May 2025 – v02

# 802.1CB FRER Sequence Recovery – Issues with Resets & Timeouts and Potential Solutions

David McCall (Intel – <u>david.mccall@intel.com</u>)

#### References

[1] Venkat Arunarthi & Sunil Raj, "802.1CB-2017 Maintenance item #378 v2", contribution to IEEE 802.1 Maintenance, March 2025

[2] Lisa Maile, "P802.1CBec Text Contribution", April 2025

[3] Frank Dürr, Simon Egger, Lucas Haug, Joachim Sachs, János Farkas, "Control Plane Extensions for Wireless Aware Traffic Engineering v2", contribution to 802.1 TSN, March 2025

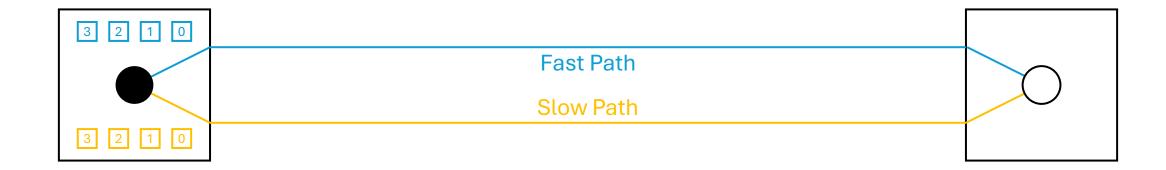
#### Content

- Introduction
- Baseline
  - Normal Operation
  - One Missing Packet
  - Lost Packet
- Errors
  - Erroneous Lost Packets
    - "Simple" fix would generate Incorrectly Discarded Packets
  - Reasons for Aggressive Timeout (when as series of packets are lost)
  - Issues with Aggressive Timeout (when packets are delayed)

#### **Notes**

- At intialisation with the current algorithm (SequenceRecoveryReset):
  - RecovSeqNum is initialised to 65,535, but the value is irrelevant because...
  - TakeAny is initialised to TRUE, meaning any sequence number will be accepted
    - This state is represented by showing RecovSeqNum as a dash, i.e. "-"
  - SequenceHistory is set to all 0s
- For simplicity, this presentation only deals with per-stream & perport variables:
  - PassedPackets = frerCpsSeqRcvyPassedPackets
  - DiscardedPackets = frerCpsSeqRcvyDiscardedPackets

# Simple 2-Path Model



Fast Path 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Fast Path 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Slow Path

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Fast Path 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 1

Slow Path

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

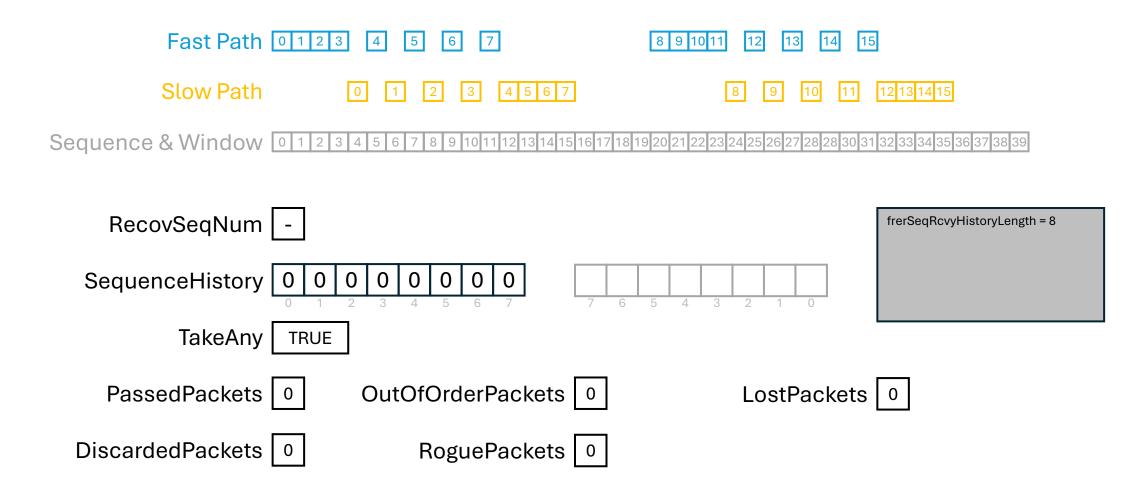
Fast Path 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Slow Path

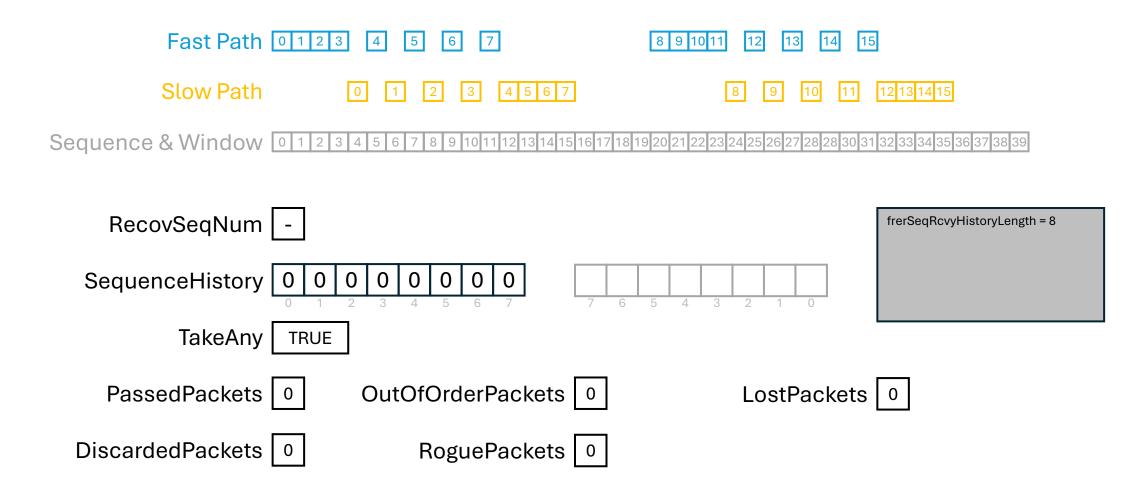
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

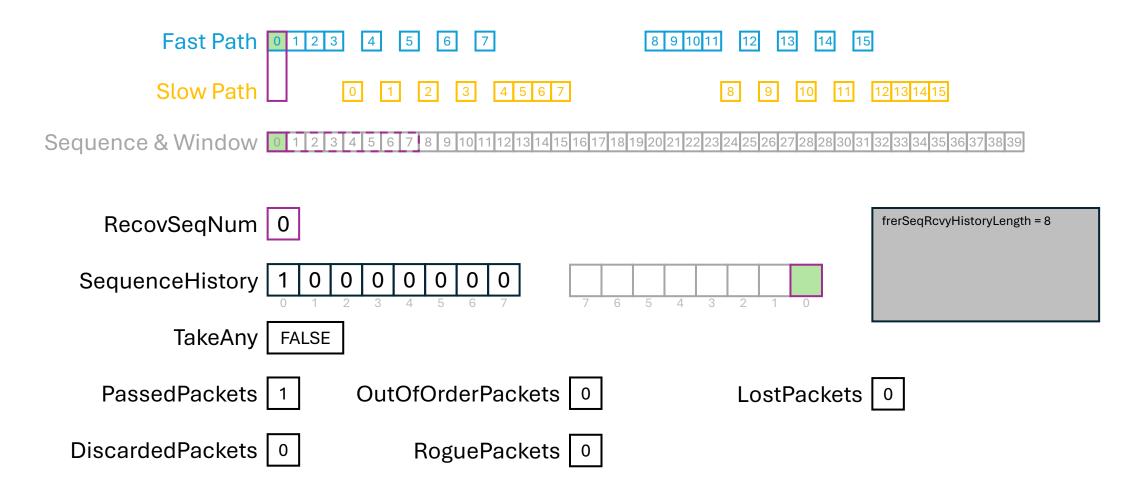
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

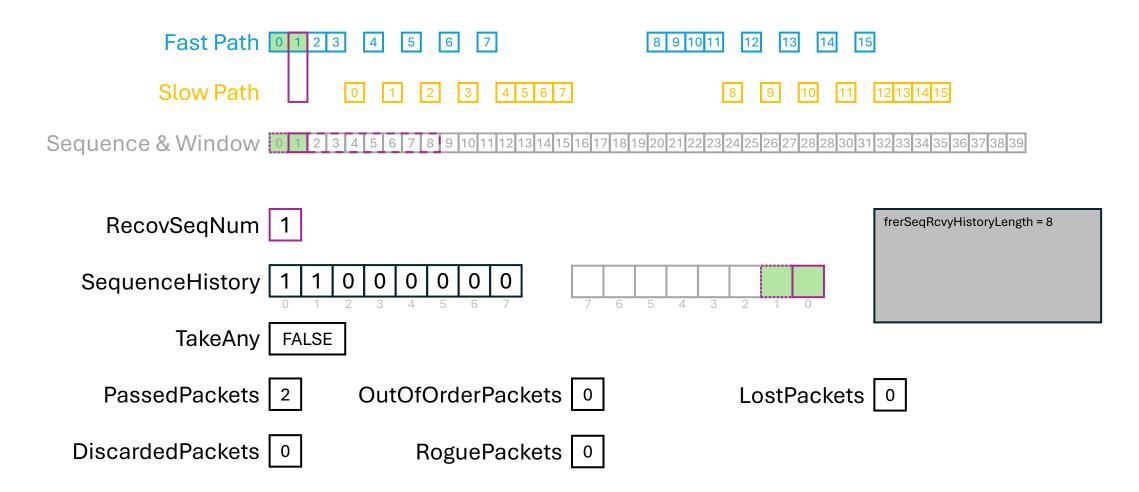
Sequence & Window 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 28 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39

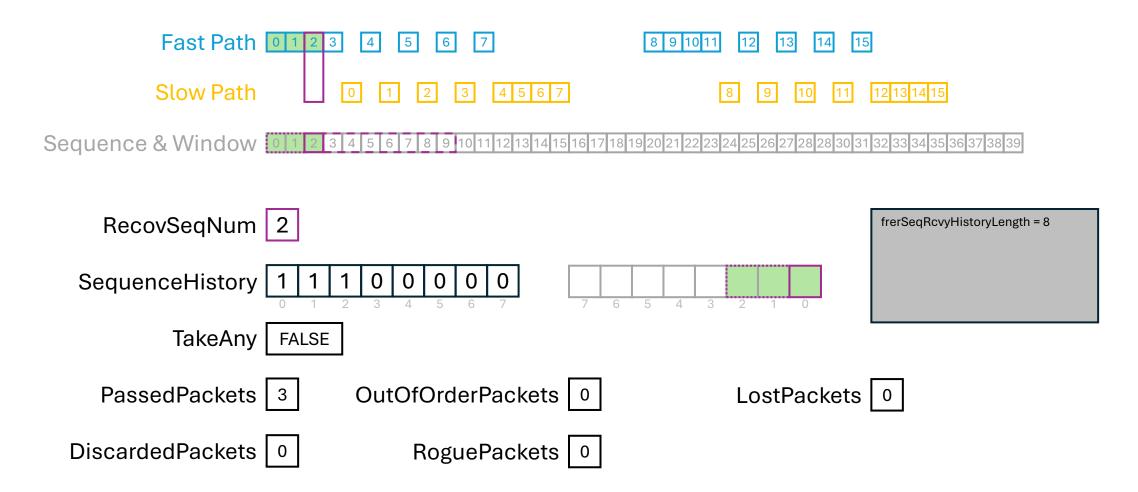


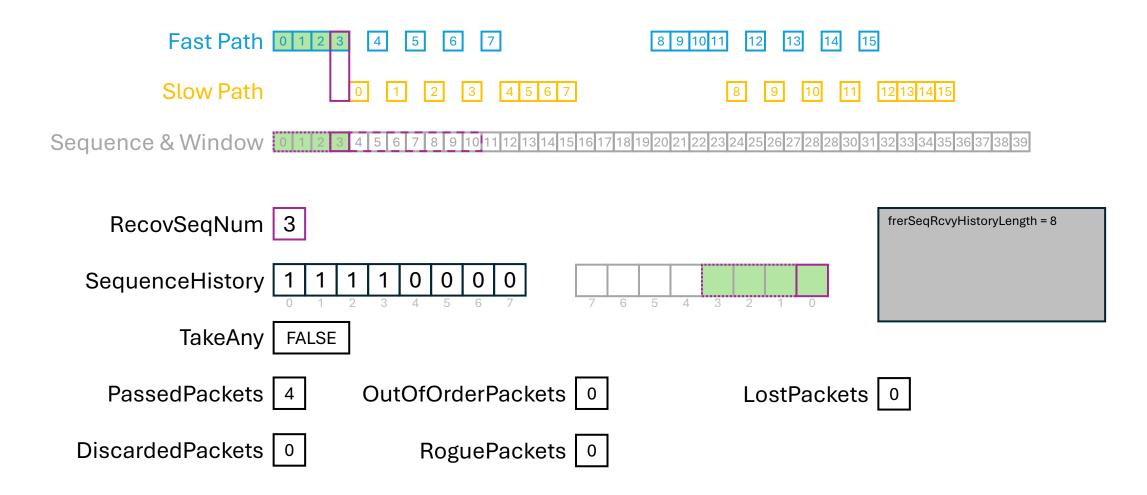
# FRER Vector Recovery Algorithm Normal Operation

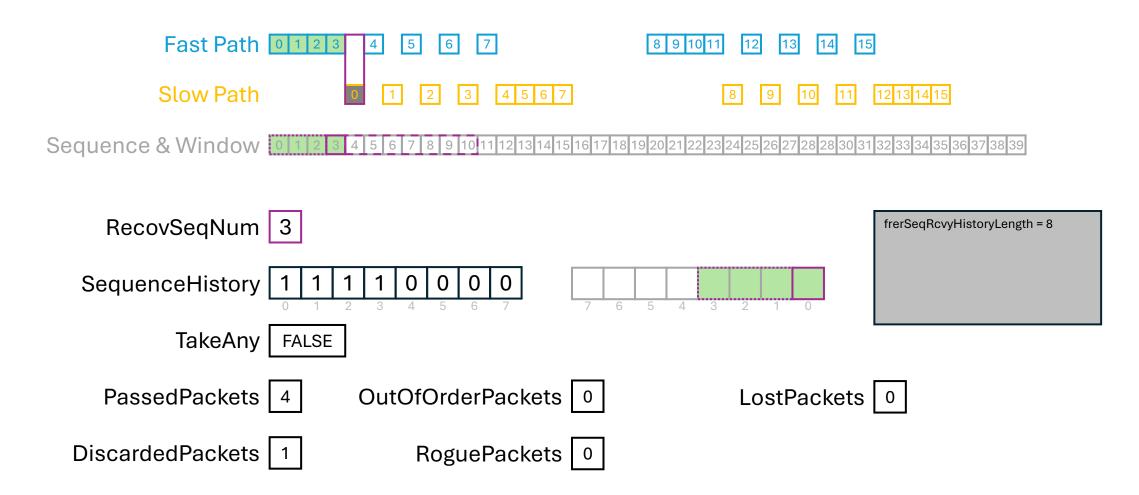


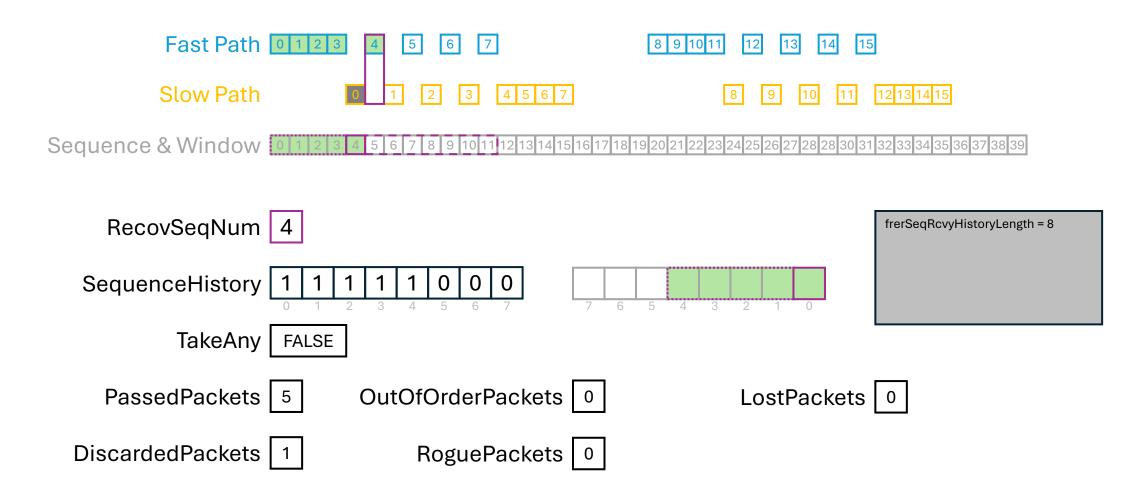


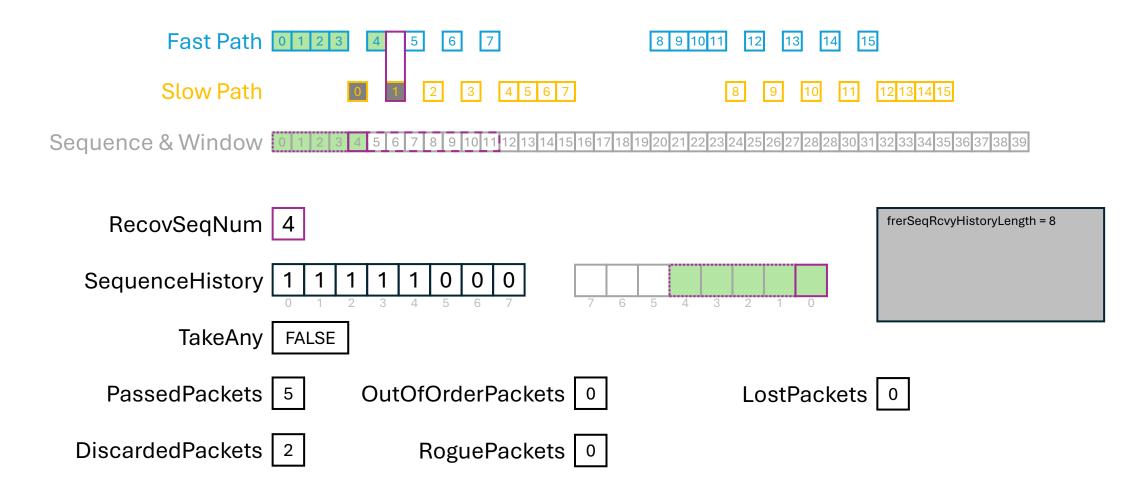


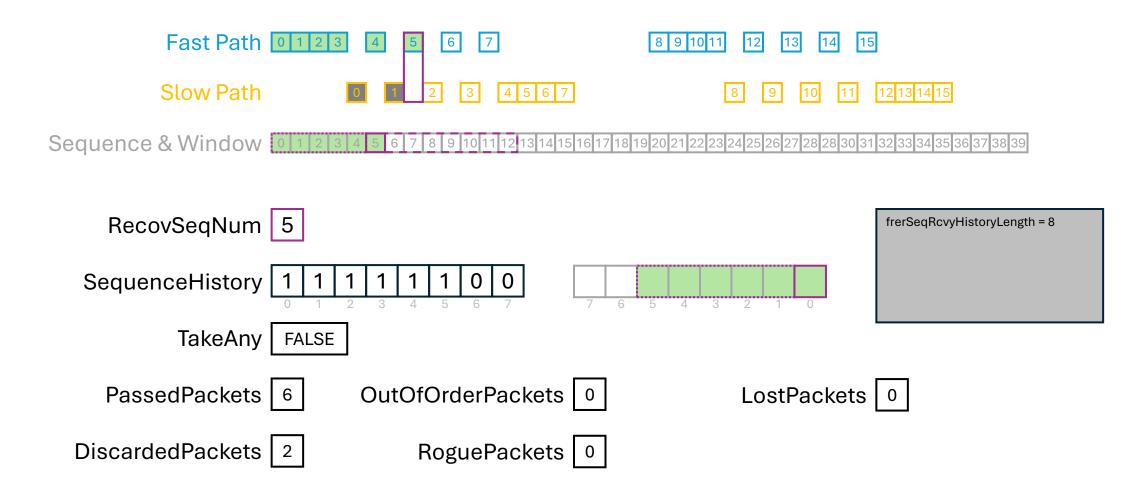


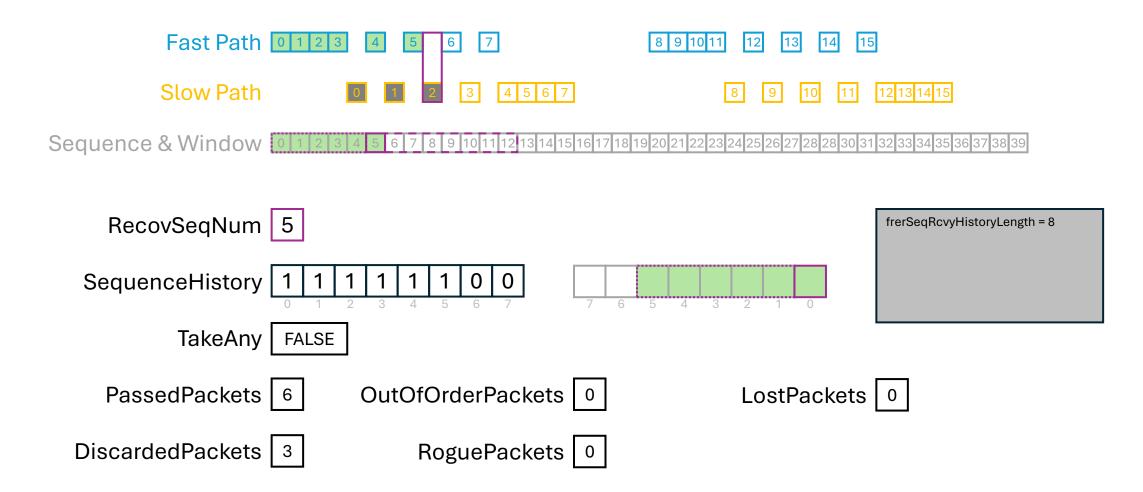


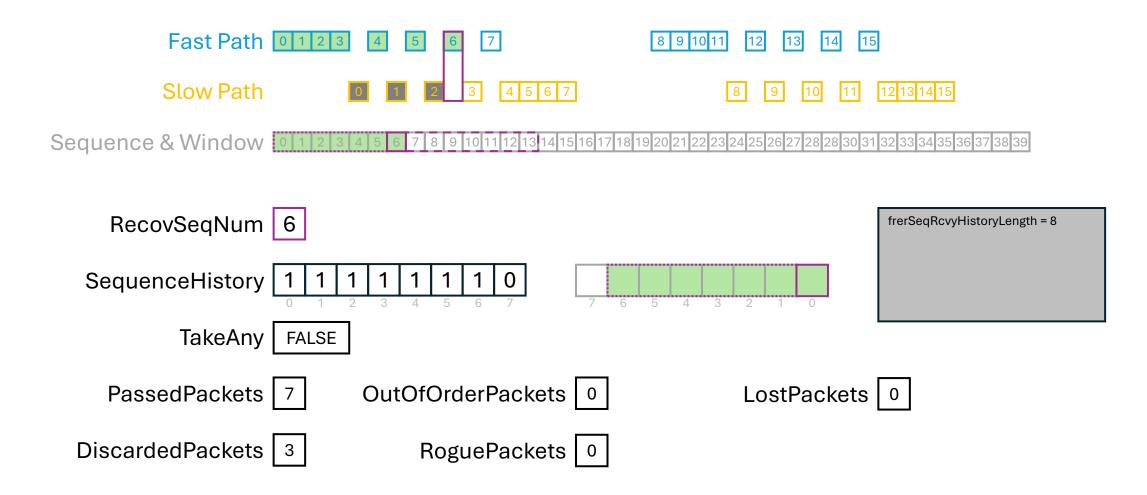


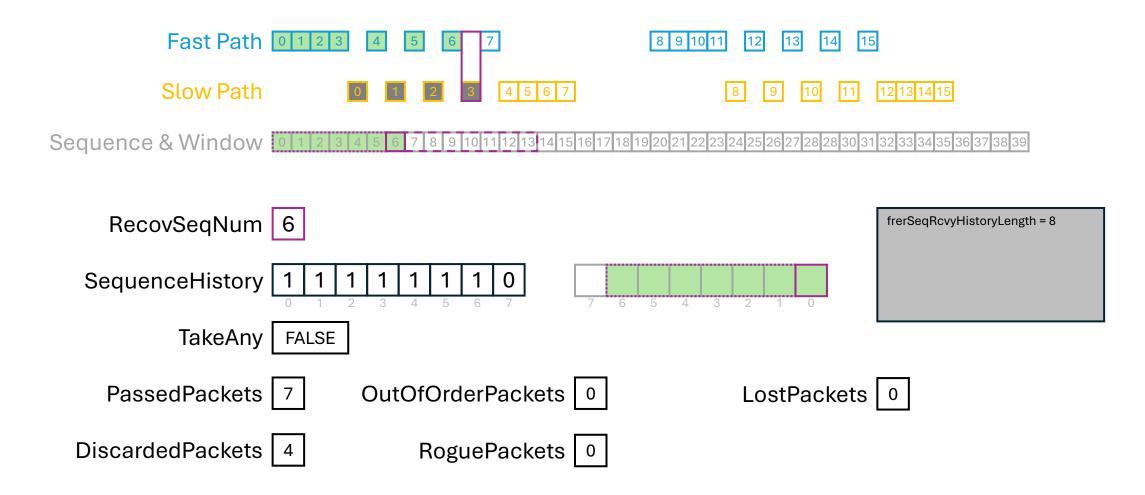


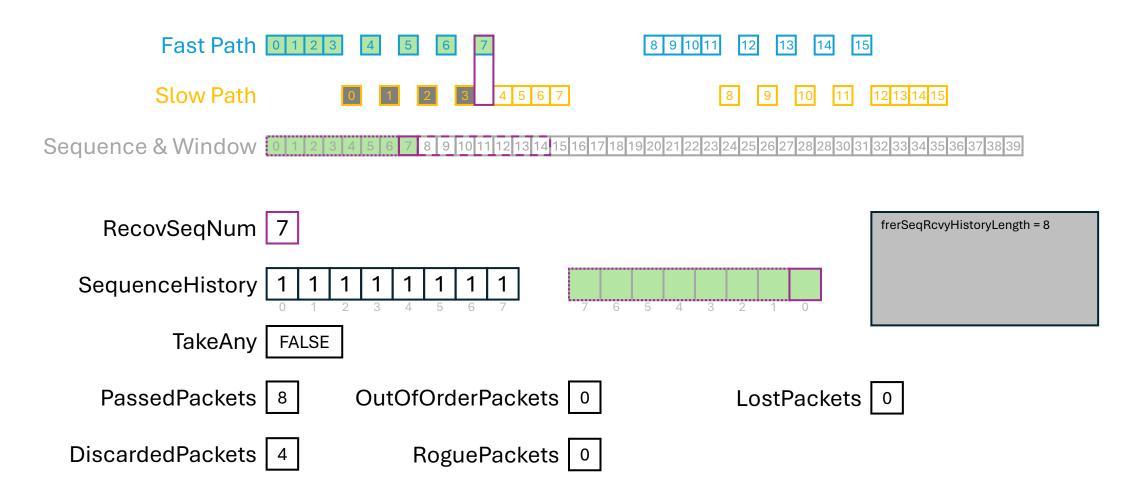


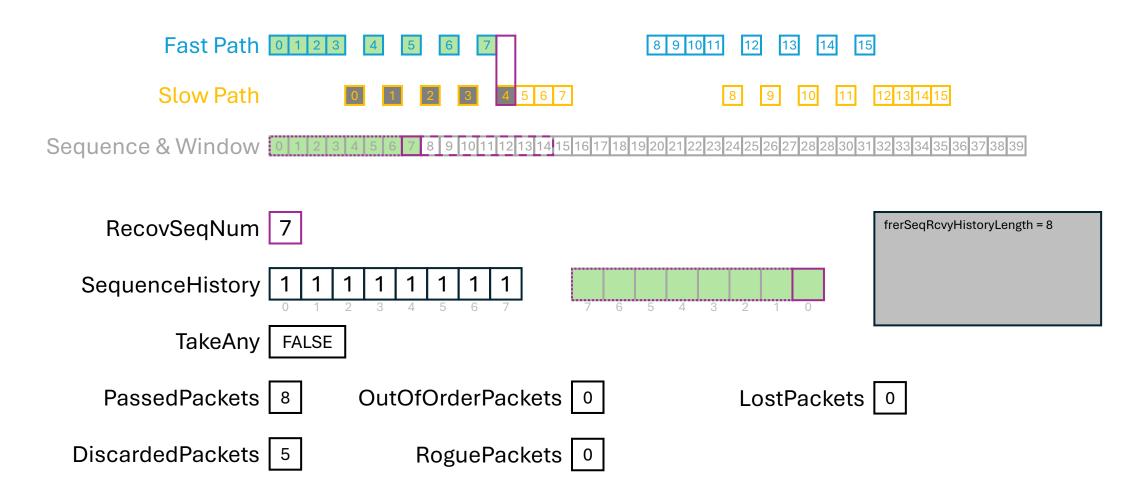


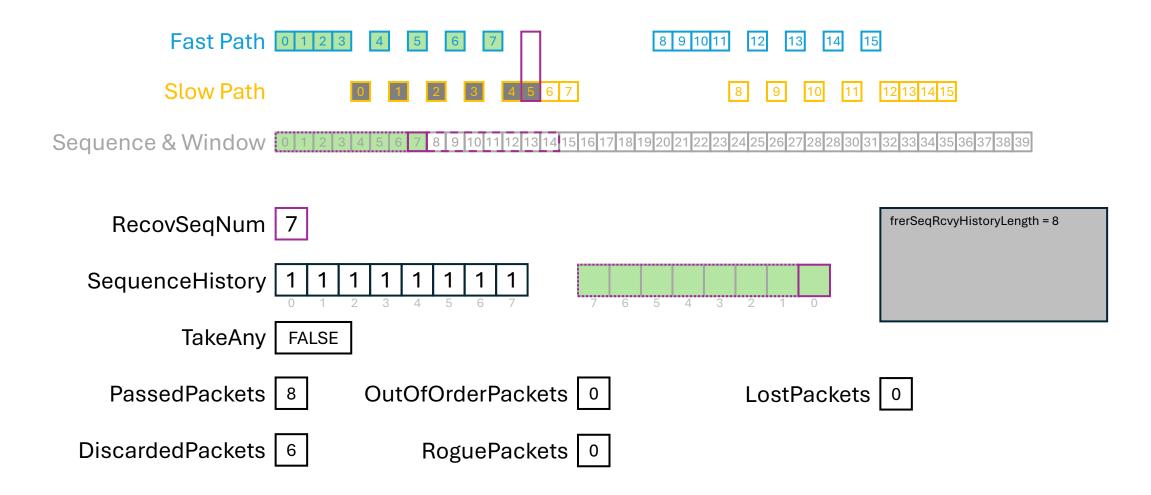


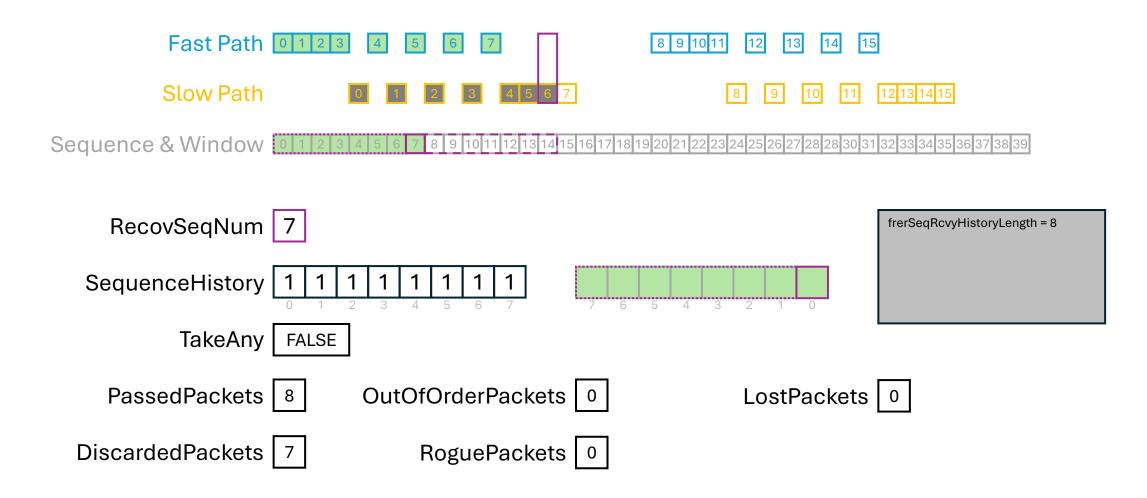


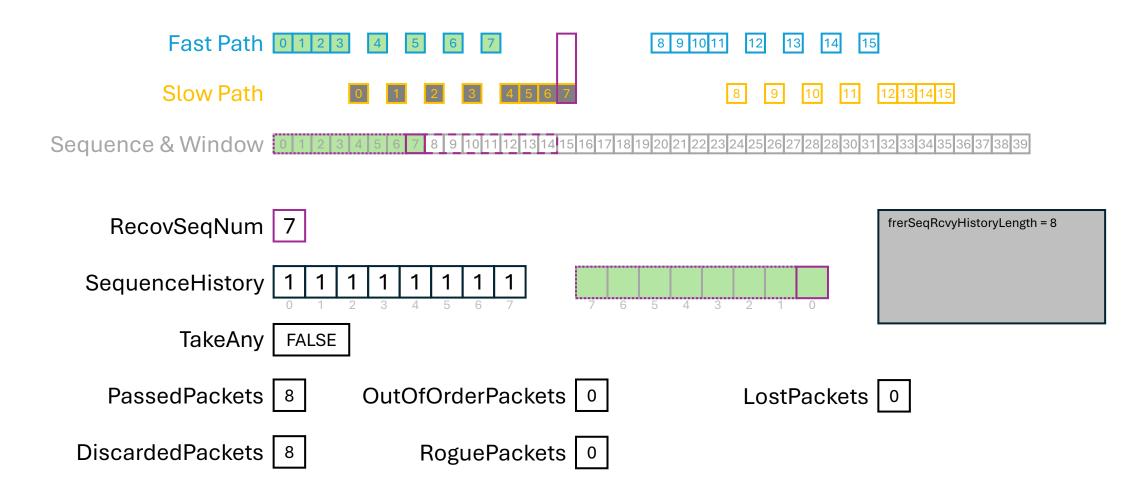


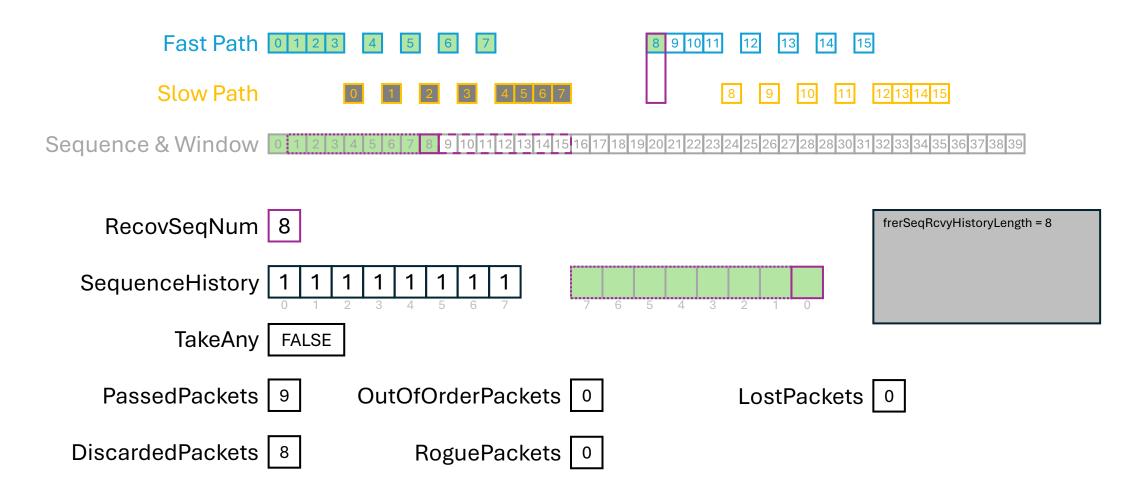


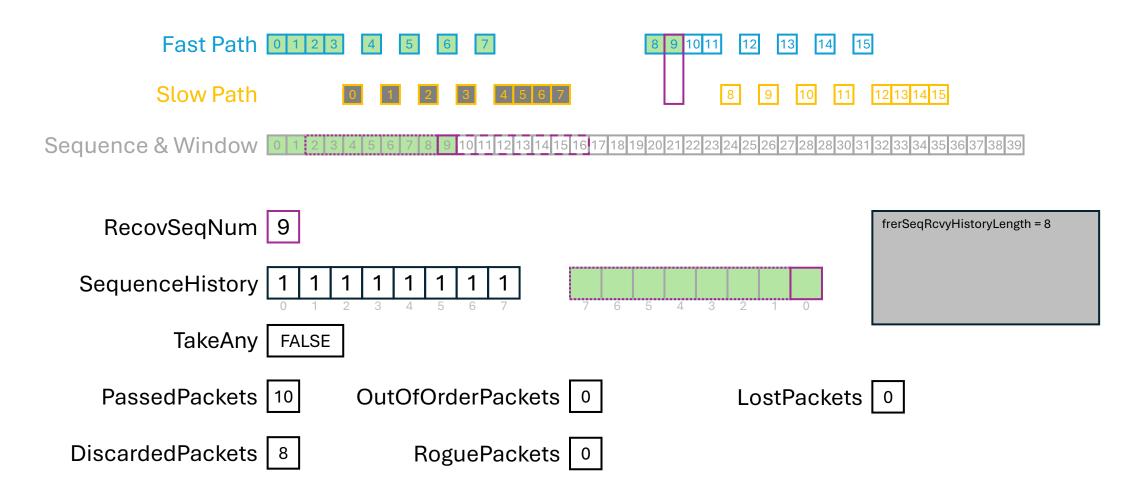


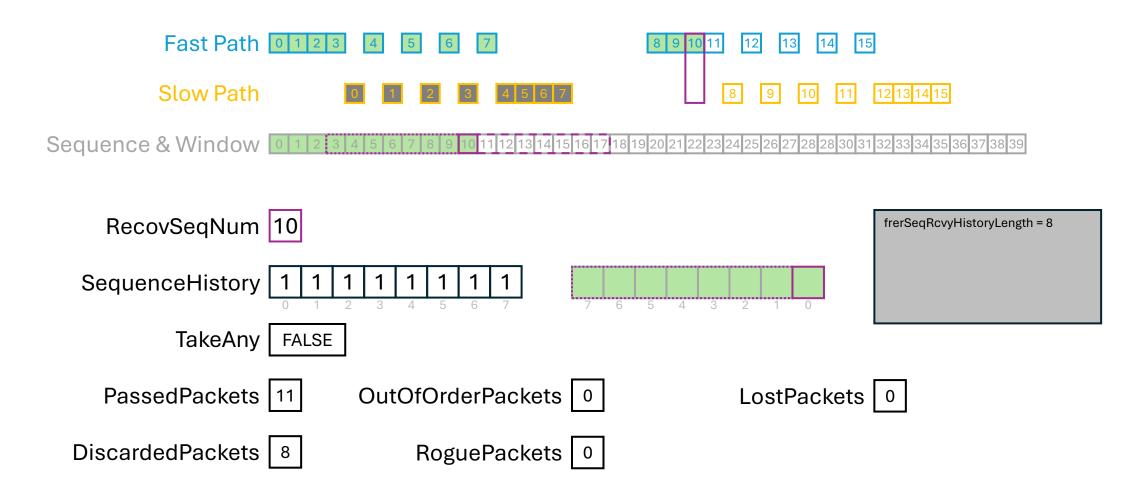


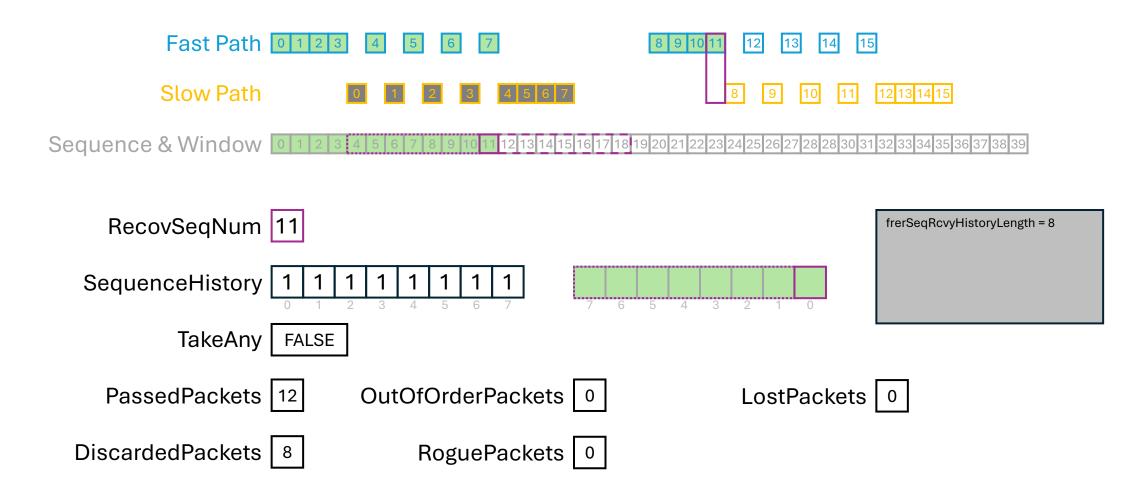


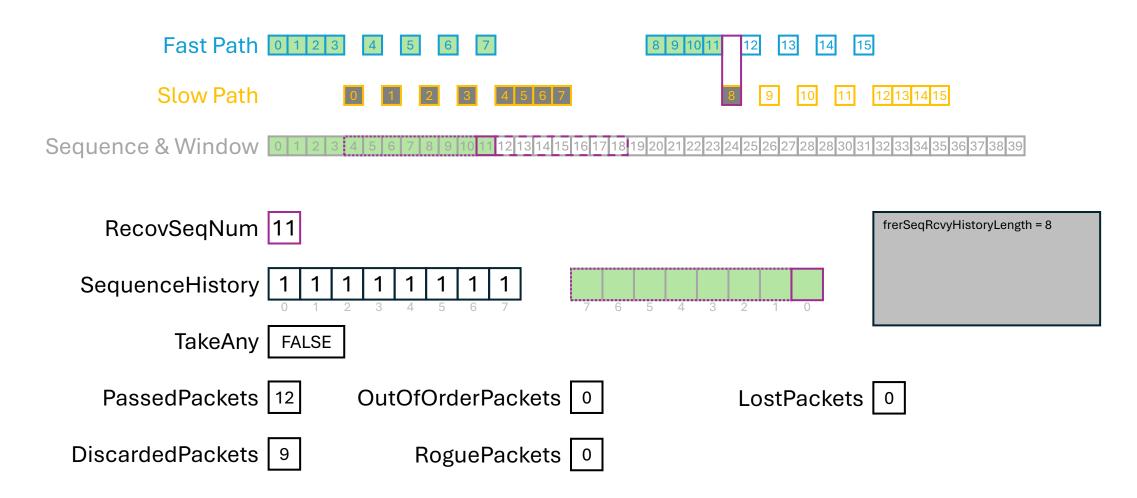


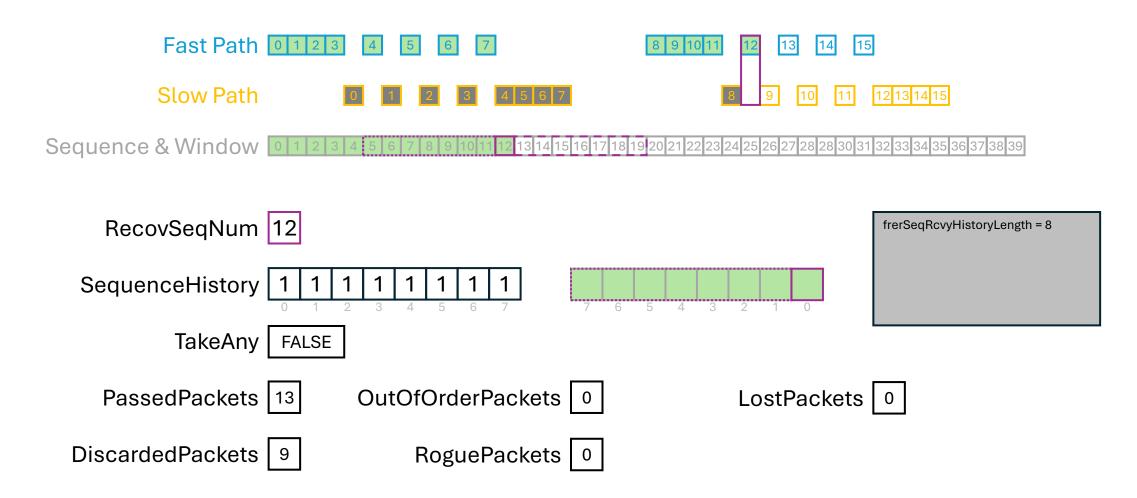


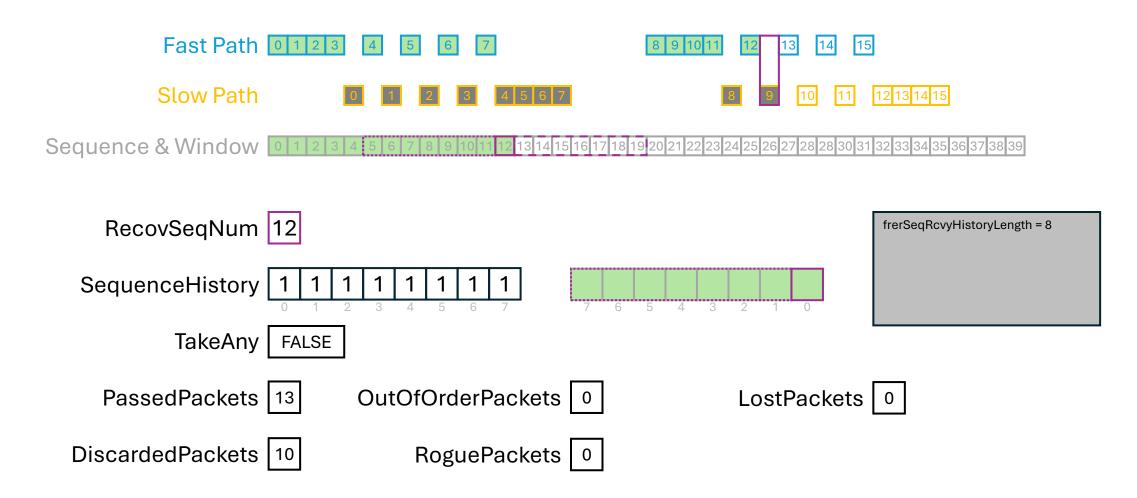


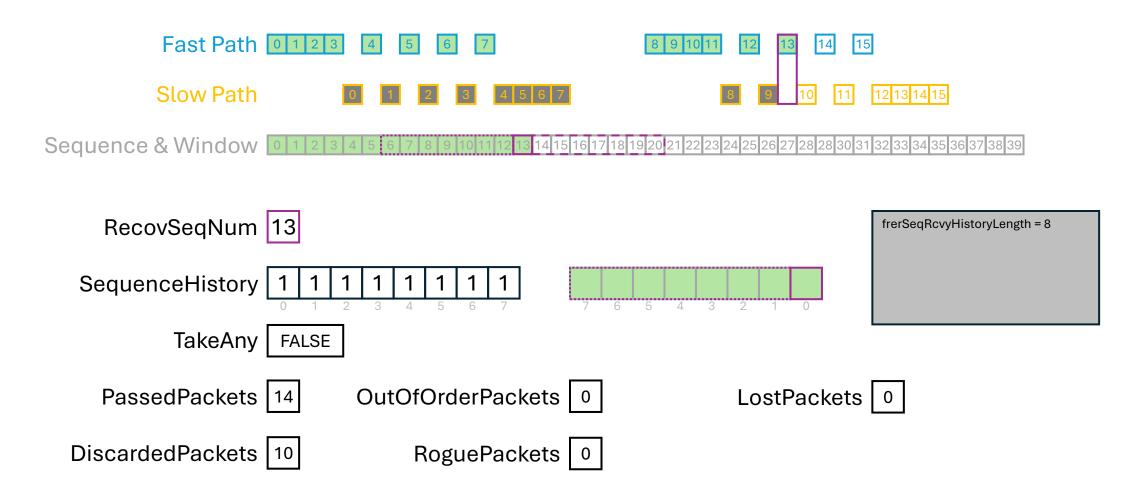


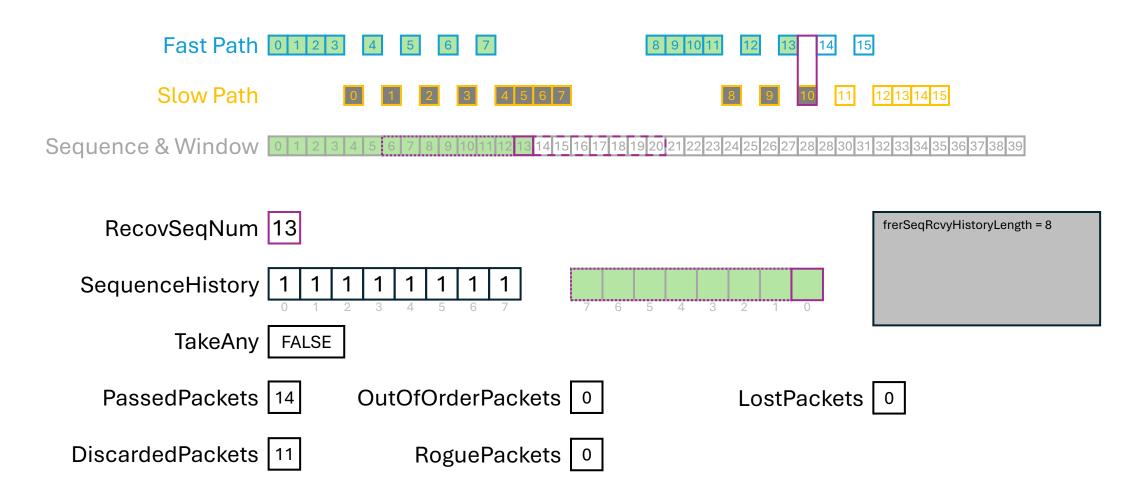


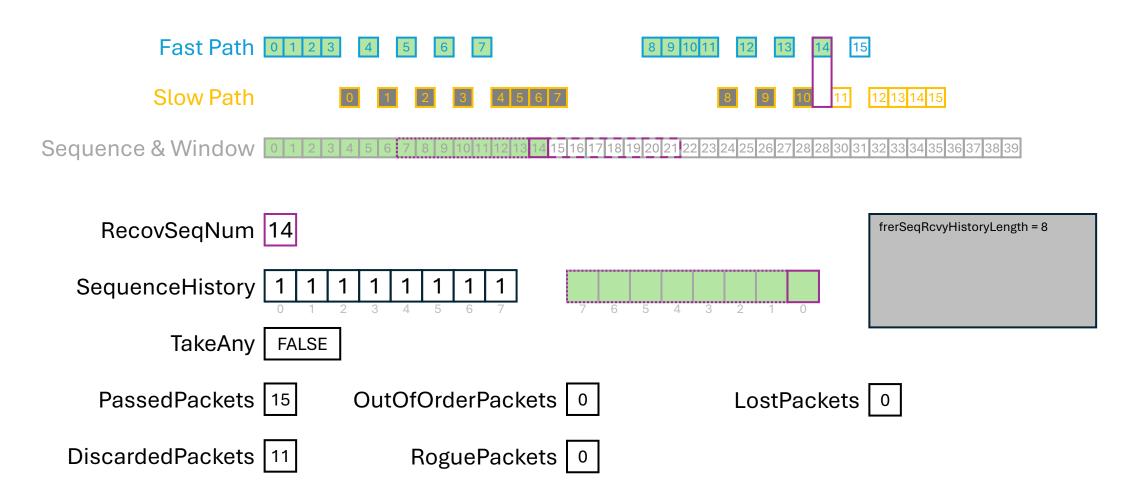


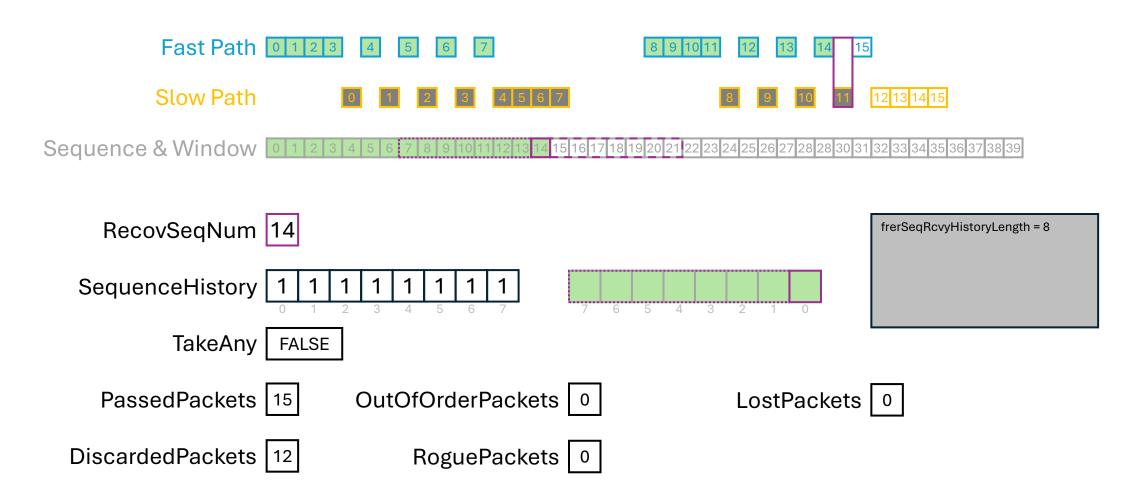


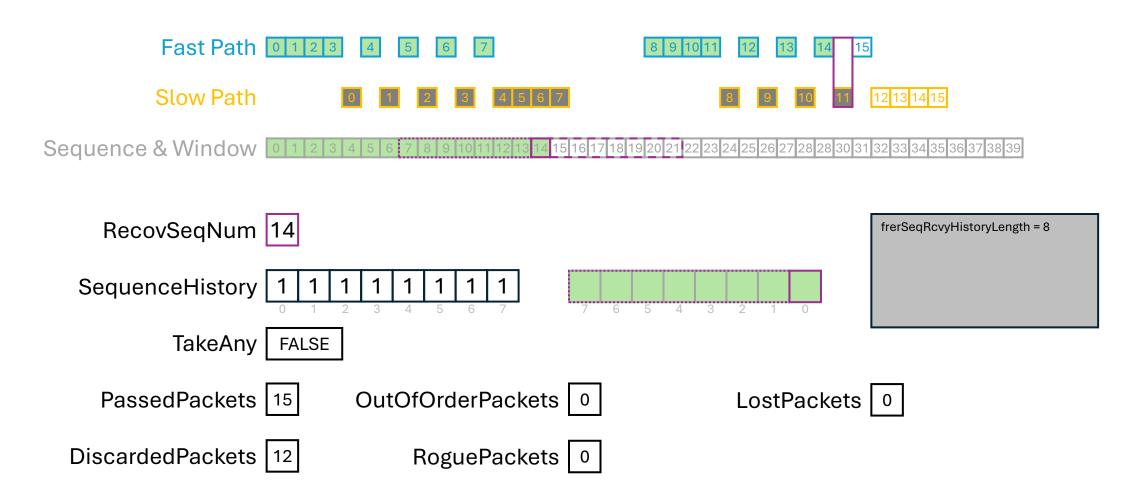


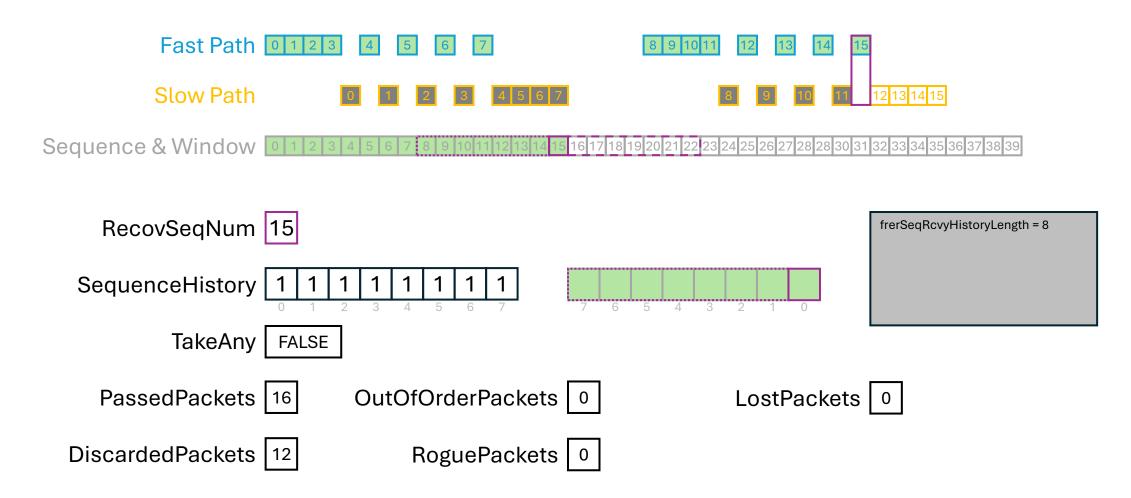


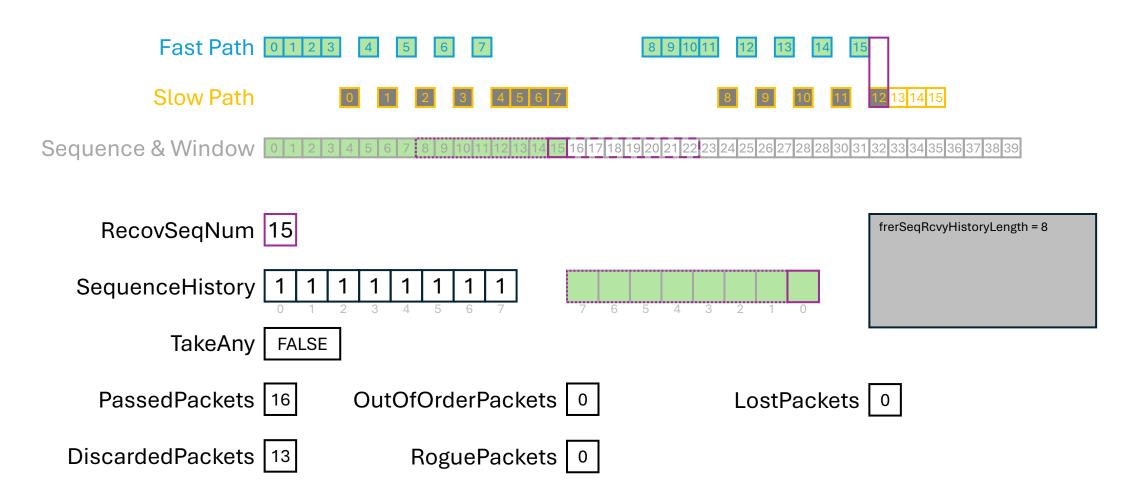


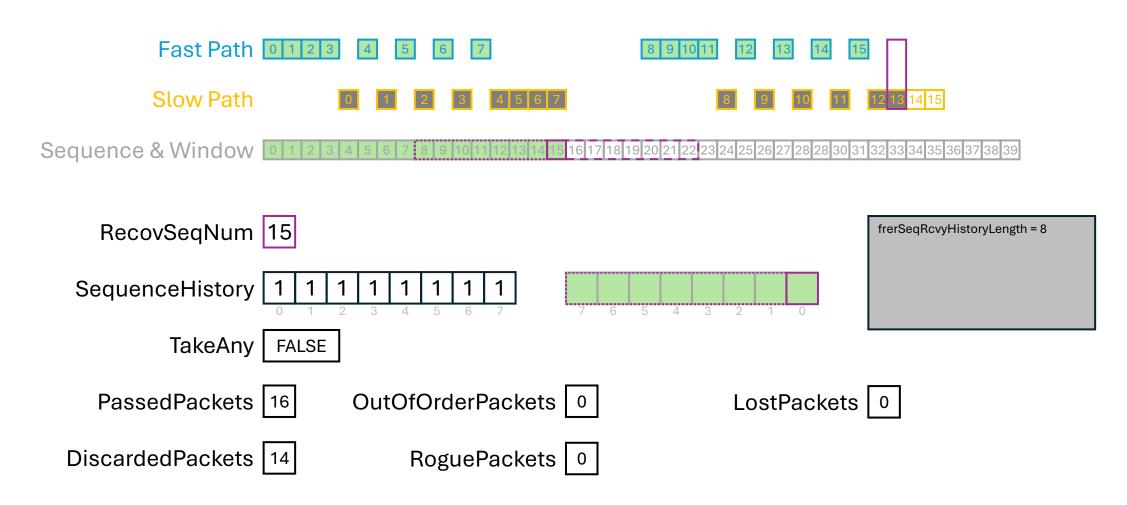


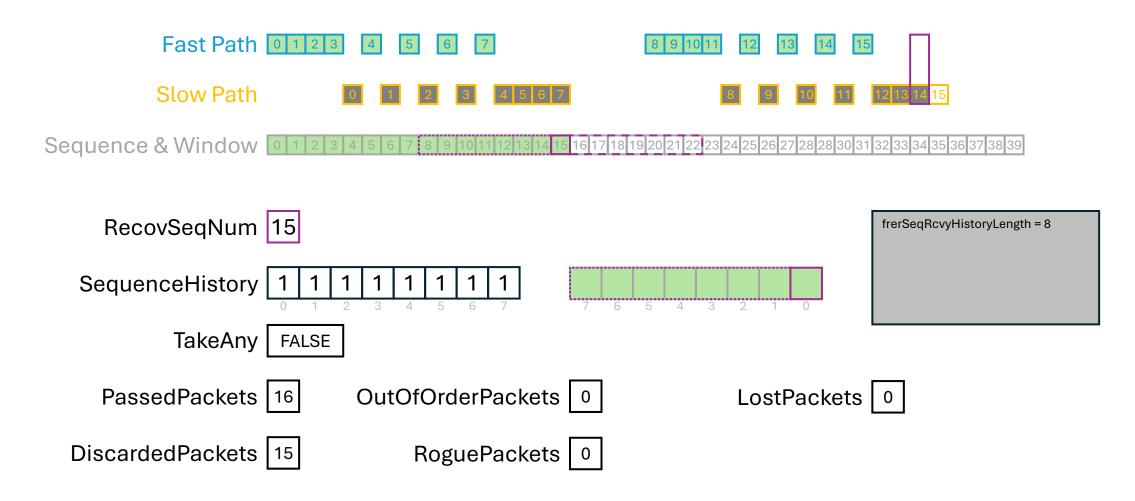


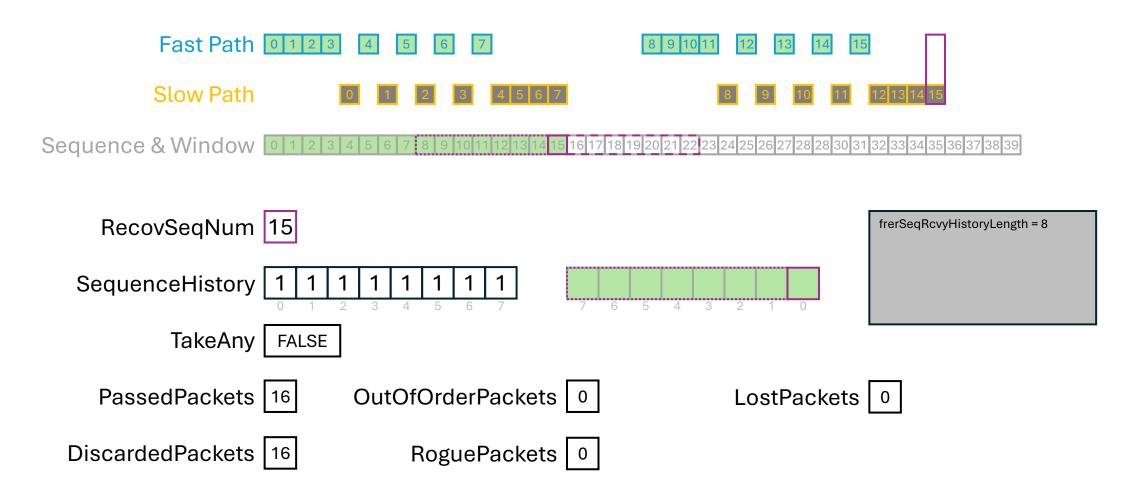




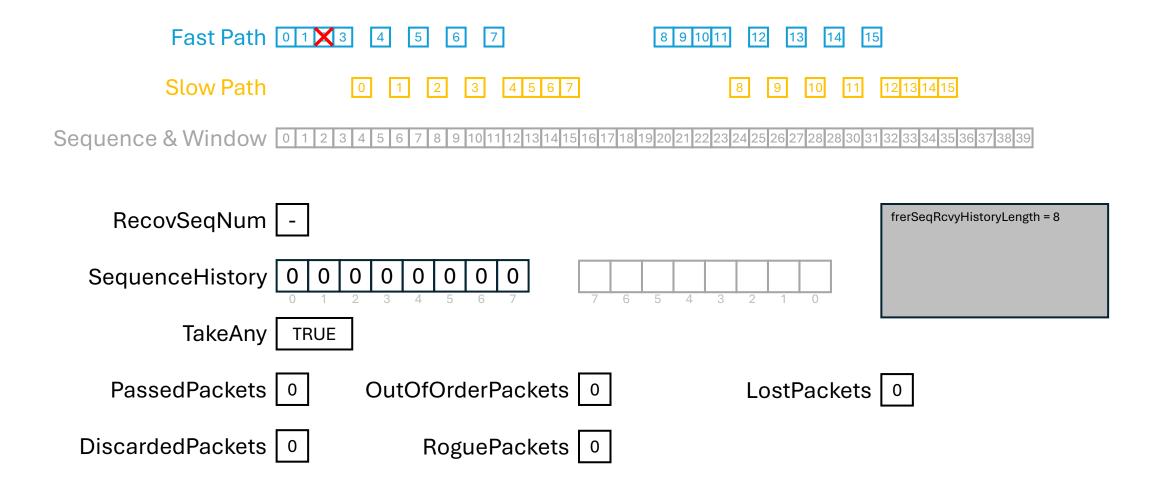


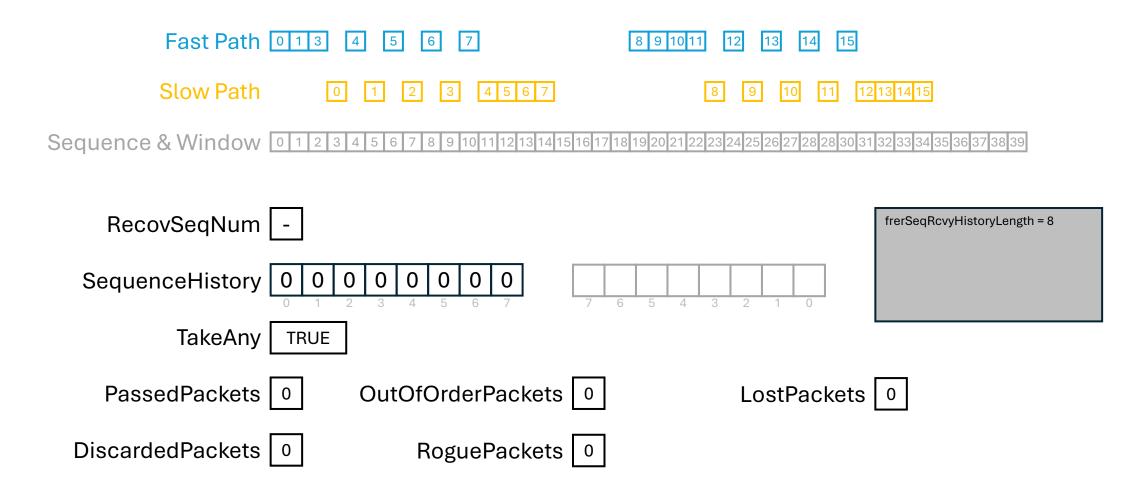


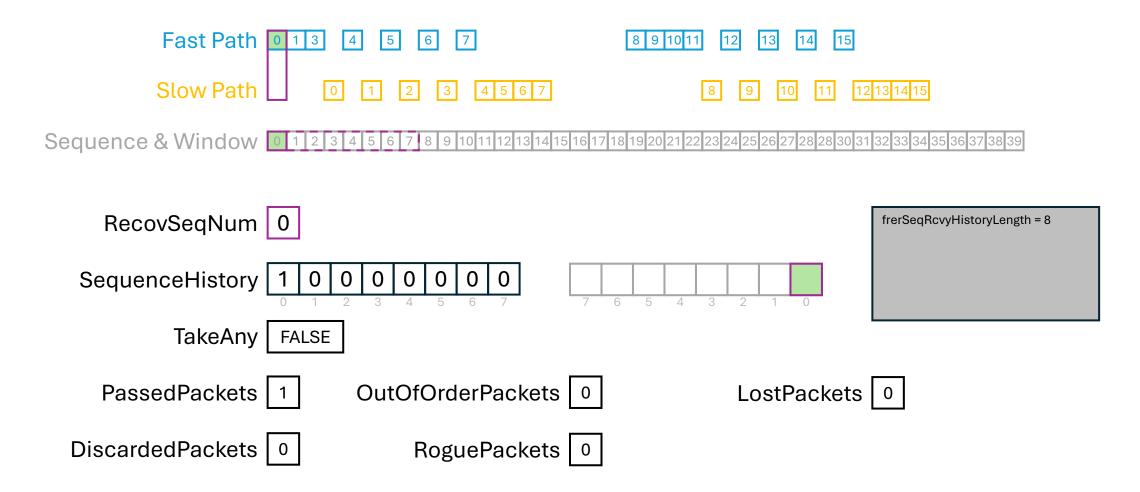


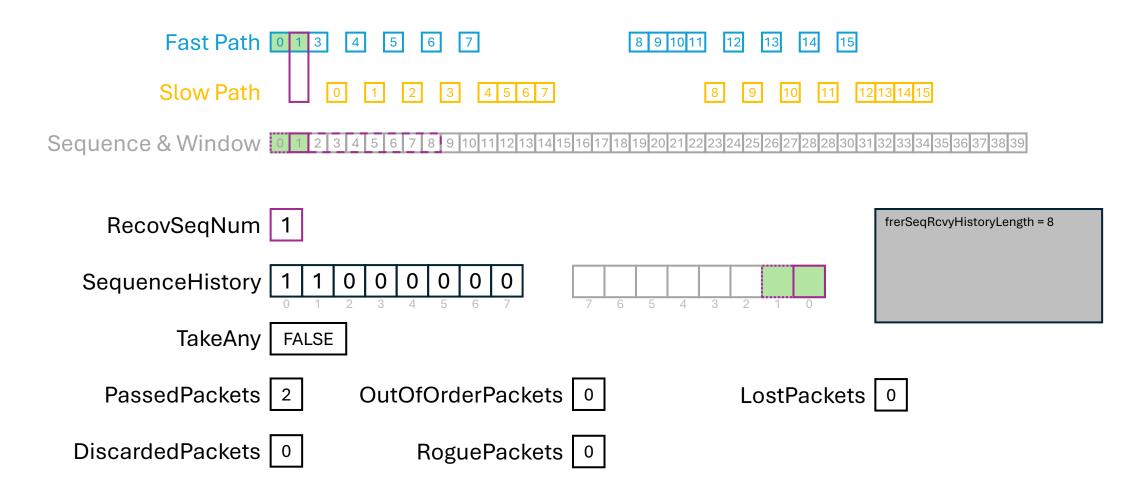


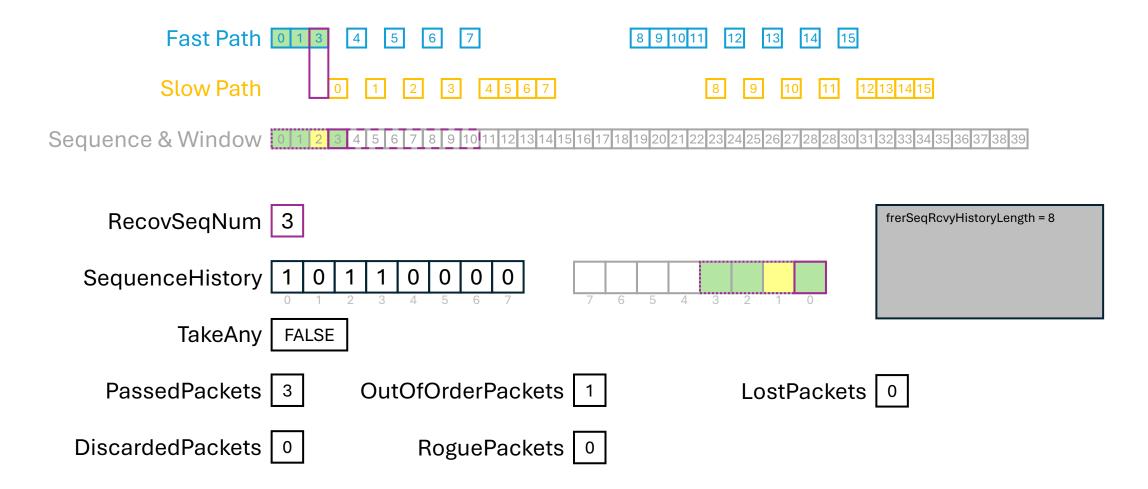
# FRER Vector Recovery Algorithm One Missing Packet

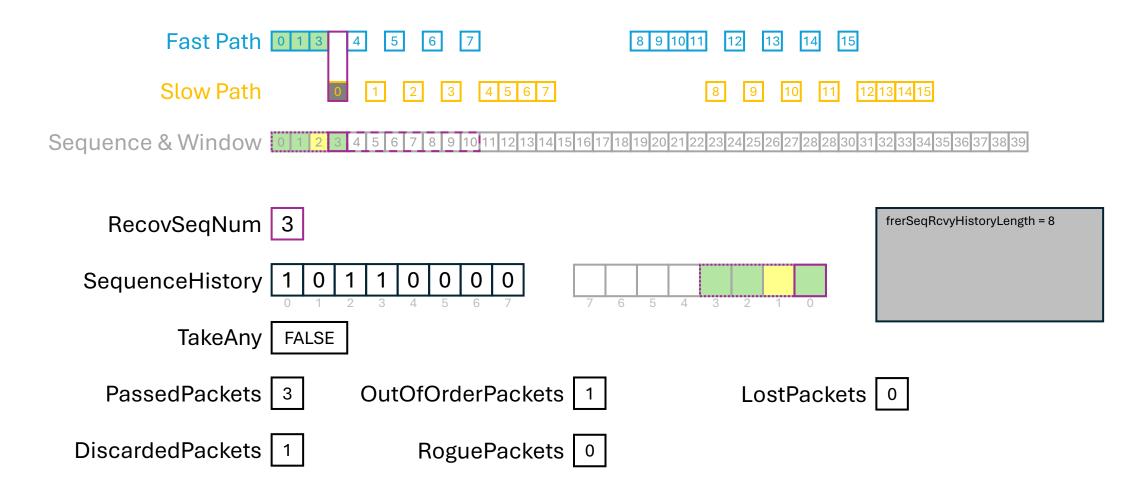


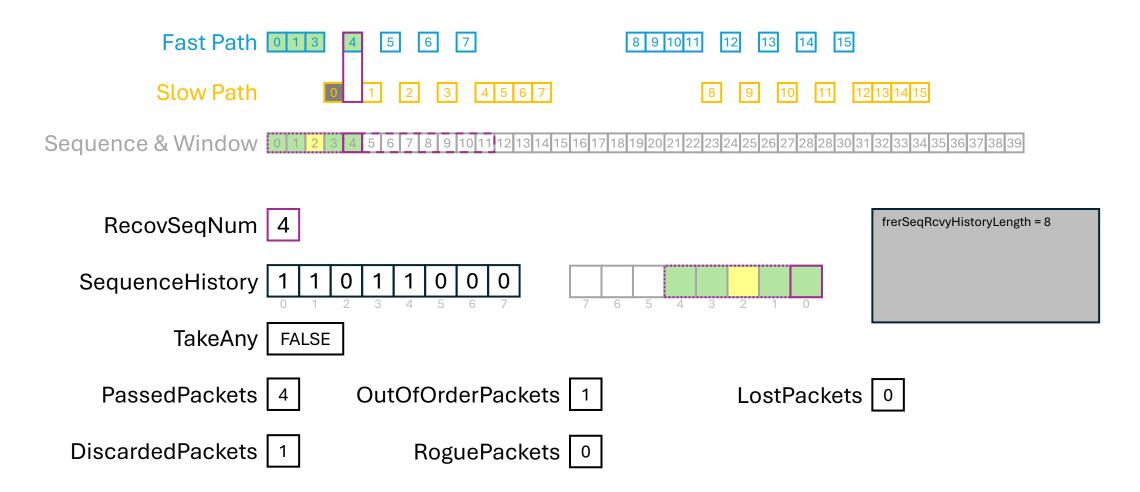


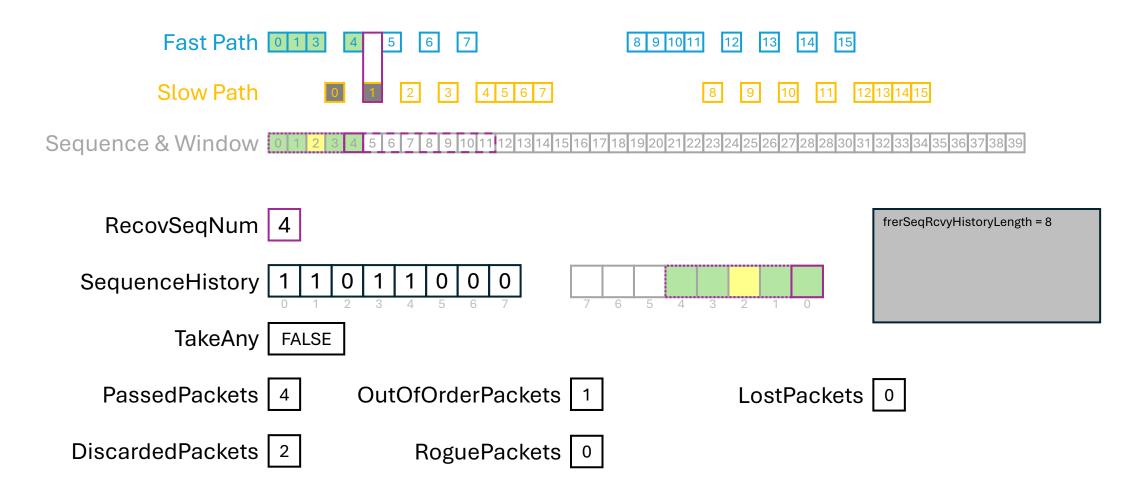


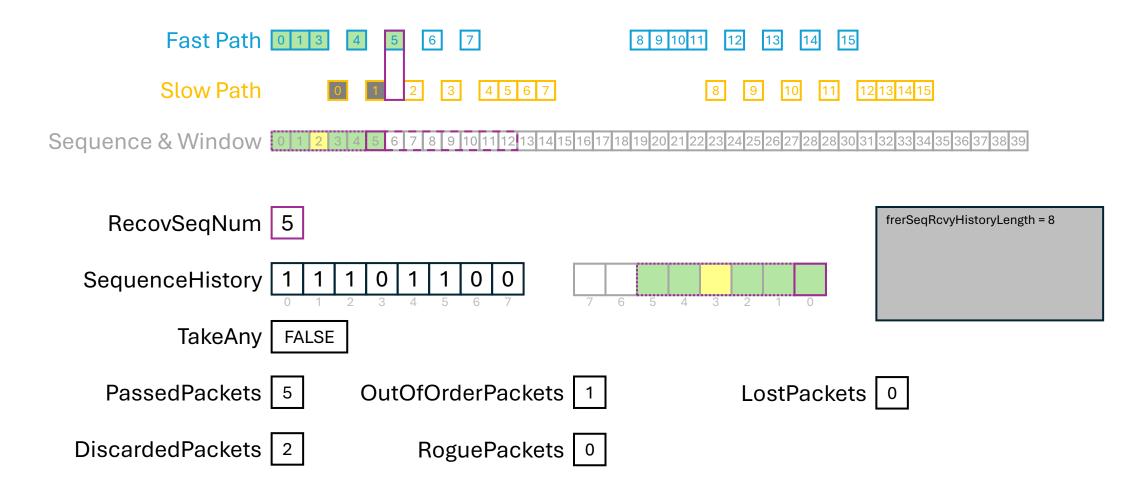


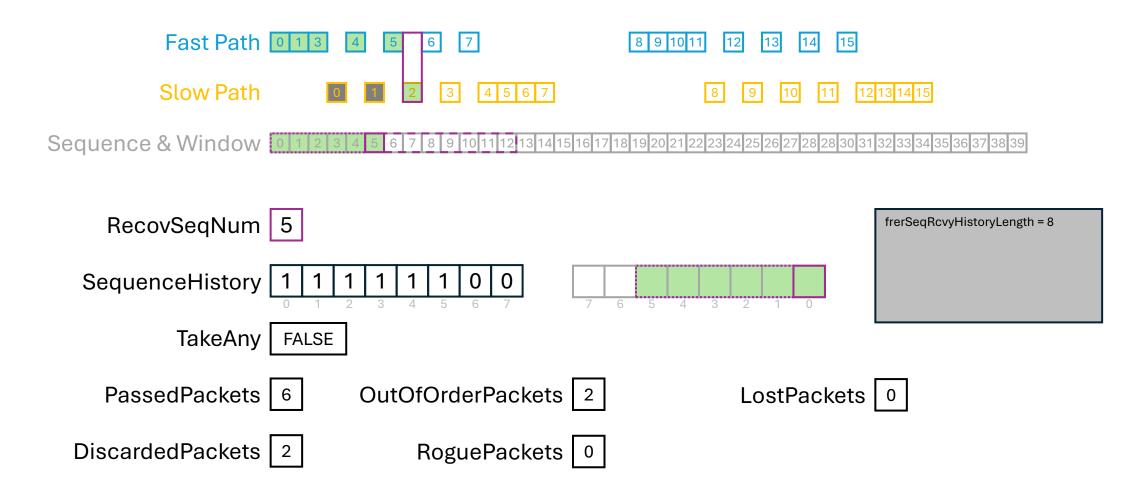


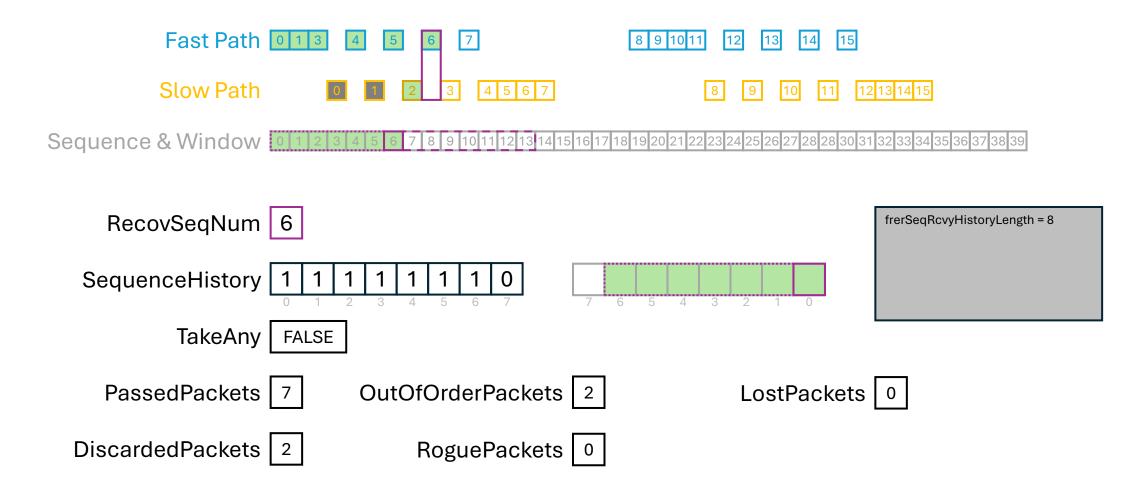


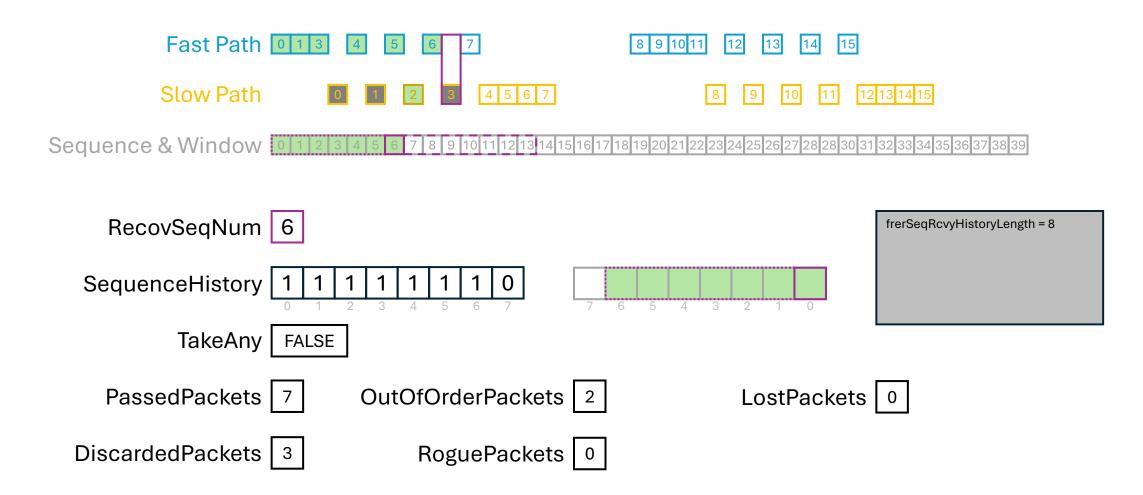




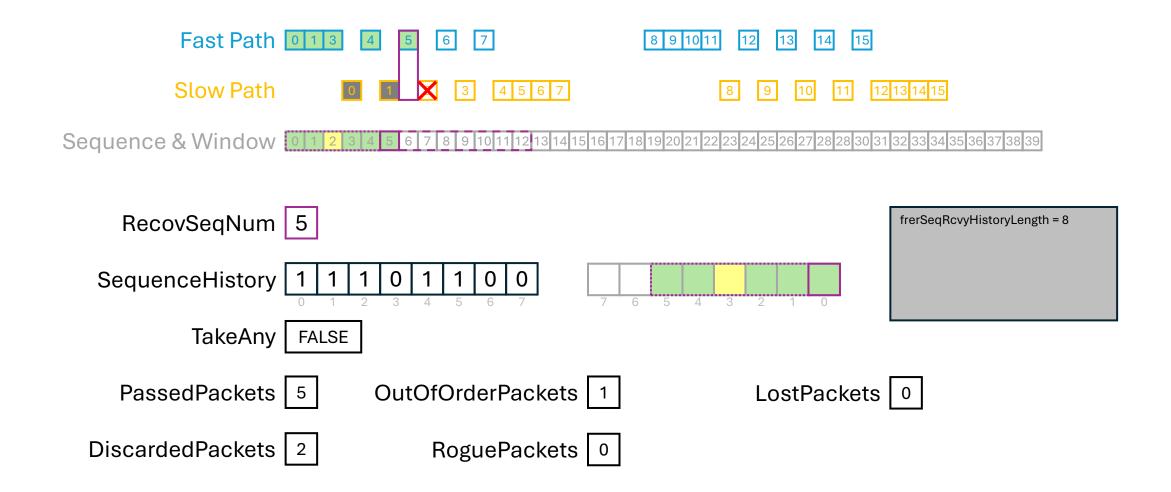


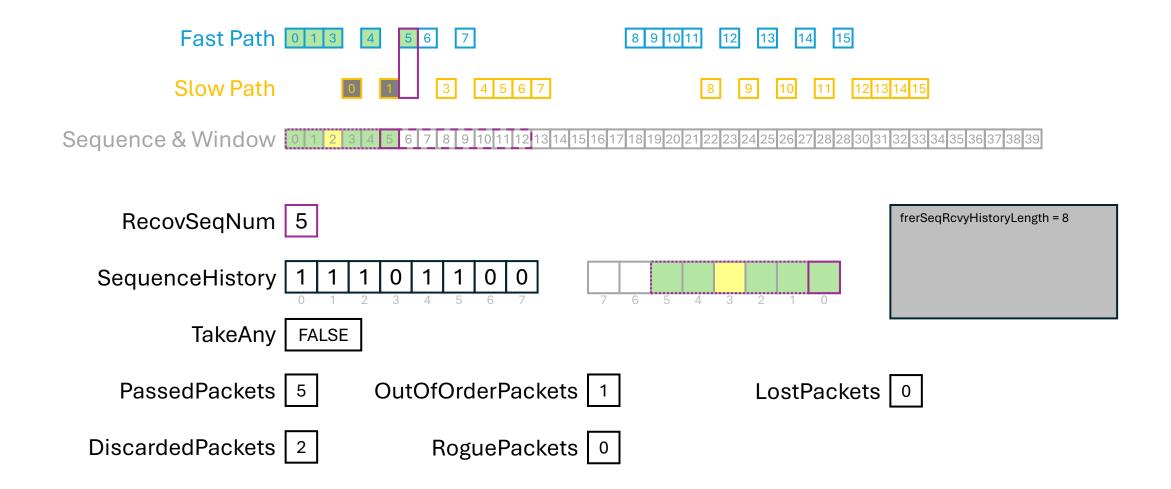


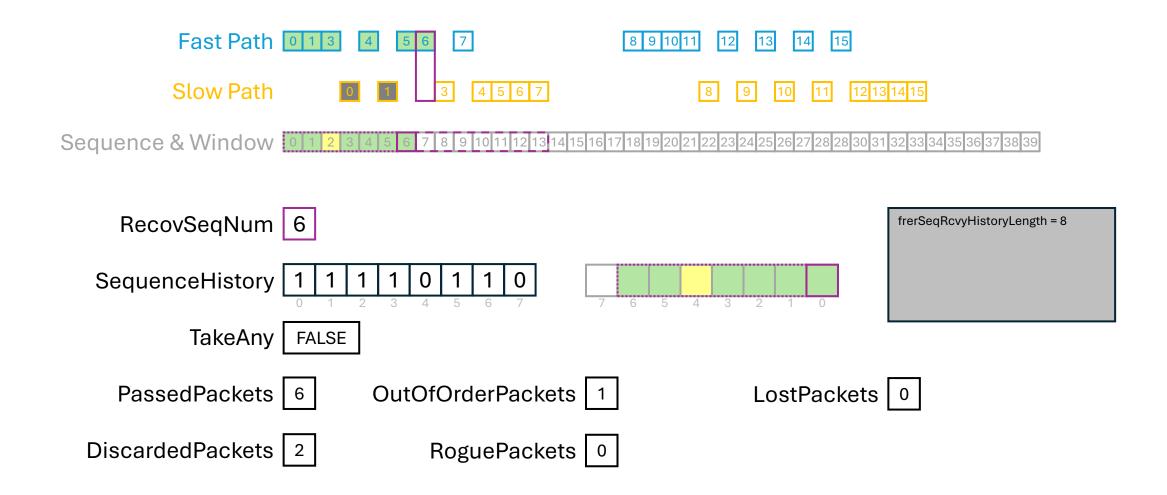


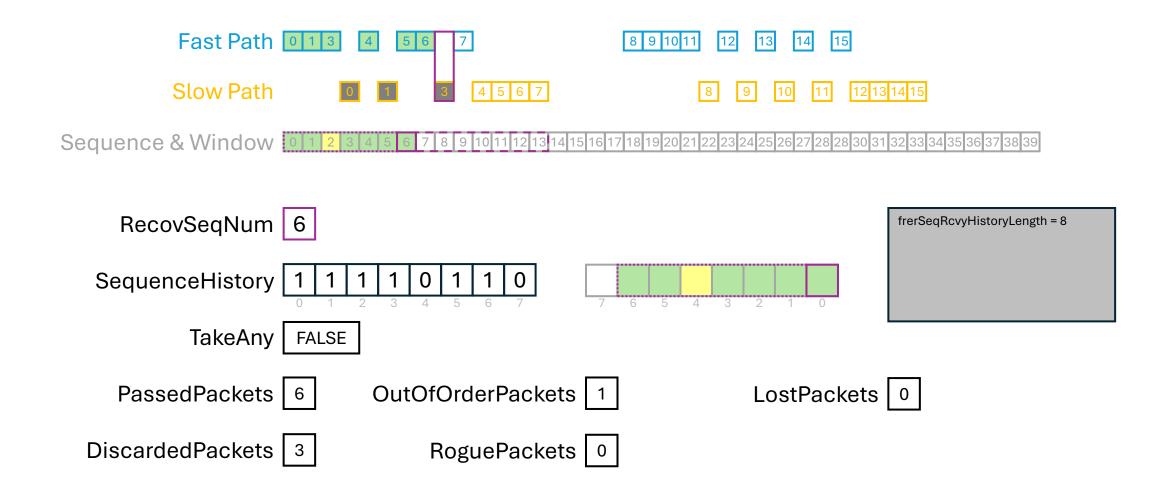


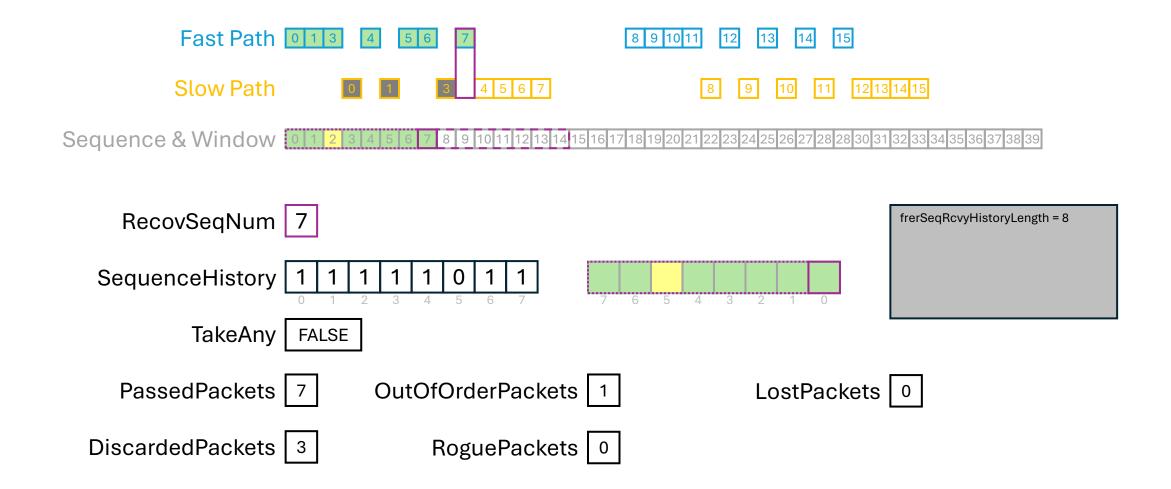
## FRER Vector Recovery Algorithm Lost Packet

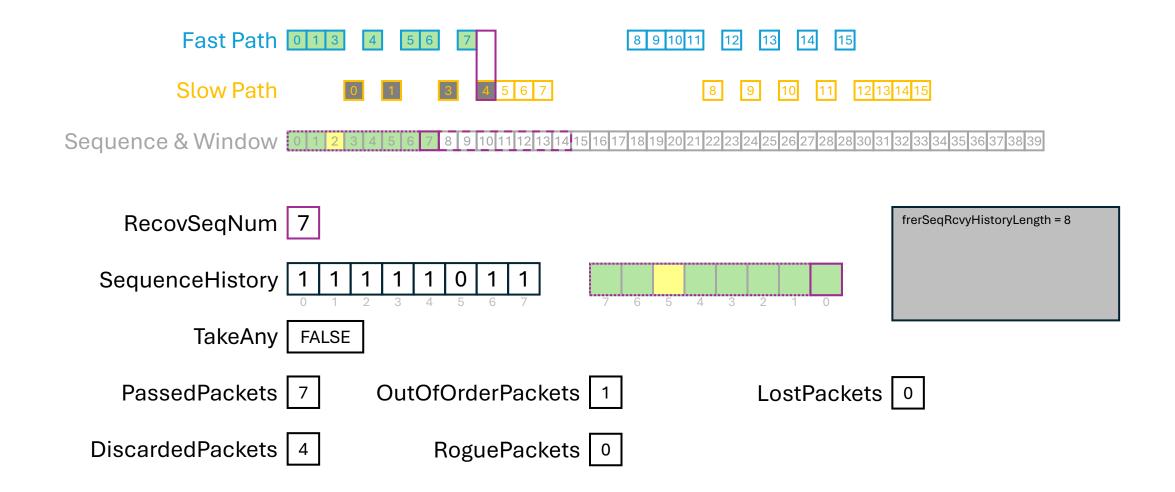


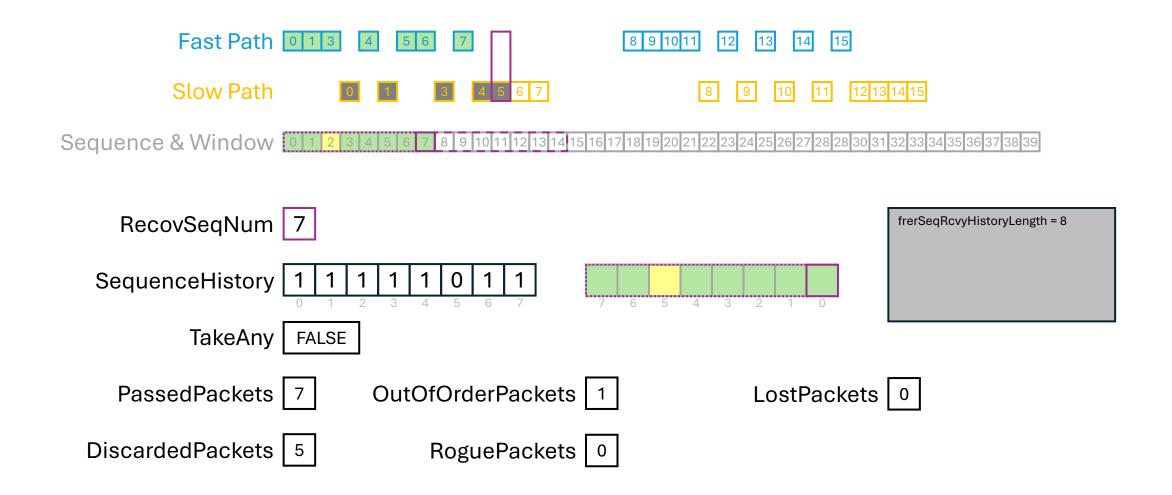


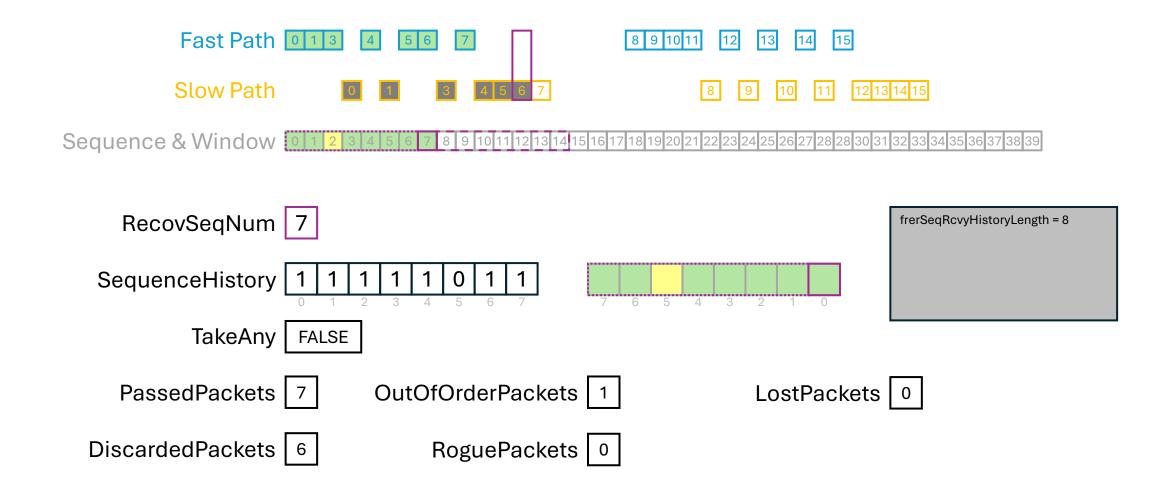


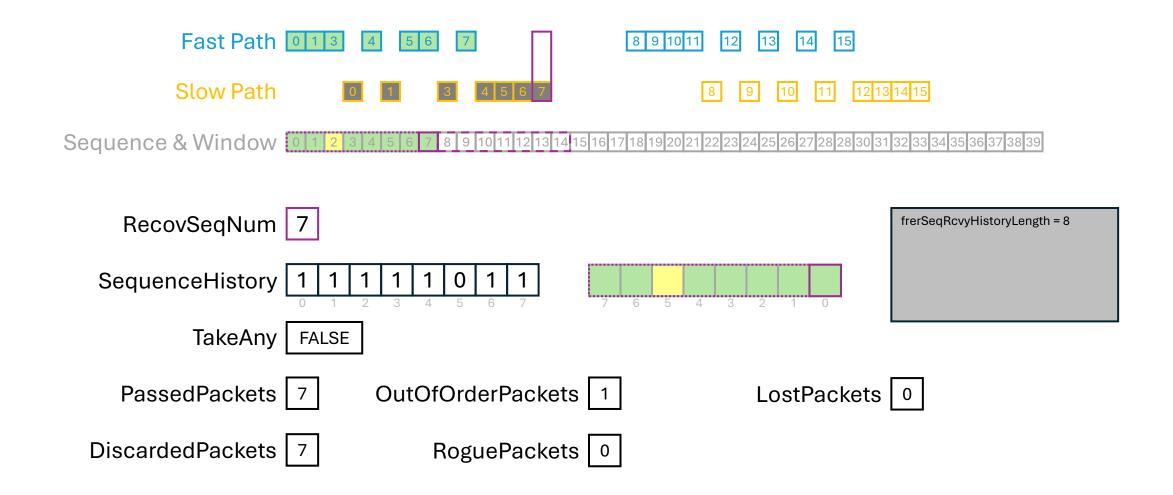


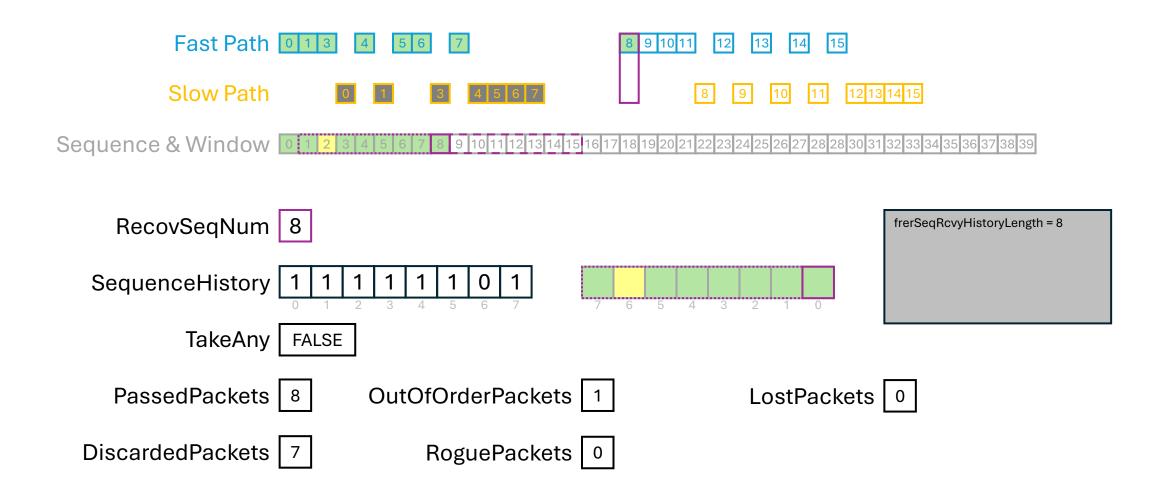


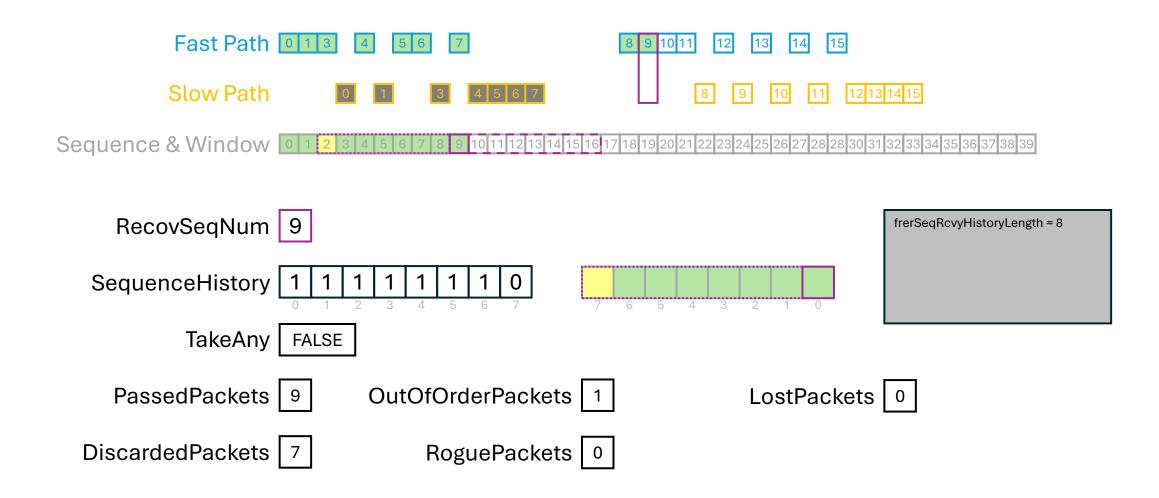


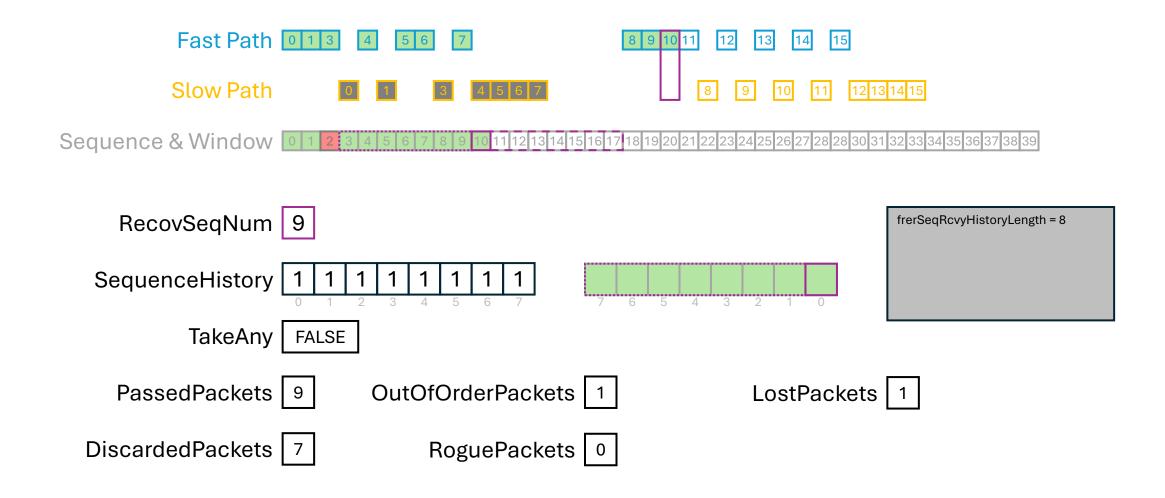










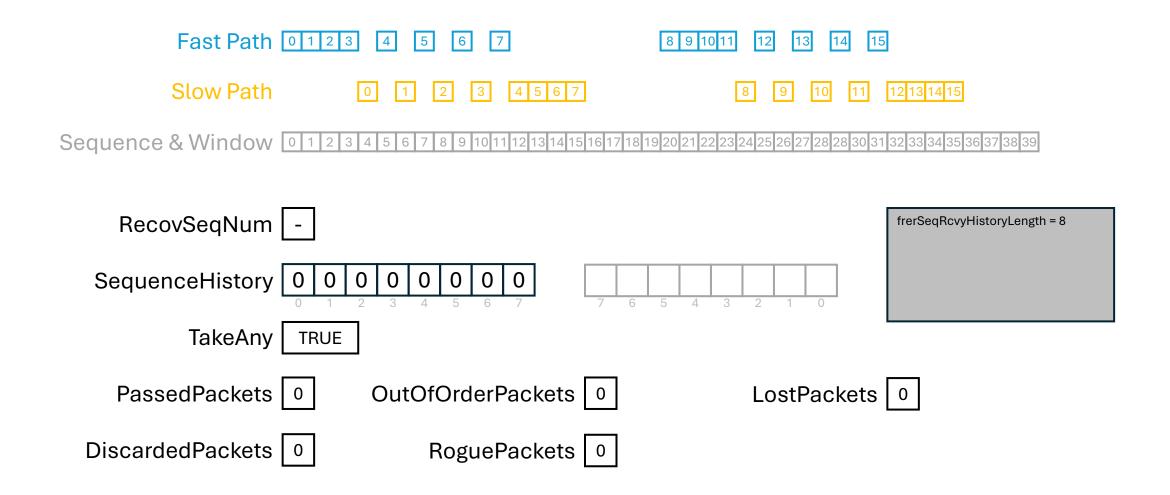


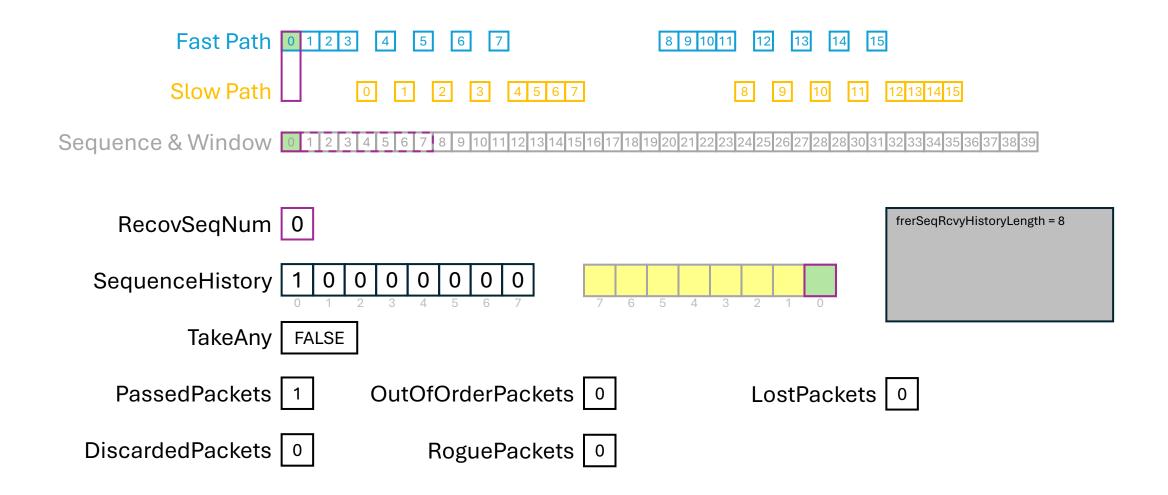
## FRER Vector Recovery Algorithm Erroneous Lost Packets

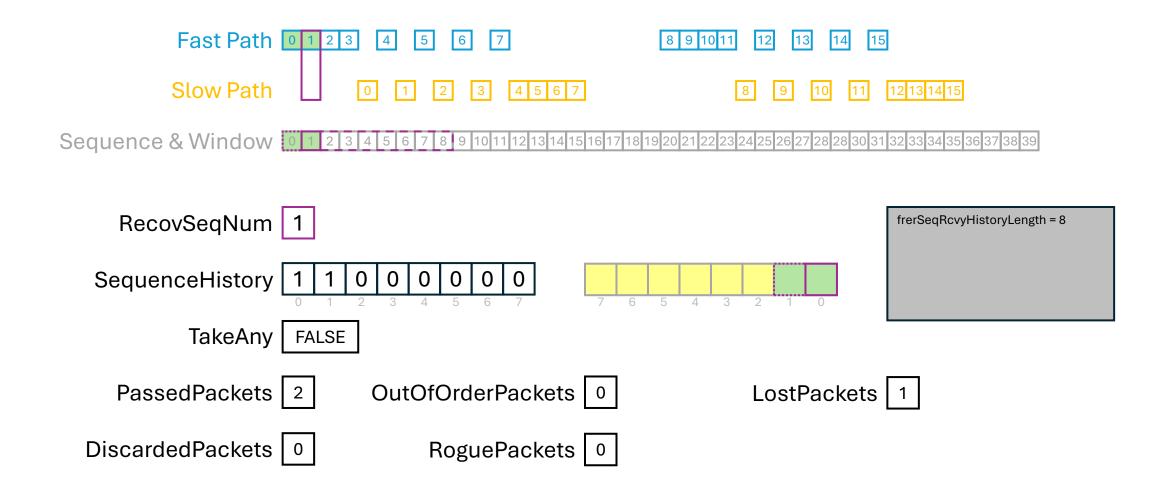
After SequenceRecoveryReset

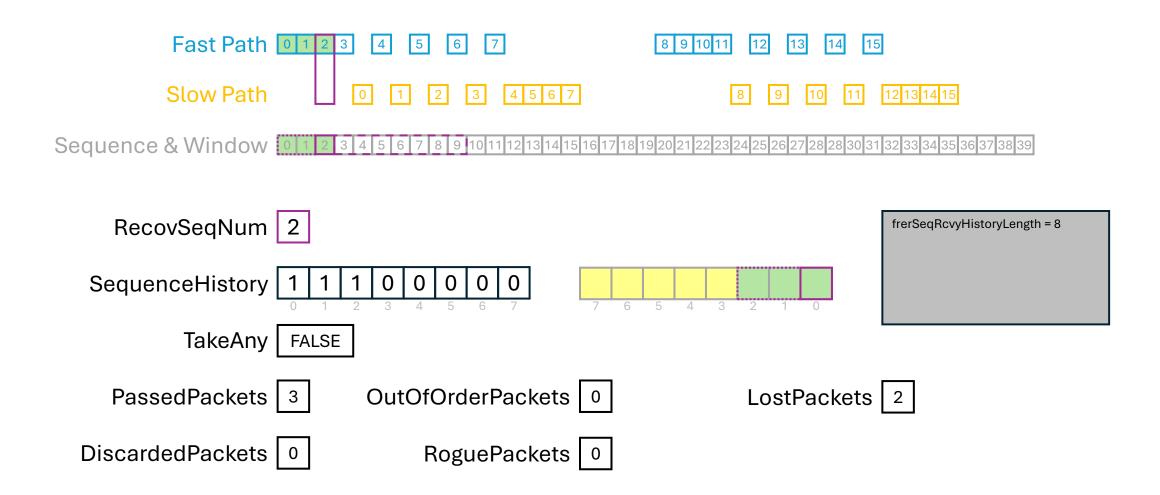
#### Cause of Erroneous Lost Packets

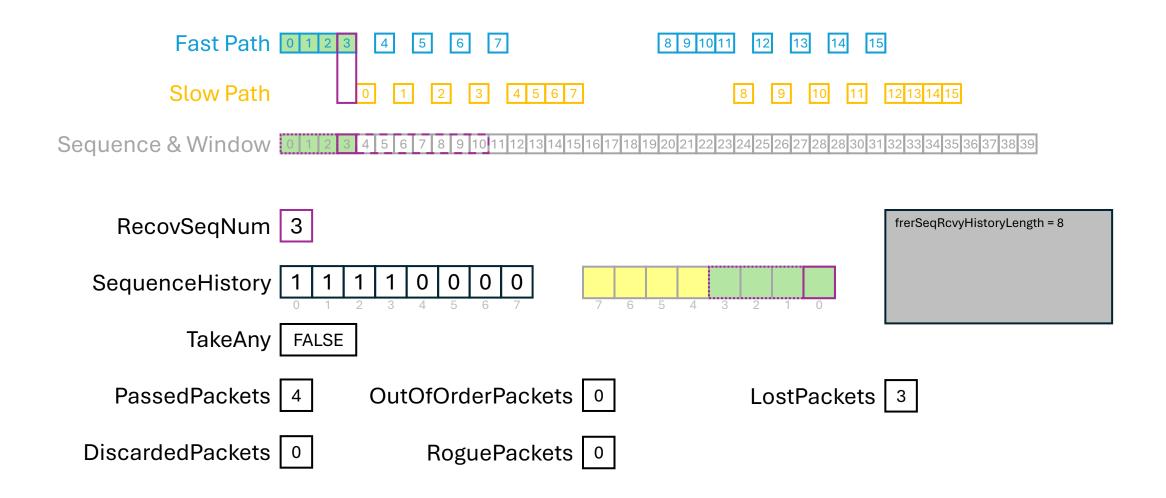
- After SequenceRecoveryReset, SequenceHistory is all 0s
- On arrival of first packet (TakeAny = TRUE)
  - SequenceHistory[0] set to 1
  - Other positions remain 0
- As other positions are shifted out SequenceHistory, any 0s are counted as Lost Packets

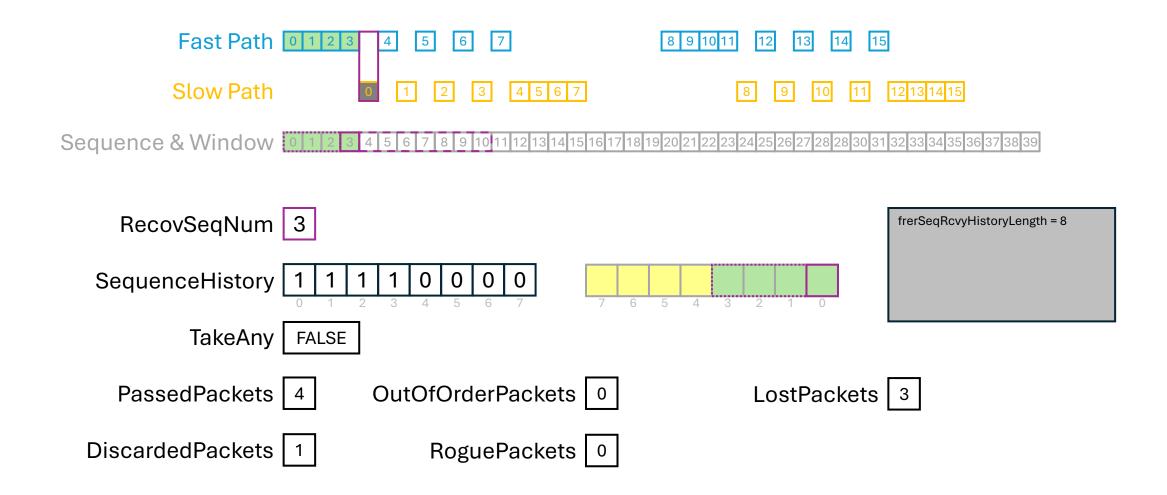


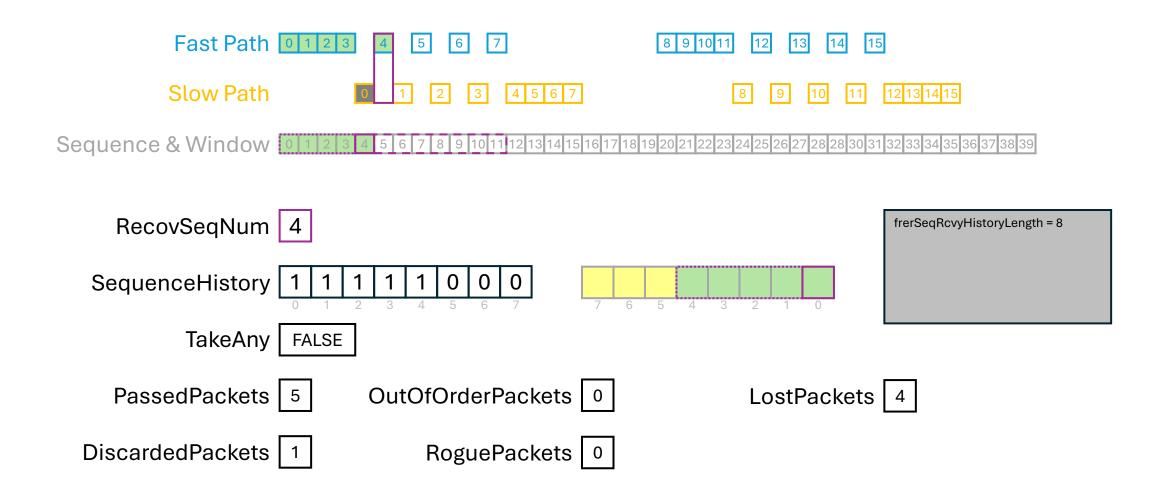


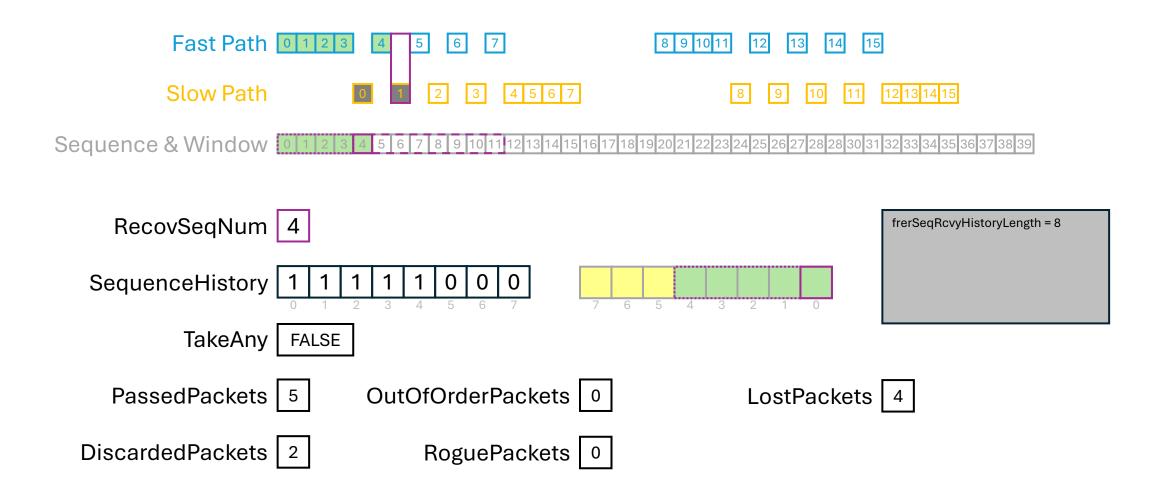


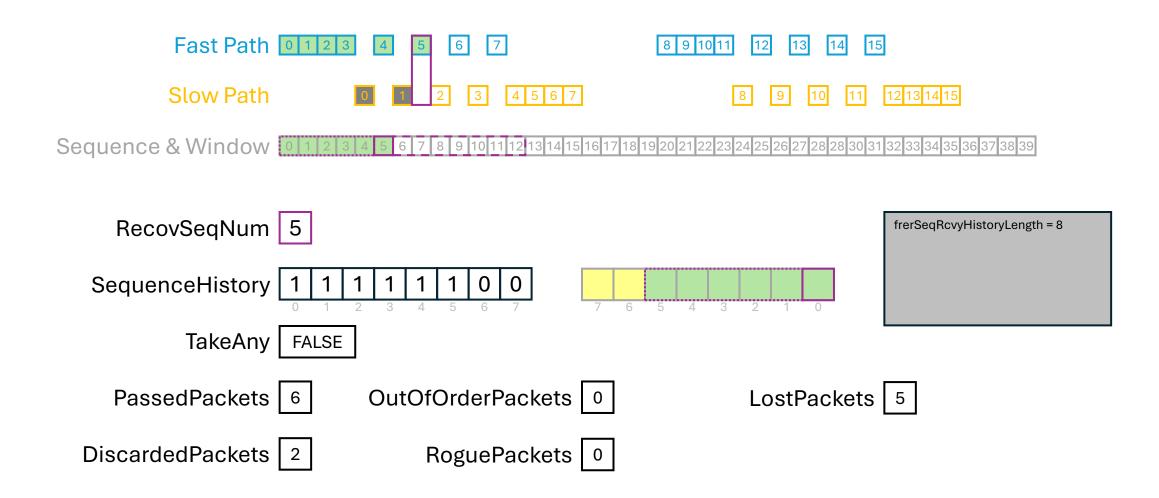


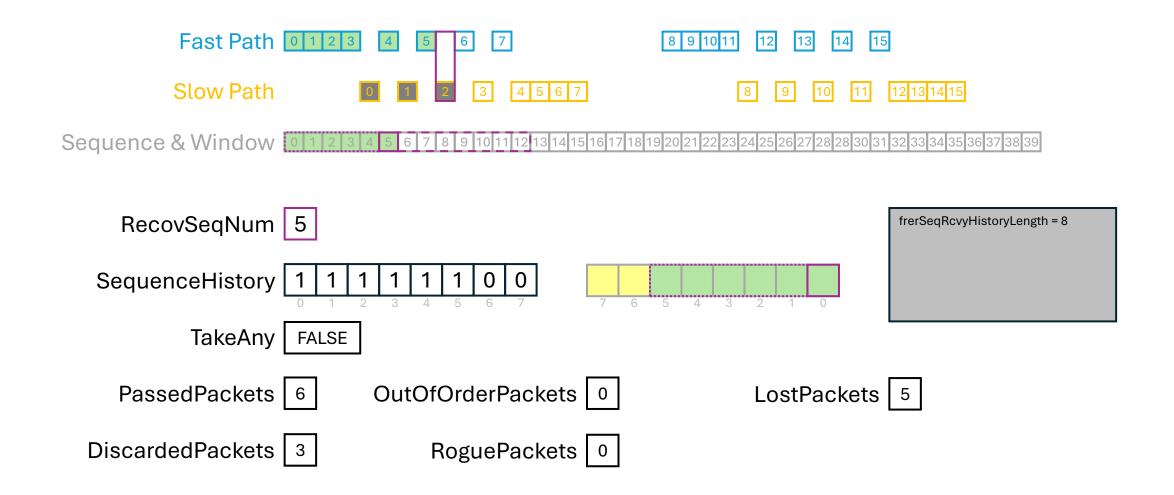


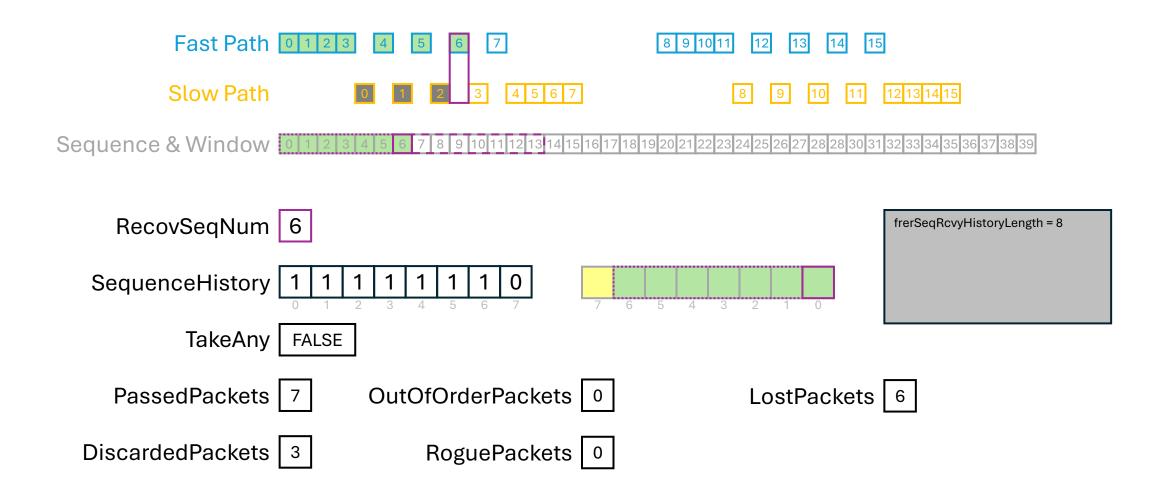


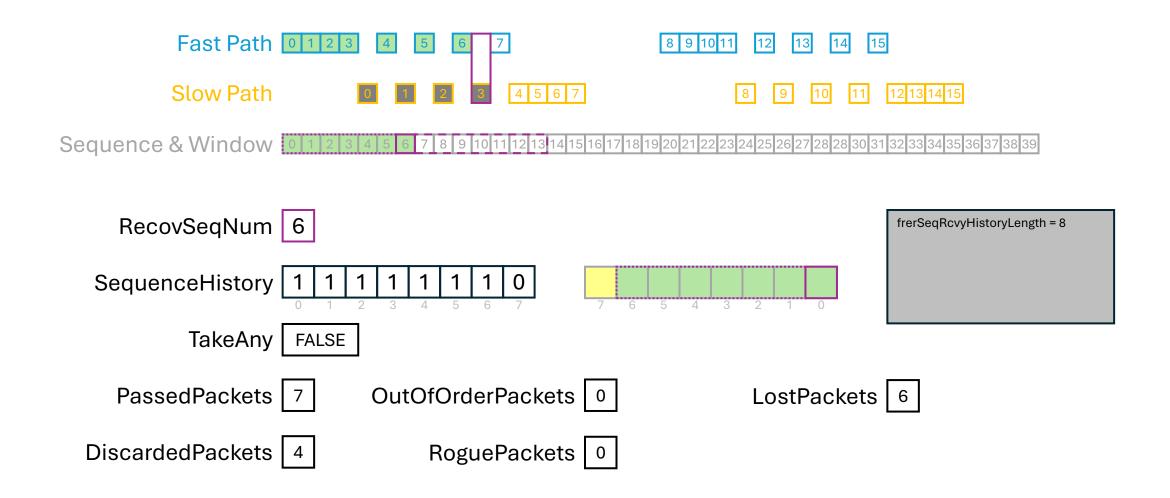


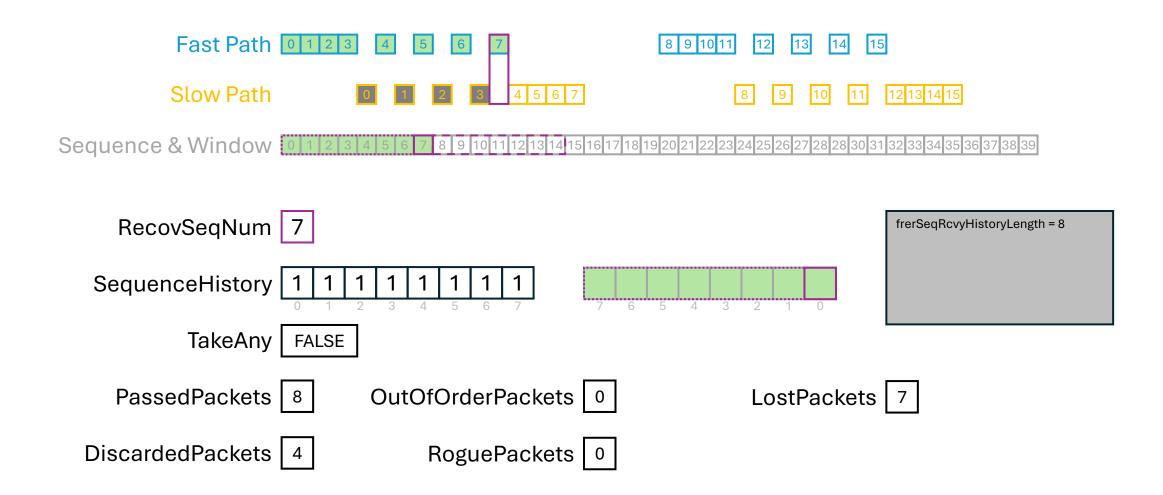


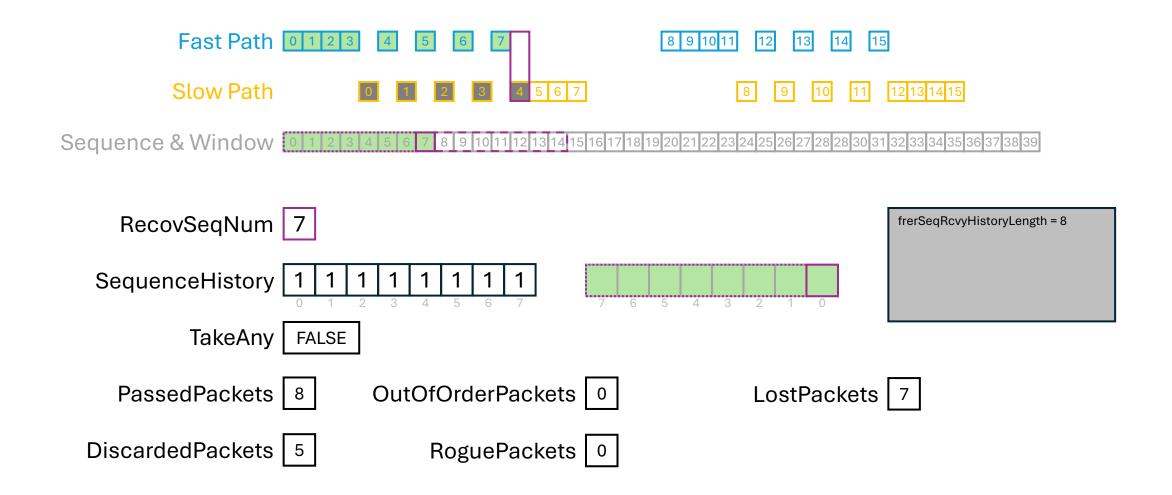


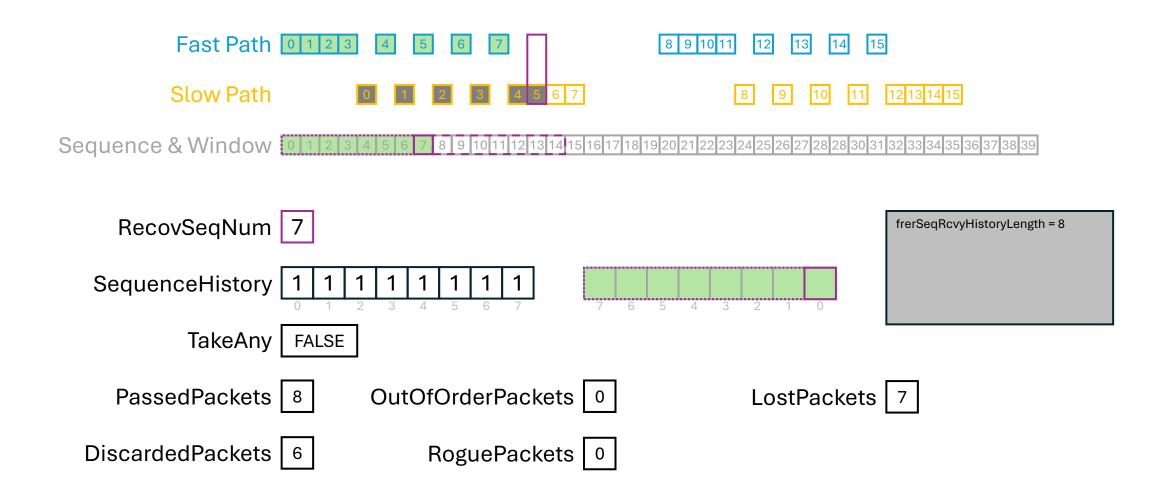


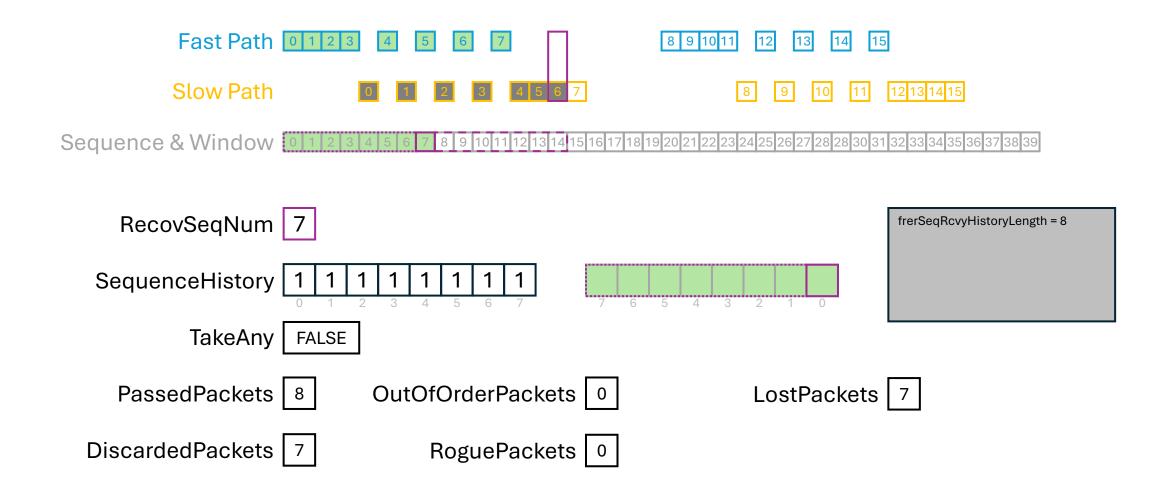


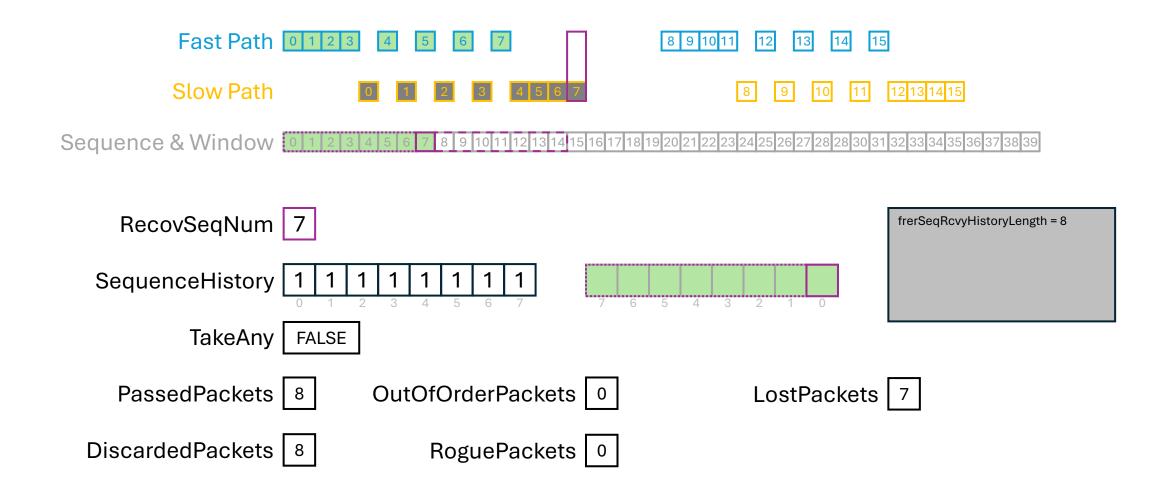


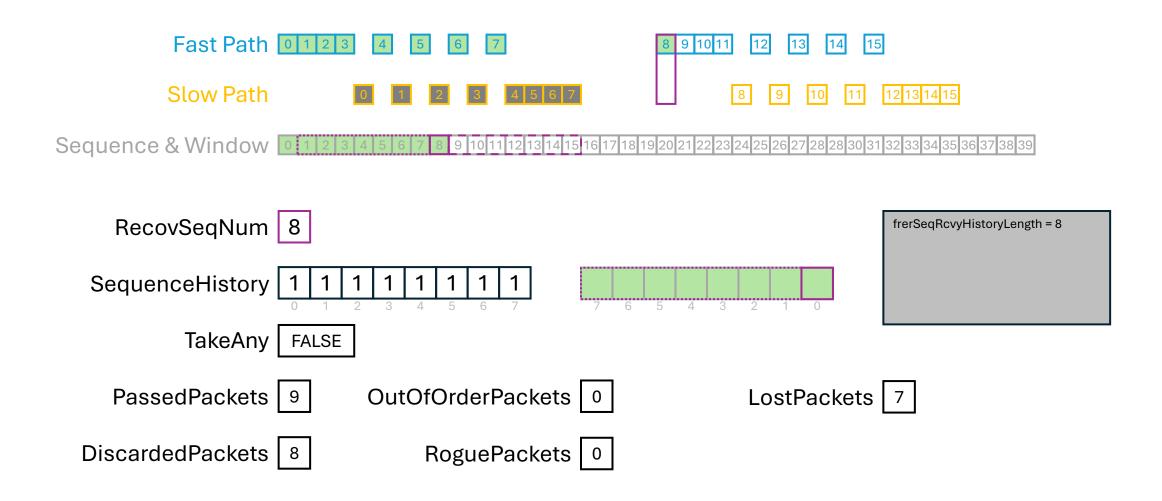












#### Effect of Erroneous Lost Packets Issue

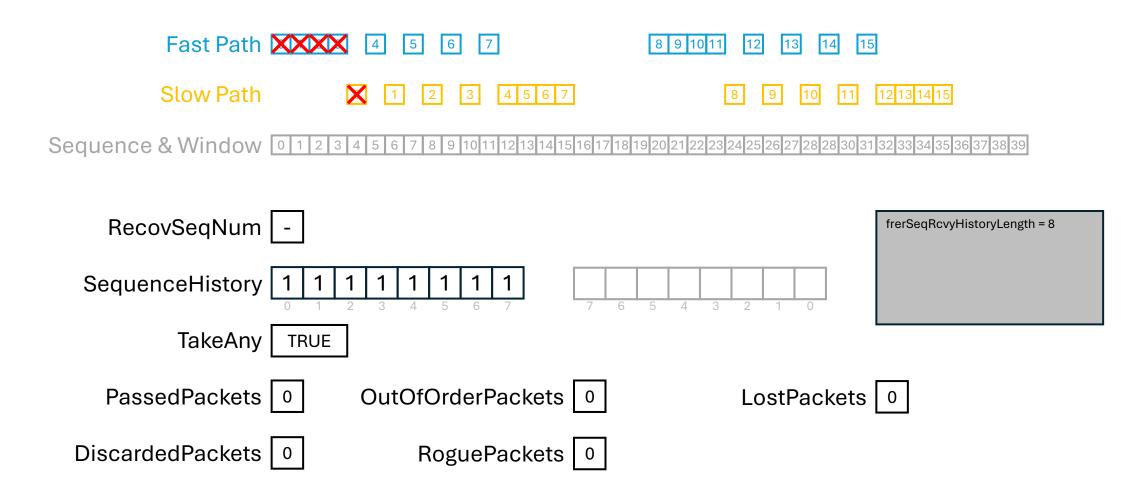
• After SequenceRecoveryReset, up to...

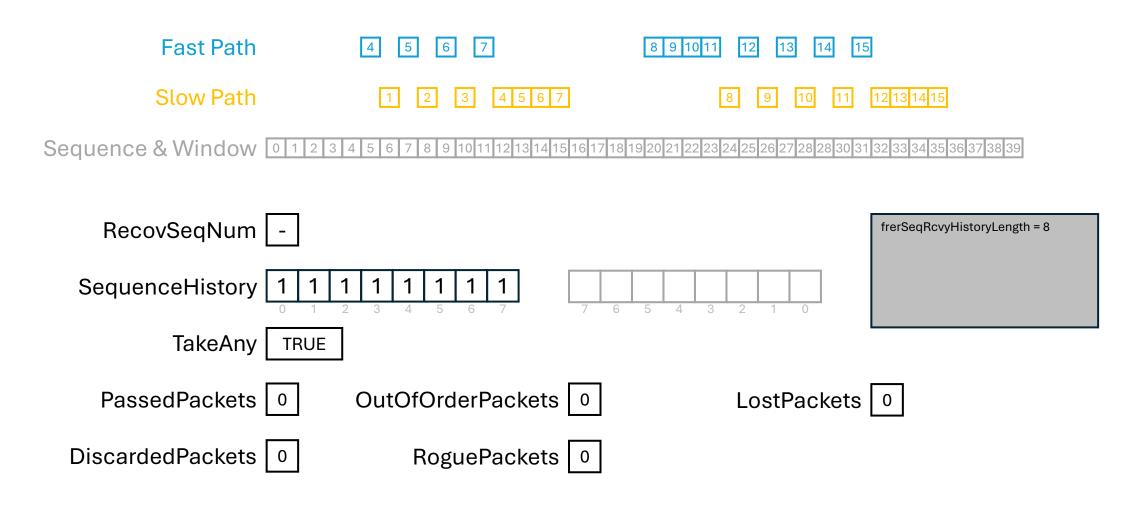
frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength - 1

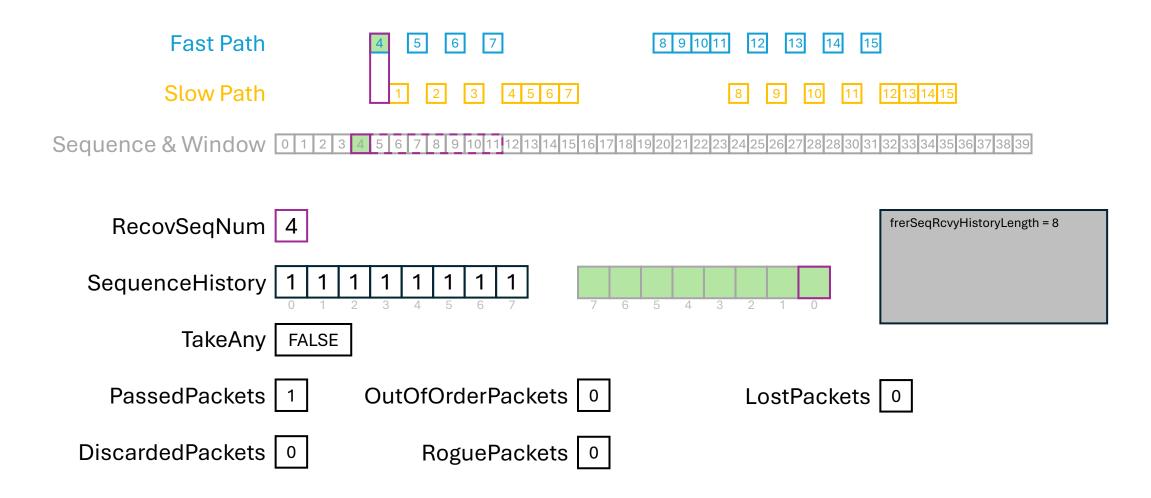
...erroneous Lost Packets may be reported.

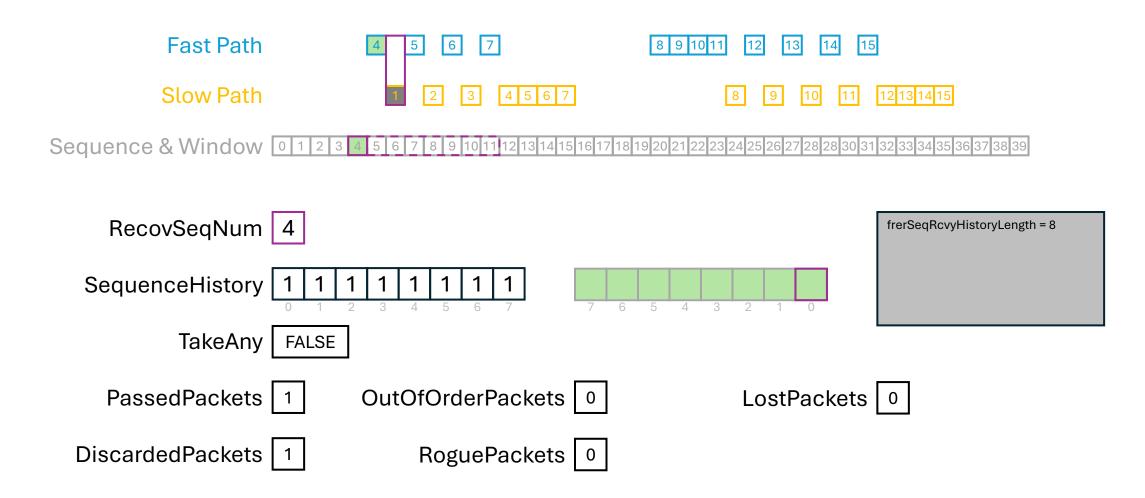
### Solution to Erroneous Lost Packets Issue?

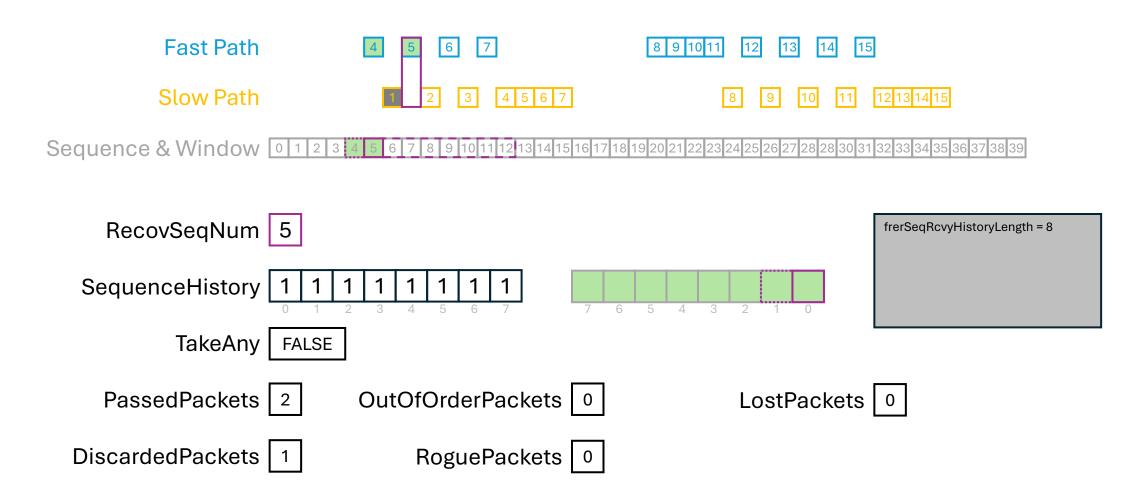
• Setting SequenceHistory to all 1s creates other issues when restarting mid-stream...

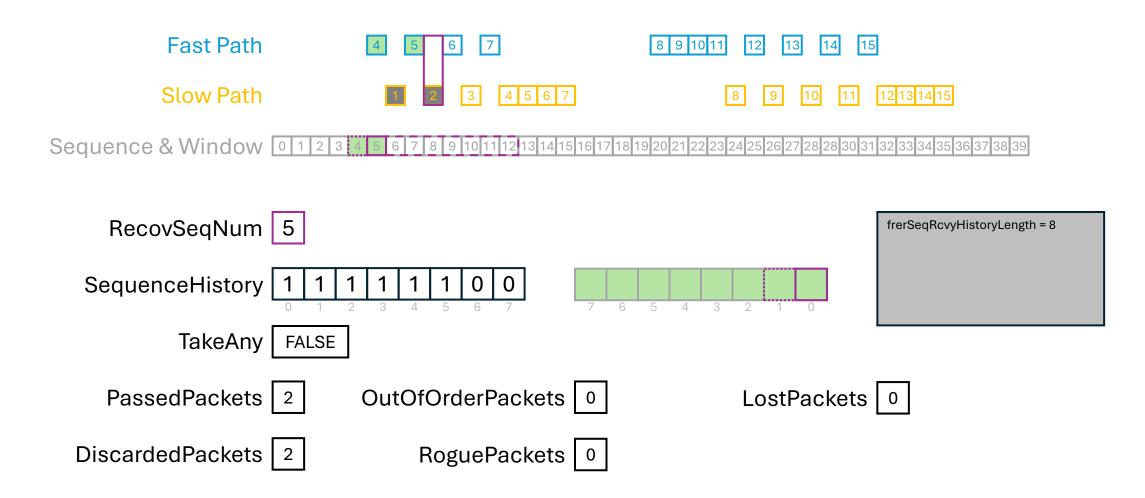


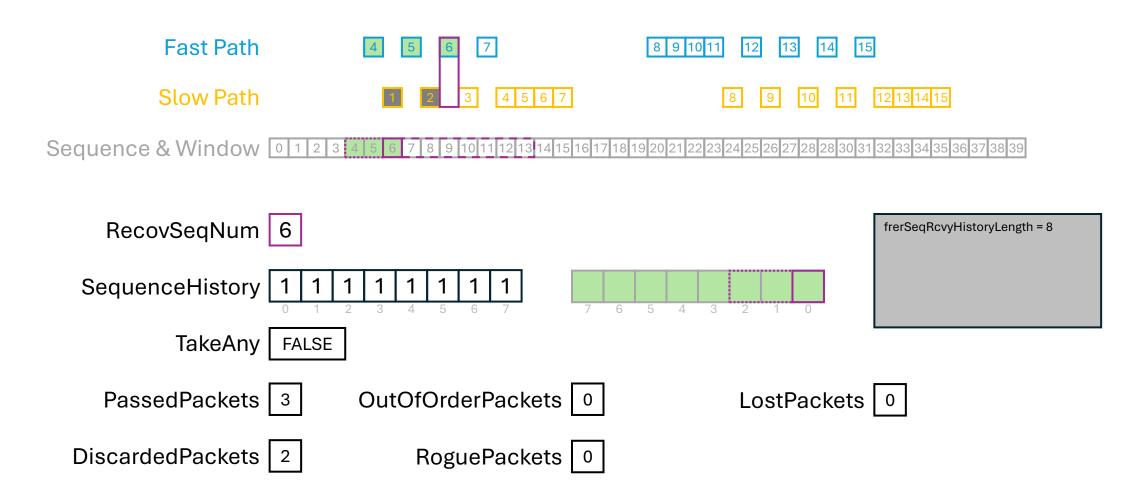


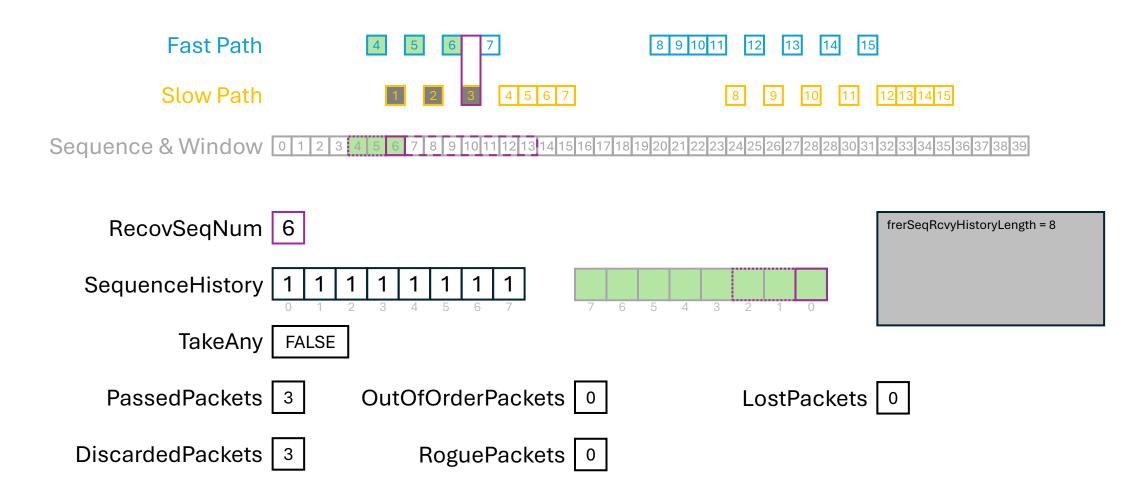


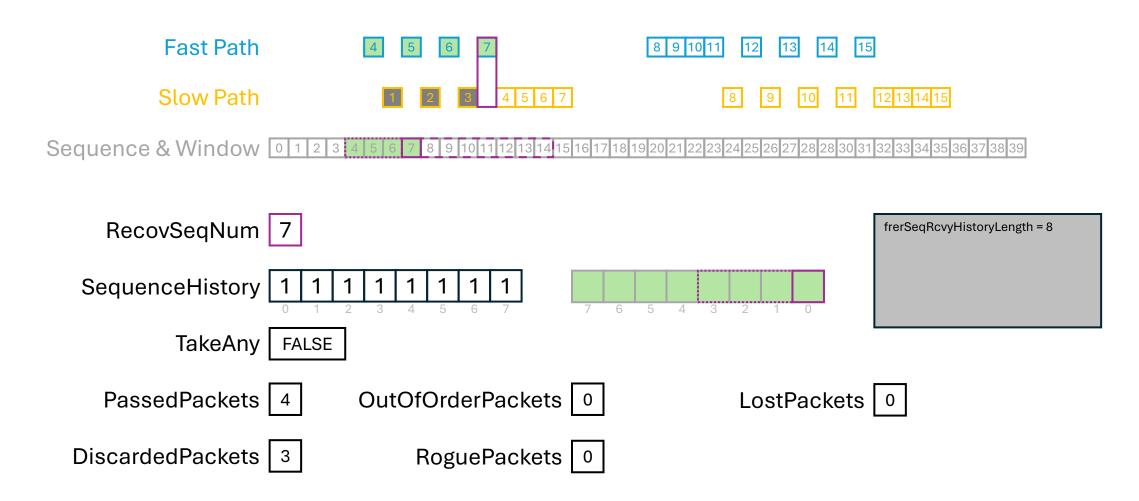


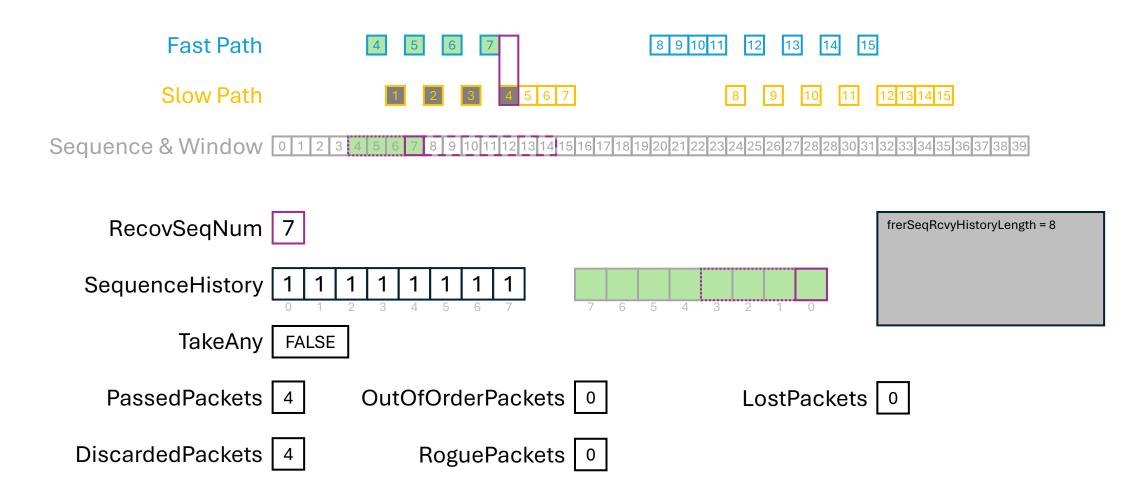


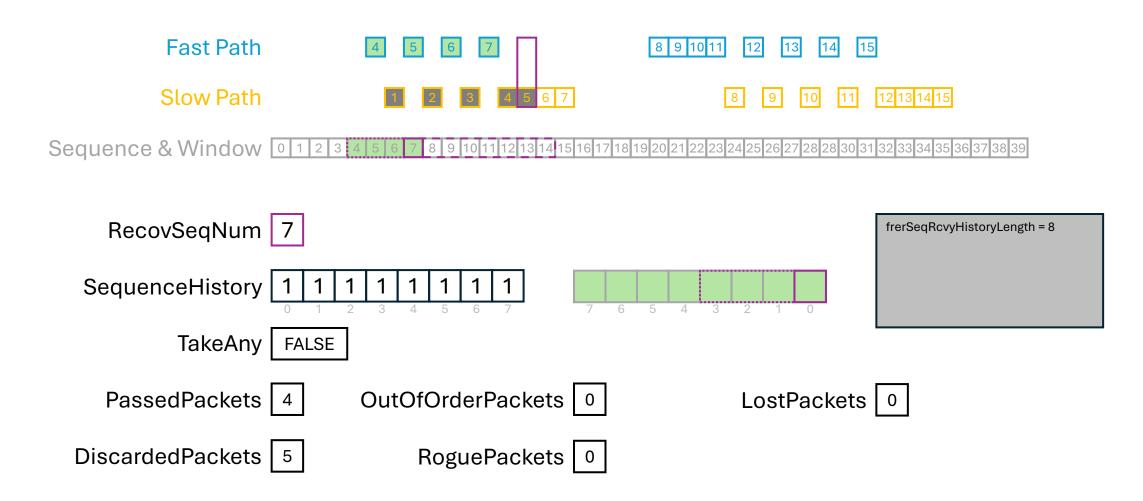


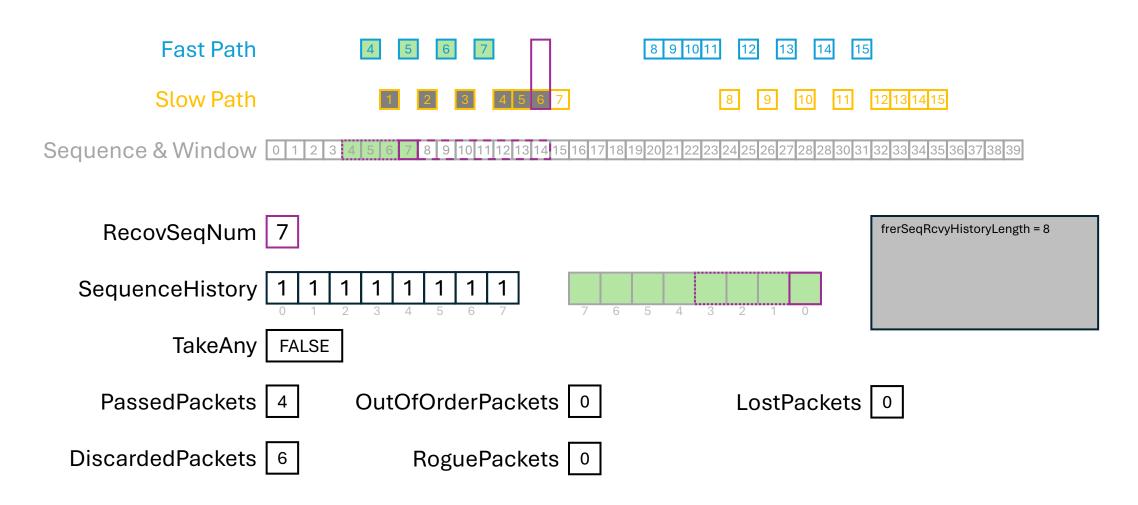


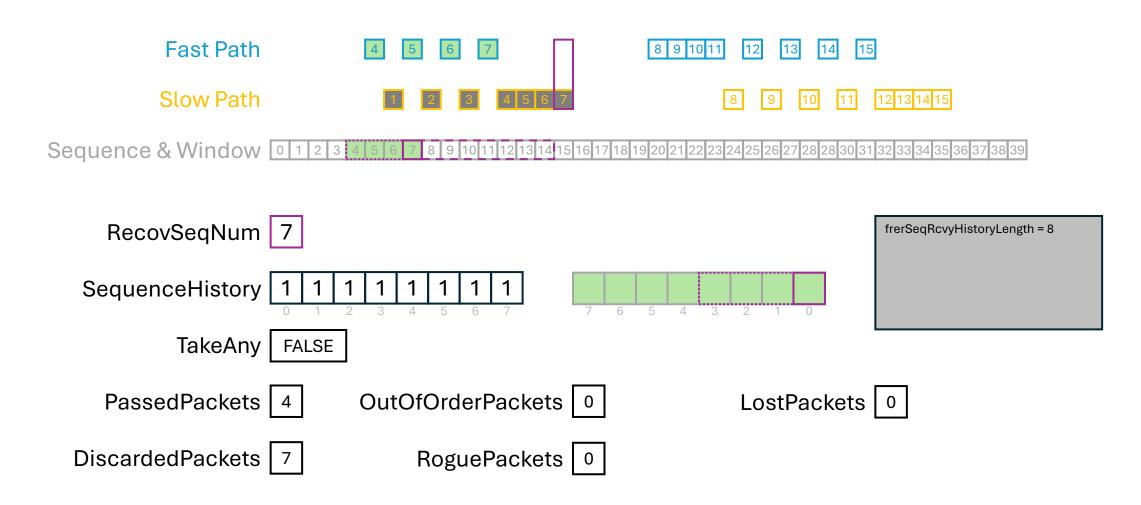


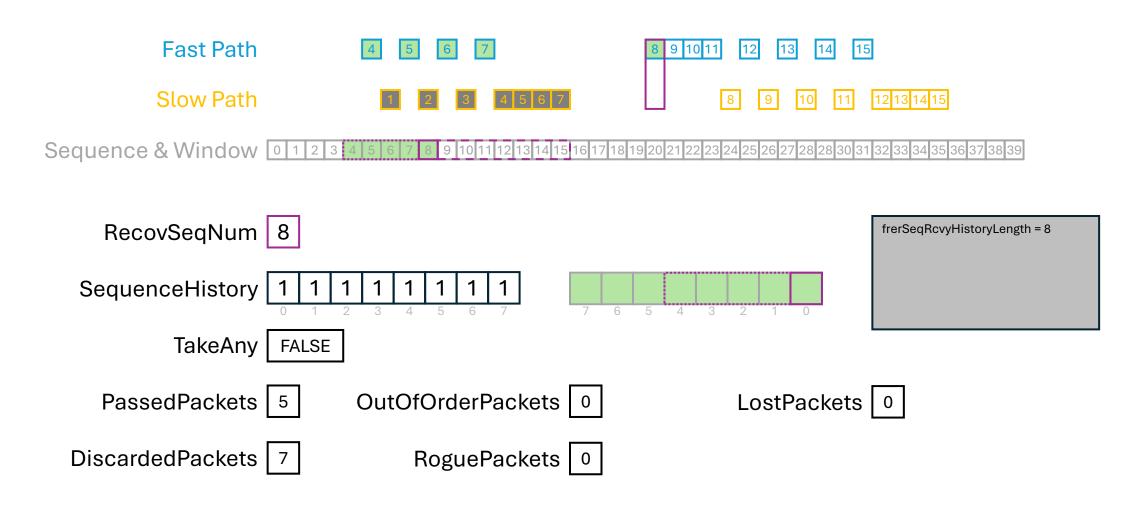












### Further issues...

• Erroneous Lost Packets: Setting SequenceHistory to all 0s after a SequenceRecoveryReset effectively assumes that all sequence numbers up to frerSequenceHistoryLength prior to the first packet received haven't been seen but should be and flags them as Lost when they aren't.



• Incorrectly Discarded Packets: Setting SequenceHistory to all 1s after a SequenceRecoveryReset effectively assumes that all sequence numbers up to frerSequenceHistoryLength prior to the first packet received have been seen and if they are seen again should be Discarded.

```
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
```

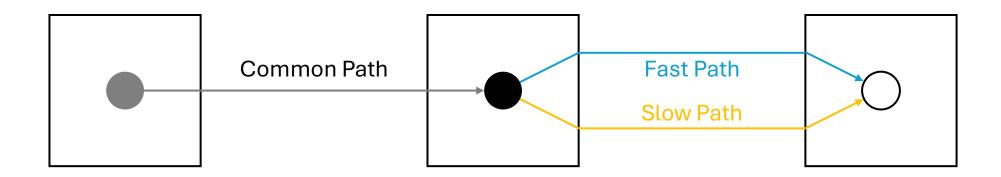
• However, depending on when and how the SequenceRecoveryReset occurred, the actual situation may be one, or the other, or something inbetween.

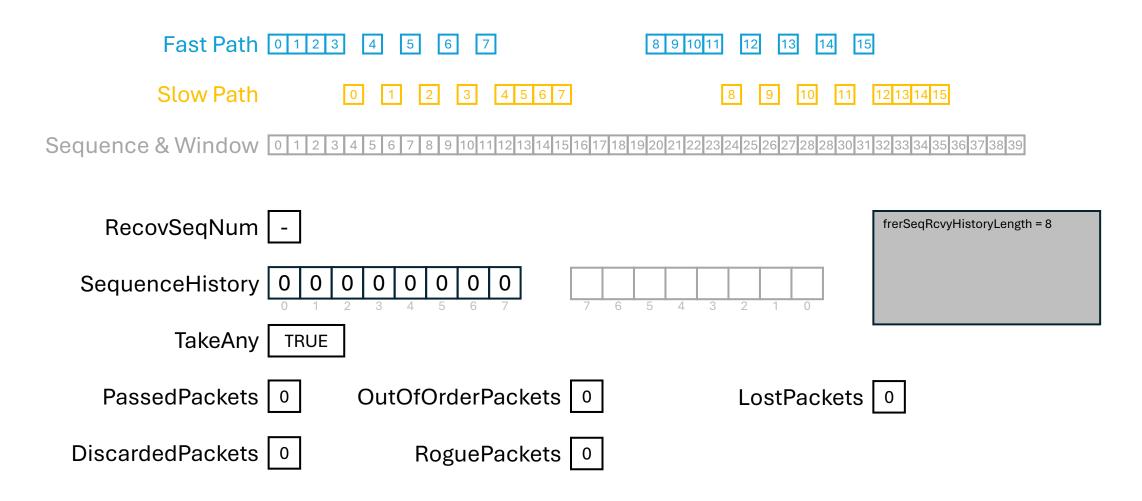
# FRER Vector Recovery Algorithm Reasons for Aggressive Timeout

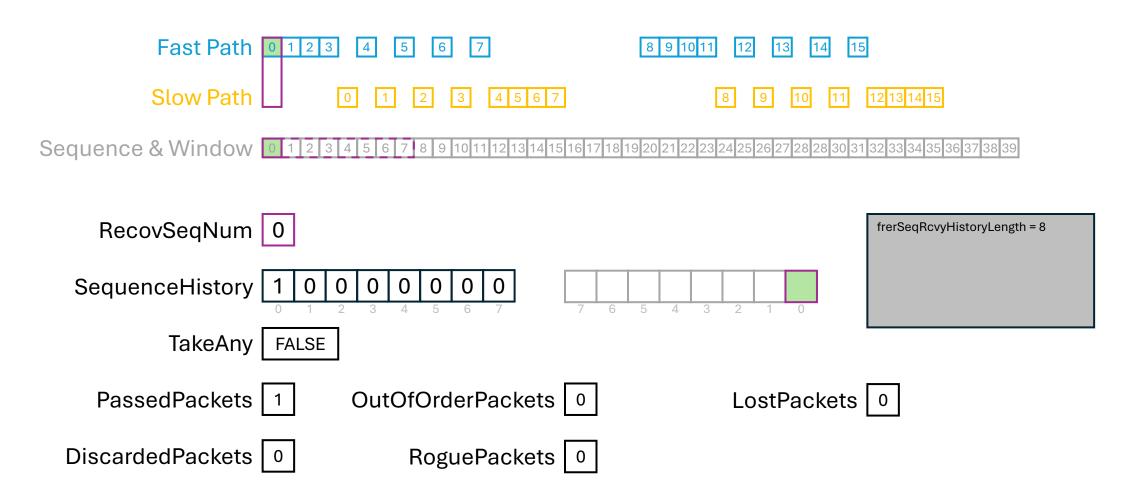
When a series of packets are lost

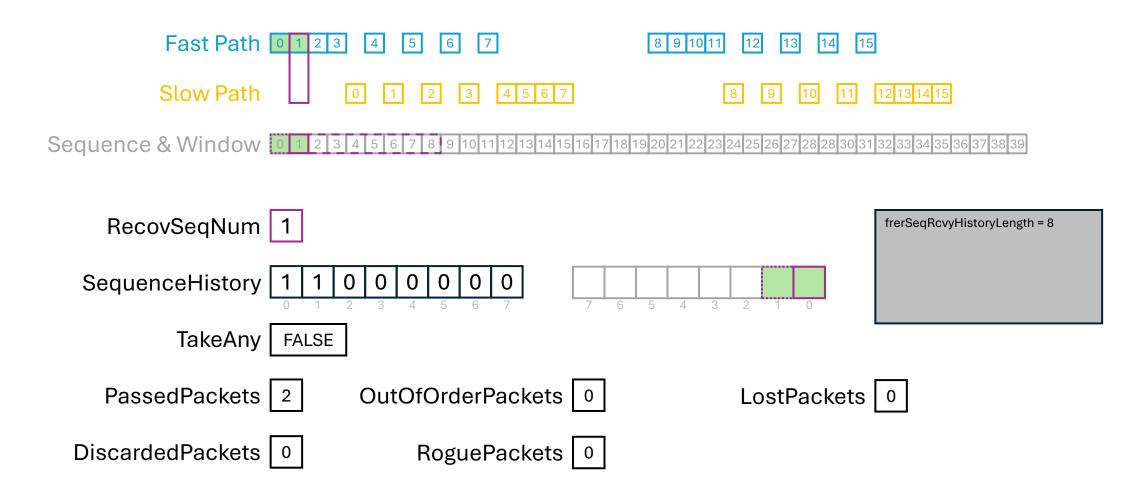
#### Loss of Packets

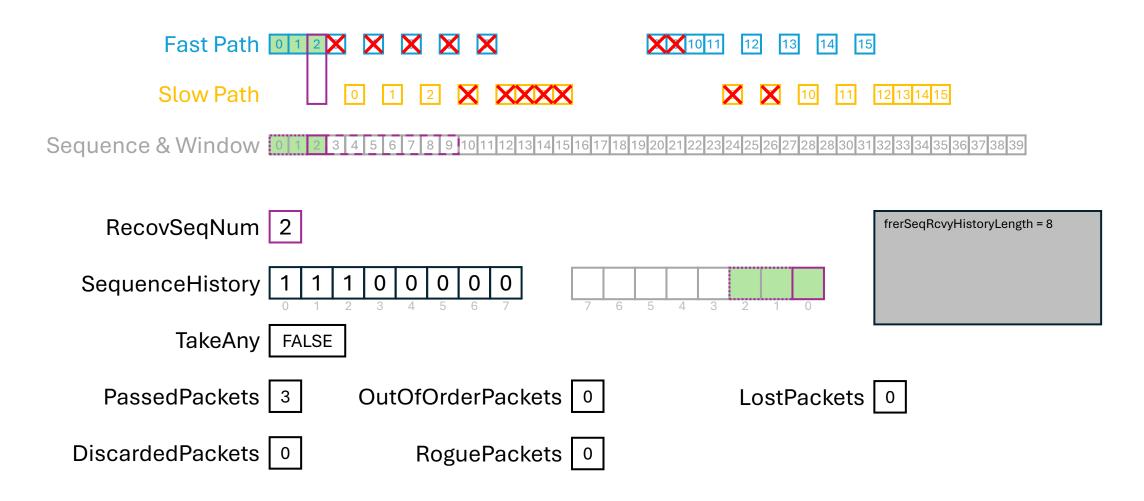
• Loss may occur in a portion of the network over which FRER is not operative, i.e. may affect both fast and slow paths equally.

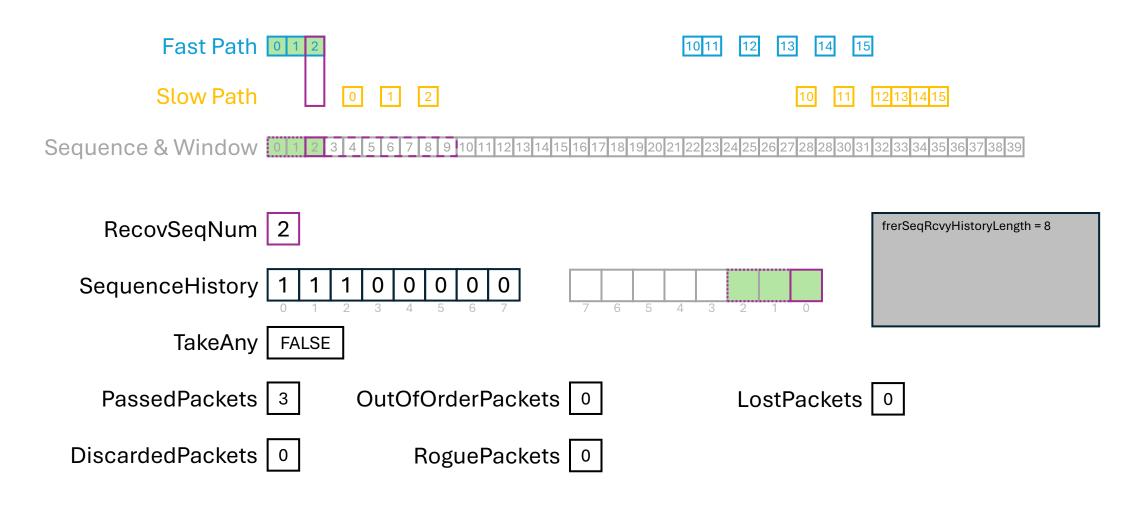


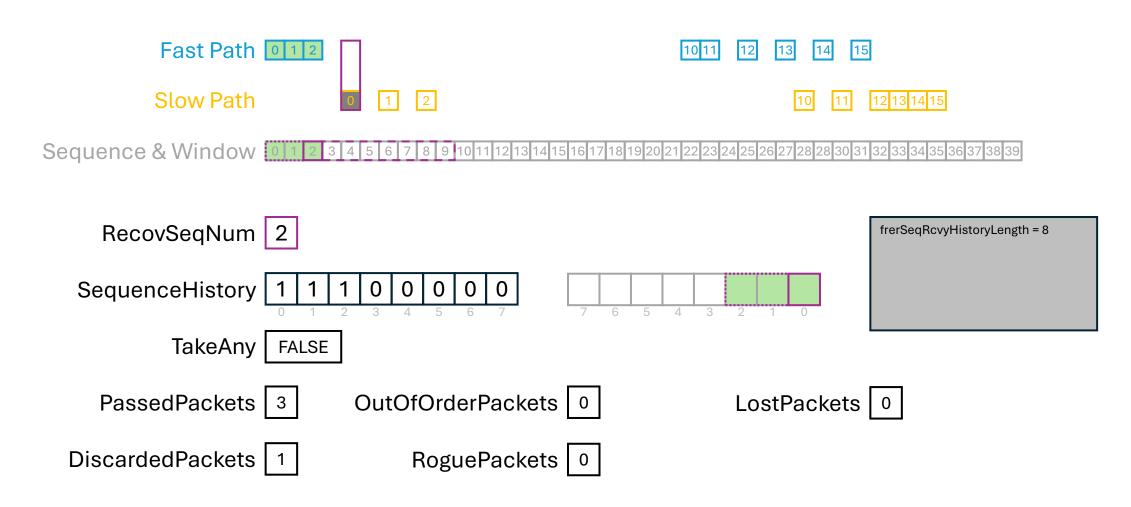


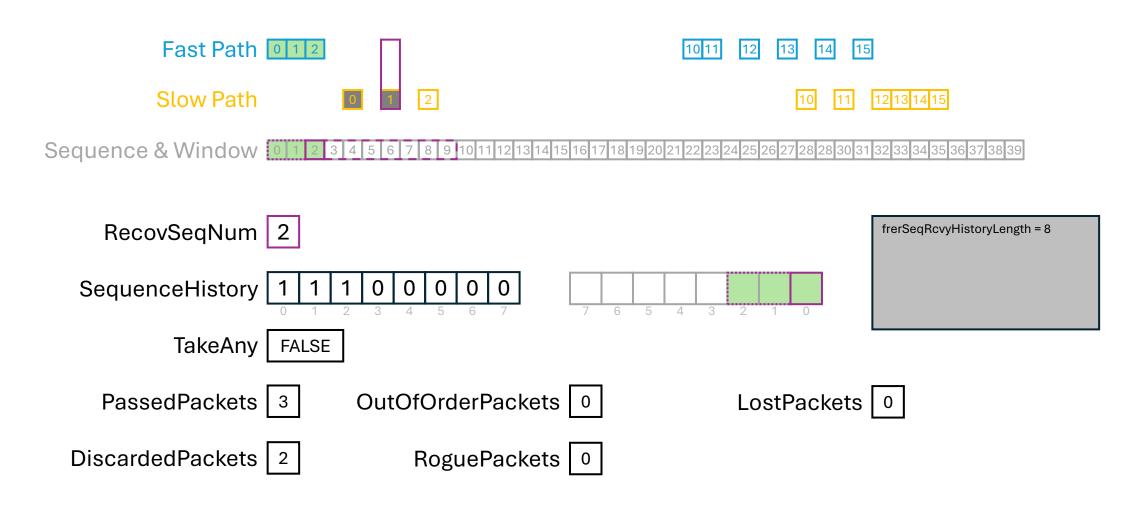


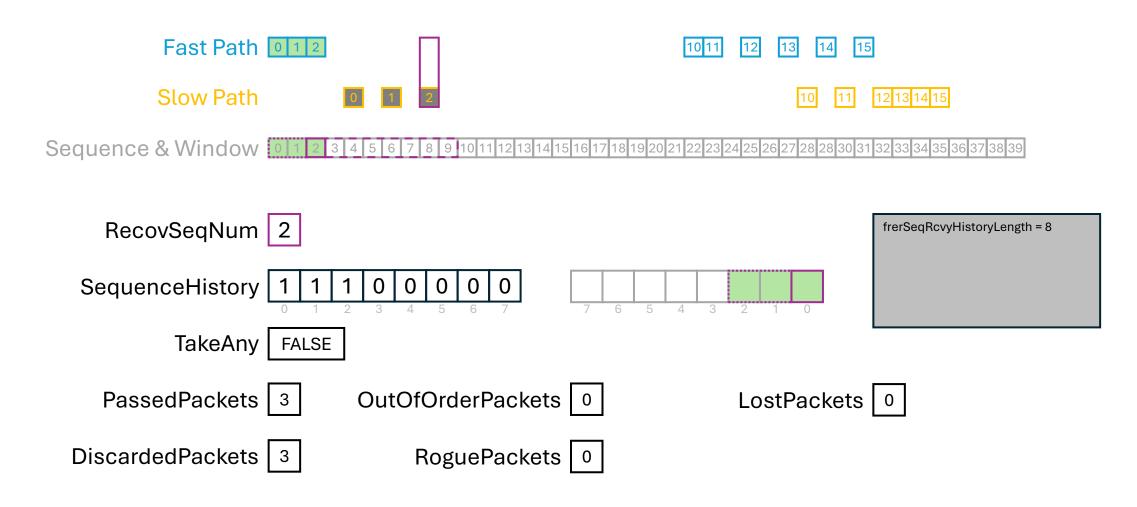


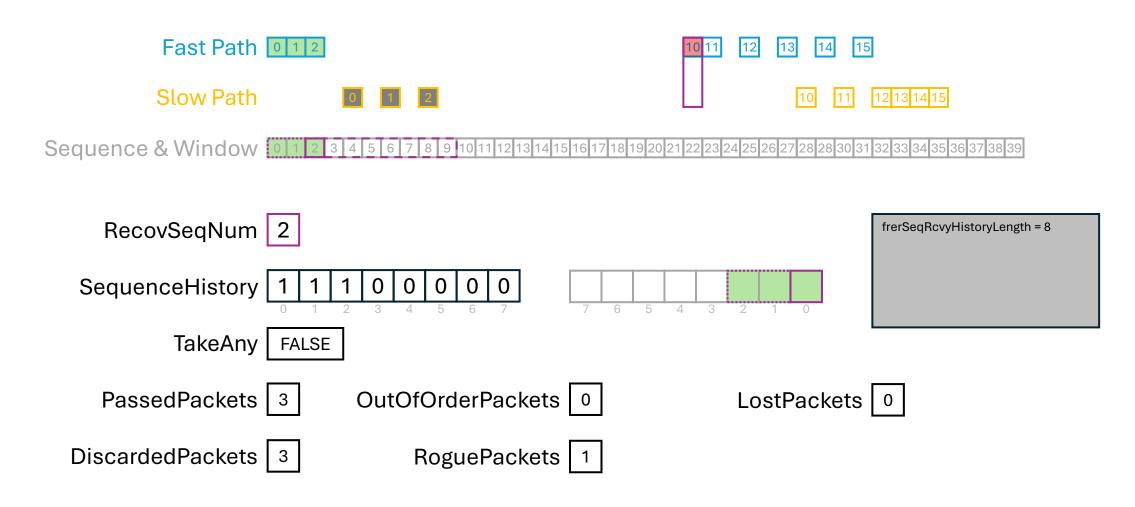


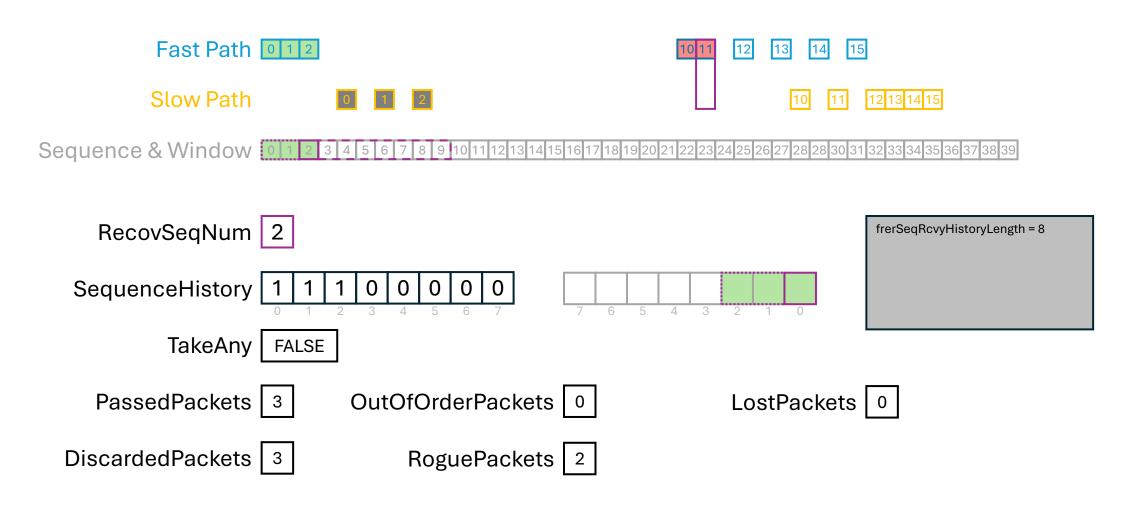


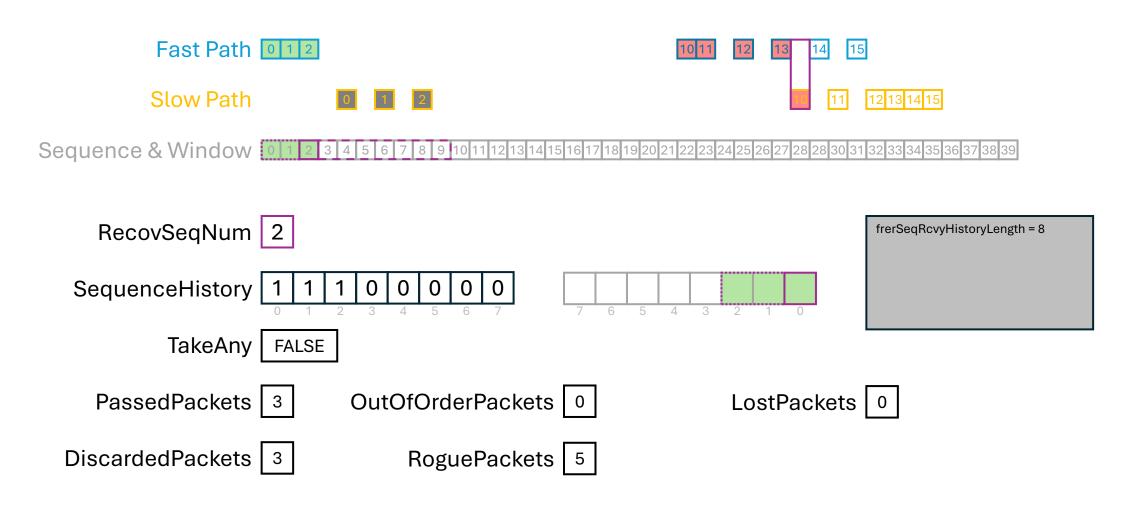


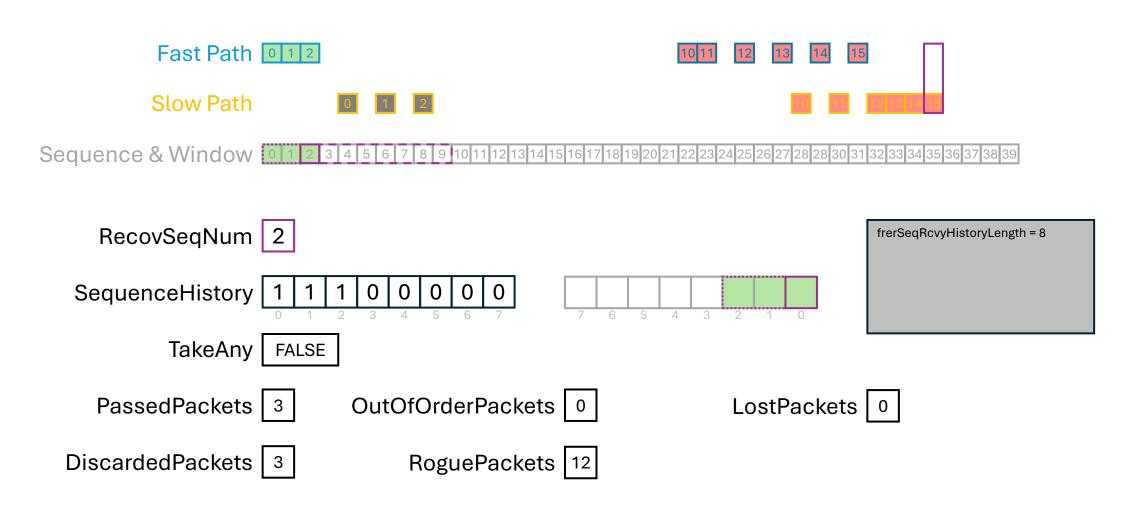






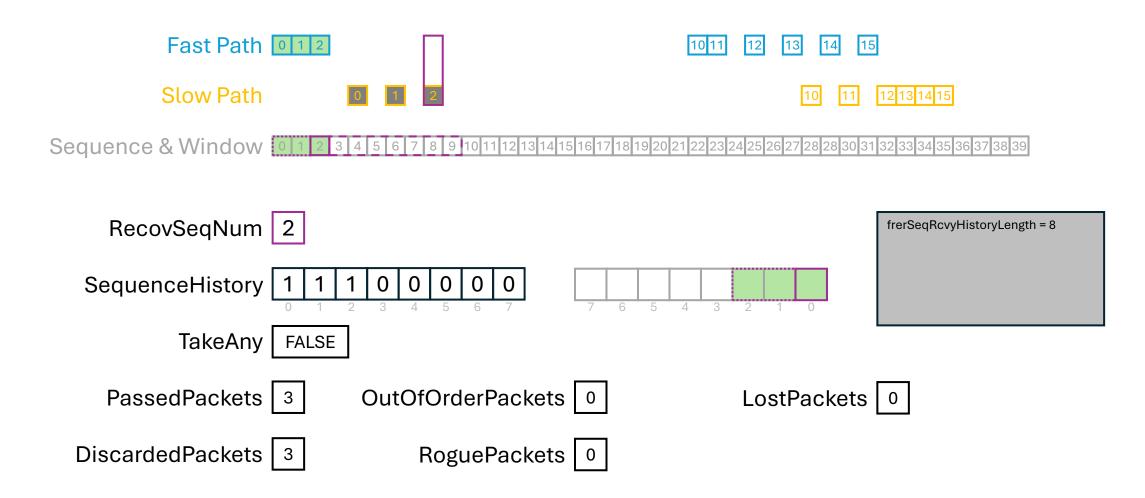


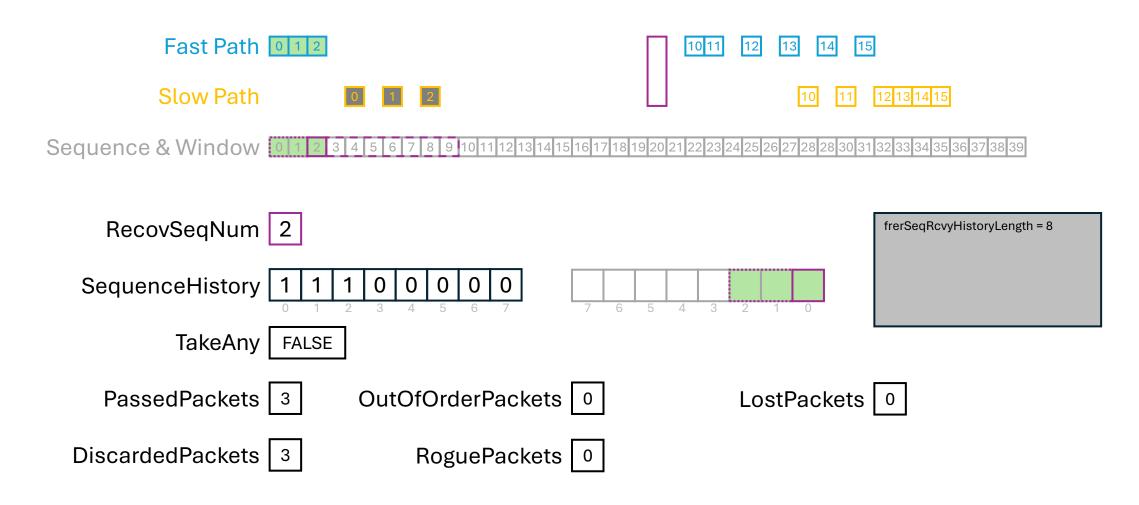


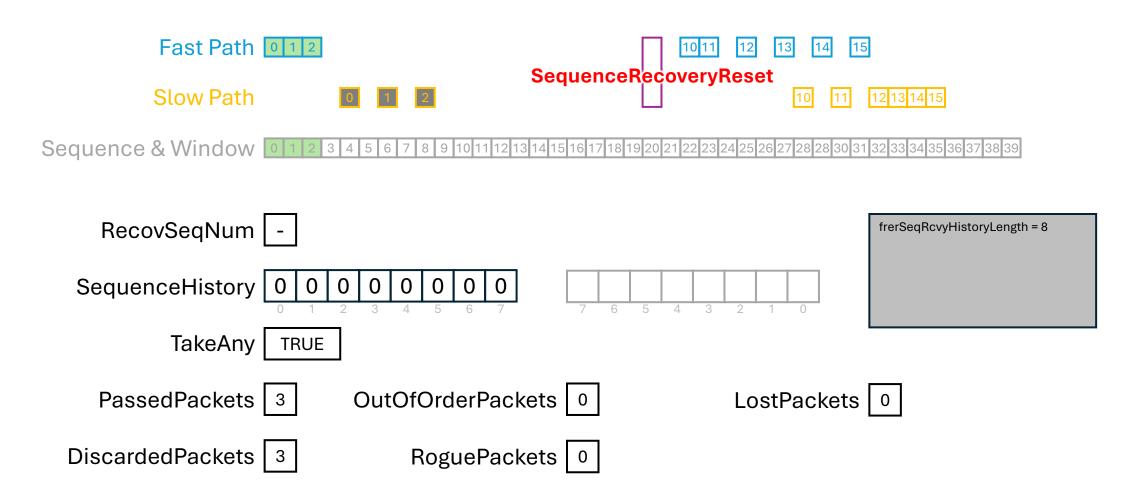


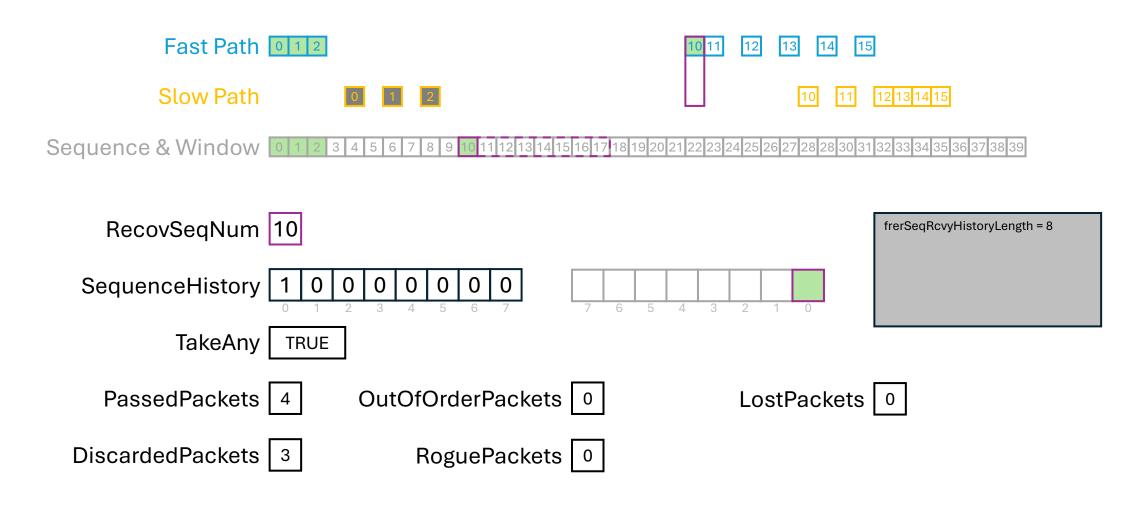
#### **Desired Behaviour?**

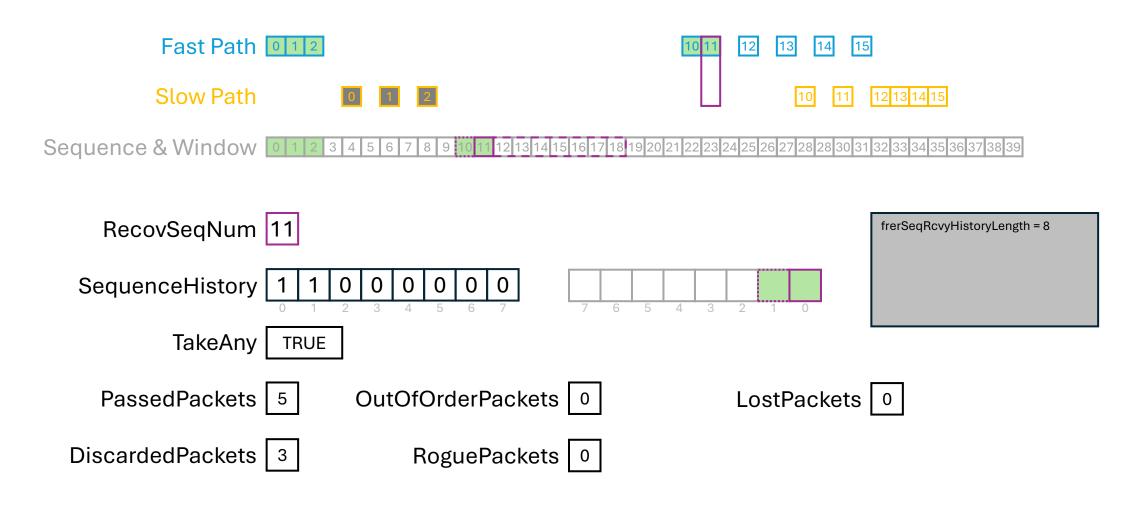
- The use of FRER shouldn't make things worse
  - If a series of packets is dropped somewhere in the network, using FRER shouldn't mean that even more packets are dropped.
- An aggressive value for frerSeqRcvyResetMSec minimises the chance of any additional packet loss

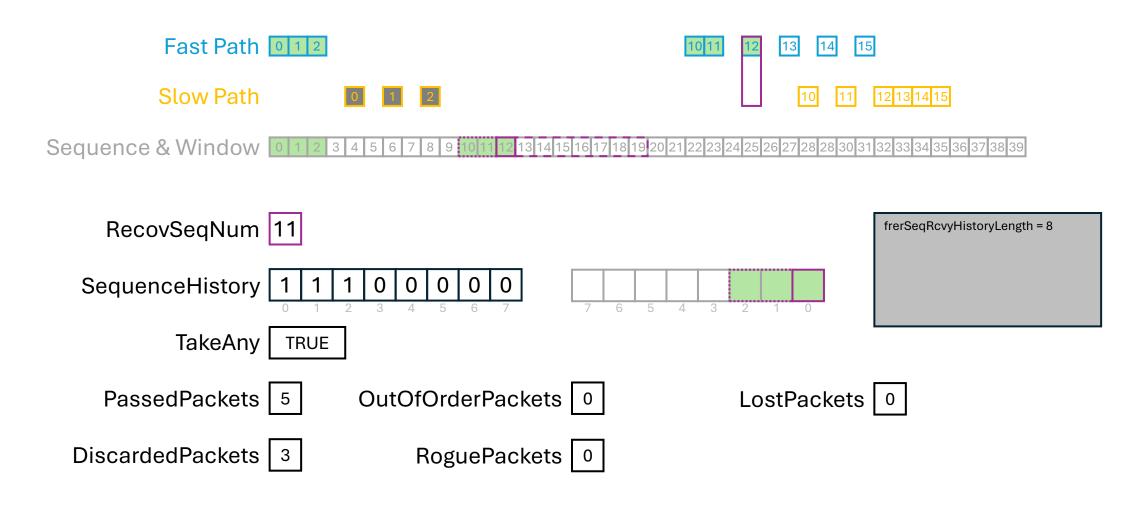






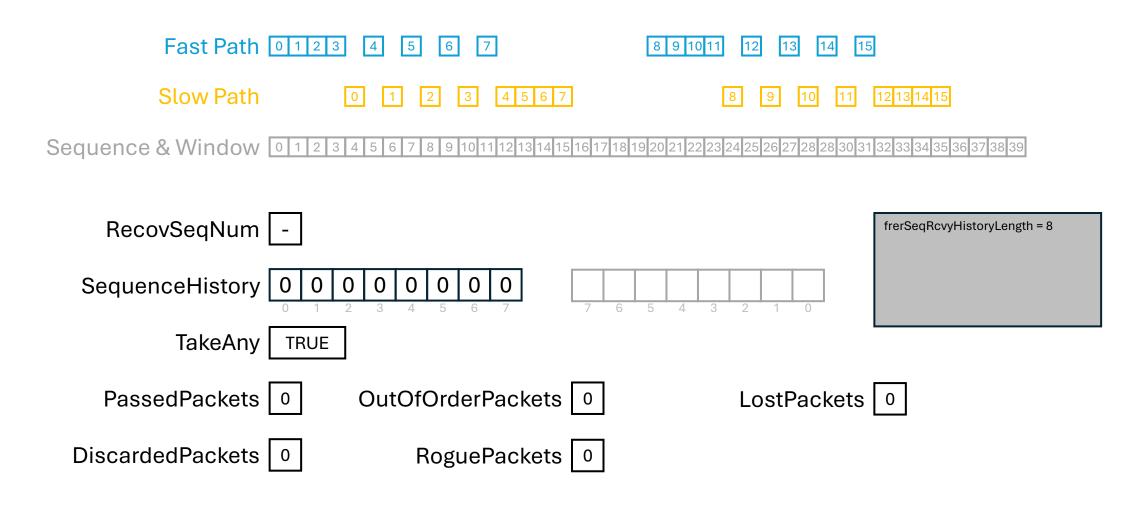


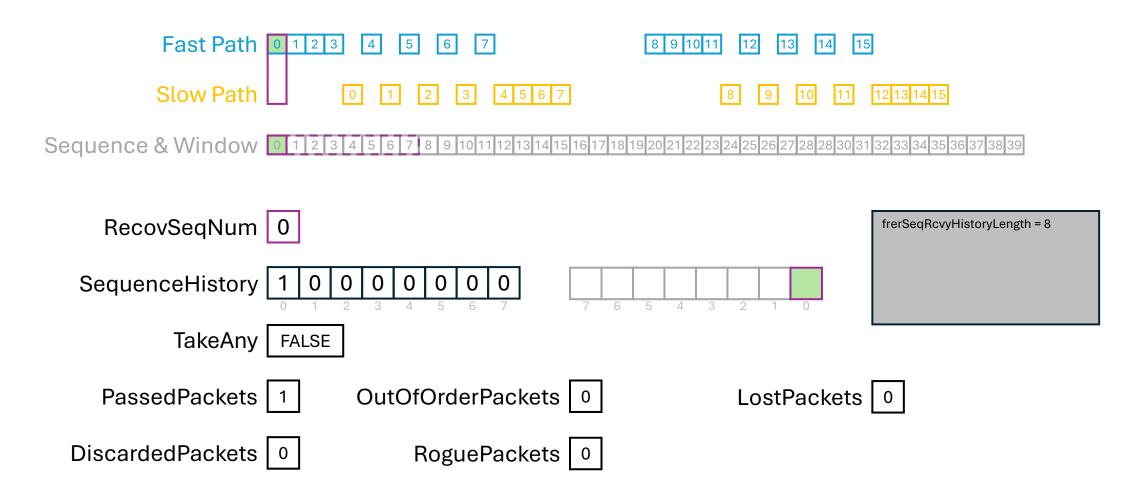


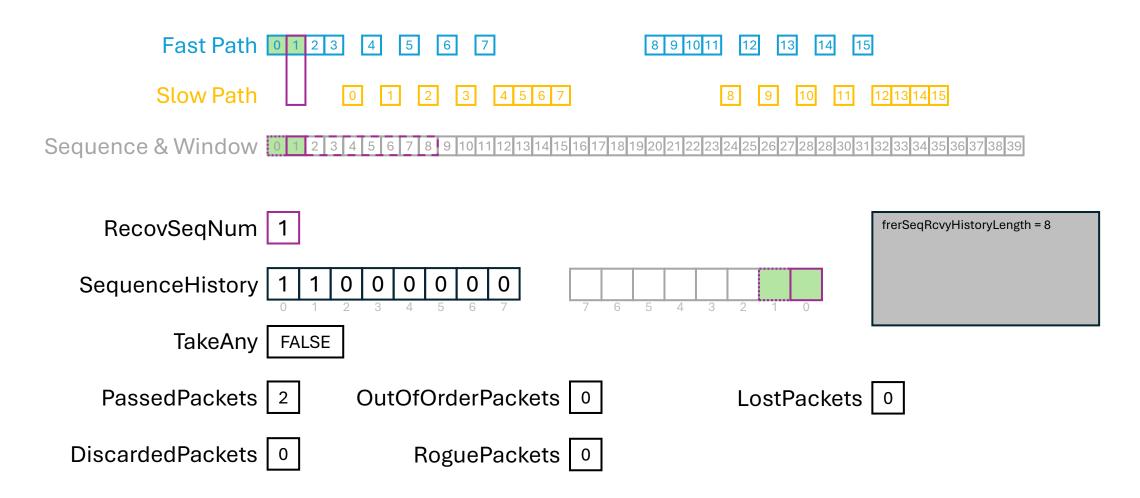


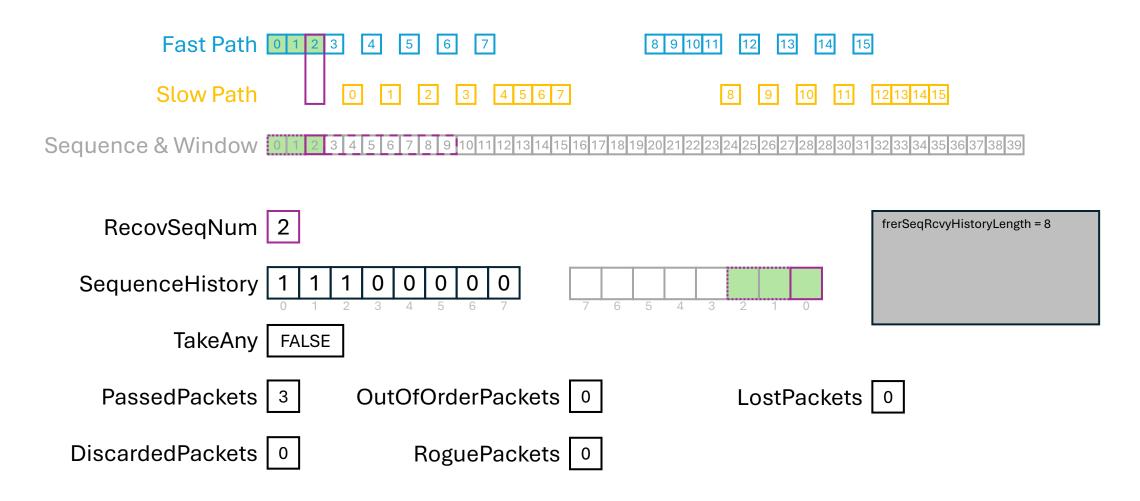
## FRER Vector Recovery Algorithm Issues with Aggressive Timeout

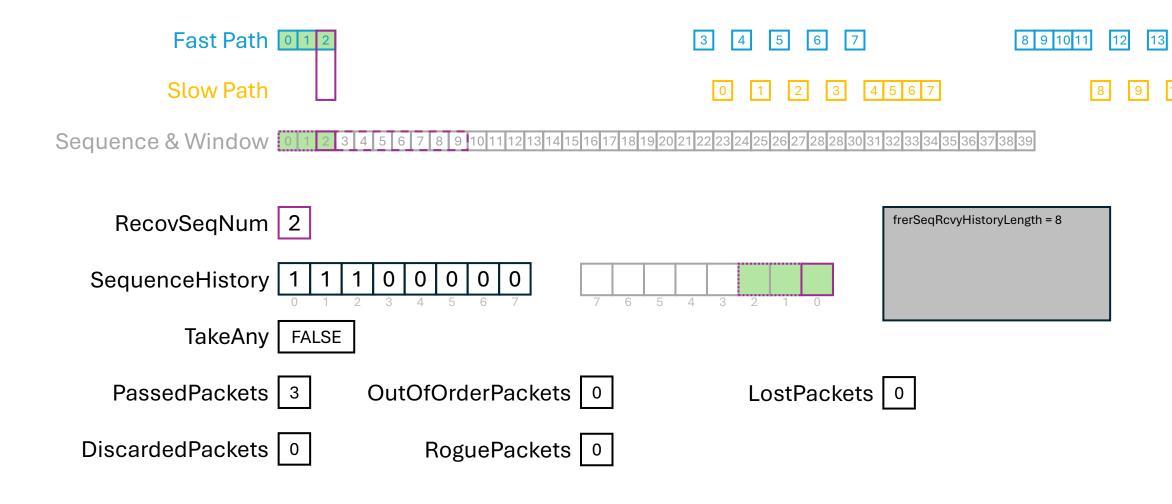
When packets on both fast and slow paths experience delays (or fast path drops packets when slow path has a longer than expected delay)

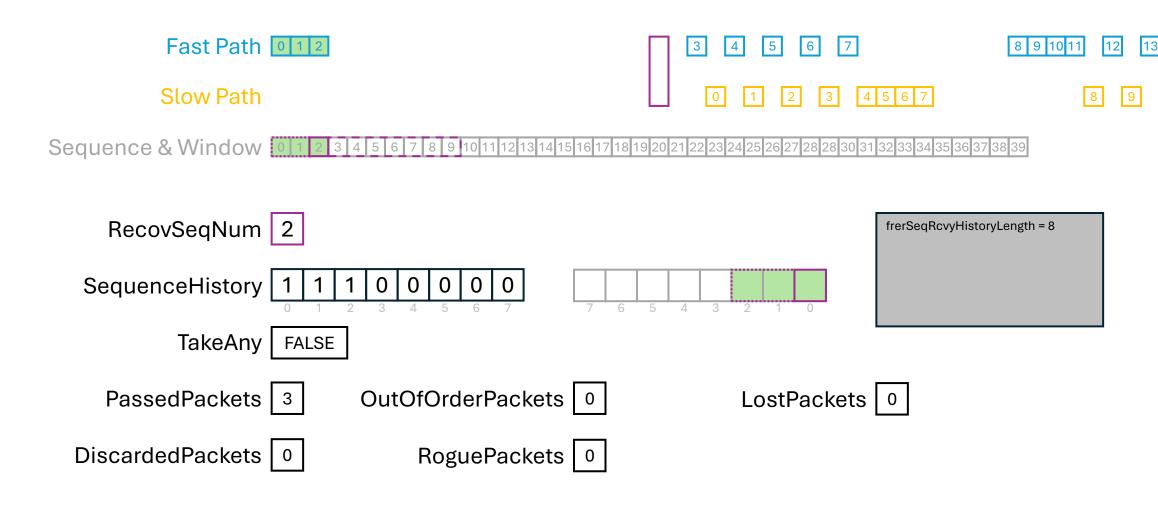


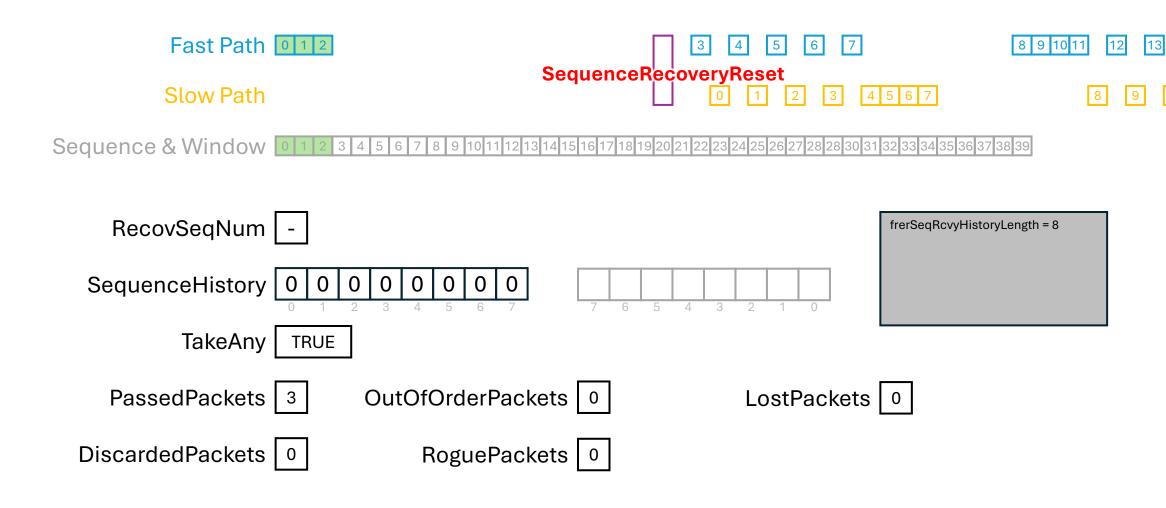


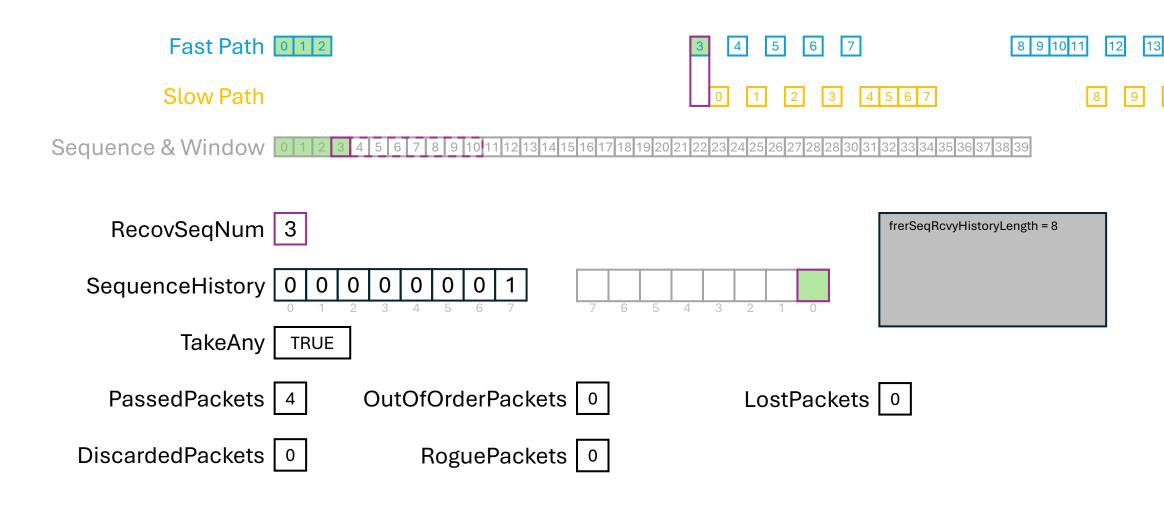


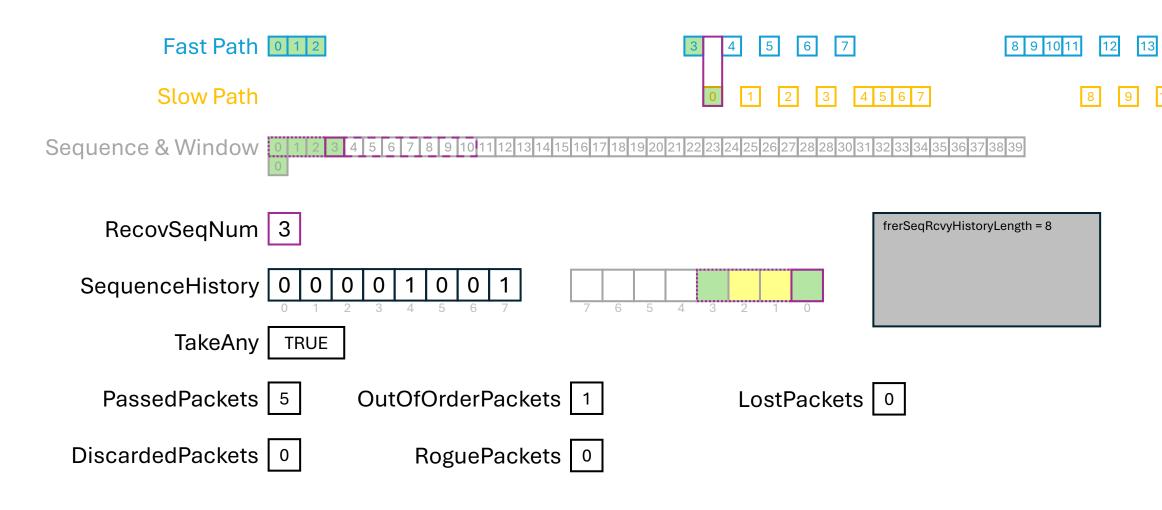


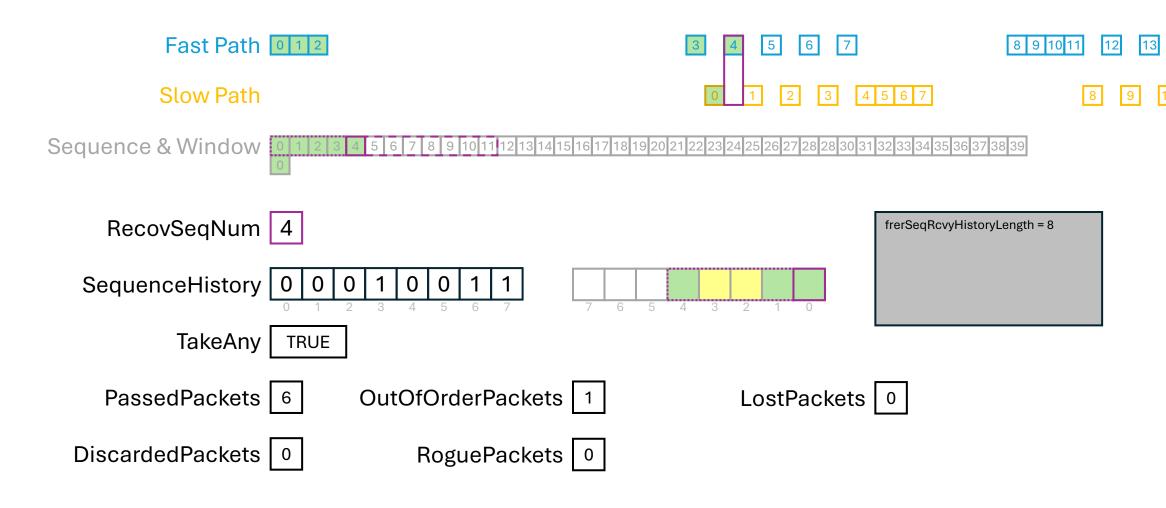


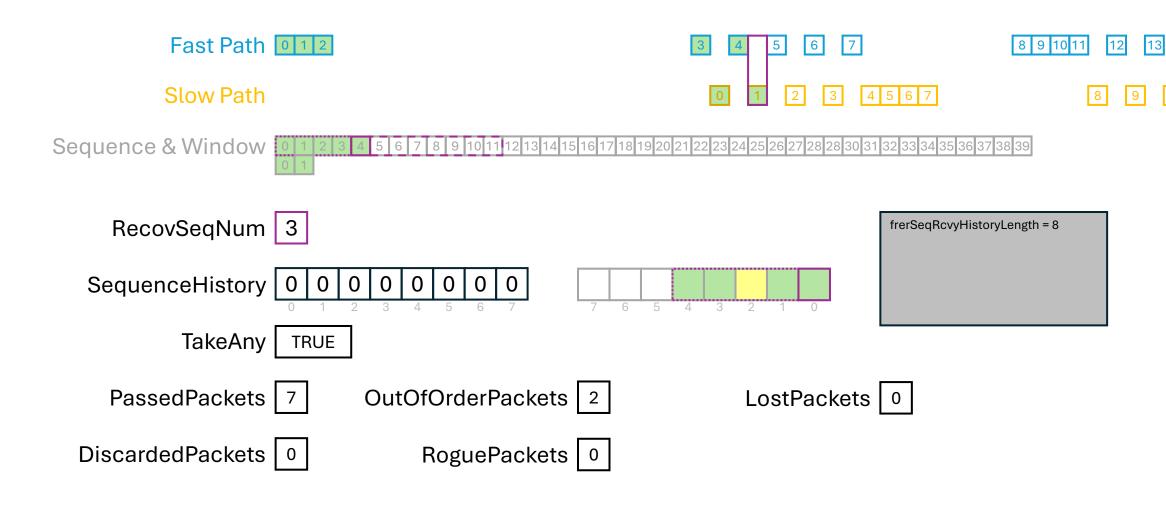


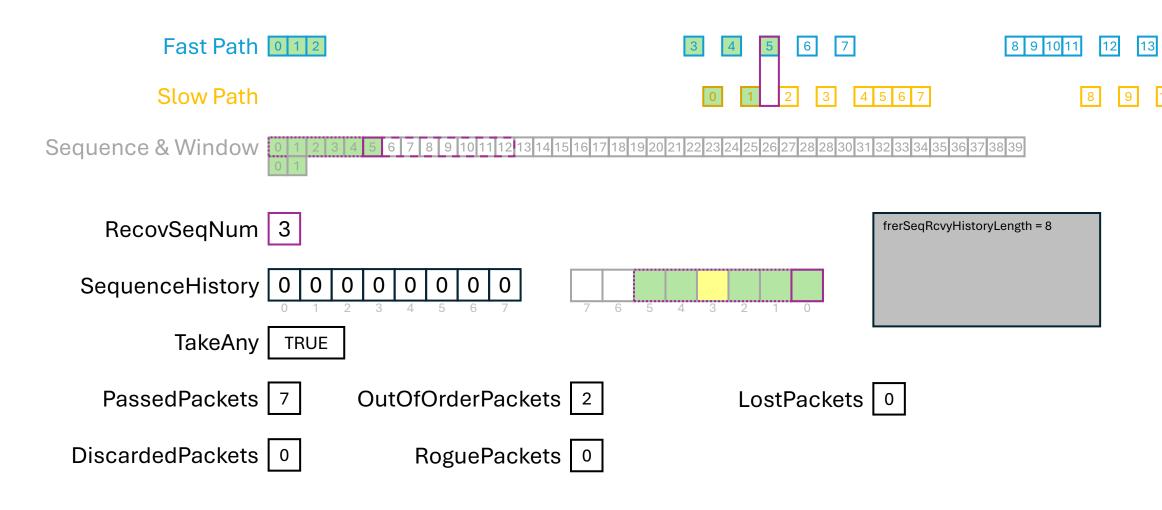












## FRER Vector Recovery Algorithm Proposed Algorithm

Proposal based on contribution by Venkat Arunarthi

### Issues with Current Algorithm

- Can generate erroneous Lost Packet counts following a reset
  - Because SeqenceHistory is set to all 0s on reset
  - Simply setting SequenceHistory to all 1s on reset could result in invalid LostPackets (i.e. not passing packets that should be passed)
- Forces a trade-off regarding timeout
  - Too long: can fail to pass valid packets
    - If many packets are lost and a valid packet falls outside the window
  - Too short: can pass duplicate packets
    - If duplicate packets are delayed and arrive after a reset
  - Achieving the right balance could be especially tricky if the network experiences variable delays on different paths
    - More likely if some of the connections are wireless

#### Observations – 1

- The "Erroneous Lost Packets" behaviour occurs because the algorithm can't distinguish between 0s in SequenceHistory that are there because of a reset (and aren't expected to be seen) and ones that actually represent packets that should be seen and marked "Lost" if they aren't.
- Setting SequenceHistory to all 1s after a reset would generate "Incorrectly Discarded Packets" for the same reason: the algorithm can't distinguish between 1s that are there because of a reset and packets that have actually been seen.
- Venkat Arunarthi proposed in [1] a fix for this behaviour that adds two new variables:
  - InvalidHistoryCount (INT)
    - Number of values in SequenceHistory that are the result of a reset and should be treated differently from regular 1s and 0s.
  - SequenceHistoryInit (BOOLEAN)
    - TRUE when Sequence History contains values that are the result of a reset (InvalidHistoryCount is 1 or higher)
    - FALSE when it does not (InvalidHistoryCount is 0)

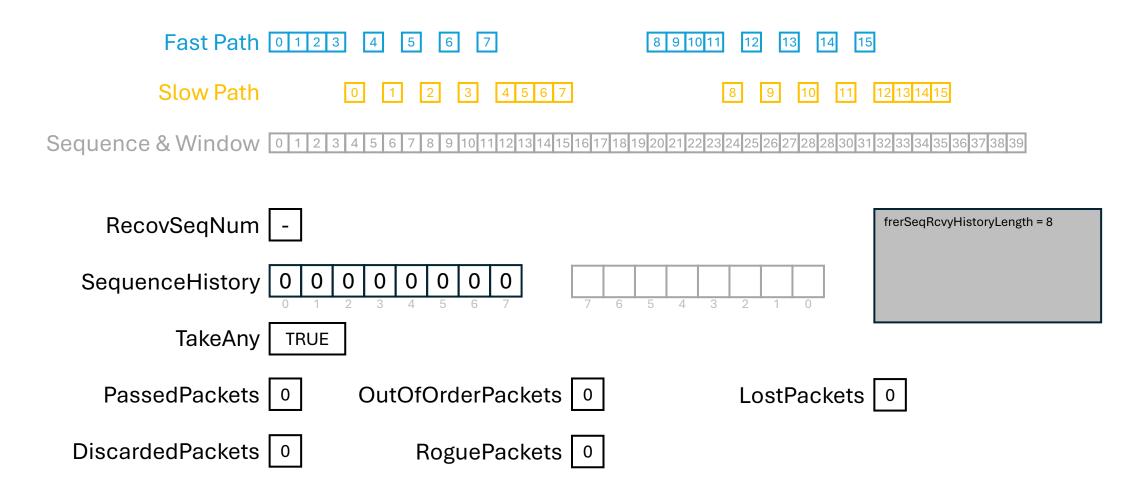
#### Observations – 2

- If the proposal in [1] is adopted, decisions must be made about how these variables should behave upon a reset.
- If the behaviour of SequenceHistory and RecovSeqNum upon reset are tweaked as well, the behaviour of passing duplicate packets if the timeout is overly aggressive can be eliminated.

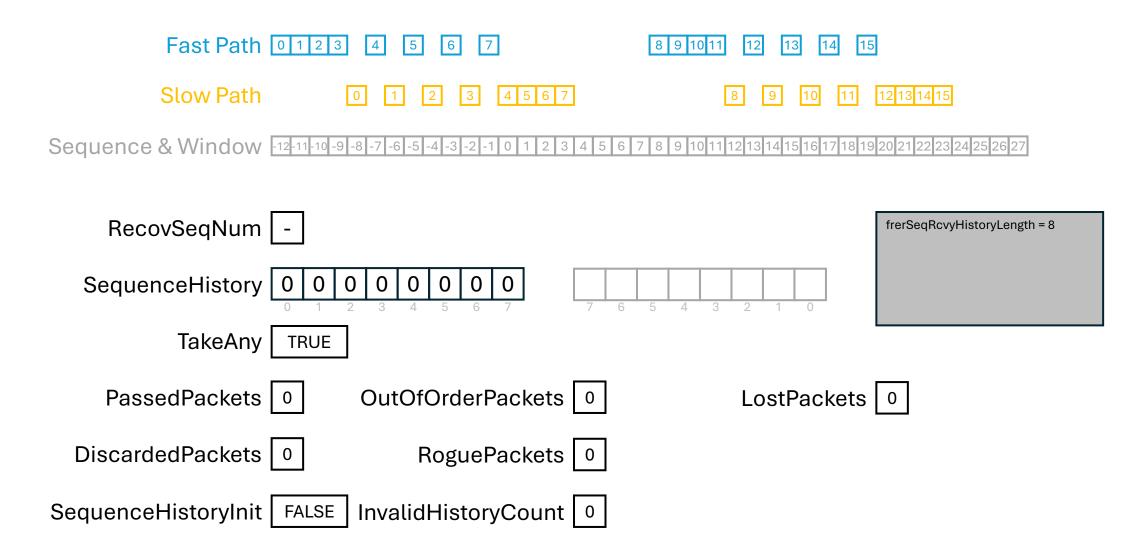
#### Note

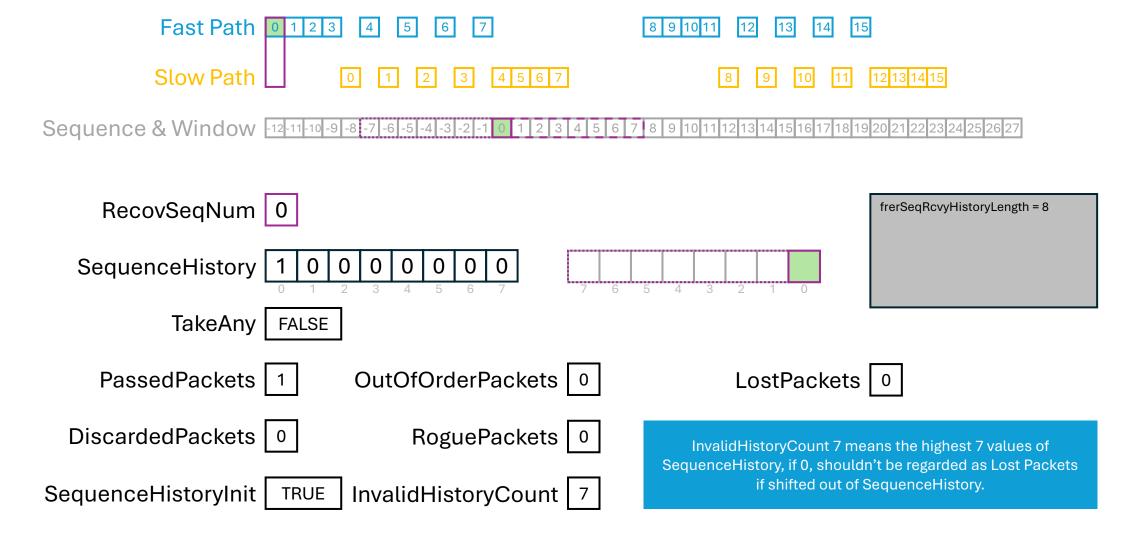
- The SequenceHistory values effectively wrap around with the next value after 65,535 being 0
- To properly consider this characteristic, the Sequence/Window values in the diagrams for this section are shifted to include values before 0, but...
- "65,535" takes up a lot of space, so in this presentation I'm using the more intuitive "-1", etc...

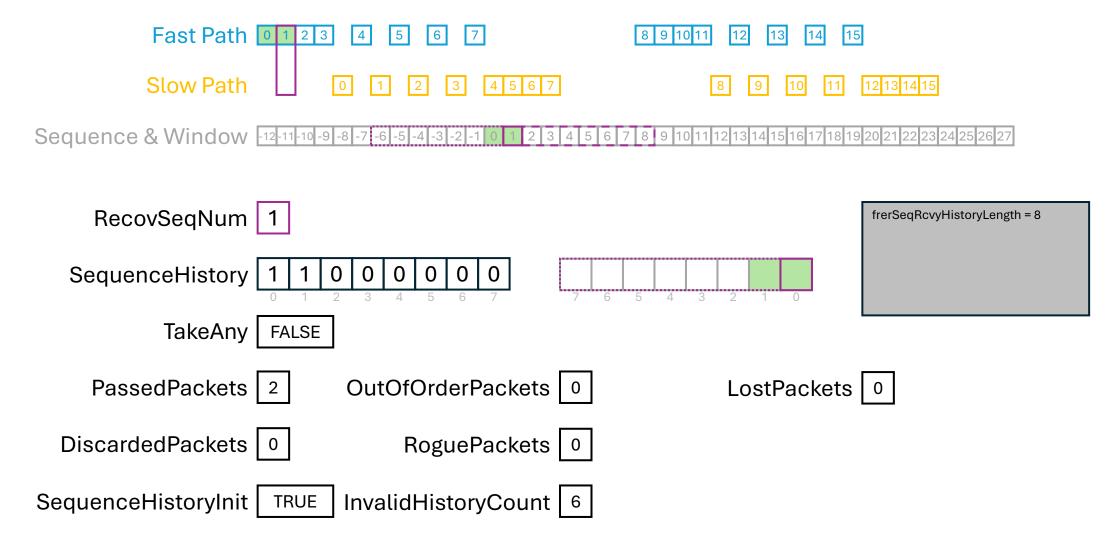
#### Proposed Algorithm

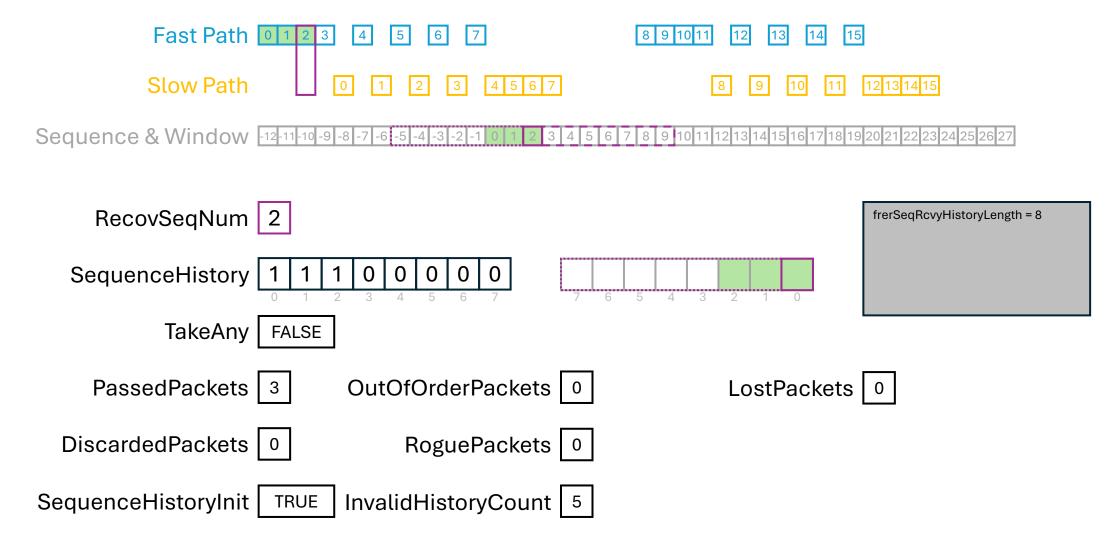


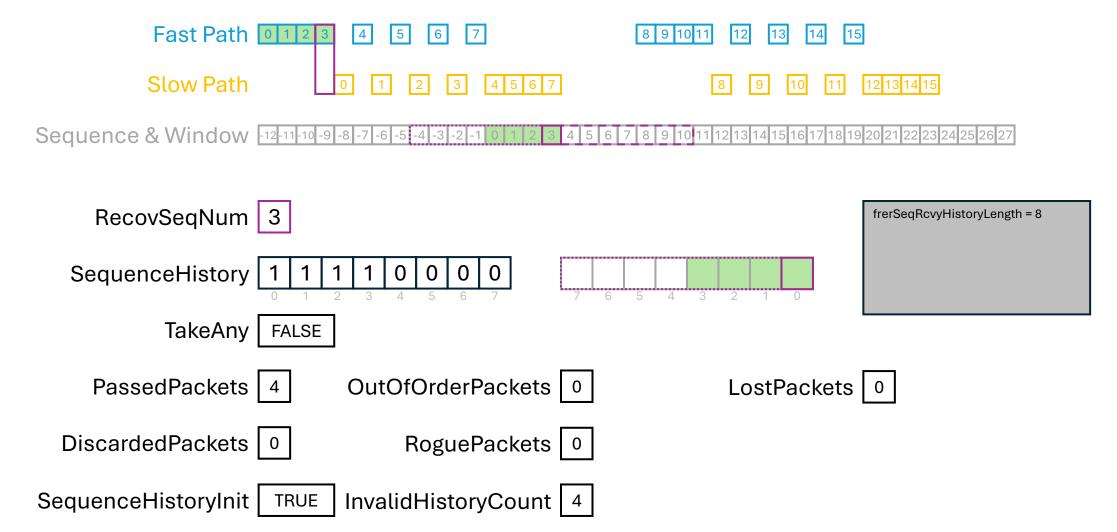
#### Proposed Algorithm

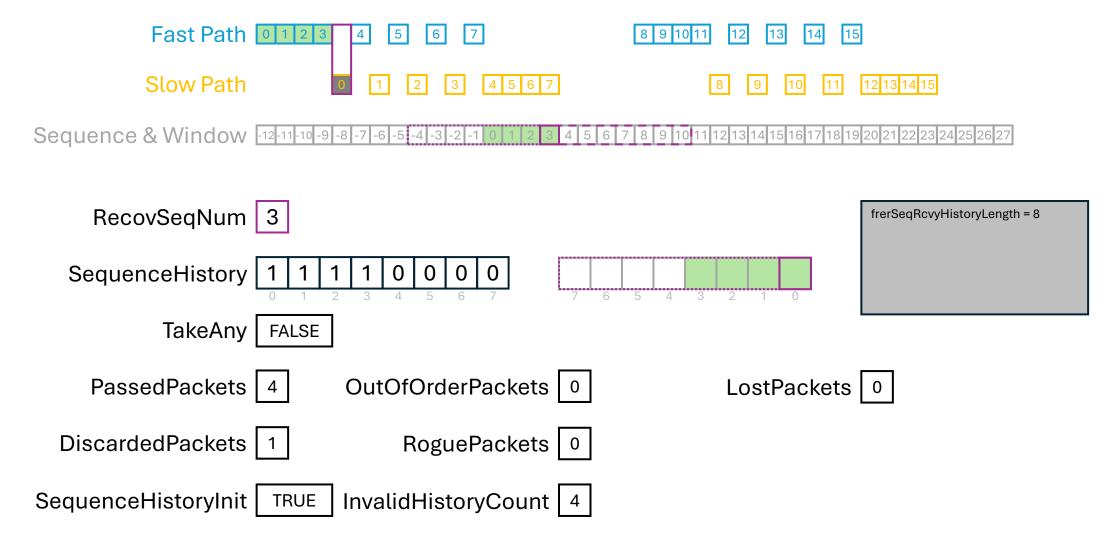


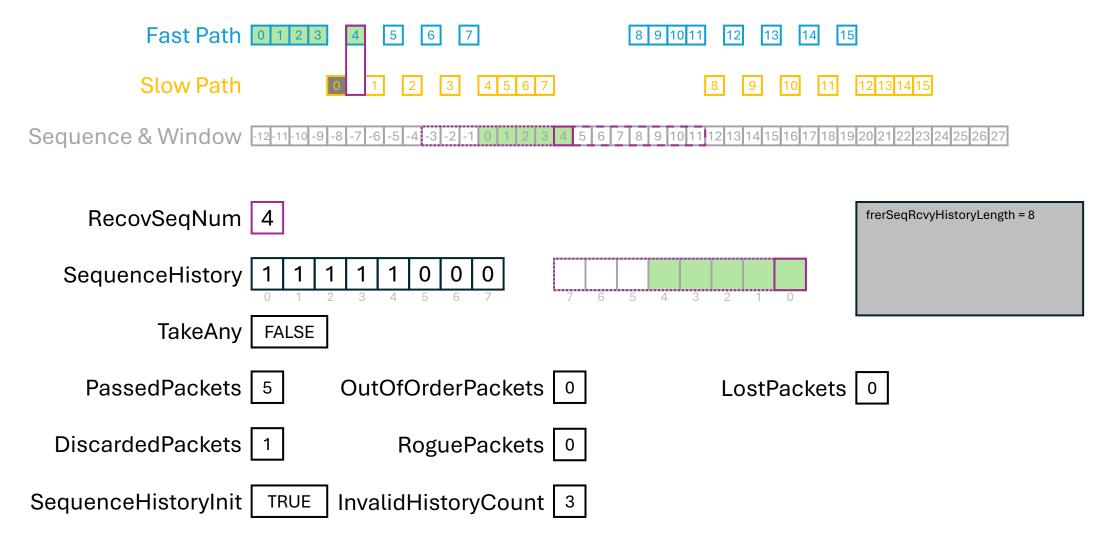


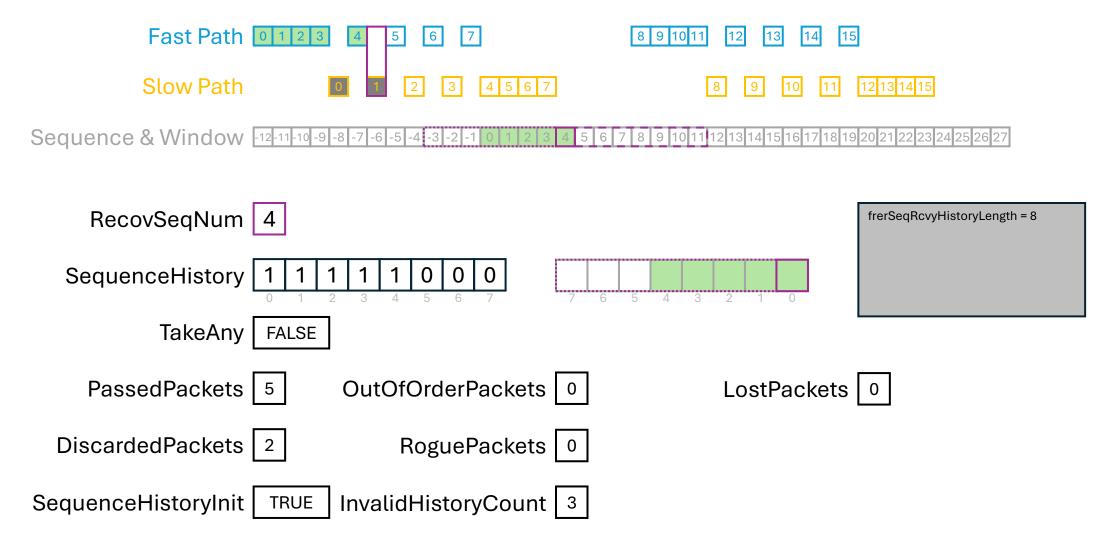


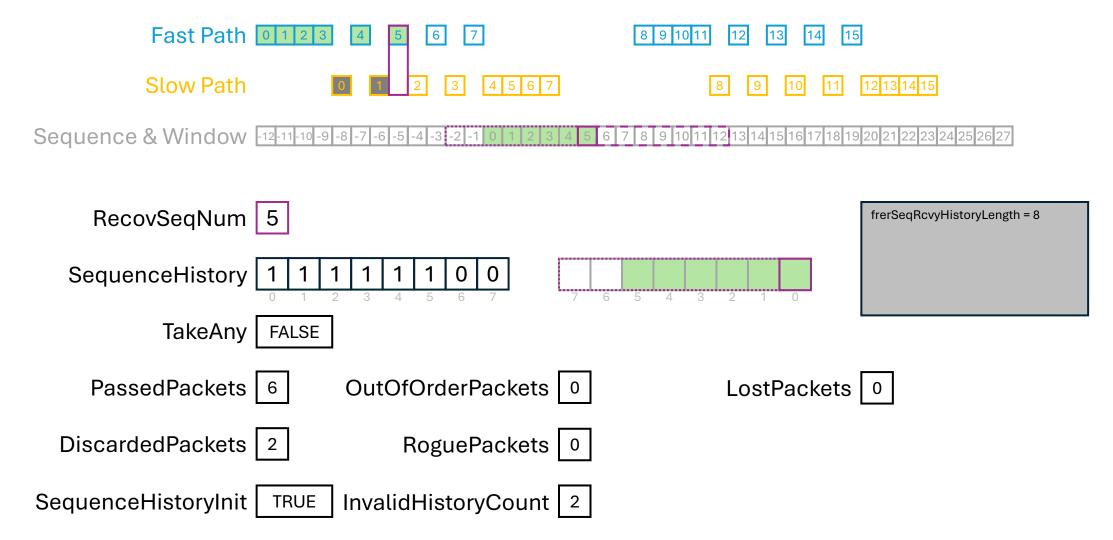


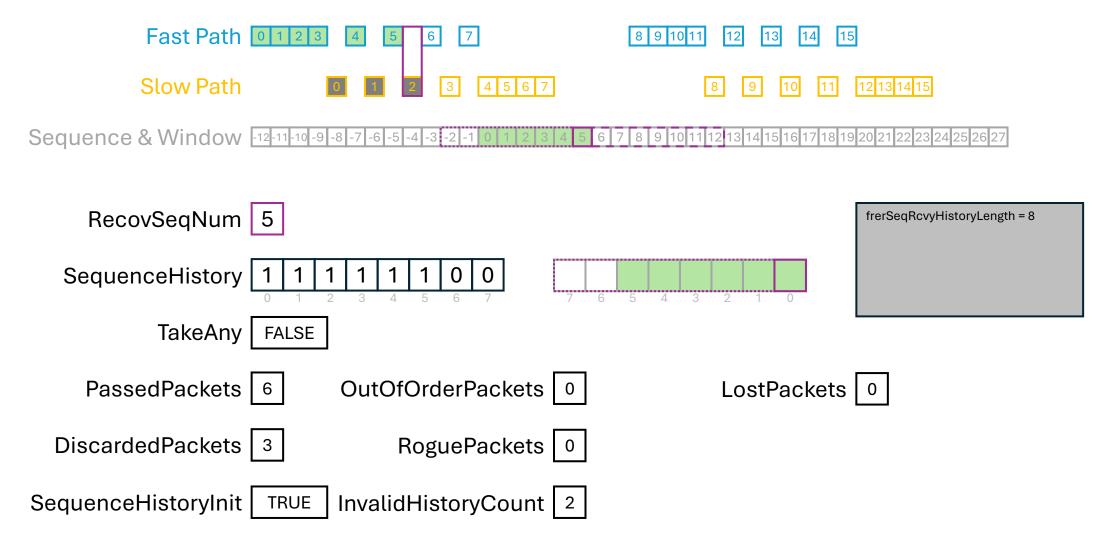


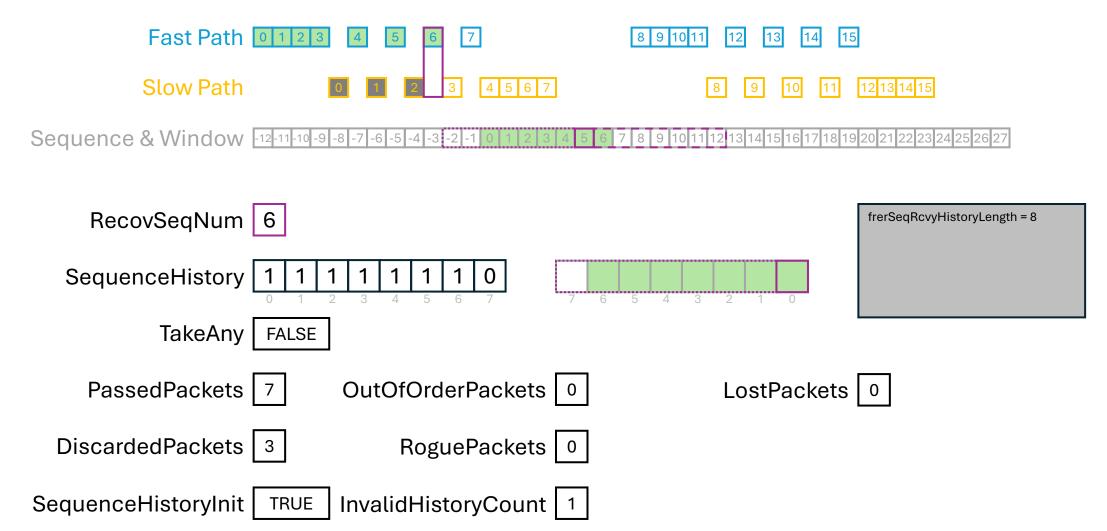


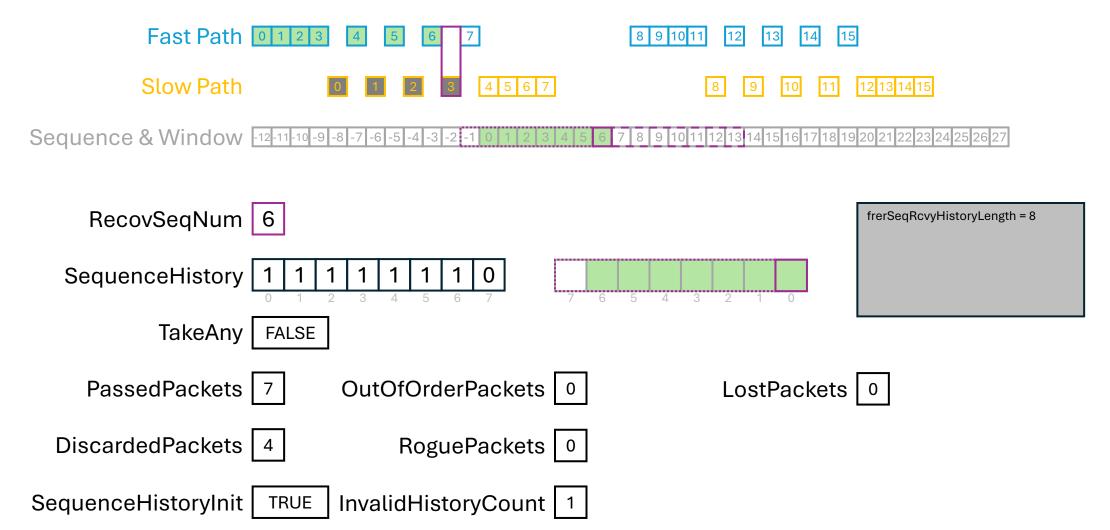


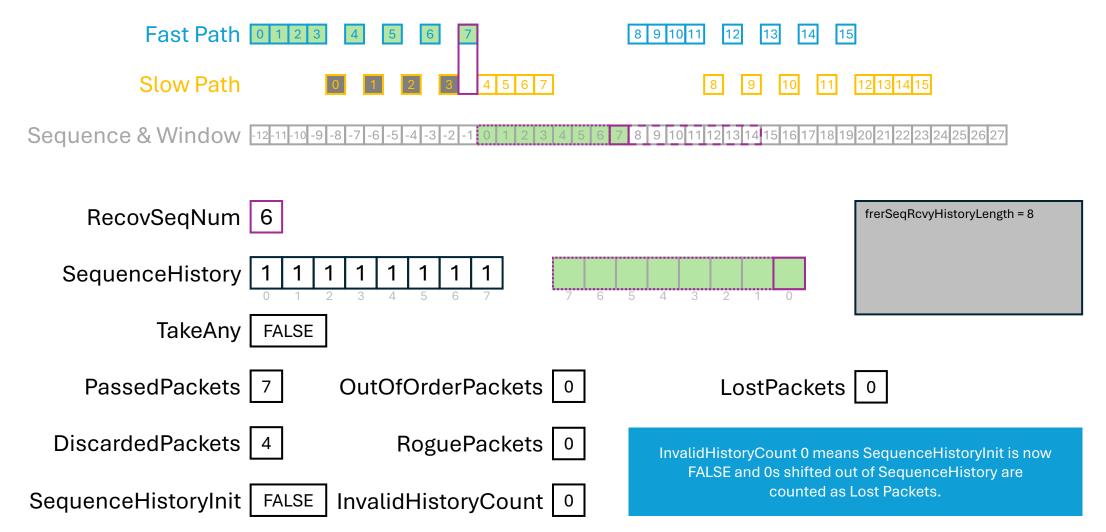


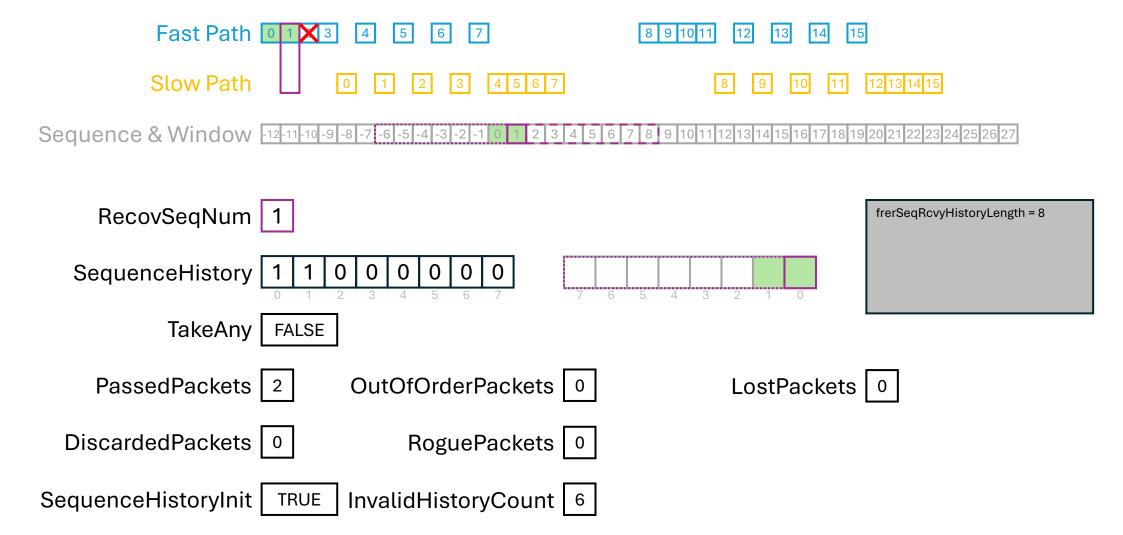


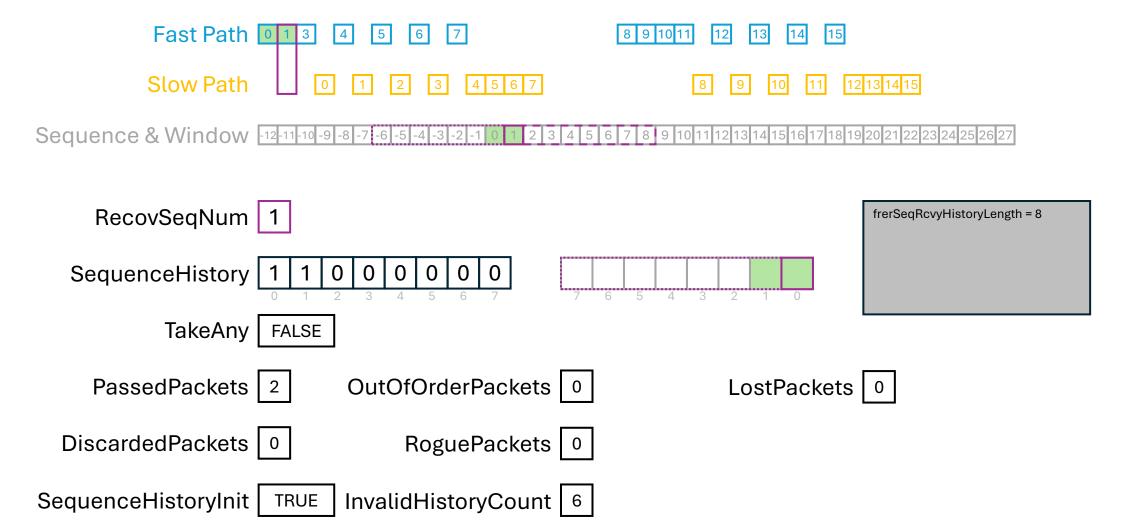


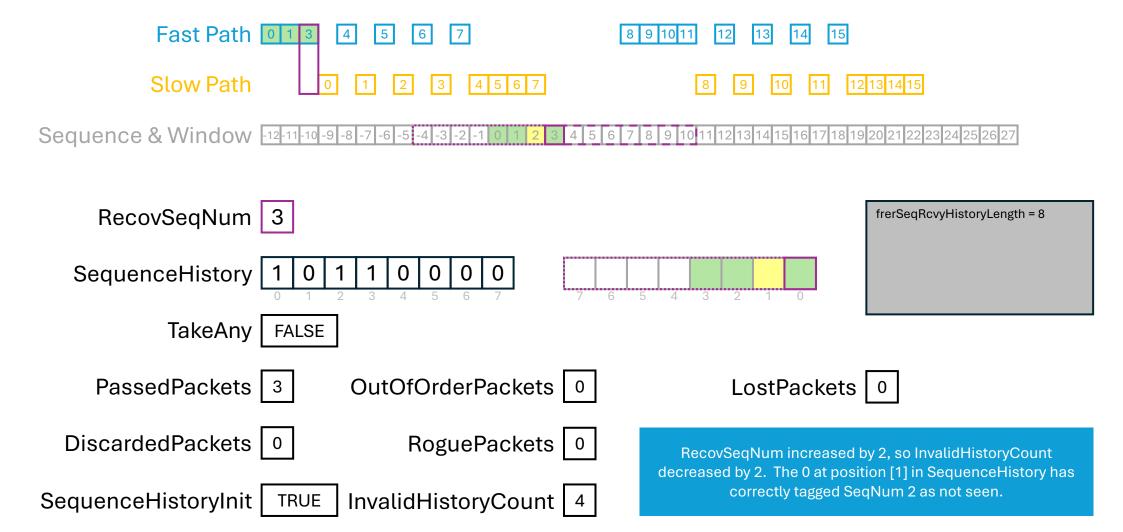


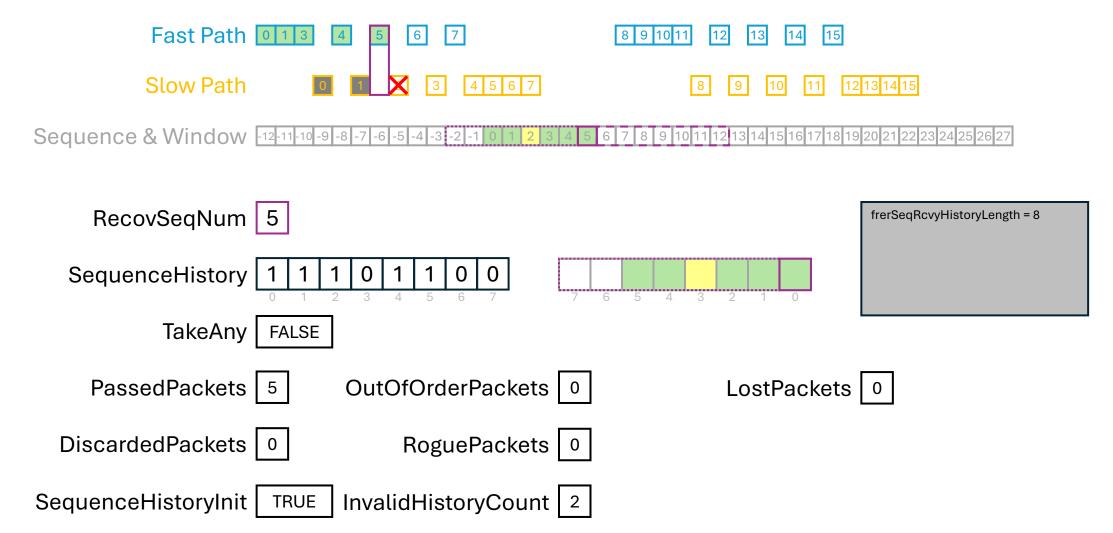


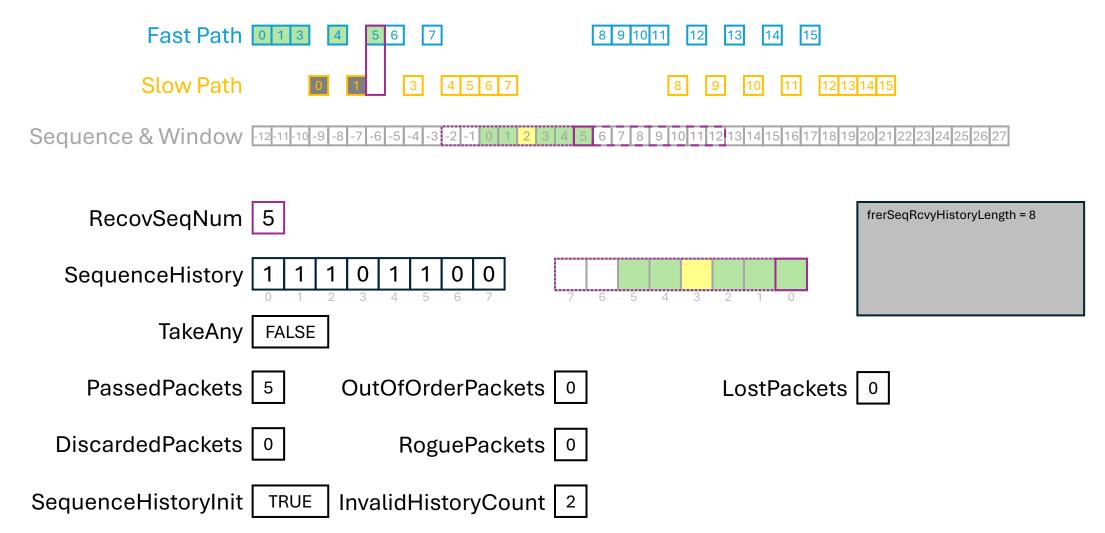


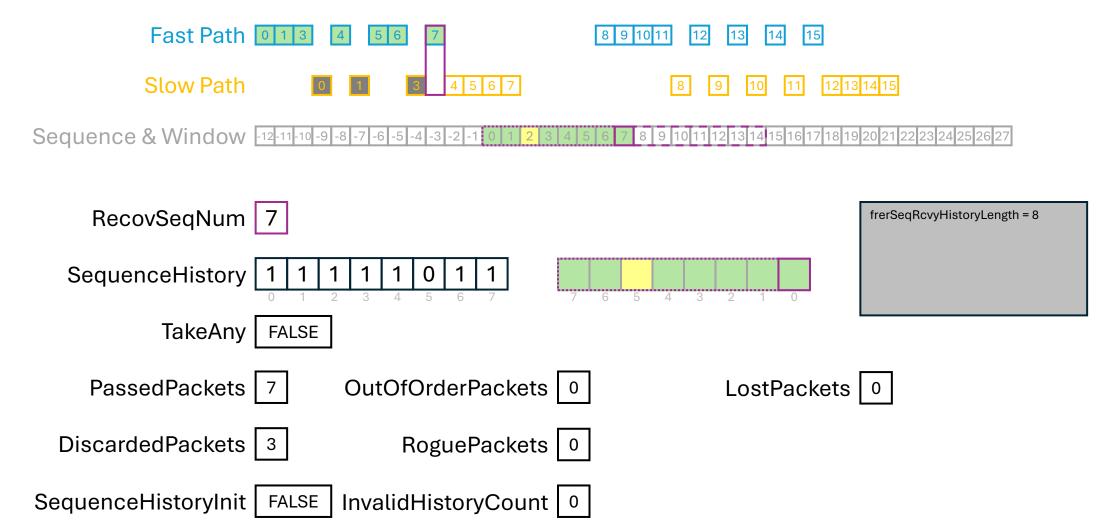


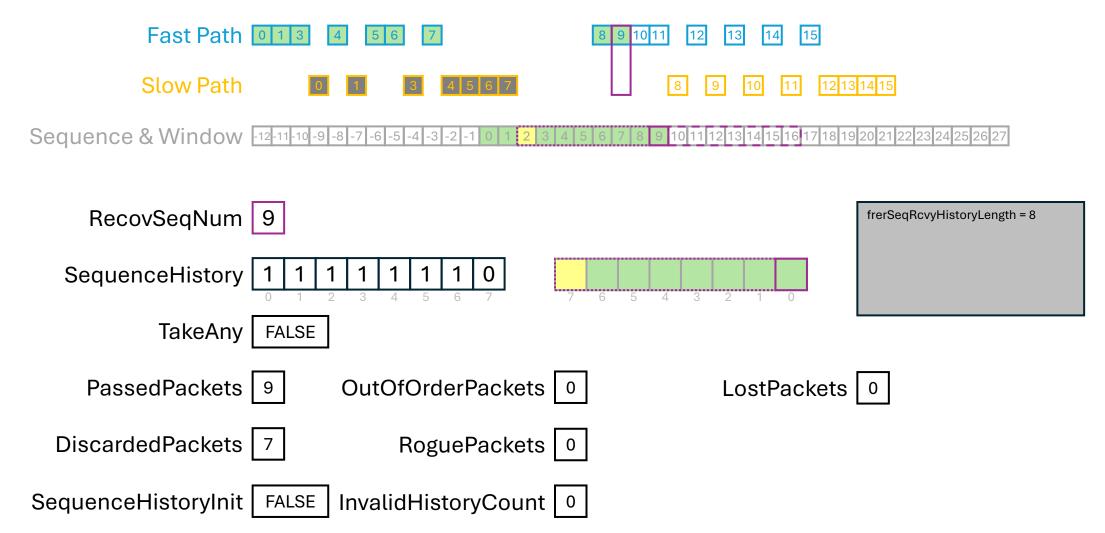


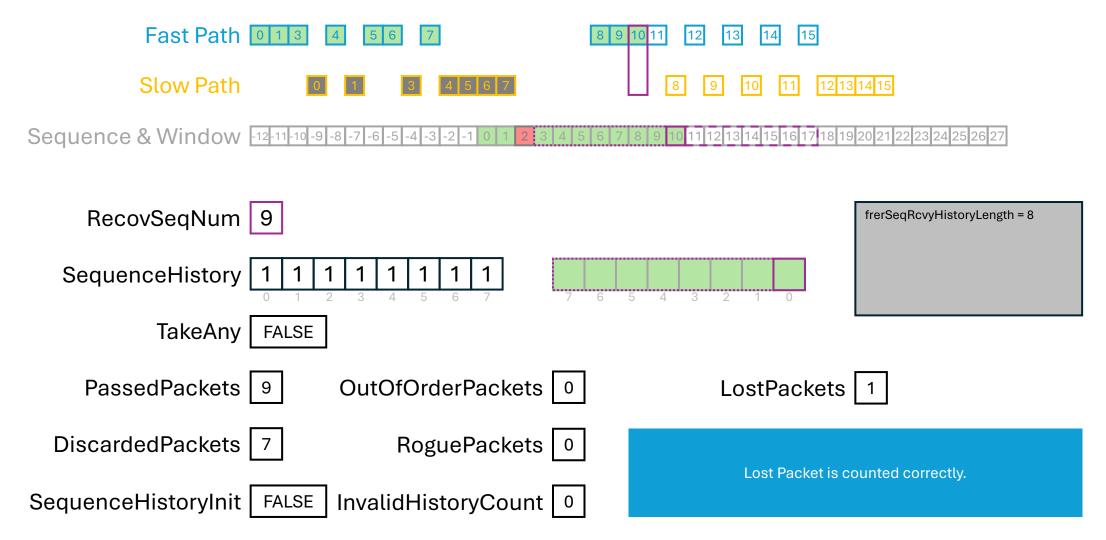




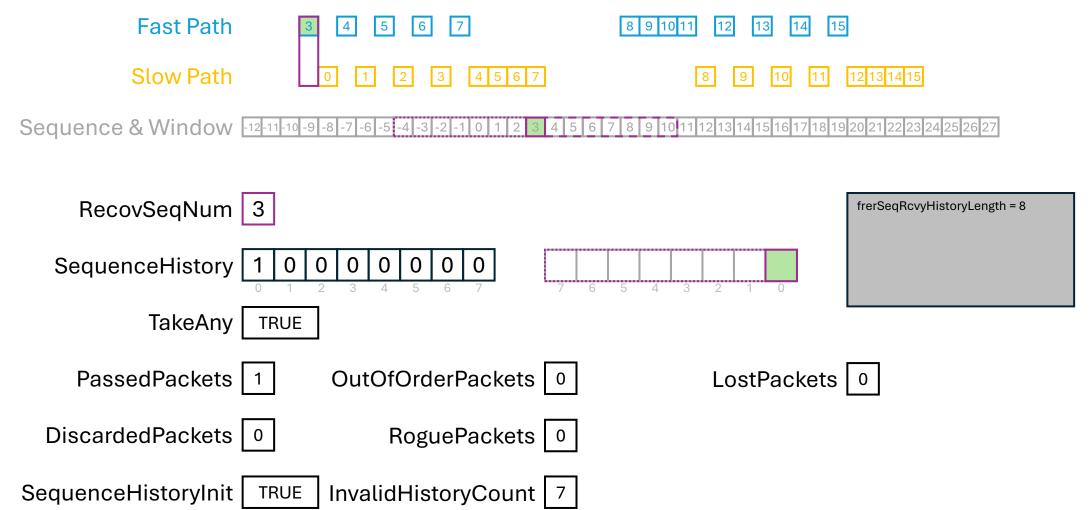


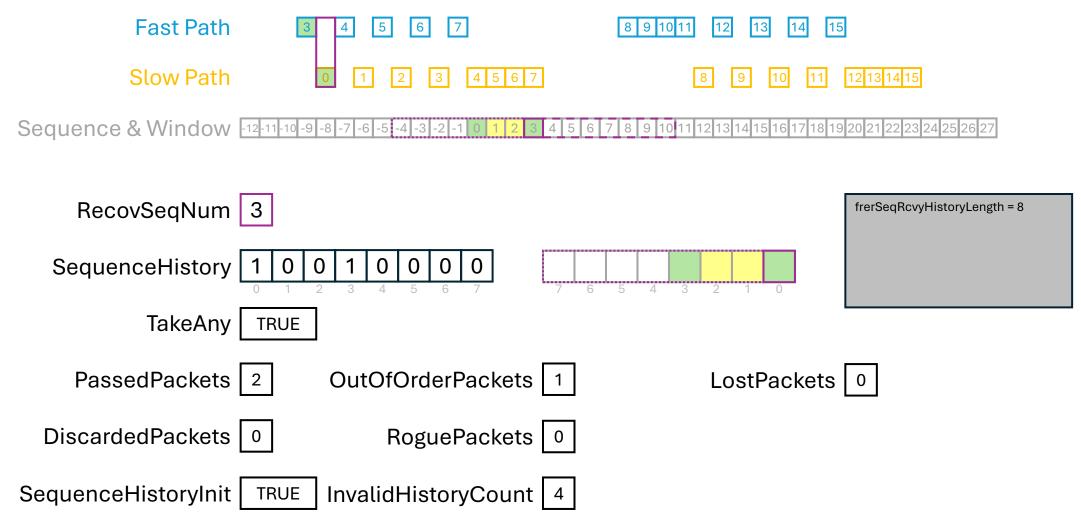


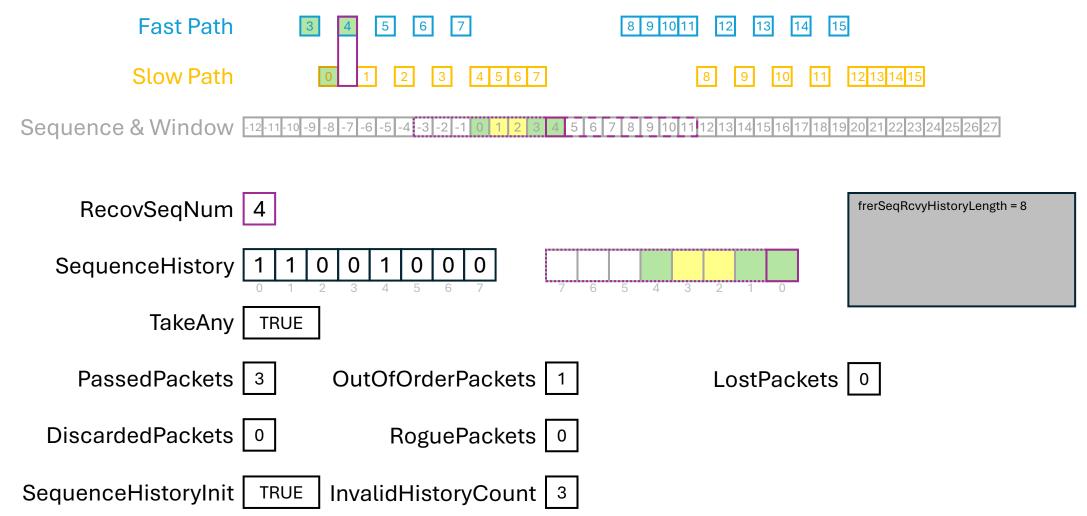


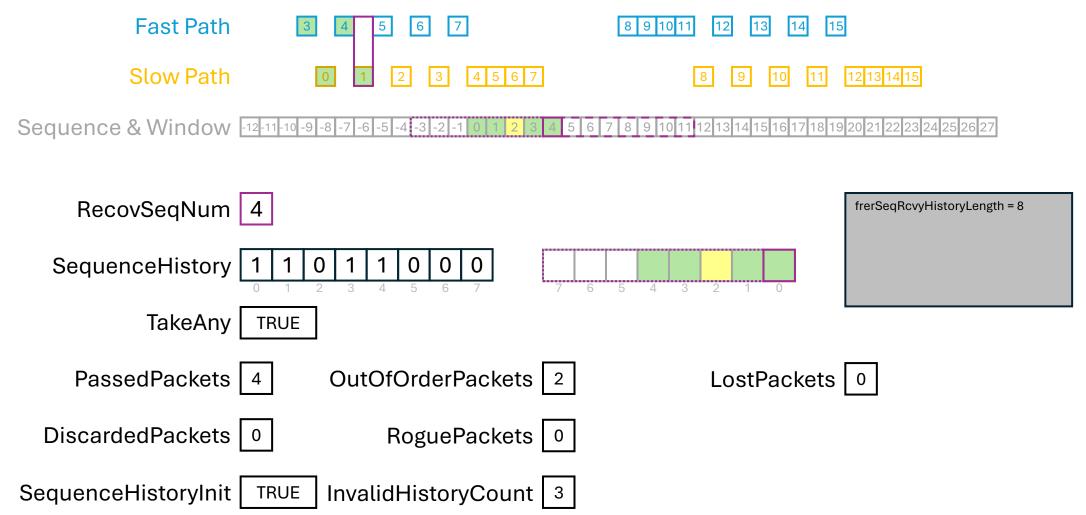


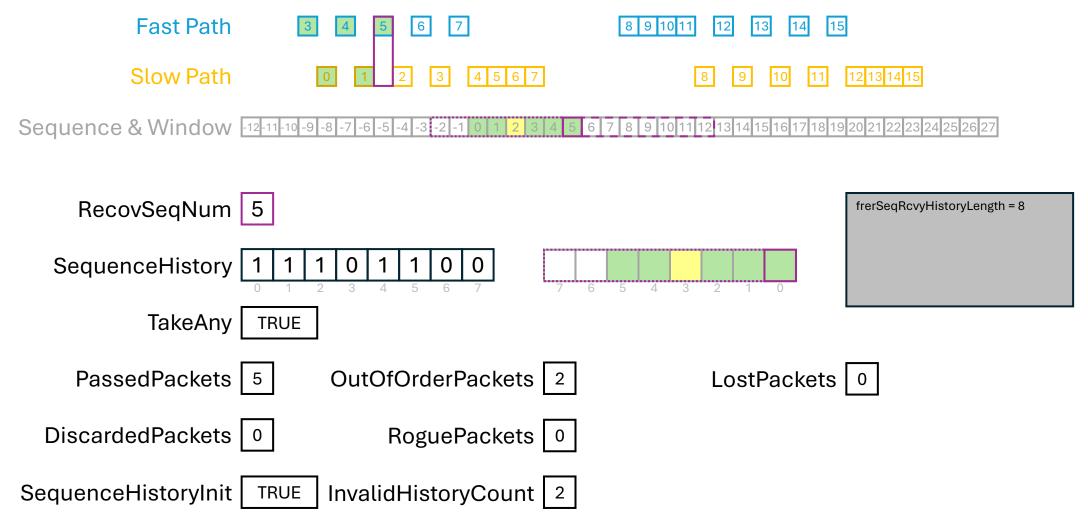
**Fast Path** 8 9 10 11 Slow Path 4 5 6 7 Sequence & Window RecovSeqNum frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength = 8 SequenceHistory TakeAny PassedPackets 0 OutOfOrderPackets 0 LostPackets 0 DiscardedPackets 0 RoguePackets 0 SequenceHistoryInit | FALSE | InvalidHistoryCount 0

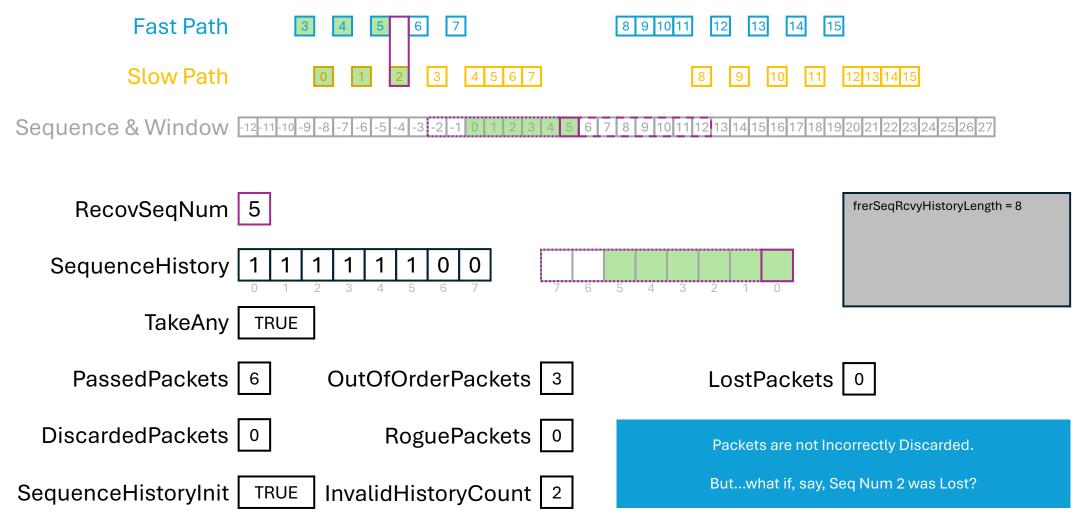


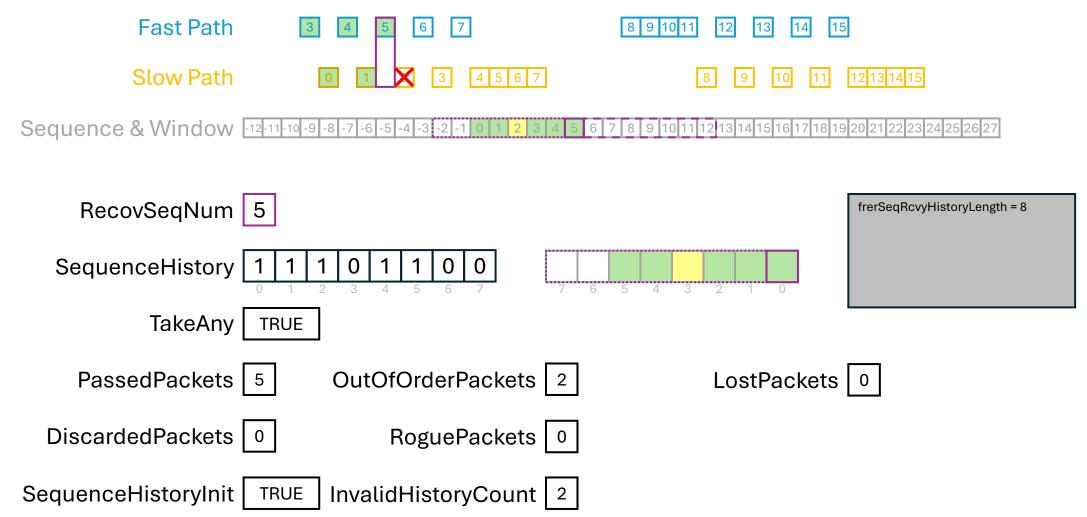


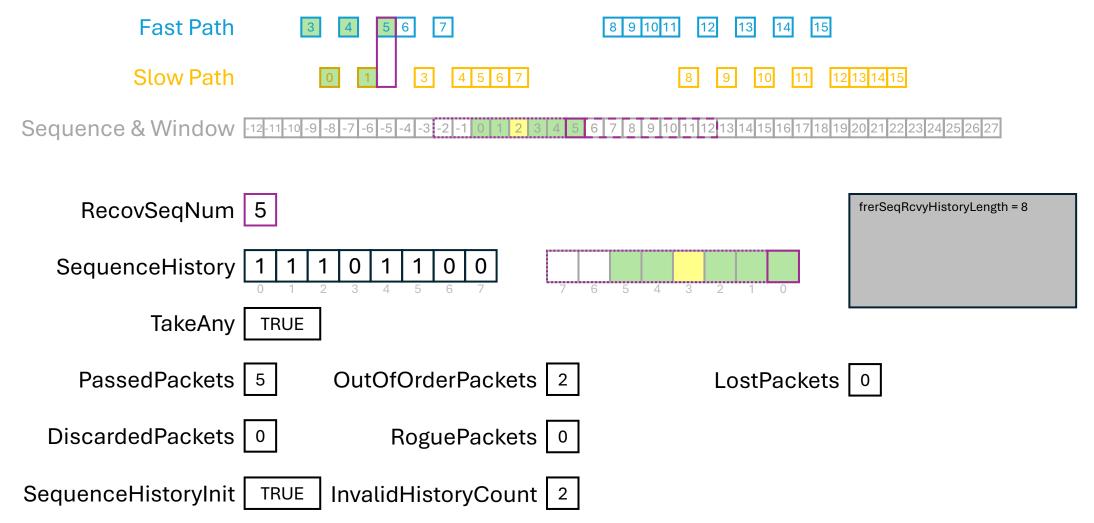


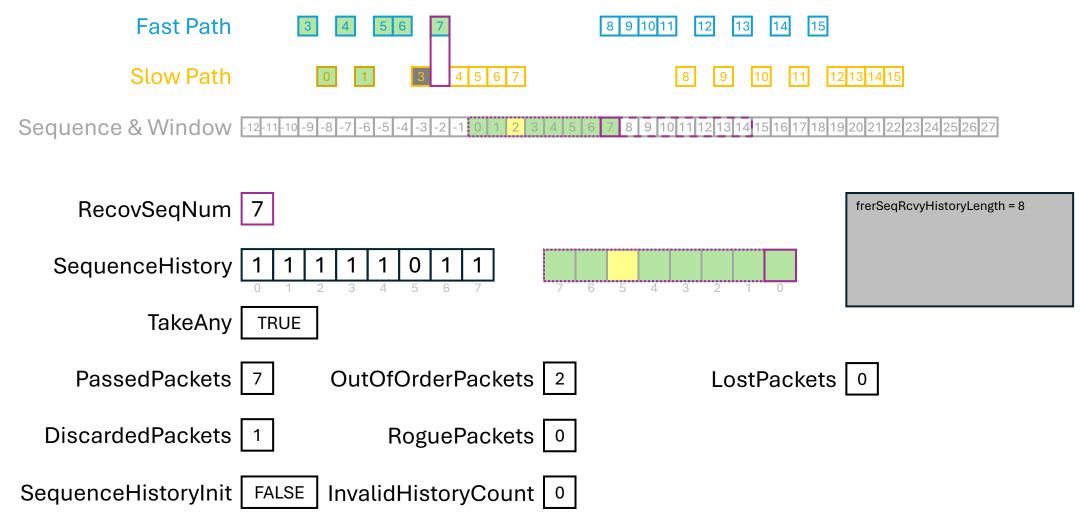


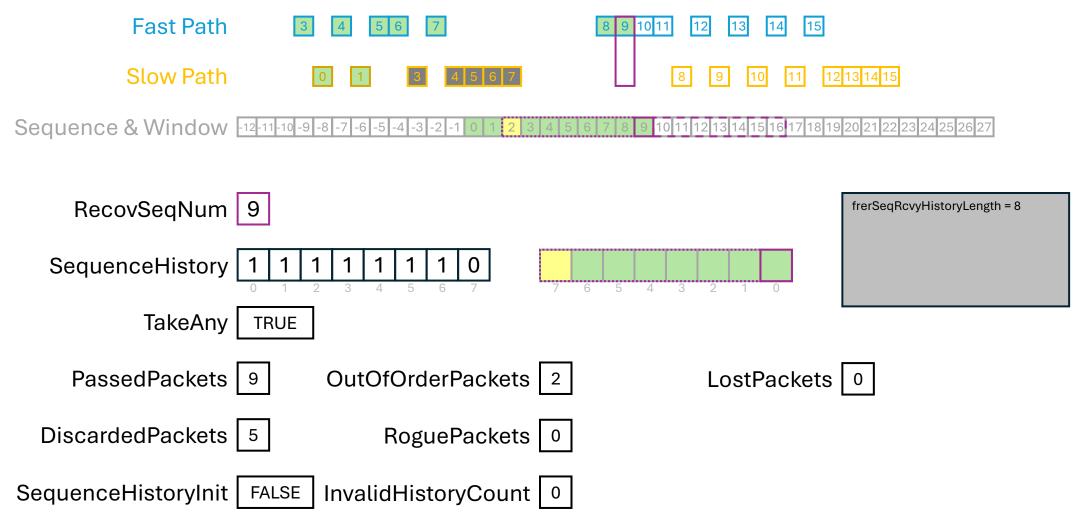




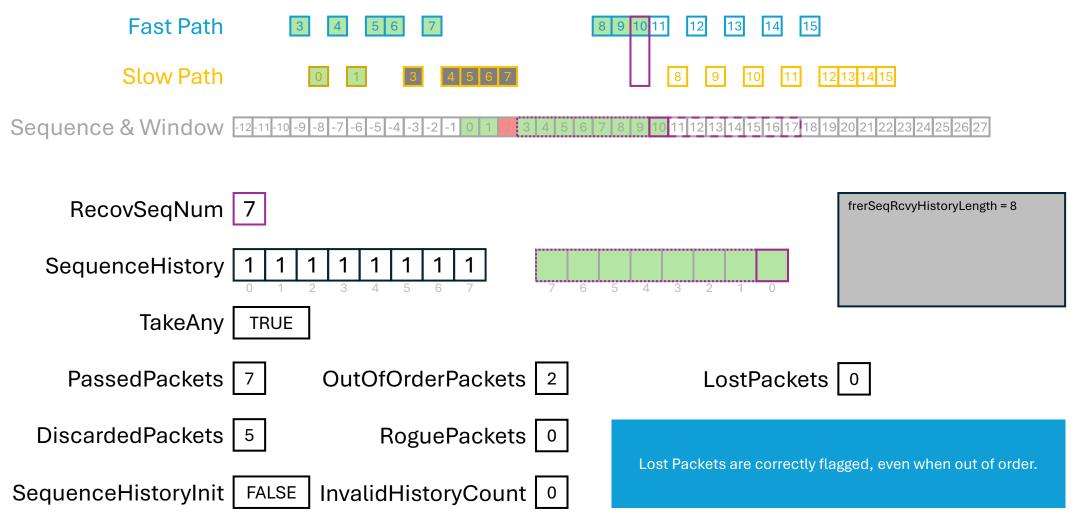




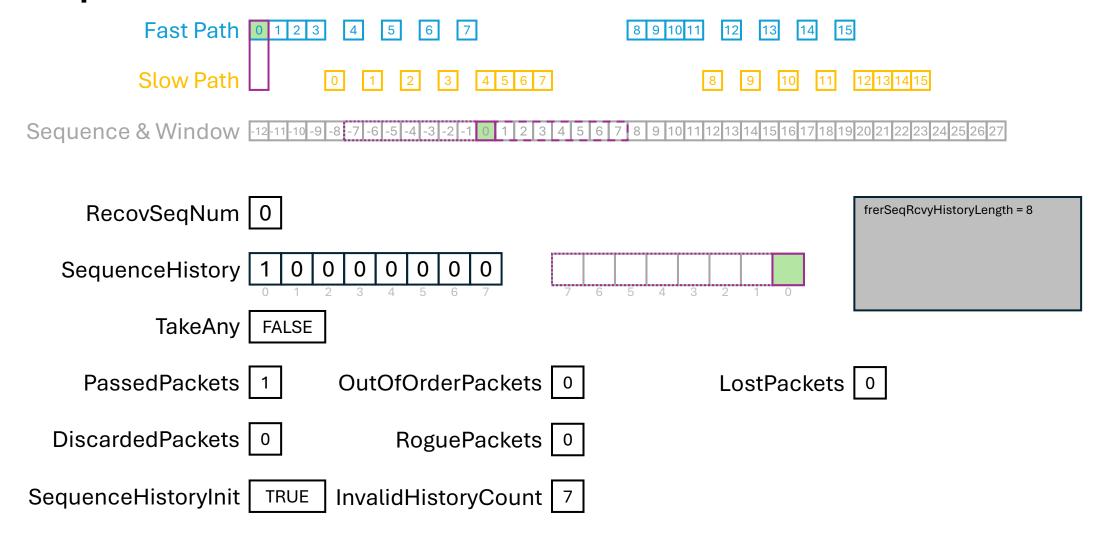


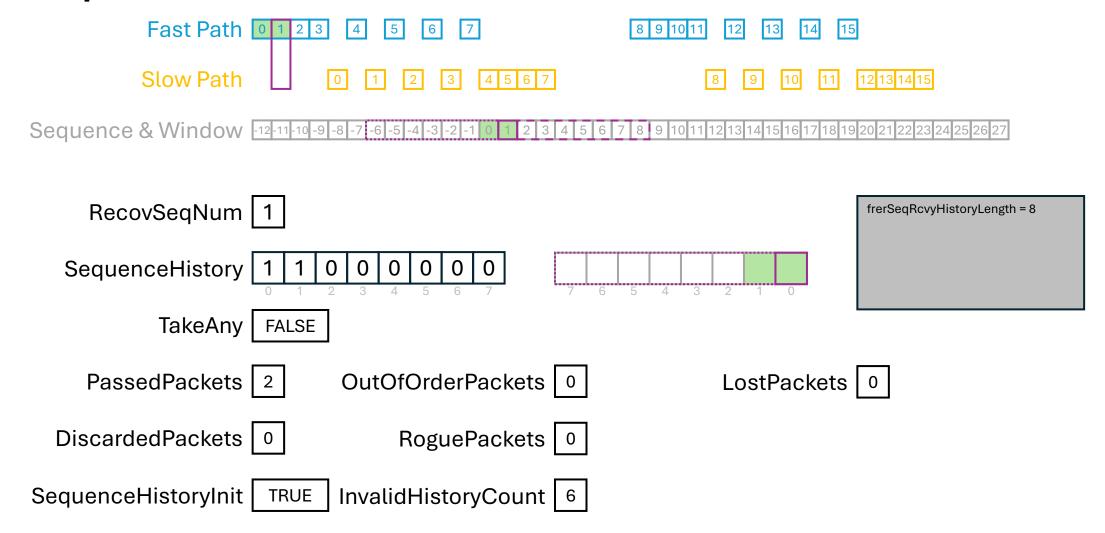


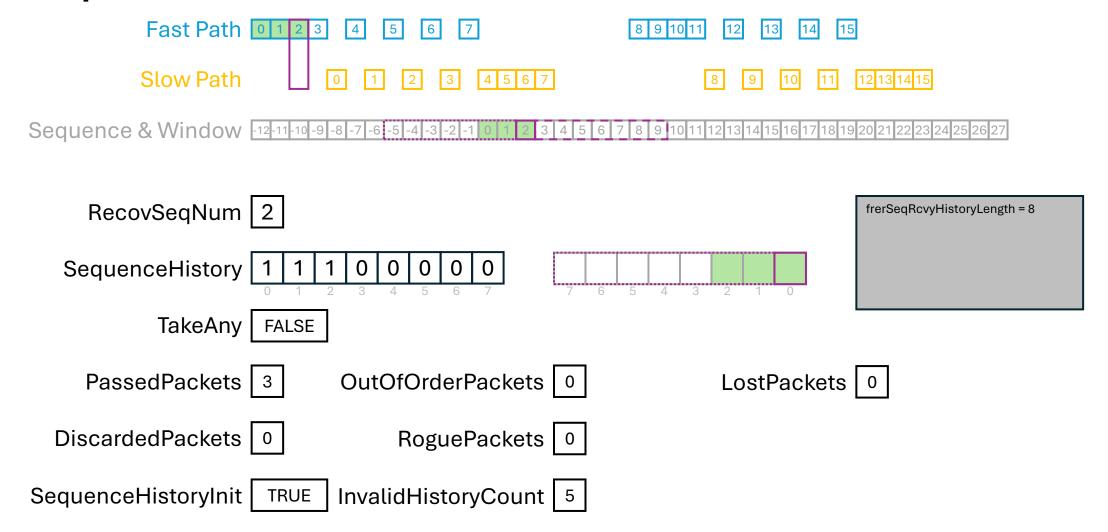
# Proposed Algorithm – Incorrectly Discarded Packets?

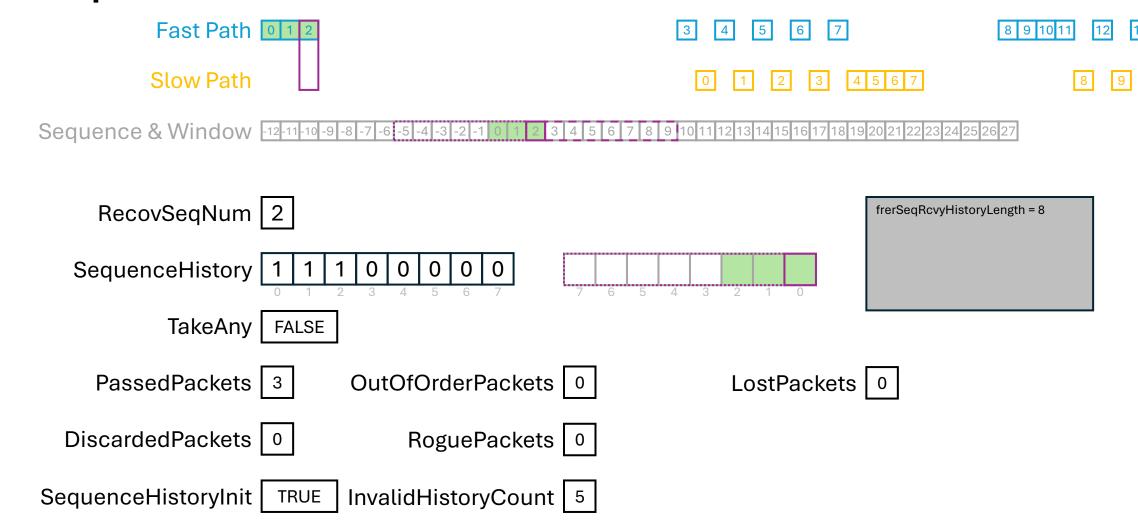


Fast Path 0 1 2 3 Slow Path 4 5 6 7 Sequence & Window RecovSeqNum frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength = 8 SequenceHistory TakeAny PassedPackets 0 OutOfOrderPackets 0 LostPackets 0 DiscardedPackets 0 RoguePackets 0 SequenceHistoryInit | FALSE | InvalidHistoryCount 0







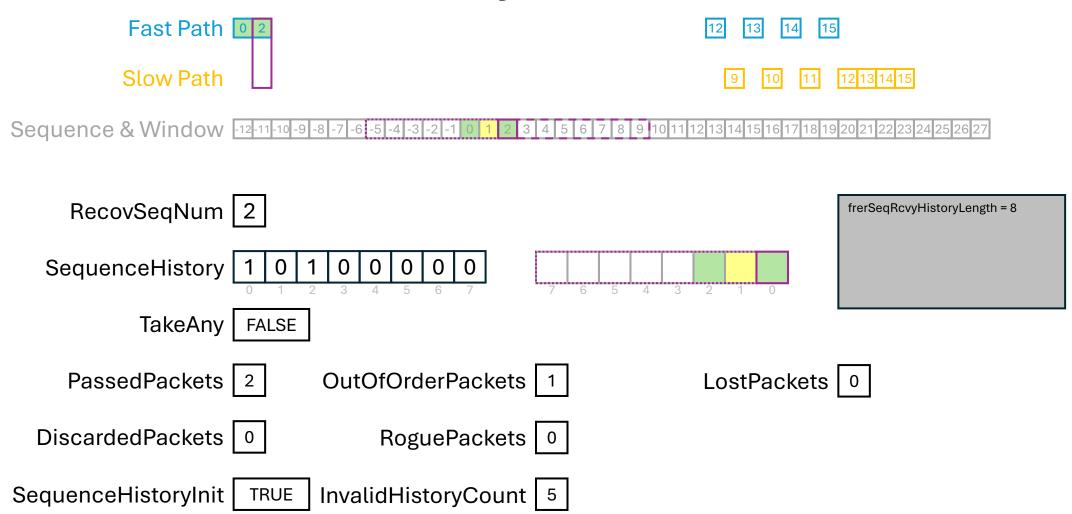


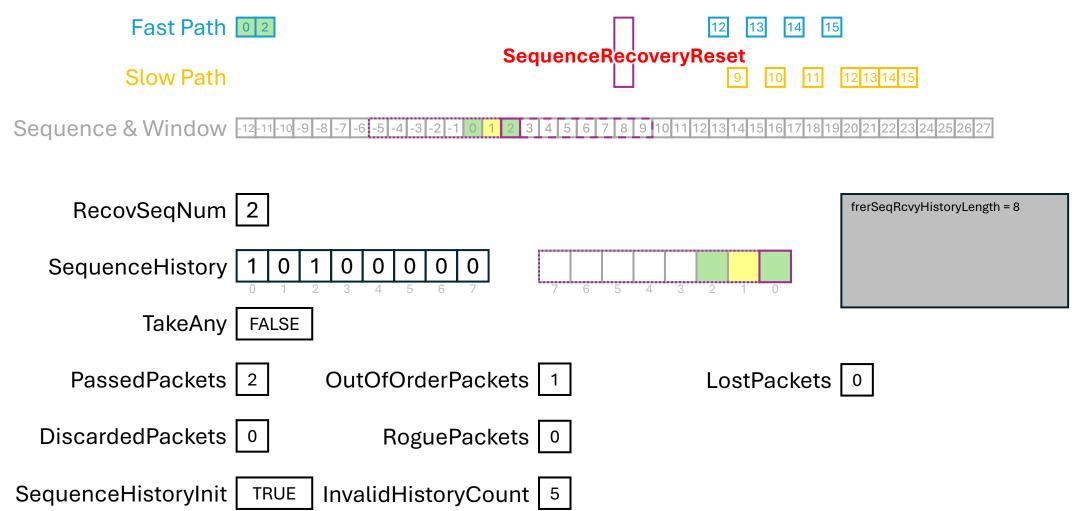
Fast Path 0 1 2 Slow Path Sequence & Window RecovSeqNum 2 frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength = 8 SequenceHistory TakeAny | FALSE PassedPackets 3 OutOfOrderPackets 0 LostPackets 0 DiscardedPackets 0 RoguePackets 0 SequenceHistoryInit InvalidHistoryCount 5 TRUE

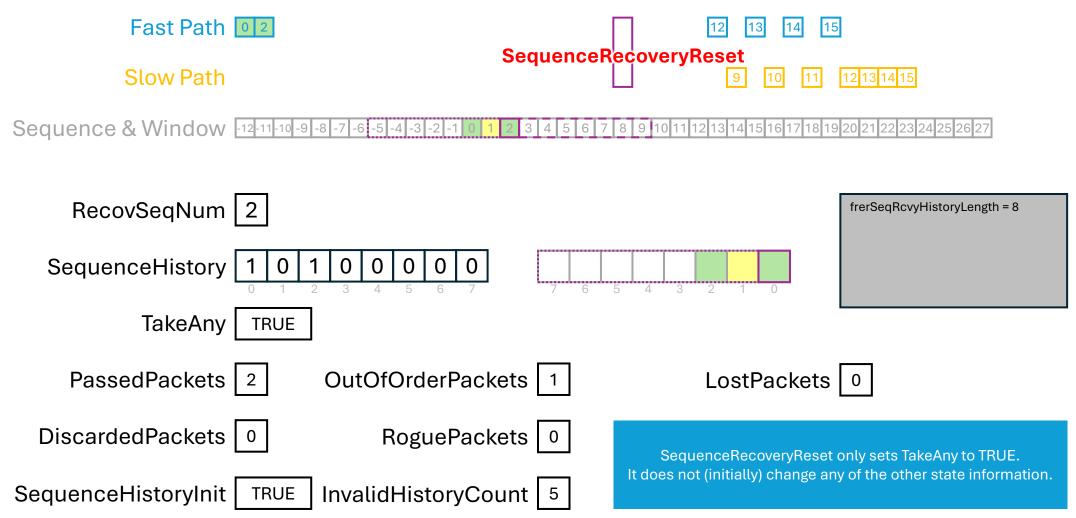
Fast Path 0 1 2 SequenceRecoveryReset Slow Path Sequence & Window RecovSeqNum 2 frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength = 8 SequenceHistory TakeAny PassedPackets 3 OutOfOrderPackets 0 LostPackets 0 DiscardedPackets 0 RoguePackets 0 SequenceRecoveryReset only sets TakeAny to TRUE. It does not (initially) change any of the other state information. InvalidHistoryCount 5 SequenceHistoryInit | TRUE

Fast Path 0 1 2 Slow Path Sequence & Window RecovSeqNum 3 frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength = 8 SequenceHistory TakeAny | FALSE PassedPackets | 4 OutOfOrderPackets 0 LostPackets 0 DiscardedPackets 0 RoguePackets 0 If packets have merely been delayed, the algorithm just picks up where it left off. InvalidHistoryCount 4 SequenceHistoryInit | TRUE

Fast Path 0 1 2 Slow Path Sequence & Window RecovSeqNum 3 frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength = 8 SequenceHistory TakeAny | FALSE PassedPackets | 4 OutOfOrderPackets 0 LostPackets 0 DiscardedPackets 1 RoguePackets 0 Packets are discarded correctly. No duplicate packets are passed. InvalidHistoryCount 4 SequenceHistoryInit | TRUE







Fast Path 0 2 Slow Path Sequence & Window RecovSeqNum 2 frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength = 8 SequenceHistory TakeAny | FALSE PassedPackets 2 OutOfOrderPackets | 1 LostPackets 0 RoguePackets 0 DiscardedPackets | 0 New RecovSeqNum is more than (frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength -1) ahead of the old RecovSeqNum, so SequenceHistory is shifted by frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength InvalidHistoryCount 5 SequenceHistoryInit | **TRUE** according to regular rules.

Fast Path 0 2 Slow Path Sequence & Window RecovSeqNum 2 frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength = 8 SequenceHistory TakeAny | FALSE PassedPackets 2 OutOfOrderPackets | 1 LostPackets 0 RoguePackets 0 DiscardedPackets 0 New RecovSeqNum is more than (frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength -1) ahead of the old RecovSeqNum, so SequenceHistory is shifted by frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength InvalidHistoryCount | 4 SequenceHistoryInit | **TRUE** according to regular rules.

Fast Path 0 2 Slow Path Sequence & Window RecovSeqNum 2 frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength = 8 SequenceHistory TakeAny | FALSE PassedPackets 2 OutOfOrderPackets | 1 LostPackets 0 RoguePackets 0 DiscardedPackets | 0 New RecovSeqNum is more than (frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength -1) ahead of the old RecovSeqNum, so SequenceHistory is shifted by frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength InvalidHistoryCount 3 SequenceHistoryInit | **TRUE** according to regular rules.

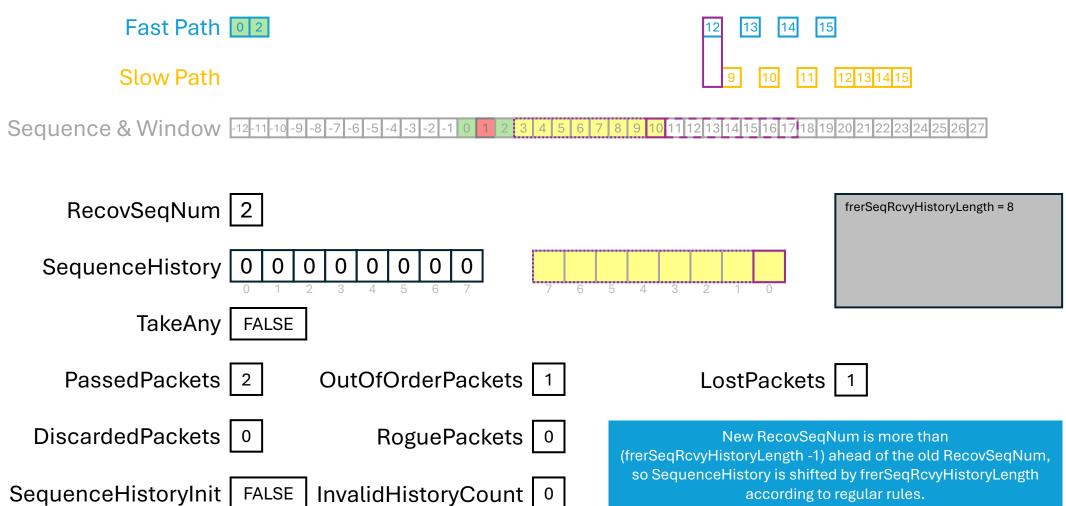
Fast Path 0 2 Slow Path Sequence & Window RecovSeqNum 2 frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength = 8 SequenceHistory TakeAny | FALSE PassedPackets 2 OutOfOrderPackets | 1 LostPackets 0 RoguePackets 0 DiscardedPackets 0 New RecovSeqNum is more than (frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength -1) ahead of the old RecovSeqNum, so SequenceHistory is shifted by frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength InvalidHistoryCount | 2 SequenceHistoryInit | **TRUE** according to regular rules.

Fast Path 0 2 Slow Path Sequence & Window RecovSeqNum 2 frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength = 8 SequenceHistory TakeAny | FALSE PassedPackets 2 OutOfOrderPackets | 1 LostPackets 0 RoguePackets 0 DiscardedPackets 0 New RecovSeqNum is more than (frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength -1) ahead of the old RecovSeqNum, so SequenceHistory is shifted by frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength InvalidHistoryCount 1 SequenceHistoryInit | **TRUE** according to regular rules.

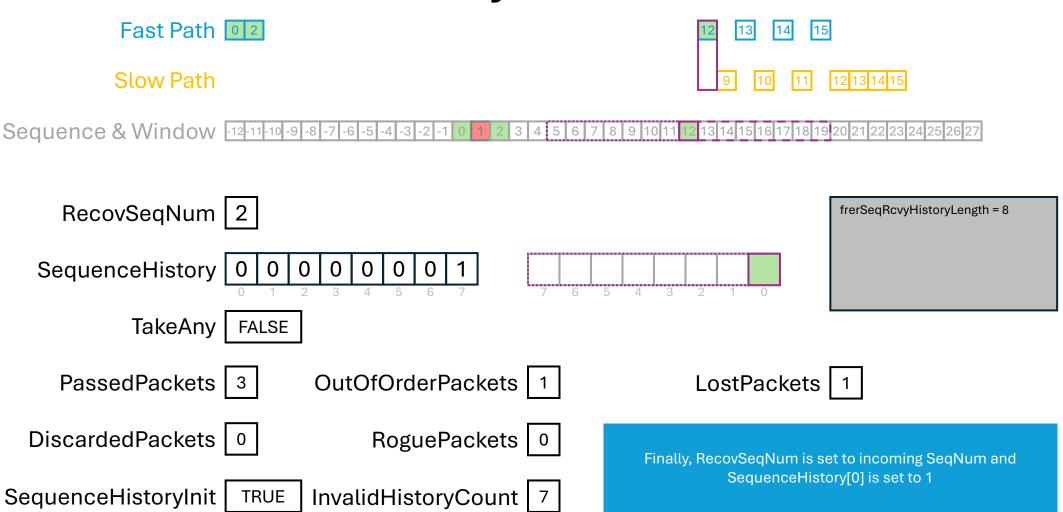
Fast Path 0 2 Slow Path Sequence & Window RecovSeqNum 2 frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength = 8 SequenceHistory TakeAny | FALSE PassedPackets 2 OutOfOrderPackets | 1 LostPackets 0 RoguePackets 0 DiscardedPackets 0 New RecovSeqNum is more than (frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength -1) ahead of the old RecovSeqNum, so SequenceHistory is shifted by frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength InvalidHistoryCount 0 SequenceHistoryInit | FALSE | according to regular rules.

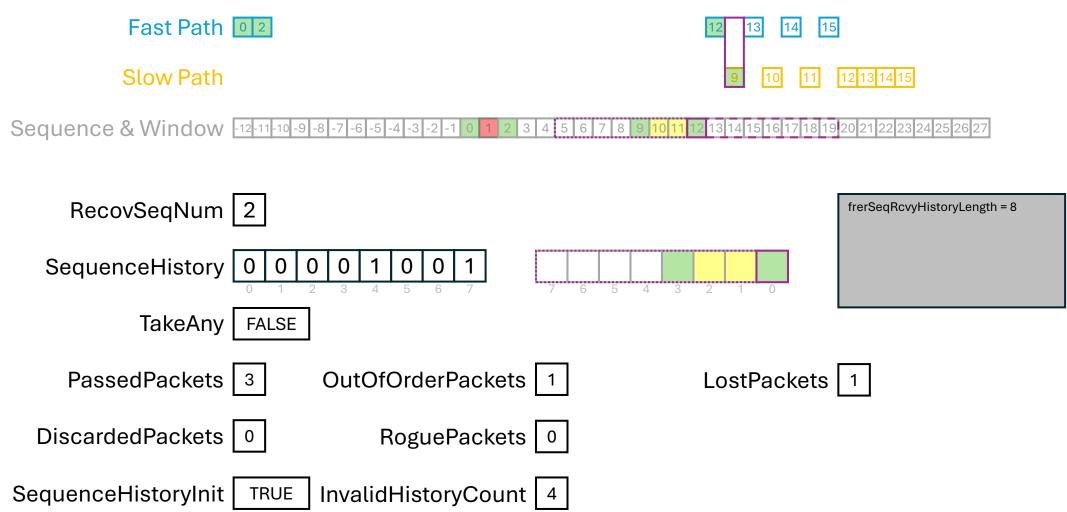
Fast Path 0 2 Slow Path Sequence & Window RecovSeqNum 2 frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength = 8 SequenceHistory TakeAny | FALSE PassedPackets 2 OutOfOrderPackets | 1 LostPackets 0 RoguePackets 0 DiscardedPackets 0 New RecovSeqNum is more than (frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength -1) ahead of the old RecovSeqNum, so SequenceHistory is shifted by frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength InvalidHistoryCount 0 SequenceHistoryInit | FALSE | according to regular rules.

Fast Path 0 2 Slow Path Sequence & Window RecovSeqNum 2 frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength = 8 SequenceHistory TakeAny | FALSE PassedPackets 2 OutOfOrderPackets | 1 LostPackets 1 RoguePackets 0 DiscardedPackets 0 New RecovSeqNum is more than (frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength -1) ahead of the old RecovSeqNum, so SequenceHistory is shifted by frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength InvalidHistoryCount 0 SequenceHistoryInit | FALSE | according to regular rules.



Fast Path 0 2 Slow Path Sequence & Window RecovSeqNum 2 frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength = 8 SequenceHistory TakeAny | FALSE PassedPackets 2 OutOfOrderPackets | 1 LostPackets 1 DiscardedPackets 0 RoguePackets 0 Once processing of old SequenceHistory is complete, SequenceHistoryInit is set to TRUE and InvalidHistoryCount is set to (frereSeqRcvyHistoryLength -1) InvalidHistoryCount 7 SequenceHistoryInit | TRUE





#### Summary

- Adding SequenceHistoryInit & InvalidHistoryCount solves the problem of Erroneous Lost Packets on reset.
- Two additional changes avoid allow use of an aggressive frerSeqRcvyResetMSec value without risking passing of duplicate packets.
  - Do not throw away SequenceHistory information until it's confirmed that the next incoming sequence number is frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength or more ahead of current RecovSeqNum
  - Once it's confirmed, process old SequenceHistory according to regular rules before advancing to new RecovSeqNum

#### Philosophy

- "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."
  - Also, thoughts that "well, that would never happen."
- Some of the scenarios "fixed" by the proposed algorithm are probably rare, but that doesn't mean they won't happen.
  - A robust algorithm will cope with rare situations.
- An aggressive frerSeqRcvyResetMSec value can be justified
  - See [2], Lisa Maile's text contribution to 802.1CBec.
- Wireless networks can have higher latency variability, making the passing of duplicate packets more likely if the current algorithm is used.
  - See [3], Janos Fakas' contribution on the issue of latency in wireless networks.

### Merci.