

# ns v2 Workshop

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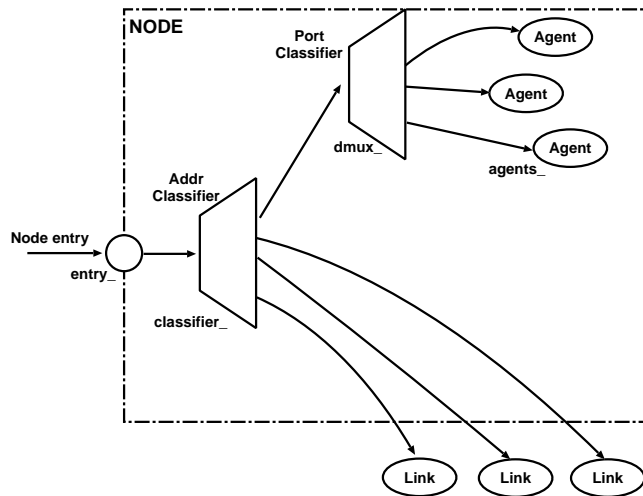


# Outline

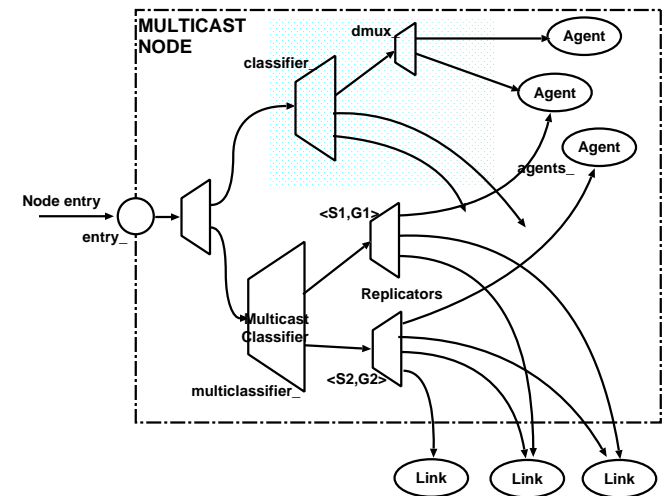
1. Topology Generation, the nodes and the links
2. OTcl and C++: The Duality
3. Routing
  - Unicast
  - Multicast
  - Network Dynamics
4. Multicast Transport
5. Issues of Scale
6. Programming and Simulation Debugging



## Nodes



## Multicast Nodes



## Classifiers

Table of  $n$  slots

Each slot can point to a TclObject

When a packet is received

— `classify()` identifies the slot to forward the packet to

If slot is invalid, the classifier calls `no-slot{}`

Many different types of classifiers

Address Classifiers	parse address in packet
MultiPath Classifier	returns next slot number to use
Replicator	uses classifier as a table



## Classifier methods

Install entries into classifier

- `install{}`
- `installNext{}`

Query entries in classifier

- `elements{}` returns current list of elements inserted
- `slot{}` returns handle of object in the specified slot

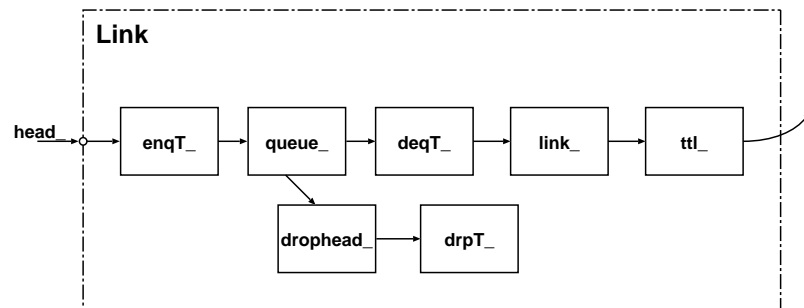
Delete entry in a particular slot

- `clear{}`

`classify()` internal method: receives a packet, and returns a slot number for that packet.



## Links



## Connectors

Connectors receive incoming packets, and (usually) transmit them to their `target_`

Many different types of connectors:

Queue	holds a certain number of packets. Packets exceeding their queue-size are sent to the queue's drop-target.
LinkDelay	models delay/bandwidth of the link for detailed simulations.
TTLChecker	decrements TTLs on each packet, drops the packet if the TTL becomes zero.
DynaLink	transmit packets if the link is up, drop packet otherwise
	Other tracing related objects



## Connector methods

Add tracing or monitoring:

- trace
- attach-monitors
- init-monitor

## Topology Generation Resources

At <http://netweb.usc.edu/daniel/research/sims/>

ntg by Steve Hotz (hotz@isi.edu)

GT-ITM by Ellen Zegura (ewz@cc.gatech.edu),  
Ken Calvert (calvert@cc.gatech.edu)

TIERS by Matthew Doar (mdoar@nexen.com)

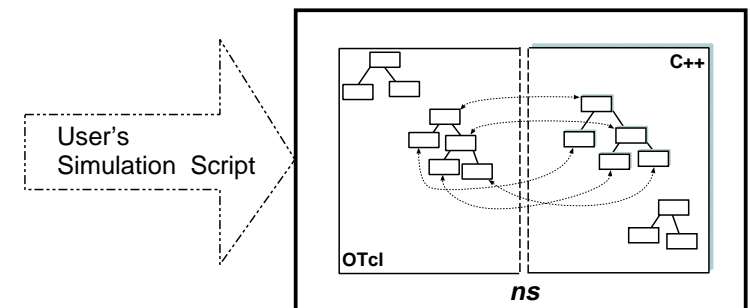
rtg by Liming Wei (lwei@cisco.com),  
Lee Breslau (breslau@parc.xerox.com)



## Topology Generation

	Type of Graph	Edge Models
ntg	$n$ -level hierarchy	user configurable probability distributions
GT-ITM	flat random, $n$ -level hierarchies, transit-stub networks	many different edge models
TIERS	3-level hierarchy	Minimum spanning tree + random placement
rtg	flat random	waxman

## OTcl and C++: The Duality



C++	OTcl	
	class Tcl	C++ methods to access the OTcl interpreter
	class TclCommand	Basic script to provide limited global commands to the interpreter
	class EmbeddedTcl	Container for Tcl scripts that are pre-loaded at startup
	class TclObject	Root of basic object hierarchy in <i>ns</i>
	class TclClass	C++ class to set up the TclObject hierarchy
	class InstVar	internal class to bind C++ member variables to OTcl instance variables

The class Tcl

- Obtain a handle
- Invoke OTcl procedures
- Retrieve the result from the interpreter
- On invocation, pass a result string to the interpreter
- Return Success/Failure return codes



### class Tcl: C++ Methods to access OTcl

```
Tcl& tcl = Tcl::instance();
if (argc == 2) {
    if (strcmp(argv[1], "now") == 0) {
        tcl.resultf("%g", clock());
        return TCL_OK;
    }
    tcl.result("command not understood");
    return TCL_ERROR;
} else if (argc == 3) {
    if (strcmp(argv[1], "now") != 0) {
        tcl.error("command not understood");
    }
    char *callback = argv[2];
    tcl.eval(callback);
    tcl.evalc("puts hello, world");
    char* timestr = tcl.result();
    clock() = atof(timestr);
} else {
    Interp* ti = tcl.interp();
    ...
}
```

*/\* obtain a handle to the interpreter \*/*  
*/\* cmd: foo now \*/*  
*/\* pass back the result \*/*  
*/\* return success code to interpreter \*/*  
*/\* alternate way of passing result \*/*  
*/\* cmd: foo now (callback) \*/*  
*/\* alternate way to return error \*/*  
*/\* invoke an OTcl procedure \*/*  
*/\* another variant \*/*  
*/\* callback result from the interpreter \*/*  
*/\* access the interpreter directly \*/*  
*/\* ... to do whatever \*/*



### class TclCommand

Defines simple commands that execute in global interpreter context  
 For example, *ns-version*



## class EmbeddedTcl: Adding new OTcl code into ns

container for scripts pre-loaded at startup

- `~Tcl/tcl-object.tcl`
- `~ns/tcl/lib/ns-lib.tcl`
- scripts recursively sourced by `~ns/tcl/lib/ns-lib.tcl`

`~Tcl/tcl-object.tcl` activated by `Tcl::init()`

`~ns/tcl/lib/ns-lib.tcl` activated by `Tcl_AppInit()`

## class TclObject

Basic object hierarchy in ns

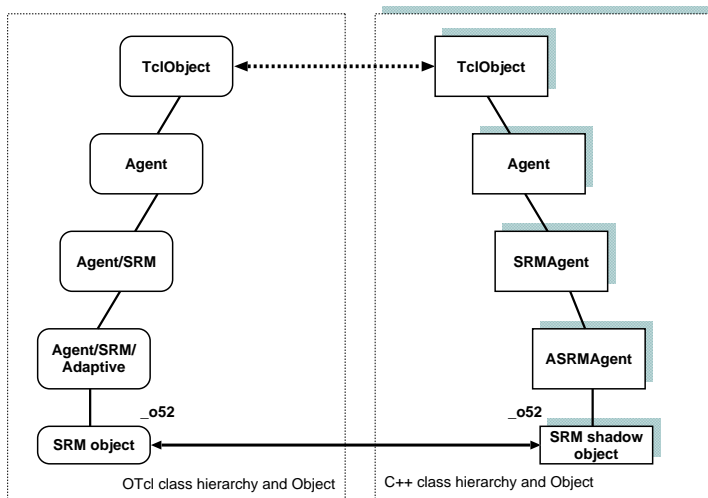
Hierarchy mirrored in C++ and OTcl

For example:

```
set srm [new Agent/SRM/Adaptive]
$srM set packetSize_ 1024
$srM traffic-source $s0
```

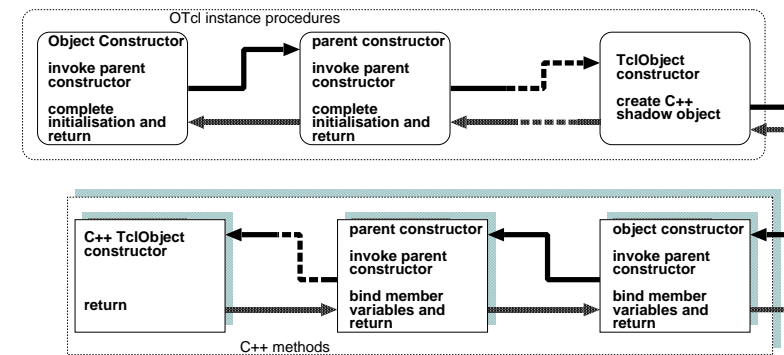


## class TclObject: Hierarchy and Shadowing



## class TclObject: Creation/Deletion Mechanisms

global procedure `new{}`



global procedure `delete{}`



## class TclObject: Binding Variables

makes identical C++ member variables to OTcl instance variables

### Syntax

```
ASRMAgent::ASRMAgent() {
    bind("pdistance_", &pdistance_);          /* real variable */
    ...
}
```

### Initialisation through OTcl class variables

```
Agent/SRM/Adaptive set pdistance_ 15.0
Agent/SRM set pdistance_ 10.0
...
```

Other methods: bind() (integers), bind\_time() (time variables), bind\_bw() (bandwidth variables), bind\_bool() (boolean variables)



## Examples of Specify Bound variables

```
$object set bwvar 1.5m
$object set bwvar 1.5mb
$object set bwvar 1500k
$object set bwvar 1500kb
$object set bwvar .1875MB
$object set bwvar 187.5kB
$object set bwvar 1.5e6
```

```
$object set timevar 1500m
$object set timevar 1.5
$object set timevar 1.5e9n
$object set timevar 1500e9p
```

```
$object set boolvar t
$object set boolvar true
$object set boolvar 1
```

```
$object set boolvar false
$object set boolvar junk
$object set boolvar 0
```

*;* # set to true  
*;* # or any non-zero value

*;* # set to false



## class TclObject: command() methods

shadow object is accessed by a cmd{} procedure, called “instproc-like”

For example, distance?{} is an “instance procedure” of an Adaptive SRM agent

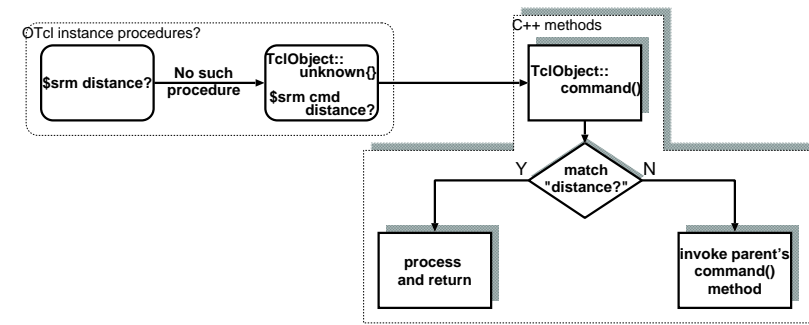
```
int ASRMAgent::command(int argc, const char*const*argv)(1) {
    Tcl& tcl = Tcl::instance();
    if (argc == 3) {
        if (strcmp(argv[1], "distance?") == 0)(2) {
            int sender = atoi(argv[2]);
            SRMInfo* sp = get_state(sender);
            tcl.resultf("%f", sp->distance_);
            return TCL_OK;(3)
        }
    }
    return (ASRMAgent::command(argc, argv));(4)
}
```



## class TclObject: command() methods: call sequence

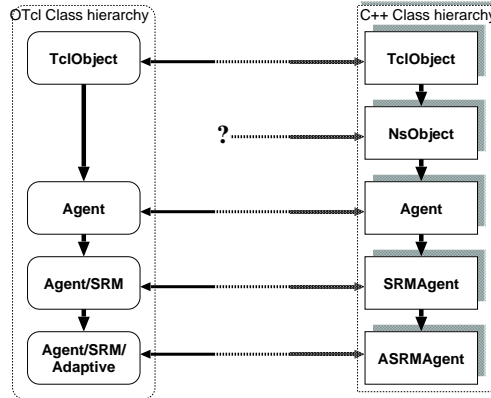
### Usage:

```
$srm distance?                                ; # instproc-like usage
or
$srm cmd distance?                            ; # explicit usage
```



## class TclClass

Programmer defines C++ hierarchy that is mirrored in OTcl



not all classes are mirrored exactly

## Class TclClass: Definition

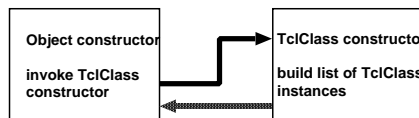
For example, Adaptive SRM agent class in C++ is mirrored into Agent/SRM/Adaptive

```
static class AdaptiveSRMAgentClass : public TclClass(1) {
public:
    AdaptiveSRMAgentClass() : TclClass("Agent/SRM/Adaptive")(2) {}
    TclObject* create(int /*argc*/, const char*const* /*argv*/(3)) {
        return (new AdaptiveSRMAgent())(4);
    }
} AdaptiveSRMAgentInstance(5);
```

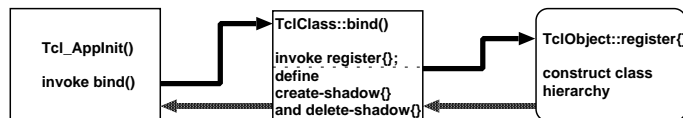


## Class TclClass: Mechanism

static initialisation by compiler



run time activation at startup



## class Instvar

One object per bound variable

created by TclObject::bind() call

Constructor activity

1. point to C++ member variable
2. create instance variable for interpreted object
3. enable trap read/writes to instance variable using Tcl\_TraceVar()



## OTcl Linkage Summary

### Class Tcl

- primitives to access the interpreter

### Class TclObject: root object for mirrored hierarchies

- Unifies interpreted and compiled hierarchy
- Provide seamless access to *ns* objects in compiled code and interpreted scripts

### Class TclClass: class that sets up the interpreted hierarchy

- establish interpreted hierarchy
- shadowing methods



## Unicast Routing

Compute the forwarding tables at each node in topology

specify

```
$ns rtproto {protocol} {nodelist}
```

- run protocol on nodes listed
- protocol : static, session, DV
- nodelist :

default: static  
default: entire topology

Tailor behaviour

```
$ns cost $n1 $n2 5
```

- assign costs to links

default: cost = 1



## Centralized Unicast Routing

Route computation is external to simulation execution

### Supported strategies

- Static Routing: Routes precomputed prior to start of simulation
- Session Routing: Static + Routes recomputed on topology change

### Dijkstra's All-pairs SPF algorithm



## Detailed Unicast Routing

Route computation is part of simulation execution

Currently implemented protocols

### Distributed Bellman-Ford (DV) routing

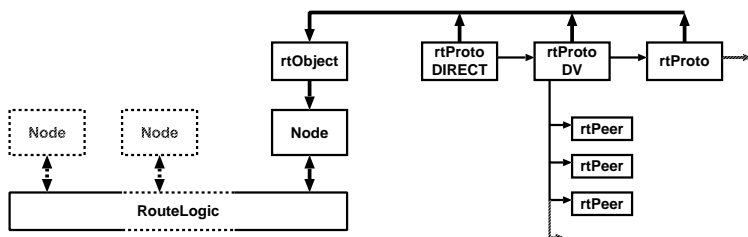
- `advertInterval = 2s`. update interval
- Split-horizon w/poison reverse advertisements
- triggered updates on topology change, or new route entries

Possible options such as equal cost multi-path routing



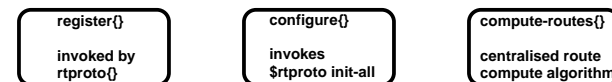


## Class Architecture



## class RouteLogic

### Route Configuration



### Query Node $n_1$ 's nexthop to Node $n_2$

```
[$ns get-routelogic] lookup $n1 $n2
```

### Reconfiguration on Topology Changes

```
[$ns get-routelogic] notify
```



## Dynamic Routing: class rtObject

### Route Controller

```
init-all{} Creates rtObject at each node in argument
add-proto{} Adds (protocol) agent to (node)
lookup{} Returns nexthop for (dest) handle, -1 if none available
compute-routes{} compute and install best route to destinations; invoke send-updates{}, flag-multicast{}
intf-changed{} notify protocol agents; recompute-routes
dump-routes{} to (filehandle) specified
```

## Dynamic Routing: class Agent/rtProto/DV

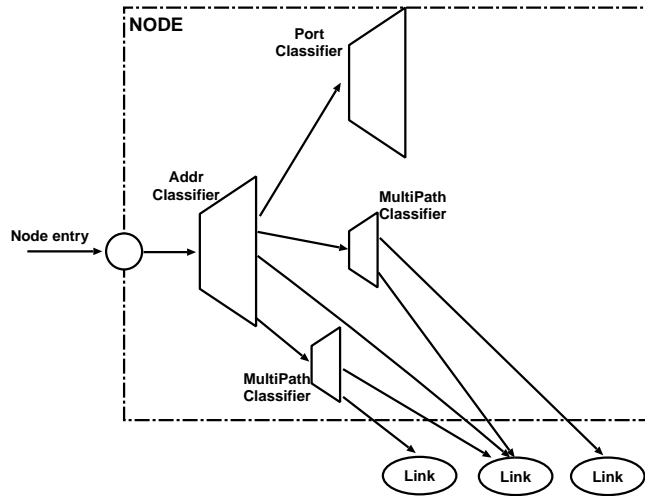
### Route Protocol Agent

```
init-all{} create protocol agent at each node in argument
compute-routes{} invoked on startup and after topology change; compute best route in protocol; possibly set rtsChanged_
intf-changed{} called after topology change on incident node
send-updates{} whenever routes at node change
```

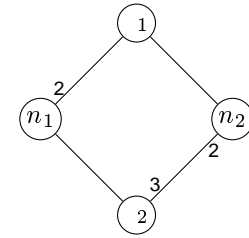


## Equal Cost Multi-Path Routes

Node set multiPath\_1



## Asymmetric Path Routing



```
$ns cost $n1 $r1 2
$ns cost $n2 $r2 2
$ns cost $r2 $n2 3
```



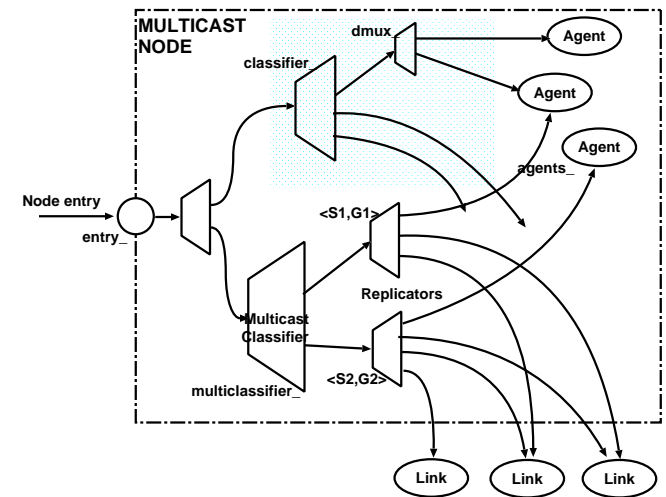
## Multicast Routing: Configuration

```
Simulator NumberInterfaces_1      ; # for some multicast routing protocols
Simulator EnableMcast_1
set ns [new Simulator]
Node expandaddr                    ; # if #nodes > 128
# allocate nodes
$ns mrtproto protocol nodelist
set group [Node allocaddr]

$node join-group $agent $group
$node leave-group $agent $group
```



## Multicast Node Definition



## Multicast Routing Protocols Implemented

Valid protocols currently implemented:

Centralised protocols:

1. `CtrlMcast` Centralised Multicast (Sparse Mode Protocol)
2. `DM` Dense Mode

Detailed protocols:

1. `dynamicDM` Dynamic Dense Mode
2. `pimDM` PIM Dense Mode

## Centralised Multicast Configuration

Sparse Mode implementation of multicast

```
$ctrlmcastcomp compute-mroutes  
$ctrlmcastcomp switch-treetype $group
```

Defaults to creating a shared tree.



## Centralised Dense Mode Configuration

computes parent-child relationships prior to start of simulation

Can study membership dynamics

No response to topology changes

Only one configuration parameter

```
DM set PruneTimeout newValue ;# default . s.
```



## Dynamic Dense Mode Configuration

Extension of static dense mode

As before, computes parent child relationships at start of simulation

Also recomputes whenever topology changes, or unicast route updates are received

Configuration parameters are:

```
dynamicDM set PruneTimeout newValue ;# default . s.  
dynamicDM set ReportRouteTimeout newvalue ;# default s.
```



## PIM Dense Mode Configuration

Extension of static dense mode

does not compute parent child relationships

Configuration parameters are:

```
pimDM set PruneTimeout newValue ;# default . s.
```

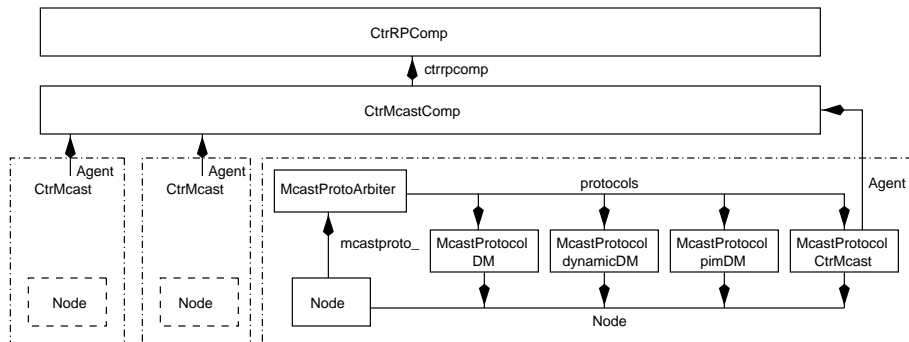
## Other protocol work in progress

Detailed PIM

Sparse mode and Dense mode



## Multicast Classes



## Network Dynamics

The ability to make elements of topology fail/recover.

Model of failure and recovery

— Exponential, Deterministic, Trace driven, Manual (or one-shot)

Operates on single link

— *i.e.* takes link “down” or “up”

Operation on single node possible, translated into operation on collection of links incident on node



## Specification

Create an instance of  $\langle \text{model} \rangle$

```
$ns rtmodel  $\langle \text{model} \rangle$   $\langle \text{parameters} \rangle$   $\langle \text{node|link} \rangle$ 
```

Command returns the handle of the model created

Perform  $\langle \text{operation} \rangle$  at  $\langle \text{time} \rangle$  on  $\langle \text{node|link} \rangle$ ;

```
$ns rtmodel-at  $\langle \text{time} \rangle$   $\langle \text{operation} \rangle$   $\langle \text{node|link} \rangle$ 
```

return handle to newly created instance of model.

Delete route model specified by  $\langle \text{handle} \rangle$

```
$ns rtmodel-delete  $\langle \text{handle} \rangle$ 
```



## Models and Configuration

### 1. Exponential

- [startTime], upInterval, downInterval, [endTime]

### 2. Deterministic

- [startTime], upInterval, downInterval, [endTime]

### 3. Trace (based)

- fileName

### 4. Manual (or one-shot)

- operation, time



## Defining your Own Model

Derive model from the base class, `rtModel`

1. `set-parms{}` process model parameters
2. `set-first-event{}` specify the first event
3. `up{}`, `down{}` specify next action

— Use class `rtQueue` to schedule events.

— Instance of queue in `rtModel` class variable, `rtq_`



## class `rtQueue`

Internal class to synchronise topology change activity

`insq{}` Given  $\langle \text{time} \rangle$ ,  $\langle \text{object} \rangle$ , and an instance procedure for that object and arguments, will invoke instance procedure of object at specified time.

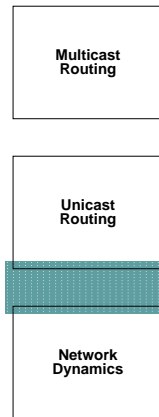
`insq-i{}` identical to `insq{}`, except  $\langle \text{time} \rangle$  specifies increment when the procedure will be executed

`runq{}` executed procedures for the specified time; finish by invoking `notify{}` for each object

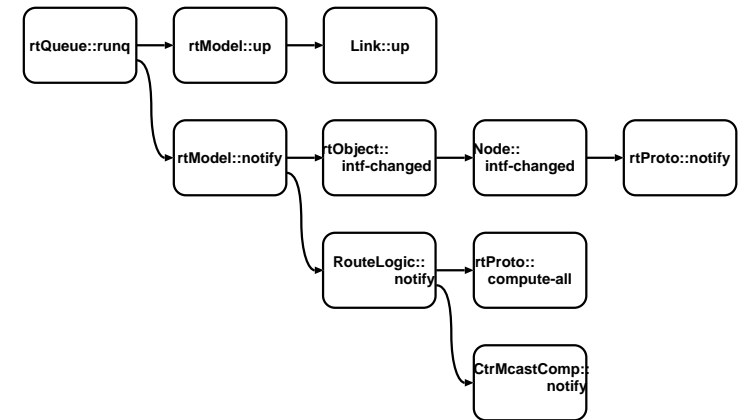
`delq{}` remove event for object at specified time



## Interface to Unicast Routing



## Interface to Unicast Routing



## Deficiencies in the Network Dynamics API

Link centric

Node failure not consistent with an operation model

API cannot specify clusters/clouds



## Multicast Transport

Currently, SRM and RTP implemented

goals of implementation: programmability

in particular, for SRM: programming timers, session message handling, loss recovery

and for RTP, mostly programmed in OTcl, with minimalpacket related statistics counters in C++



## Simple SRM configuration

```
set ns [new Simulator] ;# preamble initialization
$ns enableMcast
set node [$ns node] ;# agent to reside on this node
set group [$ns allocaddr] ;# multicast group for this agent

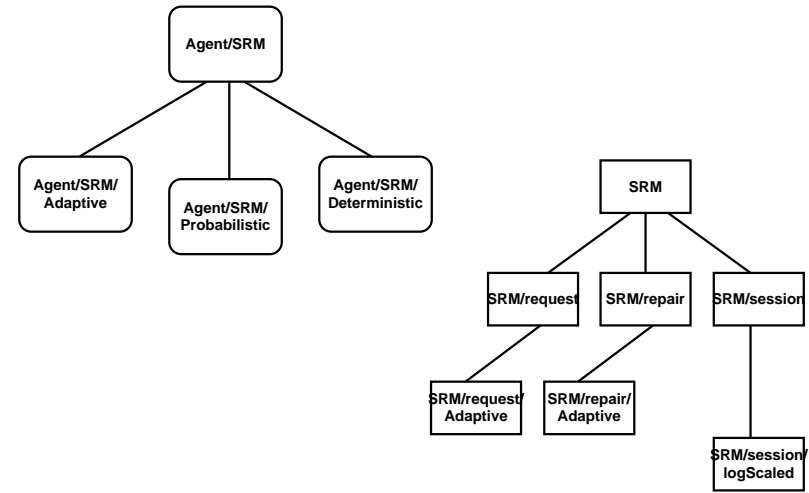
set srm [new Agent/SRM]
$srms set dst_ $group ;# configure the SRM agent
$ns attach-agent $node $srm

$srms set fid_ 1 ;# optional configuration
$srms log [open srmStats.tr w] ;# log statistics in this file
$srms trace [open srmEvents.tr w] ;# trace events for this agent

set packetSize 210
# configure the traffic generator and traffic source
set s0 [new Agent/CBR/UDP] ;# attach traffic generator to application
$s0 attach-traffic $exp0
$srms(0) traffic-source $s0 ;# attach application to SRM agent
$srms(0) set packetSize_ $packetSize ;# to generate repair packets of appropriate size

$srms start
$srms start-source
```

## Class Hierarchies



## Loss Detection

Triggered by receipt of data or control messages

```
$agent request {sender} {list of messages}
```

Actual loss recovery occurs in OTcl through special purpose loss recovery objects

## Loss Recovery

Each loss is handled by separate “SRM” object.

Nodes schedule “request” or “repair” objects following a data loss

Each loss recovery object handles its own scheduling and messaging activity



## Session messages

One session message handling object per agent

Responsible for sending periodic session messages

Session message interval controlled by class variable, `sessionDelay_`

Two types of session functions implemented:

1. SRM/Session uses default fixed interval session message sending
2. SRM/Session/logScaled uses `logScaledInterval_` to send next advertisement.



## Statistics

1. Agent—response to Data Loss: Detection and Recovery
2. Loss Object—Per Loss recovery Statistics



## Tracing

Per event tracing by loss recovery objects

Sample trace file is:

```
3.5543 n 1 m <1:1> r 0 Q DETECT
3.5543 n 1 m <1:1> r 1 Q INTERVALS C1 2.0 C2 0.0 d 0.0105 i 1
3.5543 n 1 m <1:1> r 1 Q NTIMER at 3.57527
...
3.5753 n 1 m <1:1> r 2 Q NACK IGNORE-BACKOFF 3.59627
3.5828 n 3 m <1:1> r 0 Q DETECT
3.5828 n 3 m <1:1> r 1 Q NTIMER at 3.6468
3.5854 n 0 m <1:1> r 0 P NACK from 257
3.5854 n 0 m <1:1> r 1 P RTIMER at 3.59586
3.5886 n 2 m <1:1> r 2 Q NTIMER at 3.67262
3.5886 n 2 m <1:1> r 2 Q NACK IGNORE-BACKOFF 3.63062
3.5959 n 0 m <1:1> r 1 P SENDREP
...
```



## RTP

Session/RTP tracks incoming data, and sends periodic delivery reports.

Agent/CBR/RTP sends data to the group at a specified rate.





## Multicast Transport Starter Kit

Code and Documentation: SRM and RTP

Multiple flavours of multicast

includes Dense mode, Sparse mode, centralised multicast, session level multicast

Multiple flavours of unicast and network dynamics

Ability to study the problem under dynamic topologies, including partition scenarios

Multiple physical layers including broadcast and wireless LANs

building a catalog of canonical topologies

Examples in `~ns/tcl/ex`

test suite in development



## Multicast Transport: Other types

Structured hierarchy mechanisms

- Exists Multicast and Network Dynamics
- Exists Some of the possible timer mechanisms
- Exists Different loss models
- Requires building different modules for request/repair
- Requires defining the hierarchy and mechanisms
- Expect mostly work in OTcl

Route Support

- Pointers to files for various models of implementation
- Exists Multicast and Dynamics
- Exists Loss Models
- Requires modifying some network layer code
- Expect Some minor work in C++, Lots of "plumbing" in OTcl

Multicast Congestion Control



## Current NS Scaling

NS is currently *memory limited* for large simulations.

To scale, we're taking two approaches:

tuning/monitoring detailed simulations (to reduce memory usage)

abstract simulations (to remove "unimportant" details)



## Detailed Simulations: Limits

Some large topology configurations are in the distribution:

`~ns/tcl/ex/newmcast/cmcast-150.tcl`

150 nodes, 2200 links    Centralised multicast simulation; Uses 53MB

2420 nodes, 2465 links    static unicast routing; path computation algorithms; Uses 800MB

500 nodes, 815 links    sparse multicast group of 80 members; studying scalable session messages



## Detailed Simulations: Object Sizes

Rough estimates of memory per object

Simulator	268KB
Node	2
Multicast Capable Node	6
duplex-link	9
duplex-link w. interfaces	14

## Hints to reduce memory usage

avoid trace-all

use arrays [ $\$a(1)$ ,  $\$a(2)$ ...] instead of vars [ $\$a1$ ,  $\$a2$ ]

other hints at

<http://www-mash.cs.berkeley.edu/ns/ns-debugging.html>



## Further Memory Debugging

purify

- Use purify 3.2 if possible
- purify 4.0.2 may cause *ns* to crash.

Try using flags: `-staticchecking=false -force-rebuild`

- Typical call syntax for purify is:

```
purify -staticchecking=false -force-reuild -collector=(ld) g++ -o ns .
```

Gray Watson (gray@letters.com)'s dmalloc library

At <http://www.letters.com/dmalloc>

- Link into *ns*, and analyse memory usage

## Sample Dmalloc Summary

Sample summary:

size	count	gross	function
	172114	6358277	total
84	16510	1386840	ra=0x8064846
subtotal	42634	1000426	TclObject::bind(char const *, int *)
18	12	216	"
19	522	9918	"
...			
32	30263	968416	StringCreate
subtotal	30158	742472	NewVar
24	30077	721848	"
27	1	27	"
...			



## Additional Debugging Hints

Instructions are at:

<http://www-mash.cs.berkeley.edu/ns/ns-debugging.html>

None of this impacts order of magnitude improvements

Beyond this, Session Level Simulations. . .



## Tradeoff: Accuracy

ignores queuing delay within the routers



## Abstract or Session-level Simulations

Why Session-level Packet Distribution?

— Scaling

before - 150 nodes, 2180 links, ~53 MB  
after - 2000 nodes, 8108 links, ~40 MB

When to use Session-level Packet Distribution?

- multicast simulations
- low source rate (lower than the bottleneck link)
- little cross-traffic
- *e.g.*, SRM sessions

**Caveat: Work in Progress**



## Abstractions

Nodes are compacted, only store node id and port id  
*i.e.*, no classifiers, replicators, route tables, *etc*

Links only store bw/delay attributes

*i.e.*, no queues, delay elements, tracing, classifiers, *etc*

Links get translated into a virtual end-to-end mesh. . . sorta



## Configuration

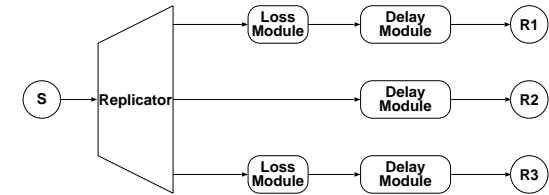
```
set ns [new SessionSim] ;# note difference in simulator

# configuration of topology and multicast as usual

# configuration source agent as usual
set srcAgent [new Agent/CBR]
$srcAgent set dst_ dst
$ns attach-agent $node $srcAgent

set sessionHelper [$ns create-session $node $srcAgent]
```

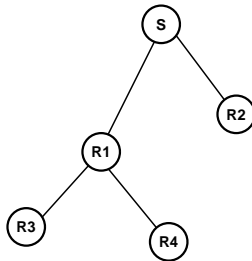
## Internal Realisation of a Session



## Realising Loss

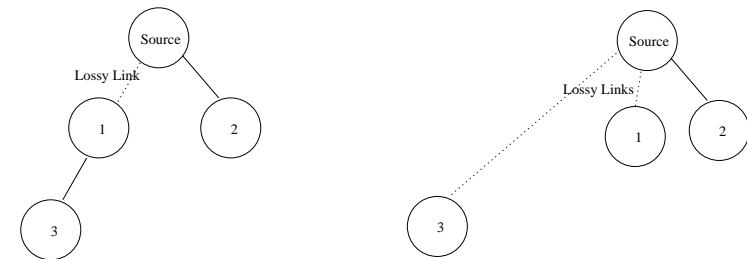
```
$node join-group $receiver $group

$sessionHelper insert-loss $lossModule $receiver
$sessionHelper insert-depended-loss $receiver $srcAgent $group
```



## Realisation and Comparisons

### Comparison of Multicast trees



Location of loss impacts translation into virtual mesh



Almost identical configuration

Lots of Work still in progress

- Loss Dependency
- Queueing approximation models
- Calibrating Error
- Mixed simulations

Completed but not yet checked in:

- Early versions of Loss Dependency completed

Correctness

— tcldebugger

— gdb

Coexistence of gdb and tcldebugger

Support in the Simulator



### Tcl debugger

Don Libes (libes@nist.gov)'s Tcl debugger, written in Tcl

At <http://expect.nist.gov/tcl-debug/>

single stepping through lines of code

supports break points based on procedures, or with arbitrary regular expressions



### Tcl debugger

Can also trap to debugger from the script, place `debug 1` at the appropriate location

works with in user's simulation scripts

works even through (or in) embeddedTcl code

examine and set data or code using Tcl-ish commands



## Co-existence Semi-seamless Debugging

```
(gdb) run
Starting program: /nfs/prot/kannan/PhD/simulators/ns/ns-2/ns
...
^C
Program received signal SIGINT, Interrupt.
0x102218 in write ()
(gdb) call Tcl::instance().eval("debug 1")
15: lappend auto_path $dbg_library
dbg15.3> w
*0: application
  15: lappend auto_path /usr/local/lib/dbg
dbg15.4> Simulator info instances
_o1
dbg15.5> _o1 now
0
dbg15.6> # and other fun stuff
dbg15.7> c
(gdb) where
#0 0x102218 in write ()
#1 0xda684 in FileOutputProc ()
...
(gdb) c
```



## \$ns gen-map output

```
% $ns gen-map
Node _o6(id 0)
    classifier__o7(Classifier/Addr)
    dmux_(NULL_OBJECT)

    Link _o11, fromNode_ _o6(id 0) -> toNode_ _o8(id 1)
    Components (in order) head first
        _o10 Queue/DropTail
        _o12 DelayLink
        _o14 TTLChecker

---
Node _o8(id 1)
    classifier__o9(Classifier/Addr)
    dmux_(NULL_OBJECT)

    Link _o16, fromNode_ _o8(id 1) -> toNode_ _o6(id 0)
    Components (in order) head first
        _o15 Queue/DropTail
        _o17 DelayLink
        _o19 TTLChecker

---
%
```

