Point to Point Data Link Control

- one sender, one receiver, one link: easier than broadcast link:
  - no Media Access Control
  - no need for explicit MAC addressing
  - e.g., dialup link, ISDN line
- popular point-to-point DLC protocols:
  - PPP (point-to-point protocol)
  - HDLC: High level data link control (Data link used to be considered "high layer" in protocol stack!

PPP Design Requirements [RFC 1557]

- packet framing: encapsulation of network-layer datagram in data link frame
  - carry network layer data of any network layer protocol (not just IP) *at same time*
  - ability to demultiplex upwards
- bit transparency: must carry any bit pattern in the data field
- error detection (no correction)
- connection liveness: detect, signal link failure to network layer
- network layer address negotiation: endpoint can learn/configure each other's network address

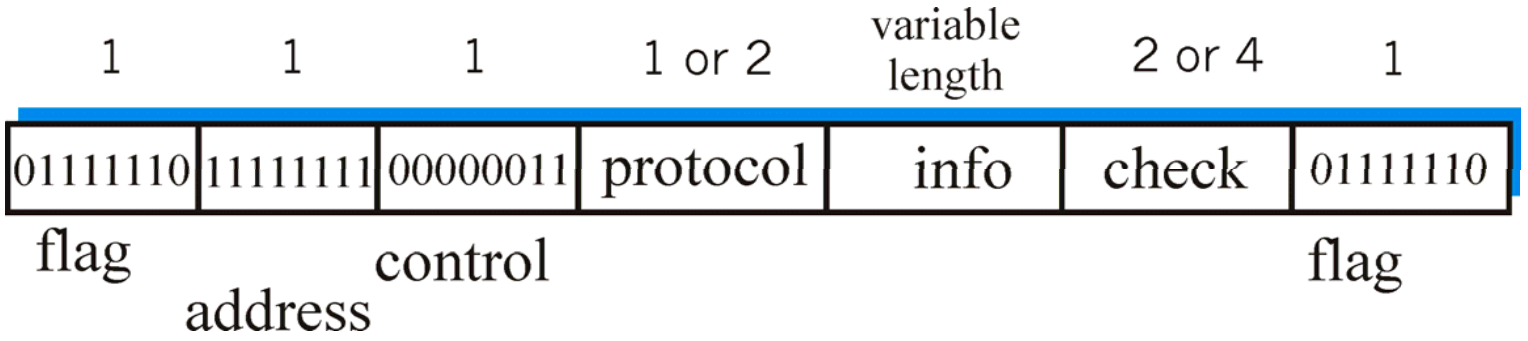
PPP non-requirements

- no error correction/recovery
- no flow control
- out of order delivery OK
- no need to support multipoint links (e.g., polling)

Error recovery, flow control, data re-ordering
all relegated to higher layers!

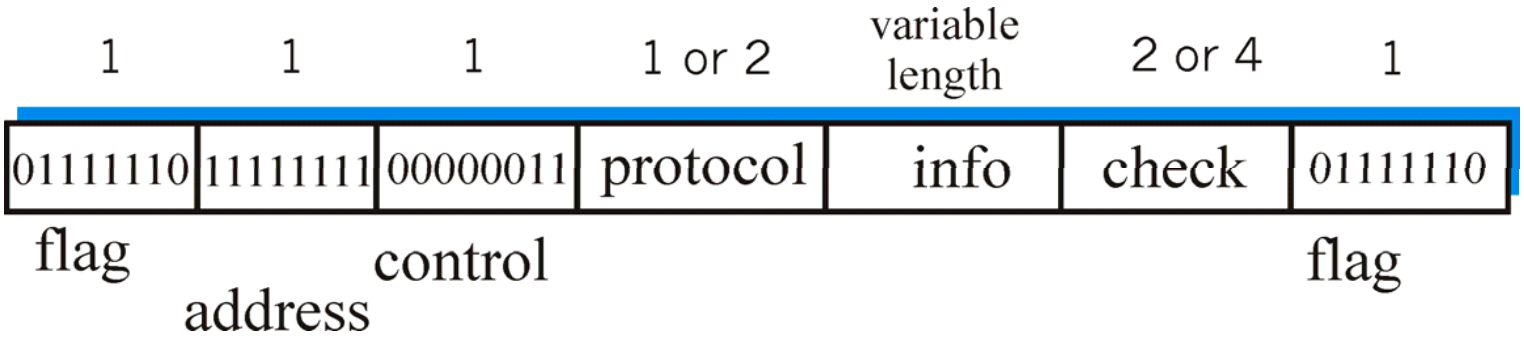
PPP Data Frame

- Flag: delimiter (framing)
- Address: does nothing (only one option)
- Control: does nothing; in the future possible multiple control fields
- Protocol: upper layer protocol to which frame delivered (eg, PPP-LCP, IP, IPCP, etc)



PPP Data Frame

- info: upper layer data being carried
- check: cyclic redundancy check for error detection

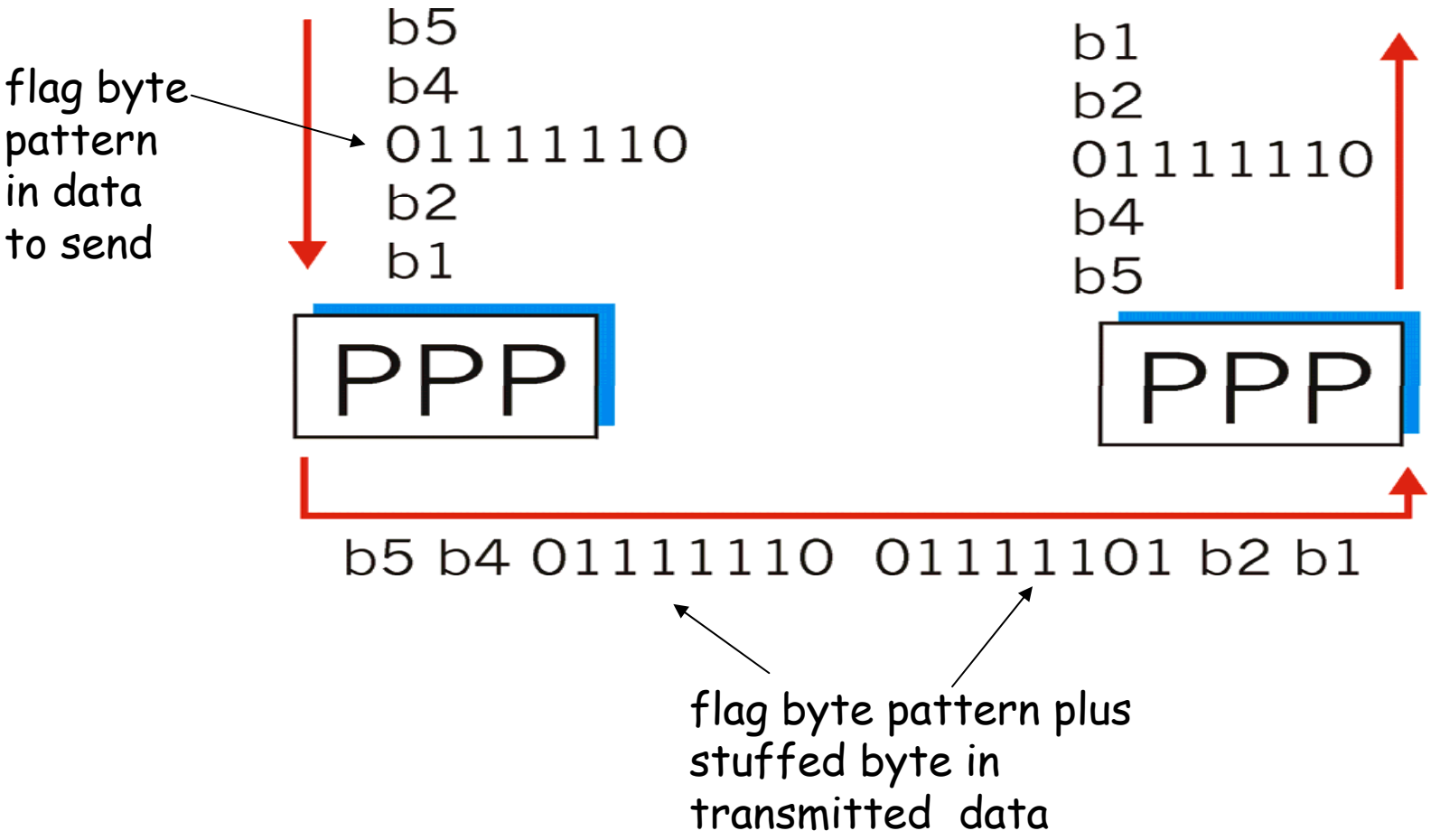


Byte Stuffing

- "data transparency" requirement: data field must be allowed to include flag pattern <01111110>
  - Q: is received <01111110> data or flag?

- Sender: adds ("stuffs") extra < 01111110> byte after each < 01111110> *data* byte
- Receiver:
  - two 01111110 bytes in a row: discard first byte, continue data reception
  - single 01111110: flag byte

Byte Stuffing



PPP Data Control Protocol

Before exchanging network-layer data, data link peers must

- configure PPP link (max. frame length, authentication)
- learn/configure network layer information
  - for IP: carry IP Control Protocol (IPCP) msgs (protocol field: 8021) to configure/learn IP address