## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A packet loss rate detection method, comprising:

determining, by a session management network element, that link status detection needs to be performed on a quality of service flow in a multi-access protocol data unit session;

sending, by the session management network element, identification information of the quality of service flow to a first device; and

sending, by the session management network element, an IP address or/and a port number of a link status detection to the first device, wherein the IP address or/and a port number is corresponding to the quality of service flow, the IP address or/and the port number is for enabling the link status detection for the quality of service flow, the link status detection is link detection at a quality of service flow granularity, and the link status detection comprises a packet loss rate detection.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the session management network element, a counting indication to a second device, wherein

the counting indication indicates the second device to count a quantity of service data packets sent by the first device to the second device on a link; or

the counting indication indicates the second device to calculate, when receiving link status detection information, a quantity of service data packets received on a link, and send the quantity of the service data packets received on the link to the first device.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the session management network element, a packet loss rate detection indication to a second device, wherein

the packet loss rate detection indication indicates the second device to calculate a packet loss rate of service data packets when receiving link status detection information; or

the packet loss rate detection indication indicates the second device to calculate, when receiving link status detection information, a quantity of service data packets received on a link, and calculate a packet loss rate of the service data packets by using the quantity of the service data

packets received on the link.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the session management network element, a counting indication to the first device, wherein

the counting indication indicates the first device to count a quantity of service data packets sent by the first device to a second device on a link.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the session management network element, a packet loss rate detection indication to the first device, wherein

the packet loss rate detection indication indicates the first device to calculate, when receiving, from a second device, a quantity of received service data packets that is counted by the second device, a packet loss rate of the service data packets.

6. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the session management network element, a link status reporting indication to the first device and/or the second device, wherein the link status reporting indication indicates to report the packet loss rate of the service data packets;

sending, by the session management network element, a link status reporting frequency to the first device and/or the second device, wherein the link status reporting frequency indicates a frequency of reporting the packet loss rate of the service data packets; or

sending, by the session management network element, a link status reporting cycle to the first device and/or the second device, wherein the link status reporting cycle indicates a cycle of reporting the packet loss rate of the service data packets.

7. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the determining, by a session management network element, that link status detection needs to be performed on a quality of service flow comprises:

when determining that a steering function of the quality of service flow is access traffic steering, switching, splitting low-layer ATSSS-LL, determining, by the session management network element, that link status detection needs to be performed on the quality of service flow;

when determining that a steering function of the quality of service flow is ATSSS-LL, and that a steering mode of the quality of service flow is one of a load-balancing mode, a smallest delay mode, a priority-based mode, or an active-standby mode, determining, by the session

management network element, that link status detection needs to be performed on the quality of service flow; or

when determining that a link status threshold of the quality of service flow is received from a policy control network element, determining, by the session management network element, that link status detection needs to be performed on the quality of service flow, wherein the link status threshold comprises a packet loss rate threshold.

8. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the first device is a terminal device or a chip.

9. The method according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the session management network element, a link status detection indication to the second device, wherein the link status detection indication is for enabling a link status detection , and the link status detection comprises a packet loss rate detection.

10. The method according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving, by the session management network element, an IP address and/or a port number of the link status detection from the second device.

11. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the second device is a user plane network element.

12. The method according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the method further comprises:

allocating, by the second device, the IP address and/or the port number to the link status detection corresponding to the quality of service flow.

13. A communication method, comprising:

receiving, by a first device, identification information of a quality of service flow from a session management network element;

receiving, by the first device, an IP address or/and a port number of a link status detection from a session management network element, wherein the IP address or/and a port number is corresponding to the quality of service flow, the IP address or/and the port number is for enabling the link status detection for the quality of service flow in a multi-access protocol data unit session, the link status detection is link detection at a quality of service flow granularity, and the link status detection comprises a packet loss rate detection; and

enabling, by the first device, the link status detection.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving, by the first device , identification information of the quality of service flow from the session management network element.

15. The method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the first device, link status detection information to the user plane function network element by using the quality of service flow;

receiving, by the first device, a quantity of data packets from the user plane function network element, wherein the quantity of the data packets is a quantity of data packets received by the user plane function network element on the quality of service flow after receiving the link status detection information; and

determining, by the first device, a packet loss rate of the quality of service flow based on the quantity of the data packets.

16. The method according to any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein the first device is a terminal device or a chip.

17. A communication apparatus, comprising:

a memory, configured to store computer instructions; and

a processor, configured to execute the computer instructions stored in the memory, to enable the apparatus to perform the method according to any one of claims 1 to 12 or 13 to 16.

18. A communication system, comprising:

a session management network element, configured to perform the method according to any one of claims 1 to 12;

a user plane function network element, configured to receive identification information of a quality of service flow from a session management network element; and

the user plane function network element, configured to receive an IP address or/and a port number of a link status detection from the session management network element, wherein the IP address or/and a port number is corresponding to the quality of service flow, the IP address or/and the port number is for enabling the link status detection.