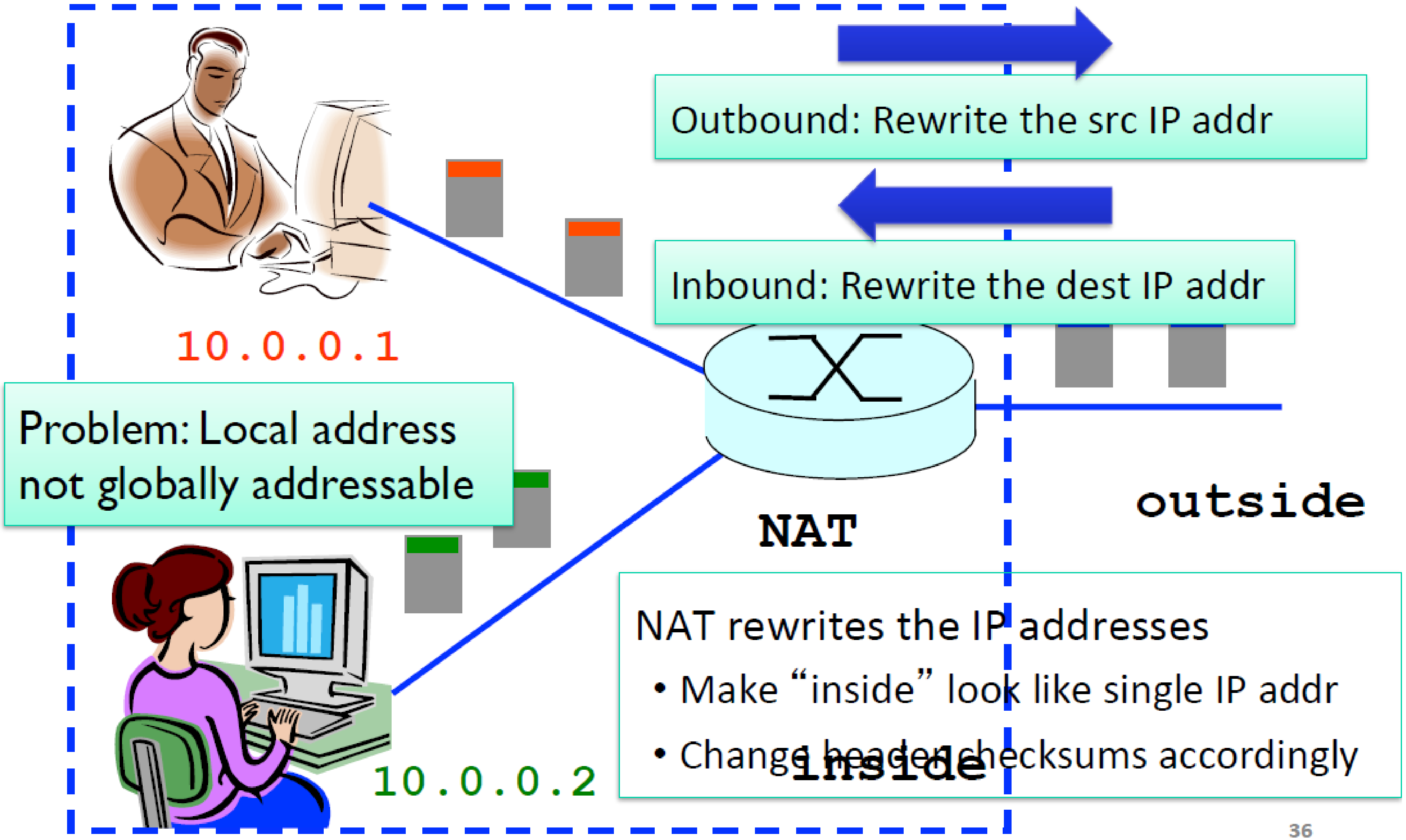
Network Address Translation (NAT)

History of NATs

- IP address space depletion
  - Clear in early 90s that 2^{32} addresses not enough
  - Work began on a successor to IPv4
- In the meantime…
  - Share addresses among numerous devices
  - … without requiring changes to existing hosts
- Meant as a short-term remedy
  - Now: NAT is widely deployed, much more than IPv6

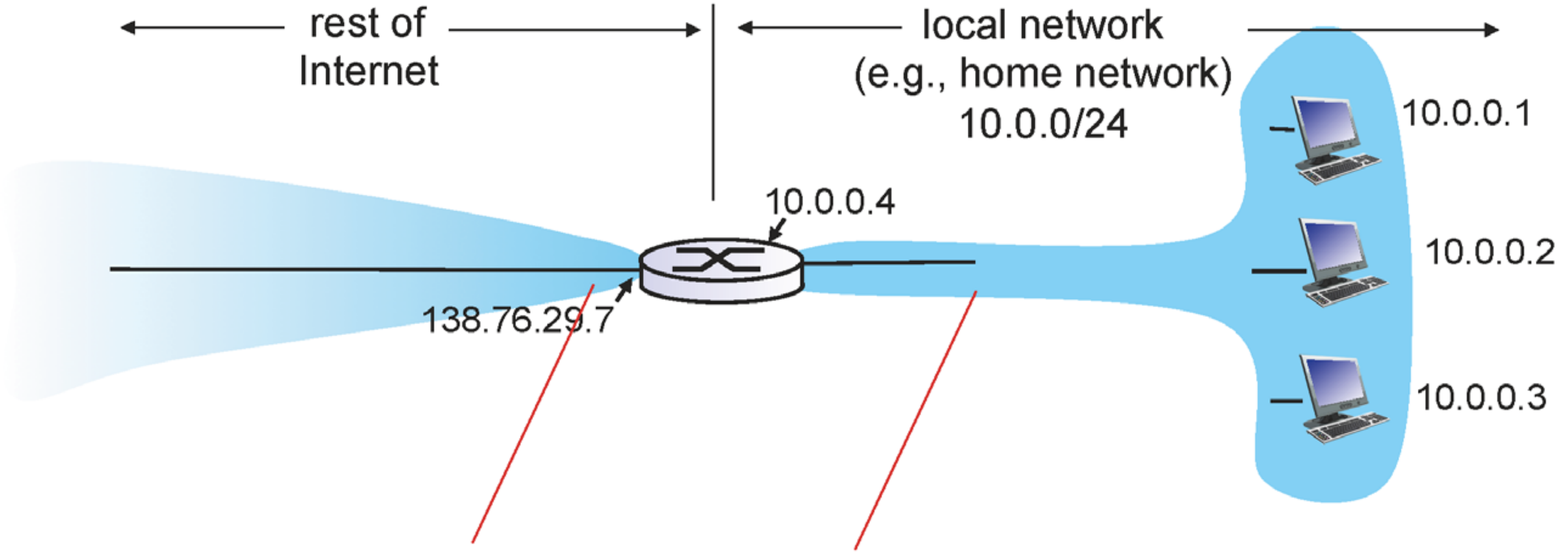
Network Address Translation



NAT rewrites the IP addresses

- Make "inside" look like single IP addr
- Change header checksums accordingly

NAT: network address translation



all datagrams *leaving* local network have *same* single source NAT IP address: 138.76.29.7,different source port numbers

datagrams with source or destination in this network have 10.0.0/24 address for source, destination (as usual)

Principled Objections Against NAT

- Routers are not supposed to look at port #s
  - Network layer should care only about *IP* header
  - … and not be looking at the *port numbers* at all
- NAT violates the end-to-end argument
  - Network nodes should not modify the packets
- IPv6 is a cleaner solution
  - Better to migrate than to limp along with a hack

That's what happens when network puts power in hands of end users!

Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP)

IP addresses: how to get one?

Q: How does a *host* get IP address?

- hard-coded by system admin in a file
  - Windows: control-panel->network->configuration->tcp/ip->properties
  - UNIX: /etc/rc.config
- DHCP: Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol: dynamically get address from as server
  - "plug-and-play"

DHCP: Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol

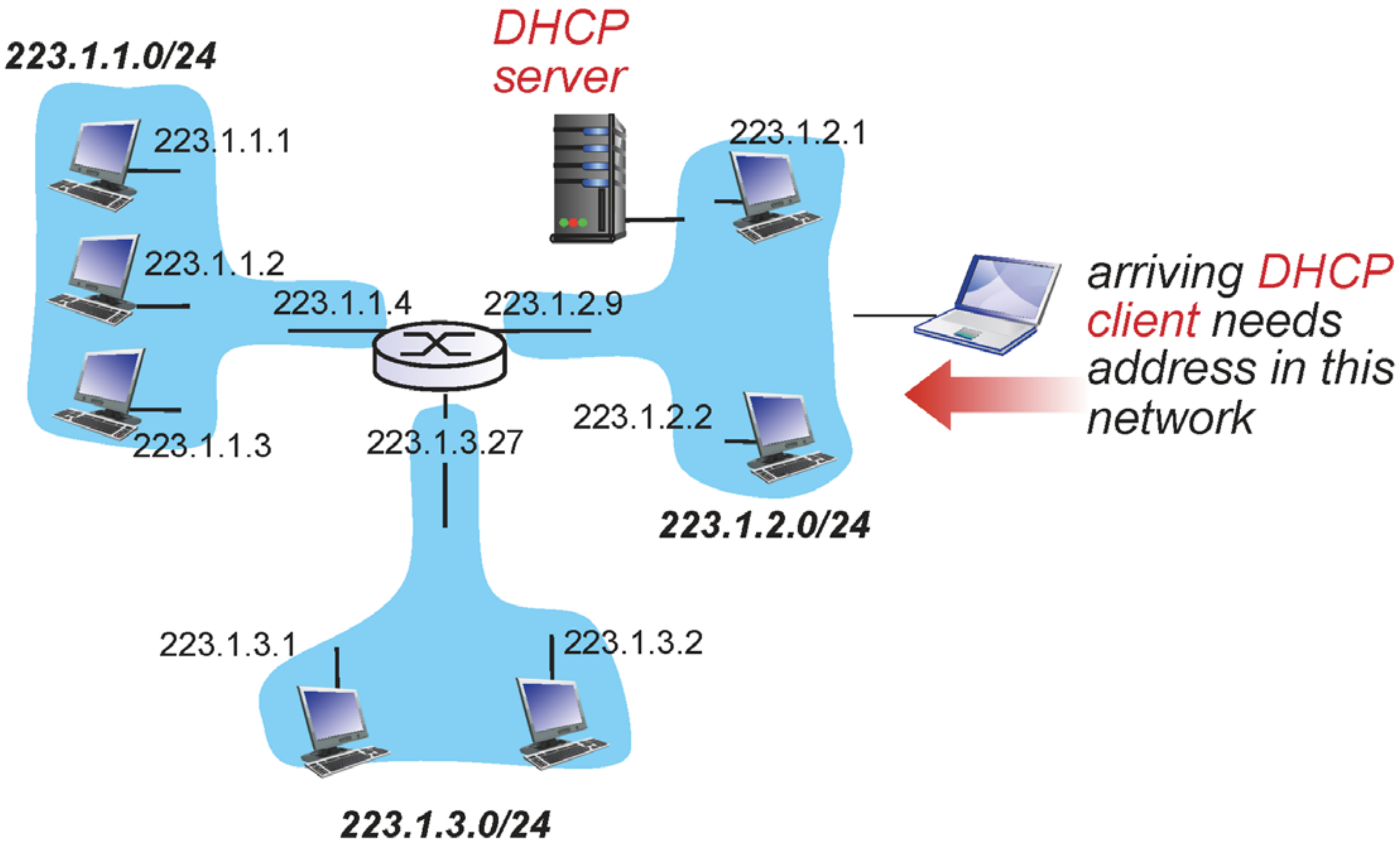
goal: allow host to *dynamically* obtain its IP address from network server when it joins network

- can renew its lease on address in use
- allows reuse of addresses (only hold address while connected/"on")
- support for mobile users who want to join network (more shortly)

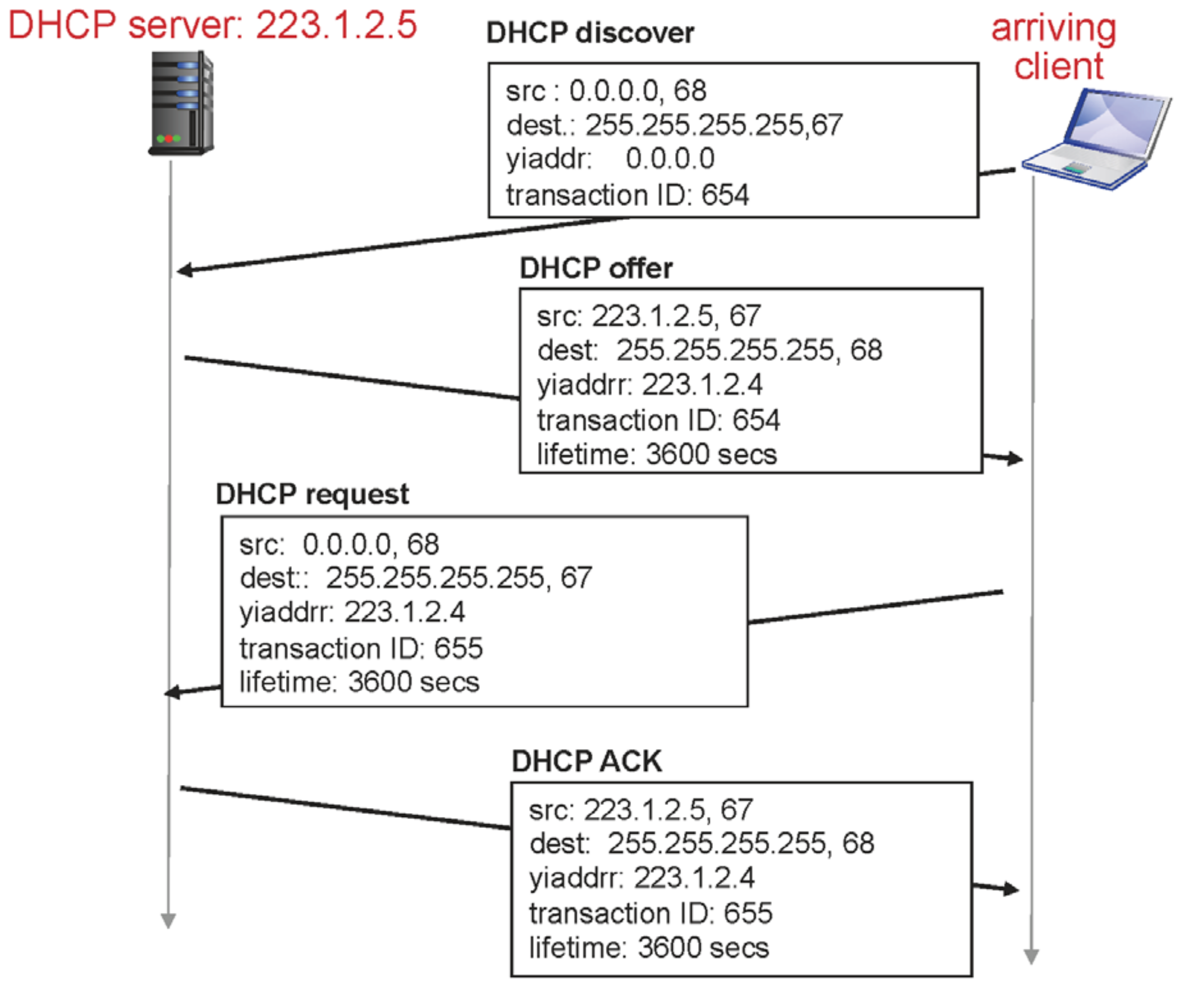
DHCP overview:

- host broadcasts "DHCP discover" msg [optional]
- DHCP server responds with "DHCP offer" msg [optional]
- host requests IP address: "DHCP request" msg
- DHCP server sends address: "DHCP ack" msg

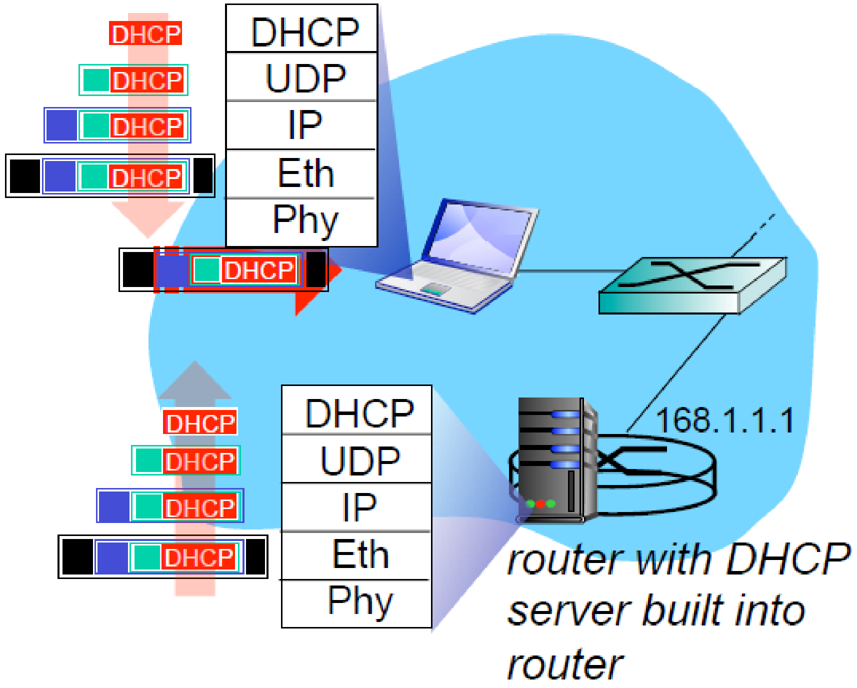
DHCP client-server scenario



DHCP client-server scenario

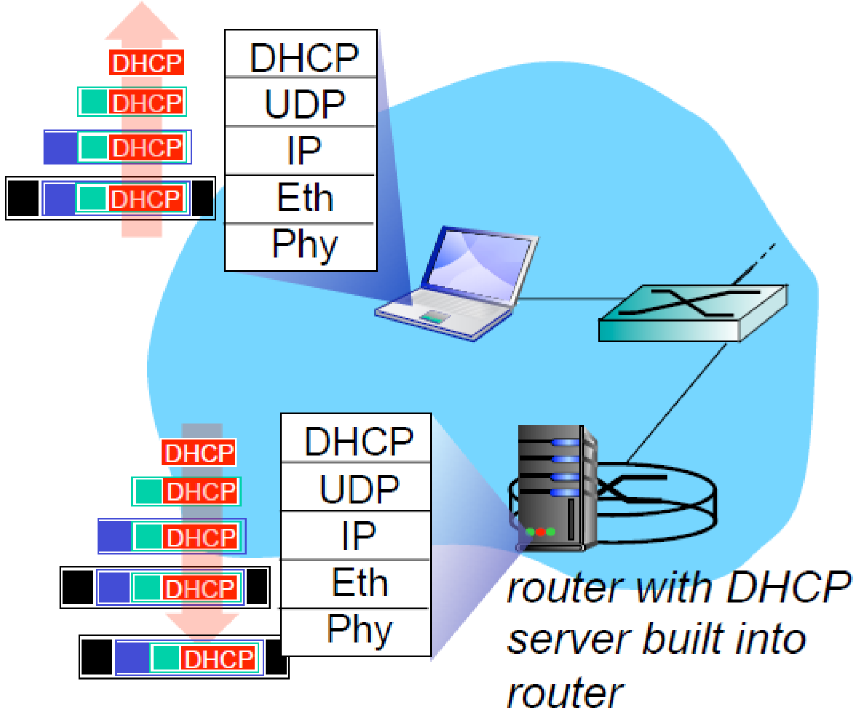


DHCP: example



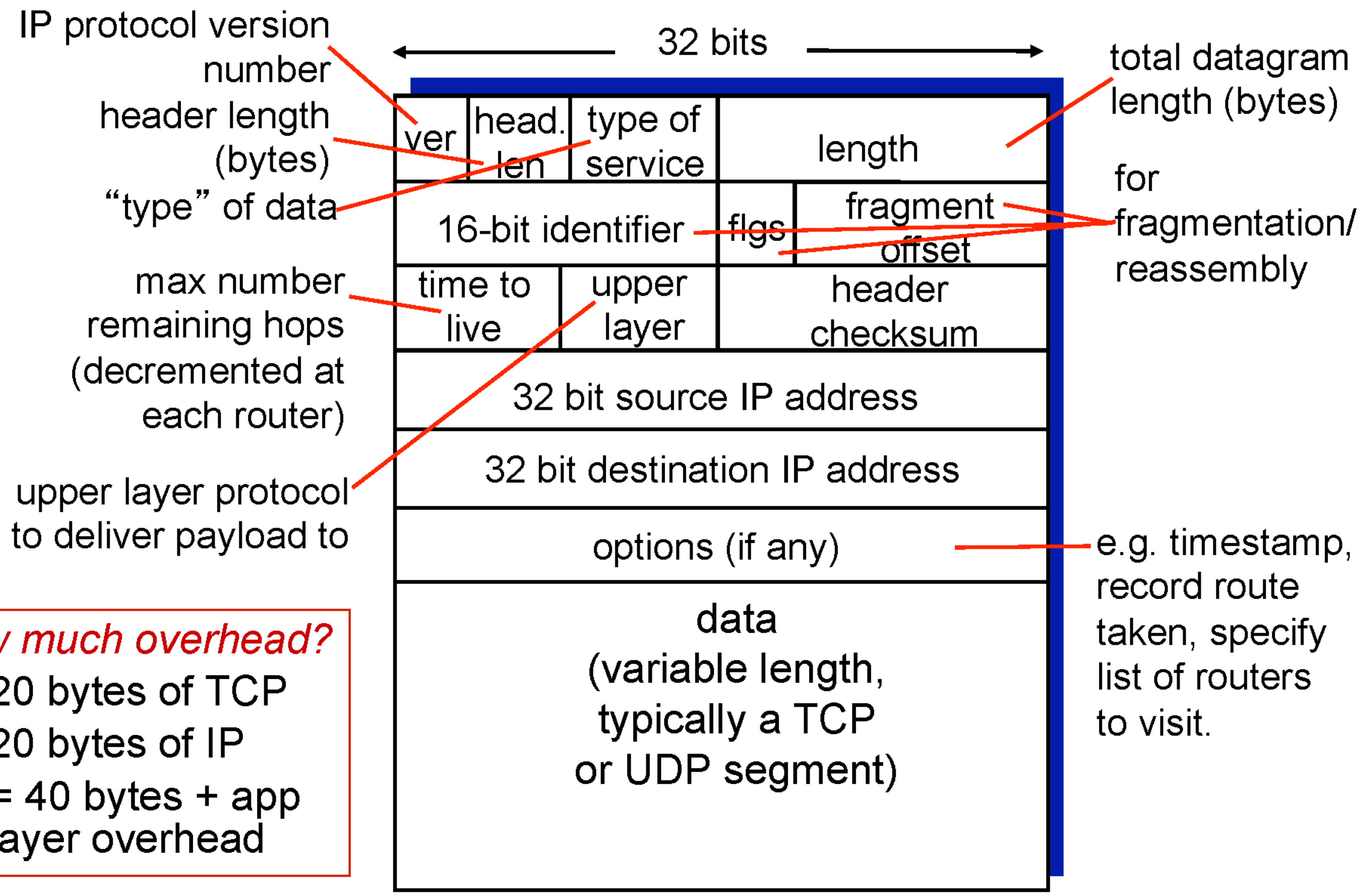
- connecting laptop needs its IP address, addr of first-hop router, addr of DNS server: use DHCP
- DHCP request encapsulated in UDP, encapsulated in IP, encapsulated in 802.1 Ethernet
- Ethernet frame broadcast (dest: FFFFFFFFFFFF) on LAN, received at router running DHCP server
- Ethernet demuxed to IP demuxed, UDP demuxed to DHCP

DHCP: example



- DCP server formulates DHCP ACK containing client' s IP address, IP address of first-hop router for client, name & IP address of DNS server
- encapsulation of DHCP server, frame forwarded to client, demuxing up to DHCP at client
- client now knows its IP address, name and IP address of DSN server, IP address of its first-hop router

IP datagram format

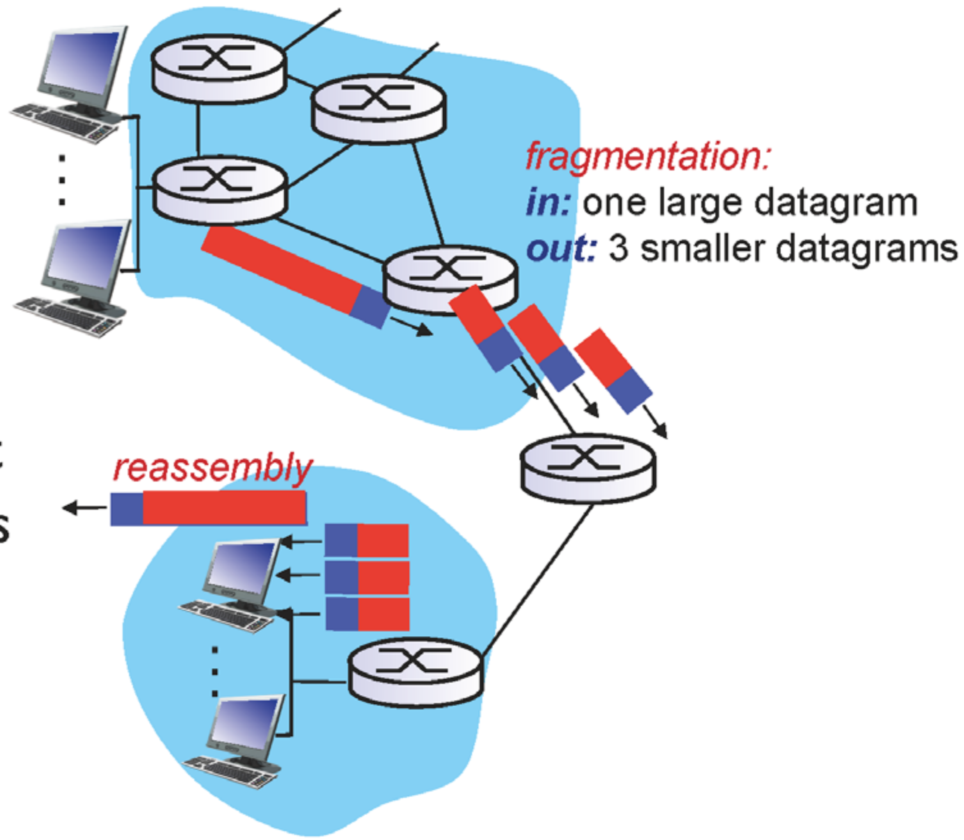


how much overhead?

- 20 bytes of TCP
- 20 bytes of IP
- = 40 bytes + app layer overhead

IP fragmentation, reassembly

- network links have MTU (max.transfer size) - largest possible link-level frame
  - different link types, different MTUs
- large IP datagram divided ("fragmented") within net
  - one datagram becomes several datagrams
  - "reassembled" only at final destination
  - IP header bits used to identify, order related fragments



IP fragmentation, reassembly

example:

- 4000 byte datagram
- MTU = 1500 bytes