COMP 3331/9331: Computer Networks and Applications

Week 10

Network Layer: Control Plane (Routing)

Chapter 5: Section 5.1 – 5.2

Network layer control plane

Goals: understand principles behind network control plane

- traditional interior routing algorithms

Network layer, control plane: outline

5.1 introduction

5.2 routing protocols

- link state
- distance vector

Network-layer functions

Recall: two network-layer functions:

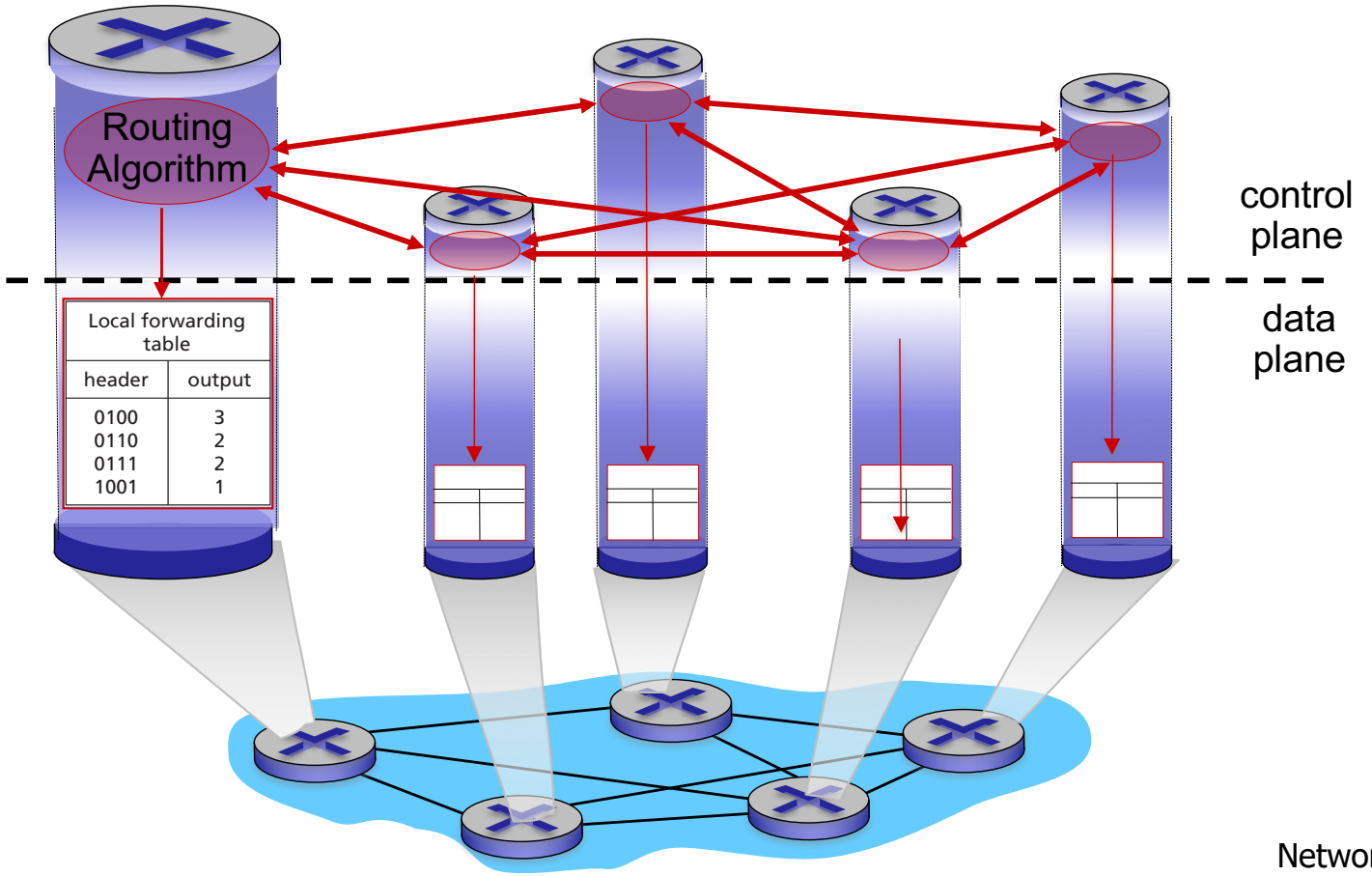
- *forwarding:* move packets from router's input to appropriate router output — *data plane*
- *routing:* determine route taken by packets from source to destination — *control plane*

Two approaches to structuring network control plane:

- per-router control (traditional)
- logically centralized control (software defined networking)

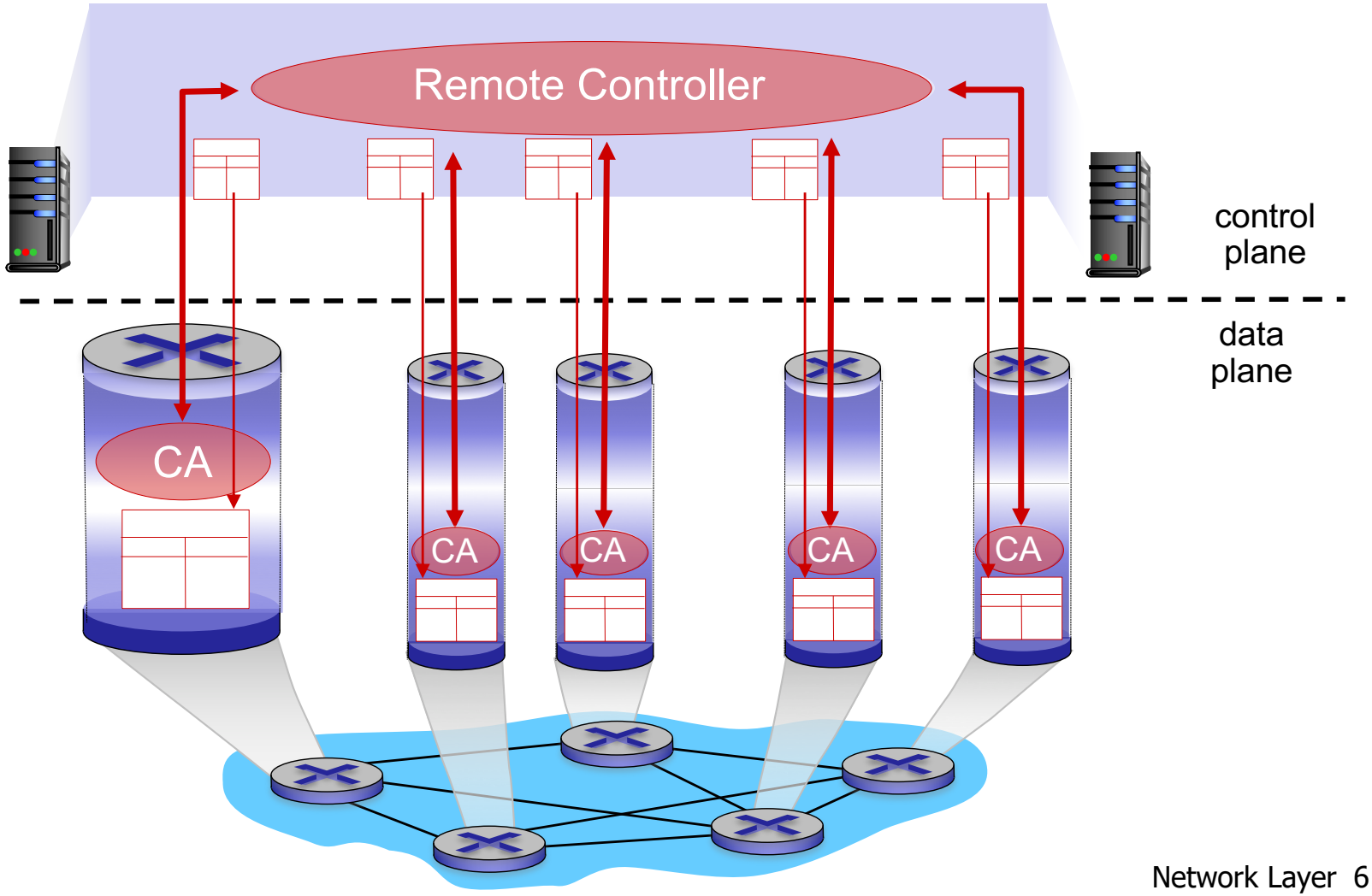
Per-router control plane

Individual routing algorithm components *in each and every router* interact with each other in control plane to compute forwarding tables



Logically centralized control plane

A distinct (typically remote) controller interacts with local control agents (CAs) in routers to compute forwarding tables



Network layer, control plane: outline

5.1 introduction

5.2 routing protocols

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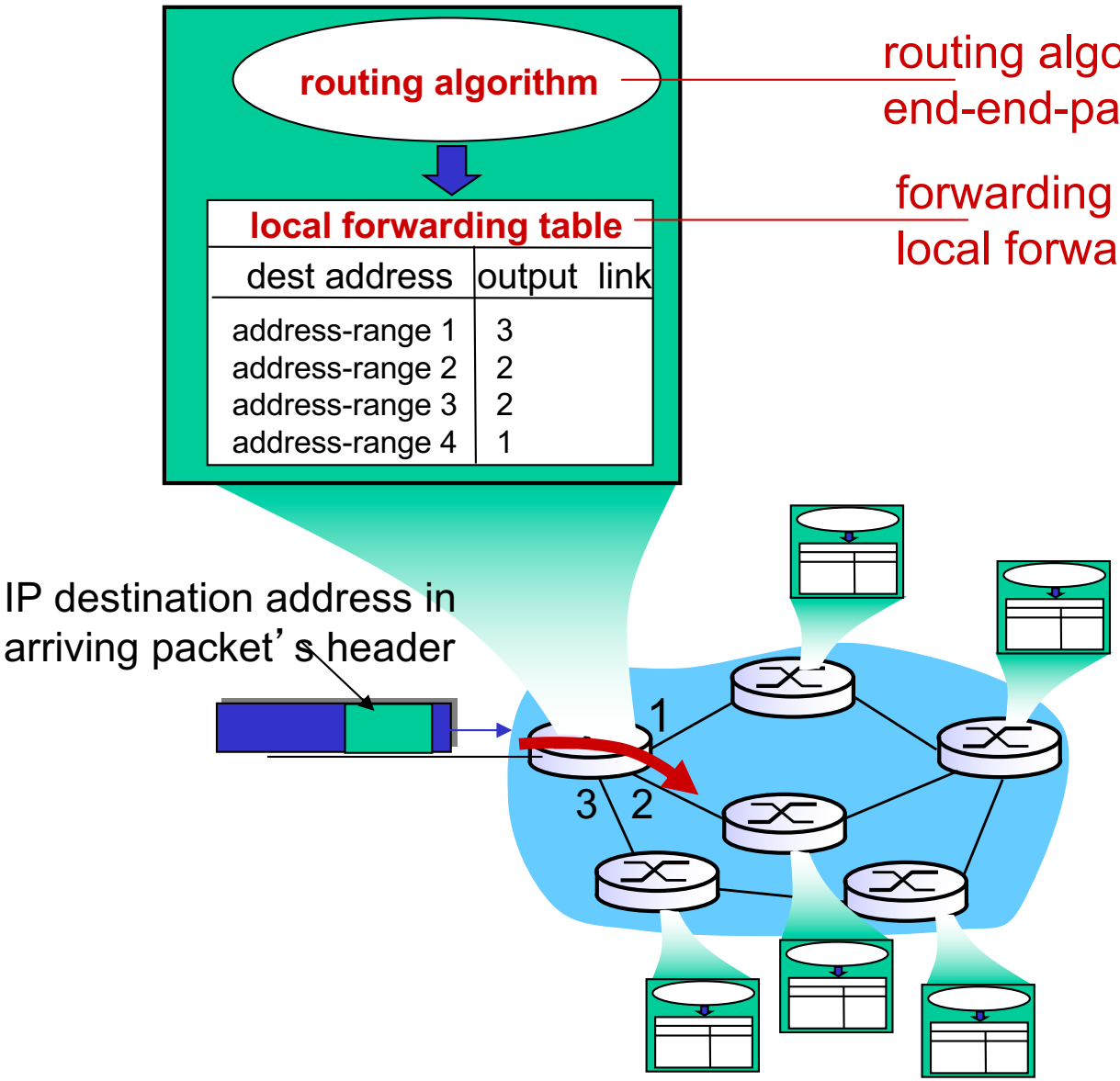
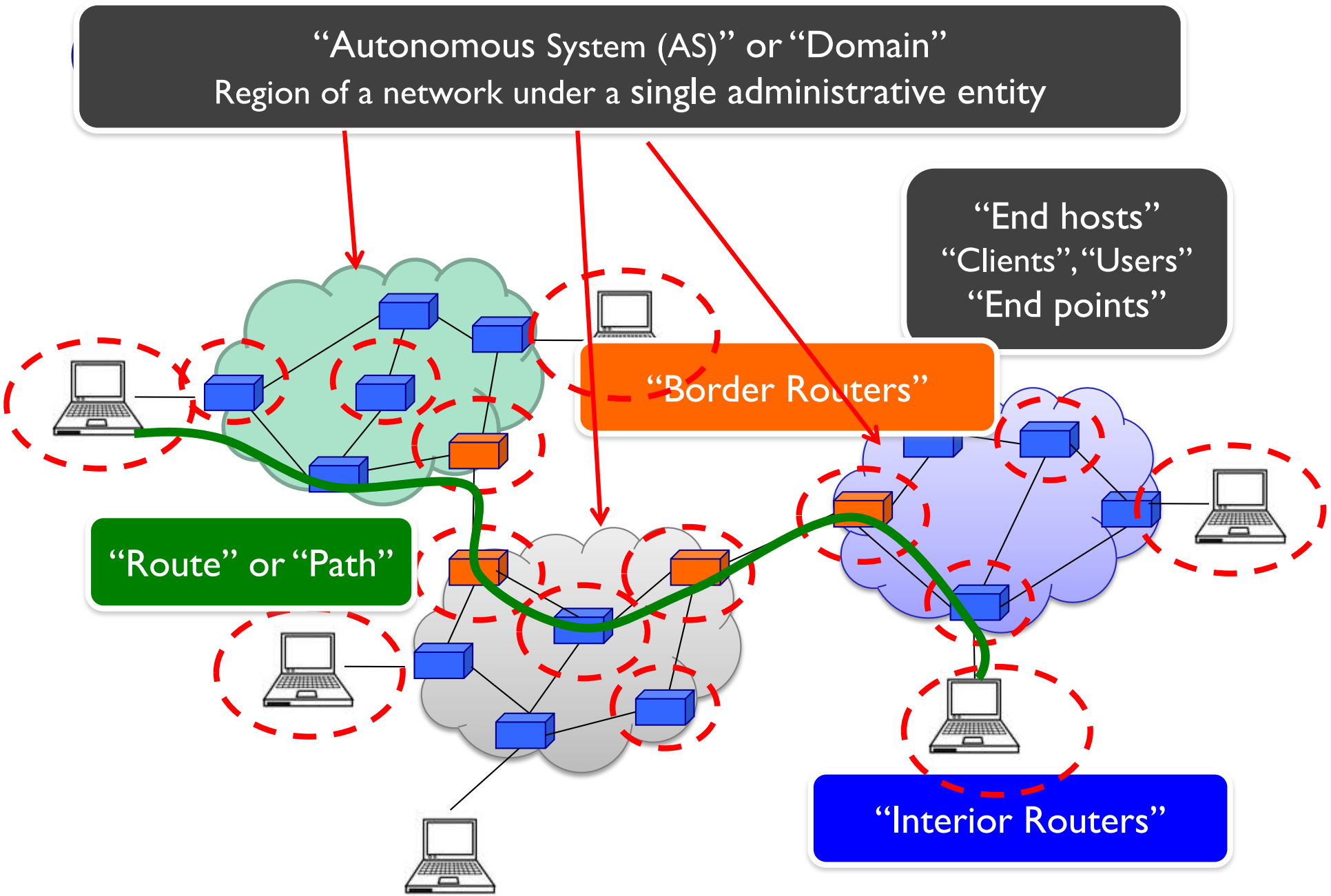
Interplay between routing, forwarding



routing algorithm determines
end-end-path through network

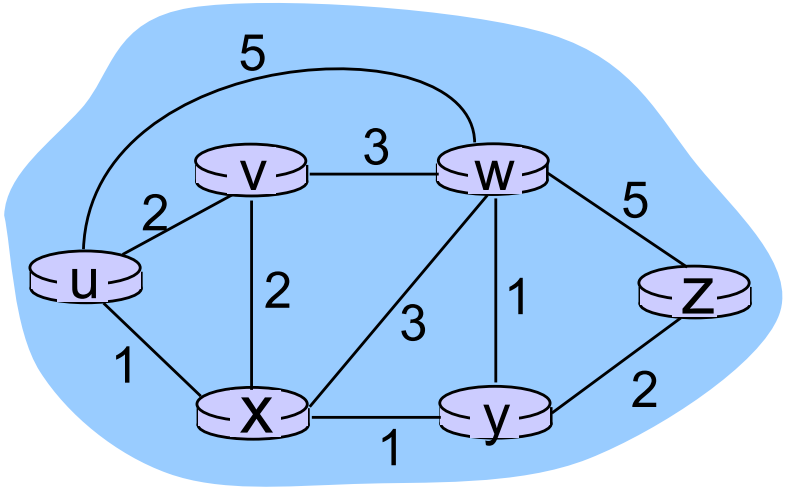
forwarding table determines
local forwarding at this router


"Autonomous System (AS)" or "Domain"
Region of a network under a single administrative entity
"End hosts"
"Clients", "Users"
"End points"
"Border Routers"
"Route" or "Path"
"Interior Routers"

Internet Routing

- Internet Routing works at two levels
- Each AS runs an intra-domain routing protocol that establishes routes within its domain [covered in this course]
  - (AS -- region of network under a single administrative entity)
  - Link State, e.g., Open Shortest Path First (OSPF)
  - Distance Vector, e.g., Routing Information Protocol (RIP)
- ASes participate in an inter-domain routing protocol that establishes routes between domains [not covered]
  - Path Vector, e.g., Border Gateway Protocol (BGP)

Graph abstraction



graph: G = (N,E)

N = set of routers = { u, v, w, x, y, z }

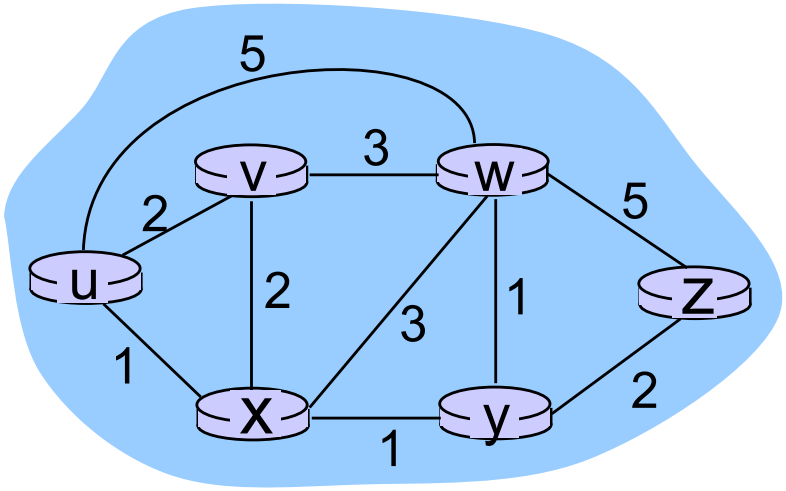
E = set of links ={ (u,v), (u,x), (v,x), (v,w), (x,w), (x,y), (w,y), (w,z), (y,z) }

aside: graph abstraction is useful in other network contexts, e.g., P2P, where *N* is set of peers and *E* is set of TCP connections

Addressing (abstraction)

- Assume each host has a unique ID (address)
- No particular structure to those IDs
- Earlier in course we talked about real IP addressing

Graph abstraction: costs



c(x,x') = cost of link (x,x')
e.g., c(w,z) = 5

cost of path $(x_1, x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_p) = c(x_1,x_2) + c(x_2,x_3) + \ldots + c(x_{p-1},x_p)$

key question: what is the least-cost path between u and z ?
routing algorithm: algorithm that finds that least cost path

Quiz: How should link costs be determined?

A: They should all be equal.

B: They should be a function of link capacity.

C: They should take current traffic characteristics into account (congestion, delay, etc.).

D: They should be manually determined by network administrators.

E: They should be determined in some other way.

Link Cost

- Typically simple: all links are equal
- Least-cost paths => shortest paths (hop count)
- Network operators add policy exceptions
  - Lower operational costs
  - Peering agreements
  - Security concerns

Routing algorithm classes

Link State (Global)

- Routers maintain cost of each link in the network
- Connectivity/cost changes flooded to all routers
- Converges quickly (less inconsistency, looping, etc.)
- Limited network sizes

Distance Vector (Decentralised)

- Routers maintain next hop & cost of each destination.
- Connectivity/cost changes iteratively propagate form neighbour to neighbour
- Requires multiple rounds to converge
- Scales to large networks

Network layer, control plane: outline

5.1 introduction

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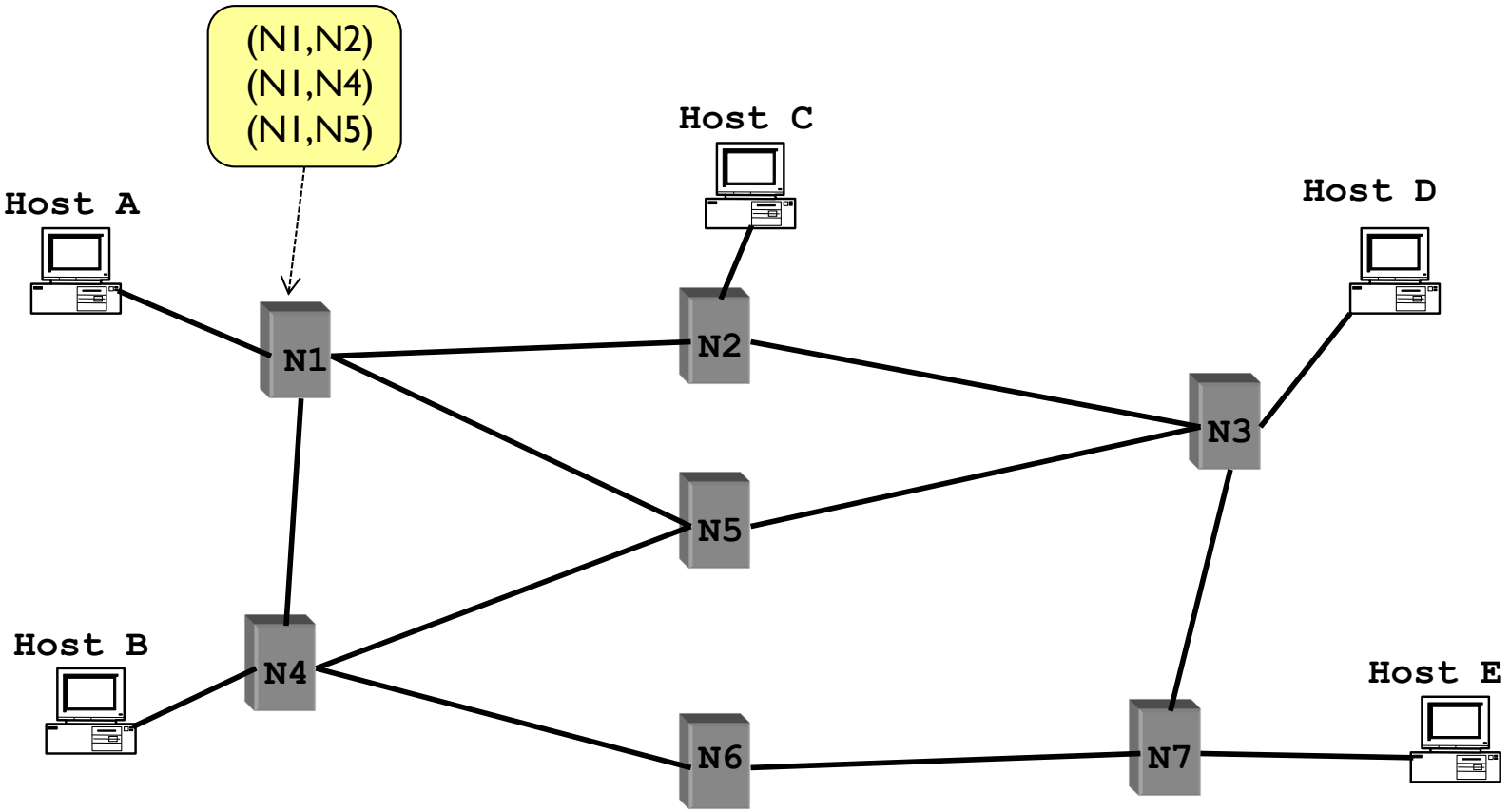
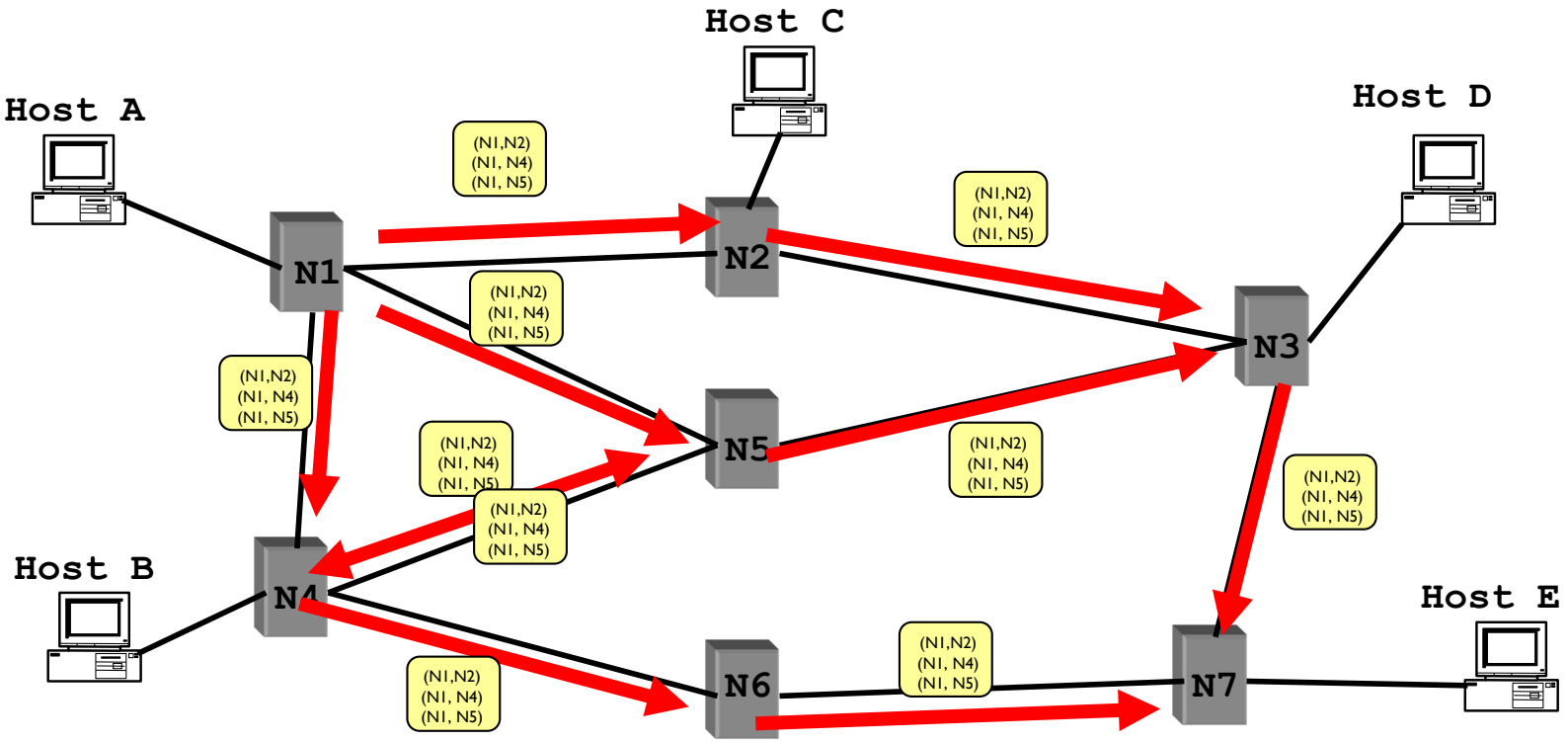
Link State Routing

- Each node maintains its local "link state" (LS)
  - i.e., a list of its directly attached links and their costs



Link State Routing

- Each node maintains its local "link state" (LS)
- Each node floods its local link state
  - on receiving a new LS message, a router forwards the message to all its neighbors other than the one it received the message from

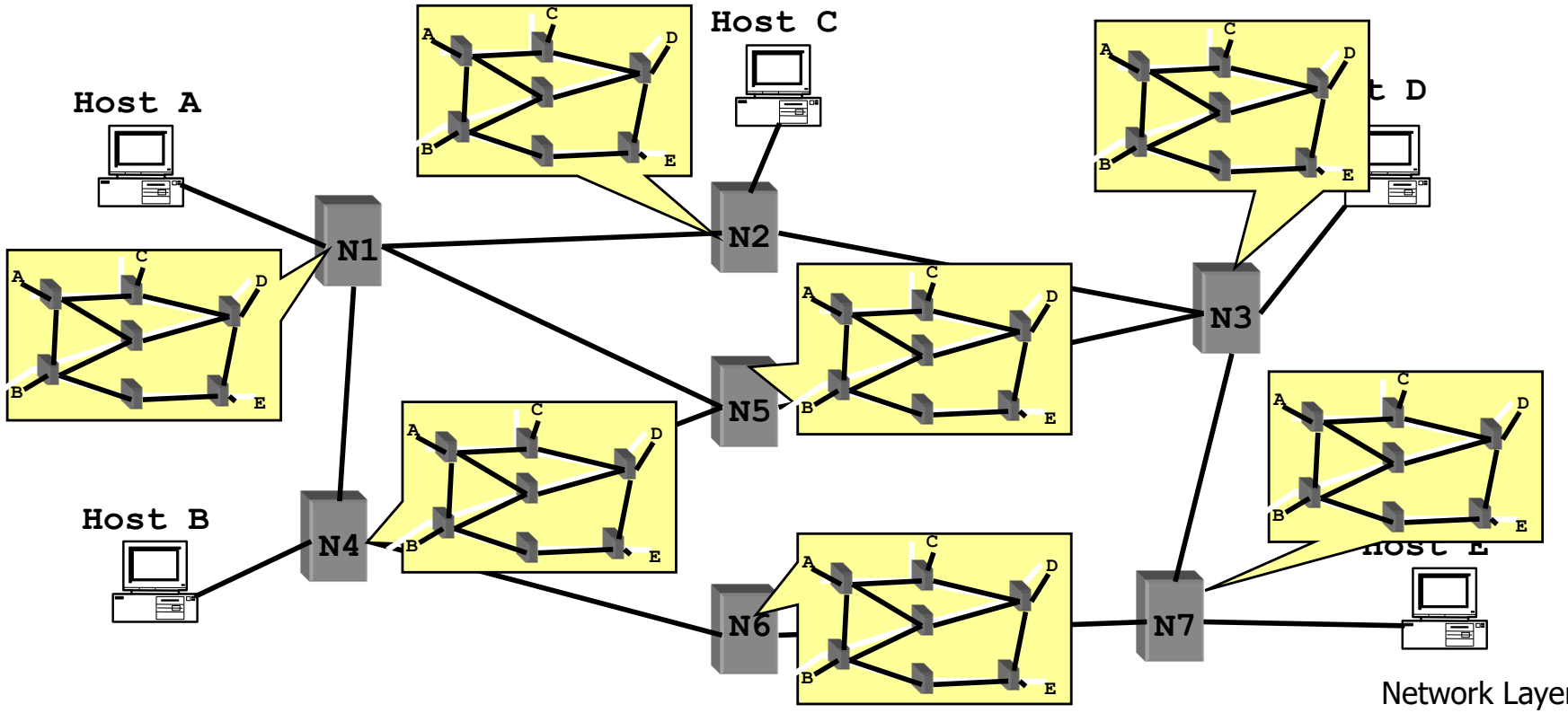


Flooding LSAs

- Routers transmit Link State Advertisement (LSA) on links
  - A neighbouring router forwards out on all links except incoming
  - Keep a copy locally; don't forward previously-seen LSAs
- Challenges
  - Packet loss
  - Out of order arrival
- Solutions
  - Acknowledgements and retransmissions
  - Sequence numbers
  - Time-to-live for each packet

Link State Routing

- Each node maintains its local “link state” (LS)
- Each node floods its local link state
- Eventually, each node learns the entire network topology
  - Can use Dijkstra’s to compute the shortest paths between nodes



A Link-State Routing Algorithm

Dijkstra's algorithm

- net topology, link costs known to all nodes
  - accomplished via "link state broadcast"
  - all nodes have same info
- computes least cost paths from one node ("source") to all other nodes
  - gives *forwarding table* for that node
- iterative: after k iterations, know least cost path to k dest.'s

notation:

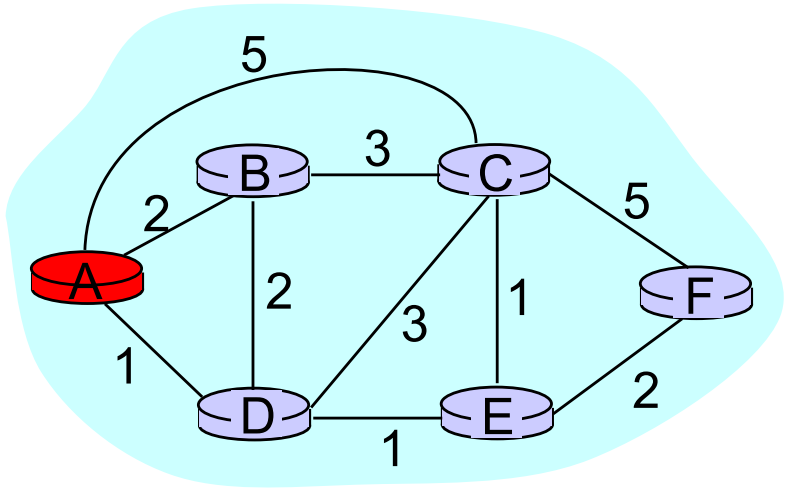
- c(x,y): link cost from node x to y; = ∞ if not direct neighbors
- D(v): current value of cost of path from source to dest. v
- p(v): predecessor node along path from source to v
- N': set of nodes whose least cost path definitively known

Dijsktra's Algorithm

```
1  Initialization:
2    N' = {u}
3    for all nodes v
4      if v adjacent to u
5          then D(v) = c(u,v)
6      else D(v) = ∞
7
8   Loop
9     find w not in N' such that D(w) is a minimum
10    add w to N'
11    update D(v) for all v adjacent to w and not in N' :
12       D(v) = min( D(v), D(w) + c(w,v) )
13    /* new cost to v is either old cost to v or known
14     shortest path cost to w plus cost from w to v */
15  until all nodes in N'
```

Example: Dijkstra's Algorithm

Step	Set N'	D(B),p(B)	D(C),p(C)	D(D),p(D)	D(E),p(E)	D(F),p(F)
0	A	2,A	5,A	1,A	∞	∞
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						




```
1  Initialization:
2    N' = {A};
3    for all nodes v
4      if v adjacent to A
5        then D(v) = c(A,v);
6        else D(v) = ∞;
…
```

Example: Dijkstra's Algorithm

Step	Set N'	D(B),p(B)	D(C),p(C)	D(D),p(D)	D(E),p(E)	D(F),p(F)
0	A	2,A	5,A	1,A	∞	∞
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2						
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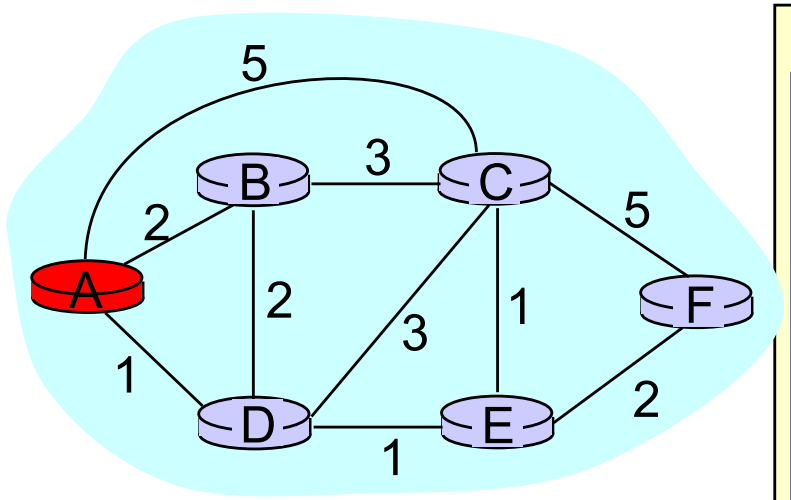


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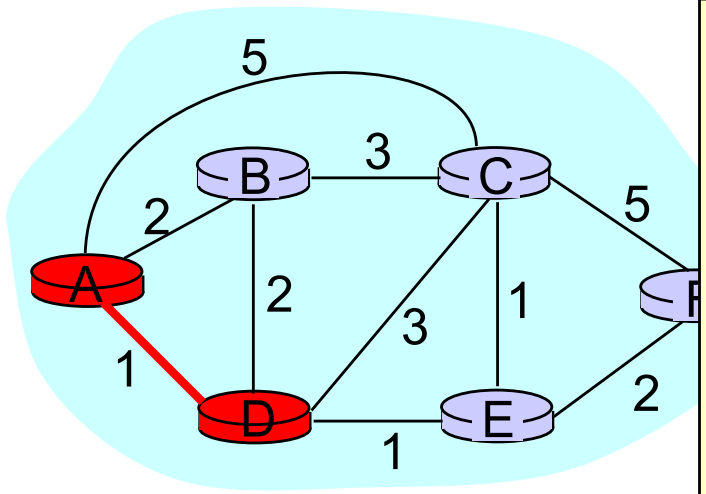
2						
3						
4						
5						

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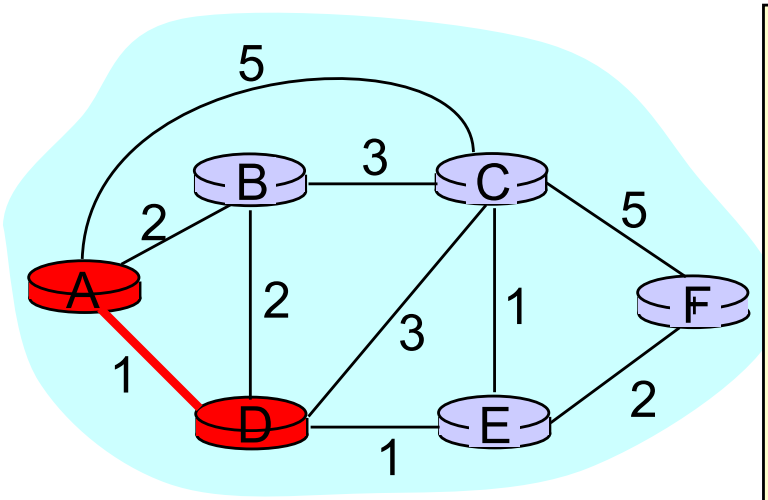


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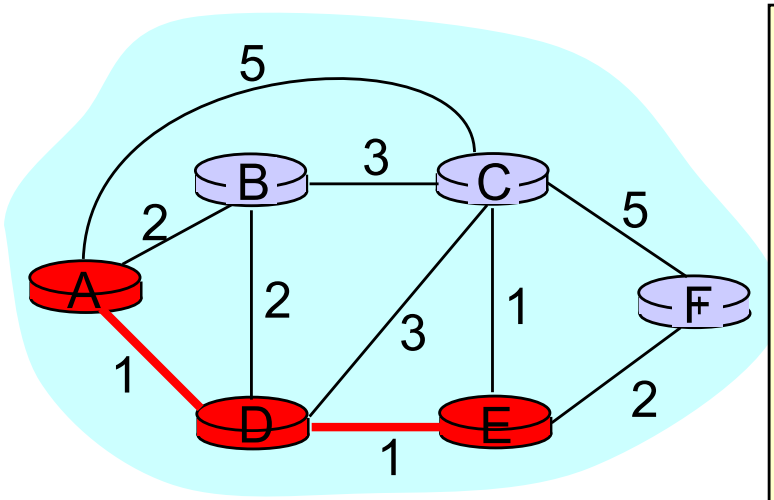
→ 2	ADE		3,E			4,E
3						
4						
5						

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2	ADE		3,E			4,E
→ 3	ADEB					
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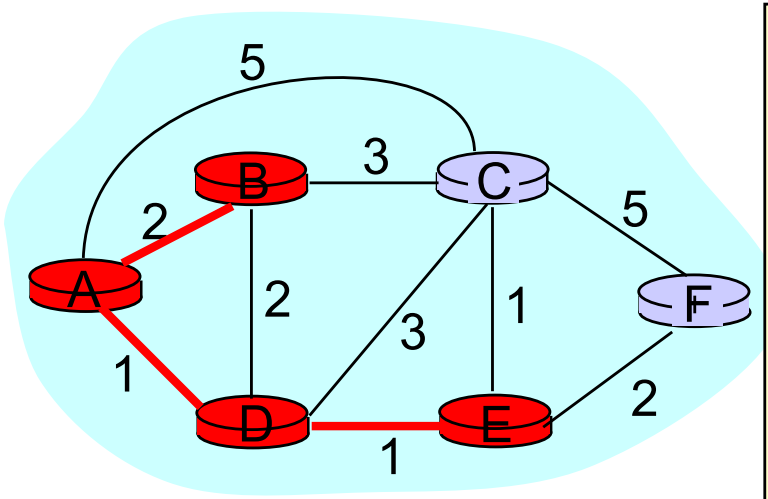
5						

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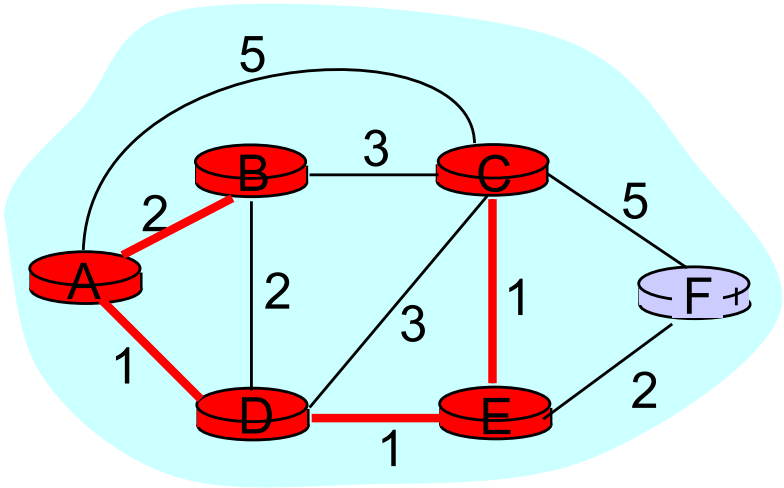
2	ADE		3,E			4,E
3	ADEB					
4	ADEBC					
5						

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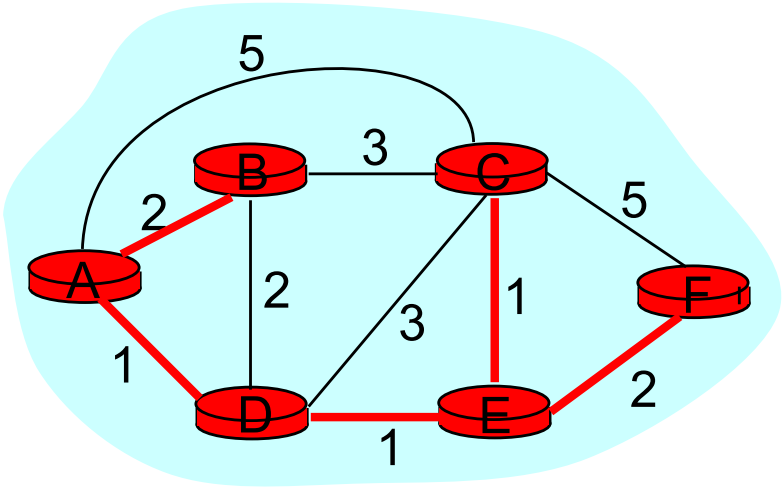
3	ADEB					
4	ADEBC					
5	ADEBCF					

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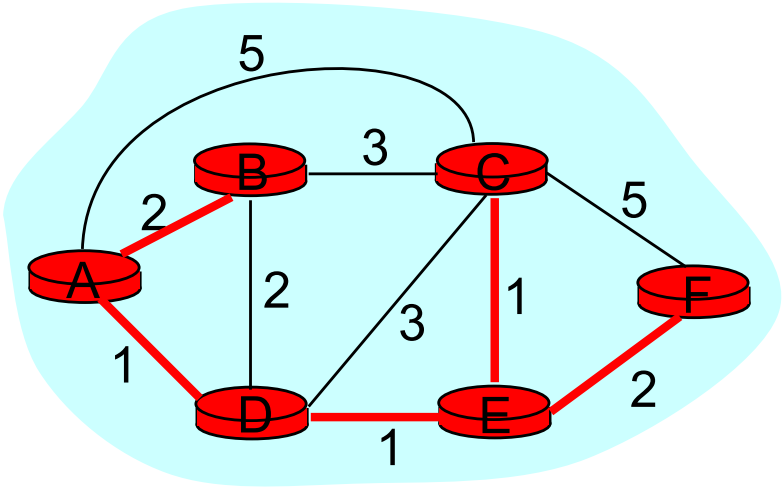
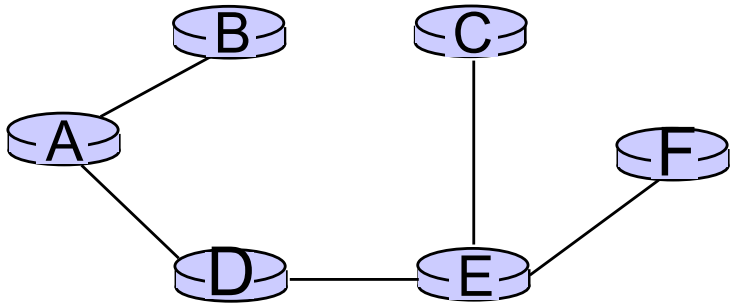


To determine path A → C (say), work backward from C via p(v)

The Forwarding Table

- Running Dijkstra at node A gives the shortest path from A to all destinations
- We then construct the *forwarding table*

resulting shortest-path tree from A:



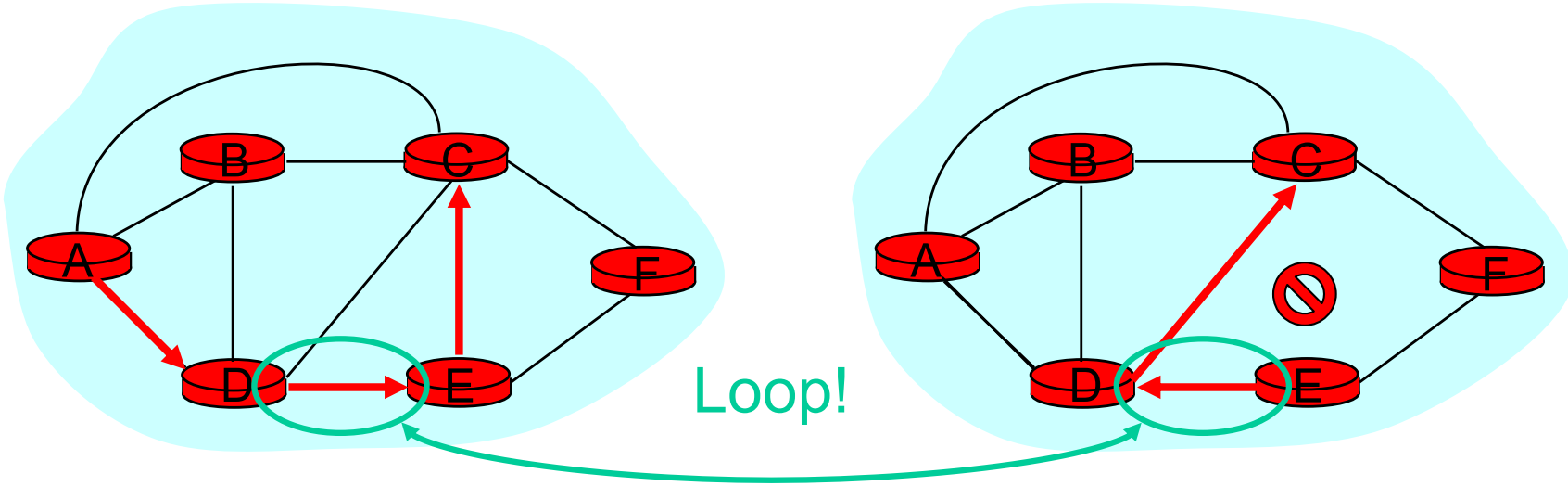
Destination	Link
B	(A,B)
C	(A,D)
D	(A,D)
E	(A,D)
F	(A,D)

Issue #1: Scalability

- How many messages needed to flood link state messages?
  - O(N x E), where N is #nodes; E is #edges in graph
- Processing complexity for Dijkstra's algorithm?
  - $O(N^2)$, because we check all nodes w not in S at each iteration and we have O(N) iterations
  - more efficient implementations: O(N log(N) +E) using min-heap
- How many entries in the LS topology database? O(E)
- How many entries in the forwarding table? O(N)

Issue#2: Transient Disruptions

- Inconsistent link-state database
  - Some routers know about failure before others
  - The shortest paths are no longer consistent
  - Can cause transient forwarding loops



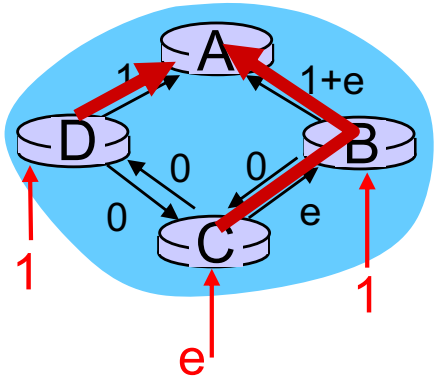
A and D think that this is the path to C

E thinks that this is the path to C

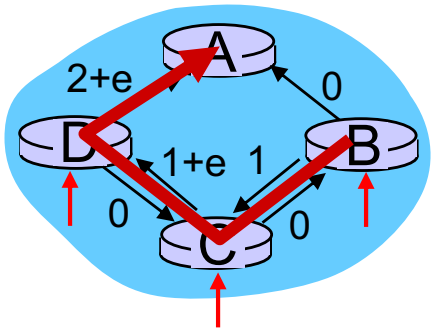
Oscillations

oscillations possible:

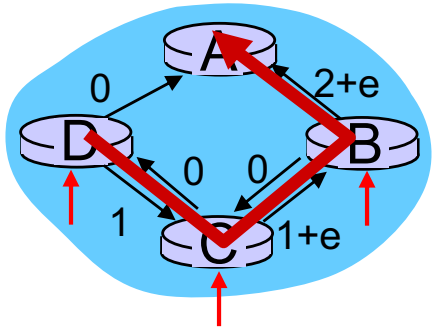
- e.g., suppose link cost equals amount of carried traffic:



initially



given these costs,
find new routing….
resulting in new costs



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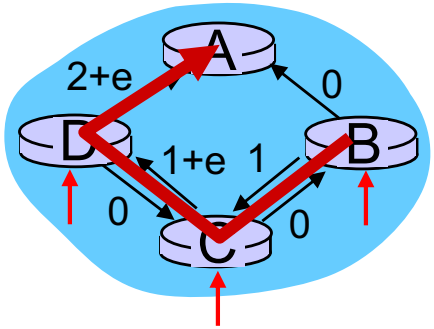

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Network layer, control plane: outline

5.1 introduction

5.2 routing protocols

- link state
- distance vector (in 2nd set of lecture notes)