

ECE 683-001 Fall 2005 Computer Network Design and Analysis Lecture 5

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Source:

- **Communication Networks 2nd Edition Chapter 5**
by Alberto Leon-Garcia and Indra Widjaja



PART I: Peer-to-Peer Protocols
Peer-to-Peer Protocols and Service Models
ARQ Protocols and Reliable Data Transfer
Flow Control
Timing Recovery
TCP Reliable Stream Service & Flow Control



PART II: Data Link Controls
Framing
Point-to-Point Protocol
High-Level Data Link Control
Link Sharing Using Statistical Multiplexing



Lecture Overview



- Peer-to-Peer protocols: many protocols involve the interaction between two peers
 - Service Models are discussed & examples given
 - Detailed discussion of ARQ provides example of development of peer-to-peer protocols
 - Flow control, TCP reliable stream, and timing recovery
- Data Link Layer
 - Framing
 - PPP & HDLC protocols
 - Statistical multiplexing for link sharing

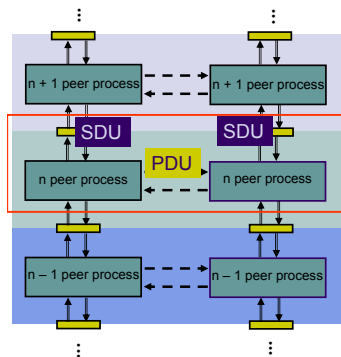
Lecture 5 Peer-to-Peer Protocols and Data Link Layer



Peer-to-Peer Protocols and Service Models



Peer-to-Peer Protocols



- *Peer-to-Peer* processes execute layer-n protocol to provide service to layer-(n+1)
- Layer-(n+1) peer calls layer-n and passes Service Data Units (SDUs) for transfer
- Layer-n peers exchange Protocol Data Units (PDUs) to effect transfer
- Layer-n delivers SDUs to destination layer-(n+1) peer

Service Models

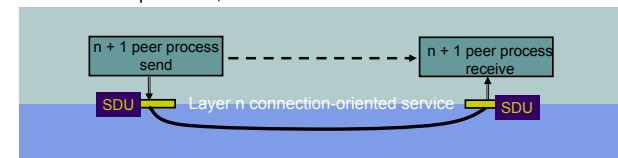


- The *service model* specifies the information transfer service layer-n provides to layer-(n+1)
- The most important distinction is whether the service is:
 - Connection-oriented
 - Connectionless
- Service model possible features offered by a given layer:
 - Arbitrary message size or structure
 - Sequencing and Reliability
 - Timing, Pacing, and Flow control
 - Multiplexing
 - Privacy, integrity, and authentication

Connection-Oriented Transfer Service

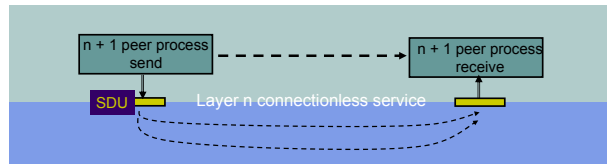


- Connection Establishment
 - Connection must be established between layer-(n+1) peers
 - Layer-n protocol must: Set initial parameters, e.g. sequence numbers; and Allocate resources, e.g. buffers
- Message transfer phase
 - Exchange of SDUs
- Disconnect phase
- Example: TCP, PPP



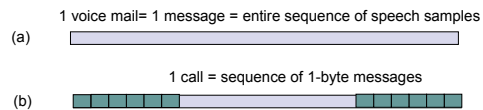
Connectionless Transfer Service

- No Connection setup, simply send SDU
- Each message send independently
- Must provide all address information per message
- Simple & quick
- Example: UDP, IP



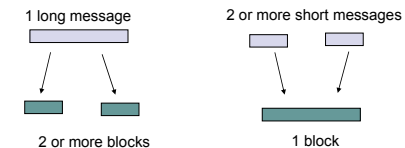
Message Size and Structure

- What message size and structure will a service model accept?
 - Different services impose restrictions on size & structure of data it will transfer
 - Single bit? Block of bytes? Byte stream?
 - Ex: Transfer of voice mail = 1 long message
 - Ex: Transfer of voice call = byte stream



Segmentation & Blocking

- To accommodate arbitrary message size, a layer may have to deal with messages that are too long or too short for its protocol
- *Segmentation & Reassembly*: a layer breaks long messages into smaller blocks and reassembles these at the destination
- *Blocking & Unblocking*: a layer combines small messages into bigger blocks prior to transfer



Reliability & Sequencing

- *Reliability*: Are messages or information stream delivered error-free and without loss or duplication?
- *Sequencing*: Are messages or information stream delivered in order?
- *ARQ protocols* combine error detection, retransmission, and sequence numbering to provide reliability & sequencing
- Examples: TCP and HDLC

Pacing and Flow Control



- Messages can be lost if receiving system does not have sufficient buffering to store arriving messages
- If destination layer-(n+1) does not retrieve its information fast enough, destination layer-n buffers may overflow
- *Pacing & Flow Control* provide backpressure mechanisms that control transfer according to availability of buffers at the destination
- Examples: TCP and HDLC

Timing



- Applications involving voice and video generate units of information that are related temporally
- Destination application must reconstruct temporal relation in voice/video units
- Network transfer introduces delay & jitter
- *Timing Recovery* protocols use *timestamps* & *sequence numbering* to control the delay & jitter in delivered information
- Examples: RTP & associated protocols in Voice over IP

Multiplexing



- *Multiplexing* enables multiple layer-(n+1) users to share a layer-n service
- A multiplexing tag is required to identify specific users at the destination
- Examples: UDP, IP

Privacy, Integrity, & Authentication

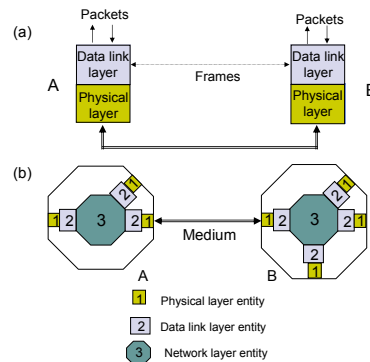


- *Privacy*: ensuring that information transferred cannot be read by others
- *Integrity*: ensuring that information is not altered during transfer
- *Authentication*: verifying that sender and/or receiver are who they claim to be
- *Security protocols* provide these services
- Examples: IPSec, SSL

End-to-End vs. Hop-by-Hop

- A service feature can be provided by implementing a protocol
 - end-to-end across the network
 - across every hop in the network
- Example:
 - Perform error control at every hop in the network or only between the source and destination?
 - Perform flow control between every hop in the network or only between source & destination?
- We next consider the tradeoffs between the two approaches

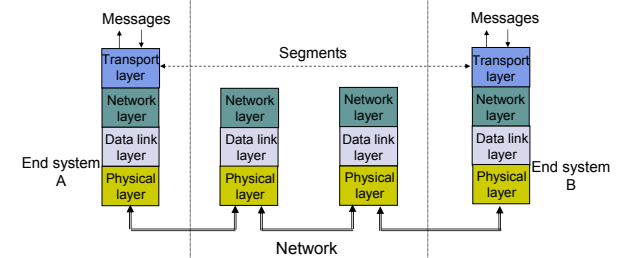
Error control in Data Link Layer



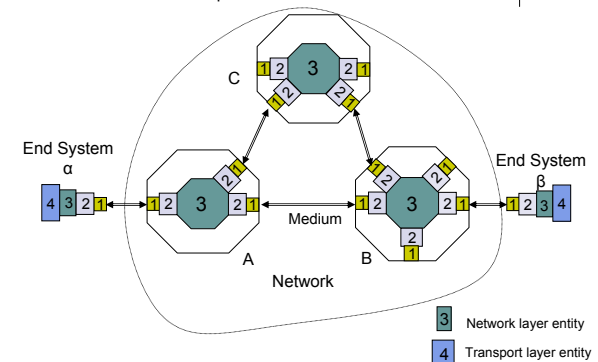
- Data Link operates over wire-like, directly-connected systems
- Frames can be corrupted or lost, but arrive in order
- Data link performs error-checking & retransmission
- Ensures error-free packet transfer between two systems

Error Control in Transport Layer

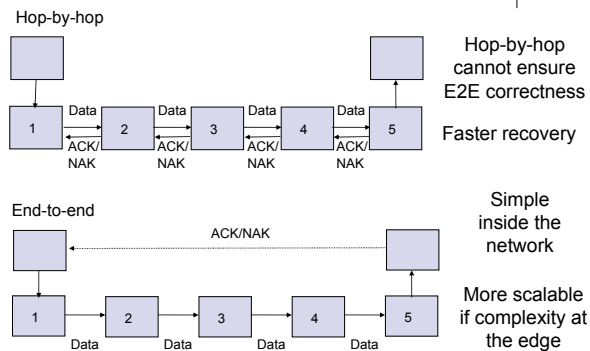
- Transport layer protocol (e.g. TCP) sends segments across network and performs end-to-end error checking & retransmission
- Underlying network is assumed to be unreliable



- Segments can experience long delays, can be lost, or arrive out-of-order because packets can follow different paths across network
- End-to-end error control protocol more difficult



End-to-End Approach Preferred



Lecture 5 Peer-to-Peer Protocols and Data Link Layer

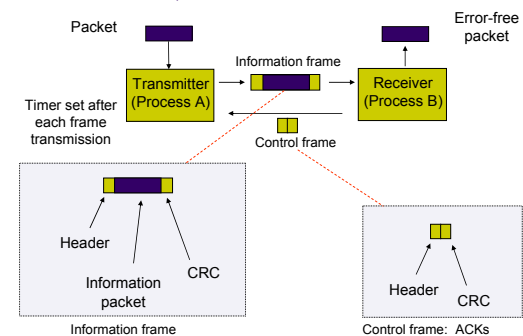
ARQ Protocols and Reliable Data Transfer

Automatic Repeat Request (ARQ)

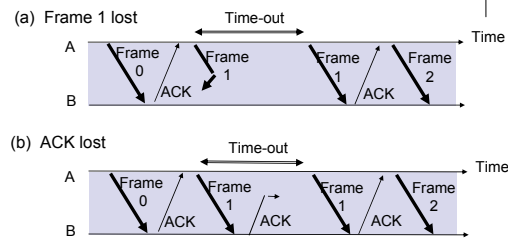
- **Purpose:** to ensure a sequence of information packets is delivered in order and without errors or duplications despite transmission errors & losses
- We will look at:
 - Stop-and-Wait ARQ
 - Go-Back N ARQ
 - Selective Repeat ARQ
- Basic elements of ARQ:
 - *Error-detecting code* with high error coverage
 - *ACKs* (positive acknowledgments)
 - *NAKs* (negative acknowledgments)
 - *Timeout mechanism*

Stop-and-Wait ARQ

Transmit a frame, wait for ACK

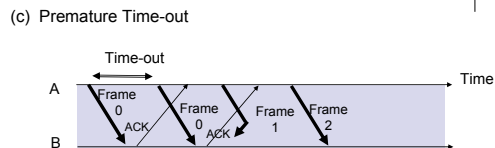


Need for Sequence Numbers



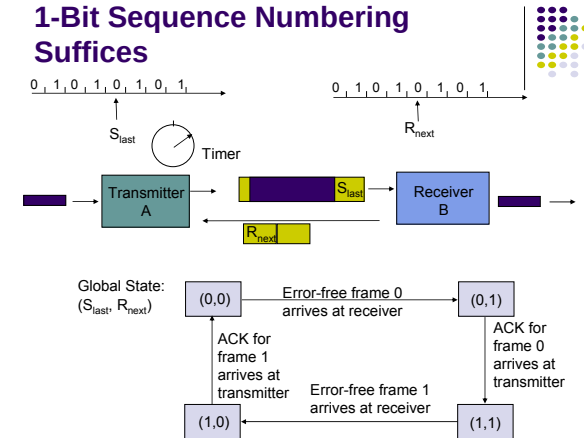
- In cases (a) & (b) the transmitting station A acts the same way
- But in case (b) the receiving station B accepts frame 1 twice
- Question: How is the receiver to know the second frame is also frame 1?
- Answer: **Add frame sequence number in header**
- S_{ias} is sequence number of most recent transmitted frame

Sequence Numbers



- The transmitting station A misinterprets duplicate ACKs
- Incorrectly assumes second ACK acknowledges Frame 1
- Question: How is the receiver to know second ACK is for frame 0?
- Answer: **Add frame sequence number in ACK header**
- r_{next} is sequence number of next frame expected by the receiver
- Implicitly acknowledges receipt of all prior frames

1-Bit Sequence Numbering Suffices



Stop-and-Wait ARQ

Transmitter

Ready state

- Await request from higher layer for packet transfer
- When request arrives, transmit frame with updated S_{last} and CRC
- Go to Wait State

Wait state

- Wait for ACK or timer to expire; block requests from higher layer
- If timeout expires
 - retransmit frame and reset timer
- If ACK received:
 - If sequence number is incorrect or if errors detected: ignore ACK
 - If sequence number is correct ($R_{next} = S_{last} + 1$): accept frame, go to Ready state

Receiver

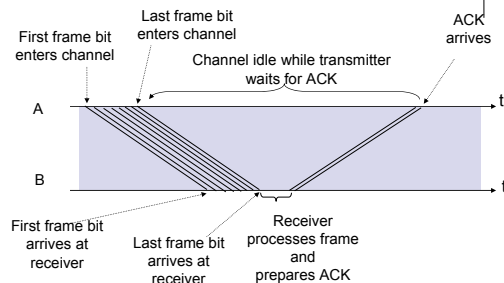
Always in Ready State

- Wait for arrival of new frame
- When frame arrives, check for errors
- If no errors detected and sequence number is correct ($S_{last} = R_{next}$), then
 - accept frame,
 - update R_{next} ,
 - send ACK frame with R_{next} ,
 - deliver packet to higher layer
- If no errors detected and wrong sequence number
 - discard frame
 - send ACK frame with R_{next}
- If errors detected
 - discard frame

Applications of Stop-and-Wait ARQ

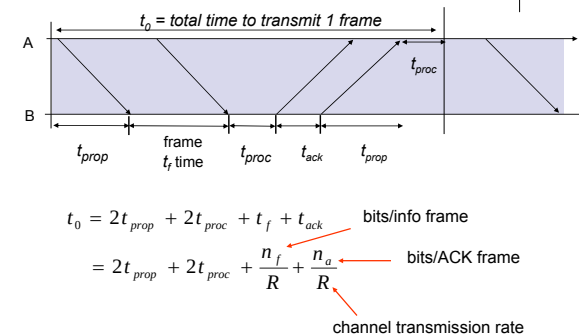
- IBM *Binary Synchronous Communications protocol* (Bisync): character-oriented data link control
- *Xmodem*: modem file transfer protocol
- *Trivial File Transfer Protocol* (RFC 1350): simple protocol for file transfer over UDP

Stop-and-Wait Efficiency



- 10000 bit frame @ 1 Mbps takes 10 ms to transmit
- If wait for ACK = 1 ms, then efficiency = 10/11 = 91%
- If wait for ACK = 20 ms, then efficiency = 10/30 = 33%

Stop-and-Wait Model



Efficiency on Error-free Channel

Effective transmission rate:

$$R_{eff}^0 = \frac{\text{number of information bits delivered to destination}}{\text{total time required to deliver the information bits}} = \frac{n_f - n_o}{t_0}$$

Transmission efficiency:

$$\eta_0 = \frac{R_{eff}^0}{R} = \frac{n_f - n_o}{t_0 R} = \frac{1 - \frac{n_o}{n_f}}{1 + \frac{n_a}{n_f} + \frac{2(t_{prop} + t_{proc})R}{n_f}}$$

Effect of frame overhead

Effect of ACK frame

Effect of Delay-Bandwidth Product

Example: Impact of Delay-Bandwidth Product



$n_f = 1250$ bytes = 10000 bits, $n_a = n_o = 25$ bytes = 200 bits

DelayxBW Efficiency	1 ms 200 km	10 ms 2000 km	100 ms 20000 km	1 sec 200000 km
1 Mbps	10^3 88%	10^4 49%	10^5 9%	10^6 1%
1 Gbps	10^6 1%	10^7 0.1%	10^8 0.01%	10^9 0.001%

Stop-and-Wait does not work well for very high speeds or long propagation delays

Efficiency in Channel with Errors



- Let $1 - P_f$ = probability frame arrives w/o errors
- Avg. # of transmissions to first correct arrival is then $1 / (1 - P_f)$
- "If 1-in-10 get through without error, then avg. 10 tries to success"
- Avg. Total Time per frame is then $t_o / (1 - P_f)$

$$\eta_{sw} = \frac{R_{eff}}{R} = \frac{\frac{n_f - n_o}{t_o / (1 - P_f)}}{R} = \frac{1 - \frac{n_o}{n_f}}{1 + \frac{n_o}{n_f} + \frac{2(t_{prop} + t_{proc})R}{n_f} (1 - P_f)}$$

Effect of frame loss

Example: Impact Bit Error Rate



$n_f = 1250$ bytes = 10000 bits, $n_a = n_o = 25$ bytes = 200 bits
Find efficiency for random bit errors with $p=0, 10^{-6}, 10^{-5}, 10^{-4}$

$$1 - P_f = (1 - p)^{n_f} \approx e^{-n_f p} \text{ for large } n_f \text{ and small } p$$

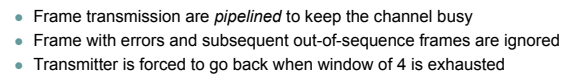
$1 - P_f$ Efficiency	0	10^{-6}	10^{-5}	10^{-4}
1 Mbps & 1 ms	1 88%	0.99 86.6%	0.905 79.2%	0.368 32.2%

Bit errors impact performance as $n_f p$ approach 1

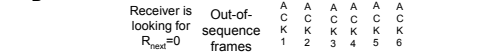
Go-Back-N



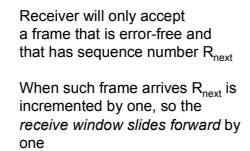
- Improve Stop-and-Wait by not waiting!
- Keep channel busy by continuing to send frames
- Allow a window of up to W_s outstanding frames
- Use m -bit sequence numbering
- If ACK for oldest frame arrives before window is exhausted, we can continue transmitting
- If window is exhausted, pull back and retransmit all outstanding frames
- Alternative: Use timeout



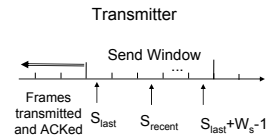
- Frame transmission are *pipelined* to keep the channel busy
- Frame with errors and subsequent out-of-sequence frames are ignored
- Transmitter is forced to go back when window of 4 is exhausted



- Problem with Go-Back-N as presented:
 - If frame is lost and source does not have frame to send, then window will not be exhausted and recovery will not commence
- Use a timeout with each frame
 - When timeout expires, resend all outstanding frames

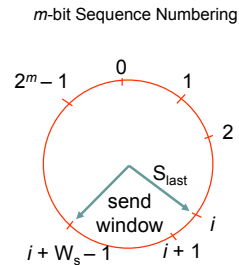


Sliding Window Operation

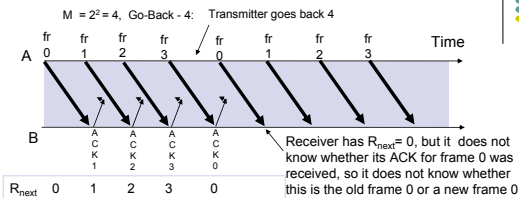
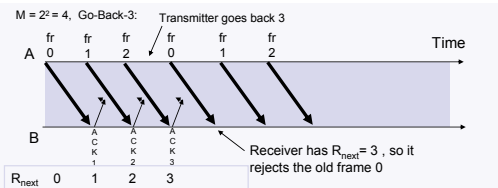


Transmitter waits for error-free ACK frame with sequence number S_{last}

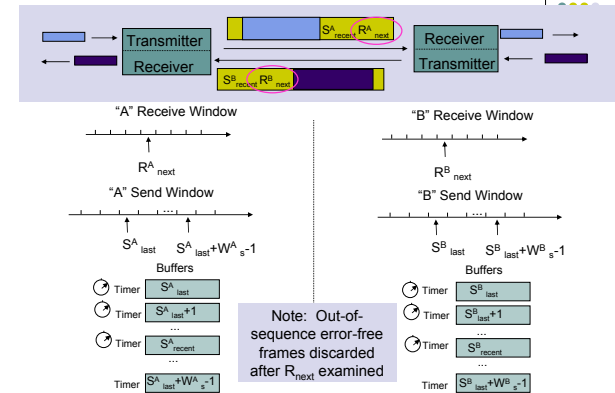
When such ACK frame arrives, S_{last} is incremented by one, and the *send window slides forward* by one



Maximum Allowable Window Size is $W_s = 2^m - 1$



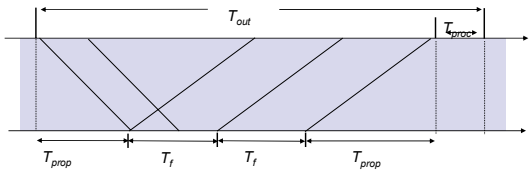
ACK Piggybacking in Bidirectional GBN



Applications of Go-Back-N ARQ

- **HDLC** (High-Level Data Link Control): bit-oriented data link control
- **V.42 modem**: error control over telephone modem links

Required Timeout & Window Size



- Timeout value should allow for:
 - Two propagation times + 1 processing time: $2 T_{prop} + T_{proc}$
 - A frame that begins transmission right before our frame arrives T_f
 - Next frame carries the ACK, T_f
- W_s should be large enough to keep channel busy for T_{out}

Required Window Size for Delay-Bandwidth Product

Frame = 1250 bytes = 10,000 bits, $R = 1$ Mbps		
$2(t_{prop} + t_{proc})$	$2 \times \text{Delay} \times \text{BW}$	Window
1 ms	1000 bits	1
10 ms	10,000 bits	2
100 ms	100,000 bits	11
1 second	1,000,000 bits	101

Efficiency of Go-Back-N

- GBN is completely efficient, if W_s large enough to keep channel busy, and if channel is error-free
- Assume P_f frame loss probability, then time to deliver a frame is:
 - t_f if first frame transmission succeeds ($1 - P_f$)
 - $T_f + W_s t_f / (1 - P_f)$ if the first transmission does not succeed P_f

$$t_{GBN} = t_f (1 - P_f) + P_f \left\{ t_f + \frac{W_s t_f}{1 - P_f} \right\} = t_f + P_f \frac{W_s t_f}{1 - P_f} \quad \text{and}$$

$$\eta_{GBN} = \frac{\frac{n_f - n_o}{R}}{\frac{t_{GBN}}{1 + (W_s - 1)P_f}} = \frac{1 - \frac{n_o}{n_f}}{1 + (W_s - 1)P_f} (1 - P_f)$$

Delay-bandwidth product determines W_s

Example: Impact Bit Error Rate on GBN

$n_f = 1250$ bytes = 10000 bits, $n_a = n_o = 25$ bytes = 200 bits

Compare S&W with GBN efficiency for random bit errors with $p = 0, 10^{-6}, 10^{-5}, 10^{-4}$ and $R = 1$ Mbps & 100 ms

1 Mbps x 100 ms = 100000 bits = 10 frames → Use $W_s = 11$

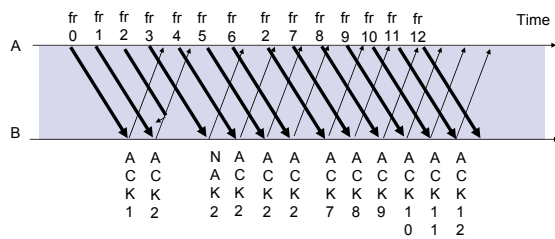
Efficiency	0	10^{-6}	10^{-5}	10^{-4}
S&W	8.9%	8.8%	8.0%	3.3%
GBN	98%	88.2%	45.4%	4.9%

- Go-Back-N significant improvement over Stop-and-Wait for large delay-bandwidth product
- Go-Back-N becomes inefficient as error rate increases

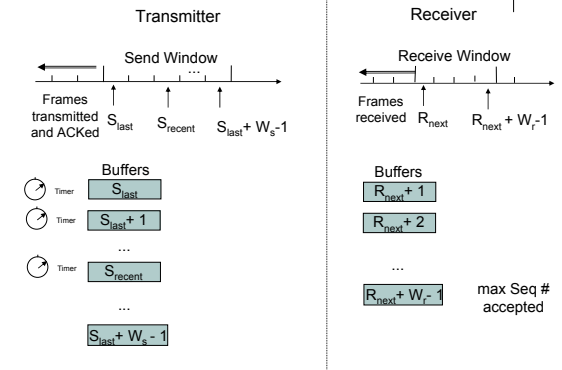
Selective Repeat ARQ

- Go-Back-N ARQ inefficient because *multiple* frames are resent when errors or losses occur
- Selective Repeat retransmits *only an individual frame*
 - Timeout causes individual corresponding frame to be resent
 - NAK causes retransmission of oldest un-acked frame
- Receiver maintains a *receive window* of sequence numbers that can be accepted
 - Error-free, but out-of-sequence frames with sequence numbers within the receive window are buffered
 - Arrival of frame with R_{next} causes window to slide forward by 1 or more

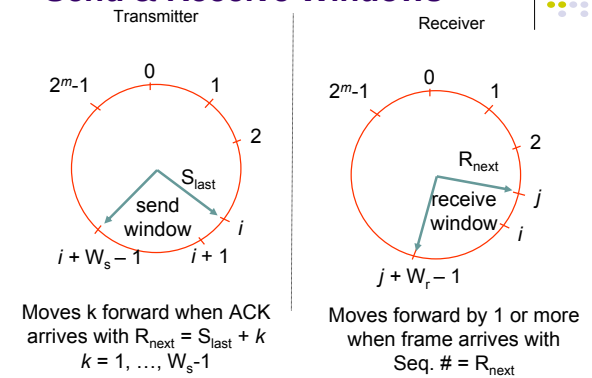
Selective Repeat ARQ



Selective Repeat ARQ

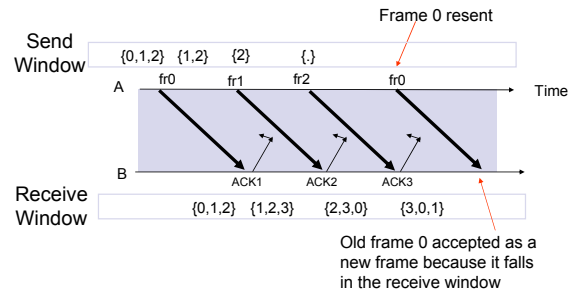


Send & Receive Windows



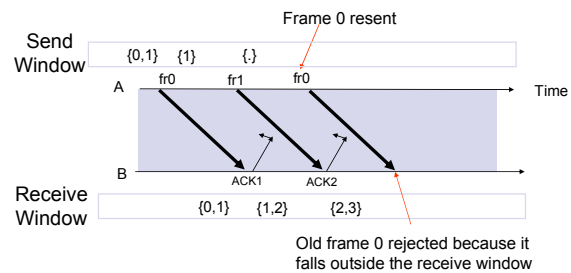
What size W_s and W_r allowed?

- Example: $M=2^2=4$, $W_s=3$, $W_r=3$



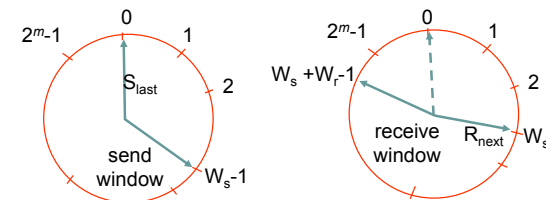
$W_s + W_r = 2^m$ is maximum allowed

- Example: $M=2^2=4$, $W_s=2$, $W_r=2$



Why $W_s + W_r = 2^m$ works

- Transmitter sends frames 0 to W_s-1 ; send window empty
- All arrive at receiver
- All ACKs lost
- Transmitter resends frame 0
- Receiver window starts at $\{0, \dots, W_r\}$
- Window slides forward to $\{W_s, \dots, W_s+W_r-1\}$
- Receiver rejects frame 0 because it is outside receive window



Applications of Selective Repeat ARQ

- TCP** (Transmission Control Protocol): transport layer protocol uses variation of selective repeat to provide reliable stream service
- Service Specific Connection Oriented Protocol**: error control for signaling messages in ATM networks

Efficiency of Selective Repeat

- Assume P_f frame loss probability, then number of transmissions required to deliver a frame is:
 - $t_{r/f} (1-P_f)$

$$\eta_{SR} = \frac{\frac{n_f - n_o}{t_{r/f} / (1 - P_f)}}{R} = (1 - \frac{n_o}{n_f})(1 - P_f)$$

Example: Impact Bit Error Rate on Selective Repeat

$n_f = 1250$ bytes = 10000 bits, $n_a = n_o = 25$ bytes = 200 bits
Compare S&W, GBN & SR efficiency for random bit errors
with $p = 0, 10^{-6}, 10^{-5}, 10^{-4}$ and $R = 1$ Mbps & 100 ms

Efficiency	0	10^{-6}	10^{-5}	10^{-4}
S&W	8.9%	8.8%	8.0%	3.3%
GBN	98%	88.2%	45.4%	4.9%
SR	98%	97%	89%	36%

- Selective Repeat outperforms GBN and S&W, but efficiency drops as error rate increases

Comparison of ARQ Efficiencies

Assume n_a and n_o are negligible relative to n_f and
 $L = 2(t_{prop} + t_{proc})R/n_f = (W_s - 1)$, then

Selective-Repeat:

$$\eta_{SR} = (1 - P_f)(1 - \frac{n_o}{n_f}) \approx (1 - P_f)$$

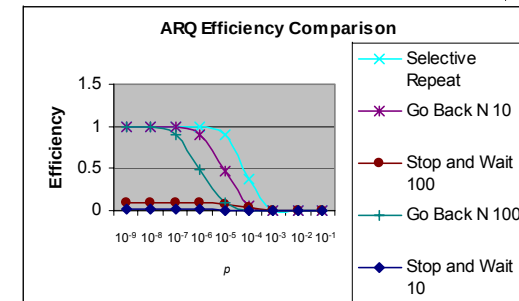
Go-Back-N: *For $P_f \approx 0$, SR & GBN same*

$$\eta_{GBN} = \frac{1 - P_f}{1 + (W_s - 1)P_f} = \frac{1 - P_f}{1 + LP_f}$$

Stop-and-Wait: *For $P_f \rightarrow 1$, GBN & SW same*

$$\eta_{SW} = \frac{(1 - P_f)}{1 + \frac{n_a}{n_f} + \frac{2(t_{prop} + t_{proc})R}{n_f}} \approx \frac{1 - P_f}{1 + L}$$

ARQ Efficiencies



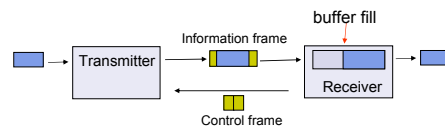
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Flow Control

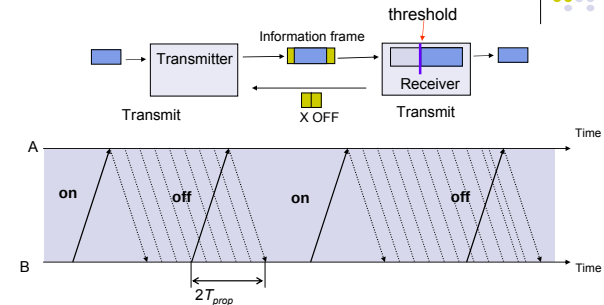


Flow Control



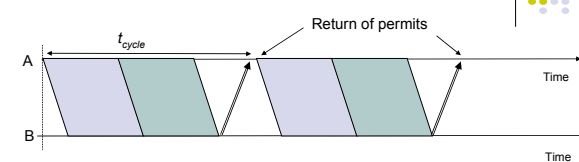
- Receiver has limited buffering to store arriving frames
- Several situations cause buffer overflow
 - Mismatch between sending rate & rate at which user can retrieve data
 - Surges in frame arrivals
- *Flow control* prevents buffer overflow by regulating rate at which source is allowed to send information

X ON / X OFF



Threshold must activate OFF signal while $2 T_{prop}$ R bits still remain in buffer

Window Flow Control



- Sliding Window ARQ method with W_s equal to buffer available
 - Transmitter can never send more than W_s frames
- ACKs that slide window forward can be viewed as permits to transmit more
- Can also pace ACKs as shown above
 - Return permits (ACKs) at end of cycle regulates transmission rate
- Problems using sliding window for both error & flow control
 - Choice of window size
 - Interplay between transmission rate & retransmissions
 - TCP separates error & flow control

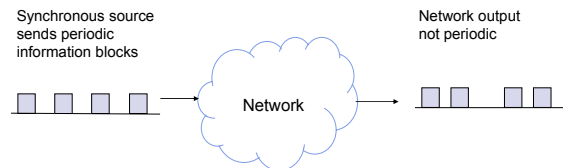
Lecture 5 Peer-to-Peer Protocols and Data Link Layer



Timing Recovery

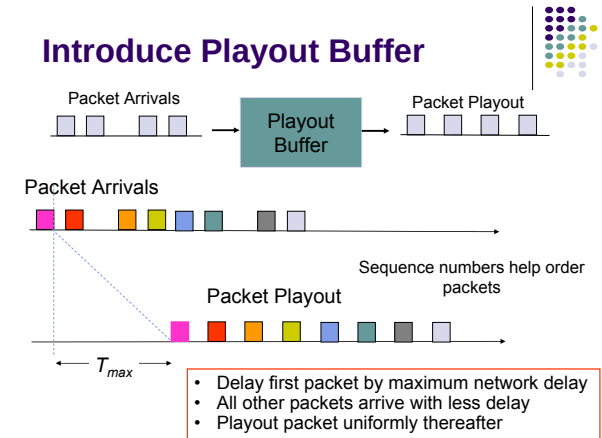


Timing Recovery for Synchronous Services

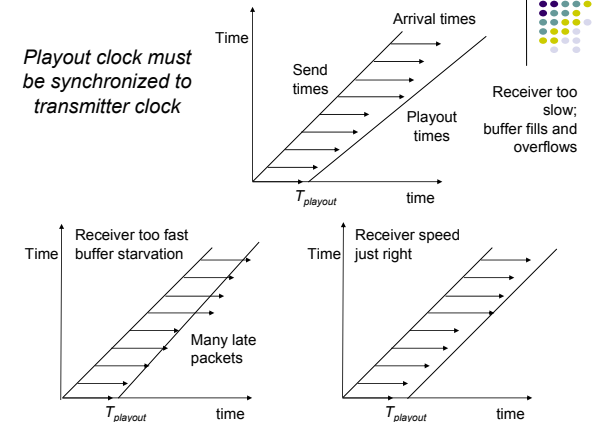


- Applications that involve voice, audio, or video can generate a synchronous information stream
- Information carried by equally-spaced fixed-length packets
- Network multiplexing & switching introduces random delays
 - Packets experience variable transfer delay
 - Jitter (variation in interpacket arrival times) also introduced
- Timing recovery re-establishes the synchronous nature of the stream

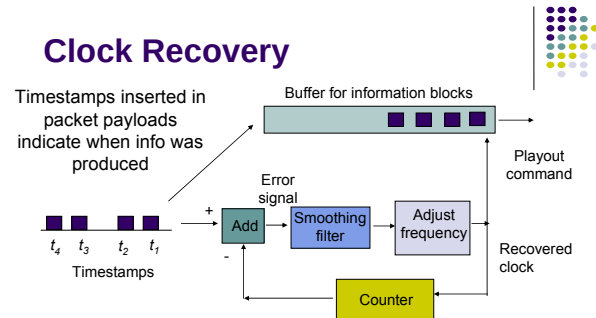
Introduce Payout Buffer



Playback clock must be synchronized to transmitter clock

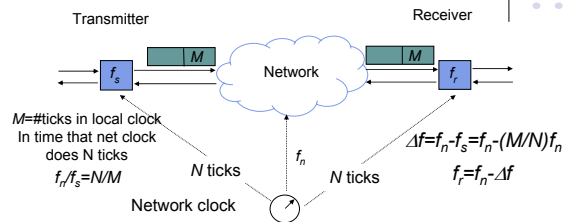


Clock Recovery



- Counter attempts to replicate transmitter clock
- Frequency of counter is adjusted according to arriving timestamps
- Jitter introduced by network causes fluctuations in buffer & in local clock

Synchronization to a Common Clock



- Clock recovery simple if a common clock is available to transmitter & receiver
 - E.g. SONET network clock; Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Transmitter sends Δf of its frequency & network frequency
- Receiver adjusts network frequency by Δf
- Packet delay jitter can be removed completely

Example: Real-Time Protocol

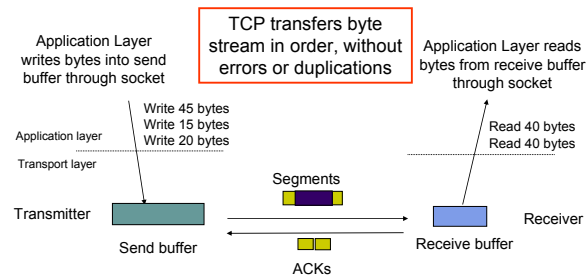
- RTP (RFC 1889) designed to support real-time applications such as voice, audio, video
- RTP provides means to carry:
 - Type of information source
 - Sequence numbers
 - Timestamps
- Actual timing recovery must be done by higher layer protocol
 - MPEG2 for video, MP3 for audio

Lecture 5

Peer-to-Peer Protocols and Data Link Layer

TCP Reliable Stream Service & Flow Control

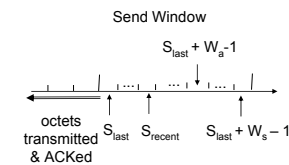
TCP Reliable Stream Service



TCP ARQ Method

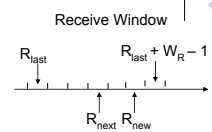
- TCP uses *Selective Repeat ARQ*
 - Transfers byte stream without preserving boundaries
- Operates over best effort service of IP
 - Packets can arrive with errors or be lost
 - Packets can arrive out-of-order
 - Packets can arrive after very long delays
 - Duplicate segments must be detected & discarded
 - Must protect against segments from previous connections
- Sequence Numbers
 - Seq. # is number of first byte in segment payload
 - Very long Seq. #s (32 bits) to deal with long delays
 - Initial sequence numbers negotiated during connection setup (to deal with very old duplicates)
 - Accept segments within a receive window

Transmitter



S_{last} oldest unacknowledged byte
 S_{recent} highest-numbered transmitted byte
 $S_{last} + W_s - 1$ highest-numbered byte that can be transmitted
 $S_{last} + W_s - 1$ highest-numbered byte that can be accepted from the application

Receiver

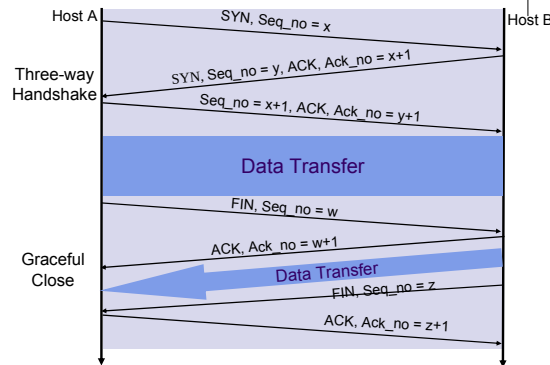


R_{last} highest-numbered byte not yet read by the application
 R_{next} next expected byte
 R_{new} highest-numbered byte received correctly
 $R_{last} + W_R - 1$ highest-numbered byte that can be accommodated in receive buffer

TCP Connections

- TCP Connection
 - One connection each way
 - Identified uniquely by Send IP Address, Send TCP Port #, Receive IP Address, Receive TCP Port #
- Connection Setup with Three-Way Handshake
 - Three-way exchange to negotiate initial Seq. #'s for connections in each direction
- Data Transfer
 - Exchange segments carrying data
- Graceful Close
 - Close each direction separately

Three Phases of TCP Connection



1st Handshake: Client-Server Connection Request

Wireshark packet capture showing the first handshake (Client to Server):

- Initial Seq. # from client to server:** 187733156 (highlighted in the packet details pane).
- SYN bit set indicates request to establish connection from client to server:** The SYN flag is set (highlighted in the packet details pane).

2nd Handshake: ACK from Server

Wireshark packet capture showing the second handshake (Server to Client):

- ACK Seq. # = Init. Seq. # + 1:** 187733157 (highlighted in the packet details pane).
- ACK bit set acknowledges connection request; Client-to-Server connection established:** The ACK flag is set (highlighted in the packet details pane).

2nd Handshake: Server-Client Connection Request

Wireshark packet capture showing the second handshake (Server to Client):

- Initial Seq. # from server to client:** 187733156 (highlighted in the packet details pane).
- SYN bit set indicates request to establish connection from server to client:** The SYN flag is set (highlighted in the packet details pane).

3rd Handshake: ACK from Client

ACK Seq. # = Init. Seq. # + 1

ACK bit set acknowledges connection request; Connections in both directions established

TCP Data Exchange

- Application Layers write bytes into buffers
- TCP sender forms segments
 - When bytes exceed threshold or timer expires
 - Upon PUSH command from applications
 - Consecutive bytes from buffer inserted in payload
 - Sequence # & ACK # inserted in header
 - Checksum calculated and included in header
- TCP receiver
 - Performs selective repeat ARQ functions
 - Writes error-free, in-sequence bytes to receive buffer

Data Transfer: Server-to-Client Segment

12 bytes of payload

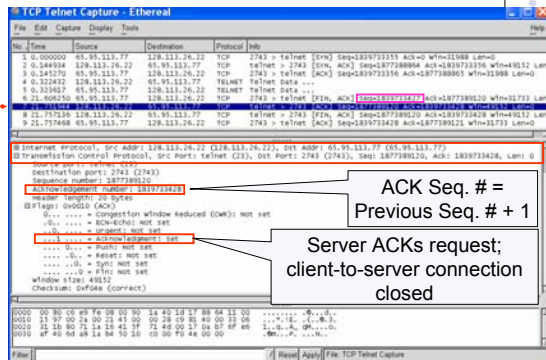
Push set

12 bytes of payload carries telnet option negotiation

Graceful Close: Client-to-Server Connection

Client initiates closing of its connection to server

Graceful Close: Client-to-Server Connection



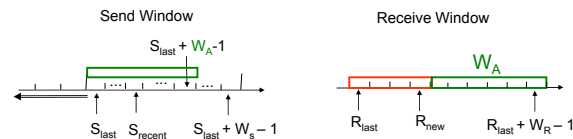
Flow Control

- TCP receiver controls rate at which sender transmits to prevent buffer overflow
- TCP receiver advertises a window size specifying number of bytes that can be accommodated by receiver

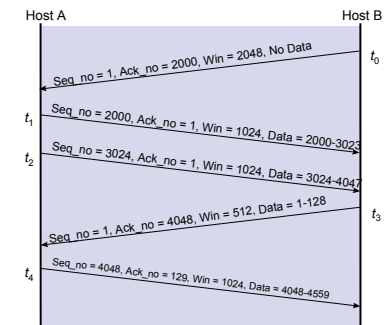
$$W_A = W_R - (R_{\text{new}} - R_{\text{last}})$$

- TCP sender obliged to keep # outstanding bytes below W_A

$$(S_{\text{recent}} - S_{\text{last}}) \leq W_A$$



TCP window flow control



TCP Retransmission Timeout

- TCP retransmits a segment after timeout period
 - Timeout too short: excessive number of retransmissions
 - Timeout too long: recovery too slow
 - Timeout depends on RTT: time from when segment is sent to when ACK is received
- Round trip time (RTT) in Internet is highly variable
 - Routes vary and can change in mid-connection
 - Traffic fluctuates
- TCP uses adaptive estimation of RTT
 - Measure RTT each time ACK received: τ_n

$$t_{RTT}(\text{new}) = \alpha t_{RTT}(\text{old}) + (1 - \alpha) \tau_n$$

- $\alpha = 7/8$ typical

RTT Variability



- Estimate variance σ^2 of RTT variation
- Estimate for timeout:

$$t_{out} = t_{RTT} + k \sigma_{RTT}$$

- If RTT highly variable, timeout increase accordingly
- If RTT nearly constant, timeout close to RTT estimate

- Approximate estimation of deviation

$$d_{RTT}(new) = \beta d_{RTT}(old) + (1-\beta) | \tau_n - t_{RTT} |$$

$$t_{out} = t_{RTT} + 4 d_{RTT}$$