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1 Address resolution protocol

The address resolution protocol or **ARP** is a standalone module which performs the mapping of a given layer-3 address $addr_{NL}$ to another address, the link-layer address, which we will call $addr_{LL}$.

1.1 Why do we need this?

The reason that we require this $addr_{LL}$ is because when we need to send data to a host we do so over a link which is indicated in the routing table for said packet.

However, links don't speak the same network-layer protocol as twine - they speak whatever protocol they implement - i.e. Ethernet via LIInterface or the in-memory PipedLink. Needless to say there is also always a requirement of such a mapping mechanism because several links may be backed by a different link-layer protocols in their Link implementation and therefore we cannot marry ourselves to only one link-layer protocol - we need something dynamic.

1.2 The mapping function

We now head over to the technical side of things. Before we jump directly into an analysis of the source code it is worth considering what this procedure means in a mathematical sense because at a high-level this is what the code is modeled on.

If we have a router r_1 which has a set of links $L = \{l_1, l_2\}$ and we wanted to send a packet to a host addresses h_1 and h_2 which are accessible over l_1 and l_2 respectively then the mapping function would appear as such:

$$(h_1, l_1) \rightarrow addr_{LL_1}$$

 $(h_2, l_2) \rightarrow addr_{LL_2}$

On the right hand side the $addr_{LL_1}$ and $addr_{LL_2}$ are the resolved link-layer addresses.

$$(h_i, l_i) \rightarrow addr_{LL_i}$$

Therefore we discover that we have the above mapping function which requires the network-layer h_i address you wish to resolve and the link l_i over which the resolution must be done, this then mapping to a single scalar - the link-layer address, $addr_{LL_i}$.

1.3 Implementation

We will begin the examination of the code at the deepest level which models this mathematical function earlier, first, after which we will then consider the code which calls it and how that works.

1.3.1 The entry type

Firstly let us begin with the definition of the in-memory data type which holds the mapping details. this is known as the ArpEntry struct and it is shown in part below:

```
public struct ArpEntry

private string l3Addr;
private string l2Addr;

public bool isEmpty()

return this.l3Addr == "" && this.l2Addr == "";
```

```
public static ArpEntry empty()
full term arpEntry("", "");
full term arpEntry("",
```

Please note the methods is Empty(). An entry is considered empty if both its network-layer and link-layer fields have an empty string in them, this is normally accomplished by calling the empty() static method in order to construct such an ArpEntry.

1.3.2 Making an ARP request

The code to make an ARP request is in the regen(Target target) method and we will now go through it line by line.

1.3.2.1 Setting up the request and link Firstly we are provided with a Target, this is encapsulates the network-layer address and the Link instance we want to request over. We now extract both of those items into their own variables:

```
// use this link
Link link = target.getLink();
// address we want to resolve
string addr = target.getAddr();
```

Before we make the request we will need a way to receive the response, therefore we attach ourselves, the ArpManager, as a Receiver to the link:

```
// attach as a receiver to this link
link.attachReceiver(this);

logger.dbg("attach done");
```

This provides us with a callback method which will be called by the Link whenever it receives any traffic. It is worth noting that such a method will not run on the thread concerning the code we are looking at now but rather on the thread of the Link's - we will discuss later how will filter it and deliver the result to us, but for now - back to the code.

1.3.2.2 Encoding and sending the request Now that we know what we want to request and over which link we can go ahead and encode the ARP request message and broadcast it over the link:

```
// generate the message and send request
   Arp arpReq = Arp.newRequest(addr);
   Message msg;
   if(toMessage(arpReq, msg))
       link.broadcast(msg.encode());
6
       logger.dbg("arp req sent");
   }
   else
9
   {
10
       logger.error("Arp failed but oh boy, at the encoding level");
11
   }
12
```

As you can see we make use of the broadcast(byte[]) method, this is handled by the link's implementation according to its link-layer protocol.

1.3.2.3 Waiting for a response We now have to wait for a response and not just any response. It has to be an ARP reply for the particular network-layer address we requested earlier.

This is done with the following code:

```
// wait for reply
string llAddr;
bool status = waitForLLAddr(addr, llAddr);
...
```

As you can see we have this call to a method called waitForLLAddr(addr, llAddr). This method will block for us and can wake up if it is signaled to by the callback method running on the Link's thread (as mentioned previously).

```
1 StopWatch timer = StopWatch(AutoStart.yes);
2
3  // todo, make timeout-able (todo, make configurable)
4  while(timer.peek() < this.timeout)
5  {
6     this.waitLock.lock();
7
8     scope(exit)
9     {
10         this.waitLock.unlock();
11     }
12
13     this.waitSig.wait(dur!("msecs")(500)); // todo, duty cycle if missed notify but also held</pre>
```

```
// scan if we have it
15
        string* llAddr = l3Addr in this.addrIncome;
16
        if(llAddr !is null)
17
18
            string llAddrRet = *llAddr;
            this.addrIncome.remove(13Addr);
20
            11AddrOut = 11AddrRet; // set result
            return true; // did not timeout
22
        }
23
   }
24
25
   return false; // timed out
26
```

Because it is implemented using a condition variable, it could potentially miss a signal from the calling notify() if we only call wait() on our thread after the link's thread has called notify(). Therefore, we make our wait() wake up every now and then by using a timed-wait, to check if the data has been filled in by the other thread.

Second of all, what we do after retrying from wait (Duration) is check if the requested network-layer address has been resolved or not - this is that filtering I was mentioning earlier. This is important as we don't want to wake up for any ARP response, but only the one which matches our addr requested.

Thirdly, this also gives us a chance to check the while-loop's condition so that we can see if we have timed out (waited long enough) for an ARP response.

After all is done, the resulting entry is placed in a globally accessible string[string] addrIncome which is protected by the waitLock for both threads contending it. We then continue:

```
// if timed out
   if(!status)
        logger.warn("Arp failed for target: ", target);
        return ArpEntry.empty();
   }
   // on success
   else
11
        ArpEntry arpEntry = ArpEntry(addr, 11Addr);
12
        logger.info("Arp request completed: ", arpEntry);
13
        return arpEntry;
14
   }
15
```

We now check, as I said, if the entry is valid or not. If we timed-out then we would have returned false. Now, as we shall see later, we will still have to return some ArpEntry because that is the signature of our method, regen(Target target). Thus, if we failed t get an ArpEntry we then return one generated by ArpEntry.empty(), else we return the actual entry that we received.

1.3.2.4 Catching responses I have mentioned that the thread which waits for a matching ARP response to come in (the one which calls the wait(Duration)) above. So then, the question is - which thread is the one calling notify() on the condition variable and under which scenarios?

Recall that we attached the ArpManager as a Receiver to the Link object which was passed into the regen(Target) method:

```
// use this link
Link link = target.getLink();

// address we want to resolve
string addr = target.getAddr();

// attach as a receiver to this link
link.attachReceiver(this);

logger.dbg("attach done");
```

Now the reason for this is that whenever traffic is received on a Link it will copy the byte[] containing the payload to each attached Receiver.

This means that the ArpManager will receive all packets from a given link, the question is - which ones to we react to? Well that's easy. Below I show you the onReceive(Link src, byte[] data, string srcAddr) method which the arp manager overrides. This is called every time a given link receives data:

```
1  /**
2  * Called by the `Link` which received a packet which
3  * may be of interest to us
4  *
5  * Params:
6  * src = the `Link` from where the packet came from
7  * data = the packet's data
8  * srcAddr = the link-layer source address
9  */
10  public override void onReceive(Link src, byte[] data, string srcAddr)
11  {
```

```
Message recvMesg;
12
        if(Message.decode(data, recvMesg))
13
14
            // payload type
15
            if(recvMesg.getType() == MType.ARP)
16
            {
17
                 Arp arpMesg;
                 if(recvMesg.decodeAs(arpMesg))
                 {
20
                     logger.dbg("arpMesg, received: ", arpMesg, "from: ", srcAddr);
21
                     ArpReply reply;
22
                     if(arpMesg.getReply(reply))
23
                     {
                         logger.info("ArpReply: ", reply);
25
                         // place and wakeup waiters
27
                         placeLLAddr(reply.networkAddr(), reply.llAddr());
                     }
29
31
32
                 . . .
33
            . . .
34
   }
35
```

What we do here is we attempt to decode each incoming packet into our Message type, then further check if it is an ARP-typed message. If this is the case then we check if it is an ARP request (because as we have seen, ARP requests are not handled here).

```
st Called by the thread which has an ARP response
    * it would like to pass off to the thread waiting
    * on the condition variable
    * Params:
        13Addr = the network layer address
        llAddr = the link-layer address
   private void placeLLAddr(string 13Addr, string 11Addr)
10
11
       this.waitLock.lock();
12
13
        scope(exit)
14
15
            this.waitLock.unlock();
16
```

```
this.waitSig.notify(); // todo, more than one or never?
this.addrIncome[l3Addr] = l1Addr;
}
```

If this is the case then we will place the link-layer address into a key-value map where the key is the network-layer address and the value is the link-layer address. After this we wake up the sleeping thread by calling notify().

1.3.3 Caching

I mentioned that there is caching involved. The involvement is that all ArpEntry's are stored in a CacheMap! (ArpEntry) which means that they will exist in there for some period of time and then be evicted.

If an entry has not yet been cached-in then it is created on demand when you do map.get(Target). Now remember the regen(Target) method? Well, thats the regeneration method that we supply this cache map upon instantiation - therefore it works as expected.

1.4 The API

We have now discussed the gritty internals which aid us in creating requests, awaiting replies and then returning the matched entry. We now must move over to the publicly facing API of the ArpManager. This really just contains a single method:

```
Optional!(ArpEntry) resolve(string networkAddr, Link onLink)
```

The way this method works is that it will return an Optional!(ArpEntry), meaning that you can test to see if the arp resolution process succeeded or failed (i.e. timed-out for example) using code that looks akin to what shall follow.

I have prepared an example which can illustrate the usage of the ArpManager. In fact this example is part of a unittest which tests the various scenarios that can occur with the manager itself.

1.4.1 Mock links

Firstly we setup a pseudo-link. This is a sub-class of the Link class which is specifically configured to respond **only** to ARP requests and only to those which a mapping exists for.

In this example I configure two mappings of network-layer addresses to link-layer addresses:

```
(host_{A_{l3}}, dummyLink) \rightarrow host_{A_{l2}}
(host_{B_{l3}}, dummyLink) \rightarrow host_{B_{l2}}
```

The code to do this is as follows:

```
// Map some layer 3 -> layer 2 addresses
string[string] mappings;
mappings["hostA:13"] = "hostA:12";
mappings["hostB:13"] = "hostB:12";

// create a dummy link that responds with those mappings
ArpRespondingLink dummyLink = new ArpRespondingLink(mappings);
```

1.4.2 Resolution

We then must create an ArpManager we can use for the resolution process:

```
ArpManager man = new ArpManager();
```

Now we are ready to attempt resolution. I first try to resolve the link-layer address of the network-layer address hostA:13 by specifying it along with the mock link, dummyLink, which we created earlier:

```
// try resolve address `hostA:13` over the `dummyLink` link (should PASS)
Optional!(ArpEntry) entry = man.resolve("hostA:13", dummyLink);
assert(entry.isPresent());
assert(entry.get().llAddr() == mappings["hostA:13"]);
```

In the above case the mapping succeeds and we get an ArpEntry returned from entry.get(), upon which I extract the link-layer address by calling llAddr() on it and comparing it to what I expected, mappings["hostA:13"] - which maps to hostA:12.

We do a similar example for the other host:

```
// try resolve address `hostB:13` over the `dummyLink` link (should PASS)
entry = man.resolve("hostB:13", dummyLink);
assert(entry.isPresent());
assert(entry.get().llAddr() == mappings["hostB:13"]);
```

Lastly, I wanted to show what a failure would look like. With this we expect that entry.isPresent() would return false and therefore stop right there:

```
// try top resolve `hostC:13` over the `dummyLink` link (should FAIL)
entry = man.resolve("hostC:13", dummyLink);
assert(entry.isPresent() == false);
```

This resolution fails because our ArpRespondingLink, our $dummy\ link$, doesn't respond to mapping requests of the kind $(host_{B_{l3}}, dummyLink)$.

1.4.3 Shutting it down

We need to shut down the ArpManager when we shut down the whole system, this is then accomplished by running its destructor:

```
// shut down the arp manager
destroy(man);
```

2 Links and Receivers

So-called *links* are *receivers* are terms referred to throughout the documentation and understanding what they are and how they relate to each other is important for what is to follow.

2.1 The Receiver

A receiver is a relatively simple type, the interface is defined as follows:

```
* A subscriber could be a router that wants
    * to subscribe to data coming in from this
    * interface
    */
   public interface Receiver
        * On reception of the provided data from
9
         * the given link-layer address over
10
         * the given `Link`
11
12
         * Params:
13
            source = the source `Link`
14
            recv = the received data
15
             srcAddr = the source link-layer address
16
         */
17
        public void onReceive(Link source, byte[] recv, string srcAddr);
18
   }
19
```

As you can probably understand from the just of it, it is basically a handler for

ingress traffic whereby the first argument is the data itself and the second must be the link-layer address the traffic is sourced from. Any class which implements the Receiver interface may be (as you will see later) attached to a Link such that it can have data passed to it.

2.2 The Link

A *Link* is provides us with a method to send data to a destination link-layer address and be notified when we receive packets from link-layer addressed hosts over said link.

A *link* is composed out of a few things:

- 1. A list of receivers
 - These are the currently attached receivers which is to be called serially (one after the other) whenever a data packet arrives over this link.
 - Given a link with two Receiver(s) attached, then in an example whereby the bytes [66, 65, 65, 66] arrive over the link then that that byte array would be copied to the attached
- 2. A source address
 - We must have a way to determine the source address of the link such that it can be used for various procedures such as ARP
- 3. A transmission and broadcast mechanism
 - We need a way to send unicast (traffic directed to a singular *given* host) and also to broadcast to all those attached to the link

2.2.1 Concrete methods

There are a few methods which relate to the Receiver(s). These are shown below and essentially are for adding, removing and enumerating receivers for this link:

Method name	Description			
attachReceiver(ReceiverThis attaches the given receiver to this Link,				
receiver)	meaning packets will be copied to it			
removeReceiver(ReceiverRemoves the given receiver from this Link meaning				
receiver)	that packets will no longer be copied to it			
<pre>auto getRecvCnt()</pre>	Returns the number of receivers attached to this			
	Link			

2.2.1.1 Implementing your driver As part of implementing your driver, i.e. by method of extending/sub-classing the Link class, you will implement the mechanism (however you go about it) by which will extract data from your link-layer and extract the network-layer part (the twine data payload of your link-layer packet)

and then what do you do with it?

Well, you will want to make this data available to any of the Receiver(s) which are attached currently. you want to pass it up to the handlers. This can be safely done by calling the receive(...) method as shown below:

Method name	Description
receive(byte[] recv,	This is to be called when the Link sub-class
string srcAddr)	(implementation) has network-layer traffic to provide

Calling this method iterates over every attached Receiver and calls their respective on Receive(...) methods.

Note: that the srcAddr must contain the link-layer source address.

2.2.2 Abstract methods

There are a few more methods to take note of, these are not available as an already-implemented set of methods in the Link class, and hence must be overriden.

2.2.2.1 Implementing your driver... again Whilst the usage of the aforementioned receive(byte[], string) method had to do with processing ingress traffic, these methods require an implementation for handling egress traffic.

Method name	Description
<pre>void transmit(byte[] xmit, string addr) void</pre>	Link-implementation specific for driver to send data to a specific destination address Link-implementation specific for driver to broadcast
<pre>broadcast(byte[] xmit)</pre>	to all hosts on its broadcast domain
string getAddress()	Link-implementation specific for driver to report its address

Note: The last method, getAddress(), must return the Link's link-layer address.

3 Routing and forwarding

Routing is the process by which one announces their routes to others, whilst forwarding is the usage of those learnt routes in order to facilitate the transfer of packets from one endpoint to another through a network of inter-connected routers.

3.1 A route

Before we can get into the process of routing we must first have a conception of a *route* itself.

A route consists of the following items:

- 1. A destination
 - Describes to whom this route is for, i.e. a route to who
- 2. A link
 - The Link object over which we can reach this host
- 3. A gateway
 - This is who we would need to forward the packet via in order to get the packet either to the final destination (in such a case the gateway = destination) or the next-hop gateway that we must forward via (gateway \neq destination)
- $4.\ {\rm A}\ distance$
 - This is metric which doesn't affect *how* packets are forwarded but rather how routes that have the same matching *destination* are tiebroken.
 - Given routes $r = \{r_1, r_2\}$ and a function $d(r_i)$ which returns the distance we shall install the route r_i which has the lowest distance, hence $r_{installed} = r_i whered(r_i) = min(d(r))$ (TODO: fix this maths)
- 5. A timer and lifetime
 - We have *timer* which ticks upwards and a *lifetime* which allows us to check when the *timer* > *lifetime* which signifies that the route has expired, indicating that we should remove it from the routing table.

And in code this can be found as the Route struct shown below:

```
* Represents a route
   public struct Route
5
        private string dstKey; // destination
       private Link 11; // link to use
       private string viaKey; // gateway (can be empty)
        private ubyte dst; // distance
9
10
        private StopWatch lifetime; // timer
11
        private Duration expirationTime; // maximum lifetime
12
13
14
        . . .
   }
15
```

3.1.1 Methods

Some important methods that we have are the following (there are more but these are ones that hold under certain conditions that are not so obvious, therefore I would like to explicitly mention them):

Method	Description
isDirect()	Returns true when $gateway = destination$, otherwise false
isSelfRoute()	Returns true if the Link is null, otherwise false

3.1.2 Route equality

Lastly, route equality is something that is checked as part of the router's code, so we should probably show how we have overrode the opEquals(Route) method. This is the method that is called when two Route structs are compared for equality using the == operator.

Our implementation goes as follows:

```
public struct Route
   {
5
         * Compares two routes with one
         * another
         * Params:
         * r1 = first route
10
           r2 = second route
         * Returns: `true` if the routes
12
         * match exactly, otherwise `false`
13
14
        public static bool isSameRoute(Route r1, Route r2)
16
17
            return r1.destination() == r2.destination() &&
18
                   r1.gateway() == r2.gateway() &&
                   r1.distance() == r2.distance() &&
20
                   r1.link() == r2.link();
21
        }
22
23
24
         * Compares this `Route` with
25
         * another
26
```

```
27
         * Params:
28
           rhs = the other route
29
         * Returns: `true` if the routes
30
         * are identical, `false` otherwise
31
         */
        public bool opEquals(Route rhs)
33
            return isSameRoute(this, rhs);
35
        }
36
   }
37
```

3.2 The router

The Router class is the main component of the twine system. Everything such as Link objects and so forth make a part of the router's way or working. The router performs several core tasks which include:

- 1. Maintaining the routing table
 - This means we advertise all routes present in the routing table to other routers over the available links
 - It also means checking the routing table every *now and then* for routes which ought to be expired
 - Receiving advertised routes from other nodes and checking if they should be installed into the table
- 2. Traffic management
 - Support for installing a message handler which will run whenever traffic detained to you arrives
 - Forwarding traffic on behalf of others; to its final destination
 - Allowing the sending of traffic to other nodes

3.2.1 The routing table

The routing table is at the heart of handling egress and forward-intended traffic. It relatively simple as well, infact this is the routing table itself:

```
// routing tables
private Route[string] routes;
private Mutex routesLock;
```

There are then several methods which manipulate this routing table by locking it, performing some action and then releasing said lock:

Method	Description
Optional!(Route)	Given the destination network-layer address
<pre>findRoute(string)</pre>	this returns an Optional potentially containing the found Route
installRoute(Route	Checks if the given route should be installed
route)	and, if so, installs it.
<pre>dumpRoutes()</pre>	This is a debugging method which prints out
	the routing table in ASCII form
<pre>installSelfRoute()</pre>	Installs a route to yourself (destination is the
	result of getPublicKey())
<pre>Route[] getRoutes()</pre>	Returns a list of all the currently installed
	routes
routeSweep()	Checks all routes and evicts those which have expired
advertiseLoop()	Sends out modified routes from the routing
-	table (with us as the via) on an interval whilst
	we are running

3.2.1.1 The self-route You would have seen the installSelfRoute() but are probably wondering what that is. Well, it is actually called in the constructor (this()) and is there such that you will have a route in your routing table with a distance of 0 (meaning it will never be replaced) and with a destination to your public key. What this means is the the route advertising mechanism will be able to advertise your presence to other routers - that's it.

```
1  /**
2  * Installs a route to ourselves
3  * which has a distance of `O`,
4  * a destination of our public
5  * key and no link
6  */
7  private void installSelfRoute()
8  {
9     Route selfR = Route(getPublicKey(), null, 0);
10     installRoute(selfR);
11 }
```

As you can see it doesn't have much difference to it than any other route being installed, besides, perhaps - the fact that its Link is null. This is such that when you call <code>isSelfRoute()</code> (on the Route struct) that it will report itself as such.

3.2.1.2 Installing of routes Let's take a closer look at installRoute(Route route) because I would like to explain the logic that is used to determine whether or not a given route, received from an advertisement, is installed into the routing table or not.

```
private void installRoute(Route route)

this.routesLock.lock();

scope(exit)

this.routesLock.unlock();

Route* cr = route.destination() in this.routes;

number of this.routes;

routes cr = route.destination() in this.routes;

number of this.routes of this.routes of this.routes;

number of this.routes of this.routes of this.routes;

number of this.routes o
```

Firstly as you have seen we lock the routing table mutex to make sure we don't get any inconsistent changes to the routing table during usage (remember that we will be modifying it and others could be doing so as well). We then also set a scope(exit) statement which means that upon any exiting of this level of scope we will unlock the mutex. Lastly we then get a pointer to the Route in the table at the given key. Remember the routing table was a Route[string] which means the string, the key, is the destination address of the incoming route in this case. The value would be the found Route* if any.

```
1 ...
2
3    // if no such route installs, go ahead and install it
4    if(cr is null)
5    {
        this.routes[route.destination()] = route;
7    }
```

As you can see above we first check if the pointer was null, which indicates no route to said destination existed. Therefore we will then install the incoming route at that destination.

```
. . .
2
        // if such a route exists, then only install it if it
        // has a smaller distance than the current route
        else
        {
            if(route.distance() < (*cr).distance())</pre>
            {
                this.routes[route.destination()] = route;
            }
10
            else
11
            {
12
                // if matched route is the same as incoming route
13
```

However, if a route did exist then we need to check some things before we install it. Namely, we only install the route if the predicate of $d(r_{incoming}) < d(r_{current})$ where $d(r_i)$ is the distance metric of a given route r_i . If this is not the case then we do not install the route. However, we do do a check to see if the incoming route is identical (must have been the same router advertising a route we received from it earlier) then we simply refresh it (reset its timer) instead of storing it again, if that is not the case we don't change anything.

3.2.1.3 Advertising of routes The advertising of routes is implemented in the advertiseLoop() which runs on its own thread and will wake up at a fixed interval in order to perform two operations:

- 1. Checking for evicted routes
 - By calling routeSweep()
- 2. Sending out advertisements
 - This is explained below

We now analyze this loop below:

```
// Check for and evict expired routes
routeSweep();

// advertise to all links
Link[] selected = getLinkMan().getLinks();
logger.info("Advertising to ", selected.length, " many links");
```

As we can see above we sweep the routing table firstly by a call to routeSweep().

We also see how we are eneumerating all Link(s) which are attached to the router (via its LinkManager (returned by getLinkMan())). We would like to advertise all the routes in our table over all of these links.

```
// advertise each route in table
foreach(Route route; getRoutes())
{
logger.info("Advertising route '", route, "'");
```

```
string dst = route.destination();
        string via = this.getPublicKey(); // routes must be advertised as if they're from me now
6
        ubyte distance = route.distance();
        Advertisement advMesg = Advertisement.newAdvertisement(dst, via, distance);
       Message message;
10
        if(toMessage(advMesg, message))
        {
12
            logger.dbg("Sending advertisement on '", link, "'...");
13
            link.broadcast(message.encode()); // should have a return value for success or fails
14
            logger.info("Sent advertisement");
15
        }
        else
        {
            // todo, handle failure to encode
19
            logger.error("Failure to encode, developer error");
20
        }
21
   }
22
23
```

The advertising of routes works as follows. Given a route r_i in our routing table, we construct a new route, r_{iout} of which has all