Computer Communications and Networks

Course Code: BIT 2504

Staff Name: Mrs. N. Gayathri

- **Data Communications**

  Data communications refers to the transmission of this digital data between two or more computers

- **Networking**

  A computer network or data network is a telecommunications network that allows computers to exchange data.

  The physical connection between networked computing devices is established using either cable media or wireless media. The best-known computer network is the Internet.

Need of Data Communication & Computer Network

Network Basic Understanding

- A system of interconnected computers and computerized peripherals such as printers is called computer network.
- This interconnection among computers facilitates information sharing among them.
- Computers may connect to each other by either wired or wireless media.

Network Engineering

- Networking engineering is a complicated task, which involves software, firmware, chip level engineering, hardware, and electric pulses.
- To ease network engineering, the whole networking concept is divided into multiple layers.
- Each layer is involved in some particular task and is independent of all other layers.
- But as a whole, almost all networking tasks depend on all of these layers.
- Layers share data between them and they depend on each other only to take input and send output.

Internet

- A network of networks is called an internetwork, or simply the internet. It is the largest network in existence on this planet.
- The internet hugely connects all WANs and it can have connection to LANs and Home networks.
- Internet uses TCP/IP protocol suite and uses IP as its addressing protocol.
- Present day, Internet is widely implemented using IPv4.

- Because of shortage of address spaces, it is gradually migrating from IPv4 to IPv6.
- Internet enables its users to share and access enormous amount of information worldwide. It uses WWW, FTP, email services, audio and video streaming etc. At huge level, internet works on Client-Server model.
- Internet uses very high speed backbone of fiber optics. To inter-connect various continents, fibers are laid under sea known to us as submarine communication cable.

Applications of Communication & Computer Network

- Computer systems and peripherals are connected to form a network.
- They provide numerous advantages:

    1. Resource sharing such as printers and storage devices

    2. Exchange of information by means of e-Mails and FTP

Applications of Communication & Computer Network

4. Information sharing by using Web or Internet

5. Interaction with other users using dynamic web pages

6. IP phones

7. Video conferences

8. Parallel computing

9. Instant messaging

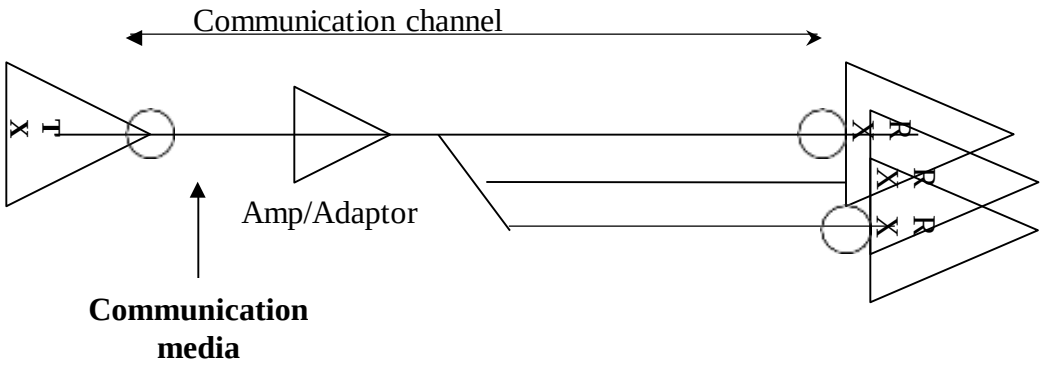
Communication Systems

- Process describing transfer of information, data, instructions between one or more systems through some media

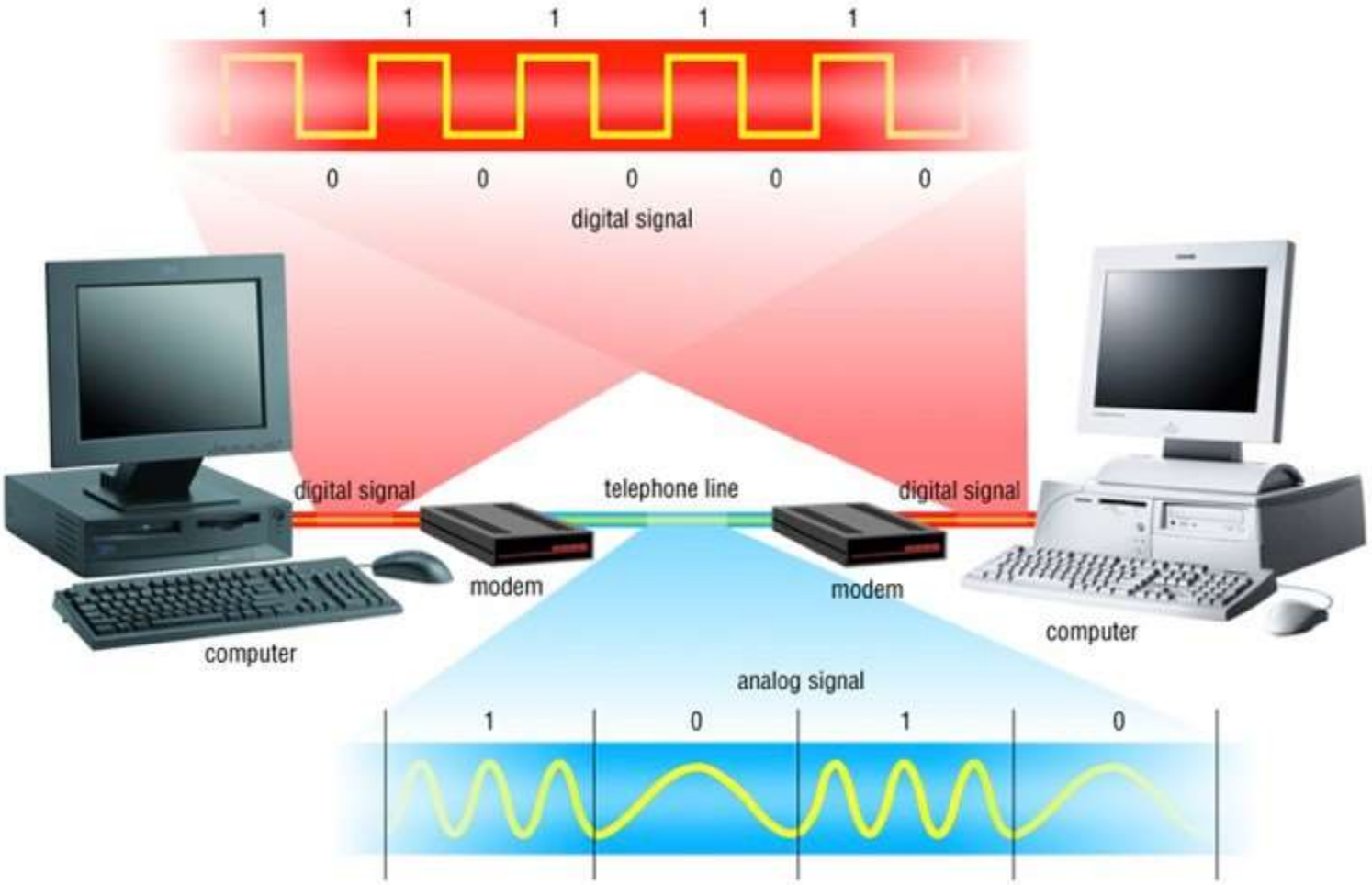
  Examples

  - people, computers, cell phones, etc.
  - Computer communication systems

- Signals passing through the communication channel can be **Digital**, or **analog**
  - Analog signals: continuous electrical waves
  - Digital signals: individual electrical pulses (bits)
- Receivers and transmitters: desktop computers, mainframe computers, etc.



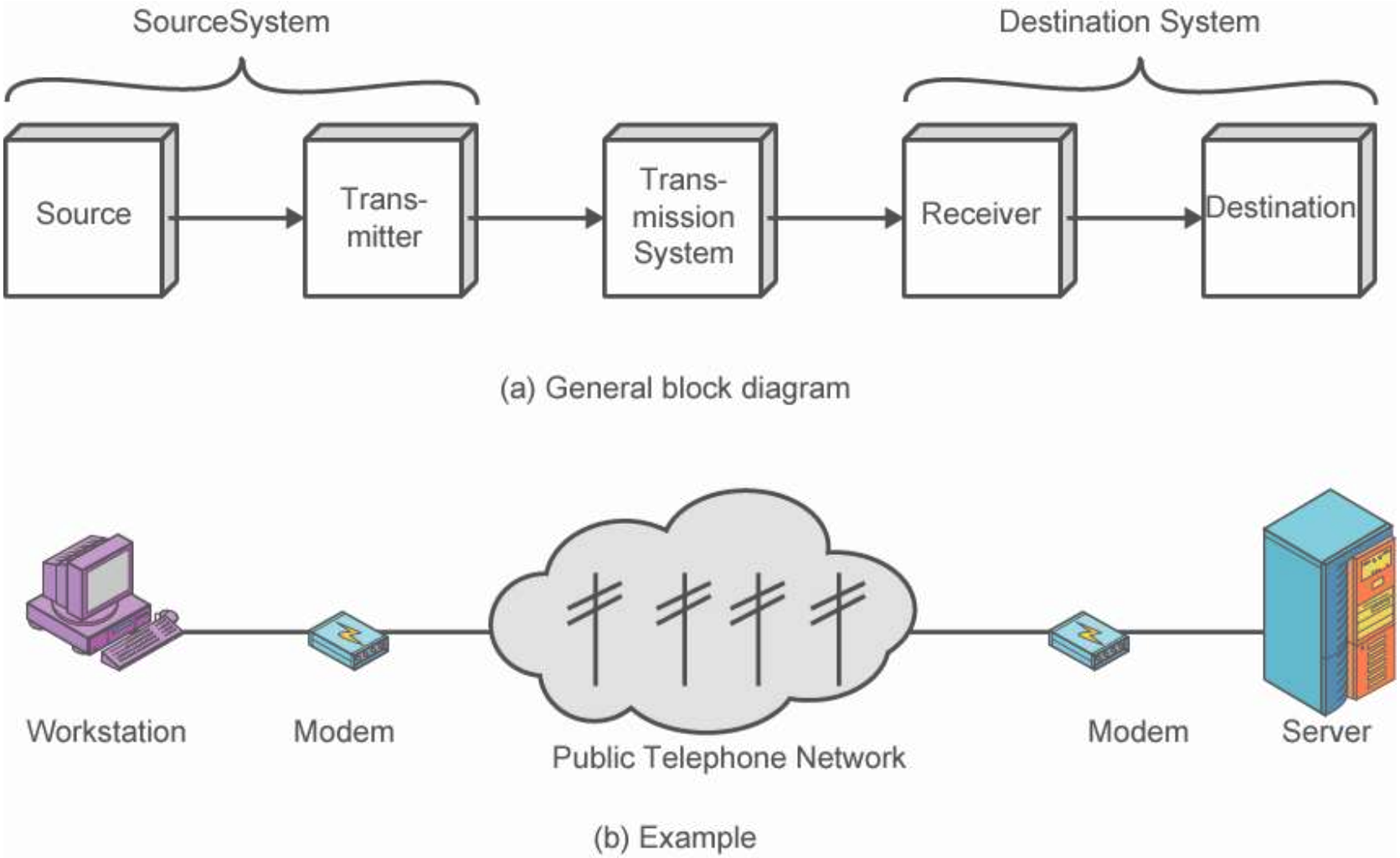
Communication Systems



Communications Components

- Basic components of a communication system
  - Communication technologies
  - Communication devices
  - Communication channels
  - Communication software

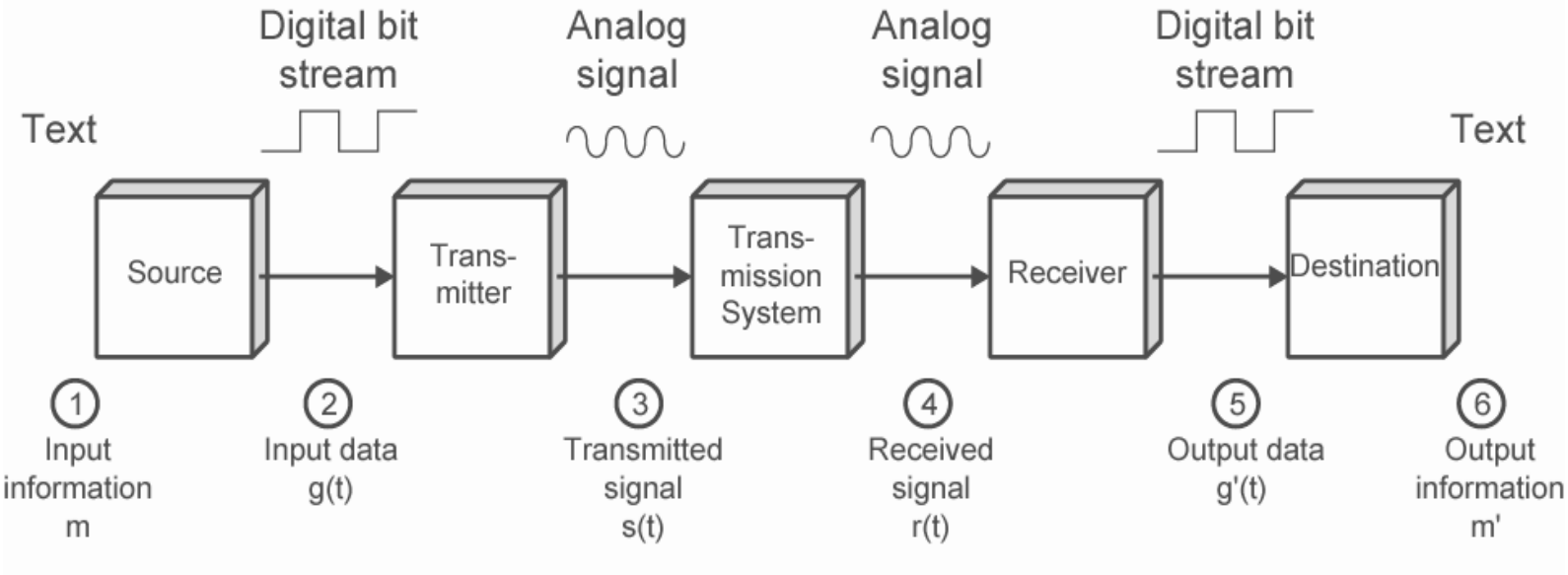
A Communications Model



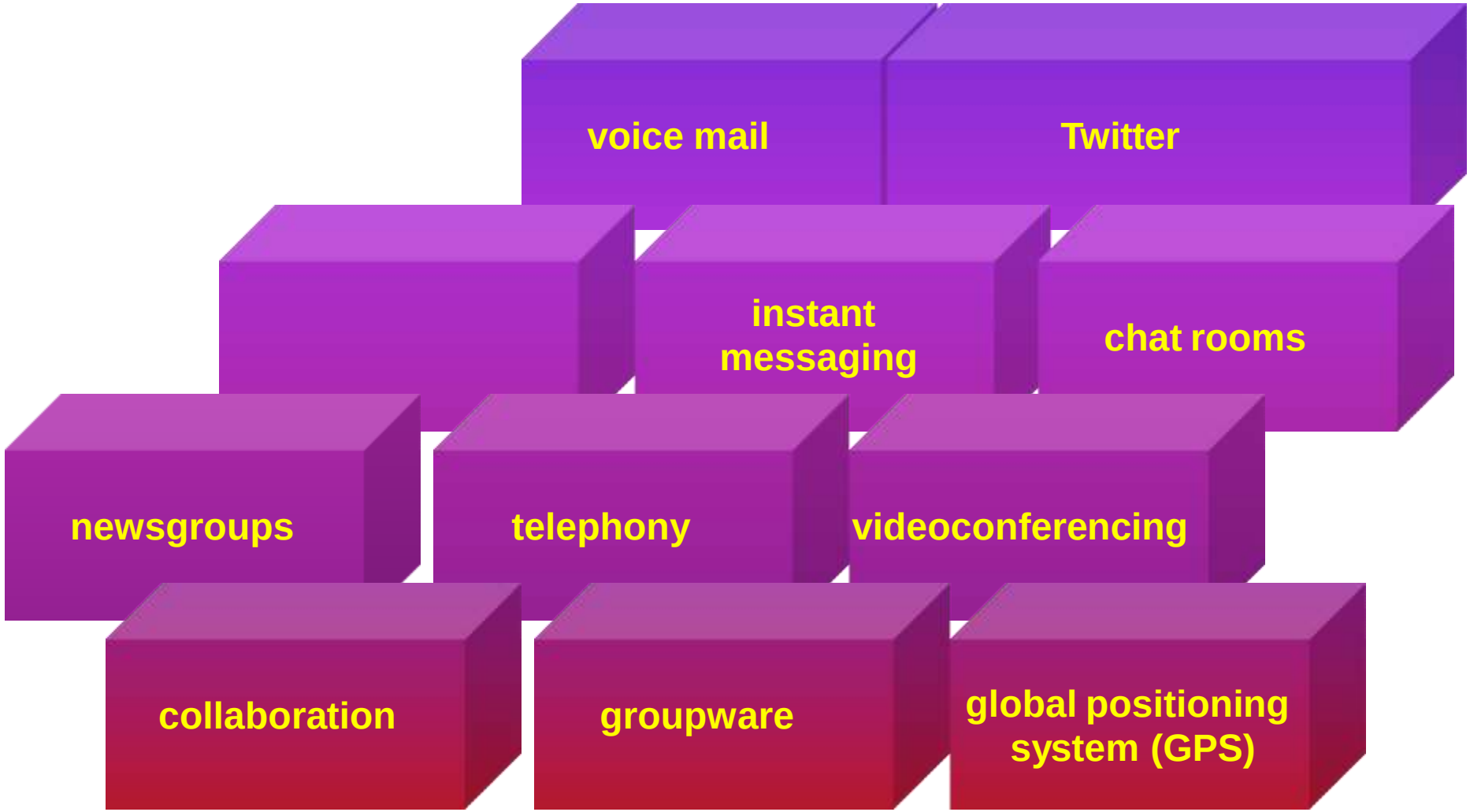
Communications Tasks

Transmission system utilization	Addressing
Interfacing	Routing
Signal generation	Recovery
Synchronization	Message formatting
Exchange management	Security
Error detection and correction	Network management
Flow control	

Data Communications Model



Communication Technology Applications



Communication Technologies -

Applications

- Different technologies allowing us to communicate
  - Examples: Voice mail, fax, email, instant message, chat rooms, news groups, telephony, GPS, and more
- Voice mail: Similar to answering machine but digitized
- Fax: Sending hardcopy of text or photographs between computers using fax modem
- Email: electronic mail – sending text, files, images between different computer networks - must have email software
  - More than 1.3 billion people send 244 billion messages monthly!
- Chat rooms: Allows communications in real time when connected to the Internet

Communication Devices

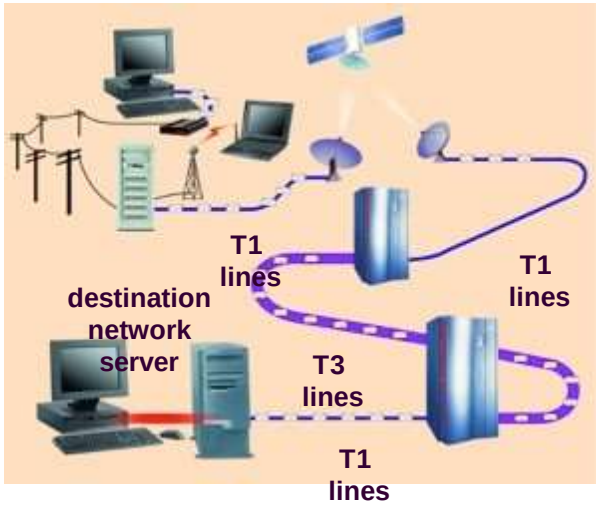
- Any type of **hardware** capable of transmitting data, instructions, and information between devices
  - Functioning as receiver, transmitter, adaptor, converter
  - Basic characteristics: How **fast**, how **far**, how **much data**!
- Examples: Dial-up modems, ISDN, DSL modems, network interface cards
  - **Dial-up modem**: uses standard phone lines
    - Converts digital information into analog
    - Consists of a modulator and a demodulator
    - Can be external, internal, wireless
  - **ISDN and DSL Modem**: Allows digital communication between networks and computers
    - Requires a digital modem
    - Digital is better than analog – why?
  - **Cable modem**: a modem that transmits and receives data over the cable television (CATV) network
    - Also called **broadband modem** (carrying multiple signals)
    - The incoming signal is split
    - Requires a cable modem
  - **Network interface cards**: Adaptor cards residing in the computer to transmit and receiver data over the network (NIC)
    - Operate with different network technologies (e.g., Ethernet)

Communication Software

- Examples of applications (Layer 7) take advantage of the transport (Layer 4) services of TCP and UDP
  - **Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP):** A client/server application that uses TCP for transport to retrieve HTML pages.
  - **Domain Name Service (DNS):** A name-to-address translation application that uses both TCP and UDP transport.
  - **Telnet:** A virtual terminal application that uses TCP for transport.
  - **File Transport Protocol (FTP):** A file transfer application that uses TCP for transport.
  - **Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP):** A file transfer application that uses UDP for transport.
  - **Network Time Protocol (NTP):** An application that synchronizes time with a time source and uses UDP for transport.
  - **Border Gateway Protocol (BGP):** An exterior gateway routing protocol that uses TCP for transport. BGP is used to exchange routing information for the Internet and is the protocol used between service providers.

Communication Channels

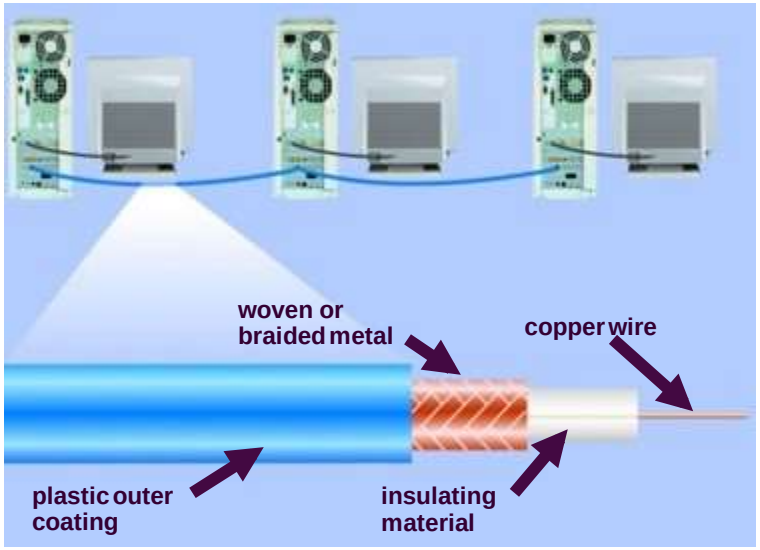
- A **channel** is a path between two communication devices
- **Channel capacity**: How much data can be passed through the channel (bit/sec)
  - Also called **channel bandwidth**
  - The smaller the pipe the slower data transfer!
- Consists of one or more **transmission media**
  - Materials carrying the signal
  - Two types:
    - Physical: wire cable
    - Wireless: Air

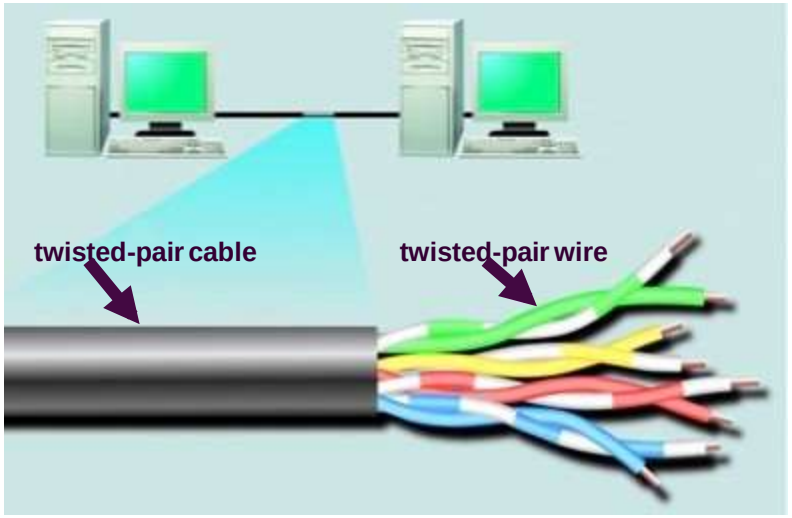


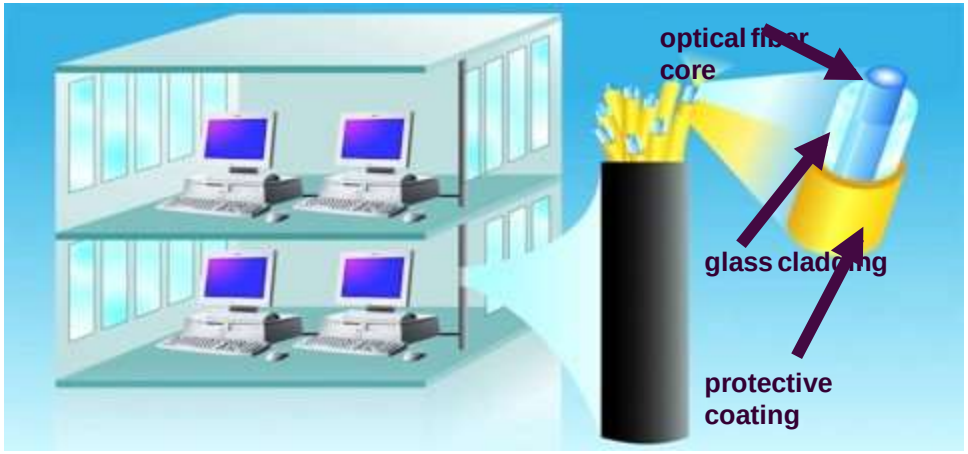
Physical Transmission Media

- A tangible media
  - Examples: Twisted-pair cable, coaxial cable, Fiber-optics, etc.
- Twisted-pair cable:
  - One or more twisted wires bundled together (why?)
  - Made of copper
- Coax-Cable:
  - Consists of single copper wire surrounded by three layers of insulating and metal materials
  - Typically used for cable TV
- Fiber-optics:
  - Strands of glass or plastic used to transmit light
  - Very high capacity, low noise, small size, less suitable to natural disturbances

Physical Transmission Media







Wireless Transmission Media

- Broadcast Radio
  - Distribute signals through the air over long distance
  - Uses an antenna
  - Typically for stationary locations
  - Can be short range
- Cellular Radio
  - A form of broadcast radio used for mobile communication
  - High frequency radio waves to transmit voice or data
  - Utilizes frequency-reuse

Wireless Transmission Media

- Microwaves
  - Radio waves providing high speed transmission
  - They are point-to-point (can't be obstructed)
  - Used for satellite communication
- Infrared (IR)
  - Wireless transmission media that sends signals using infrared light- waves - Such as?

Physical Transmission Media

Type of Cable and LAN	Transfer Rates
Twisted Pair	
• 10Base-T (Ethernet)	10 Mbps
• 100Base-T (Fast Ethernet)	100 Mbps
• 1000Base-T (Gigabit Ethernet)	1000 Mbps
• Token ring	4 - 16 Mbps
Coaxial Cable	
• 10Base2 (ThinWire Ethernet)	10 Mbps
• 10Base5 (ThickWire Ethernet)	10 Mbps
Fiber-Optic Cable	
• 10Base-F (Ethernet)	10 Mbps
• 100Base-FX (Fast Ethernet)	100 Mbps
• FDDI (Fiber Distributed-Data Interface) token ring	100 Mbps

100 Mbps is how many bits per sec?

Which is bigger:
10,000 Mbps, 0.01Tbps or 10Gbps?

Wireless channel capacity:

Channel	Transfer Rates
Broadcast radio	Up to 2 Mbps
Microwave radio	45 Mbps
Communications satellite	50 Mbps
Cellular radio	9,600 bps to 14.4 Kbps
Infrared	1 to 4 Mbps

Networks

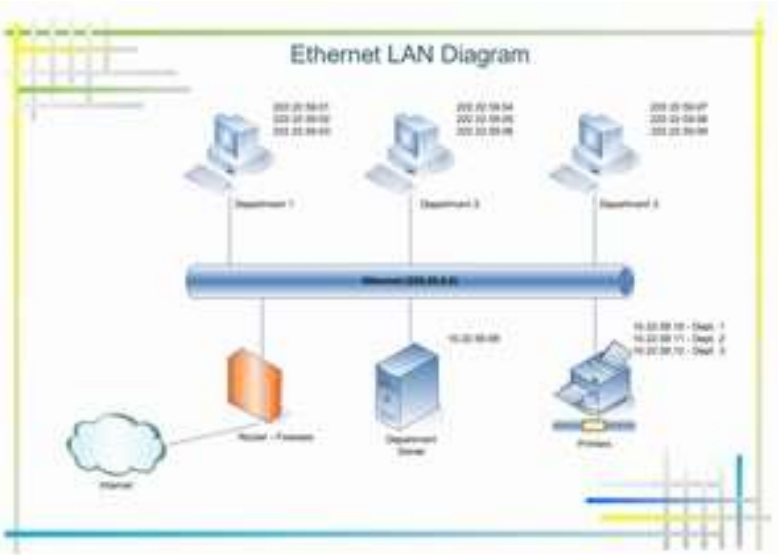
- Collection of computers and devices connected together
- Used to transfer information or files, share resources, etc.
- What is the largest network?
- Characterized based on their geographical coverage, speed, capacities
- Networks are categorized based on the following characteristics:
  - Network **coverage**: LAN, MAN, WAN
  - Network **topologies**: how the computers are connected together
  - Network **technologies**
  - Network **architecture**

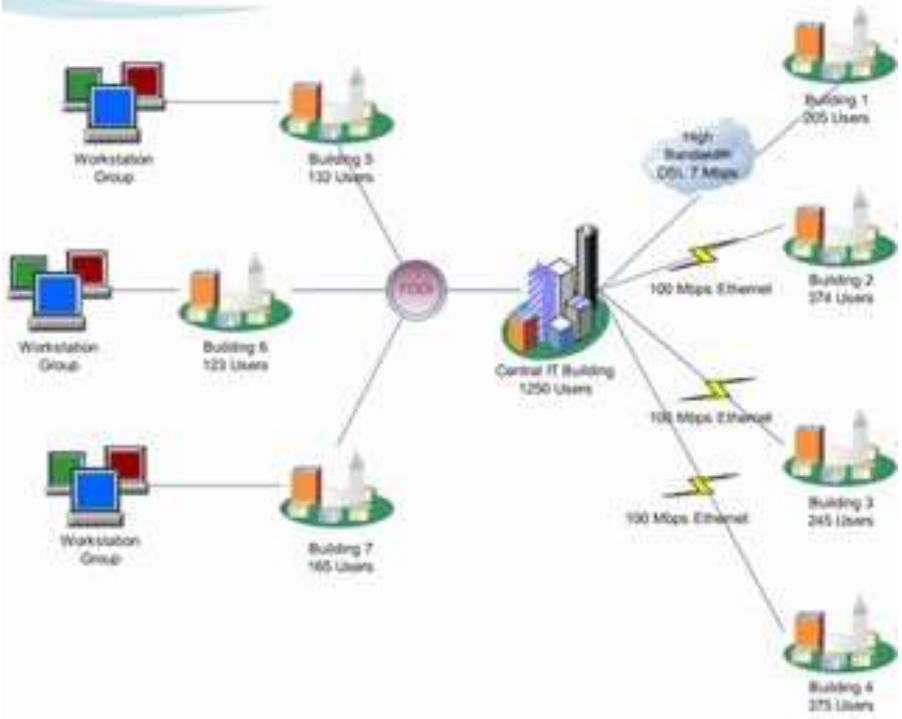
Network coverage

- Local Area Networks:
  - Used for small networks (school, home, office)
  - Examples and configurations:
    - Wireless LAN or Switched LAN
    - ATM LAN, Frame Ethernet LAN
    - Peer-2-PEER: connecting several computers together (<10)
    - Client/Server: The serves shares its resources between different clients
- Metropolitan Area Network
  - Backbone network connecting all LANs
  - Can cover a city or the entire country
- Wide Area Network
  - Typically between cities and countries
  - Technology:
    - Circuit Switch, Packet Switch, Frame Relay, ATM
  - Examples:
    - Internet P2P: Networks with the same network software can be connected together (Napster)

LAN v.s WAN

LAN - Local Area Network a group of computers connected within a building or a campus (Example of LAN may consist of computers located on a single floor or a building or it might link all the computers in a small company.



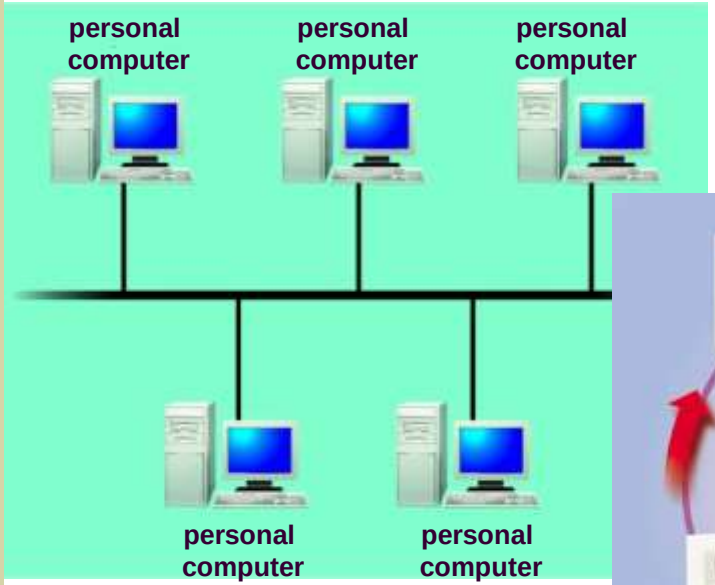


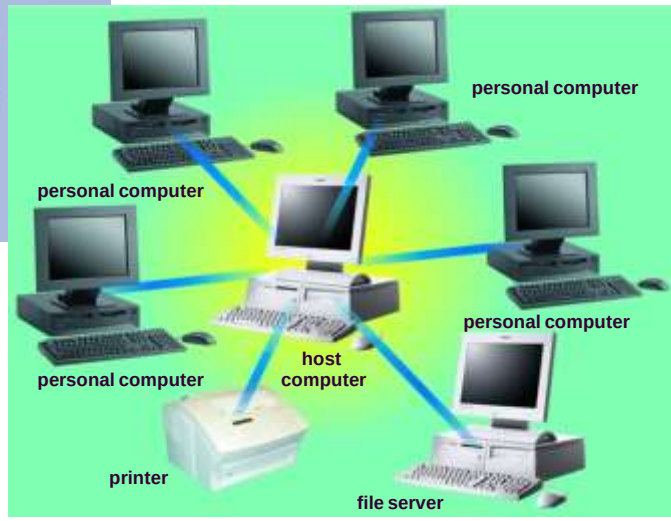
WAN - A network consisting of computers of LAN's connected across a distance WAN can cover small to large distances, using different topologies such as telephone lines, fiber optic cabling, satellite transmissions and microwave transmissions.

Network Topologies

- Configuration or physical arrangement in which devices are connected together
- BUS networks: Single central cable connected a number of devices
  - Easy and cheap
  - Popular for LANs
- RING networks: a number of computers are connected on a closed loop
  - Covers large distances
  - Primarily used for LANs and WANs
- STAR networks: connecting all devices to a central unit
  - All computers are connected to a central device called *hub*
  - All data must pass through the hub
  - What is the problem with this?
  - Susceptible to failure

Network Topologies

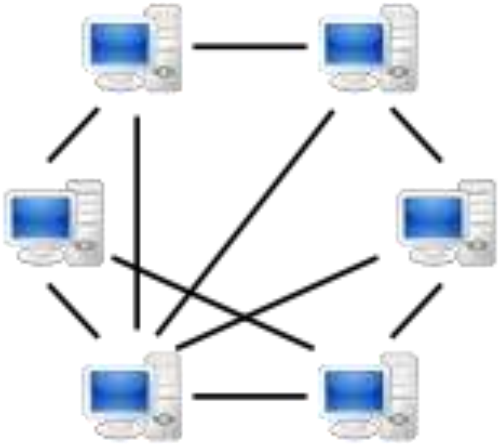




Network Architecture

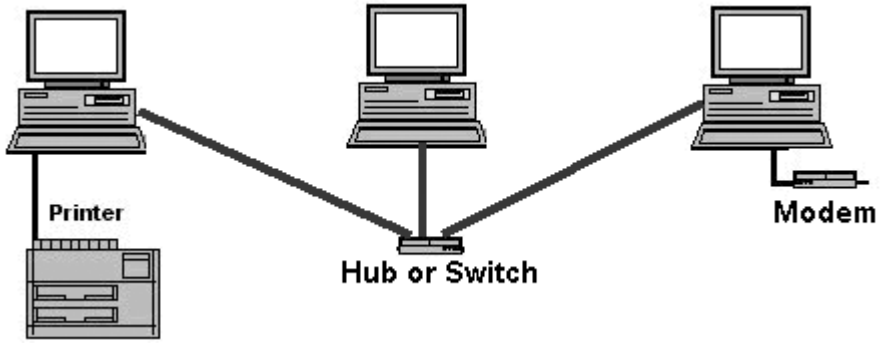
- Refers to how the computer or devices are designed in a network
- Basic types:
  - Centralized – using mainframes
  - Peer-2-Peer:
    - Each computer (peer) has equal responsibilities, capacities, sharing hardware, data, with the other computers on the peer-to-peer network
    - Good for small businesses and home networks
    - Simple and inexpensive
  - Client/Server:
    - All clients must ***request*** service from the server
    - The server is also called a ***host***
    - Different servers perform different tasks: *File server*, *network server*, etc.

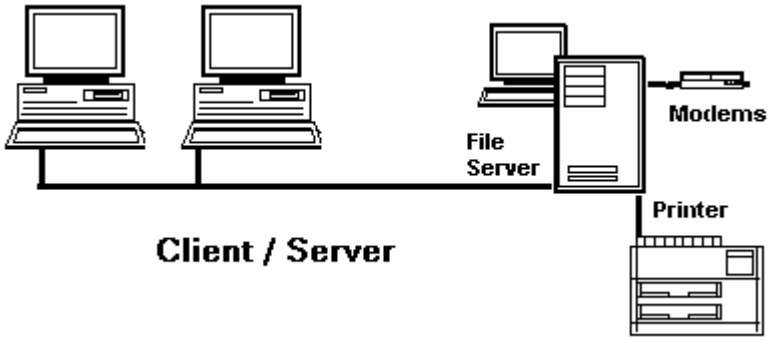
P2P vs Client-Server



Peers make a portion of their resources, such as processing power, disk storage or network bandwidth, directly available to other network participants, without the need for central coordination by servers or stable hosts

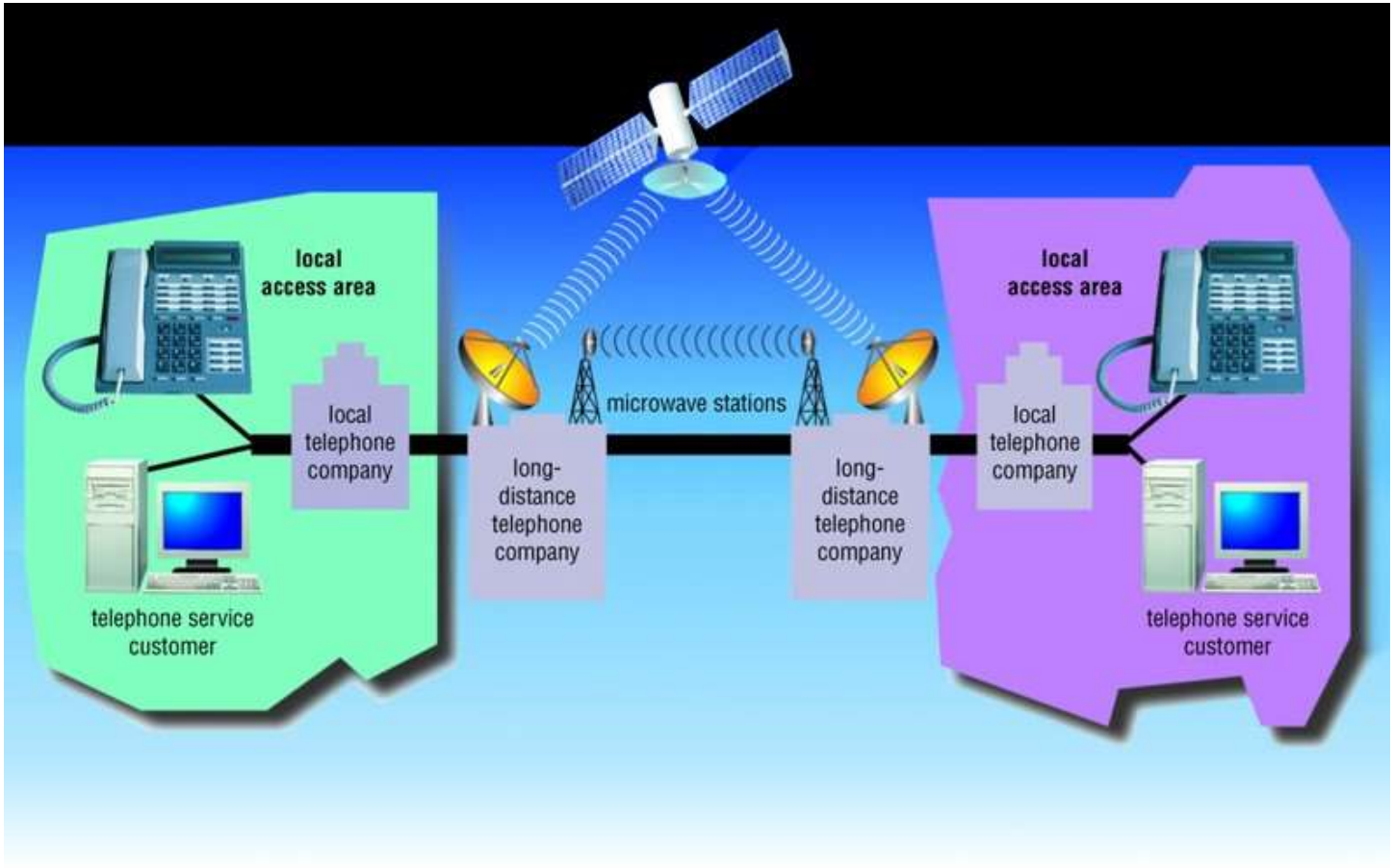
Peer-to-Peer Examples





Network Example:

Telephone Networks



Cellular Network Examples

- 0G
  - Single, powerful base station covering a wide area, and each telephone would effectively monopolize a channel over that whole area while in use (developed in 40's)
  - No frequency use or handoff (basis of modern cell phone technology)
- 1G
  - Fully automatic cellular networks
  - introduced in the early to mid 1980s
- 2G
  - Introduced in 1991 in Finland on the GSM standard
  - Offered the first data service with person-to-person SMS text messaging

Cellular Network Examples

- 3G:
  - Faster than PCS; Used for multimedia and graphics
  - Compared to 2G and 2.5G services, 3G allows simultaneous use of speech and data services and higher data rates (up to 14.4 Mbit/s on the downlink and 5.8 Mbit/s.
- 4G:
  - Fourth generation of cellular wireless;
  - providing a comprehensive and secure IP based service to users "Anytime, Anywhere" at high data rates