### <u>Medium Access Control (MAC)</u> and Wireless LANs

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#### □ Wireless LAN Technology

Medium Access Control for Wireless

#### □IEEE 802.11

# **Wireless LAN Applications**

LAN Extension
Cross-building interconnect
Nomadic Access
Ad hoc networking

### LAN Extension

# Wireless LAN linked into a wired LAN on same premises

- o Wired LAN
  - Backbone
  - Support servers and stationary workstations
- o Wireless LAN
  - Stations in large open areas
  - Manufacturing plants, stock exchange trading floors, and warehouses



Figure 13.2 Example Multiple-Cell Wireless LAN Configuration

## Cross-Building Interconnect

Connect LANs in nearby buildings

 Wired or wireless LANs

 Point-to-point wireless link is used
 Devices connected are typically bridges or routers

Nomadic Access

□ Wireless link between LAN hub and mobile data terminal equipped with antenna

Uses:

- o Transfer data from portable computer to office server
- o Extended environment such as campus

# Ad Hoc Networking

Temporary peer-to-peer network set up to meet immediate need

#### **Example:**

- o Group of employees with laptops convene for a meeting; employees link computers in a temporary network for duration of meeting
- o Military applications
- o Disaster scenarios

#### **Wireless LAN Parameters**

- □ Throughput
- □ Number of nodes
- □ Connection to backbone LAN
- □ Service area
- □ Battery power consumption
- □ Transmission robustness and security
- Collocated network operation
- □ License-free operation
- □ Handoff/roaming
- Dynamic configuration

### **Wireless LAN Categories**

Infrared (IR) LANs
 Spread spectrum LANs
 Narrowband microwave

# <u>Strengths of Infrared Over</u> <u>Microwave Radio</u>

- □ Spectrum for infrared virtually unlimited
  - o Possibility of high data rates
- □ Infrared spectrum unregulated
- □ Equipment inexpensive and simple
- Reflected by light-colored objects
  - o Ceiling reflection for entire room coverage
- Doesn't penetrate walls
  - o More easily secured against eavesdropping
  - o Less interference between different rooms

# **Drawbacks of Infrared Medium**

- □Indoor environments experience infrared background radiation
  - o Sunlight and indoor lighting
  - o Ambient radiation appears as noise in an infrared receiver
  - o Transmitters of higher power required
    - Limited by concerns of eye safety and excessive power consumption
  - o Limits range

# Spread Spectrum LANs

- □ Multiple cell arrangement
- □ Most popular type of wireless LAN
- **Two configurations:** 
  - o Hub topology: infrastructure mode
  - o Peer-to-peer topology: multi-hop ad hoc network

# **Spread Spectrum LAN configurations**

□ Hub topology:

- o Mounted on the ceiling and connected to backbone
- o Need MAC protocol
- o May act as multiport repeater
- o Automatic handoff of mobile stations
- o Stations in cell either:
  - Transmit to / receive from hub only
  - Broadcast using omnidirectional antenna

#### □ Peer-to-peer mode:

- o No hub
- o Need a distributed MAC protocol

#### Narrowband Microwave LANs

 Use of a microwave radio frequency band for signal transmission
 Relatively narrow bandwidth
 Licensed & unlicensed

# Medium Access Control Protocols

- Schedule-based: Establish transmission schedules statically or dynamically
  - o TDMA
  - o FDMA
  - o CDMA
- □ Contention-based:
  - o Let the stations contend for the channel
  - o Random access protocols
- □ Reservation-based:
  - o Reservations made during a contention phase
  - Size of packet in contention phase much smaller than a data packet
- □ Space-division multiple access:
  - Serve multiple users simultaneously by using directional antennas

#### Schedule-based access methods

□ FDMA (Frequency Division Multiple Access)

- o assign a certain frequency to a transmission channel between a sender and a receiver
- o permanent (e.g., radio broadcast), slow hopping (e.g., GSM), fast hopping (FHSS, Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum)
- □ TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access)
  - o assign the fixed sending frequency to a transmission channel between a sender and a receiver for a certain amount of time
- □ CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access)
  - o signals are spread over a wideband using pseudo-noise sequences
  - o codes generate signals with "good-correlation" properties
  - o signals from another user appear as "noise"
  - o the receiver can "tune" into this signal if it knows the pseudo random number, tuning is done via a correlation function

### **Contention-based protocols**

🛛 Aloha

CSMA (Carrier-sense multiple access)

o Ethernet

- □ MACA (Multiple access collision avoidance)
- □ MACAW

□ CSMA/CA and IEEE 802.11

### **Ingredients of MAC Protocols**

□ Carrier sense (CS)

- o Hardware capable of sensing whether transmission taking place in vicinity
- □ Collision detection (CD)
  - o Hardware capable of detecting collisions
- □ Collision avoidance (CA)
  - o Protocol for avoiding collisions
- Acknowledgments
  - o When collision detection not possible, link-layer mechanism for identifying failed transmissions
- Backoff mechanism
  - o Method for estimating contention and deferring transmissions

#### **Carrier Sense Multiple Access**

- Every station senses the carrier before transmitting
- □ If channel appears free
  - o Transmit (with a certain probability)
- □ Otherwise, wait for some time and try again
- □ Different CSMA protocols:
  - o Sending probabilities
  - o Retransmission mechanisms

# <u>Aloha</u>

- Proposed for packet radio environments where every node can hear every other node
- □ Assume collision detection
- In Slotted Aloha, stations transmit at the beginning of a slot
- □ If collision occurs, then each station waits a random number of slots and retries
  - o Random wait time chosen has a geometric distribution
  - o Independent of the number of retransmissions
- Analysis in standard texts on networking theory

### Aloha/Slotted aloha

#### Mechanism

- o random, distributed (no central arbiter), time-multiplexed
- Slotted Aloha additionally uses time-slots, sending must always start at slot boundaries



#### **Carrier Sense Protocols**

- Use the fact that in some networks you can sense the medium to check whether it is currently free
  - o 1-persistent CSMA
  - o non-persistent CSMA
  - o p-persistent protocol
  - CSMA with collision detection (CSMA/CD): not applicable to wireless systems
- □ 1-persistent CSMA
  - o when a station has a packet:
    - it waits until the medium is free to transmit the packet
    - if a collision occurs, the station waits a random amount of time
  - o first transmission results in a collision if several stations are waiting for the channel

### Carrier Sense Protocols (Cont'd)

□ Non-persistent CSMA

o when a station has a packet:

- if the medium is free, transmit the packet
- otherwise wait for a random period of time and repeat the algorithm

o higher delays, but better performance than pure ALOHA

p-persistent protocol

o when a station has a packet wait until the medium is free:

- transmit the packet with probability *p*
- wait for next slot with probability 1-*p*

o better throughput than other schemes but higher delay

□ CSMA with collision Detection (CSMA/CD)

o stations abort their transmission when they detect a collision

o e.g., Ethernet, IEEE802.3 but not applicable to wireless systems

# **Ethernet**

- □ CSMA with collision detection (CSMA/CD)
- □ If the adaptor has a frame and the line is idle: transmit
- □ Otherwise wait until idle line then transmit
- $\Box$  If a collision occurs:
  - o Binary exponential backoff: wait for a random number  $\in [0, 2^{i}-1]$  of slots before transmitting
  - o After ten collisions the randomization interval is frozen to max 1023
  - o After 16 collisions the controller throws away the frame

#### **Comparison of MAC Algorithms**



#### Motivation for Wireless MAC

- □ Can we apply media access methods from fixed networks?
- □ Example CSMA/CD
  - o Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Detection
  - o send as soon as the medium is free, listen into the medium if a collision occurs (original method in IEEE 802.3)
- Problems in wireless networks
  - o signal strength decreases proportional to the square of the distance
  - o the sender would apply CS and CD, but the collisions happen at the receiver
  - it might be the case that a sender cannot "hear" the collision,
     i.e., CD does not work
  - o furthermore, CS might not work if, e.g., a terminal is "hidden"

#### Hidden and exposed terminals

#### Hidden terminals

- o A sends to B, C cannot receive A
- o C wants to send to B, C senses a "free" medium (CS fails)
- o collision at B, A cannot receive the collision (CD fails)
- o A is "hidden" for C

□ Exposed terminals

o B sends to A, C wants to send to another terminal (not A/B)

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- o C has to wait, CS signals a medium in use
- o but A is outside the radio range of C, therefore waiting is not necessary
- o C is "exposed" to B

#### Near and far terminals

□ Terminals A and B send, C receives

- o signal strength decreases proportional to the square of the distance
- o the signal of terminal B therefore drowns out A's signal
- o C cannot receive A



- If C for example was an arbiter for sending rights, terminal B would drown out terminal A already on the physical layer
- Also severe problem for CDMA-networks precise power control needed!

#### MACA - collision avoidance

- □ No carrier sense (CS)
- MACA (Multiple Access with Collision Avoidance) uses short signaling packets for collision avoidance
  - RTS (request to send): sender requests the right to send from a receiver with a short RTS packet before it sends a data packet
  - o CTS (clear to send): the receiver grants the right to send as soon as it is ready to receive
- □ Signaling packets contain
  - o sender address
  - o receiver address
  - o packet size
- □ Variants of this method can be found in IEEE 802.11.



□ MACA avoids the problem of hidden terminals

- o A and C want to send to B
- o A sends RTS first
- o C waits after receiving CTS from B



□ MACA avoids the problem of exposed terminals?

- o B wants to send to A, C to another terminal
- now C does not have to wait for it cannot receive CTS from A



□ If C also transmits RTS, collision at B



□ C knows the expected DATA length from CTS



□ Avoids the hidden terminal problem



□ CTS packets have fixed size



#### C does not hear a CTS


#### MACA in Action

□ C is free to send to D; no exposed terminal



#### **MACA in Action**

□ Is C really free to send to D?



#### MACA in Action

□ In fact, C increases its backoff counter!



## The CSMA/CA Approach

Add carrier sense; C will sense B's transmission and refrain from sending RTS



### False Blocking

F sends RTS to E; D sends RTS to C
E is falsely blocked



## **Alternative Approach: MACAW**

- □ No carrier sense, no collision detection
- □ Collision avoidance:
  - o Sender sends RTS
  - o Receiver sends CTS
  - o Sender sends DS
  - o Sender sends DATA
  - o Receiver sends ACK
  - o Stations hearing DS defer until end of data transmission
- □ Backoff mechanism:
  - Exponential backoff with significant changes for improving fairness and throughput

#### The IEEE 802.11 Protocol

□ Two medium access schemes

□ Point Coordination Function (PCF)

o Centralized

- o For infrastructure mode
- □ Distributed Coordination Function (DCF)
  - o For ad hoc mode
  - o CSMA/CA
  - o Exponential backoff

#### **CSMA/CA with Exponential Backoff**



# MAC in IEEE 802.11



# **Demand Assigned Multiple Access**

- Channel efficiency only 18% for Aloha, 36% for Slotted Aloha (assuming Poisson distribution for packet arrival and packet length)
- □ Reservation can increase efficiency to 80%
  - o a sender *reserves* a future time-slot
  - o sending within this reserved time-slot is possible without collision
  - o reservation also causes higher delays
  - o typical scheme for satellite links
- □ Examples for reservation algorithms:
  - o Explicit Reservation (Reservation-ALOHA)
  - o Implicit Reservation (PRMA)
  - o Reservation-TDMA

# **DAMA: Explicit Reservation**

□Explicit Reservation (Reservation Aloha):

o two modes:

- *ALOHA mode* for reservation: competition for small reservation slots, collisions possible
- *reserved mode* for data transmission within successful reserved slots (no collisions possible)
- it is important for all stations to keep the reservation list consistent at any point in time and, therefore, all stations have to synchronize from time to time



## DAMA: PRMA

□Implicit reservation (PRMA - Packet Reservation MA):

- o a certain number of slots form a frame, frames are repeated
- o stations compete for empty slots according to the slotted aloha principle
- once a station reserves a slot successfully, this slot is automatically assigned to this station in all following frames as long as the station has data to send
- o competition for this slots starts again as soon as the slot was empty in the last frame



#### **DAMA:** Reservation-TDMA

□Reservation Time Division Multiple Access

- o every frame consists of N mini-slots and x data-slots
- o every station has its own mini-slot and can reserve up to k data-slots using this mini-slot (i.e. x = N \* k).
- o other stations can send data in unused data-slots according to a round-robin sending scheme (best-effort traffic)



# ISMA (Inhibit Sense)

□ Current state of the medium is signaled via a "busy tone"

- o the base station signals on the downlink (base station to terminals) if the medium is free or not
- o terminals must not send if the medium is busy
- o terminals can access the medium as soon as the busy tone stops
- the base station signals collisions and successful transmissions via the busy tone and acknowledgements, respectively (media access is not coordinated within this approach)
- mechanism used, e.g., for CDPD (USA, integrated into AMPS)







# 802.11 infrastructure mode



#### □Station (STA)

- o terminal with access mechanisms to the wireless medium and radio contact to the access point
- □Basic Service Set (BSS)
  - o group of stations using the same radio frequency

#### □Access Point

o station integrated into the wireless LAN and the distribution system

#### □Portal

o bridge to other (wired) networks

#### Distribution System

 o interconnection network to form one logical network (EES: Extended Service Set) based on several BSS

### 802.11: ad-hoc mode





Direct communication within a limited range

- o Station (STA): terminal with access mechanisms to the wireless medium
- Basic Service Set (BSS):
   group of stations in range
   and using the same radio
   frequency

# IEEE standard 802.11





Figure 14.5 IEEE 802.11 Protocol Architecture

## 802.11 - Physical layer

- □ 2 radio ranges (2.4 GHz and 5 GHz), 1 IR
  - o data rates ranging from 1 Mbps to 54 Mbps
- □ FHSS (Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum) 2.4 GHz
  - o spreading, de-spreading, signal strength, typically 1 Mbit/s
  - o min. 2.5 frequency hops/s (USA), two-level GFSK modulation
- □ DSSS (Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum) 2.4 GHz
  - o DBPSK or DQPSK modulation (Differential Binary Phase Shift Keying or Differential Quadrature PSK)
  - o Chipping sequence: +1, -1, +1, +1, -1, +1, +1, +1, -1, -1, -1
    (Barker code)
  - o Maximum radiated power 1 W (USA), 100 mW (EU), min. 1mW
- □ Infrared
  - o 850-950 nm, diffuse light, typically 10 m range
  - o Data rates 1-2 Mbps

# IEEE 802.11a and IEEE 802.11b

#### □ IEEE 802.11a

- o Makes use of 5-GHz band
- o Provides rates of 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36, 48, 54 Mbps
- o Uses orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM)
- o Sub-carrier modulated using BPSK, QPSK, 16-QAM or 64-QAM

#### □ IEEE 802.11b

- o Provides data rates of 5.5 and 11 Mbps
- o DSSS and complementary code keying (CCK) modulation

#### □ IEEE 802.11g

- o Extends data rates to up to 54 Mbps
- o Uses OFDM, in the 2.4 GHz band

# 802.11 - MAC layer

□ Traffic services

- o Asynchronous Data Service (mandatory)
  - exchange of data packets based on "best-effort"
  - support of broadcast and multicast
- o Time-Bounded Service (optional)
  - implemented using PCF (Point Coordination Function)
- $\hfill\square$  Access methods
  - o DCF CSMA/CA (mandatory)
    - collision avoidance via exponential backoff
    - Minimum distance (IFS) between consecutive packets
    - ACK packet for acknowledgements (not for broadcasts)
  - o DCF with RTS/CTS (optional)
    - Distributed Foundation Wireless MAC
    - avoids hidden terminal problem
  - o PCF (optional)
    - access point polls terminals according to a list

## 802.11 - MAC layer

Priorities

- o defined through different inter frame spaces
- o SIFS (Short Inter Frame Spacing)
  - highest priority, for ACK, CTS, polling response
- o PIFS (PCF IFS)
  - medium priority, for time-bounded service using PCF
- o DIFS (DCF, Distributed Coordination Function IFS)
  - lowest priority, for asynchronous data service



# CSMA/CA access method



- Station ready to send starts sensing the medium (Carrier Sense based on CCA, Clear Channel Assessment)
- If the medium is free for the duration of an Inter-Frame Space (IFS), the station can start sending (IFS depends on service type)
- □ If the medium is busy, the station has to wait for a free IFS, then the station must additionally wait a random back-off time (collision avoidance, multiple of slot-time)
- □ If another station occupies the medium during the back-off time of the station, the back-off timer stops (fairness)

# **Contending stations**



## 802.11 access scheme details

#### □ Sending unicast packets

- o station has to wait for DIFS before sending data
- o receivers acknowledge at once (after waiting for SIFS) if the packet was received correctly (CRC)
- o automatic retransmission of data packets in case of transmission errors



# 802.11 access scheme details

#### □ Sending unicast packets

- station can send RTS with reservation parameter after waiting for DIFS (reservation determines amount of time the data packet needs the medium)
- o ack via CTS after SIFS by receiver (if ready to receive)
- o sender can now send data at once, acknowledgement via ACK
- o other stations store reservations distributed via RTS and CTS



## **Fragmentation**



# **Point Coordination Function**



# **Point Coordination Function**



## 802.11 - Frame format

#### Types

- o control frames, management frames, data frames
- □ Sequence numbers
  - o important against duplicated frames due to lost ACKs
- Addresses
  - o receiver, transmitter (physical), BSS identifier, sender (logical)
- □ Miscellaneous
  - o sending time, checksum, frame control, data



## 802.11 MAC management

□ Synchronization

o try to find a LAN, try to stay within a LAN

o timer etc.

Power management

o sleep-mode without missing a message

o periodic sleep, frame buffering, traffic measurements

□ Association/Reassociation

o integration into a LAN

o roaming, i.e. change networks by changing access points

o scanning, i.e. active search for a network

- □ MIB Management Information Base
  - o managing, read, write

# Synchronization (infrastructure)



# Synchronization (ad-hoc)



### Power management

- □ Idea: switch the transceiver off if not needed
- □ States of a station: sleep and awake
- □ Timing Synchronization Function (TSF)
  - o stations wake up at the same time
- □ Infrastructure
  - o Traffic Indication Map (TIM)
    - list of unicast receivers transmitted by AP
  - o Delivery Traffic Indication Map (DTIM)
    - list of broadcast/multicast receivers transmitted by AP
- □ Ad-hoc
  - o Ad-hoc Traffic Indication Map (ATIM)
    - announcement of receivers by stations buffering frames
    - more complicated no central AP
    - collision of ATIMs possible

# Power saving (infrastructure)



# Power saving (ad-hoc)



# 802.11 - Roaming

- □ No or bad connection?
- Scanning
  - scan the environment, i.e., listen into the medium for beacon signals (passive) or send probes (active) into the medium and wait for an answer
- □ Reassociation Request
  - o station sends a request to one or several AP(s)
- □ Reassociation Response
  - o success: AP has answered, station can now participate
  - o failure: continue scanning
- □ AP accepts Reassociation Request
  - o signal the new station to the distribution system
  - o the distribution system updates its data base (i.e., location information)
  - o typically, the distribution system now informs the old AP so it can release resources

# Performance Analysis of 802.11

- □ Markov chain models for DCF
- □ Throughput:
  - o Saturation throughput: maximum load that the system can carry in stable conditions
- Focus on collision avoidance and backoff algorithms

# Analysis of Saturation Throughput

#### □ Model assumptions [Bianchi 00]:

- o No hidden terminal: all users can hear one another
- o No packet capture: all receive powers are identical
- o Saturation conditions: queue of each station is always nonempty
- □ Parameters:
  - o Packet lengths (headers, control and data)
  - o Times: slots, timeouts, interframe space
- [Bianchi 00] Performance Analysis of the IEEE 802.11 Distributed Coordination Function, IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communication, Vol 18, No. 3, March 2000





- □ Let b(t) denote the backoff time counter for a given node at slot t
  - o Slot: constant time period  $\sigma$  if the channel is idle, and the packet transmission period, otherwise
  - o Note that *t* is not the same as system time
- $\Box$  The variable b(t) is non-Markovian
  - o Its transitions from a given value depend on the number of retransmissions

# A Stochastic Model for Backoff

 $\Box$  Let s(t) denote the backoff stage at slot t

o In the set  $\{0, ..., m\}$ , where m is the maximum number of backoffs

 $\Box$  Is (*s*(*t*),*b*(*t*)) Markovian?

□ Unfortunately, no!

- o The transition probabilities are determined by collision probabilities
- o The collision probability may in turn depend on the number of retransmissions suffered
- □ Independence Assumption:
  - Collision probability is constant and independent of number of retransmissions

#### Markov Chain Model



## **Steady State Analysis**

Two probabilities:

 Two probabilities:
 Transmission probability τ
 Collision probability p

 Analyzing the Markov chain yields an equation for τ in terms of p
 However, we also have

$$p=1-(1-\tau)^{n-1}$$

 $\Box$  Solve for au and p

# Saturation Throughput Calculation

Probability of at least one transmission

 $P_{tr} = 1 - (1 - \tau)^{n}$   $\square \text{ Probability of a successful slot}$   $P_{s} = \frac{n\tau(1 - \tau)^{n-1}}{1 - (1 - \tau)^{n}}$   $\square \text{ Throughput: (packet length L)}$ 

$$\frac{P_s P_{tr} L}{(1 - P_{tr})\sigma + P_{tr} L}$$

#### Analysis vs. Simulations



	analysis	simulation
n=2, BAS	0.8473	$0.846 \pm 0.001$
n=2, RTS	0.8198	$0.817 \pm 0.001$
n=3, BAS	0.8368	$0.835 \pm 0.001$
n=3, RTS	0.8279	$0.823 \pm 0.001$

Fig. 6. Saturation Throughput: analysis versus simulation.

