TCP Tries to Estimate How Much Data to Send

TCP constantly tries
- to **estimate** the **achievable data rate**
- **in** bits or **bytes per second**,
- **called bandwidth**.*

Information moves at nearly the speed of light:
- about **130 msec** to the other side of the Earth,
- assuming a straight line through fiber
- along the surface.

More delay means a worse estimate.

*Electrical engineers object to this usage because
the term is also used to measure ranges of frequency.