

The Parameter Optimization in Multiple Layered Deduplication System

Mikito Ogata¹ and Norihisa Komoda²

¹Hitachi Computer Peripherals Co., Ltd., 781 Sakai, Nakai-machi, Ashigarakami-gun, 259-0180, Kanagawa, Japan

²Osaka University, 2-1 Yamadaoka, Suita, 565-0824, Osaka, Japan

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Abstract: This paper proposes a multiple layered deduplication system for backup operation in IT environment. The proposed system reduces the duplication in data by using a series of algorithms which are installed with different chunk sizes in descendent order. Our research defines the models and formula for the cumulative deduplication rate and processing time over multiple layers of the system, then, points out the efficiency is heavily affected by how to assign the chunk sizes in each layer in order to achieve the optimal assignment. Finally, the efficiency of the proposal is compared to a conventional single layer deduplication system to assure the improvement.

1 INTRODUCTION

Due to the explosive increase of the data in IT system, the resource usage, the processing time and the managing cost for backup operation are becoming a burden to the system, while it is recognized as an indispensable operation to protect the data in case of unpredictable disaster. Major requirements to backup operations are to shorten the processing time and to reduce the resource usage, especially storage capacity. Recently, the technology called deduplication has become popular to reduce the burden. This is a technology to eliminate the duplication of the backup target data and store only unique data in the storage. The reduction of stored data reduces not only the backup storage cost but also other resources running workload. Various techniques have been proposed so far to provide more deduction with less processing time from the point view of more cost-effective backup operation (Y. Tan et al., 2010) (Y. Won et al., 2008) (B. Zhu et al., 2008). However, the trade-off between the improvement of the rate and the time makes it difficult to improve both rate and time simultaneously.

This paper points out the trade-off is hard to overcome only by using single layer deduplication system, then, proposes the multiple layered deduplication system breaks the trade-off and achieves higher efficiency than the conventional one. We make the formula to represent the efficiency, then, define Pareto optimal solution and analyze the tendency of the affection of chunk sizes of each layer in order to max-

imize the rate or minimize the processing time, finally, show the improvement of our proposed method in comparison to the conventional method.

2 CONVENTIONAL APPROACH AND THE ISSUES

2.1 Single Layer Deduplication System

The conventional deduplication backup system consists of single module, which has the associated deduplication algorithm. The module analyzes the target data, identify the segments, distinguish the duplicated area from the unique or newly updated area, then transfer and store only the unique data in the storage. Backup target data includes various types of files, such as imaging, documents, compressed files, structured M2M data and so on. The duplication level included in the data also depends on the environments, for example some are scarcely duplicated because it was much edited, changed or updated, some are densely duplicated because it was rarely changed, just replicated or copied, and so on.

Figure 1 shows the typical operational flow of the deduplication process from reading the target data and finalizing to store the unique data.

The size of the box is not to scale. A module divides the target data in small segments called 'Chunk's which are the unit of reduce or

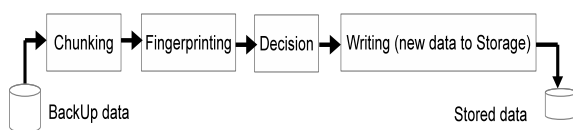


Figure 1: Deduplication process.

store(Chunking). Commonly used dividing mechanism is fixed length chunking or variable length chunking. Fixed length chunking divides the data into the same length chunks. Variable length chunking divides into different length chunks. Typical implementation of variable length chunking scans the data from the starting bytes to the end in sequence with short length window using like Rabin's algorithm(M. O. Rabin, 1981), then a special value in the window is recognized as a boundary of the chunks(U. Manber, 1994)(A. Muthitacharoen et al., 2001). This paper call the value 'anchor'. The average chunk size is defined from how many bits is taken in the window bandwidth. Next, the module calculates the unique code from the chunk data to analyze the similarity of chunks(Fingerprinting). The codes are calculated for example by SHA-1, SHA-256, MD5 algorithms(J. Burrows and D. O. C. W. DC, 1995)(R. Rivest, 1992). This paper call the codes 'fingerprint'. Next the module decides the uniqueness of each chunk using the codes(Decision), such that the chunk is duplicated that the same chunk has been stored or not duplicated that all previous chunks are different. Finally, the module write out only the unique data into the storage(Writing).

Backup target data includes various types of files, such as images, documents, compressed files, structured M2M data and so on(N. Park and D J. Lilj, 2010). The duplication level included in the data also depends on the environments, for example some are scarcely duplicated because it was much edited, changed or updated, some are densely duplicated because it was rarely changed, just replicated or copied, and so on.

2.2 Issues

Many approaches have been proposed and implemented with the aim of increasing the deduplication rate and decreasing the processing time. These approaches are applied only for the improvement of single layer deduplication system. Some typical techniques are to choose fixed or variable chunking method, use bloom filter, construct the layered index table and become aware of the data contents and so on(Y. Tan et al., 2010)(C. Liu et al., 2008)(Y. Won et al., 2008)(B. Zhu et al., 2008). How to choose the adequate chunk size in practice is a sensitive factor

of the algorithm, because that affects the total system behavior. In many cases, it is determined based on the reasonable balance of the performance and the deduplication capability for a hypothetical environment(D. Meister and A. Brinkmann, 2009)(C. Dubnicki et al., 2009)(Quantum Corporation, 2009)(EMC Corporation, 2010)(G. Wallace et al., 2012).

The trade-off between the chunk size and the processing time is not easy to overcome. A smaller chunk size provides more precise reduction of duplication, a bigger one provides more coarse. At the same time, a smaller chunk size requires more CPU and IO intensive processing time, a bigger one does less time. Further, it is a non-linear correlation, that is, for a smaller chunk size, the processing time increases more steeply as the size decreases.

On the other hand, in typical user environment, the time tolerance for backup operation is pre-defined. The time tolerance is decided to minimize the impact by an operation for system continuity. One important factor is a period of time during which backup are permitted to run. It should be decided to assure the least interference with normal operations. We call it as Backup-window. In these cases, even if the system desires more precise deduplication for reducing the storing capacity and cost, the Backup-window cannot allow to use the adequate small size. In practical environment, bigger chunk size is adapted to maintain required performance as a compromise.

In addition, smaller chunk size causes disadvantages as well as advantages, for example, the smaller chunk works efficiently to reduce the duplication in case that the duplicate area is adequately spread out across the data, but works inefficiently when the duplicate area is heavily or sparsely localized. When the duplication is heavy or sparse, smaller chunk wastes the time of chunking and decision. The continuous appearance of duplicate area or unique area cause less productive chunking process. In this case, smaller chunk size is not beneficial in comparison with bigger chunk size. In typical user environment, periodical full backup scenario is popular to help a safe disaster recovery, in this situation, the target data includes a lot of duplicate area, therefore smaller chunk size may be inefficient. On the other hand, in the situation when periodical differential backup scenario is used to reduce a excessive cost, the target data includes duplicate area with less density, ex. a half. Thus, the efficiency of the chunk size depends on the amount and locality of duplication embedded in the target data. This makes it difficult to choose the size uniformly over all different environments.

3 MULTIPLE LAYERED DEDUPLICATION SYSTEM

3.1 Overview

Analysis described above indicates it would be beneficial to the system if a new approach can increase the deduplication rate with less penalty for the processing time. In addition, if the implementation provides stability even in case of densely or sparsely duplicated data, it is useful to configure universal backup systems over various environments. We propose a multiple layered deduplication system that can reduce the duplication by using bigger chunk size in case that the duplication is heavier and by using smaller chunk size in case that the duplication is lighter.

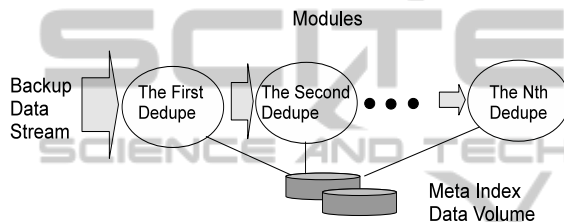


Figure 2: Multiple layered deduplication.

Figure 2 shows the system configuration of multiple layered deduplication system. Backup target data are deduplicated by a series of modules. Each module has an independent deduplication algorithm installed. The data are ingested into the first module for the first reduction, then the residual data are ingested from the first module into the second module for the second reduction, and the same shall apply hereafter.

Backup target data includes duplicated area, which is equal to previously stored data, as well as unique area, which does not match any previous one. Here, the rate of amount of duplicated area to all of data is called 'Duplication Rate'. How much data can be reduced by a module depends on the algorithm installed in it, especially the chunk size. We implement the chunk size in descending order over the layers. The time tolerance is predefined as Backup-window.

In practice, the implementation of multiple layered deduplication system happen to produce an excessive capacity tentatively during the process. The story is that an original data is ingested, duplicated portion are checked and removed while retaining new chunks by the first module, then the new chunks are ingested into the second module. It divides the chunk in smaller chunks and checks the duplication more precisely. At first changing timing, which is, the first time when a chunk is re-chunked by the second module after the time when the chunk is stored by the first

module, this may cause an excessive capacity due to duplicate storing. However spacial locality characteristic which is inherent in the data eliminate the excess and recover the inefficiency through the consecutive generated backup operations.

3.2 Process of Dual Layered Deduplication System

Theoretically, our proposed system can be configured with two layers, ex. three layers, four layers, and so on, however from the implementation point view, dual layered configuration which consists of two layers is practical. Hereafter, we focus on two layers configuration, as a 'dual layered deduplication system'.

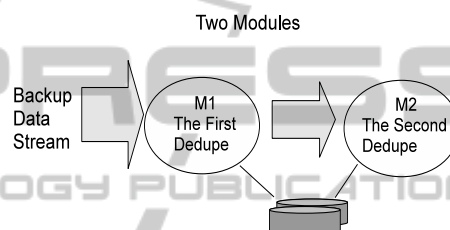


Figure 3: Dual layered deduplication.

Figure 3 shows the configuration of dual layered deduplication system.

M_1 is the first module and M_2 is the second. Both use variable length chunking method. The target data is ingested into M_1 first and reduced, then the residual data after the M_1 reduction is ingested into M_2 and reduced. Only the residual data after M_2 are stored in the final storage as a deduplicated data.

Assuming M_1 has 32KB chunk size with 1ms of processing time, M_2 has 8KB with 1.25ms. Figure 4 shows an example of the improvement. The backup target data is 160KB length, is divided into five chunks by M_1 variable size chunking and twenty chunks by M_2 in average. Because the length of each chunk generally differs due to the chunk boundaries cut by anchor value, only the average length are assumed. Target data has Duplication Rate of 0.9 ($=\frac{18}{20}$).

Three allocation of modules for target data, such as M_1 -only, M_2 -only, $M_{1,2}$ -combined, provide different deduplication rate and processing time, which are listed in Table 1.

The allocation of $M_{1,2}$ -combined provides the maximum deduplication rate with shorter processing time than M_2 -only. M_1 -only provides the shortest processing time but with less deduplication rate. M_2 -only has the maximum deduplication rate with the longest processing time.

As a note for this example, the boundaries of chunking by M_1 and M_2 do not always match when

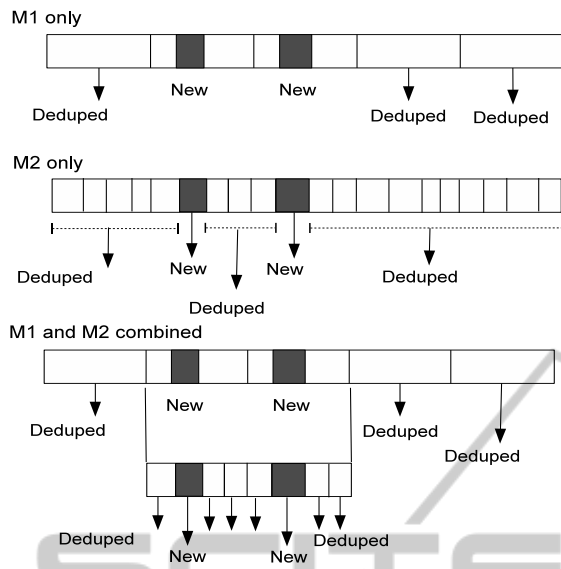


Figure 4: Example of deduplication by two layered method.

Table 1: Total processing time and deduplication ratio by three allocation scenarios.

Allocation scenario	Deduplication rate [%]	Processing time [ms.]
M_1 -only	60	5
M_2 -only	90	25
$M_{1,2}$ -combined	90	15

the system use anchor type variable chunking method, because it cannot assure the identical boundaries for both.

In above system, the efficiency strongly depends on the chunk sizes installed in M_1 , M_2 and *Duplication Rate*. If M_1 chunk size becomes bigger, M_1 processing time is shortened but the deduplication rate is also decreased. In addition, bigger chunk size in M_1 causes heavier process in M_2 as a next layer. In this case, bigger chunk size in M_1 may spoil the benefit of load distribution between the two layers. Conversely, if M_1 chunk size become smaller, M_1 processing time is increased and the deduplication rate is also increased. In this case, smaller chunk size in M_1 may spoil the benefit of fast reduction in early layer. There is the balanced combination of chunk sizes installed in both M_1 and M_2 . We propose how these chunk sizes should be chosen to tune the efficiency, considering the deduplication rate or the processing time.

4 MODELING OF DUAL LAYERED DEDUPLICATION SYSTEM

4.1 System Deduplication Rate (SDR) and System Processing Time Ratio (SPT)

The system has two modules as M_i ($i=1,2$). Modules implement SHA type functions for FingerPrinting, a bloom filter as an initial decision and index tables manipulating with binary search algorithm. Let $D_i(r)$ be a rate of the amount of data that M_i reduces in the total amount, called *Module Deduplication Rate*, and $T_i(r)$ be the processing time ratio that M_i takes, called *Module Processing Time Ratio*. For convenience, we use here a ratio instead of an absolute time value for a module processing time without losing generality, because the time varies depending on the data amount or the system configuration. The base of the ratio can be chosen in many ways, here we use the value of a total processing time except a decision time, because all processes other than decision are considered independent from the chunk size and therefore takes relatively constant time. On the other hand, the decision time is heavily depends on the chunk size. We assign the exact values of $D_i(r)$, $T_i(r)$ in the following evaluation by measurement approach.

We generate the formula of the cumulative deduplication rate and the processing time as a conjunction of both M_1 and M_2 . The ratio of residual data by M_1 can be computed $1-D_1(r_1)$ as a difference of reduced amount of data from the total amount. These residual data still includes the duplication area as well as unique area. The ratio r_2 , the *Duplication Rate* of the residual data from M_1 ingesting into M_2 can be computed as $1-(1-r_1)/(1-D_1(r_1))=(r_1-D_1(r_1))/(1-D_1(r_1))$.

As a conclusion, Eq. (1), Eq. (2) and Eq. (3) are defined as the cumulative deduplication rate, which is D , and the processing time ratio, which is T . We call D as System Deduplication Rate, or SDR in short, and T as System Processing Time Ratio, or SPT.

$$D = D_1(r_1) + (1 - D_1(r_1))D_2(r_2) \quad (1)$$

$$T = T_1(r_1) + (1 - D_1(r_1))T_2(r_2) \quad (2)$$

$$r_2 = \frac{r_1 - D_1(r_1)}{1 - D_1(r_1)} \quad (3)$$

The condition that our dual layered deduplication system provide higher SDR is defined in Eq. (4).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SPT} &= T_1(r_1) + (1 - D_1(r_1))T_2(r_2) \\ &< T_2(r_1) \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

In case of the single layer deduplication system, the value which corresponds to SDR is $D_1(r_1)$ and to SPT is $T_1(r_1)$.

4.2 Optimization of Chunk Sizes

Due to the negative correlation between *Module Deduplication Rate* and *Module Processing Time Ratio*, to attempt to maximize the improvement for one of them decreases the other. This is the case of single layer deduplication system. For dual layered deduplication system, two chunk sizes provide various values of SDR and SPT depending on the combination. The set of combination of a chunk size build a Pareto optimal solution for two objectives, such as maximizing SDR or minimizing SPT. The choice of the unique combination relies on the individual situation of each system.

Let the chunk size of M_1 and M_2 be L_1, L_2 respectively, and (L_1, L_2) be a combination of chunk sizes. In practical usage, the minimum value of chunk size is 2KB, maximum is 128KB. Therefore, we assume L_1, L_2 are integers, $2 \leq L_1, L_2 \leq 128$ and $L_1 > L_2$ from the definition. The Pareto optimal solution is computed from the following equations. D of SDR and T of SPT are functions of L_1, L_2 and r .

$$\text{maximize } D(L_1, L_2, r) \quad (5)$$

$$\text{minimize } T(L_1, L_2, r) \quad (6)$$

$$\text{subject to } D(L_1, L_2, r) \geq \text{SingleRate}, \quad (7)$$

$$T(L_1, L_2, r) \leq \text{TimeConstraint}, \quad (8)$$

$$(L_1, L_2) \in \text{SetX}$$

Here,

$$\text{SetX} = \{(L_1, L_2) \mid L_1, L_2 \in \mathbb{N}, 2 \leq L_1, L_2 \leq 128, L_1 > L_2\}$$

$D(L_1, L_2, r)$: System Deduplication Rate (SDR)

$T(L_1, L_2, r)$: System Deduplication Processing Time Ratio (SPT)

TimeConstraint : Backup-window

SingleRate : Deduplication Rate of single deduplication system as a base.

V : Amount of backup target data

5 EVALUATION OF DUAL LAYERED DEDUPLICATION

5.1 Module Deduplication Rate and Module Processing Time Ratio

A sample of measurement of *Module Deduplication Rate* and the *Module Processing Time Ratio* is shown

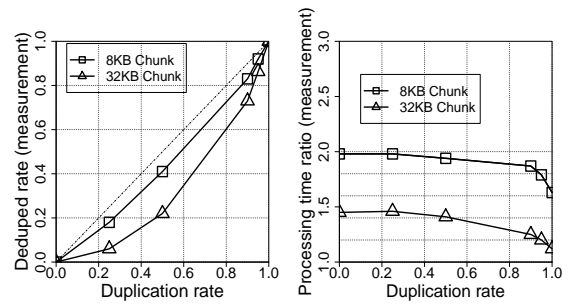


Figure 5: Measured deduplication rates and processing time ratios.

in figure 5. The curve indicates the case of chunk size of 8KB and 32KB. In the following experiments, *Module Deduplication Rate* and the *Module Processing Time Ratio* for other chunk sizes are estimated based on these values.

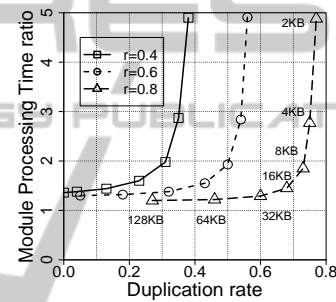


Figure 6: Single layer deduplication for $r=0.4, 0.6, 0.8$.

Figure 6 shows the correlation of a *Module Processing Time Ratio* under varying chunk sizes with a parameter of *Duplication Rate* 'r'. r is set to 0.4, 0.6 and 0.8. The chunk sizes are 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 and 128KB. X axis means *Duplication Rate*, Y axis means *Module Processing Time Ratio*. The smaller chunk size is, because of their capability of more precise deduplication, the higher the *Module Deduplication Rate* is. That is asymptotic to the ideal deduplication value of *Duplication Rate* itself. The figure clarifies the heavy negative and nonlinear correlation.

5.2 Pareto Optimal Solution of Chunk Sizes

The set of chunk sizes of a multiple layered deduplication system generates a Pareto optimal solution. Figure 7 shows the comparison of the single layer deduplication system and the dual layered deduplication system in case of *Duplication Rate* equal to 0.7. X axis means SDR, Y axis means SPT. The dotted line in the figure indicates the correlation over the chunk sizes in the case of the single layer deduplication system, solid lines indicate in cases of dual lay-

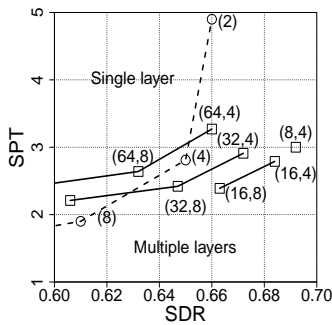


Figure 7: Dual layered deduplication for $r=0.7$.

ered deduplication system. The numbers and pairs of numbers means the associated chunk sizes. Assignment of smaller chunk size as the first or second module push the SDR increasing and conversing for the ideal number of reduction. The SPT is increasing by using smaller chunk sizes in both systems, however the increment is defused from steep degradation in dual layered system.

When a base of chunk size is assumed in single layer system, the set of combinations of chunk sizes in dual layered system can be fixed so that dual layered system provide the higher SDR and shorter SPT. The set varies depending on which chunk size is assumed as a base of the comparison. When the chunk size of 2KB is assumed, it provides 0.66 as SDR and 4.90 as SPT. Then Set of $\{ (16, 8), (16, 4), (8, 4) \}$ is Pareto optimal solution. Among the solutions, (16, 8) is a specific to take the minimum SPT as well as (8, 4) take the maximum SDR.

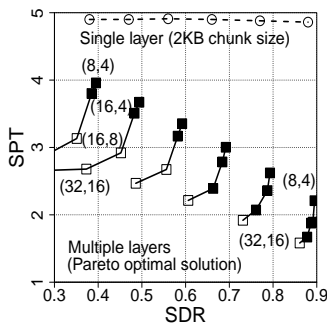


Figure 8: Pareto optimal solution by dual layered deduplication.

Figure 8 shows how the Pareto optimal solutions varies depends on *Duplication Rate* of r . The dotted line indicates the values of 2KB in the single layer deduplication system as a comparison. The blacked marks indicates subset of the Pareto optimal solution whose elements has higher SDR and smaller SPT than those of single layer deduplication system.

Because the choice of one of them depends on

the individual system requirement, we evaluate here the aspects of them under changing the parameters which are considered as a practical requirements in the systems. The first interesting combination is the one which provides the higher SDR to the conventional single deduplication system with the minimum SPT. The second is the one which provides the maximum SDR under predefined Backup-windows, in our model, equivalent to *TimeConstraints*. The first combination is called 'Minimum Time combination' and the second 'Maximum Rate combination'.

5.3 Improvement of System Processing Time Ratio (SPT)

Figure 9 shows a series of L1 and L2 of Minimum Time combination under varying *Duplication Rate* r . X and Y axis means the *Duplication Rate* and the chunk size, respectively, which provide the minimum SPT. The figure indicates the aspect that the bigger the *Duplication Rate* increase, the bigger the chunk sizes are. This comes from the reason why the efficiency of first layer reduction is higher in case of bigger chunk size, in addition the efficiency is more dominant while r increases. Figure 10 shows the improvement. The improvement increase depending on the *Duplication Rates*, ex. 66% in case of 0.9 of r . This comes from the facts that for the area of high *Duplication Rate*,

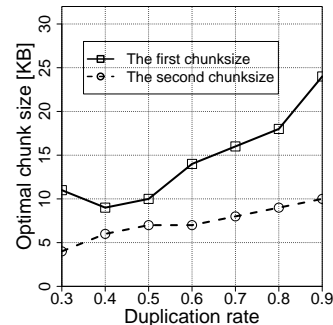


Figure 9: Minimum Time combination.

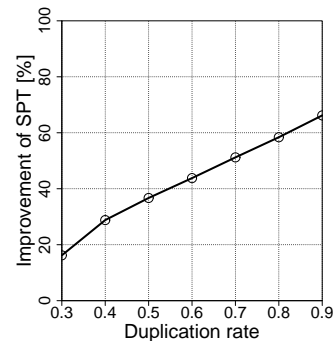


Figure 10: Improvement of SPT.

Table 2: Improvement by maximum rate chunk sizes.

Duplication Rate	Multiple layered			Single layer			Improvement [%]		
	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.8
Constraints : 2	NA1	NA1	0.762 (20, 10)	0.307 (8)	0.504 (8)	0.736 (7)	-	-	3.53
Constraints : 2.5	NA1	NA1	0.791 (10, 4)	0.330 (6)	0.533 (5)	0.748 (5)	-	-	5.75
Constraints : 3	NA2	0.580 (12, 5)	0.795 (6, 4)	0.354 (4)	0.543 (4)	0.754 (4)	-	6.81	5.44
Constraints : 3.5	0.380 (9, 6)	0.594 (7, 4)	0.796 (5, 4)	0.354 (4)	0.543 (4)	0.760 (4)	7.34	9.39	4.74
Constraints : 4	0.395 (8, 4)	0.596 (5, 4)	0.796 (5, 4)	0.354 (4)	0.543 (4)	0.760 (4)	11.58	9.76	4.74
Constraints : 4.5	0.397 (5, 4)	0.596 (5, 4)	0.796 (5, 4)	0.354 (4)	0.543 (4)	0.760 (4)	12.15	9.76	4.74

the difference of *Module Deduplication Rate* over the chunk sizes decrease but the difference between the processing time does not decrease in the same correlation. The efficiency becomes bigger as the *Duplication Rate* increases.

In our experiments, for the area of r under 0.2, no combination are found to achieve higher rate and smaller time ratio. This means in case of lower *Duplication Rate*, the efficiency by bigger chunk size in the first layer is eliminated due to less penalty of single layer method.

5.4 Improvement of System Deduplication Rate (SDR)

Figure 11 shows a series of L1 of Maximum Rate Combination under varying *Duplication Rate* r and *TimeConstraint*. Figure 12 shows the same chart of a series of L2. r is set to 0.4, 0.6, 0.8. *TimeConstraint* is set to 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5. X and Y axis means the *TimeConstraint* and the chunk size, respectively, which provide the maximum SDR under the *TimeConstraint*. The figure indicates the smaller *TimeConstraint* is, the bigger the chunk sizes are. This is the result that a small chunk size can be processed within a small predefined time constraints. In case of single layer deduplication system, the chunk size which provides the maximum SDR under the *TimeConstraint* is fixed as one value.

Table 2 shows Maximum Time Combination for each value of r , 0.2, 0.4, 0.6.

The table indicates our dual layered deduplication system can provide 30 to 40 % improvement for the SDR and 4 to 12 % improvement for SPT. In the table, the notation of 'NA1' means that no combination are found to keep the *TimeConstraint*, and 'NA2' that no combination are solved to achieve over the Dedu-

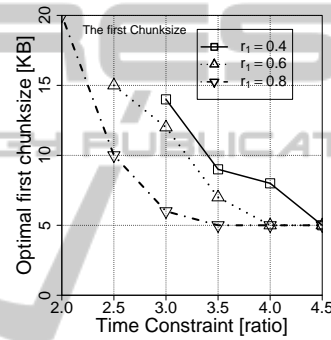


Figure 11: L1 of Maximum Rate combination.

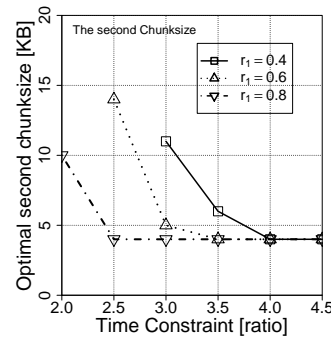


Figure 12: L2 of Maximum Rate combination.

plication Rate of the single layer method. Figure 13 shows the improvement. The improvement increases depending on the *TimeConstraint* and hits the ceiling which is caused by the boundary of 4KB chunk size.

6 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we propose a new approach to improve

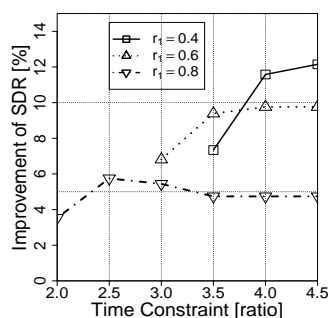


Figure 13: Improvement of SDR.

the deduplication rate and the performance in backup operation. Our system consists of a tandem type multiple layers of deduplication algorithms. The cumulative deduplication rate and processing time ratio are formularized in the comparison of conventional single layer deduplication system. Our experiments clarify the trade-off between the maximum rate and the minimum time, the Pareto optimal solution of chunk sizes, their dependency with the file characteristics. The improvements are estimated as 17 to 66 % in the deduplication rate and 4 to 12 % in the processing time.

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