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8. Biological material	
The invention uses and/or relates to biological material deposited under Rule 31 EPC.	☐
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The international application discloses nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences.	☐
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The sequence listing is attached in computer-readable format in accordance with WIPO Standard ST.25	☐
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AL AT BE BG CH&LI CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR

11. Extension of the European patent

This application is deemed to be a request to extend the European patent application and the European patent granted in respect of it to all the non-contracting states to the EPC designated in the international application and with which extension agreements are in force on the date on which the international application is filed. However, the extension only takes effect if the prescribed extension fee is paid.

It is currently intended to pay the extension fee for the following states:

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12. List of enclosed documents

	Description of document	Original file name	Assigned file name
1	Combined Translations	w2364ep-desc.pdf	SPECTRANEPO-1.pdf
2	Combined Translations	w2364ep-claims.pdf	SPECTRANEPO-2.pdf
3	Combined Translations	w2364ep-ab.pdf	SPECTRANEPO-3.pdf
4	Combined Translations	w2364ep-figs.pdf	SPECTRANEPO-4.pdf

13. Mode of payment: Not specified

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14. Any refunds should be made to the following EPO deposit account:

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Vossius & Partner, 28000321

15. Fees

16. Annotations

16-1. Note (for EPO) (EP Phase)

Non-payment of the fees (Dr. Dieter Heunemann)

The fees will be paid separately.

16-2. Note (for EPO) (EP Phase)

Request to change title (Dr. Dieter Heunemann)

It is herewith requested to change the title to read as follows: Network System And Network Flow Tracing Method

17. Signature(s) of applicant(s) or representative

Place: Munich
Date: 25 July 2013
Signed by: /Dr. Dieter Heunemann/
Association: Vossius & Partner
Capacity: (Representative)

Table for section 6 of Form 1200.3

In accordance with the Notice from the European Patent Office dated 26 January 2009 concerning the 2009 fee structure (OJ EPO 2009, 118, and Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, April 2009, A-III, 13.2), the amount of the additional fee (Art. 2, item 1a, Rules relating to Fees) for the pages of this European patent application is calculated as follows:

Documents intended for proceedings before the EPO (R. 159 (1) (b) EPC) and for calculating the additional fee (Art. 2, item 1a, RFees):

		Page(s) from ... to ...	Number of pages
Description:	International application as published		21
	Translation of international application as published	1-24	
Claims:	International application as published	22-25	4
Drawings:	International application as published	1/4-4/4	4
	Translation of international application as published	1/4-4/4	
Abstract:	Default count: one page		1
Total number of pages			30
Fee-exempt pages (Art. 2, item 1a, RFees)			-35
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NETWORK SYSTEM AND NETWORK FLOW TRACING METHOD

Technical Field

The present invention relates to a network
5 system, and especially to a network flow tracing
method in a network system.

Background Art

As one of control systems of a network
10 system, a CU (C: control plane /U: user plane)
separation type network system is proposed in which a
node unit (user plane) is controlled from an external
control unit (control plane).

As an example of the CU separation type
15 network system, an open flow network system is
exemplified which uses an open flow (OpenFlow)
technique for controlling switches from a controller
for route control of the network. The details of the
open flow technique have been described in Non-Patent
20 Literature 1. It should be noted that the opening
flow network system is only an example.
(Explanation of open flow network system)

In the open flow network system, the
controller such as an OFC (OpenFlow Controller)
25 controls the conducts of switches such as OFSS
(OpenFlow Switches) by operating flow tables of the
switches. The controller and the switches are
connected with secure channels.

The switches in the open flow network system
30 form an open flow network, and are edge switches and
core switches which are under the control of the
controller. A series of processing from the reception
of packets (packets) in the edge switch on the input
side to the transmission of the packets to the edge
35 switch on the output side in the open flow network is
called a flow.

A packet may be referred to as a frame. A difference between the packet and the frame is only a difference in the unit of the data manipulated in the protocol (PDU: Protocol Data Unit). The packet is the
5 PDU of "TCP/IP" (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol). On the other hand, the frame is the PDU of "the Ethernet (the registered trademark)".

A flow table is a table which stores a flow
10 entry defining a predetermined operation (action) to be carried out to the packets (communication data) which match a predetermined match condition (rule).

The rule of the flow entry is defined based on various combinations of all or some of a destination
15 address, a source address, a destination port, and a source port, which are contained in a header field of each protocol hierarchy of the packet, and is identifiable. Also, the above address contains a MAC address (Media Access Control Address) and an IP
20 address (Internet Protocol Address). Also, in addition to the above, the data of an entrance port (Ingress Port) can be used for the rule of the flow entry. Also, a normal expression, an expression with wildcard "*" and so on of a part (or all) of a value
25 of the header field of the packet showing a flow can be used as the rule of the flow entry.

The action of the flow entry is any of operations such as operations of "outputting to a specific port", "discarding", and "rewriting a
30 header". For example, the switch outputs a packet to a corresponding port if data for identifying the output port (output port number and so on) is shown in the action of the flow entry, and discards the packet if data for identifying the output port is not shown.
35 Or, the switch rewrites the header of the packet based

on header data if the header data is shown in the action of the flow entry.

The switch in the open flow network system executes the action of the flow entry to a packet
5 group (a series of packets) which matches the rule of the flow entry.

In the flow-based network like the open flow network system, a group of packets (a series of packets) which match the rule (predetermined header
10 condition) of the flow entry is handled as a flow. By carrying out the monitoring and control of the traffic in a flow unit, the network can be controlled more flexibly than in a conventional network.

For example, when traffic between the server
15 and the client should be controlled for every user, it becomes possible to monitor the flow based on a combination of the IP addresses of the server and of the client in the end-to-end and to control a traffic quantity.

20 It should be noted that the current network has a very complicated configuration, and equipments having various functions such as a firewall and a load balancer (load distribution apparatus) are often arranged in the front-stage of the server and the
25 client machine. An advantage in the control of the flow-based network control is sometimes lost because of these equipments.

The equipments having a function of NAT (Network Address Translation) and NAPT (Network
30 Address Port Translation) translate a packet header. For example, the equipment having the function of the NAT rewrites an IP header, and the equipment having the function of NAPT rewrites an IP header and a layer 4 header.

35 Because the packet header has been translated when passing through such an equipment (hereinafter,

to be referred to as a header translating unit), the flow after the passage is different from the flow before the passage. Therefore, when relayed by such a header translating unit, the monitoring and control
5 for every flow in end-to-end cannot be carried out.

As the technique to solve such a problem, for example, a method of using header translation data retained by the header translating unit is known. Specifically, a method is thought of in which a unit
10 outputs an inquiry to the header translating unit to refer to an address translation table, and acquires the data of the packet header before the translation from the data of the packet header after the translation to find a corresponding flow.

15 However, this method can be realized if the header translating unit has an interface which can be inquired from an external unit and moreover the data of the address translation table can be referred to. If such conditions are not met, the header translating
20 unit must be changed and the conditions must be fit.

Also, as another method, Patent Literature 1 (JP 2005-210518A) discloses a transmission source tracing data providing apparatus and a transmission source tracing apparatus as an apparatus which carries
25 out IP trace-back.

As a representative example of the IP trace-back technique, there is ICMP trace-back (Internet Control Message Protocol Traceback) proposed by the ICMP traceback working group of IETF (Internet
30 Engineering Task Force). In the ICMP trace-back, a router unit on a route selects an IP packet of a trace target in a predetermined probability, generates trace data to this IP packet, and transmits the trace data to the destination of the IP packet by use of an ICMP
35 message, and then the destination unit displays the trace data.

There is a possibility that the correspondence relation of the separated flow by applying a similar technique to the above can be acquired.

5 However, in order to realize such a technique, the header translating unit needs a mechanism to transmit address translation data to the outside. Therefore, it is difficult to realize this without remodeling the header translating unit.

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Citation List

[Patent Literature 1] JP 2005-210518A

[Non-Patent Literature 1] "OpenFlow Switch Specification, Version 1.0.0",

15 [online] December 31, 2009, the Internet (URL: <http://www.openflowswitch.org/documents/openflow-spec-v1.0.0.pdf>)

Summary of the invention

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An object of the present invention is to provide a network system and a network flow tracing method in which a packet is encapsulated by using the same header as a current header in a switch, and has two kinds of headers before translation and after the translation after passing through a network appliance. It should be noted that the headers contain all the headers from layer 2 to layer 4. Specifically, the above-mentioned header is read as "all or a part of data for a rule of a flow entry".

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The network system according to the present invention is provided with a switch having a function to process a reception packet based on a set entry of a flow table; a controller having a function to receive an inquiry of the packet from the switch, and to set the entry defining a rule and an operation to uniformly control packets to the flow table of the

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switch; and an encapsulating module having a function to receive the packet from at least one of the switch and the controller and to encapsulate the packet by using a same header as a header of the packet.

5 The computer according to the present invention having a function as an encapsulating module, comprising: a unit for receiving a packet from at least one of a switch which has a function to process a reception packet based on a set entry of a
10 flow table, and a controller which has a function to receive an inquiry of the packet from the switch, and to set the entry defining a rule and an operation to uniformly control packets to the flow table of the switch; and a unit for encapsulating the packet by
15 using a same header as a header of the packet.

 In the network flow tracing method according to the present invention, a reception packet is processed based on a set entry of a flow table in a switch. Also, an inquiry of the packet from the
20 switch is received, and the entry defining a rule and an operation to uniformly control packets is set to the flow table of the switch, in a controller. Also, the packet from at least one of the switch and the controller is received and the packet is encapsulated
25 by using a same header as a header of the packet, in an encapsulating module.

 The program according to the present invention makes a computer which has a function as an encapsulating module, execute: a step of receiving a
30 packet from at least one of a switch which has a function to process a reception packet based on a set entry of a flow table, and a controller which has a function to receive an inquiry of the packet from the switch, and to set the entry defining a rule and an
35 operation to uniformly control packets to the flow table of the switch; and a step of encapsulating the

packet by using a same header as a header of the packet. That is, the program according to the present invention is a program to make a computer execute processing in the above-mentioned network flow tracing method. It should be noted that the program according to present invention can be stored in a storage unit or a storage medium.

In the flow-based network like the open flow network system, even when passed through network appliance such as NAT and NAPT for translating the packet header, a corresponding relation between two flows before and after the passage can be grasped, and the tracing of the flow in end-to-end becomes possible.

15

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a diagram showing a basic configuration example of a network system according to the present invention and change of a packet in the system;

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FIG. 2 is a flow chart showing processing of an encapsulating module to a switch in the front of a header translating unit;

FIG. 3 is a flow chart showing processing of the encapsulating module to the switch in the back of the header translating unit; and

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FIG. 4 is a diagram showing the concept of the network system according to the present invention and exemplary embodiments.

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Description of Exemplary Embodiments

The present invention deals with a CU separation type network system. In this case, an open flow network system as one of the CU separation type network systems will be described, using it as an

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example. However, actually, the present invention is not limited to the open flow network system.

[Exemplary Embodiments]

Hereinafter, exemplary embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the attached drawings.

(Basic structure)

As shown in FIG. 1, the network system according to the present invention includes a controller 10, switches 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n: n is the number of switches), and a header translating unit 30. (Controller)

When detecting the switch 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n), the controller 10 calculates a packet transfer route based on topology data showing a connection state of the switches in the network, and registers an entry (flow entry) on a flow table of each of the switches related to the calculated route.

(Switch)

Each of the switches 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n) transfers a received packet according to an entry registered on its own flow table. In this case, it is supposed that each of the switches 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n) is a virtual switch. The virtual switch is a switch realized by a virtual machine which operates on a physical machine. However, actually, each of the switches 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n) may be a physical switch in which software to realize a function as the switch according to the present invention is installed.

Also, the switch 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n) cooperates with an encapsulating module 21 (21-i, i = 1 to n). The encapsulating module 21 (21-i, i = 1 to n) carries out encapsulation of an IP packet.

It should be noted that the encapsulating module 21 (21-i, i = 1 to n) may be built in the

physical machine in which the switch 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n) operates and may be connected with the physical machine. For example, the encapsulating module 21 (21-i, i = 1 to n) may operate on a computer which can
5 communicate with the physical machine.

(Header translating unit)

The header translating unit 30 translates the header data of a packet received from a predetermined switch 20 and transfers to another switch 20.

10 (Exemplification of hardware)

An example of the specific hardware to realize the network system according to the present invention will be described below.

As an example of the controller 10, computers
15 such as a PC (personal computer), appliance, a thin client terminal/server, a workstation, a mainframe, and a supercomputer are assumed. Also, the controller 10 may be an extension board which is installed in the computer and a virtual machine (VM) built on a
20 physical machine.

As an example of a physical machine on which the switch 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n) operates as a virtual switch and the header translating unit 30, a network switch, a router, a proxy, a gateway, a firewall, a
25 load balancer, a base station, an access point, a computer which has a plurality of communication ports and so on are exemplified.

Each of the controller 10 and the physical machine on which the switch 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n)
30 operates, and the header translating unit 30 is realized by a processor which executes predetermined processing based on a program, a memory which stores the program and all kinds of data, and a communication interface to connect with network.

35 As an example of the above-mentioned processor, a CPU (Central Processing Unit), a network

processor (NP), a microprocessor, a microcontroller and a semiconductor integrated circuit (LSI) and so on which has a function of an exclusive use are exemplified.

5 As an example of the above-mentioned memory, a semiconductor memory device such as RAM (Random Access Memory), ROM (Read Only Memory), EEPROM (Electrically Erasable and Programmable Read Only Memory) and a flash memory, an auxiliary storage such
10 as HDD (Hard Disk Drive) and SSD (Solid State Drive), a removable disk such as DVD (Digital Versatile Disk), a storage medium such as an SD memory card (Secure Digital memory card) and so on are exemplified.

 It should be noted that the above-mentioned
15 processor and the above-mentioned memory may be unified. For example, in recent years, a 1-chip microcomputer is being developed. Therefore, a case that the 1-chip microcomputer installed in the computer and so on is composed of a processor and a
20 memory is thought of.

 As an example of the above-mentioned communication interface, a substrate (motherboard, and an I/O board) corresponding to the network communication, a semiconductor integrated circuit of a
25 chip and so on, a network adapter such as NIC (Network Interface Card), a similar expansion card, a communication device such as an antenna, a communication port such as a connection mouth (connector) and so on are exemplified.

30 Also, as an example of the network, the Internet, LAN (Local Area Network), wireless LAN (Wireless LAN), WAN (Wide Area Network), backbone, CATV line, fixation telephone network, mobile phone network, WiMAX (IEEE 802.16a), 3G (3rd Generation),
35 dedicated line (leased line), IrDA (Infrared Data Association), Bluetooth (registered trademark), serial

communication line, data bus and so on are exemplified.

As an example of the encapsulating module 21 (21-i, i = 1 to n), software or virtual machine which operates on the same physical machine as the switch 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n) are assumed. However, actually, the encapsulating module 21 (21-i, i = 1 to n) may be the software or the virtual machine which operates on an external server to which each of the switches 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n) can access. Also, the encapsulating module 21 (21-i, i = 1 to n) may be an exclusive use device, an expansion board or a peripheral device which is installed in the physical machine, an intermediate equipment (middle box) on the network in addition to the software.

However, actually, the present invention is not limited to these examples.
(Operation of controller)

The controller 10 previously sets "the encapsulation of a packet in a predetermined flow" to the encapsulating module 21-1 of the switch 20-1. Specifically, the controller 10 previously sets "duplicating the IP header of the packet in a predetermined flow, encapsulating a packet with the same header as the IP header, and transferring the encapsulated packet" to the encapsulating module 21-1 of the switch 20-1. In this case, an example of using the IP header is described, but the IP header is only an example of the header. Actually, all the headers from layer 2 to layer 4 may be dealt with without limiting to the IP header of layer 3. Specifically, "the IP header" may be read as "a part or all of data which can function as a rule of the flow entry".

Also, the controller 10 previously sets "transmitting a pair of a header before translation and a header after the translation as header

translation data to the controller and cancelling
capsulation of a received packet by removing the
header after the translation if there is the header
after the translation, and replacing the header before
5 the translation with the header after the translation
if there is the header before the translation" to the
encapsulating module 21-2 of the switch 20-2. It
should be noted that "removing all the headers from
the reception packet once and then giving only the
10 header after the translation" may be set. Also,
"removing the second stage header (the header before
the translation) in the reception packet if there is
it" may be set.

(Operation of first switch)

15 Next, the switch 20-1 hands an inputted
packet to the encapsulating module 21-1. Here, the
inputted packet has the structure of "the IP header 1
- the payload".

 The encapsulating module 21-1 duplicates the
20 IP header 1 of the packet as set from the controller
10, encapsulates the packet with the same header as
the IP header 1 and transfers the packet. That is,
the IP header 1 is given to the payload doubly (two
stages) in the transferred packet. Therefore, the
25 packet transferred from the switch 20-1 has the
structure of "the IP header 1 - the IP header 1 - the
payload".

 In this case, "the IP header 1" at the head
of "the IP header 1 - the IP header 1 - the payload"
30 is the IP header of the encapsulated packet, and the
remaining part of "the IP header 1 - the payload"
(original packet) is a payload of the encapsulated
packet.

 It should be noted that as for the
35 encapsulation of the packet, for example, a method

such as GRE (Generic Routing Encapsulation) shown in RFC1701 and RFC2784 may be used.

(Operation of header translating unit)

Next, the header translating unit 30 refers
5 to the IP header 1 of the inputted packet, carries out the address translation processing to translate the IP header 1 into the IP header 2.

For example, when the destination IP address is a private address of "192.168.0.10", the header
10 translating unit 30 translates the IP header 1 of the inputted packet into the IP header 2 having the global address of "10.0.0.10" as the destination IP address.

In this way, the header translating unit 30 translates the IP header 1 of the inputted packet into
15 the IP header 2 having a different value and transfers the packet. In this case, the header translating unit 30 removes or translates a head part of the IP header 1 given doubly, and then transfers the packet after after giving the IP header 2 to the payload.

20 Therefore, the transferred packet has the structure of "the IP header 2 - the IP header 1 - the payload".

That is, when receiving the encapsulated packet from the switch 20-1, the header translating unit 30 translates "the IP header 1" of "the IP header
25 1 - the IP header 1 - the payload" at the head of of the IP header of the encapsulated packet into "the IP header 2". In this case, "the IP header 2" at the head of "the IP header 2 - the IP header 1 - the payload" is set as the IP header of the transferred
30 packet, and the remaining part (original packet) of "the IP header 1 - the payload" is set as the payload of the transferred packet.

(Operation of second switch)

Next, the switch 20-2 hands an inputted
35 packet to the encapsulating module 21-2.

"Transmitting a pair of the header after the translation and the header before translation as header translation data to the controller, carrying out processing of removing the header after the translation if it is present, and replacing the header before the translation with the header after the translation if it is preset" is set to the encapsulating module 21-2 from the controller 10. Or, "giving only the header after the translation after removing all the headers from the reception packet once" may be set. Or, "if there is a second-stage header (the header before the translation) in the reception packet, removing it" may be set.

In this case, the encapsulating module 21-2 checks whether or not the inputted packet is an encapsulated packet. If being the encapsulated packet, the encapsulating module 21-2 refers to the IP header 2 and the IP header 1 of "the IP header 2 - the IP header 1 - the payload", and generates header translation data based on a pair (or set) of them and transmits it to the controller 10.

In the above example, the header translation data indicates that the source IP address of "192.168.0.10" is changed to "10.0.0.10".

Also, the encapsulating module 21-2 removes the IP header 2 at the head of "the IP header 2 - the IP header 1 - the payload" to decapsulate the inputted encapsulated packet, and replaces "the IP header 1" with "the IP header 2" of the remaining portion of "the IP header 1 - the payload" (original packet).

In this way, the encapsulating module 21-2 removes the IP header 1 from the original packet and adds the IP header 2 to the payload, and then transfers the packet. Therefore, the configuration of the transferred packet is of "the IP header 2 - the payload".

By operating as mentioned above, the controller 10 can acquire the header translation data without improving the header translating unit 30, and trace the flow by using the data.

5 (Application example)

It should be noted that the controller 10 itself may carry out the processing of the switch 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n) ("encapsulation" on the transmission side and "decapsulation on the reception
10 side"). In this case, the controller 10 cooperates with the encapsulating module 21 (21-i, i = 1 to n). Also, the controller 10 and the encapsulating module 21 (21-i, i = 1 to n) may be an identical unit. The switch 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n) transmits the whole of
15 inputted packet to the controller 10 and receives the processing result as a response. For example, it is supposed that the controller 10 cooperates with the encapsulating module 21-1 and the encapsulating module 21-2 in FIG. 1, and that they are unified. The switch
20 20-1 transmits "the reception packet" to the controller 10 and receives "an encapsulated packet" from the controller 10 as the response. Also, the switch 20-2 transmits the "encapsulated packet" to the controller 10 and receives a "packet having only the
25 translated header" from the controller 10 as the response. Therefore, if the necessary processing can be carried out in a necessary place, the location of the encapsulating module 21 (21-i, i = 1 to n) may be on the side of the controller 10 or on the side of the
30 switch 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n). Of course, the processing may be carried out in both of the switch 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n) and the controller 10. For example, usual packets are processed on the switch 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n), and packets of an important flow
35 may be processed on the controller 10.

At this time, the encapsulating module 21 (21-i, i = 1 to n) may operate on a computer which can communicate with each of the controller 10 and the switches 20 (20-i, i = 1 to n).

5 Also, an example that the IP packet is translated by using NAT has been described here for simplification of description. A case that a MAC frame is translated by using MAT (MAC Address Translation) and a case that a TCP/UDP packet is
10 translated by using NAPT can be carried out in the same way. Not only the IP header of layer 3 but also the headers from layer 2 to layer 4 can be dealt with for the translation. Specifically, "the IP header (or header)" in the above description of the present
15 invention is read as "a part or whole of data for a rule of a flow entry".

(Operation of first encapsulating module)

Referring to a flow chart of FIG. 2, an operation of the encapsulating module 21-1 will be
20 described.

(1) Step S101

The encapsulating module 21-1 receives a packet. In this case, the configuration of the reception packet is of "the IP header 1 - the
25 payload".

(2) Step S102

Next, the encapsulating module 21-1 checks whether or not the reception packet is a packet of an encapsulation target.

30 (3) Step S103

In case of being the packet of the encapsulation target, the encapsulating module 21-1 refers to the IP header 1, duplicates the IP header 1 and carries out encapsulation by using the same IP
35 header 1. In this case, the configuration of the

packet is of "the IP header 1 - IP header 1 - the payload".

(4) Step S104

The encapsulating module 21-1 transfers the
5 packet through the switch 20-1. In case of being the
packet of the encapsulation target, the configuration
of the packet is of "the IP header 1 - the IP header 1
- the payload". In case of not being the packet of
the encapsulation target, the configuration of the
10 packet is of "the IP header 1 - the payload".

(Operation of header translating unit)

The header translating unit 30 translates the
IP header of the transferred packet. In case of being
the encapsulated packet, the header translating unit
15 30 translates the configuration of the packet from
"the IP header 1 - the IP header 1 - the payload" into
"the IP header 2 - the IP header 1 - the payload". In
case of not being the encapsulated packet, the header
translating unit 30 translates the configuration of
20 the packet from "the IP header 1 - the payload" into
"the IP header 2 - the payload".

Because the processing of the header
translating unit 30 is not processing peculiar to the
present invention but general header translation
25 processing, the description is omitted.

(Operation of second encapsulating module)

Next, referring to a flow chart of FIG. 3,
the processing of the encapsulating module 21-2 will
be described.

30 (1) Step S201

The encapsulating module 21-2 receives a
packet.

(2) Step S202

Next, the encapsulating module 21-2 checks
35 whether or not the reception packet is an encapsulated
packet. In case of being the encapsulated packet, the

configuration of the packet is of "the IP header 2 - the IP header 1 - the payload". In case of not being the encapsulated packet, the configuration of the packet is of "the IP header 2 - the payload".

5 (3) Step S203

In case of being the encapsulated packet, the encapsulating module 21-2 refers to the IP headers 2 and the IP headers 1 and generates header translation data. The header translation data is a pair (set) of
10 "the IP header 1" before the translation and "the IP header 2" after the translation.

(4) Step S204

Next, the encapsulating module 21-2 transmits the generated header translation data to the
15 controller 10.

(5) Step S205

Next, the encapsulating module 21-2 removes "the IP header 2" from the encapsulated packet of "the IP header 2 - the IP header 1 - the payload" and
20 replaces "the IP header 1" of "the IP header 1 - the payload" with "the IP header 2". At this time, the encapsulating module 21-2 retains "the IP header 2", which has been first removed, as the header after the translation, removes "the IP header 1" as the header
25 before the translation from "the IP header 1 - the payload", and adds "the IP header 2" as the header after the translation to "the payload". That is, "the IP header 1" as the header before the translation is substituted by "the IP header 2" as the header after
30 the translation. Or, after all the headers of "the IP header 2 - the IP header 1" are removed from the encapsulated packet of "the IP header 2 - the IP header 1 - the payload" once, only the header of "the IP header 2" is added to the payload after the
35 translation. Or, processing is carried out to remove the second header ("the IP header 1" as the header

before the translation) from the reception packet.
Thus, the configuration of the packet is of "the IP
header 2 - the payload".

(6) Step S206

5 The encapsulating module 21-2 transfers the
packet through the switch 20-2. The configuration of
the packet is of "the IP header 2 - the payload".

(Supplement)

 It should be noted that it is enough that the
10 controller 10 can acquire the header translation data
once. The encapsulation of the packet may be stopped
after the acquisition.

 As mentioned above, by the encapsulating
module 21-1 and the encapsulating module 21-2 carrying
15 out encapsulation of the packet and acquisition of the
header translation data, the controller grasps a
corresponding relation of the flows before the
translation and after the translation, and the trace
of the flow can be carried out even when passing
20 through the header translating unit.

<Points of the present invention>

 In the present invention, a technique is
disclosed which identifies flows in the front and back
of the header translating unit by using the
25 encapsulating function of the packet which is
installed in "OpenV Switch" as one of the switches in
the open flow.

 In the present invention, the switch in the
front of the header translating unit duplicates the
30 same header as the header of a packet and encapsulates
the packet, as shown in FIG. 4.

 Here, it is supposed that the status that the
packet PKT0 has the header H0 and the payload P0 is
represented as being "the packet PKT0 = (H0, P0)".

35 When receiving the packet PKT0, the switch S0
refers to the header H0 to duplicate the same header

H0, and encapsulates the packet PKT0 to generate the packet PKT1. That is, because the packet PKT1 has the header H0 and the payload (H0, P0), the packet PKT1 is represented as "the packet PKT1 = (H0, (H0, P0))".

5 Supposing that the packet after this packet PKT1 passes through the header translating unit T0 is PKT2, the packet PKT2 is represented as "the packet PKT2= (H1, (H0, P0))" because the header of the packet PKT2 is changed from the header H0 into header H1.

10 Next, when receiving the packet PKT2, the switch S1 compares (compares and refers) the header H1 and the header H0 in the payload. Thus, the switch S1 recognizes that the original header H0 is changed into the header H1 by the header translating unit T0.

15 The switch S1 decapsulates the packet PKT2, removes the header H1 from the packet PKT2, replaces the header H0 in the payload with the header H1, and forms the packet PKT3. That is, the switch S1 replaces "the packet PKT2= (H1, (H0, P0))" with "the
20 packet PKT3= (H1, P0)".

 After that, the switch S1 transmits the packet PKT3.

 In this way, the present invention can acquire the corresponding relation of the flows in the
25 front and back of the header translating unit without remodeling the header translating unit T0. Therefore, the trace of the flow becomes possible.

 At mentioned above, in the present invention, a packet is encapsulated in the switch (in the
30 controller which receives a request from the switch). In such a case, by encapsulating by using the same header as the current header, two kinds of headers before the translation and after the translation are attached to the packet after the packet has passed
35 through the network appliance. The trace of the flow becomes possible using this.

<Summary>

In the present invention, in the flow-based network like the open flow network system, by encapsulating a packet by using the same header as the current packet header, even when passed through a network appliance such as NAT and NAPT for changing the packet header, the corresponding relation of two flows before and after the passage can be grasped and the trace of the flows in end-to-end becomes possible.

Also, in the present invention, because only the packet header given by the encapsulation is translated and the translation data can be acquired by comparing with the packet header before the translation, the acquisition of the translation data of the packet header and the trace of the flows become possible without remodeling the network appliance by which a packet header is translated.

<Supplemental notes>

A part or all of the above-mentioned exemplary embodiments can be mentioned like the following supplemental notes. However, actually, the present invention is not limited to the following specified examples.

(Supplemental note 1)

A network system includes:

a switch having a function of searching a flow table which stores an entry defining a rule and an operation to uniformly control packets of a flow and carrying out the operation defined in the entry, to the reception packet matching the rule defined in the entry in case of the packet reception;

a controller having a function to receive an inquiry of the packet from the switch, and to set the entry to the flow table of the switch;

a header translating unit having a function to translate header data at a head of the reception

packet and to transfer the packet, in case of the packet reception; and

an encapsulating module having a function to check whether or not the packet received by the switch is an encapsulated packet; to duplicate header data of the packet in case of not being the encapsulated packet, to give the duplicated header data to the reception packet to encapsulate and to hand to the switch; to remove header data at a head of the encapsulated packet and to replace header data in a remaining part with the removed header data to hand to the switch in case of being the encapsulated packet; and to notify a set of the removed header data and the header data in the remaining part to the controller as header translation data.
(Supplemental note 2)

The network system according to supplemental note 1, wherein the encapsulating module has a function to duplicate a first header which is the header data of the reception packet of a first switch when the switch is the first switch in a front of the header translating unit, and to give the first header to the reception packet to transfer a packet, which has a configuration called "the first header - the first header - the payload" in which the first header is given doubly to the payload, through the first switch as the encapsulated packet,

wherein the header translating unit has a function to translate the first header at a head of the encapsulated packet into a second header when receiving the packet from the first switch, and to generate and transfer a packet which has a configuration called "the second header - the first header - the payload", and

wherein the encapsulating module has a function to refer to header data of a reception packet

of a second switch to notify a set of the first header and the second header to the controller as the header translation data, when the switch is the second switch in a back of the header translating unit, to remove
5 the second header at a head of the reception packet, to replace the first header in a remaining part with the second header, to generate a packet with a configuration called "the second header - the payload" and to transfer through the second switch.

10 (Supplemental note 3)

The network system according to supplemental note 1, wherein the encapsulating module is provided on a side of at least one of the switch and the controller, and has a function to receive the packet
15 directly from the switch when provided on the side of the switch, and to receive the packet from the switch through the controller when provided on the side of the controller.

(Supplemental note 4)

20 A computer having a function as an encapsulating module, and includes:

a unit for checking whether or not the reception packet is an encapsulated packet;

a unit for duplicating header data of the
25 packet when the reception packet is not the encapsulated packet;

a unit for giving the duplicated header data to the reception packet for encapsulation;

a unit for removing header data at a head of
30 the encapsulated packet when the reception packet is the encapsulated packet;

a unit for replacing the header data in the remaining part of the encapsulated packet with the removed header data; and

a unit for generating header translation data based on a set of the header data in the remaining part and the removed header data.

<Remarks>

5 As such, the exemplary embodiments of the present invention have been described in detail. However, actually, the present invention is not limited to the above-mentioned exemplary embodiments and a modification which does not deviate from the
10 features of the present invention is contained in the present invention.

 It should be noted that the present application claims a priority based on Japan Patent Application No. JP 2011-031752. The disclosure
15 thereof is incorporated herein by reference.

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CLAIMS

1. A network system comprising:
a switch having a function to process a
reception packet based on a set entry of a flow table;
5 a controller having a function to receive an
inquiry of the packet from said switch, and to set the
entry defining a rule and an operation to uniformly
control packets to said flow table of said switch; and
an encapsulating module having a function to
10 receive the packet from at least one of said switch
and said controller and to encapsulate the packet by
using a same header as a header of the packet.

2. The network system according to claim 1,
15 further comprising:
a header translating unit having a function
to translate header data at a head of the reception
packet to transfer to another switch, when receiving
the packet from said switch,
20 wherein said encapsulating module has a
function to receive a packet to which a header before
translation and a header after the translation are
given, when the encapsulated packet is transferred
through said header translating unit, and to notify a
25 set of the header before the translation and the
header after the translation to said controller.

3. The network system according to claim 1 or 2,
wherein said encapsulating module has:
30 a function to check whether or not a packet
received by said switch is an encapsulated packet;
a function to duplicate header data of the
packet in case of not being the encapsulated packet,
and to give the duplicated header data to the
35 reception packet to encapsulate and to hand to said
switch;

a function to notify a set of header data at a head of the encapsulated packet and header data of an original packet to said controller as header translation data, in case of being the encapsulated
5 packet; and

a function to translate the encapsulated packet to a packet to which only the header data at the head is given, and to hand to said switch.

10 4. A computer which has a function as an encapsulating module, comprising:

means for receiving a packet from at least one of a switch which has a function to process a reception packet based on a set entry of a flow table,
15 and a controller which has a function to receive an inquiry of the packet from said switch, and to set the entry defining a rule and an operation to uniformly control packets to said flow table of said switch; and

means for encapsulating the packet by using a
20 same header as a header of the packet.

5. The computer according to claim 4, further comprising:

means for receiving a packet to which a
25 header before translation and a header after the translation are given, when the encapsulated packet is transferred through a header translating unit which has a function to translate header data at a head of the reception packet to transfer to another switch,
30 when receiving the packet from said switch, and referring to the header before the translation and the header after the translation.

6. The computer according to claim 4 or 5,
35 wherein said computer comprises:

means for checking whether or not the reception packet is an encapsulated packet;

means for duplicating header data of the packet in case of not being the encapsulated packet;

5 means for giving the duplicated header data to the reception packet to encapsulate;

means for generating header translation data based on a set of header data at a head of the encapsulated packet and header data of an original
10 packet, in case of being the encapsulated packet; and

means for translating the encapsulated packet to a packet to which only the header data at the head is given.

15 7. A network flow tracing method comprising:
processing a reception packet based on a set entry of a flow table in a switch;

receiving an inquiry of the packet from said switch, and setting the entry defining a rule and an
20 operation to uniformly control packets to said flow table of said switch, in a controller; and

receiving the packet from at least one of said switch and said controller and encapsulating the packet by using a same header as a header of the
25 packet, in an encapsulating module.

8. A storage medium which stores a program for making a computer which has a function as an encapsulating module, executing:

30 a step of receiving a packet from at least one of a switch which has a function to process a reception packet based on a set entry of a flow table, and a controller which has a function to receive an inquiry of the packet from said switch, and to set the
35 entry defining a rule and an operation to uniformly control packets to said flow table of said switch; and

a step of encapsulating the packet by using a same header as a header of the packet.

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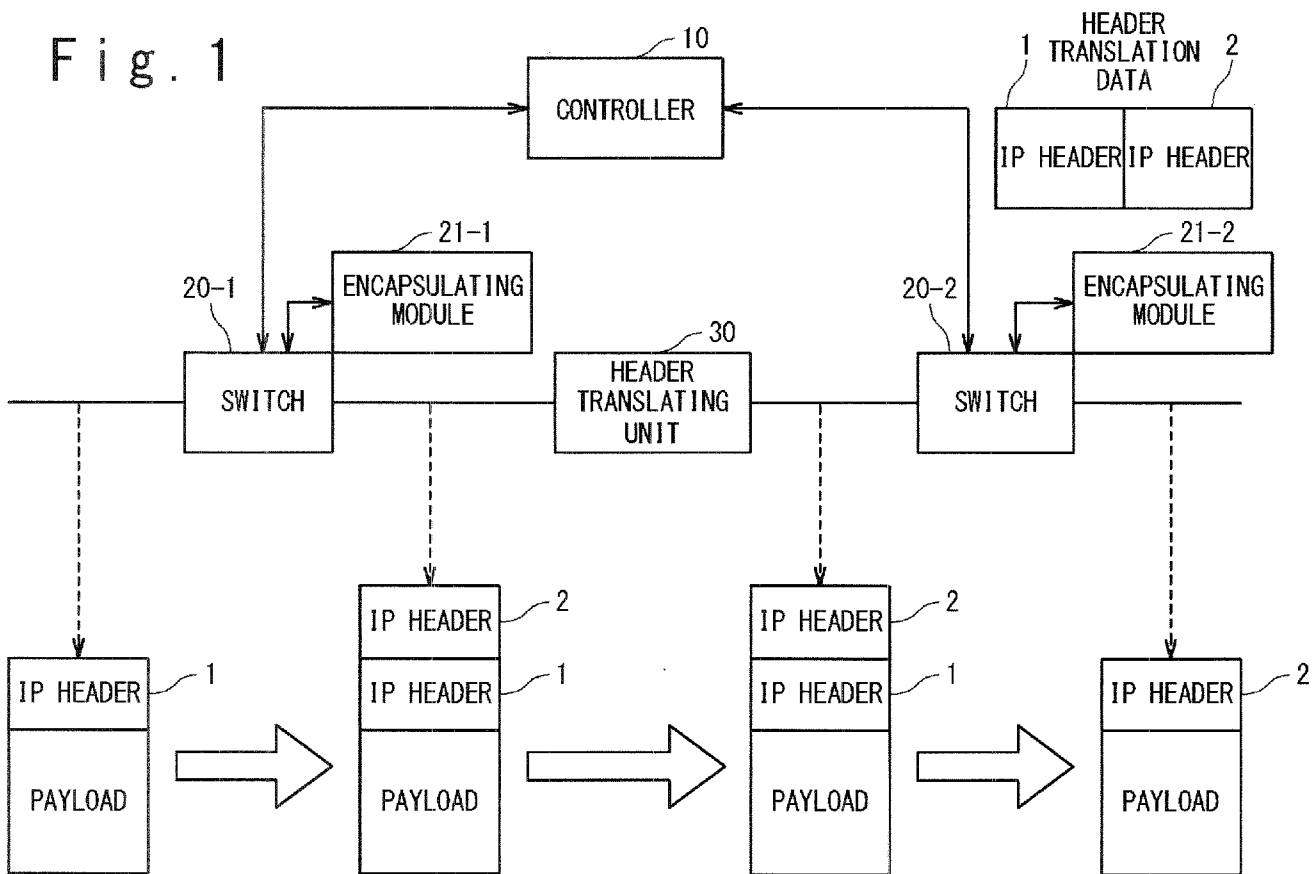
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ABSTRACT

In a flow-based network such as an open flow network system, even when a network appliance such as NAT and NAPT for translating a packet header is passed through, a correspondence relation of two flows before and after the passing can be grasped to make it possible to trace the flow in end-to-end. Specifically, a packet is encapsulated in a switch (or in a controller requested from the switch). By encapsulating by using the same header as a current header, two kinds of headers before the translation and after the translation are attached to the packet after the packet phases through the network appliance.

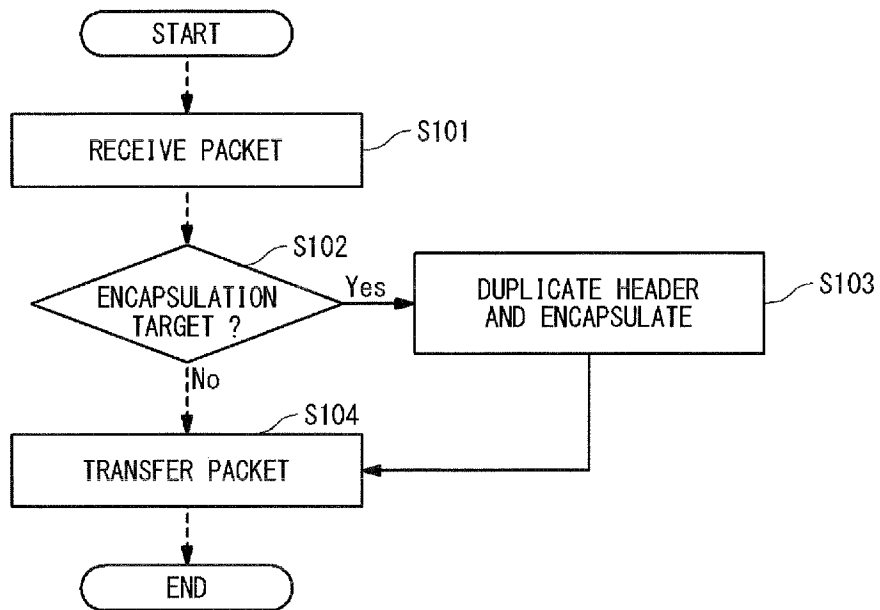
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Fig. 2



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Fig. 3

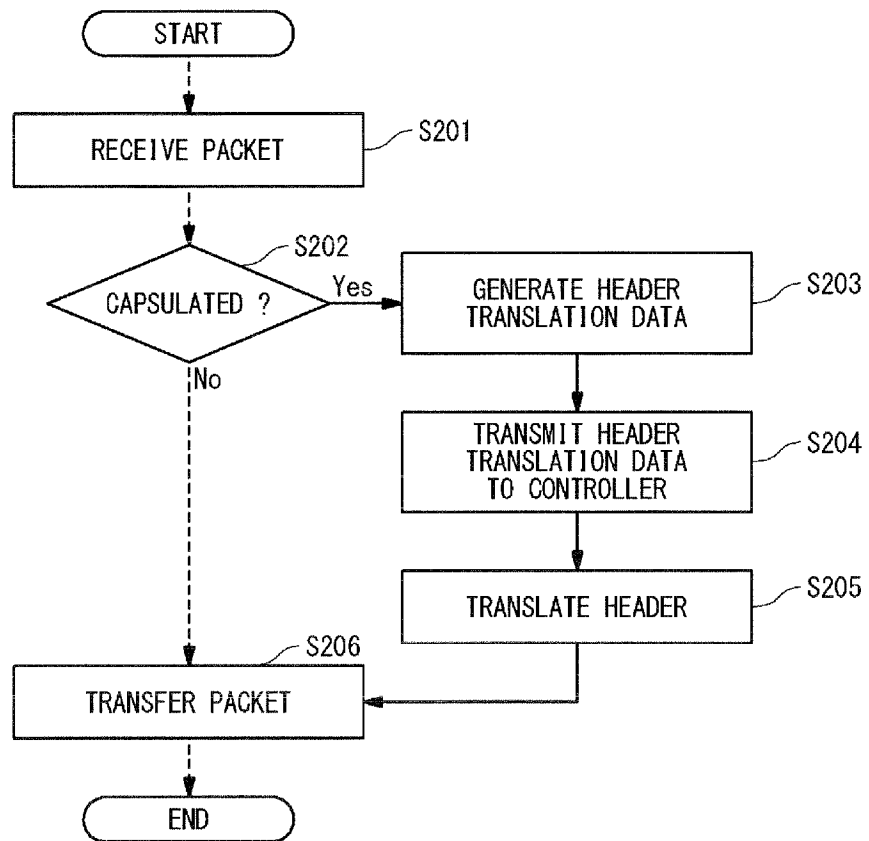
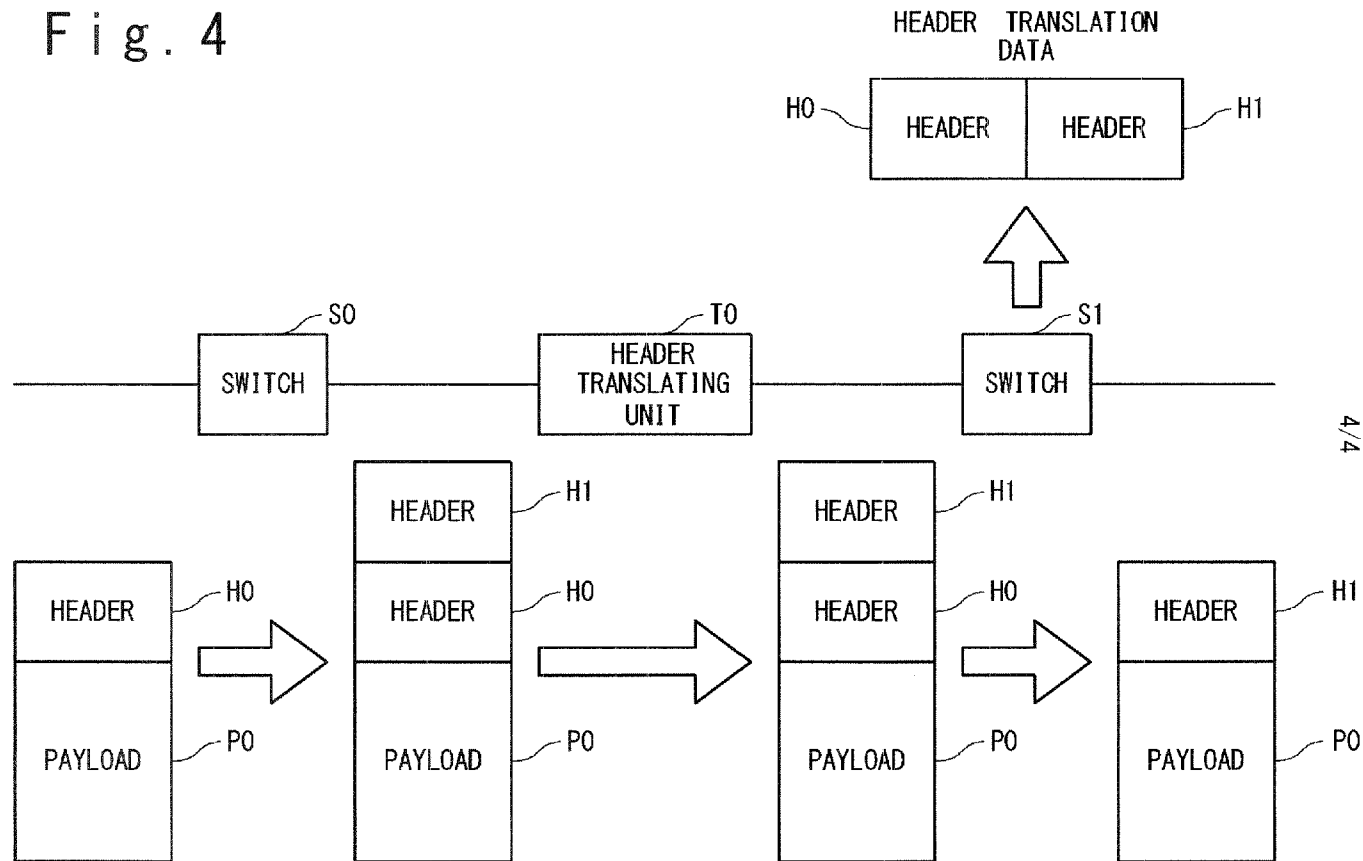


Fig. 4



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We hereby acknowledge receipt of the form for entry into the European phase (EPO as designated or elected Office) as follows:

Submission number	2232947	
PCT application number	PCT/JP2011/078439	
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Date of receipt	25 July 2013	
Receiving Office	European Patent Office, The Hague	
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Documents submitted	package-data.xml application-body.xml SPECTRANEPO-1.pdfw2364ep-desc.pdf (24 p.) SPECTRANEPO-3.pdfw2364ep-ab.pdf (1 p.) feesheetint.pdf (1 p.)	ep-euro-pct.xml epf1200.pdf (4 p.) SPECTRANEPO-2.pdfw2364ep-claims.pdf (4 p.) SPECTRANEPO-4.pdfw2364ep-figs.pdf (4 p.)
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