

# NETMET 02/14

## traceroute

Timur Friedman  
academic year 2020-2021

# Outline

## → Basics

- Limits
- Load balancing
- The tool

Zoom poll: What is your experience with traceroute?

Google docs poll: What does traceroute measure?

Google docs poll: What does traceroute fail to measure?

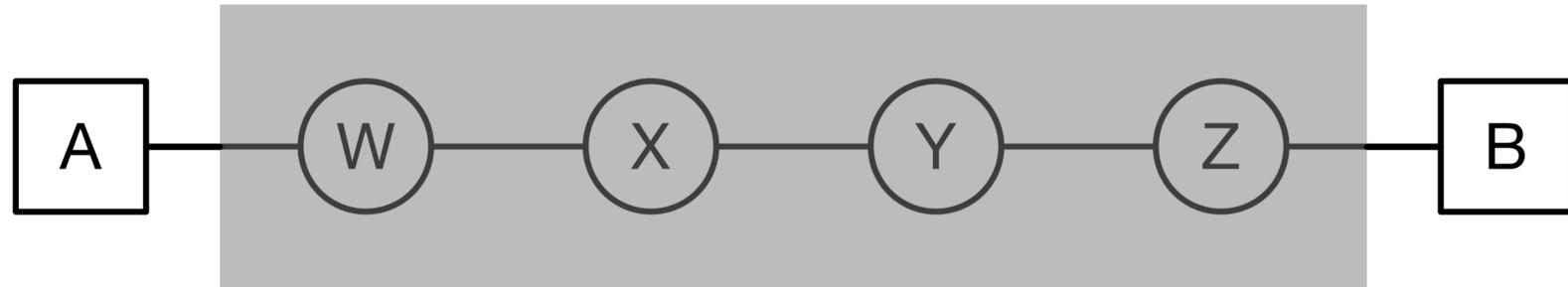
Google docs poll: Who created traceroute and in what year?

A

A

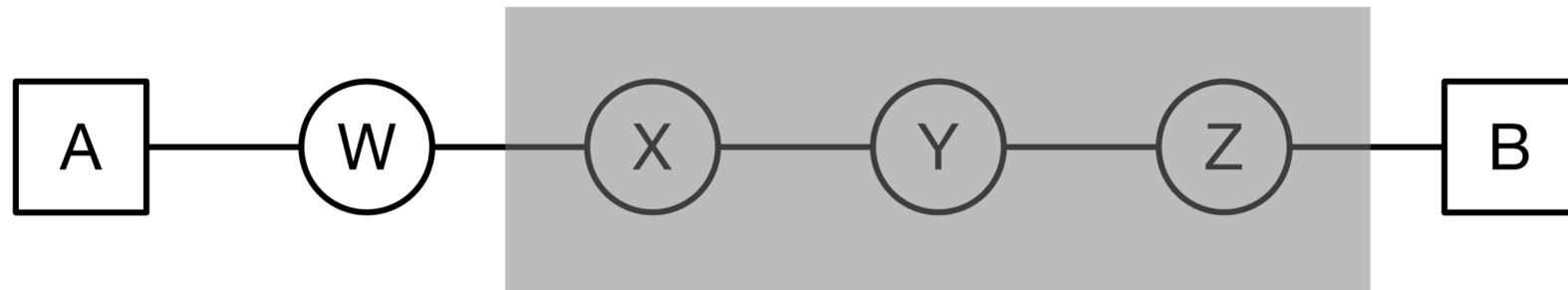
B





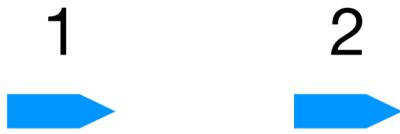
Google Doc poll: Which IP header field is key to how traceroute works?

1  
→

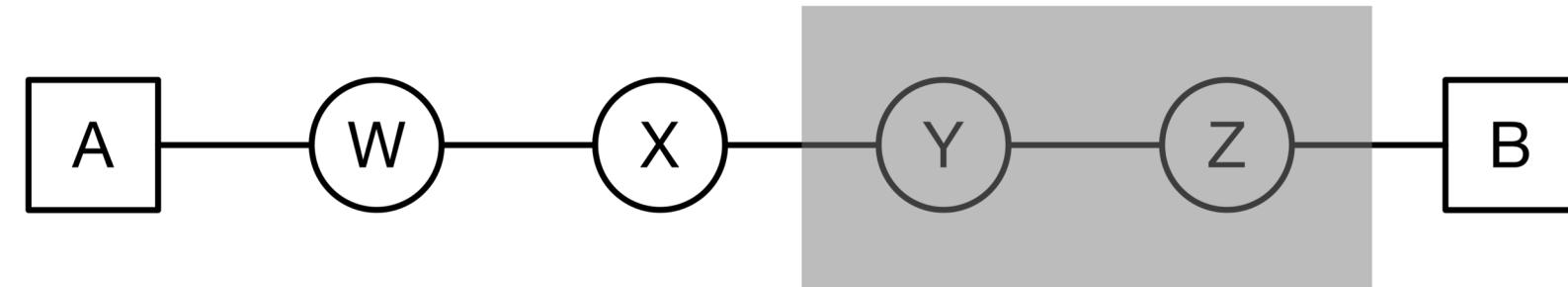


Google Doc poll: What transport layer is used for the probe packets?  
Google Doc poll: What type of message does router W send back to traceroute?

1            2



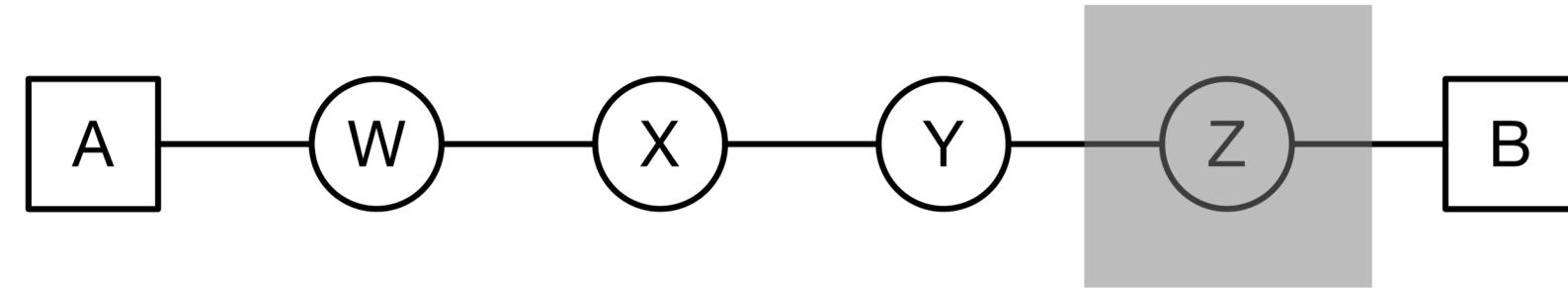
Two blue arrows pointing to the right, labeled '1' and '2' above them.

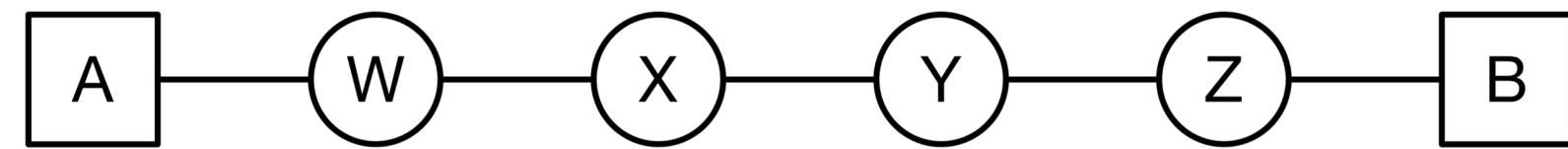


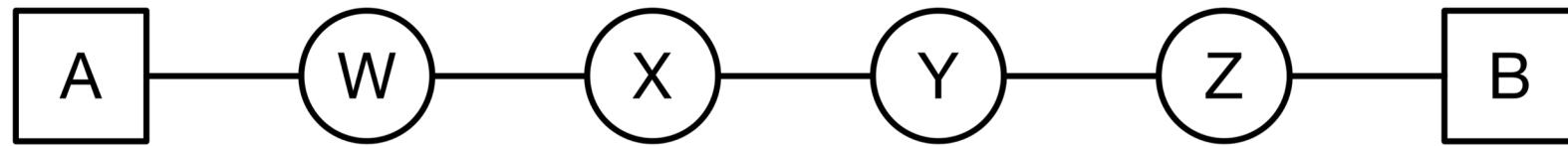
1      2      3



Three blue arrows pointing to the right, labeled 1, 2, and 3 above them.







Google Doc poll: What type of message does destination D send back to traceroute?

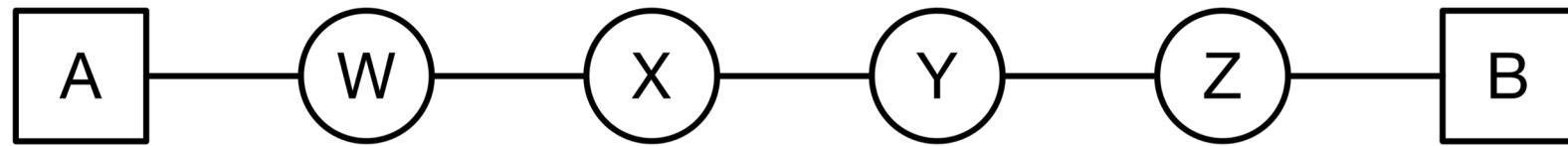
1

2

3

4

5



Google Doc poll: Is this the full picture obtained by traceroute?

Google Doc poll: What is shown in this picture that is not in fact revealed by traceroute?

Google Doc poll: What is missing from this picture that is in fact revealed by traceroute?

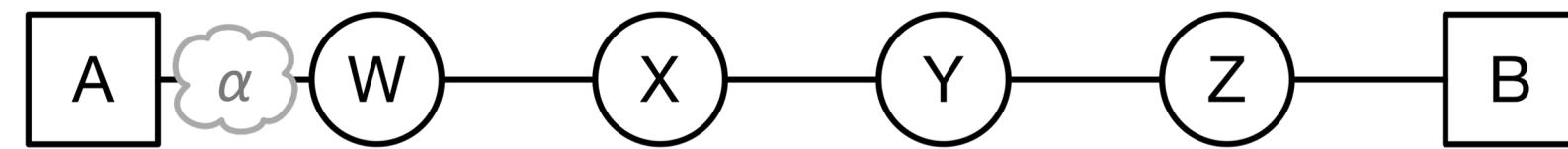
1

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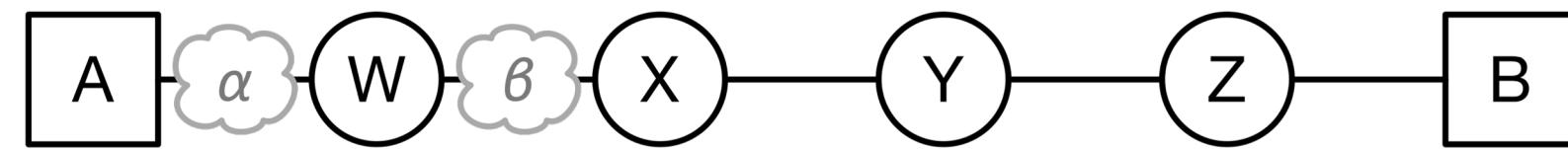
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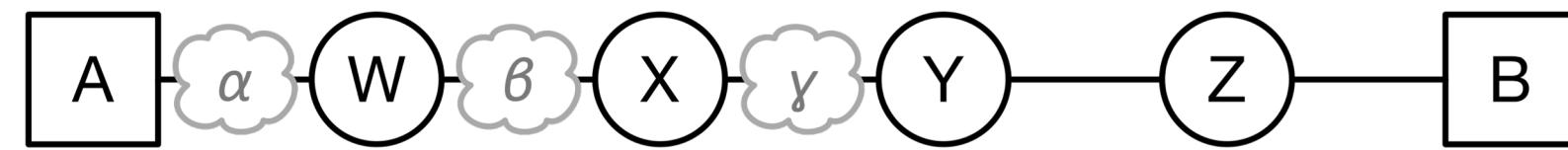
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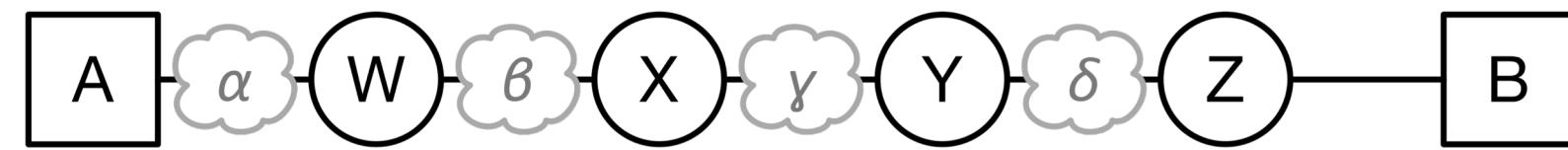
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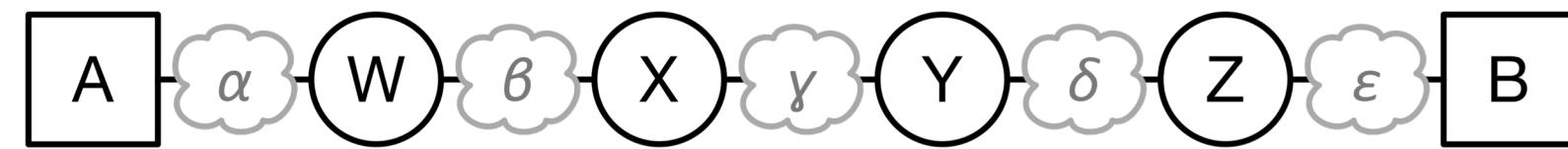
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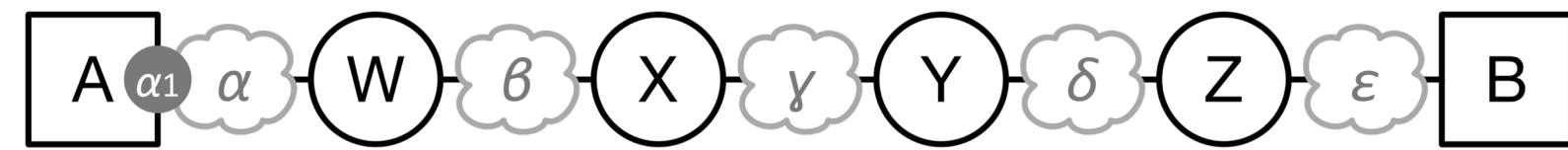
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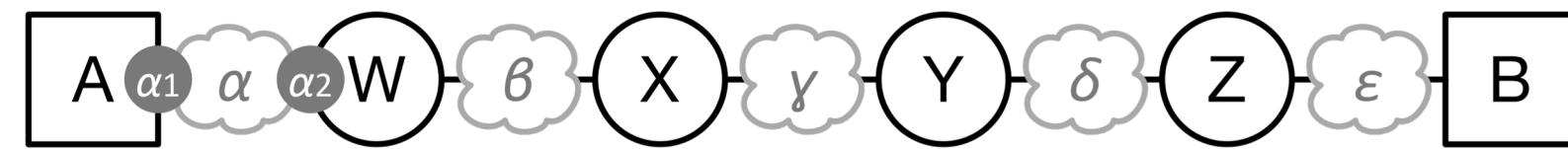
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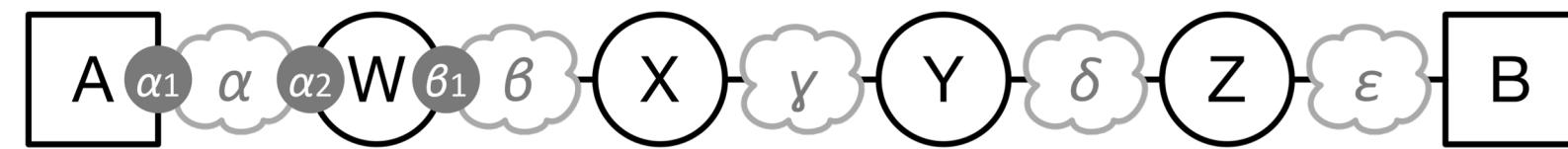
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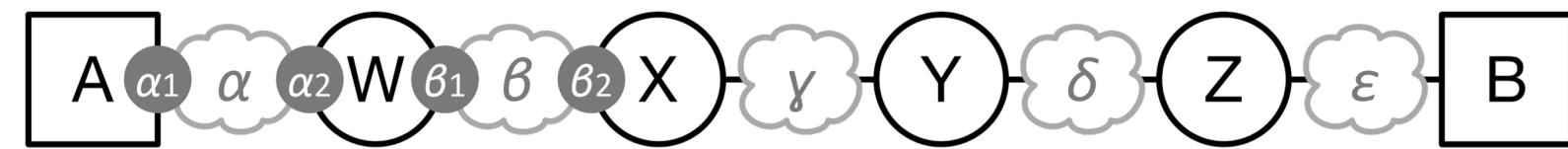
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1

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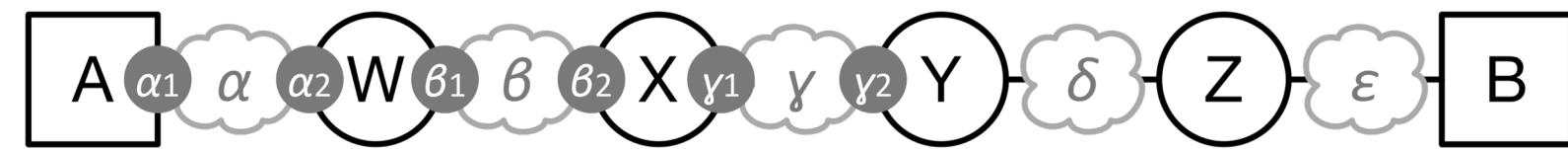
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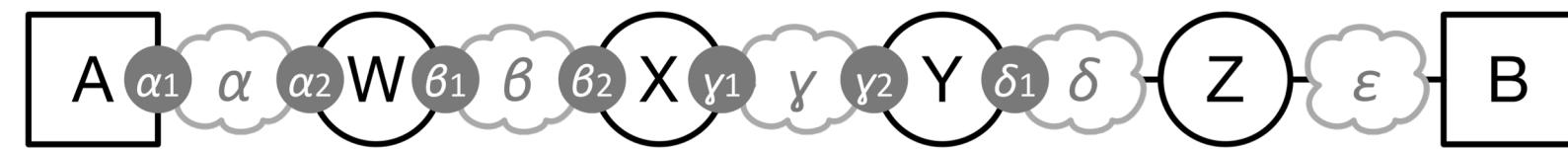
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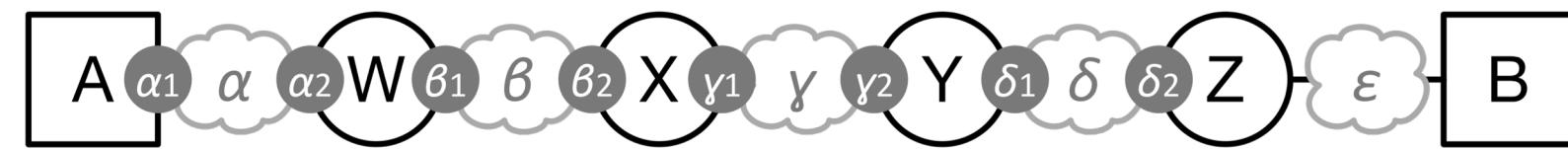
1

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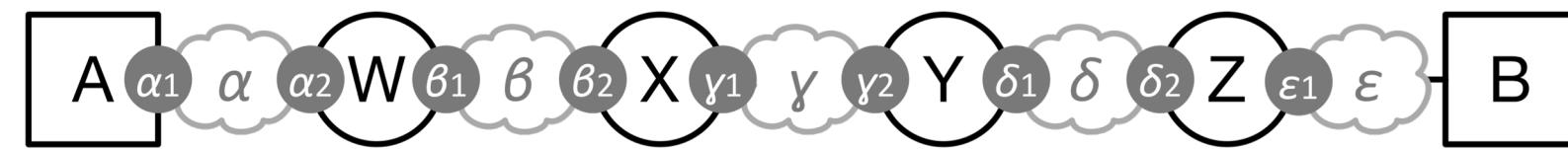
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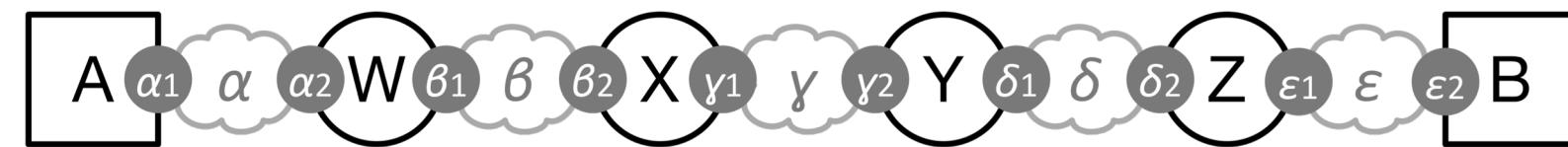
1

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Zoom poll: Are the two interfaces of router W in the same network?

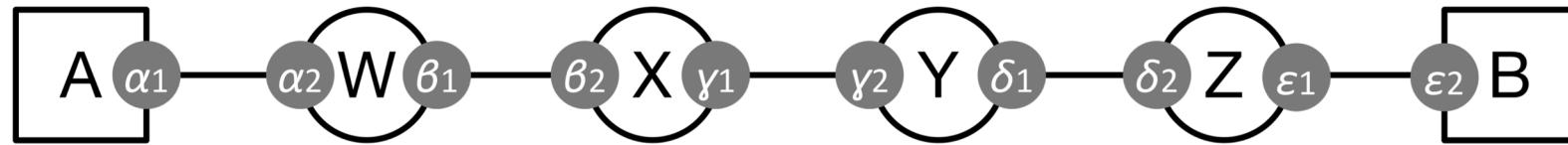
1

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4

5



Google Doc poll: What is still missing from this picture at the IP level?

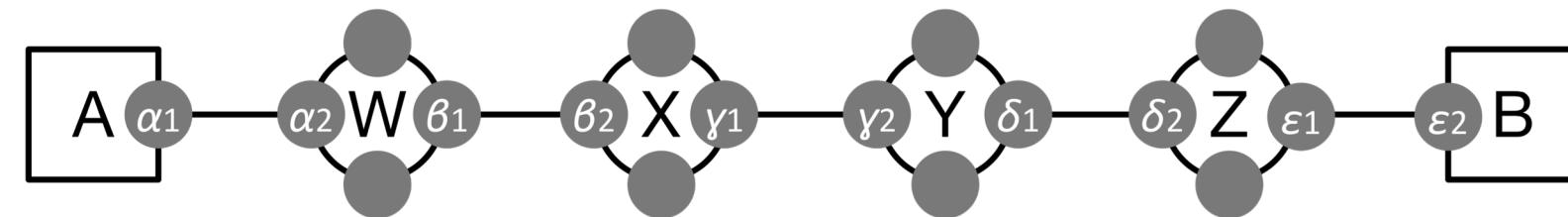
1

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Google Doc poll: Which interface will respond to a probe with TTL 1?

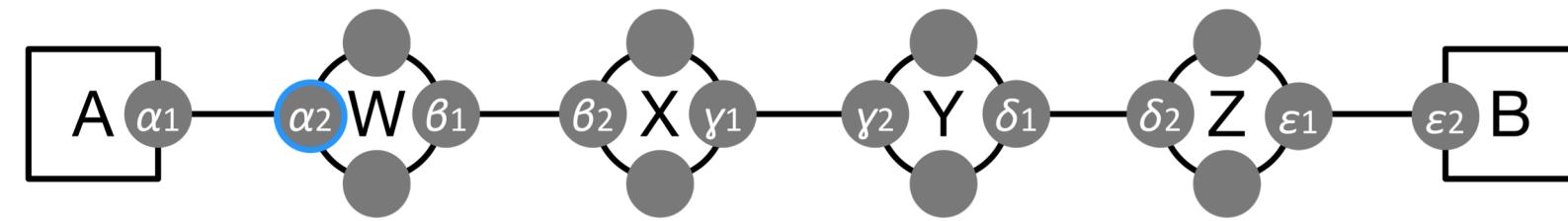
1

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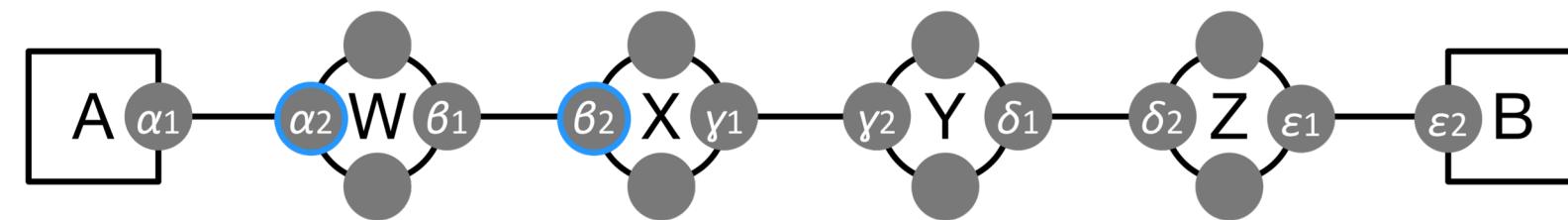
1

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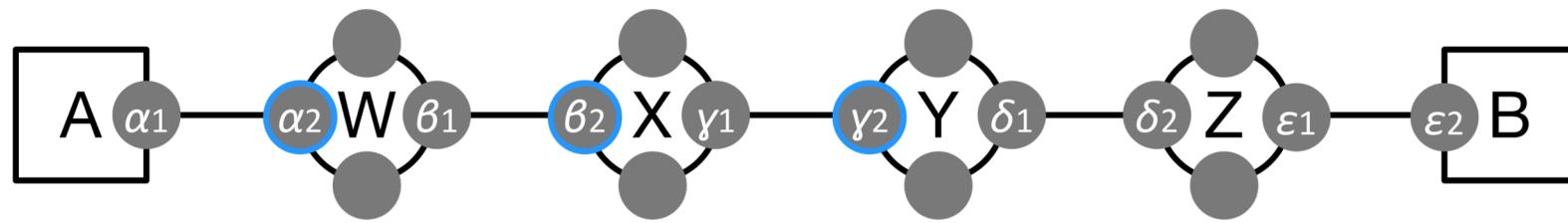
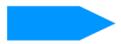
1

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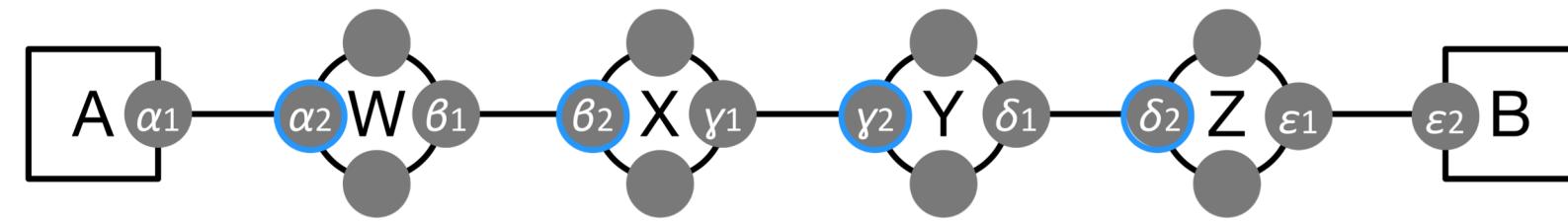
1

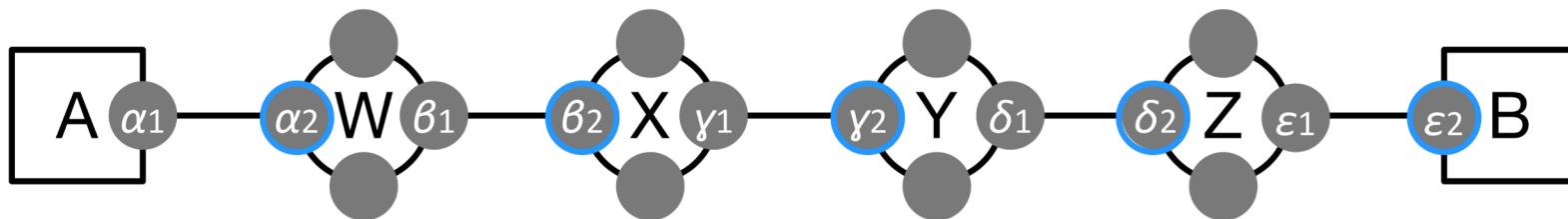
2

3

4

5

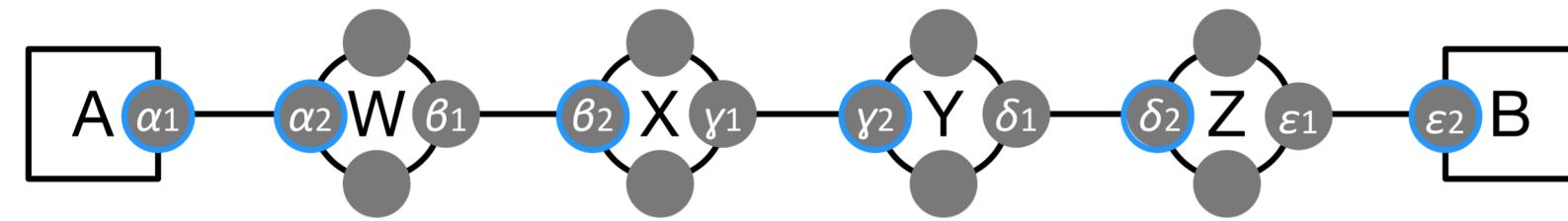


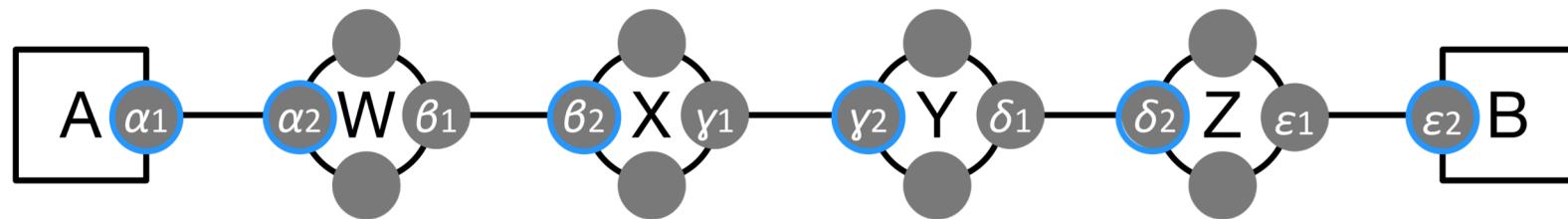


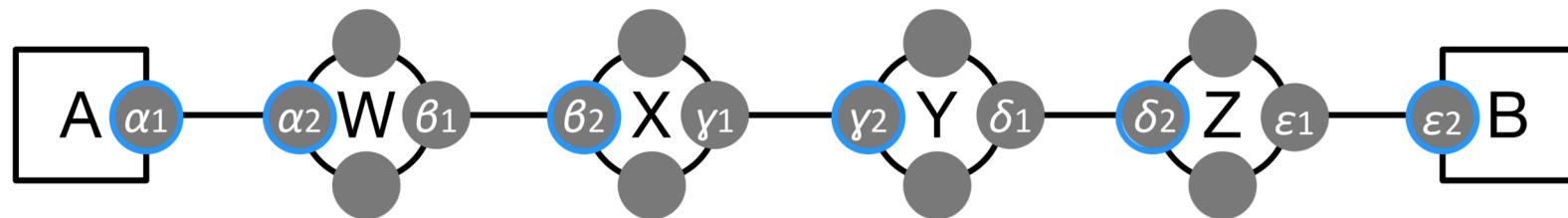
Google Doc poll: How does traceroute learn about the other interfaces of routers W, X, Y, and Z?

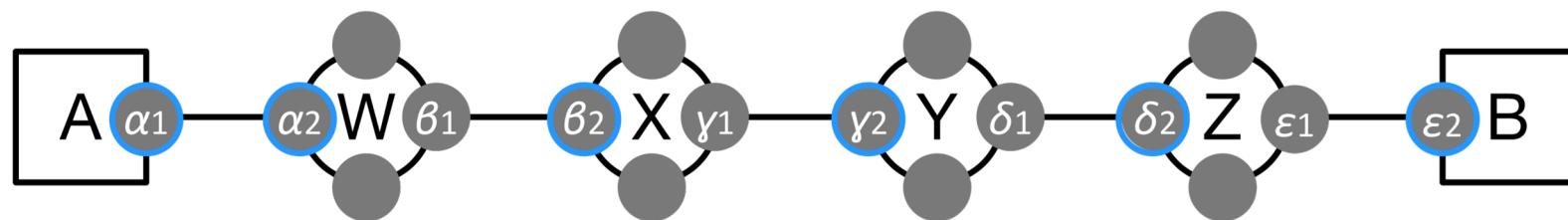
Google Doc poll: Is there any other interface that is known about that is not circled in blue in this picture?

0      1      2      3      4      5





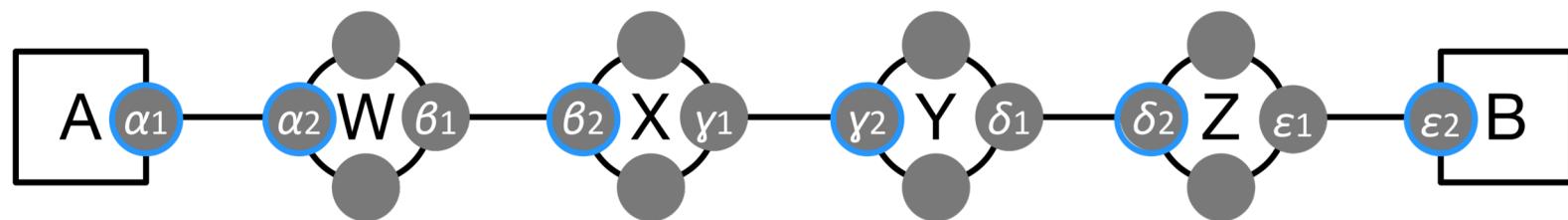






0      1      2      3      4      5

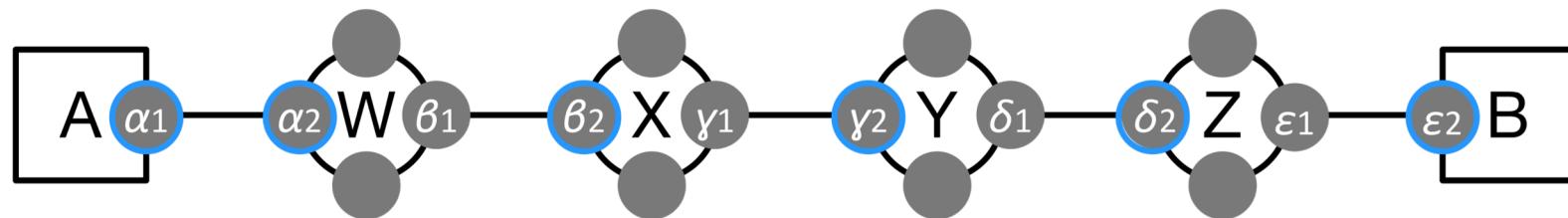
Below the sequence of nodes are five blue arrows pointing to the right, each aligned with one of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

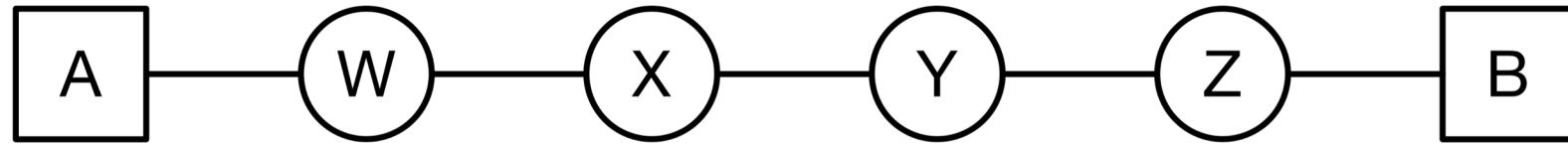




0      1      2      3      4      5

Below the sequence of nodes, there is a sequence of five blue arrows pointing to the right, each positioned under one of the indices 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.





Google Doc poll: How might you guess the picture at the bottom from the picture at the top?

# Outline

- Basics

 Limits

- Load balancing
- The tool

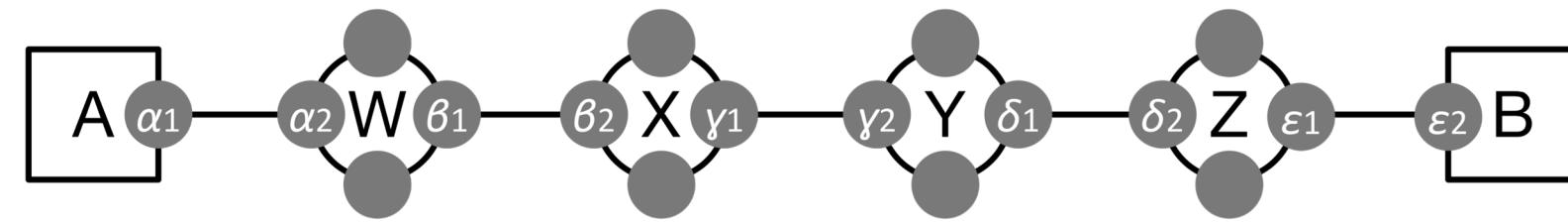
1

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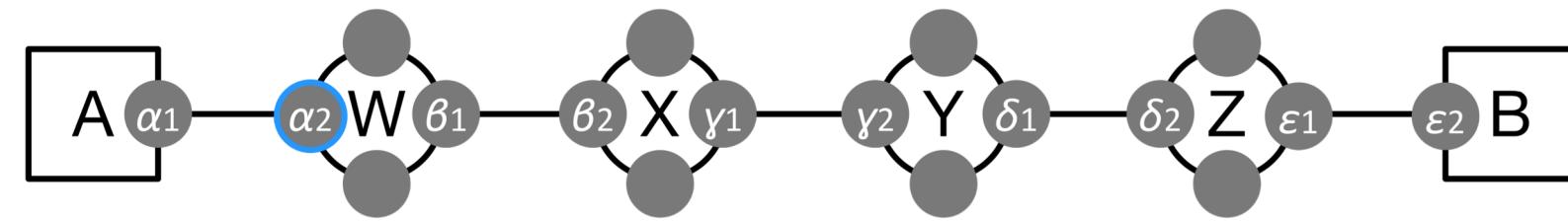
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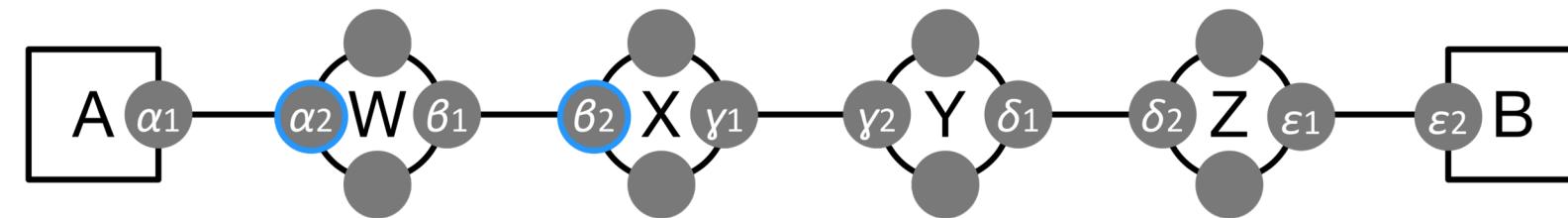
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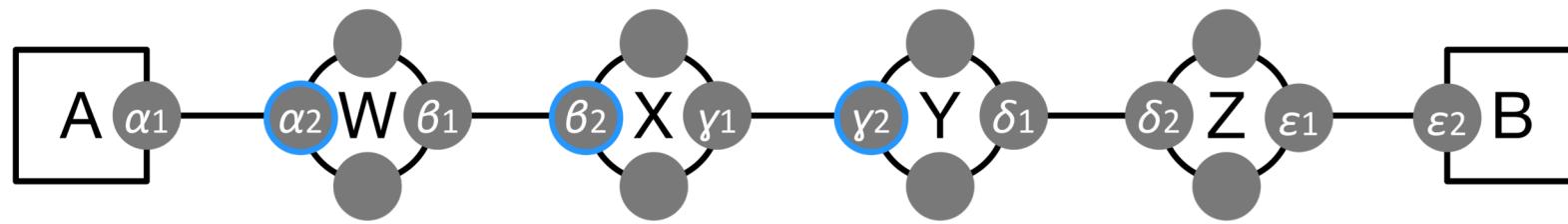
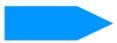
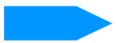
1

2

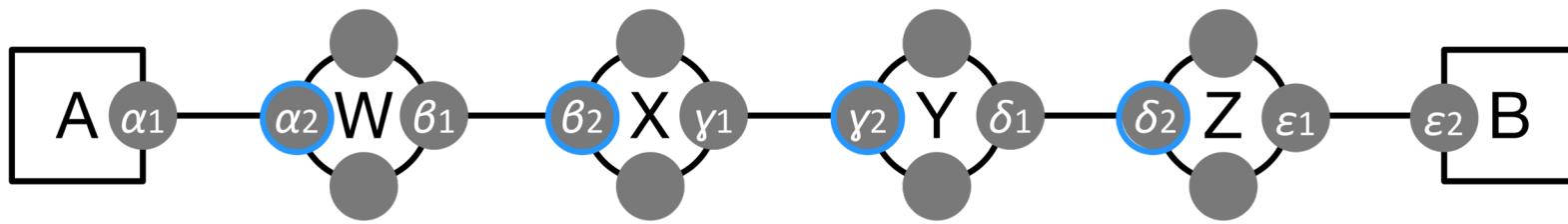
3

4

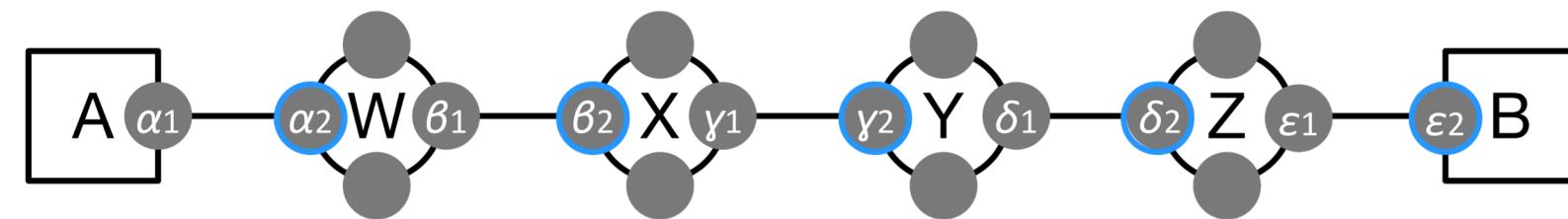
5



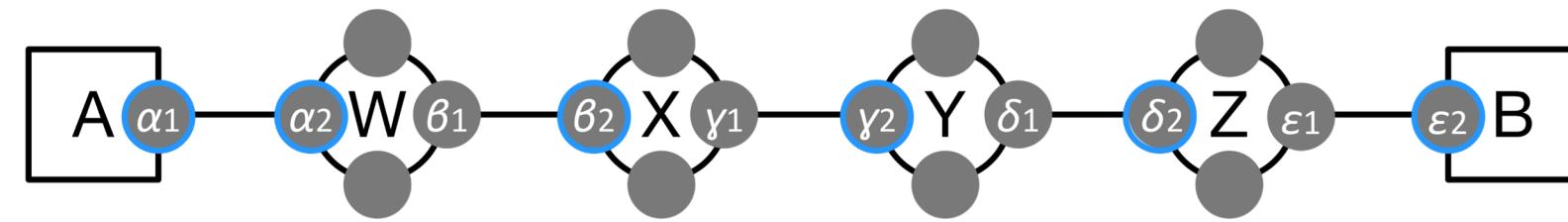
1            2            3            4            5

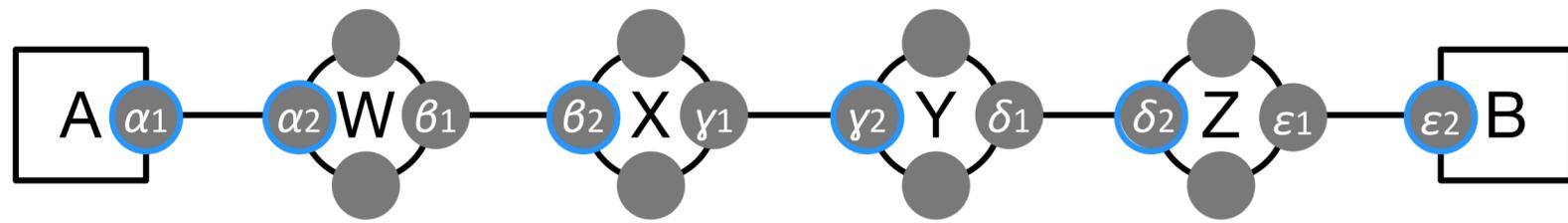


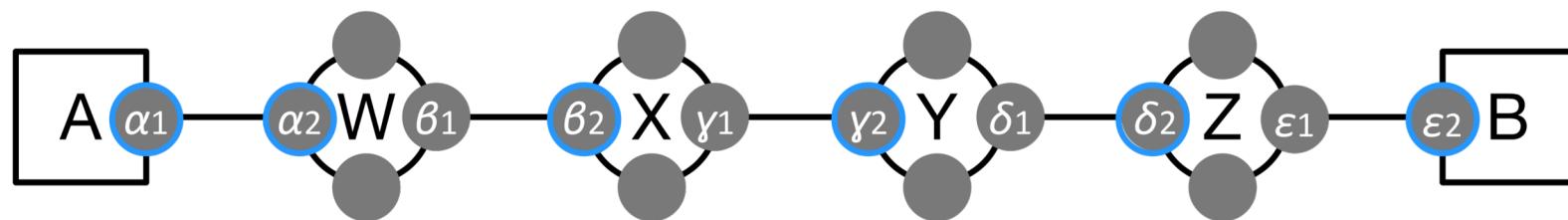
1            2            3            4            5

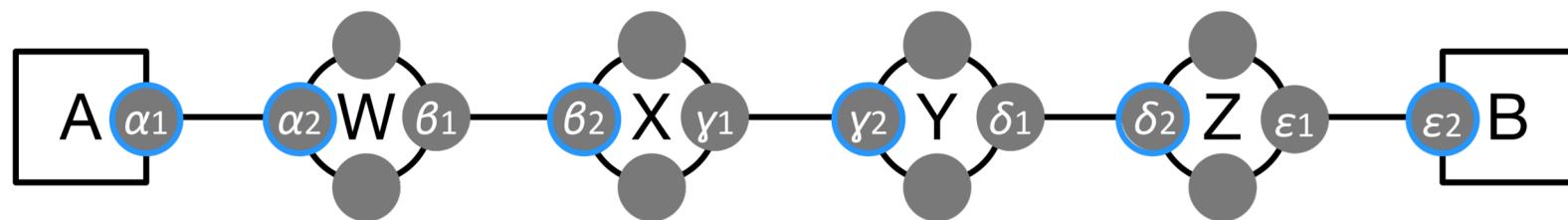


0      1      2      3      4      5



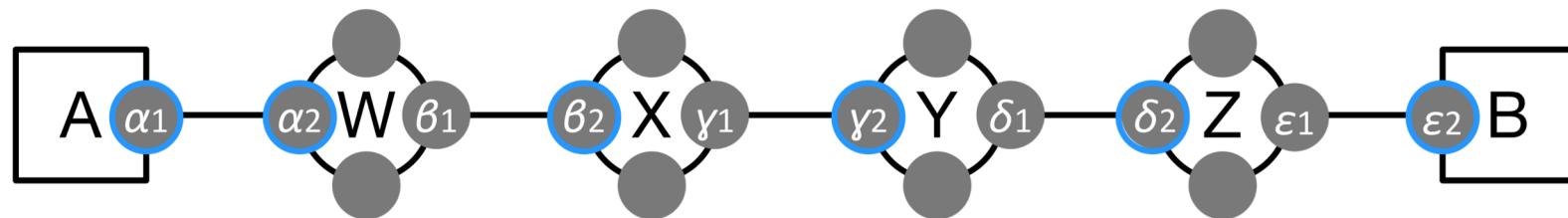
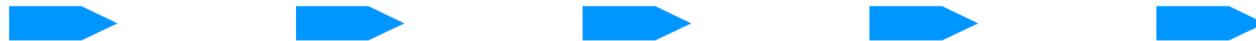






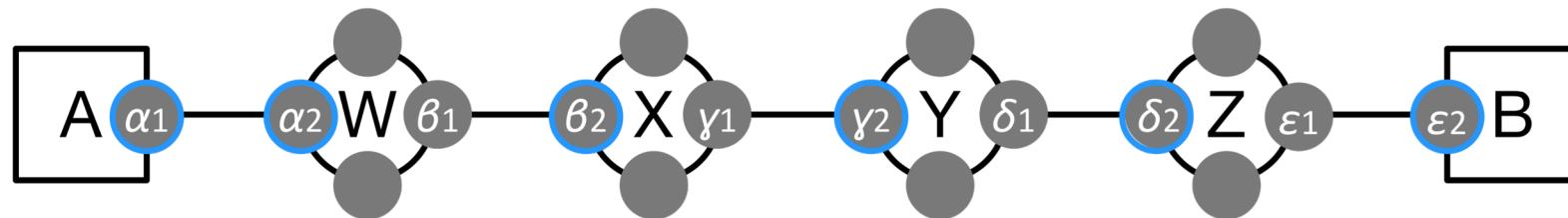


0      1      2      3      4      5





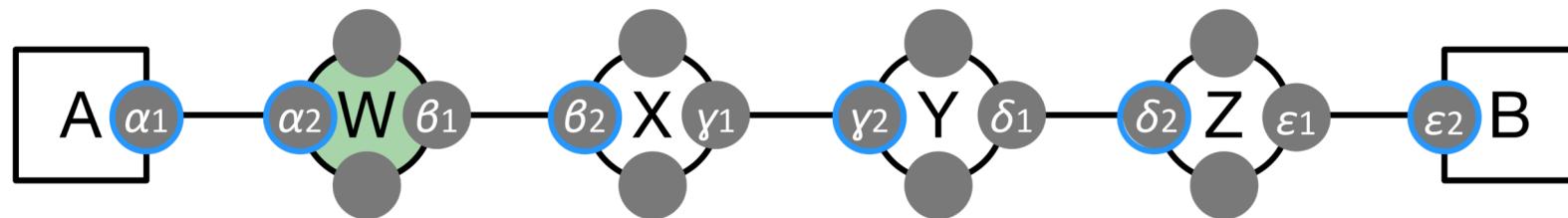
0      1      2      3      4      5



Google Doc poll: Which routers and hosts has traceroute learned something about?

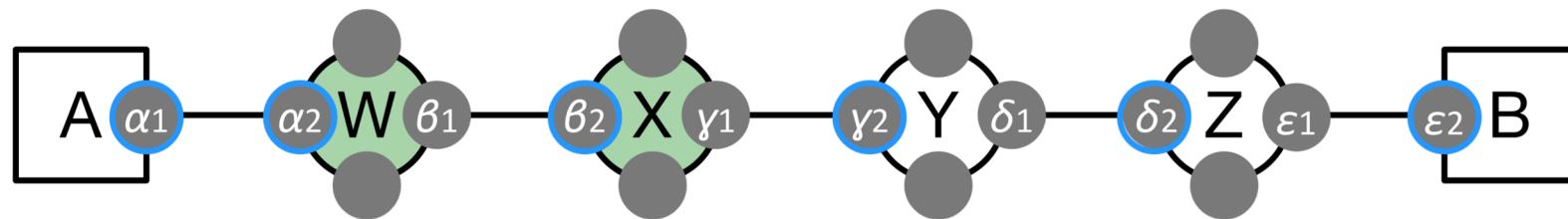
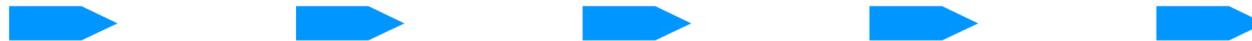


0      1      2      3      4      5





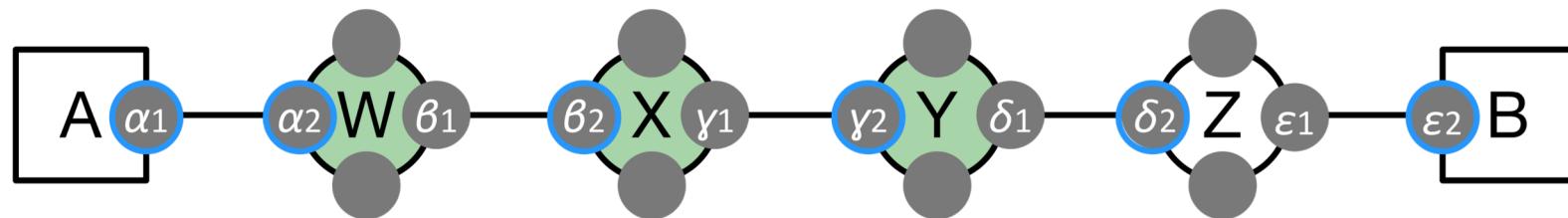
0      1      2      3      4      5





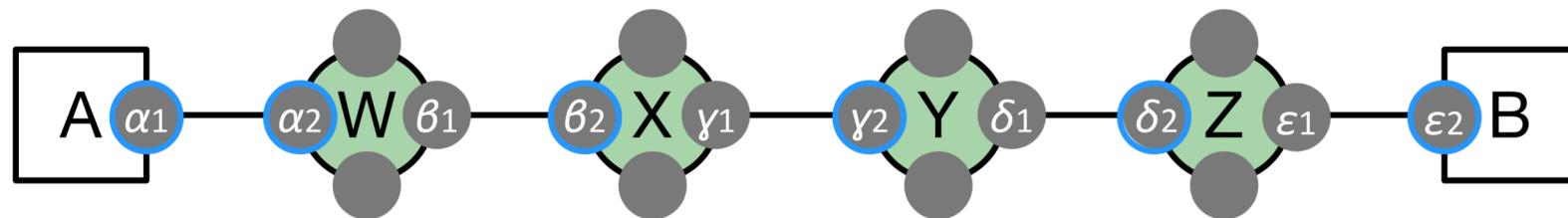
0      1      2      3      4      5

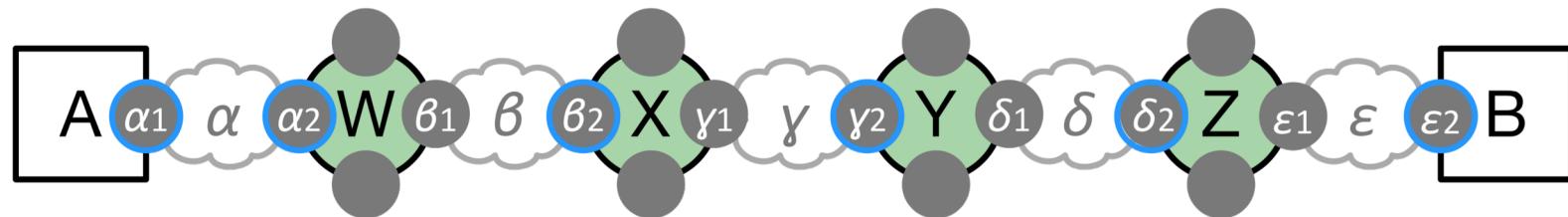
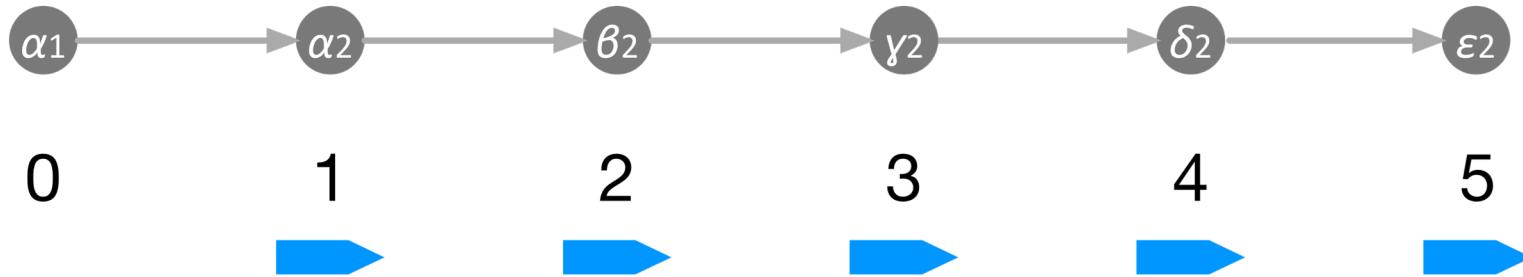
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0      1      2      3      4      5

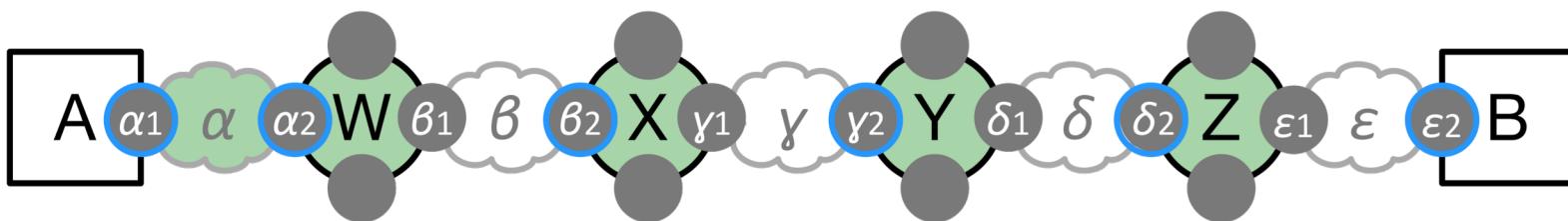




Google Doc poll: Which networks has traceroute learned something about?

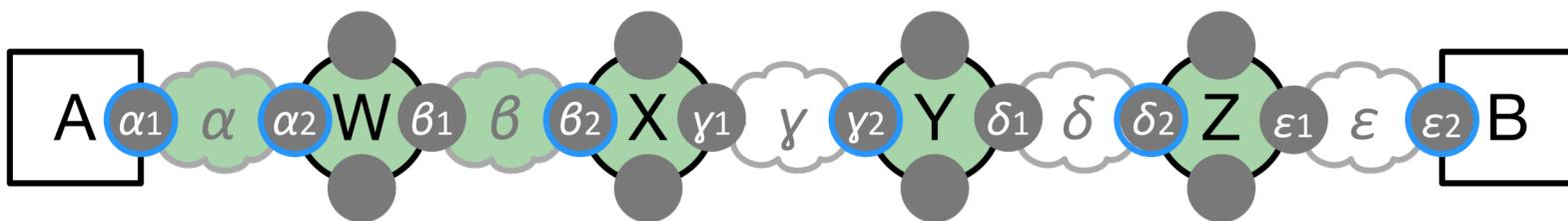
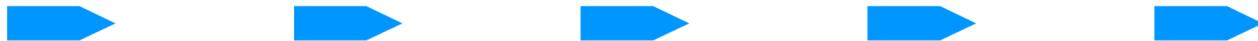


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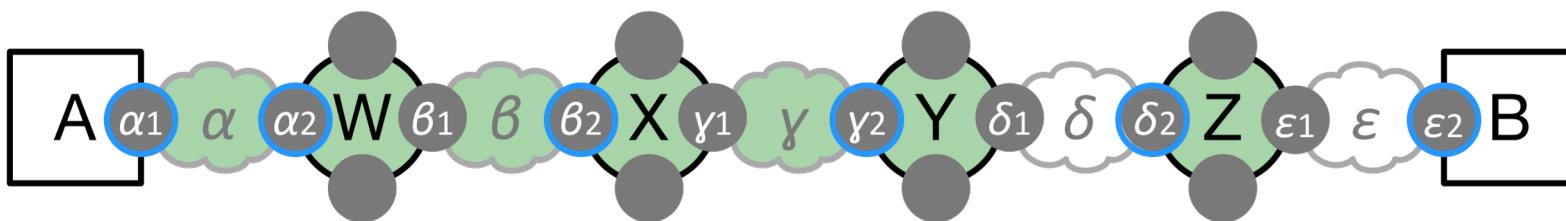


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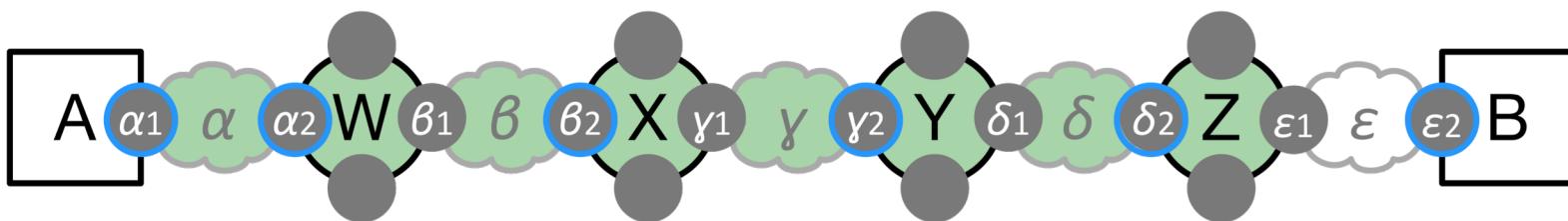


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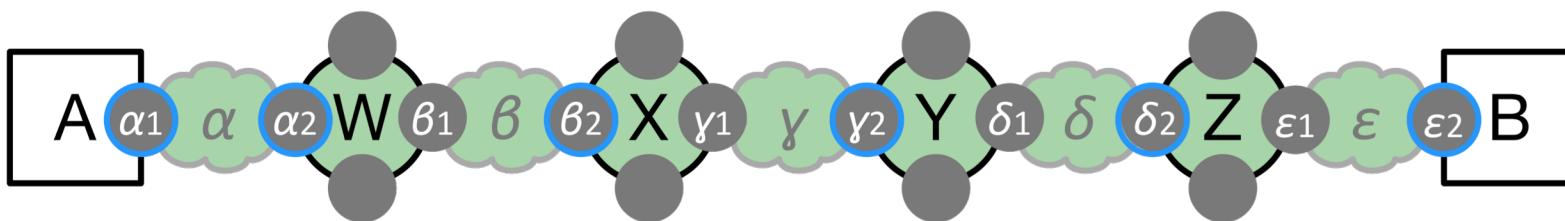


0      1      2      3      4      5

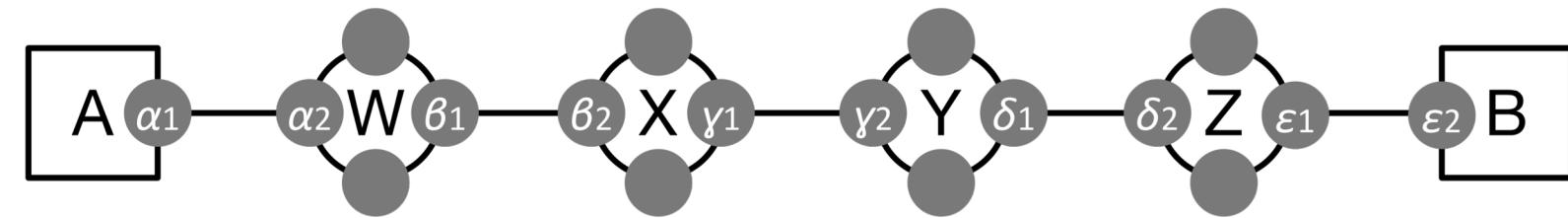




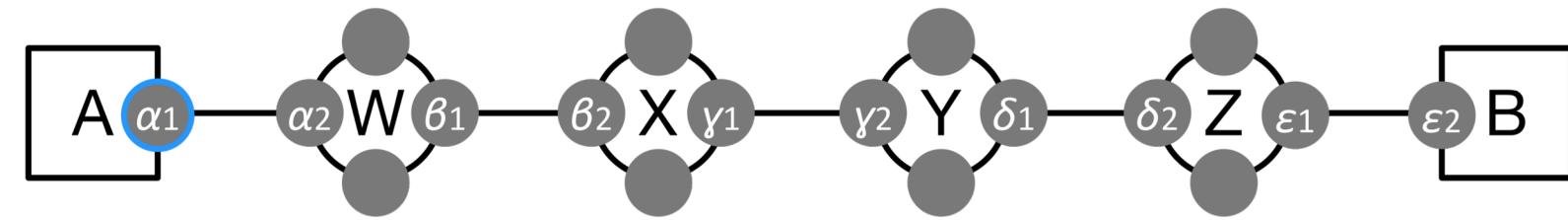
0      1      2      3      4      5



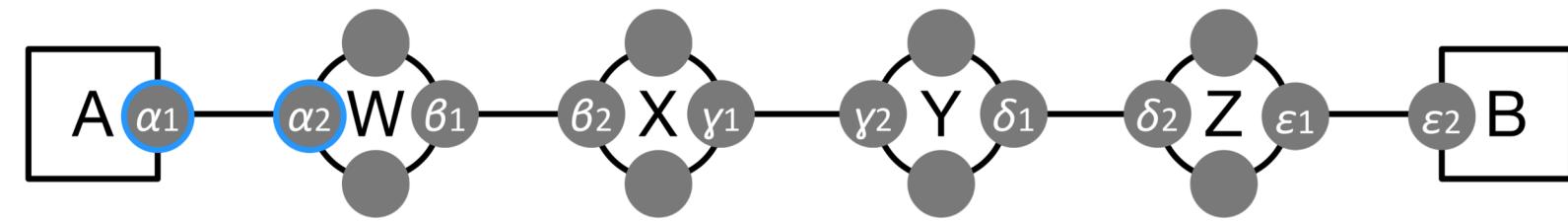
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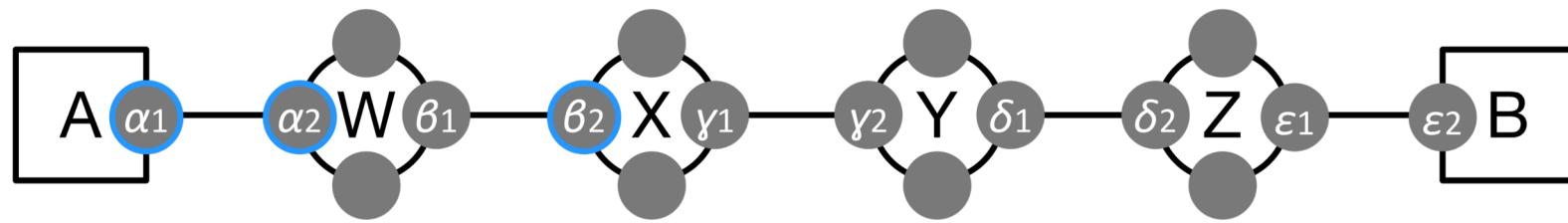
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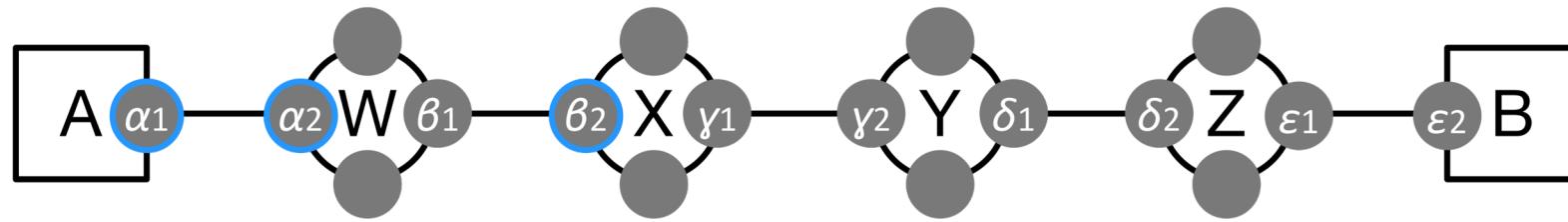
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0      1      2      3      4      5



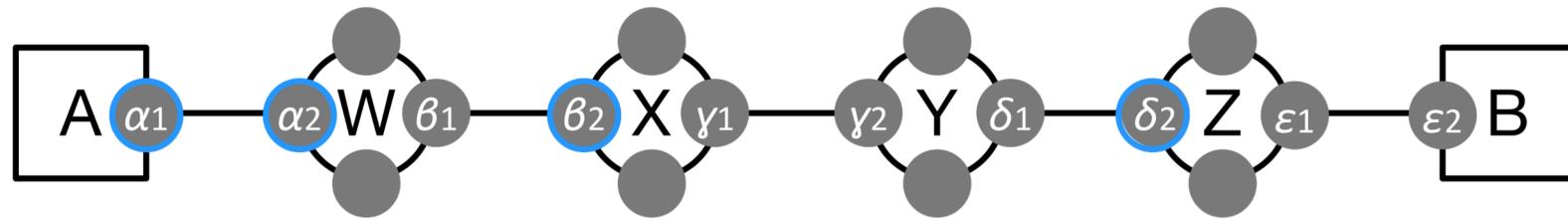
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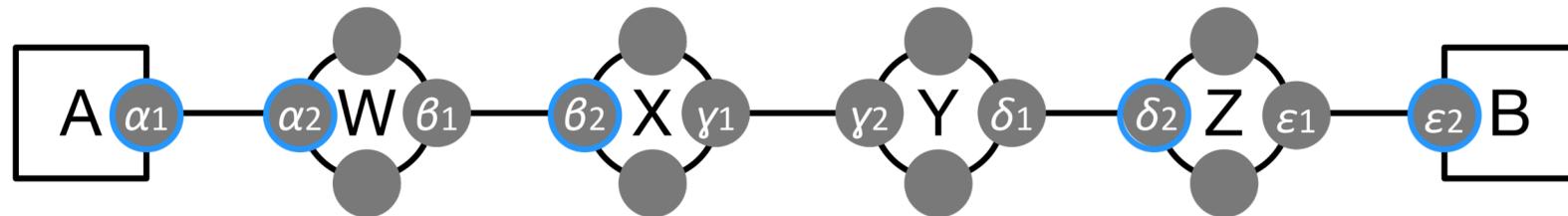


0      1      2      3      4      5

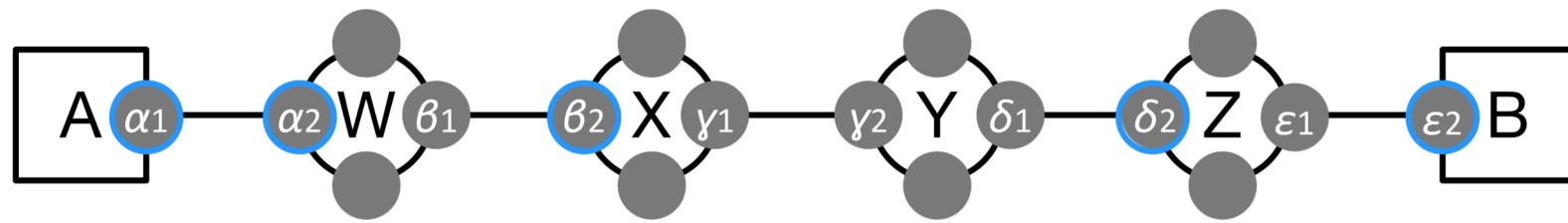


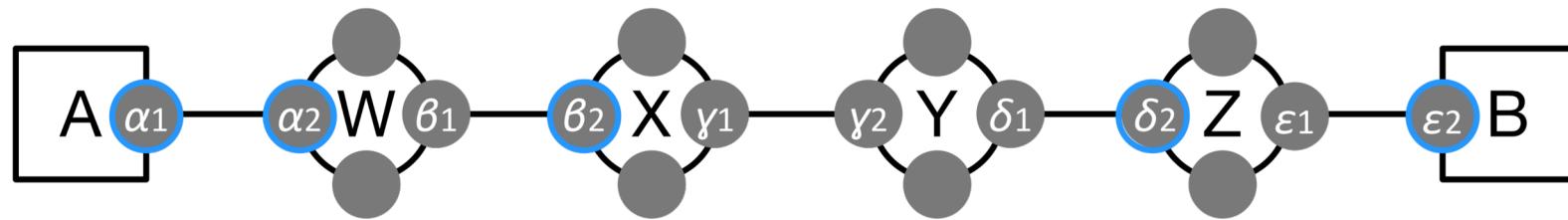
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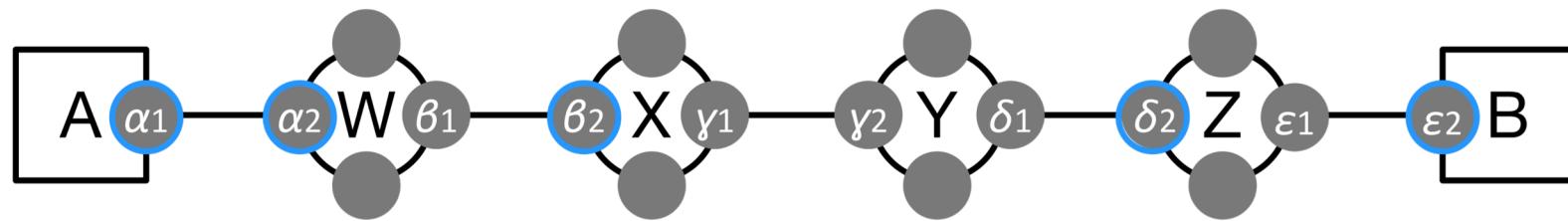
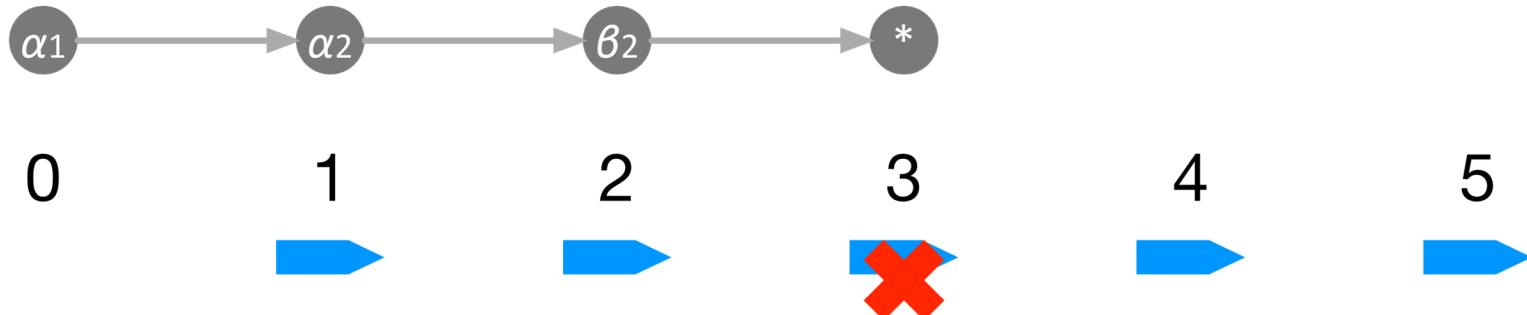


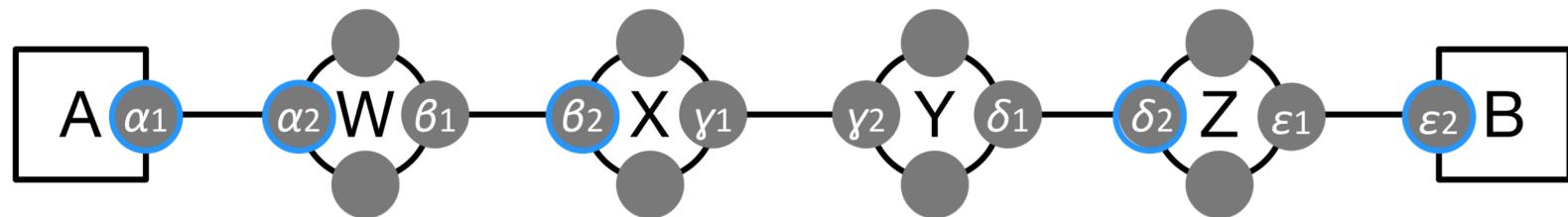
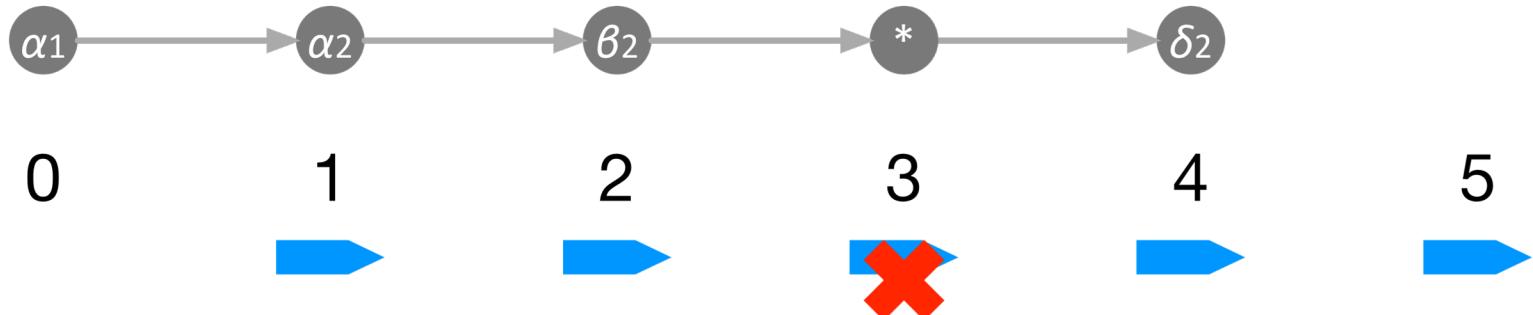


Google Doc poll: What will traceroute output for TTL 3 in this case?



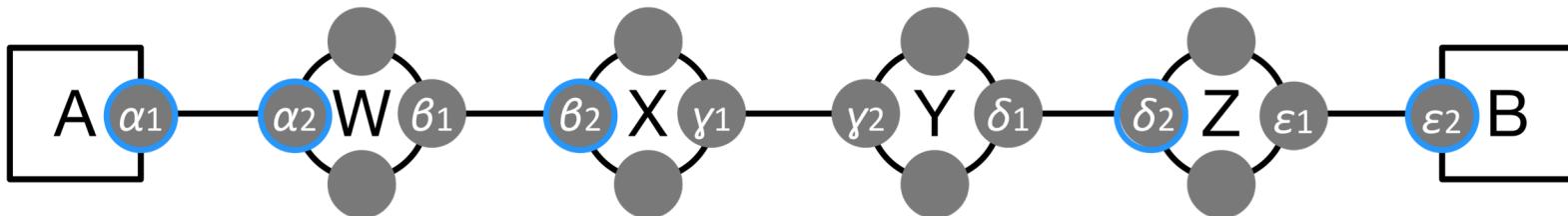




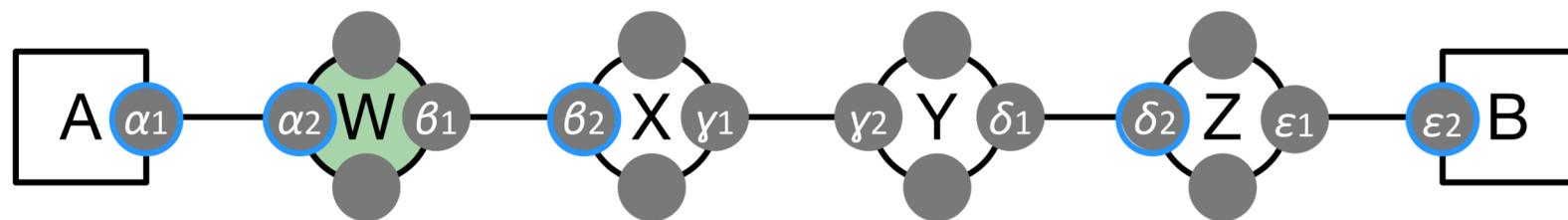


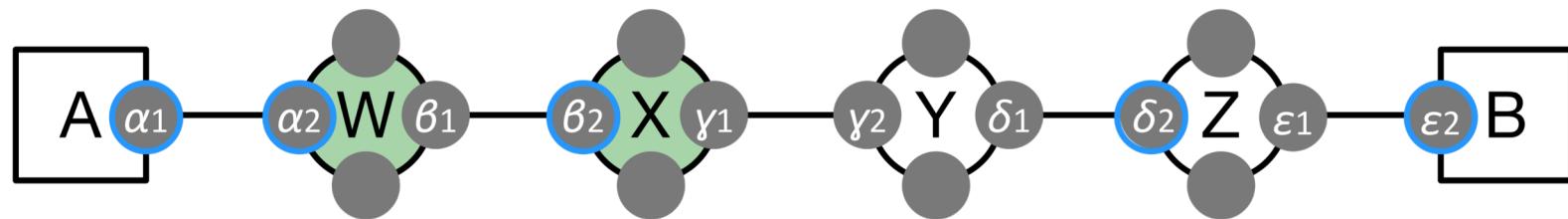


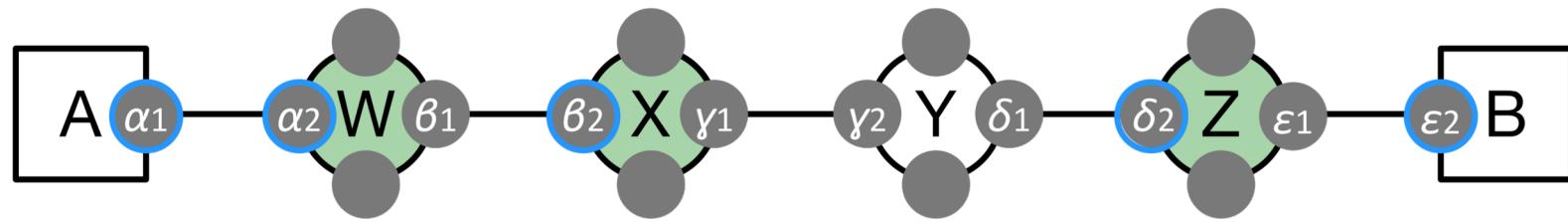
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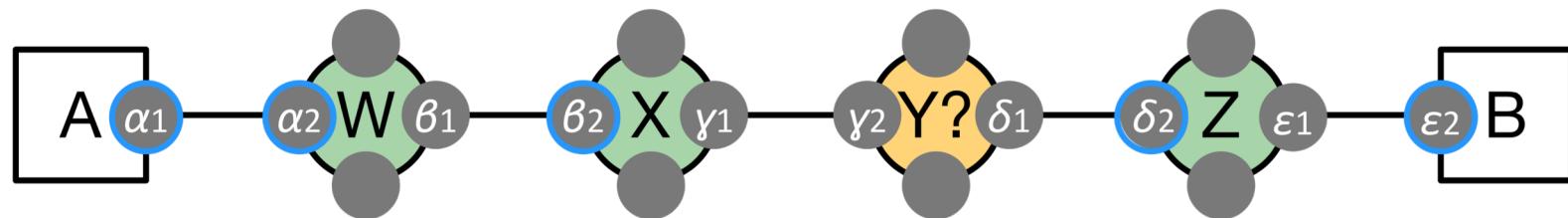
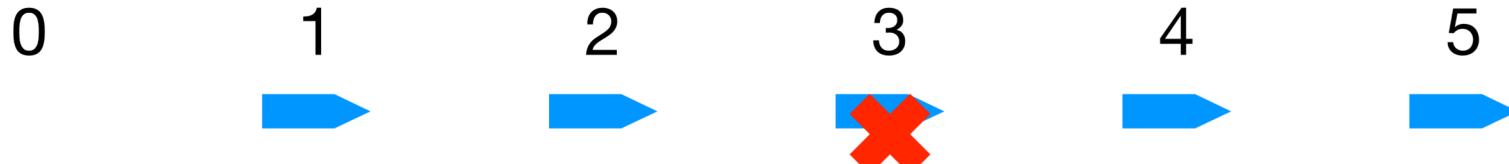


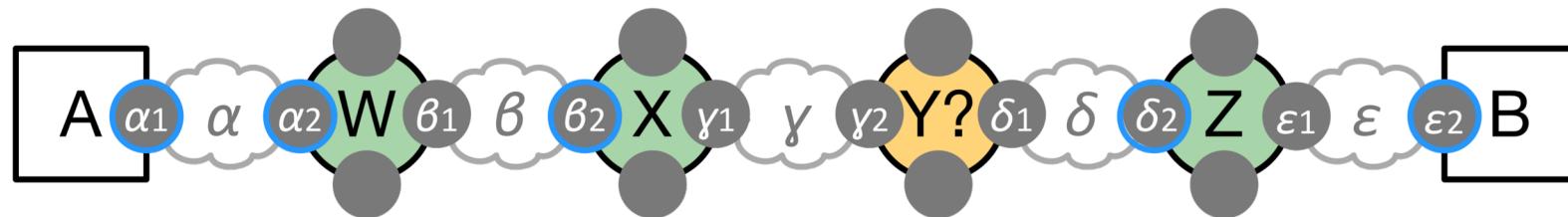
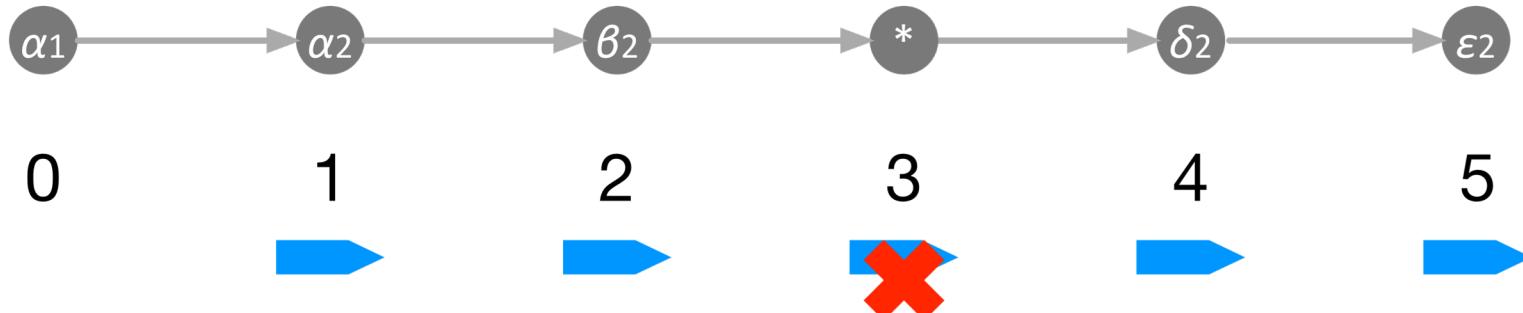
Google Doc poll: Which router has traceroute learned nothing about in this example?







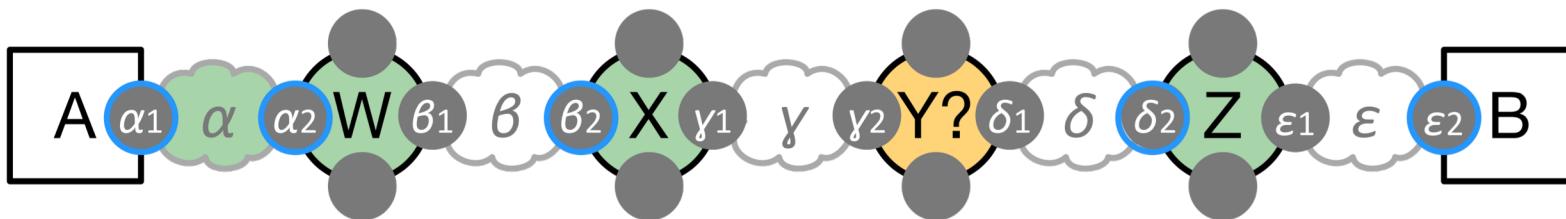




Google Doc poll: Which network has traceroute learned nothing about in this example?

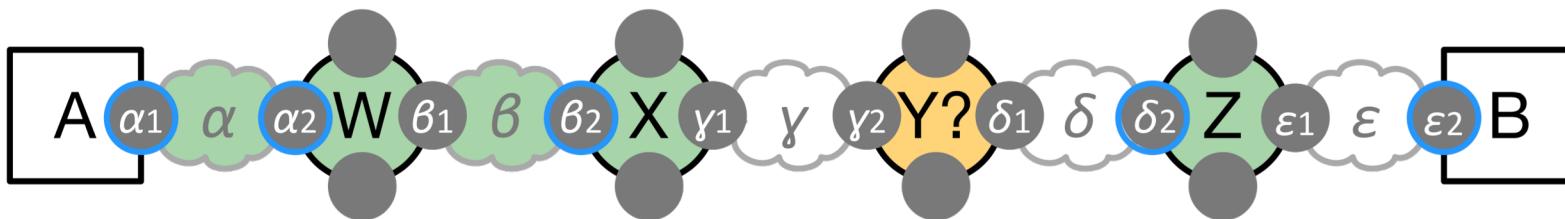


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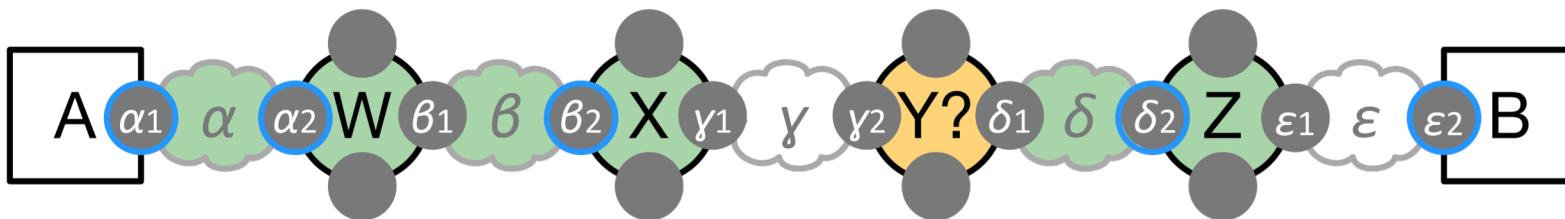


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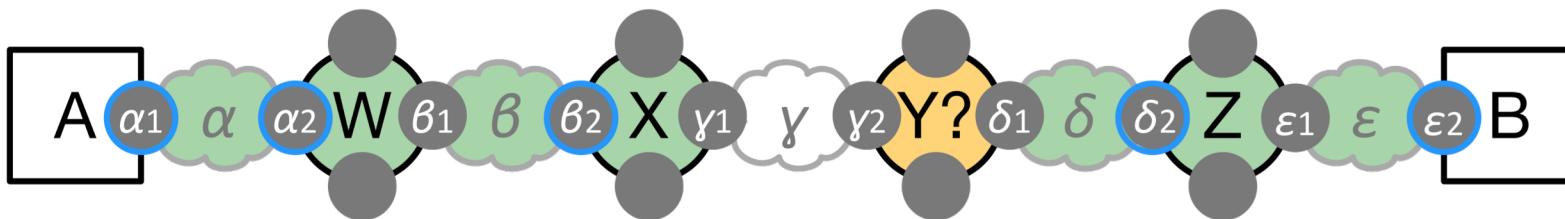


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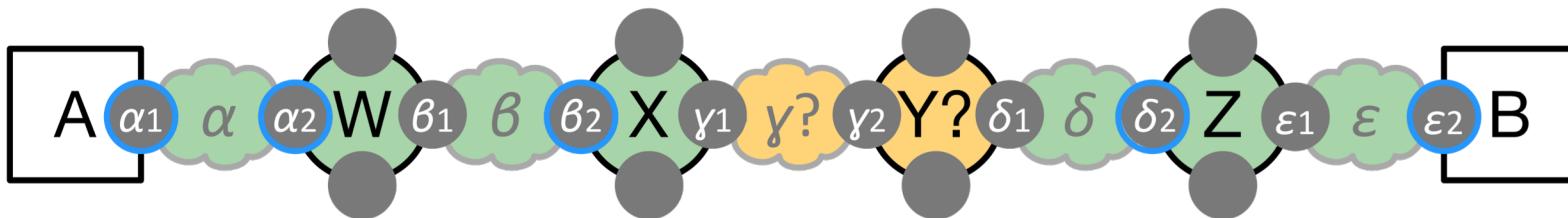


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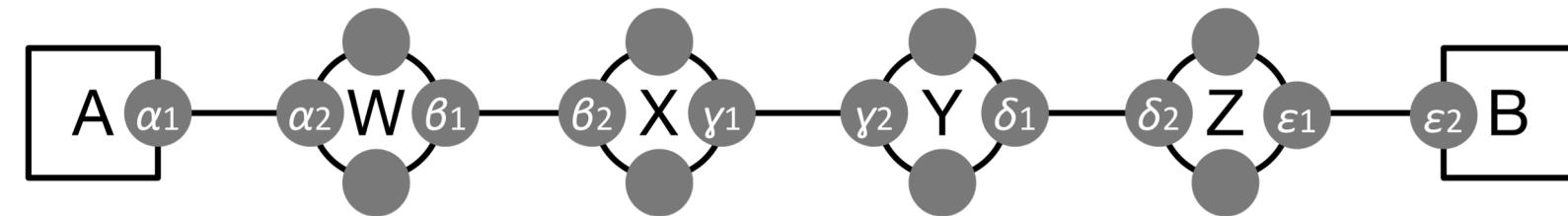




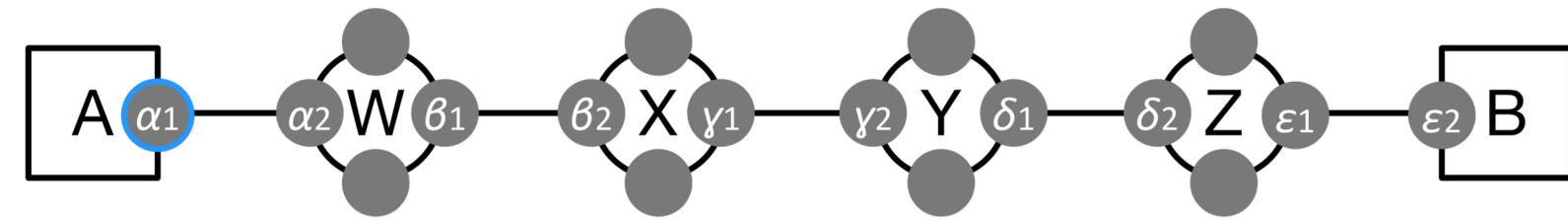
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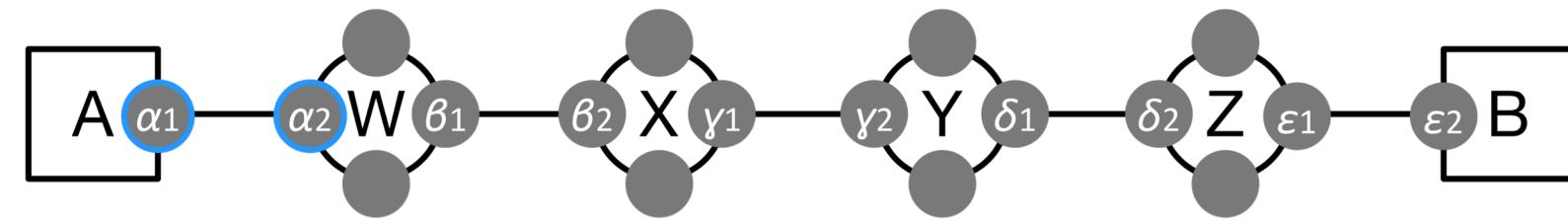
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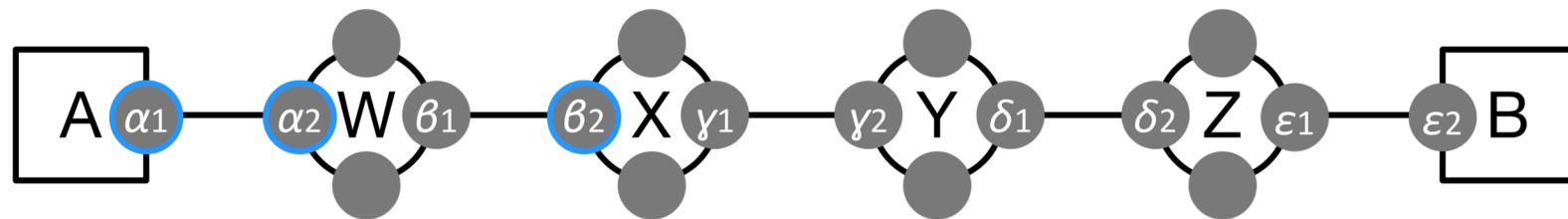
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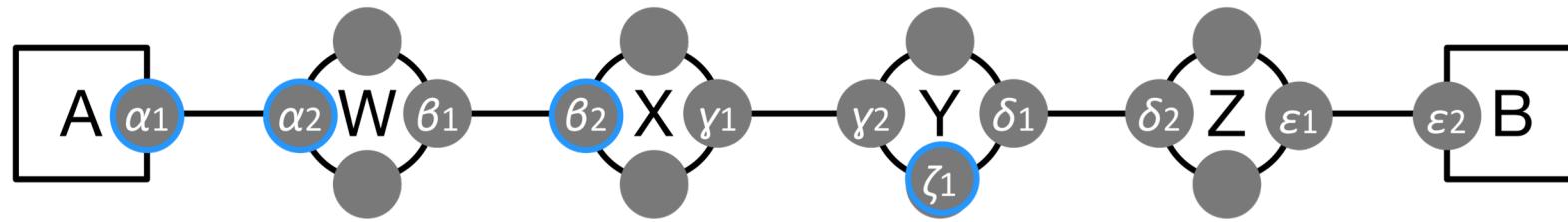
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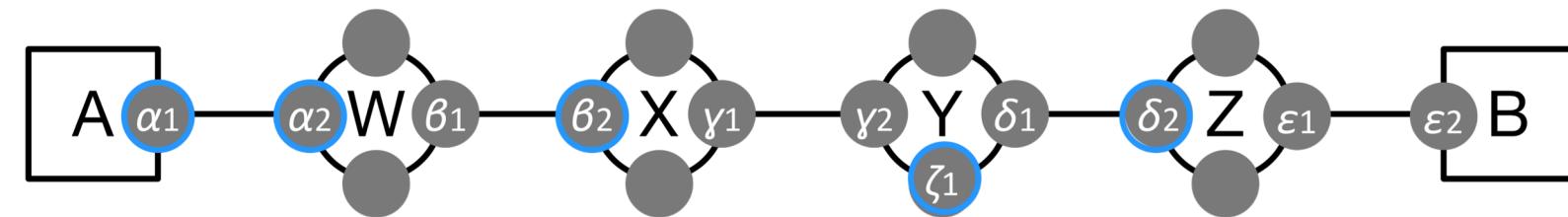
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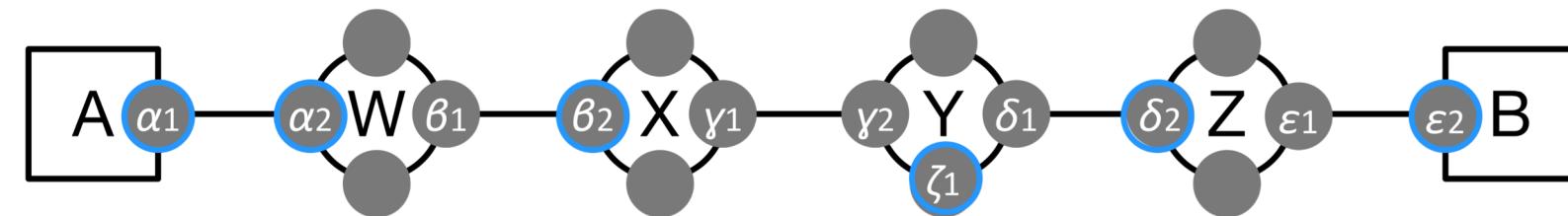
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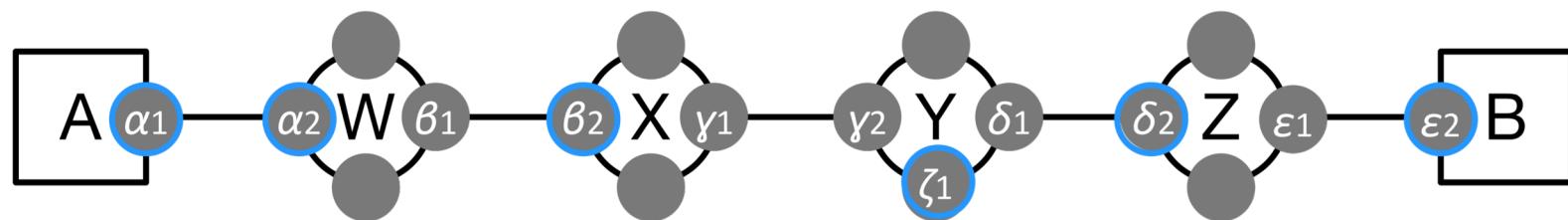


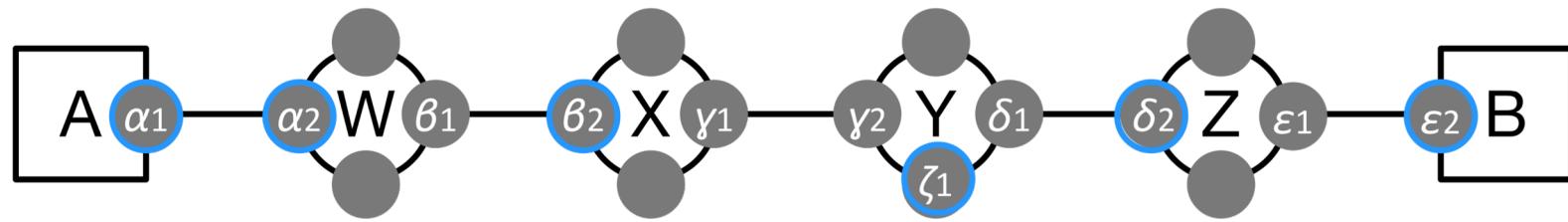
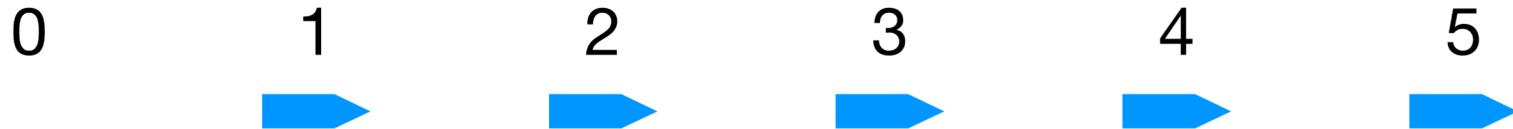
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0      1      2      3      4      5

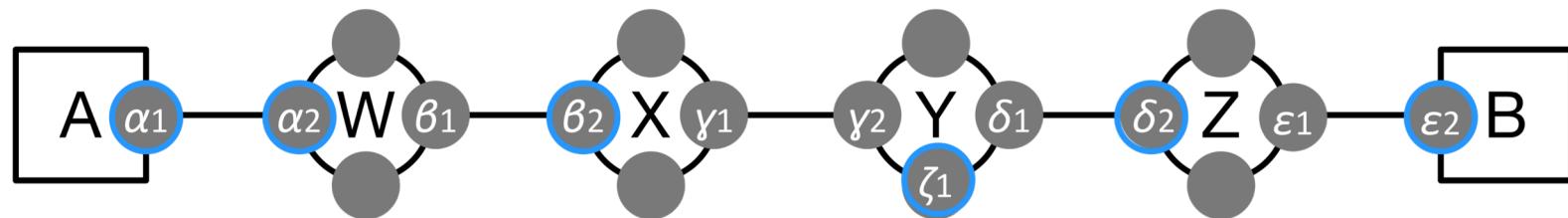


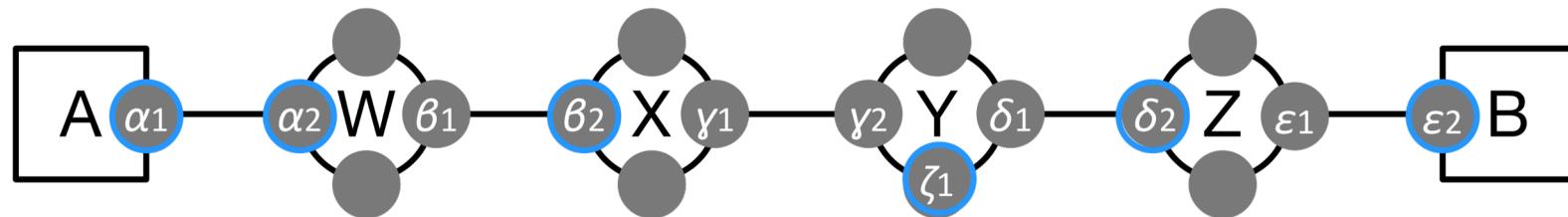






0      1      2      3      4      5

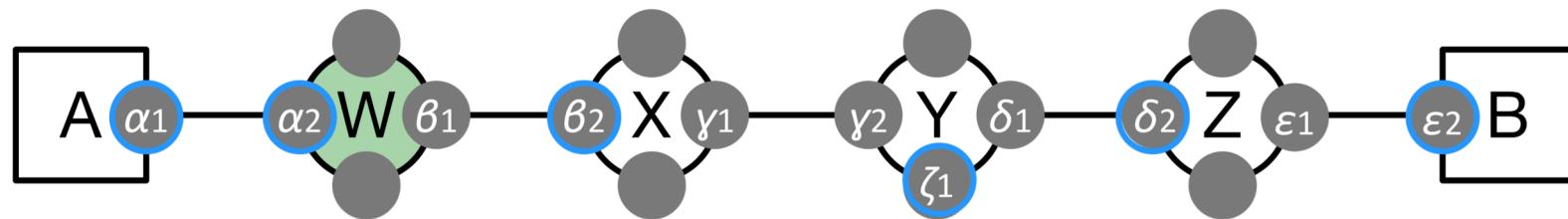




Google Doc poll: Which router has traceroute learned nothing about in this example?

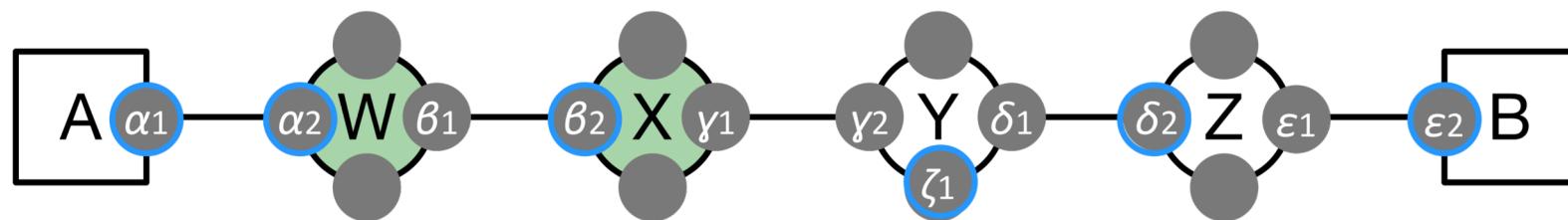


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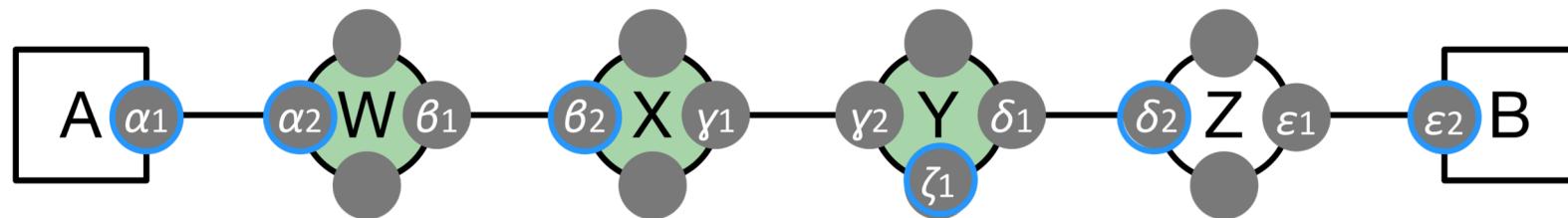


0      1      2      3      4      5



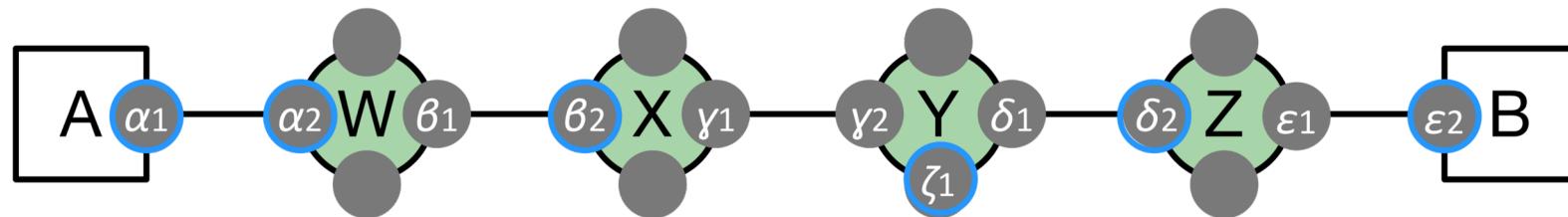
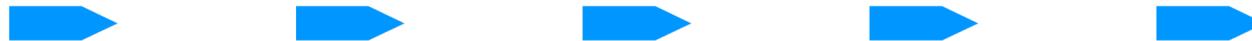


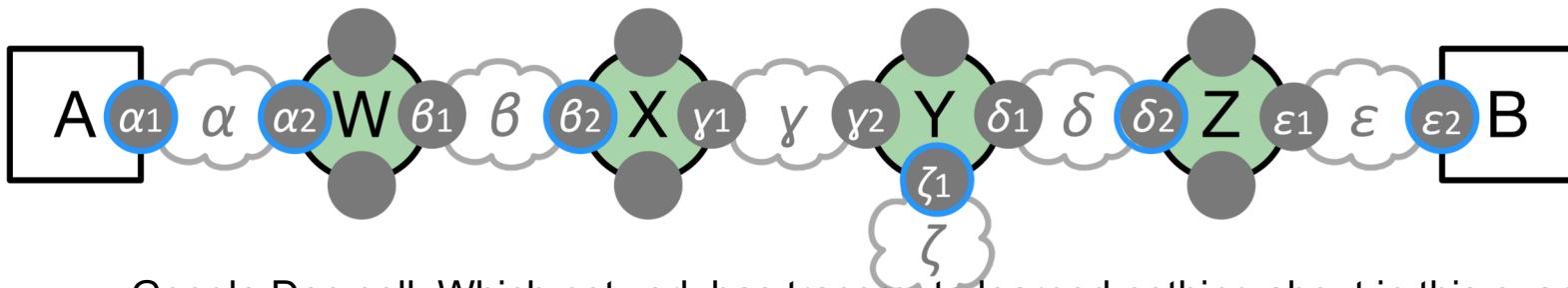
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0      1      2      3      4      5

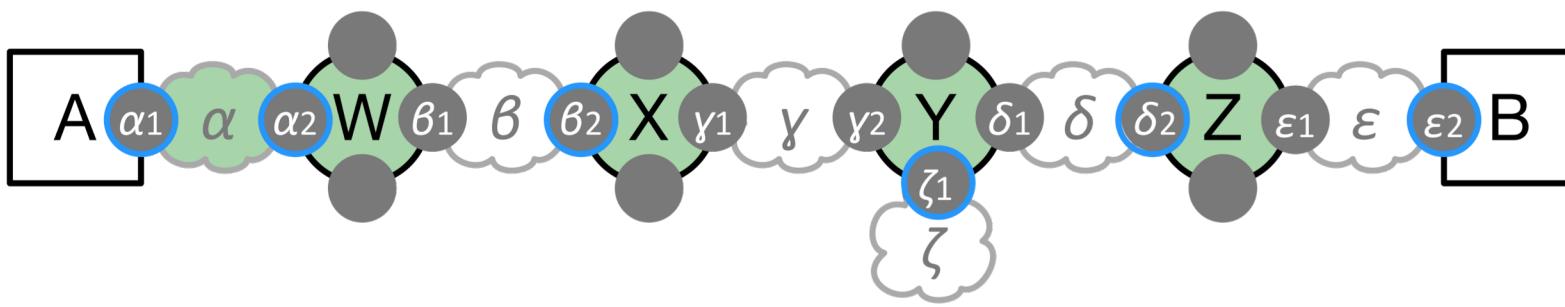




Google Doc poll: Which network has traceroute learned nothing about in this example?  
 Google Doc poll: Which network does traceroute learn about in this example, but in a misleading way?



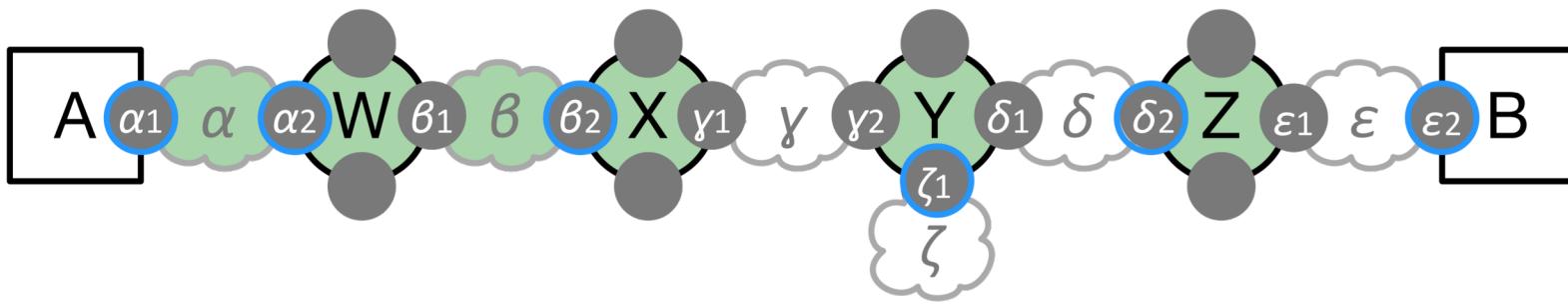
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0      1      2      3      4      5

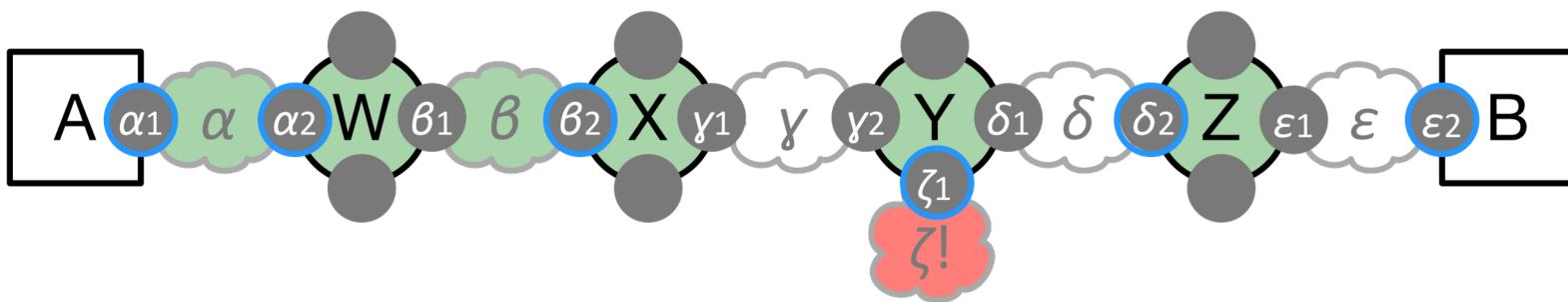
```
graph LR; 0[0] --> 1[1]; 1 --> 2[2]; 2 --> 3[3]; 3 --> 4[4]; 4 --> 5[5]
```





0      1      2      3      4      5

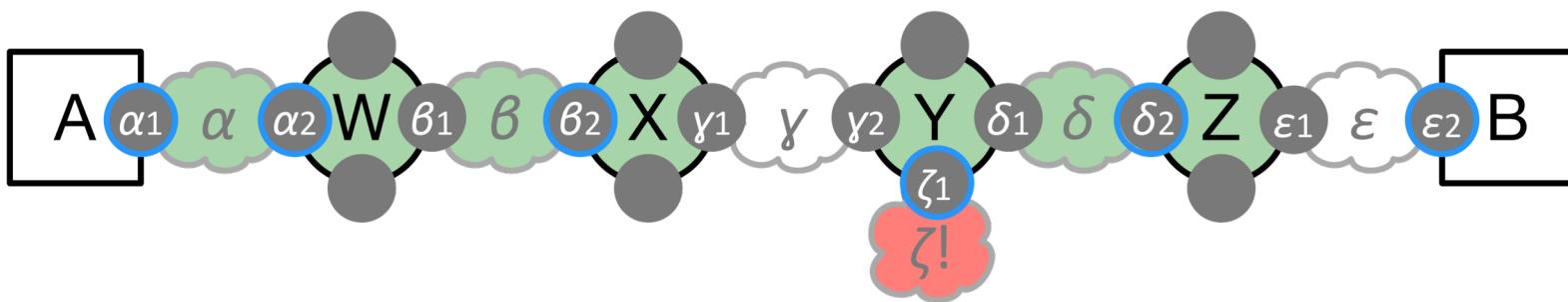
0      1      2      3      4      5





0      1      2      3      4      5

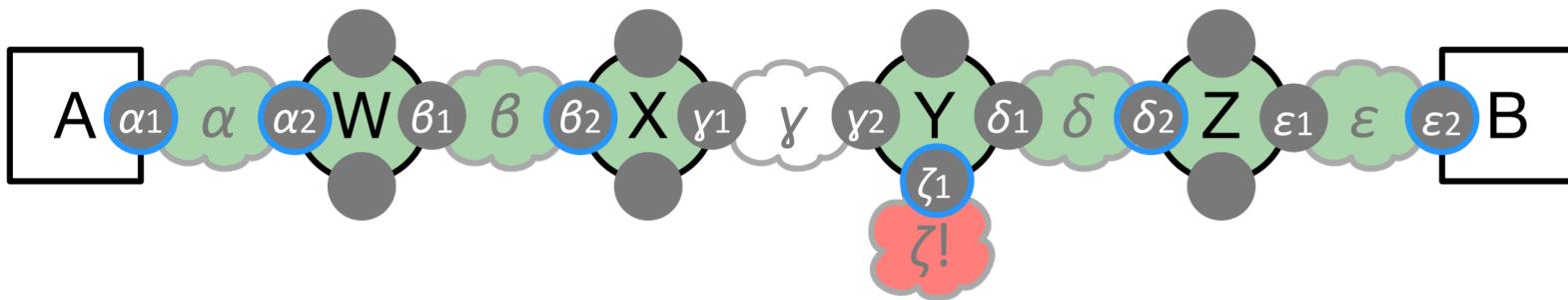
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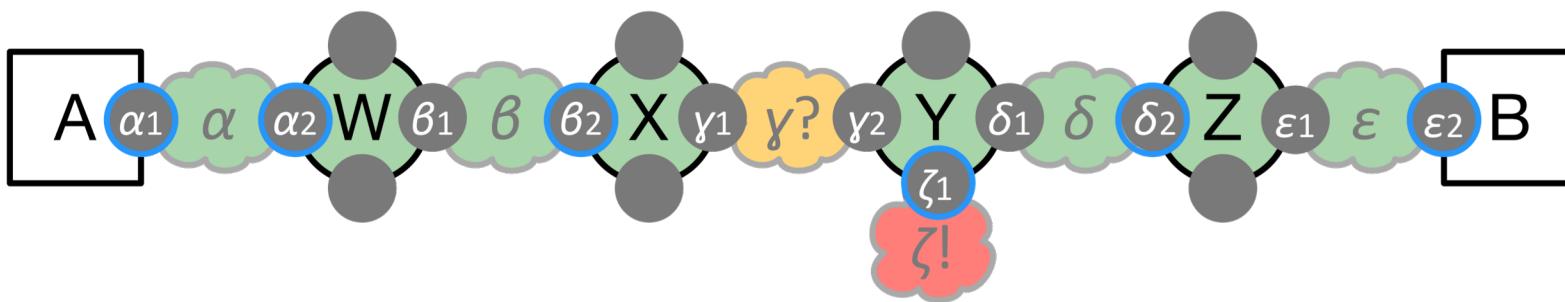
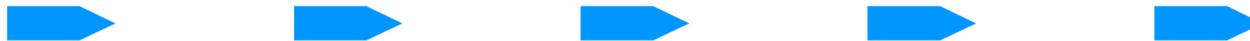
0      1      2      3      4      5

0      1      2      3      4      5





0      1      2      3      4      5



# Traceroute - limits

- Two scenarios
  - "Star"
  - Reply from non-ingress interface
- Limitations
  - Missing information
  - Misleading information

# Outline

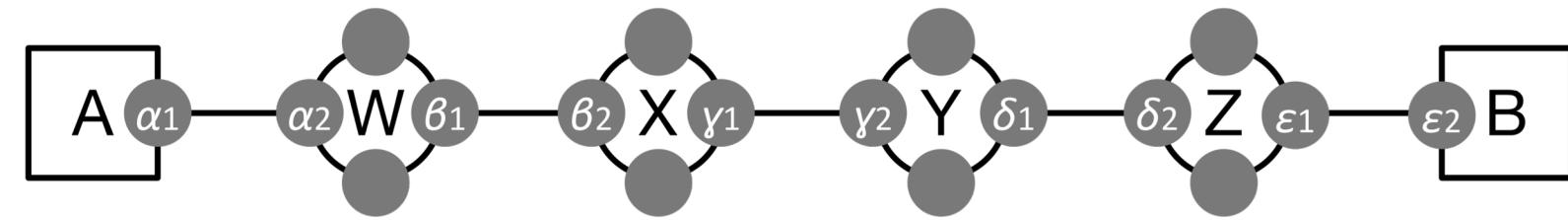
- Basics
- Limits



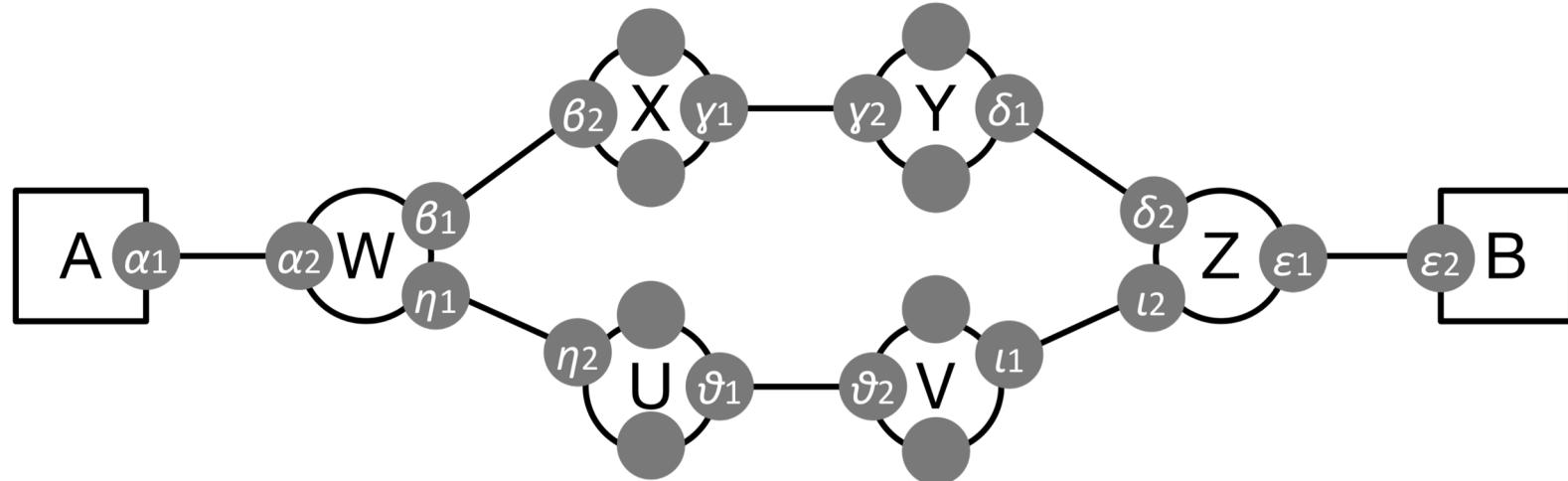
Load balancing

- The tool

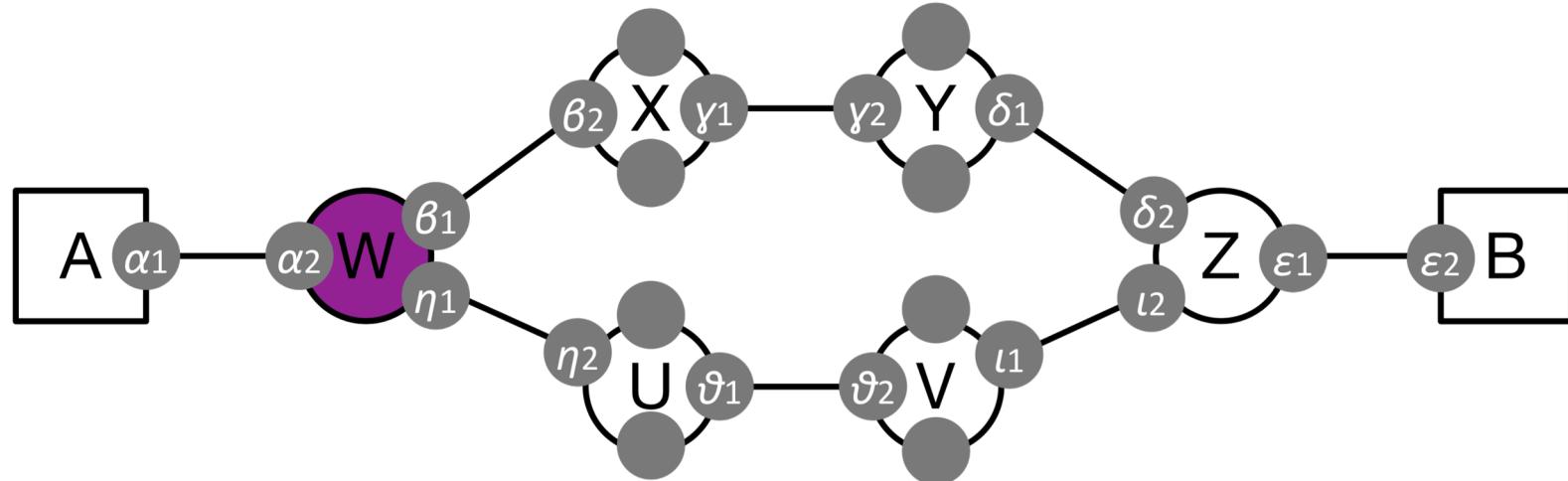
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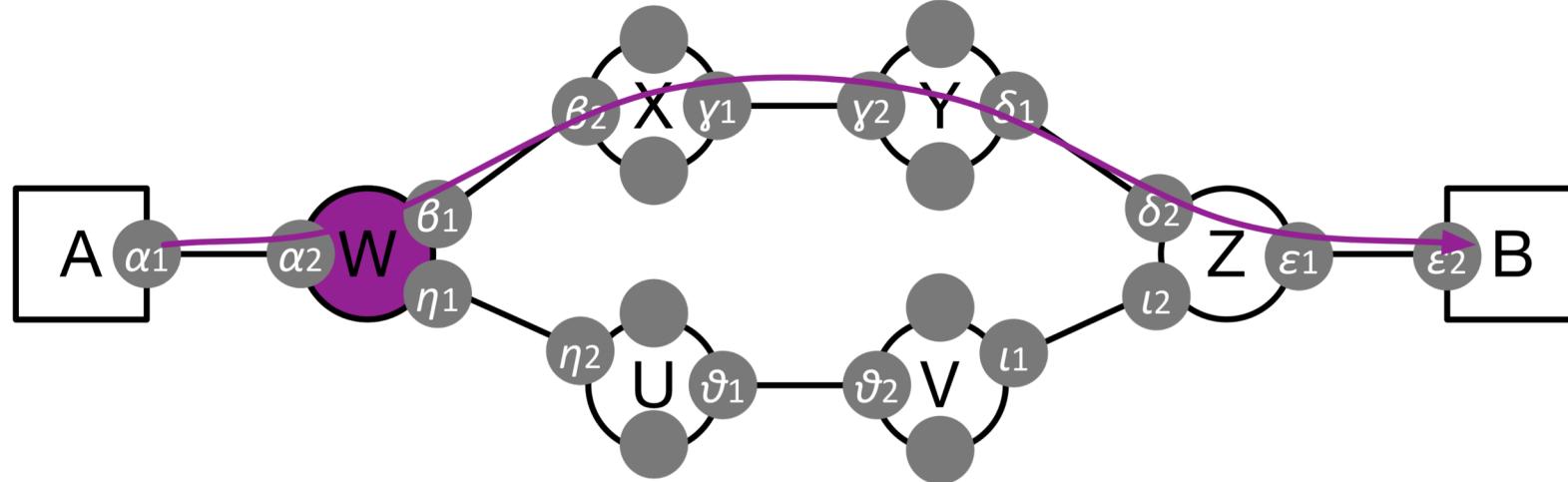
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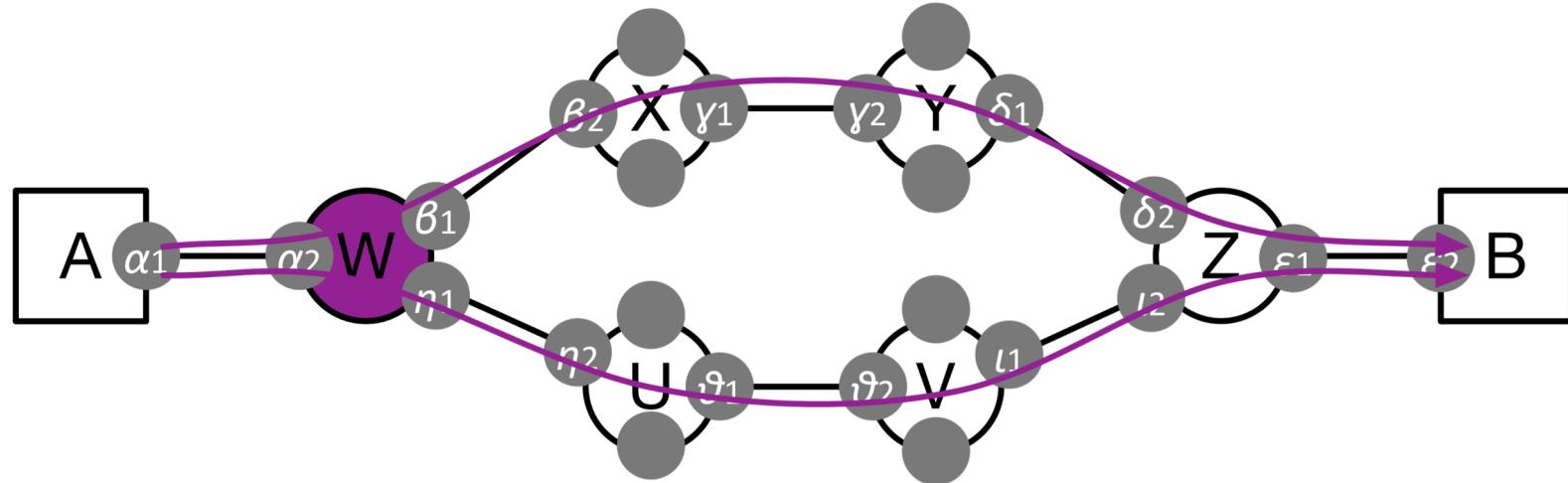
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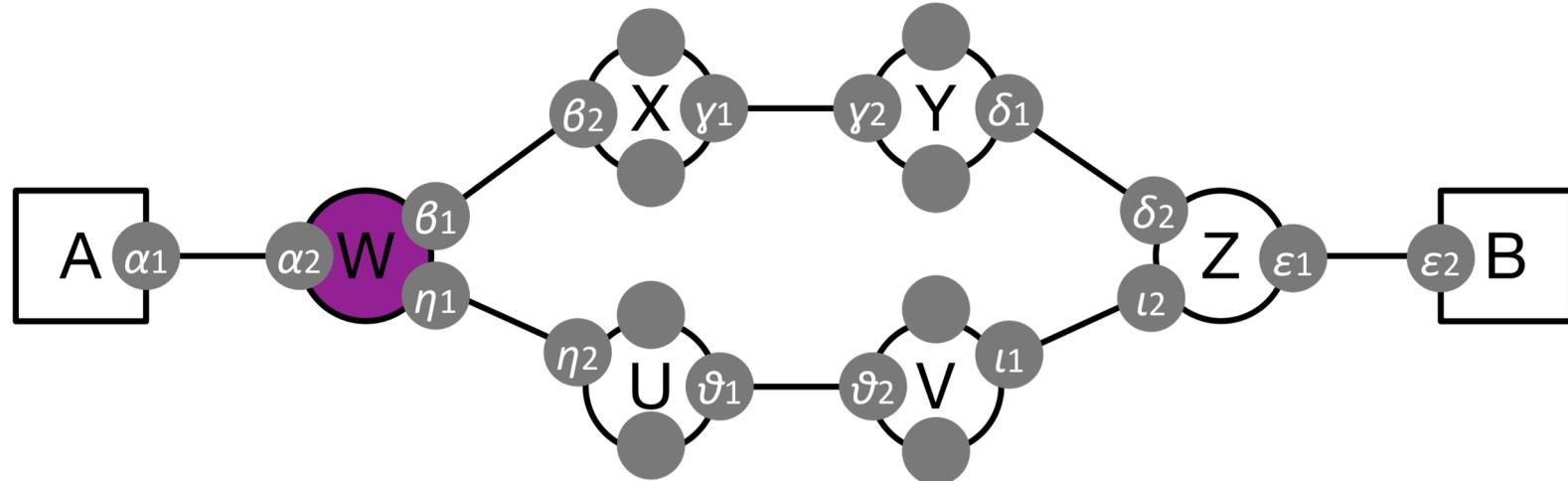
0      1      2      3      4      5



0 1 2 3 4 5



0 1 2 3 4 5



0

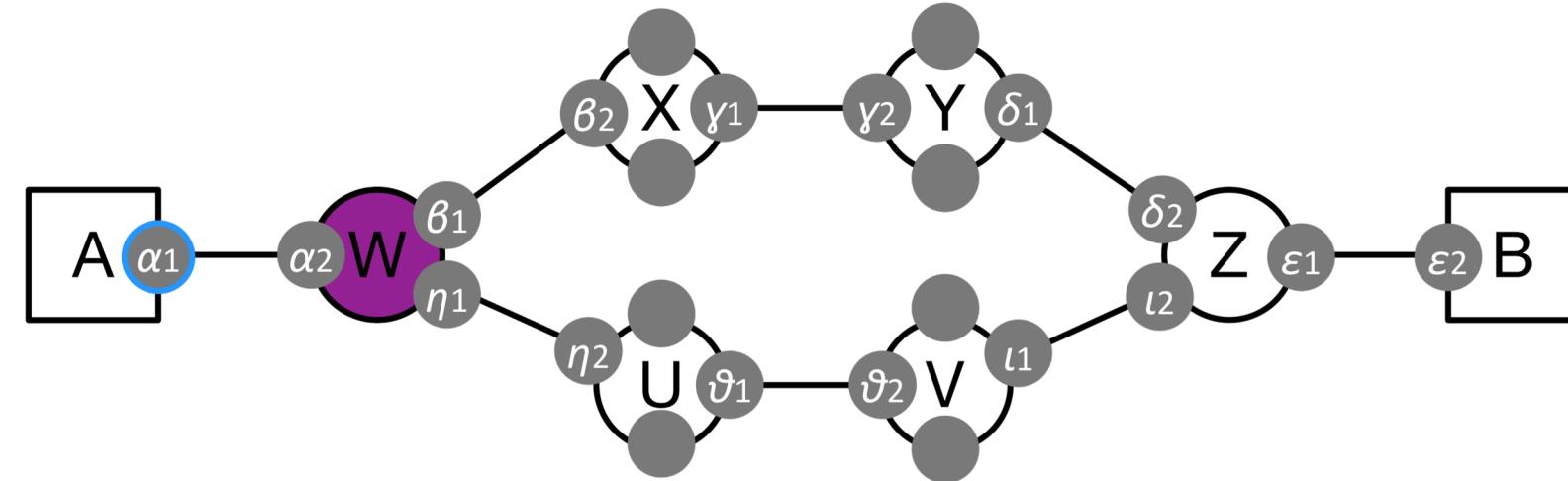
1

2

3

4

5



0

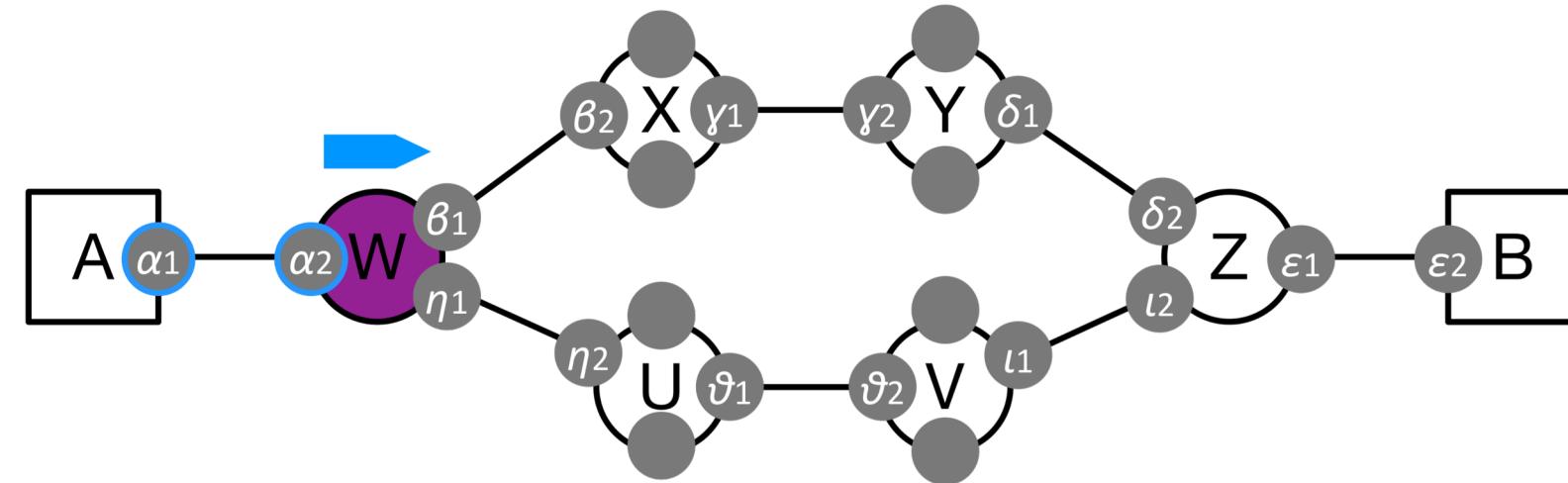
1

2

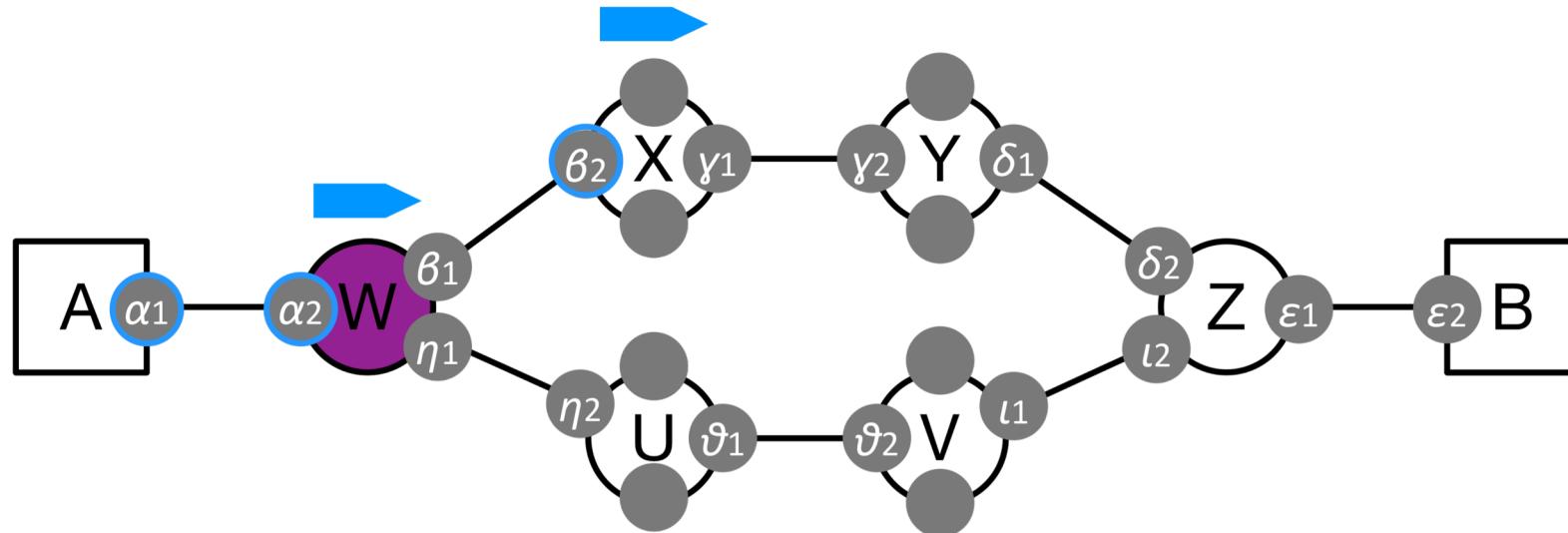
3

4

5



0 1 2 3 4 5



0

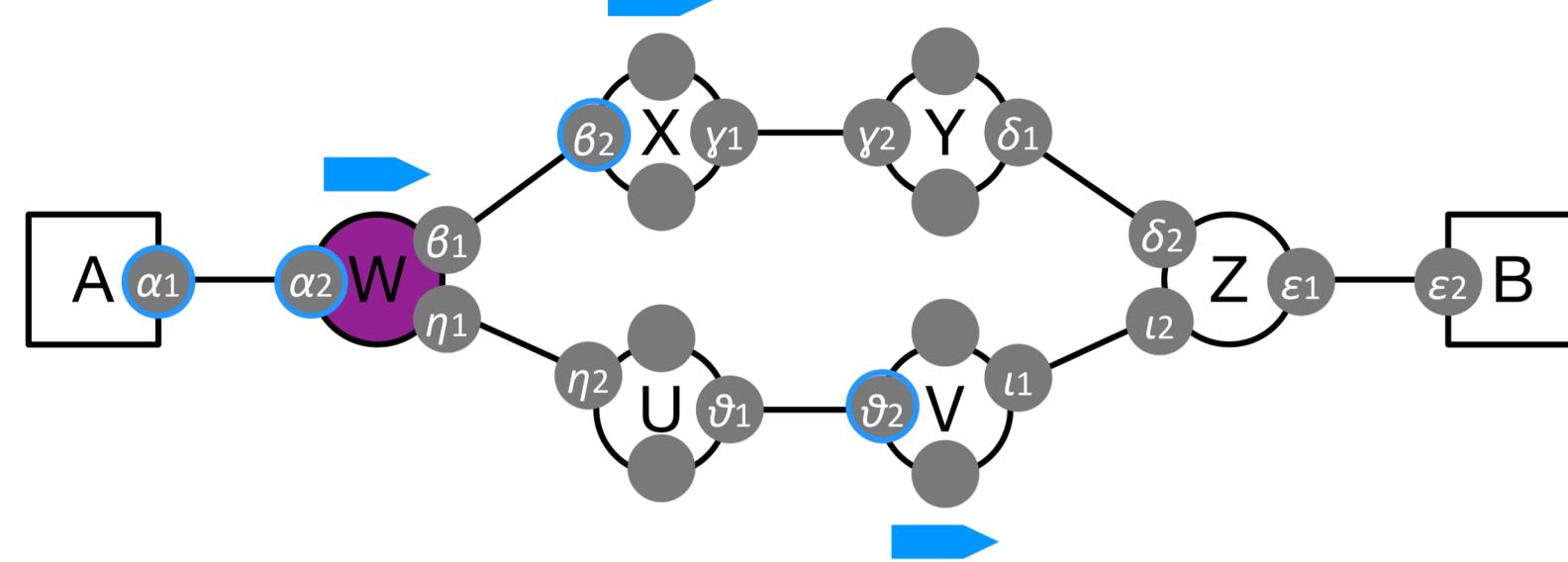
1

2

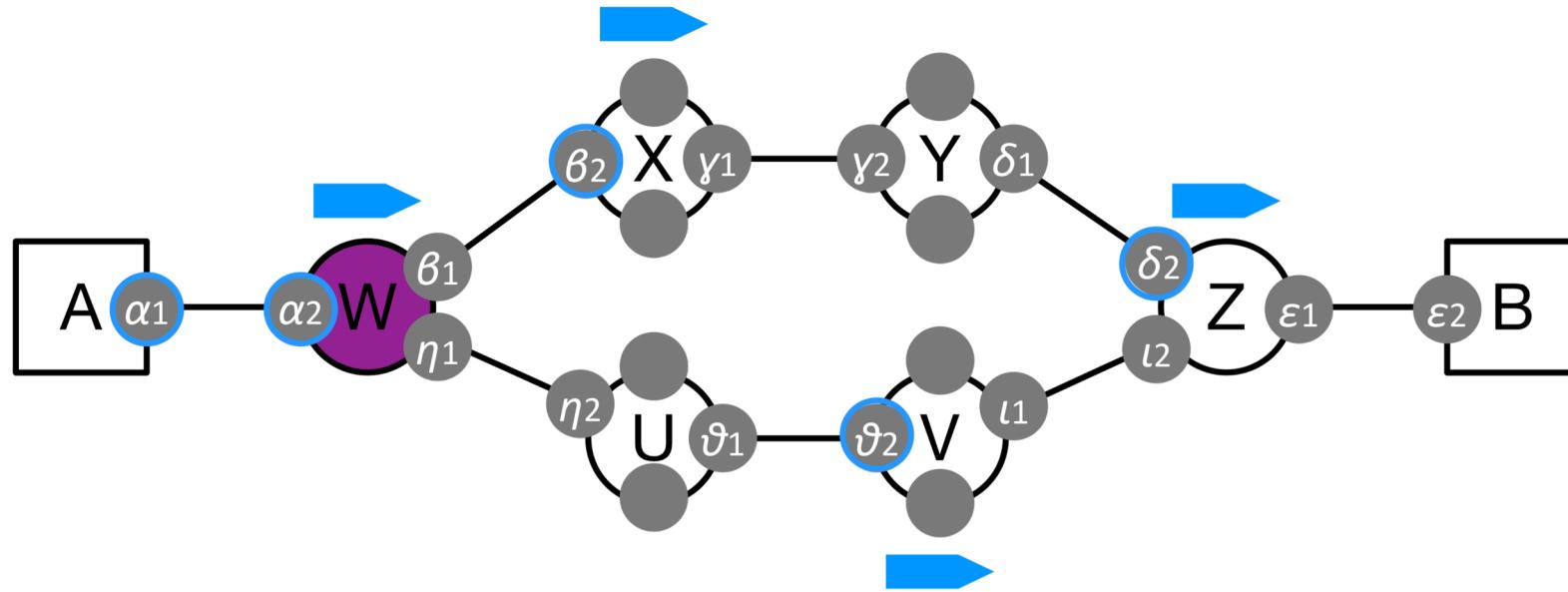
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4

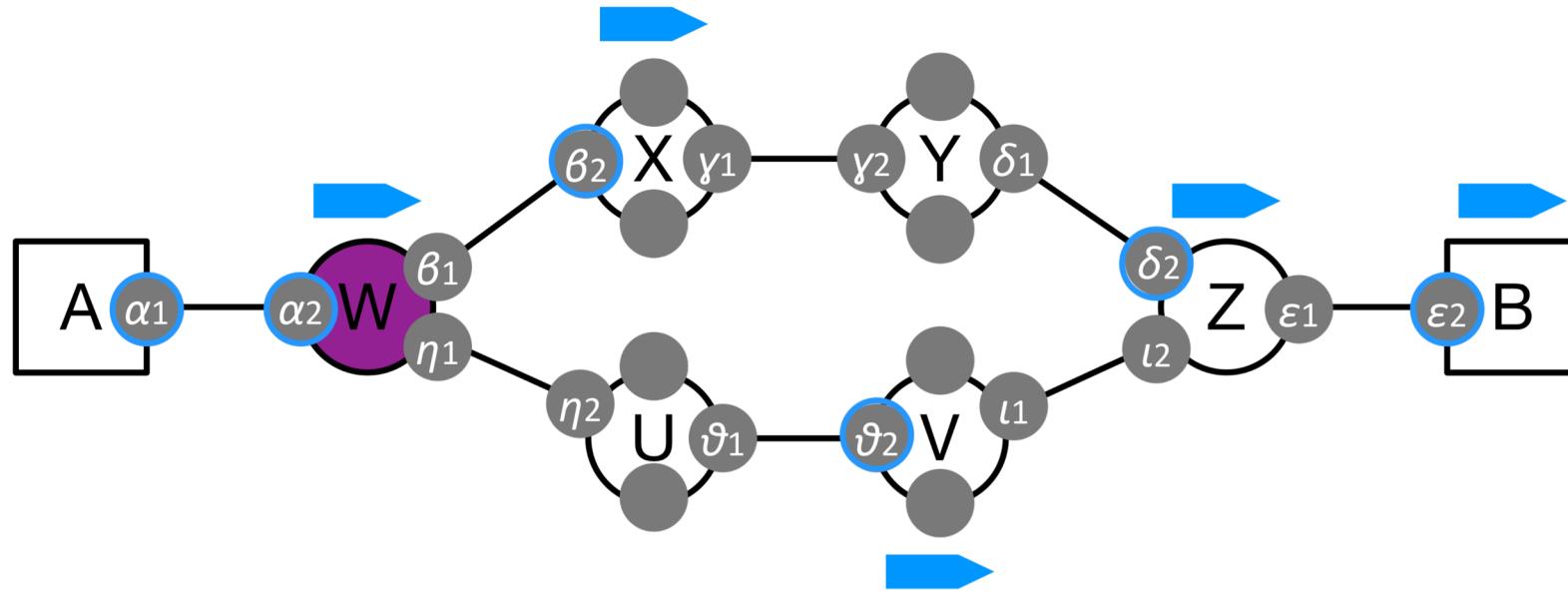
5



0      1      2      3      4      5

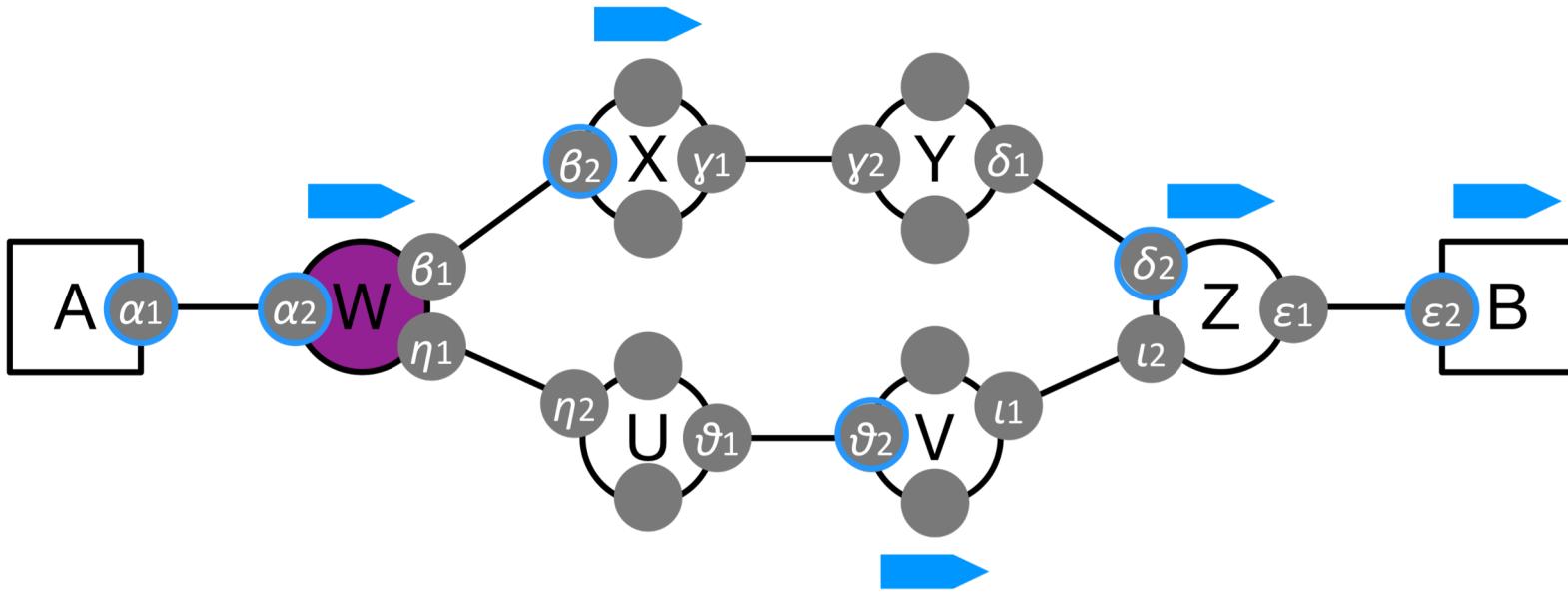


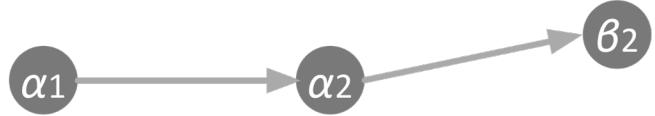
0 1 2 3 4 5



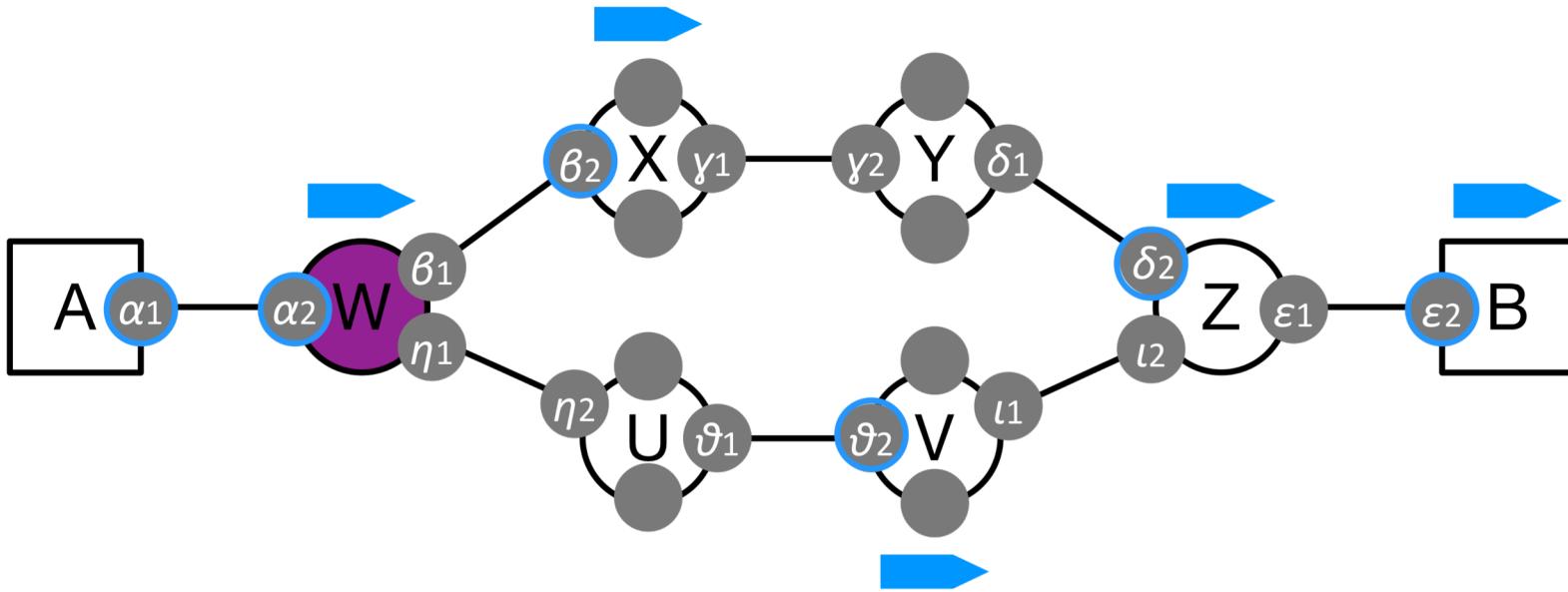


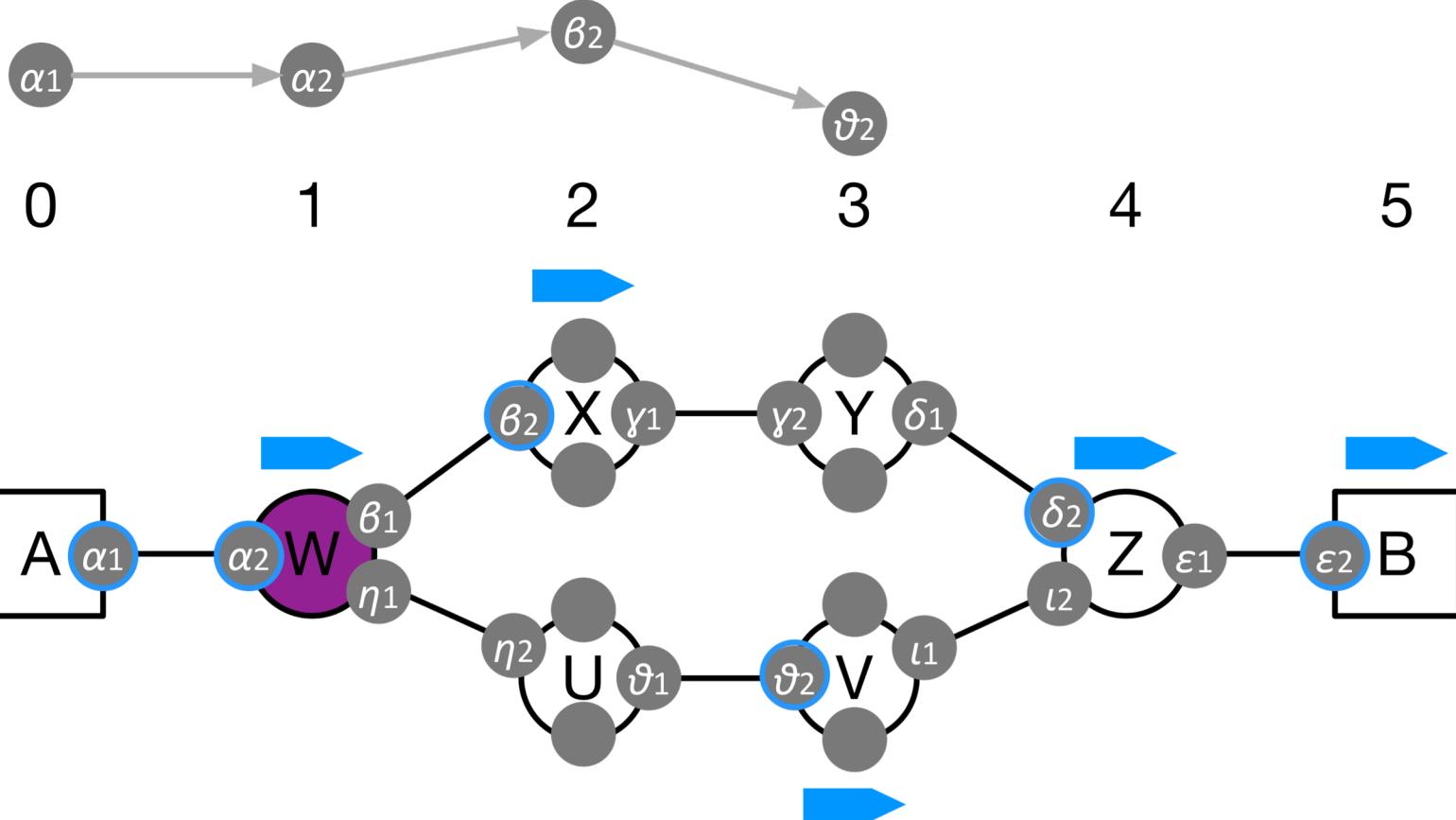
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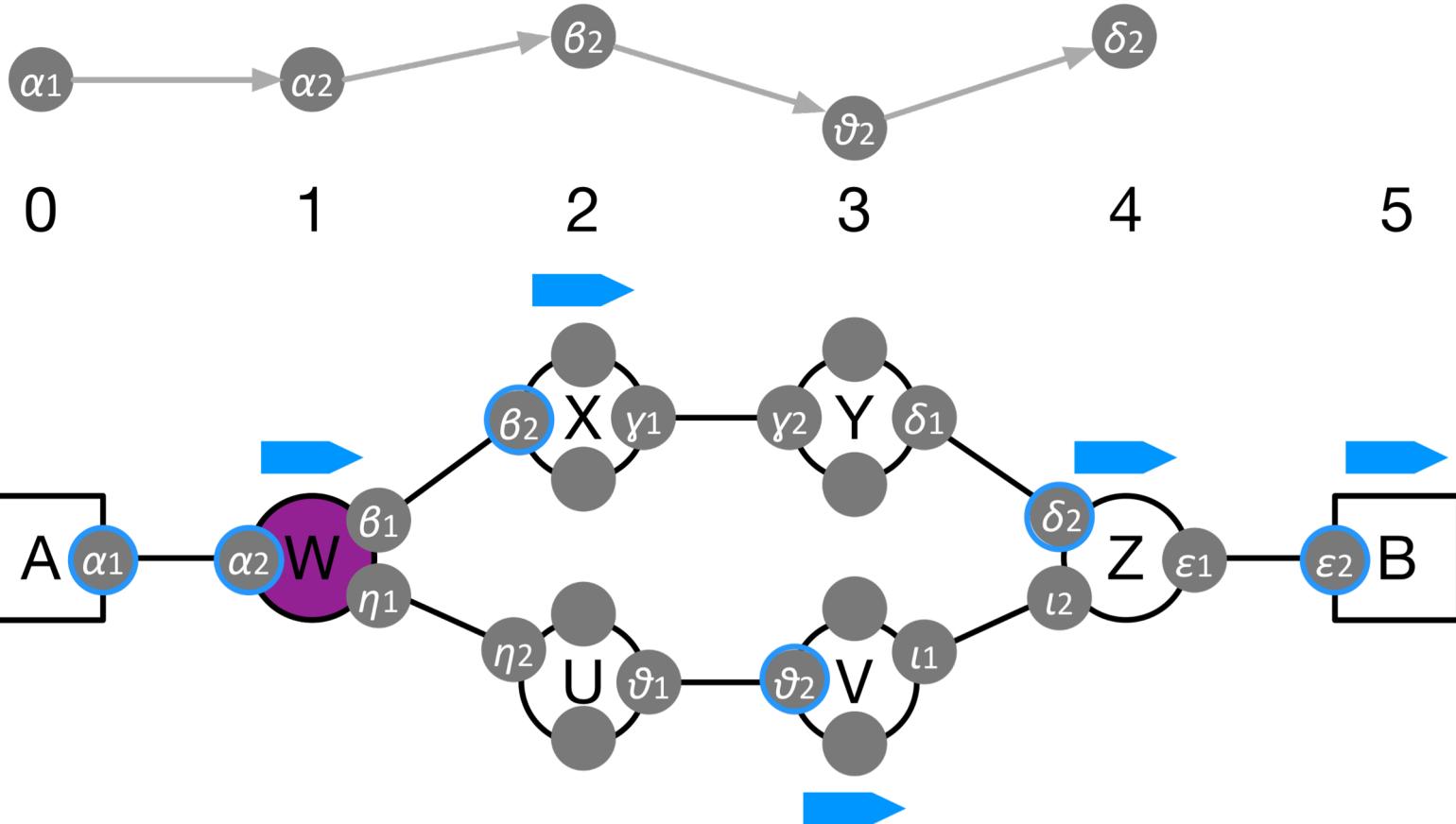


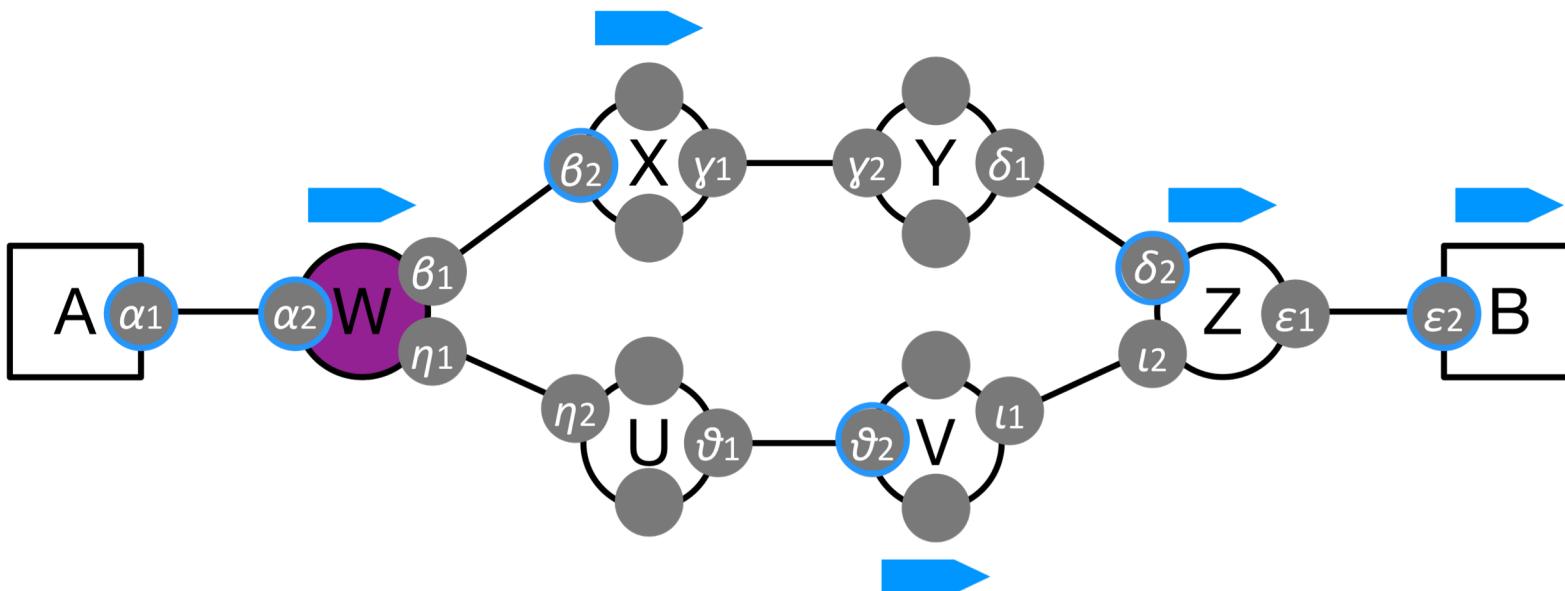
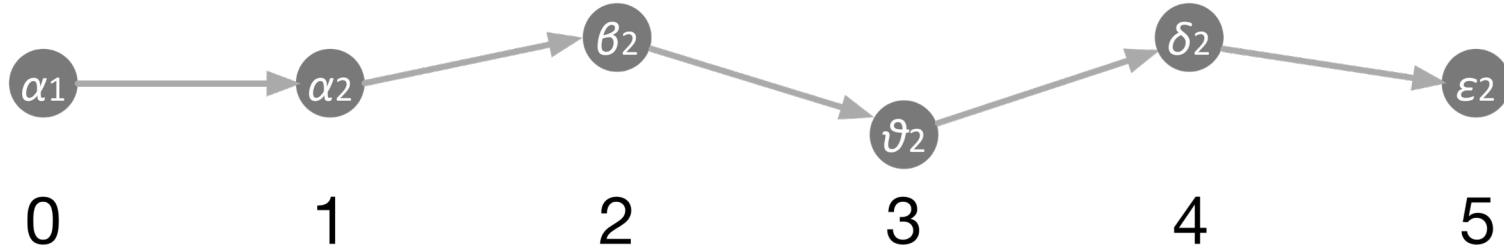


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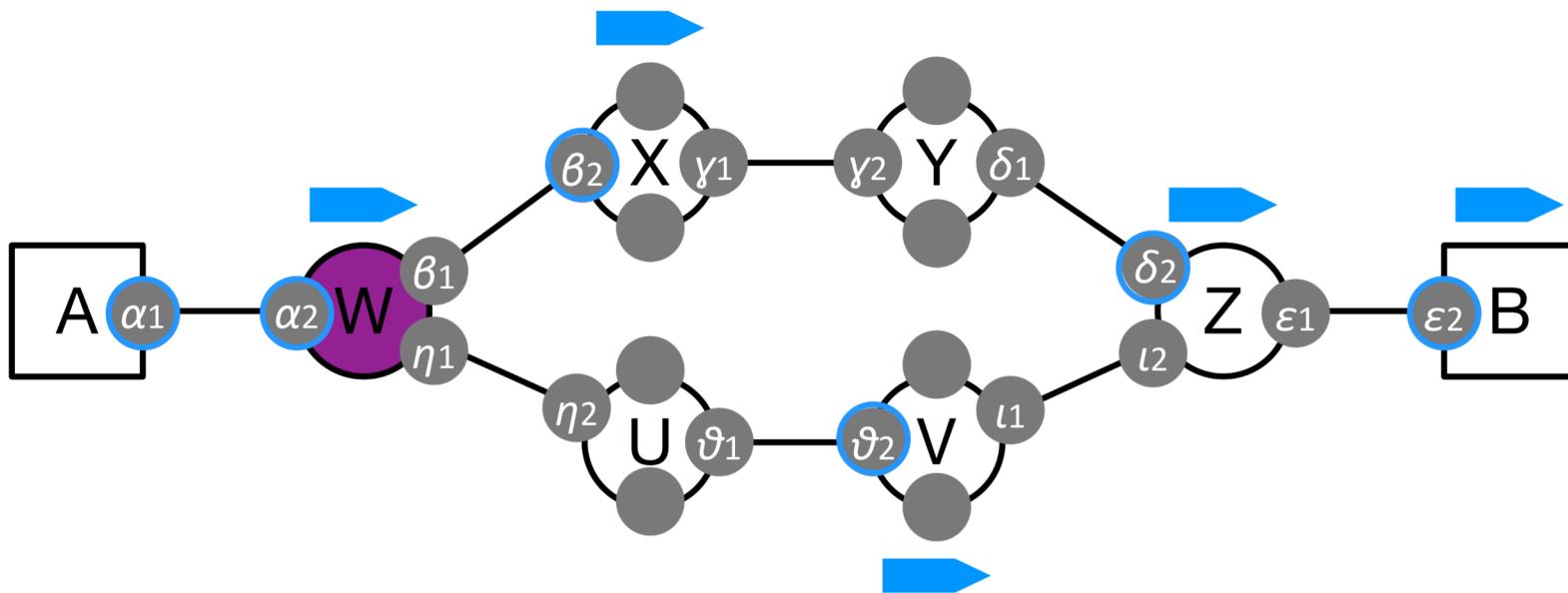
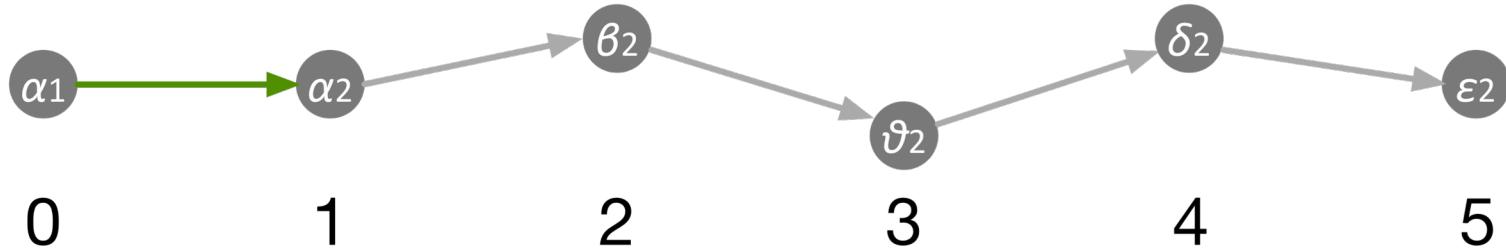


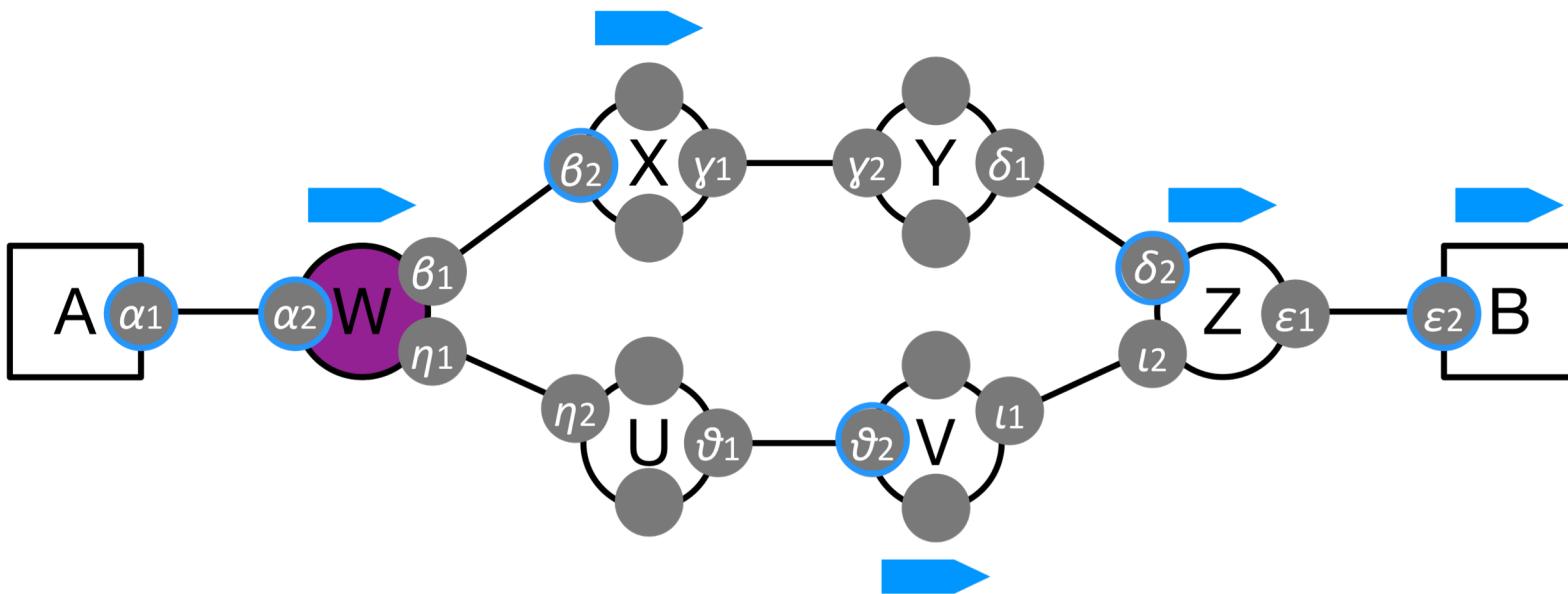
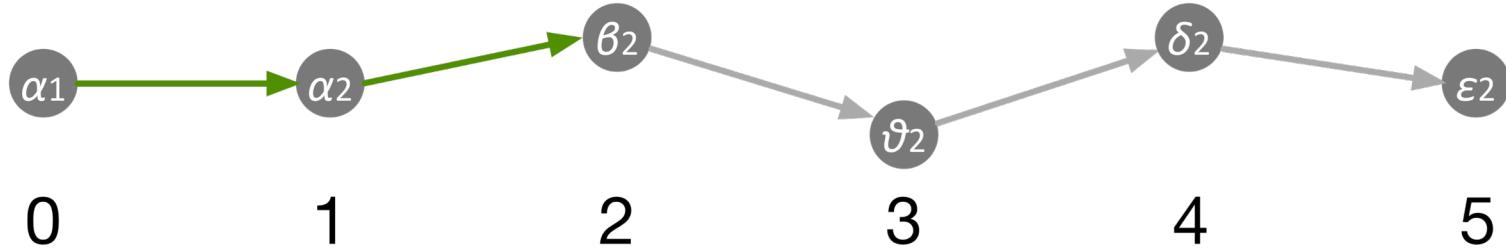


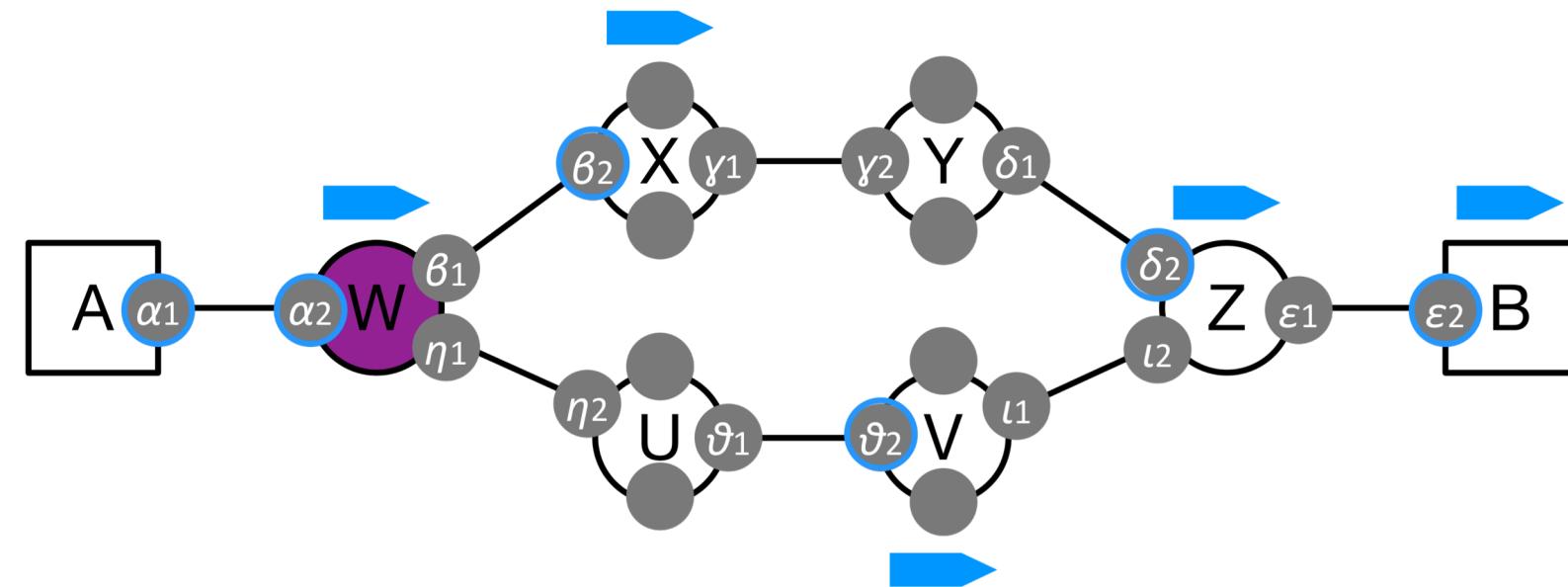
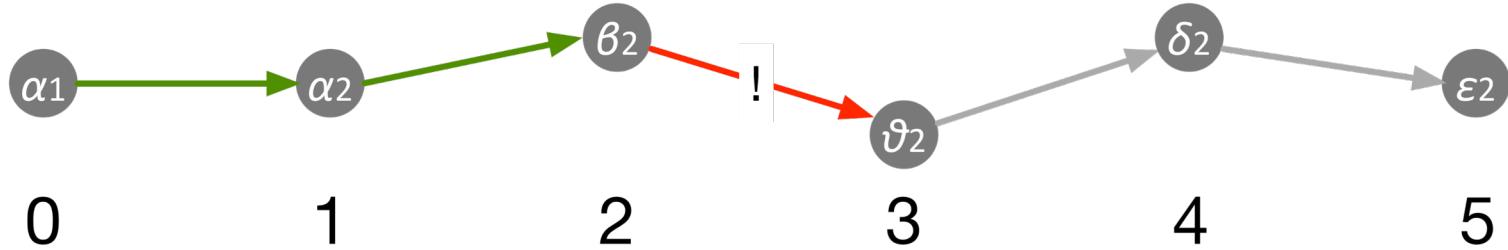


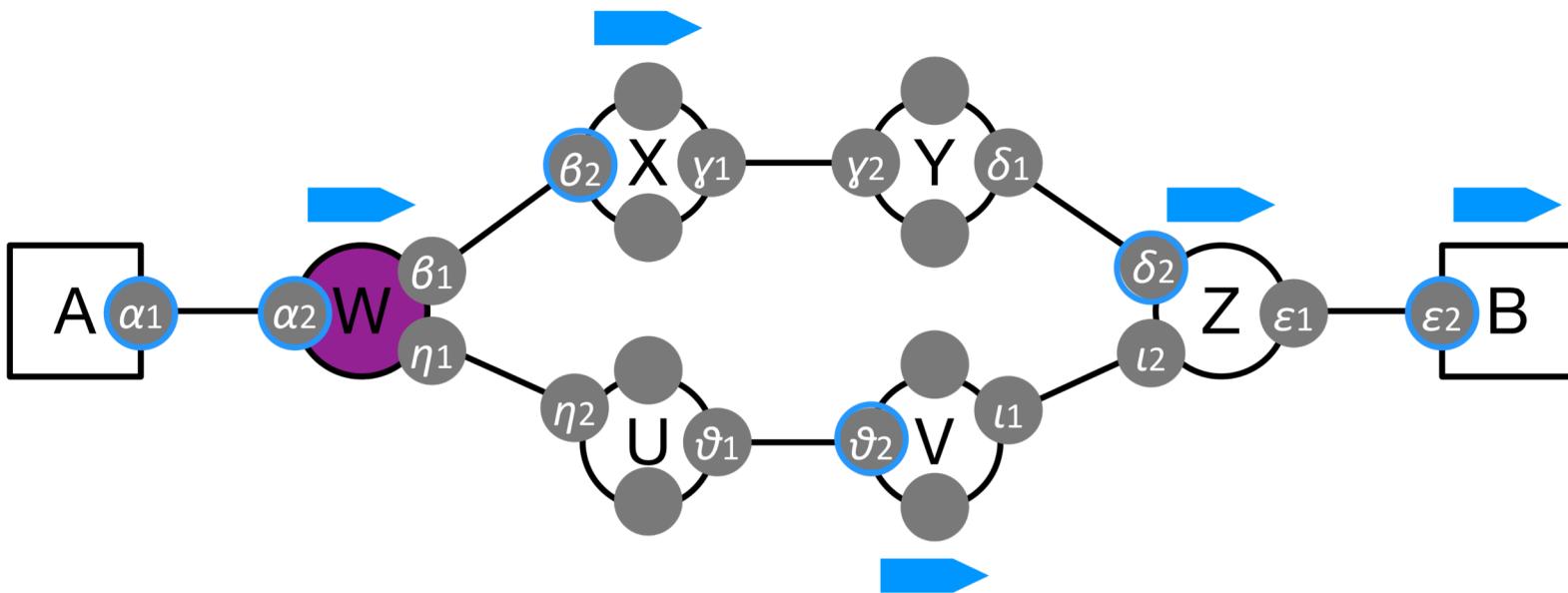
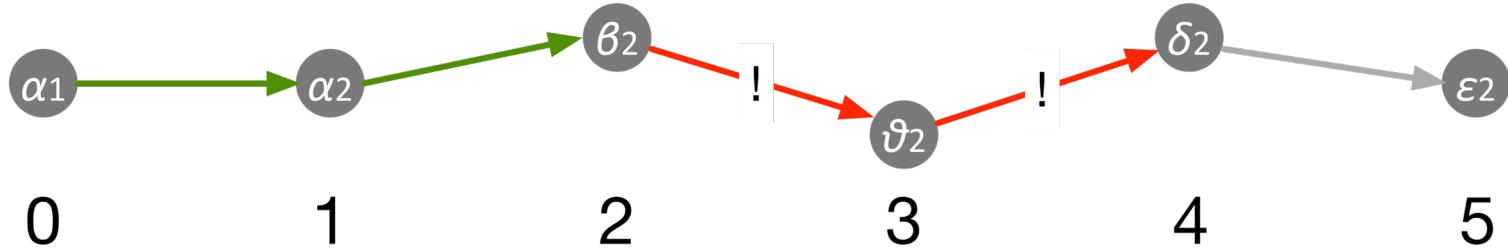


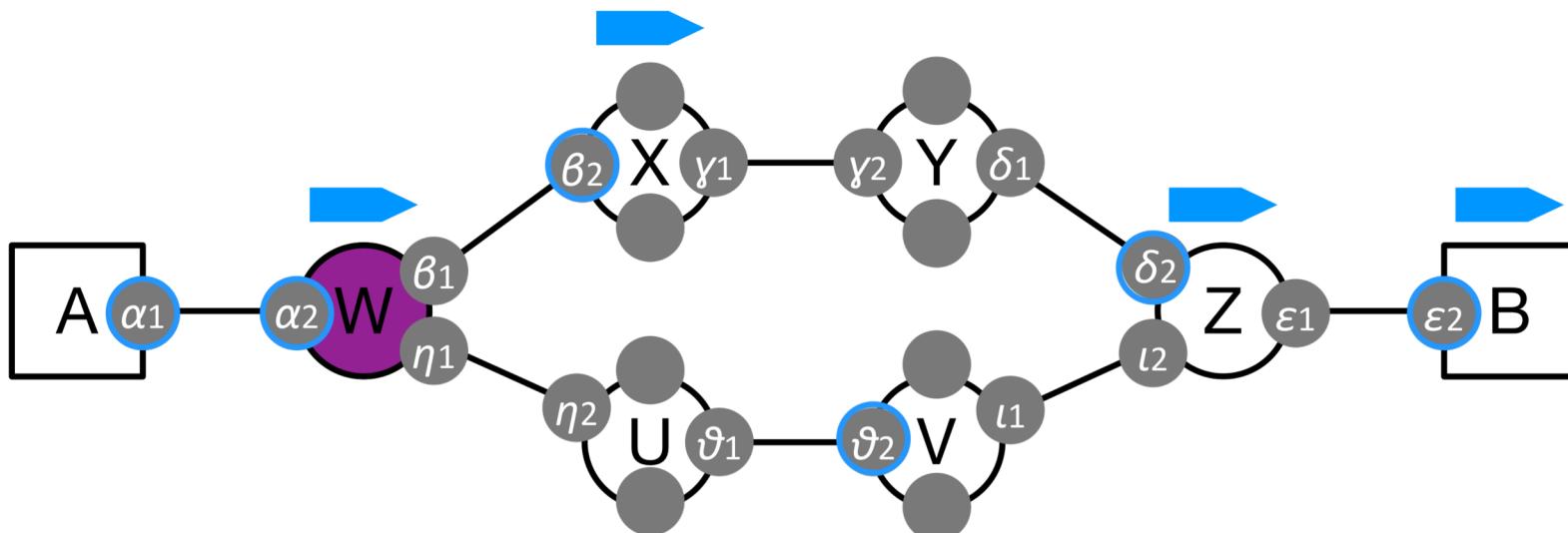
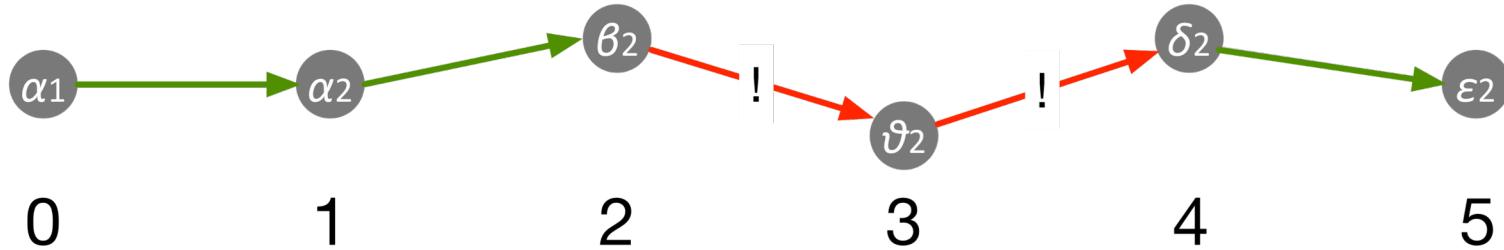
Google Doc poll: Which links in the picture above do not represent the paths taken by packets in the network?



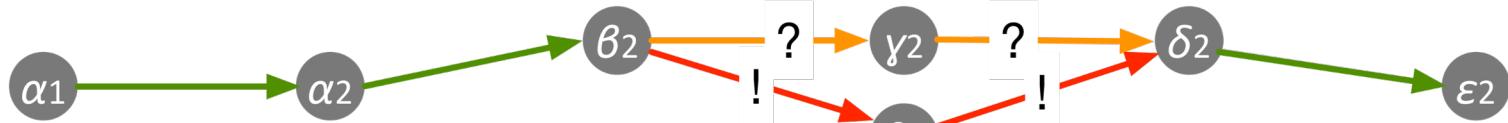




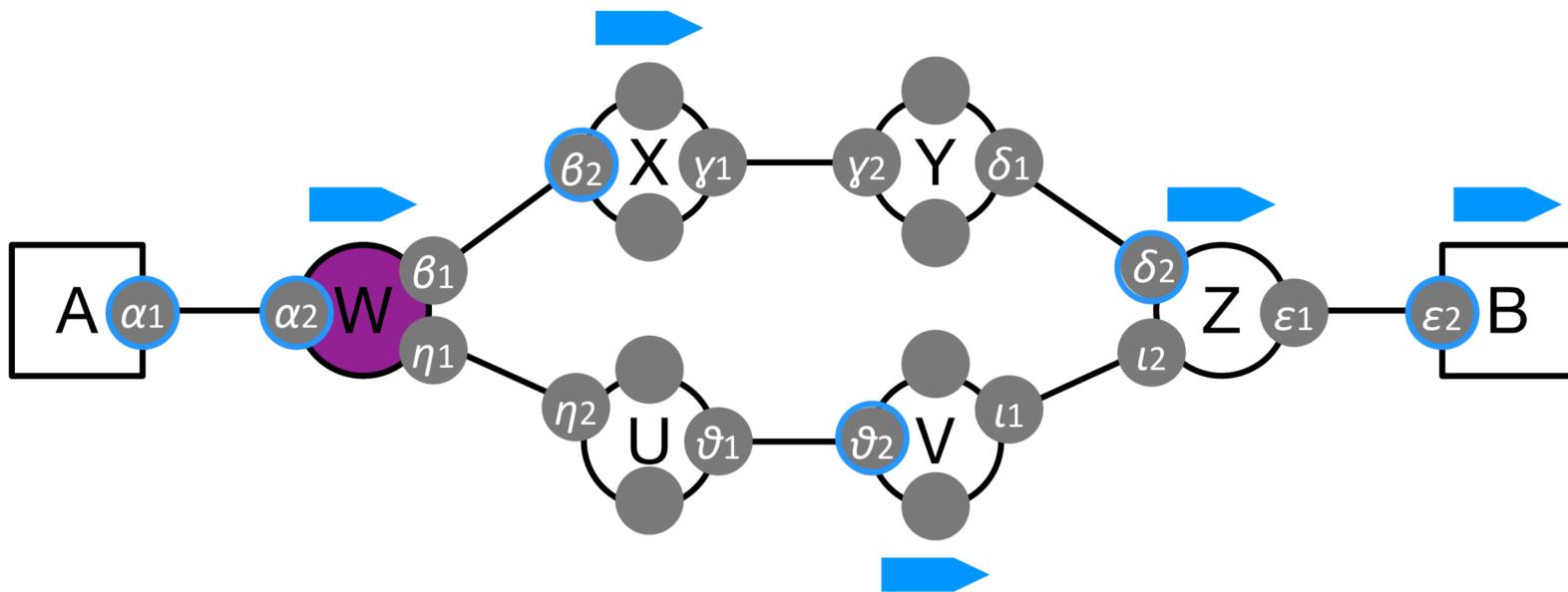


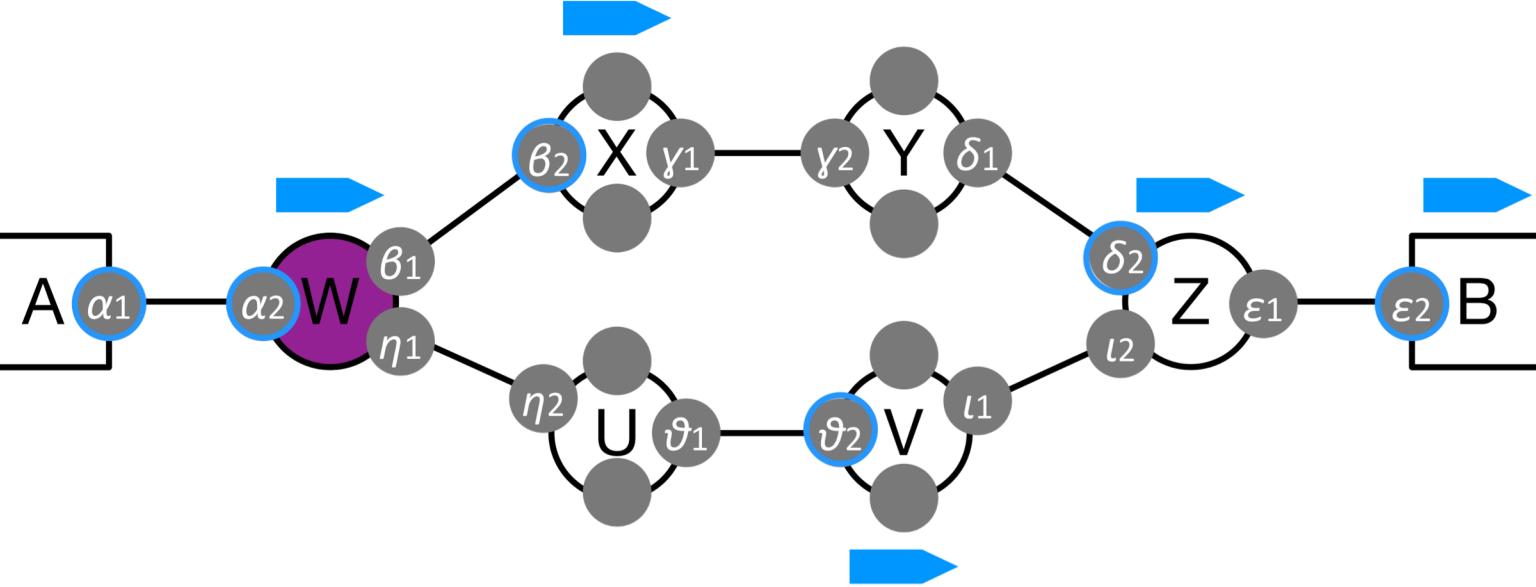
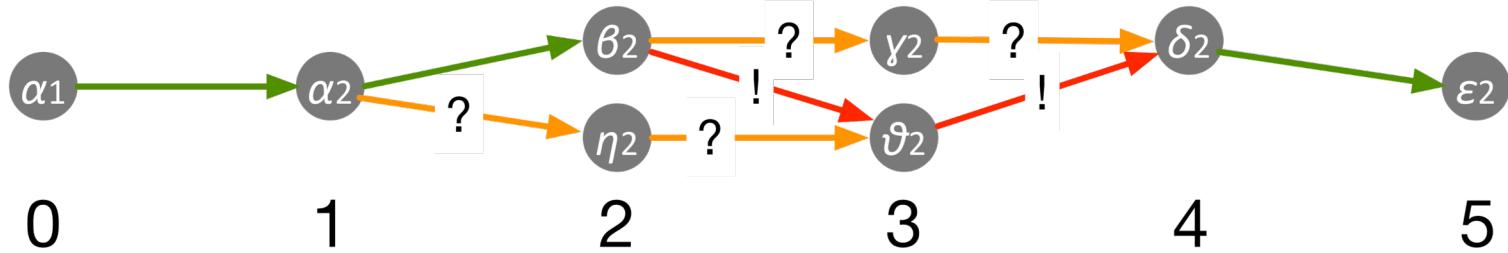


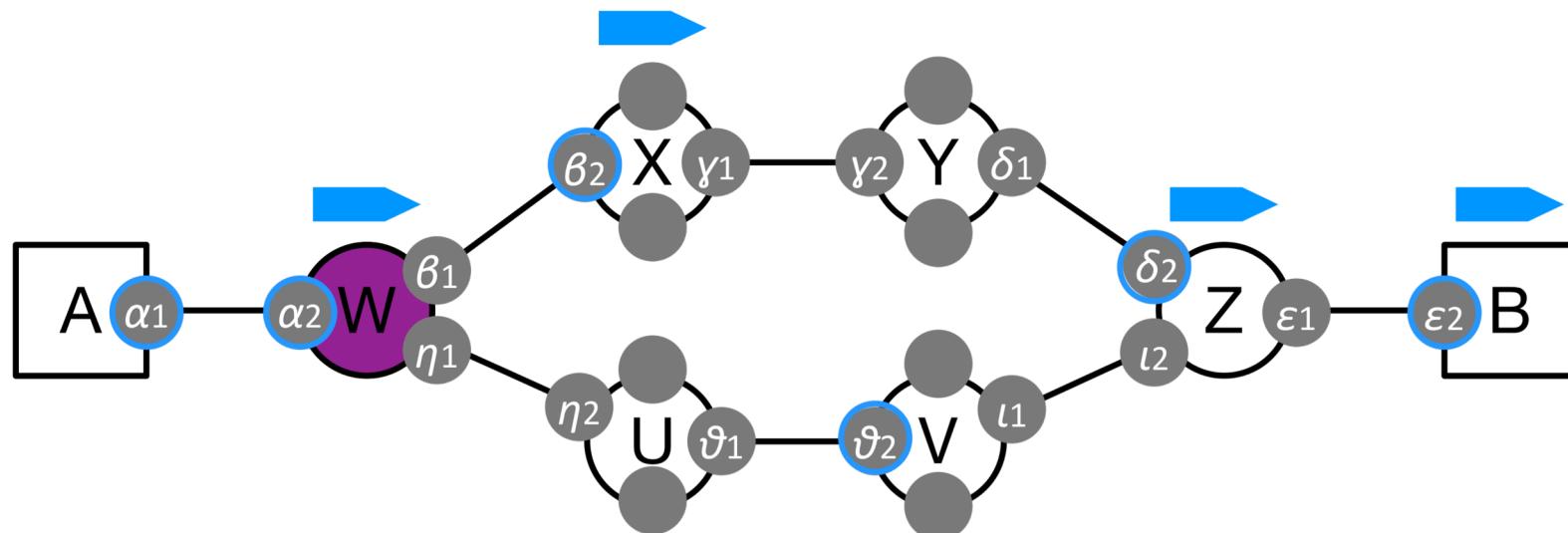
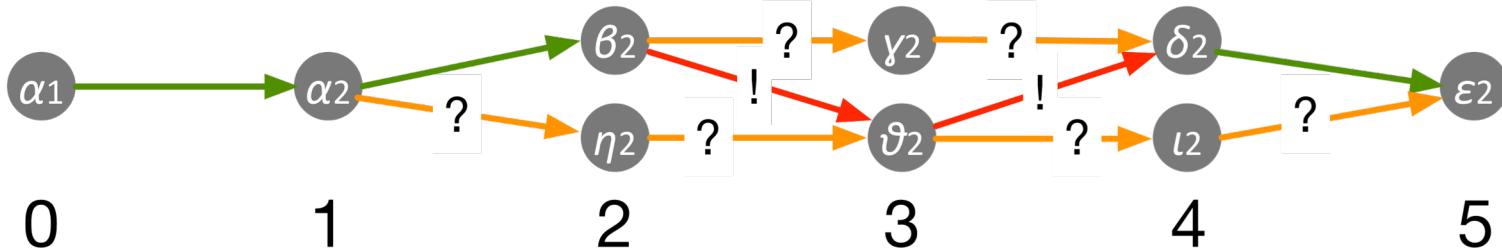
Google Doc poll: Which links representing paths taken by packets should appear in the picture above, but do not appear?



0      1      2      3      4      5

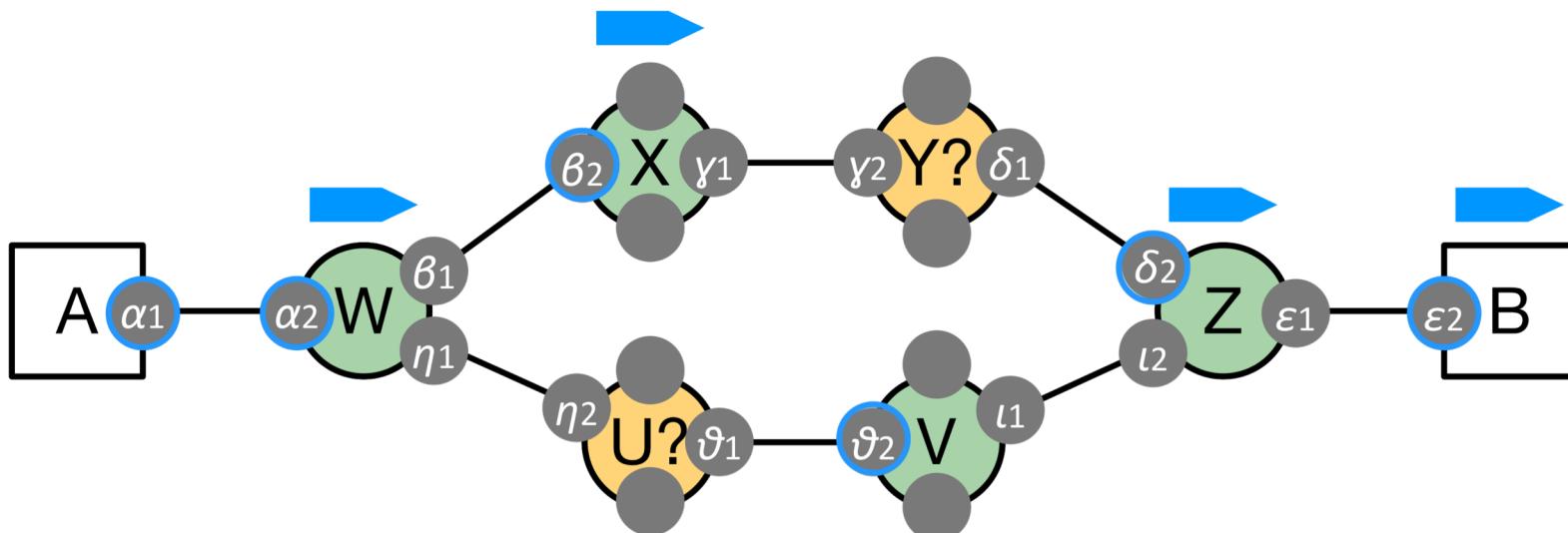
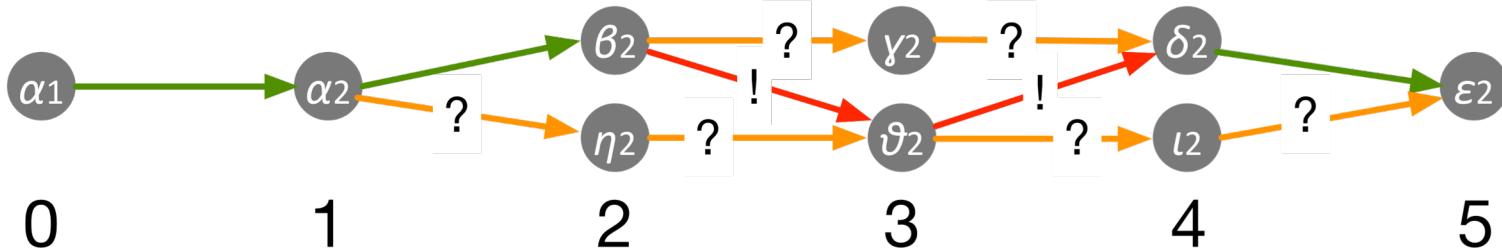




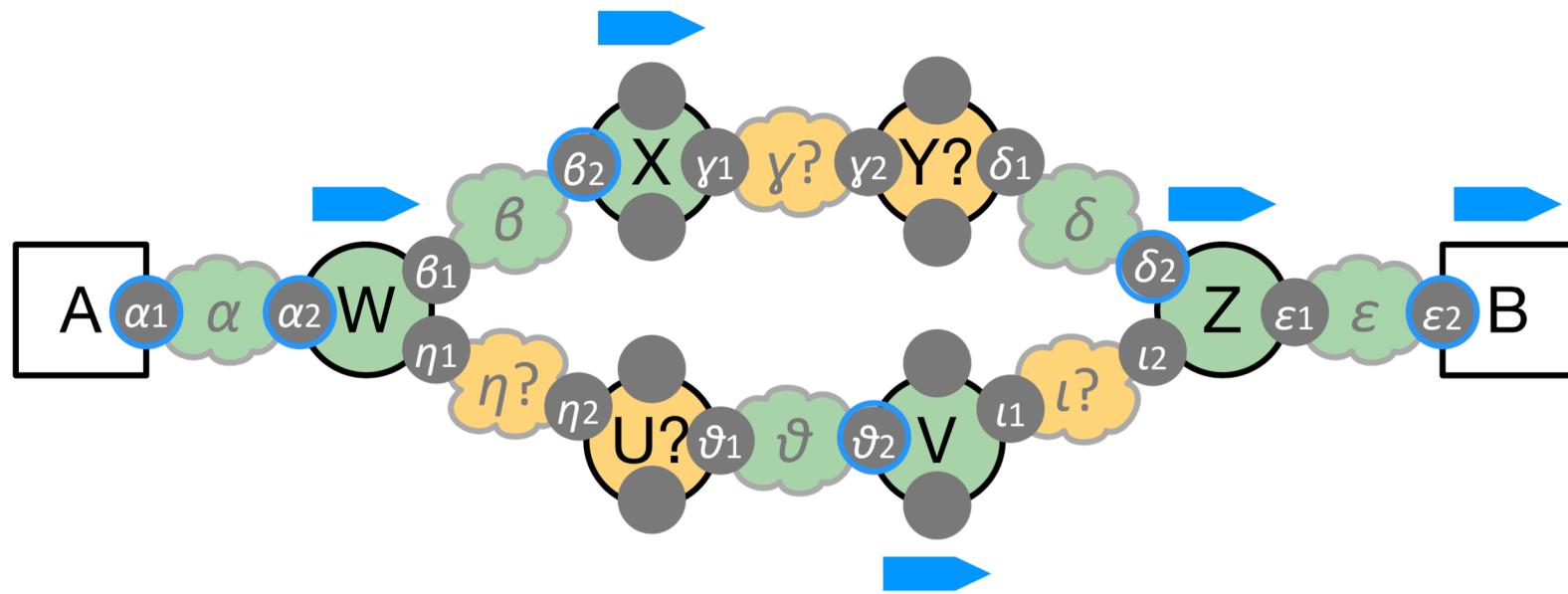
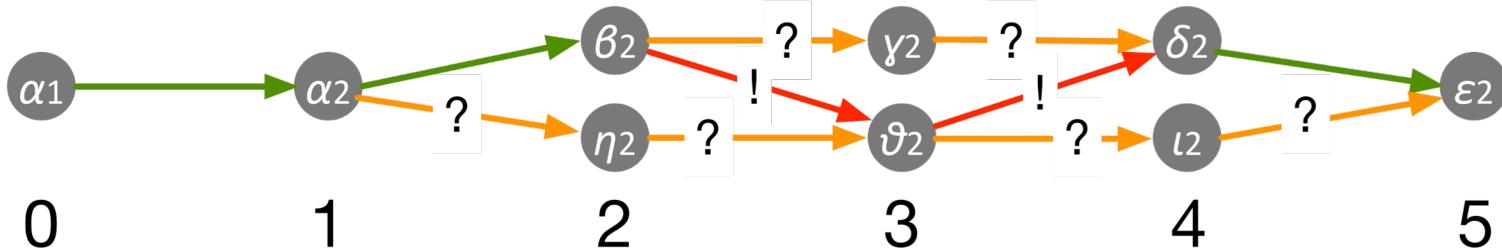


Google Doc poll:

About which routers does traceroute learn absolutely nothing in this example?



Google Doc poll:  
About which networks does traceroute learn absolutely nothing in this example?



# Traceroute - load balancing

- Per-flow load balancing
  - Problem: Traceroute changes the flow identifier with each probe
  - Solution: Paris Traceroute
- Per-packet load balancing
  - Nothing to be done
  - Fortunately, less frequently encountered

# Outline

- Basics
- Limits
- Load balancing

 The tool

```
$ traceroute www.example.com
traceroute to www.example.com (93.184.216.34), 64 hops max, 52 byte packets
 1 livebox (192.168.1.1)  3.079 ms  5.188 ms  1.411 ms
 2 80.10.237.102 (80.10.237.102)  3.999 ms  137.773 ms  6.387 ms
 3 ncidf104.paris.ft.net (193.253.80.126)  3.849 ms  4.992 ms  3.695 ms
 4 niaub102.lyon.ft.net (193.252.159.46)  13.845 ms  15.477 ms  16.557 ms
 5 193.252.137.70 (193.252.137.70)  15.627 ms  18.621 ms  14.790 ms
 6 tengige0-29.ot.net (193.251.240.179)  20.478 ms  16.633 ms  23.926 ms
 7 telia.gw.ot.net (193.251.248.70)  14.067 ms  34.980 ms  19.455 ms
 8 93.184.216.34 (93.184.216.34)  20.619 ms  16.659 ms  15.259 ms
$
```

```
$ traceroute www.example.com
traceroute to www.example.com (93.184.216.34), 64 hops max, 52 byte packets
 1 livebox (192.168.1.1)  3.079 ms  5.188 ms  1.411 ms
 2 80.10.237.102 (80.10.237.102)  3.999 ms  137.773 ms  6.387 ms
 3 ncidf104.paris.ft.net (193.253.80.126)  3.849 ms  4.992 ms  3.695 ms
 4 niaub102.lyon.ft.net (193.252.159.46)  13.845 ms  15.477 ms  16.557 ms
 5 193.252.137.70 (193.252.137.70)  15.627 ms  18.621 ms  14.790 ms
 6 tengige0-29.ot.net (193.251.240.179)  20.478 ms  16.633 ms  23.926 ms
 7 telia.gw.ot.net (193.251.248.70)  14.067 ms  34.980 ms  19.455 ms
 8 93.184.216.34 (93.184.216.34) 20.619 ms  16.659 ms  15.259 ms
$
```

**Zoom poll:** Is the destination reached by this traceroute?

**Zoom poll:** How many hops away is the destination?

```
$ traceroute www.example.com
traceroute to www.example.com (93.184.216.34), 64 hops max, 52 byte packets
 1 livebox (192.168.1.1)  3.079 ms  5.188 ms  1.411 ms
 2 80.10.237.102 (80.10.237.102)  3.999 ms  137.773 ms  6.387 ms
 3 ncidf104.paris.ft.net (193.253.80.126)  3.849 ms  4.992 ms  3.695 ms
 4 niaub102.lyon.ft.net (193.252.159.46)  13.845 ms  15.477 ms  16.557 ms
 5 193.252.137.70 (193.252.137.70)  15.627 ms  18.621 ms  14.790 ms
 6 tengige0-29.ot.net (193.251.240.179)  20.478 ms  16.633 ms  23.926 ms
 7 telia.gw.ot.net (193.251.248.70)  14.067 ms  34.980 ms  19.455 ms
 8 93.184.216.34 (93.184.216.34)  20.619 ms  16.659 ms  15.259 ms
$
```

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5 193.252.137.70 (193.252.137.70) 15.627 ms 18.621 ms 14.790 ms
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7 telia.gw.ot.net (193.251.248.70) 14.067 ms 34.980 ms 19.455 ms
8 93.184.216.34 (93.184.216.34) 20.619 ms 16.659 ms 15.259 ms
$
```

Zoom poll: How many probe packets are sent to each hop?

```
$ traceroute www.example.com
traceroute to www.example.com (93.184.216.34), 64 hops max, 52 byte packets
 1 livebox (192.168.1.1)  3.079 ms  5.188 ms  1.411 ms
 2 80.10.237.102 (80.10.237.102)  3.999 ms  137.773 ms  6.387 ms
 3 ncidf104.paris.ft.net (193.253.80.126)  3.849 ms  4.992 ms  3.695 ms
 4 niaub102.lyon.ft.net (193.252.159.46)  13.845 ms  15.477 ms  16.557 ms
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 7 telia.gw.ot.net (193.251.248.70)  14.067 ms  34.980 ms  19.455 ms
 8 93.184.216.34 (93.184.216.34)  20.619 ms  16.659 ms  15.259 ms
$
```

Google Doc poll: Which cities does the traceroute pass through?

```
$ traceroute www.example.com
traceroute to www.example.com (93.184.216.34), 64 hops max, 52 byte packets
 1 livebox (192.168.1.1)  3.079 ms  5.188 ms  1.411 ms
 2 80.10.237.102 (80.10.237.102)  3.999 ms  137.773 ms  6.387 ms
 3 ncidf104.paris.ft.net (193.253.80.126)  3.849 ms  4.992 ms  3.695 ms
 4 niaub102.lyon.ft.net (193.252.159.46)  13.845 ms  15.477 ms  16.557 ms
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```

```
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4 niaub102.lyon.ft.net (193.252.159.46)  13.845 ms  15.477 ms  16.557 ms
5 193.252.137.70 (193.252.137.70)  15.627 ms  18.621 ms  14.790 ms
6 tengige0-29.ot.net (193.251.240.179)  20.478 ms  16.633 ms  23.926 ms
7 telia.gw.ot.net (193.251.248.70)  14.067 ms  34.980 ms  19.455 ms
8 93.184.216.34 (93.184.216.34)  20.619 ms  16.659 ms  15.259 ms
$
```

Google Doc poll: Why do we not see the name that corresponds to this IP address?

```
$ traceroute www.example.com
traceroute to www.example.com (93.184.216.34), 64 hops max, 52 byte packets
 1 livebox (192.168.1.1)  3.079 ms  5.188 ms  1.411 ms
 2 80.10.237.102 (80.10.237.102)  3.999 ms  137.773 ms  6.387 ms
 3 ncidf104.paris.ft.net (193.253.80.126)  3.849 ms  4.992 ms  3.695 ms
 4 niaub102.lyon.ft.net (193.252.159.46)  13.845 ms  15.477 ms  16.557 ms
 5 193.252.137.70 (193.252.137.70)  15.627 ms  18.621 ms  14.790 ms
 6 tengige0-29.ot.net (193.251.240.179)  20.478 ms  16.633 ms  23.926 ms
 7 telia.gw.ot.net (193.251.248.70)  14.067 ms  34.980 ms  19.455 ms
 8 93.184.216.34 (93.184.216.34)  20.619 ms  16.659 ms  15.259 ms
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```

```
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 2 80.10.237.102 (80.10.237.102) 3.999 ms 137.773 ms 6.387 ms
 3 ncidf104.paris.ft.net (193.253.80.126)  3.849 ms  4.992 ms  3.695 ms
 4 niaub102.lyon.ft.net (193.252.159.46)  13.845 ms  15.477 ms  16.557 ms
 5 193.252.137.70 (193.252.137.70)  15.627 ms  18.621 ms  14.790 ms
 6 tengige0-29.ot.net (193.251.240.179)  20.478 ms  16.633 ms  23.926 ms
 7 telia.gw.ot.net (193.251.248.70)  14.067 ms  34.980 ms  19.455 ms
 8 93.184.216.34 (93.184.216.34)  20.619 ms  16.659 ms  15.259 ms
$
```

Google Doc poll: How far away is the destination from the source?

```
7 telia.gw.ot.net (193.251.248.70)  17.657 ms  21.913 ms  16.441 ms
8 * * *
9 * * *
10 dk-ore.nordu.net (109.105.97.136) 126.153 ms 164.046 ms 168.931 ms
```

Google Doc poll: What explains the stars in this excerpt from a traceroute?

7 telia.gw.ot.net (193.251.248.70) 17.657 ms 21.913 ms 16.441 ms  
8 \* \* \*  
9 \* \* \*  
10 dk-ore.nordu.net (109.105.97.136) 126.153 ms 164.046 ms 168.931 ms

7 telia.gw.ot.net (193.251.248.70) 17.657 ms 21.913 ms 16.441 ms  
8 ldn-bb3-link.telia.net (80.91.248.217) 27.737 ms  
ldn-bb2-link.telia.net (80.91.246.114) 18.095 ms  
ldn-bb2-link.telia.net (80.91.249.181) 25.971 ms  
9 ash-bb4-link.telia.net (62.115.141.92) 98.975 ms  
ash-bb4-link.telia.net (62.115.116.66) 86.646 ms  
nyk-bb1-link.telia.net (62.115.135.96) 83.222 ms

```
7 telia.gw.ot.net (193.251.248.70) 17.657 ms 21.913 ms 16.441 ms
8 ldn-bb3-link.telia.net (80.91.248.217) 27.737 ms
ldn-bb2-link.telia.net (80.91.246.114) 18.095 ms
ldn-bb2-link.telia.net (80.91.249.181) 25.971 ms
9 ash-bb4-link.telia.net (62.115.141.92) 98.975 ms
ash-bb4-link.telia.net (62.115.116.66) 86.646 ms
nyk-bb1-link.telia.net (62.115.135.96) 83.222 ms
```

Google Doc poll: What explains the multiple answers at a given hop in this traceroute?

# Traceroutes

## IPv4 route lengths

- Mean: 15-16 hops
- Roughly normal distribution of hop lengths
- Few routes shorter than 6 hops
- Few routes longer than 25 hops
- Routes longer than 30 hops extremely rare

Source: presenter's own work with Leguay, Latapy, Salamatian (2005)

# Outline

- Basics
- Limits
- Load balancing
- The tool

