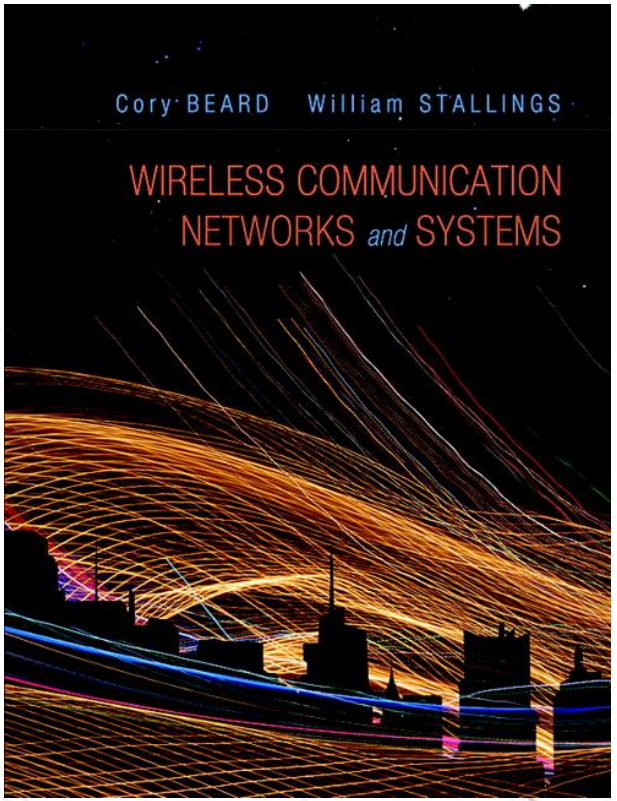
# CHAPTER 2 WIRELESS LAN TECHNOLOGY AND THE IEEE 802.11 WIRELESS LAN STANDARD

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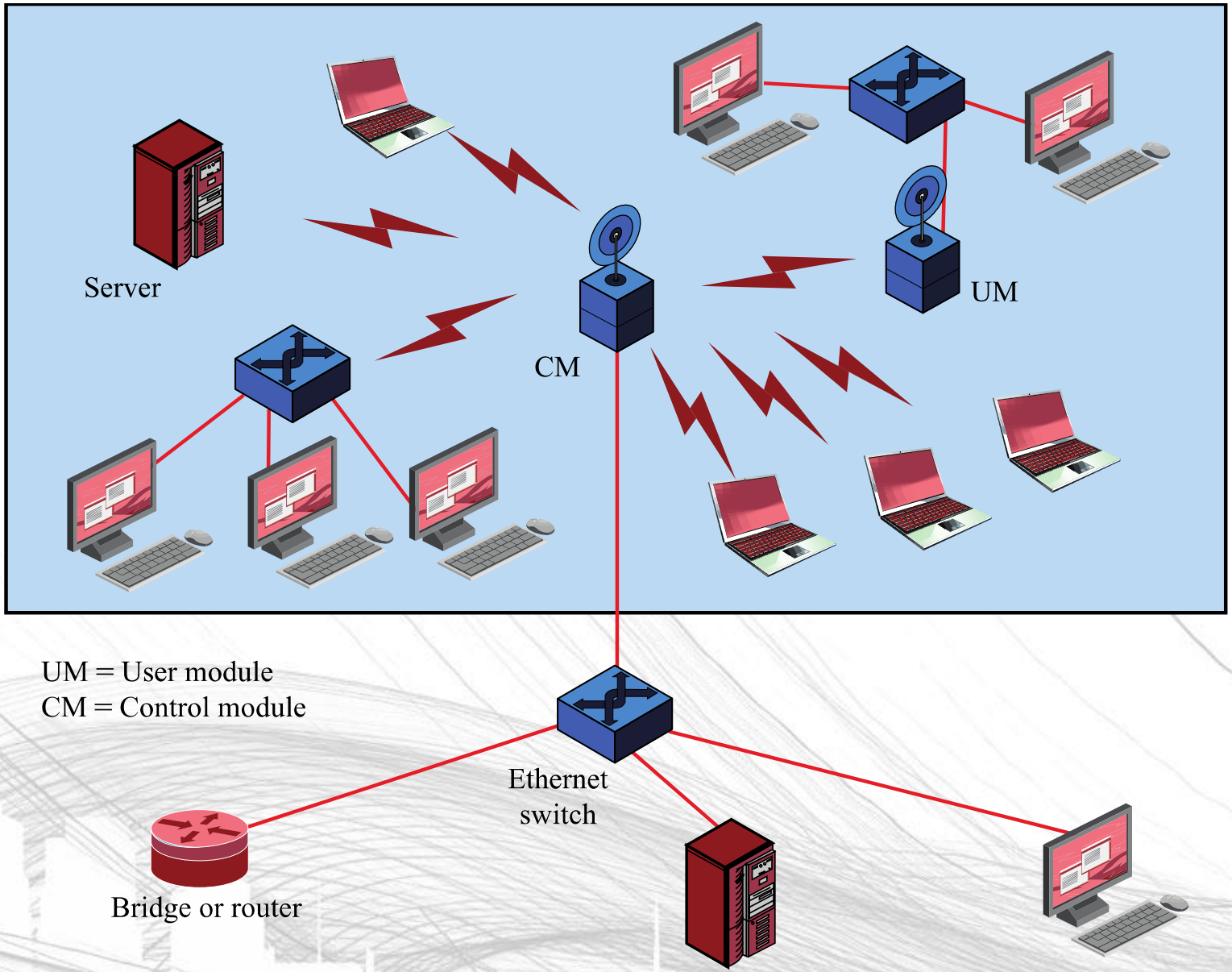
**Wireless Communication Networks and Systems**

1st edition

**Cory Beard, William Stallings**

# INTRODUCTION

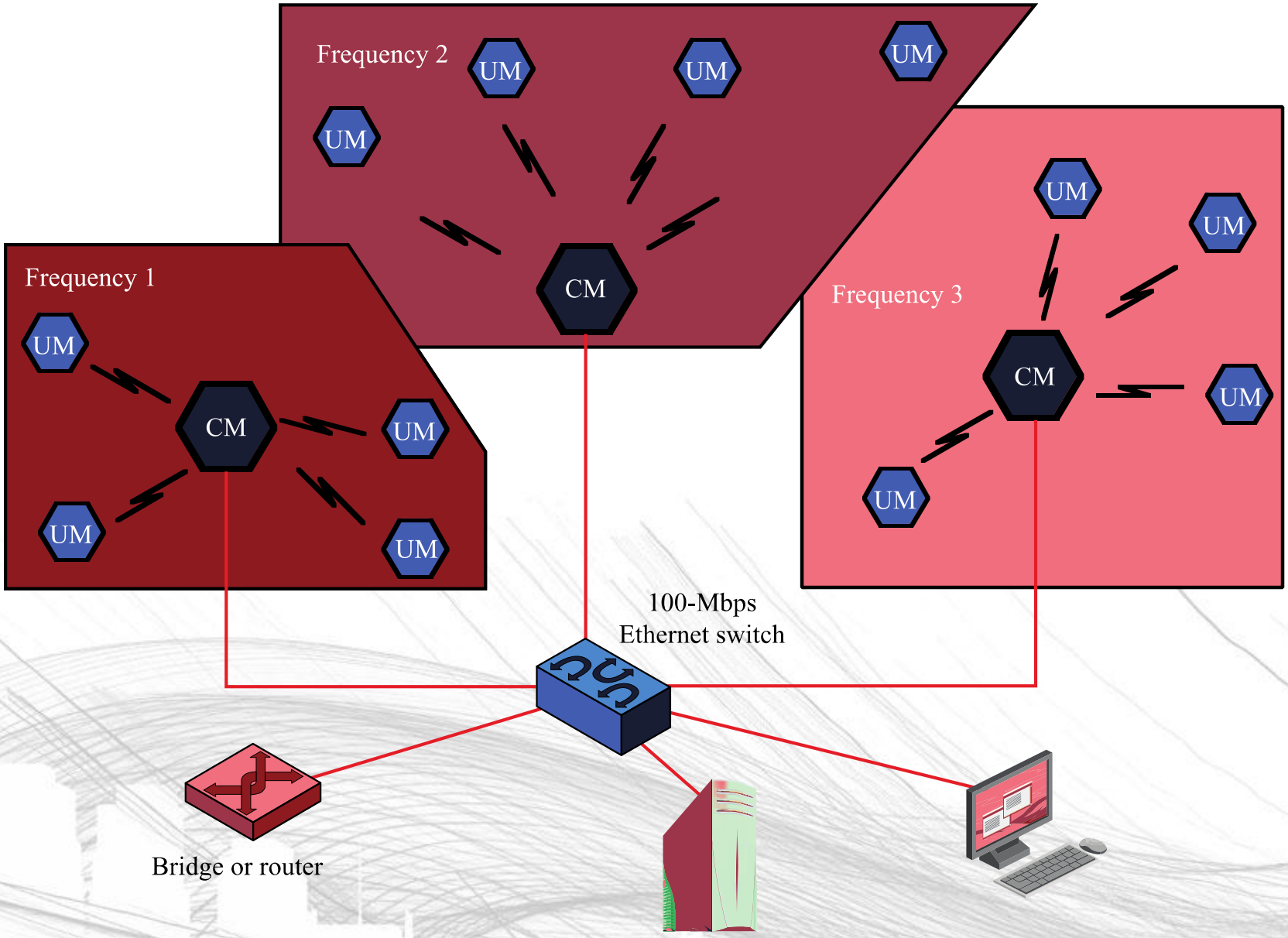
- Wireless LANs (WLANs)
  - Indispensible adjunct to wired LANs
  - Wireless devices use WLANs
    - As their only source of connectivity
    - Or to replace cellular coverage
- Simple WLAN configuration
  - There is a backbone wired LAN
  - User modules include workstations, servers, devices
  - Control module (CM) interfaces to WLAN
    - Providing bridge or router functionality
    - May have control logic to regulate access
    - May provide wireless connectivity to other wired networks




# 11.1 EXAMPLE SINGLE-CELL WIRELESS LAN CONFIGURATION

# INTRODUCTION

- Multiple-cell wireless LAN
  - Multiple CMs connected by a wired LAN
  - Creates many issues for balancing cell loading and providing best connections for Ums




## 11.2 EXAMPLE MULTIPLE-CELL WIRELESS LAN CONFIGURATION

# AD HOC NETWORKING

- Temporary peer-to-peer network set up to meet immediate need
  - Peer-to-peer, no centralized server
  - Maybe a temporary network
  - Wireless connectivity provided by WLAN or Bluetooth, ZigBee, etc.
- Example:
  - Group of employees with laptops convene for a meeting; employees link computers in a temporary network for duration of meeting

# 11.3 AD HOC WIRELESS LAN CONFIGURATION

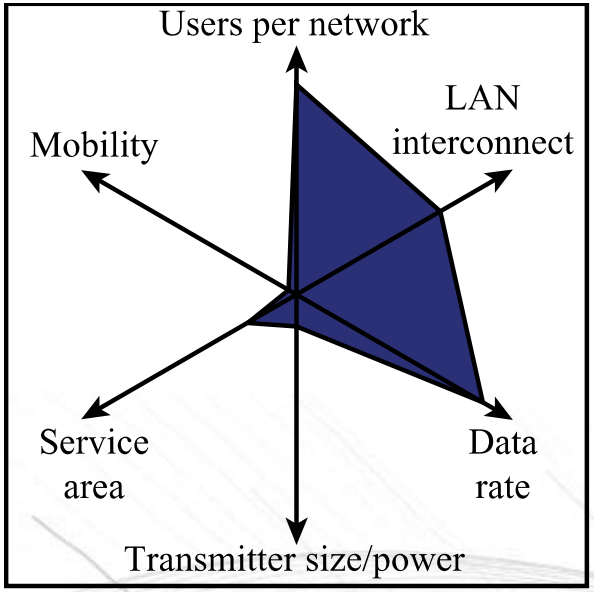
# WIRELESS LAN MOTIVATIONS

- Cellular data offloading
  - WLANs may provide higher data rates and more available capacity
  - Cellular providers may encourage this to offload demand on their networks
- Sync/file transfer
  - Avoid use of cables
- Internet access
- Multimedia streaming

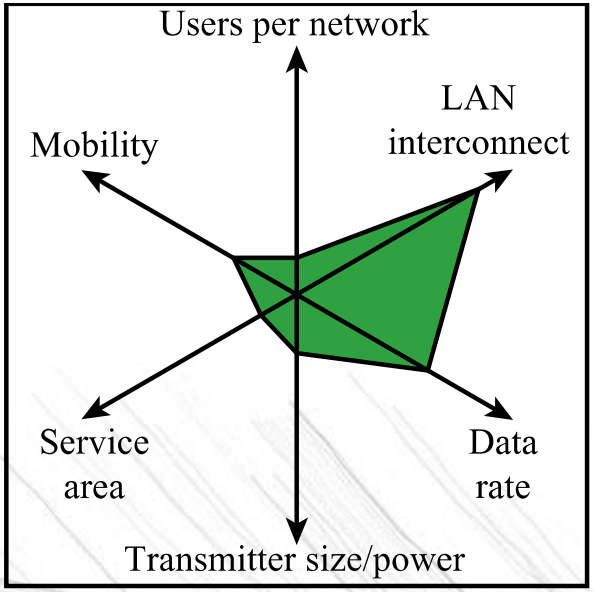
# WIRELESS LAN REQUIREMENTS

- 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

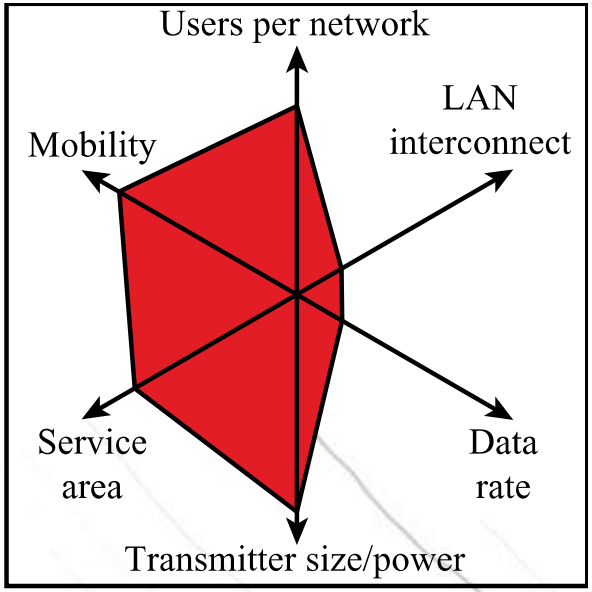
- Comparisons between WLANs, wired LANs, and mobile data networks can be visualized with Kiviat graphs.




**(a) Wired LANs**




**(b) Wireless LANs**




**(c) Mobile data networks**

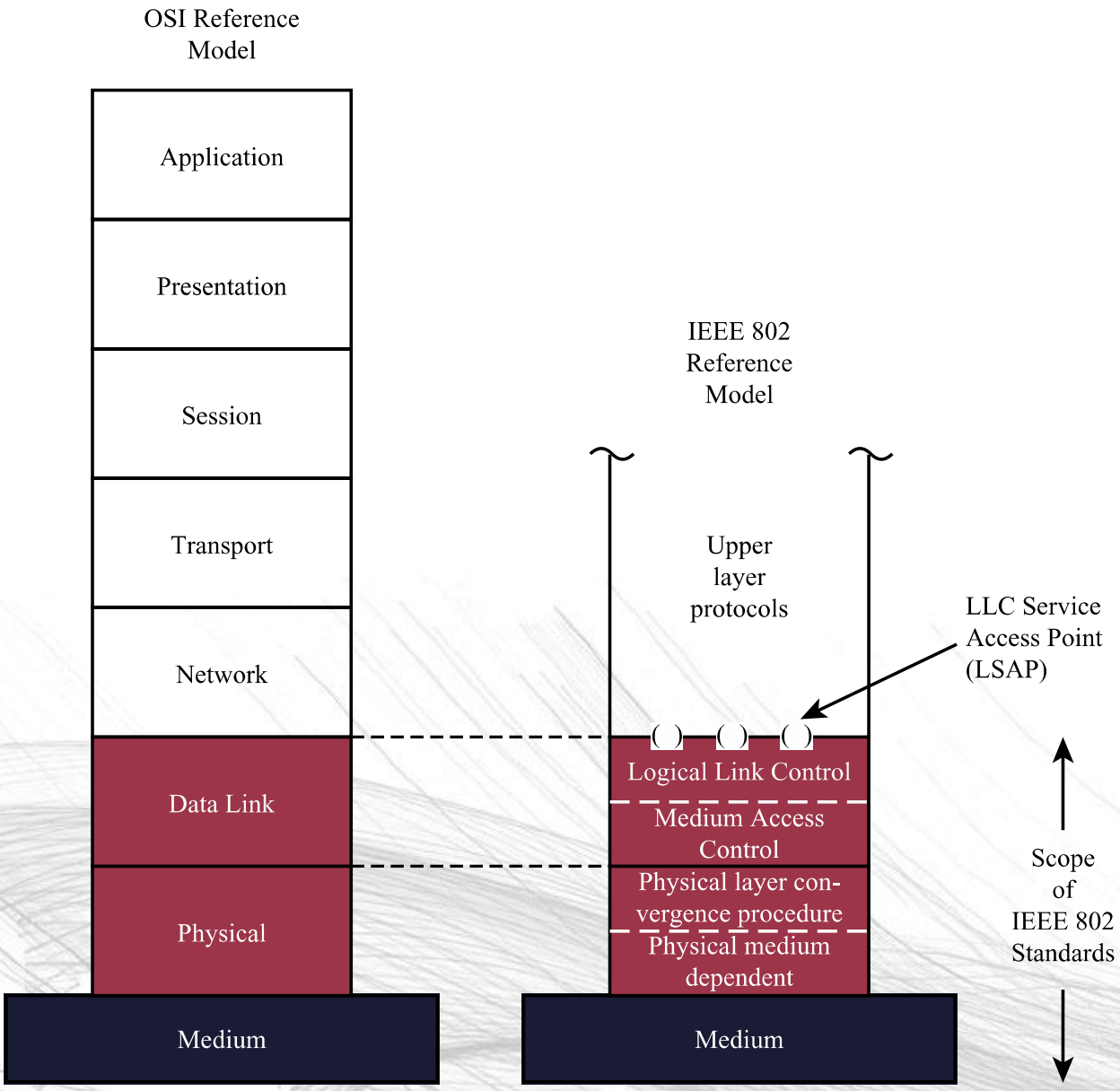
## 11.4 KIVIAT GRAPHS FOR DATA NETWORKS

# WIRELESS LAN PHYSICAL LAYER

- Multi-cell arrangement
- Transmission Issues
  - No licensing needed – Four microwave bands
    - 902-928 MHz
    - 2.4-2.5 GHz
    - 5.725-5.875 GHz
    - 58-64 GHz (60-GHz mmWave bands)
      - Higher capacity
      - Less competition
      - More expensive equipment
  - Spread spectrum
    - DSSS CDMA or OFDM
    - Over 1 Gbps possible with OFDM, channel bonding, and MIMO

# PROTOCOL ARCHITECTURE

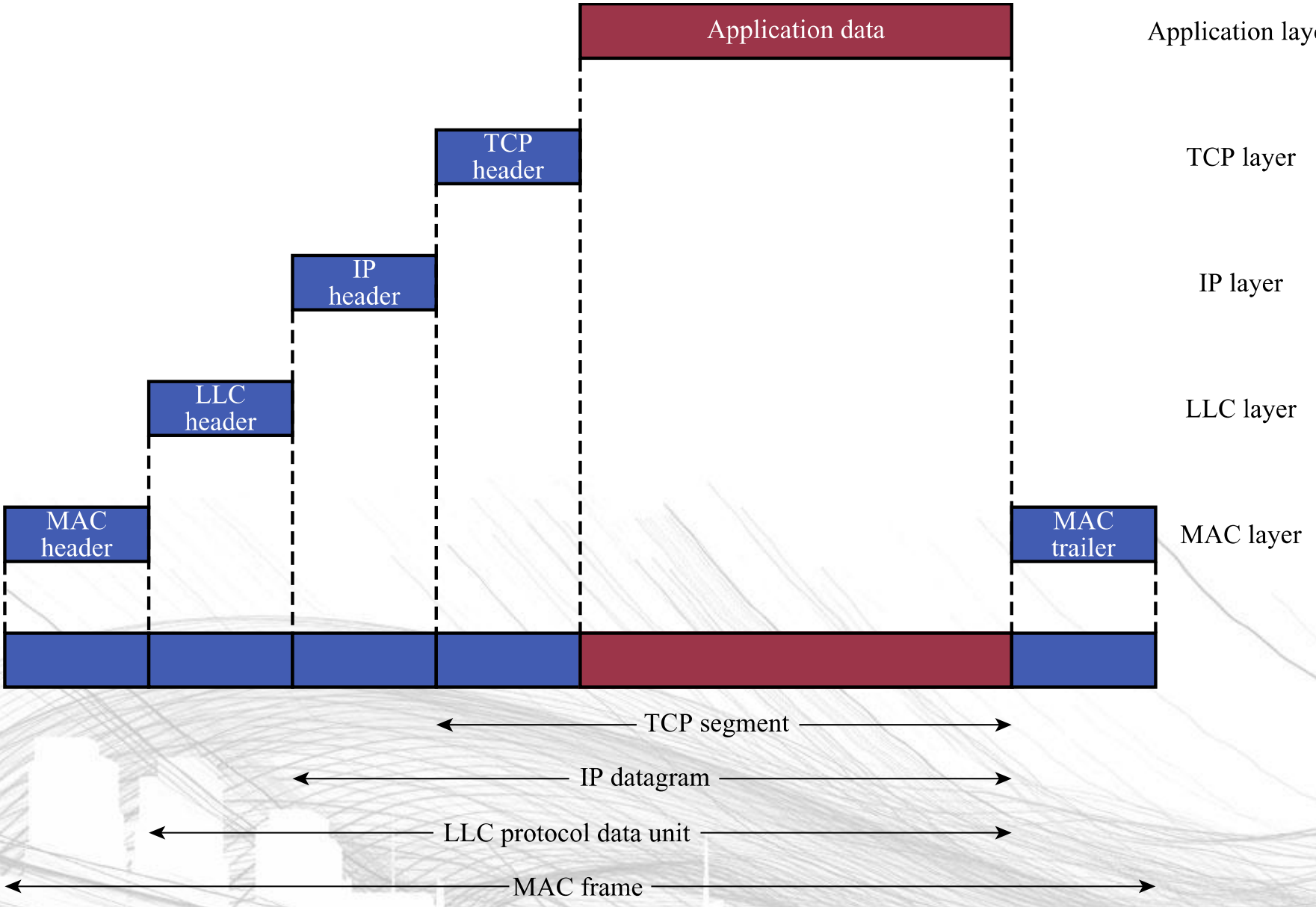
- Developed by the IEEE 802.11 working group
- Uses layering of protocols
- LAN protocols focus on the lower layers of the OSI model
  - Figure 11.5 relates OSI with 802.11
  - Called the IEEE 802 reference model




# 11.5 IEEE 802 PROTOCOL LAYERS COMPARED TO OSI MODEL

# PROTOCOL ARCHITECTURE

- Functions of physical layer:
  - Encoding/decoding of signals
  - Preamble generation/removal (for synchronization)
  - Bit transmission/reception
  - Includes specification of the transmission medium
- Sublayers
  - Physical medium dependent sublayer (PMD)
    - Transmitting and receiving user data through a wireless medium
  - Physical layer convergence procedure (PLCP)
    - Mapping 802.11 MAC layer protocol data units (MPDUs) into a framing format
    - Sending and receiving between stations using same PMD sublayer




## 11.6 IEEE 802 PROTOCOLS IN CONTEXT

# PROTOCOL ARCHITECTURE

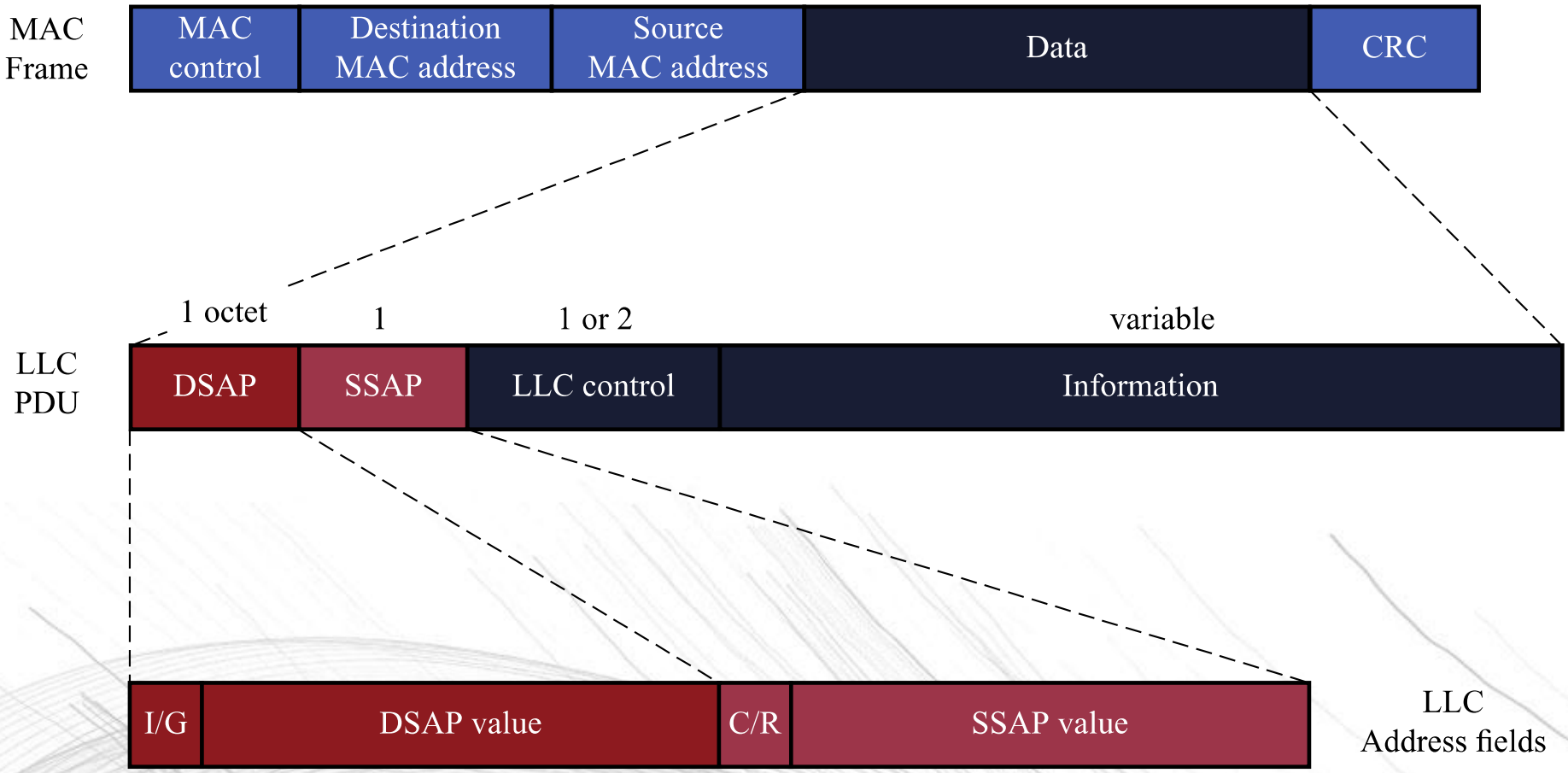
- Functions of medium access control (MAC) layer:
  - On transmission, assemble data into a frame with address and error detection fields
  - On reception, disassemble frame and perform address recognition and error detection
  - Govern access to the LAN transmission medium
- Functions of logical link control (LLC) Layer:
  - Provide an interface to higher layers and perform flow and error control

# SEPARATION OF LLC AND MAC

- The logic required to manage access to a shared-access medium not found in traditional layer 2 data link control
- For the same LLC, several MAC options may be provided

# MAC FRAME FORMAT

- MAC control
  - Contains Mac protocol information
- Destination MAC address
  - Destination physical attachment point
- Source MAC address
  - Source physical attachment point
- CRC
  - Cyclic redundancy check




I/G = individual/group
C/R = command/response

DSAP = destination service access point
SSAP = source service access point

## 11.7 LLC PDU IN A GENERIC MAC FRAME FORMAT

# LOGICAL LINK CONTROL

- Characteristics of LLC not shared by other control protocols:
  - Must support multi-access, shared-medium nature of the link
  - Relieved of some details of link access by MAC layer

# LLC SERVICES

- Unacknowledged connectionless service
  - No flow- and error-control mechanisms
  - Data delivery not guaranteed
- Connection-mode service
  - Logical connection set up between two users
  - Flow- and error-control provided
- Acknowledged connectionless service
  - Cross between previous two
  - Datagrams acknowledged
  - No prior logical setup

# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LLC AND HDLC

- LLC uses asynchronous balanced mode of operation of HDLC (type 2 operation)
- LLC supports unacknowledged connectionless service (type 1 operation)
- LLC supports acknowledged connectionless service (type 3 operation)
- LLC permits multiplexing by the use of LLC service access points (LSAPs)

# IEEE 802.11

- Started in 1990
  - MAC and physical medium specifications
- Wi-Fi Alliance
  - Industry consortium
  - Creates test suites to certify interoperability of products
    - May identify a subset of the standard for certification
  - Concerned with a range of market areas for WLANs
- IEEE 802.11 has an ever expanding list of standards

# IEEE 802.11 STANDARDS

| Standard | Date | Scope |
|---|---|---|
| IEEE 802.11 | 1997 | Medium access control (MAC): One common MAC for WLAN applications |
| | | Physical layer: Infrared at 1 and 2 Mbps |
| | | Physical layer: 2.4-GHz FHSS at 1 and 2 Mbps |
| | | Physical layer: 2.4-GHz DSSS at 1 and 2 Mbps |
| IEEE 802.11a | 1999 | Physical layer: 5-GHz OFDM at rates from 6 to 54 Mbps |
| IEEE 802.11b | 1999 | Physical layer: 2.4-GHz DSSS at 5.5 and 11 Mbps |
| IEEE 802.11c | 2003 | Bridge operation at 802.11 MAC layer |
| IEEE 802.11d | 2001 | Physical layer: Extend operation of 802.11 WLANs to new regulatory domains (countries) |
| IEEE 802.11e | 2007 | MAC: Enhance to improve quality of service and enhance security mechanisms |
| IEEE 802.11f | 2003 | Recommended practices for multivendor access point interoperability |
| IEEE 802.11g | 2003 | Physical layer: Extend 802.11b to data rates >20 Mbps |
| IEEE 802.11h | 2003 | Physical/MAC: Enhance IEEE 802.11a to add indoor and outdoor channel selection and to improve spectrum and transmit power management |
| IEEE 802.11i | 2007 | MAC: Enhance security and authentication mechanisms |
| IEEE 802.11j | 2007 | Physical: Enhance IEEE 802.11a to conform to Japanese requirements |
| IEEE 802.11k | 2008 | Radio Resource Measurement enhancements to provide interface to higher layers for radio and network measurements |

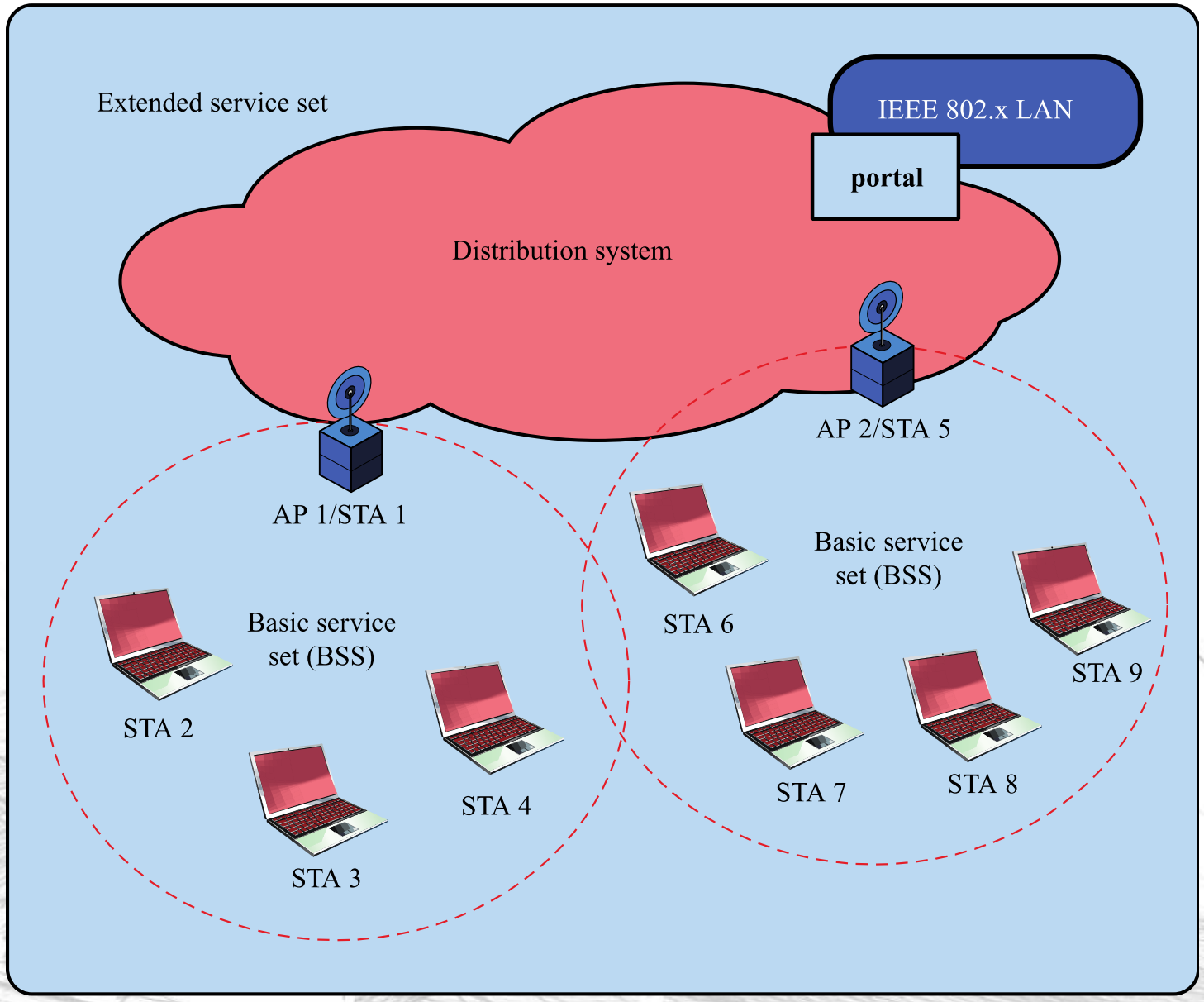
**TABLE 11.1 IEEE 802.11 STANDARDS**

# IEEE 802.11 STANDARDS

| Standard | Date | Scope |
|---|---|---|
| IEEE 802.11m | Ongoing | This group provides maintenance of the IEEE 802.11 standard by rolling published amendments into revisions of the 802.11 standard. |
| IEEE 802.11n | 2009 | Physical/MAC: Enhancements to enable higher throughput |
| IEEE 802.11p | 2010 | Wireless Access in Vehicular Environments (WAVE) |
| IEEE 802.11r | 2008 | Fast Roaming/Fast BSS Transition |
| IEEE 802.11s | 2011 | Mesh Networking |
| IEEE 802.11T | Abandoned | Recommended Practice for Evaluation of 802.11 Wireless Performance |
| IEEE 802.11u | 2011 | Interworking with External Networks |
| IEEE 802.11v | 2011 | Wireless Network Management |
| IEEE 802.11w | 2009 | Protected Management Frames |
| IEEE 802.11y | 2008 | Contention Based Protocol |
| IEEE 802.11z | 2010 | Extensions to Direct Link Setup |
| IEEE 802.11aa | 2012 | Video Transport Stream |
| IEEE 802.11ac | Ongoing | Very High Throughput <6Ghz |
| IEEE 802.11ad | 2012 | Very High Throughput in 60 GHz |
| IEEE 802.11ae | 2012 | Prioritization of Management Frames |
| IEEE 802.11af | Ongoing | Wireless LAN in the TV White Space |
| IEEE 802.11ah | Ongoing | Sub 1GHz |
| IEEE 802.11ai | Ongoing | Fast Initial Link Set-up |
| IEEE 802.11aj | Ongoing | China Milli-Meter Wave (CMMW) |
| IEEE 802.11ak | Ongoing | Enhancements For Transit Links Within Bridged Networks |
| IEEE 802.11aq | Ongoing | Pre-Association Discovery (PAD) |
| IEEE 802.11ax | Ongoing | High Efficiency WLAN (HEW) |

# IEEE 802.11 ARCHITECTURE

- Distribution system (DS)
- Access point (AP)
- Basic service set (BSS)
  - Stations competing for access to shared wireless medium
  - Isolated or connected to backbone DS through AP
- Extended service set (ESS)
  - Two or more basic service sets interconnected by DS




# 11.8 IEEE 802.11 ARCHITECTURE

# DISTRIBUTION OF MESSAGES WITHIN A DS

- Distribution service
  - Used to exchange MAC frames from station in one BSS to station in another BSS
- Integration service
  - Transfer of data between station on IEEE 802.11 LAN and station on integrated IEEE 802.x LAN

# TRANSITION TYPES BASED ON MOBILITY

- No transition
  - Stationary or moves only within BSS
- BSS transition
  - Station moving from one BSS to another BSS in same ESS
- ESS transition
  - Station moving from BSS in one ESS to BSS within another ESS

# ASSOCIATION-RELATED SERVICES

- Association
  - Establishes initial association between station and AP
- Reassociation
  - Enables transfer of association from one AP to another, allowing station to move from one BSS to another
- Disassociation
  - Association termination notice from station or AP

# IEEE 802.11 MEDIUM ACCESS CONTROL

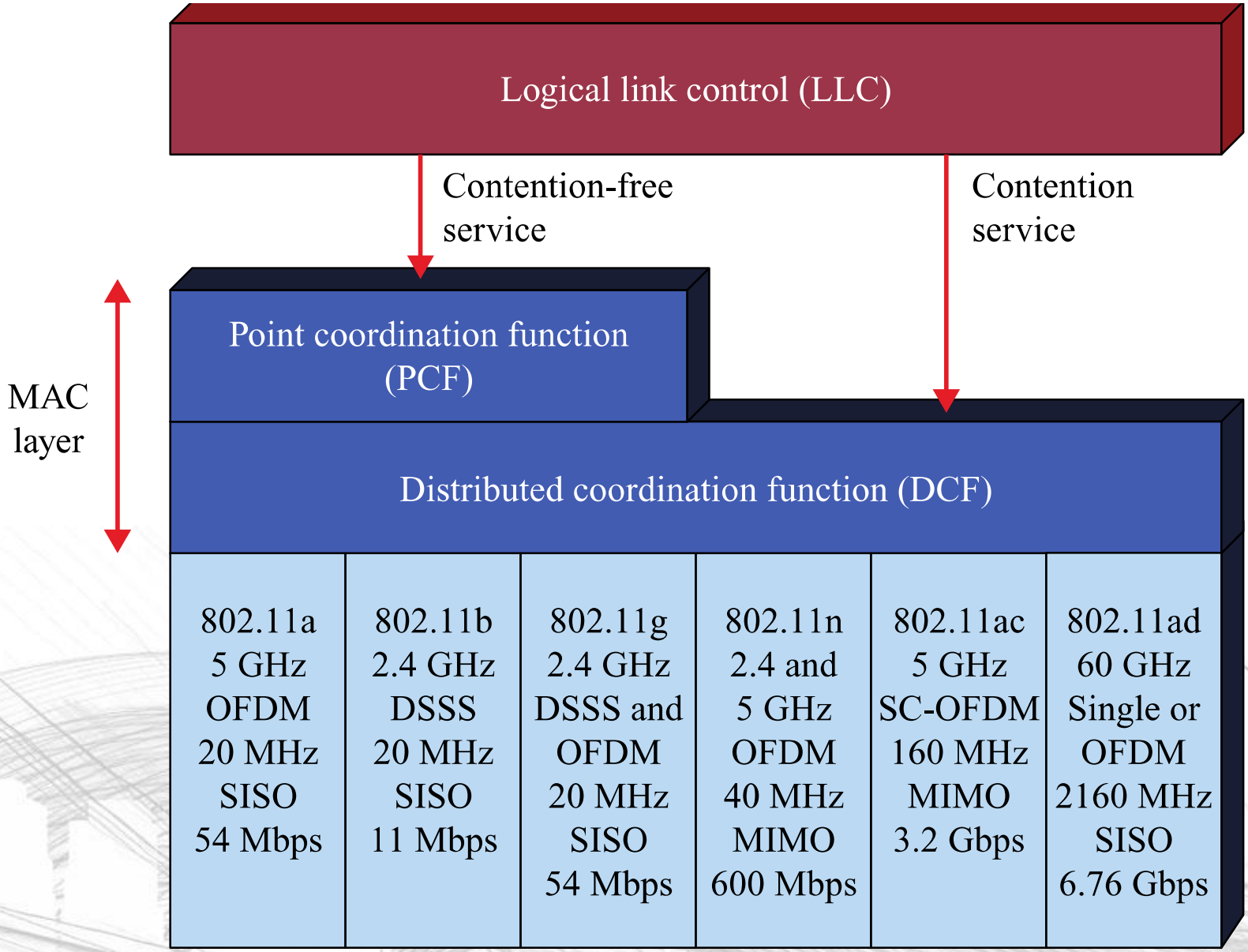
- MAC layer covers three functional areas:
  - Reliable data delivery
  - Access control
  - Security

# RELIABLE DATA DELIVERY

- More efficient to deal with errors at the MAC level than higher layer (such as TCP)
- Frame exchange protocol
  - Source station transmits data
  - Destination responds with acknowledgment (ACK)
  - If source doesn‘t receive ACK, it retransmits frame
- Four frame exchange
  - Source issues request to send (RTS)
  - Destination responds with clear to send (CTS)
  - Source transmits data
  - Destination responds with ACK

# ACCESS CONTROL

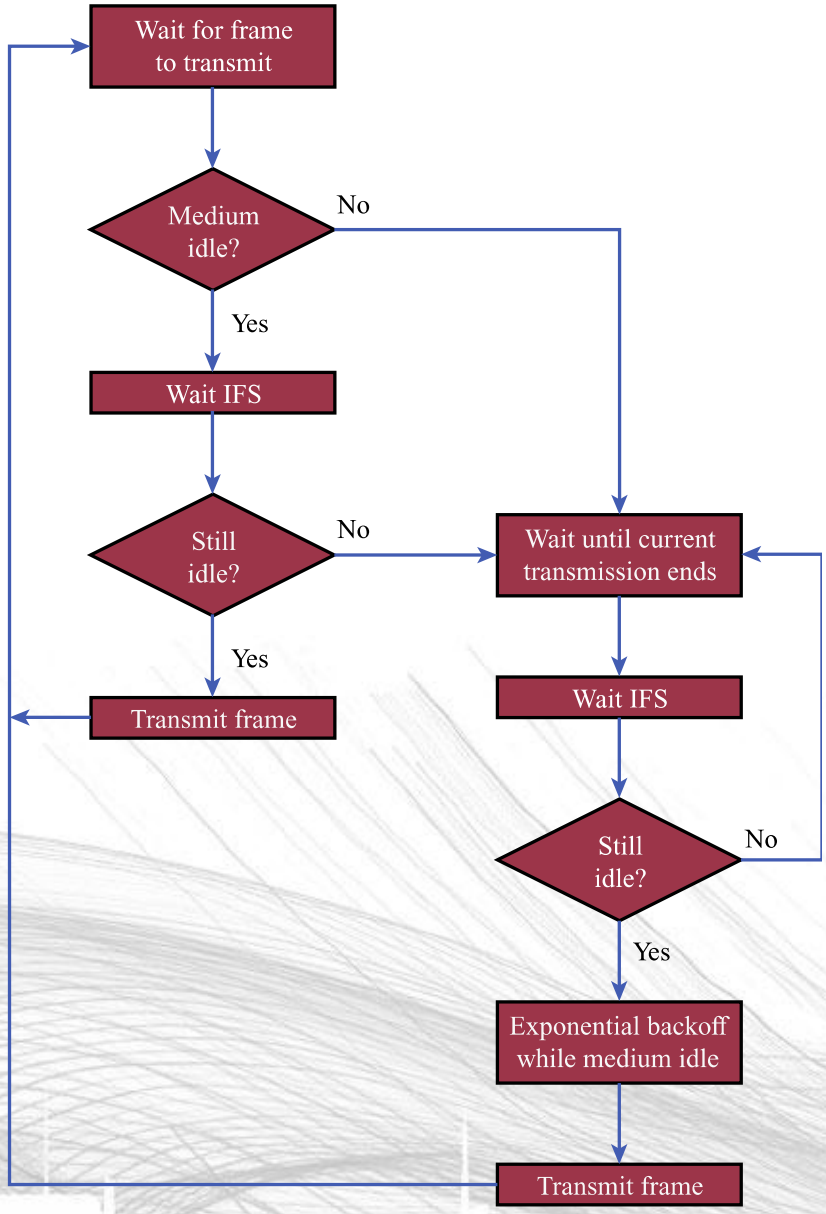
- Centralized and decentralized mechanisms together
  - Distributed foundation wireless MAC (DFWMAC)
- Distributed coordination function (DCF)
  - Decentralized
- Point coordination function (PCF)
  - Centralized
- Both are available to the LLC layer




## 11.9 IEEE 802.11 PROTOCOL ARCHITECTURE

# DISTRIBUTED COORDINATION FUNCTION

- Decentralized
- Carrier sense multiple access (CSMA)
  - Listen to the medium
  - If idle, then transmit
  - If not, wait a random time
    - If busy again, expand the mean waiting time, randomly wait, and try again.
  - *Binary exponential backoff* describes this procedure
    - The backoff is the waiting process
    - Mean random waiting times get exponentially larger
      - By a factor of 2 each time, hence the term *binary*.
  - This process responds to heavy loads
    - Since nodes do not know the loads of other nodes trying to send.



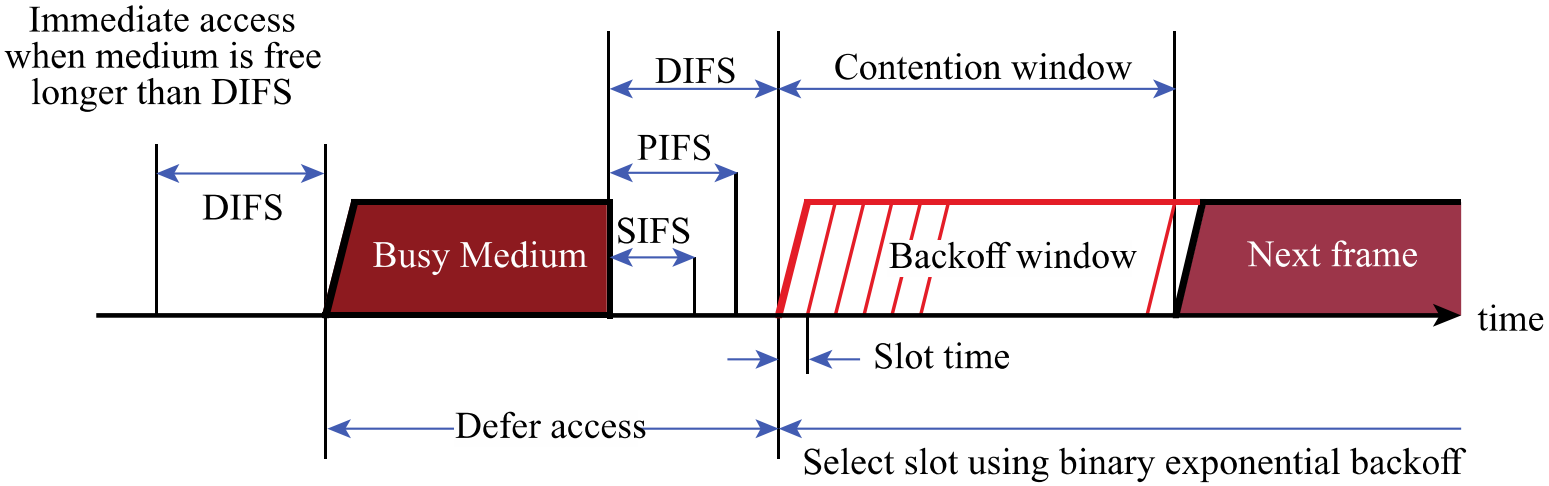

# 11.10 IEEE 802.11 MEDIUM ACCESS CONTROL LOGIC

# INTERFRAME SPACE (IFS) VALUES

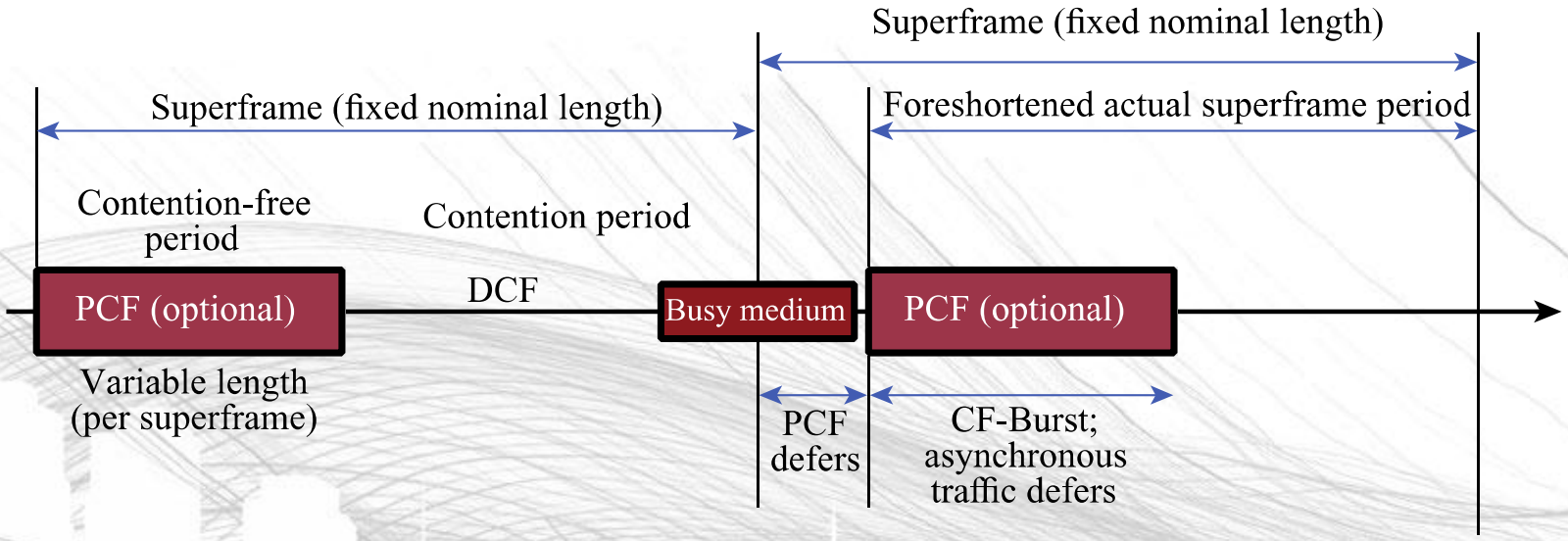
- Short IFS (SIFS)
  - Shortest IFS
  - Used for immediate response actions
- Point coordination function IFS (PIFS)
  - Midlength IFS
  - Used by centralized controller in PCF scheme when using polls
- Distributed coordination function IFS (DIFS)
  - Longest IFS
  - Used as minimum delay of asynchronous frames contending for access

# IFS USAGE

- SIFS
  - Acknowledgment (ACK)
  - Clear to send (CTS)
  - Poll response
- PIFS
  - Used by centralized controller in issuing polls
  - Takes precedence over normal contention traffic
- DIFS
  - Used for all ordinary asynchronous traffic




**(a) Basic access method**

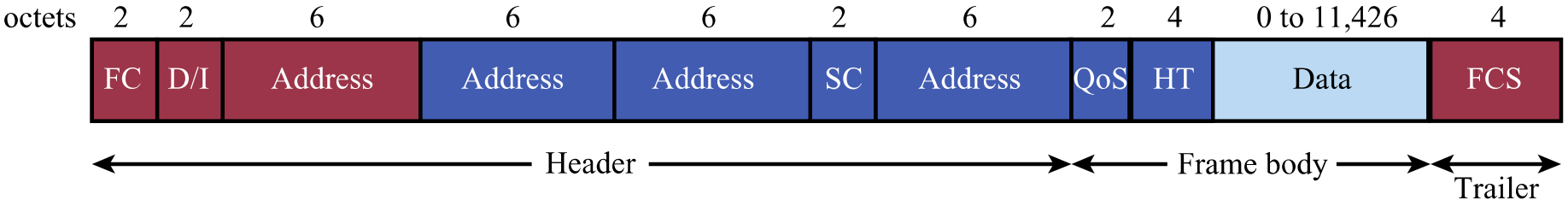



**(b) PCF superframe construction**

## 11.11 IEEE 802.11 MAC TIMING

# POINT COORDINATION FUNCTION

- Centralized control
- Point coordinator polls devices
  - To give them permission to send
  - On a schedule the point coordinator determines
- The *superframe* allows time to be shared between DCF and PCF
  - PCF starts the superframe and can only use a certain part of the superframe time




FC = frame control
D/I = duration/connection ID
QoS = QoS control

SC = sequence control
FCS = frame check sequence
HT = high throughput control

Always present

Present only in certain frame types and sub-types

**(a) MAC frame**


DS = distribution system
MF = more fragments
RT = retry
PM = power management

MD = more data
W = wired equivalent privacy bit
O = order

**(b) Frame control field**

## 11.12 IEEE 802.11 MAC FRAME FORMAT

# MAC FRAME FIELDS

- Frame Control – frame type, control information
- Duration/connection ID – channel allocation time
- Addresses – context dependent, types include source and destination
- Sequence control – numbering and reassembly
- Frame body – MSDU or fragment of MSDU
- Frame check sequence – 32-bit CRC

# FRAME CONTROL FIELDS

- Protocol version – 802.11 version
- Type – control, management, or data
- Subtype – identifies function of frame
- To DS – 1 if destined for DS
- From DS – 1 if leaving DS
- More fragments – 1 if fragments follow
- Retry – 1 if retransmission of previous frame

# FRAME CONTROL FIELDS

- Power management – 1 if transmitting station is in sleep mode
- More data – Indicates that station has more data to send
- WEP – 1 if Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) or Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA) is implemented
- Order – 1 if any data frame is sent using the Strictly Ordered service

# CONTROL FRAME SUBTYPES

- Power save – poll (PS-Poll)
- Request to send (RTS)
- Clear to send (CTS)
- Acknowledgment
- Contention-free (CF)-end
- CF-end + CF-ack

# DATA FRAME SUBTYPES

- Data-carrying frames
  - Data
  - Data + CF-Ack
  - Data + CF-Poll
  - Data + CF-Ack + CF-Poll
- Other subtypes (don't carry user data)
  - Null Function
  - CF-Ack
  - CF-Poll
  - CF-Ack + CF-Poll

# MANAGEMENT FRAME SUBTYPES

- Association request
- Association response
- Reassociation request
- Reassociation response
- Probe request
- Probe response
- Beacon

# MANAGEMENT FRAME SUBTYPES

- Announcement traffic indication message
- Dissociation
- Authentication
- Deauthentication

# AUTHENTICATION

- Open system authentication
  - Exchange of identities, no security benefits
- Shared Key authentication
  - Shared Key assures authentication

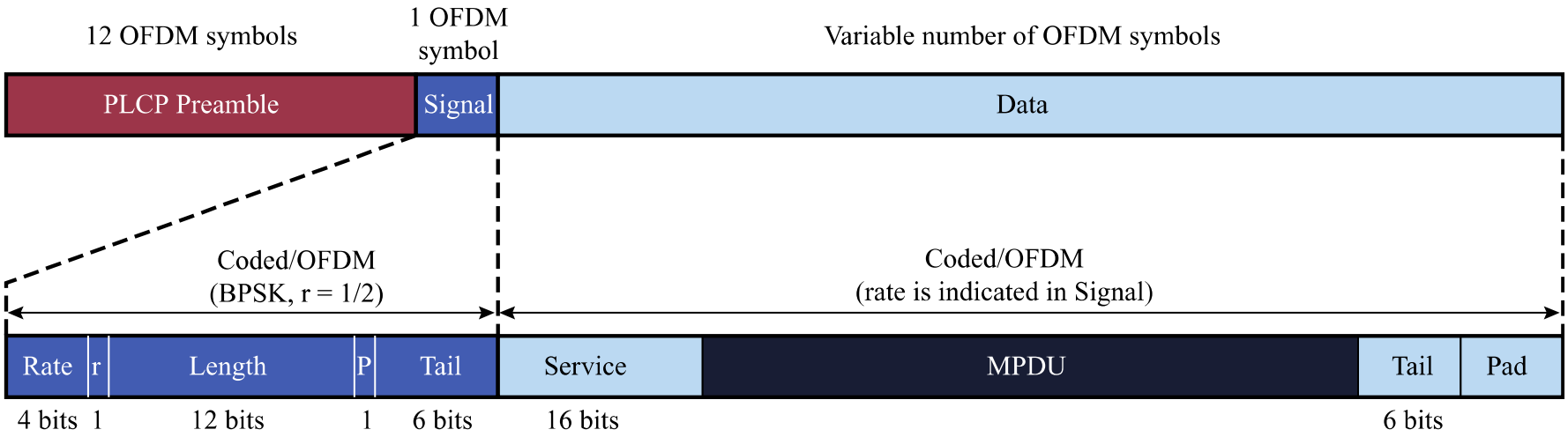
# IEEE 802.11 PHYSICAL LAYER

| Standard | 802.11a | 802.11b | 802.11g | 802.11n | 802.11ac | 802.11ad |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year introduced | 1999 | 1999 | 2003 | 2000 | 2012 | 2014 |
| Maximum data transfer speed | 54 Mbps | 11 Mbps | 54 Mbps | 65 to 600 Mbps | 78 Mbps to 3.2 Gbps | 6.76 Gbps |
| Frequency band | 5 GHz | 2.4 GHz | 2.4 GHz | 2.4 or 5 GHz | 5 GHz | 60 GHz |
| Channel bandwidth | 20 MHz | 20 MHz | 20 MHz | 20, 40 MHz | 40, 80, 160 MHz | 2160 MHz |
| Highest order modulation | 64 QAM | 11 CCK | 64 QAM | 64 QAM | 256 QAM | 64 QAM |
| Spectrum usage | OFDM | DSSS | DSSS, OFDM | OFDM | SC-OFDM | SC, OFDM |
| Antenna configuration | 1×1 SISO | 1×1 SISO | 1×1 SISO | Up to 4×4 MIMO | Up to 8×8 MIMO, MU-MIMO | 1×1 SISO |

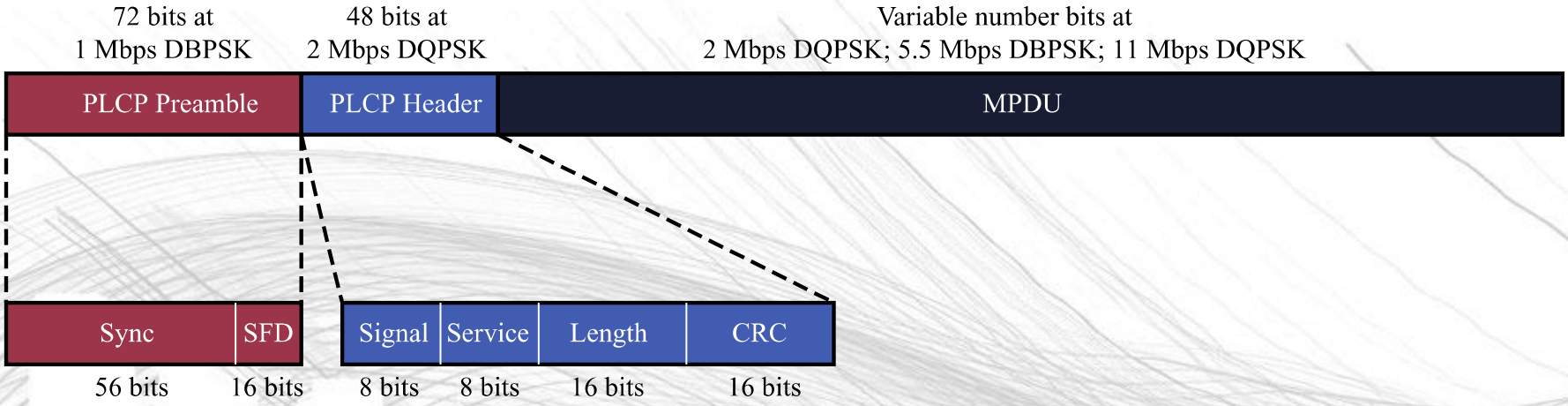
**TABLE 11.5 IEEE 802.11 PHYSICAL LAYER STANDARDS**

# IEEE 802.11a AND IEEE 802.11b

- IEEE 802.11b
  - DSSS
  - Provides data rates of 5.5 and 11 Mbps
  - Complementary code keying (CCK) and packet binary convolution coding (PBCC) modulation schemes
  - First standard to make Wi-Fi become popular
- IEEE 802.11a
  - Makes use of 5-GHz band
  - Provides rates of 6, 9 , 12, 18, 24, 36, 48, 54 Mbps
  - Uses orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM)
  - Subcarrier modulated using BPSK, QPSK, 16-QAM or 64-QAM
  - Never became popular, but its formats and channel schemes are used for later releases of 802.11

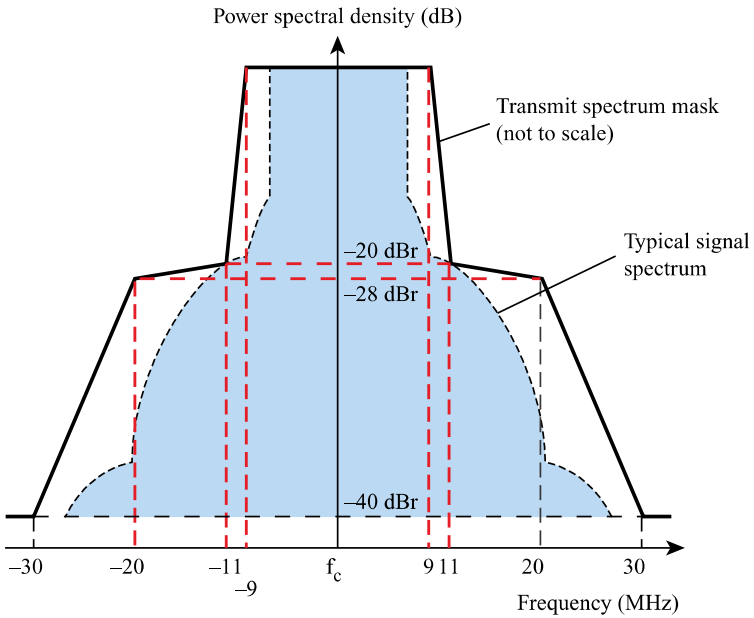



**(a) IEEE 802.11a physical PDU**

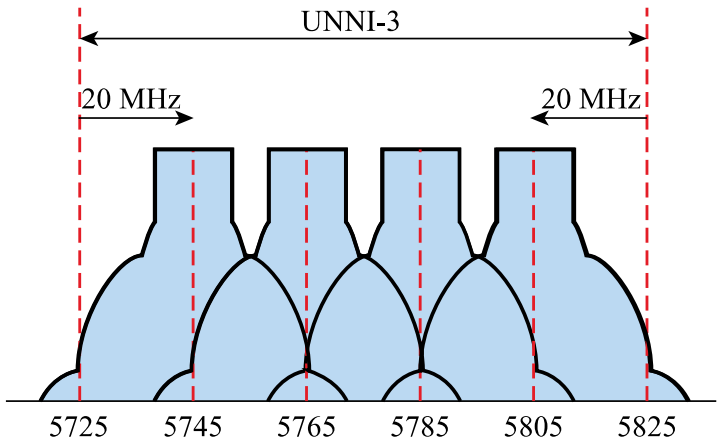



**(b) IEEE 802.11b physical PDU**

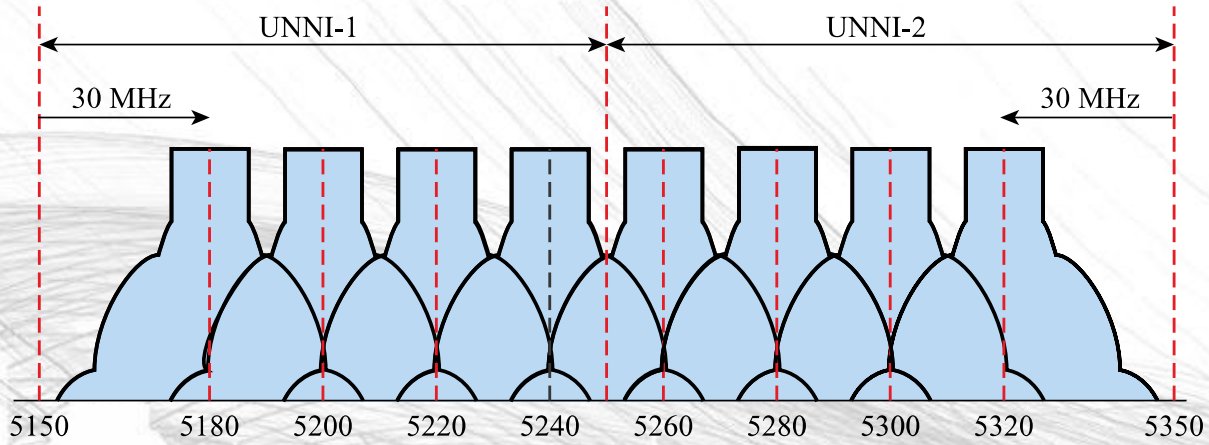
# 11.13 IEEE 802 PHYSICAL-LEVEL PROTOCOL DATA UNITS




**(a) Transmit spectrum mask**




**(b) Upper U-NII bands: 4 carriers in 100 MHz with 20 MHz spacing**




**(c) Lower and Middle U-NII bands: 8 carriers in 200 MHz with 20 MHz spacing**

# 11.14 IEEE 802.11a CHANNEL SCHEME

# IEEE 802.11g

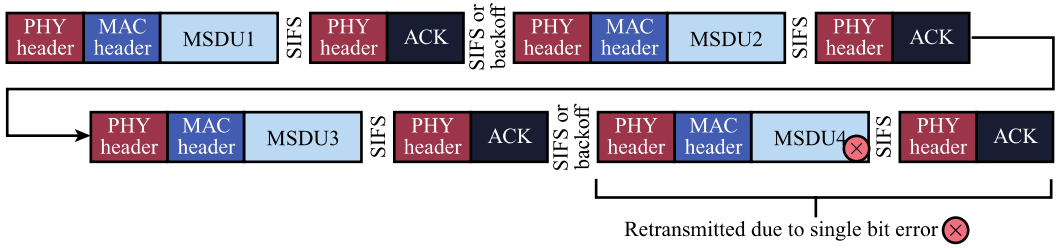
- Extended rates up to 54 Mbps in 2.4-GHz band
- Continued and extended PBCC from 802.11b that used DSSS
  - Rates up to 33 Mbps
- Also used OFDM for rates up to 54 Mbps

# IEEE 802.11n

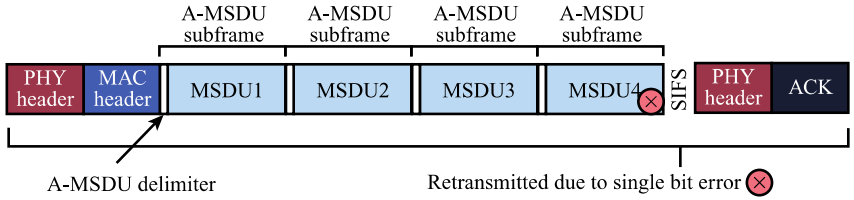
- Operates in both 2.4-GHz and 5-GHz bands
- MIMO
  - Multiple parallel streams (up to 4 × 4), beamforming, or diversity
- Radio transmission schemes
  - Channel bonding to combine two 20 MHz channels
    - From 48 subcarriers per 20 MHz to 108 carriers per 40 MHz (2.25 times increase in available bandwidth)
    - Can only use 20 MHz channels if other nodes are active
  - Shorter 400 ns guard band (11% increase in data rate)
  - Higher coding rate of 5/6 (11% increase)
  - 150 Mbps per 40 MHz, 600 Mbps for 4 parallel streams

# IEEE 802.11n

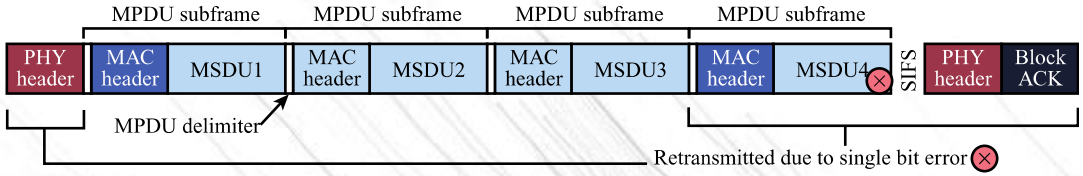
- MAC enhancements
  - Reduce header bits, backoffs, and IFS times
  - Block acknowledgements
    - One ACK to cover multiple packets
  - Frame aggregation
    - Three forms
    - MSDUs come down from the LLC layer, MPDUs come from the MAC layer
    - A-MSDU aggregation – shared PHY and MAC headers and FCS
    - A-MPDU aggregation – shared PHY header
      - Still keep separate MAC headers, to less header reduction
      - But not as much to retransmit if there is an error
    - A-MPDU and A-MSDU aggregation – balances the two



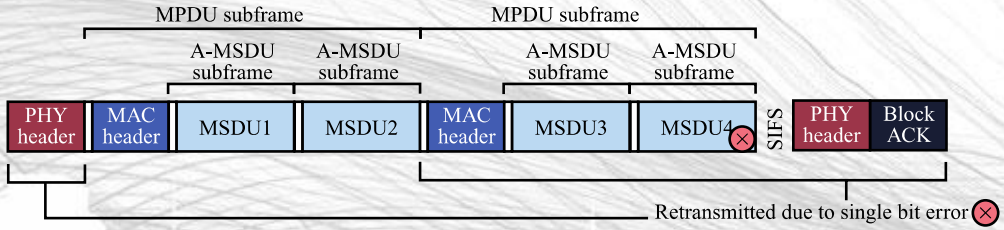

**(a) No aggregation**




**(b) A-MSDU aggregation**




**(c) A-MPDU aggregation**

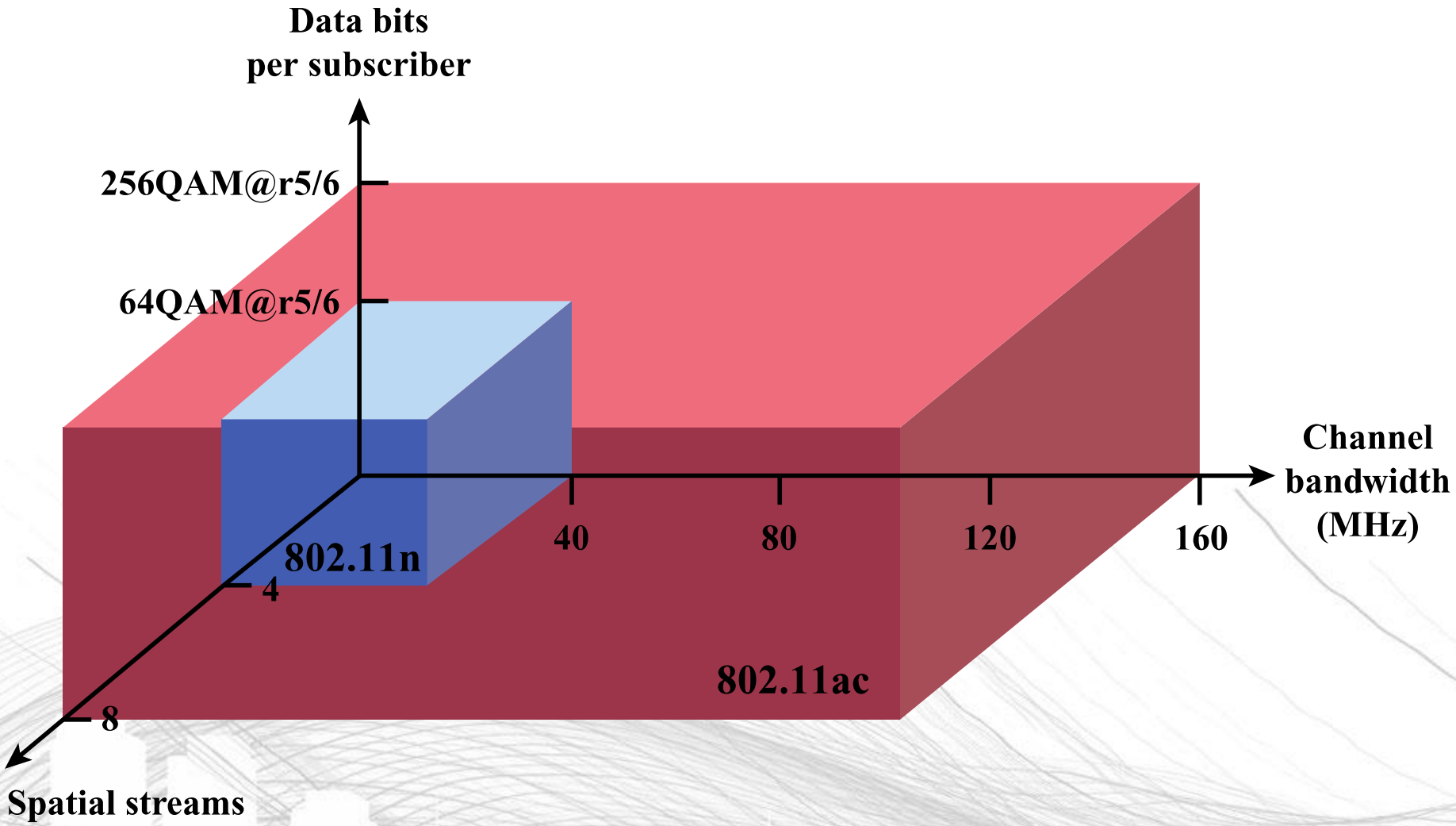



**(d) A-MPDU of A-MSDU aggregation**

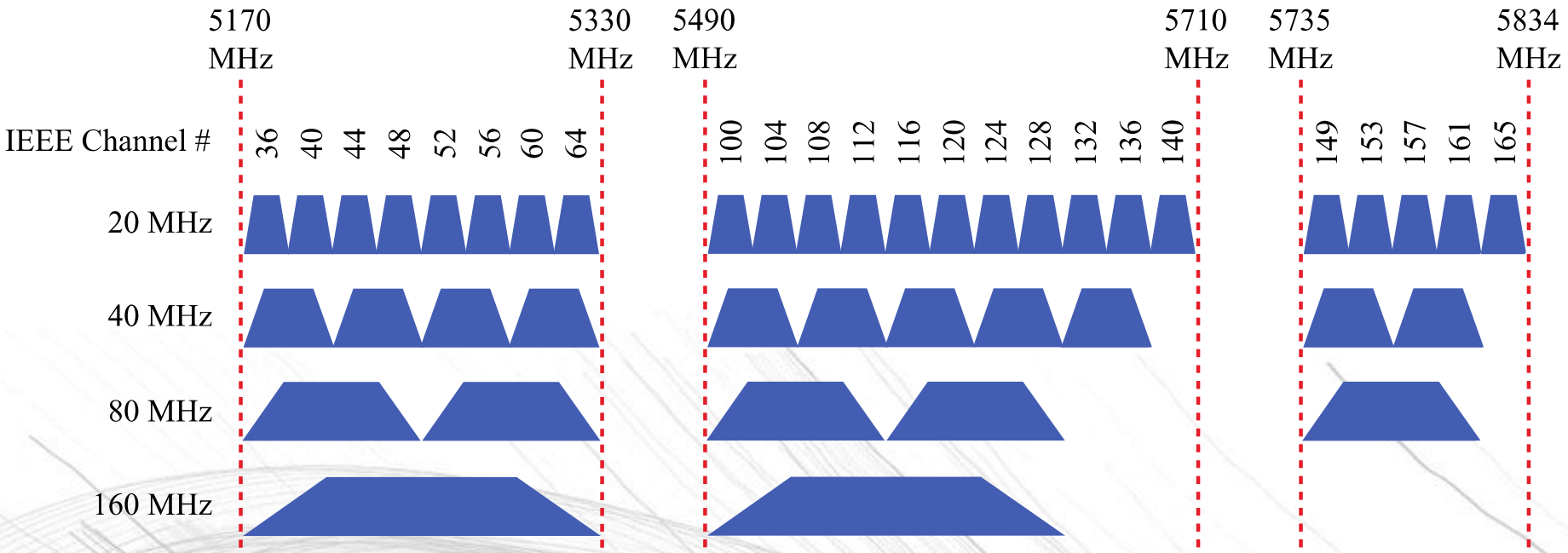
# 11.16 FORMS OF AGGREGATION

# GIGABIT WI-FI

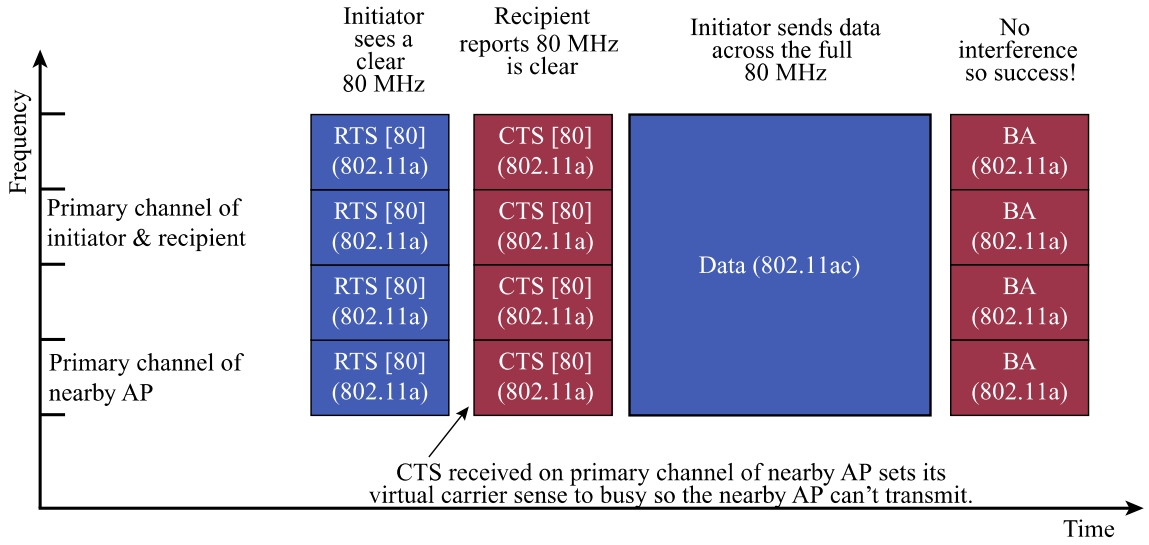
- 802.11ac
  - Up to 6.937 Gbps
  - 5-GHz only operation
  - Up to 8 × 8 MIMO
  - Up to 160 MHz (8 × 20 MHz channels)
    - Special RTS/CTS to check for legacy devices
  - Up to 256 QAM
  - Multiuser MIMO
    - Simultaneous beams to multiple stations
    - Advanced channel measurements
  - Larger frame size
  - A-MDPU is required
  - “Wave 1” products up to 1.3 Gbps
  - “Wave 2” products use 160 MHz channels and four spatial streams



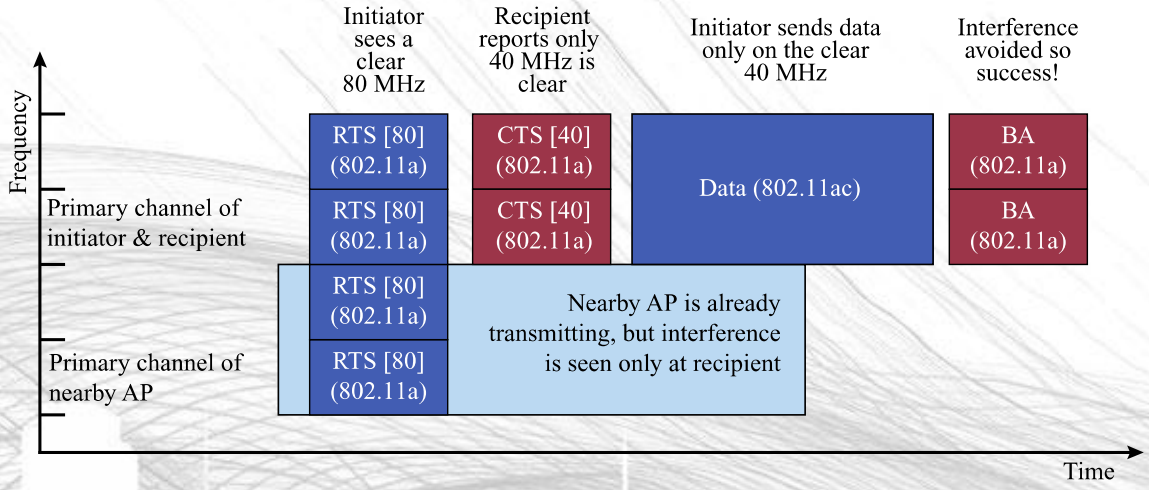

## 11.17 IEEE 802.11 PERFORMANCE FACTORS




# 11.18 5 GHz 802.11ac CHANNEL ALLOCATIONS




**(a) No interference case**




**(b) Interference case**

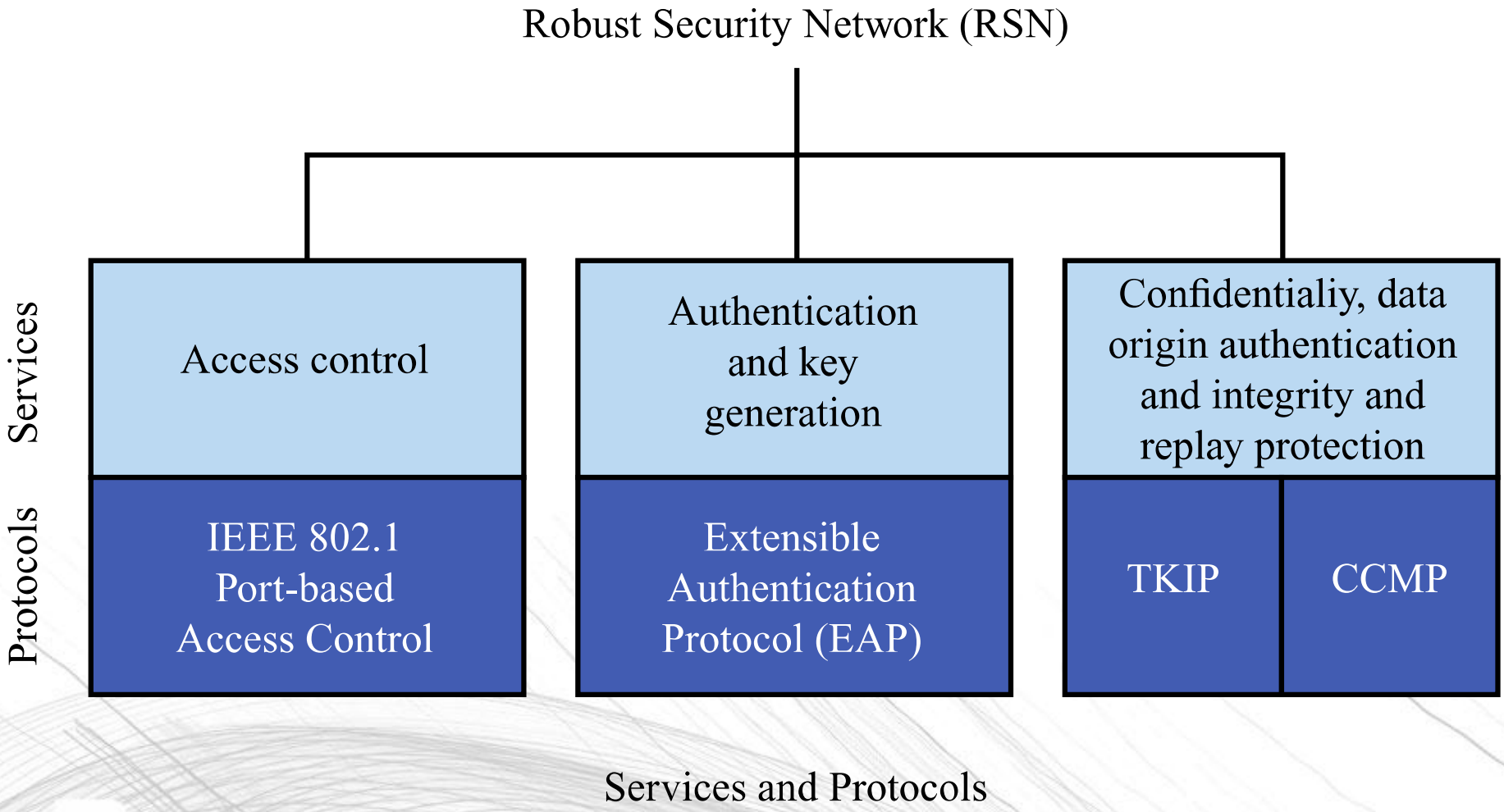
# 11.19 RTS/CTS ENHANCED WITH BANDWIDTH SIGNALING

# GIGABIT WI-FI

- 802.11ad
  - WiGig
  - Up to 7 Gbps
    - Replacement of wires for video to TVs and projectors
  - Uses 60-GHz bands
    - Called millimeter waves (mmWave)
    - Fewer devices operate in these bands
    - Higher free space loss
    - Poor penetration of objects
    - Likely only useful in a single room
  - Adaptive beamforming and high gain directional antennas
    - Can even find reflections when direct path is obstructed
  - Four modulation and coding schemes
  - Personal BSS so devices can talk directly

# WLAN SECURITY

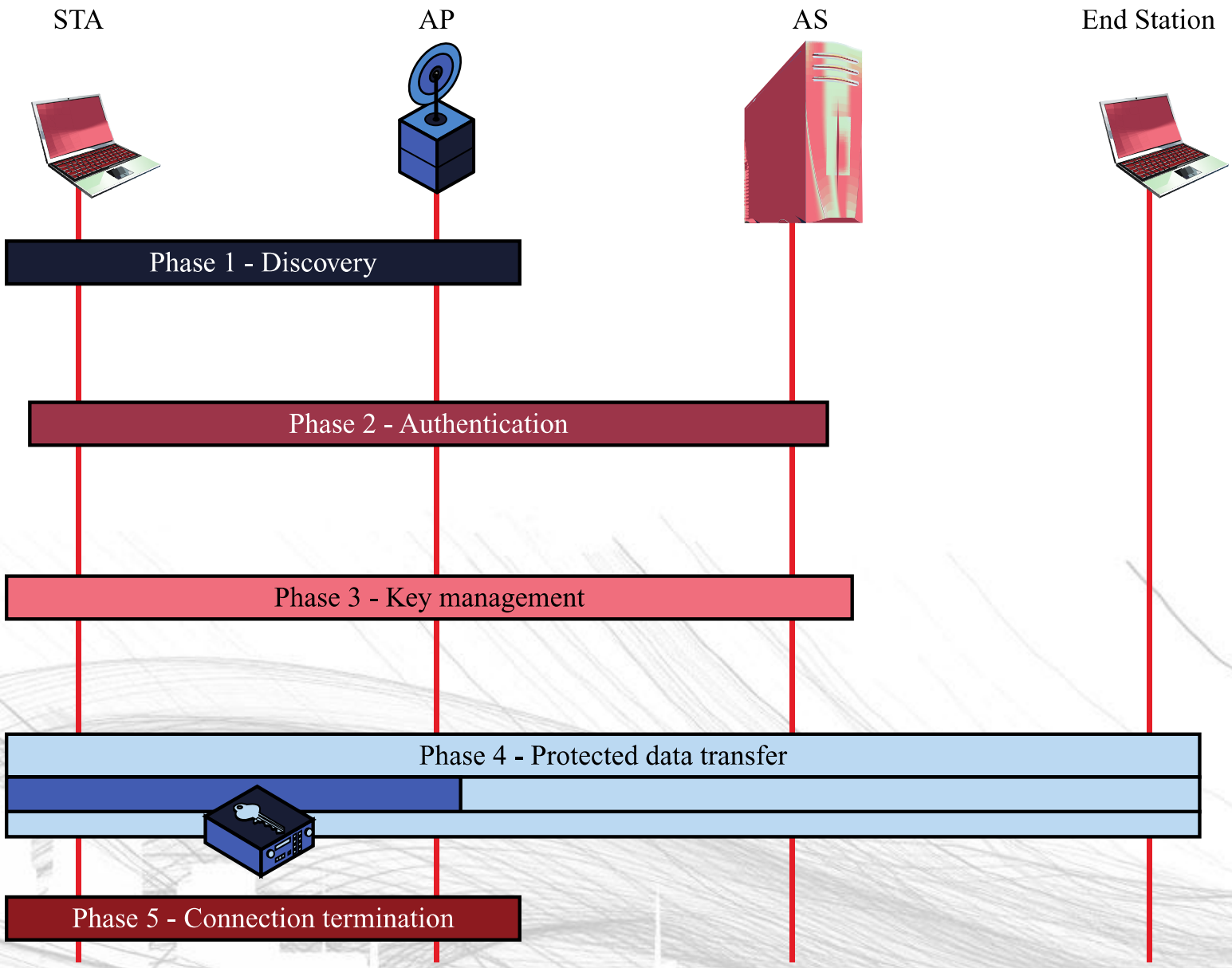
- Three points of attack
  - Client
  - Access Point
  - Wireless medium
- Original Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) was much too weak
  - 802.11i provided stronger Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA)
  - Robust Security Network (RSN) is the final 802.11i standard
- 802.11i services
  - Authentication through an authentication server
  - Access control
  - Encryption for privacy with message integrity




Services and Protocols

CCMP = Counter Mode with Cipher Block Chaining MAC Protocol
TKIP = Temporal Key Integrity Protocol

## 11.20 ELEMENTS OF IEEE 802.11i




# 11.21 IEEE 802.11i PHASES OF OPERATION