TCP congestion control

TCP relies on packet drops as a signal of congestion. Packet drops are detected by duplicated ACKs. Thus when TCP sees duplicated ACKs, it will interpret as congestion is experienced.

However

- Packet drops may not be caused by congestion, e.g. in wireless networks
- Duplicated ACKs may not be caused by packet drops. They may be due to a change of network path and some packets arrive late but not dropped