Chapter I: Introduction

UG3 Computer Communications & Networks (COMN)

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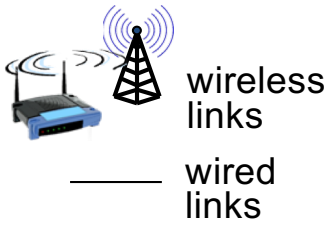
Slides thanks to Myungjin Lee, and copyright of Kurose and Ross

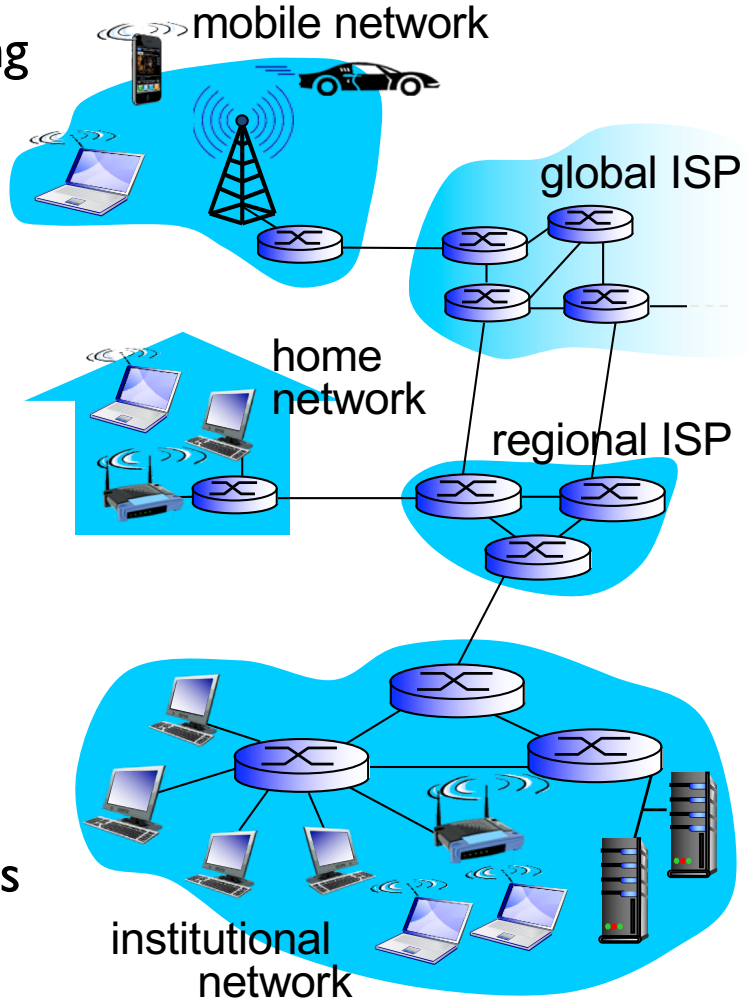
What's the Internet: "nuts and bolts" view

- billions of connected computing devices:
  - *hosts* = *end systems*
  - running *network apps*



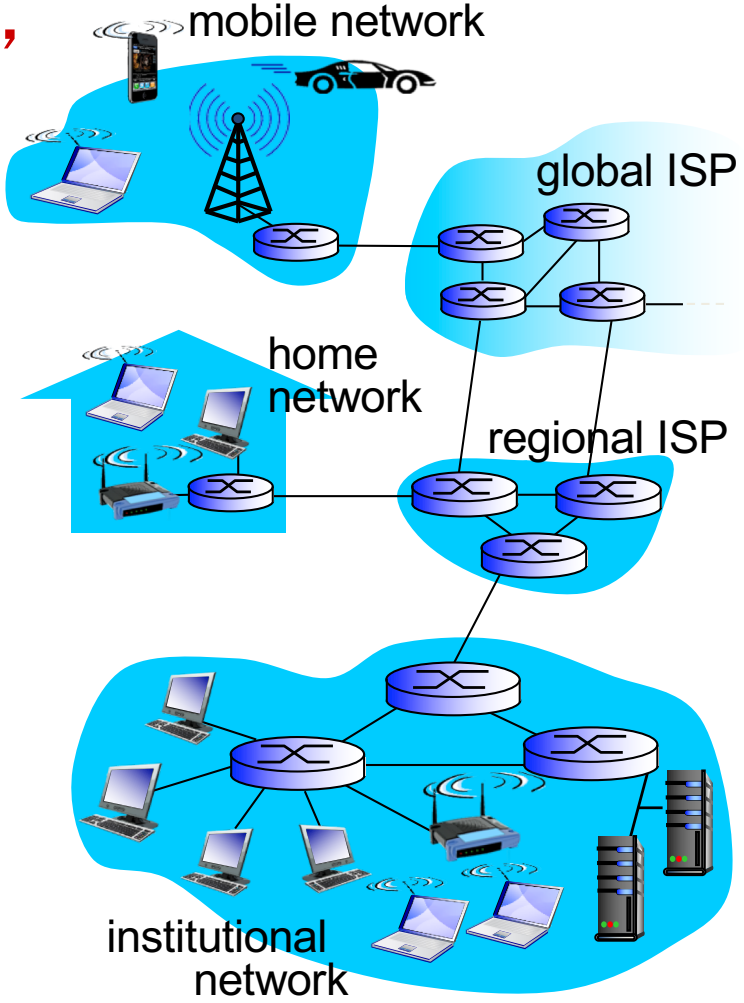
- *communication links*
  - fiber, copper, radio, satellite
  - transmission rate: *bandwidth*

- *Packet switches:* forward packets (chunks of data)
  - *routers* and *switches*



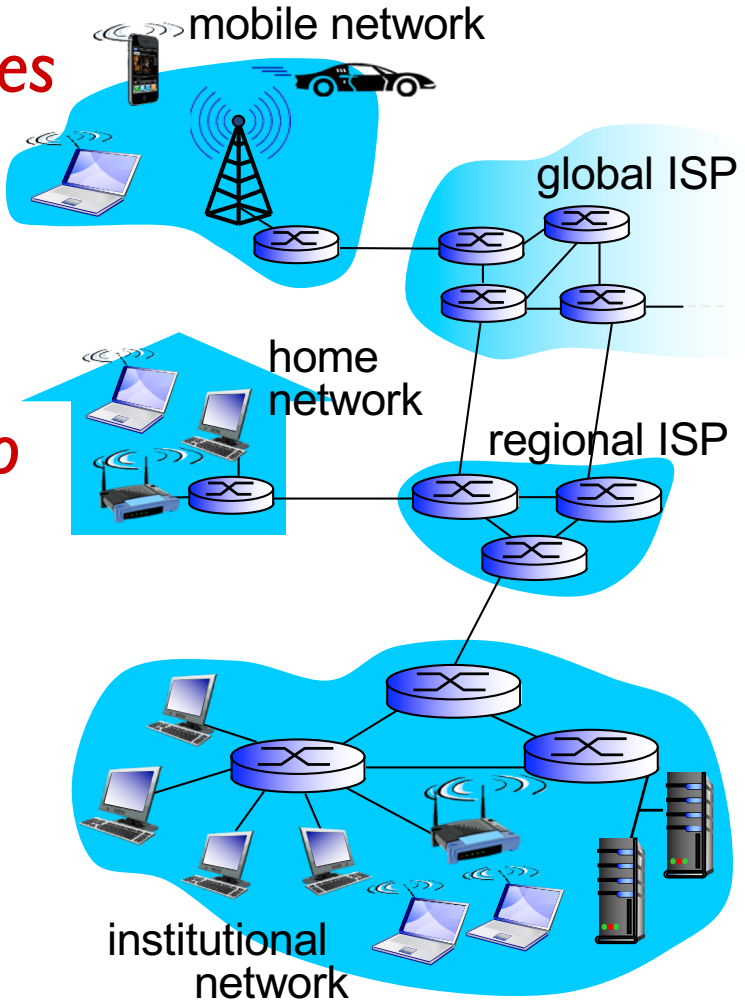
What's the Internet: "nuts and bolts" view

- *Internet:* "network of networks"
  - Interconnected ISPs
- *protocols* control sending, receiving of msgs
  - e.g., TCP, IP, HTTP, Skype, 802.11
- *Internet standards*
  - RFC: Request for comments
  - IETF: Internet Engineering Task Force



What's the Internet: a service view

- *Infrastructure that provides services to applications:*
  - Web, VoIP, email, games, e-commerce, social nets, …
- *provides programming interface to apps*
  - hooks that allow sending and receiving app programs to "connect" to Internet
  - provides service options, analogous to postal service



What's a protocol?

human protocols:

- "what's the time?"
- "I have a question"
- introductions

… specific msgs sent

… specific actions taken when msgs received, or other events

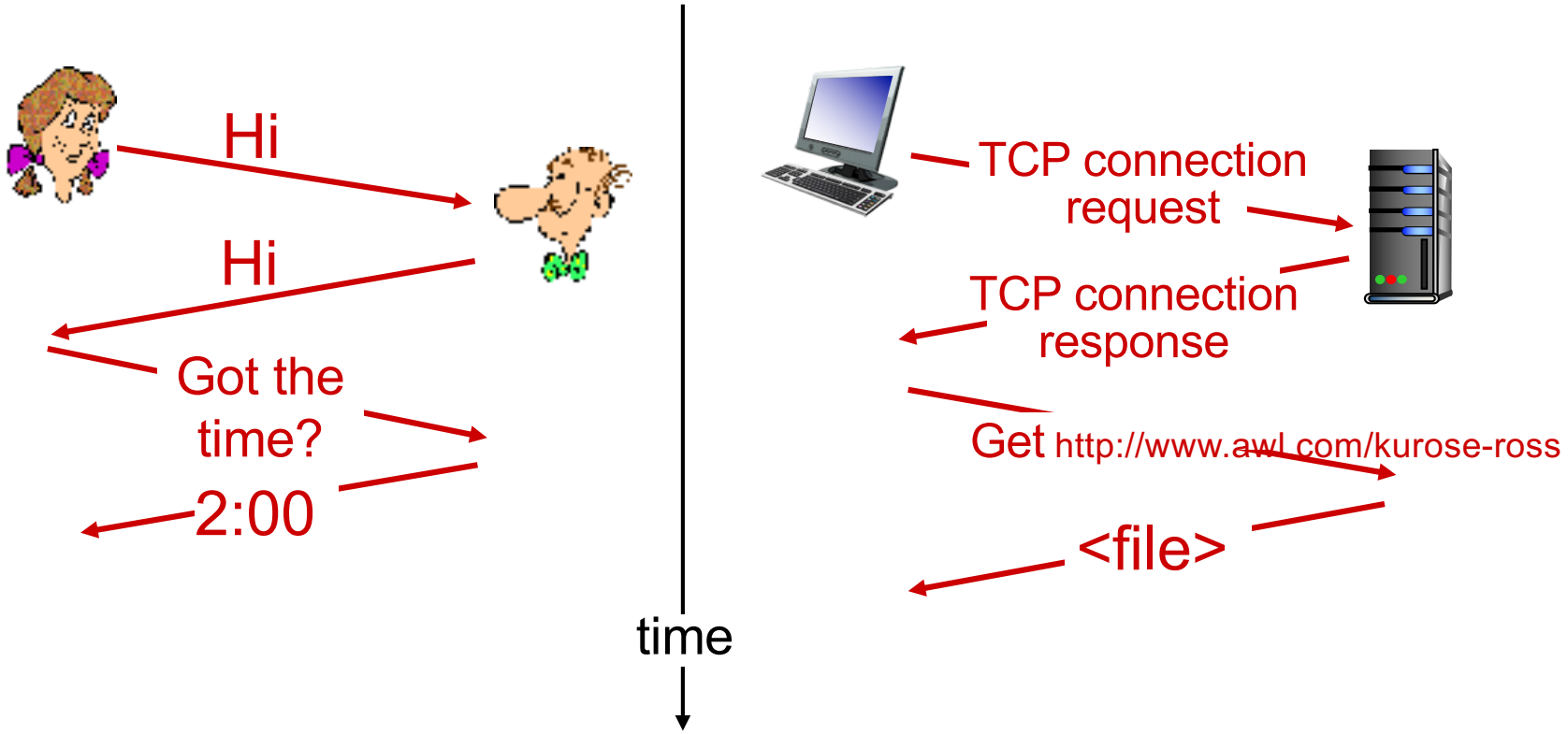
network protocols:

- machines rather than humans
- all communication activity in Internet governed by protocols

protocols define format, order of msgs sent and received among network entities, and actions taken on msg transmission, receipt

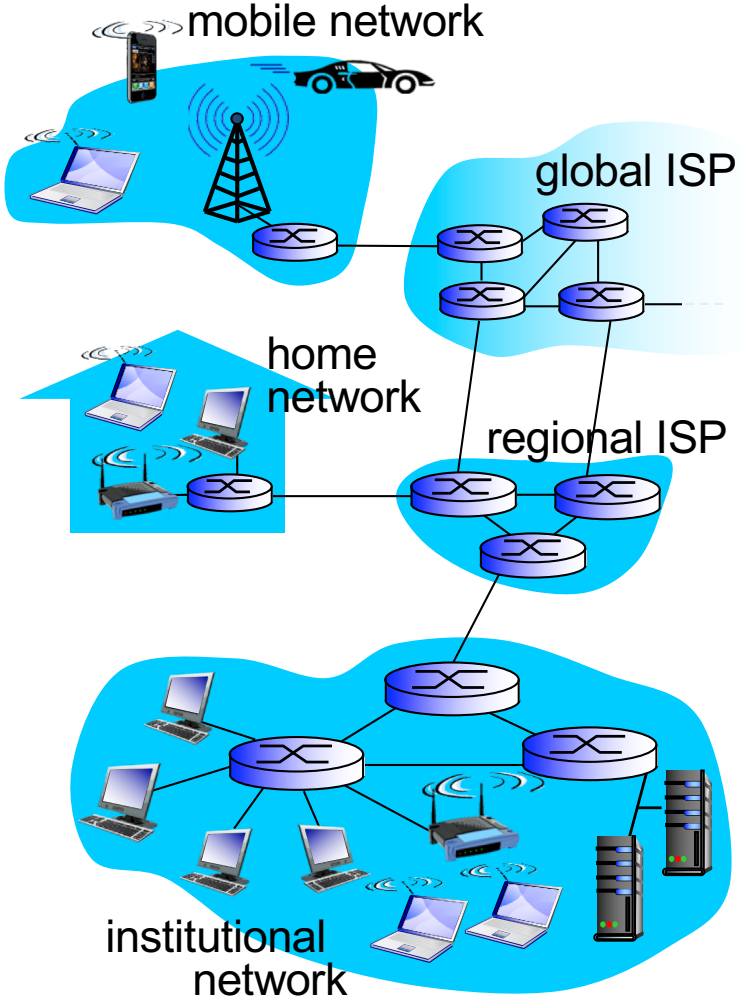
What's a protocol?

a human protocol and a computer network protocol:



A closer look at network structure:

- *network edge:*
  - hosts: clients and servers
  - servers often in data centers
- *access networks, physical media:* wired, wireless communication links
- *network core:*
  - interconnected routers
  - network of networks



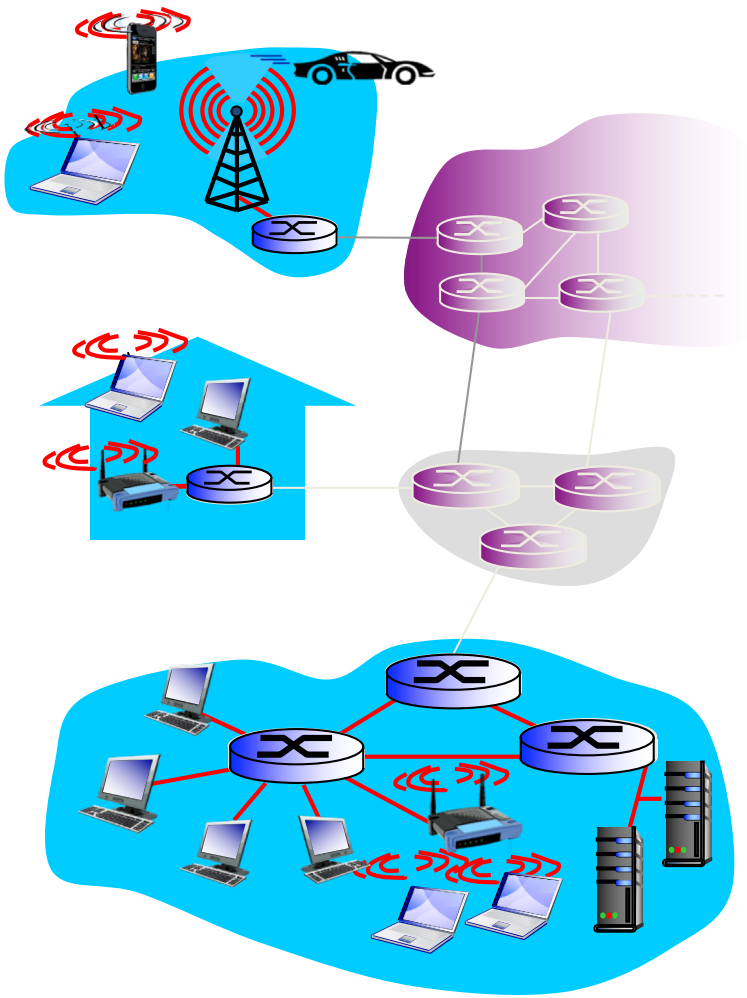
Access networks and physical media

Q: How to connect end systems to edge router?

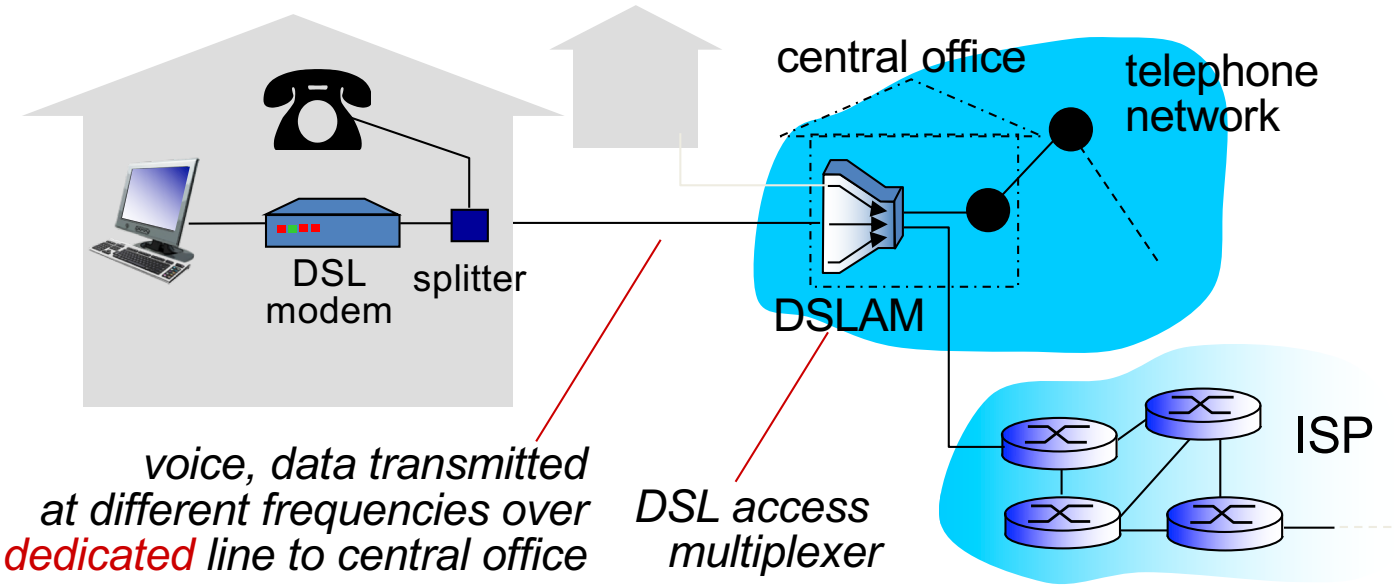
- residential access nets
- institutional access networks (school, company)
- mobile access networks

keep in mind:

- bandwidth (bits per second) of access network?
- shared or dedicated?

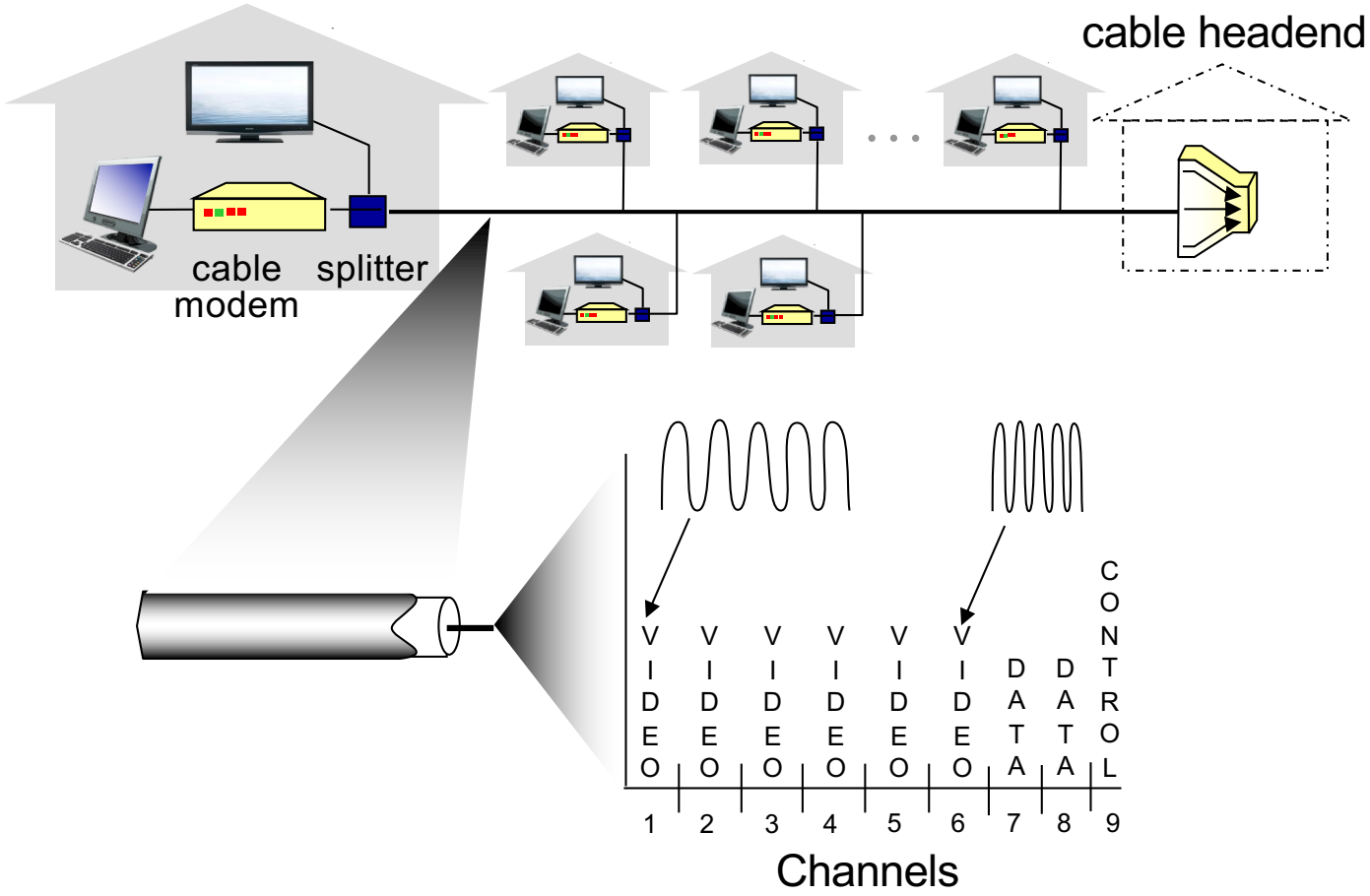


Access net: digital subscriber line (DSL)



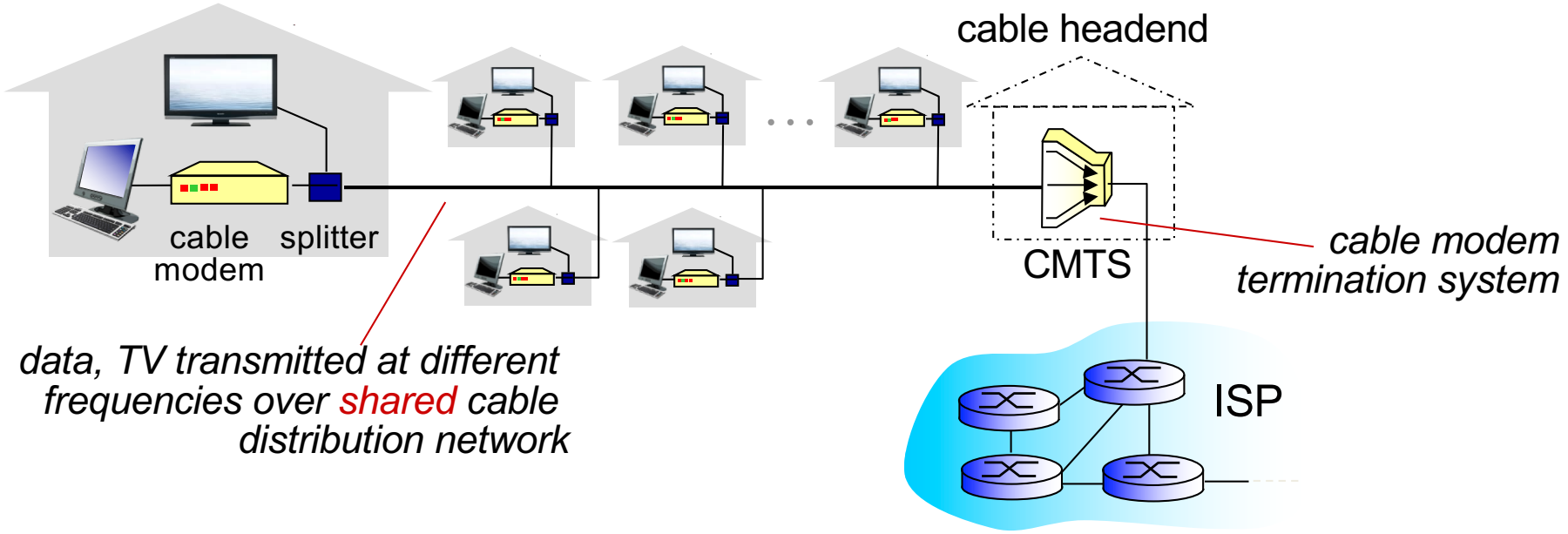
- use *existing* telephone line to central office DSLAM
  - data over DSL phone line goes to Internet
  - voice over DSL phone line goes to telephone net
- < 2.5 Mbps upstream transmission rate (typically < 1 Mbps)
- < 24 Mbps downstream transmission rate (typically < 10 Mbps)

Access net: cable network



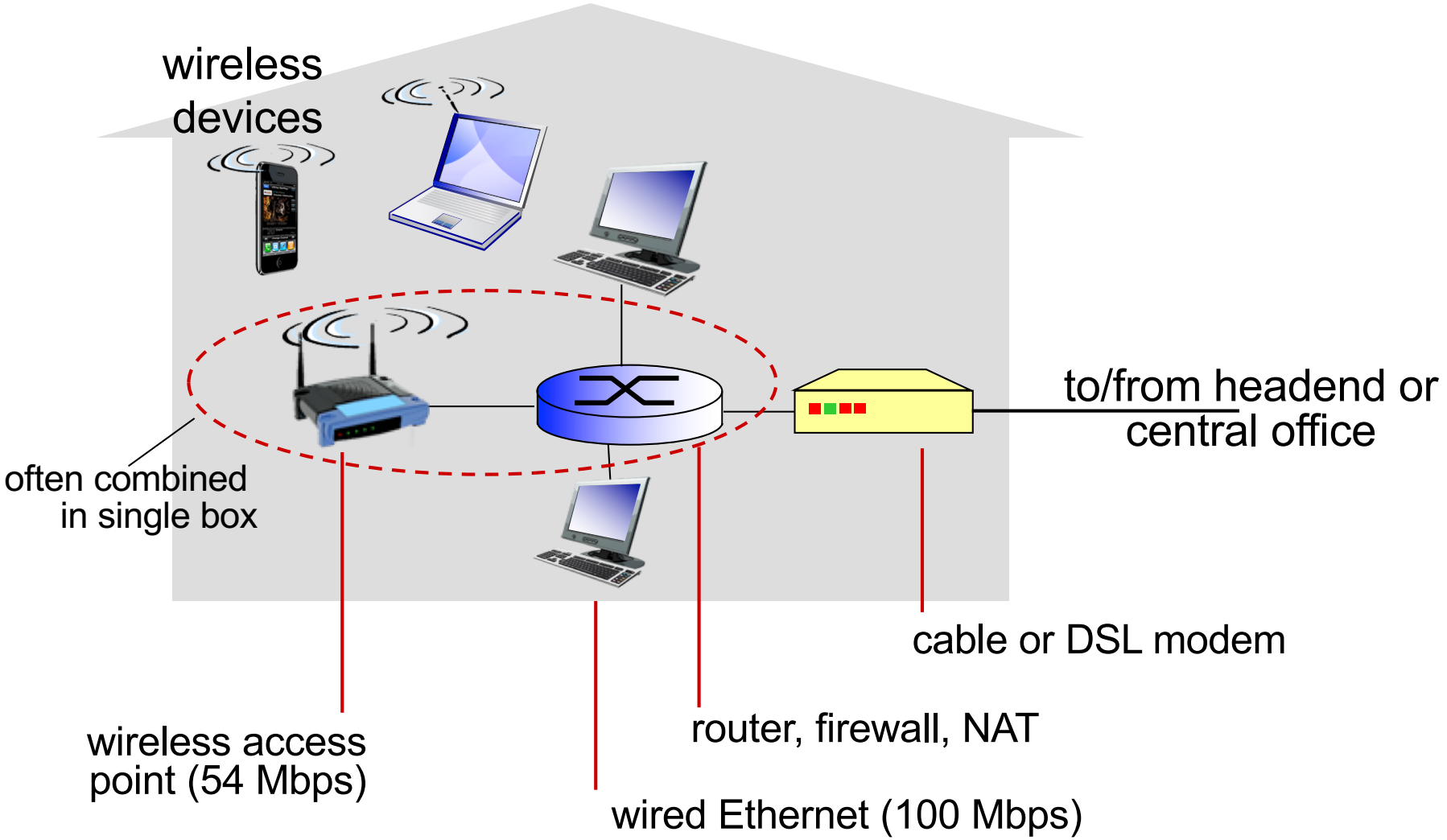
frequency division multiplexing: different channels transmitted in different frequency bands

Access net: cable network

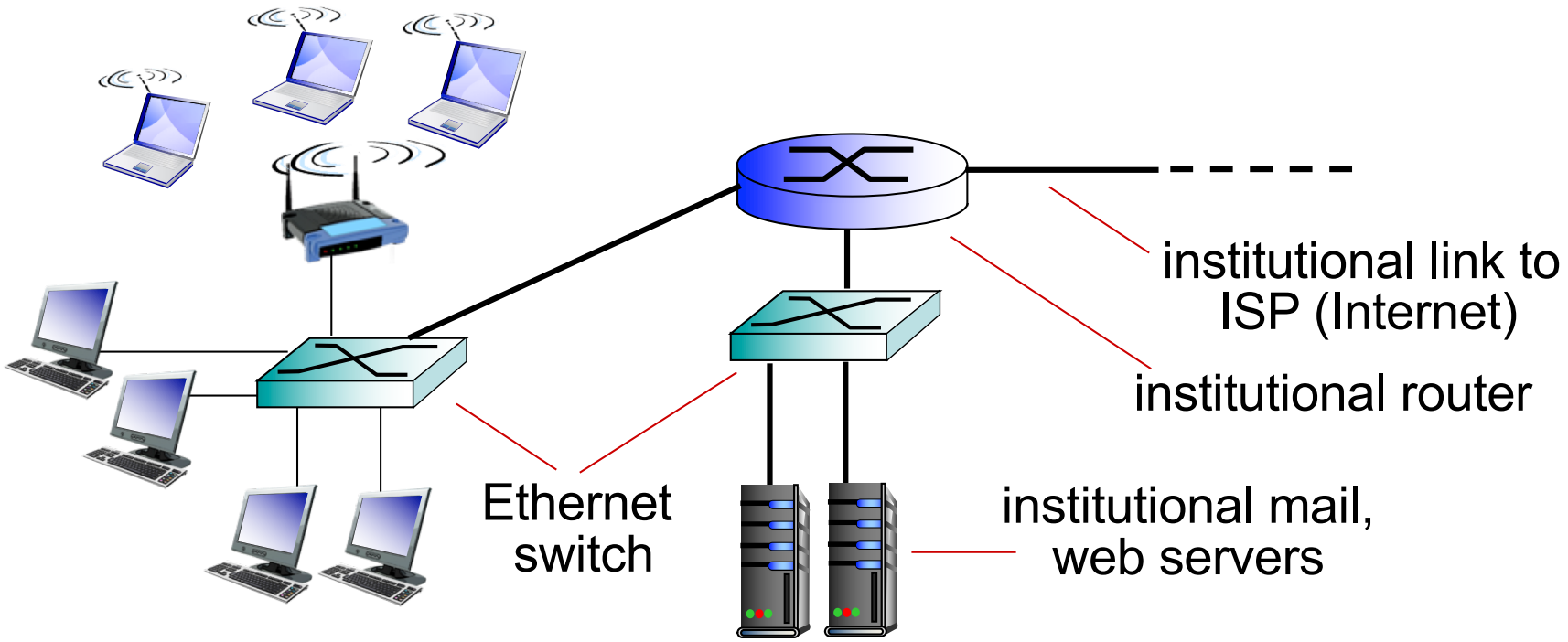


- HFC: hybrid fiber coax
  - asymmetric: up to 30Mbps downstream transmission rate, 2 Mbps upstream transmission rate
- network of cable, fiber attaches homes to ISP router
  - homes *share access network* to cable headend
  - unlike DSL, which has dedicated access to central office

Access net: home network



Enterprise access networks (Ethernet)



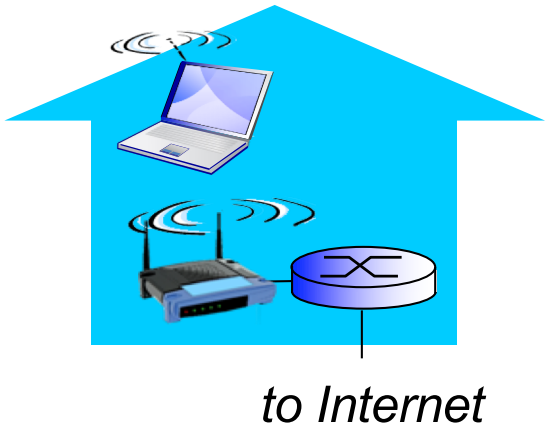
- typically used in companies, universities, etc
- 10 Mbps, 100Mbps, 1Gbps, 10Gbps transmission rates
- today, end systems typically connect into Ethernet switch

Wireless access networks

- shared *wireless* access network connects end system to router
  - via base station aka "access point"

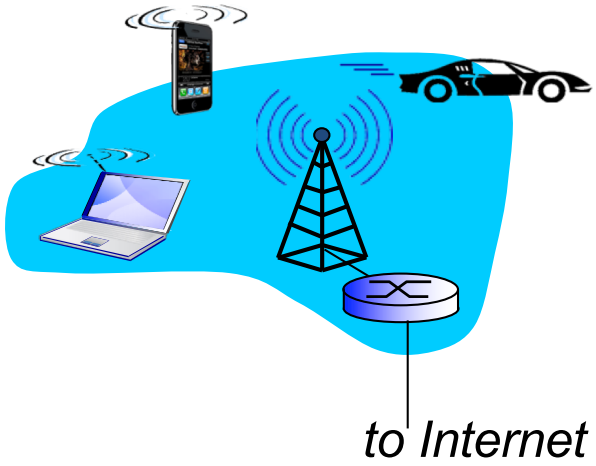
wireless LANs:

- within building (100 ft)
- 802.11b/g (WiFi): 11, 54 Mbps transmission rate



wide-area wireless access

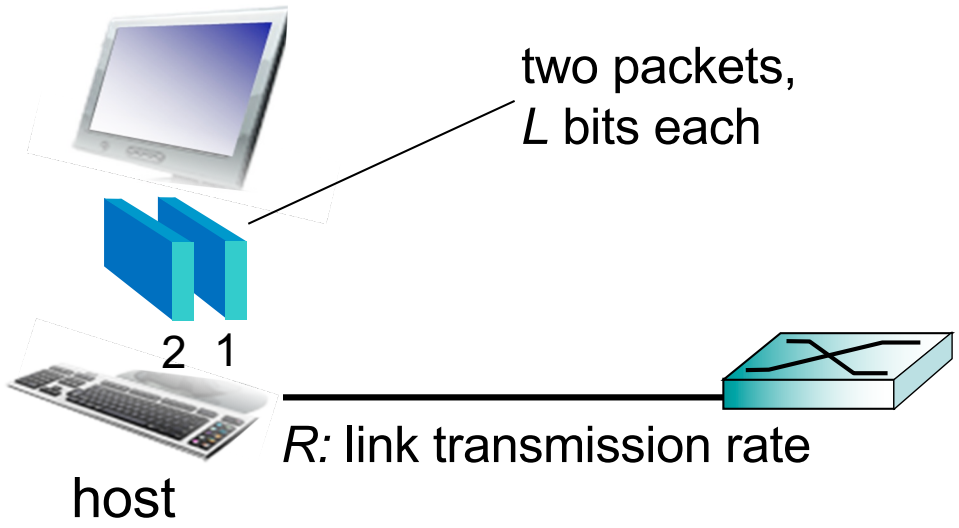
- provided by telco (cellular) operator, 10's km
- between 1 and 10 Mbps
- 3G, 4G: LTE



Host: sends *packets* of data

host sending function:

- takes application message
- breaks into smaller chunks, known as *packets*, of length *L* bits
- transmits packet into access network at *transmission rate R*
  - link transmission rate, aka link *capacity, aka link bandwidth*



$$\text{packet transmission delay} = \text{time needed to transmit } L\text{-bit packet into link} = \frac{L \text{ (bits)}}{R \text{ (bits/sec)}}$$

Physical media

- bit: propagates between transmitter/receiver pairs
- physical link: what lies between transmitter & receiver
- guided media:
  - signals propagate in solid media: copper, fiber, coax
- unguided media:
  - signals propagate freely, e.g., radio

twisted pair (TP)

- two insulated copper wires
  - Category 5: 100 Mbps, 1 Gpbs Ethernet
  - Category 6: 10Gbps

Physical media: coax, fiber

coaxial cable:

- two concentric copper conductors
- bidirectional
- broadband:
  - multiple channels on cable
  - HFC

fiber optic cable:

- glass fiber carrying light pulses, each pulse a bit
- high-speed operation:
  - high-speed point-to-point transmission (e.g., 10's-100's Gbps transmission rate)
- low error rate:
  - repeaters spaced far apart
  - immune to electromagnetic noise

Physical media: radio

- signal carried in electromagnetic spectrum
- no physical "wire"
- Bidirectional
- propagation environment effects:
  - Reflection
  - obstruction by objects
  - interference

radio link types:

- terrestrial microwave
  - e.g. up to 45 Mbps channels
- LAN (e.g., WiFi)
  - 11Mbps, 54 Mbps
- wide-area (e.g., cellular)
  - 3G cellular: ~ few Mbps
- satellite
  - Kbps to 45Mbps channel (or multiple smaller channels)
  - 270 msec end-end delay
  - geosynchronous versus low altitude