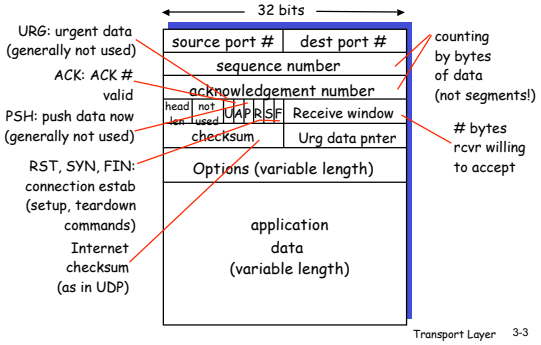
TCP

TCP: Overview

RFCs: 793, 1122, 1323, 2018, 2581

- point-to-point:
  - one sender, one receiver
- reliable, in-order *byte steam:*
  - no "message boundaries"
- pipelined:
  - TCP congestion and flow control set window size
- *send & receive buffers*
- full duplex data:
  - bi-directional data flow in same connection
  - MSS: maximum segment size
- connection-oriented:
  - handshaking (exchange of control msgs) init's sender, receiver state before data exchange
- flow controlled:
  - sender will not overwhelm receiver

TCP segment structure

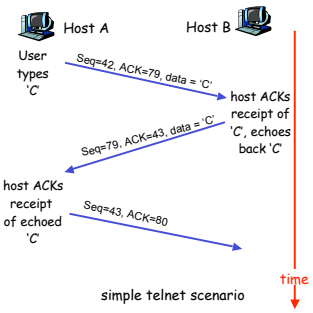


TCP seq. #'s and ACKs

Seq. #'s:
- byte stream "number" of first byte in segment's data

ACKs:
- seq # of next byte expected from other side
- cumulative ACK
- piggybacking

Q: how receiver handles out-of-order segments
- A: TCP spec doesn't say, - up to implementor

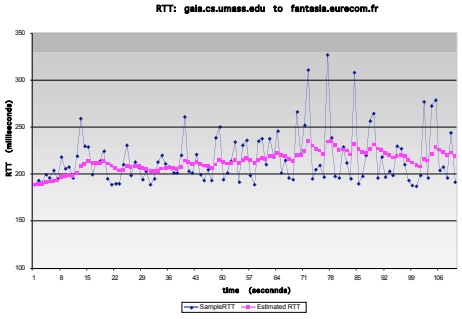


TCP Round Trip Time and Timeout

Q: how to set TCP timeout value?
- longer than RTT
  - but RTT varies
- too short: premature timeout
  - unnecessary retransmissions
- too long: slow reaction to segment loss

Q: how to estimate RTT?
- `SampleRTT`: measured time from segment transmission until ACK receipt
  - ignore retransmissions
- `SampleRTT` will vary, want estimated RTT "smoother"
  - average several recent measurements, not just current `SampleRTT`

Example RTT estimation:



TCP reliable data transfer

- TCP creates rdt service on top of IP's unreliable service
- Pipelined segments
- Cumulative acks
- TCP uses single retransmission timer
- Retransmissions are triggered by:
  - timeout events
  - duplicate acks
- Initially consider simplified TCP sender:
  - ignore duplicate acks
  - ignore flow control, congestion control

TCP sender events:

data rcvd from app:

- Create segment with seq #
- seq # is byte-stream number of first data byte in segment
- start timer if not already running (think of timer as for oldest unacked segment)
- expiration interval: `TimeOutInterval`

timeout:

- retransmit segment that caused timeout
- restart timer

Ack rcvd:

- If acknowledges previously unacked segments
  - update what is known to be acked
  - start timer if there are outstanding segments


```
NextSeqNum = InitialSeqNum
SendBase = InitialSeqNum

loop (forever) {
  switch(event)

  event: data received from application above
      create TCP segment with sequence number NextSeqNum
      if (timer currently not running)
          start timer
      pass segment to IP
      NextSeqNum = NextSeqNum + length(data)

  event: timer timeout
      retransmit not-yet-acknowledged segment with
          smallest sequence number
      start timer

  event: ACK received, with ACK field value of y
      if (y > SendBase) {
          SendBase = y
          if (there are currently not-yet-acknowledged segments)
              start timer
      }

} /* end of loop forever */
```

TCP sender (simplified)

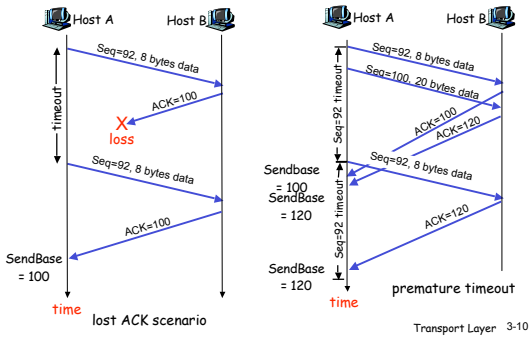
Comment:

- SendBase-1: last cumulatively ack'ed byte

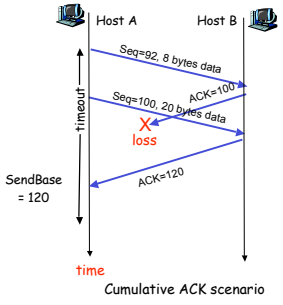
Example:

- SendBase-1 = 71; y= 73, so the rcvr wants 73+ ; y > SendBase, so that new data is acked

TCP: retransmission scenarios



TCP retransmission scenarios (more)



TCP ACK generation [RFC 1122, RFC 2581]

Event at Receiver	TCP Receiver action
Arrival of in-order segment with expected seq #. All data up to expected seq # already ACKed	Delayed ACK. Wait up to 500ms for next segment. If no next segment, send ACK
Arrival of in-order segment with expected seq #. One other segment has ACK pending	Immediately send single cumulative ACK, ACKing both in-order segments
Arrival of out-of-order segment higher-than-expect seq. # . Gap detected	Immediately send duplicate ACK, indicating seq. # of next expected byte
Arrival of segment that partially or completely fills gap	Immediate send ACK, provided that segment startsat lower end of gap

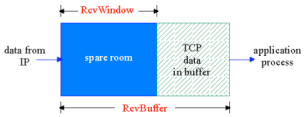
Fast Retransmit

- Time-out period often relatively long:
  - long delay before resending lost packet
- Detect lost segments via duplicate ACKs.
  - Sender often sends many segments back-to-back
  - If segment is lost, there will likely be many duplicate ACKs.
- If sender receives 3 ACKs for the same data, it supposes that segment after ACKed data was lost:
  - fast retransmit: resend segment before timer expires

TCP Flow Control

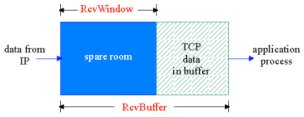
flow control
sender won't overflow receiver's buffer by transmitting too much, too fast

- receive side of TCP connection has a receive buffer:



- app process may be slow at reading from buffer
- speed-matching service: matching the send rate to the receiving app's drain rate

TCP Flow control: how it works



(Suppose TCP receiver discards out-of-order segments)

- spare room in buffer

```
= RcvWindow
= RcvBuffer-[LastByteRcvd -
  LastByteRead]
```

- Rcvr advertises spare room by including value of **`RcvWindow`** in segments
- Sender limits unACKed data to **`RcvWindow`**
  - guarantees receive buffer doesn't overflow

TCP Connection Management

Recall: TCP sender, receiver establish "connection" before exchanging data segments

- initialize TCP variables:
  - seq. #s
  - buffers, flow control info (e.g. **`RcvWindow`**)
- *client:* connection initiator

```
Socket clientSocket = new   Socket("hostname","port
number");
```

- *server:* contacted by client

```
Socket connectionSocket = welcomeSocket.accept();
```


TCP Connection Management

Three way handshake:

Step 1: client host sends TCP SYN segment to server
- specifies initial seq #
- no data

Step 2: server host receives SYN, replies with SYNACK segment
- server allocates buffers
- specifies server initial seq. #

Step 3: client receives SYNACK, replies with ACK segment, which may contain data

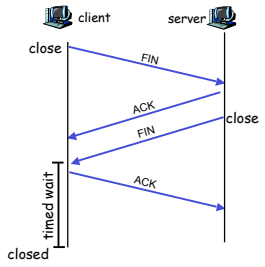
TCP Connection Management (cont.)

Closing a connection:

client closes socket:
`clientSocket.close();`

Step 1: client end system sends TCP FIN control segment to server

Step 2: server receives FIN, replies with ACK. Closes connection, sends FIN.



TCP Connection Management (cont.)

Step 3: client receives FIN, replies with ACK.

- Enters "timed wait" - will respond with ACK to received FINs

Step 4: server, receives ACK. Connection closed.

Note: with small modification, can handle simultaneous FINs.