

TUTORIAL

Best Practices for Determining the Traffic Matrix in IP Networks V 2.0

NANOG 35 Los Angeles

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created by cariden technologies, inc., portions t-systems and cisco systems.

Contributors

- Stefan Schnitter, *T-Systems*
 - MPLS/LDP
- Benoit Claise, Cisco Systems, Inc.
 - Cisco NetFlow
- Tarun Dewan, Juniper Networks, Inc.
 - Juniper DCU
- Mikael Johansson, KTH
 - Traffic Matrix Properties

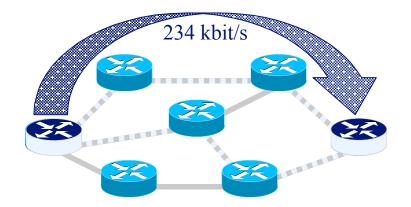
Agenda

- Introduction
 - Traffic Matrix Properties
- Measurement in IP networks
 - NetFlow
 - DCU (Juniper)
 - BGP Policy Accounting
- MPLS Networks
 - RSVP based TE
 - LDP
 - Data Collection
 - LDP deployment in Deutsche Telekom

- Traffic Matrices in Partial Topologies
- Estimation Techniques
 - Theory
 - Example Data
 - Case-Study
 - Simulation
 - Metric Optimization
 - Adding p-t-p Measurements
- Summary

Traffic Matrix

- Traffic matrix: the amount of data transmitted between every pair of network nodes
 - Demands
 - "end-to-end" in the core network
- Traffic Matrix can represent peak traffic, or traffic at a specific time
- Router-level or PoP-level matrices



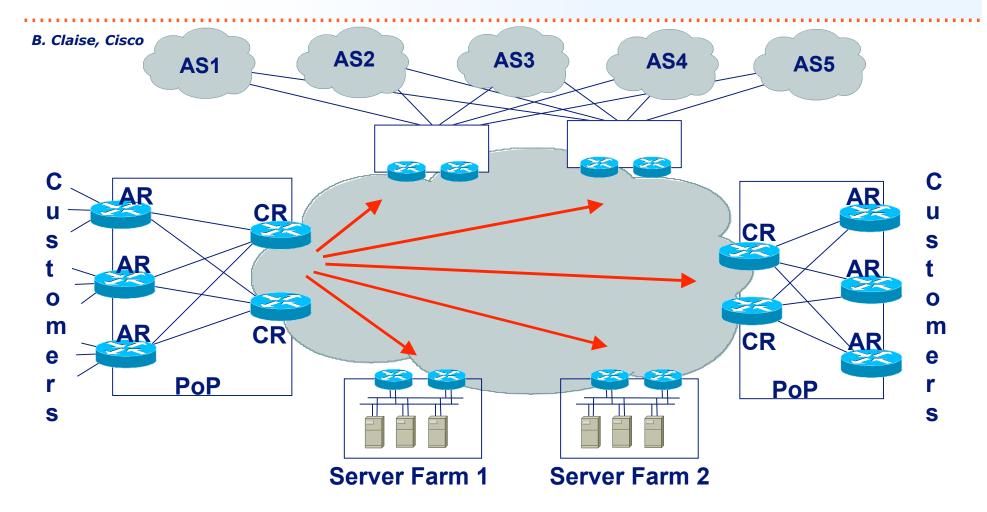
Determining the Traffic Matrix

- For what purpose?
 - Analysis and Evaluation of other network states than the current:
 - Capacity Planning
 - network changes
 - "what-if" scenarios
 - Could be per class
 - Resilience Analysis
 - network under failure conditions
 - Optimization
 - Topology
 - Find bottlenecks
 - OSPF/IS-IS metric optimization/TE

Types of Traffic Matrices

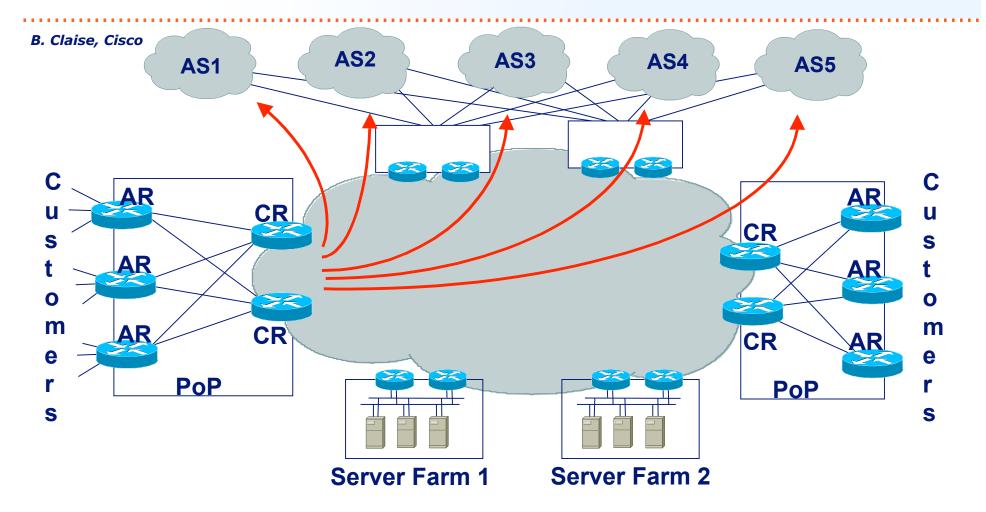
- Internal Traffic Matrix
 - PoP to PoP matrix
 - Can be from core (CR) or access (AR) routers
 - Class based
- External Traffic Matrix
 - PoP to External AS
 - BGP
 - Origin-AS or Peer-AS
 - Peer-AS sufficient for Capacity Planning and Resilience Analysis
 - Useful for analyzing the impact of external failures on the core network (capacity/resilience)

Internal Traffic Matrix



"PoP to PoP", the PoP being the AR or CR

External Traffic Matrix



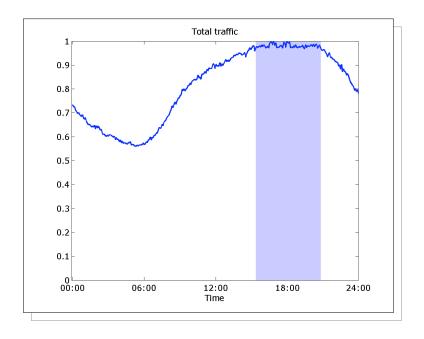
From "PoP to BGP AS", the PoP being the **AR** or **CR**The external traffic matrix can influence the internal one

Traffic Matrix Properties

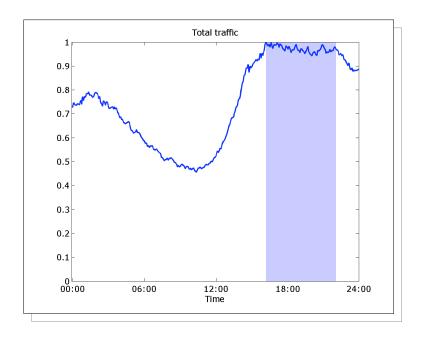
- Example Data from Tier-1 IP Backbone
 - Measured Traffic Matrix (MPLS TE based)
 - European and American subnetworks
 - 24h data
 - See [1]
- Properties
 - Temporal Distribution
 - How does the traffic vary over time
 - Spatial Distribution
 - How is traffic distributed in the network?
 - Relative Traffic Distribution
 - "Fanout"

Total traffic and busy periods

European subnetwork



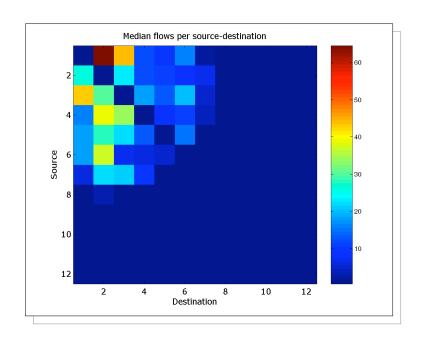
American subnetwork



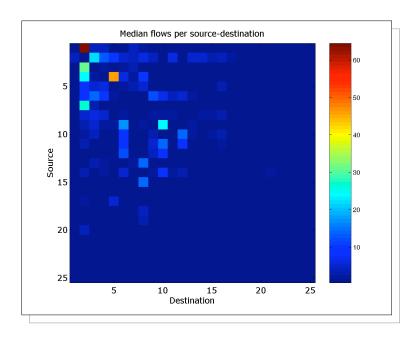
Total traffic very stable over 3-hour busy period

Spatial demand distributions

European subnetwork



American subnetwork



Few large nodes contribute to total traffic (20% demands – 80% of total traffic)

Fanout factors

Fanout: relative amount of traffic (as percentage of total)

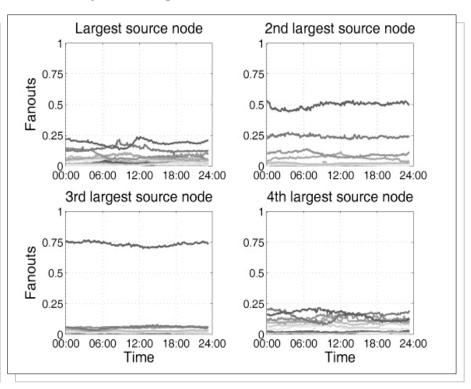
Demands for 4 largest nodes, USA

2nd largest source node Largest source node 0.75 0.5 0.25 0.75 0.5 0.25 0.25 00:00 06:00 12:00 18:00 24:00 00:00 06:00 12:00 18:00 24:00 3rd largest source node 4th largest source node 0.75 0.5 0.25 0.75 0.5 0.25

18:00

Time

Corresponding fanout factors



Fanout factors much more stable than demands themselves!

12:00 18:00

Time

00:00 06:00

Traffic Matrix Collection

- Data is collected at fixed intervals
 - E.g. every 5 or 15 minutes
- Measurement of Byte Counters
 - Need to convert to rates
 - Based on measurement interval
 - Counter roll-over issues
- Create Traffic Matrix
 - Peak Hour Matrix
 - 5 or 15 min. average at the peak hour
 - Peak Matrix
 - Calculate the peak for every demand
 - Real peak or 95-percentile

Collection Methods

- NetFlow
 - Routers collect "flow" information
 - Export of raw or aggregated data
- DCU
 - Routers collect aggregated destination statistics
- MPLS
 - RSVP
 - Measurement of Tunnel/LSP counters
 - LDP
 - Measurement of LDP counters
- Estimation
 - Estimate Traffic Matrix based on Link Utilizations

NetFlow based Methods

NetFlow

- A "Flow" is defined by
 - Source address
 - Destination address
 - Source port
 - Destination port
 - Layer 3 Protocol Type
 - TOS byte
 - Input Logical Interface (ifIndex)
- Router keeps track of Flows and usage per flow
 - Packet count
 - Byte count

NetFlow Versions

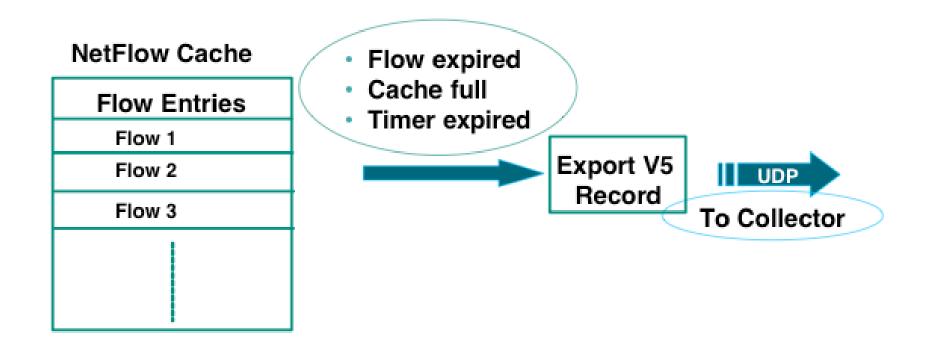
- Version 5
 - the most complete version
- Version 7
 - on the switches
- Version 8
 - the Router Based Aggregation
- Version 9
 - the new flexible and extensible version
- Supported by multiple vendors
 - Cisco
 - Juniper
 - others

NetFlow Export

- A Flow is exported when
 - Flow expires
 - Cache full
 - Timer expired
- Expired Flows are grouped together into "NetFlow Export" UDP datagrams for export to a collector
 - Including timestamps
- UDP is used for speed and simplicity
- Exported data can include extra information
 - E.g. Source/Destination AS

NetFlow Export

B. Claise, Cisco



NetFlow Deployment

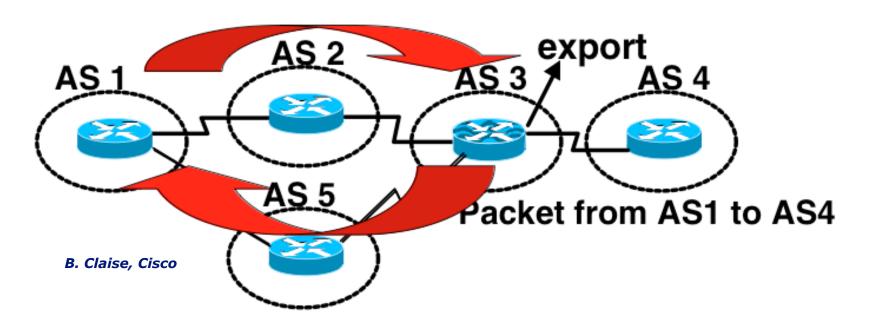
- How to build a Traffic Matrix from NetFlow data?
 - Enable NetFlow on all interfaces that source/sink traffic into the (sub)network
 - E.g. Access to Core Router links (AR->CR)
 - Export data to central collector(s)
 - Calculate Traffic Matrix from Source/Destination information
 - Static (e.g. list of address space)
 - BGP AS based
 - Easy for peering traffic
 - Could use "live" BGP feed on the collector
 - Inject IGP routes into BGP with community tag

BGP Passive Peer on the Collector

- Instead of exporting the peer-as or destination-as for the source and destination IP addresses for the external traffic matrix:
 - Don't export any BGP AS's
 - Export version 5 with IP addresses or version 8 with an prefix aggregation
- A BGP passive peer on the NetFlow collector machines can return all the BGP attributes:
 - source/destination AS, second AS, AS Path, BGP communities, BGP next hop, etc...
- Advantages:
 - Better router performance less lookups
 - Consume less memory on the router
 - Full BGP attributes flexibility

NetFlow: Asymetric BGP traffic

- Origin-as
 - Source AS1, Destination AS4
- Peer-as
 - Source AS5, Destination AS4
 WRONG!
- Because of the source IP address lookup in BGP

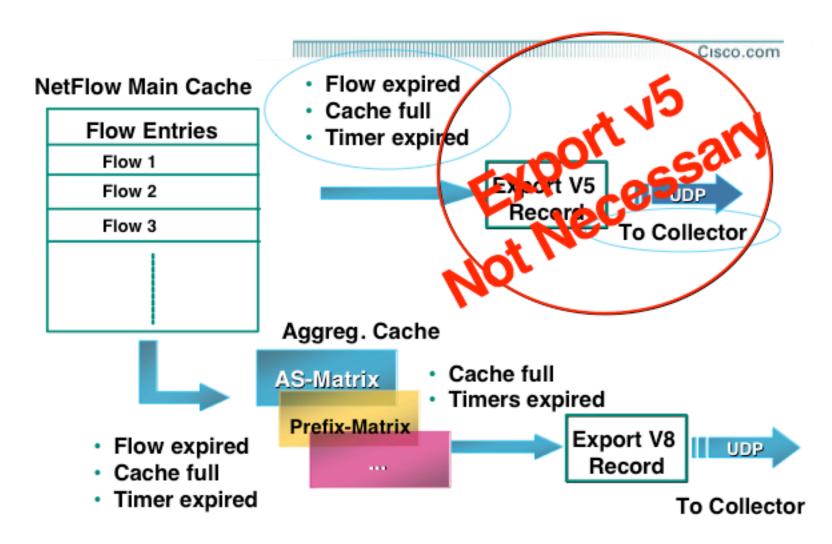


NetFlow Version 8

- Router Based Aggregation
- Enables router to summarize NetFlow Data
- Reduces NetFlow export data volume
 - Decreases NetFlow export bandwidth requirements
 - Makes collection easier
- Still needs the main (version 5) cache
- When a flow expires, it is added to the aggregation cache
 - Several aggregations can be enabled at the same time
- Aggregations:
 - Protocol/port, AS, Source/Destination Prefix, etc.

NetFlow: Version 8 Export

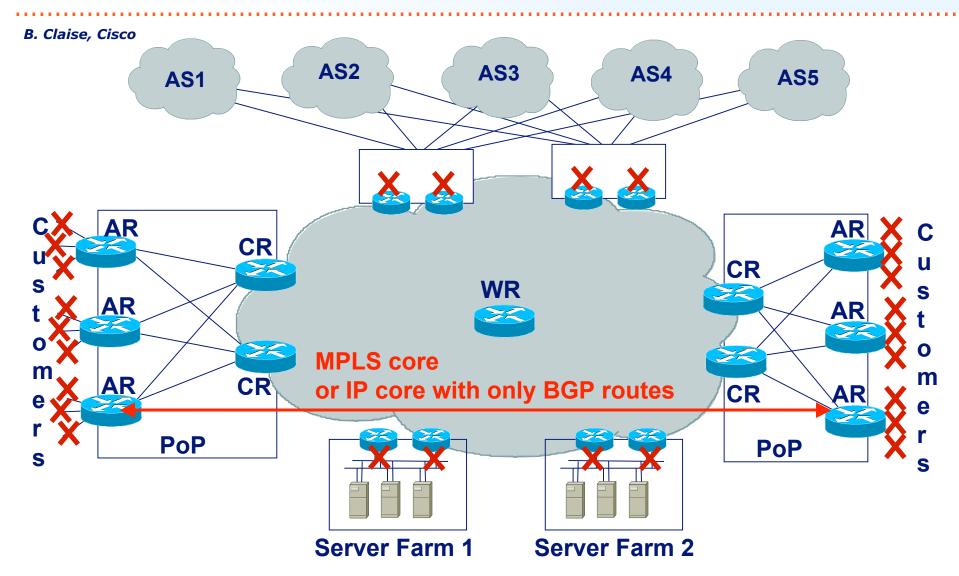
B. Claise, Cisco



BGP NextHop TOS Aggregation

- New Aggregation scheme
 - Only for BGP routes
 - Non-BGP routes will have next-hop 0.0.0.0
- Configure on Ingress Interface
- Requires the new Version 9 export format
- Only for IP packets
 - IP to IP, or IP to MPLS

BGP NextHop TOS Aggregation

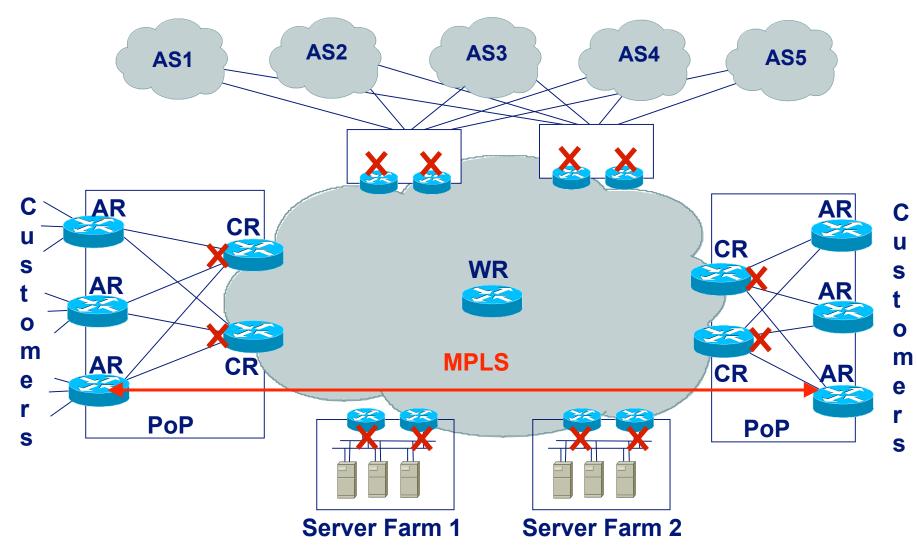


MPLS aware NetFlow

- Provides flow statistics per MPLS and IP packets
 - MPLS packets:
 - Labels information
 - And the V5 fields of the underlying IP packet
 - IP packets:
 - Regular IP NetFlow records
- Based on the NetFlow version 9 export
 No more aggregations on the router (version 8)
- Configure on ingress interface
- Supported on sampled/non sampled NetFlow

MPLS aware NetFlow: Example

B. Claise, Cisco



NetFlow Summary

- Building a Traffic Matrix from NetFlow data is not trivial
 - Need to correlate Source/Destination information with routers or PoPs
- "origin-as" vs "peer-as"
 - Asymetric BGP traffic problem
- BGP NextHop aggregation comes close to directly measuring the Traffic Matrix
 - NextHops can be easily linked to a Router/PoP
 - BGP only
- NetFlow processing is CPU intensive on routers
 - Use Sampling
 - E.g. only use every 1 out of 100 packets
 - Accuracy of sampled data

NetFlow Summary

- Various other features are available
- Ask vendors (Cisco, Juniper, etc.) for details on version support and platforms
- Commercial collector systems are available:
 - Arbor
 - Also for other purposes, like DDoS
 - Adlex
 - Etc.
- For Cisco, see Benoit Claise's webpage:
 - http://www.employees.org/~bclaise/

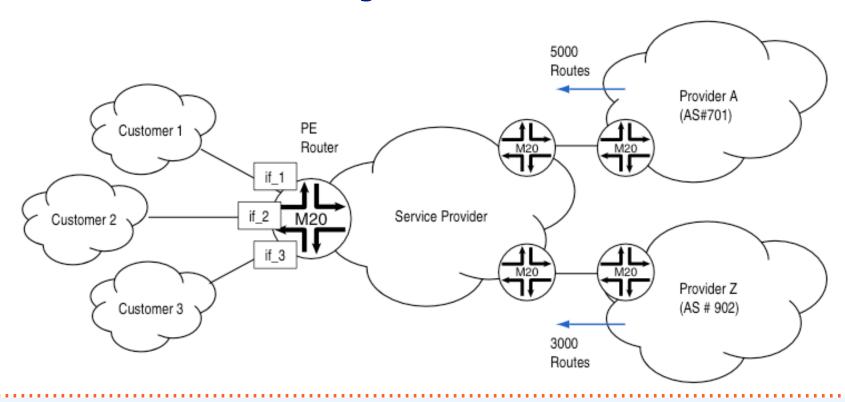
Destination Class Usage (DCU)

Destination Class Usage (DCU)

- Juniper specific!
- Policy based accounting mechanism
 - For example based on BGP communities
- Supports up to 16 different traffic destination classes
- Maintains per interface packet and byte counters to keep track of traffic per class
- Data is stored in a file on the router, and can be pushed to a collector
- But...
- 16 destination classes is in most cases too limited to build a useful full Traffic Matrix

DCU Example

- Routing policy
 - associate routes from provider A with DCU class 1
 - associate routes from provider B with DCU class 2
- Perform accounting on PE



BGP Policy Accounting

BGP Policy Accounting

- Accounting traffic according to the route it traverses
- Account for IP traffic by assigning counters based on:
 - BGP community-list
 - AS number
 - AS-path
 - destination IP address
- 64 buckets
- Similar to Juniper DCU

MPLS Based Methods

MPLS Based Methods

- Two methods to determine traffic matrices:
 - Using RSVP-TE tunnels
 - Using LDP statistics
- Some comments on Deutsche Telekom's practical implementation
- Traffic Matrices in partial topologies

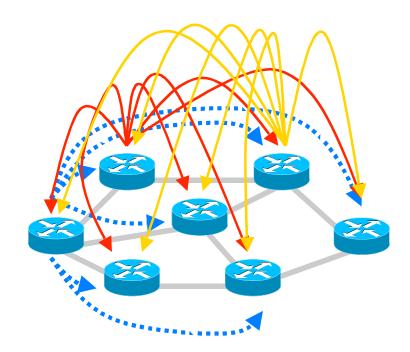
RSVP-TE in MPLS Networks

- RSVP-TE (RFC 3209) can be used to establish LSPs
- Example (IOS):

```
interface Tunnel99
  description RouterA => RouterB
  tag-switching ip
  tunnel destination 3.3.3.3
  tunnel mode mpls traffic-eng
  tunnel mpls traffic-eng priority 5 5
  tunnel mpls traffic-eng bandwidth 1
  tunnel mpls traffic-eng path-option 3 explicit identifier 17
  tunnel mpls traffic-eng path-option 5 dynamic
!
ip explicit-path identifier 17 enable
  next-address 1.1.1.1
  next-address 2.2.2.2
  next-address 3.3.3.3
!
```

RSVP-TE in MPLS Networks

- Explicitly routed Label Switched Paths (TE-LSP) have associated byte counters
- A full mesh of TE-LSPs enables to measure the traffic matrix in MPLS networks directly



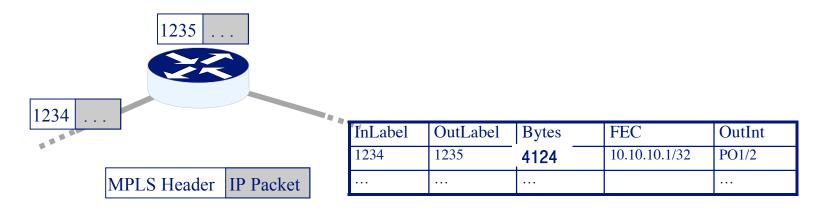
RSVP-TE in MPLS Networks

Pro's and Con's

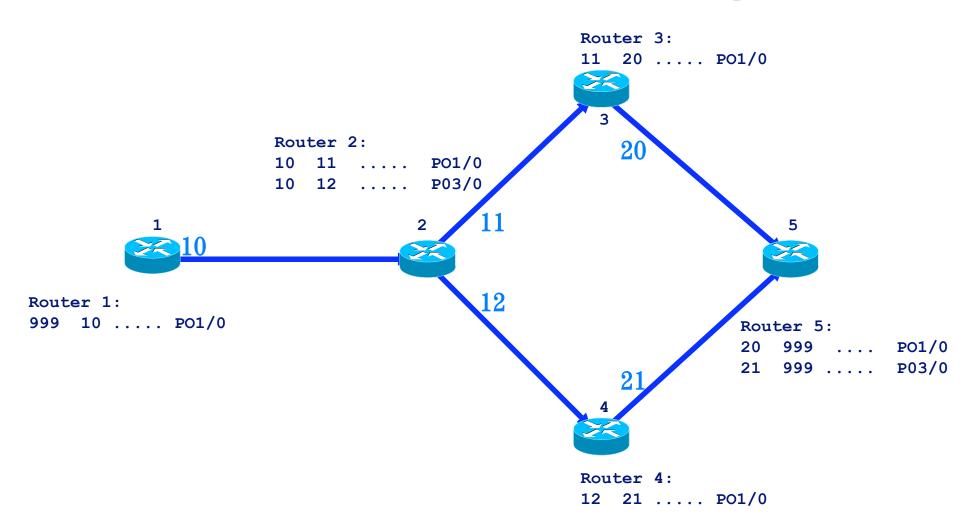
- Advantage: Method that comes closest a traffic matrix measurement
- Disadvantages:
 - A full mesh of TE-LSPs introduces an additional routing layer with significant operational costs;
 - Emulating ECMP load sharing with TE-LSPs is difficult and complex:
 - Define load-sharing LSPs explicitly;
 - End-to-end vs. local load-sharing;
 - Only provides Internal Traffic Matrix, no Router/PoP to peer traffic

Traffic matrices with LDP statistics

- •In a MPLS network, LDP can be used to distribute label information
- •Label-switching can be used without changing the routing scheme (e.g. IGP metrics)
- Many router operating systems provide statistical data about bytes switched in each forwarding equivalence class (FEC):



Traffic matrices with LDP statistics Use of ECMP load-sharing

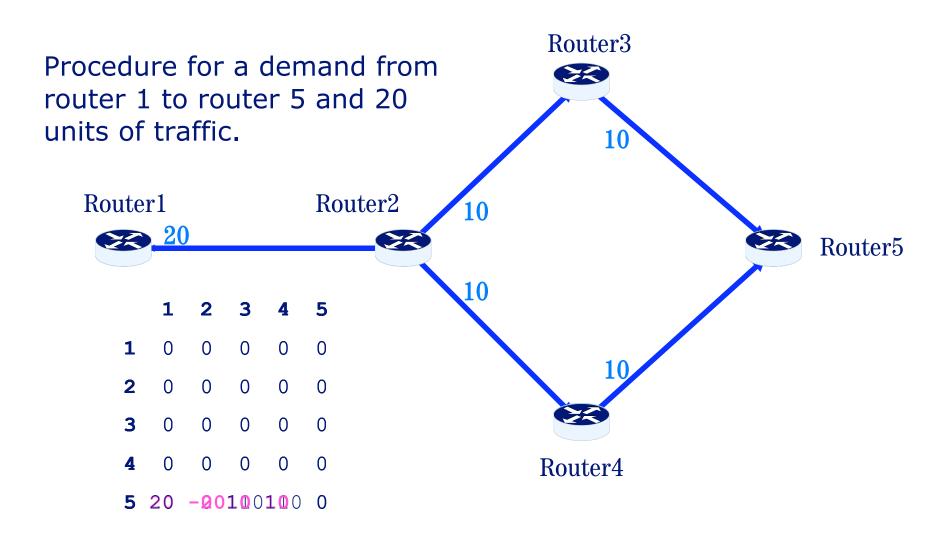


Traffic matrices with LDP statistics

- The given information allows for a forward chaining
- •For each router and FEC a set of residual paths can be calculated (given the topology and LDP information)
- •From the LDP statistics we gather the bytes switched on each residual path
- •Problem: It is difficult to decide whether the router under consideration is the beginning or transit for a certain FEC
- •Idea: For the traffic matrix TM, add the paths traffic to TM(A,Z) and subtract from TM(B,Z). [4]

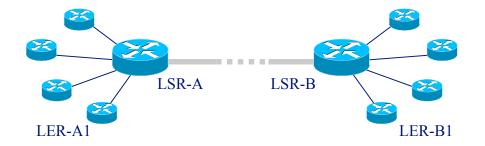


Traffic matrices with LDP statistics Example



Practical Implementation Cisco's IOS

- •LDP statistical data available through "show mpls forwarding" command
- Problem: Statistic contains no ingress traffic (only transit)
- If separate routers exist for LER- and LSRfunctionality, a traffic matrix on the LSR level can be calculated
- •A scaling process can be established to compensate a moderate number of combined LERs/LSRs.



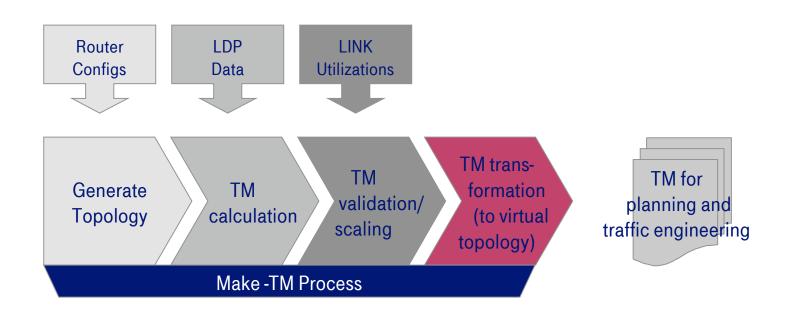
Practical Implementation Juniper's JunOS

- LDP statistical data available through "show ldp traffic-statistics" command
- Problem: Statistic is given only per FECs and not per outgoing interface
- As a result one cannot observe the branching ratios for a FEC that is split due to load-sharing (ECMP);
- Assume that traffic is split equally
- Especially for backbone networks with highly aggregated traffic this assumption is met quite accurately

Practical Implementation Results

- The method has been successfully implemented in Deutsche Telekom's global MPLS Backbone
- •A continuous calculation of traffic matrices (15min averages) is accomplished in real-time for a network of 180 routers
- •The computation requires only one commodity PC
- No performance degradation through LDP queries
- Calculated traffic matrices are used in traffic engineering and network planning

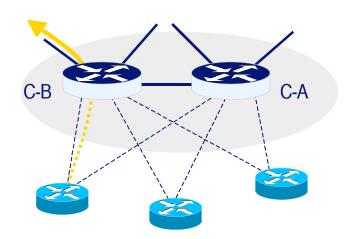
Practical Implementation Deployment Process

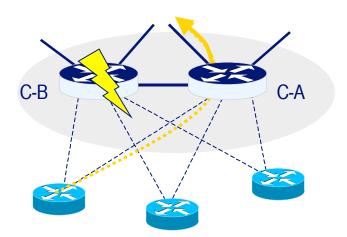


Conclusions for LDP method

- This method can be implemented in a multivendor network
- It does not require the definition of explicitly routed LSPs
- It allows for a continuous calculation
- There are some restrictions concerning
 - vendor equipment
 - network topology
- •See Ref. [4]

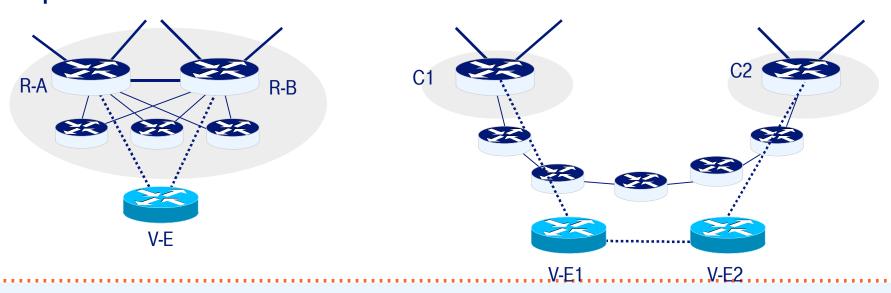
- •In larger networks, it is often important to have a TM for a partial topology (not based on every router)
- Example: TM for core network (planning and TE)
- Problem: TM changes in failure simulations
- •Demand moves to another router since actual demand starts outside the considered topology (red):





- The same problem arises with link failures
- Results in inaccurate failure simulations on the reduced topology
- Metric changes can introduce demand shifts in partial topologies, too.
- But accurate (failure) simulations are essential for planning and traffic engineering tasks

- Introduce virtual edge devices as new start-/endpoints for demands
- Map real demands to virtual edge devices
- Model depends on real topology
- •Tradeoff between simulation accuracy and problem size.



Estimation Techniques

What do we have?

- NetFlow
 - v5 deployment is complex
 - newer versions (aggregation, v8) not complete
- DCU (Juniper)
 - only 16 classes
- BGP Policy Accounting
 - only 64 classes, BGP only
- MPLS
 - TE tunnels
 - requires full TE mesh
 - LDP counters
 - nice solution, only minor issues (see [4])

What do we want?

- Derive Traffic Matrix (TM) from easy to measure variables
 - No complex features to enable
- Link Utilization measurements
 - SNMP
 - easy to collect, e.g. MRTG
- Problem:

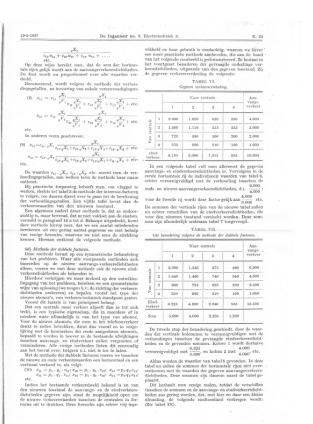
Estimate point-to-point demands from measured link loads

- Network Tomography
 - Y. Vardi, 1996
 - Similar to: Seismology, MRI scan, etc.

Is this new?

- Not really...
- ir. J. Kruithof: *Telefoonverkeersrekening*, De Ingenieur, vol. 52, no. 8, feb. <u>1937</u> (!)

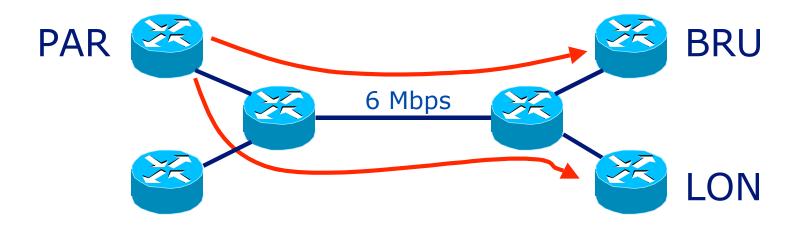




Demand Estimation

- Underdetermined system:
 - N nodes in the network
 - O(N) links utilizations (known)
 - O(N²) demands (unknown)
 - Must add additional assumptions (information)
- Many algorithms exist:
 - Gravity model
 - Iterative Proportional Fitting (Kruithof's Projection)
 - Maximum Likelihood Estimation
 - Entropy maximization
 - Bayesian statistics (model prior knowledge)
 - Ftc...!
- Calculate the most likely Traffic Matrix

Example



y: link utilizations

A: routing matrix

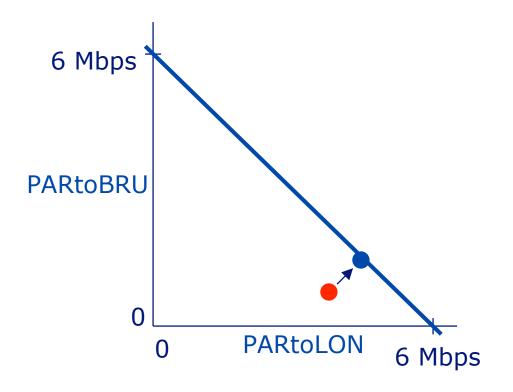
x: point-to-point demands

Solve: y = Ax

In this example: 6 = PARtoBRU + PARtoLON

Example

Solve:
$$y = Ax$$
 -> $6 = PARtoBRU + PARtoLON$



Additional information

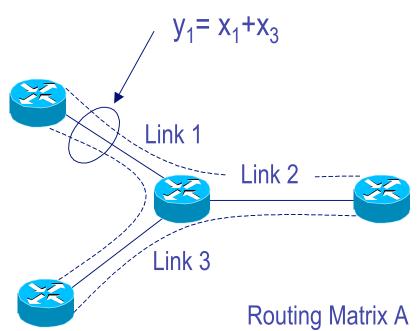
E.g. Gravity Model (every source sends the same percentage as all other sources of it's total traffic to a certain destination)

Example: Total traffic sourced at PAR is 50Mbps. BRU sinks 2% of total traffic, LON sinks 8%:

PARtoBRU = 1 Mbps and PARtoLON = 4 Mbps

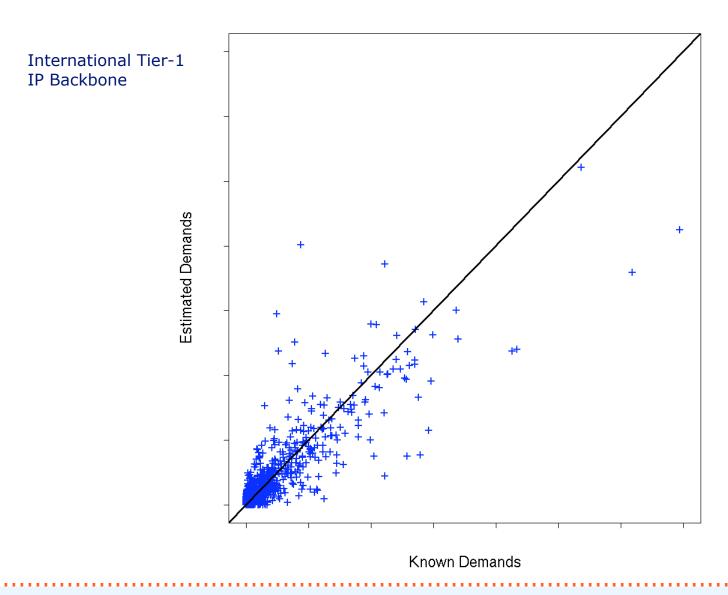
Final Estimate: <u>PARtoBRU = 1.5 Mbps</u> and <u>PARtoLON = 4.5 Mbps</u>

General Formulation

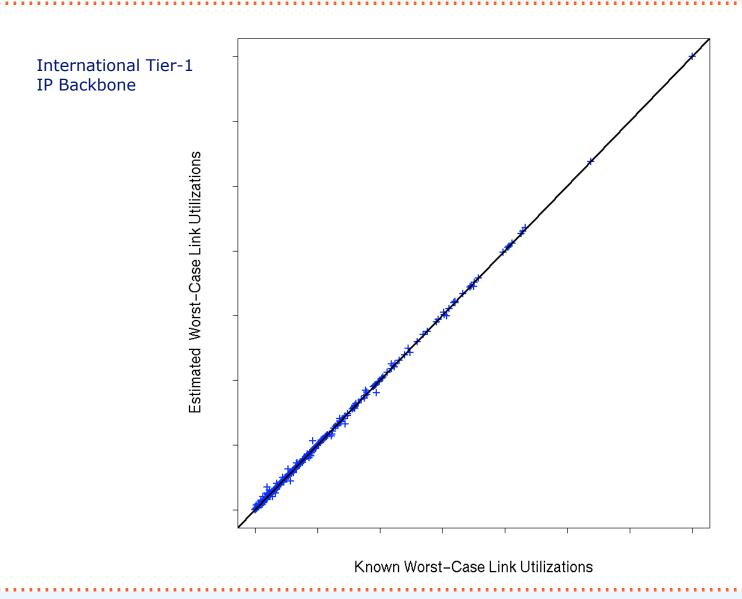


- The total traffic on each link is the sum of all the source destination flows that route over that link
- Given Y and the routing matrix A solve for X

Network Results: Estimated Demands



Estimated Link Utilizations!

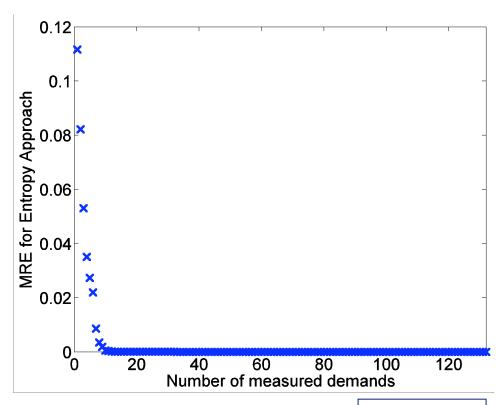


Demand Estimation Results

- Individual demands
 - Inaccurate estimates...
- Estimated worst-case link utilizations
 - Accurate!
- Explanation
 - Multiple demands on the same path indistinguishable, but their sum is known
- If these demands fail-over to the same alternative path,
 the resulting link utilizations will be correct

Estimation with Measurements

- Estimation techniques can be used in combination with demand meadsurements
 - E.g. NetFlow or partial MPLS mesh
- This example: Greedy search to find demands which decreases MRE (Mean Relative Error) most.
 - A small number of measured demands account for a large drop in MRE



Data from [1]

Traffic Matrix Estimation Case-Study

TM Estimation Deployment Case

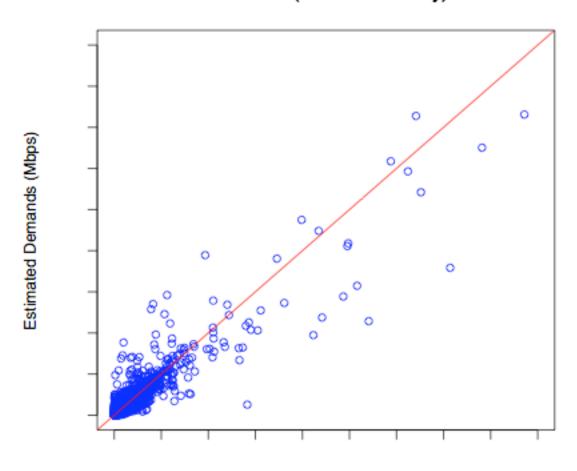
- Large ISP network
 - about 80 Routers and 200 Circuits
 - 2550 TM entries
 - not all routers source/sink traffic (e.g. core)
- Known Traffic Matrix
 - Direct MPLS measurement
- Case-study will evaluate:
 - How does estimated TM compare to known TM?
 - How well does the estimated TM predict worst-case link utilizations?
 - How well do tools that require a TM work when given the estimated TM?
 - How much can the estimated TM be improved by adding point-to-point measurements?

Procedure

- TM estimation using Cariden MATE Software
 - Demand Deduction tool
- Start with current network and known TM
 - save as "PlanA" (with TM "Known")
- IGP Simulation for non-failure
- Save Link Utilizations and Node In/Out traffic
- Estimate Traffic Matrix
 - New TM: "Estimated", Save as "PlanB"
- Do an IGP Metric Optimization on both networks
 - Using known TM in planA, estimated TM in PlanB
- Simulate IGP routing on both optimized networks
 - using <u>known</u> Traffic matrix for both
- Compare Results!

Estimated Demands

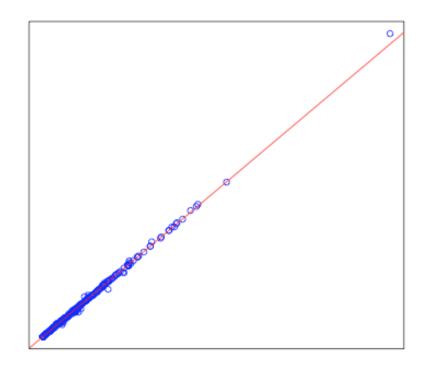
Demands (Estimation Only)



Measured Demands (Mbps)

Worst-Case Link Util. (No. Opt)

Worst-Case Link Utilizations (No Opt.)

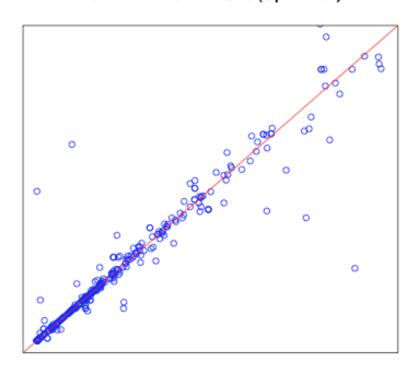


Based on Measured Demands (%)

- No Metric Optimization
- PlanA Traffic Matrix:
 - Known
- PlanB Traffic Matrix:
 - Estimated
- IGP Simulation
 - Circuit + SRLG failures
- Compare Worst-Case Link Utilizations (in %)

Normal Link Utilizations (Opt.)

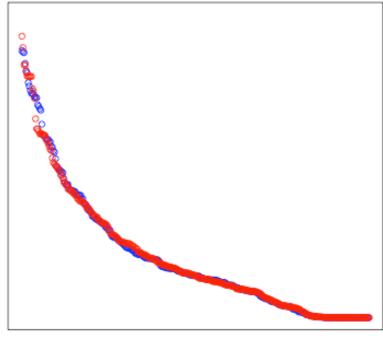
Normal Link Utilizations (Optimized)



Based on Measured Demands (%)

- IGP Metric Optimization
 - PlanA Traffic Matrix:
 - Known
 - PlanB bandwidth level:
 - Estimated
- IGP Simulation
 - PlanA Traffic Matrix:
 - Known
 - PlanB bandwidth level:
 - Original
- Compare Base Link Utilizations (in %)
 - non-failure

Normal Link Utilizations (Optimized)



Link Utilization (%)

non-failure • Colors:

Utilizations

Scenario: same as

Compare Sorted Link

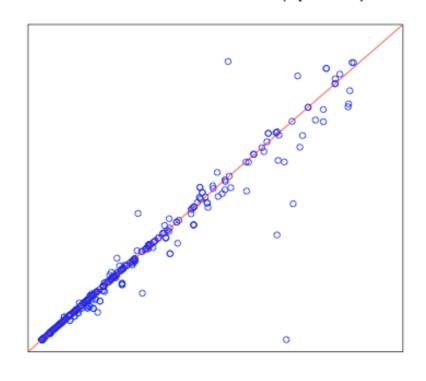
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- based on measured demands: BLUF
- based on estimated demands: RFD

Link #

Worst-Case Link Utilizations (Opt)

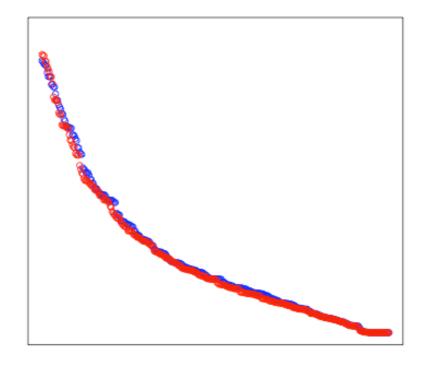
Worst-Case Link Utilizations (Optimized)



- Scenario: same
- Compare Worst-Case Link Utilizations (in %)
 - Circuits + SRLG failures

Based on Measured Demands (%)

Worst-Case Link Utilizations (Optimized)



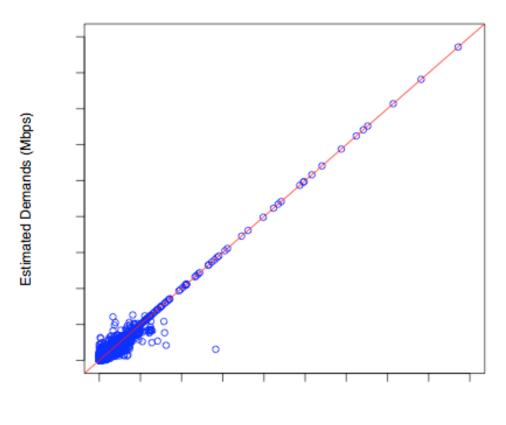
Link Utilization (%)

- Scenario: same
- Compare Sorted Worst-Case Link Utilizations (in %)
 - Circuits + SRLG failures
- Colors:
 - based on measured demands: BLUE
 - based on estimated demands: RFD

Link #

Add Measurements (1)

Demand Estimation: Measure top 100 Demands

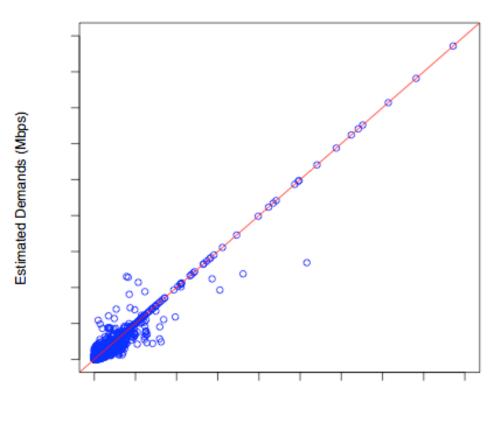


Measured Demands (Mbps)

- Select the top 100 demands from the estimated traffic matrix
- Setup Juniper DCU (or equivalent) to measure these demands
 - on 23 routers
 - 38% of total traffic
- Add measured data to the TM estimation process
- (FYI: 990 demands represent 90% of total traffic)

Add Measurements (2)

Demand Estimation: Measurements on 10 Routers

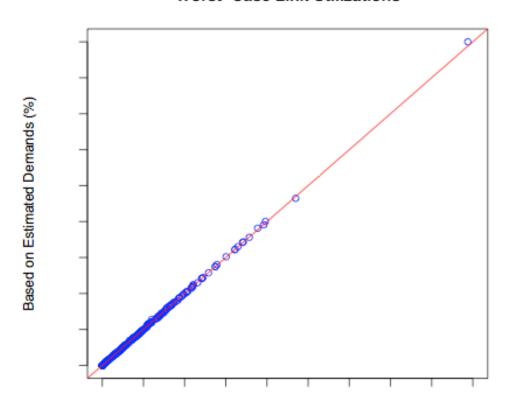


Measured Demands (Mbps)

- Select the top 10 routers from the measured in/out traffic
- Select the top 16 demands on each of these routers (estimated)
- Setup Juniper DCU to measure these demands
 - 160 demands
 - 10 routers
 - 41% of total traffic
- Add measured data to the TM estimation process

Worst-Case Link Utilization (2)

Worst-Case Link Utilizations



- Revisit the worst-case link utilizations, now with more accurate TM
- Similar results as before
- Hardly any room for improvement!

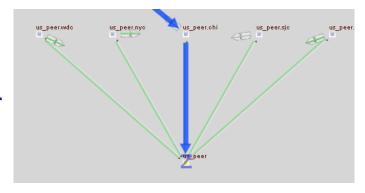
Based on Measured Demands (%)

TM Estimation Case-Study

- Works very well on this ISP topology/traffic!
 - Also on AT&T, and all other networks we tried
- Even more accurate if used in combination with demand measurements
 - E.g. from NetFlow, DCU or MPLS

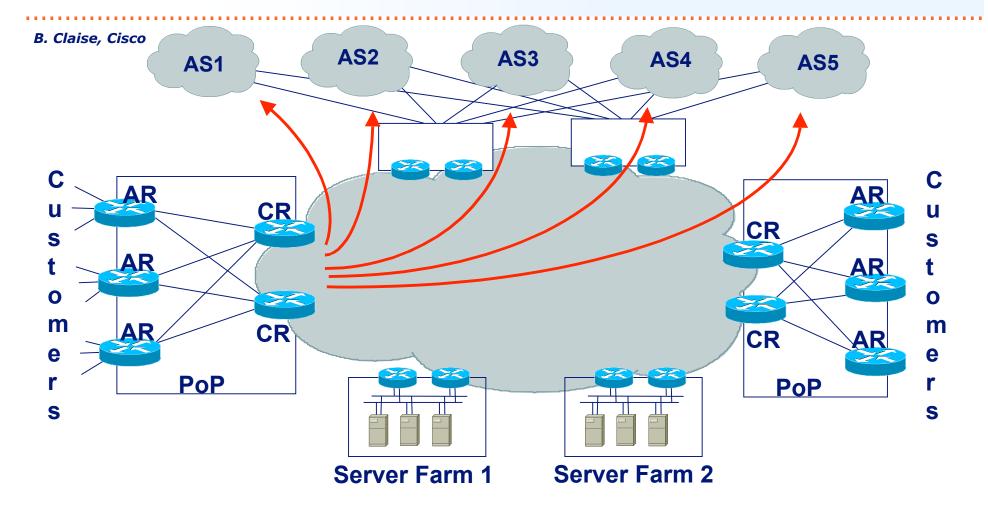
External/Inter-AS TM

- Traffic Matrix on a network will change due to core failures (closest-exit), or peering link failures
- Create router-to-peer TM
- Estimation procedure is similar
- Routing is different
 - policy restrictions:e.g. no traffic from peer to peer
 - Virtual model of remote AS



Estimation can make use of a known core TM

External Traffic Matrix



From "Router to BGP AS", the router being the **AR** or **CR**The external traffic matrix can influence the internal one

TM Estimation Summary

- Algorithms have been published
 - Implement yourself (e.g. IPF procedure)
 - Commercial tools are available
- Can be used in multiple scenarios:
 - Fully estimate Traffic Matrix
 - Combine with NetFlow/DCU/etc.
 - Measure large demands, estimate small ones
 - Estimate unknown demands in a network with partial MPLS mesh (LDP or RSVP)
 - Estimate Peering traffic when Core Traffic Matrix is known
- Also see AT&T work
 - E.g. Nanog29: How to Compute Accurate Traffic Matrices for Your Network in Seconds [2]

Summary & Conclusions

Overview

- "Traditional" NetFlow (Version 5)
 - Requires a lot of resources for collection and processing
 - Not trivial to convert to Traffic Matrix
- BGP NextHop Aggregation NetFlow provides almost direct measurement of the Traffic Matrix
 - Verion 9 export format
 - Only supported by Cisco in newer IOS versions
- Juniper DCU is too limited (only 16 classes) to build a full Traffic Matrix
 - But could be used as adjunct to TM Estimation

Overview

- MPLS networks provide easy access to the Traffic Matrix
 - Directly measure in RSVP TE networks
 - Derive from switching counters in LDP network
- Very convenient if you already have an MPLS network, but no reason to deploy MPLS just for the TM
- Estimation techniques can provide reliable
 Traffic Matrix data
 - Very useful in combination with partially know Traffic Matrix (e.g. NetFlow, DCU or MPLS)

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