Last time: abstractions of the physical layer

- Elasticity buffer: mediate between packets @ bitrate r1 (r_sender) and packets @ bitrate r2 (r_receiver)
- Why would r1 be different from r2?
    - R1 may be different from r2 <u>because clocks in the internet is different</u>
    - Say the sender is sending at 10 Mbit/s (with a **clock** of 10 Mhz and 1 bit per cycle)
    - The receiver also has a **clock** of 10 Mhz and reads 1 bit per cycle, this is also 10Mbit/s
    - However, the two **clocks** have a different 10Mhz => r1 is 10 Mbit/s from the sender's perspective and r2 is Mbit/s from the receiver's perspective => r1 is not equal to r2.
- Although r1 may be different from r2, they can't be too different from each other because of they are both a clock of 10Mhz and the there is a limited clock tolerance
    - $r_1 \in [10\, Mbit/s \pm 1000\, ppm]$ and $r_2 \in [10\, Mbit/s \pm 1000\, ppm]$
- Since r1 is different from r2, some bad things may happen.
    - Case 1: r_sender < r_receiver => buffer underflows (the receiver would try to drain things from the buffer when it's empty)
    - Case 2: r_sender > r_receiver => buffer overflows
- Communications interface parameters
    - $r_{sender}, r_{receiver} \in [10\, Mbit/s \pm 1000\, ppm]$
    - MTU = 10 kbit
    - Inter-packet gap must be > (intuitively the receiver should be able to drain enough during this gap)
        - Proposal one: $\frac{MTU}{r_{max} - r_{min}}$
        - Proposal two: $\frac{MTU}{r_{min}}$ => The receiver can always get back to zero state after the Inter-packet gap
        - The real number: look at the end of this notes
- Case 1: Underflow
    - r_{sender} is 9.99 Mhz and $r_{receiver}$ is 10.01 Mhz
    - Every one second, the elasticity buffer is drained by $r_{receiver} - r_{semder} = 0.02\, Mbits = 20\, Kbits.$
    - If the receiver only tells the system to start draining when there is at least 1 Mbytes in the buffer, it takes 400s to drain the buffer.
    - If the sender has a packet that is 4000 exabytes, it takes way more than 400s to drain the buffer, and therefore we need something to limit that — **MTU**
- Case 1: Underflow with MTU and a large buffer
    - Sender has packet that is 10 kbits
    - Receiver is manufactured with buffer that is 10 kbits
    - Receiver strategy:
        - 1) receive entire packet

        - 2) then tell its client to start reading
    - This works, but expensive
- Case 1: Underflow with MTU and a small buffer
    - Sender has packet that is 10 kbits
    - Receiver is manufactured with buffer that is 1 kbits
    - Receive strategy:
        - 1) receive first 1 kbit
        - 2) then tell its client to start reading
    - Starting at t=0, the buffer gets the first 1 kbit after (1 kbit / 9.99 Mbit/s is roughly 0.1 milliseconds)
    - Starting at t = 0.1 ms, it takes (1 kbit / 20 Kbits/s = 50 milliseconds) to drain
    - But, at t = 1 ms for the sender to send the whole packet
    - Thus, there is no underflow.
- Given this, what is the smallest elasticity buffer size?
    - Sender has packet that is 10 kbits
    - Receiver is manufactured with buffer that is 20 bits
    - Receive strategy:
        - 1) receive first 20 bits
        - 2) then tell its client to start reading
    - The buffer gets the first 20 bit after roughly 2 microsecond
    - The sender needs another (1 ms - 2 microsecond = 998 microsecond) to send the whole packet
    - So there is (20 bit - 998 microsecond * 20 Kbits /s ~ 0.02 bits)
    - It works!
- So the smallest elasticity buffer X is such that $\frac{X}{r_{receive} - r_{send}} = \frac{MTU}{r_{send}}$
- Case 2: Overflow
    - Sender has packet that is 10 kbits
    - Receiver is manufactured with buffer that is 10 kbits
    - Strategy:
        - 1) Receiver tells its client to start reading asap
        - 2) Sender needs to wait between packets - **Inter-packet gap**
- Case 2: Overflow with Inter-packet gap
    - Sender has packet that is 10 kbits
    - Receiver is manufactured with buffer that is 10 kbits
    - Strategy:
        - 1) Receiver tells its client to start reading asap
    - When the packet is done, there is (~ 1 millisecond * 20 Kbits/s = 20 bits) in the buffer size.
- So 20 bit buffer works for both cases with a <u>different</u> strategy. So this policy would work for both the cases:
    - Sender has packet that is 10 kbit
    - Receiver with buffer that is 40 bits
    - Receiver Strategy:

        - If there are greater than or equal to 20 bits in the buffer
        - Then tell client to start reading
    - And the buffer size is (2 * the number of smallest buffer size we calculated at the end of Case 1) = $2 \times \frac{MTU}{r_{max}} \times (r_{max} - r_{min})$
- Last piece: let's go back to the minimum number of inter packet gap: the inter packet gap needs to be enough for the go back to a buffer size of $\frac{MTU}{r_{max}} \times (r_{max} - r_{min})$ from either buffer size 0 or buffer size $2 \times \frac{MTU}{r_{max}} \times (r_{max} - r_{min})$. Therefore, we need at least $\frac{MTU}{r_{max}} \times (r_{max} - r_{min}) / r_{min} = MTU \times \frac{r_{max} - r_{min}}{r_{mac} \times r_{min}} \sim MTU \times \frac{2 \times (r_{max} - r_{min})}{r^2}$
- (The specification of a crystal oscillator normally goes like [x Hz +- y ppm]. In the following discussion, clock rate r is equal to x, and clock tolerance ϵ is equal to y. $\frac{r_{max} - r_{min}}{r} = \frac{r \times (1 + \epsilon) - r \times (1 - \epsilon)}{r} = 2\epsilon$.)
- **Summary**: given a clock rate r and a clock tolerance ϵ, a max transmission unit MTU, then we have $\frac{r_{max} - r_{min}}{r} = 2 \times \epsilon$. Then, we have elasticity buffer size $4 \times MTU \times \epsilon$ and the proposed strategy works if the inter-packet gap is at least $2 \times MTU \times \frac{\epsilon}{r}$.
- (We could also motivate these results with a little intuition: the more accurate clocks are, the smaller ϵ will be, in other words, we require a smaller inter-packet gap and elasticity buffer size for more accurate clocks. If the clock is ideal (no error at all), inter-packet gaps and elasticity buffers are not needed, and the senders and the receivers can just operate at their own clocks.)