Chapter 1

Introduction

1-1 DATA COMMUNICATIONS

*The term **telecommunication** means communication at a distance. The word **data** refers to information presented in whatever form is agreed upon by the parties creating and using the data. **Data communications** are the exchange of data between two devices via some form of transmission medium such as a wire cable. The **effectiveness** (فعالية) of data communication depends on the following fundamentals characteristics: delivery(التسليم), Accuracy(الدقة), and timeliness (التوقيت).*

1.2

Topics discussed in this section:

➢ **Components of a data communications system**
➢ **Data Flow**

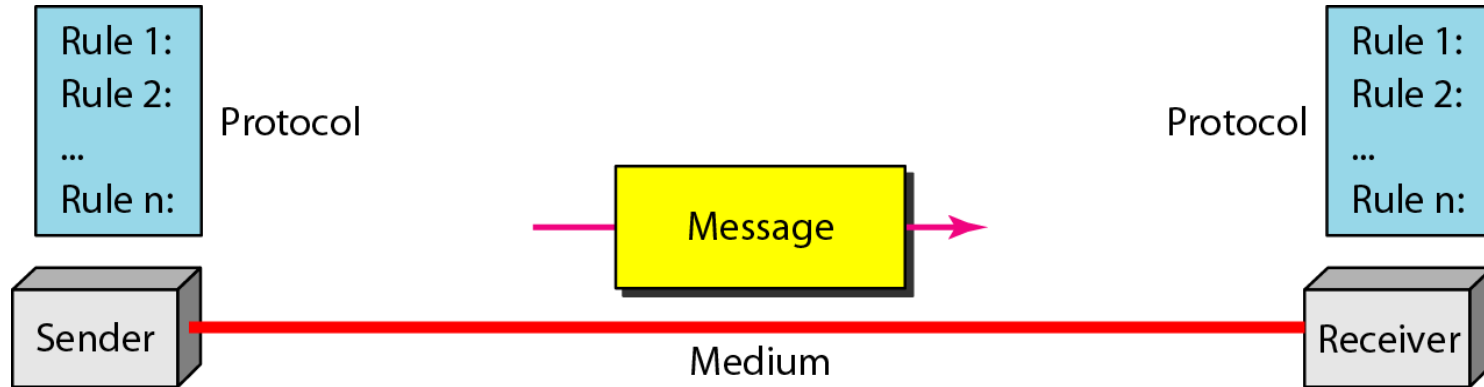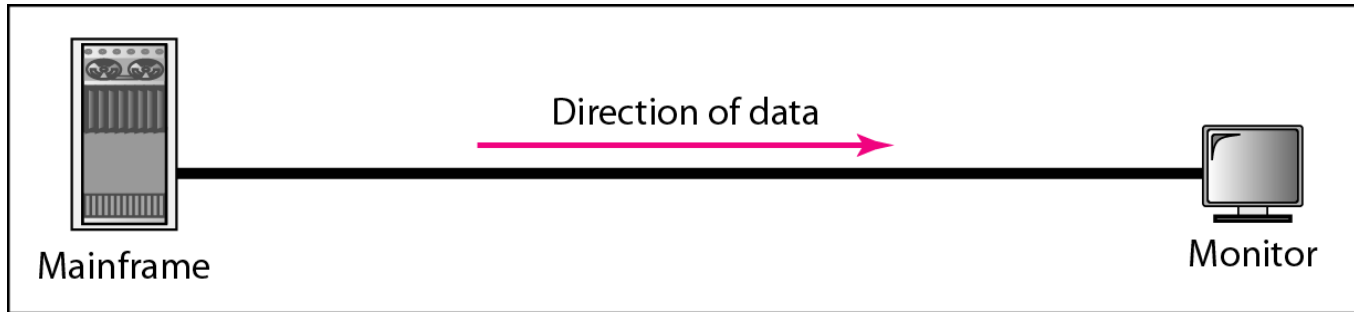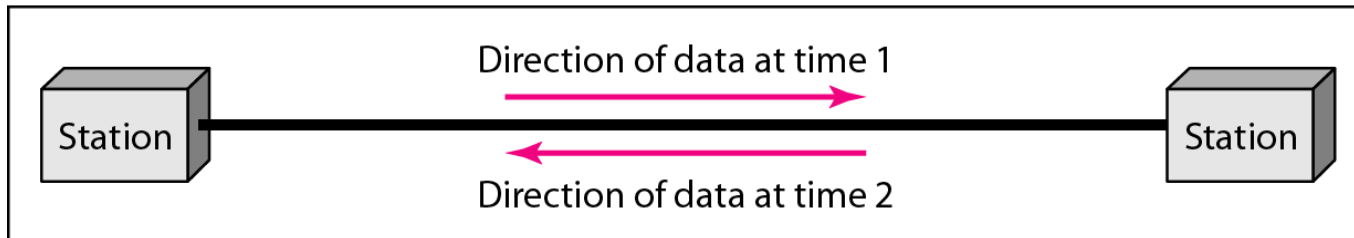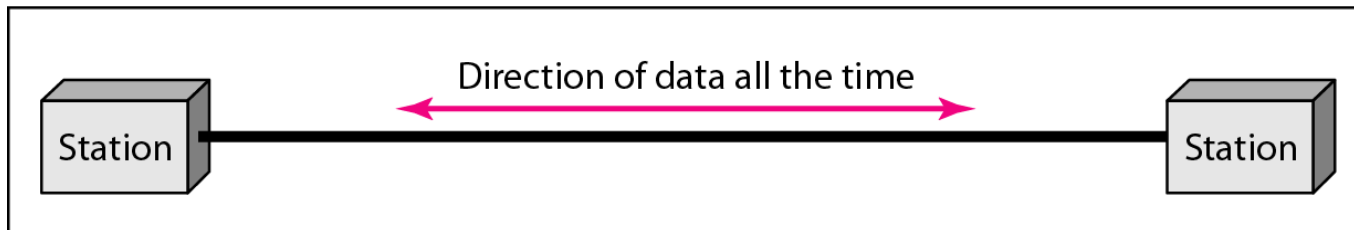# Figure 1.1 *Components of a data communication system*

Figure 1.2 *Data flow (simplex, half-duplex, and full-duplex)*

a. Simplex

b. Half-duplex

c. Full-duplex

1-2 NETWORKS

A network is a set of devices (often referred to as nodes) connected by communication links. A node can be a computer, printer, or any other device capable of sending and/or receiving data generated by other nodes on the network. A link can be a cable, air, optical fiber, or any medium which can transport a signal carrying information.

Topics discussed in this section:

- **Network Criteria**
- **Physical Structures**
- **Categories of Networks**

1.6

Network Criteria

A network must be able to meet (تلبية) a certain number of criteria. The most important of these are:

- **Performance (الاداء)**
  - **Depends on Network Elements (number of users, type of transmission medium, capabilities of connecting hardware, and the efficiency of the software).**
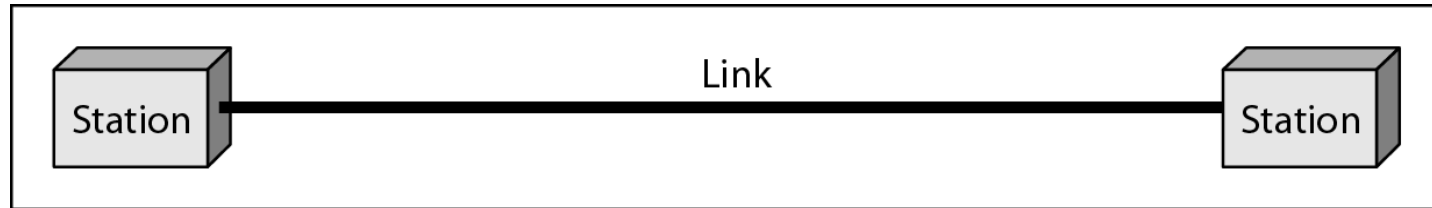 - **Measured in terms of Delay (less) and Throughput (الانتاجية) (high)**

- **Reliability**
  - **Failure rate (معدل الفشل) of network components**
  - **Measured in terms of availability/robustness (المتانة)**
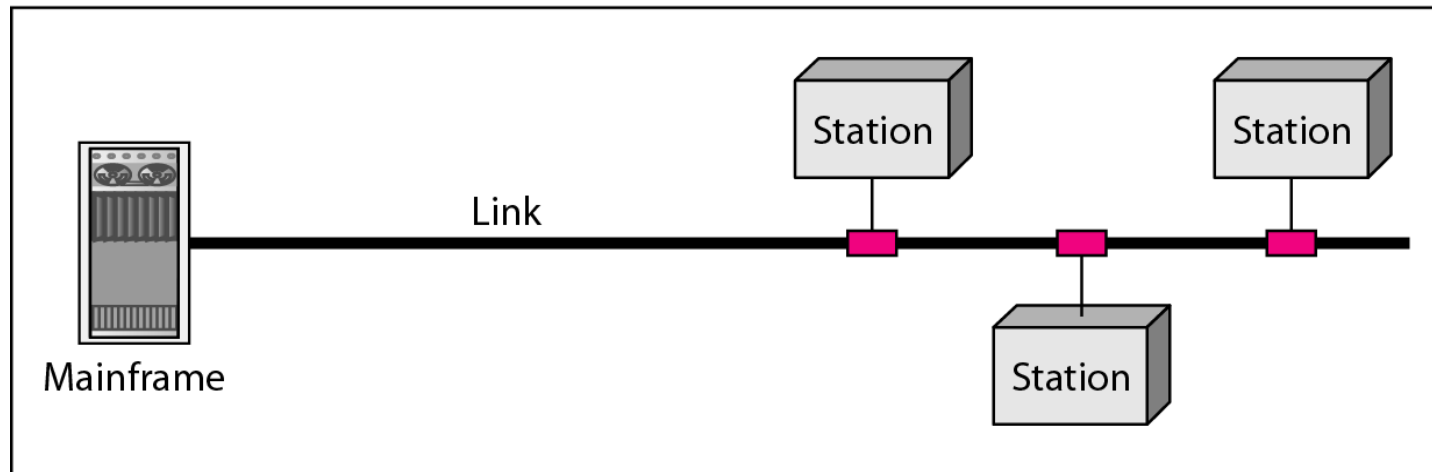
- **Security**
  - **Data protection against corruption/loss of data due to:**
    - **Errors**
    - **Malicious users (المستخدمين الضارين)**

Figure 1.3 *Types of connections: point-to-point and multipoint*

a. Point-to-point

b. Multipoint
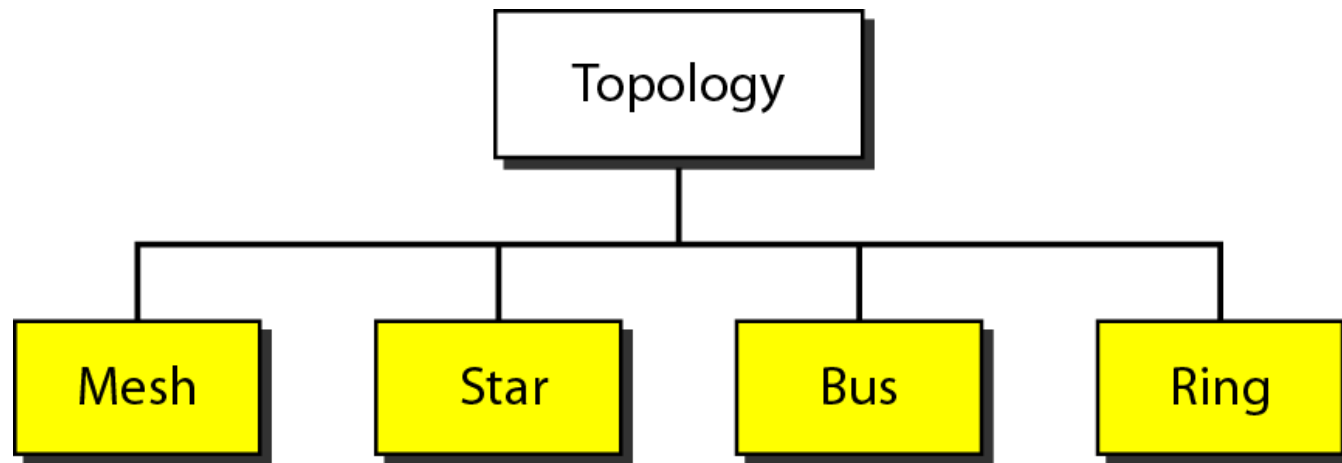
Figure 1.4 *Categories of topology*

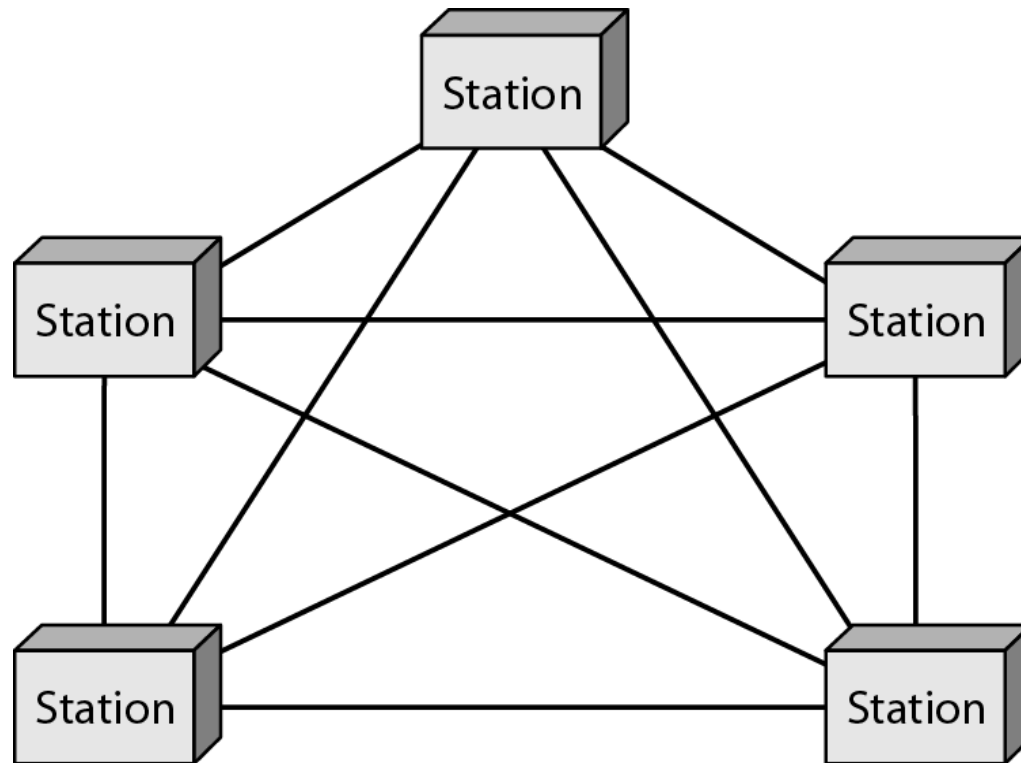# Figure 1.5 *A fully connected mesh topology (five devices)*

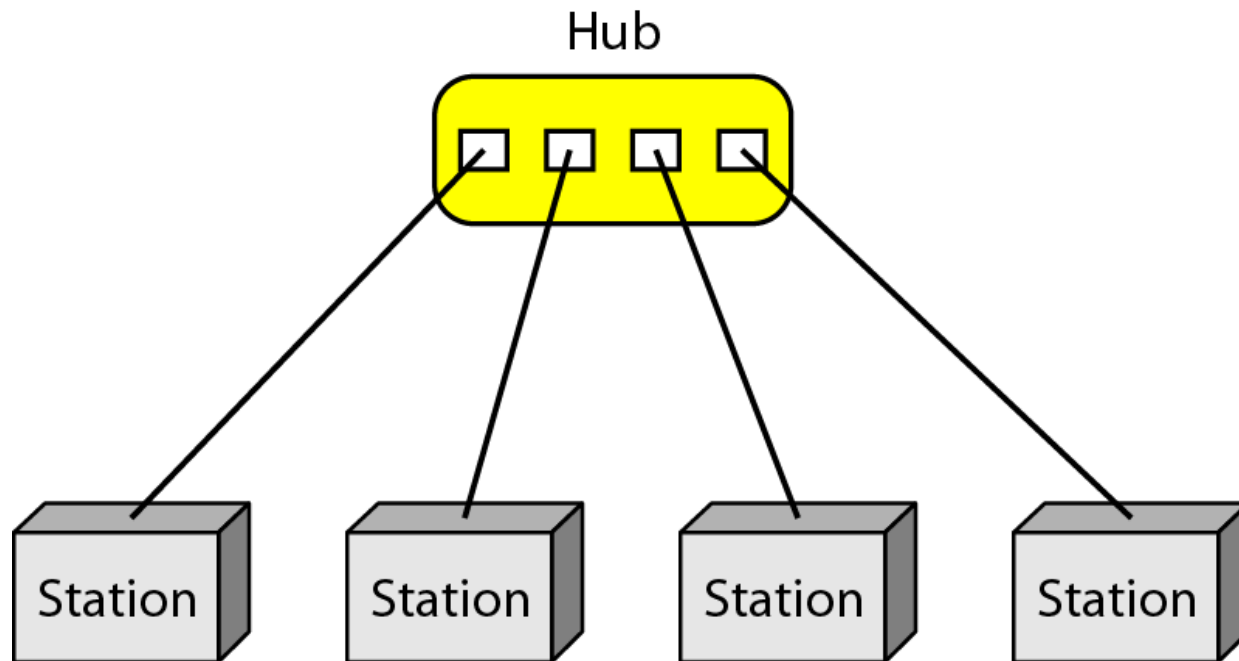# **Figure 1.6** *A star topology connecting four stations*

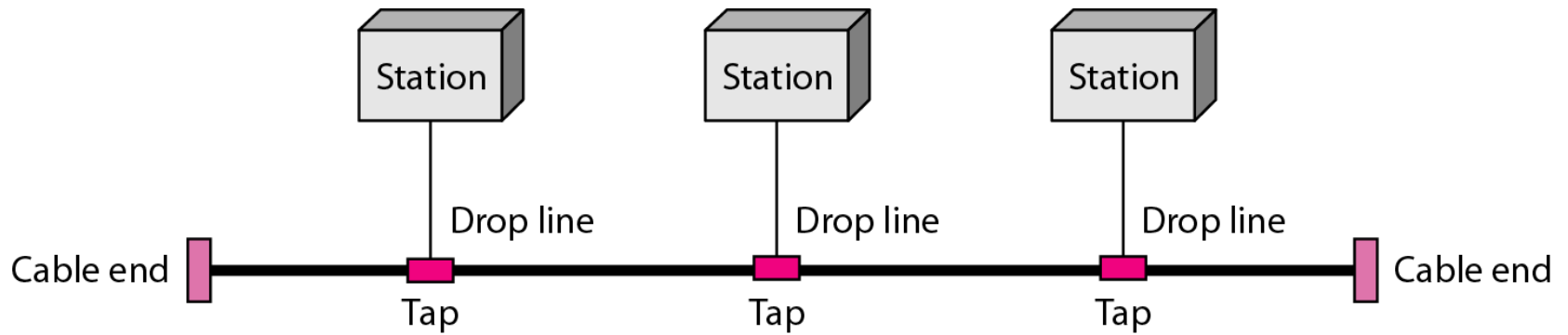# Figure 1.7 *A bus topology connecting three stations*

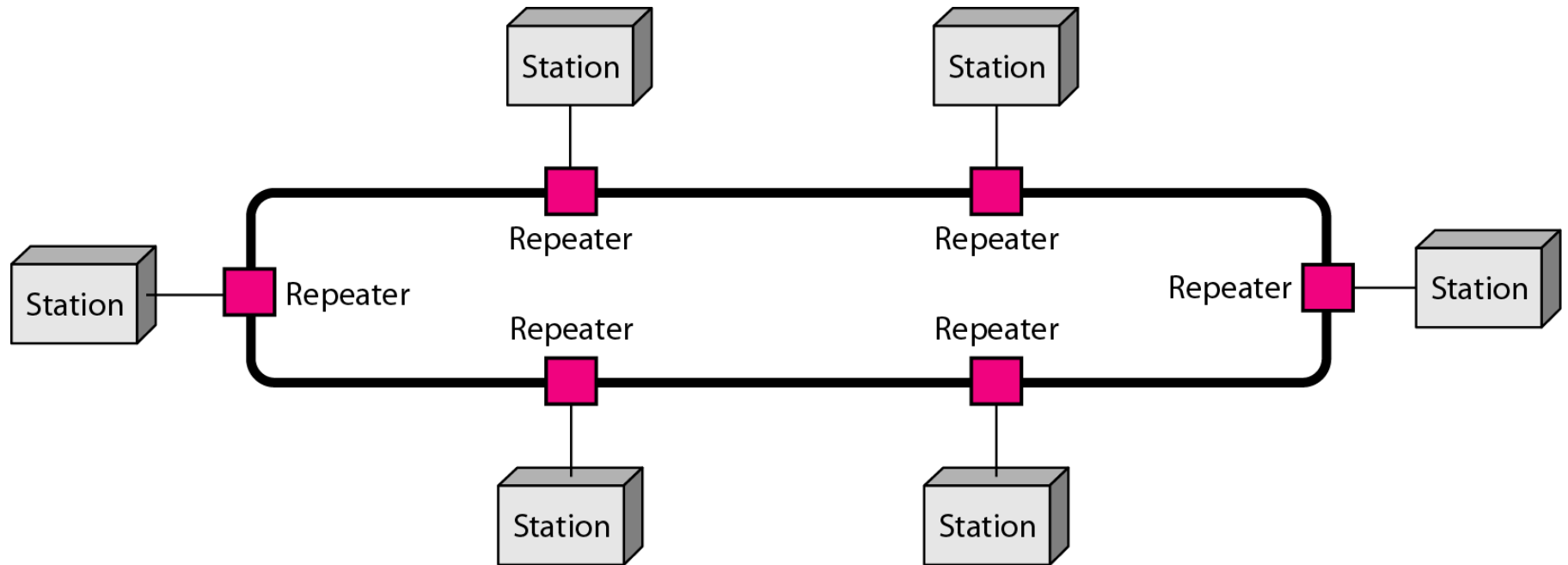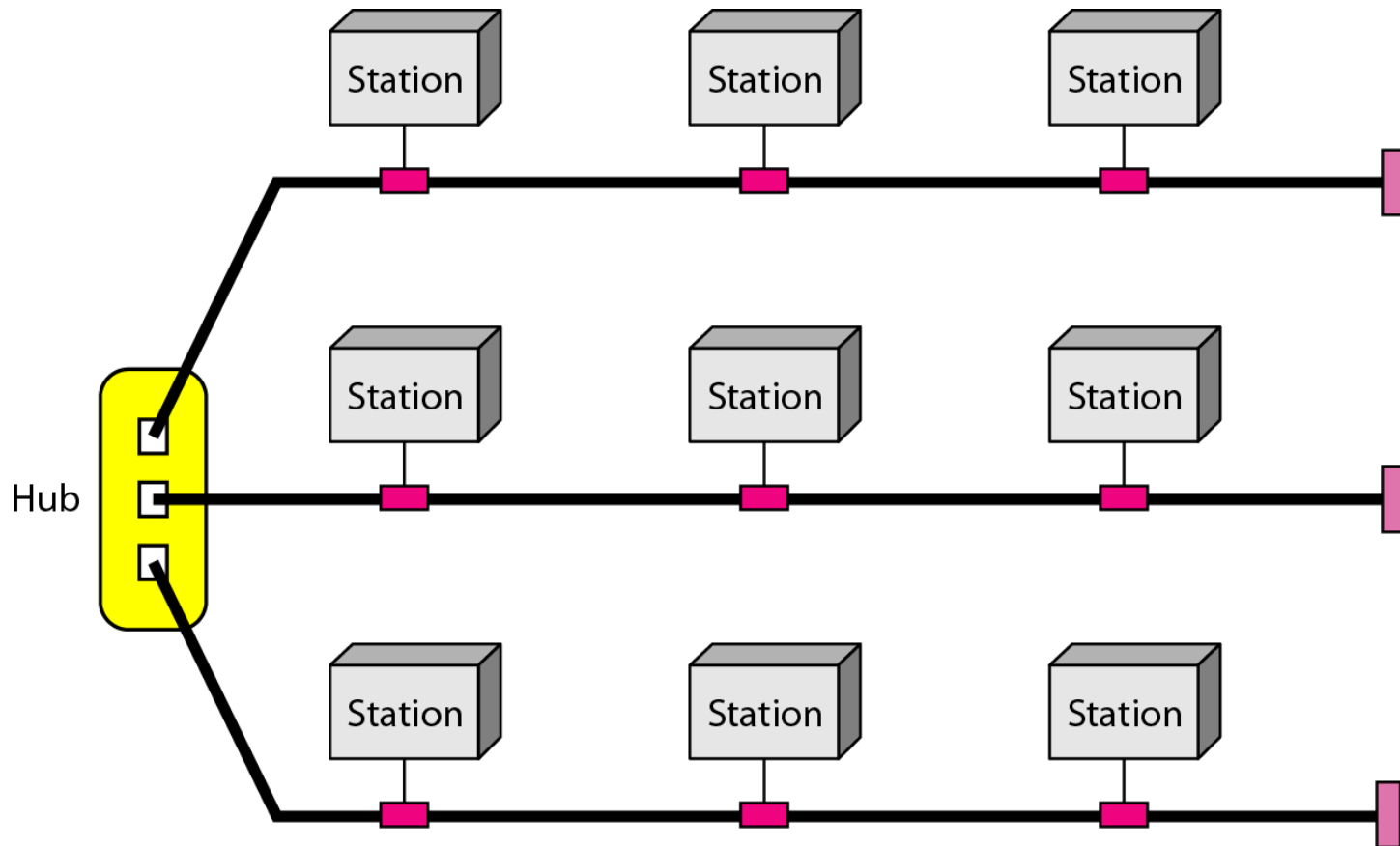# Figure 1.8 *A ring topology connecting six stations*

Figure 1.9 *A hybrid topology: a star backbone with three bus networks*

Categories of Networks

- **Local Area Networks (LANs)**
  - **Short distances**
  - **Designed to provide local interconnectivity**

- **Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs)**
  - **Provide connectivity over areas such as a city, a campus**

- **Wide Area Networks (WANs)**
  - **Long distances**
  - **Provide connectivity over large areas**

Figure 1.10 *An isolated LAN connecting 12 computers to a hub in a closet*
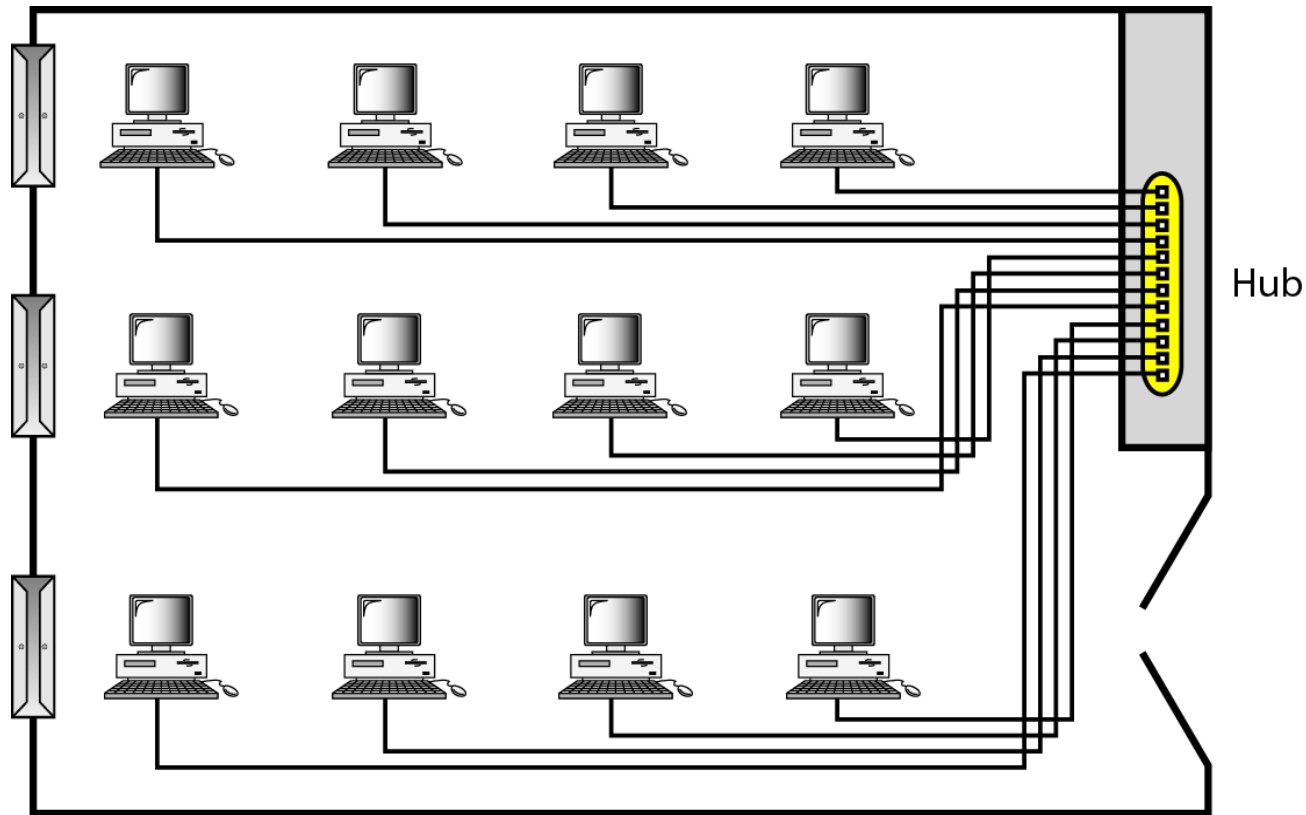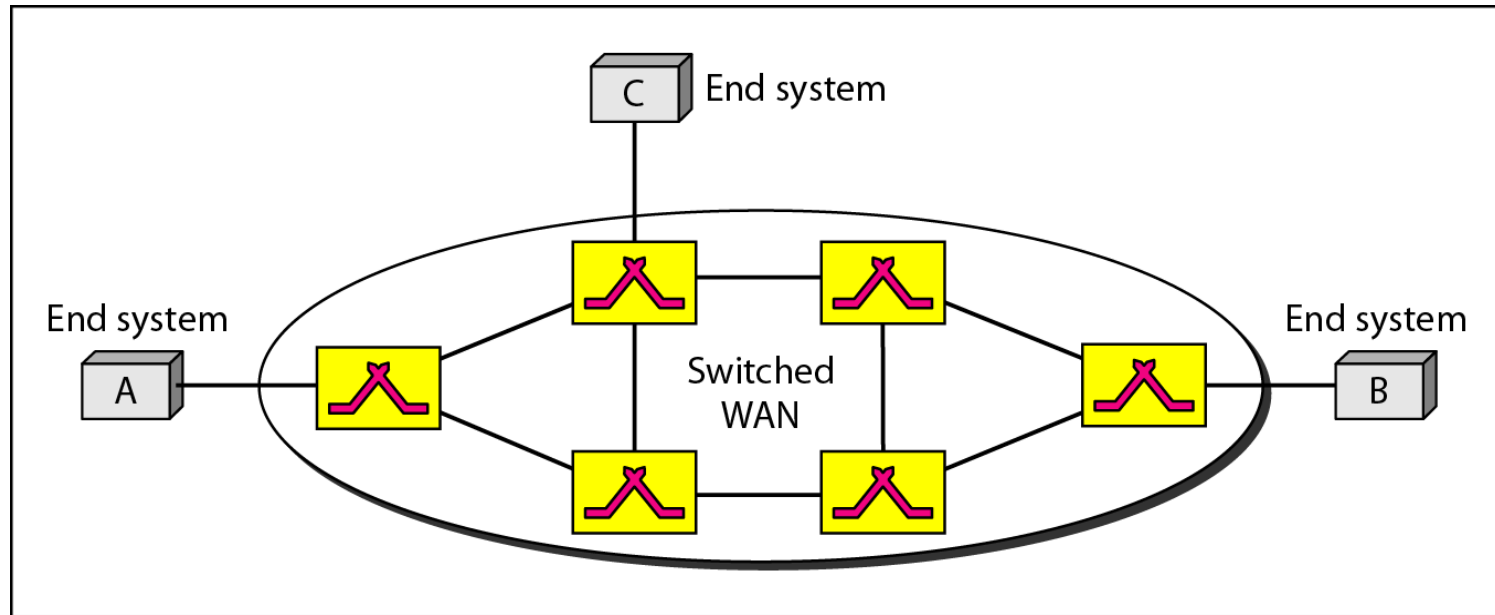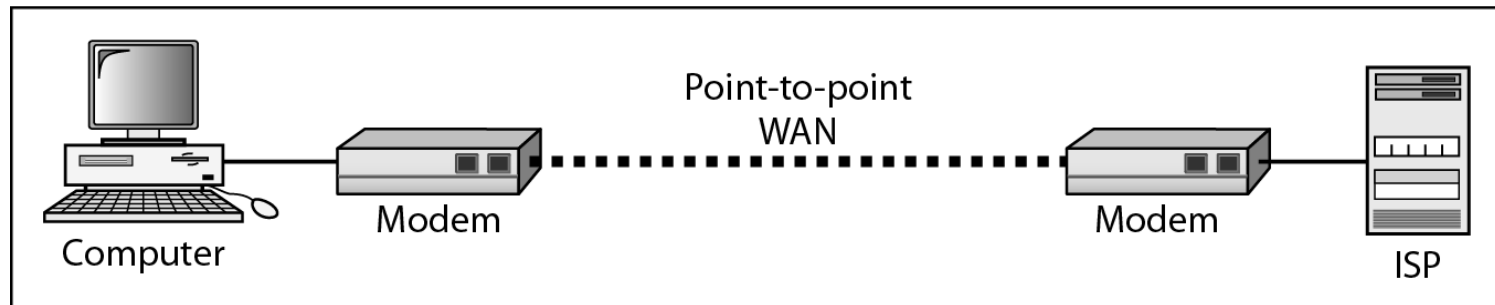

Hub

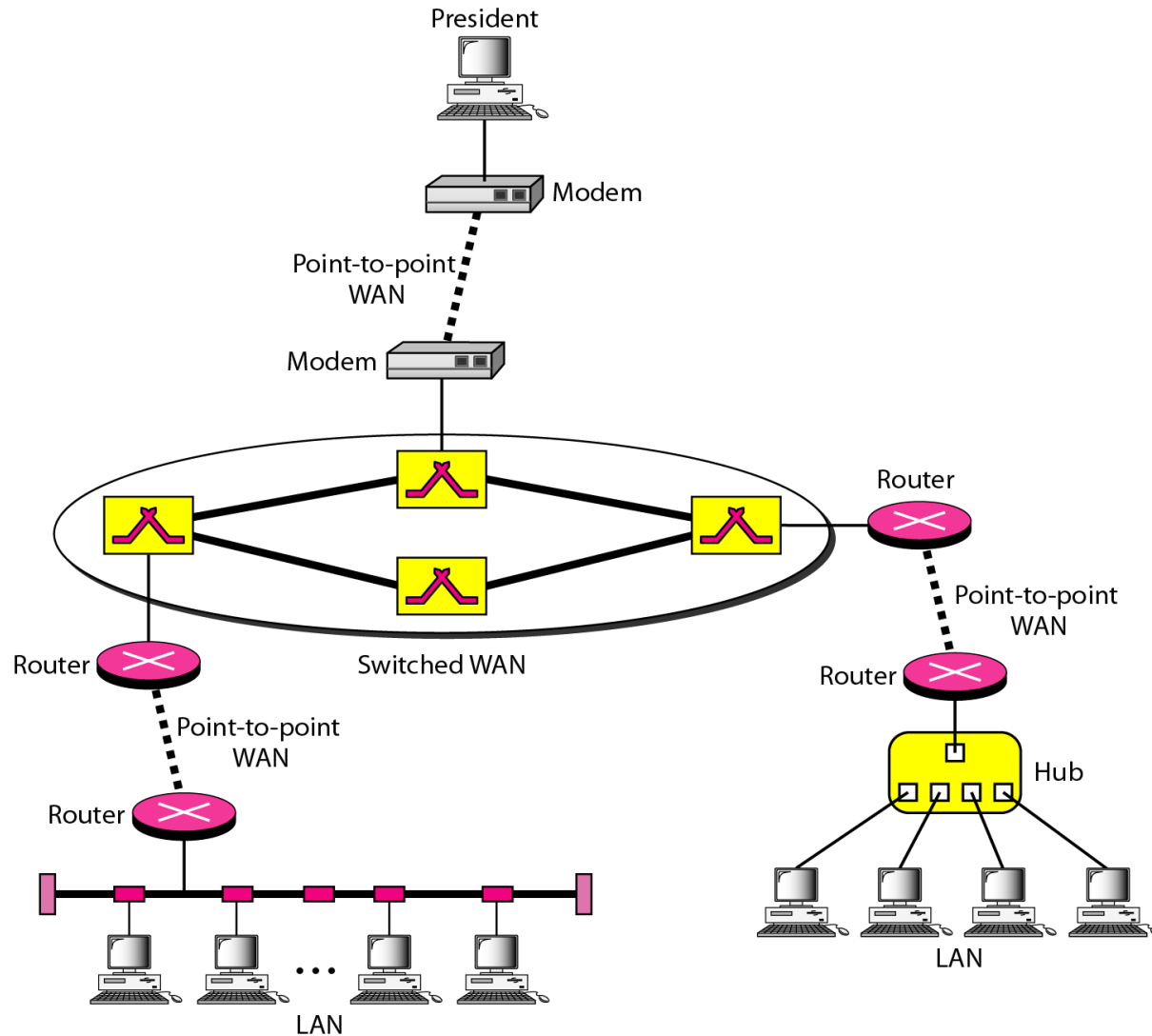# Figure 1.11 *WANs: a switched WAN and a point-to-point WAN*

a. Switched WAN

b. Point-to-point WAN

Figure 1.12 *A heterogeneous network made of four WANs and two LANs*

President

Modem

Point-to-point
WAN

Modem

Router

Switched WAN

Point-to-point
WAN

Router

Router

Point-to-point
WAN

Router

Hub

LAN

LAN

1-3   THE INTERNET

The Internet has revolutionized many aspects of our daily lives. It has affected the way we do business as well as the way we spend our leisure time. The Internet is a communication system that has brought a wealth of information to our fingertips and organized it for our use.
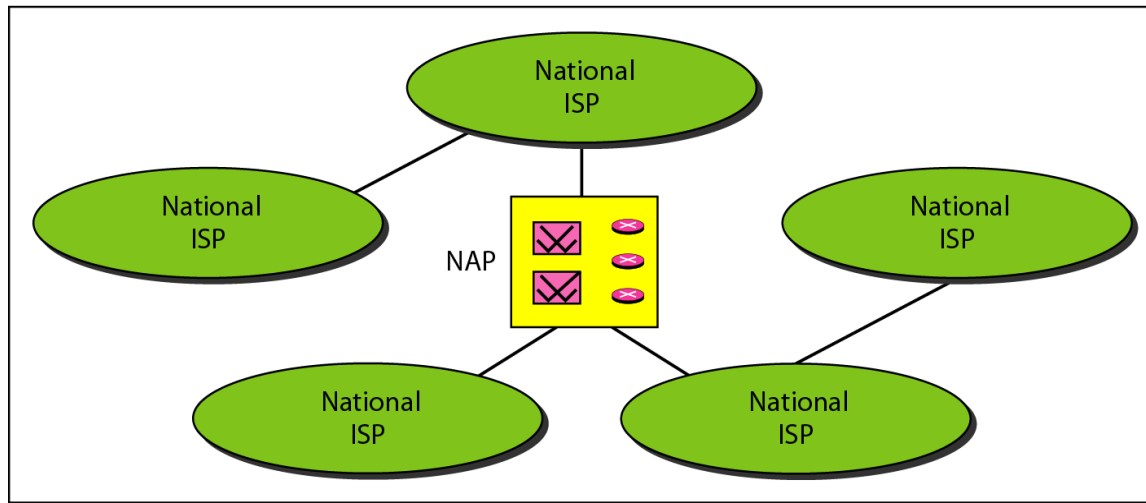
Topics discussed in this section:

Organization of the Internet
Internet Service Providers (ISPs)

Figure 1.13 *Hierarchical organization of the Internet*
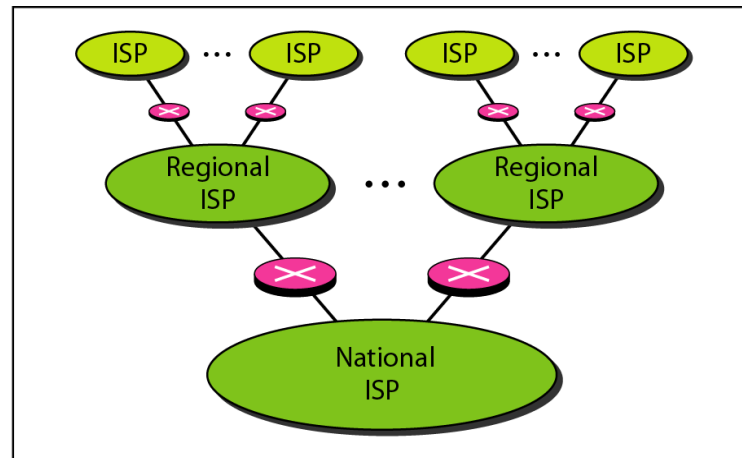
a. Structure of a national ISP

b. Interconnection of national ISPs

1-4   PROTOCOLS

A protocol is synonymous with rule. It consists of a set of rules that govern data communications. It determines what is communicated, how it is communicated and when it is communicated. The key elements of a protocol are syntax, semantics and timing

Topics discussed in this section:

- **Syntax**
- **Semantics**
- **Timing**

Elements of a Protocol

- **Syntax**
  - **Structure or format of the data**
  - **Indicates how to read the bits - field delineation**

- **Semantics**
  - **Interprets the meaning of the bits**
  - **Knows which fields define what action**

- **Timing**
  - **When data should be sent and what**
  - **Speed at which data should be sent or speed at which it is being received.**