



# COMPUTING MINIMAL SPANNING TREE WITH THE ACTIVE PROGRAMMABLE HARNESS NETWORK GROUP COMMUNICATION WARE

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**Abstract** The **active harness** we have developed is a scalable and versatile means for deep probing of network local states. Harness makes a clear separation between the “communication” from the “information” part of the probing process. The composition of the “information” component is handled by means of network embedded harness plug-ins. Harness supports a variety of group communication and distributed data synthesis patterns among a large set of nodes. It has been show to be capable of solving variety of messaging optimized efficient distributed algorithms used in advanced routing including shortest path, optimum clientele multicast stepping etc. In this report we illustrate how it can also solve another important problem is advanced routing—the minimum spanning tree problem. This report does not contain any performance simulation.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Scalability

Scalability, in a large network, is often severely limited in point-to-point mode of communication. For example, the requesting node is required to send individual SNMP messages to all intermediate nodes for measurement of path statistics causing redundant flow of information inside the network. This increases the overhead and hence severely reduces the transparency of the measurement process. With only a point-to-point communication means, dissemination/aggregation of information creates excessive traffic on the network severely limiting the scalability. It appears that the inability to extract any intelligence from the intermediate nodes by SNMP causes the limitation. Hence, since there is no means for in network composition, all compositions must be done at the end-points, only after polling all state information there.

### 1.2. Versatility

On the contrary, though the specific probing kits provide greater scalability but can hardly be reused for other measurements. Nevertheless, the trend suggests that versatility of information is becoming equally important. Specifically, what measurement is useful depends on the optimization objective. For example, in a video server scenario, whether the jitter or the hard delay is more important is dependent on the specific video repair algorithm. In a different scenario, a server before sending data may want to poll information about the speed of only the last link to the home user's computers. In some other circumstances the min/max of the path downstream delays and jitters from various junction nodes can help in strategically placing jitter-absorbing



buffers in a multimedia streaming virtual private multicast network. Emerging tele-interaction applications (such as tele-surgery, remote instrument control) will require handle on the delay incurred at the video frame level, which is exactly not the same as the packet delay. The trend suggests that as more advanced and complex net-centric applications are being envisioned more versatile network state information would have to be exchanged.

### 1.3. Harness Approach

Can scalability and versatility both be retained simultaneously? Apparently, there may not be any efficient answer in an end-to-end paradigm. In the general case, a network can choke with polynomial messaging at the end-points. However, the recent advent of **Active Network** technology seems to offer an innovative way out from this dichotomy [13,14,8]. Active network allows programmable modules to be embedded inside network junctions. In this research we are exploring an experimental dynamic mechanism for state information polling and propagation inside network with similar embedded information synthesizers, which seems to be both scalable and versatile. The approach first makes a clear separation between the “communication” from the “information” of the state exchange and propagation process. Communication is handled by the component called “harness”. Harness propagates all information via coordinated messaging. On the other hand the “information” component of the process is controlled by a set of soft programmable plug-ins. These plug-ins decide the content of the messages propagated by the harness. In a recent work [16] we have demonstrated a tree-harness system which can work on a network with tree communication topology.

In this report we present a powerful generalization of the harness that now can operate over a general graph network. The system is capable of solving various graph problems such as shortest path, max-flow etc. based on customizable criteria (such as bandwidth, delay, jitter, power usage etc.). The report explains the operation of the harness via an important network algorithm-- finding the minimal spanning tree (MST). Compared to many other problems, solution to MST is not obvious in Harness paradigm. In this report, we therefore show a harness algorithm MST that creates a scalable and customizable solution by exploiting its power of concurrent network computation and node level aggregation.

### 1.4. Applications of MST in Networking

Interestingly MST is finding many applications in networking. In various custom forms its use has been applied quite prominently in recent networking research. Some routing algorithms [34,35,36,37] in mobile wireless networks have used shortest-path routing where the number of hops is the path length. However, more recently researchers are suggesting that the optimum routing in wireless and mobile networking with minimum energy constraint, is a MST problem rather than shortest path [27,28,29,30,31,32,33]. Chang and Tassiullas [38] have shown that MST can be used (in inverse form) to distribute wireless traffic among various paths so that batteries of the nodes drain-out in a uniform way. Optimum mirroring based on network load reduction in web caching is also an MST problem.

MST also applies in data aggregation and distribution. Several researchers in sensor networking area have recently investigated means for scalable data aggregation [39].



The researchers used various approximations of MST. In [40] aggregation has been done based on Center at Nearest Source (CNS), Shortest Paths Tree (SPT), or Greedy Incremental Tree (GIT). PEGASIS [41] creates a chain path between network of sensors to gather and fuse data as data passes over the chain. Then fused data is sent to base station by one of the randomly chosen sensors located in the chain. Concat [52] has been proposed to merge collected feedback in multicast application. Wolf and Choi [53] proposed an aggregation algorithm similar to concat with the provision of detecting packet loss and avoidance of indefinite waiting.

MST is also central to DDBMA (Dynamic Delay Bounded Multicasting Algorithm), which is concerned about delay in multicast tree. Zhou and Hac [43] proposed a heuristic algorithm for constructing minimum-cost multicast trees with delay constraints. Other heuristics have been developed by [44,45,46]. In congestion control topology information has been used in multicast tree [47]. In Topology Aware Grouping (TAG) [48] the shortest path information is used to build efficient overlay networks among multicast group members.

## 2. Harness Architecture

The harness is in charge for initiating, propagating and responding to a series of well-coordinated messages between the nodes in a network. The harness once installed in network nodes, can act in three roles-- *session initiator*, *state synthesizer*, and *terminals*. The initiator acts as the communication agent in the network layer for the application that actually requires the information. The synthesizer propagates the state requests and processes the returning states from the terminals.

The harness controls the communication pattern and thus deals with the efficiency of messaging. Harness system accepts a set of plug-ins, which determines the content of these messages, and how they are propagated and aggregated at the junction points.

### 2.1. Messaging

The harness system has been designed to operate with a novel request-reply-update messaging scheme. It has three types of messages *request*, *reply* and *update*. A request message may contain fields indicating what data is needed, information dictating how far down the network the probing session should propagate either by specifying probing depth or by explicitly listing terminal nodes, and any information needed by the receiver to compute required data, e.g. to compute jitter a receiver needs to know the time stamp of sending successive data. In addition to this, for a graph structured network we need to uniquely identify a session by the combination of initiators id and some unique session id. Since in a graph structure a synthesizer might receive request for multiple sessions from adjacent nodes, the synthesizer can use the initiators id and session id to distinguish multiple sessions. The *session initiator* decides how often a request is generated in case of gathering property of a topology which changes over time. The request messages are sent to the *terminals* if they are immediately connected, or to synthesizers for further downstream propagation. A synthesizer upon receiving a request, propagates the query by generating a new request message to the down-stream nodes. However, at the same time it might also generate an immediate reply for the requestor. The replies from synthesizers may contain current local state and/or past remote states. The reply might also be used to acknowledge receipt of a request

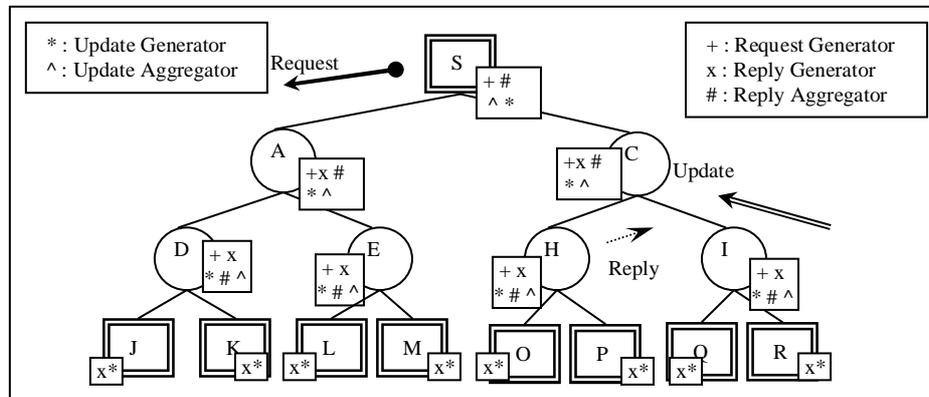
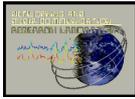


Fig. 1 Components of Active Harness

indicating that the receiver will generate request further down-stream. The terminal nodes send replies to their respective requestors. The terminal reply contains locally retrieved current states. The terminals or *update initiators* initiates return trip of information by generating update messages. In the return trip of information, the synthesizer nodes aggregate the information and at each stage generate update messages for their requestors. Once a node receives all or specific number of update messages from its immediate down-stream nodes or on timeout, it updates the network local state variables and generates a new update message. The update message contains a synthesized summary of information calculated from all its immediate downstream nodes.

This three-part request-reply-update communication model, if needed, allows the information to be collected without working in lockstep. Even if a downstream node is delayed or silent, it does not hold the entire system; the estimation process can proceed for remaining nodes. The update phase is further equipped with optional and configurable timers to avoid update lockup. In essence, the request-reply phase allows collection of local immediate states. The reply mechanism allows immediate probing into current local states and past synthesized remote states, while the update message retrieves latest remote states.

## 2.2. State Composition

Harness system accepts a set of six-plug-ins which are called *request generator*, *reply generator*, *update generator*, *request aggregator*, *reply aggregator*, and *update aggregator*. These modules together determine the content of these messages, and how they are aggregated at the junction points. They work via a virtual *slate*. A copy of which is maintained in each of the nodes. The slate works as the local abstract data structures. The slate is programmable and is defined at the session initiation phase. The *request generator* specifies the request message describing the fields it wants from the slate of its down-stream node. At individual nodes the model supports MIB-II and thus acts as a superset of SNMP. The terminal nodes can read/copy MIB variables (or their processed combination) existing in the local slate into variables marked for reply. The harness then invokes the reply messages with the designated slate variables. *Reply aggregator* (or *update aggregators*) in a similar fashion is invoked each time a reply (or update) is received by the harness. They perform domain specific processing of the



reply message fields and similarly update their own slate variables. The *update generator* is invoked when a special trigger variable becomes true. The trigger variable

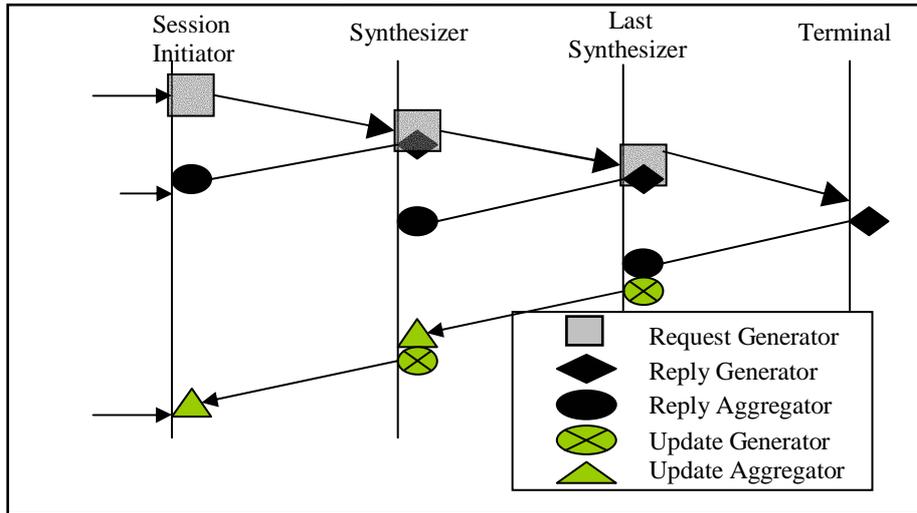


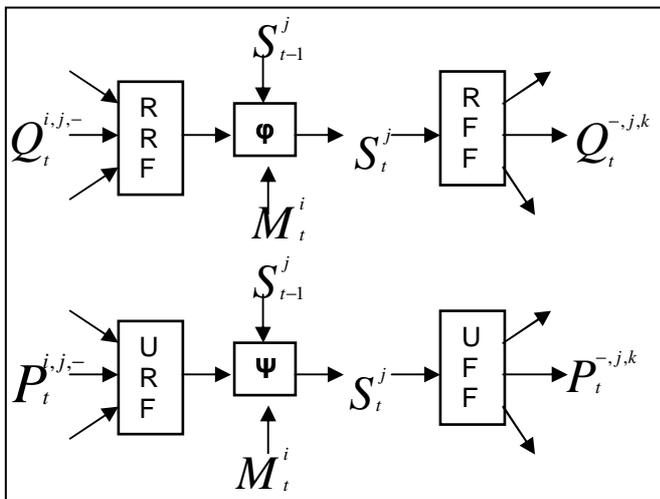
Fig. 2 Event Diagram for Harness

is a set of conditions such as all, any, or a specified number of down-stream nodes have requested/updated/replied, or a timer fires. The update generator sends the slate variables synthesized by the update aggregators to the upstream node. Fig. 1 describes the architecture of the proposed harness system. It shows the typical locations of the plug-in modules and the direction of the messages. In fig. 2, the event diagram of the harness is shown.

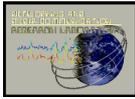
At the heart of the composition ability is the transfer functions of the intermediate synthesizers. The request and update phase can be represented by equations:

$$S_t^j = \Phi(\bar{E}(Q_t^{i,j,-}), M_t^j, S_{t-1}^j), \text{ and } Q_t^{-j,k} = \bar{F}(S_t^j) \quad \dots(1)$$

$$S_t^j = \Psi(\bar{F}(P_t^{i,j,-}), M_t^j, S_{t-1}^j), \text{ and } P_t^{i,j,-} = \bar{E}(S_t^i) \quad \dots(2)$$



Here, as shown in fig 3,  $S_t^j$  is the local *slate state* at event time  $t$  at node  $j$ ,  $\bar{E}$  is the *request receiving filter* (RRF),  $M$  is the *local network state* (such as MIB variable),  $\bar{F}$  is the *request forwarding filter* (RFF).  $Q_t^{i,j,-}$  is the arrived request from parent  $i$ , to node  $j$  and  $Q_t^{-j,k}$  is the propagated requests to children  $k$ .



$\bar{E}$  is the *update forwarding* filter (UFF),  $\bar{F}$  is the *update receiving* filter (URF).  $P_t^{i,j,k}$  is the arrived update from child  $k$ ,

and  $P_t^{i,j}$  is the propagated update to parent  $i$ . While the filters determined the information propagation rules, composition functions  $\Phi()$  and  $\Psi()$  together determine the message content. While, in principle each of these components for each of the individual harness sites can be programmed differently, however the associated management will be intractable. In this harness we divide the network nodes into subsets based on their role in the topology. Nodes in the topological subsets then inherit uniform programmed behavior. Thus, we need only six distinct programmed modules (plug-ins) to be supplied by the harness programmer.

### 3. Harness Execution Model

The harness operates through 9 states. Fig 4 shows the state transition diagram. The oval shaped boxes describe activities and the square boxes indicate plug-in modules used for those activities. The dotted path is taken only by a session initiator. A *session initiator* has states 1-4-5-6-5-7-8-1 if reply and update is expected. An *update initiator* since waits for  $U=0$  updates, has states 1-2-3-5-3-7-9-1. Synthesizers (if both reply and update is expected) have states 1-2-4-3-5-2-5-6-5-7-8-7-9-1. As fig 4 suggests, other combinations are possible depending on whether reply and/or update is expected or not.

### 4. Example Probing: Minimal Spanning Tree

Problem Definition:  $G(V, E)$  is a connected, undirected graph where  $V$  is the set of nodes and  $E$  is the set of edges and for each edge  $(u,v) \in E$ ,  $\omega(u,v)$  is cost of edge  $(u,v)$ .

We need to find an acyclic subset,  $T \subseteq E$ , that connects all the vertices and whose total weight  $\omega(T) = \sum_{(u,v) \in T} \omega(u,v)$  is minimum [54].

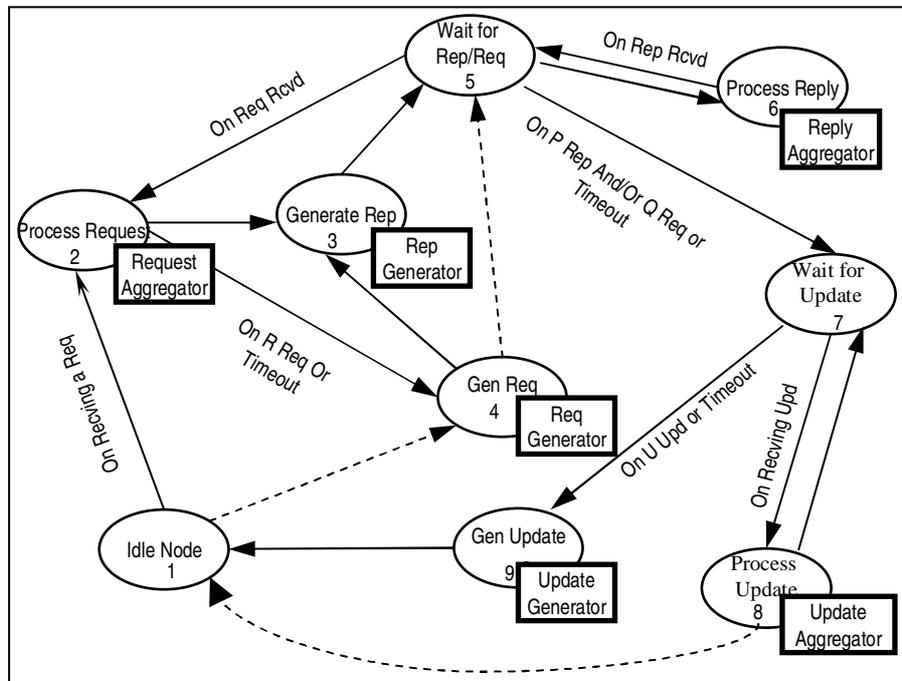
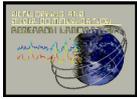
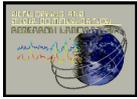


Fig. 4 State Transition Diagram of The Active Harness

We will map the three phases of the harness to find the minimal spanning tree of a graph topology. The first phase is request generation phase. During the request generation phase, reply phase takes place concurrently.

- A *session initiator* initiates a session of finding minimal spanning tree (MST) of a network with graph topology. How deep the probing should take place, should be determined by the *session initiator*. This can be done by identifying one or more terminal nodes (which can be thought as the leaf node of the topology) during the initiation of session. Another way of determining how deep probing should take place is the depth (or level) from the *session initiator*. However, this might lead to redundant flow of request messages across network. The *session initiator* sends request messages to its adjacent synthesizers.
- A request message sent by *session initiator* includes its id (i.e. *session initiators* id), id of the terminal node, i.e. the *update initiator*, and a unique session number. Each session can be distinguished by a session number and id of the *session initiator*.
- When a request message is received by a synthesizer from the *session initiator* it becomes child of the *session initiator*. This synthesizer then propagates request message to its adjacent synthesizers. The new request message consists of id of the *update initiator* sent by *session initiator*, *session initiator's* id, session number and its own id. This means that the new request message can be constructed from the



request message sent by the *session initiator* by changing sender and receivers' id and appending it own id to keep track of the path of the request propagation.

- Once a request message is received from a synthesizer, say  $x$ , then the sender,  $x$ , becomes the parent of the receiving synthesizer, say  $y$ , provided the receiver of the request message, i.e.  $y$ , has not sent a request earlier to  $x$ . Then the receiving synthesizer,  $y$ , propagates the request to its adjacent synthesizers, say  $z$ , from which it did not receive a request yet and  $z$  is not in the path of request message. On the other hand, if the receiver,  $y$ , before receiving the request message from  $x$ , has sent a request message to  $x$ , then we need to resolve the ambiguity of both being one another's parent and child. This can be resolved by following the convention that the synthesizer whose id is higher becomes the parent of the other synthesizer. This will insure that every adjacent synthesizer is either parent or a child of any other adjacent synthesizer.
- The reply message can be used to resolve/acknowledge parent-child relationship. There can be provisions so that a reply message contains previously computed MST. This can be used in situations where the synthesizers are mobile or inactive in case of energy sensitive nodes.
- As the request propagates down the links, the request messages will give the path through which request messages propagated from the *session initiator* to a synthesizer. During the request generation phase a synthesizer does not send a request message to a synthesizer which is in the path of request propagation. This can be used to avoid deadlock during update phase.
- The initiator designates a terminal which we will call *update initiator*. An *update initiator* does not send any request to any adjacent synthesizers and hence does not have any child. It initiates the update phase. However, there can be incidents where a node receives request messages from its adjacent node and becomes a child of all its adjacent synthesizer. Such a node, by definition, becomes *update initiator* even though the *session initiator* has not specified that node as an *update initiator*. We can prove that the algorithm of finding minimal spanning tree works correctly even if we have more than one *update initiator*.
- An *update initiator* initiates the update phase upon receiving request messages from its adjacent synthesizers. Update message generated by the *update initiator* includes the cost of the link between it and its parent. Essentially this is the minimal spanning tree of the sub-graph which consists of *update initiator* and its respective parent.
- During the update phase all the parent synthesizers expect an update message from each of their children. A synthesizer does not generate an update message until it receives update messages from all its children. On receiving update messages from its children a synthesizer finds the updated MST of the sub-graph which consists of that synthesizer and all its children and their children down to the *update initiator*. This can be found by merging the MST sent by its children in the respective update messages and then removing any cycle that is created by the merge operation. A cycle can be removed by eliminating the link that has maximum cost among the links in the concerned cyclic path. Once the synthesizer finds the MST of the graph below it, it chooses one of its parent synthesizers, say  $m$ , whose cost is the minimum among all its parent synthesizers. An update



message is sent to that synthesizer,  $m$ , adding the cost of that synthesizer with the newly computed MST.

- Other synthesizers which are not chosen are notified via the update message with a null path.
- Gradually, update messages reach the *session initiator* and, it computes the MST of the graph.

## 5. Proof of Correctness of Algorithm

Theorem: Given,  $G(V, E)$  is a connected, undirected graph where  $V$  is the set of nodes and  $E$  is the set of edges and for each edge  $(u, v) \in E$ ,  $\omega(u, v)$  is cost of edge  $(u, v)$ . Above Harness-MST algorithm gives a minimal spanning tree i.e. an acyclic subset,  $T \subseteq E$ , that connects all the vertices and whose total weight  $\omega(T)$  is minimum.

**Lemma 1:** No edge is left out without considering it.

*Proof:* Since through each edge a request is propagated and since a node when sending an update compares the cost of edge from which it receives a request, so all edges are considered.

**Lemma 2:** No less costly edge is left out (i.e. holds minimal property.)

*Proof (by contradiction):* Given  $G = (V, E)$ ,  $V = \{u, v, z, y, x\}$  and  $E = \{uv, vz, xy, yz, ux\}$  and  $T = \{uv, vz, xy, yz\}$  is the minimal spanning tree of graph  $G$ . We need to show that there is an edge  $uy$  with  $\omega(uv) < \omega(uy)$  or  $\omega(xy) < \omega(ux)$ .

Now, there can be two scenarios, either  $u$  is the child of  $y$  or  $y$  is child of  $u$ . If  $u$  is child of  $y$  then while  $u$  generated an update message as per algorithm  $u$  chooses the link which has minimum cost hence weight of  $uv$  is less than weight of  $uy$ . Similarly, we can show if  $y$  is child of  $u$  weight of  $yz$  is less than  $uy$ . In both cases it's a contradiction. So there cannot be an edge  $uy$  whose weight is less than  $uv$  or  $yz$ .

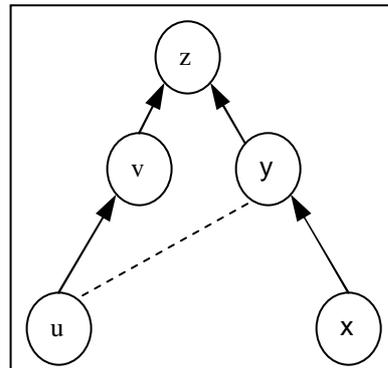


Fig. 5

**Lemma 3:** It is a spanning tree.

*Proof:* Since at every node during update generation, existence of any cycle is checked and eliminated if any, so at the end we get a tree.

Directly from lemma 1, 2, and 3, the theorem is proved.

## 6. Example:

In the following figures we show snapshots of finding minimal spanning tree. The numbers next to a link is the cost associated with that link, e.g. cost of node connecting nodes  $a$  and  $b$  is 4. Fig 6(a) shows the topology with cost of different links. Node  $a$  is the *session initiator* and  $a$  designates  $g$  as the *update initiator* (terminal node). Fig 6(b) shows the parent-child relationship between different adjacent nodes after all the

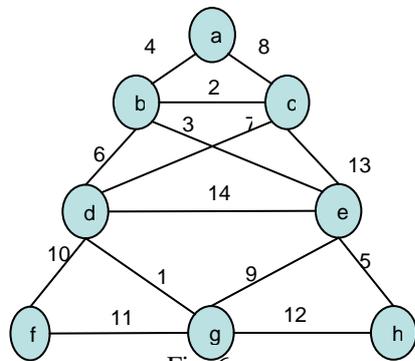
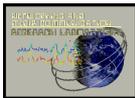


Fig. 6a

$gh$  and cost 12. Node  $f$  upon receiving update message it was expecting from its child, i.e. from  $g$ , generates update message augmenting  $fd$  to  $gf$  and sends it to  $d$ . Node  $d$  on receiving updates from  $f$  and  $g$ , merges the paths, i.e. the respective MST, received from  $f$  and  $g$  which gives  $\{gf, fd, gd\}$  and checks if there is a cycle. If there is a cycle, it eliminates the edge with maximum weight. In this case since there is a cycle (fig 6c), it eliminates the edge  $gf$  whose cost is higher (i.e 11) than other two edges in the cycle. Now, remaining edges, i.e.  $\{fd, gd\}$  is the MST of the subgraph whose root is  $d$ . Node  $d$  after eliminating cycles, finds the edge  $db$  (6) from the edges connecting  $d$  to its parent which has minimum weight, and adds that to rest of the MST. This gives  $\{fd, gd, db\}$  and sends that to  $b$ . The other parent of  $d$  which is  $c$  is notified by sending another update message with null path indicating  $c$  that  $dc$  was not chosen. This is shown in fig 6(c). Similarly,  $e$  sends update message to  $b$  with the path  $\{gw, he, eb\}$ . When node  $b$  receives update messages from its children  $d$  and  $e$ , it detects a cycle  $\{gd, db, eb, ge\}$  and eliminates  $ge$  the edge with maximum weight in the cycle giving the path  $\{fd, gd, db, he, eb\}$ . After receiving update message from  $c$  which has  $\{cb\}$  and merging it with that which has been received from  $d$ , the MST of the subgraph whose root is  $b$  becomes  $\{fd, gd, db, he, eb, cb\}$ . Finally,  $a$  computes the overall MST of the topology once it receives updates from  $b$  and  $c$  which is  $\{fd, gd, db, he, eb, cb, ba\}$ .

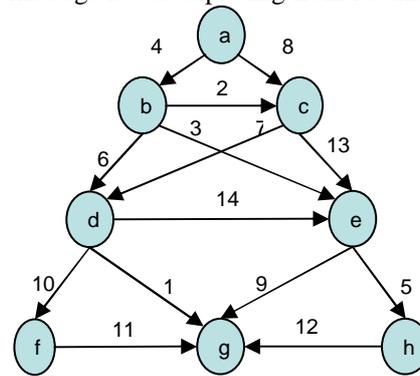


Fig 6b

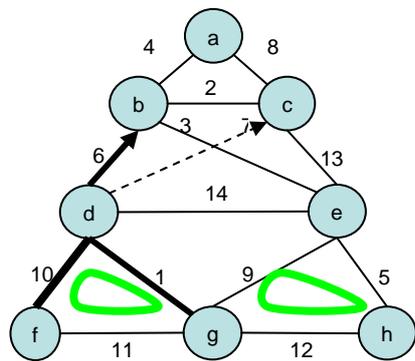


Fig 6c

request messages have propagated down to the *update initiator*. The direction from one node to another shows the propagation of request message and parent child relationship, e.g. an edge from  $a \rightarrow b$ . indicates propagation of request from  $a$  to  $b$  and that  $b$  is a child of  $a$ .

The *update initiator*,  $g$ , on receiving requests from all its neighbors, initiates the update phase sending update message to its parents (requestors)  $f, d, e$ , and  $h$ . The update message sent to  $f$  includes path  $gf$  and cost 11. Similarly, update messages to  $h$  include path

$gh$  and cost 12. Node  $f$  upon receiving update message it was expecting from its child, i.e. from  $g$ , generates update message augmenting  $fd$  to  $gf$  and sends it to  $d$ . Node  $d$  on receiving updates from  $f$  and  $g$ , merges the paths, i.e. the respective MST, received from  $f$  and  $g$  which gives  $\{gf, fd, gd\}$  and checks if there is a cycle. If there is a cycle, it eliminates the edge with maximum weight. In this case since there is a cycle (fig 6c), it eliminates the edge  $gf$  whose cost is higher (i.e 11) than other two edges in the cycle. Now, remaining edges, i.e.  $\{fd, gd\}$  is the MST of the subgraph whose root is  $d$ . Node  $d$  after eliminating cycles, finds the edge  $db$  (6) from the edges connecting  $d$  to its parent which has minimum weight, and adds that to rest of the MST. This gives  $\{fd, gd, db\}$  and sends that to  $b$ . The other parent of  $d$  which is  $c$  is notified by sending another update message with null path indicating  $c$  that  $dc$  was not chosen. This is shown in fig 6(c). Similarly,  $e$  sends update message to  $b$  with the path  $\{gw, he, eb\}$ . When node  $b$  receives update messages from its children  $d$  and  $e$ , it detects a cycle  $\{gd, db, eb, ge\}$  and eliminates  $ge$  the edge with maximum weight in the cycle giving the path  $\{fd, gd, db, he, eb\}$ . After receiving update message from  $c$  which has  $\{cb\}$  and merging it with that which has been received from  $d$ , the MST of the subgraph whose root is  $b$  becomes  $\{fd, gd, db, he, eb, cb\}$ . Finally,  $a$  computes the overall MST of the topology once it receives updates from  $b$  and  $c$  which is  $\{fd, gd, db, he, eb, cb, ba\}$ .



## 7. Messages and Modules

```
var MsgType : type HarnessVar, var SessionNo: type SessionID, var InitiatorID:  
type NodeID, var UpdateInitiatorID: type NodeID, var RequestPath : type NodePtr
```

Fig. 7(a) Request Message

```
var MsgType : type HarnessVar, var SessionNo: type unsigned int, var InitiatorID:  
type NodeID, var Ack: type Bool
```

Fig. 7(b) Reply Message

```
var MsgType : type HarnessVar, var SessionNo: type SessionID, var InitiatorID:  
type NodeID, var Path: type (var PathHead: type NodePtr + var TailNodePtr: type  
NodePtr, var MaxLink: type NodePtr, var MaxLinkCost: unsigned int)
```

Fig. 7(c) Update Message

```
var LinkCost: array unsigned int, var PathMST: type tree
```

Fig. 7(d) Slate

```
var RequestRecvd: type array bool, var RequestSent: type array bool, var  
UpdateRecvd: type array bool, var UpdateSent: type array bool, var ReplyReceived  
: type array bool, var ReplySent: type array Bool, var ParentNodePtr: type NodePtr,  
var ChildNodePtr: type NodePtr, var RequestRecvdFromNode: type NodePtr, var  
RequestSentToNode: type NodePtr, var UpdateRecvdFromNode: type NodePtr,  
var UpdateSentToNode: type NodePtr
```

Fig. 7(e) Harness Variables For a Node

### **Request Generator Module:**

```
For each adjacent node j  
if (j not in requestMsg.RequestPath OR j has not sent request)  
Set SessionNumber, InitiatorID, UpdateInitiatorID  
Path ← append (requestMsg.RequestPath , parentNode)  
>> Send request message to j <<
```

Fig. 7(f) Request Generator Module

### **Request Aggregator Module:**

```
For each adjacent node j  
if (r=1 request received)  
signal (activate Request Generator Module)
```

Fig. 7(g) Request Aggregator Module



```
Reply Generator Module :  
if (request not sent to either to j OR to node in RequestPath )  
    set replyMsg.Ack ← True  
otherwise  
    set replyMsg.Ack ← False  
>> send reply message to j <<
```

Fig. 7(h) Reply Generator Module

```
Reply Aggregator Module:  
if (reply msg from j.ack = False )  
set ParentNodePtr (next) ← j  
otherwise  
set ChildNodePtr (next) ← j
```

Fig. 7(i) Reply Aggregator Module:

```
Update Generator Module:  
For each parent node j of current node i  
    set MsgType, SessionNo, InitiatorID  
if (j.Linkcost = min)  
    update message.Path ← cons (j, Slate.PathMST)  
else  
    update message.Path ← NULL  
>> send update message to j <<
```

Fig. 7(j) Update Generator Module:

```
Update Aggregator Module:  
For update message from j  
    Slate.PathMST ← merge (Slate.PathMST, update message.Path)  
    if (cycle in Slate.PathMST) then  
        Slate.PathMST ← remove (Slate.PathMST, maxLink  
(Slate.PathMST))
```

Fig. 7(k) Update Aggregator Module:

## 8. Analytical Complexity

MST is one of the oldest known graph problems having an illustrious history. Textbook algorithms run in  $O(E \lg N)$  time, where  $N$  and  $E$  denote, respectively, the number of vertices and edges in the graph. A distributed algorithm was presented in [49] that constructs the minimum-weight spanning tree in a connected undirected graph with distinct edge weights. The total number of messages required for a graph of  $N$  nodes and  $E$  edges is at most  $5N \lg N + 2E$ . As we will show that the proposed harness



algorithm will use much less number of messages, at most  $3E$ . On average total number of bits on all the messages will depend on number of bits used to identify nodes.

For a graph  $G = (E, V)$  maximum number of request and reply messages is same which is  $2|E|$ . The number of update message is  $|E|$  during update phase from *update initiator* towards the *session initiator*.

During request generation, a request generator need has complexity  $O(db)$  in worst case where  $d$  is the depth of that node and  $b$  is the average branching factor. It takes  $O(b^2)$ , in worst case, in order to detect a cycle for an update generator. So for an update phase if depth of *update initiator* is  $O(d)$  then it takes  $O(db^2)$ .

In classical solutions by Kruskals, Prims etc for the MST problem assume that the graph topology in known and hence the complexity  $O(m \lg n)$  is estimated only on the basis of the computation of MST. Such centralized solution however ignores the cost of data collection, which can be substantial  $O(nd)$  in a network environment with  $n$  nodes. Our approach drastically reduces the amount of information propagated. This is important in large scale Internet environment where communication is much significant cost factor than the small computations involved.

Type	Byte	Max Msg	Msg/link	Bytes/link
Request	$r=O(d)$	$ E $	1	$r=O(d)$
Reply	$p= O(1)$	$ E $	1	$p= O(1)$
Update	$u=O(d)$	$ E $	1	$u= O(d)$

Node	Request		Reply		Update	
	Generator	Aggregator	Generator	Aggregator	Generator	Aggregator
Initiator	$O(b)$	$O(b)$	0	$O(b)$	0	$O(b^2)$
Synthesizer	$O(bd)$	$O(b)$	$O(1)$	$O(b)$	$O(b)$	$O(b^2)$
Terminal	0	$O(b)$	$O(1)$	0	$O(b)$	0

Above we have provided estimates of the impact on the links and on the nodes due to the harness operation respectively for one execution/propagation wave. Here, as mentioned before,  $d$  and  $b$  stand for a maximum probing depth and average branching factor of the context network respectively. The sizes of the Request, Reply, and Update messages are of  $r = O(d)$ ,  $p = O(1)$ , and  $u = O(d)$  bytes respectively and computational impact in a synthesizer due to *request generator*, *request aggregator*, *reply generator*, *reply aggregator*, *update generator* and *update aggregator* are  $r_g = O(db)$ ,  $r_a = O(b)$ ,  $p_g = O(1)$ ,  $p_a = O(b)$ ,  $u_g = O(b)$ , and  $u_a = O(b^2)$  respectively. Table-1 shows the network wide traffic, message per link and the byte density. The potential scalability of the system is indicated by the message density per link which is 1. Table-2 shows the computational impact on the network nodes due to the plug-ins. It can be noted here that, a particular state-probing session may be launched with a subset of capabilities (such as no reply, but update). The design objective is to provide the least impact communication for the given application scenario. With the timeout feature we can



approximate MST of a graph in  $O(d)$  time which can be good enough for many practical purposes.

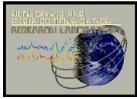
## 9. Conclusions

The report presents the Harness system via an example of its use in solving MST. The key to the system's **scalability** and **versatility** are the embedded aggregators. Since local state dependent aggregation is performed inside a network, it reduces communication and thus enhances the system's scalability. Aggregators also provide the ability to compute network relative deep composite statistics, over the elementary MIB-II variables, thus enhancing the versatility of its ability to collect network states.

The network implementation is non-trivial nevertheless can be realized at user space as *daemons*. Embedded implementation can cut down some overhead and will be critical for sub-second range probing cycles. Implementation on some form of active platform [8,13,14] can further facilitate matters such as remote deployment, and seamless secured execution of the plug-ins. The harness plug-ins require very limited form of programmability compared to general active net paradigm. Also, the read-write suggestions are through local state variables only. These characteristics assuage many of the security concerns. The proposed harness is perhaps one of those cases where provisioning even very low-grade programmability can be highly rewarding. The harness increases state visibility of network. In effect it facilitates high pay off smart optimizations for numerous applications, which are not easily realizable today due to the black box nature of current network. Interestingly, such a network layer utility is not only crucial for building a new generation of network aware applications but it is also vital for many of the current problems internet is grappling with. Interestingly many of which are arguably artifacts of the opacity of current network design. Currently, we are exploring its active network based simulation. The work is being supported by the DARPA active network Research Grant F30602-99-1-0515.

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