

# DATA TRANSMISSION METHOD, APPARATUS, AND SYSTEM

## TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] Embodiments of the present invention relate to the communications field, and in particular, to a data transmission method, apparatus, and system.

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## BACKGROUND

[0002] The Transmission Control Protocol (Transmission Control Protocol, TCP) is a connection-oriented, reliable, and byte-stream-based transport layer communication protocol. A TCP layer is an intermediate layer located above an Internet Protocol (Internet Protocol, IP) layer and below an application layer, and provides reliable pipe-like connections between application  
10 layers of different hosts. The application layer sends, to the TCP layer, a data stream for inter-network transmission. The TCP then divides the data stream into packet segments with proper lengths. Subsequently, the TCP transmits the packet segments to the IP layer, and the packet segments are transmitted to a TCP layer of a receive end entity by using a network.

[0003] The TCP is a sliding window protocol. That is, an amount of data that can be sent at a  
15 moment by a transmit end connected to the TCP is controlled by a sliding window (transmit window). A size of the sliding window may be jointly determined by a receive window (receive window, Rwnd) and a congestion window (congestion window, Cwnd). A smaller value between values of the Rwnd and the Cwnd is used as the size of the sliding window. The Rwnd indicates remaining space in a TCP protocol buffer at a receive end. A transmit end needs to ensure that data  
20 sent by the transmit end does not exceed the remaining space, so as to prevent a buffer overflow. This window is used by the receive end to limit a flow. The Cwnd is a window used by the transmit end to control a flow.

[0004] The TCP transmits data in various networks. Because the TCP does not know a data transmission feature of a network in which the TCP runs, the TCP needs to keep increasing or  
25 decreasing the size of the sliding window to adapt to changes of a network status, and detect the network status. To control a network flow, the TCP uses four control mechanisms: slow start, congestion avoidance, fast retransmit, and fast recovery.

[0005] After a TCP connection is established, if a network capability is unknown, a TCP transmit end first tentatively sends one packet. A size of the Cwnd is one packet. After receiving an

acknowledgment (Acknowledgement, ACK), the TCP transmit end sends two more packets. After ACKs of the two packets are received, the Cwnd increases to four packets. In this way, each time an ACK of one packet is received, a value of the Cwnd increases by one packet.

[0006] In a conventional network, because routing paths and network statuses between two communication nodes change constantly, algorithms regarding how a single node detects a network status in the TCP protocol evolve constantly. Due to inflexibility of a network, bandwidths are not fully utilized, and because of contention between TCP transmission nodes, throughputs are all at low levels.

[0007] In some distributed computing applications, data needs to be efficiently transmitted between two computing nodes within a particular period of time. Therefore, TCP-based optimization becomes increasingly important. Software-defined networking (Software Defined Network, SDN) provides application-based management and control capabilities, so that SDN-based TCP optimization also becomes increasingly important.

## SUMMARY

[0008] In view of this, embodiments of the present invention provide a data transmission method, apparatus, and system, so as to optimize TCP data transmission in an SDN network.

[0009] According to a first aspect, an embodiment of the present invention provides a data transmission method, applied to software-defined networking SDN, where a controller in the SDN network is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface, at least one application runs on the application server, and when the application server determines that currently data needs to be transmitted from a sending device to a receiving device by using the Transmission Control Protocol TCP, the method includes:

receiving, by the controller, a TCP transmission resource allocation request from the application server, where the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device;

determining, by the controller, a first transmission path and a second transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, where the first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit a TCP acknowledgment to the sending device; and

sending, by the controller, a TCP transmission resource allocation response message to the application server, where the TCP transmission resource allocation response message includes bandwidth information of the first transmission path and a TCP round-trip transmission delay, the

TCP round-trip transmission delay indicates a pre-estimated time difference between a time T1 at which the sending device sends each data packet through the first transmission path and a time T2 at which the sending device receives a TCP acknowledgment of each data packet through the second transmission path, and the bandwidth information of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay are used to determine an initial value of a transmit window for TCP data transmission between the sending device and the receiving device.

**[0010]** With reference to the first aspect, in a first possible implementation manner, before the sending, by the controller, a TCP transmission resource allocation response message to the application server, the method further includes: obtaining, by the controller, a delay of the first transmission path and a delay of the second transmission path, and determining the TCP round-trip transmission delay according to the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path, where the TCP round-trip transmission delay is positively correlated with a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

**[0011]** With reference to the first aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manner, in a second possible implementation manner, before the sending, by the controller, a TCP transmission resource allocation response message to the application server, the method further includes: determining, by the controller, a packet loss rate of the first transmission path, and

in this case, the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further includes the packet loss rate of the first transmission path.

**[0012]** With reference to any one of the first aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a third possible implementation manner, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries maximum transmission unit MTU value information, and the MTU value information includes a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device;

the method further includes: determining, by the controller according to the MTU value information in the TCP transmission resource allocation request, an MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data, where the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data is not greater than a smaller value between the maximum value for the MTU value of the sending device and the maximum value for the MTU value of the receiving device; and

in this case, the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further includes the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data.

**[0013]** With reference to any one of the first aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a fourth possible implementation manner, the TCP transmission resource allocation

request further includes a bandwidth required for transmitting the data; and

the determining, by the controller, a first transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request includes: selecting, according to a network topology of the switching device and from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path.

[0014] With reference to any one of the first aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a fifth possible implementation manner, the selecting, by the controller from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path includes: selecting, by the controller, from all paths whose remaining bandwidth resources meet the requirement for transmitting the data between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources are the fewest or a path whose hop count is the smallest as the first transmission path.

[0015] According to a second aspect, an embodiment of the present invention provides a controller, applied to software-defined networking SDN, where the controller is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface, and the controller includes: a processor, a memory, a bus, and a communications interface, where

the memory is configured to store an instruction executable by a computing device, the processor and the memory are connected through the bus, and when the computing device operates, the processor executes the instruction that is executable by the computing device and that is stored in the memory, to enable the computing device to perform the method according to any one of the first aspect or the possible implementation manners of the first aspect.

[0016] According to a third aspect, an embodiment of the present invention provides a data transmission method, applied to software-defined networking SDN, where a controller in the SDN network is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface, at least one application runs on the application server, and when the application server determines that currently data needs to be transmitted from a sending device to a receiving device by using the TCP protocol, the method includes:

sending, by the application server, a TCP transmission resource allocation request to the controller, where the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device;

receiving, by the application server, a TCP transmission resource allocation response

message from the controller, where the TCP transmission resource allocation response message includes a bandwidth of the first transmission path and a TCP round-trip transmission delay, the TCP round-trip transmission delay indicates a pre-estimated time difference between a time T1 at which the sending device sends each data packet through the first transmission path and a time T2 at which the sending device receives a TCP acknowledgment of each data packet through the second transmission path, the first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit an acknowledgment to the sending device; and

determining, by the application server according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay, an initial value of a transmit window for TCP data transmission between the sending device and the receiving device.

[0017] With reference to the third aspect, in a first possible implementation manner, the initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

[0018] With reference to the third aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manner, in a second possible implementation manner, the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further carries a packet loss rate of the first transmission path; and

the method further includes: determining, by the application server, the initial value of the transmit window according to the packet loss rate, where the initial value of the transmit window is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0019] With reference to any one of the third aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a third possible implementation manner, the method further includes: determining, by the application server, an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay, where the initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

[0020] With reference to any one of the third aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a fourth possible implementation manner, the method further includes: determining, by the application server, an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate, where the initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0021] With reference to any one of the third aspect or the foregoing possible implementation

manners, in a fifth possible implementation manner, the method further includes: sending, by the application server, a transmit window setting message to the sending device, where the transmit window setting message includes the initial value of the transmit window.

[0022] With reference to any one of the third aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a sixth possible implementation manner, the method further includes: sending, by the application server, a receive window setting message to the receiving device, where the receive window setting message includes the initial value of the receive window.

[0023] With reference to any one of the third aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a seventh possible implementation manner, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries maximum transmission unit MTU value information, and the MTU value information is used to indicate a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device;

the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further includes an MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data; and

the method further includes: determining, by the application server, that the MTU values of the sending device and the receiving device are the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data.

[0024] With reference to any one of the third aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in an eighth possible implementation manner, the method further includes: sending, by the application server, an MTU setting message to the sending device and the receiving device, where the MTU setting message includes the MTU value for the first transmission path.

[0025] With reference to any one of the third aspect or the possible implementation manners, in a ninth possible implementation manner, the method further includes: determining, by the application server, a retransmission timeout interval of the sending device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, where the retransmission timeout interval is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay.

[0026] With reference to any one of the third aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a tenth possible implementation manner, the method further includes: sending, by the application server, a retransmission timeout interval setting message to the sending device, where the retransmission timeout interval setting message includes the retransmission timeout interval.

[0027] With reference to any one of the third aspect or the possible implementation manners, in an eleventh possible implementation manner, the method further includes: determining, by the application server, an acknowledgment wait time of the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, where the acknowledgment wait time is positively correlated with the

TCP round-trip transmission delay.

[0028] With reference to any one of the third aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a twelfth possible implementation manner, the method further includes: sending, by the application server, an acknowledgment wait time setting message to the receiving device, where the acknowledgment setting message includes the acknowledgment wait time.

[0029] According to a fourth aspect, an embodiment of the present invention provides an application server, applied to software-defined networking SDN, where a controller of the SDN is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to the application server through a northbound interface, and the application server includes: a processor, a memory, a bus, and a communications interface, where

the memory is configured to store an instruction executable by a computing device, the processor and the memory are connected through the bus, and when the computing device operates, the processor executes the instruction that is executable by the computing device and that is stored in the memory, to enable the computing device to perform the method according to any one of the third aspect or the possible implementation manners of the third aspect.

[0030] According to a fifth aspect, an embodiment of the present invention provides a data transmission method, applied to software-defined networking SDN, where a controller in the SDN network is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface, at least one application runs on the application server, and when the application server determines that currently data needs to be transmitted from a sending device to a receiving device by using the TCP protocol, the method includes:

receiving, by the sending device, a transmit window setting message, where the transmit window setting message includes an initial value of a transmit window of the sending device; and

performing, by the sending device, TCP data transmission according to the initial value of the transmit window.

[0031] With reference to the fifth aspect, in a first possible implementation manner, the sending device is further configured to: receive a maximum transmission unit MTU setting message, where the MTU setting message includes an MTU value of the sending device during data transmission; and set an MTU value of the sending device according to an indication of the MTU setting message.

[0032] With reference to the fifth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manner, in a second possible implementation manner, the sending device is further configured to: receive a retransmission timeout interval setting message, where the retransmission timeout interval setting message includes a retransmission timeout interval value used by the sending device during TCP

data transmission; and set the retransmission timeout interval value of the sending device according to an indication of the retransmission timeout interval setting message.

[0033] According to a sixth aspect, an embodiment of the present invention provides a computing device, applied to software-defined networking SDN, where a controller of the SDN is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface, the application server is configured to control data to be sent from the computing device to a receiving device, and the computing device includes: a processor, a memory, a bus, and a communications interface, where

the memory is configured to store an instruction executable by the computing device, the processor and the memory are connected through the bus, and when the computing device operates, the processor executes the instruction that is executable by the computing device and that is stored in the memory, to enable the computing device to perform the method according to any one of claims 22 to 24.

[0034] According to a seventh aspect, an embodiment of the present invention provides a data transmission apparatus, applied to software-defined networking SDN, where a controller of the SDN is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface, the application server is configured to control data to be sent from the apparatus to a receiving device, and the data transmission apparatus includes:

a receiving unit, configured to receive a transmit window setting message, where the transmit window setting message includes an initial value of a transmit window of the sending device; and

a sending unit, configured to perform TCP data transmission according to the initial value of the transmit window.

[0035] With reference to the seventh aspect, in a first possible implementation manner, the receiving unit is further configured to receive a maximum transmission unit MTU setting message, where the MTU setting message includes an MTU value of the sending device during data transmission.

[0036] With reference to the seventh aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manner, in a second possible implementation manner, the receiving unit is further configured to receive a retransmission timeout interval setting message, where the retransmission timeout interval setting message includes a retransmission timeout interval value of the sending device during TCP data transmission.

[0037] According to an eighth aspect, an embodiment of the present invention provides a data

transmission apparatus, applied to software-defined networking SDN, where the apparatus is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface, the application server is configured to control data to be sent from a sending device to a receiving device, and the apparatus includes:

5           a receiving unit, configured to receive a TCP transmission resource allocation request from the application server, where the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device;

          a determining unit, configured to determine a first transmission path and a second transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, where the first  
10       transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit a TCP acknowledgment to the sending device; and

          a sending unit, configured to send a TCP transmission resource allocation response message to the application server, where the TCP transmission resource allocation response  
15       message includes bandwidth information of the first transmission path and a TCP round-trip transmission delay, the TCP round-trip transmission delay indicates a pre-estimated time difference between a time T1 at which the sending device sends each data packet through the first transmission path and a time T2 at which the sending device receives a TCP acknowledgment of each data packet through the second transmission path, and the bandwidth information of the first transmission path  
20       and the TCP round-trip transmission delay are used to determine an initial value of a transmit window for TCP data transmission between the sending device and the receiving device.

[0038]     With reference to the eighth aspect, in a first possible implementation manner, the determining unit is further configured to: obtain a delay of the first transmission path and a delay of the second transmission path; and determine the TCP round-trip transmission delay according to the  
25       transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path, where the TCP round-trip transmission delay is positively correlated with a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

[0039]     With reference to the eighth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manner, in  
30       a second possible implementation manner, the determining unit is further configured to determine a packet loss rate of the first transmission path; and

          in this case, the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further includes the packet loss rate of the first transmission path.

[0040]     With reference to any one of the eighth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation

manners, in a third possible implementation manner, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries maximum transmission unit MTU value information, and the MTU value information includes a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device;

5           the determining unit is further configured to determine, according to the MTU value information in the TCP transmission resource allocation request, an MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data, where the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data is not greater than a smaller value between the maximum value for the MTU value of the sending device and the maximum value for the MTU value of the receiving device; and

10           in this case, the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further includes the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data.

**[0041]**     With reference to any one of the eighth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a fourth possible implementation manner, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further includes a bandwidth required for transmitting the data; and

15           the determining unit being configured to determine a first transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request includes: selecting, by the determining unit according to a network topology of the switching device and from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path.

20           **[0042]**     With reference to any one of the eighth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a fifth possible implementation manner, the selecting, from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path includes: selecting, by the determining unit, from all paths whose remaining bandwidth resources meet the requirement for transmitting the data  
25           between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources are the fewest or a path whose hop count is the smallest as the first transmission path.

**[0043]**     According to a ninth aspect, an embodiment of the present invention provides a data transmission apparatus, applied to software-defined networking SDN, where a controller in the SDN network is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to  
30           the apparatus through a northbound interface, at least one application runs on the apparatus, the apparatus is configured to control data to be sent from a sending device to a receiving device, and the apparatus includes:

            a sending unit, configured to send a TCP transmission resource allocation request to the controller, where the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending

device and an address of the receiving device;

a receiving unit, configured to receive a TCP transmission resource allocation response message from the controller, where the TCP transmission resource allocation response message includes a bandwidth of the first transmission path and a TCP round-trip transmission delay, the

5 TCP round-trip transmission delay indicates a pre-estimated time difference between a time T1 at which the sending device sends each data packet through the first transmission path and a time T2 at which the sending device receives a TCP acknowledgment of each data packet through the second transmission path, the first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to  
10 transmit an acknowledgment to the sending device; and

a determining unit, configured to determine, according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay, an initial value of a transmit window for TCP data transmission between the sending device and the receiving device, where the initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission  
15 path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

**[0044]** With reference to the ninth aspect, in a first possible implementation manner, the initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

**[0045]** With reference to the ninth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manner, in a  
20 second possible implementation manner, the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further carries a packet loss rate of the first transmission path; and

the determining unit is further configured to determine the initial value of the transmit window according to the packet loss rate, where the initial value of the transmit window is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

25 **[0046]** With reference to any one of the ninth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a third possible implementation manner, the determining unit is further configured to determine an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay, where the initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the  
30 TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

**[0047]** With reference to any one of the ninth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a fourth possible implementation manner, the determining unit is further configured to determine an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate, where

the initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0048] With reference to any one of the ninth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a fifth possible implementation manner, the sending unit is further configured to send a transmit window setting message to the sending device, where the transmit window setting message includes the initial value of the transmit window.

[0049] With reference to any one of the ninth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a sixth possible implementation manner, the sending unit is further configured to send a receive window setting message to the receiving device, where the receive window setting message includes the initial value of the receive window.

[0050] With reference to any one of the ninth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a seventh possible implementation manner, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries maximum transmission unit MTU value information, and the MTU value information is used to indicate a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device;

the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further includes an MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data; and

the determining unit is further configured to determine that the MTU values of the sending device and the receiving device are the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data.

[0051] With reference to any one of the ninth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in an eighth possible implementation manner, the sending unit is further configured to send an MTU setting message to the sending device and the receiving device, where the MTU setting message includes the MTU value for the first transmission path.

[0052] With reference to any one of the ninth aspect or the possible implementation manners, in a ninth possible implementation manner, the determining unit is further configured to determine a retransmission timeout interval of the sending device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, where the retransmission timeout interval is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay.

[0053] With reference to any one of the ninth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a tenth possible implementation manner, the sending unit is further configured to send a retransmission timeout interval setting message to the sending device, where the retransmission timeout interval setting message includes the retransmission timeout interval.

[0054] With reference to any one of the ninth aspect or the possible implementation manners, in an eleventh possible implementation manner, the determining unit is further configured to determine an acknowledgment wait time of the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, where the acknowledgment wait time is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay.

[0055] With reference to any one of the ninth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a twelfth possible implementation manner, the sending unit is further configured to send an acknowledgment wait time setting message to the receiving device, where the acknowledgment setting message includes the acknowledgment wait time.

[0056] According to a tenth aspect, an embodiment of the present invention provides a data transmission system, applied to software-defined networking SDN, and including an application server, a controller, a sending device, a receiving device, and a switching device, where the controller in the SDN network is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to the application server through a northbound interface, at least one application runs on the application server, and the application server is configured to control data to be sent from the sending device to the receiving device;

the application server is configured to send a TCP transmission resource allocation request to the controller, where the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device;

the controller is configured to: determine a first transmission path and a second transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, where the first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit a TCP acknowledgment to the sending device; and send a TCP transmission resource allocation response message to the application, where the TCP transmission resource allocation response message includes bandwidth information of the first transmission path and a TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the TCP round-trip transmission delay indicates a pre-estimated time difference between a time T1 at which the sending device sends each data packet through the first transmission path and a time T2 at which the sending device receives a TCP acknowledgment of each data packet through the second transmission path;

the application server is further configured to: determine, according to a bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay, an initial value of a transmit window for TCP data transmission between the sending device and the receiving device; and send a transmit window setting message to the sending device, where the transmit window setting message

includes the initial value of the transmit window; and

the sending device is configured to: set a size of the transmit window to the initial value of the transmit window according to the transmit window setting message; and perform TCP data transmission.

5 [0057] With reference to the tenth aspect, in a first possible implementation manner, the initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

[0058] With reference to the tenth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manner, in a second possible implementation manner, the controller is further configured to: obtain a delay of the  
10 first transmission path and a delay of the second transmission path; and determine the TCP round-trip transmission delay according to the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path, where the TCP round-trip transmission delay is positively correlated with a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

15 [0059] With reference to any one of the tenth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a third possible implementation manner, the controller is further configured to determine a packet loss rate of the first transmission path; and

in this case, the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further includes the packet loss rate of the first transmission path.

20 [0060] With reference to any one of the tenth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a fourth possible implementation manner, the application server is further configured to determine the initial value of the transmit window according to the packet loss rate, where the initial value of the transmit window is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0061] With reference to any one of the tenth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation  
25 manners, in a fifth possible implementation manner, the application server is further configured to determine an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay, where the initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

30 [0062] With reference to any one of the tenth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a sixth possible implementation manner, the application server is further configured to determine an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate, where the initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first

transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0063] With reference to any one of the tenth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a seventh possible implementation manner, the application server is further configured to send a receive window setting message to the receiving device, where the receive window setting message includes the initial value of the receive window; and

the receiving device is configured to: set a size of the receive window to the initial value of the transmit window according to an indication of the receive window setting message, and perform TCP data transmission.

[0064] With reference to any one of the tenth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in an eighth possible implementation manner, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries maximum transmission unit MTU value information, and the MTU value information is used to indicate a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device;

the controller is further configured to determine, according to the MTU value information in the TCP transmission resource allocation request, an MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data, where the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data is not greater than a smaller value between the maximum value for the MTU value of the sending device and the maximum value for the MTU value of the receiving device; and

the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further includes the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data.

[0065] With reference to any one of the tenth aspect or the foregoing implementation manners, in a ninth possible implementation manner, the application server is further configured to: determine that the MTU values of the sending device and the receiving device are the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data; and send an MTU setting message to the sending device and the receiving device, where the MTU setting message includes the MTU value for the first transmission path.

[0066] With reference to any one of the tenth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a tenth possible implementation manner, the application server is further configured to: determine a retransmission timeout interval of the sending device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, where the retransmission timeout interval is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay; and send a retransmission timeout interval setting message to the sending device, where the retransmission timeout interval setting message includes the retransmission timeout interval.

[0067] With reference to any one of the tenth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in an eleventh possible implementation manner, the application server is further configured to: determine an acknowledgment wait time of the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, where the acknowledgment wait time is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay; and send an acknowledgment wait time setting message to the receiving device, where the acknowledgment setting message includes the acknowledgment wait time.

[0068] With reference to any one of the tenth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a twelfth possible implementation manner, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further includes a bandwidth required for transmitting the data; and

the determining, by the controller, a first transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request includes: selecting, according to a network topology of the switching device and from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path.

[0069] With reference to any one of the tenth aspect or the foregoing possible implementation manners, in a thirteenth possible implementation manner, the selecting, by the controller from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path includes: selecting, by the controller, from all paths whose remaining bandwidth resources meet the requirement for transmitting the data between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources are the fewest or a path whose hop count is the smallest as the first transmission path.

[0070] According to the technical solutions provided in the present invention, a slow start process of TCP can be bypassed by setting an initial size of a transmit window for TCP data transmission. In addition, an initial value of the transmit window is determined according to a bandwidth of a data transmission path and a TCP round-trip time. Therefore, transmission can be performed with a relatively high throughput, and a prior-art problem is avoided that halved oscillation of a sliding window caused by repeated network detection eventually affects a network throughput.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0071] To describe the technical solutions in the embodiments of the present invention more clearly, the following briefly introduces the accompanying drawings required for describing the

embodiments. Apparently, the accompanying drawings in the following description show merely some embodiments of the present invention, and a person of ordinary skill in the art may still derive other drawings from these accompanying drawings without creative efforts.

[0072] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an example of a networking environment of an SDN data center;

[0073] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of a computing device applicable to the present invention;

[0074] FIG. 3 is a schematic structural diagram of a data transmission system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0075] FIG. 4 is a flowchart of an example of a data transmission method according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0076] FIG. 5 is a flowchart of an example of a data transmission method according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0077] FIG. 6 is a schematic structural diagram of a data transmission apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0078] FIG. 7 is a schematic structural diagram of a data transmission apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0079] FIG. 8 is a flowchart of an example of a data transmission method according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0080] FIG. 9 is a schematic structural diagram of a data transmission apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

[0081] FIG. 10 is a schematic structural diagram of a data transmission apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention.

## DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0082] The following clearly and completely describes the technical solutions in the embodiments of the present invention with reference to the accompanying drawings in the embodiments of the present invention. Apparently, the described embodiments are some but not all of the embodiments of the present invention. All other embodiments obtained by a person of ordinary skill in the art based on the embodiments of the present invention without creative efforts shall fall within the protection scope of the present invention.

[0083] FIG. 1 shows a networking environment 100 of an SDN data center in the prior art. A network 102 is connected to an application server 110, a controller 108, a switching device 106, and a computing device 104. An application program (application, application) runs on the application server 110. The application server 110 is located at an application layer of an SDN network, and

includes different network services and applications. The controller 108 is located at a control layer of the SDN network, and is a logical control center of the SDN network. The controller 108 is connected to the switching device 106 through a southbound interface, provides a network instruction, maintains a network topology, controls data forwarding by the switching device 106, or the like. The controller 108 is further connected to the application server 110 through a northbound interface. The switching device 106 is located at a data forwarding layer of the SDN network, and is responsible for data processing, forwarding, status collection, or the like. The computing device 104 is a host running in a data center network, and data may be transmitted between computing devices 104 by using the TCP protocol.

[0084] The network 102 may be the Internet, an intranet, a local area network (Local Area Networks, LANs for short), a wide area network (Wireless Local Area Networks, WLANs for short), a storage area network (Storage Area Networks, SANs for short), or the like, or a combination of the foregoing networks.

[0085] An objective of FIG. 1 is to introduce participants of TCP data transmission in the data center and relationships between the participants. Therefore, the described SDN data center environment 100 is greatly simplified. Because some aspects of the SDN data center network are common knowledge in the art, these aspects such as authentication schemes and security are not described in detail herein.

[0086] The application server 110, the controller 108, the sending device 104, or the receiving device 104 in FIG. 1 may have any structure. FIG. 2 is a block diagram generally showing an example of a system of a computing device 200 that is applicable to the application server 110, the controller 108, the sending device 104, or the receiving device 104 in FIG. 1. The implementation device system in FIG. 2 is merely an example, and is not intended to impose any limitation on the scope of application or functions of this embodiment of the present invention, and the application server 110, the controller 108, the sending device 104, or the receiving device 104 should not be explained as having any dependence or requirement related to any one or a combination of the components shown in FIG. 2.

[0087] The computing device 200 includes one storage module 202, one storage controller 216, one or more processors (CPUs) 218, one peripheral interface 220, and one peripheral port 214. These components communicate with each other through one or more communications buses or signal cables 212. The computing device 200 may be any electronic communications device, including, but not limited to, a portable computer, a personal desktop computer, a tablet computer, a mobile phone, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a server, a multiprocessor system, a microprocessor-based system, a set top box, a programmable consumer appliance, a network PC, a

micro-computer, a mainframe computer, and a distributed computing environment that includes any one of the foregoing systems or devices. The computing device 200 in FIG. 2 is merely an example of the computing device 200. The computing device 200 may include more or fewer components than those shown in FIG. 2, or may have a different component configuration manner. The components shown in FIG. 2 may be implemented by hardware, software, or a combination of hardware and software.

**[0088]** The storage module 202 may include a high-speed random access memory (RAM), or may include a non-volatile memory such as one or more magnetic disk storages, a flash memory, or another non-volatile memory. In some embodiments, the storage module may further include a remote memory that is separate from the one or more processors 218, and the remote memory is, for example, a web disk accessed by an RF circuit 222, the peripheral port 214, and a communications network (not shown in FIG. 2). The communications network may be the Internet, an intranet, a local area network (LANs), a wide area network (WLANs), a storage area network (SANs), or a combination of the foregoing networks, or the like. Access of another component of the computing device 200 to the storage module 202, for example, access of the CPU 218 and the peripheral interface 220 to the storage module 202 may be controlled by using the storage controller 216.

**[0089]** The peripheral interface 220 couples a peripheral input and output of the computing device 200 to the CPU 218 and the storage module 202 of the device. The one or more processors 218 process data and accomplish various functions of the device 200 by running various software and/or executing various instructions stored in the storage module 202.

**[0090]** In some embodiments, the peripheral interface 220, the one or more processors 218, and the storage controller 216 may be integrated into one chip, for example, a chip 214. In some other embodiments, the peripheral interface 220, the one or more processors 218, and the storage controller 216 may be implemented by using different chips.

**[0091]** The RF circuit 222 receives and sends electromagnetic waves. The RF circuit 222 performs electrical/magnetic signal conversion, and communicates with the communications network or another communications device by using the electromagnetic waves. The RF circuit 222 may include a circuit system well known to a person skilled in the art, to perform the foregoing functions. For example, the circuit system includes, but is not limited to, an antenna system, an RF transceiver, one or more amplifiers, one tuner, one or more oscillators, one digital signal processor, one encoding and decoding chip set, one subscriber identity module card (SIM card), and a memory. The RF circuit 222 may communicate with a communications network such as the Internet, an intranet, and/or a wireless network, for example, a mobile phone network, a wireless local area network, and/or a metropolitan area network (MAN), or communicate with another

device connected to the foregoing networks. The communication may use various communication standards, protocols, and technologies, for example, including, but not limited to, the Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP), the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM), Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE), a Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (W-CDMA) technology, a Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) technology, a Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) technology, Bluetooth, a Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi) technology (for example, IEEE 802.21a, IEEE 802.21b, IEEE 802.21g, and/or IEEE 802.21n), Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), a wireless wide area network (Wi-MAX), the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, instant messaging (IM), and/or a short message service (SMS), or other communications protocols, including other suitable communications protocols that have not been developed on the date of this application.

**[0092]** In some embodiments, the computing device 200 further includes an audio circuit, an audio output device, and an audio input device (not shown), to provide an audio interface between the computing device 200 and a user. The audio circuit receives audio data from the peripheral interface 220, converts the audio data into an electrical signal, and transmits the electrical signal to the audio output device, for example, a loudspeaker. The audio output device converts the electrical signal into a sound wave that can be heard by the user. The audio circuit is further configured to receive an electrical signal that is converted from the sound wave by the audio input device, converts the electrical signal into audio data, and transmits the audio data to the peripheral interface 220 for processing. The audio data may be transmitted by the peripheral interface 220 to the storage module 202 and/or the RF circuit 222, or may be obtained from the storage module 202 and/or the RF circuit 222. In some embodiments, the audio circuit may further include an earphone jack (not shown in FIG. 2). The earphone jack provides an interface between the audio circuit and a peripheral movable audio input/output device. The movable audio input/output device may be an earphone having only an output function, or may be a device including both an input (a microphone) function and an output function.

**[0093]** In some embodiments, the computing device 200 further includes an I/O subsystem (not shown), to provide an interface between an input/output peripheral and the peripheral interface 220 of the computing device 200. For example, the input/output peripheral includes, but is not limited to, a display and another input/control device. The I/O subsystem includes a display controller and one or more input controllers for another output or control device. The one or more input controllers receive/send electrical signals from/to another input or control device. The another input/control device may include a physical button (for example, a pressing button, or a joystick button), a keyboard, a joystick, and the like.

**[0094]** In some embodiments, the storage module 202 includes an operating system 204, a

communication module (or an instruction set) 206, a graphics module (or an instruction set) 208, and one or more pieces of application software (or instruction sets) 208.

[0095] The operating system 204 (for example, Darwin, RTXC, Linux, Unix, OS X, Windows, or an embedded operating system such as VxWorks) includes various software components and/or drivers that are used for controlling and managing common system tasks (for example, memory management, control over a storage device, and power management) and that facilitate communication between various hardware and software components.

[0096] The communication module 206 is configured to communicate with another device through one or more peripheral ports 214, and further includes various software components used for processing data received by the RF circuit 222 and/or the peripheral port 214. The peripheral port 214 (for example, a universal serial bus (USB) or FireWire) is suitable to be coupled to another device indirectly by using a network (for example, the Internet or a wireless LAN) or directly.

[0097] The one or more pieces of application software 208 may include any application installed in the device 200. The application includes, but is not limited to, a browser, an address book, a contacts list, email, instant messaging, text processing, keyboard emulation, a widget (widget), a Java application, encryption, speech recognition, voice duplication, positioning (for example, a Global Positioning System GPS), and a music player.

[0098] FIG. 3 is a schematic structural diagram of a data transmission system 300 according to an embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 3, the TCP transmission system may include: an application server, a controller, a sending device, a receiving device, and a switching device. Connection of the system is performed by using a network 102. The controller is a logical control center of an SDN network. The controller is connected to the switching device through a southbound interface, provides a network instruction to the switching device, and manages a network topology between switching devices. The controller is connected to the application server through a northbound interface. The application server may control transmission of data from the sending device to the receiving device.

[0099] Computing logic or an application program runs on the sending device and the receiving device. The computing logic or the application program is managed by an application that runs on the application server. After a large bulk of data is processed by the computing logic or the application program of the sending device, a new bulk of data is formed, and the data needs to be sent, by means of scheduling and coordination by the application, to the receiving device for processing.

[0100] Physical ports of the sending device and the receiving device are connected to the SDN network managed by the controller, and the sending device and the receiving device are connected

to each other by using the network. As shown in FIG. 3, the sending device is connected to a port 11 of the switching device, and the receiving device is connected to a port 33 of the switching device.

[0101] The controller provides the northbound interface, and provides a function of customizing quality of service (Quality of Service, QoS) of a network path. The application that runs on the application server may access the northbound interface of the controller by using a management network.

[0102] In this embodiment of the present invention, the application server is configured to send a TCP transmission resource allocation request to the controller. The TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device.

[0103] The controller is configured to: determine a first transmission path and a second transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, where the first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit a TCP acknowledgment to the sending device; and send a TCP transmission resource allocation response message to the application. The TCP transmission resource allocation response message includes bandwidth information of the first transmission path and a TCP round-trip transmission delay. The TCP round-trip transmission delay indicates a pre-estimated time difference between a time T1 at which the sending device sends each data packet through the first transmission path and a time T2 at which the sending device receives a TCP acknowledgment of each data packet through the second transmission path.

[0104] The application server is further configured to: determine, according to a bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay, an initial value of a transmit window for TCP data transmission between the sending device and the receiving device, where the initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately; and send a transmit window setting message to the sending device, where the transmit window setting message includes the initial value of the transmit window.

[0105] The sending device is configured to: set a size of the transmit window to the initial value of the transmit window according to the transmit window setting message, and perform TCP data transmission.

[0106] The initial value of the transmit window refers to an amount of data allowed to be sent within a first RTT time when the sending device performs TCP data transmission.

[0107] The controller is further configured to: obtain a delay of the first transmission path and a delay of the second transmission path; and determine the TCP round-trip transmission delay

according to the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is positively correlated with a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

5    **[0108]**    Optionally, the controller detects the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path according to operation, administration, and maintenance (Operation, Administration, and Maintenance, OAM) features of the first transmission path and the second transmission path, and determines the TCP round-trip transmission delay according to the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the  
10   transmission delay of the second transmission path. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is positively correlated with the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path separately.

**[0109]**    Optionally, the TCP round-trip transmission delay is the sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

15   **[0110]**    Optionally, the controller further pre-estimates a TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path, the transmission delay of the second transmission path, and the TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device.

**[0111]**    Optionally, the controller further pre-estimates a TCP layer processing delay of the  
20   sending device. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path, the transmission delay of the second transmission path, the TCP layer processing delay of the sending device, and a TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device.

**[0112]**    Optionally, the application server first determines a round-trip time RTT between the sending device and the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The  
25   RTT is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay.

**[0113]**    Optionally, it is determined that the TCP round-trip transmission delay is the round-trip time RTT.

**[0114]**    Optionally, the application server further pre-estimates TCP layer processing delays of the sending device and the receiving device. The round-trip time RTT is a sum of the TCP  
30   round-trip transmission delay and the TCP layer processing delays of the sending device and the receiving device.

**[0115]**    Optionally, the application server further pre-estimates a TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device. The round-trip time RTT is a sum of the TCP round-trip transmission delay and the TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device.

[0116] Optionally, a size of the transmit window of the sending device may be expressed as:

Transmit window = Bandwidth of first transmission path  $\times$  RTT.

[0117] Optionally, the controller is further configured to determine a packet loss rate of the first transmission path. In this case, the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further includes the packet loss rate of the first transmission path. The application server is further configured to determine the initial value of the transmit window according to the packet loss rate. The initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0118] Optionally, a size of the transmit window of the sending device may be expressed as:

Transmit window = Bandwidth of first transmission path  $\times$  RTT  $\times$  (1 – Packet loss rate).

[0119] Optionally, the application server is further configured to determine an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

[0120] Optionally, a size of the receive window of the receiving device may be expressed as:

Rwnd = Bandwidth of first transmission path  $\times$  RTT.

[0121] Optionally, the application server is further configured to determine an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate. The initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0122] Optionally, a size of the receive window of the receiving device may be expressed as:

Rwnd = Bandwidth of first transmission path  $\times$  RTT  $\times$  (1 – Packet loss rate).

[0123] The application server is further configured to send a receive window setting message to the receiving device, and the receive window setting message includes the initial value of the receive window. The receiving device is configured to: set a size of the receive window to the initial value of the transmit window according to an indication of the receive window setting message; and perform TCP data transmission.

[0124] Optionally, during subsequent TCP data transmission, the sending device may determine, according to that the transmit window equals Rwnd, a size of the transmit window for the TCP data transmission.

[0125] Optionally, the application server is further configured to determine an initial value of a

congestion window Cwnd of the sending device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The initial value of the Cwnd is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

5 [0126] Optionally, a size of the congestion window of the sending device may be expressed as:  
$$Cwnd = \text{Bandwidth of first transmission path} \times \text{RTT}.$$

[0127] Optionally, the application server is further configured to determine an initial value of a congestion window Cwnd of the sending device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate. The initial value of the Cwnd  
10 is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0128] Optionally, a size of the congestion window of the sending device may be expressed as:  
$$Cwnd = \text{Bandwidth of first transmission path} \times \text{RTT} \times (1 - \text{Packet loss rate}).$$

[0129] Optionally, the application server is further configured to send a congestion window  
15 setting message to the sending device, and the congestion window setting message includes the initial value of the congestion window. The sending device is configured to: set a size of the congestion window to the initial value of the congestion window according to an indication of the congestion window setting message, and perform TCP data transmission.

[0130] Optionally, when the sending device performs the TCP data transmission, a value of the  
20 transmit window is a smaller value between values of the congestion window and the receive window.

[0131] Optionally, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries maximum  
transmission unit MTU value information, and the MTU value information is used to indicate a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value  
25 of the receiving device. The controller is further configured to determine, according to the MTU value information in the TCP transmission resource allocation request, an MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data. The MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data is not greater than a smaller value between the maximum value for the MTU value of the sending device and the maximum value for the MTU value of the receiving device. The TCP  
30 transmission resource allocation response message further includes the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data. The application server is further configured to: determine that the MTU values of the sending device and the receiving device are the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data; and send an MTU setting message to the sending device and the receiving device. The MTU setting message includes the MTU value for the first

transmission path.

[0132] Optionally, the controller determines, within a value range indicated by the MTU value information, an optimal MTU value for the first transmission path according to an OAM feature of the first transmission path.

5 [0133] The sending device and the receiving device set MTU values of the devices to the optimal MTU value, so that it can be ensured that data is segmented according to an optimal length, and more effective TCP data transmission is implemented.

[0134] The controller is further configured to send an MTU setting message to the switching device on the first transmission path. The MTU setting message is used to instruct the switching  
10 device on the first transmission path to set an MTU value to the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data.

[0135] Optionally, the application server is further configured to: determine a retransmission timeout interval of the sending device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, where the retransmission timeout interval is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission  
15 delay; and send a retransmission timeout interval setting message to the sending device, where the retransmission timeout interval setting message includes the retransmission timeout interval.

[0136] Optionally, the application server sets the retransmission timeout interval to a round-trip time RTT.

[0137] The retransmission timeout interval refers to a maximum wait time during which, after  
20 sending a data packet, the sending device waits for an acknowledgment of the data packet to be returned.

[0138] Optionally, the application server is further configured to: determine an acknowledgment wait time of the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, where the acknowledgment wait time is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay; and  
25 send an acknowledgment wait time setting message to the receiving device, where the acknowledgment setting message includes the acknowledgment wait time.

[0139] Optionally, the application server sets the acknowledgment wait time to a round-trip time RTT.

[0140] The acknowledgment wait time is a maximum wait time during which, after receiving a  
30 data packet, the receiving device postpones sending of an acknowledgment.

[0141] Optionally, the application server estimates an expected network bandwidth according to an amount of to-be-transmitted data, a schedule, and features of network interface cards in the sending device and the receiving device, and adds a requested path bandwidth for TCP data transmission to the TCP transmission resource allocation request.

[0142] Optionally, the determining, by the controller, a first transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request includes: selecting, according to a network topology of the switching device and from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path.

[0143] Optionally, the selecting, by the controller from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path includes: selecting, by the controller, from all paths whose remaining bandwidth resources meet the requirement for transmitting the data between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources are the fewest or a path whose hop count is the smallest as the first transmission path.

[0144] The controller selects a set of available paths between the sending device and the receiving device according to the network topology of the switching device. As shown in FIG. 3, two paths are available and may be indicated as a path 1 (P11, P12, P31, P33) and a path 2 (P11, P13, P21, P22, P32, P33) by using ports of switching devices. Remaining bandwidths of the ports of the switching devices on the path 1 and the path 2 are determined. A bandwidth that has been allocated is subtracted from physical bandwidths of a port to obtain a remaining bandwidth of the port. A smallest value of remaining bandwidths of ports on a path is used as a remaining bandwidth of the path.

[0145] Optionally, if all remaining bandwidths of the set of available paths are less than a bandwidth requested by the application server, a path whose bandwidth is the largest is selected as the first transmission path.

[0146] The controller sends a bandwidth control message to a switching device on the first transmission path. The bandwidth control message is used to indicate a bandwidth used by the switching device on the first transmission path to transmit the data.

[0147] Optionally, the controller is further configured to separately send a flow entry to a switching device on the first transmission path and a switching device on the second transmission path, to instruct the switching device on the first transmission path to perform TCP data transmission and the switching device on the second transmission path to transmit the TCP acknowledgment.

[0148] Optionally, the controller further sends a network resource identifier to the application server. After completing the TCP data transmission, the application server further sends a TCP transmission resource release request to the controller. The TCP transmission resource release request carries the network resource identifier. The controller releases, according to the network

resource identifier, a path resource for performing the TCP data transmission.

[0149] According to the technical solution provided in this embodiment, resources and parameters for TCP data transmission can be properly configured. When TCP data transmission is required, an application server sends a TCP transmission resource allocation request to a controller through a northbound interface provided by the controller. The controller configures a path for TCP data transmission according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, and determines path information such as a bandwidth of the path, a TCP round-trip transmission delay, a packet loss rate of the path, and an optimal MTU value of the path. After the path information is returned to the application server, the application server can properly configure parameters for the TCP data transmission. According to these parameters, the application server can bypass a slow start process of TCP by setting an initial size of a transmit window for the TCP data transmission. In addition, an initial value of the transmit window is determined according to a bandwidth of a data transmission path and a TCP round-trip time. Therefore, transmission can be performed with a relatively high throughput, and a prior-art problem is avoided that halved oscillation of a sliding window caused by repeated network detection eventually affects a network throughput. An MTU value returned by the controller is used to ensure that data can be segmented according to an optimal length and transmitted on a network device, and more effective TCP data transmission is implemented.

[0150] FIG. 4 is a flowchart of an example of a data transmission method 400 according to an embodiment of the present invention, so as to implement more effective TCP data transmission. In a specific implementation process, a TCP transmission method 400 may be performed by a controller in an SDN data center. The method 400 is specifically applied to software-defined networking SDN, and a controller in the SDN network is a logical control center of the SDN network. The controller is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface, provides a network instruction to the switching device, and manages a network topology between switching devices. The controller is connected to an application server through a northbound interface. At least one application runs on the application server. When the application server determines that currently data needs to be transmitted from a sending device to a receiving device by using the TCP protocol, as shown in FIG. 4, the method specifically includes the following steps.

[0151] S402: The controller receives a TCP transmission resource allocation request from the application server, where the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device.

[0152] Optionally, the address of the sending device and the address of the receiving device are Internet Protocol (Internet Protocol, IP) addresses or Media Access Control (Media Access Control, MAC) addresses.

**[0153]** Optionally, the controller provides the northbound interface, and provides a function of customizing quality of service (Quality of Service, QoS) of a network path. The application that runs on the application server may access the northbound interface of the controller by using a management network.

5 **[0154]** S404: The controller determines a first transmission path and a second transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, where the first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit a TCP acknowledgment to the sending device.

**[0155]** S406: The controller sends a TCP transmission resource allocation response message to  
10 the application server, where the TCP transmission resource allocation response message includes bandwidth information of the first transmission path and a TCP round-trip transmission delay, the TCP round-trip transmission delay indicates a pre-estimated time difference between a time T1 at which the sending device sends each data packet through the first transmission path and a time T2 at which the sending device receives a TCP acknowledgment of each data packet through the  
15 second transmission path, and the bandwidth information of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay are used to determine an initial value of a transmit window for TCP data transmission between the sending device and the receiving device.

**[0156]** Before the sending, by the controller, a TCP transmission resource allocation response message to the application server, the method 400 further includes: obtaining, by the controller, a  
20 delay of the first transmission path and a delay of the second transmission path, and determining the TCP round-trip transmission delay according to the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is positively correlated with a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

25 **[0157]** Optionally, the controller detects the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path according to operation, administration, and maintenance (Operation, Administration, and Maintenance, OAM) features of the first transmission path and the second transmission path, and determines the TCP round-trip transmission delay according to the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the  
30 transmission delay of the second transmission path.

**[0158]** Optionally, the TCP round-trip transmission delay is the sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

**[0159]** Optionally, the controller further pre-estimates a TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is a sum of the transmission delay of the

first transmission path, the transmission delay of the second transmission path, and the TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device.

[0160] Optionally, the controller further pre-estimates a TCP layer processing delay of the sending device. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path, the transmission delay of the second transmission path, the TCP layer processing delay of the sending device, and a TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device.

[0161] Optionally, before the sending, by the controller, a TCP transmission resource allocation response message to the application server, the method 400 further includes: determining, by the controller, a packet loss rate of the first transmission path. In this case, the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further includes the packet loss rate of the first transmission path.

[0162] Optionally, the controller collects statistics about the packet loss rate on the first transmission path according to an experience library, adds a reserved packet loss rate, and determines information about the packet loss rate of the first transmission path.

[0163] Optionally, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries maximum transmission unit MTU value information, and the MTU value information includes a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device. The method 400 further includes: determining, by the controller according to the MTU value information in the TCP transmission resource allocation request, an MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data. The MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data is not greater than a smaller value between the maximum value for the MTU value of the sending device and the maximum value for the MTU value of the receiving device. In this case, the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further includes the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data.

[0164] Optionally, the controller determines, within a value range indicated by the MTU value information, an optimal MTU value for the first transmission path according to an OAM feature of the first transmission path, so that it can be ensured that data is segmented according to an optimal length, and more effective TCP data transmission is implemented.

[0165] Optionally, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further includes a bandwidth required for transmitting the data; and the determining, by the controller, a first transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request includes: selecting, according to a network topology of the switching device and from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path.

[0166] Specifically, the selecting, by the controller from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path includes: selecting, by the controller, from all paths whose remaining bandwidth resources meet the requirement for transmitting the data between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources are the fewest or a path whose hop count is the smallest as the first transmission path.

[0167] Optionally, the controller selects a set of available paths between the sending device and the receiving device according to the network topology of the switching device, and determines remaining bandwidths of ports of switching devices on the available paths. A bandwidth that has been allocated is subtracted from physical bandwidths of a port to obtain a remaining bandwidth of the port. A smallest value of remaining bandwidths of ports on a path is used as a remaining bandwidth of the path.

[0168] Optionally, if all remaining bandwidths of the set of available paths are less than a bandwidth requested by the application server, a path whose bandwidth is the largest is selected as the first transmission path.

[0169] The method 400 further includes: sending, by the controller, a bandwidth control message to a switching device on the first transmission path. The bandwidth control message is used to indicate a bandwidth used by the switching device on the first transmission path to transmit the data.

[0170] Optionally, the method 400 further includes separately sending a flow entry to a switching device on the first transmission path and a switching device on the second transmission path, to instruct the switching device on the first transmission path to perform TCP data transmission and the switching device on the second transmission path to transmit the TCP acknowledgment.

[0171] According to the technical solution provided in this embodiment, a controller can properly allocate resources for TCP data transmission. The controller receives a TCP transmission resource allocation request from an application server through a northbound interface, properly configures a path and a bandwidth for the TCP data transmission according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, and determines information such as a TCP round-trip transmission delay of the path, a packet loss rate of the path, and an optimal MTU value of the path. After the path information is returned to the application server side, the application server can properly configure parameters for the TCP data transmission. According to these parameters, the application server can bypass a slow start process of TCP by setting an initial size of a transmit window for the TCP data transmission. In addition, an initial value of the transmit window is determined according

to a bandwidth of a data transmission path and a TCP round-trip time. Therefore, transmission can be performed with a relatively high throughput, and a prior-art problem is avoided that halved oscillation of a sliding window caused by repeated network detection eventually affects a network throughput. An MTU value returned by the controller is used to ensure that data can be segmented according to an optimal length and transmitted on a network device, and more effective TCP data transmission is implemented.

[0172] FIG. 5 is a flowchart of an example of a data transmission method 500 according to an embodiment of the present invention, so as to implement more effective TCP data transmission. The method 500 is specifically applied to software-defined networking SDN, and a controller in the SDN network is a logical control center of the SDN network. The controller is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface, provides a network instruction to the switching device, and manages a network topology between switching devices. The controller is connected to an application server through a northbound interface. In a specific implementation process, a TCP transmission method 500 may be performed by an application server in an SDN data center. More specifically, the method 500 may be performed by an application that runs on the application server. When the application determines that currently data needs to be transmitted from a sending device to a receiving device by using the TCP protocol, as shown in FIG. 5, the method specifically includes the following steps.

[0173] S502: The application server sends a TCP transmission resource allocation request to the controller, where the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device.

[0174] S504: The application server receives a TCP transmission resource allocation response message from the controller, where the TCP transmission resource allocation response message includes a bandwidth of the first transmission path and a TCP round-trip transmission delay, the TCP round-trip transmission delay indicates a pre-estimated time difference between a time T1 at which the sending device sends each data packet through the first transmission path and a time T2 at which the sending device receives a TCP acknowledgment of each data packet through the second transmission path, the first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit an acknowledgment to the sending device.

[0175] S506: The application server determines, according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay, an initial value of a transmit window for TCP data transmission between the sending device and the receiving device. The initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and

the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

[0176] Optionally, the application server first determines a round-trip time RTT between the sending device and the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The RTT is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay.

5 [0177] Optionally, it is determined that the TCP round-trip transmission delay is the round-trip time RTT.

[0178] Optionally, the application server further pre-estimates TCP layer processing delays of the sending device and the receiving device. The round-trip time RTT is a sum of the TCP round-trip transmission delay and the TCP layer processing delays of the sending device and the  
10 receiving device.

[0179] Optionally, the application server further pre-estimates a TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device. The round-trip time RTT is a sum of the TCP round-trip transmission delay and the TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device.

[0180] Optionally, the initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the  
15 bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

[0181] Optionally, a size of the transmit window of the sending device may be expressed as:

Transmit window = Bandwidth of first transmission path  $\times$  RTT.

[0182] Optionally, the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further carries a packet loss rate of the first transmission path. The application server is further configured to  
20 determine the initial value of the transmit window according to the packet loss rate. The initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0183] Optionally, a size of the transmit window of the sending device may be expressed as:

25 Transmit window = Bandwidth of first transmission path  $\times$  RTT  $\times$  (1 – Packet loss rate).

[0184] Optionally, the application server is further configured to determine an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission  
30 delay separately.

[0185] Optionally, a size of the receive window of the receiving device may be expressed as:

Rwnd = Bandwidth of first transmission path  $\times$  RTT.

[0186] Optionally, the application server is further configured to determine an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path,

the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate. The initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0187] Optionally, a size of the receive window of the receiving device may be expressed as:

5 
$$Rwnd = \text{Bandwidth of first transmission path} \times RTT \times (1 - \text{Packet loss rate}).$$

[0188] Specifically, the application server is further configured to send a transmit window setting message to the sending device, and the transmit window setting message includes the initial value of the transmit window. The sending device receives the transmit window setting message, sets a size of the transmit window to the initial value of the transmit window according to the transmit window setting message, and performs TCP data transmission according to the size of the transmit window.

[0189] Specifically, the application server is further configured to send a receive window setting message to the receiving device, and the receive window setting message includes the initial value of the receive window. The receiving device receives the receive window setting message, and sets  
15 a size of the receive window of the receiving device to the initial value of the receive window according to an indication of the receive window setting message.

[0190] Optionally, during subsequent TCP data transmission, the sending device may determine, according to that the transmit window equals Rwnd, a size of the transmit window for TCP data transmission.

20 [0191] Optionally, the application server is further configured to determine an initial value of a congestion window Cwnd of the sending device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The initial value of the Cwnd is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

25 [0192] Optionally, a size of the congestion window of the sending device may be expressed as:

$$Cwnd = \text{Bandwidth of first transmission path} \times RTT.$$

[0193] Optionally, the application server is further configured to determine an initial value of a congestion window Cwnd of the sending device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate. The initial value of the Cwnd  
30 is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0194] Optionally, a size of the congestion window of the sending device may be expressed as:

$$Cwnd = \text{Bandwidth of first transmission path} \times RTT \times (1 - \text{Packet loss rate}).$$

[0195] Optionally, the application server is further configured to send a congestion window

setting message to the sending device, and the congestion window setting message includes the initial value of the congestion window. The sending device is configured to: set a size of the congestion window to the initial value of the congestion window according to an indication of the congestion window setting message, and perform TCP data transmission.

- 5   **[0196]**    Optionally, when the sending device performs the TCP data transmission, a value of the transmit window is a smaller value between values of the congestion window and the receive window.

- 10   **[0197]**    Optionally, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries maximum transmission unit MTU value information, and the MTU value information is used to indicate a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device. The TCP transmission resource allocation response message further includes the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data. The application server is further configured to determine that the MTU values of the sending device and the receiving device are the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data. In this
- 15   case, the application server is further configured to send an MTU setting message to the sending device and the receiving device, and the MTU setting message includes the MTU value for the first transmission path.

**[0198]**    The sending device receives a maximum transmission unit MTU setting message, and sets the MTU value of the sending device according to an indication of the MTU setting message.

- 20   **[0199]**    The receiving device receives a maximum transmission unit MTU setting message, and sets the MTU value of the receiving device according to an indication of the MTU setting message.

**[0200]**    Optionally, the controller determines, within a value range indicated by the MTU value information, an optimal MTU value for the first transmission path according to an OAM feature of the first transmission path.

- 25   **[0201]**    The sending device and the receiving device set MTU values of the devices to the optimal MTU value, so that it can be ensured that data is segmented according to an optimal length, and more effective TCP data transmission is implemented.

- [0202]**    Optionally, the application server is further configured to: determine a retransmission timeout interval of the sending device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, where
- 30   the retransmission timeout interval is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay; and send a retransmission timeout interval setting message to the sending device, where the retransmission timeout interval setting message includes the retransmission timeout interval.

**[0203]**    Optionally, the application server sets the retransmission timeout interval to a round-trip time RTT.

**[0204]** The retransmission timeout interval refers to a maximum wait time during which, after sending a data packet, the sending device waits for an acknowledgment of the data packet to be returned.

**[0205]** Optionally, the application server is further configured to: determine an acknowledgment wait time of the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, where the acknowledgment wait time is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay; and send an acknowledgment wait time setting message to the receiving device, where the acknowledgment setting message includes the acknowledgment wait time.

**[0206]** Optionally, the application server sets the acknowledgment wait time to a round-trip time RTT.

**[0207]** The acknowledgment wait time is a maximum wait time during which, after receiving a data packet, the receiving device postpones sending of an acknowledgment.

**[0208]** Specifically, the application server sends the TCP transmission resource allocation request to the controller through the northbound interface of the controller.

**[0209]** Optionally, the application server estimates an expected network bandwidth according to an amount of to-be-transmitted data, a schedule, and features of network interface cards in the sending device and the receiving device, and adds a requested path bandwidth for TCP data transmission to the TCP transmission resource allocation request.

**[0210]** Because a bandwidth for TCP data transmission when packet loss occurs on a path has been reserved, when the third repeated ACK is received at a TCP layer, it indicates that the path is in a congestion phase. The transmit window remains unchanged, and a lost packet is retransmitted.

**[0211]** Because a bandwidth for TCP data transmission when packet loss occurs on a path has been reserved, when timeout occurs, a packet whose ACK is not received is retransmitted, and the transmit window remains unchanged.

**[0212]** According to the technical solution provided in this embodiment, an application server can properly configure parameters for TCP data transmission. When TCP data transmission is required, the application server sends a TCP transmission resource allocation request to a controller through a northbound interface of the controller, and requests a path resource for the TCP data transmission. After the controller configures a path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, the application server receives a TCP transmission resource allocation response message sent by the controller. The application server determines the parameters for the TCP data transmission according to the TCP transmission resource allocation response message. A slow start process of TCP is bypassed by setting an initial size of a transmit window for the TCP data transmission. In addition, an initial value of the transmit window is determined according to a

bandwidth of a data transmission path and a TCP round-trip time. Therefore, transmission can be performed with a relatively high throughput, and a prior-art problem is avoided that halved oscillation of a sliding window caused by repeated network detection eventually affects a network throughput. An MTU value returned by the controller is used to ensure that data can be segmented according to an optimal length and transmitted on a network device, and more effective TCP data transmission is implemented.

[0213] FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram of a logical structure of a data transmission apparatus 600 according to an embodiment of the present invention. The apparatus 600 is applied to software-defined networking SDN, is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface, and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface. The application server is configured to control data to be sent from a sending device to a receiving device. As shown in FIG. 6, the data transmission apparatus 600 may include: a receiving unit 602, a determining unit 604, and a sending unit 606.

[0214] The receiving unit 602 is configured to receive a TCP transmission resource allocation request from the application server, and the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device.

[0215] The determining unit 604 is configured to determine a first transmission path and a second transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request. The first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit a TCP acknowledgment to the sending device.

[0216] The sending unit 606 is configured to send a TCP transmission resource allocation response message to the application server. The TCP transmission resource allocation response message includes bandwidth information of the first transmission path and a TCP round-trip transmission delay. The TCP round-trip transmission delay indicates a pre-estimated time difference between a time T1 at which the sending device sends each data packet through the first transmission path and a time T2 at which the sending device receives a TCP acknowledgment of each data packet through the second transmission path. The bandwidth information of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay are used to determine an initial value of a transmit window for TCP data transmission between the sending device and the receiving device.

[0217] The determining unit 604 is further configured to: obtain a delay of the first transmission path and a delay of the second transmission path; and determine the TCP round-trip transmission delay according to the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is positively correlated with

a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

[0218] Optionally, the determining unit 604 is further configured to determine a packet loss rate of the first transmission path. In this case, the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further includes the packet loss rate of the first transmission path.

[0219] Optionally, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries maximum transmission unit MTU value information, and the MTU value information includes a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device. The determining unit 604 is further configured to determine, according to the MTU value information in the TCP transmission resource allocation request, an MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data. The MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data is not greater than a smaller value between the maximum value for the MTU value of the sending device and the maximum value for the MTU value of the receiving device. In this case, the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further includes the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data.

[0220] Optionally, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further includes a bandwidth required for transmitting the data. The determining unit 604 being configured to determine a first transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request includes: selecting, by the determining unit 604 according to a network topology of the switching device and from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path.

[0221] Specifically, the determining unit 604 being configured to select, from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path includes: selecting, by the determining unit 604, from all paths whose remaining bandwidth resources meet the requirement for transmitting the data between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources are the fewest or a path whose hop count is the smallest as the first transmission path.

[0222] The sending unit 606 is further configured to send a bandwidth control message to a switching device on the first transmission path. The bandwidth control message is used to indicate a bandwidth used by the switching device on the first transmission path to transmit the data.

[0223] Optionally, the address of the sending device and the address of the receiving device are Internet Protocol (Internet Protocol, IP) addresses or Media Access Control (Media Access Control, MAC) addresses.

[0224] Optionally, the apparatus 600 provides the northbound interface, and provides a function of customizing quality of service (Quality of Service, QoS) of a network path. The application that runs on the application server may access the northbound interface of the controller by using a management network.

5 [0225] Optionally, the determining unit 604 selects a set of available paths between the sending device and the receiving device according to the network topology of the switching device, and determines remaining bandwidths of ports of switching devices on the available paths. A bandwidth that has been allocated is subtracted from physical bandwidths of a port to obtain a remaining bandwidth of the port. A smallest value of remaining bandwidths of ports on a path is used as a  
10 remaining bandwidth of the path.

[0226] Optionally, if all remaining bandwidths of the set of available paths are less than a bandwidth requested by the application server, the determining unit 604 selects a path whose bandwidth is the largest as the first transmission path.

[0227] Optionally, the determining unit 604 detects the transmission delay of the first  
15 transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path according to operation, administration, and maintenance (Operation, Administration, and Maintenance, OAM) features of the first transmission path and the second transmission path, and determines the TCP round-trip transmission delay according to the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is  
20 positively correlated with the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path separately.

[0228] Optionally, the TCP round-trip transmission delay is the sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

[0229] Optionally, the determining unit 604 further pre-estimates TCP layer processing delays  
25 of the sending device and the receiving device. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path, the transmission delay of the second transmission path, and the TCP layer processing delays of the sending device and the receiving device.

[0230] Optionally, the determining unit 604 further pre-estimates a TCP layer processing delay  
30 of the receiving device. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path, the transmission delay of the second transmission path, and the TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device.

[0231] Optionally, the determining unit 604 collects statistics about the packet loss rate on the first transmission path according to an experience library, adds a reserved packet loss rate, and

determines information about the packet loss rate of the first transmission path.

[0232] Optionally, the determining unit 604 determines, within a value range indicated by the MTU value information, an optimal MTU value for the first transmission path according to an OAM feature of the first transmission path, so that it can be ensured that data is segmented according to an optimal length, and more effective TCP data transmission is implemented.

[0233] Optionally, the sending unit 606 is further configured to separately send a flow entry to a switching device on the first transmission path and a switching device on the second transmission path, to instruct the switching device on the first transmission path to perform TCP data transmission and the switching device on the second transmission path to transmit the TCP acknowledgment.

[0234] According to the technical solution provided in this embodiment, the apparatus 600 can properly allocate resources for TCP data transmission. The apparatus 600 receives a TCP transmission resource allocation request from an application server through a northbound interface, properly configures a path and a bandwidth for the TCP data transmission according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, and determines information such as a TCP round-trip transmission delay of the path, a packet loss rate of the path, and an optimal MTU value of the path. After the path information is returned to the application server side, the application server can properly configure parameters for the TCP data transmission. According to these parameters, the application server can bypass a slow start process of TCP by setting an initial size of a transmit window for the TCP data transmission. In addition, an initial value of the transmit window is determined according to a bandwidth of a data transmission path and a TCP round-trip time. Therefore, transmission can be performed with a relatively high throughput, and a prior-art problem is avoided that halved oscillation of a sliding window caused by repeated network detection eventually affects a network throughput. An MTU value returned by the controller is used to ensure that data can be segmented according to an optimal length and transmitted on a network device, and more effective TCP data transmission is implemented.

[0235] FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram of a logical structure of a data transmission apparatus 700 according to an embodiment of the present invention. The apparatus 700 is applied to software-defined networking SDN. A controller in the SDN network is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface, and is connected to the apparatus through a northbound interface. An application runs on the apparatus, and the application is used to control data to be sent from a sending device to a receiving device. As shown in FIG. 7, the data transmission apparatus 700 may include: a sending unit 702, a receiving unit 704, and a determining unit 706.

[0236] The sending unit 702 is configured to send a TCP transmission resource allocation

request to the controller, and the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device.

[0237] The receiving unit 704 is configured to receive a TCP transmission resource allocation response message from the controller. The TCP transmission resource allocation response message includes a bandwidth of the first transmission path and a TCP round-trip transmission delay. The TCP round-trip transmission delay indicates a pre-estimated time difference between a time T1 at which the sending device sends each data packet through the first transmission path and a time T2 at which the sending device receives a TCP acknowledgment of each data packet through the second transmission path. The first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit an acknowledgment to the sending device.

[0238] The determining unit 706 is configured to determine, according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay, an initial value of a transmit window for TCP data transmission between the sending device and the receiving device. The initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

[0239] Optionally, the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further carries a packet loss rate of the first transmission path. The determining unit 706 is further configured to determine the initial value of the transmit window according to the packet loss rate. The initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0240] Optionally, the determining unit 706 is further configured to determine an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

[0241] Optionally, the determining unit 706 is further configured to determine an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate. The initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0242] Specifically, the sending unit 702 is further configured to send a transmit window setting message to the sending device, and the transmit window setting message includes the initial value

of the transmit window.

**[0243]** Specifically, the sending unit 702 is further configured to send a receive window setting message to the receiving device, and the receive window setting message includes the initial value of the receive window.

5 **[0244]** Optionally, the determining unit 706 is further configured to determine an initial value of a congestion window Cwnd of the sending device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The initial value of the Cwnd is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

10 **[0245]** Optionally, the determining unit 706 is further configured to determine an initial value of a congestion window Cwnd of the sending device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate. The initial value of the Cwnd is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

15 **[0246]** Optionally, the sending unit 702 is further configured to send a congestion window setting message to the sending device, and the congestion window setting message includes the initial value of the congestion window. The sending device sets a size of the congestion window to the initial value of the congestion window according to an indication of the congestion window setting message, and performs TCP data transmission.

20 **[0247]** Optionally, when the sending device performs the TCP data transmission, a value of the transmit window is a smaller value between values of the congestion window and the receive window.

**[0248]** Optionally, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries maximum transmission unit MTU value information, and the MTU value information is used to indicate a  
25 maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device. The TCP transmission resource allocation response message further includes the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data. The determining unit 706 is further configured to determine that the MTU values of the sending device and the receiving device are the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data. In this  
30 case, the sending unit 702 is further configured to send an MTU setting message to the sending device and the receiving device, and the MTU setting message includes the MTU value for the first transmission path.

**[0249]** Optionally, the determining unit 706 is further configured to determine a retransmission timeout interval of the sending device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the

retransmission timeout interval is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay. In this case, the sending unit 702 is further configured to send a retransmission timeout interval setting message to the sending device, and the retransmission timeout interval setting message includes the retransmission timeout interval.

5 [0250] Optionally, the determining unit 706 is further configured to determine an acknowledgment wait time of the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the acknowledgment wait time is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay. In this case, the sending unit is further configured to send an acknowledgment wait time setting message to the receiving device, and the acknowledgment setting message  
10 includes the acknowledgment wait time.

[0251] The sending unit 702 sends the TCP transmission resource allocation request to the controller through the northbound interface of the controller.

[0252] Optionally, the determining unit 706 first determines a round-trip time RTT between the sending device and the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The  
15 RTT is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay.

[0253] Optionally, the determining unit 706 determines that the TCP round-trip transmission delay is the round-trip time RTT.

[0254] Optionally, the determining unit 706 further pre-estimates TCP layer processing delays of the sending device and the receiving device. The round-trip time RTT is a sum of the TCP  
20 round-trip transmission delay and the TCP layer processing delays of the sending device and the receiving device.

[0255] Optionally, the determining unit 706 further pre-estimates a TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device. The round-trip time RTT is a sum of the TCP round-trip transmission delay and the TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device.

25 [0256] Optionally, a size of the transmit window of the sending device may be expressed as:  
Transmit window = Bandwidth of first transmission path  $\times$  RTT.

[0257] Optionally, a size of the receive window of the receiving device may be expressed as:  
Rwnd = Bandwidth of first transmission path  $\times$  RTT.

[0258] Optionally, a size of the transmit window of the sending device may be expressed as:  
30 Transmit window = Bandwidth of first transmission path  $\times$  RTT  $\times$  (1 – Packet loss rate).

[0259] Optionally, a size of the receive window of the receiving device may be expressed as:  
Rwnd = Bandwidth of first transmission path  $\times$  RTT  $\times$  (1 – Packet loss rate).

[0260] Optionally, the determining unit 706 sets the retransmission timeout interval to a round-trip time RTT.

[0261] Optionally, the determining unit 706 sets the acknowledgment wait time to a round-trip time RTT.

[0262] Optionally, the determining unit 706 is further configured to determine an initial value of a congestion window Cwnd of the sending device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The initial value of the Cwnd is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

[0263] Optionally, a size of the congestion window of the sending device may be expressed as:  
$$Cwnd = \text{Bandwidth of first transmission path} \times RTT.$$

[0264] Optionally, the determining unit 706 is further configured to determine an initial value of a congestion window Cwnd of the sending device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate. The initial value of the Cwnd is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0265] Optionally, a size of the congestion window of the sending device may be expressed as:  
$$Cwnd = \text{Bandwidth of first transmission path} \times RTT \times (1 - \text{Packet loss rate}).$$

[0266] Optionally, the sending unit 702 is further configured to send a congestion window setting message to the sending device, and the congestion window setting message includes the initial value of the congestion window. The sending device is configured to: set a size of the congestion window to the initial value of the congestion window according to an indication of the congestion window setting message; and perform TCP data transmission.

[0267] Optionally, when the sending device performs the TCP data transmission, a value of the transmit window is a smaller value between values of the congestion window and the receive window.

[0268] According to the technical solution provided in this embodiment, the apparatus 700 can properly configure parameters for TCP data transmission. When TCP data transmission is required, the apparatus 700 sends a TCP transmission resource allocation request to a controller through a northbound interface of the controller, and requests a path resource for the TCP data transmission. After the controller configures a path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, the apparatus 700 receives a TCP transmission resource allocation response message sent by the controller. The apparatus 700 determines the parameters for the TCP data transmission according to the TCP transmission resource allocation response message. A slow start process of TCP is bypassed by setting an initial size of a transmit window for the TCP data transmission. In addition, an initial value of the transmit window is determined according to a bandwidth of a data

transmission path and a TCP round-trip time. Therefore, transmission can be performed with a relatively high throughput, and a prior-art problem is avoided that halved oscillation of a sliding window caused by repeated network detection eventually affects a network throughput. An MTU value returned by the controller is used to ensure that data can be segmented according to an optimal length and transmitted on a network device, and more effective TCP data transmission is implemented.

[0269] FIG. 8 is a flowchart of an example of a data transmission method 800 according to an embodiment of the present invention, so as to implement more effective TCP data transmission. In a specific implementation process, the method is applied to software-defined networking SDN. A controller in the SDN network is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface. At least one application runs on the application server. The data transmission method 800 may be performed by a controller in an SDN data center. When the application server determines that currently data needs to be transmitted from a sending device to a receiving device by using the TCP protocol, as shown in FIG. 8, the method specifically includes the following steps.

[0270] S802: The controller receives a TCP transmission resource allocation request from the application server, where the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device.

[0271] S804: The controller determines a first transmission path and a second transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, where the first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit a TCP acknowledgment to the sending device.

[0272] S806: The controller determines, according to the first transmission path and/or the second transmission path, values of parameters used by the sending device and/or the receiving device to perform TCP data transmission.

[0273] S808: The controller sends a parameter setting message, where the parameter setting message carries the values of the parameters for the TCP data transmission.

[0274] Optionally, the address of the sending device and the address of the receiving device are Internet Protocol (Internet Protocol, IP) addresses or Media Access Control (Media Access Control, MAC) addresses.

[0275] Optionally, the controller provides the northbound interface, and provides a function of customizing quality of service (Quality of Service, QoS) of a network path. The application that runs on the application server may access the northbound interface of the controller by using a management network.

[0276] Optionally, the controller selects a set of available paths between the sending device and the receiving device according to a network topology of the switching device, and determines remaining bandwidths of ports of switching devices on the available paths. A bandwidth that has been allocated is subtracted from physical bandwidths of a port to obtain a remaining bandwidth of the port. A smallest value of remaining bandwidths of ports on a path is used as a remaining bandwidth of the path.

[0277] Optionally, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further includes a bandwidth required for transmitting the data. The determining, by the controller, a first transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request includes: selecting, according to a network topology of the switching device and from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data and are the fewest as the first transmission path.

[0278] Optionally, the determining, by the controller, a first transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request includes: selecting, according to a network topology of the switching device and from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data and whose hop count is the smallest as the first transmission path.

[0279] Optionally, if all remaining bandwidths of the set of available paths are less than a bandwidth requested by the application server, a path whose bandwidth is the largest is selected as the first transmission path.

[0280] The controller determines a delay of the first transmission path and a delay of the second transmission path, and determines a TCP round-trip transmission delay according to the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is positively correlated with a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

[0281] Optionally, the controller detects the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path according to operation, administration, and maintenance (Operation, Administration, and Maintenance, OAM) features of the first transmission path and the second transmission path, and determines the TCP round-trip transmission delay according to the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is positively correlated with the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path separately.

[0282] Optionally, the TCP round-trip transmission delay is the sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

[0283] Optionally, the controller further pre-estimates TCP layer processing delays of the sending device and the receiving device. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path, the transmission delay of the second transmission path, and the TCP layer processing delays of the sending device and the receiving device.

[0284] Optionally, the controller further pre-estimates a TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path, the transmission delay of the second transmission path, and the TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device.

[0285] The TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries MTU value information, and the MTU value information is used to indicate a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device. The method 800 further includes: determining, by the controller according to the MTU value information in the TCP transmission resource allocation request, an MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data. The MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data is not greater than a smaller value between the maximum value for the MTU value of the sending device and the maximum value for the MTU value of the receiving device.

[0286] Optionally, the controller determines, within a value range indicated by the MTU value information, an optimal MTU value for the first transmission path according to an OAM feature of the first transmission path. The sending a parameter setting message includes: sending MTU value setting information to the sending device and the receiving device.

[0287] Optionally, the method 800 further includes separately sending a flow entry to a switching device on the first transmission path and a switching device on the second transmission path, to instruct the switching device on the first transmission path to perform TCP data transmission and the switching device on the second transmission path to transmit the TCP acknowledgment.

[0288] Optionally, the method 800 further includes: sending, by the controller, a bandwidth control message to a switching device on the first transmission path. The bandwidth control message is used to indicate a bandwidth used by the switching device on the first transmission path to transmit the data.

[0289] Optionally, the determining, by the controller according to the first transmission path and/or the second transmission path, values of parameters for TCP data transmission includes: determining, by the controller, an initial value of a transmit window of the sending device according

to a bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately. In this case, the sending a parameter setting message includes: sending an initial value setting message of the transmit window to the sending device.

[0290] Optionally, the controller first determines a round-trip time RTT between the sending device and the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The RTT is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay.

[0291] Optionally, it is determined that the TCP round-trip transmission delay is the round-trip time RTT.

[0292] Optionally, a size of the transmit window of the sending device may be expressed as:

$$\text{Transmit window} = \text{Bandwidth of first transmission path} \times \text{RTT}.$$

[0293] Optionally, the determining, by the controller according to the first transmission path and/or the second transmission path, values of parameters for TCP data transmission includes:

determining, by the controller according to a TCP transmission resource allocation response message, values of parameters used by the sending device and/or the receiving device to perform TCP data transmission, including: determining an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to a bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately. In this case, the sending a parameter setting message includes: sending an initial value setting message of the receive window to the receiving device.

[0294] Optionally, a size of the receive window of the receiving device may be expressed as:

$$\text{Rwnd} = \text{Bandwidth of first transmission path} \times \text{RTT}.$$

[0295] Optionally, the method 800 further includes: determining, by the controller, a packet loss rate of the first transmission path. The packet loss rate is used to indicate a packet loss status when the first transmission path is used for data transmission.

[0296] Optionally, the controller collects statistics about the packet loss rate on the first transmission path according to an experience library, adds a reserved packet loss rate, and determines information about the packet loss rate of the first transmission path.

[0297] Optionally, the controller enables an OAM feature of the first transmission path, and determines the packet loss rate of the first transmission path.

[0298] Optionally, the determining, according to the first transmission path and/or the second transmission path, values of parameters for TCP data transmission includes: determining an initial

value of a transmit window of the sending device according to a bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate. The initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

5 In this case, the sending a parameter setting message includes: sending an initial value setting message of the transmit window to the sending device.

[0299] Optionally, a size of the transmit window of the sending device may be expressed as:

Transmit window = Bandwidth of first transmission path  $\times$  RTT  $\times$  (1 – Packet loss rate).

[0300] Optionally, the determining, according to the first transmission path and/or the second  
10 transmission path, values of parameters for TCP data transmission includes: determining an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to a bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate. The initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate. In  
15 this case, the sending a parameter setting message includes: sending an initial value setting message of the receive window to the receiving device.

[0301] Optionally, a size of the receive window of the receiving device may be expressed as:

Rwnd = Bandwidth of first transmission path  $\times$  RTT  $\times$  (1 – Packet loss rate).

[0302] Optionally, the determining, according to the first transmission path and/or the second  
20 transmission path, values of parameters for TCP data transmission includes: determining a retransmission timeout interval of the sending device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The retransmission timeout interval is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay. In this case, the sending a parameter setting message includes: sending a retransmission timeout interval setting message to the sending device.

25 [0303] Optionally, the controller sets the retransmission timeout interval to a round-trip time RTT.

[0304] Optionally, the determining, according to the first transmission path and/or the second  
transmission path, values of parameters for TCP data transmission includes: determining an acknowledgment wait time of the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission  
30 delay. The acknowledgment wait time is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay. In this case, the sending a parameter setting message includes: sending an acknowledgment wait time of the receive window to the receiving device.

[0305] Optionally, the controller sets the acknowledgment wait time to a round-trip time RTT.

[0306] Optionally, the controller is further configured to determine an initial value of a

congestion window Cwnd of the sending device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The initial value of the Cwnd is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

5 [0307] Optionally, a size of the congestion window of the sending device may be expressed as:  
$$Cwnd = \text{Bandwidth of first transmission path} \times \text{RTT}.$$

[0308] Optionally, the controller is further configured to determine an initial value of a congestion window Cwnd of the sending device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate. The initial value of the Cwnd  
10 is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0309] Optionally, a size of the congestion window of the sending device may be expressed as:  
$$Cwnd = \text{Bandwidth of first transmission path} \times \text{RTT} \times (1 - \text{Packet loss rate}).$$

[0310] Optionally, the controller is further configured to send a congestion window setting  
15 message to the sending device, and the congestion window setting message includes the initial value of the congestion window. The sending device is configured to: set a size of the congestion window to the initial value of the congestion window according to an indication of the congestion window setting message, and perform TCP data transmission.

[0311] Optionally, when the sending device performs the TCP data transmission, a value of the  
20 transmit window is a smaller value between values of the congestion window and the receive window.

[0312] According to the technical solution provided in this embodiment, a controller can properly configure resources and parameters for TCP data transmission. The controller receives a TCP transmission resource allocation request from an application server through a northbound  
25 interface, properly configures a path and a bandwidth for the TCP data transmission according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, determines path information such as a TCP round-trip transmission delay of the path, a packet loss rate of the path, and an optimal MTU value of the path, and properly configures parameters for the TCP data transmission according to the path information. According to these parameters, the controller can bypass a slow start process of TCP  
30 by setting an initial size of a transmit window for the TCP data transmission. In addition, an initial value of the transmit window is determined according to a bandwidth of a data transmission path and a TCP round-trip time. Therefore, transmission can be performed with a relatively high throughput, and a prior-art problem is avoided that halved oscillation of a sliding window caused by repeated network detection eventually affects a network throughput. An MTU value returned by the

controller is used to ensure that data can be segmented according to an optimal length and transmitted on a network device, and more effective TCP data transmission is implemented.

[0313] FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram of a logical structure of a data transmission apparatus 900 according to an embodiment of the present invention, and the apparatus 900 is applied to software-defined networking SDN. The apparatus 900 is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface, and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface. The application server is configured to control data to be sent from a sending device to a receiving device. As shown in FIG. 9, the data transmission apparatus 900 may include: a receiving unit 902, a determining unit 904, and a sending unit 906.

[0314] The receiving unit 902 is configured to receive a TCP transmission resource allocation request from the application server, and the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device.

[0315] The determining unit 904 is configured to: determine a first transmission path and a second transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, where the first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit a TCP acknowledgment to the sending device; and determine, according to the first transmission path and/or the second transmission path, values of parameters used by the sending device and/or the receiving device to perform TCP data transmission.

[0316] The sending unit 906 is configured to send a parameter setting message, and the parameter setting message carries the values of the parameters for the TCP data transmission.

[0317] Optionally, the address of the sending device and the address of the receiving device are Internet Protocol (Internet Protocol, IP) addresses or Media Access Control (Media Access Control, MAC) addresses.

[0318] Optionally, the apparatus 900 provides the northbound interface, and provides a function of customizing quality of service (Quality of Service, QoS) of a network path. The application that runs on the application server may access the northbound interface of the controller by using a management network.

[0319] Optionally, the determining unit 904 is configured to select a set of available paths between the sending device and the receiving device according to a network topology of the switching device, and determines remaining bandwidths of ports of switching devices on the available paths. A bandwidth that has been allocated is subtracted from physical bandwidths of a port to obtain a remaining bandwidth of the port. A smallest value of remaining bandwidths of ports on a path is used as a remaining bandwidth of the path.

[0320] Optionally, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further includes a bandwidth required for transmitting the data. The determining unit 904 being configured to determine a first transmission path according to a network topology of the switching device and the TCP transmission resource allocation request includes: selecting, by the determining unit 904 according to the network topology of the switching device and from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data and are the fewest as the first transmission path.

[0321] Optionally, the determining unit 904 being configured to determine a first transmission path according to a network topology of the switching device and the TCP transmission resource allocation request includes: selecting, by the determining unit 904 according to the network topology of the switching device and from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data and whose hop count is the smallest as the first transmission path.

[0322] Optionally, if all remaining bandwidths of the set of available paths are less than a bandwidth requested by the application server, the determining unit 904 selects a path whose bandwidth is the largest as the first transmission path.

[0323] The determining unit 904 determines a delay of the first transmission path and a delay of the second transmission path, and determines the TCP round-trip transmission delay according to the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is positively correlated with a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

[0324] Optionally, the determining unit 904 detects the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path according to operation, administration, and maintenance (Operation, Administration, and Maintenance, OAM) features of the first transmission path and the second transmission path, and determines the TCP round-trip transmission delay according to the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is positively correlated with the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path separately.

[0325] Optionally, the TCP round-trip transmission delay is the sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

[0326] Optionally, the determining unit 904 further pre-estimates TCP layer processing delays of the sending device and the receiving device. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is a sum of

the transmission delay of the first transmission path, the transmission delay of the second transmission path, and the TCP layer processing delays of the sending device and the receiving device.

[0327] Optionally, the determining unit 904 further pre-estimates a TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device. The TCP round-trip transmission delay is a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path, the transmission delay of the second transmission path, and the TCP layer processing delay of the receiving device.

[0328] Optionally, the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries MTU value information, and the MTU value information is used to indicate a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device. Optionally, the determining unit 904 is further configured to determine, according to the MTU value information in the TCP transmission resource allocation request, an MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data. The MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data is not greater than a smaller value between the maximum value for the MTU value of the sending device and the maximum value for the MTU value of the receiving device.

[0329] Optionally, the determining unit 904 determines, within a value range indicated by the MTU value information, an optimal MTU value for the first transmission path according to an OAM feature of the first transmission path. Optionally, the sending unit 906 being configured to send a parameter setting message includes: sending MTU value setting information to the sending device and the receiving device.

[0330] Optionally, the sending unit 906 is further configured to separately send a flow entry to a switching device on the first transmission path and a switching device on the second transmission path, to instruct the switching device on the first transmission path to perform TCP data transmission and the switching device on the second transmission path to transmit the TCP acknowledgment.

[0331] Optionally, the sending unit 906 is further configured to send a bandwidth control message to a switching device on the first transmission path. The bandwidth control message is used to indicate a bandwidth of a port of the switching device on the first transmission path to perform the TCP data transmission.

[0332] Optionally, the determining unit 904 being configured to determine, according to the first transmission path and/or the second transmission path, values of parameters for TCP data transmission includes: determining, by the determining unit 904, an initial value of a transmit window of the sending device according to a bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with

the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately. In this case, the sending unit 906 being configured to send a parameter setting message includes: sending an initial value setting message of the transmit window to the sending device.

[0333] Optionally, the determining unit 904 first determines a round-trip time RTT between the sending device and the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The RTT is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay.

[0334] Optionally, it is determined that the TCP round-trip transmission delay is the round-trip time RTT.

[0335] Optionally, a size of the transmit window of the sending device may be expressed as:

Transmit window = Bandwidth of first transmission path  $\times$  RTT.

[0336] Optionally, the determining unit 904 being configured to determine, according to the first transmission path and/or the second transmission path, values of parameters for TCP data transmission includes: determining, by the determining unit 904, an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to a bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately. In this case, the sending unit 906 being configured to send a parameter setting message includes: sending an initial value setting message of the receive window to the receiving device.

[0337] Optionally, a size of the receive window of the receiving device may be expressed as:

Rwnd = Bandwidth of first transmission path  $\times$  RTT.

[0338] Optionally, the determining unit 904 is further configured to determine a packet loss rate of the first transmission path. The packet loss rate is used to indicate a packet loss status when the first transmission path is used for data transmission.

[0339] Optionally, the determining unit 904 collects statistics about the packet loss rate on the first transmission path according to an experience library, adds a reserved packet loss rate, and determines the packet loss rate of the first transmission path.

[0340] Optionally, the determining unit 904 enables an OAM feature of the first transmission path, and determines the packet loss rate of the first transmission path.

[0341] Optionally, the determining unit 904 being configured to determine, according to the first transmission path and/or the second transmission path, values of parameters for TCP data transmission includes: determining, by the determining unit 904, an initial value of a transmit window of the sending device according to a bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate. The initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip

transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate. In this case, the sending unit 906 being configured to send a parameter setting message includes: sending an initial value setting message of the transmit window to the sending device.

[0342] Optionally, a size of the transmit window of the sending device may be expressed as:

5                     $\text{Transmit window} = \text{Bandwidth of first transmission path} \times \text{RTT} \times (1 - \text{Packet loss rate}).$

[0343] Optionally, the determining unit 904 being configured to determine, according to the first transmission path and/or the second transmission path, values of parameters for TCP data transmission includes: determining, by the determining unit 904, an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to a bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate. The initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate. In this case, the sending unit 906 being configured to send a parameter setting message includes: sending an initial value setting message of the receive window to the receiving device.

15 [0344] Optionally, a size of the receive window of the receiving device may be expressed as:

$\text{Rwnd} = \text{Bandwidth of first transmission path} \times \text{RTT} \times (1 - \text{Packet loss rate}).$

[0345] Optionally, the determining unit 904 being configured to determine, according to the first transmission path and/or the second transmission path, values of parameters for TCP data transmission includes: determining a retransmission timeout interval of the sending device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The retransmission timeout interval is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay. In this case, the sending unit 906 being configured to send a parameter setting message includes: sending a retransmission timeout interval setting message to the sending device.

20 [0346] Optionally, the determining unit 904 sets the retransmission timeout interval to a round-trip time RTT.

[0347] Optionally, the determining unit 904 being configured to determine, according to the first transmission path and/or the second transmission path, values of parameters for TCP data transmission includes: determining an acknowledgment wait time of the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The acknowledgment wait time is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay. In this case, the sending unit 906 being configured to send a parameter setting message includes: sending an acknowledgment wait time of the receive window to the receiving device.

30 [0348] Optionally, the determining unit 904 sets the acknowledgment wait time to a round-trip time RTT.

[0349] Optionally, the determining unit 904 is further configured to determine an initial value of a congestion window Cwnd of the sending device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay. The initial value of the Cwnd is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

[0350] Optionally, a size of the congestion window of the sending device may be expressed as:

$$Cwnd = \text{Bandwidth of first transmission path} \times \text{RTT}.$$

[0351] Optionally, the determining unit 904 is further configured to determine an initial value of a congestion window Cwnd of the sending device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate. The initial value of the Cwnd is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

[0352] Optionally, a size of the congestion window of the sending device may be expressed as:

$$Cwnd = \text{Bandwidth of first transmission path} \times \text{RTT} \times (1 - \text{Packet loss rate}).$$

[0353] Optionally, the sending unit 906 is further configured to send a congestion window setting message to the sending device, and the congestion window setting message includes the initial value of the congestion window. The sending device is configured to: set a size of the congestion window to the initial value of the congestion window according to an indication of the congestion window setting message; and perform TCP data transmission.

[0354] Optionally, when the sending device performs the TCP data transmission, a value of the transmit window is a smaller value between values of the congestion window and the receive window.

[0355] According to the technical solution provided in this embodiment, the apparatus 900 can properly configure resources and parameters for TCP data transmission. The apparatus 900 receives a TCP transmission resource allocation request from an application server through a northbound interface, properly configures a path and a bandwidth for the TCP data transmission according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, determines path information such as a TCP round-trip transmission delay of the path, a packet loss rate of the path, and an optimal MTU value of the path, and properly configures parameters for the TCP data transmission according to the path information. According to these parameters, the apparatus 900 can bypass a slow start process of TCP by setting an initial size of a transmit window for the TCP data transmission. In addition, an initial value of the transmit window is determined according to a bandwidth of a data transmission path and a TCP round-trip time. Therefore, transmission can be performed with a relatively high throughput, and a prior-art problem is avoided that halved oscillation of a sliding window caused by

repeated network detection eventually affects a network throughput. An MTU value returned by the controller is used to ensure that data can be segmented according to an optimal length and transmitted on a network device, and more effective TCP data transmission is implemented.

**[0356]** FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram of a hardware structure of a computing device 1000 according to an embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 10, the computing device 1000 includes a processor 1002, a memory 1004, an input/output interface 1006, a communications interface 1008, and a bus 1010. The processor 1002, the memory 1004, the input/output interface 1006, and the communications interface 1008 are communicatively connected through the bus 1010.

**[0357]** The processor 1002 may be a general-purpose central processing unit (Central Processing Unit, CPU), a microprocessor, an application-specific integrated circuit (Application-Specific Integrated Circuit, ASIC), or one or more integrated circuits, so as to execute a related program, to implement the technical solution provided in this embodiment of the present invention.

**[0358]** The memory 1004 may be a read-only memory (Read Only Memory, ROM), a static storage device, a dynamic storage device, or a random access memory (Random Access Memory, RAM). The memory 1004 may store an operating system and another application program. When the technical solution provided in this embodiment of the present invention is implemented by using software or firmware, program code for implementing the technical solution provided in this embodiment of the present invention is stored in the memory 1004, and is executed by the processor 1002.

**[0359]** The input/output interface 1006 is configured to: receive data and information that are input, and output data such as an operation result.

**[0360]** The communications interface 1008 uses a transceiving apparatus, for example, but not limited to, a transceiver, to implement communication between the computing device 1000 and another device or a communications network.

**[0361]** The bus 1010 may include a path, for transmitting information between the components (for example, the processor 1002, the memory 1004, the input/output interface 1006, and the communications interface 1008) of the computing device 1000.

**[0362]** It should be noted that, although the computing device 1000 shown in FIG. 10 shows only the processor 1002, the memory 1004, the input/output interface 1006, the communications interface 1008, and the bus 1010, in a specific implementation process, a person skilled in the art should understand that the computing device 1000 further includes other components required for implementing normal running. In addition, according to a specific requirement, a person skilled in

the art should understand that the computing device 1000 may further include hardware components for implementing other additional functions. In addition, a person skilled in the art should understand that the computing device 1000 may include only components essential for implementing this embodiment of the present invention, but not necessarily include all the components shown in FIG. 10.

[0363] The hardware structure shown in FIG. 10 and the foregoing descriptions are applicable to various data transmission devices and systems provided in the embodiments of the present invention, and are applicable to implementation of various data transmission methods provided in the embodiments of the present invention.

[0364] In the several embodiments provided in this application, it should be understood that the disclosed system, apparatus, and method may be implemented in other manners. For example, the described apparatus embodiment is merely an example. For example, the module division is merely logical function division and may be other division in implementation. For example, a plurality of modules or components may be combined or integrated into another system, or some features may be ignored or not performed. In addition, the displayed or discussed mutual couplings or direct couplings or communication connections may be implemented through some interfaces. The indirect couplings or communication connections between the apparatuses or modules may be implemented in electronic, mechanical, or other forms.

[0365] The modules described as separate parts may or may not be physically separate, and parts displayed as modules may or may not be physical modules, may be located in one position, or may be distributed on a plurality of network modules. Some or all of the modules may be selected according to actual needs to achieve the objectives of the solutions of the embodiments.

[0366] In addition, functional modules in the embodiments of the present invention may be integrated into one processing module, or each of the modules may exist alone physically, or two or more modules are integrated into one module. The integrated module may be implemented in a form of hardware, or may be implemented in a form of hardware in addition to a software functional module.

[0367] When the foregoing integrated module is implemented in a form of a software functional module, the integrated unit may be stored in a computer-readable storage medium. The software functional module is stored in a storage medium and includes several instructions for instructing a computing device (which may be a personal computer, a server, or a network device) to perform some of the steps of the methods described in the embodiments of the present invention. The foregoing storage medium includes: any medium that can store program code such as a USB flash drive, a removable hard disk, a read-only memory (English: Read-Only Memory, ROM for short), a

random access memory (English: Random Access Memory, RAM for short), a magnetic disk, or an optical disc.

**[0368]** Finally, it should be noted that the foregoing embodiments are merely intended for describing the technical solutions of the present invention, but not for limiting the present invention.

- 5 Although the present invention is described in detail with reference to the foregoing embodiments, a person of ordinary skill in the art should understand that they may still make modifications to the technical solutions described in the foregoing embodiments or make equivalent replacements to some technical features thereof, without departing from the scope of the technical solutions of the embodiments of the present invention.

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A data transmission method, applied to software-defined networking SDN, wherein a controller in the SDN network is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface, at least one application runs on the application server, and when the application server determines that currently data needs to be transmitted from a sending device to a receiving device by using the Transmission Control Protocol TCP, the method comprises:

receiving, by the controller, a TCP transmission resource allocation request from the application server, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device;

determining, by the controller, a first transmission path and a second transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, wherein the first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit a TCP acknowledgment to the sending device; and

sending, by the controller, a TCP transmission resource allocation response message to the application server, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation response message comprises bandwidth information of the first transmission path and a TCP round-trip transmission delay, the TCP round-trip transmission delay indicates a pre-estimated time difference between a time T1 at which the sending device sends each data packet through the first transmission path and a time T2 at which the sending device receives a TCP acknowledgment of each data packet through the second transmission path, and the bandwidth information of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay are used to determine an initial value of a transmit window for TCP data transmission between the sending device and the receiving device.

2. The method according to claim 1, before the sending, by the controller, a TCP transmission resource allocation response message to the application server, further comprising: obtaining, by the controller, a delay of the first transmission path and a delay of the second transmission path, and determining the TCP round-trip transmission delay according to the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path, wherein the TCP round-trip transmission delay is positively correlated with a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, before the sending, by the controller, a TCP transmission resource allocation response message to the application server, further comprising:

determining, by the controller, a packet loss rate of the first transmission path; wherein

the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further comprises the packet loss rate of the first transmission path.

4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries maximum transmission unit MTU value information, and the MTU value information comprises a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device;

the method further comprises: determining, by the controller according to the MTU value information in the TCP transmission resource allocation request, an MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data, wherein the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data is not greater than a smaller value between the maximum value for the MTU value of the sending device and the maximum value for the MTU value of the receiving device; and

the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further comprises the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data.

5. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation request further comprises a bandwidth required for transmitting the data; and

the determining, by the controller, a first transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request comprises: selecting, according to a network topology of the switching device and from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the selecting, by the controller from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path comprises: selecting, by the controller, from all paths whose remaining bandwidth resources meet the requirement for transmitting the data between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources are the fewest or a path whose hop count is the smallest as the first transmission path.

7. A controller, applied to software-defined networking SDN, wherein the controller is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface, and the controller comprises: a processor, a memory, a bus, and a communications interface, wherein

the memory is configured to store an instruction executable by a computing device, the processor and the memory are connected through the bus, and when the computing device operates, the processor executes the instruction that is executable by the computing device and that is stored

in the memory, to enable the computing device to perform the method according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

8. A data transmission method, applied to software-defined networking SDN, wherein a controller in the SDN network is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface, at least one application runs on the application server, and when the application server determines that currently data needs to be transmitted from a sending device to a receiving device by using the TCP protocol, the method comprises:

sending, by the application server, a TCP transmission resource allocation request to the controller, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device;

receiving, by the application server, a TCP transmission resource allocation response message from the controller, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation response message comprises a bandwidth of a first transmission path and a TCP round-trip transmission delay, the TCP round-trip transmission delay indicates a pre-estimated time difference between a time T1 at which the sending device sends each data packet through the first transmission path and a time T2 at which the sending device receives a TCP acknowledgment of each data packet through a second transmission path, the first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit an acknowledgment to the sending device; and

determining, by the application server according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay, an initial value of a transmit window for TCP data transmission between the sending device and the receiving device.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further carries a packet loss rate of the first transmission path; and

the method further comprises: determining, by the application server, the initial value of the transmit window according to the packet loss rate, wherein the initial value of the transmit window is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

11. The method according to any one of claims 8 to 10, further comprising: determining, by the application server, an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay, wherein the

initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

12. The method according to claim 10, further comprising: determining, by the application server, an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate, wherein the initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

13. The method according to any one of claims 8 to 12, further comprising: sending, by the application server, a transmit window setting message to the sending device, wherein the transmit window setting message comprises the initial value of the transmit window.

14. The method according to claim 11 or 12, further comprising: sending, by the application server, a receive window setting message to the receiving device, wherein the receive window setting message comprises the initial value of the receive window.

15. The method according to any one of claims 8 to 14, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries maximum transmission unit MTU value information, and the MTU value information is used to indicate a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device;

the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further comprises an MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data; and

the method further comprises: determining, by the application server, that the MTU values of the sending device and the receiving device are the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data.

16. The method according to claim 15, further comprising: sending, by the application server, an MTU setting message to the sending device and the receiving device, wherein the MTU setting message comprises the MTU value for the first transmission path.

17. The method according to any one of claims 8 to 16, further comprising: determining, by the application server, a retransmission timeout interval of the sending device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, wherein the retransmission timeout interval is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay.

18. The method according to claim 17, further comprising: sending, by the application server, a retransmission timeout interval setting message to the sending device, wherein the retransmission timeout interval setting message comprises the retransmission timeout interval.

19. The method according to any one of claims 8 to 18, further comprising: determining, by

the application server, an acknowledgment wait time of the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, wherein the acknowledgment wait time is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay.

20. The method according to claim 19, further comprising: sending, by the application server,  
5 an acknowledgment wait time setting message to the receiving device, wherein the acknowledgment setting message comprises the acknowledgment wait time.

21. An application server, applied to software-defined networking SDN, wherein a controller of the SDN is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to the application server through a northbound interface, and the application server comprises: a  
10 processor, a memory, a bus, and a communications interface, wherein

the memory is configured to store an instruction executable by a computing device, the processor and the memory are connected through the bus, and when the computing device operates, the processor executes the instruction that is executable by the computing device and that is stored in the memory, to enable the computing device to perform the method according to any one of  
15 claims 8 to 20.

22. A data transmission method, applied to software-defined networking SDN, wherein a controller in the SDN network is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface, at least one application runs on the application server, and when the application server determines that currently data needs  
20 to be transmitted from a sending device to a receiving device by using the TCP protocol, the method comprises:

receiving, by the sending device, a transmit window setting message, wherein the transmit window setting message comprises an initial value of a transmit window of the sending device; and

performing, by the sending device, TCP data transmission according to the initial value of the  
25 transmit window.

23. The method according to claim 22, wherein the sending device is further configured to: receive a maximum transmission unit MTU setting message, wherein the MTU setting message comprises an MTU value of the sending device during data transmission; and set an MTU value of the sending device according to an indication of the MTU setting message.

30 24. The method according to claim 22 or 23, wherein the sending device is further configured to: receive a retransmission timeout interval setting message, wherein the retransmission timeout interval setting message comprises a retransmission timeout interval value used by the sending device during TCP data transmission; and set the retransmission timeout interval value of the sending device according to an indication of the retransmission timeout interval setting message.

25. A computing device, applied to software-defined networking SDN, wherein a controller of the SDN is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface, the application server is configured to control data to be sent from the computing device to a receiving device, and the computing device  
5 comprises: a processor, a memory, a bus, and a communications interface, wherein

the memory is configured to store an instruction executable by the computing device, the processor and the memory are connected through the bus, and when the computing device operates, the processor executes the instruction that is executable by the computing device and that is stored in the memory, to enable the computing device to perform the method according to any one of  
10 claims 22 to 24.

26. A data transmission apparatus, applied to software-defined networking SDN, wherein a controller of the SDN is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface, the application server is configured to control data to be sent from the apparatus to a receiving device, and the data  
15 transmission apparatus comprises:

a receiving unit, configured to receive a transmit window setting message, wherein the transmit window setting message comprises an initial value of a transmit window of the sending device; and

a sending unit, configured to perform TCP data transmission according to the initial value of  
20 the transmit window.

27. The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the receiving unit is further configured to receive a maximum transmission unit MTU setting message, where the MTU setting message comprises an MTU value of the sending device during data transmission.

28. The apparatus according to claim 26 or 27, wherein the receiving unit is further configured  
25 to receive a retransmission timeout interval setting message, wherein the retransmission timeout interval setting message comprises a retransmission timeout interval value of the sending device during TCP data transmission.

29. A data transmission apparatus, applied to software-defined networking SDN, wherein the apparatus is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to an application server through a northbound interface, the application server is configured to control data to be sent from a sending device to a receiving device, and the apparatus comprises:  
30

a receiving unit, configured to receive a TCP transmission resource allocation request from the application server, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device;

a determining unit, configured to determine a first transmission path and a second transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, wherein the first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit a TCP acknowledgment to the sending device; and

a sending unit, configured to send a TCP transmission resource allocation response message to the application server, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation response message comprises bandwidth information of the first transmission path and a TCP round-trip transmission delay, the TCP round-trip transmission delay indicates a pre-estimated time difference between a time T1 at which the sending device sends each data packet through the first transmission path and a time T2 at which the sending device receives a TCP acknowledgment of each data packet through the second transmission path, and the bandwidth information of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay are used to determine an initial value of a transmit window for TCP data transmission between the sending device and the receiving device.

30. The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the determining unit is further configured to: obtain a delay of the first transmission path and a delay of the second transmission path; and determine the TCP round-trip transmission delay according to the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path, wherein the TCP round-trip transmission delay is positively correlated with a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

31. The apparatus according to claim 29 or 30, wherein the determining unit is further configured to determine a packet loss rate of the first transmission path; and

the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further comprises the packet loss rate of the first transmission path.

32. The apparatus according to any one of claims 29 to 31, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries maximum transmission unit MTU value information, and the MTU value information comprises a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device;

the determining unit is further configured to determine, according to the MTU value information in the TCP transmission resource allocation request, an MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data, wherein the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data is not greater than a smaller value between the maximum value for the MTU value of the sending device and the maximum value for the MTU value of the receiving device; and

the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further comprises the MTU value

used by the first transmission path to transmit the data.

33. The apparatus according to any one of claims 29 to 32, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation request further comprises a bandwidth required for transmitting the data; and

5 the determining unit being configured to determine a first transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request comprises: selecting, by the determining unit according to a network topology of the switching device and from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path.

10 34. The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the selecting, from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path comprises: selecting, by the determining unit, from all paths whose remaining bandwidth resources meet the requirement for transmitting the data between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources are the fewest or a path whose hop count is the smallest as the first  
15 transmission path.

35. A data transmission apparatus, applied to software-defined networking SDN, wherein a controller in the SDN network is connected to a switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to the apparatus through a northbound interface, at least one application runs on the apparatus, the apparatus is configured to control data to be sent from a sending device to a  
20 receiving device, and the apparatus comprises:

a sending unit, configured to send a TCP transmission resource allocation request to the controller, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device;

25 a receiving unit, configured to receive a TCP transmission resource allocation response message from the controller, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation response message comprises a bandwidth of a first transmission path and a TCP round-trip transmission delay, the TCP round-trip transmission delay indicates a pre-estimated time difference between a time T1 at which the sending device sends each data packet through the first transmission path and a time T2 at which the sending device receives a TCP acknowledgment of each data packet through a second  
30 transmission path, the first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit an acknowledgment to the sending device; and

a determining unit, configured to determine, according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay, an initial value of a transmit window

for TCP data transmission between the sending device and the receiving device, wherein the initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

36. The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

37. The apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further carries a packet loss rate of the first transmission path; and

the determining unit is further configured to determine the initial value of the transmit window according to the packet loss rate, wherein the initial value of the transmit window is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

38. The apparatus according to any one of claims 35 to 37, wherein the determining unit is further configured to determine an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay, wherein the initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

39. The apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the determining unit is further configured to determine an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate, wherein the initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

40. The apparatus according to any one of claims 35 to 39, wherein the sending unit is further configured to send a transmit window setting message to the sending device, wherein the transmit window setting message comprises the initial value of the transmit window.

41. The apparatus according to claim 38 or 39, wherein the sending unit is further configured to send a receive window setting message to the receiving device, wherein the receive window setting message comprises the initial value of the receive window.

42. The apparatus according to any one of claims 35 to 41, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries maximum transmission unit MTU value information, and the MTU value information is used to indicate a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device;

the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further comprises an MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data; and

the determining unit is further configured to determine that the MTU values of the sending device and the receiving device are the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data.

43. The apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the sending unit is further configured to send an MTU setting message to the sending device and the receiving device, wherein the MTU setting message comprises the MTU value for the first transmission path.

44. The apparatus according to any one of claims 35 to 43, wherein the determining unit is further configured to determine a retransmission timeout interval of the sending device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, wherein the retransmission timeout interval is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay.

45. The apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the sending unit is further configured to send a retransmission timeout interval setting message to the sending device, wherein the retransmission timeout interval setting message comprises the retransmission timeout interval.

46. The apparatus according to any one of claims 35 to 45, wherein the determining unit is further configured to determine an acknowledgment wait time of the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, wherein the acknowledgment wait time is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay.

47. The apparatus according to claim 46, wherein the sending unit is further configured to send an acknowledgment wait time setting message to the receiving device, wherein the acknowledgment setting message comprises the acknowledgment wait time.

48. A data transmission system, applied to software-defined networking SDN, and comprising an application server, a controller, a sending device, a receiving device, and a switching device, wherein the controller in the SDN network is connected to the switching device through a southbound interface and is connected to the application server through a northbound interface, at least one application runs on the application server, and the application server is configured to control data to be sent from the sending device to the receiving device;

the application server is configured to send a TCP transmission resource allocation request to the controller, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation request carries an address of the sending device and an address of the receiving device;

the controller is configured to: determine a first transmission path and a second transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request, wherein the first transmission path is used by the sending device to transmit the data to the receiving device, and the second transmission path is used by the receiving device to transmit a TCP acknowledgment to the sending device; and send a TCP transmission resource allocation response message to the application,

wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation response message comprises bandwidth information of the first transmission path and a TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the TCP round-trip transmission delay indicates a pre-estimated time difference between a time T1 at which the sending device sends each data packet through the first transmission path and a time T2 at which the sending device receives a TCP acknowledgment of each data packet through the second transmission path;

the application server is further configured to: determine, according to a bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay, an initial value of a transmit window for TCP data transmission between the sending device and the receiving device; and send a transmit window setting message to the sending device, wherein the transmit window setting message comprises the initial value of the transmit window; and

the sending device is configured to: set a size of the transmit window to the initial value of the transmit window according to the transmit window setting message; and perform TCP data transmission.

49. The system according to claim 48, wherein the initial value of the transmit window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

50. The system according to claim 49, wherein the controller is further configured to: obtain a delay of the first transmission path and a delay of the second transmission path; and determine the TCP round-trip transmission delay according to the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path, wherein the TCP round-trip transmission delay is positively correlated with a sum of the transmission delay of the first transmission path and the transmission delay of the second transmission path.

51. The system according to claim 49 or 50, wherein the controller is further configured to determine a packet loss rate of the first transmission path; and

the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further comprises the packet loss rate of the first transmission path.

52. The system according to claim 51, wherein the application server is further configured to determine the initial value of the transmit window according to the packet loss rate, wherein the initial value of the transmit window is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

53. The system according to any one of claims 48 to 52, wherein the application server is further configured to determine an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay, wherein the initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the

first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately.

54. The system according to claim 51 or 52, wherein the application server is further configured to determine an initial value of a receive window of the receiving device according to the bandwidth of the first transmission path, the TCP round-trip transmission delay, and the packet loss rate, wherein the initial value of the receive window is positively correlated with the bandwidth of the first transmission path and the TCP round-trip transmission delay separately and is negatively correlated with the packet loss rate.

55. The system according to claim 53 or 54, wherein the application server is further configured to send a receive window setting message to the receiving device, wherein the receive window setting message comprises the initial value of the receive window; and

the receiving device is configured to: set a size of the receive window to the initial value of the transmit window according to an indication of the receive window setting message, and perform TCP data transmission.

56. The system according to any one of claims 48 to 55, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation request further carries maximum transmission unit MTU value information, and the MTU value information is used to indicate a maximum value for an MTU value of the sending device and a maximum value for an MTU value of the receiving device;

the controller is further configured to determine, according to the MTU value information in the TCP transmission resource allocation request, an MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data, wherein the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data is not greater than a smaller value between the maximum value for the MTU value of the sending device and the maximum value for the MTU value of the receiving device; and

the TCP transmission resource allocation response message further comprises the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data.

57. The system according to claim 56, wherein the application server is further configured to: determine that the MTU values of the sending device and the receiving device are the MTU value used by the first transmission path to transmit the data; and send an MTU setting message to the sending device and the receiving device, wherein the MTU setting message comprises the MTU value for the first transmission path.

58. The system according to any one of claims 48 to 57, wherein the application server is further configured to: determine a retransmission timeout interval of the sending device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, wherein the retransmission timeout interval is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay; and send a retransmission timeout interval setting message to the sending device, wherein the retransmission timeout interval setting message

comprises the retransmission timeout interval.

59. The system according to any one of claims 48 to 58, wherein the application server is further configured to: determine an acknowledgment wait time of the receiving device according to the TCP round-trip transmission delay, wherein the acknowledgment wait time is positively correlated with the TCP round-trip transmission delay; and send an acknowledgment wait time setting message to the receiving device, wherein the acknowledgment setting message comprises the acknowledgment wait time.

60. The system according to any one of claims 48 to 59, wherein the TCP transmission resource allocation request further comprises a bandwidth required for transmitting the data; and the determining, by the controller, a first transmission path according to the TCP transmission resource allocation request comprises: selecting, according to a network topology of the switching device and from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path.

61. The system according to claim 60, wherein the selecting, by the controller from paths between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources meet a requirement for transmitting the data as the first transmission path comprises: selecting, by the controller, from all paths whose remaining bandwidth resources meet the requirement for transmitting the data between the sending device and the receiving device, a path whose remaining bandwidth resources are the fewest or a path whose hop count is the smallest as the first transmission path.