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Model-Based Insights on the Performance, Fairness, and Stability of BBR

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Steady-state models

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Experimental evaluations

Scale-dependent cost Experiment cost may be overwhelming for large-scale networks or high speeds

Steady-state models

No expression of transient effects

Transient phenomena (e.g., convergence behavior) are ignored, although highly relevant



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System of ordinary differential equations (ODEs) describing the joint dynamics of

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Expression of transient effects (vs steady-state models)

Fluid models allow to investigate if/how the CCA converges to an equilibrium (stability analysis)



Fluid-model design

Formalization of BBR behavior

Design of new techniques

$$\begin{split} t_{t}^{\min} &= -\Gamma \cdot r_{t}^{\min}(t) - \tau_{t}(t-d_{t}^{p}) \\ x_{t}^{bb} &= \sigma \left(t_{t}^{bw} - \tau_{t}^{bbw} + 0.01 \right) \cdot \left(x_{t}^{\max} - x_{t}^{bd} \right) \\ x_{t}^{dbv} &= \frac{x_{t}(t-d_{t}^{p})}{y_{t} \cdot t - d_{t,t}^{b}} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} C_{t} & \text{if } q_{t}(t-d_{t,t}^{p}) > 0 \\ y_{t} \cdot t - d_{t,t}^{b} \end{pmatrix} \end{split}$$



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$$\begin{split} t_t^{\min} &= -\Gamma \cdot \tau_t^{\min}(t) - \tau_t(t-d_t^0) \\ s_t^{\mu} &= \sigma \left(t_t^{\mu\nu\nu} - \tau_t^{\mu\nu\nu} + 0.01 \right) \cdot \left(s_t^{\max} - s_t^{\lambda} \right) \\ s_t^{\mu} &= \frac{x_t(t-d_t^0)}{y_t - t - d_{t,t}^0} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} C_t & \text{if } q_t(t-d_{t,t}^0) > 0 \\ s_t^{\mu} &= \frac{x_t(t-d_t^0)}{y_t - t - d_{t,t}^0} \end{pmatrix} \end{split}$$

Experimental validation

Confirmation of prior insights

Generation of new insights



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$$\begin{split} t_t^{\text{dmn}} &= -\Gamma \ \tau_t^{\text{dmn}}(t) - \tau_t(t-d_t^0) \\ x_t^{\text{dmn}} &= \sigma \left(t^{\text{plow}} - \tau_t^{\text{plow}} + 0.01 \right) \cdot \left(x_t^{\text{max}} - x_t^{\text{bd}} \right) \\ x_t^{\text{dm}} &= \frac{x_t(t-d_t^0)}{y_t - t - d_{t,t}^0} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} C_t & \text{if } q_t(t-d_{t,t}^0) > 0 \\ y_t(t-d_{t,t}^0) & \text{otherwise} \end{pmatrix} \end{split}$$

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Theoretical stability analysis Characterization of equilibria Proof of asymptotic stability



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$$\begin{split} t_t^{\text{thm}} &= -\Gamma \cdot \tau_t^{\text{thm}}(t) - \tau_t(t-d_t^0) \\ s_t^{\text{thm}} &= \sigma \left(t_t^{\text{thm}} - \tau_t^{\text{thm}} + 0.01 \right) \cdot \left(s_t^{\text{thm}} - s_t^{\text{thm}} \right) \\ s_t^{\text{thm}} &= \frac{x_t(t-d_t^0)}{y_t} \cdot \left(\sum_{t=1}^{C_t} i f \, q_t(t-d_{t,t}^0) > 0 \right) \\ s_t^{\text{thm}} &= \frac{x_t(t-d_t^0)}{y_t} \cdot \left(s_t^{\text{thm}} - s_t^{\text{thm}} \right) \\ \end{split}$$

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Reno control loop: Congestion-window size w

 $\begin{array}{l} \text{if ack_received then} \\ w \leftarrow w + \frac{1}{w} \\ \text{else // packet loss} \\ w \leftarrow w/2 \end{array}$



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Rate of incoming ACKs



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Fluid-model approximation: Congestion-window size w, sending rate x, RTT τ

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A primer on CCA fluid models: RENO [Low'02]





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BBRv1 bandwidth probing:

Sending rate

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BBRv1 bandwidth probing:

Probing periods of 8 MinRTT (phases)





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Sending rate b' b Time

How to model this probing with (differential) equations?

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How to model this probing with (differential) equations?

Probing pulses?

Random phases?

Maximum tracking?

Periodic adjustment?



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$$\sigma(v) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-K \cdot v}}$$





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Achieve *intention* behind randomization by deterministic means

 \implies Desynchronization



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 \implies Desynchronization

 $\forall i \in \mathbb{N}. \quad \phi_i = i \bmod 7$

Pacing rate of flow *i*

$$x_i^{\text{pcg}}(t) = x_i^{\text{btl}}(t) \cdot (1 + \frac{1}{4}\Phi(t, \phi_i) - \frac{1}{4}\Phi(t, \phi_i + 1))$$



Achieve *intention* behind randomization by deterministic means

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Achieve *intention* behind randomization by deterministic means \implies Desynchronization

Desynchronized pacing rates for flows 1, 7, and 10:

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 $\sigma(v)$ Sigmoid function $\sigma(v) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-K \cdot v}}$ 0 vPulse at period end $\Phi'(t) = \sigma \left(t - 7.9 \cdot \tau_{\min} \right) \cdot \sigma \left(8 \cdot \tau_{\min} - t \right)$ $5\tau_{\min}$ $6 au_{\min}$ $7\tau_{\rm min}$ $8\tau_{\rm min}$





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Representing BBR in a fluid model: End result



Basic BBR model

$$\begin{split} & t_{1}^{(\min} = -t_{1}^{(m(1))} (t_{1} - c_{1}(t - d_{1}^{2})) \\ & F(t_{2} = s - s(t_{2}) \\ & \Delta m_{1}^{(m)} = \sigma \left(t_{1}^{(m)} - T_{1}^{(m)} \right) \cdot \left((1 - m_{1}^{(m)}) - m_{1}^{(m)} \right) \\ & T_{1}^{(m)} = \sigma \left(t_{1}^{(m)} - T_{1}^{(m)} \right) \cdot \left((1 - m_{1}^{(m)}) - m_{1}(t - d_{1}) \right) \cdot t_{1}^{(m)} \\ & t_{1} = 1 - \sigma \left(t_{1}^{(m)} - T_{1}^{(m)} \right) \cdot t_{1}^{(m)} - \sigma \left(t_{1}^{(m)} - m_{1}(t - d_{1}) \right) \cdot t_{1}^{(m)} \\ & x_{1} = m_{1}^{(m)} \cdot \frac{w_{1}^{(m)}}{T_{1}^{(m)}} - \left((1 - m_{1}^{(m)}) + t_{1}^{(m)} \right) \\ & t_{1}^{(m)} = \min \left(\frac{w_{1}^{(m)}}{T_{1}^{(m)}} - t_{1}^{(m)} \right) \cdot t_{1}^{(m)} \\ & t_{1}^{(m)} = \min \left(\frac{w_{1}^{(m)}}{T_{1}^{(m)}} - t_{1}^{(m)} \right) \\ & t_{1}^{(m)} = \min \left(\frac{w_{1}^{(m)}}{T_{1}^{(m)}} - t_{1}^{(m)} \right) \\ & t_{1}^{(m)} = \frac{x_{1}(t - d_{1}^{(m)})}{m_{1}(t - d_{1}^{(m)})} - t_{1}^{(m)} \\ & t_{1}^{(m)} = 1 \\ & t_{1}^{(m)}$$

 $\psi_i = x_i - x_i^{dlv}$

BBRv1 model $\dot{x}_{i}^{\text{bd}} = \sigma \left(t_{i}^{\text{pbw}} - T_{i}^{\text{pbw}} + 0.01 \right) \cdot \left(x_{i}^{\text{max}} - x_{i}^{\text{bd}} \right)$ $\Phi_{i}(t, \phi) = \sigma \left(t^{pbw}(t) - \phi \cdot \tau_{i}^{min} \right) \cdot \sigma \left((\phi + 1) \cdot \tau_{i}^{min} - t^{pbw} \right)$ $x_i^{peg} = x_i^{beg} \cdot \left(1 + \frac{1}{4} \cdot \Phi_i(t, \phi_i) - \frac{1}{4} \cdot \Phi_i(t, \phi_i + 1)\right)$ $w_i^{prt} = 4$ $w_i^{plaw} = 2 \cdot \overline{w}_i = 2 \cdot x_i^{bd} \cdot r_i^{min}$

BBRv2 model

 $T_i^{\text{pbw}} = \min\left(62 \cdot \tau_i^{\min}, 2 + \frac{i}{N}\right)$

 $x_i^{\mathrm{peg}} = x_i^{\mathrm{bei}} \cdot \left(1 + \tfrac{1}{4} \cdot \sigma \left(t_i^{\mathrm{pbw}} - \tau_i^{\mathrm{min}}\right) \cdot \left(1 - m_i^{\mathrm{dwn}}\right) - \tfrac{1}{4} \cdot m_i^{\mathrm{dwn}}\right)$

$$\begin{split} \Delta m_I^{dwn} &= (1 - m_i^{qwn}) \cdot (1 - m_i^{dwn}) \cdot \sigma \cdot t_I^{dwu} - t_I^{min} \\ &\cdot \min \left(\sigma \left(v_I - 5/4 \cdot \overline{w}_I \right) + \sigma \left(\rho_{SI} - 0.02 \right), \ 1 \right) \\ &- m_i^{dwn} \cdot \sigma \left(w_I^- - v_I \right) \end{split}$$

 $\Delta m_i^{\rm trs} = -\Delta m_i^{\rm dwn} - \sigma \left(t_i^{\rm pbw} - T_i^{\rm pbw} \right) \cdot m_i^{\rm trs}$

 $\label{eq:static_state} x_l^{\rm btl} = m_l^{\rm dwn} \cdot \left(\max\left(x_l^{\rm max}, \ x_l^{\rm max}(t-T^{\rm pbw}) \right) - x_l^{\rm btl} \right).$

$$\begin{split} \dot{w}_{1}^{[k]} &= (1 - m_{1}^{(1)}) \cdot \sigma \left(t_{1}^{[2]kr} - t_{1}^{[2]kr} \right) \cdot \sigma \left(v_{1} - w_{1}^{[k]} \right) \cdot y_{1}^{(2]kr} / y_{1}^{[k]} \\ &- \sigma \left(p_{r_{2}} - 0.03 \right) \cdot \frac{0.3}{\tau_{1}^{(2)kr}} \cdot w_{1}^{[k]} \\ \dot{w}_{1}^{[k]} &= (1 - m_{1}^{(2)}) \cdot (w_{1}^{-} - w_{1}^{[k]}) - m_{1}^{(2)k} \cdot \sigma \left(p_{r_{2}} \right) \cdot \frac{0.3 w_{1}^{[k]}}{\tau_{1}^{(2)kr}} \\ w_{1}^{[k]wr} &= \min \left(2 \cdot \overline{w}_{1r} \cdot (1 - m_{1}^{(2)}) \cdot w_{1}^{[k]} + m_{1}^{(2)r} \cdot w_{1}^{[k]} \right) \\ &= w_{1}^{[k]wr} = \frac{\overline{w}_{1}}{\overline{w}_{1}} \end{split}$$

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Representing BBR in a fluid model: End result







Our contribution: A BBR analysis based on a fluid model

Fluid-model design

Formalization of BBR behavior

Design of new techniques

$$\begin{split} & \tau_l^{\min} = -\Gamma \cdot \tau_l^{\min}(t) - \tau_l(t-dl^0) \\ & x_l^{\min} = \sigma \left(t^{\min}_l - \tau_l^{\min} + 0.0t \right) \cdot \left(x_l^{\min} - x_l^{\min} \right) \\ & x_l^{\min} = \frac{x_l(t-dl^0)}{y_l \cdot t - dl_{ll}^{-1}} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} C_l \\ y_l \left(t - dl_{ll}^0 \right) > 0 \\ y_l \left(t - dl_{ll}^0 \right) \end{pmatrix} \end{split}$$

Experimental validation

Confirmation of prior insights

Generation of new insights



Characterization of equilibria

Proof of asymptotic stability



Experimental validation of BBR fluid model

Configuration

Topology

Dumbbell topology Single bottleneck

Congestion-control algorithms

Homogeneous or heterogeneous (balanced)



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Evaluation tools

Fluid-model simulator

Solution of differential equations (Method of steps)

Experiment environment

Emulation with Mininet Load generation with iperf



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Emulation with Mininet Load generation with iperf **Result validation**

Trace validation

Evolution of network metrics over time for single flow

Aggregate-result validation

Network metrics (aggregated over time) for multiple flows

Confirmation of prior insights: Unfairness of BBRv1

Previous insight: BBRv1 is unfair towards loss-sensitive CCAs in shallow buffers.



Confirmation of prior insights: Improved fairness in BBRv2

Previous insight: BBRv2 is quite fair to loss-based CCAs (under a drop-tail queuing discipline).



Generation of new insights: Limited fairness in BBRv2 under RED

New insight: BBRv2 is mildly unfair to loss-based CCAs under a RED queuing discipline.



Confirmation of prior insights: High loss of BBRv1

Previous insight: BBRv1 leads to high loss in shallow buffers.



Confirmation of prior insights: Improved loss in BBRv2

Previous insight: BBRv2 leads to little loss (comparable to loss-based CCAs).



New insight: BBRv2 leads to intense queuing in large buffers.















Time

Large buffers disable loss-based safeguards





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- \implies More aggressive probing \implies Higher delivery rate
- \implies Higher estimated BDP \implies Higher buffer utilization





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Our fluid model reproduces this dynamic effect
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```
\begin{split} & r_{l}^{\min} = -\Gamma^{*} \cdot r_{l}^{\min}(t) - r_{l}(t - d_{l}^{0}) \\ & s_{l}^{\min} = \sigma \left( r_{l}^{\max} - T_{l}^{\max} + 0.01 \right) \cdot \left( s_{l}^{\min} - s_{l}^{\max} \right) \\ & s_{l}^{\max} = \frac{s_{l}(t - d_{l}^{0})}{y_{l} \cdot t - d_{l,l}^{0}} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} C_{l} & \text{if } q_{l}(t - d_{l,l}^{0}) > 0 \\ y_{l}(t - d_{l,l}^{0}) & \text{otherwise} \\ \end{split}
```

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Theoretical stability analysis Characterization of equilibria Proof of asymptotic stability

Time



Full fluid model (used for simulation)





Fluid model

Full fluid model (used for simulation)

Reduced fluid model

High-level model (macroscopic behavior)



Fluid model

Full fluid model (used for simulation)

Reduced fluid model

High-level model (macroscopic behavior)

Equilibria

Rate distribution & queue length in steady state



Fluid model

Full fluid model (used for simulation)

Reduced fluid model

High-level model (macroscopic behavior)

Equilibria

Rate distribution & queue length in steady state

Asymptotic stability

Proof of attractiveness (Lyapunov method)







BBRv2



Equilibrium Type	
BBRv1	
Deep buffers	
Shallow buffers	
BBRv2	

Equilibrium Type	Uniqueness (Send Rates)	
BBRv1		
Deep buffers	Х	
Shallow buffers		
BBRv2		



Equilibrium Type	Uniqueness (Send Rates)	Guaranteed Fairness		
BBRv1				
Deep buffers	Х	X		
Shallow buffers				
BBRv2				

Equilibrium Type	Uniqueness (Send Rates)	Guaranteed Fairness	Possible Fairness	
BBRv1				
Deep buffers	Х	X	\checkmark	
Shallow buffers				
BBRv2				

Equilibrium Type	Uniqueness (Send Rates)	Guaranteed Fairness	Possible Fairness	Loss Avoidance	
BBRv1					
Deep buffers	Х	X	\checkmark	\checkmark	
Shallow buffers					
BBRv2					

Equilibrium Type	Uniqueness (Send Rates)	Guaranteed Fairness	Possible Fairness	Loss Avoidance	Asymptotic Stability
BBRv1					
Deep buffers	Х	Х	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Shallow buffers					
BBRv2					



Equilibrium Type	Uniqueness (Send Rates)	Guaranteed Fairness	Possible Fairness	Loss Avoidance	Asymptotic Stability
BBRv1					
Deep buffers	×	Х	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Shallow buffers	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	Х	\checkmark
BBRv2					

Equilibrium Type	Uniqueness (Send Rates)	Guaranteed Fairness	Possible Fairness	Loss Avoidance	Asymptotic Stability
BBRv1					
Deep buffers	×	Х	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Shallow buffers	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	Х	\checkmark
BBRv2					
Deep buffers	X	×	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark



Equilibrium Type	Uniqueness (Send Rates)	Guaranteed Fairness	Possible Fairness	Loss Avoidance	Asymptotic Stability
BBRv1					
Deep buffers	×	Х	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Shallow buffers	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	Х	\checkmark
BBRv2					
Deep buffers	×	Х	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark

Follow-up work: Stability does not hold if BBR competes with CUBIC!



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Fluid models



BBR & Congestion Control

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Fluid models

Fluid models predict congestion-control behavior with **surprising accuracy** (qualitatively and quantitatively)

BBR & Congestion Control



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Fluid models are a **valuable complement** to experiments and steady-state models

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Difficulty of congestion control motivates proposals for **network-enforced resource allocation**, e.g., congestion shares [1], bandwidth reservation in SCION [2]

[1] Lloyd Brown, et al., On the Future of Congestion Control for the Public Internet, HotNets 2020.

[2] Giacomo Giuliari, et al., COLIBRI: A Cooperative Lightweight Inter-Domain Bandwidth-Reservation Infrastructure, *CoNEXT 2021*.

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Efficient, fair, and stable Internet congestion control remains an **important research objective**

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