Operating Systems and Networks

TCP Summary

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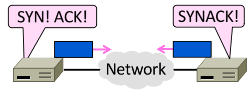
Connection Establishment (6.5.5, 6.5.7, 6.2.2)

- How to set up connections
  - We'll see how TCP does it

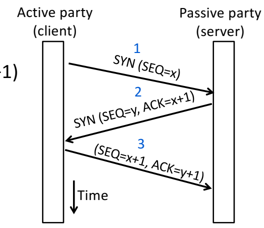


Connection Establishment

- Both sender and receiver must be ready before we start the transfer of data
  - Need to agree on a set of parameters
  - e.g., the Maximum Segment Size (MSS)
- This is signaling
  - It sets up state at the endpoints
  - Like "dialing" for a telephone call

Three-Way Handshake

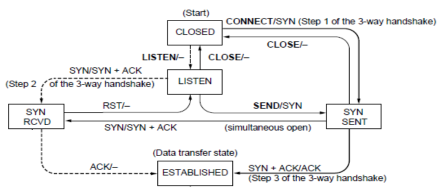
- Three steps:
  - Client sends SYN(x)
  - Server replies with SYN(y)ACK(x+1)
  - Client replies with ACK(y+1)
  - SYNs are retransmitted if lost
- Sequence and ack numbers carried on further segments



TCP Connection State Machine

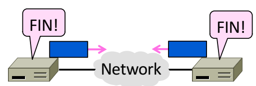
- Captures the states (rectangles) and transitions (arrows)
  - A/B means event A triggers the transition, with action B

Both parties run instances of this state machine



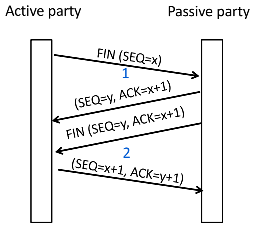
Connection Release (6.5.6-6.5.7, 6.2.3)

- How to release connections
  - We'll see how TCP does it



TCP Connection Release

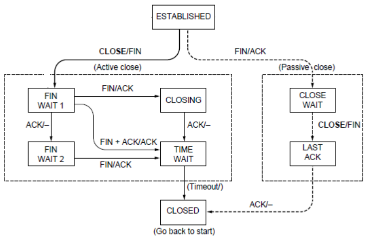
- Two steps:
  - Active party sends FIN(x), passive party sends ACK
  - Passive party sends FIN(y), active party sends ACK
  - FINs are retransmitted if lost
- Each FIN/ACK closes one direction of data transfer



7

TCP Connection State Machine

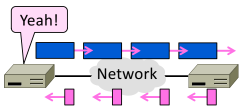
Both parties run instances of this state machine



8

Sliding Windows (§3.4, §6.5.8)

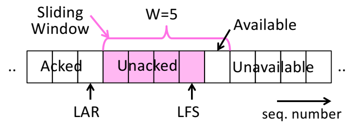
- The sliding window algorithm
  - Pipelining and reliability
  - Building on Stop-and-Wait



9

Sliding Window – Sender

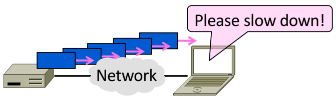
- Sender buffers up to W segments until they are acknowledged
  - LFS=LAST FRAME SENT, LAR=LAST ACK REC'D
  - Sends while LFS – LAR ≤ W



10

Flow Control (§6.5.8)

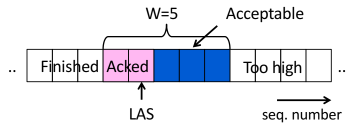
- Adding flow control to the sliding window algorithm
  - To slow the over-enthusiastic sender



11

Flow Control

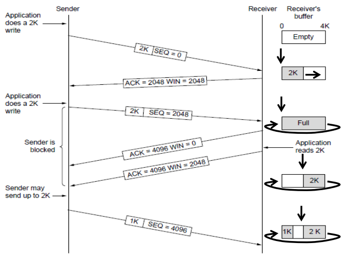
- Avoid loss at receiver by telling sender the available buffer space
  - WIN=#Acceptable, not W (from LAS)



12

Flow Control (3)

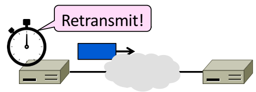
- TCP-style example
  - SEQ/ACK sliding window
  - Flow control with WIN
  - SEQ + length < ACK+WIN
  - 4KB buffer at receiver
  - Circular buffer of bytes



13

Retransmissions

- With sliding window, the strategy for detecting loss is the <u>timeout</u>
  - Set timer when a segment is sent
  - Cancel timer when ack is received
  - If timer fires, <u>retransmit</u> data as lost



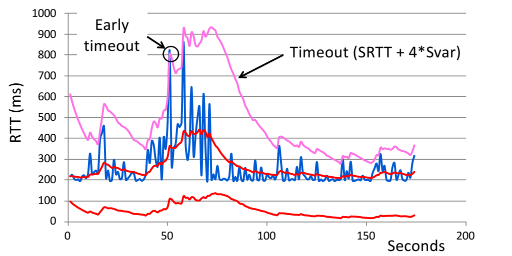
14

Adaptive Timeout

- Keep smoothed estimates of the RTT (1) and variance in RTT (2)
  - Update estimates with a moving average
    1. $SRTT_{N+1} = 0.9*SRTT_N + 0.1*RTT_{N+1}$
    2. $Svar_{N+1} = 0.9*Svar_N + 0.1*|RTT_{N+1} - SRTT_{N+1}|$
- Set timeout to a multiple of estimates
  - To estimate the upper RTT in practice
  - TCP $Timeout_N = SRTT_N + 4*Svar_N$

15

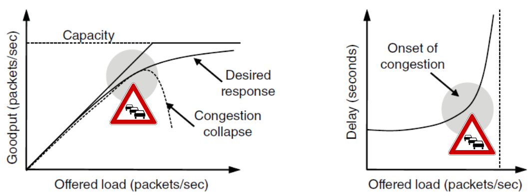
Example of Adaptive Timeout (2)



16

Effects of Congestion

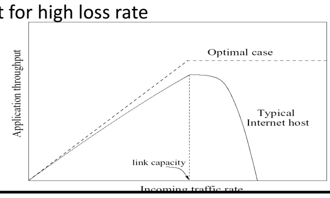
- What happens to performance as we increase the load?



17

Congestion Characteristics

- Link flooding causes high loss rates for incoming traffic
- Mathis, Semke, Mahdavi, Ott [Sigcomm '97]:
  TCP Throughput ~ $MSS/RTT*c*q^{-1/2}$
  q is loss prob, c is constant close to 1
- Note: very low throughput for high loss rate
- Result
  - Few legitimate clients served during congestion



Bandwidth Allocation

- Important task for network is to allocate its capacity to senders
  - Good allocation is efficient and fair
- Efficient means most capacity is used but there is no congestion
- Fair means every sender gets a reasonable share the network

19

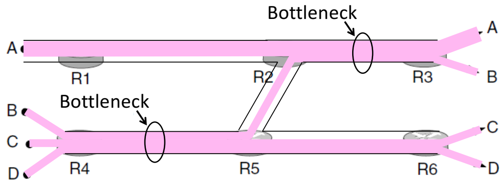
Max-Min Fairness

- Intuitively, flows bottlenecked on a link get an equal share of that link
- Max-min fair allocation is one that:
  - Increasing the rate of one flow will decrease the rate of a smaller flow
  - This "maximizes the minimum" flow

20

Max-Min Example

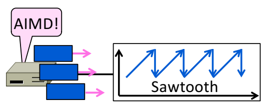
- When rate=2/3, flow A bottlenecks R2—R3. Done.



21

Additive Increase Multiplicative Decrease (AIMD) (§6.3.2)

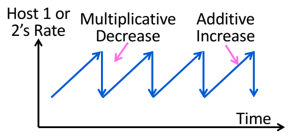
- Bandwidth allocation models
  - Additive Increase Multiplicative Decrease (AIMD) control law



22

AIMD Sawtooth

- Produces a "sawtooth" pattern over time for rate of each host
  - This is the TCP sawtooth (later)



23

AIMD Properties

- Converges to an allocation that is efficient and fair when hosts run it
  - Holds for more general topologies
- Other increase/decrease control laws do not! (Try MIAD, MIMD, AIAD)
- Requires only binary feedback from the network

24

Feedback Signals

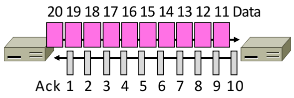
- Several possible signals, with different pros/cons
  - We'll look at classic TCP that uses packet loss as a signal

Signal	Example Protocol	Pros / Cons
Packet loss	TCP NewReno Cubic TCP (Linux)	+Hard to get wrong -Hear about congestion late
Packet delay	Compound TCP (Windows)	+Hear about congestion early -Need to infer congestion
Router indication	TCPs with Explicit Congestion Notification	+Hear about congestion early -Require router support

25

Sliding Window ACK Clock

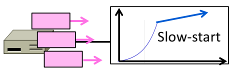
- Each in-order ACK advances the sliding window and lets a new segment enter the network
  - ACKs "clock" data segments



26

TCP Slow Start (§6.5.10)

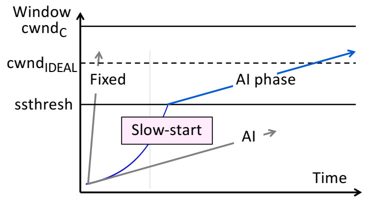
- How TCP implements AIMD, part 1
  - "Slow start" is a component of the AI portion of AIMD



27

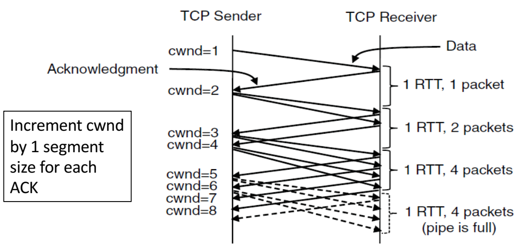
Slow-Start Solution

- Combined behavior, after first time
  - Most time spend near right value



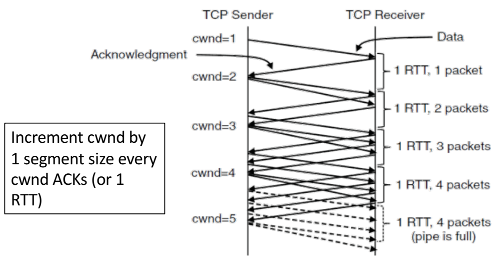
28

Slow-Start (Doubling) Timeline



29

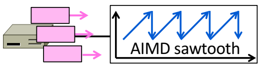
Additive Increase Timeline



30

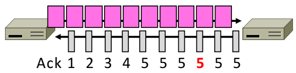
TCP Fast Retransmit / Fast Recovery (§6.5.10)

- How TCP implements AIMD, part 2
  - "Fast retransmit" and "fast recovery" are the MD portion of AIMD

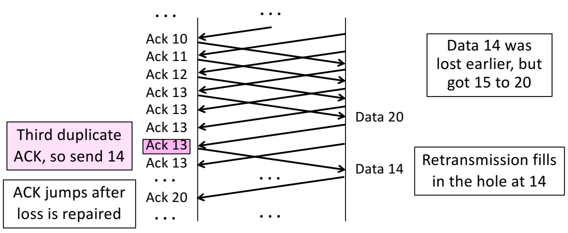


Fast Retransmit

- Treat three duplicate ACKs as a loss
  - Retransmit next expected segment
  - Some repetition allows for reordering, but still detects loss quickly

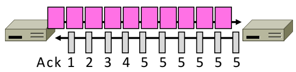


Fast Retransmit (2)

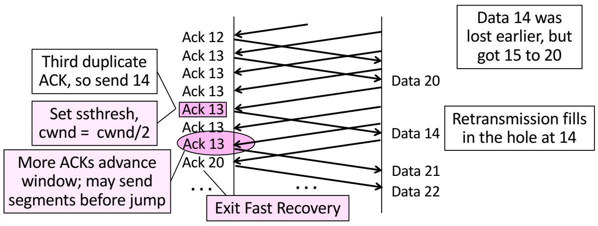


Fast Recovery

- First fast retransmit, and MD cwnd
- Then pretend further duplicate ACKs are the expected ACKs
  - Lets send new segments for received ACKs
  - Reconcile views when the ACK jumps



Fast Recovery (2)



TCP Header

Source port									Destination port
Sequence number									
Acknowledgement number									
TCP header length		CWR	ECE	URG	ACK	PSH	RST	SYN	FIN	Window size
Checksum									Urgent pointer
Options (0 or more 32-bit words)									

Interesting Questions

- How is MSS / MTU determined?
- What happens if UDP does not implement congestion control?
  - Do modern UDP applications need to implement congestion control?
  - What is the relationship with network neutrality?
- What if different congestion control schemes are used concurrently? What can go wrong?
- Can a malicious host obtain an unfair advantage?
- Why size would you pick for router buffers? Large or small? Which one will result in better performance if standard TCP is used?

37