ECE 358: Computer Networks

Lab 1

Queue Simulation Part 1

Presented by Bernie Roehl

Lab General Information

- Lab Instructor: Bernie Roehl (broehl@uwaterloo.ca).
- There will be 3 labs that will be done by students individually:
 - LAB1: Development of a simulator of a single transmission system (weight 7%)
 - LAB 2: Development of a simulator for retransmission protocols (Weight 11%)
 - LAB 3: Encapsulation and network utility tools. Weight (7%)
- The total weight for the lab is 25% of the total course mark.

Lab General Information

- Submission due dates:
 - o Lab 1: Feb 2nd by 11:59 pm
 - o Lab 2: March 16th by11:59 pm
 - o Lab 3: April 2nd by 11:59 pm.
- All submissions will be to the drop boxes on LEARN.
- Late lab reports will be scored a zero

Lab TAs	email
Omar Alhussein	oalhusse@uwaterloo.ca
Abdurhman Albasir	aalbasir@uwaterloo.ca
Yigit Ozcan	yozcan@uwaterloo.ca
Thirupathaiah Vasantam	tvasanta@uwaterloo.ca

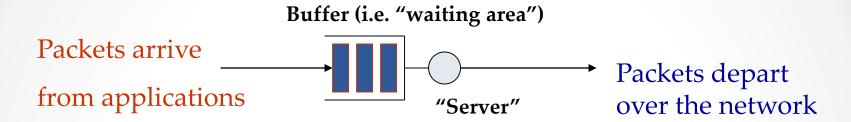
Introduction

- On any given node in a network, there will be one or more applications that generate a stream of data
- The stream is broken up into individual packets, which are sent out over the lower-level network interface
- The low-level interface can only send packets at a certain maximum rate
- Applications tend to generate data in bursts
- What to do when packets arrive faster than they can be sent out?

Buffering

- If packets are generated faster than they can be sent, they must be held in a buffer
- In practice, all buffers have a limited size (though in modern systems, this can be very large)
- If a buffer fills up, packets are discarded and must later be retransmitted
- Buffers are typically implemented as queues of packets

Queue Model



Single Server Queuing Model

- ☐ The "server" is usually the transmission hardware
- Analogous to a bank teller or movie-theatre cashier
- ☐ There can be multiple tellers or clerks, or just one
- The arrival times and the service times are random

Movie Theatre Analogy

- People (packets) don't arrive at the theatre (network node) all at once, but with random delays in between
- There is a line-up (buffer) to get to the cashier (server)
- There may be one or more cashiers available
- The length of time someone is at the cashier varies randomly depending on whether they want popcorn, drinks, candies, etc
- When someone has gotten what they need, they exit (are transmitted) and the next person (packet) from the line-up (buffer) comes forward
- If the line-up is too long, people leave (i.e. packets are dropped) and may try again later

Main features of a queuing system

- ☐ Arrival Process: Stochastic process formed by packet arrivals (e.g., Poisson, Bernoulli, etc.).
- Service Time: Random variable denoting how long a packet will remain in service. Directly related to the length of a packet (which is why we treat as a random variable, since packets vary in size).
- Number of Servers.
- ☐ Buffer Size.
- Service Discipline: First in First Out (FIFO); Last in First Out (LIFO); Static priority, etc

Kendall Notation

- Queues are typically described using a notation of the form:A/S/C/K/D
- Here A corresponds to the arrival process of the packets (more precisely the distribution of the inter-arrival time between packets). λ is the average number of packets per unit time. A can be M (Markovian), D (deterministic) or G (General).
- S corresponds to the server process for the packets. S can again be M, D or G.
- □ C corresponds to the number of servers (or network interfaces).
- K corresponds to the *buffer size*, i.e. the number of packets that can be accommodated in the "waiting room". If omitted, the buffer is assumed to be infinitely large.
- D corresponds to the queueing discipline, which is almost always FIFO and is therefore often omitted from the notation.

Kendall Notation

- Usually when a queue has infinite buffers, we drop the buffer size notation and service discipline and simply write: A/S/C
- Examples:
 - M/M/1/10 means Poisson arrivals, exponential service time, single server, 10-packet queue
 - M/D/1 means Poisson arrivals, Deterministic service time, single server, infinite queue
- In this lab, we'll be looking at M/M/1 and M/M/1/K queues

Lab 1 Objectives

- Become familiar with the basic elements of **discrete event simulation**. In particular, the notion of an event scheduler for simulating discrete event systems
- ☐ The generation of **random variables** for a given distribution (e.g. exponential).
- ☐ The behavior of a **single buffer queue** with different parameters, which is a key element of a computer network.
- ☐ The need to be careful about when a system should be observed, in order to obtain valid performance metrics.

Why Simulation?

- Modern operating systems hide much of the lowlevel complexity of networking, and therefore make it difficult to study it at a low level
- Large networks may involve hundreds or thousands of nodes, which makes it cost-prohibitive to build entire systems just for testing and analysis
- Simulators allow us to easily adjust and tune various system parameters and observe the results

Simulation Basics

- ☐ In general, a simulation model consists of three elements:
 - Input variables (according to some statistical distribution)
 - Simulator (mathematical/logical relationship between input and output)
 - Output variables (used to estimate the performance measures of the system)

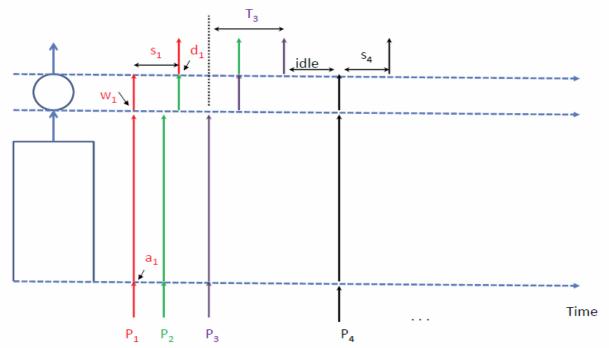
Simulation basics

- When simulating a system, you will often need to generate input variables with different distributions from a uniform random variable
- \square If you need to generate a random variable X with a distribution function F(x), you need to do the following:
 - 1. Generate $U\sim U(0,1)$ (Uniform random variable)
 - 2. Return $X = F^{-1}(U)$ where $F^{-1}(U)$ is the inverse of the distribution function of the desired random variable.
- In this lab you need to generate an exponentially distributed random variables that will be used to determine when the next packet will arrive from the application or when an observation should be made.
- \square Recall that an exponential distribution is $F(x) = 1 e^{-\lambda x}$

Simulator design

- ☐ Discrete event simulator (DES)
 - > one of the basic paradigms for simulator design
 - > used in problems where the system evolves in time, and the state of the system changes at discrete points in time when some events happen.
 - we don't need to simulate every tick of the system, since by definition nothing happens between events
- DES is suitable for the simulation of queues
 - > State: e.g. number of packets in the system
 - > Typical Events:
 - Packet arrival
 - Packet departure

The dynamics of an infinite single server queue



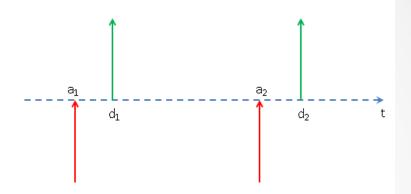
For the n^{th} packet P_n , a_n is its arrival time, s_n is its service time, d_n is its departure time and T_n is its sojourn time (i.e., the total time spent in the system (buffer and server)).

Performance Measures

- We are interested in measuring the following parameters:
- The time-average number of packets in the queue, E[N],
- The proportion of time the server is idle (i.e., the queue is empty), P_{IDLE}
- In the case of a finite queue, the probability that a packet will be dropped due to the buffer being full when it arrives.
- > When should we record the state of the system?
- The measurement and recording of the state should have **statistically representative** information on the performance that we are interested in.

The need for another event

Consider a D/D/1



- What do we see if we look at the system at only arrival and departure times (a₁, d₁,a₂,d₂,...)?
- Need for an observation event: an event that happens at random times, independent of other events
- Here we use a Poisson observer
- The simulation will now contain three types of events: packet arrival, packet departure, and observer arrival.

DES for a simple queue M/M/1

- ☐ Discrete event scheduler (DES) or in short Event Scheduler (ES):
- The ES contains a set of time-ordered events $E_{i,i} = 1,...,N$, such that $t(E_i) < t(E_{i+1})$ for all i along with the time of their occurrences.

E _i	t(E _i)
E _{i+1}	$t(E_{i+1})$
E _{i+2}	$t(E_{i+2})$
E _{i+3}	$t(E_{i+3})$

Note that in this first lab, ES for M/M/1 queue can be created completely ahead of time. This is not always possible.

19

- In order to create a DES for a simple M/M/1 queue with an infinite buffer, you should do the following:
- Choose a duration T for your simulation (see later how to choose T).
- Generate a set of random observation times according to a Poisson distribution (i.e., exponential inter-arrival times) with parameter a and record the observer event

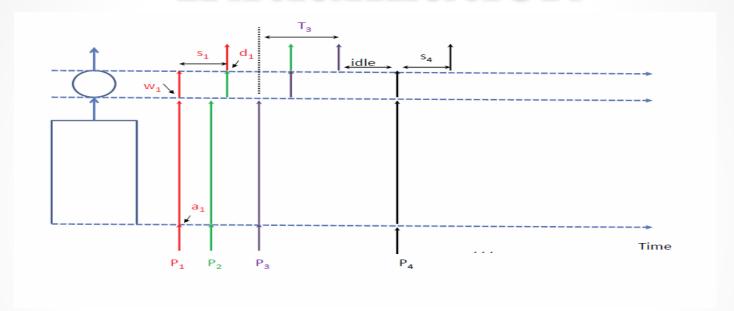
times in the ES.

Discrete Event Simulator (DES)

Event	Time
Observer	0.0104
Observer	0.016
Observer	0.0442
Observer	0.0816
Observer	0.0946
Observer	0.1069
Observer	0.1211
Observer	0.1245
Observer	0.1245

- Generate a set of packet arrivals (according to a Poisson distribution with parameter λ) and their corresponding length (according to an exponential distribution with parameter 1/L), and the corresponding service time.
- Calculate their departure times based on the state of the system (the departure time of a packet of length L_p depends on how much it has to wait and on its service time L_p/C where C is the link rate).

		Length	Service	
Event	Time	(bits)	Time	Departure
Arrival	0.0135	1614	0.0016	0.015071
Arrival	0.0499	30981	0.031	0.08085
Arrival	0.0685	4487	0.0045	0.085337
Arrival	0.0815	6693	0.0067	0.088157
Arrival	0.0925	16592	0.0166	0.109135
Arrival	0.1325	56.81	6E-05	0.132512
Arrival	0.1537	21037	0.021	0.174745
Arrival	0.1597	10904	0.0109	0.185649



- ☐ If the server is empty, then
- The departure time of a packet = its arrival time +?
- ☐ If the server is busy, then
- The departure time of a packet = ? + Service time

- Populate the Discrete Event Scheduler (DES) with the observation, arrival and departure times and then sort the DES according to the timing.
- You can use arrays or linked lists or any other data structure you like.
- ☐ If you use arrays, it should look like this:

Before Sorting

Arrival	0.065633411
Arrival	0.087665212
Arrival	0.120001212
Arrival	0.145761228
Arrival	0.187517327
Arrival	0.20225649
Arrival	0.251937076
Arrival	0.264276402
Departure	0.092050945
Departure	0.09386122
Departure	0.124291617
Departure	0.155661949
Departure	0.201689653
Departure	0.227061173
Departure	0.258413235
Departure	0.296843715
Observer	0.006593814
Observer	0.007847576
Observer	0.019231011
Observer	0.024443005
Observer	0.034910443
Observer	0.059539353
Observer	0.074816364

Observer	0.034910443
Observer	0.059539353
Arrival	0.065633411
Observer	0.074816364
Arrival	0.087665212
Departure	0.092050945
Departure	0.09386122
Observer	0.095019652
Observer	0.101452866
Observer	0.108010377
Observer	0.11618913
Observer	0.117902974
Arrival	0.120001212
Departure	0.124291617
Observer	0.143199194
Arrival	0.145761228
Observer	0.149535313
Departure	0.155661949
Observer	0.157701614
Observer	0.166385588
Observer	0.175330675
Arrival	0.187517327
Departure	0.201689653

After Sorting

23

Initialize the following variables to zero: N_a = number of packet arrivals, N_d = number of packets departures, N_o = number of observations and idle counter

 N_a number of arrivals

2679

 N_d number of departures



N_o number of observations



Idle counter



Initialize all counters to Zero

> Dequeue one event at a time from your event scheduler (i.e., read one event at a time from the ES, starting with the first in the list), and call the corresponding event procedure. Each event procedure (one per type of event) will consist of updating some variables.

Observer	0.034910443
Observer	0.059559555
Arrival	0.065633411
Observer	0.074816364
Arrival	0.087665212
Departure	0.092050945
Departure	0.09386122
Observer	0.095019652
Observer	0.101452866
Observer	0.108010377
Observer	0.11618913
Observer	0.117902974
Arrival	0.120001212
Departure	0.124291617
Observer	0.143199194
Arrival	0.145761228
Observer	0.149535313
Departure	0.155661949
Observer	0.157701614
Observer	0.166385588
Observer	0.175330675
Arrival	0.187517327
Departure	0.201689653

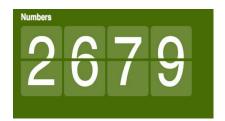
Dequeue the first event in the DES

☐ If the event is Arrival

N_a number of arrivals

2679

 $\begin{array}{c} N_d \\ number \ of \ departures \end{array}$



N_o number of observations



Which counter should be updated?

☐ If the event is Departure

N_a number of arrivals



 $\begin{array}{c} N_d \\ number \ of \ departures \end{array}$



N_o number of observations



Which counter should be updated?

☐ If the event is Observer

N_a number of arrivals

2679

 N_d number of departures



N_o number of observations

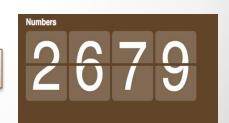


Which counter should be updated?

28

- ☐ If the event is Observer
- Record the values of your performance metrics.
 - > The number of packets in the queue. How can we calculate it?
 - If the queue is empty (how can we know that?), increment the idle counter

Idle counter



☐ After processing the event, delete the event from

the DES

Observer	0.034910443
Observer	0.059539353
Arrival	0.065633411
Observer	0.074816364
Arrival	0.087665212
Departure	0.092050945
Departure	0.09386122
Observer	0.095019652
Observer	0.101452866
Observer	0.108010377
Observer	0.11618913
Observer	0.117902974
Arrival	0.120001212
Departure	0.124291617
Observer	0.143199194
Arrival	0.145761228
Observer	0.149535313
Departure	0.155661949
Observer	0.157701614
Observer	0.166385588
Observer	0.175330675
Arrival	0.187517327
Departure	0.201689653

Delete the processed event from the DES

Process the next event and repeat the same procedures as in the previous slides until you finish all the events in the DES

DES Simulation (calculating parameters)

- After the simulation is finished, calculate...
 - ➤ The time-average number of packets in the queue, E[N]. How?
 - The proportion of time the server is idle (i.e., the system is empty), P_{IDLE}. How?

DES Simulation Initialization for M/M/1/N

- Note that an ES for M/M/1/N queue cannot be created completely ahead of time.
- In order to create a DES for a simple M/M/1/N queue with a finite buffer, you should do the following:
- Choose a duration T for your simulation (check for consistent results).
- Generate a set of random observation times according to a Poisson distribution (i.e., exponential inter-arrival times) with parameter a and record the observer event times in the ES.

Discrete Event Simulator (DES)

Event	Time
Observer	0.0104
Observer	0.016
Observer	0.0442
Observer	0.0816
Observer	0.0946
Observer	0.1069
Observer	0.1211
Observer	0.1245

- Generate a set of packet arrivals (according to a Poisson distribution with parameter λ)
- Note that you cannot generate the departure time based on the arrival time only.

Event	Time
Arrival	0.065633
Arrival	0.087665
Arrival	0.120001
Arrival	0.145761
Arrival	0.187517
Arrival	0.202256
Arrival	0.251937
Arrival	0.264276

You will have to generate the departure time on the fly during the simulation

- Populate the Discrete Event Scheduler (DES) with the observation and arrival times and then sort the DES according to the timing.
- ☐ It should look like that

Before Sorting

Event	Time
Arrival	0.065633
Arrival	0.087665
Arrival	0.120001
Arrival	0.145761
Arrival	0.187517
Arrival	0.202256
Arrival	0.251937
Arrival	0.264276
Observer	0.006594
Observer	0.007848
Observer	0.019231
Observer	0.024443
Observer	0.03491
Observer	0.059539
Observer	0.074816
Observer	0.09502

Observer 0.03491 Observer 0.059539 0.065633 Arrival Observer 0.074816 Arrival 0.087665 Observer 0.09502 0.101453 Observer Observer 0.10801 Observer 0.116189 Observer 0.117903 Arrival 0.120001 Observer 0.143199 Arrival 0.145761 0.149535 Observer Observer 0.157702

After Sorting

☐ Initialize the following counters

N_a number of arrivals

2679

 $\begin{array}{c} N_d \\ number \ of \ departures \end{array}$

2679

Number of dropped packets

2679

N_o number of observations



Number of generated packets



Idle counter



Initialize all counters to Zero

> Dequeue one event at a time from your event scheduler (i.e., read one event at a time from the ES, starting with the first in the list), and call the corresponding event procedure. Each event procedure (one per type of event) will consist of updating some of variables.

Observer	0.03491
Observer	0.059539
Arrival	0.065633
Observer	0.074816
Arrival	0.087665
Observer	0.09502
Observer	0.101453
Observer	0.10801
Observer	0.116189
Observer	0.117903
Arrival	0.120001
Observer	0.143199
Arrival	0.145761
Observer	0.149535
Observer	0.157702

Dequeue the first event in the DES

- ☐ If the event is Arrival
- ☐ Check how many packets are in the queue:
- > If the buffer is full, then
 - □ Drop the packet and increment the corresponding counter(s). (Which one(s)?)

N_a
number of arrivals

N_d number of departures

2679

 $m N_o$ number of observations

2679

Idle counter

Number of dropped packets

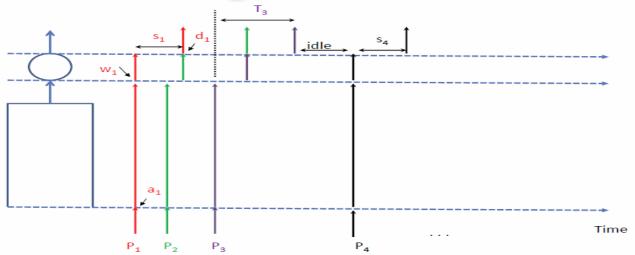
Number of generated packets

2679

2679

2679

- Otherwise (i.e., the queue is either empty or partially filled)
 - Generate a length for the arriving packet (according to an exponential distribution with parameter 1/L), and the corresponding service time.
 - Calculate the departure time (of the packet which just arrived in the system) based on the state of the system (the departure time of a packet of length L_p depends on how much it has to wait and on its service time L_p/C where C is the link rate).



- ☐ If the server is empty, then
 - The departure time of a packet = its arrival time +?
- ☐ If the server is busy, then
 - The departure time of a packet = ? + Service time
- Insert the departure time (of the packet which just arrived in the system) that you calculated in the DES and sort.

☐ Then, you should increment the corresponding counter(s). (Which one(s)?)

N_a number of arrivals



N_d number of departures



N_o number of observations



Idle counter



Number of dropped packets



Number of generated packets



Which counter(s) should be updated?

DES Simulation (processing events (Departure))

☐ If the event is Departure



2679

N_d number of departures



N_o number of observations



Idle counter



Number of dropped packets



Number of generated packets



Which counter(s) should be updated?

DES Simulation (processing events (Observer))

☐ If the event is Observer

N_a number of arrivals

2679

N_d number of departures

2679

N_o number of observations



Idle counter

2679

Number of dropped packets



Number of generated packets



Which counter(s) should be updated?

DES Simulation (processing events (Observer))

- ☐ If the event is Observer
- Record the values of your performance metrics.
- The number of packets in the queue. How can we calculate it?
- If the queue is empty (how can we know that?), increment the idle counter

Idle counter

2679

DES Simulation (processing events)

After processing the event, delete the event from the DES

4				
X	Observer	0.03491		Delete the
	Observer	0.059539		processed
	Arrival	0.065633		event from the
	Observer	0.074816		0 . 0
	Arrival	0.087665		DES
	Departure	0.092051		
	Observer	0.09502		
	Observer	0.101453		
	Observer	0.10801		
	Observer	0.116189		
	Observer	0.117903		
	Arrival	0.120001		
	Observer	0.143199		
	Arrival	0.145761		
	Observer	0.149535		
	Observer	0.157702		

Process the next event and repeat the same procedures as in the previous slides until you finish all the events in the DES

DES Simulation (calculating parameters)

- After the simulation is finished, calculate...
- The time-average number of packets in the queue, E[N]. How?
- > The proportion of time the server is idle (i.e., the system is empty), P_{IDLE}. How?
- The probability that a packet will be dropped, P_{LOSS}. How?

DES Simulation (calculating parameters)

Use the final counter values to compute the various values

N_a number of arrivals



N_d number of departures



N_o number of observations



Idle counter



Number of dropped packets



Number of generated packets



DES Simulation (simulation time)

- Run each experiment in this lab for T seconds and record the result. Then run the experiment again for 2T seconds and see if the expected values of the output variables are similar to the output from the previous run, i.e., the difference is less than 5%. If the results are not similar, keep increasing T until we get stable results.
- Note that this should be done for every experiment.
- If you did not indicate this time checking procedure in your report, you will lose marks.

Notes

- Programming languages: You can only use C or C++
- Your code must compile run on the ecelinux servers.
- You must submit your code and report on Learn.