

ECSE-6600: Internet Protocols

Informal Quiz #05: SOLUTIONS

Shivkumar Kalyanaraman:
GOOGLE: "Shiv RPI"
shivkuma@ecse.rpi.edu



Congestion Control: Informal Quiz: SOLUTIONS

Congestion Control

- ✓ Scheduling refers to the control of which packet is dropped from buffers
- ✓ □ Scheduling refers to the control of which packet gets access to the link capacity that becomes available
- ✓ FIFO queueing necessarily requires the use of drop-tail packet-drop policy
- ✓ □ FIFO is an example of a scheduling & queueing policy
- ✓ FIFO+droptail provides service isolation among the participating TCP flows
- ✓ Burstiness is the same as an occurrence of a congestion event
- ✓ □ Congestion refers to sustained overload due to demand at a resource being larger than capacity
- ✓ □ Synchronization occurs because DropTail leads to bursty and correlated packet losses amongst flows; and flows react to same events
- ✓ □ Random packet dropping can help alleviate the synchronization problems caused by drop-tail
- ✓ □ Dropping packets early has the risk that transient burstiness may be mistaken for true overload (demand > capacity)
- ✓ □ Marking packets instead of dropping them avoids non-linearities caused by loss detection and retransmission mechanisms
- ✓ □ Differentiating which packets to drop (even within a FIFO queue) can be used as a mechanism to provide protection to fragile flows (I.e. whose performance is vulnerable to packet losses).
- ✓ □ Marking instead of dropping implies trusting end-systems to control demand.

Congestion Control

- √ RED determines random drop probability by comparing the average queue size to a max and min thresholds
- √ RED uses average queue size instead of the absolute queue size
- √ RED also provides perfect isolation between flows (I.e. does not allow one flow's misbehavior affect the performance received by another flow)
- √ A key difference between RED and REM is the way the packet drop or mark probability varies as a function of link congestion
- √ When a packet is marked with a single-bit to indicate congestion, the packet is retransmitted by the source
- √ DECbit, RED and REM differ in the way they mark the congestion bit during phases of congestion
- √ The concept of accumulation is exactly the same as the concept of a queue
- √ Accumulation is roughly the contribution of each flow to the overall queueing in the network
- √ The ratio of steady-state accumulations is equal to the ratio of rates received by the flows
- √ Monaco uses a higher-priority queue for control packets to allow accurate accumulation estimation compared to the estimation approach used by TCP Vegas
- √ An explicit rate feedback scheme can potentially send back more feedback information quickly compared to a loss-based or single-bit based feedback scheme

Congestion Control

- √ □ One of the implications of the square-root formula for TCP throughput is that when there are double the number of flows seeking bandwidth, we could see quadruple the loss rate
- √ □ TCP timeout behavior leads to throughput that is worse than that predicted by the simple square-root formula
- √ All binomial congestion control schemes are TCP-friendly
- √ □ All binomial congestion control schemes can achieve a stable equilibrium point
- √ □ In the primal-dual optimization model, TCP is a special, approximate case of the primal (source-control) algorithm and AQM schemes are a special, approximate case of the dual (link-control) algorithm