Internet Traffic Modeling and Its Implications to Network Performance and Control

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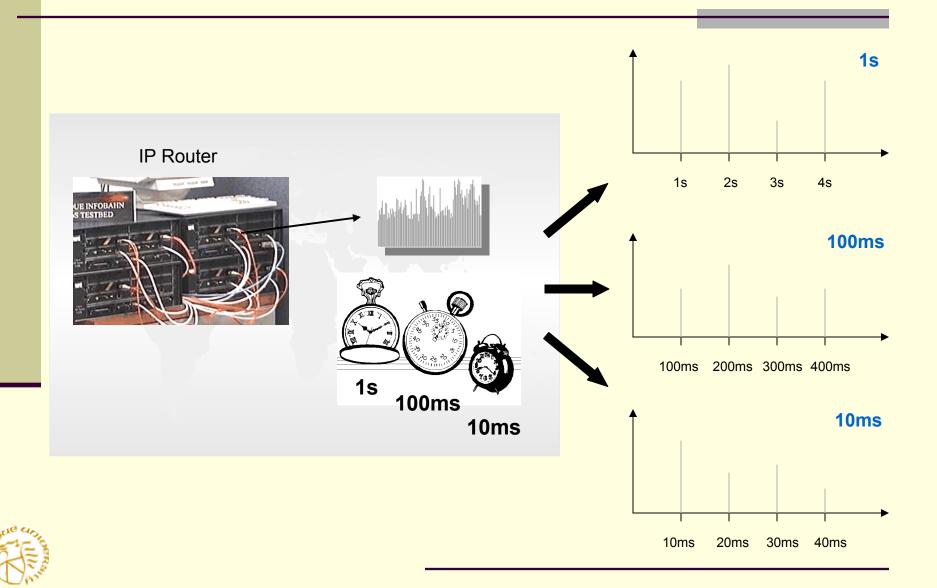
- Motivation
- Traffic modeling
- Performance evaluation
- Traffic control



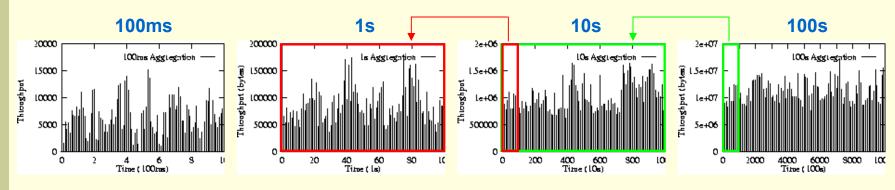
Motivation



Traffic Measurement



Traffic Burstiness

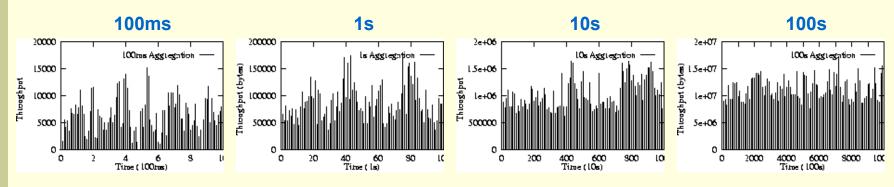


Network Traffic

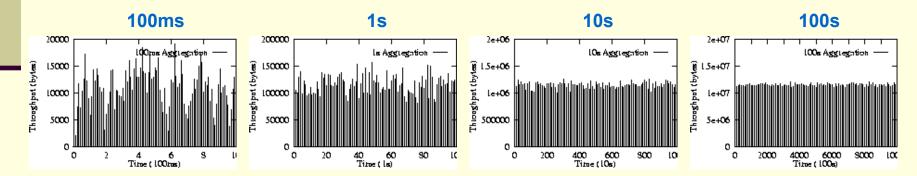
- Bursty across multiple time scales: 100ms ~ 100s
- Fractal or self-similar: the whole resembles its parts



In Contrast...



Network Traffic



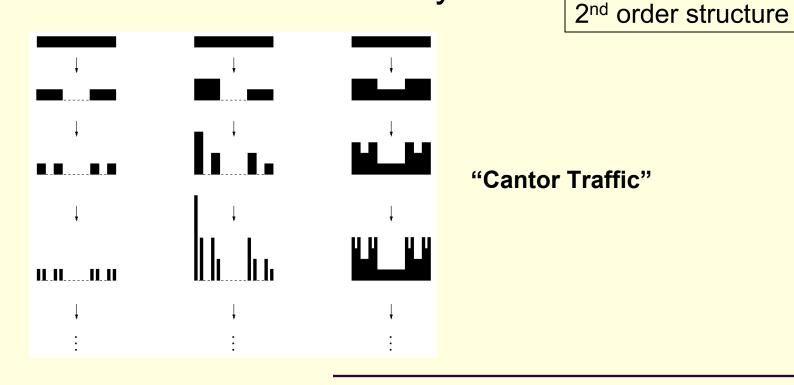
Poisson Traffic



Self-Similar Burstiness

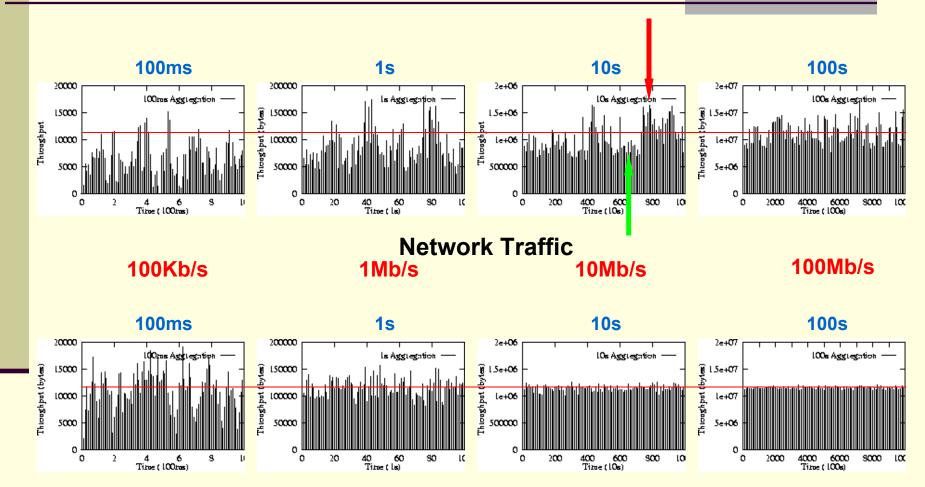
Burstiness preserved across multiple time scales

Deterministic self-similarity





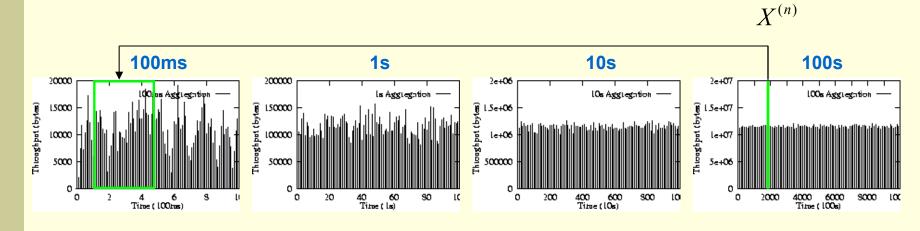
Sustained Contention



Poisson Traffic



Correlation at a Distance ...



$$X^{(n)} = (X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n) / n$$

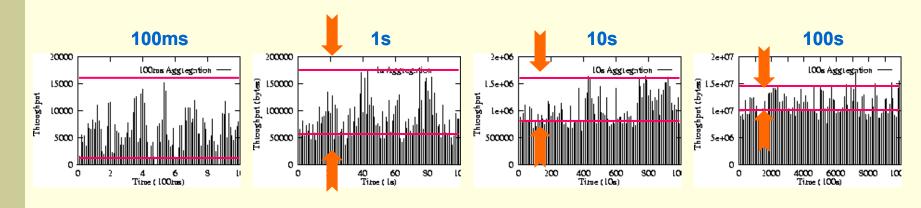
For example, if i.i.d. then

By LLN, concentrates around mean $E[X_1]$

• Sample variance $V[X^{(n)}] = \sigma^2 n^{-1}$



Presence of Strong Correlation



$$X^{(n)} = (X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n) / n$$

Slower rate of dampening for network traffic

$$V[X^{(n)}] = \sigma^2 n^{-\beta}, \qquad 0 < \beta < 1$$
$$= \sigma^2 n^{2H-2}, \qquad 1/2 < H < 1$$



Empirical Evidence

LAN traffic: Bellcore ('89-92)

Ethernet

Leland et al., SIGCOMM '93

WAN traffic: LBL + others

TCP

Paxson & Floyd, SIGCOMM '94

Many more

- Internet Traffic Archive (ita.ee.lbl.gov)
- NLANR (pma.nlanr.net/PMA)
- etc.





Internet traffic is bursty over large time scales

Has potential to affect performance

Ubiquitous empirical phenomenon

Causes, impact, and control



Traffic Modeling

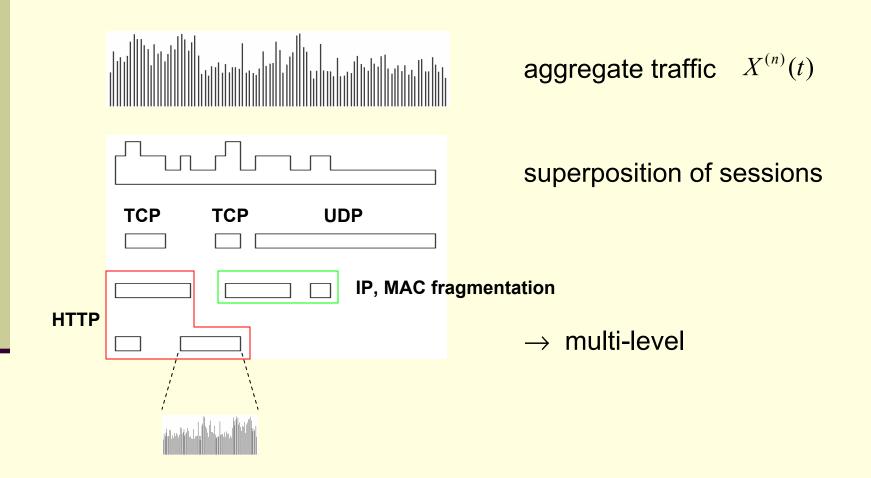


Workload Granularity

- Aggregate traffic
- Connection, flow, or session arrival
- Flow duration or lifetime
- Packet arrival within single connection



Workload Granularity





Workload Property: Session Arrival

Connection arrivals

- Poisson
- TCP measurements up to mid-'90s
- Paxson & Floyd, SIGCOMM '94

Refinement

- Weibull $\Pr[Z > x] = e^{-ax^{c}}, \quad 0 < c < 1$
- Pre- vs. post-WWW TCP interarrivals
- A. Feldmann, PW 2000



Connection duration

• Heavy-tailed $\Pr[Z > x] \approx x^{-\alpha}, \quad 0 < \alpha < 2$

 \rightarrow large x; regularly varying r.v.

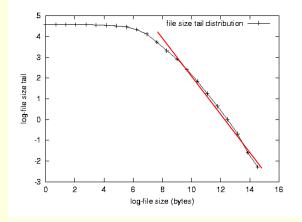
- \rightarrow infinite variance; if $0 < \alpha < 1$, unbounded mean
- LAN & WAN measurements up to mid-'90s
- Paxson & Floyd '94; Willinger et al. '95

Not restricted to network traffic

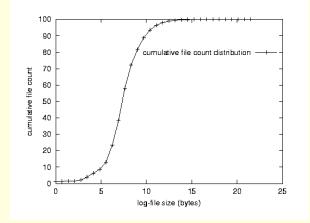


UNIX file size distribution

- File systems research '80s, Park et al., ICNP 96
- G. Irlam '93



 $\log \Pr[Z > x] = -\alpha \log x$

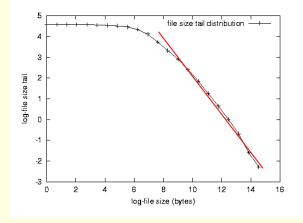


90% are less than 20KB

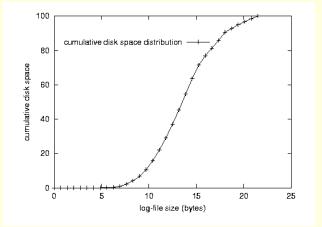


UNIX file size distribution

- File systems research '80s, Park et al., ICNP 96
- G. Irlam '93



 $\log \Pr[Z > x] = -\alpha \log x$



10% take up 90% disk space



"mice and elephants"

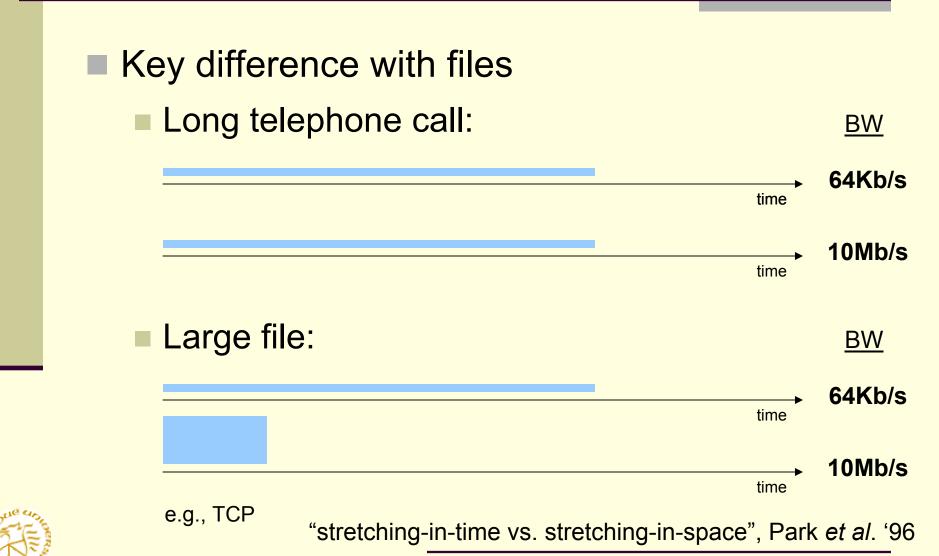
- Relevance of UNIX file system
 - Independent non-networking evidence from '80s
 - \rightarrow different research community, objectives
 - Intimate relationship with traffic burstiness
 - Bellcore measurements: '89 -'92
 - \rightarrow pre-Web, pre-MPEG video streaming
 - WWW: Crovella & Bestavros, SIGMETRICS '96
 - $\rightarrow\,$ C. Cunha; early Web circa '95



Telephony: call holding time
 Heavy-tailed; Duffy *et al.*, JSAC '94
 Lognormal; V. Bolotin, JSAC '94
 Call center design; Annals OR, '02

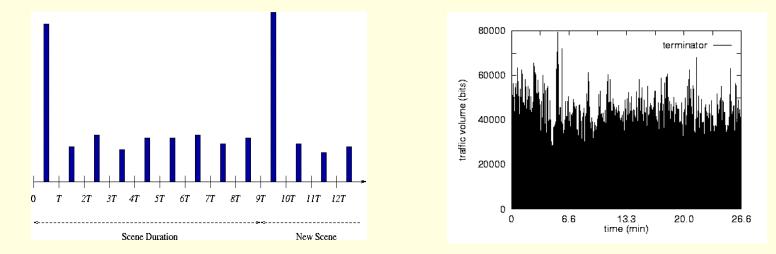
→ Past: has not mattered too much due to TDM
 … Erlang's loss formulae: avrg. service time
 → Present: different situation for VoIP
 … how much impact?
 → Unclear. Voice: low bit rate real-time CBR





- UNIX process lifetime
 - Harchol-Balter & Downey, SIGMETRICS '96
 - Process migration: dynamic load balancing

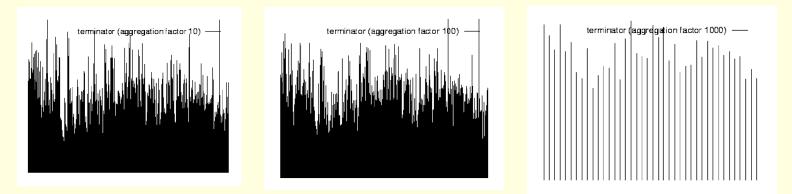
VBR Video





- UNIX process lifetime
 - Harchol-Balter & Downey, SIGMETRICS '96
 - Process migration: dynamic load balancing

VBR Video



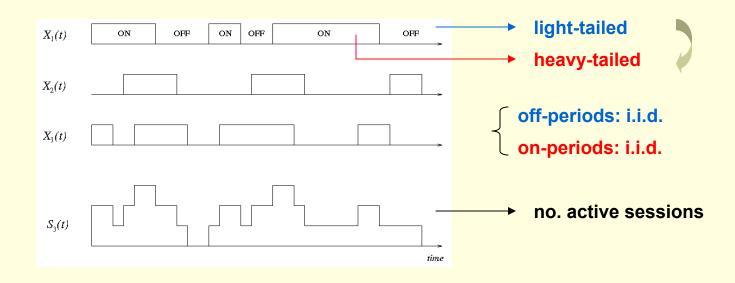


Beran *et al.*, IEEE Trans. Commun., '95 + others

Workload Property: Aggregate Traffic

On/off model

Superposition of independent on/off sources
 Willinger *et al.*, SIGCOMM '95



 \rightarrow fractional Gaussian noise



Some Definitions

H-ss → Y(t) is H-ss if for all $a > 0, t \ge 0$ $Y(t) =_{d} a^{-H}Y(at), \quad 0 < H < 1$ → H-ss and stationary increments X(t) = Y(t) - Y(t - 1)

Fractional Brownian Motion → *H-sssi* and Gaussian

Fractional Gaussian Noise
 Increment process of FBM



Some Definitions

X(t) is exactly second-order self-similar if $\gamma(k) = \sigma^2((k+1)^{2H} - 2k^{2H} + (k-1)^{2H})/2, \quad 1/2 < H < 1$ \rightarrow autocovariance Asymptotically second-order self-similar if $\gamma^{(m)}(k) \sim \sigma^2((k+1)^{2H} - 2k^{2H} + (k-1)^{2H})/2$ \rightarrow autocovariance of aggregated process Fact: $\gamma^{(m)}(k) = \gamma(k)$ for all $m \ge 1$ \rightarrow invariant w.r.t. second-order structure

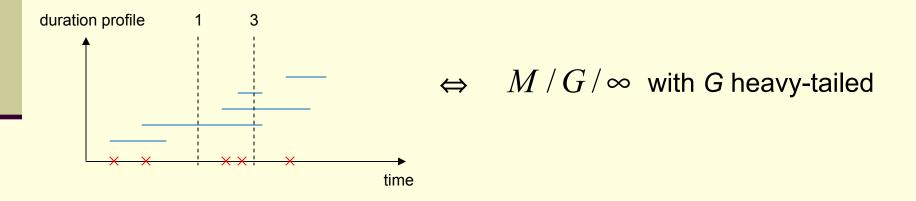


Workload Property: Aggregate Traffic

$M/G/\infty$

Poisson session arrivals
 Heavy-tailed connection duration

Likhanov et al. '95; Parulekar & Makowski '96



 \rightarrow asymptotically second-order self-similar



Workload Property: Aggregate Traffic

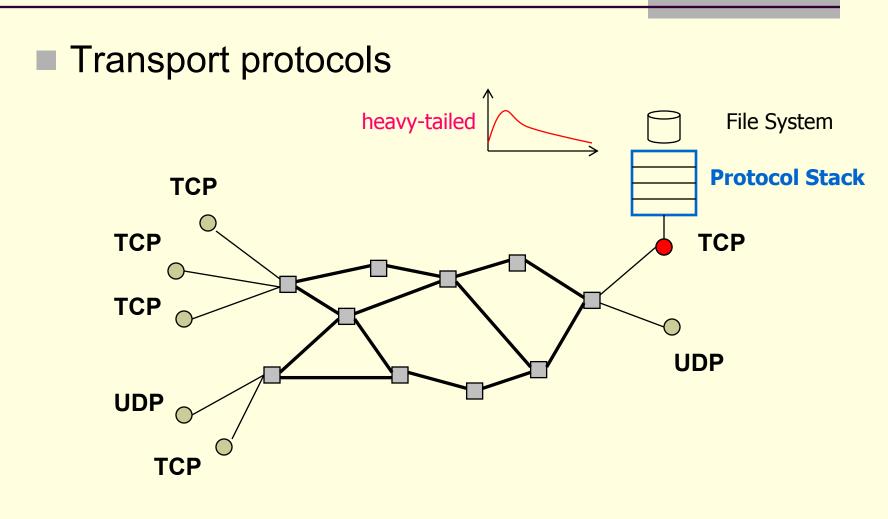
• $M/G/\infty$ and on/off model:

 $H = (3 - \alpha)/2$

- Heavy-tailedness parameter α determines Hurst parameter H
 - Physical model of network traffic

Versus black-box time series model



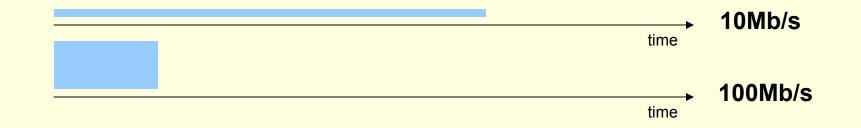




TCP preserves heavy-tailedness

 stretching-in-time vs. stretching-in-space

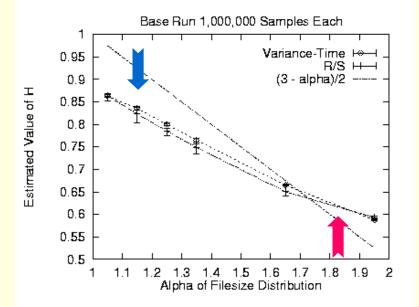
 conservation law



Trade-off: long-range correlation vs. shortrange burst



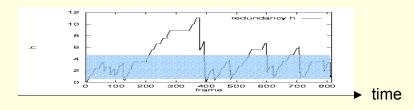
Traffic property incorporating feedback control:



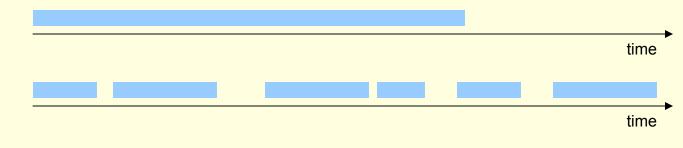
Slope is less than $H = (3 - \alpha)/2$, why?



Introduction of non-uniformity



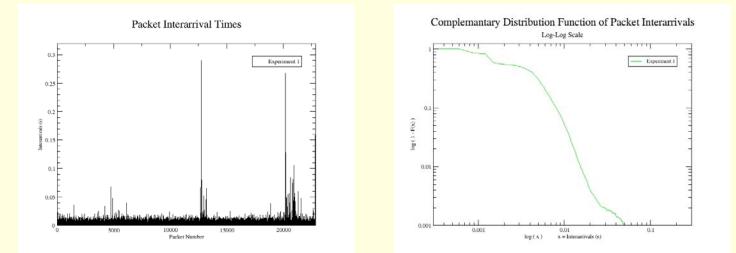
Introduction of holes



 \rightarrow lengthening and fragmentation



Silence periods can be lengthy
 TCP's exponential back-off
 Like on/off model with heavy-tailed off periods?

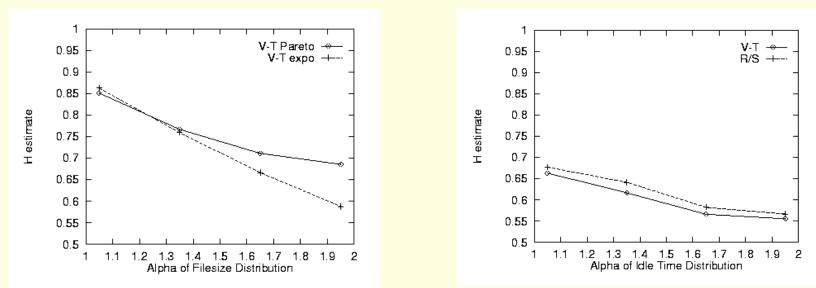




And chaotic dynamics? Veres et al., '00

Impact is limited:

on: Pareto / off: Expo; on: Pareto / off: Pareto



 \rightarrow can inject correlation; but magnitude secondary

on: Expo / off: Pareto



Influence of Topology

Heavy-tailed Internet connectivity

- AS graph: Faloutsos et al., SIGCOMM '99
- Web graph: Barabasi's group at Notre Dame Univ.

 $\Pr[\deg(u) > x] \approx x^{-\delta}$

 \rightarrow contrast with random graphs: exponential tail



Influence of Topology

Heavy-tailed Internet connectivity

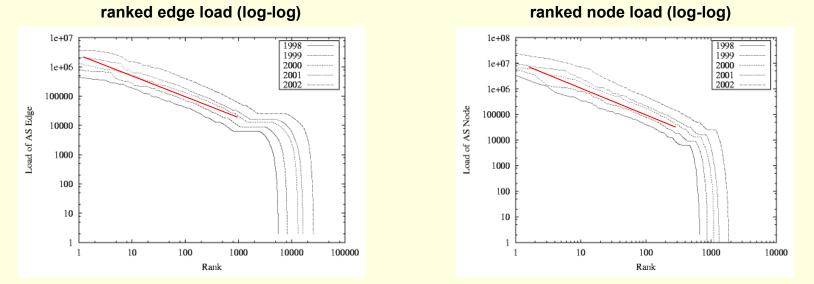
- AS graph: Faloutsos et al., SIGCOMM '99
- Web graph: Barabasi's group at Notre Dame Univ.

degree = 601 $Pr[deg(u) > x] \approx x^{-\delta}$ random-like interval in iterval in

Influence of Topology

Connection with network traffic

Load of link e: no. of paths traversing through e
 Pr[#(e) > x] is heavy-tailed



 \rightarrow high variability in degree of traffic multiplexing



Influence of Topology

Coefficient of variation

- A form of multiplexing gain
- Dampening reduces impact of time correlation
- W. Cleveland *et al.*, 2000

Non-uniform bandwidth distribution

- R. Riedi *et al*., 2001
- Backbone traffic: spikey "alpha" + Gaussian
- Multifractal?



 \rightarrow topology can influence observed traffic



Poisson arrivals, heavy-tailed duration

Refined workload models

Structural cause of self-similar burstiness: heavy-tailed file sizes

Protocol stack and other effects are secondary



Performance Evaluation



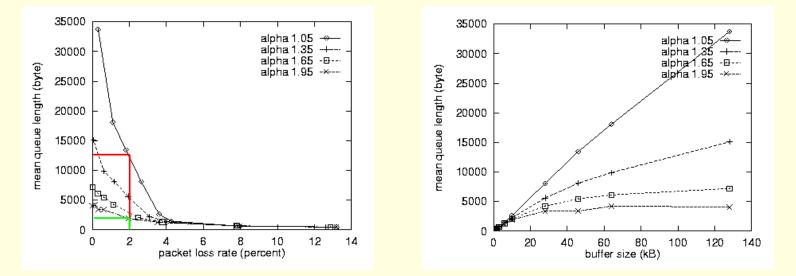
Performance Evaluation: Queueing

- Fundamental result:
 - \rightarrow subexponential queue length distribution
- FGN: Weibull
 I. Norros, Queueing Systems, '94
- M/G/∞: polynomial
 Likhanov *et al.*, INFOCOM '95



Performance Evaluation: Queueing

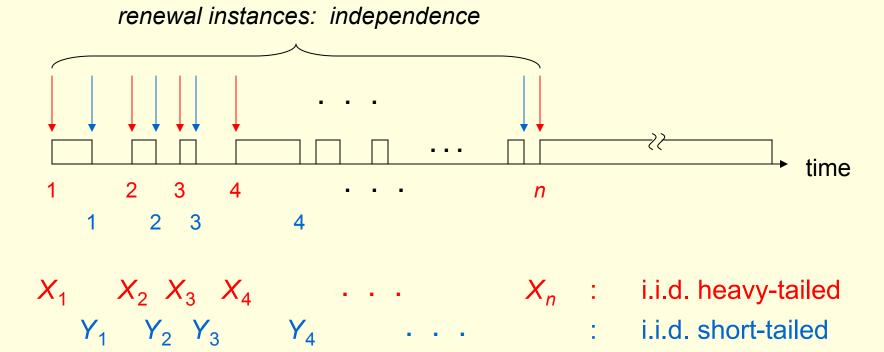
Limited effectiveness of buffering:



- Increase buffer capacity
- QoS trade-off: excessive delay penalty
 - \rightarrow large bandwidth/small buffer policy



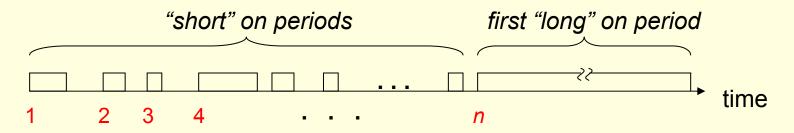
Consider single on/off process:





Want to know: Pr[Q > b]?
In equilibrium
For large buffer level b

Idea:



 \rightarrow i.e., "long" such that $X_n > b$



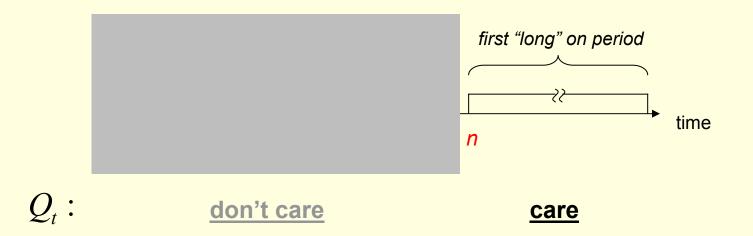
- More precisely: $X_n > (1-\mu)^{-1}b = b'$
 - \rightarrow μ : service rate

Since: during "long" on-period X_n \rightarrow queue build-up is at least (1- μ) b' \rightarrow i.e., event $Q_t > b$ occurs

In the following ignore b, b' distinction



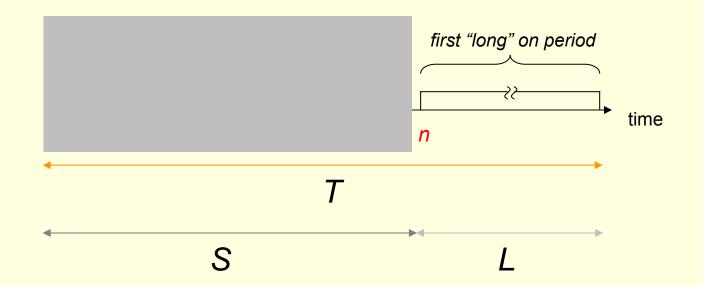
Ignore queue dynamics before long on-period



Hence, lower bound on Pr[Q > b]



Need to estimate total time T = S + L



If ergodic, estimate $\Pr[Q > b] \ge \frac{(1-\mu)E[L]}{E[S]+E[L]}$



- Assume exponential off period, Pareto on-period
 Exponential \u03c6_{off}
 - Pareto: shape parameter α , location parameter k

$$\rightarrow$$
 pdf $f(x) = \alpha k^{\alpha} x^{-(1+\alpha)}$

Assume stability

For large *t* and *b*: $E[S] \approx (n-1) \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_{off}} + \frac{k\alpha}{\alpha - 1} \right)$



To estimate expected L, note

- L is conditioned on n such that L > b
- $\bullet E[L] = E[X_n \mid X_n > b]$

Easy to check

$$E[X_n | X_n > b] = \int_0^\infty (x+b) \frac{\alpha b^{\alpha}}{(x+b)^{\alpha+1}} dx = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha-1} b$$

conditional probability



Almost done.

- Note: since $\Pr[X_n > b] = (b/k)^{-\alpha}$ $\therefore n \approx (b/k)^{\alpha}$
- Combining everything $Pr[Q > b] = \Omega(b^{1-\alpha})$

 \rightarrow heavy-tailed on time leads to heavy-tailed queue tail





- Demonstrates connection between heavy-tailed workload and heavy-tailed queue length
- Similar ideas apply to M/G/∞ and more general on/off input models
- Sketch of key ideas; not a proof
- Applies to upper bound: "short" & "long" picture

 $\Pr[X_1 + \dots + X_n > b] = \Pr[\max\{X_1, \dots, X_n\} > b]$

 \rightarrow key property of heavy-tailed, i.e., regularly varying r.v.



Impact of SRD vs. LRD Traffic

Relative importance of short-range dependent vs. long-range dependent model

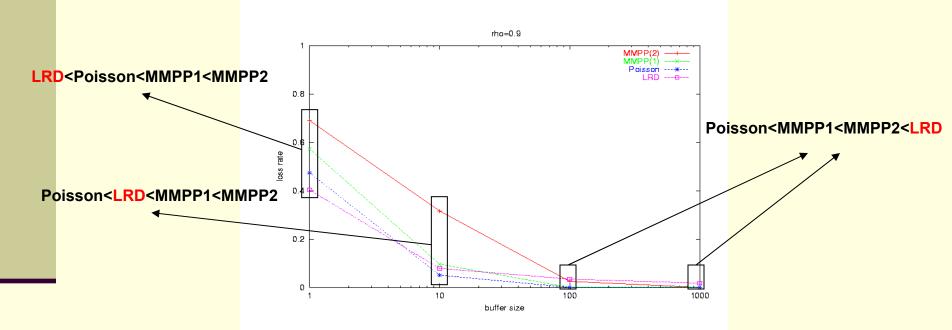
- Debate: LRD needed for traffic modeling and performance evaluation?
 - SRD models can effectively capture input traffic
 - Well-understood performance evaluation



Finite time scale and resource dimensioning

Impact of SRD vs. LRD Traffic

SRD vs. LRD packet loss:



Depends on details of resource configuration



SRD vs. LRD debate: no uniform answer

Impact of SRD vs. LRD Traffic

Main differences:

- Physical vs. "black box" time series modeling
 - \rightarrow pros & cons
 - \rightarrow depends on objectives
- Physical models are useful for closed-loop traffic control evaluation
 - \rightarrow time series models: open-loop

For queueing application: little essential difference



Focus has been on first-order performance measure

■ Relevance of second-order measure
 ■ Real-time multimedia data

 → small loss rate: insufficient

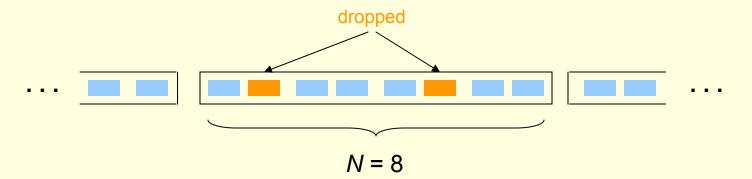
 ■ Packet-level forward error correction

 → correlated losses: the enemy



Block loss

- Network traffic X(t): sequence of packets
- Block size N



Block loss process B(n)

 \rightarrow no. of losses in *n*'th block



Block loss distribution in steady state

→ B ≡ B(∞): r.v. with B ∈ {0, 1, ..., N}

Normalized block loss distribution

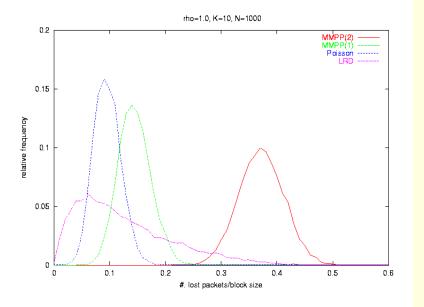
→ B / N: r.v. with values in [0,1]

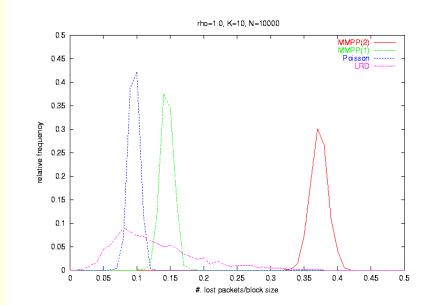
Assuming FEC satisfying *k*-out-of-*N* property is used

 \rightarrow the heavier the tail $\Pr[B > x]$, x > k, the less effective FEC is



Block loss behavior

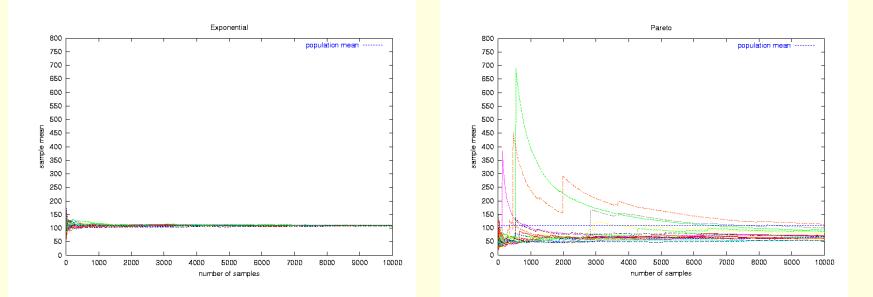




Loss rate: LRD < Poisson < MMPP1 < MMPP2
 Block loss variance: LRD dominant



Sampling from heavy-tailed distribution → slow convergence of sample mean to population mean

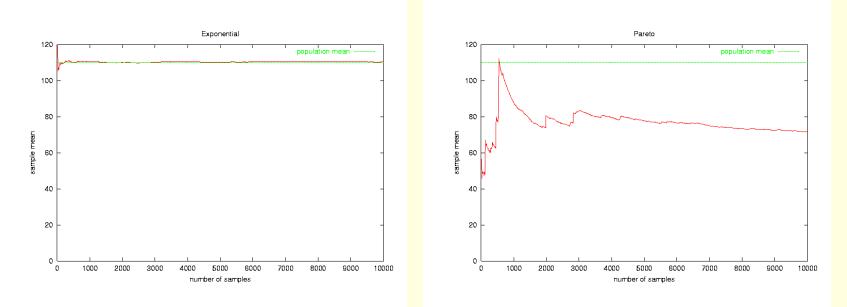




 \rightarrow running mean of 20 sample paths

Sampling from heavy-tailed distribution

→ slow convergence of sample mean to population mean





 \rightarrow average of 20 sample path running means

Approximating the population mean:

Pareto: pdf $f(x) = \alpha k^{\alpha} x^{-(1+\alpha)}$

Shape parameter α , location parameter k

Population mean of Pareto r.v. Z

$$E[Z] = \int_{k}^{y} xf(x)dx + \int_{y}^{\infty} xf(x)dx = \frac{k\alpha}{\alpha - 1}$$

$$A(y) \qquad B(y)$$



• Want *y* such that $B(y)/E[Z] < \varepsilon$

$$\therefore \quad y > y_0 = k \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha - 1}}$$

Thus $\Pr[Z > y_0] = \varepsilon^{\frac{\alpha}{\alpha-1}}$, and

$$\therefore \text{ no. of samples } \approx \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{\alpha-1}}$$



For truncated sampling: $Z_i > y_0 \Rightarrow Z_i = 0$

Sample mean within accuracy ε:

$$\frac{\overline{Z}_n}{E[Z]} \ge 1 - \varepsilon$$

Likely occurrence for

$$n \ge const \times \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{\alpha-1}}$$



For example:

•
$$\alpha = 1.2$$
; $H = (3 - \alpha) / 2 = 0.9$

€ = 0.01

sample size greater than 10 billion

Practically:

- Brute-force is problematic
- Speed-up methods required
- Rare event simulation





Heavy-tailed workload and queue tail

Impact of LRD on loss performance is mixed

Impact of LRD on second-order performance measure ("jitter") is more clear cut

Convergence and simulation pose significant challenges



Traffic Control



Workload-Sensitive Traffic Control

Self-similar burstiness

■ Bad news: queueing → heavy-tailed queue tail



■ Good news: predictability → facilitates traffic control





Workload-Sensitive Traffic Control

Approach:

 \rightarrow exploit predictability in the workload

■ Simple: heavy-tailed life time distribution → optimistic congestion control

More complex: large time scale traffic correlation

 \rightarrow predictive control



Heavy-Tailed Life Time

Heavy-tailedness implies predictability

- Assume Z is heavy-tailed (e.g., Pareto)
- Z represents life time or connection duration

• Easy to check: $\Pr[Z > \tau + h | Z > \tau] = \left(\frac{\tau}{\tau + h}\right)^{\alpha}$

 \rightarrow as τ increases $\Pr[Z > \tau + h | Z > \tau] \rightarrow 1$

 \rightarrow conditioning on past helps

... compare with exponential r.v. where $e^{-\lambda}$



Heavy-Tailed Life Time

Can make prediction error arbitrarily small by conditioning on longer past

Expected conditional life time duration $E[Z | Z > b] = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha - 1}b$

For example: if $\alpha = 1.2$, E[Z | Z > b] = 6b; if $\alpha = 1.1$, expected future lifetime 11b

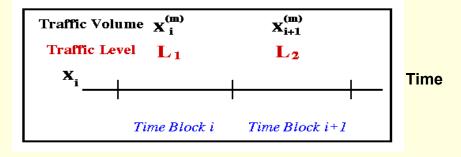


Heavy-Tailed Life Time

- Applications:
 - Dynamic load balancing; Harchol-Balter & Downey '96
 - Routing stability; Shaikh et al. '99
 - Task scheduling; Crovella *et al.*, '99
 - Optimistic congestion control; Park et al., '02



Condition future on past traffic level



Conditional expectation estimator $E[X_{i+1}^{(n)} | X_i^{(n)} = x]$

Quantized estimator $E[L_{i+1}^{(n)} | L_i^{(n)} = c], c = 1, \dots, c_{max}$

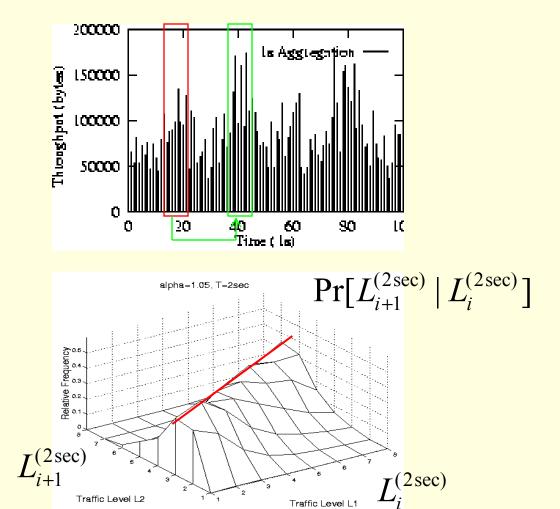


Example:LRD traffic

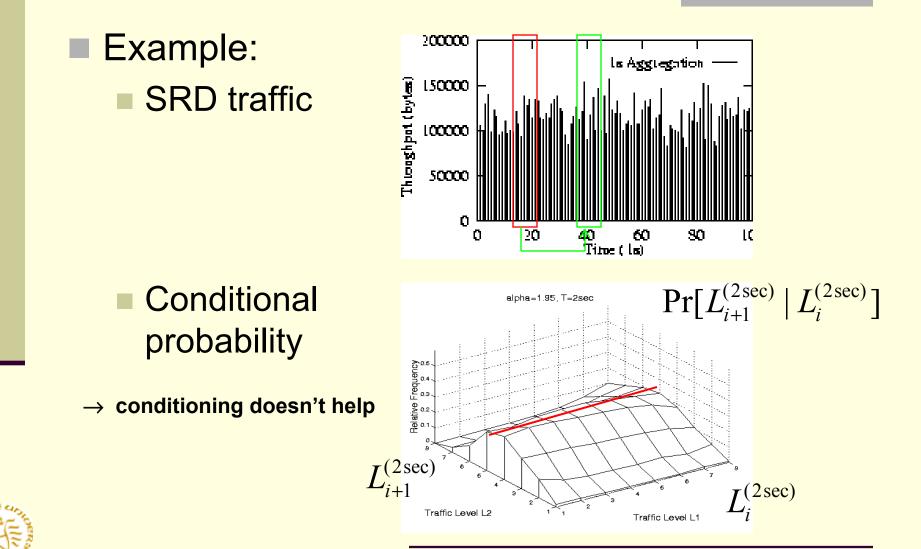
Conditional

probability

 \rightarrow conditioning helps

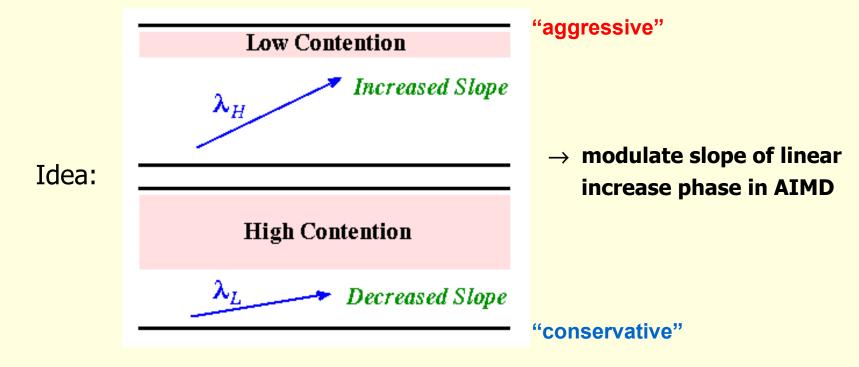






Selective Slope Control

Congestion control: TCP and rate-based





Selective Slope Control

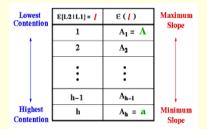
Linear increase phase of AIMD:

$$cwnd \leftarrow cwnd + \frac{1}{cwnd}$$
 \longrightarrow $cwnd \leftarrow cwnd + \frac{A}{cwnd}$

A is a control variable:

$$A = A(E[L_{i+1}^{(n)} | L_i^{(n)} = c])$$

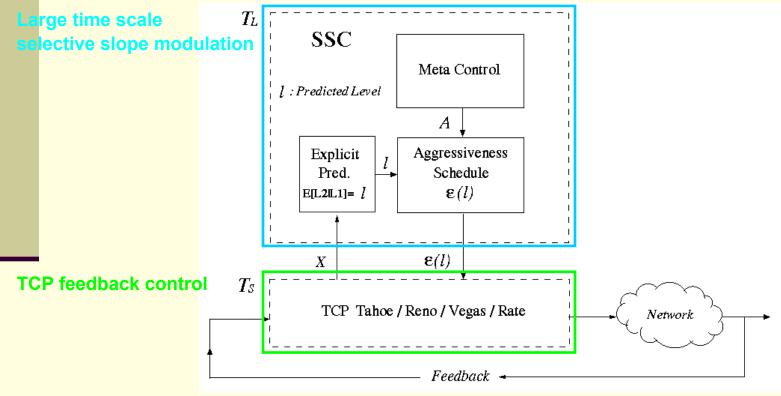
Selective aggressiveness scheduleMonotone





Structure of TCP-MT: Modularity

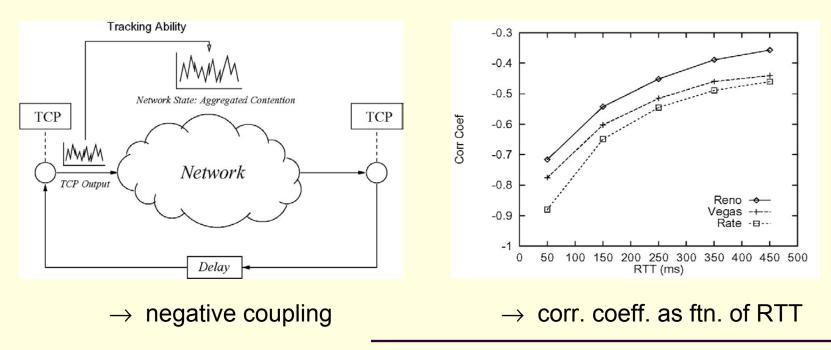
Multiple time scale TCP: TCP-MT





Available Bandwidth Estimation

- Passive probing:
 - Use output behavior of TCP sender
 - Coupled with background traffic
 - \rightarrow tracking ability

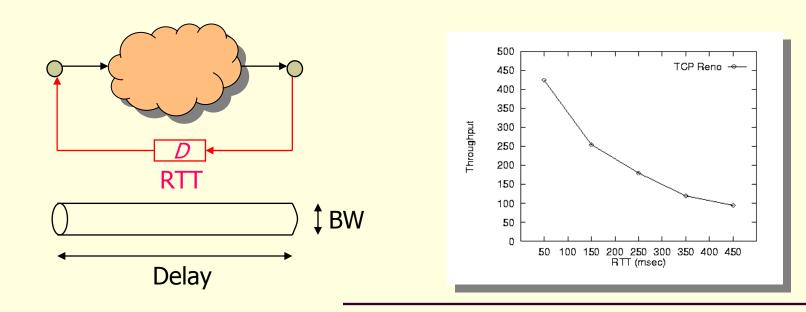




Application

Mitigate reactive cost of feedback control:

- \rightarrow large delay-bandwidth product
- Broadband WANs
- Satellite networks

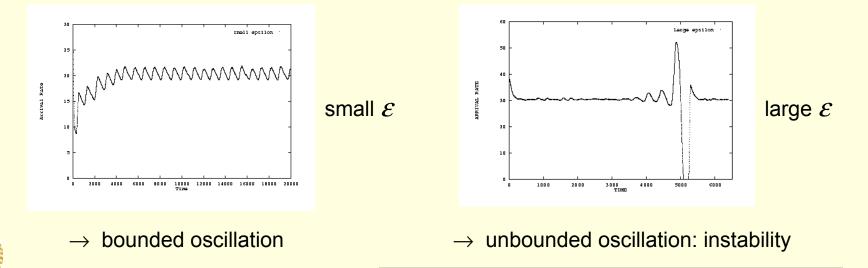


Application

Delayed feedback

- Outdated information & control action
- Stability condition limitation
 - \rightarrow delay or functional differential equation

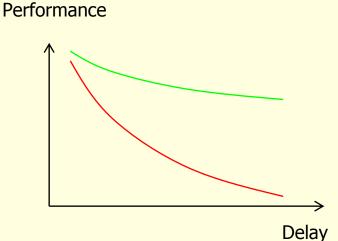
$$0 < \mathcal{E} \cdot D < \infty$$



Application

Large time scale predictability

- Time scale >> RTT
- Bridge timeliness barrier

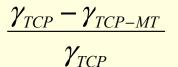


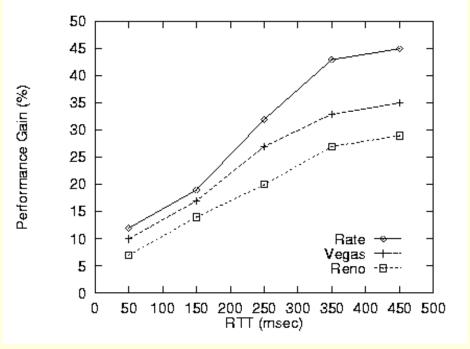
LRD time scale » RTT



Performance Gain

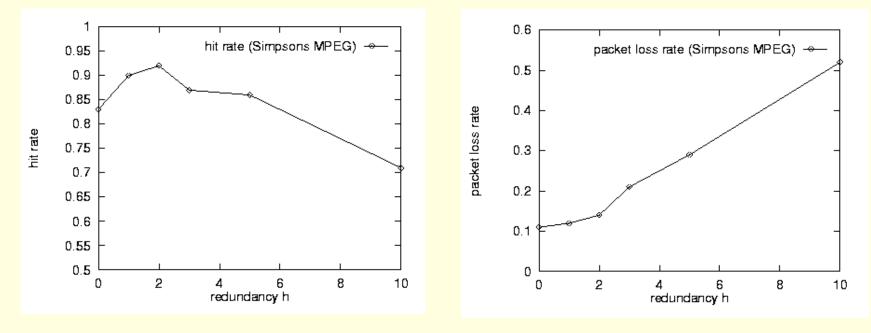
TCP-MT: Performance gain as function of RTT







Multiple time scale redundancy control → packet-level FEC: real-time multimedia traffic





 \rightarrow static FEC

AFEC: Adaptive FEC

Dynamically adjust redundancy:

- As a function of network state
- To achieve target QoS
- Hit rate:
 - Fraction of timely decoded frames
 - Loss or delay

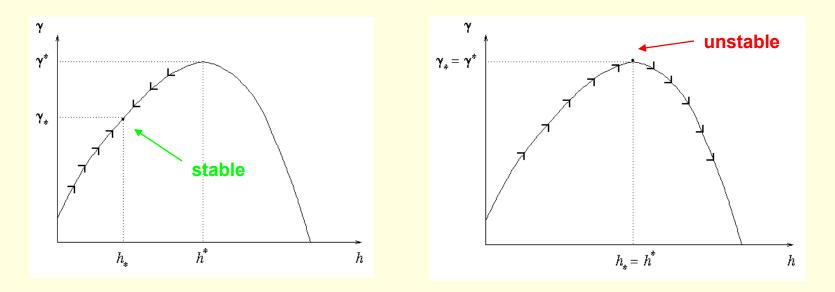


AFEC: Adaptive FEC

Optimal feedback control problem:

- User-specified QoS
- Caveat: too much redundancy counter-productive

 \rightarrow "shoot oneself in the foot"





AFEC: Adaptive FEC

Intrinsic problem of AFEC:

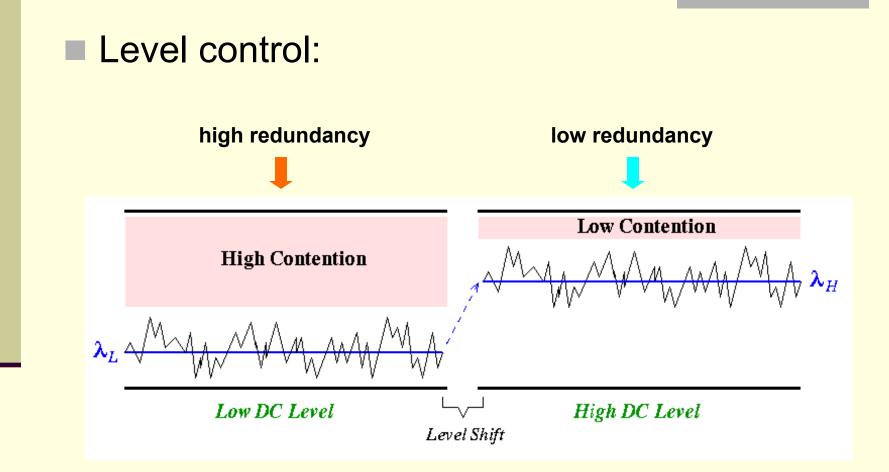
Maximum hit rate operating point

 \rightarrow unstable: exponential back-off

- Efficiency vs. QoS trade-off
 - \rightarrow reduce redundancy when network state good
 - \rightarrow pay QoS penalty when network state turns bad
 - \rightarrow sensitive to transients



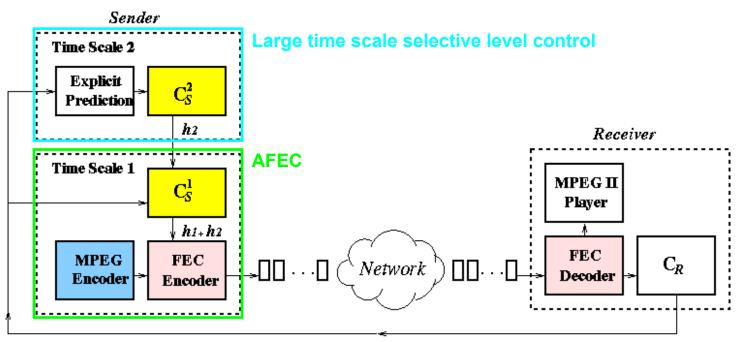
Selective Level Control





Structure of AFEC-MT: Modularity

Multiple time scale AFEC: AFEC-MT



Feedback (Implicit Prediction)



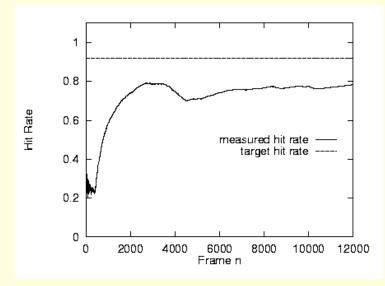
Performance Evaluation: Hit Rate

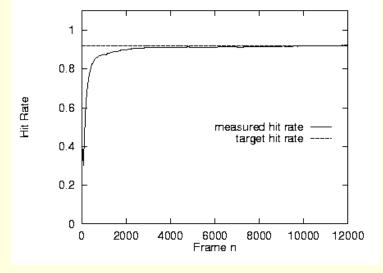


and the second

Performance Evaluation: Hit Rate

Long-term hit rate trace:





 \rightarrow AFEC

 \rightarrow AFEC-MT



Some References

- Tuan & Park, Performance Evaluation '99
 - \rightarrow rate-based congestion control
- Tuan & Park, INFOCOM '00
 - \rightarrow AFEC-MT
- Park & Tuan, ACM TOMACS '00
 - \rightarrow TCP-MT
- Östring et al., IEEE Trans. Commun. '01
 - \rightarrow router assisted rate-based





- Workload can be exploited for traffic control
- Heavy-tailed life time: simple
- LRD traffic: more complex
- Significant performance gain possible



Delay-bandwidth product problem mitigation

Open Problems



... even in the parking lot



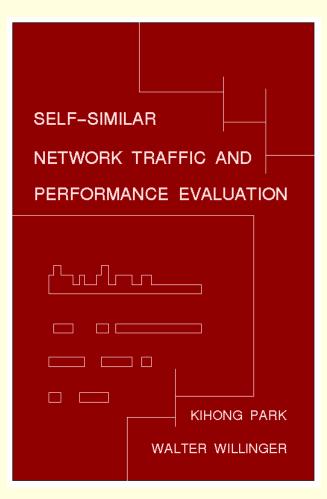
Challenges and Open Problems

- Relevance of second-order performance measures
- Rare event simulation with heavy-tailed workload
- Workload-sensitive traffic control

Finite resource dimensioning



Book Plug



- Wiley-Interscience 2000
- Collection of chapter contributions
- Landscape circa '00
- Additional references

