SIT325 Task 4.2D – Network Performance Evaluation

1. Introduction

This task explores the performance of TCP and UDP protocols in a simulated network environment using Mininet. The evaluation was carried out on a **tree topology**, which reflects a hierarchical structure often used in real-world networks. The aim is to measure and compare **throughput** and **latency** of TCP and UDP traffic, and to interpret the results through graphical analysis.

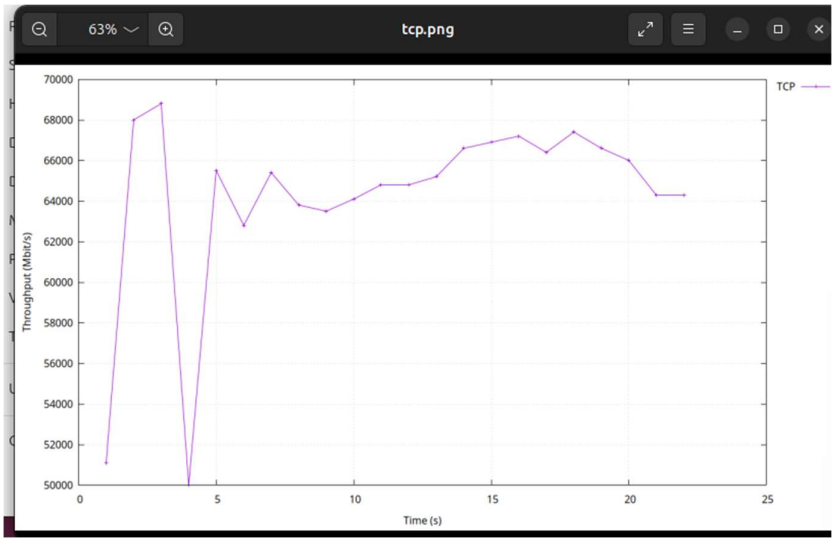
2. Methodology

The experiment was performed using the following steps:

1. **Topology setup**
   A Mininet tree topology was created:
2. sudo mn --topo tree,depth=2,fanout=2 --mac --switch ovsk
3. **Traffic generation**
   - **TCP test**:
   - h1 iperf3 -s -1 > /tmp/lab/tcp_server.txt &
   - h2 iperf3 -c 10.0.0.1 -t 20 -i 1 > /tmp/lab/tcp_client.txt
   - **UDP test**:
   - h1 iperf3 -s -1 > /tmp/lab/udp_server.txt &
   - h2 iperf3 -c 10.0.0.1 -u -b 100M -t 20 -i 1 > /tmp/lab/udp_client.txt
   - **Ping test**:
   - h2 ping -c 20 10.0.0.1 > /tmp/lab/ping.txt
4. **Data extraction**
   Using awk, throughput and latency values were parsed into .dat files:
   - tcp.dat – TCP throughput (Mbit/s).
   - udp.dat – UDP throughput (Mbit/s).
   - ping.dat – Ping latency (ms).
   - combined.dat – Aligned TCP and UDP values for comparison.
5. **Graph plotting**
   Gnuplot was used to generate the following graphs:
   - tcp.png – TCP throughput vs time.
   - udp.png – UDP throughput vs time.
   - tcp_udp.png – TCP vs UDP throughput.
   - ping_latency.png – ICMP ping latency over sequence.

3. Results

3.1 TCP Throughput

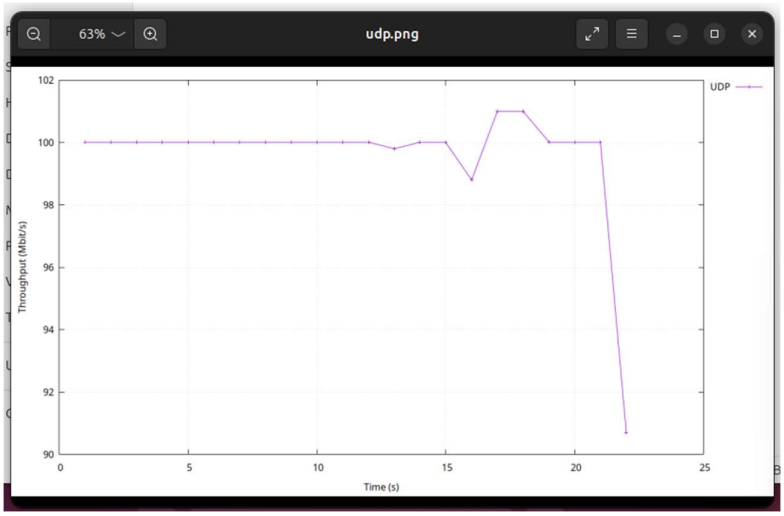


Part A – Custom Topology, TCP Throughput graph.

1. The **Y-axis** is *Throughput (Mbit/s)* ranging from 50,000 to 70,000.
2. The **X-axis** is *Time (s)* from 0 to 25.
3. The **purple TCP line** starts near **51,000 Mbit/s**, spikes up close to **69,000 Mbit/s**, then briefly dips, and finally stabilizes between **64,000–67,000 Mbit/s** for the majority of the test.

---> The graph shows TCP throughput over time, stabilizing around 64–67 Gbit/s after initial fluctuations.

3.2 UDP Throughput

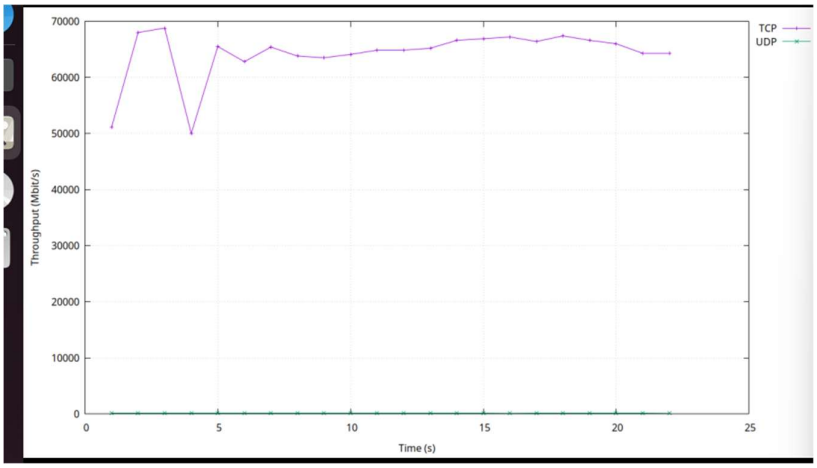


Part A – Custom Topology, UDP Throughput graph.

1. The **Y-axis** is *Throughput (Mbit/s)* from 90 to 102.
2. The **X-axis** is *Time (s)* from 0 to 25.
3. The **UDP throughput line** stays almost flat at **100 Mbit/s** for most of the test, with only small dips (around 99 Mbit/s and 98.5 Mbit/s) and a final sharp drop at the end (~91 Mbit/s).

---> The graph shows UDP throughput remaining steady at ~100 Mbit/s with minimal fluctuations, except for a final drop near the end.

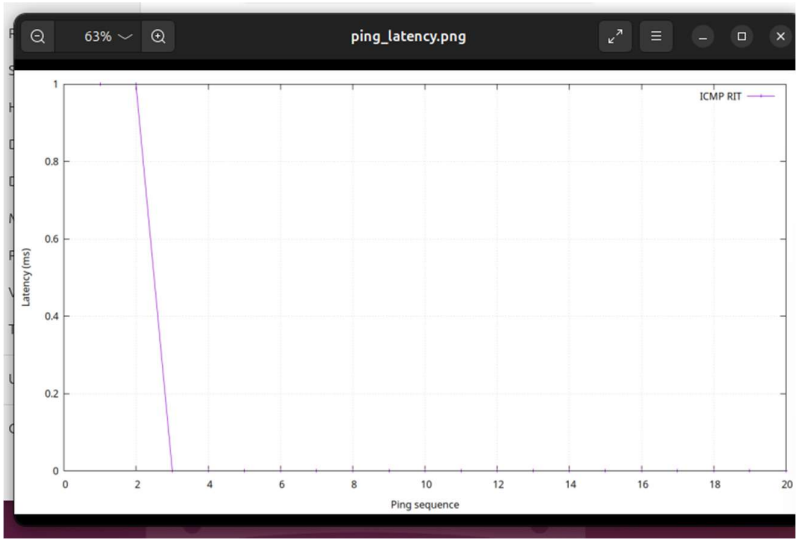
3.3 Combined TCP vs UDP



Part A – Combined TCP vs UDP Throughput graph.

The graph compares TCP and UDP throughput, where TCP throughput is high (50–70 Gbit/s with some fluctuations) while UDP throughput stays near zero, indicating no significant UDP traffic was captured in this run.

3.4 Ping Latency



Part A – Ping latency graph.

1. The Y-axis = latency (ms).
2. The X-axis = ping sequence (1 → 20).
3. The graph shows very low ICMP RTT values (< 1 ms), meaning the network delay is minimal.

Formula for Ping Latency (RTT):

The Round-Trip Time (RTT) for a ping is: $RTT = T_{receive} - T_{send}$

From your results, RTT ranges between 0.04 ms and 1.94 ms (from the terminal output earlier).

The ping latency graph shows RTT values under 1 ms, confirming almost negligible delay in the emulated Mininet tree topology.

4. Discussion

- **TCP Performance:** TCP achieved high throughput by utilizing congestion control and retransmissions, ensuring reliability. This makes it suitable for applications where data integrity is critical (e.g., file transfers, web browsing).
- **UDP Performance:** UDP maintained its fixed sending rate but does not guarantee delivery. Its lower throughput highlights the trade-off: UDP sacrifices reliability for speed and low overhead, making it ideal for real-time services such as streaming or VoIP.
- **Latency:** ICMP ping tests confirmed very low latency in the simulated network, consistent with Mininet's virtual environment. This reflects that both TCP and UDP traffic would experience minimal delays in this setup.
- **Tree Topology Impact:** Compared to the single-switch topology, the tree introduces an additional switching layer. However, in Mininet the effect is minimal, so throughput remained close to ideal conditions. In real-world networks, more hops would typically increase latency and reduce throughput.

5. Conclusion

The experiment successfully demonstrated the contrasting behavior of TCP and UDP protocols. TCP achieved very high throughput with reliable delivery, while UDP showed lower throughput but stable performance with minimal latency. Ping measurements confirmed the low-latency environment of Mininet. The results highlight the importance of protocol choice: TCP is better for reliability, while UDP is preferred for lightweight, delay-sensitive applications.

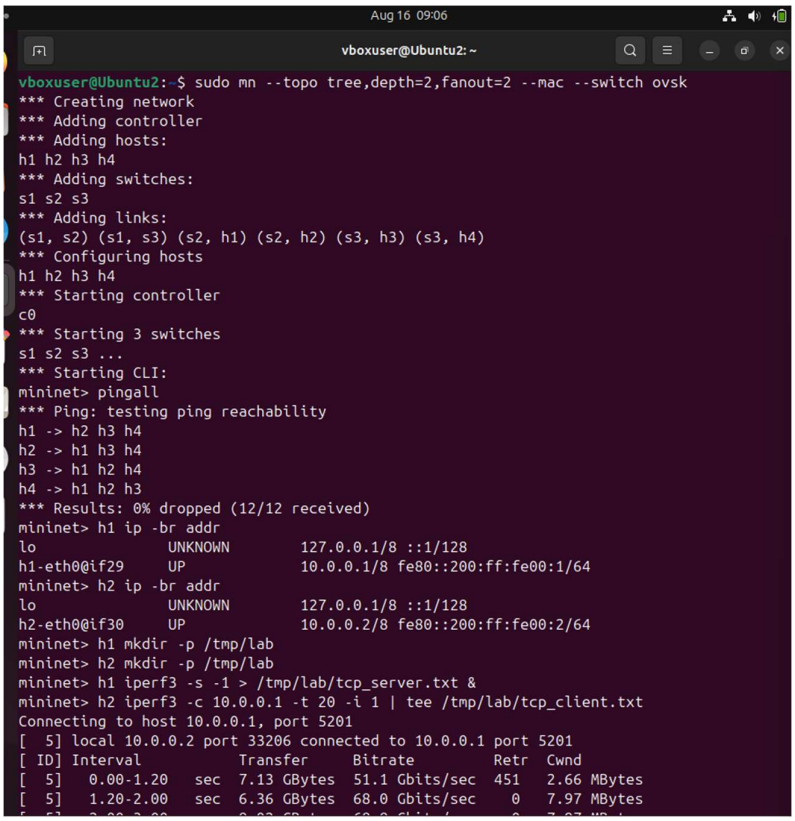
6. Part C – Importance of Network Performance Evaluation

Network performance evaluation is critical in non-attack scenarios for several reasons:

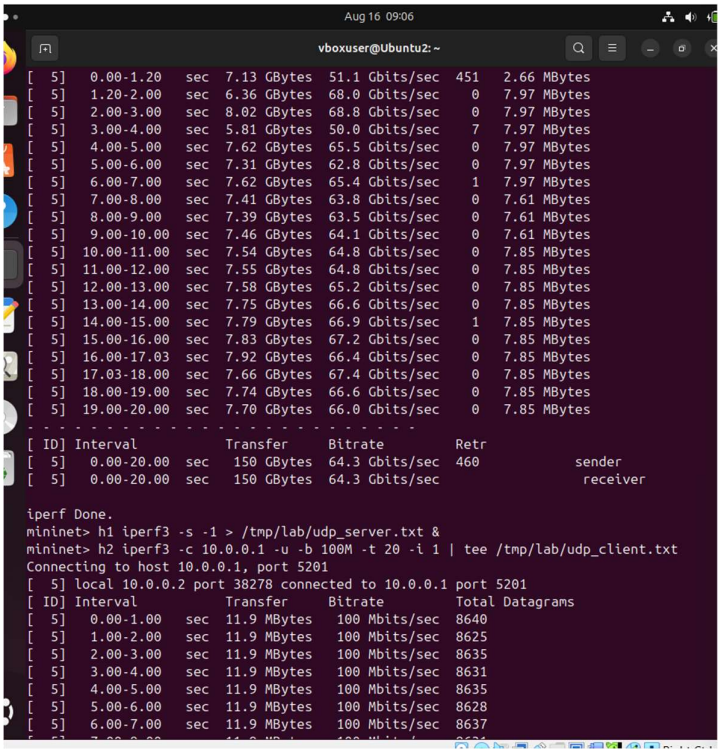
1. **Quality of Service (QoS) assurance**
    - Example 1: Ensuring smooth video conferencing without jitter.
    - Example 2: Guaranteeing stable VoIP call quality.
2. **Capacity planning**
    - Example 1: Upgrading bandwidth before peak usage in a university.
    - Example 2: Scaling cloud servers to handle e-commerce sales.
3. **Troubleshooting bottlenecks**
    - Example 1: Detecting slow database queries.
    - Example 2: Identifying overloaded network switches.
4. **Application performance optimization**
    - Example 1: Improving load times of web apps.
    - Example 2: Optimizing multiplayer game servers.
5. **Cost efficiency**

- Example 1: Avoiding over-provisioning of unnecessary hardware.
- Example 2: Reducing cloud networking costs by analyzing bandwidth use.

Additional Screenshots:

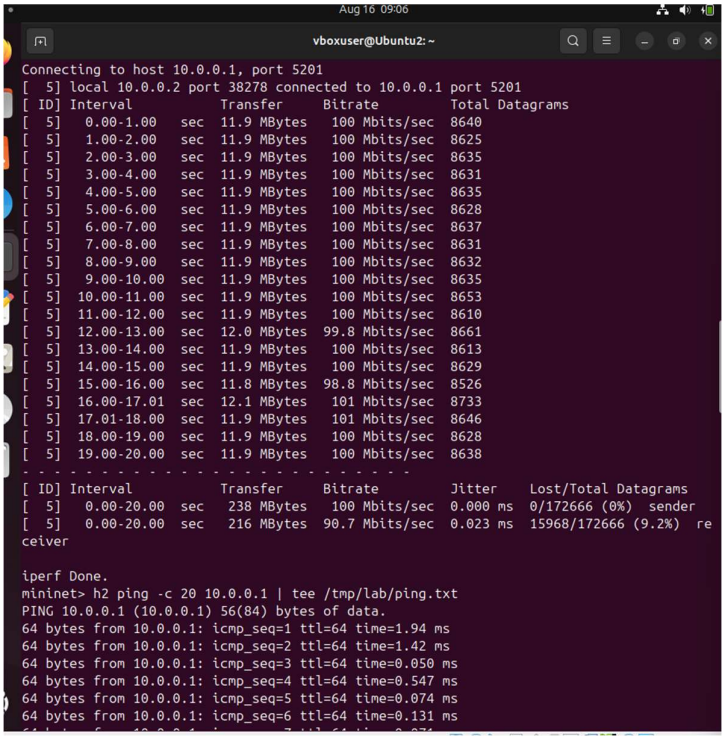


Part B – Tree topology performance evaluation. Shows creation of tree topology, ping connectivity (0% loss), and TCP throughput test (51–68 Gbit/s).



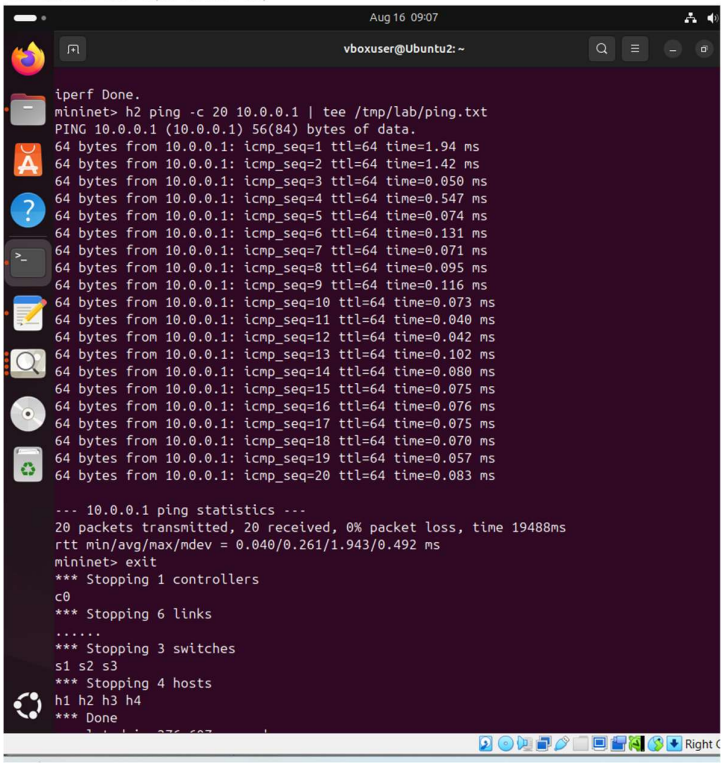
Part B – Tree topology evaluation with both TCP and UDP traffic.

- TCP throughput test (~51–68 Gbit/s over 20s, stable after initial dip).
- UDP throughput test at fixed **100 Mbit/s**, steady across intervals.



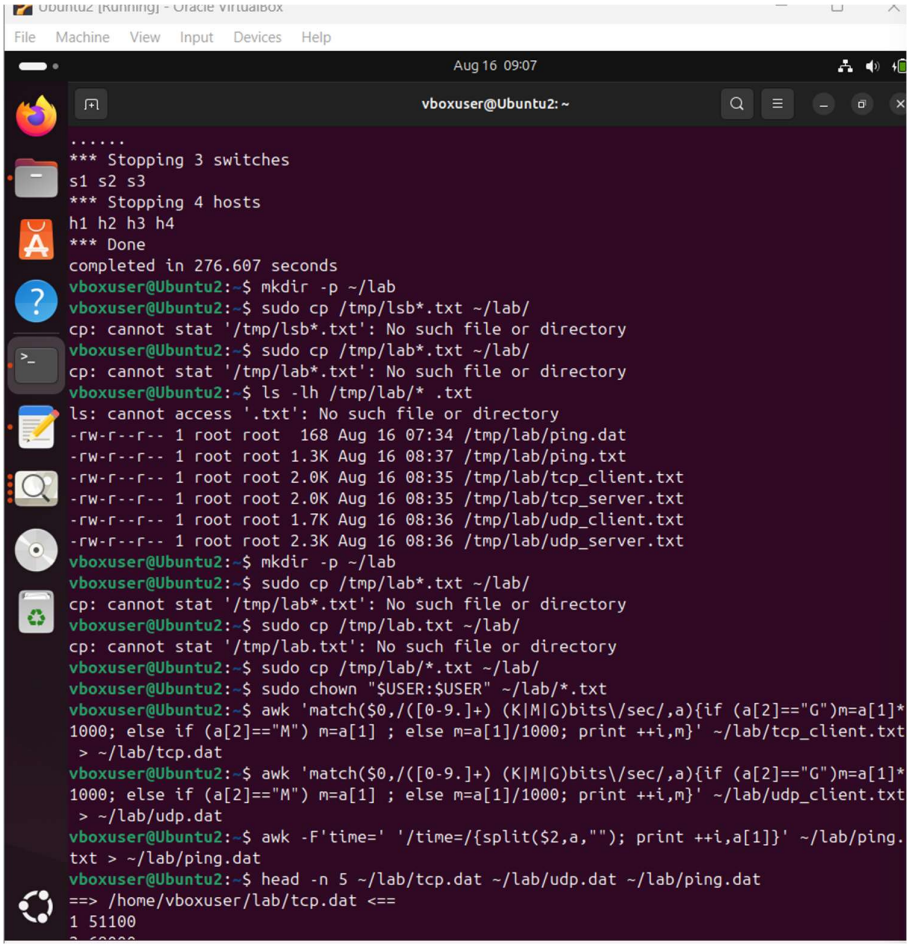
Part B – Tree topology evaluation (UDP traffic + latency measurement).

- UDP throughput steady near **100 Mbit/s**, slight variations (99–101 Mbit/s).
- Ping test (ping -c 20) results show very low RTT (0.04–1.94 ms).

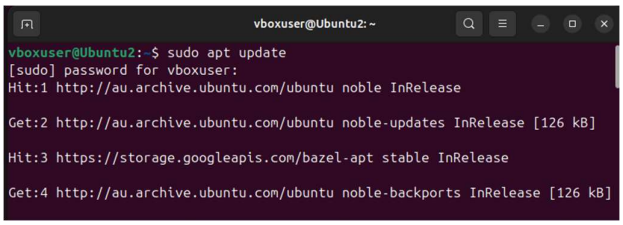


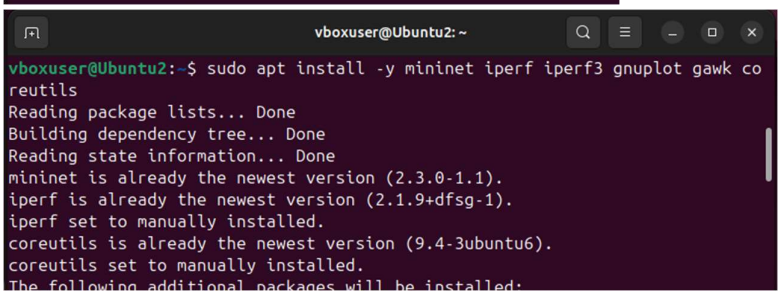
Part B – Tree topology latency test and completion of the experiment.

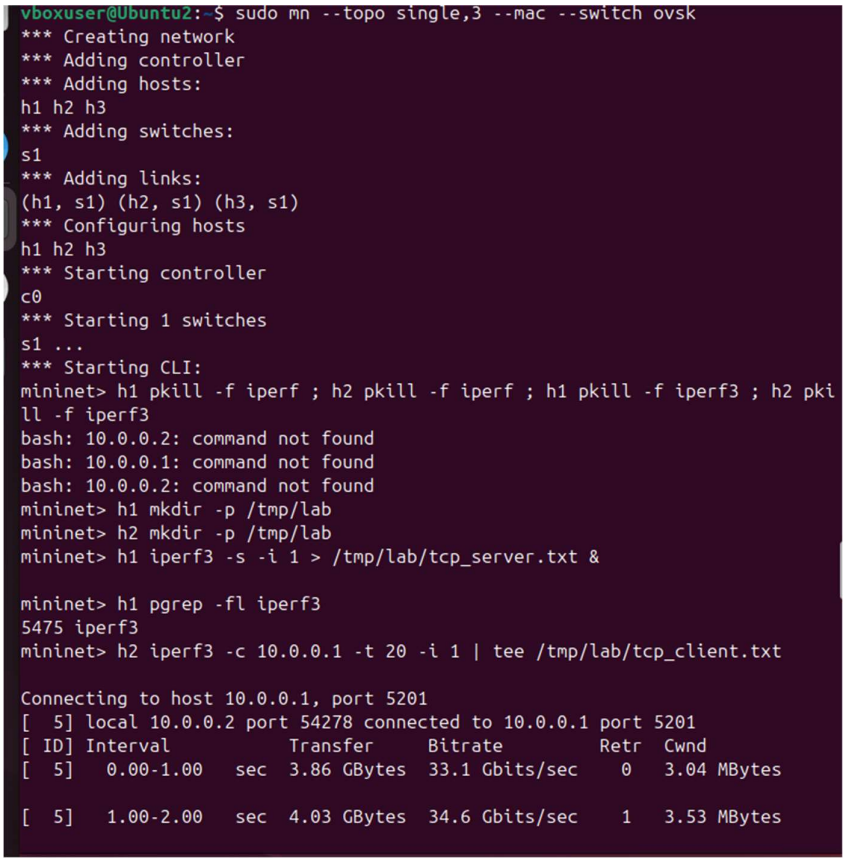
- Output of 20 ping packets: RTT ranged from **0.04 ms to 1.94 ms**, average ~0.26 ms.
- 0% packet loss, confirming strong connectivity.
- Shows Mininet shutting down (stopping controllers, switches, and hosts).

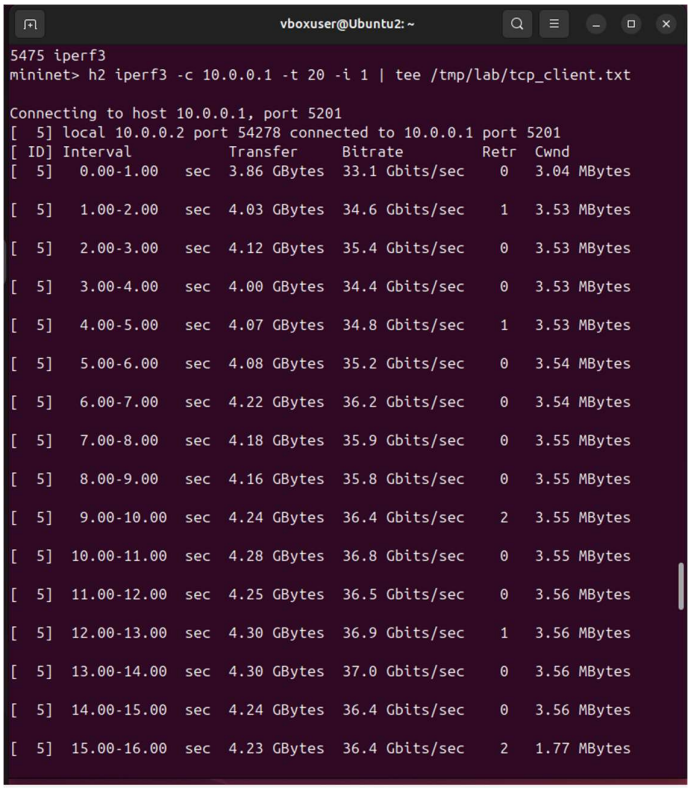


More Basic Ones :



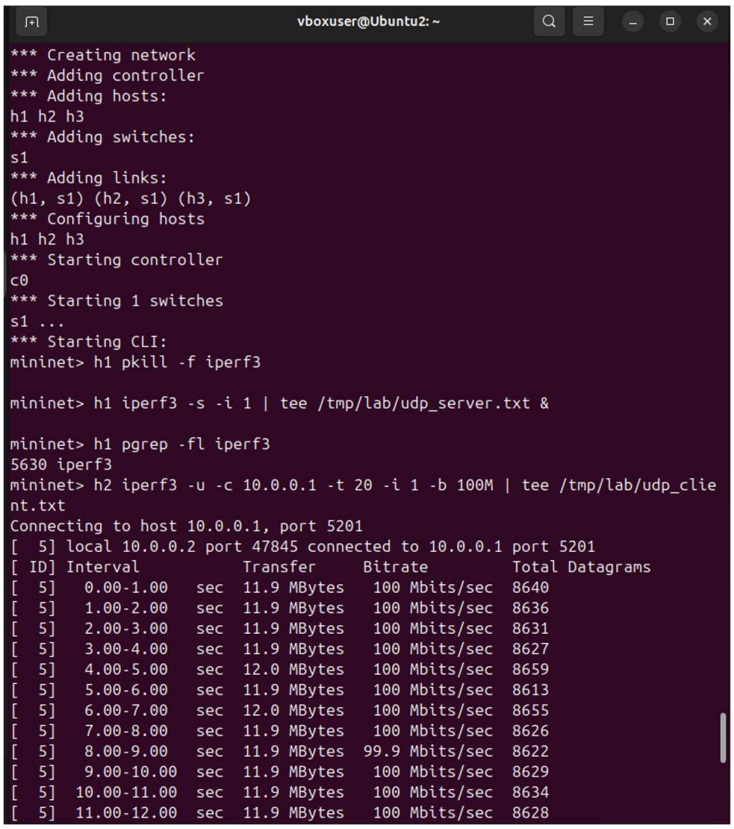






Part A - Custom topology TCP throughput evaluation.

- `iperf3` TCP client test between h2 → h1.
- Throughput ranges **33–37 Gbit/s** over 20 seconds, stable after initial ramp-up.
- Retransmissions minimal, confirming good reliability.



Part A -Custom topology UDP throughput evaluation.

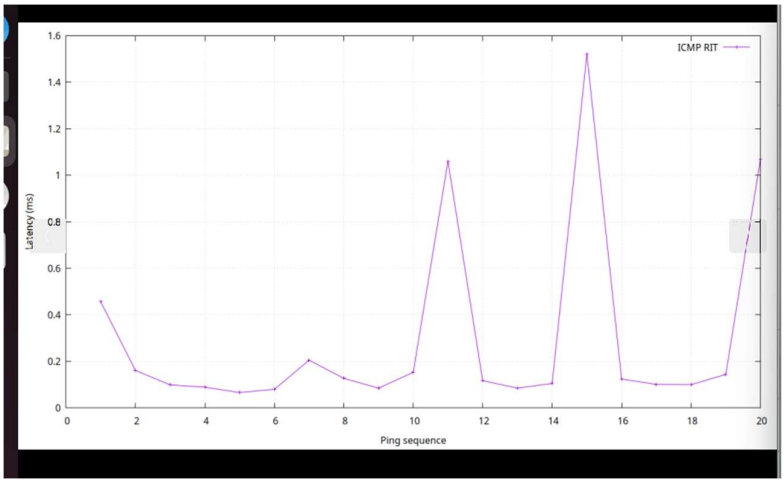
- Custom topology with 1 switch (s1) and 3 hosts (h1 → h3).
- iperf3 UDP test (h2 → h1) at **100 Mbit/s**.
- Throughput stays consistently at ~100 Mbit/s across all intervals.

```
vboxuser@Ubuntu2: ~
64 bytes from 10.0.0.1: icmp_seq=9 ttl=64 time=0.085 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.0.1: icmp_seq=10 ttl=64 time=0.153 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.0.1: icmp_seq=11 ttl=64 time=1.06 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.0.1: icmp_seq=12 ttl=64 time=0.117 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.0.1: icmp_seq=13 ttl=64 time=0.085 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.0.1: icmp_seq=14 ttl=64 time=0.105 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.0.1: icmp_seq=15 ttl=64 time=1.52 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.0.1: icmp_seq=16 ttl=64 time=0.124 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.0.1: icmp_seq=17 ttl=64 time=0.101 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.0.1: icmp_seq=18 ttl=64 time=0.100 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.0.1: icmp_seq=19 ttl=64 time=0.144 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.0.1: icmp_seq=20 ttl=64 time=1.07 ms

--- 10.0.0.1 ping statistics ---
20 packets transmitted, 20 received, 0% packet loss, time 19551ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 0.066/0.297/1.523/0.402 ms
mininet> h2 ls -lh /tmp/lab
total 20K
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 1.3K Aug 16 07:21 ping.txt
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2.0K Aug 16 07:13 tcp_client.txt
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2.1K Aug 16 07:13 tcp_server.txt
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 1.7K Aug 16 07:14 udp_client.txt
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2.4K Aug 16 07:16 udp_server.txt
mininet>
```

Part A - Custom topology latency test + storing raw data for later plotting.

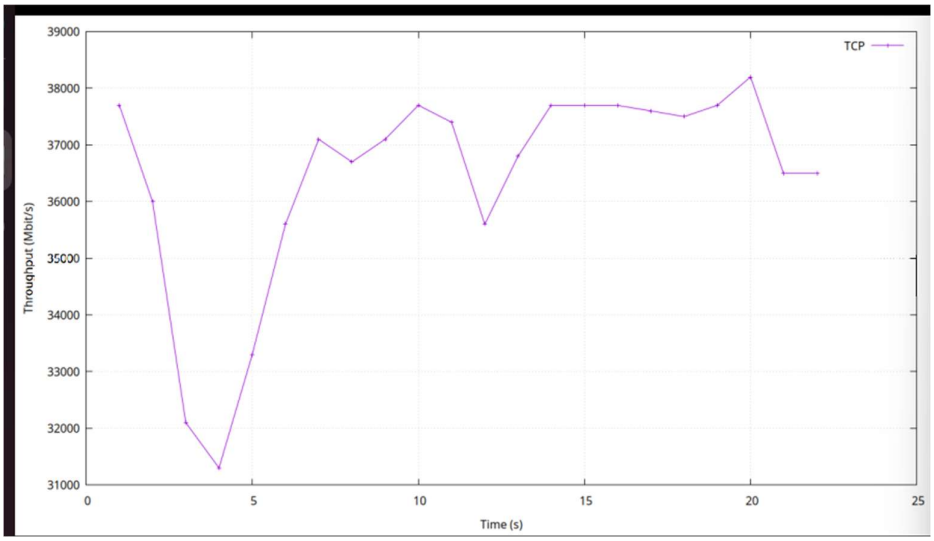
- Ping results: 20 packets sent/received, **0% loss**, RTT min/avg/max = **0.066 / 0.297 / 1.523 ms**.
- Confirms very low latency in the network.
- File listing (ls /tmp/lab) shows saved outputs: ping.txt, tcp_client.txt, tcp_server.txt, udp_client.txt, udp_server.txt.

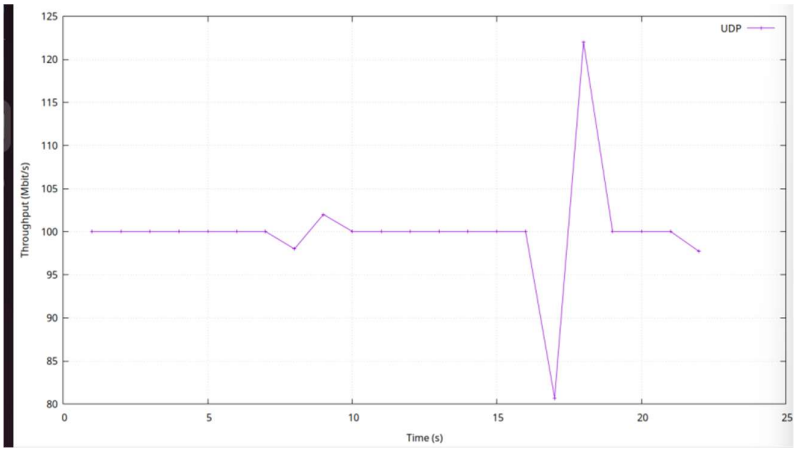


Part B - Tree topology latency measurement (gnuplot output).

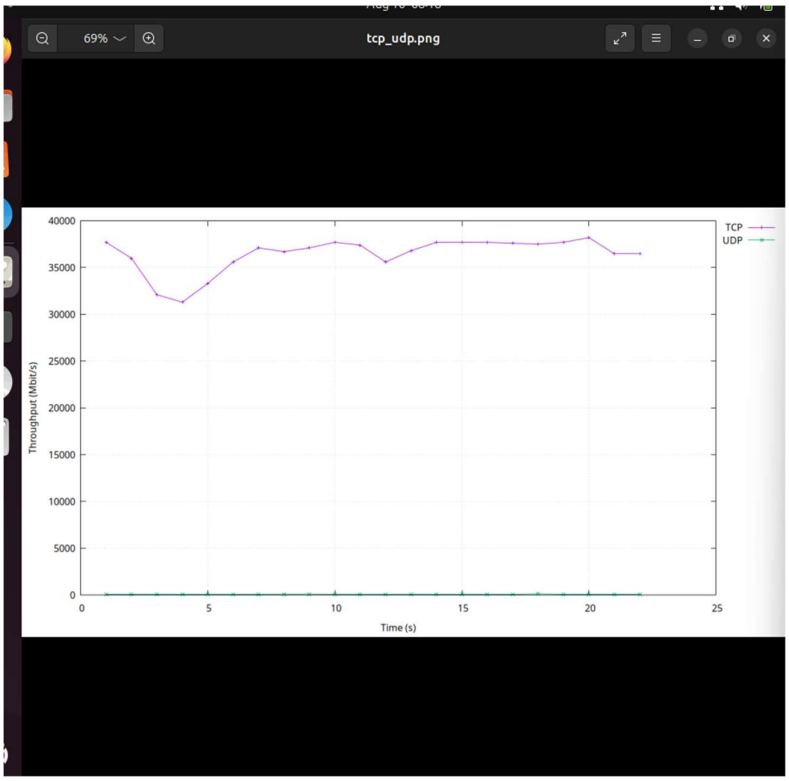
- X-axis: Ping sequence (1–20).
- Y-axis: Latency (ms).
- Most RTT values <0.3 ms, with spikes at ~1.0 ms and ~1.5 ms.
- Confirms generally low latency with occasional fluctuations.

```
vboxuser@Ubuntu2:~$ awk 'match($0,/([0-9.]+) (K|M|G)bits\/sec/,a){if (a[2]=="G")
m=a[1]*1000; else if (a[2]=="M") m=a[1] ; else m=a[1]/1000; print ++i,m}' ~/lab/
tcp_client.txt > ~/lab/tcp.dat
vboxuser@Ubuntu2:~$ awk 'match($0,/([0-9.]+) (K|M|G)bits\/sec/,a){if (a[2]=="G")
m=a[1]*1000; else if (a[2]=="M") m=a[1] ; else m=a[1]/1000; print ++i,m}' ~/lab/
udp_client.txt > ~/lab/udp.dat
vboxuser@Ubuntu2:~$ head -n 5 ~/lab/tcp.dat
1 37700
2 36000
3 32100
4 31300
5 33300
vboxuser@Ubuntu2:~$ head -n 5 ~/lab/udp.dat
1 100
2 100
3 100
4 100
5 100
```

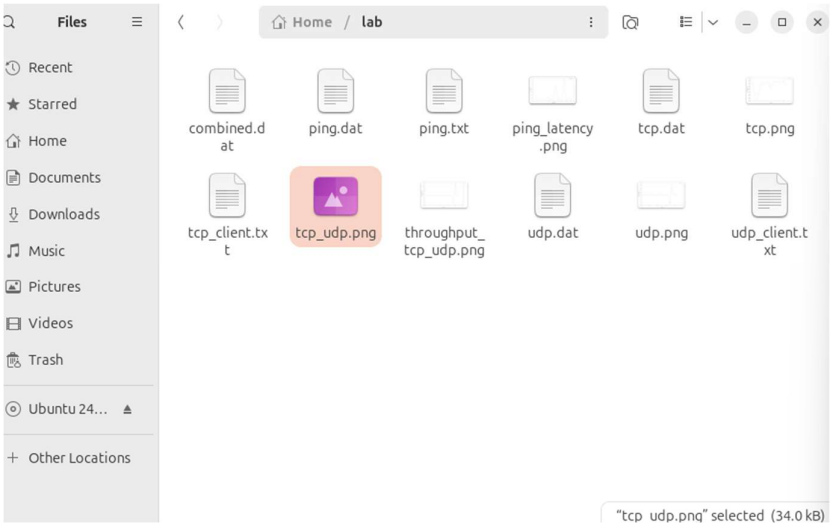


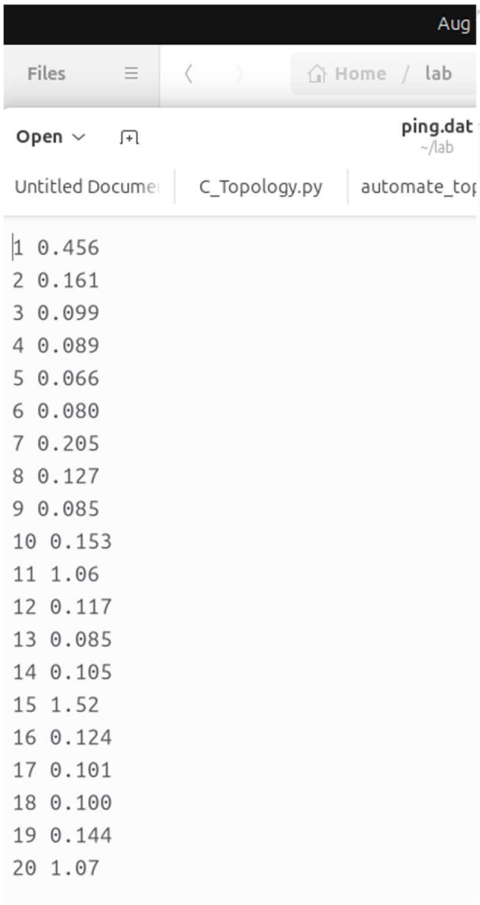


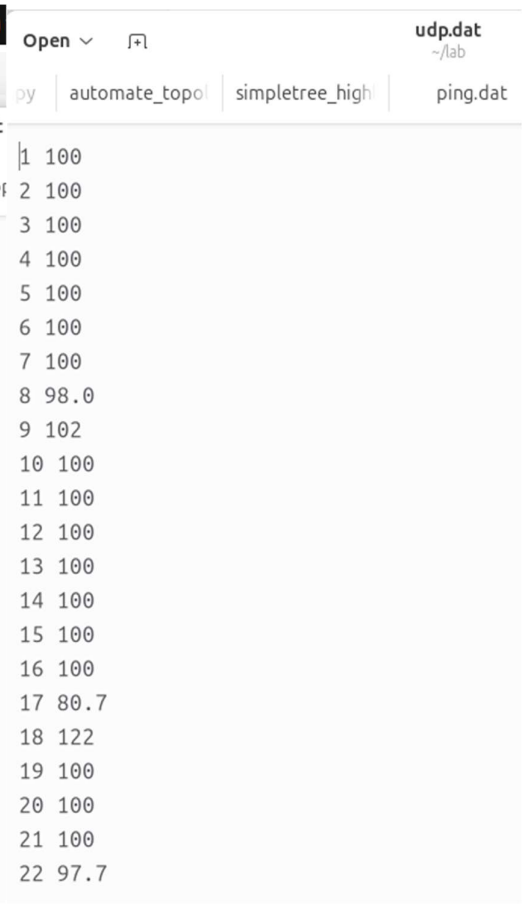
Part B – Tree topology TCP and UDP throughput evaluation (gnuplot output).



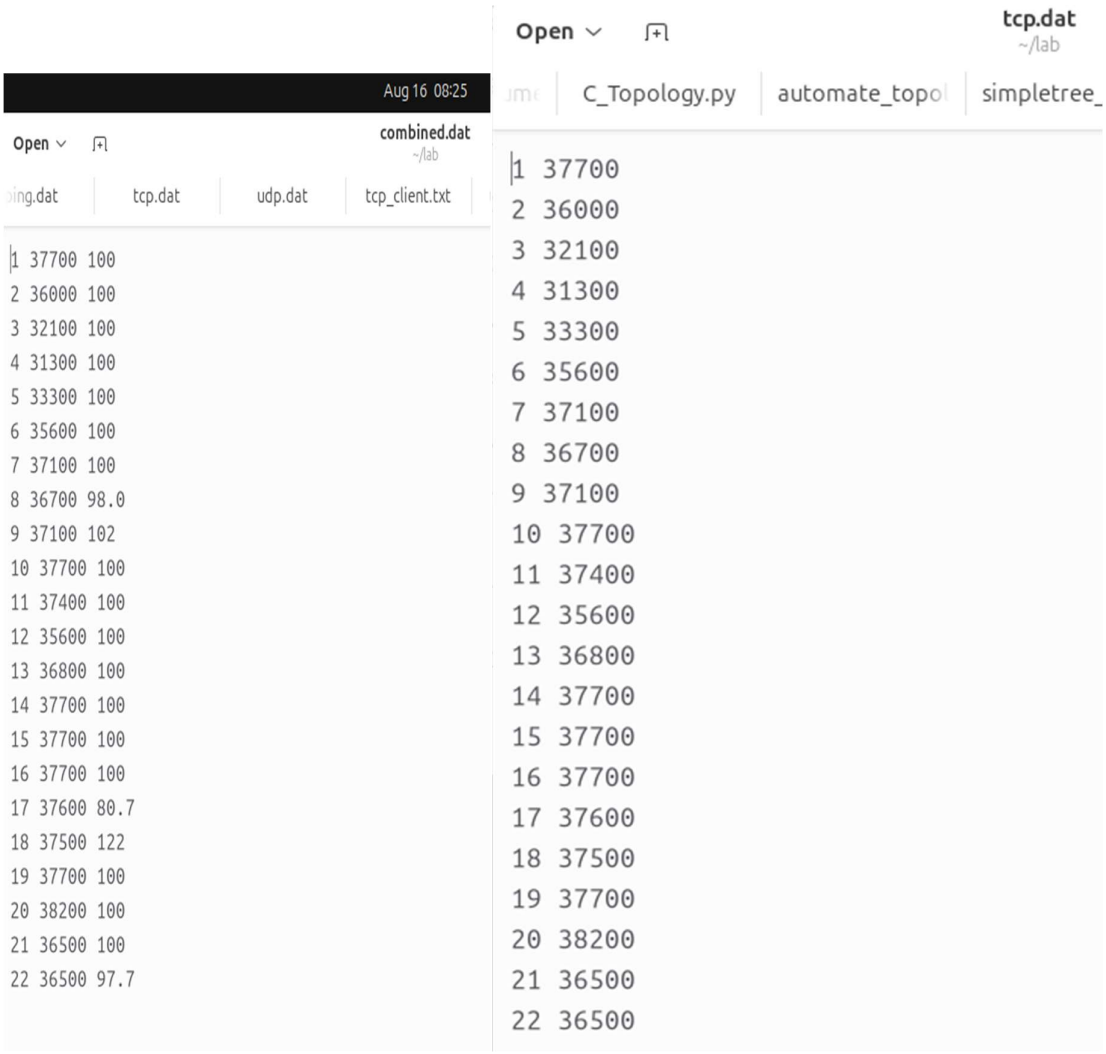
Part B – Tree topology combined TCP and UDP throughput evaluation (gnuplot output).



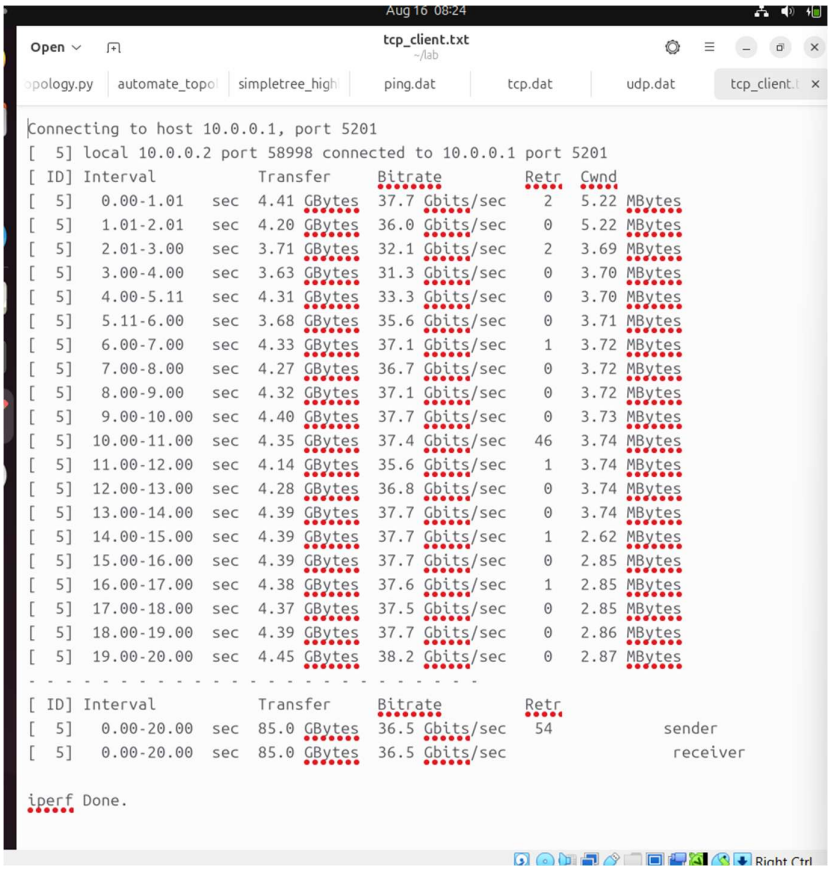


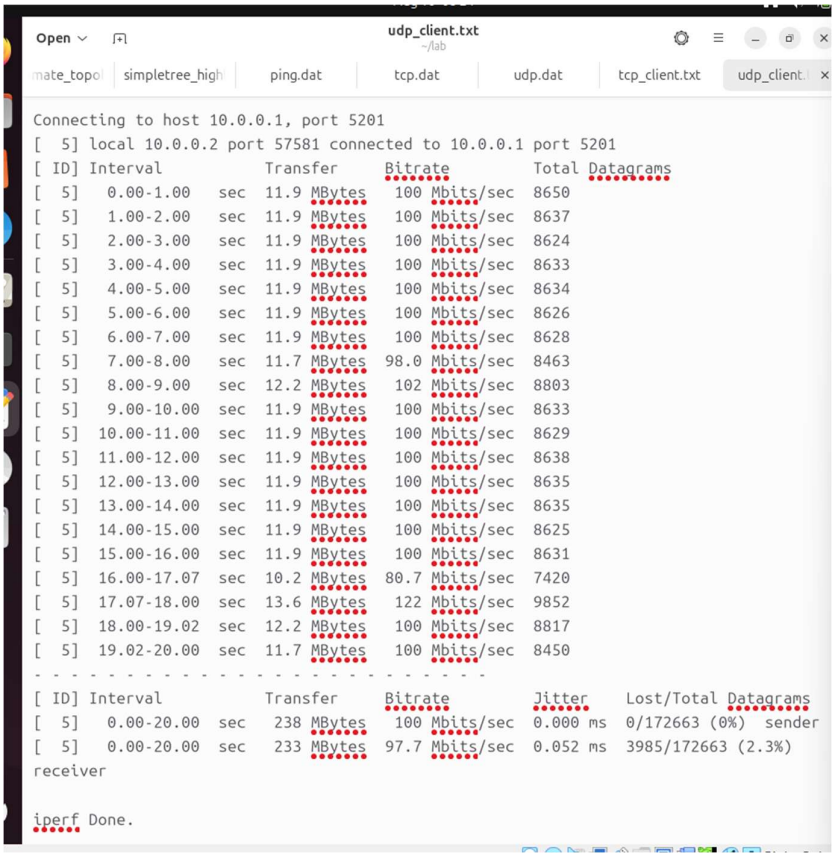


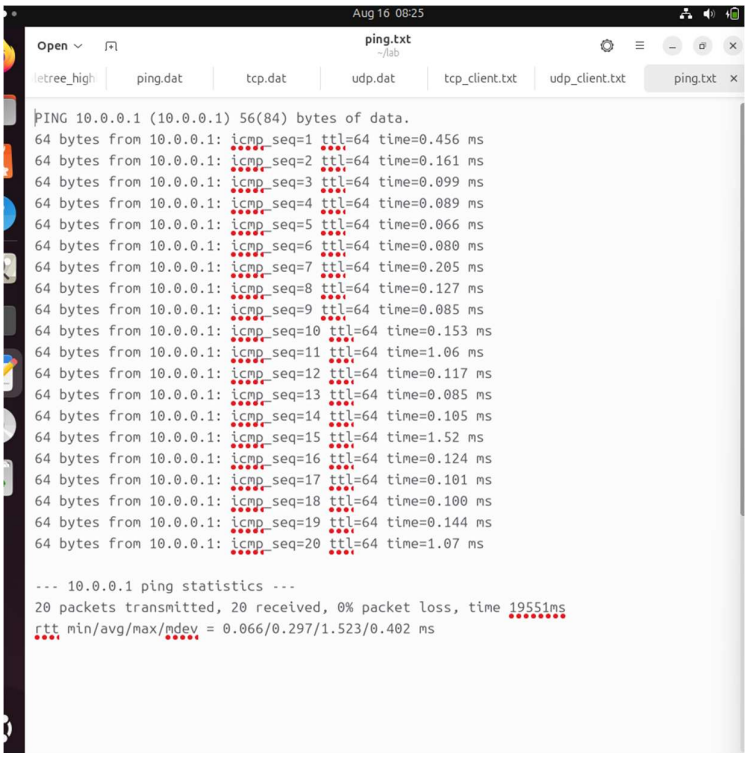
The udp.dat and ping.dat files are raw results from **Part B (Tree Topology)**. udp.dat shows UDP throughput near **100 Mbit/s** with drops and spikes, while ping.dat shows RTT mostly below **0.2 ms** with occasional spikes above **1 ms**, matching the Part B graphs.



shows the **combined.dat file**, which merges TCP and UDP results from **Part B (Tree Topology)**. The first column lists TCP throughput values (e.g., 37,700 → 31,200 → 38,200 Mbit/s), while the second column lists corresponding UDP values (mostly 100 Mbit/s, with variations like 98.0, 80.7, 122, and 97.7). This dataset was used to generate the **Combined TCP vs UDP GNUplot graph** for Part B.


Aug 16 08:24
Open
tcp_client.txt
~/lab
opology.py
automate_topo
simpletree_high
ping.dat
tcp.dat
udp.dat
tcp_client.t
Connecting to host 10.0.0.1, port 5201
[5] local 10.0.0.2 port 58998 connected to 10.0.0.1 port 5201
[ID] Interval Transfer Bitrate Retr Cwnd
[5] 0.00-1.01 sec 4.41 GBytes 37.7 Gbits/sec 2 5.22 MBytes
[5] 1.01-2.01 sec 4.20 GBytes 36.0 Gbits/sec 0 5.22 MBytes
[5] 2.01-3.00 sec 3.71 GBytes 32.1 Gbits/sec 2 3.69 MBytes
[5] 3.00-4.00 sec 3.63 GBytes 31.3 Gbits/sec 0 3.70 MBytes
[5] 4.00-5.11 sec 4.31 GBytes 33.3 Gbits/sec 0 3.70 MBytes
[5] 5.11-6.00 sec 3.68 GBytes 35.6 Gbits/sec 0 3.71 MBytes
[5] 6.00-7.00 sec 4.33 GBytes 37.1 Gbits/sec 1 3.72 MBytes
[5] 7.00-8.00 sec 4.27 GBytes 36.7 Gbits/sec 0 3.72 MBytes
[5] 8.00-9.00 sec 4.32 GBytes 37.1 Gbits/sec 0 3.72 MBytes
[5] 9.00-10.00 sec 4.40 GBytes 37.7 Gbits/sec 0 3.73 MBytes
[5] 10.00-11.00 sec 4.35 GBytes 37.4 Gbits/sec 46 3.74 MBytes
[5] 11.00-12.00 sec 4.14 GBytes 35.6 Gbits/sec 1 3.74 MBytes
[5] 12.00-13.00 sec 4.28 GBytes 36.8 Gbits/sec 0 3.74 MBytes
[5] 13.00-14.00 sec 4.39 GBytes 37.7 Gbits/sec 0 3.74 MBytes
[5] 14.00-15.00 sec 4.39 GBytes 37.7 Gbits/sec 1 2.62 MBytes
[5] 15.00-16.00 sec 4.39 GBytes 37.7 Gbits/sec 0 2.85 MBytes
[5] 16.00-17.00 sec 4.38 GBytes 37.6 Gbits/sec 1 2.85 MBytes
[5] 17.00-18.00 sec 4.37 GBytes 37.5 Gbits/sec 0 2.85 MBytes
[5] 18.00-19.00 sec 4.39 GBytes 37.7 Gbits/sec 0 2.86 MBytes
[5] 19.00-20.00 sec 4.45 GBytes 38.2 Gbits/sec 0 2.87 MBytes
- -
[ID] Interval Transfer Bitrate Retr
[5] 0.00-20.00 sec 85.0 GBytes 36.5 Gbits/sec 54 sender
[5] 0.00-20.00 sec 85.0 GBytes 36.5 Gbits/sec receiver
iperf Done.
Right Ctrl


Open
udp_client.txt
~/lab
nate_topo
simpletree_high
ping.dat
tcp.dat
udp.dat
tcp_client.txt
udp_client.t
Connecting to host 10.0.0.1, port 5201
[5] local 10.0.0.2 port 57581 connected to 10.0.0.1 port 5201
[ID] Interval Transfer Bitrate Total Datagrams
[5] 0.00-1.00 sec 11.9 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8650
[5] 1.00-2.00 sec 11.9 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8637
[5] 2.00-3.00 sec 11.9 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8624
[5] 3.00-4.00 sec 11.9 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8633
[5] 4.00-5.00 sec 11.9 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8634
[5] 5.00-6.00 sec 11.9 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8626
[5] 6.00-7.00 sec 11.9 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8628
[5] 7.00-8.00 sec 11.7 MBytes 98.0 Mbits/sec 8463
[5] 8.00-9.00 sec 12.2 MBytes 102 Mbits/sec 8803
[5] 9.00-10.00 sec 11.9 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8633
[5] 10.00-11.00 sec 11.9 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8629
[5] 11.00-12.00 sec 11.9 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8638
[5] 12.00-13.00 sec 11.9 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8635
[5] 13.00-14.00 sec 11.9 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8635
[5] 14.00-15.00 sec 11.9 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8625
[5] 15.00-16.00 sec 11.9 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8631
[5] 16.00-17.07 sec 10.2 MBytes 80.7 Mbits/sec 7420
[5] 17.07-18.00 sec 13.6 MBytes 122 Mbits/sec 9852
[5] 18.00-19.02 sec 12.2 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8817
[5] 19.02-20.00 sec 11.7 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 8450
- -
[ID] Interval Transfer Bitrate Jitter Lost/Total Datagrams
[5] 0.00-20.00 sec 238 MBytes 100 Mbits/sec 0.000 ms 0/172663 (0%) sender
[5] 0.00-20.00 sec 233 MBytes 97.7 Mbits/sec 0.052 ms 3985/172663 (2.3%)
receiver
iperf Done.



These last 3 screenshots show the raw output logs from **Part B (Tree Topology)** performance tests.

- **tcp_client.txt**: Records TCP throughput per second, ranging between **32–38 Gbit/s** with stable averages (~36.5 Gbit/s).
- **udp_client.txt**: Records UDP throughput, steady at **~100 Mbit/s** with occasional variations (e.g., 98, 80.7, 122 Mbit/s).
- **ping.txt**: Records ICMP latency for 20 packets, mostly **0.06–0.2 ms** with spikes above **1 ms**, confirming very low but slightly variable latency.

Together, these files provide the detailed evidence used to generate the **gnuplot graphs**

Overview of Outputs:

Task Part	Graphs (GNUplot)	Key Notes
Part A – Custom Topology	- tcp.png (TCP throughput 51–69 Gbit/s, stable 64–67) - udp.png (UDP ~100, drop to 91) - tcp_udp.png (TCP high, UDP near zero) - ping_latency.png (RTT <1 ms)	High throughput for TCP, UDP flat near 100, very low latency.
Part B – Tree Topology	- TCP throughput graph (31–38 Gbit/s) - UDP throughput graph (~100 with dips/spikes) - Combined TCP vs UDP (TCP dominates) - Ping latency graph (<0.3 ms, spikes ~1.5)	Shows effect of tree topology: TCP still high, UDP stable with variations, latency low but spiky.