Toward A Scalable and Robust QCN

M. Gusat, C. Minkenberg, R. Luijten IBM ZRL GmbH

with G. Roeck and R. Jain

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Outline

- Preliminary comparison of Q-ECM, QCN, QCN-SONAR
 - QCN w/ non-negligible RTT and Adaptive Sampling
 - 1. analytical model
 - 2. simulation validation
 - QCN+ : Robust QCN
 - 1. architecture, operation, key features
 - 2. selected results
 - Conclusions and Future Work

Congestion Management Parameters

- Common settings
 - W = 2

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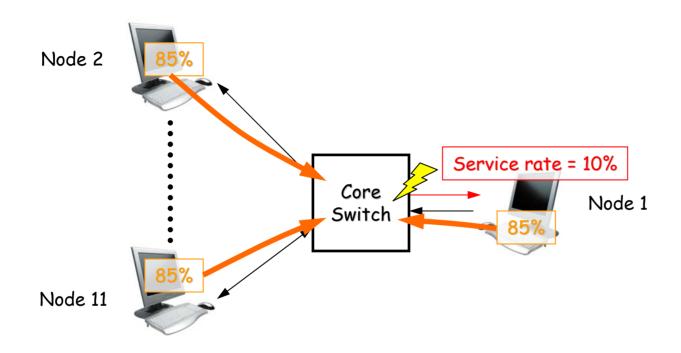
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- $Q_{eq} = M / 4$
- $R_{unit} = R_{min} = 1 \text{ Mb/s}$
- $G_{\rm d} = 0.5 / 255$
- $G_i = 0.1*(R_{link} / R_{unit}) / 255$
- ECM_{MAX} enabled, $Q_{mc} = M$
- ECM_{0,0} disabled
- Drift enabled: 4 Mb/s increase every 20 ms
- 8-bit quantization
- ECM-Q
 - ECM but with quantized feedback; separate quantization of Q_{off} and Q_{delta} with respect Q_{eq}
 - P_{sample} = 1%
- · QCN
 - P_{sample} = [1, 10] %
 - QCN active increase
 - to_thresh = packet_size / P_{sample}
 - R_i = 12 Mb/s
 - No Fb-hat, no cycle shrinking
 - QCN-SONAR
 - WP timer = 10 ms
 - WE timer = 2 ms
 - SF timer = 0.5 ms
 - "not congested" threshold = 15000 B
 - "not congested" interval = 10 ms
 - No FR1 target-rate adjustment

Switch & Adapter Parameters

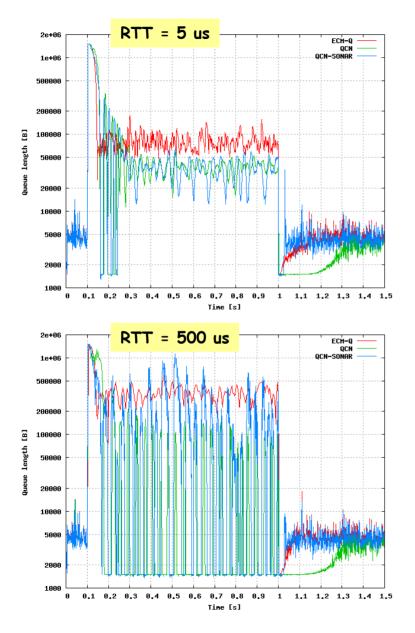
- Switch parameters
 - M = 150 KB or 1.5 MB per port
 - Dedicated per input, shared across all outputs
 - Configurable OQ limit; frames are dropped when OQ length exceeds limit (disabled)
 - PAUSE enabled or disabled
 - Applied on a per input basis based on local high/low watermarks
 - watermark_{high} = M rtt*bw KB
 - watermark_{low} = M rtt*bw 10 KB
 - If disabled, frames dropped when input partition full
- Adapter parameters
 - Virtual output queuing, round-robin VOQ service
 - Input buffer size IB = 1.5 MB, partitioned per VOQ
 - Drop when VOQ full
 - Output buffer size OB = 1.5 MB
 - No limit on number of rate limiters
 - PAUSE enabled
 - watermark_{high} = OB rtt*bw KB
 - watermark_{low} = watermark_{high} 10 KB

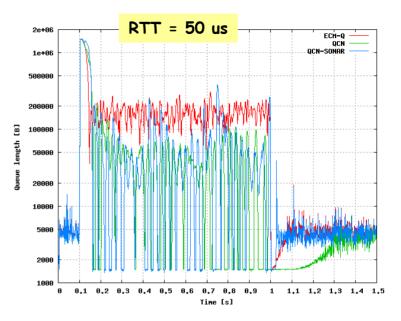
Output-Generated Single-Hop Hotspot



- All nodes: Uniform destination distribution, load = 85% (8.5 Gb/s)
- Node 1 service rate = 10%
- One congestion point
 - Hotspot degree = 10
 - All flows affected

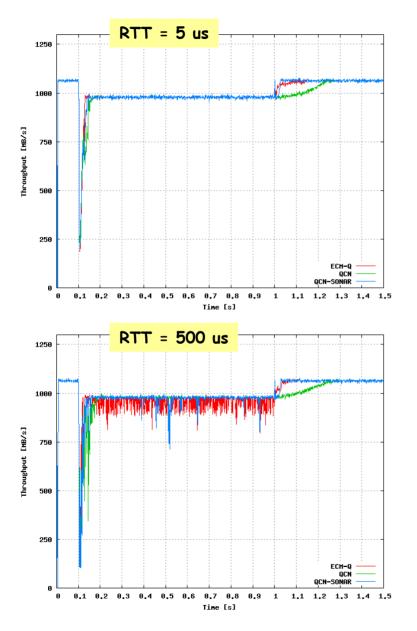
Hot queue length, PAUSE disabled, M = 150 KB/port

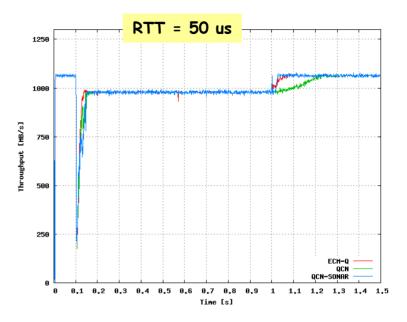




- Initial reactions similarly fast
- QCN and SONAR oscillating much stronger than ECM
- ECM steady state queue length too high
 - Related to only issuing Fb when Q > Q_{eq} ? (suppresses spurious RL creation)

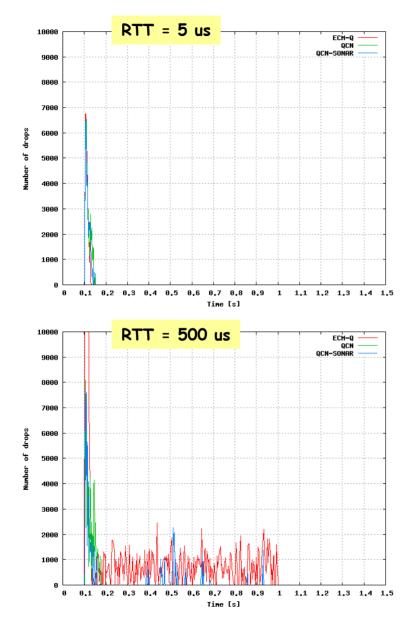
Aggregate throughput, PAUSE disabled, M = 150 KB/port

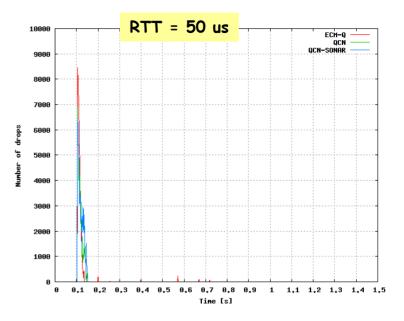




- Aggregate throughput recovers quickly in all cases
- ECM exhibits some underutilization because of drops (see next slide)

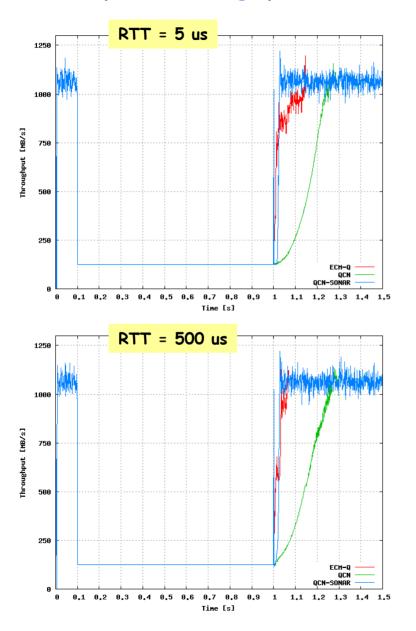
Frame drops, PAUSE disabled, M = 150 KB/port

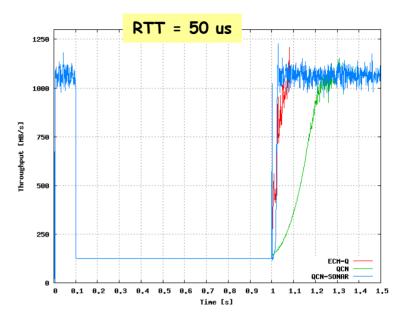




 RTT = 500 us: ECM has more drops (queue too long)

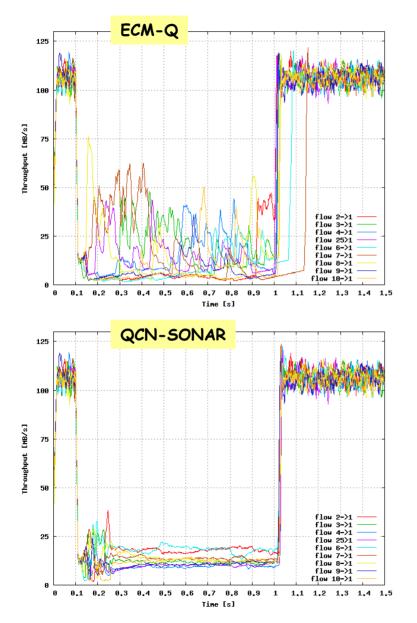
Hot port throughput, PAUSE disabled, M = 150 KB/port

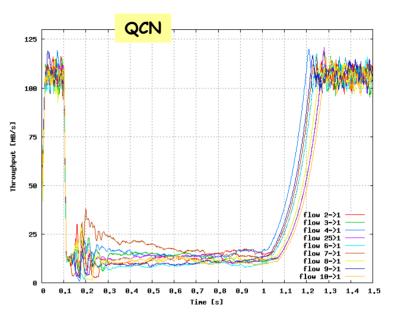




- No underutilization issues on hot port
- Recovery time: SONAR < ECM
 QCN

Per-flow throughput, PAUSE disabled, RTT = 5 us



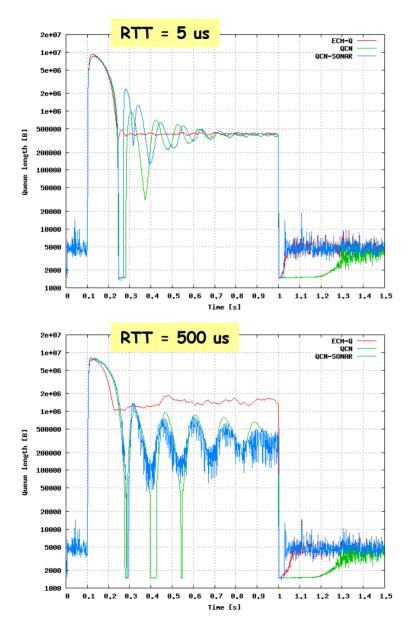


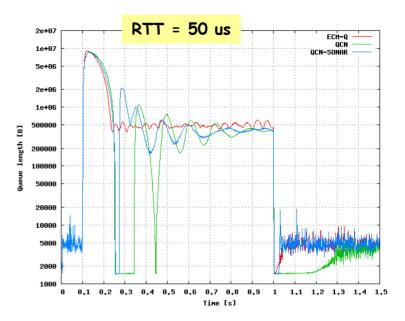
- QCN and SONAR exhibit decent fairness
- ECM exhibits strong rate fluctuations

PAUSE

- PAUSE enabled
- Switch and adapter memory size and thresholds configured to ensure losslessness
 - M = 1.5 MB/port (RTT = 500 us → 2*625 KB of headroom needed)
- No OQ limit \rightarrow no drops

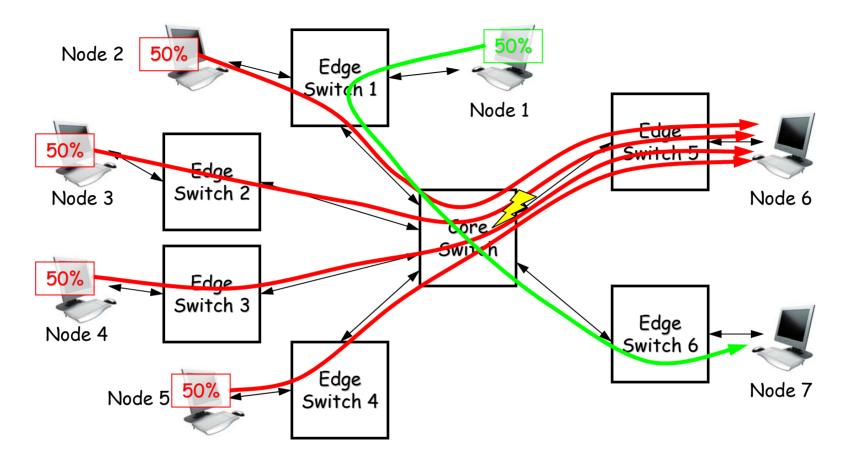
Hot queue length, PAUSE enabled, M = 1.5 MB/port





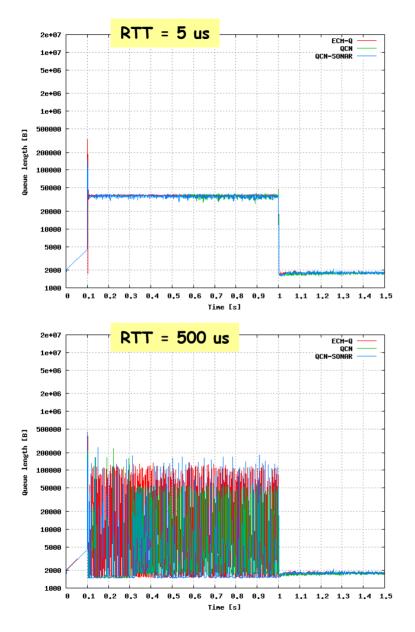
- Initial reactions similarly fast
- ECM queue length stable, but steady state level again too high
- QCN and SONAR larger oscillations, but lower steady state level
- With large M, drift is important for QCN/SONAR (see backup)

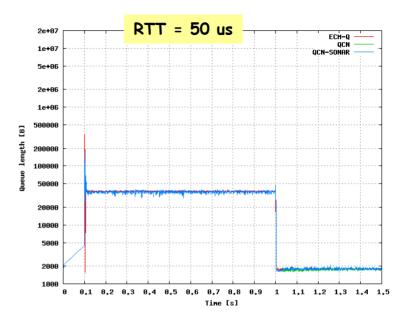
Baseline Input-Generated Hotspot



- Four culprit flows of 5 Gb/s each from nodes 2, 3, 4, 5 to node 6 (hotspot)
- One victim flows of 5 Gb/s from node 1 to node 7
- Fair allocation provides 2.5 Gb/s to all culprits and 5 Gb/s to the victim

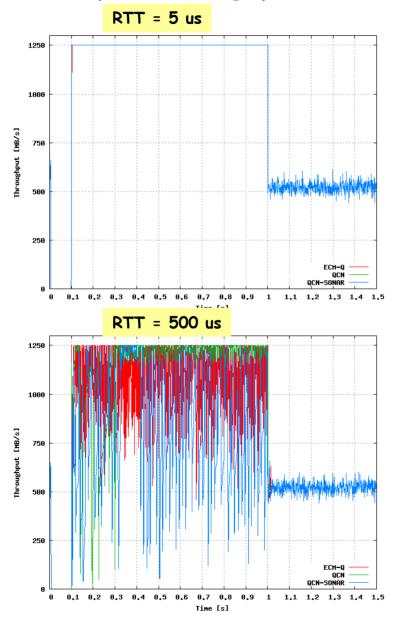
Hot queue length, PAUSE disabled, M = 150 KB/port

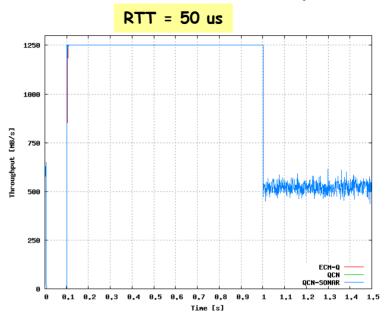




- RTT = 5, 50 us: Exemplary behavior for all schemes
- RTT = 500 us: Very strong oscillations

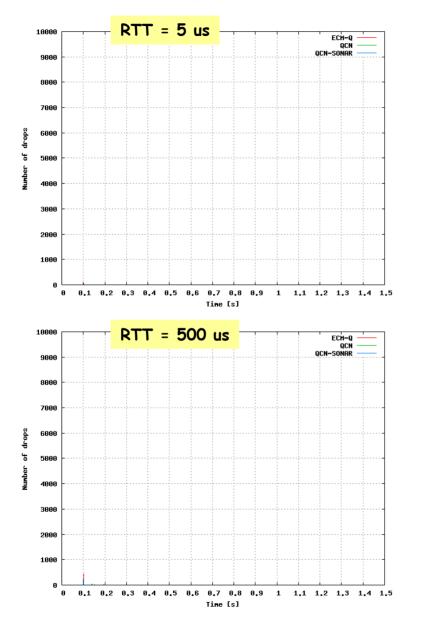
Hot port throughput, PAUSE disabled, M = 150 KB/port

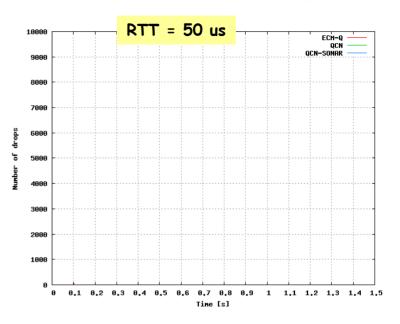




- RTT = 500 us: Queue oscillations cause underflow and loss of throughput
- SONAR suffers most

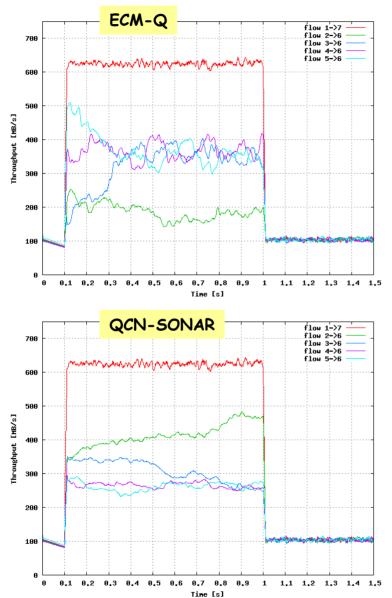
Frame drops, PAUSE disabled, M = 150 KB/port

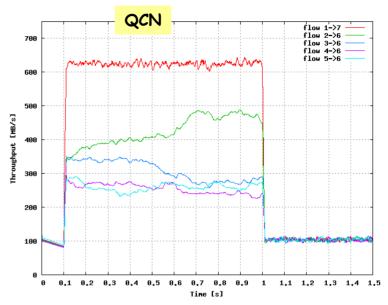




Practically no drops ... low 100s

Hot port throughput, PAUSE disabled, M = 150 KB/port, RTT = 5 us



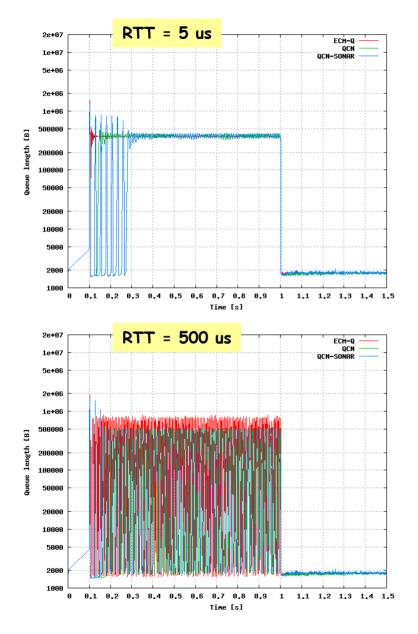


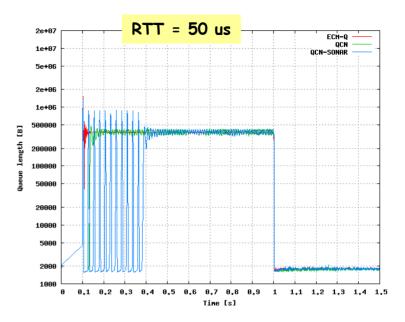
- "Victim" flow not affected
- Poor fairness in all cases

PAUSE

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- Switch and adapter memory size and thresholds configured to ensure losslessness
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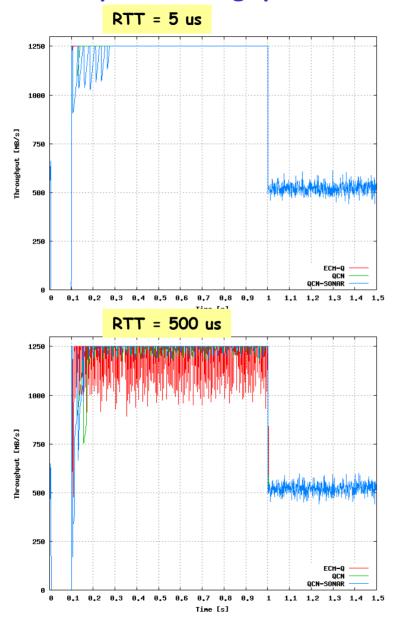
Hot queue length, PAUSE enabled, M = 1.5 MB/port

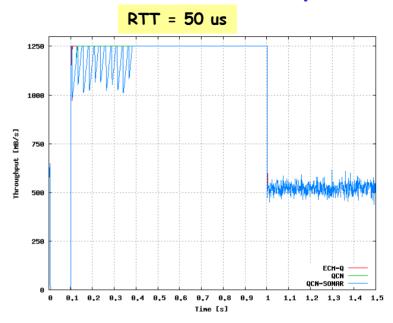




- SONAR shows strong initial oscillations even with short RTT
- These are not related to PAUSE, but to the memory size (same thing happens when M=1.5 MB without PAUSE)

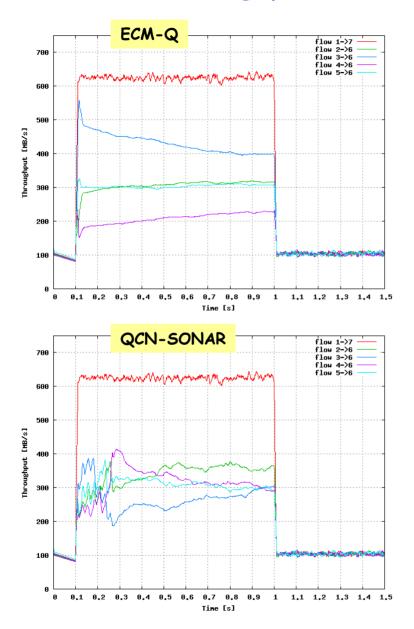
Hot port throughput, PAUSE enabled, M = 1.5 MB/port

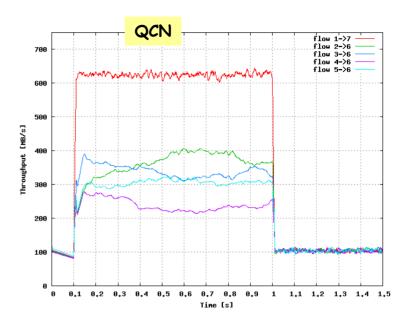




- RTT = 5, 50 us: SONAR exhibits underflow during transient
- RTT = 500 us: ECM exhibits underflow

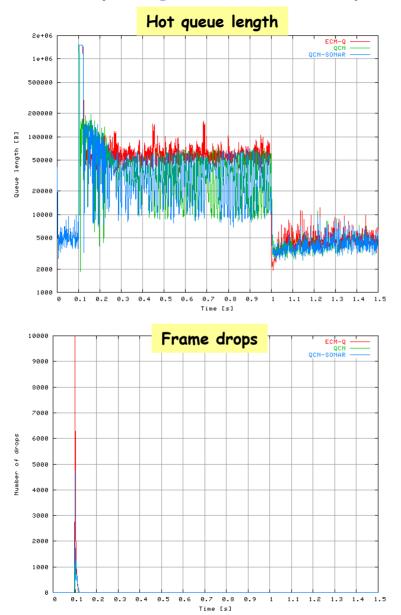
Per-flow throughput, PAUSE enabled, M = 1.5 MB/port

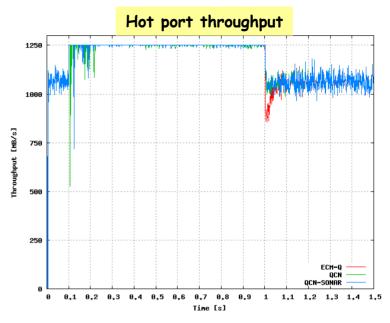




- "Victim" flow not affected
- Poor fairness in all cases

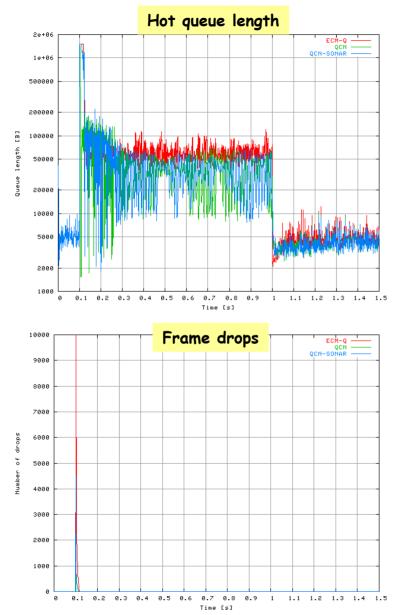
Input-generated hotspot, 100 sources, RTT = 5 us

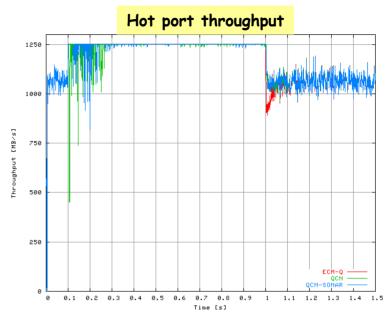




- M = 150 KB/port; OQ limit =
 1.5 MB, pause disabled
- Hot queue is stable for all schemes
- ECM has more drops, but less underrun

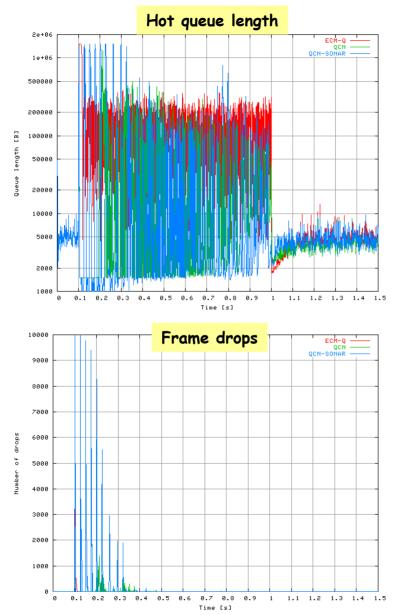
Input-generated hotspot, 100 sources, RTT = 50 us

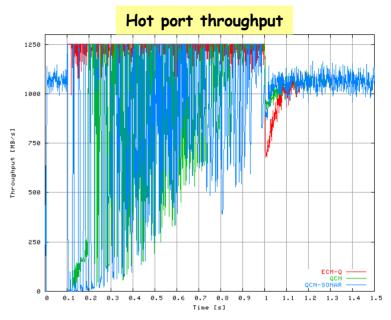




- M = 150 KB/port; OQ limit =
 1.5 MB, pause disabled
- Hot queue reasonably stable for all schemes, but
 - 1. ECM too high
 - 2. QCN/SONAR very jittery
- ECM has more drops, significantly less underrun

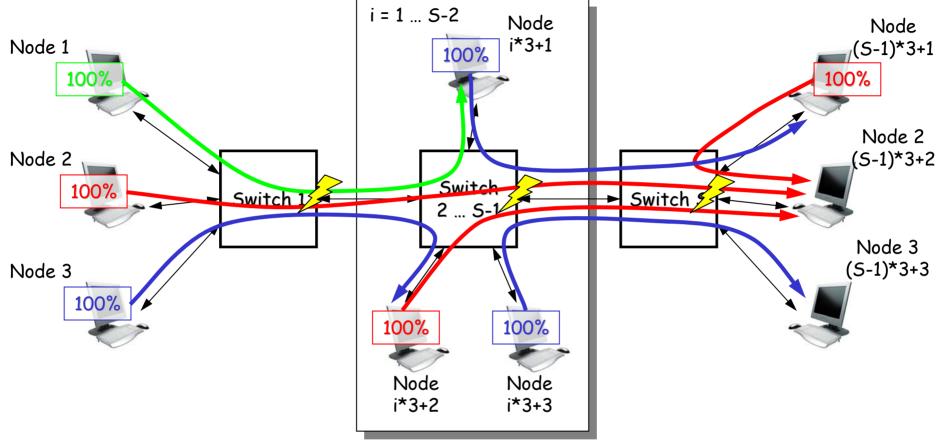
Input-generated hotspot, 100 sources, RTT = 500 us





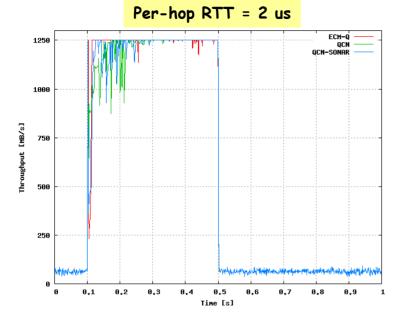
- M = 150 KB/port; OQ limit =
 1.5 MB pause disabled
- Hot queue barely stable for all schemes
- Severe underrun for QCN and QCN-SONAR, ECM coping reasonably

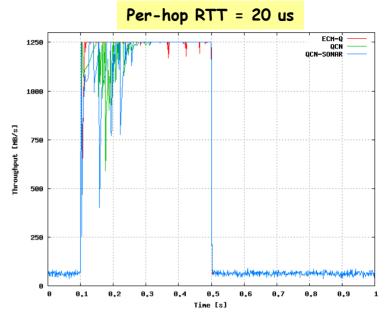
20-stage Hotspot



- S = 20 switches (stages); 3 nodes per switch
 - Node i*3+1 sends to node (i+1)*3+1, node i*3+2 sends to node (S-1)*3+2, node i*3+3 sends to node (i+1)*3+2 for i = 0 ... S-2.
- 100% load from all nodes except (S-1)*3+2 and (S-1)*3+3
- Node (N-1)*3+2 receives traffic from S sources
- N hotspots, M = 150 KB/port, per-hop RTT = [2, 20] us

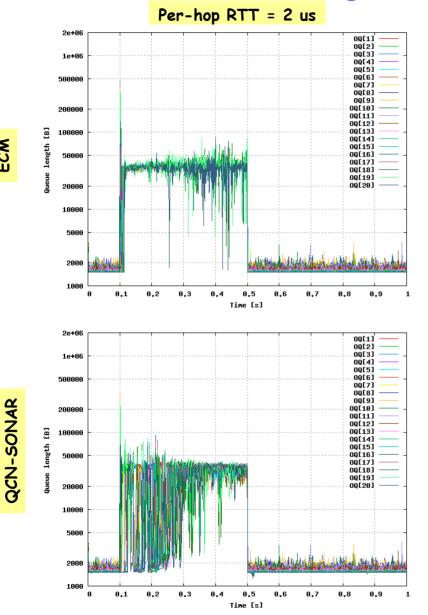
Hotspot throughput, PAUSE disabled



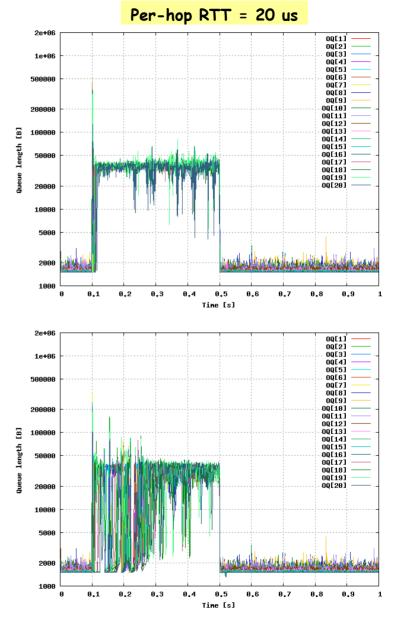


- ECM exhibits minimal underrun
- Significant underrun for QCN and QCN-SONAR

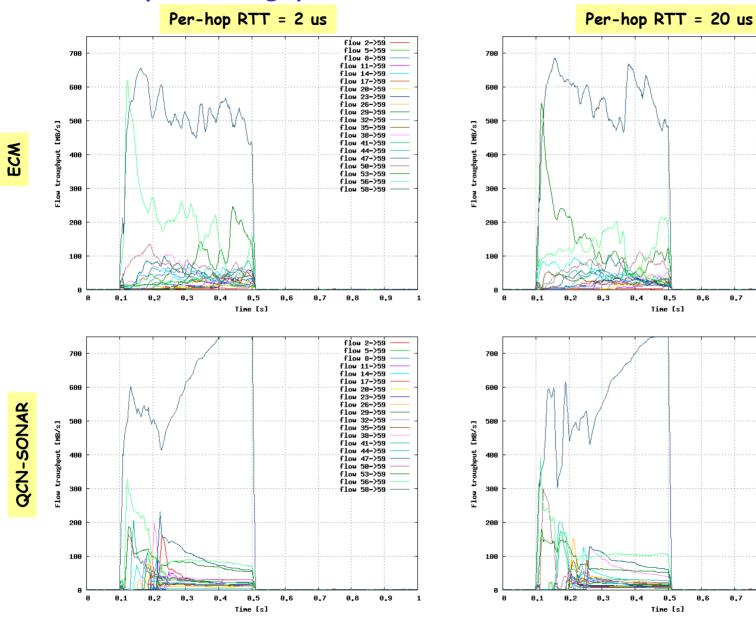
Queue length , PAUSE disabled

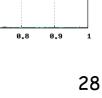


ECM



Hotspot throughput, PAUSE disabled, M = 150 KB/port





flow 2->59

flow 5->59

flow 8->59

flow 11->59

flow 14->59

flow 17->59

flow 20->59

flow 23->59

flow 26->59

flow 29->59

flow 32->59

flow 35->59

flow 38->59

flow 41->59

flow 44->59

flow 47->59

flow 50->59

flow 53->59

flow 56->59

flow 58->59

0.8

flow 2->59 flow 5->59

flow 8->59

flow 11->59

flow 14->59 flow 17->59

flow 20->59

flow 23->59

flow 26->59

flow 29->59

flow 32->59

flow 35->59

flow 38->59

flow 41->59

flow 44->59

flow 47->59

flow 50->59

flow 53->59

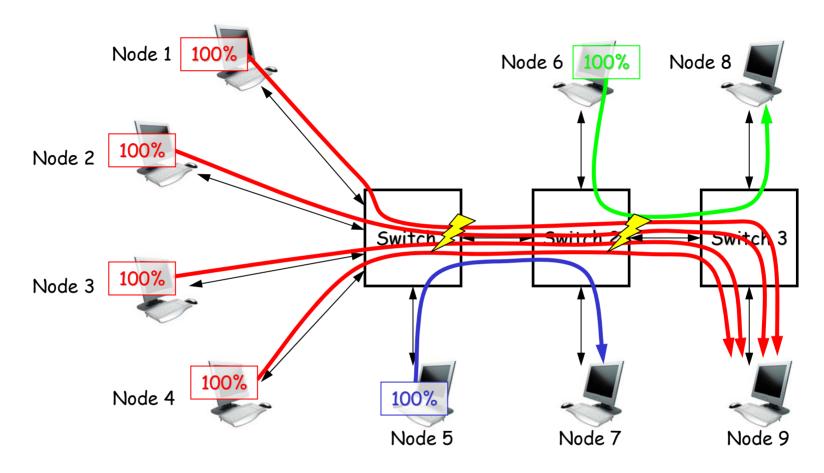
flow 56->59

flow 58->59

0.9

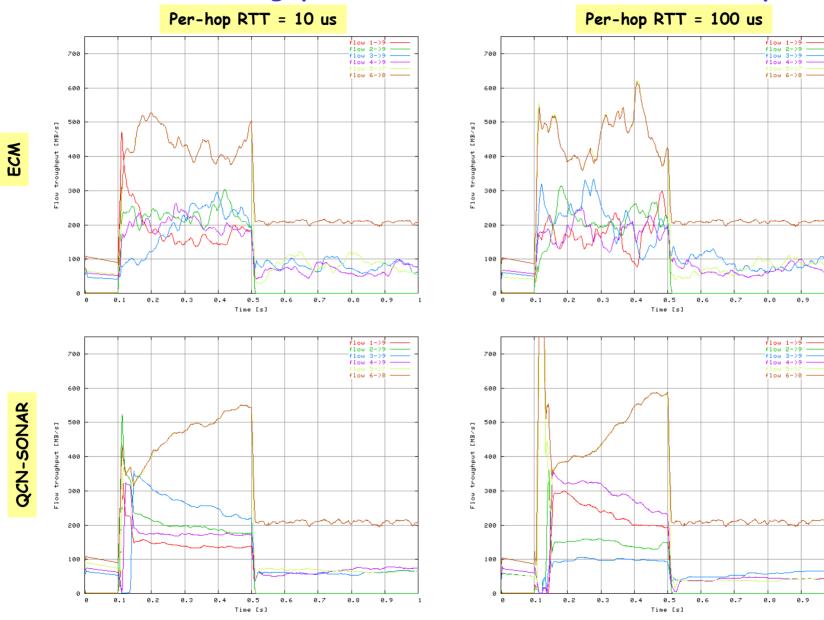
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Parking Lot Scenario

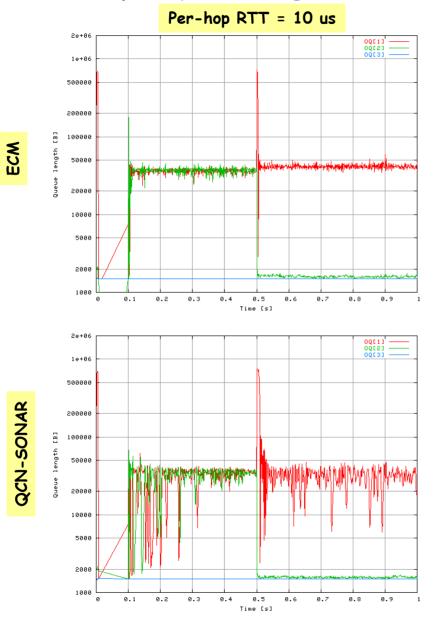


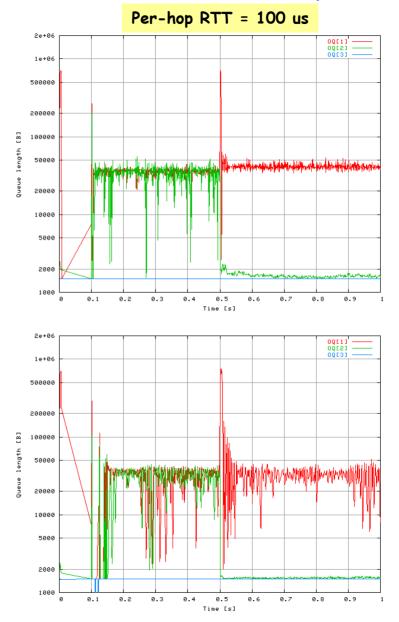
- Four hot flows of 10 Gb/s each from nodes 1, 2, 3, 4 to node 9 (hotspot)
- Two cold flows of 10 Gb/s from node 5 to 7 and 6 to 8
- Max-min fair allocation provides 2.0 Gb/s to all flows
- Proportionally fair allocation provides 1.67 Gb/s to all hot flows and 3.33 Gb/s to all cold flows
- Pause disabled, M = 150 KB/port, ingress = egress buffer size = 1.5 MB, no OQ limit

Per-flow throughput, PAUSE disabled, M = 150 KB/port



Output queue lengths, PAUSE disabled, M = 150 KB/port





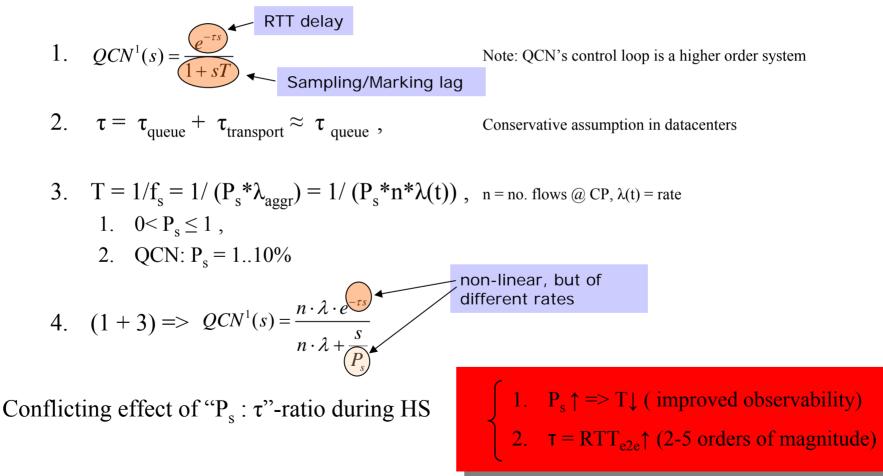
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Outline

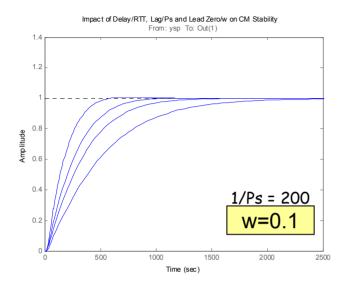
- Preliminary comparison of Q-ECM, QCN, QCN-SONAR
- QCN w/ non-negligible RTT and Adaptive Sampling
 - 1. Model
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 - QCN+ : Robust QCN
 - 1. architecture, operation, key features
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 - Conclusions and Future Work

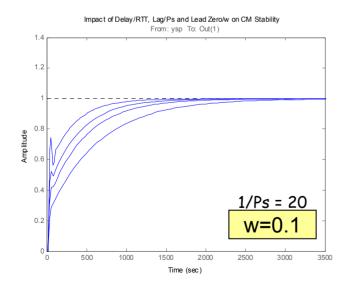
QCN as a Control Loop w/ Lag (T) and Delay (τ) What happens when delay exceeds the dominant lag?

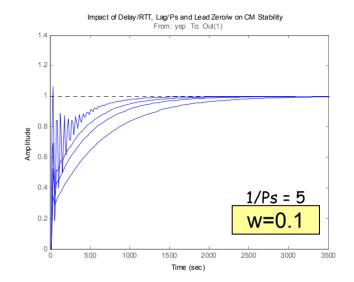
- Delay fundamentally affects closed loop control. Critical when $T > \tau$
- QCN¹: load sensor model reduced to 1st order system w/ dominant lag (sampling time constant T) and non-negligible delay ($\tau = RTT_{e2e}$)

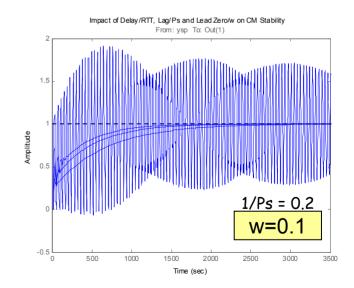


Impact of variable sampling frequency Ps @ constant RTT (=19)









IBM Zurich Research Lab GmbH

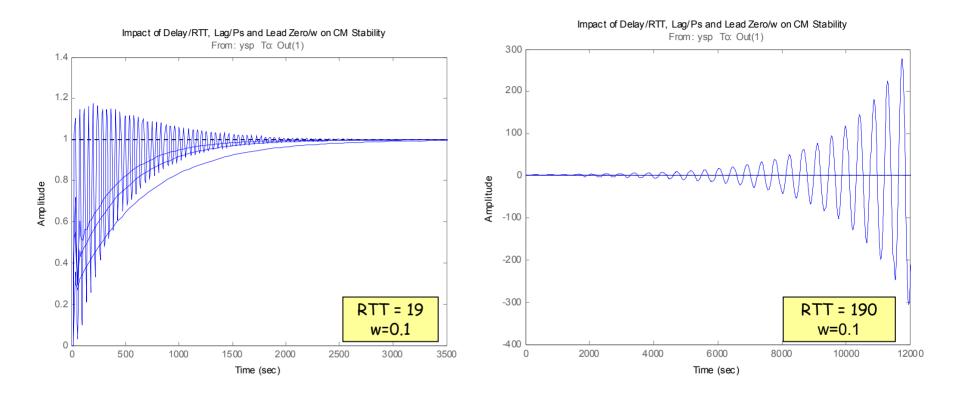
Why QCN's Adaptive Sampling Depends on RTT probing?

Observations

- 1. Whenever delay exceeds sampling lag the loop becomes unstable
 - 1. Hence the intrinsic conflict between increasing $\rm P_{s}$ and delay stability
 - 2. No clear trade-off is possible w/ RTT knowledge
- 2. Sampling is aggregate @ CP, while F_b is per flow @ RP
- 3. CP does not know RTT, nor "n" (# flows)
- 4. Flooding RPs w/ bursts of outdated feedback requires adaptivity
 - 1. near RP's benefit directly from an increased P_s
 - 2. remote RP's don't... (must filter decimation, Kalman)

see "Effects of long RTT [and P_s] on QCN"

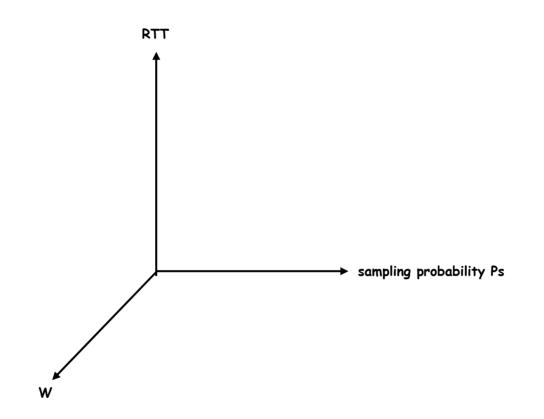
Impact of variable RTT @ constant sampling $1/P_s$ (= 2)



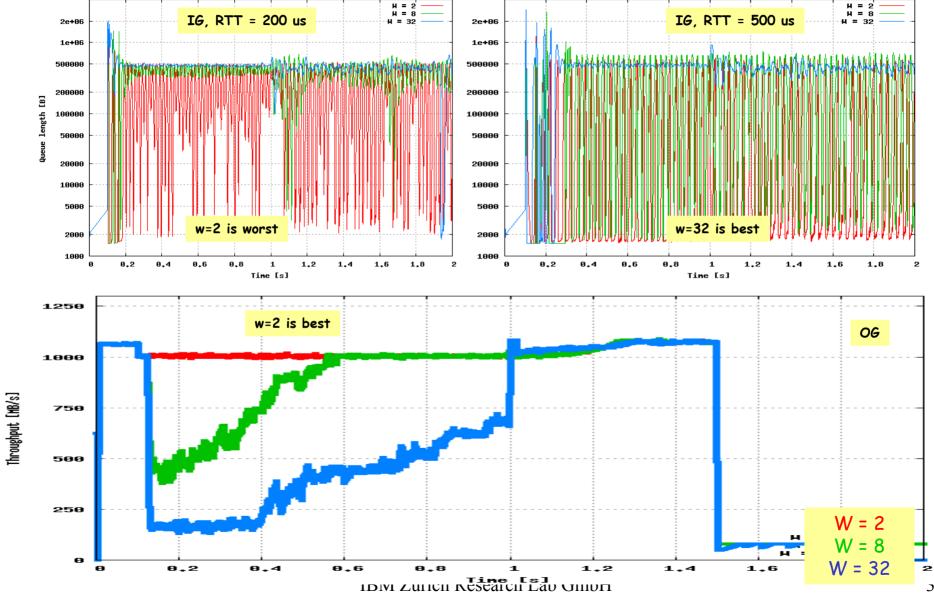
Simulation Parameters

- Baseline scenario, $t_{hotspot} = 0.1 1.0 s$
- M = 1.5 MB/port
- Unlimited input buffers
- Q_{eq} = 375 KB
- $P_s = 1\%$ (QCN: 1-10%)
- QCN active increase
 - to_thresh = packet_size / p_sample
 - ➢ Ri = 12 Mb/s
- Drift enabled: 4 Mb/s every 20 ms
- ECM_MAX enabled, $Q_{mc} = 1.5 \text{ MB}$
- No ECM_(0,0), no PAUSE
- Per-link RTT = [2 us, 20 us, 50 us, 200 us, 500 us, 1ms]
 - > Note that RP \Leftrightarrow CP RTT = 2*link RTT
- 8-bit quantization
- W = [2, 8, 32]

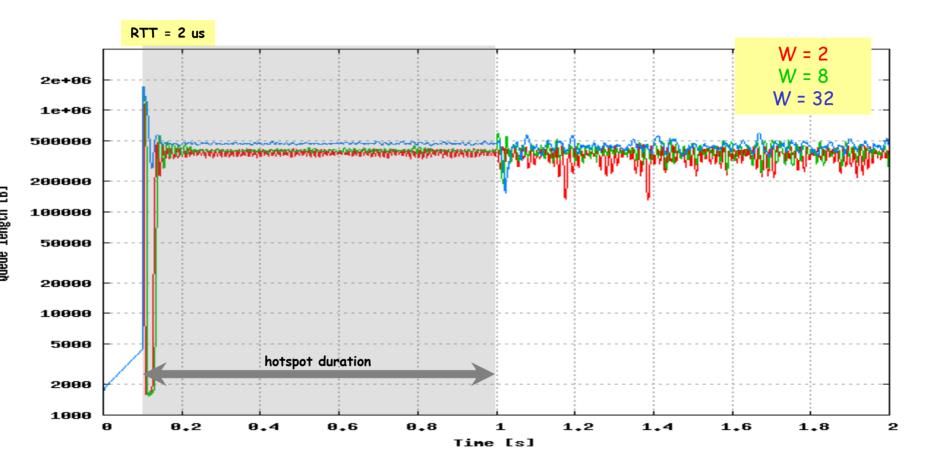
What We Analyzed



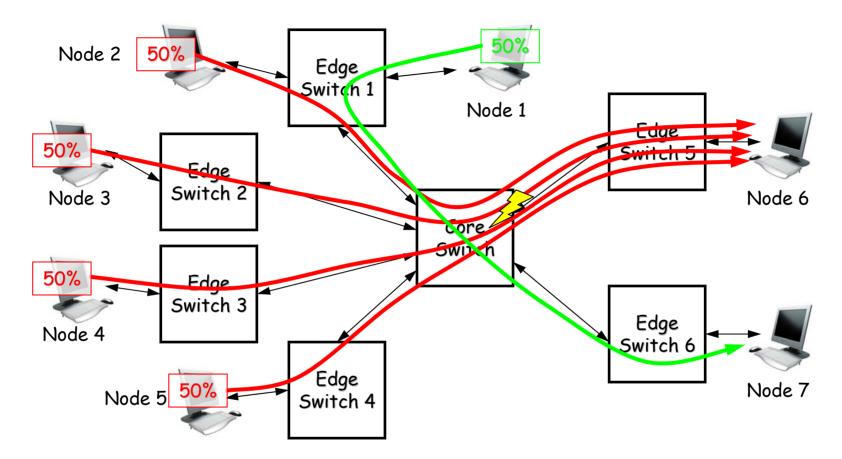
Conflicting requirements on W IG vs OG



Hot queue length, QCN, P_{sample_base} = 1%, RTT=2 us

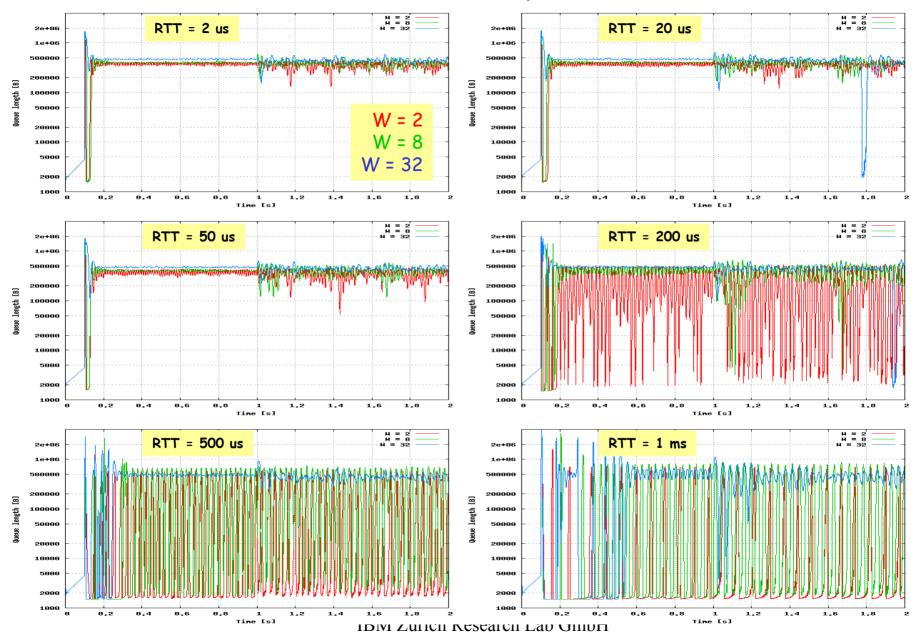


Baseline Input-Generated Hotspot

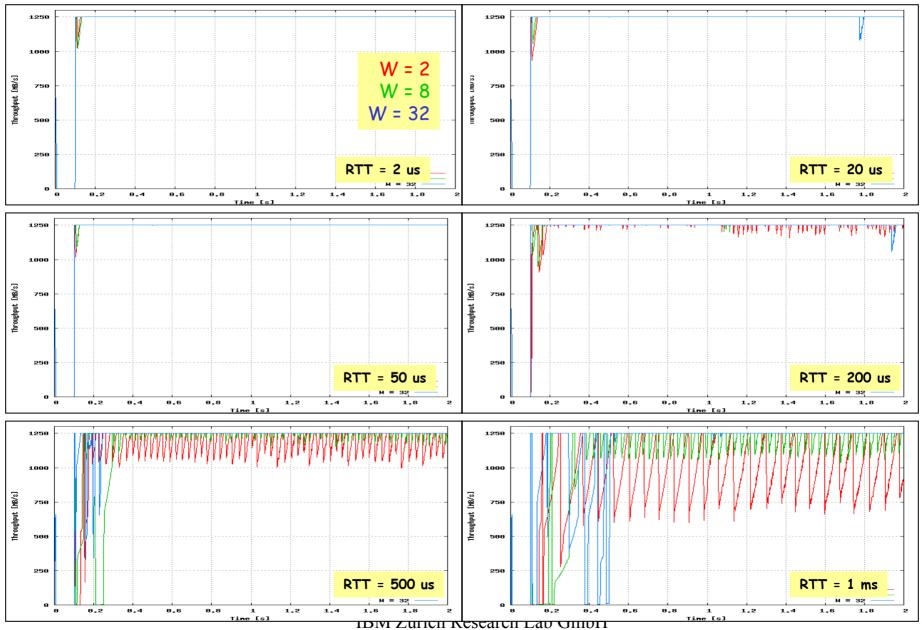


- Four culprit flows of 5 Gb/s each from nodes 2, 3, 4, 5 to node 6 (hotspot)
- One victim flows of 5 Gb/s from node 1 to node 7
- Fair allocation provides 2.5 Gb/s to all culprits and 5 Gb/s to the victim

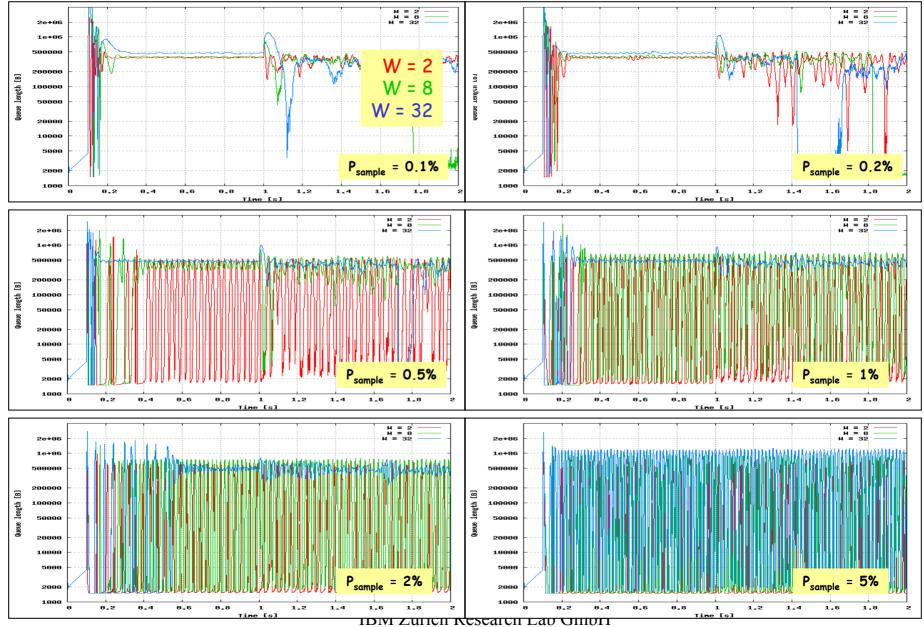
Hot queue length, QCN, $P_{sample_base} = 1\%$, vary RTT



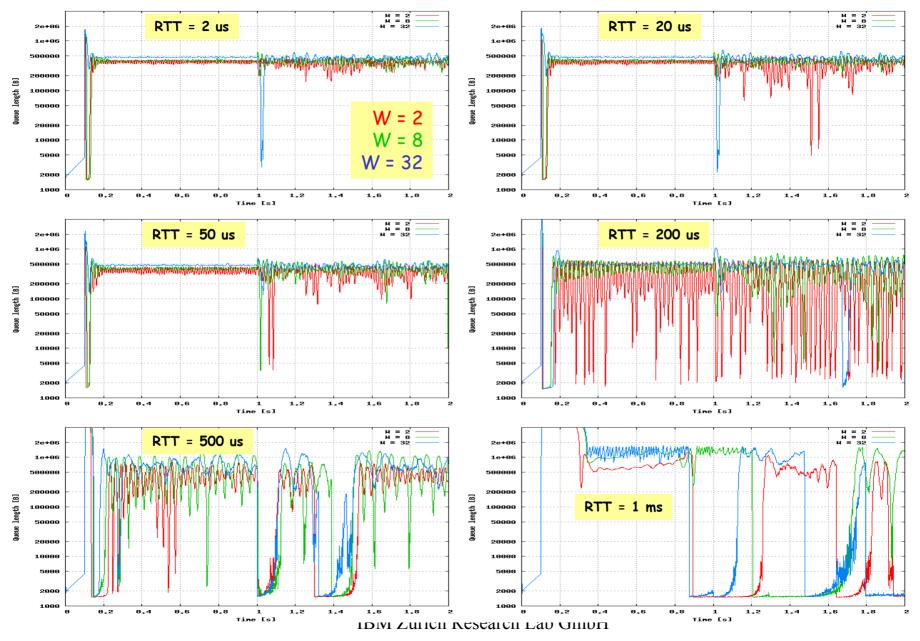
Hot port throughput, QCN, P_{sample_base} = 1%



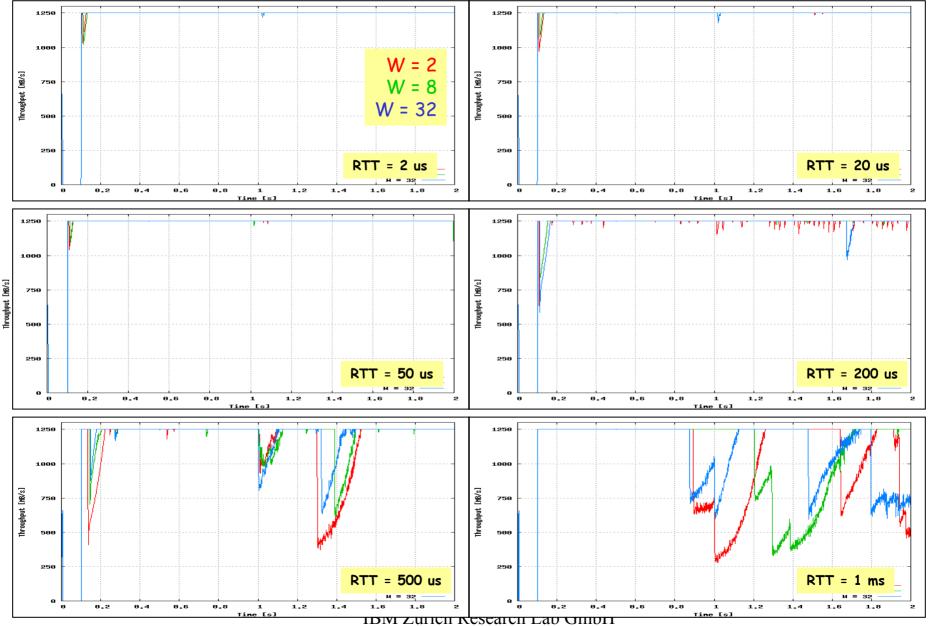
Hot queue length, QCN, Link RTT = 500 us, vary sampling



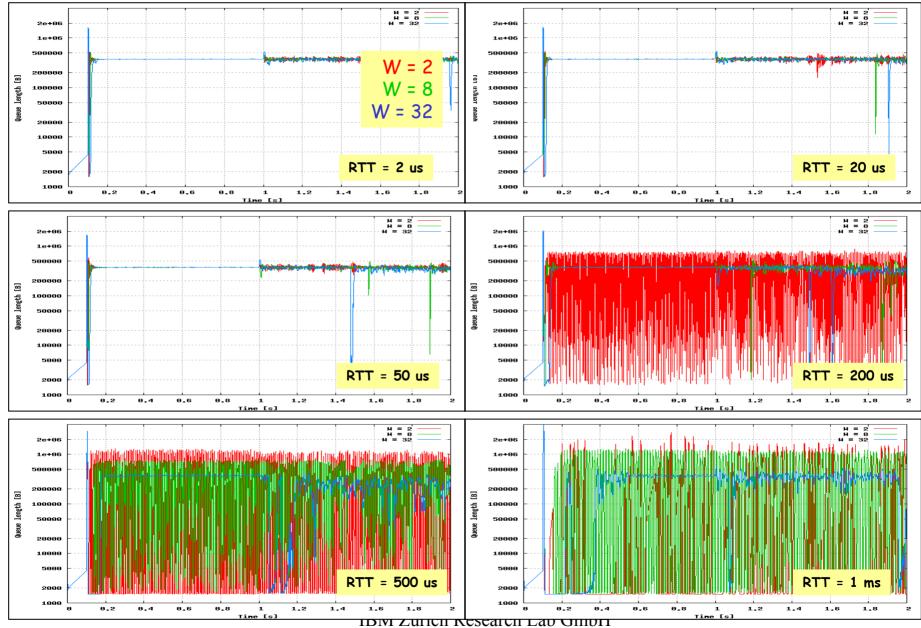
Hot queue length, QCN, $P_{sample_base} = 1\%$, with RTT filtering, vary RTT



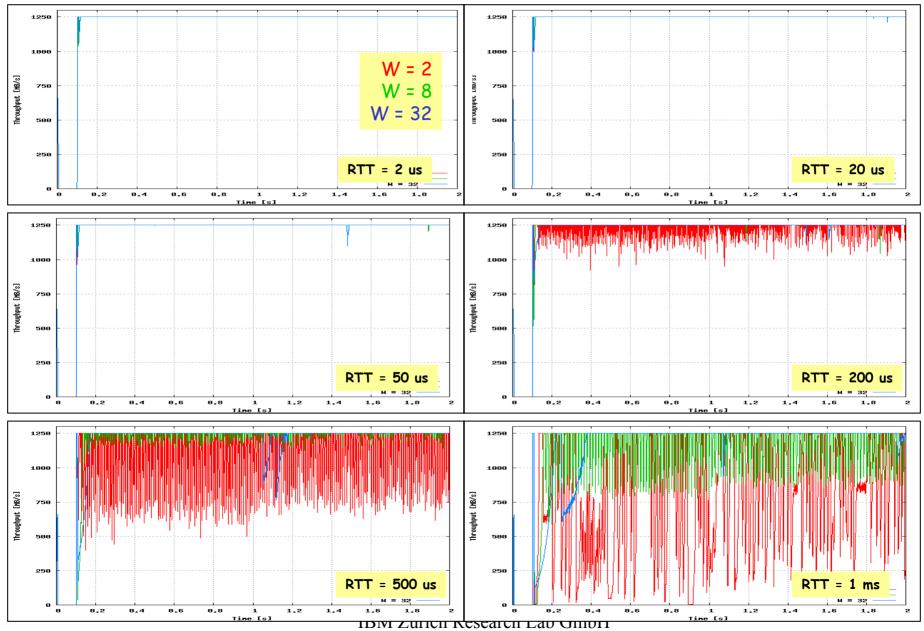
Hot port throughput, QCN, $P_{sample_base} = 1\%$, with RTT filtering



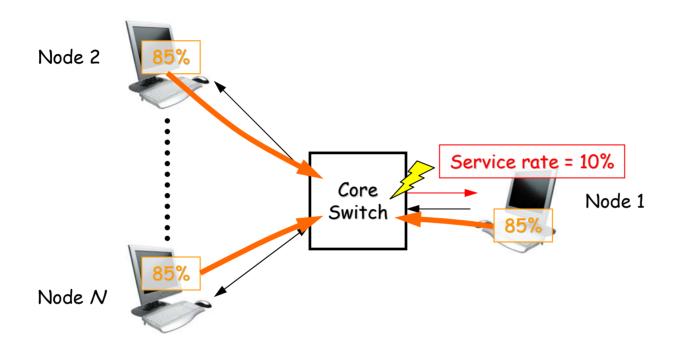
Hot queue length, classic ECM, P_{sample} = 1%, vary RTT



Hot port throughput, classic ECM, $P_{sample} = 1\%$, vary RTT

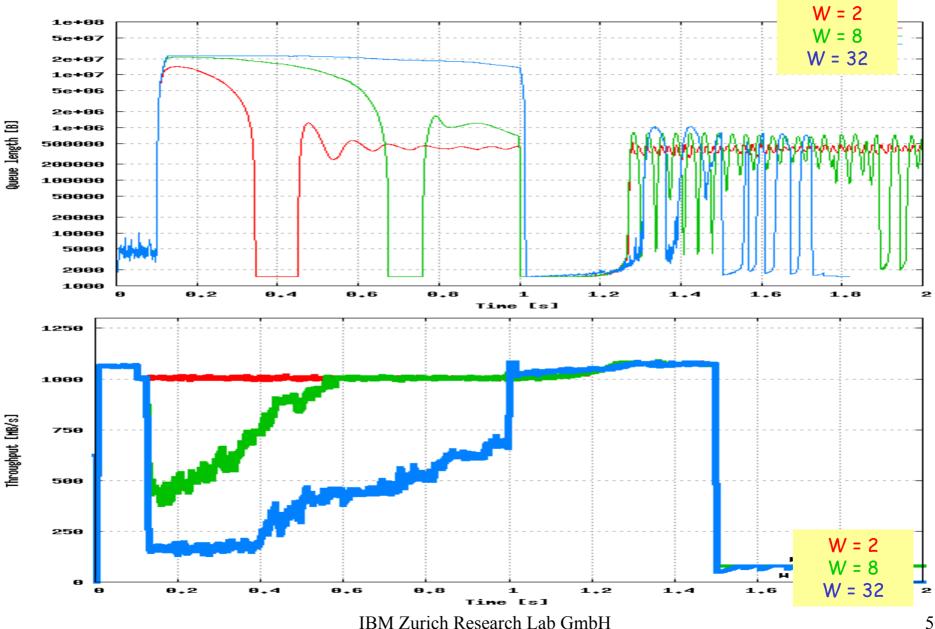


Output-Generated Single-Hop Hotspot

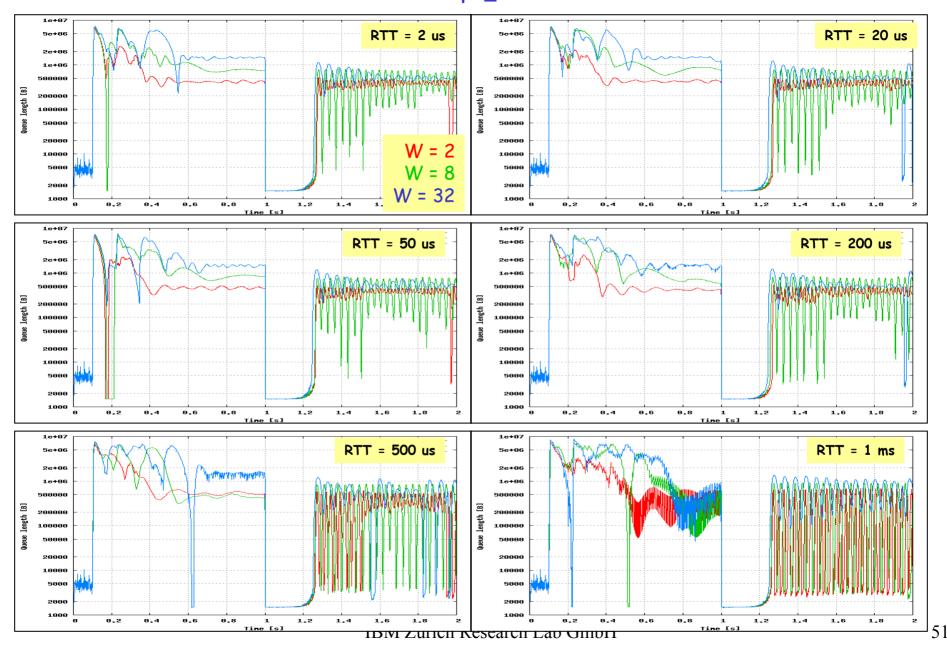


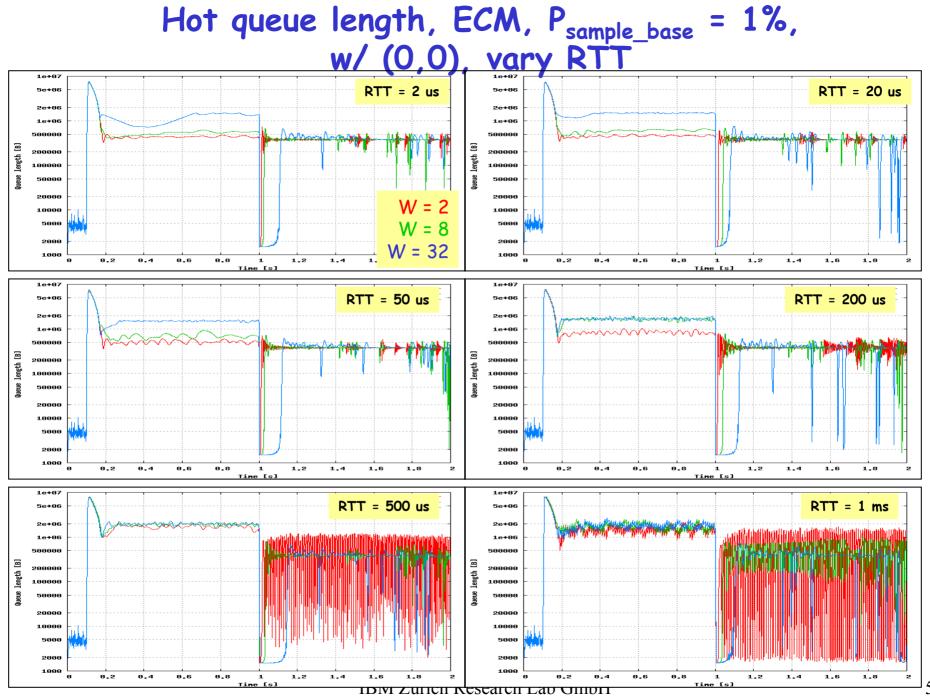
- All nodes: Uniform destination distribution, load = 85% (8.5 Gb/s)
- Node 1 service rate = 10%
- One congestion point
 - Hotspot degree = N-1
 - > All flows affected

Queue length and thruput QCN w/o (0,0), vary w



Hot queue length, QCN, $P_{sample_base} = 1\%$, w/ (0,0), vary RTT



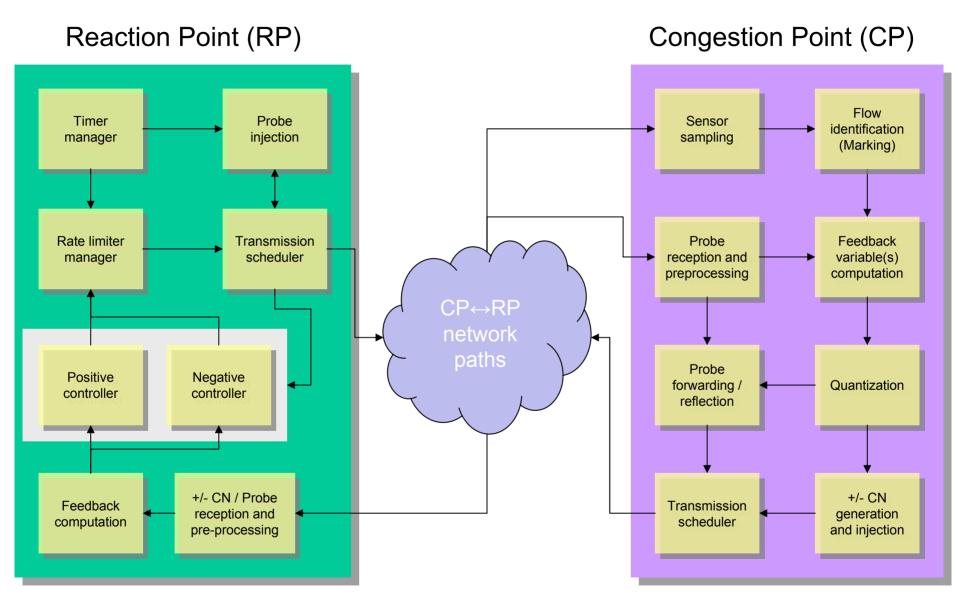


Outline

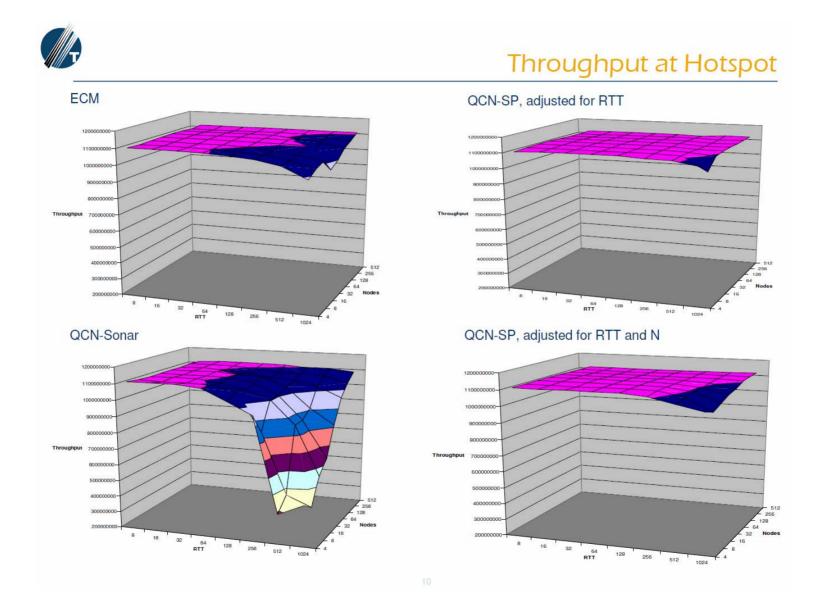
- QCN w/ non-negligible RTT and Adaptive Sampling
 - 1. analytical model
 - 2. simulation validation
- QCN+ : Robust QCN
 - 1. architecture, operation, key features
 - 2. sim results

Conclusions and Future Work

QCN+ Architecture



Sonar vs. QCN-SP (QCN+)

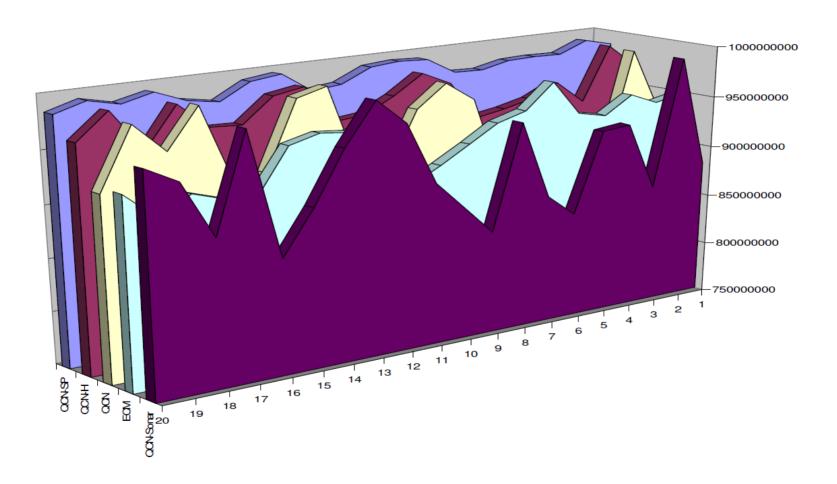


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Sonar vs. QCN-SP (QCN+)



20-stage Hotspot: Throughput per switch



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Conclusions and Future Work

- 1. Transport and sampling <u>delays</u> affect response and stability
- 2. Scalability and robustness are required across 1/10/100Gbps, for both small and large datacenters

QCN+ improves on QCN

- Directed probing to CP
 - provides scalability w/ size, topology and switch technology
 - adds a Fb loop which decouples dynamic response from stability
 - enables gain tuning
- Perfectible
 - Changes will affect fairness and/or dynamic response, not stability
 - Open to future improvement while ensuring backward compatibility
- Next steps
 - analyse QCN-Sonar-Fb99
 - quantitatively benchmark QCN+ vs. QCN-Sonar

Recommendation: Due Dilingence

- Decide on which part to optimize and which is 'good enough'
 - 1. Sensor & feedback (load info, state vars, mandatory/optional)
 - 2. Fb loops: closed and open, probe/tag, signalling, overhead
 - 3. Rate control algorithms.
- L2 Tip: Invest in (1) => highest quality sensor (optimize)
 => tracking performance, dynamic response and stability
- Timers, counters and settings [p.3] introduce zeroes / poles in the loop => treat with care ... more extensive validation required
- Return to rigorous benchmarking => non-linearities and timevariance elicit ultimately 'proof' by discrete event simulations
 - Investigate modern TCP/REM CM tuned for DC: CU/BIC, XCP, FAST, RCP, HS-TCP...
 - performance w/ the .1au sensor ?
 - is the equilibrium fairness abandoned?

QCN+ : Result of The Stockholm Agreement

- Builds on .1au's collective experience and results
 - 1. QCN (baseline and fail-safe mode of QCN+)
 - 2. ECM
 - 3. FECN
 - 4. E2CM
 - 5. Probing.
- Probing to CP
 - maintains the 2pt. paradigm as requested
 - additional CL that decouples stability from dyn. response and provides delay robustness (time invariant scalability)
- Closed loop AQM feedback: -ve and +ve F_b (on demand thru probing).
 - improved dynamic response: faster tracking & high slope SRF

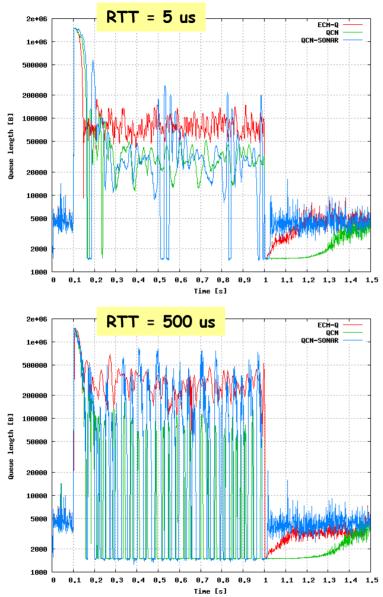
BACKUP

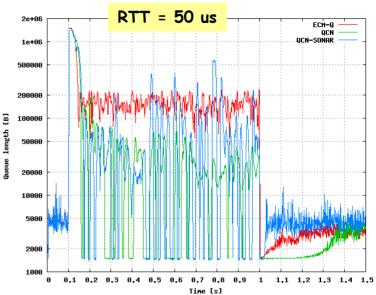
Gain Tuning r1.01

Algorithm implemented by G. Roeck in the current QCN+

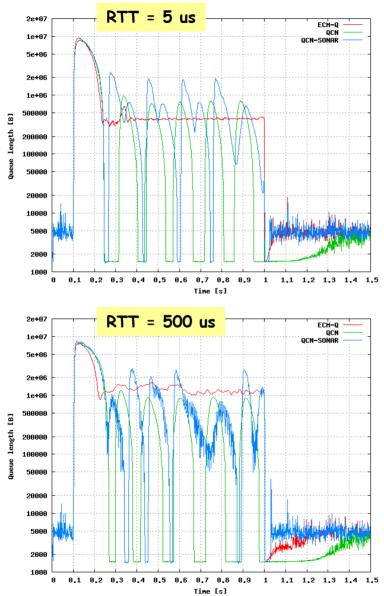
- 1. RTT based loop gain control in RP
- 2. Accept one negative adjustment per RTT
- 3. Adjust TO_THRESHOLD based on RTT and current datarate
 - 1. Set ToThreshold to max(TO_THRESHOLD, RTT * 2 * rate)
- 4. Adjust W (and calculate Fb) based on RTT and current datarate
 - 1. N = <switch link capacity> / <current rate>
 - 2. W = baseW + (RTT * < factor > / N)
- 5. Reduce positive loop gain based on RTT
- 6. For each ms of RTT, loop gain is reduced by 50%

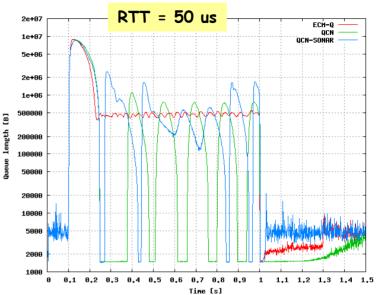
Hot queue length, PAUSE disabled, drift disabled, M = 150 KB/port



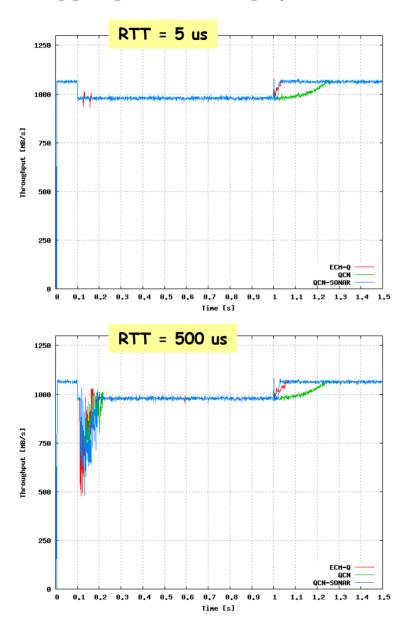


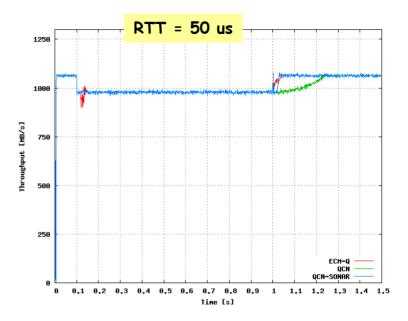
Hot queue length, PAUSE enabled, drift disabled, M = 1.5 MB/port





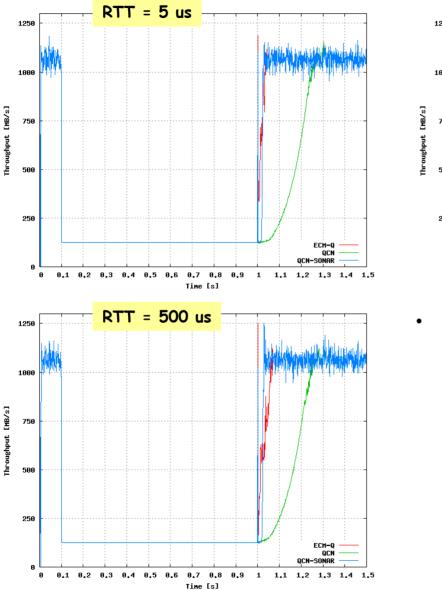
Aggregate throughput, PAUSE enabled, M = 1.5 MB/port

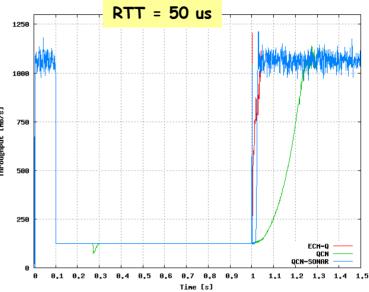




• tbd

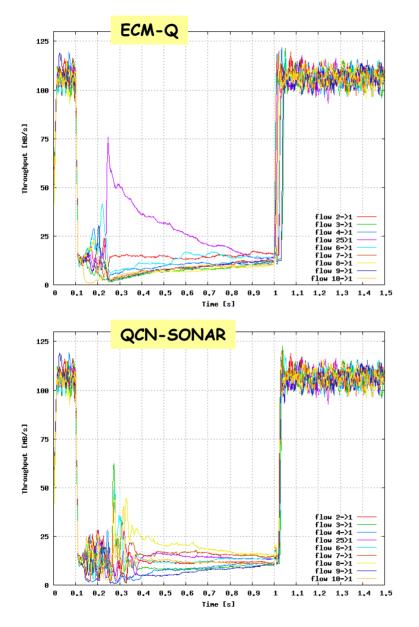
Hot port throughput, PAUSE enabled, M = 1.5 MB/port

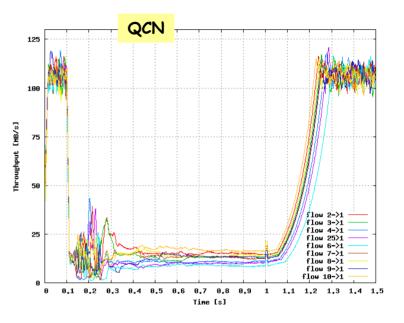




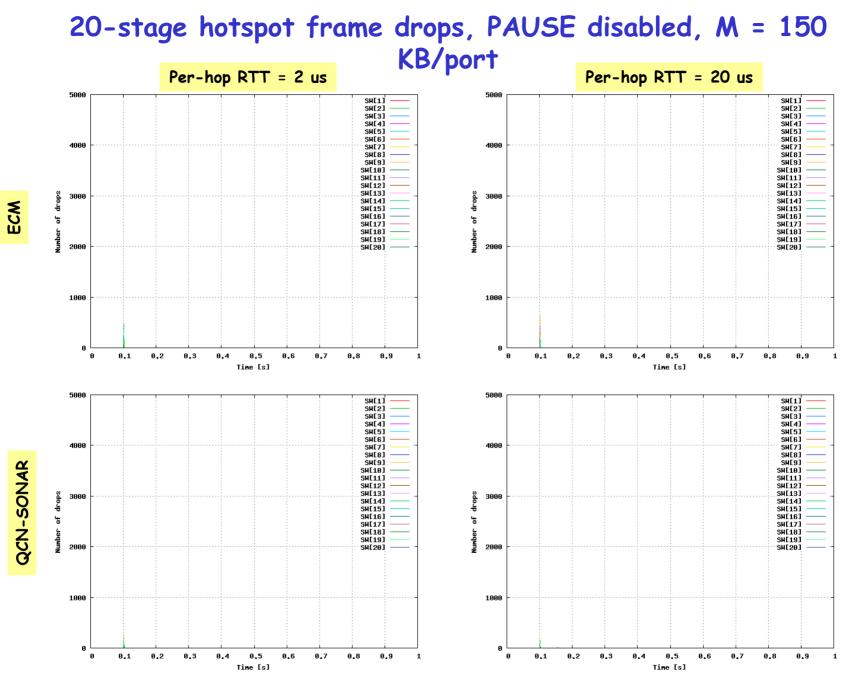
• tbd

Per-flow throughput, PAUSE enabled, RTT = 5 us

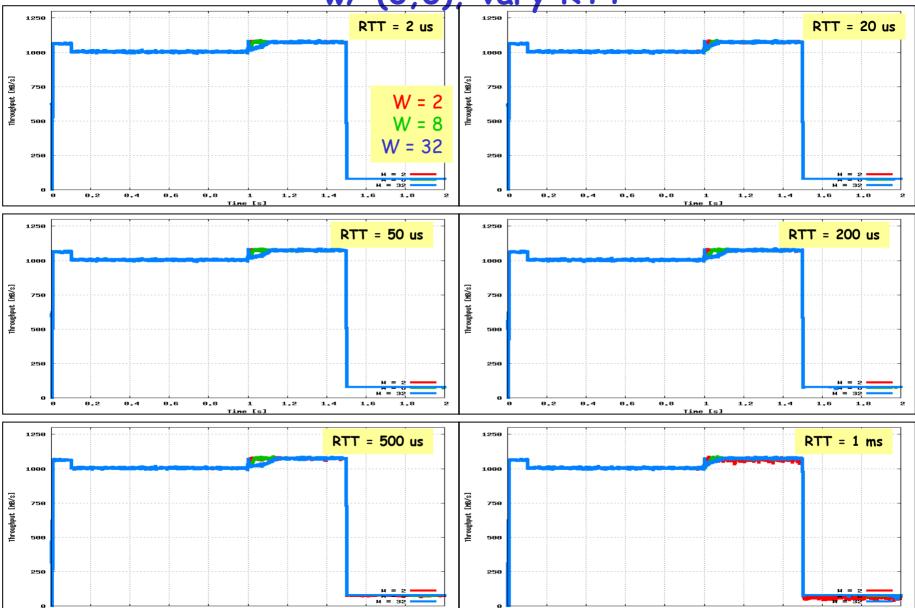




• tbd







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0.6

0.8

Tine Es

1.2

1.4

1.6

1.8

0.2

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0.4

0.6

0.8

Time [s]

1.2

1.4

1.6

1.8

Mandatory and Optional Behavioral Spec of QCN+

СР

1. MUST provide at least q and q' as distinct load sensor vars

- 1. extensions w/ new sensors (rate etc.) MAY be possible
- 2. MUST implement at least fixed sampling freq.
- 3. MUST inject ECN w/ F_b based on marking conditions
- 4. MUST respond accordingly to probes [per type]

RP

- 1. MUST react to -ECN by reducing rate [possibly directly to 0]
- 2. MAY react to +ECN by increasing rate
 - Upon a safety timer TO, RP <u>MUST</u> be able to obliviously increase rate in Open Loop (without positive feedback)
- 3. MAY send directed and/or path probes
- 4. MUST respond accordingly to probes [per type]
 - 1. [DST is last chance to return a probe if no CP reacted before]