Filtering Malicious IP Sources Models and Algorithms

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Parts of this talk are joint work with K.Argyraki @EPFL and B.Krishnamurhty, J. van der Merwe @ AT&T

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Overview

Problem Overview and Motivation

Filtering Algorithms

Conclusion

Context

- Problem: Malicious IP Traffic
 - denial-of-service attacks
 - port scanning
 - spam
 - -
- Solution requires many components
 - Detection of malicious traffic
 - Action: filtering, capabilities...
 - Anti-spoofing, accountability
 - ...

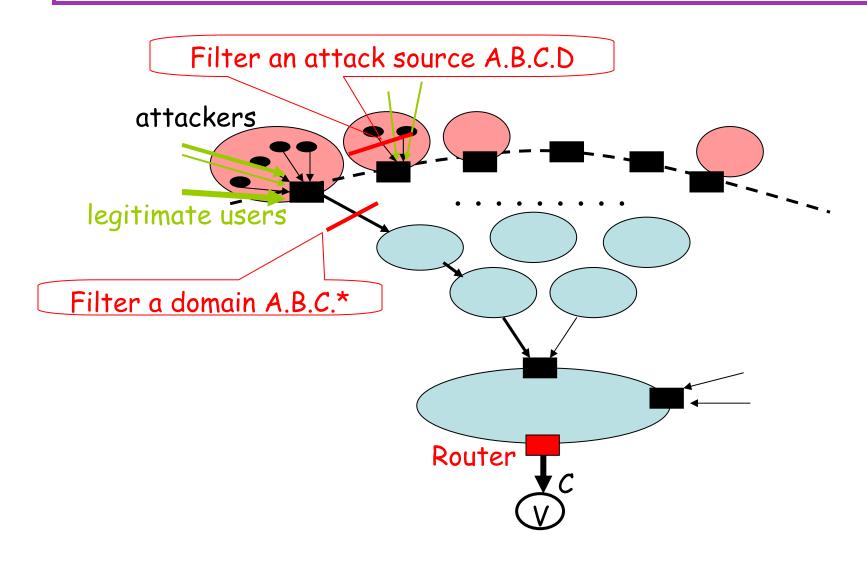
Part of the Solution

Filtering at the routers

- Access Control Lists (ACLs)
 - match a packet header against rules, e.g. source and destination IP addresses
 - filter: ACL that denies access to a source IP/prefix
- Filters implemented in TCAM
 - can keep up with high speeds
 - are a limited resource
 - ~tens of thousands per router, less per victim
- There are less filters than attack sources

Filter Selection at a Single Router

tradeoff: number of filters vs. collateral damage

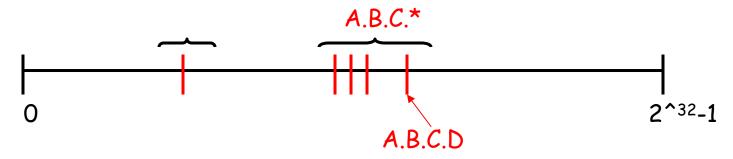


Our Goal: Filter Selection

as a resource allocation problem

Design a family of filtering algorithms that:

- take as input:
 - a blacklist of malicious sources
 - and possibly a whitelist of legitimate sources
 - a constraint on the number of filters Fmax
 - and possibly other constraints, e.g., link capacities
 - the operator's policy
- select a compact set of filtering rules
 - so as to optimize the operator's objective
 - (filter as many malicious and as few legitimate sources)
 - subject to the constraints



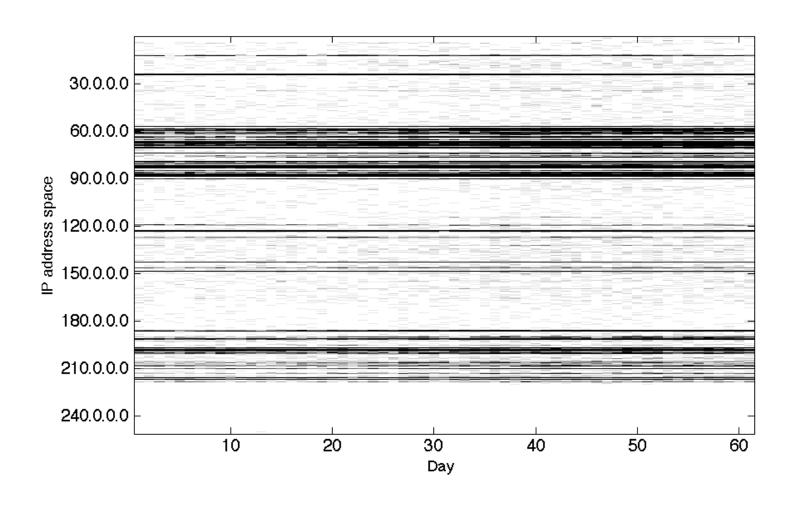
Malicious Source IPs are clustered

Spatial & Temporal Clustering of Malicious IP Sources

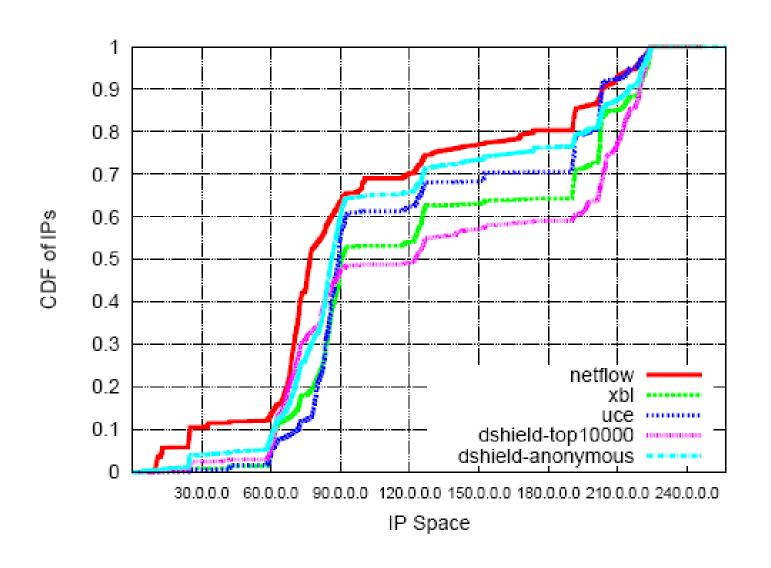
- Barford et al., "A model for source addresses of Internet background radiation", [PAM'06]
- Collins et al., "Using uncleanliness to predict future botnet addersses", [IMC 07]
- Chen, Ji, "Measuring network-aware worm spreading capabilities', [INFOCOM 07]
- Chen, Ji, Barford, "Spatial-Temporal Characteristics of Internet Malicious Sources", [Infocom Miniconf. 2008]
- Ramachandran, Feamster, "Understanding the Network-Level Behavior of Spammers", [SIGCOMM 2006].

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Evidence from DShield.org data



Evidence from DShield.org, Spamhaus XBL, UCE-protect



The distribution of good and bad sources is different

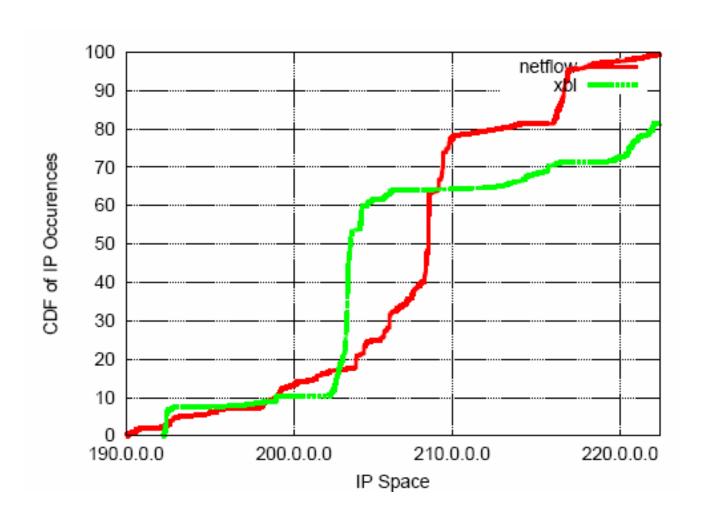
• Why does it matter?

A.B.C.*

0 $2^{32}-1$

- Often used hypothesis:
 - to do pre-filtering before traffic scrubbing
 - [Pack, Yoon, Collins, Estan, "On Filtering of DDoS Attacks Based on Source Address Prefixes", SecureComm 06]
 - to distinguish good vs. bad communities-of -interest (CoI)
 - [Vervaik, Spatscheck, van der Merwe, Snoeren, "PRIMED: A Community-of-Interest-Based DDoS Mitigation System", SIGCOMM LSAD 2006]
 - to distinguish spam from legitimate email
 - [A. Ramachandran, N. Feamster, S. Vempala, "Filtering Spam with Behavioral Blacklisting", CCS 2007]

Evidence



The Filter Selection Problem

as a resource allocation problem

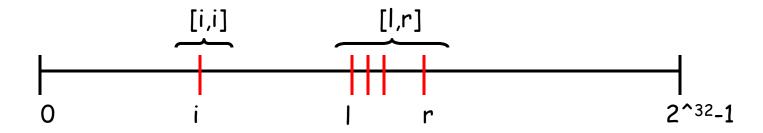
Design a family of filtering algorithms that:

- take as input:
 - a blacklist of malicious sources
 - [and possibly a whitelist of legitimate sources]
 - a constraint on the number of filters Fmax
 - [and possibly other constraints, e.g. link capacities]
 - the operator's policy
 - [weights indicating the importance of good/bad addresses]
- select a compact set of filtering rules
 - so as to optimize the operator's objective
 - (filter as many malicious and as few legitimate sources)
 - subject to the constraints

Filter Selection

Notation

- i: source IP address in [0, 2³²-1]
- $ullet w_i$ weight assigned to IP address i :
 - · amount of flow sent
 - "importance" assigned by the operator
 - e.g. monetary loss (gain) in filtering out that address
- $x_{[l,r]} \in \{0,1\}$: decision variable
 - indicates whether we filter out IP sources in the range [1,r]



Filter Selection

as a Knapsack Problem

$$\min \sum_{[l,r] \in \mathcal{D}} \sum_{i \in [l,r]} w_i x_{[l,r]}$$
 Same "weights"
$$\text{s.t. } \sum_{[l,r]} x_{[l,r]} \leq F_{max}$$

$$\sum_{[l,r] : i \in [l,r]} x_{[l,r]} \leq 1 \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{BL}$$

$$x_{[l,r]} \in \{0,1\} \quad \forall [l,r] \in \mathcal{D}$$

Filtering Problems

Overview

		Input blacklist	
		A static blacklist	A time varying blacklist
filter all bad IPs?	yes	FILTER-ALL	FILTER-ALL- DYNAMIC
	no	FILTER-SOME	FILTER-SOME- DYNAMIC

- Aggregation of source addresses using: Ranges or Prefixes
- Constraint on the (single) link capacity: FLOODING
- Filter at multiple routers: DISTRIBUTED FILTERING

Filter Selection Problem

Scope and Assumptions

- Focus on resource allocation/optimization
 - not on architecture/protocols complementary
- Blacklist and Whitelist are given as input
 - e.g., from an IDS/blacklists and NetFlow modules respectively
- Source IPs are accurate (not spoofed)
 - Small % spoofable or spoofed [Spoofer05, Park01, ...]
 - Today's botnets no longer need/use spoofing
 - Proposals to increase accountability: ingress filtering, packet passports [Yang07], self-certifying addresses [Andersen08]
 - Can address some "error" within our framework
- Who needs to participate
 - Single router, or routers of same ISP

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- Filtering Algorithms
 - RANGE-based (filter IP or range [1,r])
 - FILTER-ALL-RANGE
 - FILTER-SOME-RANGE
 - FILTER-ALL-DYNAMIC-RANGE
 - PREFIX-based (filter IP source or prefix)
 - FILTER-ALL-PREFIX
 - FILTER-SOME-PREFIX
 - FILTER-ALL-DYNAMIC-PREFIX
 - FILTER-FLOODING
 - DISTRIBUTED-FILTERING
- Conclusion

Problem Statement

Given: a blacklist BL, weight w_i (associated with each

good IP) and F_{max} filters

choose: filters X_[l,r]

<u>so as to:</u> filter *all* bad addresses

and minimize collateral damage

$$\min \sum_{[l,r]} g_{[l,r]} x_{[l,r]}$$

$$g_{[l,r]} = \sum_{i \in [l,r] \cap \mathcal{G}} w_i$$

s.t.
$$\sum_{[l,r]} x_{[l,r]} \le F_{max}$$

$$\sum_{[l,r]:i\in[l,r]} x_{[l,r]} = 1 \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{BL}$$

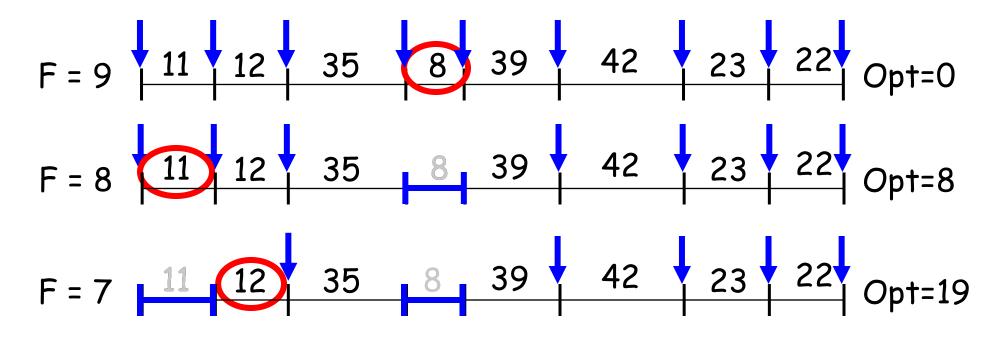
$$x_{[l,r]} \in \{0,1\} \quad \forall l < r \in [0,...,2^{32}]$$

Greedy Algorithm

- Let F=N
 - assign one filter to each bad address
- While F>F_{max}
 - make the following greedy decision:
 - pick the two "closest" bad IPs/intervals
 - Merge them in a single interval
 - decrease F=F-1

Example of running Greedy

$$F_{max} = 4, N = 9$$

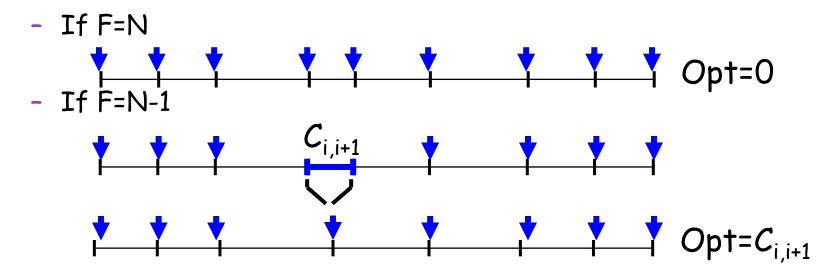






Greedy Algorithm: Properties

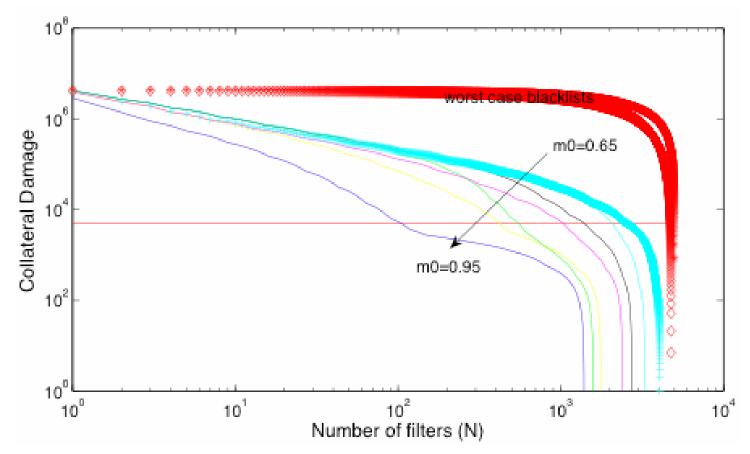
Optimality, outline of proof:



- Complexity:
 - We need to find the $(N-F_{max})$ smallest components in a vector of size N. This can be done in O(N)
 - This is smallest achievable complexity for this problem.

Simulations

- Address structure generated using a multifractal cantor measure
 - [Kohler et al. TON'06, Barford et al. PAM'06]



Problem Statement

<u>Given</u>: a blacklist BL

weight w_i for every address i (>0 for good, <0 for bad)

and F_{max} filters

<u>choose:</u> filters X_[l,r]

• so as to: (filter some bad addresses) & minimize the total weight

$$\min \sum_{[l,r]} \left(g_{[l,r]} - b_{[l,r]} \right) x_{[l,r]}$$

s.t.
$$\sum_{[l,r]} x_{[l,r]} \le F_{max}$$

$$\sum_{[l,r]:i\in[l,r]} x_{[l,r]} \le 1 \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B}L$$

$$x_{[l,r]} \in \{0,1\} \quad \forall l < r \in [0,...,2^{32}]$$

$$g_{[l,r]} = \sum_{i \in [l,r] \cap \mathcal{G}} w_i$$

is the weighted sum of good addresses in range [1,r]

$$b_{[l,r]} = \sum_{i \in [l,r] \cap \mathcal{BL}} \lvert w_i \,
vert$$

is the weighted sum of bad addresses in range [1,r]

Address Weights

Objective Function:

$$\begin{aligned} &\min \sum_{[l,r]} \sum_{i \in [l,r]} w_i x_{[l,r]} &= \\ &\min \sum_{[l,r]} \Big(\sum_{i \in [l,r] \cap \mathcal{G}} w_i + \sum_{i \in [l,r] \cap \mathcal{BL}} w_i \Big) x_{[l,r]} &= \\ &\min \sum_{[l,r]} \Big(g_{[l,r]} - b_{[l,r]} \Big) x_{[l,r]} \end{aligned}$$

- Assignment of weights W_i is the operator's knob:
 - $W_i>0$ (good source i), $W_i<0$ (bad source i), $W_i=0$ (indifferent)
 - W_q =1 for all good addresses g, W_b =-W for all bad addresses b
 - W_q =1 for all good, $W_b \rightarrow -\infty$ for all bad: FILTER-ALL

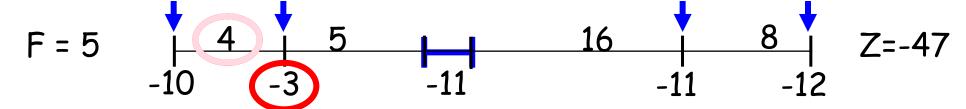
P2: FILTER-SOME-RANGE

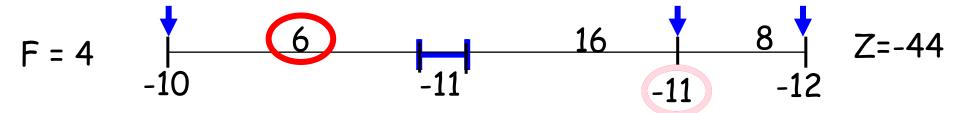
Greedy Algorithm

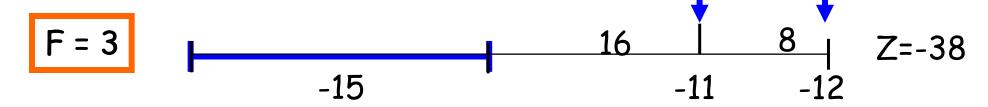
- Let F=N
 - assign one filter to each bad address
- While F>F_{max}
 - make the following greedy decision:
 - merge the two "closest" filters, or release a filter,
 whichever causes the smallest increase in objective function
 - decrease F=F-1

Example of running Greedy

$$F_{max} = 3, N = 6$$

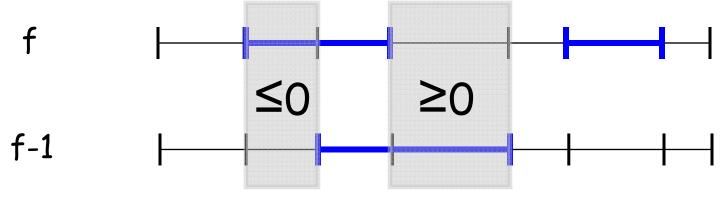






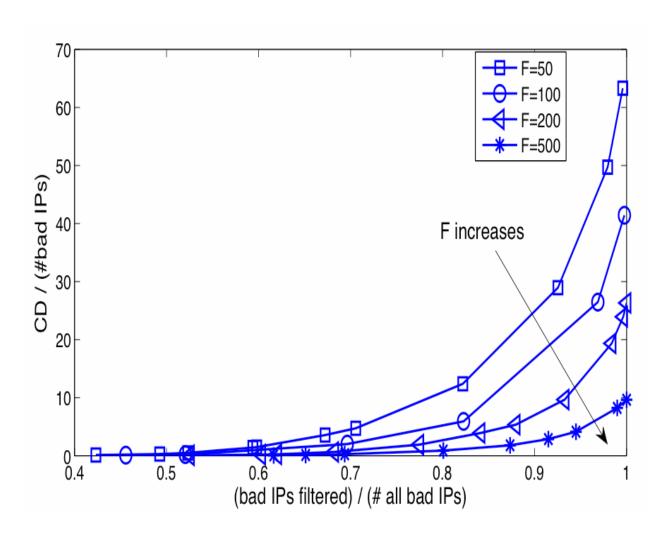
Greedy Algorithm: Properties

- Optimality, proof outline:
 - Construct an initial optimal (but infeasible) solution.
 - At every step:
 - f is reduced and optimality of the solution is preserved.
 - Merge 2 filters or release 1: the only possibilities
 - by contradiction:



- Complexity
 - partial sorting O(N), as in FILTER-ALL

Simulations



FILTER-ALL vs. FILTER-SOME

Comparison

- FILTER-ALL
 - explicitly controls the addresses to block
 - easier to use by operators
 - too strict, may cause large collateral damage
- FILTER-SOME
 - explicitly controls the weights of the addresses may be tricky
 - always blocks less (N1<=N) addresses and achieves less collateral damage than FILTER-ALL
- As |Wb| >> |Wg|, FILTER-SOME →FILTER-ALL
- FILTER-SOME finds the best set of N1 addresses to use as input to FILTER-ALL

The Time-Varying Case

- So far, we looked at static problems
- Source IPs appear/disappear/reappear in a blacklist over time
- New input: A set of blacklists collected at different times $\{BL_{T0}, BL_{T1}, ..., BL_{Ti}, ...\}$

Time-Varying Blacklists

Problem Statement

FILTER-ALL(SOME)-DYNAMIC

- <u>Given</u>: a set of blacklists { BL_{T0} , BL_{T1} ,...} collected at different times, and F_{max} filters
- <u>Goal</u>: find set of filter rules $\{S_{T0}, S_{T1},...\}$ s.t. S_{Ti} solves FILTER-ALL(SOME) for blacklist BL_{Ti} at all times

Solution

- run the algorithm for the static problem from scratch at every time T_i
- ...or exploit temporal correlation and just update filtering as needed

FILTER-ALL-DYNAMIC

Greedy Algorithm

- At time T₀
 - Run greedy for BL_{TO}
 - Store a sorted list of distances
- At time T_i
 - Upon arrival or departure of addresses, update sorted list of distances
 - [e.g. one new interval added, 2 intervals deleted]
 - place filters to the pairs of addresses with the N-F shortest distances.
 - [e.g.: no change, remove 1 & add 1, shrink 1 & extend 1]

FILTER-ALL-DYNAMIC

Example of a new address appearing

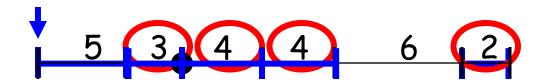
$$F_{max} = 3$$

$$N = 6$$

$$N-F_{max}=3$$

$$F_{\text{max}} = 3$$

$$N-F_{max}=4$$



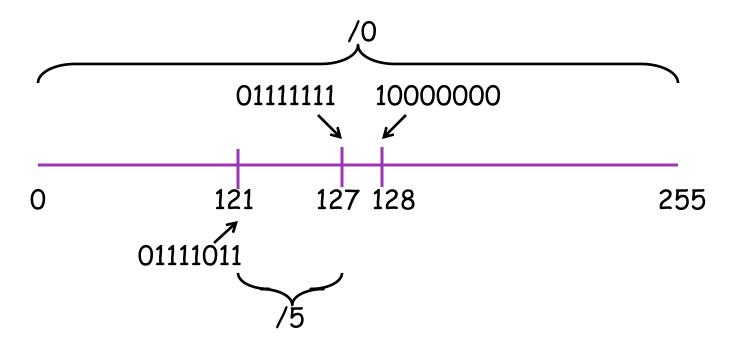
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 - FILTER-ALL-DYNAMIC-PREFIX
 - FILTER-FLOODING
 - DISTRIBUTED-FILTERING
- Conclusion

Source Prefix-based Filtering

- In router ACLs, we cannot use arbitrary ranges to aggregate source addresses
- IP prefix = range, [l,r], such that:
 - $(r-1) = 2^{L}-1$, for some L=0,1,...,32
 - I=0 mod 2L
- We use the traditional notation:
 - Address/mask: p/l

IP prefixes harden the problem



- Merging the "closest" IPs may cause arbitrarily high collateral damage
 - We cannot apply the same greedy approach as in ranges
 - We cannot use the range-based optimal solution to approximate the prefix-based optimal solution (no interesting bound)

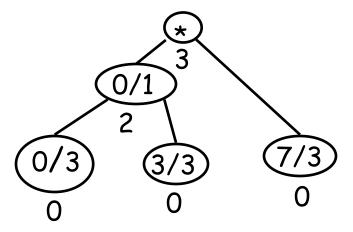
Longest Common Prefix (LCP) Tree

Definition

- given a set of addresses, S, we define LCP-Tree(S):
- the binary tree whose leaves are addresses in S, and intermediate nodes represent all and only the longest common prefixes between addresses in S
- cost associated with each node problem specific

Example

- For 3bit addresses, S={0,3,7}, the LCP-Tree(S) is:



LCP-Tree

Complexity:

Given a blacklist of Naddresses, building the LCP-tree requires Ninsertions in a Patricia tree: O(mN), where m is the bitlength (32 if IPv4)

Property:

- Provides a concise representation of the problem: It encodes all and only the prefixes necessary to compute an optimal solution
 - There exists an optimal solution which can be represented as a subtree of the LCP-tree
 - If we remove any of those prefixes, we can construct an instance of the filtering problem s.t. the OPT requires exactly that prefix.

Problem Statement

Given: a blacklist, weight w_i (associated with each

good IP) and F_{max} filters

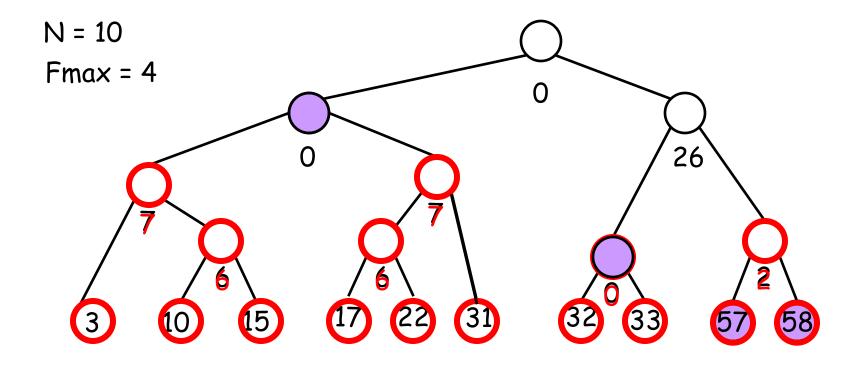
<u>choose:</u> source IP prefixes, X_{p/l}

so as to: filter a// bad addresses

and minimize collateral damage

$$\begin{aligned} \min \sum_{p/l} g_{p/l} x_{p/l} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{p/l} x_{p/l} \leq F_{max} \\ & \sum_{p/l: i \in p/l} x_{p/l} = 1 \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{BL} \\ & x_{p/l} \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall l = 0, ..., 32, p = 0, ..., 2^l \end{aligned}$$

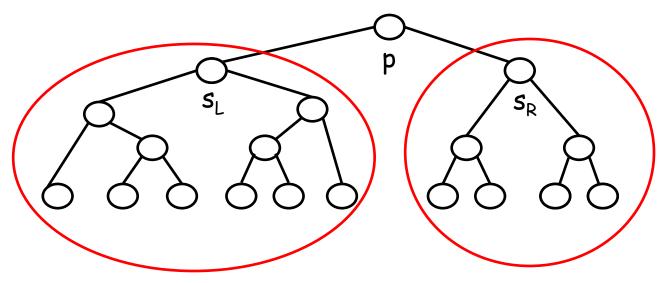
Simple greedy strategies do not work



- Merging (N-Fmax) closest leaves: 28
- Optimal solution: 26

DP Algorithm (1)

•F: filters available at node (prefix) p



F-n≥1, filters within left subtree

n≥1, filters within right subtree

$$z_p(1) = g_p \ \forall p$$
 $z_p(F) = \min_{n=1,\dots,F-1} \left\{ z_{s_l}(F-n) + z_{s_r}(n) \right\}, \ F > 1$

DP Algorithm (2)

- Build LCP-Tree(BL)
- For all leaves: $z_{leaf}(F)=0$, $F=1,...,F_{max}$
- level=level(leaf)-1
- While: level≥level(root)
 - For all node, p, s.t. level(p)=level

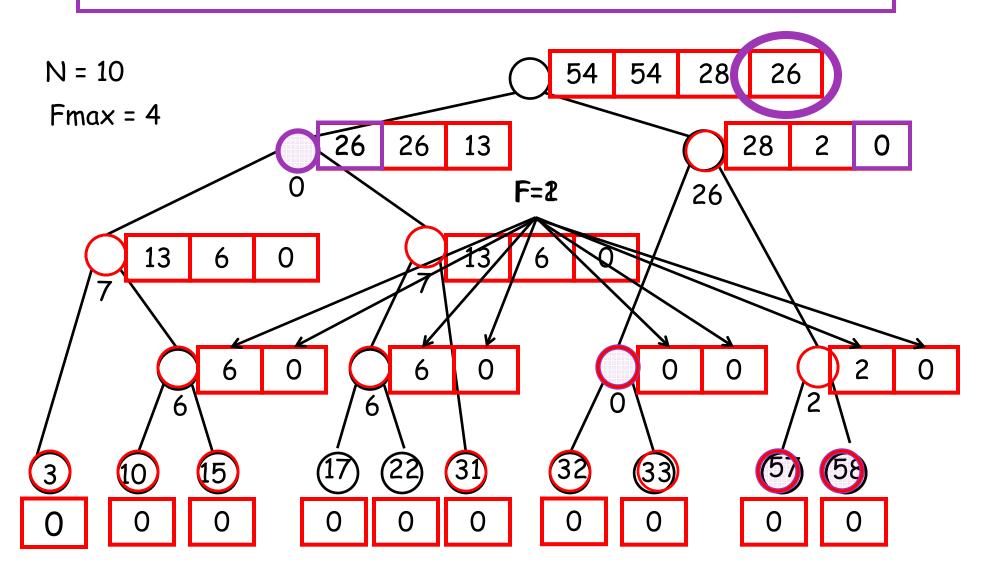
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 $z_p(F) = \min_{n=1,...,F-1} \left\{ z_{s_l}(F-n) + z_{s_r}(n) \right\}, \ F > 1$

- level=level-1
- Return: $z_{root}(F_{max})$

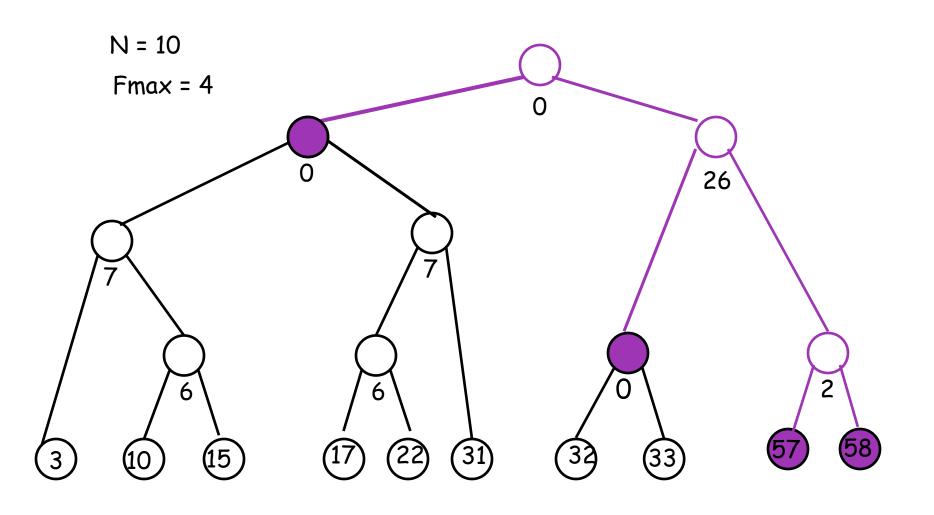
DP Algorithm: Properties

- Optimality
- Complexity
 - Linearly increasing with N:
 - O(mN) + O(FmaxN), where m=32 and Fmax<<N

DP Algorithm: Example



Example - Solution



FILTER-SOME-PREFIX

Problem Statement

Given: a blacklist BL

weight w_i of every address i (>0 for good and <0 for bad)

and F_{max} filters

<u>choose</u>: source IP prefixes, X_{p/l}

• so as to: filter some bad addresses

minimize total weight

$$\min \sum_{p/l} \left(g_{p/l} - b_{p/l} \right) x_{p/l}$$
s.t.
$$\sum_{p/l} x_{p/l} \le F_{max}$$

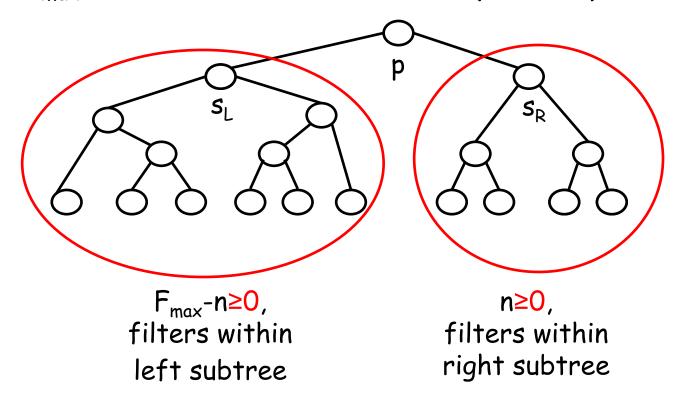
$$\sum_{p/l: i \in p/l} x_{p/l} \le 1 \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B}L$$

$$x_{p/l} \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall l = 0, ..., 32, p = 0, ..., 2^l$$

FILTER-SOME-PREFIX

DP Algorithm

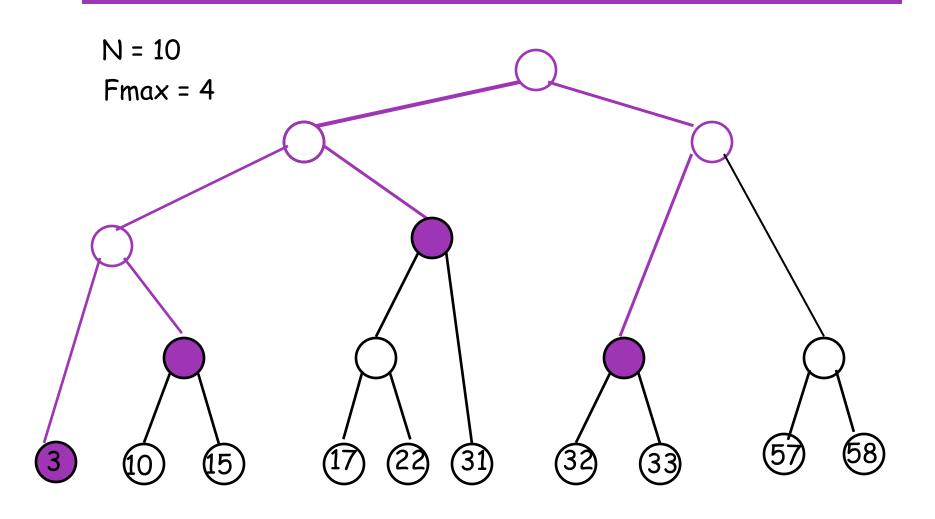
 $\cdot F_{\text{max}}$: filters available at node (prefix) p



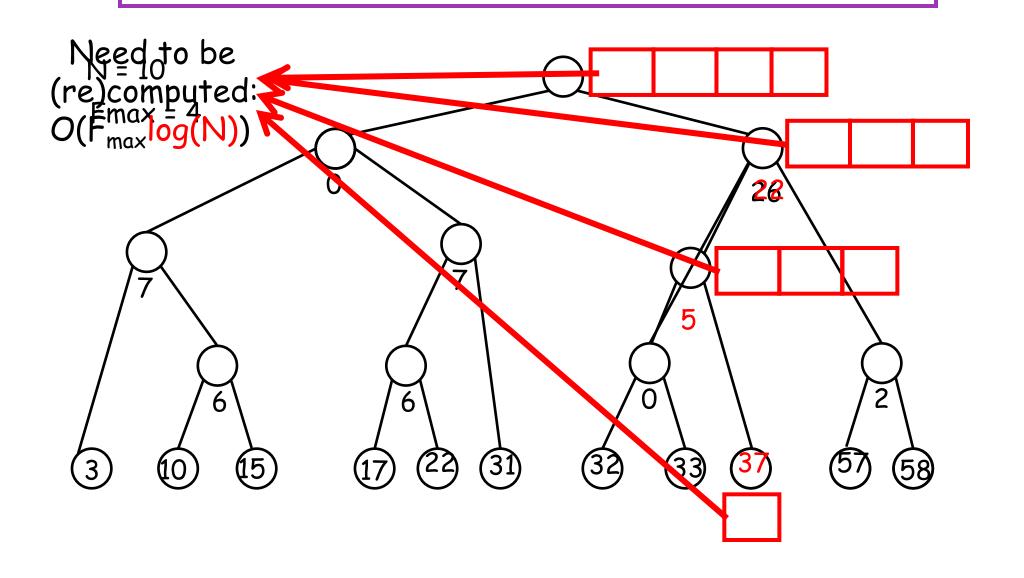
- n=0,2...F_{max}: means we may not block all malicious IPs
- · choose n to minimize collateral damage

FILTER-SOME-PREFIX

Example - Feasible Solution

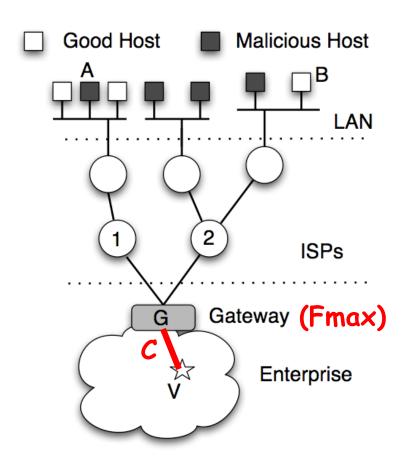


The Time-Varying case FILTER-ALL-PREFIX-DYNAMIC



FLOODING Motivation

- DDoS: Malicious hosts coordinate to flood the access link to a victim
- Weights of every address represent the traffic volume



FLOODING

Problem Statement

Given: a blacklist BL, a set of legitimate sources G,

weight of address = traffic volume generated,

a constraint on the link capacity C, and F_{max} filters

<u>choose</u>: source IP prefixes, X_{p/l}

so as to: minimize the collateral damage

and the total traffic fits within the link capacity

$$\min \sum_{p/l} g_{p/l} x_{p/l}$$
 s.t.
$$\sum_{p/l} x_{p/l} \leq F_{max}$$

"Weights" change per every item

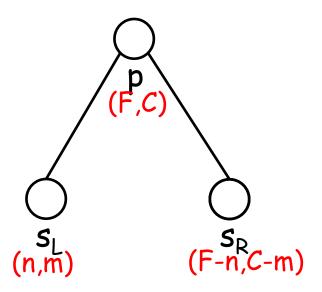
$$\sum_{p/l:i\in p/l} x_{p/l} \leq 1 \quad orall i\in \mathcal{BL}$$

FLOODING Solution

- FLOODING is NP-hard
 - reduces to multidimensional knapsack
- A pseudo-polynomial algorithm, solves the problem in $O(CF_{max}N)$
 - similar to the DP for FILTER-All/SOME-PREFIX
 - extended to take into account the capacity constraint
 - the LCP-Tree includes both good and bad addresses

FLOODING DP Algorithm (1)

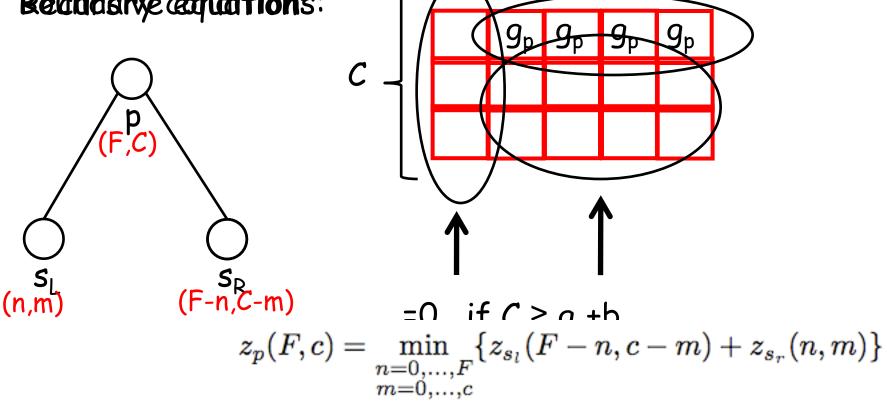
- At node (prefix) p, we have available:
 - F filters and capacity C
- Allocate
 - to the left subtree: n filters and m capacity
 - To the right subtree: F-f filters and C-m capacity
- · Minimize collateral damage
 - By choosing appropriate n=0...F, m=0,...C to



FLOODING

DP Algorithm (2)

Readering compatitions:



FLOODING vs. FILTER-SOME Relation

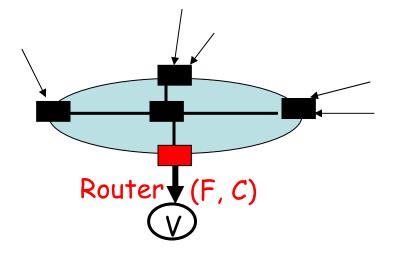
Consider the dual of FLOODING:

$$\begin{split} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \Big\{ \min \sum_{p/l} \Big[(1-\lambda) g_{p/l} - \lambda b_{p/l} \Big] x_{p/l} + \\ + \sum_{p/l} \lambda (g_{p/l} + \lambda b_{p/l}) - \lambda C \Big\} \\ \text{s.t.} \sum_{p/l} x_{p/l} \leq F_{max} \\ \sum_{p/l: i \in p/l} x_{p/l} \leq 1 \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{BL} \end{split}$$

• Per every fixed λ , we have a different instance of FILTER-SOME, for specific assignment of weights

DISTRIBUTED FILTERING against FLOODING Motivation

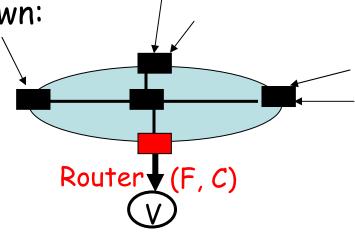
- A single network (ISP or enterprise) may collaboratively deploy filters on several routers
 - increase filter budget
- Also applicable to across ISPs, if they collaborate



DISTRIBUTED FILTERING

Problem Statement

- Similar problem as FLOODING
- But there are several routers
- And each router (u) has its own:
 - view of good/bad traffic
 - capacity in downstream link
 - filter budget
- The question is to choose
 - not only which prefix
 - but also on which router



DISTRIBUTED FILTERING

Problem Formulation

FLOODING, single router

$$\min \sum_{p/l} g_{p/l} x_{p/l}$$

s.t.
$$\sum_{p/l} x_{p/l} \le F_{max}$$

$$\sum_{p/l} \left(g_{p/l} + b_{p/l} \right) (1 - x_{p/l}) \le C$$

$$\sum_{p/l:i\in p/l} x_{p/l} \le 1 \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{BL}$$

DIST. FLOODING several routers (u)

$$\min \sum_{u \in \mathcal{R}} \sum_{p/l} g_{p/l}^{(u)} x_{p/l}^{(u)}$$

s.t.
$$\sum_{p/l} x_{p/l}^{(u)} \le F_{max}^{(u)} \quad \forall u \in \mathcal{R}$$

$$\sum_{p/l} \left(g_{p/l} + b_{p/l} \right) (1 - x_{p/l}) \le C \qquad \sum_{p/l} \left(g_{p/l}^{(u)} + b_{p/l}^{(u)} \right) (1 - x_{p/l}^{(u)}) \le C^{(u)} \quad \forall u \in \mathcal{R}$$

$$\sum_{u \in \mathcal{R}} \sum_{p/l \ni i} x_{p/l}^{(u)} \le 1 \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{BL}$$

This constraint couples the routers, preventing a direct decomposition

DISTRIBUTED FILTERING

Solution

Consider the partial lagrangian:

$$\begin{split} L(x,\lambda) &= \sum_{u \in \mathcal{R}} \sum_{p/l} g_{p/l}^{(u)} x_{p/l}^{(u)} + \sum_{A \in \mathcal{BL}} \lambda_i \Big(\sum_{u \in \mathcal{R}} \sum_{p/l \ni i} x_{p/l}^{(u)} - 1 \Big) \\ &= \sum_{u \in \mathcal{R}} \Big(\sum_{p/l} \Big(g_{p/l}^{(u)} + \lambda_{p/l} \Big) x_{p/l}^{(u)} \Big) - \sum_{A \in \mathcal{BL}} \lambda_i \end{split}$$

- Each Subproblem
 - Is an instance of FLOODING, can be solved independently at each router

$$\min \sum_{p/l} \left(g_{p/l}^{(u)} + \lambda_{p/l} \right) x_{p/l}^{(u)}$$

$$\text{s.t.} \sum_{p/l} x_{p/l}^{(u)} \le F_{max}^{(u)}$$

$$\sum_{p/l} \left(g_{p/l}^{(u)} + b_{p/l}^{(u)} \right) (1 - x_{p/l}^{(u)}) \le C^{(u)}$$

- Master Problem
 - Can be solved using a subgradient method

$$\max_{\lambda_i \ge 0} \sum_{u \in \mathcal{R}} h_u(\lambda) - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{BL}} \lambda_i$$

Overview

- Problem Overview and Motivation
- Filtering Algorithms
 - RANGE-based (filter IP or range [1,r])
 - FILTER-ALL-RANGE
 - FILTER-SOME-RANGE
 - FILTER-ALL-DYNAMIC-RANGE
 - PREFIX-based (filter IP source or prefix)
 - FILTER-ALL-PREFIX
 - FILTER-SOME-PREFIX
 - FILTER-FLOODING
 - DISTRIBUTED-FILTERING
 - FILTER-ALL-DYNAMIC-PREFIX
- Conclusion

Conclusion

- A framework for filter selection
- Part of a larger system for collecting and data from multiple sensors and taking appropriate action
 - Look at the interaction of detection and filtering

Thank you!

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