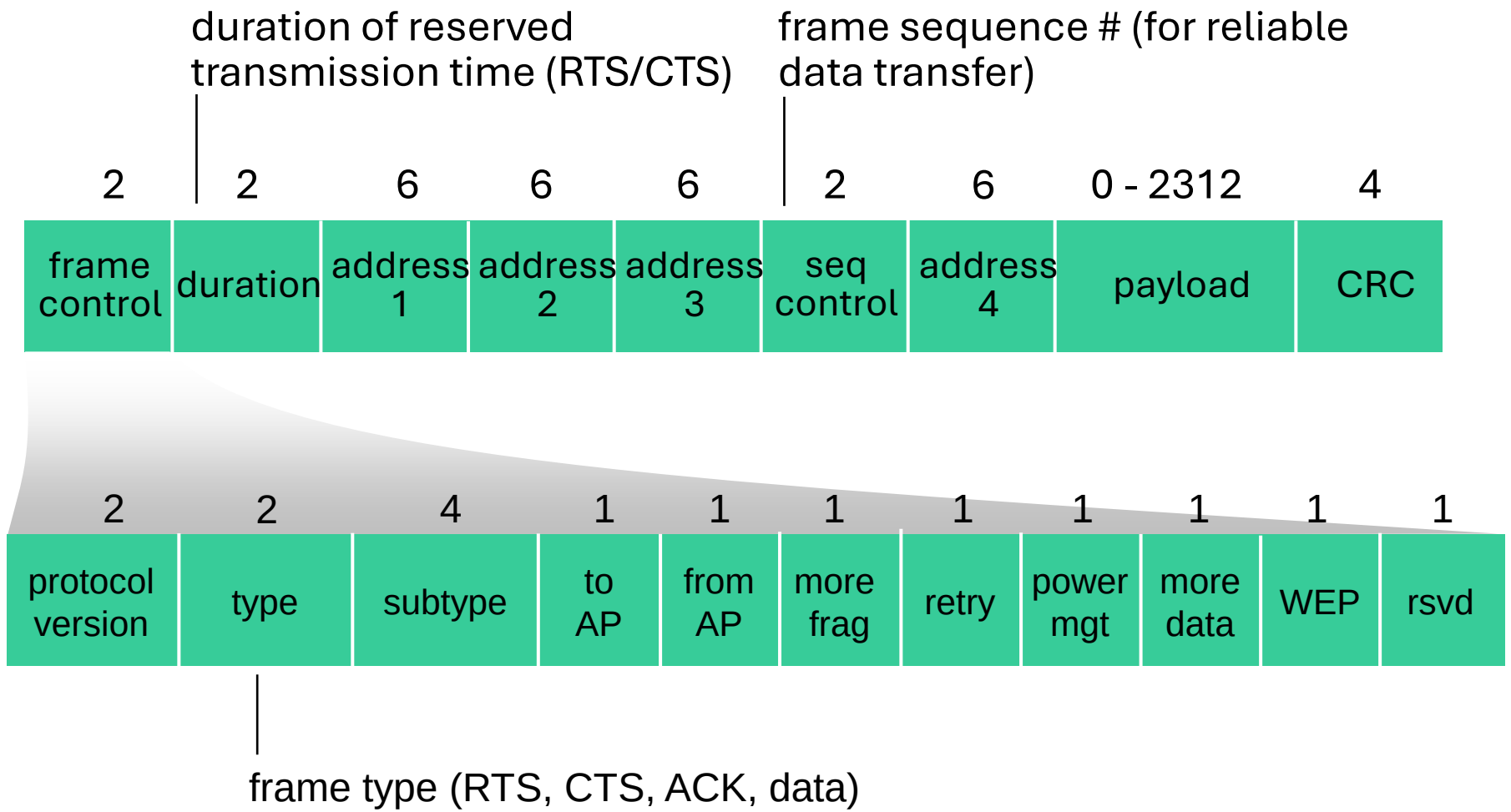
Address 3: MAC address of router interface to which AP is attached

Address 4: used only in ad hoc mode

802.11 frame: addressing

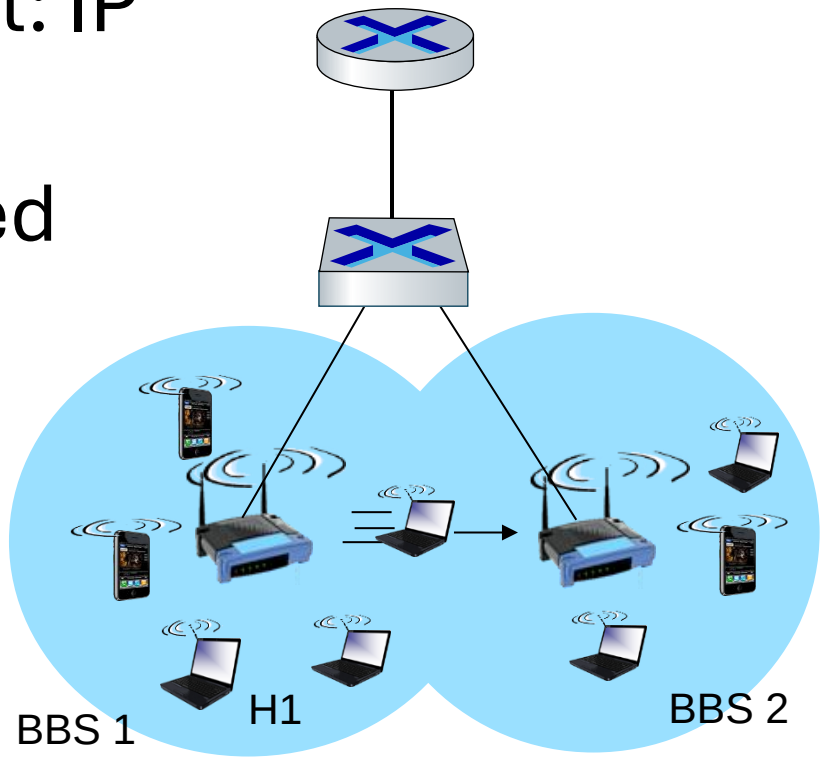


802.11 frame: addressing



802.11: mobility within same subnet

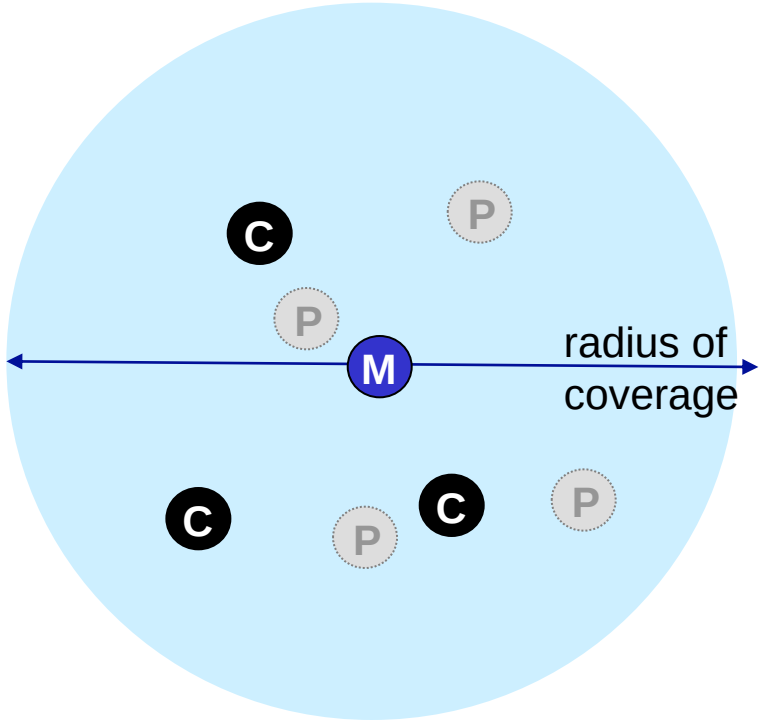
- H1 remains in same IP subnet: IP address can remain same
- switch: which AP is associated with H1?
  - self-learning (Ch. 6): switch will see frame from H1 and "remember" which switch port can be used to reach H1



Bluetooth

Personal area networks: Bluetooth

- less than 10 m diameter
- replacement for cables (mouse, keyboard, headphones)
- ad hoc: no infrastructure
- 2.4-2.5 GHz ISM radio band, up to 3 Mbps
- master controller / client devices:
  - master polls clients, grants requests for client transmissions



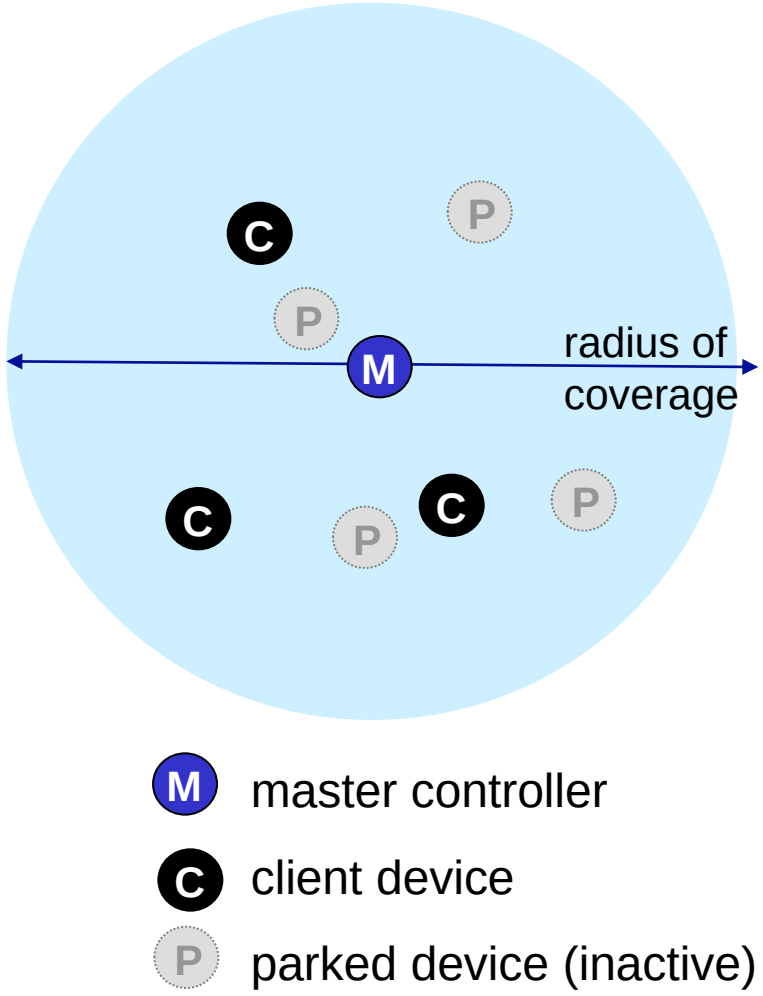
M master controller

C client device

P parked device (inactive)

Personal area networks: Bluetooth

- TDM, 625 μsec sec. slot
- FDM: sender uses 79 frequency channels in known, pseudo-random order slot-to-slot (spread spectrum)
  - other devices/equipment not in piconet only interfere in some slots
- parked mode: clients can "go to sleep" (park) and later wakeup (to preserve battery)
- bootstrapping: nodes self-assemble (plug and play) into piconet



Cellular networks: 4G and 5G

4G/5G cellular networks

- *the* solution for wide-area mobile Internet
- widespread deployment/use:
  - more mobile-broadband-connected devices than fixed-broadband-connected devices devices (5-1 in 2019)!
  - 4G availability: 97% of time in Korea (90% in US)
- transmission rates up to 100's Mbps
- technical standards: 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP)
  - www.3gpp.org
  - 4G: Long-Term Evolution (LTE)standard

4G/5G cellular networks

similarities to wired Internet

- edge/core distinction, but both belong to same carrier
- global cellular network: a network of networks
- widespread use of protocols we've studied: HTTP, DNS, TCP, UDP, IP, NAT, separation of data/control planes, SDN, Ethernet, tunneling
- interconnected to wired Internet

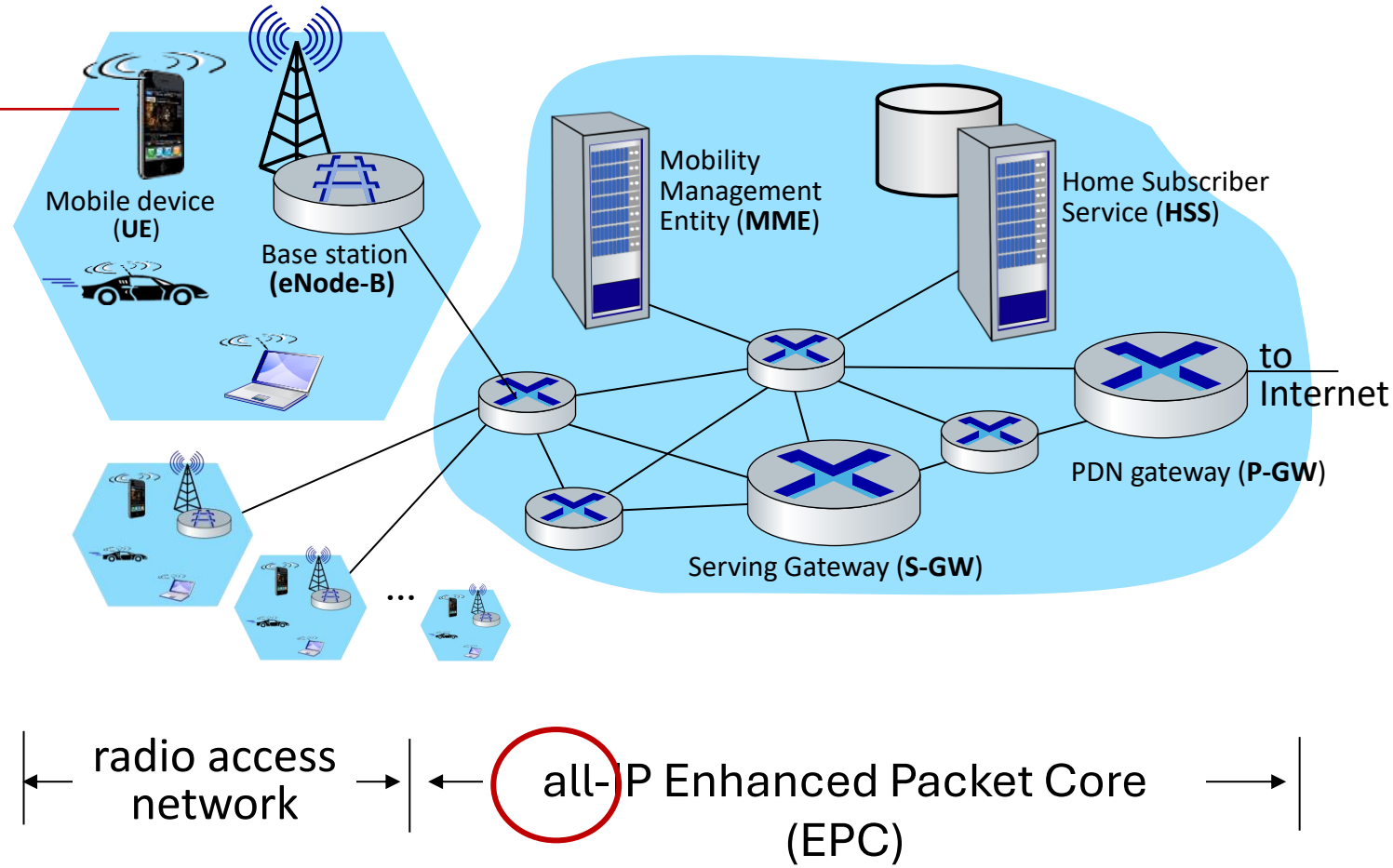
differences from wired Internet

- different wireless link layer
- mobility as a 1st class service
- user "identity" (via SIM card)
- business model: users subscribe to a cellular provider
  - strong notion of "home network" versus roaming on visited nets
  - global access, with authentication infrastructure, and inter-carrier settlements

Elements of 4G LTE architecture

Mobile device:

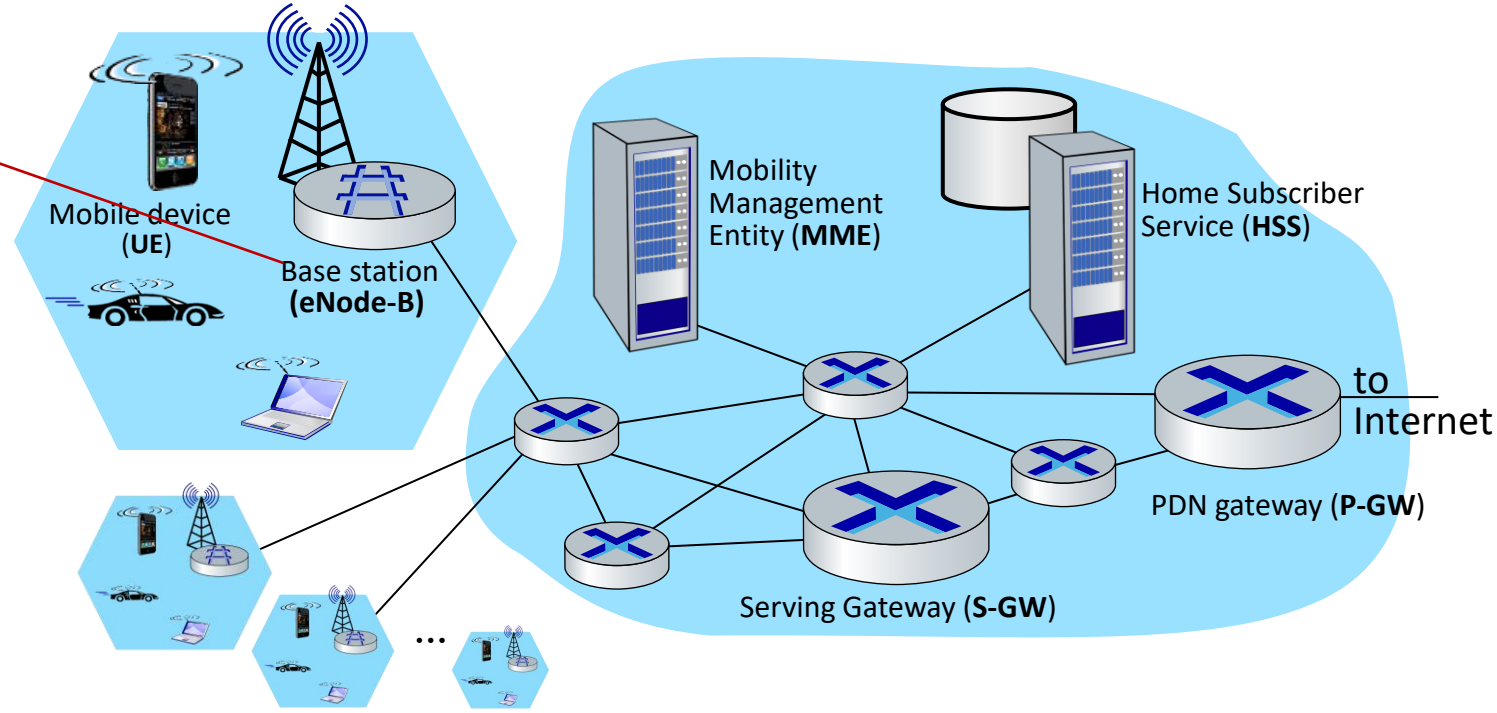
- smartphone, tablet, laptop, IoT, … with 4G LTE radio
- 64-bit International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI), stored on SIM (Subscriber Identity Module) card
- LTE jargon: User Equipment (UE)



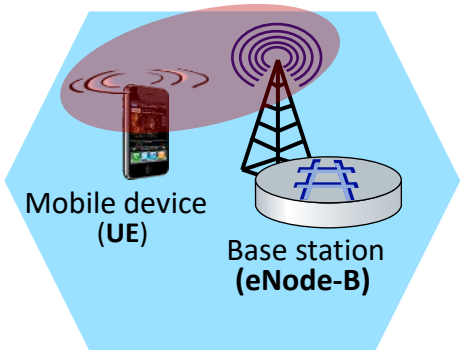
Elements of 4G LTE architecture

Base station:

- at “edge” of carrier’s network
- manages wireless radio resources, mobile devices in its coverage area (“cell”)
- coordinates device authentication with other elements
- similar to WiFi AP but:
  - active role in user mobility
  - coordinates with nearly base stations to optimize radio use
- LTE jargon: eNode-B



Radio Access Network: 4G radio

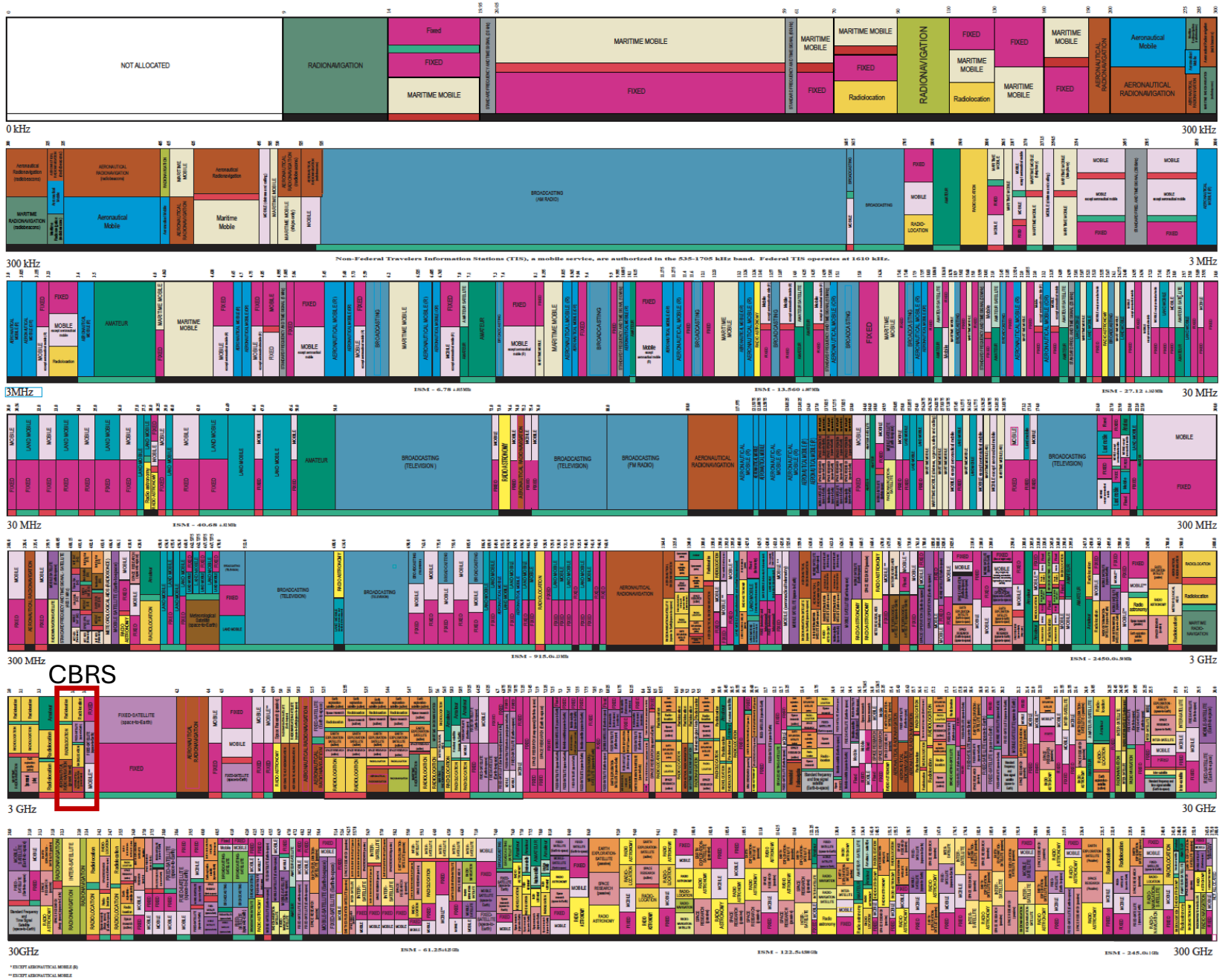


- connects device (UE) to a base station (eNode-B)
  - multiple devices connected to each base station
- many different possible frequencies bands, multiple channels in each band
  - popular bands: 600, 700, 850, 1500, 1700, 1900, 2100, 2600, 3500 MHz
  - separate upstream and downstream channels
- sharing 4G radio channel among users:
  - OFDM: Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing
  - combination of FDM, TDM
- 100's Mbps possible per user/device

Spectrum

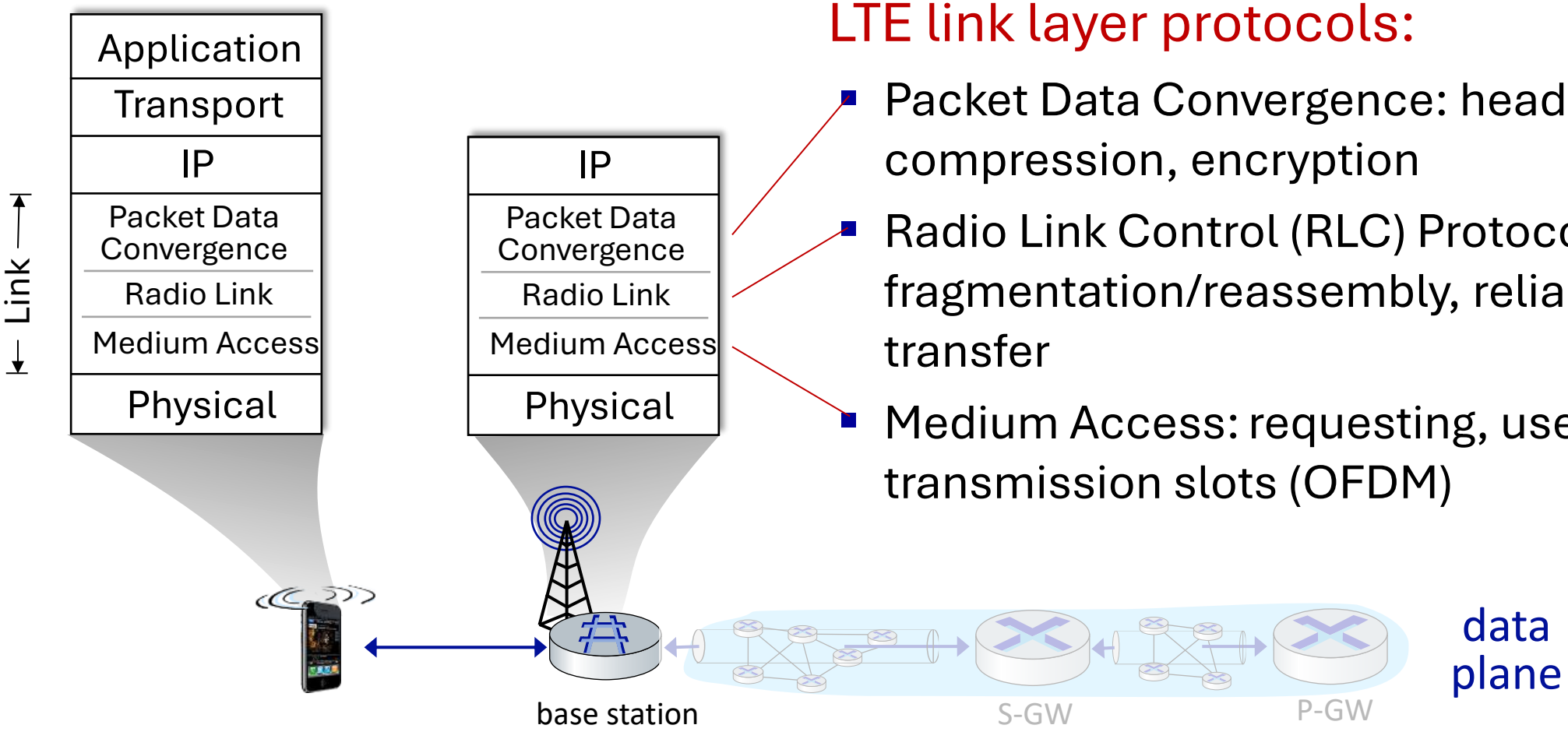
UNITED STATES FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS

THE RADIO SPECTRUM



PLEASE NOTE: THE SPACING ALLOTTED THE SERVICES IN THE SPECTRUM SEGMENTS SHOWN IS NOT PROPORTIONAL TO THE ACTUAL AMOUNT OF SPECTRUM OCCUPIED.

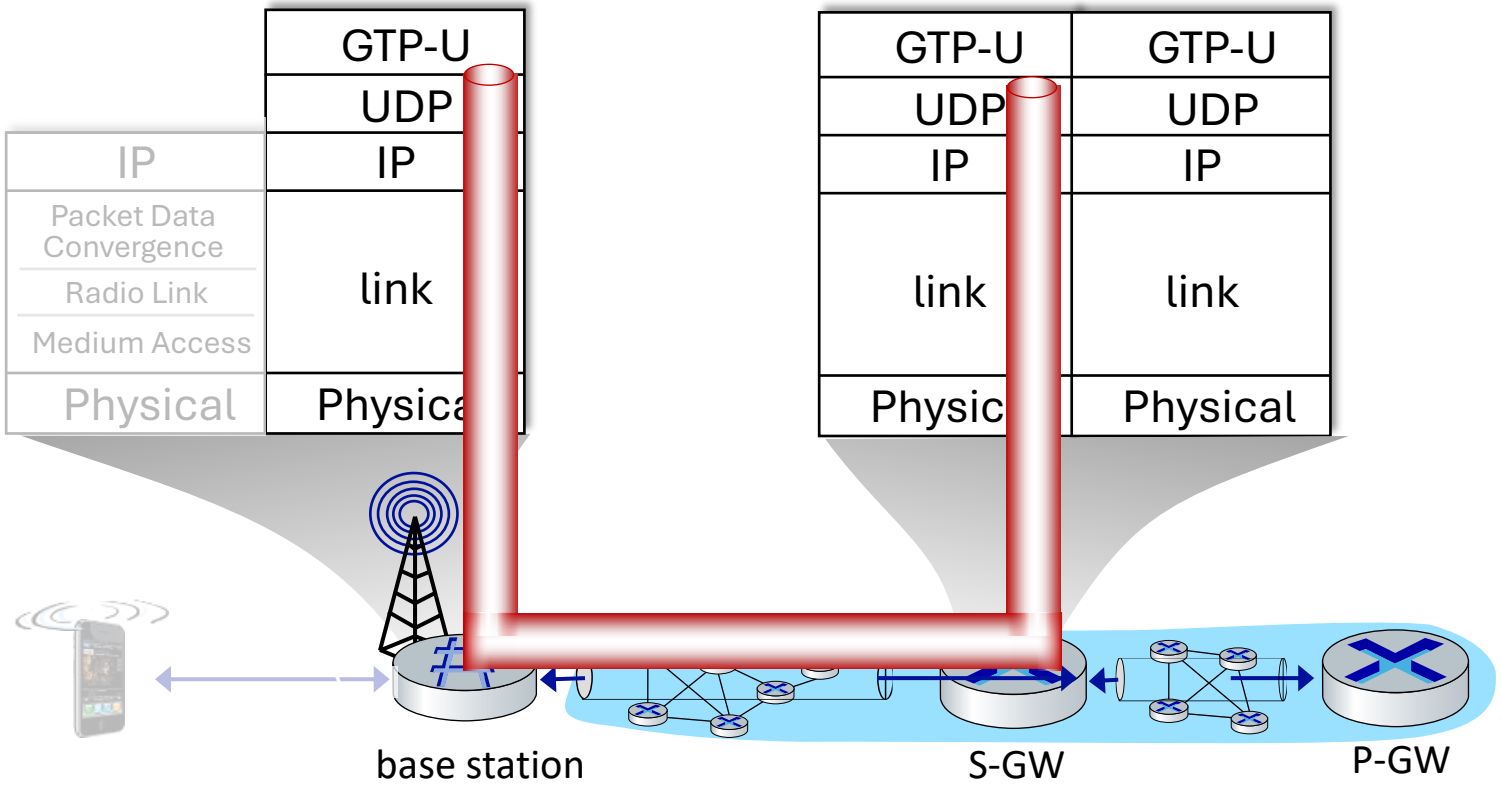
LTE data plane protocol stack: first hop



LTE link layer protocols:

- Packet Data Convergence: header compression, encryption
- Radio Link Control (RLC) Protocol: fragmentation/reassembly, reliable data transfer
- Medium Access: requesting, use of radio transmission slots (OFDM)

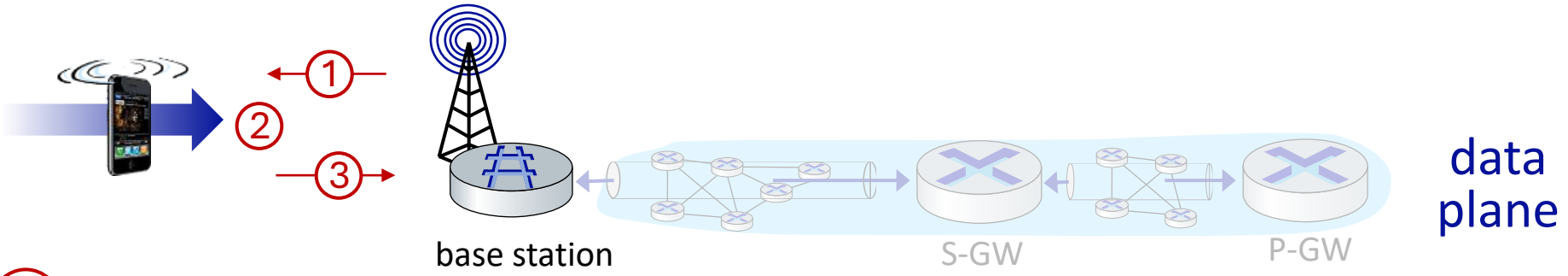
LTE data plane protocol stack: packet core



tunneling:

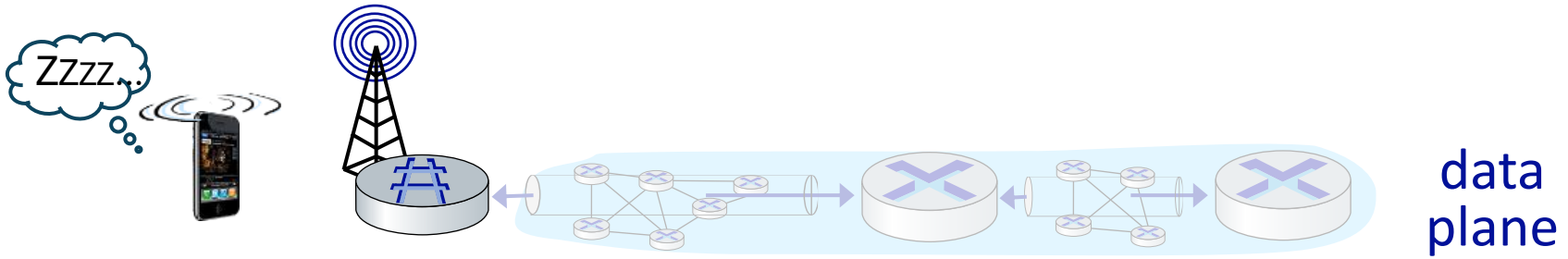
- mobile datagram encapsulated using GPRS Tunneling Protocol (GTP), sent inside UDP datagram to S-GW
- S-GW re-tunnels datagrams to P-GW
- supporting mobility: only tunneling endpoints change when mobile user moves

LTE data plane: associating with a BS



1. BS broadcasts primary synch signal every 5 ms on all frequencies
   - BSs from multiple carriers may be broadcasting synch signals
2. mobile finds a primary synch signal, then locates 2nd synch signal on this freq.
   - mobile then finds info broadcast by BS: channel bandwidth, configurations; BS's cellular carrier info
   - mobile may get info from multiple base stations, multiple cellular networks
3. mobile selects which BS to associate with (*e.g.*, preference for home carrier)
4. more steps still needed to authenticate, establish state, set up data plane

LTE mobiles: sleep modes



as in WiFi, Bluetooth: LTE mobile may put radio to “sleep” to conserve battery:

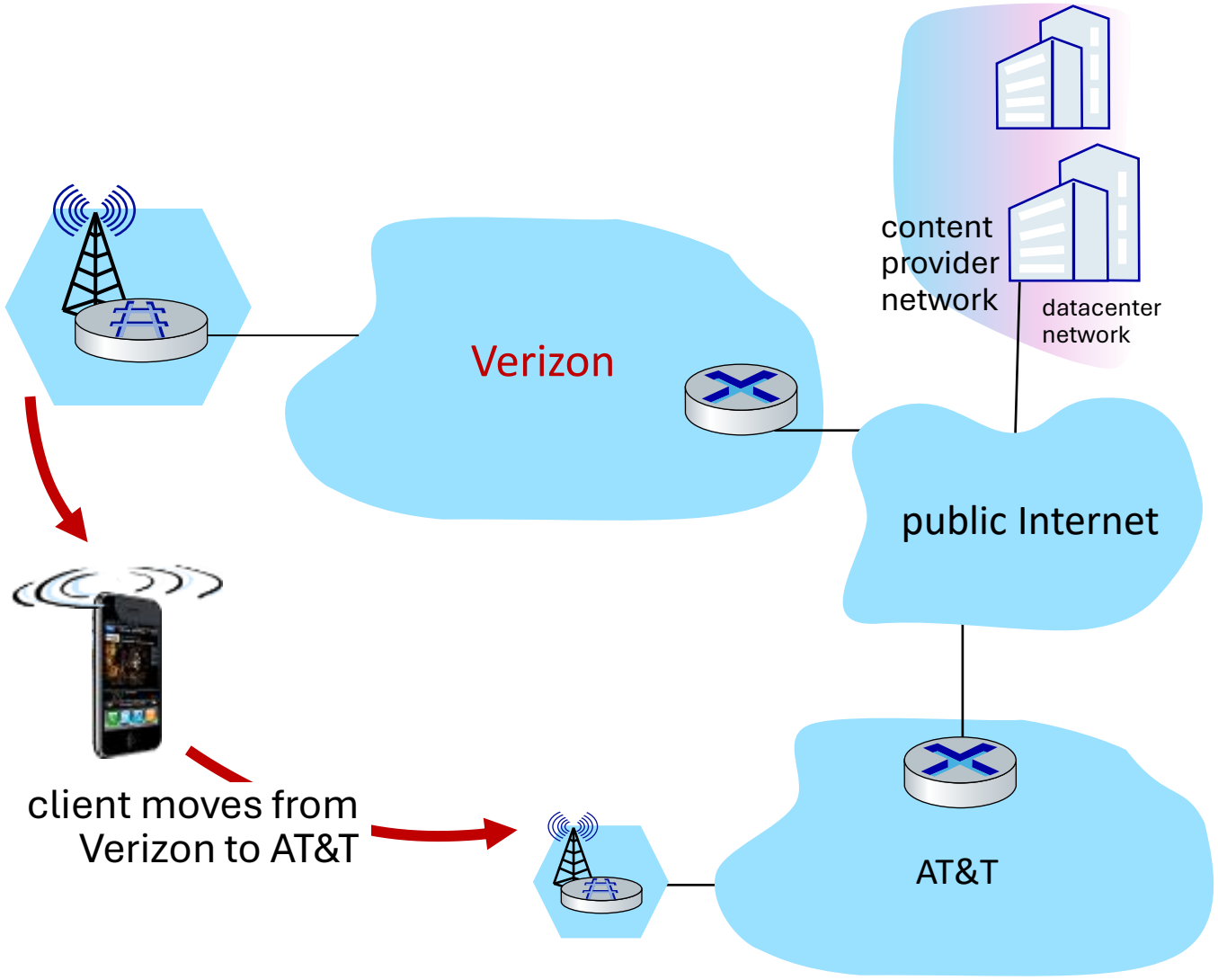
- light sleep: after 100’s msec of inactivity
  - wake up periodically (100’s msec) to check for downstream transmissions
- deep sleep: after 5-10 secs of inactivity
  - mobile may change cells while deep sleeping – need to re-establish association

Mobility

Mobility challenge:

If a device moves from one network another:

- How will the "network" know to forward packets to the *new* network?



Mobility approaches

- let network (routers) handle it:
  - routers advertise well-known name, address (e.g., permanent 32-bit IP address), or number (e.g., cell #) of visiting mobile node via usual routing table exchange
  - Internet routing could do this already *with no* changes! Routing tables indicate where each mobile located via longest prefix match!

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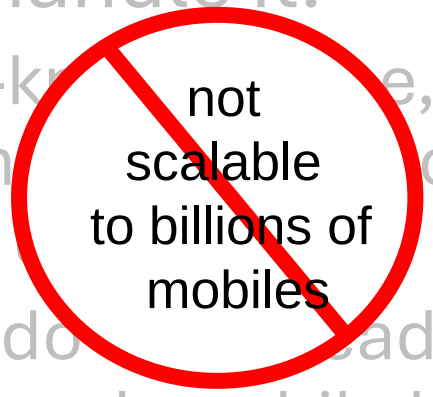

- let end-systems handle it: functionality at the "edge"
  - *indirect routing:* communication from correspondent to mobile goes through home network, then forwarded to remote mobile
  - *direct routing:* correspondent gets foreign address of mobile, send directly to mobile

Contacting a mobile friend:

Consider friend frequently changing locations, how do you find him/her?

- search all phone books?
- expect her to let you know where he/she is?
- call his/her parents?
- Facebook!

The importance of having a “home”:

- a definitive source of information about you
- a place where people can find out where you are