

# Interval Routing & Layered Cross Product: Compact Routing Schemes for Butterflies, Mesh of Trees and Fat Trees

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**Abstract.** In this paper we propose compact routing schemes having space and time complexities comparable to a 2-Interval Routing Scheme for the class of networks decomposable as Layered Cross Product (LCP) of rooted trees. As a consequence, we are able to design a 2-Interval Routing Scheme for butterflies, meshes of trees and fat trees using a fast local routing algorithm. Finally, we show that a compact routing scheme for networks which are LCP of general graphs cannot be found by any only using shortest paths information on the factors.

## 1 Introduction

The information needed to route messages in parallel and distributed systems must be somehow stored in each node of the network. The simplest solution consists of a complete routing table – stored in each node  $u$  – that specifies for each destination  $v$  at least one link incident to  $u$  and lying on a path from  $u$  to  $v$ . The required space of such a solution is  $\Theta(n \log \delta)$ , where  $\delta$  is the node degree and  $n$  the number of nodes in the network. Efficiency considerations lead to store *shortest paths* information. For better and fair use of network resources, storing, for each entry of the routing table, as many outgoing links as necessary to describe *all* shortest paths in the network should be aimed. Due to limited storage space at each processor, a linear increase of the routing table size in  $n$  is not acceptable. Research has then focused on identifying classes of network topologies whose shortest paths information can be succinctly stored, assuming that some “short” labels can be assigned to nodes and links at preprocessing time.

In the *Interval Routing Scheme* (in short, IRS) [7, 12], node-labels belong to the set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ , while link-labels are pairs of node-labels representing cyclic intervals of  $[1, \dots, n]$ . A message with destination  $v$  arriving at a node  $u$  is sent by  $u$  onto an incident link whose label  $[v_1, v_2]$  is such that  $v \in [v_1, v_2]$ . Such an approach allows one to achieve an efficient memory occupation. An IRS is said

*optimum* if the route traversed by each message is a shortest path from its source to its destination. It is said *overall optimum* if a message can be routed along *any* shortest path. In [6,12] optimum IRSs have been designed for particular network topologies. In [3,11,13] it has been proved the existence of networks that do not admit any optimum IRS. *Multi-label Interval Routing Schemes* were introduced [7] to extend the model in order to allow more than one interval to be associated to each link: a  $k$ -IRS is a scheme associating at most  $k$  intervals to each link. A message whose destination is node  $v$  is sent onto a link labeled  $(I_1, \dots, I_k)$  if  $v \in I_i$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq k$ . In [2] a technique for proving lower bounds on the minimum  $k$  allowed was developed and in [4] it has been used to construct  $n$ -node networks for which any optimal  $k$ -IRS requires  $k = \Theta(n)$ . It was proved that for some well known interconnection networks, such as shuffle exchange, cube connected cycle, butterfly and star graph, each optimal  $k$ -IRS requires  $k = \Omega(n^{1/2-\epsilon})$  – for proper values of  $\epsilon$  – to store one shortest path for each pair [5]. Of course, this lower bound still holds to store *any* shortest path.

In this paper, after providing the necessary preliminary definitions (Section 2), we propose overall optimum compact routing schemes (Section 3) based on the same leading idea as the Multi-label Interval Routing for all networks which are Layered Cross Product (LCP) [1] of rooted trees (in short, T-networks). For many commonly used interconnection networks falling in this definition no overall optimum compact routing scheme was known. Among them we recall three widely studied topologies: butterflies, mesh of trees and fat trees. Our compact routing scheme requires as much space and time as those required by a 2-IRS. The achievement is particularly meaningful for butterflies because of the result in [5]. Finally, in Section 4, we give a negative result by proving that the knowledge of shortest paths on the factors of a network could be not enough to compute shortest paths on it.

## 2 Definitions and Preliminary Results

*Point to point* communication networks are usually represented by graphs, whose nodes stand for processors and edges for communication links. We always represent each edge  $\{u, v\}$  by the pair of (oriented) arcs,  $(u, v)$  and  $(v, u)$ .

An  $l$ -layered graph,  $G = (V^1, V^2, \dots, V^l, E)$  consists of  $l$  layers of nodes;  $V^i$  is the (non-empty) set of nodes in layer  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq l$ ; every edge in  $E$  connects vertices of two adjacent layers. In particular a rooted tree  $T$  of height  $h$  is a  $h$ -layered graph, layer  $i$  defined either as the set of nodes having distance  $i - 1$  from the root or as the set of nodes having distance  $h - i$  from the root. From now on, we call  $T$  a *root-tree* or a *leaf-tree* according to whether the first or the second way of defining layers is chosen. In Fig. 1,  $T_1$  is a root-tree, while  $T_2$  is a leaf-tree.

Let  $G_1 = (V_1^1, V_1^2, \dots, V_1^l, E_1)$  and  $G_2 = (V_2^1, V_2^2, \dots, V_2^l, E_2)$  be two  $l$ -layered graphs. Their *Layered Cross Product* (LCP for short) [1]  $G^1 \times G^2$  is an  $l$ -layered graph  $G = (V^1, V^2, \dots, V^l, E)$  where  $V^i$  is the cartesian product

of  $V_1^i$  and  $V_2^i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq l$ , and a link  $((a, \alpha), (b, \beta))$  belongs to  $E$  if and only if  $(a, b) \in E_1$  and  $(\alpha, \beta) \in E_2$ .

Many common networks are LCP of trees [1]. Among them: the *butterfly* with  $N$  inputs and  $N$  outputs is the LCP of two  $N$ -leaves complete binary trees (Fig. 1.a), the *mesh of trees* of size  $2N$  is the LCP of two  $N$ -leaves complete binary trees with paths of length  $\log N$  attached to their leaves (Fig. 1.b), the *fat tree* of height  $h$  [10] is the LCP of a complete binary tree and a complete quaternary tree, both of height  $h$  (Fig. 1.c).

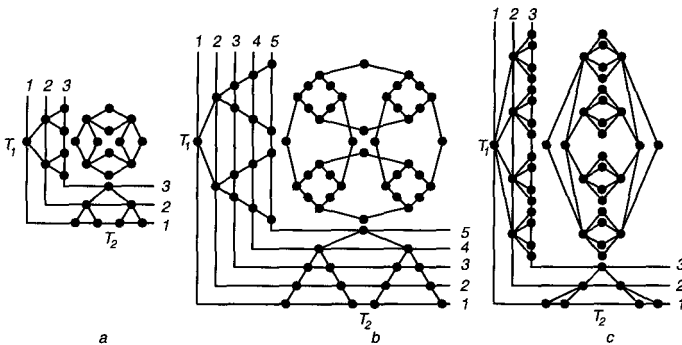


Fig. 1. Butterfly, Mesh of Trees and Fat-tree as LCP of rooted trees.

**Fact 21** Let  $(a, \alpha), (b, \beta) \in V(G_1 \times G_2)$ . Any shortest path from  $(a, \alpha)$  to  $(b, \beta)$  is never shorter than a shortest path from  $a$  to  $b$  in  $G^1$  and a shortest path from  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$  in  $G^2$ .

**Fact 22** If  $G$  is the LCP of either two root-trees or two leaf-trees then  $G$  is a tree.

Observe that the LCP of two trees could be also not connected. This is not a restriction to our discussion, since we deal with connected networks that are the LCP of trees and not with *any* LCP of trees.

### 3 Designing Compact Routing Schemes for T-networks

Let  $G = T_1 \times T_2$ , where both  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are trees. In [12] an IRS for trees has been shown. Thus, consider the two IRSs for  $T^1$  and  $T^2$  and let  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{I}_1$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_2$  and  $\mathcal{I}_2$  be the node- and link-labelings of an IRS for  $T^1$  and  $T^2$ , respectively. A node  $(u_1, u_2) \in V(G)$  is labeled with a triple  $(a, \alpha, l)$  if  $\mathcal{L}_1(u_1) = a$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_2(u_2) = \alpha$  and  $l$  is the layer of both  $u_1$  in  $T_1$  and  $u_2$  in  $T_2$  (and of  $(u_1, u_2)$  in  $G$ ). Similarly, a link  $((u_1, u_2), (v_1, v_2)) \in E$  is labeled with a triple  $(I_1, I_2, l)$ , where  $I_1 = \mathcal{I}_1((u_1, v_1))$ ,  $I_2 = \mathcal{I}_2((u_2, v_2))$  and  $l$  is the layer of  $(v_1, v_2)$ . It is possible to rename all nodes

according to their node-labeling  $\mathcal{L}$ ; therefore, in the following we speak about *labeling* to mean link-labeling and we refer to nodes themselves to mean their node-labels.

To complete the definition of the compact routing scheme for  $G$ , we must describe algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  stored in each node  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  used to route a packet onto a shortest path connecting the current node  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  itself to the destination  $(t, \tau, l_t)$ . Informally, at each step  $\mathcal{A}$  tries to take the greedy choice: if both shortest path factors  $P_1(a, t)$  and  $P_2(\alpha, \tau)$  move towards the same level then  $\mathcal{A}$  moves in that direction, that is, it chooses link  $((a, \alpha, l_a), (b, \beta, l_b))$ . Otherwise, if  $a = t$  (or  $\alpha = \tau$ ), then  $P_1$  (or  $P_2$ ) is null, so the other path must be followed<sup>1</sup>. Finally, if  $P_1(a, t)$  and  $P_2(\alpha, \tau)$  go towards opposite levels,  $\mathcal{A}$  follows the path going away from level  $l_t$ . We will prove that in this way a shortest path on  $G$  is always used. Now, we are ready to describe algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  formally.

**Algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$**

(input:  $t, \tau, l_t$ ; output: one outgoing link labeled  $(I_1, I_2, l)$ )

{ The labeling of the outgoing links,  $a, \alpha$  and  $l_a$  are known constants in each node. }

if  $a = t$  and  $\alpha = \tau$  then extract the packet

else if there exists a link labeled  $(I_1, I_2, l)$  s.t.  $t \in I_1$  and  $\tau \in I_2$  then choose it

    else if there exists a link having label  $(I_1, I_2, l)$  s.t.

$t \in I_1$  and  $(\alpha = \tau$  or  $|l_a - l_t| < |l - l_t|)$  then choose it

    else if there exists a link having label  $(I_1, I_2, l)$  s.t.

$\tau \in I_2$  and  $(a = t$  or  $|l_\alpha - l_\tau| < |l - l_\tau|)$  then choose it;

Notice that algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$ , stored in each node, does not increase the asymptotic space complexity with respect to 2-IRS and runs in  $\mathcal{O}(\delta)$  time,  $\delta$  being the maximum node degree. As a consequence, if  $\mathcal{A}$  is able to route packets to their destinations we have designed a compact routing scheme. In the following, we first show the optimality (Thm. 1) and then its overall optimality (Thm. 2).

**Theorem 1.** *If  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  transmits a packet, whose destination is  $(t, \tau, l_t)$ , to an adjacent node  $(b, \beta, l_b)$ , then  $(b, \beta, l_b)$  belongs to a shortest path from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$ .*

*Proof.* If  $G$  is the LCP of either two root-trees or two leaf-trees the statement is trivially true because, from Fact 22, there exists a unique path between any pair of nodes. It must necessarily be the Layered Cross Product of the corresponding paths in the factors. Thus, links labeled  $(I_1, I_2, l)$  such that  $t \in I_1$  and  $\tau \in I_2$  can always be used. Therefore, from now on we shall always suppose that  $T_1$  is a root-tree and  $T_2$  is a leaf-tree.

The proof considers the truth of the **if**-conditions in  $\mathcal{A}$ .

1. There exists a link  $(I_1, I_2, l)$  such that  $\tau \in I_2$  and  $a = t$ . Let  $\langle \alpha, \beta, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_k, \tau \rangle$  be the shortest path in  $T_2$ . Then, by definition of LCP, there exist  $b, b_1, \dots, b_k$  in  $T_1$  such that  $\langle a, b, b_1, \dots, b_k, a \rangle$  is a path (crossing the same links more than

<sup>1</sup> When we say that  $\mathcal{A}$  follows a path  $P_i$  (either  $i = 1$  or  $i = 2$ ), we mean that  $\mathcal{A}$  follows an edge on  $G$  whose  $i$ -th factor belongs to  $P_i$ .

once) such that  $\langle (a, \alpha, l_a), (b, \beta, l_b), (b_1, \beta_1, l_{b_1}), \dots, (b_k, \beta_k, l_{b_k}), (a, \tau, l_a) \rangle$  is a path in  $G$  starting at  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  and ending at  $(a, \tau, l_a)$ . Fact 21 ensures that this is a shortest path in  $G$ . The case with  $t \in I_1$  and  $\alpha = \tau$  is symmetric.

- There exists a link labeled  $(I_1, I_2, l_b)$  such that  $t \in I_1$  and  $\tau \in I_2$ . W.l.o.g., suppose  $l_a < l_t$ :  $b$  is a child of  $a$  and  $\beta$  is the father of  $\alpha$  (Fig. 2). Moreover, since  $b$  belongs to a shortest path from  $a$  to  $t$ ,  $t$  is a descendant of  $b$ . Two cases are possible:

- $\tau$  is an ancestor of  $\alpha$  (Fig. 2.a). Then, the shortest paths from  $a$  to  $t$  in  $T_1$  and from  $\alpha$  to  $\tau$  in  $T_2$  have the same length  $l_t - l_a$ . It is easy to see that in  $G$  there exists a unique shortest path from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$ . Furthermore, all links in such path are labeled  $(I_1, I_2, l)$  such that  $t \in I_1$  and  $\tau \in I_2$ . Thus,  $(b, \beta, l_b)$  belongs to a path of length  $l_t - l_a$  and for Fact 21 it is the shortest path.
- $\alpha$  and  $\tau$  have a common ancestor (Fig. 2.b). Let  $\gamma$  be the nearest common ancestor and let  $l_c$  be its layer. By the definition of layers, and since  $T_1$  is a root-tree and  $T_2$  is a leaf-tree, it must be  $l_t < l_c$ .

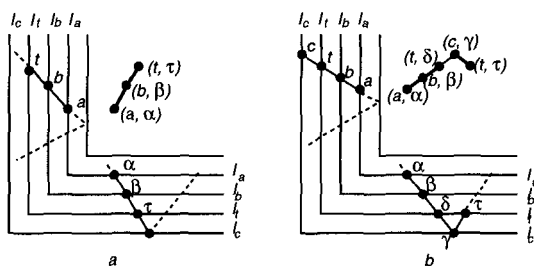


Fig. 2.  $l_a < l_t$ ; a.  $\tau$  is an ancestor of  $\alpha$ ; b.  $\alpha$  and  $\tau$  have a common ancestor.

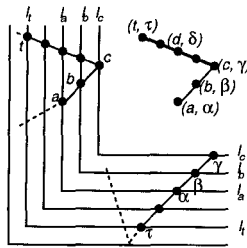
Let  $c$  be one of the descendants of  $t$  at layer  $l_c$  in  $T_1$  and  $\delta$  be the node at layer  $l_t$  belonging to the shortest path from  $\alpha$  to  $\gamma$  in  $T_2$ . There exists a path from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(t, \delta, l_t)$  in  $G$  whose links are always labeled  $(I_1, I_2, l)$  such that  $t \in I_1$  and  $\tau \in I_2$  and having length equal to the length of the shortest path from  $\alpha$  to  $\delta$  in  $T_2$  (this is easily proved by induction on the length). The path in  $G$  from  $(t, \delta, l_t)$  to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$  chosen by  $\mathcal{A}$  is a shortest one because of case 1. Since the path from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$  passing through  $(b, \beta, l_b)$  has the same length as the path from  $\alpha$  to  $\tau$  in  $T_2$ , it is a shortest one.

- No outgoing link from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  is labeled  $(I_1, I_2, l)$  such that  $t \in I_1$  and  $\tau \in I_2$ ; furthermore, neither  $a = t$  nor  $\alpha = \tau$ . Then, one shortest path factor moves towards increasing layers while the other shortest path factor moves towards decreasing layers.

Suppose first  $l_t > l_a$ , that is,  $t$  is closer than  $a$  to the leaves in  $T_1$  while  $\tau$  is closer than  $\alpha$  to the root in  $T_2$ .

Notice that it is not possible to have both shortest paths factors moving towards the leaves. Thus, both shortest paths factors move towards the roots. Then,  $t$  and  $a$  have a nearest common ancestor  $c$  at layer  $l_c$ . On  $T_2$ , either  $\tau$  is an ancestor of  $\alpha$  (see Fig. 3) or  $\tau$  and  $\alpha$  have a nearest common ancestor  $\delta$  at layer  $l_d$  (Fig. 4).

Consider the case of Fig. 3 first. Let  $b$  be the father of  $a$  in  $T_1$  and let  $I_1$  be the label of  $(a, b)$  in  $T_1$ . Since  $l_t - l_b > l_t - l_a$  and  $t \in I_1$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  chooses one link labeled  $(I_1, I_2, l_b)$  and ending in  $(b, \beta, l_b)$ . Let  $d$  be the node belonging to the shortest path from  $a$  to  $t$  at layer  $l_a$  in  $T_1$ . Node  $(b, \beta, l_b)$  lies on the path



**Fig. 3.** The two shortest paths factors move towards the roots and  $\tau$  is an ancestor of  $\alpha$  while  $t$  and  $a$  have a common ancestor  $c$ .

from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(d, \alpha, l_a)$  – through a node  $(c, \gamma, l_c)$  – of the same length as the shortest path from  $a$  to  $d$  in  $T_1$ . From this last node, there is a single shortest path to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$  constituted by links always labeled  $(I_1, I_2, l)$  such that  $t \in I_1$  and  $\tau \in I_2$ . The length of such path from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$  through  $(b, \beta, l_b)$  is equal to the length of the shortest path from  $a$  to  $t$  in  $T_1$ .

Consider now the situation in Fig. 4: both shortest paths factors move towards the roots,  $t$  and  $a$  have a nearest common ancestor  $c$  at layer  $l_c$ , and  $\tau$  and  $\alpha$  have a nearest common ancestor  $\delta$  at layer  $l_d$ . To go from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$  through a shortest path it is necessary to use either first a shortest path in  $T_1$  till  $c$  or first a shortest path in  $T_2$  till  $\delta$ . Indeed, consider a path that alternates links whose first factor is from a shortest path in  $T_1$  with links whose second factor is from a shortest path in  $T_2$ : let  $(a, \alpha, l_a), (a_1, \alpha_1, l_1), \dots, (a_k, \alpha_k, l_k)$  be the first fragment of such a path having the first factor as the shortest path in  $T_1$ , with  $a_i \neq c, i = 1, \dots, k$ . If the next step is a link whose second factor belongs to a shortest path towards  $\tau$  in  $T_2$ , such link ends necessarily in  $(u, \alpha_{k-1}, l_{k-1})$ , where  $u$  is a child of  $a_k$  in  $T_1$ . For the sake of symmetry, since  $u$  and  $a_{k-1}$  are at the same layer in the same subtree rooted at  $a_k$  (with  $l_k > l_c$ ), the distance of  $(u, \alpha_{k-1}, l_{k-1})$  from  $(t, \tau, l_t)$  is equal to the distance of  $(a_{k-1}, \alpha_{k-1}, l_{k-1})$  from  $(t, \tau, l_t)$ . Thus, in order to reach  $(t, \tau, l_t)$  from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  at least two steps have been wasted. Hence, necessarily one of the following is a shortest path in  $G$ :

- (Fig. 4.a) a path from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(b, \beta, l_b)$  to  $(c, \gamma, l_c)$  to  $(h, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(t, \eta, l_t)$  to  $(f, \delta, l_d)$  to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$ , where  $\gamma$  is a descendant of  $\alpha$  at layer  $l_c$  in  $T_2$ ,  $h$  and  $f$  are descendants of  $c$  at layer  $l_a$  and  $l_d$ , respectively, in  $T_1$  and  $\eta$  is an ancestor of  $\alpha$  at layer  $l_t$  in  $T_2$ . The length of such a path is  $2(l_a - l_c) + (l_t - l_a) + 2(l_d - l_t) = 2(l_d - l_c) + l_a - l_t$
- (Fig. 4.b) a path from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(d, \delta, l_d)$  to  $(k, \tau, l_t)$  to  $(a, \theta, l_a)$  to  $(c, \sigma, l_c)$  to  $(h, \theta, l_a)$  to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$ , where  $d$  and  $k$  are descendant of  $a$  at layers  $l_d$  and  $l_t$ , respectively, in  $T_1$  and  $\theta$  and  $\sigma$  are descendants of  $\tau$  at layers  $l_a$  and  $l_c$ , respectively, in  $T_2$ . The length of such a path is  $(l_d - l_a) + (l_d - l_t) + 2(l_t - l_c) = 2(l_d - l_c) + l_t - l_a$

Thus, the shortest path depends on the sign of  $l_t - l_a$ . Since in our hypothesis  $l_t > l_a$ , the shortest path is the first one, that is the path whose first step goes away from  $l_t$ . Since node  $(b, \beta, l_b)$  is such that  $l_t - l_b > l_t - l_a$ , then  $\mathcal{A}$  chooses the first path.

When  $l_t < l_a$ , the same reasoning applies. Finally, the same discussion holds also if  $l_t = l_a$ . However, notice that in this case any of the two choices is possible.

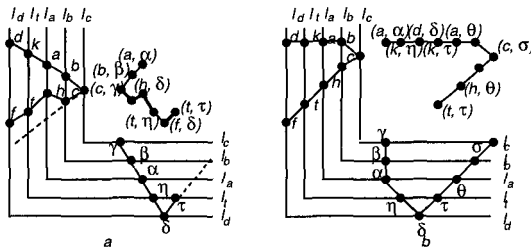


Fig. 4. The two shortest paths factors move towards the roots,  $t$  and  $a$  have a common ancestor  $c$  and  $\tau$  and  $\alpha$  have a common ancestor  $\delta$ .

**Theorem 2.** *If a packet must be transmitted from node  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to node  $(t, \tau, l_t)$  and  $\langle (a, \alpha, l_a), (a_1, \alpha_1, l_{a_1}), (a_2, \alpha_2, l_{a_2}), \dots, (t, \tau, l_t) \rangle$  is any shortest path from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$ , then algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  can possibly use it.*

*Proof.* Again, thanks to Fact 22, we shall always suppose that  $T_1$  is a root-tree and  $T_2$  is a leaf-tree. The proof is divided according to the truth of the **if**-conditions in  $\mathcal{A}$  and most of considerations done in the proof of Theorem 1 are used here.

1. There exists a link  $(I_1, I_2, l)$  such that  $\tau \in I_2$  and  $a = t$ : then (cf. proof of Thm.1)  $G$  contains a path from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$  of length equal to the path from  $\alpha$  to  $\tau$  in  $T_2$ . Let  $k + 1$  be such length. Suppose that a path  $\langle (a, \alpha, l_a), (a_1, \alpha_1, l_{a_1}), \dots, (a_k, \alpha_k, l_{a_k}), (t, \tau, l_t) \rangle$  exists in  $G$  that is not found

by  $\mathcal{A}$ . Thus,  $\alpha_1$  does not belong to the shortest path from  $\alpha$  to  $\tau$  in  $T_2$ , that is, if link  $((a, \alpha, l_a), (a_1, \alpha_1, l_{a_1}))$  is labeled  $(I_1, I_2, l_{a_1})$ ,  $\tau \notin I_2$ . Hence, since by definition of LCP  $p = \langle \alpha, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k, \tau \rangle$  must be a path in  $T_2$ , some  $\alpha_i$  must be the same as some  $\alpha_j$ , with  $i \neq j$ . But the distance between  $\alpha$  and  $\tau$  in  $T_2$  is  $k + 1$ , then  $p$  must be longer than  $k + 1$ , an absurd. The case  $t \in I_1$  and  $\alpha = \tau$  is symmetric.

2. There exists a link labeled  $(I_1, I_2, l)$  such that  $t \in I_1$  and  $\tau \in I_2$ . W.l.o.g., suppose  $l_a < l_t$  and therefore  $b$  a child of  $a$  and  $\beta$  the father of  $\alpha$ . Since  $b$  belongs to a shortest path from  $a$  to  $t$ ,  $t$  is a descendant of  $b$ . Two cases are possible:

- $\tau$  is an ancestor of  $\alpha$ . This case is trivially proved, since there is in  $G$  a unique shortest path from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$  and  $\mathcal{A}$  finds that path.
- $\alpha$  and  $\tau$  have a nearest common ancestor  $\gamma$  at layer  $l_c$ . Recall that  $l_t \leq l_c$  and a shortest path in  $G$  must be as long as the path from  $\alpha$  to  $\tau$  in  $T_2$  (cf. proof of Thm.1). The proof of this case is similar to the one of case 1. of this theorem and thus omitted.

3. No outgoing link from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  is labeled  $(I_1, I_2, l)$  such that  $t \in I_1$  and  $\tau \in I_2$ . Suppose  $l_t > l_a$ . We have already proved that one of the following cases must occur:

- both shortest paths factors move towards the roots,  $\tau$  is an ancestor of  $\alpha$  while  $t$  and  $a$  have a nearest common ancestor  $c$  at layer  $l_c$ : algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  chooses a link labeled  $(I_1, I_2, l)$  such that  $t \in I_1$  and such link belongs to a path from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$  having the same length as the path from  $a$  to  $t$  in  $T_1$ . Again, a reasoning very similar to that one of case 1. of this theorem applies.
- both shortest paths factors move towards the roots,  $t$  and  $a$  have a nearest common ancestor  $c$  at layer  $l_c$ ,  $\tau$  and  $\alpha$  have a nearest common ancestor  $\delta$  at layer  $l_d$ . We have already proved that a shortest path from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$  necessarily crosses either first a shortest path in  $T_1$  to  $c$  or first a shortest path in  $T_2$  to  $\delta$ . This implies (cf. proof of Thm.1) that a shortest path in  $G$  must necessarily be a path from  $(a, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(c, \gamma, l_c)$  to  $(h, \alpha, l_a)$  to  $(t, \eta, l_t)$  to  $(d, \delta, l_d)$  to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$ , where  $\gamma$  is a descendant of  $\alpha$  at layer  $l_c$  in  $T_2$ ,  $h$  is a descendant of  $c$  at layer  $l_a$  in  $T_1$  and  $\eta$  is an ancestor of  $\alpha$  at layer  $l_t$  in  $T_2$  (Fig. 4.a). Since  $\mathcal{A}$  can choose any link  $((a, \alpha, l_a), (b, \beta, l_b))$  labeled  $(I_1, I_2, l_b)$  such that  $l_t - l_b > l_t - l_a$  and  $t \in I_1$ , then it is able to choose any path of this sort, and this proves the assertion.

The same reasoning applies when  $l_t < l_a$  and when  $l_t = l_a$ .

## 4 LCP of General Graphs: Driving some Conclusions

In the previous section we have proposed a method to compute a compact routing scheme for all T-networks. In the proofs of correctness, we have strongly used the properties of the factors and having a unique (shortest) path between any couple of nodes. It is immediate to wonder whether our technique can be



extended to networks which are the LCP of more general graphs. In this section we show a negative result in this direction. Namely, we prove a property of the LCP allowing one to deduce that the knowledge of node- and link-labels on factors (and therefore the knowledge of their shortest paths) gives not enough information to find shortest paths in their LCP.

**Theorem 3.** *There exist a layered graph  $G = (V, E)$  LCP of  $G_1 = (V_1, E_1)$  and  $G_2 = (V_2, E_2)$ , a source node  $(s, \sigma, l_s) \in V$ , a destination node  $(t, \tau, l_t) \in V$  and an edge  $e \in E$  having the following properties: i.  $e$  is the layered cross product of two edges  $e_1 \in E_1$  and  $e_2 \in E_2$ ; ii.  $e$  belongs to a shortest path from  $(s, \sigma, l_s)$  to  $(t, \tau, l_t)$ ; iii. neither  $e_1$  belongs to a shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$  in  $G_1$ , nor  $e_2$  belongs to a shortest path from  $\sigma$  to  $\tau$  in  $G_2$ .*

*Proof.* The graph in the assertion is shown in Fig.5 in which the following convention is used: each edge in the drawing of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  (and therefore of  $G$ ) represents a simple chain whose length is determined by the difference of layers where its extremes lie.

Suppose the shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$  in  $G_1$  passes through  $m$  and the shortest path from  $\sigma$  to  $\tau$  passes through  $\nu$ . Then, the following relations must hold:

$|l_s - l_t| + 2|l_t - l_m| < 2|l_s - l_d| + |l_s - l_t|$  and  $2|l_s - l_n| + |l_s - l_t| < |l_s - l_t| + 2|l_t - l_r|$   
that is  $|l_m - l_t| < |l_s - l_d|$  and  $|l_s - l_n| < |l_t - l_r|$ .

Whenever one of the following inequalities hold

$|l_s - l_t| + 2|l_t - l_r| < 2|l_s - l_n| + |l_s - l_t| + 2|l_t - l_m|$

$2|l_s - l_d| + |l_s - l_t| < 2|l_s - l_n| + |l_s - l_t| + 2|l_t - l_m|$

either the path through  $(m, \mu_1, l_m)$  and  $(r, \rho, l_r)$  (first inequality) or the path through  $(n_2, \nu, l_n)$  and  $(d, \delta, l_d)$  (second inequality) are shorter than the path through  $(n_2, \nu, l_n)$  and  $(m, \mu_2, l_m)$ . That is, the shortest path passes through an edge – either  $((m, \mu_1, l_m), (r, \rho, l_r))$  or  $((n_2, \nu, l_n), (d, \delta, l_d))$  – whose factors are not on a shortest path.

As a consequence of the previous theorem, we can state the following fact:

**Fact 41** *Let  $G$  be a network that is the LCP of any two graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ . The only knowledge of the compact routing schemes (i.e. a node- and link-labeling scheme) on  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  may not be sufficient to deduce a compact routing scheme for  $G$ .*

Anyway, the previous claim does not forbid one to find some special cases in which the particular structure either of the network itself or of its factors helps in defining a compact routing scheme.

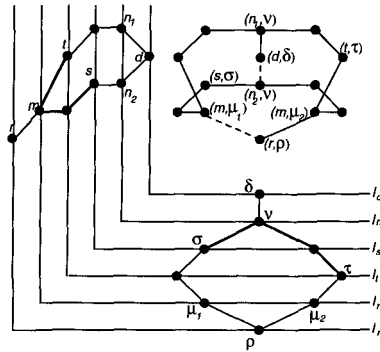


Fig. 5. Edges on a shortest path in  $G$  whose factors do not lie on any shortest path in  $G_1$  and in  $G_2$ .

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