

A Study of Fairness for ATM ABR Service Based on Doubly Finite Queue using MSVDR Algorithm

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Abstract: A general goal of the Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network is to support connections across Local-Area Networks (LANs), Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs) and Wide Area Networks (WANs). However, in Available Bit Rate (ABR) service, different treatments are offered according to different Round Trip Times (RTTs) of connections. To improve the above unfairness, this study presents Doubly Finite Queue mechanism and Multi Source Virtual Dynamic Routing Algorithm, in which 3 reference parameters for cell delay are defined and reflect on the messages of Resource Management (RM) cells. To evaluate our mechanism, we execute simulations on a simple ATM network model where multiple connections and background traffic with different RTTs share the bandwidth of a bottleneck link. The simulation results, based on good throughput and efficiency, clearly show that the mechanism improves the fairness among multiple connections, although the considered implementation of ABR transfer capacity is simple.

Key words: ATM, queue management, RTT, ABR, routing algorithm

INTRODUCTION

ATM has been adopted for B-ISDN as a networking protocol with a potential to support applications with distinct tolerances for delay, jitter and cell loss. To address this spectrum of needs, the ATM Forum has defined a family of service categories (ATM Forum, 1999).

- C Constant Bit Rate (CBR) service is used by connections that request a fixed amount of bandwidth.
- C Variable Bit Rate (VBR) service is intended for applications which have bursty traffic characteristics, with precisely defined requirements for throughputs and delays.
- C Unspecified Bit Rate (UBR) service is intended for applications with minimal service requirement.
- C Available Bit Rate (ABR) service is suitable for supporting highly bursty data applications on ATM networks.

With ABR service, sources are expected to have the ability to decrease or increase their transmission rate if the network requires them to do so, except when the connections are established. Most traffic parameters of

ABR service cannot be predicted; however, to achieve good throughput, certain cell loss requirements must be met. In ABR service, bandwidth is not statically allocated. Instead, the Peak Cell Rate (PCR) and Minimum Cell Rate (MCR) are specified. The transmission rate of each connection is controlled between PCR and MCR, based on feedback messages from the network by using Resource Management (RM) cells. Several feedback controls are defined by the ATM Forum (1999). From one of them, we adopt Relative Rate Marking (RRM).

Because RM cells are transmitted through connections between sources and destinations, connections with shorter RTT's can modify their transmission rate much faster than those with longer RTTs. This destroys the fairness among connections (Bianco, 1994; Macro, 1995). The definition of fairness in this study is to share equally the available bandwidth between all the connections or, in other words, identical bandwidth should be provided to connections with identical requirements.

In order to solve the unfairness problem in ATM ABR service, this study proposes a DFQ and MSVDR algorithm. Finally, we execute simulation experiments on a simple ATM network model. We choose TCP as the higher Protocol upon ATM ABR service, since TCP is the

most widely used transport protocol in both LAN and WAN. In our simulation model, multiple connections with different RTTs share the bandwidth of a bottleneck link with background traffic. From the comparisons based on the good throughput-the effective throughput obtained by receivers and the efficiency between ABR DRR and ABR DFQ mechanisms, the simulation results clearly show that ABR DFQ mechanism has improved the fairness among multiple connections, although the considered implementation of the ABR transfer capacity is quite simple.

In addition, the ABR congestion management specification accommodates at least 2 different modes in which switches in the network may operate. The source/destination policies (the main focus of the specification) are designed to smoothly operate with any intermingling of the 2 types of switches in the network-these are the explicit forward congestion indication (EFCI) and explicit rate (ER) switches. EFCI switches use a single bit to communicate congestion (Ramakrishnan and Jain, 1990), when a queue threshold is exceeded. ER switches, on the other hand, compute a max-min fair rate (Charny *et al.*, 1995; Charny and Ramakrishnan, 1996) and communicate this rate to the sources. The source and destination use a common ABR protocol to interface to networks with both types of switches. We show that the protocol correctly interoperates with both types of switches, using the formal specification.

ABR FLOW CONTROL MODEL

The ATM Forum Technical Committee has specified the ABR rate-based flow control in The ATM Forum Technical Committee (1996), Lengiz and Kamoun (2000). These specifications describe essentially, the source and the destination end-systems behavior; the constraints applicable to the switches were left implementation specific.

ABR flow control model: ABR flow control occurs between a sending end-system (source) and a receiving end-system (destination). Sources and destinations are connected via bidirectional connections. The forward direction is the direction from the source to the destination and the backward direction is the direction from the destination to the source. As shown in the Fig. 1, for the forward information flow from the source to the destination, there is a control loop consisting of 2 RM cell flows, one in the forward direction and the other in the backward direction.

A source generates forward RM cells which are turned around by the destination and sent back to the source as backward RM cells. These backward RM cells carry feedback information provided by the network elements and/or the destination back to the source. This

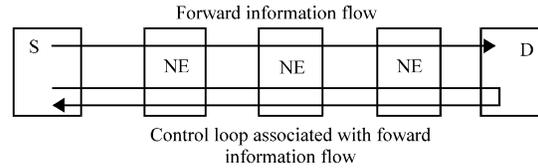


Fig. 1: Source-destination ABR control loop

information is about the state of the network, like bandwidth availability, state of congestion and impending congestion.

An RM cell includes many fields (The ATM Forum Technical Committee, 1996). Among them we can mention:

DIR (DIRection): It indicates the direction of the cell, 0 for forward and 1 for backward.

Explicit rate (ER): This field is used to limit the source rate allowed cell rate (ACR) to a specific value. For each RM cell, ER is set by the source to a requested rate. It may be subsequently reduced by any network element in the path to a value that the element can sustain.

Current cell rate (CCR): It is set by the source to its current transmission rate ACR. The value of the CCR field remains unchanged during its round-trip propagation.

Congestion indication (CI): It allows a network element to indicate that there is congestion, so the source shall decrease its rate.

No increase (NI): It is used by a network element to indicate impending congestion and so to prevent a source from increasing its ACR. In contrast to CI, it does not imply any decrease of the source rate.

Source behavior: The following items summarize the source behavior of a connection:

- C The source shall never send cells at a rate exceeding a dedicated source rate ACR. This cell rate is controlled by means of the dynamic generic cell rate algorithm (DGCRA). The ACR value fluctuates between 2 bounds, the minimum cell rate (MCR) and the peak cell rate (PCR), specified in the traffic contract.
- C Before a source sends the first cell after connection setup, it shall set ACR to at most initial cell rate (ICR). The first cell sent shall be a forward RM cell.
- C After the first forward RM cell, cells shall be sent according to the following order:
 - C The next cell shall be a forward RM cell if and only if, since the last forward RM cell was sent, either.

- C At least a number of MRM cells have been sent and at least a time of TRM units has elapsed.
- C A number of Nrm-1 cells have been sent.
- C The next cell shall be a backward RM cell if condition above is not met, if a backward RM Cell is waiting for transmission and if either:
 - C No backward RM cell has been sent since the last forward RM cell.
 - C No data cell is waiting for transmission.
- C When a backward RM cell is received with CI = 1, then ACR shall be reduced, if this reduction results in a value below MCR, ACR shall be set to MCR. If this RM cell has both CI = 0 and NI = 0, then the ACR may be increased, to a rate no greater than PCR. If this RM cell has NI = 1, the ACR shall not be increased.
- C When a backward RM cell is received and after ACR is adjusted according to the previous rule, ACR is set to minimum (ACR, ER), but no lower than MCR.
- C When generating a forward RM cell, the source shall assign values to the various RM cell fields.
- C A source shall reset the bit EFCI on every data cell it sends.

Destination behavior: The following points make the summary of the destination behavior of a connection:

- C When a data cell is received, its EFCI indicator is saved as the EFCI state of the connection.
- C On receiving a forward RM cell, the destination shall turn it around to return to the source as a backward RM cell (the bit DIR shall be changed).
- C If the saved EFCI state is set, then the destination shall set CI=1 in the RM cell and the saved state EFCI shall be reset.
- C If the destination has internal congestion, it may reduce the value of ER to whatever rate it can support and/or set CI=1 or NI=1.
- C A destination may generate a backward RM cell without having received a forward RM cell. It shall assign values to the various RM cell fields.

Switch behavior: The switch behavior can be specified as follows:

- C A switch shall implement at least one of the following methods to control congestion at queuing points:
 - C EFCI marking. The switch may set the EFCI state in the data cell headers.
 - C Relative Rate Marking. The switch may set CI = 1 or NI = 1 in forward and/or backward RM cells.
 - C Explicit Rate Marking. The switch may reduce the value of the ER field in forward and/or backward RM cells.

- C VS/VD. The switch may segment the ABR control loop using virtual source and destination.
- C A switch may generate a backward RM cell. It shall assign values to the different RM cell fields.

PROPOSED MODEL

Doubly finite queue algorithm: Let C be the capacity of a link and ρ be the desired utilization at the link. The MSVDR presented in routers, at a router works as follows:

- C The router maintains a doubly finite queue whose capacity $C^1 \neq C$ and whose buffer size is equal to the buffer size of the real queue. Upon each packet arrival, a fictitious packet is enqueued in the Second queue if there is sufficient space in the buffer. If the new packet overflows the Second queue buffer, then the packet is discarded in the second queue buffer and the real packet is marked by setting its ECN bit or the real packet is dropped, depending upon the congestion notification mechanism used by the router.
- C At each packet arrival, the second queue capacity is updated according to the following differential equation:

$$C^1 = \rho(C - \delta) \quad (2)$$

where, δ is the arrival rate at the link. The rationale behind this is that marking has to be more aggressive when the link utilization exceeds the desired utilization and should be less aggressive when the link utilization is below the desired utilization. We now make the following observations. No actual enqueueing or dequeuing of packets is necessary in the second queue also, we just have to keep track of the second queue length. Equation 2 can be thought of as a token bucket where tokens are generated at rate ρ (C up to a maximum of C and depleted by each arrival by an amount equal to ρ times the size of the packet. Define

- B = Buffer size.
- s = Arrival time of previous packet.
- t = Current time.
- b = Number of bytes in current packet.
- AQ = Number of bytes currently in the second queue.

Then, the following pseudo-code describes an implementation of second queue in MSVDR scheme.

Doubly finite queue algorithm pseudo code:

```

Arrival of cell k at time  $t_a(k)$ 
Start If ( $TAT < t_a(k)$ )
    Then  $TAT < t_a(k)$ 
        If ( $TAT < QPT(k)$ )
    
```

```

    Then TAT <- (TAT+I), Confirming Cell k
Else
    Non Confirming Cell k
Else
    If ((TAT > ta(k)+L) and (TAT > QPT(k)))
        Then Non Confirming Cell k
Else
    TAT <- (TAT +I) confirming Cell k
    If Confirming Cell Size (Sa(k)) > Available Link
        Capacity (ALC)
        Then
            If QTH = '00'
                Then Cell k Normally Forwarded
            Else if QTH = '01'
                Then if CPL=0 // Cell Obey available rate
                    Then Store in PQ
                        PQ +Sa(k)
                Else Store in SQ
                    SQ +Sa(k)
            Else if QTH='11'
                Then Call MSVDR algorithm
//To find alternative path to forward the confirming k cells
            Else if QTH='10'
                Discarding k Cell
            Else
                Cell forward normally
End if

```

On demand path selection: When a connection setup request arrives, it is the responsibility of the source node to choose a path that is most likely able to support the required QoS. The source node makes a routing decision based on its local knowledge of the network topology. As a result of the PNNI configuration, the knowledge base of a node contains full information about its own peer group, aggregated information about its parent group, more aggregated information about its grandparent group and so forth. Therefore, source routing to a destination node outside the peer group, of the source node is actually to find a path up the hierarchy to the level that source and destination nodes are in the same logical group.

Assume that a connection from the congestion node S to the destination node D is to be setup. The parent logical node of the congested node S and the destination node D at level i in the hierarchy is denoted as S_i and D_i. Let us consider the case where 2 QoS parameters need to be satisfied: bandwidth BW and segment-to-segment delay DY, which stand for the attribute and metric parameter types, respectively. The Multi-Source Dynamic Routing (MSVDR) decisions can be made in the following steps (Subramani and Krishnan, 2007).

Step 1: Calculate Shortest Path from congested Switch to Destination Node using Hierarchical Least Loaded Routing Algorithm.

Step 2: Send reroute information to destination with new source address, routing path and starting cell number.

Step 3: Send message to original source to select the second shortest path using OSPF Algorithm without cross the congested link.

Step 4: Original source send message to destination with new route path and starting cell number.

Step 5: Destination rearranges the cells after receiving the cells from multi source.

Step 6: Destination send to the acknowledgement signal to respective sources.

Step 7: Read the Cell form Queue with using priority scheduling algorithm.

Step 8: Normal Data Flow.

REROUTING METHOD

The rerouting mechanism is to provide fast recovery in the cases of link failures or topology changes that affect an ongoing session. Since, ATM is a connection oriented technology, a new connection should be setup between the source and the destination if the current connection is broken. Link or node failures may occur in different places:

At level i, at which a logical group PG_i(x) contains the ancestors of both the source and destination nodes. Rerouting is started from the very beginning in this case.

In the peer group which contains the source node at level 1. At the levels between level 1 and level i, wherever the node or link failure occurs, doubly queue finite queue maintain at the extreme state the rerouting starts from that particular level. The dead node or link is pruned from the set of pre-calculated paths. After that, phase 2 on-demand routing is performed again from the level at which this failure occurred down to level 1. The doubly finite queue management is shown in the (Fig. 2) and also explain the maintenance of the finite queue flow diagram is given in the (Fig. 3). Sampling data and simulation results are discussed in the coming 4th session (Subramani and Krishnan, 2008).

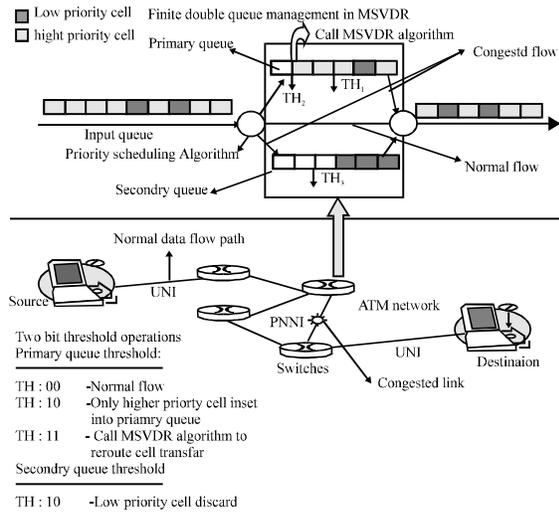


Fig. 2: Doubly finite queue management

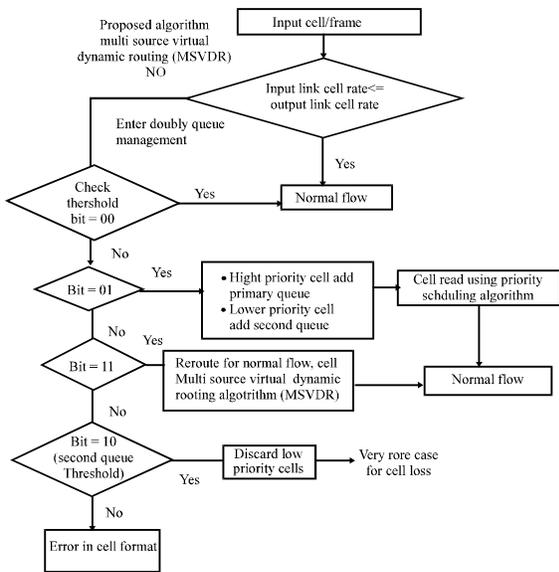


Fig. 3: Flow diagram for doubly finite queue management

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study, we present simulation results which demonstrate the performance of the MSVDR scheme. We evaluate the performance of the scheme based on the following items:

- C Fairness in the equilibrium state allocation of the bandwidth.
- C Transient behavior experienced in the presence of sudden traffic changes.

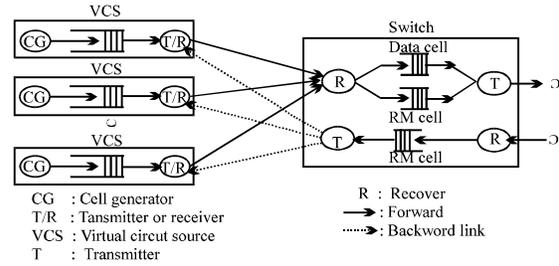


Fig. 4: Queuing model

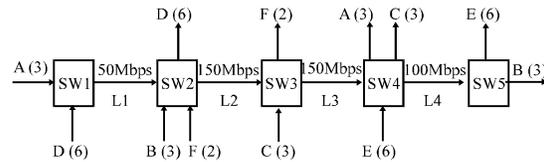


Fig. 5: Generic fairness configuration

Table 1: VCS parameters

PCS	150	150	150	150	150
MCR	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
ICR	7.5	20	0.5	0.5	0.5
MAX_air (Mbps)	2	8	1	1	1
MIN_air (Mbps)	0	0	0	0	0
MDF	4	4	5	5	5
NC	32	32	32	32	32
DTP (cell times)	128	64	128	128	128
DTT (cell times)	16	16	16	16	64
no_of_RM	1	1	1	2	4

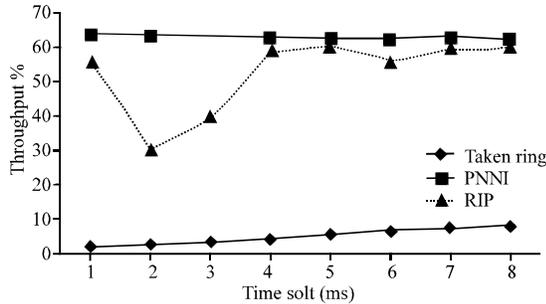
C Maximum and mean buffer length in different network scales.

The queuing model of the simulations is illustrated in (Fig. 4). The transmitter (T) always serves the RM cells in preference to the data cells. In all simulations, we assume that all VCSs are persistently greedy i.e., all VCSs will attempt to transmit data cells at their peak cell rate. Each transmitter (T/R) will independently remove data cells from the VCS buffer and transmit them to the receiver (R). The intelligent holding will be performed by a bottleneck switch if the number of cells queued in the buffer (data cell and RM cell buffer) in the forward direction exceeds a threshold value. In all simulations, the threshold value is considered 50 cells. The VCS parameters used in the simulation are listed in (Table 1).

Fairness performance: The Generic Fairness Configuration (GFC) is used as a benchmark for the assessment of the fairness performance. The GFC is shown in (Fig. 5). There are 23 connections, grouped into 6 classes (A-F). The number of connections belonging to class A, B, C, D, E, F are 3, 3, 3, 6, 6, 2, respectively as specified in parenthesis after the class label. The network

Table 2: Expected bandwidth

Connection class	Allocated bandwidth	Bottleneck link	Bottleneck width
A	5.56 Mbps	L1	SW 1
B	11.1 Mbps	L4	SW 4
C	33.3 Mbps	L3	SW 3
D	5.56 Mbps	L1	SW 1
E	11.1 Mbps	L4	SW 4
F	50 Mbps	L2	SW 2



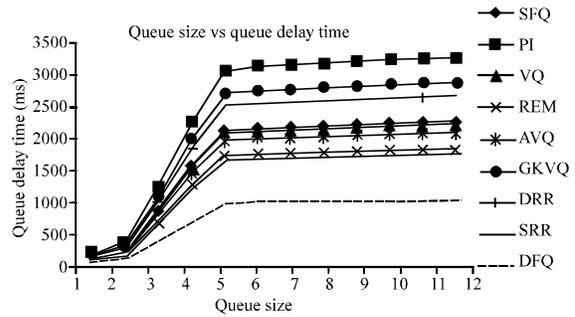
Graph 1: Throughput comparison of PNNI, RIP and token ring protocols

consists of 5 switches with links of various capacities. We consider fairness performance in a LAN environment. The distance between VCS/VCD and its nearest switch is about 100 m and the distance between 2 switches is about 400 m.

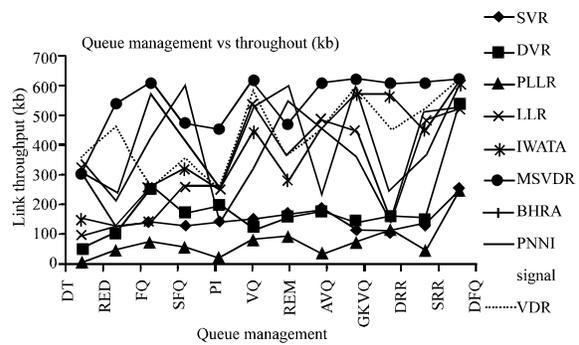
Let us consider to connections, class B and E, which share the same bottleneck link L4. Since the VCS of class E is closer to the link and passes more congested switches than that of class B, class E will get more of the link bandwidth than class B. This is analogous to a parking lot scenario in which E is closer than B from the exit. However, in a good ATM network with separate VCs for class B and E, they will share the available bandwidth of the link fairly (in this case 100 Mbps). Thus, each connection in class B and class E should take about 1/9 of the bandwidth (or 11.1 Mbps).

Considering the above fairness objective, we can allocate the bandwidth of each link to each connection as follow.

- C The VCs on the most congested link will share the link bandwidth equally and this determines the rates to be set for these VCs.
- C Then apply the procedure to the other VCs with the remaining bandwidth of the network.
- C Continue repeating the procedure until rates for all the VCs have been assigned.
- C Using the above fair rate-setting procedure, the bandwidth assigned to individual connection classes is shown in (Table 2).



Graph 2: Delay time and queue length for queue in MSVDR



Graph 3: Queue management vs link throughput using MSVDR and DFQ

Maximum throughput: Using the doubly finite queue mechanism the ATM switches, the link utilization is very high because of at that time of congestion occur, the cell are added in the primary queue, the primary queue first threshold bit set 01 then the high priority cell added to primary queue and lower priority cell added to second queue. Whenever the primary queue second threshold bit is set to 11 then we call the MSVDR algorithm. The algorithm search the least loaded link from congested place to destination node, the maximum data transferred through this least loaded link to destination, so the maximum link utilization is done by using this algorithm and produced high throughput is shown in the Graph 1.

Minimizing queue delay time: Graph 2 describes the queuing delay time for each and every transmitting node and queue length for finite queue is minimize, the loss of the data is automatically reduced, then avoid the same cell retransmission.

Maximum link throughput: Graph 3 describes the maximum link utilization within the minimum medium access time in the doubly finite queue management compare with other queue management. The MSVDR and

DFQ management produced the maximum link throughput compare than the other buffer management technique with scheduling algorithms.

CONCLUSION

The fairness of the multiple protocol running over a simple ATM ABR network is studied through simulation under ABR RTT and ABR DFQ mechanisms, considering variable background traffic level. With our results we have shown that ABR DFQ mechanism which we conceived has improved the fairness among multiple connections with difference protocols. Although, throughput and efficiency performance level are increased in our proposal, especially when the background traffic level is high, we have resulted that enough buffer space mitigates this overhead problem. In this study, we provided only preliminary study about ABR DFQ mechanism. Much more Research is necessary to carefully analyses the performance in more complex network.

Future research will also address the possibility of achieving higher utilizations still, by including some ABR traffic. The non-RT data sources used in this research are not truly ABR sources in that the rate control scheme only applies at the UNI. The application (user process) is assumed to react to congestion by reducing its rate of transmission. A more realistic situation will require the explicit modeling of resource management cells and their transit across the entire networks.

Notations:

DFQ	:	Doubly Finite Queue.
$t_a(k)$:	Time of arrival of a cell.
TAT	:	Theoretical arrival time.
QPT(k)	:	Queue Processing Time of Arrival k cell.
I	:	Increment.
$S_a(k)$:	Confirming Cell Size.
ALC	:	Available Link Capacity.
QTH	:	Queue Threshold.
CPL	:	Cell Priority Level.

PQ	:	Primary Queue.
SQ	:	Secondary Queue.
MSVDR	:	Multi Source Virtual Dynamic Routing.

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