



Applications taxonomy

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Applications

- Data
 - Generated by single users, by servers, by data centers, by enterprise networks, P2P, ...
 - E-mail, web, messaging, remote login, file transfer, grid computing,
- Voice
 - Phone calls, IP calls, skype, ...
- Audio
 - Music
- Video
- Multimedia
 - Streaming, videoconferencing

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Applications taxonomy

- From the bit rate requirements point of view
 - Elastic applications (opportunistic)
 - If resources are available, elastic applications try to exploit them
 - If resources become scarce, elastic applications may reduce their rate (file transfer)
 - Non-elastic applications (multimedia mostly belong to this category)
 - Require a minimum amount of resources
 - If available, the application works properly
 - If not available, the application is unable to work properly
 - May become slightly elastic if changing the coding scheme

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Applications taxonomy

- From the data loss point of view
 - Loss tolerant
 - Uncompressed audio, video, voice
 - Loss intolerant
 - File transfer, e-mail, web, grid computing, compressed audio, video, voice
- From the time sensitivity point of view
 - Not sensitive
 - File transfer, e-mail, web, grid computing
 - Very sensitive (100ms)
 - Phone
 - Sensitive (few s)
 - Streaming

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Elastic applications

- Consider a file transfer
- Small end-to-end delay preferred (not fundamental)
- Required bit rate: the higher the better but it may be low
- Packet losses recovered by the transport protocol through retransmission (less often through error correction)
 - End-to-end delay increases

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Real-time multimedia and streaming

- Real time multimedia applications
- Two users interact (in real time)
- Low delay fundamental (a delayed packet is equivalent to a lost packet)
- Required bit-rate **may** be significant depending on whether video is involved
- May be robust to (limited) packet losses depending on the compression level
- Multimedia streaming applications
- No real time requirements
- May tolerate packet delays if initial delay large (buffering)
- Required bit-rate **may** be significant depending on whether video is involved or not
- May be robust to (limited) packet losses depending on the compression level

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Example of real time multimedia application

- IP telephony: three different problems
 - Establish multimedia connection, find IP addresses (possibly multicast), negotiate the type of coding and/or compression scheme, possibly inter-operate with the telephone network
 - Once the connection has been established, transfer audio packets
 - Periodically send feedback information to the transmitter (and to receivers) to indicate the quality of the (possibly multimedia) connection

H.323
SIP
RTP
RTCP

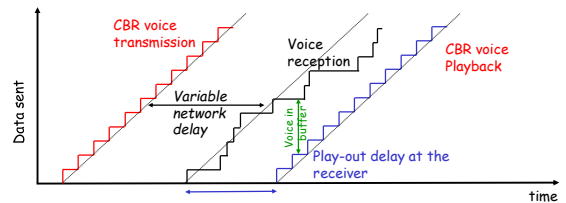
Real-time multimedia: Internet Phone

- Voice as input: sounds and silence period alternate
- Packets generated at a constant rate or when the source emitting power is above a given threshold :
 - E.g.: 20 ms of voice sample at 8kb/s
- Packets are delayed (should be compensated) and lost:
 - Network losses, due to congestion
 - max tolerable may be 10%
 - Losses due to excessive delays (IP datagram received too late for playout)
 - Max tolerable is roughly 400 ms
- Compensation techniques
 - At the transmitter (adaptive coding)
 - At the receiver (buffering)

Reaction to losses, delay and jitter

- Use of a variable bit-rate coder
 - Send small size packets when congestion is detected and the experienced delay is high
 - Send large size packets if the network is lightly loaded
- Quality of reception estimate mechanisms are needed
- The transmitter bit rate should be controlled according to:
 - Instantaneous and/or average loss rate
 - Absolute or relative delay
 - Delay jitter

Delay and jitter compensation: buffering

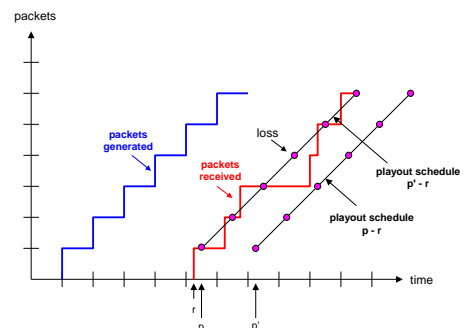


- Buffering at receiver side, the play-out delay compensate the network delay and jitter
 - Fixed play-out delay
 - Adaptive play-out delay

Fixed playout delay

- The receiver plays out each voice sample exactly q seconds after the sample generation
 - If the sample has timestamp t , it is played out at $t+q$
 - If the sample is received after $t+q$, it is considered as lost
 - Coding scheme may compensate for losses
- The value assumed by q :
 - if q is large: less packets are lost, higher delay, more buffering needed
 - if q is small: improved interactivity

Fixed playout delay



Adaptive playout delay

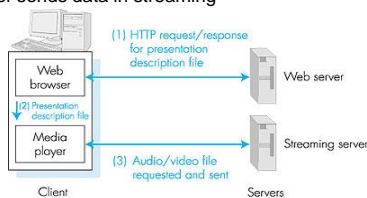
- Objective: minimize play-out delay while keeping low the loss rate
 - Estimate the network delay, to determine the play-out delay at speech startup
 - Compress or extend the silence periods
 - Samples always reproduced after 20ms during activity periods

Multimedia streaming

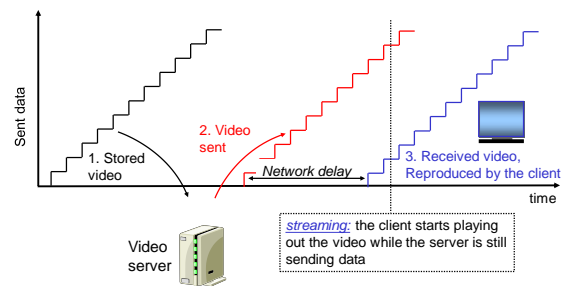
- Streaming
 - Multimedia file stored at the source
 - Sent to the client
 - File play-out starts when the file transfer is under way
 - Constraint: missing data should reach the receiver before the play-out ends
 - Alternative to file download to playback it later (file transfer!)

Multimedia: streaming approach

- The client browser receives the metafile containing the multimedia streaming file description
- The browser passes the metafile to the player
- The player contacts the streaming server
- The server sends data in streaming



Multimedia streaming



Multimedia streaming with buffering at the client side

- Tradeoff between initial delay (buffer size) and tolerance to network jitter

