

Problem 3.2: longest-prefix match forwarding

(2+2 = 4 points)

IP packets are forwarded by performing a longest-prefix match on the network prefixes. Forwarding tables can be represented as binary or multibit tries. Furthermore, network prefixes can sometimes be aggregated.

In this problem, prefixes are represented using a binary notation (e.g., the binary notation "10101000*" matches all addresses starting with the binary prefix "10101000" which is equivalent to the prefix 168.0.0.0/8 in dotted quad notation). Consider the following three forwarding tables F_1 , F_2 , and F_3 .

F_1	prefix	next hop	F_2	prefix	next hop	F_3	prefix	next hop
	*	R_1		*	R_2		*	R_1
	00*	R_2		01*	R_1		1*	R_3
	10*	R_2		11*	R_3		10*	R_2
	11*	R_3					110*	R_2

Assume that the minimum legal network prefix is 8 bit long.

- Are the forwarding tables F_1 and F_2 equivalent? Why or why not?
- Is there an equivalent forwarding table for F_3 with less than four entries? Why or why not?