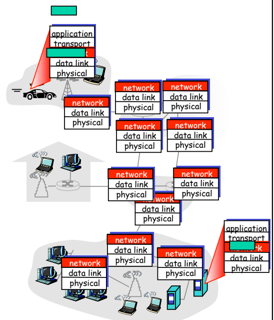
Network layer

- transport segment from sending to receiving host
- on sending side encapsulates segments into datagrams
- on rcving side, delivers segments to transport layer
- network layer protocols in *every* host, router
- router examines header fields in all IP datagrams passing through it



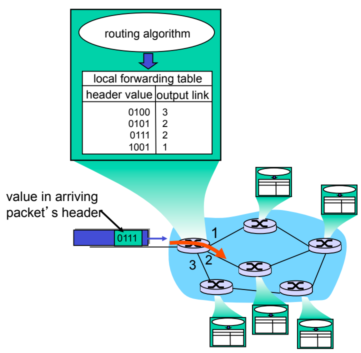
Two Key Network-Layer Functions

- *forwarding:* move packets from router's input to appropriate router output
- *routing:* determine route taken by packets from source to dest.
  - *routing algorithms*

analogy:

- routing: process of planning trip from source to dest
- forwarding: process of getting through single interchange

Interplay between routing and forwarding



Network layer connection and connection-less service

- datagram network provides network-layer connectionless service
- VC network provides network-layer connection service
- analogous to the transport-layer services, but:
  - service: host-to-host
  - no choice: network provides one or the other
  - implementation: in network core

Virtual circuits

"source-to-dest path behaves much like telephone circuit"
- performance-wise
- network actions along source-to-dest path

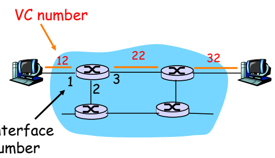
- call setup, teardown for each call *before* data can flow
- each packet carries VC identifier (not destination host address)
- *every* router on source-dest path maintains "state" for each passing connection
- link, router resources (bandwidth, buffers) may be *allocated* to VC (dedicated resources = predictable service)

VC implementation

a VC consists of:
1. path from source to destination
2. VC numbers, one number for each link along path
3. entries in forwarding tables in routers along path

- packet belonging to VC carries VC number (rather than dest address)
- VC number can be changed on each link.
  - New VC number comes from forwarding table

Forwarding table



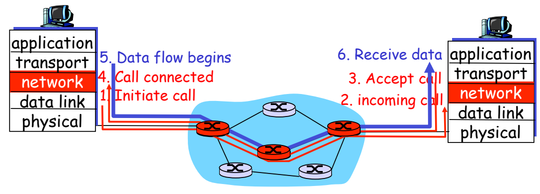
Forwarding table in northwest router:

Incoming interface	Incoming VC #	Outgoing interface	Outgoing VC #
1	12	3	22
2	63	1	18
3	7	2	17
1	97	3	87
…	…	…	…

Routers maintain connection state information!

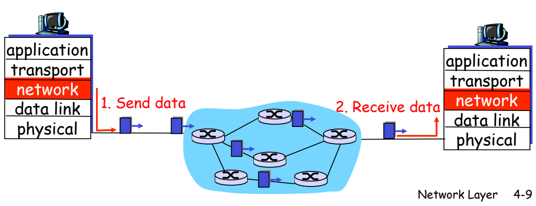
Virtual circuits: signaling protocols

- used to setup, maintain teardown VC
- used in ATM, frame-relay, X.25
- not used in today's Internet



Datagram networks

- no call setup at network layer
- routers: no state about end-to-end connections
  - no network-level concept of "connection"
- packets forwarded using destination host address
  - packets between same source-dest pair may take different paths



Datagram or VC network: why?

Internet (datagram)

- data exchange among computers
  - "elastic" service, no strict timing req.
- "smart" end systems (computers)
  - can adapt, perform control, error recovery
  - simple inside network, complexity at "edge"
- many link types
  - different characteristics
  - uniform service difficult

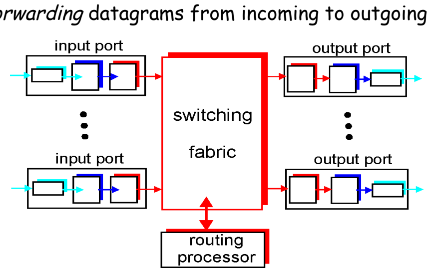
ATM (VC)

- evolved from telephony
- human conversation:
  - strict timing, reliability requirements
  - need for guaranteed service
- "dumb" end systems
  - telephones
  - complexity inside network

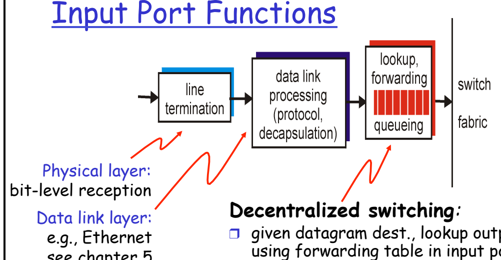
Router Architecture Overview

Two key router functions:

- run routing algorithms/protocol (RIP, OSPF, BGP)
- *forwarding* datagrams from incoming to outgoing link



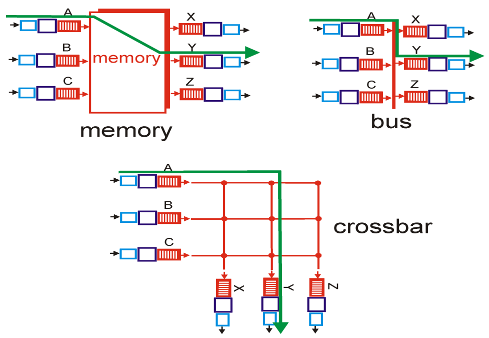
Input Port Functions



Decentralized switching:

- given datagram dest., lookup output port using forwarding table in input port memory
- goal: complete input port processing at 'line speed'
- queuing: if datagrams arrive faster than forwarding rate into switch fabric

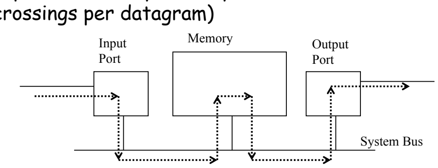
Three types of switching fabrics



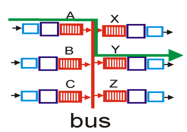
Switching Via Memory

First generation routers:

- traditional computers with switching under direct control of CPU
- packet copied to system's memory
- speed limited by memory bandwidth (2 bus crossings per datagram)



Switching Via a Bus

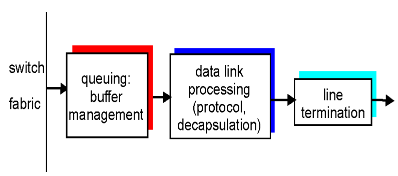


- datagram from input port memory to output port memory via a shared bus
- bus contention: switching speed limited by bus bandwidth
- 32 Gbps bus, Cisco 5600: sufficient speed for access and enterprise routers

Switching Via An Interconnection Network

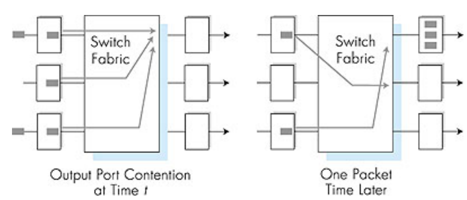
- overcome bus bandwidth limitations
- Omega networks, other interconnection nets initially developed to connect processors in multiprocessor
- advanced design: fragmenting datagram into fixed length cells, switch cells through the fabric.
- Cisco 12000: switches 60 Gbps through the interconnection network

Output Ports



- *Buffering* required when datagrams arrive from fabric faster than the transmission rate
- *Scheduling discipline* chooses among queued datagrams for transmission

Output port queueing



- buffering when arrival rate via switch exceeds output line speed
- *queueing (delay) and loss due to output port buffer overflow!*

Input Port Queuing

- Fabric slower than input ports combined -> queueing may occur at input queues
- Head-of-the-Line (HOL) blocking: queued datagram at front of queue prevents others in queue from moving forward
- *queueing delay and loss due to input buffer overflow!*