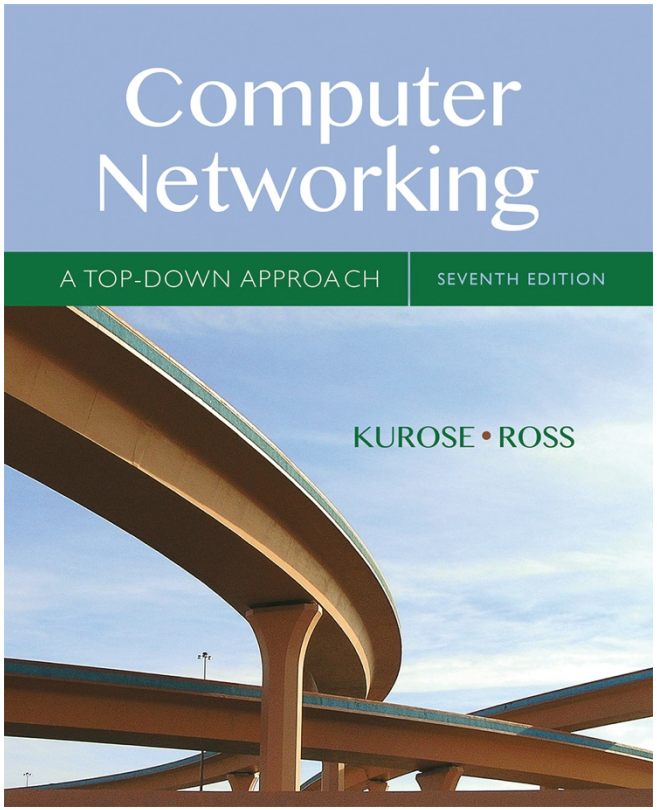
Chapter 6
The Link Layer and LANs



Computer Networking: A Top Down Approach

7th edition
Jim Kurose, Keith Ross
Pearson/Addison Wesley
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Thanks and enjoy! JFK/KWR

Link layer, LANs: outline

6.1 introduction, services

6.2 error detection, correction

6.3 multiple access protocols

6.4 LANs

- addressing, ARP
- Ethernet
- switches
- VLANS

6.5 link virtualization: MPLS

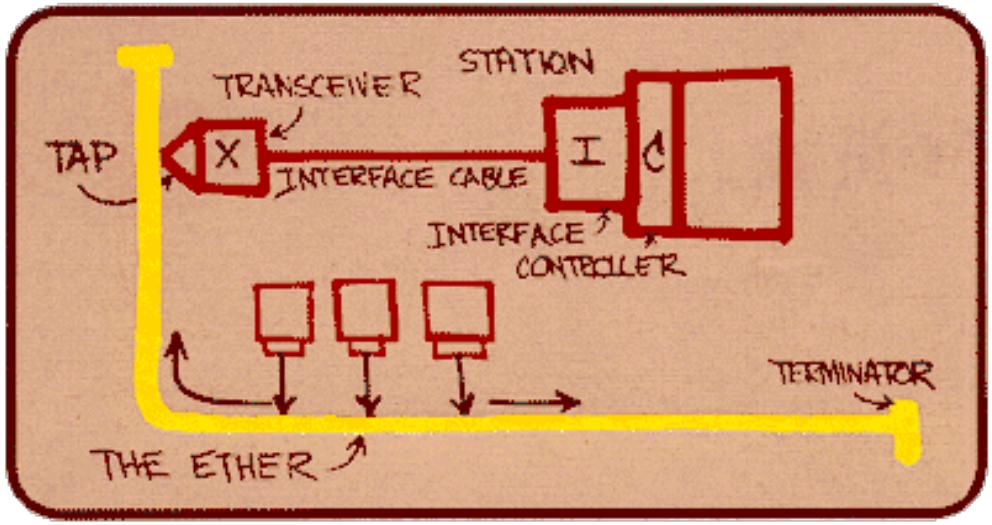
6.6 data center networking

6.7 a day in the life of a web request

Ethernet

"dominant" wired LAN technology:

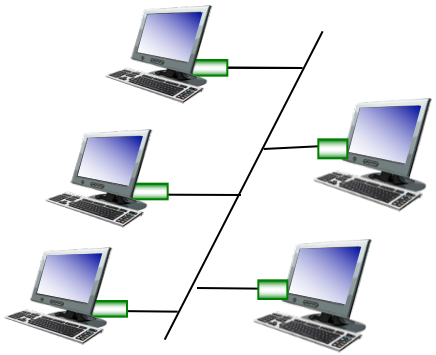
- single chip, multiple speeds (e.g., Broadcom BCM5761)
- first widely used LAN technology
- simpler, cheap
- kept up with speed race: 10 Mbps – 10 Gbps



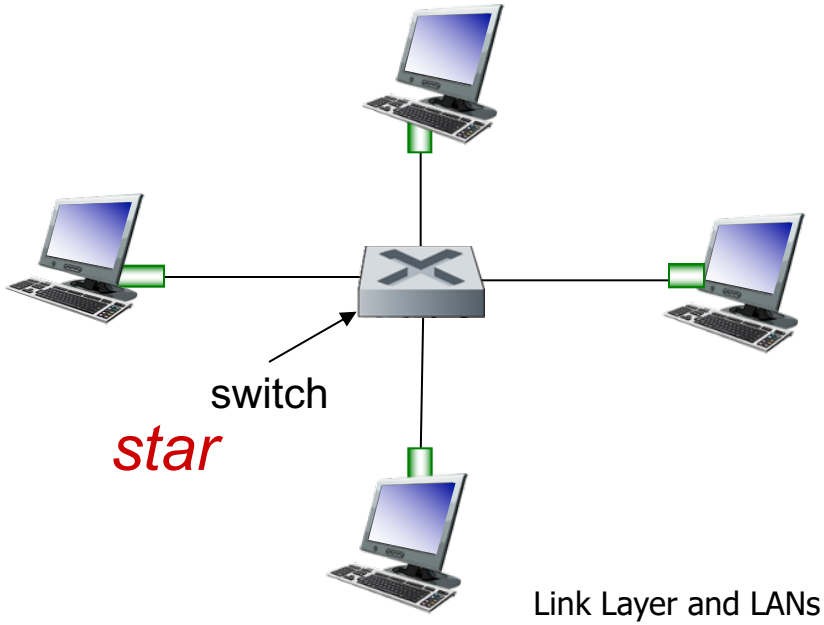
Metcalfe's Ethernet sketch

Ethernet: physical topology

- *bus:* popular through mid 90s
  - all nodes in same collision domain (can collide with each other)
- *star:* prevails today
  - active *switch* in center
  - each "spoke" runs a (separate) Ethernet protocol (nodes do not collide with each other)



bus: coaxial cable



star

Ethernet frame structure

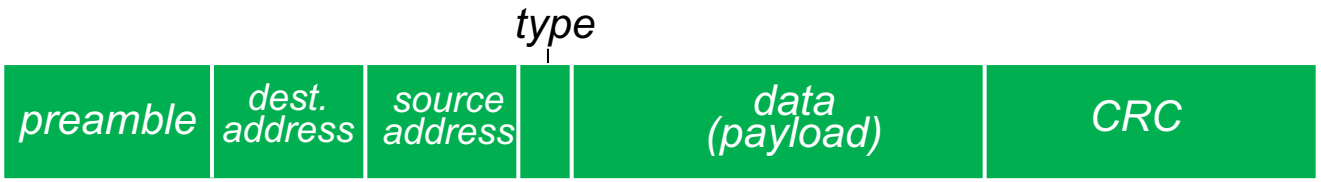
sending adapter encapsulates IP datagram (or other network layer protocol packet) in Ethernet frame

preamble:

- 7 bytes with pattern 10101010 followed by one byte with pattern 10101011
- used to synchronize receiver, sender clock rates

Ethernet frame structure (more)

- *addresses:* 6 byte source, destination MAC addresses
  - if adapter receives frame with matching destination address, or with broadcast address (e.g. ARP packet), it passes data in frame to network layer protocol
  - otherwise, adapter discards frame
- *type:* indicates higher layer protocol (mostly IP but others possible, e.g., Novell IPX, AppleTalk)
- *CRC:* cyclic redundancy check at receiver
  - error detected: frame is dropped

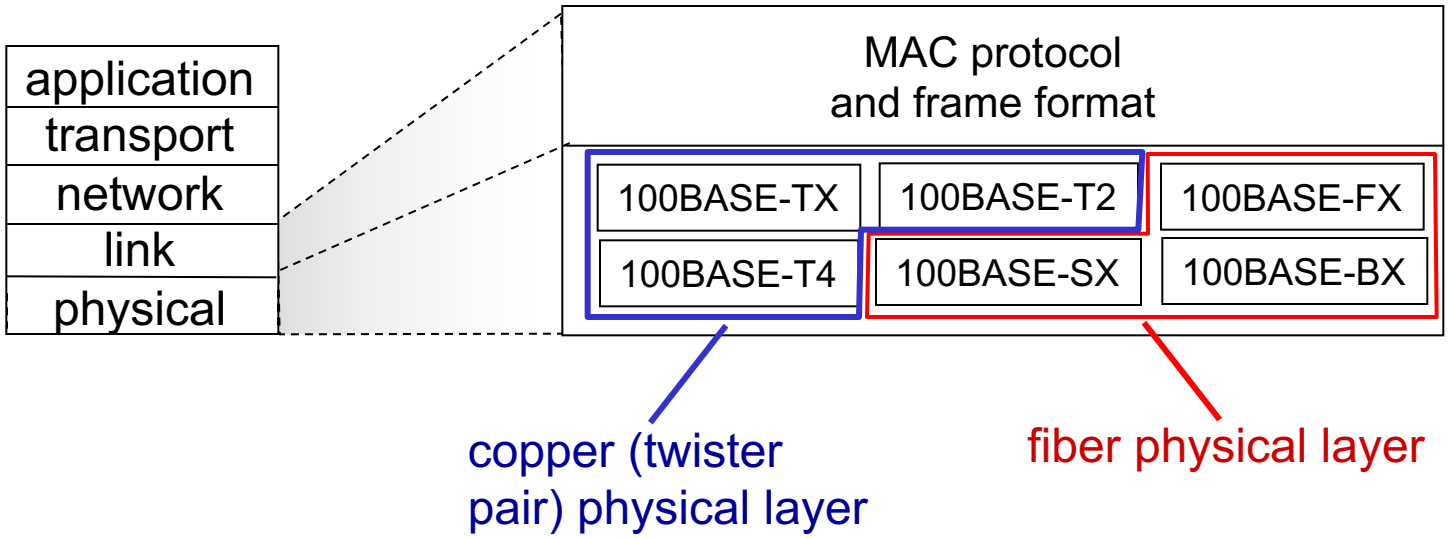


Ethernet: unreliable, connectionless

- *connectionless:* no handshaking between sending and receiving NICs
- *unreliable:* receiving NIC doesn't send acks or nacks to sending NIC
  - data in dropped frames recovered only if initial sender uses higher layer rdt (e.g., TCP), otherwise dropped data lost
- Ethernet's MAC protocol: unslotted *CSMA/CD with binary backoff*

802.3 Ethernet standards: link & physical layers

- *many* different Ethernet standards
  - common MAC protocol and frame format
  - different speeds: 2 Mbps, 10 Mbps, 100 Mbps, 1Gbps, 10 Gbps, 40 Gbps
  - different physical layer media: fiber, cable



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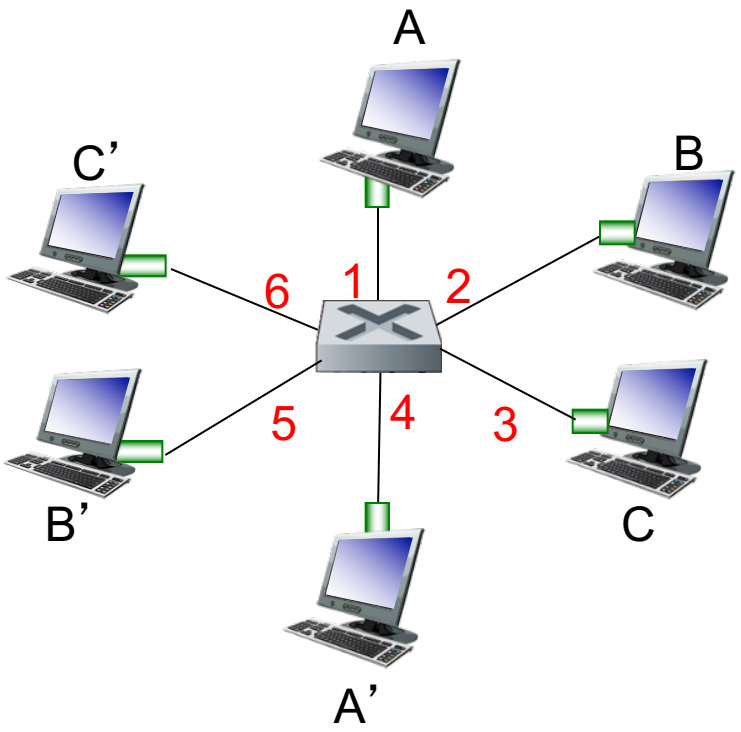
Ethernet switch

- link-layer device: takes an *active* role
  - store, forward Ethernet frames
  - examine incoming frame's MAC address, selectively forward frame to one-or-more outgoing links when frame is to be forwarded on segment, uses CSMA/CD to access segment
- *transparent*
  - hosts are unaware of presence of switches
- *plug-and-play, self-learning*
  - switches do not need to be configured

Switch: *multiple* simultaneous transmissions

- hosts have dedicated, direct connection to switch
- switches buffer packets
- Ethernet protocol used on *each* incoming link, but no collisions; full duplex
  - each link is its own collision domain
- *switching:* A-to-A' and B-to-B' can transmit simultaneously, without collisions



switch with six interfaces (1,2,3,4,5,6)

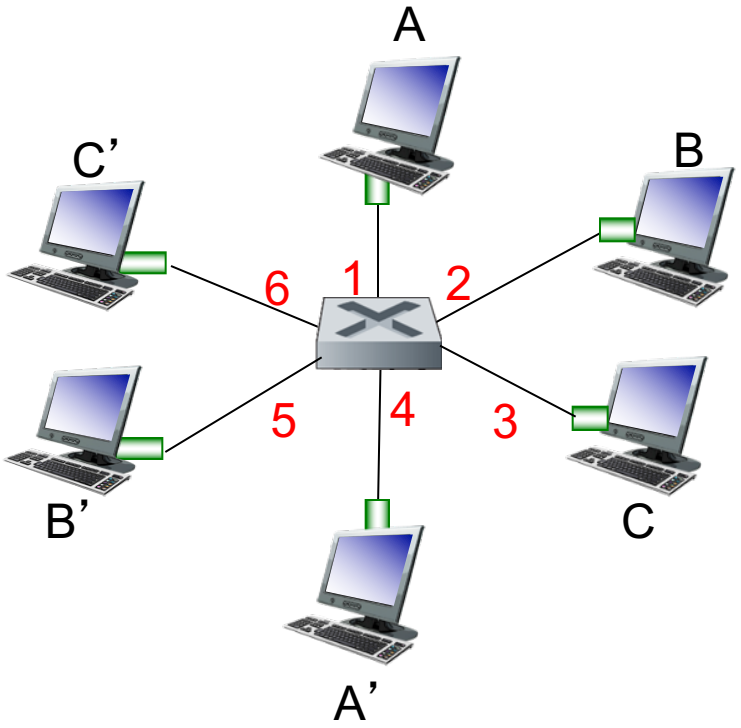
Switch forwarding table

Q: how does switch know A' reachable via interface 4, B' reachable via interface 5?

- A: each switch has a switch table, each entry:
  - (MAC address of host, interface to reach host, time stamp)
  - looks like a routing table!

Q: how are entries created, maintained in switch table?

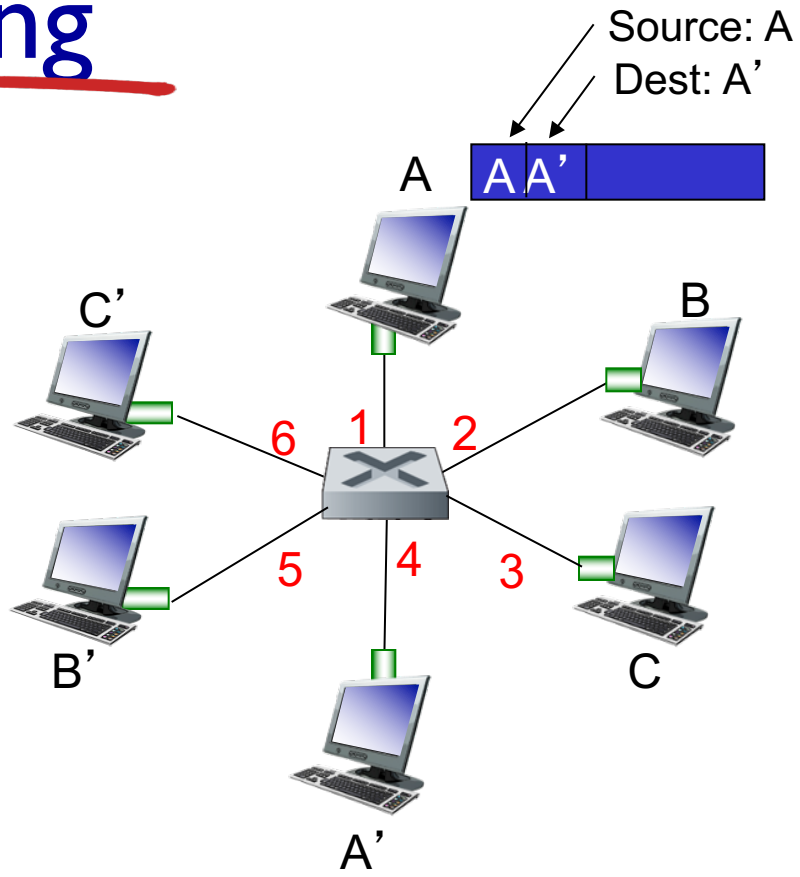
- something like a routing protocol?



switch with six interfaces (1,2,3,4,5,6)

Switch: self-learning

- switch *learns* which hosts can be reached through which interfaces
  - when frame received, switch "learns" location of sender: incoming LAN segment
  - records sender/location pair in switch table



MAC addr	interface	TTL
A	*1*	*60*

Switch table (initially empty)

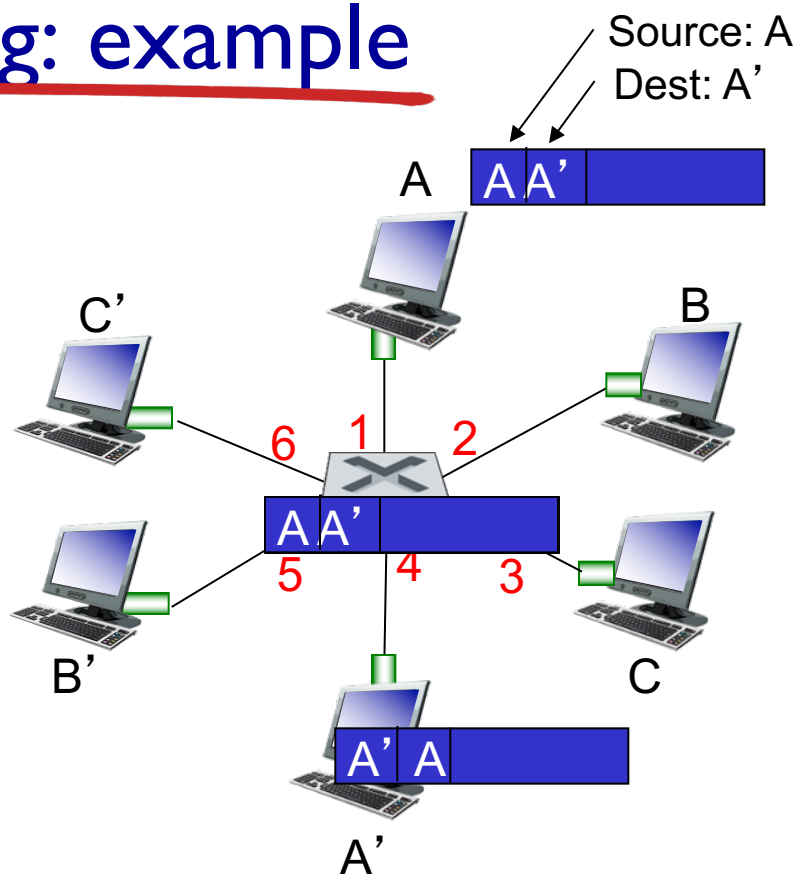
Switch: frame filtering/forwarding

when frame received at switch:

1. record incoming link, MAC address of sending host
2. index switch table using MAC destination address
3. if entry found for destination
   then {
   if destination on segment from which frame arrived
      then drop frame
      else forward frame on interface indicated by entry
   }
   else flood /* forward on all interfaces except arriving
                 interface */

Self-learning, forwarding: example

- frame destination, A', location unknown: *flood*
- destination A location known: selectively send on just one link

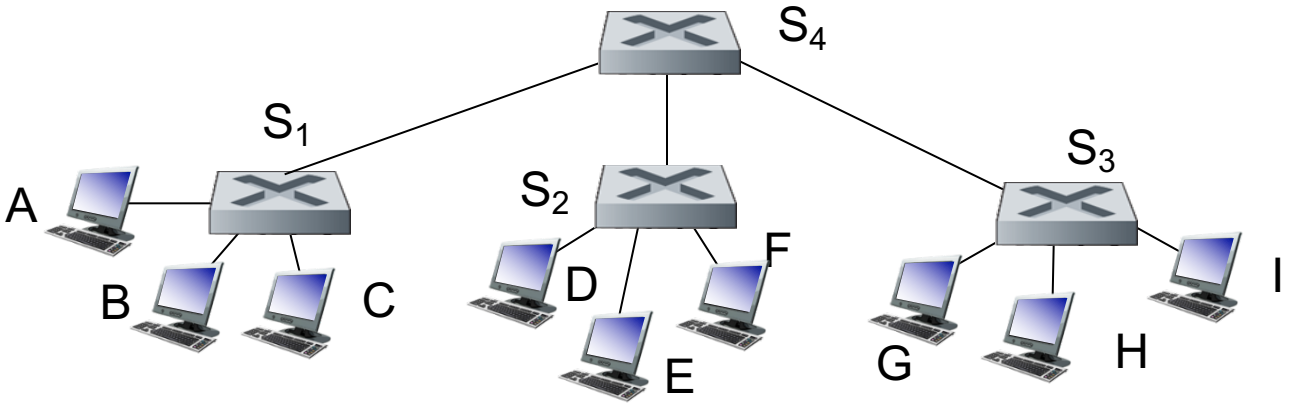


MAC addr	interface	TTL
A	*1*	*60*
A'	*4*	*60*

switch table (initially empty)

Interconnecting switches

self-learning switches can be connected together:

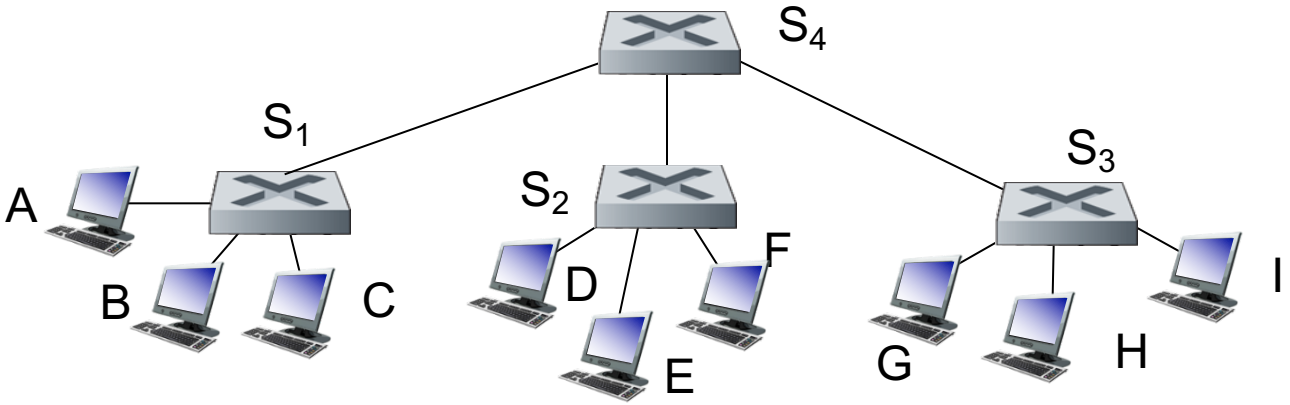


Q: sending from A to G - how does S_1 know to forward frame destined to G via S_4 and S_3?

- *A:* self learning! (works exactly the same as in single-switch case!)

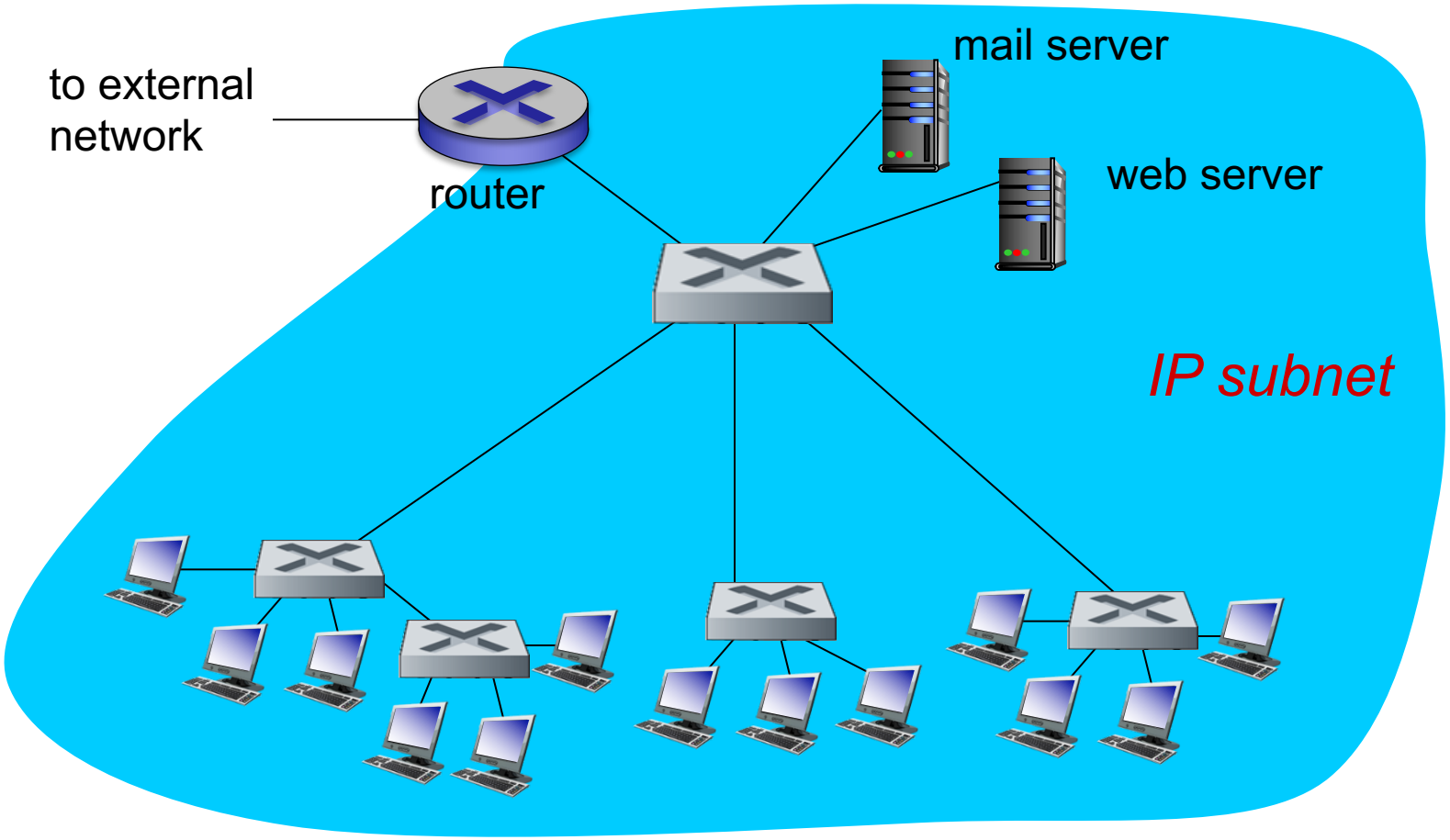
Self-learning multi-switch example

Suppose C sends frame to I, I responds to C



- Q: show switch tables and packet forwarding in S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4

Institutional network



Switches vs. routers

both are store-and-forward:

- *routers:* network-layer devices (examine network-layer headers)
- *switches:* link-layer devices (examine link-layer headers)

both have forwarding tables:

- *routers:* compute tables using routing algorithms, IP addresses
- *switches:* learn forwarding table using flooding, learning, MAC addresses