Computer Networks

(SCC.203)

TCP

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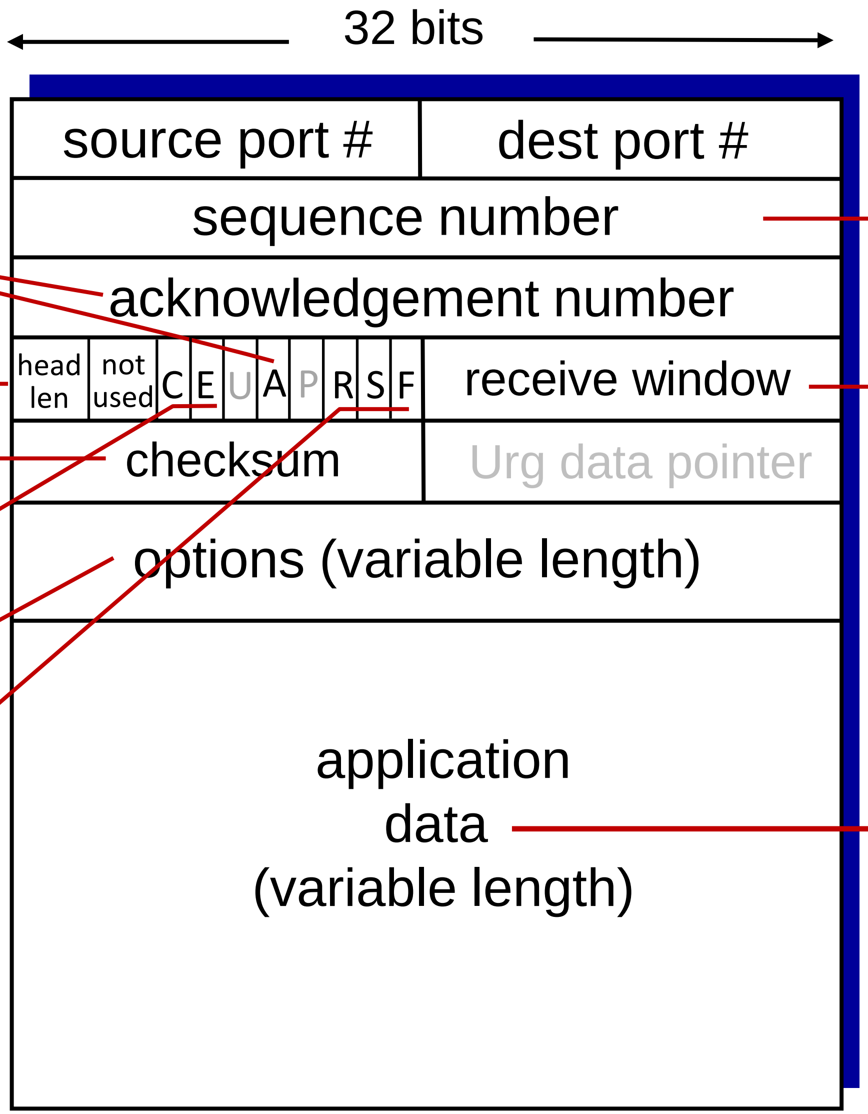
TCP

Packet, rtt, time out, retransmissions, acks

TCP segment structure



ACK: seq # of next expected byte; A bit: this is an ACK

length (of TCP header)

Internet checksum

C, E: congestion notification

TCP options

RST, SYN, FIN: connection management

segment seq #: counting bytes of data into bytestream (not segments!)

flow control: # bytes receiver willing to accept

data sent by application into TCP socket

TCP sequence numbers, ACKs

Sequence numbers:

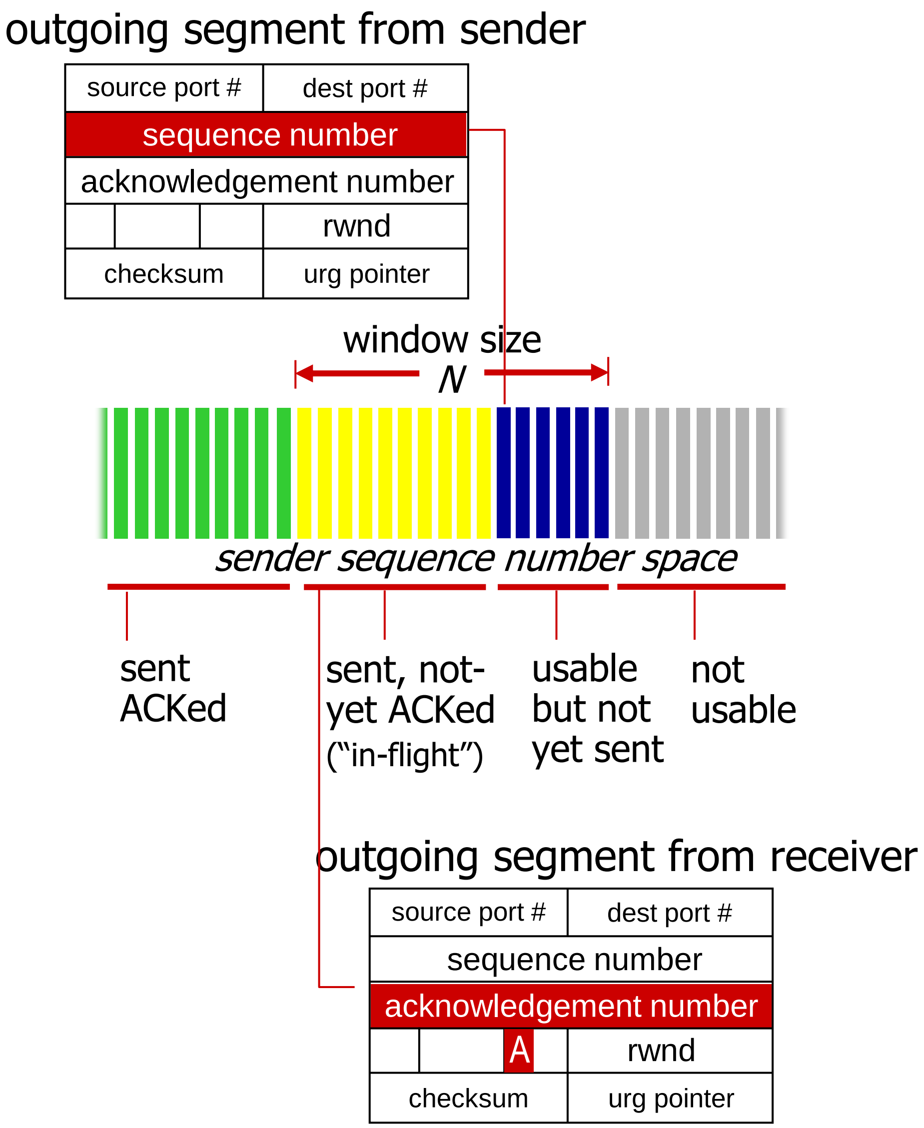
- byte stream "number" of first byte in segment's data

Acknowledgements:

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

Q: how receiver handles out-of-order segments

- *A:* TCP spec doesn't say, - up to implementor



TCP round trip time, 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

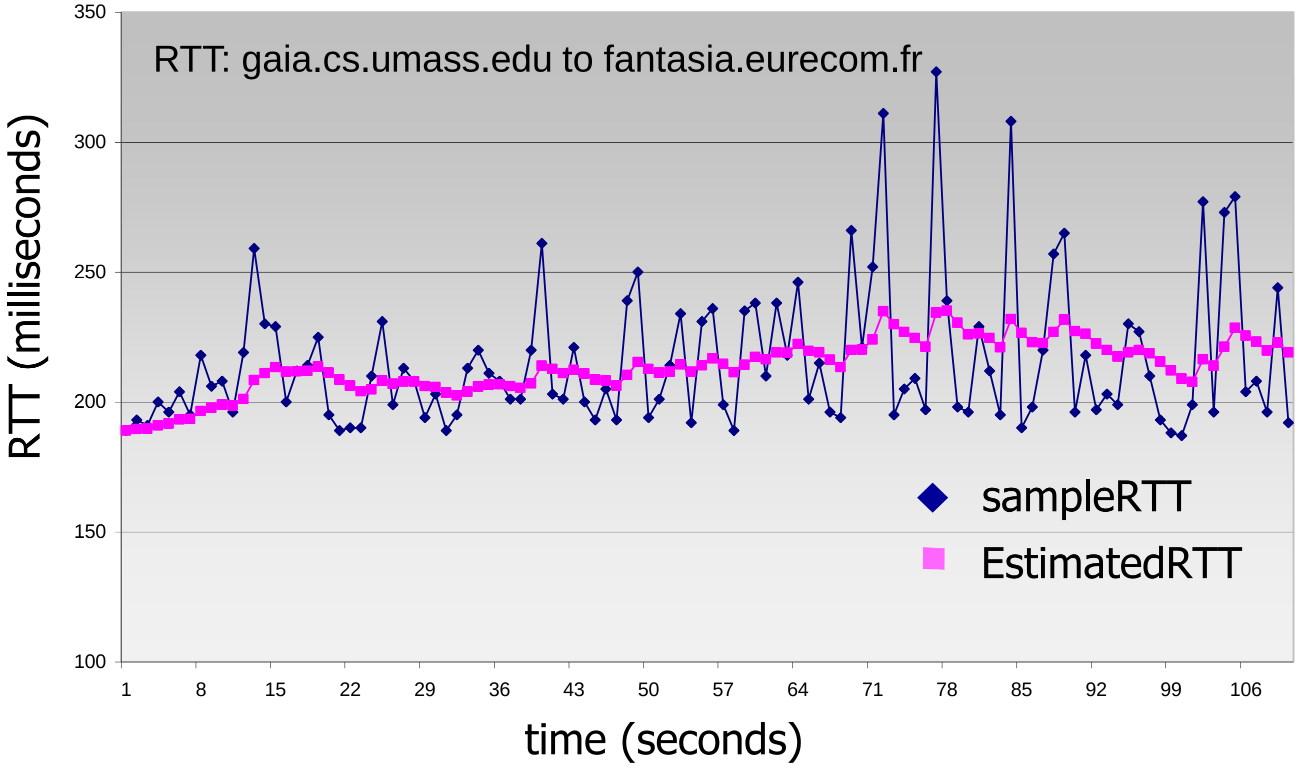
Q: how to estimate RTT?

- `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, timeout

```
EstimatedRTT = (1- α)*EstimatedRTT + α*SampleRTT
```

- exponential weighted moving average (EWMA)
- influence of past sample decreases exponentially fast
- typical value: α = 0.125



TCP round trip time, timeout

Large fluctuation in RTT
more safety margin!

- timeout interval: **EstimatedRTT** plus "safety margin"
  - large variation in **EstimatedRTT**: want a larger safety margin

```
TimeoutInterval = EstimatedRTT + 4*DevRTT
```

estimated RTT

"safety margin"

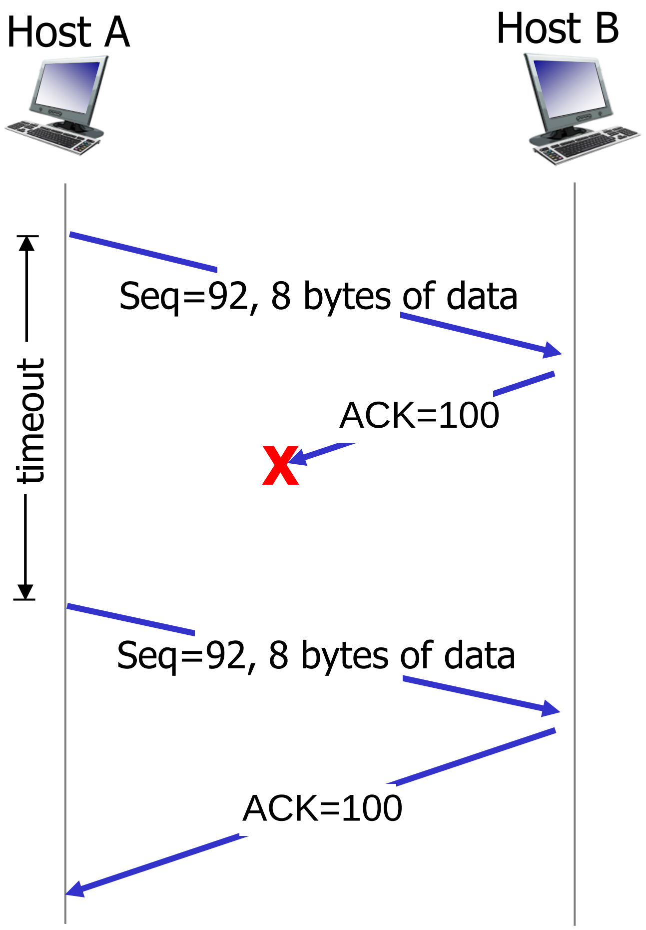
- **DevRTT**: EWMA of **SampleRTT** deviation from **EstimatedRTT**:

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

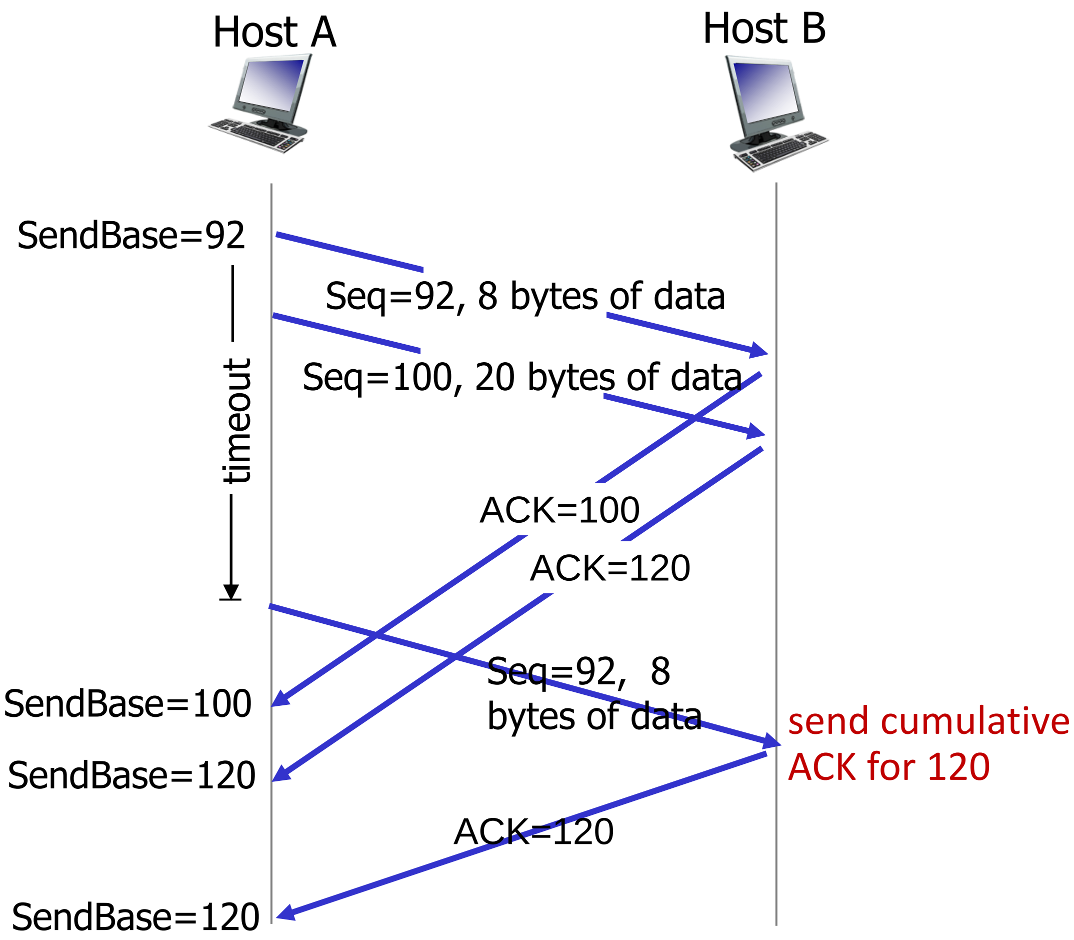
(typically, β = 0.25)

* Check out the online interactive exercises for more examples: http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose_ross/interactive/

TCP: retransmission scenarios

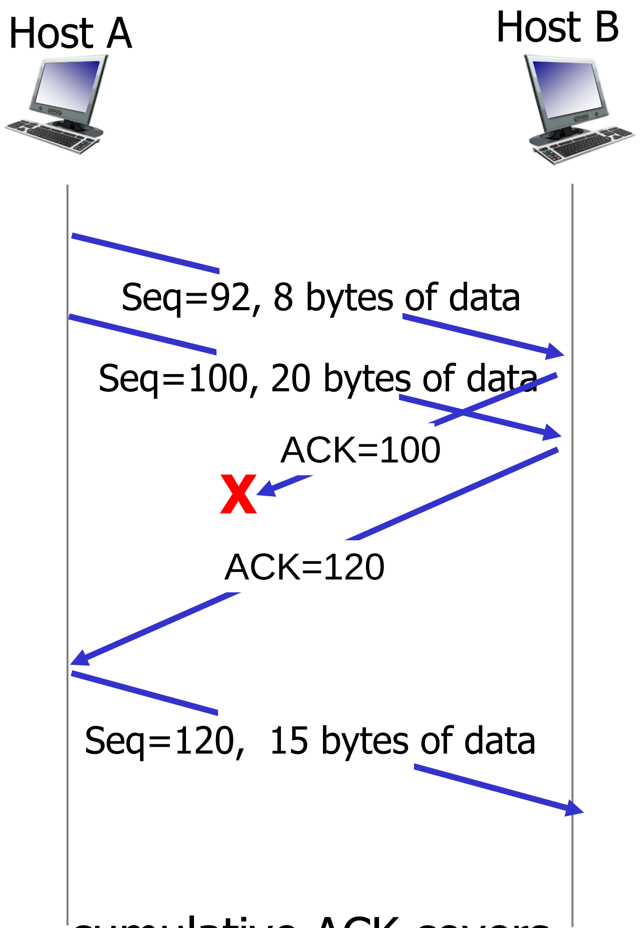


lost ACK scenario



premature timeout

TCP: retransmission scenarios



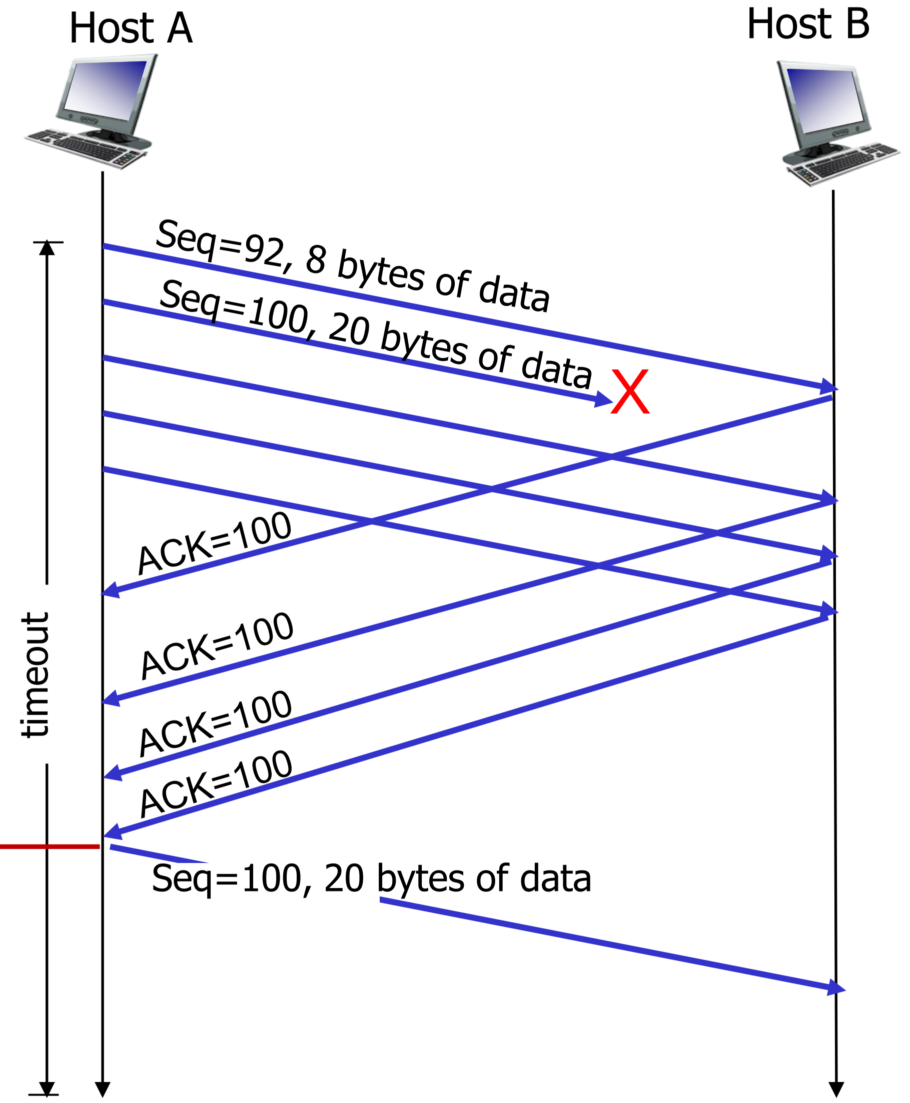
cumulative ACK covers
for earlier lost ACK

TCP fast retransmit

TCP fast retransmit

if sender receives 3 additional ACKs for same data ("triple duplicate ACKs"), resend unACKed segment with smallest seq #

- likely that unACKed segment lost, so don't wait for timeout



Receipt of three duplicate ACKs indicates 3 segments received after a missing segment – lost segment is likely. So retransmit!

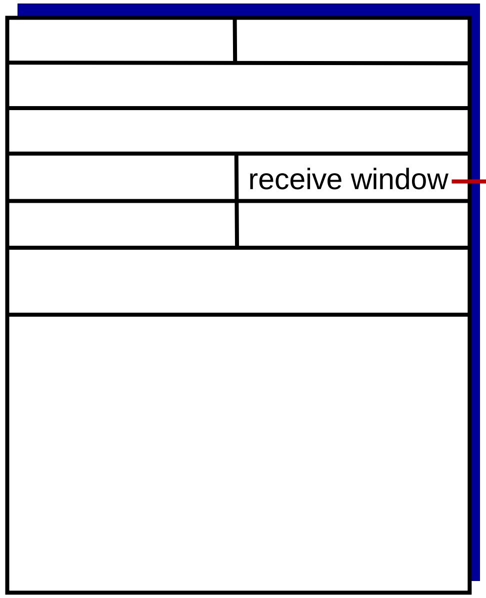
TCP Receiver: ACK generation [RFC 5681]

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-expect seq. # . Gap detected	immediately send *duplicate ACK,* 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

TCP Flow Control

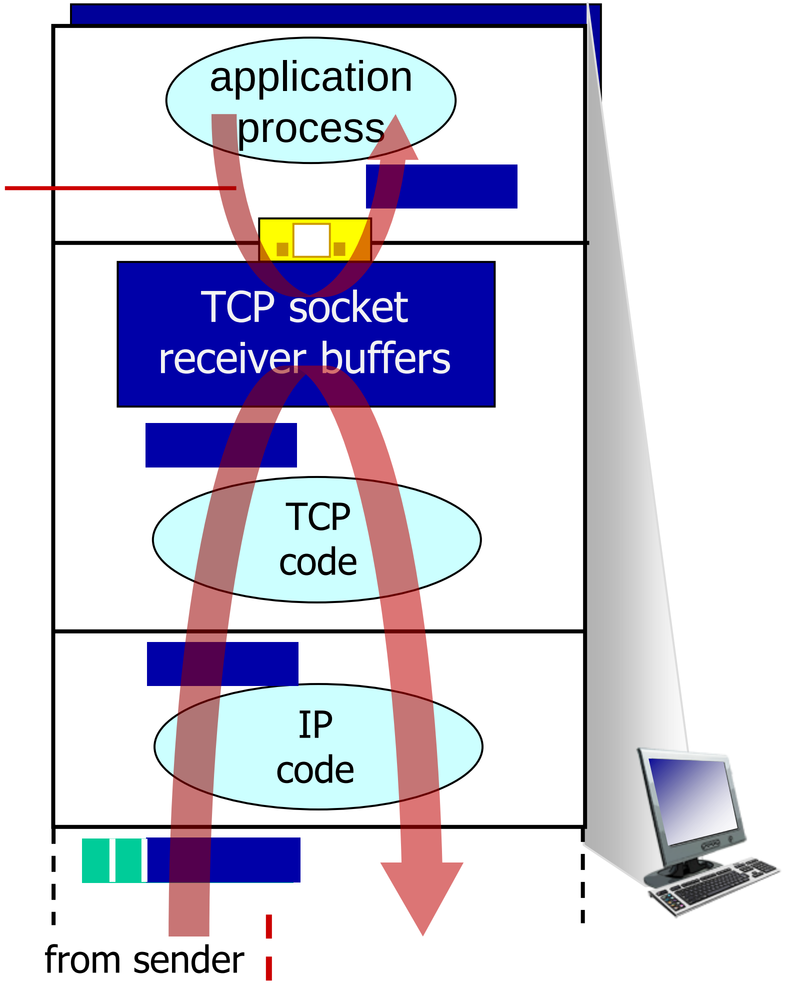
TCP flow control

Q: What happens if network layer delivers data faster than application layer removes data from socket buffers?



flow control: # bytes receiver willing to accept

Application removing data from TCP socket buffers



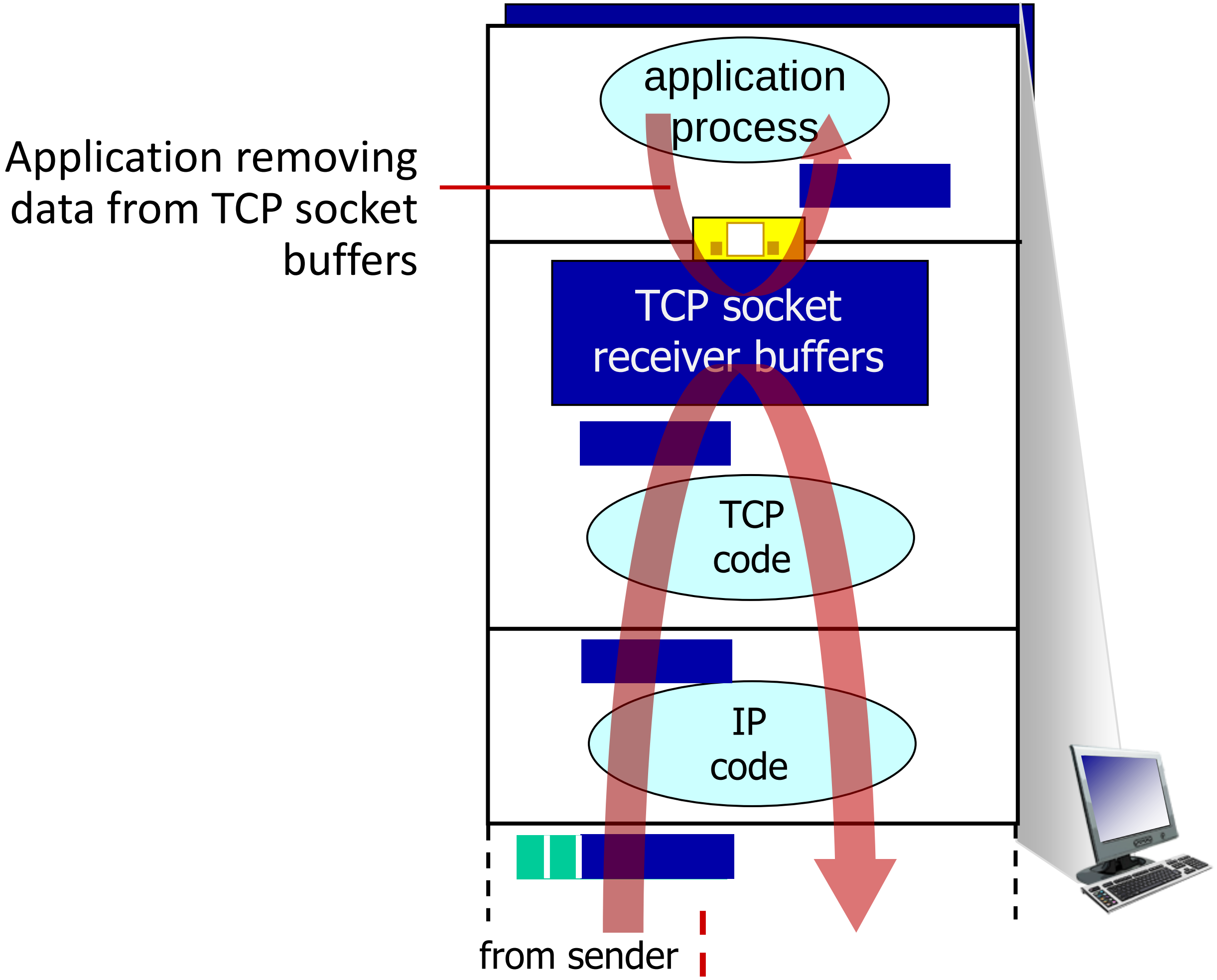
receiver protocol stack

TCP flow control

Q: What happens if network layer delivers data faster than application layer removes data from socket buffers?

flow control

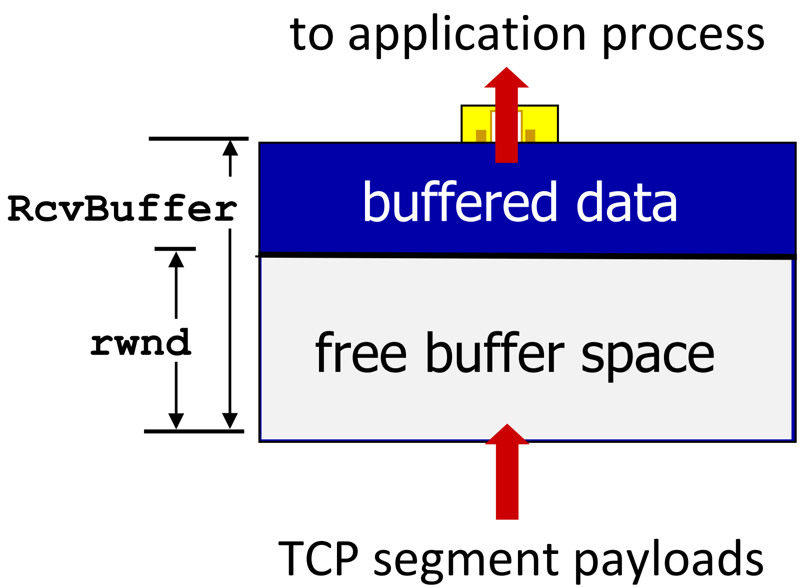
receiver controls sender, so sender won't overflow receiver's buffer by transmitting too much, too fast



receiver protocol stack

TCP flow control

- TCP receiver "advertises" free buffer space in **`rwnd`** field in TCP header
  - **`RcvBuffer`** size set via socket options (typical default is 4096 bytes)
  - many operating systems autoadjust **`RcvBuffer`**
- sender limits amount of unACKed ("in-flight") data to received **`rwnd`**
- guarantees receive buffer will not overflow

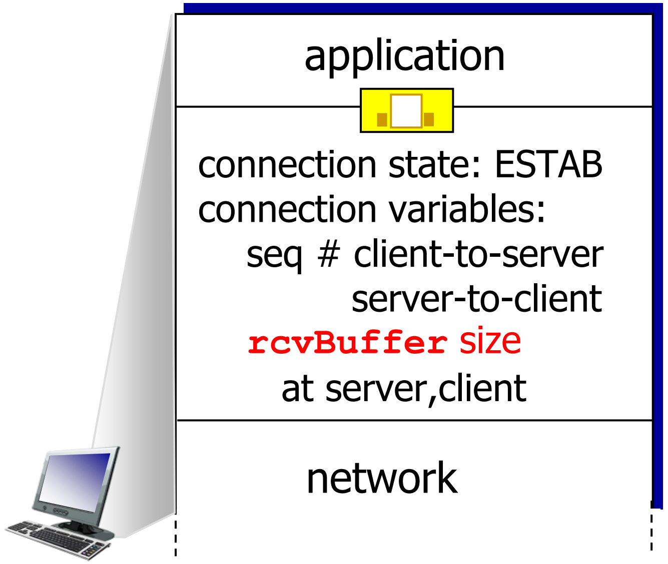


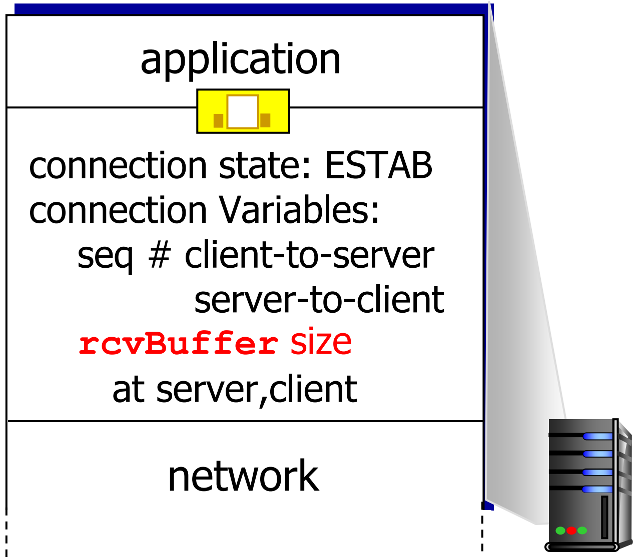
TCP receiver-side buffering

TCP connection management

before exchanging data, sender/receiver "handshake":

- agree to establish connection (each knowing the other willing to establish connection)
- agree on connection parameters (e.g., starting seq #s)

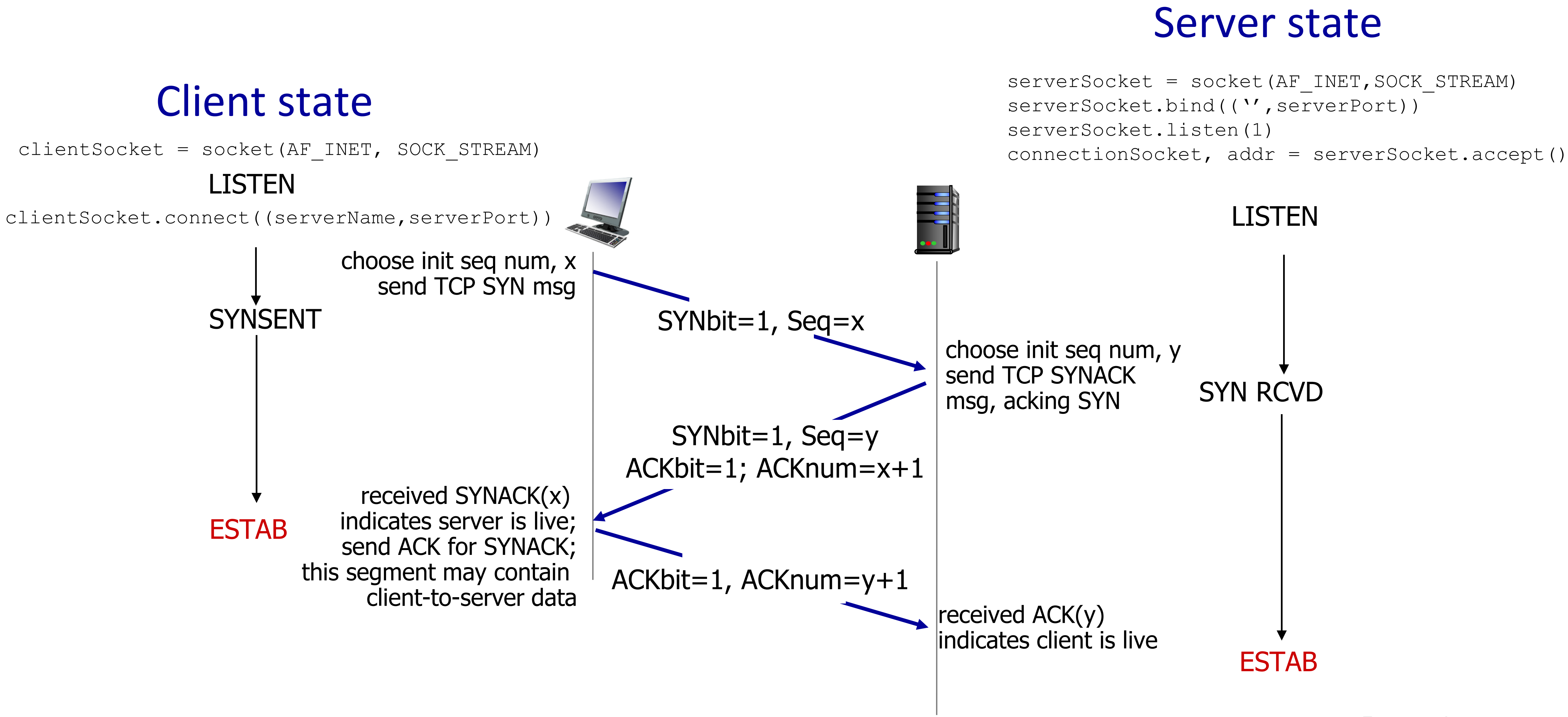





```
Socket clientSocket =
  newSocket("hostname","port number");
```

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

TCP 3-way handshake



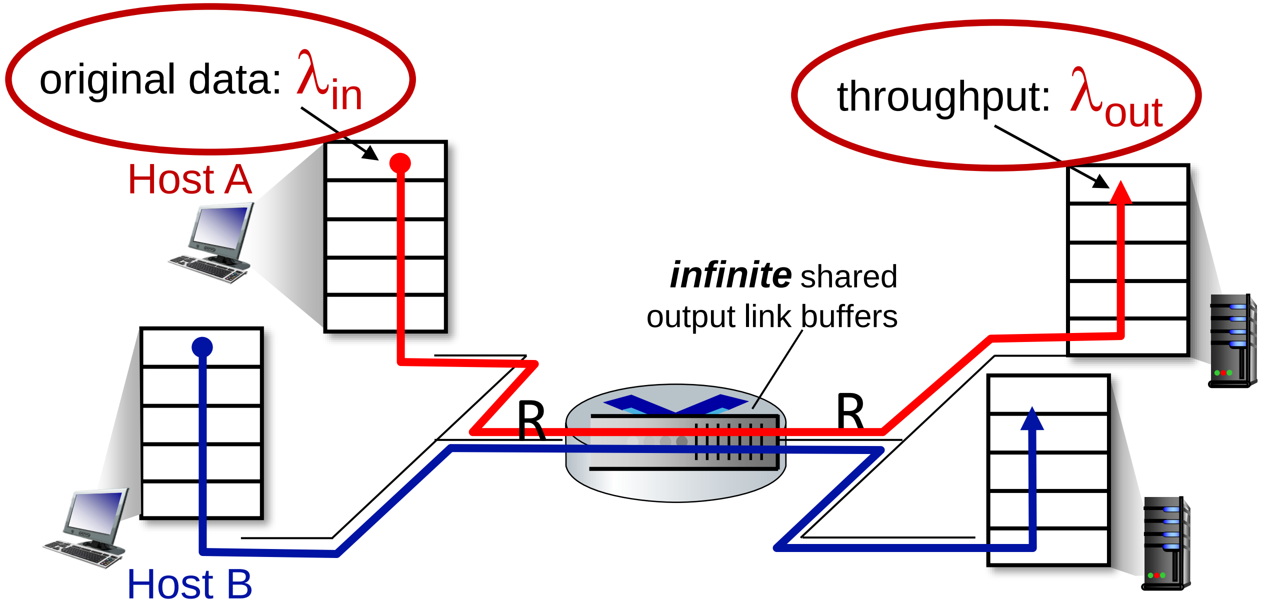
Closing a TCP connection

- client, server each close their side of connection
  - send TCP segment with FIN bit = 1
- respond to received FIN with ACK
  - on receiving FIN, ACK can be combined with own FIN
- simultaneous FIN exchanges can be handled

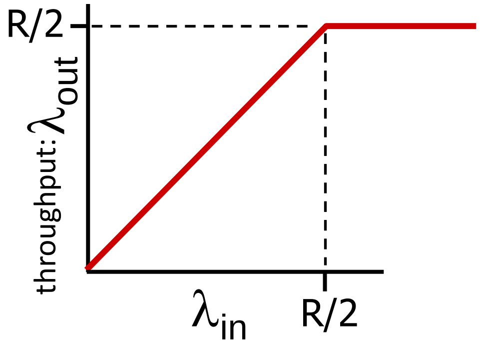
Causes/costs of congestion: scenario 1

Simplest scenario:

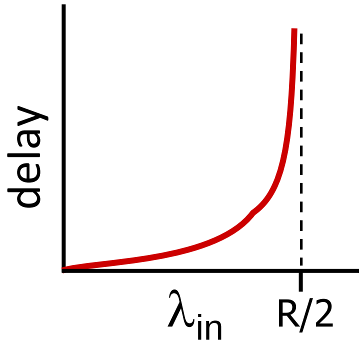
- one router, infinite buffers
- input, output link capacity: R
- two flows
- no retransmissions needed



Q: What happens as arrival rate λ_{in} approaches R/2?



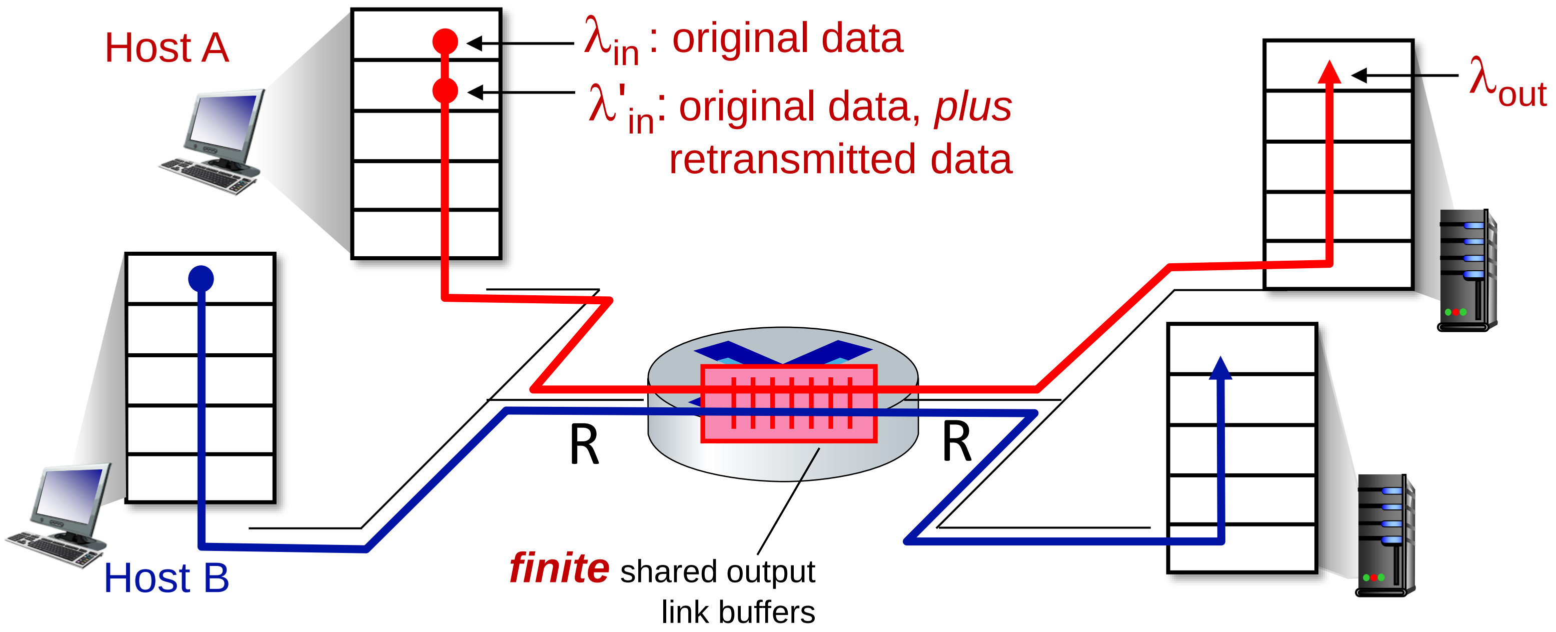
maximum per-connection throughput: R/2



large delays as arrival rate λ_{in} approaches capacity

Causes/costs of congestion: scenario 2

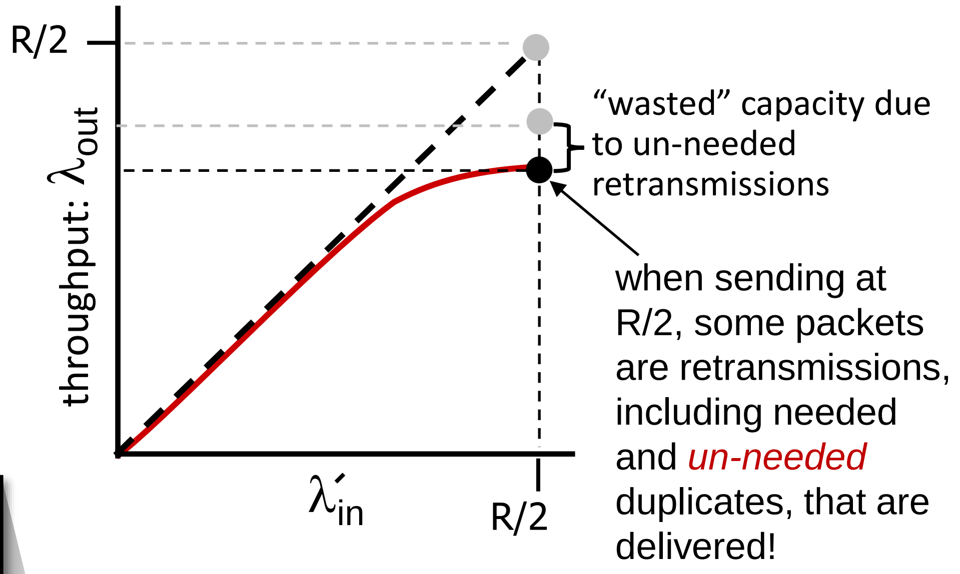
- one router, *finite* buffers
- sender retransmits lost, timed-out packet
  - application-layer input = application-layer output: $\lambda_{in} = \lambda_{out}$
  - transport-layer input includes *retransmissions* : $\lambda'_{in} \geq \lambda_{in}$

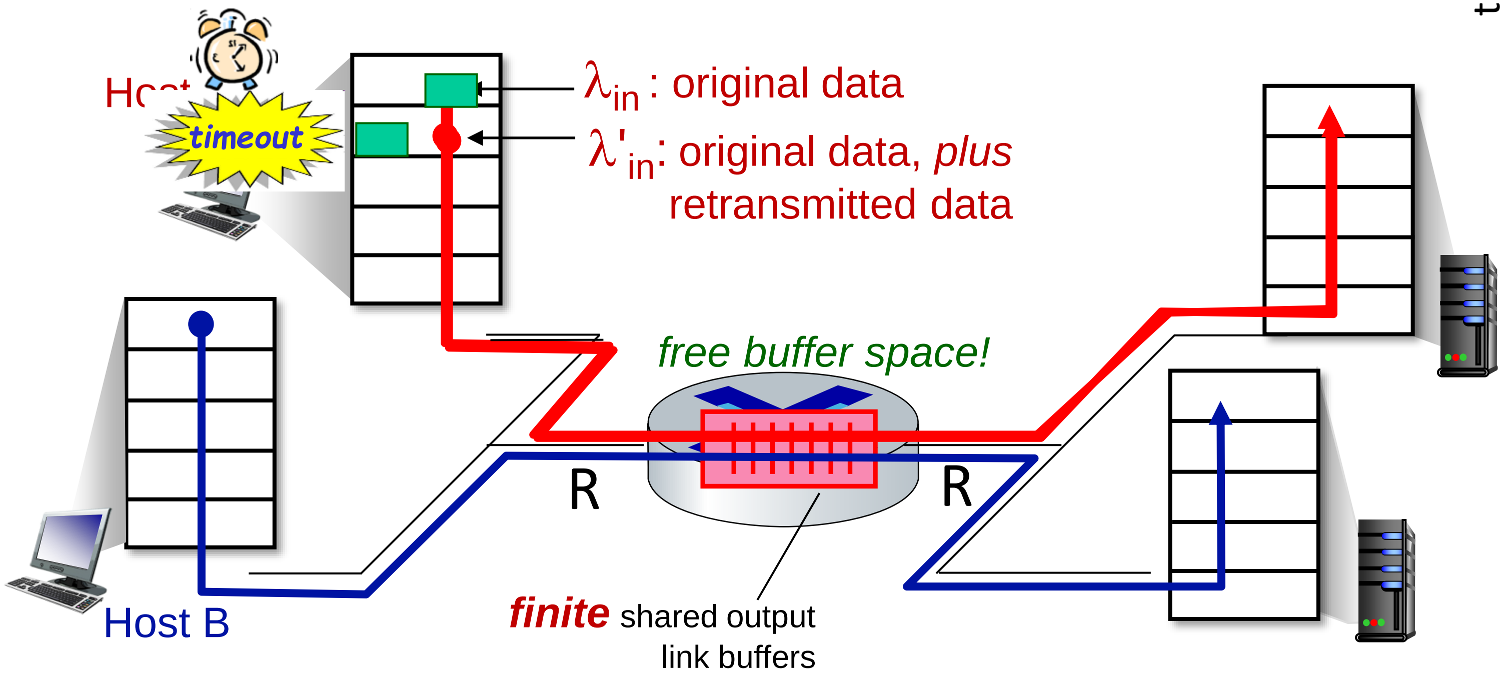


Causes/costs of congestion: scenario 2

Realistic scenario: *un-needed duplicates*

- packets can be lost, dropped at router due to full buffers – requiring retransmissions
- but sender times can time out prematurely, sending *two* copies, *both* of which are delivered





Causes/costs of congestion: scenario 2

Realistic scenario: *un-needed duplicates*

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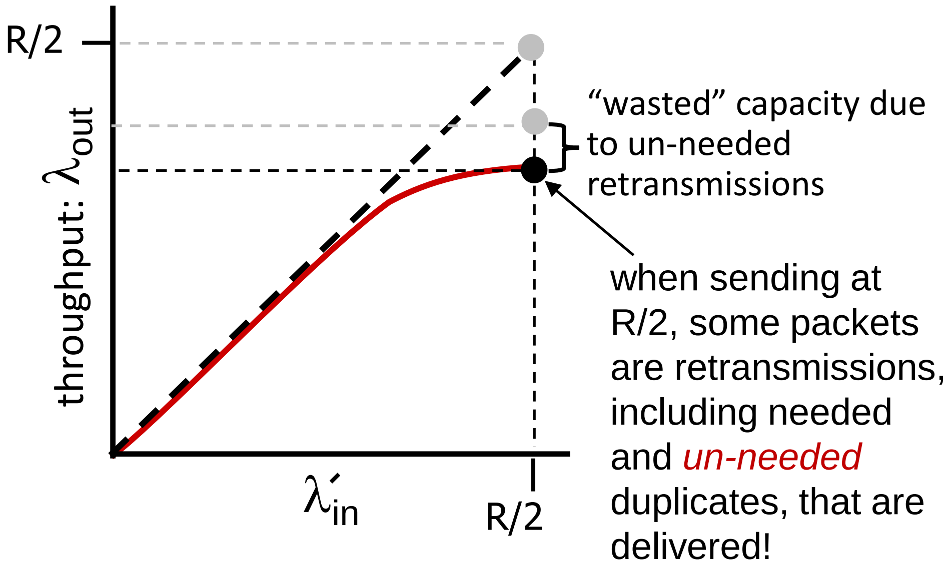
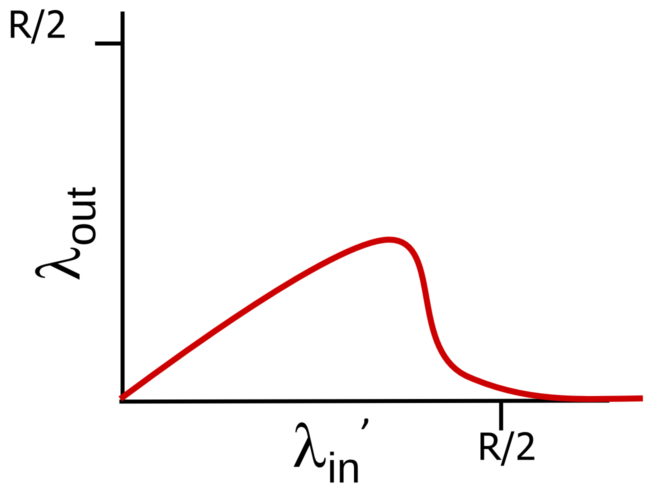
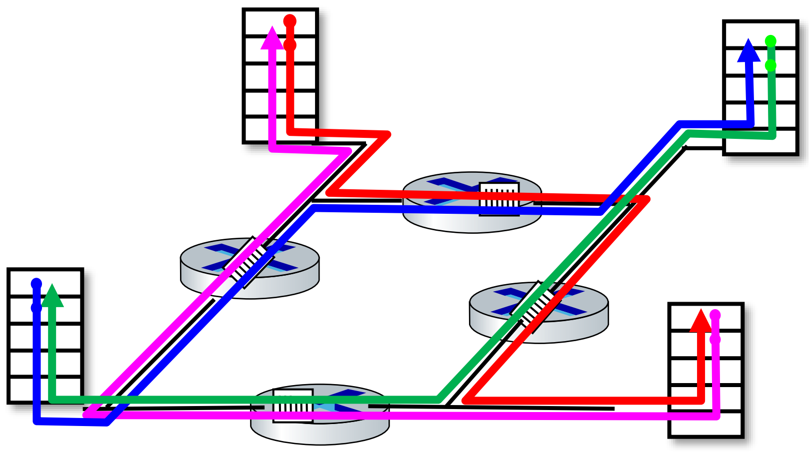


"costs" of congestion:

- more work (retransmission) for given receiver throughput
- unneeded retransmissions: link carries multiple copies of a packet
  - decreasing maximum achievable throughput

Causes/costs of congestion: scenario 3



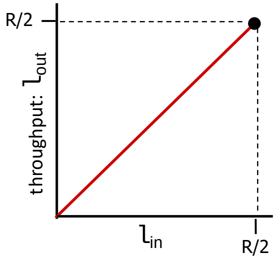


another "cost" of congestion:

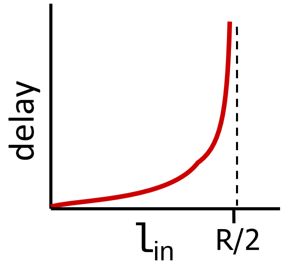
- when packet dropped, any upstream transmission capacity and buffering used for that packet was wasted!

Causes/costs of congestion: insights

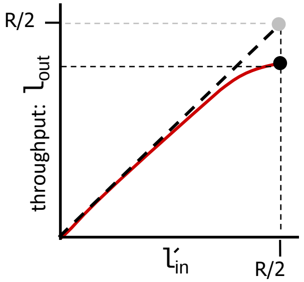
- throughput can never exceed capacity



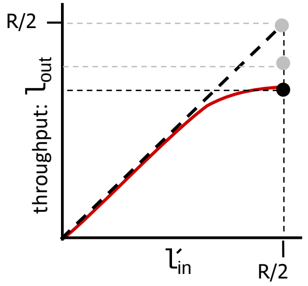
- delay increases as capacity approached



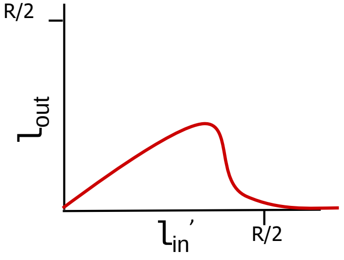
- loss/retransmission decreases effective throughput



- un-needed duplicates further decreases effective throughput



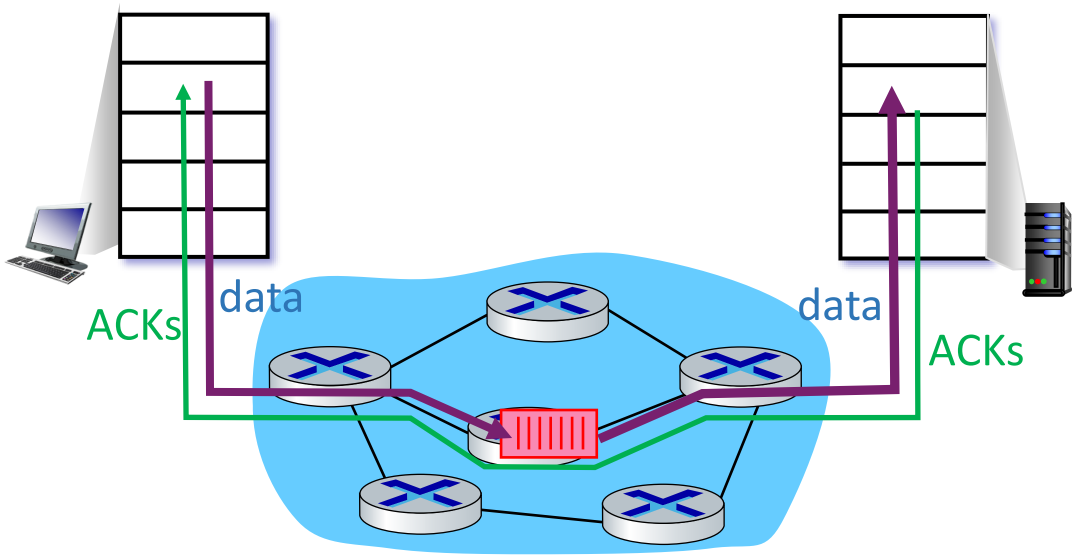
- upstream transmission capacity / buffering wasted for packets lost downstream



Approaches towards congestion control

End-end congestion control:

- no explicit feedback from network
- congestion *inferred* from observed loss, delay
- approach taken by TCP

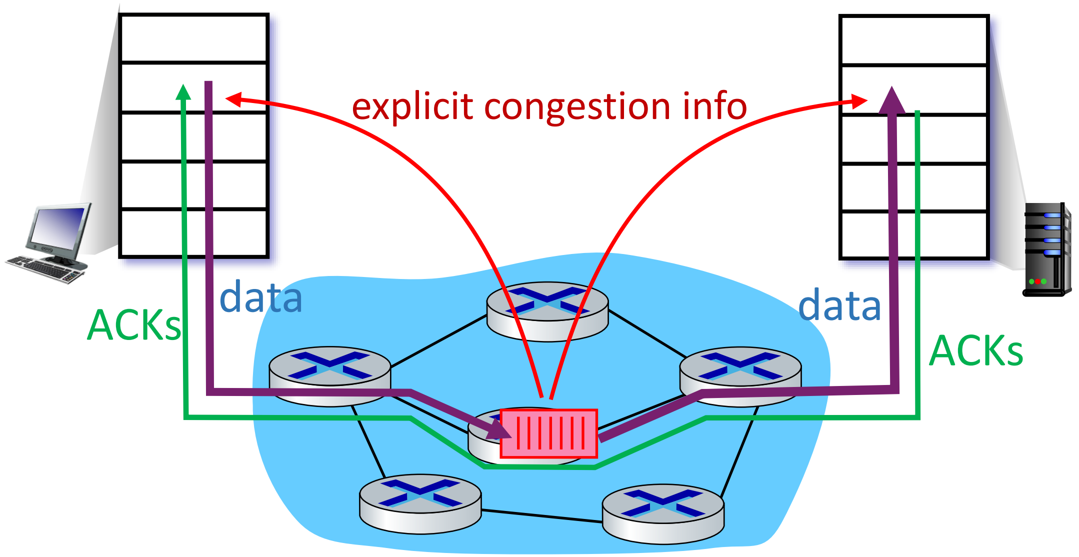


Approaches towards congestion control

Network-assisted congestion control:

- routers provide *direct* feedback to sending/receiving hosts with flows passing through congested router
- may indicate congestion level or explicitly set sending rate

• TCP ECN, ATM, DECbit protocols



Congestion Control

TCP congestion control: AIMD

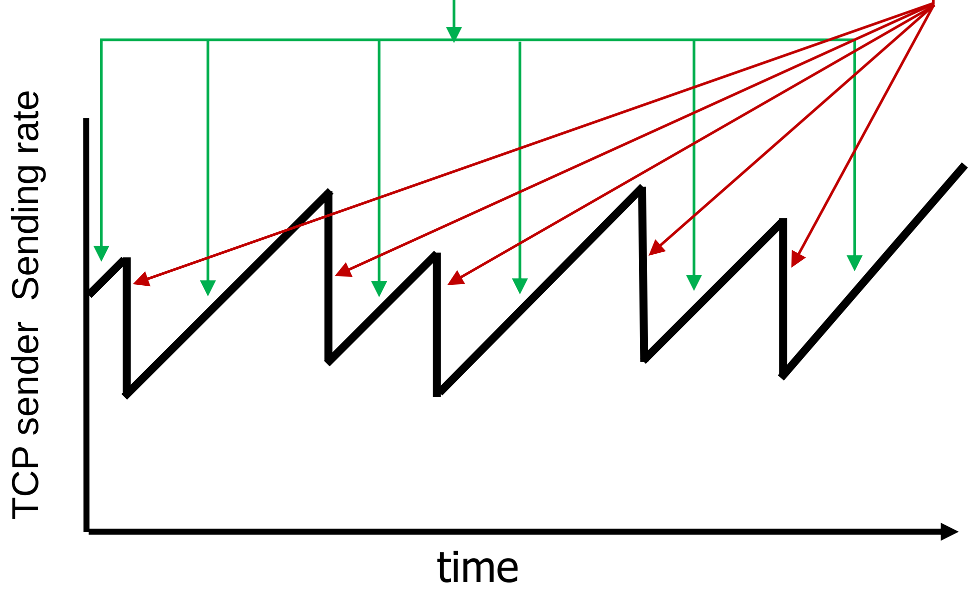
- *approach:* senders can increase sending rate until packet loss (congestion) occurs, then decrease sending rate on loss event

Additive Increase

increase sending rate by 1 maximum segment size every RTT until loss detected

Multiplicative Decrease

cut sending rate in half at each loss event



AIMD sawtooth behavior: *probing* for bandwidth

TCP AIMD: more

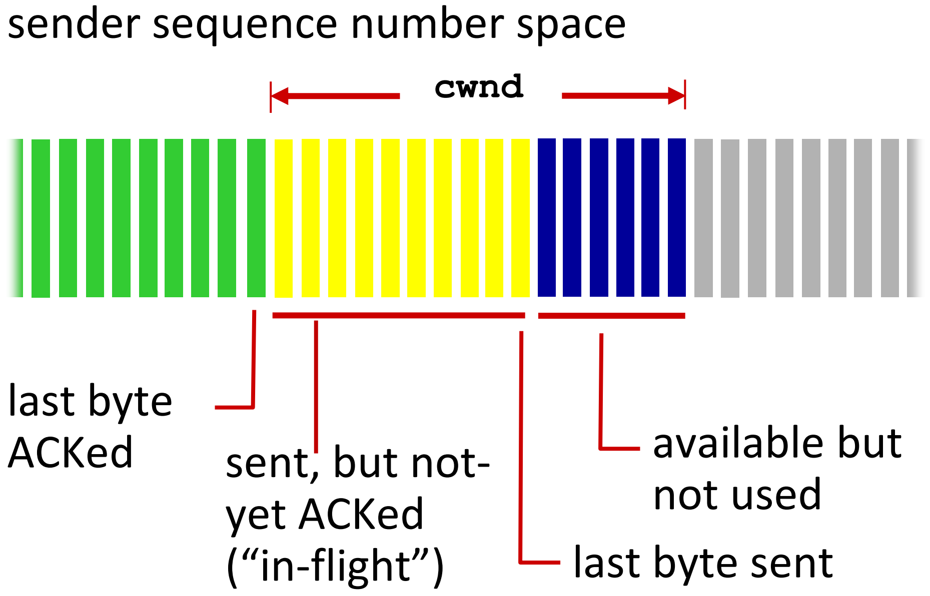
Multiplicative decrease detail: sending rate is

- Cut in half on loss detected by triple duplicate ACK (TCP Reno)
- Cut to 1 MSS (maximum segment size) when loss detected by timeout (TCP Tahoe)

Why AIMD?

- AIMD – a distributed, asynchronous algorithm – has been shown to:
  - optimize congested flow rates network wide!
  - have desirable stability properties

TCP congestion control: details



TCP sending behavior:

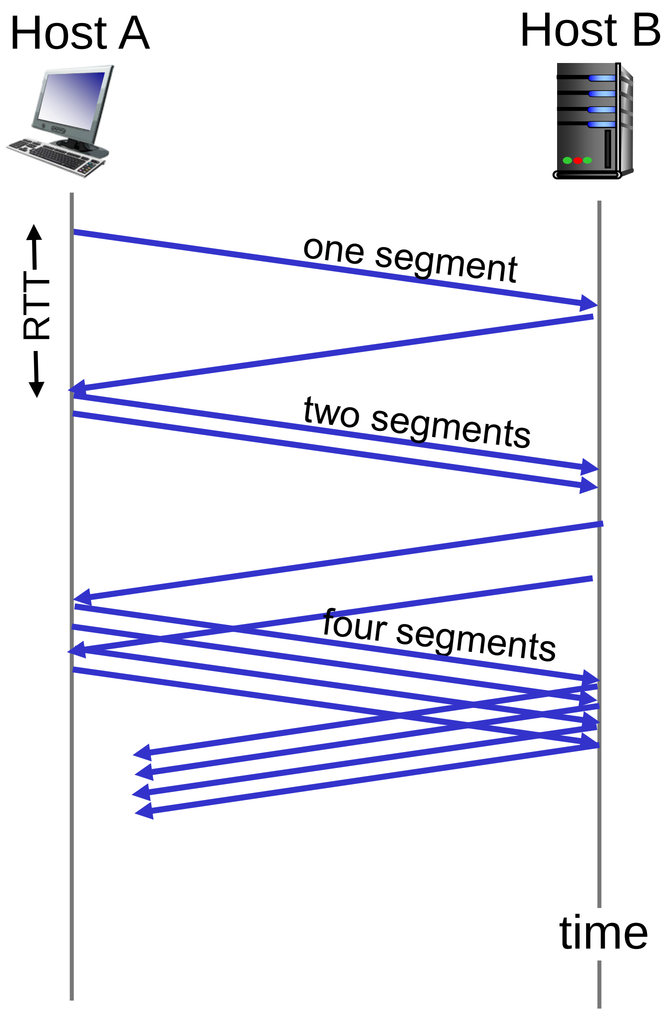
- *roughly:* send `cwnd` bytes, wait RTT for ACKS, then send more bytes

$$\text{TCP rate} \approx \frac{\texttt{cwnd}}{\text{RTT}} \text{ bytes/sec}$$

- TCP sender limits transmission: **`LastByteSent- LastByteAcked ≤ cwnd`**
- `cwnd` is dynamically adjusted in response to observed network congestion (implementing TCP congestion control)

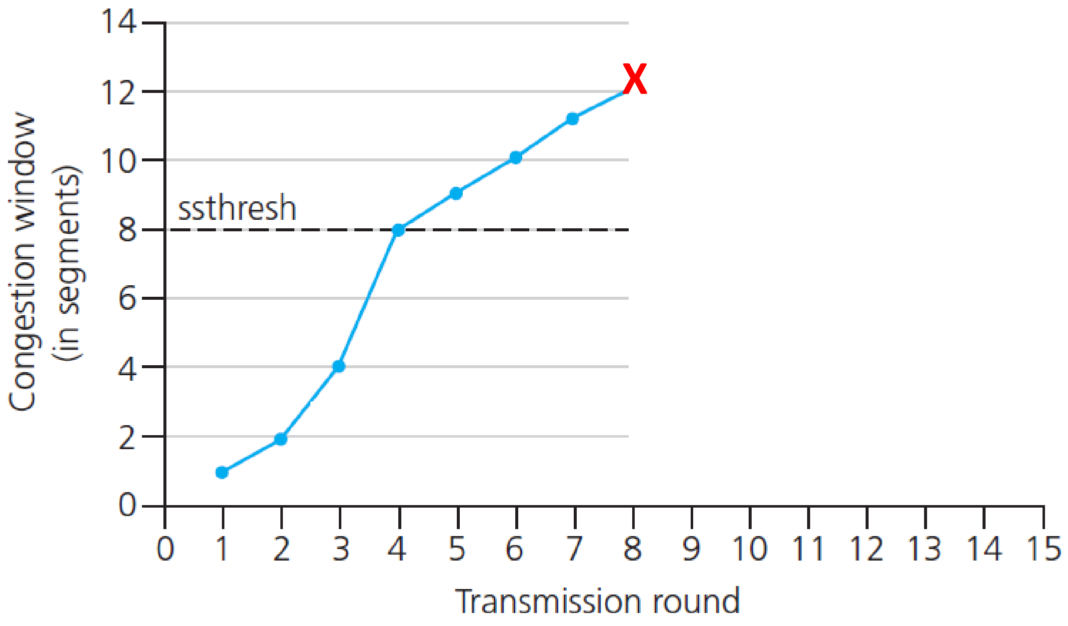
TCP slow start

- when connection begins, increase rate exponentially until first loss event:
  - initially **cwnd** = 1 MSS
  - double **cwnd** every RTT
  - done by incrementing **cwnd** for every ACK received
- *summary:* initial rate is slow, but ramps up exponentially fast



TCP: from slow start to congestion avoidance

The exponential increase switch to linear when **`cwnd`** gets to 1/2 of its value before timeout.



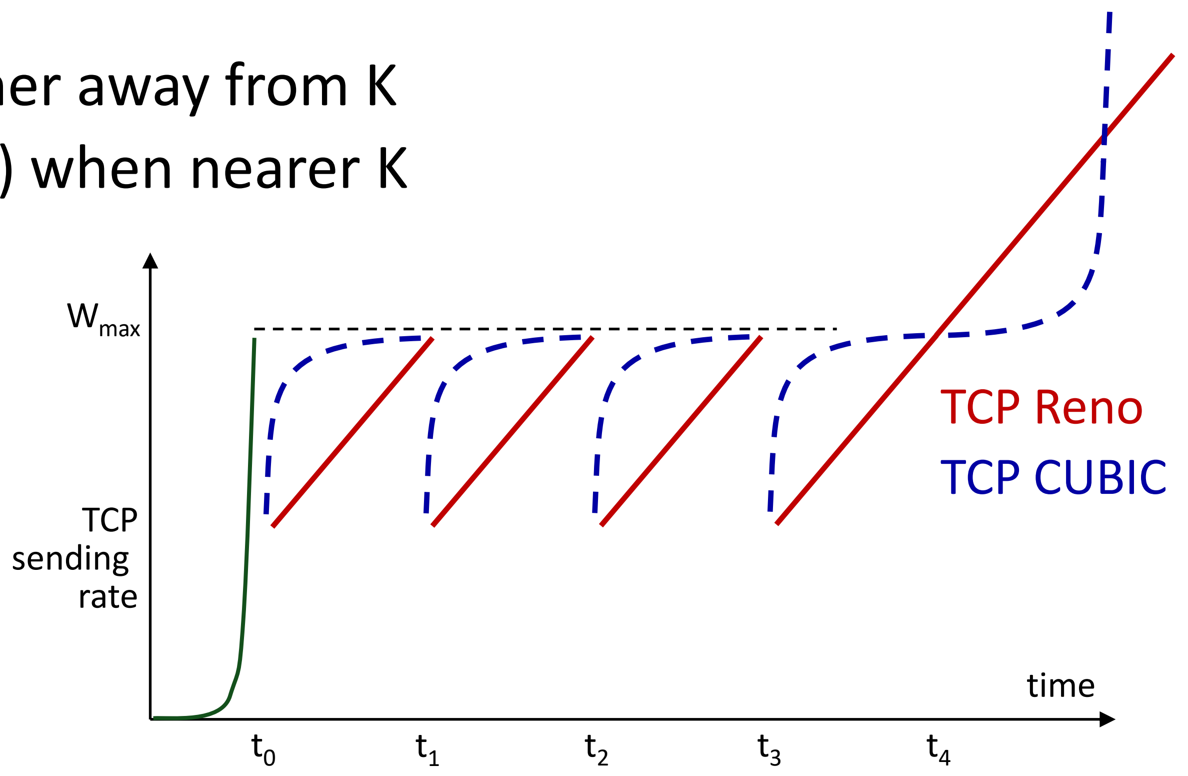
Implementation:

- variable **`ssthresh`**
- on loss event, **`ssthresh`** is set to 1/2 of **`cwnd`** just before loss event

* Check out the online interactive exercises for more examples: http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose_ross/interactive/

TCP CUBIC

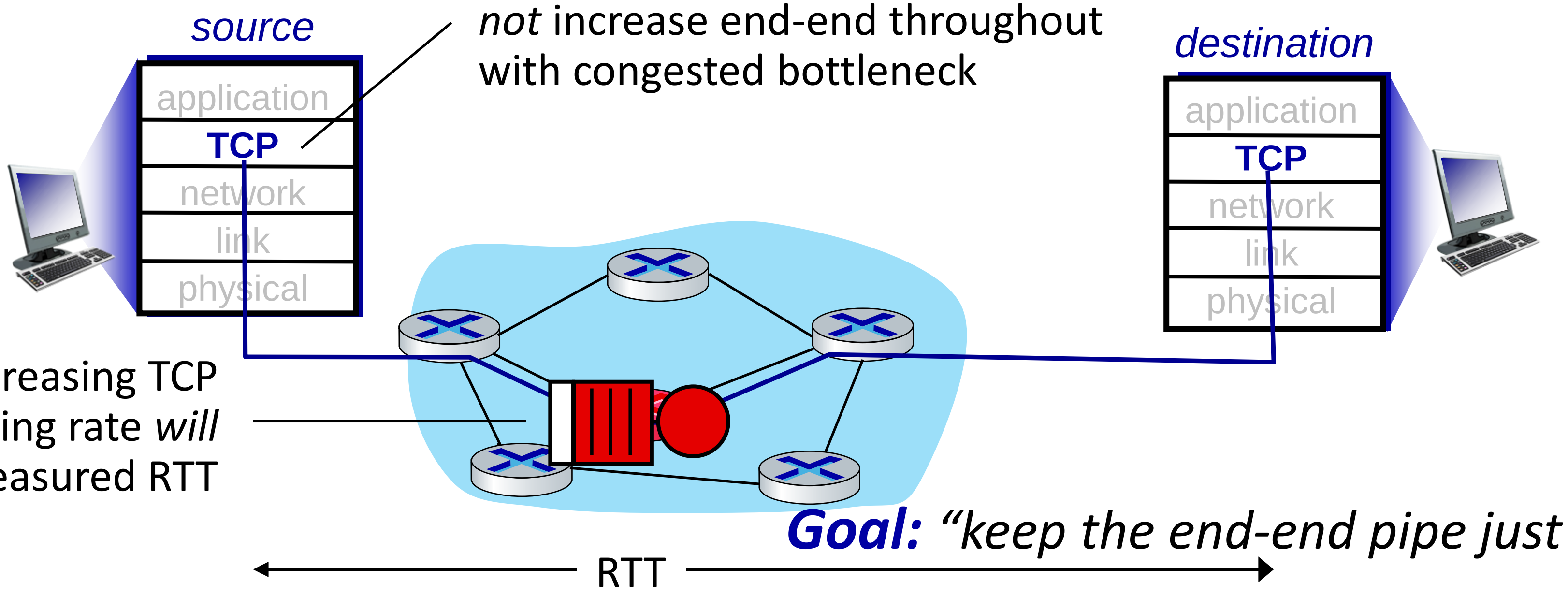
- K: point in time when TCP window size will reach W_{max}
  - K itself is tuneable
- increase W as a function of the *cube* of the distance between current time and K
  - larger increases when further away from K
  - smaller increases (cautious) when nearer K
- TCP CUBIC default in Linux, most popular TCP for popular Web servers



TCP and the congested “bottleneck link”

- TCP (classic, CUBIC) increase TCP’s sending rate until packet loss occurs at some router’s output: the *bottleneck link*
- understanding congestion: useful to focus on congested bottleneck link

insight: increasing TCP sending rate will *not* increase end-end throughout with congested bottleneck

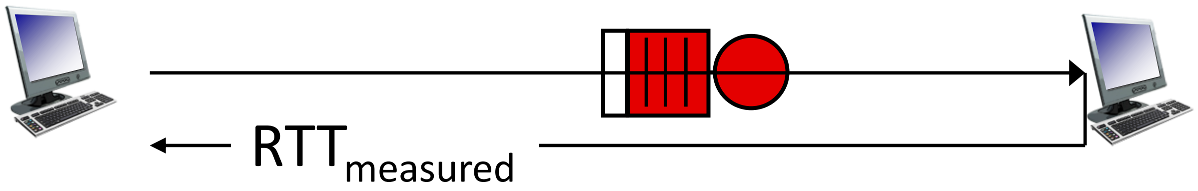


insight: increasing TCP sending rate *will* increase measured RTT

Goal: *“keep the end-end pipe just full, but not fuller”*

Delay-based TCP congestion control

Keeping sender-to-receiver pipe "just full enough, but no fuller": keep bottleneck link busy transmitting, but avoid high delays/buffering



$$\text{measured throughput} = \frac{\text{\# bytes sent in last RTT interval}}{RTT_{measured}}$$

Delay-based approach:

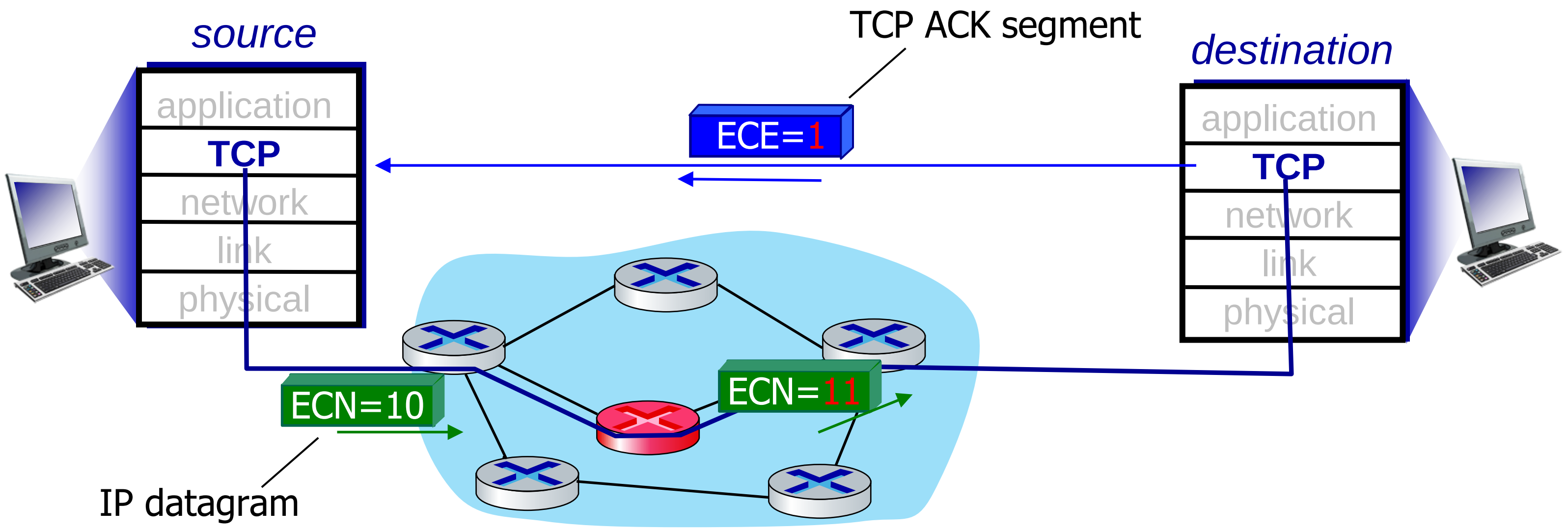
- RTT_{min} - minimum observed RTT (uncongested path)
- uncongested throughput with congestion window `cwnd` is cwnd/RTT_{min}

if measured throughput "very close" to uncongested throughput
    increase `cwnd` linearly /* since path not congested */
else if measured throughput "far below" uncongested throughout
    decrease `cwnd` linearly /* since path is congested */

Explicit congestion notification (ECN)

TCP deployments often implement *network-assisted* congestion control:

- two bits in IP header (ToS field) marked *by network router* to indicate congestion
  - *policy* to determine marking chosen by network operator
- congestion indication carried to destination
- destination sets ECE bit on ACK segment to notify sender of congestion
- involves both IP (IP header ECN bit marking) and TCP (TCP header C,E bit marking)



Thanks for listening!
Any questions?

Acknowledgment

- James F. Kurose University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Keith W. Ross NYU and NYU Shanghai