
COMP3234B Computer and Communication Networks

Lab 2: Go-back-N RDT

Introduction

In this lab, we will use Python socket programming to implement a simple application-layer Go-back-N (GBN) RDT protocol. We have introduced in lectures that the stop-and-wait RDT protocol is not efficient enough in sender utilization. In this lab exercise, we are going to implement the GBN protocol between a sender program and a receiver program, which communicates over UDP sockets and allows pipelined data transmission. The simple GBN RDT protocol uses sequence number, timer, ACK, retransmission and a sending window, but without checksum (i.e., we consider the channel may lose data/ACK packets but does not flip bits in the packets).

Lab Exercise: Simple Application-layer GBN RDT

We now implement a simple file transfer application with RDT over UDP, where a sender sends a file to a receiver.

Step 1: Download **lab2_materials.zip** from Moodle. Unzip it and you will find a few files provided: [sender/RDTSend.py](#), [sender/tcp.txt](#), [receiver/RDTReceive.py](#) and [receiver/compare_files.py](#).

Step 2: Open **RDTReceive.py** using a text editor. **RDTReceive.py** contains the complete implementation of the receiver program. Study the receiver program carefully and you will learn from its code to complete the server program.

a. The receiver is to be started by command “python3 RDTReceiver.py”. By default, you can run both the sender program and the receiver program on the same machine, i.e., using localhost “127.0.0.1”; data packets are sent from the sender’s port 6666 to the receiver’s port 7777, and ACK packets are sent from the receiver’s port 7777 to the sender’s port 6666.

b. We use the [struct](#) module to pack packet contents into binary data. Check out the functions and format strings in the [struct](#) module at: <https://docs.python.org/3/library/struct.html>. For example, “I” represents an unsigned integer number and “32s” means a 32byte-long string. With “`packer = struct.Struct('I')`”, we create a [Struct](#) object which we will use to pack an unsigned integer number; with “`unpacker = struct.Struct('I 32s')`”, we create a [Struct](#) object which we will use to unpack received binary data into an unsigned integer number and a 32-byte string together. For the usage of [pack\(\)](#) and [unpack\(\)](#), you may check out more examples at: <https://www.askpython.com/python-modules/python-struct-module>.

c. After establishing the UDP socket and setting up the packer and unpacker, the receiver keeps receiving data in a [While](#) loop. The receiver uses [unpack\(\)](#) function to unpack received binary data into a tuple whose entries correspond to the original packed items in the received packet. For data packet, the first entry is the sequence number and the second entry is the transferred data. When the receiver receives a packet with expected sequence number, it writes the content into file “`recv.txt`”, sends corresponding ACK to the sender (if [lostACK\(\)](#) function returns false), increases the value of [expt_seq_num](#) by 1, and updates [latest_seq_num](#) to the sequence number of the currently received packet ([unpacked_data\[0\]](#)). When the receiver receives a packet whose sequence number is not the expected sequence number, it resends the previous

ACK (`latest_seq_num`) to the sender. The `lostACK()` function is used to simulate the loss of ACK, i.e., by not sending the ACK packet out.

d. We provided the code to set a 5-second timeout (using socket `settimeout()` function) on the receiver's socket, i.e., if the receiver is not receiving any data within 5 seconds, the receiver's socket is closed and the receiver program exits. Check out the usage of socket `settimeout()` at <https://docs.python.org/3/library/socket.html#socket.socket.settimeout> and <https://docs.python.org/3/library/socket.html#socket-timeouts>. We also provided a number of `print()` statements, such that you can observe similar printouts at receiver and sender sides as in the sample screenshots in the appendix.

Step 3: Open `RDTSend.py` using a text editor, and you will find that it provides a sketch of the sender program. Complete the sender program following the hints given as “#TODO...” in the `sendPacket()`, `recvAck()` and `funcTimeout()` functions, to achieve the following service: The sender reads a file (e.g., `tcp.txt`) and sends the file contents to the receiver using a protocol similar to GBN RDT sender protocol (except for using checksum). In the `sendPacket()` function, the sender sends up to `WINDOW_SIZE` (default to 5) packets to receiver in pipeline, according to the `base` and `next_seq_num` pointers. In the `recvAck()` function, the sender receives ACK from the receiver, updates the `base` pointer accordingly, and stops the timer. If the value of `base` pointer is smaller than that of the `next_seq_num` pointer, it starts a new timer for remaining unacked packets within the sender window. The `funcTimeout` function handles the timeout event. When it is triggered, it starts a timer and retransmits all unacked packets. As we are running sender and receiver programs on the same machine, it is difficult to observe packet loss. In the sender program, we add a `lostPacket()` function (similar to the `lostACK()` function in receiver), which allows us to simulate “loss” of the current packet with a certain probability (default to 0.1), i.e., by not sending the packet out if `lostPacket()` function returns `true`.

- The sender reads contents from the file provided and stores them as 32-byte strings into array `pkt_data`. Learn more about the `for... in...` loop at <https://docs.python.org/3.9/tutorial/controlflow.html> and Python single-line `for` loop at <https://blog.teamtreehouse.com/python-single-line-loops>, `range()` function at https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_func_range.asp, and `len()` function at https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_func_len.asp.
- In `sendPacket()` function, the sender constructs a data packet by packing the sequence number and the 32-byte string, which is converted to bytes first using `bytes()` function. The Python built-in function `bytes()` is used to return an immutable bytes object initialized with the given data. Read the official description at <https://docs.python.org/3/library/stdtypes.html#bytes>. Also you can read more about the encoding methods, e.g., `utf-8` at <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/2241348/what-is-unicode-utf-8-utf-16>.
- The timer is created as a `Timer` object in the `threading` module, and started using the `start()` function. Learn more about `threading.Timer` at <https://docs.python.org/3/library/threading.html#timer-objects>. The function `funcTimeout` is invoked when the timer times out.

Step 4: test your programs as follows:

- **Launch one terminal** and switch to the directory of Lab2/receiver. Run the receiver program as follows:

```
python3 RDTRceive.py
```

-
- **Launch the second terminal** and switch to the directory of Lab2/sender. Run the sender program as follows:

```
python3 RDTSend.py tcp.txt
```

The next two pages show sample printouts when the default setting of data/ACK loss probabilities are used. You can adjust the data and ACK loss probabilities to simulate the cases of no loss, packet loss only, ACK loss only, as well as different packet and ACK loss probabilities. You may also adjust the timeout times to allow the code to run better on your machine.

After successfully receiving the file from the sender, you should see the new file [recv.txt](#) created in the [receiver](#) folder with the same content as [tcp.txt](#) in the [sender](#) folder. Switch to directory Lab2/receiver and run the file comparison program as follows:

```
python3 compare_files.py
```

which will tell you if the received file is the same as the file at the sender side.

Submission:

You should submit the following files in the specified folder structure:

- (1) sender/RDTSend.py
- (2) sender/tcp.txt
- (3) receiver/RDTReceive.py
- (4) receiver/compare_files.py

Please compress the above files/folders in a lab2-yourUID.zip file and submit it on Moodle before **23:59 Wednesday Feb. 21, 2024**:

- (1) Login Moodle.
- (2) Find "Labs" in the left column and click "Lab 2".
- (3) Click "Add submission", browse your .zip file and save it. Done.
- (4) You will receive an automatic confirmation email, if the submission was successful.
- (5) You can "Edit submission" to your already submitted file, but ONLY before the deadline.

Appendix

Sender:

```
$ python3 RDTSend.py tcp.txt
Packet (seq num: 1) sent
Packet (seq num: 2) sent
Packet (seq num: 3) sent
Packet (seq num: 4) sent
Packet sent from Sender with seq_num 5 lost
Packet (seq num: 6) sent
Packet (seq num: 7) sent
Packet (seq num: 8) sent
Packet (seq num: 9) sent
Packet (seq num: 10) sent
Packet (seq num: 5) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 7) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 8) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 9) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 10) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 6) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 8) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 11) sent
Packet (seq num: 9) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 10) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 11) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 7) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 12) sent
Packet (seq num: 9) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 10) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 11) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 12) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 8) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 9) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 13) sent
Packet (seq num: 11) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 14) sent
Packet (seq num: 13) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 14) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 10) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 11) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 15) sent
Packet (seq num: 16) sent
Packet (seq num: 14) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 15) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 16) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 12) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 14) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 17) sent
Packet (seq num: 15) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 16) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 17) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 13) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 14) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 16) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 17) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 18) sent
Packet (seq num: 18) retransmitted
Packet sent from Sender with seq_num 19 lost
Packet (seq num: 15) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 20) sent
Packet (seq num: 16) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 21) sent
Packet (seq num: 19) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 20) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 21) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 17) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 19) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 20) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 21) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 22) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 22) sent
Packet (seq num: 18) retransmitted
```

```
Packet (seq num: 23) sent
Packet (seq num: 20) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 21) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 22) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 23) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 19) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 20) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 22) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 23) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 24) sent
Packet (seq num: 25) sent
Packet (seq num: 24) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 21) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 23) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 26) sent
Packet (seq num: 24) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 25) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 26) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 22) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 23) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 25) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 27) sent
Packet (seq num: 26) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 28) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 28) sent
Packet (seq num: 24) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 26) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 27) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 29) sent
Packet (seq num: 28) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 29) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 25) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 30) sent
Packet (seq num: 27) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 28) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 29) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 30) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 26) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 28) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 29) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 30) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 31) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 31) sent
Packet (seq num: 27) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 29) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 30) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 32) sent
Packet (seq num: 31) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 32) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 28) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 33) sent
Packet (seq num: 30) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 31) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 32) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 33) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 29) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 30) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 31) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 34) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 36) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 34) sent
Packet (seq num: 35) sent
Packet (seq num: 36) sent
Packet (seq num: 32) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 33) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 37) sent
Packet (seq num: 35) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 38) sent
Packet (seq num: 37) retransmitted
```

```
Packet (seq num: 38) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 34) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 39) sent
Packet (seq num: 36) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 37) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 38) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 39) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 35) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 36) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 37) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 38) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 39) retransmitted
Packet (seq num: 40) sent
Packet (seq num: 41) sent
Packet (seq num: 42) sent
```

Receiver:


```
python3 RDTReduce.py
Receive expected packet with seq num: 1
Cumulative ACK 1 sent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 2
Cumulative ACK 2 sent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 3
Cumulative ACK 3 sent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 4
Cumulative ACK 4 sent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 6, resending latest ACK ...
ACK 4 sent from Receiver lost
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 7, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 4 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 8, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 4 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 9, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 4 resent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 5
Cumulative ACK 5 sent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 10, resending latest ACK ...
ACK 5 sent from Receiver lost
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 7, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 5 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 8, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 5 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 9, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 5 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 10, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 5 resent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 6
Cumulative ACK 6 sent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 11, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 6 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 8, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 6 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 9, resending latest ACK ...
ACK 6 sent from Receiver lost
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 10, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 6 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 11, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 6 resent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 7
Cumulative ACK 7 sent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 12, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 7 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 9, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 7 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 10, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 7 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 11, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 7 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 12, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 7 resent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 8
Cumulative ACK 8 sent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 13, resending latest ACK ...
ACK 8 sent from Receiver lost
Receive expected packet with seq num: 9
Cumulative ACK 9 sent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 11, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 9 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 14, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 9 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 13, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 9 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 14, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 9 resent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 10
ACK 10 sent from Receiver lost
```

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

```
Latest ACK 33 resent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 34
Cumulative ACK 34 sent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 39, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 34 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 36, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 34 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 37, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 34 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 38, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 34 resent to the Sender
Receive unexpected packet with wrong seq_num 39, resending latest ACK ...
Latest ACK 34 resent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 35
Cumulative ACK 35 sent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 36
Cumulative ACK 36 sent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 37
Cumulative ACK 37 sent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 38
Cumulative ACK 38 sent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 39
Cumulative ACK 39 sent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 40
Cumulative ACK 40 sent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 41
Cumulative ACK 41 sent to the Sender
Receive expected packet with seq num: 42
Cumulative ACK 42 sent to the Sender
Socket timeout, terminate the receiver program.
```