Mining Network Traffic Data

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July 13, 2016

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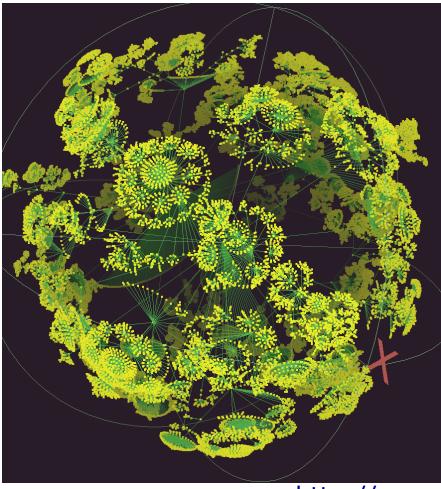
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Roadmap

- Introduction
- Traffic collection, characterization, and modeling
- Case studies:
 - telecommunication network: BCNET
 - public safety wireless network: E-Comm
 - satellite network: ChinaSat
 - packet data networks: Internet
- Conclusions

Ihr: 535,102 nodes and 601,678 links



http://www.caida.org/home/

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Measurements of network traffic

- Traffic measurements:
 - help understand characteristics of network traffic
 - are basis for developing traffic models
 - are used to evaluate performance of protocols and applications
- Traffic analysis:
 - provides information about the network usage
 - helps understand the behavior of network users
- Traffic prediction:
 - important to assess future network capacity requirements
 - used to plan future network developments

Traffic modeling: self-similarity

- Self-similarity implies a "fractal-like" behavior
- Data on various time scales have similar patterns
- Implications:
 - no natural length of bursts
 - bursts exist across many time scales
 - traffic does not become "smoother" when aggregated (unlike Poisson traffic)
 - it is unlike Poisson traffic used to model traffic in telephone networks
 - as the traffic volume increases, the traffic becomes more bursty and more self-similar

Self-similarity

- Self-similarity implies a "fractal-like" behavior: data on various time scales have similar patterns
- A wide-sense stationary process X(n) is called (exactly second order) self-similar if its autocorrelation function satisfies:
 - $r^{(m)}(k) = r(k), k \ge 0, m = 1, 2, ..., n,$

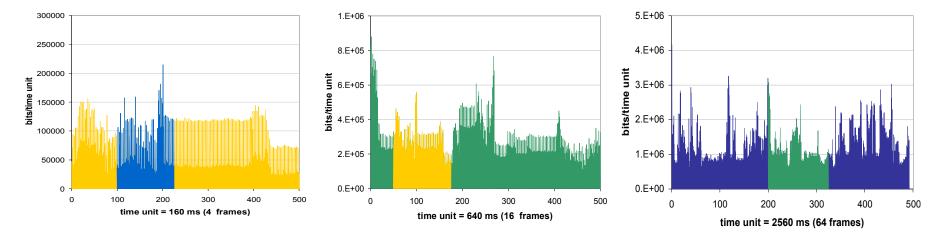
where m is the level of aggregation

Self-similar processes

- Properties:
 - slowly decaying variance
 - long-range dependence
 - Hurst parameter (H)
- Processes with only short-range dependence (Poisson):
 H = 0.5
- Self-similar processes: 0.5 < H < 1.0
- As the traffic volume increases, the traffic becomes more bursty, more self-similar, and the Hurst parameter increases

Self-similarity: influence of time-scales

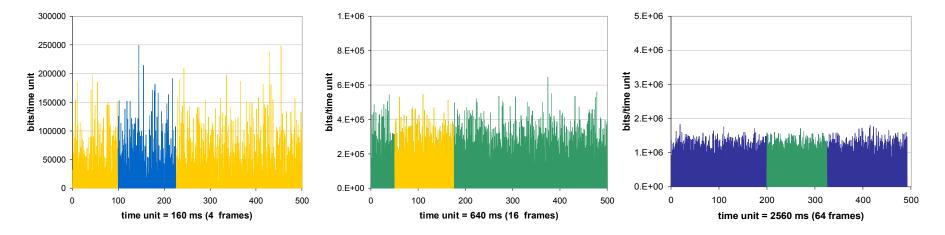
Genuine MPEG traffic trace



W. E. Leland, M. S. Taqqu, W. Willinger, and D. V. Wilson, "On the self-similar nature of Ethernet traffic (extended version)," *IEEE/ACM Trans. Netw.*, vol. 2, no 1, pp. 1-15, Feb. 1994.

Self-similarity: influence of time-scales

Synthetically generated Poisson model



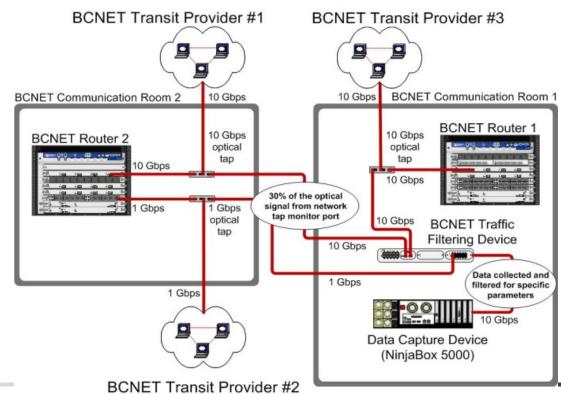
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Case study: BCNET packet capture

 BCNET is the hub of advanced telecommunication network in British Columbia, Canada that offers services to research and higher education institutions

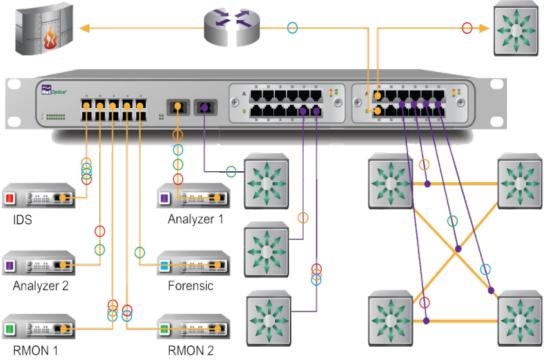


BCNET packet capture

- BCNET transits have two service providers with 10 Gbps network links and one service provider with 1 Gbps network link
- Optical Test Access Point (TAP) splits the signal into two distinct paths
- The signal splitting ratio from TAP may be modified
- The Data Capture Device (NinjaBox 5000) collects the real-time data (packets) from the traffic filtering device

Net Optics Director 7400: application diagram

- Net Optics Director 7400 is used for BCNET traffic filtering
- It directs traffic to monitoring tools such as NinjaBox 5000 and FlowMon



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Network monitoring and analyzing: Endace card

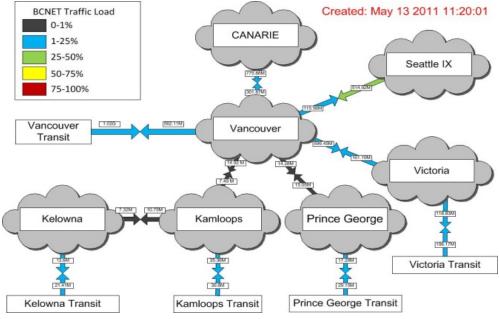
- Endace Data Acquisition and Generation (DAG) 5.2X card resides inside the NinjaBox 5000
- It captures and transmits traffic and has time-stamping capability
- DAG 5.2X is a single port Peripheral Component Interconnect Extended (PCIx) card and is capable of capturing on average Ethernet traffic of 6.9 Gbps

XFP interface with pluggable transceivers

RJ45 socket for time synchronization FPGA with fan fitted

Real time network usage by BCNET members

- The BCNET network is high-speed fiber optic research network
- British Columbia's network extends to 1,400 km and connects Kamloops, Kelowna, Prince George, Vancouver, and Victoria



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Case study: E-Comm network

- E-Comm network: an operational trunked radio system serving as a regional emergency communication system
- The E-Comm network is capable of both voice and data transmissions
- Voice traffic accounts for over 99% of network traffic
- A group call is a standard call made in a trunked radio system
- More than 85% of calls are group calls
- A distributed event log database records every event occurring in the network: call establishment, channel assignment, call drop, and emergency call

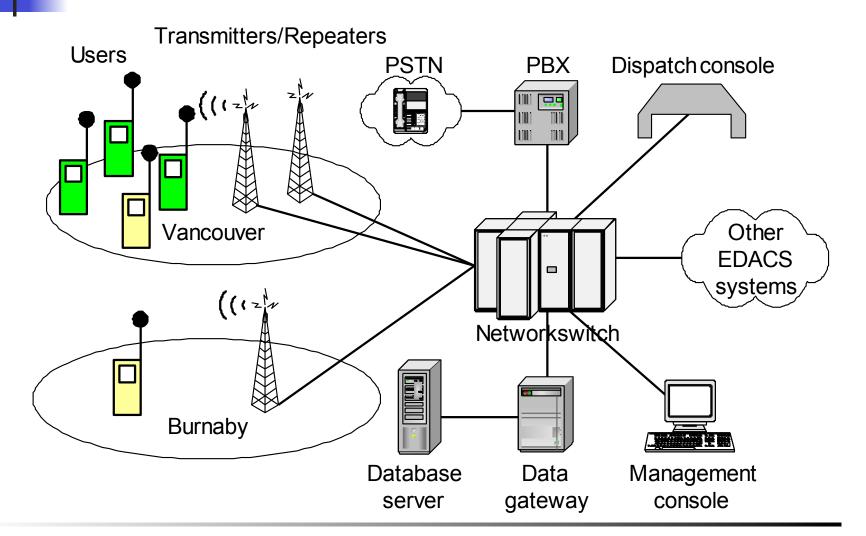
E-Comm network

E-Comm's Wide-Area Radio System



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E-Comm network architecture



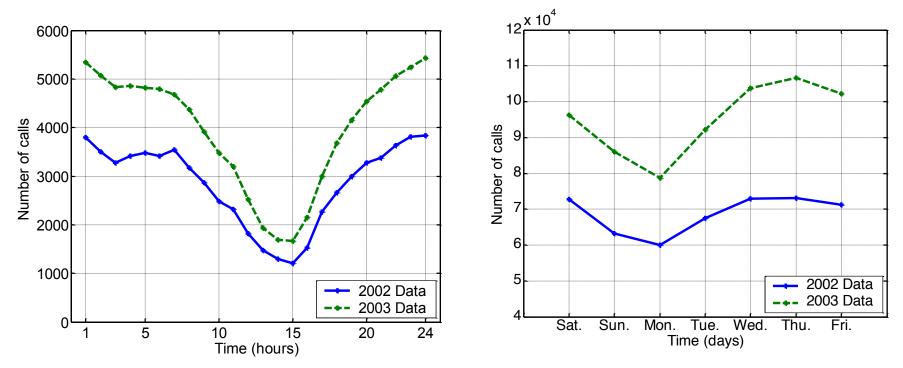
Traffic data

- 2001 data set:
 - 2 days of traffic data
 - 2001-11-1 to 2001-11-02 (110,348 calls)
- 2002 data set:
 - 28 days of continuous traffic data
 - 2002-02-10 to 2002-03-09 (1,916,943 calls)
- 2003 data set:
 - 92 days of continuous traffic data
 - 2003-03-01 to 2003-05-31 (8,756,930 calls)

Observations

- Presence of daily cycles:
 - minimum utilization: ~ 2 PM
 - maximum utilization: 9 PM to 3 AM
- 2002 sample data:
 - cell 5 is the busiest
 - others seldom reach their capacities
- 2003 sample data:
 - several cells (2, 4, 7, and 9) have all channels occupied during busy hours

Call arrival rate in 2002 and 2003: cyclic patterns

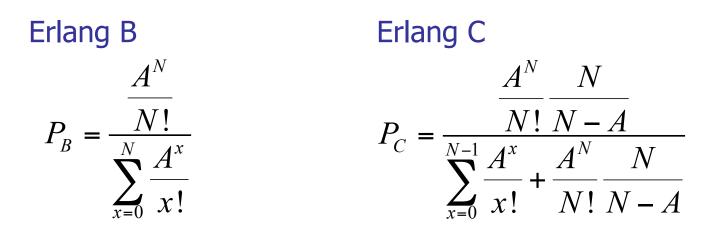


- the busiest hour is around midnight
- the busiest day is Thursday
- useful for scheduling periodical maintenance tasks

Modeling and characterization of traffic

- We analyzed voice traffic from a public safety wireless network in Vancouver, BC
 - call inter-arrival and call holding times during five busy hours from each year (2001, 2002, 2003)
- Statistical distribution and the autocorrelation function of the traffic traces:
 - Kolmogorov-Smirnov goodness-of-fit test
 - autocorrelation functions
 - wavelet-based estimation of the Hurst parameter
- B. Vujičić, N. Cackov, S. Vujičić, and Lj. Trajković, "Modeling and characterization of traffic in public safety wireless networks," in *Proc. SPECTS 2005*, Philadelphia, PA, July 2005, pp. 214–223.

Erlang traffic models



- P_B : probability of rejecting a call
- P_c : probability of delaying a call
- N: number of channels/lines
- A: total traffic volume

Hourly traces

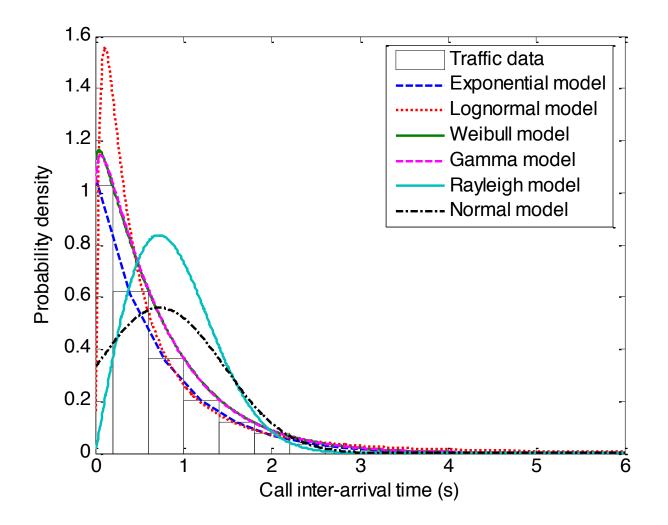
 Call holding and call inter-arrival times from the five busiest hours in each dataset (2001, 2002, and 2003)

2001		2002		2003		
Day/hour	No.	Day/hour	No.	Day/hour	No.	
02.11.2001 15:00–16:00	3,718	01.03.2002 04:00–05:00	4,436	26.03.2003 22:00–23:00	4,919	
01.11.2001 00:00-01:00	3,707	01.03.2002 22:00–23:00	4,314	25.03.2003 23:00–24:00	4,249	
02.11.2001 16:00–17:00	3,492	01.03.2002 23:00–24:00	4,179	26.03.2003 23:00–24:00	4,222	
01.11.2001 19:00–20:00	3,312	01.03.2002 00:00-01:00	3,971	29.03.2003 02:00–03:00	4,150	
02.11.2001 20:00-21:00	3,227	02.03.2002 00:00-01:00	3,939	29.03.2003 01:00–02:00	4,097	

Statistical distributions

- Fourteen candidate distributions:
 - exponential, Weibull, gamma, normal, lognormal, logistic, log-logistic, Nakagami, Rayleigh, Rician, t-location scale, Birnbaum-Saunders, extreme value, inverse Gaussian
- Parameters of the distributions: calculated by performing maximum likelihood estimation
- Best fitting distributions are determined by:
 - visual inspection of the distribution of the trace and the candidate distributions
 - Kolmogorov-Smirnov test of potential candidates

Call inter-arrival times: pdf candidates



Call inter-arrival times: K-S test results (2003 data)

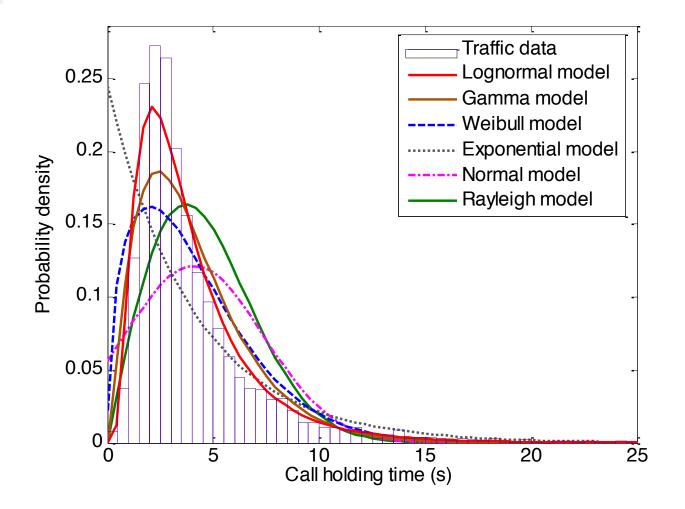
Distribution	Parameter	26.03.2003, 22:00–23:00	25.03.2003, 23:00–24:00	26.03.2003, 23:00–24:00	29.03.2003, 02:00–03:00	29.03.2003, 01:00–02:00
	h	1	1	0	1	1
Exponential	р	0.0027	0.0469	0.4049	0.0316	0.1101
	k	0.0283	0.0214	0.0137	0.0205	0.0185
	h	0	0	0	0	0
Weibull	р	0.4885	0.4662	0.2065	0.286	0.2337
	k	0.0130	0.0133	0.0164	0.014	0.0159
Gamma	h	0	0	0	0	0
	р	0.3956	0.3458	0.127	0.145	0.1672
	k	0.0139	0.0146	0.0181	0.0163	0.0171
Lognormal	h	1	1	1	1	1
	р	1.015E-20	4.717E-15	2.97E-16	3.267E-23	4.851E-21
	k	0.0689	0.0629	0.0657	0.0795	0.0761

Call inter-arrival times: estimates of H

 Traces pass the test for time constancy of a: estimates of H are reliable

2001		2002		2003		
Day/hour	Н	Day/hour	Н	Day/hour	Н	
02.11.2001 15:00-16:00	0.907	01.03.2002 04:00–05:00	0.679	26.03.2003 22:00–23:00	0.788	
01.11.2001 00:00-01:00	0.802	01.03.2002 22:00–23:00	0.757	25.03.2003 23:00–24:00	0.832	
02.11.2001 16:00-17:00	0.770	01.03.2002 23:00–24:00	0.780	26.03.2003 23:00–24:00	0.699	
01.11.2001 19:00–20:00	0.774	01.03.2002 00:00-01:00	0.741	29.03.2003 02:00–03:00	0.696	
02.11.2001 20:00-21:00	0.663	02.03.2002 00:00-01:00	0.747	29.03.2003 01:00–02:00	0.705	

Call holding times: pdf candidates



Call holding times: estimates of H

- All (except one) traces pass the test for constancy of a
- only one unreliable estimate (*): consistent value

2001		2002		2003		
Day/hour	Н	Day/hour	Н	Day/hour	Н	
02.11.2001 15:00–16:00	0.493	01.03.2002 04:00–05:00	0.490	26.03.2003 22:00–23:00	0.483	
01.11.2001 00:00-01:00	0.471	01.03.2002 22:00–23:00	0.460	25.03.2003 23:00–24:00	0.483	
02.11.2001 16:00-17:00	0.462	01.03.2002 23:00–24:00	0.489	26.03.2003 23:00–24:00	0.463 *	
01.11.2001 19:00–20:00	0.467	01.03.2002 00:00-01:00	0.508	29.03.2003 02:00–03:00	0.526	
02.11.2001 20:00-21:00	0.479	02.03.2002 00:00-01:00	0.503	29.03.2003 01:00–02:00	0.466	

Call inter-arrival and call holding times

	2001		2002	<u>)</u>	2003	
	Day/hour	Avg. (s)	Day/hour	Avg. (s)	Day/hour	Avg. (s)
inter-arrival	02.11.2001	0.97	01.03.2002	0.81	26.03.2003	0.73
holding	15:00–16:00	3.78	04:00-05:00	4.07	22:00–23:00	4.08
inter-arrival	01.11.2001	0.97	01.03.2002	0.83	25.03.2003	0.85
holding	00:00-01:00	3.95	22:00–23:00	3.84	23:00–24:00	4.12
inter-arrival	02.11.2001	1.03	01.03.2002	0.86	26.03.2003	0.85
holding	16:00-17:00	3.99	23:00–24:00	3.88	23:00–24:00	4.04
inter-arrival	01.11.2001	1.09	01.03.2002	0.91	29.03.2003	0.87
holding	19:00–20:00	3.97	00:00-01:00	3.95	02:00–03:00	4.14
inter-arrival	02.11.2001	1.12	02.03.2002	0.91	29.03.2003	0.88
holding	20:00–21:00	3.84	00:00-01:00	4.06	01:00-02:00	4.25

Avg. call inter-arrival times: 1.08 s (2001), 0.86 s (2002), 0.84 s (2003) Avg. call holding times: 3.91 s (2001), 3.96 s (2002), 4.13 s (2003)

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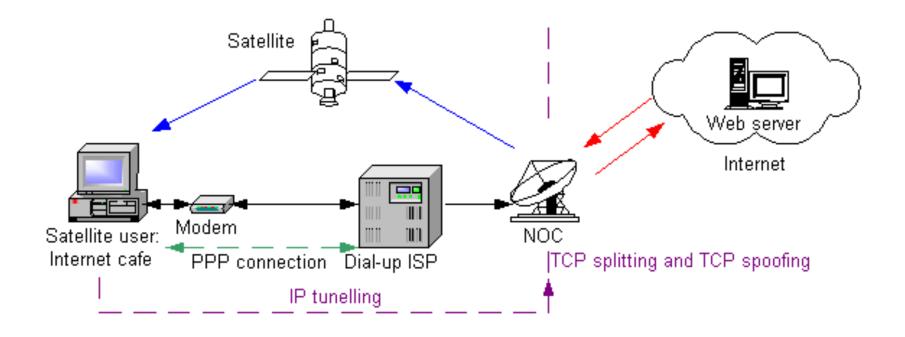
Busy hour: best fitting distributions

	Distribution						
Busy hour		Call inter-	Call holding times				
	Weibull		Gamma		Lognormal		
	а	b	а	b	μ	σ	
02.11.2001 15:00-16:00	0.9785	1.1075	1.0326	0.9407	1.0913	0.6910	
01.11.2001 00:00-01:00	0.9907	1.0517	1.0818	0.8977	1.0801	0.7535	
02.11.2001 16:00-17:00	1.0651	1.0826	1.1189	0.9238	1.1432	0.6803	
01.03.2002 04:00-05:00	0.8313	1.0603	1.1096	0.7319	1.1746	0.6671	
01.03.2002 22:00-23:00	0.8532	1.0542	1.0931	0.7643	1.1157	0.6565	
01.03.2002 23:00-24:00	0.8877	1.0790	1.1308	0.7623	1.1096	0.6803	
26.03.2003 22:00-23:00	0.7475	1.0475	1.0910	0.6724	1.1838	0.6553	
25.03.2003 23:00-24:00	0.8622	1.0376	1.0762	0.7891	1.1737	0.6715	
26.03.2003 23:00-24:00	0.8579	1.0092	1.0299	0.8292	1.1704	0.6696	

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Case study: ChinaSat DirecPC system



Network and traffic data

- ChinaSat: network architecture and TCP
- Analysis of billing records:
 - aggregated traffic
 - user behavior
- Analysis of tcpdump traces:
 - general characteristics
 - TCP options and operating system (OS) fingerprinting
 - network anomalies

Characteristics of satellite links

- ChinaSat hybrid satellite network
 - Employs geosynchrous satellites deployed by Hughes Network Systems Inc.
 - Provides data and television services:
 - DirecPC (Classic): unidirectional satellite data service
 - DirecTV: satellite television service
 - DirecWay (Hughnet): new bi-directional satellite data service that replaces DirecPC
 - DirecPC transmission rates:
 - 400 kb/s from satellite to user
 - 33.6 kb/s from user to network operations center (NOC) using dial-up
 - Improves performance using TCP splitting with spoofing

ChinaSat data: analysis

- ChinaSat traffic is self-similar and non-stationary
- Hurst parameter differs depending on traffic load
- Modeling of TCP connections:
 - inter-arrival time is best modeled by the Weibull distribution
 - number of downloaded bytes is best modeled by the lognormal distribution
- The distribution of visited websites is best modeled by the discrete Gaussian exponential (DGX) distribution

ChinaSat data: analysis

- Traffic prediction:
 - autoregressive integrative moving average (ARIMA) was successfully used to predict uploaded traffic (but not downloaded traffic)
 - wavelet + autoregressive model outperforms the ARIMA model

 Q. Shao and Lj. Trajkovic, "Measurement and analysis of traffic in a hybrid satellite-terrestrial network," *Proc. SPECTS 2004*, San Jose, CA, July 2004, pp. 329–336.

Analysis of collected data

- Analysis of patterns and statistical properties of two sets of data from the ChinaSat DirecPC network:
 - billing records
 - tcpdump traces
- Billing records:
 - daily and weekly traffic patterns
 - user classification:
 - single and multi-variable k-means clustering based on average traffic
 - hierarchical clustering based on user activity

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Internet topology

- Internet is a network of Autonomous Systems:
 - groups of networks sharing the same routing policy
 - identified with Autonomous System Numbers (ASN)
- Autonomous System Numbers: http://www.iana.org/ assignments/as-numbers
- Internet topology on AS-level:
 - the arrangement of ASes and their interconnections
- Analyzing the Internet topology and finding properties of associated graphs rely on mining data and capturing information about Autonomous Systems (ASes)

Variety of graphs

- Random graphs:
 - nodes and edges are generated by a random process
 - Erdős and Rényi model
- Small world graphs:
 - nodes and edges are generated so that most of the nodes are connected by a small number of nodes in between
 - Watts and Strogatz model (1998)

Scale-free graphs

- Scale-free graphs:
 - graphs whose node degree distribution follow power-law
 - rich get richer
 - Barabási and Albert model (1999)
- Analysis of complex networks:
 - discovery of spectral properties of graphs
 - constructing matrices describing the network connectivity

Analyzed datasets

- Sample datasets:
 - Route Views:

 TABLE_DUMP
 1050122432
 B
 204.42.253.253
 253

 267
 3.0.0.0/8
 267 2914 174 701
 IGP

 204.42.253.253
 0
 0
 267:2914 2914:420

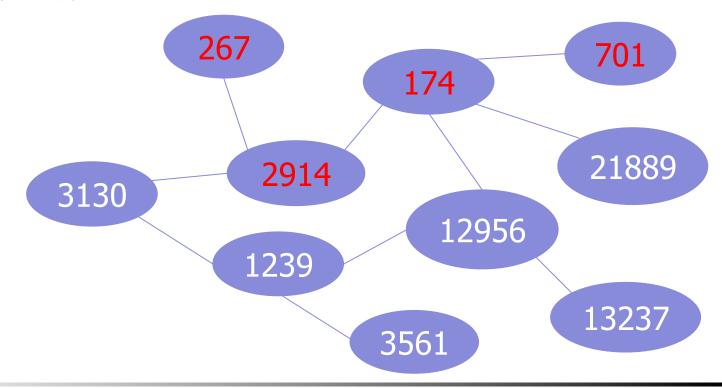
 2914:2000
 2914:3000
 NAG
 1

RIPE:

TABLE_DUMP| 1041811200| B| 212.20.151.234| 13129| 3.0.0.0/8| **13129 6461 7018** | IGP| 212.20.151.234| 0| 0| 6461:5997 13129:3010| NAG| |

Internet topology at AS level

 Datasets collected from Border Gateway Protocols (BGP) routing tables are used to infer the Internet topology at AS-level



National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Internet topology

- The Internet topology is characterized by the presence of various power-laws:
 - node degree vs. node rank
 - eigenvalues of the matrices describing Internet graphs (adjacency matrix and normalized Laplacian matrix)
- Power-laws exponents have not significantly changed over the years
- Spectral analysis reveals new historical trends and notable changes in the connectivity and clustering of AS nodes over the years

Traffic anomalies

- Slammer, Nimda, and Code Red I anomalies affected performance of the Internet Border Gateway Protocol (BGP)
- BGP anomalies also include: Internet Protocol (IP) prefix hijacks, miss-configurations, and electrical failures
- Techniques for detecting BGP anomalies have recently gained visible attention and importance

Anomaly detection techniques

- Classification problem:
 - assigning an "anomaly" or "regular" label to a data point
- Accuracy of a classifier depends on:
 - extracted features
 - combination of selected features
 - underlying model
- Goal:
- Detect Internet routing anomalies using the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) update messages

BGP features

Approach:

- Define a set of 37 features based on BGP update messages
- Extract the features from available BGP update messages that are collected during the time period when the Internet experienced anomalies:
 - Slammer
 - Nimda
 - Code Red I

Feature selection

- Select the most relevant features for classification using:
 - Fisher
 - Minimum Redundancy Maximum Relevance (mRMR)
 - Odds Ratio
 - Decision Tree
 - Fuzzy Rough Sets

Anomaly classification

- Train classifiers for BGP anomaly detection using:
 - Support Vector Machines
 - Hidden Markov Models
 - Naive Bayes
 - Decision Tree
 - Extreme Learning Machine (ELM)

Feature extraction: BGP messages

- Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) enables exchange of routing information between gateway routers using update messages
- BGP update message collections:
 - Réseaux IP Européens (RIPE) under the Routing Information Service (RIS) project
 - Route Views
 - Available in multi-threaded routing toolkit (MRT) binary format

BGP: known anomalies

Anomaly	Date	Duration (h)
Slammer	January 25, 2003	16
Nimda	September 18, 2001	59
Code Red I	July 19, 2001	10

Training Data	Dataset
Slammer + Nimda	Dataset 1
Slammer + Code Red I	Dataset 2
Code Red I + Nimda	Dataset 3
Slammer	Dataset 4
Nimda	Dataset 5
Code Red I	Dataset 6

National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Slammer worm

- Sends its replica to randomly generated IP addresses
- Destination IP address gets infected if:
 - it is a Microsoft SQL server

or

 a personal computer with the Microsoft SQL Server Data Engine (MSDE)

Nimda worm

- Propagates through email messages, web browsers, and file systems
- Viewing the email message triggers the worm payload
- The worm modifies the content of the web document files in the infected hosts and copies itself in all local host directories

Code Red I worm

- Takes advantage of vulnerability in the Microsoft Internet Information Services (IIS) indexing software
- It triggers a buffer overflow in the infected hosts by writing to the buffers without checking their limit

Feature extraction: BGP messages

- Define 37 features
- Sample every minute during a five-day period:
 - the peak day of an anomaly
 - two days prior and two days after the peak day
- 7,200 samples for each anomalous event:
 - 5,760 regular samples (non-anomalous)
 - 1,440 anomalous samples
 - Imbalanced dataset

BGP features

Feature	Definition	Category
1	Number of announcements	Volume
2	Number of withdrawals	Volume
3	Number of announced NLRI prefixes	Volume
4	Number of withdrawn NLRI prefixes	Volume
5	Average AS-PATH length	AS-path
6	Maximum AS-PATH length	AS-path
7	Average unique AS-PATH length	AS-path
8	Number of duplicate announcements	Volume
9	Number of duplicate withdrawals	Volume
10	Number of implicit withdrawals	Volume

BGP features

Feature	Definition	Category
11	Average edit distance	AS-path
12	Maximum edit distance	AS-path
13	Inter-arrival time	Volume
14-24	Maximum edit distance = n, where n = (7,, 17)	AS-path
25-33	Maximum AS-path length = n, where n = (7,, 15)	AS-path
34	Number of IGP packets	Volume
35	Number of EGP packets	Volume
36	Number of incomplete packets	Volume
37	Packet size (B)	Volume

Feature selection algorithms

- Employed to select the most relevant features:
 - Fisher
 - Minimum Redundancy Maximum Relevance (mRMR)
 - Odds Ratio
 - Decision Tree
 - Fuzzy Rough Sets

Feature selection: decision tree

Dataset	Training data Selected Features	
Dataset 1	Slammer + Nimda	1-21, 23-29, 34-37
Dataset 2	Slammer + Code Red I	1-22, 24-29, 34-37
Dataset 3	Code Red I + Nimda	1-29, 34-37

- Either four (30, 31, 32, 33) or five (22, 30, 31, 32, 33) features are removed in the constructed trees mainly because:
 - features are numerical and some are used repeatedly

Feature selection: fuzzy rough sets

Dataset	Training data	Selected Features
Dataset 4	Slammer	1, 3-6, 9, 10, 13-32, 35
Dataset 5	Nimda	1, 3-4, 8-10, 12, 14-32, 35, 36
Dataset 6	Code Red I	3-4, 8-10, 12, 14-32, 35, 36

- Using combination of datasets, for example Slammer + Nimda for training leads to higher computational load
- Each dataset was used individually

Anomaly classification

Train classifiers for BGP anomaly detection using:

- Support Vector Machines
- Hidden Markov Models
- Naive Bayes
- Decision Tree
- Extreme Learning Machine (ELM)

Anomaly classifiers: decision tree

Dataset	Testing data	Acc _{train}	Acc _{test}	Training time (s)
Dataset 1	Code Red I	90.7	78.8	1.8
Dataset 2	Nimda	92.3	72.8	2.1
Dataset 3	Slammer	87.1	23.8	2.3

- Each path from the root node to a leaf node may be transformed into a decision rule
- A set of rules that are obtained from a trained decision tree may be used for classifying unseen samples

Anomaly classifiers: ELM

No. of features	Dataset	Acctrain	Acc _{test}	Training time (s)
	Dataset 1	83.57 ± 0.11	80.01 ± 0.07	2.3043
37	Dataset 2	83.53 ± 0.12	79.75 ± 0.08	2.2756
	Dataset 3	80.82 ± 0.09	21.65 ± 1.93	2.2747
	Dataset 1	84.50 ± 0.07	79.91 ± 0.01	1.9268
17	Dataset 2	84.43 ± 0.12	79.53 ± 0.10	1.5928
	Dataset 3	83.06 ± 0.07	51.56 ± 16.38	1.8882

- 195 hidden units
- The binary features 14-33 are removed to form a set of 17 features

Anomaly classifiers: ELM

No. of features	Dataset	Acctrain	Acc _{test}
28	Dataset 4	83.08 ± 0.11	80.03 ± 0.06
28 (from 37)	Dataset 5	83.08 ± 0.09	79.78 ± 0.07
27	Dataset 6	80.05 ± 0.00	81.00 ± 1.41
9	Dataset 4	84.59 ± 0.07	80.00 ± 0.05
9 (from 17)	Dataset 5	84.25 ± 0.11	79.79 ± 0.12
8	Dataset 6	83.38 ± 0.04	49.24 ± 12.90

Roadmap

- Introduction
- Traffic collection, characterization, and modeling
- Case studies:
 - telecommunication network: BCNET
 - public safety wireless network: E-Comm
 - satellite network: ChinaSat
 - packet data networks: Internet
- Conclusions

Conclusions

- Data collected from deployed networks are used to:
 - evaluate network performance
 - characterize and model traffic (inter-arrival and call holding times)
 - identify trends in the evolution of the Internet topology
 - classify traffic and network anomalies

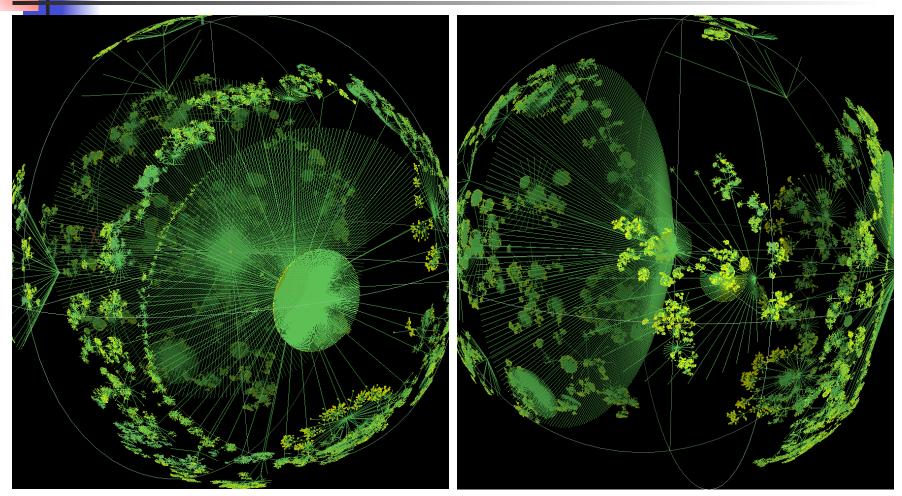
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Ihr: 535,102 nodes and 601,678 links



http://www.caida.org/home/

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