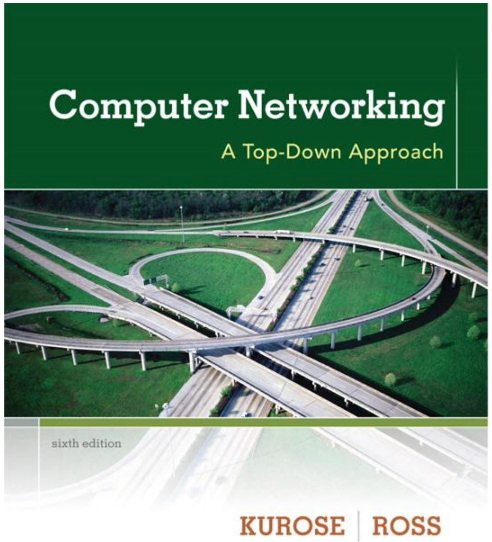
Chapter 3
Transport Layer



Computer Networking: A Top Down Approach
6th edition
Jim Kurose, Keith Ross
Addison-Wesley
March 2012

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Chapter 3: Transport Layer

our goals:

- understand principles behind transport layer services:
  - multiplexing, demultiplexing
  - reliable data transfer
  - flow control
  - congestion control
- learn about Internet transport layer protocols:
  - UDP: connectionless transport
  - TCP: connection-oriented reliable transport
  - TCP congestion control

Chapter 3 outline

3.1 transport-layer services

3.2 multiplexing and demultiplexing

3.3 connectionless transport: UDP

3.4 principles of reliable data transfer

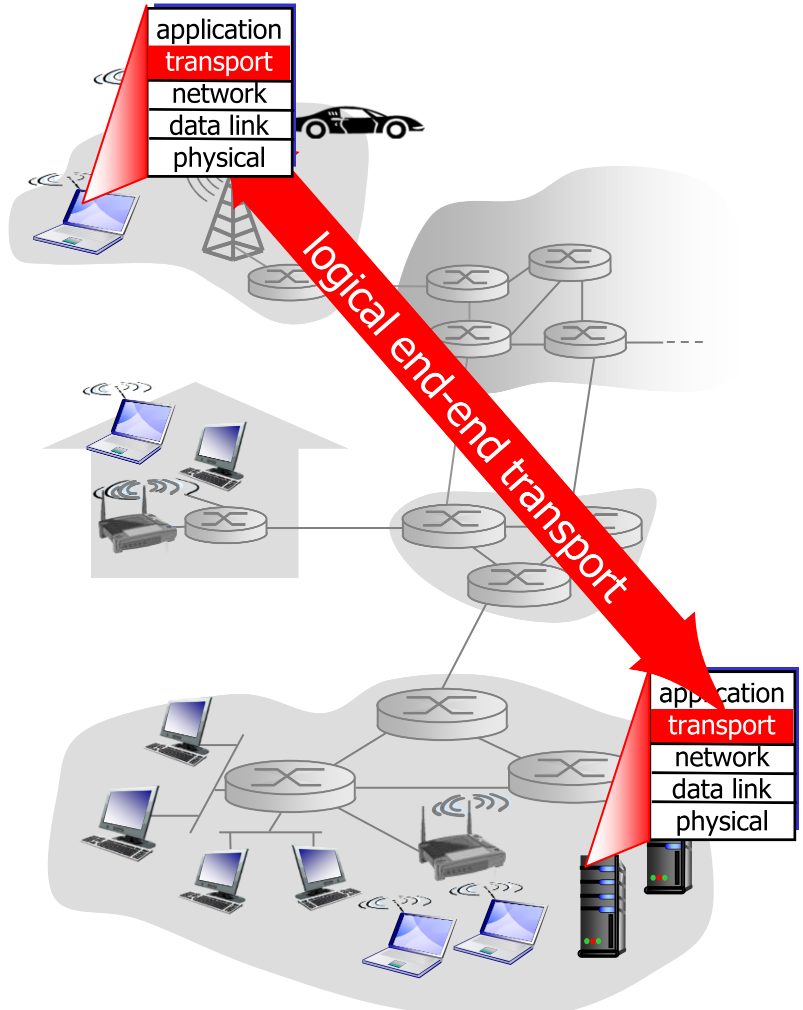
3.5 connection-oriented transport: TCP
- segment structure
- reliable data transfer
- flow control
- connection management

3.6 principles of congestion control

3.7 TCP congestion control

Transport services and protocols

- provide *logical communication* between app processes running on different hosts
- transport protocols run in end systems
  - send side: breaks app messages into *segments*, passes to network layer
  - rcv side: reassembles segments into messages, passes to app layer
- more than one transport protocol available to apps
  - Internet: TCP and UDP



Transport vs. network layer

- *network layer:* logical communication between hosts
- *transport layer:* logical communication between processes
  - relies on, enhances, network layer services

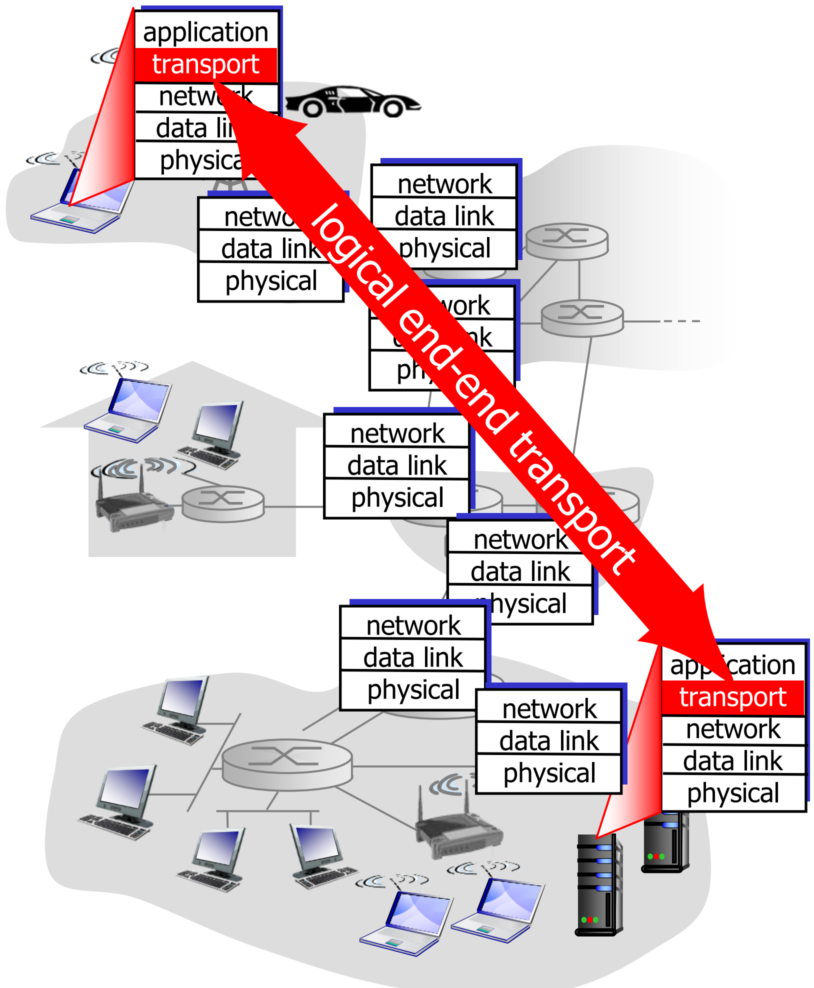
household analogy:

12 kids in Ann's house sending letters to 12 kids in Bill's house:

- hosts = houses
- processes = kids
- app messages = letters in envelopes
- transport protocol = Ann and Bill who demux to in-house siblings
- network-layer protocol = postal service

Internet transport-layer protocols

- reliable, in-order delivery (TCP)
  - congestion control
  - flow control
  - connection setup
- unreliable, unordered delivery: UDP
  - no-frills extension of "best-effort" IP
- services not available:
  - delay guarantees
  - bandwidth guarantees



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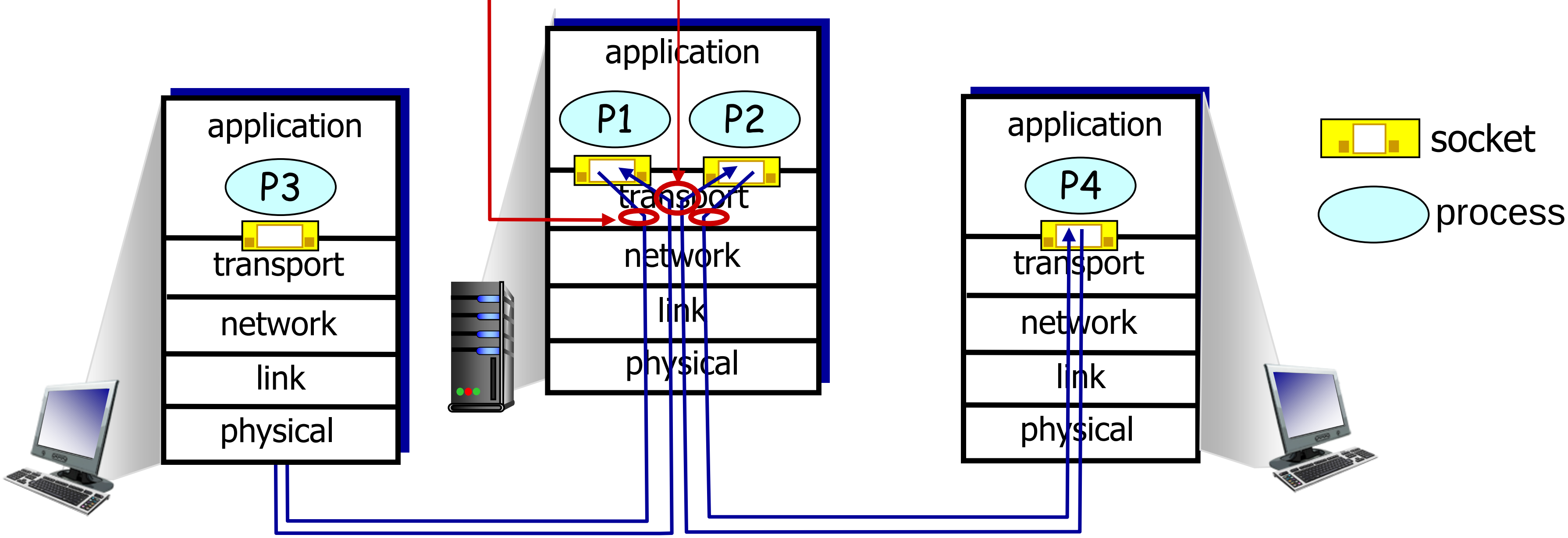
Multiplexing/demultiplexing

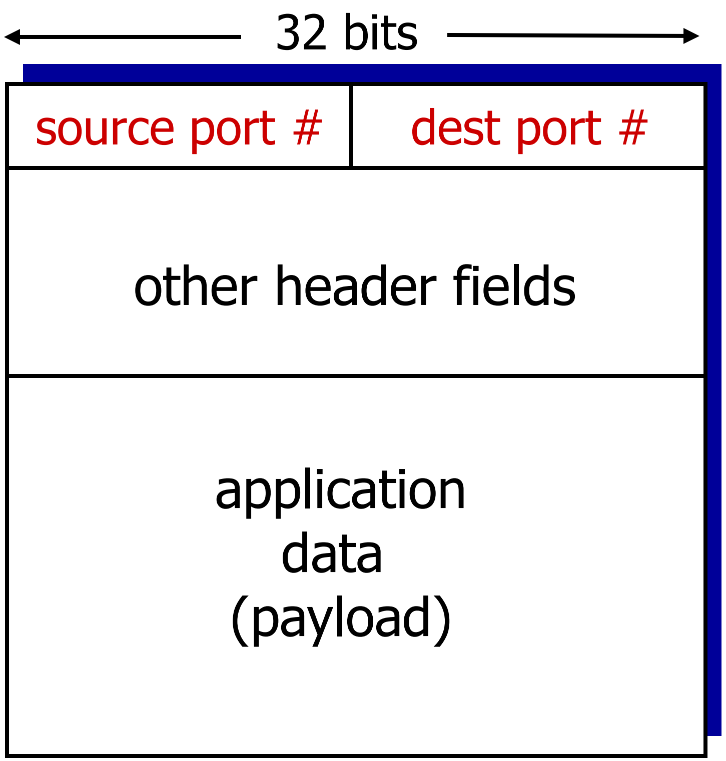
multiplexing at sender:
handle data from multiple sockets, add transport header (later used for demultiplexing)

demultiplexing at receiver:
use header info to deliver received segments to correct socket



How demultiplexing works

- host receives IP datagrams
  - each datagram has source IP address, destination IP address
  - each datagram carries one transport-layer segment
  - each segment has source, destination port number
- host uses *IP addresses & port numbers* to direct segment to appropriate socket



TCP/UDP segment format

Connectionless demultiplexing

- *recall:* created socket has host-local port #:

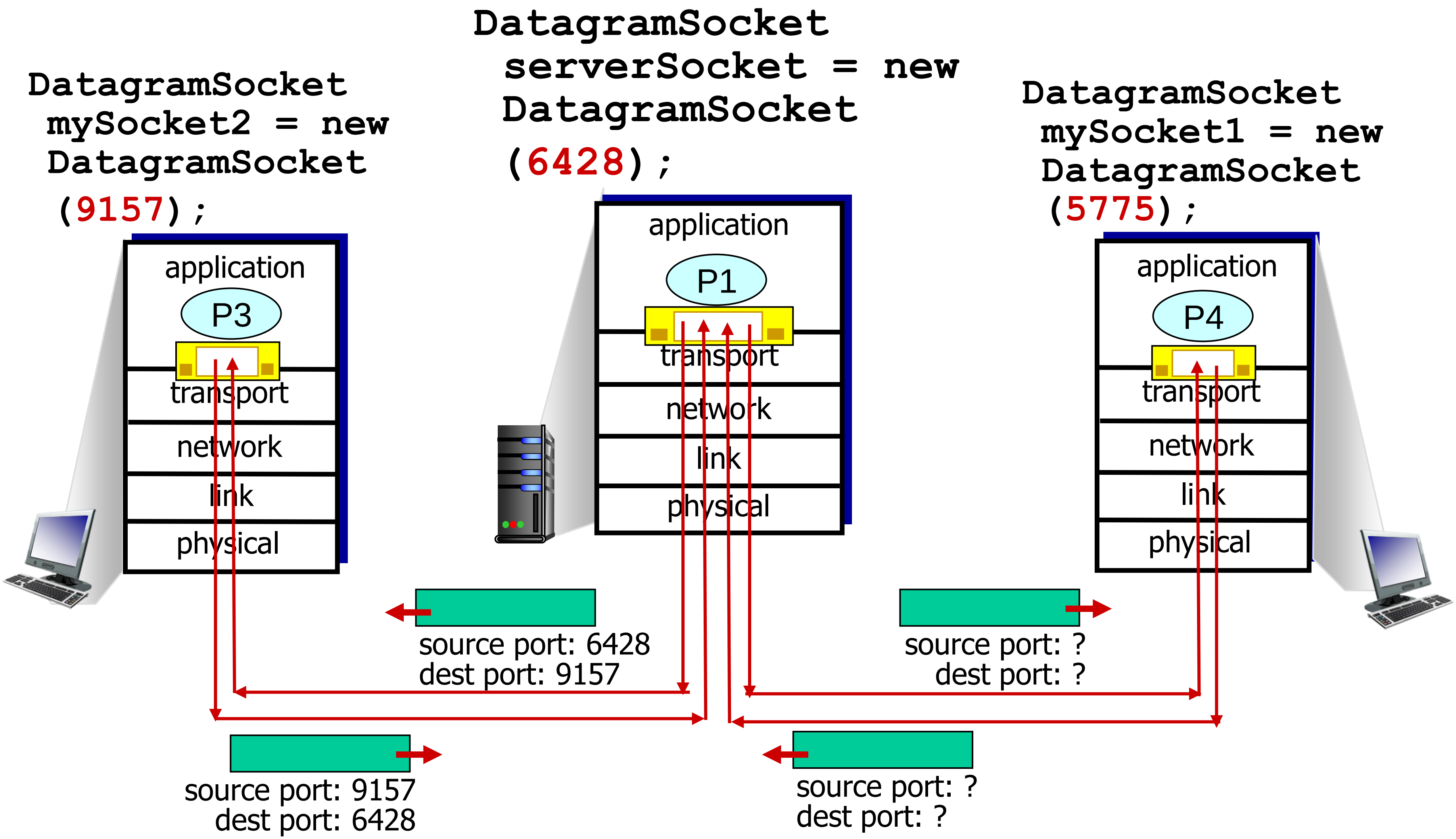
```
DatagramSocket mySocket1
= new DatagramSocket(12534);
```

- *recall:* when creating datagram to send into UDP socket, must specify
  - destination IP address
  - destination port #

- when host receives UDP segment:
  - checks destination port # in segment
  - directs UDP segment to socket with that port #

IP datagrams with *same dest. port #,* but different source IP addresses and/or source port numbers will be directed to *same socket* at dest

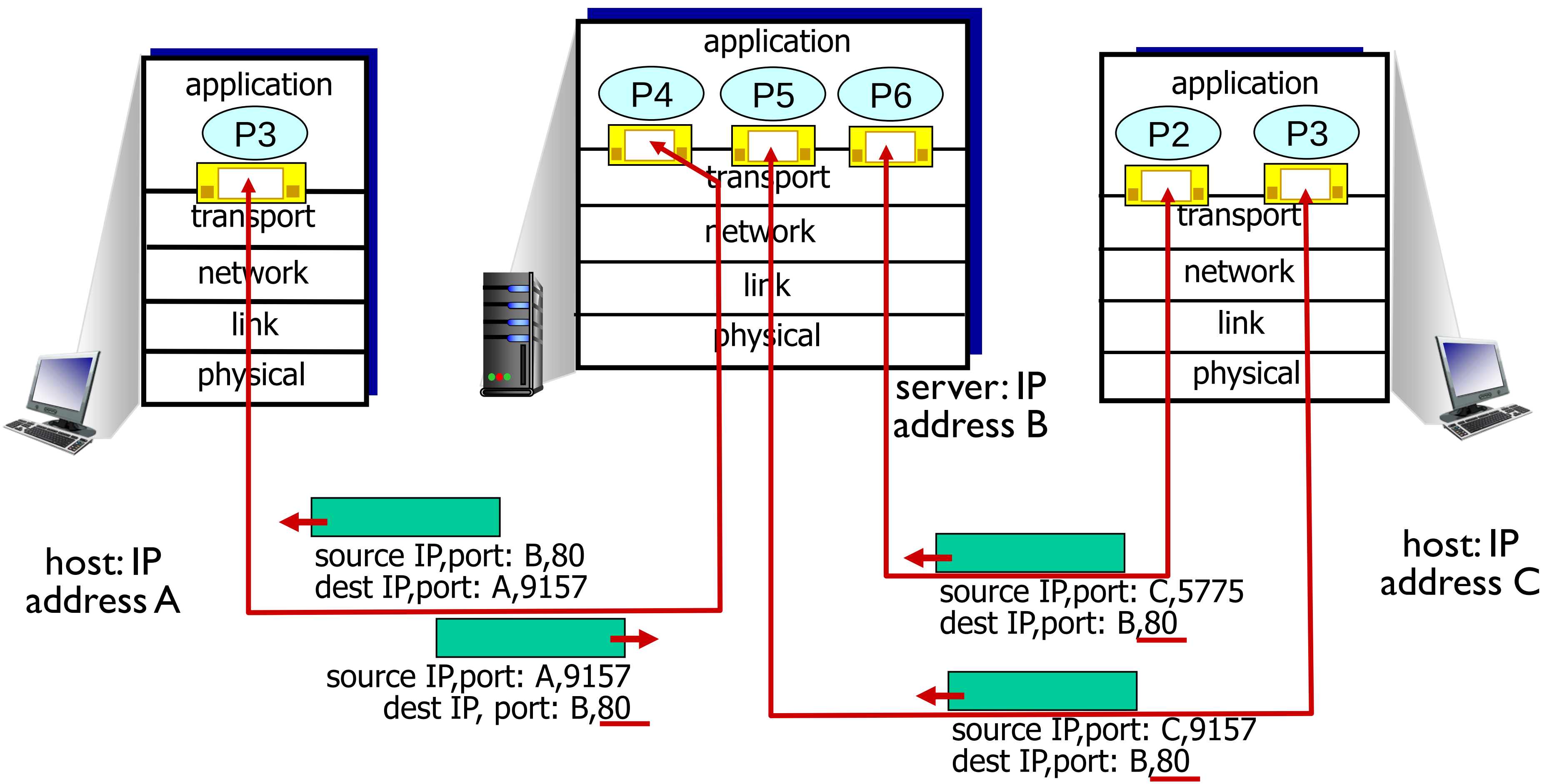
Connectionless demux: example



Connection-oriented demux

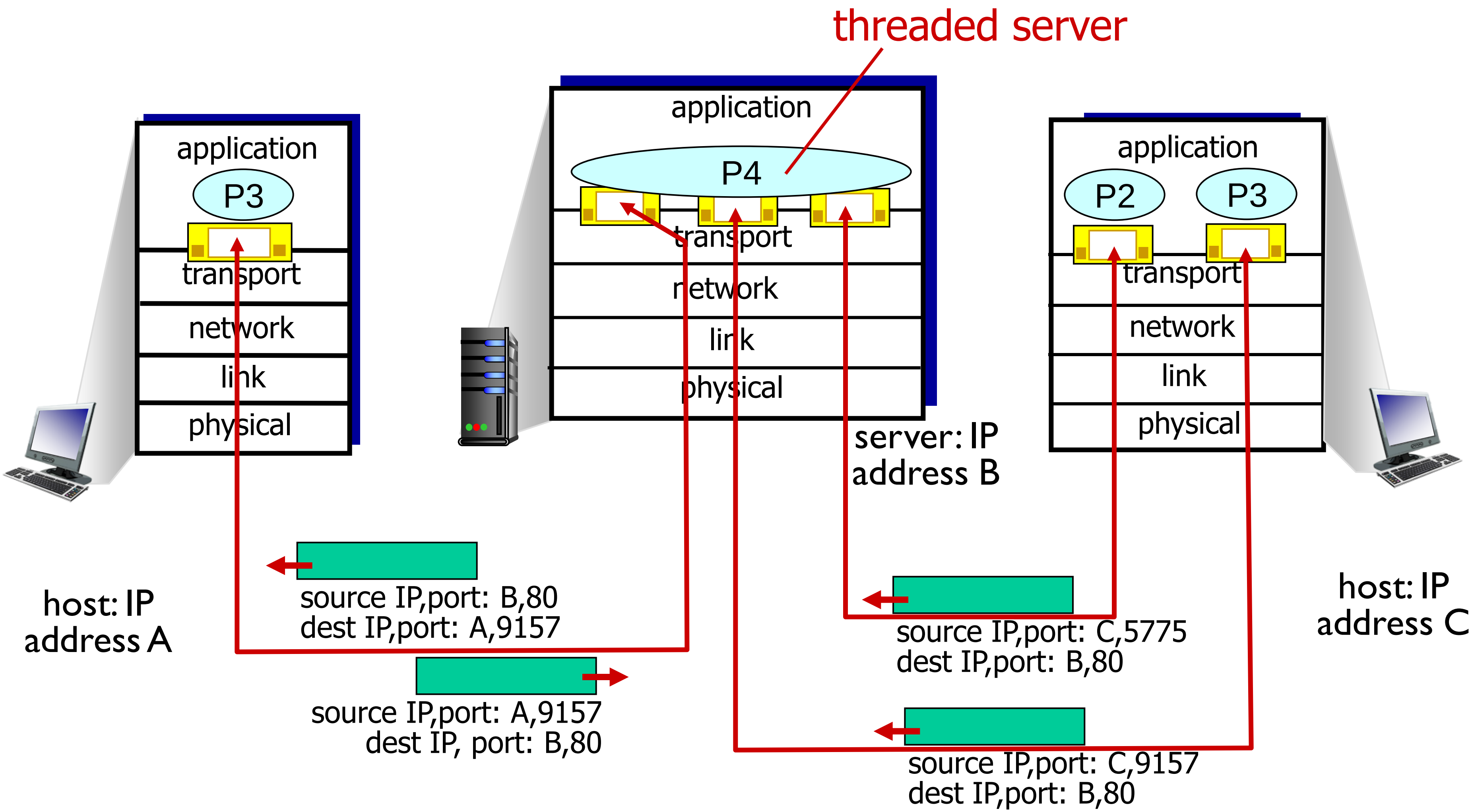
- TCP socket identified by 4-tuple:
  - source IP address
  - source port number
  - dest IP address
  - dest port number
- demux: receiver uses all four values to direct segment to appropriate socket
- server host may support many simultaneous TCP sockets:
  - each socket identified by its own 4-tuple
- web servers have different sockets for each connecting client
  - non-persistent HTTP will have different socket for each request

Connection-oriented demux: example



three segments, all destined to IP address: B,
dest port: 80 are demultiplexed to *different* sockets

Connection-oriented demux: example



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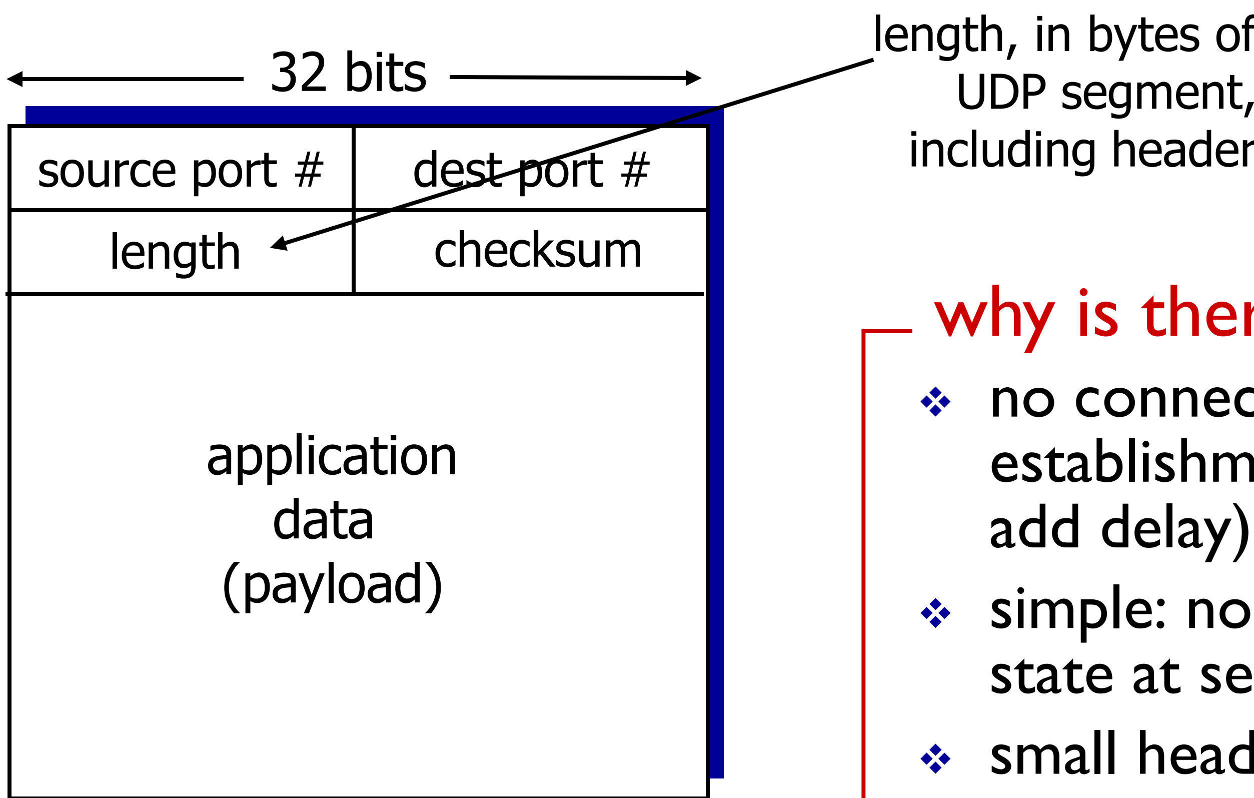
UDP: User Datagram Protocol [RFC 768]

- "no frills," "bare bones" Internet transport protocol
- "best effort" service, UDP segments may be:
  - lost
  - delivered out-of-order to app
- *connectionless:*
  - no handshaking between UDP sender, receiver
  - each UDP segment handled independently of others

- UDP use:
  - streaming multimedia apps (loss tolerant, rate sensitive)
  - DNS
  - SNMP
- reliable transfer over UDP:
  - add reliability at application layer
  - application-specific error recovery!

UDP: segment header



UDP segment format

why is there a UDP?

- no connection establishment (which can add delay)
- simple: no connection state at sender, receiver
- small header size
- no congestion control: UDP can blast away as fast as desired

UDP checksum

Goal: detect "errors" (e.g., flipped bits) in transmitted segment

sender:

- treat segment contents, including header fields, as sequence of 16-bit integers
- checksum: addition (one's complement sum) of segment contents
- sender puts checksum value into UDP checksum field

receiver:

- compute checksum of received segment
- check if computed checksum equals checksum field value:
  - NO - error detected
  - YES - no error detected. *But maybe errors nonetheless?* More later ….

Internet checksum: example

example: add two 16-bit integers

		1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
		1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
wraparound	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
sum		1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
checksum		0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1

Note: when adding numbers, a carryout from the most significant bit needs to be added to the result

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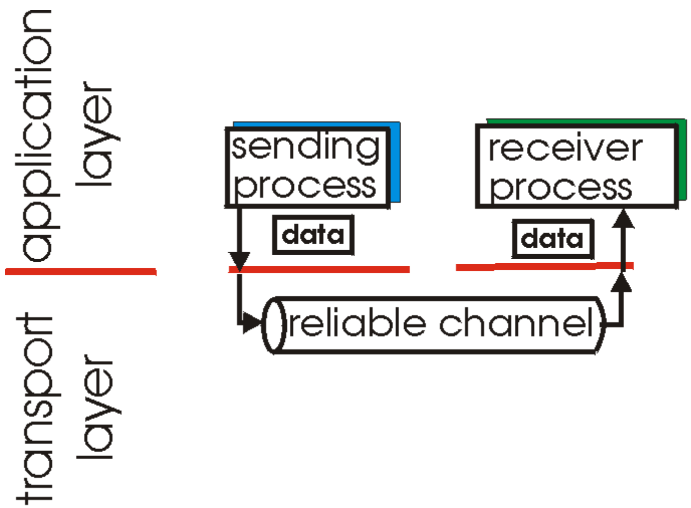
Principles of reliable data transfer

- important in application, transport, link layers
  - top-10 list of important networking topics!



(a) provided service

- characteristics of unreliable channel will determine complexity of reliable data transfer protocol (rdt)

Principles of reliable data transfer

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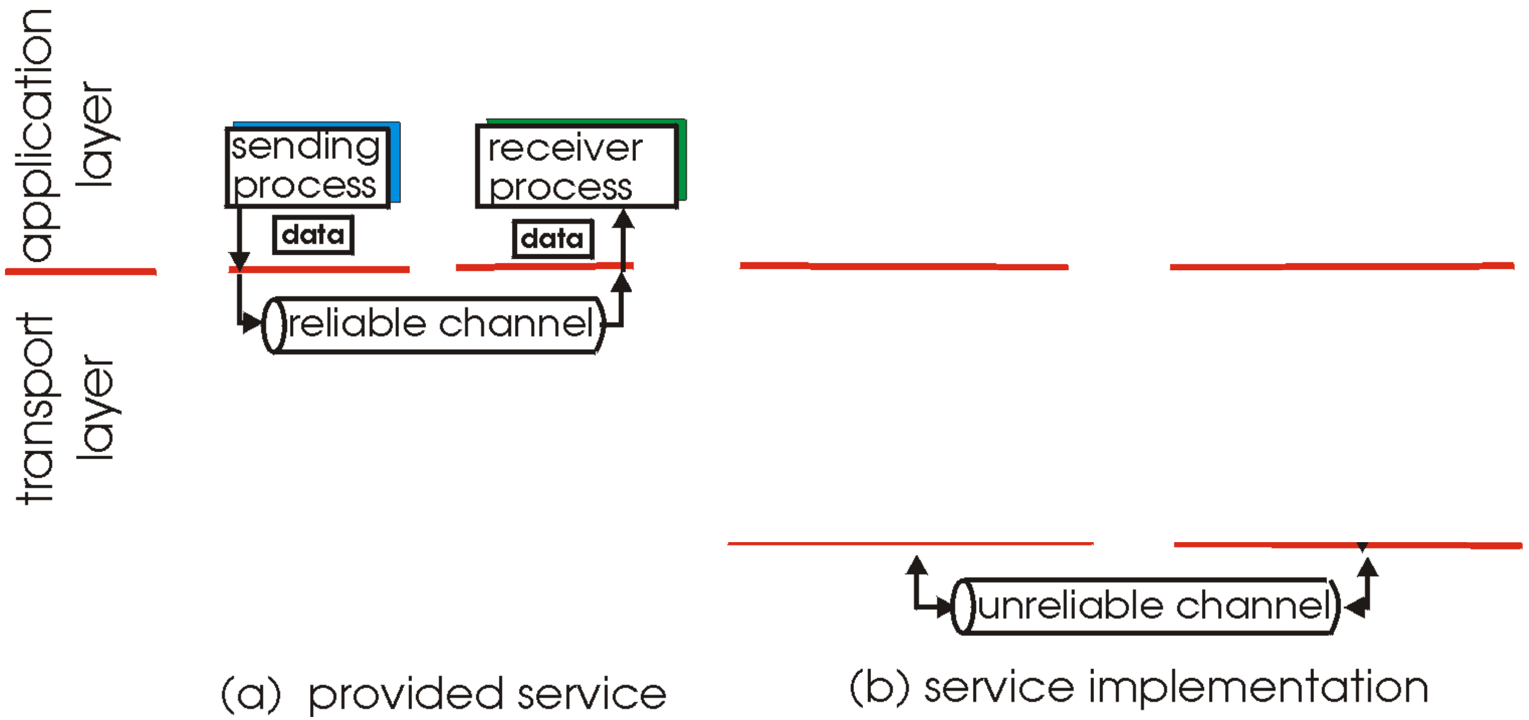
  - top-10 list of important networking topics!



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Principles of reliable data transfer

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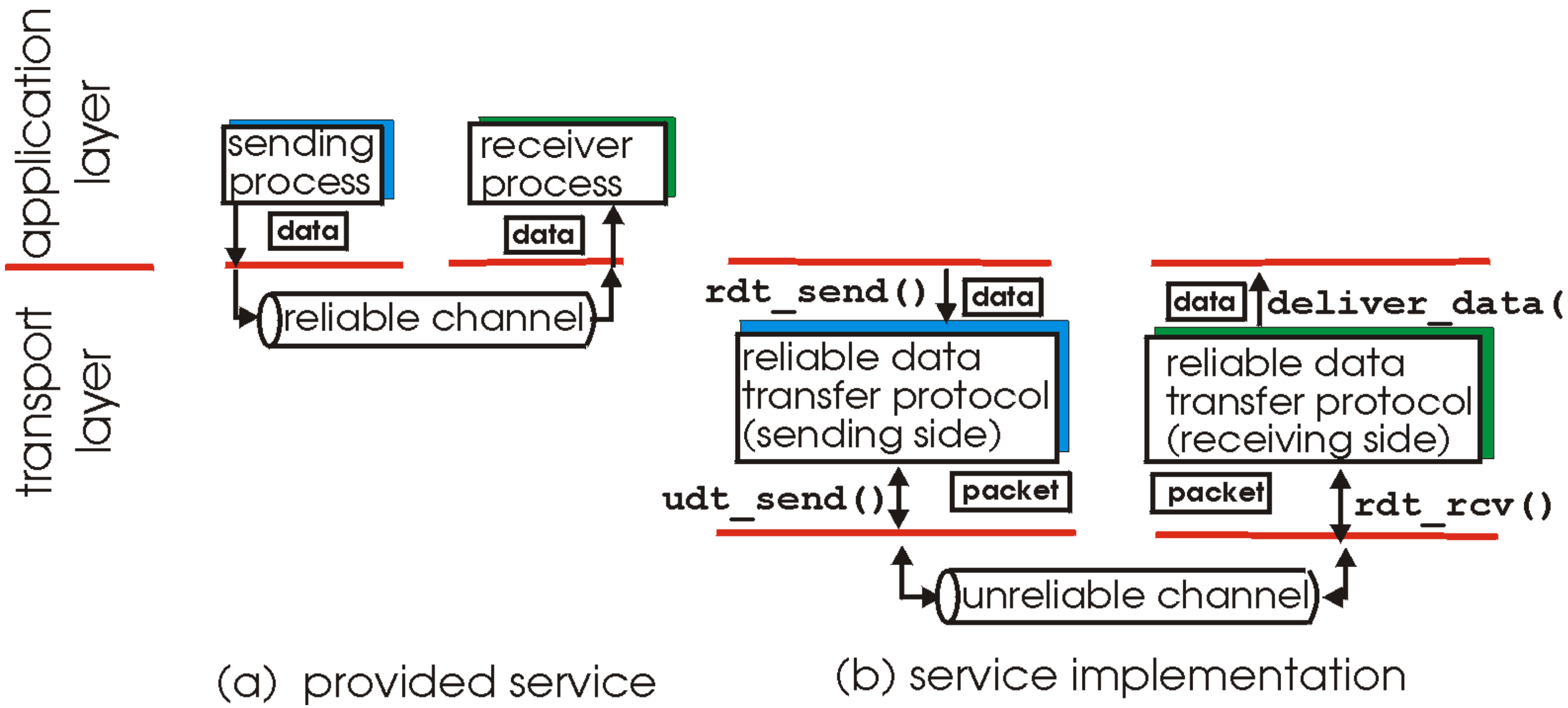
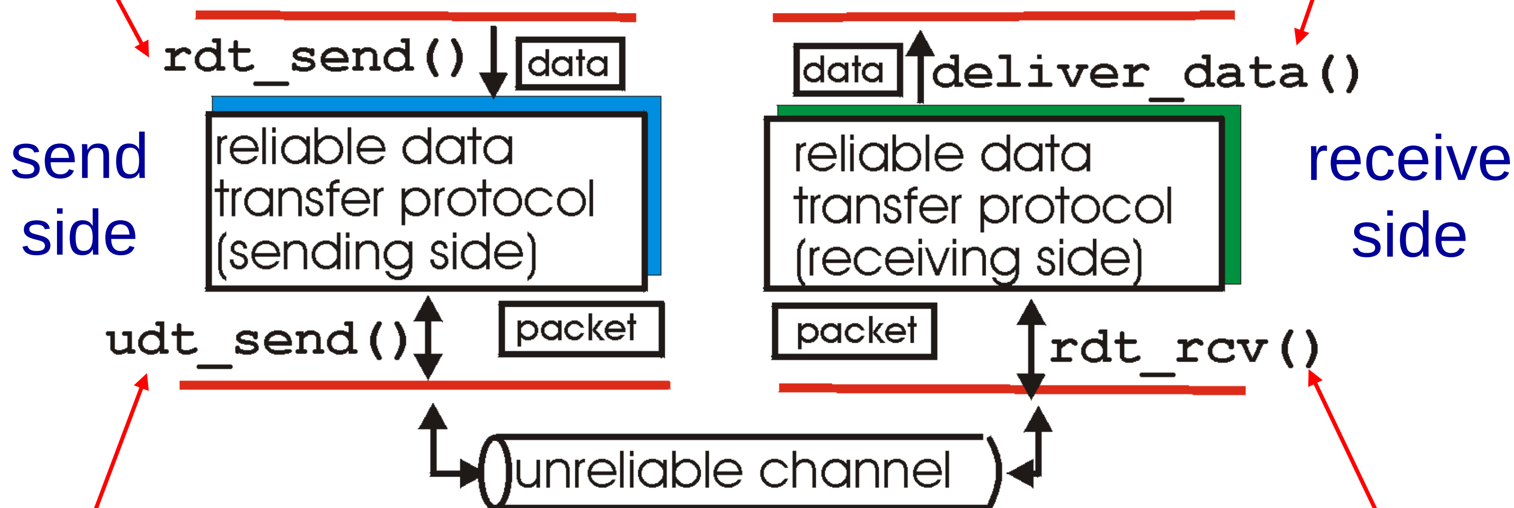


- characteristics of unreliable channel will determine complexity of reliable data transfer protocol (rdt)

Reliable data transfer: getting started

rdt_send(): called from above, (e.g., by app.). Passed data to deliver to receiver upper layer

deliver_data(): called by **rdt** to deliver data to upper



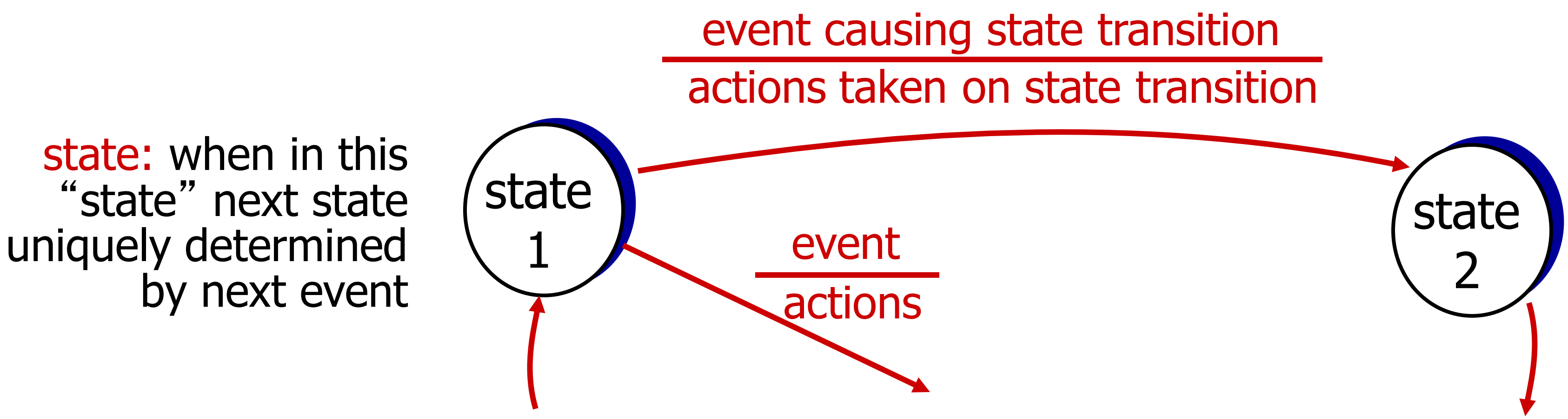
udt_send(): called by rdt, to transfer packet over unreliable channel to receiver

rdt_rcv(): called when packet arrives on rcv-side of channel

Reliable data transfer: getting started

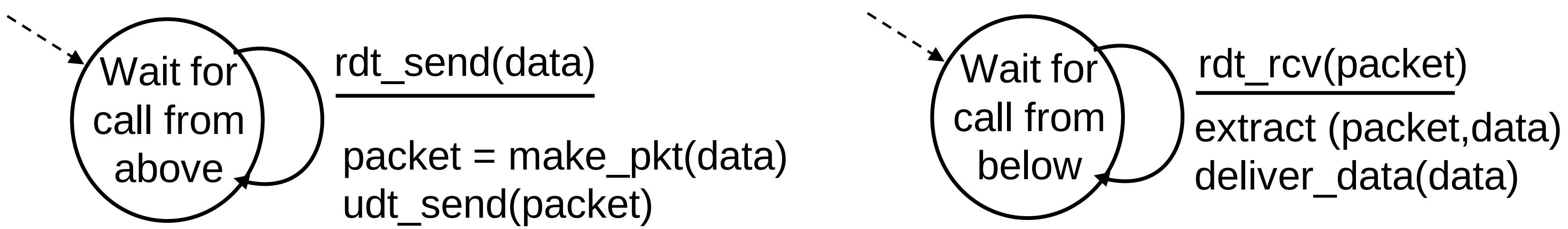
we' ll:

- incrementally develop sender, receiver sides of reliable data transfer protocol (rdt)
- consider only unidirectional data transfer
  - but control info will flow on both directions!
- use finite state machines (FSM) to specify sender, receiver



rdt1.0: reliable transfer over a reliable channel

- underlying channel perfectly reliable
  - no bit errors
  - no loss of packets
- separate FSMs for sender, receiver:
  - sender sends data into underlying channel
  - receiver reads data from underlying channel



sender receiver

rdt2.0: channel with bit errors

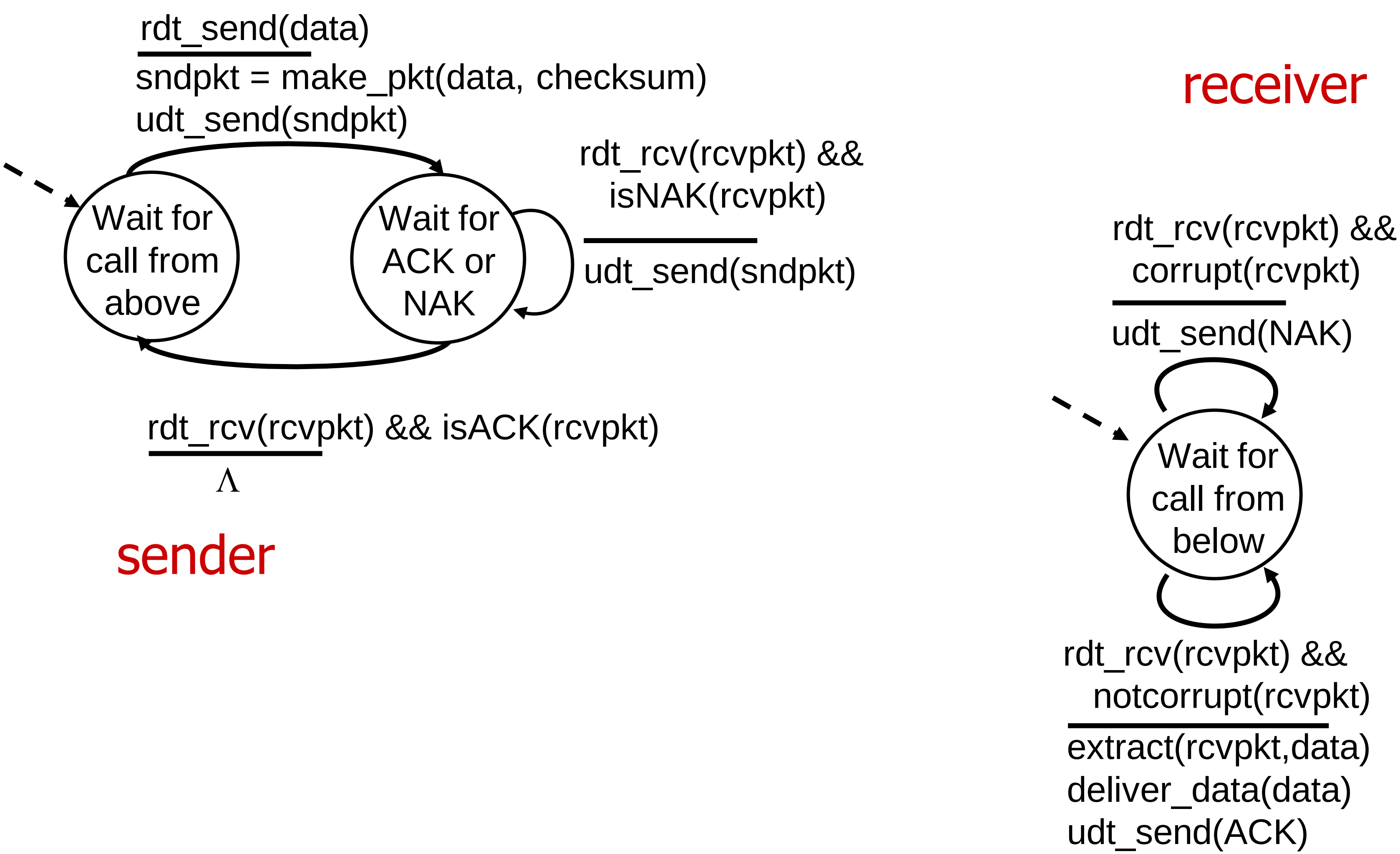
- underlying channel may flip bits in packet
  - checksum to detect bit errors
- *the* question: how to recover from errors:

How do humans recover from "errors" during conversation?

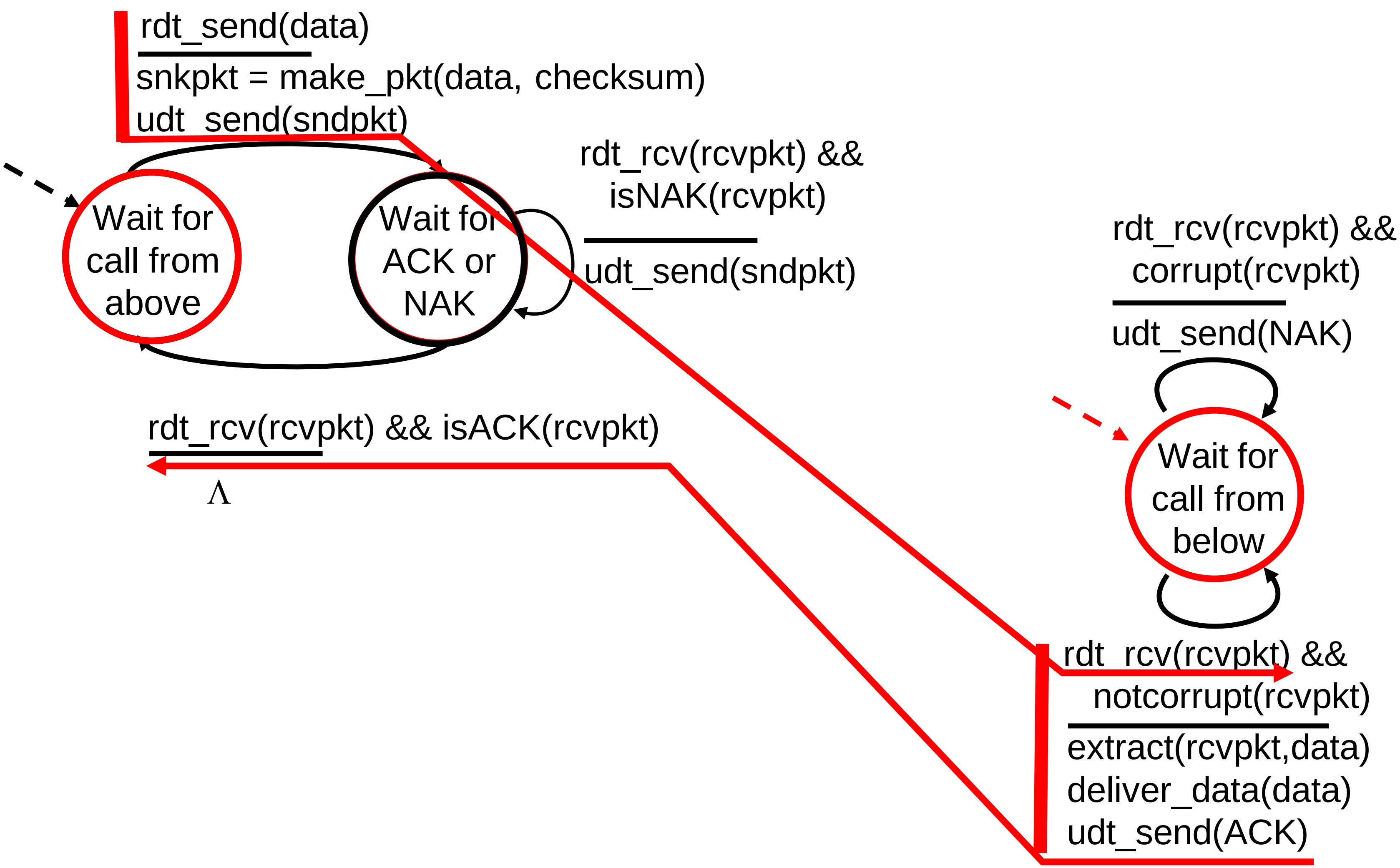
rdt2.0: channel with bit errors

- underlying channel may flip bits in packet
  - checksum to detect bit errors
- *the* question: how to recover from errors:
  - *acknowledgements (ACKs):* receiver explicitly tells sender that pkt received OK
  - *negative acknowledgements (NAKs):* receiver explicitly tells sender that pkt had errors
  - sender retransmits pkt on receipt of NAK
- new mechanisms in **`rdt2.0`** (beyond **`rdt1.0`**):
  - error detection
  - feedback: control msgs (ACK,NAK) from receiver to sender

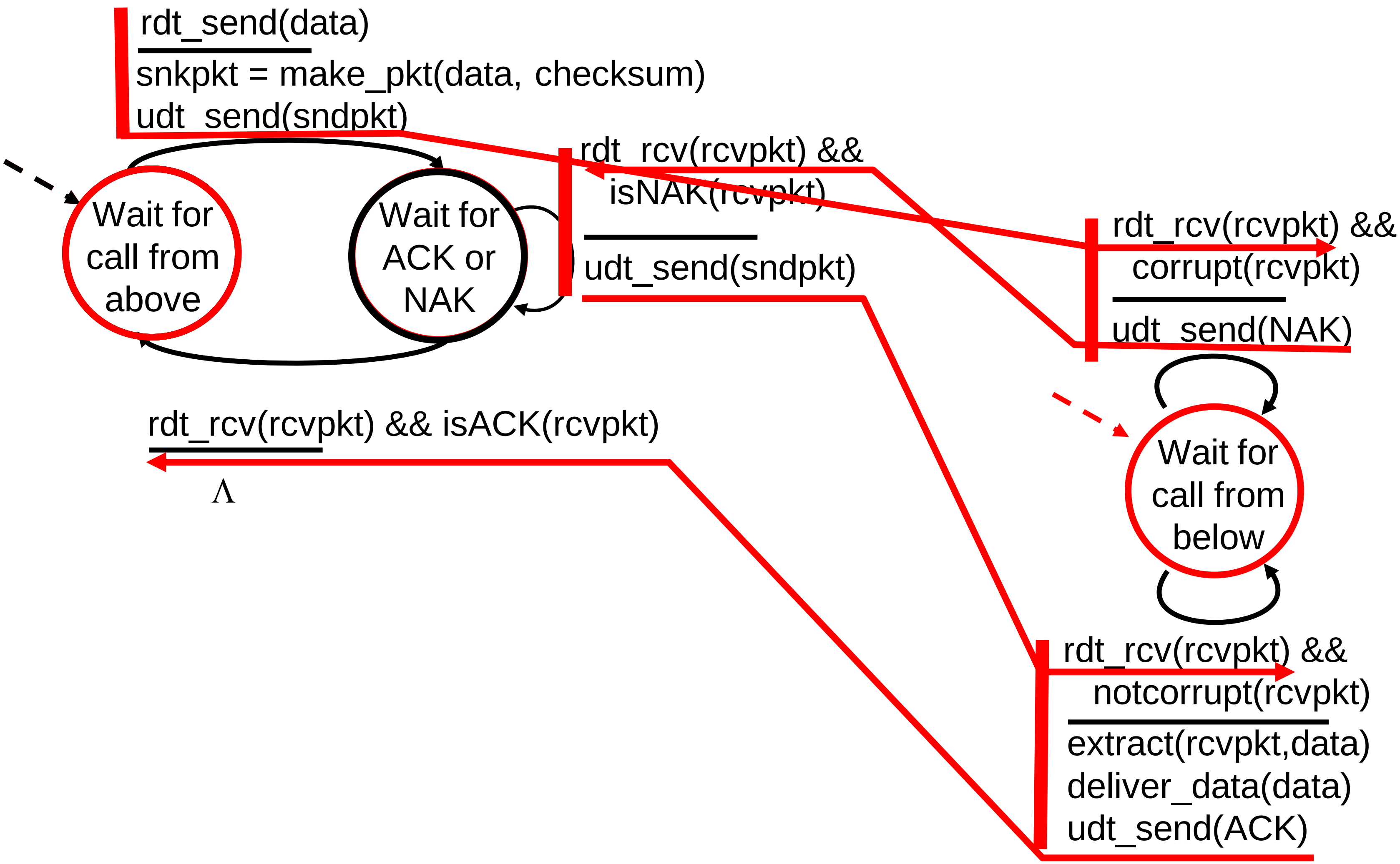
rdt2.0: FSM specification



rdt2.0: operation with no errors



rdt2.0: error scenario



rdt2.0 has a fatal flaw!

what happens if ACK/NAK corrupted?

- sender doesn't know what happened at receiver!
- can't just retransmit: possible duplicate

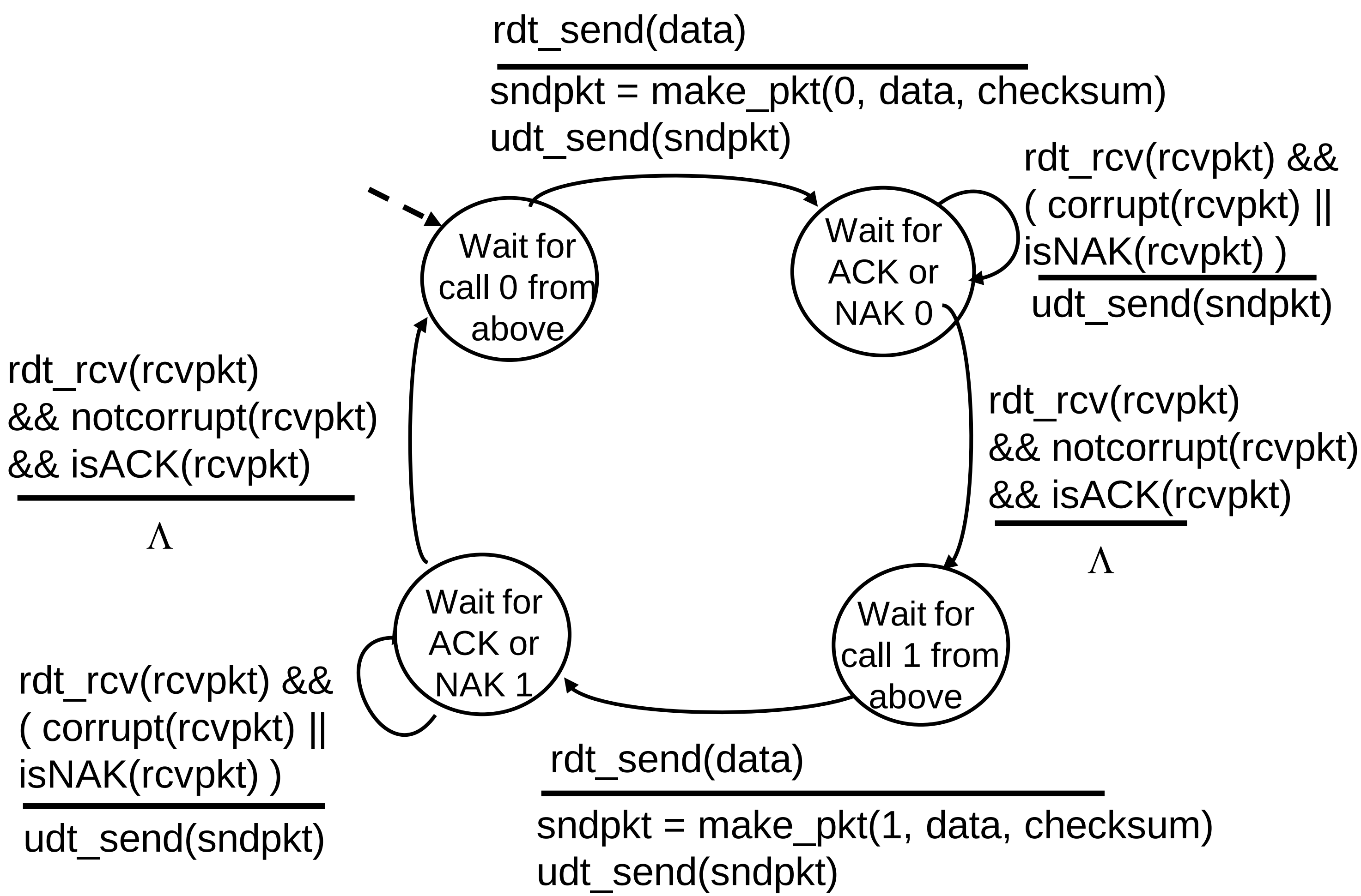
handling duplicates:

- sender retransmits current pkt if ACK/NAK corrupted
- sender adds *sequence number* to each pkt
- receiver discards (doesn't deliver up) duplicate pkt

stop and wait

sender sends one packet, then waits for receiver response

rdt2.1: sender, handles garbled ACK/NAKs



rdt2.1: receiver, handles garbled ACK/NAKs

rdt_rcv(rcvpkt) && notcorrupt(rcvpkt)
&& has_seq0(rcvpkt)

---

extract(rcvpkt,data)
deliver_data(data)
sndpkt = make_pkt(ACK, chksum)
udt_send(sndpkt)

rdt_rcv(rcvpkt) && (corrupt(rcvpkt)

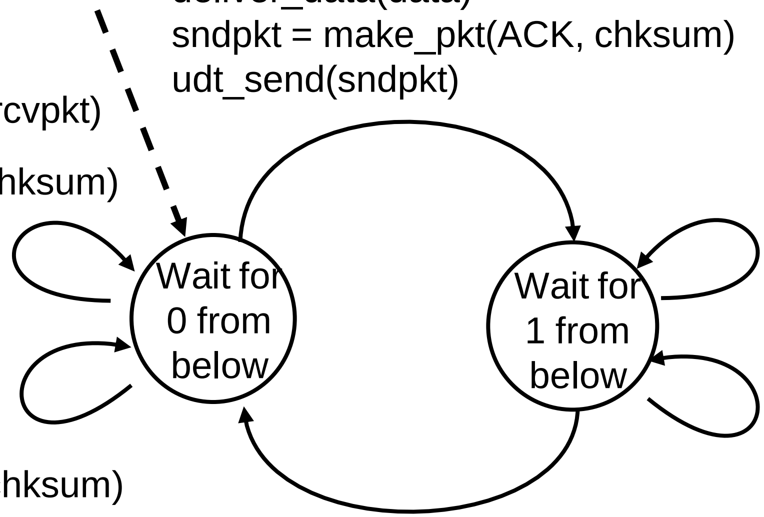
---

sndpkt = make_pkt(NAK, chksum)
udt_send(sndpkt)

rdt_rcv(rcvpkt) &&
not corrupt(rcvpkt) &&
has_seq1(rcvpkt)

---

sndpkt = make_pkt(ACK, chksum)
udt_send(sndpkt)



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udt_send(sndpkt)

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&& has_seq1(rcvpkt)

---

extract(rcvpkt,data)
deliver_data(data)
sndpkt = make_pkt(ACK, chksum)
udt_send(sndpkt)

rdt2.1: discussion

sender:

- seq # added to pkt
- two seq. #'s (0,1) will suffice. Why?
- must check if received ACK/NAK corrupted
- twice as many states
  - state must "remember" whether "expected" pkt should have seq # of 0 or 1

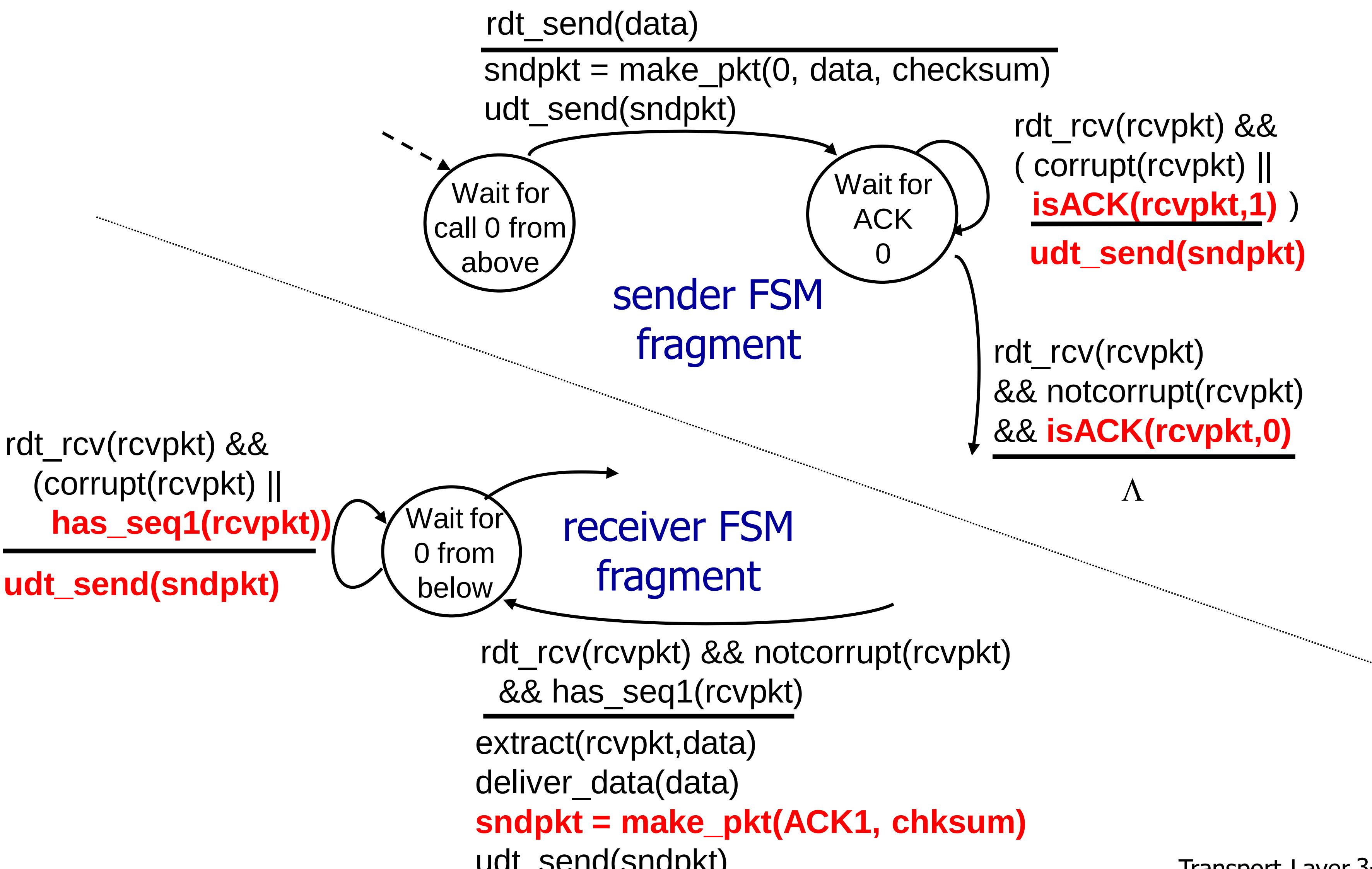
receiver:

- must check if received packet is duplicate
  - state indicates whether 0 or 1 is expected pkt seq #
- note: receiver can *not* know if its last ACK/NAK received OK at sender

rdt2.2: a NAK-free protocol

- same functionality as rdt2.1, using ACKs only
- instead of NAK, receiver sends ACK for last pkt received OK
  - receiver must *explicitly* include seq # of pkt being ACKed
- duplicate ACK at sender results in same action as NAK: *retransmit current pkt*

rdt2.2: sender, receiver fragments



rdt3.0: channels with errors *and* loss

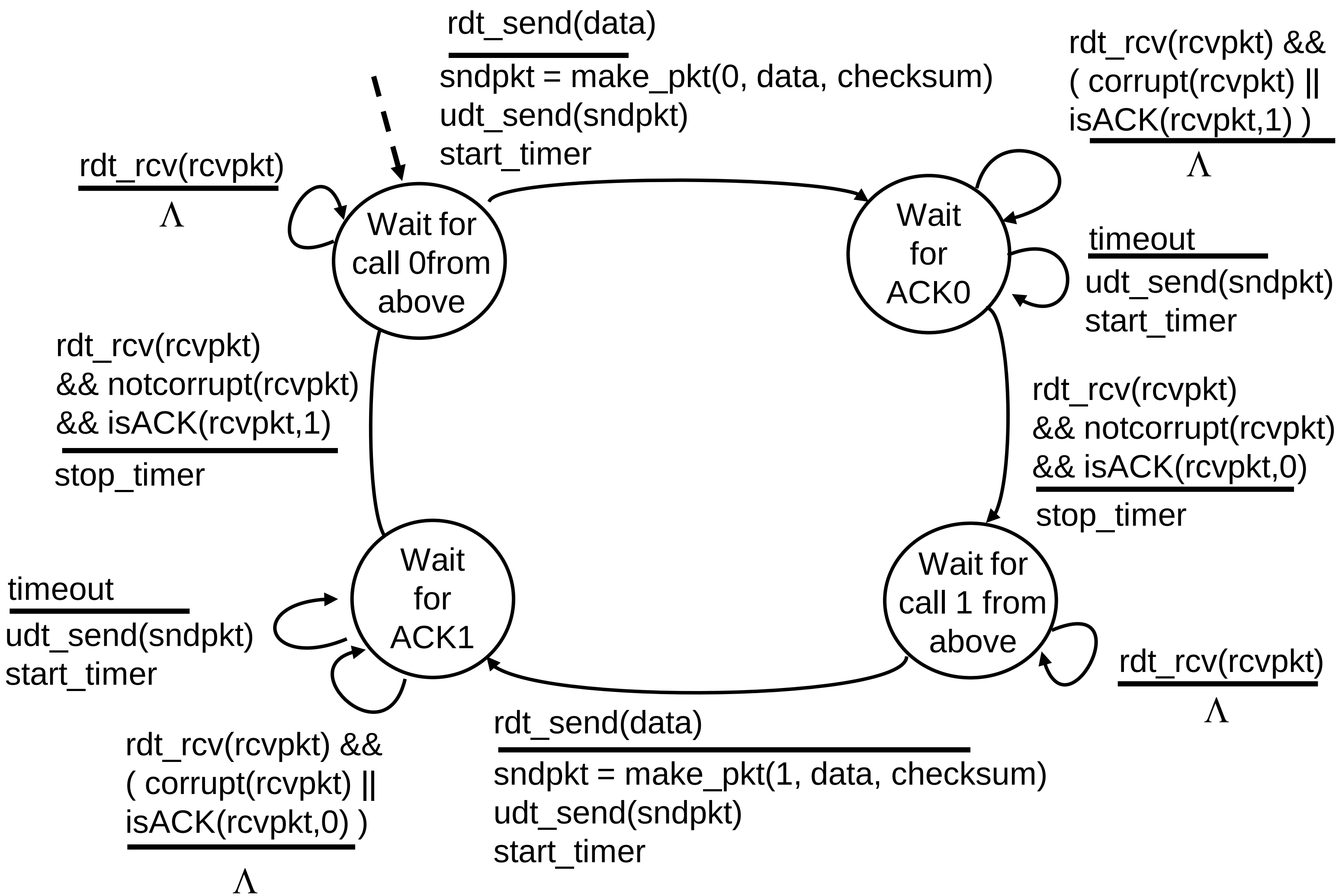
new assumption: underlying channel can also lose packets (data, ACKs)

- checksum, seq. #, ACKs, retransmissions will be of help … but not enough

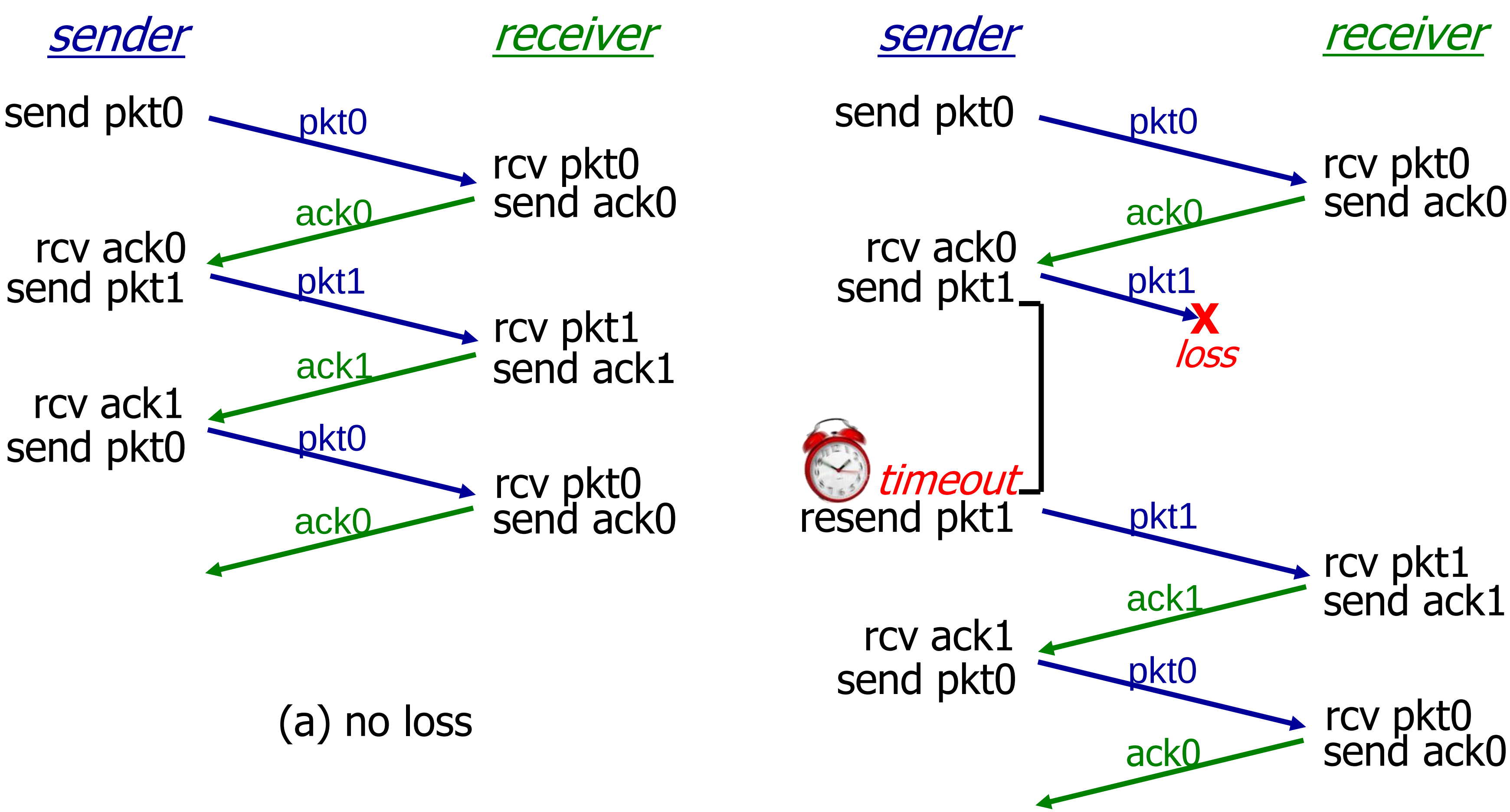
approach: sender waits "reasonable" amount of time for ACK

- retransmits if no ACK received in this time
- if pkt (or ACK) just delayed (not lost):
  - retransmission will be duplicate, but seq. #'s already handles this
  - receiver must specify seq # of pkt being ACKed
- requires countdown timer

rdt3.0 sender



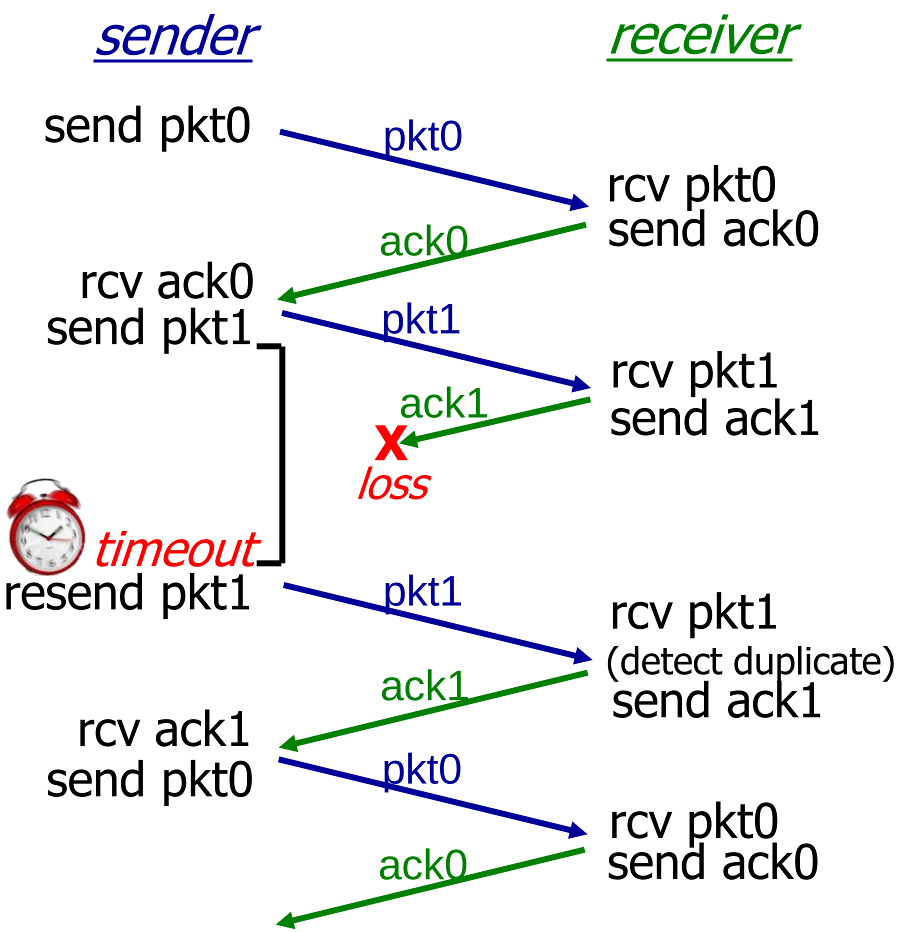
rdt3.0 in action



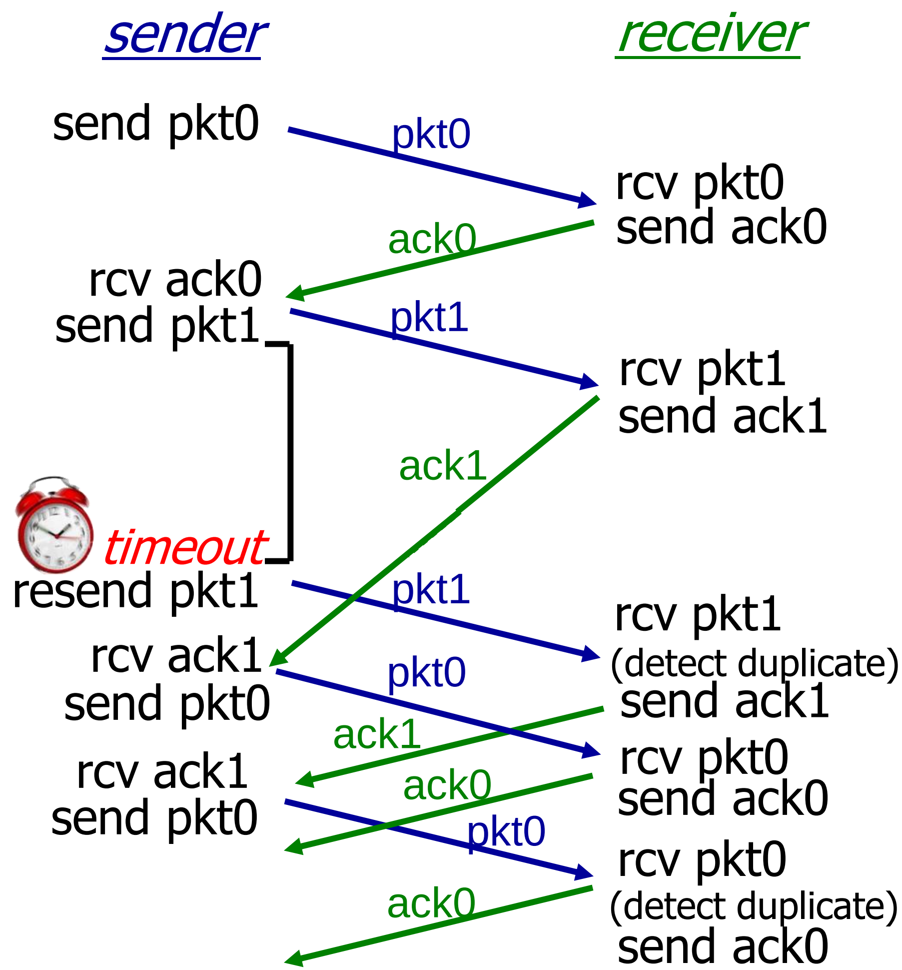
(a) no loss

(b) packet loss

rdt3.0 in action



(c) ACK loss



(d) premature timeout/ delayed ACK

Performance of rdt3.0

- rdt3.0 is correct, but performance stinks
- e.g.: 1 Gbps link, 15 ms prop. delay, 8000 bit packet:

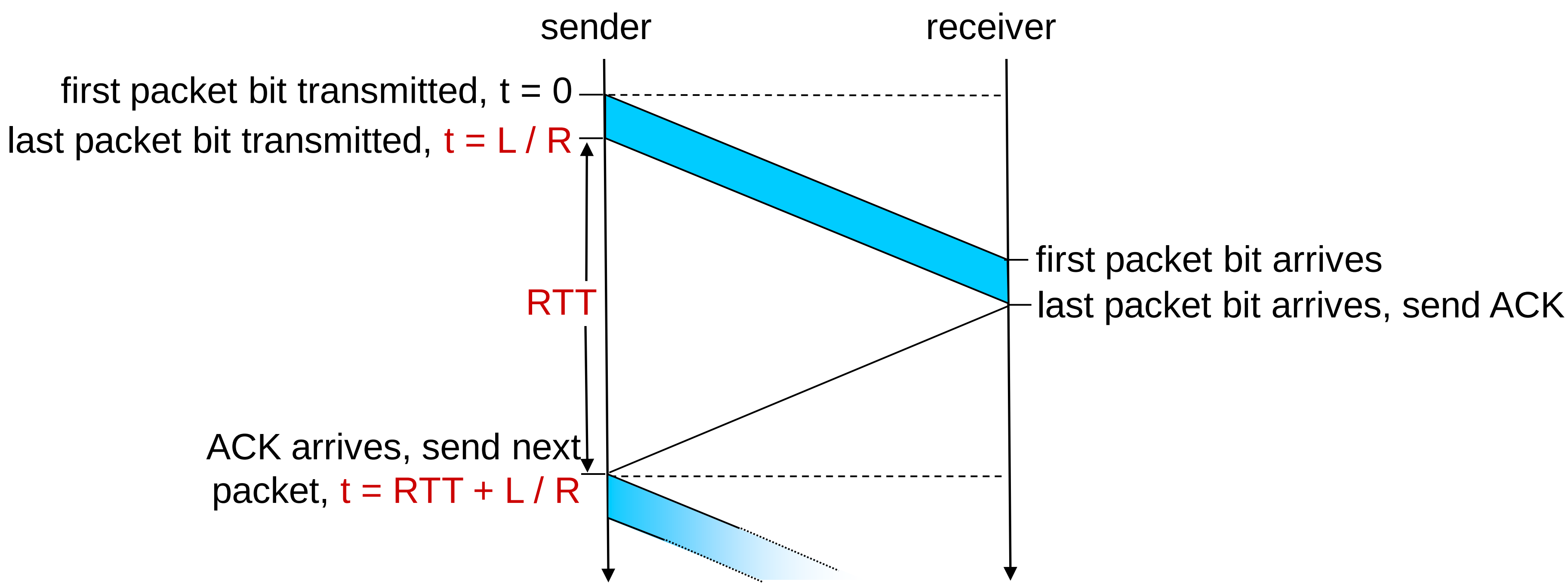
$$D_{trans} = \frac{L}{R} = \frac{8000 \text{ bits}}{10^9 \text{ bits/sec}} = 8 \text{ microsecs}$$

  - U_{sender}: *utilization* – fraction of time sender busy sending

$$U_{sender} = \frac{L / R}{RTT + L / R} = \frac{.008}{30.008} = 0.00027$$

  - if RTT=30 msec, 1KB pkt every 30 msec: 33kB/sec thruput over 1 Gbps link
- network protocol limits use of physical resources!

rdt3.0: stop-and-wait operation

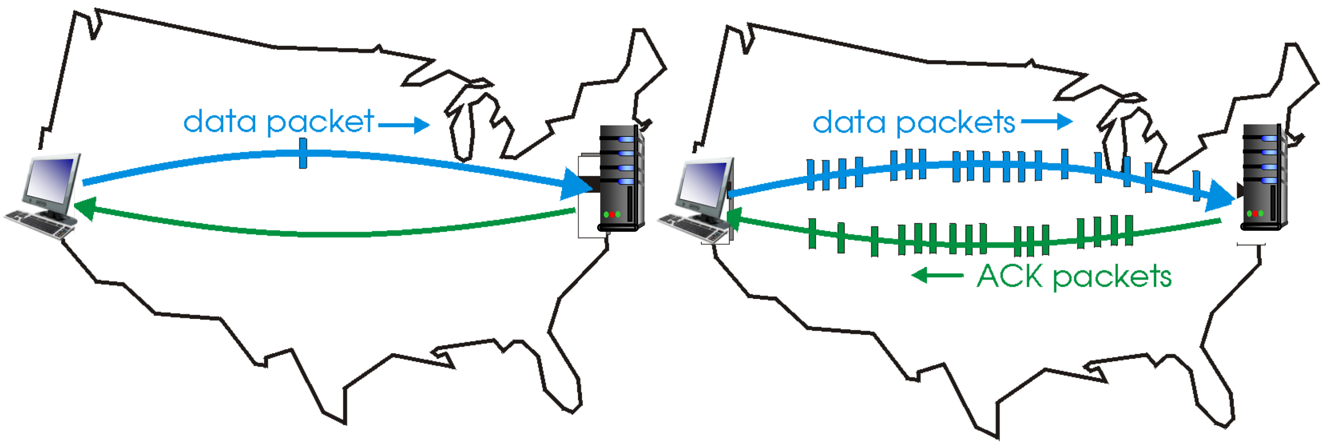


$$U_{sender} = \frac{L / R}{RTT + L / R} = \frac{.008}{30.008} = 0.00027$$

Pipelined protocols

pipelining: sender allows multiple, "in-flight", yet-to-be-acknowledged pkts

- range of sequence numbers must be increased
- buffering at sender and/or receiver

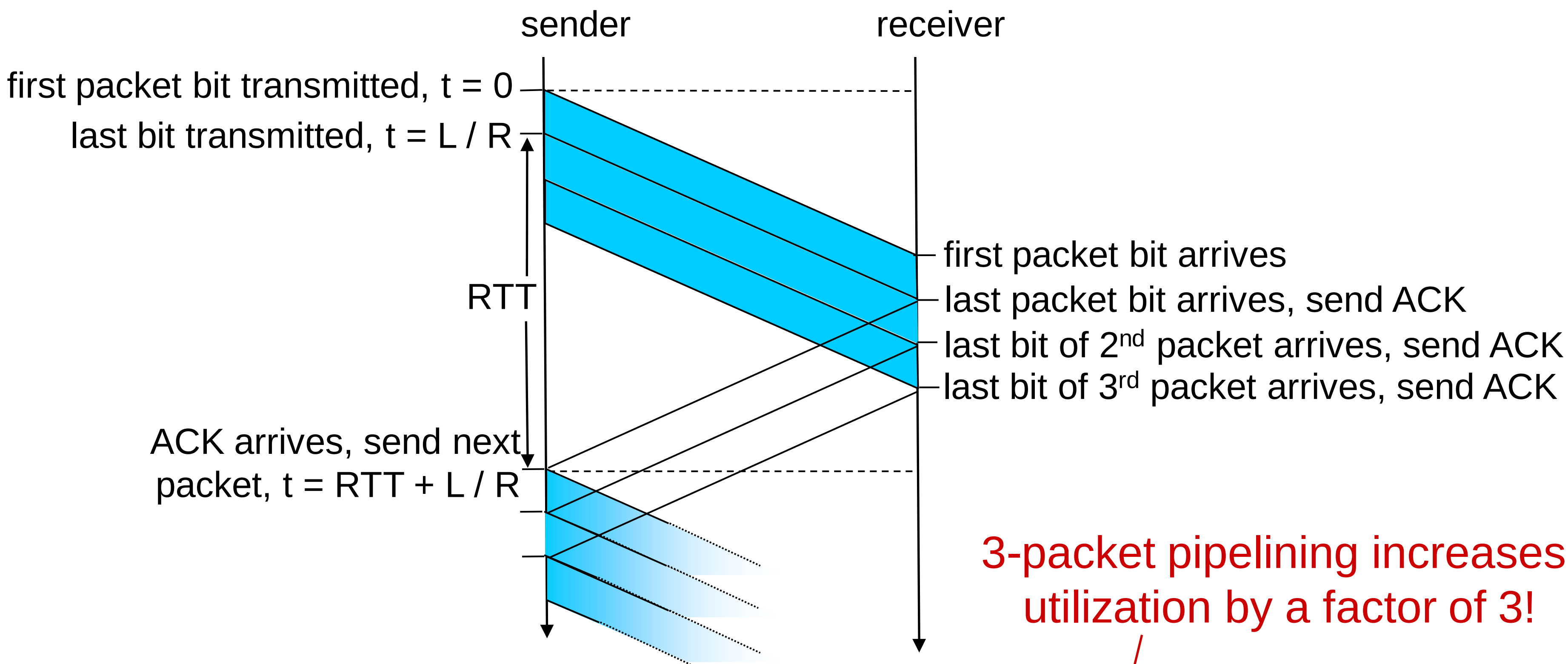


(a) a stop-and-wait protocol in operation

(b) a pipelined protocol in operation

- two generic forms of pipelined protocols: *go-Back-N, selective repeat*

Pipelining: increased utilization



3-packet pipelining increases utilization by a factor of 3!

$$U_{sender} = \frac{3L / R}{RTT + L / R} = \frac{.0024}{30.008} = 0.00081$$

Pipelined protocols: overview

Go-back-N:

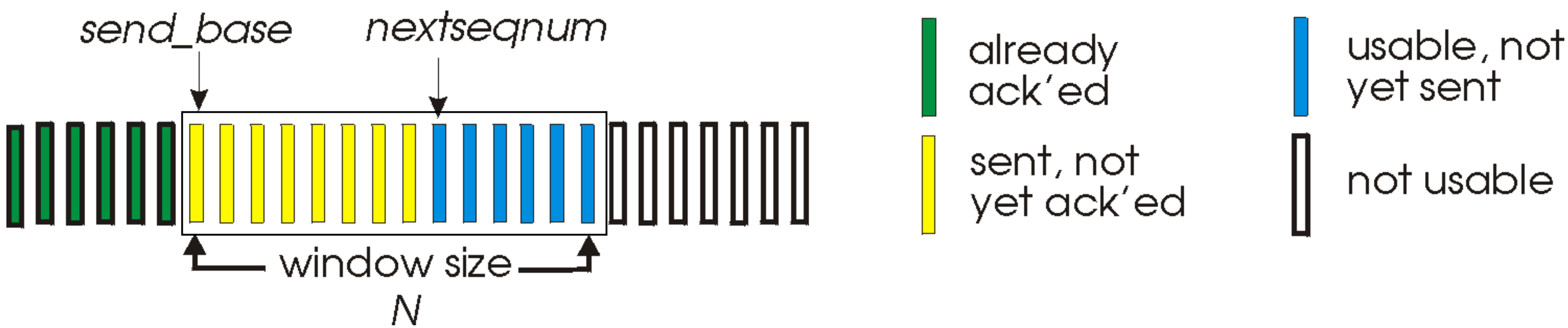
- sender can have up to N unacked packets in pipeline
- receiver only sends *cumulative ack*
  - doesn't ack packet if there's a gap
- sender has timer for oldest unacked packet
  - when timer expires, retransmit *all* unacked packets

Selective Repeat:

- sender can have up to N unack'ed packets in pipeline
- rcvr sends *individual ack* for each packet
- sender maintains timer for each unacked packet
  - when timer expires, retransmit only that unacked packet

Go-Back-N: sender

- k-bit seq # in pkt header
- "window" of up to N, consecutive unack'ed pkts allowed



- ACK(n): ACKs all pkts up to, including seq # n - *"cumulative ACK"*
  - may receive duplicate ACKs (see receiver)
- timer for oldest in-flight pkt
- *timeout(n)*: retransmit packet n and all higher seq # pkts in window

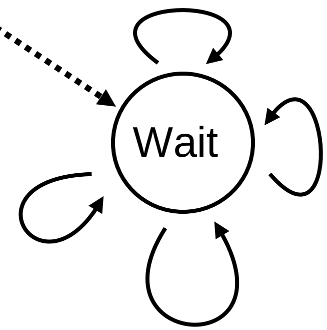
GBN: sender extended FSM

Λ

base=1
nextseqnum=1

rdt_send(data)

```
if (nextseqnum < base+N) {
    sndpkt[nextseqnum] = make_pkt(nextseqnum,data,chksum)
    udt_send(sndpkt[nextseqnum])
    if (base == nextseqnum)
       start_timer
    nextseqnum++
    }
else
  refuse_data(data)
```



timeout

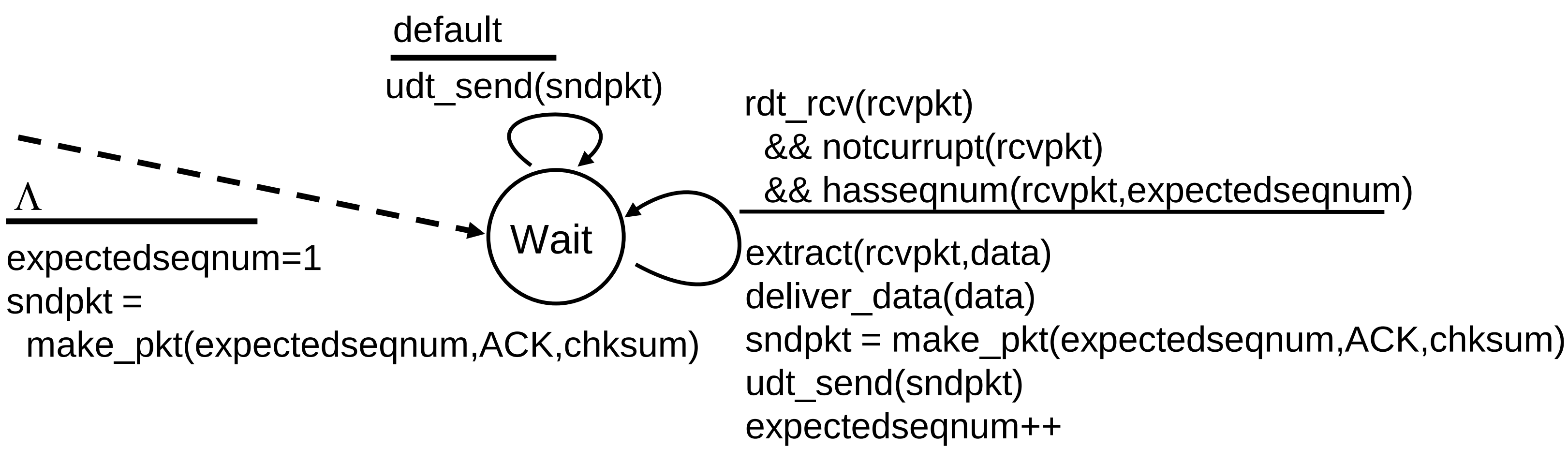
```
start_timer
udt_send(sndpkt[base])
udt_send(sndpkt[base+1])
…
udt_send(sndpkt[nextseqnum-1])
```

rdt_rcv(rcvpkt)
  && corrupt(rcvpkt)

rdt_rcv(rcvpkt) &&
  notcorrupt(rcvpkt)

```
base = getacknum(rcvpkt)+1
If (base == nextseqnum)
    stop_timer
  else
    start_timer
```

GBN: receiver extended FSM

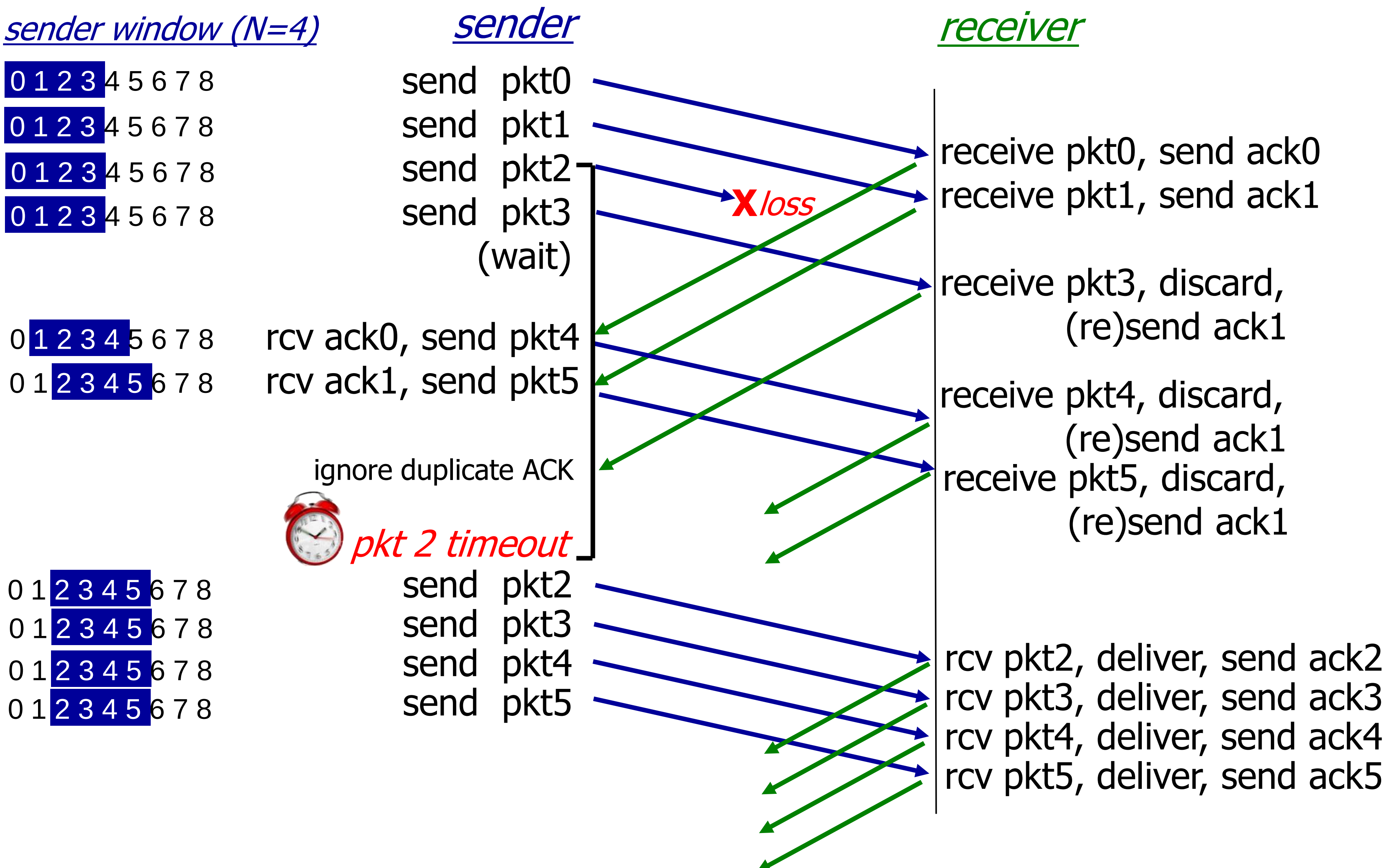


ACK-only: always send ACK for correctly-received pkt with highest *in-order* seq #

- may generate duplicate ACKs
- need only remember **expectedseqnum**

- out-of-order pkt:
  - discard (don't buffer): *no receiver buffering!*
  - re-ACK pkt with highest in-order seq #

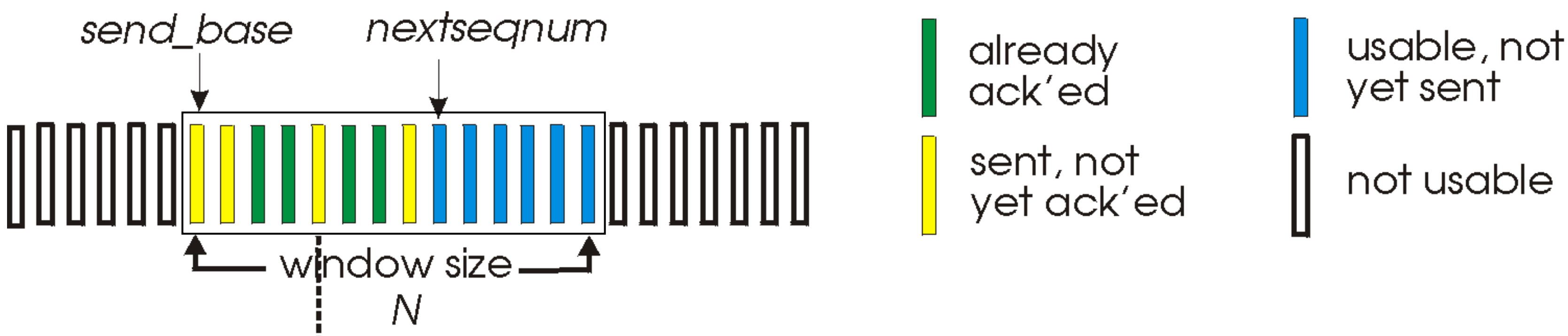
GBN in action



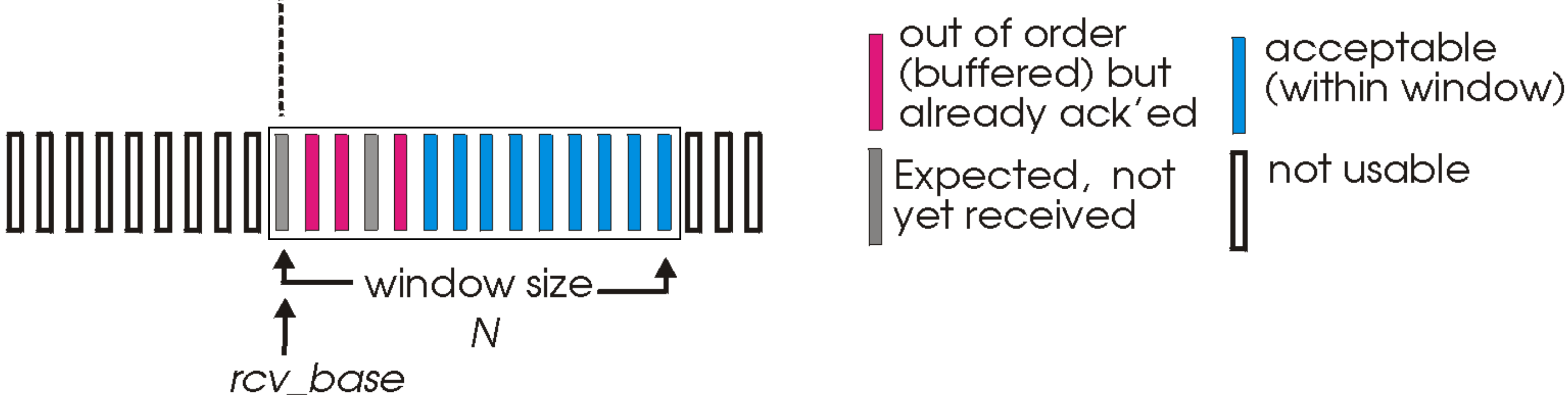
Selective repeat

- receiver *individually* acknowledges all correctly received pkts
  - buffers pkts, as needed, for eventual in-order delivery to upper layer
- sender only resends pkts for which ACK not received
  - sender timer for each unACKed pkt
- sender window
  - *N* consecutive seq #'s
  - limits seq #s of sent, unACKed pkts

Selective repeat: sender, receiver windows



(a) sender view of sequence numbers



(b) receiver view of sequence numbers

Selective repeat

sender

data from above:

- if next available seq # in window, send pkt

timeout(n):

- resend pkt n, restart timer

ACK(n) in [sendbase,sendbase+N]:

- mark pkt n as received
- if n smallest unACKed pkt, advance window base to next unACKed seq #

receiver

pkt n in [rcvbase, rcvbase+N-1]

- send ACK(n)
- out-of-order: buffer
- in-order: deliver (also deliver buffered, in-order pkts), advance window to next not-yet-received pkt

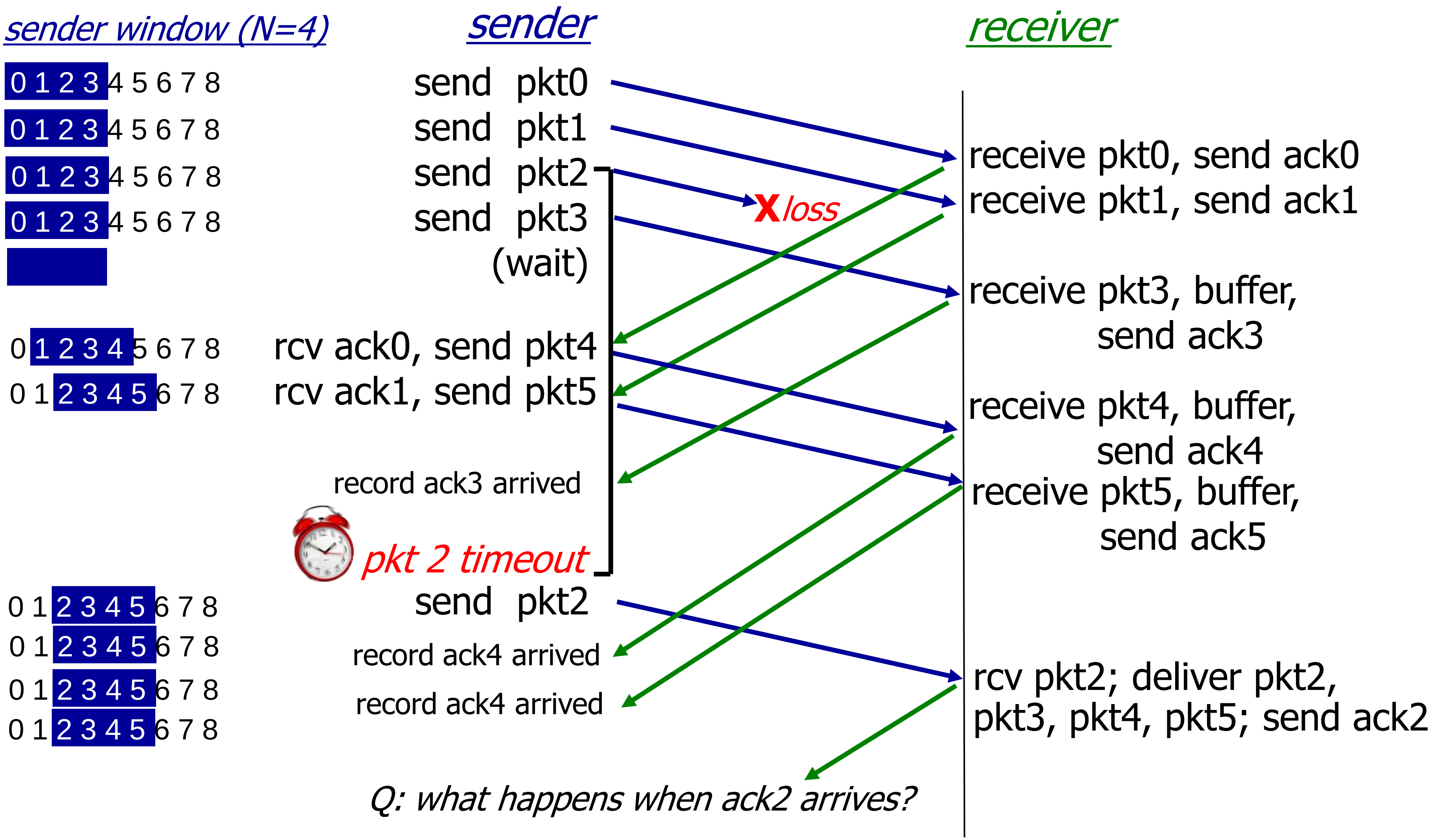
pkt n in [rcvbase-N,rcvbase-1]

- ACK(n)

otherwise:

- ignore

Selective repeat in action

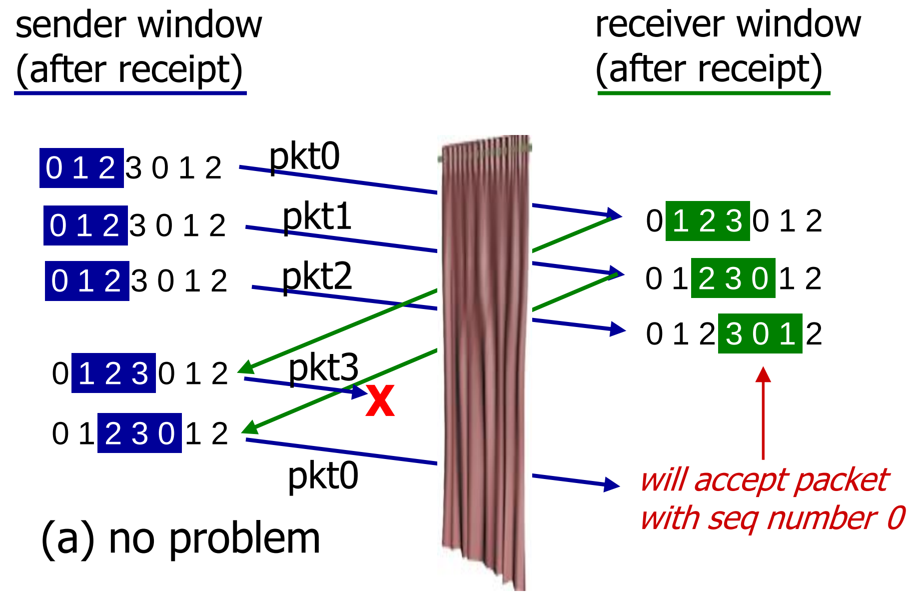


Selective repeat: dilemma

example:

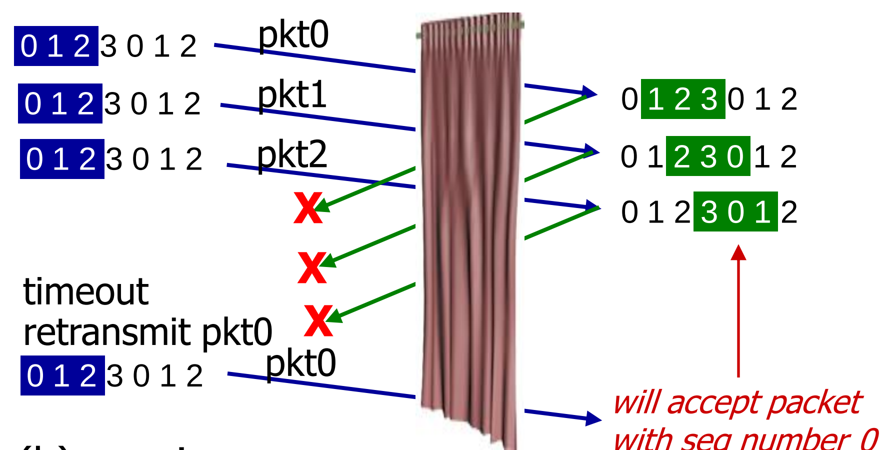
- seq #'s: 0, 1, 2, 3
- window size=3
- receiver sees no difference in two scenarios!
- duplicate data accepted as new in (b)

Q: what relationship between seq # size and window size to avoid problem in (b)?



(a) no problem

receiver can't see sender side.
receiver behavior identical in both cases!
something's (very) wrong!



(b) oops!

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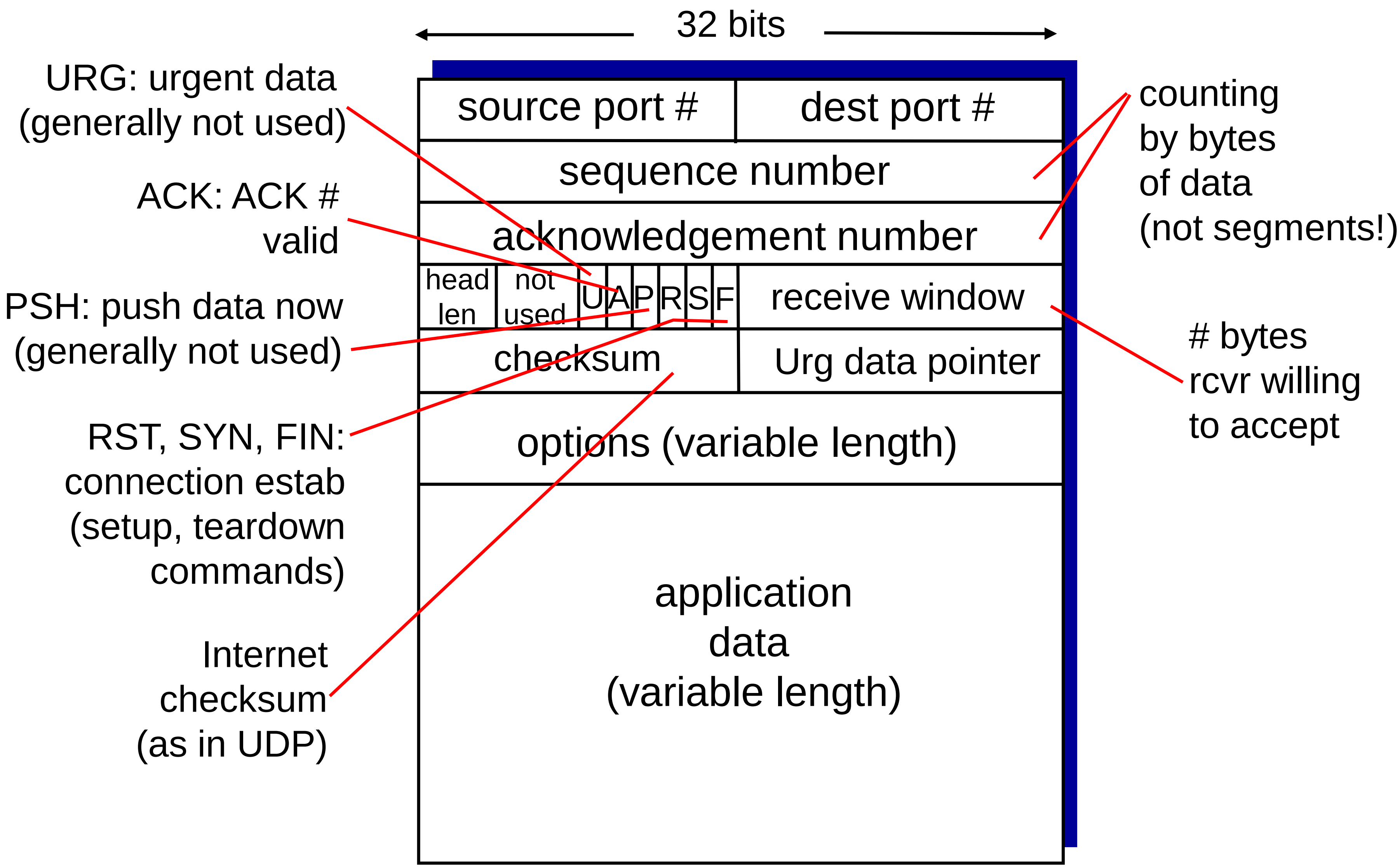
TCP: Overview RFCs: 793,1122,1323, 2018, 2581

- point-to-point:
  - one sender, one receiver
- reliable, in-order *byte steam:*
  - no "message boundaries"
- pipelined:
  - TCP congestion and flow control set window size
- full duplex data:
  - bi-directional data flow in same connection
  - MSS: maximum segment size
- connection-oriented:
  - handshaking (exchange of control msgs) inits sender, receiver state before data exchange
- flow controlled:
  - sender will not overwhelm receiver

TCP segment structure



TCP seq. numbers, ACKs

sequence numbers:

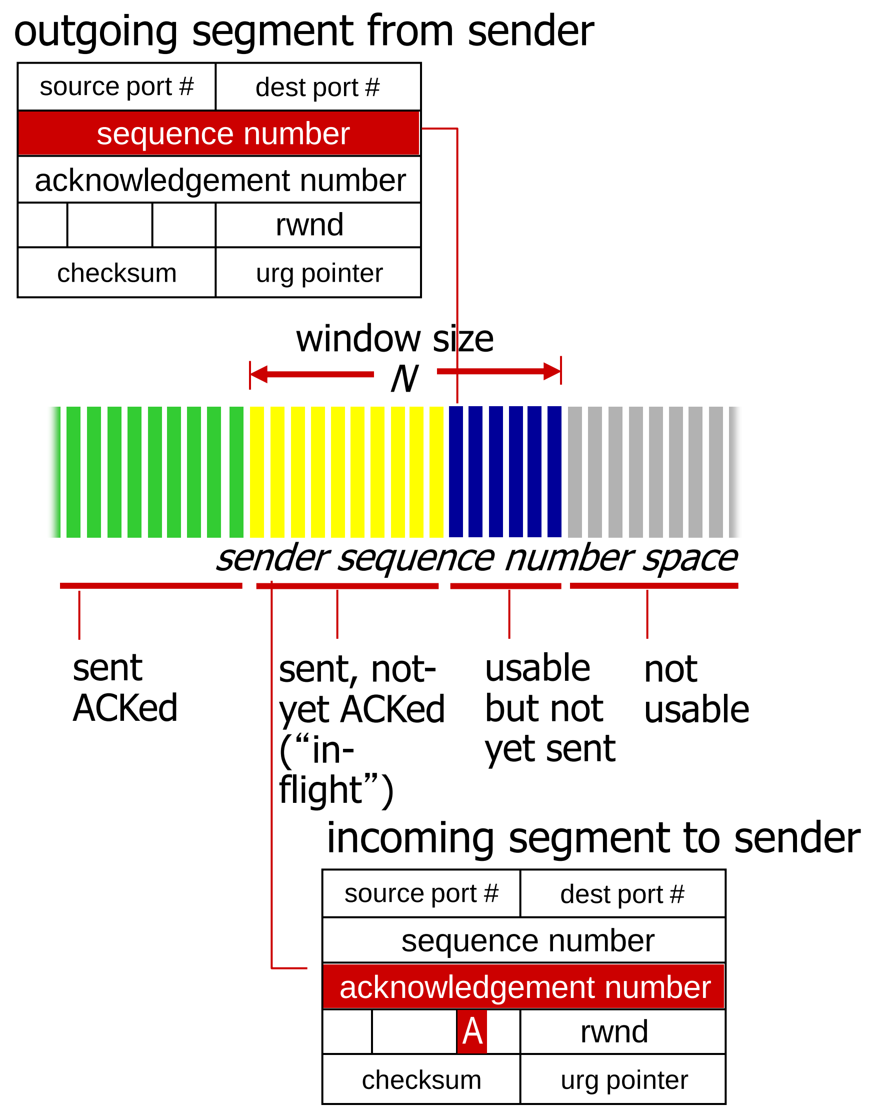
- byte stream "number" of first byte in segment's data

acknowledgements:

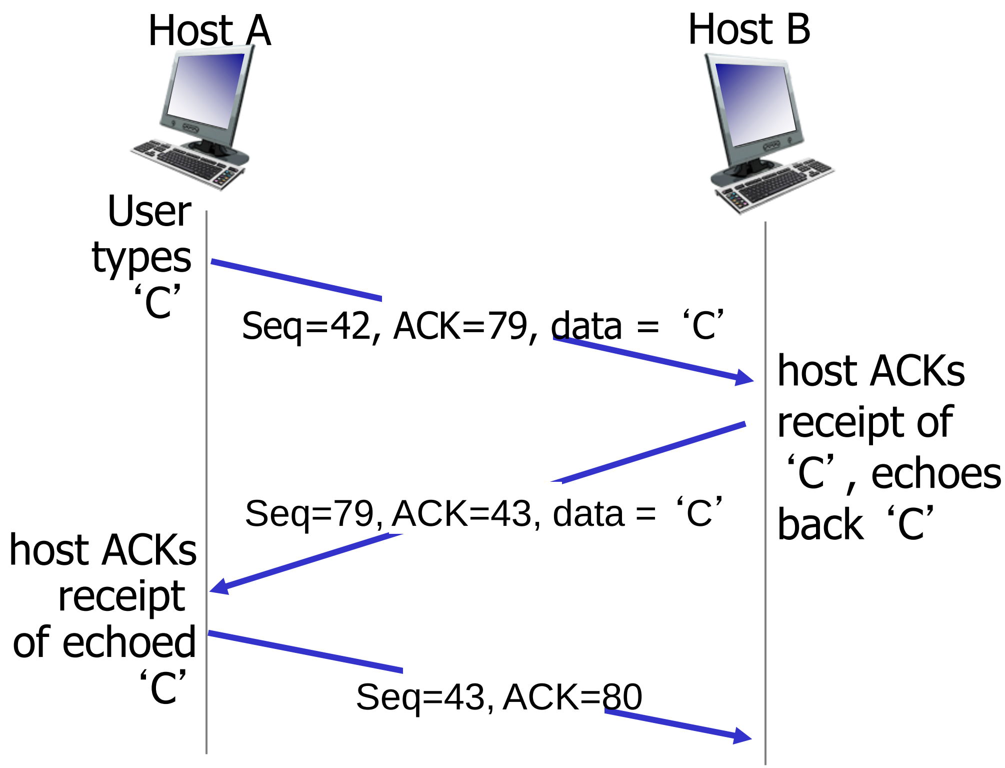
- seq # of next byte expected from other side
- cumulative ACK

Q: how receiver handles out-of-order segments

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



TCP seq. numbers, ACKs



simple telnet scenario

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

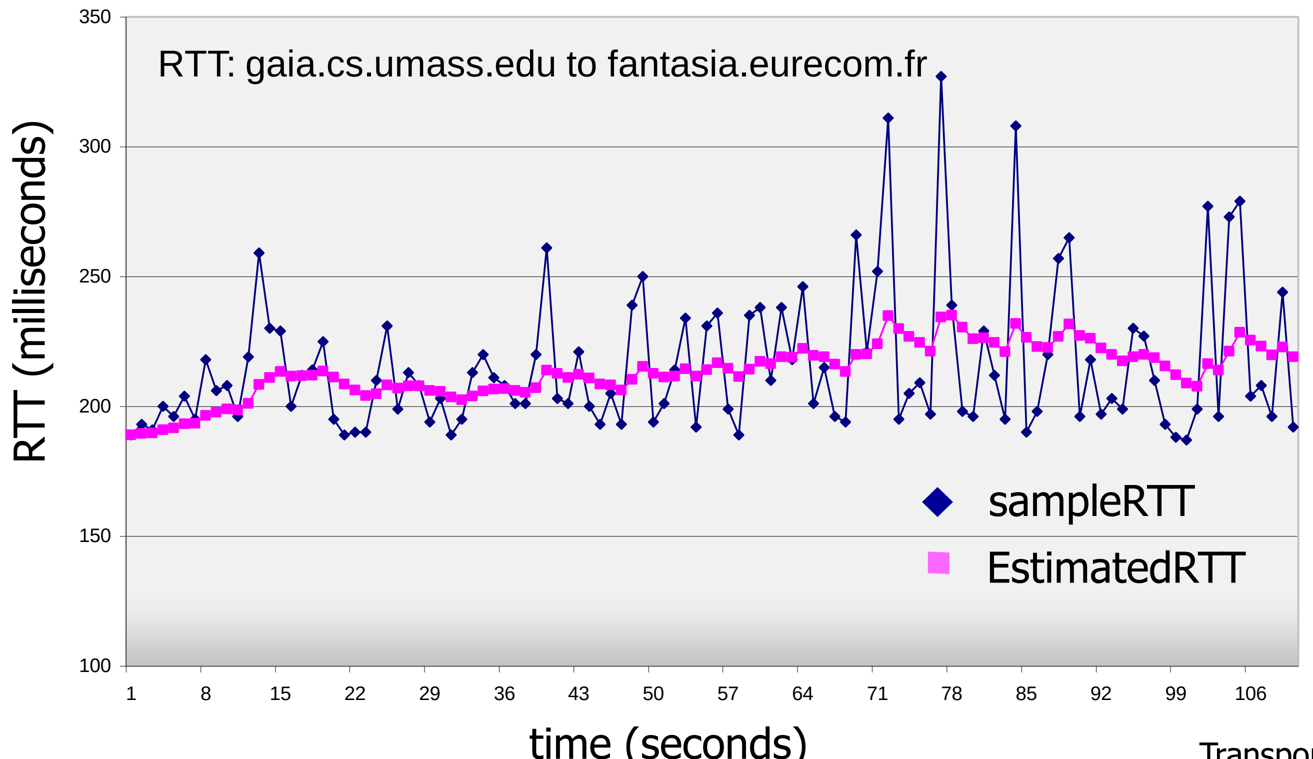
Q: how to estimate RTT?

- **`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
- influence of past sample decreases exponentially fast
- typical value: α = 0.125



TCP round trip time, timeout

- timeout interval: **`EstimatedRTT`** plus "safety margin"
  - large variation in **`EstimatedRTT`** -> larger safety margin
- estimate SampleRTT deviation from EstimatedRTT:

```
DevRTT = (1-β)*DevRTT +
              β*|SampleRTT-EstimatedRTT|
              (typically, β = 0.25)
```

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

$$\underbrace{\texttt{EstimatedRTT}}_{\text{estimated RTT}} + \underbrace{\texttt{4*DevRTT}}_{\text{"safety margin"}}$$

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TCP reliable data transfer

- TCP creates rdt service on top of IP's unreliable service
  - pipelined segments
  - cumulative acks
  - single retransmission timer
- retransmissions triggered by:
  - timeout events
  - duplicate acks

let's initially consider simplified TCP sender:
- ignore duplicate acks
- ignore flow control, congestion control

TCP sender events:

data rcvd from app:

- create segment with seq #
- seq # is byte-stream number of first data byte in segment
- start timer if not already running
  - think of timer as for oldest unacked segment
  - expiration interval: `TimeOutInterval`

timeout:

- retransmit segment that caused timeout
- restart timer

ack rcvd:

- if ack acknowledges previously unacked segments
  - update what is known to be ACKed
  - start timer if there are still unacked segments

TCP sender (simplified)

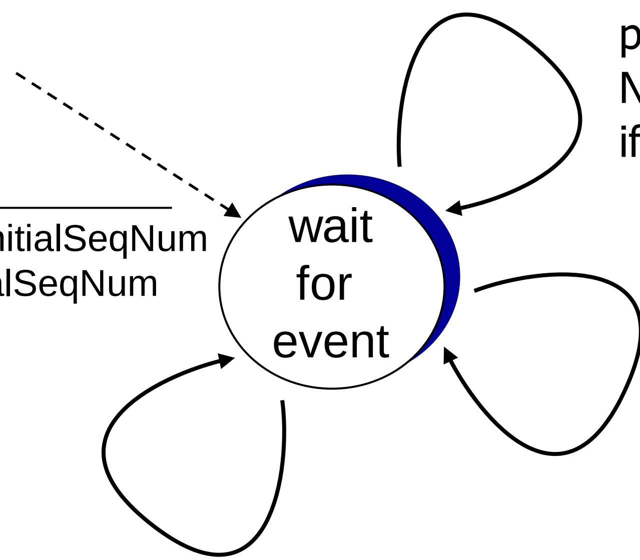
data received from application above

---

create segment, seq. #: NextSeqNum
pass segment to IP (i.e., “send”)
NextSeqNum = NextSeqNum + length(data)
if (timer currently not running)
    start timer

Λ

NextSeqNum = InitialSeqNum
SendBase = InitialSeqNum



timeout

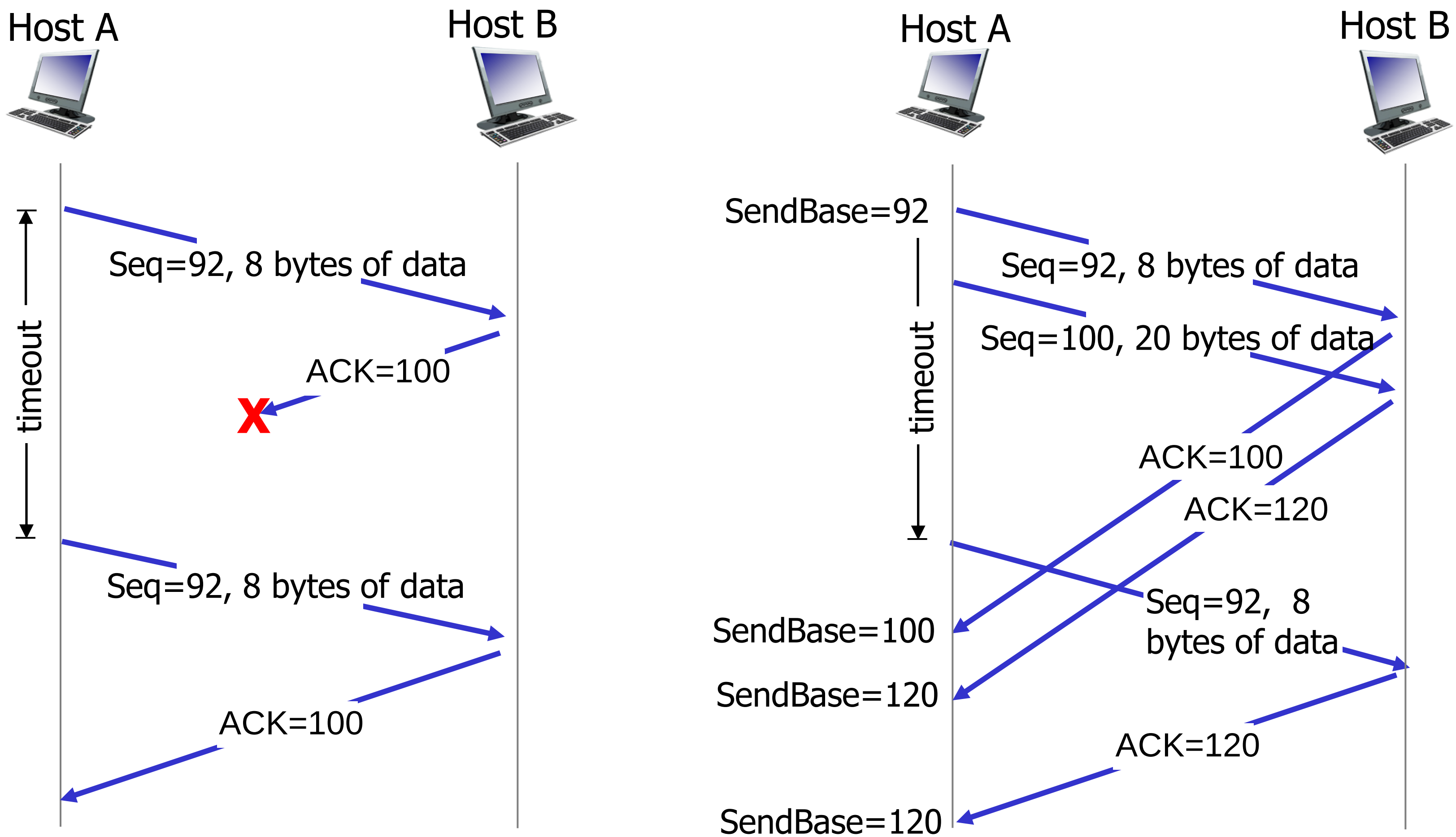
---

retransmit not-yet-acked segment
    with smallest seq. #
start timer

ACK received, with ACK field value y

```
if (y > SendBase) {
   SendBase = y
   /* SendBase–1: last cumulatively ACKed byte */
   if (there are currently not-yet-acked segments)
        start timer
      else stop timer
    }
```

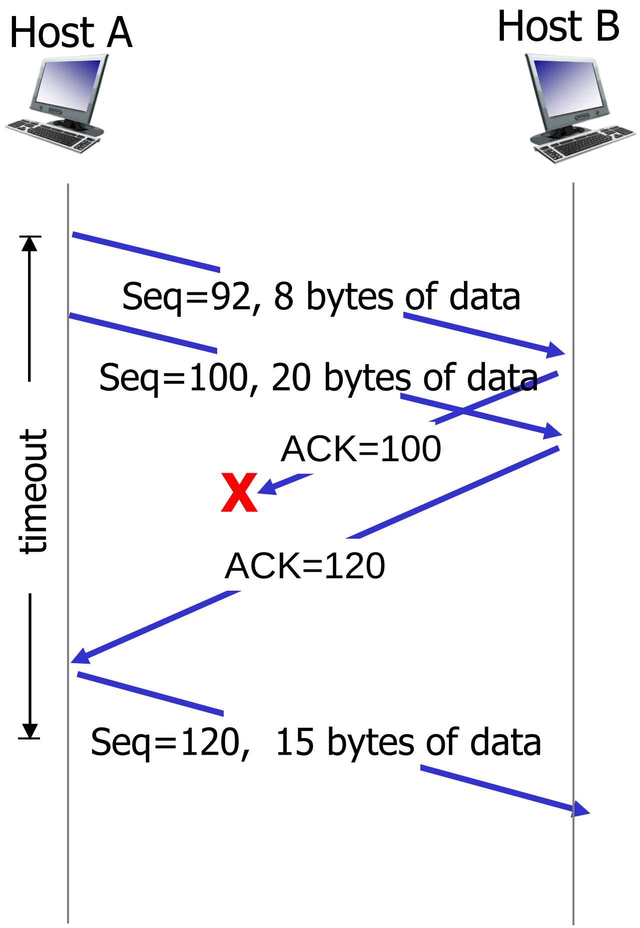
TCP: retransmission scenarios



lost ACK scenario

premature timeout

TCP: retransmission scenarios



cumulative ACK

TCP ACK generation [RFC 1122, RFC 2581]

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 fast retransmit

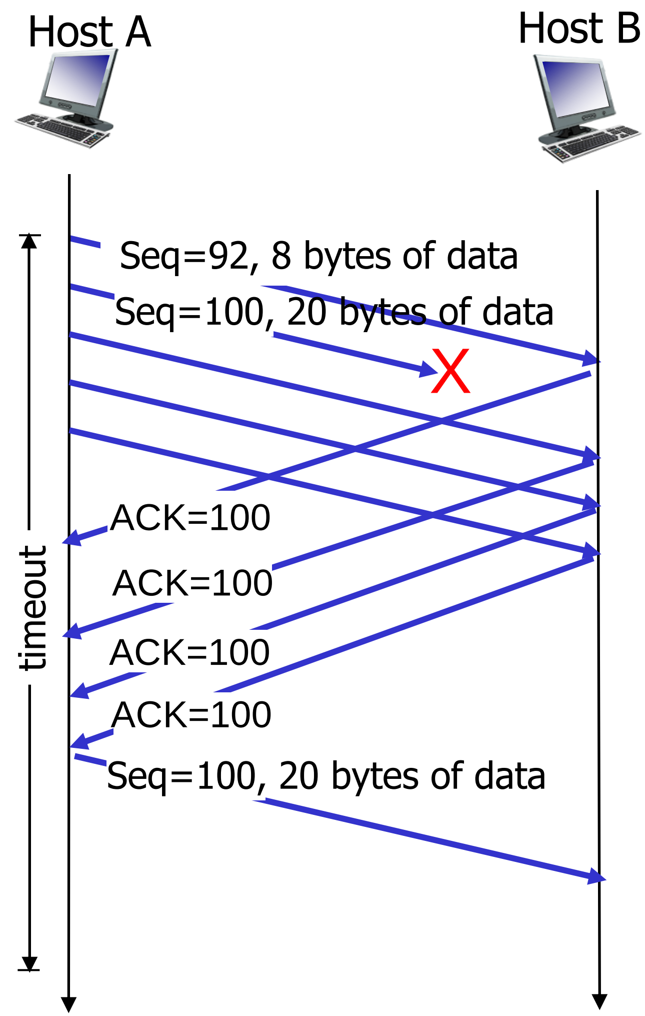
- time-out period often relatively long:
  - long delay before resending lost packet
- detect lost segments via duplicate ACKs.
  - sender often sends many segments back-to-back
  - if segment is lost, there will likely be many duplicate ACKs.

TCP fast retransmit

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

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

TCP fast retransmit



fast retransmit after sender receipt of triple duplicate ACK

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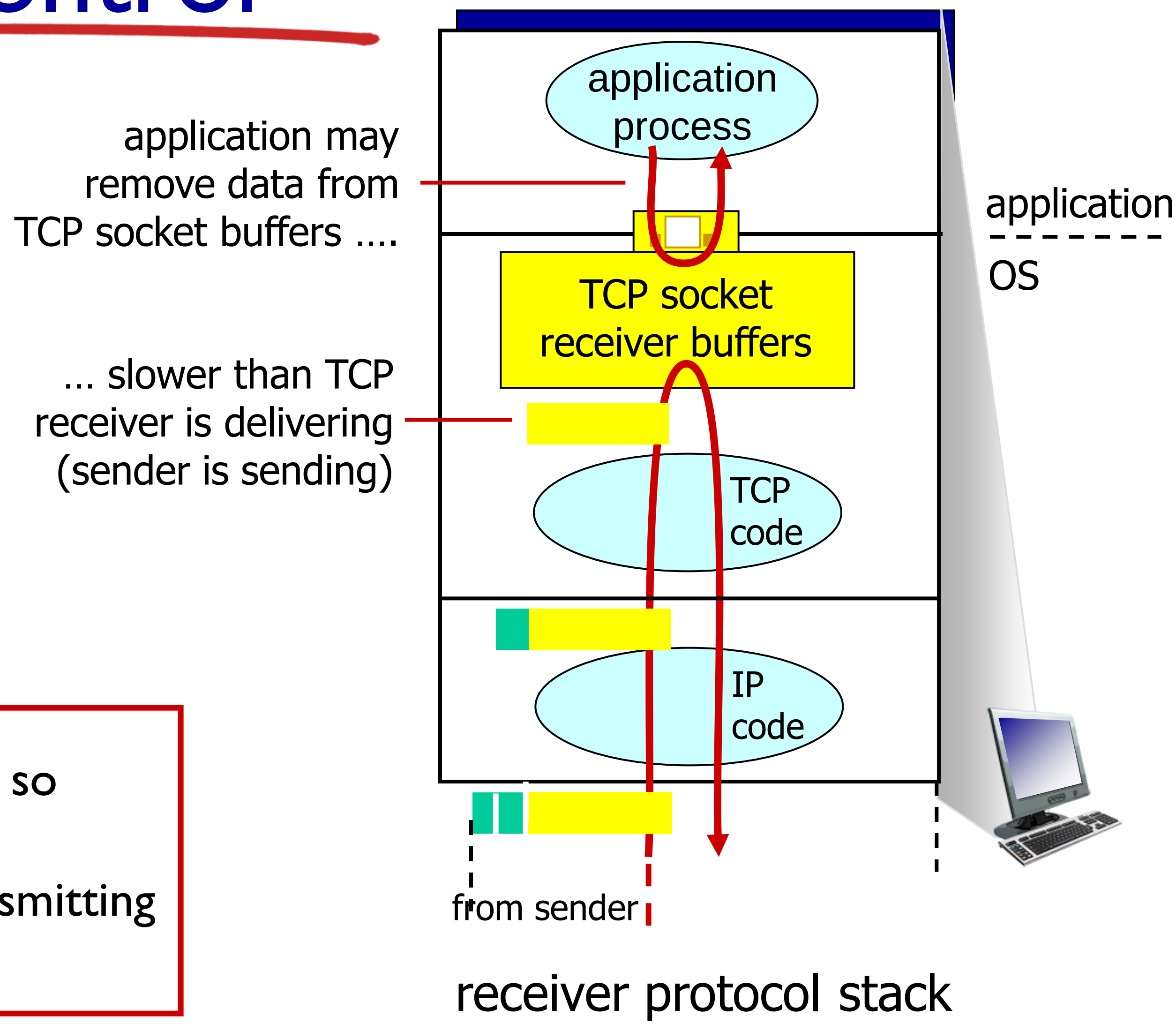
TCP flow control

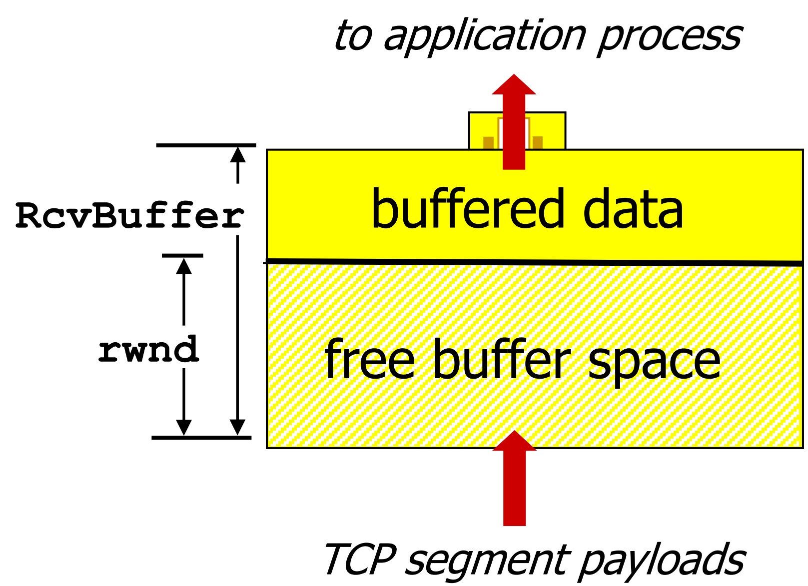


flow control

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

TCP flow control

- receiver "advertises" free buffer space by including **`rwnd`** value in TCP header of receiver-to-sender segments
  - **`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 receiver's **`rwnd`** value
- guarantees receive buffer will not overflow



receiver-side buffering

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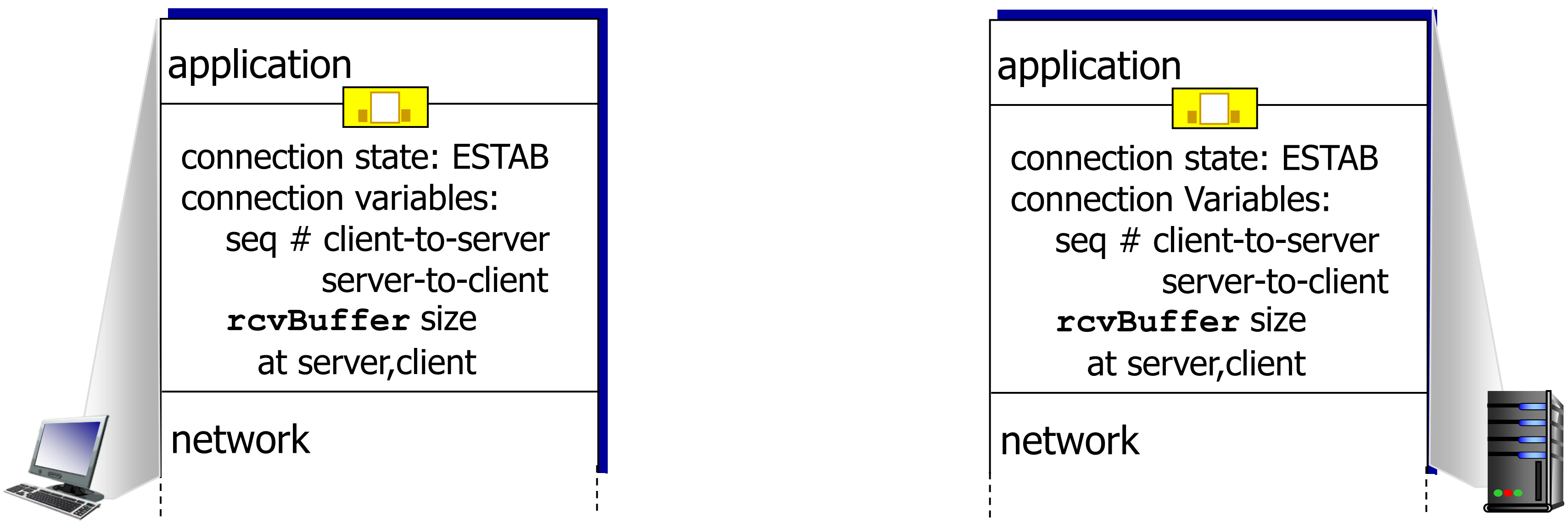
Connection Management

before exchanging data, sender/receiver "handshake":

- agree to establish connection (each knowing the other willing to establish connection)
- agree on connection parameters

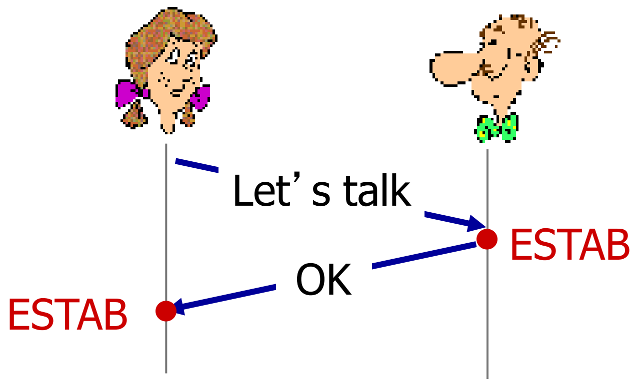


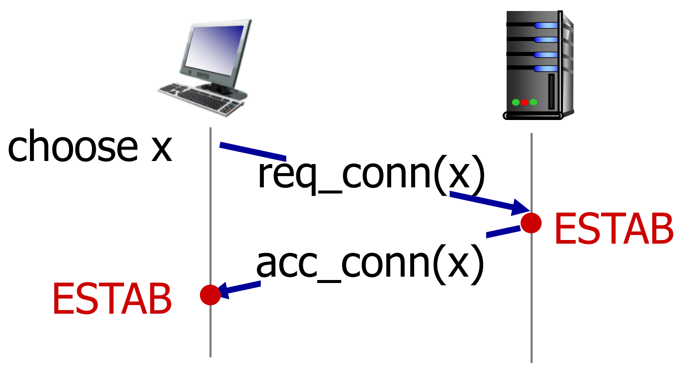

```
Socket clientSocket =
  newSocket("hostname","port
   number");
```

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

Agreeing to establish a connection

2-way handshake:



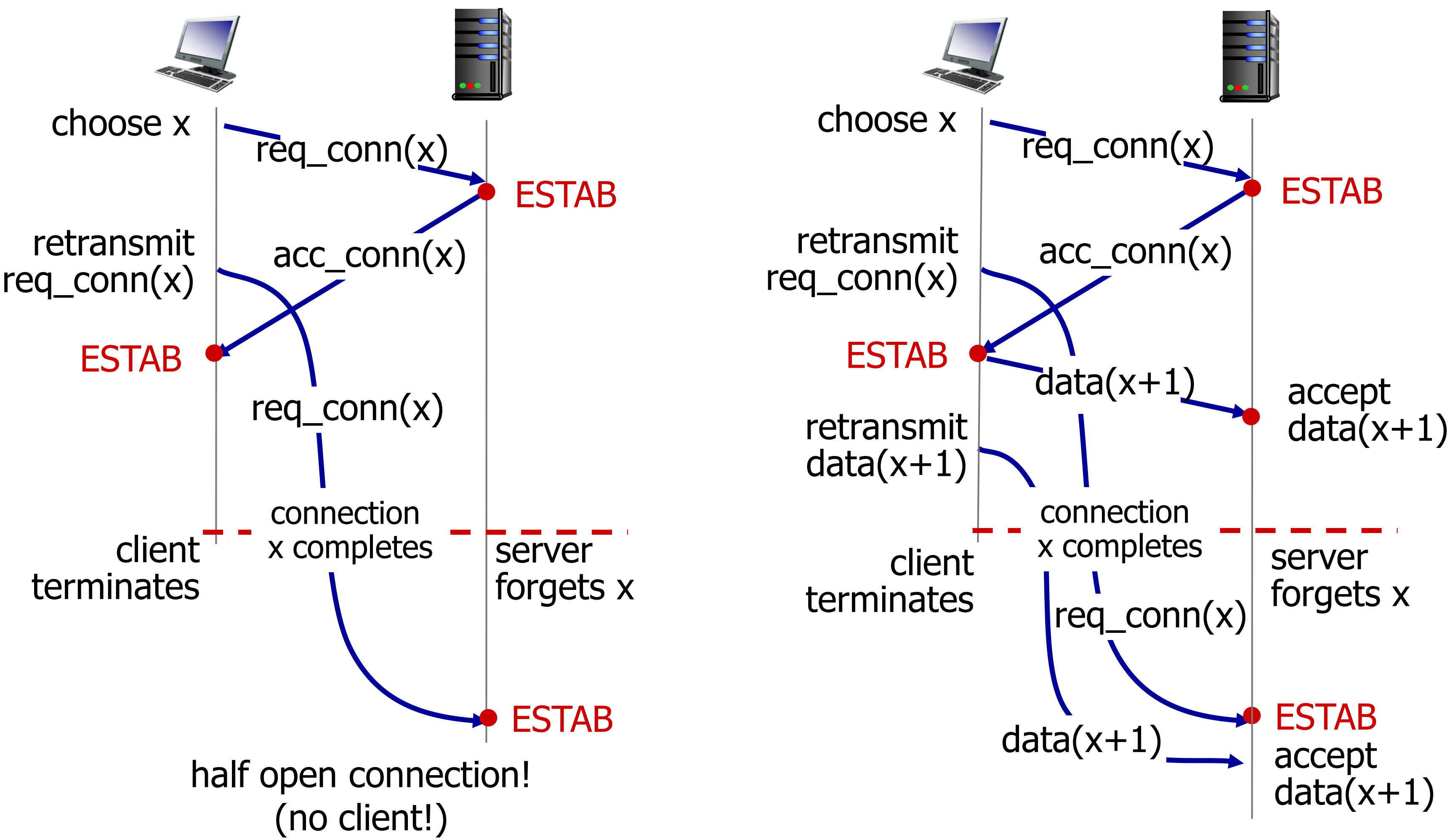


Q: will 2-way handshake always work in network?

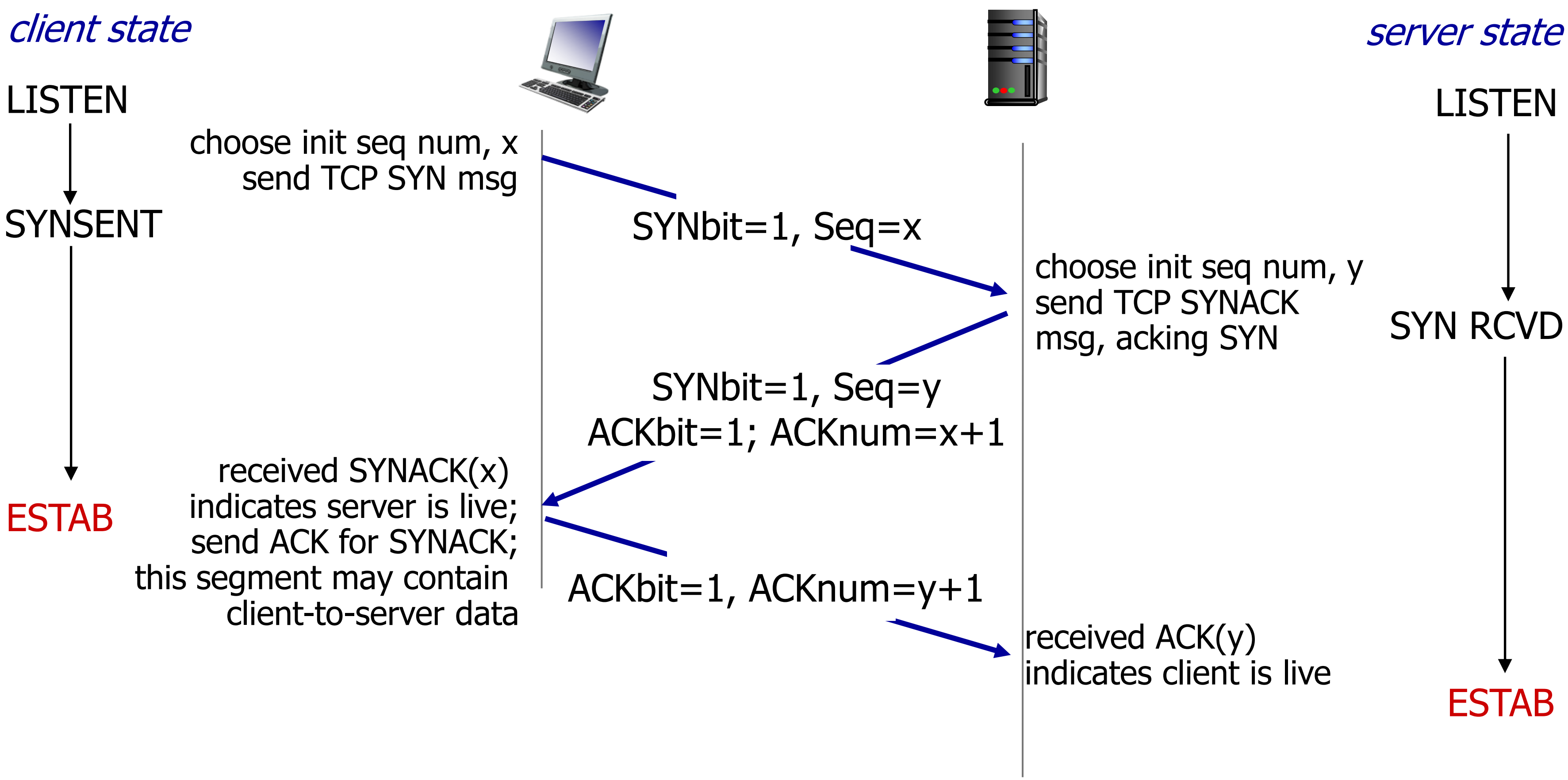
- variable delays
- retransmitted messages (e.g. req_conn(x)) due to message loss
- message reordering
- can't "see" other side

Agreeing to establish a connection

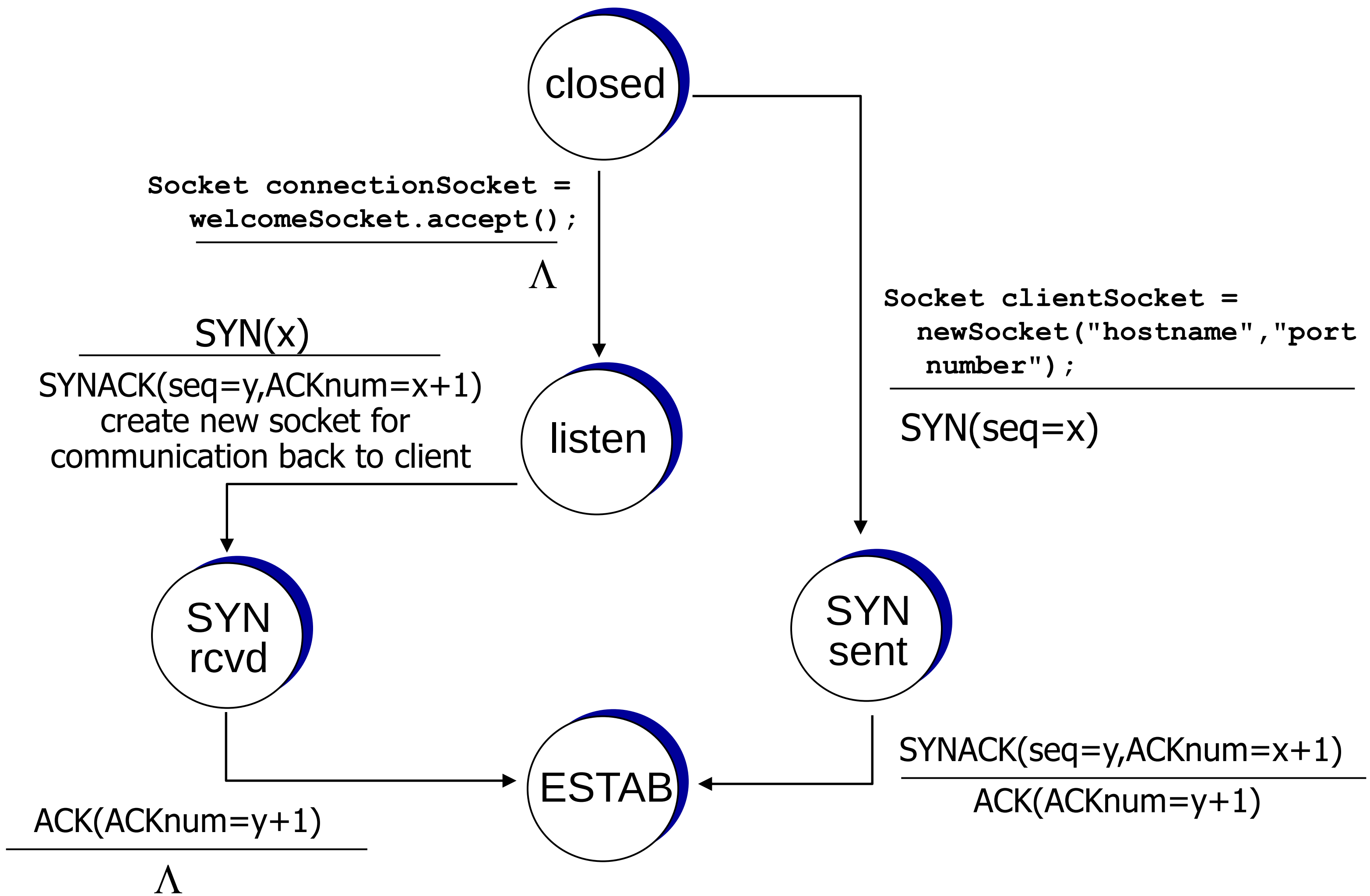
2-way handshake failure scenarios:



TCP 3-way handshake



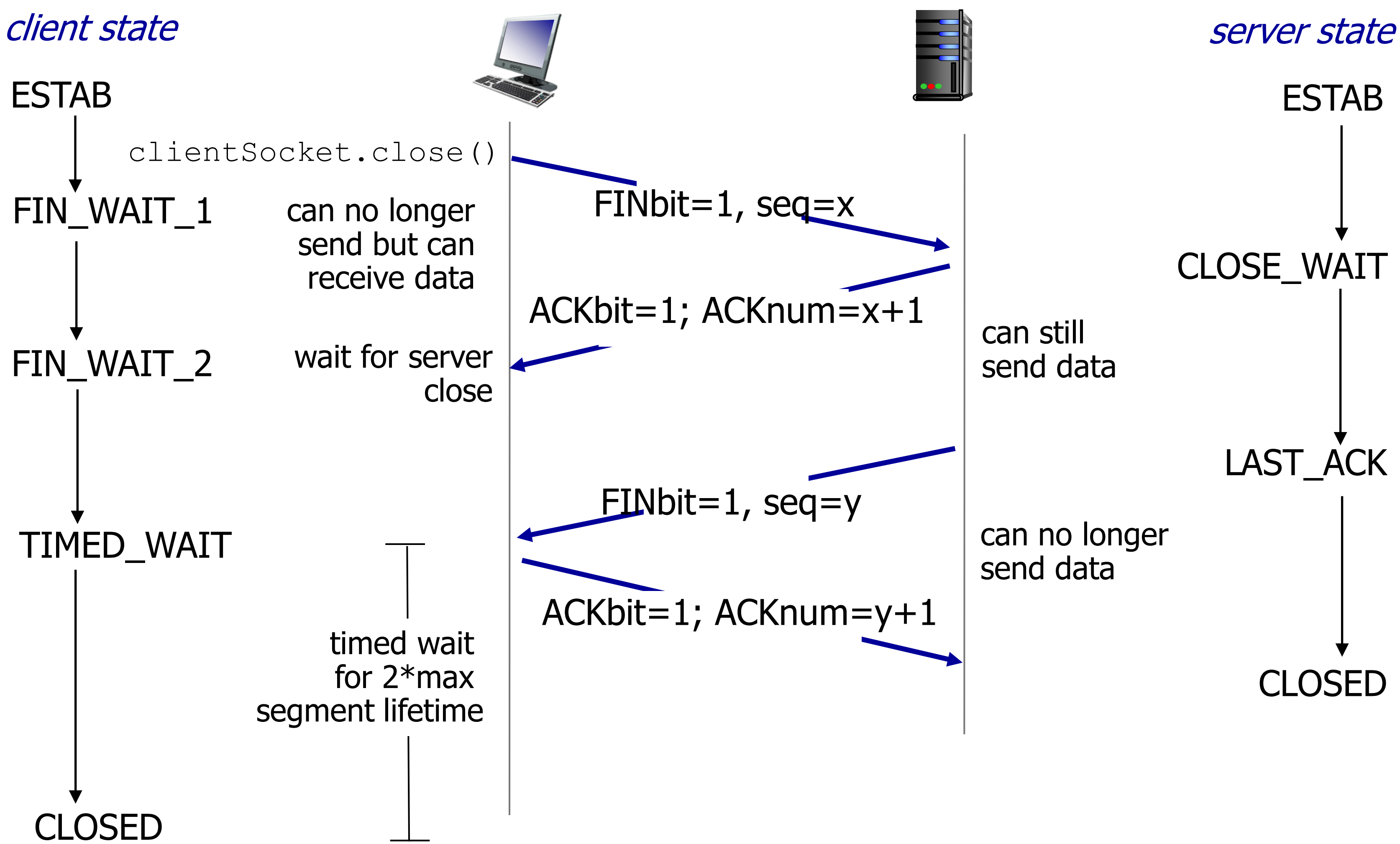
TCP 3-way handshake: FSM



TCP: closing a 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

TCP: closing a connection



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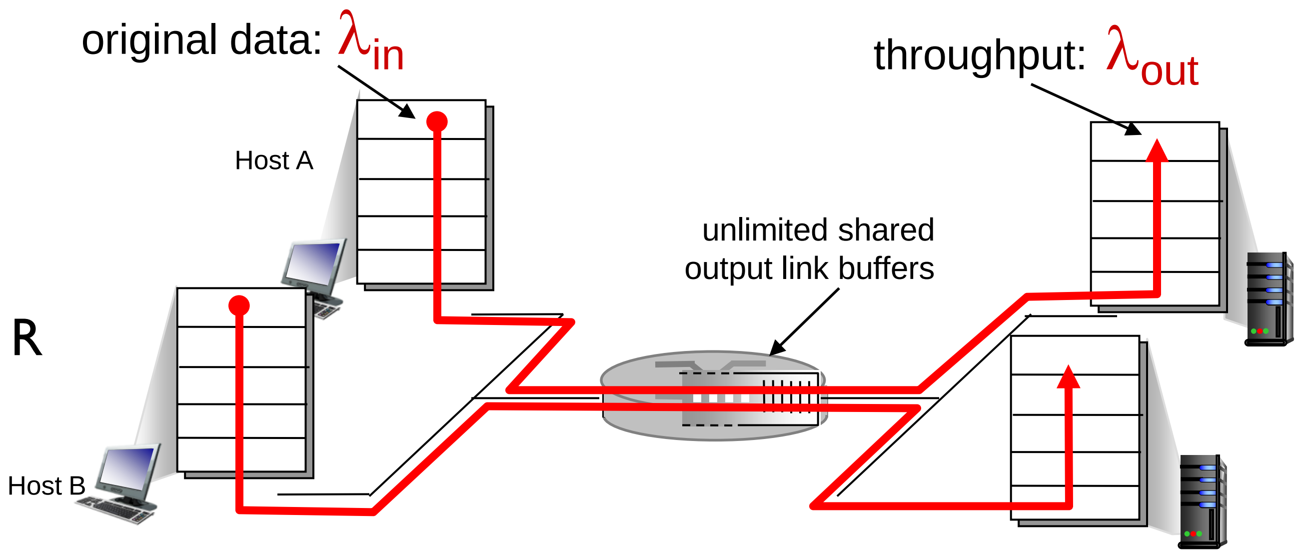
Principles of congestion control

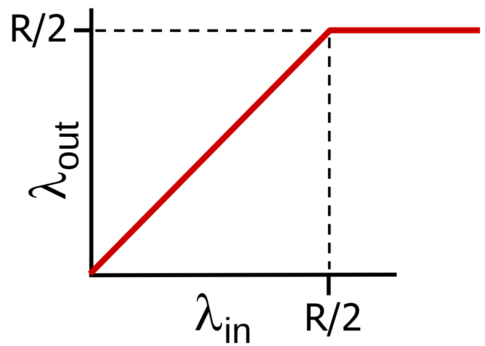
congestion:

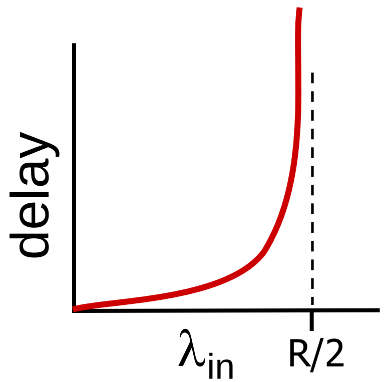
- informally: "too many sources sending too much data too fast for *network* to handle"
- different from flow control!
- manifestations:
  - lost packets (buffer overflow at routers)
  - long delays (queueing in router buffers)
- a top-10 problem!

Causes/costs of congestion: scenario 1

- two senders, two receivers
- one router, infinite buffers
- output link capacity: R
- no retransmission



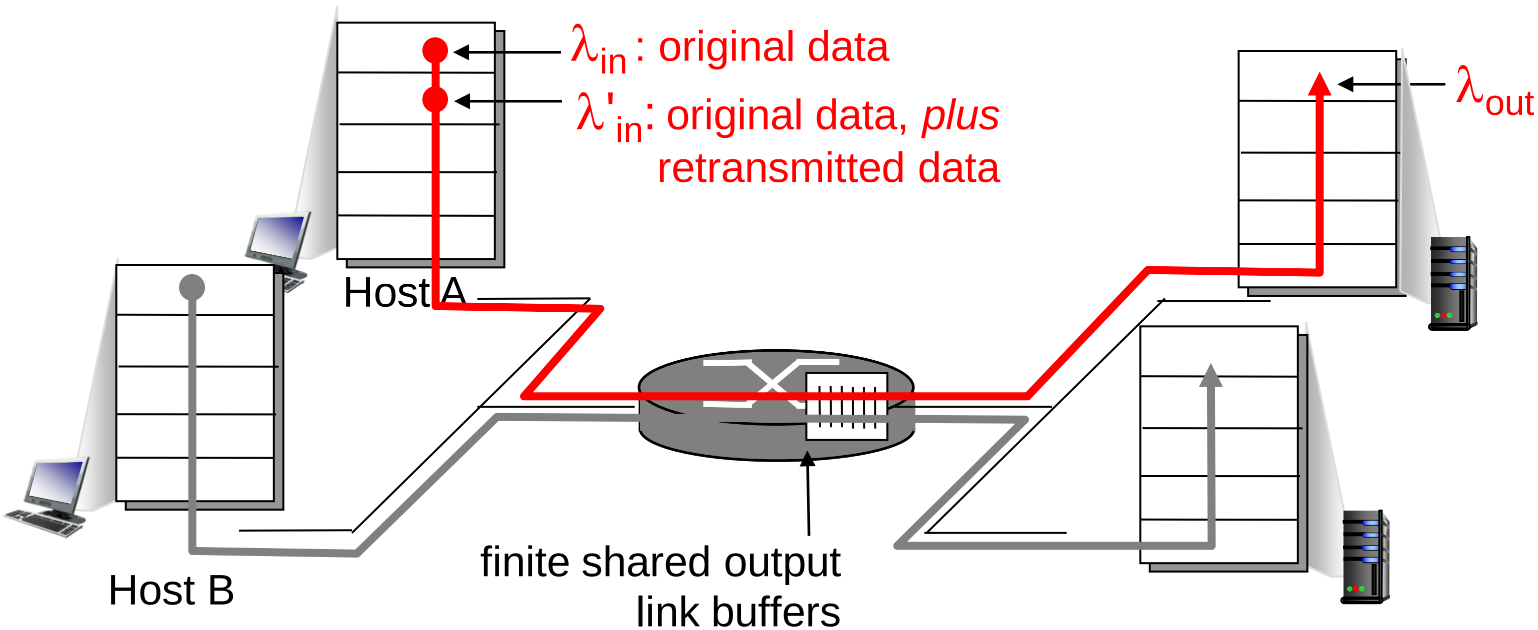




- maximum per-connection throughput: R/2
- large delays as arrival rate, λ_{in}, approaches capacity

Causes/costs of congestion: scenario 2

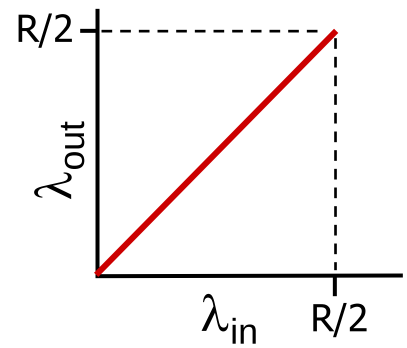
- one router, *finite* buffers
- sender retransmission of timed-out packet
  - application-layer input = application-layer output: $\lambda_{in} = \lambda_{out}$
  - transport-layer input includes *retransmissions* : $\lambda'_{in} \geq \lambda_{in}$

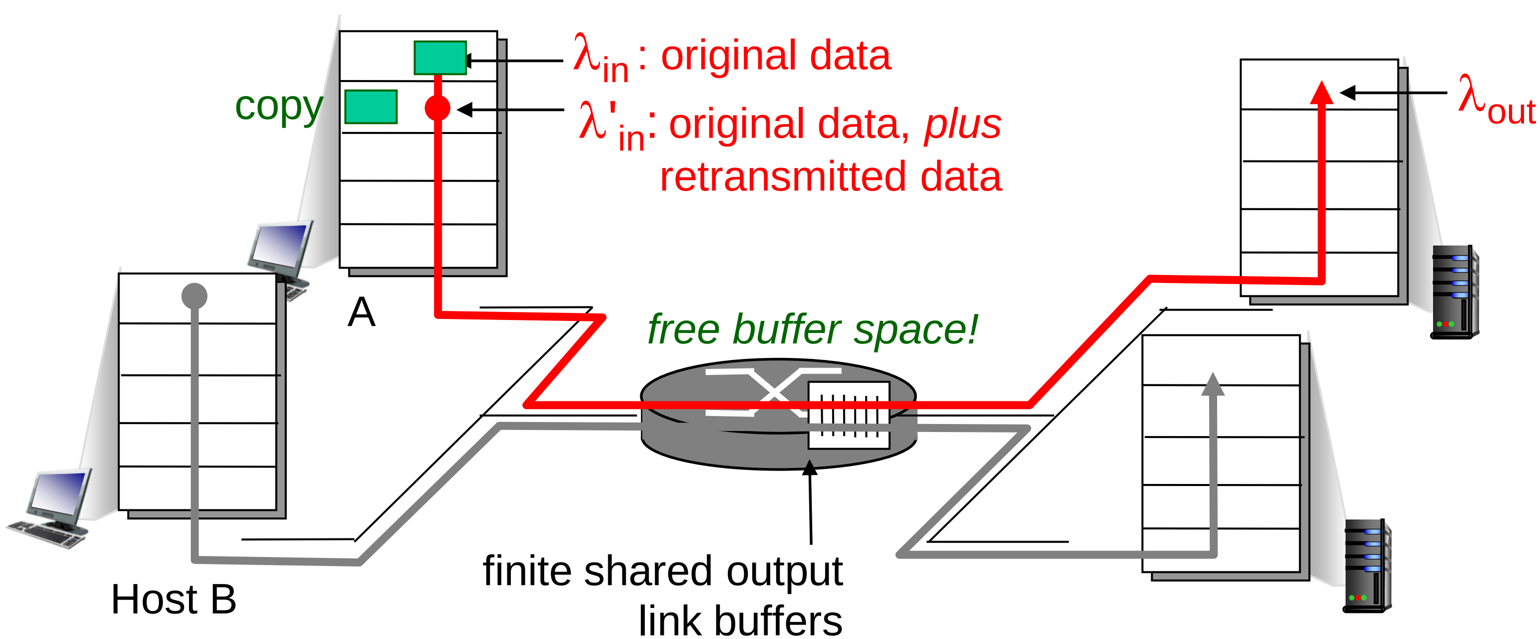


Causes/costs of congestion: scenario 2

idealization: perfect knowledge

- sender sends only when router buffers available

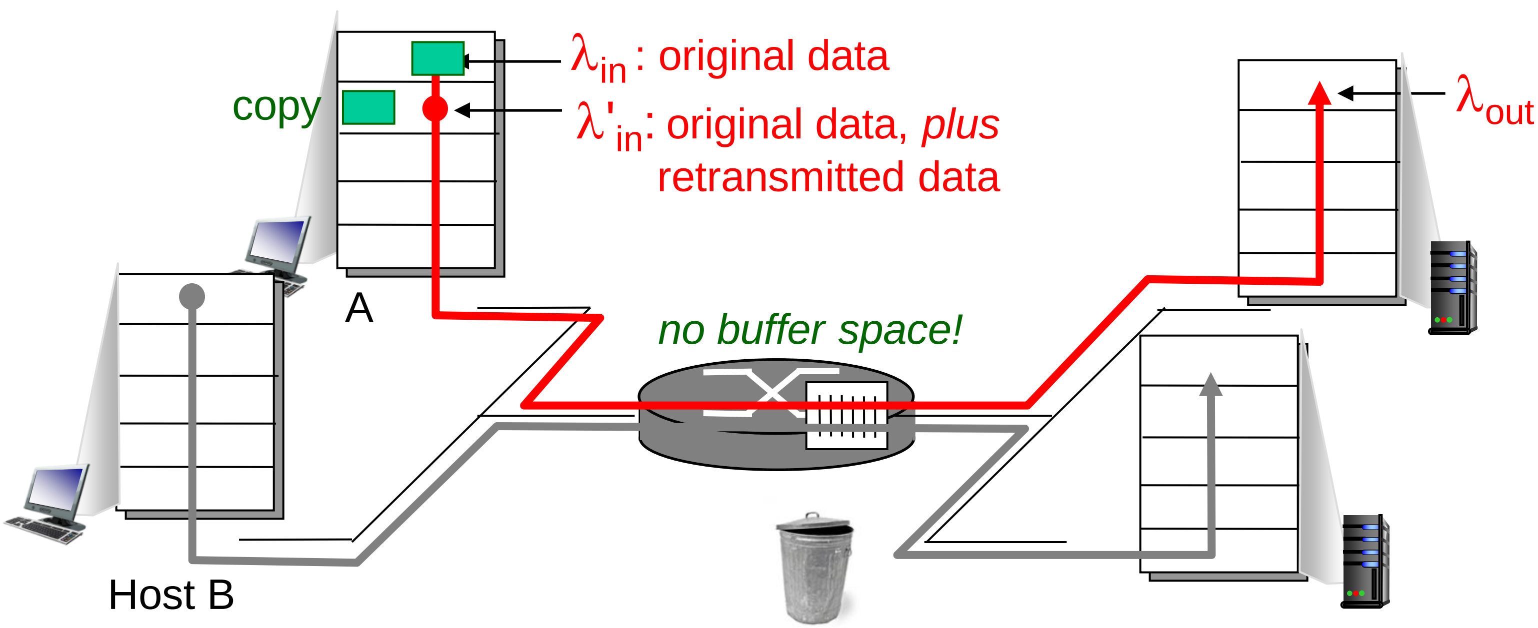




Causes/costs of congestion: scenario 2

Idealization: known loss
packets can be lost, dropped at router due to full buffers

- sender only resends if packet *known* to be lost



Causes/costs of congestion: scenario 2

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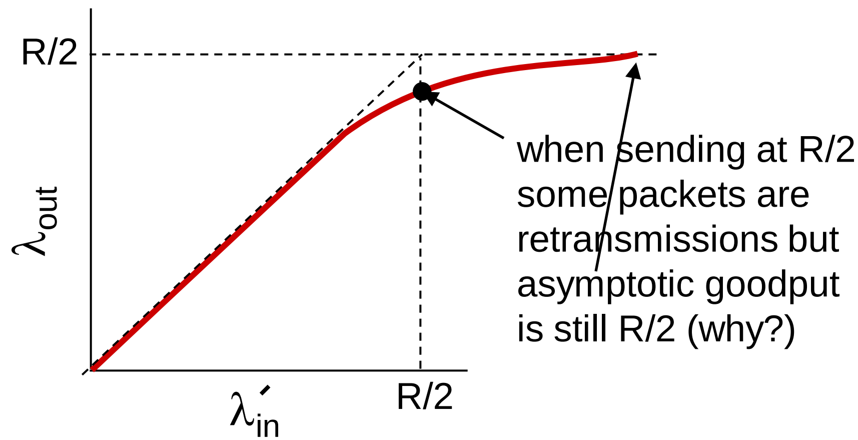
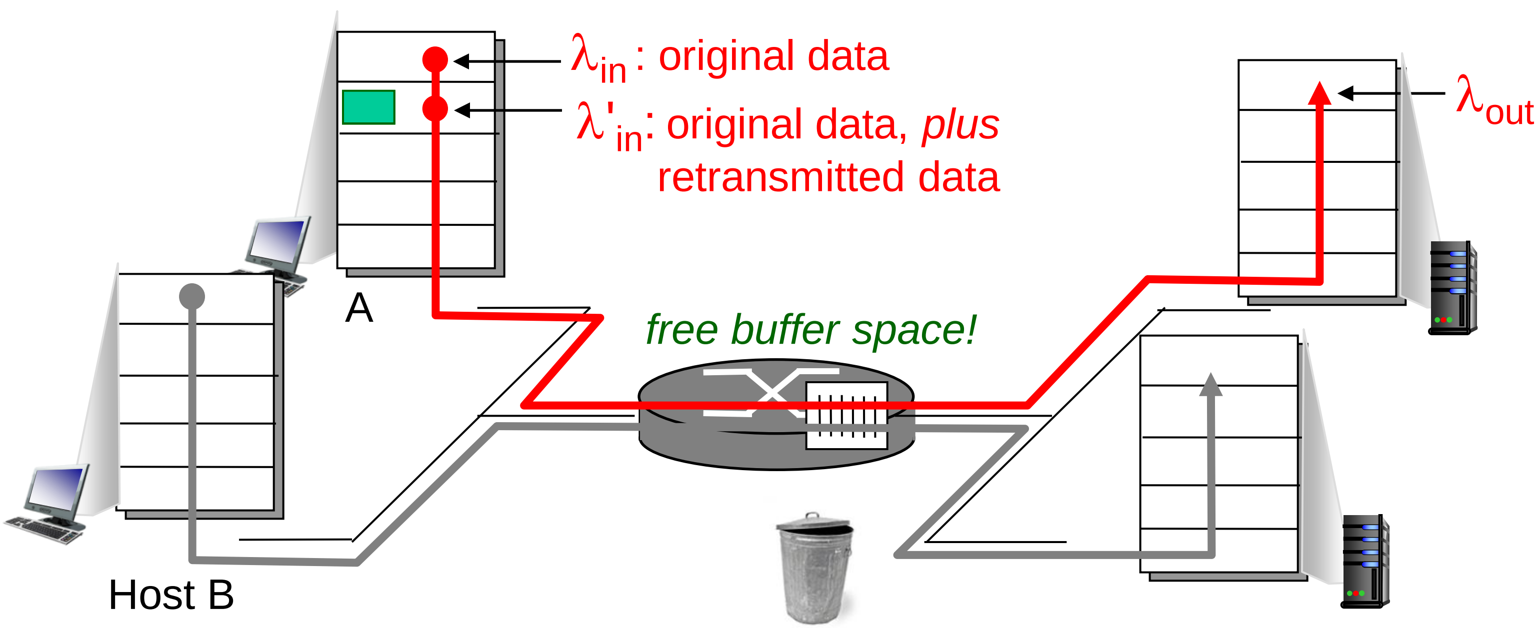
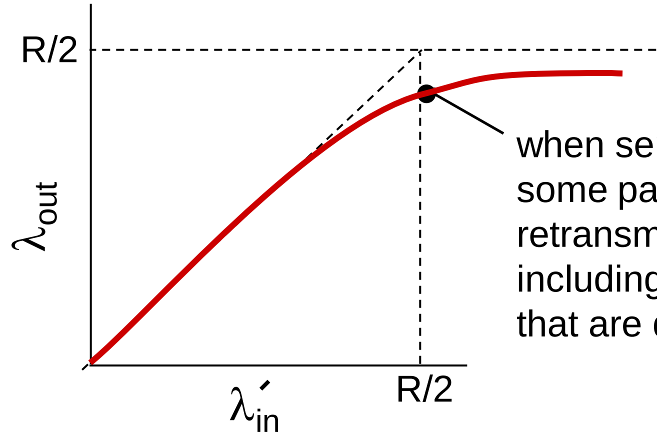




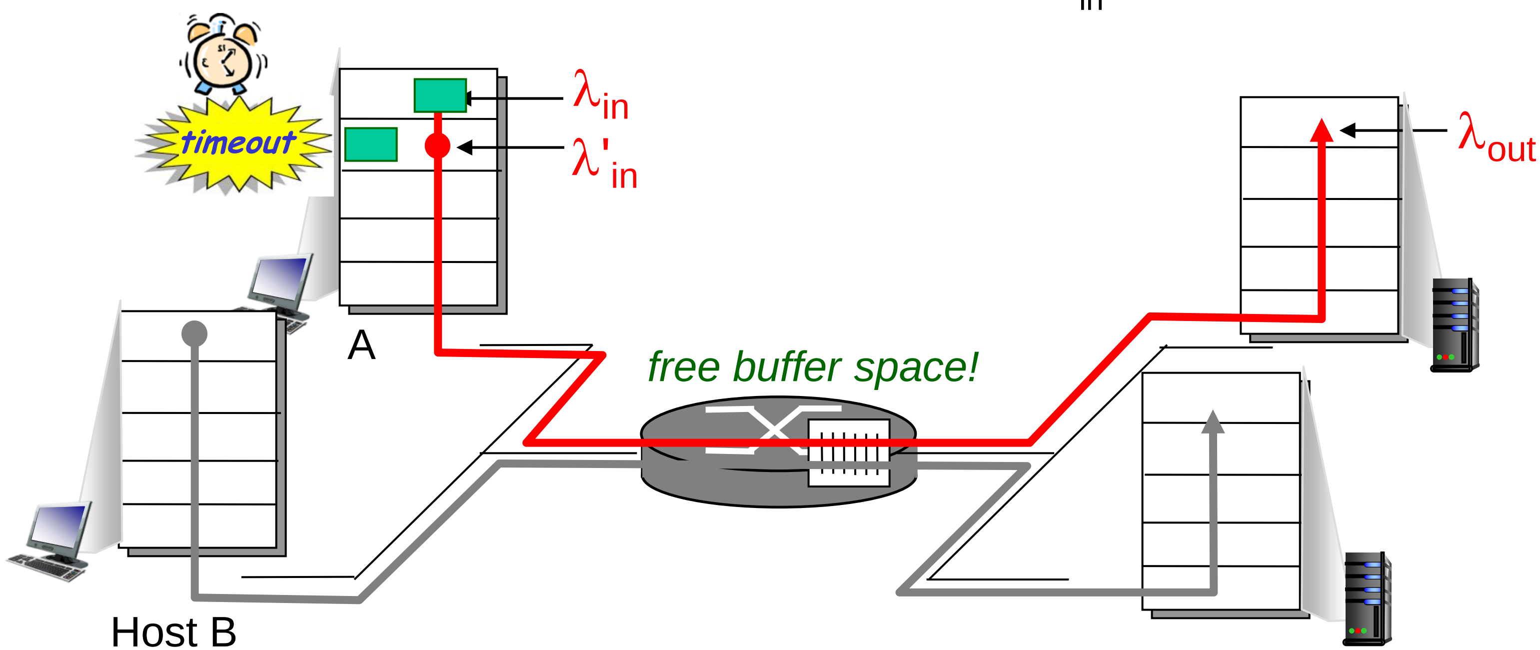
Causes/costs of congestion: scenario 2

Realistic: duplicates

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



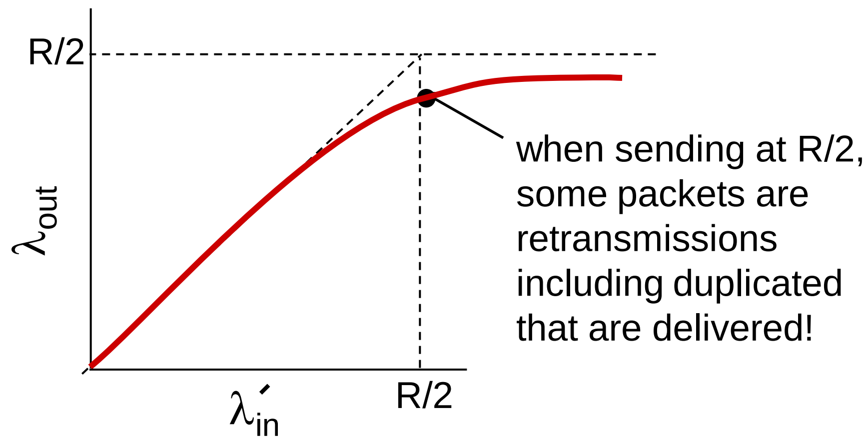
when sending at R/2, some packets are retransmissions including duplicated that are delivered!



Causes/costs of congestion: scenario 2

Realistic: ***duplicates***

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



"costs" of congestion:

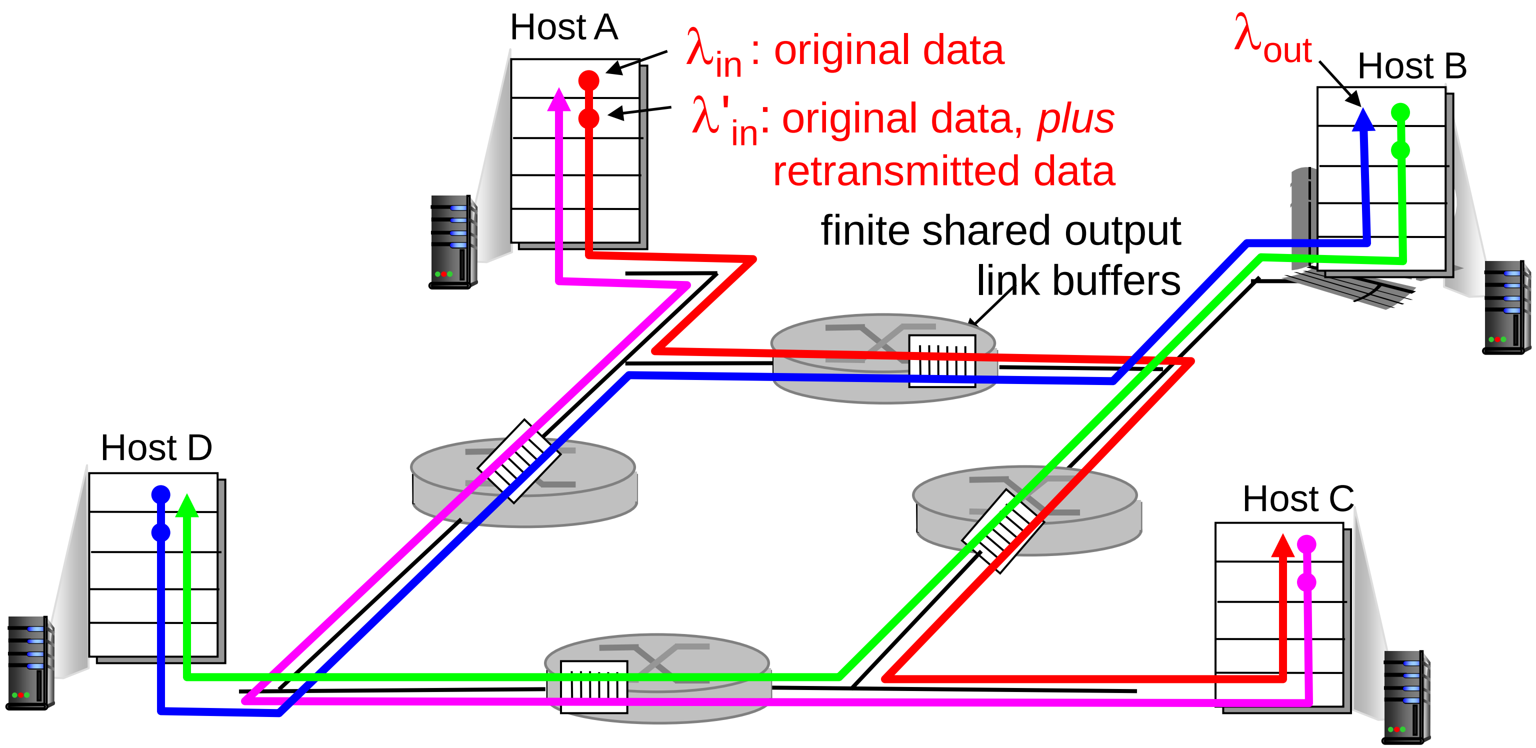
- more work (retrans) for given "goodput"
- unneeded retransmissions: link carries multiple copies of pkt
  - decreasing goodput

Causes/costs of congestion: scenario 3

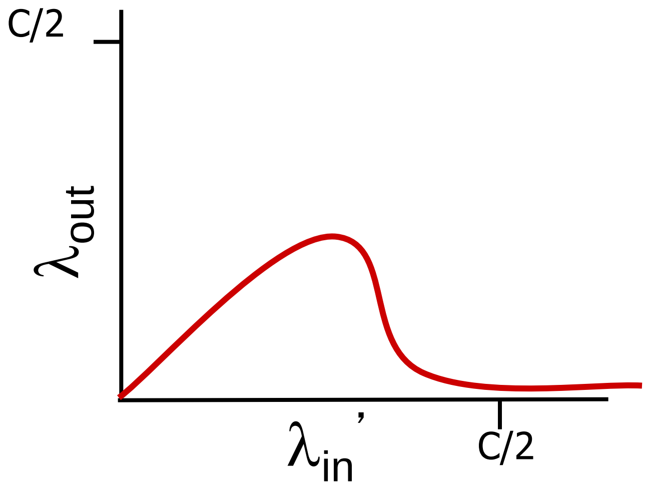
- four senders
- multihop paths
- timeout/retransmit

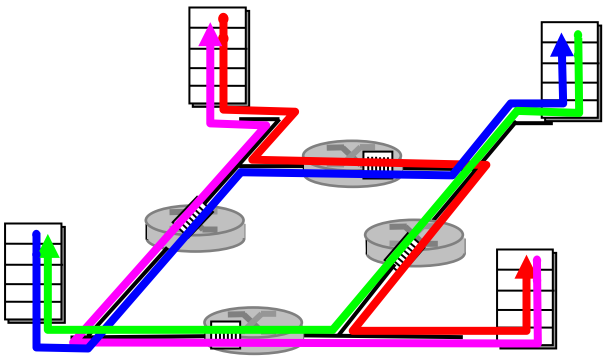
Q: what happens as λ_{in} and λ_{in}' increase ?

A: as red λ_{in}' increases, all arriving blue pkts at upper queue are dropped, blue throughput $\rightarrow$ 0



Causes/costs of congestion: scenario 3





another "cost" of congestion:

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

Approaches towards congestion control

two broad approaches towards congestion control:

end-end congestion control:

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

network-assisted congestion control:

- routers provide feedback to end systems
  - single bit indicating congestion (SNA, DECbit, TCP/IP ECN, ATM)
  - explicit rate for sender to send at

Case study: ATM ABR congestion control

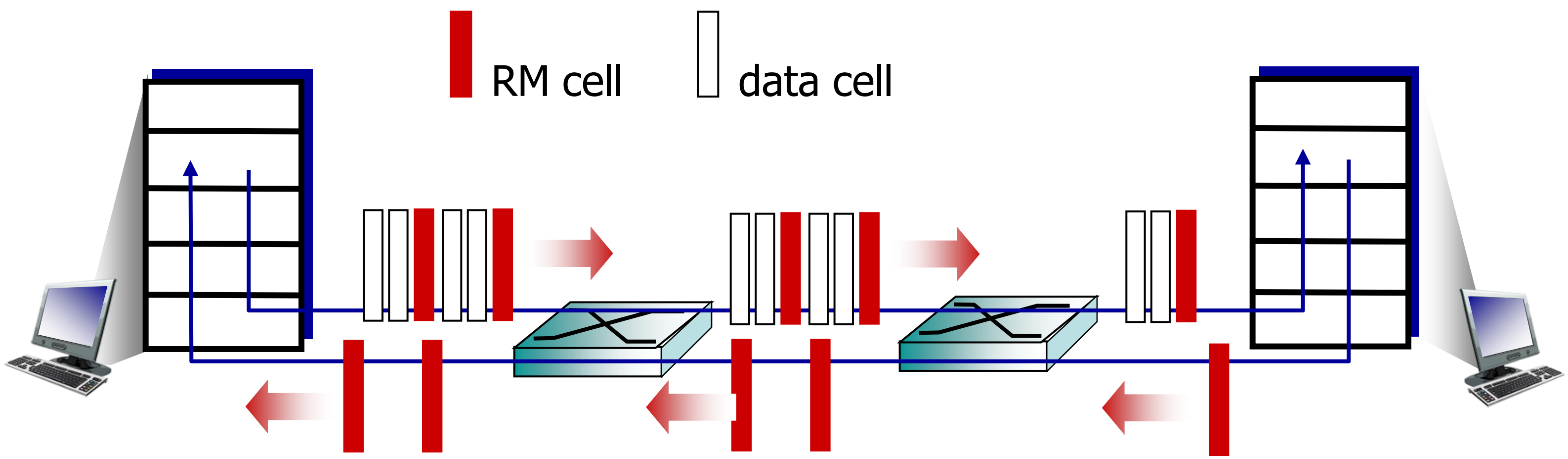
ABR: available bit rate:

- "elastic service"
- if sender's path "underloaded":
  - sender should use available bandwidth
- if sender's path congested:
  - sender throttled to minimum guaranteed rate

RM (resource management) cells:

- sent by sender, interspersed with data cells
- bits in RM cell set by switches ("*network-assisted*")
  - *NI bit:* no increase in rate (mild congestion)
  - *CI bit:* congestion indication
- RM cells returned to sender by receiver, with bits intact

Case study: ATM ABR congestion control



- two-byte ER (explicit rate) field in RM cell
  - congested switch may lower ER value in cell
  - senders' send rate thus max supportable rate on path
- EFCI bit in data cells: set to 1 in congested switch
  - if data cell preceding RM cell has EFCI set, receiver sets CI bit in returned RM cell

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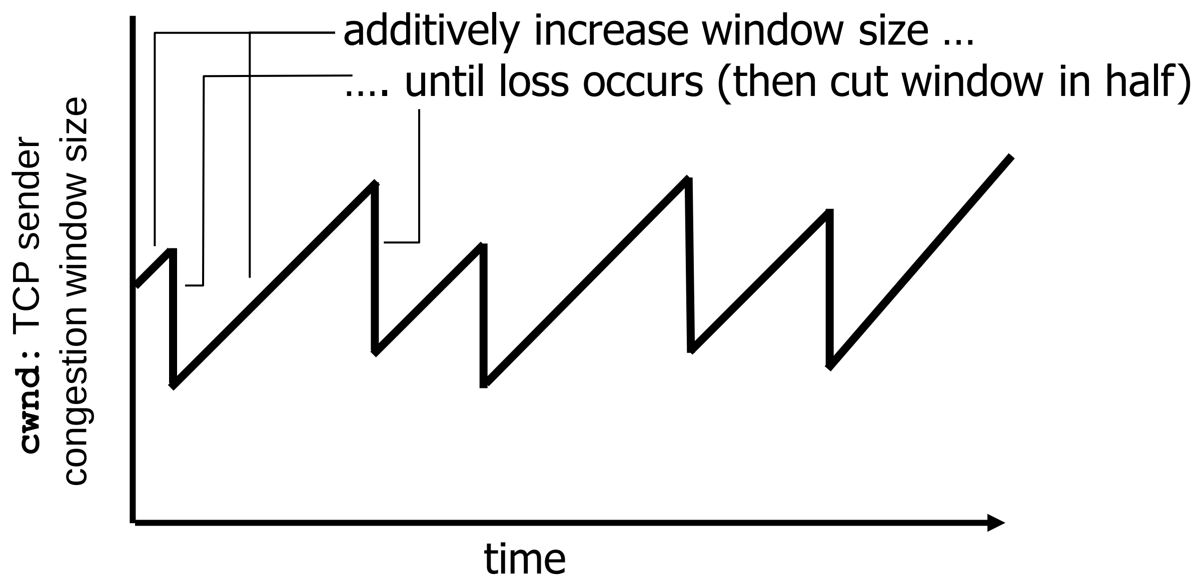
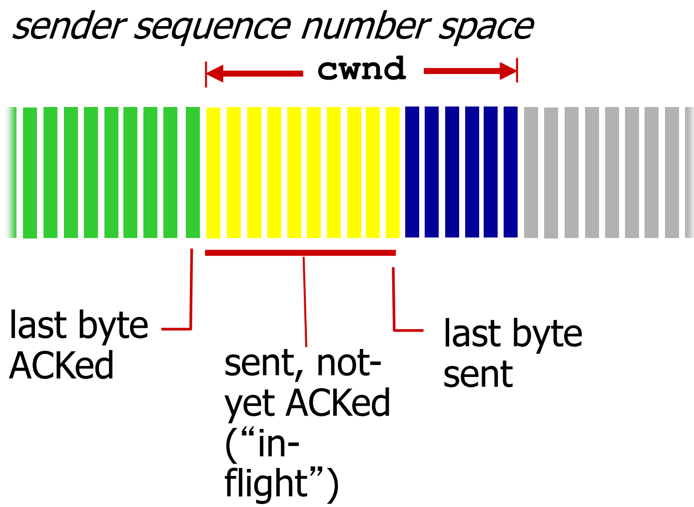
TCP congestion control: additive increase multiplicative decrease

- *approach:* sender increases transmission rate (window size), probing for usable bandwidth, until loss occurs
  - *additive increase:* increase **`cwnd`** by 1 MSS every RTT until loss detected
  - *multiplicative decrease:* cut **`cwnd`** in half after loss

AIMD saw tooth behavior: probing for bandwidth



TCP Congestion Control: details



- sender limits transmission:

$$\texttt{LastByteSent-LastByteAcked} \leq \texttt{cwnd}$$

- **`cwnd`** is dynamic, function of perceived network congestion

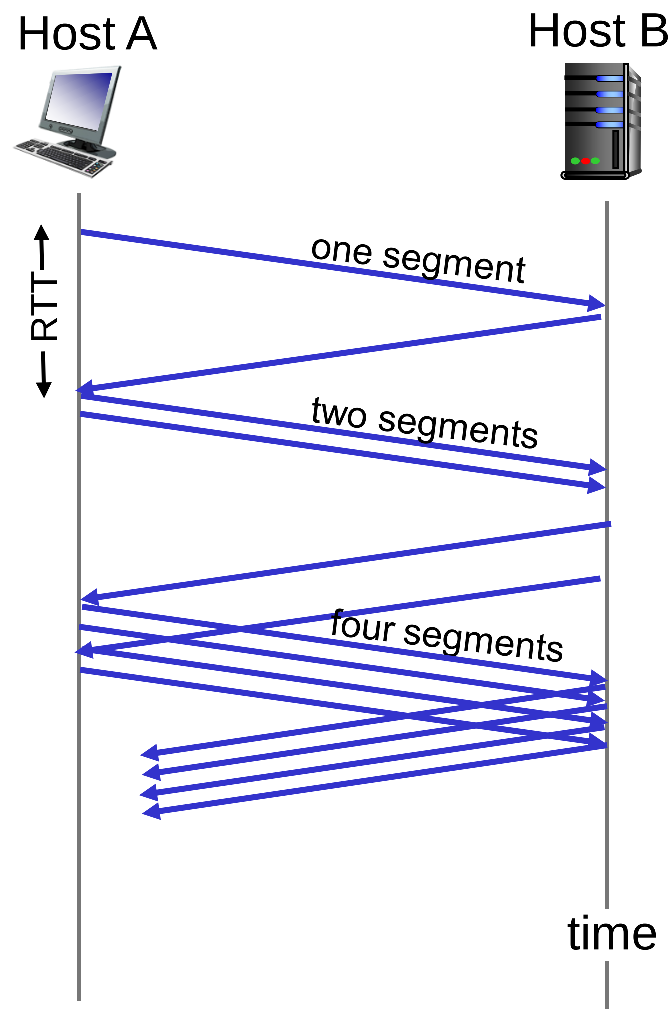
TCP sending rate:

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

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

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



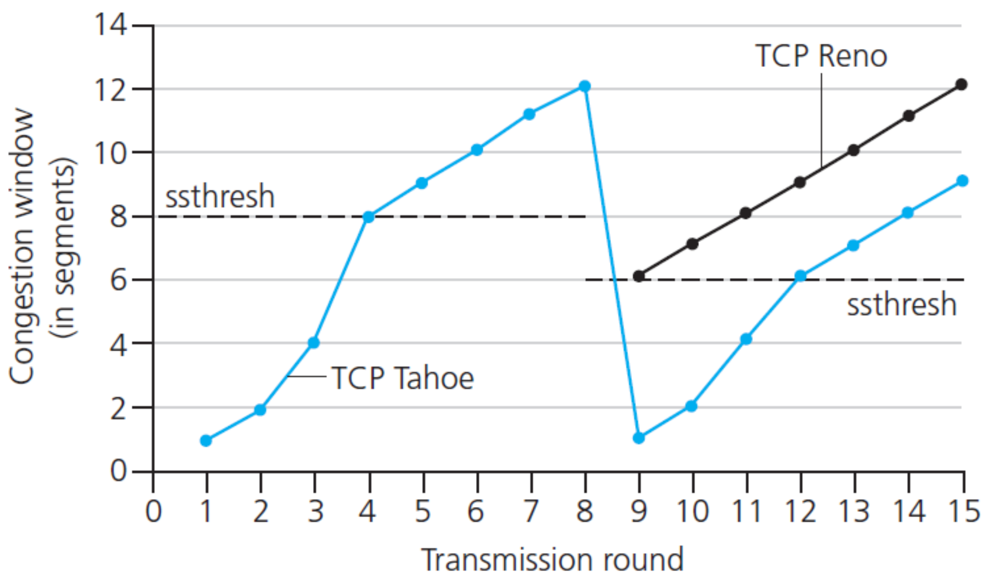
TCP: detecting, reacting to loss

- loss indicated by timeout:
  - **`cwnd`** set to 1 MSS;
  - window then grows exponentially (as in slow start) to threshold, then grows linearly
- loss indicated by 3 duplicate ACKs: TCP RENO
  - dup ACKs indicate network capable of delivering some segments
  - **`cwnd`** is cut in half window then grows linearly
- TCP Tahoe always sets **`cwnd`** to 1 (timeout or 3 duplicate acks)

TCP: switching from slow start to CA

Q: when should the exponential increase switch to linear?

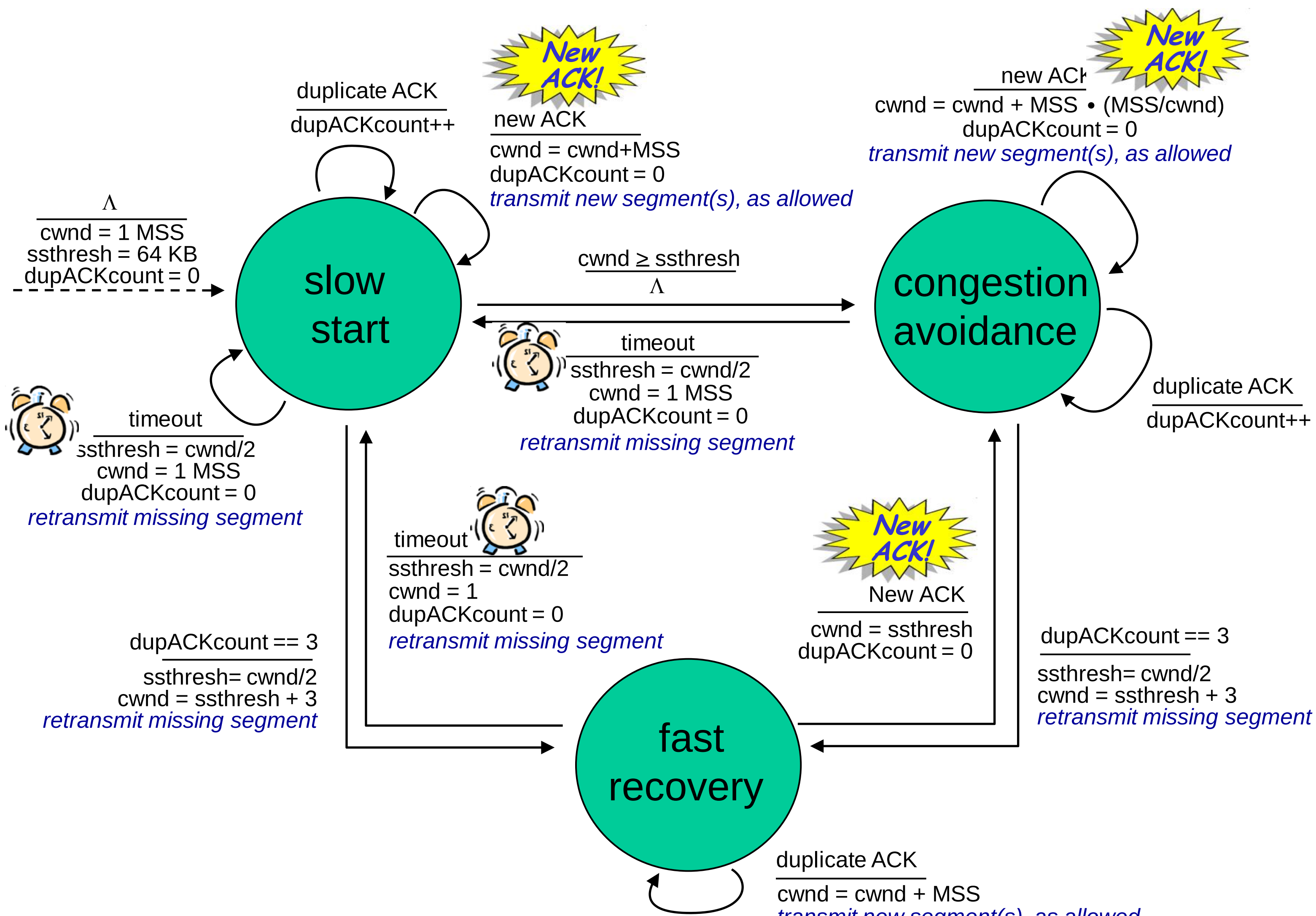
A: when **cwnd** gets to 1/2 of its value before timeout.



Implementation:

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

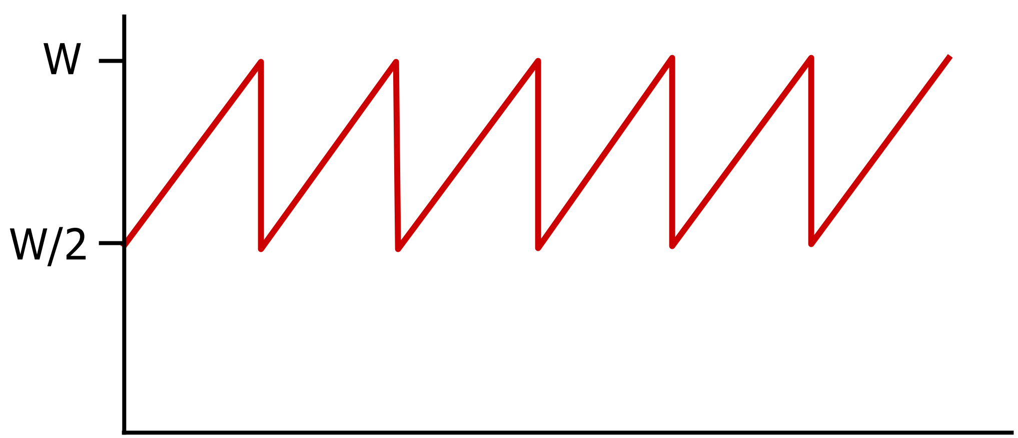
Summary: TCP Congestion Control



TCP throughput

- avg. TCP thruput as function of window size, RTT?
  - ignore slow start, assume always data to send
- W: window size (measured in bytes) where loss occurs
  - avg. window size (# in-flight bytes) is ¾ W
  - avg. thruput is 3/4W per RTT

$$\text{avg TCP thruput} = \frac{3}{4}\,\frac{W}{RTT}\ \text{bytes/sec}$$



TCP Futures: TCP over "long, fat pipes"

- example: 1500 byte segments, 100ms RTT, want 10 Gbps throughput
- requires W = 83,333 in-flight segments
- throughput in terms of segment loss probability, L [Mathis 1997]:

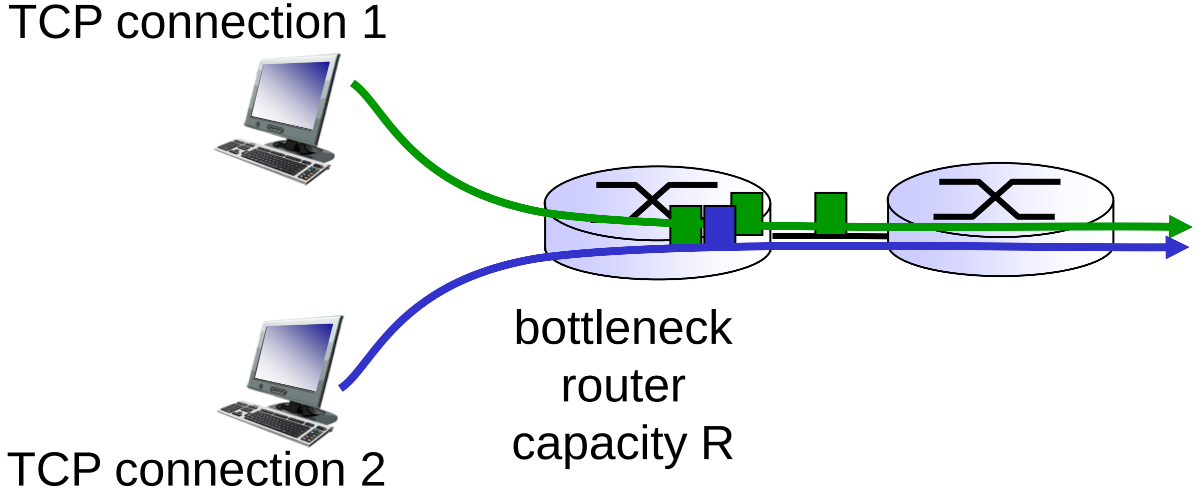
$$\text{TCP throughput} = \frac{1.22 \cdot \text{MSS}}{\text{RTT}\sqrt{L}}$$

➜ to achieve 10 Gbps throughput, need a loss rate of L = $2 \cdot 10^{-10}$ *– a very small loss rate!*

- new versions of TCP for high-speed

TCP Fairness

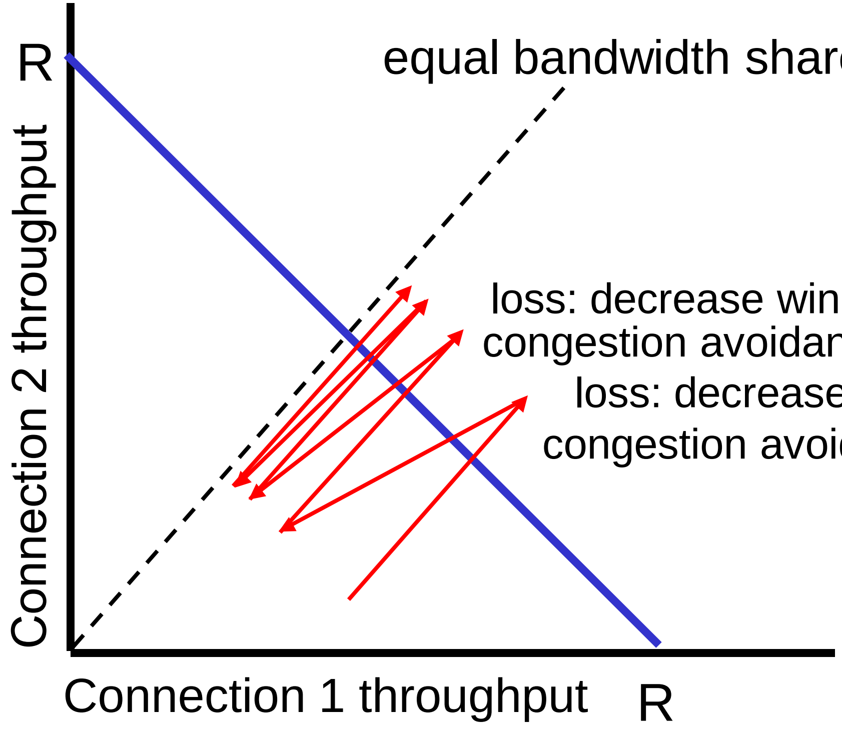
fairness goal: if K TCP sessions share same bottleneck link of bandwidth R, each should have average rate of R/K



Why is TCP fair?

two competing sessions:

- additive increase gives slope of 1, as throughout increases
- multiplicative decrease decreases throughput proportionally



Fairness (more)

Fairness and UDP

- multimedia apps often do not use TCP
  - do not want rate throttled by congestion control
- instead use UDP:
  - send audio/video at constant rate, tolerate packet loss

Fairness, parallel TCP connections

- application can open multiple parallel connections between two hosts
- web browsers do this
- e.g., link of rate R with 9 existing connections:
  - new app asks for 1 TCP, gets rate R/10
  - new app asks for 11 TCPs, gets R/2

Chapter 3: summary

- principles behind transport layer services:
  - multiplexing, demultiplexing
  - reliable data transfer
  - flow control
  - congestion control
- instantiation, implementation in the Internet
  - UDP
  - TCP

next:

- leaving the network "edge" (application, transport layers)
- into the network "core"