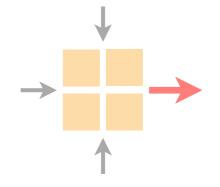
Communication Networks Spring 2020



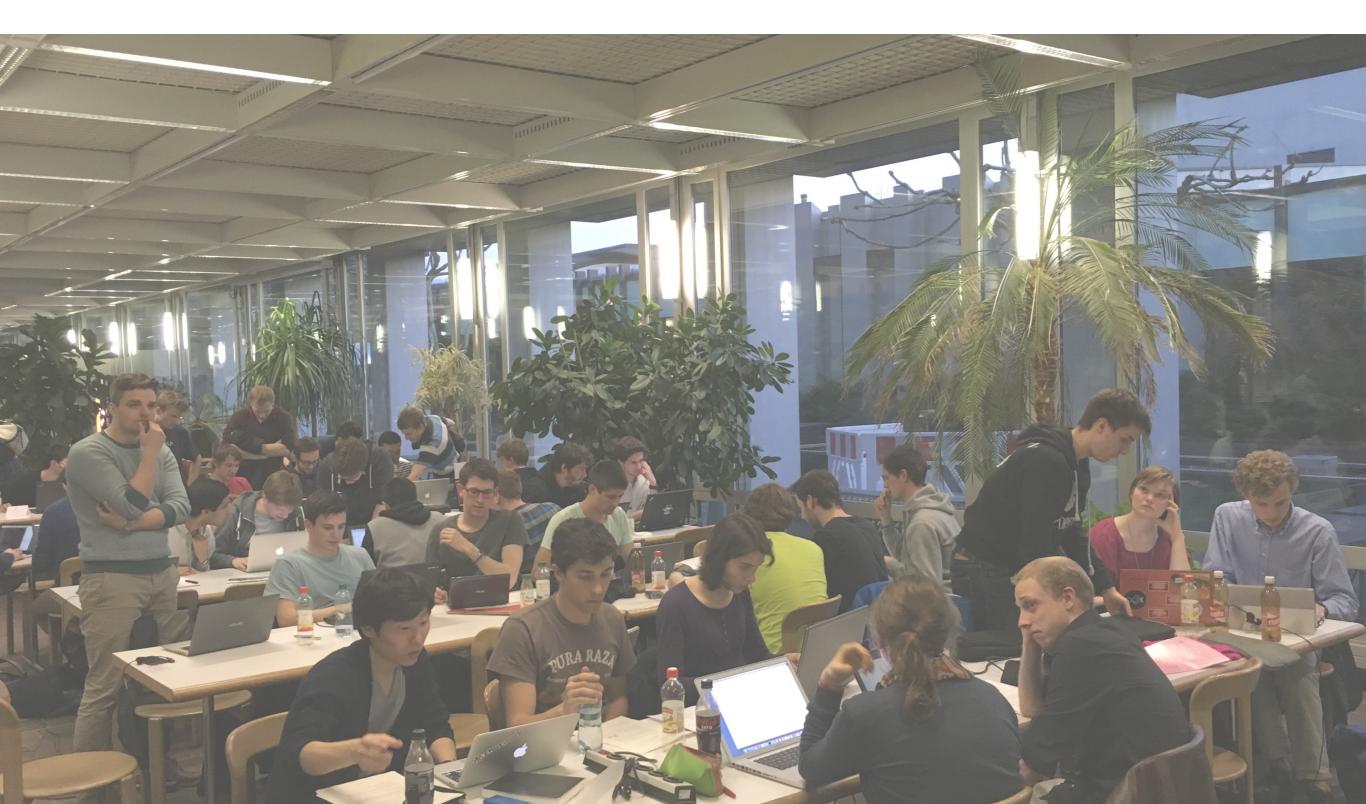
Laurent Vanbever nsg.ee.ethz.ch

ETH Zürich (D-ITET) March 2 2020

Materials inspired from Scott Shenker & Jennifer Rexford



Internet Routing Hackathon, Edition 2020 Thursday March 26, 18:00 in ETZ foyer

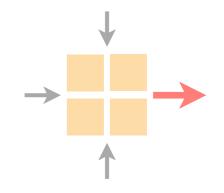


Register your group (3 students) starting from Thursday March 5 (see website)



Last week on Communication Networks

Communication Networks Part 1: General overview



What is a network made of?

How is it shared?

How is it organized?

#4 How does communication happen?

How do we characterize it?

The Internet should allow

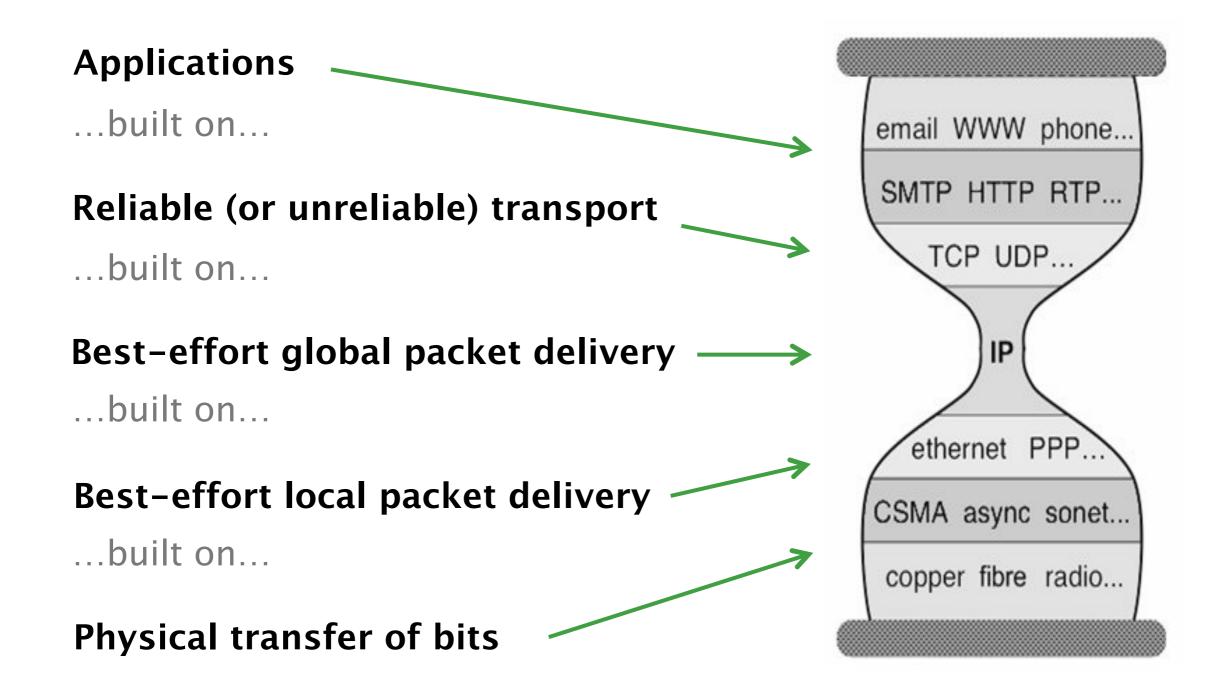
processes on different hosts to exchange data

everything else is just commentary...

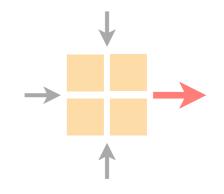
In practice, there exists a lot of network protocols. How does the Internet organize this?



Each layer provides a service to the layer above by using the services of the layer directly below it



Communication Networks Part 1: General overview



What is a network made of?

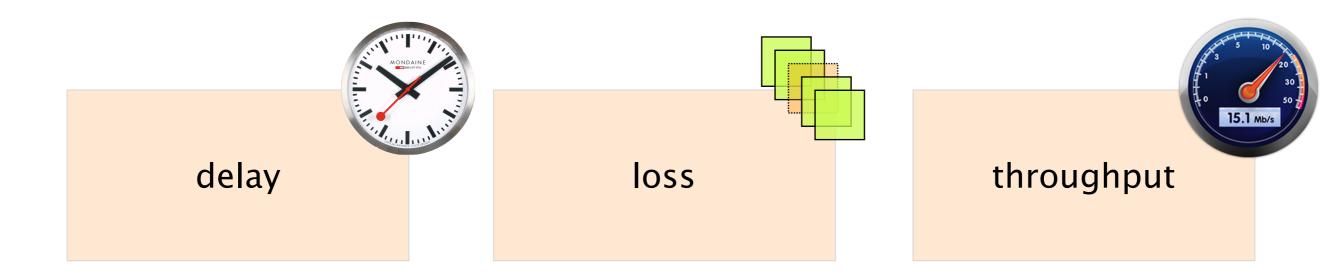
How is it shared?

How is it organized?

How does communication happen?

#5 How do we characterize it?

A network *connection* is characterized by its delay, loss rate and throughput



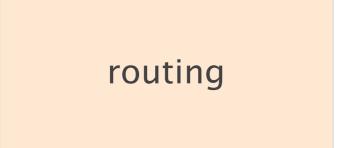
How long does it take for a packet to reach the destination

What fraction of packets sent to a destination are dropped?

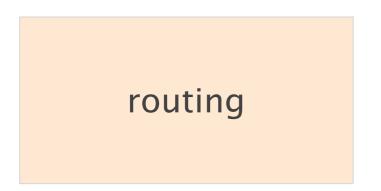
At what rate is the destination receiving data from the source?

This week on Communication Networks

We will dive in the two fundamental challenges underlying networking



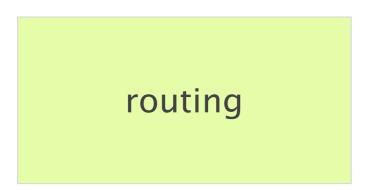
reliable delivery



How do you guide IP packets from a source to destination?

reliable delivery

How do you ensure reliable transport on top of best-effort delivery?



reliable delivery

How do you guide IP packets from a source to destination?

question 1 How do we verify that a forwarding state is valid?

question 2 How do we compute valid forwarding state?

question 1 How do we verify that a forwarding state is valid?

How do we compute valid forwarding state?

Verifying that a routing state is valid is easy

simple algorithm

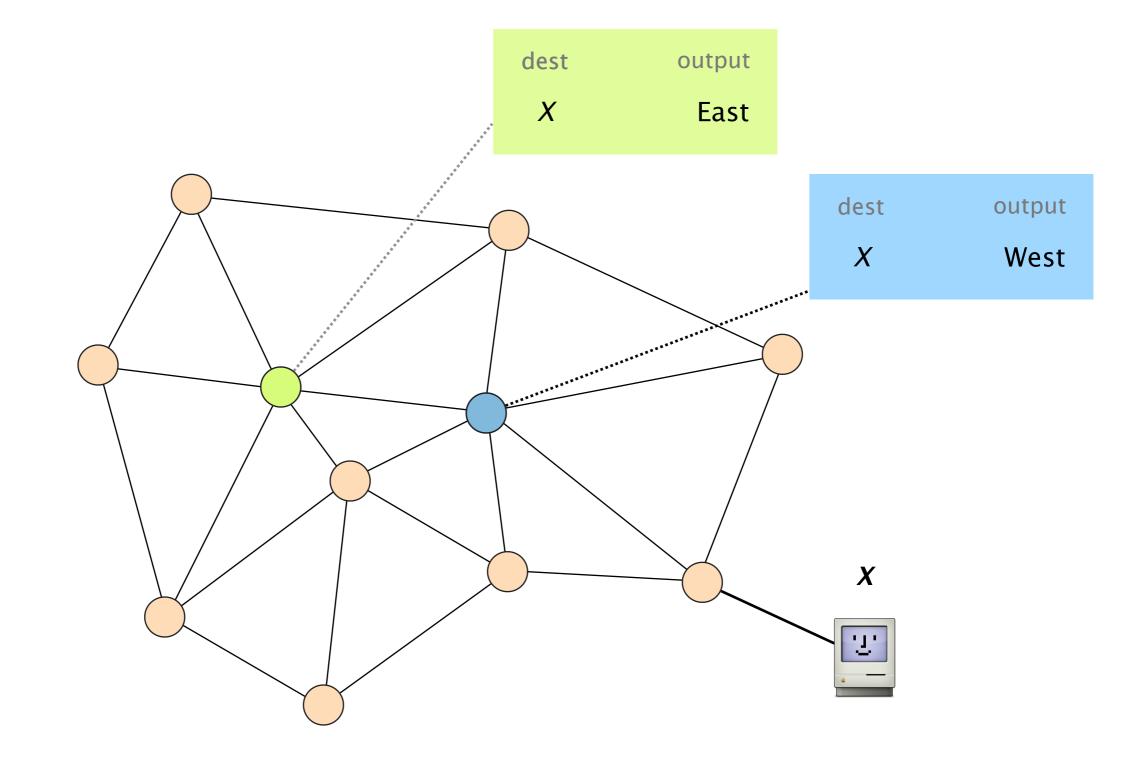
for one destination

Mark all outgoing ports with an arrow

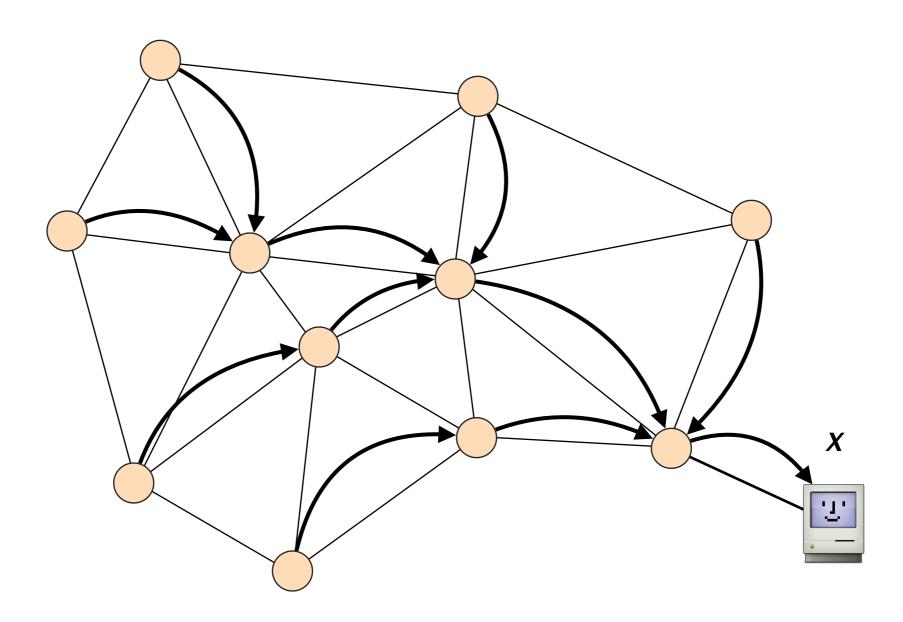
Eliminate all links with no arrow

State is valid *iff* the remaining graph is a spanning-tree

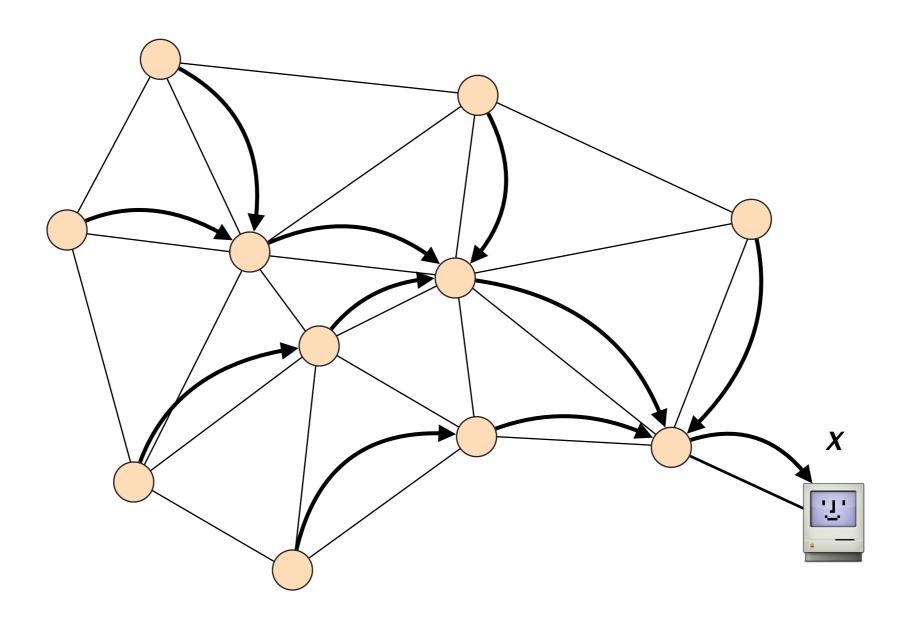
Given a graph with the corresponding forwarding state

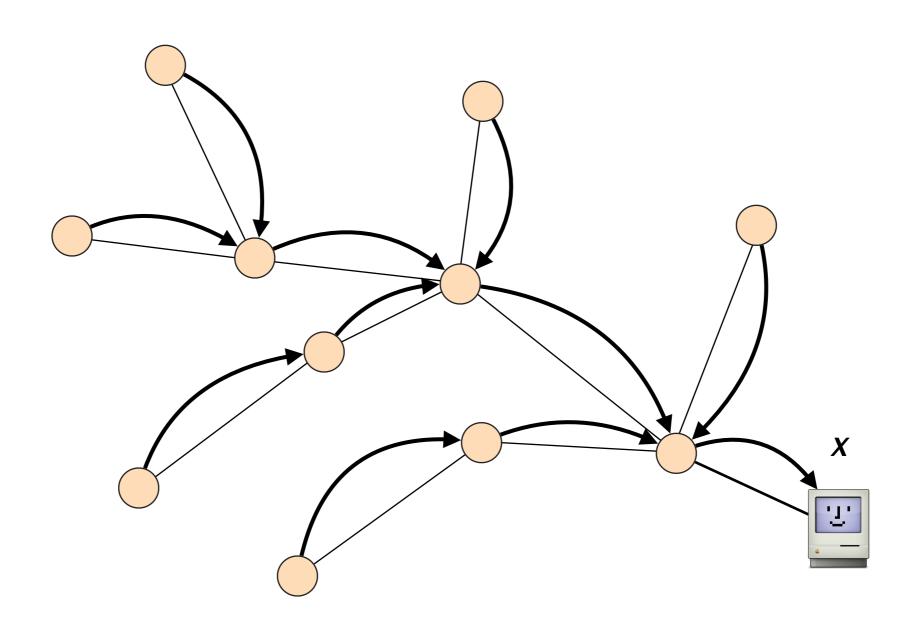


Mark all outgoing ports with an arrow

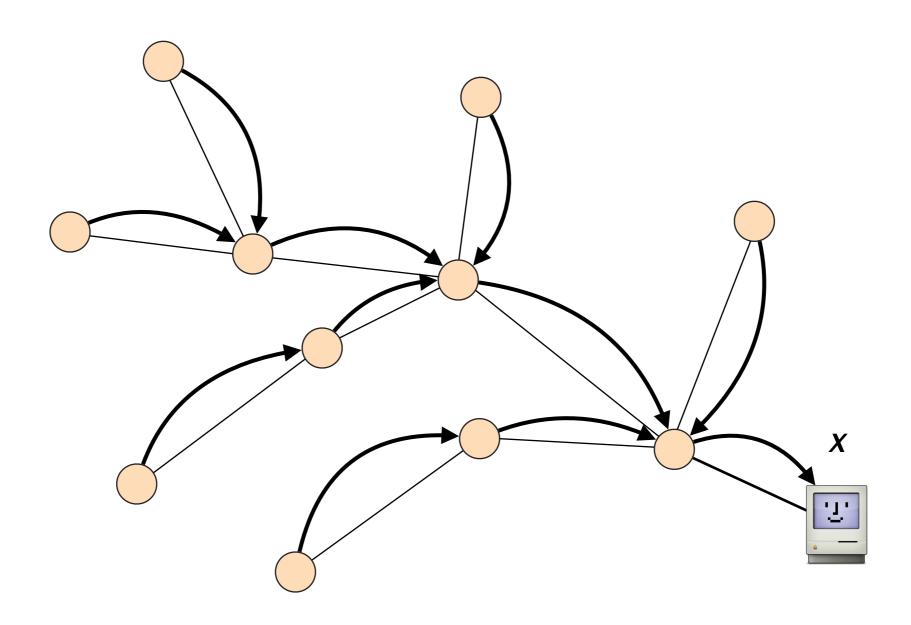


Eliminate all links with no arrow

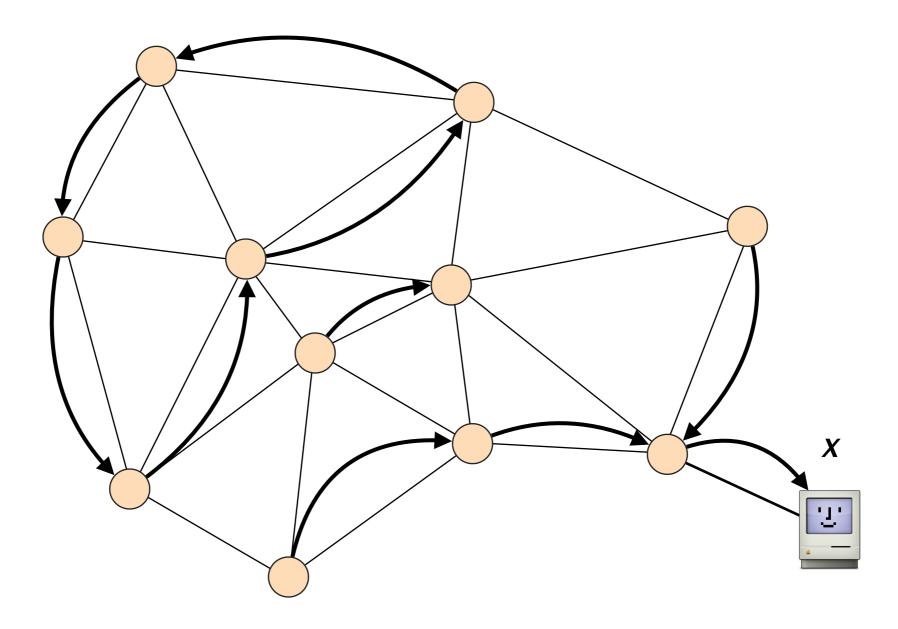




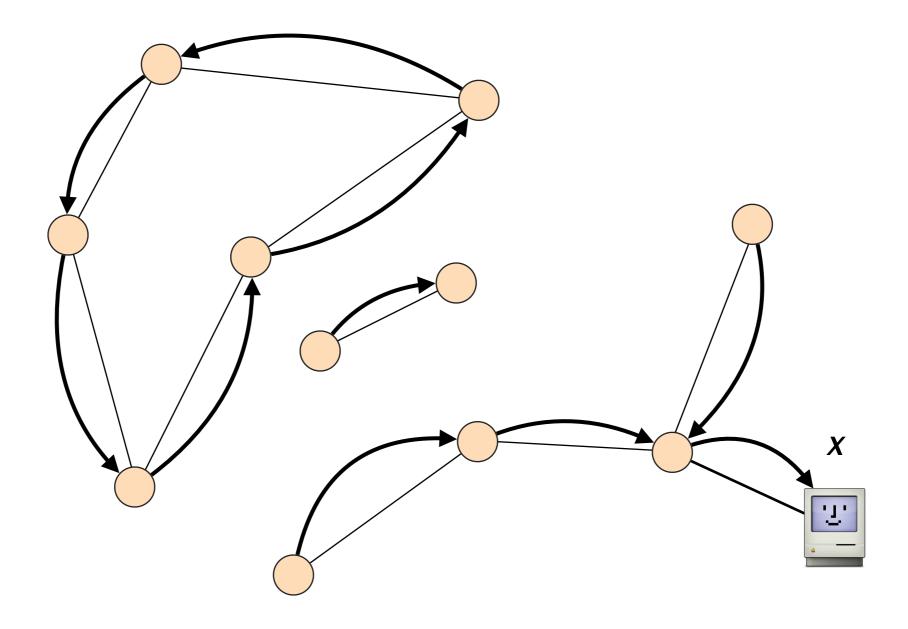
The result is a spanning tree. This is a valid routing state



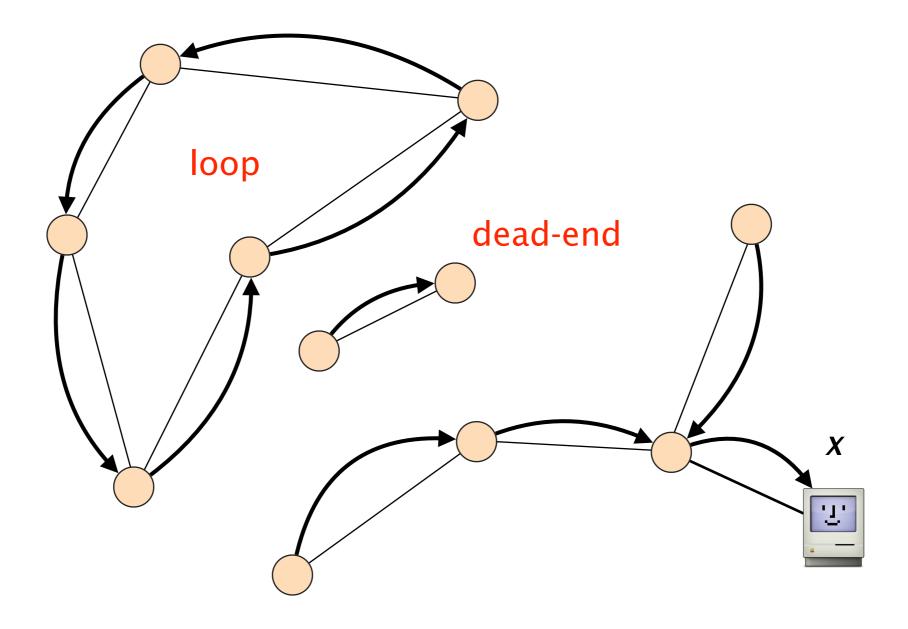
Mark all outgoing ports with an arrow



Eliminate all links with no arrow



The result is not a spanning-tree. The routing state is not valid



How do we verify that a forwarding state is valid?

question 2 How do we compute valid forwarding state?

Producing valid routing state is harder

prevent dead ends

easy

prevent loops

hard

Producing valid routing state is harder but doable

prevent dead ends easy prevent loops hard

This is the question you should focus on

Existing routing protocols differ in how they avoid loops

prevent loops hard Before I give you all the answers it's your turn



...to figure out a way to route traffic in a network

instructions given in class

Essentially, there are three ways to compute valid routing state

	Intuition	Example
#1	Use tree-like topologies	Spanning-tree
#2	Rely on a global network view	Link-State SDN
#3	Rely on distributed computation	Distance-Vector BGP

Essentially, there are three ways to compute valid routing state

#1 Use tree-like topologies

Spanning-tree

Rely on a global network view

Link-State SDN

Rely on distributed computation

Distance-Vector BGP The easiest way to avoid loops is to route traffic on a loop-free topology

simple algorithm

Take an arbitrary topology

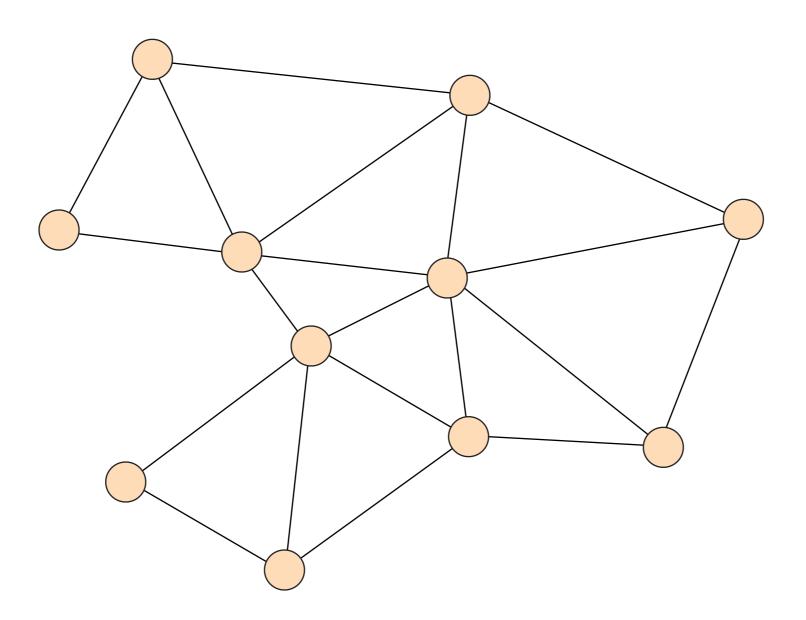
Build a spanning tree and ignore all other links

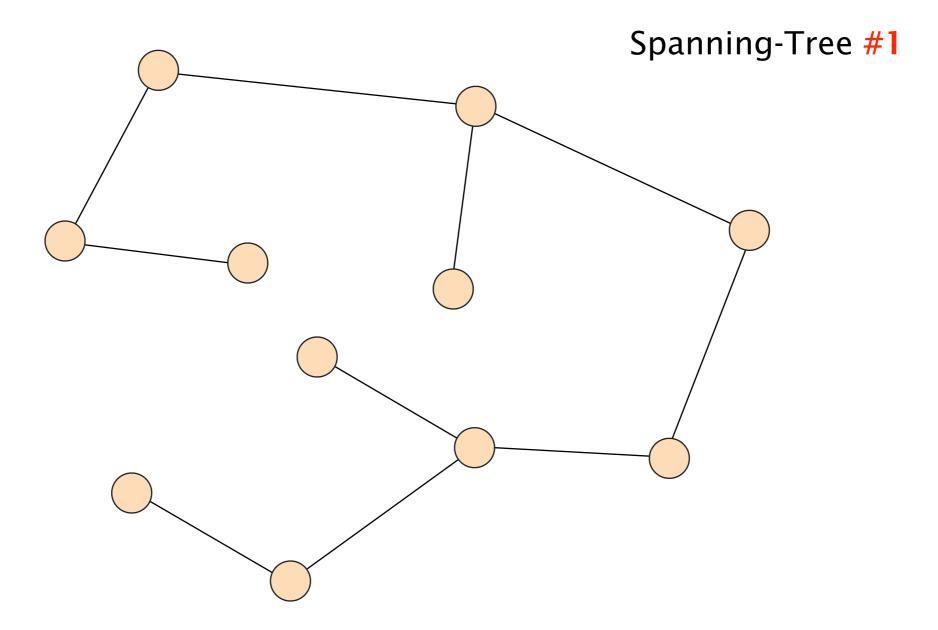
Done!

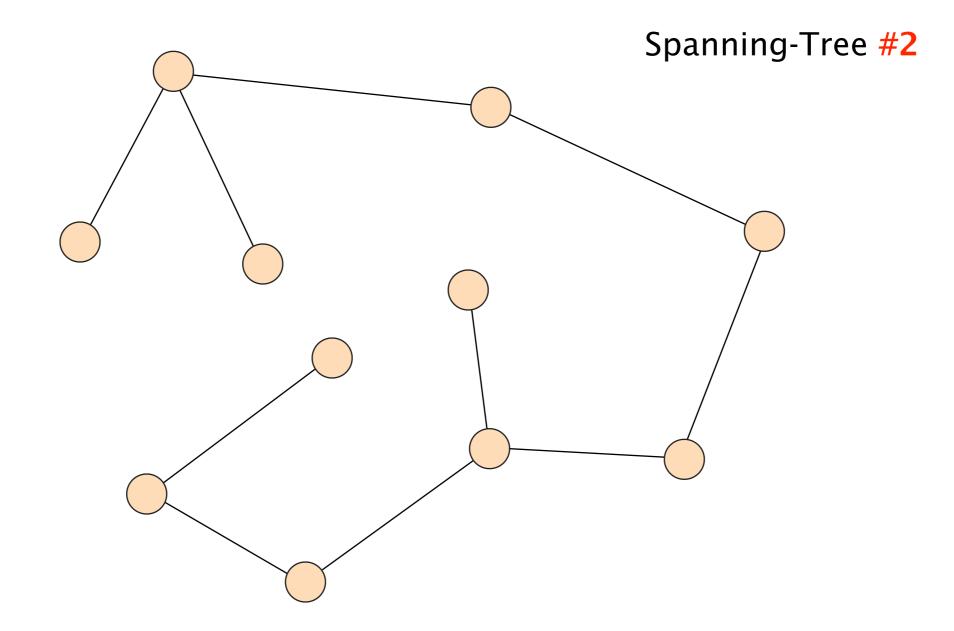
Why does it work?

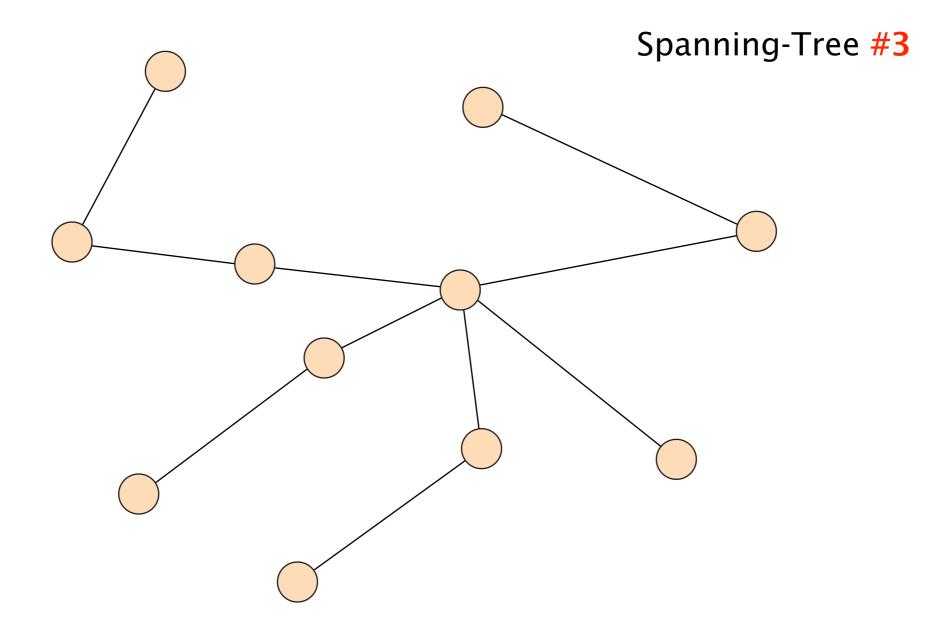
Spanning-trees have only one path between any two nodes

In practice, there can be *many* spanning-trees for a given topology





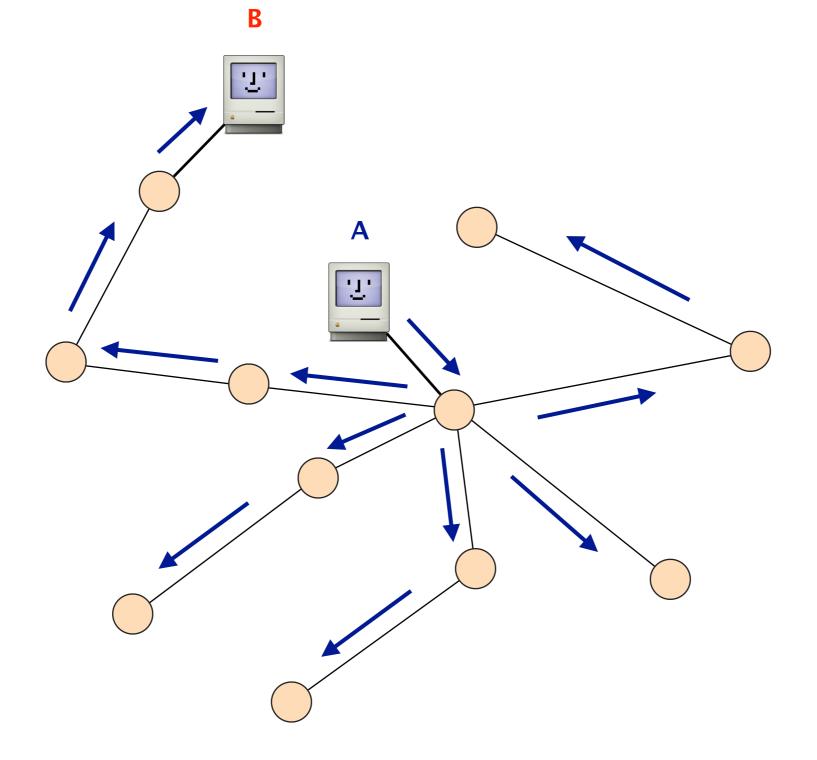




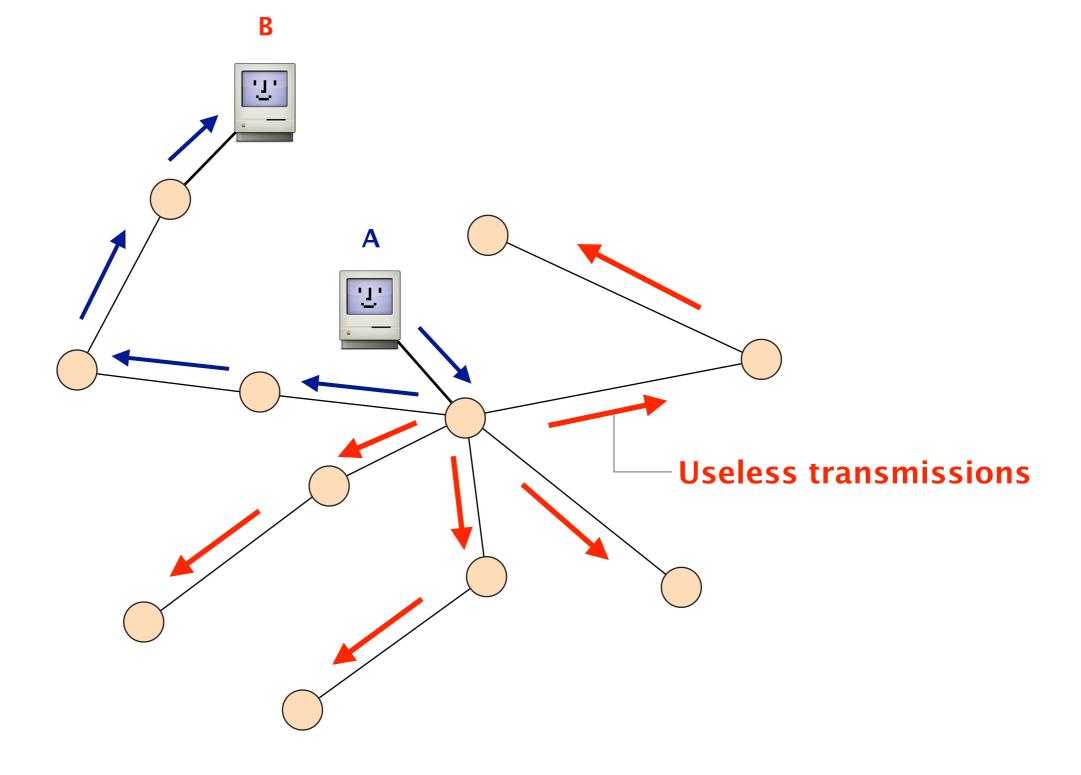
We'll see how to compute spanning-trees in 2 weeks. For now, assume it is possible Once we have a spanning tree, forwarding on it is easy

literally just flood the packets everywhere

When a packet arrives, simply send it on all ports



While flooding works, it is quite wasteful



The issue is that nodes do not know their respective locations

Nodes can learn how to reach nodes by remembering where packets came from

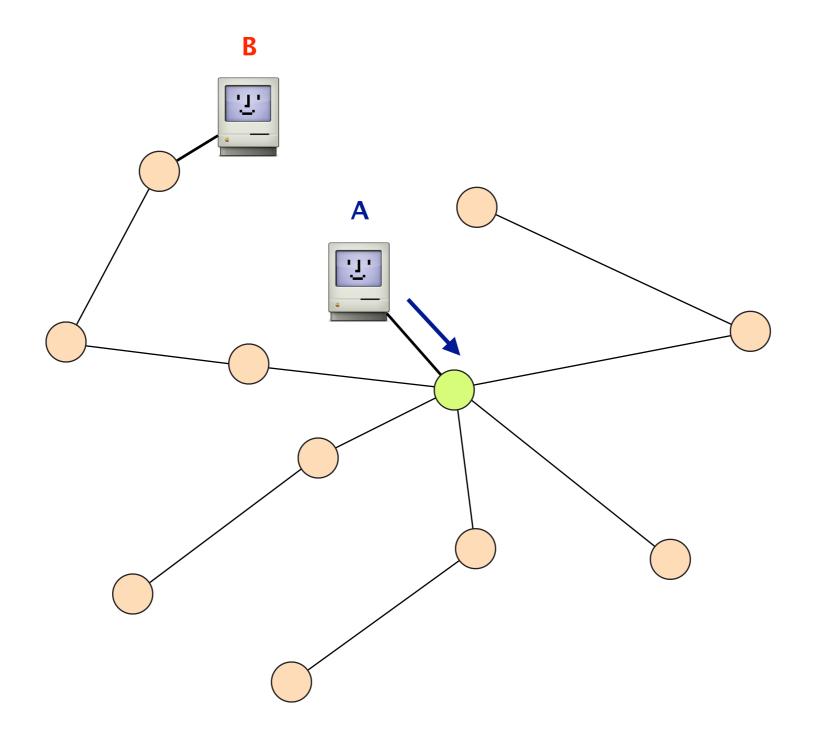
intuition

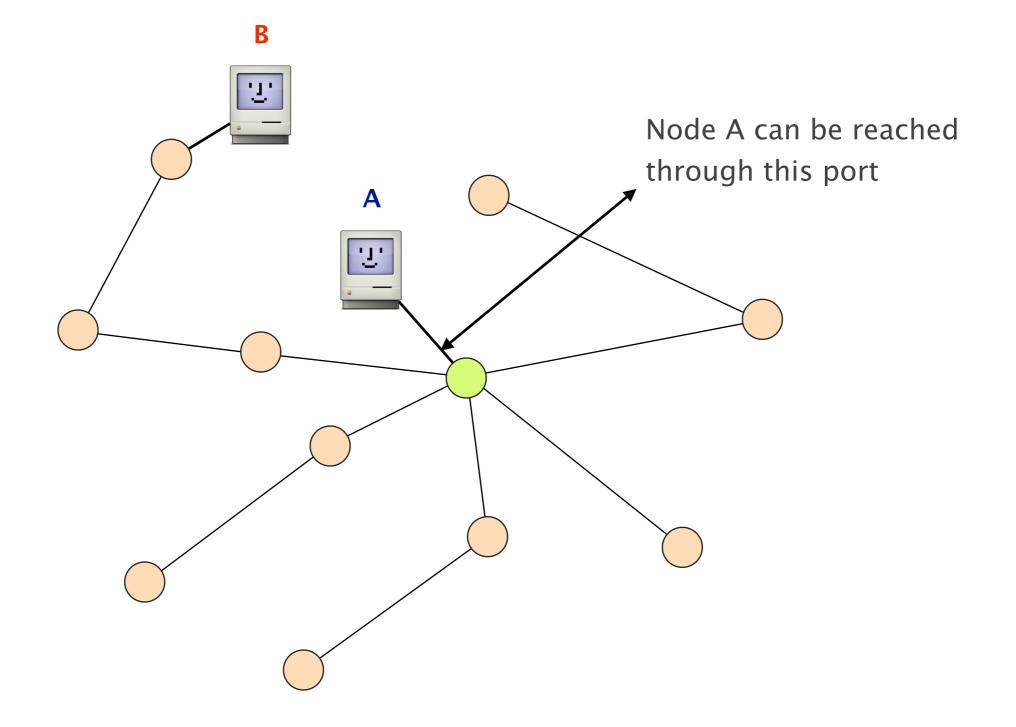
if

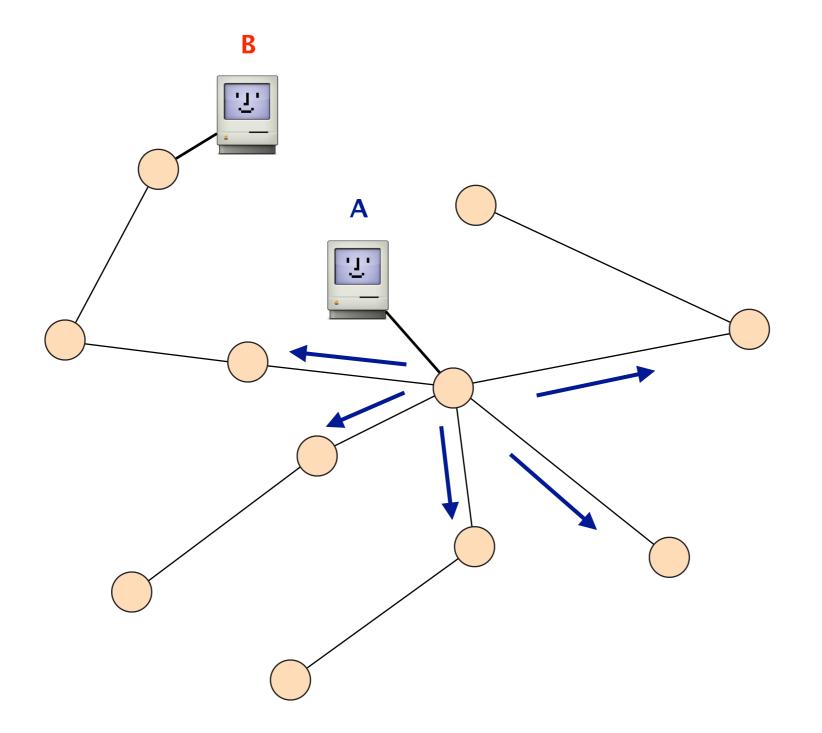
flood packet from node *A* entered switch *X* on port *4*

then

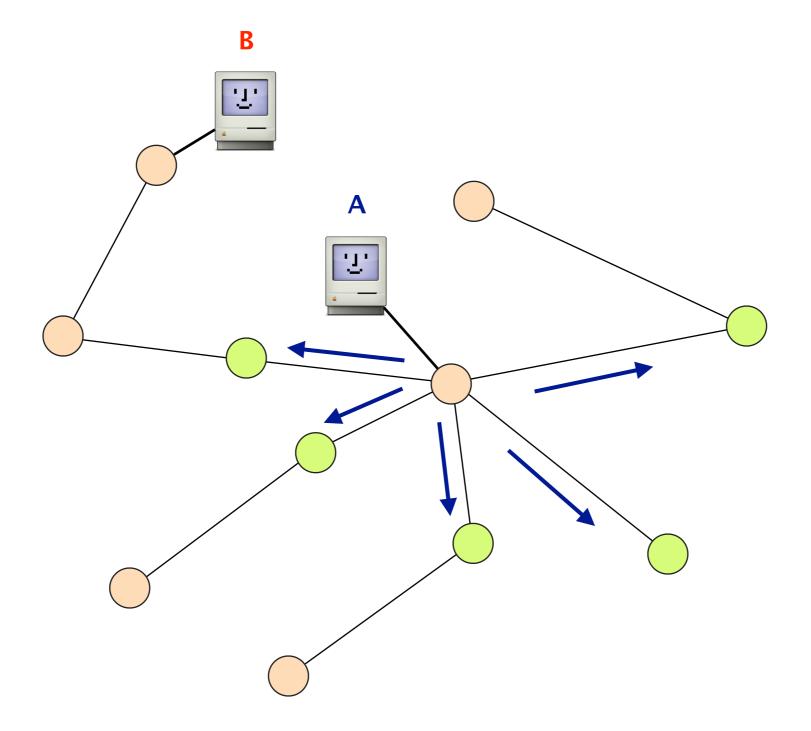
switch X can use port 4 to reach node A



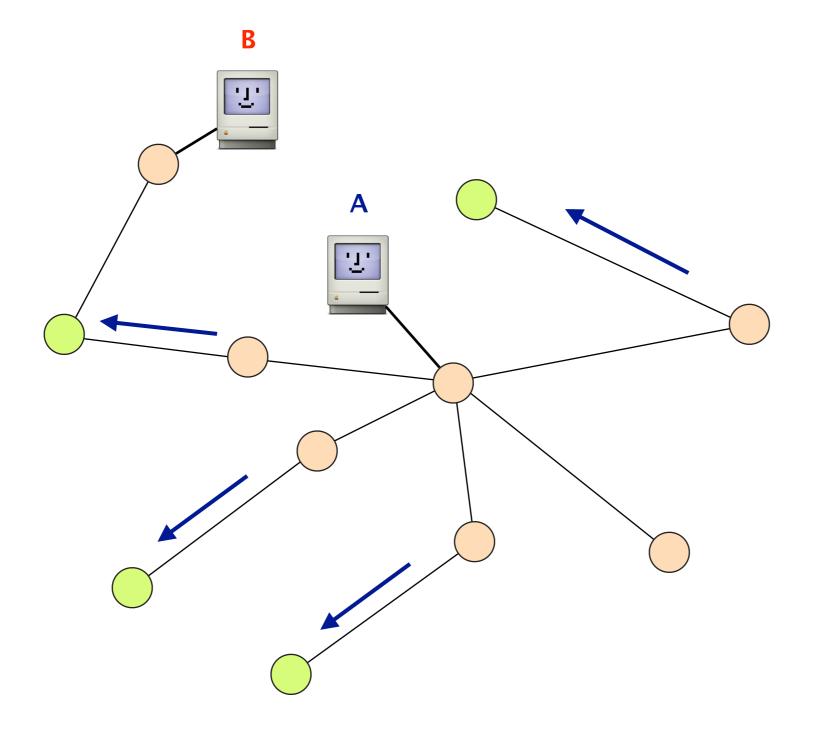




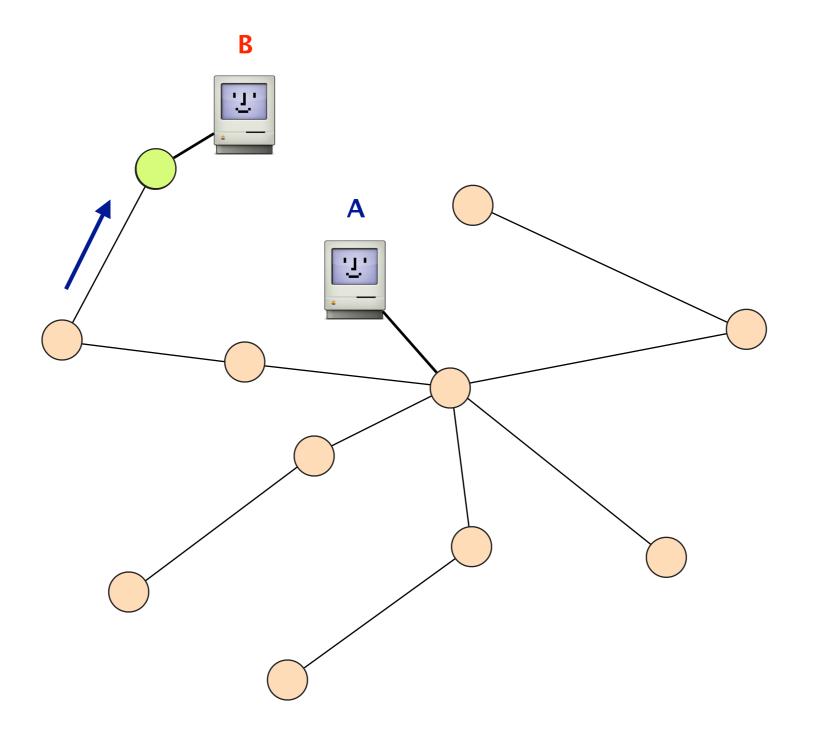
All the green nodes learn how to reach A



All the green nodes learn how to reach A

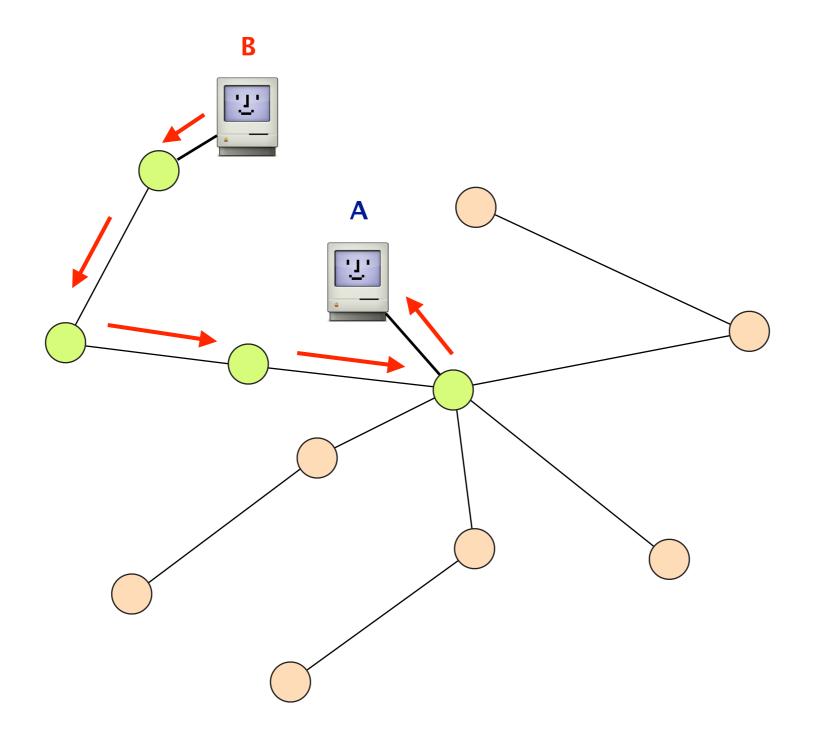


All the nodes know on which port A can be reached

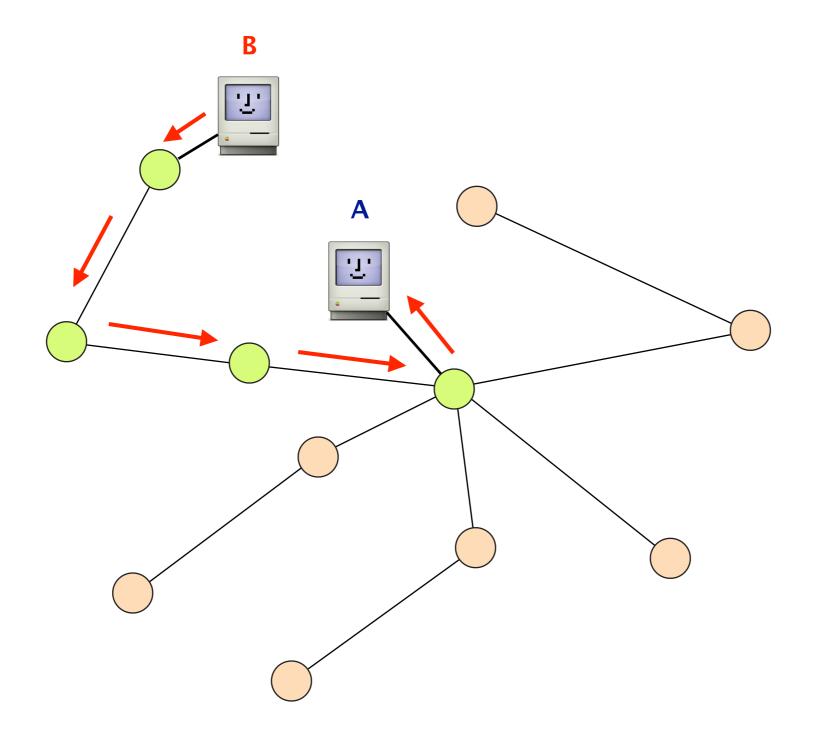


B answers back to A

enabling the green nodes to also learn where B is

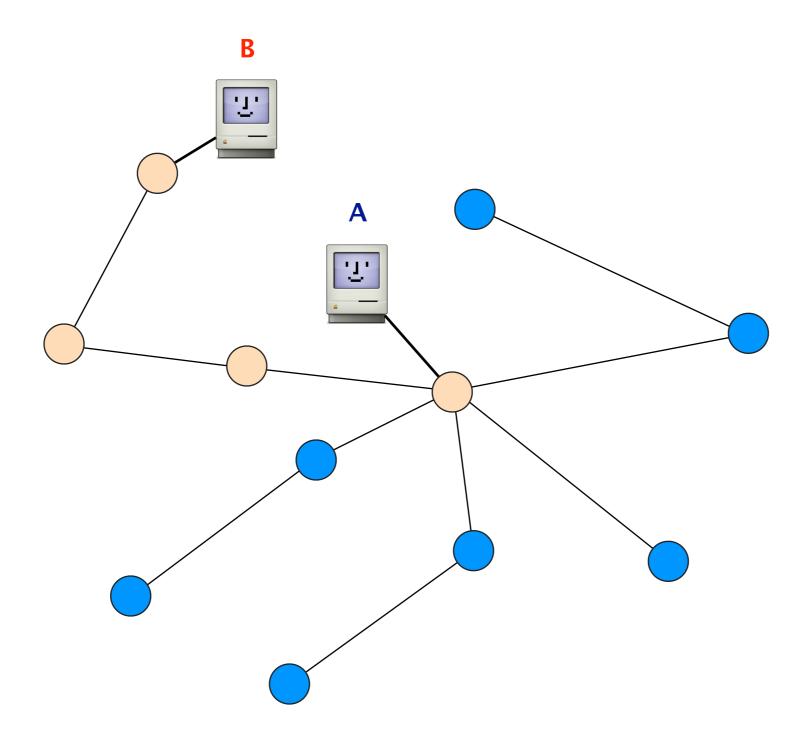


There is no need for flooding here as the position of A is already known by everybody



Learning is topology-dependent

The blue nodes only know how to reach A (not B)



Routing by flooding on a spanning-tree in a nutshell

Flood first packet to node you're trying to reach all switches learn where you are

When destination answers, some switches learn where it is some because packet to you is not flooded anymore

The decision to flood or not is done on each switch depending on who has communicated before

Spanning-Tree in practice

used in Ethernet

advantages

disadvantages

plug-and-play configuration-free

automatically adapts to moving host mandate a spanning-tree eliminate many links from the topology

slow to react to failures host movement

Essentially, there are three ways to compute valid routing state

Use tree-like topologies

Spanning-tree

#2	Rely on a global network view	Link-State SDN
	Rely on distributed computation	Distance-Vector BGP

If each router knows the entire graph, it can locally compute paths to all other nodes

Once a node *u* knows the entire topology, it can compute shortest-paths using Dijkstra's algorithm

InitializationLoop $S = \{u\}$ while not all nodes in S:for all nodes v:add w with the smallest D(w) to Sif (v is adjacent to u):update D(v) for all adjacent v not in S:D(v) = c(u,v) $D(v) = min\{D(v), D(w) + c(w,v)\}$ else: $D(v) = min\{D(v), D(w) + c(w,v)\}$

 $D(v) = \infty$

u is the node running the algorithm

 $S = {u}$

for all nodes v:

if (*v* is adjacent to *u*):

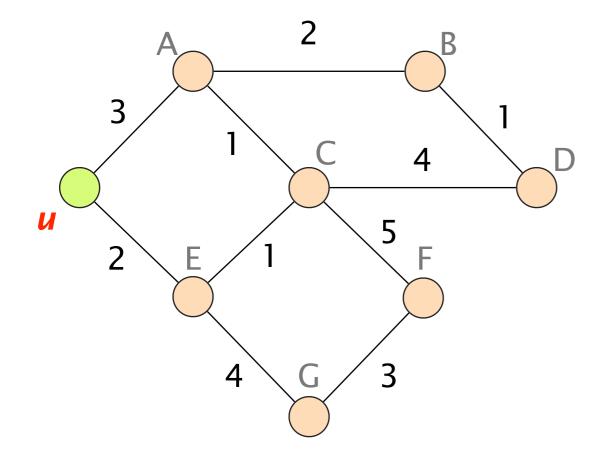
 $D(v) = \frac{c(u,v)}{c(u,v)} - \frac{c(u,v)}{v}$ is the weight of the link connecting *u* and *v*

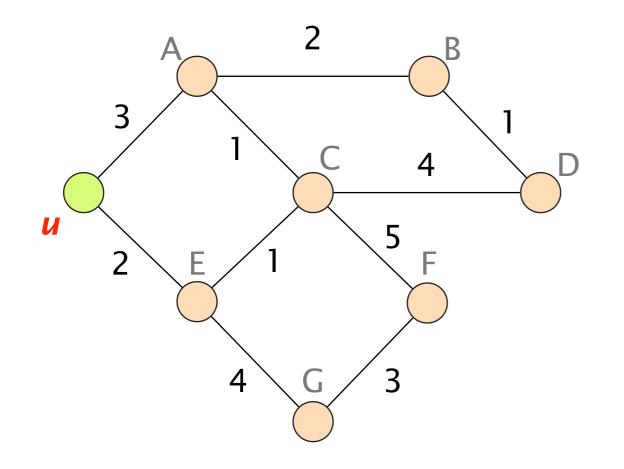
else:

$$D(v) = \infty$$

D(v) is the smallest distance currently known by u to reach v

Let's compute the shortest-paths from *u*





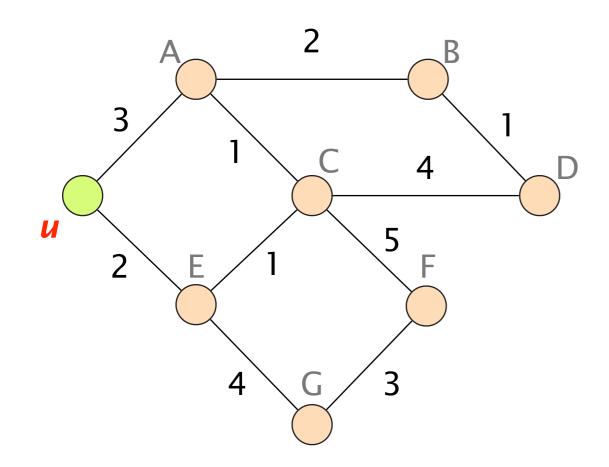
Initialization

 $\mathsf{S}=\{u\}$

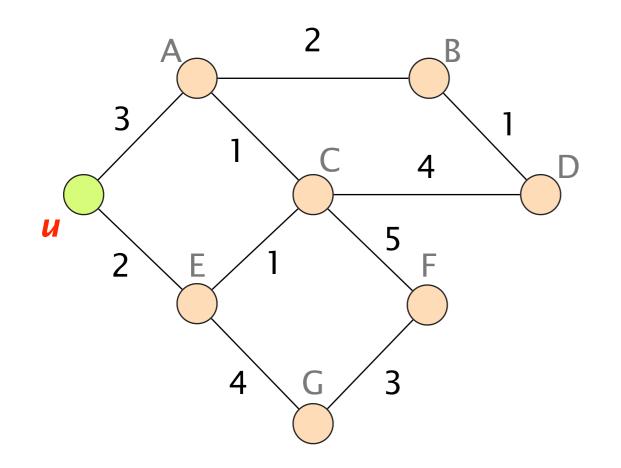
for all nodes v: if (v is adjacent to u): D(v) = c(u, v)else:

$$D(v) = \infty$$

D is initialized based on u's weight, and S only contains u itself



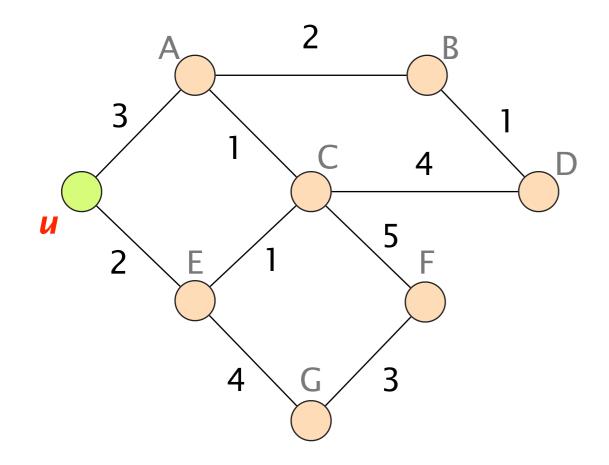
 $D(.) = S = \{u\}$ A = 3 $B = \infty$ $C = \infty$ $D = \infty$ E = 2 $F = \infty$ $G = \infty$

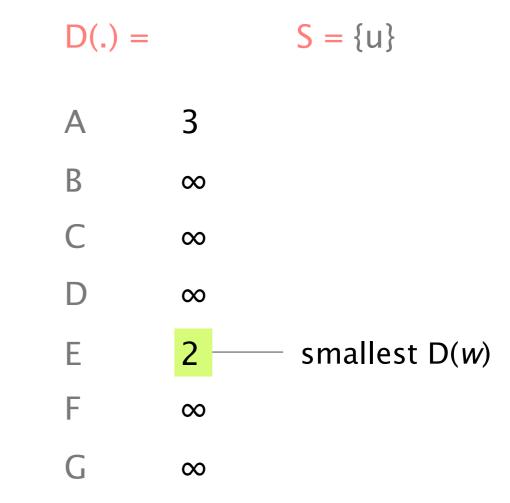


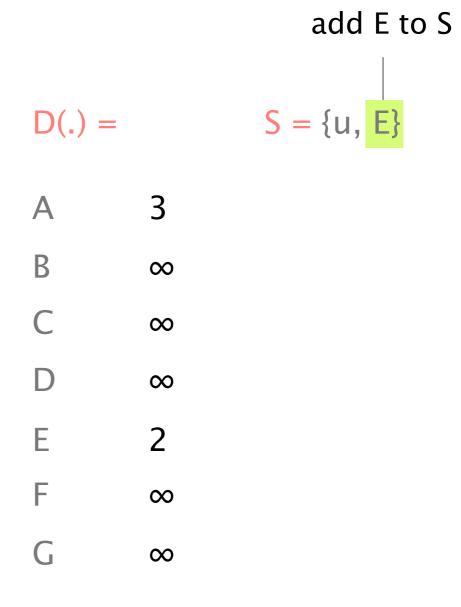
Loop

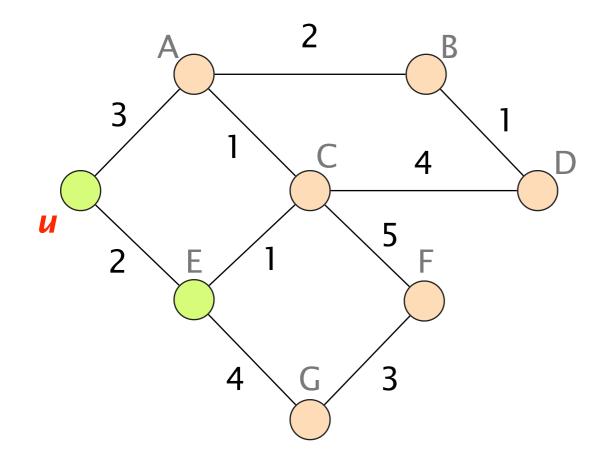
while not all nodes in S:

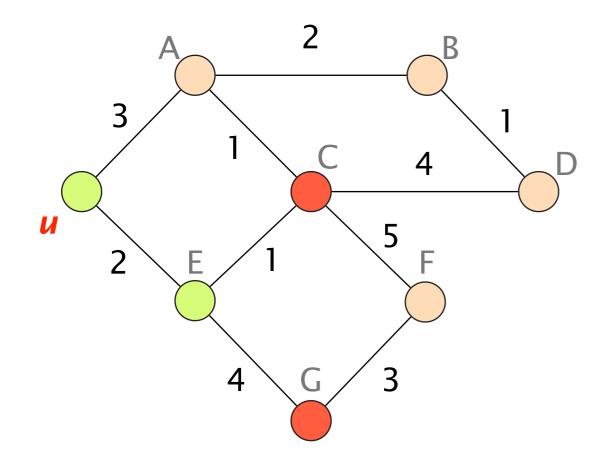
add w with the smallest D(w) to S update D(v) for all adjacent v not in S: $D(v) = min\{D(v), D(w) + c(w, v)\}$

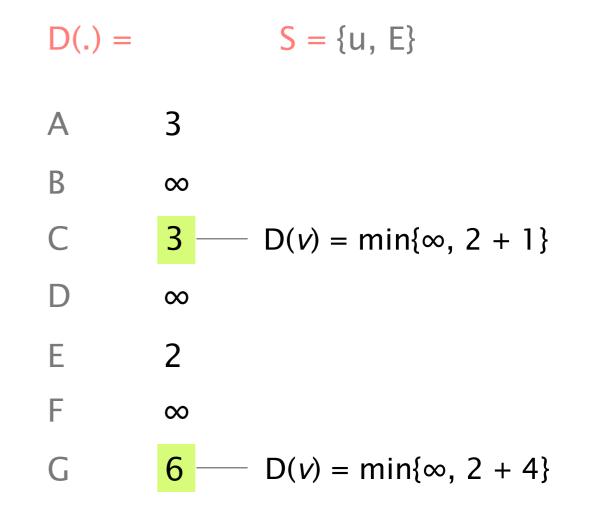




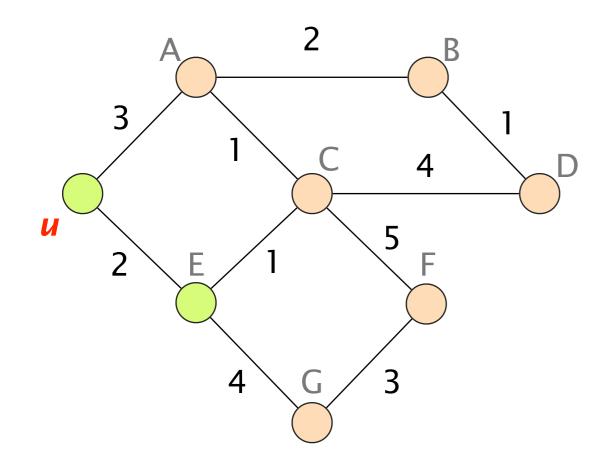








Now, do it by yourself



D(.) = $S = \{u, E\}$ A 3 B ∞ C 3 D ∞

2

 ∞

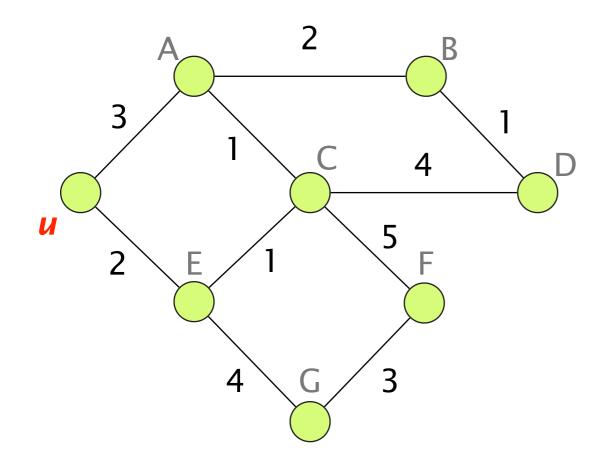
6

Ε

F

G

Here is the final state



D(.) =		$S = \{u, A, d\}$
A	3	B, C, D, E, F,G}
В	5	
С	3	
D	6	
E	2	
F	8	
G	6	

This algorithm has a $O(n^2)$ complexity where *n* is the number of nodes in the graph

iteration #1 search for minimum through *n* nodes

iteration #2 search for minimum through *n*-1 nodes

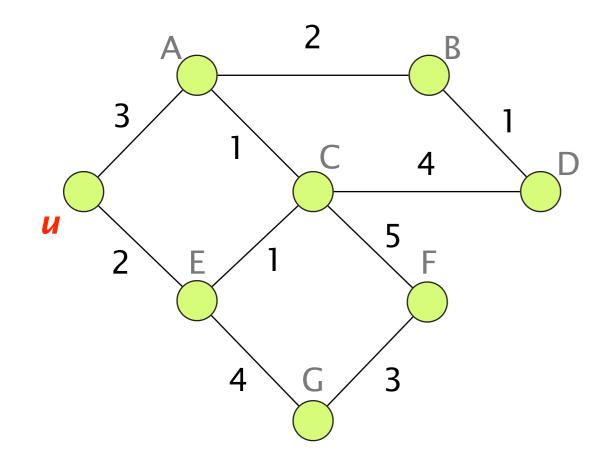
iteration *n* search for minimum through 1 node

 $\frac{n(n+1)}{2} \text{ operations } \Rightarrow O(n^2)$

This algorithm has a $O(n^2)$ complexity where *n* is the number of nodes in the graph

> Better implementations rely on a heap to find the next node to expand, bringing down the complexity to $O(n \log n)$

From the shortest-paths, *u* can directly compute its forwarding table



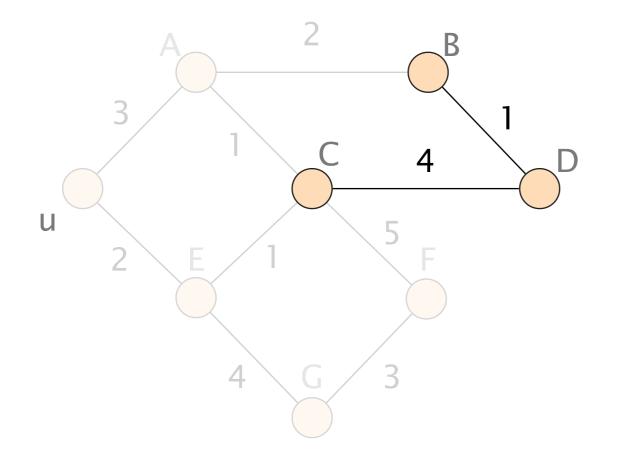
Forwarding table

destination	next-hop
А	А
В	А
С	Е
D	А
Е	Е
F	Е
G	Е

To build this global view

routers essentially solve a jigsaw puzzle

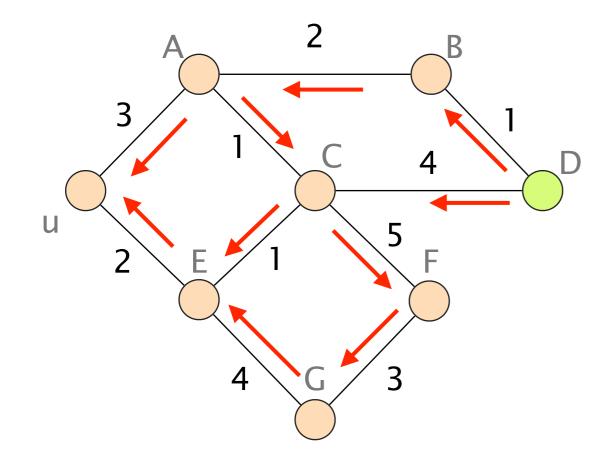
Initially, routers only know their ID and their neighbors



D only knows, it is connected to B and C

along with the weights to reach them (by configuration)

Each routers builds a message (known as Link-State) and floods it (reliably) in the entire network

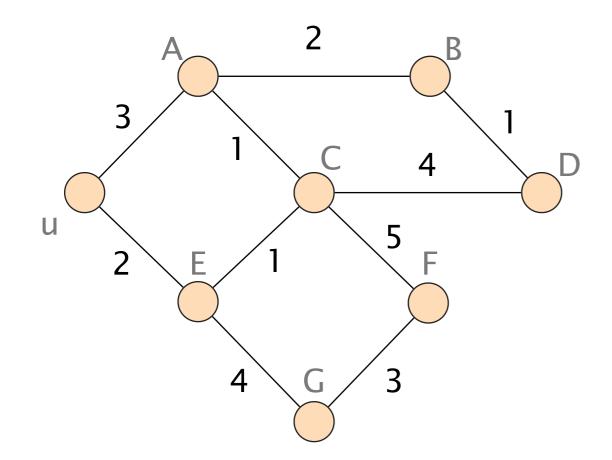


D's Advertisement

edge (D,B); cost: 1 edge (D,C); cost: 4 At the end of the flooding process,

everybody share the exact same view of the network

required for correctness see exercise



Dijkstra will always converge to a unique stable state when run on *static* weights

cf. exercice session for the dynamic case

Essentially, there are three ways to compute valid routing state

Use tree-like topologies

Spanning-tree

Rely on a global network view

Link-State SDN

#3 Rely on distributed computation

Distance-Vector BGP Instead of locally compute paths based on the graph, paths can be computed in a distributed fashion

Let $d_x(y)$ be the cost of the least-cost path known by x to reach y Let $d_x(y)$ be the cost of the least-cost path known by x to reach y

Each node bundles these distances into one message (called a vector) that it repeatedly sends to all its neighbors

until convergence

Let $d_x(y)$ be the cost of the least-cost path known by x to reach y

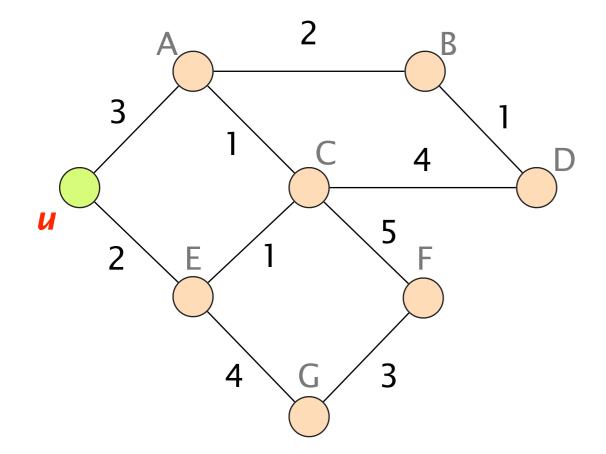
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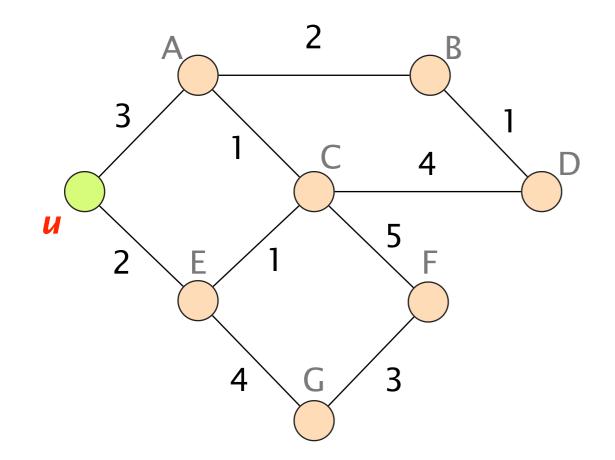
Each node updates its distances based on neighbors' vectors:

 $d_x(y) = \min\{c(x,v) + d_v(y)\}$ over all neighbors v

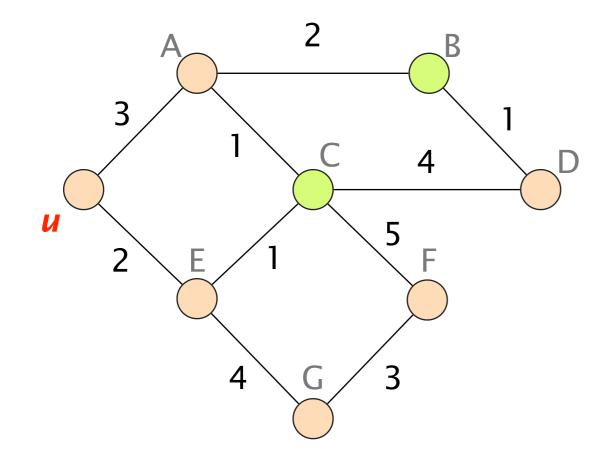
Let's compute the shortest-path from *u* to D



The values computed by a node *u* depends on what it learns from its neighbors (A and E)



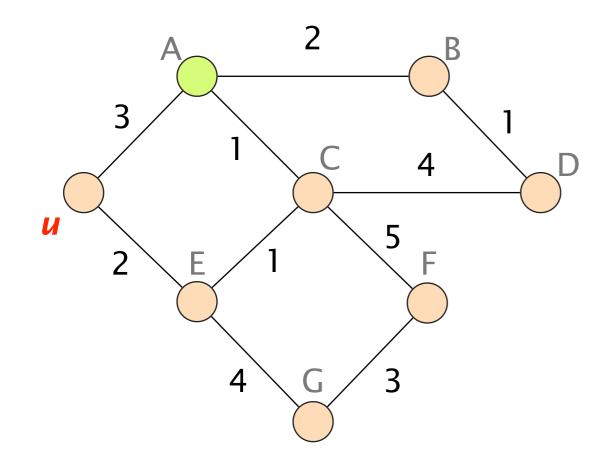
 $d_{X}(y) = \min\{ c(x,v) + d_{V}(y) \}$ over all neighbors v \downarrow \downarrow $d_{U}(D) = \min\{ c(u,A) + d_{A}(D), c(u,E) + d_{E}(D) \}$ To unfold the recursion, let's start with the direct neighbor of D



 $d_{B}(D) = 1$

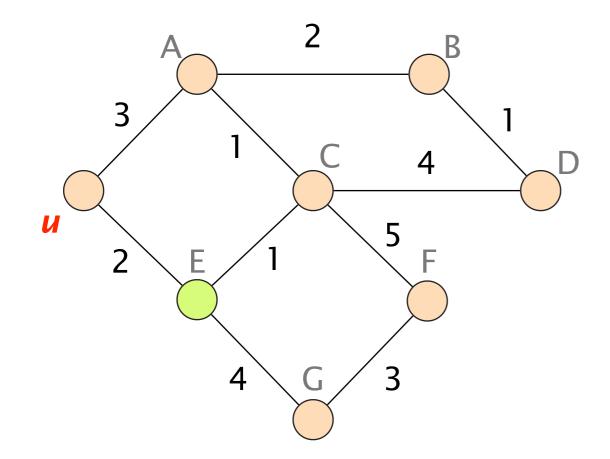
d() = 4

B and C announce their vector to their neighbors, enabling A to compute its shortest-path



$$d_{A}(D) = \min \{ 2 + d_{B}(D), \\ 1 + d_{C}(D) \}$$

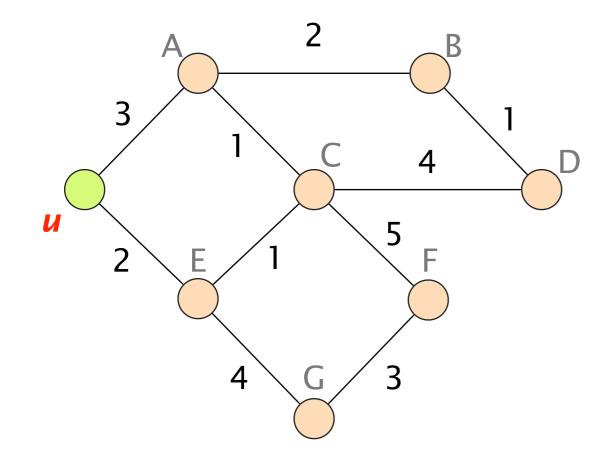
As soon as a distance vector changes, each node propagates it to its neighbor



$$d_{E}(D) = \min \{ 1 + d_{C}(D), 4 + d_{G}(D), 2 + d_{U}(D) \}$$

= 5

Eventually, the process converges to the shortest-path distance to each destination



 $d_{u}(D) = \min \{ 3 + d_{A}(D), 2 + d_{E}(D) \}$

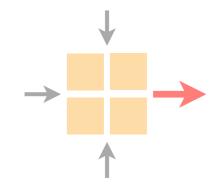
= 6

As before, *u* can directly infer its forwarding table by directing the traffic to the best neighbor

the one which advertised the smallest cost

Evaluating the complexity of DV is harder, we'll get back to that in a couple of weeks

Communication Networks Part 2: Concepts







How do you ensure reliable transport on top of best-effort delivery? In the Internet, reliability is ensured by the end hosts, not by the network

The Internet puts reliability in L4, just above the Network layer

goalsKeep the network simple, dumbmake it relatively "easy" to build and operate a network

Keep applications as network "unaware" as possible a developer should focus on its app, not on the network

designImplement reliability in-between, in the networking stackrelieve the burden from both the app and the network

The Internet puts reliability in L4, just above the Network layer

layer

Application

L4 Transport reliable end-to-end delivery

L3 Network global best-effort delivery

Link

Physical

Recall that the Network provides a best-effort service, with quite poor guarantees

layer

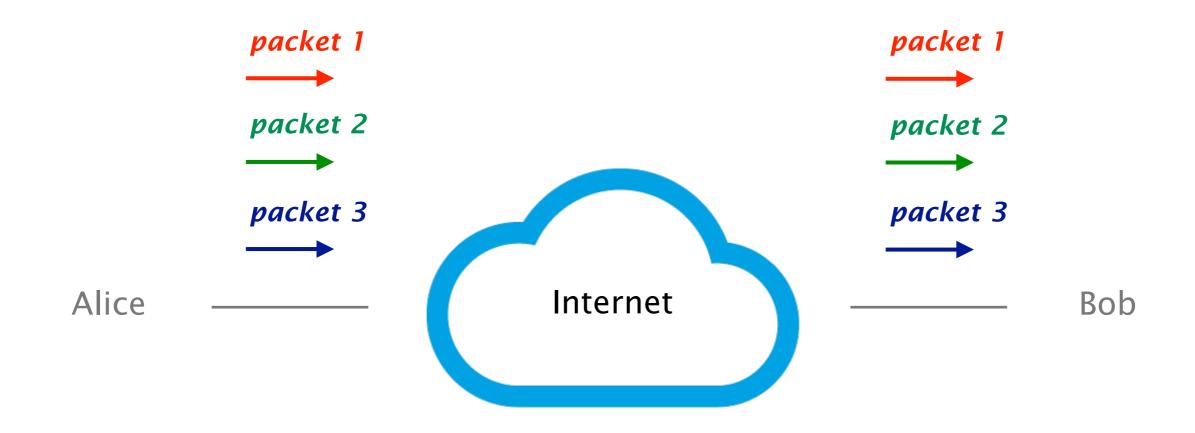
Application

- L4 Transport reliable end-to-end delivery
- L3 Network global best-effort delivery

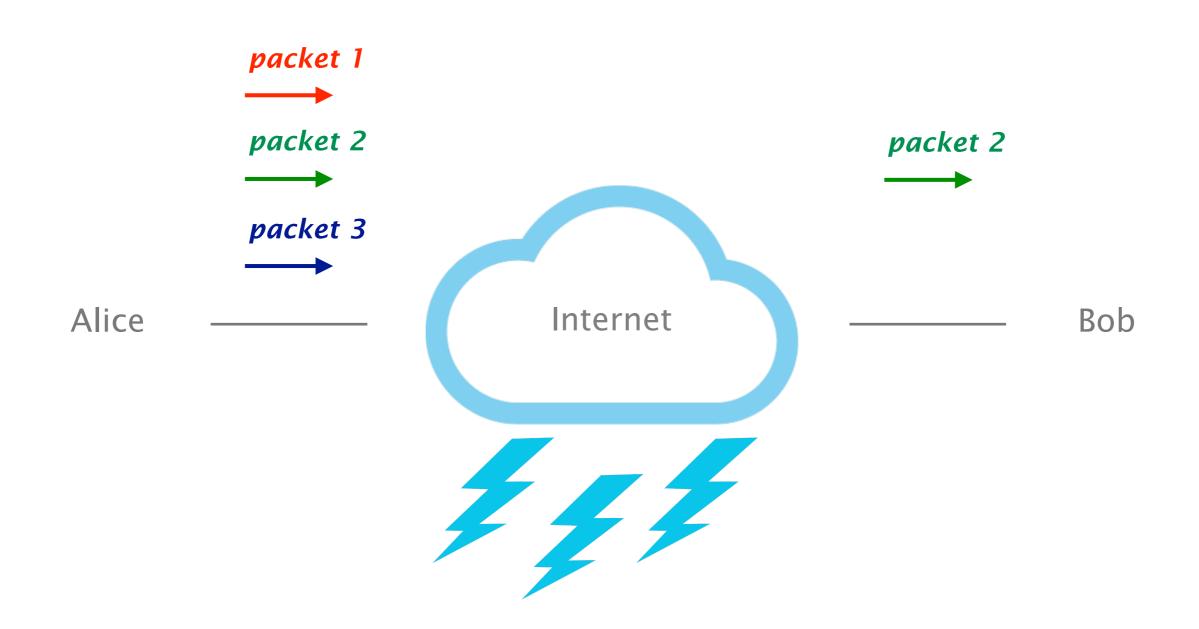
Link

Physical

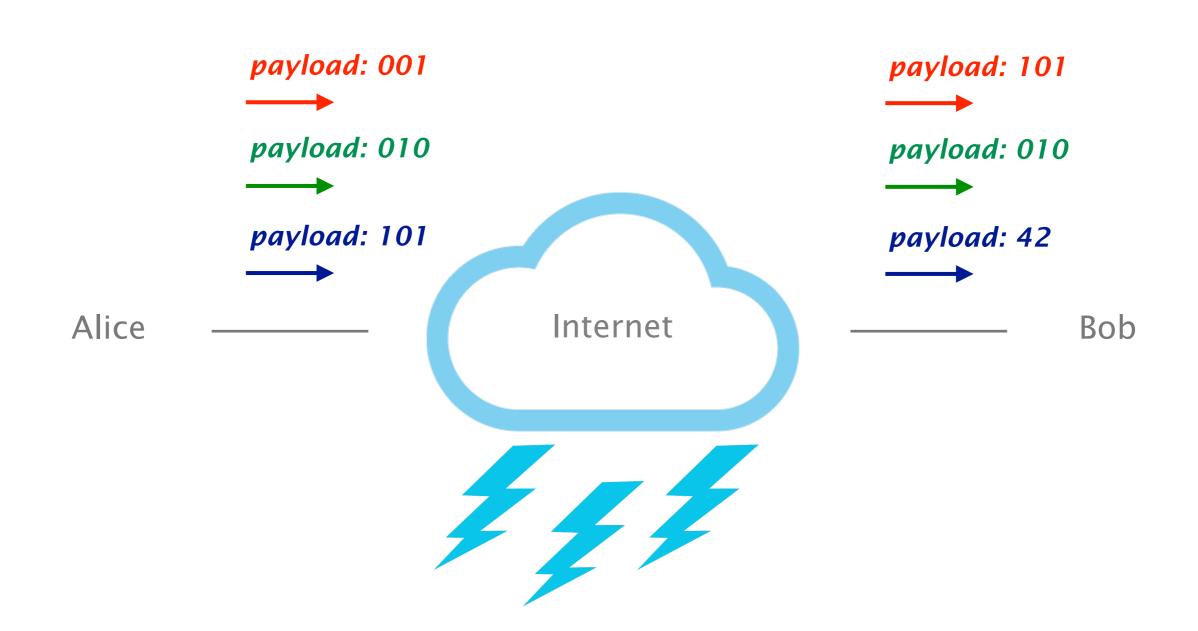
Let's consider a simple communication between two end-points, Alice and Bob



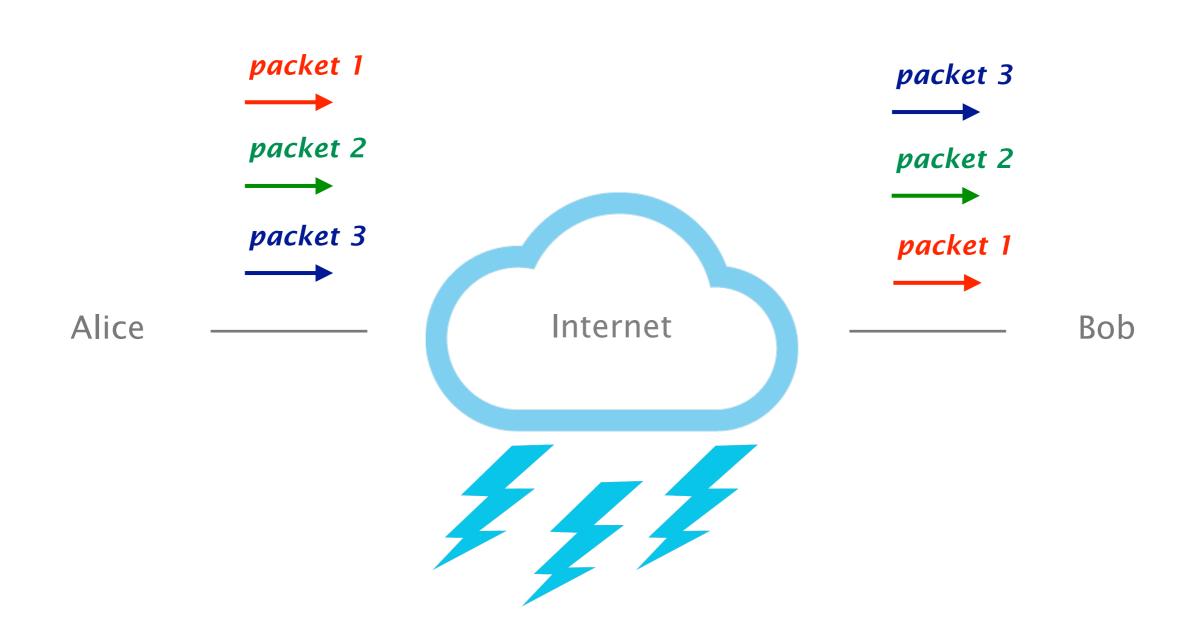
IP packets can get lost or delayed



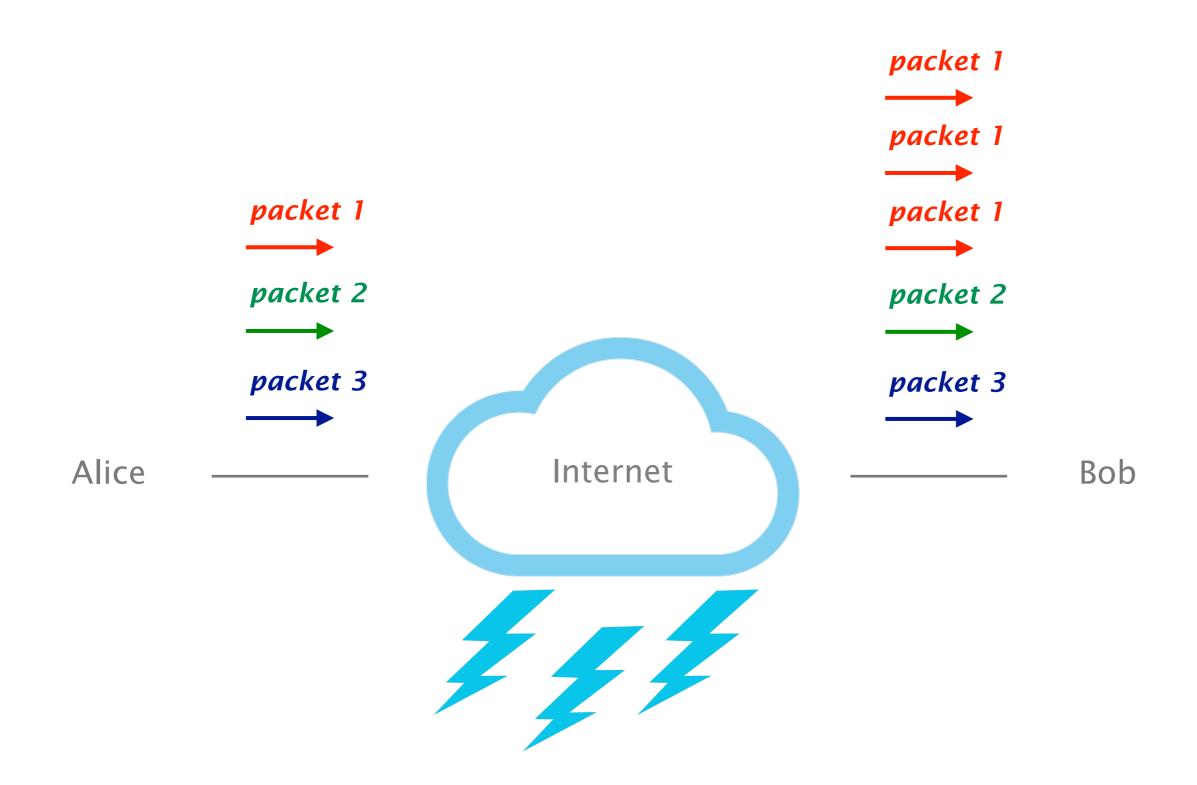
IP packets can get corrupted



IP packets can get reordered



IP packets can get duplicated



Reliable Transport



- 1 Correctness condition if-and-only if again
- 2 Design space timeliness vs efficiency vs ...
- 3 Examples Go-Back-N & Selective Repeat

Reliable Transport



Correctness condition if-and-only if again

1

Design space timeliness vs efficiency vs ...

Examples Go-Back-N & Selective Repeat

The four goals of reliable transfer

goals

correctness	ensure data is delivered, in order, and untouched
timeliness	minimize time until data is transferred
efficiency	optimal use of bandwidth
fairness	play well with concurrent communications

goals

correctness ensure data is delivered, in order, and untouched

Routing had a clean sufficient and necessary correctness condition

sufficient and necessary condition

Theorem

a global forwarding state is valid if and only if

there are no dead ends

no outgoing port defined in the table

there are no loops

packets going around the same set of nodes

We need the same kind of "if and only if" condition for a "correct" reliable transport design

attempt #1 packets are delivered to the receiver

Wrong Consider that the network is partitioned

We cannot say a transport design is *incorrect* if it doesn't work in a partitioned network...

attempt #2packets are delivered to receiver if and only ifit was possible to deliver them

Wrong If the network is only available one instant in time, only an oracle would know when to send

We cannot say a transport design is *incorrect* if it doesn't know the unknowable

attempt #3It resends a packet if and only ifthe previous packet was lost or corrupted

Wrong Consider two cases

- packet made it to the receiver and all packets from receiver were dropped
- packet is dropped on the way and all packets from receiver were dropped

attempt #3It resends a packet if and only ifthe previous packet was lost or corrupted

WrongIn both case, the sender has no feedback at allDoes it resend or not?

A reliable transport design is correct if...

attempt #3It resends a packet if and only ifthe previous packet was lost or corrupted



but better as it refers to what the design does (which it can control), not whether it always succeeds (which it can't)

A reliable transport design is correct if...

attempt #4A packet is always resent ifthe previous packet was lost or corrupted

A packet may be resent at other times

Correct!

A transport mechanism is correct if and only if it resends all dropped or corrupted packets

Sufficient	algorithm will always keep trying
"if"	to deliver undelivered packets
Necessary	if it ever let a packet go undelivered
"only if"	without resending it, it isn't reliable
Note	it is ok to give up after a while but must announce it to the application

Reliable Transport

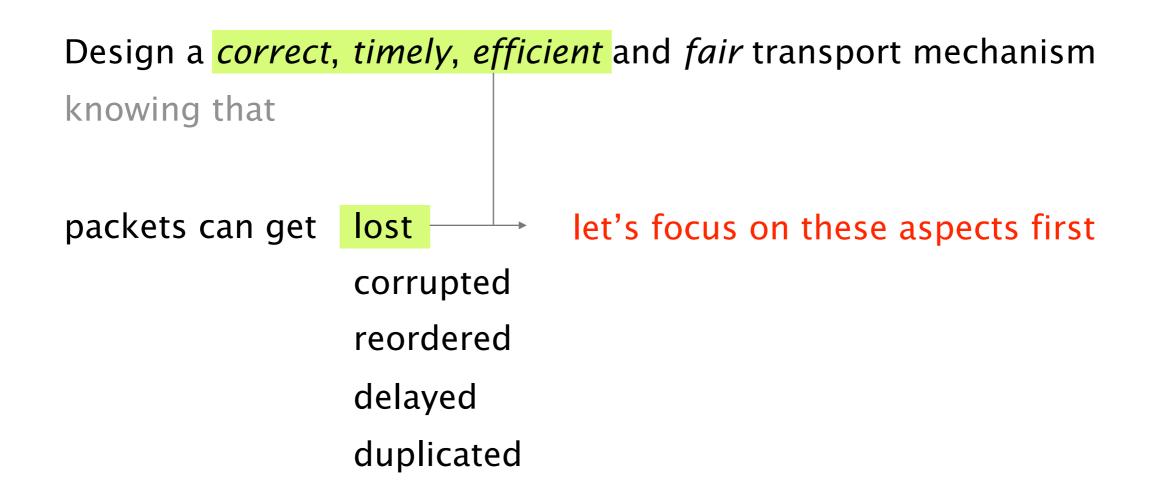


Correctness condition if-and-only if again

2 Design space timeliness vs efficiency vs ...

> Examples Go-Back-N & Selective Repeat

Now, that we have a correctness condition how do we achieve it and with what tradeoffs?



Alice

Bob

for word in list:
send_packet(word);
set_timer();

upon timer going off: if no ACK received: send_packet(word); reset_timer(); upon ACK: pass; receive_packet(p); if check(p.payload) == p.checksum: send_ack(); if word not delivered: deliver_word(word); else: pass; There is a clear tradeoff between timeliness and efficiency in the selection of the timeout value

for word in list: send_packet(word); set_timer();

> upon timer going off: if no ACK received: send_packet(word); reset_timer(); upon ACK: pass

receive_packet(p); if check(p.payload) == p.checksum: send_ack(); if word not delivered: deliver_word(word); else:

pass;

Timeliness argues for small timers, efficiency for large ones



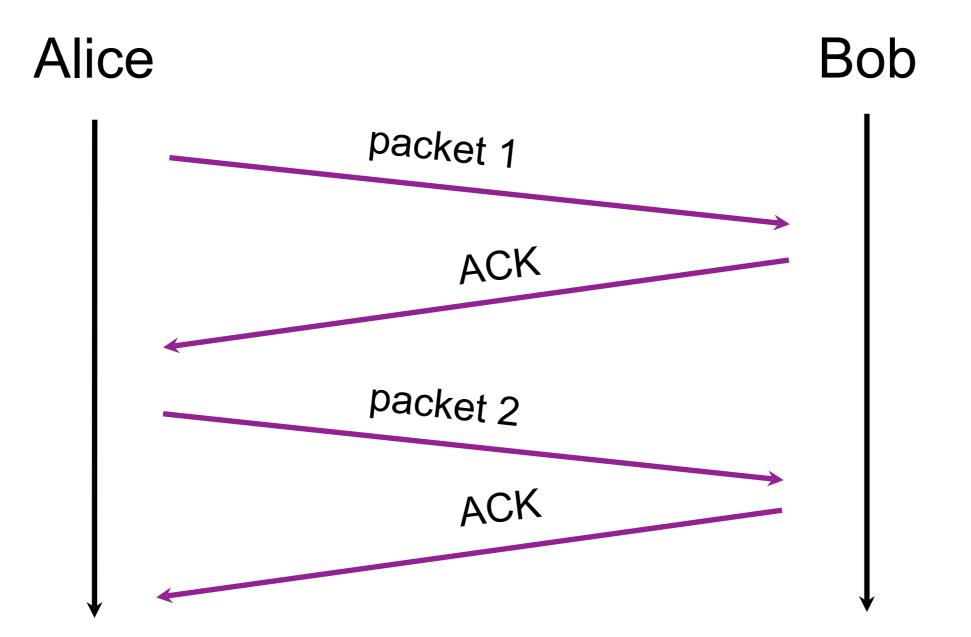
risk

unnecessary retransmissions

risk

slow transmission

Even with short timers, the timeliness of our protocol is extremely poor: one packet per Round-Trip Time (RTT)



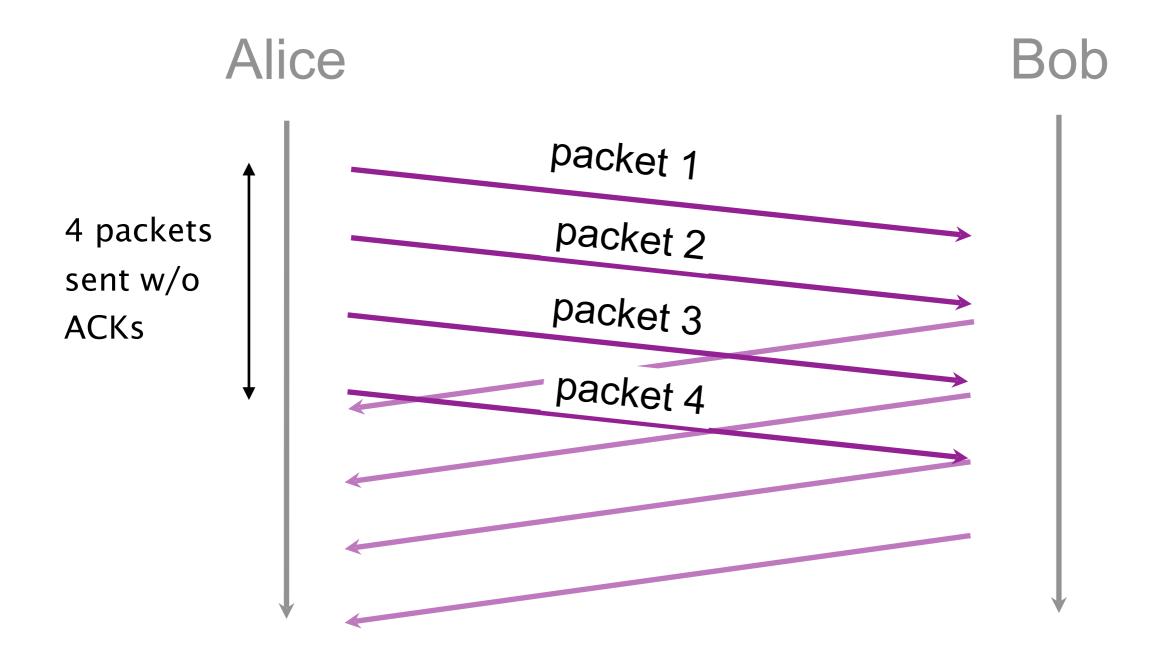
An obvious solution to improve timeliness is to send multiple packets at the same time

approach

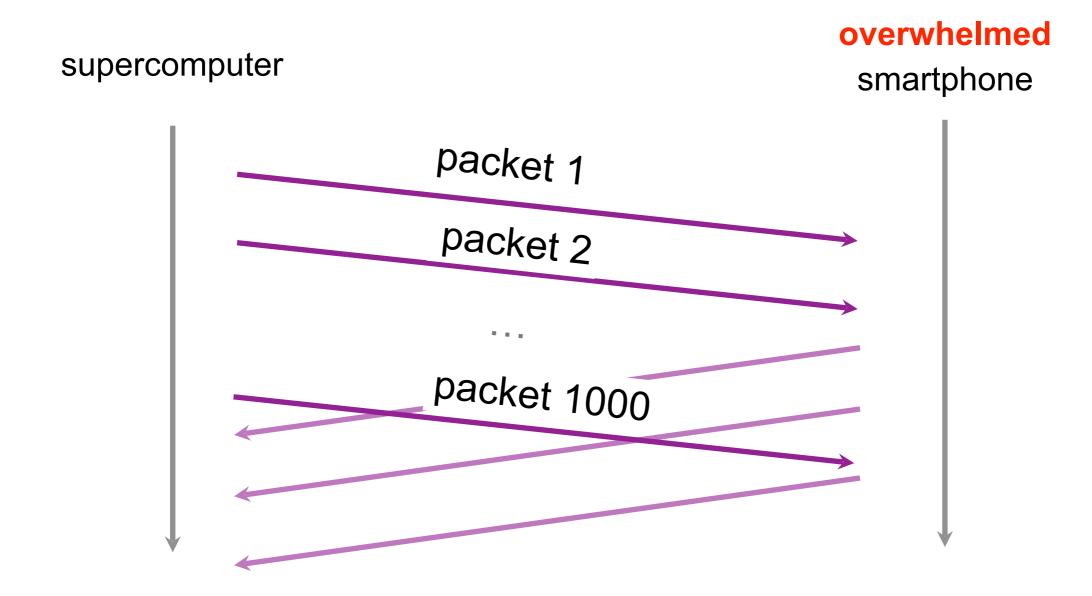
add sequence number inside each packet

add buffers to the sender and receiver

senderstore packets sent & not acknowledgedreceiverstore out-of-sequence packets received



Sending multiple packets improves timeliness, but it can also overwhelm the receiver



sends 1000 packet/s

can process 10 packet/s

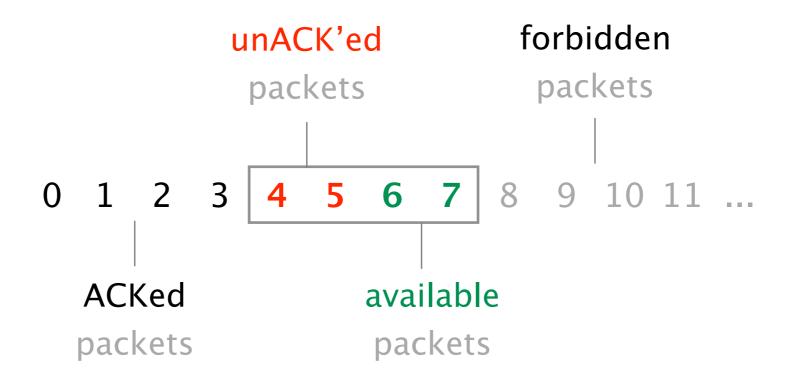
To solve this issue, we need a mechanism for flow control

Using a sliding window is one way to do that

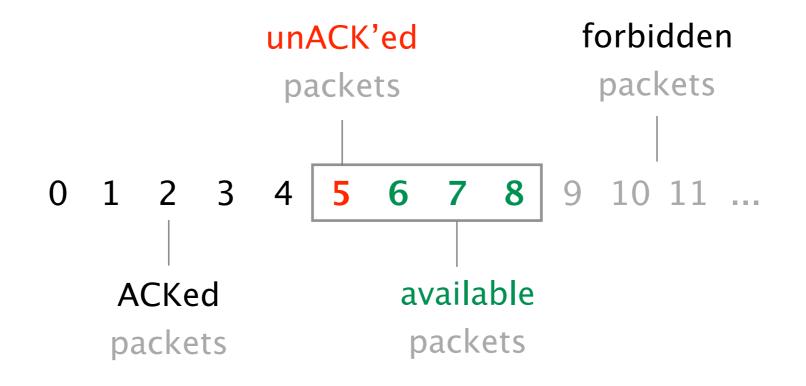
Sender keeps a list of the sequence # it can send known as the *sending window*

Receiver also keeps a list of the acceptable sequence # known as the *receiving window*

Sender and receiver negotiate the window size sending window <= receiving window Example with a window composed of 4 packets

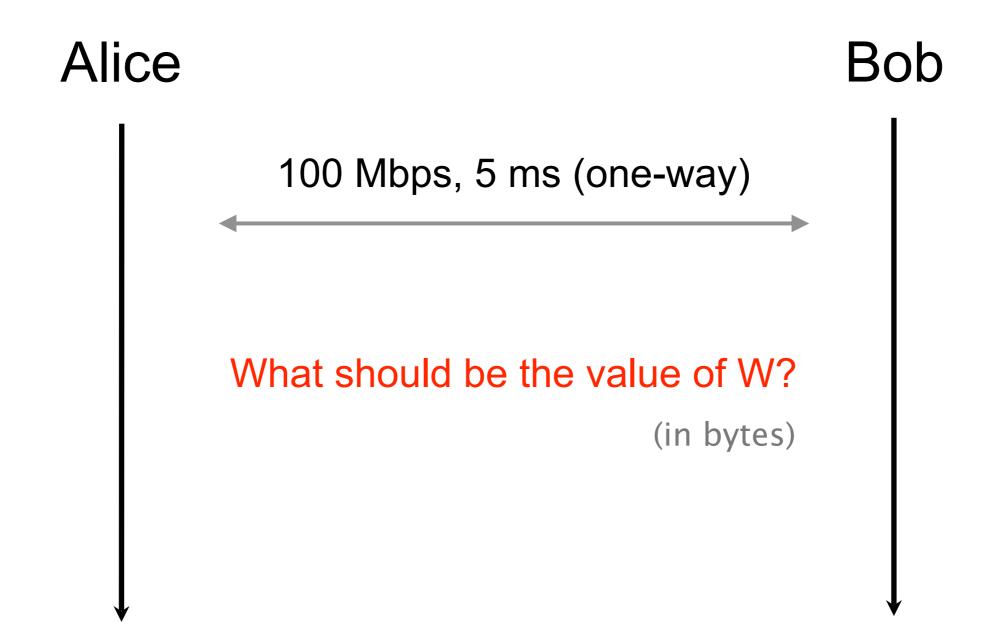


Window after sender receives ACK 4



Timeliness of the window protocol depends on the size of the sending window Assuming infinite buffers,

how big should the window be to maximize timeliness?



Timeliness matters, but what about efficiency?

The efficiency of our protocol essentially depends on two factors

receiver feedback

How much information does the sender get?

behavior upon losses

How does the sender detect and react to losses?

The efficiency of our protocol essentially depends on two factors

receiver feedback behavior upon losses

How much information does the sender get?

ACKing individual packets provides detailed feedback, but triggers unnecessary retransmission upon losses

advantages

disadvantages

know fate of each packet

simple window algorithm

W single-packet algorithms

not sensitive to reordering

loss of an ACK packet requires a retransmission

causes unnecessary retransmission

Cumulative ACKs enables to recover from lost ACKs, but provides coarse-grained information to the sender

approachACK the highest sequence number for whichall the previous packets have been received

advantages recover from lost ACKs

disadvantagesconfused by reorderingincomplete information about which packets have arrivedcauses unnecessary retransmission

Full Information Feedback prevents unnecessary retransmission, but can induce a sizable overhead

approachList all packets that have been receivedhighest cumulative ACK, plus any additional packets

advantages complete information resilient form of individual ACKs

disadvantagesoverhead(hence lowering efficiency)e.g., when large gaps between received packets

We see that Internet design is all about balancing tradeoffs (again)

The efficiency of our protocol essentially depends on two factors

receiver feedback behavior upon losses

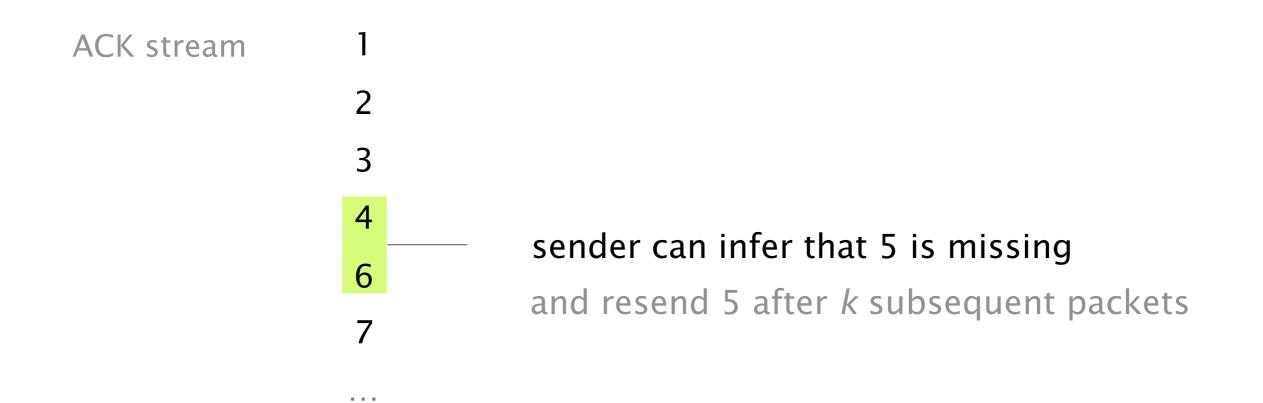
How does the sender detect and react to losses?

As of now, we detect loss by using timers. That's only one way though

Losses can also be detected by relying on ACKs

With individual ACKs, missing packets (gaps) are implicit

Assume packet 5 is lost but no other

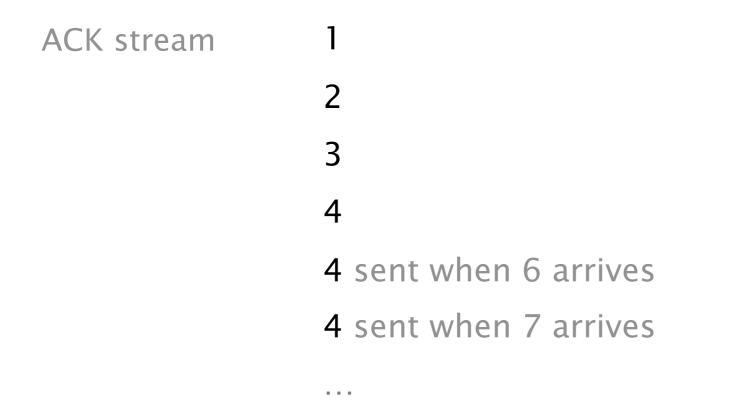


With full information, missing packets (gaps) are explicit

Assume packet 5 is lost but no other ACK stream up to 1 up to 2 up to 3 up to 4 sender learns that 5 is missing up to 4, plus 6 up to 4, plus 6–7 retransmits after k packets . . .

With cumulative ACKs, missing packets are harder to know

Assume packet 5 is lost but no other



Duplicated ACKs are a sign of isolated losses. Dealing with them is trickier though.

situation Lack of ACK progress means that 5 hasn't made it

Stream of ACKs means that (some) packets are delivered

Sender could trigger resend

upon receiving k duplicates ACKs

but *what* do you resend?

only 5 or 5 and everything after?

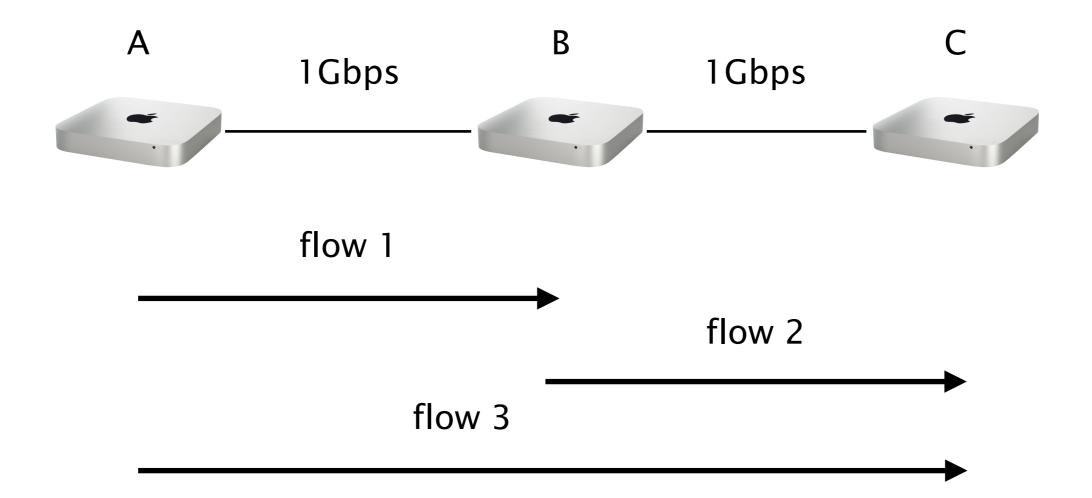
What about fairness?

Design a *correct*, *timely*, *efficient* and *fair* transport mechanism knowing that

packets can get	lost
	corrupted
	reordered
	delayed
	duplicated

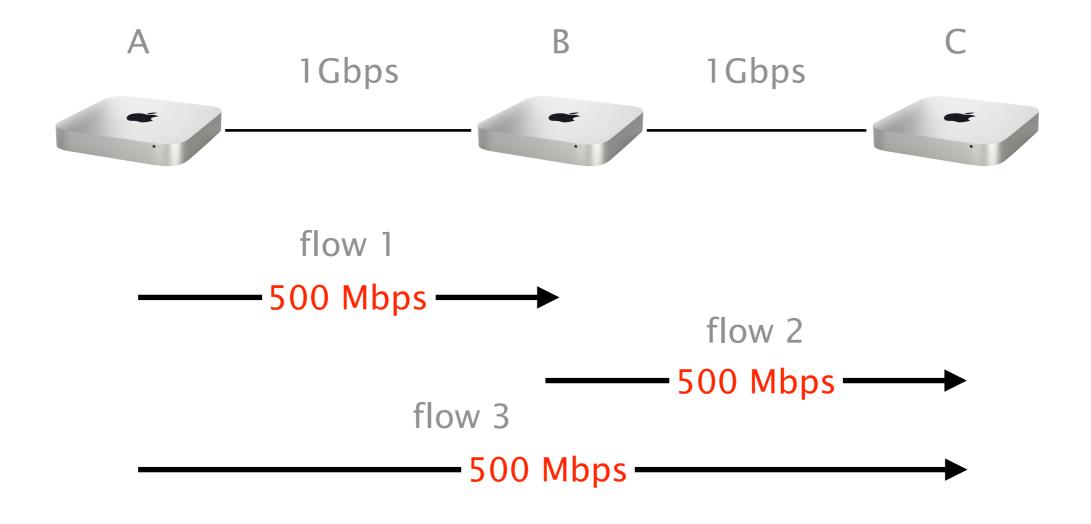
When *n* entities are using our transport mechanism, we want a fair allocation of the available bandwidth

Consider this simple network in which three hosts are sharing two links



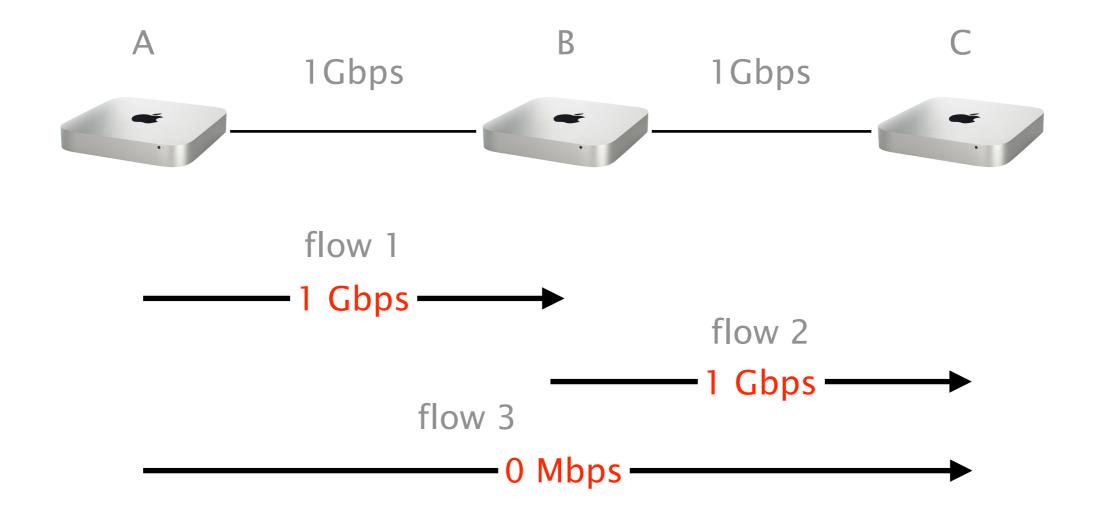
What is a fair allocation for the 3 flows?

An equal allocation is certainly "fair", but what about the efficiency of the network?



Total traffic is 1.5 Gbps

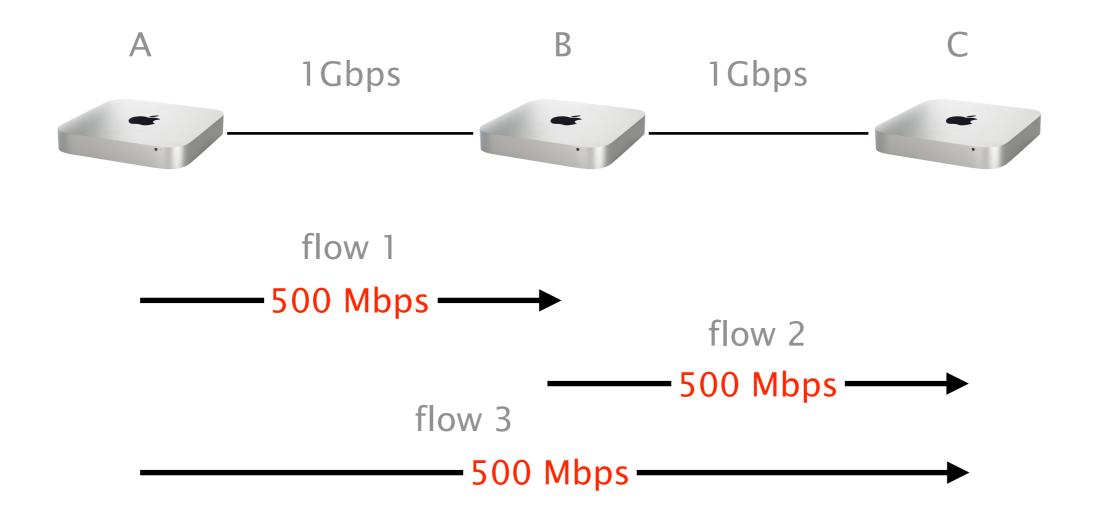
Fairness and efficiency don't always play along, here an unfair allocation ends up *more efficient*



Total traffic is 2 Gbps!

What is fair anyway?

Equal-per-flow isn't really fair as (A,C) crosses two links: it uses *more* resources



Total traffic is 1.5 Gbps

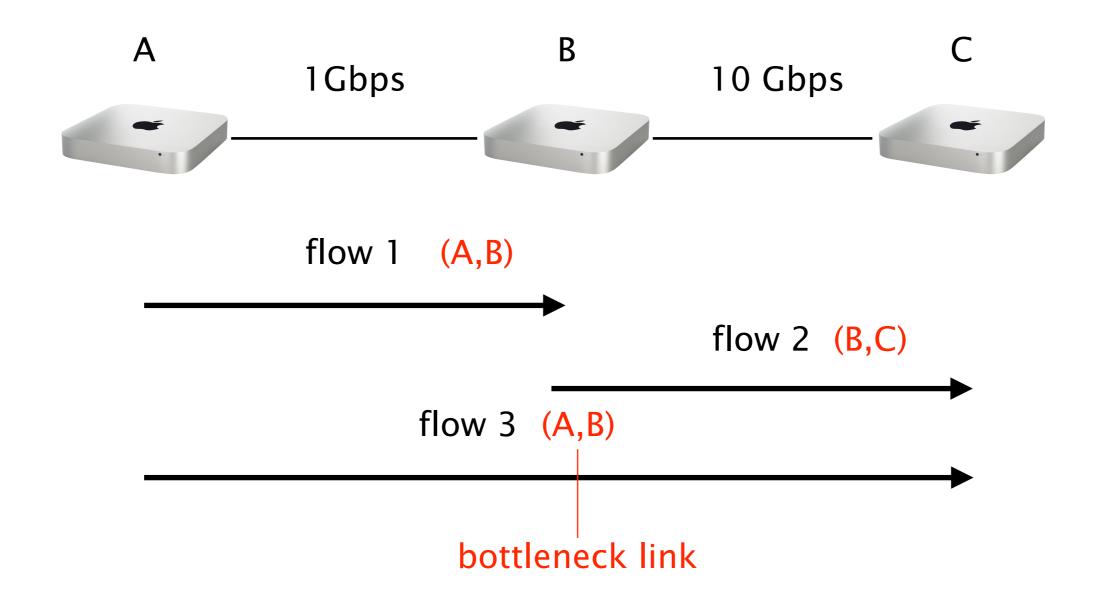
With equal-per-flow, A ends up with 1 Gbps because it sends 2 flows, while B ends up with 500 Mbps

Is it fair?

Seeking an exact notion of fairness is not productive. What matters is to avoid starvation.

equal-per-flow is good enough for this

Simply dividing the available bandwidth doesn't work in practice since flows can see different bottleneck



Intuitively, we want to give users with "small" demands what they want, and evenly distribute the rest

Max-min fair allocation is such that

the lowest demand is maximized

after the lowest demand has been satisfied, the second lowest demand is maximized

after the second lowest demand has been satisfied, the third lowest demand is maximized

and so on...

Max-min fair allocation can easily be computed

step 1	Start with all flows at rate 0
step 2	Increase the flows until there is a new bottleneck in the network
step 3	Hold the fixed rate of the flows that are bottlenecked
step 4	Go to step 2 for the remaining flows

Done!

Max-min fair allocation can be approximated by slowly increasing *W* until a loss is detected

IntuitionProgressively increasemax=receiving windowthe sending window size

Whenever a loss is detected, decrease the window size

signal of congestion

Repeat

Design a *correct*, *timely*, *efficient* and *fair* transport mechanism knowing that

packets can get	lost
	corrupted
	reordered
	delayed
	duplicated

Dealing with corruption is easy: Rely on a checksum, treat corrupted packets as lost The effect of reordering depends on the type of ACKing mechanism used

individual ACKs

no problem

full feedback

no problem

cumm. ACKs

create duplicate ACKs

why is it a problem?

Long delays can create useless timeouts, for all designs

Packets duplicates can lead to duplicate ACKs whose effects will depend on the ACKing mechanism used

individual ACKs

no problem

full feedback

no problem

cumm. ACKs

problematic

Design a *correct*, *timely*, *efficient* and *fair* transport mechanism knowing that

packets can get	lost
	corrupted
	reordered
	delayed
	duplicated

Here is one correct, timely, efficient and fair transport mechanism

full information ACK ACKing after timeout retransmission after k subsequent ACKs additive increase upon successful delivery window management multiple decrease when timeouts

We'll come back to this when we see TCP

Reliable Transport



Correctness condition if-and-only if again

Design space timeliness vs efficiency vs ...

3 Examples Go-Back-N & Selective Repeat

Go-Back-N (GBN) is a simple sliding window protocol using cumulative ACKs

principle receiver should be as simple as possible

receiver	delivers packets in-order to the upper layer
	for each received segment,
	ACK the last in-order packet delivered (cumulative)

senderuse a single timer to detect loss, reset at each new ACKupon timeout, resend all W packetsstarting with the lost one

Selective Repeat (SR) avoid unnecessary retransmissions by using per-packet ACKs see Book 3.4.3

principle avoids unnecessary retransmissions

receiver acknowledge each packet, in-order or not buffer out-of-order packets

senderuse per-packet timer to detect lossupon loss, only resend the lost packet

Let's see how it works in practice visually



http://www.ccs-labs.org/teaching/rn/animations/gbn_sr/

Reliable Transport

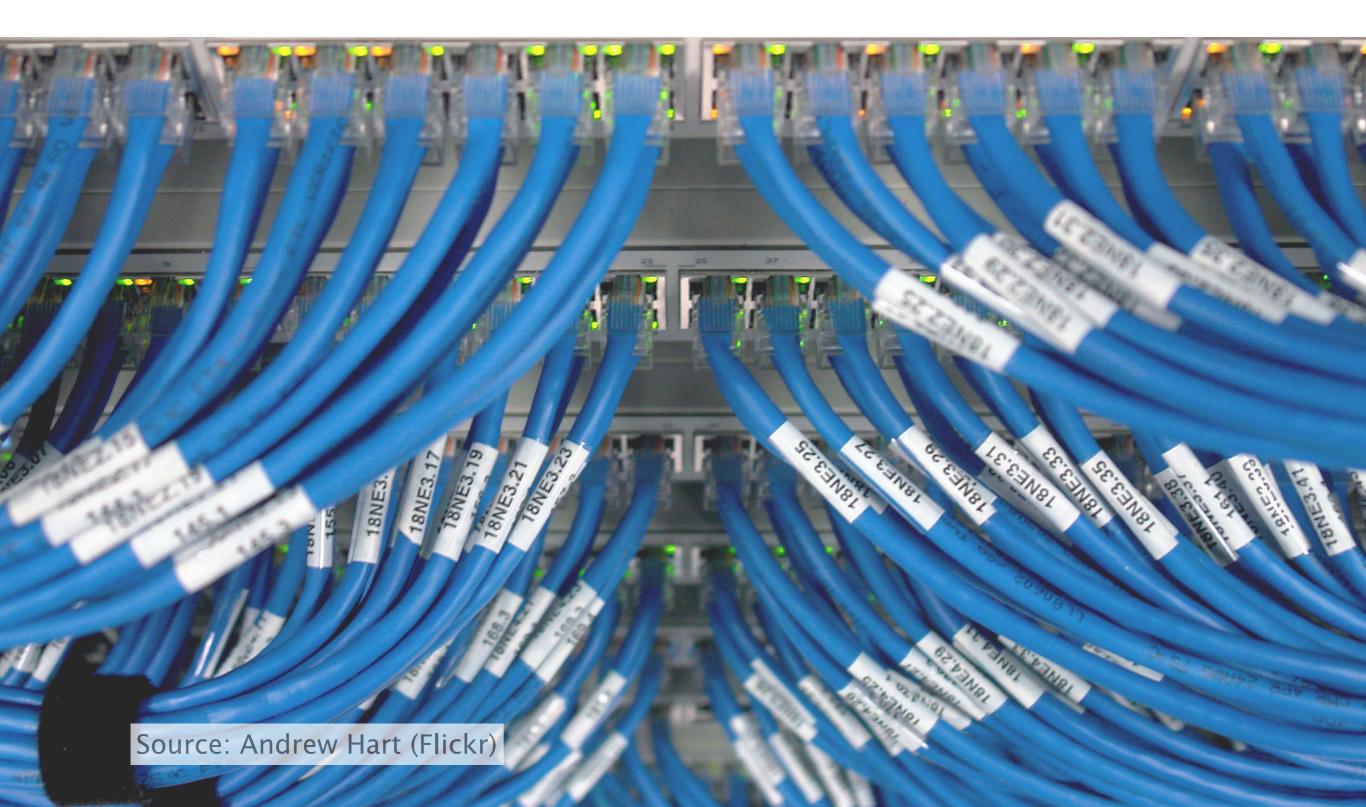


Correctness condition if-and-only if again

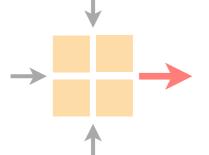
Design space timeliness vs efficiency vs ...

Examples Go-Back-N & Selective Repeat

Next week on Communication Networks Ethernet and Switching



Communication Networks Spring 2020





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ETH Zürich (D-ITET) March 2 2020