

Path cost, least-cost path, \& shortest path


A path in a graph $G=(N, E)$ is a sequence of nodes $\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{p}\right)$
such that each of the pairs $\left(x_{1}, x_{2}\right),\left(x_{2}, x_{3}\right), \ldots,\left(x_{p-1}, x_{p}\right)$ are edges in $E$.
The cost of a path is the sum of edge costs: $c\left(x_{1}, x_{2}\right), c\left(x_{2}, x_{3}\right), \ldots, c\left(x_{p-1}, x_{p}\right)$
There could be multiple paths between two nodes, each with a different cost. One or more of these is a least-cost path.
Example: the least-cost path between $u$ and $w$ is $(u, x, y, w) \Rightarrow c(u, x, y, w)=3$
If all edges have the same cost, then least-cost path $=$ shortest path
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## Additional algorithm classifications

- Static routing algorithms
- Routes change very slowly over time
- Dynamic routing algorithms
- Change routing paths as network traffic loads or topology change
- Load-sensitive algorithms
- Link costs vary to reflect the current level of congestion
- Load-insensitive algorithms
- Ignore current or recent levels of congestion
Link-State (LS): Dijkstra's Algorithm
- Assumption:
Entire network topology \& link costs are known
- Each node broadcasts link-state packets to all other nodes
- All nodes have an identical, complete view of the network
- Compute least-cost path from one node to all other nodes
in the network
- Iterative algorithm
- After $k$ iterations, least-cost paths are known to $k$ nodes






## Oscillations with congestion-based routing

If link cost = load carried on the link

- Link costs are not symmetric
$-c(u, v)=c(v, u)$ only if the same load flows in both directions
- Example loads
- Load of 1 comes into $z$ for $w$
- Load of 1 comes into $x$ for $w$
- Load of e comes into $y$ for $w$
- When LS is run
- $y$ determines $(y \rightarrow z \rightarrow w)$ cost is 1

compared to $(y \rightarrow x \rightarrow w)$ cost, which is $1+e$
$-x$ determines that $x \rightarrow y \rightarrow z \rightarrow w$ is a lower-cost path





## Avoiding oscillations

- Ensure that not all routers run the LS algorithm at the same time
- Avoid synchronized routers by randomizing the time when a router advertises its link state

| Distance-Vector Routing Algorithm |
| :--- |
| - Initial assumption |
| - Each router (node) knows the cost to reach its directly-connected neighbors |
| - Iterative, asynchronous, distributed algorithm |
| - Multiple iterations |
| - Each iteration caused by local link cost change or distance vector update message |
| from neighbor |
| - Asynchronous |
| - Does not require lockstep synchronization |
| - Distributed |
| - Each node receives information from one or more directly attached neighbors |
| - Notifies neighbors only when its distance-vector changes |

## Bellman-Ford Equation

- What it says
- If $x$ is not directly connected to $y$, it needs to first hop to some neighbor $v$ - The lowest cost is
(the cost of the first hop to $v$ ) + (the lowest cost from $v$ to $y$ )

$$
=c(x, v)+d_{v}(y)
$$

- the least cost path from $x$ to $y, d_{x}(y)$, is the minimum of the lowest cost of all of $x$ 's neighbors

$$
d_{x}(y)=\min _{v}\left\{c(x, v)+d_{v}(y)\right\}
$$

- The value of $v$ that satisfies the equation is the forwarding table entry in $x$ 's router for destination $y$


Link cost changes
- The DV algorithm remains quiet once it converges
- ... until some link cost changes
- If a node detects link cost change between itself and a neighbor
- It updates its distance vector
- If there is a change in the cost of any least-cost path
it informs its neighbors of the new distance vector
- Each neighbor computes a new least cost
• If the value changed from its previous value, it sends its DV to its neighbors
- Recompute until values converge
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Mitigation: Poison Reverse

- If $A$ routes through $B$ to get to $C$
- A will advertise to $B$ that its distance is infinity
- B will then never attempt to route through $A$
- This does not work with loops involving 3 or more nodes!
- Other approaches
- Limit size of network by setting a hop (cost) limit
- Send full path information in route advertisement
- Perform explicit queries for loops

The end

