

# Lecture 1:

## Basic switching concepts

*circuit switching*  
*message switching*  
*packet switching*

# Switching

## → Circuit Switching

- ⇒ Fixed and mobile telephone network
  - Frequency Division Multiplexing (FDM)
  - Time Division Multiplexing (TDM)
- ⇒ Optical rings (SDH)

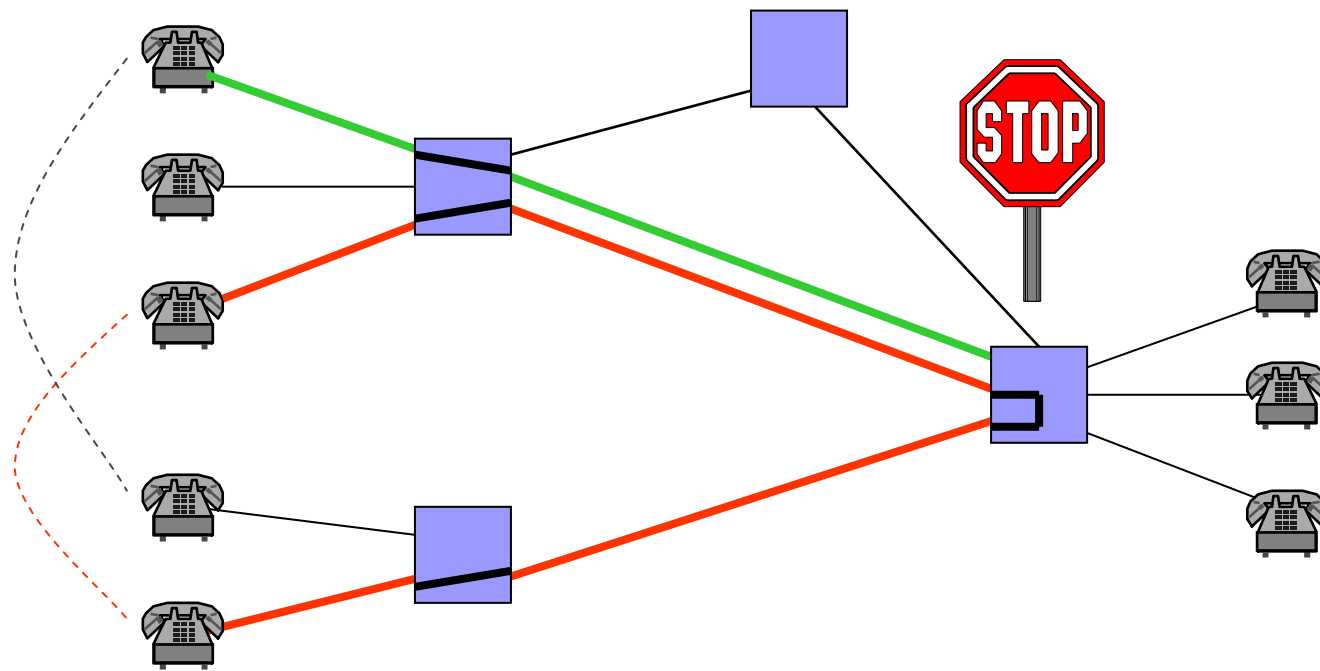
## → Message Switching

- ⇒ Not in core technology
- ⇒ Some application (e.g. SMTP)

## → Packet Switching

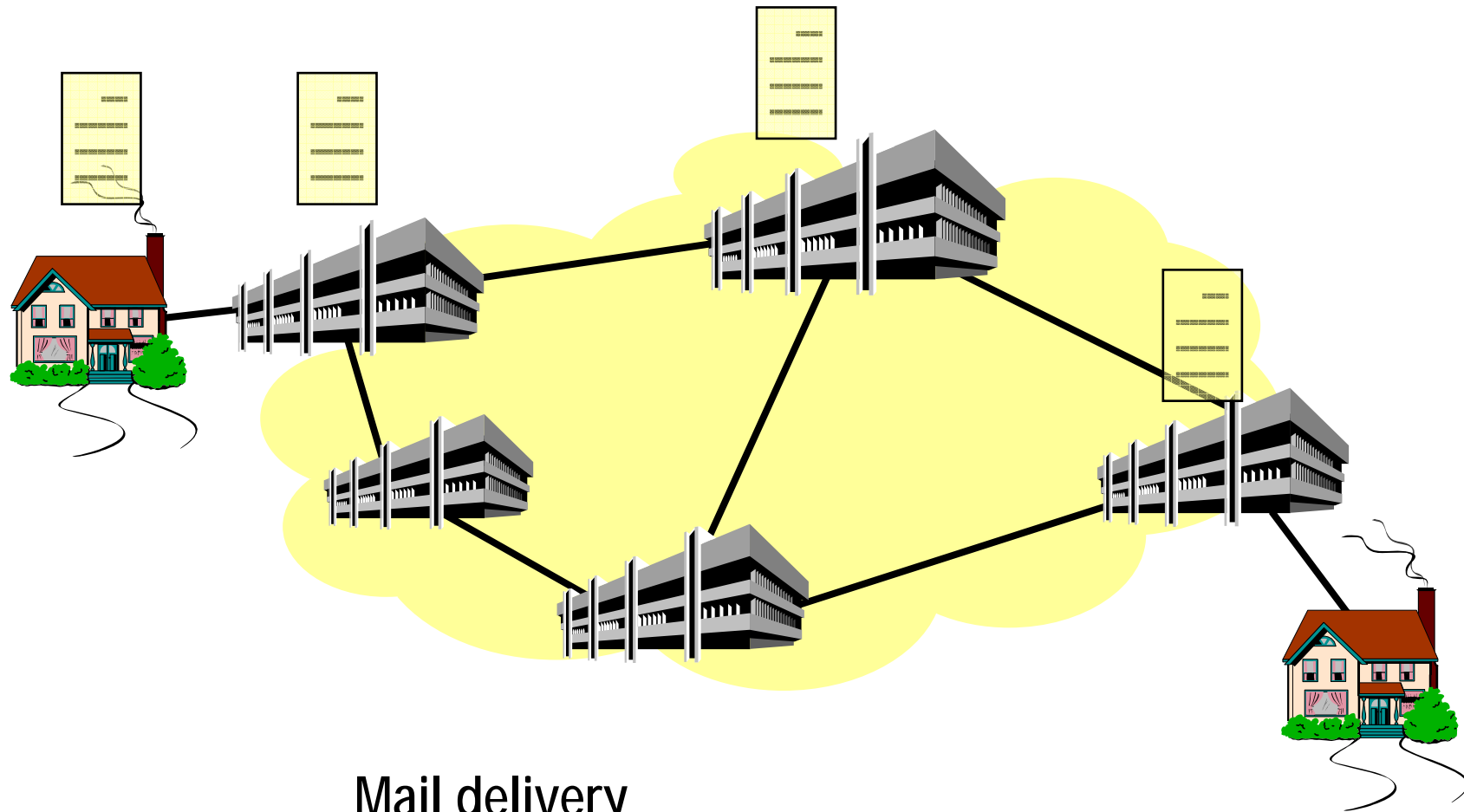
- ⇒ Internet
- ⇒ Some core networking technologies (e.g. ATM)

# Circuit Switching



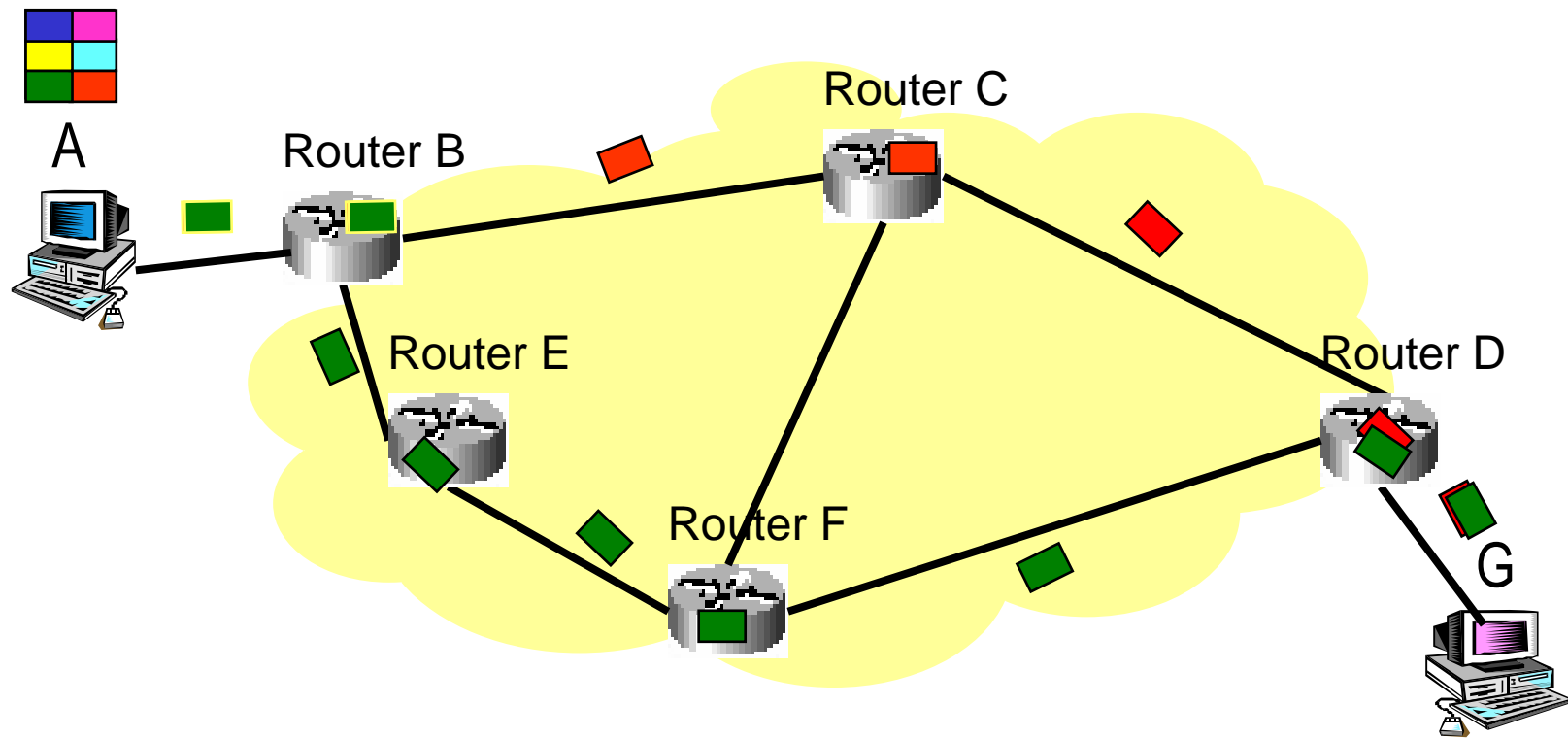
Phone Call routing

# Message Switching



Mail delivery

# Packet Switching

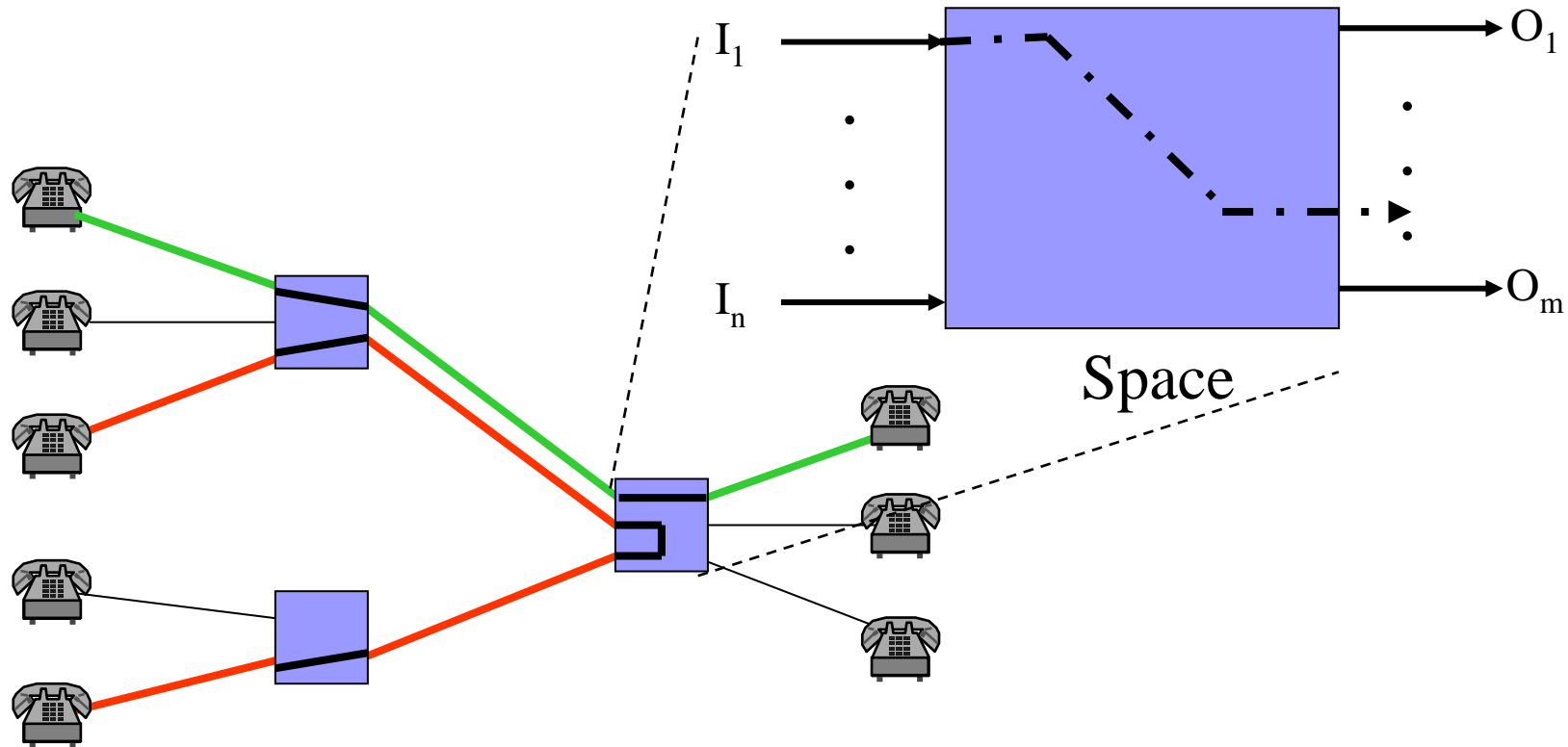


Internet routing

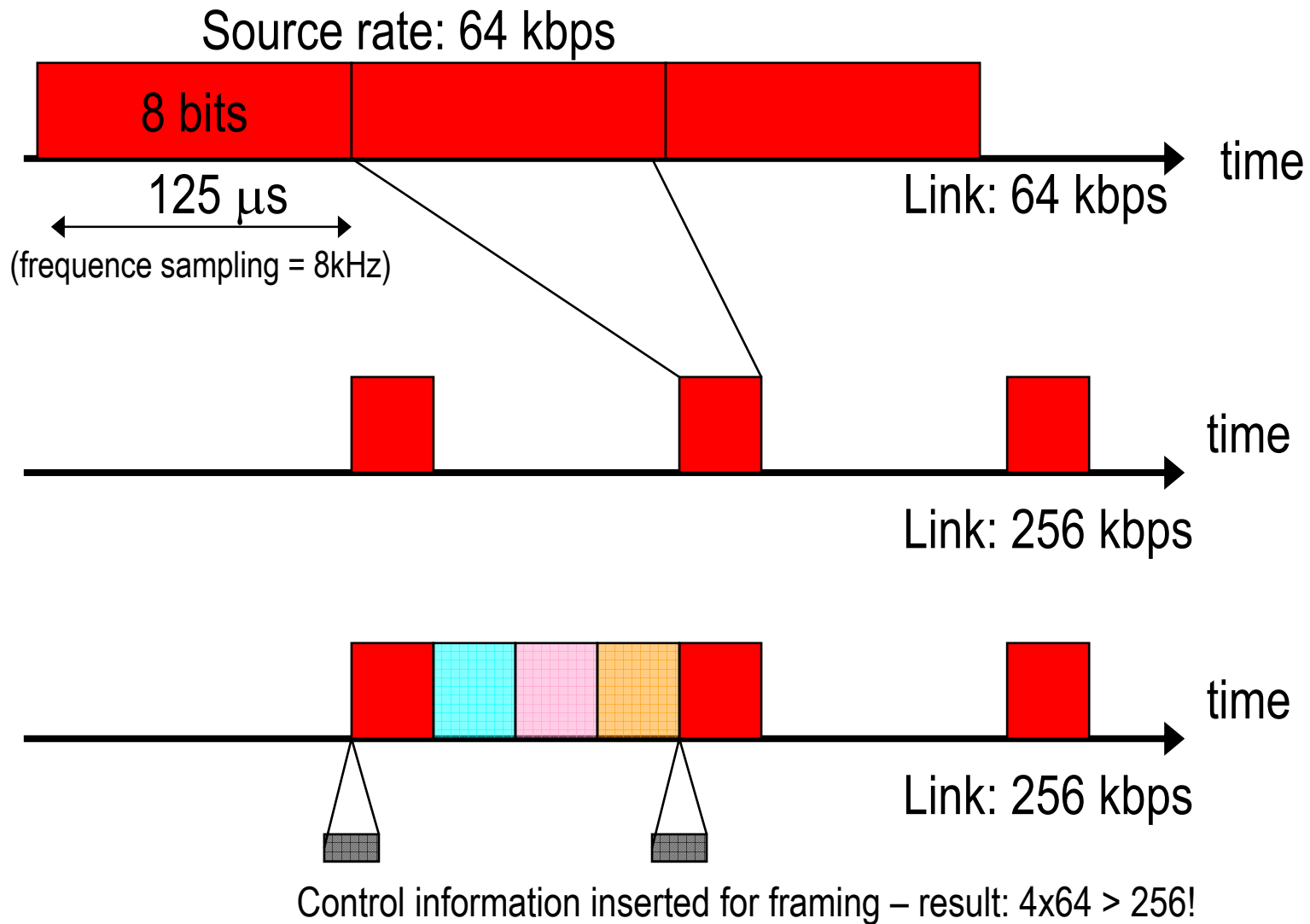
# Space Division Switching (for Circuit Switching)

## → Spatial mapping of inputs and outputs

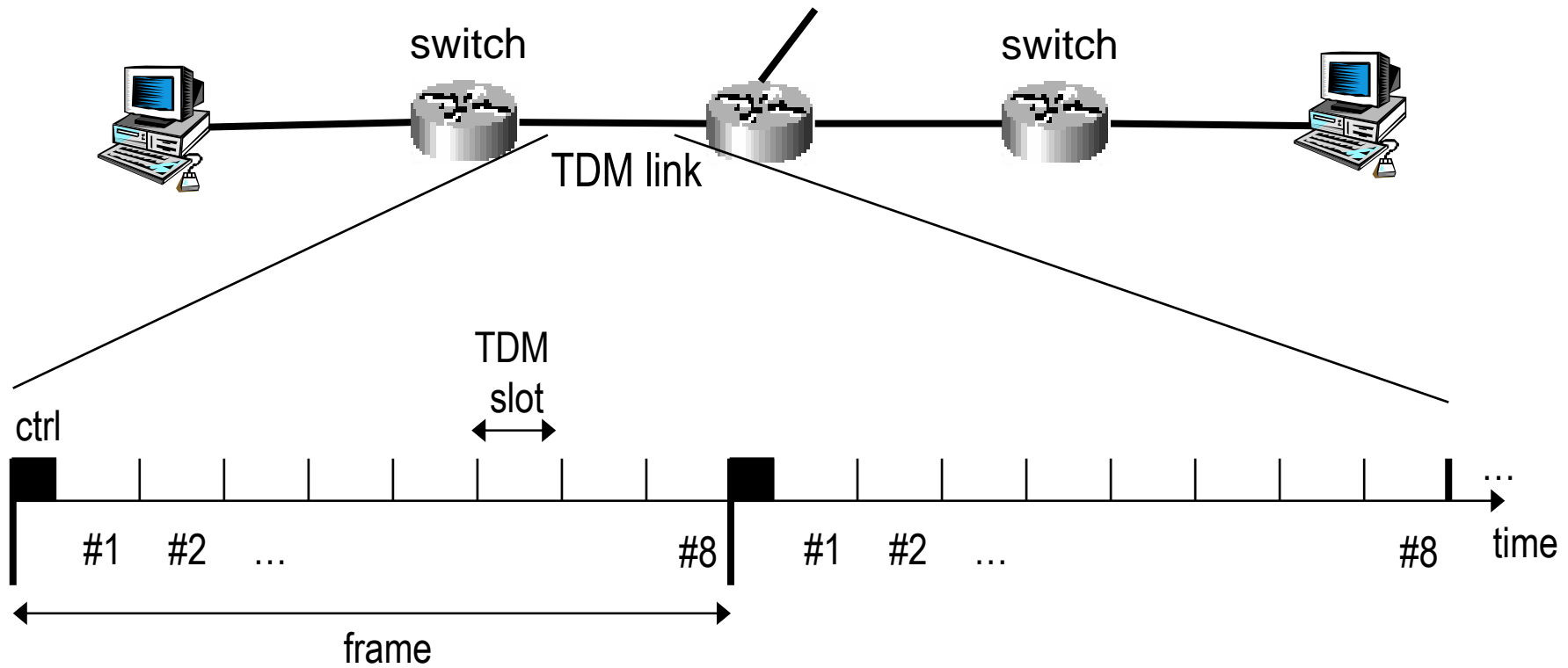
⇒ Used primarily in analog switching systems



# Time Division Multiplexing



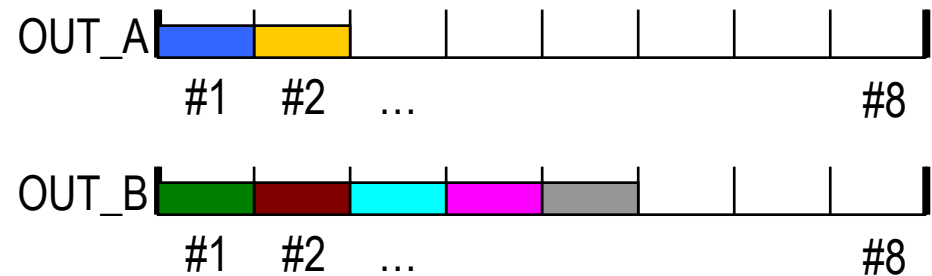
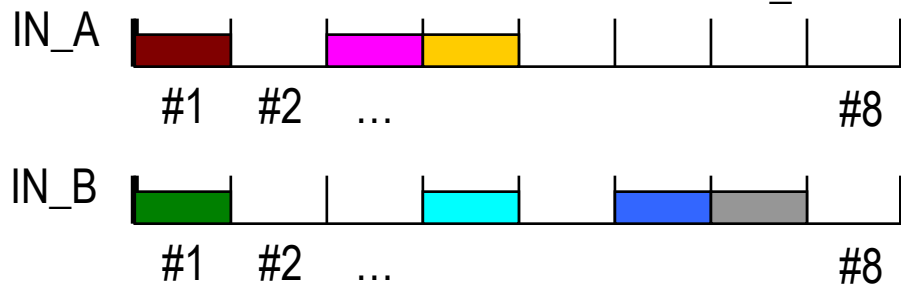
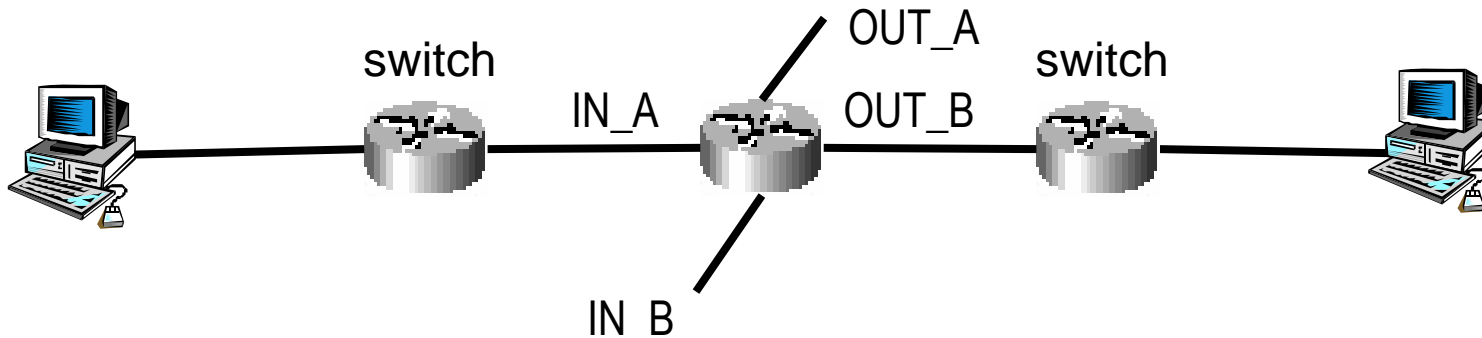
# Circuit Switching (i)



Time Division Multiplexing



# Circuit Switching (ii)



SWITCHING  
TABLE

IN	OUT
A,1	B,2
A,3	B,4
A,4	A,2
B,1	B,1
B,4	B,3
B,6	A,1
B,7	B,5

Table setup: upon signalling

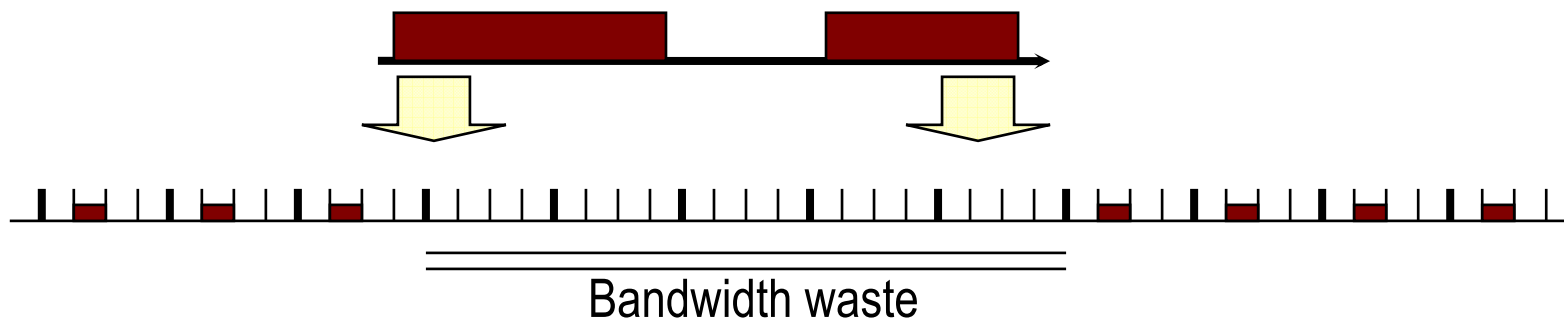
# Circuit Switching Pros & Cons

## → Advantages

- ⇒ Limited overhead
- ⇒ Very efficient switching fabrics
  - Highly parallelized

## → Disadvantages

- ⇒ Requires signalling for switching tables set-up
- ⇒ Underutilization of resources in the presence of bursty traffic and variable rate traffic



# Example of bursty traffic (ON/OFF voice flows)

On (activity) period



VOICE SOURCE MODEL for conversation (Brady):

average ON duration (talkspurt): 1 second

average OFF duration (silence): 1.35 seconds

$$activity = \frac{T_{ON}}{T_{ON} + T_{OFF}} = \frac{1}{1 + 1.35} = 42.55\% \quad (\text{before packetization})$$

Efficiency = utilization % = source activity

# Message vs Packet Switching

## → Message Switching

⇒ One single datagram



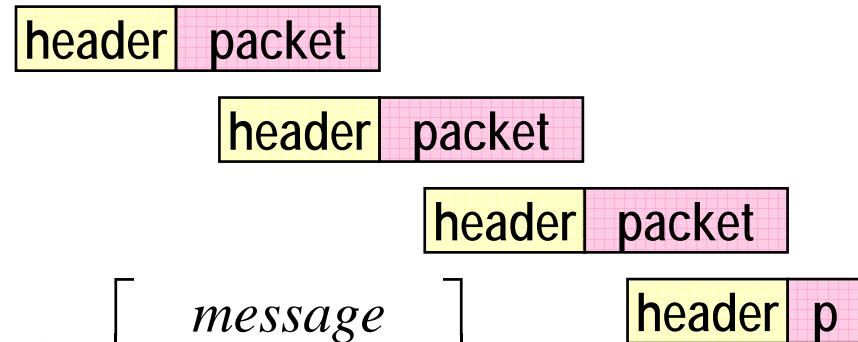
$$\text{overhead} = \frac{\text{header}}{\text{header} + \text{message}}$$

## → Packet Switching

⇒ Message chopped in small packets

⇒ Each packet includes header

→ like postal letters! Each must have a specified destination data



$$n = \left\lceil \frac{\text{message}}{\text{packet\_size}} \right\rceil$$

$$\text{overhead} = \frac{n \cdot \text{header}}{n \cdot \text{header} + \text{message}}$$

*Message switching overhead lower than packet switching*

# Message vs Packet Switching

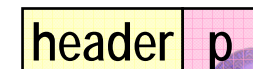
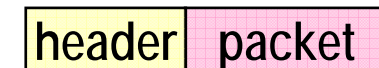
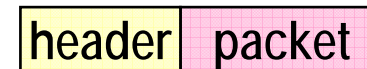
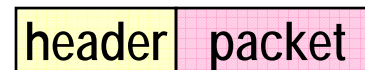
## → Message Switching

- ⇒ One single datagram
  - either received or lost
  - One single network path

## → Packet Switching

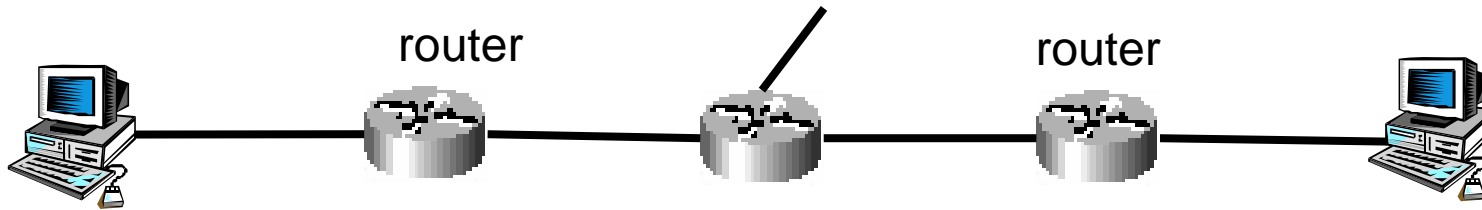
- ⇒ Many packets generated by a same node and belonging to a same destination
  - may take different paths (and packets received out of order – need sequence)
  - May lose/corrupt a subset (what happens on the message consistency?)

*Message switching: higher reliability, lower complexity*



*But sometimes message switching not possible  
(e.g. for real time sources such as voice)*

# Message/packet Switching vs circuit switching



Router:

- reads header (destination address)
- selects output path

## → Advantages

- ⇒ Transmission resources used only when needed (data available)
- ⇒ No signalling needed

## → Disadvantages

- ⇒ Overhead
- ⇒ Inefficient routing fabrics (needs to select output per each packet)
- ⇒ Processing time at routers (routing table lookup)
- ⇒ Queueing at routers

# Link delay computation

## → Delay components:

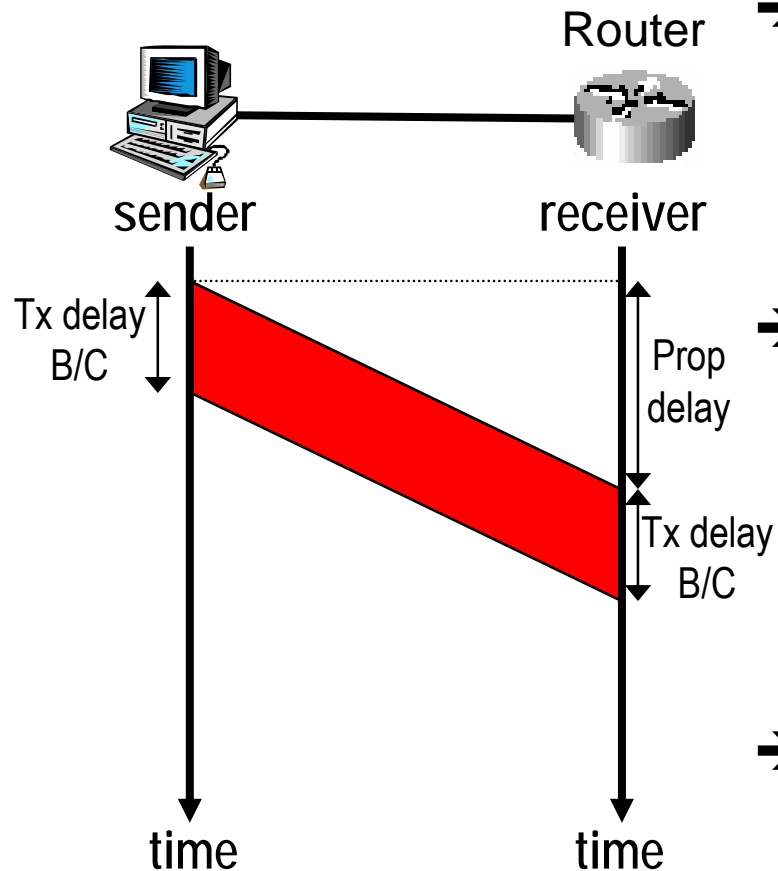
- Processing delay
- Transmission delay
- Queueing delay
- Propagation delay

## → Transmission delay:

- $C$  [bit/s] = link rate
- $B$  [bit] = packet size
- transmission delay =  $B/C$  [sec]

## → Example:

- 512 bytes packet
- 64 kbps link
- transmission delay =  $512 \cdot 8 / 64000 = 64\text{ms}$



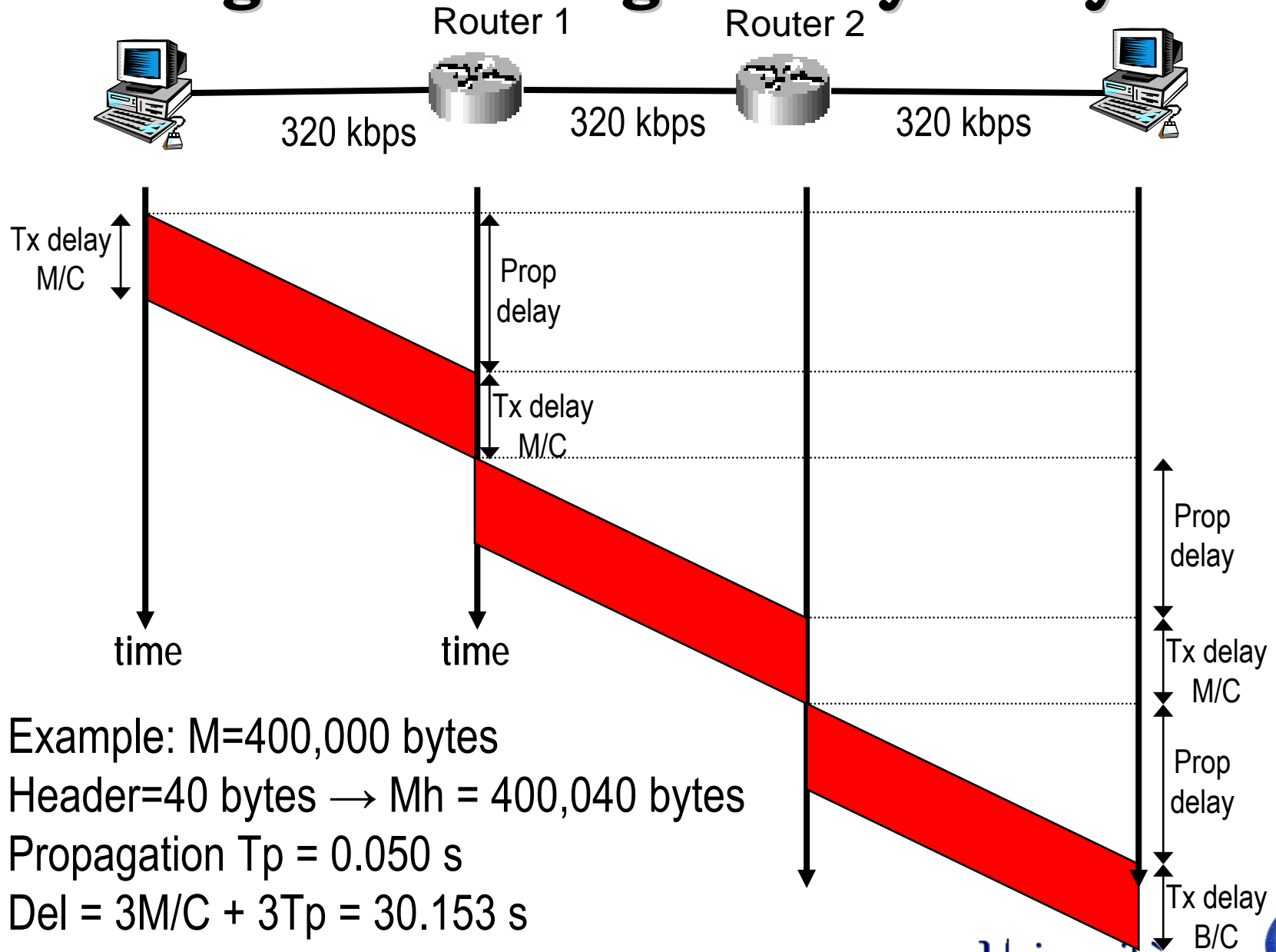
## → Propagation delay - constant depending on

- Link length
- Electromagnetic waves propagation speed in considered media
  - 200 km/s for copper links
  - 300 km/s in air

## → other delays neglected

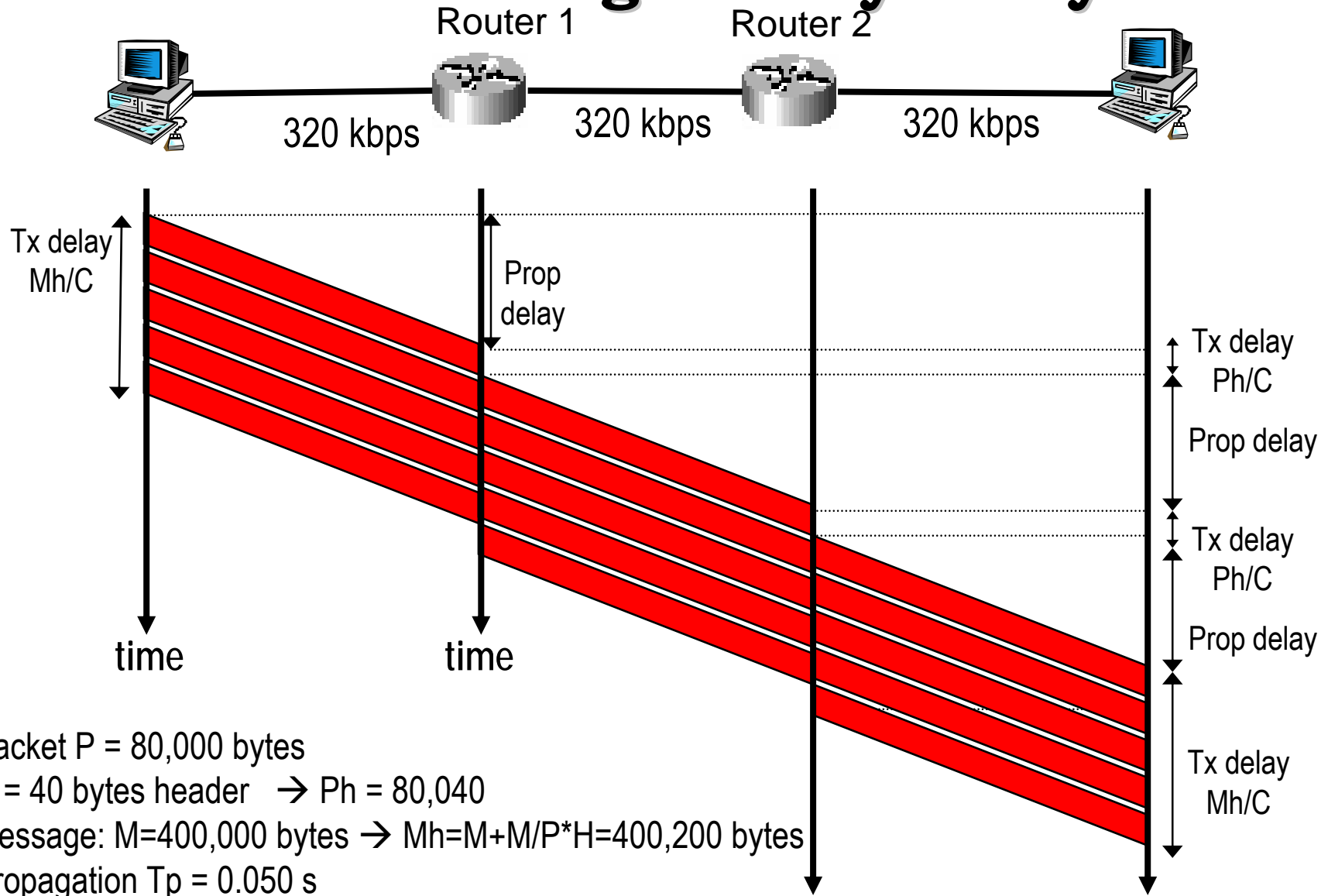
- Queueing delay
- Processing delay

# Message Switching – delay analysis





# Packet Switching – delay analysis



Packet P = 80,000 bytes

H = 40 bytes header → Ph = 80,040

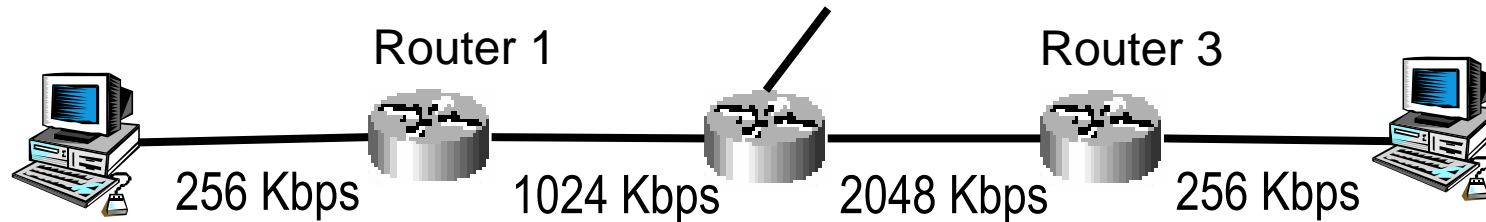
Message: M=400,000 bytes → Mh=M+M/P\*H=400,200 bytes

Propagation Tp = 0.050 s

Del = Mh/C + 3Tp + 2Ph/C = 14.157 s

But if packet size = 40 bytes, Del = 20.154s!

# Other example (different link speed)



→ **Time to transmit 1 MB file**

→ **Message switching (assume 40 bytes header)**

⇒  $1\text{MB} = 1024 \times 1024 \text{ bytes} = 1,048,576 \text{ bytes} = 8,388,608 \text{ bits}$

⇒ Including 40 bytes (320 bits) header: 8,388,928

⇒ Neglecting processing, propagation & queueing delays:

$$\rightarrow D = 32.76 + 8.19 + 4.10 + 32.77 = 77.83\text{s}$$

→ **Packet switching (40 bytes header, 1460 bytes packet)**

⇒  $718.2 \rightarrow 719$  packets

⇒ total message size including overhead = 8,618,688 bits

⇒ Just considering transmission delays (slowest link = last – try with intermediate, too)

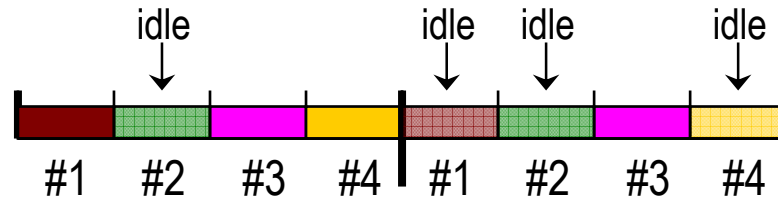
$$\rightarrow D = 0.06 + 33.67 = 33.73\text{s}$$

→ **Key advantage: pipelining reduces end to end delay versus message switching!**

# Statistical Multiplexing

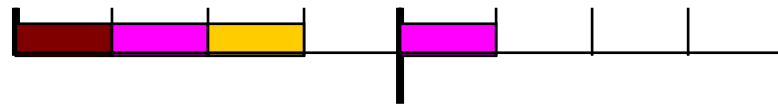
## the advantage of packet switching

Circuit switching:  
Each slot uniquely  
Assigned to a flow



Full capacity does not imply full utilization!!

Packet switching:  
Each packet grabs  
The first slot available



*More flows than nominal capacity may be admitted!!*

# Packet Switching overhead vs burstiness

Overhead for voice sources at 64 kbps

Source rate: 64 kbps

during 16 ms 128 voice samples = 1024 bit every 16 ms  $\longleftrightarrow$  62.5 packets/s

Assumption: 40 bytes header

emission rate =  $62.5 \cdot (1024 + 40 \cdot 8) = 84000$

(versus 64000 nominal rate = 31.25% overhead)

On (activity) period



PACKETIZATION for voice sources (Brady model, activity=42.55%):

Assumptions: neglect last packet effect

average emission rate =  $62.5 \cdot (1024 + 40 \cdot 8) \cdot 0.4255 = 35745$

(versus 64000 nominal rate = 55.85%)

# Packet switching overhead



## → Header: contains lots of information

⇒ Routing, protocol-specific info, etc

⇒ Minimum: 28 bytes; in practice much more than 40 bytes

→ Overhead for every considered protocol: (for voice: 20 bytes  
IP, 8 bytes UDP, 12 bytes RTP)

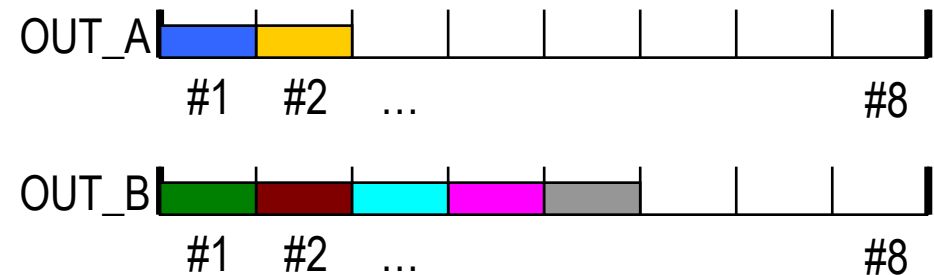
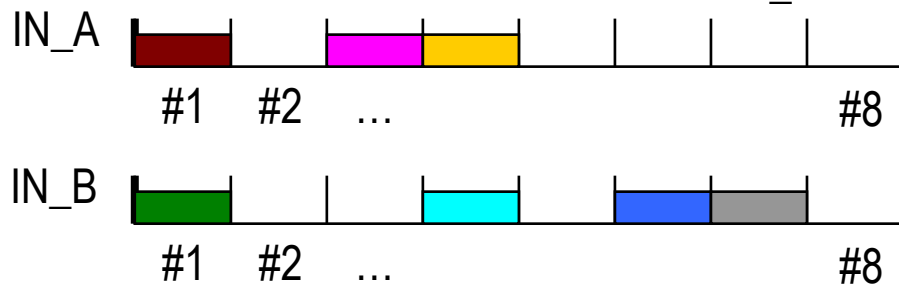
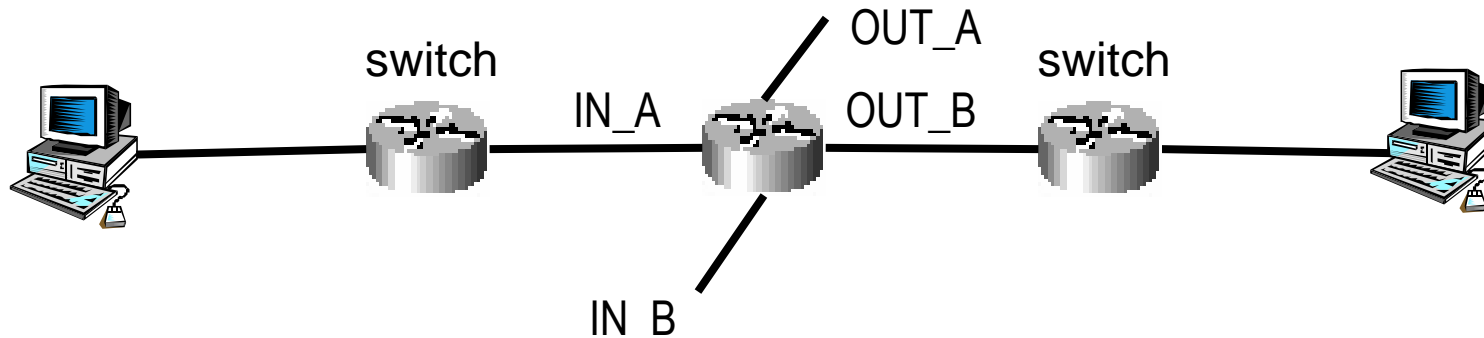
## → Question: how to minimize header while maintaining packet switching?

## → Solution: label switching (virtual circuit)

⇒ ATM

⇒ MPLS

# Circuit Switching (again)



SWITCHING TABLE

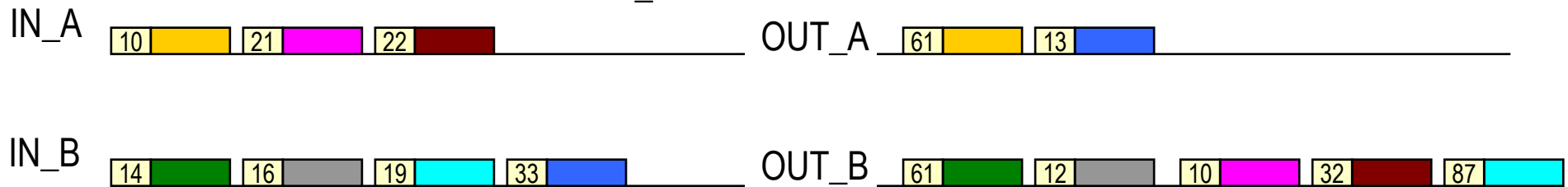
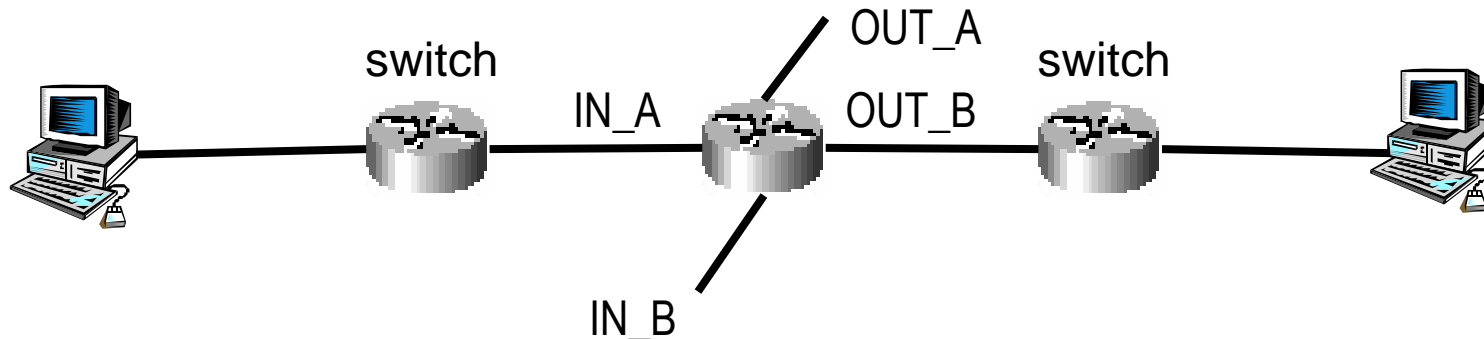
IN	OUT
A,1	B,2
A,3	B,4
A,4	A,2
B,1	B,1
B,4	B,3
B,6	A,1
B,7	B,5

Switching table: route packet coming from Input A, position 1 to output B position 2

A1, B2 = physical slots, can be used only by THAT source.

Let them be "virtual" (labels on packet!)

# Label Switching (virtual circuit)



LABEL SWITCHING TABLE

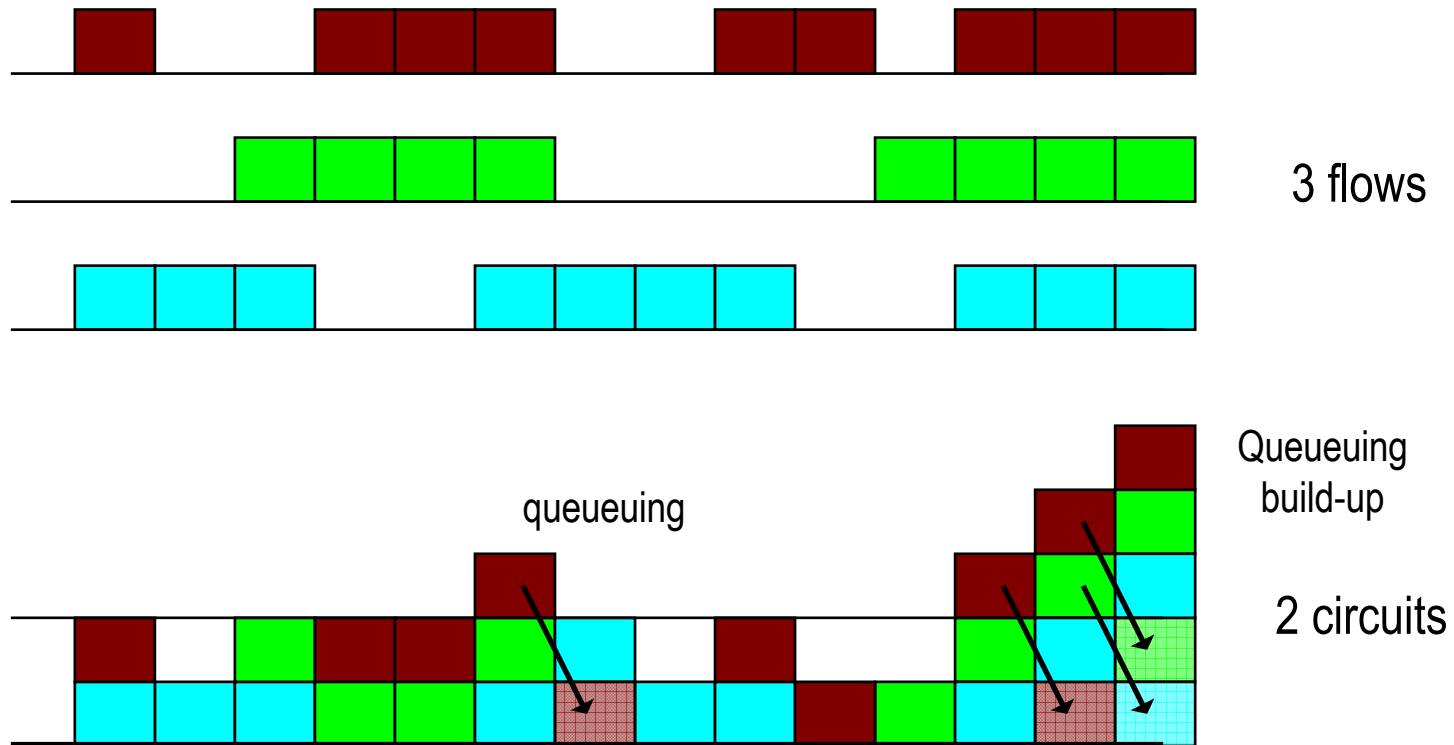
Label-IN	OUT	Label-OUT
10	A	61
14	B	61
16	B	12
19	B	87
21	B	10
22	B	32
33	A	13

Condition: labels unique @ input

Advantage: labels very small!!  
(ATM technology overhead:  
only 5 bytes for all info!)

KEY advantage: no reserved phy slots!  
(asynchronous transfer mode vs synchronous)

# Statistical mux efficiency (for simplicity, fixed-size packets)



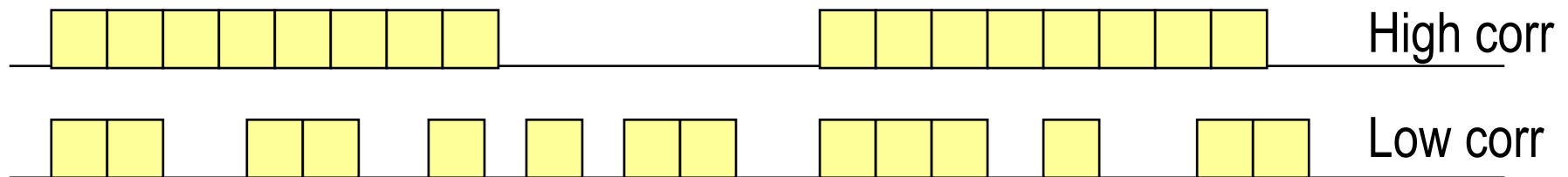


# Statistical mux analysis

→ **Very complex, when queueing considered**

⇒ Involves queueing theory

⇒ Involves traffic time correlation statistics



→ **Very easy, in the (worst case = conservative) assumption of unbuffered system**

⇒ In practice, burst size long with respect to buffer size

→ **Depends only on activity factor  $\rho$**

# Statistical mux analysis (i)

## unbuffered model

N traffic sources; Homogeneous, same activity factor  $\rho$   
Source rate = 1; Link capacity = C  
TDM: N must be  $\leq C$  Packet: N may be  $> C$

$$\text{Prob}(k \text{ sources simultaneously active}) = \binom{N}{k} \rho^k (1 - \rho)^{N-k}$$

Example: N=5; each having 20% activity

number of active sources	probability
0	32.77%
1	40.96%
2	20.48%
3	5.12%
4	0.64%
5	0.03%

Average load =  $5 \cdot 0.2 = 1$

But  $C=1$  appears insufficient...

# Statistical mux analysis (ii)

## unbuffered model

### → Overflow probability

⇒ Probability that, at a given instant of time (random), the link load is greater than the link capacity

⇒ Implies packet loss if buffer=0

$$P_{overflow} = \sum_{k=C+1}^N \binom{N}{k} \rho^k (1-\rho)^{N-k} =$$
$$= 1 - \sum_{k=0}^C \binom{N}{k} \rho^k (1-\rho)^{N-k}$$

Example: N=5;  
each having 20% activity;

link capacity	overflow prob
0	67.23%
1	26.27%
2	5.79%
3	0.67%
4	0.03%
5	0.00%



# Statistical mux analysis (iii)

## unbuffered model

### → Packet loss probability

⇒ Number of lost packets over number of offered packets

Example: N=5; each having 20% activity;  
 $N\rho = 1$

### → Offered packets

⇒ N \* average number of offered packets per source = N \*  $\rho$

### → Lost packets:

⇒ If  $k \leq C$  active sources, no packet loss

⇒ If  $k > C$ ,  $k-C$  lost packets

k or C	p(k)	k*p(k)	overflow(C)	loss(C)
0	32.77%	0	67.23%	100.00%
1	40.96%	0.4096	26.27%	32.77%
2	20.48%	0.4096	5.79%	6.50%
3	5.12%	0.1536	0.67%	0.70%
4	0.64%	0.0256	0.03%	0.03%
5	0.03%	0.0016	0.00%	0.00%

### → hence

$$P_{loss} = \frac{\sum_{k=C+1}^N (k-C) \binom{N}{k} \rho^k (1-\rho)^{N-k}}{N\rho} =$$

$$= \frac{1}{N\rho} \sum_{k=C+1}^N k \binom{N}{k} \rho^k (1-\rho)^{N-k} - \frac{C}{N\rho} P_{(overflow)}$$

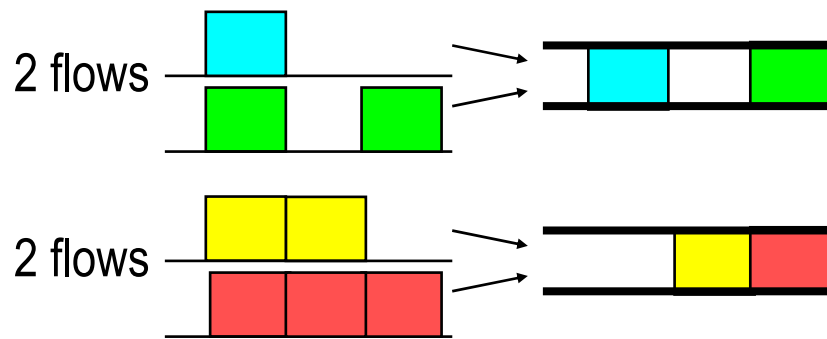
# Loss vs overflow

k or C	binom	p(k)	k * p(k)	overflow(C)	loss(C)
0	1	1.2E-03	0.0E+00	9.99E-01	1.00E+00
1	30	9.3E-03	9.3E-03	9.89E-01	8.34E-01
2	435	3.4E-02	6.7E-02	9.56E-01	6.69E-01
3	4060	7.9E-02	2.4E-01	8.77E-01	5.09E-01
4	27405	1.3E-01	5.3E-01	7.45E-01	3.63E-01
5	142506	1.7E-01	8.6E-01	5.72E-01	2.39E-01
6	593775	1.8E-01	1.1E+00	3.93E-01	1.44E-01
7	2035800	1.5E-01	1.1E+00	2.39E-01	7.81E-02
8	5852925	1.1E-01	8.8E-01	1.29E-01	3.82E-02
9	14307150	6.8E-02	6.1E-01	6.11E-02	1.68E-02
10	30045015	3.5E-02	3.5E-01	2.56E-02	6.57E-03
11	54627300	1.6E-02	1.8E-01	9.49E-03	2.30E-03
12	86493225	6.4E-03	7.7E-02	3.11E-03	7.18E-04
13	119759850	2.2E-03	2.9E-02	9.02E-04	2.00E-04
14	145422675	6.7E-04	9.4E-03	2.31E-04	4.94E-05
15	155117520	1.8E-04	2.7E-03	5.24E-05	1.08E-05
16	145422675	4.2E-05	6.7E-04	1.05E-05	2.11E-06
17	119759850	8.6E-06	1.5E-04	1.84E-06	3.62E-07
18	86493225	1.6E-06	2.8E-05	2.84E-07	5.46E-08
19	54627300	2.5E-07	4.7E-06	3.83E-08	7.21E-09
20	30045015	3.4E-08	6.8E-07	4.48E-09	8.28E-10
21	14307150	4.0E-09	8.5E-08	4.50E-10	8.20E-11
22	5852925	4.1E-10	9.1E-09	3.86E-11	6.92E-12
23	2035800	3.6E-11	8.2E-10	2.78E-12	4.91E-13
24	593775	2.6E-12	6.3E-11	1.65E-13	2.88E-14
25	142506	1.6E-13	3.9E-12	7.82E-15	1.35E-15
26	27405	7.5E-15	2.0E-13	2.87E-16	4.91E-17
27	4060	2.8E-16	7.5E-15	7.60E-18	1.29E-18
28	435	7.5E-18	2.1E-16	1.30E-19	2.18E-20
29	30	1.3E-19	3.7E-18	1.07E-21	1.79E-22
30	1	1.1E-21	3.2E-20	0.00E+00	0.00E+00

Example:  $N=30$ ;  
 each 20% activity;  
 $N \rho = 6$

for  $C \gg N\rho$ :  
 Overflow=good approx for loss.

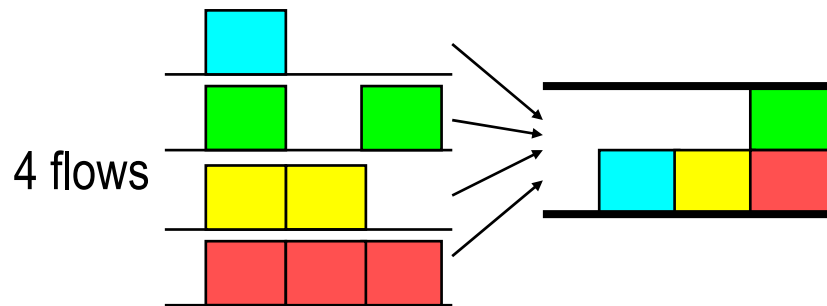
# Statistical Mux Gain (i)



Average load =  $4\rho$

$C = 2$

$$Ploss_1 = \frac{1 \times 1 \times \rho^2}{2\rho} = \frac{\rho}{2}$$



Average load =  $4\rho$

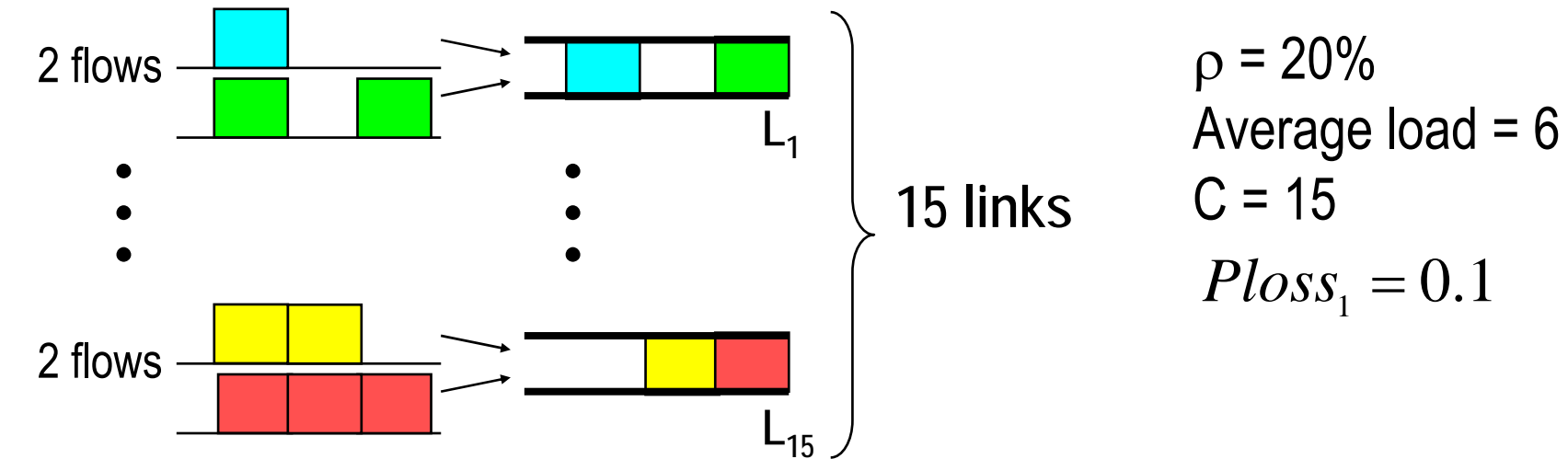
$C = 2$

$$Ploss_2 = \frac{1 \times 4 \times \rho^3 (1 - \rho) + 2 \times 1 \times \rho^4}{4\rho}$$

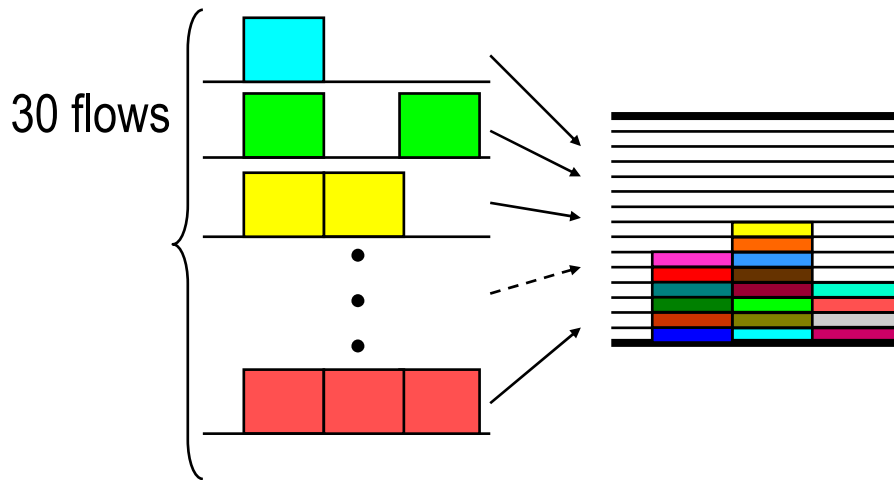
$$= \frac{\rho^2 (2 - \rho)}{2} < Ploss_1$$

**A sample-path argument is faster!**

# Statistical Mux Gain (ii)



$\rho = 20\%$   
 Average load = 6  
 $C = 15$   
 $Ploss_1 = 0.1$



$\rho = 20\%$   
 Average load = 6  
 $C = 15$   
 $Ploss_2 = 1.08 \times 10^{-5}$

