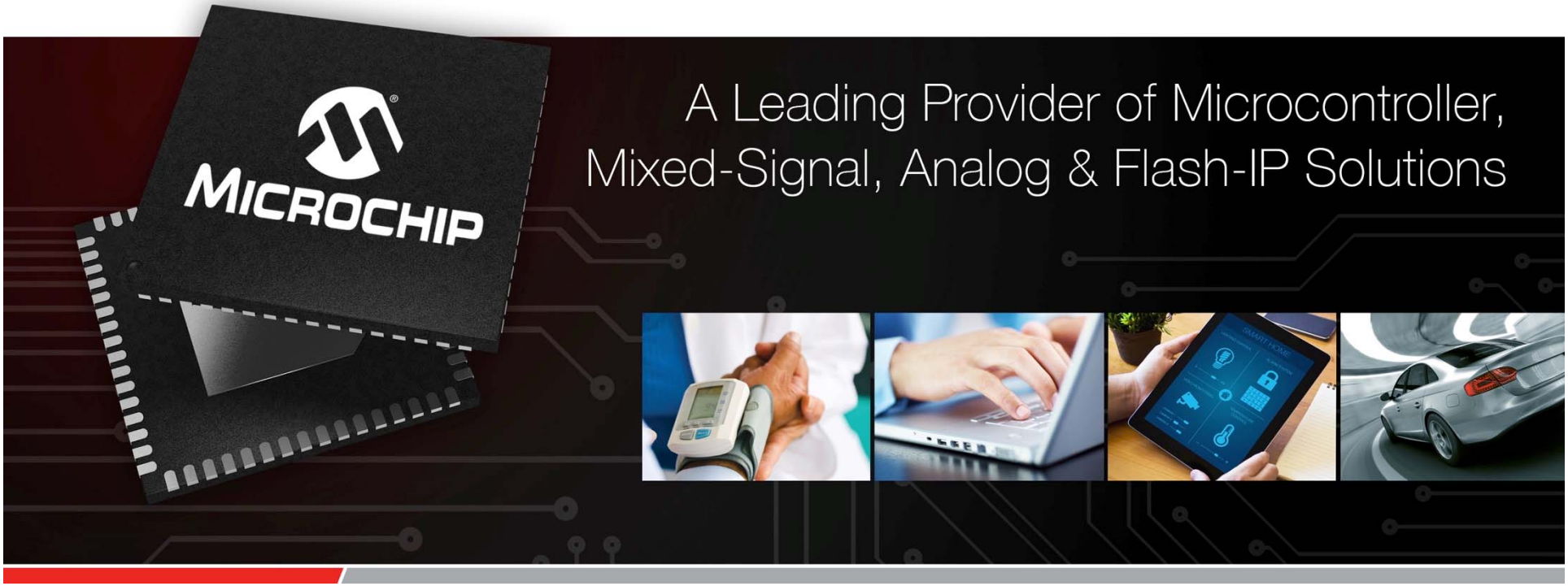
MICROCHIP



IEEE 802.3cg
Unbalanced PLCA Issue
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Unbalanced PLCA Issue (comment 613)

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Introduction

- **PLCA test environment:**
  - 2 Nodes (A and B) with PLCA enabled
  - MACs A and B keep sending back to back

- **The issue we see:**
  - Sometimes, the pattern is ABB instead AB
  - Results in a 1:2 bandwidth ratio instead 1:1

→ unbalanced bandwidth distribution w/ PLCA

Unbalanced Bandwidth

- **The pattern we expect to see:**

Bus cycle	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8	
TO	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
Node A	TX	COL	TX	COL	TX	COL	TX	COL	TX	COL	TX	COL	TX	COL	TX	COL
Node B	COL	TX	COL	TX	COL	TX	COL	TX	COL	TX	COL	TX	COL	TX	COL	TX

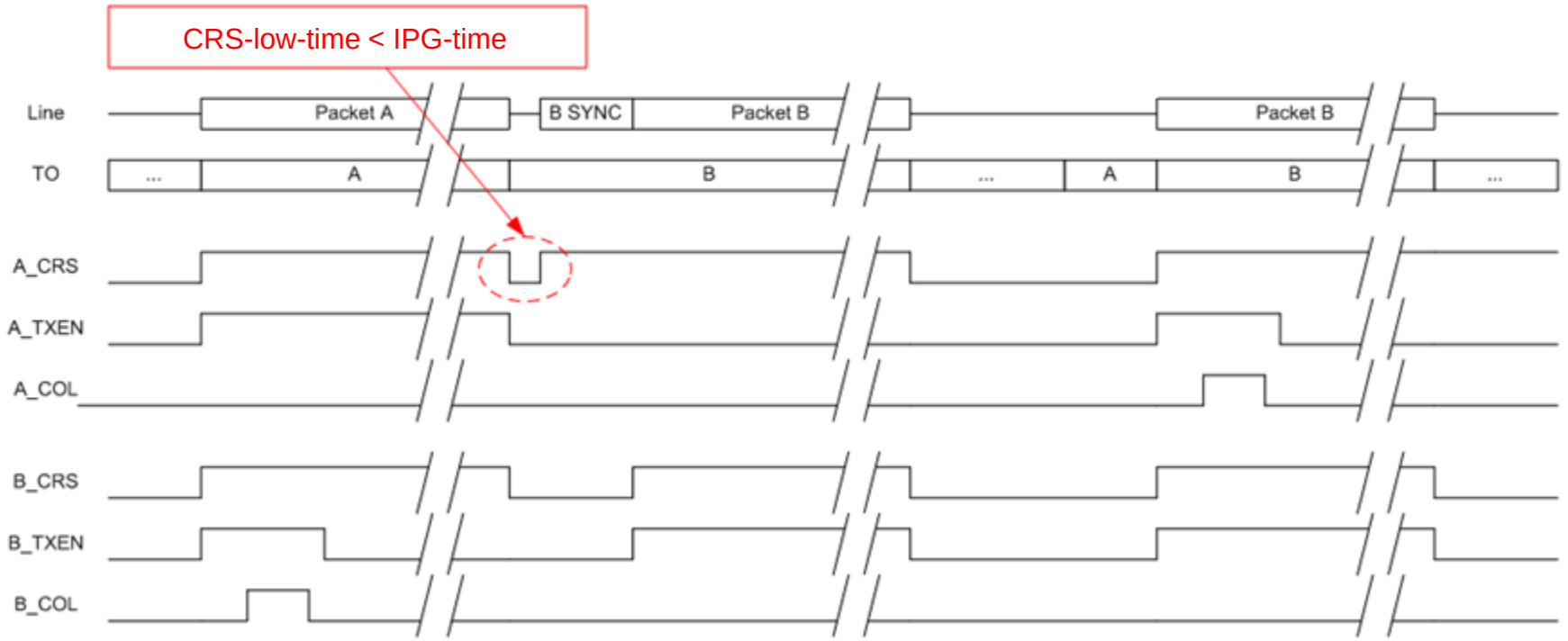
- **What we see instead, is:**

Bus cycle	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8	
TO	A	B	~~A~~	B	A	B	~~A~~	B	A	B	~~A~~	B	A	B	~~A~~	B
Node A	TX	-	-	COL	TX	-	-	COL	TX	-	-	COL	TX	-	-	COL
Node B	COL	TX	-	TX	COL	TX	-	TX	COL	TX	-	TX	COL	TX	-	TX

→ An unevenly balanced bandwidth distribution like this would render PLCA hardly predictable!

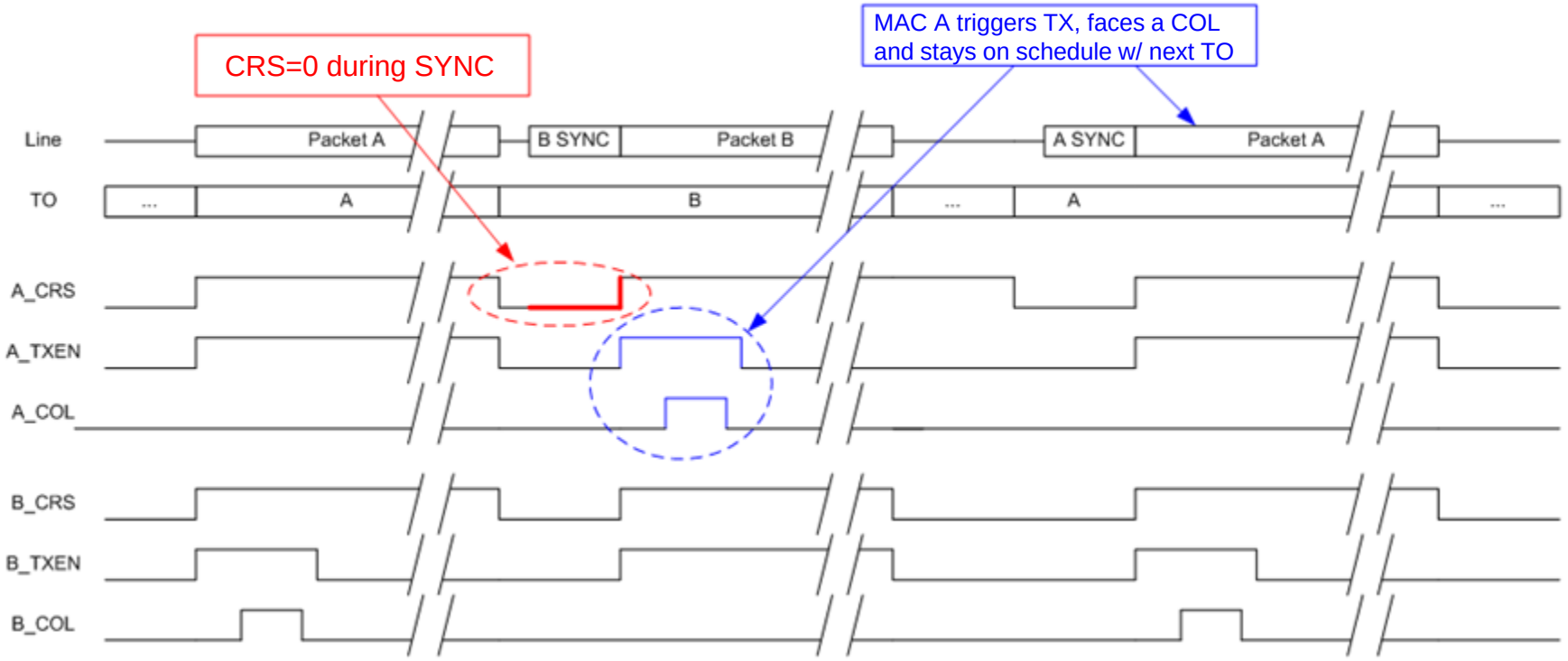
Root Cause

- According to the current spec, PLCA RS will de-assert CRS only for a short time, smaller than the required minimal IPG time
- MAC of node A will not be capable to start transmission of its next pending packet during this period, and may lose its next TO

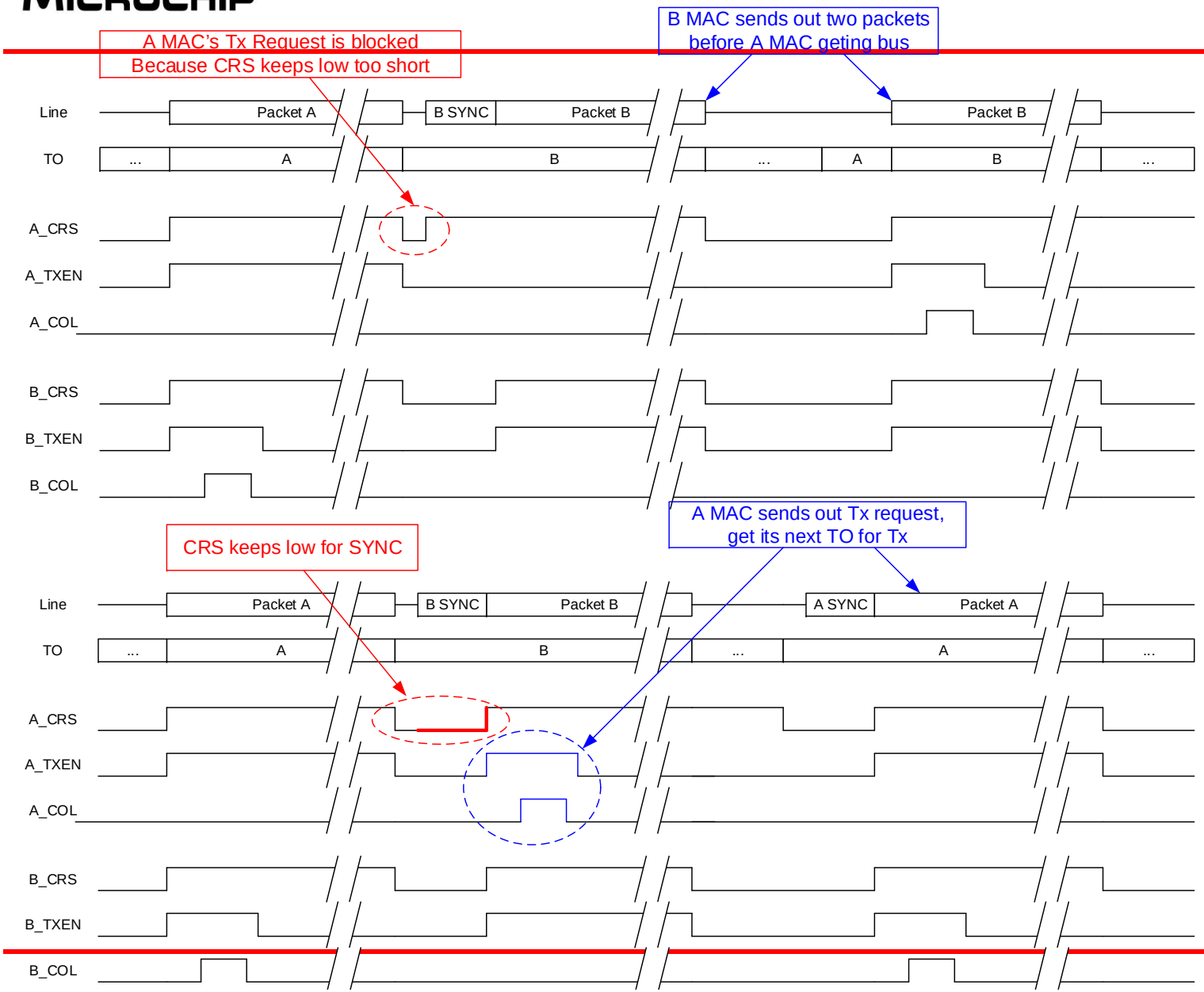


Proposal

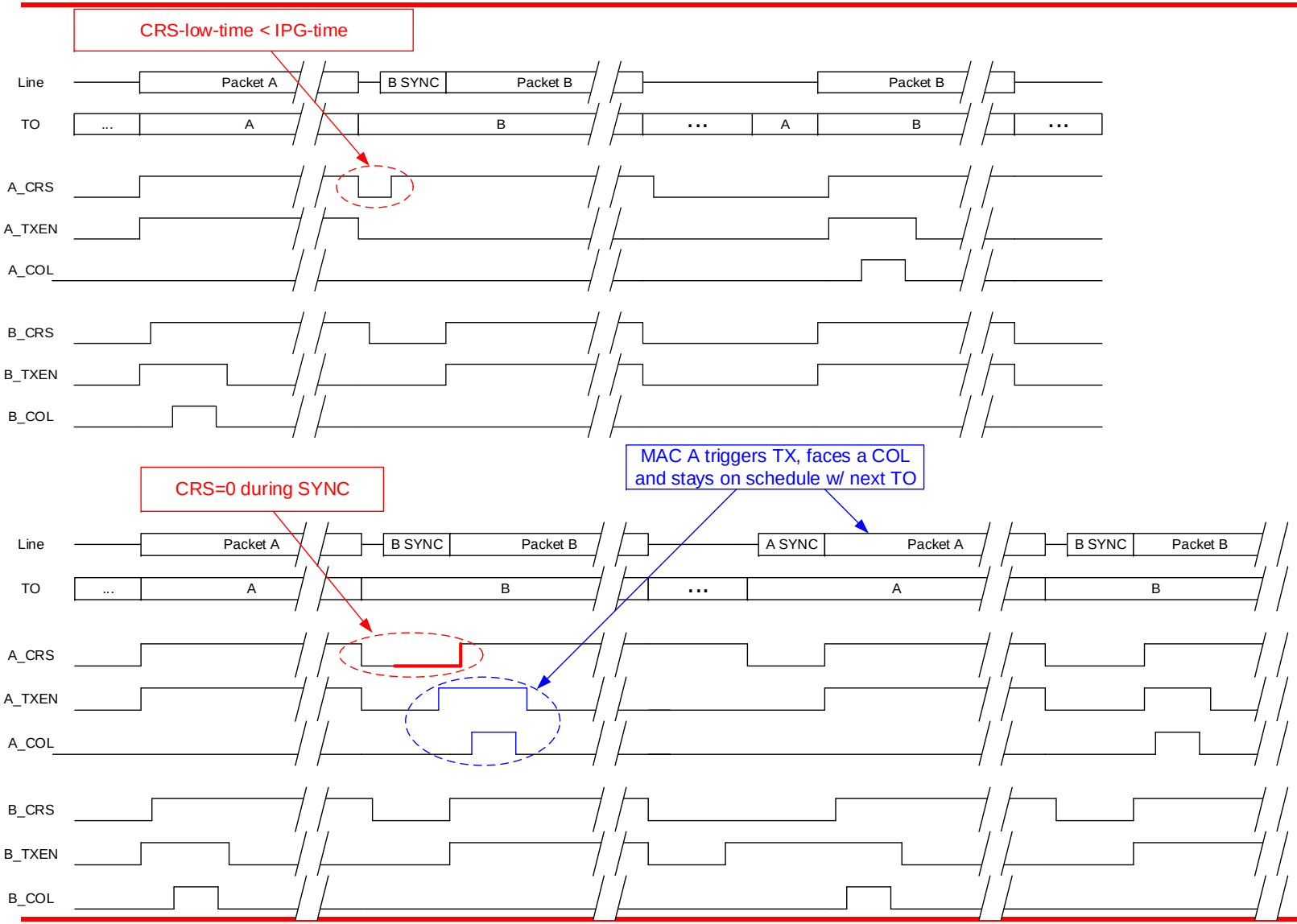
- **Always de-assert CRS between two adjacent packets for at least the min. IPG time**
- **We can achieve this by keeping CRS de-asserted also during the PLCA SYNC period**



Picture w/o cable delay



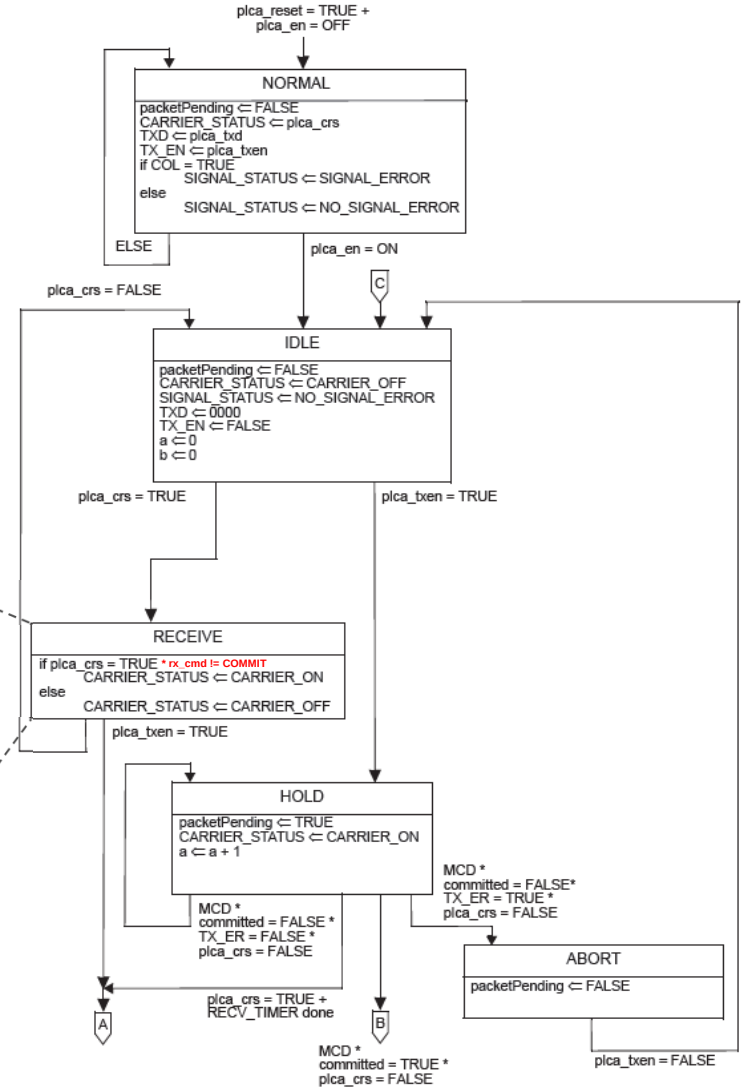
Picture with cable delays



Resulting Spec Change

- **In Figure 148-6 (IEEE Draft P802.3cg/D2.0)**
  - Change "*if plca_crs = TRUE*"
  - to "*if plca_crs = TRUE* **** rx_cmd != COMMIT***"

RECEIVE
if plca_crs = TRUE *** rx_cmd != COMMIT** CARRIER_STATUS ⇐ CARRIER_ON else CARRIER_STATUS ⇐ CARRIER_OFF



Conclusion

- We were able to validate that the proposed solution will fix the unbalanced behavior of PLCA

- This issue was also seen by Canova Tech and they agreed on the proposed spec change

Thank You!