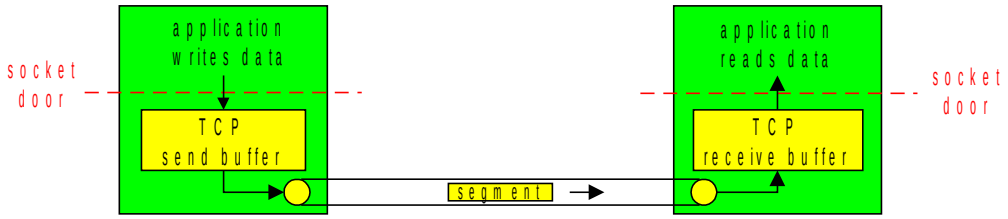
Transport Layer – Time Out, RTT Calculation.

Lec 15

TCP: Overview

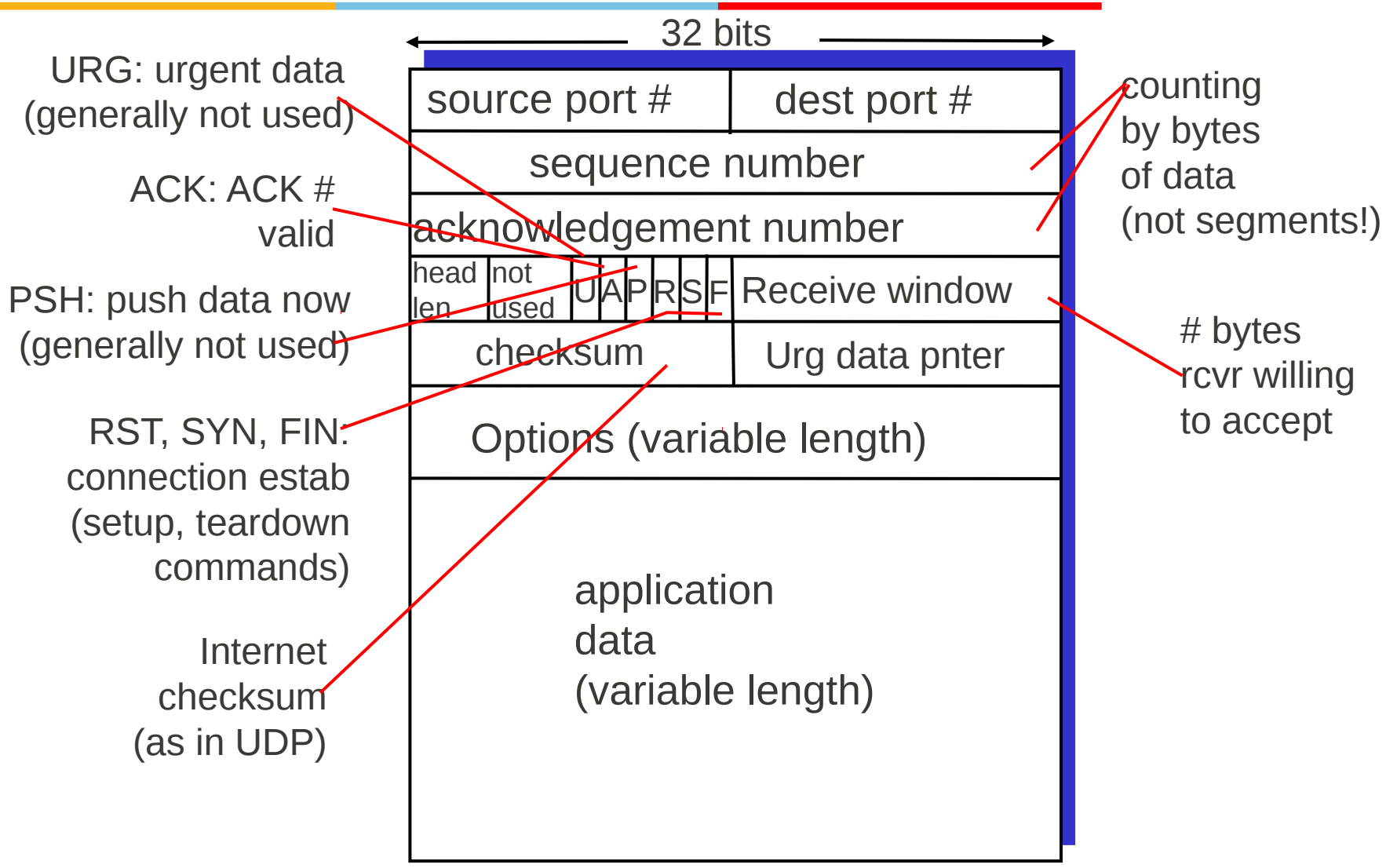
RFCs: 793, 1122, 1323, 2018, 2581

- 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:

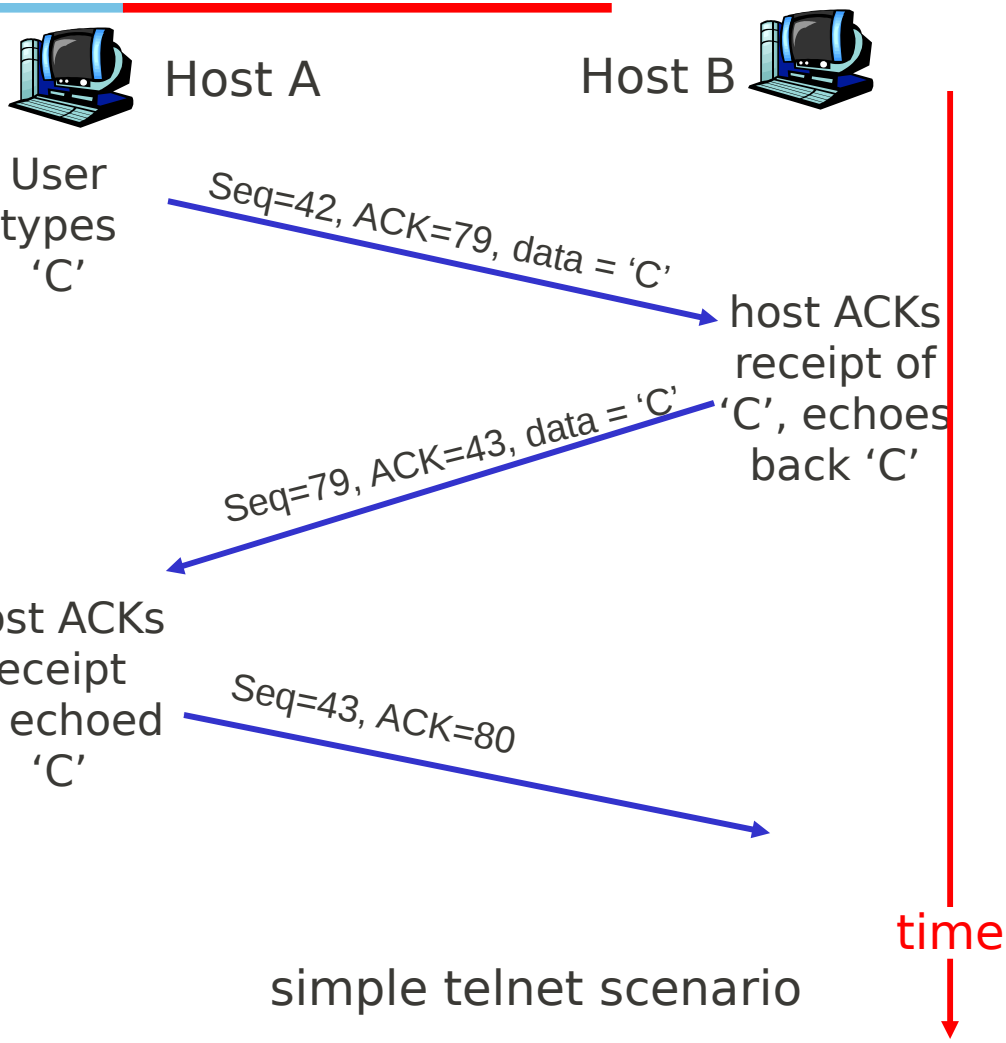
- byte stream "number" of first byte in segment's data

ACKs:

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

Q: how receiver handles out-of-order segments

- A: TCP spec doesn't say, - up to implementor



simple telnet scenario

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?

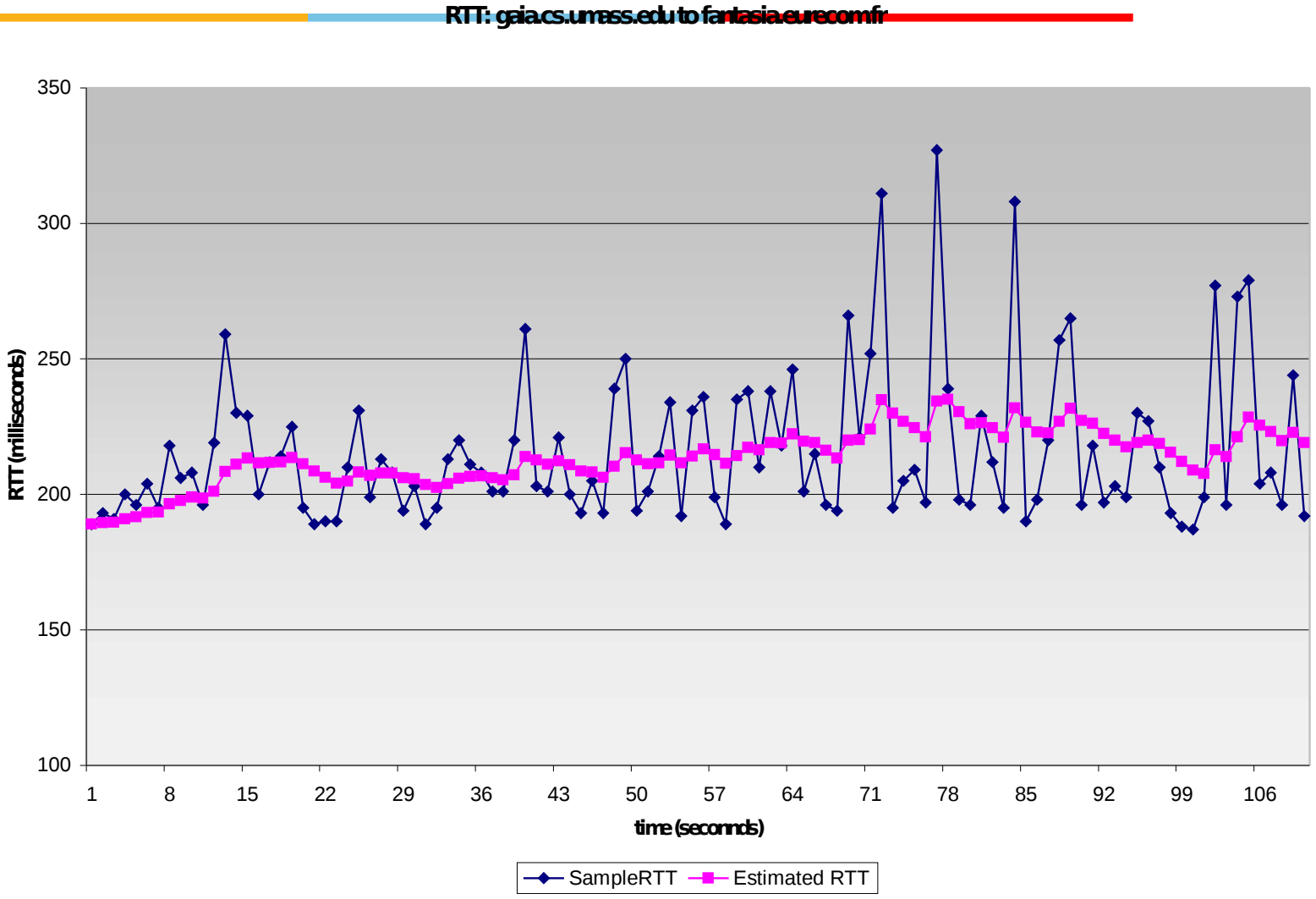
- **SampleRTT**: measured time from segment transmission until ACK receipt
  - ignore retransmissions
- **SampleRTT** will vary, want estimated RTT “smoother”
  - average several recent measurements, not just current **SampleRTT**

TCP Round Trip Time and Timeout

$$\text{EstimatedRTT} = (1-\alpha)*\text{EstimatedRTT} + \alpha*\text{SampleRTT}$$

- Exponential weighted moving average
- influence of past sample decreases exponentially fast
- typical value: $\alpha = 0.125$

Example RTT estimation:



TCP Round Trip Time and Timeout

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Setting the timeout

- **EstimtedRTT** plus “safety margin”
  - large variation in **EstimatedRTT ->** larger safety margin
- first estimate of how much SampleRTT deviates from EstimatedRTT:

$$DevRTT = (1-\beta)*DevRTT + \beta*|SampleRTT-EstimatedRTT|$$

(typically, $\beta = 0.25$)

Then set timeout interval:

$$TimeoutInterval = EstimatedRTT + 4*DevRTT$$