Chapter 4
Network Layer: Data Plane

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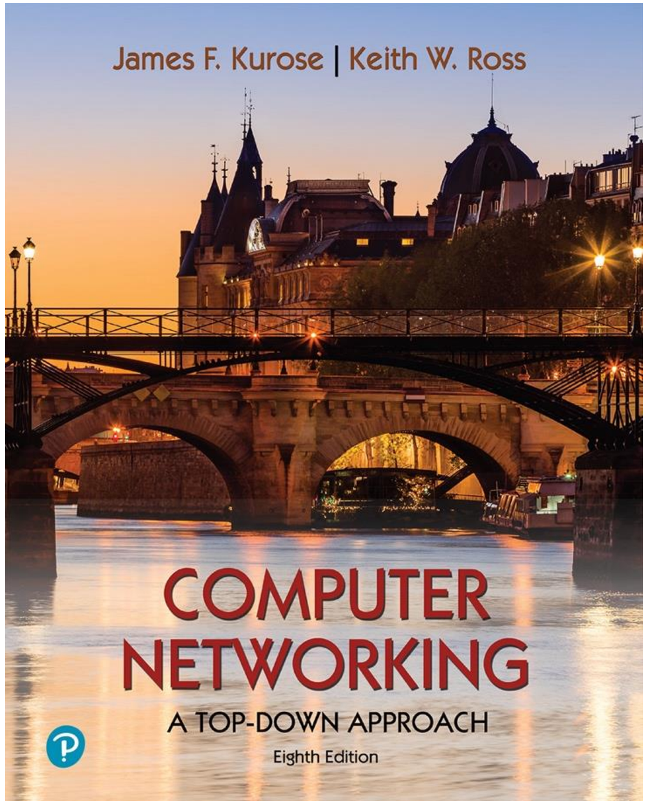
Adapted from the slides of the book's authors



Computer Networking: A Top-Down Approach
8^{th} edition
Jim Kurose, Keith Ross
Pearson, 2020

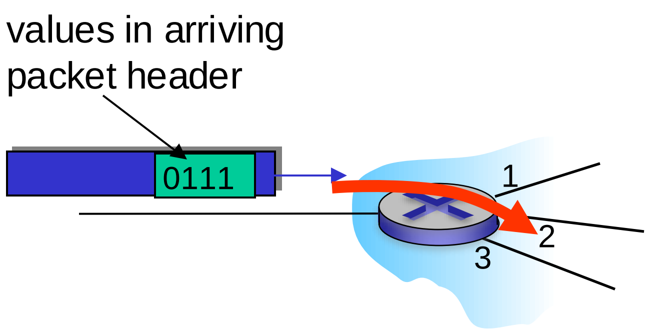
Network layer: “data plane” roadmap

- Network layer: overview
  - data plane
  - control plane
- What’s inside a router
  - input ports, switching, output ports
  - buffer management, scheduling
- IP: the Internet Protocol
  - datagram format
  - addressing
  - network address translation
  - IPv6

- Generalized Forwarding, SDN
  - Match+action
  - OpenFlow: match+action in action
- Middleboxes

Router: Forwarding Table

IP Address Range	Forwarding Interface
200.23.16.0/23	**1**
200.23.18.0/23	**2**
200.23.20.0/23	**3**



Action: Match and forward

Router: Forwarding Table

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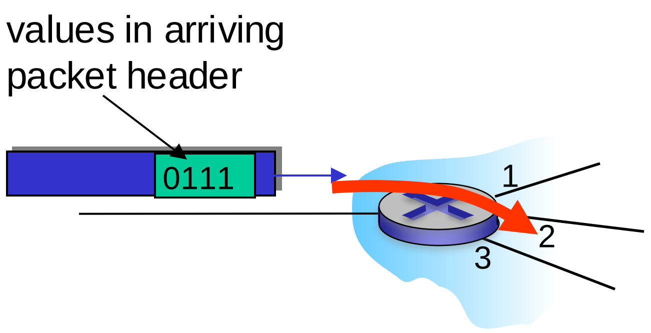

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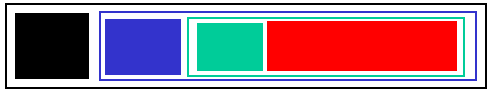

Router: Forwarding Table

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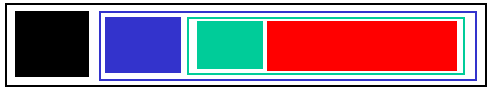

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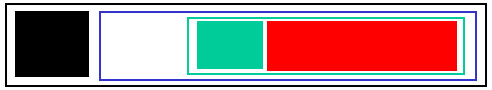
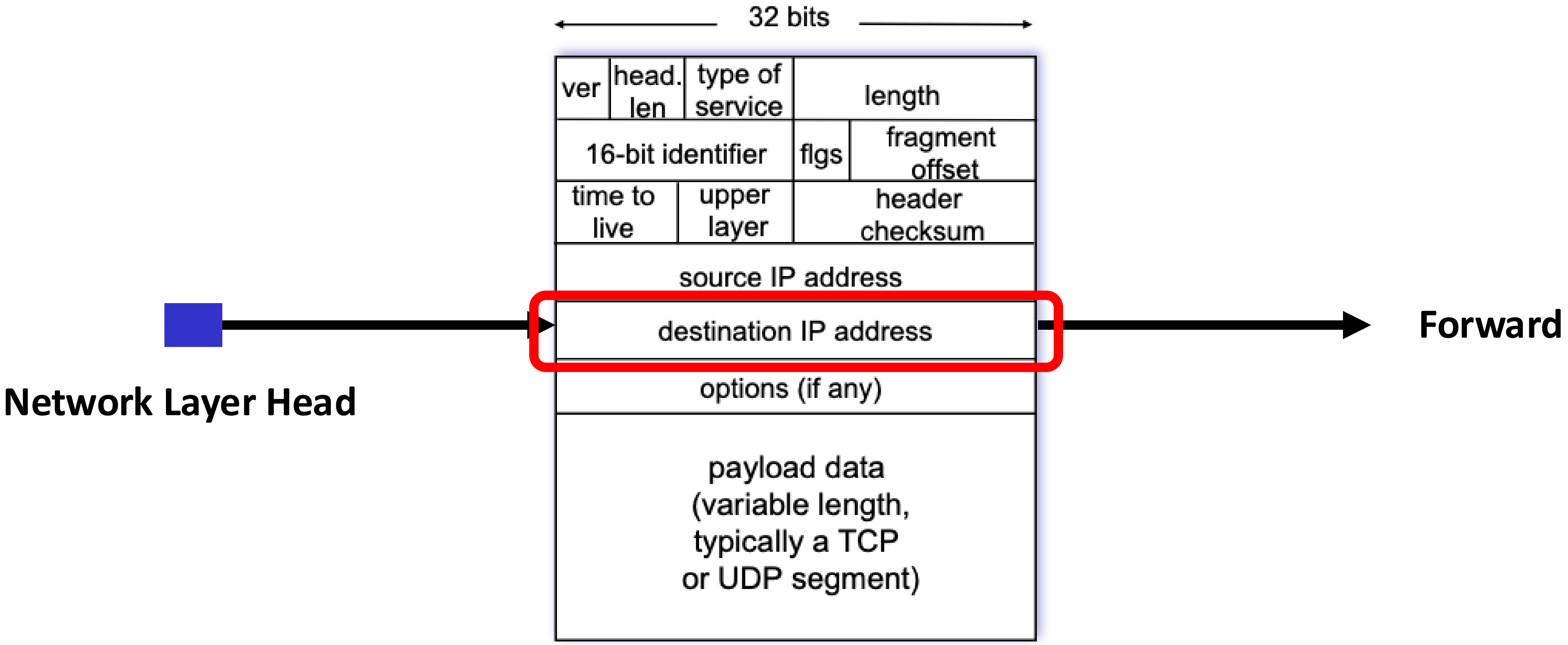
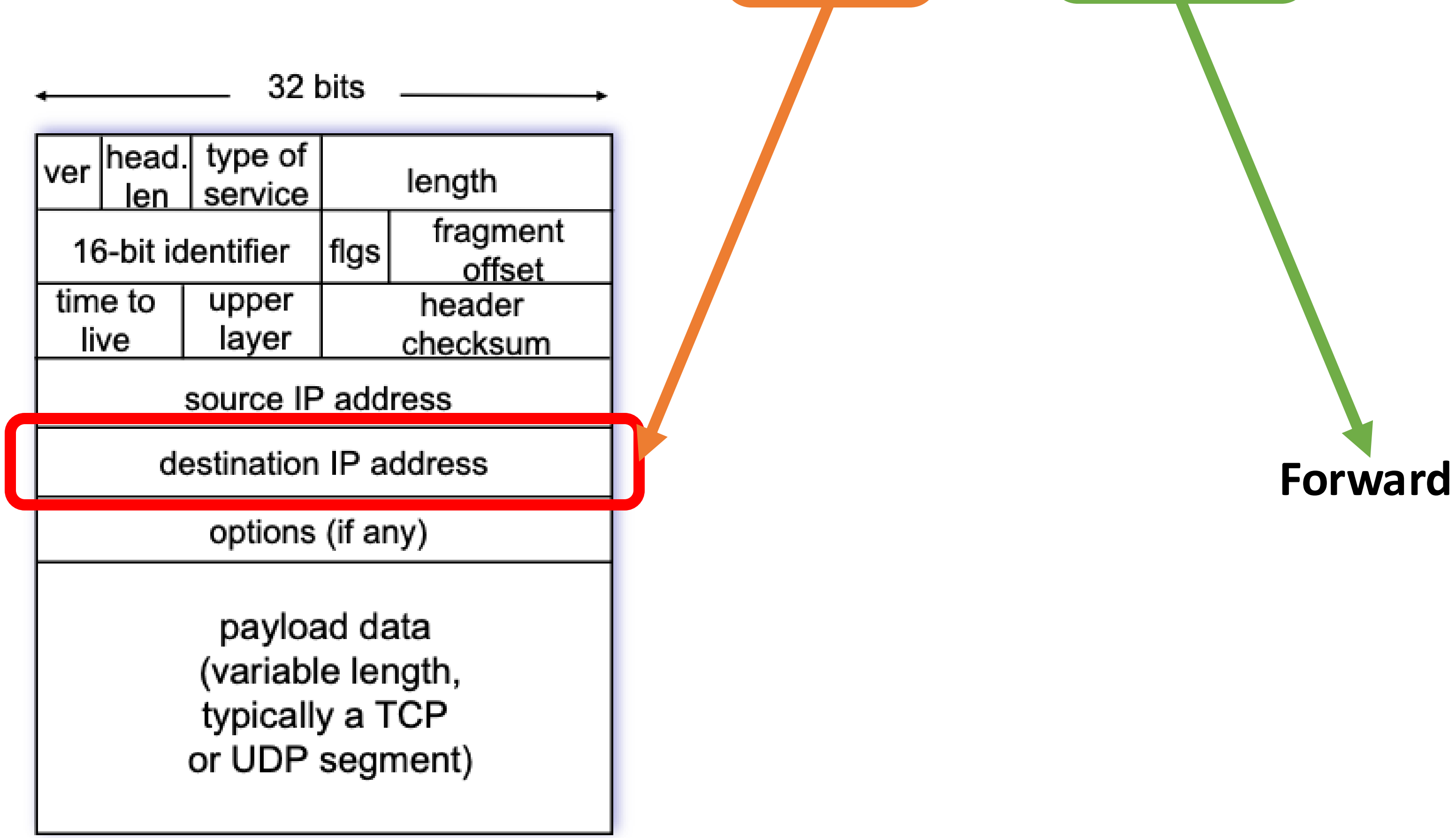


Action: **Match and forward**



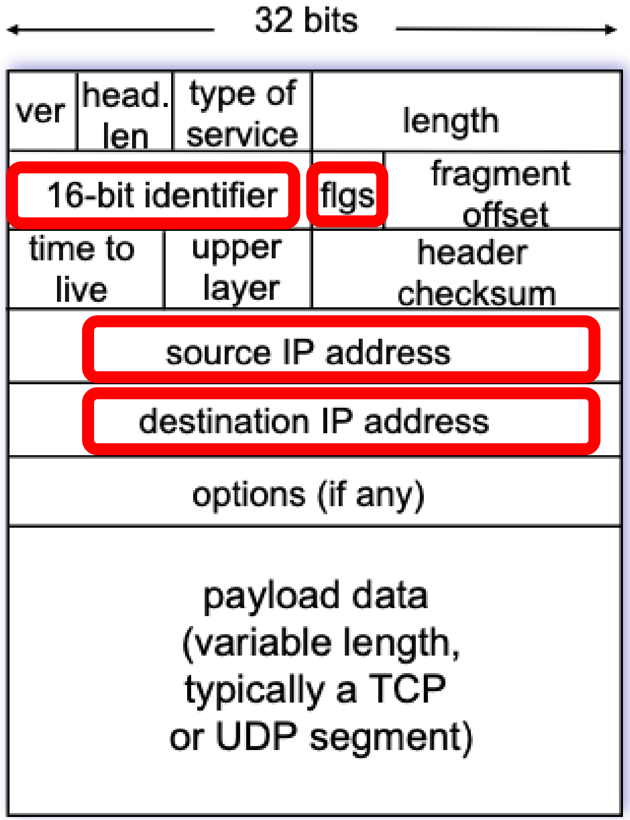
Router: Forwarding Table

Action: Match and forward



Generalization: Match and action

Action: Match and action

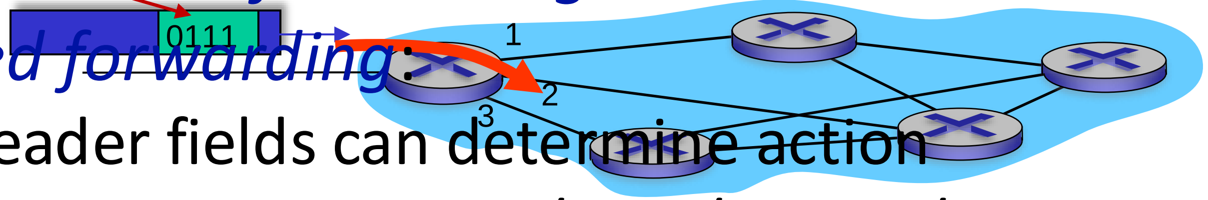


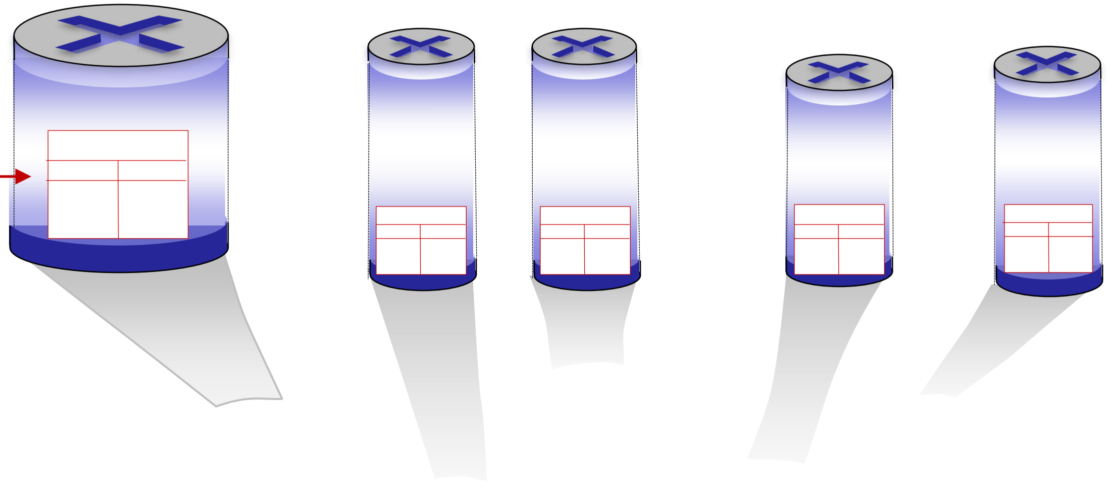
Forward
Drop
Copy
Modify

Generalized forwarding: match plus action

Review: each router contains a forwarding table (aka: flow table)

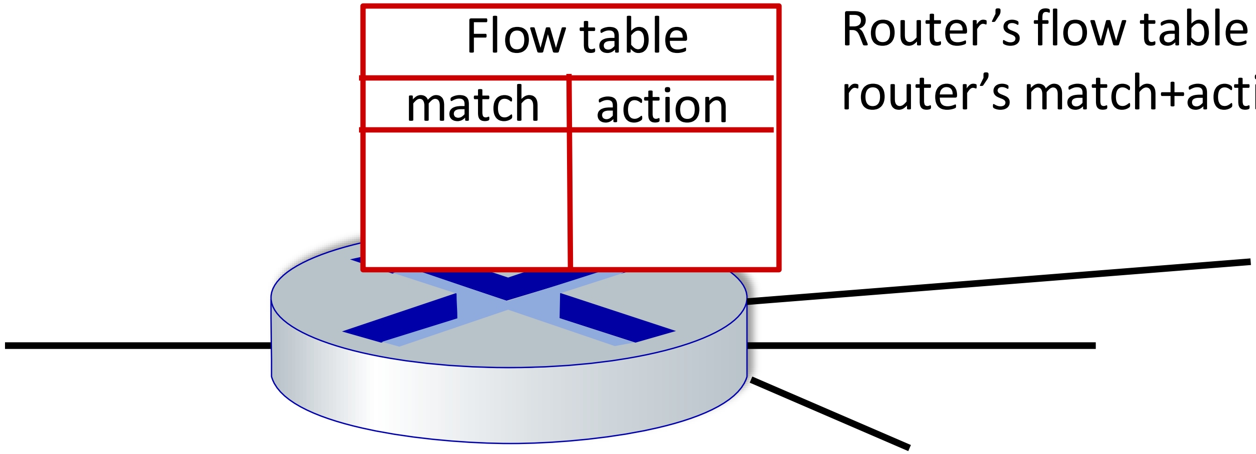
- "match plus action" abstraction: match bits in arriving packet, take action
  - *destination-based forwarding:* forward based on dest. IP address
  - *generalized forwarding:*
    - many header fields can determine action
    - many action possible: drop/copy/modify/log packet





Flow table abstraction

- flow: defined by header field values (in link-, network-, transport-layer fields)
- generalized forwarding: simple packet-handling rules
  - match: pattern values in packet header fields
  - actions: for matched packet: drop, forward, modify, matched packet or send matched packet to controller
  - priority: disambiguate overlapping patterns
  - counters: #bytes and #packets



Router's flow table define router's match+action rules

Flow table abstraction

- flow: defined by header fields
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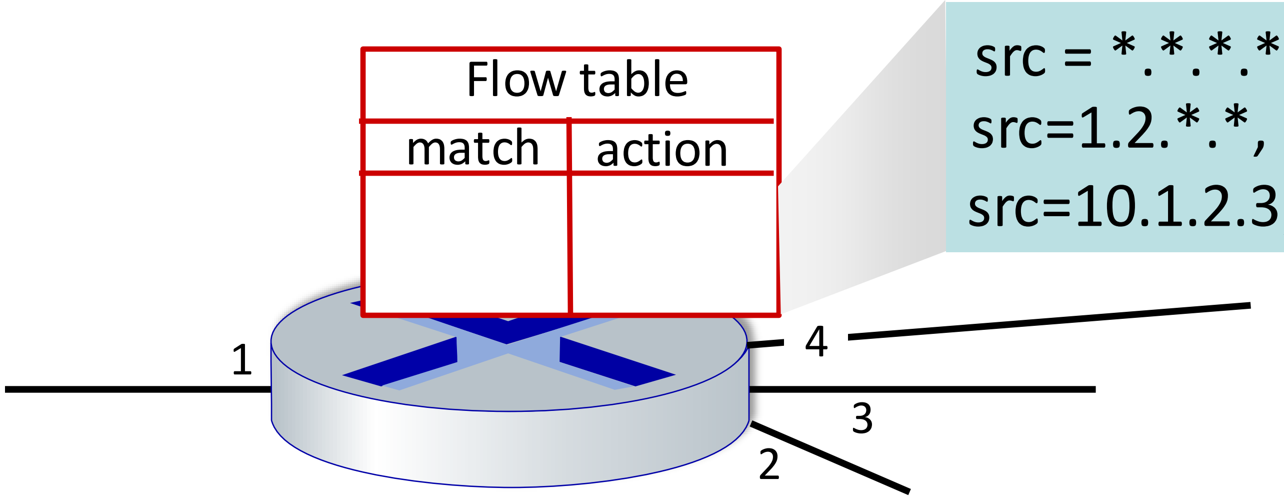
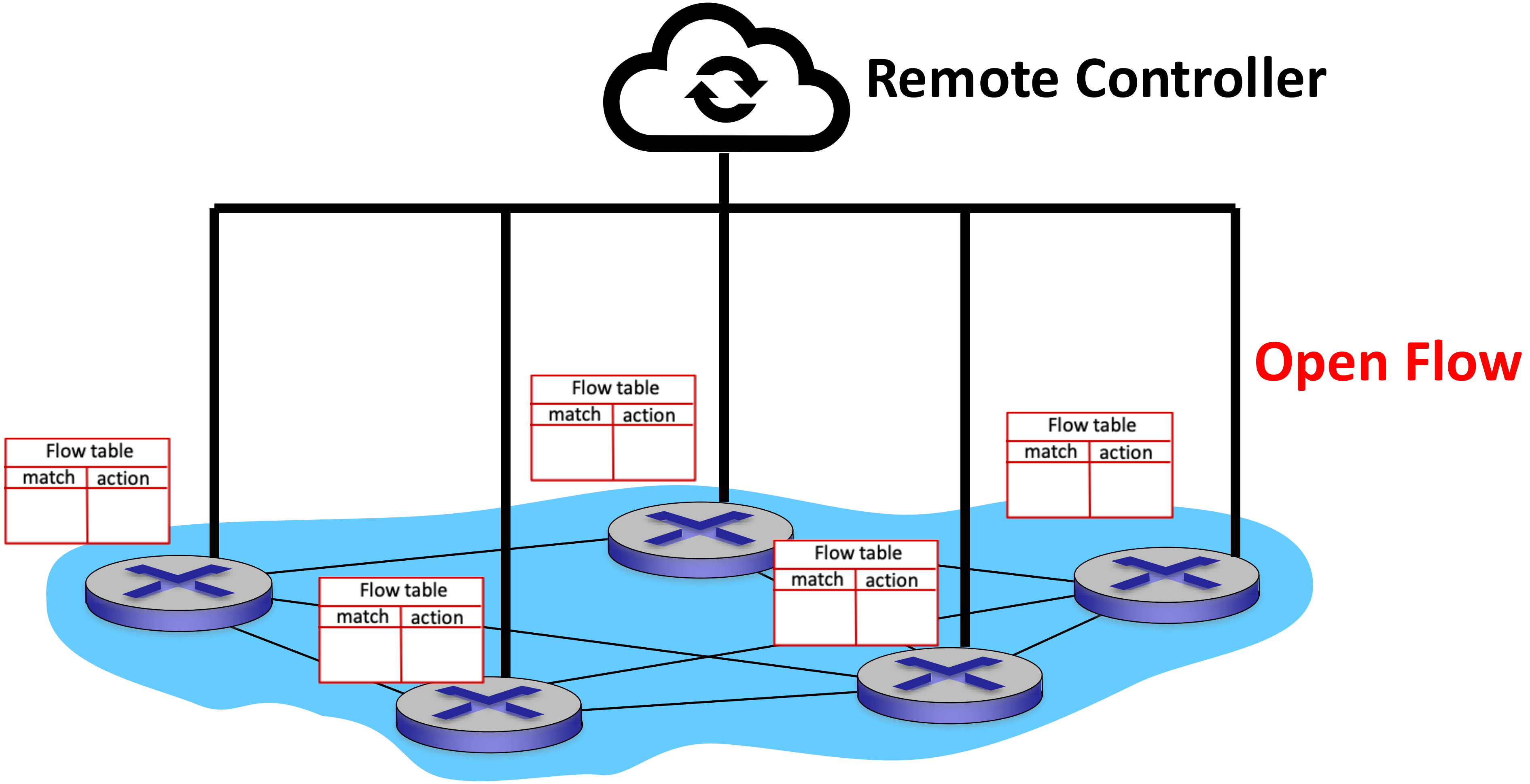


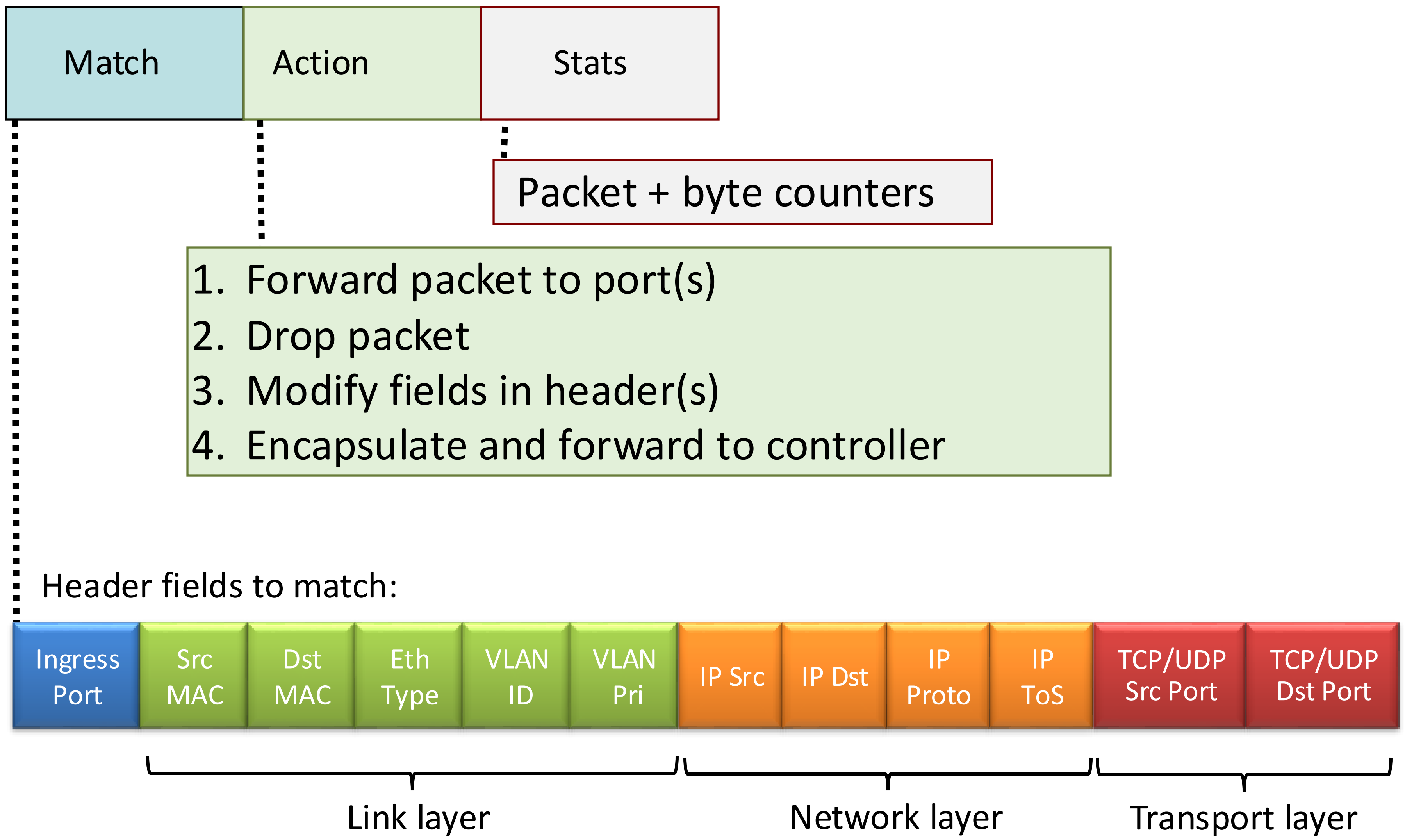
match	action
src = *.*.*.*, dest=3.4.*.*	forward(2)
src=1.2.*.*, dest=*.*.*.*	drop
src=10.1.2.3, dest=*.*.*.*	send to controller

* : wildcard

Open Flow: the communication protocol



OpenFlow: flow table entries



OpenFlow: examples

Destination-based forwarding:

Switch Port	MAC src	MAC dst	Eth type	VLAN ID	VLAN Pri	IP Src	IP Dst	IP Prot	IP ToS	TCP s-port	TCP d-port	Action
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	51.6.0.8	*	*	*	*	port6

IP datagrams destined to IP address 51.6.0.8 should be forwarded to router output port 6

Firewall:

Switch Port	MAC src	MAC dst	Eth type	VLAN ID	VLAN Pri	IP Src	IP Dst	IP Prot	IP ToS	TCP s-port	TCP d-port	Action
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	22	drop

Block (do not forward) all datagrams destined to TCP port 22 (ssh port #)

Switch Port	MAC src	MAC dst	Eth type	VLAN ID	VLAN Pri	IP Src	IP Dst	IP Prot	IP ToS	TCP s-port	TCP d-port	Action
*	*	*	*	*	*	128.119.1.1	*	*	*	*	*	drop

Block (do not forward) all datagrams sent by host 128.119.1.1

OpenFlow: examples

Layer 2 destination-based forwarding:

Switch Port	MAC src	MAC dst	Eth type	VLAN ID	VLAN Pri	IP Src	IP Dst	IP Prot	IP ToS	TCP s-port	TCP d-port	Action
*	*	22:A7:23: 11:E1:02	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	port3

layer 2 frames with destination MAC address 22:A7:23:11:E1:02 should be forwarded to output port 3

OpenFlow abstraction

- match+action: abstraction unifies different kinds of devices

Router

- *match:* longest destination IP prefix
- *action:* forward out a link

Switch

- *match:* destination MAC address
- *action:* forward or flood

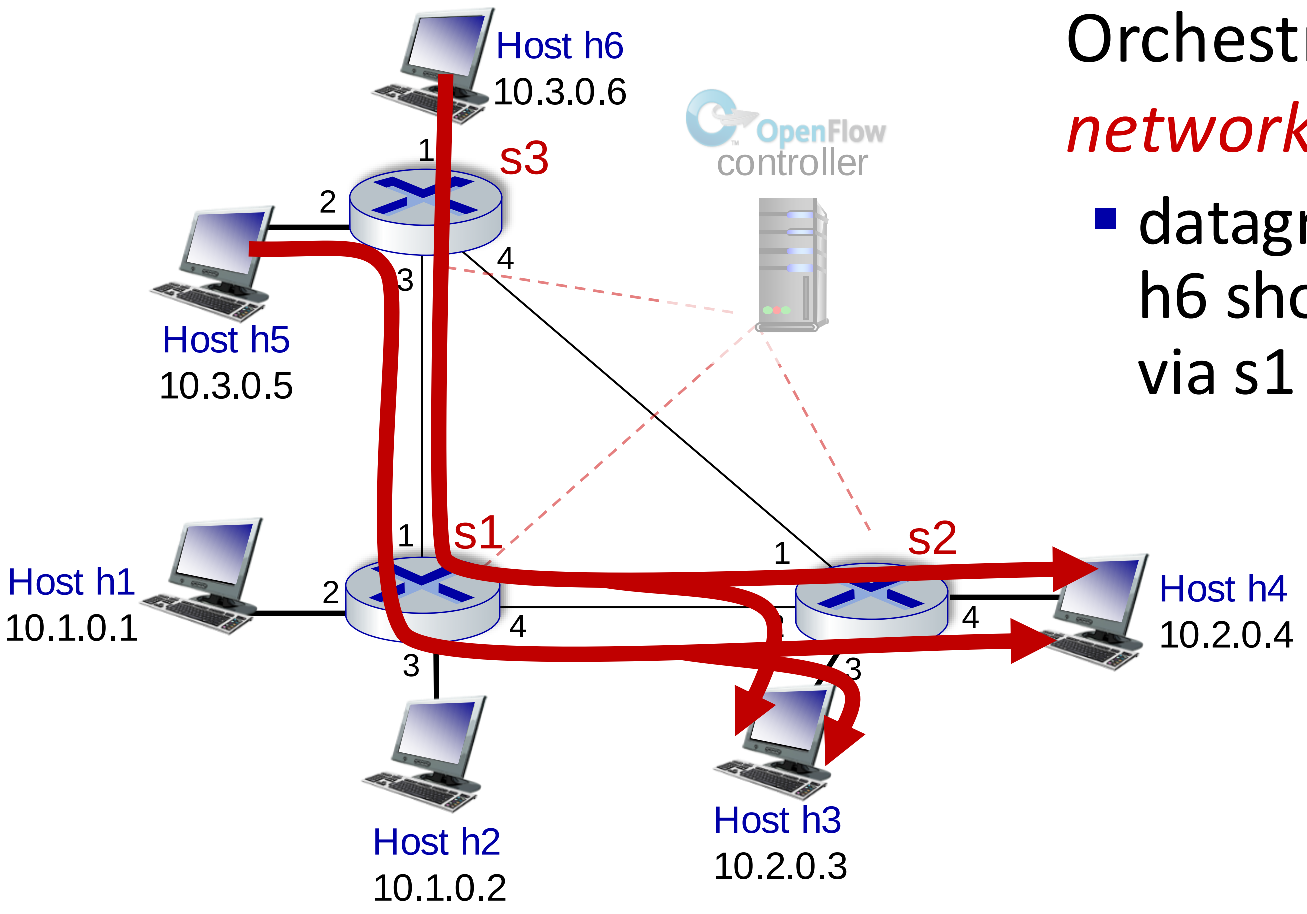
Firewall

- *match*: IP addresses and TCP/UDP port numbers
- *action:* permit or deny

NAT

- *match:* IP address and port
- *action:* rewrite address and port

OpenFlow example

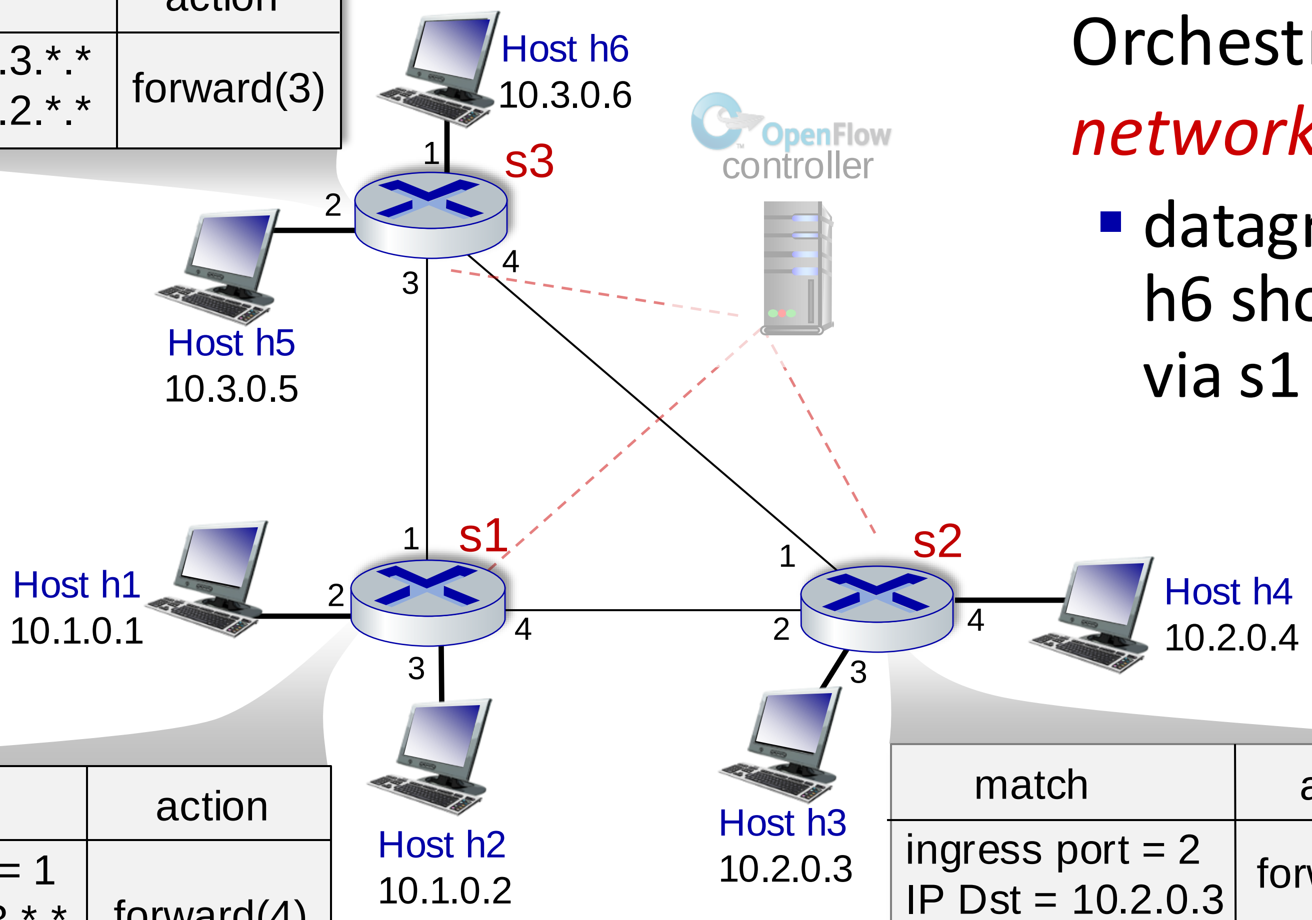


Orchestrated tables can create *network-wide* behavior, e.g.,:

- datagrams from hosts h5 and h6 should be sent to h3 or h4, via s1 and from there to s2

OpenFlow example

match	action
IP Src = 10.3.*.* IP Dst = 10.2.*.*	forward(3)



Orchestrated tables can create *network-wide* behavior, e.g.,:

- datagrams from hosts h5 and h6 should be sent to h3 or h4, via s1 and from there to s2

match	action
ingress port = 1 IP Src = 10.3.*.* IP Dst = 10.2.*.*	forward(4)

match	action
ingress port = 2 IP Dst = 10.2.0.3	forward(3)
ingress port = 2 IP Dst = 10.2.0.4	forward(4)

Generalized forwarding: summary

- "match plus action" abstraction: match bits in arriving packet header(s) in any layers, take action
  - matching over many fields (link-, network-, transport-layer)
  - local actions: drop, forward, modify, or send matched packet to controller
  - "program" *network-wide* behaviors
- simple form of "network programmability"
  - programmable, per-packet "processing"
  - *historical roots:* active networking
  - *today:* more generalized programming: P4 (see p4.org).

Network layer: “data plane” roadmap

- Network layer: overview
- What’s inside a router
- IP: the Internet Protocol
- Generalized Forwarding
- Middleboxes
  - middlebox functions
  - evolution, architectural principles of the Internet

Middleboxes

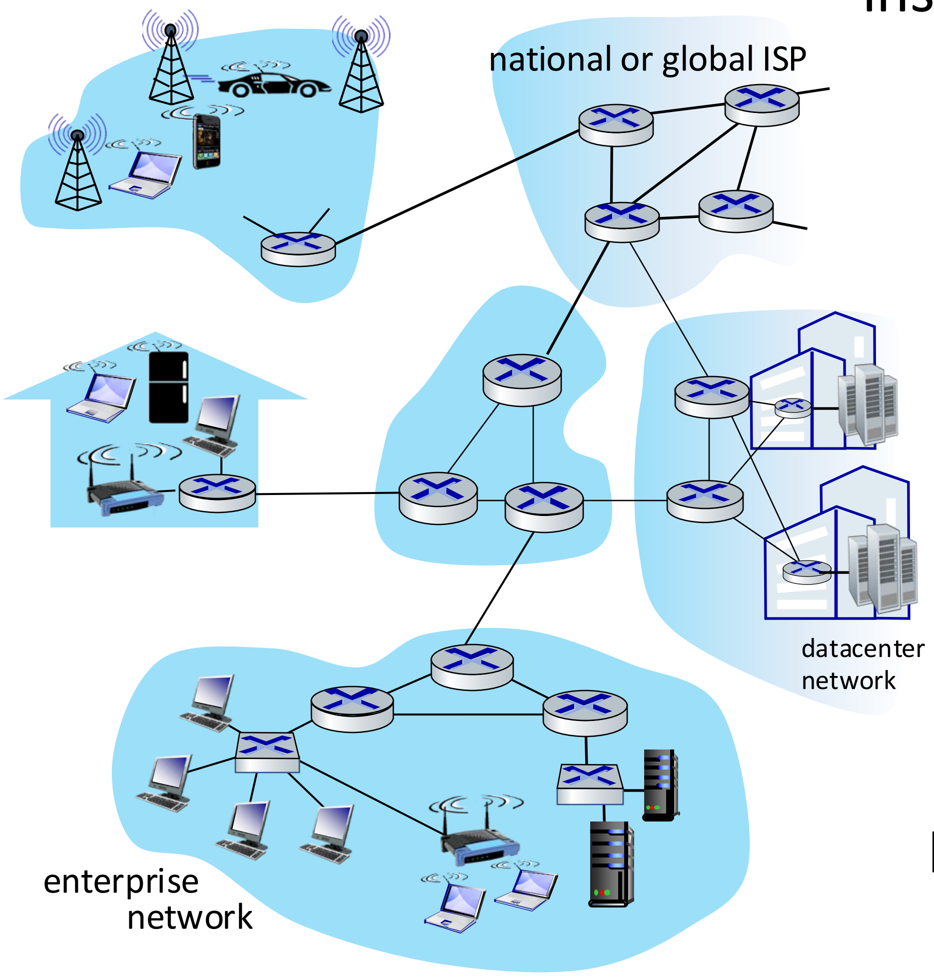
Middlebox (RFC 3234)

"any intermediary box performing functions apart from normal, standard functions of an IP router on the data path between a source host and destination host"

Middleboxes everywhere!

NAT: home, cellular, institutional

Application-specific: service providers, institutional, CDN



Firewalls, IDS: corporate, institutional, service providers, ISPs

Load balancers: corporate, service provider, data center, mobile nets

Caches: service provider, mobile, CDNs

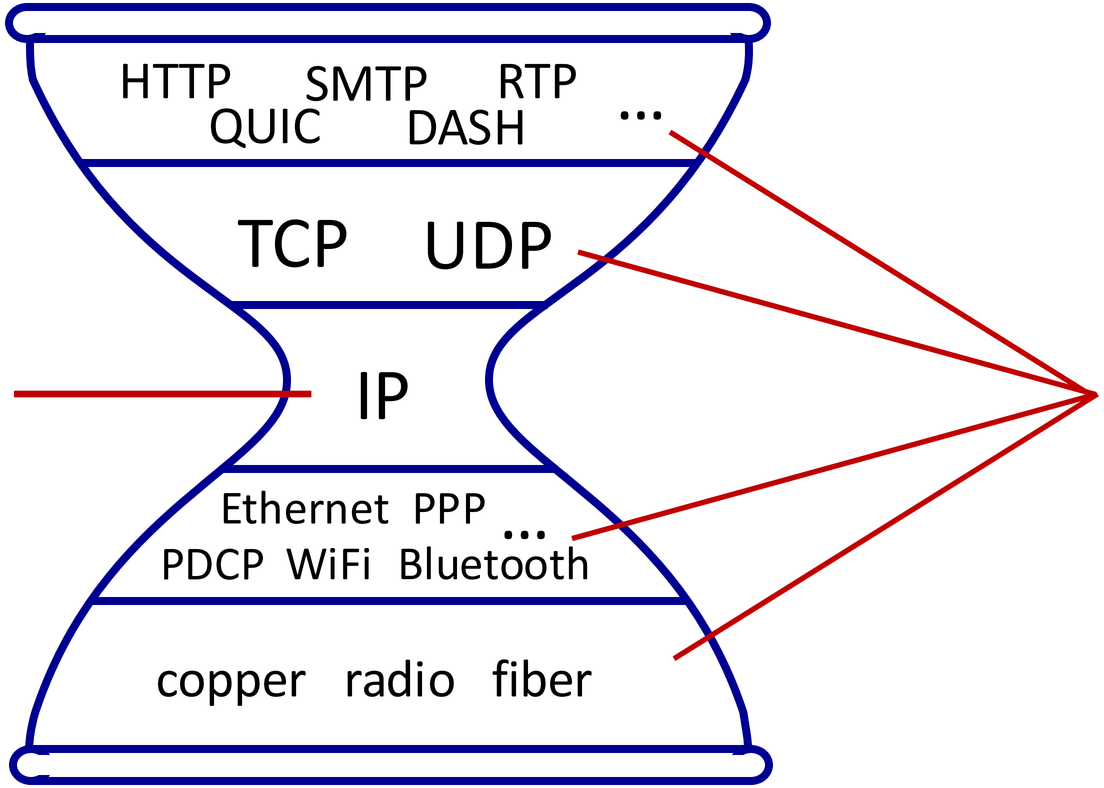
Middleboxes

- initially: proprietary (closed) hardware solutions
- move towards "whitebox" hardware implementing open API
  - move away from proprietary hardware solutions
  - programmable local actions via match+action
  - move towards innovation/differentiation in software
- SDN: (logically) centralized control and configuration management often in private/public cloud
- network functions virtualization (NFV): programmable services over white box networking, computation, storage

The IP hourglass

Internet's "thin waist":

- *one* network layer protocol: IP
- *must* be implemented by every (billions) of Internet-connected devices

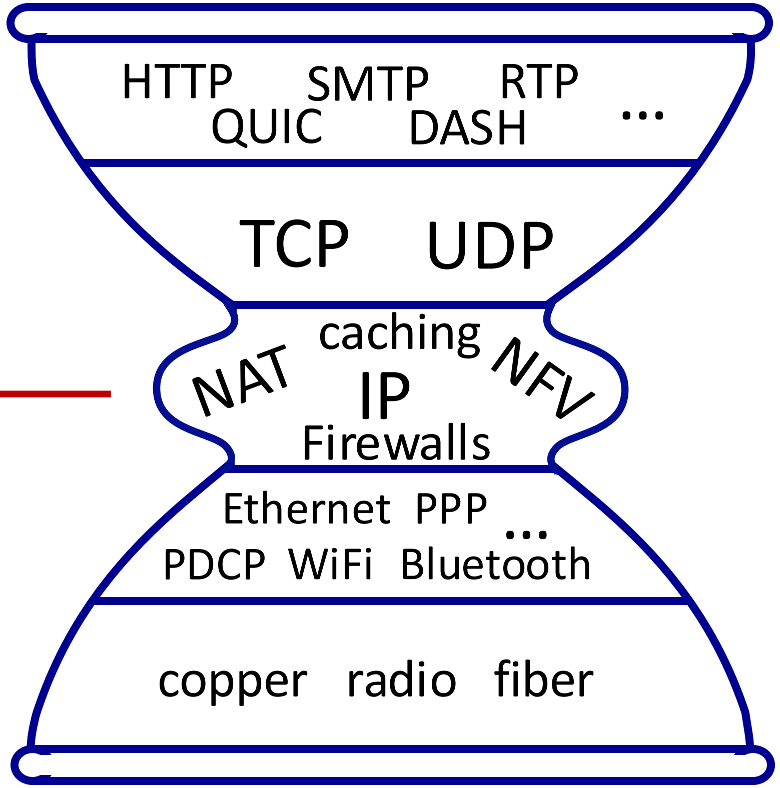


many protocols in physical, link, transport, and application layers

The IP hourglass, at middle age

Internet's middle age "love handles"?

- middleboxes, operating inside the network



Architectural Principles of the Internet

RFC 1958

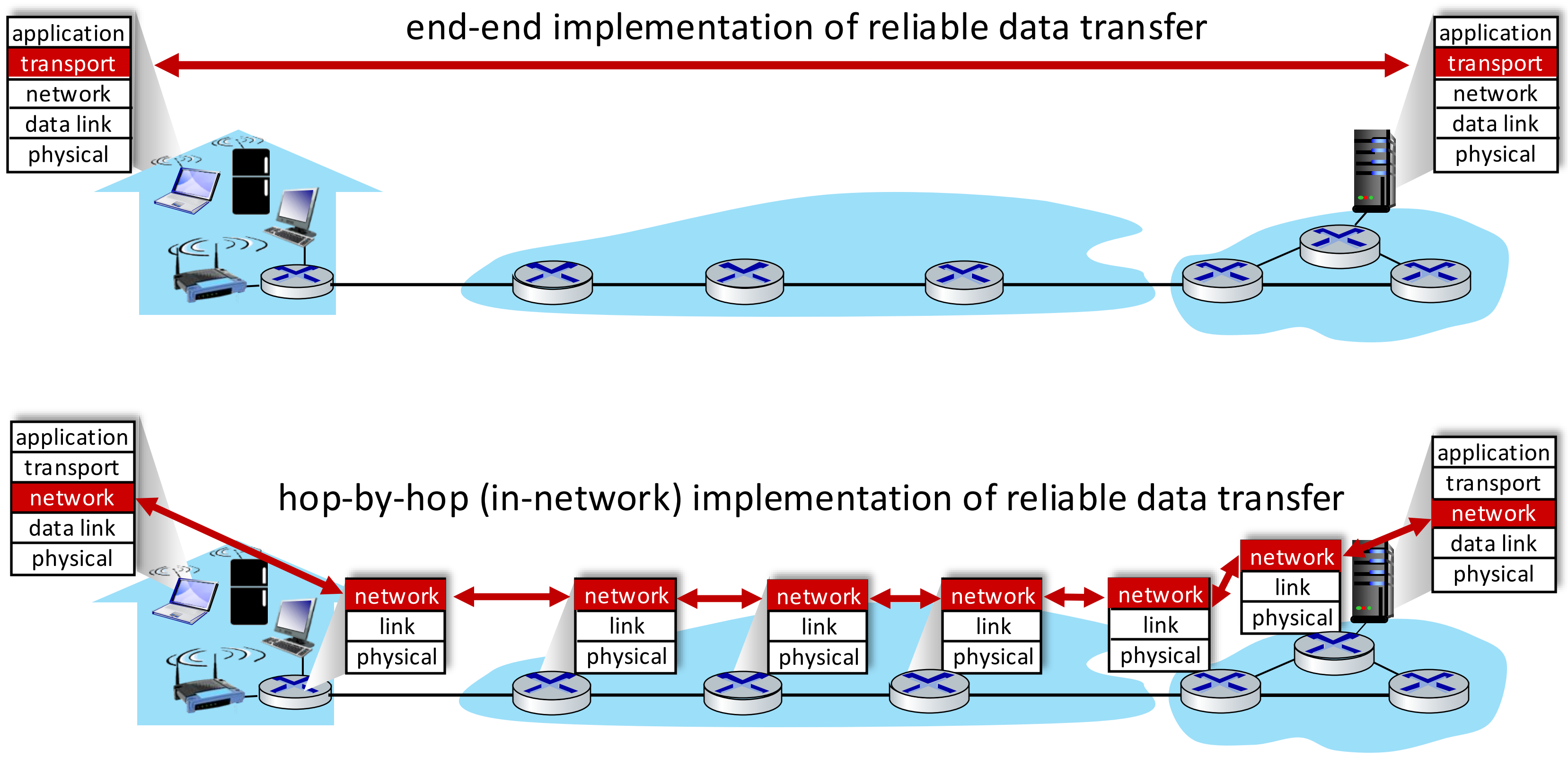
"Many members of the Internet community would argue that there is no architecture, but only a tradition, which was not written down for the first 25 years (or at least not by the IAB). However, in very general terms, the community believes that the goal is connectivity, the tool is the Internet Protocol, and the intelligence is end to end rather than hidden in the network."

Three cornerstone beliefs:

- simple connectivity
- IP protocol: that narrow waist
- intelligence, complexity at network edge

The end-end argument

- some network functionality (e.g., reliable data transfer, congestion) can be implemented in network, or at network edge

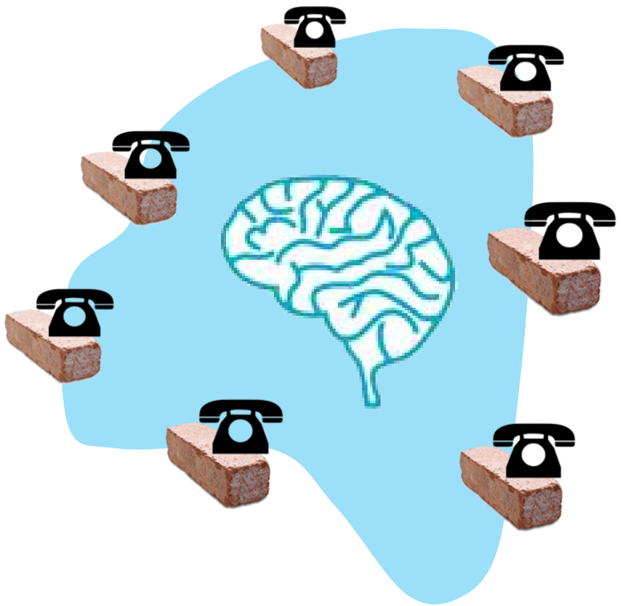


The end-end argument

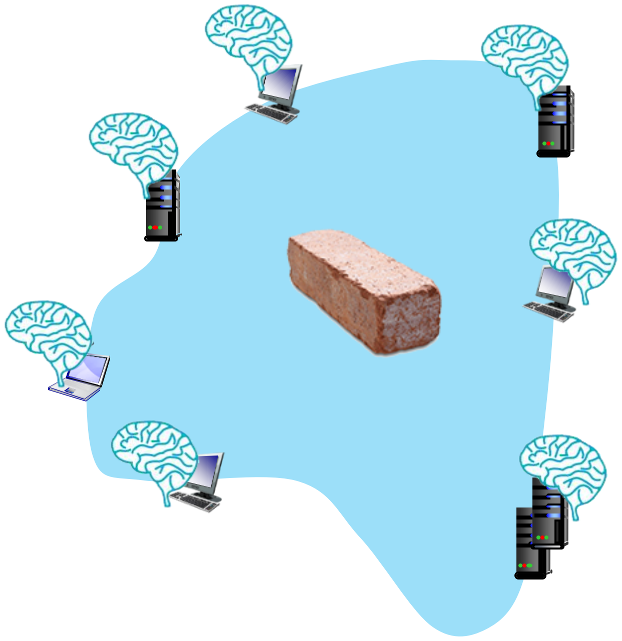
- some network functionality (e.g., reliable data transfer, congestion) can be implemented in network, or at network edge

> "The function in question can completely and correctly be implemented only with the knowledge and help of the application standing at the end points of the communication system. Therefore, providing that questioned function as a feature of the communication system itself is not possible. (Sometimes an incomplete version of the function provided by the communication system may be useful as a performance enhancement.)
>
> We call this line of reasoning against low-level function implementation the "end-to-end argument."
>
> Saltzer, Reed, Clark 1981

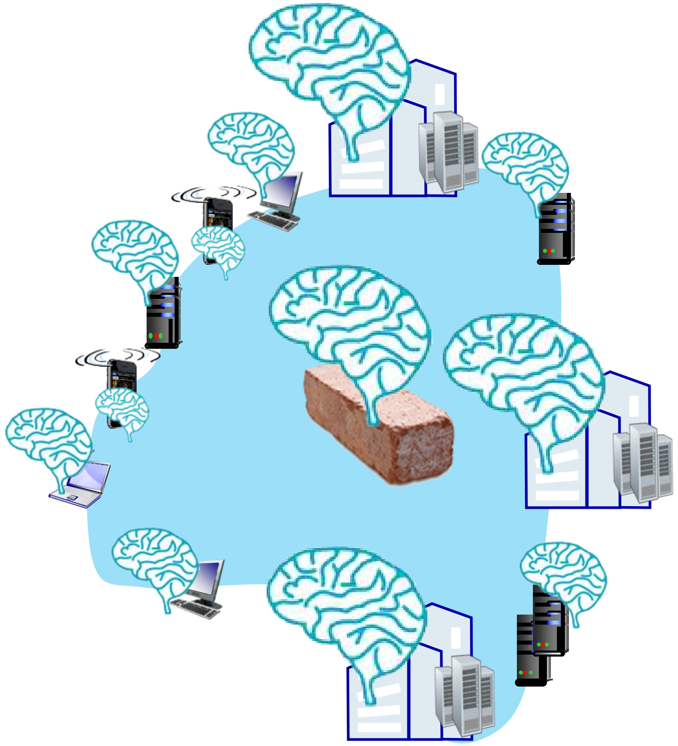
Where’s the intelligence?



20th century phone net:
- intelligence/computing at network switches



Internet (pre-2005)
- intelligence, computing at edge



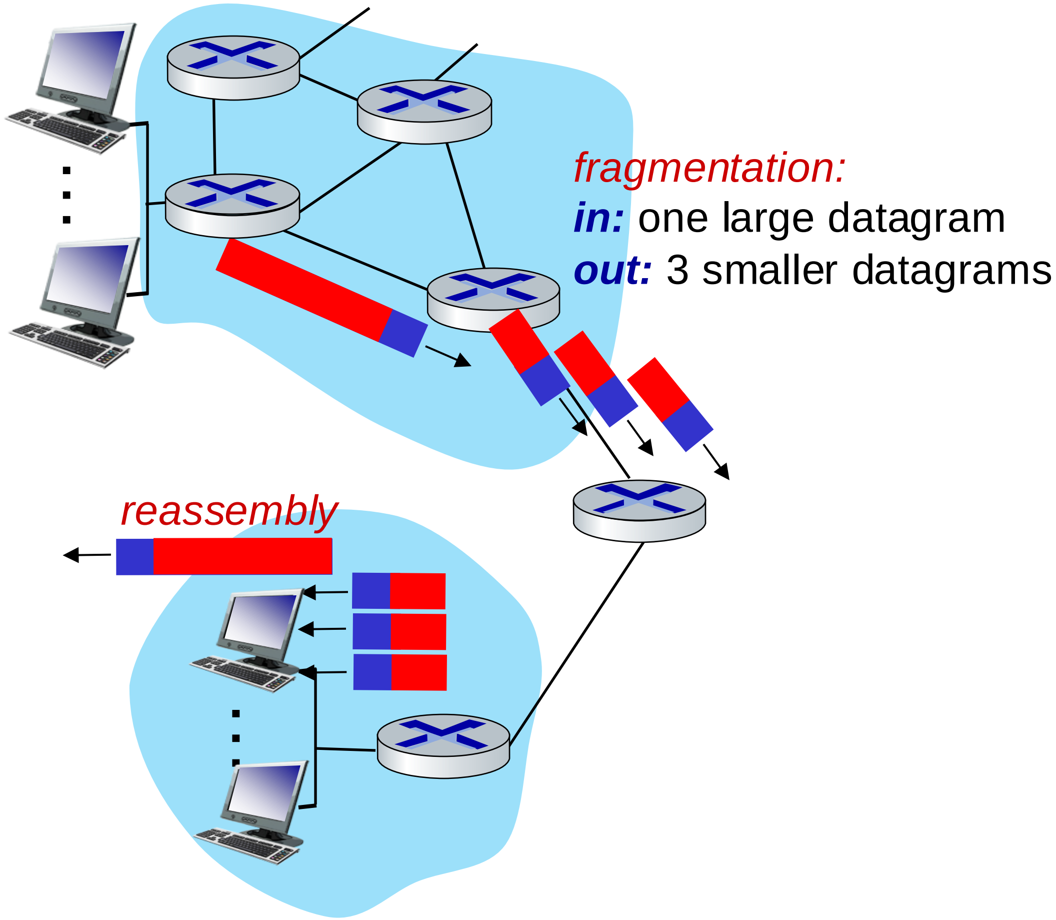
Internet (post-2005)
- programmable network devices
- intelligence, computing, massive application-level infrastructure at edge

Chapter 4: done!

- Network layer: overview
- What's inside a router
- IP: the Internet Protocol
- Generalized Forwarding, SDN
- Middleboxes

IP fragmentation/reassembly

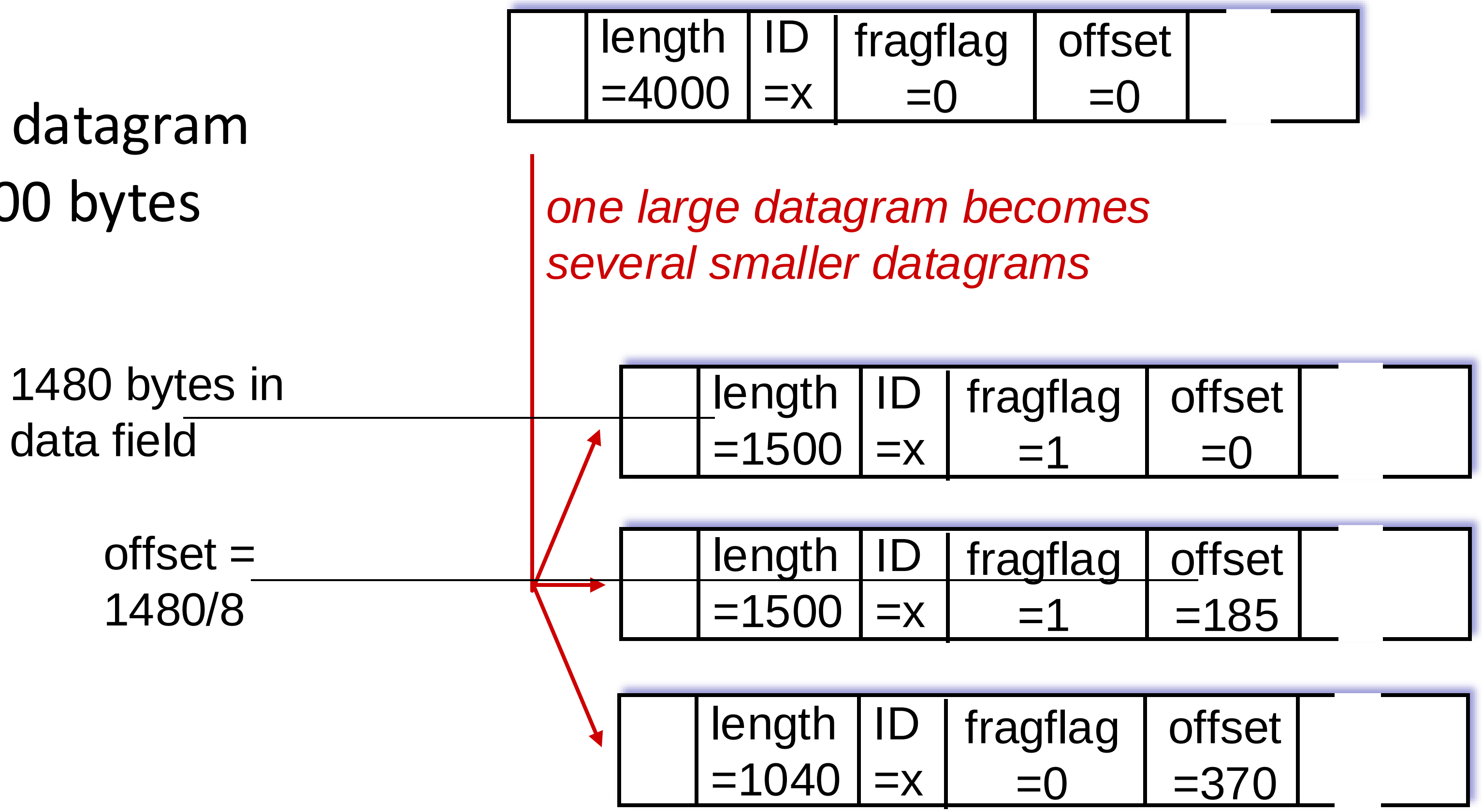
- network links have MTU (max. transfer size) - largest possible link-level frame
  - different link types, different MTUs
- large IP datagram divided ("fragmented") within net
  - one datagram becomes several datagrams
  - "reassembled" only at *destination*
  - IP header bits used to identify, order related fragments



IP fragmentation/reassembly

example:

- 4000 byte datagram
- MTU = 1500 bytes



Chapter 4: done!