

# DYNAMIC AUTHENTICATED TCP SERIALIZE APPROACH

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## **Abstract**

TCP is a sliding window protocol that provides handling for both timeouts and retransmissions. TCP performs unsatisfactorily since packet reordering and random losses may be falsely interpreted as congestive losses. This causes TCP to trigger fast retransmission and fast recovery spuriously, leading to under-utilization of available network resources. In this Project, we propose a novel TCP variant, known as TCP for non congestive loss, to adapt TCP to wireless networks by using more reliable signals of packet loss and network overload for activating packet retransmission and congestion response, separately. TCP-NCL can thus serve as a unified solution for effective congestion control, sequencing control, and loss recovery. The proposed variant are limited to sender-side TCP only, thereby facilitating possible future wide deployment. Authentication is any process by which you verify that someone is who they claim they are. Authorization is any process by which someone is allowed to be where they want to go, or to have information that they want to have. authentication achievement is a major issue in data transmission. we are implementing TCP retransmission with security.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) is the most important transport layer protocol in current networks, providing in-order data delivery services to various applications and featuring reliable transmission and *end-to-end* congestion control. In fulfilling the former feature, signals of packet loss have been used for triggering retransmission of lost data packets or segments to ensure the eventual delivery of every data byte. In fulfilling the latter, signals of network overload have been used for triggering congestion response, which reduces the size of the congestion window (*cwnd*) and thus avoids further overloading a congested network

However, how to identify signals and utilize the identified signals to perform effective congestion control and loss recovery has long been a very challenging research problem.

The popular TCP variants, such as TCP Reno use the same set of signals for indicating packet loss and network overload. Two types of signals are used, namely retransmission timeout (RTO) and triple duplicate acknowledgments (ACKs). A retransmission timer is started when a data packet is first injected into the network, and will timeout if an ACK for the packet is still missing when the timer expires. Upon the occurrence of an RTO, all the outstanding packets will be retransmitted. At the same time, the network is deemed severely congested and *cwnd* will be forced to reopen from one packet size by employing the slow start algorithm. A TCP receiver would expect all the data packets received to be consecutively ordered. Otherwise, it will send back a duplicate ACK to its corresponding TCP sender for each received packet failing the expectation. At the sender side, when the number of duplicate ACKs reaches a certain threshold value, say, three, fast retransmit and fast recovery will be activated,

retransmitting the packet expected by the receiver and halving *cwnd*. Therefore, the arrival of triple duplicate ACKs, a direct signal of out-of-order packet events, is further used as an indication of congestive packet loss. By using triple duplicate ACKs for activating packet retransmission and congestion response, the conventional TCP designs rely on the assumptions of a nearly in-order channel of negligible or recoverable transmission error. While the assumptions might hold over traditional wired networks, they are generally violated over wireless networks due to the significant level of occurrences of random packet losses and packet reordering .

As compared with the wired media, the wireless medium provides much more lossy physical links for data transmissions. Signals propagating over wireless channels suffer from degradation, interference, and noise. Packets received may be damaged beyond the recovery

capability of error control codes, if any. These packets are thus discarded, leading to the occurrence of random packet losses. Packet reordering refers to the disruption of the packet order of a TCP flow. Despite conventional beliefs that packet reordering is a transient or pathological network behavior, it is in fact persistently observed over modern networks and can be caused by a myriad of reasons. Due to the high transmission error rates and, in some cases, mobility in wireless networks, packet reordering is further increased substantially when the transmission medium evolves from physical cables to wireless. Specifically, four causes of packet reordering are commonly observed over wireless networks, including link layer retransmission (LLRTX) path change, hand-off in cellular wireless networks, and packet level multi-path routing.

Hence, in wireless networks, triple duplicate ACKs amount to fairly poor signals of packet loss. The conventional TCP designs use the same signals for inferring packet loss and network overload. Thus, they tend to falsely trigger packet retransmission and reduce *cwnd* from time to time, injecting duplicated bytes into the network and keeping *cwnd* unnecessarily small. Consequently, the available network resources are wasted and under-utilized.

Our proposed novel TCP variant, known as TCP for non-congestive loss (TCP-NCL), employs more reliable signals of packet loss and network congestion over a general error-prone channel for activating packet retransmission and congestion response, respectively. Thus, TCP-NCL serves as a unified solution for effective congestion control, sequencing control, and loss recovery. Moreover, the proposed modifications involved are limited to sender-side TCP only, thereby facilitating possible future wide deployment. As summarized in, most existing TCP variants in the literature only focus on congestion control and loss recovery with the presence of either random packet loss or packet reordering. A few unified solutions, such as, generally require information and modifications beyond the scope of the transport layer, hindering possible future wide deployment.

This paper is organized as follows. Section II develops the smart TCP sender (STS) model, explaining the motivation behind our serialized-timer structure and modelling the optimal timer expiration periods. Section III presents TCPNCL based on the analytical results of the STS model. Section IV compares the performance of TCP-NCL with some popular TCP variants. Section V concludes and discusses some possible extensions of our work.

## II. SMART TCP SENDER MODEL

The structure of our smart TCP sender (STS) model, first motivated and described in, is illustrated in Fig. 1. A new retransmission decision timer  $RD_i$  is started whenever a new packet  $P_i$  is injected into the network. If ACK is received at the TCP sender before  $RD_i$  expires,  $RD_i$  will be cancelled. otherwise,  $P_i$  will be retransmitted and a congestion response decision timer  $CD_i$  will be started.  $CD_i$  will be cancelled if ACK arrives before it expires. Otherwise, the congestion control mechanisms will be activated upon the expiration of  $CD_i$ . Therefore, the installation of CD allows the TCP sender extra time after the packet retransmission to decide whether congestion control shall be activated.  $ACK_i$  arriving before the expiration of CD shall be treated as an indication of no network congestion. Thus, this eliminates the need for activating any congestion control measures.

The expirations of two serialized timers (the second timer,  $CD_i$ , is started upon the expiration of the first timer,  $RD_i$ ) are employed for triggering a packet retransmission and a congestion response, respectively. The latter action is thus delayed behind the former by the expiration period of CD. This brings us a two-fold advantage as compared with most

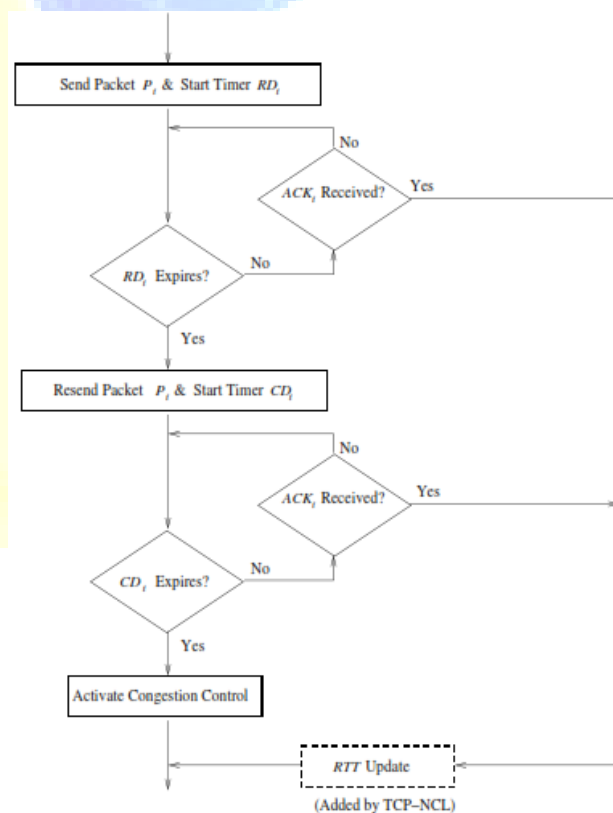


Fig. 1. A flowchart for the STS model.

existing TCP variants, which trigger these two actions concurrently. First, information conveyed by the events after a packet retransmission can be used for deciding whether or not to activate a congestion response. Specifically, if a packet is acknowledged shortly after its retransmission, this ACK is either due to the first transmitted packet or the retransmitted packet. The latter case implies a short round-trip time and thus a lightly loaded network. In either case, there is no need to trigger a congestion response. Second, it is more "affordable" for TCP to trigger a false fast retransmit than a false congestion response. By advancing packet retransmission before the activation of congestion response, fast retransmit can be more promptly activated while avoiding the heavy penalty due to a false congestion response.

The expiration periods of  $CD_i$  and  $RD_i$  are evaluated in Sections II-A and IIB, respectively. To facilitate the subsequent discussion, we summarize the notations in Table I.

A. *Retransmission Decision Timer*

$\tau_{RD_i}$  determines how long we have to wait before activating packet retransmission. The assignment of

$\tau_{RD_i}$   $RD_i$  requires carefully balancing between the objectives of prompt retransmission for preventing RTO and avoiding spurious packet retransmissions. Ideally, it should be guaranteed that, when  $P_i^o$  RD is lost due to congestion,  $P_i^r$  should be promptly transmitted so that the remaining time before RTO is sufficient for it to be acknowledged. This ensures that  $cwnd$  will be

TABLE I  
NOTATIONS.

$F(t)$	Cumulative distribution function of RTT for Packet $P_i$
$G$	Goodput of TCP sender
$mrtt_i$	Minimum attainable RTT for Packet $P_i$
$P_i^o$	First transmitted Packet $P_i$
$P_i^r$	Retransmitted Packet $P_i$
$p_c$	Congestive loss rate
$p_l$	Overall loss rate
$p_w$	Non-congestive loss rate
$T$	Throughput of TCP sender
$W$	Average $cwnd$ over a TCP session
$CL_i^o$	$P_i^o$ lost due to congestion
$PA_i(t)$	$P_i^r$ acknowledged by time period $t$ after $RTX_i$
$PL_i^r$	$P_i^r$ lost
$PU_i(t)$	$P_i^r$ unacknowledged by time period $t$ after retransmission
$RTX_i$	Retransmission of $P_i$
$TO$	Retransmission timeout

halved instead

of being reset to one at the onset of network overload. In other words, RTO will be incurred if and only if  $P_i^r$

is lost:

$$P(TO|CL_i^o) = P(PL_i^r) = p_l \quad (1)$$

On the other hand, an excessively small  $\tau_{RD_i}$  will result in spurious packet retransmissions. Let  $F(\tau_{RD_i}) = 1 - \zeta$ , where  $0 \leq \zeta \leq 1$ . It can be shown that:

$$\frac{G}{T} = [(1 + p_l) + \zeta(1 - p_l)]^{-1} \quad (2)$$

To improve efficiency, we thus have:

$$\zeta \ll 1 \quad (3)$$

Considering that retransmission timer only serves as a coarse upper bound for performing loss recovery and congestion control, it is possible for (1) and (3) to be simultaneously satisfied with  $\tau_{RD_i}$  appropriately set.

### B. Congestion Response Decision Timer

As discussed earlier, an ACK<sub>i</sub>, arriving before the expiration of CD<sub>i</sub> shall reject the occurrence of a congestive loss for  $P_i^r$ . In other words, it should be guaranteed that:

$$P(CL_i^o|PA_i(t)) = 0 \quad (4)$$

Where  $0 \leq t \leq \tau_{CD_i}$ . It can be shown to be equivalent to

$$\tau_{CD_i} \leq \tau_u \quad (5)$$

Where  $\tau_u$  denotes a certain upper bound value and  $\tau_u \geq mrtt_i$ . Therefore, we shall seek an optimal solution for  $\tau_{CD_i}$  within  $[0, \tau_u]$ . Consider a time period  $t$  ( $0 \leq t \leq \tau_u$ ) after the retransmission of packet  $P_i$ , when a TCP sender is facing the decision of whether or not to activate a congestion response. The risk associated with a positive decision is that the network may not be congested (i.e.  $P_i$  is not dropped due to congestion). Consequently, the spuriously activated congestion

response will reduce  $cwnd$  unnecessarily. On the other hand, if the network is indeed overloaded (i.e.  $P_i$  is lost due to congestion), congestion response should be promptly activated by halving  $cwnd$ . Otherwise, the network congestion may be exacerbated and an expensive RTO may be triggered instead, forcing  $cwnd$  to reopen from one packet size and introducing extra reduction in the TCP sender throughput.

To quantify the risk associated with activating a congestion response, the following metric is introduced. The expected cost of activating a congestion response,  $EC(t)$ , is defined as the product of the conditional probability of PA not being lost due to congestion, given that  $P_i$  is unacknowledged, and the throughput reduction due to the activation of a congestion response,  $C_S$ . In other words,

$$EC_A(t) = P(\overline{CL}_i^o | PU_i(t)) \cdot C_S \quad (6)$$

Using the same token, the expected cost of delaying a congestion response,  $ECD(t)$ , is introduced to quantify the risk associated with delaying congestion response. It is defined as the product of the conditional probability that a congestive loss and an RTO have occurred, given that  $P$  is unacknowledged, and the extra TCP sender throughput reduction due to RTO,  $C_T$ .

$$EC_D(t) = P(TO \cap CL_i^o | PU_i(t)) \cdot C_T \quad (7)$$

It can be shown that:

$$EC_A(t) = \frac{p_w [1 - (1 - p_l)F(t)]}{2\{p_c + p_w [1 - (1 - p_l)F(t)]\} \times [0.5W]([0.5W] + 1)} \quad (8)$$

$$EC_D(t) = \frac{p_c p_l}{p_c + p_w [1 - (1 - p_l)F(t)] \times ([\log_2 0.5W] W - 2^{\lceil \log_2 0.5W \rceil} + 1)} \quad (9)$$

Where  $0 \leq t \leq \tau_w$ .

Observe that:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} EC_A(t) \leq 0, \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} EC_D(t) \geq 0 \quad (10)$$

Thus, when the activation of congestion response is postponed further,  $EC_D(t)$ , which quantifies the risk associated with delaying a congestion response, increases, while  $EC_A(t)$ , which quantifies the risk associated with activating a congestion response, drops. When  $EC_A(t)$  is greater than  $EC_D(t)$  it is advantageous to set  $\tau_{CD}$ , no less than  $t$  since operation cost of activating congestive response is  $EC_A(t)$ , which is larger than deferring it,  $EC_D(t)$ . the cost may drops when  $t$

increase. Similarly, when  $EC_D(t)$  is greater than  $EC_A(t)$  it is advantageous to set  $\tau_{CD}$ , no greater than  $t$  since the operation cost of deferring congestive response is  $EC_D(t)$ , which is larger than that activating it,  $EC_A(t)$ . The cost may drop when  $t$  decrease.

Therefore, the evaluation of optimal solution of  $\tau_{CD}$ ,  $\tau_{CD}^*$ , subject to the constraints  $0 \leq \tau_{CD_i} \leq \tau_u$ , is given by :

$$\tau_{CD_i}^* = \begin{cases} 0, & p_c > (p_l \cdot \frac{C_T}{C_S} + 1)^{-1} \cdot p_l \\ \tau_u, & p_c < \left\{ \frac{p_l \cdot C_T}{[1 - (1 - p_l) \cdot F(\tau_u)] \cdot C_S} + 1 \right\}^{-1} \cdot p_l \\ \tau_{TH}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

Where,

$$\tau_{TH} = F^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{1 - p_l} - \frac{C_T p_c}{C_S \cdot (p_l - p_c)} \cdot \frac{p_l}{1 - p_l} \right).$$

### III. TCP-NCL

The STS model is a limited, idealized TCP sender. First, it does not provide a closed-form expression for  $\tau_{RD_i}$ .

Second, it assumes, among other things, prior knowledge of the RTT distribution  $F(t)$ , which is impractical. Therefore, we propose TCP-NCL to closely approximate SLS.

The serialized-timer structure of the SLS model is supplemented by TCP-NCL with an NCL-RTT-Update (NRU) process for maintaining a set of RTT samples so as to estimate  $F(t)$ . The distribution of RTT is time-variant over wireless networks, where the network topology and/or loading may change over a TCP session. The time-varying property of  $F(t)$ , requires periodic updating of RTT samples. We would thus define the *maximum RTT record length* as *MRRL*. Only the most recent *MRRL* RTT samples will be stored in *rttRcd* while all older samples will be discarded. The NRU process is invoked if  $ACK_i$ , arrives no later than time  $\beta \tau_{CD}$ , after the transmission of  $P_i$  will be considered as an ACK for

$P_i$  Since,  $P_i$  cannot be acknowledged within such a short Interval.

$\tau_{RD_i}$  is set to  $\max(rttRcd)$ , which denotes the maximum sampled RTT stored in *rttRcd*. Intuitively, this assignment is an appropriate choice, keeping spurious retransmission at a minimal level without excessively delaying fast retransmit. By (11),  $\tau_{CD_i}$  is set to  $\min(rttRcd)$ , which corresponds to the minimum RTT sample stored in *rttRcd*. It can be shown that



$p_c < (p_l \frac{\tau_{CD}}{\tau_c} + 1)^{-1} p_l$  when  $p_c < p_l \ll 1$ , thus it is reasonable to assume  $\tau_{CD}$  to be  $\tau_u$  or  $\tau_{TH}$ , depending on the value of  $p_c$ . A conservative estimation for both  $\tau_u$  and  $\tau_{TH}$  can be set as  $nr_{tt_i}$ , which is turn leads to our choice of setting  $\tau_{CD_i}$  as  $\min(rttRcd)$ . A more adaptive approach capable of varying  $\tau_{CD_i}$  based on the value of  $p_c$  is left as future work. The major foreseeable merit of such an approach is the increased responsiveness to network congestion. Nevertheless, our simulation results reveal that competing TCP-NCL flows are capable of maintaining inter-flow fairness, thereby demonstrating responsiveness against congestive loss.

#### IV. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

In this section, we present our simulation results and compare TCP-NCL with some popular TCP variants, namely, RR-TCP, TCP-DCR, TCP-DOOR, TCP-PR, TCP-Veno, and TCP-W. All the simulation experiments have been performed using Network Simulator (ns) 2.29. Unless otherwise specified, MRRL and  $\beta$  are set to 1000 and 0.8, respectively, in the experiments.

Three different network topologies, as illustrated in Fig. 2, have been used for performance comparison: an infrastructure based wireless network, a multi-hop wireless network, and a wired network with a bottleneck link. We examine the performance of all TCP variants under study with random packet.

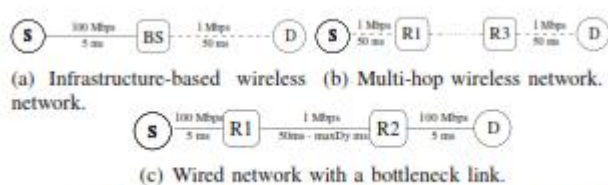


Fig. 2. The network topologies used for performance comparison.

losses, persistent packet reordering, and abrupt variations in RTT, respectively.

In the infrastructure-based wireless network, a TCP sender and a TCP receiver are connected through some wired and wireless links. Random packet errors from 0 to 15% are deliberately introduced into each wireless link. The link layer retransmission mechanism is disabled to simulate an orderly TCP flow.

In the multi-hop wireless network, a TCP sender is connected to a TCP receiver via four wireless links. Random channel error is introduced into the wireless links with a random packet

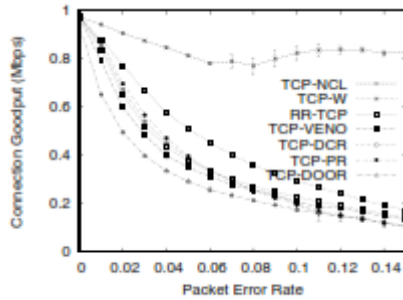
error rate ranging from 0 to 15%. The link layer retransmission is enabled to introduce persistent packet reordering. Under high channel error rate, however, local link layer retransmission cannot guarantee successful packet delivery due to the predetermined retransmission limit (set to three in this case). Consequently, TCP will be confronted with both packet reordering and random packet loss.

In the wired network, the TCP connection traverses a bottleneck link, and the delay takes on a random value in the interval  $[50, \max Dy]$  ms and is changed every 20 seconds.  $\max Dy$  ranges from 100 ms to 700 ms. Thus, RTT will vary abruptly yet infrequently. We aim to test the robustness of the NRU process with this configuration.

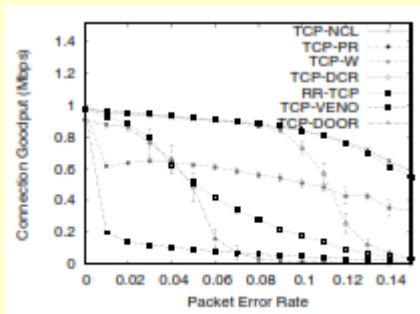
In each test over these three topologies, a total of 20 runs, each lasting 2000 seconds and using different seeds for generating the packet error or link delay, have been performed to compute an average value and a 95% confidence interval of TCP goodput in Mbps. In order to remove the effect of the transient states, only the statistics in the last 1000 seconds in each run are collected for computing the goodput.

The simulation results are shown in Fig. 3. In the infrastructure-based wireless network, TCP-NCL essentially maintains a stable goodput level against packet error rates from 0 to 15%, whereas almost all of the other TCP variants experience drastic goodput decrease as the error rate increases. The only exception is TCP-W, which exhibits a relatively elegant performance deterioration. The performance of TCP-NCL should be attributable to its effectiveness in differentiating between congestion loss and random packet loss. In contrast, RR-TCP, TCP-DCR, TCP-DOOR, and TCP-PR exclude the possibility of random packet loss, resulting in under-utilization of network resources.

In the multi-hop wireless network, TCP-DCR, TCP-NCL, and TCP-PR outperform other variants under packet error rate less than 9%, thereby demonstrating robustness to persistent reordering. When the error rate further increases and random losses are no longer transparent to the transport layer, TCPNCL performs slightly better than TCP-PR while the performance of TCP-DCR is seriously deteriorated.



(a) Infrastructure-based wireless network.



(b) Multi-hop wireless network.

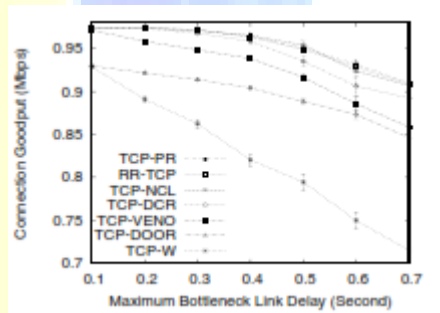


Fig. 3. Goodput performance under various topologies.

In the latter scenario, the installation of the CD timers again helps TCPNCL increase the reliability for signals of congestive loss.

In the wired network topology simulating abrupt variations in RTT, RR-TCP, TCP-NCL, and TCP-PR offer the best connection goodputs. Thus, NRU is partially verified as a robust RTT sampling process mechanism against abrupt increases in RTT. Otherwise, TCP-NCL should tend to set its timers too conservatively and probably trigger false fast retransmission and congestion response. As a matter of fact, TCP-NCL has been observed to attain even better performance in

this scenario when MRRL is changed from 1000 to 200. This facilitates quicker removal of the outdated RTT samples.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have proposed a novel TCP variant, known as TCP-NCL, as a unified solution for performing loss recovery, sequencing control, and congestion control over general error-prone channels. In particular, we propose the use of two serialized timers for obtaining more reliable signals for packet loss and network overload separately. The STS model has been constructed based on the concept of expected cost and analytical expressions are derived as references for setting the timer expiration periods. We note that the timers are mostly determined intuitively in existing work. Our simulation investigations reveal that TCP-NCL offers significant performance improvement over various wireless/wired network scenarios. Authentication achievement is a major issue in data transmission. we are implementing TCP retransmission with security

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