What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:

at a first layer of a protocol stack triggering a communication of data, by a first node and via a communication link between the first node and a second node, with the second node

determining communication metric data associated with the communication of the data at a second layer of the protocol stack, wherein the second layer is lower than the first layer; and

maintaining link quality metric data at the first layer of the protocol stack, based at least in part on the communication metric data determined at the second layer of the protocol stack,

wherein the communication metric data associated with the communication of the data at the second layer of the protocol stack includes at least communication metric data for the communication of data at the second layer of the protocol stack for a plurality of different modulation schemes.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the maintaining operation utilizes an exponential weighted moving average filter with at least the communication metric data as input.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first layer of the protocol stack is a network layer and the second layer is a Media Access Control (MAC) layer.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the communication metric data associated with the communication of the data at the second layer of the protocol stack includes at least an indication of transmissions attempted and acknowledgements received.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the communication metric data associated with the communication of the data at the second layer of the protocol stack includes at least an expected transmission (ETX) metric.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

making a routing selection based at least in part on the link quality metric data.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the modulation schemes include at least one of radio frequency (RF) modulation schemes or power line communication (PLC) modulation schemes.

8. A network communication device comprising:

a radio configured to communicate with a second network communication device;

one or more processors communicatively coupled to the radio; and

memory communicatively coupled to the one or more processors, the memory storing one or more instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform operations comprising: at a first layer of a protocol stack triggering a communication of data, by the network communication device and via a communication link between the network communication device and a second network communication device, with the second network communication device;

determining communication metric data associated with the communication of the data at a second layer of the protocol stack, wherein the second layer is lower than the first layer; and

maintaining link quality metric data at the first layer of the protocol stack, based at least in part on the communication metric data determined at the second layer of the protocol stack,

wherein the communication metric data associated with the communication of the data at the second layer of the protocol stack includes at least communication metric data for the communication of data at the second layer of the protocol stack for a plurality of different modulation schemes.

9. The network communication device of claim 8, wherein:

the maintaining operation utilizes an exponential weighted moving average filter with at least the communication metric data as input.

10. The network communication device of claim 8, wherein the first layer of the protocol stack is a network layer and the second layer is a Media Access Control (MAC) layer.

11. The network communication device of claim 8, wherein:

the communication metric data associated with the communication of the data at the second layer of the protocol stack includes at least an indication of transmissions attempted and acknowledgements received.

12. The network communication device of claim 8, wherein:

the communication metric data associated with the communication of the data at the second layer of the protocol stack includes at least an expected transmission (ETX) metric.

13. The network communication device of claim 8, wherein the operations further comprise:

making a routing selection based at least in part on the link quality metric data.

14. The network communication device of claim 8, wherein the modulation schemes include at least one of radio frequency (RF) modulation schemes or power line communication (PLC) modulation schemes.

15. One or more computer-readable storage media storing computer-readable instructions that, when executed, instruct one or more processors of a network communication device to perform operations comprising:

at a first layer of a protocol stack triggering a communication of data, by the network communication device and via a communication link between the network communication device and a second network communication device, with the second network communication device;

determining communication metric data associated with the communication of the data at a second layer of the protocol stack, wherein the second layer is lower than the first layer; and

maintaining link quality metric data at the first layer of the protocol stack, based at least in part on the communication metric data determined at the second layer of the protocol stack,

wherein the communication metric data associated with the communication of the data at the second layer of the protocol stack includes at least communication metric data for the communication of data at the second layer of the protocol stack for a plurality of different modulation schemes.

16. The one or more computer-readable storage media of claim 15, wherein:

the maintaining operation utilizes an exponential weighted moving average filter with at least the communication metric data as input.

17. The one or more computer-readable storage media of claim 15, wherein the first layer of the protocol stack is a network layer and the second layer is a Media Access Control (MAC) layer.

18. The one or more computer-readable storage media of claim 15, wherein:

the communication metric data associated with the communication of the data at the second layer of the protocol stack includes at least an indication of transmissions attempted and acknowledgements received.

19. The one or more computer-readable storage media of claim 15, wherein:

the communication metric data associated with the communication of the data at the second layer of the protocol stack includes at least an expected transmission (ETX) metric.

20. The one or more computer-readable storage media of claim 15, wherein the modulation schemes include at least one of radio frequency (RF) modulation schemes or power line communication (PLC) modulation schemes.