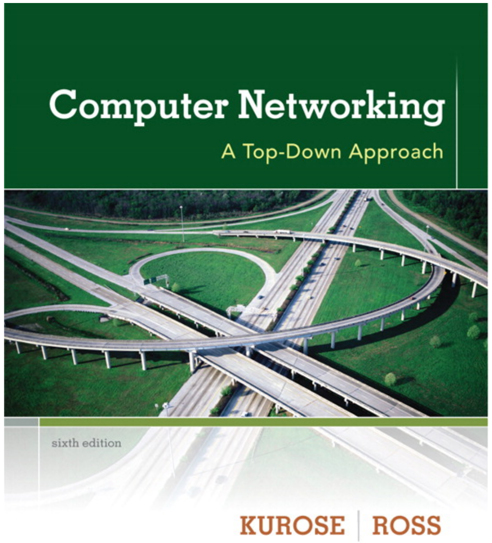
Chapter 7
Multimedia Networking



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Computer Networking: A Top Down Approach
6th edition
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Multimedia networking: outline

7.1 multimedia networking applications
7.2 streaming *stored* video
7.3 voice-over-IP
7.4 protocols for *real-time* conversational applications
7.5 network support for multimedia

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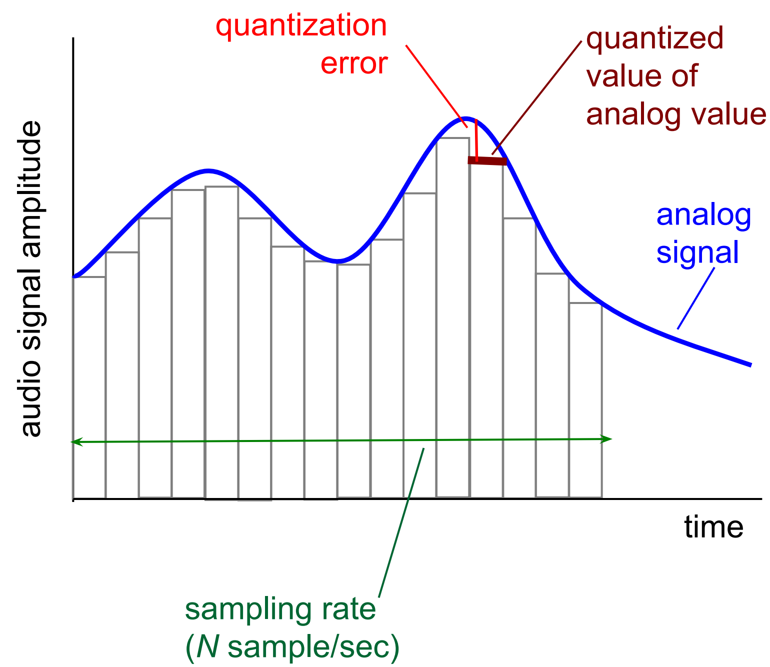
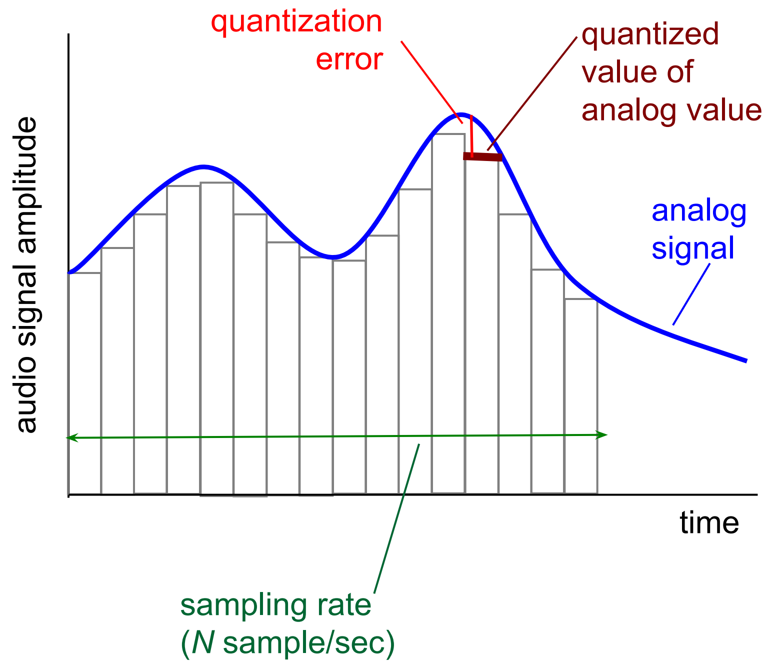
Multimedia: audio

- analog audio signal sampled at constant rate
  - telephone: 8,000 samples/sec
  - CD music: 44,100 samples/sec
- each sample quantized, i.e., rounded
  - e.g., 2^8=256 possible quantized values
  - each quantized value represented by bits, e.g., 8 bits for 256 values



Multimedia: audio

- example: 8,000 samples/sec, 256 quantized values: 64,000 bps
- receiver converts bits back to analog signal:
  - some quality reduction



Multimedia: video

- video: sequence of images displayed at constant rate
  - e.g. 24 images/sec
- digital image: array of pixels
  - each pixel represented by bits
- coding: use redundancy *within* and *between* images to decrease # bits used to encode image
  - spatial (within image)
  - temporal (from one image to next)

spatial coding example: instead of sending *N* values of same color (all purple), send only two values: color value (*purple*) *and number of repeated values* (N)

frame *i*

temporal coding example: instead of sending complete frame at i+1, send only differences from frame i

frame *i+1*

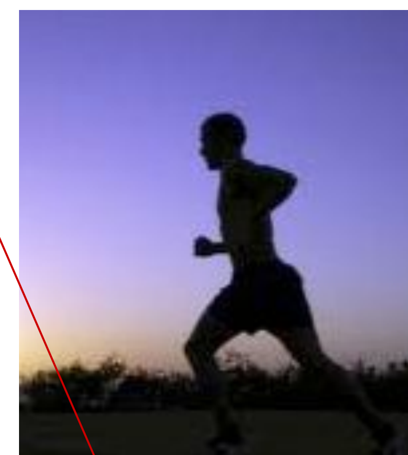
Multimedia: video

- *CBR: (constant bit rate):* video encoding rate fixed
- *VBR: (variable bit rate):* video encoding rate changes as amount of spatial, temporal coding changes
- *examples:*
  - MPEG 1 (CD-ROM) 1.5 Mbps
  - MPEG2 (DVD) 3-6 Mbps
  - MPEG4 (often used in Internet, < 1 Mbps)

spatial coding example: instead of sending *N* values of same color (all purple), send only two values: color value (*purple*) *and number of repeated values* (N)

frame *i*

temporal coding example: instead of sending complete frame at i+1, send only differences from frame i



frame *i+1*

Multimedia networking: 3 application types

- *streaming, stored* audio, video
  - *streaming:* can begin playout before downloading entire file
  - *stored (at server):* can transmit faster than audio/video will be rendered (implies storing/buffering at client)
  - e.g., YouTube,
- *conversational* voice/video over IP
  - interactive nature of human-to-human conversation limits delay tolerance
  - e.g., Skype
- *streaming live* audio, video
  - e.g., live sporting event (futbol)

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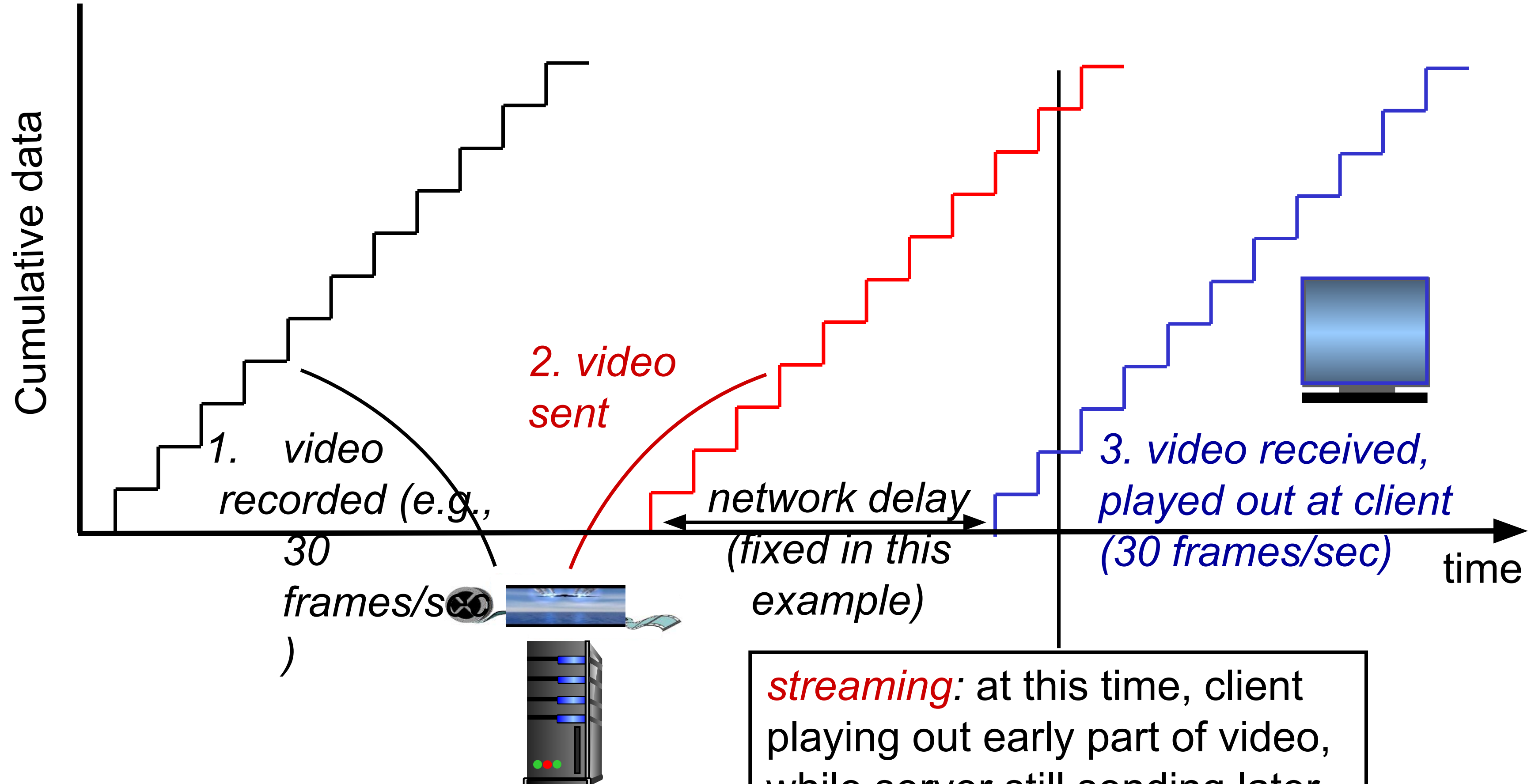
Streaming stored video:

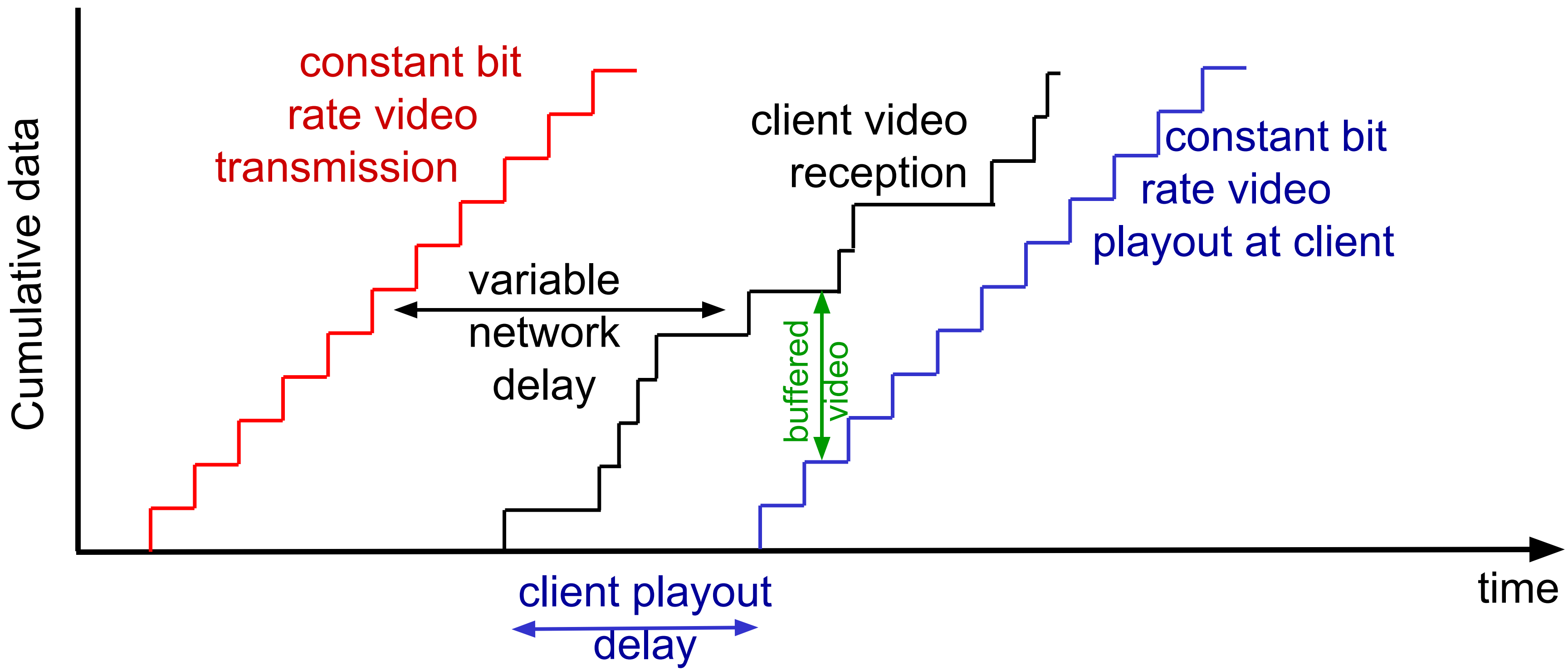


streaming: at this time, client playing out early part of video, while server still sending later part of video

Streaming stored video: challenges

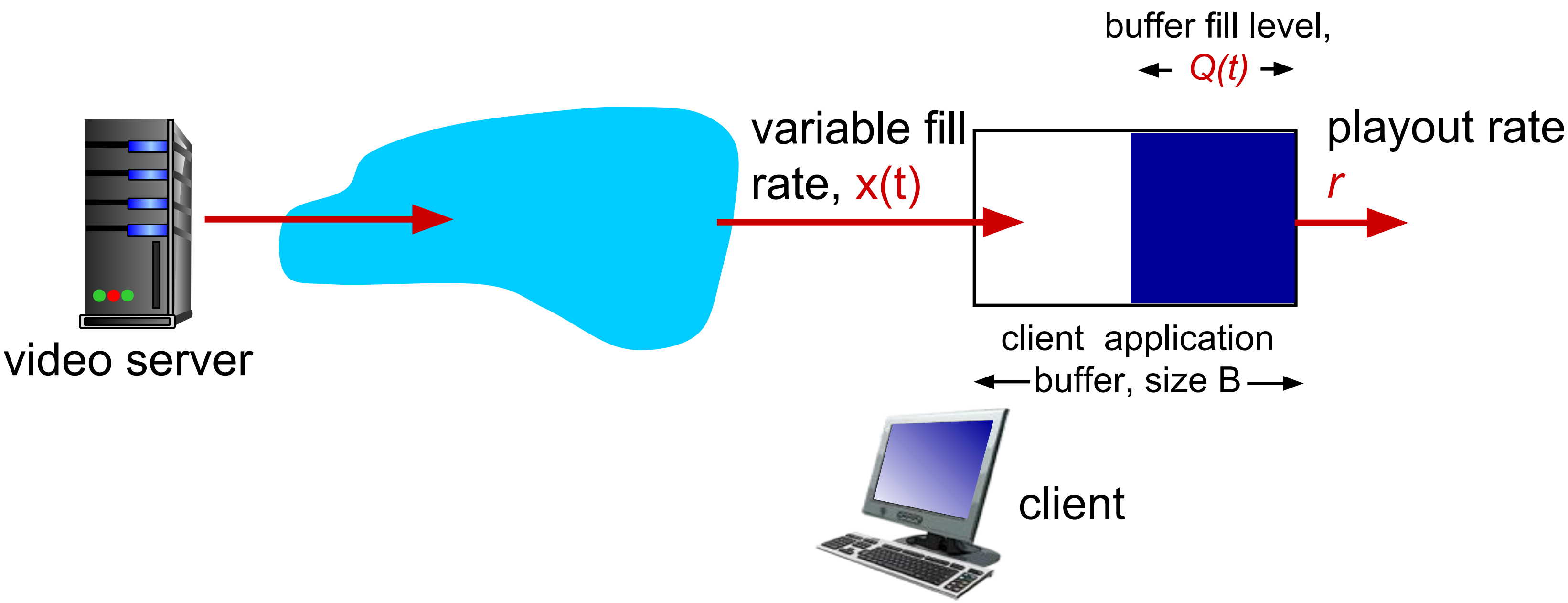
- *continuous playout constraint*: once client playout begins, playback must match original timing
  - … but *network delays are variable* (jitter), so will need *client-side buffer* to match playout requirements
- other challenges:
  - client interactivity: pause, fast-forward, rewind, jump through video
  - video packets may be lost, retransmitted

Streaming stored video: revisted

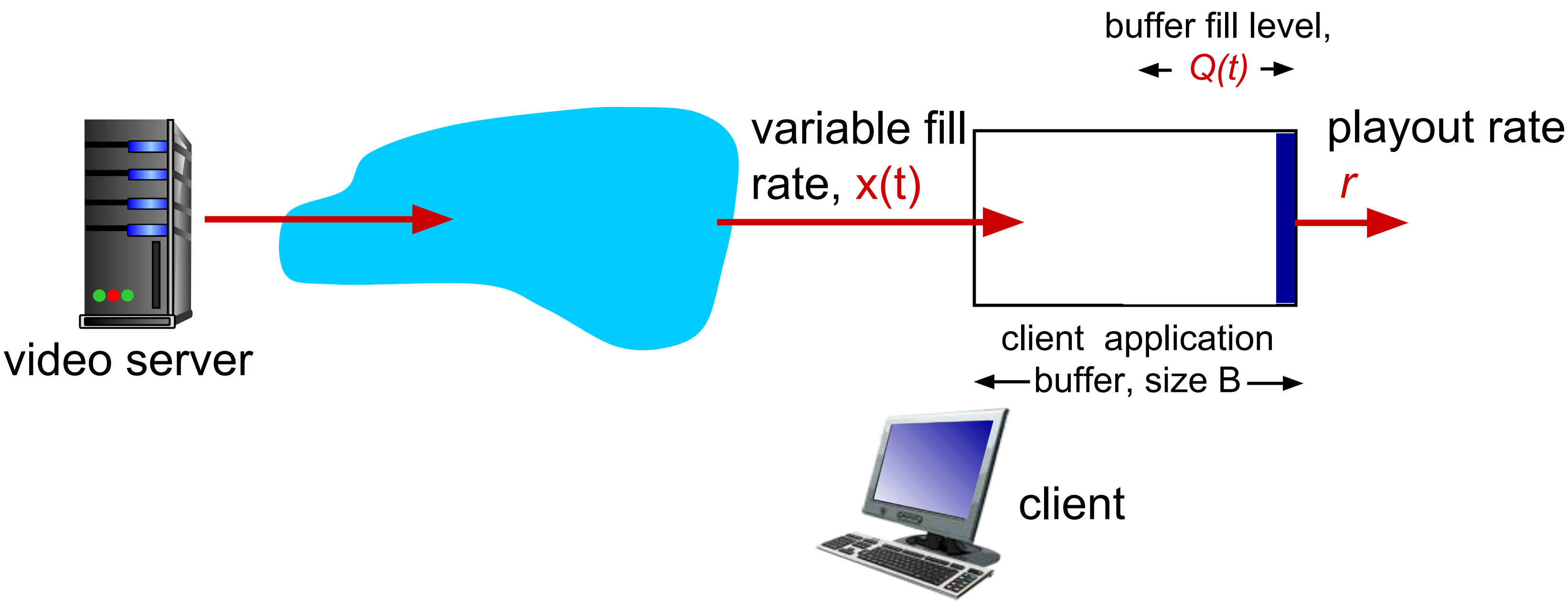


- *client-side buffering and playout delay:* compensate for network-added delay, delay jitter

Client-side buffering, playout



Client-side buffering, playout

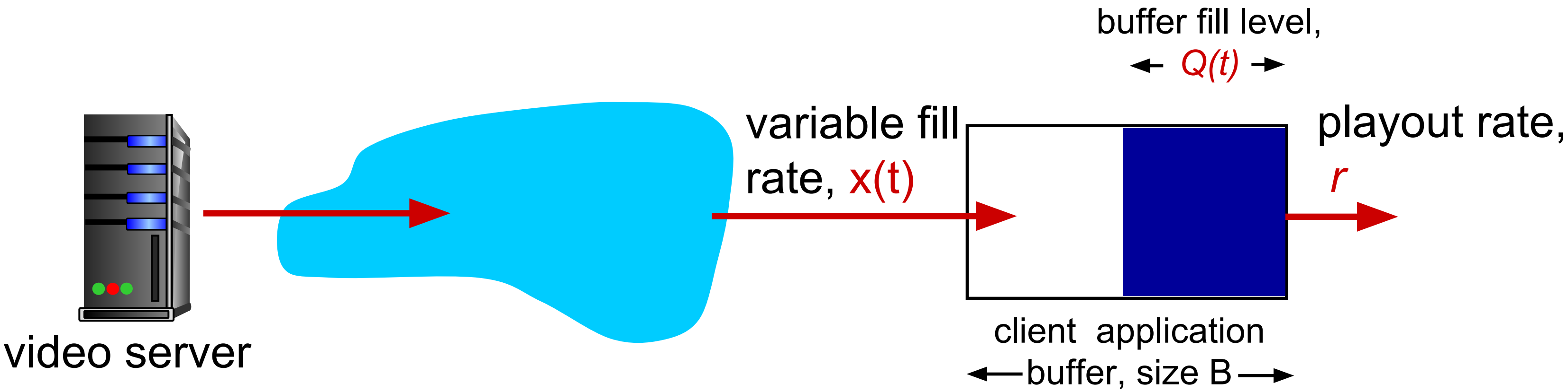


1. Initial fill of buffer until playout begins at t_p

2. playout begins at t_p,

3. buffer fill level varies over time as fill rate *x(t)* varies and playout rate *r* is constant

Client-side buffering, playout



playout buffering: average fill rate ($\bar{x}$), playout rate (r):

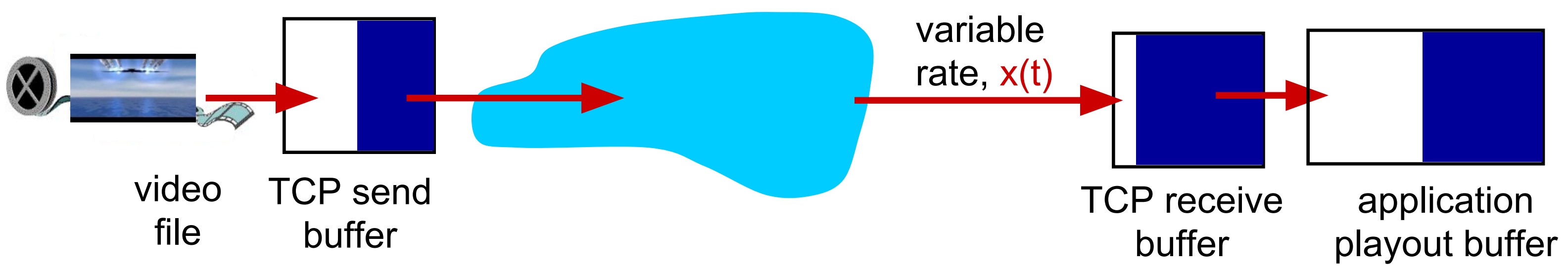
- $\bar{x} < r$: buffer eventually empties (causing freezing of video playout until buffer again fills)
- $\bar{x} > r$: buffer will not empty, provided initial playout delay is large enough to absorb variability in x(t)
  - *initial playout delay tradeoff:* buffer starvation less likely with larger delay, but larger delay until user begins watching

Streaming multimedia: UDP

- server sends at rate appropriate for client
  - often: send rate = encoding rate = constant rate
  - transmission rate can be oblivious to congestion levels
- short playout delay (2-5 seconds) to remove network jitter
- error recovery: application-level, time permitting
- UDP may *not* go through firewalls

Streaming multimedia: HTTP

- send at maximum possible rate under TCP



- fill rate fluctuates due to TCP congestion control, retransmissions (in-order delivery)
- larger playout delay: smooth TCP delivery rate
- HTTP/TCP passes more easily through firewalls

Content distribution networks

- *challenge:* how to stream content (selected from millions of videos) to hundreds of thousands of simultaneous users?

- *option 1:* single, large "mega-server"
  - single point of failure
  - point of network congestion
  - long path to distant clients
  - multiple copies of video sent over outgoing link

….quite simply: this solution *doesn't scale*

Content distribution networks

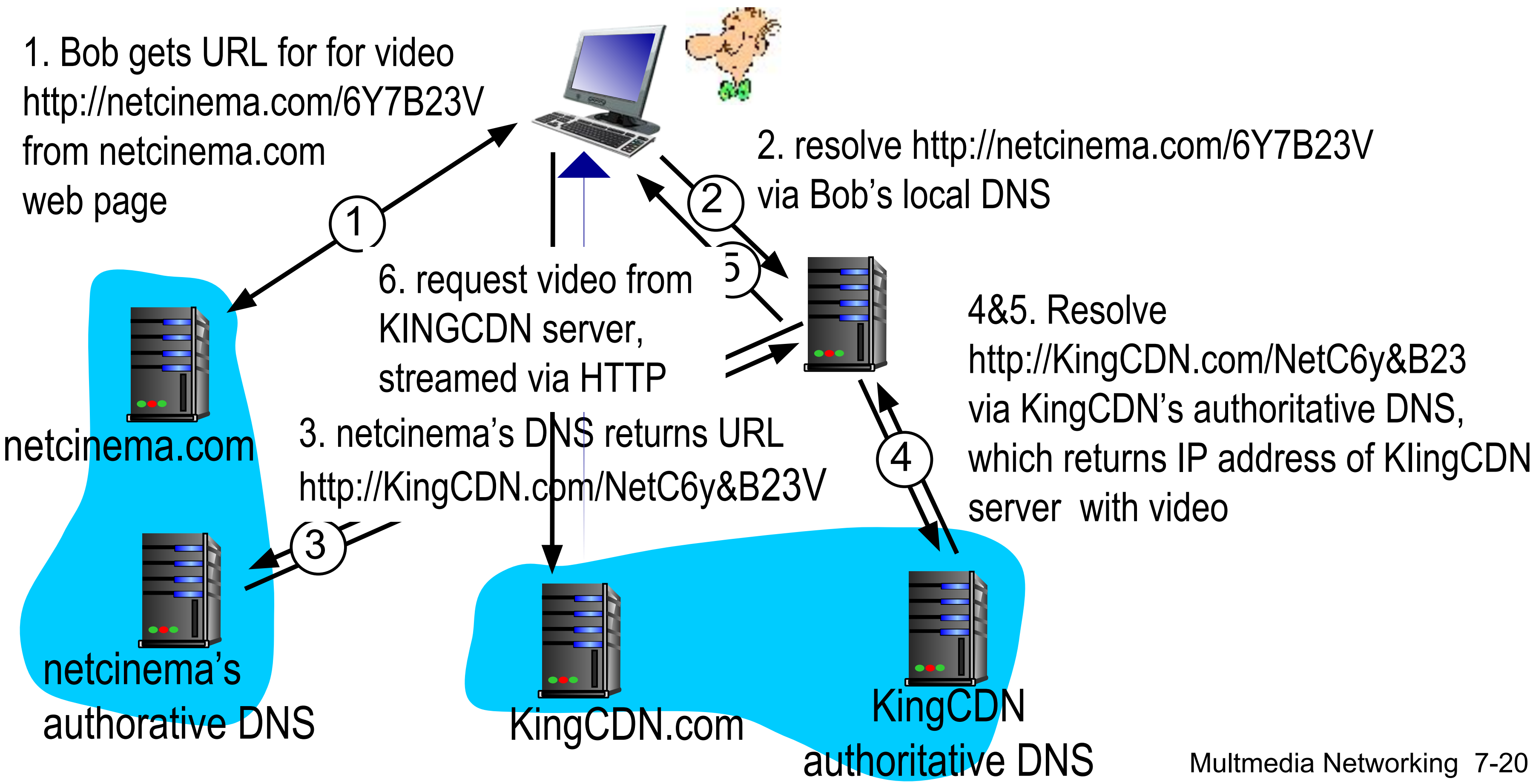
- *challenge:* how to stream content (selected from millions of videos) to hundreds of thousands of simultaneous users?

- *option 2:* store/serve multiple copies of videos at multiple geographically distributed sites *(CDN)*

CDN: "simple" content access scenario

Bob (client) requests video http://netcinema.com/6Y7B23V

- video stored in CDN at http://KingCDN.com/NetC6y&B23V



CDN cluster selection strategy

- *challenge:* how does CDN DNS select "good" CDN node to stream to client
  - pick CDN node geographically closest to client
  - pick CDN node with shortest delay (or min # hops) to client (CDN nodes periodically ping access ISPs, reporting results to CDN DNS)
- *alternative:* let *client* decide - give client a list of several CDN servers
  - client pings servers, picks "best"

Case study: Netflix

- Informal homework: figure out how netflix outsources content delivery.

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Voice-over-IP (VoIP)

- *VoIP end-end-delay requirement*: needed to maintain "conversational" aspect
  - higher delays noticeable, impair interactivity
  - < 150 msec: good
  - > 400 msec bad
  - includes application-level (packetization,playout), network delays
- *session initialization:* how does callee advertise IP address, port number, encoding algorithms?
- *value-added services:* call forwarding, screening, recording
- *emergency services:* 911

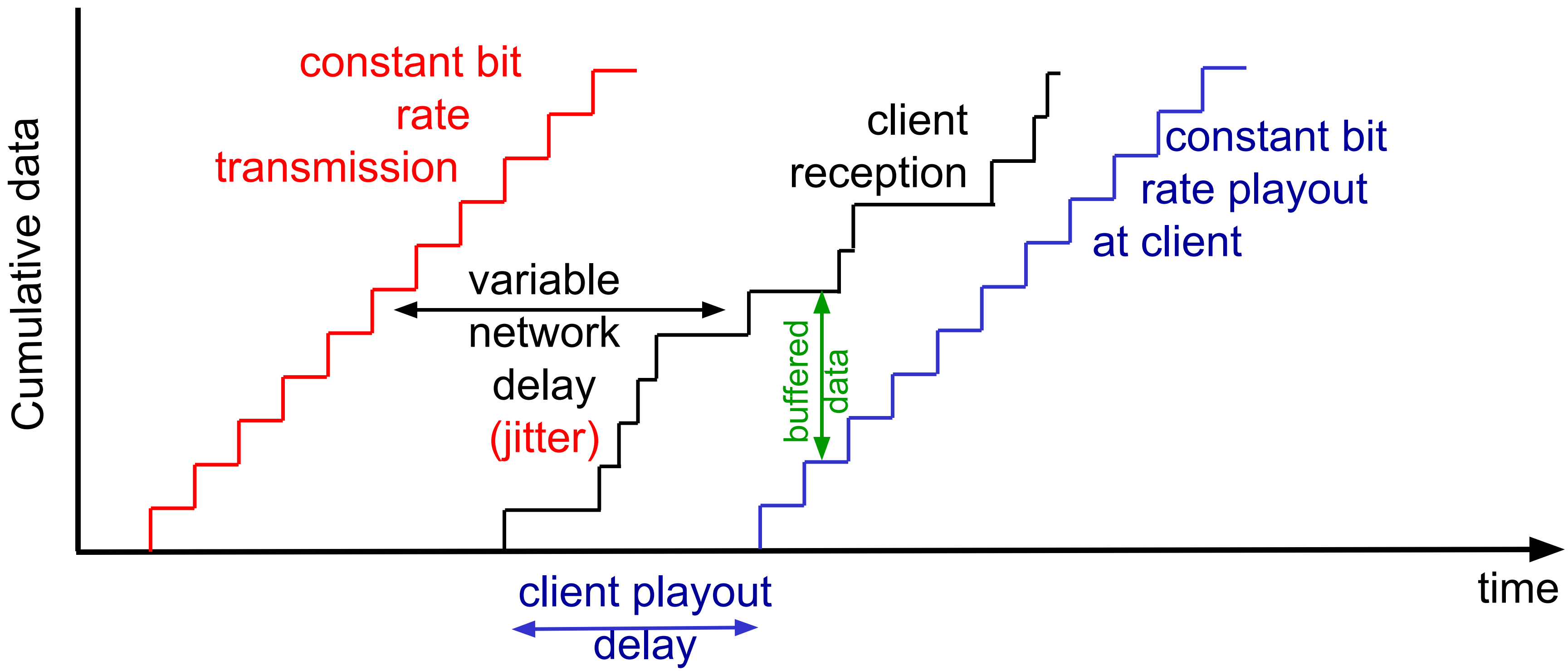
VoIP characteristics

- speaker's audio: alternating talk spurts, silent periods.
  - 64 kbps during talk spurt
  - pkts generated only during talk spurts in chunks (app layer)
- chunk+header encapsulated into UDP or TCP segment
- application sends segment into socket every 20 msec during talkspurt

VoIP: packet loss, delay

- *network loss:* IP datagram lost due to network congestion (router buffer overflow)
- *delay loss:* IP datagram arrives too late for playout at receiver
  - delays: processing, queueing in network; end-system (sender, receiver) delays
  - typical maximum tolerable delay: 400 ms
- *loss tolerance:* depending on voice encoding, loss concealment, packet loss rates between 1% and 10% can be tolerated

Delay jitter



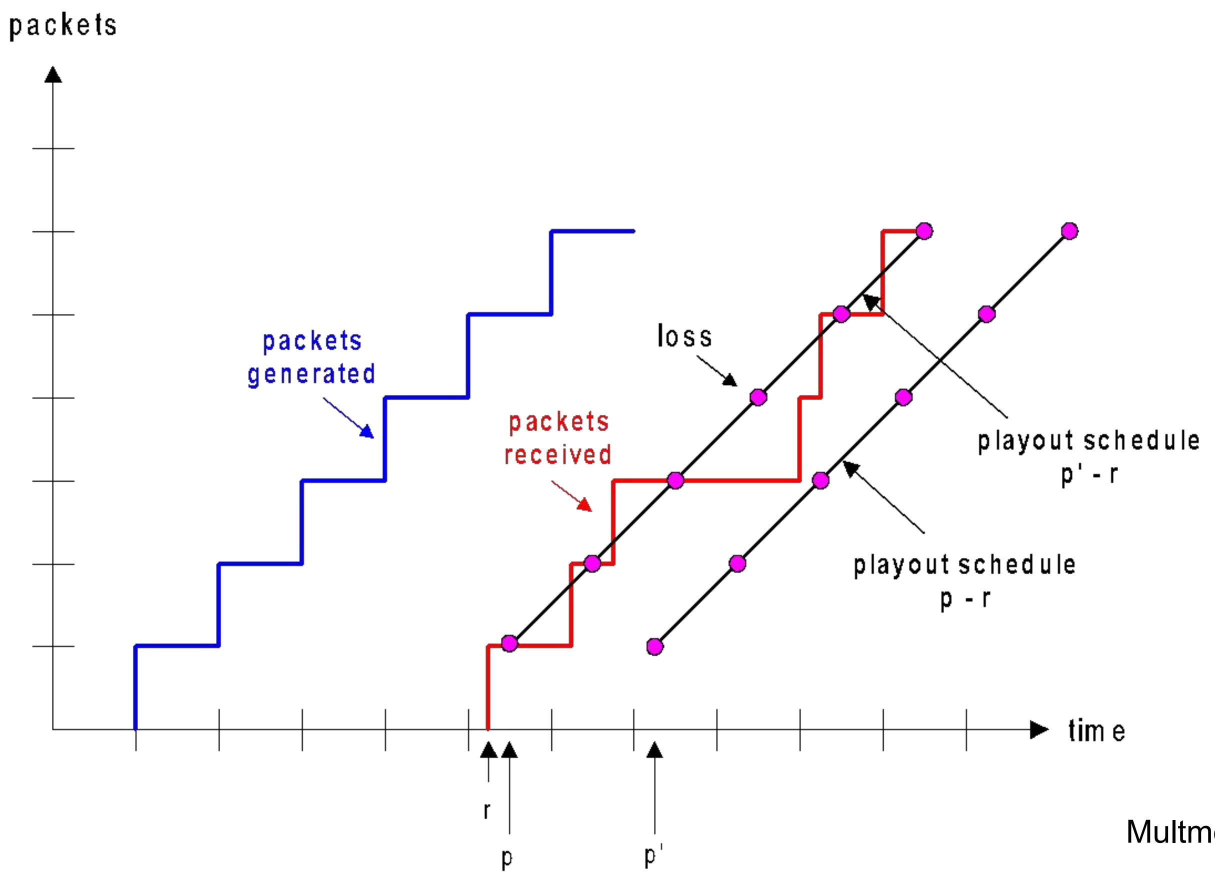
- end-to-end delays of two consecutive packets: difference can be more or less than 20 msec (transmission time difference)

VoIP: fixed playout delay

- receiver attempts to playout each chunk exactly *q* msecs after chunk was generated.
  - chunk has time stamp *t:* play out chunk at *t+q*
  - chunk arrives after *t+q*: data arrives too late for playout: data "lost"
- tradeoff in choosing *q*:
  - *large q:* less packet loss
  - *small q:* better interactive experience

VoIP: fixed playout delay

- sender generates packets every 20 msec during talk spurt.
- first packet received at time *r*
- first playout schedule: begins at *p*
- second playout schedule: begins at *p'*



VoiP: recovery from packet loss (1)

Challenge: recover from packet loss given small tolerable delay between original transmission and playout

- each ACK/NAK takes ~ one RTT
- alternative: *Forward Error Correction (FEC)*
  - send enough bits to allow recovery without retransmission (recall two-dimensional parity in Ch. 5)

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Network support for multimedia

Approach	Granularity	Guarantee	Mechanisms	Complex	Deployed?
Making best of best effort service	All traffic treated equally	None or soft	No network support (all at application)	low	everywhere
Differentiated service	Traffic "class"	None of soft	Packet market, scheduling, policing.	med	some
Per-connection QoS	Per-connection flow	Soft or hard after flow admitted	Packet market, scheduling, policing, call admission	high	little to none

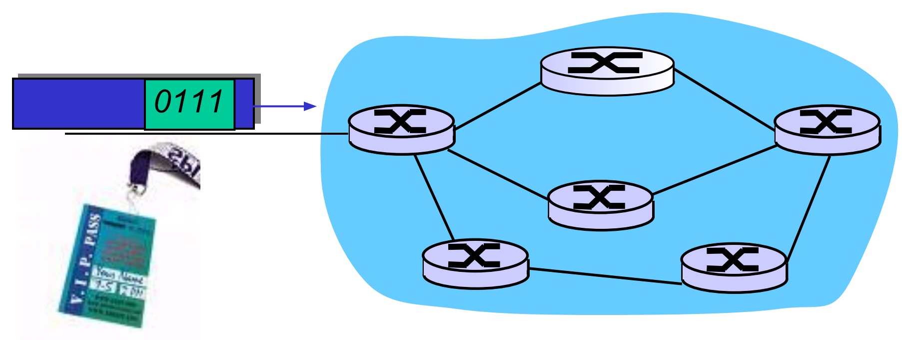
Dimensioning best effort networks

- *approach:* deploy enough link capacity so that congestion doesn't occur, multimedia traffic flows without delay or loss
  - low complexity of network mechanisms (use current "best effort" network)
  - high bandwidth costs
- challenges:
  - *network dimensioning:* how much bandwidth is "enough?"
  - *estimating network traffic demand:* needed to determine how much bandwidth is "enough" (for that much traffic)

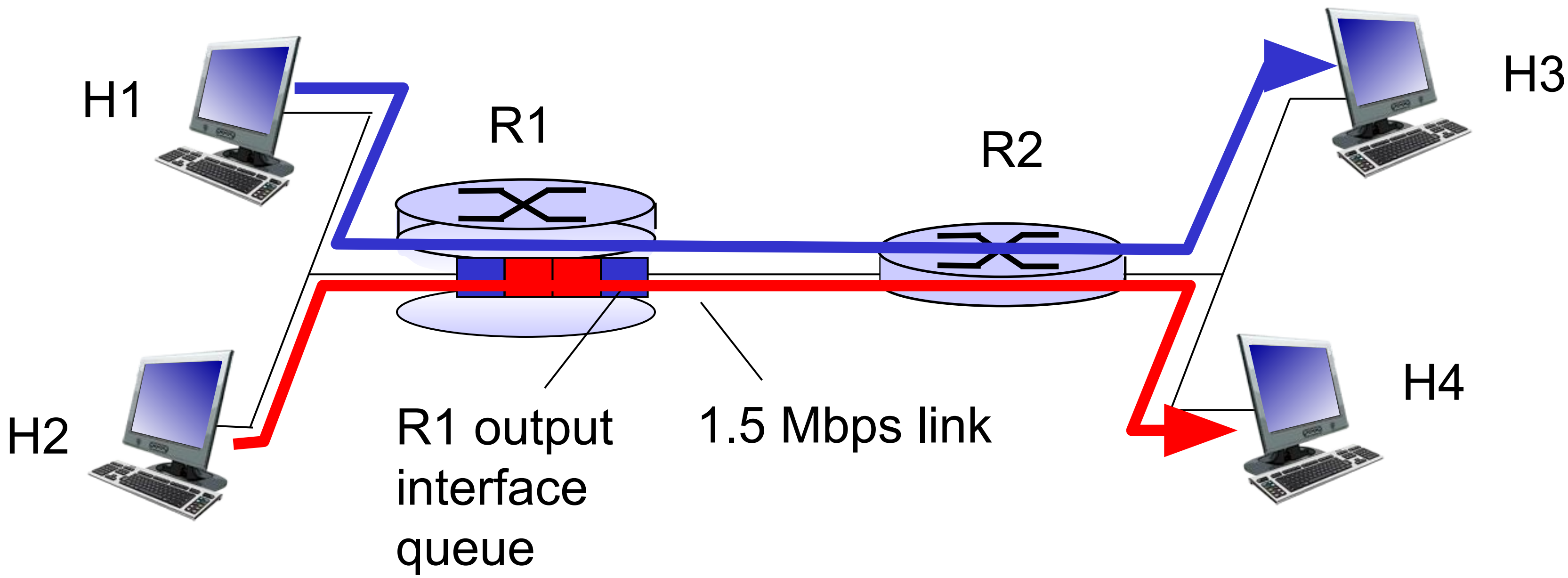
Providing multiple classes of service

- thus far: making the best of best effort service
  - one-size fits all service model
- alternative: multiple classes of service
  - partition traffic into classes
  - network treats different classes of traffic differently (analogy: VIP service versus regular service)

- granularity: differential service among multiple classes, *not among individual connections*
- history: ToS bits

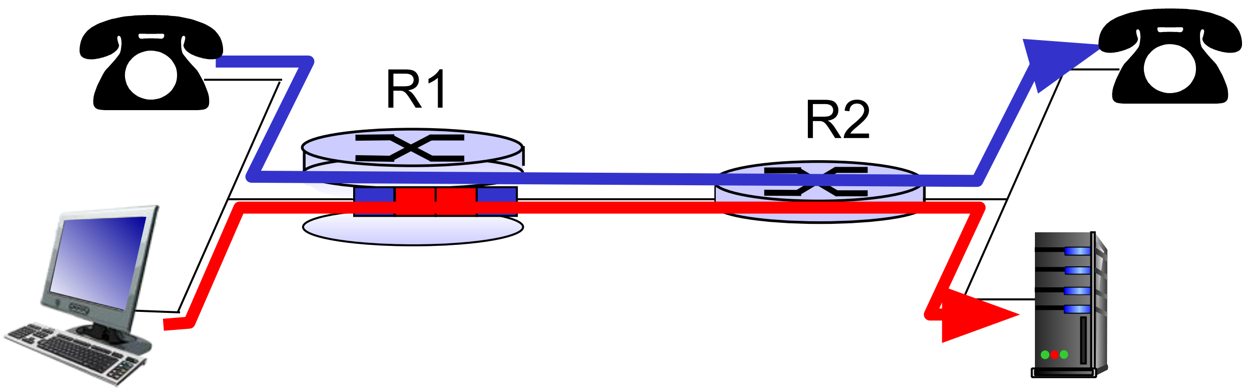


Multiple classes of service: scenario



Scenario 1: mixed HTTP and VoIP

- example: 1Mbps VoIP, HTTP share 1.5 Mbps link.
  - HTTP bursts can congest router, cause audio loss
  - want to give priority to audio over HTTP

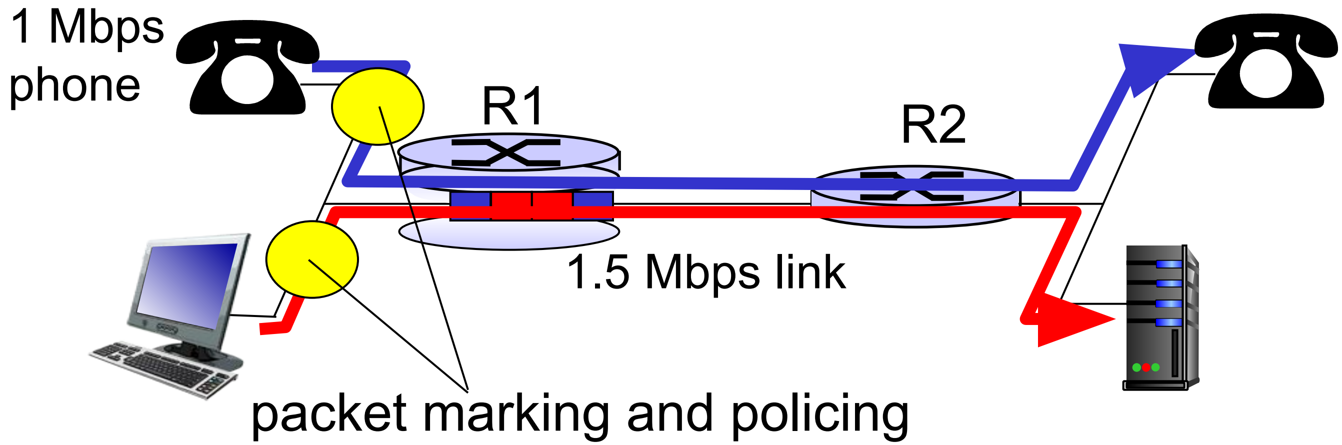


Principle

packet marking needed for router to distinguish between different classes; and new router policy to treat packets accordingly

Principles for QOS guarantees (more)

- what if applications misbehave (VoIP sends higher than declared rate)
  - policing: force source adherence to bandwidth allocations
- *marking, policing* at network edge

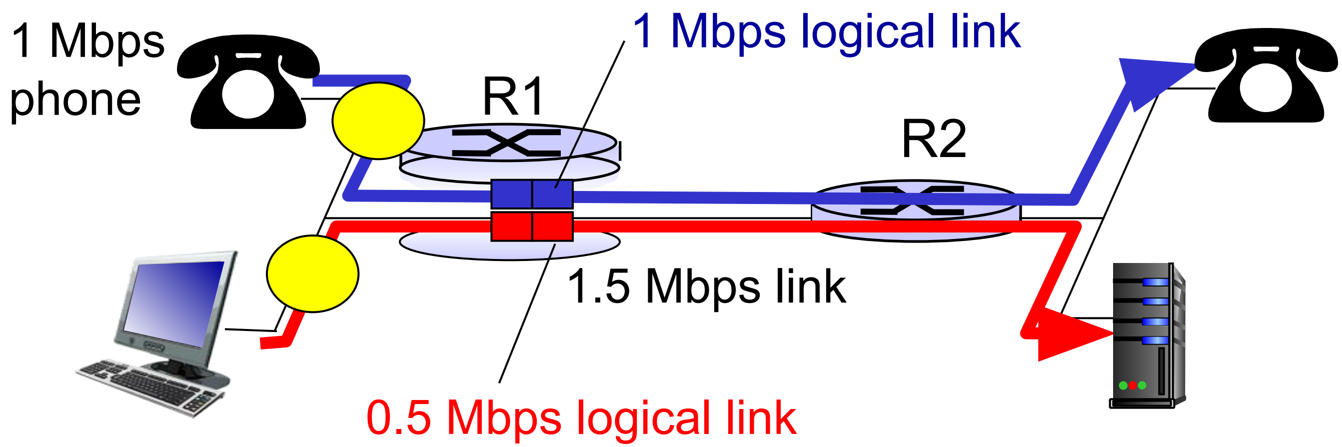


Principle 2

provide protection (isolation) for one class from others

Principles for QOS guarantees (more)

- allocating *fixed* (non-sharable) bandwidth to flow: *inefficient* use of bandwidth if flows doesn't use its allocation

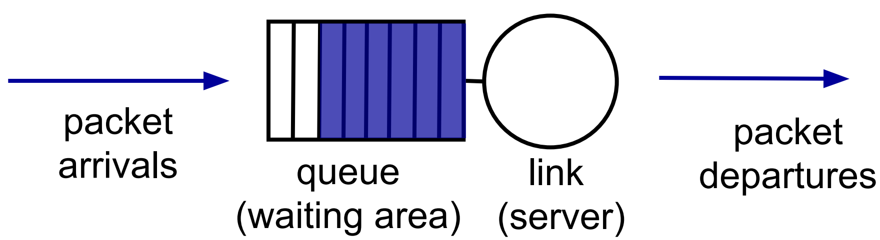


Principle 3

while providing isolation, it is desirable to use resources as efficiently as possible

Scheduling and policing mechanisms

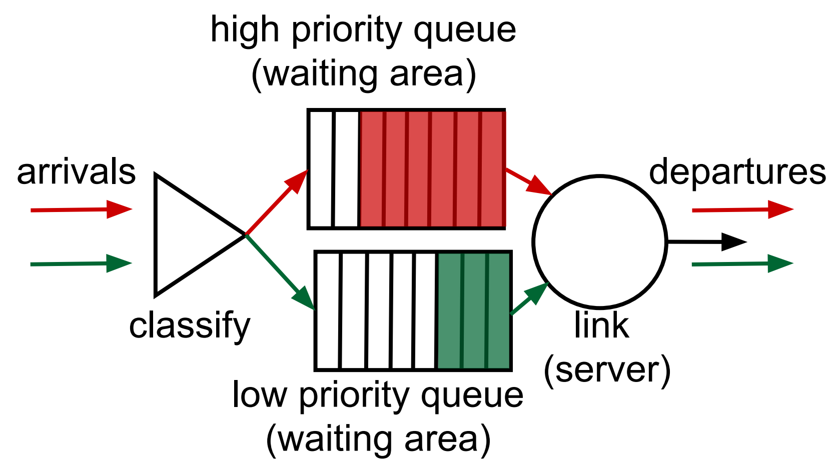
- *scheduling:* choose next packet to send on link
- *FIFO (first in first out) scheduling:* send in order of arrival to queue
  - real-world example?
  - *discard policy:* if packet arrives to full queue: who to discard?
    - *tail drop:* drop arriving packet
    - *priority:* drop/remove on priority basis
    - *random:* drop/remove randomly

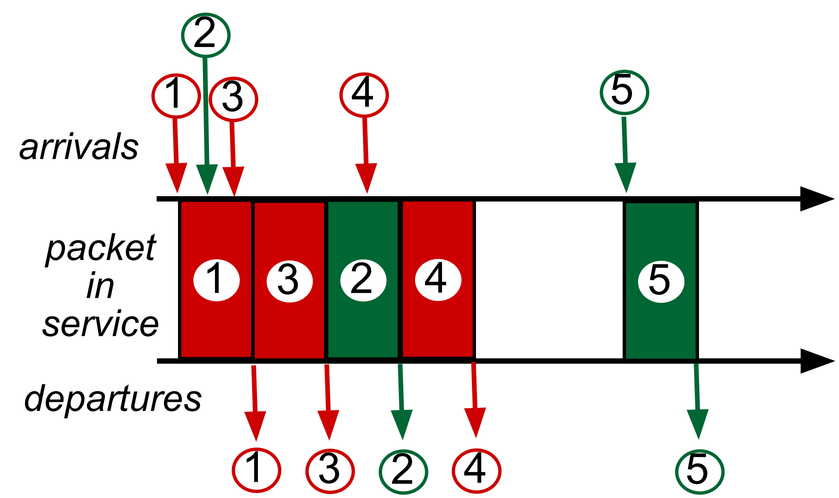


Scheduling policies: priority

priority scheduling: send highest priority queued packet

- multiple *classes*, with different priorities
  - class may depend on marking or other header info, e.g. IP source/dest, port numbers, etc

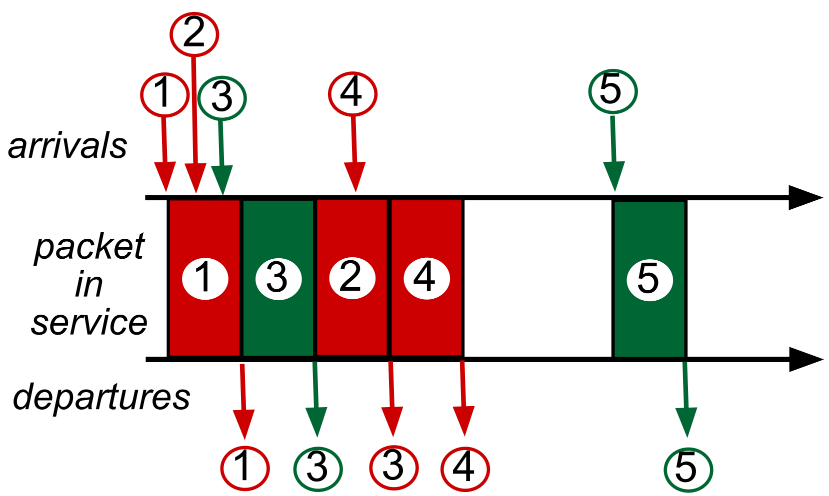




Scheduling policies: still more

Round Robin (RR) scheduling:

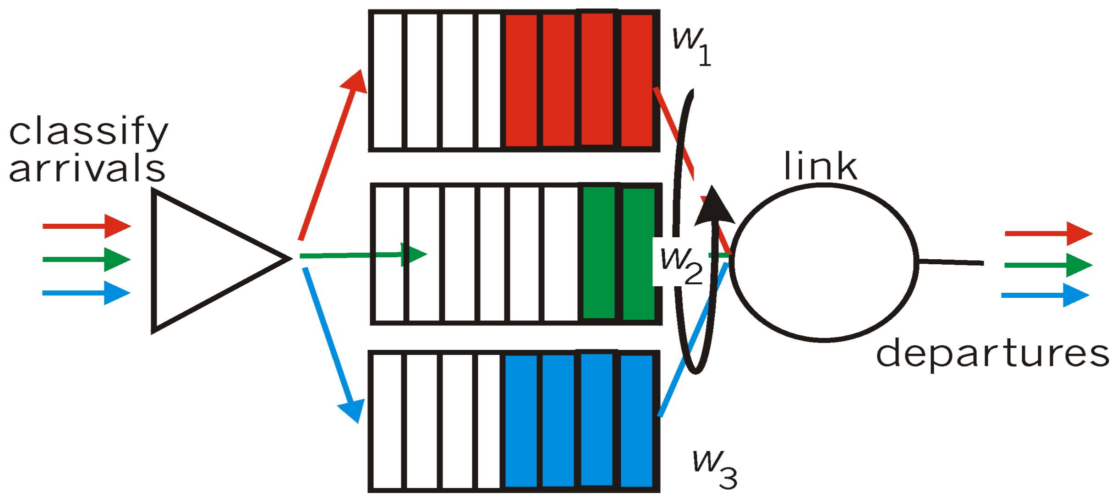
- multiple classes
- cyclically scan class queues, sending one complete packet from each class (if available)



Scheduling policies: still more

Weighted Fair Queuing (WFQ):

- generalized Round Robin
- each class gets weighted amount of service in each cycle



Policing mechanisms

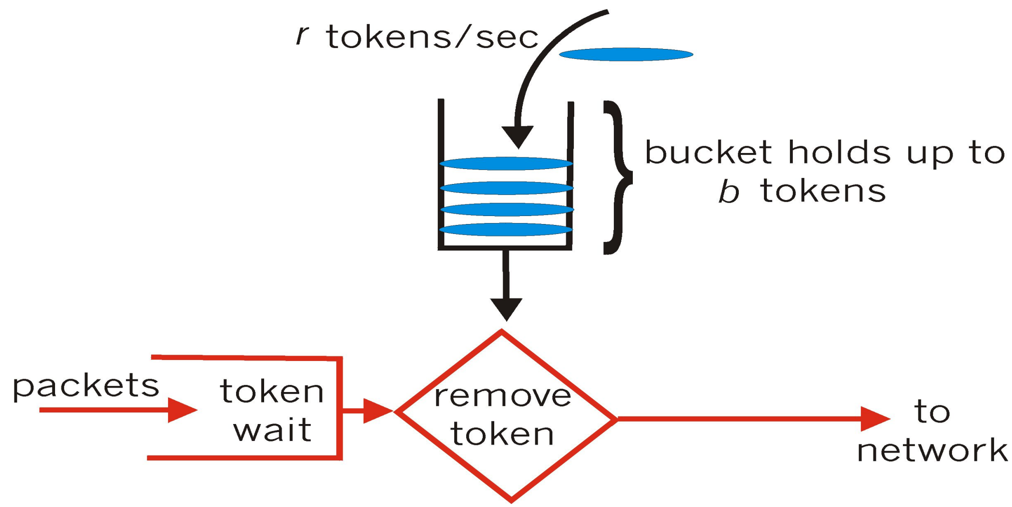
goal: limit traffic to not exceed declared parameters

Three common-used criteria:

- *(long term) average rate:* how many pkts can be sent per unit time (in the long run)
  - crucial question: what is the interval length: 100 packets per sec or 6000 packets per min have same average!
- *peak rate:* e.g., 6000 pkts per min (ppm) avg.; 1500 ppm peak rate
- *(max.) burst size:* max number of pkts sent consecutively (with no intervening idle)

Policing mechanisms: implementation

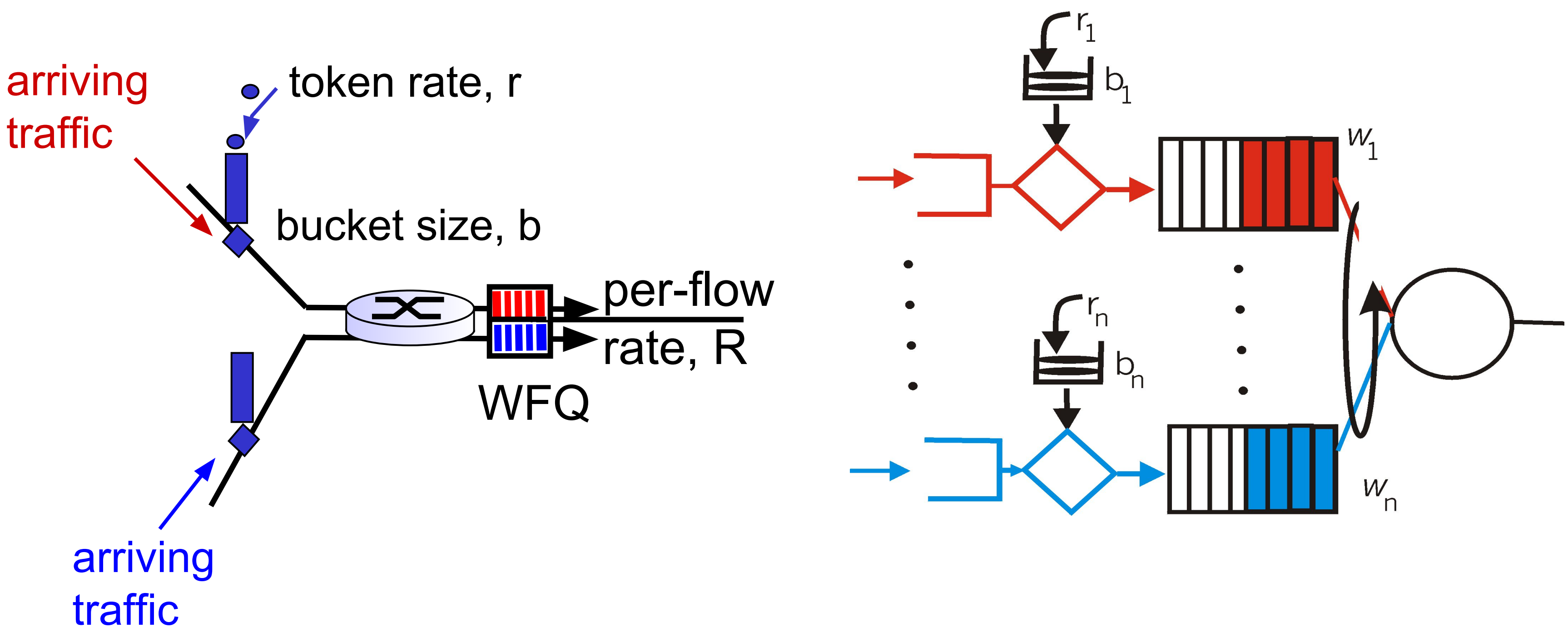
token bucket: limit input to specified *burst size* and *average rate*



- bucket can hold b tokens
- tokens generated at rate *r token/sec* unless bucket full
- *over interval of length t: number of packets admitted less than or equal to (r t + b)*

Policing and QoS guarantees

- token bucket, WFQ combine to provide guaranteed upper bound on delay, i.e., *QoS guarantee!*

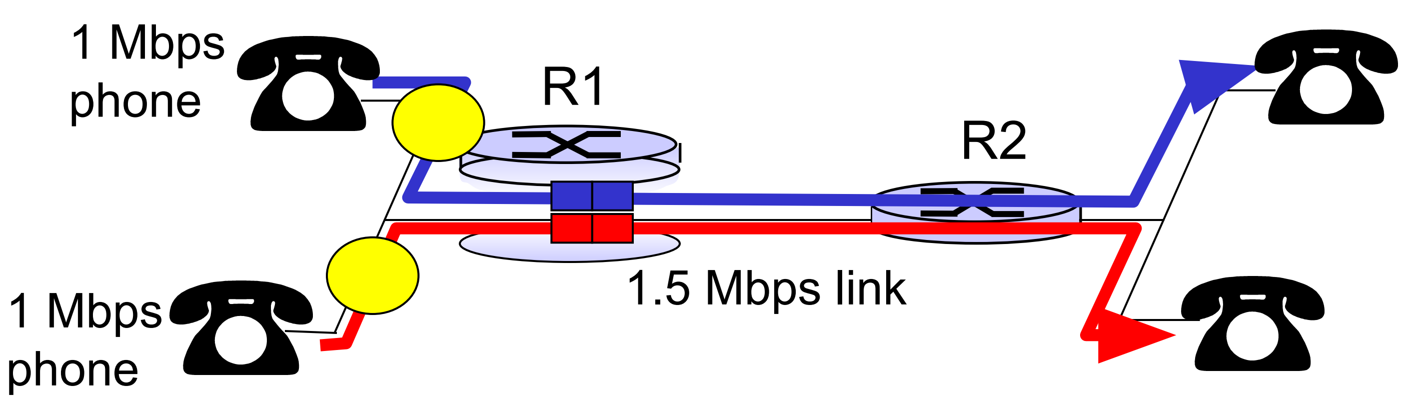


Differentiated services

- want "qualitative" service classes
  - "behaves like a wire"
  - relative service distinction: Platinum, Gold, Silver
- *scalability:* simple functions in network core, relatively complex functions at edge routers (or hosts)
  - signaling, maintaining per-flow router state difficult with large number of flows

Per-connection QOS guarantees

- *basic fact of life:* can not support traffic demands beyond link capacity

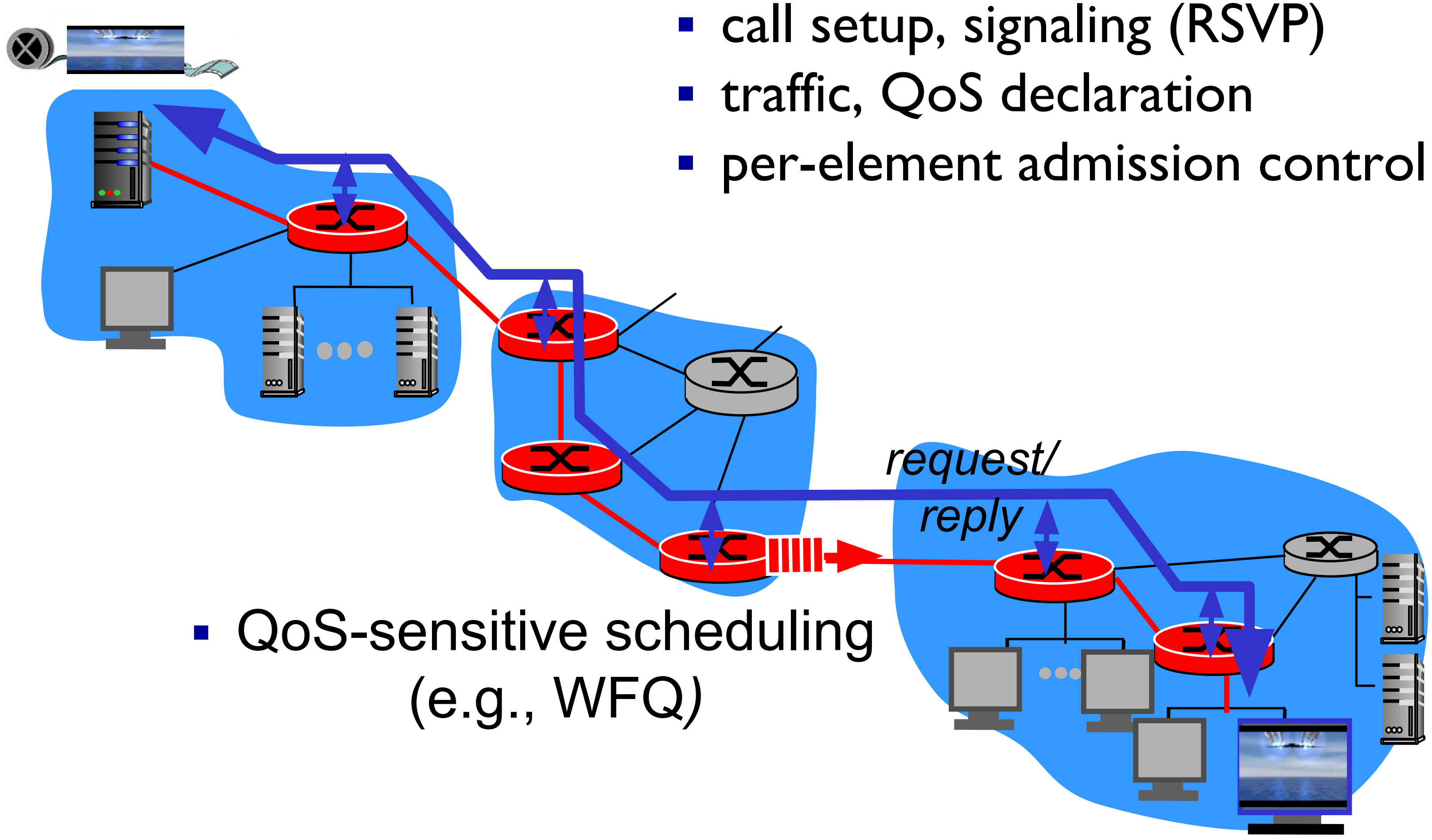


Principle
4

call admission: flow declares its needs, network may
block call (e.g., busy signal) if it cannot meet needs

QoS guarantee scenario

- *resource reservation*
  - call setup, signaling (RSVP)
  - traffic, QoS declaration
  - per-element admission control



- QoS-sensitive scheduling (e.g., WFQ)