Introduction to Computer Networks

Link State Routing

(§5.2.5, 5.6.6)

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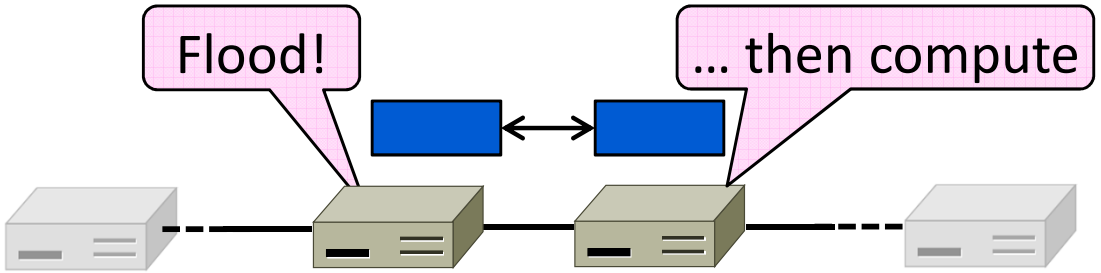
Topic

- How to compute shortest paths in a distributed network
  - The Link-State (LS) approach



Link-State Routing

- One of two approaches to routing
  - Trades more computation than distance vector for better dynamics
- Widely used in practice
  - Used in Internet/ARPANET from 1979
  - Modern networks use OSPF and IS-IS

Link-State Setting

Nodes compute their forwarding table in the same distributed setting as for distance vector:

1. Nodes know only the cost to their neighbors; not the topology
2. Nodes can talk only to their neighbors using messages
3. All nodes run the same algorithm concurrently
4. Nodes/links may fail, messages may be lost

Link-State Algorithm

Proceeds in two phases:

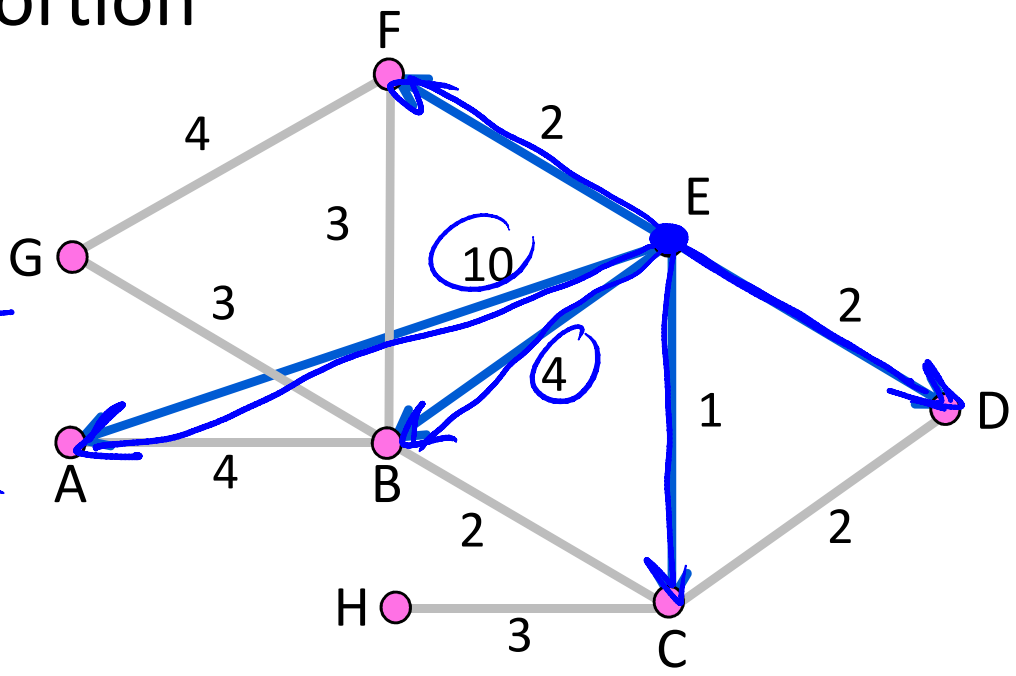
1. Nodes flood topology in the form of link state packets
   - Each node learns full topology
2. Each node computes its own forwarding table
   - By running Dijkstra (or equivalent)

Phase 1: Topology Dissemination

- Each node floods link state packet (LSP) that describes their portion of the topology

Node E's LSP flooded to A, B, C, D, and F

Seq. #	
A	10
B	4
C	1
D	2
F	2

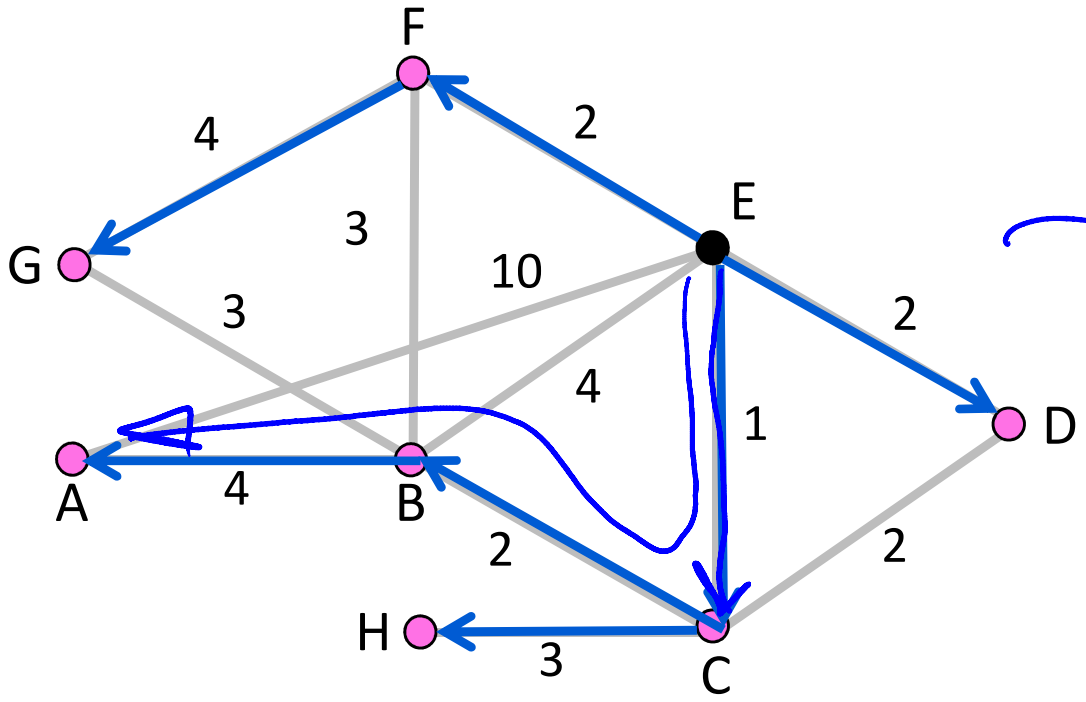


Phase 2: Route Computation

- Each node has full topology
  - By combining all LSPs
- Each node simply runs Dijkstra
  - Some replicated computation, but finds required routes directly
  - Compile forwarding table from sink/source tree
  - That's it folks!

Forwarding Table

Source Tree for E (from Dijkstra)



E's Forwarding Table

To	Next
A	C
B	C
C	C
D	D
E	--
F	F
G	F
H	C

Handling Changes

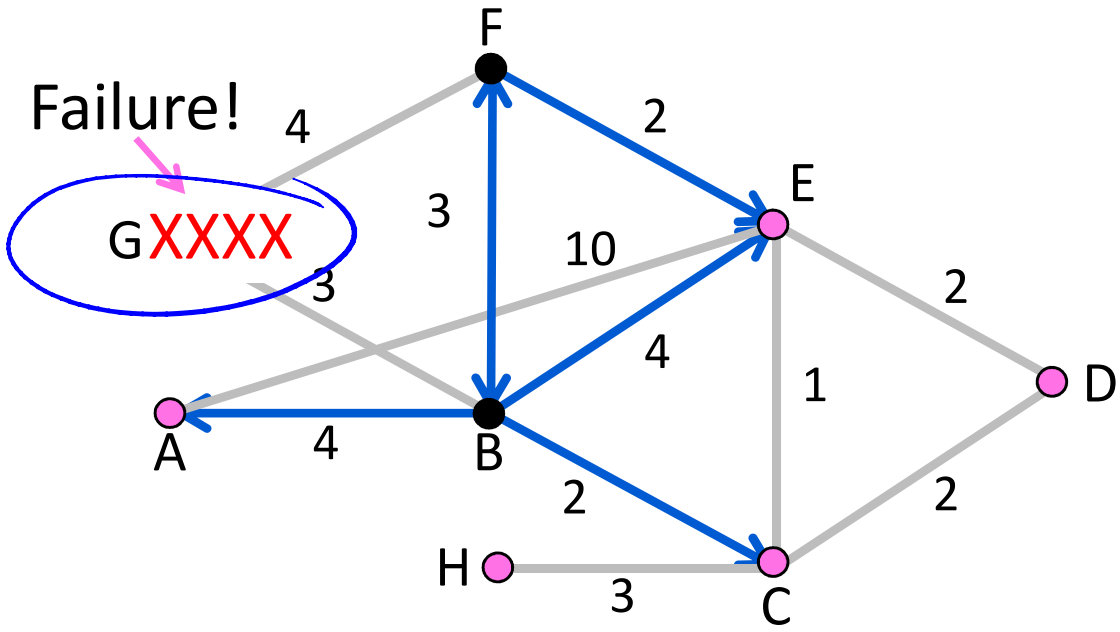
- On change, flood updated LSPs, and re-compute routes
  - E.g., nodes adjacent to failed link or node initiate

B's LSP

Seq. #	
A	4
C	2
E	4
F	3
G	∞

F's LSP

Seq. #	
B	3
E	2
G	∞



Handling Changes (2)

- Link failure
  - Both nodes notice, send updated LSPs
  - Link is removed from topology
- Node failure
  - All neighbors notice a link has failed
  - Failed node can't update its own LSP
  - But it is OK: all links to node removed

Handling Changes (3)

- Addition of a link or node
  - Add LSP of new node to topology
  - Old LSPs are updated with new link
- Additions are the easy case …

Link-State Complications

- Things that can go wrong:
  - Seq. number reaches max, or is corrupted
  - Node crashes and loses seq. number
  - Network partitions then heals
- Strategy:
  - Include age on LSPs and forget old information that is not refreshed
- Much of the complexity is due to handling corner cases (as usual!)

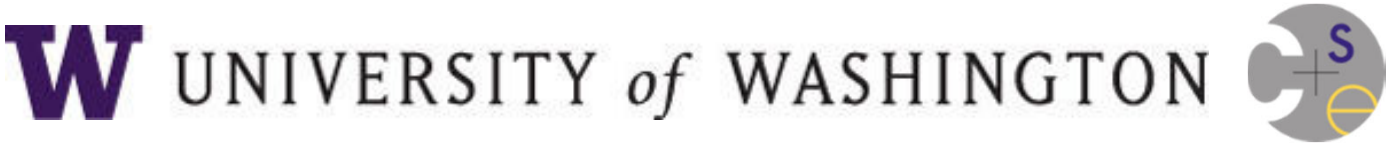
DV/LS Comparison

Goal	Distance Vector	Link-State
Correctness	Distributed Bellman-Ford	Replicated Dijkstra
Efficient paths	Approx. with shortest paths	Approx. with shortest paths
Fair paths	Approx. with shortest paths	Approx. with shortest paths
Fast convergence	Slow – many exchanges	Fast – flood and compute
Scalability	Excellent – storage/compute	Moderate – storage/compute

IS-IS and OSPF Protocols

- Widely used in large enterprise and ISP networks
  - IS-IS = Intermediate System to Intermediate System
  - OSPF = Open Shortest Path First
- Link-state protocol with many added features
  - E.g., “Areas” for scalability

END



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