Data Link In Broadcast Networks: The Media Access Sublayer

- Broadcast networks with multi-access (or random access) shared channels include the majority of LANS, all wireless and satellite networks.
- Medium Access Control (MAC):

Protocols to allocate a single shared broadcast channel among competing senders by determining which sender gets access to the channel next and transmit its data.

- Static Channel Allocation: Frequency Division Multiplexing (FDM), Time Division Multiplexing (TDM)
 --- too wasteful of available bandwidth.
- **Dynamic Channel Allocation:** No predetermined sender access order to the channel.

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Dynamic Channel Allocation: Protocol Assumptions

- N independent stations (senders or, computers etc.)
- A station is blocked until its generated frame is transmitted.
- Probability of a frame being generated in a period of length Δt is $\lambda \Delta t$ where λ is the arrival rate of frames.
- Only a single channel is available.
- The transmission of two or more frames on the channel at the same time creates a collision and destroyed data.
- Time can be either: Continuous or slotted.
- Carrier sense: A station can sense if a channel is busy before transmission.
- No Carrier sense: Timeout used to sense loss of data.

Multiple Access Protocols: Pure ALOHA

- Stations transmit whenever data is available at arbitrary times (forming a contention system).
- Colliding frames are destroyed
- Frame destruction sensed by listening to channel:
 - Immediate collision feedback in LANs
 - 270 msec feedback delay in satellite transmission.
- When a frame is destroyed the sender waits a random period of time before retransmitting the frame



Frame Throughput of Pure ALOHA

- Infinite sender population assumed.
- New frames rate (or frames success rate):
 - **Poisson distribution with mean rate S frames/frame time.**
- Combined frame rate with retransmissions :

G frames/frame time.

- $S = GP_0$ where P_0 = probability a frame is successful
- **t** = time required to transmit a frame
- A frame is successful if no other frames are transmitted in the vulnerable period from t_0 to $t_0 + 2t$
- Probability k frames are generated during a frame time:

$$P_r[k] = \frac{G^k e^{-G}}{K!}$$

• Probability of zero frames in two frame periods is $P_0 = e^{-2G}$

 $\Rightarrow S = G P_0 = G e^{-2G} \qquad Max(S) = 1/2e \quad at G = .5$

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Vulnerable Period in Pure ALOHA

For successful frame transmission:

No other frame should be on the channel for vulnerable period equal to twice the time to transmit one frame = 2t



Slotted ALOHA

- Time is divided into discrete frame time slots.
- A station is required to wait for the beginning of the next slot to transmit
- Vulnerable period is halved as opposed to pure ALOHA.

S = **G** P_0 = **G** e^{-G} Max (s) = 1/e at G = 1

• Expected number of retransmissions: $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{e}^{\mathbf{G}}$



Channel Utilization Vs. Load for Random Access Protocols



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Carrier Sense Multiple Access (CSMA) Protocols

- Medium Access Control (MAC) Protocols for shared channels where a station listens to the channel and has the ability sense the carrier and thus can detect if the channel is idle before transmitting, and possibly detect the occurrence of a collision after attempting to transmit a frame.
- 1-Persistent CSMA:
 - A ready station first listens to the channel for other transmissions.
 - Once it detects an idle channel it transmits a frame immediately.
 - In case of a collision, the stations involved in the collision wait a random period of time before retransmission.
- Nonpersistent CSMA:
 - If a ready station senses an idle channel it starts transmission immediately.
 - If a busy channel is sensed a station waits a random period of time before sensing the channel again.
- **p-Persistent CSMA** (applies to slotted channels):
 - If A ready station senses an idle channel, it transmits with probability p or defers transmission to the next time slot with probability q = 1 p
 - If the next slot is idle it transmits or defers again with probabilities p, q
 - The process continues until the frame has been transmitted or another station has seized the channel.
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CSMA with Collision Detection (CSMA/CD)

- If two stations begin transmitting simultaneously and detect a collision, both stations abort their transmission immediately.
- Once a collision is detected each ready stations waits a random period of time before attempting to retransmit.
- Worst-case contention interval (the duration of a collision lasts) is equal to 2τ (τ is the propagation time between the two farthest stations).



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Collision-Free Protocols: Basic Bit-Map Protocol



- N stations with addresses 0 to N-1
- N one-bit contention slots.
- If a station *i* has a frame to send, it sends a one during contention slot *i*.
- Once all stations indicated frame availability, ready frames are transmitted in address order.
- Representative of reservation protocols (where each station broadcasts its desire to transmit before actual transmission).
- Efficiency per frame:
 - With low load = d/(N + d) With high load = d/(1 + d)

d = number of bits in one frame

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Collision-Free Protocols: Binary Countdown Protocol

- Binary station address is used to form log N one-bit contention slots.
- Address bits from all stations are Boolean ORed.
- If a station has a frame to send, it transmits its binary address starting with the high-order bit.
- The station with the highestnumbered address gets to transmit.
- Efficiency per frame

 $= d/(d + \log N)$



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