

Countermeasure for Round Trip Delay Which Occurs in Between Satellite and Ground with Software Network Accelerator

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Abstract—Countermeasure for round trip delay which occurs in between satellite and ground with network accelerator is investigated together with operating system dependency on effectiveness of accelerator. Also disaster relief data transmission experiments are conducted for mitigation of disaster together with acceleration of disaster related data transmission between local government and disaster prevention center. Disaster relief information including remote sensing satellite images and information from the disaster occurred areas to local government for creation of evacuation information is accelerated so that it becomes possible to send them to the residents in the suffered areas due to disaster through data broadcasting in the digital TV channel.

Keywords—IP communication through Internet Satellite; WINDS; software accelerator.

I. INTRODUCTION

Wideband Inter-Networking engineering test and Demonstration Satellite: WINDS (KIZUNA¹ in Japanese) was launched on February 23, 2008 (JST) from the Tanegashima Space Center (one of the launch sites in Japan) to establish the world's most advanced information and telecommunications network. It is expected that this information and telecommunications network's speed and capacity will be much higher than anything achieved previously.

KIZUNA satellite communication system aims for a maximum speed of 155Mbps (receiving) / 6Mbps (transmitting) for households with 45-centimetre aperture antennas (the same size as existing Communications Satellite antennas), and ultra-high speed 1.2Gbps communication for offices with five-meter antennas. In addition to establishing a domestic ultra high speed Internet network, the project also aims to construct ultra high speed international Internet access, especially with Asian Pacific countries and regions that are more closely related to Japan.

KIZUNA project is responsible for the demonstration of the validity and usefulness of technologies related to large-capacity data communications in our space infrastructure project, "i-Space,"² the purpose of which is to promote the use of satellites

in such fields as Internet communications, education, medicine, disaster measures and Intelligent Transport Systems.

One of the problems on KIZUNA is around 0.8 sec of the delay time of round trip delay which occurs in between satellite and ground (0.3 sec by the factor of two) and the delay time in Asynchronous Transfer Mode: ATM switch³ onboard KIZUNA satellite (0.2 sec). Because KIZUNA provides IP communications based on TCP/IP protocol⁴ so that shake-hand protocol including acknowledge confirmation is required results in effective network speed (data rate) is degraded due to the delay time.

In order to overcome such problem, hardware type of accelerator such as Sky-X⁵, Blue coat⁶ is developed which is a little bit expensive though. In this paper, software type of accelerator⁷ is proposed with some evidences of experimental results which are obtained with KIZUNA satellite. Through experiments with KIZUNA satellite, performance of the proposed software TCP accelerator is confirmed [1]-[9]. Such accelerator is useful for not only satellite communication but also the other surface communications with TCP/IP protocol communications.

The following section describes the proposed software accelerator followed by some experimental results. Then concluding remarks with some discussions is followed by.

II. PROPOSED SOFTWARE ACCELERATOR

A. Problem Due to Delay

Under the TCP/IP protocol, sender transmits a shake-hand message first with header information including packet size, sender address, etc., and then receiver replies with ACK⁸: Acknowledgement. After that sender send packets as shown in Figure 1.

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asynchronous_Transfer_Mode

⁴ <http://www.comptechdoc.org/independent/networking/protocol/protnet.html>

⁵ <http://www.1st-computer-networks.co.uk/packeteerSkyXAccelerator-250.php>

⁶ <http://www.bluecoat.com/>

⁷ <http://www.viasat.com/government-communications/information-assurance/compact-xpep>

<http://www.bitpipe.com/tlist/TCP/IP-Acceleration.html>

⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transmission_Control_Protocol

¹ http://www.jaxa.jp/countdown/f14/overview/kizuna_e.html

² <http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/I-Space>

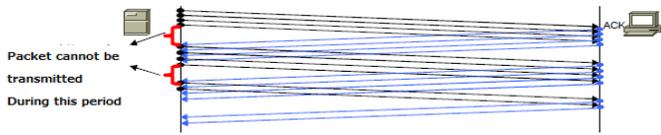


Figure 1. Communication procedure of TCP/IP protocol

If there is some delay in the network links, then packet cannot be sent during the red portions of period in Figure 1. Thus effective data rate is somewhat degraded depending on window size and delay time. The typical round trip time (Delay time) is 5ms for Local Area Network: LAN, 10ms for Metropolitan Area Network: MAN, 100ms for Wide Area Network: WAN and 600ms for geostationary satellites as well as 1200ms for geostationary satellite double hop. Throughput for 5ms delay of LAN with 8KB of window size is 12.8Mbps while that with 32 KB window size is 51.2Mbps. Meanwhile, throughput for 10ms delay of MAN with 8KB window size is 64Mbps while that with 32KB window size is 25.6Mbps. On the other hands, throughput for 100ms delay of WAN with 8KB window size is 640Kbps while that with 32KB window size is 2.6Mbps. Furthermore, throughput for 600ms delay of geostationary satellite link with 8KB window size is 107Kbps while that with 32KB is 427Kbps and throughput for 1200ms delay of geostationary double hop link with 8KB window size is 53Kbps while that with 32KB window size is 213Kbps. In accordance with window size, throughput is increased. Meanwhile throughput is decreased with increasing of delay time.

B. Hardware Accelerator

TCP protocol has three major merits, error corrections, end-to-end flow control and collision avoidance control so that the most of IP communication adopts TCP protocol. Remaining such these merits, TCP is converted to XTP (Xpress Transport Protocol) which is appropriate protocol for high speed of long distance communications. Sky-X⁹ adopts XTP¹⁰ and TCP accelerations. XTP includes (1) Dynamic window sizing, (2) Rate control and flow control, (3) Selective retransmission mechanism, (4) Data compressions, and (5) HTTP acceleration¹¹. Meanwhile, TCP acceleration is based on SCPS¹²: Space Communication Protocol Standard of MIL-STD-2045-4000¹³.

C. Software Accelerator

Packets on the network flow have to be handled by software accelerator. LAN driver software has to be modified to accelerate together with some modifications of LAN board. Free open source software of virtual LAN driver is used for the proposed software accelerator. It is known that all the functions of TCP protocol have not been realized with the virtual LAN driver. Therefore, the proposed software accelerator may choose functionalities TCP using the control panel shown in

Figure 2. Thus efficiency or effective data rate, throughput, etc. can be measured with the selected functions, in particular for status of the buffer memory.

The most important function of the proposed software accelerator is an acknowledge handling. Delay time can be shortened because network performance is degraded due to delay time. Although it is not possible that physical distance is shortened, the required time for acknowledge sending can be shortened. Actually, acknowledge is replied immediately after receiving TCP packet on the virtual LAN driver¹⁴. The actual data packet can be notified to the receiver with the different protocol. Thus acknowledge can be replied immediately after receiving TCP packet so that delay time can be shortened remarkable (ideally, delay time is going to be zero). Although this method may avoid the delay time induced problems, the actual data packets have to be sent to the receiver certainly.

Maximum buffer size for receiving has to be noticed. TCP protocol of automatic tuning of receiving buffer size based on RFC1323¹⁵ and Windows Vista may control buffer size for increasing effective data rate (maximum buffer size for sending is also to be notified for Windows Vista¹⁶ of automatic tuning). The receiving buffer size does not include data packet which are not yet received by application layer. In case of IP communication through KIZUNA, delay time is 0.8 sec so that all the data packets which are not yet received by application layer can be processed with the current performance of personal computers. That is the same thing for the other communication satellite in the geostationary orbit (Delay time is 0.6sec). Therefore, available receiving buffer size cannot be sent properly. The proposed software accelerator rewrites the available receiving buffer size is replaced to the maximum receiving buffer size.

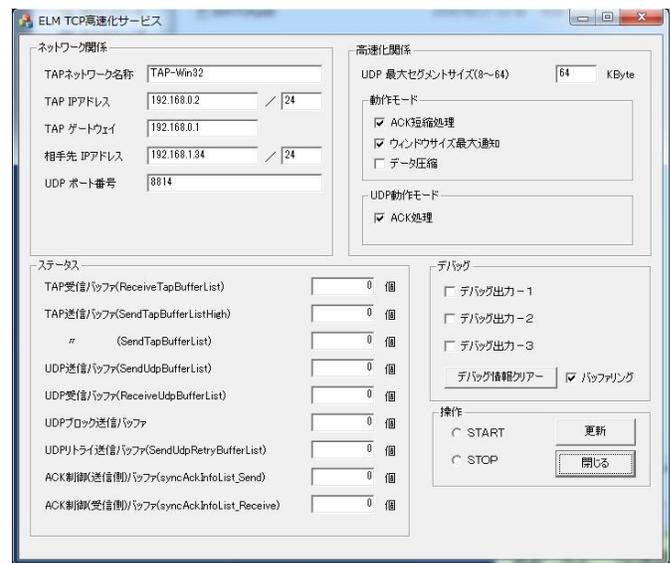


Figure 2. Control panel for selection of functionalities of TCP protocol.

⁹ http://www.netone.co.jp/seminar/tfa9q100000031eb-att/06DSE_SkyX.pdf
¹⁰ <http://www.sophia-it.com/content/Xpress+Transport+Protocol>
¹¹ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Varnish_\(software\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Varnish_(software))
¹² <http://www.scps.org/>
¹³ [http://www.everyspec.com/MIL-STD/MIL-STD+\(2000+-+2999\)/MIL-STD-2045_47001C_25099/](http://www.everyspec.com/MIL-STD/MIL-STD+(2000+-+2999)/MIL-STD-2045_47001C_25099/)
<http://www.gwg.na.mil/ntb/baseline/docs/44500/index.html>

¹⁴ http://ja.broadcom.com/support/ethernet_nic/netxtreme_desktop.php
¹⁵ <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1323.txt>
¹⁶ http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Windows_Vista

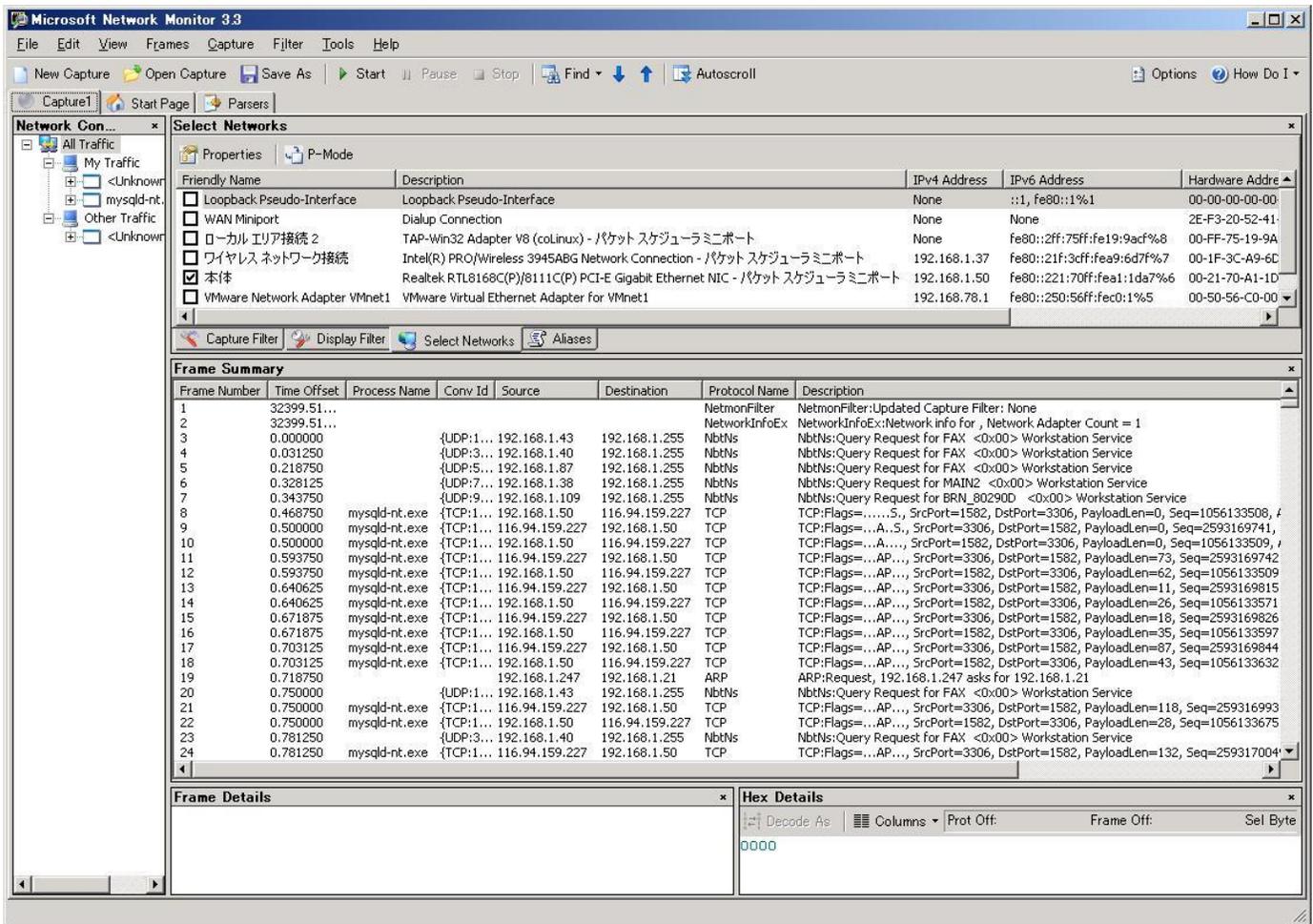


Figure 3. Screen shot image of Microsoft Network Monitor 3.3

The proposed software accelerator takes into account data compression. Namely, data packets with TCP are converted to that with User Datagram Protocol: UDP protocol¹⁷ and then transmit to the sender. Data compression can be applied to the data packets converted to UDP protocol so that the effective data rate can be improved.

III. EXPERIMENTS

A. Experiment Method

The effectiveness of the proposed software accelerator is evaluated with file transfer based on ftp protocol. Packet data flow and capacity is measured on the packet monitor with the well-known free open source software of Microsoft Network Monitor 3.3¹⁸. Figure 3 shows the screen shot image of Microsoft Network Monitor 3.3. It is confirmed that all the data packets are transmitted perfectly. By using TCP segment flag of SYN and FIN¹⁹, the start and the end time are measured. Therefore, the time required for transmission of data packets can be measured. The measured time duration is shorter than

that is measured on DOS window²⁰. Therefore, it is taken into account such duration time differences when the effective data rate is evaluated.

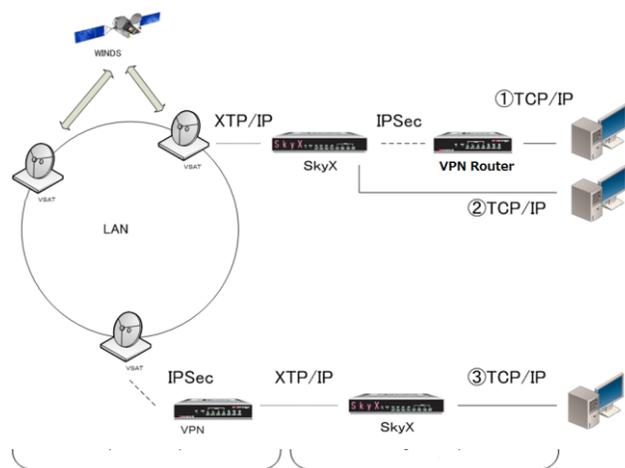


Figure 4. Network configuration

¹⁷ http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/User_Datagram_Protocol

¹⁸ <http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=4865>

¹⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transmission_Control_Protocol

²⁰ <http://www.ne.jp/asahi/hishidama/home/tech/windows/command.html>

Network configuration is shown in Figure 4 while experimental system configuration is shown in Figure 5, respectively. Two major terminals, Saga University and Kyushu University are connected through KIZUNA satellite. Internet connection is also confirmed as shown in Figure 6. In Figure 4, IPsec denotes Security Architecture for Internet Protocol²¹, VPN denotes Virtual Private Network²²

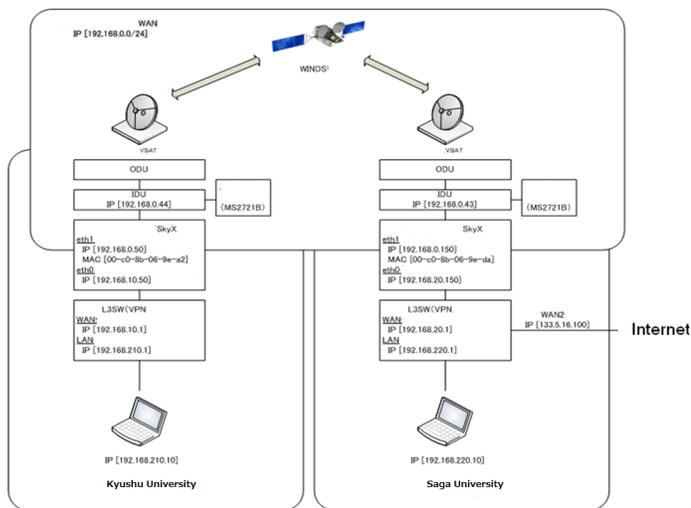


Figure 5. Experimental system configurations

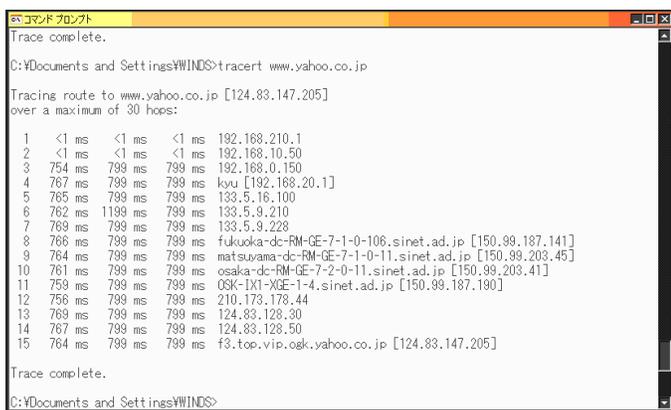


Figure 6. Internet connection confirmations

The experiments are conducted on 27 August 2008. Designated up-link data rate is 51Mbps between both universities. There are two datasets for the experiments, small size of (1079064Byte) and large size of (310677846Byte). These datasets are disaster relief satellite imagery data derived from Moderate resolution Imaging Spectrometer: MODIS²³ and Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection radiometer: ASTER²⁴ (both mission instruments are onboard Terra satellite) as shown in Figure 7. ASTER and MODIS imagery data of Ureshino city²⁵, Saga, Japan (33°8'N 130°4'E) is acquired on February 19 2009.

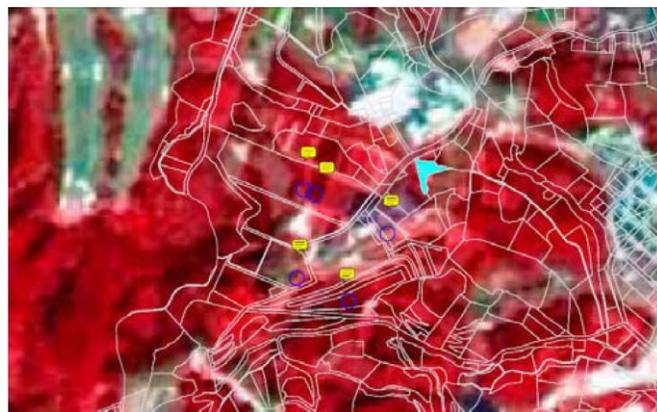
²¹ <http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/IPsec>

²² http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_Private_Network

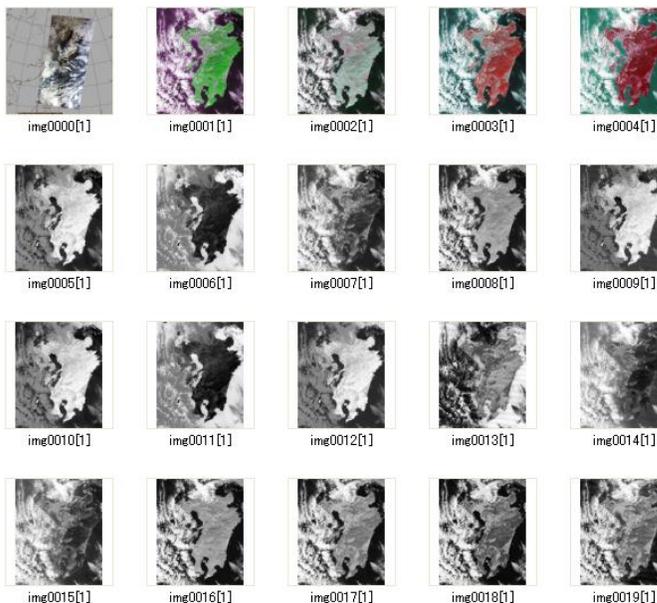
²³ <http://modis.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

²⁴ <http://asterweb.jpl.nasa.gov/>

²⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ureshino,_Saga



(a)ASTER imagery data of Ureshino: large size of (310677846Byte)



(b)MODIS imagery data of Kyushu: small size of (1079064Byte)



(c)Location of Ureshino and Kyushu in Japan

Figure 7. Disaster relief of ASTER and MODIS imagery data used for data transmission experiments through KIZUNA satellite

B. Experimental Results

There are three major features of the proposed software accelerator, 1) acknowledge handling, 2) Maximum receiving buffer size notification, and 3) data compression. The experiments are conducted with combinations of 1), 2), and 3).

- (1) Combination of 1), 2), and 3) with small dataset: 1.426757sec
- (2) Only 1) with small dataset: 1.422575sec
- (3) Combination of 1) and 2) with large dataset: 64.688477sec
- (4) Sky-X with small dataset: 1.08sec
- (5) Sky-X with large dataset: 75.94sec
- (6) Without Sky-X (large dataset): 146.63sec, 7.36MBps
- (7) Without Sky-X (small dataset): 1.33sec, 812.55MBps

In comparison between case (1) and (2), contributions of 2) maximum receiving buffer size notification and 3) data compression are not so significant. Also it may say that 1) acknowledge handling is the most effective method for the proposed software accelerator. In comparison between case (2) and (4), the proposed software accelerator does work so as Sky-X does. Approximately, 24% much longer time is required for the proposed software accelerator comparing to the Sky-X based hardware accelerator. It, however, depends on the data volume as well as characteristic of the dataset used for experiments. In fact, 14.8% much shorter time would be enough to send the large size of dataset for the proposed software accelerator in comparison to the Sky-X based hardware accelerator. Therefore it may concluded that the proposed software accelerator with acknowledge handling has almost same performance as Sky-X based hardware acceleration does on acceleration of data transmission even when network link includes delay of 0.8sec.

Figure 8 shows network performance measurement data. Horizontal axis shows the different MODIS data. Figure 8 (a) shows the network performance of TCP data transmission from Saga University to Kyushu University for the case that Sky-X is off while Figure 8 (b) is that for the case of Sky-X is on. Meanwhile, Figure 8 (c) shows the network performance of UDP data transmission from Saga University to Kyushu University for the case that Sky-X is off while Figure 8 (d) is that for the case of Sky-X is on. Figure 8 (e) shows a comparison between UDP and TCP networks performances when the Sky-X is off.

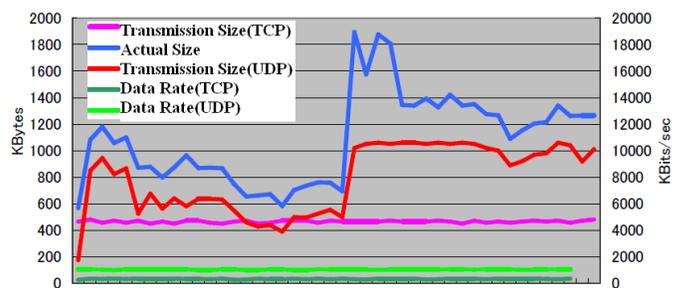
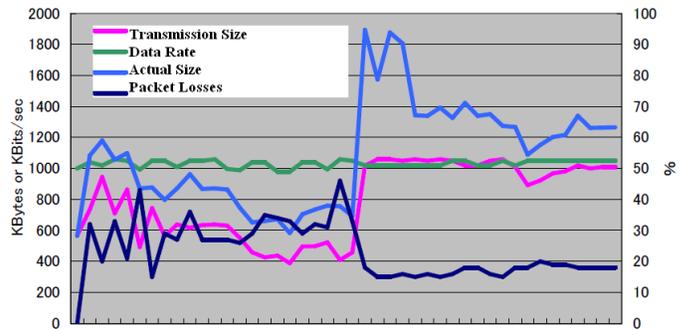
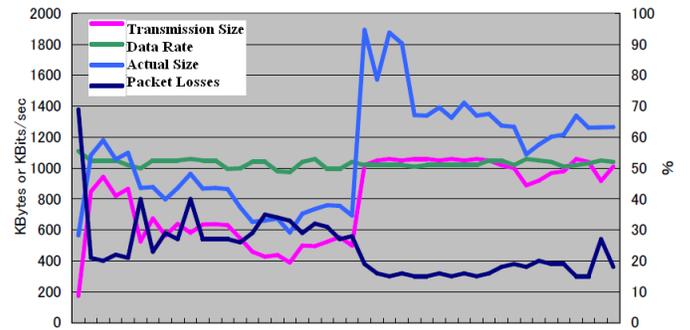
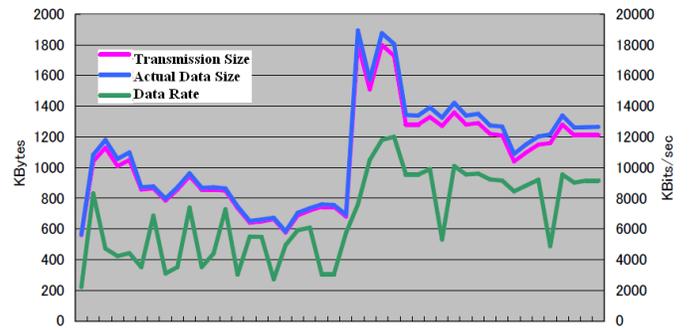
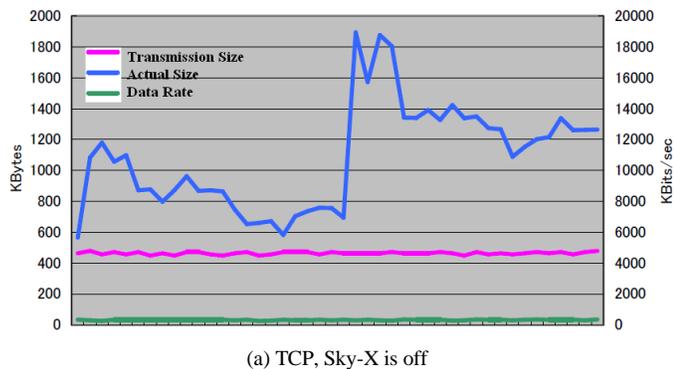


Figure 8. Network performance measured data

As a result, it is found that data rate for Sky-X is on is around 100 times much larger than that for Sky-X is off.

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND SOME DISCUSSIONS

Through the experiments with University-to-University communication link through KIZUNA satellite, it is found that the proposed acknowledge handling based software accelerator is effective and is almost same as that of the widely used

hardware accelerator. The effectiveness is much better than that of maximum receiving buffer size notification as well as data compression (conversion from TCP to UDP and application of data compression method).

The proposed acknowledge handling does not ensure TCP based data transmission so that the data transmission has to be done with the other protocols. Actually, Sky-X accelerates data transmissions based on the conversion from TCP to XTP.

Maximum receiving buffer size notification does not work in the experiments. Furthermore, RFC1323 of window size adjustment does also not work so well. Turns out, automatic window size tuning based on Windows Vista does work because it adjusts not only receiving buffer size but also sending buffer size is adjusted dynamically. The effectiveness of the automatic tuning is less than that of the proposed acknowledge handling.

Data compression does not work so well because the packet size of ftp transmission is not so large (around 1500 byte). Although data compression rate depends on the data compression method used, it cannot be compressed in some cases with a consideration of header information treatments.

Also the time required for data conversion from TCP to UDP would be a bottle neck. This method might be useful for a narrow band networks.

The delay time induced problem is affecting to not only TCP based data transmission but also the other ground based surface network links with some delay and even for mobile phone communication links. Demands on the proposed software network accelerator are getting increased in the near future.

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