

EN.601.414/614

Computer Networks

BGP

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Fall 2020 (TuTh 1:30-2:45pm on Zoom)



<https://github.com/xinjin/course-net>

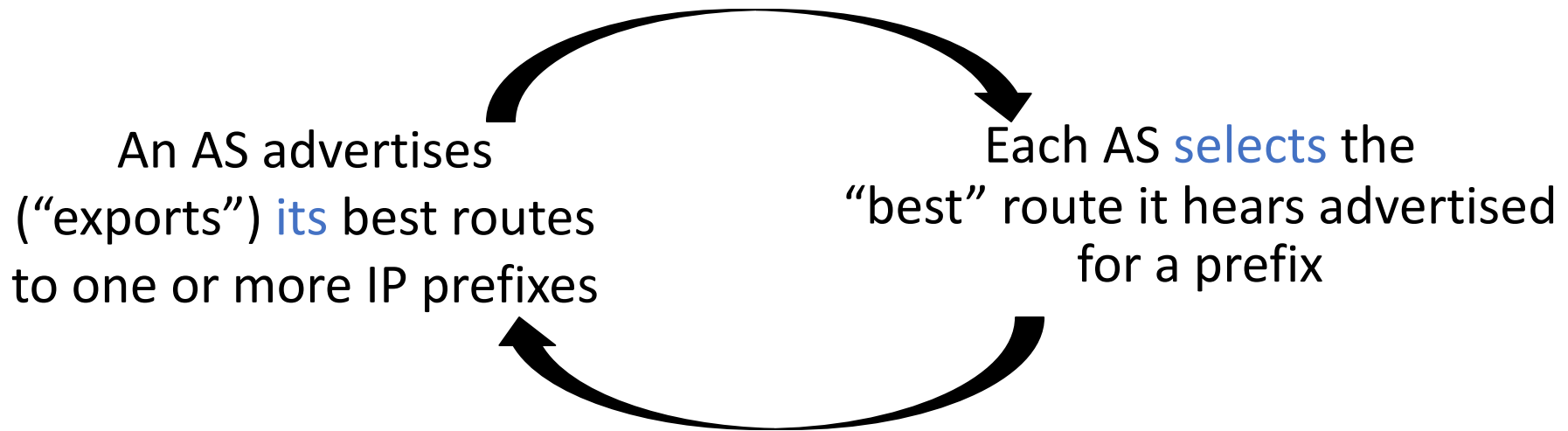
Agenda

- **BGP policies and how they are implemented**
- **BGP protocol details**
- **BGP issues in practice**

Inter-domain routing: Setup

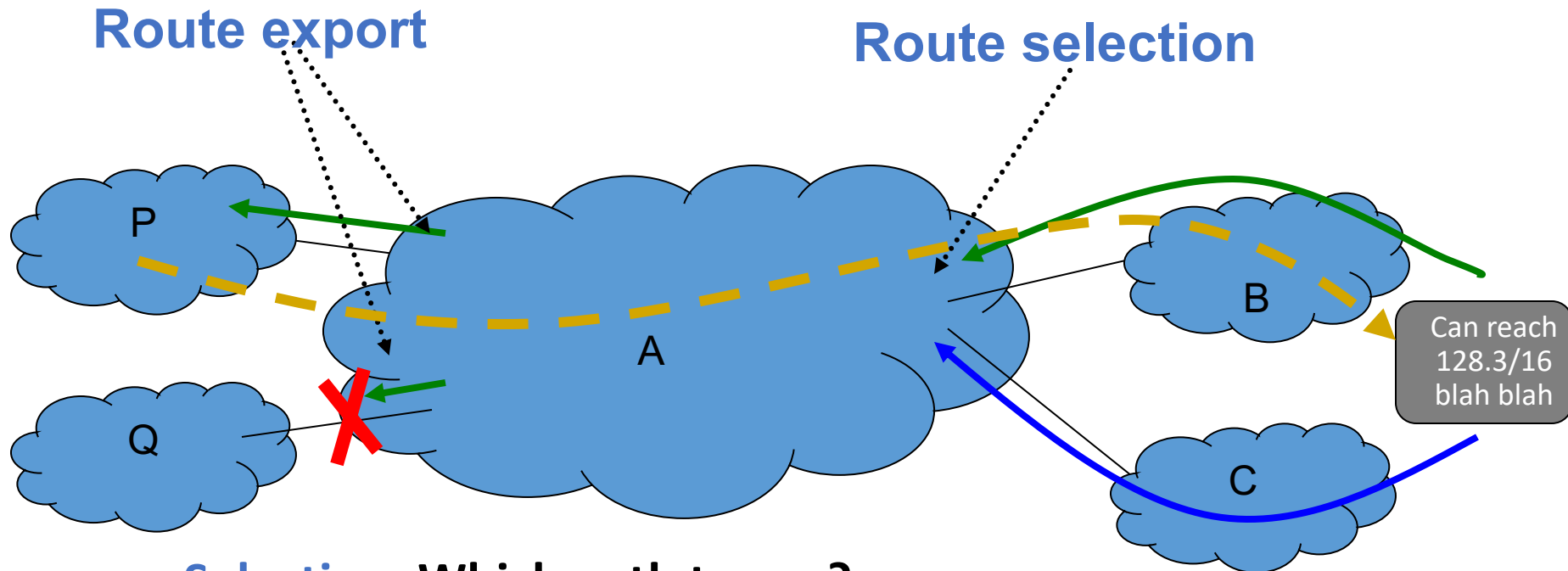
- **Destinations are IP prefixes (12.0.0.0/8)**
- **Nodes are Autonomous Systems (ASes)**
 - Internals of each AS are hidden
- **Links represent both physical links and business relationships**
- **BGP (Border Gateway Protocol) is the Inter-domain routing protocol**
 - Implemented by AS border routers

BGP: Basic idea



BGP policies

Policy dictates how routes are “selected” and “exported”



- **Selection: Which path to use?**
 - Controls whether/how traffic leaves the network
- **Export: Which path to advertise?**
 - Controls whether/how traffic enters the network

Typical selection policies

- **In decreasing order of priority**

- Make/save money (send to customer > peer > provider)
- Maximize performance (smallest AS path length)
- Minimize use of my network bandwidth (“hot potato”)
- ...

Typical export policy

Destination prefix advertised by...	Export route to...
Customer	Everyone (providers, peers, other customers)
Peer	Customers
Provider	Customers

We'll refer to these as the “Gao-Rexford” rules
(capture common – but not required! – practice)



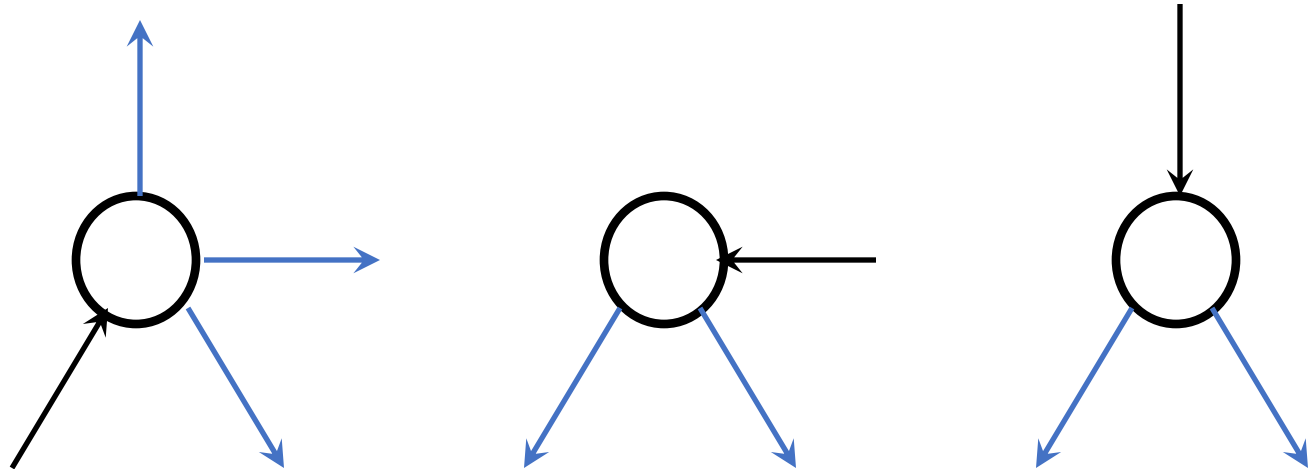
Gao-Rexford



Providers

Peers

Customers

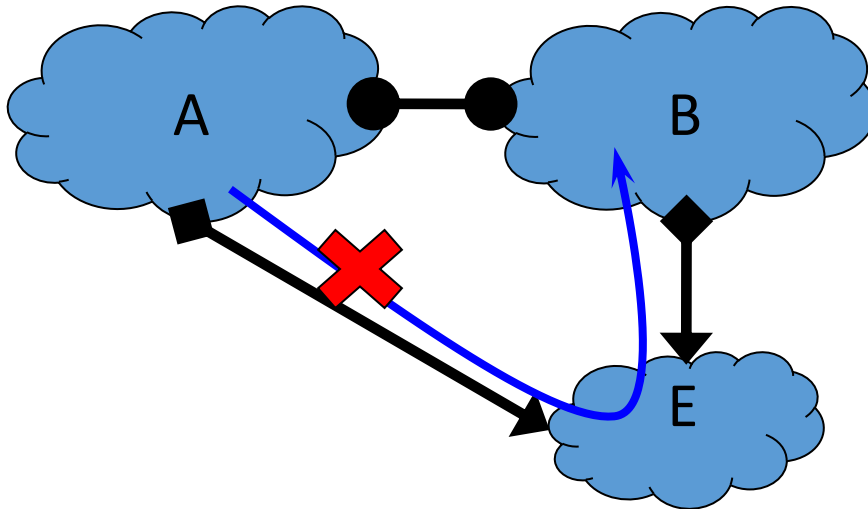
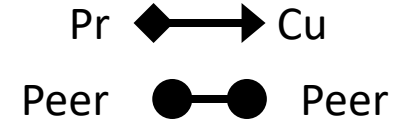


With Gao-Rexford, the AS policy graph is a DAG (directed acyclic graph) and routes are “valley free”

Valley-Free Routing

- Number links as (+1, 0, -1) for customer-to-provider, peer and provider-to-customer
- In any path should only see sequence of +1, followed by at most one 0, followed by sequence of -1

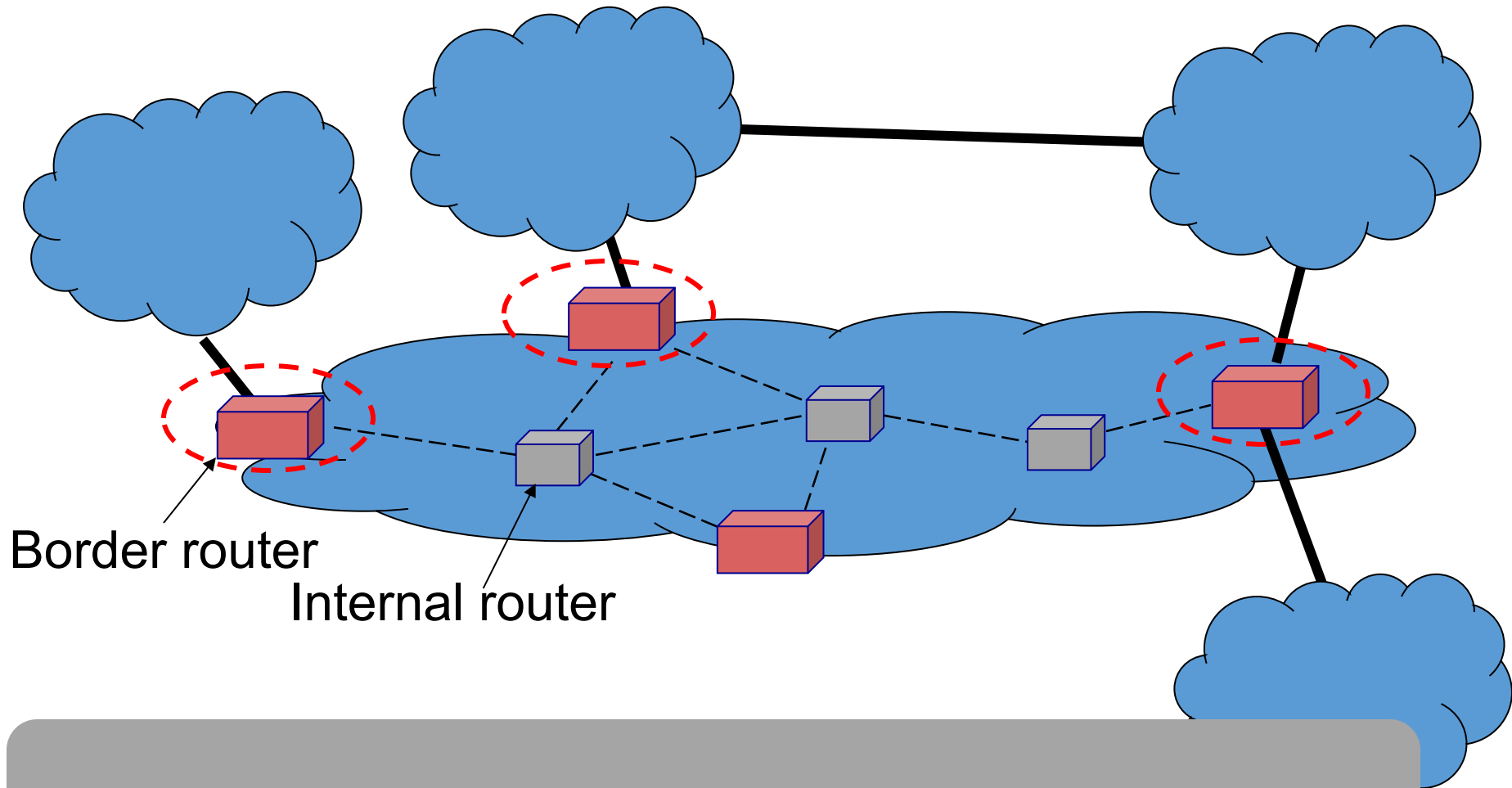
Example: Valley-Free Routing



- The path is $(-1, +1)$. It is not valley-free.

BGP Protocol details

Who speaks BGP?

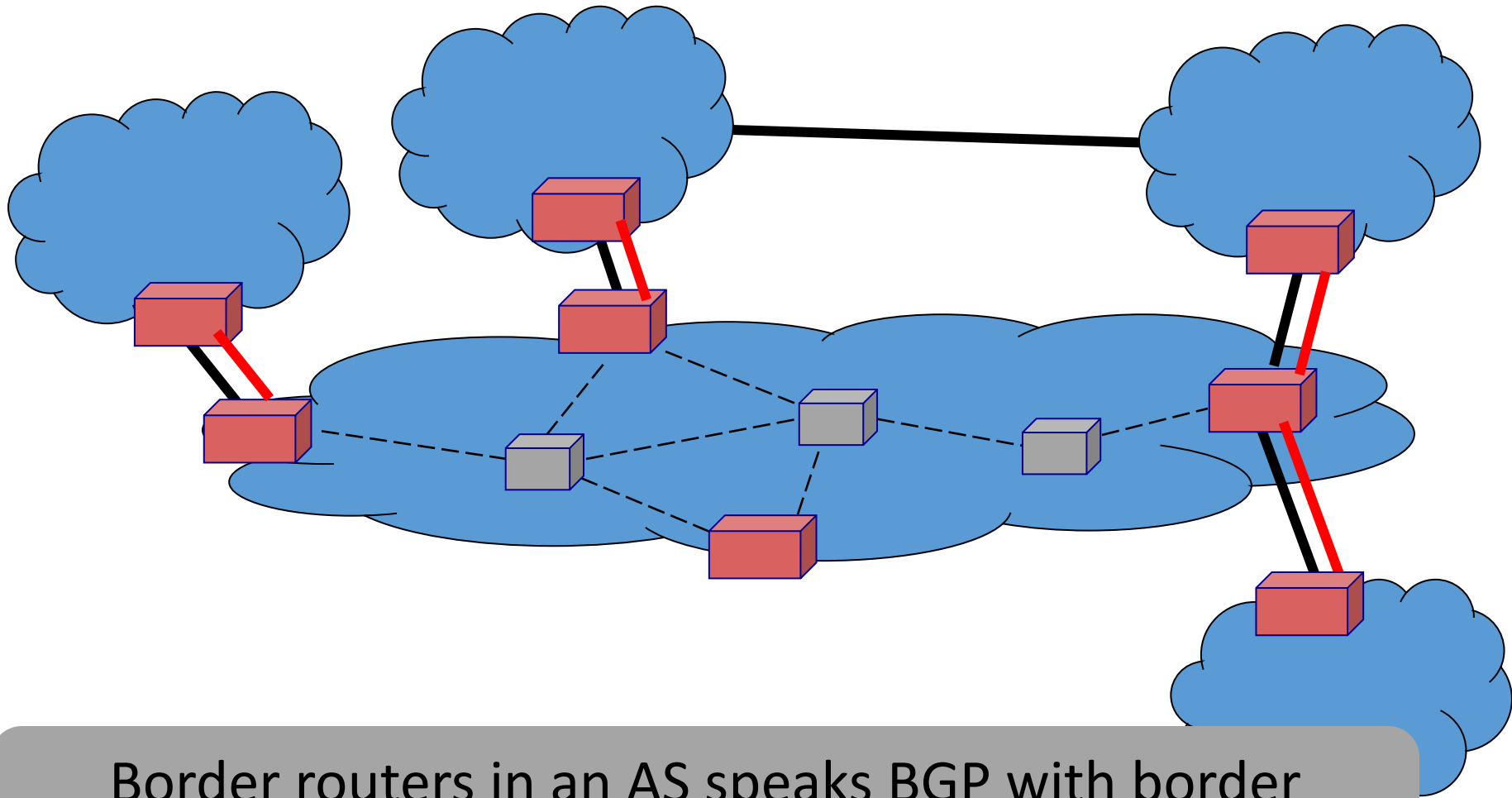


Border routers in an Autonomous System

What does “speak BGP” mean?

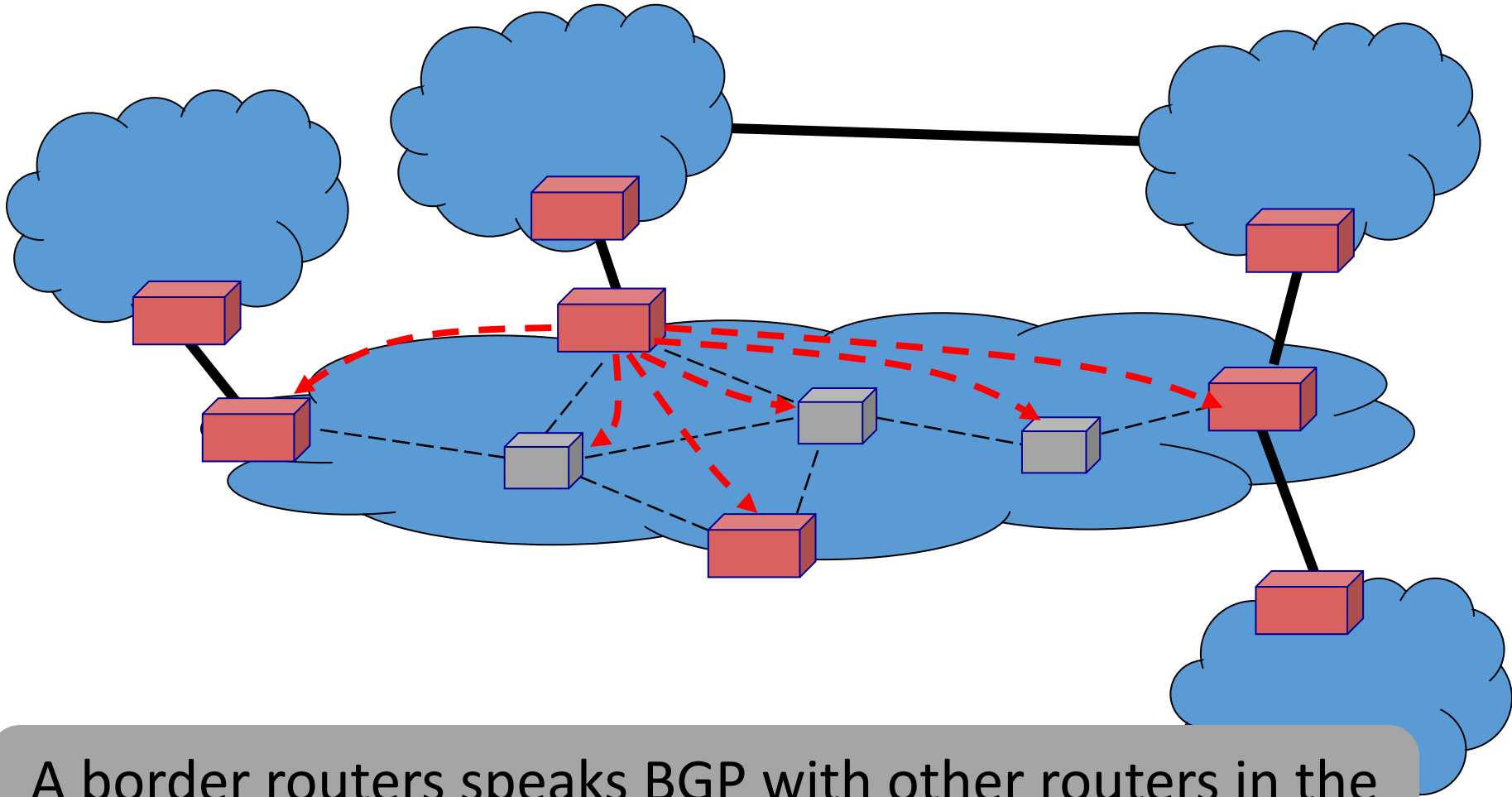
- **Implement the BGP protocol standard**
 - Read more here: <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4271>
- **Specifies what messages to exchange with other BGP “speakers”**
 - Message types (e.g., route advertisements, updates)
 - Message syntax
- **How to process these messages**
 - E.g., “when you receive a BGP update, do.... “
 - Follows BGP state machine in the protocol spec + policy decisions, etc.

BGP sessions: External



Border routers in an AS speaks BGP with border routers in other ASes using eBGP sessions

BGP sessions: Internal



A border routers speaks BGP with other routers in the same AS using iBGP sessions

eBGP, iBGP, and IGP

- **eBGP: BGP sessions between border routers in different ASes**
 - Learn routes to external destinations
- **iBGP: BGP sessions between border routers and other routers within the same AS**
 - Distribute externally learned routes internally
- **IGP: “Interior Gateway Protocol” = Intra-domain routing protocol**
 - Provide internal reachability
 - E.g., OSPF, RIP

eBGP, iBGP, and IGP together

- **Learn routes to external destination using eBGP**
- **Distribute externally learned routes internally using iBGP**
- **Travel shortest path to egress using IGP**

Basic messages in BGP

- **Open**

- Establishes BGP session (BGP uses TCP)

- **Notification**

- Report unusual conditions

- **Update**

- Inform neighbor of new routes

- Inform neighbor of old routes that become inactive

- **Keep-alive**

- Inform neighbor that connection is still viable

Route updates

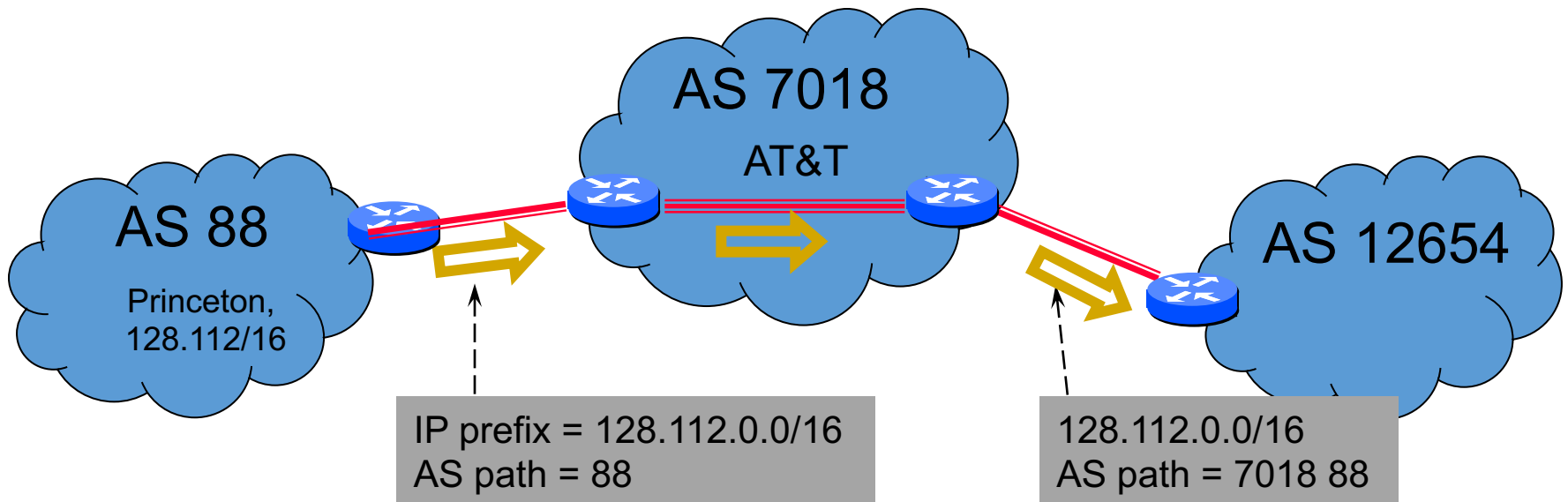
- **Format** <IP prefix: route attributes>
 - Attributes describe properties of the route
- **Two kinds of updates**
 - **Announcements**: new routes or changes to existing routes
 - **Withdrawal**: remove routes that no longer exist

Route attributes

- **Routes are described using attributes**
 - Used in route selection/export decisions
- **Some attributes are local**
 - I.e., private within an AS, not included in announcements
- **Some attributes are propagated with eBGP route announcements**
- **There are many standardized attributes in BGP**
 - We will discuss a few

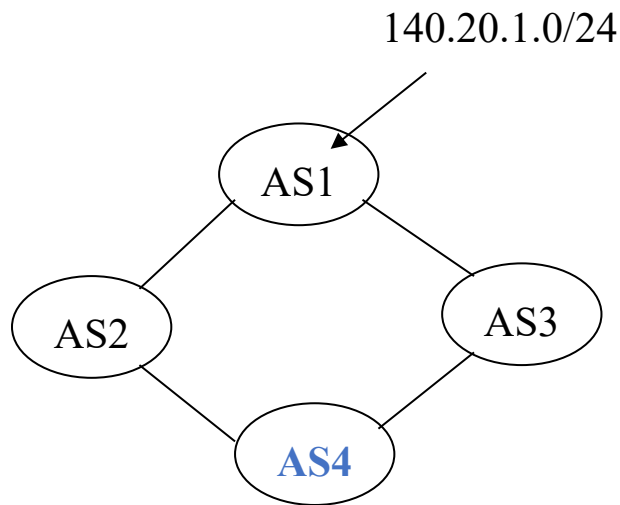
Attributes: (1) AS_PATH

- Carried in route announcements
- Vector that lists all the ASes a route advertisement has traversed (in reverse order)



Attributes: (2) LOCAL PREF

- **Local preference in choosing between different AS paths**
 - Local to an AS; carried only in iBGP messages
- **The higher the value, the more preferred**

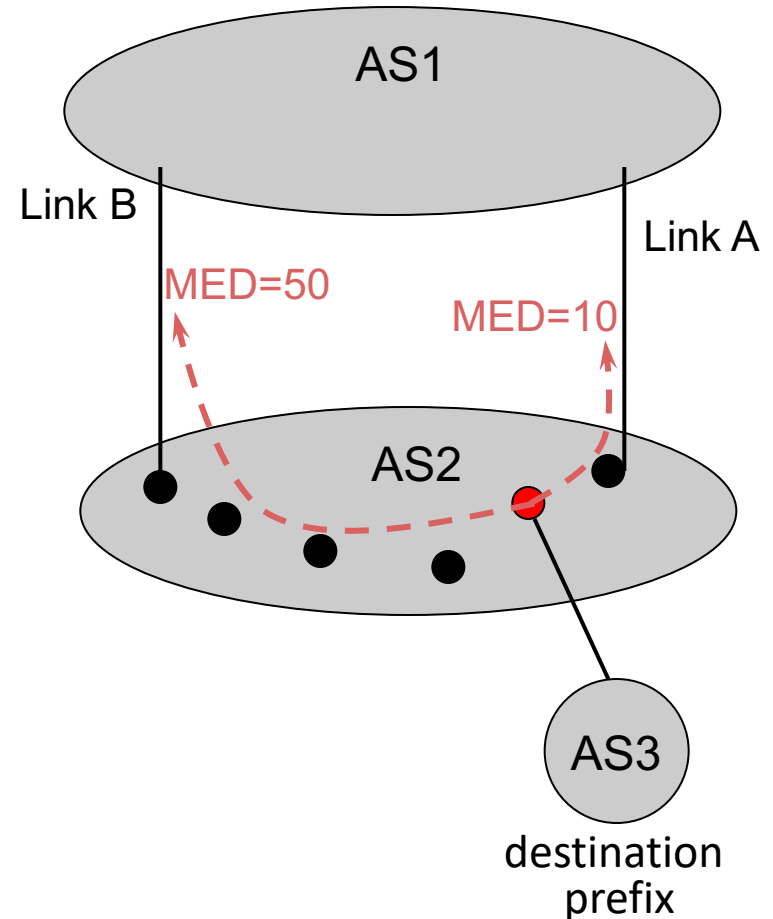


BGP table at AS4:

Destination	AS Path	Local Pref
140.20.1.0/24	AS3 AS1	300
140.20.1.0/24	AS2 AS1	100

Attributes: (3) MED

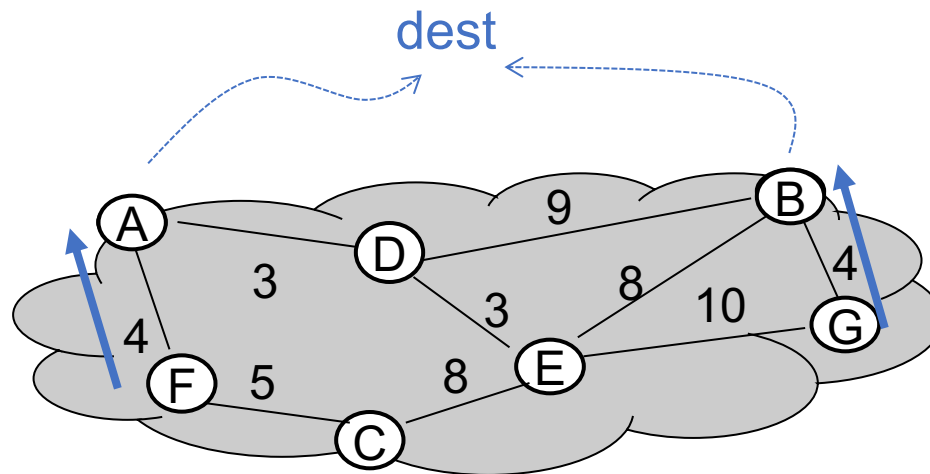
- **Multi-exit discriminator** is used when ASes are interconnected via 2 or more links; it specifies how close a prefix is to the link it is announced on
- **Lower is better**
- AS that announces a prefix sets MED
- AS receiving the prefix (optionally!) uses MED to select link



Attributes: (4) IGP cost

- Used for **hot-potato routing**

- Each router selects the closest egress point based on the path cost in intra-domain protocol

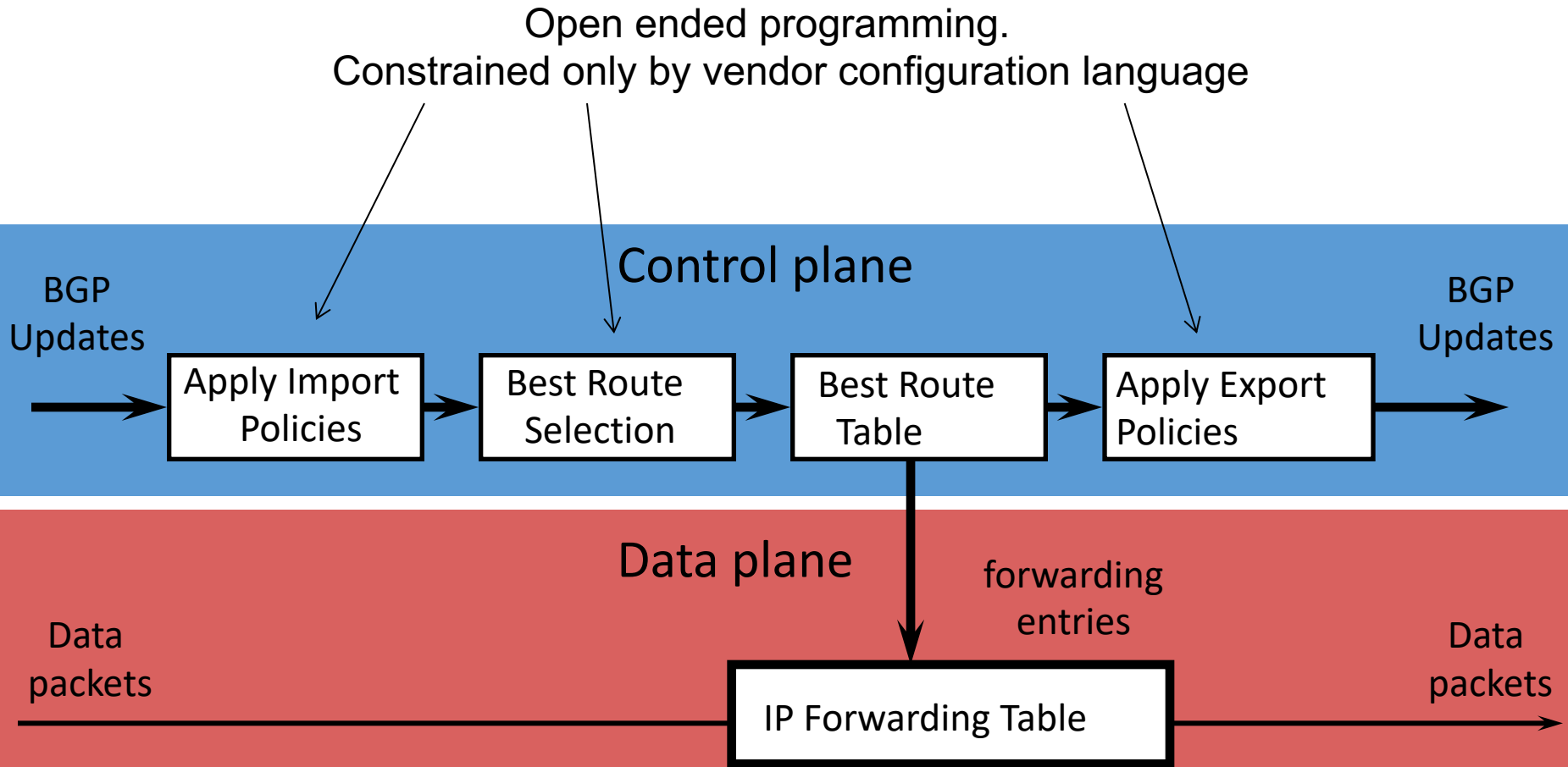


Using attributes

- **Rules for route selection in priority order**

Priority	Rule	Remarks
1	LOCAL PREF	Pick highest LOCAL PREF
2	ASPATH	Pick shortest ASPATH length
3	MED	Lowest MED preferred
4	eBGP > iBGP	Did AS learn route via eBGP (preferred) or iBGP?
5	iBGP path	Lowest IGP cost to next hop (egress router)
6	Router ID	Smallest next-hop router's IP address as tie-breaker

BGP UPDATE processing



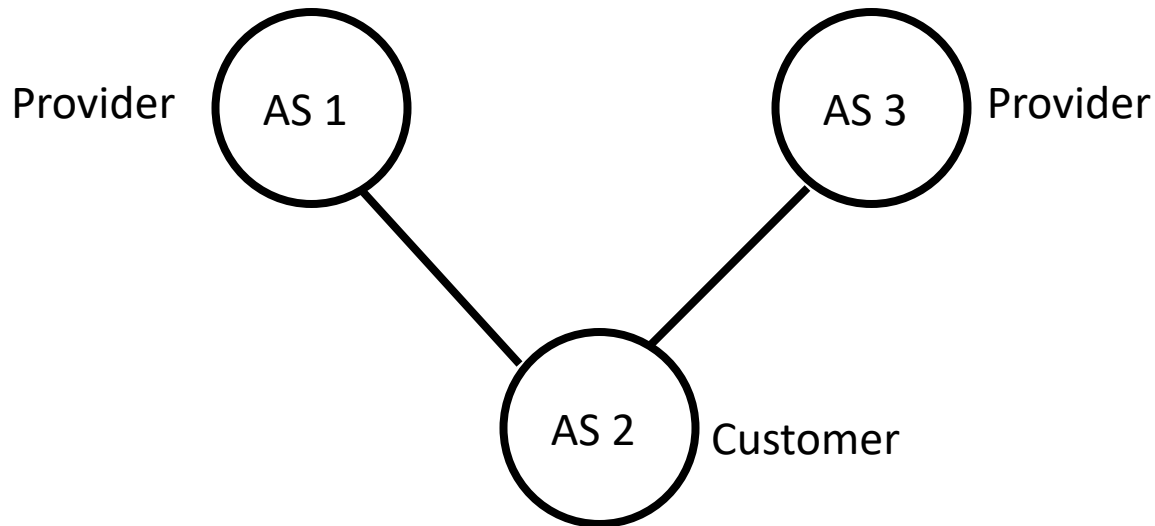
BGP issues in practice

Issues with BGP

- **Reachability**
- **Security**
- **Convergence**
- **Performance**
- **Anomalies**

Reachability

- In normal routing, if graph is connected then reachability is assured
- With policy routing, this does not always hold



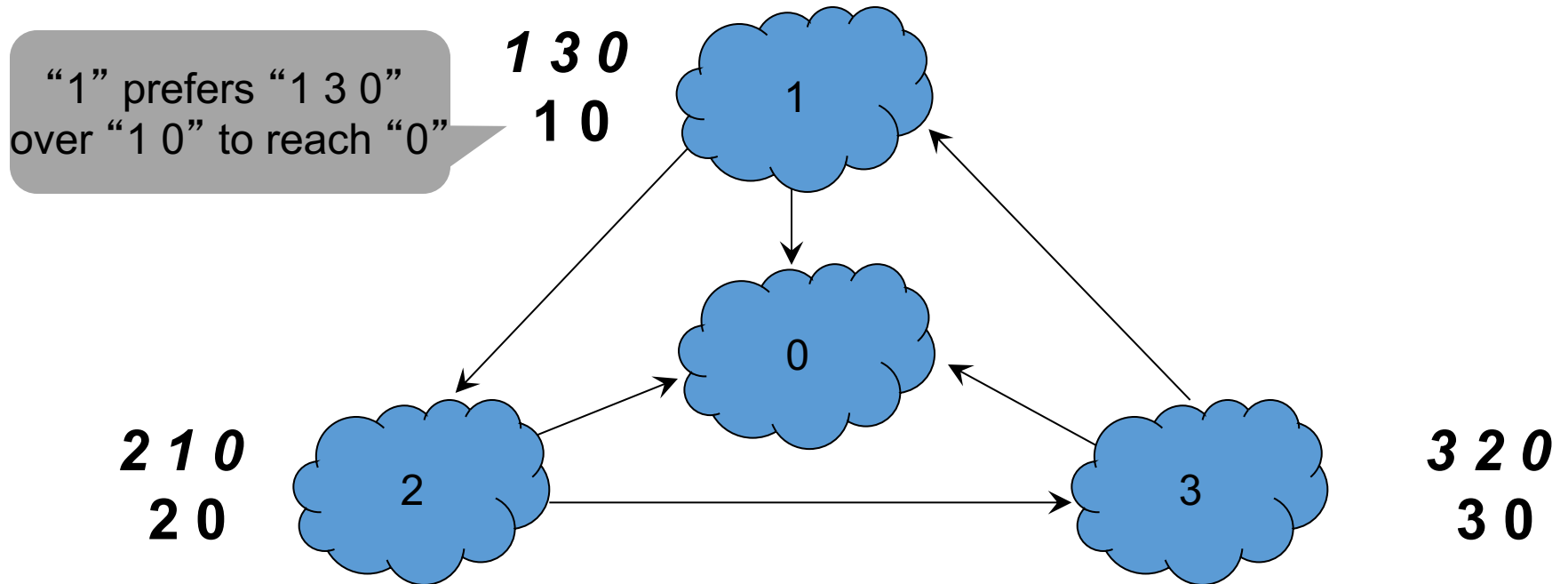
Security

- **An AS can claim to serve a prefix that they do not have a route to (blackholing)**
 - Problem not specific to policy or path vector
 - Important because of AS autonomy
 - Fixable: make ASes “prove” they have a path
- **AS may forward packets along a route different from what is advertised**
 - Tell customers about fictitious short path...
 - Much harder to fix!
 - More: <http://queue.acm.org/detail.cfm?id=2668966>

Convergence

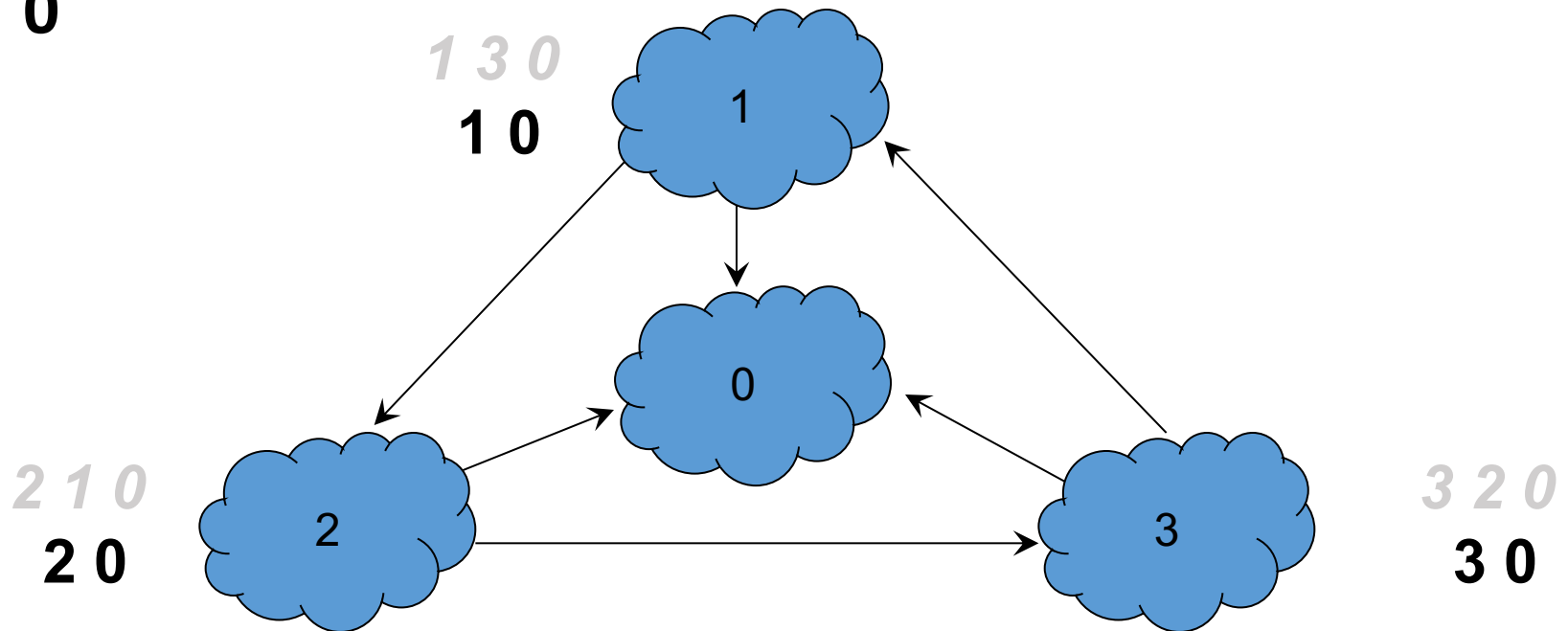
- If all AS policies follow “Gao-Rexford” rules, BGP is guaranteed to converge
 - A set of rules that decide the preferences of routes, e.g., prefer a route via a customer over a route via a provider or peer
- **For arbitrary policies, BGP may fail to converge!**

Example of policy oscillation



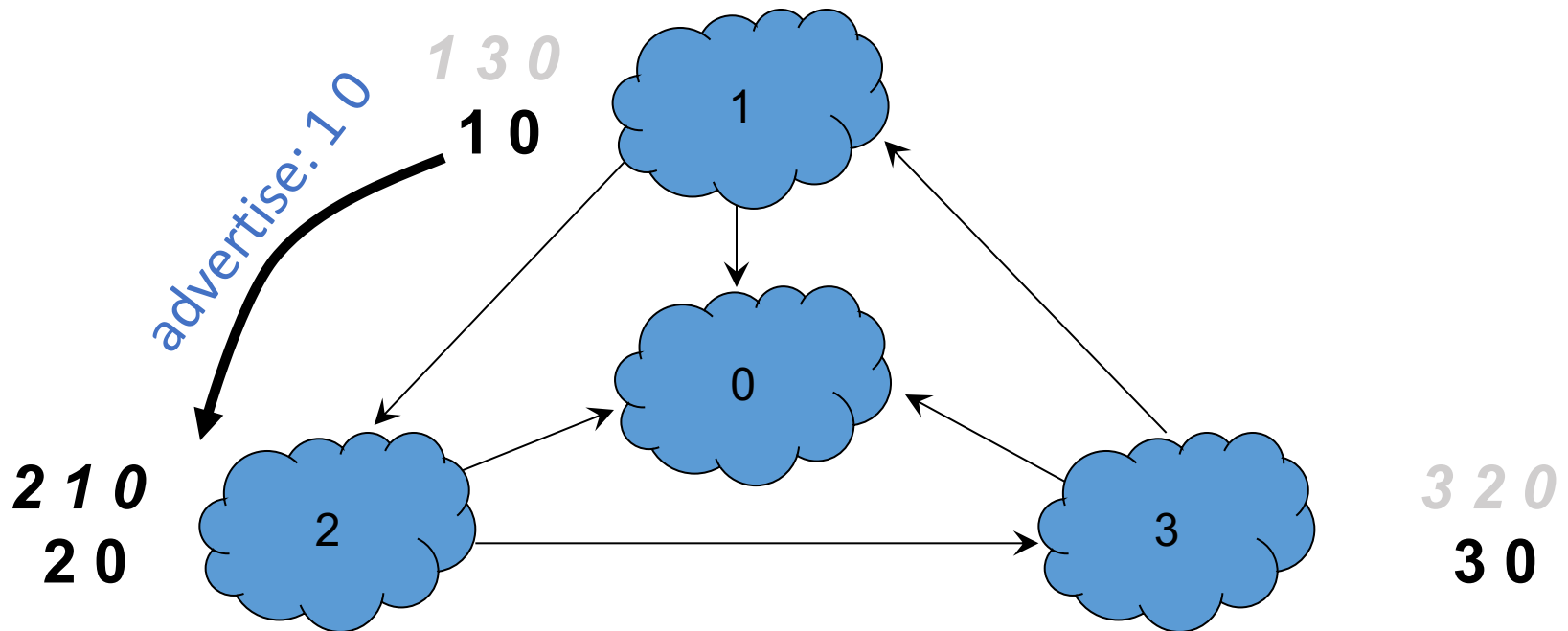
Step-by-step of policy oscillation

- Initially: nodes 1, 2, 3 know only shortest path to 0

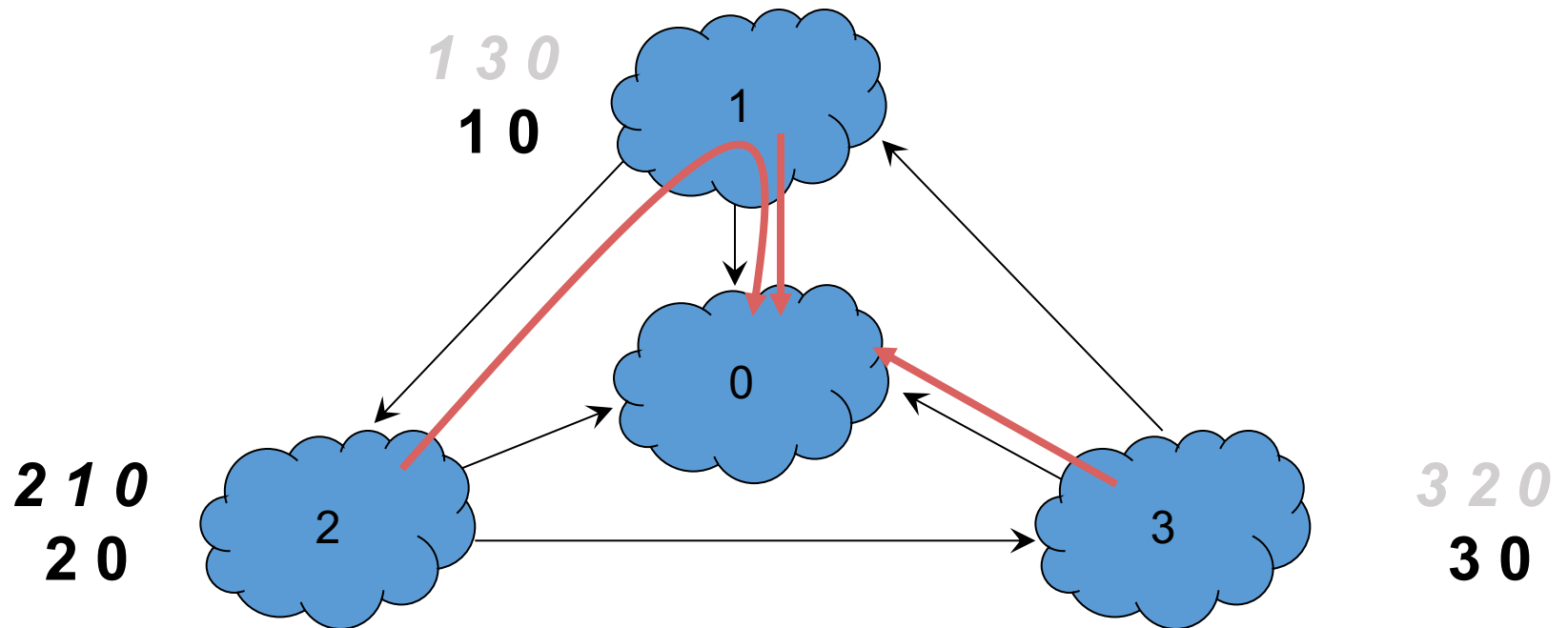


Step-by-step of policy oscillation

- 1 advertises its path 1 0 to 2

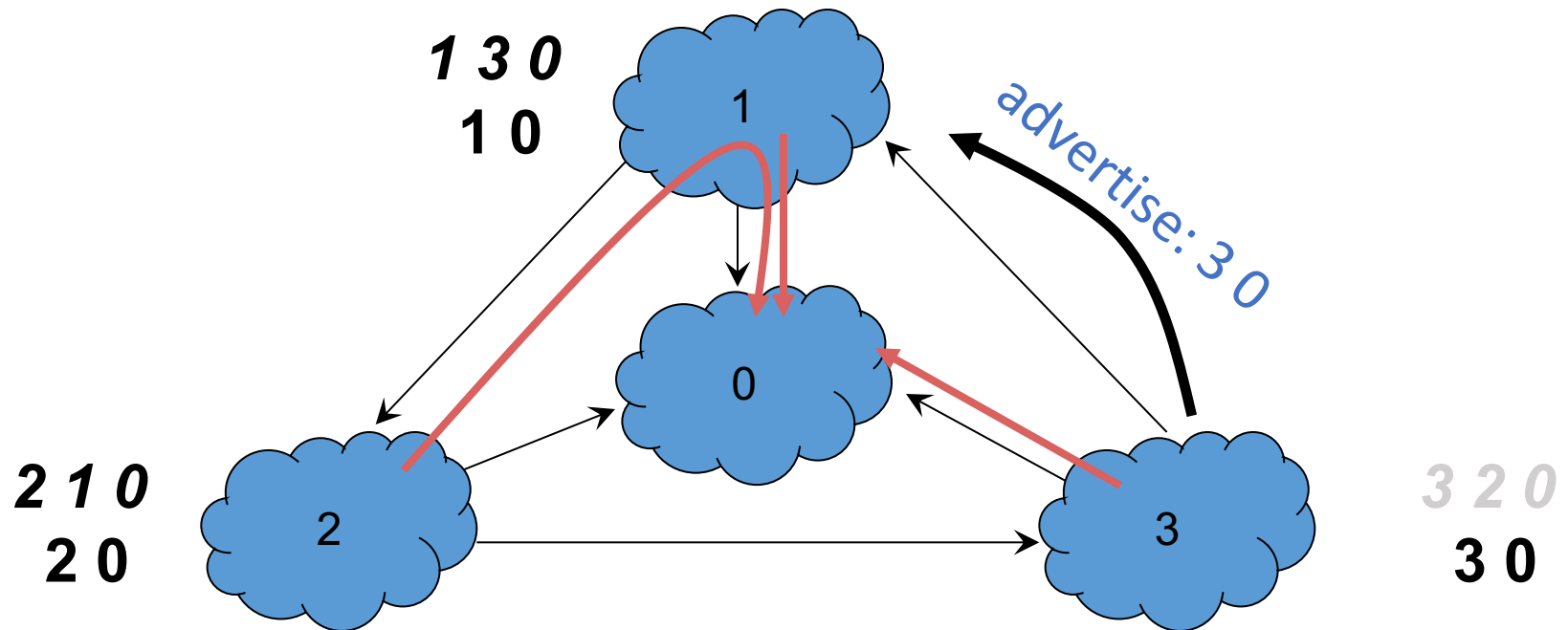


Step-by-step of policy oscillation

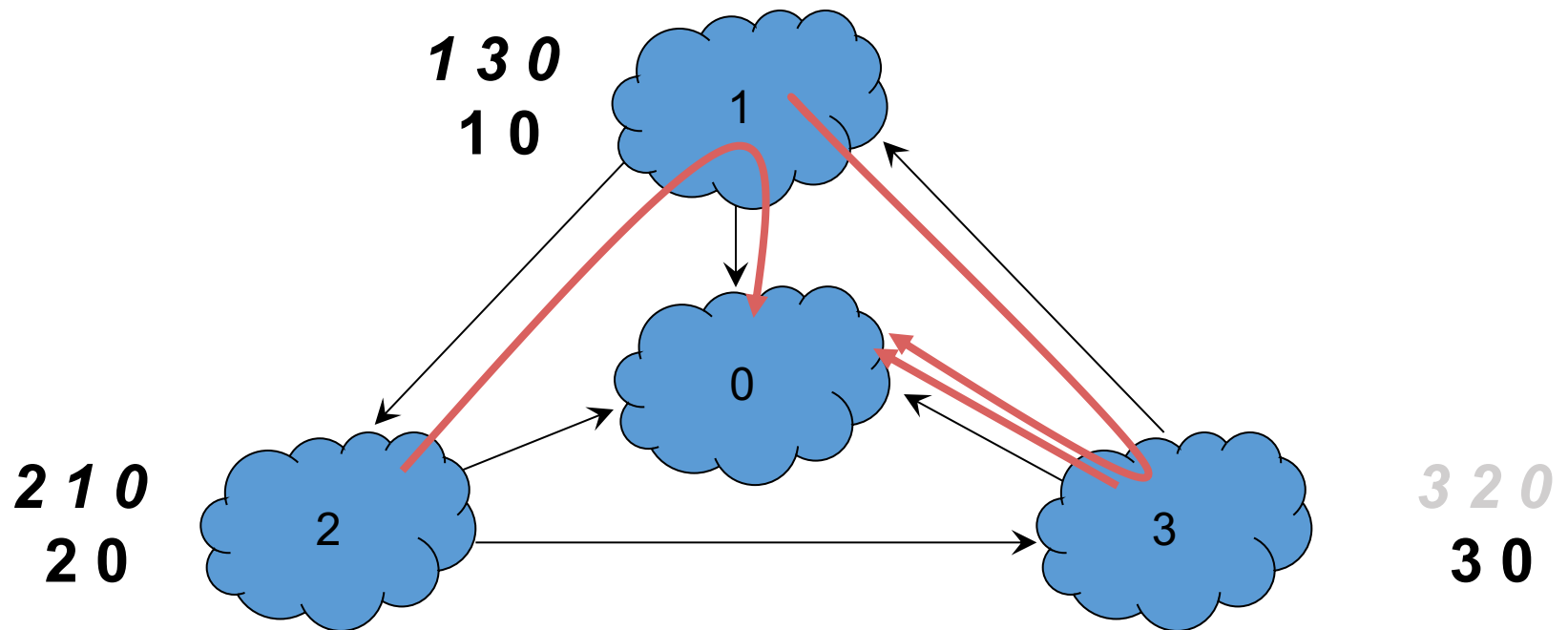


Step-by-step of policy oscillation

- 3 advertises its path 3 0 to 1

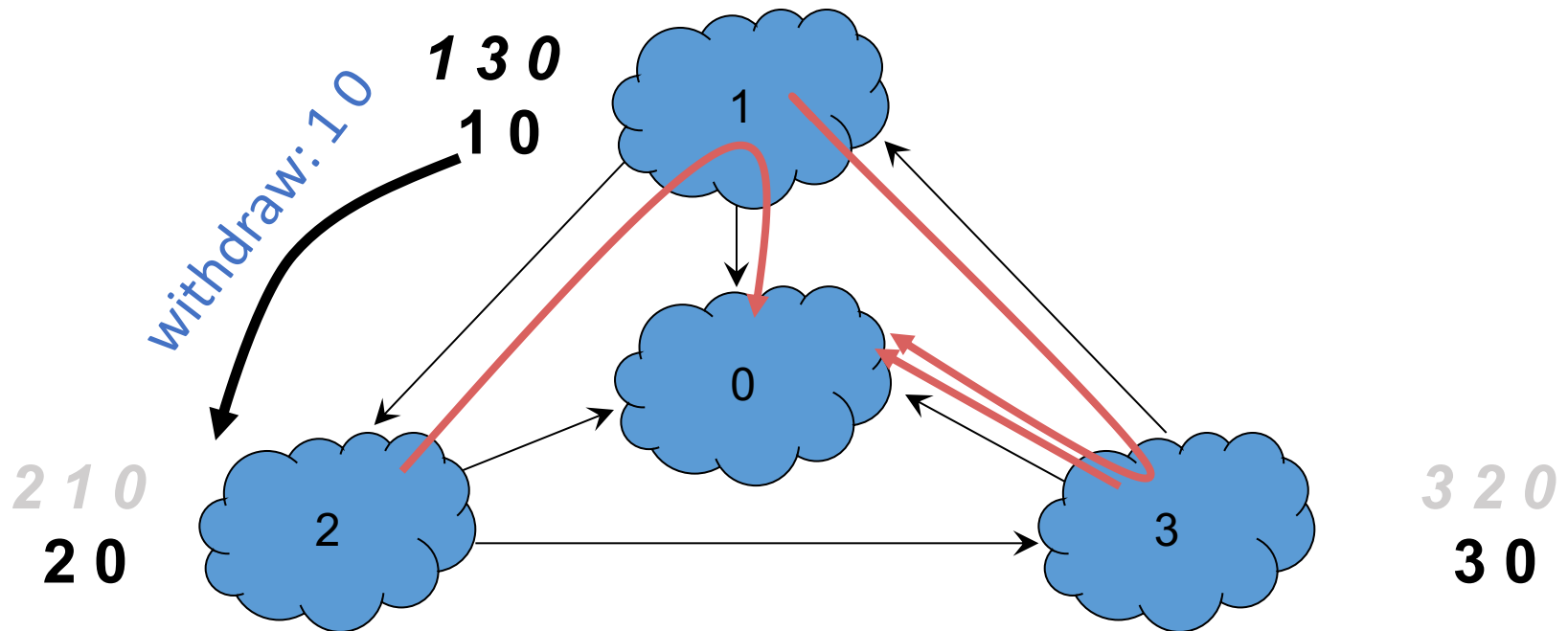


Step-by-step of policy oscillation

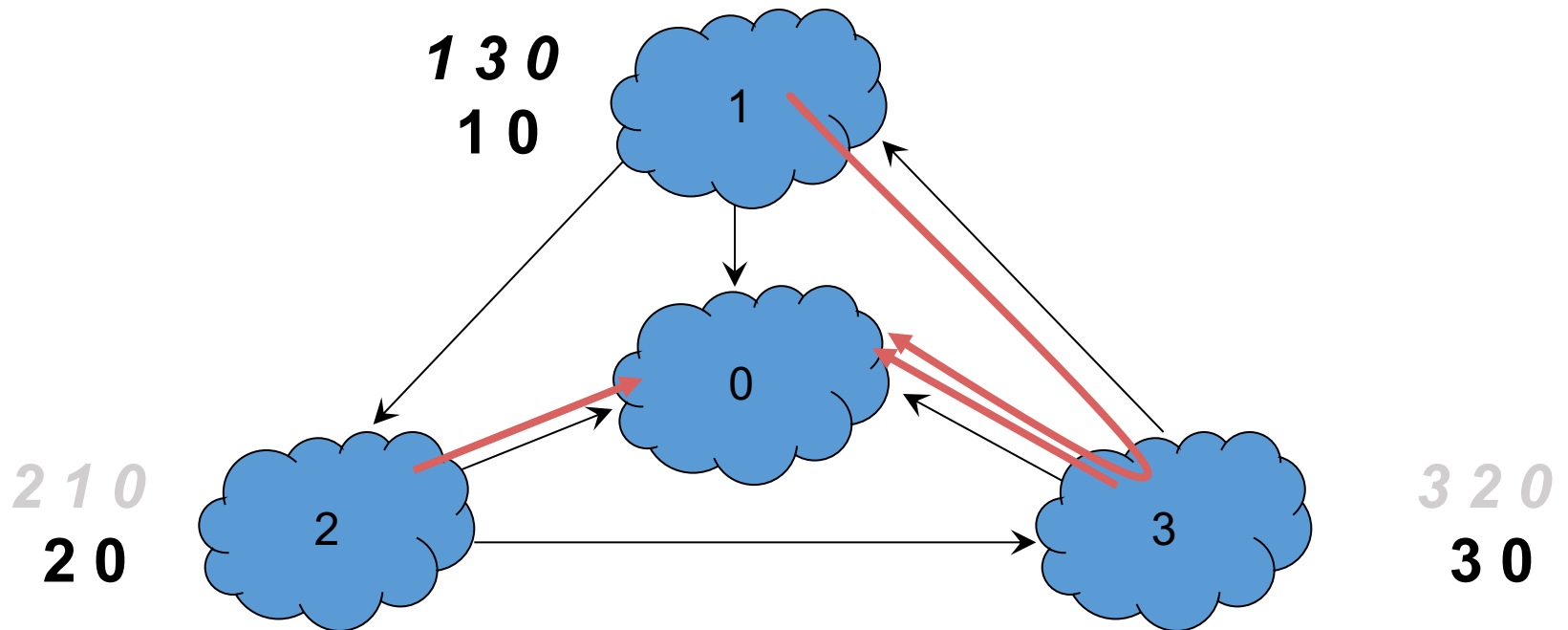


Step-by-step of policy oscillation

- 1 withdraws its path 1 0 from 2

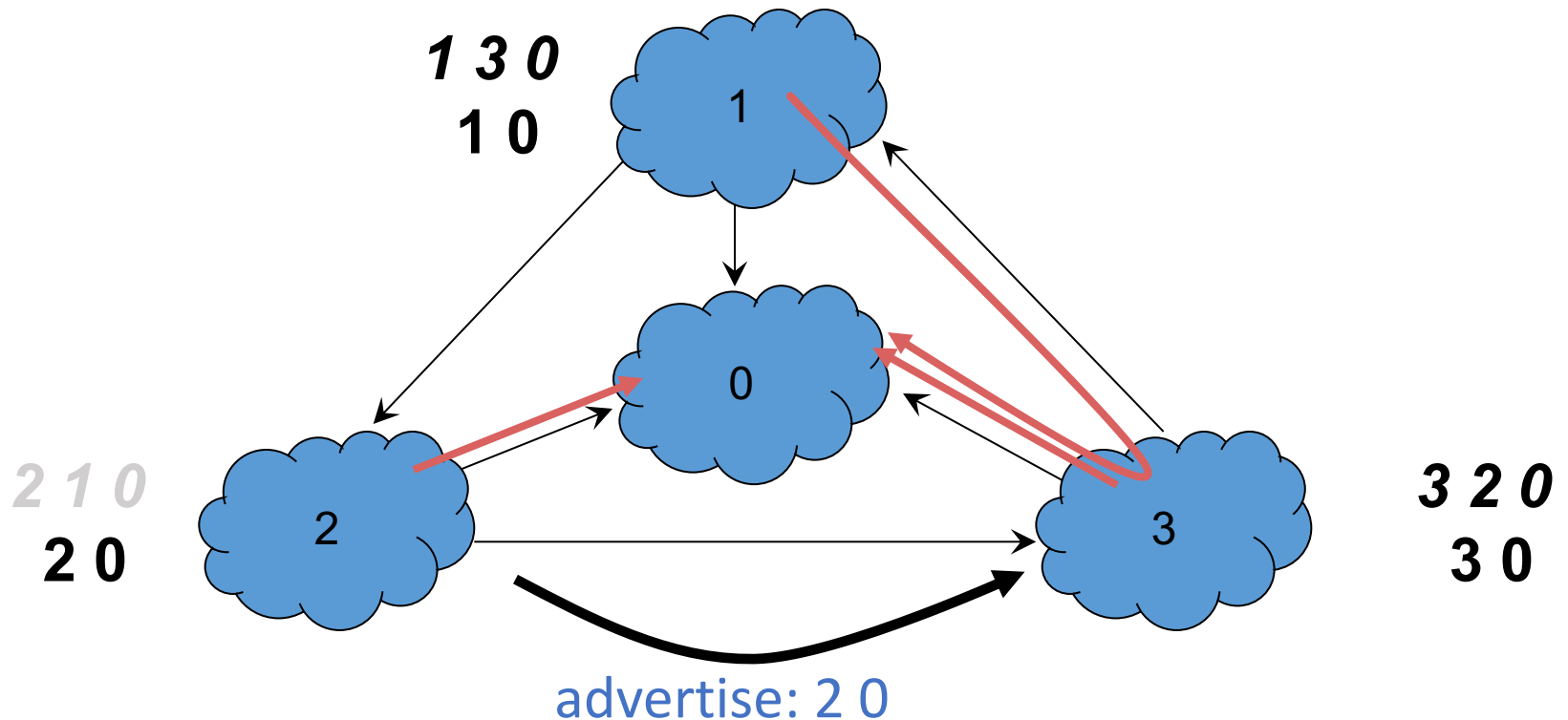


Step-by-step of policy oscillation

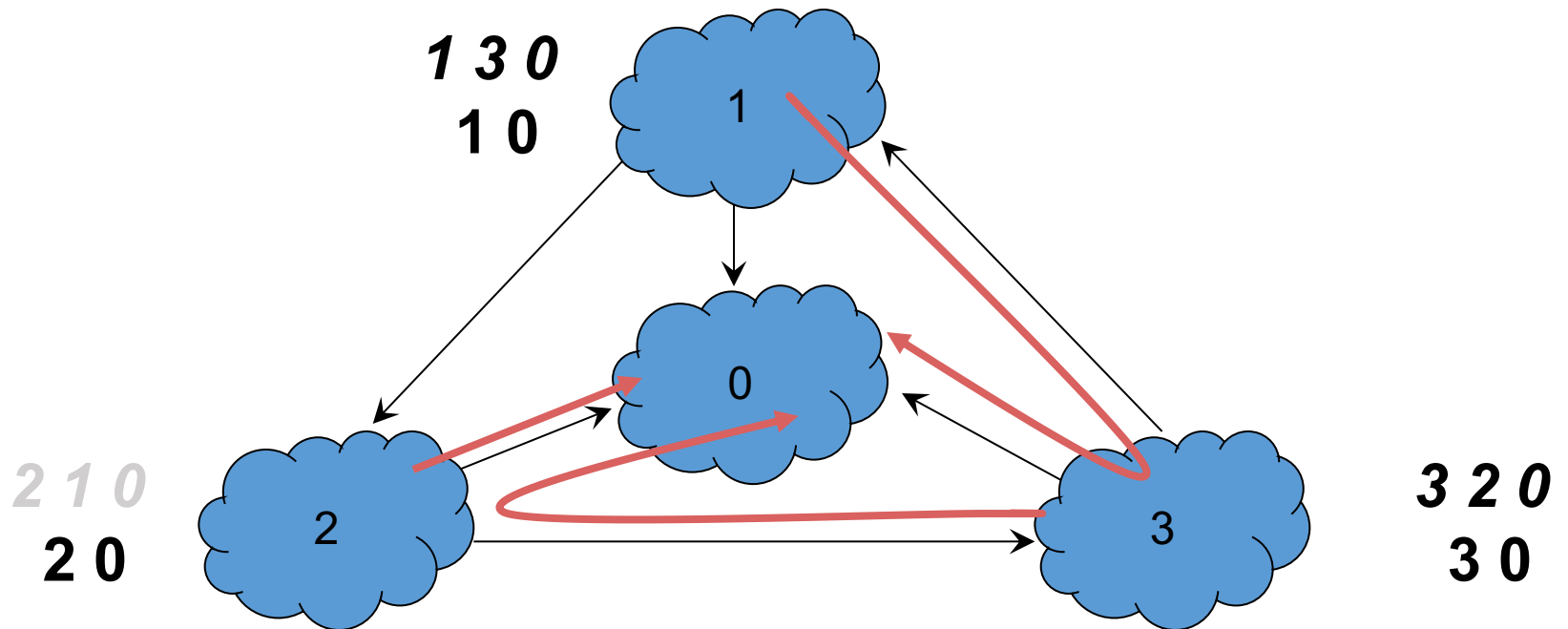


Step-by-step of policy oscillation

- 2 advertises its path 2 0 to 3

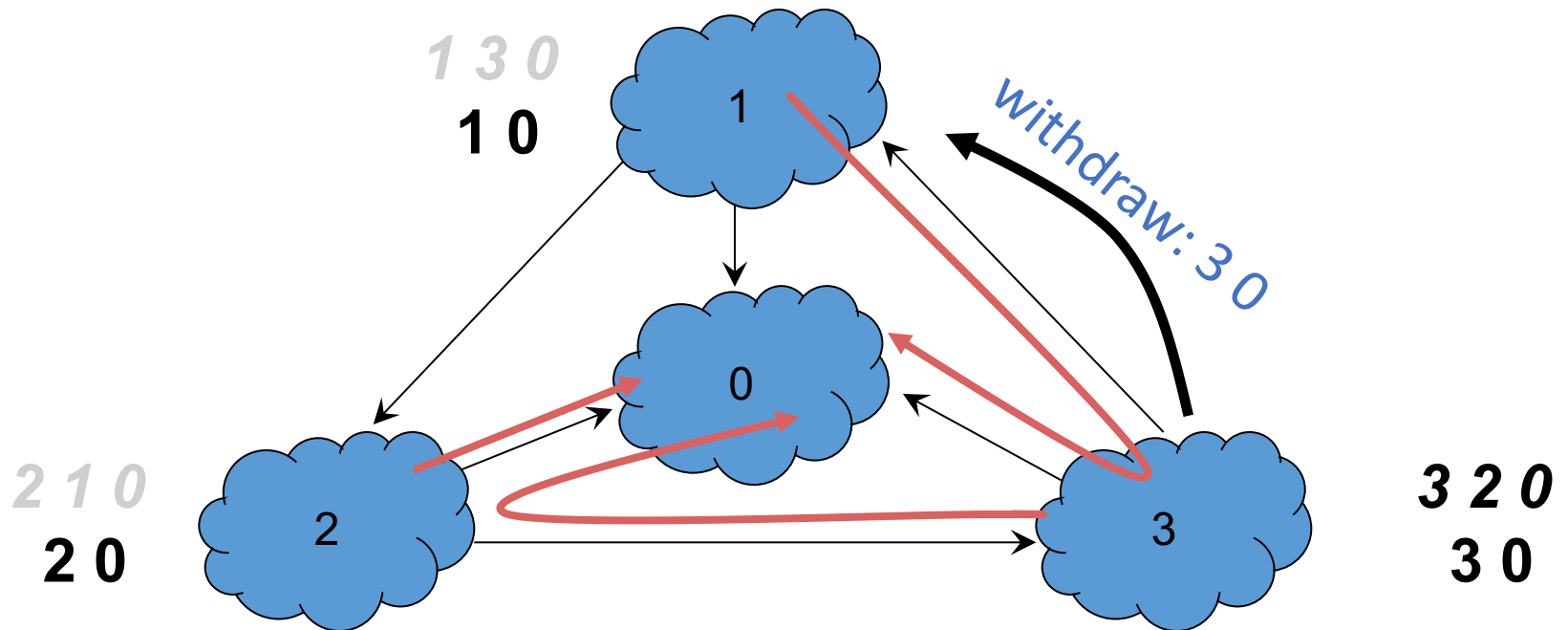


Step-by-step of policy oscillation

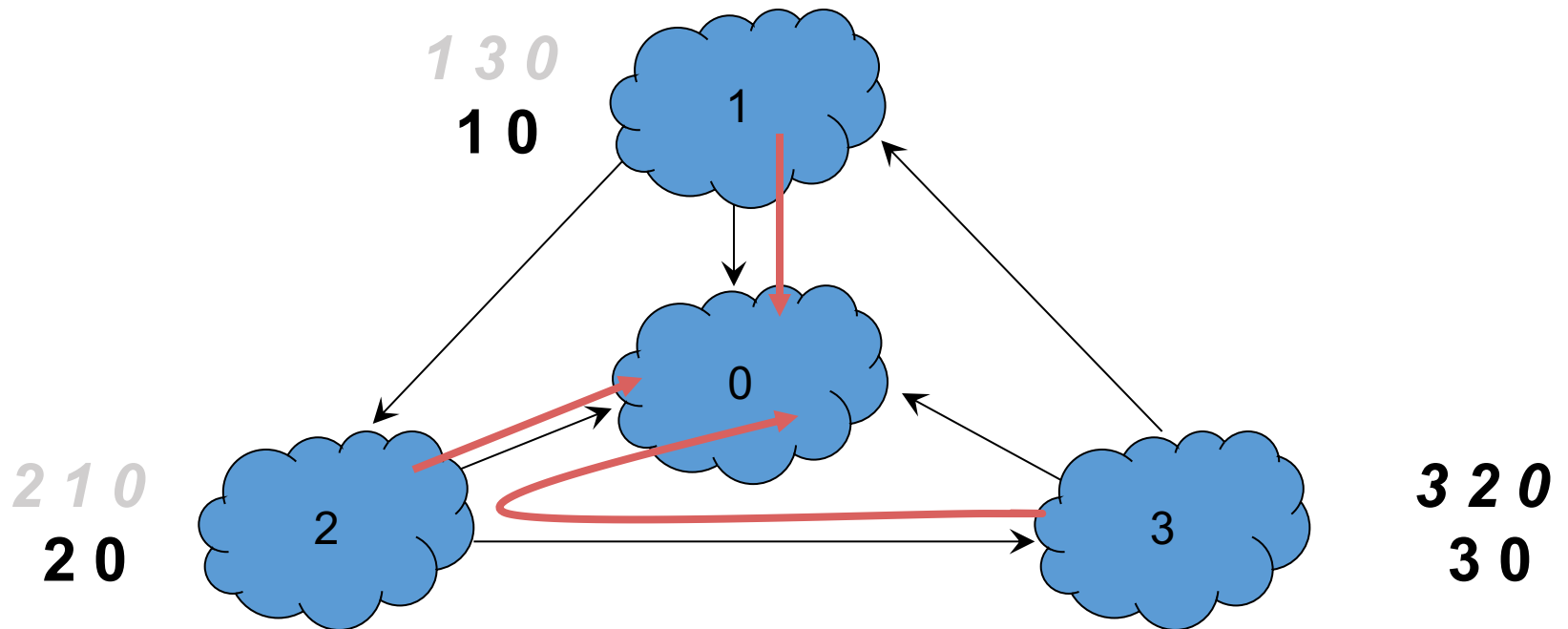


Step-by-step of policy oscillation

- 3 withdraws its path 3 0 from 1

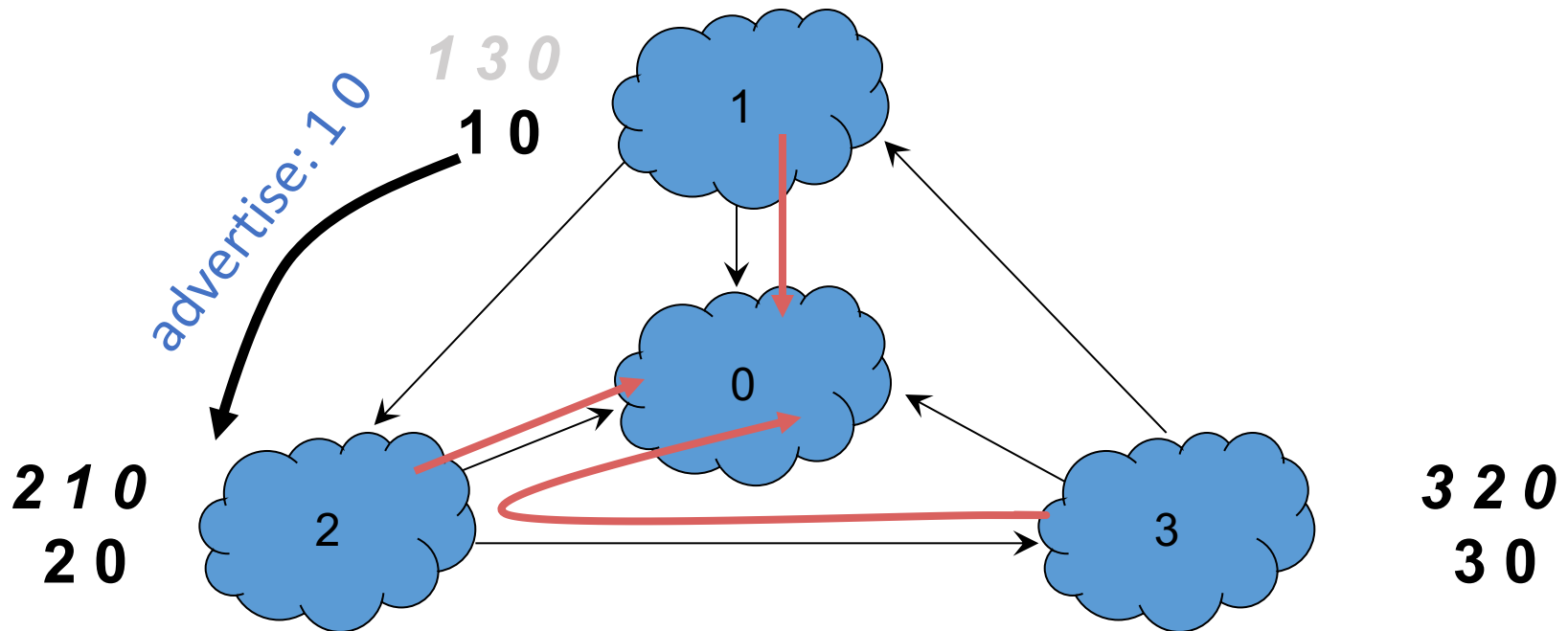


Step-by-step of policy oscillation

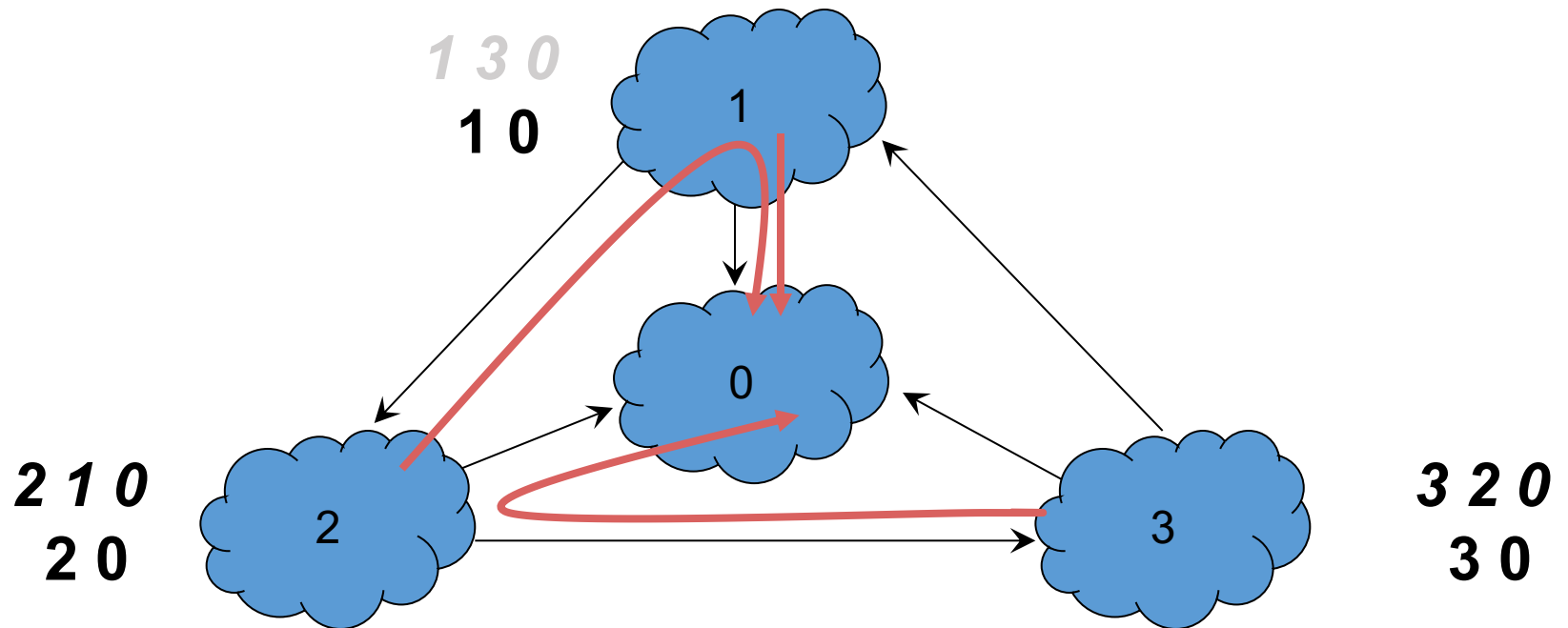


Step-by-step of policy oscillation

- 1 advertises its path 1 0 to 2

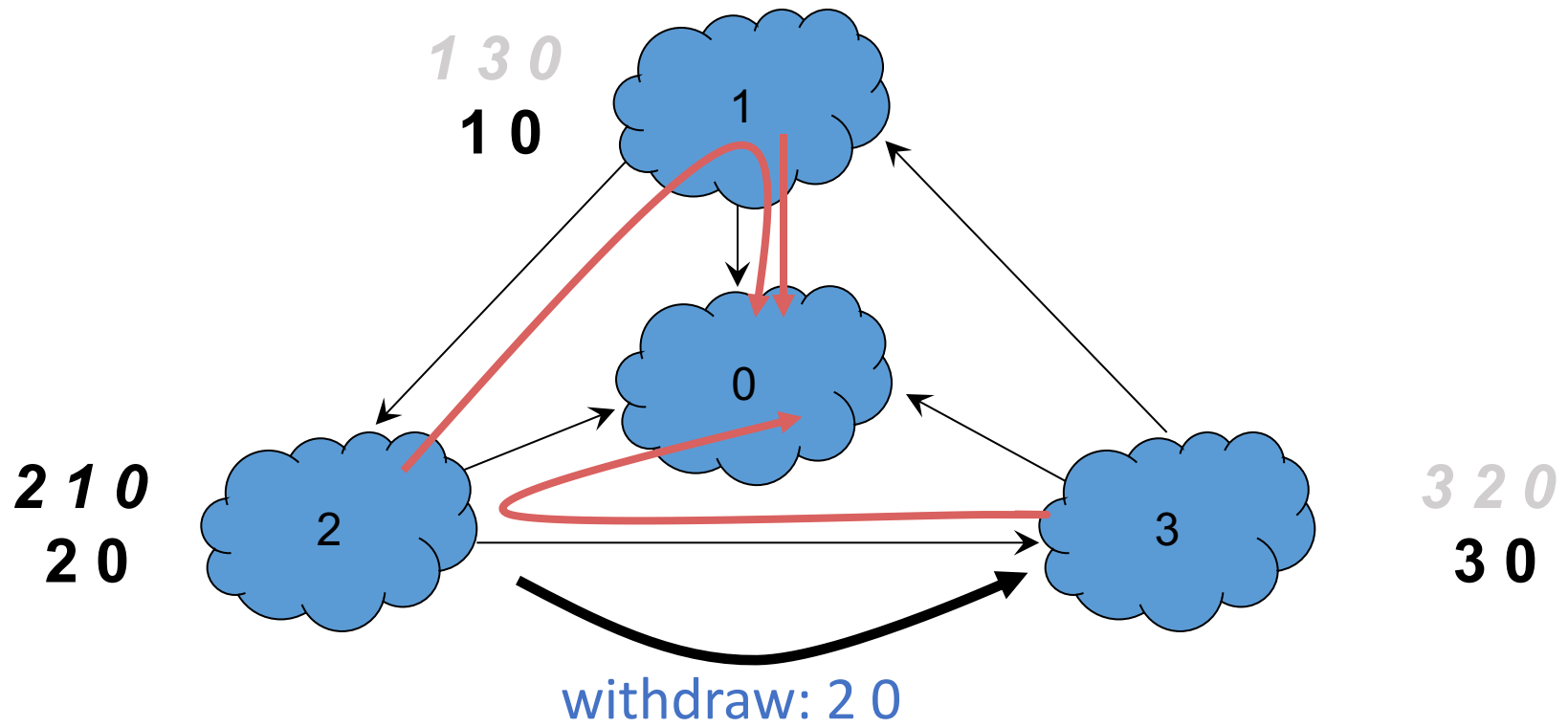


Step-by-step of policy oscillation

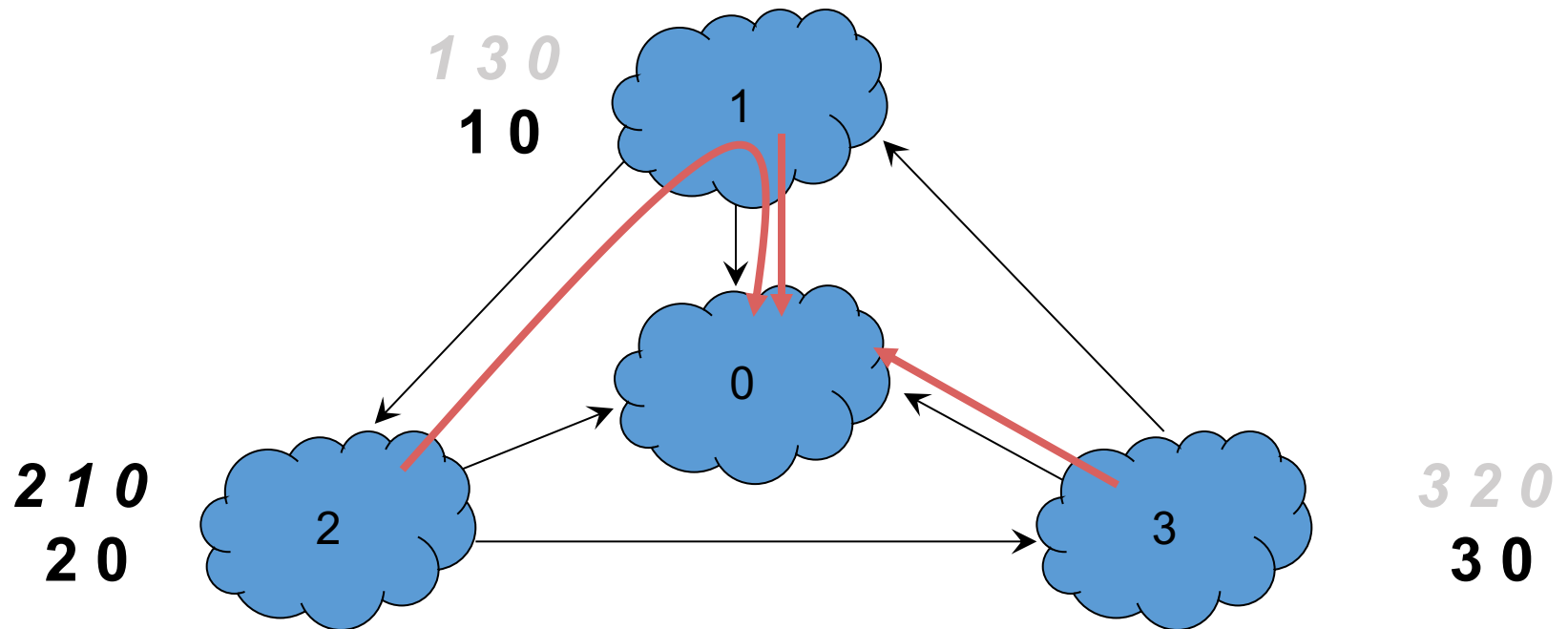


Step-by-step of policy oscillation

- 2 withdraws its path 2 0 from 3



We're back to where we started



Convergence

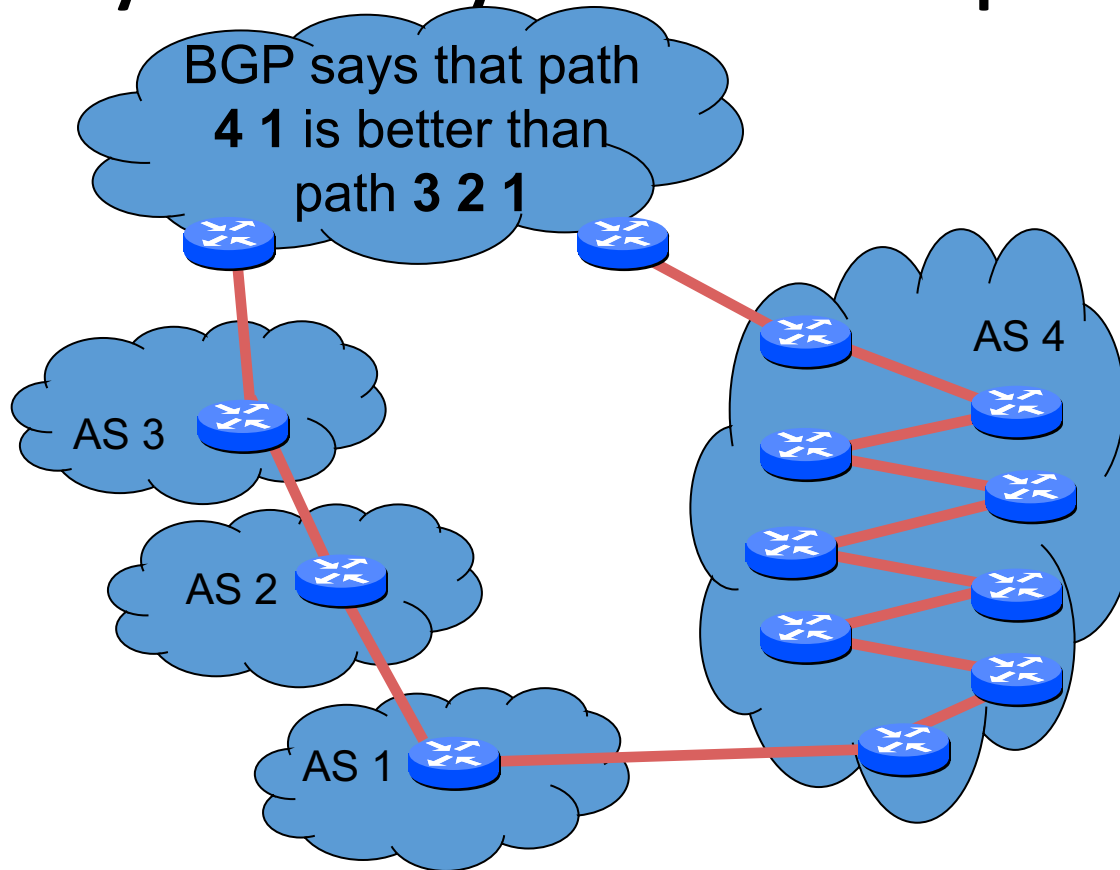
- If all AS policies follow “Gao-Rexford” rules, BGP is guaranteed to converge
- **For arbitrary policies, BGP may fail to converge!**

Performance nonissues

- **Internal routing**
 - Domains typically use “hot potato” routing
 - Not always optimal, but economically expedient
- **Policy is not always about performance**
 - Policy-driven paths aren’t the shortest
- **AS path length can be misleading**
 - 20% of paths inflated by at least 5 router hops

AS path length can be misleading

- An AS may have many router-level hops



Real performance issue: Slow convergence

- **BGP outages are biggest source of Internet problems**
- **Most popular paths are very stable**
- **Outages are still very common**
 - Check out <https://bgpstream.com/>

BGP misconfigurations

- **BGP protocol is bloated yet underspecified**
 - Lots of attributes
 - Lots of leeway in how to set and interpret attributes
 - Necessary to allow autonomy, diverse policies
 - But also gives operators plenty of rope
- **Configuration is mostly manual and ad hoc**
 - Disjoint per-router configuration to effect AS-wide policy

Group Discussion

- **Topic: GBP**

- What are the issues with BGP? Can you propose some ideas to fix them?

- **Discuss in groups, and each group chooses a leader to summarize the discussion**

- Everyone should speak.

- Turn on your audio and video. Do not mute.

Summary

- **Network layer deals with data plane (forwarding) and control plane (routing)**
- **Control plane deals with intra-domain routing (LS and DV) and inter-domain routing (BGP)**
- **Next lecture: Programmable Networks**

Thanks!
Q&A