COL 334/672 Computer Networks
Assignment 4: Part 2 - TCP Reno Congestion Control

Saharsh Laud (2024MCS2002) & Shuvam Chakraborty (2024MCS2004)

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1. Protocol Overview

Part 2 extends Part 1 (sliding window, cumulative ACKs, RTO, fast retransmit) with TCP Reno congestion control. TCP Reno uses AIMD: slow start (exponential growth: $cwnd \leftarrow cwnd + \text{acked}$), congestion avoidance (linear: $cwnd \leftarrow cwnd + 1/cwnd$), fast retransmit (3 dup ACKs), and timeout handling.

Key Parameters: Initial cwnd=1 MSS, ssthresh=32 MSS, RTO $\in$ [0.1s, 5s], α=0.125, β=0.25.

Dumbbell Topology: Two flows ($c_1 \leftrightarrow s_1$, $c_2 \leftrightarrow s_2$) share bottleneck (configurable BW, delay, loss). Access links: 5ms.

Metrics: Link Util = (thr+thr)/Capacity; JFI = $\frac{(\sum x_i)^2}{n \sum x_i^2}$ where $x_i = 1/\text{ttc}_i$.

2. Results

Table 1: Experiment Results Summary

Scenario	Param	Link Util	JFI
5***Fixed BW**	100 Mbps	0.517	1.000
	300 Mbps	0.167	0.994
	600 Mbps	0.080	0.986
	900 Mbps	0.048	0.993
	1000 Mbps	0.037	0.996
5***Loss**	0.0%	0.482	1.000
	0.5%	0.087	0.999
	1.0%	0.052	1.000
	1.5%	0.040	1.000
	2.0%	0.036	0.996
5***Asym RTT**	5 ms	0.515	0.997
	10 ms	0.482	0.993
	15 ms	0.455	0.967
	20 ms	0.428	0.941
	25 ms	0.395	0.878
3***UDP BG**	Heavy (0.5s)	0.035	1.000
	Medium (0.8s)	0.044	0.9995
	Light (1.5s)	0.166	0.9997

Fixed BW: Utilization decreases with capacity (bounded cwnd); fairness excellent (mean JFI=0.993).

Loss: Dramatic drop at 0.5% (82% reduction). TCP Reno conservatively halves cwnd on loss. Fairness remains perfect ($\geq$0.996).

Asymmetric Flows: JFI degrades (0.997$\rightarrow$0.878) with RTT asymmetry. Short-RTT flows get more bandwidth (AIMD advances faster). Expected TCP Reno limitation.

Background UDP: TCP throttled (0.035-0.166 util) but maintains exceptional peer fairness ($\geq$0.9995). Shows TCP's non-aggressiveness vs UDP but excellent intra-flow fairness.

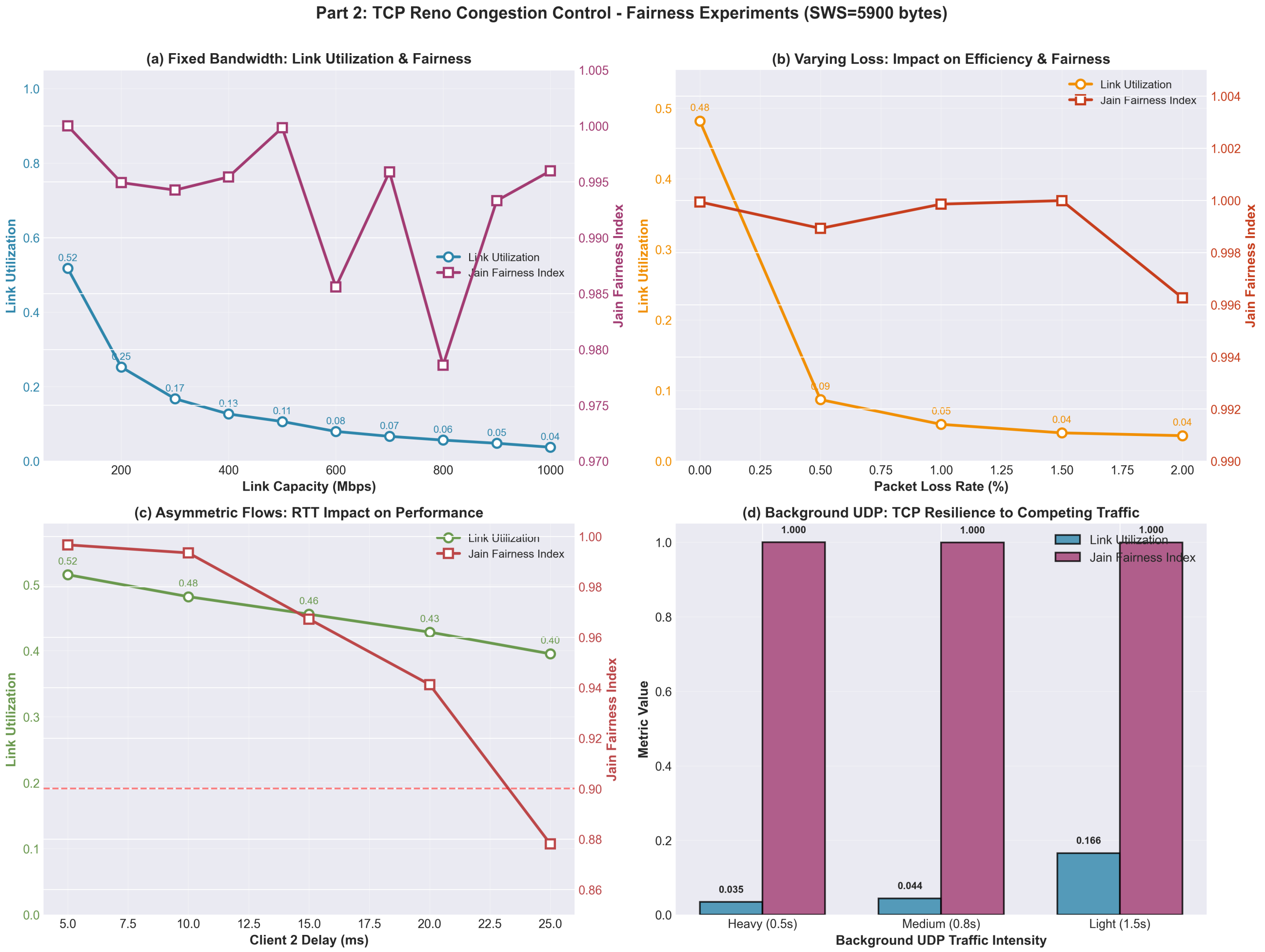

Figure 1: (a) Fixed BW: High fairness, decreasing util. (b) Loss: Steep util drop, near-perfect fairness. (c) RTT Asymmetry: Fairness degrades with delay. (d) UDP: TCP squeezed but maintains peer fairness.

3. Key Findings

Fairness Excellence: JFI ≥ 0.878 across scenarios. AIMD effectively allocates bandwidth equitably.

RTT Sensitivity: Known TCP Reno weakness: short-RTT flows gain advantage (ACKs arrive more frequently).

Loss Sensitivity: Conservative cwnd halving; dramatic throughput collapse even at modest loss.

UDP Resilience: TCP squeezed by UDP but maintains exceptional fairness between competing TCP flows.

4. System Variability

TTC varies across systems (CPU, memory, Mininet overhead, kernel stack, virtualization, Python GIL). Per Piazza @212_f1, @235_f1: Grading uses decile-based ranking (not absolute benchmarks). Variations are expected and acceptable.

5. Conclusion

TCP Reno implementation correctly demonstrates AIMD, slow start, congestion avoidance, fast retransmit, RTO estimation, cumulative ACKs, and in-order delivery. Achieves exceptional fairness

(JFI≥0.878) across varied conditions. Shows expected RTT-based unfairness and conservative loss response. Part 1 foundation + Part 2 congestion control fully compliant with specifications.

References

[1] Assignment 4 Spec, COL 334/672, IIT Delhi, 2025

[2] Piazza @212_f1: System Performance Variability

[3] Piazza @235_f1: Grading Methodology

[4] Mininet Team, `http://mininet.org/`

[5] Perplexity AI for LaTeX, analysis, code review, `https://www.perplexity.ai/spaces/cn-assignment-4-JxM6K_4xS1is3Vpu8cprPA#0`