I. INTRODUCTION

From the birth of computer networks, congestion control and flow control has always been a very popular research aspect, which’s purpose is to make full use of the network device performance and to schedule traffic. In view of the hierarchical design of the computer network, the related implement is almost on TCP (Transmission Control Protocol) layer. Implementation of TCP contain four intertwined algorithms: slow-start, congestion avoidance, fast retransmit, and fast recovery[1]. But with the development of the network technology , the performance of the these basic algorithm is unsatisfactory[2] , so people introduce some complement algorithm to polish these legacy, such as SACK (Selective Acknowledgement)、ECN (Explicit Congestion Notification)、DCTCP(Data center TCP)、etc. [3][4] But it is not difficult to find that the end nodes still dominate the intermediate nodes. For instance, even though the intermediate node can use ECN to notify the congestion, whether decrease send rate and how much to induct still depend on the end nodes. The reason is nothing less than being compatible with existing algorithm and the limitation of the intermediate node hardware. Compared with the intermediate nodes, the terminal nodes tend to have more customizability, So the relatively complex works often complete by end nodes.

All these limitation and sewing have brought about the complexity of the network device and hampered the network further development of the current application trend of the cloud computing、big data and server virtualization [5] . SDN[6](Software Defined Network) as the wind indicator of the next generation network is expected to solve above problems. Using hierarchy module SDN is designed with control layer and data layer. The control layer, including a logical center and programmable controller, master the global network information to facilitate administrator and researchers to configure network and deploy new protocol, etc. The data layer, including programmable switch (unlike the traditional Layer 2 switch, specifically refers to the device used to forward data. ) which could consume P4 program[7], do what control layer indicate which present by OpenFlow protocol[8]. The advantage bring by SDN goes without saying, besides it provides a wholly new perspective to perfect what traditional network architecture want to do, which is compatible with the legacy and is more concise, flexible, extensible, programmable.

Using all these excellent features provide by SDN, this article not only illustrates the convenience to solve legacy compatible problem and to optimize existing algorithm, but also put forward a new method to control congestion and flow output. The remainder of this paper is structured as follow: Section II describes how to mediate ECN and Non-ECN flow in a network environment. In section III, we raise a new approach ISAW (Intermediate node Set Advertisement Window) to control congestion and flow output in a compatible and convenient way. The methods of section II and section III are all verified at mininet simulation environment which present expected result. Section IV discusses related work with INT (In‐band Network Telemetry), and section V concludes the paper.

II MEDITATE ECN AND NON-ECN

Conventionally, TCP/IP networks signal congestion by dropping packets. When timer expire sender still don’t receive the ACK, it will decrease it’s send rate because of the missing package (no matter the data package or the ACK package) indicate the bad condition of the network. while ECN (Explicit Congestion Notification) allow end-to-end notification of network congestion without dropping package. If the endpoints and underlying network infrastructure both support it, an ECN-aware router may set CE (Congestion Encountered) in the IP header instead of dropping a package when encounter congestion. The receiver of these package will inform sender to reduces its transmission rate as if it detected a dropped packet. However Non-ECN may suffer when compete with ECN flow, as the switch may drop long sequences of Non-ECN package, causing timeouts in non-ECN flows. This effect is particularly pronounced with a higher proportion of ECN flows, which typically leads to a higher ECN traffic rate. As a result, it will take longer to drain the queue below the marking threshold as more ECN traffic keeps arriving, and therefore may cause a longer congestion period[9].

Firstly, we conduct an experiment to illustrate the unfairness between ECN and non-ECN flows, for various numbers of them. The topology of our experiment as Figure1.



Figure Simulation topology of both section II and section III

Ten senders are connected to a single receiver through a which is a programmable device (simulated by BMV2[10]). We customized the switch use P4, let it could process both ECN and non-ECN flow like traditional switch. All links have a bandwidth of 100Mbps, 200Mbps and a delay of 0.25ms, so the RTT is 1ms. As to other configuration and tools, we just use the same as paper[9].

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| --- | --- |
| Figure Unfairness between 5 ECN flow and 5 non-ECN flow with 100Mbps | Figure Unfairness between 5 ECN flow and 5 non-ECN flow with 200Mbps |

Figure 2 demonstrate the unfairness between ECN flow and non-ECN flow by plotting time-series of their goodput. It shows that while ECN flows coexist with each other, non-ECN flows may significantly starve.

To solve the problem Paper [9] bring up the conception of vCC layer



Figure vCC Layer Demonstration

The vCC layer just like an agency, on one hand it will modify the hand-shake process and package transmission of non-ECN flow to help non-ECN pretend to be a ECN flow, on the other when encounter congestion vCC layer will translate the message to non-ECN hosts to help them deduct send rate lest network switch drop their package thus starve. In practical application, vCC layer implement in VMware’s ESXi hypervisor[11], thus in physical multi-hosts environment such as a company, a school, it’s almost impossible to induct such a vCC layer to help eliminate unfairness between ECN and non-ECN flow. And to translate, vCC layer has to establish a whole ECN-aware calculation model for each non-ECN flow which will definitely consume amount of computing resource especially in high speed link.

Besides the problem above is just an epitome of the network development: new demands midwife new strategy and new methods which bring the compatible problems. It’s hard to update old hardware and software timely. But if we could free end nodes from heavy work, let programmable intermediate nodes be decisive, the situation will become better. By that time, intermediate nodes (in SND, is the controller) could sentence the behavior of every flow and when these are demands to update, it’s no need to bother end nodes and uses. The good news is that SDN has provided the programmability of the controller and switch, combined with above thinking, we conduct an experiment to transplant vCC to intermediate, so that we could implement it on almost all environment as long as the hardware is capable.

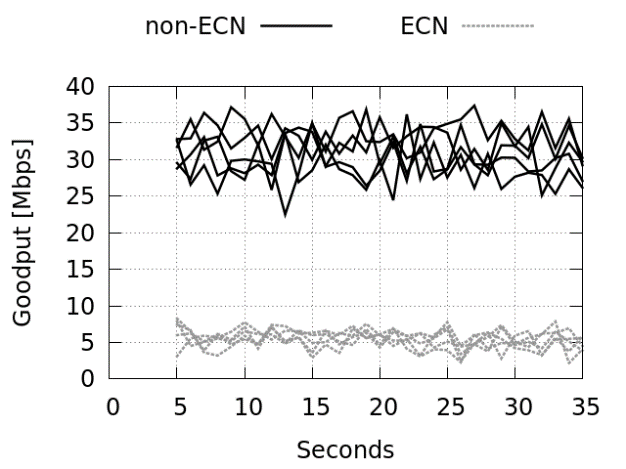
As mentioned above, because that switch is more likely to drop non-ECN package when encounter congestion, ECN flow always overwhelm non-ECN flow. What will happen if switch mark CE (Congestion Encountered) of ECN package while don’t drop non-ECN package when queue is crowed. Obviously when the link is congested ECN flow will be dampened while non-ECN flow feel “every is good” and increase its send rate continuously, thus more congestions more suppresses.

Figure Reversal unfairness between 5 ECN flow and 5 non-ECN flow with 200Mbps

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