QUIC LEAGUE 2020

SAME SPORT, DIFFERENT STRATEGIES:
a study of QUIC and HTTP/3 game plan diversity

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https://qlog.edm.uhasselt.be/epiq

EPIQ WORKSHOP 2020

TCP IS OUT, QUIC IS IN!

TCP 2020

QUIC LEAGUE 2020

- Stream multiplexing
- User space congestion control
- 0-RTT
- Binary framing

MORE OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL STACKS TO TWEAK BEHAVIOUR

QUIC EVOLUTION

Google

Google

QUIC EVOLUTION

And several others!

https://github.com/quicwg/base-drafts/wiki/Implementations

00

METHODOLOGY

ARE YOU WATCHING CLOSELY?

METHODOLOGY

structured endpoint logs

[qlog]

interactive tooling

<qvis>

manual analysis

METHODOLOGY

QUIC interop runner

- Automated tests, run daily
- Client-side behaviour

[qlog]

<qvis>

Custom aioquic client

- Point at public interop endpoints
- Server-side behaviour

METHODOLOG

QUIC interop runn

- Automated tes run daily
- Client-side behaviour

Verify results

1. Source code review
2. Ask the **original implementers**

Custom oquic client

oint at public nterop endpoints erver-side ehaviour

METHODOLOGY

QUIC LEAGUE 2020

18 teams

15 analyzed

At least 9 per test

01

FLOW CONTROL

DON’T MAKE THAT BUFFER SUFFER

FLOW CONTROL

TCP 2020

Single connection-level buffer

RECEIVE WINDOW

QUIC LEAGUE 2020

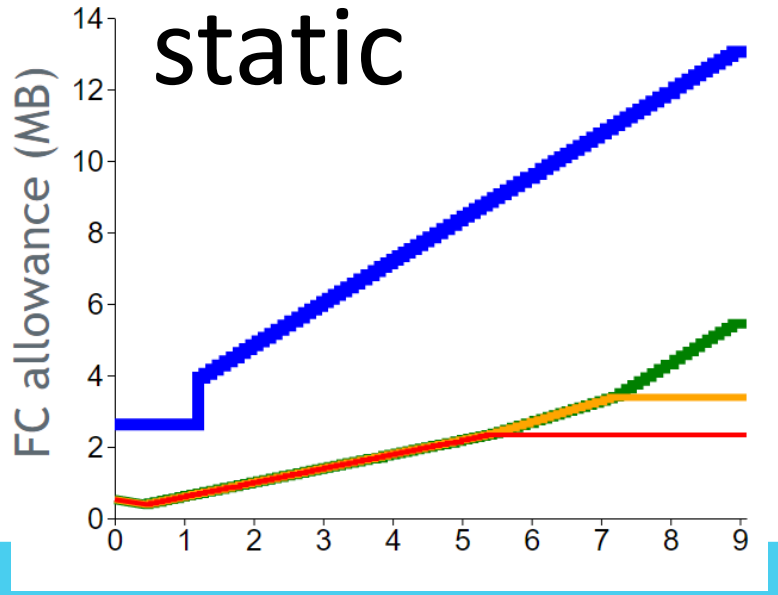
1. Connection-level limit
2. Stream-level limits
3. Stream count limit

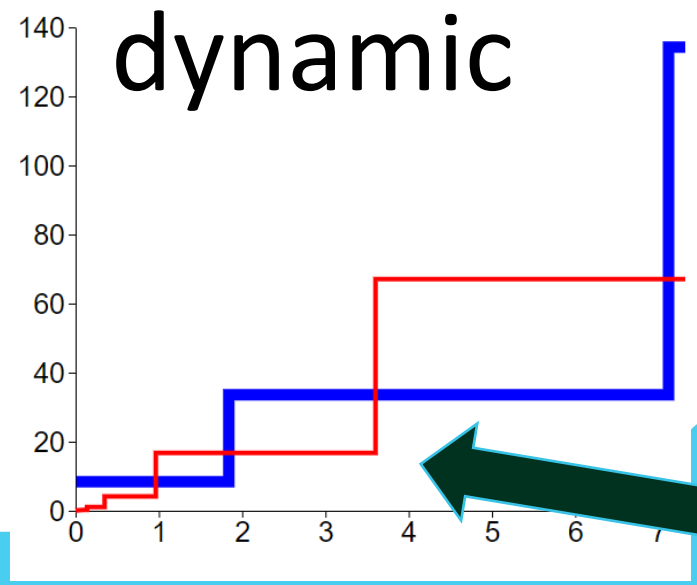
} increase often **OR** sending can STALL

3 MAIN FC APPROACHES

1. static: 5000 received, you get 5000 more
2. dynamic: 5000 received, you get **10000** more
3. autotune: fluctuate based on RTT/application behavior

TCP 2U2 0P0



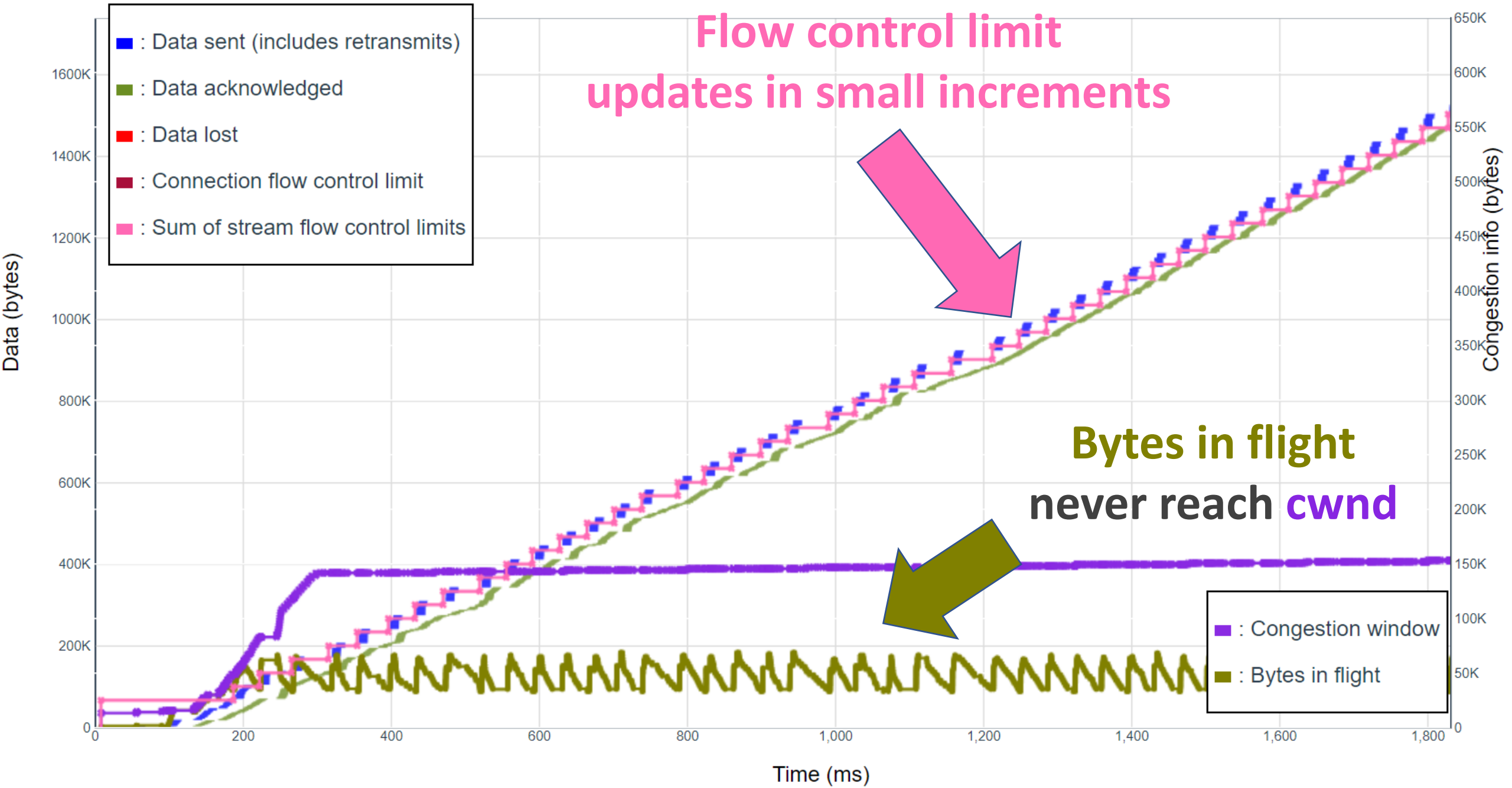


STALL

FLOW CONTROL

Flow control approach	Adoption
static	8/12
growing	3/12
autotune	1/12

“We have not yet spent time fine-tuning or testing Flow Control”

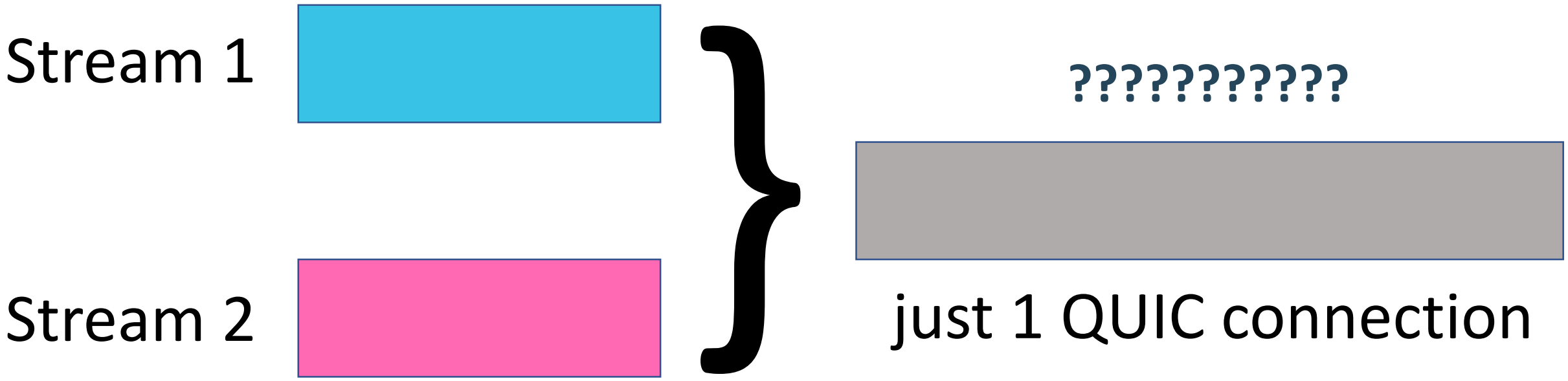

Flow control limit
updates in small increments
Bytes in flight
never reach cwnd
: Data sent (includes retransmits)
: Data acknowledged
: Data lost
: Connection flow control limit
: Sum of stream flow control limits
: Congestion window
: Bytes in flight
Data (bytes)
Congestion info (bytes)
Time (ms)
0
200K
400K
600K
800K
1000K
1200K
1400K
1600K
50K
100K
150K
200K
250K
300K
350K
400K
450K
500K
550K
600K
650K
200
400
600
800
1,000
1,200
1,400
1,600
1,800

MULTIPLEXING

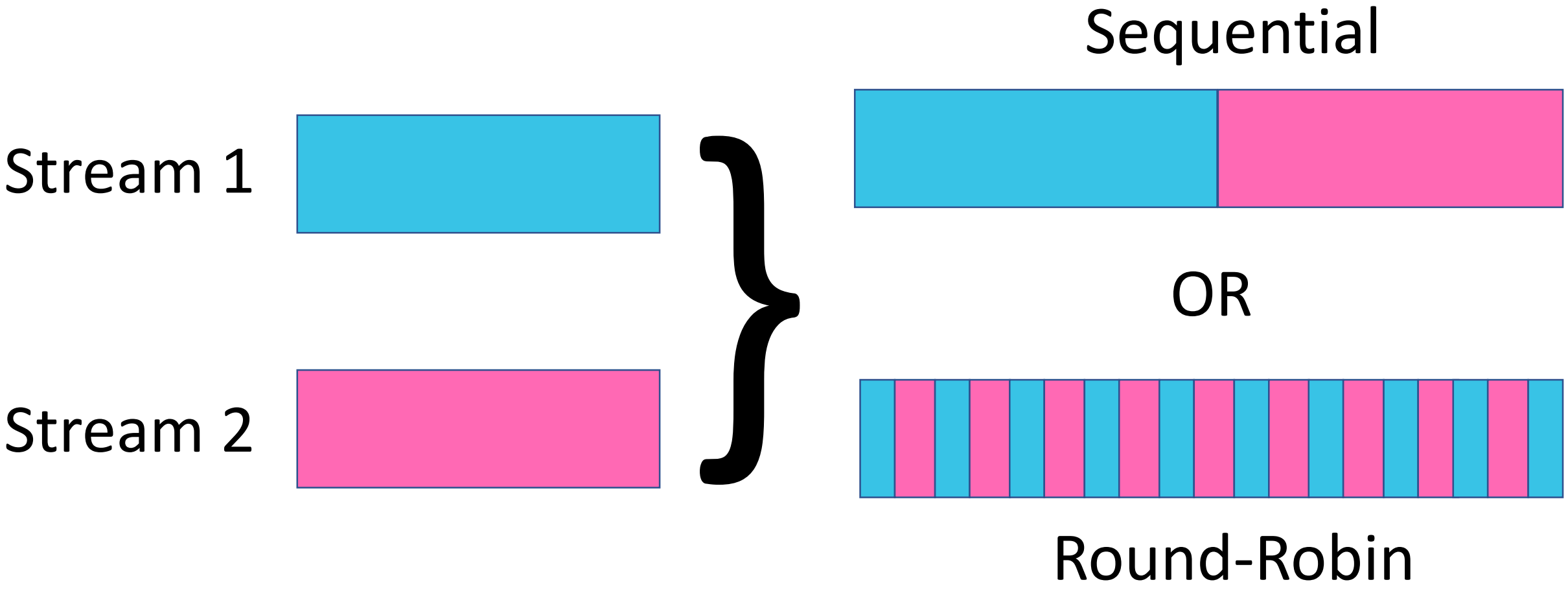
THE SPICE MUST FLOW

02

STREAM BANDWIDTH DISTRIBUTION



STREAM BANDWIDTH DISTRIBUTION

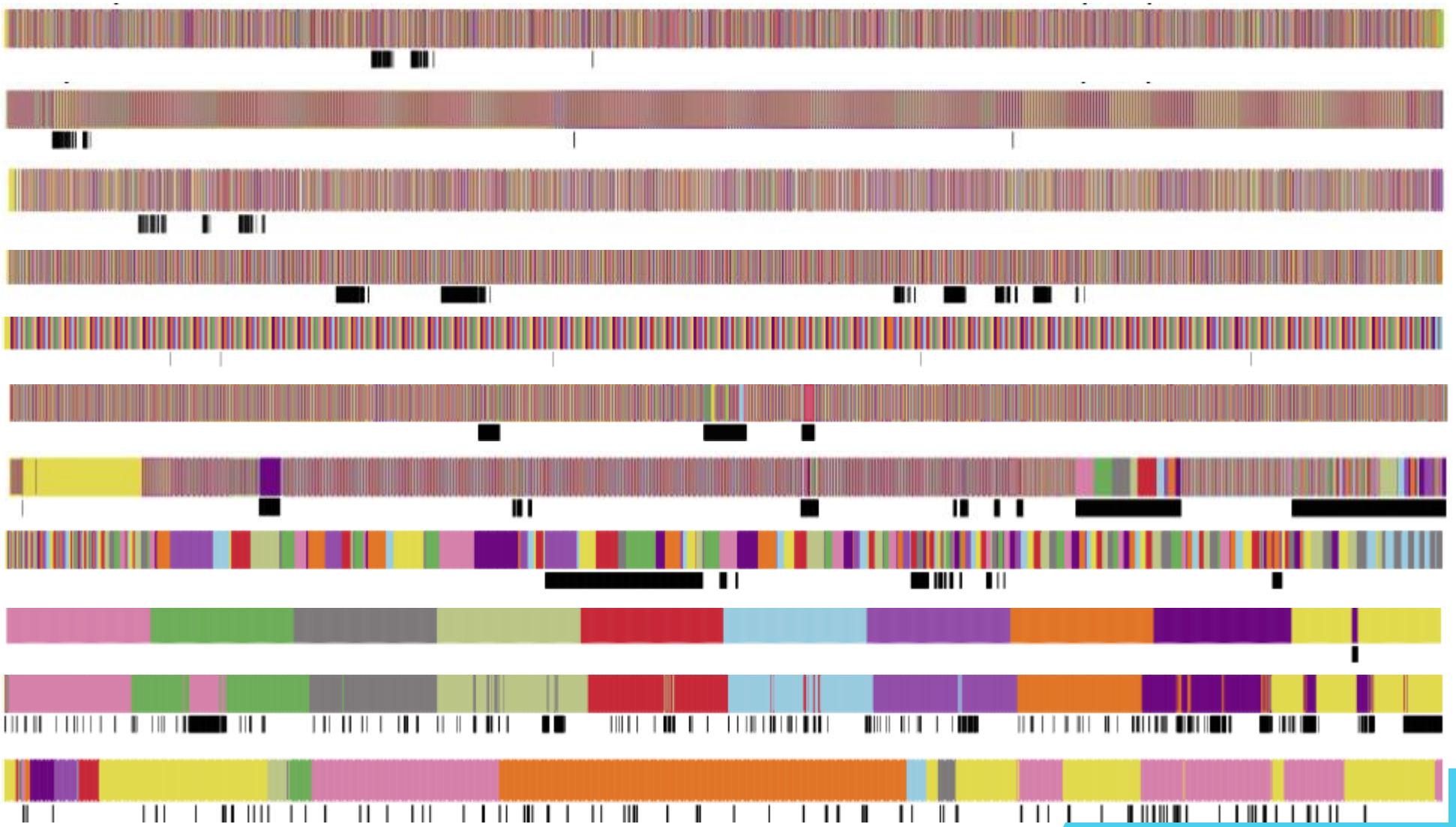


VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

Round-Robin

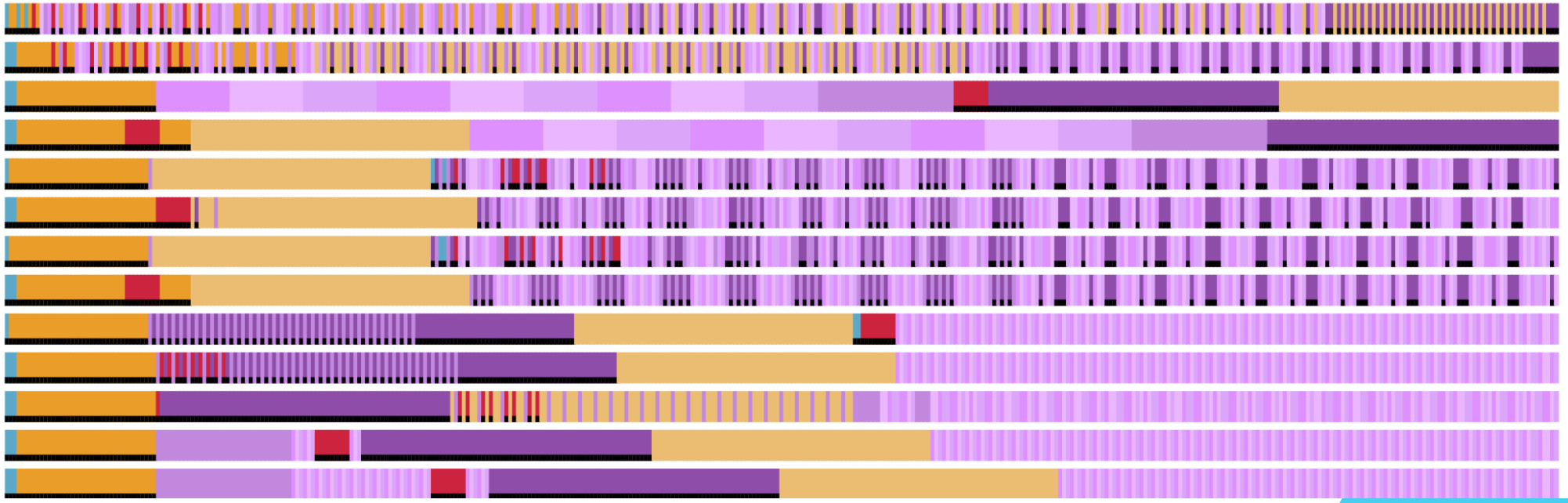
The weird ones in the middle

Sequential



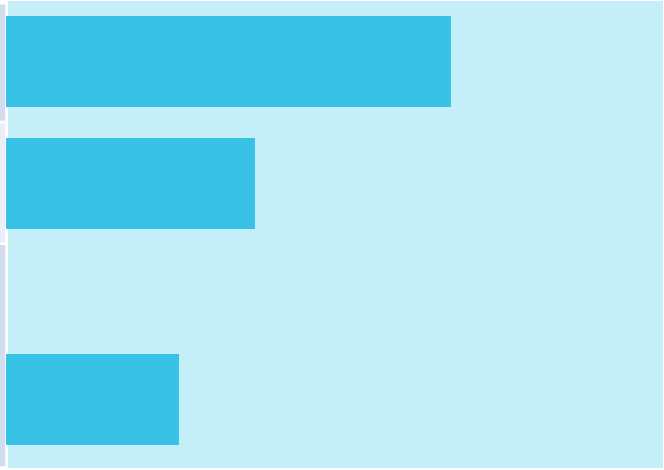
VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

- Server Push
- Header Compression
- **Prioritization**



QUIC MULTIPLEXING

Multiplexer	Adoption
Round-Robin	9/13
Sequential	4/13
HTTP/3 (experimental) HTTP/3 prioritization	5/18



“waiting for HTTP/3 prioritization to fine-tune”

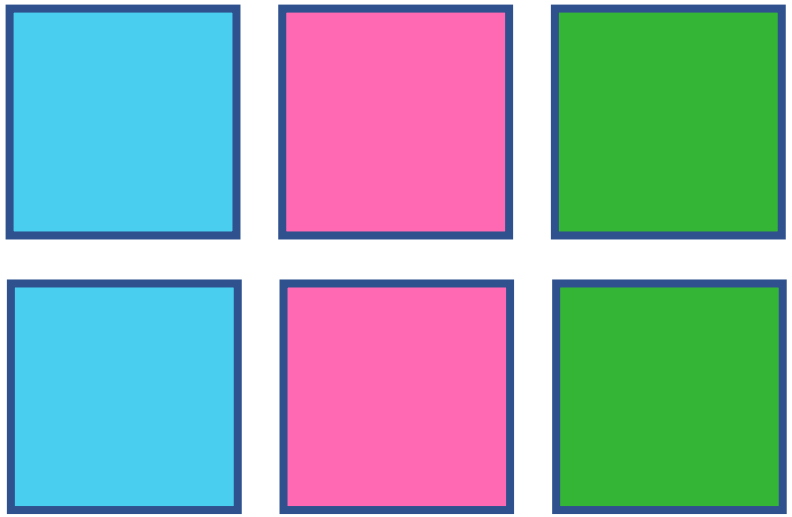
https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-ietf-httpbis-priority-01

RETRANSMISSION SCHEDULING

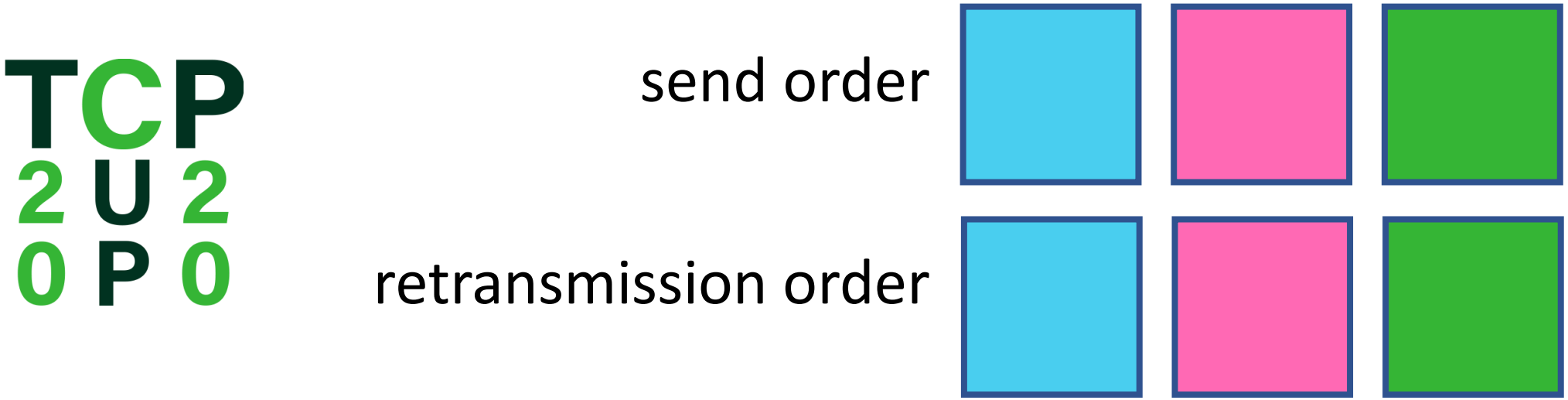
TCP 2U2 0P0

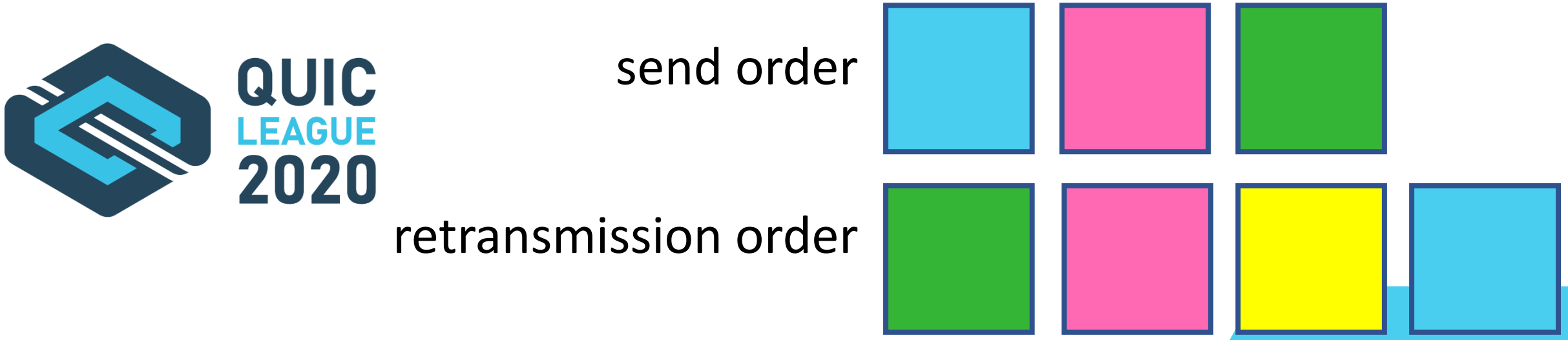
send order

retransmission order



RETRANSMISSION SCHEDULING

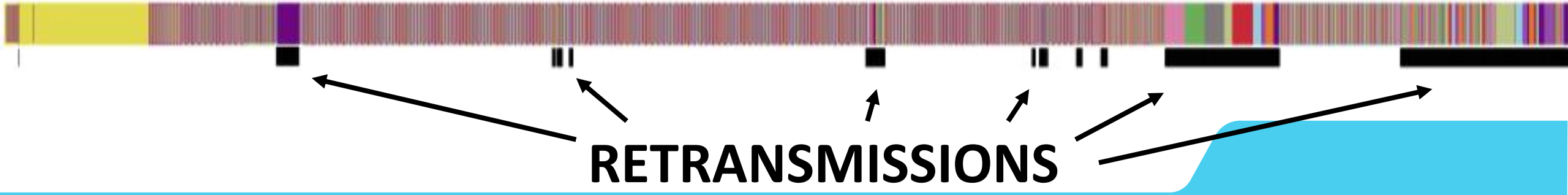




RETRANSMISSION SCHEDULING

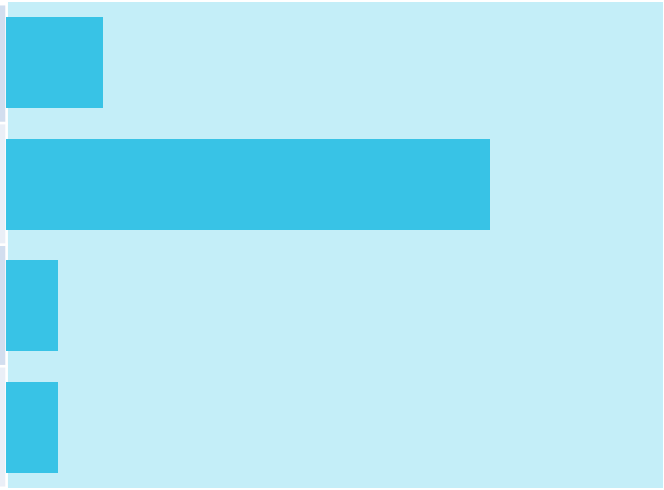
1. No special treatment
2. Highest priority, default scheduler
3. Highest priority, different scheduler
4. (HTTP/3) Prioritization-driven

Example for nr. 3:



RETRANSMISSION SCHEDULING

Retransmission approach	Adoption
1. All data is equal	2/13
2. TCP-alike	9/13
3. TCP-alike, change scheduler	1/13
4. Prioritization-driven HTTP/3	1/13



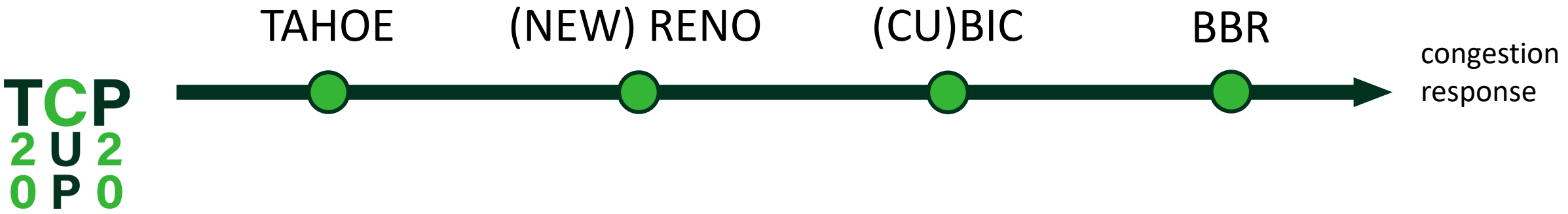
“Unclear which performs best/if it matters”

03

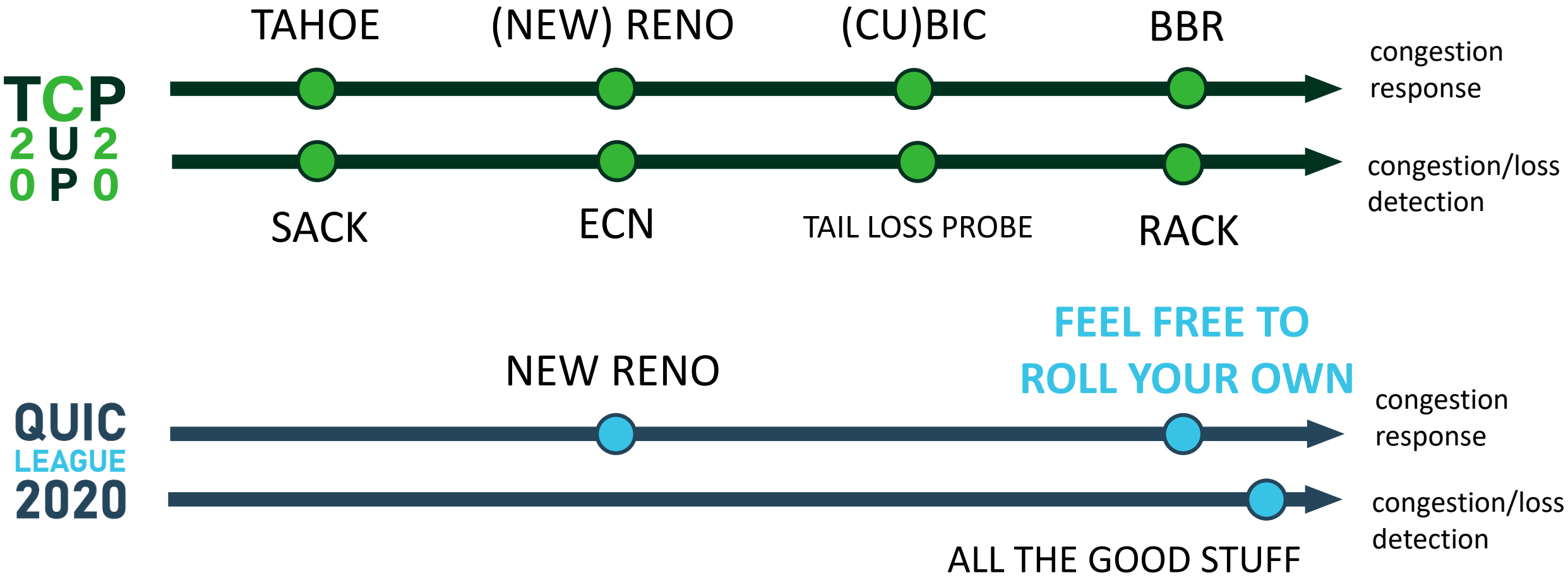
CONGESTION CONTROL

THE NEED FOR SPEED

CONGESTION CONTROL (MOST INACCURATE TIMELINE EVER)

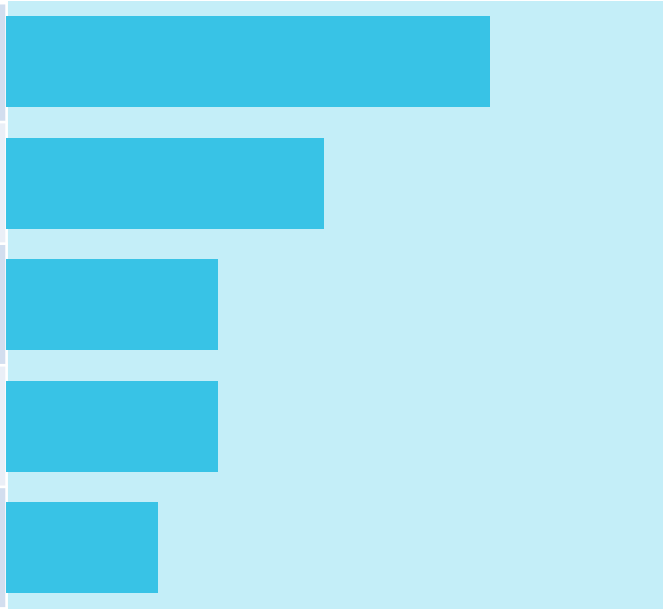


CONGESTION CONTROL (MOST INACCURATE TIMELINE EVER)



CONGESTION CONTROL

Congestion controller	Adoption
New Reno	9/15
CUBIC	6/15
→ (with hystart)	→ 4/6
BBR v1	4/15
BBR v2, COPA, …	3/15



“Often too complex to implement a new one”

CONGESTION CONTROL

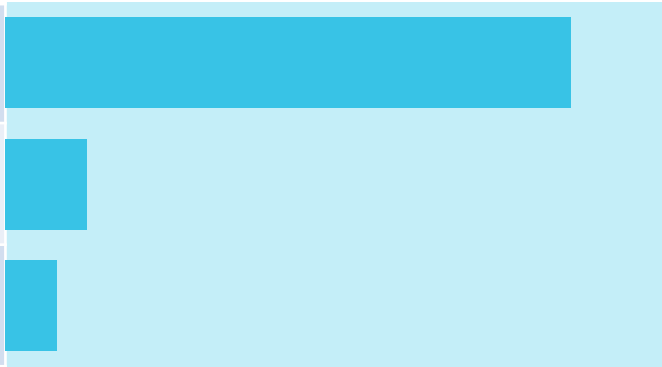
```
congestion := congestion.NewCubicSender(
  congestion.DefaultClock{},
  rttStats,
  true, // use Reno
  tracer,
)
```

SNEAKY SNEAKY

https://github.com/lucas-clemente/quic-go/blob/a0607c8cad4493b802d7006abe9353be7ffc8ad2/internal/ackhandler/sent_packet_handler.go#L102

THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS

Initial congestion window	Adoption
12-15 kB	11/14
40+ kB	3/14
smart tweaking	2/14



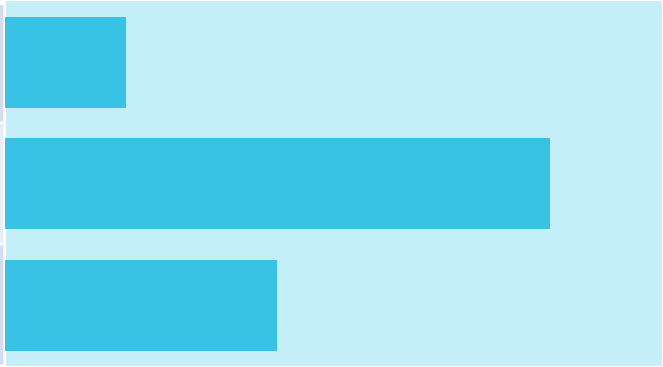
“We just looked at what Google was doing”

Pacing	Adoption
Yes	8/15
No	7/15

“Complex to get right”

THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS

ACK every X packets	Adoption
2	2/12
1 - 38	10/12
ACK frequency extension	4/12



“Read from socket in large batches, ACK per batch”

“Lower ACK frequencies are better on constrained networks”

https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-iyengar-quic-delayed-ack-01, https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-fairhurst-quic-ack-scaling-02

0-RTT

OFF-BY-ONE ERRORS ARE THE BEST

04

ROUND TRIPS ARE THE WORST

TCP 2U2 0P0

1. SYN/ACK
2. TLS
3. (TLS)
4. HTTP

QUIC LEAGUE 2020

1. QUIC + TLS
2. HTTP

1. **QUIC + TLS + HTTP**

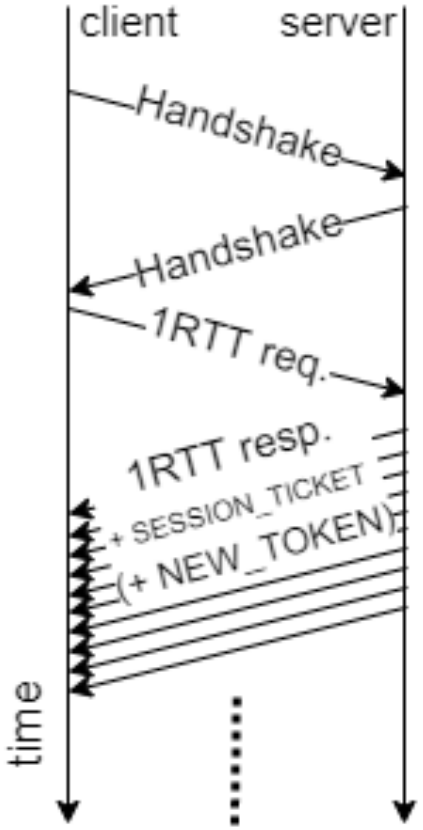
SOCCER HAS OFFSIDE, QUIC HAS 0-RTT

QUIC 0-RTT:

1. Needs to be encrypted → Only from second connection (session ticket)
2. Runs over IP + UDP → Send max **3X** as much as received (amplification limit)
3. Transports HTTP → Only idempotent requests

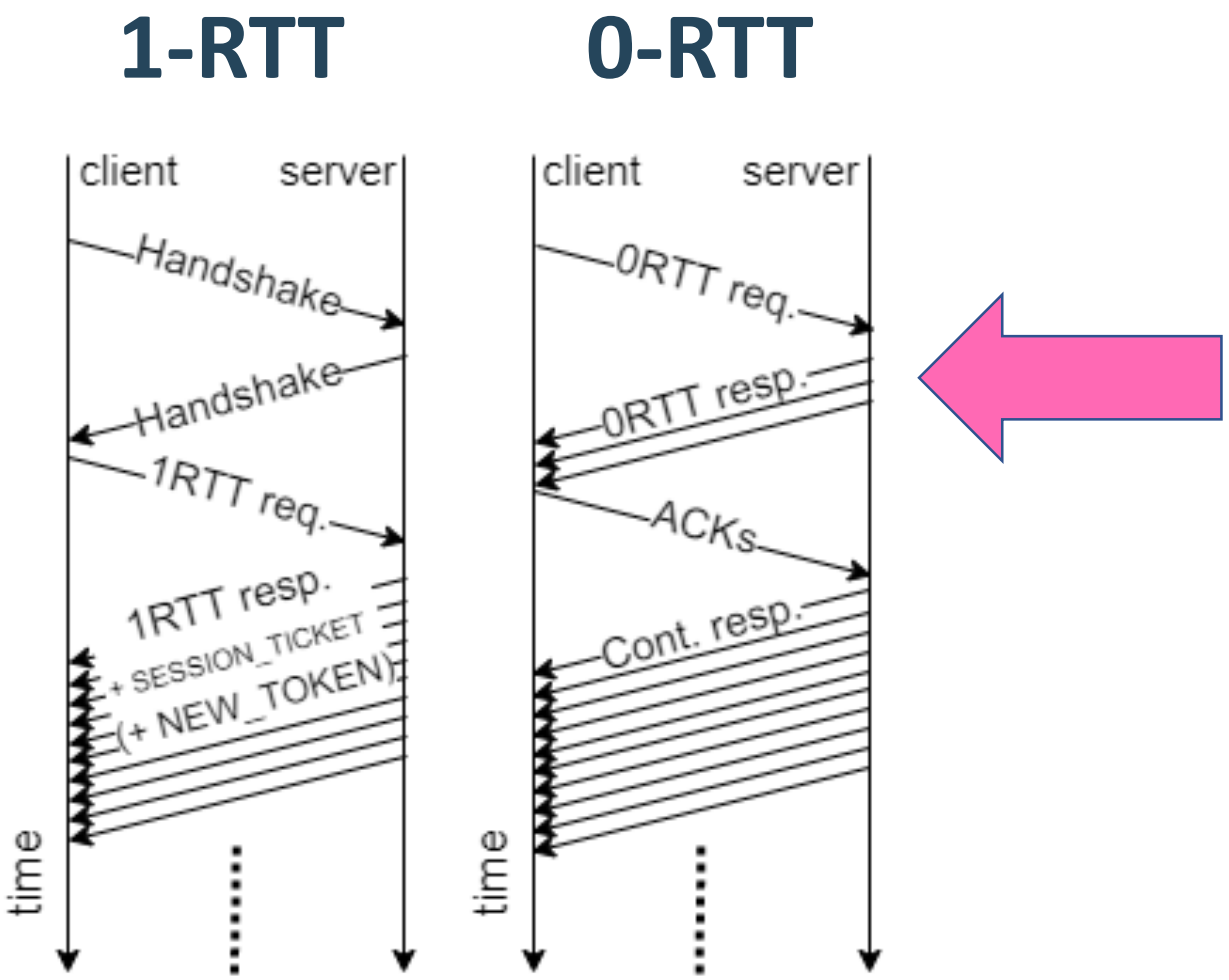
MAKING 0-RTT BETTER

1-RTT



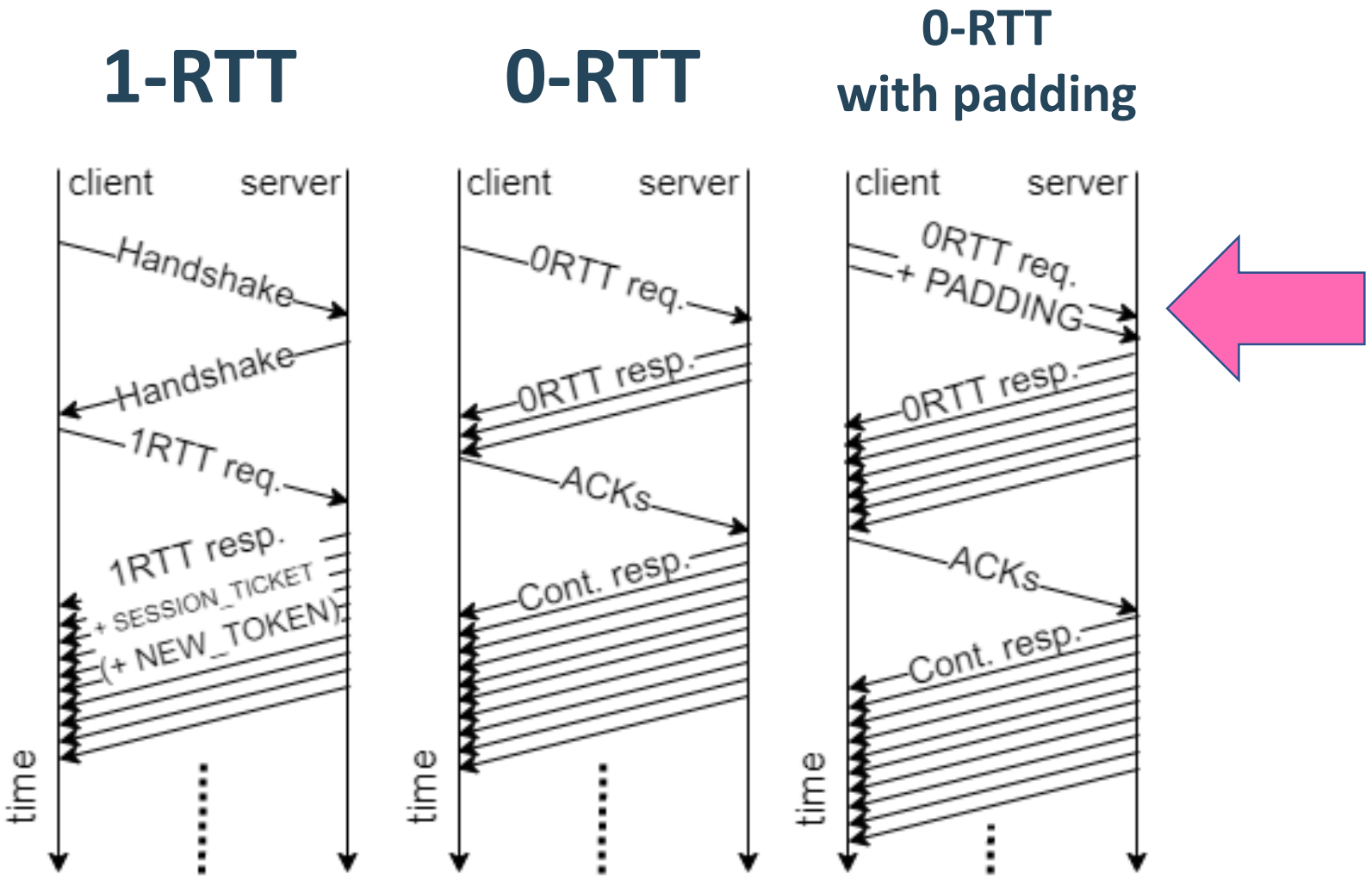
Session ticket enables 0-RTT for the **next** connection

MAKING 0-RTT BETTER



Server can only send **3X** what it received (say 4-5 kB)

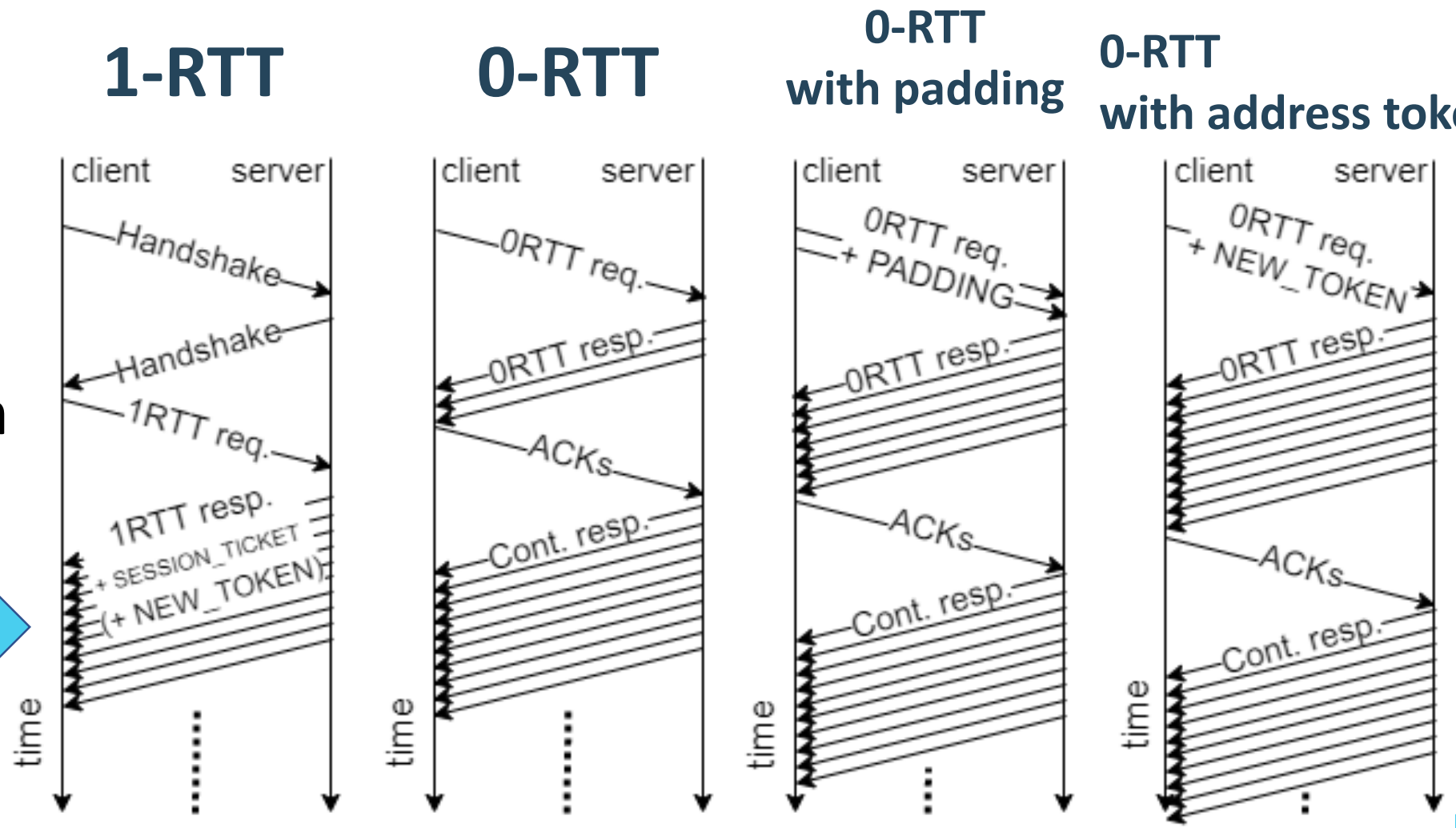
MAKING 0-RTT BETTER



Client sends more, server can send more

MAKING 0-RTT BETTER

Address validation token



Send up to initial cwnd

THE OPTIMIZATION FORMERLY KNOWN AS CRUCIAL

0-RTT support	Adoption
Yes	13/18
No	5/18

“TLS library doesn’t support it yet”

Optimizations	Adoption
Extra PADDING	0/9
NEW_TOKEN	7/13
Amplification bugs	4/9

SET THE LASERS TO AMPLIFICATION

1. Ignore limit, have a 46kB init cwnd
   = **36X** amplification

2. Do not apply limit to retransmissions of 0-RTT data
   = **17X** amplification

3. Do not apply congestion control to 0-RTT data
   = **300kB burst if client sends 100kB**

05

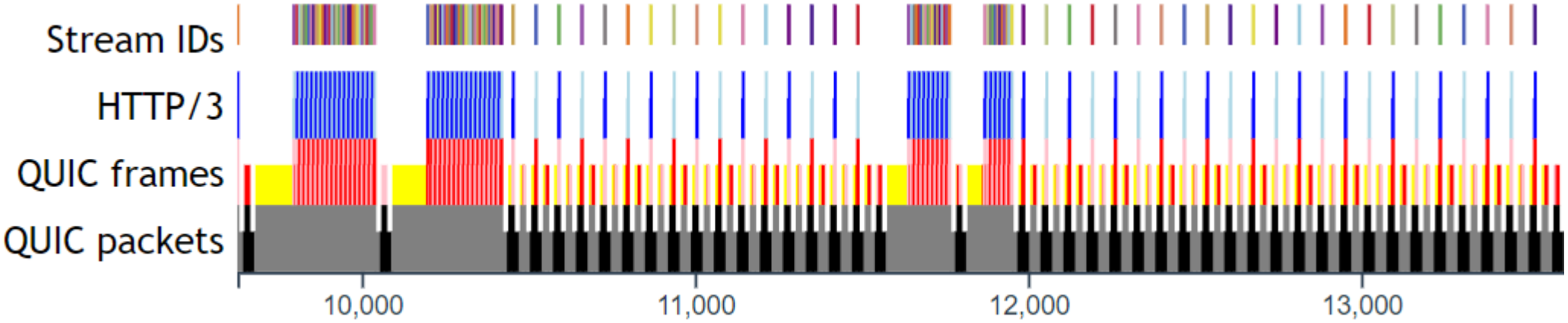
PACKETIZATION EFFICIENCY

THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX

FRAMECEPTION

HTTP/3 **frames** are packet inside
QUIC **frames** which are packet inside
QUIC **packets,** which are sized after **MTU discovery**

→ **Efficiency + Head-of-Line blocking**



QUIC LEAGUE 2020

CONCLUSION

IT’S JUST A GAME

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

1. QUIC is complex:

   many knobs to turn, easy to make it slower/faster

2. QUIC and HTTP/3 implementations aren't finished:

   don't trust, always verify

   QUIC 1 != QUIC 2 != QUIC 3 != QUIC 4

   test different implementations

3. You might want to look at our methodology

[qlog] <qvis>

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- https://seeklogo.com/images/V/versus-logo-97EAA46E88-seeklogo.com.png

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