

## Computer Networking and IT Security (INHN0012)

### Tutorial 6

#### Problem 1 Media Access Control

a)\* Briefly explain the principle of *ALOHA*.

A station transmits as soon as data is received. Transmissions are confirmed out-of-band (other frequency).

b) How collisions are detected in *ALOHA*?

Not directly, but via the lack of out-of-band confirmation.

c) Briefly explain the principle of **Slotted ALOHA**.

Station starts transmitting in the next time slot, regardless of whether a transmission is already taking place.

d) What is the advantage of *Slotted ALOHA* over normal *ALOHA*?

The division into time slots reduces the probability of collisions, as stations can no longer start a transmission at any time.  
If the time slots correspond to the transmission duration of a complete message and the nodes are sufficiently synchronized with each other (which is possible with such long time slots), a collision either occurs at the beginning of a time slot or it is guaranteed that at most one station transmits. (see lecture)

e)\* Briefly explain the principle of *CSMA*.

Medium is monitored before sending. If the medium is free in the current time slot, can start sending in the next one.

f) Briefly explain which additions *CSMA/CD* has compared to pure *CSMA*.

Collisions are detected and affected frames are transferred again.

g) How are successful transmissions recognized for *CSMA/CD* with Ethernet?

A transmission is assumed to be successful if no collision was detected during the transmission or no JAM signal was received.

h) Briefly explain which additions *CSMA/CA* has compared to pure *CSMA*.

Collisions can generally not be detected. Instead, their probability of occurrence is reduced by randomizing the start of transmission.  
(Contention window with a minimum size of several slot times)

i)\* What is meant by *Binary Exponential Backoff*?

*CSMA* (both *CD* and *CA*) wait a random number of slot times after a collision or unsuccessful transmission. This number is drawn randomly and evenly from the backoff window. With each collision or unsuccessful transfer, this window is doubled (binary exponential) until a certain maximum value is reached. After a successful transfer, the window is reset.

## Problem 2 Packet Pair Probing – Old Exam Problem

*Packet Pair Probing* is a method to determine the bandwidth of a link section by cleverly exploiting serialization and delay times. We will demonstrate this using the example network shown in Figure 2.1.

Nodes 1 and 4 are each connected to their routers via Ethernet with a data rate of 1 Gbit/s. However, the connection between routers 2 and 3 is significantly slower. This transmission rate  $r_{23}$  is to be determined by 1 and 4 by generating as little load as possible on the already slow connection.



Figure 2.1: Network topology

In this task, we first derive a general procedure by means of which nodes 1 and 4 can determine the required transmission rate. We then evaluate the procedure for given numerical values and discuss possible problems that will occur in practice.

a)\* Specify the serialization time  $t_s(i, j)$  between two neighboring nodes  $i$  and  $j$  as a function of packet size  $p$  and transmission rate  $r_{ij}$ .

$$t_s(i, j) = \frac{p}{r_{ij}}$$

b)\* Give the propagation delay  $t_p(i, j)$  between two adjacent nodes  $i$  and  $j$  as a function of distance  $d_{ij}$ .

With the relative propagation velocity  $\nu$  (which depends on the medium) and the speed of light  $c_0$  we get:

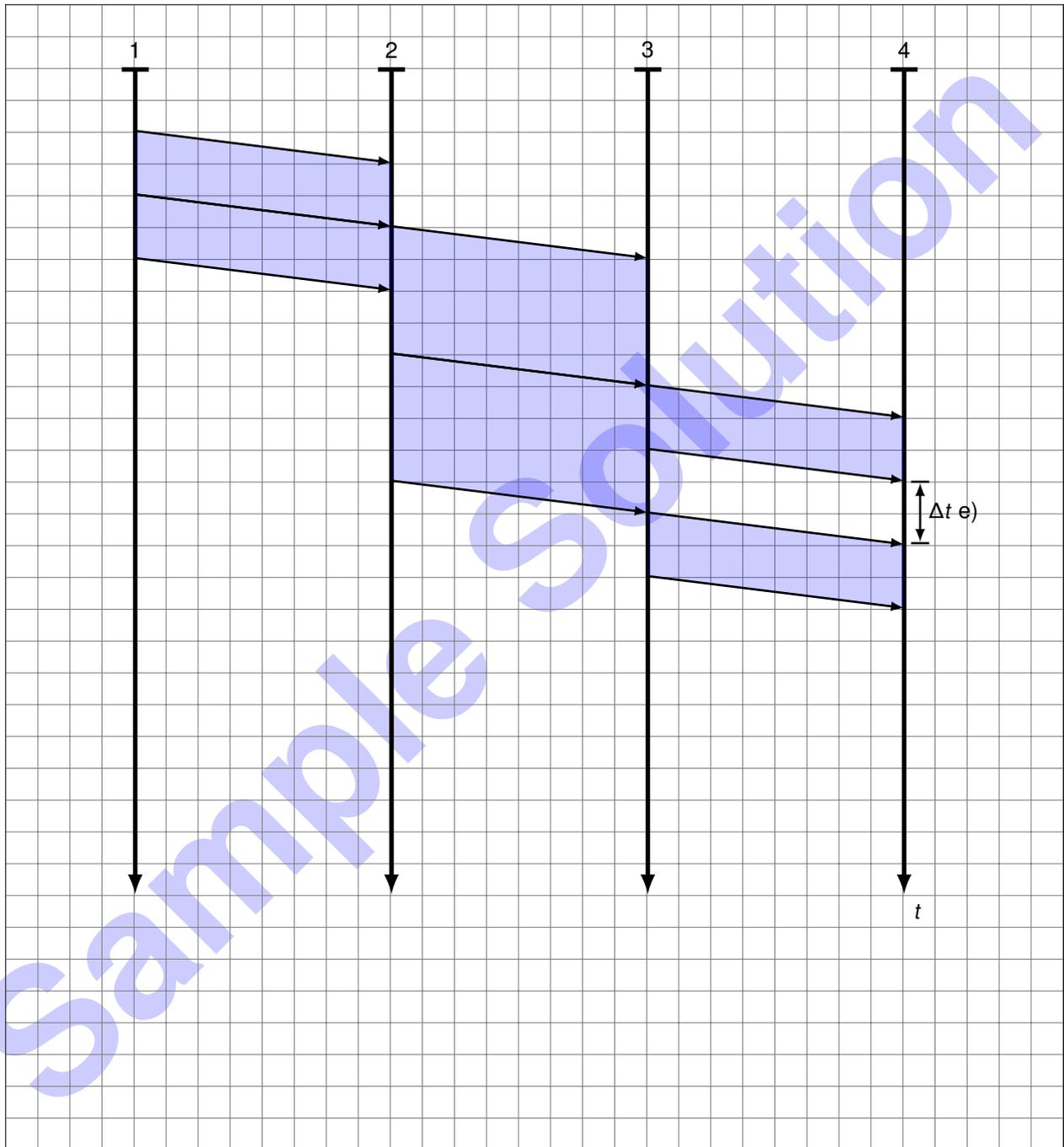
$$t_p(i, j) = \frac{d_{ij}}{\nu c_0}$$

c)\* Briefly explain how 1 can determine the maximum MTU on the path to 4 when using IPv4.

1 sends a packet with the  $MTU_{12}$  of the local segment and sets the DF bit (do not fragment) in the IP header. If  $MTU_{12}$  is greater than  $MTU_{23}$ , 2 will drop the packet and return a corresponding ICMP message type 3 code 4 (Destination Unreachable Fragmentation Needed, DF set to 1). This message contains the maximum  $MTU_{23}$  for the section from 2 to 3.

1 now sends two packets of length  $p$  to 4 in immediate succession. You can assume that no other traffic will affect the transmission. Let the length  $p$  be such that no fragmentation is necessary. You can neglect any processing times at the nodes.

d) Draw a path-time diagram that correctly represents the transmission of the two packets qualitatively. In particular, consider  $r_{23} < r_{12} = r_{34}$  as mentioned at the beginning.



Due to the low transmission rate between 2 and 3, a transmission pause  $\Delta t$  occurs at node 3 between the two forwarded packets. This can be measured by 4 and used to determine the transmission rate between 2 and 3.

e) Mark  $\Delta t$  in your solution of subtask d). On which factors does  $\Delta t$  depend?

Only of  $r_{23}$ ,  $r_{34}$  and  $p$ , but not of the propagation delays.

f) Specify an expression for  $\Delta t$ . Simplify the expression as much as possible.

$$\Delta t = t_s(2, 3) - t_s(3, 4) = \frac{p}{r_{23}} - \frac{p}{r_{34}} \quad (2.1)$$

g) Give an expression for the data rate  $r_{23}$  you are looking for. Simplify the expression as much as possible.

Resolving (2.1) to  $r_{23}$  gives:

$$r_{23} = \frac{p}{\Delta t + \frac{p}{r_{34}}} \quad (2.2)$$

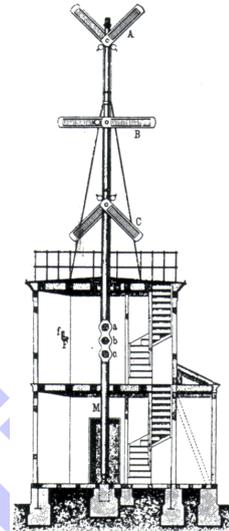
Repeated measurements on 4 give an average value of  $\overline{\Delta t} = 1.2$  ms for a packet size of  $p = 1500$  B.

h) Determine  $r_{23}$  as a numerical value in Mbit/s.

$$r_{23} = \frac{p}{\overline{\Delta t} + \frac{p}{r_{34}}} = 9.90 \text{ Mbit/s} \quad (2.3)$$

### Problem 3 Homework: Optical Telegraph – Old Exam Problem

In this task we consider optical telegraphs. The distance between two neighboring telegraph stations is 15 km. The mast of such a station (see adjacent figure) has three wings (indicators) on the left and right, each of which can take up four different positions (|, \, — and /). A *symbol* is the configuration of all indicators. To set a symbol, 10 s is required. The reading at the receiver takes place in parallel and therefore requires no additional time.



a)\* How many bits can be transferred with each symbol?

Symbols: $4^6 = 4096$ , Bits: $N = \log_2 4096 = 12$
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b) Determine the data rate achieved in B/s.

$r = \frac{N}{8 \cdot 10} \text{ B/s} = 0.15 \text{ B/s}$
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c)\* The available (gross) data rate is usually not fully used for user data. Name two other useful tasks that take up part of the data rate in common systems.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control Characters (Start of Frame, End of Frame)</li> <li>• 4B5B Code: Clock recovery</li> <li>• Error detection (checksum) / error correction</li> <li>• Header information (addressing)</li> <li>• Padding</li> </ul>
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**A message of length 72 B is now to be transmitted.**

d) Calculate the serialization time required for this message.

$t_s = \frac{72 \text{ B}}{r} = \frac{72 \text{ B}}{0.15 \text{ B/s}} = 480 \text{ s}$
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e)\* Calculate the propagation delay of this message between two stations. The reduction in the speed of



Sample Solution