

# Max-min Fair Rate Allocation and Routing in Energy Harvesting Networks: Algorithmic Analysis

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# Internet of Things

- Internet of Things (IoT)/Internet of Everything (IoE):
  - Networking devices and objects that traditionally have not been networked.



## Academia



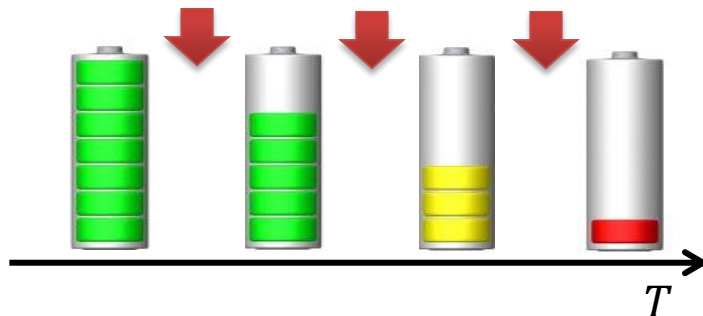
# Energy Harvesting Networks

- One of the main enablers for IoT
- Small self-powered devices with rechargeable batteries
- Environmental energy harvesting (solar, wind, kinetic, RF)
- Energy is spent on: sensing, transmitting, and receiving data
- Applications: sensing, monitoring, tracking, etc.

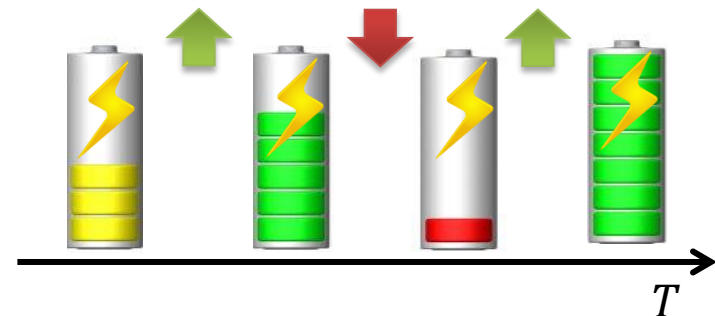


- Paradigm shift in sensor networks:

Classical sensor networks:  
Maximize lifetime

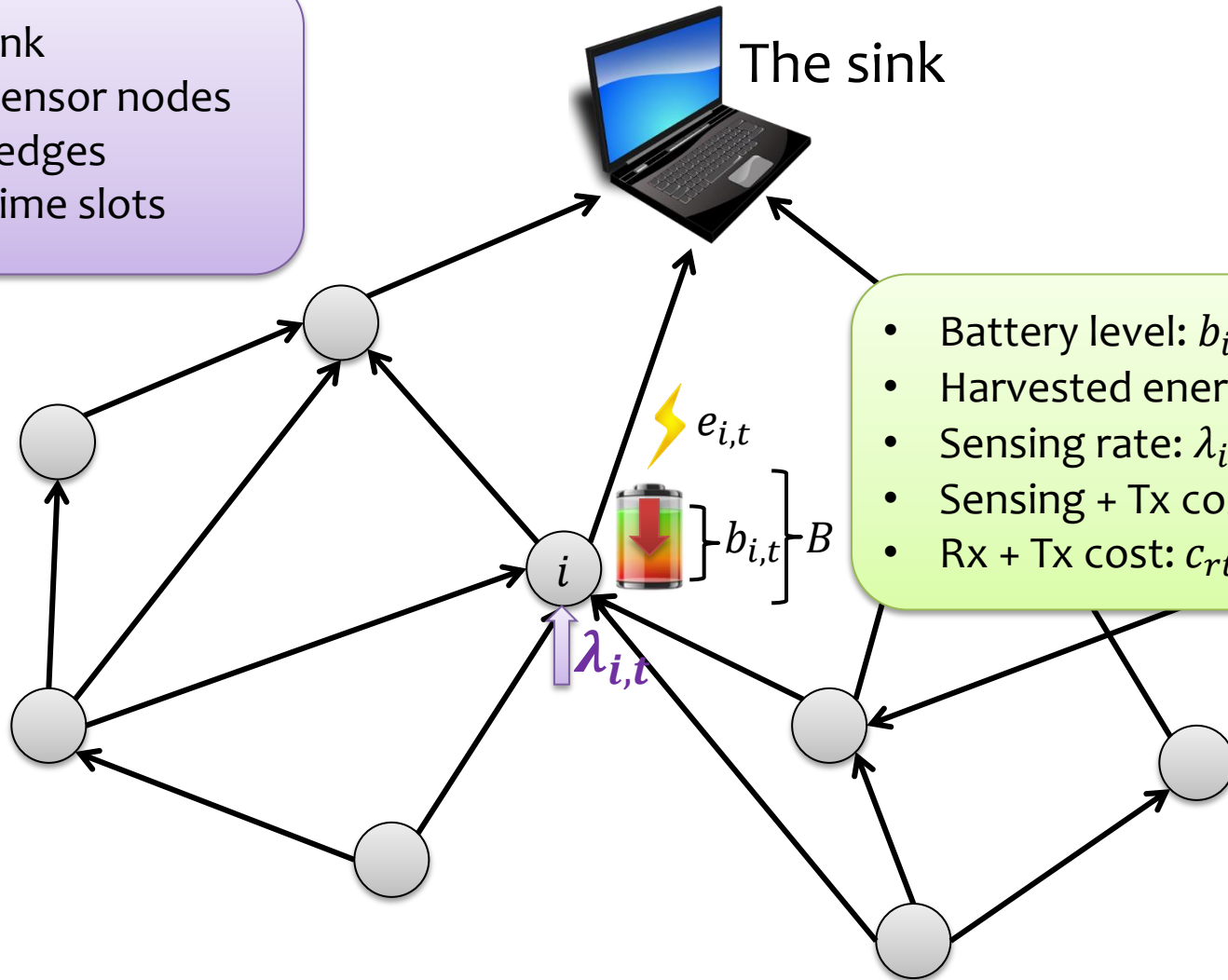


Energy harvesting networks:  
Enable perpetual operation



# The Model

- 1 sink
- $n$  sensor nodes
- $m$  edges
- $T$  time slots

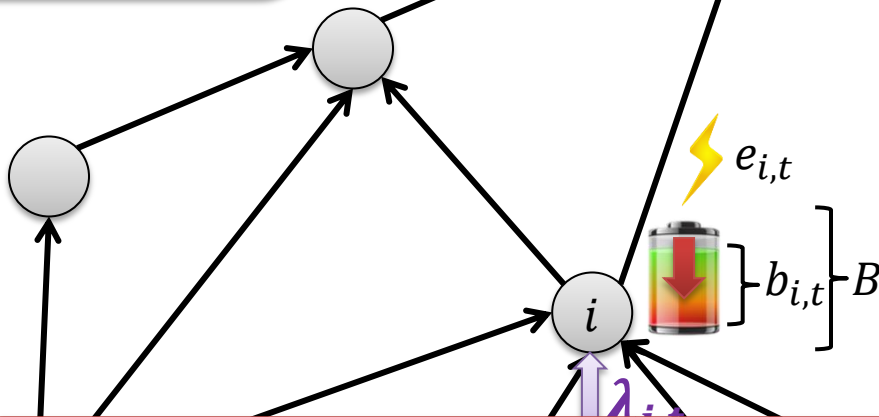


- Battery level:  $b_{i,t}$
- Harvested energy:  $e_{i,t}$
- Sensing rate:  $\lambda_{i,t}$
- Sensing + Tx cost:  $c_{st}$
- Rx + Tx cost:  $c_{rt}$



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$$(\text{flow in})_{i,t} + \lambda_{i,t} = (\text{flow out})_{i,t}$$

$$b_{i,t+1} = \begin{cases} B, & \text{if } b_{i,t} + e_{i,t} - (c_{st}\lambda_{i,t} + c_{rt}(\text{flow in})_{i,t}) > B \\ b_{i,t} + e_{i,t} - \underbrace{(c_{st}\lambda_{i,t} + c_{rt}(\text{flow in})_{i,t})}_{\text{spent energy}}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



# Overview of the Results

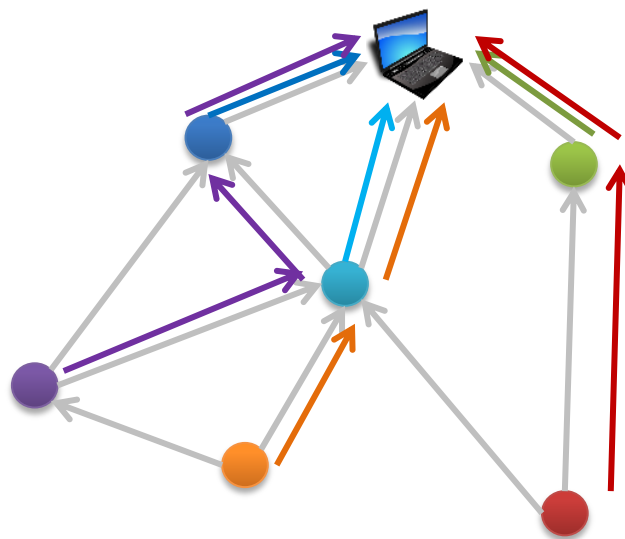
- Rate assignment and routing algorithm design:
  - Centralized;
  - Finite time horizon & predictable energy profile;
  - Fairness—required over both the nodes and the time;

## Water-filling framework implementation

	Maximizing	Fixing	Total	Rates	Routing
Single-path	$\tilde{O}(nT)$	$O(mT)$	$\tilde{O}(nmT^2)$	✓	
Fixed fractional	$\tilde{O}(\max(T, MF(n, m)))$	$O(m)$	$\tilde{O}(n(T + MF(n, m)))$	✓	✓
Time-variable fractional	$\tilde{O}(T^2/\varepsilon^2 \cdot (nT + MCF(n, m)))$	$LP(nT, mT)$	$\tilde{O}(nT(T^2/\varepsilon^2 (nT + MCF(n, m)) + LP(nT, mT)))$	✓	✓

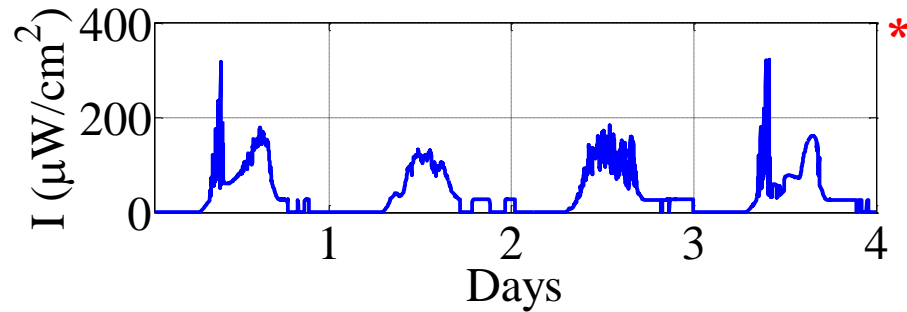
# Overview of the results

- Computing single-path routes is “**hard**” even for  $T = 1$ :
  - Tree: NP-hard to approximate within  $\log(n)$
  - Single path: NP-hard to compute
- However, for fixed single-path routing:
  - Designed an algorithm that determines the routes that maximize the minimum rate



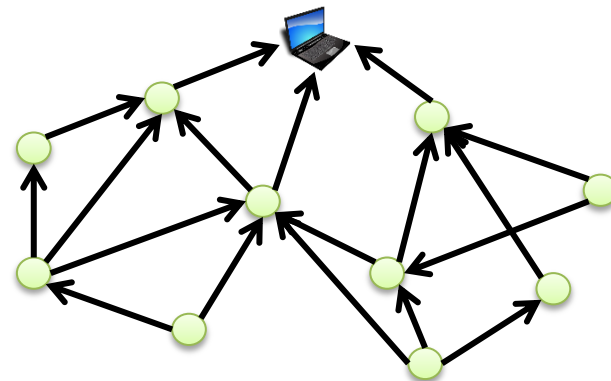
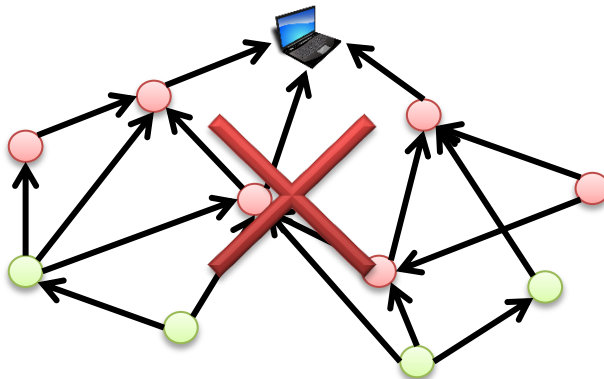
# Network Operation and Fairness

- Perpetual operation: fairness over time



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- Balanced data acquisition: fairness over nodes





# The Problems

**Definition.** An assignment  $\{\lambda_{i,t}\}, i \in [n], t \in [T]$ , is said to be max-min fair if no  $\lambda_{i,t}$  from the set can be increased without either losing feasibility, or lowering another  $\lambda_{j,\tau} \leq \lambda_{i,t}$ .



Assuming: known initial battery levels  $b_{i,1}$  and harvested energies  $e_{i,t}$

Requiring max-min fairness of the rates  $\{\lambda_{i,t}\}$ , determine:

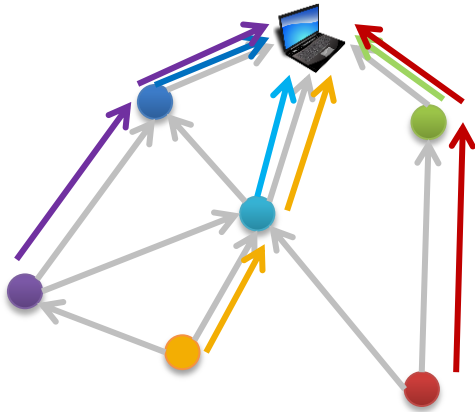
- **the routing** of the required type, and
- **the rate assignment**  $\{\lambda_{i,t}\}$

*Note:*

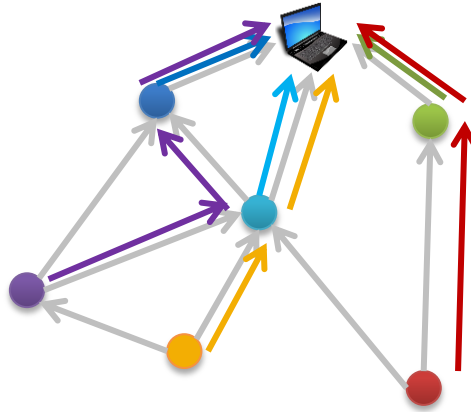
- *Fairness is required over both the nodes and the time*
- *The goal is to understand algorithmic properties of the problem*

# Routing Types

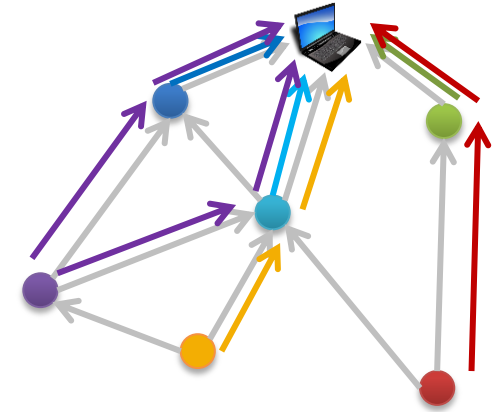
Routing Tree



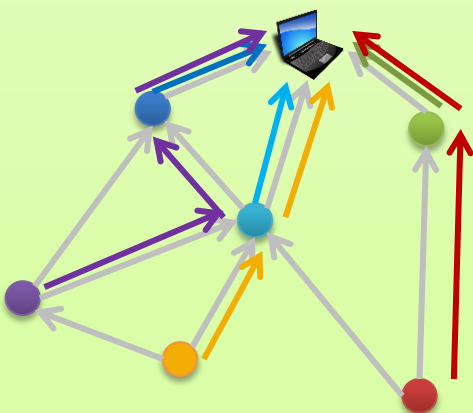
Single Path Routing



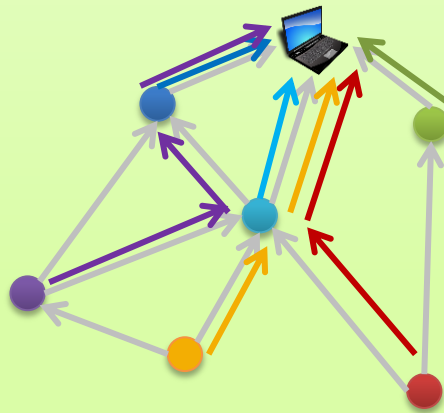
Multi-Path Routing



Time-variable routing:

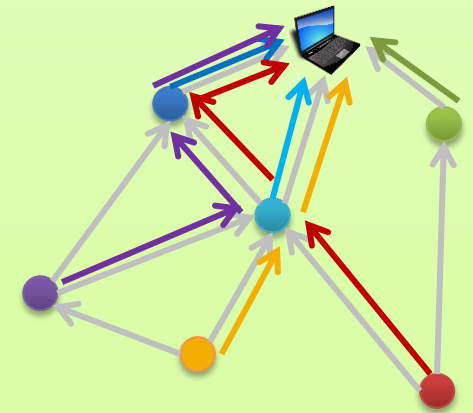


$t = 1$



$t = 2$

...



$t = T$

# Related Work

## Energy harvesting networks:

- Node or a link; e.g., [Gorlatova et al. 2013], [Srivastava & Koksal 2013], [Ozel et al. 2011]
- Network—control-theoretic approach: optimize time-averages—*time unfair!* E.g., [Gatzianas et al. 2010], [Huang & Neely 2013], [Mao et al. 2012]
- Most relevant to our work:
  - [Gurakan et al. 2013] (**two hops**)
  - [Liu et al. 2011] (**constant rates**)

## Sensor networks:

- Maximum lifetime routing: [Chang & Tassiulas 2004], [Madan & Lall 2006], ...  
*Equivalent to maximizing lowest rate for  $T = 1$ .*
- Determining a max lifetime tree: [Buragohain et al. 2005]  
*Implies the NP-hardness of finding a tree. We show hardness of approximation.*

## Unsplittable (single path) max-min fair routing:

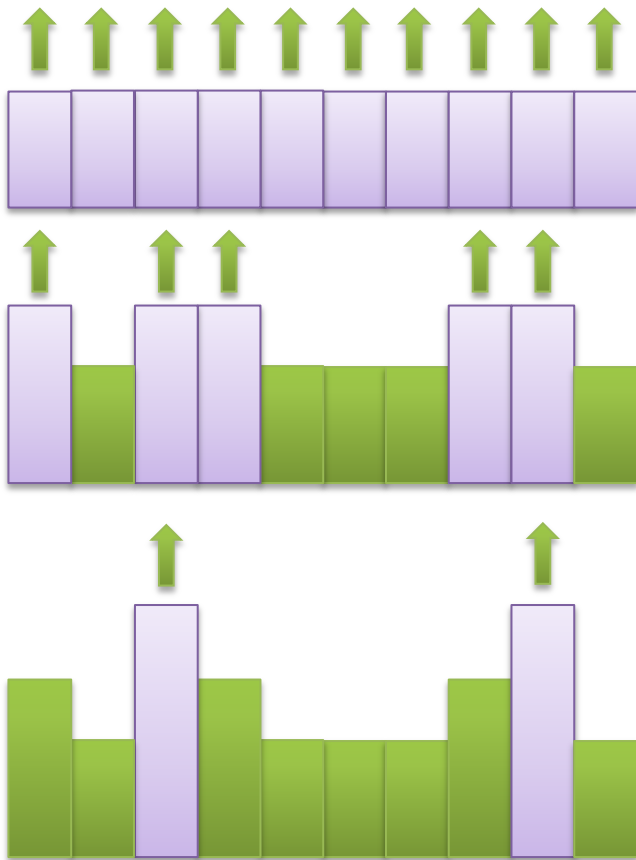
- Bottleneck routing: [Bertsekas & Gallager 1992], [Charny et al. 1995], ...  
*Much simpler: unit costs, static capacities.*
- Unsplittable routing: [Kleinberg et al. 1999]  
*Implies our hardness results for single path routing.*

## Fractional max-min fair routing:

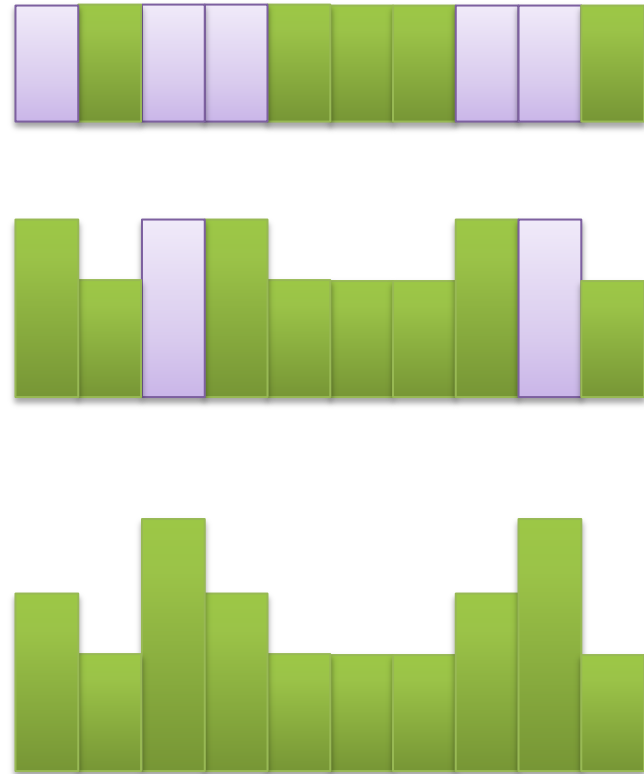
- Traditional network flows: [Megiddo 1974]  
*Much simpler: unit energy costs, static capacities.*
- LP framework: [Radunović, Le Boudec 2007]  
*Requires a huge number of large LPs.*
- Sensor networks: [Chen et al. 2007]  
*Simpler problem—static capacities.*
- Energy harvesting networks: [Liu et al. 2011]  
*Simpler problem: constant rates; heuristic.*

# Water-filling Framework and Rate Assignment

Maximization ?

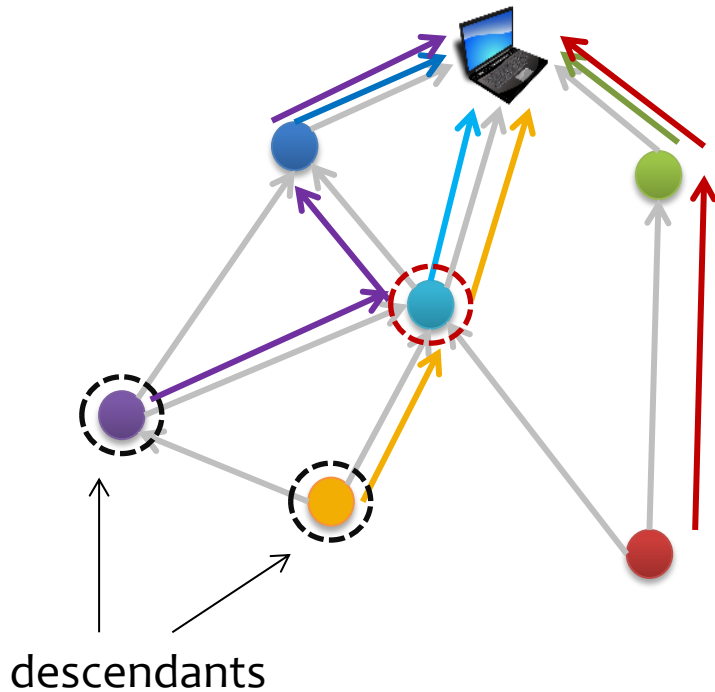


Fixing ?



# Single-Path Routing: Rate Assignment

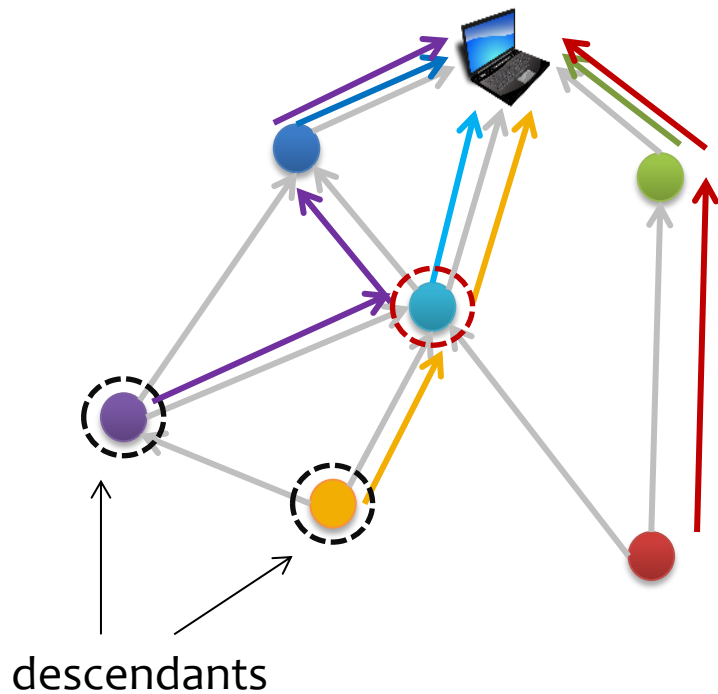
- Assuming that the routing is given at the input, determine the max-min fair rate assignment



## Maximization:

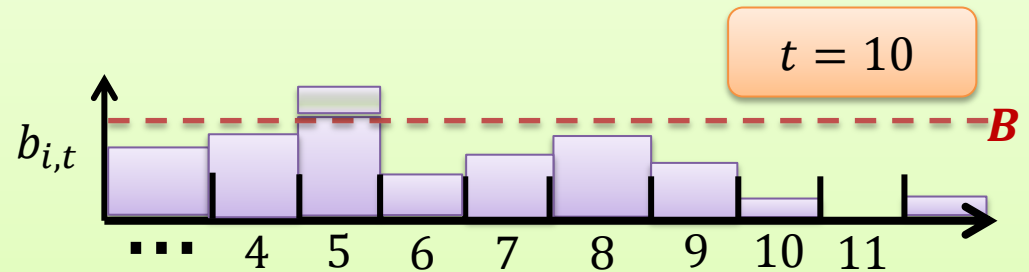
- For each node  $i$ , find the maximum supported rate, assuming  $i$ 's descendants can support the same rate
- Return the minimum rate from 1.

# Single-Path Routing: Rate Assignment



## Fixing:

1. Fix all  $\lambda_{i,t}$ 's for which  $b_{i,t+1} = 0$
2. Fix the rates  $\lambda_{i,\tau}$  in all the slots with no extra energy preceding  $b_{i,t+1} = 0$



3. Fix the rates off all the descendants of  $i$ 's fixed in 1. and 2., in the same time slots

# Single-Path Routing: Determining Routes

- A “good” routing:
  - The routing that provides lexicographically maximum rate assignment

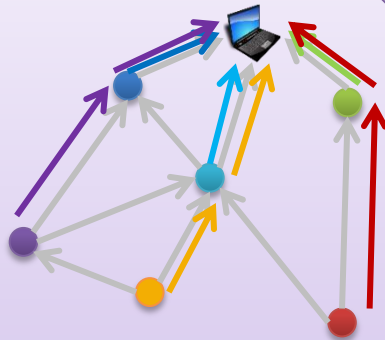
## Lexicographic comparison of two vectors:

1. Order the elements of both vectors in non-decreasing order
2. Going from left to right, find the first element in which they differ
3. The vector with the higher element is lexicographically higher



## Results: Tree

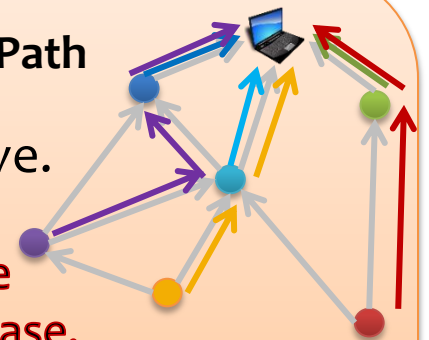
Hard to approximate within  $\log(n)$  even for a single time slot.



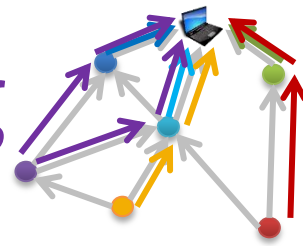
## Results: Single Path

NP-hard to solve.

However, for the time-invariable case, designed a combinatorial algorithm for a relaxed case that only maximizes the min rate.



# Time-variable Fractional Routing



- Restructuring constraints get a packing problem

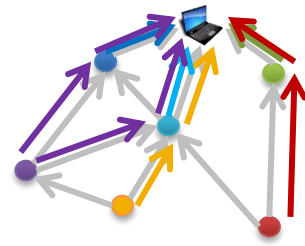
$$\sum_{\tau=1}^t c_{st} \lambda_{i,\tau} + c_{rt}(f \text{ in})_{i,\tau} \leq b_{i,1} + \sum_{\tau=1}^t e_{i,\tau}, \quad \text{for } t \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\}$$

$$\sum_{\tau=s}^t c_{st} \lambda_{i,\tau} + c_{rt}(f \text{ in})_{i,\tau} \leq B + \sum_{\tau=s}^t e_{i,\tau}, \quad \text{for } s \in \{2, \dots, T\}, t \in \{s+1, \dots, T\}$$

- Feasible rates: at least as hard as feasible 2-commodity flow
  - Unlikely to be solved optimally without linear programming
- PTAS design:
  - Maximization: packing algorithm [Plotkin et al. 1995] + structural properties
  - Fixing: 1 LP over  $\varepsilon$ -neighborhood of the solution after maximization



# Fixed Fractional Routing



- Observation:
  - Each node spends a fixed amount of energy per slot

## Pre-processing:

- Determine the max  $\Delta b_i$  that a node can spend per slot
- $\lambda_i = 0$

## Maximization:

- For  $\lambda \in [0, \min_i \Delta b_i] / c_{st}$ , via binary search:
  - If  $\lambda_i$  not fixed:
    - Set supply flow to  $\lambda_i = \lambda_i + \lambda$
    - Set capacity of node  $i$  to  $(\Delta b_i - c_{st}\lambda) / c_{rt}$
  - Solve feasible flow
- $\Delta b_i = \Delta b_i - c_{st}\lambda_i$

## Fixing:

- Fix  $\lambda_i$  if and only if  $i$  has no directed path to the sink in the residual graph

# Summary & Future Work

- Algorithmic study of max-min fairness in energy harvesting networks
- Benchmarking or centralized solution for highly-predictable energy profiles
- Generalized flow problems—might be of independent interest
- Insights into the problem structure

- Fairness guarantees with a:
  - Distributed algorithm?
  - Online algorithm?
 + low communication overhead
- Different types of fairness:
  - Proportional fairness?
  - $\alpha$ -fairness?

## Water-filling framework implementation

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# Thanks!

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