# Multiwavelength Optical Network Architectures

Switching Technology S38.165 http://www.netlab.hut.fi/opetus/s38165

Source: Stern-Bala (1999), Multiwavelength Optical Networks

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- Static networks
- Wavelength Routed Networks (WRN)
- Linear Lightwave Networks (LLN)
- Logically Routed Networks (LRN)

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#### Static networks

- Static network (= broadcast-and-select network) is a purely optical shared medium network
  - passive splitting and combining nodes are interconnected by fibers to provide static connectivity among some or all OTs and ORs
  - · OTs broadcast and ORs select
- Broadcast star network is an example of such a static network
  - · star coupler combines all signals and broadcasts them to all ORs
  - static optical multi-cast paths from any station to the set of all stations
  - no wavelength selectivity at the network node
  - optical connection is created by tuning the source OT and/or destination OR to the same wavelength
  - two OTs must operate at different wavelengths (to avoid interference)
    - this is called the distinct channel assignment (DCA) constraint
  - however, two ORs can be tuned to the same wavelength
    - by this way, optical multi-cast connections are created

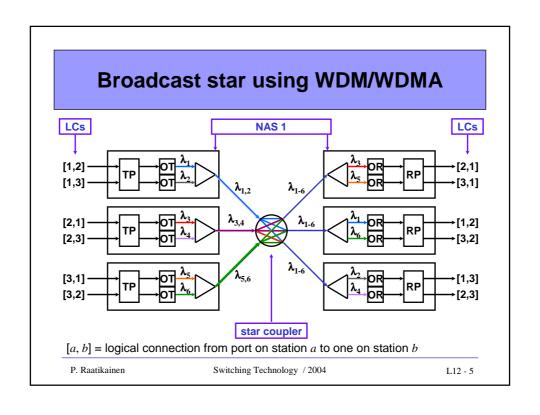
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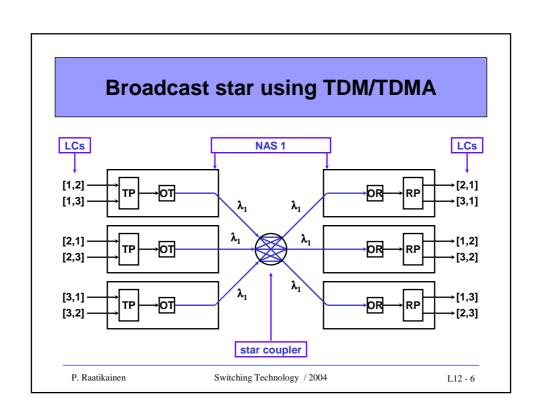
# Realization of logical connectivity

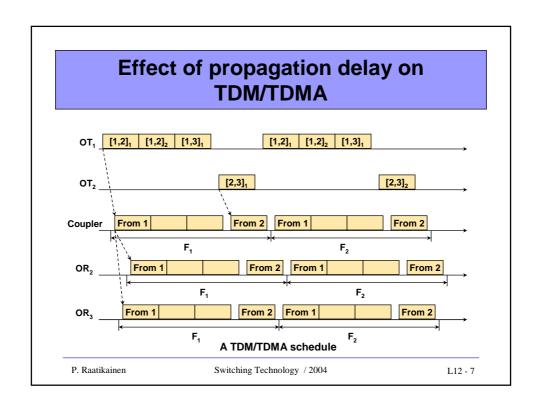
- Methods to realize full point-to-point logical connectivity in a broadcast star with N nodes:
  - WDM/WDMA
    - a whole λ-channel allocated for each LC
    - N(N-1) wavelengths needed (one for each LC)
    - N-1 transceivers needed in each NAS
  - TDM/TDMA
    - 1/[N(N-1)] of a λ-channel allocated for each LC
    - 1 wavelength needed
    - 1 transceiver needed in each NAS
  - TDM/T-WDMA
    - 1/(N-1) of a  $\lambda$ -channel allocated for each LC
    - N wavelengths needed (one for each OT)
    - 1 transceiver needed in each NAS, e.g. fixed OT and tunable OR (FT-TR), or tunable OT and fixed OR (TT-FR)

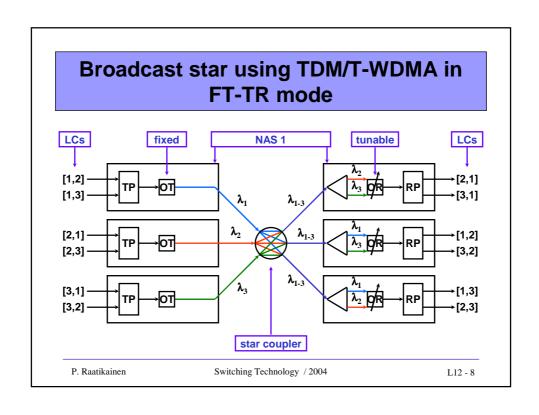
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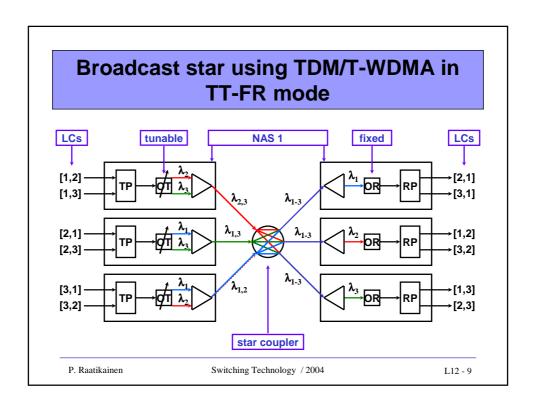
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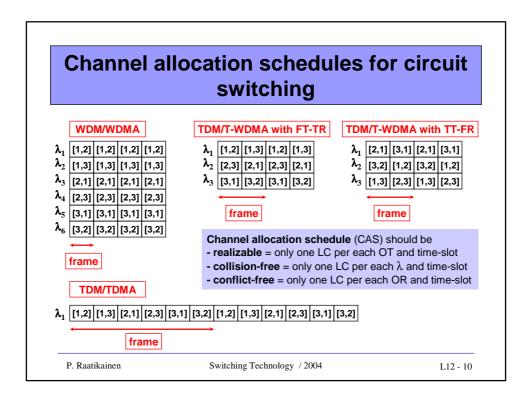






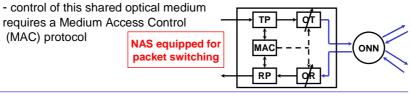






## Packet switching in the optical layer

- **Fixed capacity allocation,** produced by periodic frames, is well adapted to stream-type traffic. However, in the case of bursty packet traffic this approach may produce a very poor performance
- By implementing packet switching in the optical layer, it is
  possible to maintain a very large number of LCs simultaneously
  using dynamic capacity allocation
  - packets are processed in TPs/RPs of the NASs (but **not** in ONNs)
  - TPs can schedule packets based on instantaneous demand
  - as before, broadcast star is used as a shared medium



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#### Additional comments on static networks

- The broadcast-and-select principle cannot be scaled to large networks for three reasons:
  - Spectrum use: Since all transmissions share the same fibers, there
    is no possibility of optical spectrum reuse => the required spectrum
    typically grows at least proportionally to the number of transmitting
    stations
  - Protocol complexity: Synchronization problems, signaling overhead, time delays, and processing complexity all increase rapidly with the number of stations and with the number of LCs.
  - Survivability: There are no alternate routes in case of a failure.
     Furthermore, a failure at the star coupler can bring the whole network down.
  - For these reasons, a practical limit on the number of stations in a broadcast star is approximately 100

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# **Wavelength Routed Networks (WRN)**

- Wavelength routed network (WRN) is a purely optical network
  - each  $\lambda$ -channel can be recognized in the ONNs (= wavelength selectivity) and routed individually
  - ONNs are typically wavelength selective cross-connects (WSXC)
    - network is **dynamic** (allowing **switched** connections)
    - a static WRN (allowing only **dedicated** connections) can be built up using static wavelength routers
- All optical paths and connections are point-to-point
  - each point-to-point LC corresponds to a point-to-point OC
  - full point-to-point logical/optical connectivity among N stations requires
     N-1 transceivers in each NAS
  - multipoint logical connectivity only possible by several point-to-point optical connections using WDM/WDMA

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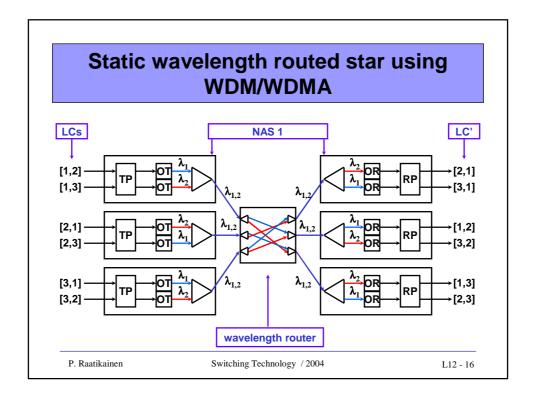
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# Static wavelength routed star

- Full point-to-point logical/optical connectivity in a static wavelength routed star with N nodes can be realized by WDM/WDMA
  - a whole  $\lambda$ -channel allocated for each LC
  - N-1 wavelengths needed spectrum reuse factor is N = N(N-1) optical connections / N-1 wavelengths)
  - N-1 transceivers needed in each NAS

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## **Routing and channel assignment**

- Consider a WRN equipped with WSXCs (or wavelength routers)
  - no wavelength conversion possible
- Establishment of an optical connection requires
  - channel assignment
  - routing
- Channel assignment (executed in the  $\lambda$ -channel sublayer) involves
  - allocation of an available wavelength to the connection and
  - tuning of the transmitting and receiving station to the assigned wavelength
- Routing (executed in the optical path sublayer) involves
  - determination of a suitable optical path for the assigned  $\lambda$ -channel
  - setting-up of the switches in the network nodes to establish that path

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# **Channel assignment constraints**

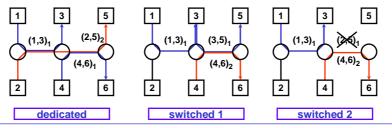
- Following two channel assignment constraints apply to WRNs
  - wavelength continuity: wavelength of each optical connection remains the same on all links it traverses from source to destination
  - wavelength continuity is unique to transparent optical networks, making routing and wavelength assignment a more challenging task than the related problem in conventional networks
  - distinct channel assignment (DCA): all optical connections sharing a common fiber must be assigned distinct λ-channels (i.e. distinct wavelengths)
     this applies to access links as well as inter-nodal links
    - although DCA is necessary to ensure distinguishability of signals on the same fiber, it is possible (and generally advantageous) to reuse the same wavelength on fiber-disjoint paths

1 1 2 2 3 3

1 1 2 2 3 3

# Routing and channel assignment (RCA) problem

- Routing and channel assignment (RCA) is a fundamental control problem in large optical networks
  - Generally, the RCA problem for **dedicated** connections can be treated off-line => computationally intensive optimization techniques are appropriate
  - On the other hand, RCA decisions for switched connections must be made rapidly, and hence suboptimal heuristics must normally be used



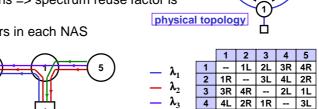
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## **Example bi-directional ring with** elementary NASs

- Consider a bi-directional ring of 5 nodes and stations with single access fiber pairs
- Full point-to-point logical/optical connectivity requires
  - 4 wavelengths => spectrum reuse factor is
  - 4 transceivers in each NAS



Fiber from ONN1 to ONN2

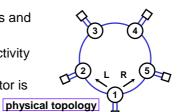
5 2L 3L 4R 1R RCA

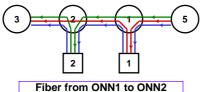
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# Example bi-directional ring with non-blocking NASs

- Consider a bi-directional ring of 5 nodes and stations with two access fiber pairs
- Full point-to-point logical/optical connectivity requires
  - 3 wavelengths => spectrum reuse factor is 20/3 = 6.67
  - 4 transceivers in each NAS





RCA

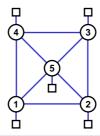
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# Example mesh network with elementary NASs

- Consider a mesh network of 5 nodes and stations with single access fiber pairs
- Full point-to-point logical/optical connectivity requires
  - 4 wavelengths
    - => spectrum reuse factor is 20/4 = 5
  - 4 transceivers in each NAS
  - despite the richer physical topology, no difference with the corresponding bi-directional ring (thus, the access fibers are the bottleneck)



physical topology

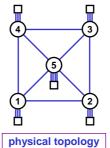
RCA?

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# Example mesh network with non-blocking NASs

- Consider a mesh network of 5 nodes and stations with three/four access fiber pairs
- Full point-to-point logical/optical connectivity requires
  - only 2 wavelengthsspectrum reuse factor is 20/2 = 10
  - 4 transceivers in each NAS



RCA?

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## **Linear Lightwave Networks (LLN)**

- Linear lightwave network (LLN) is a purely optical network
  - nodes perform (only) strictly linear operations on optical signals
- · This class includes
  - both static and wavelength routed networks
  - but also something more
- The most general type of LLN has waveband selective LDC nodes
  - LDC performs controllable optical signal dividing, routing and combining
  - these functions are required to support multipoint optical connectivity
- · Waveband selectivity in nodes means that
  - optical path layer routes signals as bundles that contain all  $\lambda\text{-channels}$  within one waveband
- Thus, all layers of connectivity and their interrelations must be examined carefully

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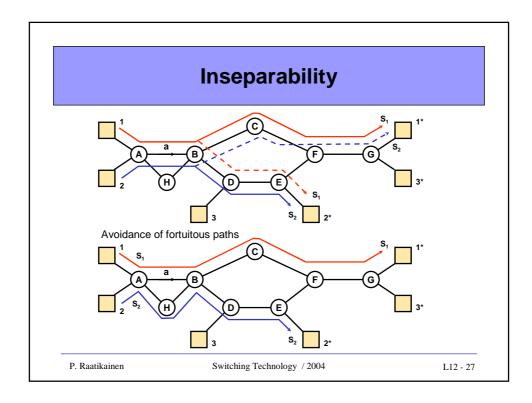
# Routing and channel assignment constraints

- Two constraints of WRNs need also to be satisfied by LLNs
  - Wavelength continuity: wavelength of each optical connection remains the same on all the links it traverses from source to destination
  - Distinct channel assignment (DCA): all optical connections sharing a common fiber must be assigned distinct  $\lambda$ -channels
- Additionally, the following two routing constraints apply to LLNs
  - **Inseparability:** channels combined on a single fiber and located within the same waveband cannot be separated within the network
    - this is a consequence of the fact that the LDCs operate on the aggregate power carried within each waveband
  - **Distinct source combining (DSC):** only signals from distinct sources are allowed to be combined on the same fiber
    - DSC condition forbids a signal from splitting, taking multiple paths, and then recombining with itself

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- otherwise, combined signals would interfere with each other

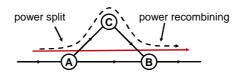
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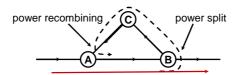


# **Inseparability (cont.)**

- Two connections (that use signals S<sub>1</sub> and S<sub>2</sub>) are in the same waveband
- Power of S<sub>1</sub> and S<sub>2</sub> combined on link a
   to avoid interference connections should use different wavelengths or different time-slots on a common wavelength
- At node B both connections routed to towards their destinations
- Since S<sub>1</sub> and S<sub>2</sub> are in the same waveband both signals are multicasted towards destination 1' and 2'
  - => both signals branch out from their original paths (to fortuitous paths)
  - => waste of fiber resources
  - => waste of signal power
- Good design principle to avoid fortuitous paths

#### Two violations of DSC





=> Combining signals interfere with each other

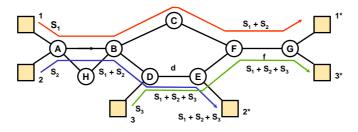
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=> Garbling of information

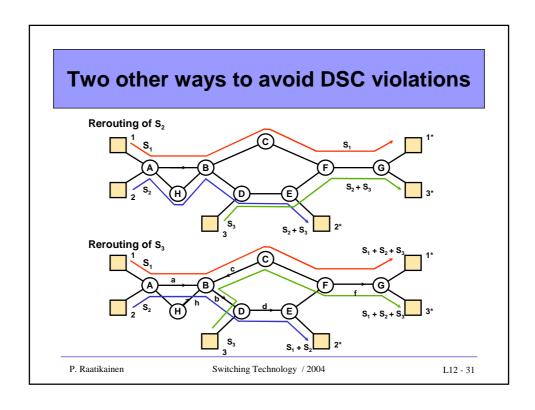
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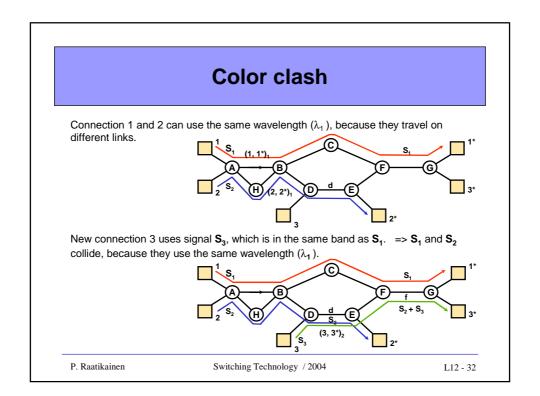
# **Inadvertent violation of DSC**



- Correct but poor routing decisions may produce inadvertent violation of DSC constraint
- • Due to inseparability  $\mathbf{S_3}$  carries  $\mathbf{S_1} + \, \mathbf{S_2}$  with it
  - => all three connections in the same waveband on different  $\lambda s$  (on link f)
  - => S<sub>1</sub> information (at destination 1') garbled
- Problem avoided if S<sub>3</sub> in different waveband

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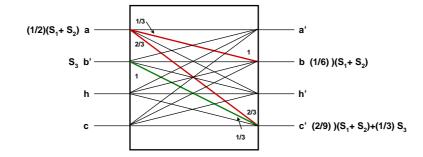


#### **Power distribution**

- In a LDC it is possible to specify combining and dividing ratios
  - ratios determine how power from sources is distributed to destinations
  - combining and dividing ratios can be set differently for each waveband
- How should these ratios be chosen?
- The **objective** could be
  - to split each source's power equally among all destinations it reaches
  - to combine equally all sources arriving at the same destination
- · Resultant end-to-end power transfer coefficients are independent of
  - · routing paths through the network
  - number of nodes they traverse
  - · order in which signals are combined and split
- · Coefficients depend only on
  - number of destinations for each source
  - number of sources reaching each destination

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# Illustration of power distribution



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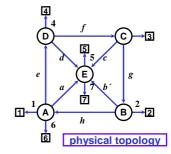
### **Multipoint subnets in LLNs**

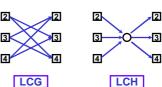
- Attempt to set up several point-to-point optical connections within a common waveband leads to unintentional creation of multipoint paths
   complications in routing, channel assignment and power distribution
- On the other hand, waveband routing leads to more efficient use of the optical spectrum
- In addition, the multipoint optical path capability is useful when creating intentional multipoint optical connections
  - LLNs can deliver a high degree of logical connectivity with minimal optical hardware in the access stations
  - this is one of the fundamental advantages of LLNs over WRNs
- Multipoint optical connections can be utilized when creating a full logical connectivity among specified clusters of stations within a larger network => such fully connected clusters are called multipoint subnets (MPS)

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# Example - seven stations on a mesh

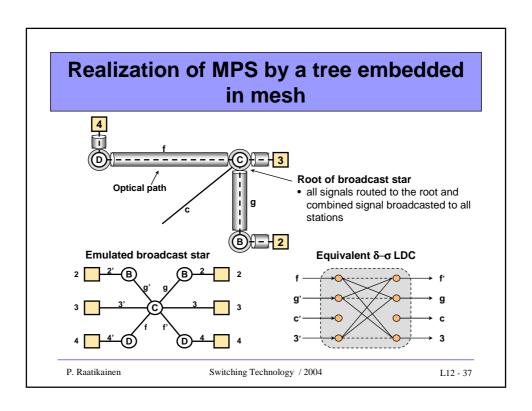
- Consider a network containing seven stations interconnected on a LLN with a mesh physical topology and bidirectional fiber links
  - notation for fiber labeling: a and a form a fiber pair with opposite directions
- Set of stations {2,3,4} should be interconnected to create a MPS with full logical connectivity
- This can be achieved, e.g. by creating an optical path on a single waveband in the form of a tree joining the three stations (embedded broadcast star)





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  - Seven-station example
- Logically Routed Networks (LRN)

# Seven-station example

#### • Assume:

- non-blocking access stations
- each transmitter runs at a bit rate of  $R_0$

#### • Physical topologies (PT):

- bi-directional ring
- mesh
- multistar of seven physical stars

#### • Logical topologies (LT):

- fully connected (point-to-point logical topology with 42 edges) realized by using WRN
- fully shared (hypernet logical topology with a single hyperedge)
   realized using a broadcast-and-select network (LLN of a single MPS)
- partially shared (hypernet of seven hyperedges) realized by using LLN of seven MPSs

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# Physical topologies Physical topologies The property of the

## **Fully connected LT - WRN realizations**

#### • Ring PT:

- $-6 \lambda s$  with spectrum reuse factor of 42/6 = 7 => RCA?
- 6 transceivers in each NAS
  - $\Rightarrow$  network capacity = 7\*6 = 42  $R_0$

#### • Mesh PT:

- $-4 \lambda s$  with spectrum reuse factor of 42/4 = 10.5 => RCA?
- 6 transceivers in each NAS ⇒ network capacity =  $7*6 = 42 R_0$

#### • Multistar PT:

- $-2 \lambda s$  with spectrum reuse factor of 42/2 = 21=> RCA?
- 6 transceivers in each NAS
   ⇒ network capacity = 7\*6 = 42 R<sub>0</sub>

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# Fully shared LT - Broadcast and select network realizations

- Any PT
- WDM/WDMA:
  - 42 λs with spectrum reuse factor of 1
  - 6 transceivers in each NAS
    - $\Rightarrow$  network capacity = 7\*6 = 42  $R_0$
- TDM/T-WDMA in FT-TR mode:
  - $-7 \lambda s$  with spectrum reuse factor of 1
  - 1 transceiver in each NAS
    - $\Rightarrow$  network capacity = 7\*1 = 7  $R_0$
- TDM/TDMA:
  - $-1 \lambda$  with spectrum reuse factor of 1
  - 1 transceiver in each NAS
    - $\Rightarrow$  network capacity = 7\*1/7 = 1  $R_0$

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# **Partially shared LT - LLN realizations**

- Note: Full logical connectivity among all stations
- Mesh PT using TDM/T-WDMA in FT-TR mode:
  - -2 wavebands with spectrum reuse factor of  $7/2 = 3.5 \Rightarrow RCA$ ?
  - 3 λs per waveband
  - 3 transceivers in each NAS ⇒ network capacity = 7\*3 = 21  $R_0$
- Multistar PT using TDM/T-WDMA in FT-TR mode:
  - 1 waveband with spectrum reuse factor of 7/1 = 7 => RCA?
  - 3 λs per waveband
  - 3 transceivers in each NAS

 $\Rightarrow$  network capacity = 7\*3 = 21  $R_0$ 

 $E_3$   $E_4$   $E_4$   $E_5$   $E_6$   $E_6$   $E_7$   $E_7$   $E_7$   $E_7$   $E_7$   $E_7$   $E_7$ 

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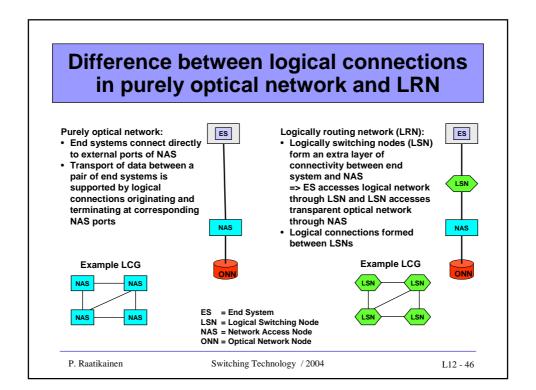
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## **Logically Routed Networks (LRN)**

- For small networks, high logical connectivity is reasonably achieved by purely optical networks. However, when moving to larger networks, the transparent optical approach soon reaches its limits.
- For example, to achieve full logical connectivity among 22 stations on a bi-directional ring using wavelength routed point-to-point optical connections 21 transceivers are needed in each NAS and totally 61 wavelengths. Economically and technologically, this is well beyond current capabilities.
  - => we must turn to electronics (i.e. logically routed networks)
- Logically routed network (LRN) is a hybrid optical network
  - -which performs logical switching (by logical switching nodes (LSN)) on top of a transparent optical network
  - LSNs create an extra layer of connectivity between the end systems and NASs

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# Two approaches to create full connectivity

- Multihop networks based on point-to-point logical topologies
  - realized by WRNs
- Hypernets based on multipoint logical topologies
  - realized by **LLN**s

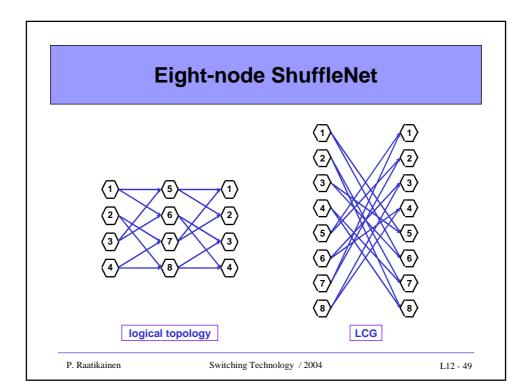
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# Point-to-point logical topologies

- In a point-to-point logical topology
  - a hop corresponds to a logical link between two LSNs
  - maximum throughput is inversely proportional to the average hop count
- One of the **objectives** of using logical switching on top of a transparent optical network is
  - to reduce cost of station equipment (by reducing the number of optical transceivers and complexity of optics) while maintaining high network performance
- Thus, we are interested in logical topologies that
  - achieve a small average number of logical hops at a low cost (i.e., small node degree and simple optical components)
- An example is a **ShuffleNet** 
  - for example, an eight-node ShuffleNet has 16 logical links and an average hop count of 2 (if uniform traffic is assumed)
  - these networks are scalable to large sizes by adding stages and/or increasing the degree of the nodes

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# ShuffleNet embedded in a bi-directional ring WRN

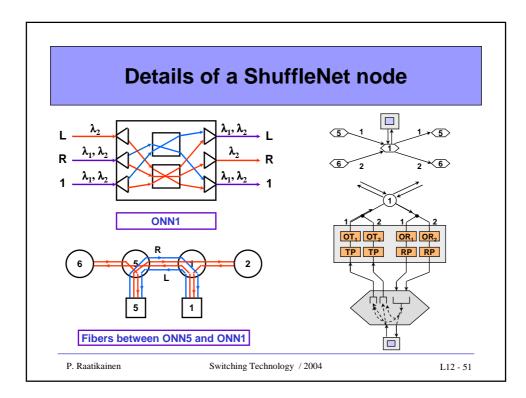
- Bi-directional ring WRN with elementary NASs
  - $-2 \lambda s$  with spectrum reuse factor of 16/2 = 8
  - -2 transceivers in each NAS
  - average hop count = 2
    - $\Rightarrow$  network cap. = 8\*2/2 = 8  $R_0$

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	1	-	-	-	-	1L	2L	-	-
	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1R	2R
	3	-	-	-	-	2R	1R	-	-
	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2L	1L
	5	1R	2R	-	-	-	-	-	-
	6			1L	2L				
	7	2L	1L	-	-	-	-	-	-
	8	-	-	2R	1R	-	-	-	-
RCA									

Note: station labeling!

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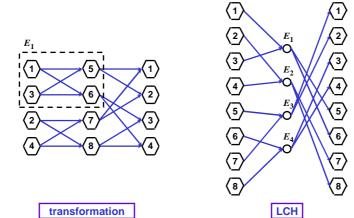
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# **Multipoint logical topologies**

- High connectivity may be maintained in transparent optical networks while economizing on optical resource utilization through the use of multipoint connections
- These ideas are even more potent when combined with logical switching
- For example, a ShuffleNet may be modified to a Shuffle Hypernet
  - an 8-node Shuffle Hypernet has 4 hyperarcs
  - each hyperarc presents a directed MPS that contains 2 transmitting and 2 receiving stations
  - an embedded directed broadcast star is created to support each MPS
  - for a directed star, a (physical) tree is found joining all stations in both the transmitting and receiving sets of the MPS
  - any node on the tree can be chosen as a root
  - LDCs on the tree are set to create optical paths from all stations in the transmitting set to the root node, and paths from the root to all receiving stations

# **Eight-node Shuffle Hypernet**



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# Shuffle Hypernet embedded in a bidirectional ring LLN

- **Bi-directional ring LLN** with elementary NASs using **TDM/T-WDMA** in FT-TR mode
  - 1 waveband with spectrum reuse factor of 4/1 = 4
  - 2 λs per waveband
  - 1 transceiver in each NAS ⇒ network cap. =  $8*1/2 = 4 R_0$

	inbound fibers	root	outbound fibers	wave- band
$\mathbf{E_1}$	a,b',c'	ONN5	b	1
$\mathbf{E_2}$	e,f',g'	ONN8	f	1
E <sub>3</sub>	g,a',h'	ONN2	h	1
$E_4$	c,d',e'	ONN3	d	1

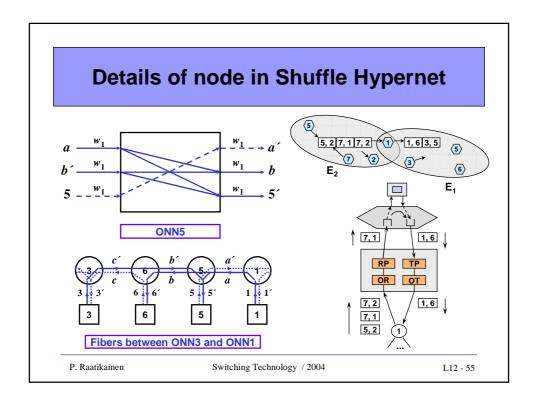
**RCA** 

(6) — (7)

Note: station and fiber labeling!

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  - Virtual connections: an ATM example

# Virtual connections - an ATM example

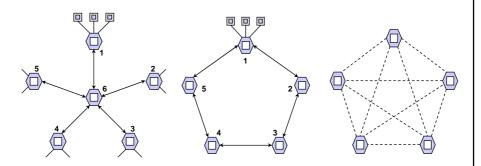
- Recall the problem of providing full connectivity among five locations
  - suppose each location contains a number of end systems that access the network through an ATM switch. The interconnected switches form a transport network of 5\*4 = 20 VPs.
- The following five designs are now examined and compared:
  - Stand-alone ATM star
  - Stand-alone ATM bi-directional ring
  - ATM over a network of SONET cross-connects
  - ATM over a WRN
  - ATM over a LLN
- Traffic demand: each VP requires 600 Mbits/s (≈ STM-4/STS-12)
- Optical resources: λ-channels and transceivers run at the rate of 2.4 Gbits/s (≈ STM-16/STS-48)

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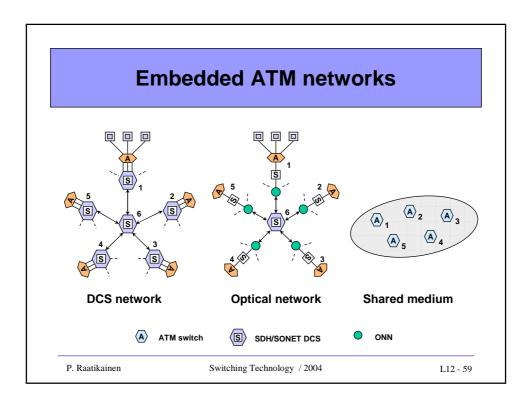
#### Stand-alone ATM networks



ATM switch/cross-connect with transceiver

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#### Case 1 - Stand-alone ATM star

- Fiber links are connected directly to ports on ATM switches creating a pointto-point optical connection for each fiber
  - each link carries 4 VPs in each direction ⇒ each optical connection needs 2.4 Gbits/s, which can be accommodated by using a single λ-channel
  - one optical transceiver is needed to terminate each end of a link, for a total of 10 transceivers in the network
- Processing load is unequal:
  - end nodes process their own 8 VPs carrying 4.8 Gbits/s
  - center node 6 processes all 20 VPs carrying 12.0 Gbits/s ⇒ bottleneck
- · Inefficient utilization of fibers, because
  - even though only one  $\lambda\text{-channel}$  is used, the total bandwidth of each fiber is dedicated to this system
- · Poor survivability, since
  - if any link is cut, network is cut in two
  - if node 6 fails, the network is completely destroyed

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# Case 2 - Stand-alone ATM bi-directional ring

- Fiber links are connected directly to ports on ATM switches, creating a pointto-point optical connection for each fiber
  - assuming shortest path routing, each link carries 3 VPs in each direction
     ⇒ each optical connection needs 1.8 Gbits/s, which can be
     accommodated using a single λ-channel (leaving 25% spare capacity)
  - 1 optical transceiver is needed to terminate each end of a link, for a total of 10 transceivers in the network
- · Equal processing load:
  - each ATM node processes its own 8 VPs and 2 additional transit VPs carrying an aggregate traffic of 6.0 Gbits/s
- · Thus,
  - no processing bottleneck
  - the same problem with optical spectrum allocation as in case 1
  - but better survivability, since network can recover from any single link cut or node failure by rerouting the traffic

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#### Case 3 - ATM embedded in DCS network

- ATM end nodes access DCSs through 4 electronic ports
- Fiber links are now connected to ports on DCSs, creating a point-to-point optical connection for each fiber
  - each link carries 4 VPs in each direction => each optical connection needs 2.4 Gbits/s, which can be accommodated using a single  $\lambda$ -channel
  - again, 1 optical transceiver is needed to terminate each end of a link
- · Processing load is lighter
  - ATM nodes process their own 8 VPs carrying 4.8 Gbits/s
  - but it is much simpler to perform VP cross-connect functions at the STM-4/STS-12 level than at the ATM cell level (as was done in case 1)
  - a trade-off must be found between optical spectrum utilization and costs
  - the more  $\lambda$ -channels on each fiber (to carry "background" traffic), the more (expensive) transceivers are needed
- Survivability and reconfigurability are good
  - since alternate paths and additional bandwidth exist in the DCS network

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#### Case 4 - ATM embedded in a WRN

- DCSs are now replaced by optical nodes containing WSXCs
- Each ATM end node is connected electronically to a NAS
- Each VP in the virtual topology must be supported by
  - a point-to-point optical connection occupying one  $\lambda$ -channel
  - 4 tranceivers are needed in each NAS (and totally 20 transceivers)
  - however, no tranceivers are needed in the network nodes
- With an optimal routing and wavelength assignment,
  - the 20 VPs can be carried using 4 wavelengths (= 800 GHz)
- · Processing load is very light
  - due to optical switching (without optoelectronic conversion at each node)
  - Note: ATM nodes still process their own 8 VPs carrying 4.8 Gbits/s
- · As in case 3, survivability and reconfigurability are good
  - since alternate paths and additional bandwidth exist in the underlying WRN

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#### Case 5 - ATM embedded in an LLN

- · WSXCs are now replaced by LDCs
- A single waveband is assigned to the ATM network, and the LDCs are set to create an embedded tree (MPS) on that waveband
  - the 20 VPs are supported by a single hyperedge in the logical topology
  - since each  $\lambda$ -channel can carry 4 VPs, 5  $\lambda$ -channels are needed totally, all in the same waveband (= 200 GHz)
  - only 1 transceiver is needed in each NAS (and totally 5 transceivers) using TDM/T-WDMA in FT-TR mode
- · Processing load is again very light
  - due to optical switching (without optoelectronic conversion at each node)
  - Note: ATM nodes still process their own 8 VPs carrying 4.8 Gbits/s
- · As in cases 3 and 4, survivability and reconfigurability are good
  - since alternate paths and additional bandwidth exist in the underlying LLN

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# **Comparison of ATM network realizations**

Case	Optical spectrum usage	Number of optical transceivers	Node processing load	Others
1	Very high	10	Very high	Poor survivability
2	Very high	10	High	
3	Lowest	10	Medium	High DCS
4	Medium	20	Very low	-
5	Low	5	Very low	Rapid tunability required, optical multi-cast possible

Case 1 - Stand-alone ATM star

Case 2 - Stand-alone ATM bi-directional ring Case 3 - ATM embedded in DCS network

Case 4 - ATM embedded in WRN

Case 5 - ATM embedded in LLN

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