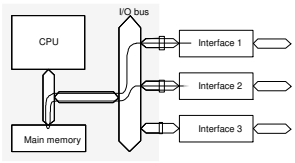
Router Construction

Outline

- Switched Fabrics
- IP Routers
- Tag Switching

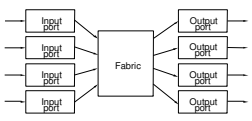
Workstation-Based

- Aggregate bandwidth
  - 1/2 of the I/O bus bandwidth
  - capacity shared among all hosts connected to switch
  - example: 1Gbps bus can support 5 x 100Mbps ports (in theory)
- Packets-per-second
  - must be able to switch small packets
  - 300,000 packets-per-second is achievable
  - e.g., 64-byte packets implies 155Mbps



Switching Hardware

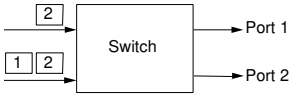
- Design Goals
  - throughput (depends on traffic model)
  - scalability (a function of *n*)



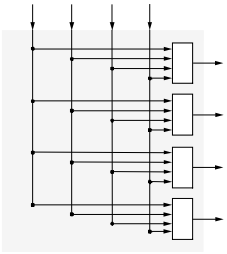
- Ports
  - circuit management (e.g., map VCIs, route datagrams)
  - buffering (input and/or output)
- Fabric
  - as simple as possible
  - sometimes do buffering (internal)

Buffering

- Wherever contention is possible
  - input port (contend for fabric)
  - internal (contend for output port)
  - output port (contend for link)
- Head-of-Line Blocking
  - input buffering

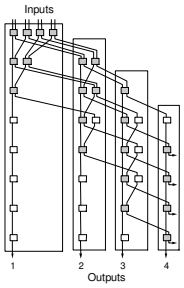


Crossbar Switches



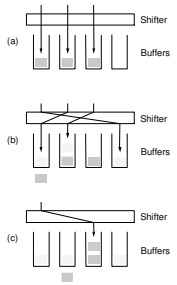
Knockout Switch

- Example crossbar
- Concentrator
  - select l of n packets
- Complexity: n^2



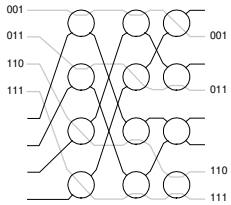
Knockout Switch (cont)

- Output Buffer



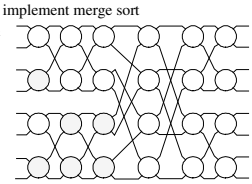
Self-Routing Fabrics

- Banyan Network
  - constructed from simple 2 x 2 switching elements
  - self-routing header attached to each packet
  - elements arranged to route based on this header
  - no collisions if input packets sorted into ascending order
  - complexity: $n \log_2 n$



Self-Routing Fabrics (cont)

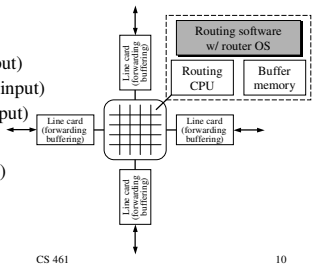
- Batcher Network
  - switching elements sort two numbers
    - some elements sort into ascending (clear)
    - some elements sort into descending (shaded)
  - elements arranged to implement merge sort
  - complexity: $n \log^2_2 n$



- Common Design: Batcher-Banyan Switch

High-Speed IP Router

- Switch (possibly ATM)
- Line Cards
  - link interface
  - router lookup (input)
  - common IP path (input)
  - packet queue (output)
- Control Processor
  - routing protocol(s)
  - exceptional cases



IP Forwarding is Slow

- Problem: classless IP addresses (CIDR)
- Route by variable-length Forwarding Equivalence Classes (FEC)
  - FEC = IP address plus prefix of 1-32 bits; e.g., 172.200.0.0/16
- IP Router
  - forwarding tbl: <FEC> ⟶ <next hop, port>
  - match IP address to FEC w/ longest prefix

ATM Forwarding

- Primary goal: fast, cheap forwarding
- 1Gb/s IP router: $187,000
- 5Gb/s ATM switch: $41,000
- Create Virtual Circuit at Flow Setup
  - <in VCI> ⟶ <port, out VCI>
- Cell Forwarding
  - index, swap, switch

Cisco: Tag Switching

- Add a VCI-like tag to packets
  - <in tag> ⟶ <next hop, port, out tag>
- TSR uses ATM switch hardware
- IP routing protocols (OSPF, RIP, BGP)
  - build forwarding table from routing table
- Goal: IP router functionality at ATM switch speeds/costs

Forwarding

- *Shim* before IP header

- Tag Forwarding Information Base (TFIB)
  - <in tag> ⟶ <next hop, port, out tag>
- Just like ATM
  - index, swap, switch

Tag Binding

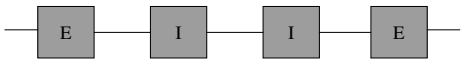
- New FEC from IP routing protocols
  - Select local tag (index in TFIB)
  - <in tag> ⟶ <next hop, port, ???>
- Need <out tag> for next hop
- Other routers need my <in tag>
- Solution: distribute tags like other routing info

Tag Distribution Protocol

- Send TDP messages to peers
  - <FEC, my tag>
- Upon receiving TDP message, check if sender is next hop for FEC
  - yes, save tag in TFIB
  - no, can discard or save for future use
- 'Control-driven' label assignment

The First Tag

- Two kinds of routers: edge vs. interior



- Edge: add shim based on IP lookup, strip at exit
- Interior: forward by tag only

Robustness Issues

- What if tag fault?
  - try to forward (default route)
  - discard packet
- Forwarding Loops
  - topology changes cause temporary loops
  - TTL field in tag, same as IP

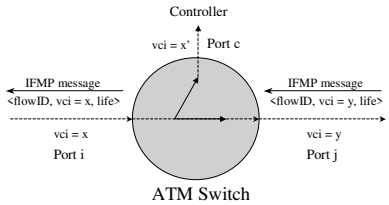
Ipsilon: IP Switching

- Run on ATM switch over ATM network
  - ATM hardware + IP switching software
- Idea: Exploit temporal locality of traffic to cache routing decisions
- Associate labels (VCI) with flows
  - forward packets as usual
  - main difference is in how labels are created, distributed to other routers

IP Switch

- Assume default ATM virtual circuits between routers
- Router runs IP routing protocol, can forward IP packets on default VCs
- Identify flows, assign flow-specific VC
  - flow = port pair or host pair
- 'Data-driven' label assignment

Flow Setup on IP Switch



- <vci = x> ⟶ <port c, vci = x'>
- Get IFMP, <vci = x> ⟶ <port j, vci = y>

Comparison

IP Switching	Tag Switching
• Switch by flow	• Switch by FEC
• Data driven	• Control driven
• Soft-state timeout	• Route changes
• Between end-hosts	• Between edge TSRs
• Every router can do IP lookup	• Interior TSRs only do tag switching
• Scalable?	