Fig. 3. IP address pre¯x bits distribution. (A) Valid bits of source IP addresses. (B) Valid bits of destination IP addresses.

Fig. 4. Source port number distribution. (A) Source Port number distribution for *fw1*, *fw1-100*, *fw1-1k*, *fw1-5k*, *fw1-10k*

sis as a critical stage in packet classi¯cation algorithms. Processed rule-set data were demonstrated with illustrative diagrams regarding the distributions of source/destination IPs, source/destination ports and protocol ¯elds. Based on the extracted information, researchers are expected to e±ciently re¯ne the existing or propose novel packet classi¯cation algorithms, which reveal higher perfor-manc revducd