Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)

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Outline

- Introduction to TCP
- Sequence numbers and acknowledgment numbers
- Timeouts and RTT estimation
- Reliable data transfer in TCP
- Connection management

Transmission Control Protocol

- The Internet's primary transport protocol
 - defined in RFC 793, RFC 1122, RFC 1323, RFC 2018, and RFC 2581

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- defined in RFC 793, RFC 1122, RFC 1323, RFC 2018, and RFC 2581
- Connection-oriented service
 - endpoints "shake hands" to establish a connection
 - not a circuit-switched connection, nor a virtual circuit
- Full-duplex service
 - both endpoints can both send and receive, at the same time

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TCP segment: envelope for TCP data

- TCP data are sent within TCP segments
- TCP segments are usually sent within an IP packet

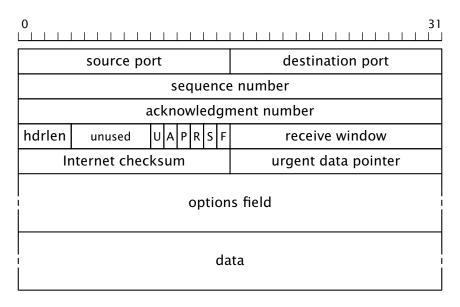
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- TCP segments are usually sent within an IP packet
- Maximum segment size (MSS): maximum amount of application data transmitted in a single segment
 - typically related to the MTU of the connection, to avoid network-level fragmentation (we'll talk about all of this later)
- Maximum transmission unit (MTU): largest link-layer frame available to the sender host
 - path MTU: largest link-layer frame that can be sent on all links from the sender host to the receiver host

TCP Segment Format



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- Optional and variable-length options field: may be used to negotiate protocol parameters

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- Checksum: (16-bit) used to detect transmission errors

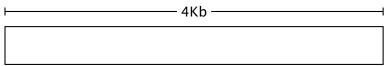
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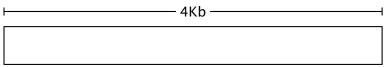
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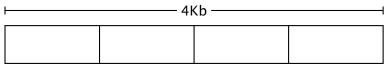
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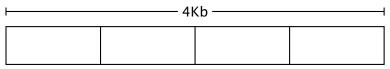
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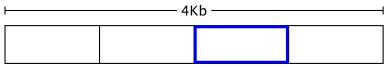


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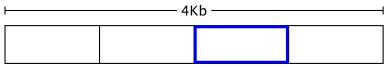
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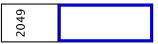
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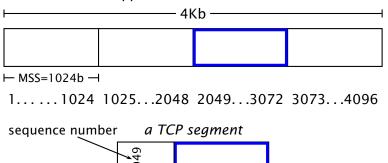
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Acknowledgment Numbers

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Acknowledgment Numbers

An acknowledgment number represents the first sequence number not yet seen by the receiver

TCP acknowledgments are cumulative

An acknowledgment number represents the first sequence number not yet seen by the receiver



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A B
$$[Seq\# = 1200, ...], size(data) = 1000$$

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 $[Seq\# = 2200,...], size(data) = 500$

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A B

$$[Seq\# = 1200, ...], size(data) = 1000$$

 $[Seq\# = 2200, ...], size(data) = 500$
 $[Seq\# = ..., Ack\# = 2700]$

- therefore, there are two streams
- two different sequence numbers

Notice that a TCP connection is a *full-duplex* link

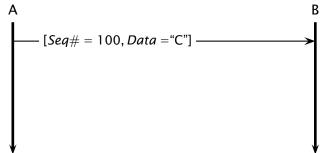
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Α

E.g., consider a simple "Echo" application:

R

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$$[Seq\# = 100, Data = "C"]$$
 \longrightarrow
 $[Ack\# = 101, Seq\# = 200, Data = "C"]$

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$$[Seq\# = 100, Data = "C"]$$

 $[Ack\# = 101, Seq\# = 200, Data = "C"]$
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$$[Seq\# = 201, Ack\# = 102, Data = "i"] \longrightarrow$$

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Acknowledgments are "piggybacked" on data segments

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- How long to wait for acknowledgments?
- Retransmission timeouts should be larger than the round-trip time RTT = 2L
 - as close as possible to the RTT
- TCP controls its timeout by continuously estimating the current RTT

RTT is measured using ACKs

- only for packets transmitted once
- Given a single sample S at any given time
- Exponential weighted moving average (EWMA)

$$\overline{RTT} = (1 - \alpha)\overline{RTT}' + \alpha S$$

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$$\overline{DevRTT} = (1 - \beta)\overline{DevRTT}' + \beta |\overline{RTT}' - S$$

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$$\beta = 0.25$$

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The timeout interval *T* must be larger than the RTT

- so as to avoid unnecessary retransmission
- However, *T* should not be too far from RTT
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- so as to avoid unnecessary retransmission
- However, *T* should not be too far from RTT
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- TCP sets its timeouts using the estimated RTT (RTT) and the variability estimate DevRTT:

$$T = \overline{RTT} + 4\overline{DevRTT}$$

Reliable Data Transfer (Sender)

A simplified TCP sender

r_send(data)
if (timer not running)
start_timer()
u_send([data,next_seq_num])
next_seq_num ← next_seq_num + length(data)

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u_recv([ACK,y])

if (y > base)
 base ← y
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else

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- Arrival of segment that (partially or completely) fills a gap in the received data
 - Immediate ACK: immediately send ACK if the packet start at the lower end of the gap

Reaction to ACKs (Sender)

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Reaction to ACKs (Sender)

u_recv([ACK, y])
if (y > base)
base ← y
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start_timer()

Reaction to ACKs (Sender)

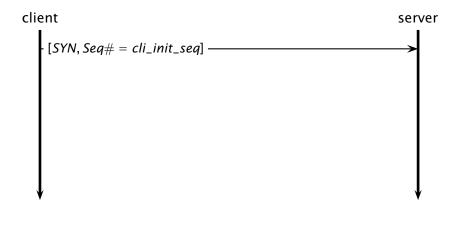
u_recv([ACK,y])
if (y > base)
base ← y
if (there are pending segments)
start_timer()
else
ack_counter[y] ← ack_counter[y] + 1
if (ack_counter[y] = 3)

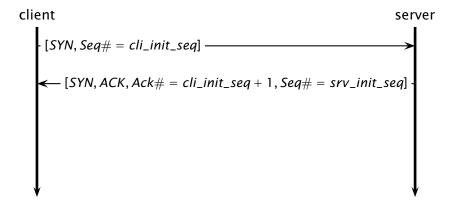
u_send(segment with sequence number y)

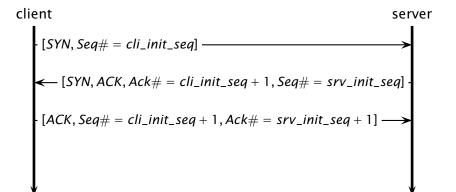
Three-way handshake



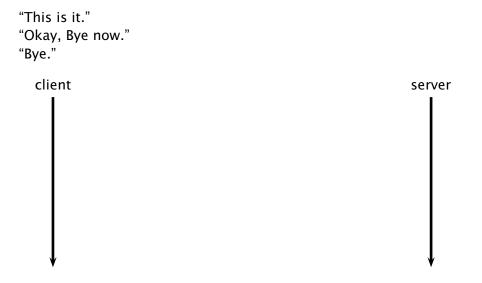
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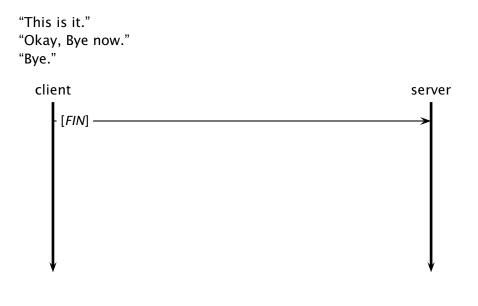


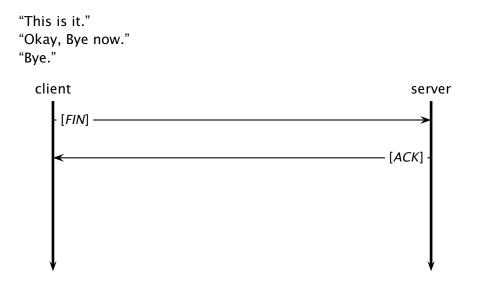


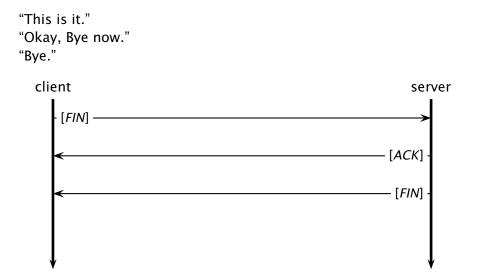
"This is it." "Okay, Bye now." "Bye."

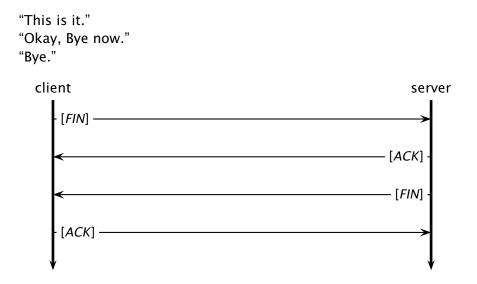


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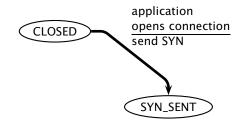




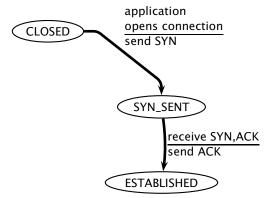




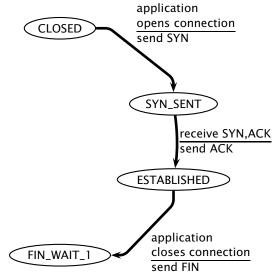
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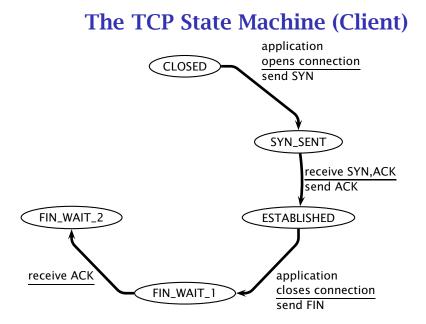


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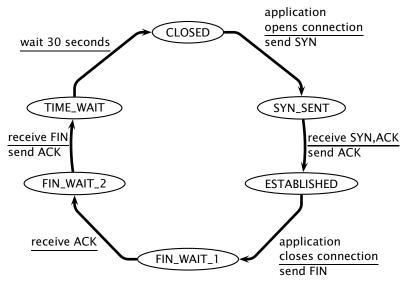


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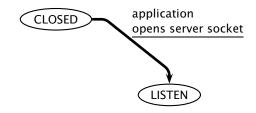


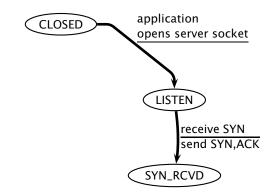
The TCP State Machine (Client) application opens connection CLOSED send SYN TIME_WAIT SYN_SENT receive FIN receive SYN,ACK send ACK send ACK FIN_WAIT_2 **ESTABLISHED** application receive ACK closes connection FIN_WAIT_1 send FIN





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