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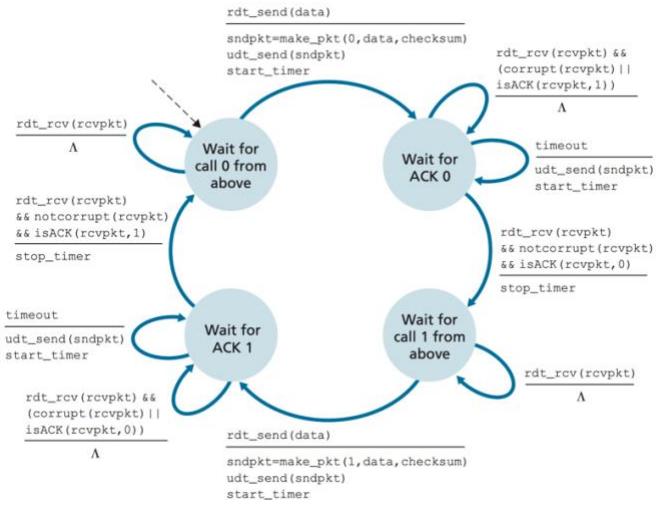
April 4, 2023
Computer Networks (CS-5313-001 CRN:25992) – Spring 2023
Instructor: Dr. Deepak K. Tosh
Programming Assignment 2b: Reliable File Transfer

1. Program Explanation

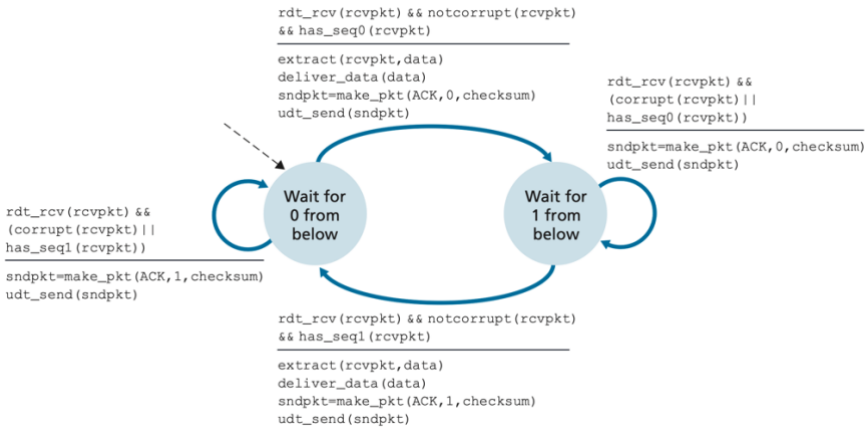
This is a file transfer application that allows users to transfer any kind of file between a server and a client throughout an unreliable channel. The application is based on two Python socket programs, a server program, and a client program.
In this assignment the goal was implement transport layer programs that implement Stop-and-Wait (SnW) and Go-Back-N (GBN) protocols to upload files reliably over unreliable medium.
To run the programs is necessary to copy the folder "assignment_2b" to other respective folder and run client or server as "python3 rtf2Server.py" or "python3 rtf2Client.py" and type information asked.

2. Solution Design

Stop-and-Wait (SnW)
The sender is defined with next FSM:



The receiver is defined with next FSM:



Timeout for Stop-and-Wait (SnW) can be solved with professor timer module or setting a timeout to the socket and handling the exception received. I used both for double verification.

```
# sets timeout to wait for an ack
self.__sock.settimeout(timeout)
```

Waits for an “ACK”.

```
def __wait_ack(self):
    try:
        while True:
            # wait for ACK
            rcvpkt = udt.recv(self.__sock)[0]
            # verifies for an expected ACK
            if rcvpkt and self.__isACK(rcvpkt):
                self.__timer.stop()
                # Swapping 1 with 0 and 0 with 1
                self.__sequence_number = 1 - self.__sequence_number
                break
    except socket.timeout:
        # an exception is launch when timeout is reach
        self.__timeout()
        # wait for ack again
        self.__wait_ack()
```

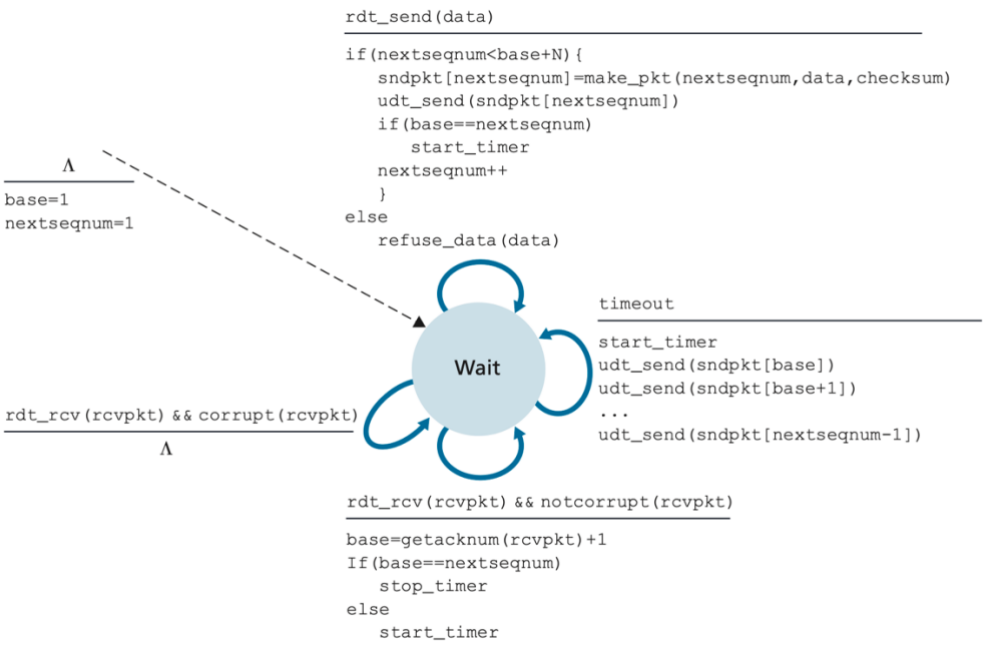
This method verifies again if really it was a timeout.

```
def __timeout(self):
    # verifies again with timer module
    if self.__timer.timeout():
        # sends packet again and restarts timer
        udt.send(self.__sndpkt, self.__sock, self.__address)
        self.__timer.restart()
        self.__retransmitted_packets += 1
```

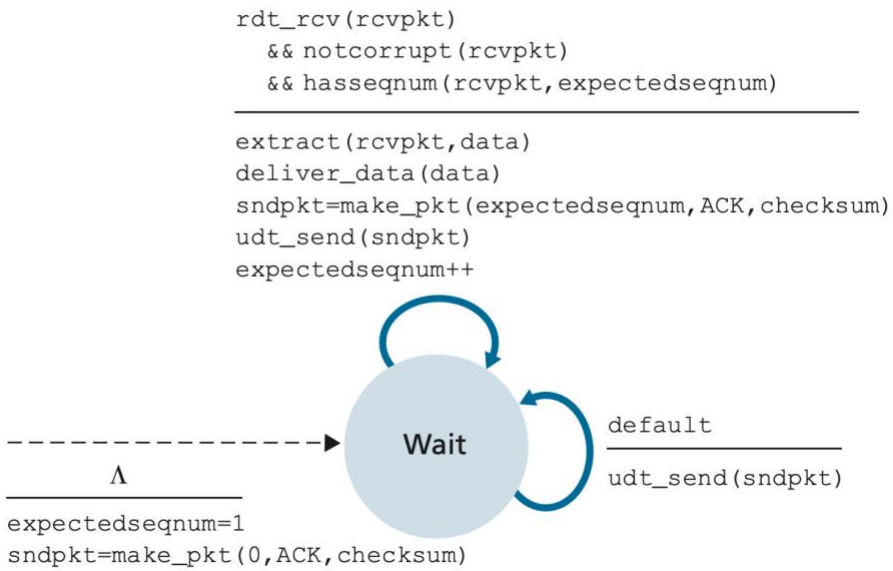
Go-Back-N (GBN)

In the Go-Back-N (GBN) protocol to handle socket read/write events asynchronously, I used "selectors" module that provides a platform-independent abstraction layer on top of the platform-specific I/O monitoring functions in select.

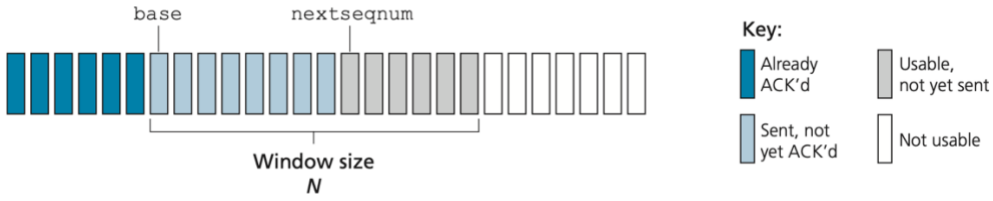
The sender for GBN is defined with next FSM:



The receiver for GBN is defined with next FSM:



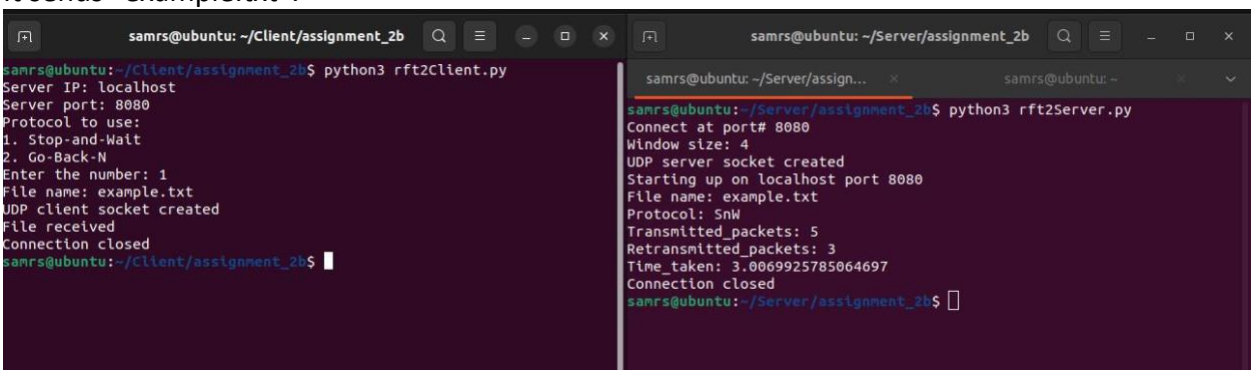
Window functionality works like next image:



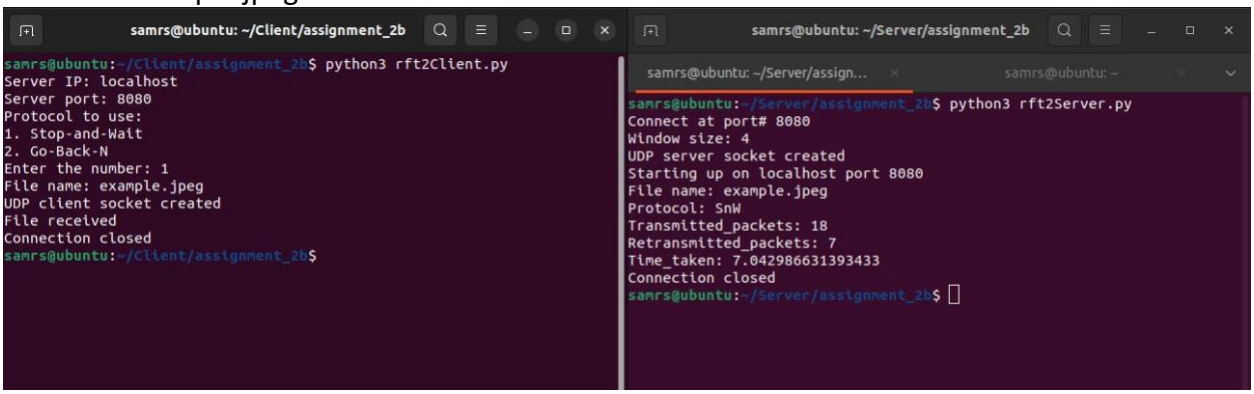
3. Testing

Stop-and-Wait (SnW)

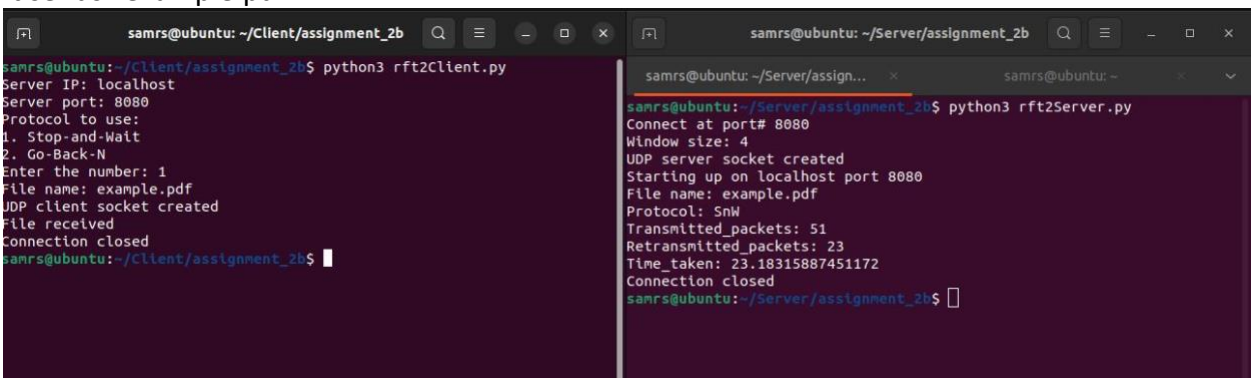
It sends “example.txt”.



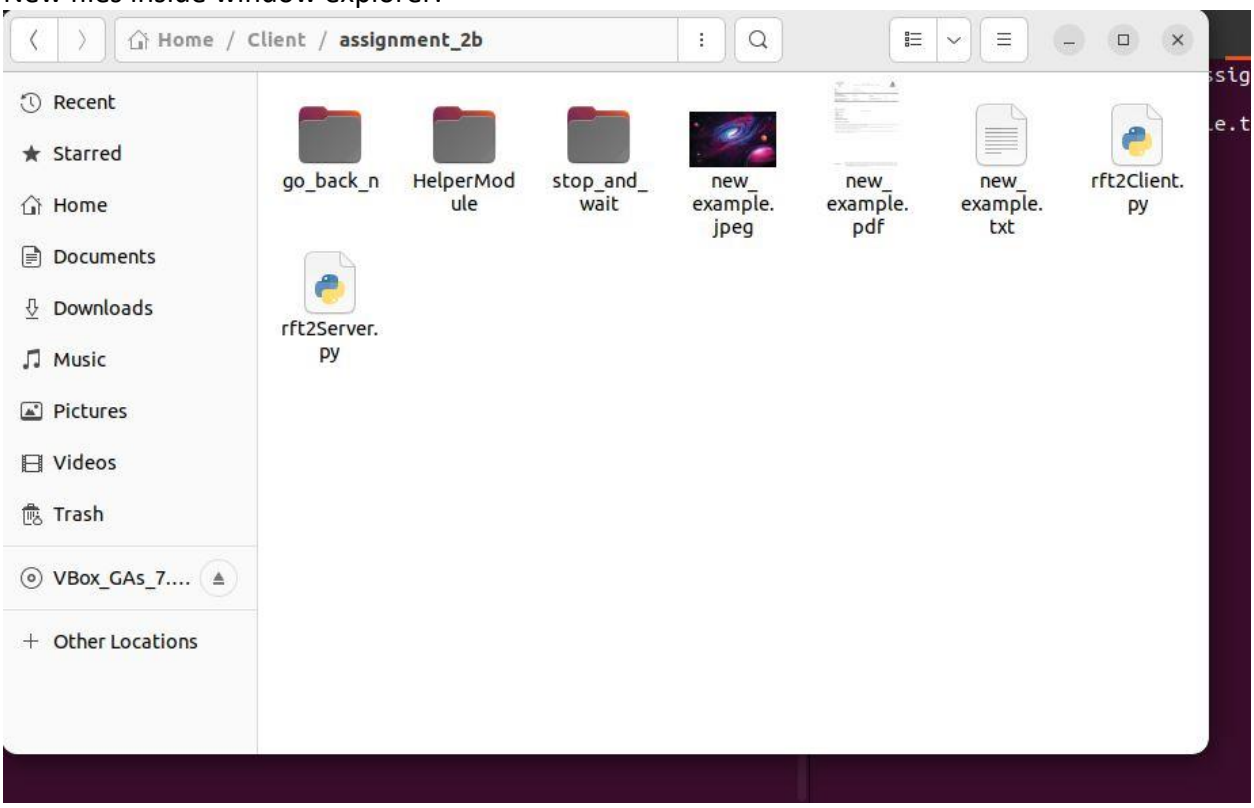
It sends “example.jpeg”.



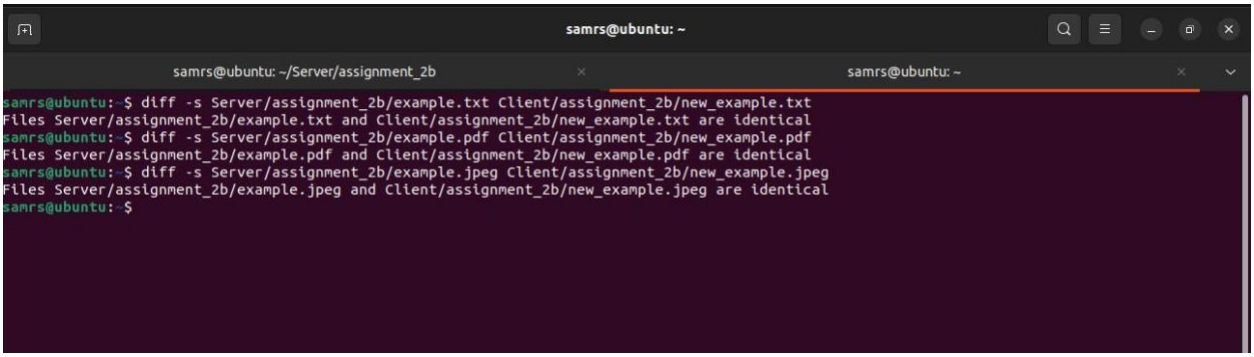
It sends “example.pdf”.



New files inside window explorer:

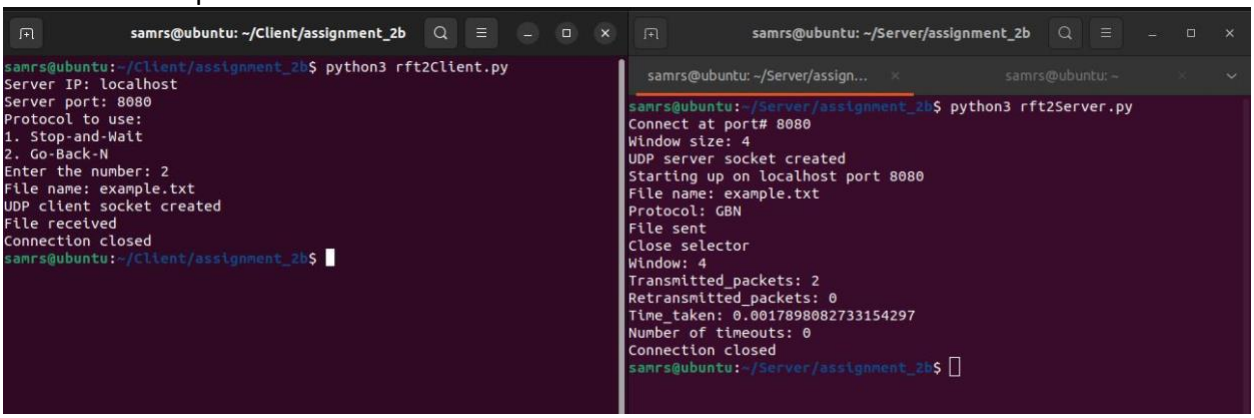


A DIFF command, “diff -s recvdFile sentFile” was used to test all files sent.
All files are identical.

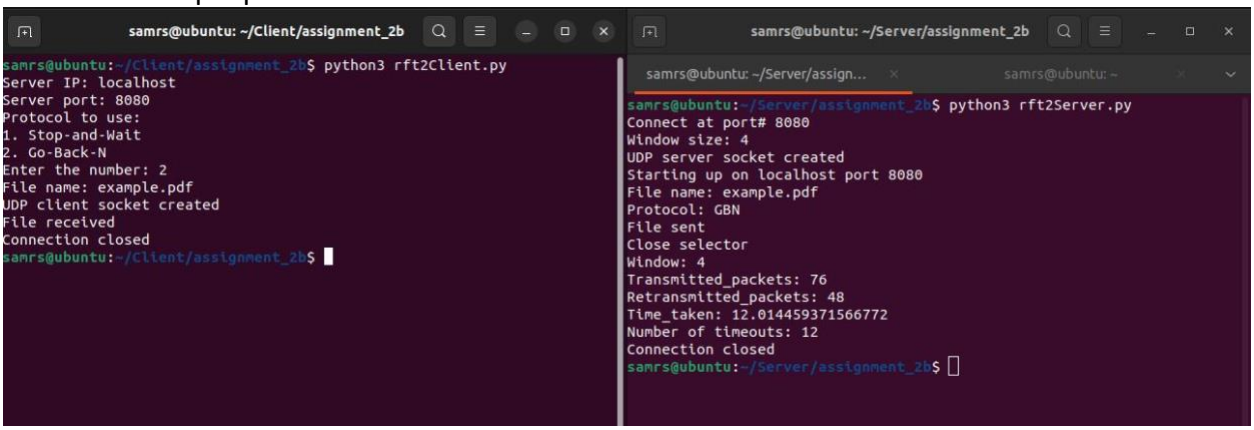


Stop-and-Wait (SnW)
The timeout for all executions was 1 second.

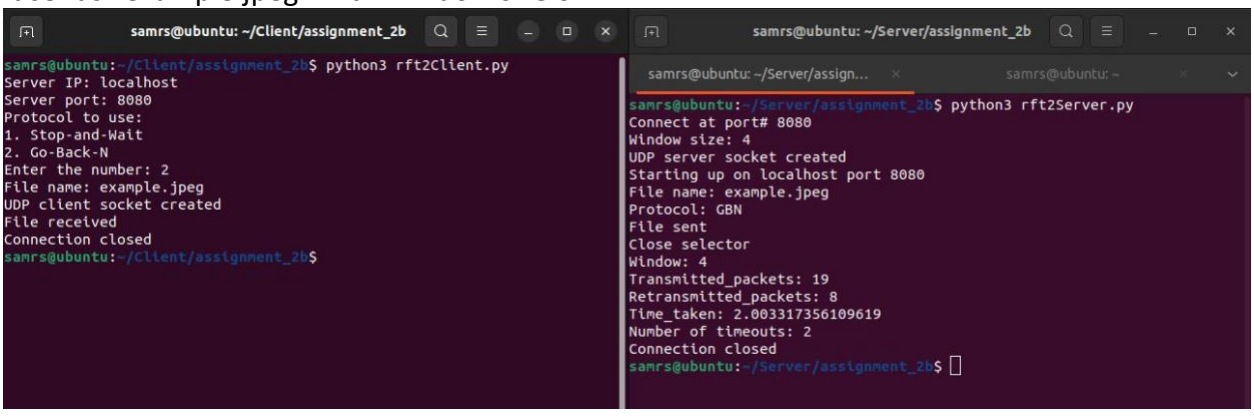
It sends “example.txt”.



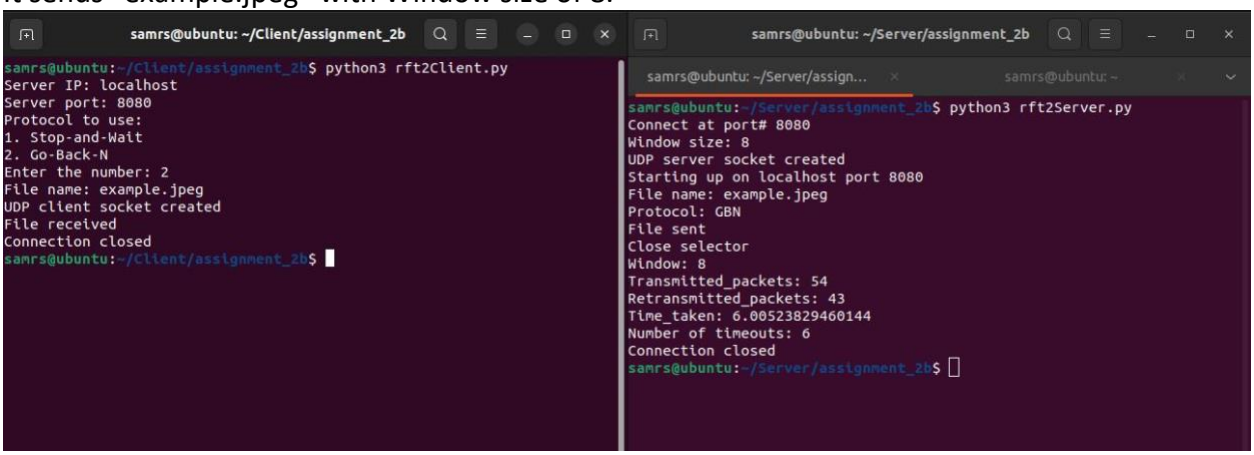
It sends “example.pdf”.



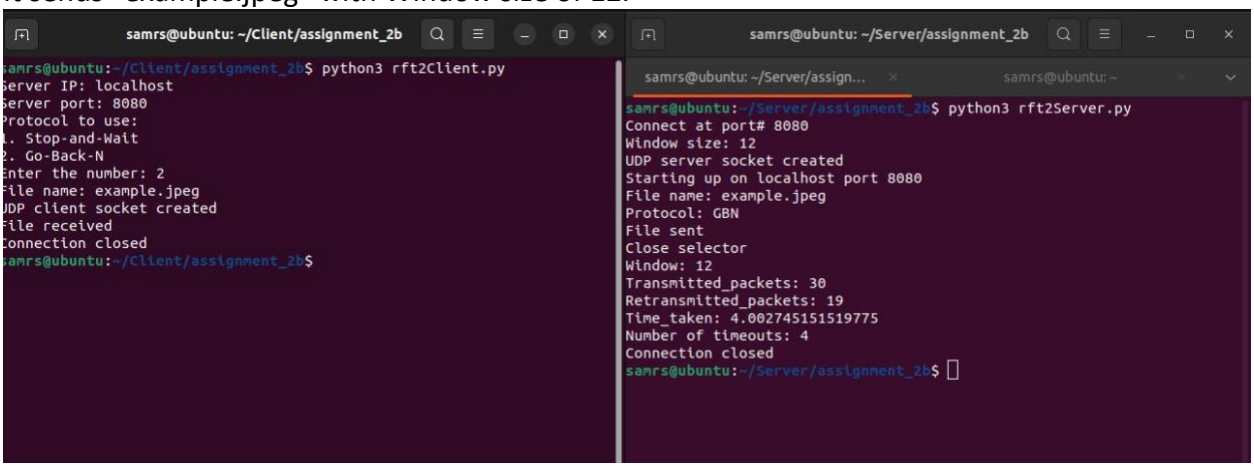
It sends “example.jpeg” with Window size of 4.



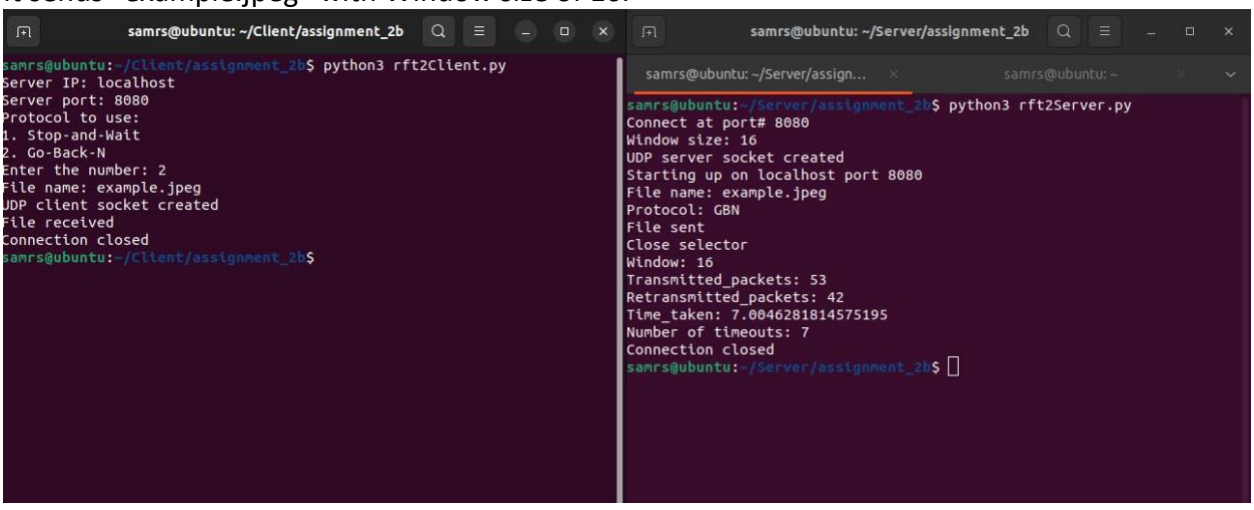
It sends “example.jpeg” with Window size of 8.



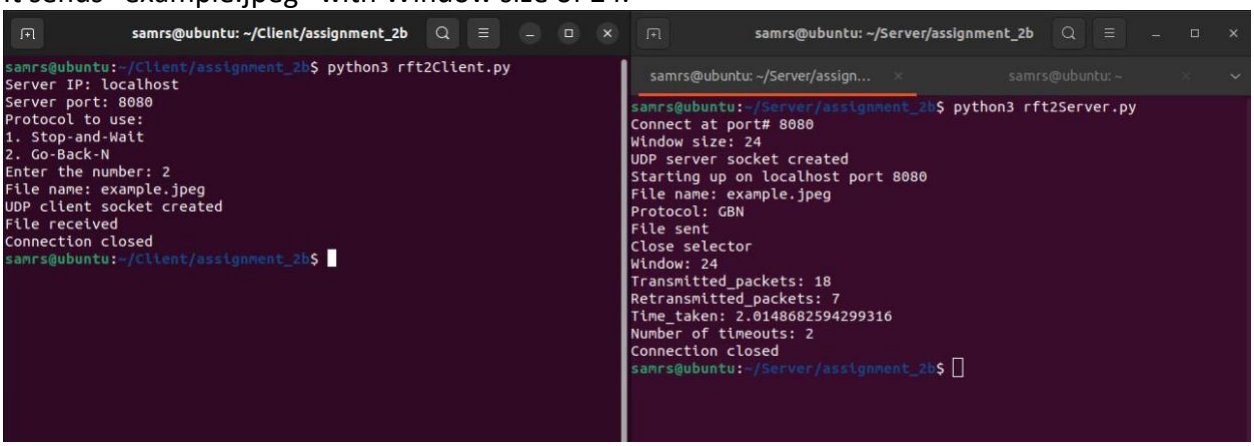
It sends “example.jpeg” with Window size of 12.



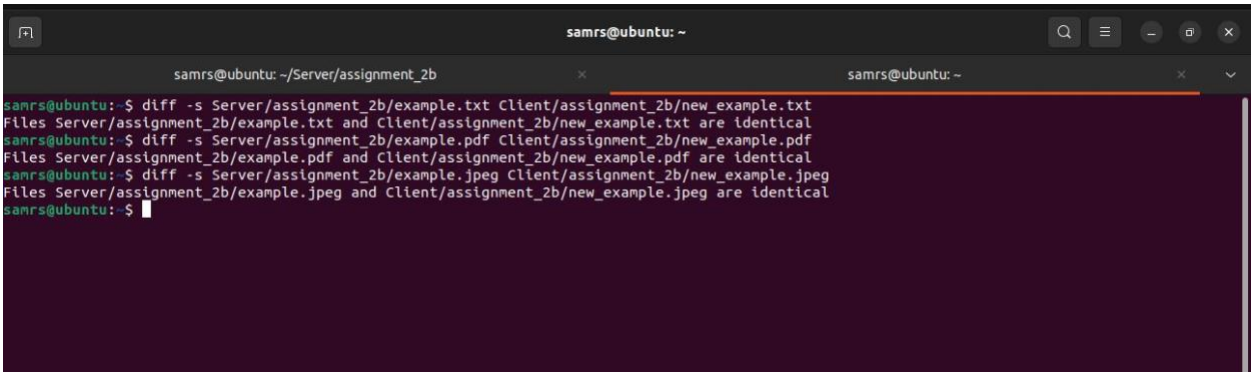
It sends “example.jpeg” with Window size of 16.



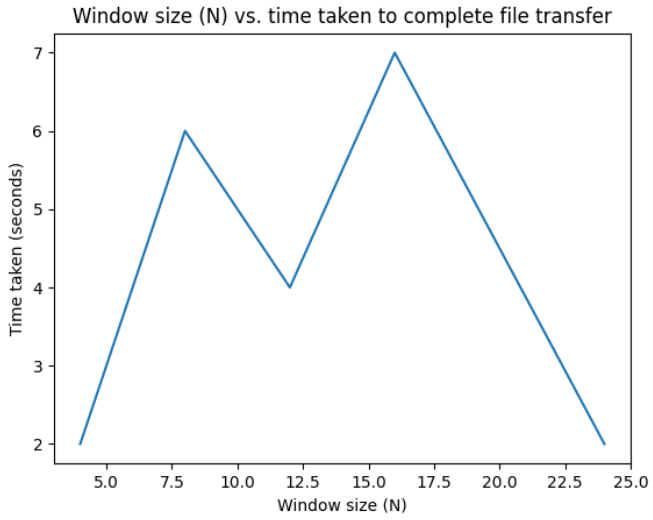
It sends “example.jpeg” with Window size of 24.

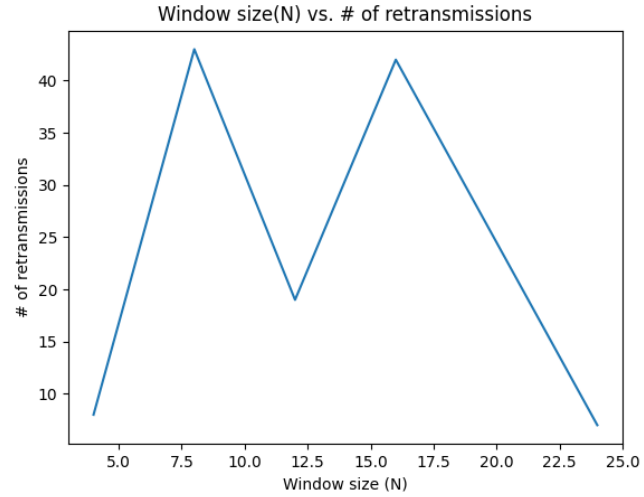


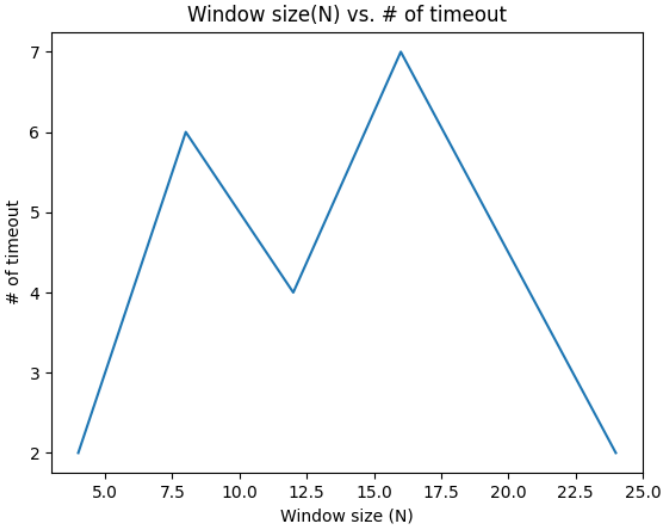
A DIFF command, “diff -s recvdFile sentFile” was used to test all files sent.
All files are identical.



Figures:







4. Conclusion

All the files were successfully transmitted by the programs without any issues, and upon verification, it was found that the transmitted files were identical to the original ones. In the case of the Go-Back-N protocol, it was observed that the best window sizes were 4 and 24, but the time taken for transmission can be affected by the timeout value.

During the transmission, one of the challenges faced was the transfer of additional information such as the file name and the protocol from the client to the server, as this information could also be lost in the process. Another challenge was encountered when sending the "end of file" to the client, where the client is notified when the end of the file is reached. However, it is possible to lose the last ACK signal to the server, indicating the successful receipt of the file.

References:

[1] https://realpython.com/python-sockets/#multi-connection-client-and-server
[2] https://pymotw.com/3/selectors/
[3] https://docs.python.org/3/library/selectors.html