Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) Agents



Outline

- Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)
- · An Overview of NS2 Implementation
- TCP Receiver
- TCP Sender
- Summary

Introduction

- · Recall: Transport Layer Protocol
 - Implemented at the end points
 - Flow control
 - Error Control
 - Application-NW bridge
- UDP (User Datagram Protocol)
- Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)
- Suggested Reading: J. F. Kurose and K. W. Ross, Computer Networking: A Top-Down Approach. Pearson Addison-Wesley, 2008

Comparison with UDP

	UDP	TCP
Implement at	Source only	Source and
		Destination
Flow control	None	Window based
Error control	None	ACK based
	(non-reliable)	(reliable)
Connection	Connection	Connection
type	less	oriented
App-NW	Yes	Yes
Bridge		

TCP: Main Features

- Implemented at

 - Source → Packet Transmission
 - Destination → ACK Transmission
- Window-based flow (speed) control

	A window	TX window
Things to flow through	Air	Data
Small window	Less air can flow through	Less data can flow through
Window is closed	No air can flow through	No data can flow through

TCP: Main Features

- Reliable TL protocol:
 - All data must be received
 - Use ACK
- · Connection Oriented TL Protocol:
 - 3 Phrases of data transfer
 - 1. Connection setup
 - 2. Data transfer:

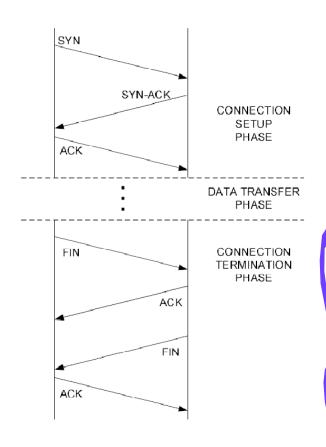
(Main Part of TCP; We will focus on this part)

3. Connection termination



Connection setup and termination

- · Connection setup
 - Three way handshake
 - SYN/SYN-ACK/ACK
- Connection Termination
 - Four way handshake
 - 2 x FIN/ACK





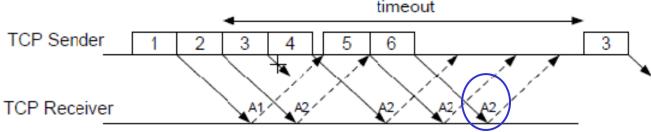
Data Transfer

- Error control
 - Provide reliability
 - Acknowledgement
 - Timeout
- Flow control
 - Control transmission speed
 - At the source node
 - Window-based



Error Control

- Acknowledgement
 - The receiver: Send an Acknowledgement (ACK) packet for every received packet.
 - ACK with highest seq. no. which has been received.
- Timeout
 - A TCP sender start a timeout counter at after sending each packet
- Loss detection
 - Timeout: An ACK is not received prior to the expiration of the timeout counter.
 - Fast Retransmit: The sender receives the 3rd ACK



Timeout Value Adjustment

- Timeout facts
 - Loss detection
 - Long timeout → Long latency in detection loss
 - Short timeout → Unnecessary packet transmission
 - A function of round trip time
- TCP timeout [RFC2988]: For the k^{th} packet
 - Store a sending time in the packet
 - Compute the round trip time (RTT) t(k), when the ACK for the k^{th} packet returns.
 - Compute average RTT, $\overline{t}(k)$.
 - Compute standard variation of RTT, $\sigma_t(k)$.
 - Compute retransmission timeout (RTO), RTO(k).



Timeout Value Adjustment

· RFC 2988

$$\overline{t}(k+1) = \alpha \times \overline{t}(k) + (1-\alpha) \times t(k+1), \alpha \in (0,1)$$

$$\sigma_t(k+1) = \beta \times \sigma_t(k) + (1-\beta) \times |t(k+1) - \overline{t}(k+1)|$$

$$RTO(k+1) = \min\{ub, \max\{lb, \gamma \times [\overline{t}(k+1) + 4 \times \sigma_t(k+1)]\}\}$$

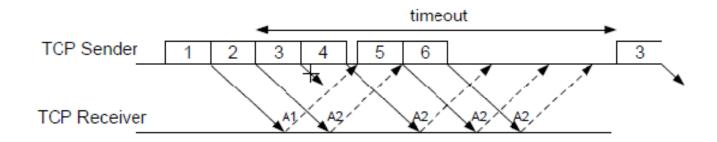
- $\alpha = 7/8$, $\beta = 3/4$
- lb = lower bound (0.2 seconds in NS2)
- $ub = upper bound (10^5 seconds in NS2)$
- γ : Initialized to 1
 - Double for every timeout event
 - Reset to 1 upon reception of ACK
- Timeout granularity = 0.5 s (default), 0.1 s (NS2)

Q: How does NS2 setup these initial values?
A:



Flow Control

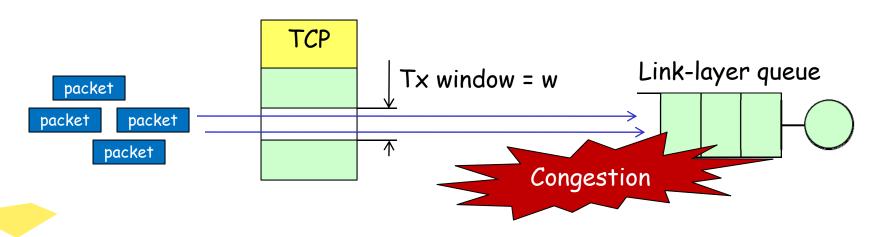
- Window-based: Window size = W
- Control TX rate, ⇔ Controlling the window size
 - 1. Increasing TX rate
 - 2. Decreasing TX rate
- W = no. of packets that can be TX without being ACKed





Window Adjustment Rational

- Large W → Send more data without waiting
 → Higher data rate
- W is too large → Congestion → reduce W
- Note: TCP assumes all losses come from congestion



Increasing TX Rate

- Increase or widen the TX window
- A.K.A. Open the TX window
- More data can flow through
- Until $W = W_{max}$, the window increament process has two phases

1. Slow start:

- W < W_{th} (i.e., slow start threshold)
- W = W+1 for every received ACK

2. Congestion avoidance:

- W >= W_{th}
- W = W+1/W for every received ACK



Decreasing TX Rate

- Decrease or narrow down the TX window
- A.K.A. Close the TX window
- To avoid congestion
- Two methods
- 1. Reset to 1
- 2. Fast Recovery:
 - Set W and W_{th} to half of its current value
 - Increase W by 1 for every received duplicated ACK
 - After receiving a new ACK → Congestion Avoidance (i.e., W = W_{th})



Data Transfer: Recap

- Error control
 - Acknowledge every packet
 - Loss detection
 - Timeout: Not receiving ACK for a long time
 - Fast Retransmit: 3 Duplicated ACK
 - Packet Retransmission
- Flow control
 - Increase TX rate
 - Slow-start: W < W_{th}; W=W+1 for every ACK
 - Congestion avoidance: W >= W_{th}; W=W+1/W for every ACK
 - Decrease TX rate
 - Reset to 1
 - Fast Recovery: Half W and W_{th}



Typical TCP Variants

	TCP Variant	Loss Detection	
OUR	FOCUS!!	Timeout	Fast Retransmit
	Old-Tahoe	Reset w to 1	N/A
	Tahoe	Reset w to 1	Reset w to 1
	Reno	Reset w to 1	Fast Recovery (single packet)
	New Reno	Reset w to 1	Fast Recovery (all packets)



Outline

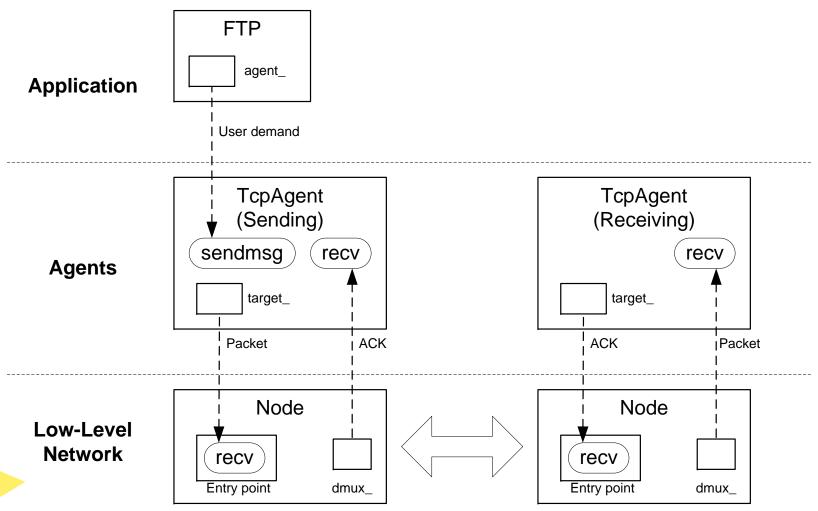
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NS2 Implementation of TCP

- TCP Old-Tahoe
- TCP sender:
 - C++: TcpAgent ⇔ OTcl: Agent/TCP
- TCP receiver
 - C++: TcpSink ⇔ OTcl: Agent/TCPSink



TCP: Connection to Application and Low-Level Network



TCP Implementation in NS2

- TCP Receiving Agent
 - Responsibilities: Acknowledging packets
 - C++: Agent → TcpSink
 - OTcl: Agent → Agent/TCPSink
- TCP Sending Agent
 - Responsibilities: Sending packet, flow control, error control
 - C++: Agent → TcpAgent
 - OTcl: Agent → Agent/TCP
- TCP Header: cmn_hdr

Variable	Meaning
seqno_	Sequence number
ts_	Timestamp
ts_echo_	Timestamp echo
reason_	TX reason (e.g., 0 = normal)

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A Guide for Creating a New Agent

- 1. Define the hierarchy: Based/derived classes
- 2. Define C++ and OTcl class variables
- 3. Define the constructor in both the hierarchy (bind the C++/OTcl variables here)
- 4. Implement the following key functions
 sendmsg(nbyte), recv(p,h), timeout(tno)
- 5. Define OTcl commands
- 6. Define timer (if necessary)



TCP Receiving Agent

Two main classes

	Main	Helper
C++ class	TcpSink	Acker
OTcl class	Agent/TCPSink	None
Responsibility	TCP receiving agent	Support ACK creating

```
//~/ns/tcp/tcp-sink.cc
class TcpSink : public Agent {
public:
    TcpSink(Acker*):
    void recv(Packet* pkt, Handler*)    One main function
    int command(int argc, const char*const* argv);
protected:
    void ack(Packet*);
    Acker* acker_;
    One helper function
    Acker* acker_;
    One key variable

Textbook: T. Issariyakul and E. Hossain, Introduction to Network Simulator NS2, Springer 2008.
```

TCP Receiving Agent

The constructor

```
TcpSink::TcpSink(Acker* acker) : Agent(PT_ACK), acker_(acker) {...}
Function recv(p,h):
//~/ns/tcp/tcp-sink.cc
void TcpSink::recv(Packet* pkt, Handler*)
    int numToDeliver;
    int numBytes = hdr_cmn::access(pkt)->size();
    hdr_tcp *th = hdr_tcp::access(pkt);
    numToDeliver = acker ->update(th->seqno(), numBytes);
    if (numToDeliver)
                                            Tell acker that a new
        recvBytes(numToDeliver);
                                           packet has arrived
    ack(pkt);
    Packet::free(pkt); Ack-ing the incoming packet,
                       and destroy the packet
```

TCP Receiving Agent

Function ack(p):

```
//~/ns/tcp/tcp-sink.cc
void TcpSink::ack(Packet* opkt)
    Packet* npkt = allocpkt();
    hdr tcp *otcp = hdr tcp::access(opkt);
    hdr_tcp *ntcp = hdr_tcp::access(npkt);
    ntcp->seqno() = acker_->Seqno();
    double now = Scheduler::instance().clock();
    ntcp->ts() = now;
    hdr_ip* oip = hdr_ip::access(opkt);
    hdr_ip* nip = hdr_ip::access(npkt);
    nip->flowid() = oip->flowid();
    send(npkt, 0);
                               Q: What are the types of (npkt,0)?
                               A: (
```

- Responsibility: Maintain the status of received packets
- · Declaration:

```
//~/ns/tcp/tcp-sink.h
class Acker {
public:
    Acker();    Two key functions
    inline int Seqno() const { return (next_ - 1); }
    int update(int seqno, int numBytes);

protected:
    int next_; int maxseen_; int wndmask_; int *seen_;
    int is_dup_;
};

Five key variables
```



Variable	Meaning
seen_	An array: Index = Seq. No; Value = packet size
next_	Expected sequence number
maxseen_	Highest sequence number ever received
wndmask_	Modulus mask, initialized to maximum window size-1
is_dup_	True if the latest received TCP packet was received earlier

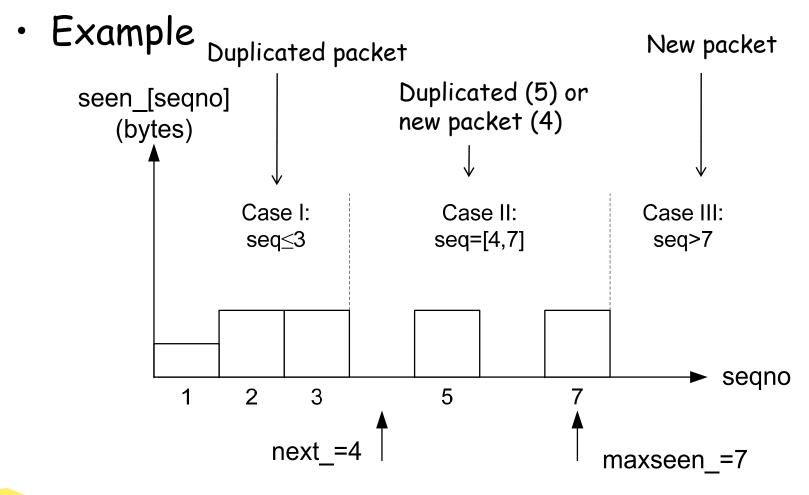
Constructor

```
//~/ns/tcp/tcp-sink.cc
Acker::Acker() : next_(0), maxseen_(0), wndmask_(MWM)
{
    seen_ = new int[MWS];
    memset(seen_, 0, (sizeof(int) * (MWS)));
}
//~/ns/tcp/tcp-sink.cc
#define MWS 64
#define MWM (MWS-1)
```

- Function Seqno(): Return the seqno. under which all packets are received (i.e., next_ -1)
- Function update(seq, numbyte)
- seq = Seq no. of the received packet
- numbyte = packet size
- Return no. of in-seq bytes ready to be delivered to the upper layer
- Three cases:

```
I) seq < next_,
II) next_<= seq <=maxseen_, and
III) seq > max_seen_
```







Function update(seq, numbyte)

```
I) seq < next_: This is a duplicated packet</pre>
```

```
//~/ns/tcp/tcp-sink.cc
int Acker::update(int seq, int numBytes)
{
    if (seq < next)
        is_dup_ = TRUE;
    ...
}</pre>
```



Function update(seq, numbyte)

```
III) seq > max_seen_: This is a new packet
```

Function update(seq, numbyte)

```
II) next_<=seq <=maxseen_: A missing packet</pre>
                          Why are these being "&" with wndmask_?
                          Hint: wndmask_ = max. window size - 1.
//~/ns/tcp/tcp-sink.cc
int Acker::update(int seq, int numBytes)
                                             This is a dup. packet
   if (seq >= next && seq <= maxseen
       if (seen_(seq & wndmask
                                 && !just_marked_as_seen)
           is dup = TRUE; /
       seen_(seq & wndmask
                               numBytes; <
                                                   - Update seen
       while (seen next & wndmask
           numToDeliver += seen (next & wndmask
           ++next;
                                             Advance next
       next_ = next;
```

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 - Responsibilities: Sending packet, flow control, error control
 - C++: Agent → TcpAgent
 - OTcl: Agent → Agent/TCP



A Guide for Creating a New Agent

- 1. Define the hierarchy: Based/derived classes
- 2. Define C++ and OTcl class variables (see Tables 10.1-10.4 in the book)
- 3. Define the constructor in both the hierarchy (bind the C++/OTcl variables here)
- 4. Implement the following key functions sendmsg(nbyte), recv(p,h), timeout(tno)
- 5. Define OTcl commands
- 6. Define timer (if necessary)



Constructor

- Initialize Agent with PT_TCP
- Associated rtx_timer_ with itself
 (Discuss later in this lecture)

Function Overview

- 4 Categories
- 1. Packet transmission functions
- 2. ACK processing functions
- 3. Timer related functions
- 4. Window adjustment functions



Packet transmission functions

• sendmsg(nbytes): Sends nbytes of application payload. If nbytes=-1, the payload is assumed to be infinite. The only public pkt TX function.

```
Put this in hdr_tcp::reason_
```

- sendmuch(force, reason, maxburst): Sends as many packets as (but not more than ``maxburst'' packets) the TX window allows.
- send_one(): Sends one TCP packet with a sequence number t_seqno_.
- output (seqno, reason): Creates and sends a packet with a sequence number and a transmission reason as specified by seqno and reason, respectively

Packet transmission functions

- · Possible reason:
 - -0 = Regular Tx
 - 1 = Timeout
 - 2 = Duplicated ACK
 - 3 = Rate based pacing
 - 4 = Partial ACK
- Defined in //~/ns/tcp/tcp.h



Packet transmission functions

- Function sendmsg(nbytes):
 - Compute the no. of packets to be transmit, curseq_
 - Tell send_much(...) to transmit until the seq. no reaches curseq_

```
//~/ns/tcp/tcp.h
#define TCP_MAXSEQ 1073741824

//~/ns/tcp/tcp.cc
void TcpAgent::sendmsg(int nbytes, const char* /*flags*/)
{
   if (nbytes == -1 && curseq_ <= TCP_MAXSEQ)
        curseq_ = TCP_MAXSEQ;
   else
        curseq_ += (nbytes/size_ + (nbytes%size_ ? 1 : 0));
   send_much(0, 0, maxburst_);
}</pre>
```

ACK Processing Functions

- recv(p,h):
 - Main ACK reception function.
 - Determines whether the received packet p is a new ACK packet or a duplicated ACK packet, and acts accordingly.
- recv_newack_helper(p):
 - Invoked from by recv(p,h) when a new ACK packet is received.
 - **Invokes** newack(p)
 - Opens the TX window if necessary.

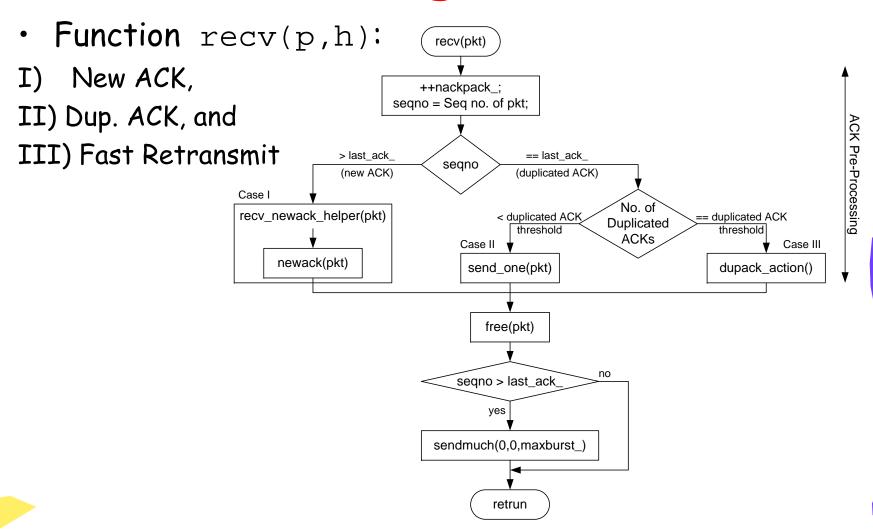


ACK Processing Functions

- newack(p):
 - Invoked from within recv_newack_helper(p)
 - Update variables
 - Restart the retransmission timer.
- dupack_action():
 - Fast Retransmit
 - Invoked by recv(p,h) when a duplicated ACK packet is received.
 - Cut down the TX window,
 - Prepare the seq. no. of the lost packet for retransmission
 - Resets the retransmission timer.



ACK Processing Functions



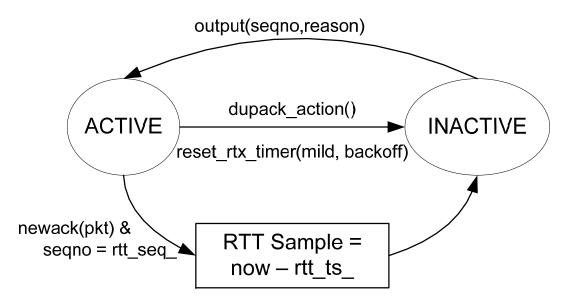
Timer Related Functions

- · RTT Sample Collection
- RTT Estimation
- State Variables
- Retransmission Timers
- Function Overview



RTT Sample Collection

- RFC: Collect RTT for all packets
- · NS2:
 - One set of RTT collection.
 - Active/Inactive



RTT Estimation

Recall:

$$\overline{t}(k+1) = \alpha \times \overline{t}(k) + (1-\alpha) \times t(k+1), \alpha \in (0,1)$$

$$\sigma_t(k+1) = \beta \times \sigma_t(k) + (1-\beta) \times |t(k+1) - \overline{t}(k+1)|$$

$$RTO(k+1) = \min\{ub, \max\{lb, \gamma \times [\overline{t}(k+1) + 4 \times \sigma_t(k+1)]\}\}$$

· Equivalently,

$$\overline{t}(k+1) = \frac{1}{8} \left(8\overline{t}(k) + \Delta \right) \qquad \Delta = ?$$

$$\sigma_t(k+1) = \frac{1}{4} \left(-\sigma_t(k) + 4\sigma_t(k) + |\Delta| \right)$$

$$RTO_u(k+1) = \gamma \times \left[t(k+1) + 4\sigma_t(k+1) \right]$$

State Variables

Variable	Meaning
t_srtt_	$\overline{t}(k)$
t_rtt_var	$\sigma_{t}(k)$
T_SRTT_BITS	α
T_RTTVAR_BITS	β
t_backoff_	γ
t_rtxcur_	unbounded RTO

```
///ns/tcl/lib/ns-default.tcl
                              #in bits
Agent/TCP set T_SRTT_BITS 3
Agent/TCP set T_RTTVAR_BITS 2 #in bits
Agent/TCP set srtt init 0 #in seconds
Agent/TCP set rttvar_init_ 12 #in seconds
Agent/TCP set rtxcur init 3.0 #in seconds
Agent/TCP set T_SRTT_BITS 3
                              #in bits
Agent/TCP set T RTTVAR BITS 2 #in bits
Agent/TCP set rttvar_exp_ 2
                              #in bits
Agent/TCP set tcp_tick_ 0.1
                             #in seconds
Agent/TCP set maxrto_ 100000
                             #in seconds
Agent/TCP set minrto 0.2
                              #in seconds
```

```
//~/ns/tcp/tcp.cc
void TcpAgent::rtt_init()
{
    t_rtt_ = 0;
    t_srtt_ = int(srtt_init_ / tcp_tick_) << T_SRTT_BITS;
    t_rttvar_ int(rttvar_init_ / tcp_tick_) << T_RTTVAR_BITS;
    t_rtxcur_ = rtxcur_init_;
    t_backoff_ = 1;
}</pre>
```

Retransmission Timer

- Implement timeout.
- Retransmit the lost packets when timeout
- Retransmitting all packets starting from highest_ack_
- · Reset when receive an ACK.
- Implemented using TimerHandler



A Guideline to Implement a New Type of Timer

- Class MyTimer → RtxTimer; actuator _ → a_
 - 1. Derive class RtxTimer from class TimerHandler.
 - 2. Declare a pointer a_ to an TcpAgentobject.
 - 3. Create a link to a_ from the constructor.
 - 4. Define expiration action in function expire(e).
- Class ActionTaker→TcpAgent; timer_→rtx_timer_
 - 1. Declare a pointer rtx_timer_ to an RtxTimer object.
 - 2. Instantiate rtx_timer_ with its this pointer from the constructor.



Retransmission Timer

NS2 Implementation

```
//~/ns/tcp/tcp.h
  class RtxTimer : public TimerHandler {
  public:
      RtxTimer(TcpAgent *a) : TimerHandler() { a_ = a; }
  protected:
      virtual void expire(Event *e);
      TcpAgent *a_;
                               //~/ns/tcp/tcp.cc
  };
                              void RtxTimer::expire(Event*)
//~/ns/tcp/tcp.cc
                                   a ->timeout(TCP TIMER RTX);
TcpAgent::TcpAgent() :
       Agent (PT_TCP),
       rtx_timer_(this),
                               void TcpAgent::set_rtx_timer()
                                   rtx timer .resched(rtt timeout());
```

Function Overview

- rtt_update(tao);
 - Takes an RTT sample tao as an input
 - Updates t_srtt_, t_rttvar_, and t_rtxcur_
- rtt_timeout():
 - Computes the bounded RTO value
 - Based on t_rtxcur_, minrto_, and maxrto_.
- set_rtx_timer():
 - Restarts the retransmission timer.
- reset_rtx_timer(mild,backoff):
 - Restart the retransmission timer
 - Cancel the RTT sample collecting process.
 - Set t_seqno_ to highest_ack_+1, if mild =0.
 - Invoke rtt_backoff() if backoff is nonzero.



Function Overview

- rtt_backoff();
 - Doubles the BEB multiplicative factor t_backoff_.
- newtimer(pkt):
 - Takes an ACK packet pkt as an input argument.
 - Start the retransmission timer if TCP connection is active
 - Cancel the timer, otherwise.
- timeout(tno):
 - Called by the retransmission timer
 - Close the congestion window,
 - Adjust t_backoff_,
 - Restart the retransmission timer and set up the seq. no. ($t_seqno_$) of the packet to be retransmitted.
 - Retransmits the lost packet (using send_much(...))



- Two main functions:
- 1.opencwnd():
- Open the TX window.
- Slow-start or congestion avoidance: Depending on cwnd_ and ssthresh_.
- 2.slowdown(how):
- Close the TX window
- · How much? → See how.



Functions opencwnd():

```
//~/ns/tcp/tcp.cc
void TcpAgent::opencwnd()
{

wif (cwnd_ < ssthresh_) {
    cwnd_ += 1;
    } else {
        double increment = increase_num_ / cwnd_;
        cwnd_ += increment;
    }
    if (maxcwnd_ && (int(cwnd_) > maxcwnd_))
        cwnd_ = maxcwnd_;
}
```



Functions slowdown (how):



Possible values of how

```
//~/ns/tcp/tcp.h
#define CLOSE SSTHRESH HALF
                                     0 \times 00000001
#define CLOSE CWND HALF
                                     0 \times 00000002
#define CLOSE CWND RESTART
                                     0 \times 000000004
#define CLOSE CWND INIT
                                     0x0000008
#define CLOSE_CWND_ONE
                                     0x0000010
#define CLOSE_SSTHRESH_HALVE
                                     0 \times 00000020
#define CLOSE CWND HALVE
                                     0 \times 00000040
#define THREE OUARTER SSTHRESH
                                     0 \times 000000080
#define CLOSE_CWND_HALF_WAY
                                     0 \times 00000100
#define CWND HALF WITH MIN
                                     0 \times 00000200
#define TCP IDLE
                                     0 \times 00000400
                                     0x00000800
#define NO_OUTSTANDING_DATA
```



· The use of how

```
• If how = CLOSE_SSTHRESH_HALF
                → (how&CLOSE_SSTHRESH_HALF)=1
//~/ns/tcp/tcp.cc
void TcpAgent::slowdown(int how)
   if (how & CLOSE SSTHRESH HALF)
           ssthresh = (int) halfwin;
   else if (how & THREE_QUARTER_SSTHRESH)
       ssthresh_ = (int)(3*cwnd_/4);
   if (how & CLOSE_CWND_HALF)
           cwnd_ = halfwin;
   else if (how & CWND_HALF_WITH_MIN) {
        cwnd = decreasewin;
```

- Due to the structure of how, we can also put several how-to into how
- For example, we can set

```
how = CLOSE_SSTHRESH_HALF&CLOSE_CWND_HALF

→ (how&CLOSE_SSTHRESH_HALF)=1

→ (how&CLOSE_CWND_HALF)=1
```

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Summary

- TCP (Transmission Control Protocol)
 - App-NW layers bridge
 - Control TX rate using flow control
 - Provide reliability using error control
- Flow control
 - Increase TX Rate: 1.

and 2.

Decrease TX Rate: 1.

and 2.

- Error Control
 - Acknowledgement
 - Timeout
 - Fast Retransmit



Summary

- TCP Receiver (
- A Helper Class Acker
- Maintain packet reception status
- Generate ACK number
- TCP Sender (
- 4 Main class of functions
- Packet transmission functions
- ACK processing functions
- Timer related functions
- Window adjustment function

