



Week 9

Routing & SDN Controller

CSCM603154 – **Computer Networks**

Faculty of Computer Science Universitas Indonesia

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Network layer: “control plane” roadmap

- introduction
- routing protocols
- **intra-ISP routing: OSPF**
- routing among ISPs: BGP
- SDN control plane



Making routing scalable

our routing study thus far - idealized

- all routers identical
- network “flat”

... not true in practice

scale: billions of destinations:

- can't store all destinations in routing tables!
- routing table exchange would swamp links!

administrative autonomy:

- Internet: a network of networks
- each network admin may want to control routing in its own network

Internet approach to scalable routing

aggregate routers into regions known as “autonomous systems” (AS) (a.k.a. “domains”)

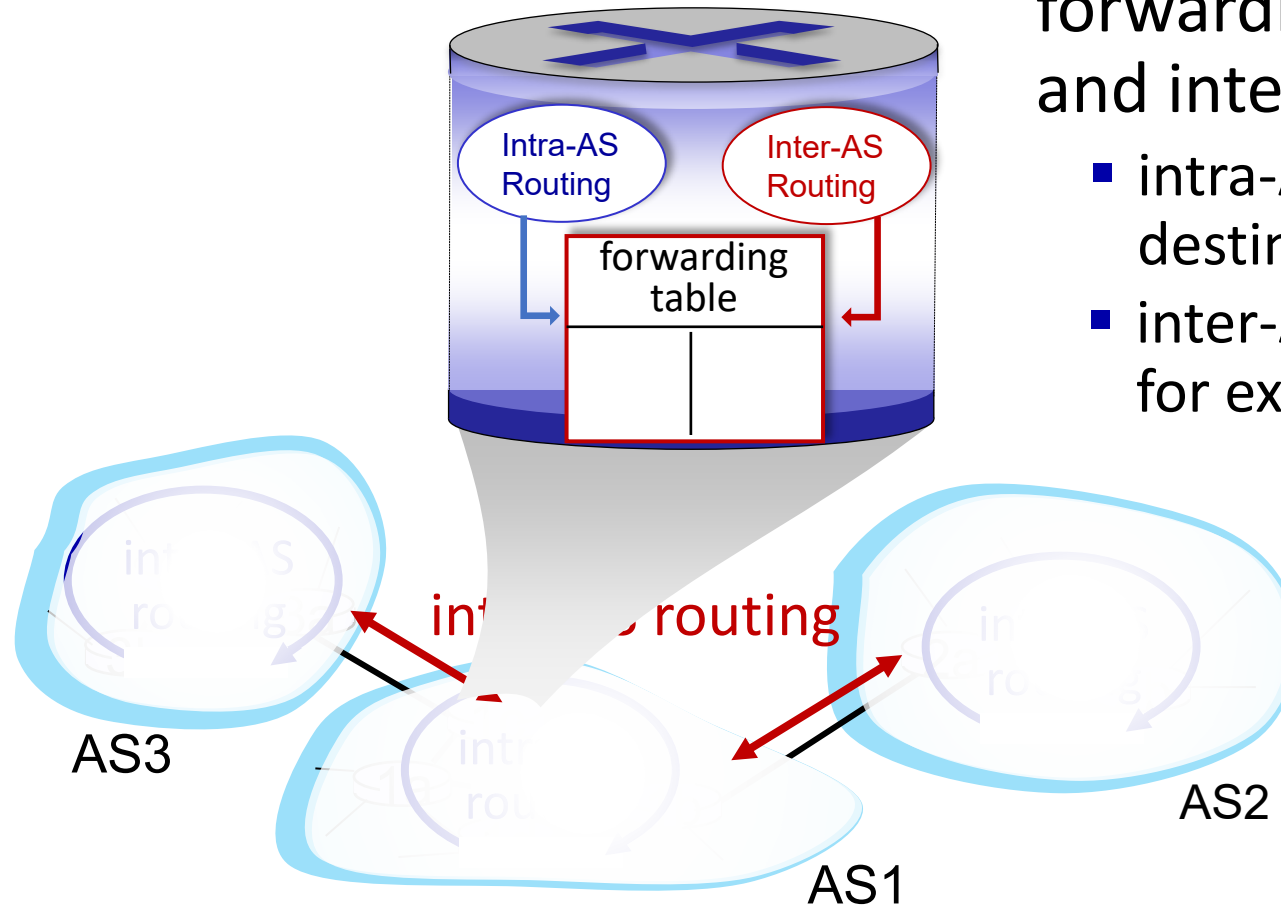
intra-AS (aka “intra-domain”):
routing among *within same AS*
(“*network*”)

- all routers in AS must run same intra-domain protocol
- routers in different AS can run different intra-domain routing protocols
- **gateway router:** at “edge” of its own AS, has link(s) to router(s) in other AS'es

inter-AS (aka “inter-domain”):
routing *among* AS'es

- gateways perform inter-domain routing (as well as intra-domain routing)

Interconnected ASes



forwarding table configured by intra- and inter-AS routing algorithms

- intra-AS routing determine entries for destinations within AS
- inter-AS & intra-AS determine entries for external destinations

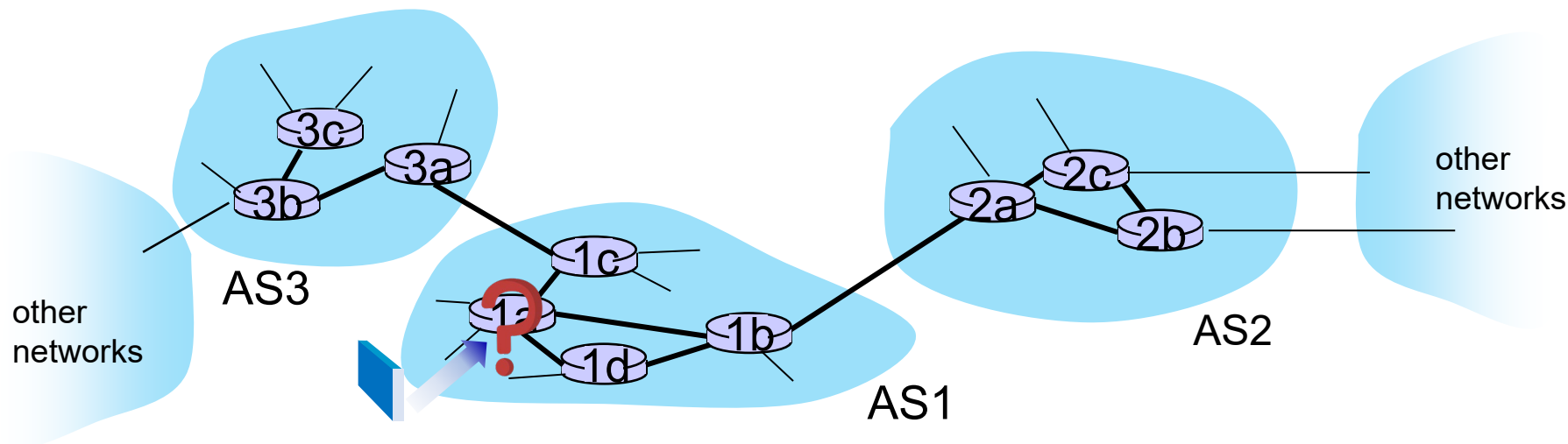
Inter-AS routing: a role in intradomain forwarding

- suppose router in AS1 receives datagram destined outside of AS1:

? • router should forward packet to gateway router in AS1, but which one?

AS1 inter-domain routing must:

1. learn which destinations reachable through AS2, which through AS3
2. propagate this reachability info to all routers in AS1



Inter-AS routing: routing within an AS

most common intra-AS routing protocols:

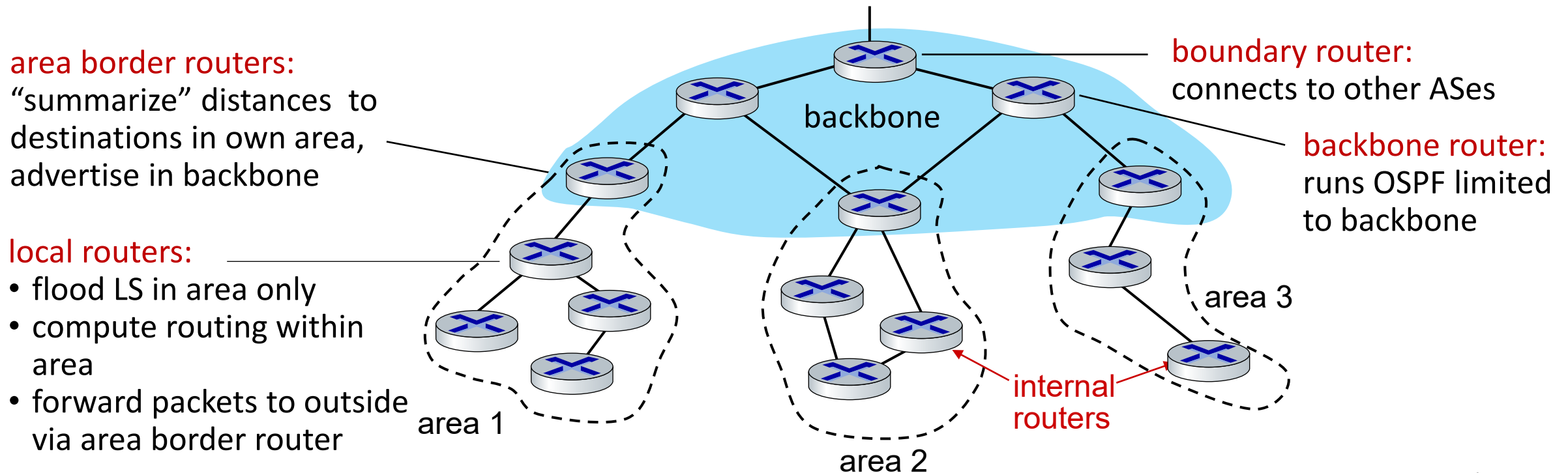
- **RIP: Routing Information Protocol** [RFC 1723]
 - classic DV: DVs exchanged every 30 secs
 - no longer widely used
- **EIGRP: Enhanced Interior Gateway Routing Protocol**
 - DV based
 - formerly Cisco-proprietary for decades (became open in 2013 [RFC 7868])
- **OSPF: Open Shortest Path First** [RFC 2328]
 - link-state routing
 - IS-IS protocol (ISO standard, not RFC standard) essentially same as OSPF

OSPF (Open Shortest Path First) routing

- “open”: publicly available
- classic link-state
 - each router floods OSPF link-state advertisements (directly over IP rather than using TCP/UDP) to all other routers in entire AS
 - multiple link costs metrics possible: bandwidth, delay
 - each router has full topology, uses Dijkstra’s algorithm to compute forwarding table
- *security*: all OSPF messages authenticated (to prevent malicious intrusion)

Hierarchical OSPF

- **two-level hierarchy:** local area, backbone.
 - link-state advertisements flooded only in area, or backbone
 - each node has detailed area topology; only knows direction to reach other destinations



Network layer: “control plane” roadmap

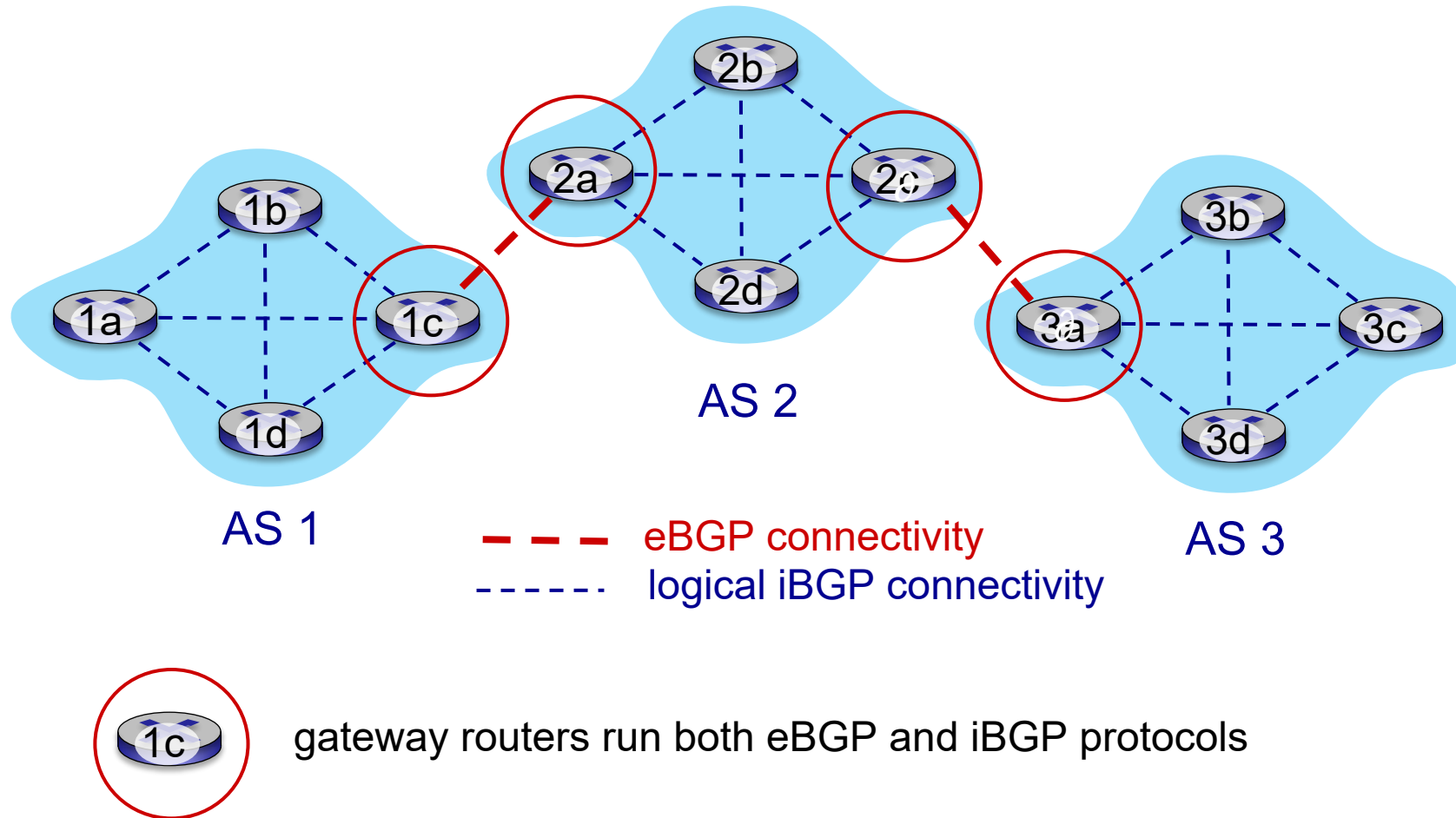
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- **routing among ISPs: BGP**
- SDN control plane



Internet inter-AS routing: BGP

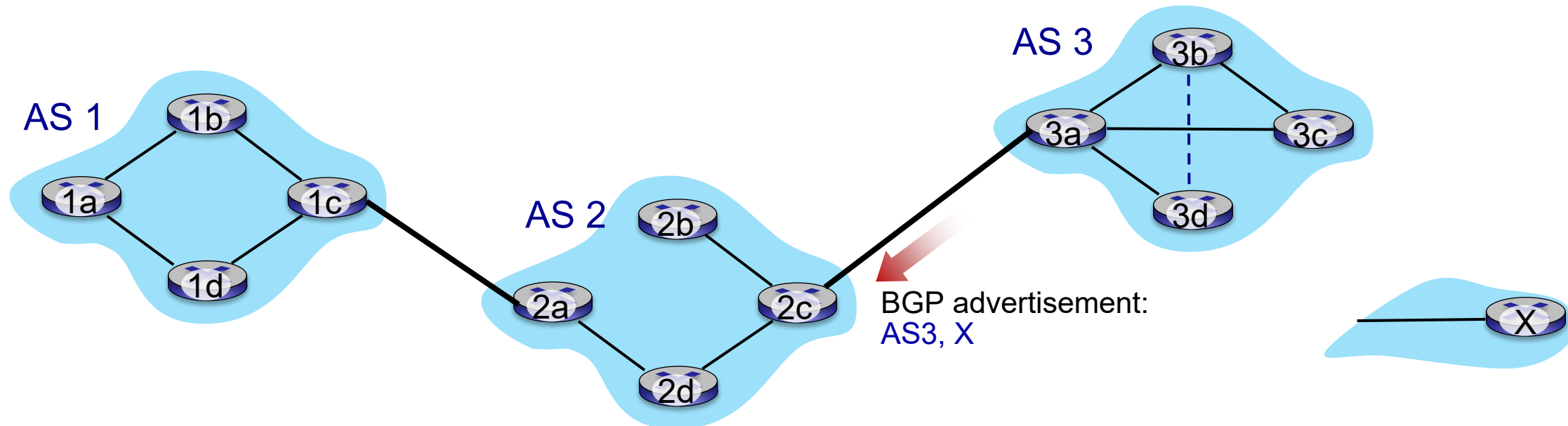
- **BGP (Border Gateway Protocol):** *the* de facto inter-domain routing protocol
 - “glue that holds the Internet together”
- allows subnet to advertise its existence, and the destinations it can reach, to rest of Internet: *“I am here, here is who I can reach, and how”*
- BGP provides each AS a means to:
 - **eBGP:** obtain subnet reachability information from neighboring ASes
 - **iBGP:** propagate reachability information to all AS-internal routers.
 - determine “good” routes to other networks based on reachability information and *policy*

eBGP, iBGP connections



BGP basics

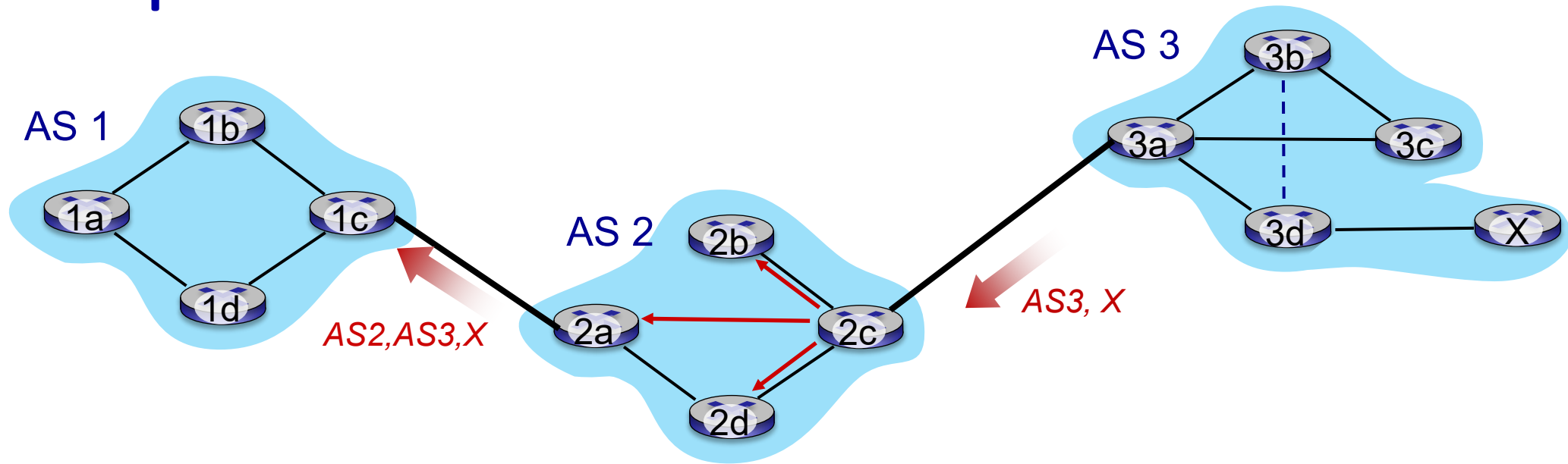
- **BGP session:** two BGP routers (“peers”) exchange BGP messages over semi-permanent TCP connection:
 - advertising *paths* to different destination network prefixes (BGP is a “path vector” protocol)
- when AS3 gateway 3a advertises *path AS3,X* to AS2 gateway 2c:
 - AS3 *promises* to AS2 it will forward datagrams towards X



Path attributes and BGP routes

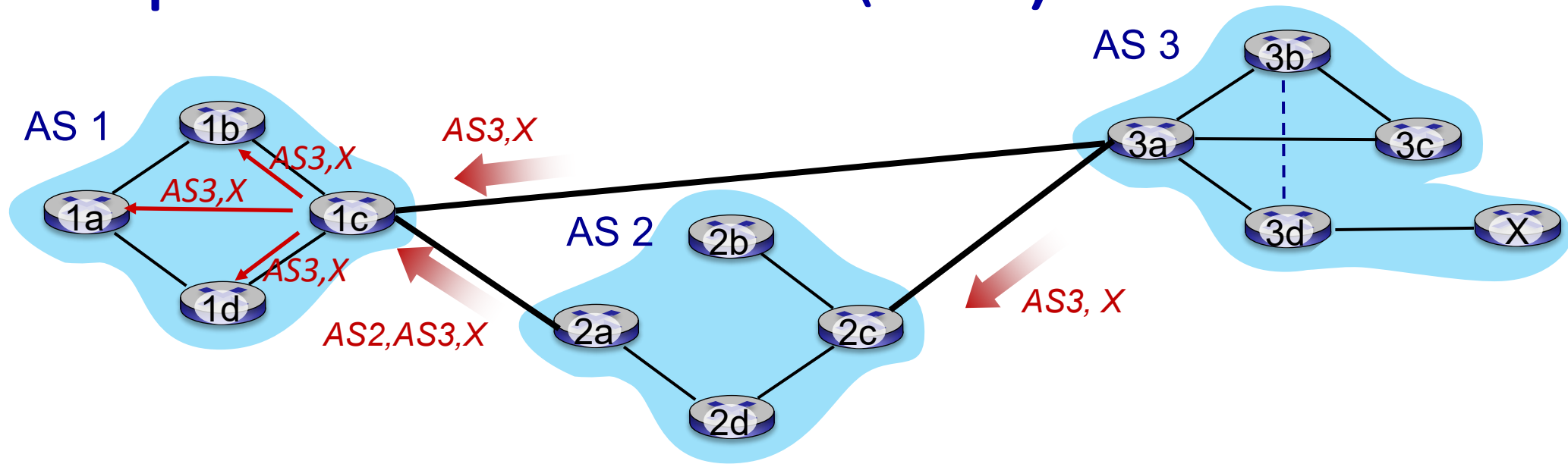
- BGP advertised route: prefix + attributes
 - prefix: destination being advertised
 - two important attributes:
 - **AS-PATH**: list of ASes through which prefix advertisement has passed
 - **NEXT-HOP**: indicates specific internal-AS router to next-hop AS
- **policy-based routing**:
 - gateway receiving route advertisement uses *import policy* to accept/decline path (e.g., never route through AS Y).
 - AS policy also determines whether to *advertise* path to other neighboring ASes

BGP path advertisement



- AS2 router 2c receives path advertisement **AS3,X** (via eBGP) from AS3 router 3a
- based on AS2 policy, AS2 router 2c accepts path AS3,X, propagates (via iBGP) to all AS2 routers
- based on AS2 policy, AS2 router 2a advertises (via eBGP) path **AS2, AS3, X** to AS1 router 1c

BGP path advertisement (more)



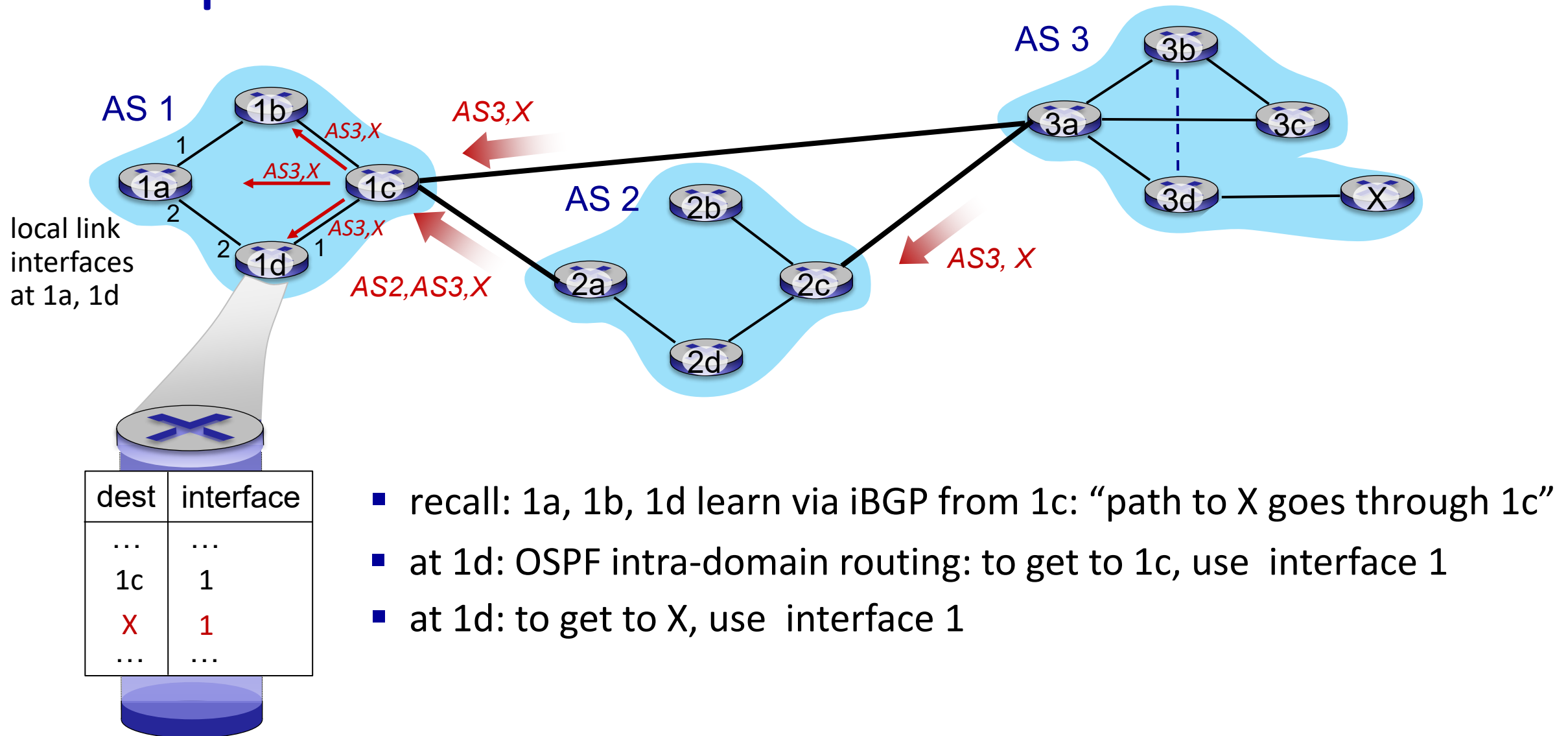
gateway router may learn about **multiple** paths to destination:

- AS1 gateway router 1c learns path **AS2,AS3,X** from 2a
- AS1 gateway router 1c learns path **AS3,X** from 3a
- based on **policy**, AS1 gateway router 1c chooses path **AS3,X** and advertises path within AS1 via iBGP

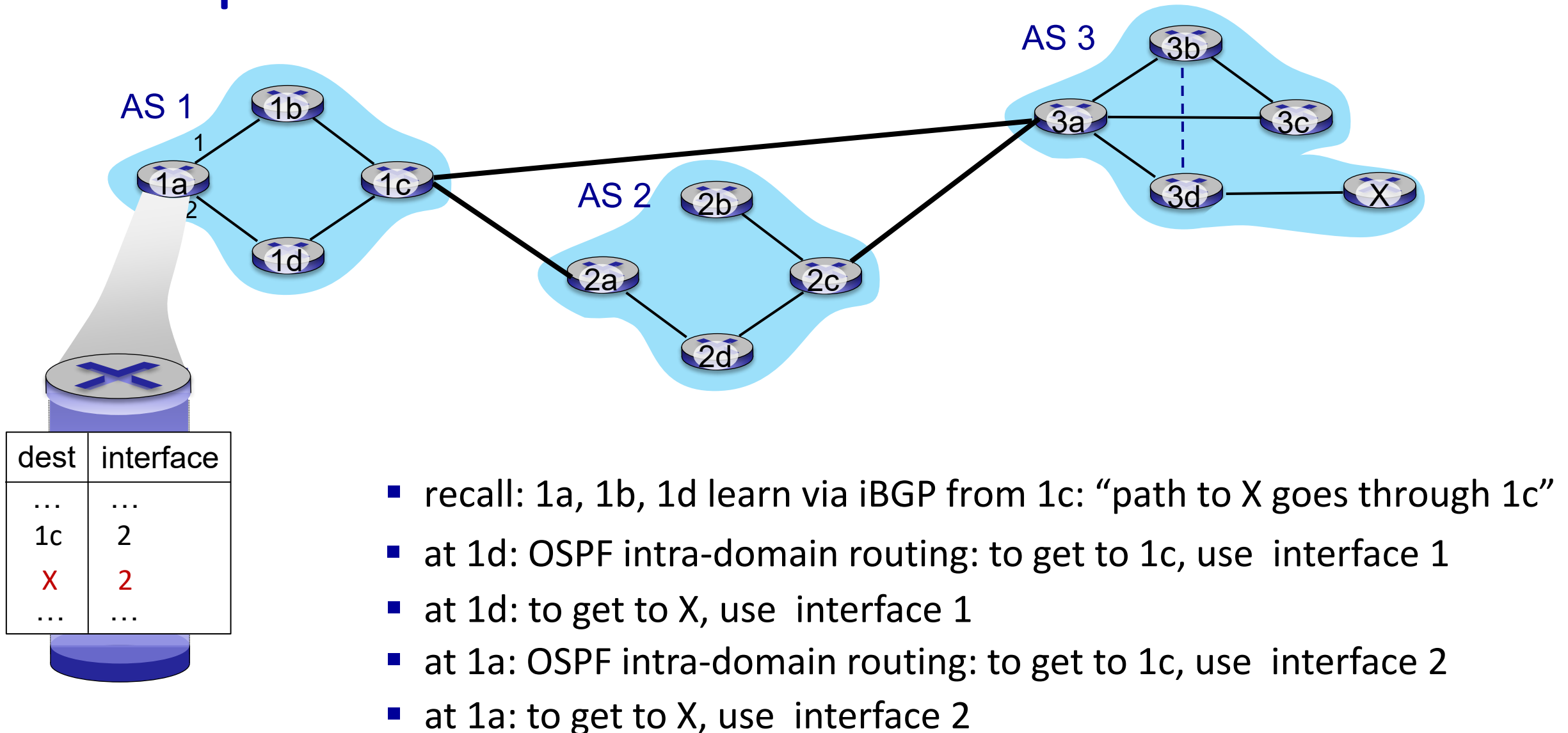
BGP messages

- BGP messages exchanged between peers over TCP connection
- BGP messages:
 - **OPEN**: opens TCP connection to remote BGP peer and authenticates sending BGP peer
 - **UPDATE**: advertises new path (or withdraws old)
 - **KEEPALIVE**: keeps connection alive in absence of UPDATES; also ACKs OPEN request
 - **NOTIFICATION**: reports errors in previous msg; also used to close connection

BGP path advertisement



BGP path advertisement



Why different Intra-, Inter-AS routing ?

policy:

- inter-AS: admin wants control over how its traffic routed, who routes through its network
- intra-AS: single admin, so policy less of an issue

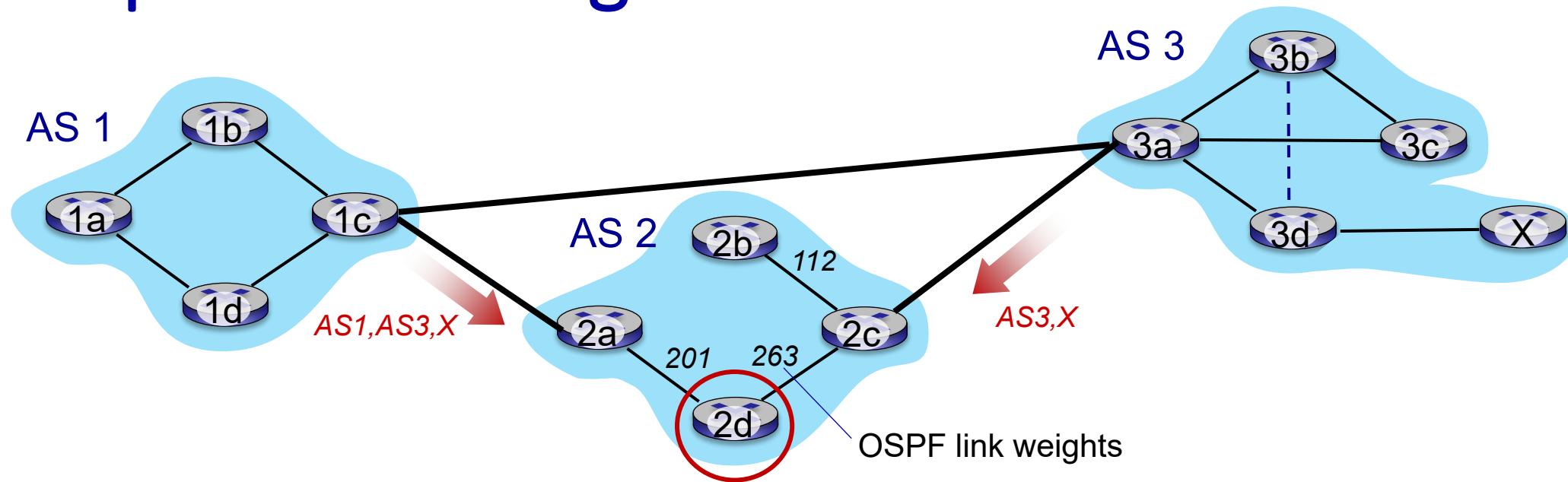
scale:

- hierarchical routing saves table size, reduced update traffic

performance:

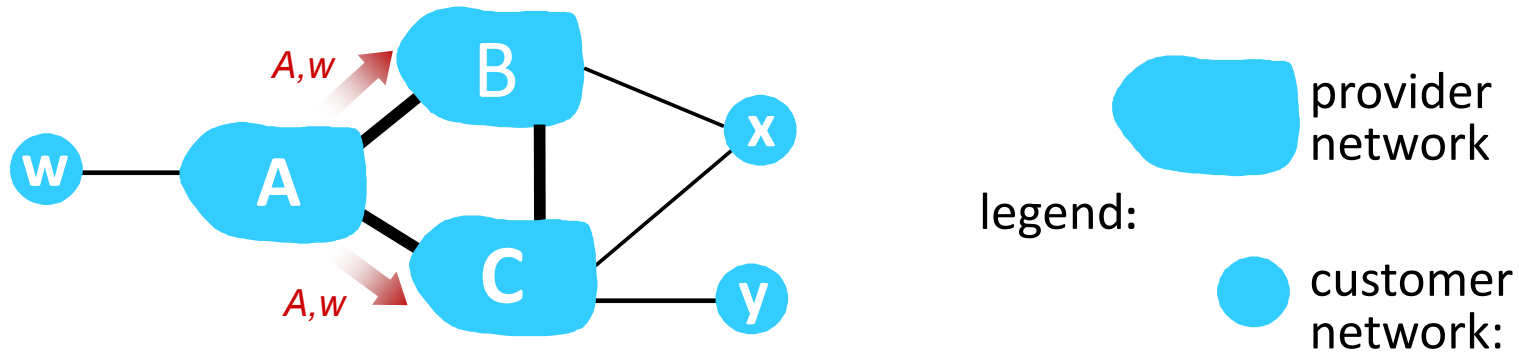
- intra-AS: can focus on performance
- inter-AS: policy dominates over performance

Hot potato routing



- 2d learns (via iBGP) it can route to X via 2a or 2c
- **hot potato routing**: choose local gateway that has least *intra-domain* cost (e.g., 2d chooses 2a, even though more AS hops to X): don't worry about inter-domain cost!

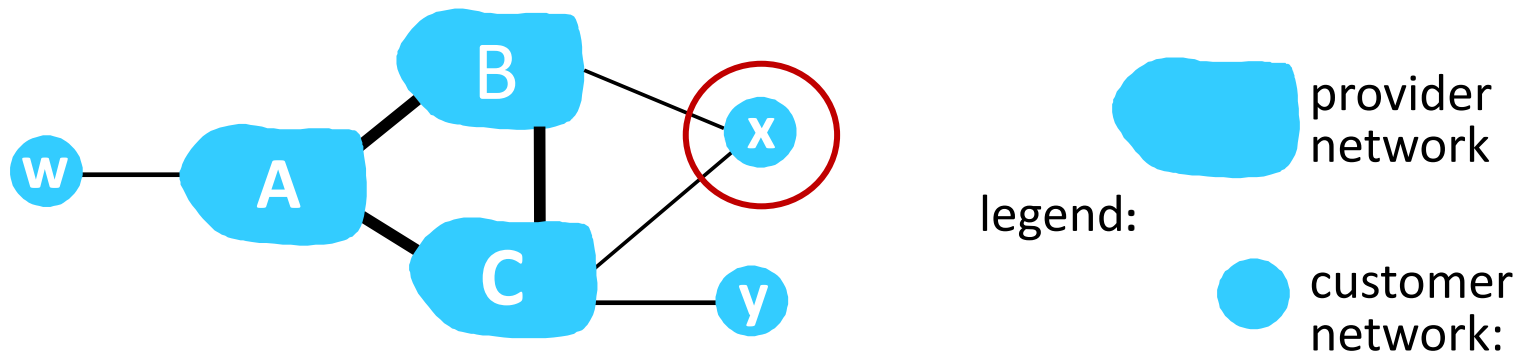
BGP: achieving policy via advertisements



ISP only wants to route traffic to/from its customer networks (does not want to carry transit traffic between other ISPs – a typical “real world” policy)

- A advertises path Aw to B and to C
- B *chooses not to advertise* BA_w to C!
 - B gets no “revenue” for routing CBA_w, since none of C, A, w are B’s customers
 - C does *not* learn about CBA_w path
- C will route CA_w (not using B) to get to w

BGP: achieving policy via advertisements (more)



ISP only wants to route traffic to/from its customer networks (does not want to carry transit traffic between other ISPs – a typical “real world” policy)

- A,B,C are **provider networks**
- x,w,y are **customer** (of provider networks)
- x is **dual-homed**: attached to two networks
- **policy to enforce**: x does not want to route from B to C via x
 - .. so x will not advertise to B a route to C

BGP route selection

- router may learn about more than one route to destination AS, selects route based on:
 1. local preference value attribute: policy decision
 2. shortest AS-PATH
 3. closest NEXT-HOP router: hot potato routing
 4. additional criteria

Network layer: “control plane” roadmap

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- intra-ISP routing: OSPF
- routing among ISPs: BGP
- **SDN control plane**

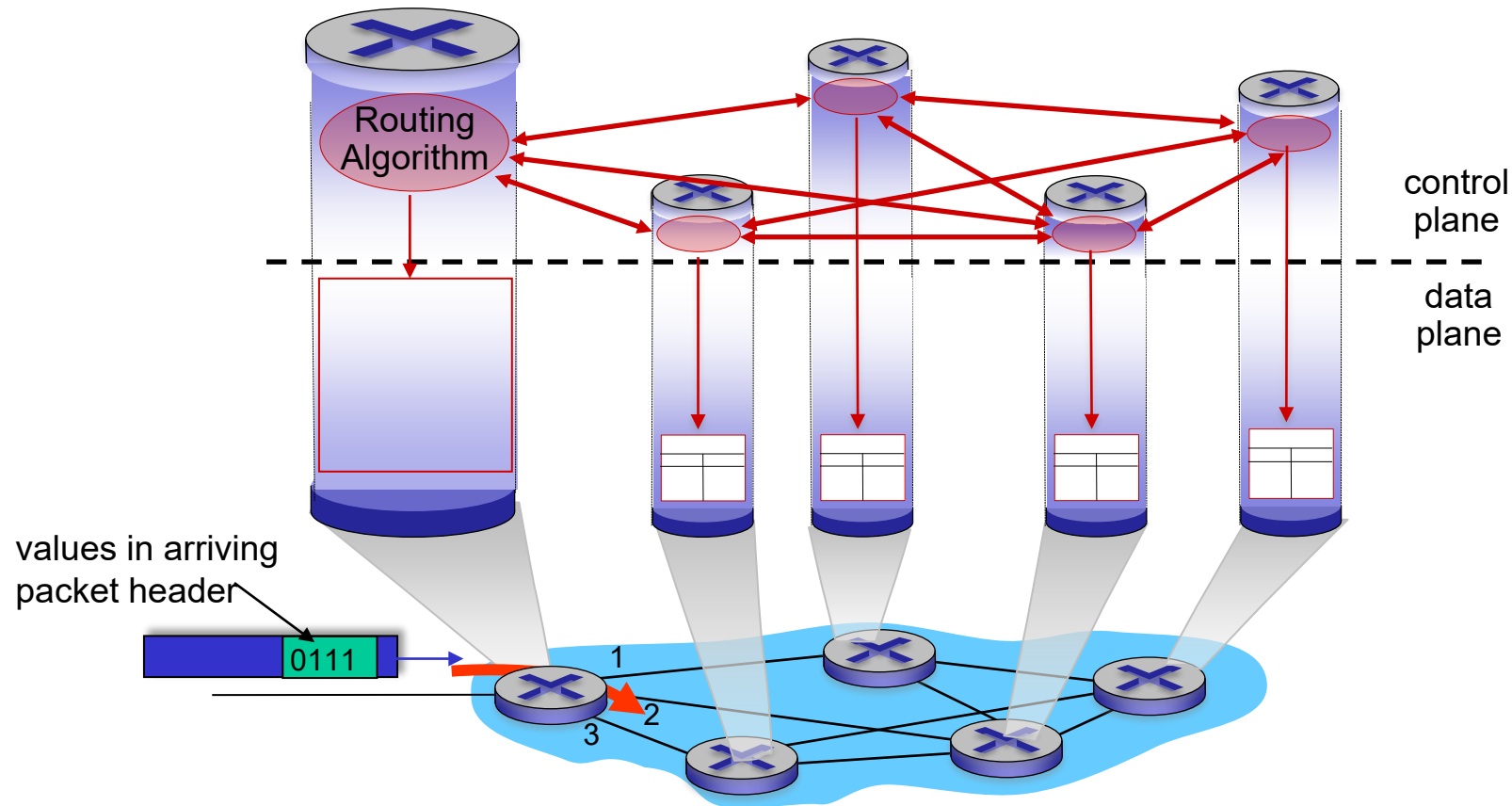


Software defined networking (SDN)

- Internet network layer: historically implemented via distributed, per-router control approach:
 - *monolithic* router contains switching hardware, runs proprietary implementation of Internet standard protocols (IP, RIP, IS-IS, OSPF, BGP) in proprietary router OS (e.g., Cisco IOS)
 - different “middleboxes” for different network layer functions: firewalls, load balancers, NAT boxes, ..
- ~2005: renewed interest in rethinking network control plane

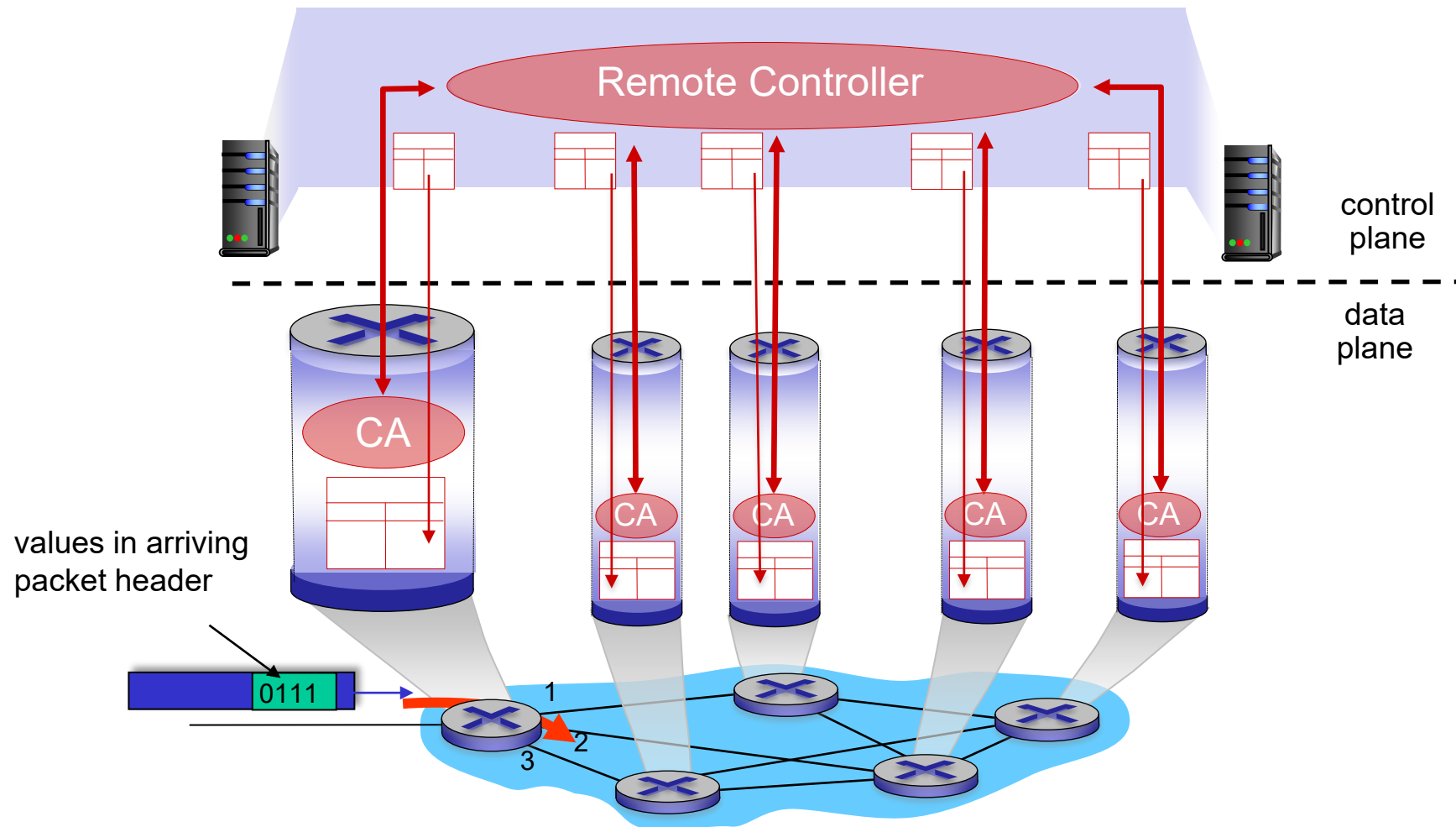
Per-router control plane

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



Software-Defined Networking (SDN) control plane

Remote controller computes, installs forwarding tables in routers

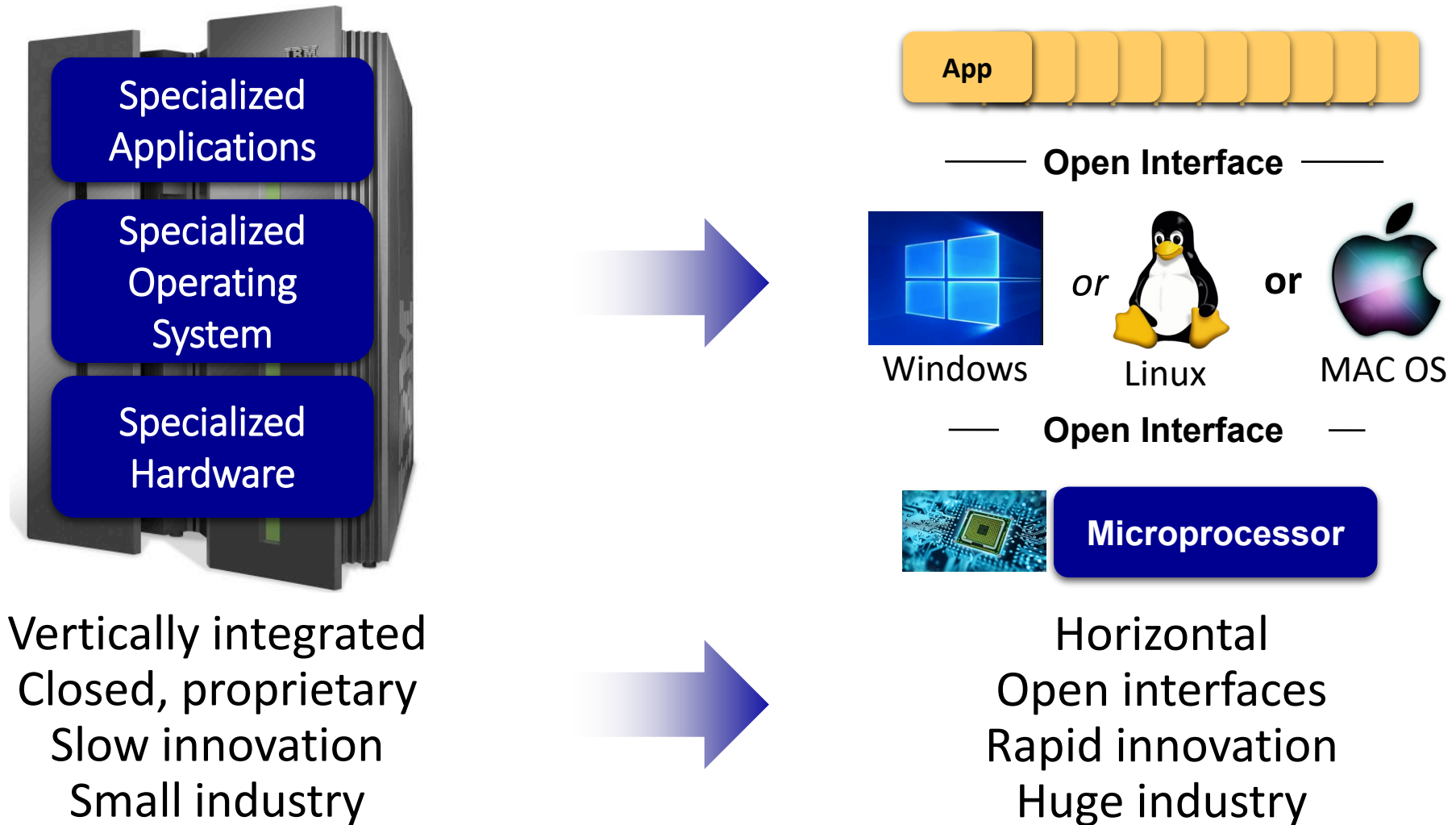


Software defined networking (SDN)

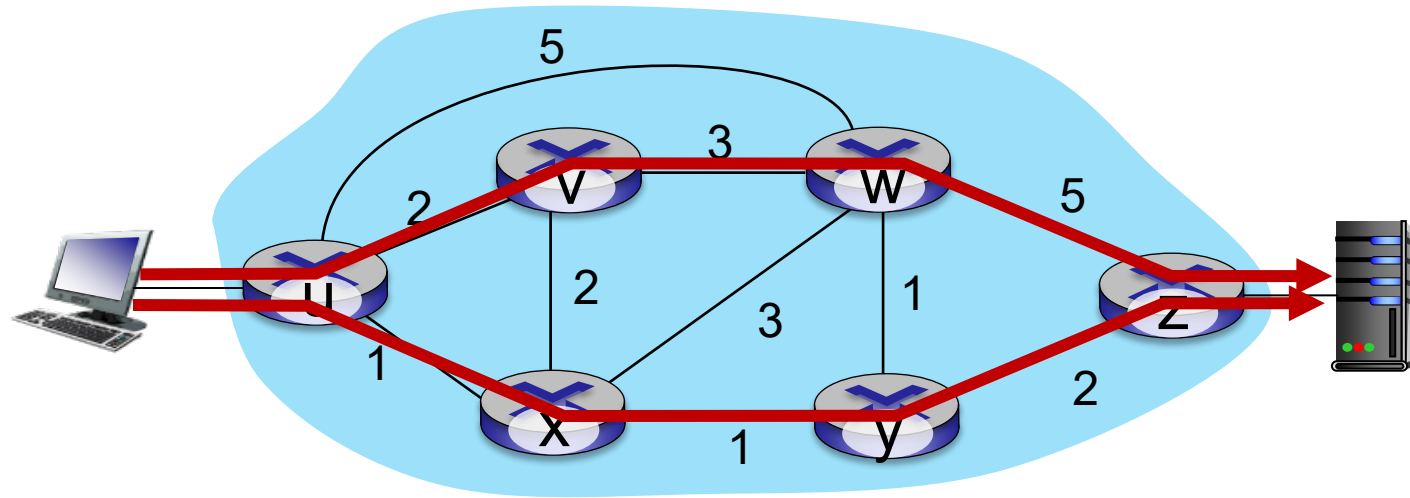
Why a *logically centralized* control plane?

- easier network management: avoid router misconfigurations, greater flexibility of traffic flows
- table-based forwarding (recall OpenFlow API) allows “programming” routers
 - centralized “programming” easier: compute tables centrally and distribute
 - distributed “programming” more difficult: compute tables as result of distributed algorithm (protocol) implemented in each-and-every router
- open (non-proprietary) implementation of control plane
 - foster innovation: let 1000 flowers bloom

SDN analogy: mainframe to PC revolution



Traffic engineering: difficult with traditional routing

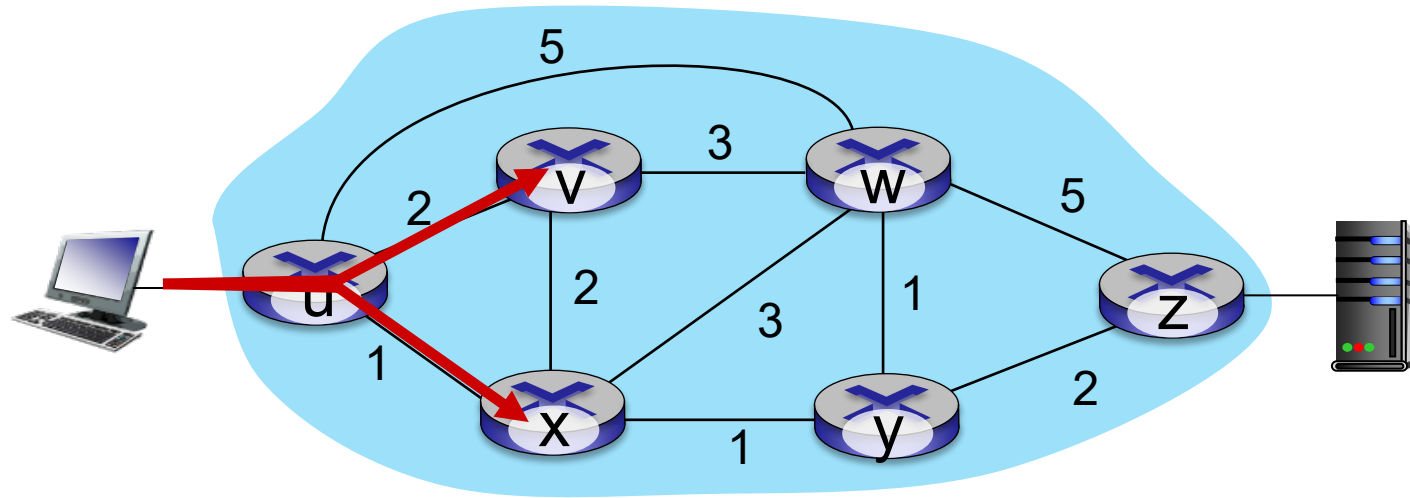


Q: what if network operator wants u-to-z traffic to flow along *uvwz*, rather than *uxyz*?

A: need to re-define link weights so traffic routing algorithm computes routes accordingly (or need a new routing algorithm)!

link weights are only control “knobs”: not much control!

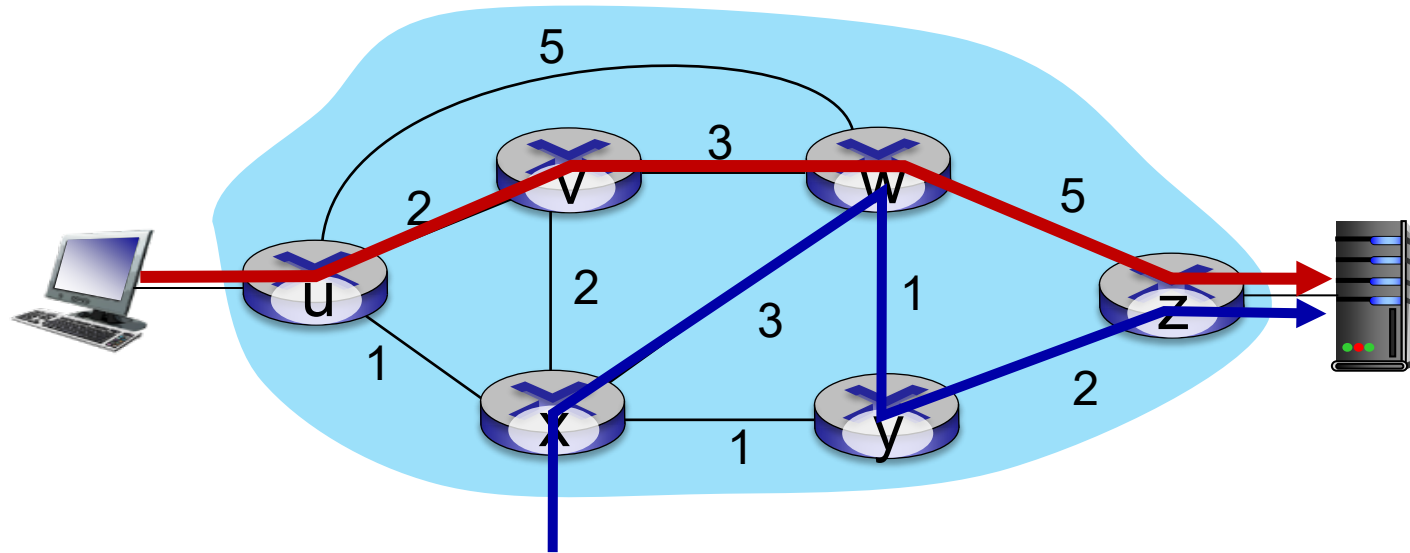
Traffic engineering: difficult with traditional routing



Q: what if network operator wants to split u-to-z traffic along uvwz *and* uxyz (load balancing)?

A: can't do it (or need a new routing algorithm)

Traffic engineering: difficult with traditional routing

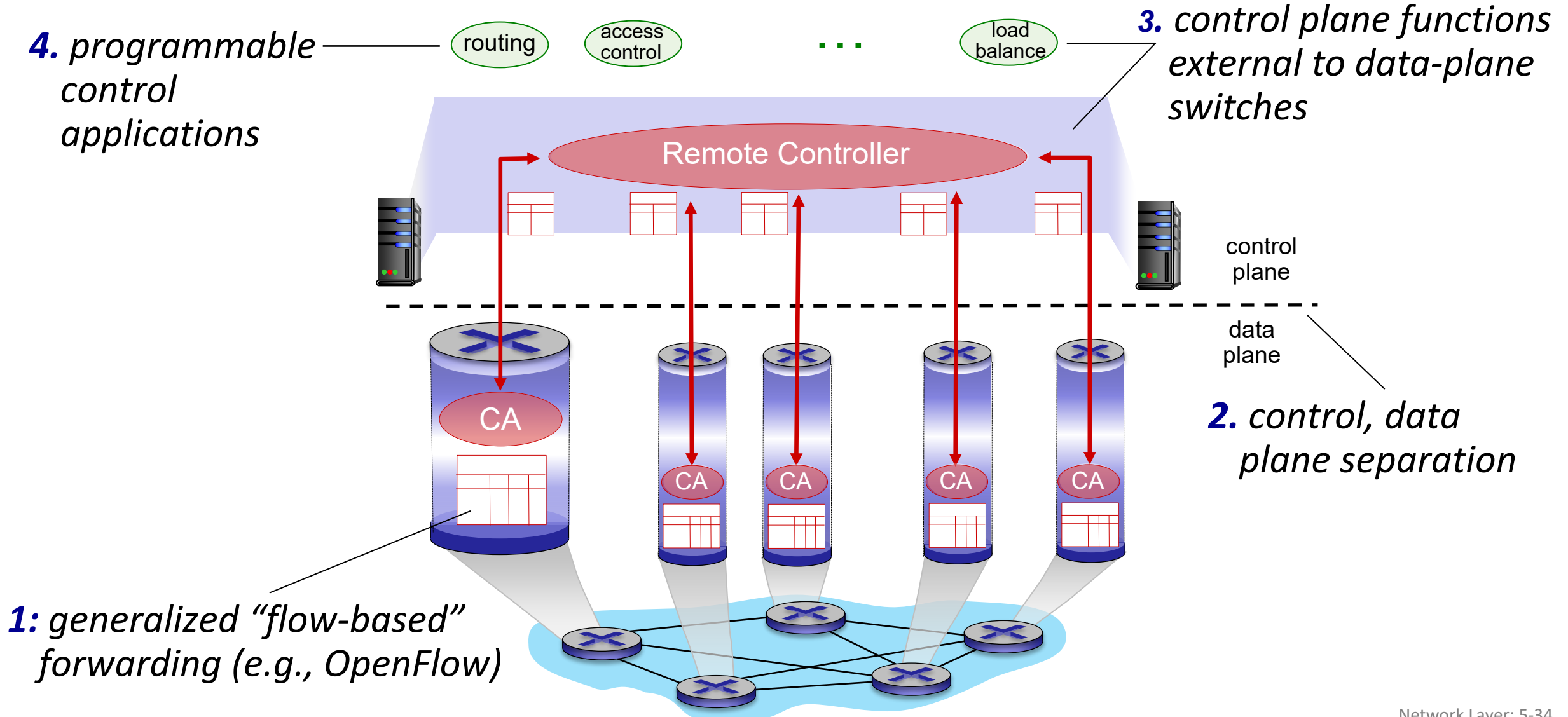


Q: what if w wants to route blue and red traffic differently from w to z?

A: can't do it (with destination-based forwarding, and LS, DV routing)

We learned in Chapter 4 that generalized forwarding and SDN can be used to achieve *any* routing desired

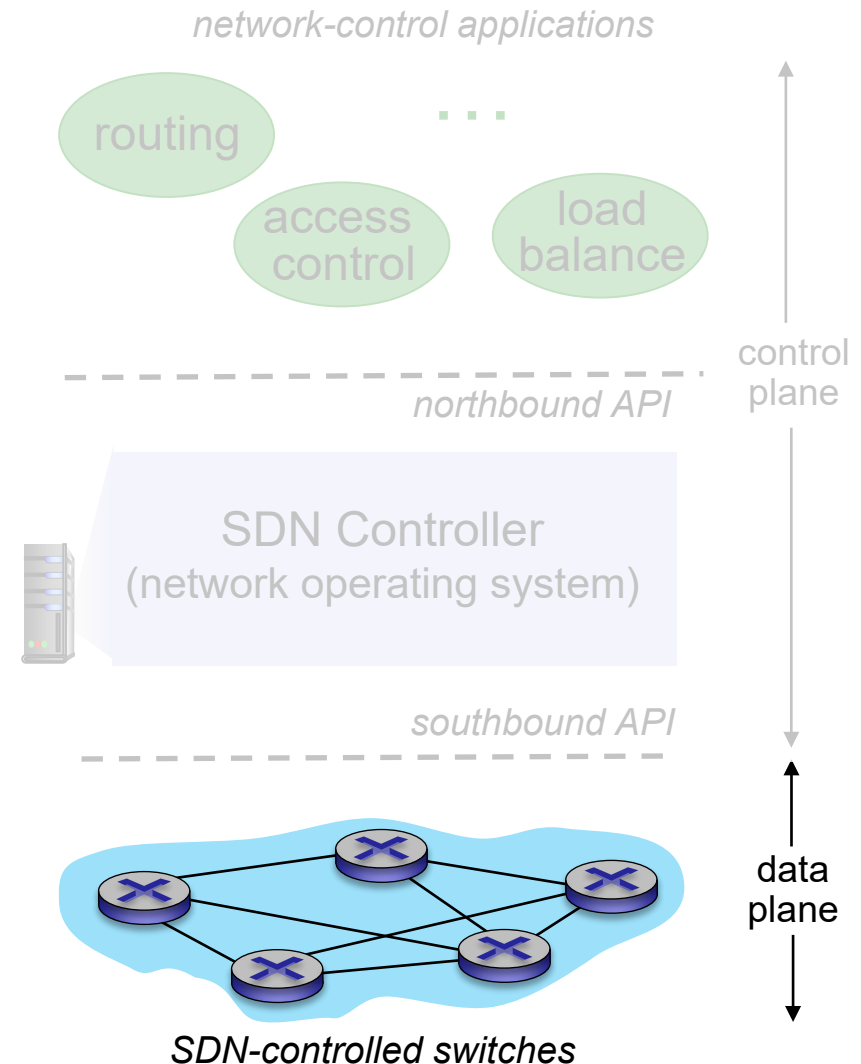
Software defined networking (SDN)



Software defined networking (SDN)

Data-plane switches:

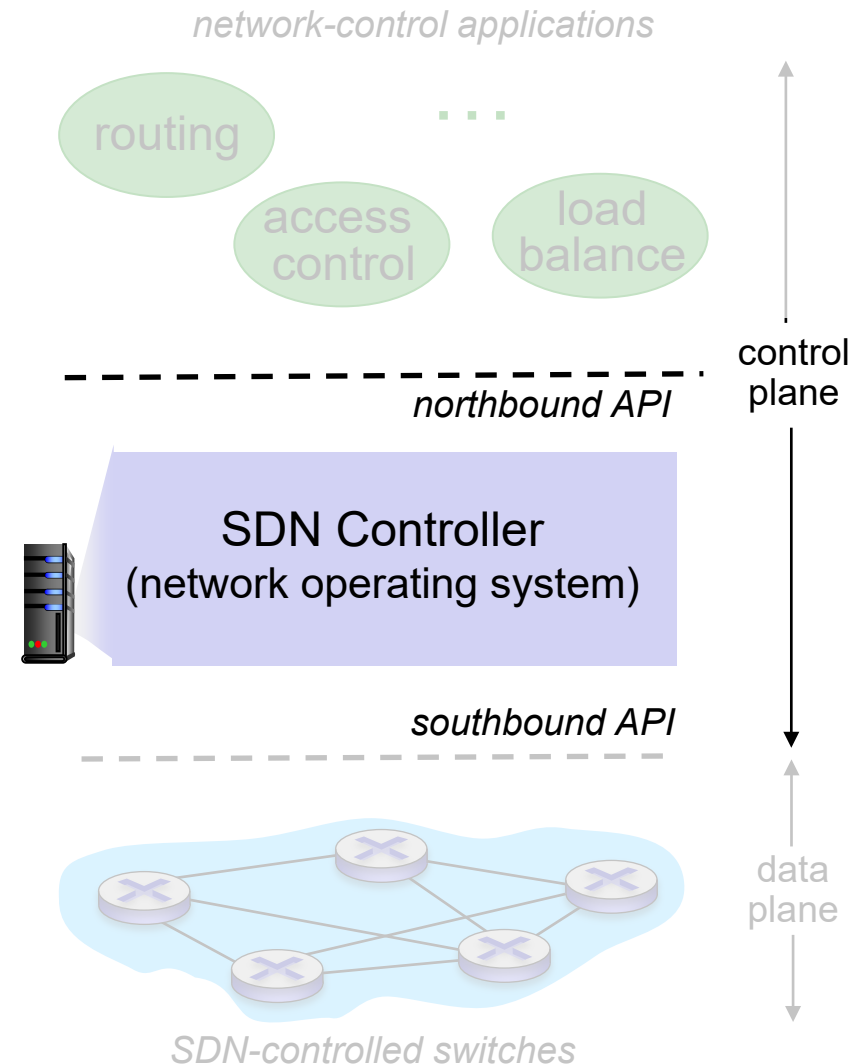
- fast, simple, commodity switches implementing generalized data-plane forwarding (Section 4.4) in hardware
- flow (forwarding) table computed, installed under controller supervision
- API for table-based switch control (e.g., OpenFlow)
 - defines what is controllable, what is not
- protocol for communicating with controller (e.g., OpenFlow)



Software defined networking (SDN)

SDN controller (network OS):

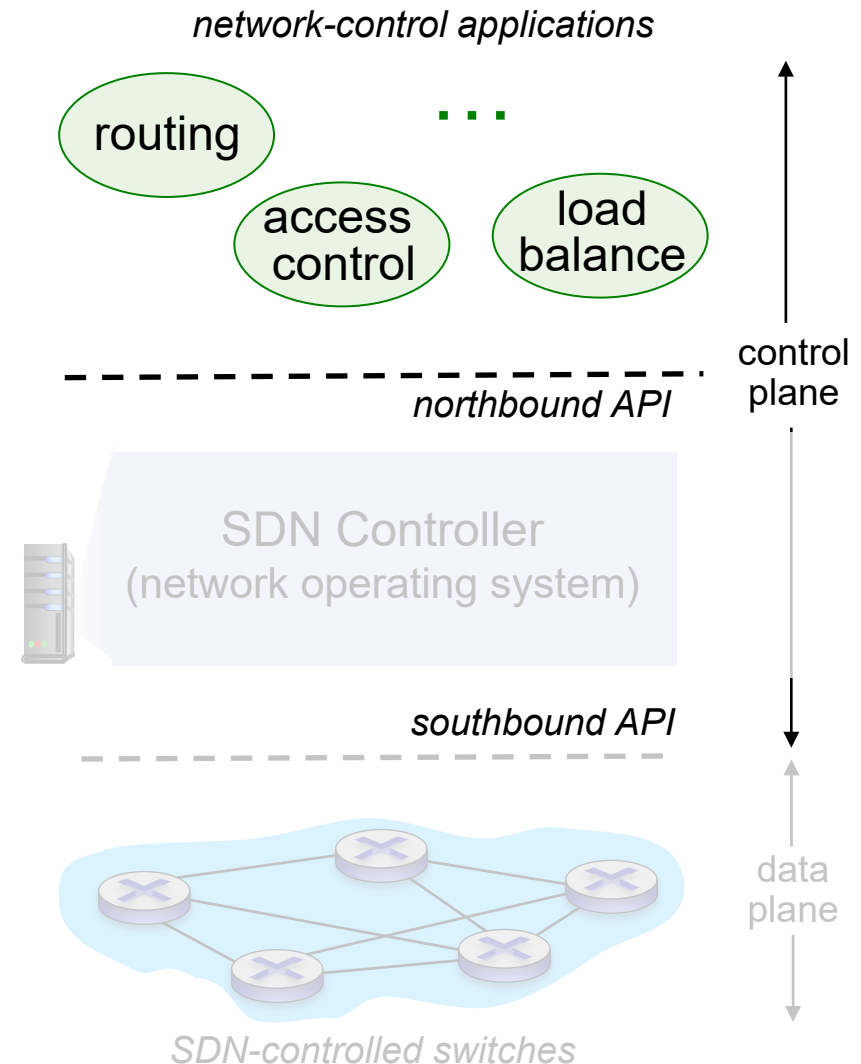
- maintain network state information
- interacts with network control applications “above” via northbound API
- interacts with network switches “below” via southbound API
- implemented as distributed system for performance, scalability, fault-tolerance, robustness



Software defined networking (SDN)

network-control apps:

- “brains” of control: implement control functions using lower-level services, API provided by SDN controller
- *unbundled*: can be provided by 3rd party: distinct from routing vendor, or SDN controller

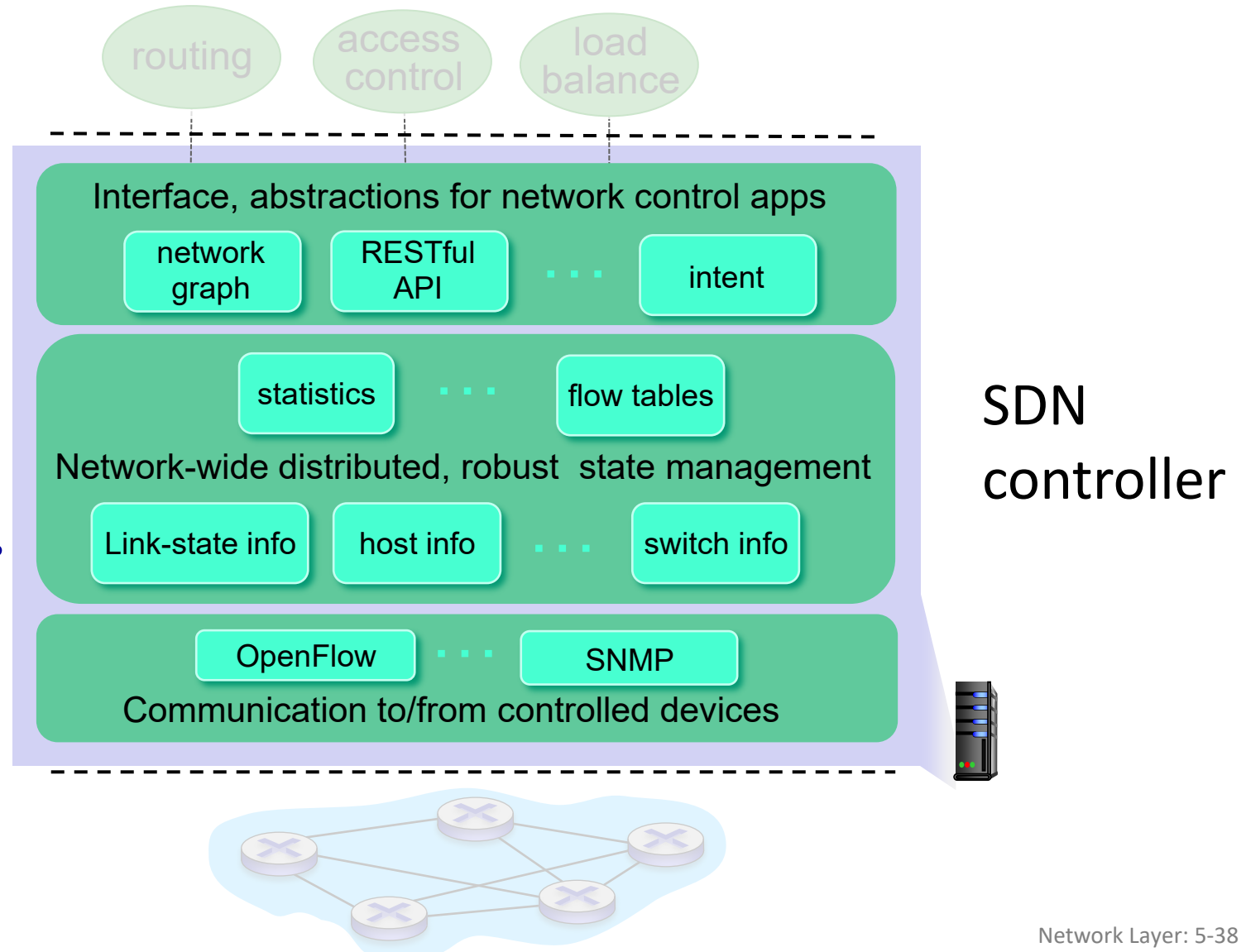


Components of SDN controller

interface layer to network
control apps: abstractions API

network-wide state
management : state of
networks links, switches,
services: a *distributed database*

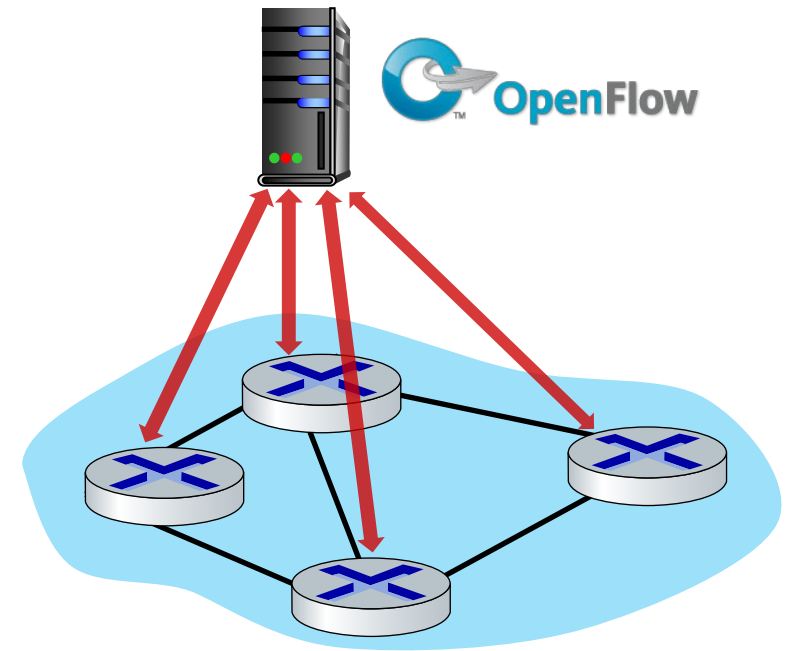
communication: communicate
between SDN controller and
controlled switches



OpenFlow protocol

- operates between controller, switch
- TCP used to exchange messages
 - optional encryption
- three classes of OpenFlow messages:
 - controller-to-switch
 - asynchronous (switch to controller)
 - symmetric (misc.)
- distinct from OpenFlow API
 - API used to specify generalized forwarding actions

OpenFlow Controller

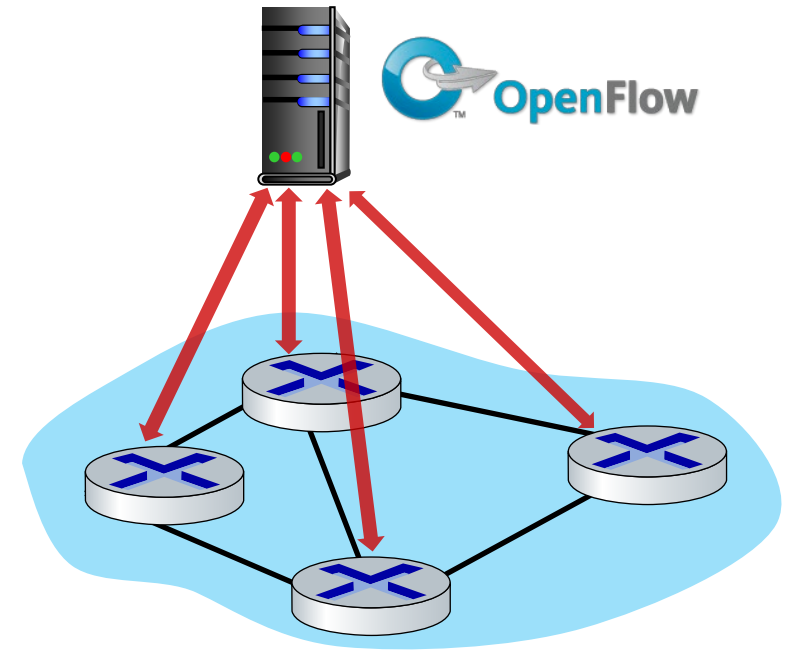


OpenFlow: controller-to-switch messages

Key controller-to-switch messages

- *features*: controller queries switch features, switch replies
- *configure*: controller queries/sets switch configuration parameters
- *modify-state*: add, delete, modify flow entries in the OpenFlow tables
- *packet-out*: controller can send this packet out of specific switch port

OpenFlow Controller

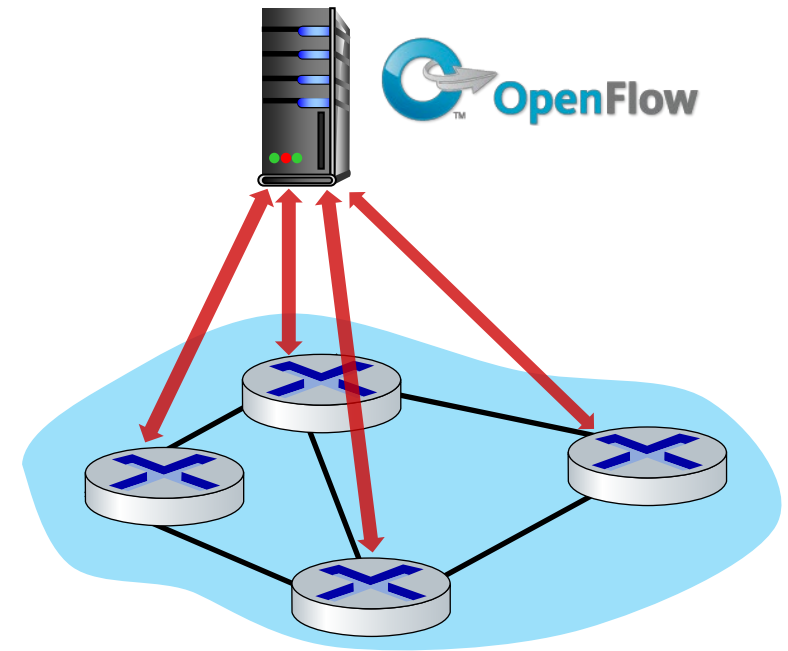


OpenFlow: switch-to-controller messages

Key switch-to-controller messages

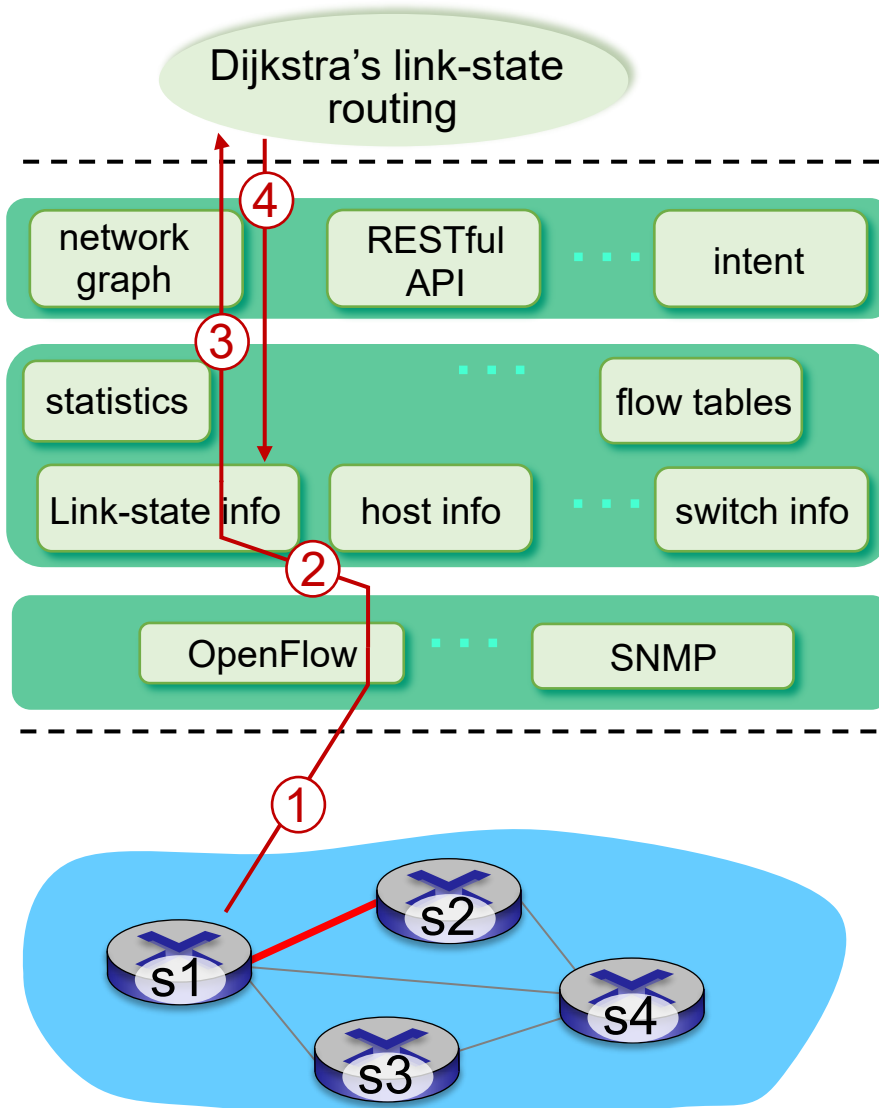
- *packet-in*: transfer packet (and its control) to controller. See packet-out message from controller
- *flow-removed*: flow table entry deleted at switch
- *port status*: inform controller of a change on a port.

OpenFlow Controller



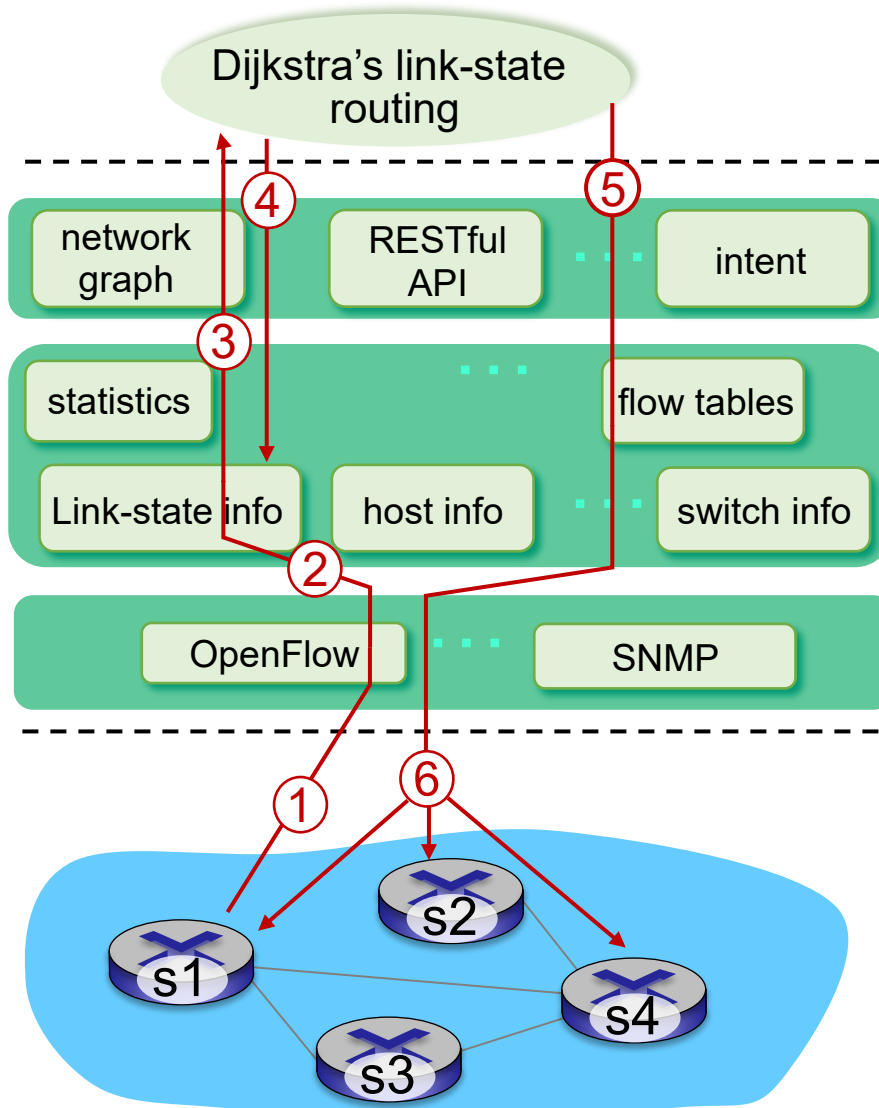
Fortunately, network operators don't "program" switches by creating/sending OpenFlow messages directly. Instead use higher-level abstraction at controller

SDN: control/data plane interaction example



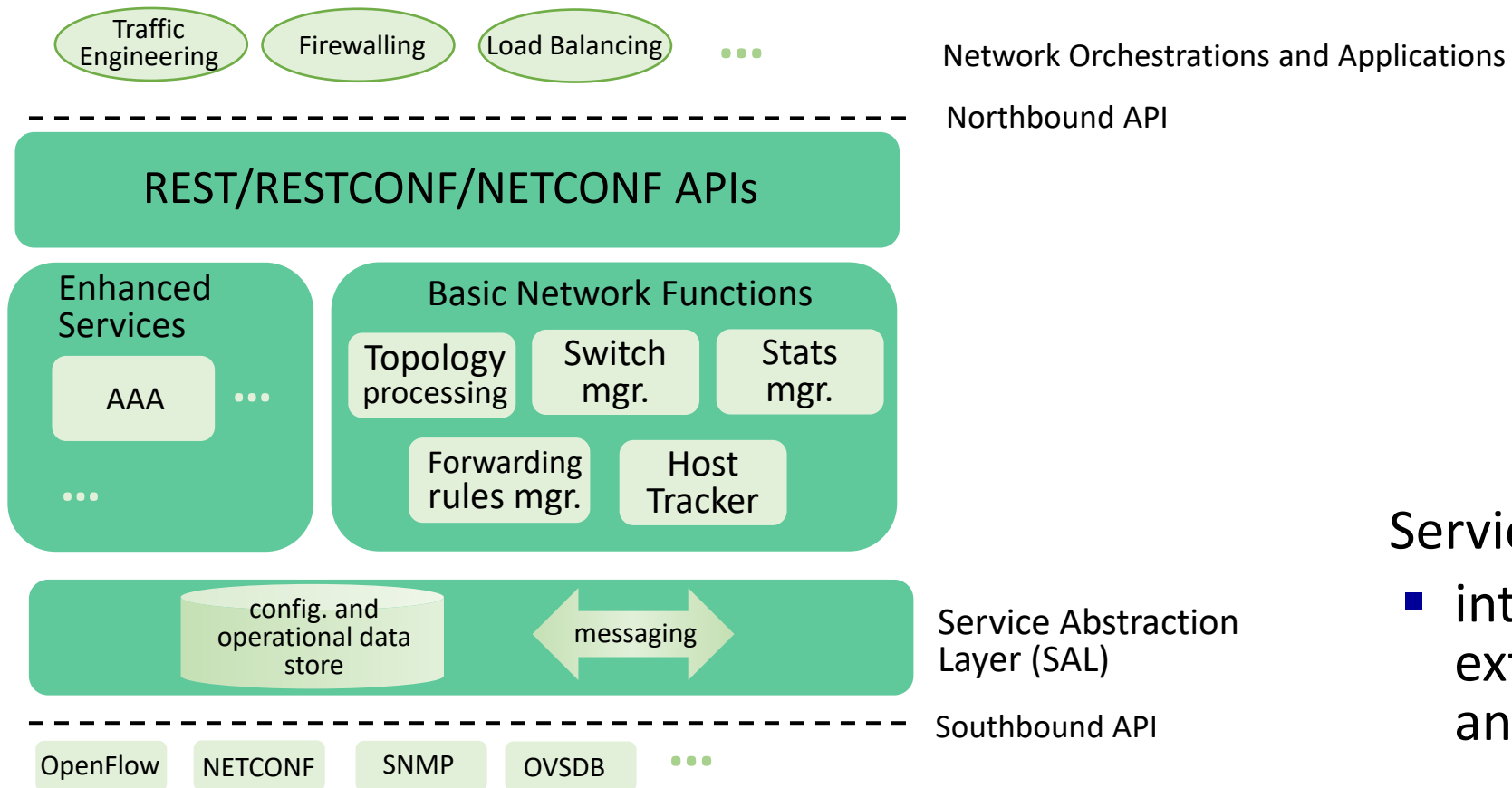
- ① S1, experiencing link failure uses OpenFlow port status message to notify controller
- ② SDN controller receives OpenFlow message, updates link status info
- ③ Dijkstra's routing algorithm application has previously registered to be called when ever link status changes. It is called.
- ④ Dijkstra's routing algorithm access network graph info, link state info in controller, computes new routes

SDN: control/data plane interaction example



- ⑤ link state routing app interacts with flow-table-computation component in SDN controller, which computes new flow tables needed
- ⑥ controller uses OpenFlow to install new tables in switches that need updating

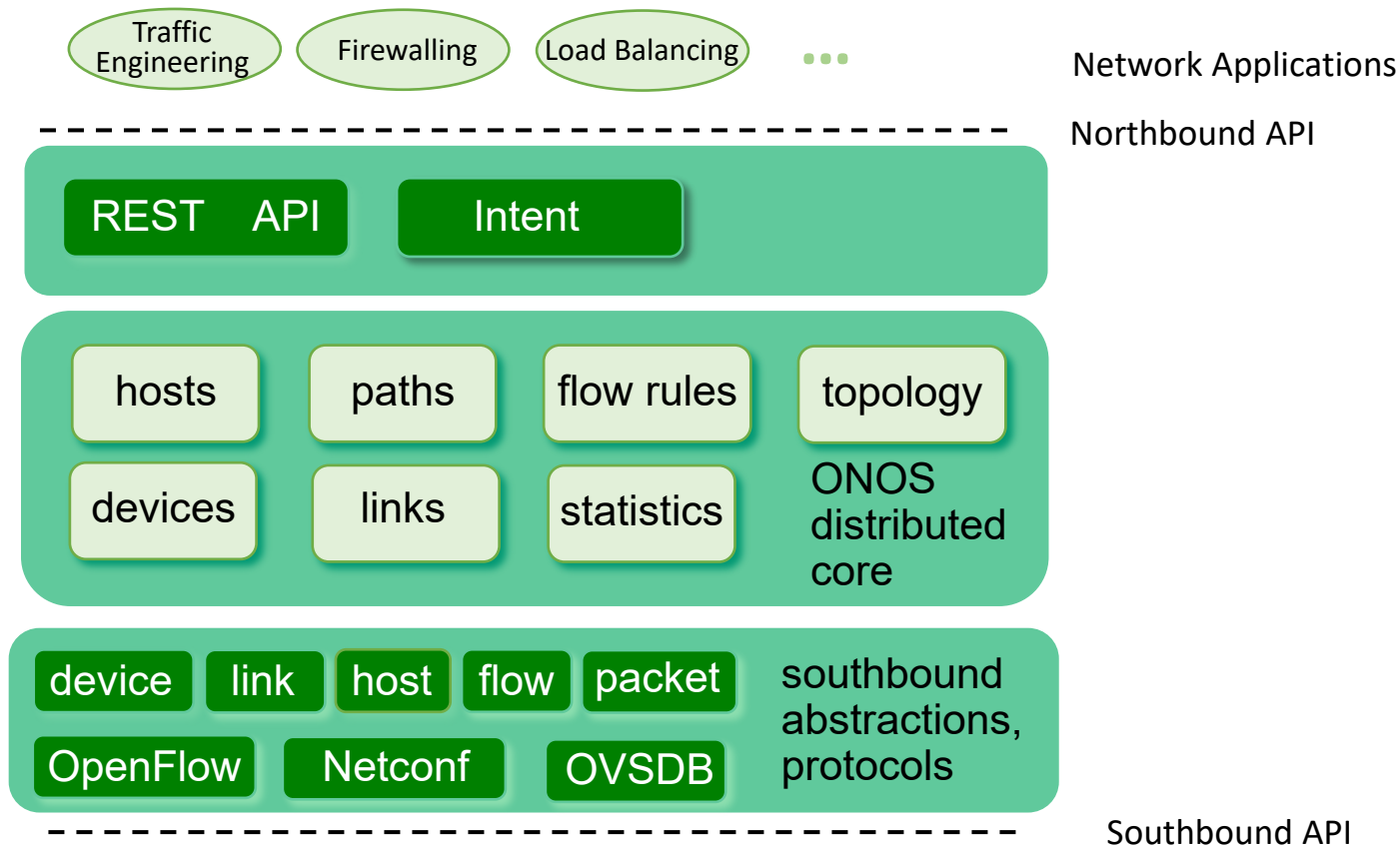
OpenDaylight (ODL) controller



Service Abstraction Layer:

- interconnects internal, external applications and services

ONOS controller



- control apps separate from controller
- intent framework: high-level specification of service: what rather than how
- considerable emphasis on distributed core: service reliability, replication performance scaling

SDN: selected challenges

- hardening the control plane: dependable, reliable, performance-scalable, secure distributed system
 - robustness to failures: leverage strong theory of reliable distributed system for control plane
 - dependability, security: “baked in” from day one?
- networks, protocols meeting mission-specific requirements
 - e.g., real-time, ultra-reliable, ultra-secure
- Internet-scaling: beyond a single AS
- SDN critical in 5G cellular networks

SDN and the future of traditional network protocols

- SDN-computed versus router-computer forwarding tables:
 - just one example of logically-centralized-computed versus protocol computed
- one could imagine SDN-computed congestion control:
 - controller sets sender rates based on router-reported (to controller) congestion levels



How will implementation of network functionality (SDN versus protocols) evolve?



Network layer: Summary

we've learned a lot!

- approaches to network control plane
 - per-router control (traditional)
 - logically centralized control (software defined networking)
- traditional routing algorithms
 - implementation in Internet: OSPF , BGP
- SDN controllers
 - implementation in practice: ODL, ONOS

next stop: link layer!

Network layer, control plane: Done!

- introduction
- routing protocols
 - link state
 - distance vector
- intra-ISP routing: OSPF
- routing among ISPs: BGP
- SDN control plane

