Introduction

In this assignment, I implemented 2 reliable data transfer protocols called Selective Repeat (SR) and Go-Back-N with Selective Ack (GBN+SACK). The goal was to correctly handle various states of error such as packet loss and corruption while handling the transfer of data from a sender (A) to a receiver (B).

Protocol Design

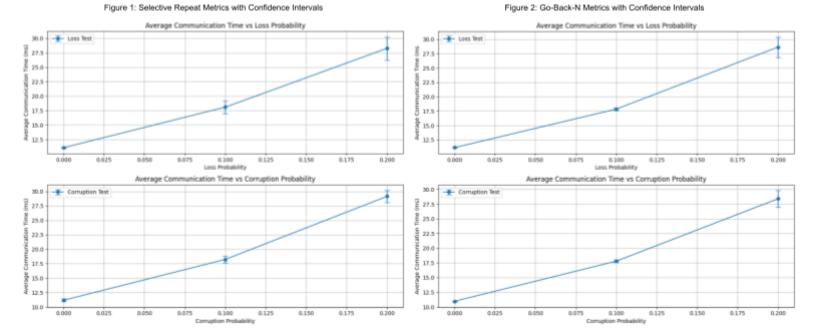
I implemented SR using a configurable sliding window in which the receiver buffers the out of order packets and then sends an ACK for each individual packet. Thus, by storing the out of order packets, the receiver delivers them in sequential order to layer 5 after any of the missing packets arrive.

I implemented GBN+SACK with the sender maintaining a sliding window and transmitting packets within the window. I included SACK to help the sender avoid retransmitting any packets the receiver already has and arrived out of order. And I also incorporated cumulative ACKS for the sliding window which is standard in GBN without SACK, to make sure that recovery is available in cases of packet loss or corruption.

Results and Analysis

I conducted an experiment with SR using retransmission timeout values of 20, 30, 50, 100, 200, and 500, and from my observations, I noticed a tradeoff between retransmission frequency and communication efficiency. The lower timeout values of 20 and 30 had more frequent retransmissions, which resulted in a higher throughput. While a higher throughput isn't necessarily bad, it could potentially result in network congestion and wasted bandwidth. As I predicted, with the slightly larger timeout values of 50 and 100, retransmissions decreased while still allowing for a reasonably timed recovery from loss. However, when testing the higher timeout values of 200 and 500, the number of retransmissions decreased by a lot. From my observations, the tradeoff with this is that there is a higher average communication time and RTT. This is because the sender is waiting much longer before retransmitting lost packets which consequently lead to a delayed recovery and a slower throughput.

Next I conducted the same experiment with GBN+SACK. At lower timeout values like 20 and 30, I noticed that the sender detected the losses quickly which led to a faster recovery and lower average communication times of 15.27 ms and 17.74ms respectively. However it did have more frequent retransmissions. Overall, this approach kept communication times efficient but also probably increased the network overhead. Then with timeout values of 50 and 100, I noticed that retransmission remained similar to each other, but communication time increased by a lot. At 100, the communication time was 36.87 which could imply that as a result of the larger delay, the sender's ability to recover from loss suffers. And like SR, at high timeouts like 200 and 500, the retransmissoin dropped by a lot, but the sender most likely waited too long before detecting the lost packets which resulted in much higher communication times. And from the results, I observed that the trade off in GBN+SACK is that at the cost of more network congestion there are smaller timeouts.



For the above figures, I evaluated the performance in terms of loss and corruption with SR and GBN+SACK. Each data point in the figures were generated by performing 3 tests, each with a unique seed to bring it variability in network conditions and variables. I felt like this approach guaranteed that the results weren't outliers. And after collecting the average communication time for each configuration, I computed 90% confidence intervals. The intervals can be seen as the error bars above and under the data points.

When measuring throughput (TPUT), goodput (GPUT) and average packet delay, I performed the experiment under the loss probability of 0.1 and corruption probability of 0.1. Using this setup I observed that SR and GBN+SACK yield similar TPUT of 0.013 packet/ms and GPUT of 0.005 packets/ms. However, GBN+SACK resulted in a slightly higher TPUT with 0.0137 packets/ms in one test while SR resulted in 0.0136. The GPUT was about the same for both protocols which shows that the final number of packets that were successfully deliver are the same.

Also both protocols experienced a similar number of retransmissions, ratio of lost packets and ratio of corruption. I think the results remain consistent because each protocol eventually recovers and delivers all 1000 packets. The average RTT is lower for GBN+SACK is also lower for GBN+SACK which came at about 11.2 ms, as compared to SR's 12.4ms. I think this could be due to the differences in how the two protocols handle their acknowledgements and the differences in how their windows behave. Similarly, I saw that both protocols had similar APD for recovered and successful deliveries which came to about 25.9 ms for GBN+SACK and 27.0 ms for SR.

Nonetheless, despite some differences in the metrics, SR and GBN+SACK reliably delivered all the packets within a similar range of each other.

Formulas Used

```
int totalPacketsSent = totalOriginalPackets + totalRetransmissions +
totalACKsSent;
      double throughput = totalPacketsSent / totalTime;
      System.out.println("Throughput: " + throughput + " p/ms");
      double goodput = totalDeliveredPackets / totalTime;
      System.out.println("Goodput: " + goodput + " p/ms");
      double averagePacketDelay = avgCommunicationTime;
      System.out.println("Average Packet Delay: " + averagePacketDelay + " ms");
      def compute confidenceInterval(data, confidence=0.90):
            n = len(data)
            t_value = np.sqrt(n) * s / np.sqrt((n-1) * (1 - confidence))
            h = t_value / np.sqrt(n)
```

Trace Cases

Selective Repeat

C1: No Loss + No Corruption

```
EVENT time: 43.4339426862392 type: 1 entity: 0
 generateNextArrival(): called
generateNextArrival(): time is 43.4339426862392
 generateNextArrival(): future time for event 1 at entity 0 will be 67.36045411542099 toLayer3: seqnum: 0 acknum: -1 checksum: 65535 payload: aaaaaaaaaaaaaaa retransmission: false sack: null
toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side stopTimer: stopping timer at 43.4339426862392
stopTimer: Warning: Unable to cancel your timer
startTimer: starting timer at 43.4339426862392
EVENT time: 45.66060365611743 type: 2 entity: 1
bInput(): expecting packet 0 getting packet 0
toLayer3: seqnum: -1 acknum: 0 checksum: 65535 payload: retransmission: false sack: [0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
EVENT time: 47.569475386822106 type: 2 entity: 0
 stopTimer: stopping timer at 47.569475386822106
```

C2: ACK is Lost/Corrupted, Later ACK slides window by >1

```
EVENT time: 4808.081301309244 type: 1 entity: 0
 generateNextArrival(): called
generateNextArrival(): time is 4808.081301309244
generateNextArrival(): future time for event 1 at entity @ will be 4868.385876033814
toLayer3: sequum: 12 acknum: -1 checksum: 65523 payload: cccccccccccccccc retransmission: false sack: null
 toLayer3: packet being lost
stopTimer: stopping timer at 4808.081301309244
stopTimer: Warning: Unable to cancel your timer
startTimer: starting timer at 4808.081301309244
 EVENT time: 4838.081301309244 type: 0 entity: 0
arimmerinterrupt() called
tolayer3: sequum: 12 acknum: -1 checksum: 65523 payload: ccccccccccccccccc retransmission: true sack: null
tolayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
stopTimer: stopping timer at 4838.081301309244
stopTimer: Warning: Unable to cancel your timer
startTimer: starting timer at 4838.081301309244
 aTimerInterrupt() called
 EVENT time: 4846.016357921078 type: 2 entity: 1
blinput() called
blinput(): expecting packet 12 getting packet 12
tolayer3: seqnum: -1 acknum: 12 checksum: 65523 payload: retransmission: false sack: [0, 0, 0, 0]
tolayer3: packet being lost
 EVENT time: 4868.081301309244 type: 0 entity: 0
totayers: Scheduling arrival on other side
stopTimer: stopping timer at 4868.081301309244
stopTimer: Warning: Unable to cancel your timer
startTimer: starting timer at 4868.081301309244
EVENT time: 4868.385876033814 type: 1 entity: 0
 generateNextArrival(): called
generateNextArrival(): called
generateNextArrival(): time is 4868.385876033814
generateNextArrival(): future time for event 1 at entity @ will be 4922.171697134312
toLayer3: seqnum: 13 acknum: -1 checksum: 65522 payload: ddddddddddddddddddddddrdretransmission: false sack: null
toLayer3: spacket being corrupted
toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
stopTimer: stopping timer at 4868.385876033814
startTimer: starting timer at 4868.385876033814
EVENT time: 4871.758476516006 type: 2 entity: 1 bInput() called
EVENT time: 4873.55088961455 type: 2 entity: 1 bInput() called
EVENT time: 4898.385876033814 type: 0 entity: 0
Disput(): expecting packet 13 getting packet 12 toLayer3: seqnum: -1 acknum: 12 checksum: 65523 payload: retransmission: false sack: [0, 0, 0, 0] toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
EVENT time: 4909.747337260048 type: 2 entity: 0 aInput() called
 stopTimer: stopping timer at 4909.747337260048 startTimer: starting timer at 4909.747337260048
```

C3: Data Packet is Lost/Corrupted, and Retransmitted After Timeout

```
EVENT time: 5341.752372814112 type: 1 entity: 0
generateNextArrival(): called
generateNextArrival(): time is 5341.752372814112
generateNextArrival(): future time for event 1 at entity 0 will be 5631.238746299631
toLayer3: seqnum: 0 acknum: -1 checksum: 65535 payload: gggggggggggggggggggg retransmission: false sack: null toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
stopTimer: stopping timer at 5341.752372814112 stopTimer: Warning: Unable to cancel your time
EVENT time: 5343.521439252908 type: 2 entity: 1
bInput() called
binput(): expecting packet 0 getting packet 0 toLayer3: seqnum: -1 acknum: 0 checksum: 65535 payload: retransmission: false sack: [0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
toLayer3: packet being lost
EVENT time: 5371.752372814112 type: 0 entity: 0
toLayer3: seqnum: 0 acknum: -1 checksum: 65535 payload: ggggggggggggggggggggg retransmission: true sack: null toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
stopTimer: stopping timer at 5371.752372814112
stopTimer: Warning: Unable to cancel your time
startTimer: starting timer at 5371.752372814112
EVENT time: 5375.81600390637 type: 2 entity: 1
bInput(): expecting packet 1 getting packet 0 toLayer3: seqnum: -1 acknum: 0 checksum: 65535 payload: retransmission: false sack: [0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
EVENT time: 5385.146641438033 type: 2 entity: 0
stopTimer: stopping timer at 5385.146641438033
```

C4: Data Packet is Lost/Corrupted, and Retransmitted After Receiving Duplicate ACK

```
EVENT time: 30701.095614490183 type: 1 entity: 0
generateNextArrival(): called
 generateNextArrival(): time is 30701.095614490183
 generateNextArrival(): future time for event 1 at entity 0 will be 30712.082277901543
 toLayer3: seqnum: 6 acknum: —1 checksum: 65529 payload: uuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu retransmission: false sack: null
toLayer3: sequim: 6 acknows: 2 thecksows. 69525 toLayer3: packet being lost stopTimer: stopping timer at 30701.095614490183 stopTimer: Warning: Unable to cancel your timer startTimer: starting timer at 30701.095614490183
EVENT time: 30712.082277901543 type: 1 entity: 0
generateNextArrival(): called
generateNextArrival(): time is 30712.082277901543
 ogenerateNextArrival(): future time for event 1 at entity 0 will be 30718.72310556352
toLayer3: seqnum: 7 acknum: -1 checksum: 65528 payload: vvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvv retransmission: false sack: null
toLayer3: packet being lost
stopTimer: stopping timer at 30712.082277901543
startTimer: starting timer at 30712.082277901543
EVENT time: 30718.72310556352 type: 1 entity: 0
generateNextArrival(): called
 generateNextArrival(): time is 30718.72310556352
generateNextArrival(): future time for event 1 at entity 0 will be 31038.78902554399
toLayer3: seqnum: 8 acknum: -1 checksum: 65527 payload: www.www.www.www.retransmission: false sack: null toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
stopTimer: stopping timer at 30718.72310556352
startTimer: starting timer at 30718.72310556352
EVENT time: 30728.488540299688 type: 2 entity: 1
bInput(): expecting packet 6 getting packet 8
toLayer3: seqnum: -1 acknum: 5 checksum: 65530 payload: retransmission: false sack: [0, 0, 0, 0, 0] toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
EVENT time: 30731.151646473583 type: 2 entity: 0
toLayer3: seqnum: 6 acknum: -1 checksum: 65529 payload: uuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu retransmission: true sack: null
toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side stopTimer: stopping timer at 30731.151646473583
startTimer: starting timer at 30731.151646473583
EVENT time: 30737.93804742576 type: 2 entity: 1
bInput() called
 bInput(): expecting packet 6 getting packet 6
toLayer3: seqnum: -1 acknum: 6 checksum: 65529 payload: retransmission: false sack: [0, 0, 0, 0, 0] toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
 EVENT time: 30742.636158330024 type: 2 entity: 0
aInput() called stopTimer: stopping timer at 30742.636158330024
startTimer: starting timer at 30742.636158330024
EVENT time: 30772.636158330024 type: 0 entity: 0
 aTimerInterrupt() called
toLayer3: segnum: 7 acknum: -1 checksum: 65528 payload: vvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvv retransmission: true sack: null toLayer3: packet being corrupted
toLayers: packet being corrupted toLayers: scheduling arrival on other side stopTimer: stopping timer at 30772.636158330024 stopTimer: Warning: Unable to cancel your timer startTimer: starting timer at 30772.636158330024
```

C5: Retransmitted Data is Delivered, and Cumulative ACK Moves Window by >1

```
EVENT time: 130197.40592669457 type: 1 entity: 0
generateNextArrival(): called
generateNextArrival(): time is 130197.40592669457
generateNextArrival(): future time for event 1 at entity 0 will be 130545.82964568013
generackeckuriyak(), illure time in event ia eintly will be 1550-315250-4100013
tolayer3: seqnum: 3 acknum: -1 checksum: 65525 payload: zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz retransmission: false sack: null
tolayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
stopTimer: stopping timer at 130197.40592669457
startTimer: starting timer at 130197.40592669457
EVENT time: 130197.95113986636 type: 2 entity: 1
bInput() called
bInput(): expecting packet 1 getting packet 1
 toLayer3: seqnum: -1 acknum: 1 checksum: 65534 payload: retransmission: false sack: [0, 0, 0, 0, 0] toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
EVENT time: 130204.9473860897 type: 2 entity: 0 aInput() called stopTimer: stopping timer at 130204.9473860897 startTimer: starting timer at 130204.9473860897
EVENT time: 130207.06231879638 type: 2 entity: 1
Disput() called
binput() called
binput(): expecting packet 2 getting packet 3
tolayer3: sequum: -1 acknum: 1 checksum: 65534 payload: retransmission: false sack: [0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
tolayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
EVENT time: 130208.34165471361 type: 2 entity: 0
 aInput() called
toLayer3: seqnum: 2 acknum: -1 checksum: 65533 payload: yyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy retransmission: true sack: null
 toLayer3: sequim: 2 acknown. 12 thecksom: 0553 toLayer3: packet being lost stopTimer: stopping timer at 130208.34165471361 startTimer: starting timer at 130208.34165471361
EVENT time: 130240.36423841062 type: 2 entity: 1
binput(): expecting packet 2 getting packet 2 tolayer3: seqnum: -1 acknum: 3 checksum: 65532 payload: retransmission: false sack: [0, 0, 0, 0, 0] tolayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
EVENT time: 130242.87902462846 type: 2 entity: 0
aInput() called stopTimer: stopping timer at 130242.87902462846
```

Go Back N

C1: No Loss + No Corruption

```
EVENT time: 43.4339426862392 type: 1 entity: 0
generateNextArrival(): called
generateNextArrival(): time is 43.4339426862392
generateNextArrival(): future time for event 1 at entity 0 will be 67.36045411542099
toLayer3: seqnum: 0 acknum: –1 checksum: 65535 payload: aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa retransmission: false sack: [I@8297b3a]
toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
stopTimer: stopping timer at 43.4339426862392
stopTimer: Warning: Unable to cancel your timer
startTimer: starting timer at 43.4339426862392
EVENT time: 45.66060365611743 type: 2 entity: 1
bInput() called
B receive a correct packet from A, the sequence number is: 0
receiver buffer: {}
the next packet expected is 1
B sent SACK: [-1, -1, -1, -1, -1]
toLayer3: seqnum: -1 acknum: 0 checksum: 65535 payload: retransmission: false sack: [I@22fcf7ab]
toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
EVENT time: 47.569475386822106 type: 2 entity: 0
aInput() called
print send buffer: [seqnum: 0 acknum: -1 checksum: 65535 payload: aaaaaaaaaaaaaaa retransmission: false sack: [I@8297b3a]]
A gets a correct ACK from B, the ack number is: 0
print send buffer:[]
stopTimer: stopping timer at 47.569475386822106
```

C2: ACK is Lost/Corrupted, Later ACK slides window by >1

```
EVENT time: 246.99136326181826 type: 2 entity: 1
bInput() called
B receive a correct packet from A, the sequence number is: 3
receiver buffer: {seqnum: 3 acknum: -1 checksum: 65532 payload: dddddddddddddddddd retransmission: false sack: [I@17f7cd29]}
the next packet expected is 2
B sent SACK: [3, -1, -1, -1, -1]
toLayer3: seqnum: -1 acknum: 1 checksum: 65534 payload: retransmission: false sack: [I@7d8704ef]
toLayer3: packet being lost
EVENT time: 268.654744102298 type: 0 entity: 0
aTimerInterrupt() called
stopTimer: stopping timer at 268.654744102298
stopTimer: Warning: Unable to cancel your timer
sendFromAToB() called
toLayer3: seqnum: 2 acknum: -1 checksum: 65533 payload: ccccccccccccccccc retransmission: true sack: [I@13b6aecc]
toLayer3: packet being lost
startTimer: starting timer at 268.654744102298
EVENT time: 298.654744102298 type: 0 entity: 0
aTimerInterrupt() called
stopTimer: stopping timer at 298.654744102298
stopTimer: Warning: Unable to cancel your timer
sendFromAToB() called
toLayer3: seqnum: 2 acknum: -1 checksum: 65533 payload: cccccccccccccccc retransmission: true sack: [I@158a8276]
toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
startTimer: starting timer at 298.654744102298
EVENT time: 305.46751304666276 type: 2 entity: 1
bInput() called
B receive a correct packet from A, the sequence number is: 2
receiver buffer: {}
the next packet expected is 4
B sent SACK: [-1, -1, -1, -1, -1]
toLayer3: seqnum: -1 acknum: 3 checksum: 65532 payload: retransmission: false sack: [I@3c3d9b6b]
toLayer3: packet being corrupted
toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
EVENT time: 308.00180059205906 type: 2 entity: 0
aInput() called
A gets a corrupt ACK from B, the ack number is: 3
```

C3: Data Packet is Lost/Corrupted, and Retransmitted After Timeout

```
EVENT time: 67.36045411542099
                                type: 1 entity: 0
    generateNextArrival(): called
    generateNextArrival(): time is 67.36045411542099
    generateNextArrival(): future time for event 1 at entity 0 will be 83.31553086947233
    toLayer3: packet being lost
    stopTimer: stopping timer at 67.36045411542099
    stopTimer: Warning: Unable to cancel your timer
    startTimer: starting timer at 67.36045411542099
    EVENT time: 83.31553086947233 type: 1 entity: 0
    generateNextArrival(): called
    generateNextArrival(): time is 83.31553086947233
    generateNextArrival(): future time for event 1 at entity 0 will be 238.65474410229803
    toLayer3: seqnum: 2 acknum: -1 checksum: 65533 payload: cccccccccccccccc retransmission: false sack: [I@63475ace]
    toLayer3: packet being lost
    stopTimer: stopping timer at 83.31553086947233
    startTimer: starting timer at 83.31553086947233
    EVENT time: 113.31553086947233 type: 0 entity: 0
    aTimerInterrupt() called
    stopTimer: stopping timer at 113.31553086947233
    stopTimer: Warning: Unable to cancel your timer
    sendFromAToB() called
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    toLayer3: seqnum: 1 acknum: -1 checksum: 65534 payload: bbbbbbbbbbbbbbbbbbbb retransmission: true sack: [I@4988d8b8]
    toLayer3: packet being corrupted
    toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
    startTimer: starting timer at 113.31553086947233
    EVENT time: 114.74373607593004 type: 2 entity: 1
    bInput() called
    B receive a packet, the packet is corrupt!
```

C4: Data Packet is Lost/Corrupted, and Retransmitted After Receiving Duplicate ACK

```
EVENT time: 7096.437147129734 type: 2 entity: 0
aInput() called
print send buffer: [seqnum: 13 acknum: -1 checksum: 65522 payload: llllllllllllllllllllll retransmission: true sack: [I@4da4253], seqnum: 14 acknum
A get a duplicate ACK, the ack number is: 12
stopTimer: stopping timer at 7096.437147129734
sendFromAToB() called
toLayer3: seqnum: 13 acknum: -1 checksum: 65522 payload: lllllllllllllllll retransmission: true sack: [1@503d687a]
 toLayer3: packet being corrupted
toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side \ensuremath{\mathsf{T}}
startTimer: starting timer at 7096.437147129734
EVENT time: 7105.134678182317 type: 2 entity: 1
bInput() called
B receive a packet, the packet is corrupt!
EVENT time: 7126.437147129734 type: 0 entity: 0
aTimerInterrupt() called
stopTimer: stopping timer at 7126.437147129734
stopTimer: Warning: Unable to cancel your timer
sendFromAToB() called
 toLayer3: seqnum: 13 acknum: -1 checksum: 65522 payload: lllllllllllllllllll retransmission: true sack: [I@6a370f4]
toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
startTimer: starting timer at 7126.437147129734
EVENT time: 7135.3198034607985 type: 2 entity: 1
bInput() called
B receive a correct packet from A, the sequence number is: 13
receiver buffer: {}
the next packet expected is 15
B sent SACK: [-1, -1, -1, -1, -1] toLayer3: seqnum: -1 acknum: 14 checksum: 65521 payload: retransmission: false sack: [I@2abf4075] toLayer3: packet being corrupted
 toLayer3: scheduling arrival on other side
```

C5: Retransmitted Data is Delivered, and Cumulative ACK Moves Window by >1

Tradeoffs and Discussion

Throughout my analysis, I came to a few interesting conclusions. After running tests with shorter timeout values, I observed that it reduced the time it took to detect and resent lost packets, which led to higher throughput. However, I noticed that this also led to more retransmissions which weren't necessary. While the longer timeout values reduced the unnecessary retransmissions, it consequently increased the average packet delay when errors of loss and corruption occurred.

Both SR and GBN+SACK handled the packet corruption by relying on timeouts for the recovery. When an acknowledgment or data packet was corrupted, the sender or receiver would eventually timeout and retransmit the missing data packet. What I noticed is that the two protocols are different in how many retransmissions they require in different error cases. SR is more conservative in the approach, while GBN+SACK resents more packets than would be needed depending on the amount of sequence numbers stored in the sack.

And if I were to expand on this project further, I would want to create a more elegant solution in handling the sequence number wrapping. For example, if the sequence number space only ranges from 0 to 65,535, and more than 65,535 packets are transmitted, the implementation of the protocols would need to be able to distinguish between the old and new packets in terms of when they wrapped around. In the TCP implementation, the handshake is necessary to initalize the sequence number, congestion windows, and other variables needed for finalizing a connection. Hypothetically, I think it could be useful to implement a flag or more logic to indicate when wrapping is occurring for a segment, so that both the sender and receiver are on the same page.