

DESCRIPTION

Title of Invention

COMMUNICATION-INFORMATION MEASURING DEVICE AND PROGRAM

Technical Field

[0001]

The present invention relates to a communication-information measuring device and a program.

Background Art

[0002]

To measure actual communication performance between communication apparatuses connected with each other via a communication network, the bandwidth between the communication apparatuses may be measured (for example, see Patent Literature 1).

[0003]

When wired communication is performed, occurrence of packet loss is mainly caused by communication congestion. When wireless communication is performed, occurrence of packet loss is caused by radio noise as well as communication congestion. Therefore, when the bandwidth is calculated by substituting a packet loss rate shaped for wireless communication into an expression for computation, without conversion, which is similar to that for wired communication, the calculated bandwidth may be inaccurate.

Citation List

Patent Literature

[0004]

Patent Literature 1: JP-T-2007-504694

Summary of Invention

Technical Problem

[0005]

An object of the present invention is to provide a communication-information

measuring device and a program which enable the frequency of a particular type of packet loss to be grasped in communication in which multiple types of packet loss produced by respective causes occur.

Solution to Problem

[0006]

To achieve the above-described object, the present invention of Claim 1 provides a communication-information measuring device characterized by comprising: transmitting means for sequentially transmitting one or more packets to a communication target apparatus; receiving means for receiving acknowledgments for the transmitted packets from the communication target apparatus; recording means for recording a round trip time and occurrence of packet loss for each of the transmitted packets on the basis of the transmitted packet and the acknowledgment for the transmitted packet; counting means for counting the number of packet sequences among one or more packet sequences, each of the one or more packet sequences having a plurality of continuous packets including one or more packets at the top, each of the one or more packets being a packet for which packet loss is recorded by the recording means among the transmitted packets, each of the packet sequences being such that the number of packet losses included in the packet sequence and an increase state of the round trip time for packets included in the packet sequence satisfy respective predetermined conditions; and calculating means for calculating a packet loss ratio on the basis of the number counted by the counting means and the number of transmitted packets.

[0007]

The present invention of Claim 2 provides the communication-information measuring device according to Claim 1, characterized in that the recording means records occurrence of packet loss if either of conditions is satisfied, the conditions being that a packet having been transmitted by the transmitting means is retransmitted, that the acknowledgment received by the receiving means is a retransmitted acknowledgment, and that a sequence of acknowledgments of a predetermined type is present among the acknowledgments received by the receiving means, the sequence having a predetermined length.

[0008]

The present invention of Claim 3 provides the communication-information measuring device according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized by further comprising: determining means for determining whether or not a condition is satisfied, the condition being that the number of packet losses included in each of the packet sequences is equal to or more than a first threshold, that the round trip time for packets included in the packet sequence is sequentially increased, and that an increase in the round trip time for each of the packets included in the packet sequence is equal to or more than a second threshold, wherein the counting means counts the number of packet sequences determined to be packet sequences satisfying the condition by the determining means, among the one or more packet sequences.

[0009]

The present invention of Claim 4 provides the communication-information measuring device according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized by further comprising: selecting means for sequentially selecting a packet sequence by sequentially selecting a packet from the top of a sequence of packets for which packet loss is recorded by the recording means among the transmitted packets, the sequentially selected packet sequence having a plurality of continuous packets in which the selected packet is present at the top, wherein the determining means sequentially determines whether or not the sequentially selected packet sequence satisfies the condition.

[0010]

The present invention of Claim 5 provides the communication-information measuring device according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized by further comprising: selecting means for sequentially selecting a packet sequence by sequentially selecting a packet from the top of a sequence of unprocessed packets for which packet loss is recorded by the recording means among the transmitted packets, the sequentially selected packet sequence including packets, the number of which is equal to a window size and in which the selected packet is present at the top, the window size being two or more, wherein the determining means determines whether or not the sequentially selected packet sequence satisfies the condition, and when the determining means determines that the condition is satisfied, the window size is increased, and, when the determining means determines that the condition is not

satisfied, the window size is decreased.

[0011]

The present invention of Claim 6 provides the communication-information measuring device according to Claim 5, characterized by further comprising: updating means for, when the window size is changed, updating the first threshold with a larger value among the window size and a predetermined minimum value.

[0012]

The present invention of Claim 7 provides the communication-information measuring device according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, characterized by further comprising: bandwidth calculating means for calculating a bandwidth of communication with the communication target apparatus on the basis of Expression (1) described below, where p represents a packet loss ratio calculated by the calculating means, RTT is a typical value of the round trip time recorded for the transmitted packets, MSS represents a maximum segment size of the transmitted packets, and C and k are predetermined constants.

[0013]

[Math. 1]

$$BW \leq C \cdot \frac{MSS}{RTT} \cdot \frac{1}{p^k} \quad \dots (1)$$

[0014]

The present invention of Claim 8 provides the communication-information measuring device according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, characterized in that, when wireless communication is performed, the calculating means calculates a packet loss ratio on the basis of the number counted by the counting means and the number of transmitted packets, and when wired communication is performed, the calculating means calculates a packet loss ratio on the basis of the number of packets for which packet loss is recorded by the recording means among the transmitted packets and the number of transmitted packets.

[0015]

The present invention of Claim 9 provides a program for causing a computer to function as: transmitting means for sequentially transmitting one or more packets to a communication target apparatus; receiving means for receiving acknowledgments for the transmitted packets from the communication target apparatus; recording means

for recording a round trip time and occurrence of packet loss for each of the transmitted packets on the basis of the transmitted packet and the acknowledgment for the transmitted packet; counting means for counting the number of packet sequences among one or more packet sequences, each of the one or more packet sequences having a plurality of continuous packets including one or more packets at the top, each of the one or more packets being a packet for which packet loss is recorded by the recording means among the transmitted packets, each of the packet sequences being such that the number of packet losses included in the packet sequence and an increase state of the round trip time for packets included in the packet sequence satisfy respective predetermined conditions; and calculating means for calculating a packet loss ratio on the basis of the number counted by the counting means and the number of transmitted packets.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

[0016]

According to the invention of Claims 1 and 9, the frequency of a particular type of packet loss may be grasped in communication in which multiple types of packet loss produced by respective causes occur.

[0017]

According to the invention of Claim 2, compared with a case without the present configuration, packet loss occurrences may be recorded with high accuracy.

[0018]

According to the invention of Claim 3, compared with a case without the present configuration, packet loss occurrences caused by communication congestion may be counted among packet loss occurrences with high accuracy.

[0019]

According to the invention of Claim 4, compared with a case without the present configuration, packet loss caused by communication congestion may be determined among packet loss occurrences with high accuracy.

[0020]

According to the invention of Claim 5, compared with a case without the present configuration, the number of steps in a process of determining packet loss caused by communication congestion, among packet loss occurrences may be

reduced.

[0021]

According to the invention of Claim 6, compared with a case without the present configuration, even when the window size is changed, packet loss caused by communication congestion may be determined among packet loss occurrences with high accuracy.

[0022]

According to the invention of Claim 7, a wait width may be calculated on the basis of the frequency of occurrence of a particular type of packet loss.

[0023]

According to the invention of Claim 8, the same expression for calculating a bandwidth may be used for wireless communication and for wired communication.

Brief Description of Drawings

[0024]

[Fig. 1] Fig. 1 is a diagram illustrating the system configuration of an information distribution system according to the present embodiment.

[Fig. 2] Fig. 2 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary hardware configuration provided for the information distribution server and that for an information terminal.

[Fig. 3] Fig. 3 is a sequence chart of a process of measuring a communication bandwidth.

[Fig. 4] Fig. 4 is a flowchart of a first process of calculating a packet loss rate.

[Fig. 5] Fig. 5 is a flowchart of a second process of calculating a packet loss rate.

[Fig. 6] Fig. 6 includes diagrams for describing a process of classifying lost packets in the first process of calculating a packet loss rate.

[Fig. 7] Fig. 7 includes diagrams for describing a process of classifying lost packets in the second process of calculating a packet loss rate.

Description of Embodiments

[0025]

An embodiment for carrying out the present invention (hereinafter referred to as an embodiment) will be described with reference to the drawings.

[0026]

[1. System Configuration Diagram]

Fig. 1 is a diagram illustrating the system configuration of an information distribution system 1 according to the present embodiment. As illustrated in Fig. 1, the information distribution system 1 includes an information distribution server 10, one or more base station apparatuses 30, and one or more information terminals 40. The information distribution server 10 communicates with each of the base station apparatuses 30, for example, via a network 20 such as an optical communication network. The information distribution server 10 may communicate with each of the information terminals 40 by performing wireless communication, such as mobile communication or wireless LAN communication, between the information terminal 40 and a base station apparatus 30. In the present embodiment, an information terminal 40 uses wireless communication to communicate with the information distribution server 10. Alternatively, an information terminal 40 may use wired communication to communicate with the information distribution server 10.

[0027]

The information distribution server 10 is a computer which stores data, such as web pages and movies, and which provides the data in response to a request from an information terminal 40. The information distribution server 10 may select the quality (such as the resolution or the size) of data (movie) according to the request from the information terminal 40 on the basis of the communication bandwidth (BW) between the information terminal 40 and the information distribution server 10, and may provide the data of the selected quality for the information terminal 40.

[0028]

A base station apparatus 30 is an apparatus which performs wired communication with the information distribution server 10 and which performs wireless communication such as mobile communication with each of the information terminals 40. The wireless communication between the base station apparatus 30 and the information terminal 40 may be performed by using various communication methods such as 3G and 4G mobile communications.

[0029]

An information terminal 40 is a computer, such as a cellular phone (including a smartphone), a tablet terminal, and a personal computer, which is operated by a user.

The information terminal 40 performs wireless communication with a base station apparatus 30, and performs data communication with the information distribution server 10 via the base station apparatus 30, thereby, for example, receiving data from the information distribution server 10. The information terminal 40 measures the communication bandwidth (BW) between the information distribution server 10 and the information terminal 40. The information terminal 40 receives/transmits packets from/to the information distribution server 10, measures the round trip time (RTT) and the packet loss ratio (p) of the received/transmitted packets, and calculates the communication bandwidth on the basis of the measured values and Expression (1) as described below. In Expression (1) described below, it is assumed that an information terminal communicates with the information distribution server 10 in a wired manner. Therefore, in the present embodiment, lost packets caused by congestion are extracted from packets which have been lost, and a packet loss ratio to be substituted into Expression (1) is calculated. The detail of a process of calculating a packet loss ratio will be described below.

[0030]

[Math. 1]

$$BW \leq C \cdot \frac{MSS}{RTT} \cdot \frac{1}{p^k} \quad \dots (1)$$

[0031]

[2. Hardware Configuration Diagram]

The hardware configuration provided for the information distribution server 10 and that for an information terminal 40 will be described with reference to Fig. 2.

[0032]

[2-1. Information Distribution Server 10]

An exemplary hardware configuration of the information distribution server 10 will be described. As illustrated in Fig. 2, the information distribution server 10 includes a controller 11, a storage unit 12, and a communication unit 13.

[0033]

The controller 11 which includes a CPU (Central Processing Unit) performs various types of arithmetic processing on the basis of programs stored in the storage unit 12, and controls units of the information distribution server 10.

[0034]

The storage unit 12 stores control programs such as an operating system of the information distribution server 10 and data. In addition, the storage unit 12 is used as a work memory for the controller 11. The programs may be supplied to the information distribution server 10 by storing them in an information storage medium, such as an optical disk, a magnetic disk, a magnetic tape, a magneto-optical disk, or a flush memory, or may be supplied to the information distribution server 10 via data communication means such as the Internet.

[0035]

The communication unit 13 implemented by using a network interface card performs data communication, for example, with a base station apparatus 30 via the network, and also performs data communication, for example, with an information terminal 40 via a base station apparatus 30.

[0036]

[2-2. Information Terminal 40]

An exemplary hardware configuration of an information terminal 40 will be described. As illustrated in Fig. 2, the information terminal 40 includes a controller 41, a storage unit 42, a communication unit 43, an input unit 44, and a display unit 45.

[0037]

The controller 41 which includes a CPU (Central Processing Unit) performs various types of arithmetic processing on the basis of programs stored in the storage unit 42, and controls units of the information terminal 40.

[0038]

The storage unit 42 stores control programs such as an operating system of the information terminal 40 and data. In addition, the storage unit 42 is used as a work memory for the controller 41. The programs may be supplied to the information terminal 40 by storing them in an information storage medium, such as an optical disk, a magnetic disk, a magnetic tape, a magneto-optical disk, or a flush memory, or may be supplied to the information terminal 40 via a data communication network such as the Internet.

[0039]

The communication unit 43 including, for example, a wireless communication antenna communicates with a base station apparatus 30 via the wireless communication antenna. The communication unit 43 may be provided with a

network interface card for wired communication in addition to or instead of the wireless communication antenna, and may communicate with the information distribution server 10 by using the network interface card.

[0040]

The input unit 44 implemented by using an input apparatus, such as a touch panel or a keyboard, receives an operation input from a user.

[0041]

The display unit 45 implemented by using a display apparatus such as a liquid crystal display displays a result (screen) of information processing performed by the controller 41.

[0042]

[3. Sequence]

The detail of a process of measuring a communication bandwidth which is performed when the information terminals 40 in the information distribution system 1 use wireless communication will be described with reference to the sequence chart and the flowcharts in Figs. 3 to 5.

[0043]

[3-1. Process of Measuring Communication Bandwidth]

Fig. 3 is a sequence chart of a process of measuring a communication bandwidth.

[0044]

As illustrated in Fig. 3, if a timing for measuring a communication bandwidth hasn't come (S101: N), an information terminal 40 waits. If a timing for measuring a communication bandwidth has come (S101: Y), the information terminal 40 proceeds to S102, and starts a process of measuring a communication bandwidth. The process of measuring a communication bandwidth may be performed at predetermined time intervals, or may be performed at a timing at which a predetermined process occurs.

[0045]

When the information terminal 40 starts the process of measuring a communication bandwidth, the information terminal 40 performs a process of setting measurement conditions and an initialization process (S102). The measurement conditions may include information about, for example, setting of a device (in this

example, the information distribution server 10) which is a target in communication using a communication path to be measured, and the total transmission number (N) of packets for measuring a communication bandwidth. The total transmission number N of packets may be set as $N = n \cdot m$ where a unit measurement process in which a packet is transmitted n times is looped m times. In the initialization process, a variable i may be set to 1.

[0046]

The information terminal 40 requests the information distribution server 10 to establish a connection (S103). When a connection with the information terminal 40 is to be established, the information distribution server 10 transmits an acknowledgment (ACK) to the information terminal 40 (S104). When the information terminal 40 receives the acknowledgment (ACK) from the information distribution server 10, the information terminal 40 identifies information about the port which is used in communication with the information distribution server 10, and vice versa (S105).

[0047]

The information terminal 40 selects a transmission packet P_i to be transmitted to the information distribution server 10 (S106). For example, when $\text{mod}(i, n)$ using the variable i is equal to 1, the information terminal 40 may transmit a SYN packet. When $\text{mod}(i, n)$ is equal to 0, the information terminal 40 may transmit a FIN packet. When $\text{mod}(i, n)$ is other than 0 or 1, the information terminal 40 may transmit a DATA packet.

[0048]

The information terminal 40 transmits the transmission packet P_i selected in S106 to the information distribution server 10 (S107). If retransmission is required (S108: Y), the information terminal 40 retransmits the transmission packet P_i . For example, when the information terminal 40 has not received an acknowledgment for the packet P_i in a predetermined time, the information terminal 40 may retransmit the packet P_i .

[0049]

When the information distribution server 10 receives the packet P_i from the information terminal 40, the information distribution server 10 transmits an acknowledgment (P_i -ACK) for the packet P_i to the information terminal 40 (S109).

When P_i -ACK is required to be retransmitted, the information distribution server 10 may also retransmit P_i -ACK.

[0050]

When the information terminal 40 receives the acknowledgment (P_i -ACK) for the packet P_i , the information terminal 40 records the round trip time (RTT_i) of the packet P_i in the storage unit 42 (S110). The round trip time RTT_i may be calculated as an elapsed time from the transmission time of the packet P_i to the reception time of the acknowledgment (P_i -ACK) for the packet P_i .

[0051]

If the packet P_i is a retransmission packet (S111: Y), if the acknowledgment (P_i -ACK) for the packet P_i is a retransmission packet (S112: Y), or if the acknowledgment (P_i -ACK) for the packet P_i is an acknowledgement in a duplicate ACK acknowledgment (Duplicate-ACK) sequence having a length of k (for example, $k = 3$) (S113: Y), the information terminal 40 records a packet loss event for the packet P_i (S114). For example, in the case where initial values of E_1 to E_N are set to 0 (no packet loss) where E_i represents a data value of a packet loss event for the packet P_i , when a packet loss event for the packet P_i is recorded, E_i may be rewritten as $E_i = 1$. Whether or not the packets (P_i , P_i -ACK) are retransmission packets may be determined by referring to the header information of the packets.

[0052]

After S114, the information terminal 40 proceeds to S115, or if the following condition is satisfied, the information terminal 40 proceeds to S115 without recording a packet loss event. The condition is that the packet P_i is not a retransmission packet (S111: N); the acknowledgment (P_i -ACK) for the packet P_i is not a retransmission packet (S112: Y); and the acknowledgment (P_i -ACK) for the packet P_i is not an acknowledgement in a duplicate ACK acknowledgment (Duplicate-ACK) sequence having a length of k (for example, $k = 3$) (S113: Y).

[0053]

If the variable i does not reach N (S115: N), the information terminal 40 increments the variable i (adds 1 to i) (S116), and returns back to S106. If the variable i reaches N (S115: Y), the information terminal 40 calculates a packet loss rate on the basis of the records of packet loss events for the packets P_1 to P_N (S117). The detail of the process of calculating a packet loss rate will be described below.

[0054]

The information terminal 40 substitutes the packet loss rate (p) calculated in S117, the maximum segment size (MSS) of a packet, the recorded RTT (which may be, for example, the average of RTT_1 to RTT_N) into Expression (1) described above, and calculates the bandwidth (BW) of the communication path between the information terminal 40 and the information distribution server 10 (S118). When the information terminal 40 calculates the bandwidth (BW), the information terminal 40 returns back to S101, and repeatedly performs the processes after that.

[0055]

[3-2(1). First Process of Calculating Packet Loss Rate]

Referring to the flowchart illustrated in Fig. 4, the detail of a first process of calculating a packet loss rate which is performed in an information terminal 40 will be described.

[0056]

As illustrated in Fig. 4, the information terminal 40 performs an initial setting process for calculating a packet loss rate (S201). In the initial setting process, the packet loss counter C is set to 0, the variable i is set to 1, and a threshold y and a window size w are set. For example, the window size w may be set to any value equal to or more than the minimum value w_0 of the window size. The threshold y may be set to a larger value among $\alpha \cdot w$ and the minimum value y_0 of y . That is, an expression, $y = \max[\alpha \cdot w, y_0]$, may be used, where $0 < \alpha < 1$, and, for example, expressions, $w_0 = 3$, $y_0 = 3$, $\alpha = 0.5$, and the like, may be used in the setting.

[0057]

The information terminal 40 refers to the storage unit 42 to obtain RTTs (RTT_1 to RTT_N) of the respective packets P_1 to P_N and the information about the packet loss events (E_1 to E_N) (S202). The information terminal 40 calculates the value of jitter J_i of the packet P_i on the basis of RTTs obtained for the packets P_1 to P_N (S203). The jitter J_i may be calculated by using an expression, $J_i = |RTT_{i+1} - RTT_i|$.

[0058]

The information terminal 40 selects the first packet P_j for which a packet loss event is recorded, from packets subsequent to P_i , i.e., P_i to P_N (S204). That is, E_i to E_N may be searched for the first event E_j whose value is equal to 1, and P_j corresponding to E_j may be selected.

[0059]

The information terminal 40 counts the number S_j of packet loss events included in a packet sequence, P_j to P_{j+w-1} , whose length is w and which starts with the packet P_j (S205). For example, the information terminal 40 may calculate S_j by using Expression (2) described below.

[0060]

[Math. 2]

$$S_j = \sum_{s=j}^{j+w-1} E_s \quad \dots (2)$$

[0061]

If S_j counted in S205 is equal to or more than the threshold y (S206: Y), the information terminal 40 determines whether or not the value of RTT is increased in packets P_j to P_{j+w-1} (S207). For example in S207, the information terminal 40 may determine whether or not the value of RTT is sequentially increased in packets for which packet loss events are recorded among the packets P_j to P_{j+w-1} .

[0062]

If it is determined that the value of RTT is increased in the packets P_j to P_{j+w-1} (S207: Y), the information terminal 40 determines whether or not the jitter values of the packets P_j to P_{j+w-1} are equal to or more than a threshold (S208). For example in S208, the information terminal 40 may determine whether or not each of the jitter values of packets for which packet loss events are recorded among the packets P_j to P_{j+w-1} is equal to or more than a threshold (J_0), that is, may determine whether or not an increase in RTT is equal to or more than the threshold.

[0063]

If the conditions in S206, S207, and S208 are satisfied (S206: Y, S207: Y, S208: Y), the information terminal 40 increments the packet loss counter C (adds 1 to C) (S209).

[0064]

After S209, or if either of the conditions in S206, S207, and S208 is not satisfied (S206: N, S207: N, or S208: N), the information terminal 40 proceeds to S210.

[0065]

If $(j + w - 1)$ is less than N (S210: N), the information terminal 40 increments the variable i (adds 1 to i) (S211), and returns back to S204. If $(j + w - 1)$ is equal to or more than N (S210: Y), information terminal 40 calculates the packet loss rate p on the basis of the value of the packet loss counter C (S212), and returns. For example, the information terminal 40 may calculate the packet loss rate p by using an expression, $p = C/N$.

[0066]

Fig. 6 includes diagrams for describing a process of classifying recorded packet loss events into those caused by congestion and those caused by radio noise or the like, which is performed in the first process of calculating a packet loss rate.

[0067]

(a) of Fig. 6 illustrates an exemplary window size. In the example illustrated in (a) of Fig. 6, the window size w is set to 4, and the threshold y is set to 3. For the sake of simplicity, in the example described below, it is assumed that, when the number of packet loss events included in the window is equal to or more than the threshold, a packet loss event is determined to be caused by congestion; and, otherwise, a packet loss event is determined to be caused by radio noise or the like.

[0068]

(b) of Fig. 6 illustrates the values of the packet loss events E_1 to E_N which are recorded for the packets P_1 to P_N . The value "0" indicates that no packet loss events are recorded, and the value "1" indicates that a packet loss event is recorded.

[0069]

As illustrated in (c) of Fig. 6, the information terminal 40 moves the window to the first packet (in this example, P_3) for which a packet loss event is recorded among the packets P_1 to P_N , and counts the number of packet loss events in the window. In the example illustrated in (c) of Fig. 6, the number of packet loss events is 3, which is equal to or more than the threshold y . Therefore, it is determined that the packet loss event recorded for P_3 is caused by congestion.

[0070]

As illustrated in (d) of Fig. 6, the information terminal 40 moves the window to the first packet (in this example, P_4) among packets for which packet loss events are recorded and which are packets subsequent to the top packet (in this example, P_3) in the window and, and counts the number of packet loss events in the window. In the

example illustrated in (d) of Fig. 6, the number of packet loss events is 2, which is less than the threshold y . Therefore, the packet loss event recorded for P_4 is determined to be caused by radio noise or the like.

[0071]

As illustrated in (e) of Fig. 6, the information terminal 40 moves the window to the first packet (in this example, P_5) among packets for which packet loss events are recorded and which are packets subsequent to the top packet (in this example, P_4) in the window, and counts the number of packet loss events in the window. In the example illustrated in (e) of Fig. 6, the number of packet loss events is 2, which is less than the threshold y . Therefore, it is determined that the packet loss event recorded for P_5 is caused by radio noise or the like. Thus, the information terminal 40 sequentially determines whether each of the packet loss events recorded for P_1 to P_N is caused by congestion or by radio noise or the like.

[0072]

[3-2(2). Second Process of Calculating Packet Loss Rate]

Referring to the flowchart illustrated in Fig. 5, the detail of a second process of calculating a packet loss rate which is performed in an information terminal 40 will be described. The second process of calculating a packet loss rate is different from the first process of calculating a packet loss rate described above in that the window size is changeable and that the processing speed is improved.

[0073]

As illustrated in Fig. 5, the information terminal 40 performs an initial setting process for calculating a packet loss rate (S301). In the initial setting process, the packet loss counter C is set to 0, the variable i is set to 1, and the threshold y and the window size w are set to initial values. For example, the initial value of the window size may be set to any value equal to or more than the minimum value w_0 of the window size. The initial value of threshold y may be set to a larger value among $\alpha \cdot w$ and the minimum value y_0 of y . That is, an expression, $y = \max[\alpha \cdot w, y_0]$, may be used, where $0 < \alpha < 1$, and, for example, expressions, $w_0 = 3$, $y_0 = 3$, $\alpha = 0.5$, and the like, may be used in the setting.

[0074]

The information terminal 40 refers to the storage unit 42 to obtain RTTs (RTT_1 to RTT_N) of the respective packets P_1 to P_N and the information about the packet loss

events (E_1 to E_N) (S302). The information terminal 40 calculates the value of jitter J_i of the packet P_i on the basis of RTTs obtained for the packets P_1 to P_N (S303). The jitter J_i may be calculated by using an expression, $J_i = |RTT_{i+1} - RTT_i|$.

[0075]

The information terminal 40 selects the first packet P_j for which a packet loss event is recorded, from packets subsequent to P_i , i.e., P_i to P_N (S304). That is, E_i to E_N may be searched for the first event E_j whose value is equal to 1, and P_j corresponding to E_j may be selected.

[0076]

The information terminal 40 counts the number S_j of packet loss events included in w sequential packets P_j to P_{j+w-1} from the packet P_j (S305). For example, the information terminal 40 may calculate S_j by using Expression (2) described below.

[0077]

[Math. 2]

$$S_j = \sum_{s=j}^{j+w-1} E_s \quad \dots (2)$$

[0078]

If S_j counted in S305 is equal to or more than the threshold y (S306: Y), the information terminal 40 determines whether or not the value of RTT is increased in packets P_j to P_{j+w-1} (S307). For example in S307, the information terminal 40 may determine whether or not the value of RTT is sequentially increased in packets for which packet loss events are recorded among the packets P_j to P_{j+w-1} .

[0079]

If it is determined that the value of RTT is increased in the packets P_j to P_{j+w-1} (S307: Y), the information terminal 40 determines whether or not the jitter values of the packets P_j to P_{j+w-1} are equal to or more than a threshold (S308). For example in S308, the information terminal 40 may determine whether or not each of the jitter values of packets for which packet loss events are recorded among the packets P_j to P_{j+w-1} is equal to or more than a threshold (J_0), that is, may determine whether or not an increase in RTT is equal to or more than the threshold.

[0080]

If the conditions in S306, S307, and S308 are satisfied (S306: Y, S307: Y,

S308: Y), the information terminal 40 increments the packet loss counter C (adds 1 to C) (S309), and updates the window size w with a larger value among (w-1) and the minimum value w₀ of w (S310).

[0081]

If either of the conditions S306, S307, and S308 is not satisfied (S306: N, S307: N, or S308: N), the information terminal 40 adds 1 (or an integer larger than 1) to the window size w, and enlarges the window size (S311).

[0082]

After S310 or S311, if (j + w - 1) is less than N (S312: N), the information terminal 40 updates the threshold y with a larger value among $\alpha \cdot w$ and the minimum value y₀ of y (S313), adds the window size w_{old} which is a value before the update in S310 or S311, to the variable i (S314), and returns back to S304. If (j + w - 1) is equal to or more than N (S312: Y), the information terminal 40 calculates the packet loss rate p on the basis of the value of the packet loss counter C (S315), and returns. For example, the information terminal 40 may calculate the packet loss rate p by using an expression, $p = C/N$.

[0083]

Fig. 7 includes diagrams for describing a process of classifying recorded packet loss events into those caused by congestion and those caused by radio noise or the like, which is performed in the second process of calculating a packet loss rate.

[0084]

(a) of Fig. 7 illustrates an exemplary window size. In the example illustrated in (a) of Fig. 7, the initial value of the window size w is set to 4, the minimum value w₀ of w is set to 3, the initial value of the threshold y is set to 3, and the minimum value y₀ is set to 2. For the sake of simplicity, in the example described below, it is assumed that, when the number of packet loss events included in the window is equal to or more than the threshold, a packet loss event is determined to be caused by congestion; and, otherwise, a packet loss event is determined to be caused by radio noise or the like.

[0085]

(b) of Fig. 7 illustrates the values of packet loss events E₁ to E_N which are recorded for the packets P₁ to P_N. The value "0" indicates that no packet loss events are recorded, and the value "1" indicates that a packet loss event is recorded.

[0086]

As illustrated in (c) of Fig. 7, the information terminal 40 moves the window to the first packet (in this example, P_3) for which a packet loss event is recorded among the packets P_1 to P_N , and counts the number of packet loss events in the window. In the example illustrated in (c) of Fig. 7, the number of packet loss events is 3, which is equal to or more than the threshold y . Therefore, it is determined that the packet loss event recorded for P_3 is caused by congestion. Congestion is likely to continue. Therefore, the window size is reduced ($w = 4 - 1 = 3$), and the threshold y is updated in accordance with the reduced window size ($y = 2$).

[0087]

As illustrated in (d) of Fig. 7, the information terminal 40 moves the window to the first packet (in this example, P_8) among packets which have not been included in the window and for which packet loss events are recorded, and counts the number of packet loss events in the window. In the example illustrated in (d) of Fig. 7, the number of packet loss events is 1, which is less than the threshold y . Therefore, the packet loss event recorded for P_8 is determined to be caused by radio noise or the like. The window size is enlarged ($w = 3 + 1 = 4$), and the threshold y is also updated in accordance with the enlarged window size ($y = 3$).

[0088]

As illustrated in (e) of Fig. 7, the information terminal 40 moves the window to the first packet (in this example, P_{11}) among packets which have not been included in the window and for which packet loss events are recorded, and counts the number of packet loss events in the window. Thus, the information terminal 40 is capable of counting the number of packet loss events caused by congestion among the packet loss events recorded for P_1 to P_N .

[0089]

[4. Modified Embodiments]

The present invention is not limited to the embodiment described above. For example, the information terminal 40 may switch the process: when wireless communication is performed, the information terminal 40 calculates a packet loss rate according to the flows illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5; and, when wired communication is performed, the information terminal 40 uses the total number of packet loss events recorded in S114 in Fig. 3 without conversion to calculate a packet loss rate. That is,

when wired communication is performed, the information terminal 40 may calculate a packet loss rate by using Expression (3) described below.

[0090]

[Math. 3]

$$p = \sum_{i=1}^N E_i / N \quad \dots (3)$$

[0091]

In the embodiment described above, the example in which a bandwidth is calculated on the basis of the rate of occurrence of lost packets caused by congestion is described. Alternatively, a bandwidth may be calculated by using an expression for calculating a bandwidth on the basis of the rate of occurrence of lost packets caused by radio noise or the like.

[0092]

In the embodiment described above, the example in which an information terminal 40 measures the bandwidth is described. Alternatively, the information distribution server 10 may measure the bandwidth.

Reference Signs List

[0093]

- 1 information distribution system
- 10 information distribution server
- 11 controller
- 12 storage unit
- 13 communication unit
- 20 network
- 30 base station apparatus
- 40 information terminal
- 41 controller
- 42 storage unit
- 43 communication unit
- 44 input unit
- 45 display unit

CLAIMS

[Claim 1]

A communication-information measuring device characterized by comprising:

transmitting means for sequentially transmitting one or more packets to a communication target apparatus;

receiving means for receiving acknowledgments for the transmitted packets from the communication target apparatus;

recording means for recording a round trip time and occurrence of packet loss for each of the transmitted packets on the basis of the transmitted packet and the acknowledgment for the transmitted packet;

counting means for counting the number of packet sequences among one or more packet sequences, each of the one or more packet sequences having a plurality of continuous packets including one or more packets at the top, each of the one or more packets being a packet for which packet loss is recorded by the recording means among the transmitted packets, each of the packet sequences being such that the number of packet losses included in the packet sequence and an increase state of the round trip time for packets included in the packet sequence satisfy respective predetermined conditions; and

calculating means for calculating a packet loss ratio on the basis of the number counted by the counting means and the number of transmitted packets.

[Claim 2]

The communication-information measuring device according to Claim 1,

characterized in that the recording means records occurrence of packet loss if either of conditions is satisfied, the conditions being that a packet having been transmitted by the transmitting means is retransmitted, that the acknowledgment received by the receiving means is a retransmitted acknowledgment, and that a sequence of acknowledgments of a predetermined type is present among the acknowledgments received by the receiving means, the sequence having a predetermined length.

[Claim 3]

The communication-information measuring device according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized by further comprising:

determining means for determining whether or not a condition is satisfied, the condition being that the number of packet losses included in each of the packet sequences is equal to or more than a first threshold, that the round trip time for packets included in the packet sequence is sequentially increased, and that an increase in the round trip time for each of the packets included in the packet sequence is equal to or more than a second threshold,

wherein the counting means counts the number of packet sequences determined to be packet sequences satisfying the condition by the determining means, among the one or more packet sequences.

[Claim 4]

The communication-information measuring device according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized by further comprising:

selecting means for sequentially selecting a packet sequence by sequentially selecting a packet from the top of a sequence of packets for which packet loss is recorded by the recording means among the transmitted packets, the sequentially selected packet sequence having a plurality of continuous packets in which the selected packet is present at the top,

wherein the determining means sequentially determines whether or not the sequentially selected packet sequence satisfies the condition.

[Claim 5]

The communication-information measuring device according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized by further comprising:

selecting means for sequentially selecting a packet sequence by sequentially selecting a packet from the top of a sequence of unprocessed packets for which packet loss is recorded by the recording means among the transmitted packets, the sequentially selected packet sequence including packets, the number of which is equal to a window size and in which the selected packet is present at the top, the window size being two or more,

wherein the determining means determines whether or not the sequentially

selected packet sequence satisfies the condition, and

when the determining means determines that the condition is satisfied, the window size is increased, and, when the determining means determines that the condition is not satisfied, the window size is decreased.

[Claim 6]

The communication-information measuring device according to Claim 5, characterized by further comprising:

updating means for, when the window size is changed, updating the first threshold with a larger value among the window size and a predetermined minimum value.

[Claim 7]

The communication-information measuring device according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, characterized by further comprising:

bandwidth calculating means for calculating a bandwidth of communication with the communication target apparatus on the basis of Expression (1) described below, where p represents a packet loss ratio calculated by the calculating means, RTT is a typical value of the round trip time recorded for the transmitted packets, MSS represents a maximum segment size of the transmitted packets, and C and k are predetermined constants.

[Math. 1]

$$BW \leq C \cdot \frac{MSS}{RTT} \cdot \frac{1}{p^k} \quad \dots (1)$$

[Claim 8]

The communication-information measuring device according to any one of Claims 1 to 7,

characterized in that, when wireless communication is performed, the calculating means calculates a packet loss ratio on the basis of the number counted by the counting means and the number of transmitted packets, and

when wired communication is performed, the calculating means calculates a packet loss ratio on the basis of the number of packets for which packet loss is

recorded by the recording means among the transmitted packets and the number of transmitted packets.

[Claim 9]

A program for causing a computer to function as:

transmitting means for sequentially transmitting one or more packets to a communication target apparatus;

receiving means for receiving acknowledgments for the transmitted packets from the communication target apparatus;

recording means for recording a round trip time and occurrence of packet loss for each of the transmitted packets on the basis of the transmitted packet and the acknowledgment for the transmitted packet;

counting means for counting the number of packet sequences among one or more packet sequences, each of the one or more packet sequences having a plurality of continuous packets including one or more packets at the top, each of the one or more packets being a packet for which packet loss is recorded by the recording means among the transmitted packets, each of the packet sequences being such that the number of packet losses included in the packet sequence and an increase state of the round trip time for packets included in the packet sequence satisfy respective predetermined conditions; and

calculating means for calculating a packet loss ratio on the basis of the number counted by the counting means and the number of transmitted packets.