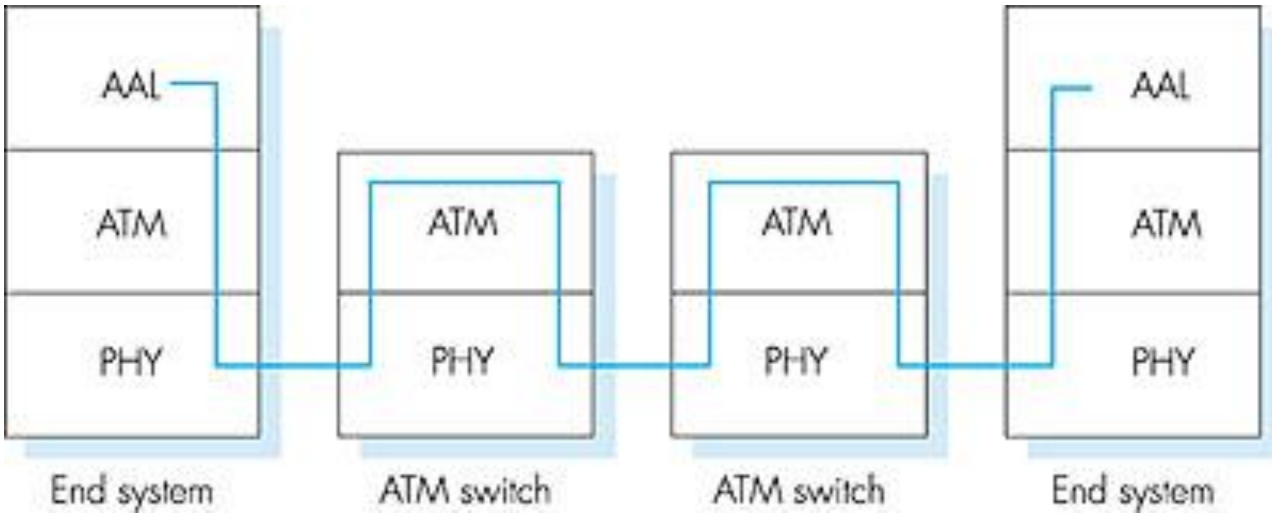
Asynchronous Transfer Mode: ATM

- **1990's/00 standard for high-speed** (155Mbps to 622 Mbps and higher) *Broadband Integrated Service Digital Network* architecture
- Goal: *integrated, end-end transport of carry voice, video, data*
  - meeting timing/QoS requirements of voice, video (versus Internet best-effort model)
  - "next generation" telephony: technical roots in telephone world
  - packet-switching (fixed length packets, called "cells") using virtual circuits

ATM architecture

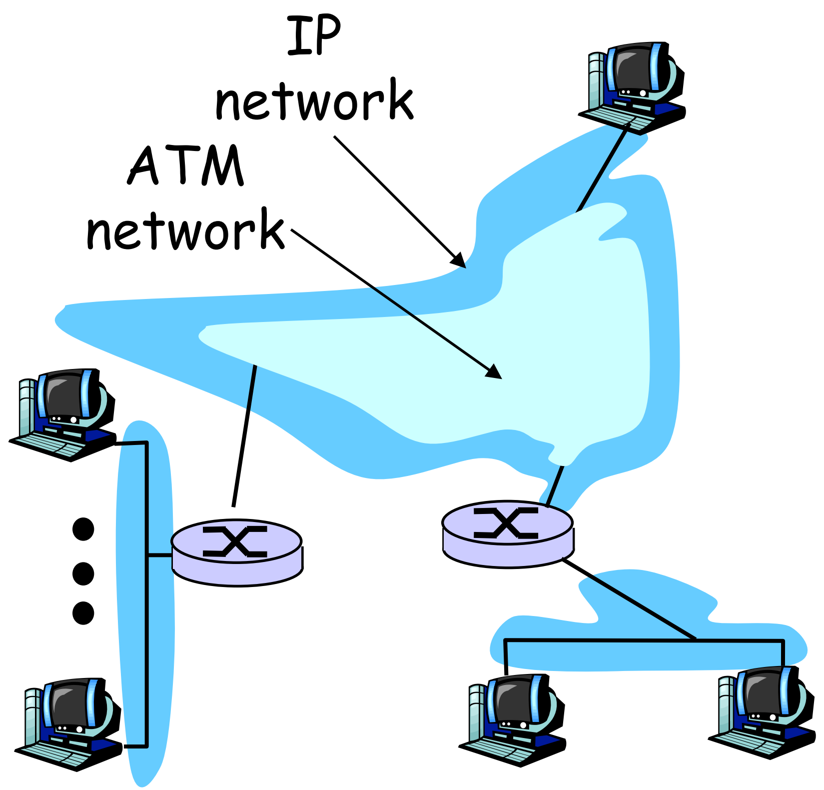


- adaptation layer: only at edge of ATM network
  - data segmentation/reassembly
  - roughly analagous to Internet transport layer
- ATM layer: “network” layer
  - cell switching, routing
- physical layer

ATM: network or link layer?

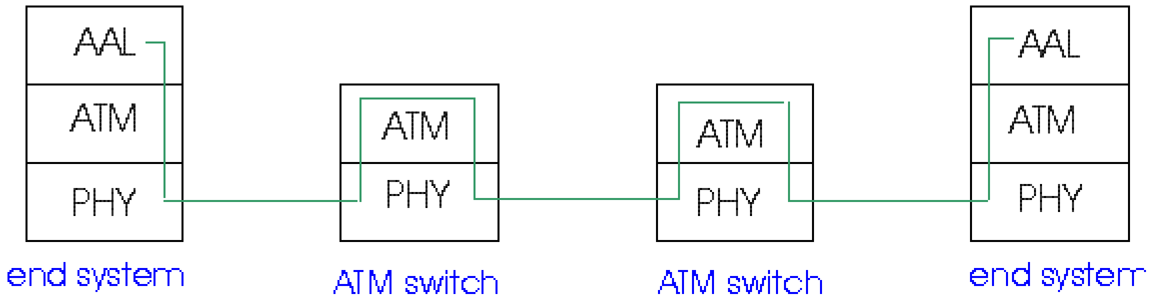
Vision: end-to-end transport: "ATM from desktop to desktop"
- ATM *is* a network technology

Reality: used to connect IP backbone routers
- "IP over ATM"
- ATM as switched link layer, connecting IP routers



ATM Adaptation Layer (AAL)

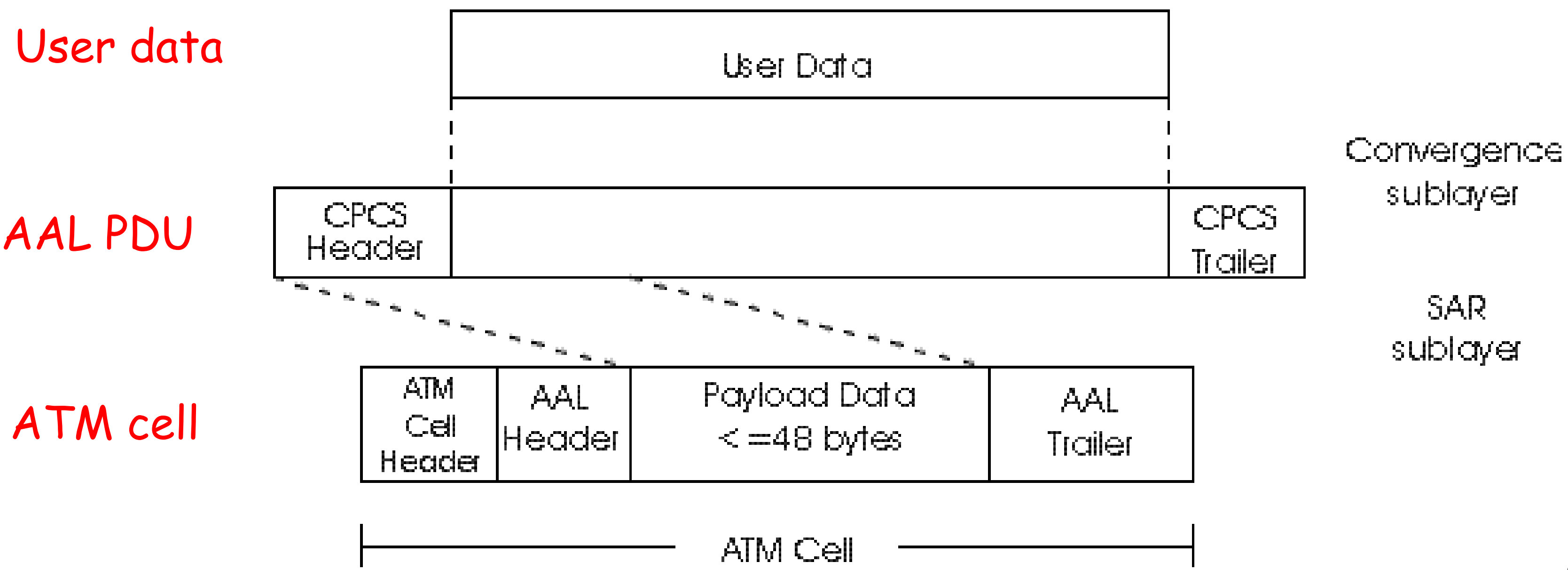
- ATM **Adaptation Layer** (AAL): "adapts" upper layers (IP or native ATM applications) to ATM layer below
- AAL present **only in end systems**, not in switches
- AAL layer segment (header/trailer fields, data) fragmented across multiple ATM cells
  - analogy: TCP segment in many IP packets



ATM Adaptation Layer (AAL) [more]

Different versions of AAL layers, depending on ATM service class:

- AAL1: for CBR (Constant Bit Rate) services, e.g. circuit emulation
- AAL2: for VBR (Variable Bit Rate) services, e.g., MPEG video
- AAL5: for data (eg, IP datagrams)



ATM Layer

Service: transport cells across ATM network

- analogous to IP network layer
- very different services than IP network layer

Network Architecture	Service Model	Guarantees ? Bandwidth	Loss	Order	Timing	Congestion feedback
Internet	best effort	none	no	no	no	no (inferred via loss)
ATM	CBR	constant rate	yes	yes	yes	no congestion
ATM	VBR	guaranteed rate	yes	yes	yes	no congestion
ATM	ABR	guaranteed minimum	no	yes	no	yes
ATM	UBR	none	no	yes	no	no

ATM Layer: Virtual Circuits

- VC transport: cells carried on VC from source to dest
  - call setup, teardown for each call *before* data can flow
  - each packet carries VC identifier (not destination ID)
  - *every* switch on source-dest path maintain "state" for each passing connection
  - link,switch resources (bandwidth, buffers) may be *allocated* to VC: to get circuit-like perf.
- Permanent VCs (PVCs)
  - long lasting connections
  - typically: "permanent" route between to IP routers
- Switched VCs (SVC):
  - dynamically set up on per-call basis

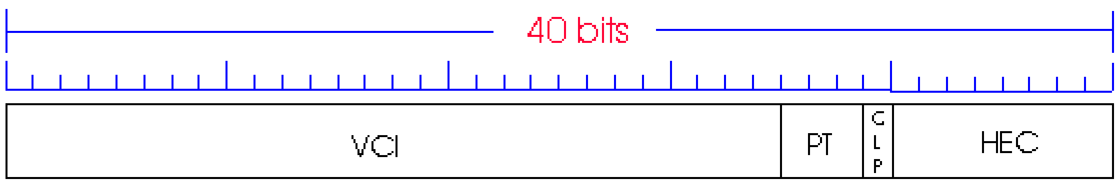
ATM VCs

- Advantages of ATM VC approach:
  - QoS performance guarantee for connection mapped to VC (bandwidth, delay, delay jitter)
- Drawbacks of ATM VC approach:
  - Inefficient support of datagram traffic
  - one PVC between each source/dest pair) does not scale (N*2 connections needed)
  - SVC introduces call setup latency, processing overhead for short lived connections

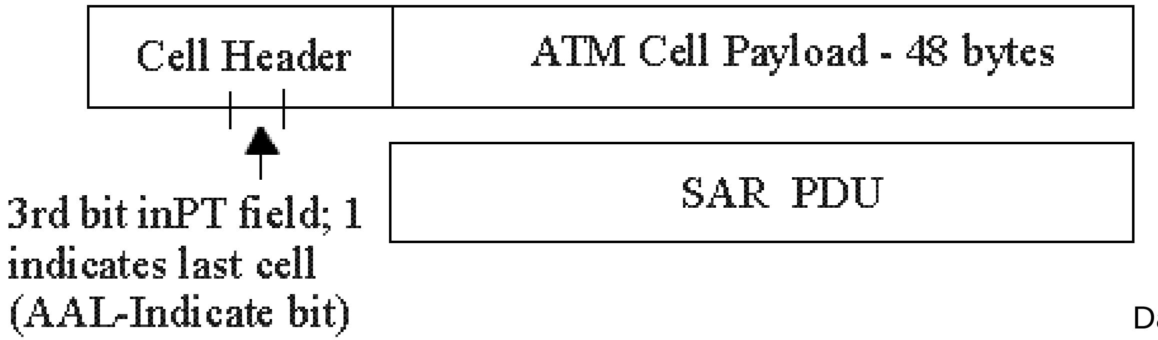
ATM Layer: ATM cell

- 5-byte ATM cell header
- 48-byte payload
  - Why?: small payload -> short cell-creation delay for digitized voice
  - halfway between 32 and 64 (compromise!)

Cell header

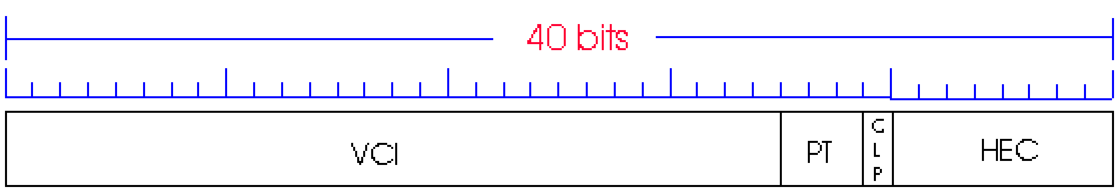


Cell format



ATM cell header

- **VCI:** virtual channel ID
  - will *change* from link to link thru net
- **PT:** Payload type (e.g. RM cell versus data cell)
- **CLP:** Cell Loss Priority bit
  - CLP = 1 implies low priority cell, can be discarded if congestion
- **HEC:** Header Error Checksum
  - cyclic redundancy check



ATM Physical Layer (more)

Two pieces (sublayers) of physical layer:

- Transmission Convergence Sublayer (TCS): adapts ATM layer above to PMD sublayer below
- Physical Medium Dependent: depends on physical medium being used

TCS Functions:

- Header **checksum** generation: 8 bits CRC
- Cell **delineation**
- With "unstructured" PMD sublayer, transmission of **idle cells** when no data cells to send

ATM Physical Layer

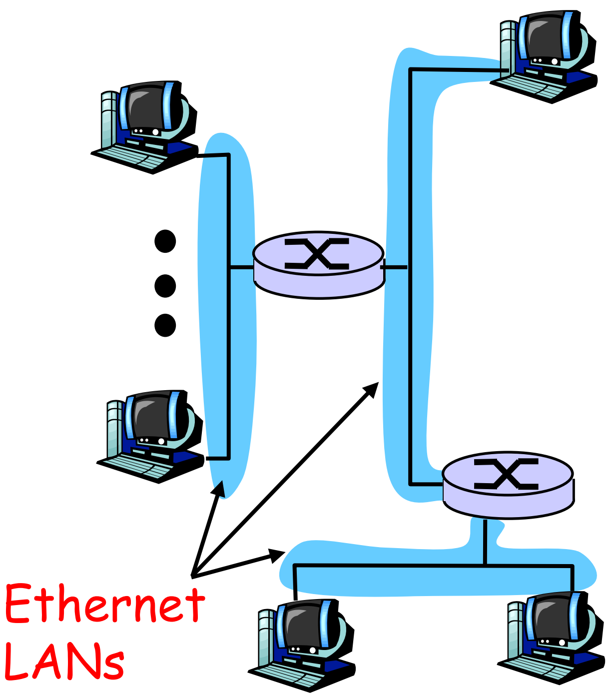
Physical Medium Dependent (PMD) sublayer

- **SONET/SDH:** transmission frame structure (like a container carrying bits);
  - bit synchronization;
  - bandwidth partitions (TDM);
  - several speeds: *OC3 = 155.52 Mbps; OC12 = 622.08 Mbps; OC48 = 2.45 Gbps, OC192 = 9.6 Gbps*
- **TI/T3:** transmission frame structure (old telephone hierarchy): 1.5 Mbps/ 45 Mbps
- **unstructured**: just cells (busy/idle)

IP-Over-ATM

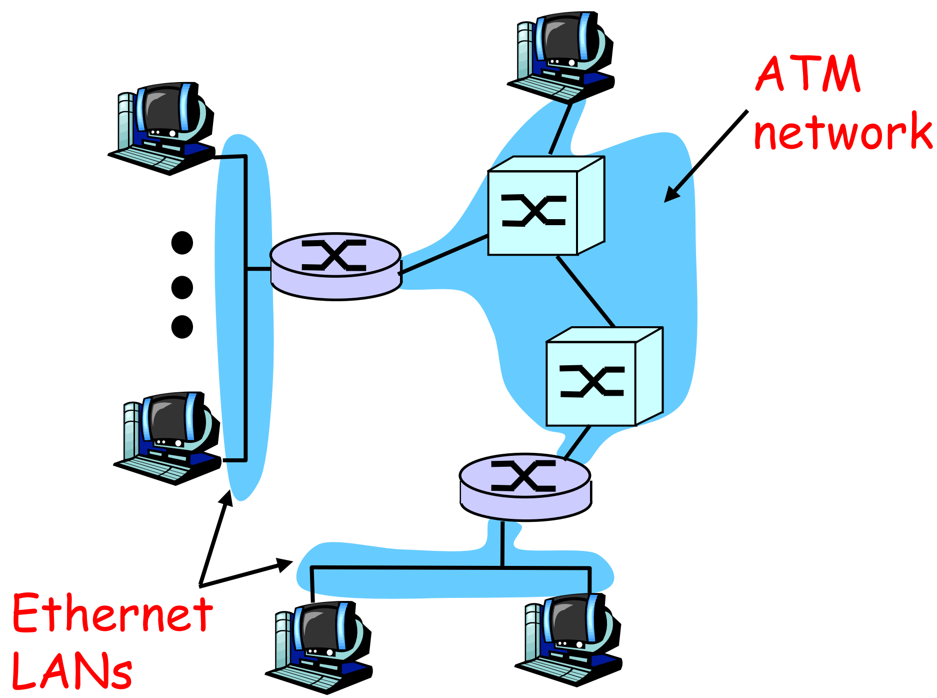
Classic IP only

- 3 "networks" (e.g., LAN segments)
- MAC (802.3) and IP addresses

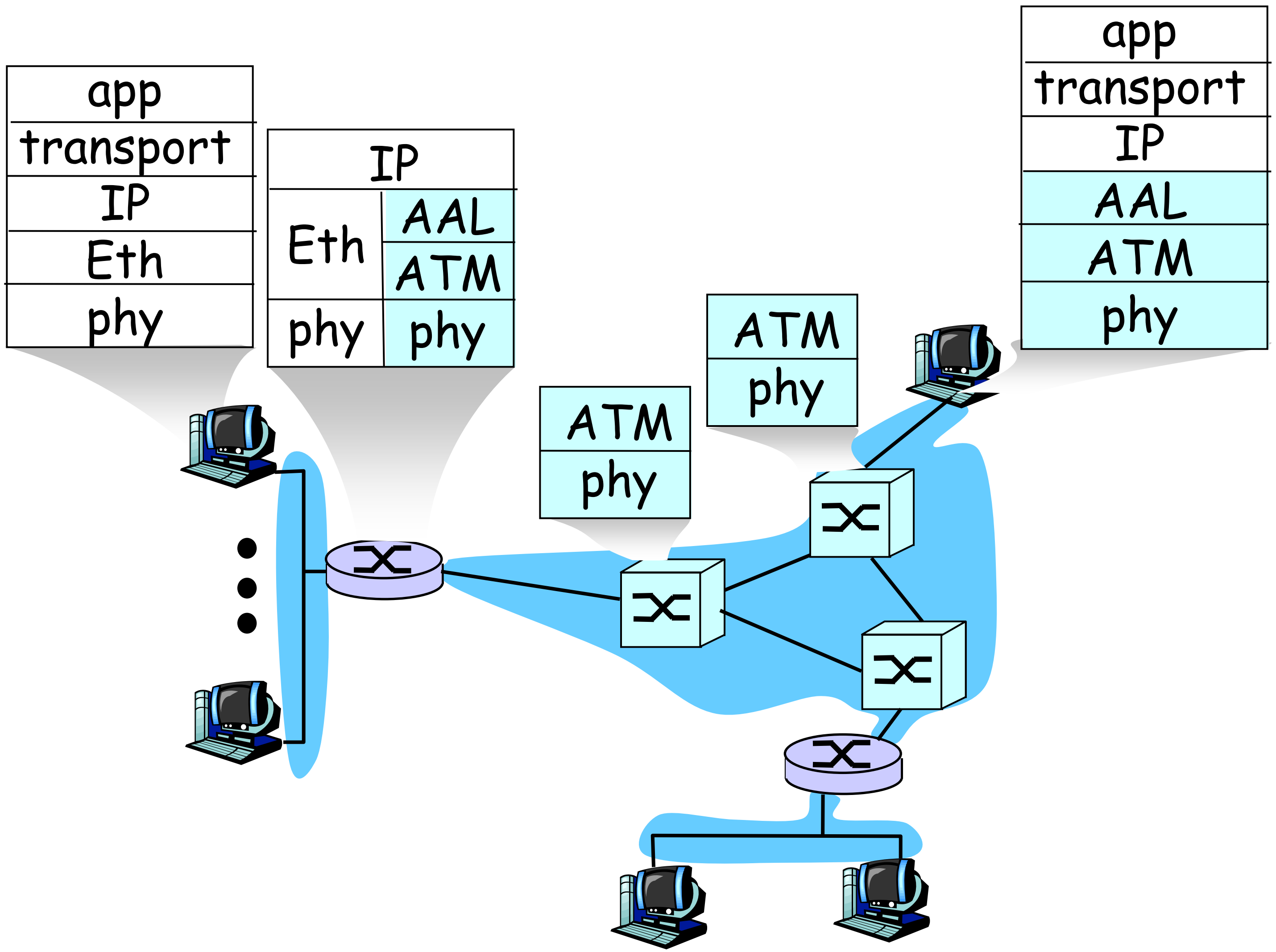


IP over ATM

- replace "network" (e.g., LAN segment) with ATM network
- ATM addresses, IP addresses



IP-Over-ATM


app
transport
IP
Eth
phy
IP
Eth
AAL
ATM
phy
phy
ATM
phy
ATM
phy
app
transport
IP
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ATM
phy

Datagram Journey in IP-over-ATM Network

- at Source Host:
  - IP layer maps between IP, ATM dest address (using ARP)
  - passes datagram to AAL5
  - AAL5 encapsulates data, segments cells, passes to ATM layer
- ATM network: moves cell along VC to destination
- at Destination Host:
  - AAL5 reassembles cells into original datagram
  - if CRC OK, datagram is passed to IP

IP-Over-ATM

Issues:

- IP datagrams into ATM AAL5 PDUs
- from IP addresses to ATM addresses
  - just like IP addresses to 802.3 MAC addresses!