



UNIVERSITY OF  
**WATERLOO**

# CS 456/656

## Computer Networks

### Lecture 10: Network Layer – Part 2

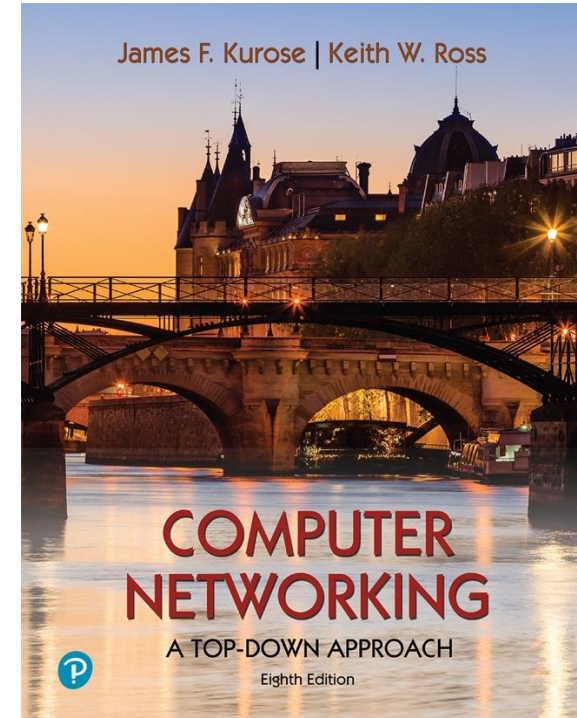
Mina Tahmasbi Arashloo and Uzma Maroof

Fall 2025

# A note on the slides

Adapted from the slides that  
accompany this book.

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## *Computer Networking: A Top-Down Approach*

8<sup>th</sup> edition  
Jim Kurose, Keith Ross  
Pearson, 2020

# Thanks for filling out the survey!

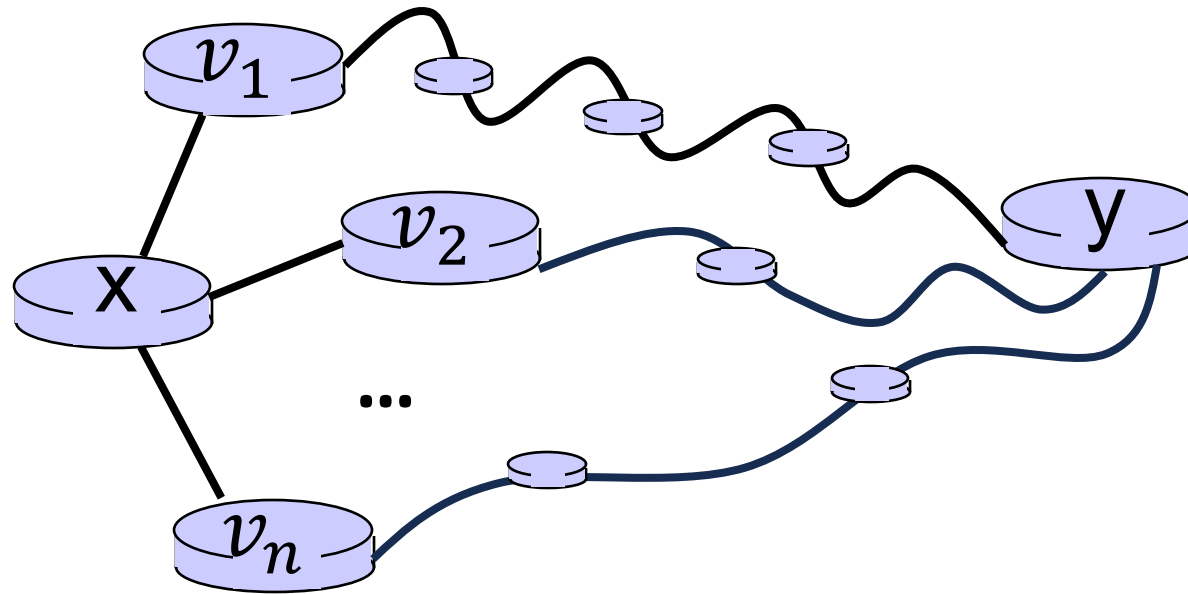
- If you have not, there is still time
- We'll discuss the results and potential upcoming changes soon

# Network layer: roadmap

- Network layer overview
- Routing algorithms
  - Link state
  - Distance vector
- Network layer in the Internet

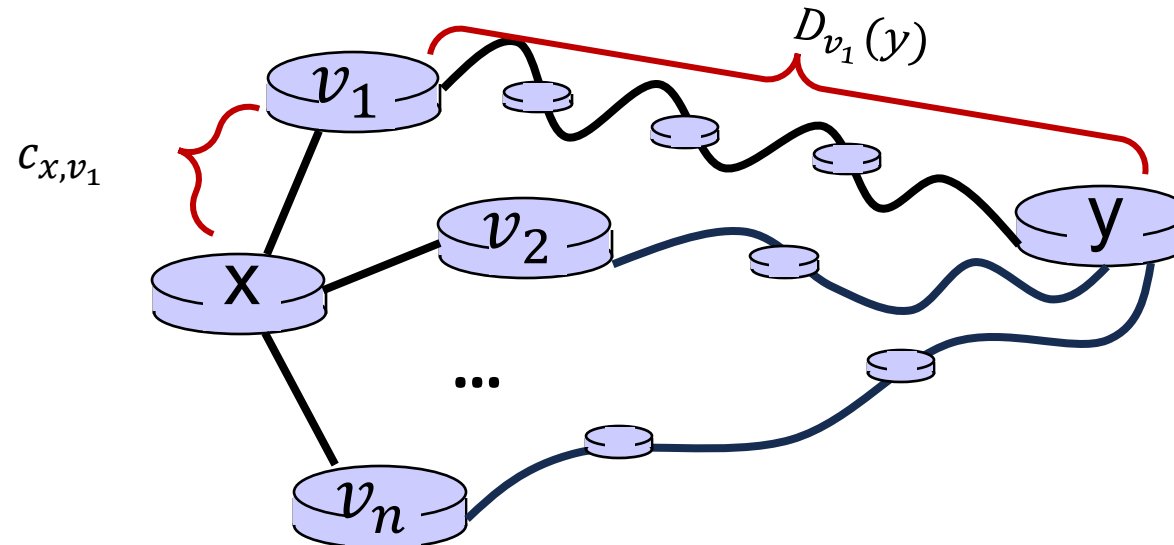
# Distance vector routing algorithms

- Suppose node  $x$  has  $n$  neighbors,  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$
- The least-cost path from node  $x$  to node  $y$  will pass one of  $x$ 's neighbors.



# Distance vector routing algorithms

- To find its least-cost path to  $y$ ,  $x$  doesn't necessarily need to build the entire network graph.
- It only need to know
  - $D_{v_i}(y)$  : the distance from  $v_i$  to  $y$
  - $c_{x,v_i}$  : the cost of the direct link from  $x$  to  $v_i$



# Distance vector algorithm

Based on *Bellman-Ford* (BF) equation (dynamic programming):

Bellman-Ford equation

Let  $D_x(y)$ : cost of least-cost path from  $x$  to  $y$ .

Then:

$$D_x(y) = \min_v \{ c_{x,v} + D_v(y) \}$$

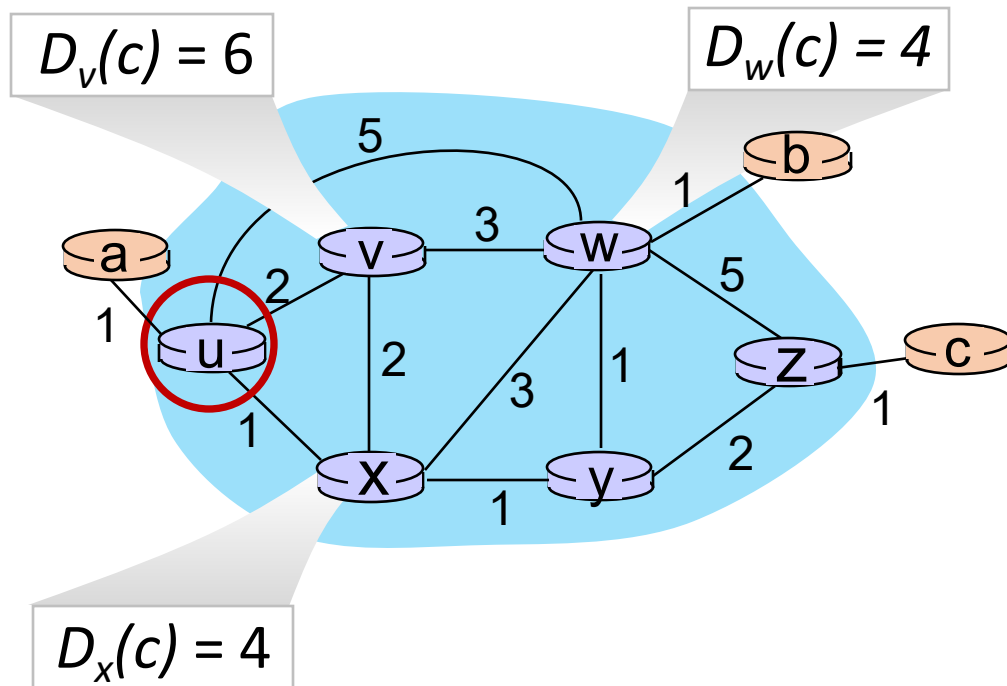
$v$ 's estimated least-cost-path cost to  $y$

$\min$  taken over all neighbors  $v$  of  $x$

direct cost of link from  $x$  to  $v$

# Bellman-Ford example

Suppose that  $u$ 's neighboring nodes,  $x, v, w$ , know that for destination  $c$ :



Bellman-Ford equation says:

$$\begin{aligned} D_u(c) &= \min \{ c_{u,v} + D_v(c), \\ &\quad c_{u,x} + D_x(c), \\ &\quad c_{u,w} + D_w(c) \} \\ &= \min \{ 2 + 6, \\ &\quad 1 + 4, \\ &\quad 5 + 4 \} = 5 \end{aligned}$$

*node achieving minimum (node  $x$ )  
is next hop on estimated least-  
cost path to destination (node  $c$ )*



# Distance vector algorithm

## key idea:

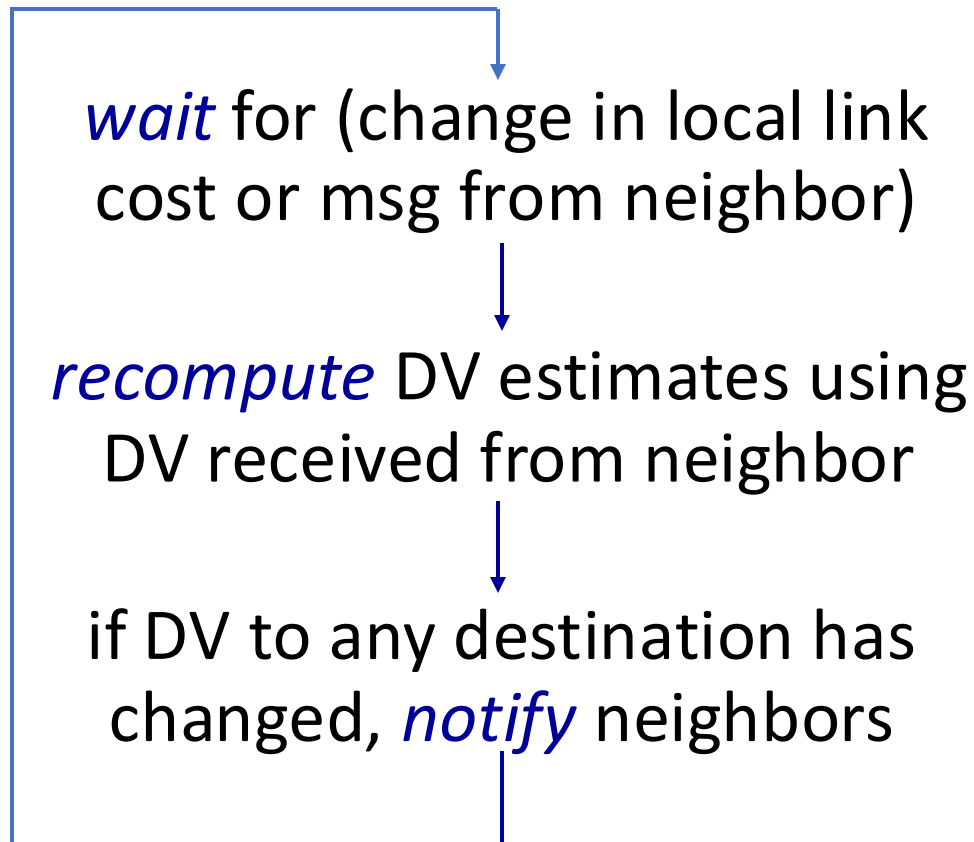
- from time-to-time, each node sends its own distance vector estimate to neighbors
- when  $x$  receives new DV estimate from any neighbor, it updates its own DV using B-F equation:

$$D_x(y) \leftarrow \min_v \{c_{x,v} + D_v(y)\} \text{ for each node } y \in N$$

- under minor, natural conditions, the estimate  $D_x(y)$  converge to the actual least cost  $d_x(y)$

# Distance vector algorithm:

each node:



**iterative, asynchronous:** each local iteration caused by:

- local link cost change
- DV update message from neighbor

**distributed, self-stopping:** each node notifies neighbors *only* when its DV changes

- neighbors then notify their neighbors – *only if necessary*
- no notification received, no actions taken!

# Distance vector example: iteration

- We will walk through an example of distance vector routing
- For simplicity, we are not adding the end-host (orange) nodes to the example
- They do not participate in routing
- But, the routers will include the distance to them in their advertised distance vectors.

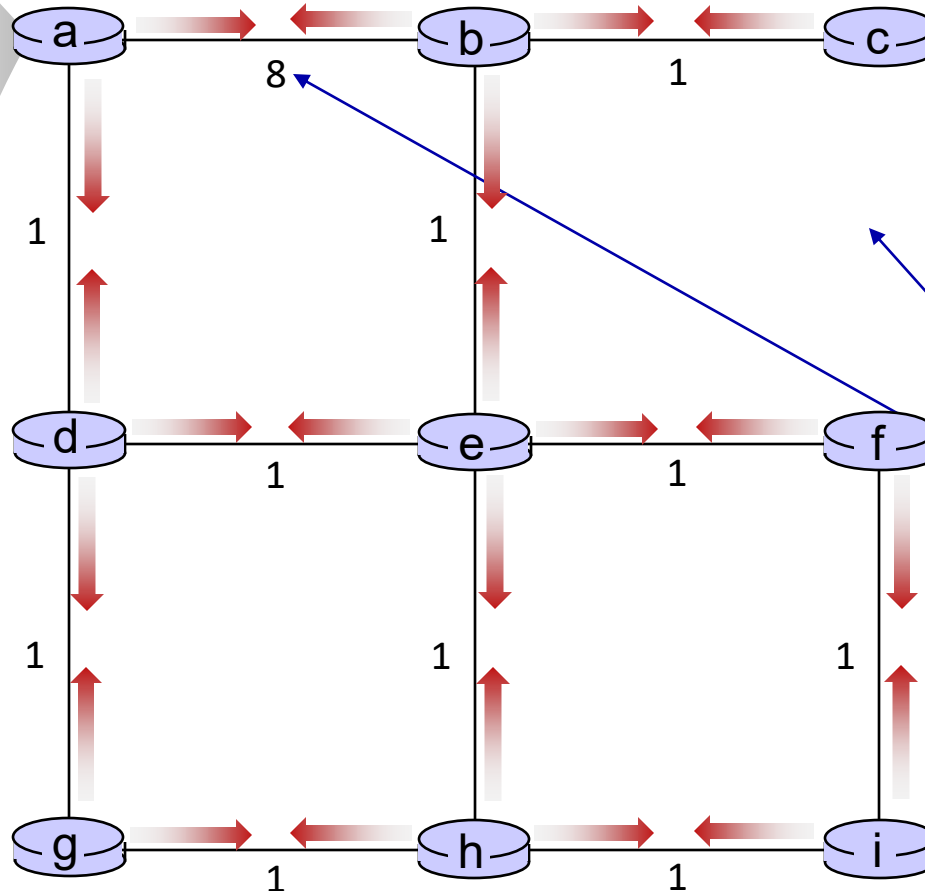
# Distance vector example: iteration



t=0

- All nodes have distance estimates to nearest neighbors (only)
- All nodes send their local distance vector to their neighbors

DV in a:
$D_a(a)=0$
$D_a(b)=8$
$D_a(c)=\infty$
$D_a(d)=1$
$D_a(e)=\infty$
$D_a(f)=\infty$
$D_a(g)=\infty$
$D_a(h)=\infty$
$D_a(i)=\infty$



A few asymmetries:  
■ missing link  
■ larger cost

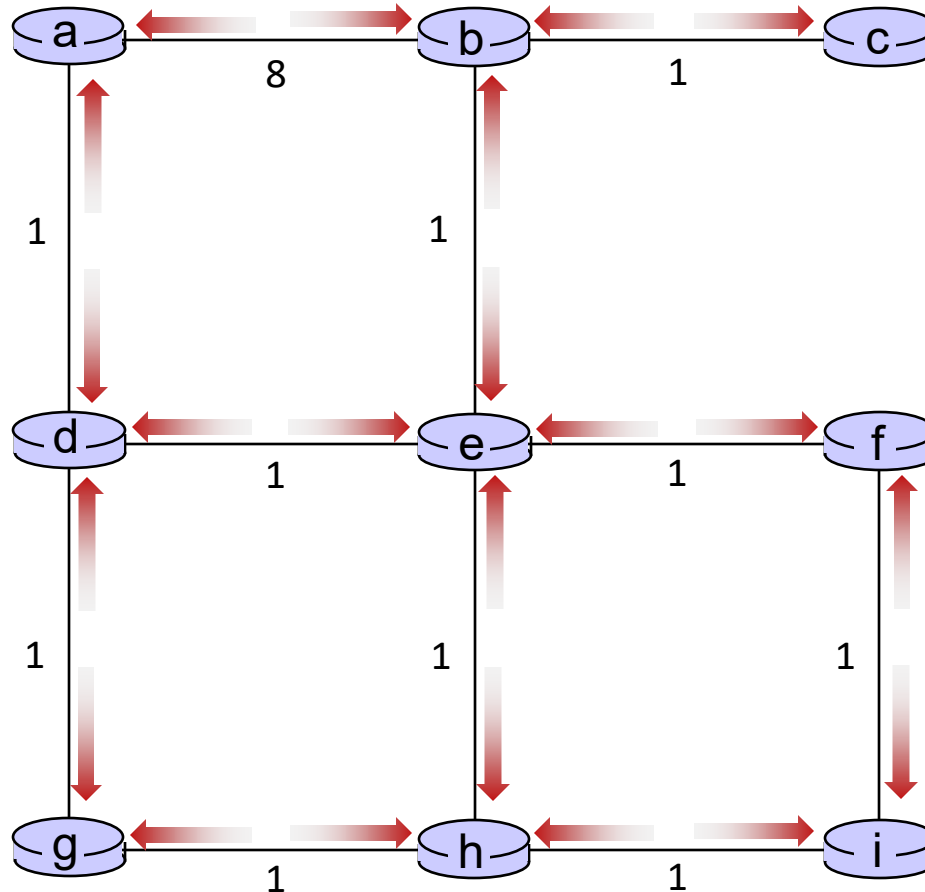
# Distance vector example: iteration



$t=1$

All nodes:

- receive distance vectors from neighbors
- compute their new local distance vector
- send their new local distance vector to neighbors



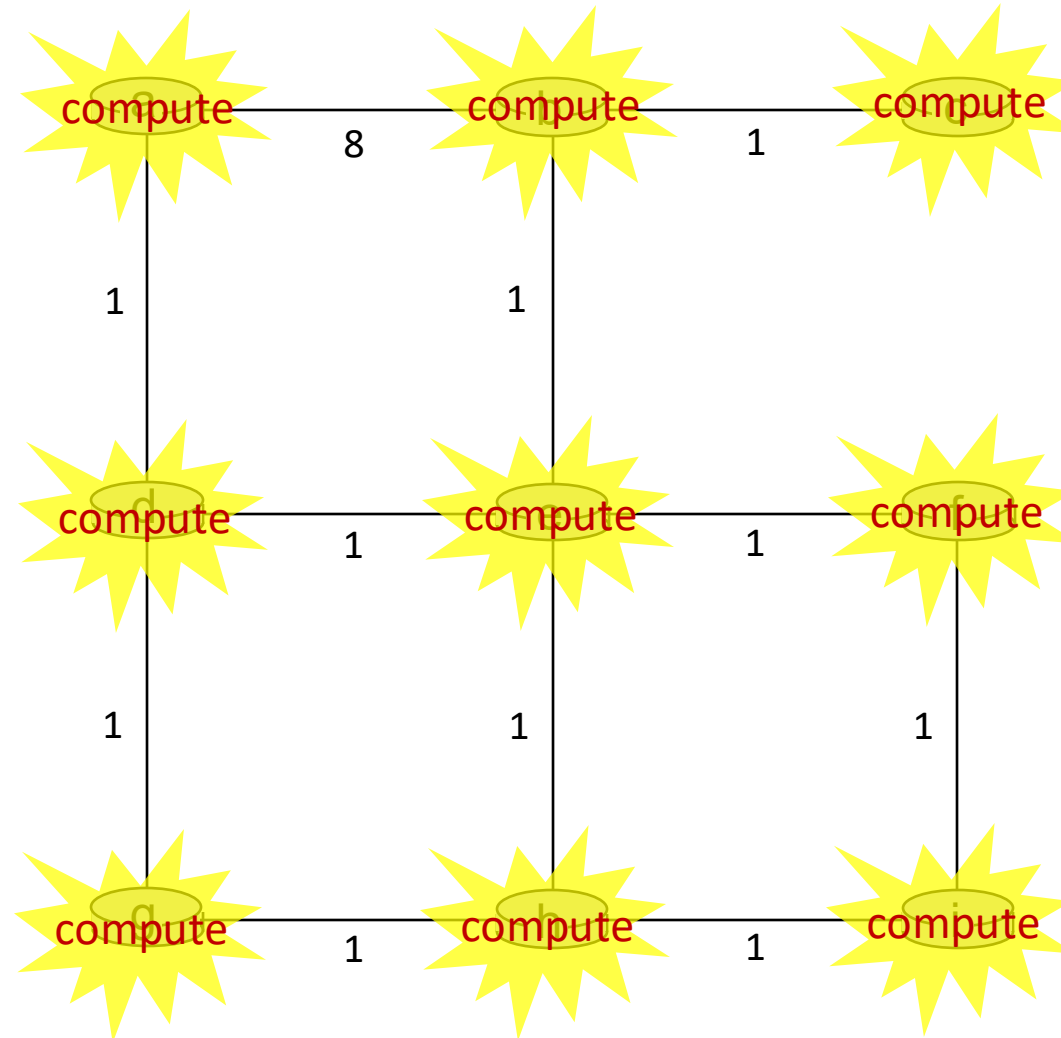
# Distance vector example: iteration



$t=1$

All nodes:

- receive distance vectors from neighbors
- compute their new local distance vector
- send their new local distance vector to neighbors



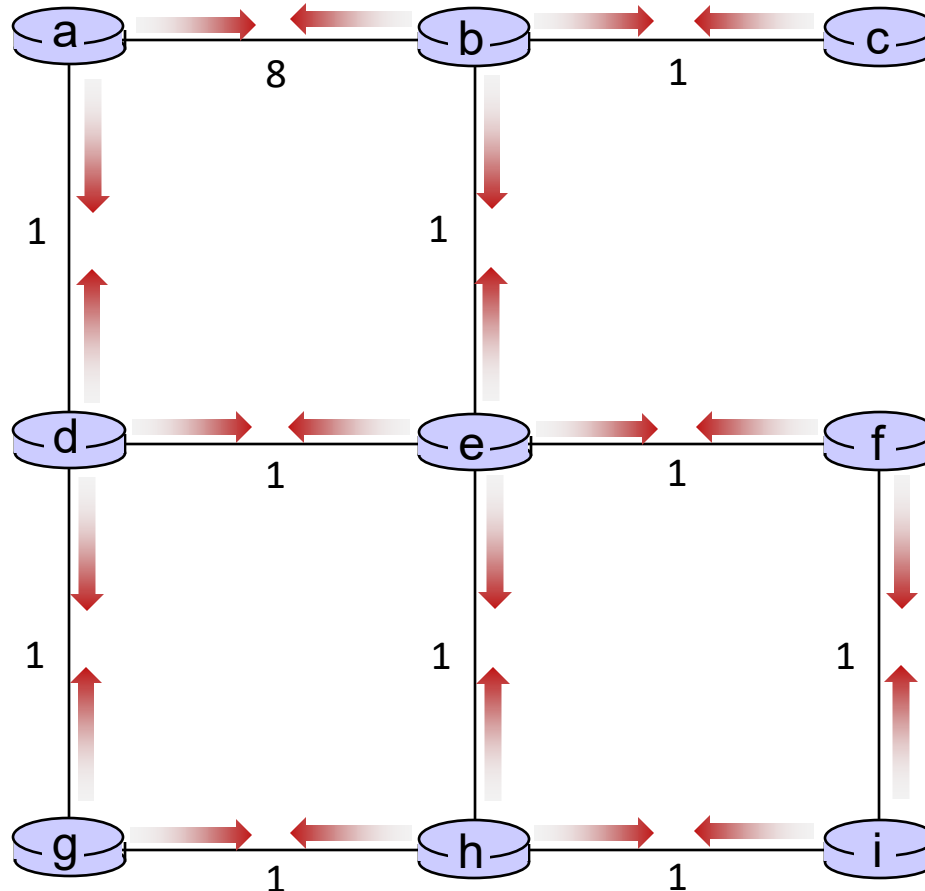
# Distance vector example: iteration



$t=1$

All nodes:

- receive distance vectors from neighbors
- compute their new local distance vector
- send their new local distance vector to neighbors



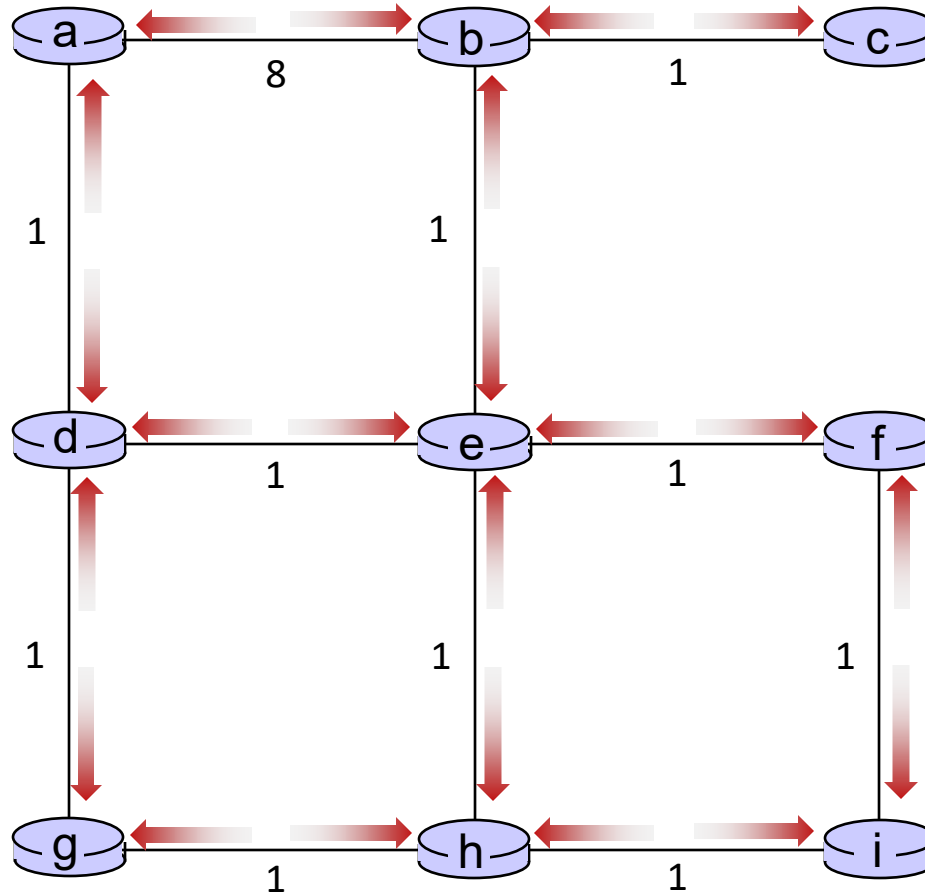
# Distance vector example: iteration



$t=2$

All nodes:

- receive distance vectors from neighbors
- compute their new local distance vector
- send their new local distance vector to neighbors





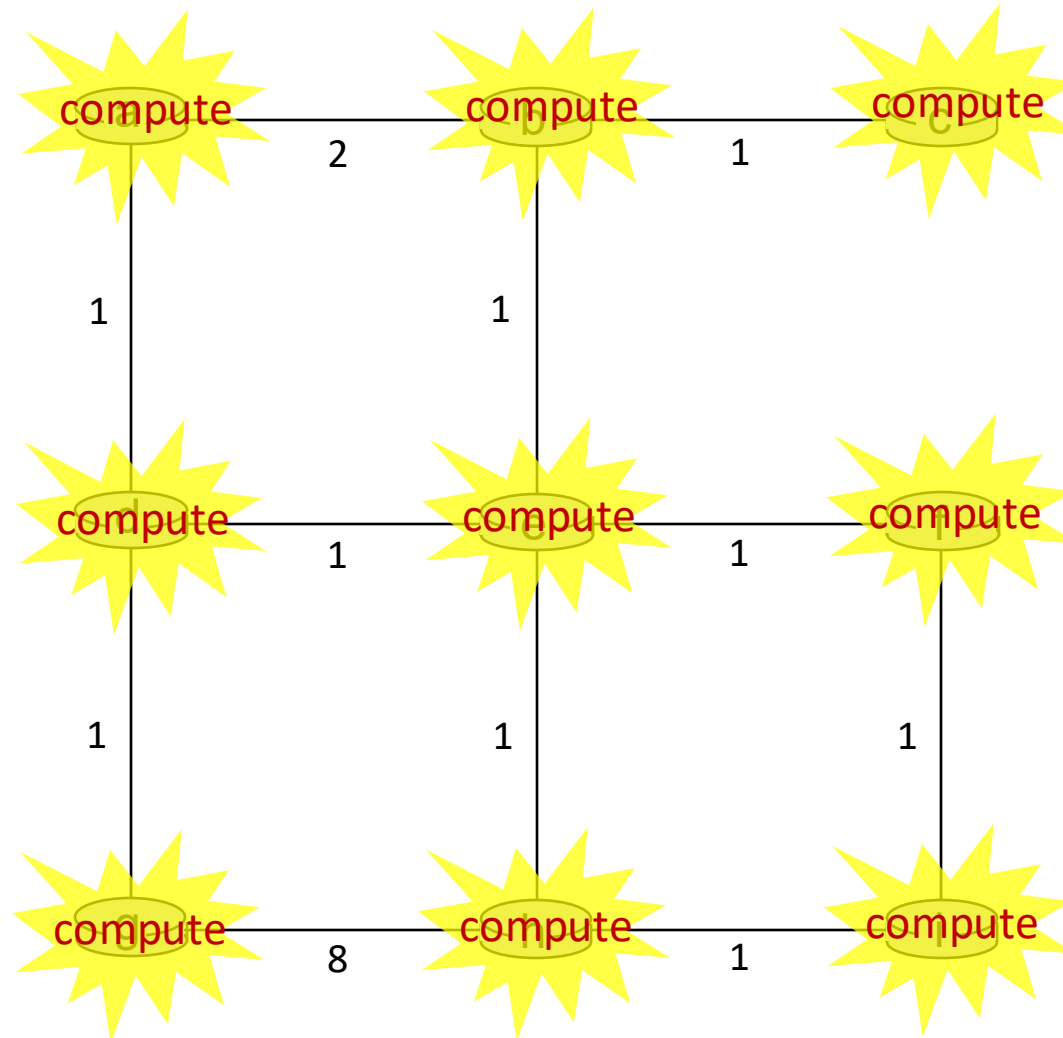
# Distance vector example: iteration



t=2

All nodes:

- receive distance vectors from neighbors
- compute their new local distance vector
- send their new local distance vector to neighbors



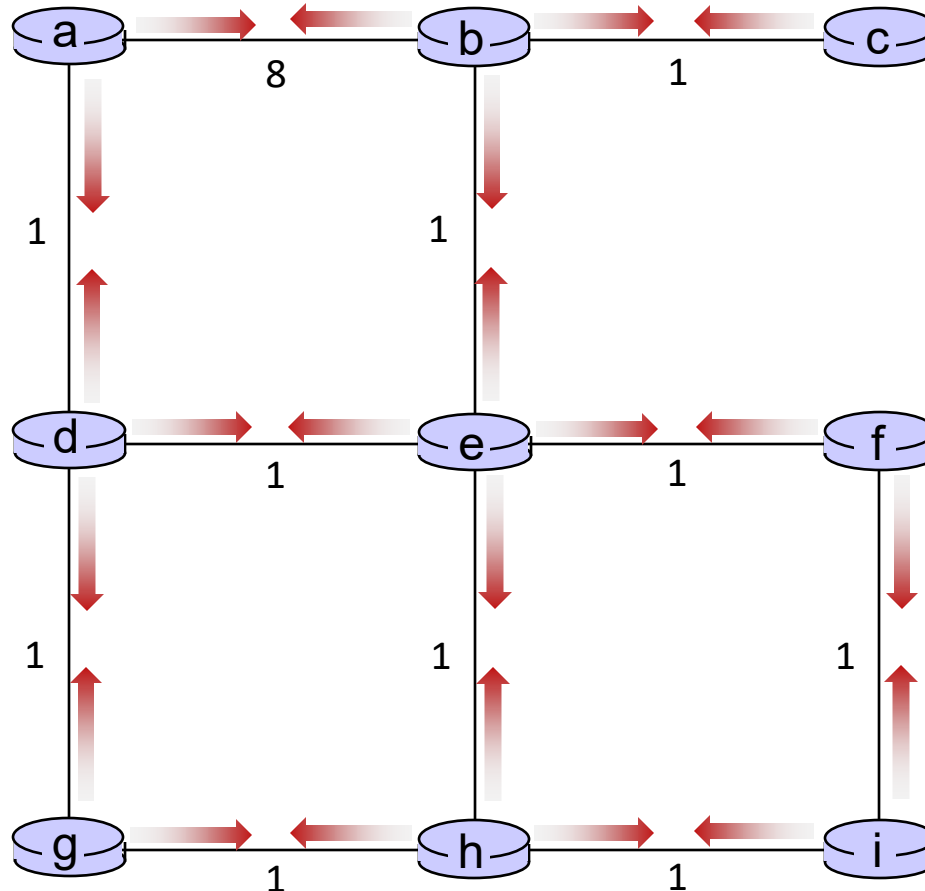
# Distance vector example: iteration



t=2

All nodes:

- receive distance vectors from neighbors
- compute their new local distance vector
- send their new local distance vector to neighbors



# Distance vector example: iteration

.... and so on

Let's next take a look at the iterative *computations* at nodes

\* Check out the online interactive  
exercises for more examples:  
[http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose\\_ross/interactive/](http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose_ross/interactive/)

# Distance vector example: iteration

.... and so on

Let's next take a look at the iterative *computations* at nodes

Let's look at the computation at node b at  $t = 1$

Remember, b's neighbors have sent b their DV record version at  $t = 0$

# Distance vector example:



**t=1**

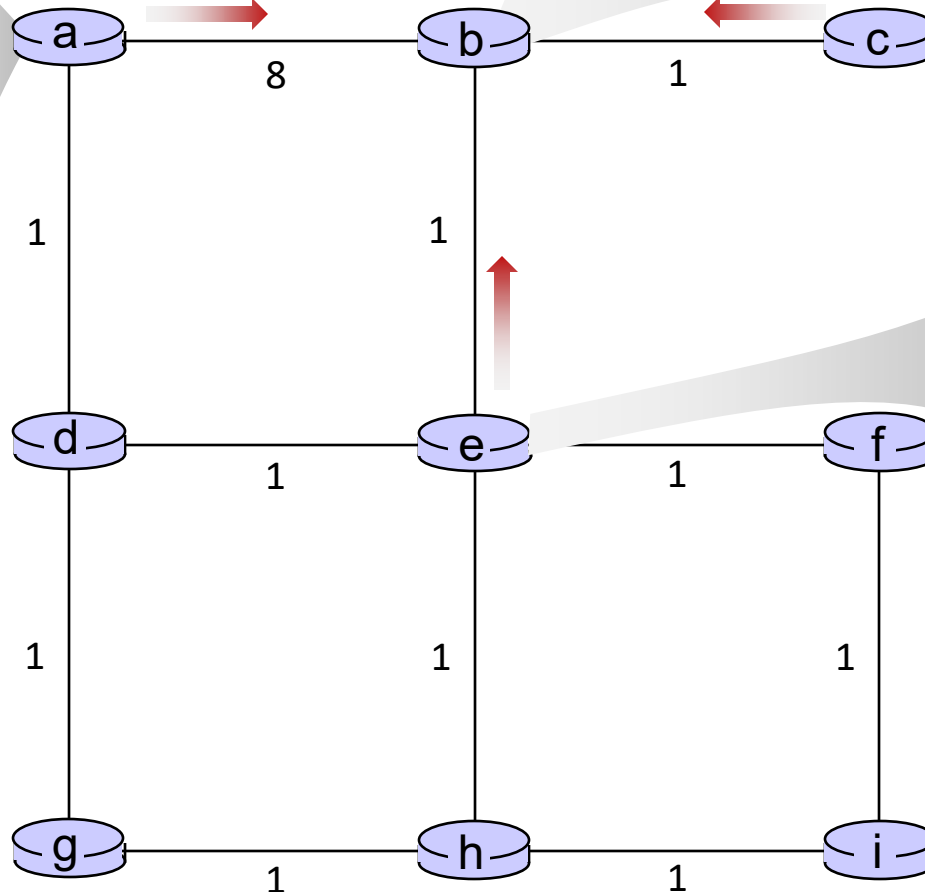
- b receives DVs from a, c, e

DV in a:
$D_a(a)=0$
$D_a(b)=8$
$D_a(c)=\infty$
$D_a(d)=1$
$D_a(e)=\infty$
$D_a(f)=\infty$
$D_a(g)=\infty$
$D_a(h)=\infty$
$D_a(i)=\infty$

DV in b:	
$D_b(a) = 8$	$D_b(f) = \infty$
$D_b(c) = 1$	$D_b(g) = \infty$
$D_b(d) = \infty$	$D_b(h) = \infty$
$D_b(e) = 1$	$D_b(i) = \infty$

DV in c:
$D_c(a)=\infty$
$D_c(b)=1$
$D_c(c)=0$
$D_c(d)=\infty$
$D_c(e)=\infty$
$D_c(f)=\infty$
$D_c(g)=\infty$
$D_c(h)=\infty$
$D_c(i)=\infty$

DV in e:
$D_e(a)=\infty$
$D_e(b)=1$
$D_e(c)=\infty$
$D_e(d)=1$
$D_e(e)=0$
$D_e(f)=1$
$D_e(g)=\infty$
$D_e(h)=1$
$D_e(i)=\infty$



# Distance vector example:

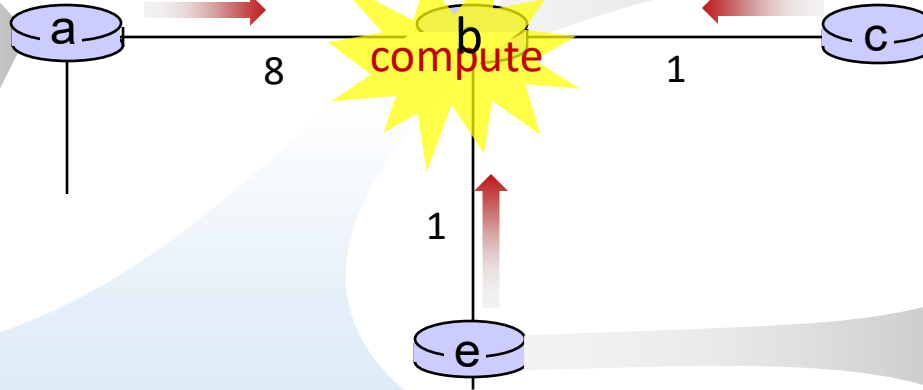


**t=1**

- b receives DVs from a, c, e, computes:

$$\begin{aligned}
 D_b(a) &= \min\{c_{b,a} + D_a(a), c_{b,c} + D_c(a), c_{b,e} + D_e(a)\} = \min\{8, \infty, \infty\} = 8 \\
 D_b(c) &= \min\{c_{b,a} + D_a(c), c_{b,c} + D_c(c), c_{b,e} + D_e(c)\} = \min\{\infty, 1, \infty\} = 1 \\
 D_b(d) &= \min\{c_{b,a} + D_a(d), c_{b,c} + D_c(d), c_{b,e} + D_e(d)\} = \min\{9, \infty, 2\} = 2 \\
 D_b(e) &= \min\{c_{b,a} + D_a(e), c_{b,c} + D_c(e), c_{b,e} + D_e(e)\} = \min\{\infty, \infty, 1\} = 1 \\
 D_b(f) &= \min\{c_{b,a} + D_a(f), c_{b,c} + D_c(f), c_{b,e} + D_e(f)\} = \min\{\infty, \infty, 2\} = 2 \\
 D_b(g) &= \min\{c_{b,a} + D_a(g), c_{b,c} + D_c(g), c_{b,e} + D_e(g)\} = \min\{\infty, \infty, \infty\} = \infty \\
 D_b(h) &= \min\{c_{b,a} + D_a(h), c_{b,c} + D_c(h), c_{b,e} + D_e(h)\} = \min\{\infty, \infty, 2\} = 2 \\
 D_b(i) &= \min\{c_{b,a} + D_a(i), c_{b,c} + D_c(i), c_{b,e} + D_e(i)\} = \min\{\infty, \infty, \infty\} = \infty
 \end{aligned}$$

DV in a:
$D_a(a) = 0$
$D_a(b) = 8$
$D_a(c) = \infty$
$D_a(d) = 1$
$D_a(e) = \infty$
$D_a(f) = \infty$
$D_a(g) = \infty$
$D_a(h) = \infty$
$D_a(i) = \infty$



DV in b:	
$D_b(a) = 8$	$D_b(f) = \infty$
$D_b(c) = 1$	$D_b(g) = \infty$
$D_b(d) = \infty$	$D_b(h) = \infty$
$D_b(e) = 1$	$D_b(i) = \infty$

DV in c:
$D_c(a) = \infty$
$D_c(b) = 1$
$D_c(c) = 0$
$D_c(d) = \infty$
$D_c(e) = \infty$
$D_c(f) = \infty$
$D_c(g) = \infty$
$D_c(h) = \infty$
$D_c(i) = \infty$

DV in e:
$D_e(a) = \infty$
$D_e(b) = 1$
$D_e(c) = \infty$
$D_e(d) = 1$
$D_e(e) = 0$
$D_e(f) = 1$
$D_e(g) = \infty$
$D_e(h) = 1$
$D_e(i) = \infty$

## DV in b:

$$D_b(a) = 8$$

$$D_b(f) = 2$$

$$D_b(c) = 1$$

$$D_b(g) = \infty$$

$$D_b(d) = 2$$

$$D_b(h) = 2$$

$$D_b(e) = 1$$

$$D_b(i) = \infty$$

# Distance vector example: iteration

Now, let's look at the computation at node  $c$  at  $t = 1$

Remember,  $c$ 's neighbors have sent  $c$  their DV record version at  $t = 0$

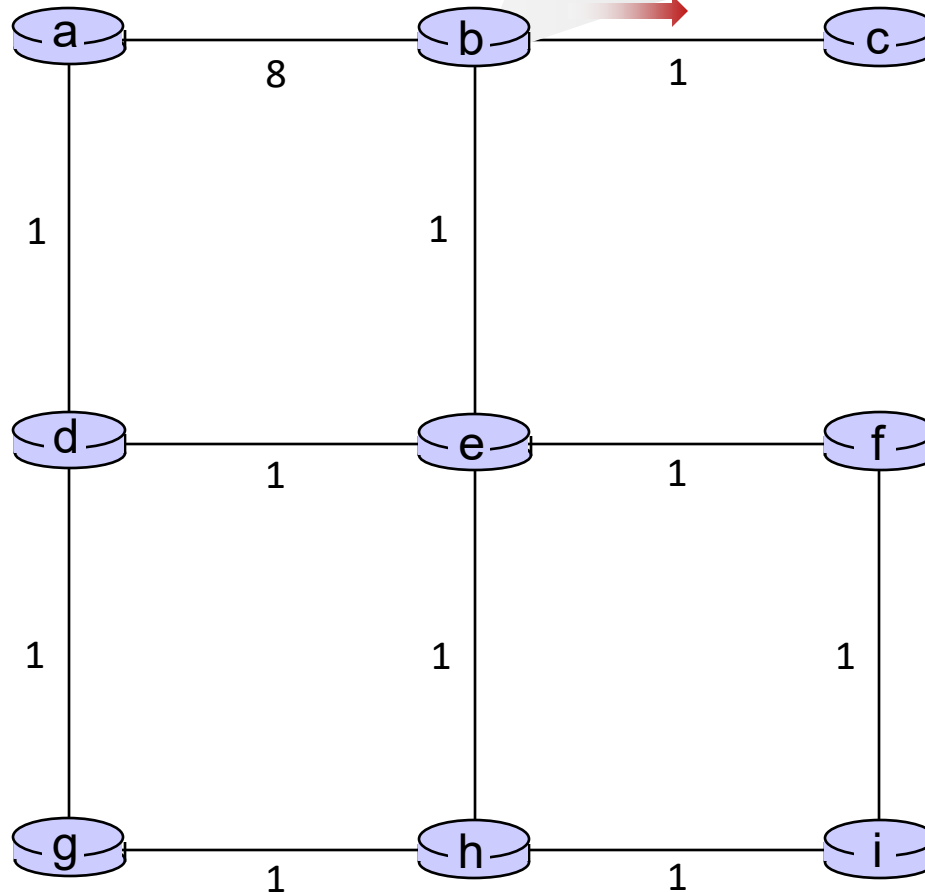
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# Distance vector example:



$t=1$

- c receives DVs from b



## DV in b:

$D_b(a) = 8$	$D_b(f) = \infty$
$D_b(c) = 1$	$D_b(g) = \infty$
$D_b(d) = \infty$	$D_b(h) = \infty$
$D_b(e) = 1$	$D_b(i) = \infty$

## DV in c:

$D_c(a) = \infty$
$D_c(b) = 1$
$D_c(c) = 0$
$D_c(d) = \infty$
$D_c(e) = \infty$
$D_c(f) = \infty$
$D_c(g) = \infty$
$D_c(h) = \infty$
$D_c(i) = \infty$



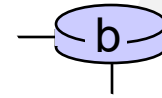
# Distance vector example:



t=1

- c receives DVs from b computes:

$$\begin{aligned}D_c(a) &= \min\{c_{c,b} + D_b(a)\} = 1 + 8 = 9 \\D_c(b) &= \min\{c_{c,b} + D_b(b)\} = 1 + 0 = 1 \\D_c(d) &= \min\{c_{c,b} + D_b(d)\} = 1 + \infty = \infty \\D_c(e) &= \min\{c_{c,b} + D_b(e)\} = 1 + 1 = 2 \\D_c(f) &= \min\{c_{c,b} + D_b(f)\} = 1 + \infty = \infty \\D_c(g) &= \min\{c_{c,b} + D_b(g)\} = 1 + \infty = \infty \\D_c(h) &= \min\{c_{c,b} + D_b(h)\} = 1 + \infty = \infty \\D_c(i) &= \min\{c_{c,b} + D_b(i)\} = 1 + \infty = \infty\end{aligned}$$



1

compute

DV in b:

$D_b(a) = 8$	$D_b(f) = \infty$
$D_b(c) = 1$	$D_b(g) = \infty$
$D_b(d) = \infty$	$D_b(h) = \infty$
$D_b(e) = 1$	$D_b(i) = \infty$

DV in c:

$D_c(a) = \infty$
$D_c(b) = 1$
$D_c(c) = 0$
$D_c(d) = \infty$
$D_c(e) = \infty$
$D_c(f) = \infty$
$D_c(g) = \infty$
$D_c(h) = \infty$
$D_c(i) = \infty$

DV in c:

$D_c(a) = 9$
$D_c(b) = 1$
$D_c(c) = 0$
$D_c(d) = 2$
$D_c(e) = \infty$
$D_c(f) = \infty$
$D_c(g) = \infty$
$D_c(h) = \infty$
$D_c(i) = \infty$

# Distance vector example: iteration

Now, let's look at the computation at node e at  $t = 1$

Remember, e's neighbors have sent e their DV record version at  $t = 0$

\* Check out the online interactive  
exercises for more examples:  
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# Distance vector example:



**t=1**

- e receives DVs from b, d, f, h

DV in d:
$D_c(a) = 1$
$D_c(b) = \infty$
$D_c(c) = \infty$
$D_c(d) = 0$
$D_c(e) = 1$
$D_c(f) = \infty$
$D_c(g) = 1$
$D_c(h) = \infty$
$D_c(i) = \infty$

DV in h:
$D_h(a) = \infty$
$D_h(b) = \infty$
$D_h(c) = \infty$
$D_h(d) = \infty$
$D_h(e) = 1$
$D_h(f) = \infty$
$D_h(g) = 1$
$D_h(h) = 0$
$D_h(i) = 1$

## DV in b:

$$D_b(a) = 8$$

$$D_b(c) = 1$$

$$D_b(d) = \infty$$

$$D_b(e) = 1$$

$$D_b(f) = \infty$$

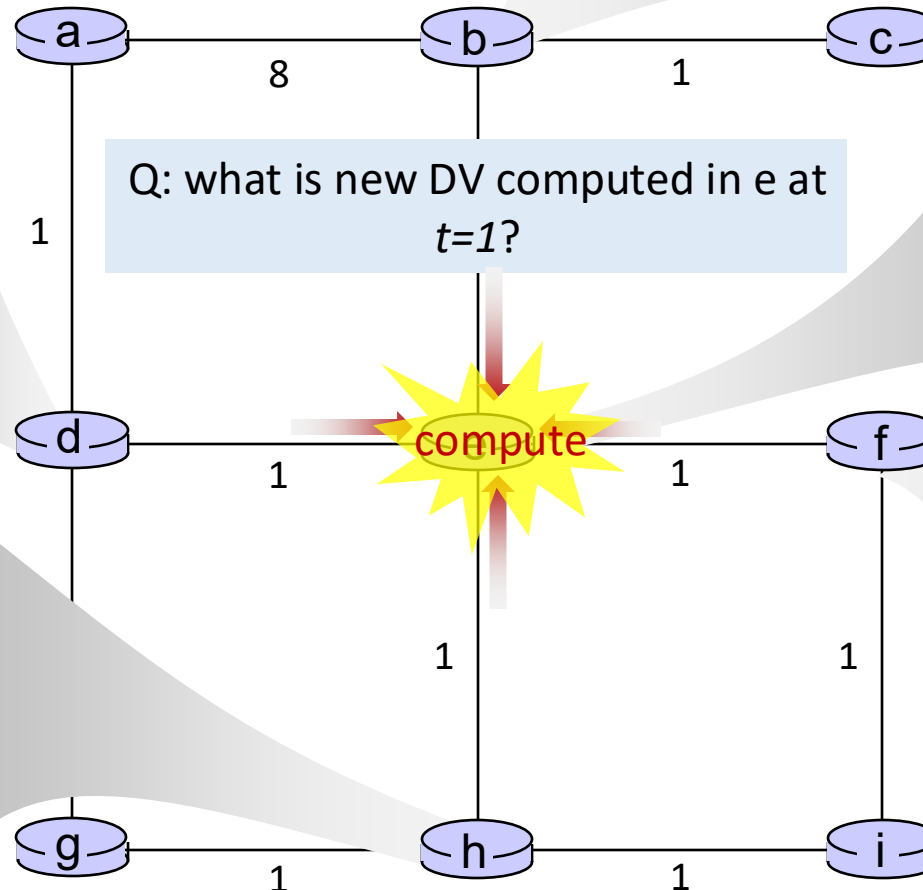
$$D_b(g) = \infty$$

$$D_b(h) = \infty$$

$$D_b(i) = \infty$$






DV in e:
$D_e(a) = \infty$
$D_e(b) = 1$
$D_e(c) = \infty$
$D_e(d) = 1$
$D_e(e) = 0$
$D_e(f) = 1$
$D_e(g) = \infty$
$D_e(h) = 1$
$D_e(i) = \infty$

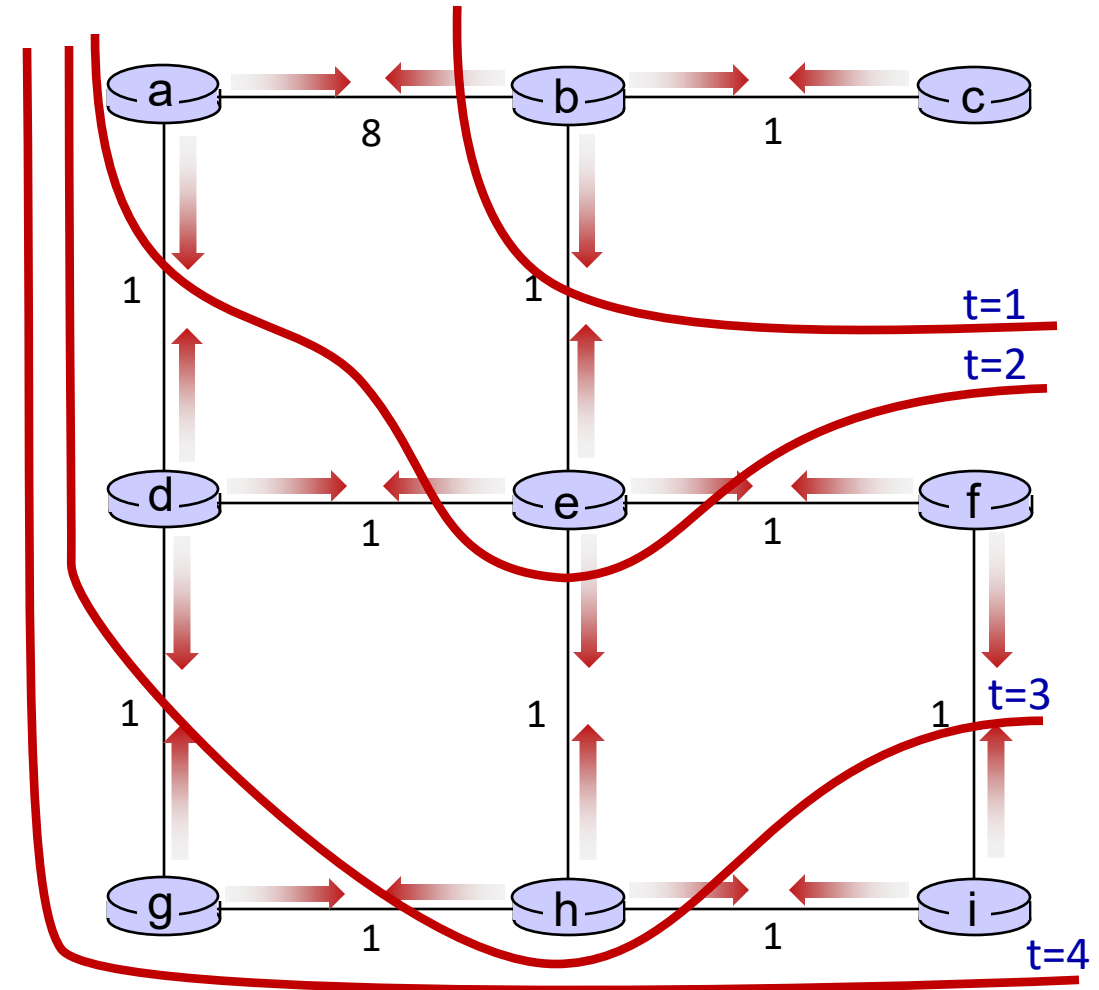
DV in f:
$D_f(a) = \infty$
$D_f(b) = \infty$
$D_f(c) = \infty$
$D_f(d) = \infty$
$D_f(e) = 1$
$D_f(f) = 0$
$D_f(g) = \infty$
$D_f(h) = \infty$
$D_f(i) = 1$



# Distance vector: state information diffusion

Iterative communication, computation steps diffuses information through network:

-   $t=0$  c's state at  $t=0$  is at c only
-   $t=1$  c's state at  $t=0$  has propagated to b, and may influence distance vector computations up to **1** hop away, i.e., at b
-   $t=2$  c's state at  $t=0$  may now influence distance vector computations up to **2** hops away, i.e., at b and now at a, e as well
-   $t=3$  c's state at  $t=0$  may influence distance vector computations up to **3** hops away, i.e., at d, f, h
-   $t=4$  c's state at  $t=0$  may influence distance vector computations up to **4** hops away, i.e., at g, i



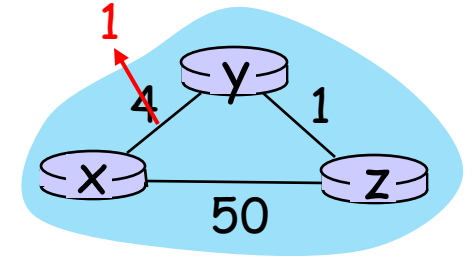
# Distance vector is asynchronous

- The example we discussed was simplified...
- We assumed there is a synchronized clock between all routers
  - Syncing the message transfers and computation.
- In reality, the routers are not all synchronized with each other

# Distance vector: link cost changes

## link cost changes:

- node detects local link cost change
- updates routing info, recalculates local DV
- if DV changes, notify neighbors



“good news  
travels fast”

$t_0$ : y detects link-cost change, updates its DV, informs its neighbors.

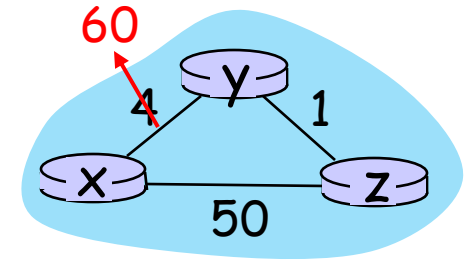
$t_1$ : z receives update from y, updates its DV, computes new least cost to x, sends its neighbors its DV.

$t_2$ : y receives z's update, updates its DV. y's least costs do *not* change, so y does *not* send a message to z.

# Distance vector: link cost changes

## link cost changes:

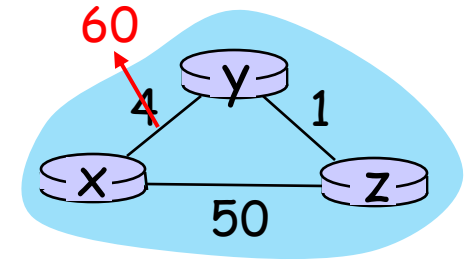
- node detects local link cost change
- “bad news travels slow” – count-to-infinity problem:
  - y sees direct link to x has new cost 60, but z has said it has a path at cost of 5. So y computes “my new cost to x will be 6, via z); notifies z of new cost of 6 to x.
  - z learns that path to x via y has new cost 6, so z computes “my new cost to x will be 7 via y), notifies y of new cost of 7 to x.
  - y learns that path to x via z has new cost 7, so y computes “my new cost to x will be 8 via y), notifies z of new cost of 8 to x.
  - z learns that path to x via y has new cost 8, so z computes “my new cost to x will be 9 via y), notifies y of new cost of 9 to x.
  - ...



# Distance vector : count-to-infinity problem

## link cost changes:

- node detects local link cost change
- “bad news travels slow” – count-to-infinity problem
- In this specific example, the problem happens because:
  - originally  $z$ 's shortest path to  $x$  is through  $y$ .
  - But,  $y$  doesn't know that! It only knows  $z$  has a path of length 5 to  $x$ .

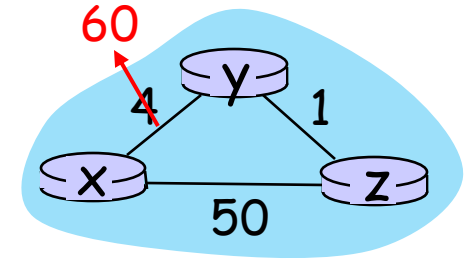




# Distance vector : count-to-infinity problem

## link cost changes:

- node detects local link cost change
- “bad news travels slow” – count-to-infinity problem
- This problem does not only happen between two neighboring nodes
  - See textbook for a solution for the two-node case
- It can happen with loops involving three or more nodes.
- *Distributed algorithms are tricky!*



# What you need to know about distance vector routing algorithms

- How they work, i.e.,
  - How routers disseminate information
  - How each router builds its table of distance to different destinations
- E.g., given DV tables and messages from neighboring routers, you should be able to continue executing the algorithm and update DV tables for subsequent timesteps.
- The count-to-infinity problem
  - What it is
  - Why it happens
  - Be able to demonstrate it with an example.

# Possible ways to practice more with DV

- Continue the example in the slide for  $t = 2$ .
  - Be careful to keep track of which node has received which messages at which time and what is DV looks like.
- Variation: Add an end-host node to the topology and re-do the first two timesteps for a few routers.
- What does the forwarding table look like at each stage?

# Comparison of LS and DV algorithms

## Messages

**LS:** Each router's "Advertisement", i.e., link state, will have to be propagated to all the other routers.

**DV:** Several messages exchanged between neighbors until we converge to the least cost paths; convergence time varies

## speed of convergence:

If you change the costs, how long until routes are stable again?

### LS :

- Converges when
  - Messages about the change propagate
  - Dijkstra's algorithm for least-cost path computation has to run

### DV:

- may have routing loops
- count-to-infinity problem

# Comparison of LS and DV algorithms

**robustness:** what happens if router malfunctions, or is compromised?

LS:

- router can advertise incorrect *link* cost
- each router computes only its *own* table based on the topology

DV:

- DV router can advertise incorrect *path* cost (“I have a *really* low-cost path to everywhere”): *black-holing*
- each router’s DV is based on DV of other routers
  - No full picture of the network
  - Harder to detect such problems locally
  - Errors propagate (easier) through the network.

# What you need to know about routing algorithms so far

- Link State (LS) algorithms and how they work
- Distance Vector (DV) algorithms and how they work
- How LS and DV are different from each other.