

Design Principles

Goals:

- Identify, study common architectural components, protocol mechanisms, approaches do we find in network architectures?
- *Synthesis*: big picture

7 design principles:

- Separation of data, control
- Hard state versus soft state
- Randomization
- Indirection
- Network virtualization / overlays
- Resource sharing
- Design for scale

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1: Separation of control and data

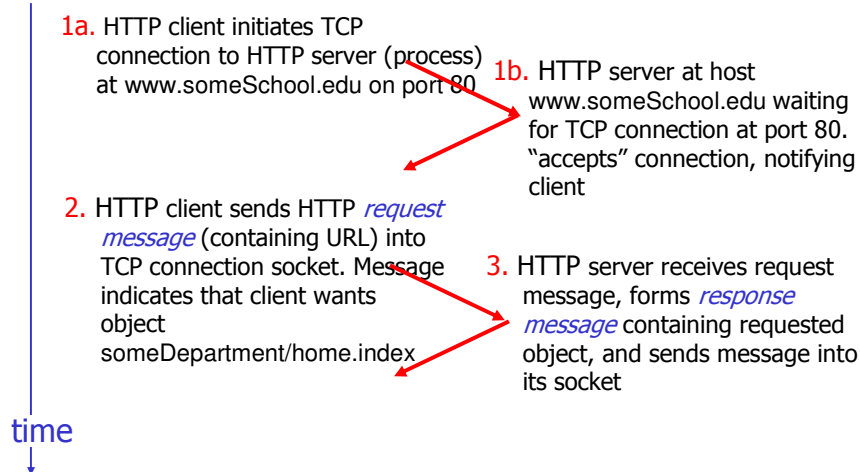
- **PSTN (public switched telephone network):**
 - SS7 (packets-switched control network) separate from (circuit-switched) call trunk lines
 - Earlier tone-based (in-band signaling)
- **Internet:**
 - RSVP (signaling) separate from routing, forwarding.
 - HTTP: in-band signaling
 - FTP: out-of-band signaling

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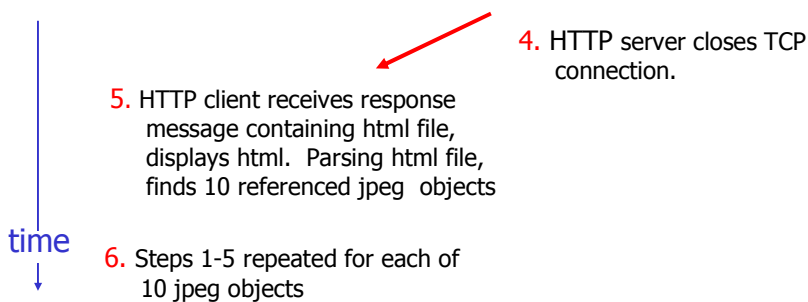
Internet: HTTP – inband signaling

Suppose user enters URL

`www.someSchool.edu/someDepartment/home.index`



Internet: HTTP – inband signaling (2)



HTTP request message

request line
(GET, POST,
HEAD commands) → GET /somedir/page.html HTTP/1.1

header
lines → Host: www.someschool.edu
User-agent: Mozilla/4.0
Connection: close
Accept-language: fr

Carriage return,
line feed
indicates end
of message → (extra carriage return, line feed)

Note: Request msg typically just a signaling msg (no data)

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HTTP response message

status line
(protocol
status code
status phrase) → HTTP/1.1 200 OK

header
lines → Connection: close
Date: Thu, 06 Aug 1998 12:00:15 GMT
Server: Apache/1.3.0 (Unix)
Last-Modified: Mon, 22 Jun 1998
Content-Length: 6821
Content-Type: text/html

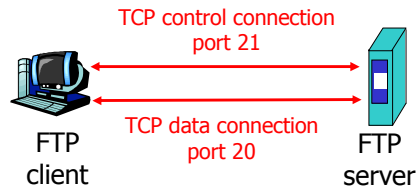
data, e.g.,
requested
HTML file → data data data data data ...

Note: response msg mixes signaling and data
□ request, response msgs exchanged over *single*
TCP connection

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FTP: Separate control, data connections

- ❑ FTP client contacts FTP server at port 21
- ❑ Client obtains authorization over control connection
- ❑ Client browses remote directory via commands sent over control connection
- ❑ When server receives file transfer command server opens new TCP data connection to client
- ❑ After transferring one file, server closes connection



- ❑ Server opens 2nd TCP data connection to transfer another file
- ❑ Control connection: "out of band" signaling
- ❑ FTP server maintains "state": current directory, earlier authentication

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Separate control, data: Why (or why not)?

Why?

- ❑ Allows concurrent control + data
- ❑ Allows perform authentication at control level
- ❑ Simplifies processing of data/control streams – higher throughput
- ❑ Provide Qos appropriate for control/data streams

Why not?

- ❑ Separate channels complicate management, increases resource requirements
- ❑ Can increase latency, e.g., http – two top connections vs. one

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2: Maintaining network state

State: information *stored* in network nodes by network protocols

- ❑ Updated when network “conditions” change
- ❑ Stored in multiple nodes
- ❑ Often associated with end-system generated call or session
- ❑ Examples:
 - RSVP router maintain lists of upstream sender IDs, downstream receiver reservations
 - TCP: Sequence numbers, timer values, RTT estimates

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State: Sender, receiver

- ❑ **Sender:** network node that (re)generates signaling (control) msgs to install, keep-alive, remove state from other nodes
- ❑ **Receiver:** node that creates, maintains, removes state based on signaling msgs received from sender

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Hard-state

- State *installed* by receiver on receipt of *setup msg* from sender
- State *removed* by receiver on receipt of *teardown msg* from sender

- *Default assumption*: state valid unless told otherwise
 - In practice: Failsafe-mechanisms (to remove orphaned state) in case of sender: e.g., receiver-to-sender "heartbeat": Is this state still valid ?
- Examples:
 - TCP

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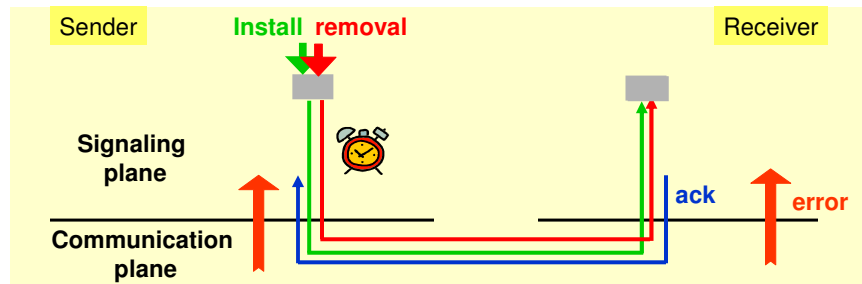
Soft-state

- State *installed* by receiver on receipt of *setup (trigger) msg* from sender (typically, an endpoint)
Sender also sends periodic *refresh msg* indicating receiver should continue to maintain state
- State *removed* by receiver via timeout, in absence of refresh msg from sender

- *Default assumption*: State becomes invalid unless refreshed
 - In practice: Explicit state removal (*teardown*) msgs also used
- Examples:
 - RSVP, RTP, IGMP

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Hard-state signaling



- Reliable signaling
- State removal by request
- Requires additional error handling
 - E.g., sender failure

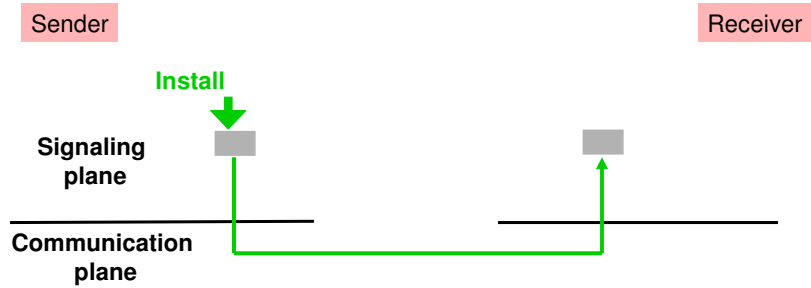
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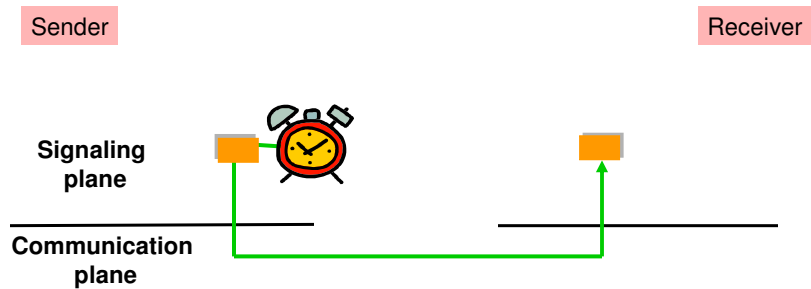
Soft-state signaling



- Best effort signaling

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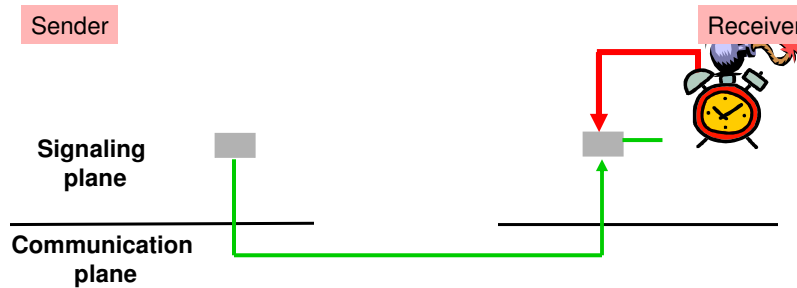
Soft-state signaling



- Best effort signaling
- Refresh timer, periodic refresh

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Soft-state signaling



- ❑ Best effort signaling
- ❑ Refresh timer, periodic refresh
- ❑ State time-out timer, state removal only by time-out

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Soft-state: Claims

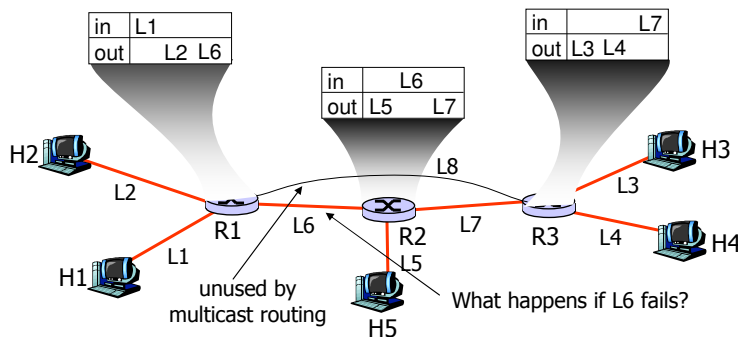
- ❑ "Systems built on soft-state are robust"
[Raman 99]
- ❑ "Soft-state protocols provide .. greater robustness to changes in the underlying network conditions..."
[Sharma 97]
- ❑ "Obviates the need for complex error handling software" [Balakrishnan 99]

What does this mean?

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Soft-state: "Easy" handling of changes

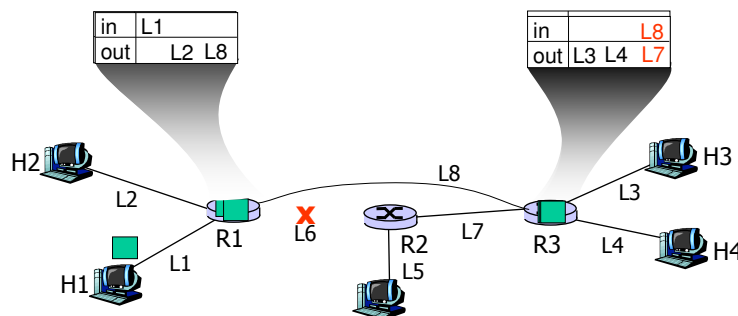
- **Periodic refresh:** If network "conditions" change, refresh will re-establish state under new conditions
- Example: RSVP/routing interaction: if routes change (nodes fail) RSVP PATH refresh will *re-establish* state along new path



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Soft-state: "Easy" handling of changes

- L6 goes down, multicast routing reconfigures but...
- H1 data no longer reaches H3, H5 (no sender or receiver state for L8)
- H1 refreshes PATH, establishes *new* state for L8 in R1, R3
- H4 refreshes RESV, propagates upstream to H1, establishes new receiver state for H4 in R1, R3



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Soft-state: "Easy" handling of changes

- ❑ "Recovery" performed transparently to end-system by normal refresh procedures
- ❑ No need for network to signal failure/change to end system, or end system to respond to specific error
- ❑ Less signaling (volume, types of messages) than hard-state from network to end-system but...
- ❑ More signaling (volume) than hard-state from end-system to network for refreshes

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Soft-state: Refreshes

- ❑ Refresh msgs serve many purposes:
 - **Trigger**: first time state-installation
 - **Refresh**: refresh state known to exist ("I am still here")
 - <Lack of refresh>: Remove state ("I am gone")
- ❑ Challenge: All refresh msgs unreliable
 - Would like triggers to result in state-installation asap
 - Enhancement: add receiver-to-sender refresh_ACK for triggers
 - E.g., see "Staged Refresh Timers for RSVP"

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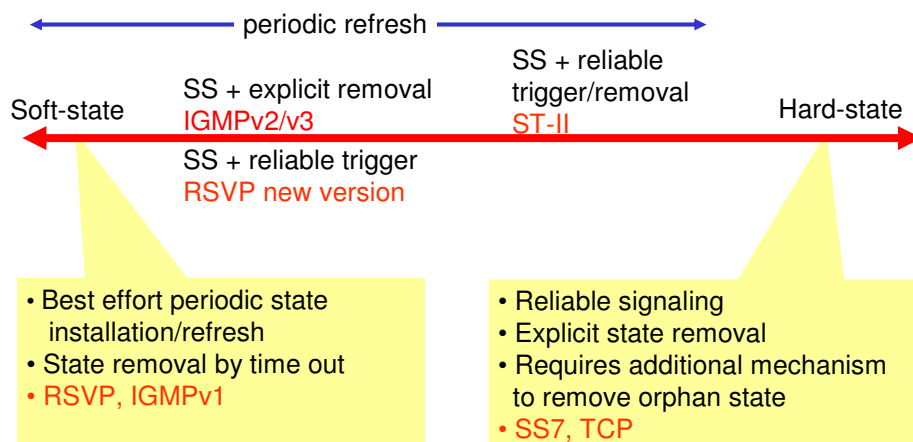
Soft-state: Setting timer values

Q: How to set refresh/timeout timers

- ❑ State-timeout interval = $n * \text{refresh-interval-timeout}$
 - What value of n to choose?
- ❑ Will determine amount of signaling traffic, responsiveness to change
 - Small timers: fast response to changes, more signaling
 - Long timers: slow response to changes, less signaling
- ❑ Ultimately: Consequence of slow/fast response, msg loss probability will dictate appropriate timer values

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Signaling spectrum



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How do we model/evaluate?

Metrics

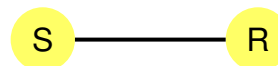
- ❑ **Inconsistency ratio** – fraction time participating nodes disagree
- ❑ **Signaling overhead** – average # of messages during session lifetime

- ❑ Measures of robustness?
 - Convergence time
- ❑ Complexity?

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Single hop model

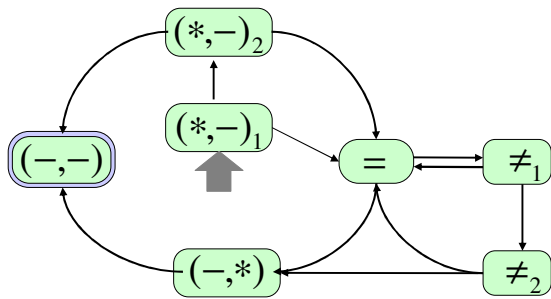
- ❑ Sender, receiver
- ❑ Single state variable
- ❑ State lifetime – $\exp(\mu)$
- ❑ Updates – Poisson(λ)
- ❑ Timers – exponentially distributed
 - Refresh - $1/T$
 - State expiration – $1/X$
- ❑ Link: Delay $\exp(1/D)$, loss prob. p



Transient Markov model

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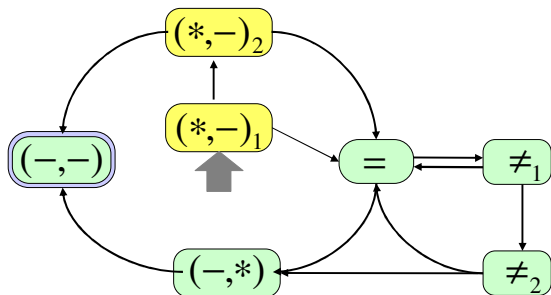
Model for SS (Ji03)



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Model for SS

$(*, -)$: signaling state generated at sdr, not installed at rcvr

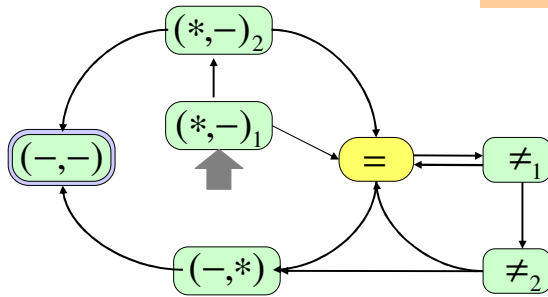


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Model for SS

$(*, -)$: signaling state generated at sdr, not installed at rcvr

$=$: signaling state consistent at sdr/rcvr



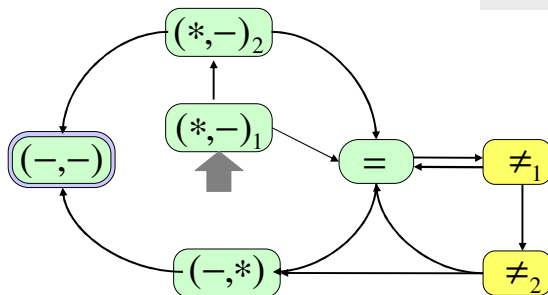
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Model for SS

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$=$: signaling state consistent at sdr/rcvr

\neq : signaling state inconsistent at sdr/rcvr



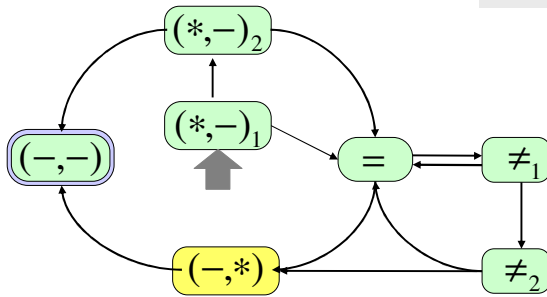
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$(-, *)$: signaling state removed at sender, present at receiver

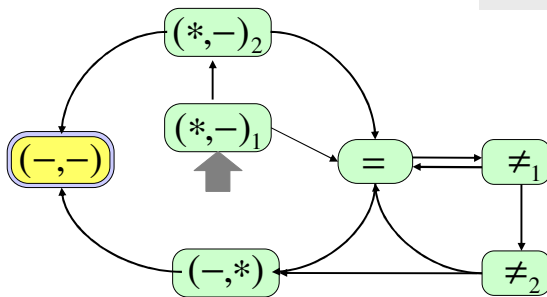
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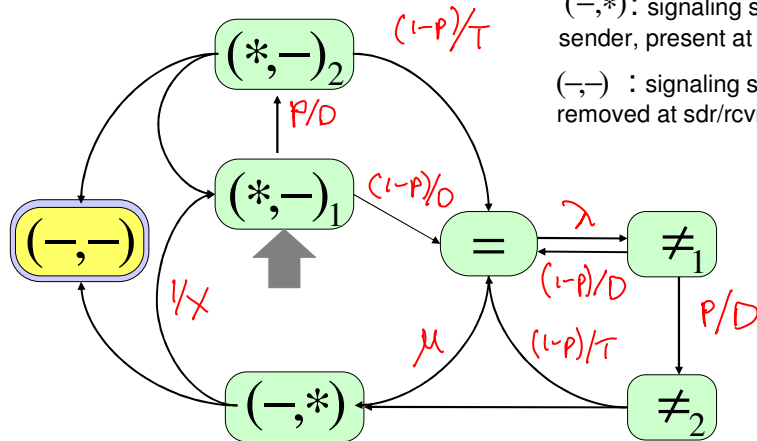


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Model for SS



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Performance metrics (SS)

- Inconsistency ratio –

$$\delta = 1 - \pi_{=}$$

- Signaling overhead

$$\Gamma = (1 + \lambda + 1/T) / \mu$$

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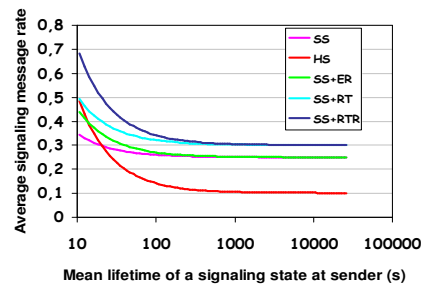
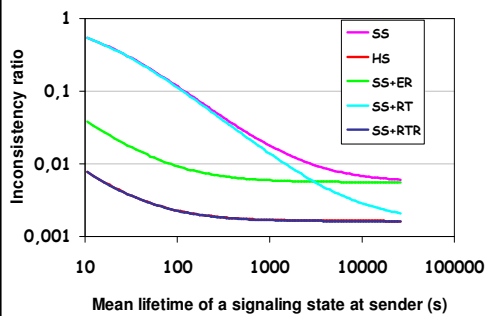
Parameter settings

- ❑ Mean lifetime – 30 min.
- ❑ Refresh timer, $T=5\text{sec}$
- ❑ State timer, $X = 15 \text{ sec}$
- ❑ Update rate – $1/20\text{sec}$
- ❑ Signal loss rate – 2%

Motivated by Kazaa

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Impact of state lifetime



- ❑ Inconsistency, overhead decrease as state life-time increases
- ❑ Explicit removal improves consistency with little additional overhead

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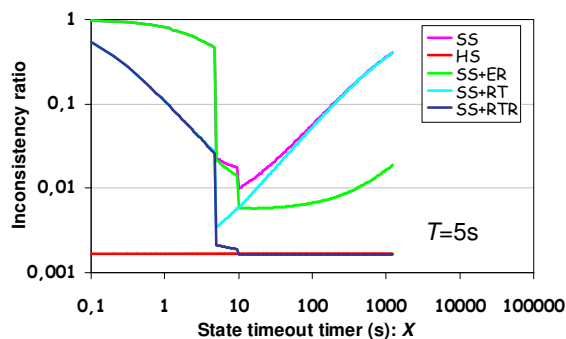
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Impact of state timeout timer



- ❑ $X < T$: inconsistency high (premature state removal)
- ❑ $X > 2T$: increasing $X \Rightarrow$ increasing inconsistency for SS, SS+ER, SS+RT (due to orphan state)
- ❑ $X = 2T$: sweet spot

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Hard-state versus soft-state: Discussion

Q: which is preferable and why?

Hard state:

- Better if message OH really high
- Potentially greater consistency

- System wide coupling -> difficult to analyze

Soft state:

- Robustness, shorter convergence times
- Implicit reliability
- Easier error recovery

- Easily decomposed -> simpler analysis