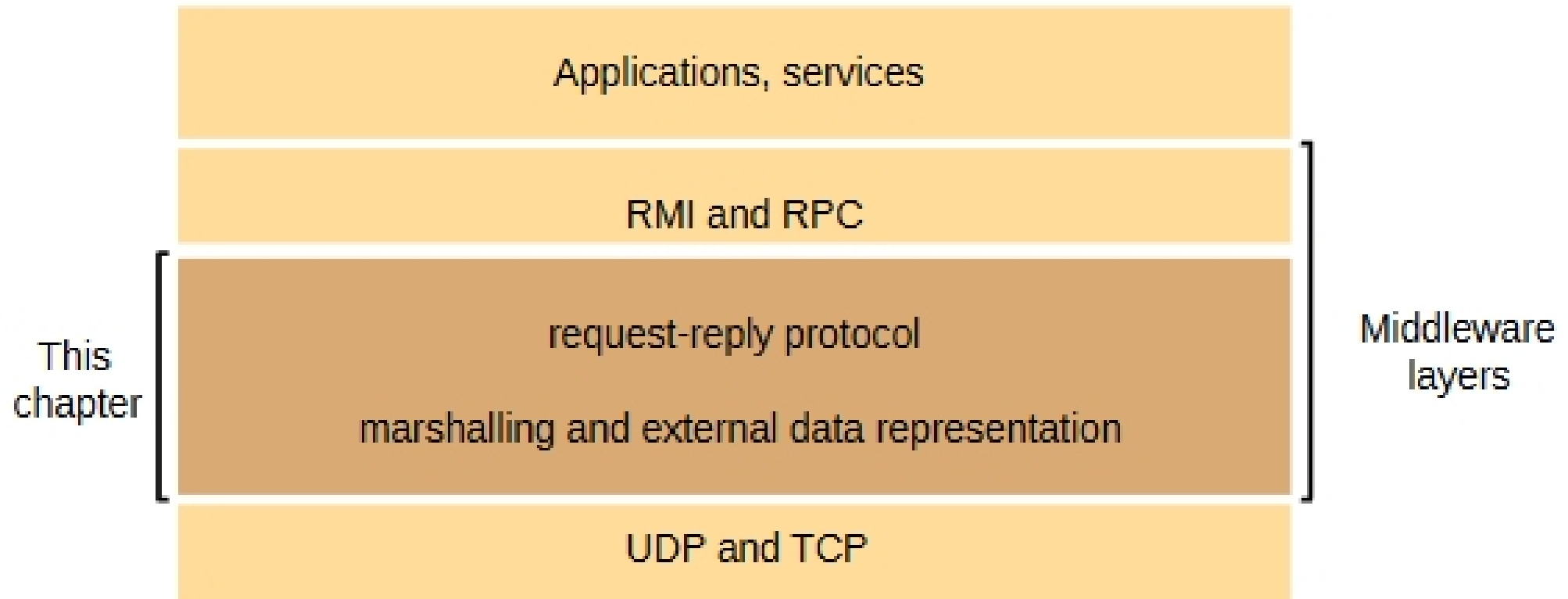


95-702 Distributed Systems

Chapter 4: Inter-process Communications



Middleware layers



Marshalling and External Data Representation

Messages consist of sequences of bytes.

Interoperability Problems

- Big-endian, little-endian byte ordering

- Floating point representation

- Character encodings (ASCII, UTF-8, Unicode, EBCDIC)

So, we must either:

- Have both sides agree on an external representation or transmit in the sender's format along with an indication of the format used. The receiver converts to its form.

