

# CS2505: Transport Layer

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## Outline

### Our goals:

- ❑ understand principles behind transport layer services:
  - ❖ Multiplexing & demultiplexing
  - ❖ reliable data transfer
  - ❖ flow control
  - ❖ congestion control
- ❑ learn about transport layer protocols in the Internet:
  - ❖ UDP: connectionless transport
  - ❖ TCP: connection-oriented transport
  - ❖ TCP congestion control

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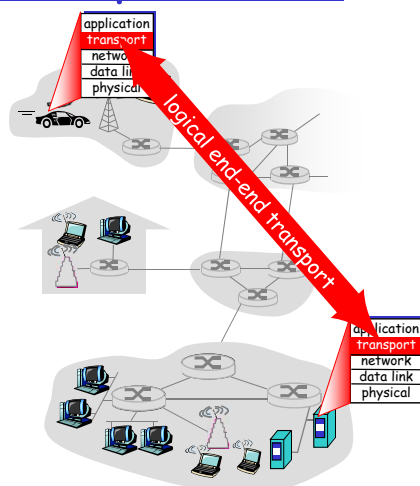
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## Outline

- ❑ 3.1 Transport-layer services
- ❑ 3.2 Multiplexing and demultiplexing
- ❑ 3.3 Connectionless transport: UDP
- ❑ 3.4 Principles of reliable data transfer
- ❑ 3.5 Connection-oriented transport: TCP
- ❑ 3.6 TCP congestion control

## Transport services and protocols

- ❑ provide *logical communication* between app processes running on different hosts
- ❑ transport protocols run in end systems
  - ❖ send side: breaks app messages into **segments**, passes to network layer
  - ❖ rcv side: reassembles segments into messages, passes to app layer
- ❑ more than one transport protocol available to apps
  - ❖ Internet: TCP and UDP



## Transport vs. network layer

- ❑ *network layer*: logical communication between hosts
- ❑ *transport layer*: logical communication between processes
  - ❖ relies on, enhances, network layer services

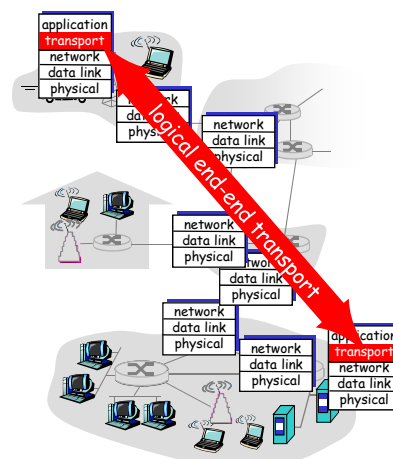
### Household analogy:

*3 kids sending letters to 3 other kids*

- ❑ processes = kids
- ❑ app messages = letters in envelopes
- ❑ hosts = houses
- ❑ transport protocol = parents
- ❑ network-layer protocol = postal service

## Internet transport-layer protocols

- ❑ reliable, in-order delivery (TCP)
  - ❖ congestion control
  - ❖ flow control
  - ❖ connection setup
- ❑ unreliable, unordered delivery: UDP
  - ❖ no-frills extension of "best-effort" IP
- ❑ services not available:
  - ❖ delay guarantees
  - ❖ bandwidth guarantees



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- 3.2 Multiplexing and demultiplexing
- 3.3 Connectionless transport: UDP
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- 3.5 Connection-oriented transport: TCP
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## Multiplexing/demultiplexing

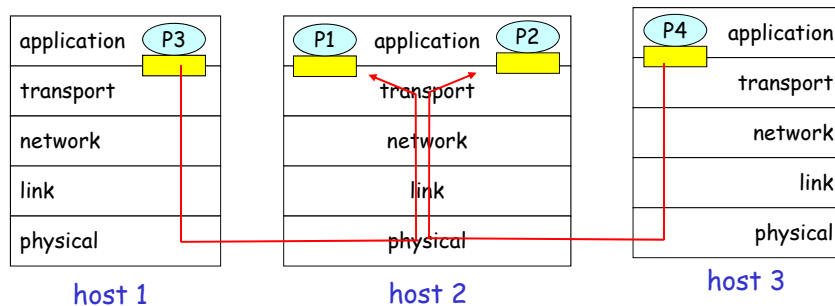
### Demultiplexing at rcv host:

delivering received segments to correct socket

### Multiplexing at send host:

gathering data from multiple sockets, enveloping data with header (later used for demultiplexing)

■ = socket      ○ = process

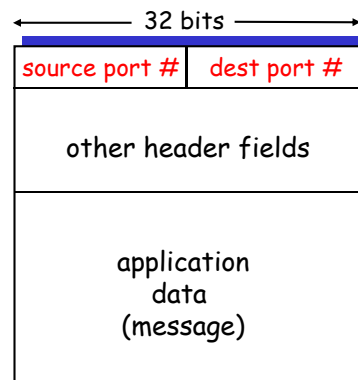


## How demultiplexing works

### □ host receives IP datagrams

- ❖ each datagram has source IP address, destination IP address
- ❖ each datagram carries 1 transport-layer segment
- ❖ each segment has source, destination port number

### □ host uses IP addresses & port numbers to direct segment to appropriate socket



TCP/UDP segment format

## Connectionless demultiplexing

### □ Create sockets with port numbers:

```
DatagramSocket mySocket1 = new  
    DatagramSocket(12534);  
DatagramSocket mySocket2 = new  
    DatagramSocket(12535);
```

### □ UDP socket identified by two-tuple:

(dest IP address, dest port number)

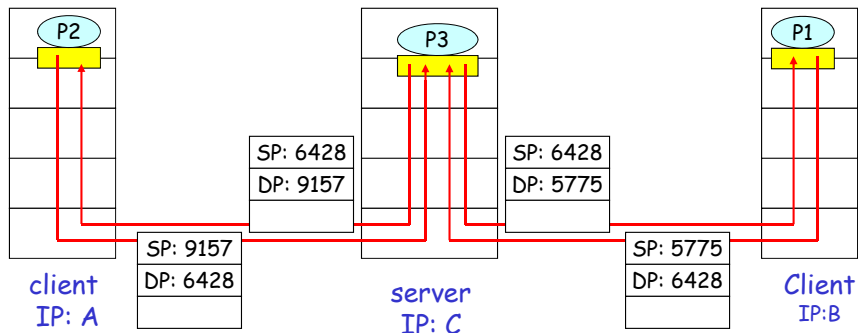
### □ When host receives UDP segment:

- ❖ checks destination port number in segment
- ❖ directs UDP segment to socket with that port number

### □ IP datagrams with different source IP addresses and/or source port numbers can be directed to same socket

## Connectionless demux (cont)

```
DatagramSocket serverSocket = new DatagramSocket(6428);
```



SP provides "return address"

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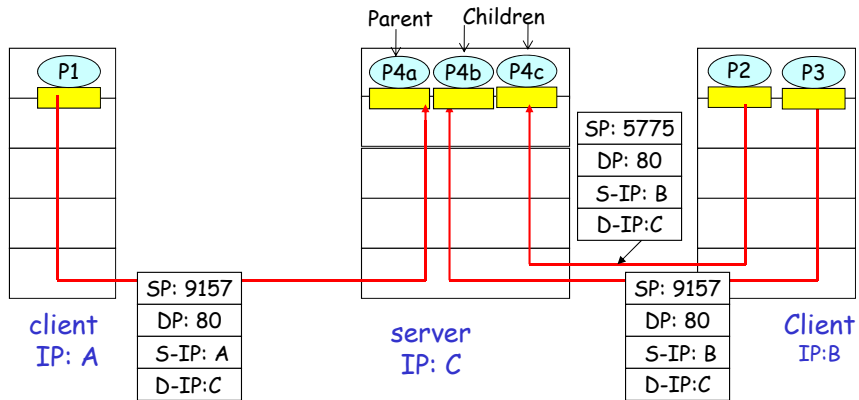
## Connection-oriented demux

- TCP socket identified by 4-tuple:
  - ❖ source IP address
  - ❖ source port number
  - ❖ dest IP address
  - ❖ dest port number
- receiving host uses all four values to direct segment to appropriate socket
- Server host may support many simultaneous TCP sockets:
  - ❖ each socket identified by its own 4-tuple
- Web servers have different sockets for each connecting client
  - ❖ non-persistent HTTP will have different socket for each request

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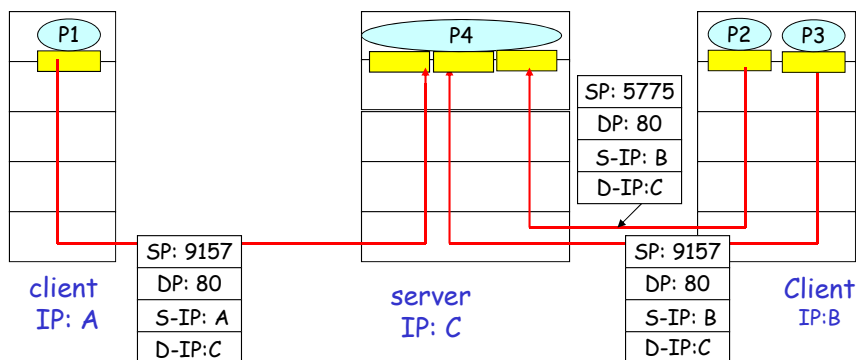
## Connection-oriented demux (cont)



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## Connection-oriented demux: Threaded Web Server



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## UDP: User Datagram Protocol [RFC 768]

- ❑ "no frills," "bare bones" Internet transport protocol
- ❑ "best effort" service, UDP segments may be:
  - ❖ lost
  - ❖ delivered out of order to app
- ❑ *connectionless*:
  - ❖ no handshaking between UDP sender, receiver
  - ❖ each UDP segment handled independently of others

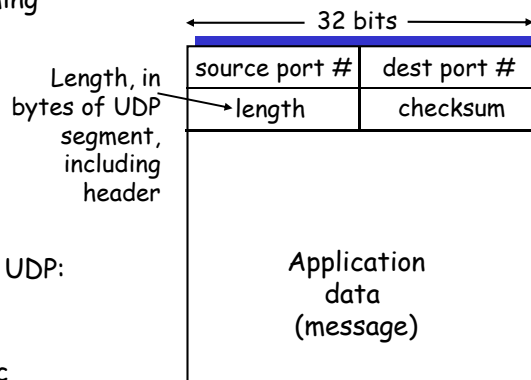
### Why is there a UDP?

- ❑ no connection establishment (which can add delay)
- ❑ no (delay for) recovering lost segments as in TCP
- ❑ simple: no connection state at sender, receiver
- ❑ small segment header
- ❑ no congestion control: UDP can blast away as fast as desired



## UDP: more

- ❑ often used for streaming multimedia apps
  - ❖ loss tolerant
  - ❖ rate sensitive
- ❑ other UDP uses
  - ❖ DNS
  - ❖ SNMP
- ❑ reliable transfer over UDP: add reliability at application layer
  - ❖ application-specific error recovery!



UDP segment format

## UDP checksum

Goal: detect "errors" (e.g., flipped bits) in transmitted segment

### Sender:

- ❑ treat segment contents as sequence of 16-bit integers
- ❑ checksum: addition (1's complement sum) of segment contents
- ❑ sender puts checksum value into UDP checksum field

### Receiver:

- ❑ compute checksum of received segment
- ❑ check if computed checksum equals checksum field value:
  - ❖ NO - error detected
  - ❖ YES - no error detected. *But maybe errors nonetheless? ....*

## Internet Checksum Example

- Note

- ❖ When adding numbers, a carryout from the most significant bit needs to be added to the result

- Example: add two 16-bit integers

	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
<hr/>																
wraparound	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
<hr/>																
sum	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
checksum	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1

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## Outline

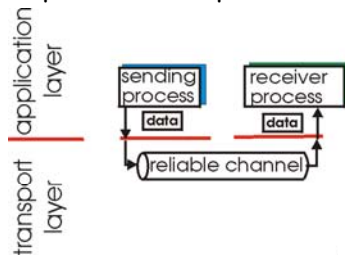
- 3.1 Transport-layer services
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## Principles of Reliable data transfer

- important in app., transport, link layers
- top-10 list of important networking topics!

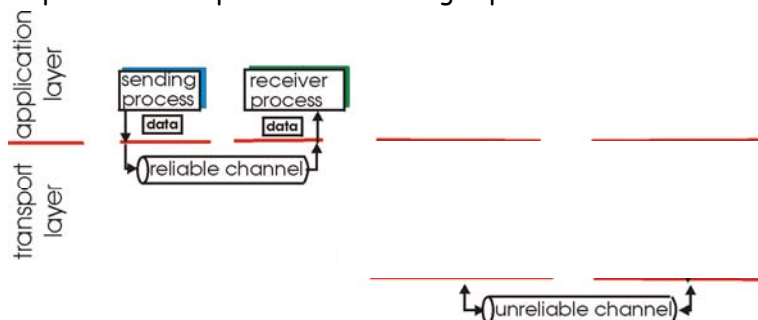


(a) provided service

- characteristics of unreliable channel will determine complexity of reliable data transfer protocol (rdt)

## Principles of Reliable data transfer

- important in app., transport, link layers
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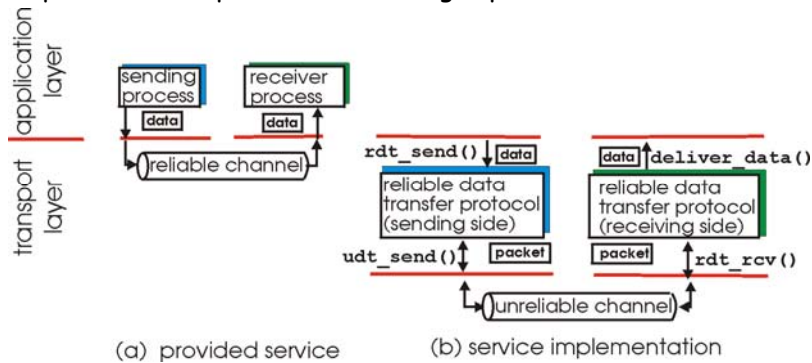
(a) provided service

(b) service implementation

- characteristics of unreliable channel will determine complexity of reliable data transfer protocol (rdt)

## Principles of Reliable data transfer

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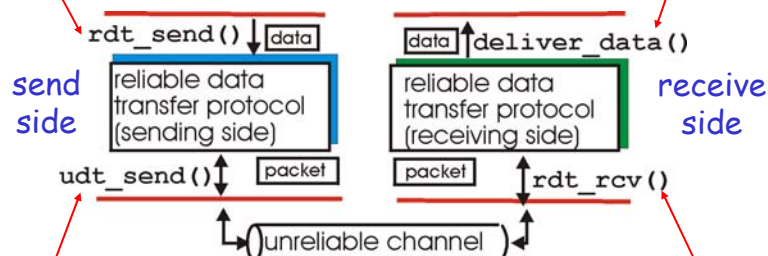


- characteristics of unreliable channel will determine complexity of reliable data transfer protocol (rdt)

## Reliable data transfer: getting started

**rdt\_send()** : called from above, (e.g., by app.). Passed data to deliver to receiver upper layer

**deliver\_data()** : called by rdt to deliver data to upper



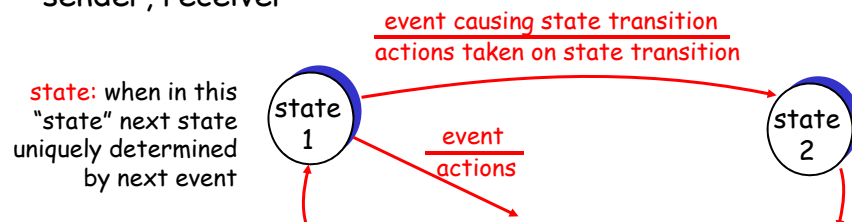
**udt\_send()** : called by rdt, to transfer packet over unreliable channel to receiver

**rdt\_rcv()** : called when packet arrives on rcv-side of channel

## Reliable data transfer: getting started

In this section we will:

- incrementally develop sender, receiver sides of reliable data transfer protocol (rdt)
- consider only unidirectional data transfer
  - ❖ but control info will flow on both directions!
- use finite state machines (FSM) to specify sender, receiver

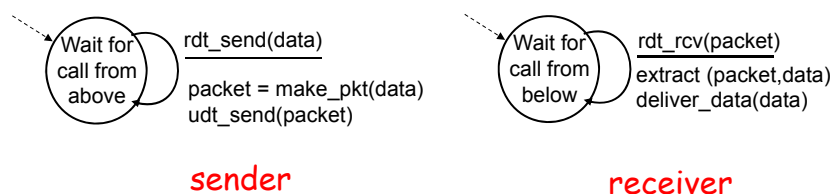


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## Rdt1.0: reliable transfer over a reliable channel

- underlying channel perfectly reliable
  - ❖ no bit errors
  - ❖ no loss of packets
- separate FSMs for sender, receiver:
  - ❖ sender sends data into underlying channel
  - ❖ receiver read data from underlying channel



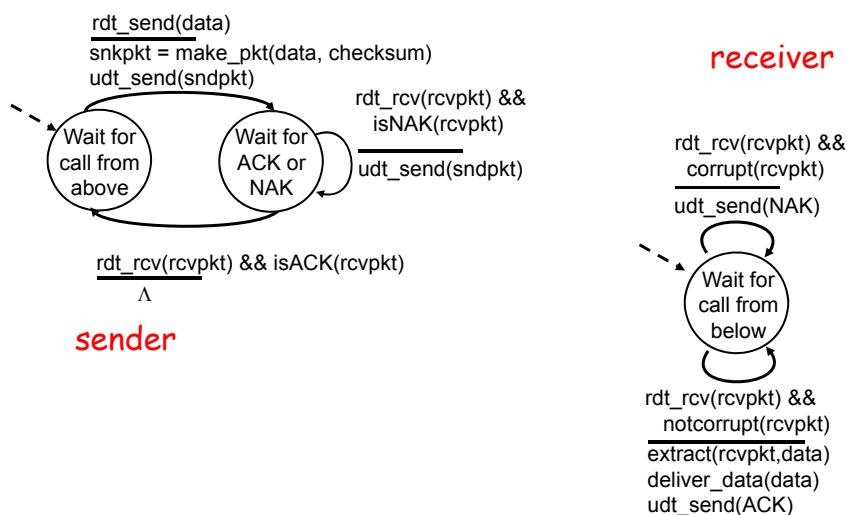
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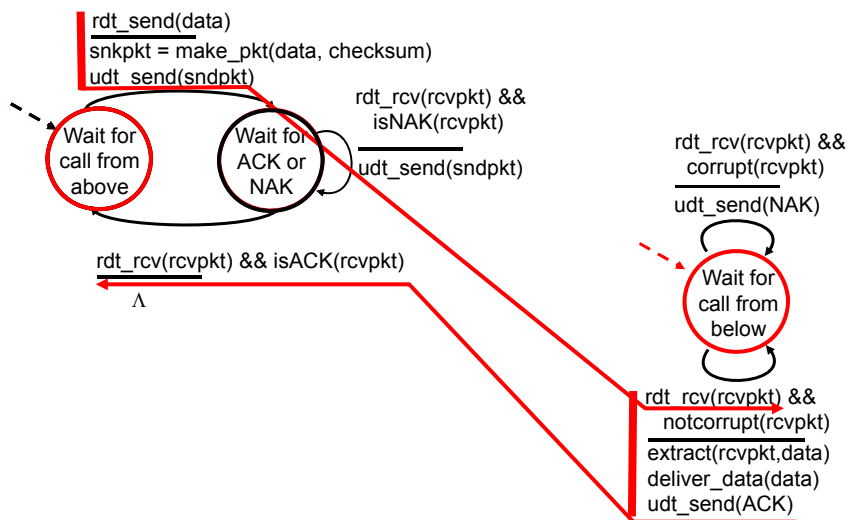
## Rdt2.0: channel with bit errors

- ❑ underlying channel may flip bits in packet
  - ❖ checksum to detect bit errors
- ❑ *the question*: how to recover from errors:
  - ❖ *acknowledgements (ACKs)*: receiver explicitly tells sender that pkt received OK
  - ❖ *negative acknowledgements (NAKs)*: receiver explicitly tells sender that pkt had errors
  - ❖ sender retransmits pkt on receipt of NAK
- ❑ new mechanisms in rdt2.0 (beyond rdt1.0):
  - ❖ error detection
  - ❖ receiver feedback: control msgs (ACK,NAK) rcvr->sender

## rdt2.0: FSM specification



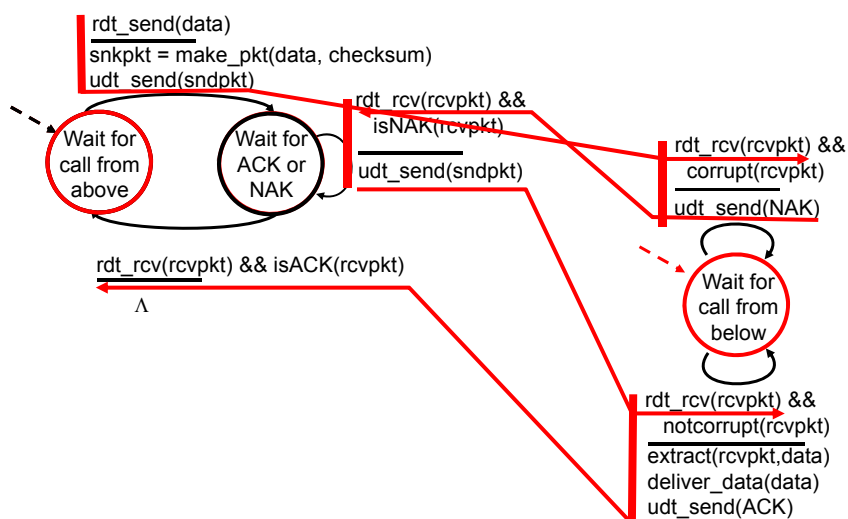
## rdt2.0: operation with no errors



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## rdt2.0: error scenario



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## rdt2.0 has a fatal flaw!

### What happens if ACK/NAK corrupted?

- sender doesn't know what happened at receiver!
- can't just retransmit: possible duplicate

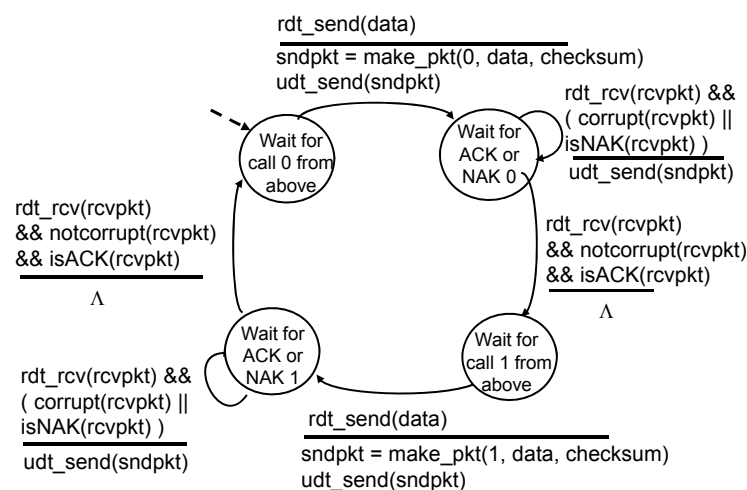
### Handling duplicates:

- sender retransmits current pkt if ACK/NAK garbled
- sender adds *sequence number* to each pkt
- receiver discards (doesn't deliver up) duplicate pkt

### stop and wait

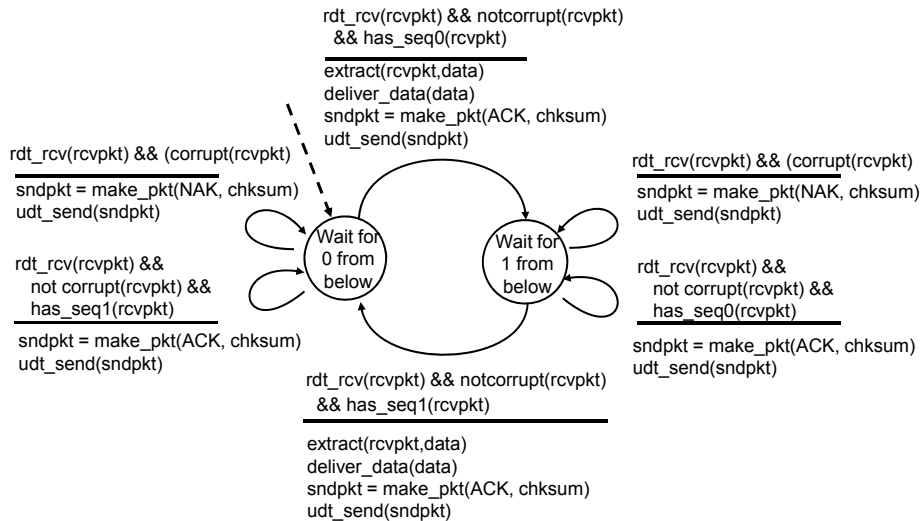
Sender sends one packet, then waits for receiver Response before sending anything

## rdt2.1: sender, handles garbled ACK/NAKs





## rdt2.1: receiver, handles garbled ACK/NAKs



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## rdt2.1: discussion

### Sender:

- ❑ seq # added to pkt
- ❑ two seq. #'s (0,1) will suffice. Why?
- ❑ must check if received ACK/NAK corrupted
- ❑ twice as many states
  - ❖ state must "remember" whether "current" pkt has 0 or 1 seq. #

### Receiver:

- ❑ must check if received packet is duplicate
  - ❖ state indicates whether 0 or 1 is expected pkt seq #
- ❑ note: receiver can *not* know if its last ACK/NAK received OK at sender

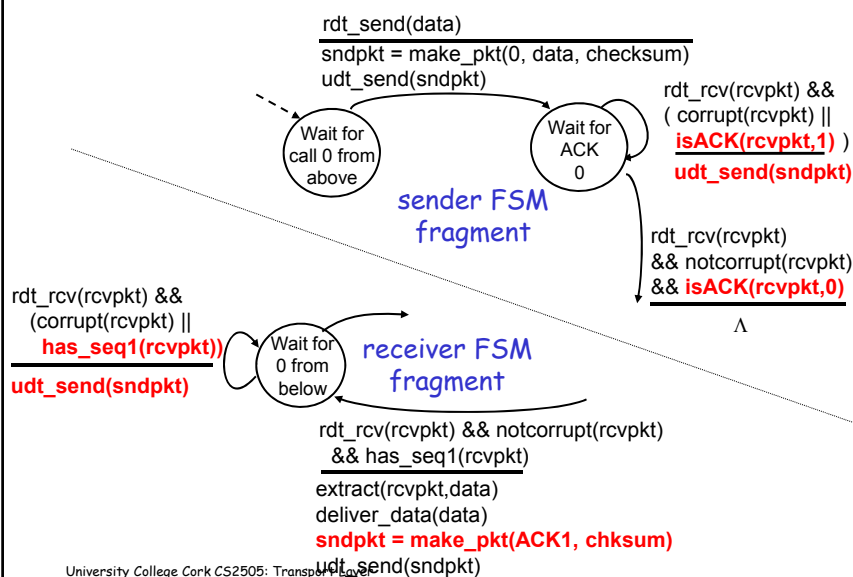
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## rdt2.2: a NAK-free protocol

- ❑ same functionality as rdt2.1, using ACKs only
- ❑ instead of NAK, receiver sends ACK for last pkt received OK
  - ❖ receiver must *explicitly* include seq # of pkt being ACKed
  - ❖ sender then knows that the current packet was not received correctly
- ❑ duplicate ACK at sender results in same action as NAK: *retransmit current pkt*
- ❑ This is a simpler protocol because it does away with NAKs

## rdt2.2: sender, receiver fragments



## rdt3.0: channels with errors and loss

### New assumption:

underlying channel can also lose packets (data or ACKs)

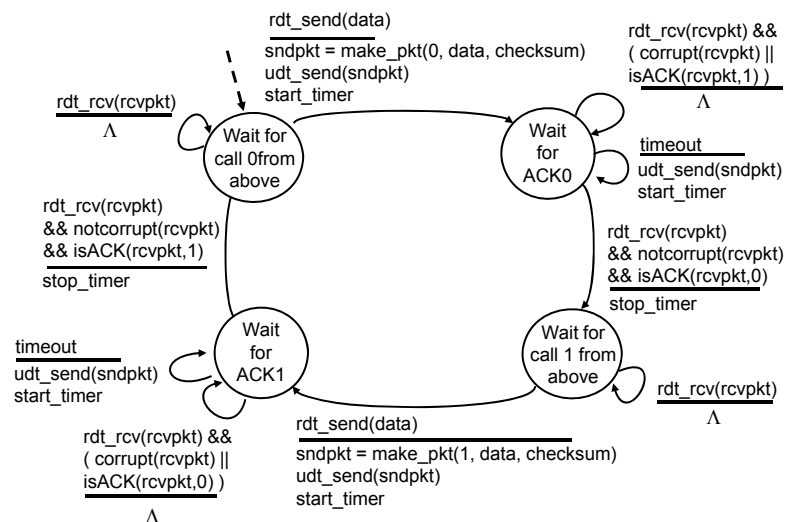
- ❖ checksum, seq. #, ACKs, retransmissions will be of help, but not enough

### Approach: sender waits

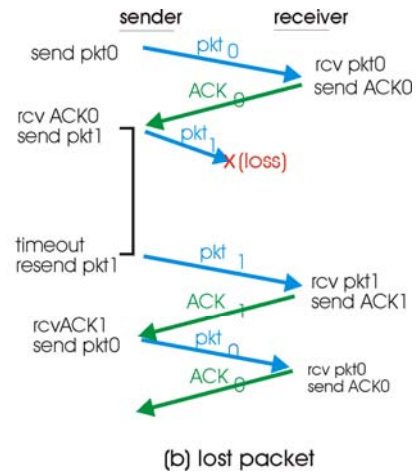
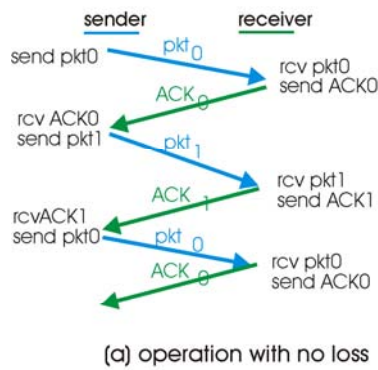
"reasonable" amount of time for ACK

- retransmits if no ACK received in this time
- if pkt (or ACK) just delayed (not lost):
  - ❖ retransmission will be duplicate, but use of seq. #'s already handles this
  - ❖ receiver must specify seq # of pkt being ACKed
- requires countdown timer

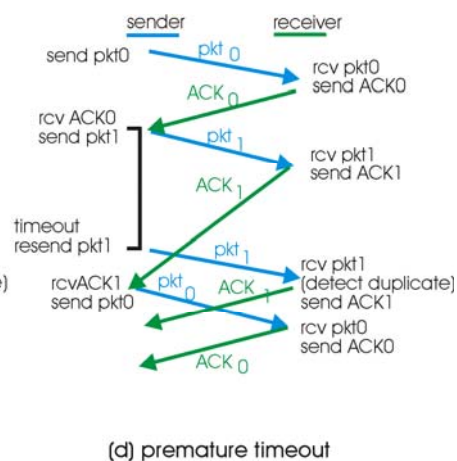
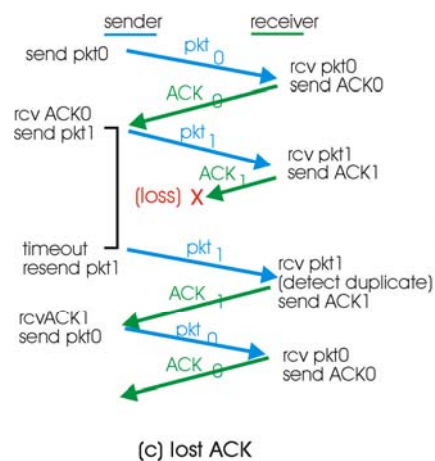
## rdt3.0 sender



## rdt3.0 in action



## rdt3.0 in action



## Performance of rdt3.0

- rdt3.0 works, but performance stinks
- eg: 1 Gb/s link, 15 ms propagation delay, 8000 bit packet:

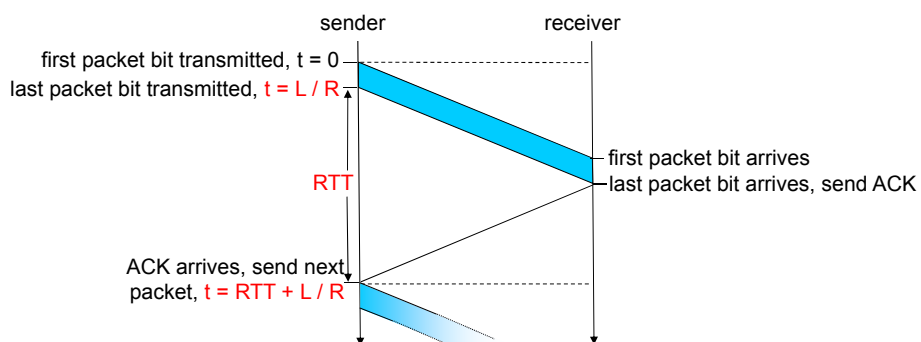
$$d_{trans} = \frac{L}{R} = \frac{8000\text{bits}}{10^9\text{b/s}} = 8\text{microseconds}$$

- ❖  $U_{\text{sender}}$ : **utilization** - fraction of time sender busy sending

$$U_{\text{sender}} = \frac{L / R}{RTT + L / R} = \frac{.008}{30.008} = 0.00027$$

- ❖ 1KB pkt every 30 msec → 33KB/sec throughput over 1 Gb/s link
- ❖ network protocol limits use of physical resources!

## rdt3.0: stop-and-wait operation

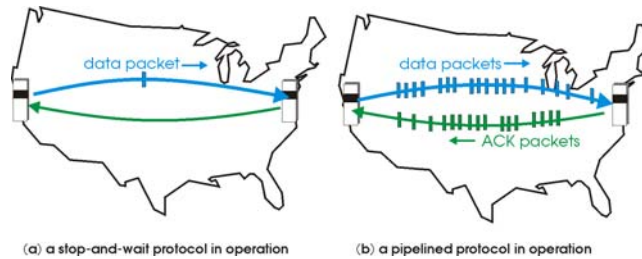


$$U_{\text{sender}} = \frac{L / R}{RTT + L / R} = \frac{.008}{30.008} = 0.00027$$

## Pipelined protocols

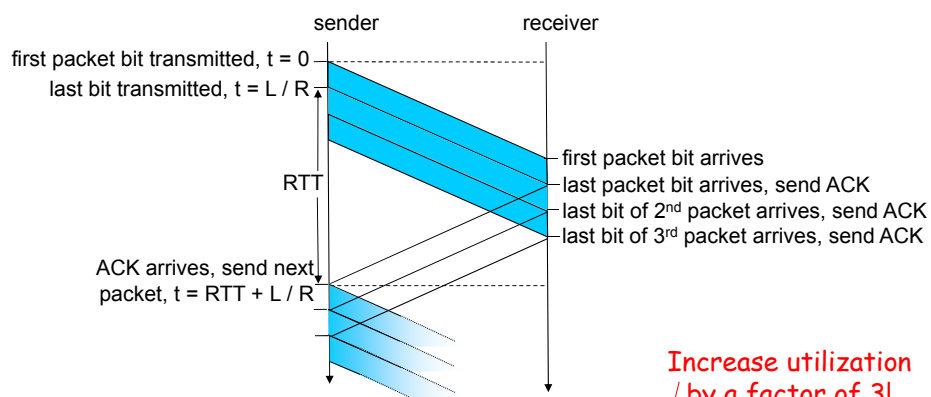
**Pipelining:** sender allows multiple, "in-flight", yet-to-be-acknowledged pkts

- ❖ range of sequence numbers must be increased
- ❖ buffering at sender and/or receiver



- ❑ Two generic forms of pipelined protocols: *go-Back-N*, *selective repeat*

## Pipelining: increased utilization



$$U_{\text{sender}} = \frac{3 * L / R}{RTT + L / R} = \frac{.024}{30.008} = 0.0008$$

## Pipelining Protocols

### Go-back-N: overview

- *sender*: up to N unACKed pkts in pipeline
- *receiver*: only sends cumulative ACKs
  - ❖ doesn't ACK pkt if there's a gap
- *sender*: has timer for oldest unACKed pkt
  - ❖ if timer expires: retransmit all unACKed packets

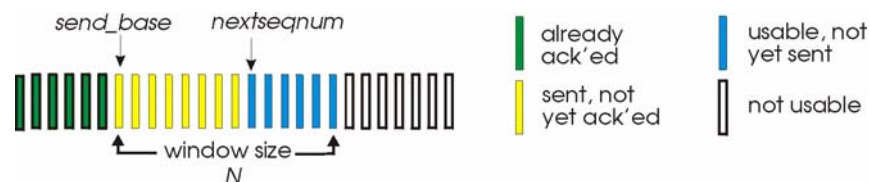
### Selective Repeat: overview

- *sender*: up to N unACKed packets in pipeline
- *receiver*: ACKs individual pkts
- *sender*: maintains timer for each unACKed pkt
  - ❖ if timer expires: retransmit only unACKed packet

## Go-Back-N

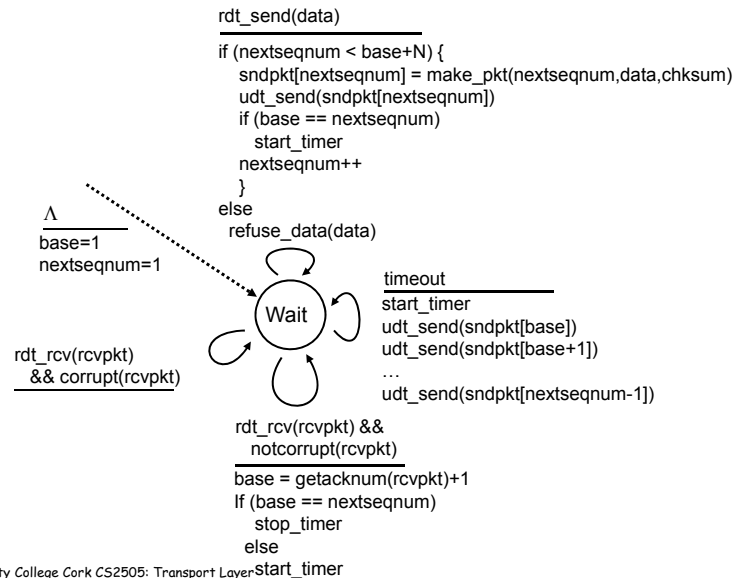
### *Sender:*

- k-bit seq # in pkt header
- "sliding window" of up to N, consecutive unACKed pkts allowed



- ACK(n): ACKs all pkts up to, including seq # n - "cumulative ACK"
  - ❖ may receive duplicate ACKs (see receiver)
- timeout(n): retransmit pkt n and all higher seq # pkts in window

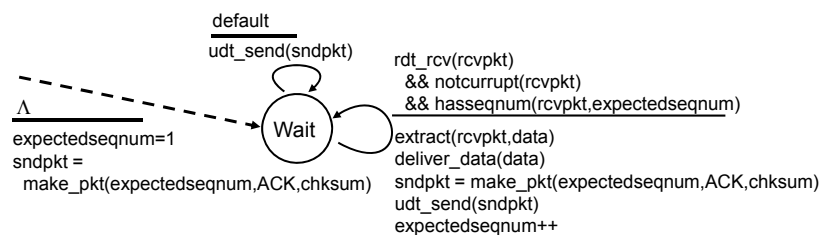
## GBN: sender extended FSM



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## GBN: receiver extended FSM



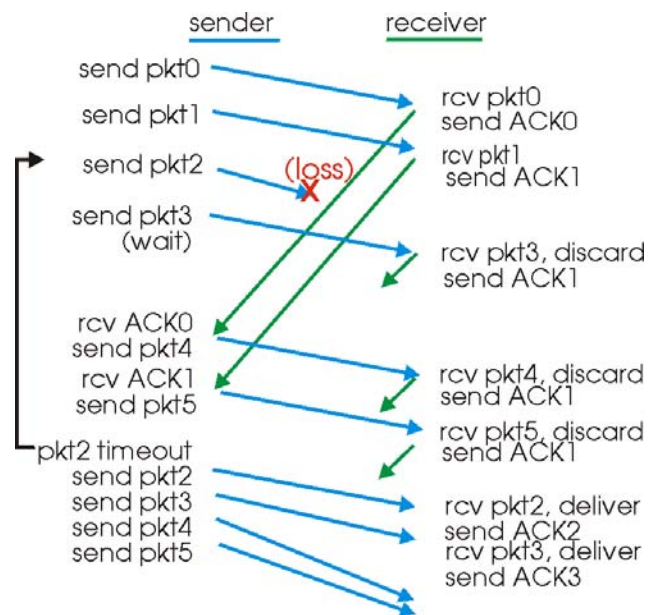
- ❑ ACK-only: always send ACK for correctly-received pkt with highest *in-order* seq #
  - ❖ may generate duplicate ACKs
  - ❖ need only remember **expectedseqnum**
- ❑ out-of-order pkt:
  - ❖ discard (don't buffer) -> **no receiver buffering!**
  - ❖ Re-ACK pkt with highest in-order seq #

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## GBN in action



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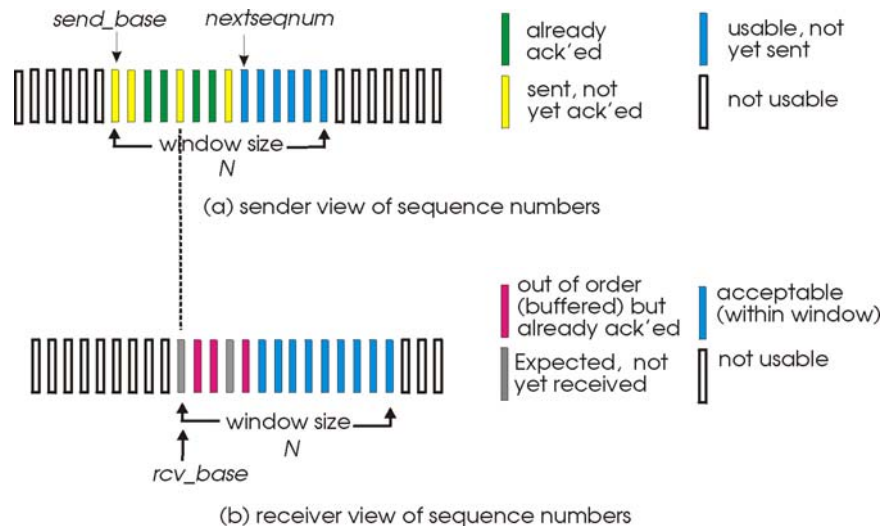
## Selective Repeat

- ❑ Go-back-N can be inefficient if there can be many pkts in pipeline and an error occurs
  - ❖ All these packets will be retransmitted unnecessarily
- ❑ With selective repeat receiver *individually* acknowledges all correctly received pkts
  - ❖ buffers pkts, as needed, for eventual in-order delivery to upper layer
  - ❖ sender only resends pkts for which ACK not received
    - sender timer for each unACKed pkt
  - ❖ sender window
    - N consecutive seq #s
    - again limits seq #s of sent, unACKed pkts

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## Selective repeat: sender, receiver windows



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## Selective repeat

### sender

#### data from above :

- if next available seq # in window, send pkt

#### timeout(n):

- resend pkt n, restart timer

#### ACK(n) in $[sendbase, sendbase+N]$ :

- mark pkt n as received
- if n smallest unACKed pkt, advance window base to next unACKed seq #

### receiver

#### pkt n in $[rcvbase, rcvbase+N-1]$

- send ACK(n)
- out-of-order: buffer
- in-order: deliver (also deliver buffered, in-order pkts), advance window to next not-yet-received pkt

#### pkt n in $[rcvbase-N, rcvbase-1]$

- ACK(n)

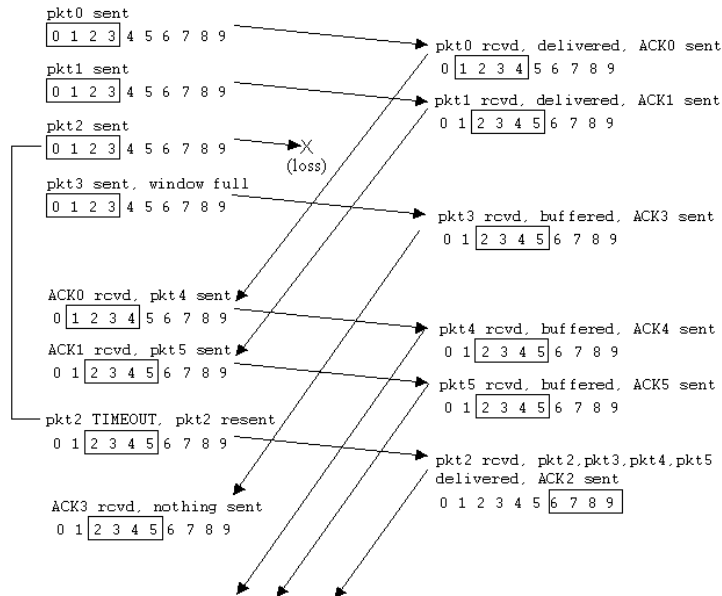
#### otherwise:

- ignore

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## Selective repeat in action



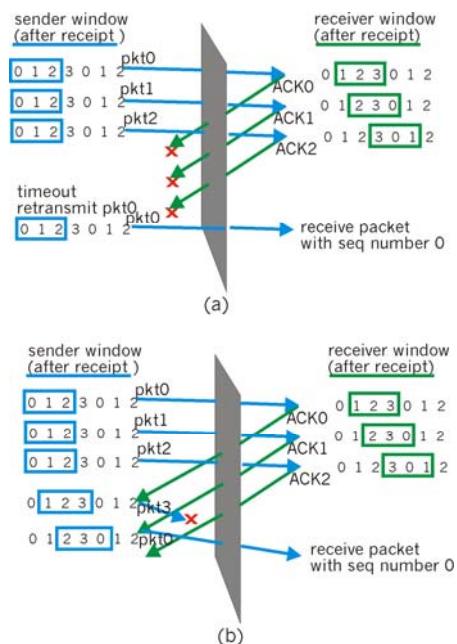
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## Selective repeat: dilemma

Example:

- seq #'s: 0, 1, 2, 3
- window size=3
- receiver sees no difference in two scenarios!
- incorrectly passes duplicate data as new in (a)

Q: what relationship between seq # size and window size?



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  - ❖ basics
  - ❖ reliable data transfer
  - ❖ flow control
- 3.6 TCP congestion control

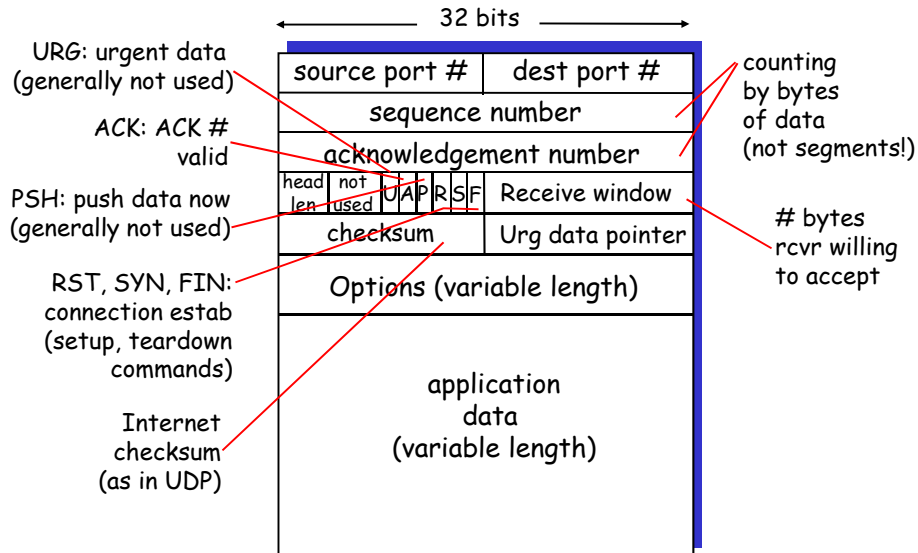
## TCP: Overview

RFCs: 793, 1122, 1323, 2018, 2581

- **point-to-point:**
  - ❖ one sender, one receiver
- **reliable, in-order byte stream:**
  - ❖ no "message boundaries"
- **pipelined:**
  - ❖ TCP congestion and flow control set window size
- **send & receive buffers**
- **full duplex data:**
  - ❖ bi-directional data flow in same connection
  - ❖ MSS: maximum segment size
- **connection-oriented:**
  - ❖ handshaking (exchange of control msgs) init's sender, receiver state before data exchange
- **flow controlled:**
  - ❖ sender will not overwhelm receiver



## TCP segment structure



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## TCP Connection Management

**Recall:** TCP sender, receiver establish "connection" before exchanging data segments

- initialize TCP variables:
  - ❖ seq. #s
  - ❖ buffers, flow control info (e.g. RcvWindow)
- *client*: connection initiator
 

```
Socket clientSocket = new
Socket("hostname", "port
number") ;
```
- *server*: contacted by client
 

```
Socket connectionSocket =
welcomeSocket.accept() ;
```

### Three way handshake:

**Step 1:** client host sends TCP SYN segment to server

- ❖ specifies initial seq #
- ❖ no data

**Step 2:** server host receives SYN, replies with SYNACK segment

- ❖ server allocates buffers
- ❖ specifies server initial seq. #

**Step 3:** client receives SYNACK, replies with ACK segment, which may contain data

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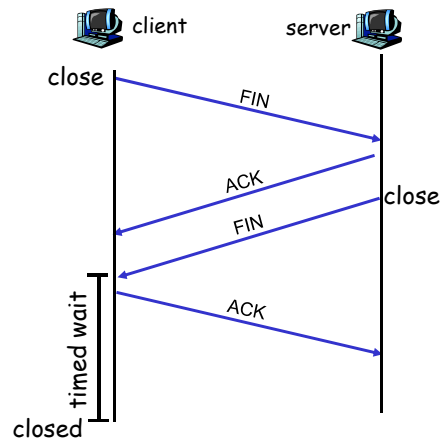
## TCP Connection Management (cont.)

### Closing a connection:

client closes socket:  
`clientSocket.close();`

**Step 1:** client end system  
sends TCP FIN control  
segment to server

**Step 2:** server receives  
FIN, replies with ACK.  
Closes connection, sends  
FIN.



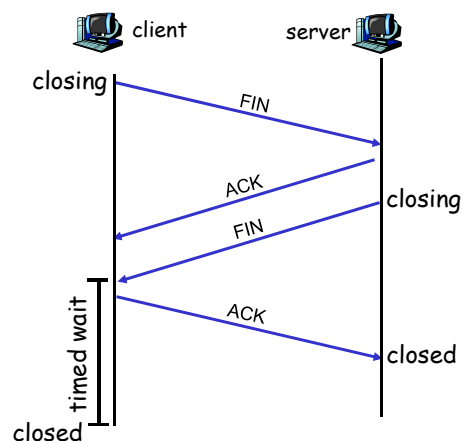
## TCP Connection Management (cont.)

**Step 3:** client receives FIN,  
replies with ACK.

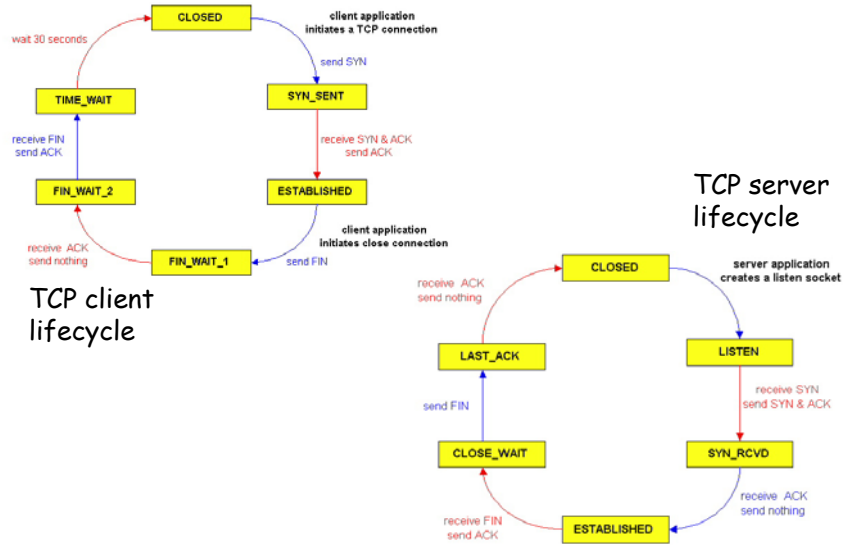
- ❖ Enters "timed wait" -  
will respond with ACK  
to received FINs

**Step 4:** server, receives  
ACK. Connection closed.

**Note:** with small  
modification, can handle  
simultaneous FINs.



## TCP Connection Management (cont)



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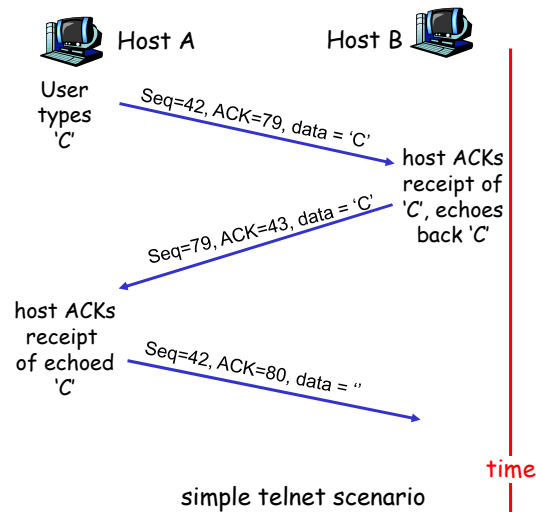
## TCP seq. #'s and ACKs

### Seq. #'s:

- ❖ byte stream "number" of first byte in segment's data

### ACKs:

- ❖ seq # of next byte expected from other side
- ❖ cumulative ACK



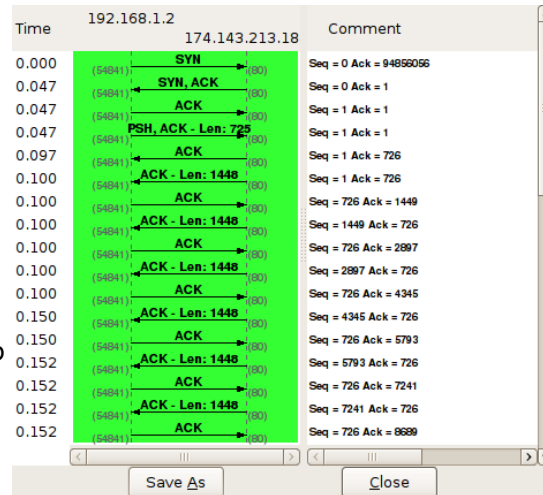
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## Example TCP Session

### Starting sequence numbers:

- ❖ increase by one during connection opening
- ❖ chosen randomly (shown as zero in figure)
- ❖ No increase in seqno for empty ACK



## TCP reliable data transfer

- ❑ TCP creates rdt service on top of IP's unreliable service
- ❑ pipelined segments
- ❑ cumulative ACKs
- ❑ TCP uses single retransmission timer
- ❑ retransmissions are triggered by:
  - ❖ timeout events
  - ❖ duplicate ACKs
- ❑ initially consider simplified TCP sender:
  - ❖ ignore duplicate ACKs
  - ❖ ignore flow control, congestion control



## TCP sender events:

### data rcvd from app:

- ❑ create segment with seq #
- ❑ seq # is byte-stream number of first data byte in segment
- ❑ start timer if not already running (think of timer as for oldest unACKed segment)
- ❑ expiration interval:  
TimeOutInterval

### timeout:

- ❑ retransmit segment that caused timeout
- ❑ restart timer

### ACK rcvd:

- ❑ if acknowledges previously unACKed segments
  - ❖ update what is known to be ACKed
  - ❖ start timer if there are outstanding segments

```
NextSeqNum = InitialSeqNum
SendBase = InitialSeqNum

loop (forever) {
  switch(event)

    event: data received from application above
    create TCP segment with sequence number NextSeqNum
    if (timer currently not running)
      start timer
    pass segment to IP
    NextSeqNum = NextSeqNum + length(data)

    event: timer timeout
    retransmit not-yet-acknowledged segment with
      smallest sequence number
    start timer

    event: ACK received, with ACK field value of y
    if (y > SendBase) {
      SendBase = y
      if (there are currently not-yet-acknowledged segments)
        start timer
    }

} /* end of loop forever */
```

## TCP sender (simplified)

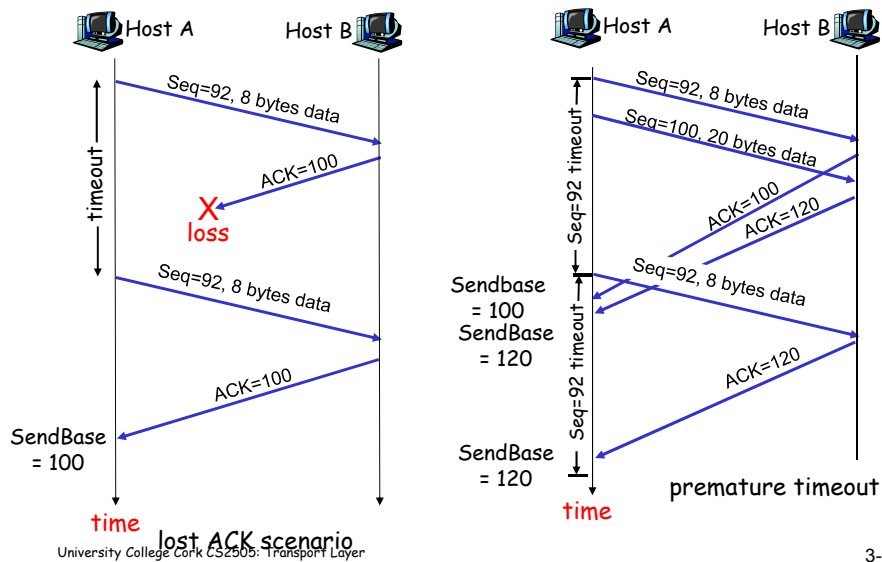
### Comment:

- SendBase-1: last cumulatively ACKed byte

### Example:

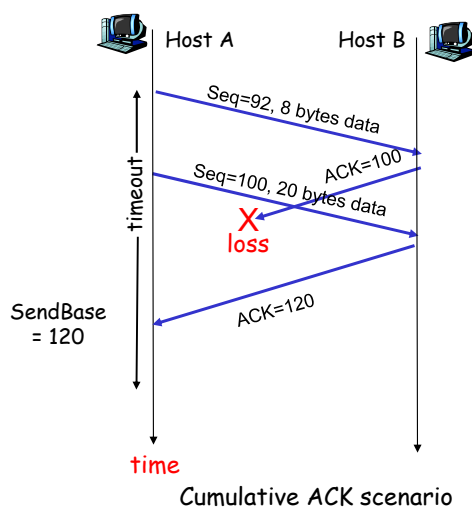
- SendBase-1 = 71; y = 73, so the rcvr wants 73+ ; y > SendBase, so that new data is ACKed

## TCP: retransmission scenarios



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## TCP retransmission scenarios (more)



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## TCP ACK generation [RFC 1122, RFC 2581]

Event at Receiver	TCP Receiver action
Arrival of in-order segment with expected seq #. All data up to expected seq # already ACKed	Delayed ACK. Wait up to 500ms for next segment. If no next segment, send ACK
Arrival of in-order segment with expected seq #. One other segment has ACK pending	Immediately send single cumulative ACK, ACKing both in-order segments
Arrival of out-of-order segment higher-than-expected seq. # . Gap detected	Immediately send <i>duplicate ACK</i> , indicating seq. # of next expected byte
Arrival of segment that partially or completely fills gap	Immediate send ACK, provided that segment starts at lower end of gap

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## TCP Selective ACKs [RFC 2018]

- ❑ A non-mandatory extension to TCP cumulative ACKs that is widely used
- ❑ Selective ACK (SACK) allows receiver to ACK a sequence of bytes in addition to number of next expected byte
- ❑ Use of SACK is negotiated during TCP connection opening
  - ❖ uses TCP options field to convey sequence number ranges

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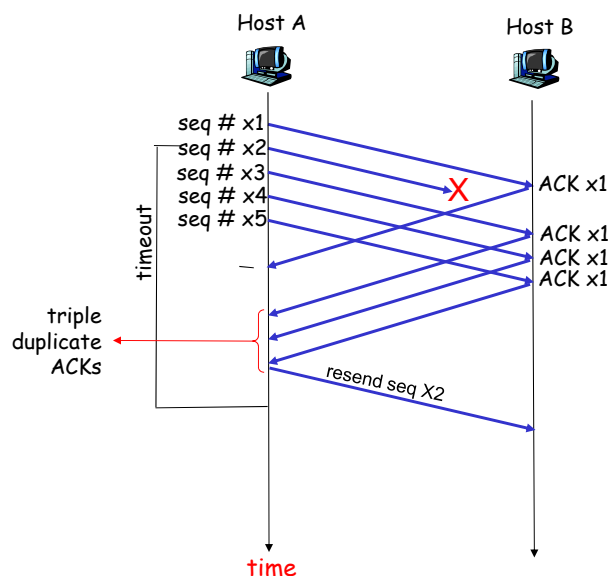
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## Fast Retransmit

- time-out period often relatively long:
  - ❖ long delay before resending lost packet
- detect lost segments via duplicate ACKs.
  - ❖ sender often sends many segments back-to-back
  - ❖ if segment is lost, there will likely be many duplicate ACKs for that segment
- If sender receives 3 ACKs for same data, it assumes that segment after ACKed data was lost:
  - ❖ fast retransmit: resend segment before timer expires

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## Fast retransmit algorithm:

```
event: ACK received, with ACK field value of y
    if (y > SendBase) {
        SendBase = y
        if (there are currently not-yet-acknowledged segments)
            start timer
    }
    else {
        increment count of dup ACKs received for y
        if (count of dup ACKs received for y = 3) {
            resend segment with sequence number y
        }
    }
```

a duplicate ACK for  
already ACKed segment

fast retransmit

## TCP Round Trip Time and Timeout

Q: how to set TCP  
timeout value?

- longer than RTT
  - ❖ but RTT varies
- too short: premature timeout
  - ❖ unnecessary retransmissions
- too long: slow reaction to segment loss

Q: how to estimate RTT?

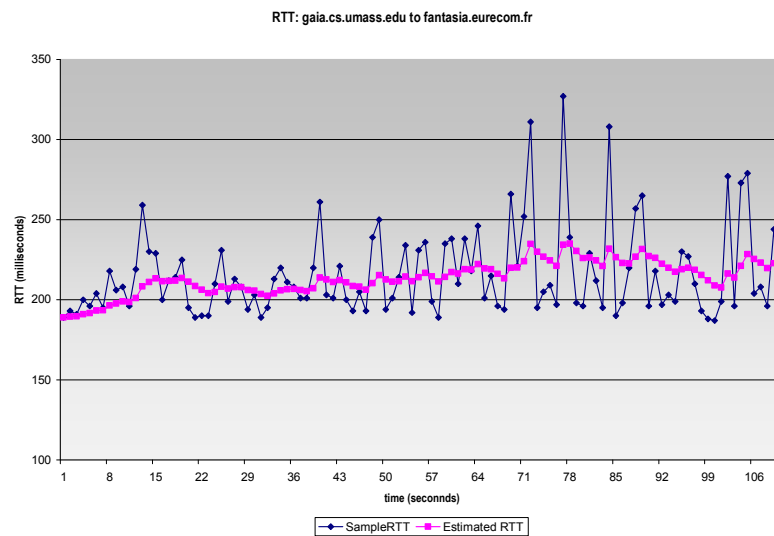
- **SampleRTT**: measured time from segment transmission until ACK receipt
  - ❖ ignore retransmissions
- **SampleRTT** will vary, want estimated RTT "smoother"
  - ❖ average several recent measurements, not just current **SampleRTT**

## TCP Round Trip Time and Timeout

$$\text{EstimatedRTT} = (1 - \alpha) * \text{EstimatedRTT} + \alpha * \text{SampleRTT}$$

- Exponential weighted moving average
- influence of past sample decreases exponentially fast
- typical value:  $\alpha = 0.125$

## Example RTT estimation:



## TCP Round Trip Time and Timeout

### Setting the timeout

- EstimatedRTT plus "safety margin"
  - ❖ large variation in EstimatedRTT -> larger safety margin
- first estimate of how much SampleRTT deviates from EstimatedRTT:

$$\text{DevRTT} = (1-\beta) * \text{DevRTT} + \beta * |\text{SampleRTT} - \text{EstimatedRTT}|$$

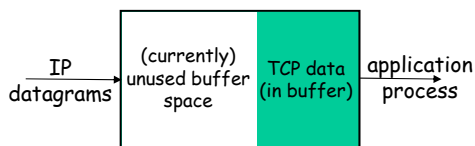
(typically,  $\beta = 0.25$ )

Then set timeout interval:

$$\text{TimeoutInterval} = \text{EstimatedRTT} + 4 * \text{DevRTT}$$

## TCP Flow Control

- receive side of TCP connection has a receive buffer:

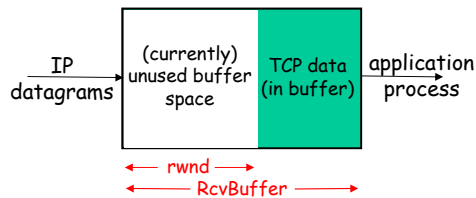


### flow control

sender won't overflow receiver's buffer by transmitting too much, too fast

- *speed-matching service*: matching send rate to receiving application's drain rate
- app process may be slow at reading from buffer

## TCP Flow control: how it works



(suppose TCP receiver discards out-of-order segments)

□ unused buffer space:

=  $rwnd$

=  $RcvBuffer - [LastByteRcvd - LastByteRead]$

- receiver: advertises unused buffer space by including  $rwnd$  value in segment header
- sender: limits # of unACKed bytes to  $rwnd$ 
  - ❖ guarantees receiver's buffer doesn't overflow

## TCP Flow Control Example

- Example: slow receiver
  - ❖ Recv buffer fills up and window shrinks to 0
  - ❖ Send TCP learns of empty window and stops
  - ❖ Send buffer fills up with bytes from appl process
  - ❖ Send TCP asks OS to block sender appl process
- Once receiver catches up
  - ❖ Window opens, Send TCP learns new window size
  - ❖ Send TCP resumes transmission
  - ❖ Send TCP buffer frees up
  - ❖ Send TCP asks OS to unblock sender process



## Outline

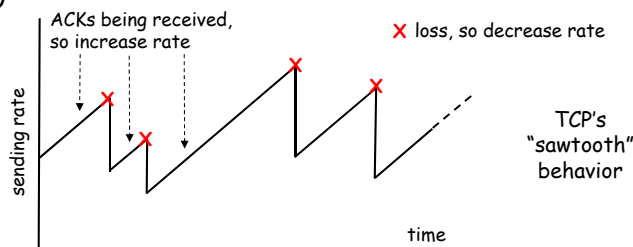
- 3.1 Transport-layer services
- 3.2 Multiplexing and demultiplexing
- 3.3 Connectionless transport: UDP
- 3.4 Principles of reliable data transfer
- 3.5 Connection-oriented transport: TCP
- 3.6 TCP congestion control

## TCP congestion control:

- *goal*: TCP sender should transmit as fast as possible, but without congesting network
  - ❖ Q: how to find rate *just* below congestion level
- decentralized: each TCP sender sets its own rate, based on *implicit* feedback:
  - ❖ *ACK*: segment received (a good thing!), network not congested, so increase sending rate
  - ❖ *lost segment*: assume loss due to congested network, so decrease sending rate

## TCP congestion control: bandwidth probing

- "probing for bandwidth": increase transmission rate on receipt of ACK, until eventually loss occurs, then decrease transmission rate
  - ❖ continue to increase on ACK, decrease on loss (since available bandwidth is changing, depending on other connections in network)



- Q: how fast to increase/decrease?

- ❖ details to follow

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## TCP Congestion Control: details

- sender limits rate by limiting number of unACKed bytes "in pipeline":

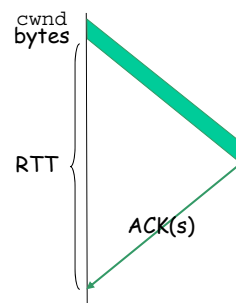
$\text{LastByteSent} - \text{LastByteAcked} \leq \text{cwnd}$

- ❖ cwnd: differs from rwnd (how, why?)
- ❖ sender limited by  $\min(\text{cwnd}, \text{rwnd})$

- roughly,

$$\text{rate} = \frac{\text{cwnd}}{\text{RTT}} \text{ bytes/sec}$$

- cwnd is dynamic, function of perceived network congestion



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## TCP Congestion Control: more details

### segment loss event: reducing cwnd

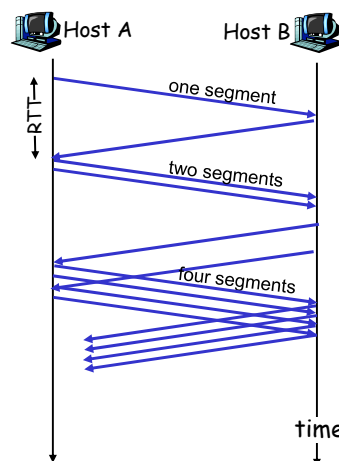
- ❑ timeout: no response from receiver
  - ❖ cut cwnd to 1
- ❑ 3 duplicate ACKs: at least some segments getting through (recall fast retransmit)
  - ❖ cut cwnd in half, less aggressively than on timeout

### ACK received: increase cwnd

- ❑ slowstart phase:
  - ❖ increase exponentially fast (despite name) at connection start, or following timeout
- ❑ congestion avoidance:
  - ❖ increase linearly

## TCP Slow Start

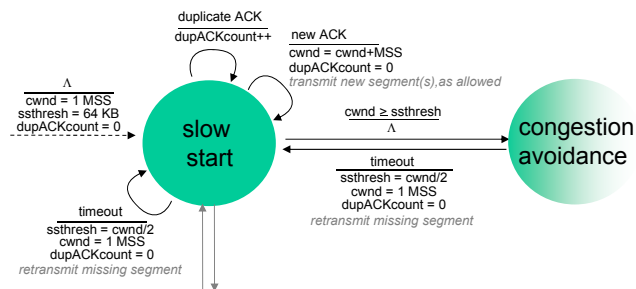
- ❑ when connection begins, cwnd = 1 MSS
  - ❖ example: MSS = 500 bytes & RTT = 200 msec
  - ❖ initial rate = 20 kbps
- ❑ available bandwidth may be  $\gg$  MSS/RTT
  - ❖ desirable to quickly ramp up to respectable rate
- ❑ increase rate exponentially until first loss event or when threshold reached
  - ❖ double cwnd every RTT
  - ❖ done by incrementing cwnd by 1 for every ACK received



## Transitioning into/out of slowstart

**ssthresh**: cwnd threshold maintained by TCP

- on loss event: set **ssthresh** to  $cwnd/2$ 
  - ❖ remember (half of) TCP rate when congestion last occurred
- when  $cwnd \geq ssthresh$ : transition from slowstart to congestion avoidance phase



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## TCP: congestion avoidance

- when  $cwnd > ssthresh$  grow  $cwnd$  linearly
  - ❖ increase  $cwnd$  by 1 MSS per RTT
  - ❖ approach possible congestion slower than in slowstart
  - ❖ implementation:  $cwnd = cwnd + MSS/cwnd$  for each ACK received

### AIMD

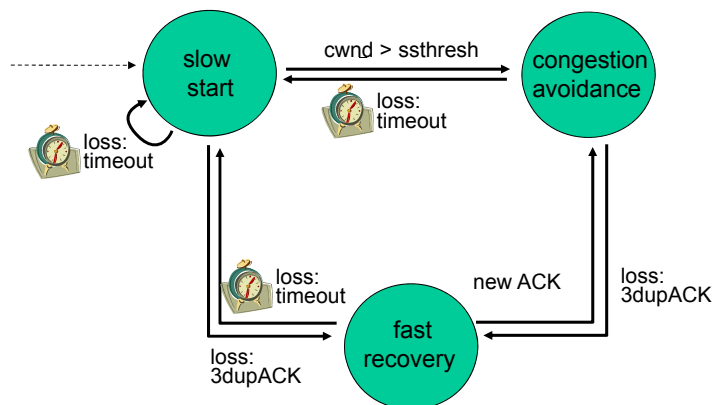
- ❖ **ACKs:** increase  $cwnd$  by 1 MSS per RTT: additive increase
- ❖ **loss:** cut  $cwnd$  in half (non-timeout-detected loss): multiplicative decrease

AIMD: Additive Increase  
Multiplicative Decrease

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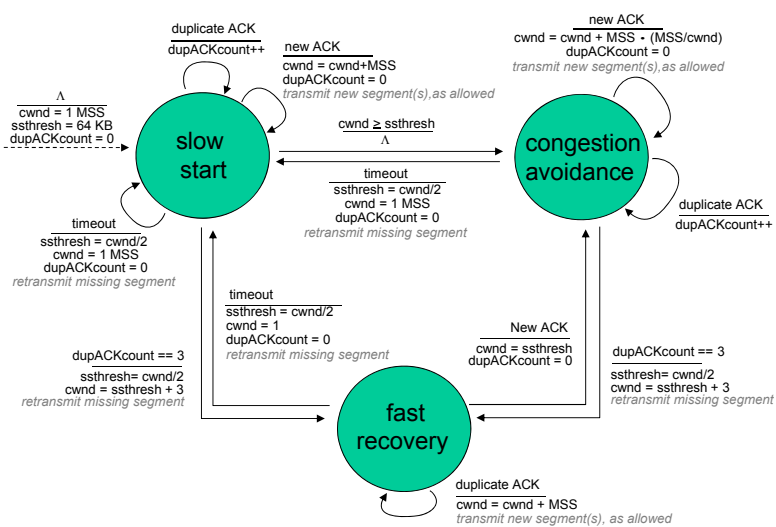
## TCP congestion control FSM: overview



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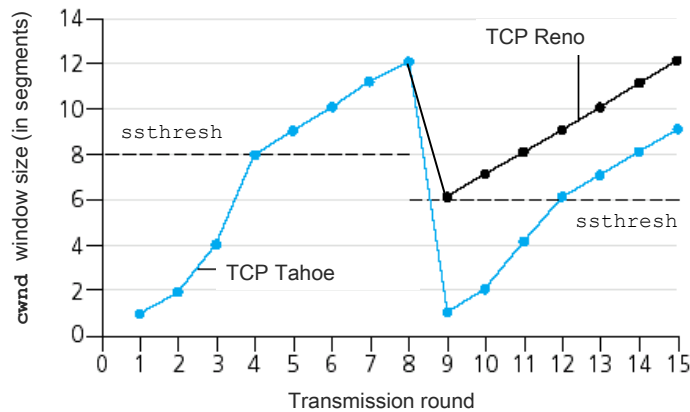
## TCP congestion control FSM: details



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## Popular "flavours" of TCP



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## Summary: TCP Congestion Control

- when  $cwnd < ssthresh$ , sender in **slow-start** phase, window grows exponentially.
- when  $cwnd \geq ssthresh$ , sender is in **congestion-avoidance** phase, window grows linearly.
- when **triple duplicate ACK** occurs,  $ssthresh$  set to  $cwnd/2$ ,  $cwnd$  set to  $\sim ssthresh$
- when **timeout** occurs,  $ssthresh$  set to  $cwnd/2$ ,  $cwnd$  set to 1 MSS.

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## Summary

- ❑ principles behind transport layer services:
  - ❖ multiplexing, demultiplexing
  - ❖ reliable data transfer
  - ❖ flow control
  - ❖ congestion control
- ❑ instantiation and implementation in the Internet
  - ❖ UDP
  - ❖ TCP