

# Interdomain routing

---

BGP-4

Enzo Mingozzi

Professor @ University of Pisa

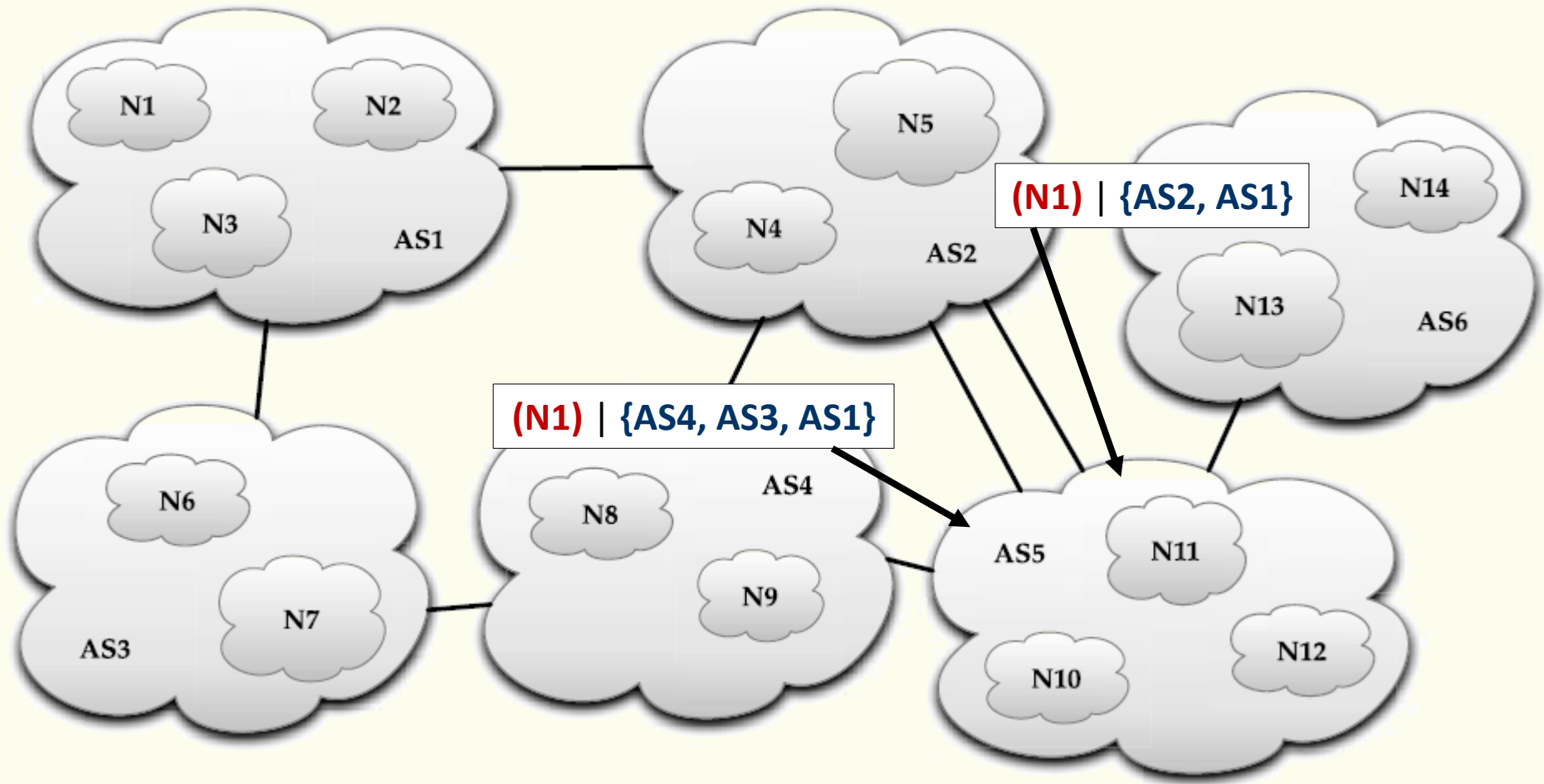
[enzo.mingozzi@unipi.it](mailto:enzo.mingozzi@unipi.it)

# BGP-4

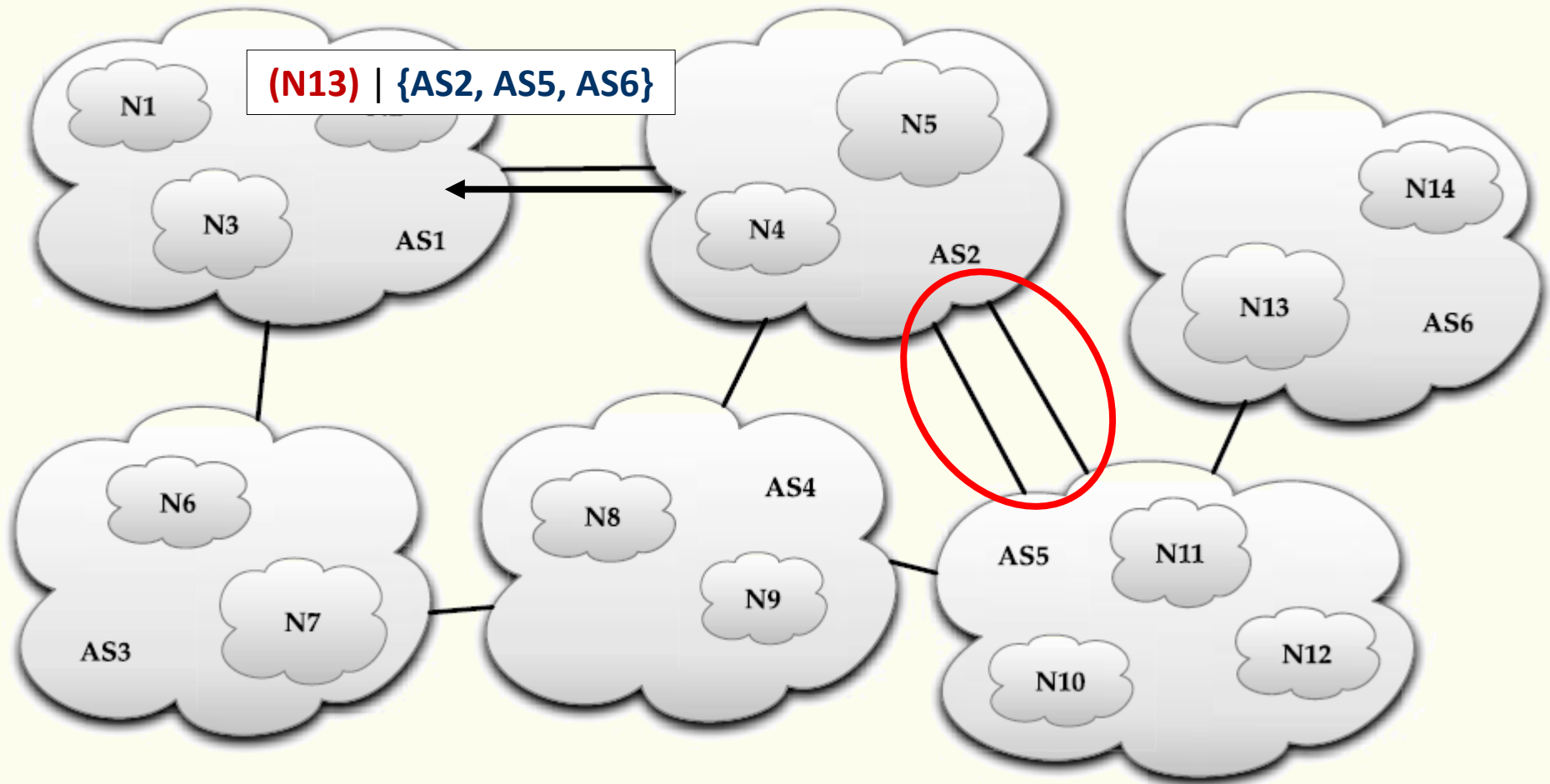


- Border Gateway Protocol v4 (rfc4271)
  - **inter-AS** routing protocol (EGP)
    - inter-AS routing usually reflects **political and business relationships** between the ISP and organizations involved
    - intra-AS routing is optimized in accordance with the required technical demands
  - *How do I filter routing updates coming from a particular neighbor AS?*
  - *How do I make sure that I use this link or this provider rather than another one?*
- Exchange **network reachability information** between BGP speaking peers
- Supports **destination-based** forwarding only (CIDR)

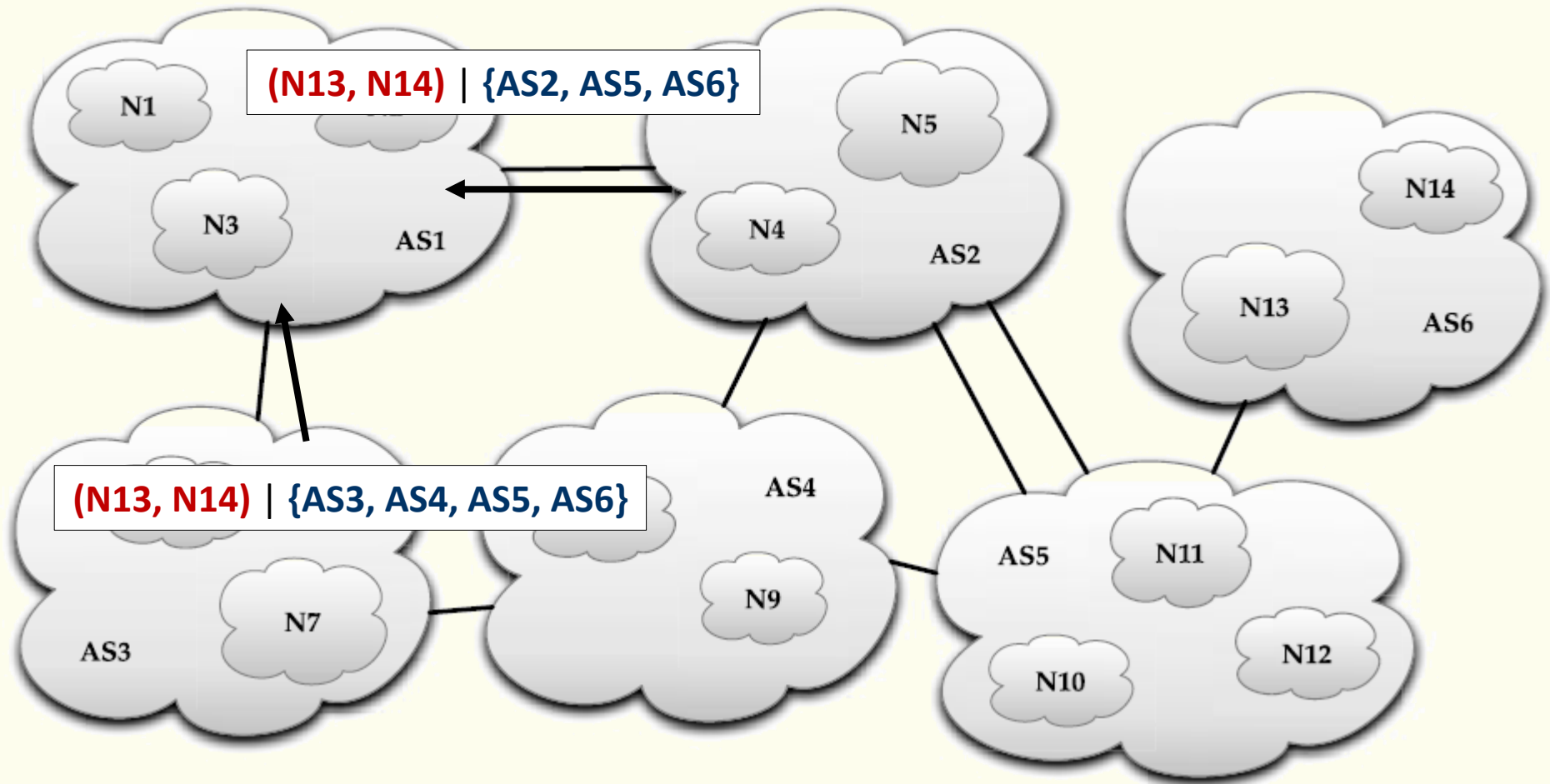
# Path vector routing



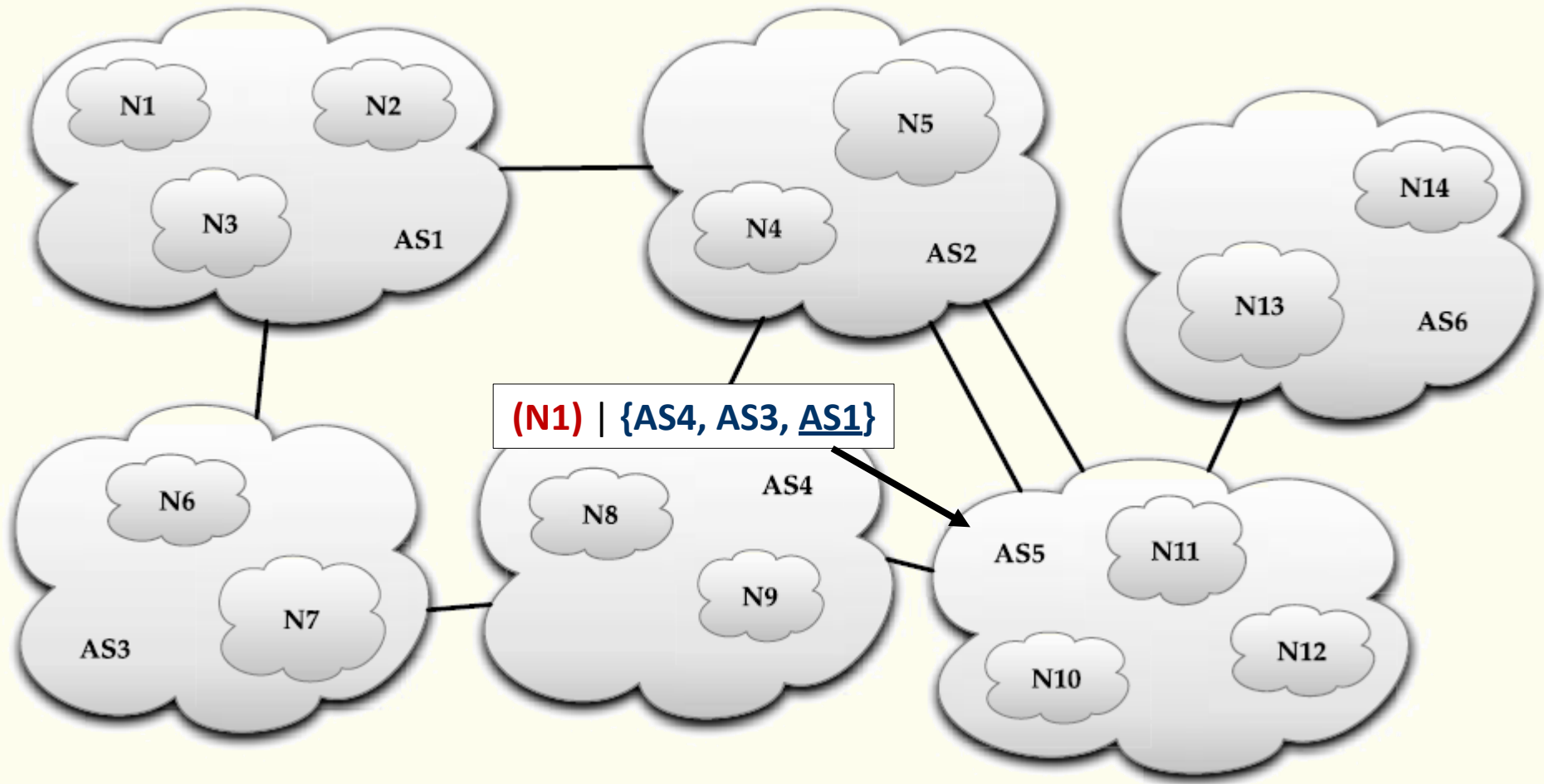
# AS hop count metric



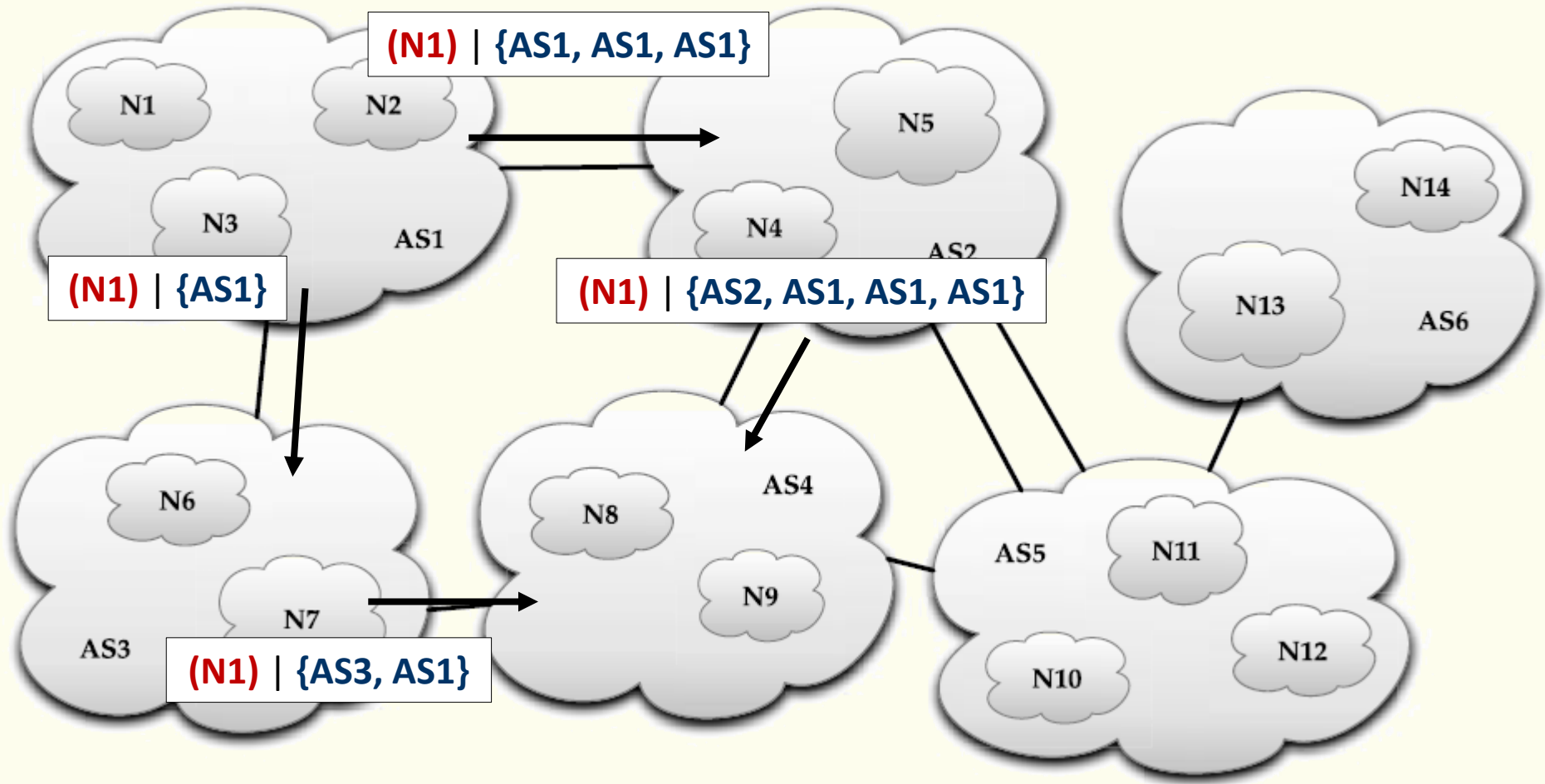
# Set of networks advertisement



# Home AS advertisement



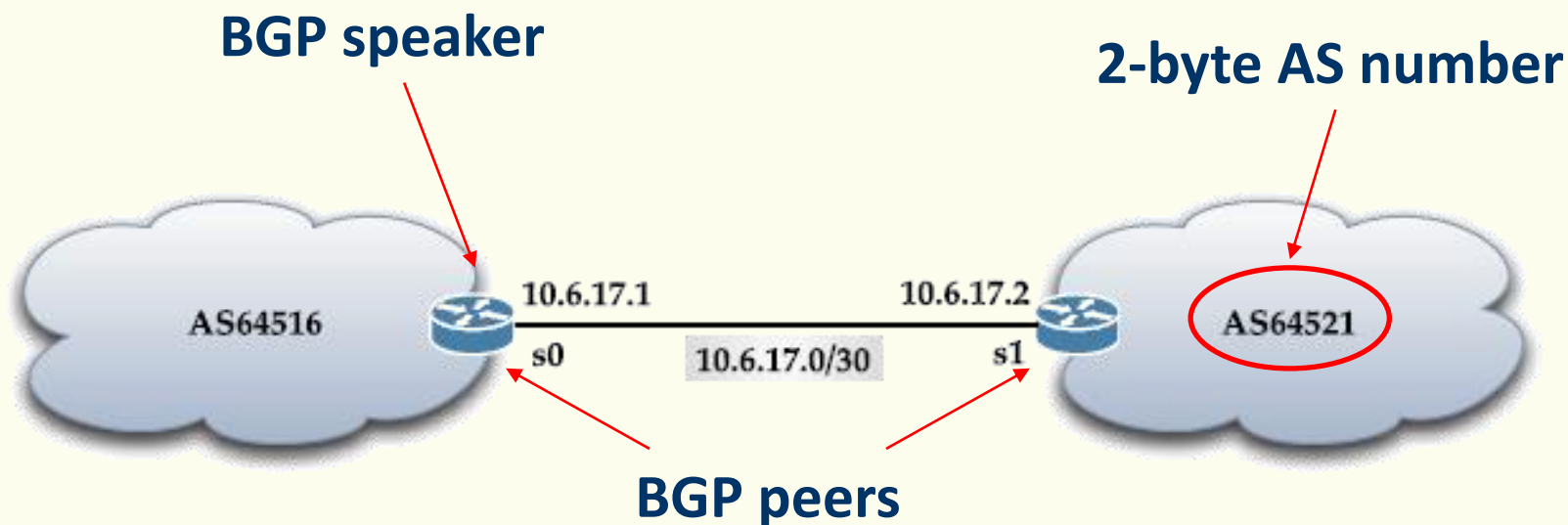
# Path manipulation



# Terminology

Network = IP prefix (A.B.C.D/n) → **network layer reachability information (NLRI)**

**BGP route:** IP prefix destination(s) → attributes of an AS-path by a receiving AS through an UPDATE message

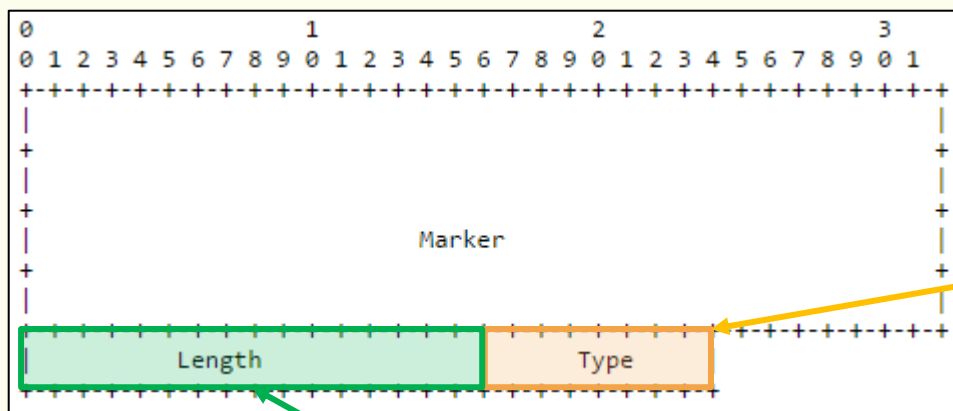


AS number space is divided into **public** (1-64511) and **private** (64512-65534)  
4-byte AS number space is also defined



# BGP operations

- Four BGP message types (+ 1) exchanged over TCP (port 179)



- OPEN
- UPDATE
- NOTIFICATION
- KEEPALIVE
- ROUTE-REFRESH (optional)

≤ 4096

# BGP operations

- **OPEN** message

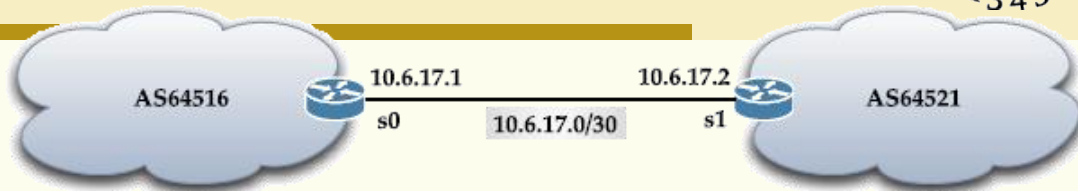
- First message sent to configured BGP peer (contains AS number)

- **KEEPALIVE**

- Exchanged periodically, approximately three times every *hold time* at most

- **NOTIFICATION**

- Closes a BGP session

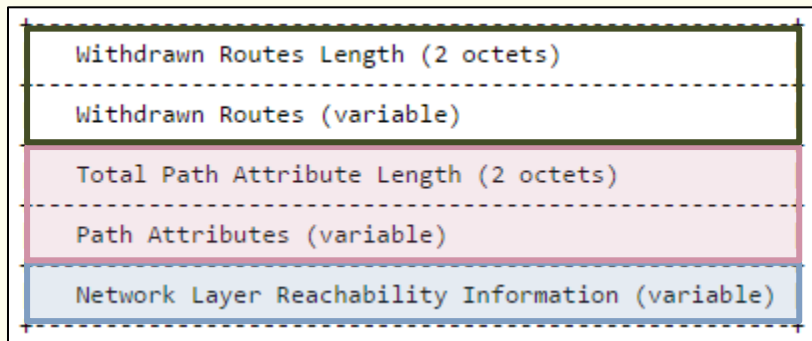
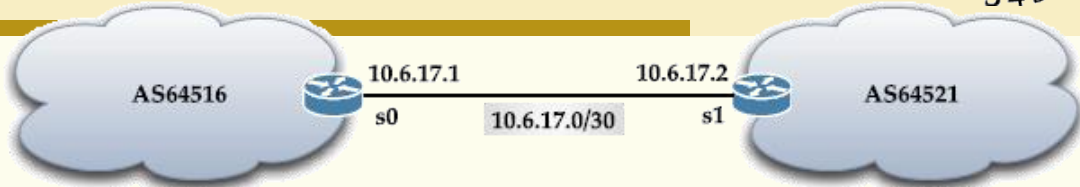


# BGP operations



- **UPDATE** message

- Sent to exchange information about *networks*
- Works in PUSH mode
- Announced routes must be explicitly withdrawn



A sequence of path attributes (TLV)

- ORIGIN
- AS\_PATH
- NEXT\_HOP
- LOCAL\_PREF
- ...

List of networks {address/prefix length}

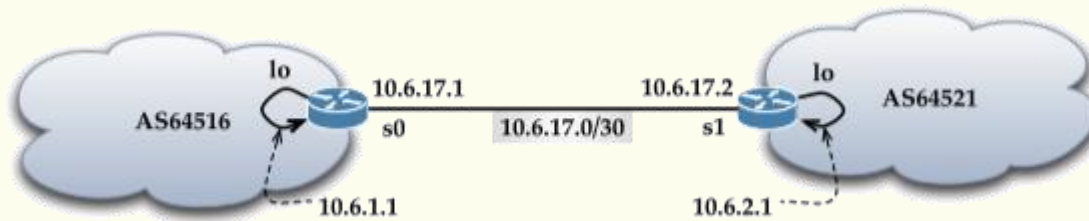
# BGP initialization



## p2p connections between BGP speakers



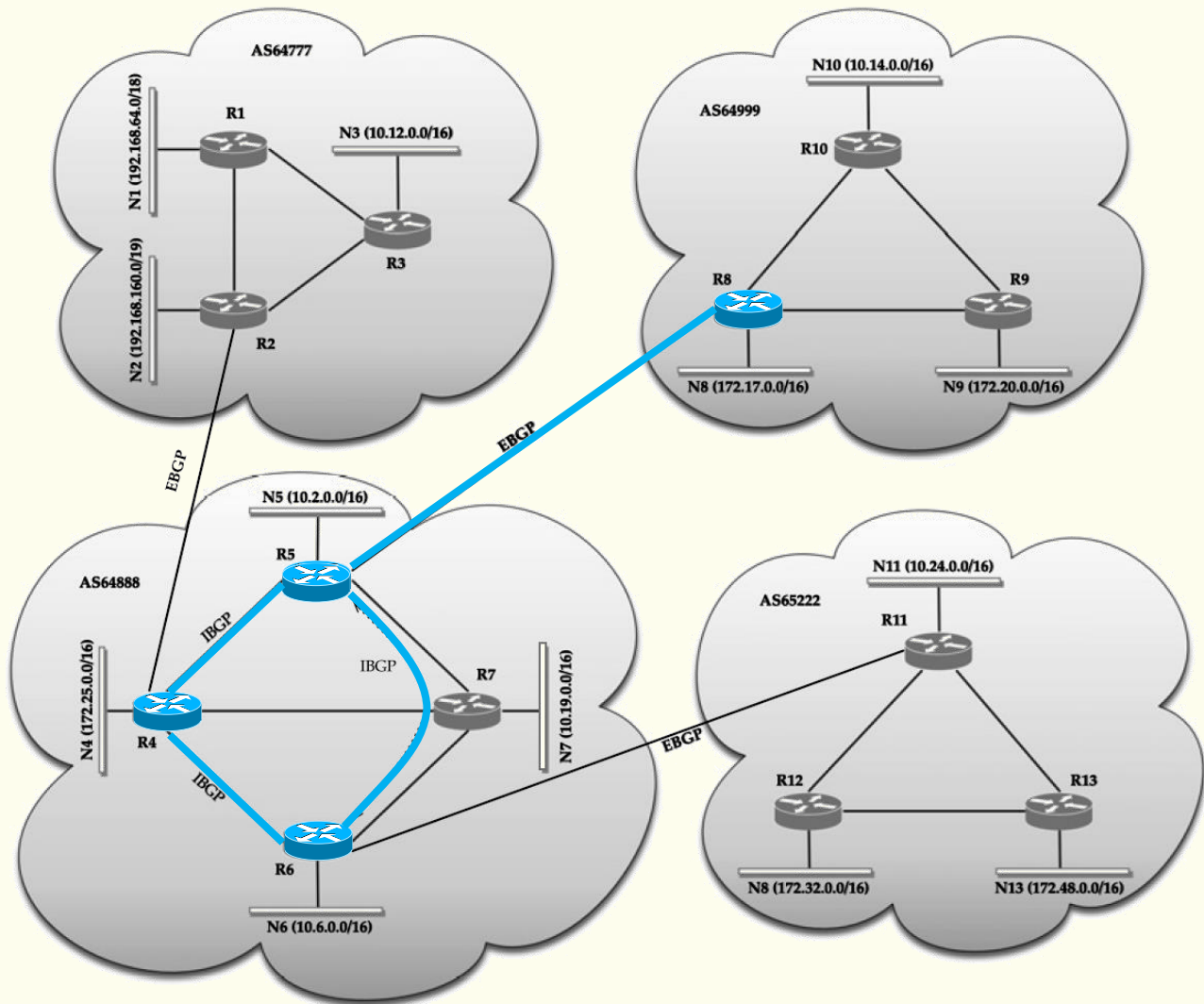
## Loopback interface-based approach



# (external) eBGP vs. (internal) iBGP

**eBGP:** BGP speakers are in different ASes, e.g. R5 and R8

**iBGP:** BGP speakers are in the same AS, e.g. R5 and R6

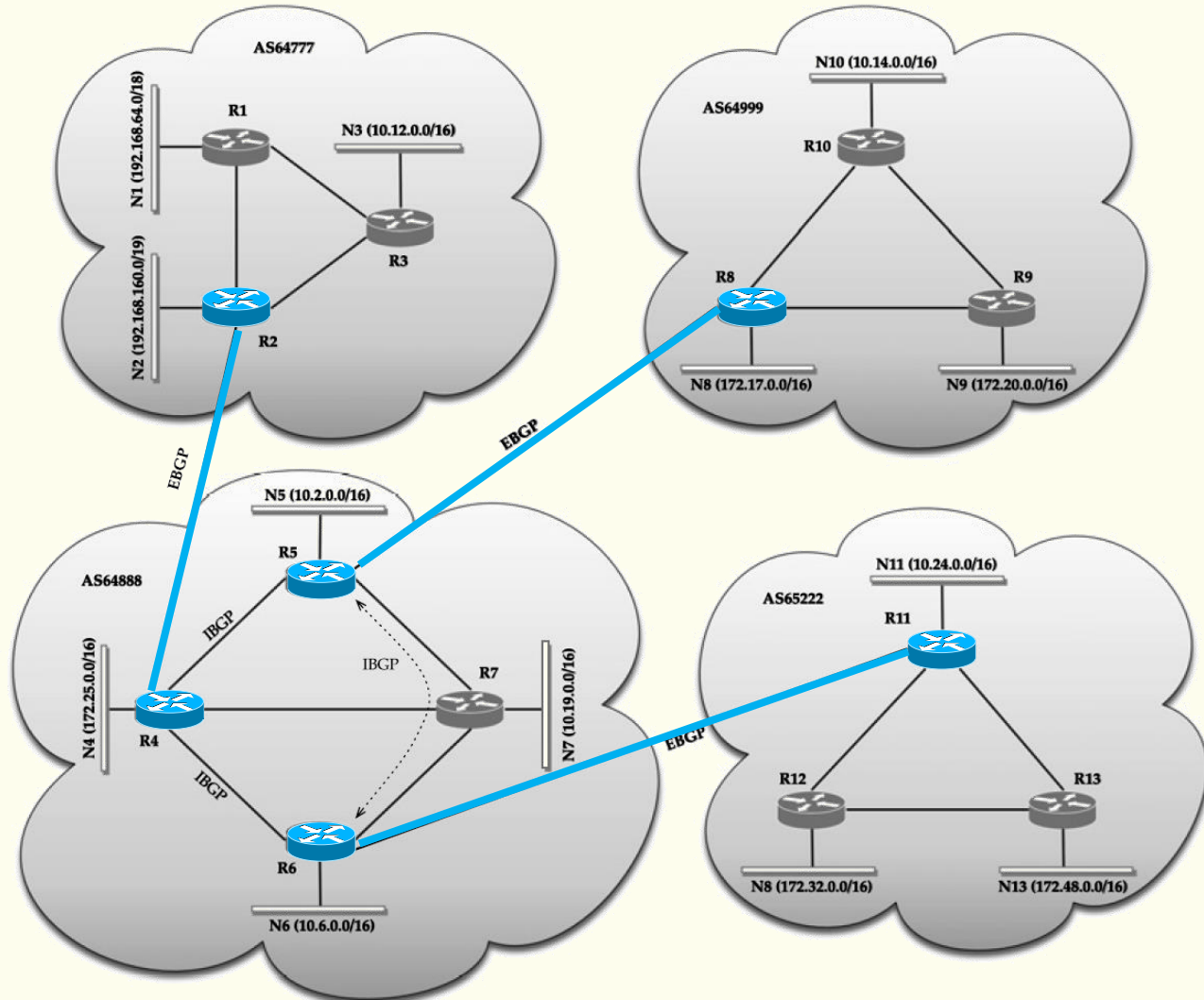


# Why iBGP?

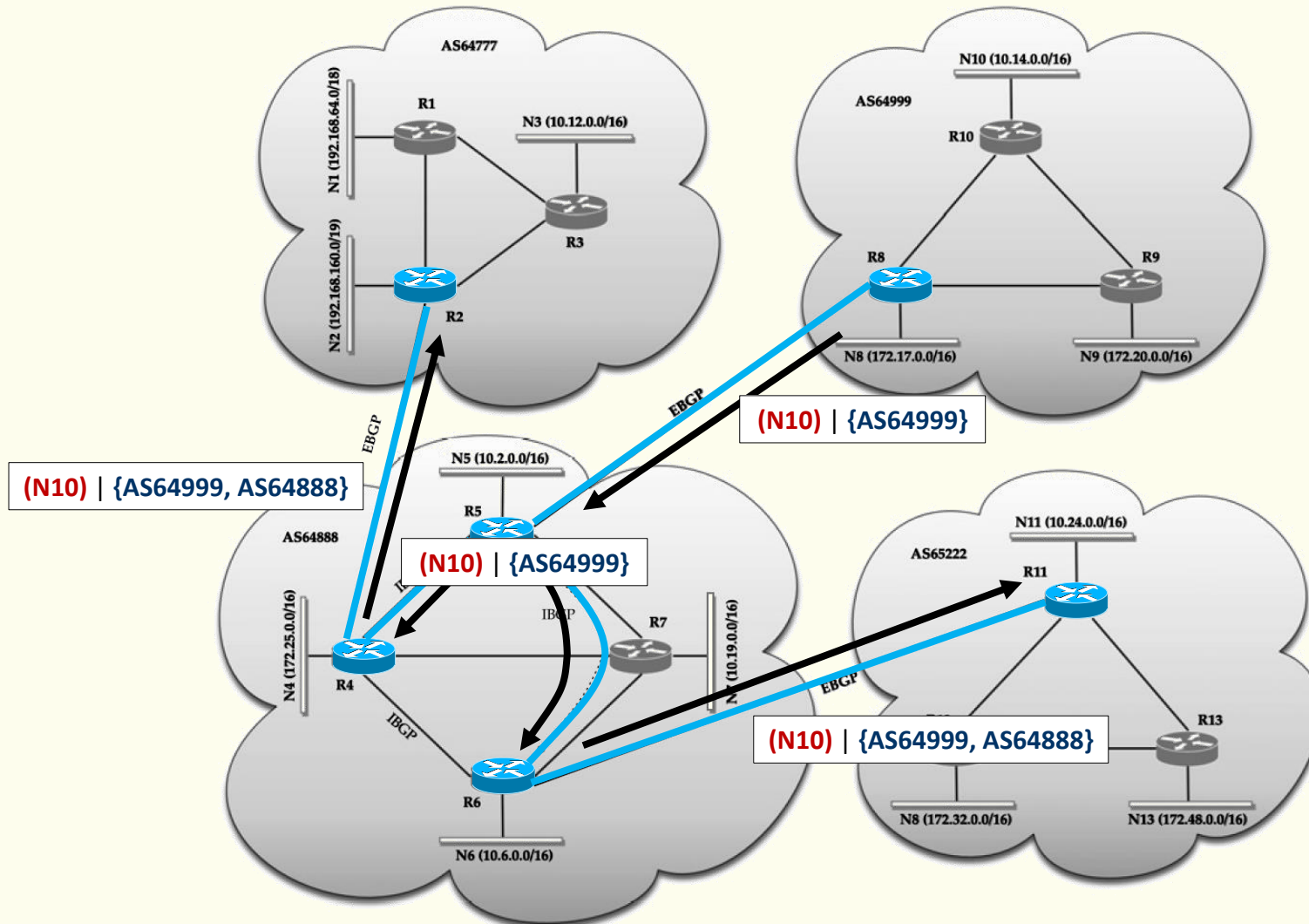


**Stub AS** (e.g. AS64777):  
no need for eBGP speakers  
to redistribute BGP routes  
within the AS

**Transit AS** (e.g. AS64888):  
BGP routes learned by one  
eBGP speaker need be  
redistributed to the other  
eBGP speakers



# Why iBGP?





# Rules

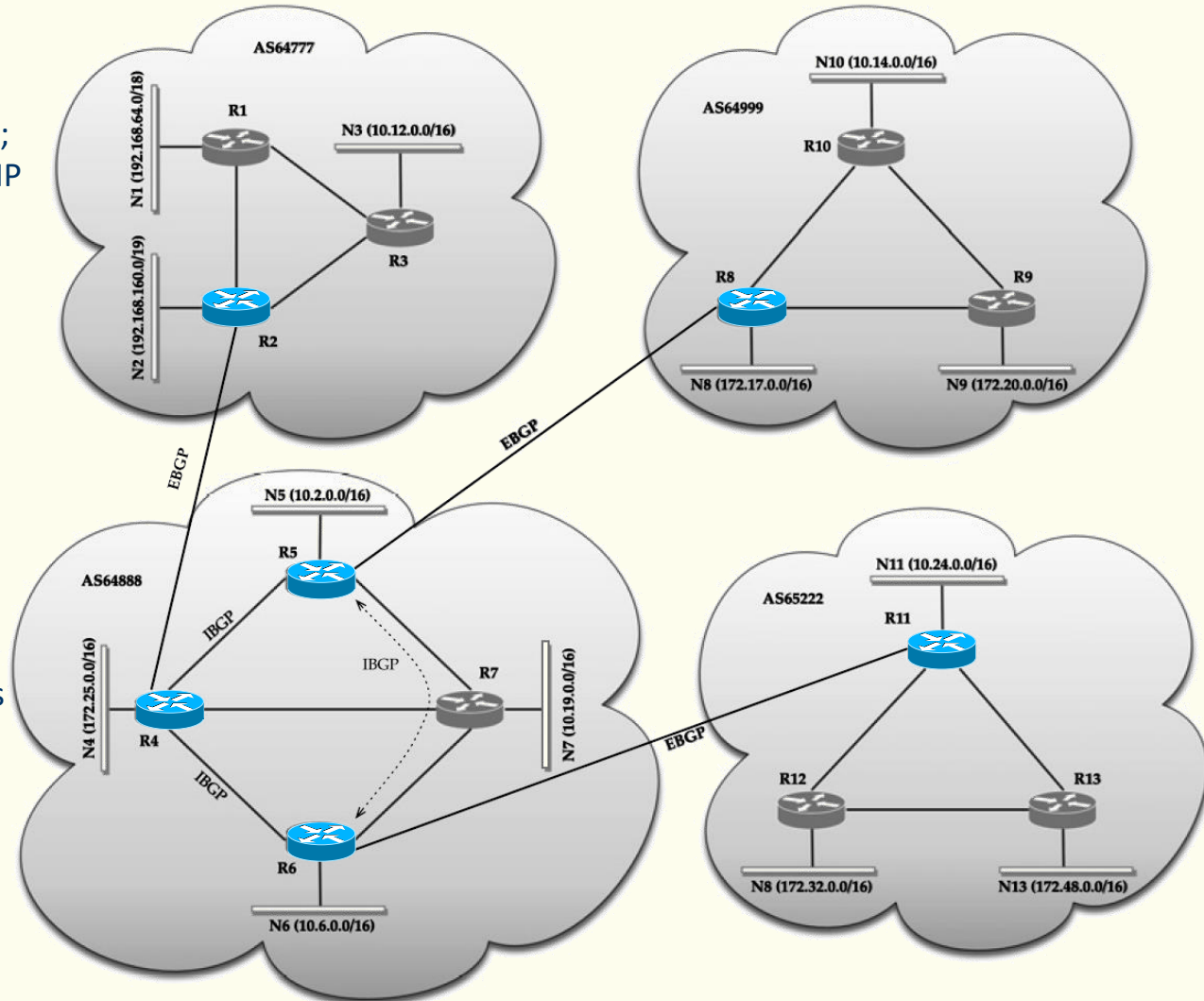


**Rule 1** A BGP speaker can advertise IP prefixes it has learned from an eBGP speaker to a neighboring iBGP speaker; similarly, a BGP speaker can advertise IP prefixes it has learned from an iBGP speaker to an eBGP speaker

**Rule 2** An iBGP speaker cannot advertise IP prefixes it has learned from an iBGP speaker to another peer iBGP speaker

**Two reasons:**

1. Avoid looping of BGP route updates within the AS
2. No need to advertise internal routes





# Rules



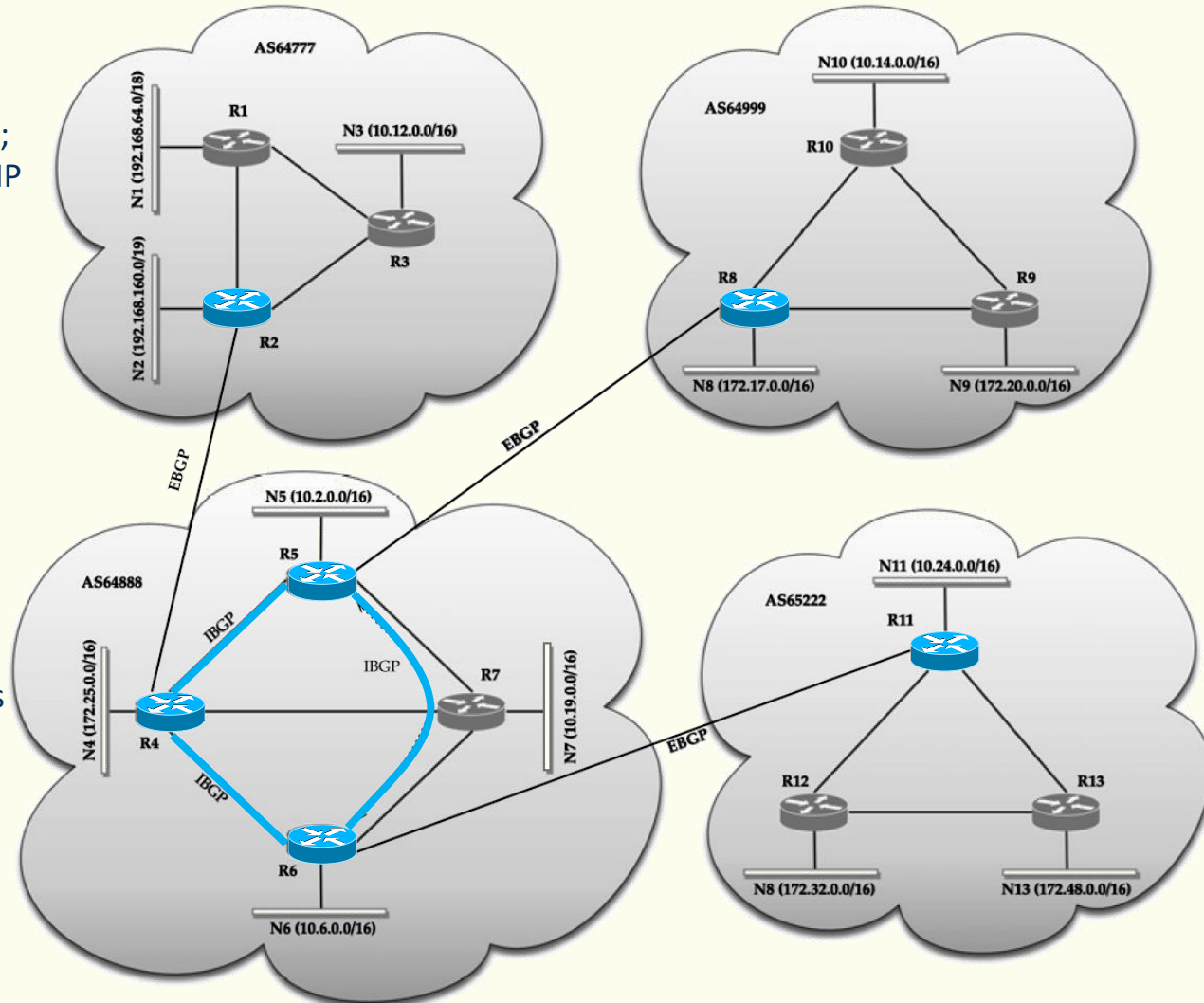
**Rule 1** A BGP speaker can advertise IP prefixes it has learned from an eBGP speaker to a neighboring iBGP speaker; similarly, a BGP speaker can advertise IP prefixes it has learned from an iBGP speaker to an eBGP speaker

**Rule 2** An iBGP speaker cannot advertise IP prefixes it has learned from an iBGP speaker to another peer iBGP speaker

Two reasons:

1. Avoid looping of BGP route updates within the AS
2. No need to advertise internal routes

**A full mesh iBGP connectivity is needed**

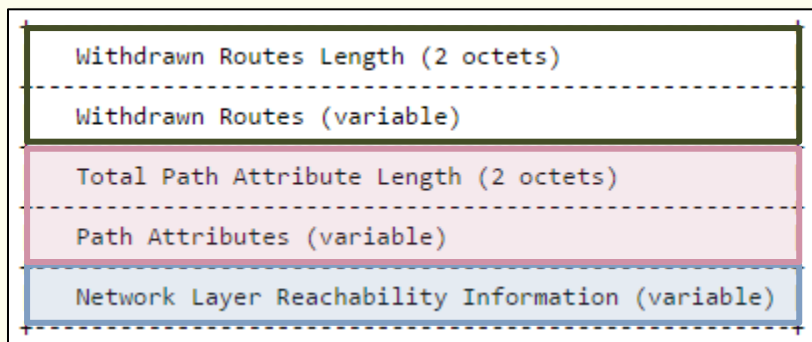
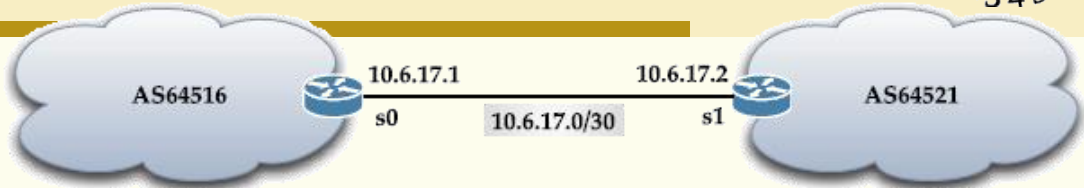


# PATH attributes



- **UPDATE** message

- Path attributes advertised for a set of routes
- Keep track of route-specific information such as path information, and degree of preference of a route
- Used in the BGP filtering and route decision process



A sequence of path attributes (TLV)

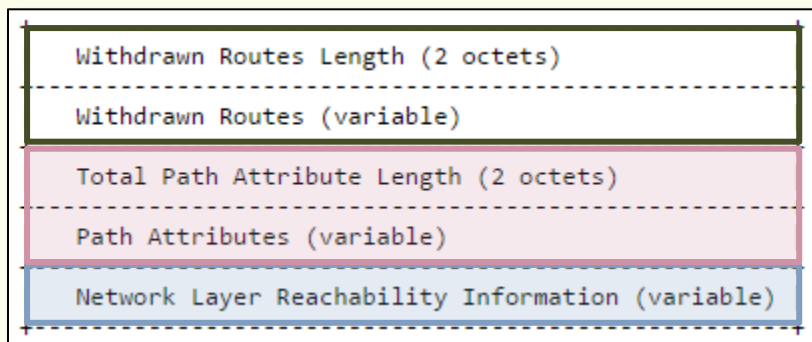
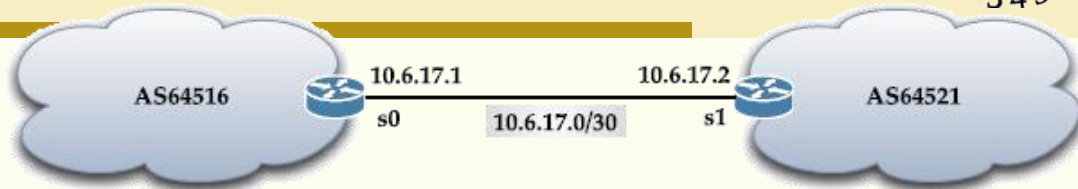
- ORIGIN
- AS\_PATH
- NEXT\_HOP
- LOCAL\_PREF
- ...

List of networks {address/prefix length}

# PATH attributes

## • UPDATE message

- **Well-known mandatory:** Must be present in all UPDATE messages
- **Well-known discretionary:** Could be present in UPDATE messages
- **Optional transitive:** If not recognized, are propagated to other neighbors
- **Optional non-transitive:** Discarded if not recognized



A sequence of path attributes (TLV)

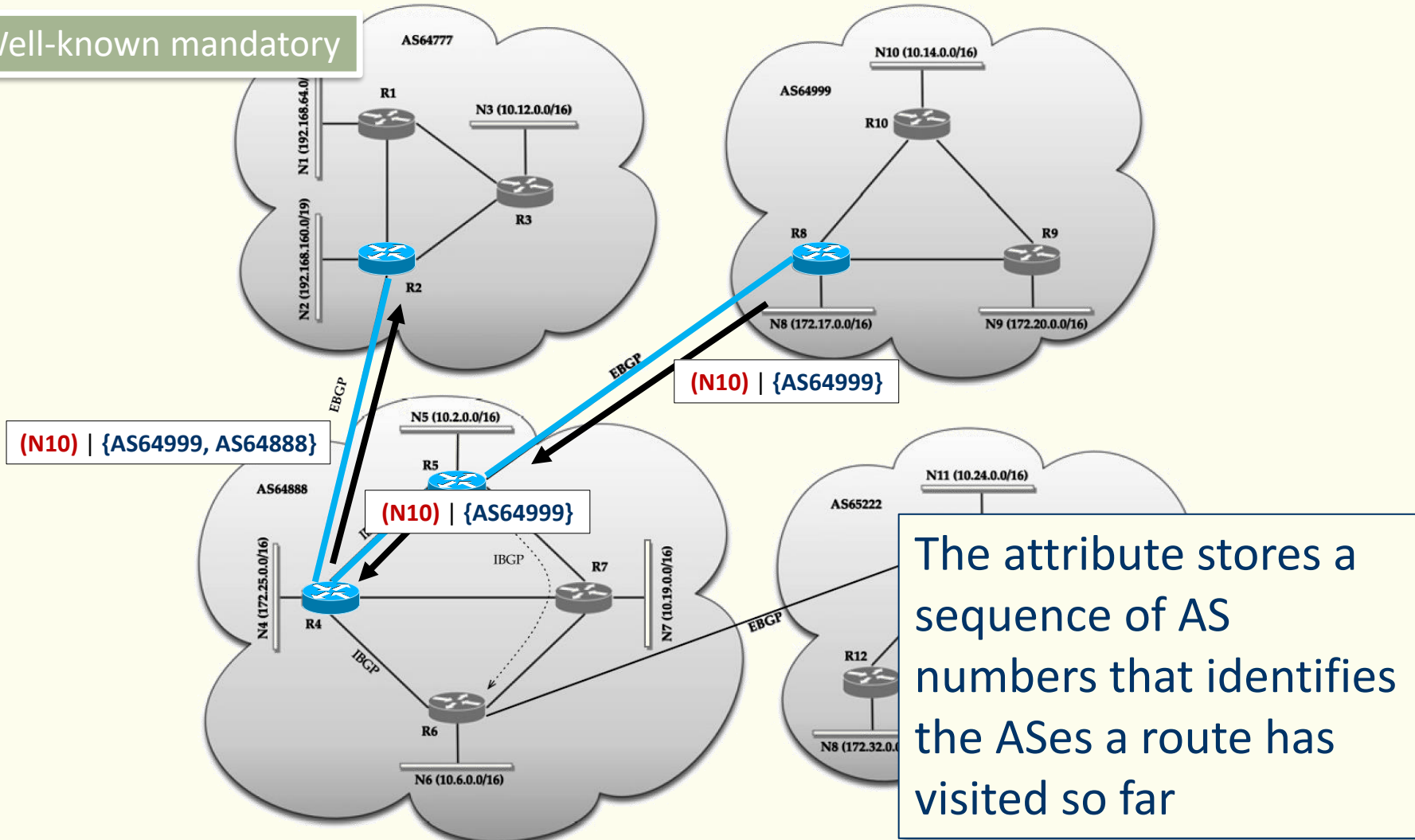
- ORIGIN
- AS\_PATH
- NEXT\_HOP
- LOCAL\_PREF
- ...

List of networks {address/prefix length}

# AS\_PATH



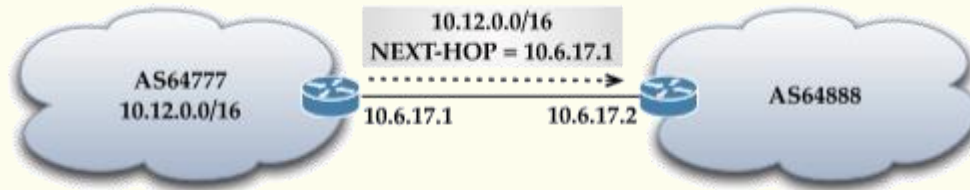
Well-known mandatory



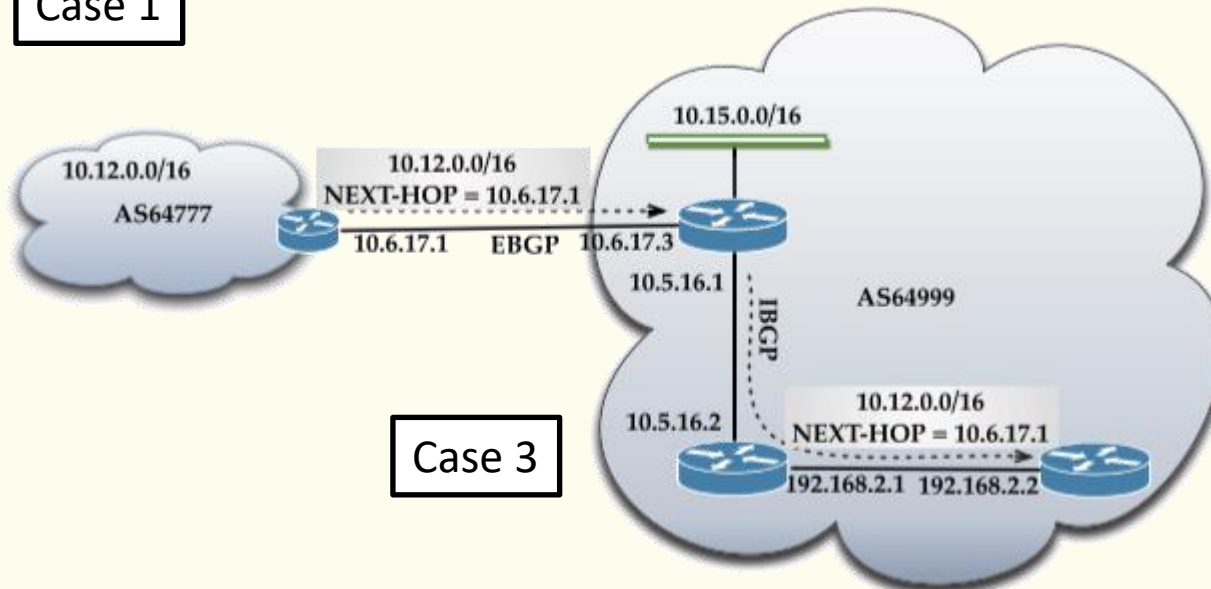
# NEXT\_HOP



The attribute defines the IP address of the router that **SHOULD** be used as the next hop (not necessarily 1-hop) to the destinations listed in the UPDATE message

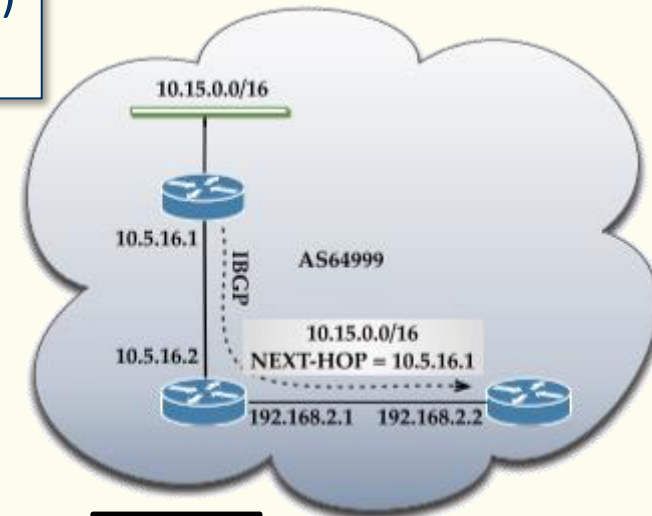


Case 1



Case 3

Well-known mandatory

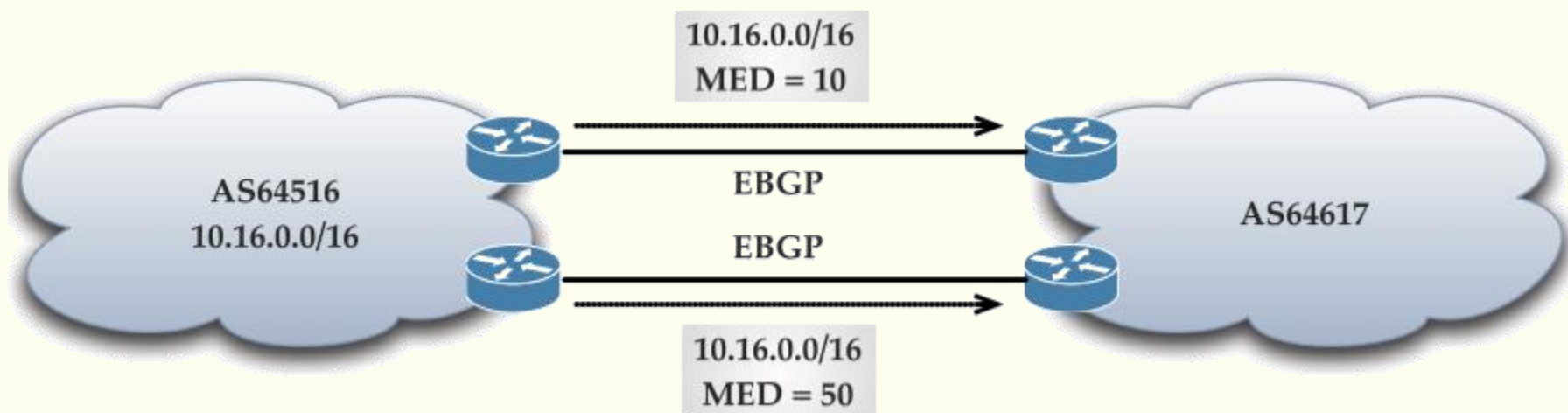


Case 2

# MED (MULTI-EXIT-DISCRIMINATOR)

The attribute is a metric meant for use when there are multiple external links to a neighboring AS

Optional non-transitive





# LOCAL\_PREF



The attribute defines a metric used internally within an AS between BGP speakers, helpful in selection when the AS has connectivity to multiple ASes

Well-known discretionary

