

6.1800 Spring 2024

Lecture #9: Routing

distance-vector, link-state, and how they scale

6.1800 in the news

Red Sea cables have been damaged, disrupting internet traffic



By [Hanna Ziady](#), CNN

⌚ 3 minute read · Updated 9:02 AM EST, Mon March 4, 2024

London (CNN) — Damage to submarine cables in the Red Sea is disrupting telecommunications networks and forcing providers to reroute as much as a quarter of traffic between Asia, Europe and the Middle East, including internet traffic.

HGC estimates that 25% of traffic between Asia and Europe as well the Middle East has been impacted, it said in a statement Monday.

Most large telecoms companies rely on multiple undersea cable systems, allowing them to reroute traffic in the event of an outage to ensure uninterrupted service.

6.1800 in the news

when cables are damaged, the Internet has to **reroute** traffic

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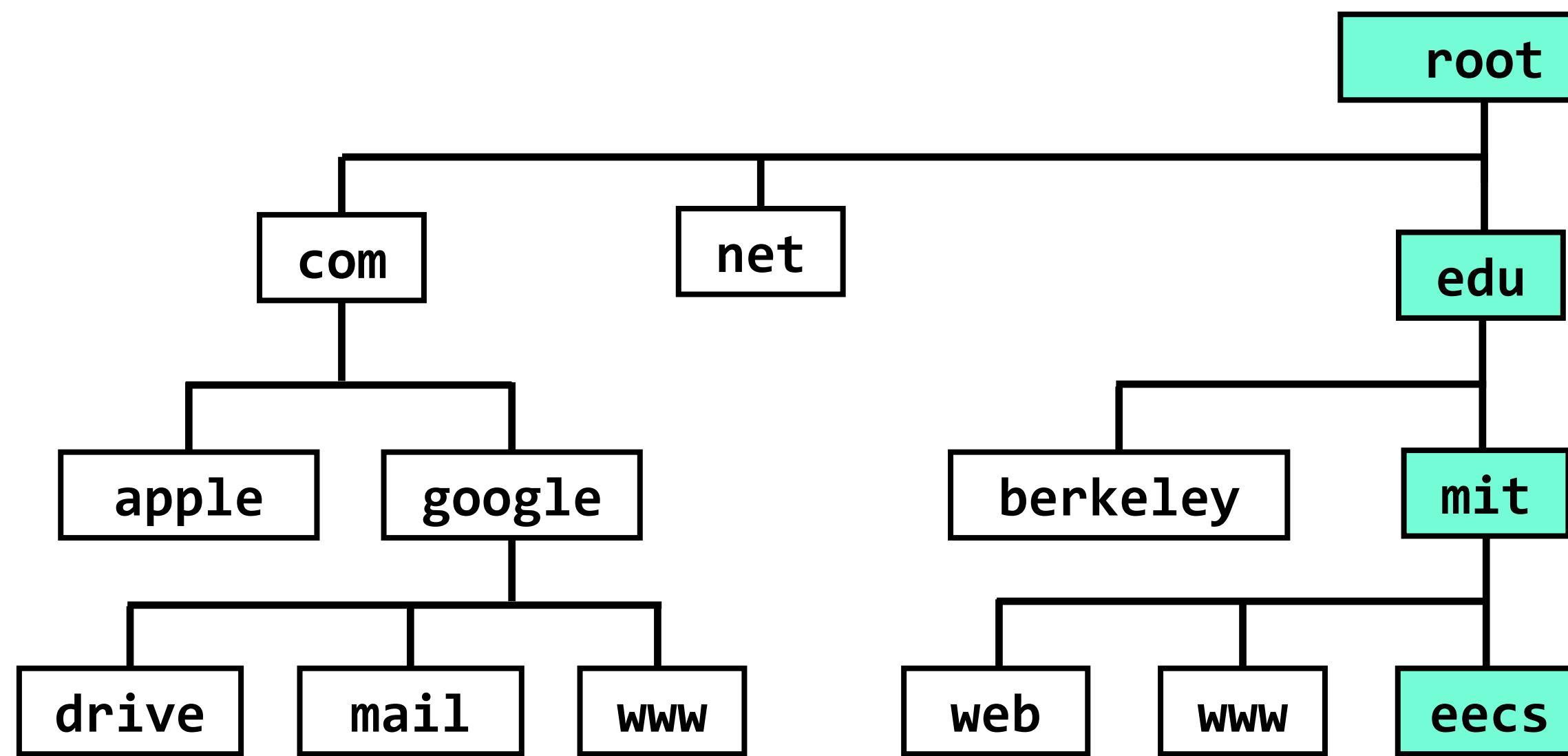
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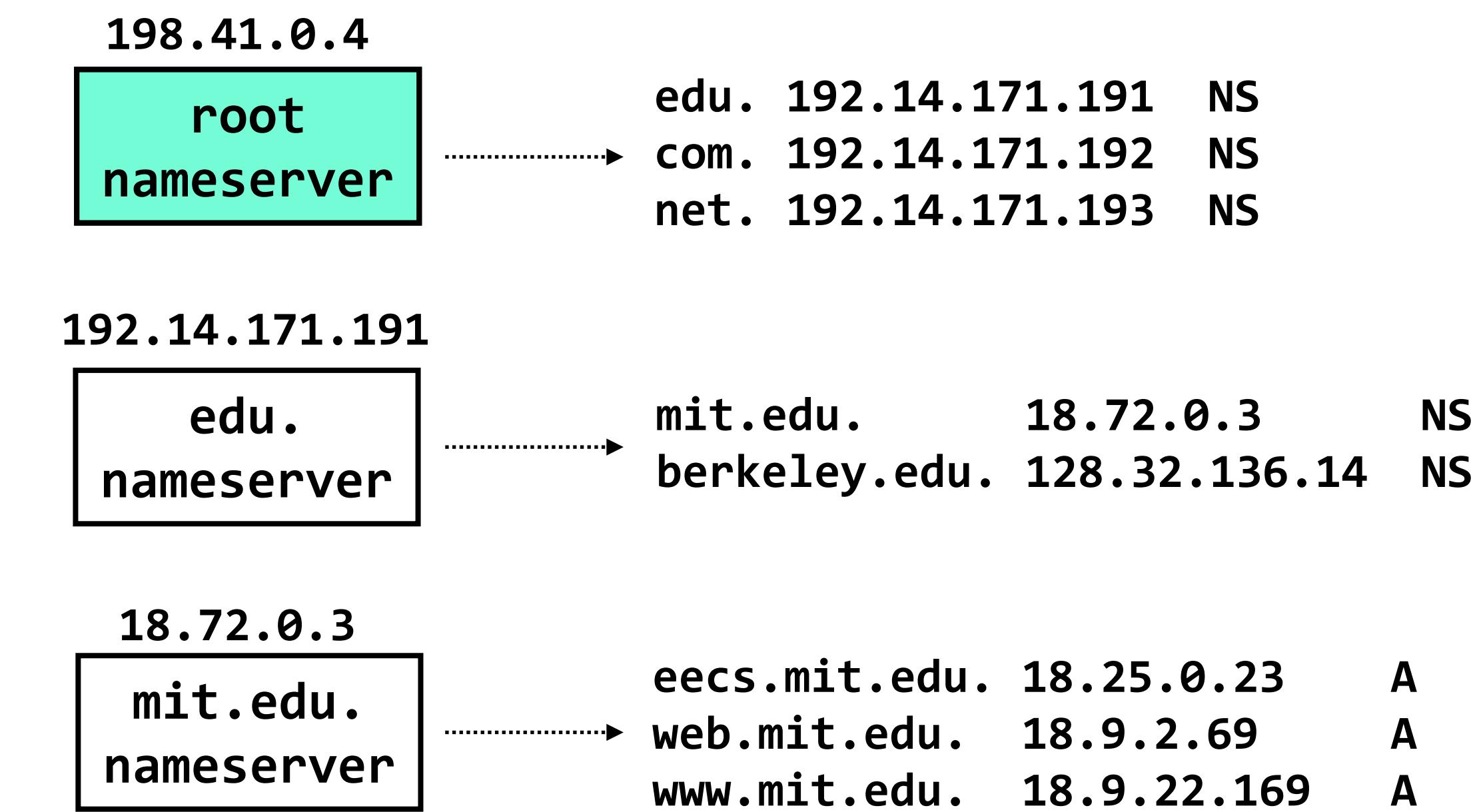
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6.1800 in the past

the **domain name system (DNS)**, which maps
hostnames (eecs.mit.edu) to **IP addresses** (18.25.0.23)



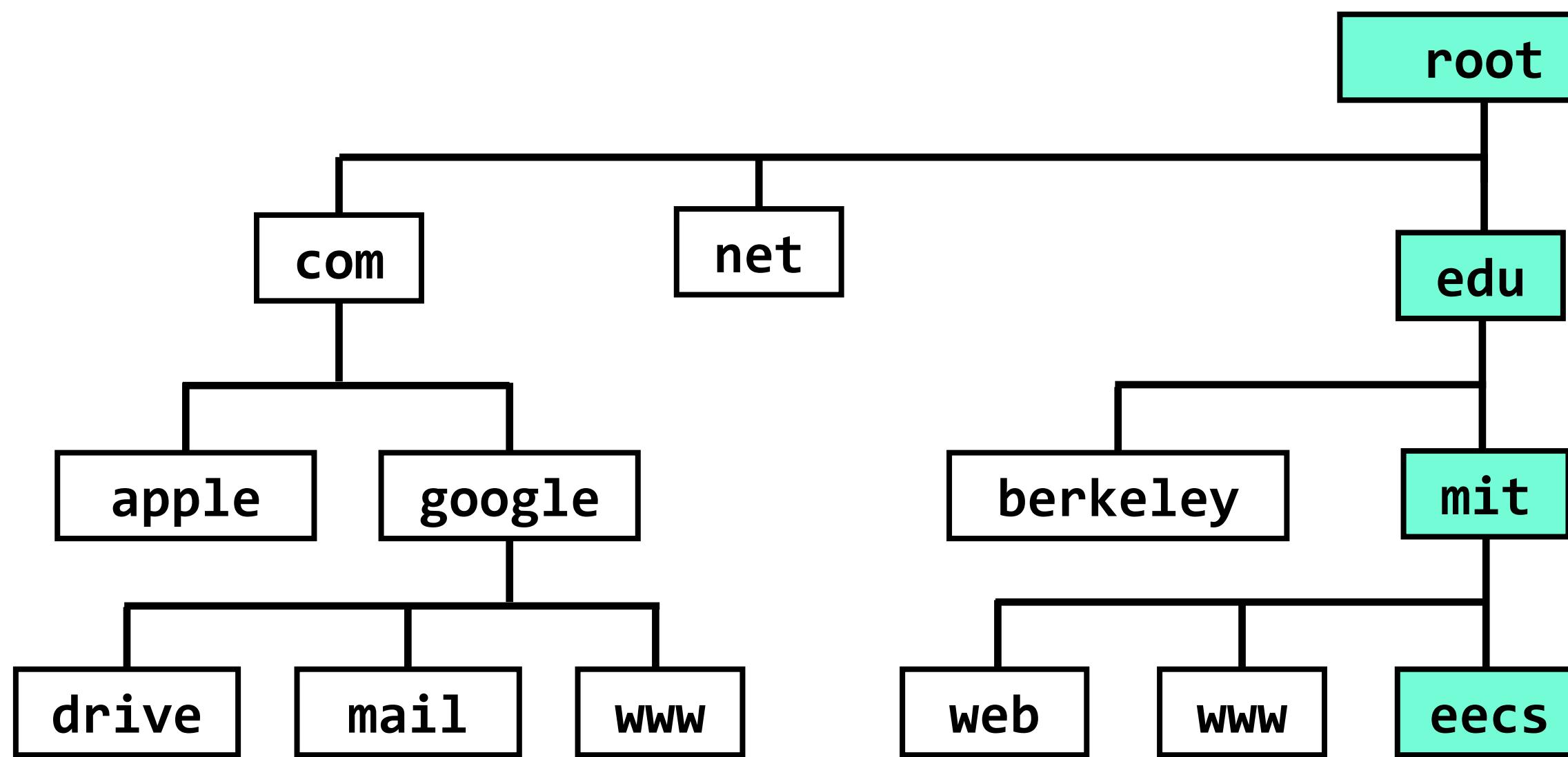
a partial view of the DNS hierarchy. each box represents a **zone**. name servers within a zone keep track of that zone's mappings



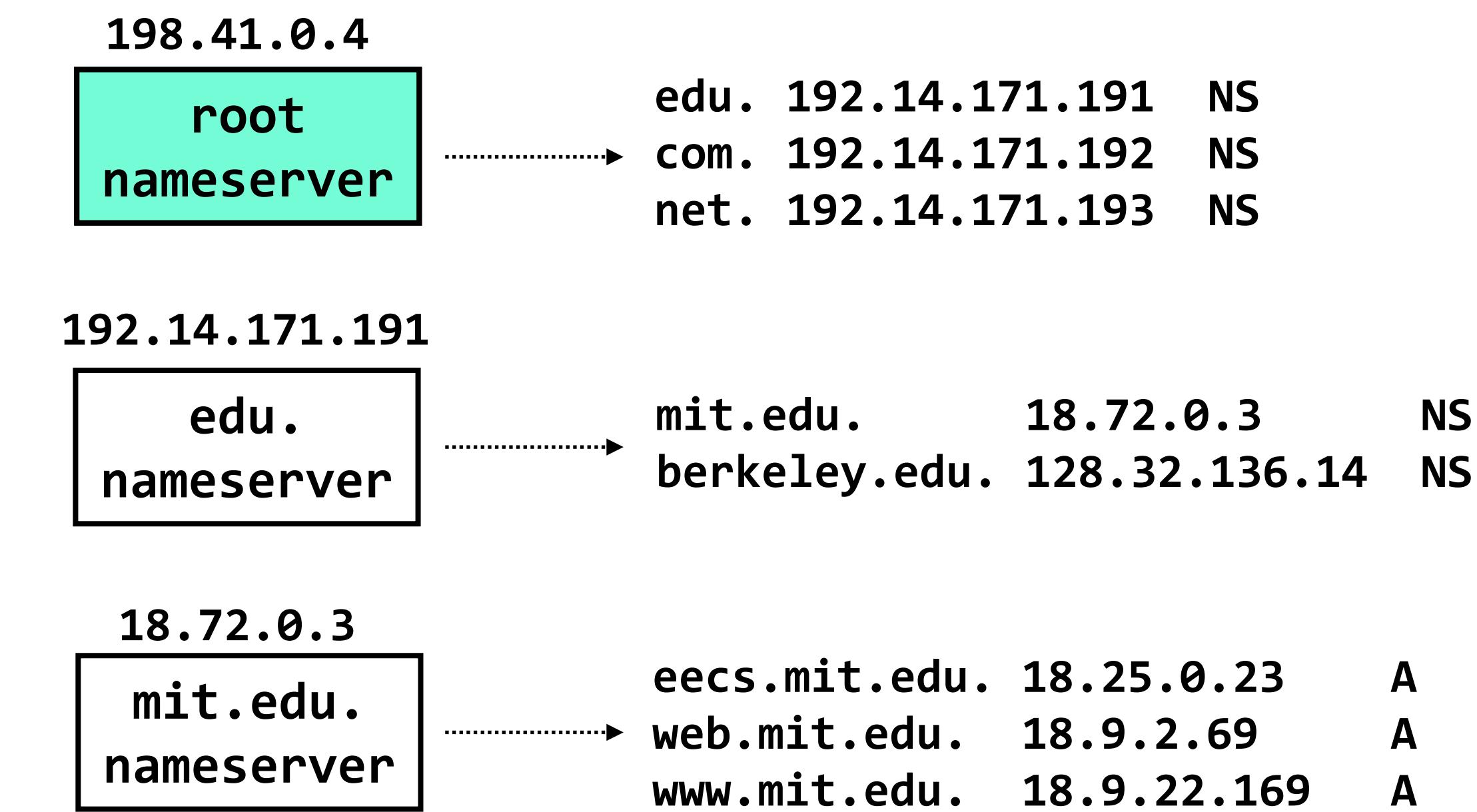
query sent to: 198.41.0.4
response:

6.1800 in the past

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query sent to: 198.41.0.4
response:

how does the DNS client's query get to 198.41.0.4?

1970s:
ARPAnet

1978: flexibility and
layering

early 80s: growth → change

late 80s: growth → problems

1993:
commercialization

hosts.txt
distance-vector
routing

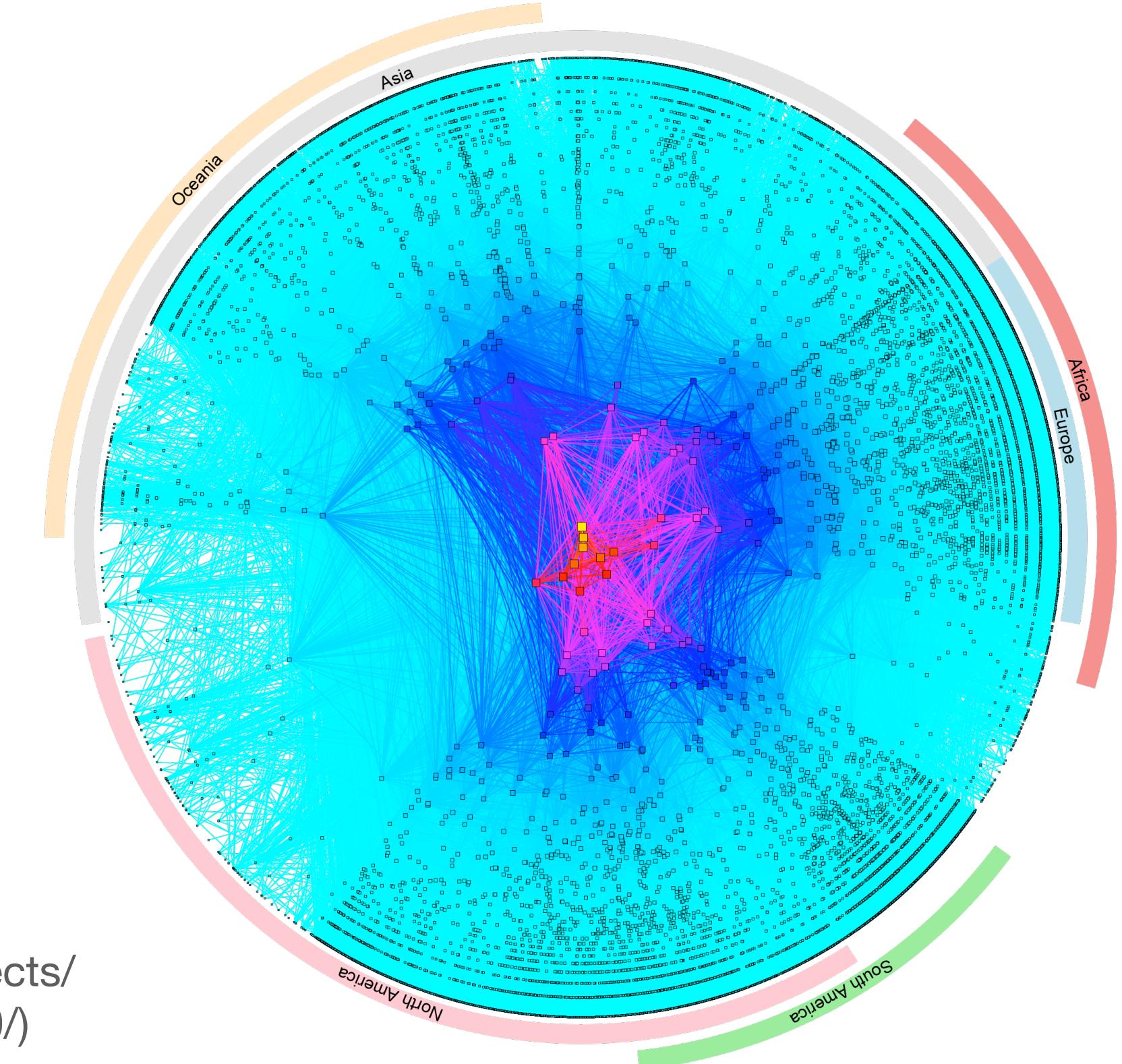
TCP, UDP

OSPF, EGP, DNS

congestion collapse

policy routing

CIDR



on the Internet, we have to solve all of the “normal” networking problems (addressing, routing, transport) **at massive scale, while supporting a diverse group of applications and competing economic interests**

application

the things that actually generate traffic

transport

sharing the network, reliability (or not)
examples: TCP, UDP

network

naming, addressing, routing
examples: IP

link

communication between two directly-connected nodes

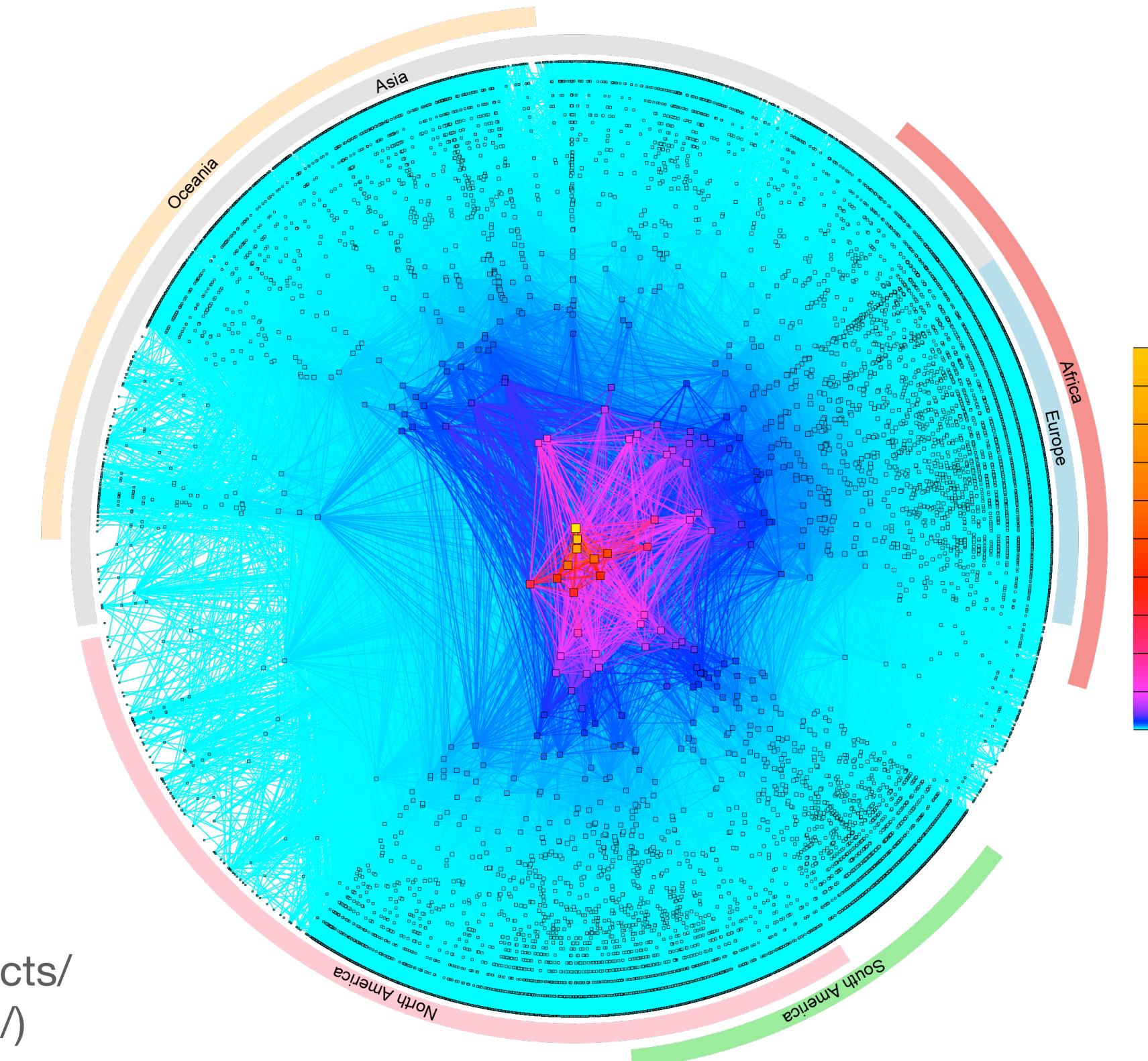
examples: ethernet, bluetooth, 802.11 (wifi)

1970s: ARPAnet 1978: flexibility and layering early 80s: growth → change late 80s: growth → problems 1993: commercialization

hosts.txt **distance-vector routing**

TCP, UDP **OSPF**, EGP, DNS
(a link-state routing protocol)

congestion collapse policy routing CIDR



today: routing in general
(not specifically on the Internet)

application

the things that actually generate traffic

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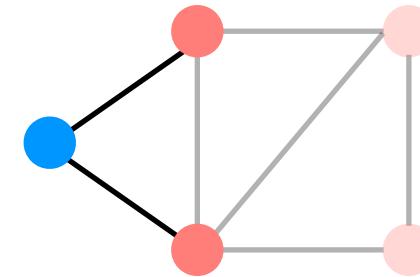
examples: ethernet, bluetooth, 802.11 (wifi)

goal of a routing protocol: allow each switch to know, for every node dst in the network, a **minimum-cost** route to dst

distributed routing: nodes build up their own routing tables, rather than having tables given to them by a centralized authority

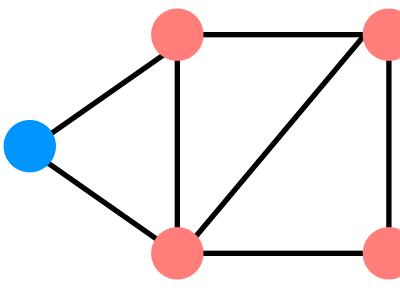
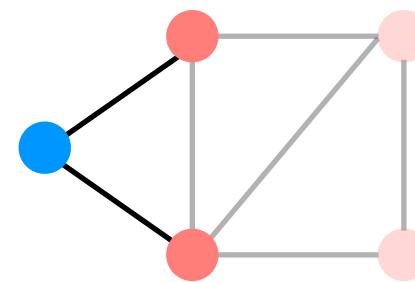
distributed routing: nodes build up their own routing tables, rather than having tables given to them by a centralized authority

1. nodes learn about their neighbors via the HELLO protocol



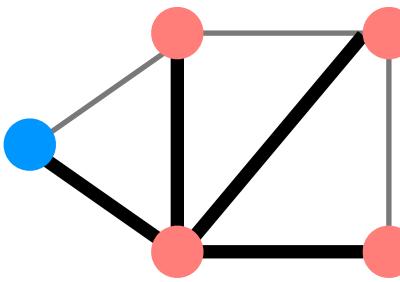
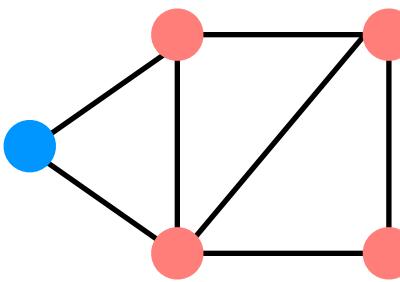
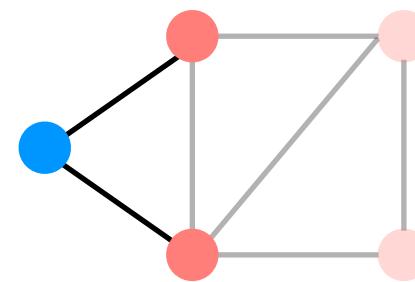
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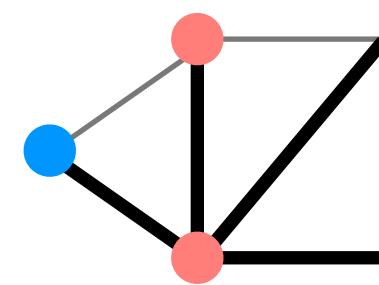
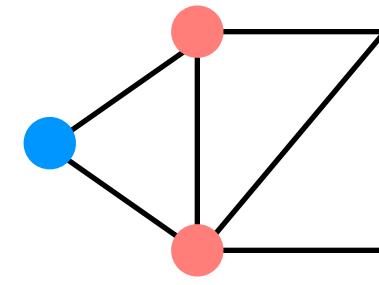
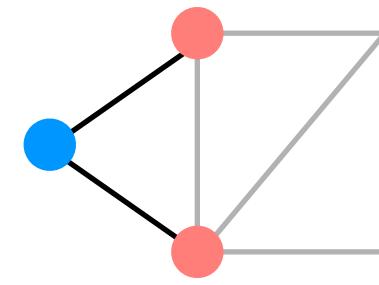
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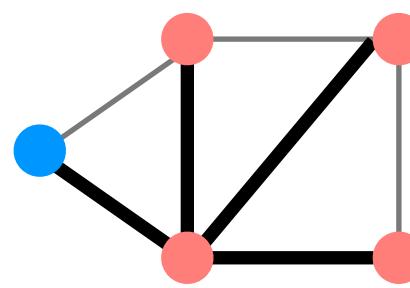
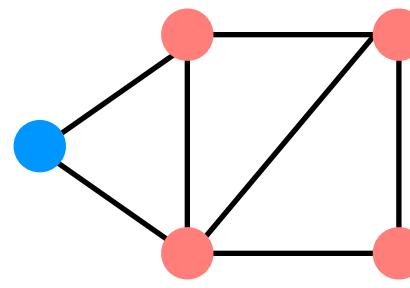
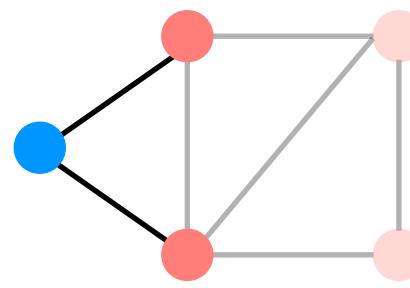
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what the advertisements contain, and how the nodes use those advertisements to determine the min-cost routes, will change depending on the specific protocol

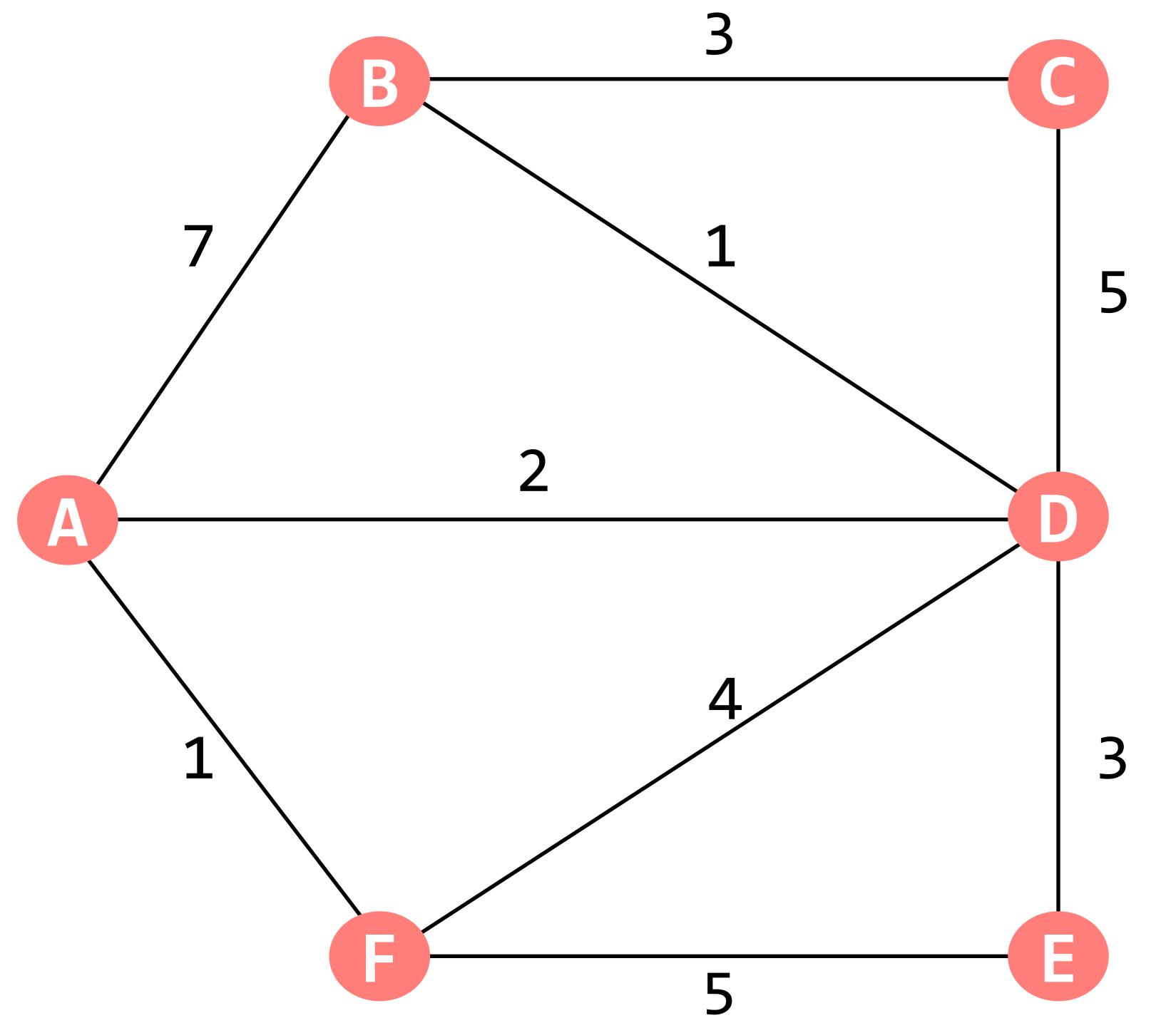
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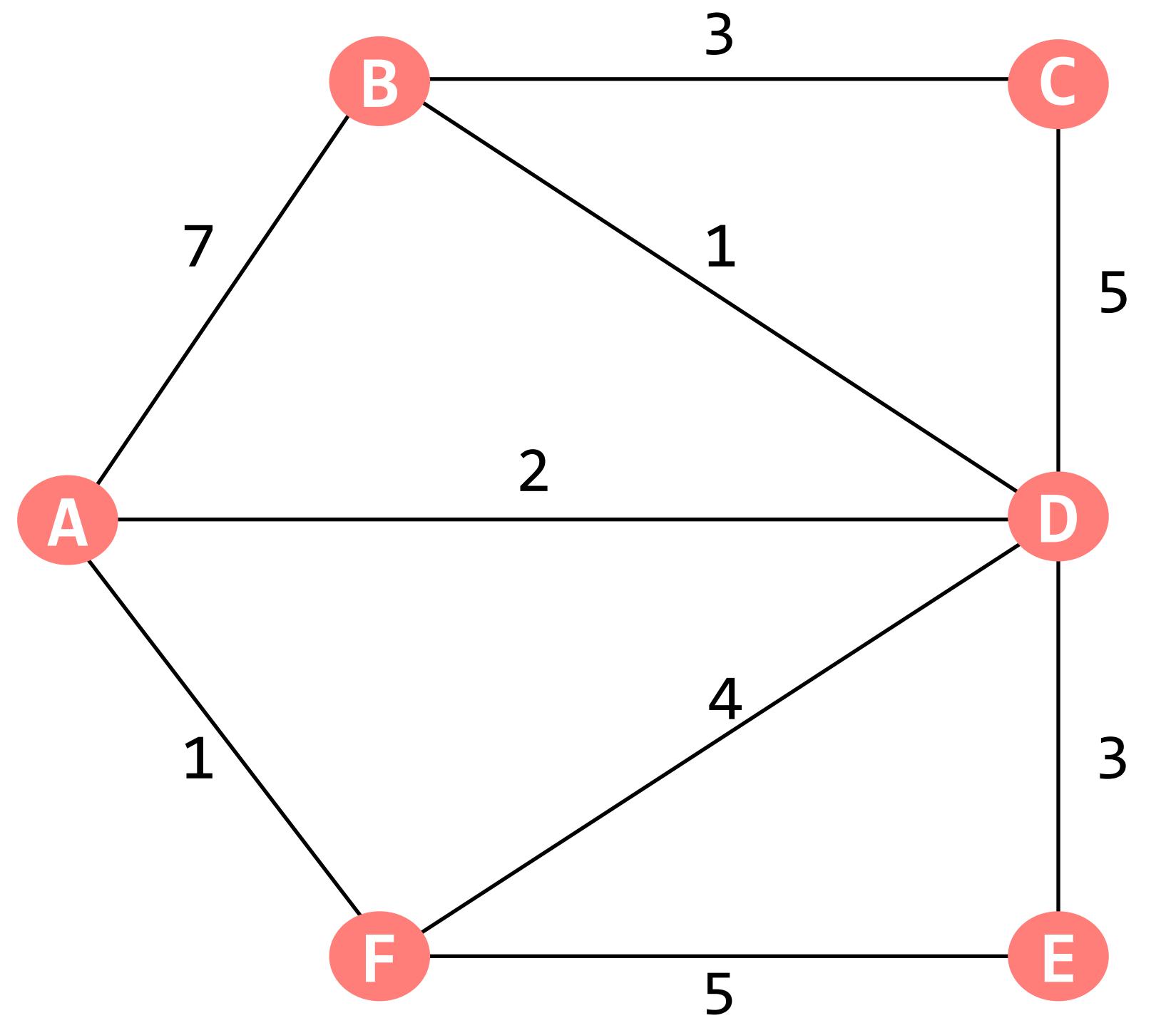
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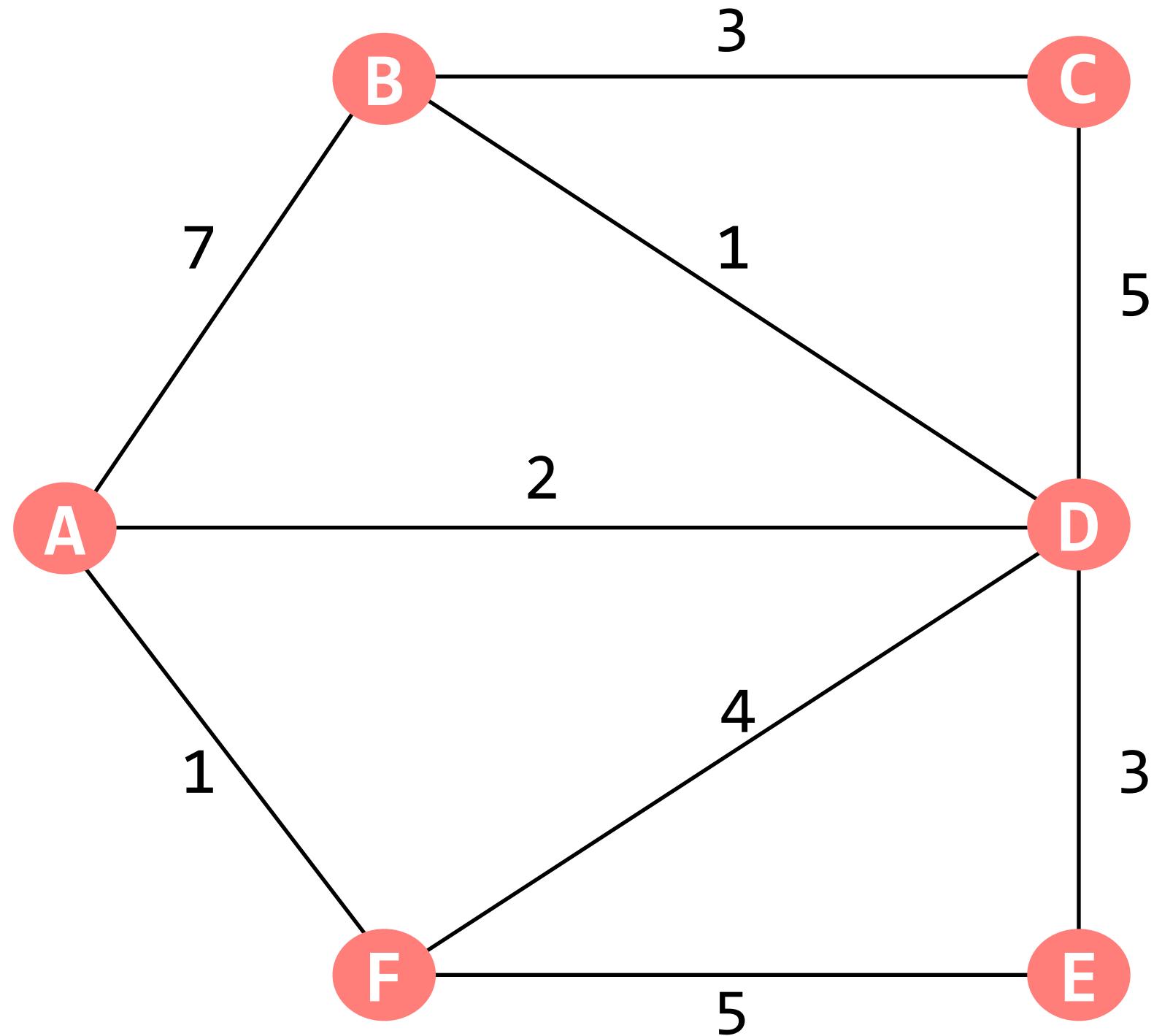
all of these steps happen periodically, which allows the routing protocol to detect and respond to failures, and adapt to other changes in the network





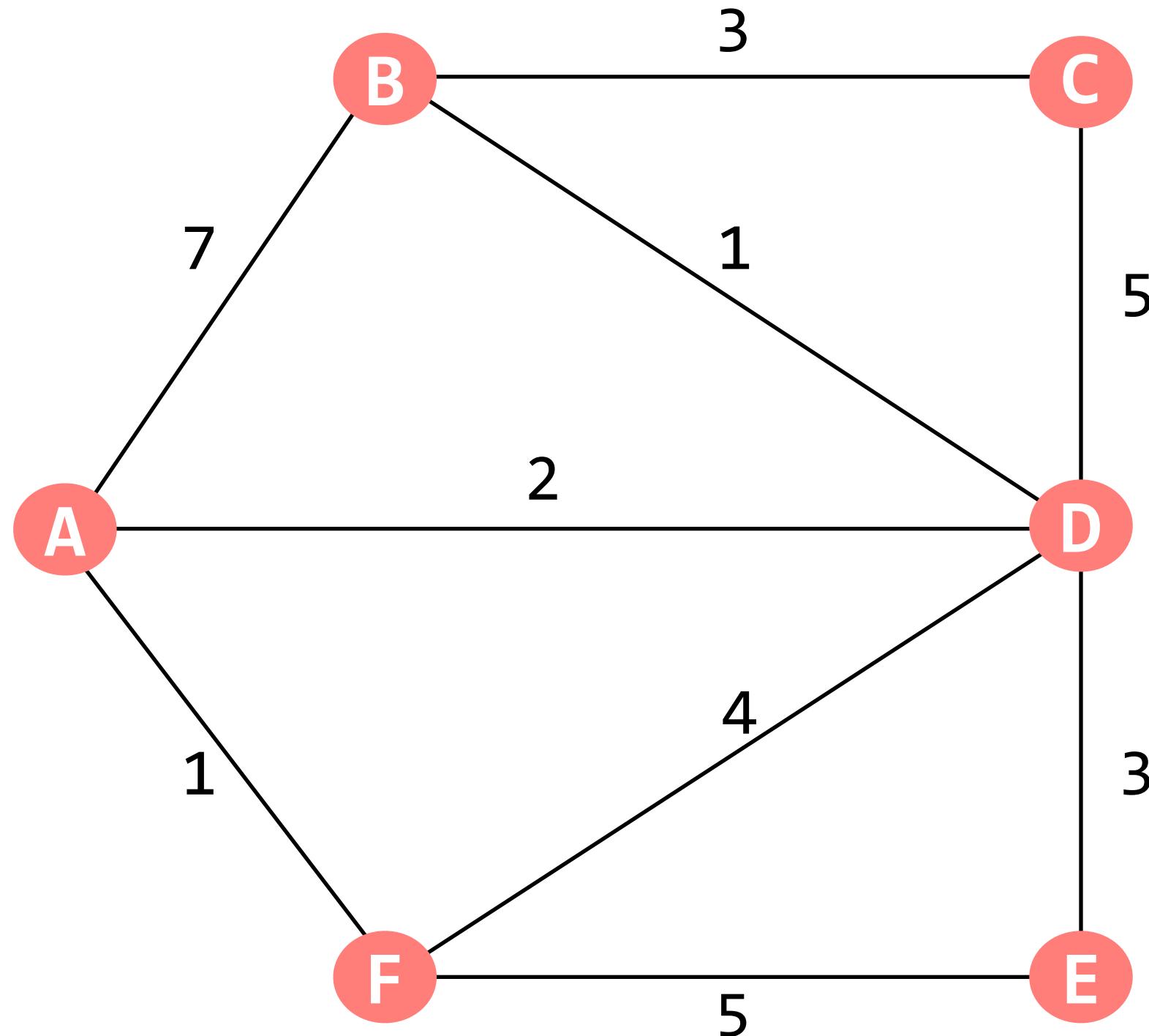
link state

link-state routing: disseminate full topology information so that nodes can run a shortest-path algorithm



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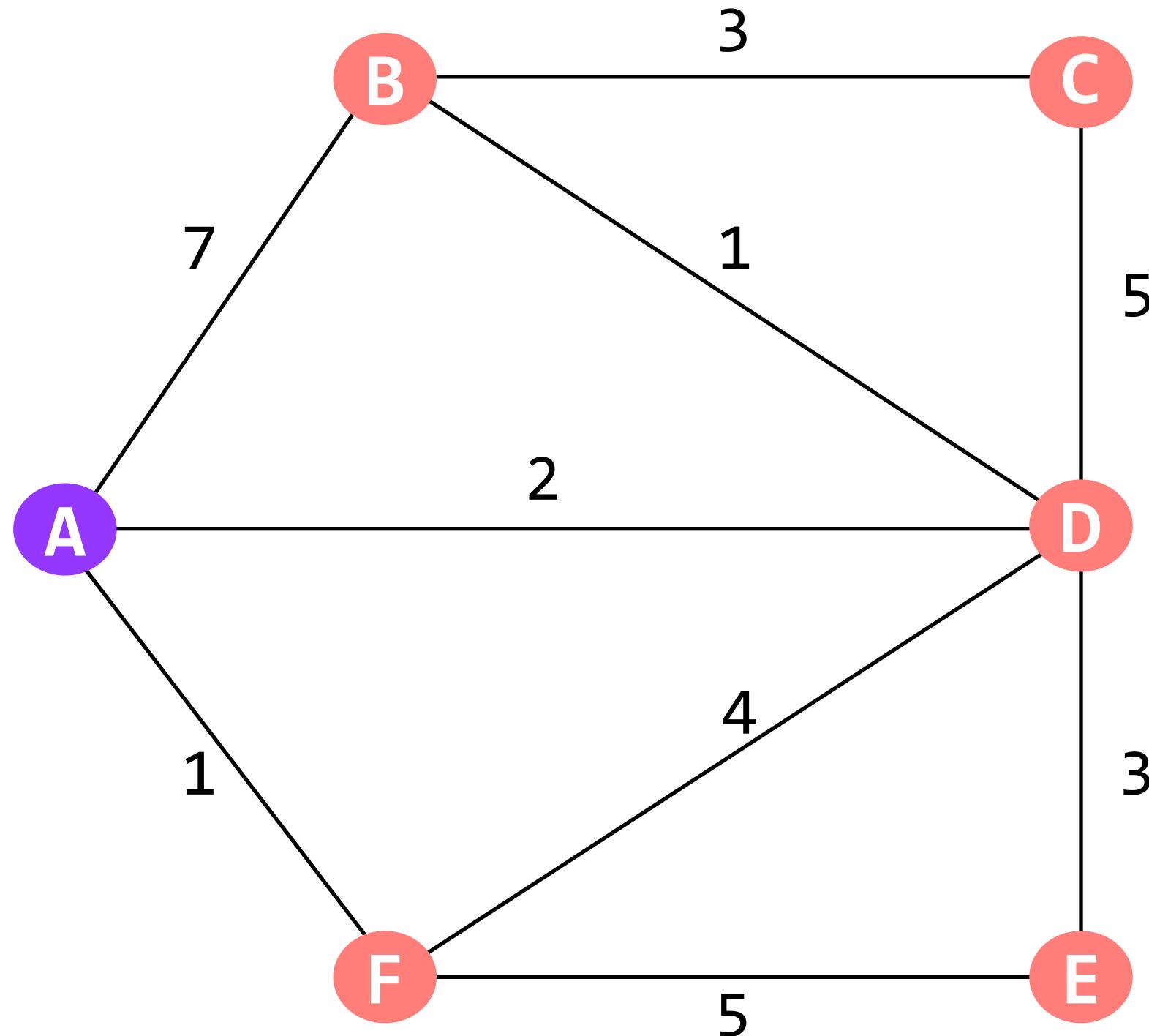


link state

what's in an advertisement

its link costs to each of its neighbors

link-state routing: disseminate full topology information so that nodes can run a shortest-path algorithm



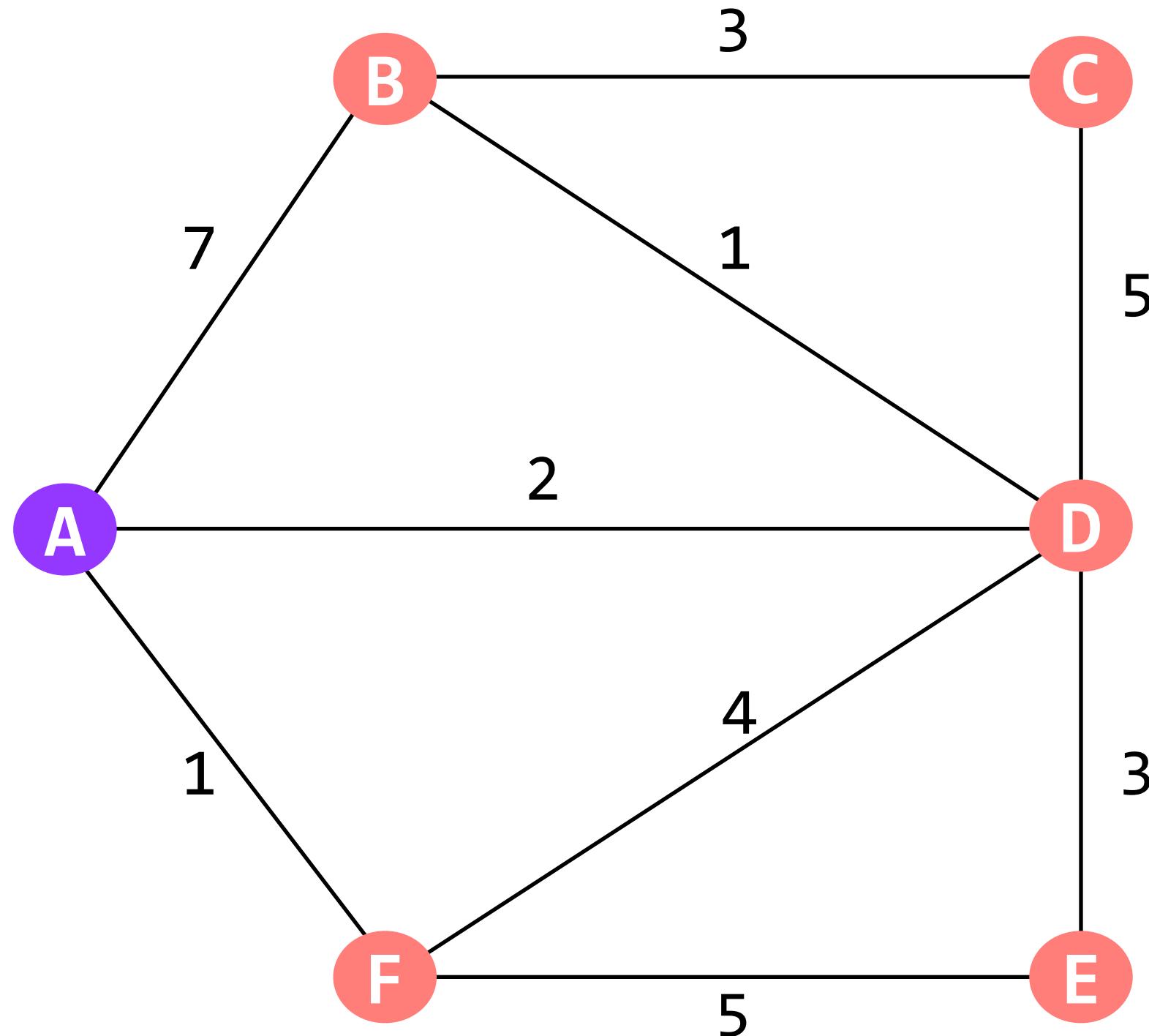
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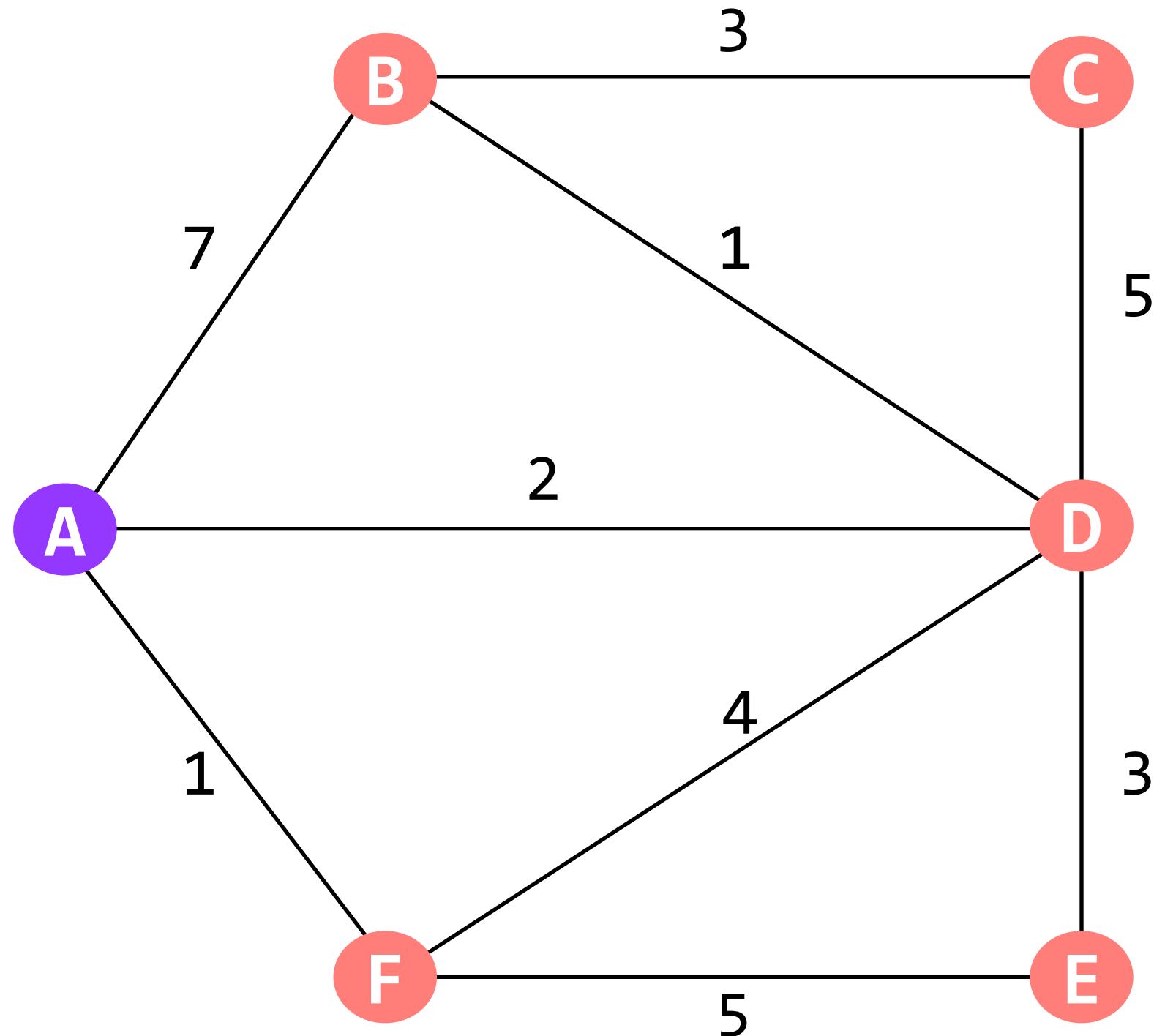
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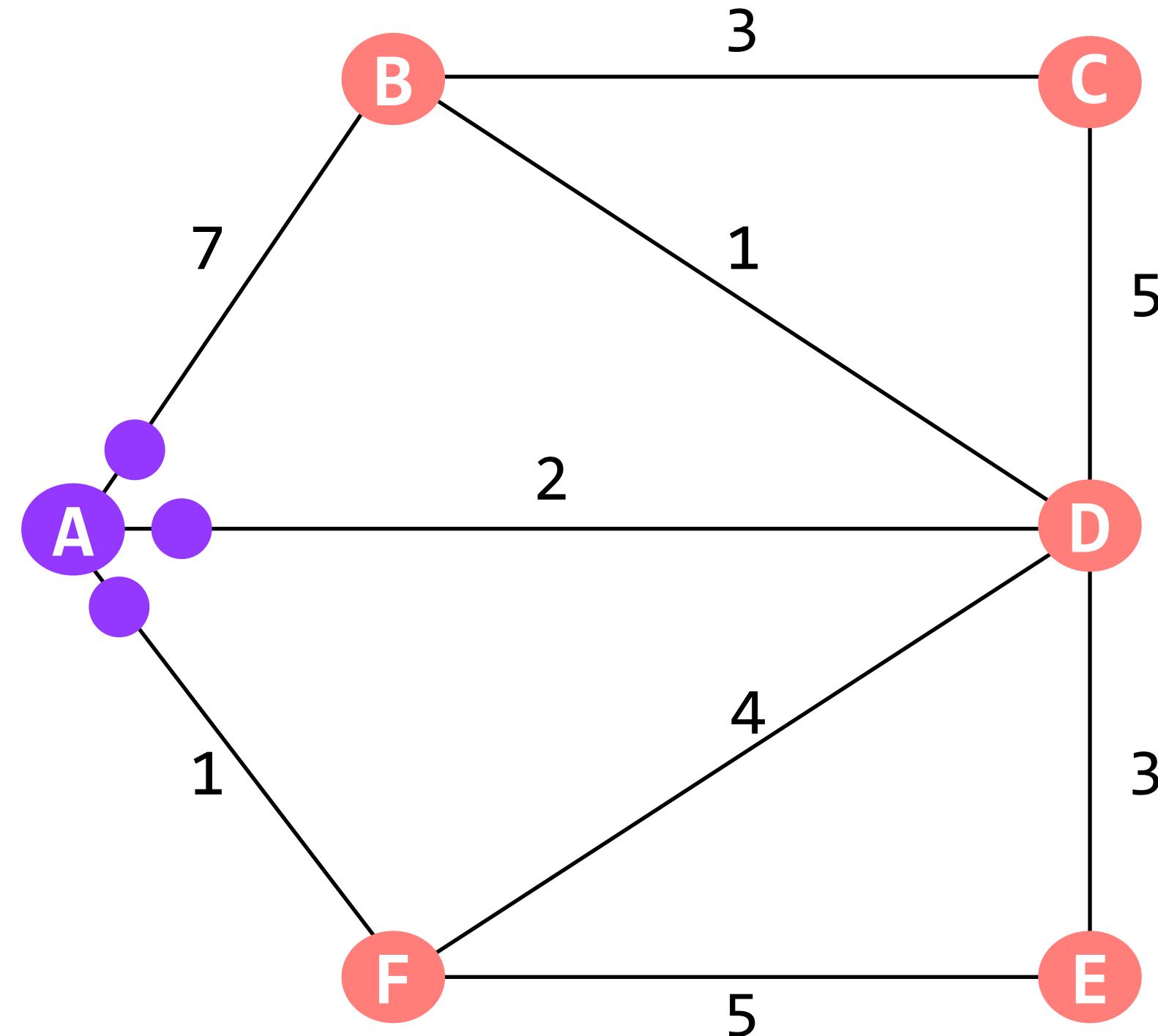
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effectively, **every other node** (via flooding)

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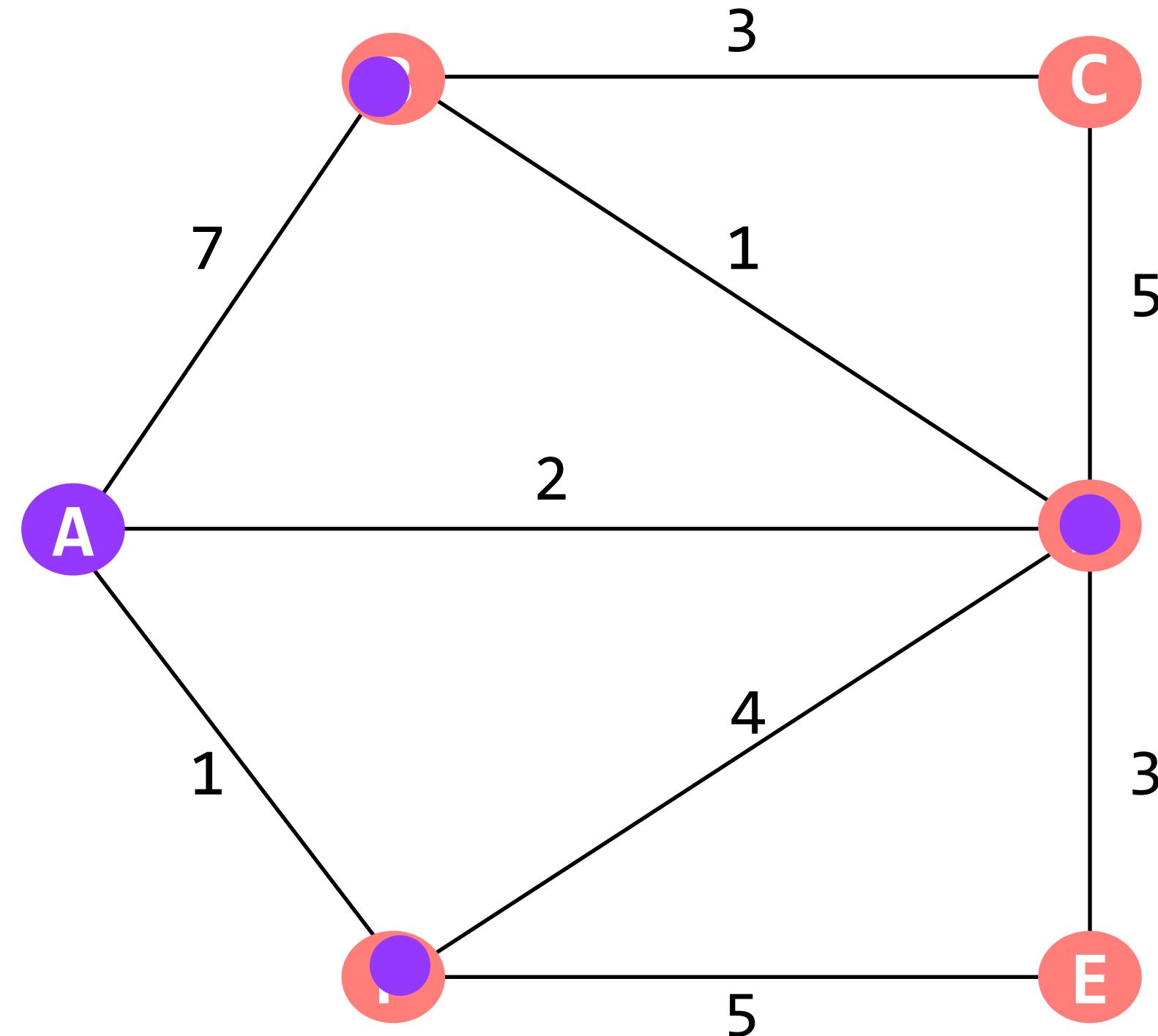
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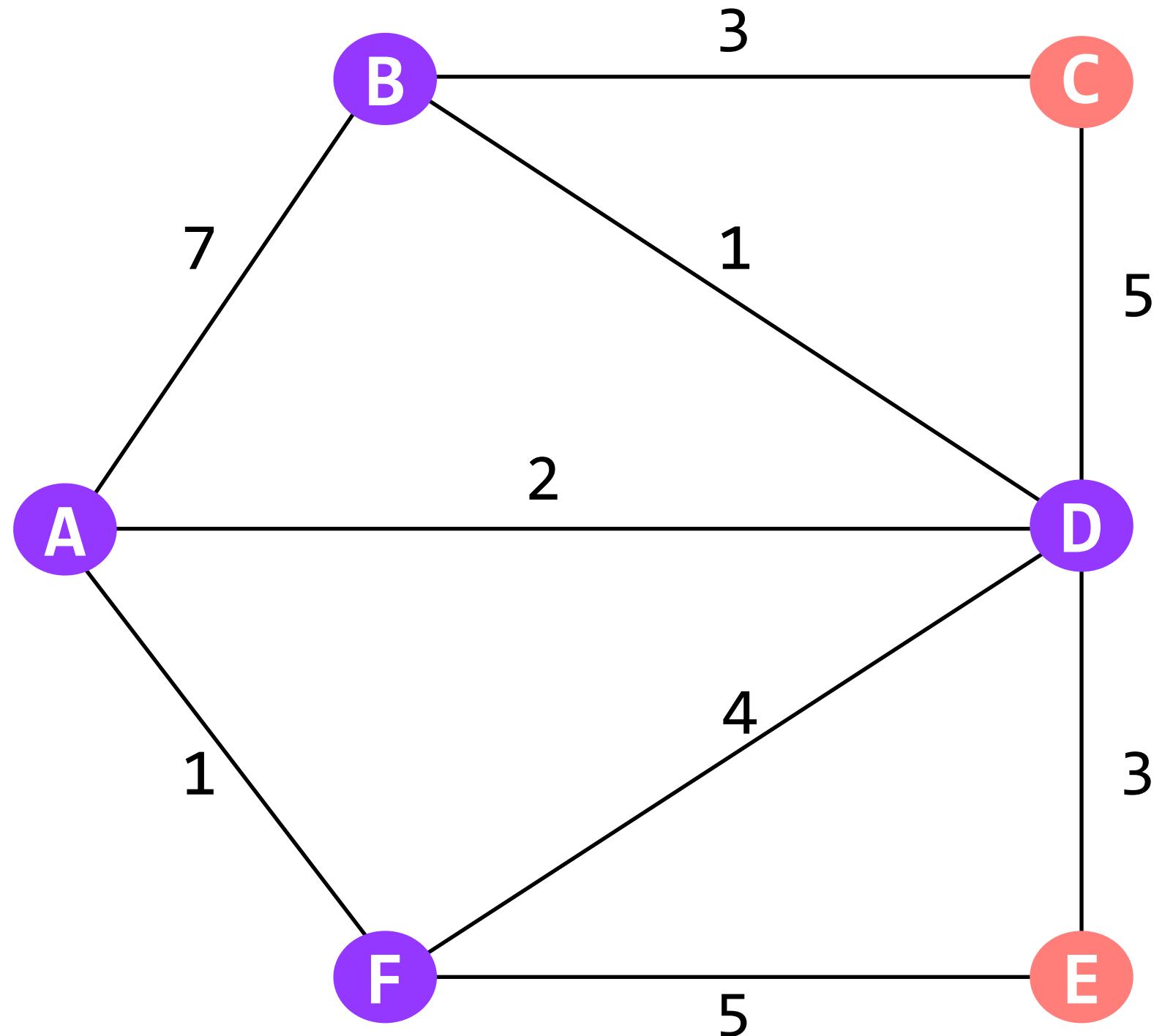
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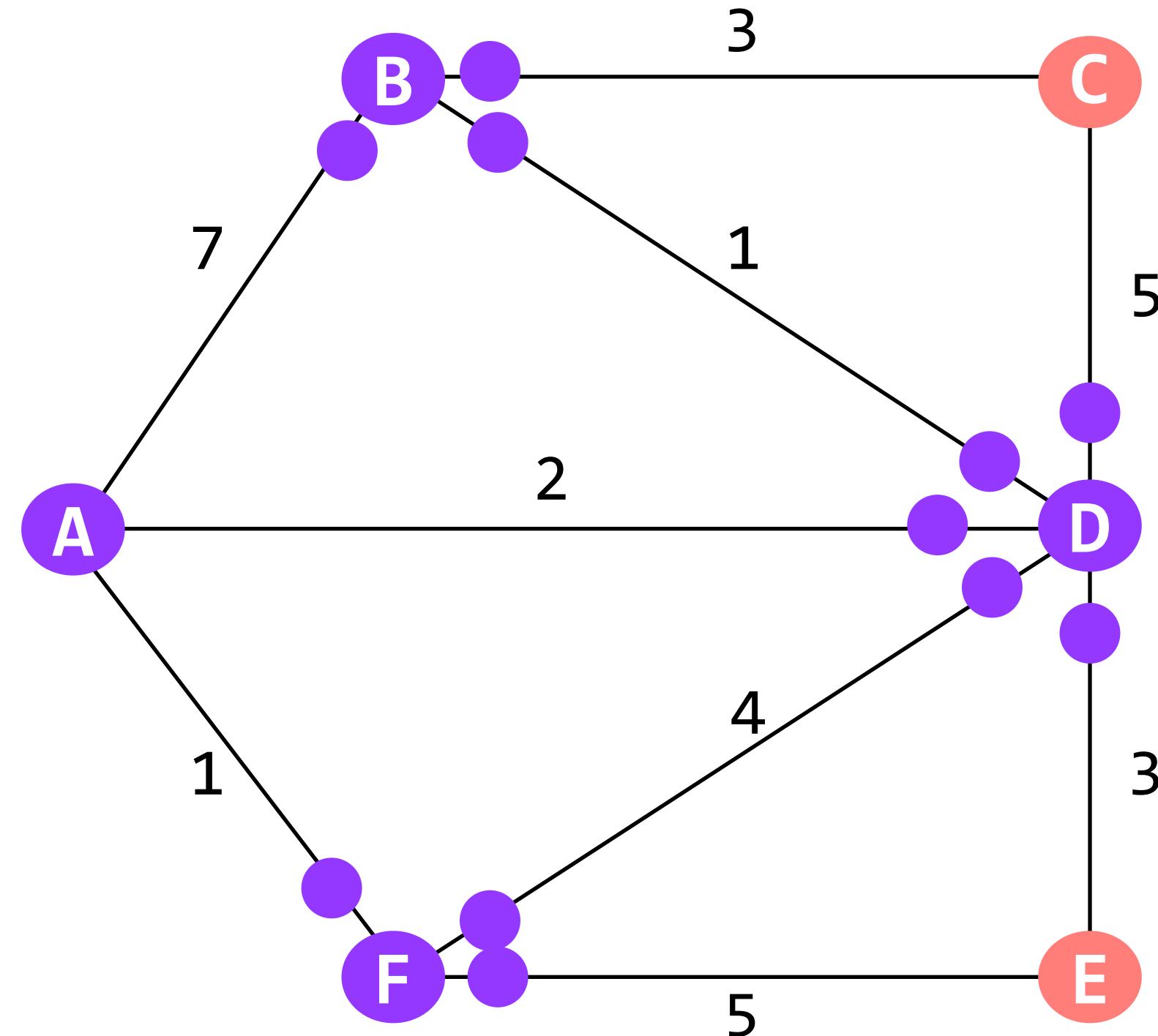
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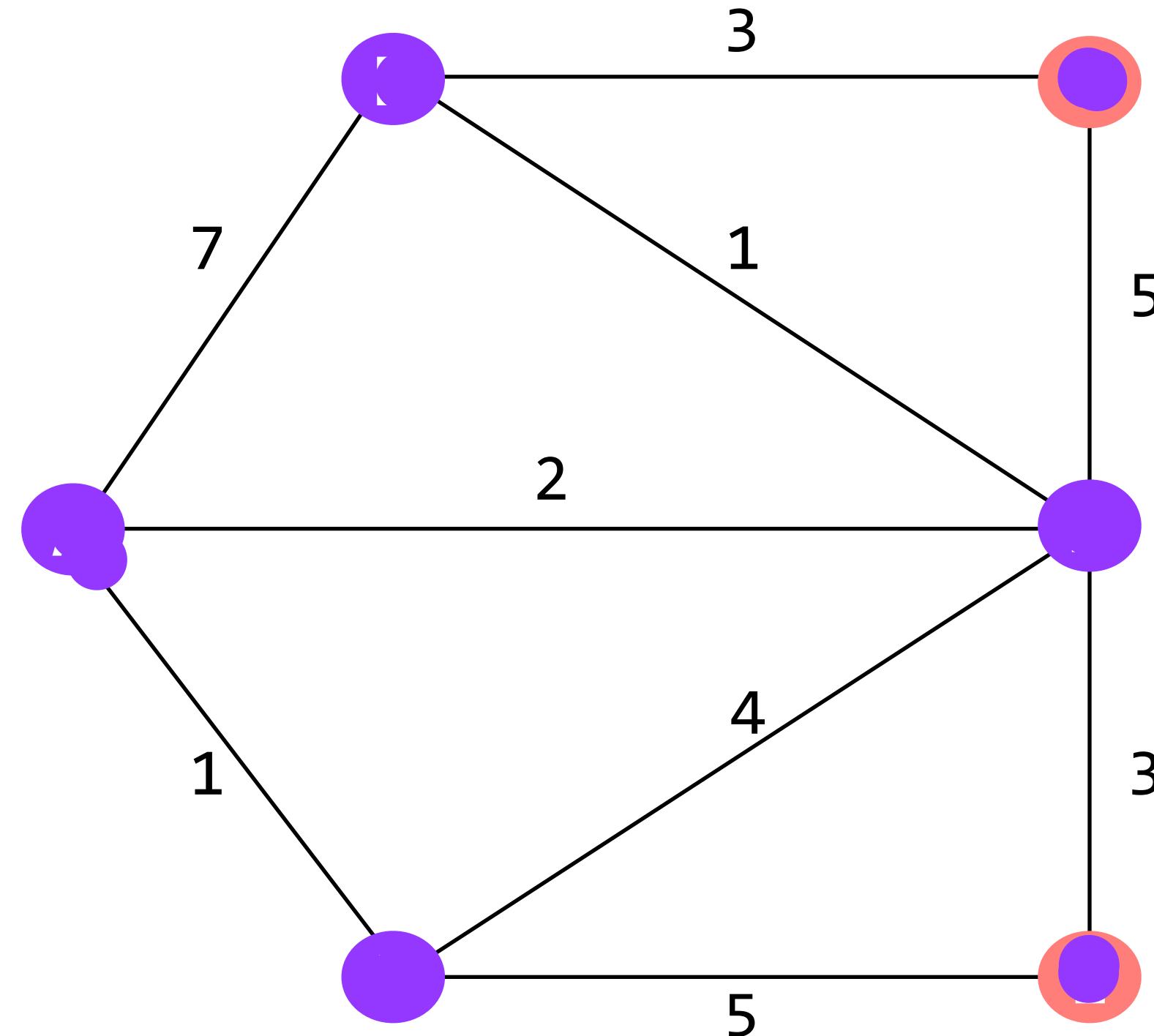
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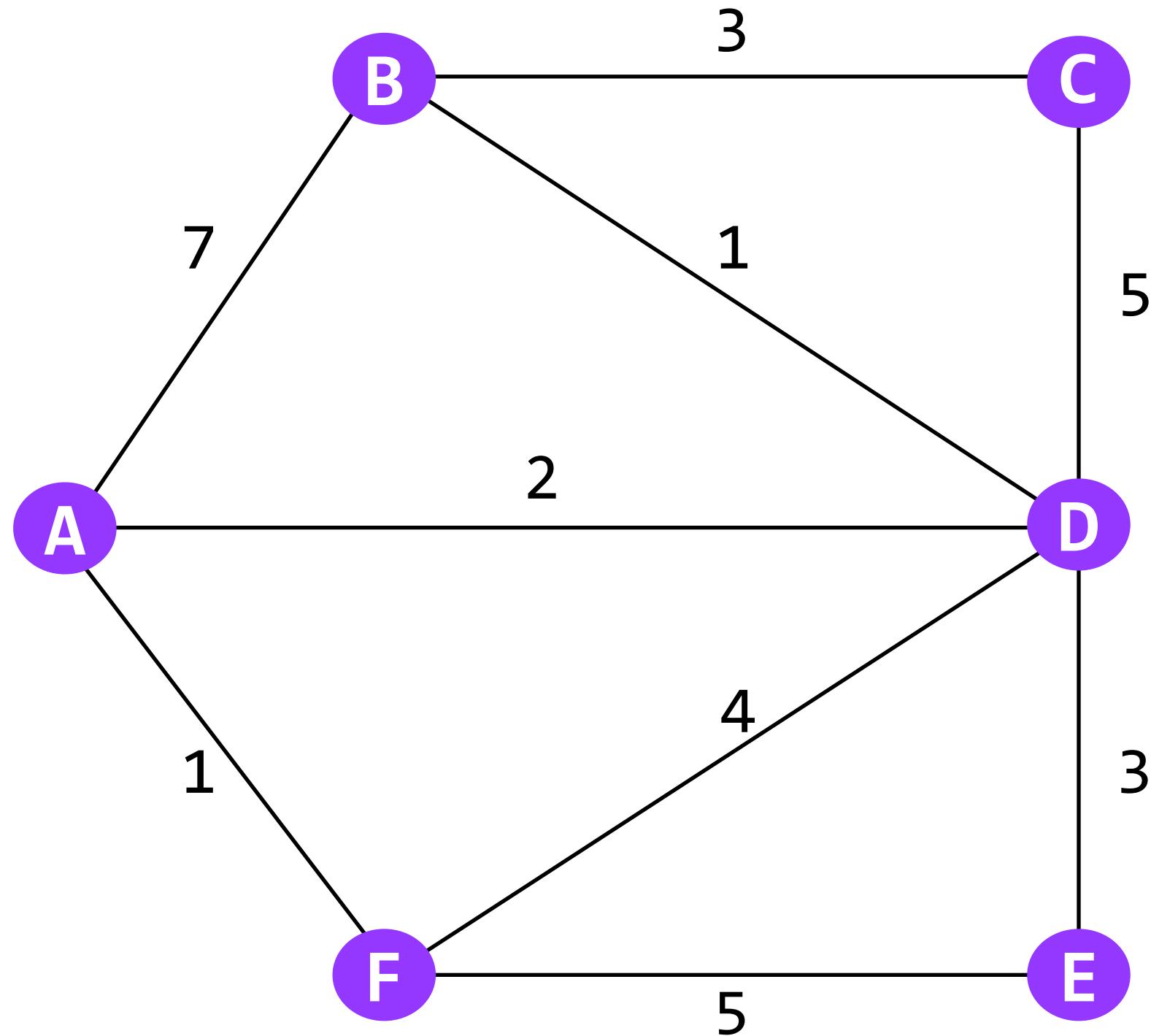
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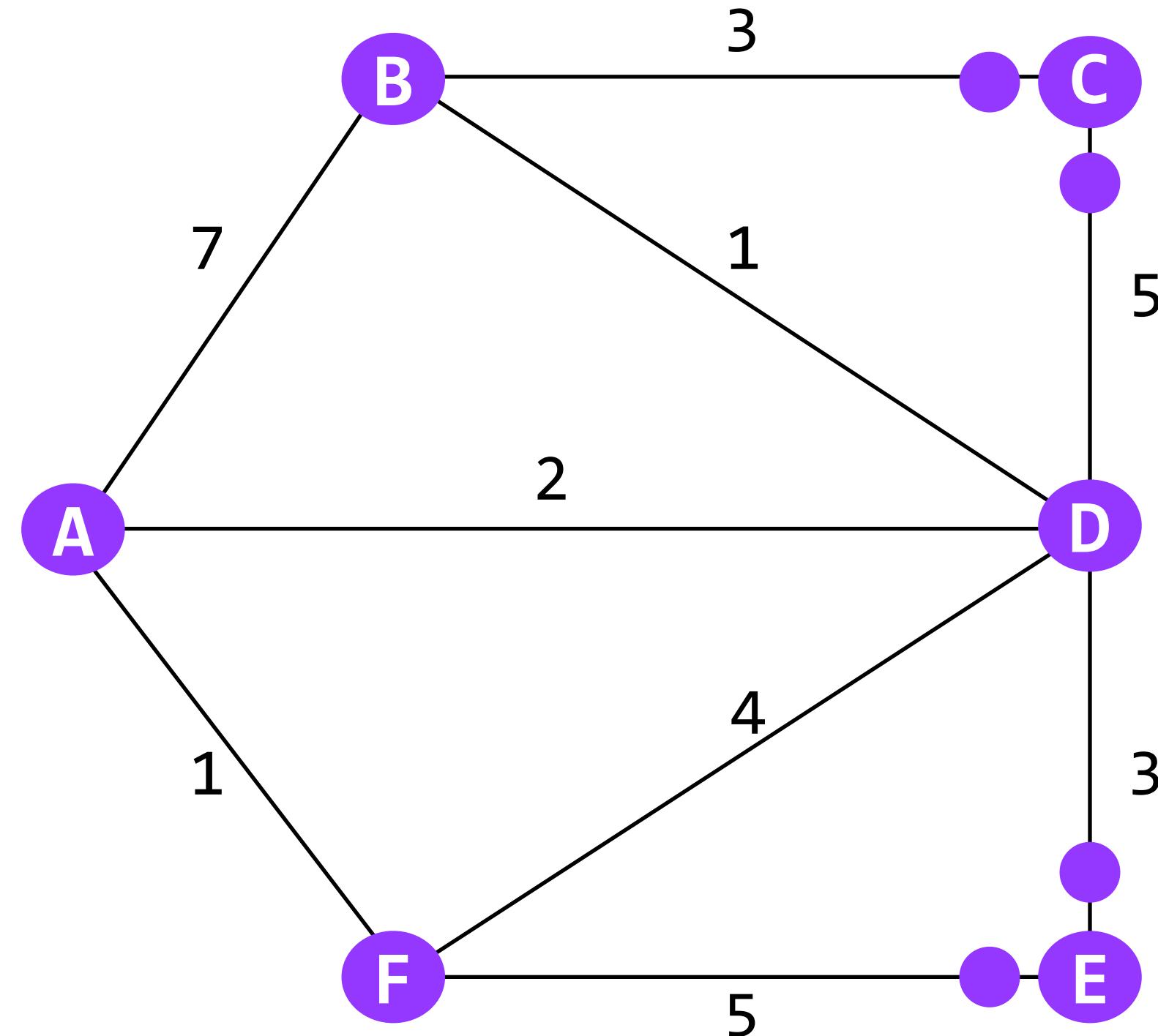
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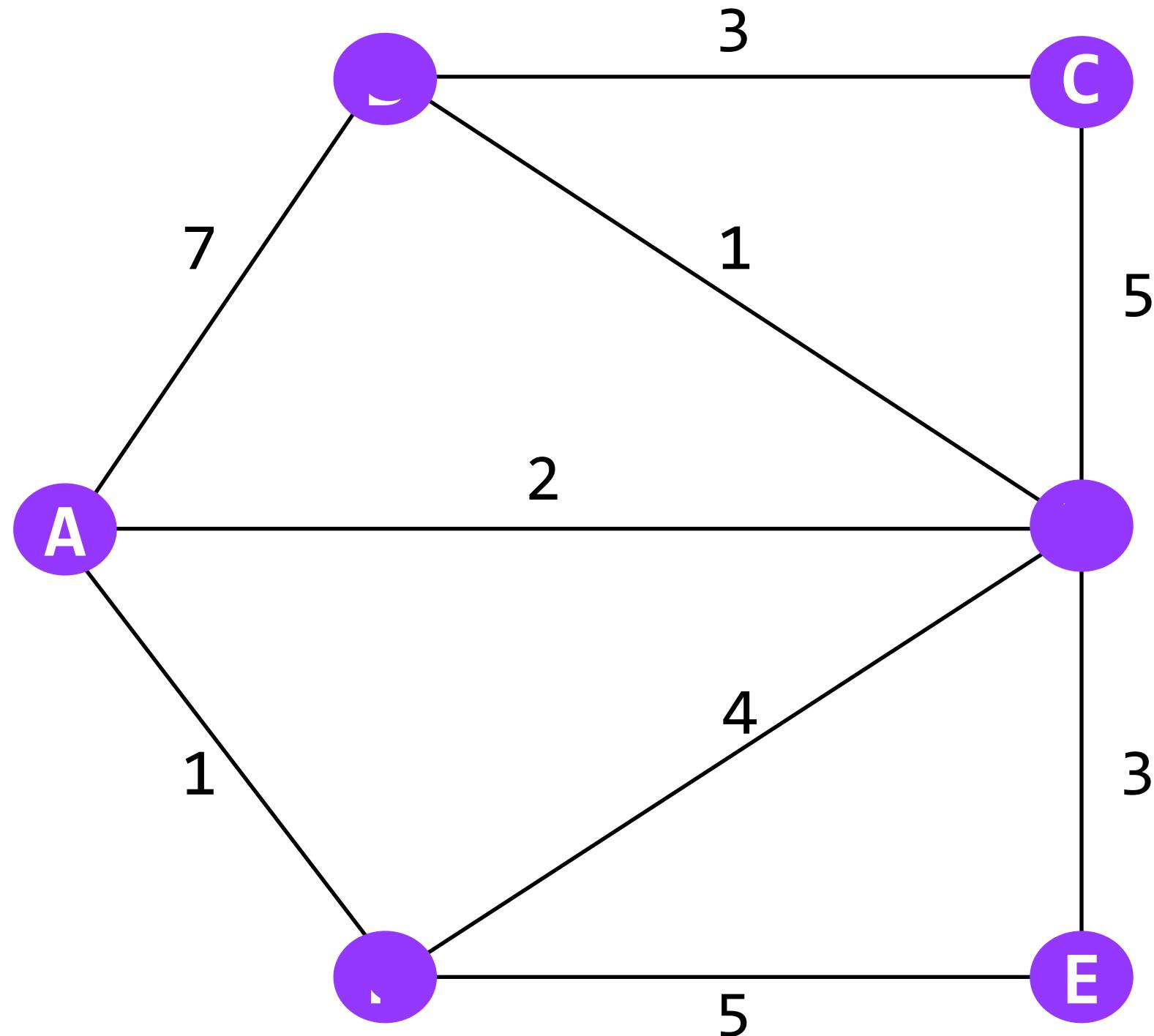
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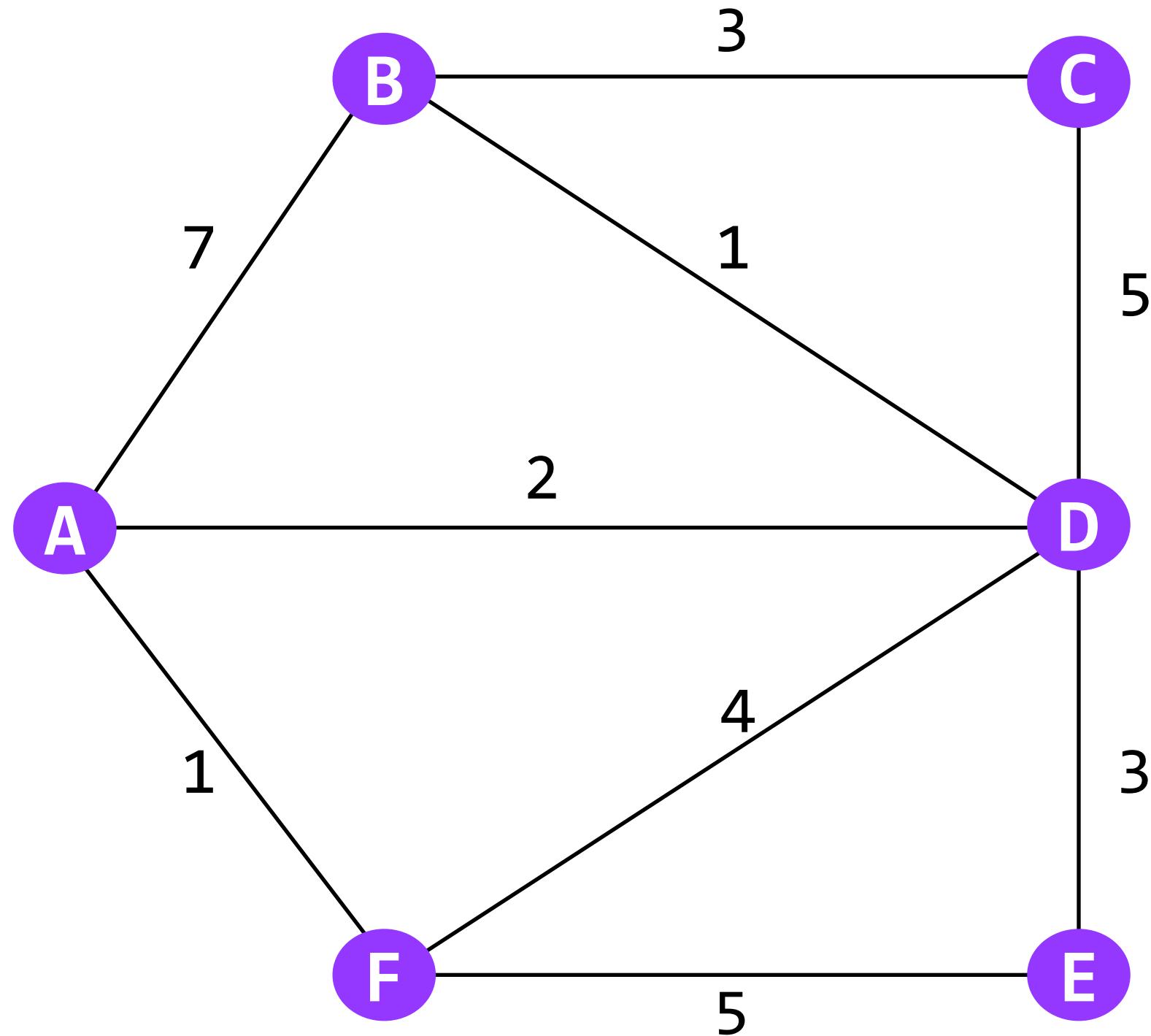
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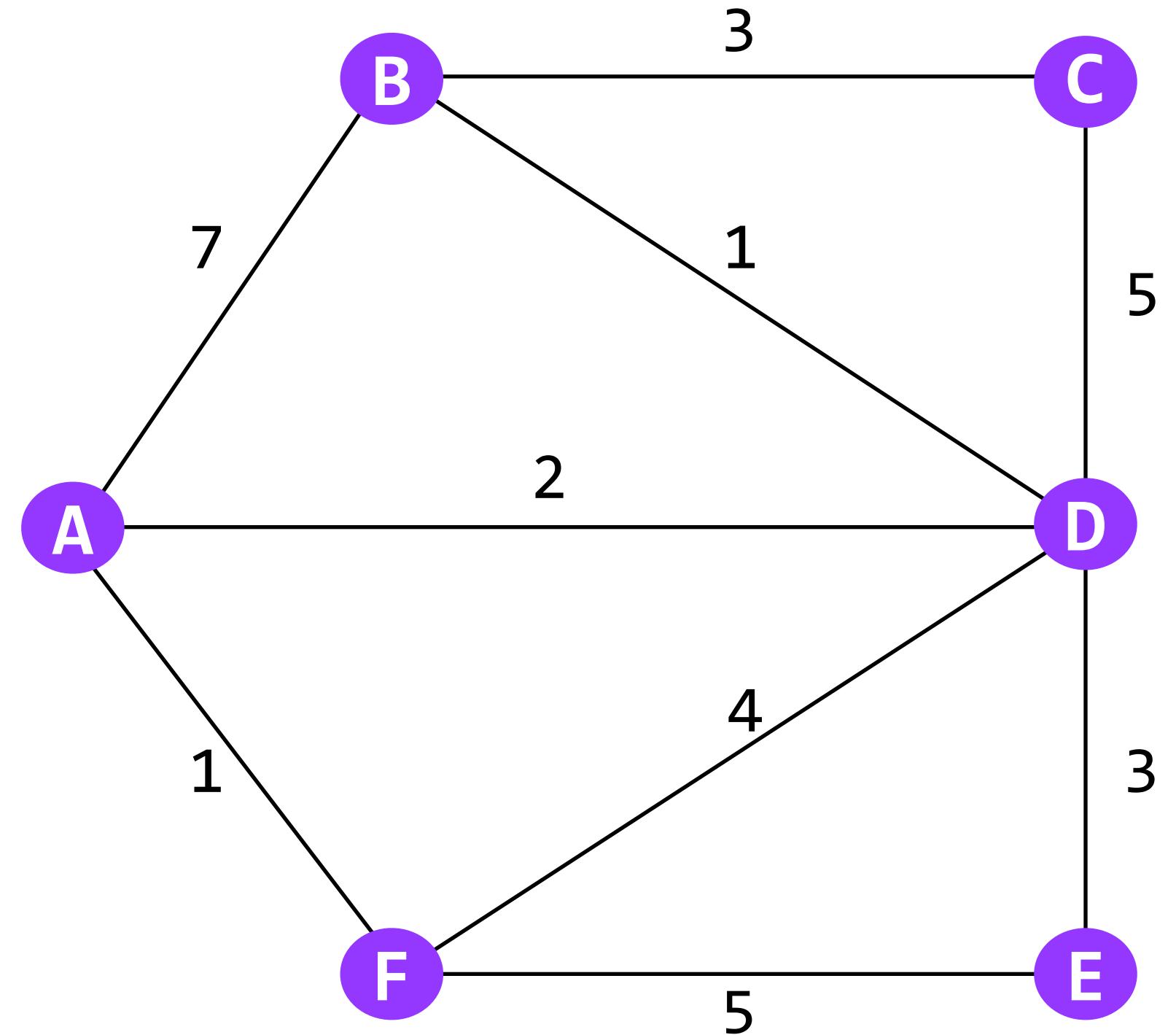
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A's advertisement: $[(B, 7), (D, 2), (F, 1)]$

nodes keep track of which advertisements they've forwarded so that they don't re-forward them

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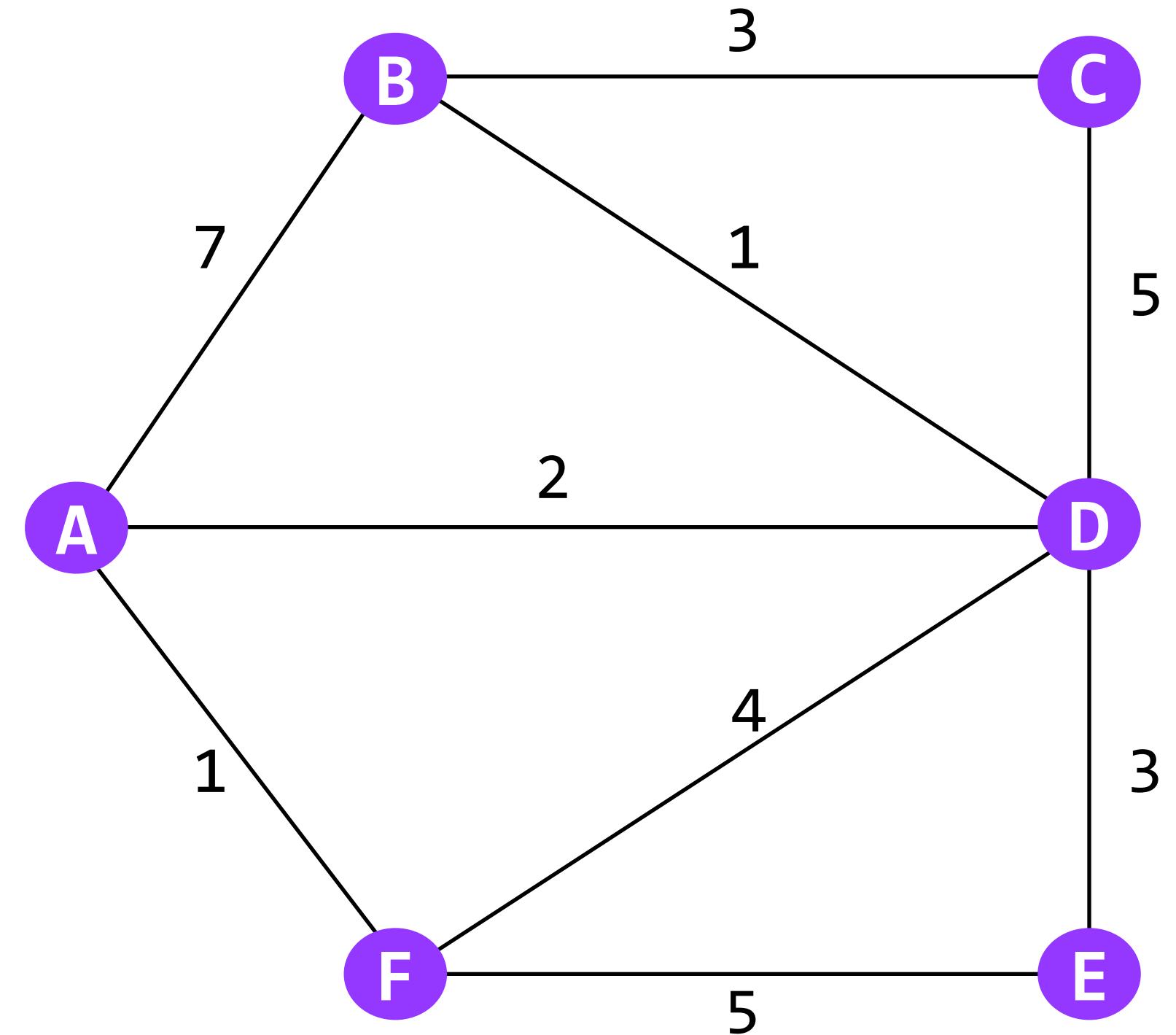
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nodes keep track of which advertisements they've forwarded so that they don't re-forward them

they can also be a bit smarter about flooding, and not forward an advertisement back to the node that sent it

link state

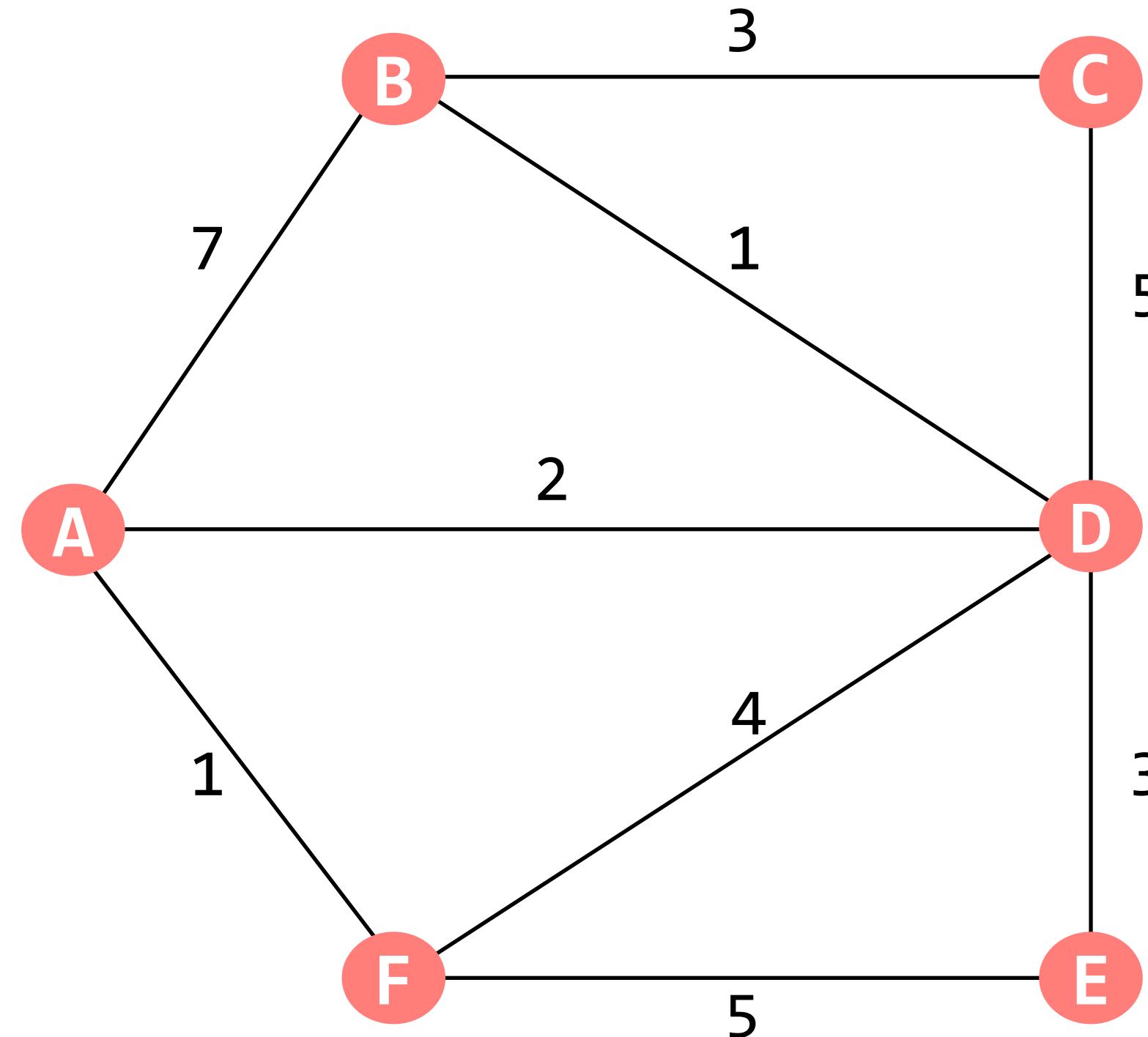
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nodes *integrate* advertisements by running Dijkstra's Algorithm

link state

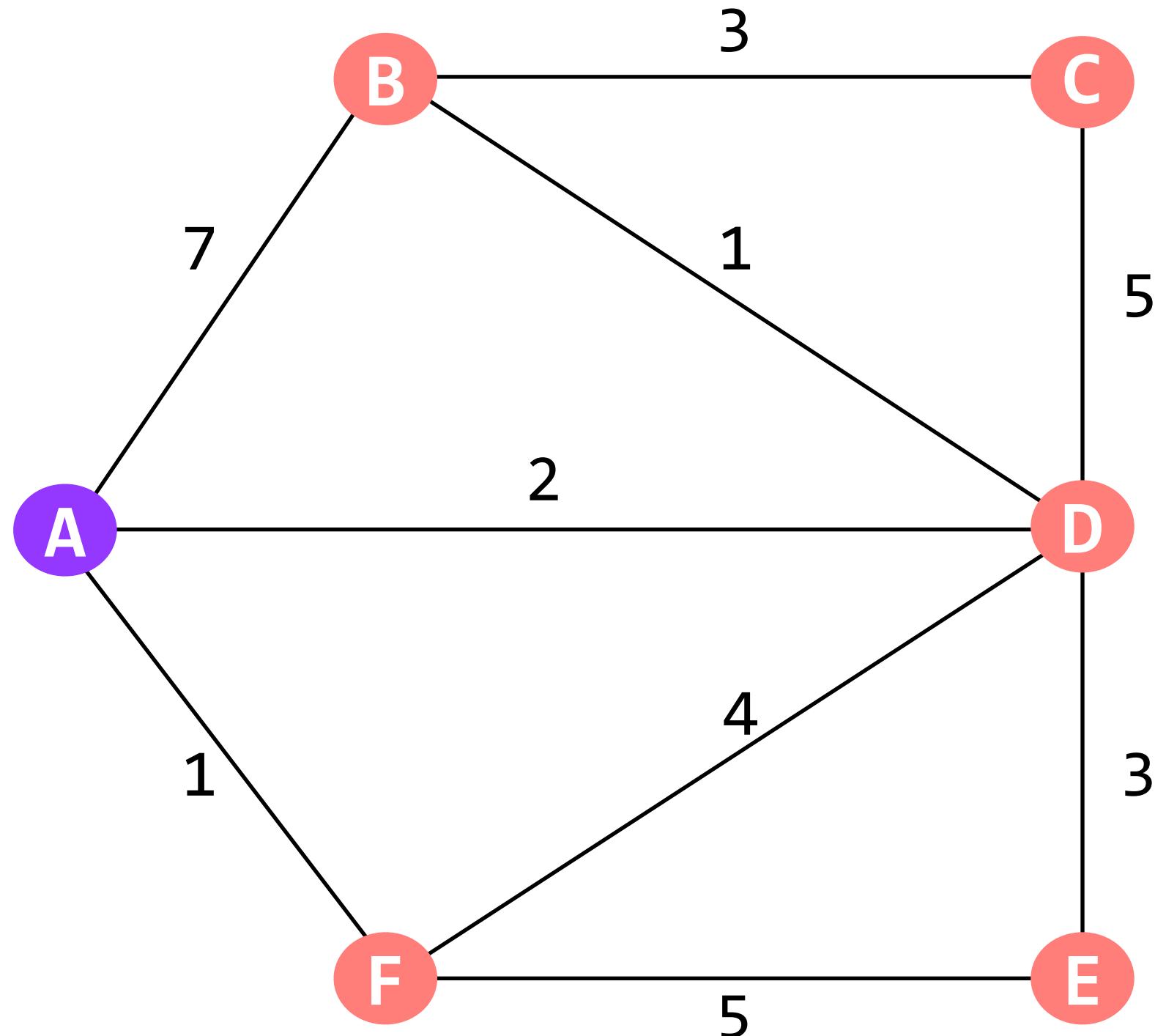
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A's routing table

dst	route	cost
B	A-B	7
C	?	∞
D	A-D	2
E	?	∞
F	A-F	1

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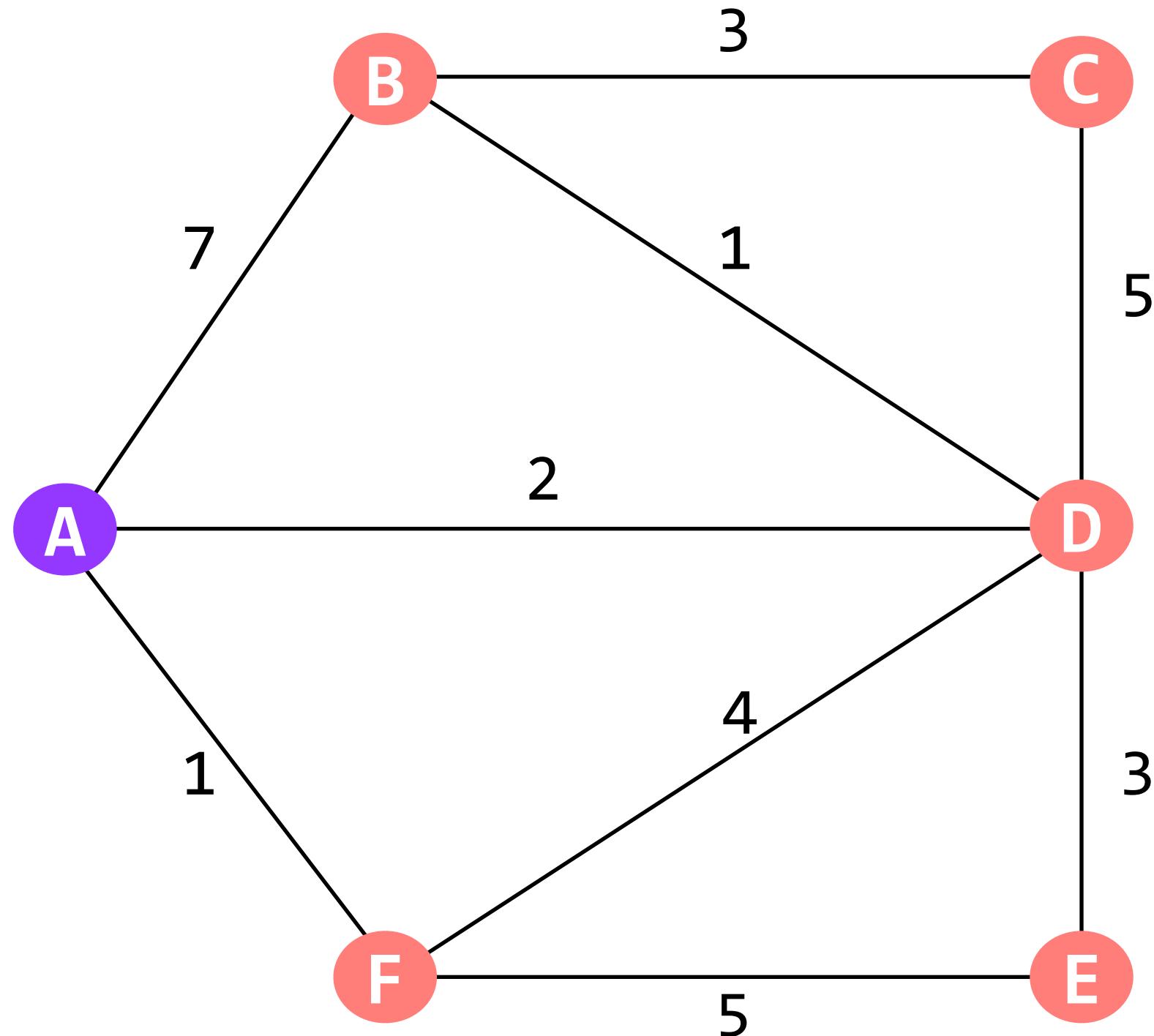
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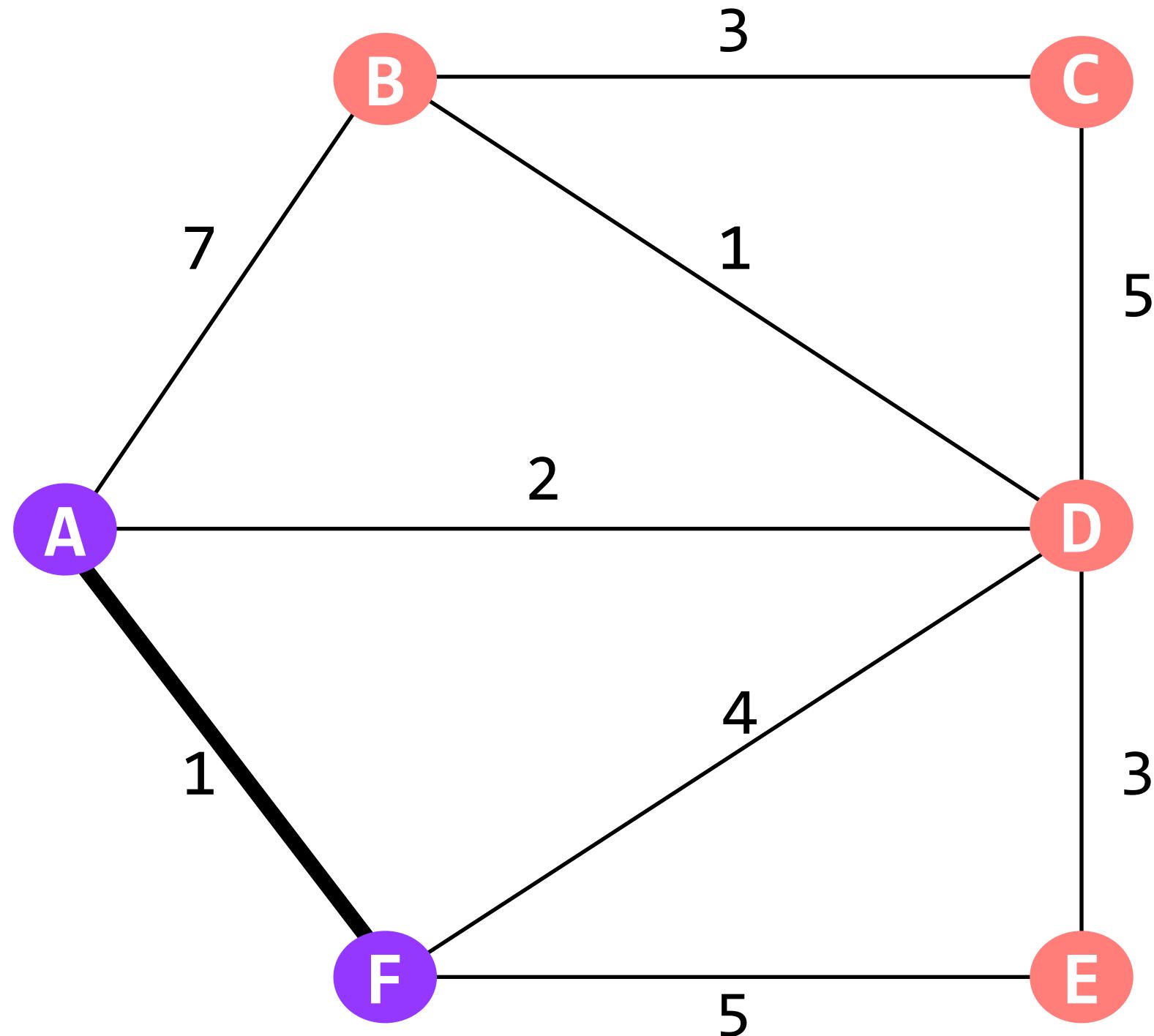
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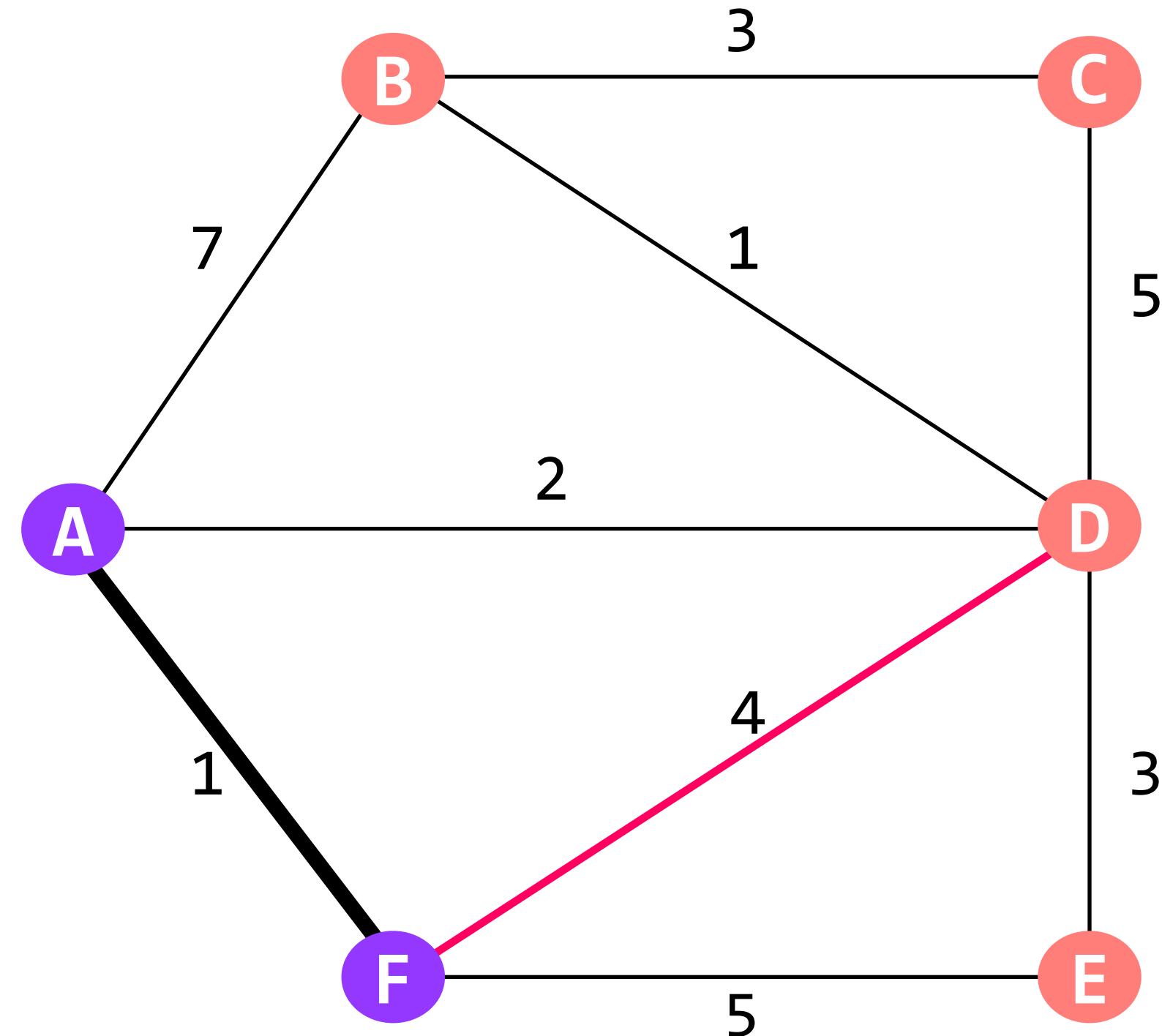
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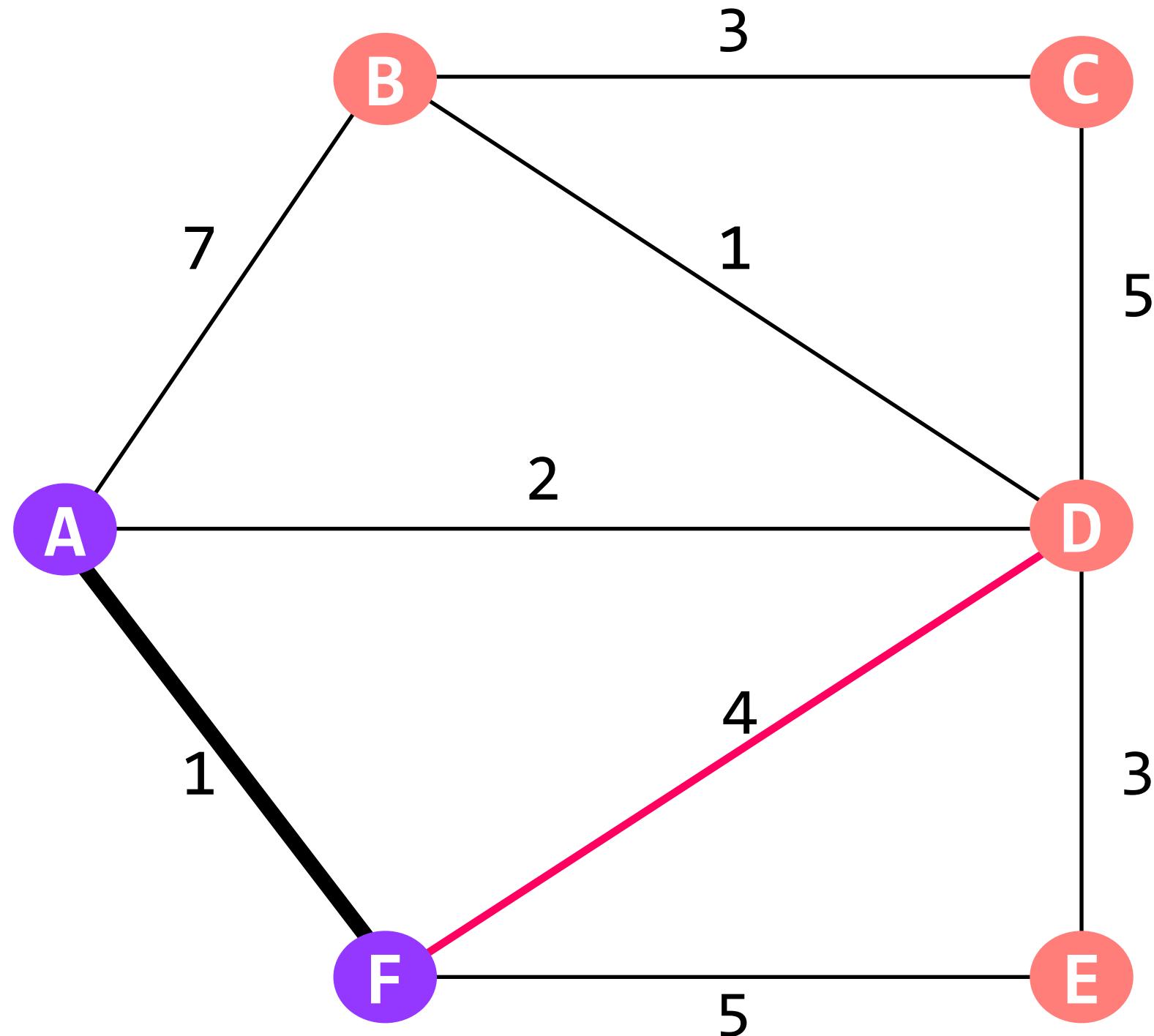
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F does not provide A with a better route to D

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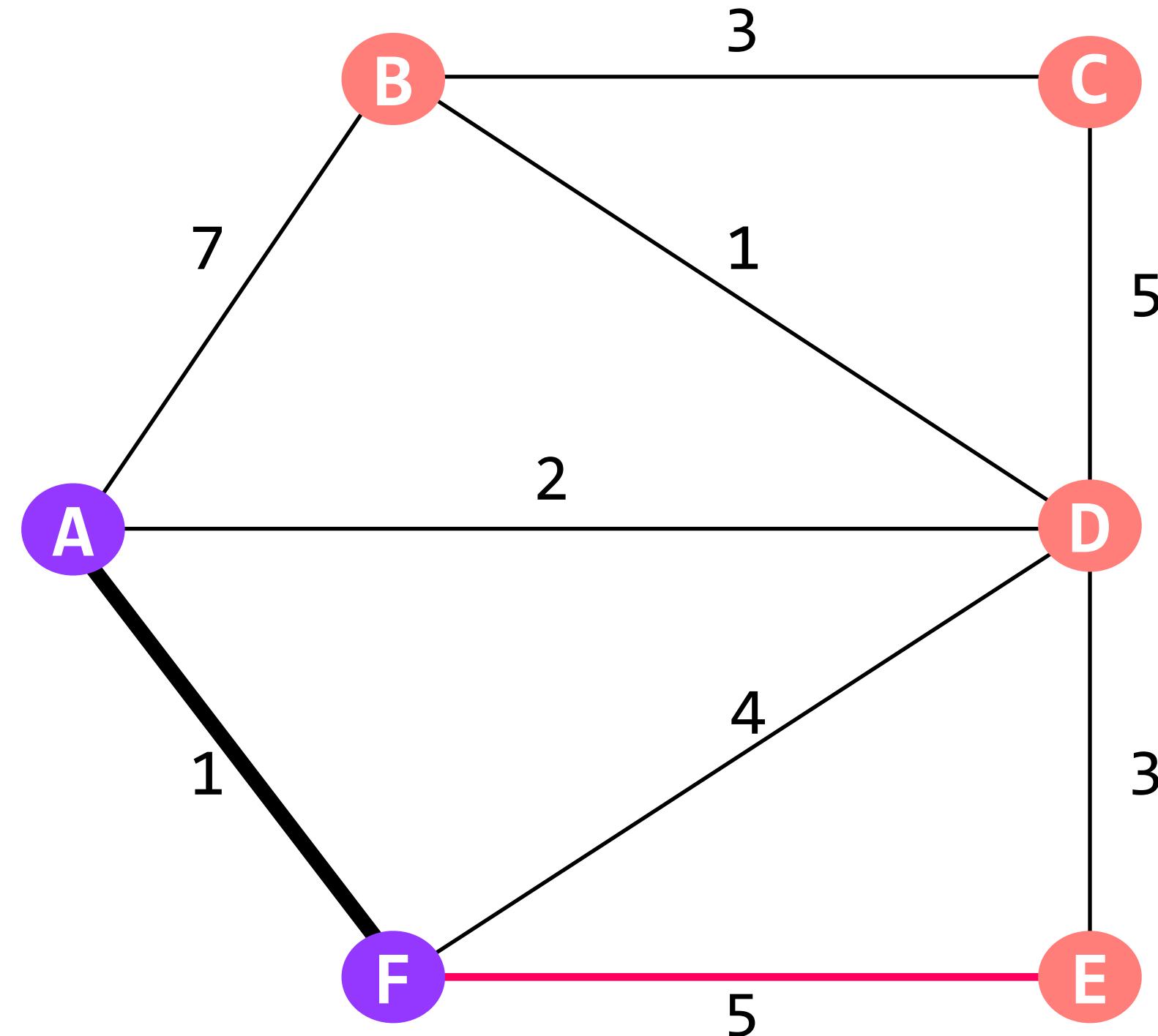
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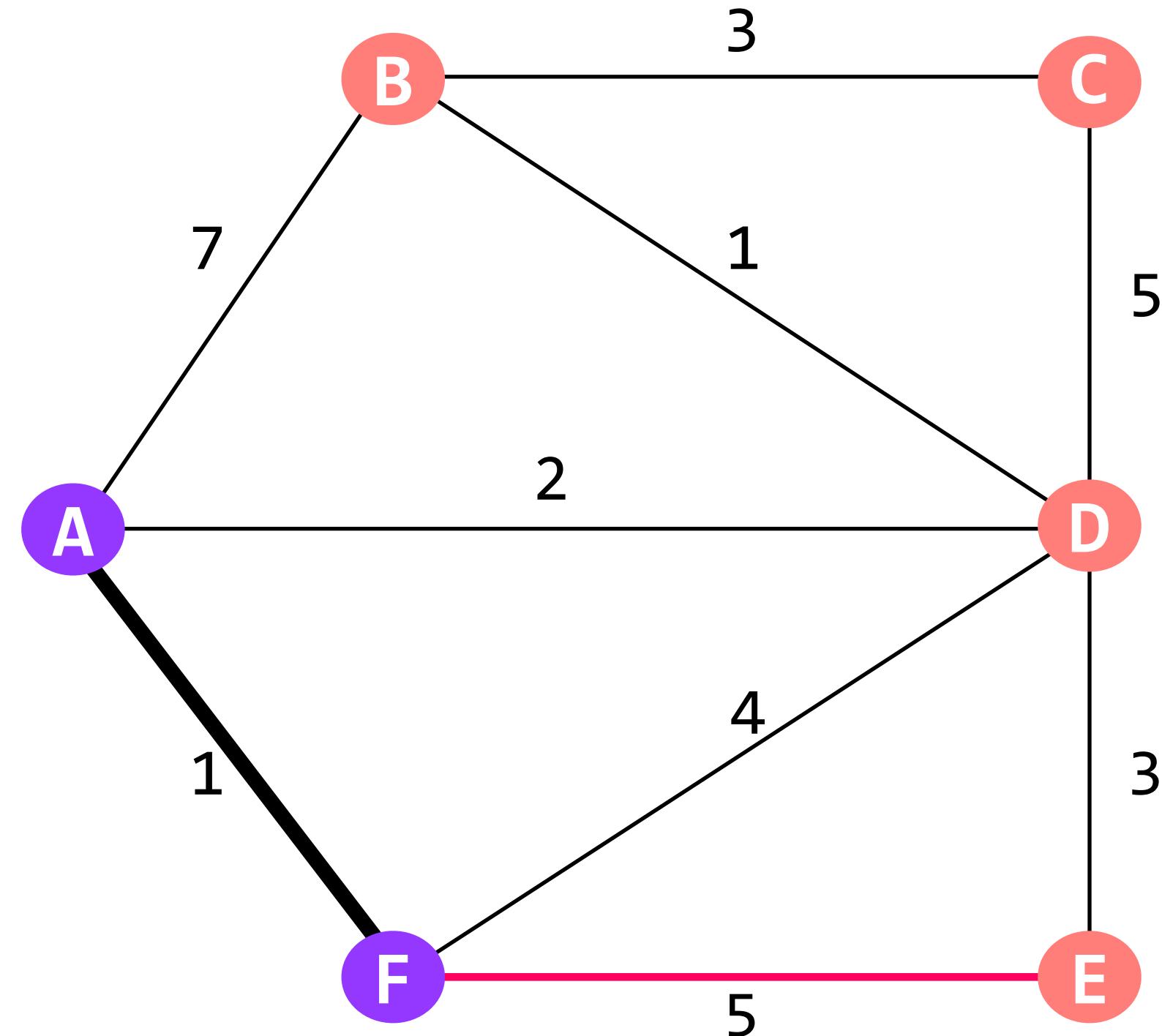
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= the cost from A to F + the cost from F to E

link state

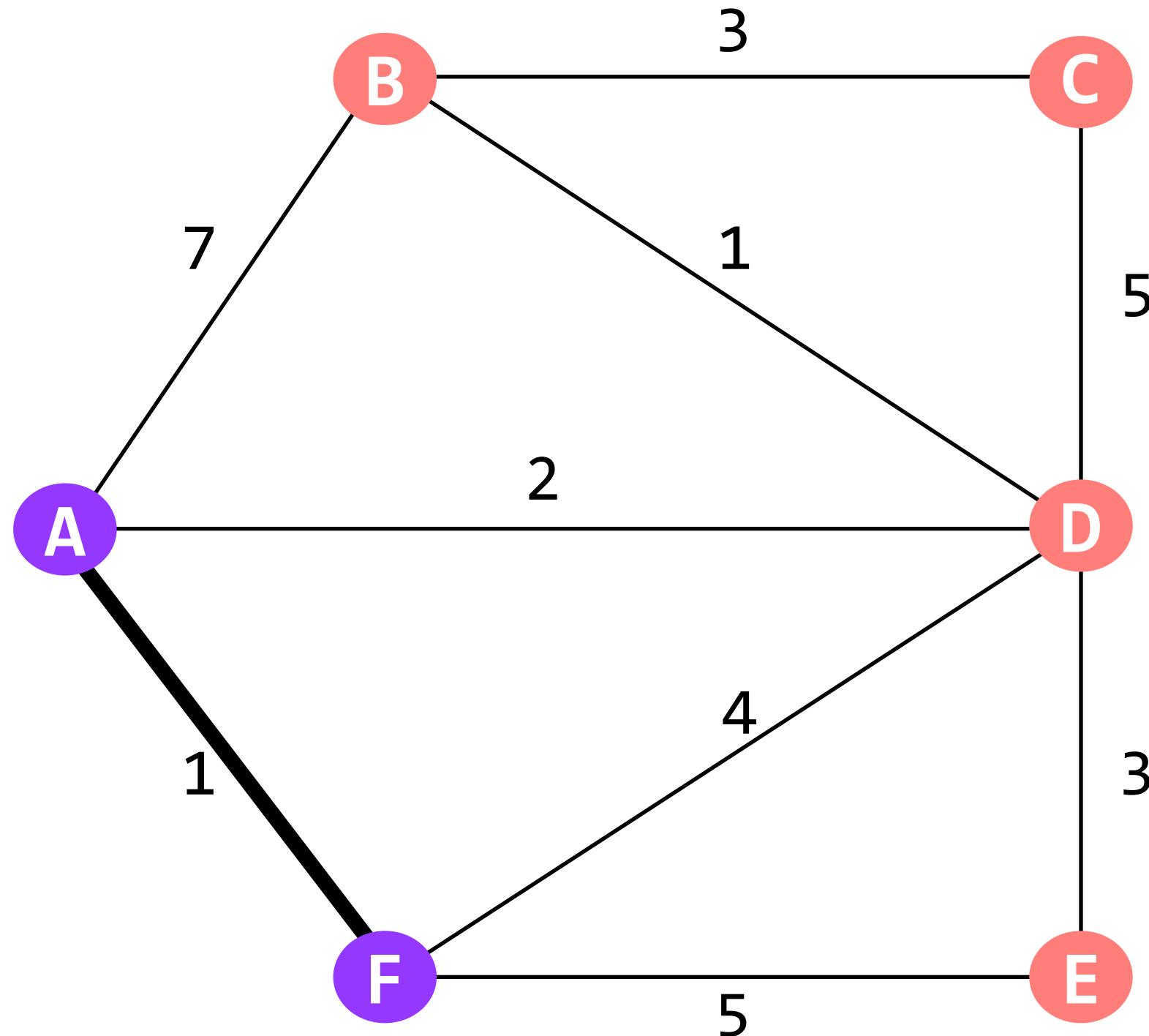
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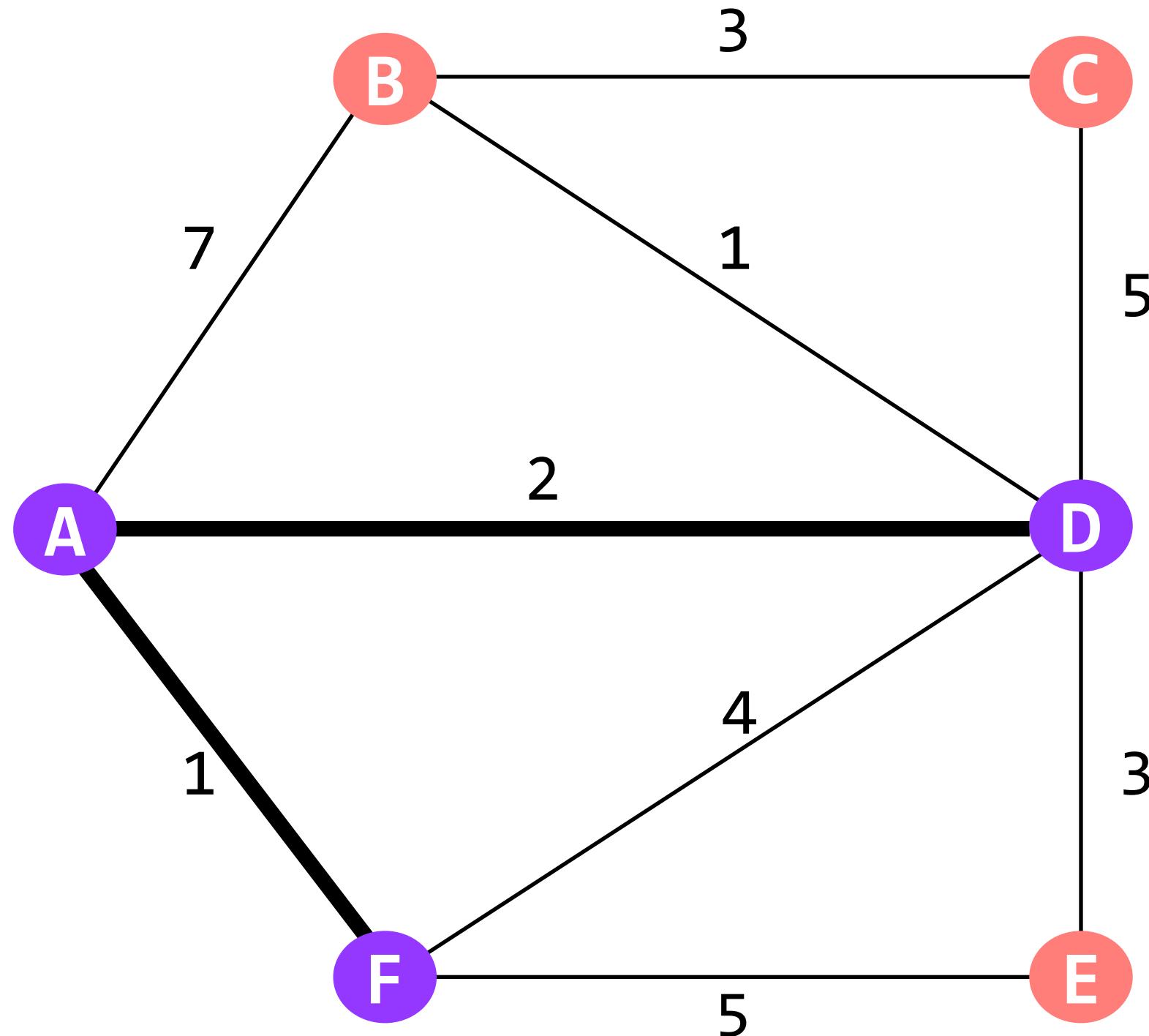
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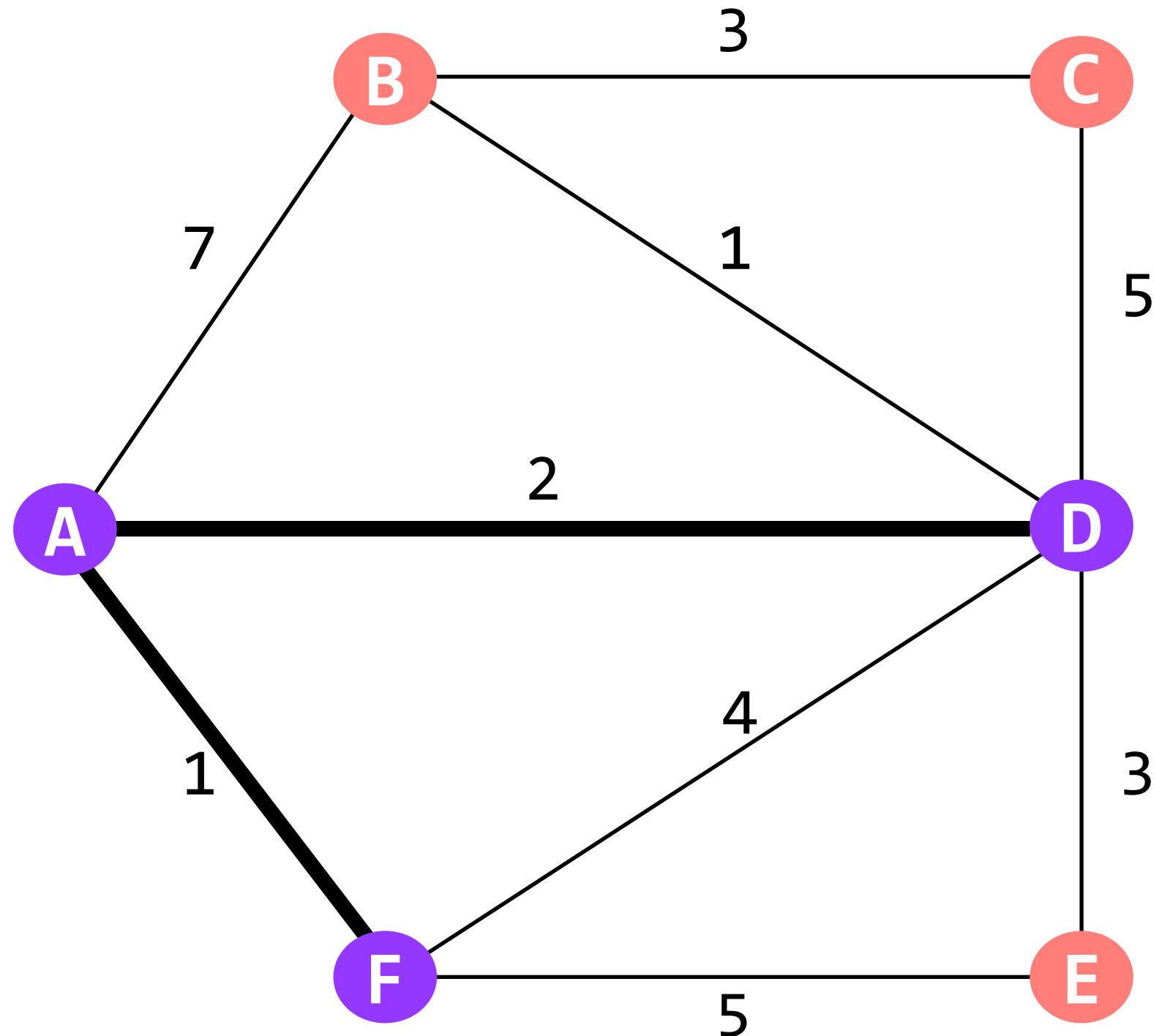
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question: what will A's routing table look like after we're done visiting all of D's neighbors?

link state

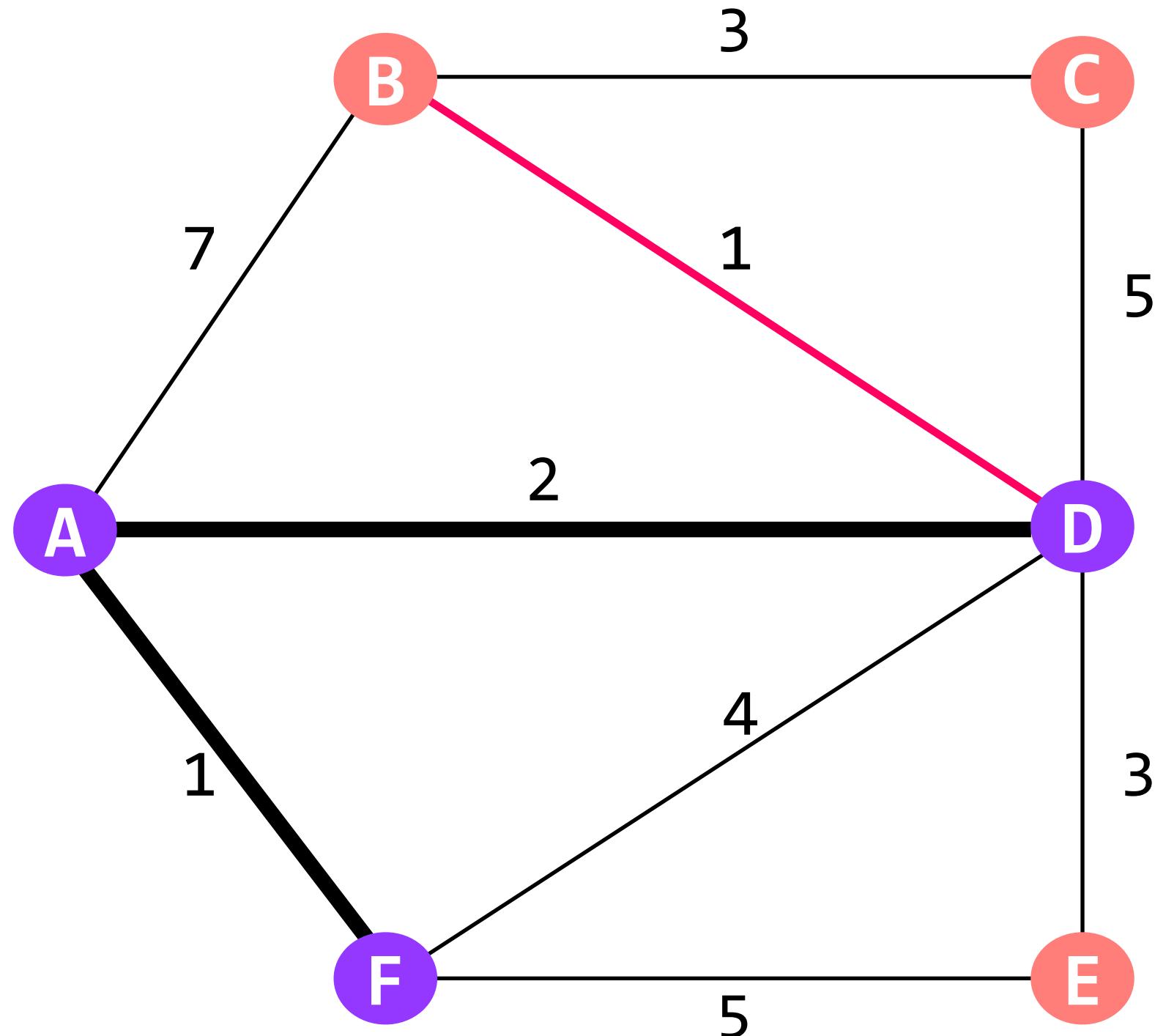
what's in an advertisement

its **link costs** to each of its **neighbors**

who gets a node's advertisement

effectively, **every other node** (via flooding)

link-state routing: disseminate full topology information so that nodes can run a shortest-path algorithm



A's routing table

dst	route	cost
B	A-B	7
C	?	∞
D	A-D	2
E	A-F	6
F	A-F	1

link state

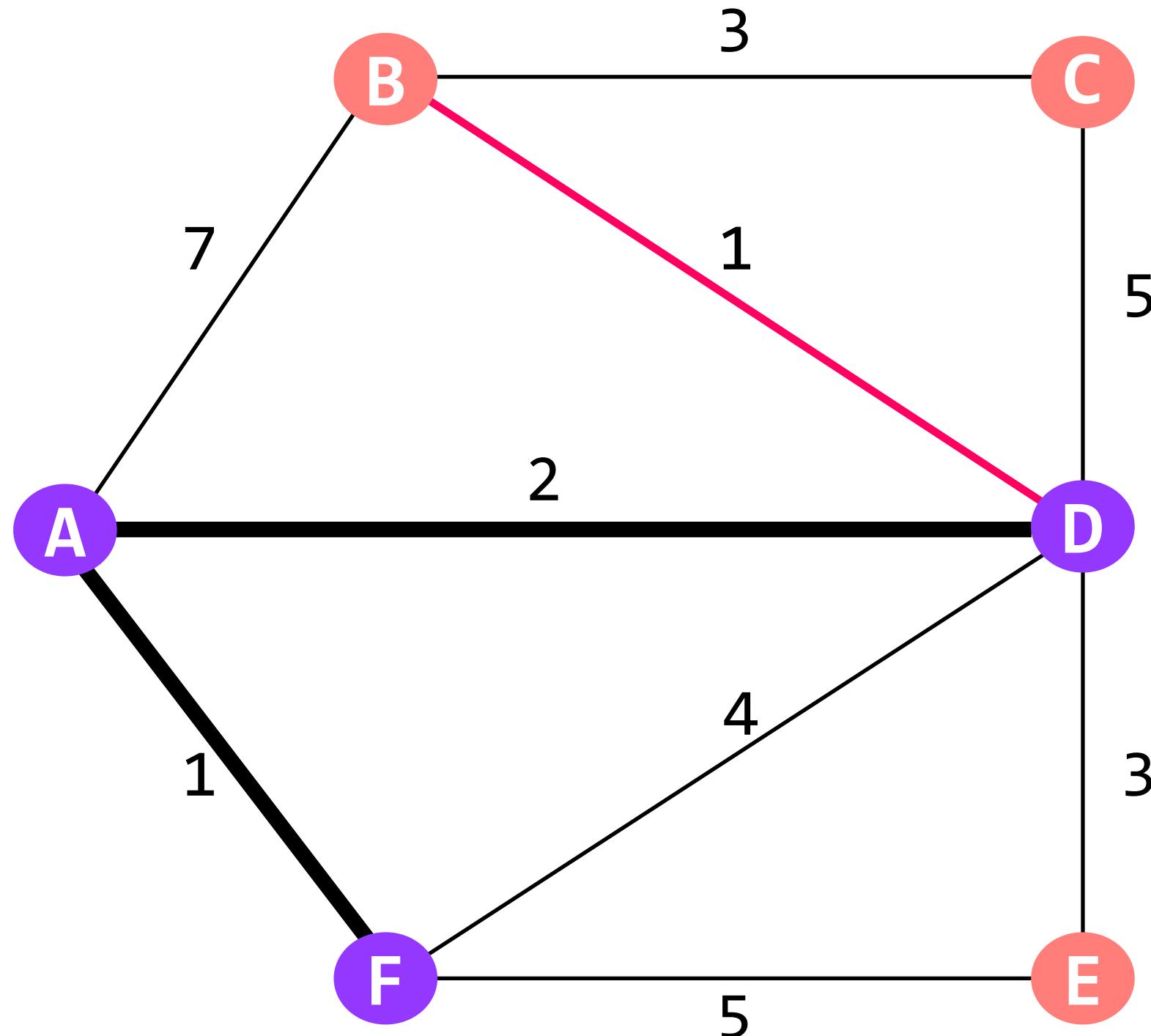
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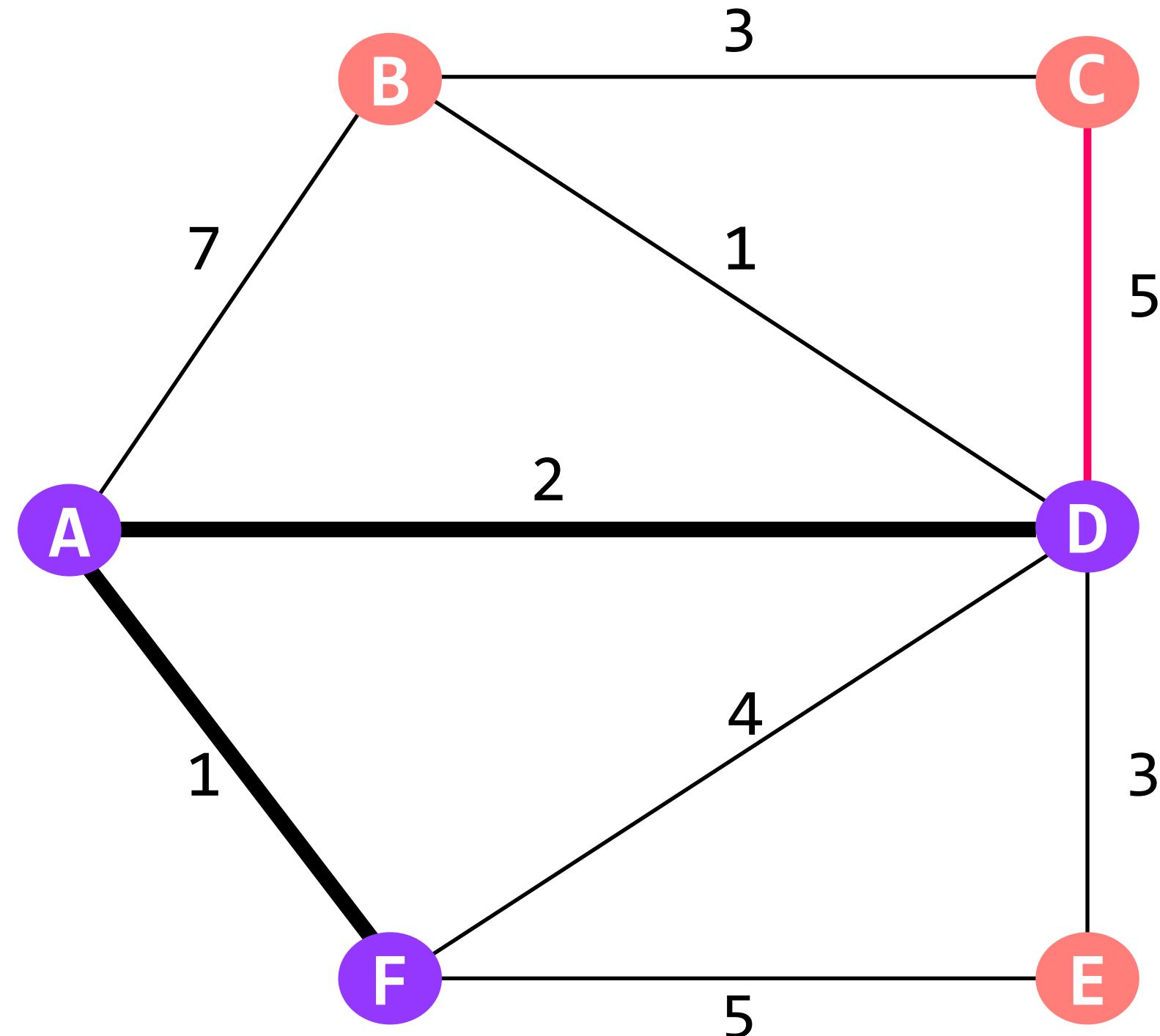
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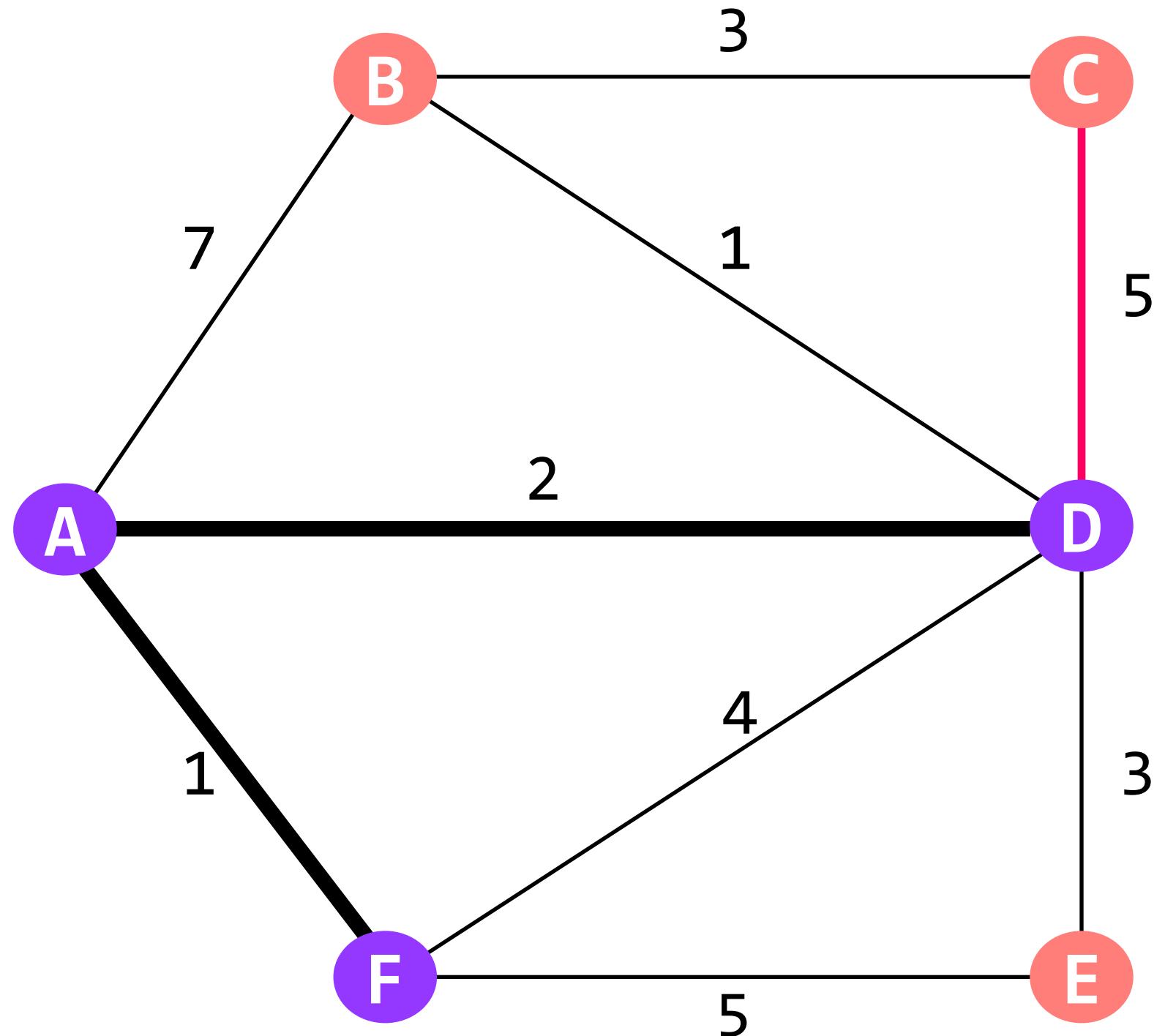
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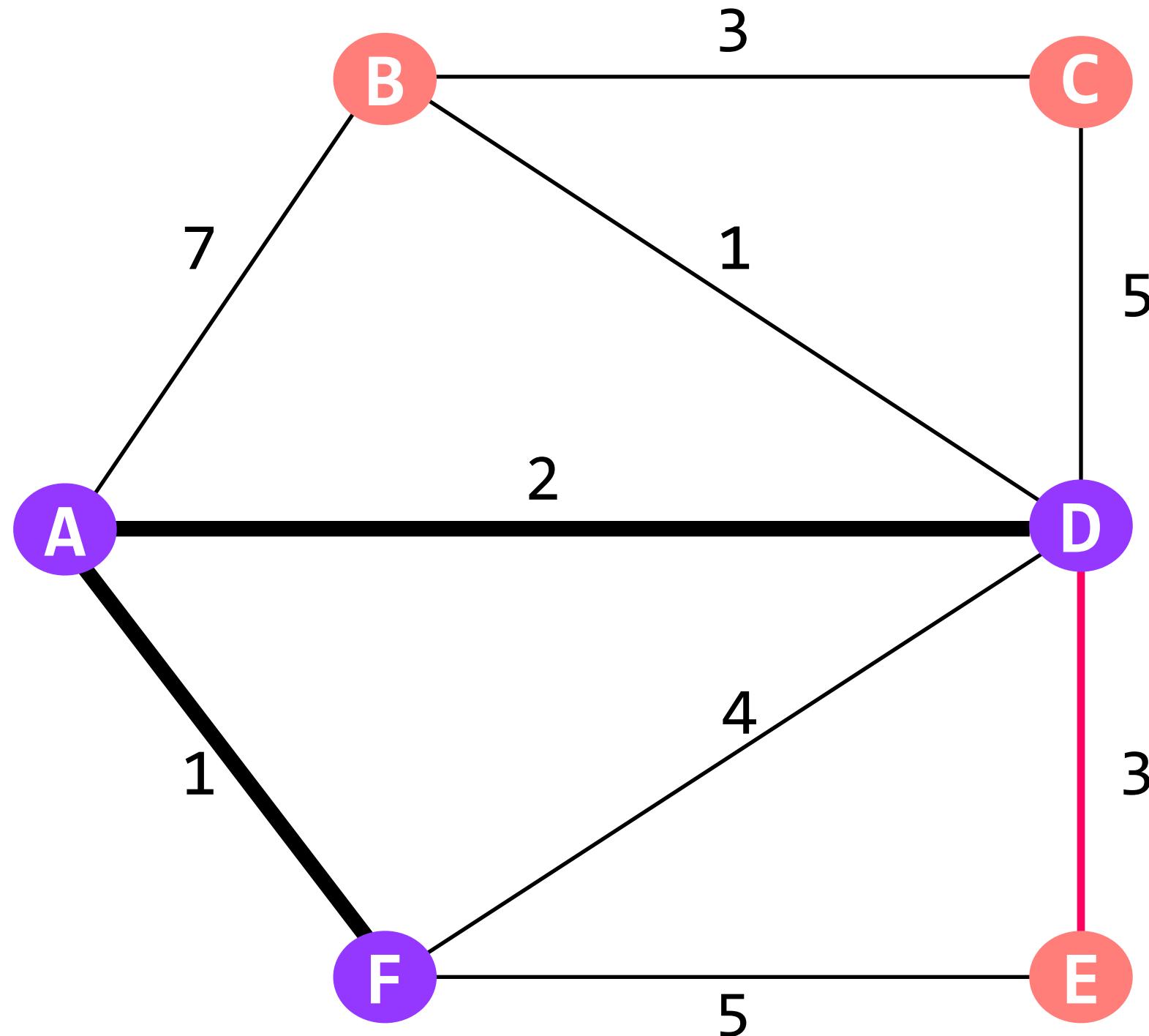
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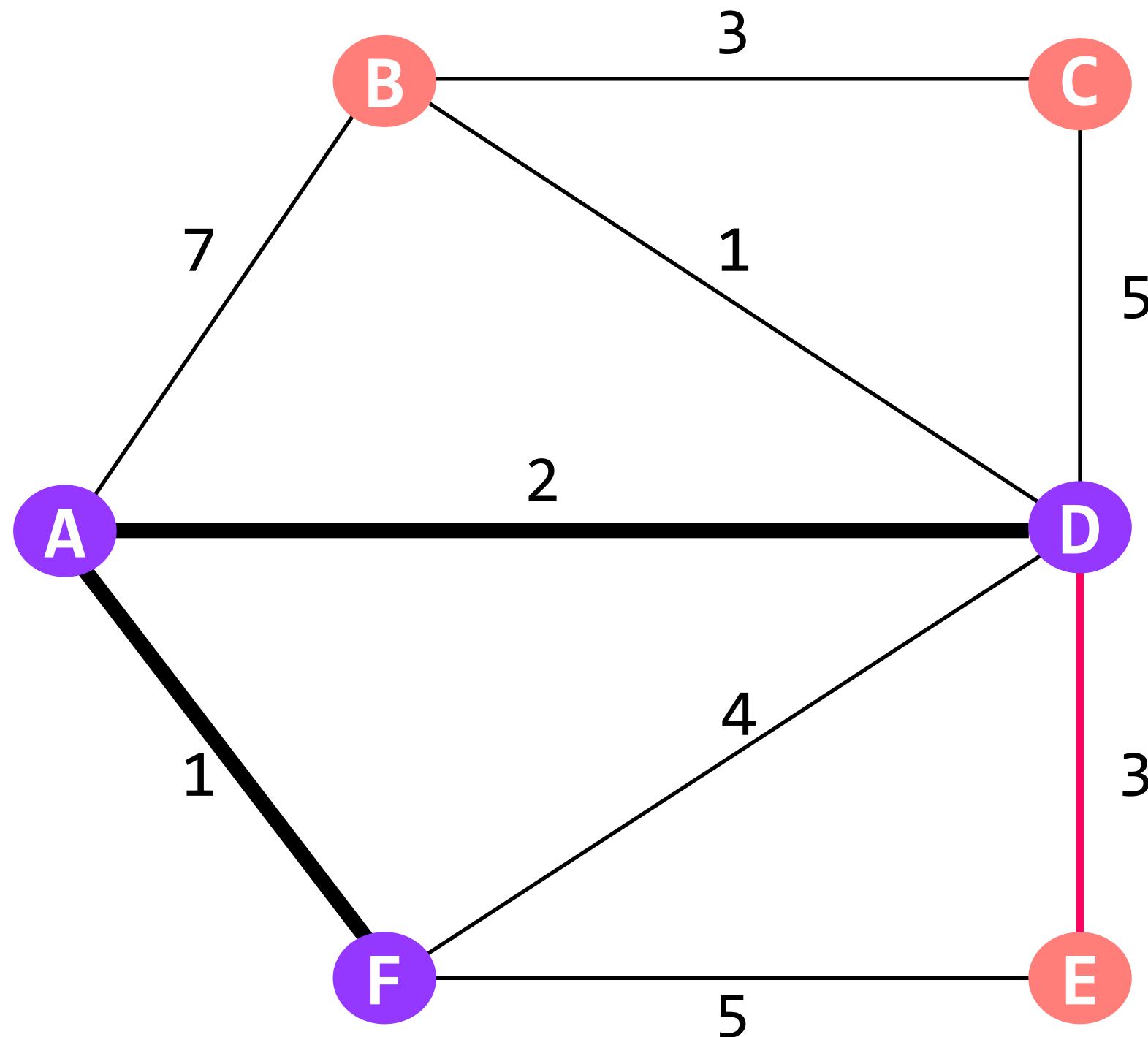
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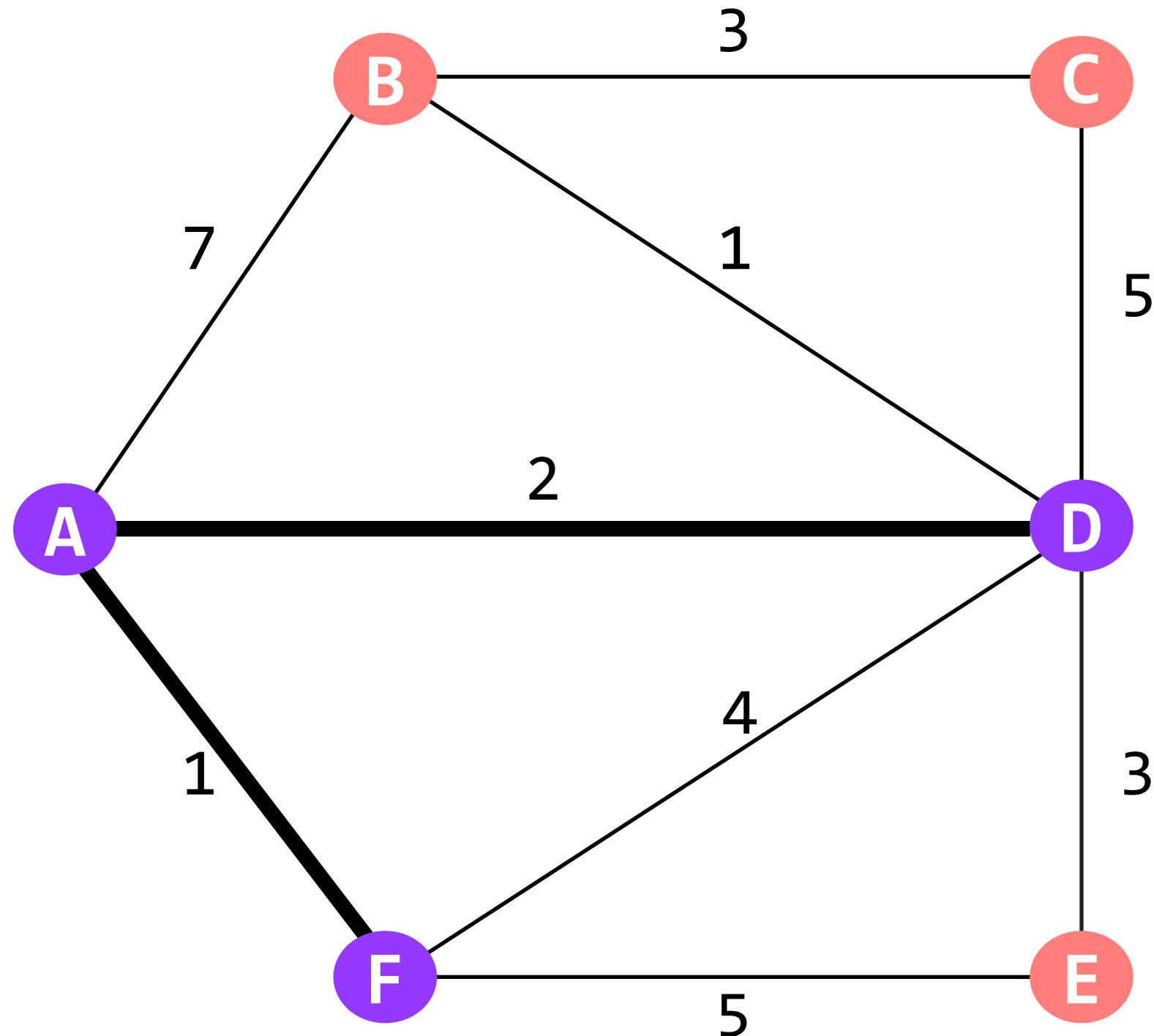
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we don't need to "visit" F; we already know the shortest path to it

link state

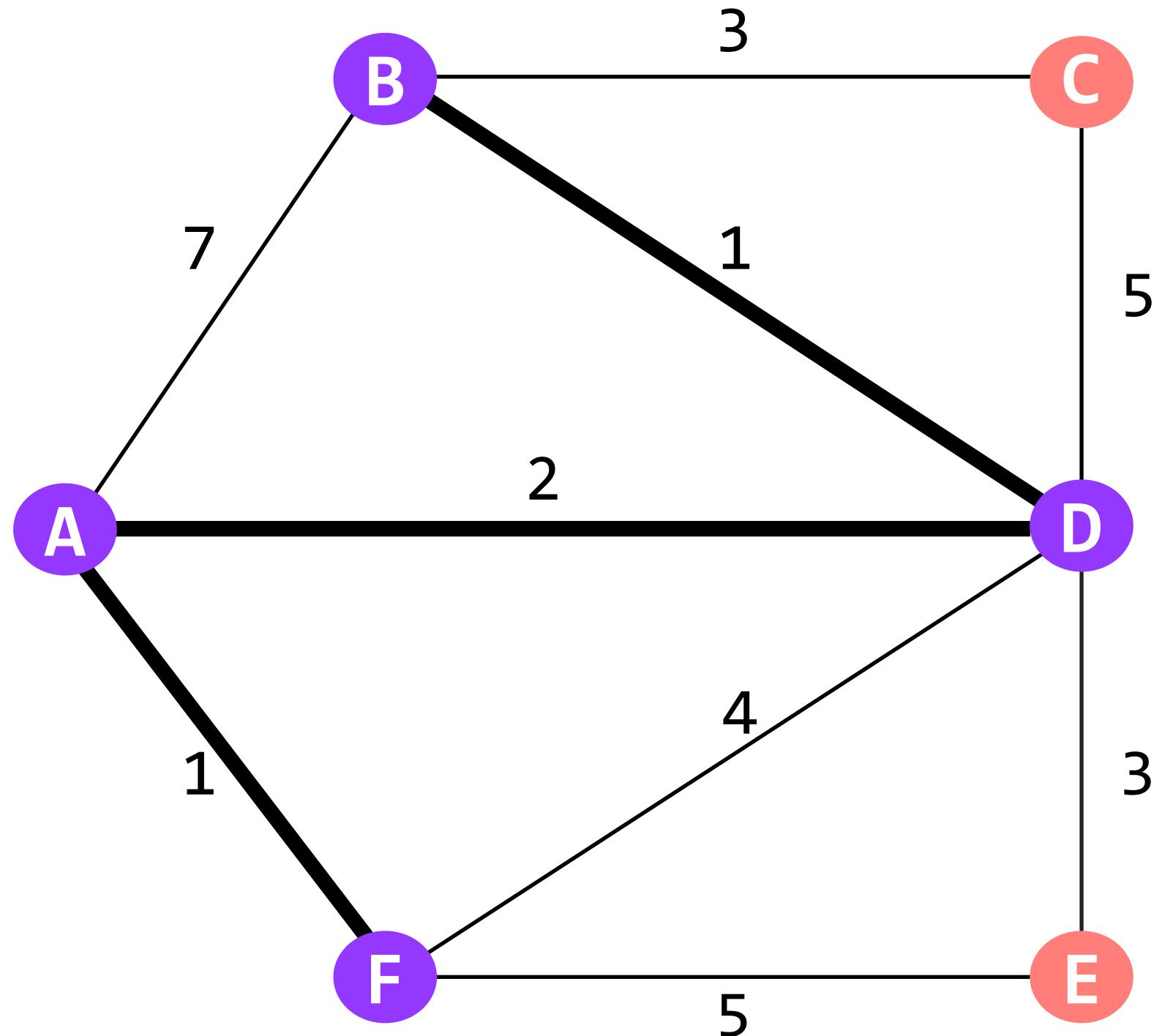
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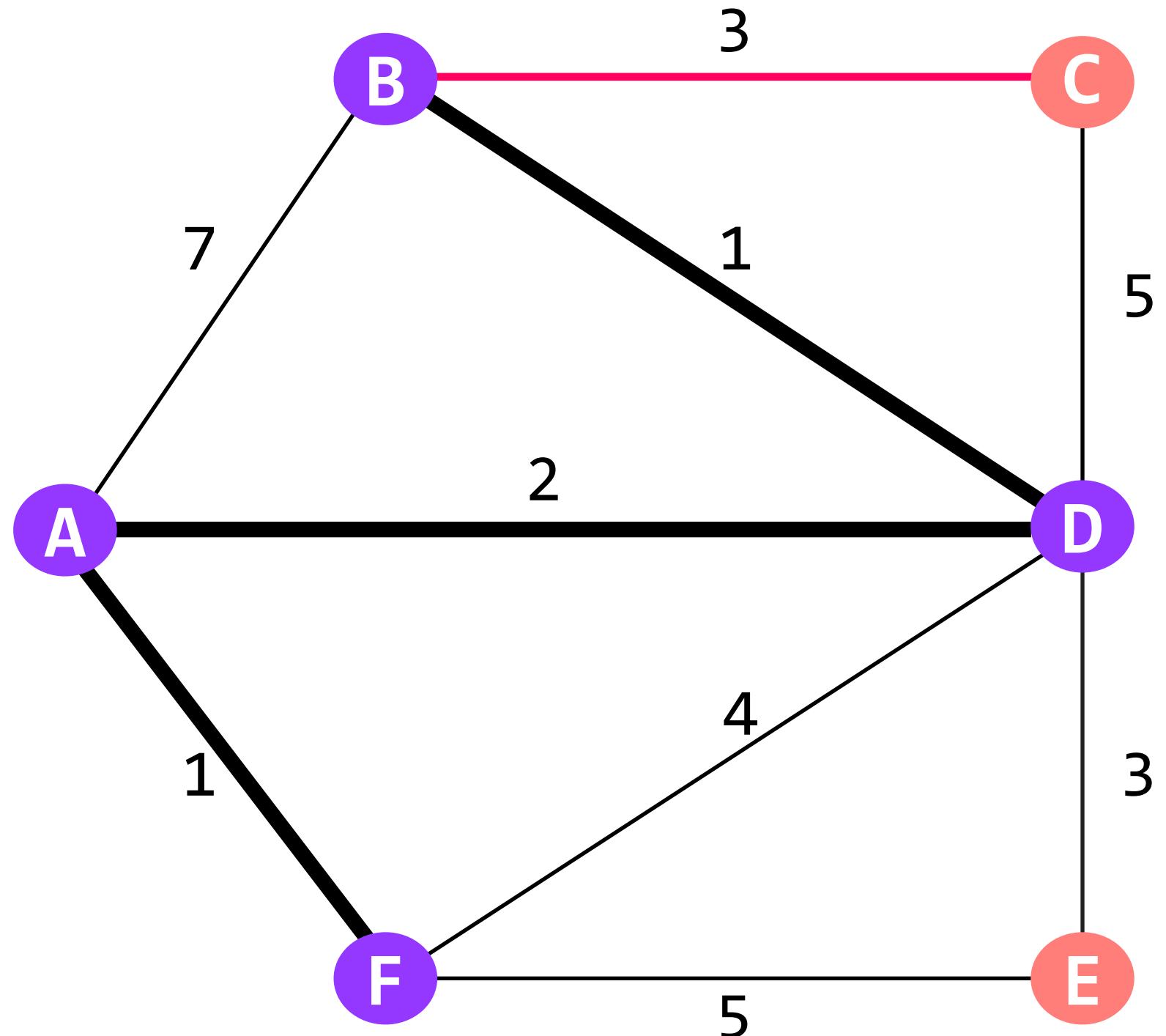
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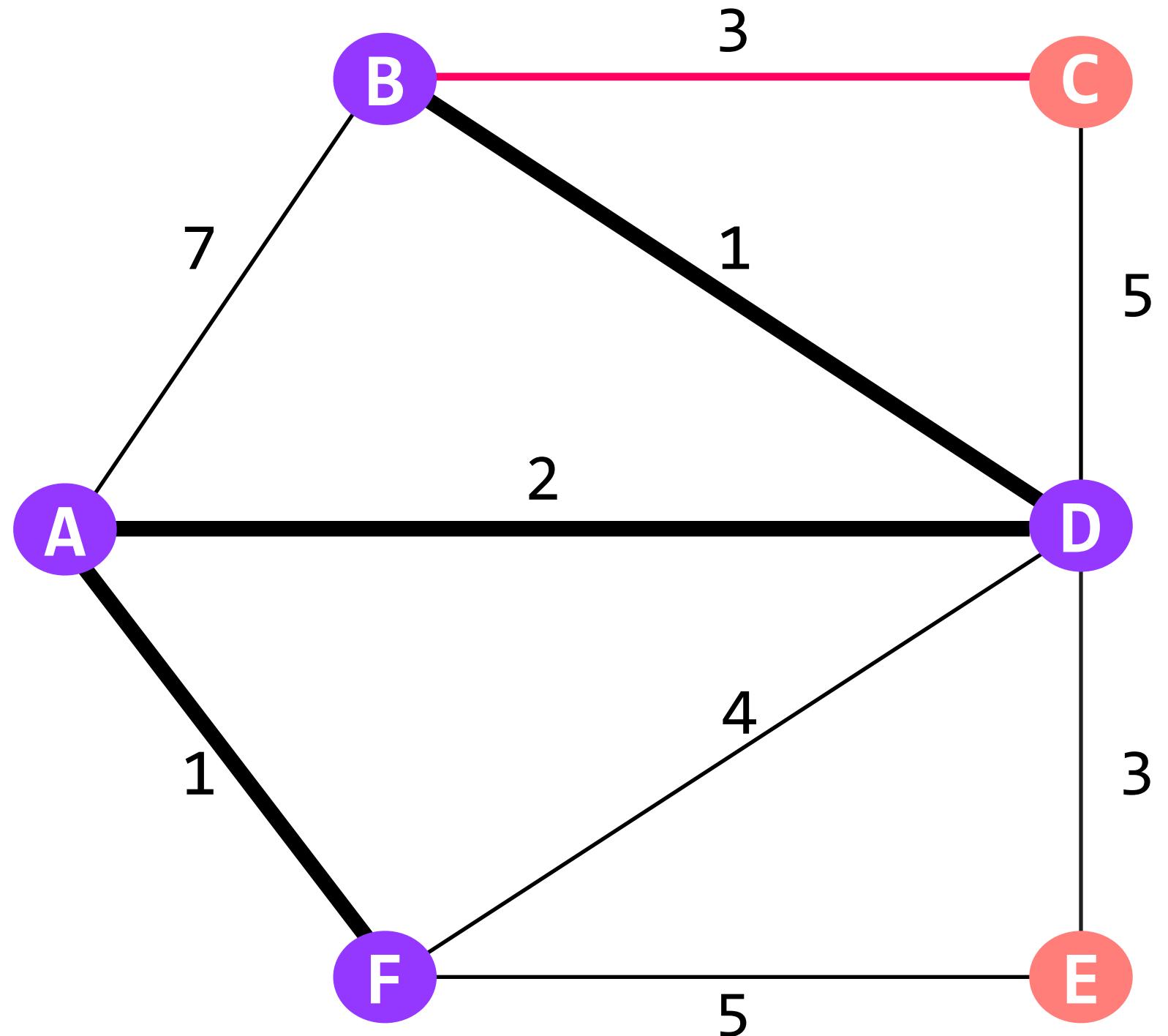
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A's routing table

dst	route	cost	
B	A-D	3	notice that A's route doesn't change, but the cost needs to update
C	A-D	6	
D	A-D	2	(and the actual path of the packets from A to C has changed)
E	A-D	5	
F	A-F	1	

link state

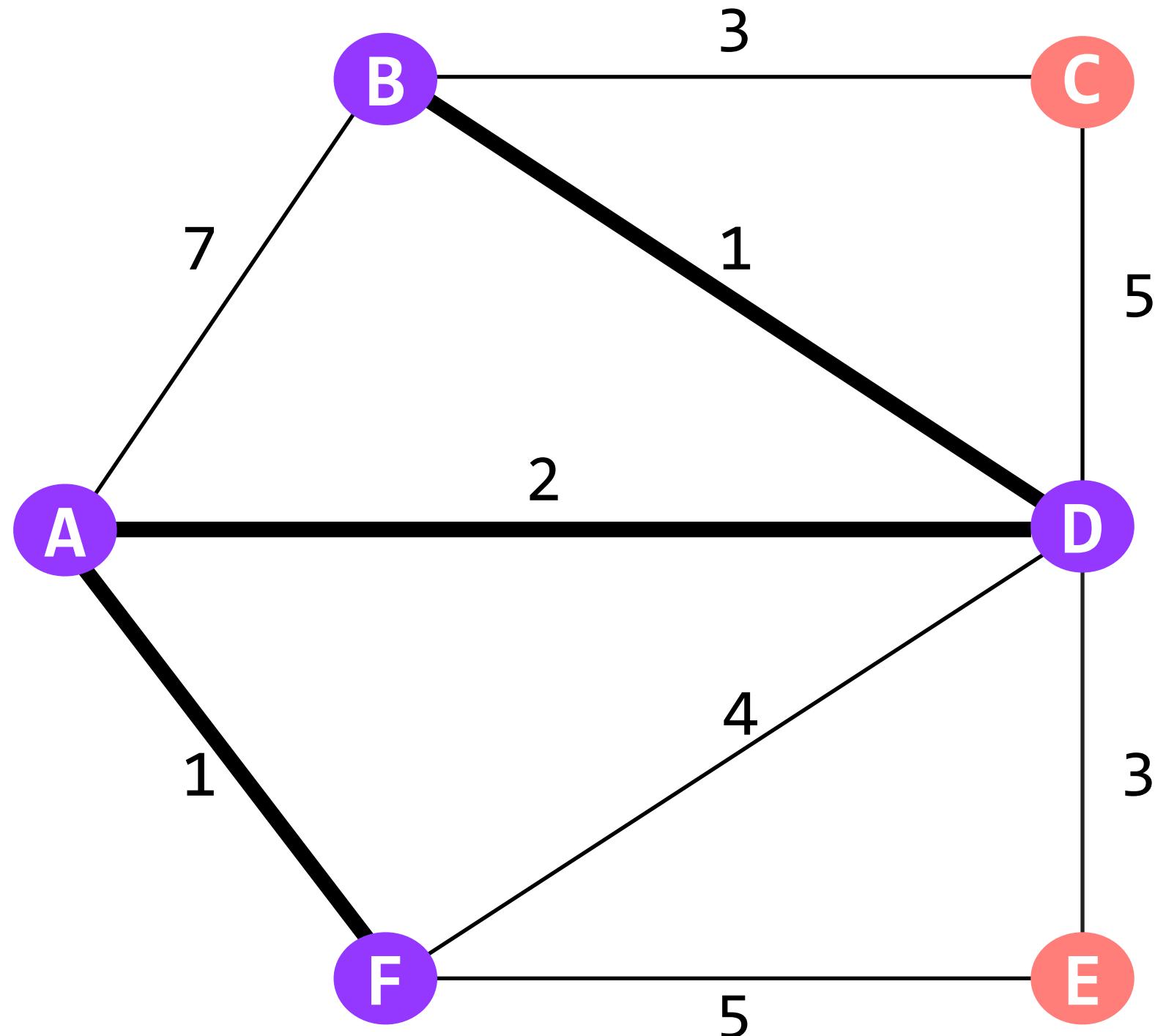
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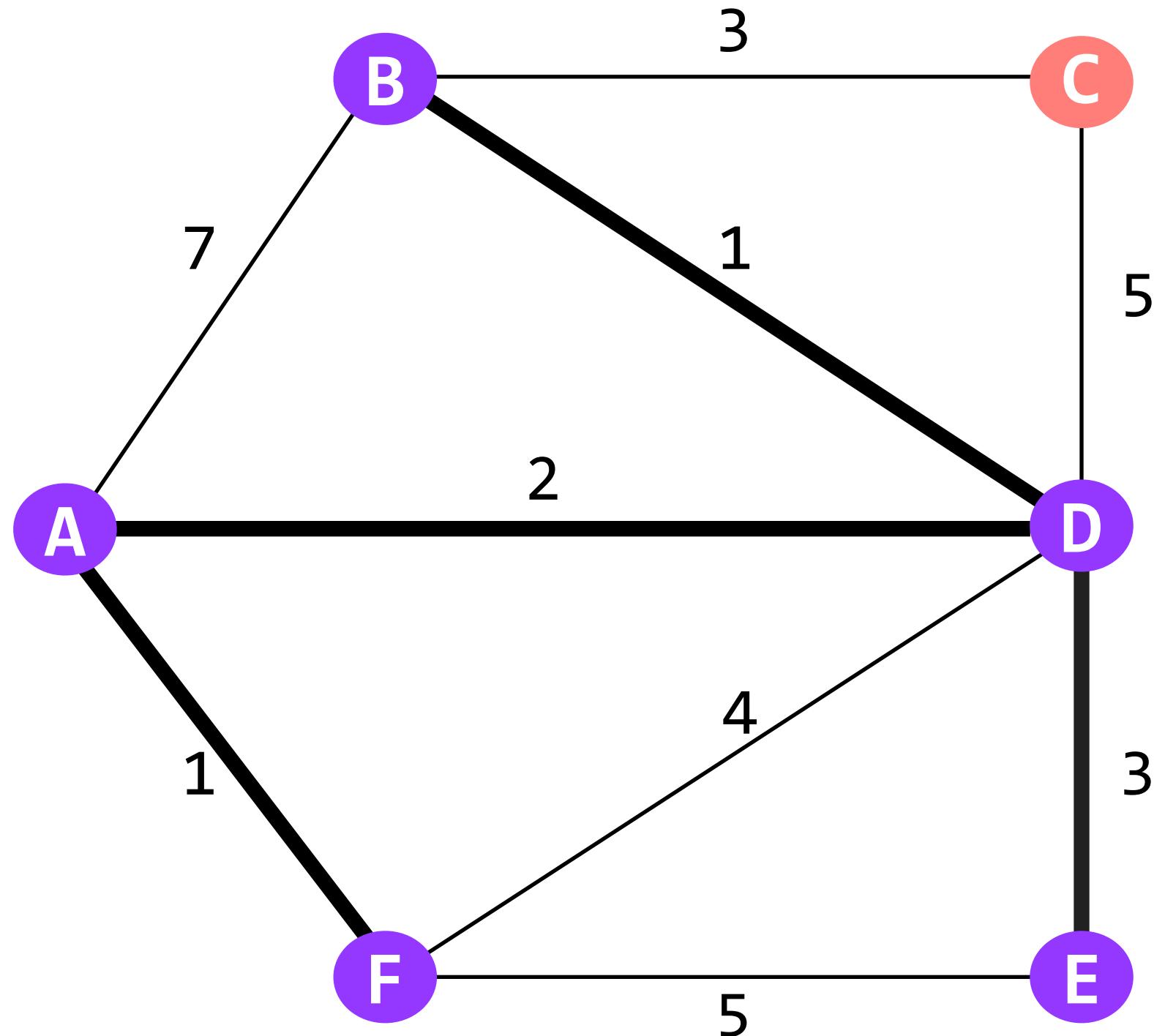
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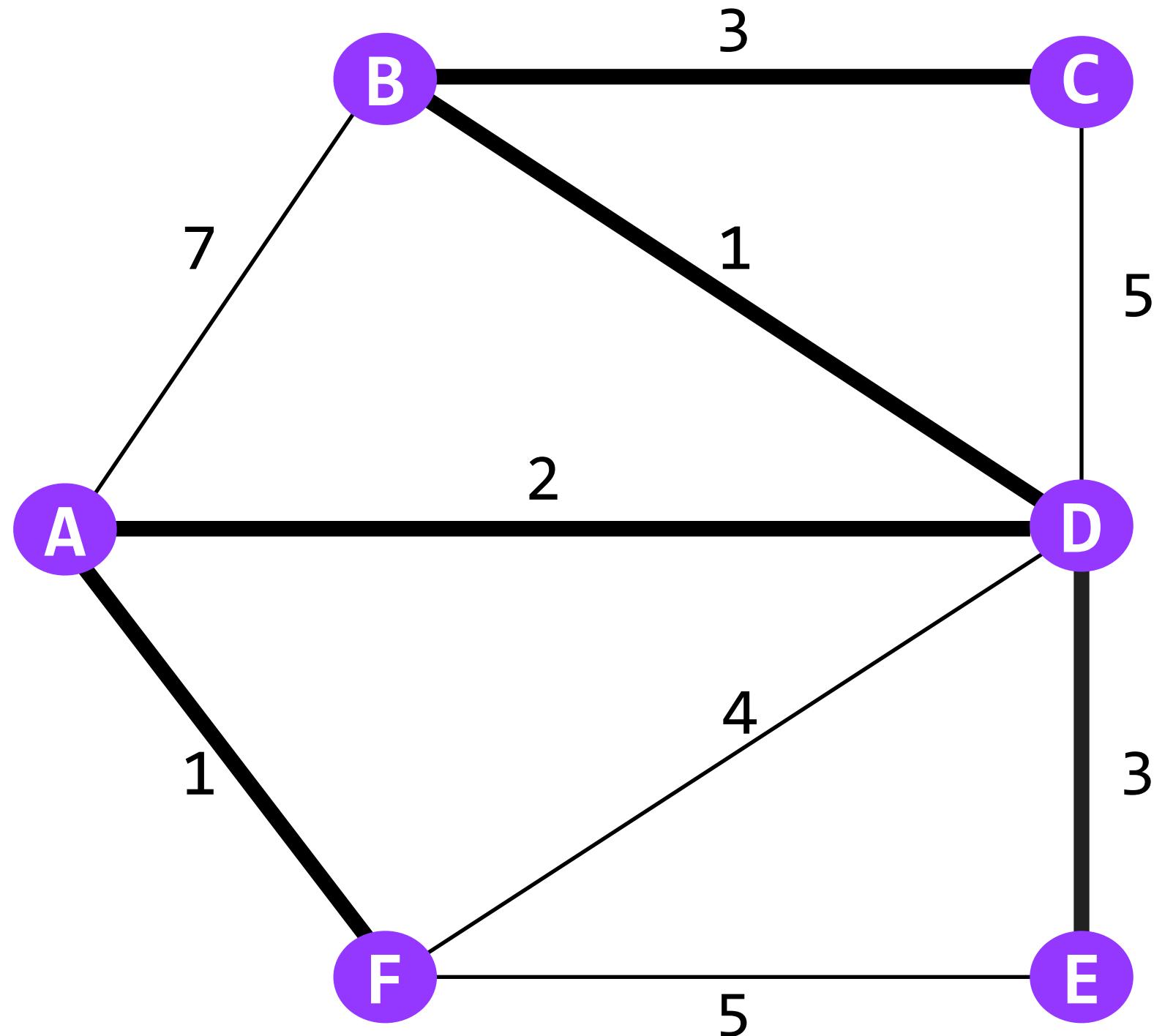
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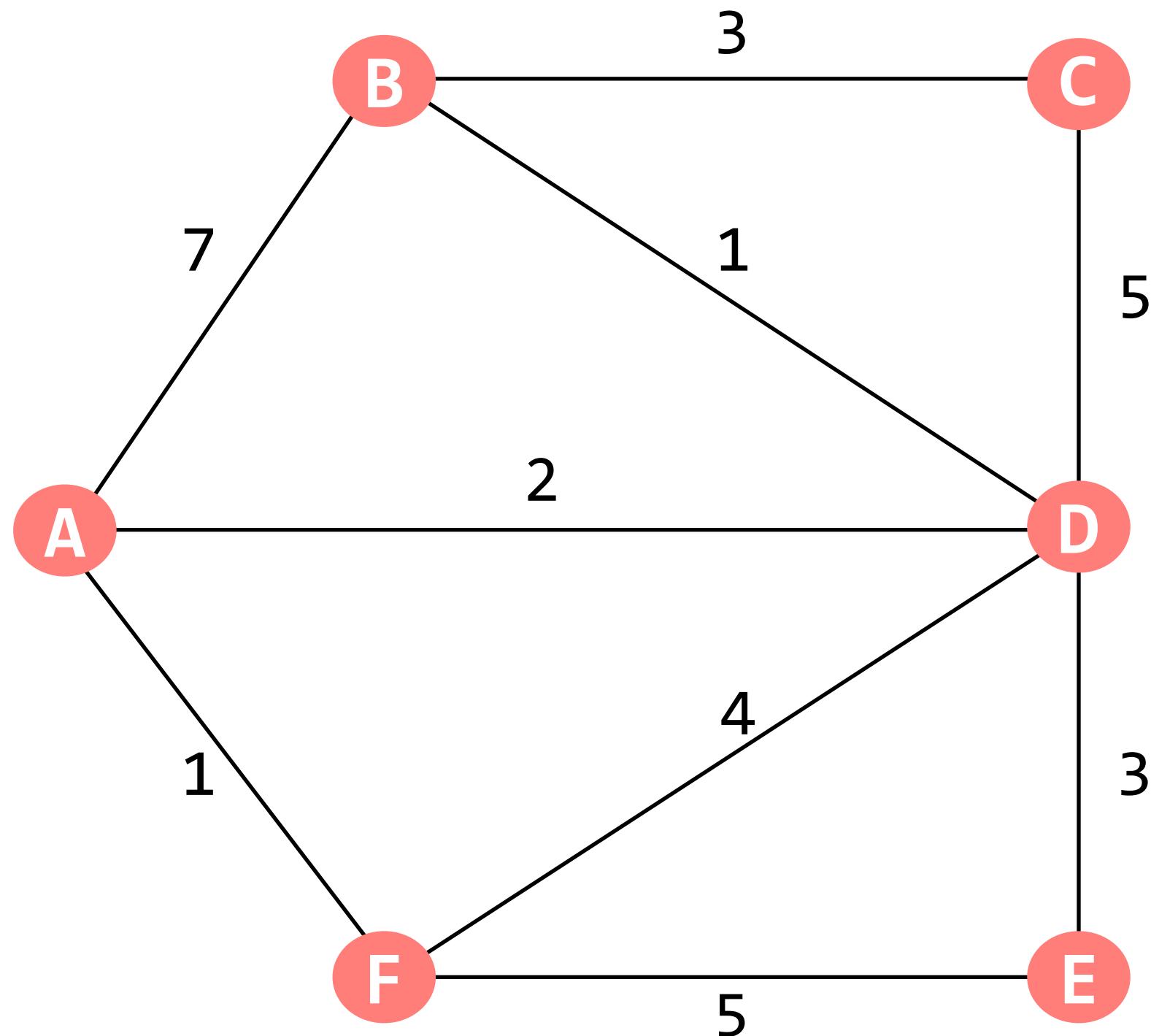
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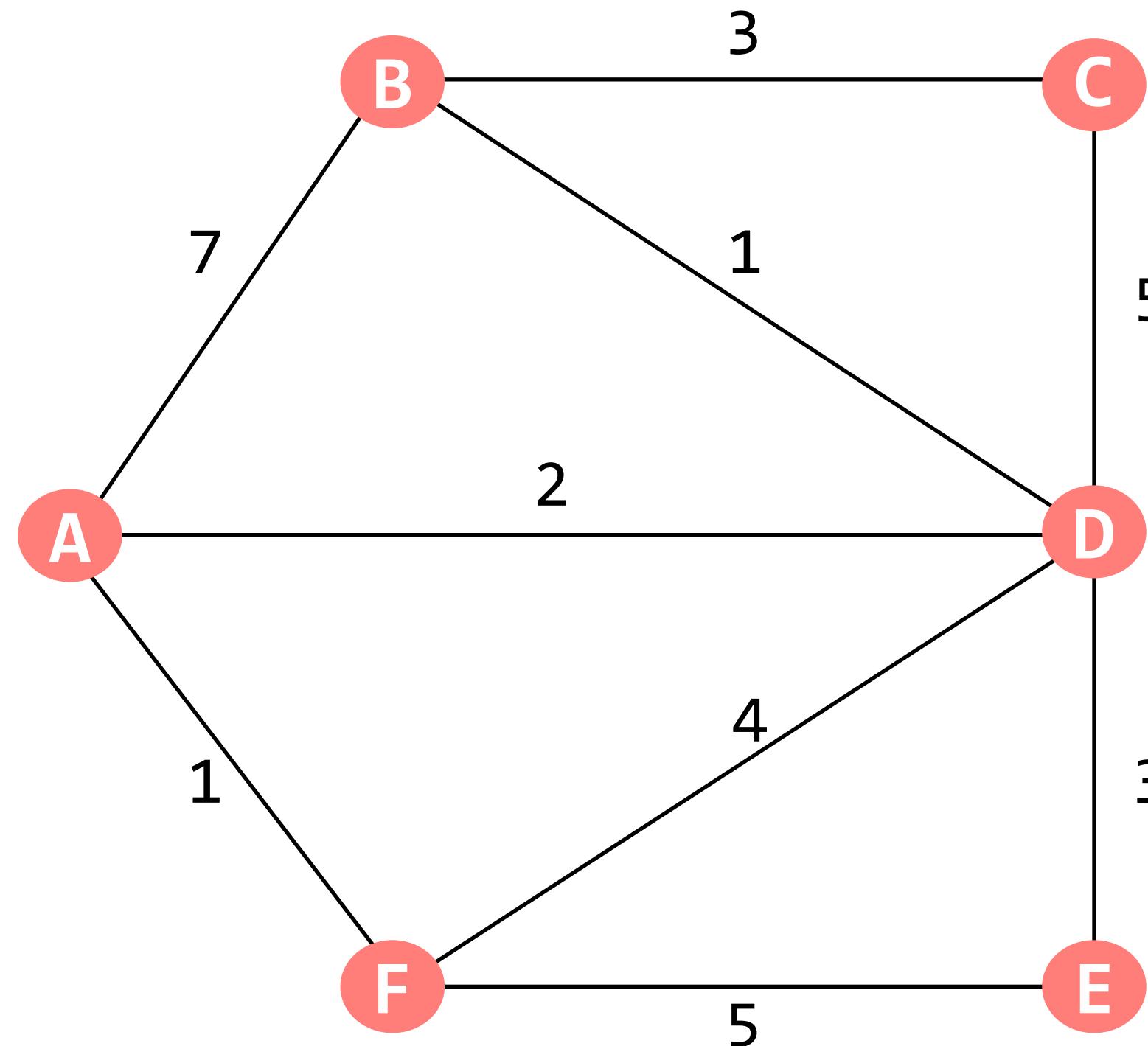
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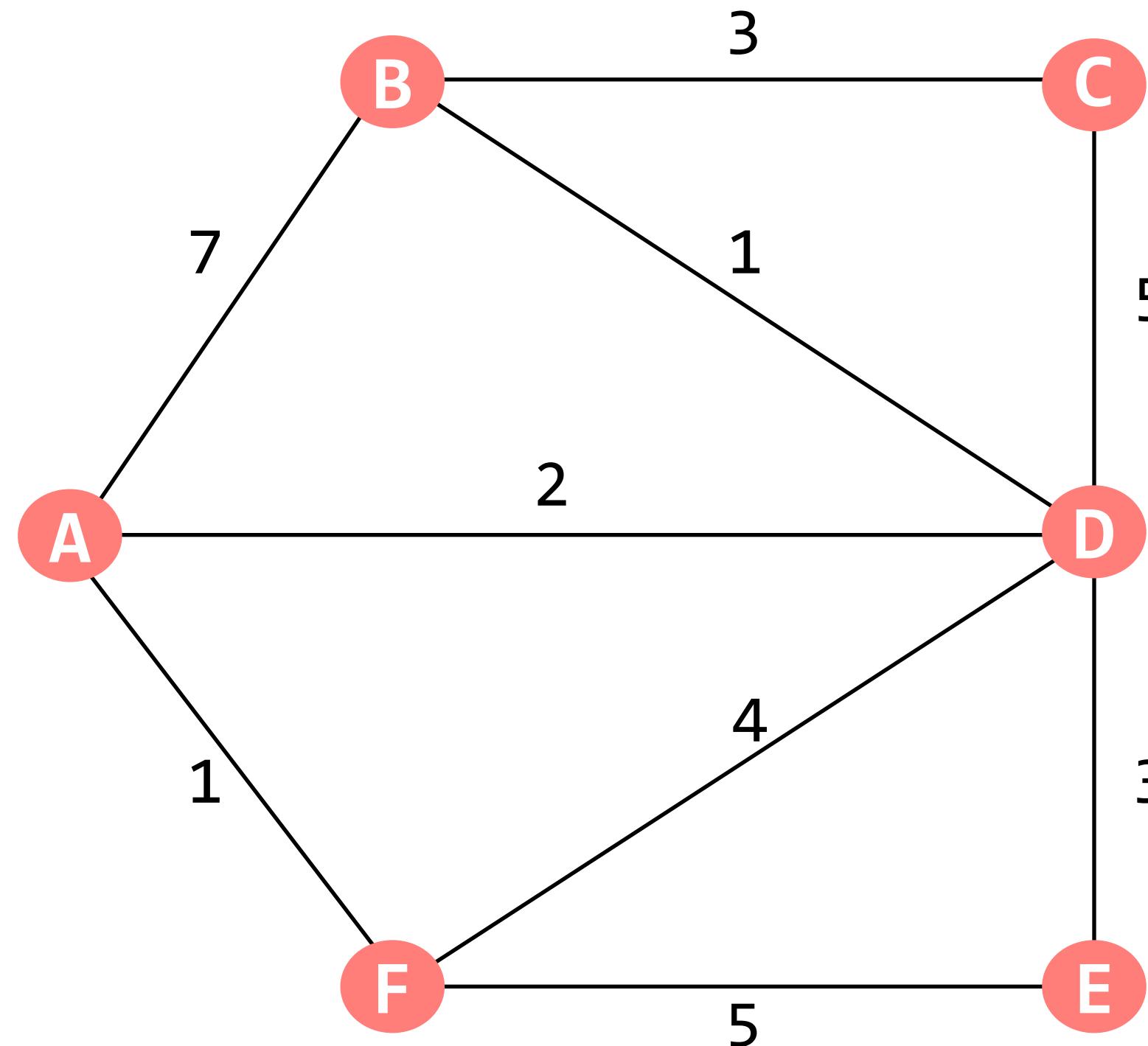
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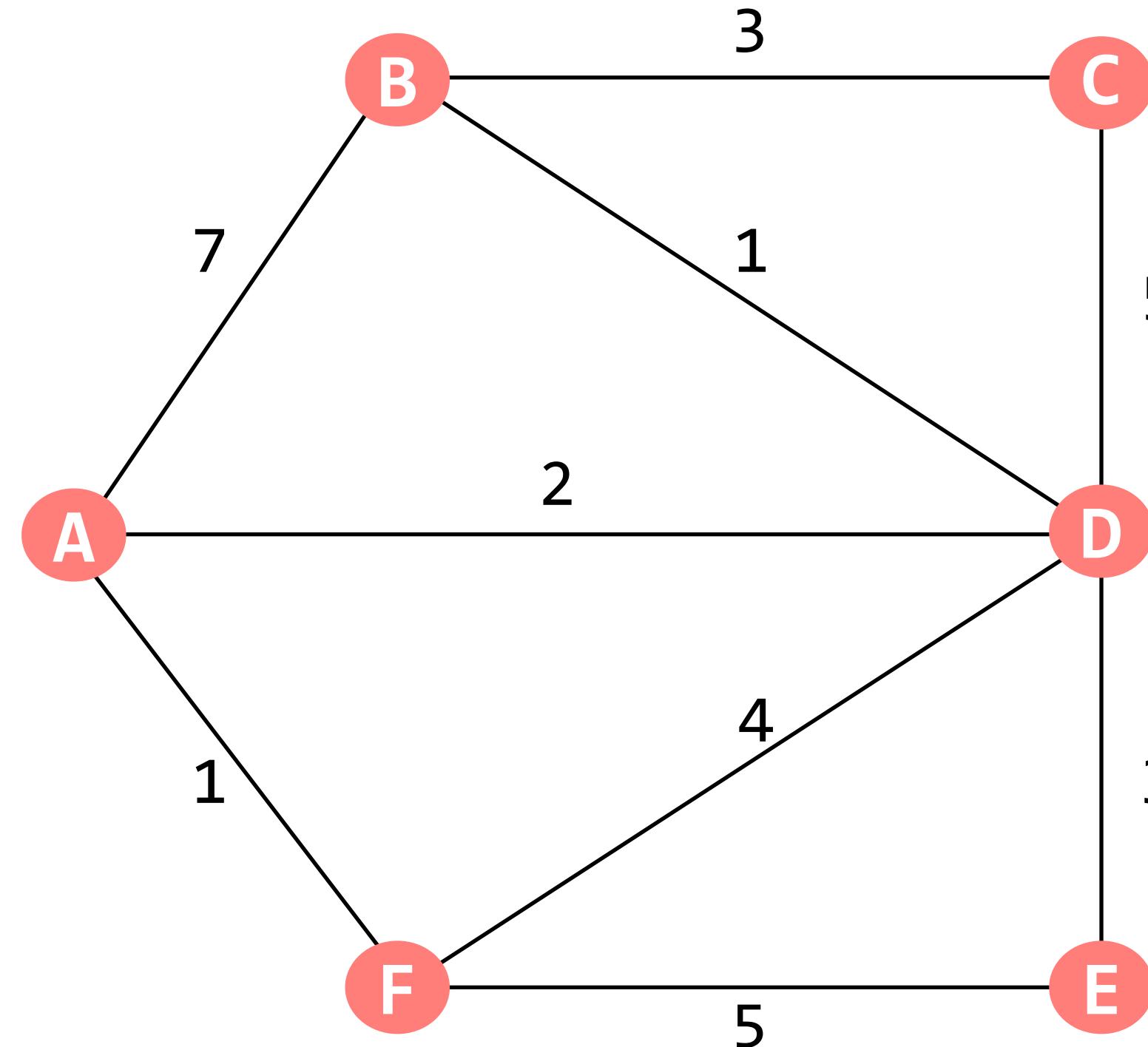
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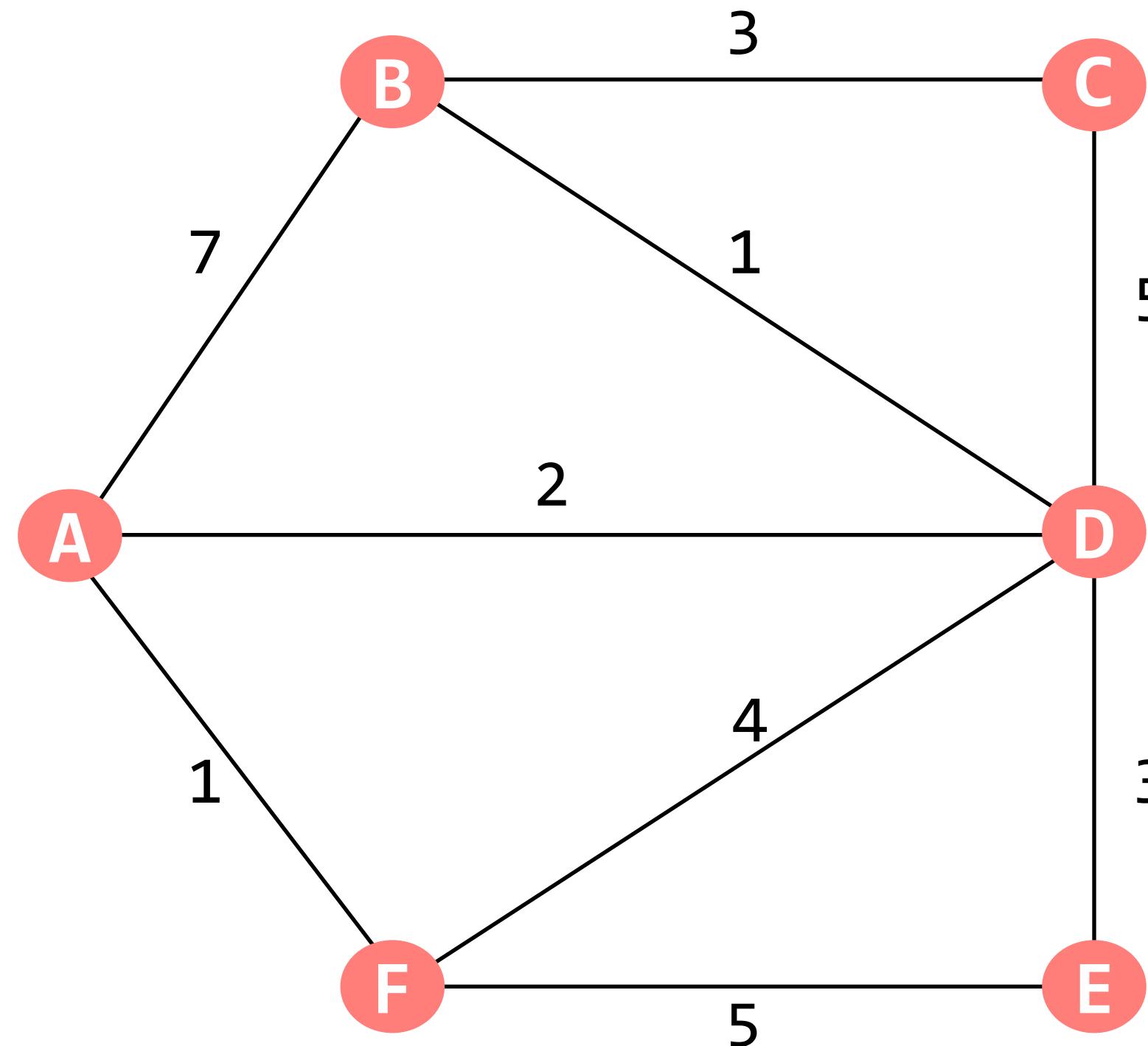
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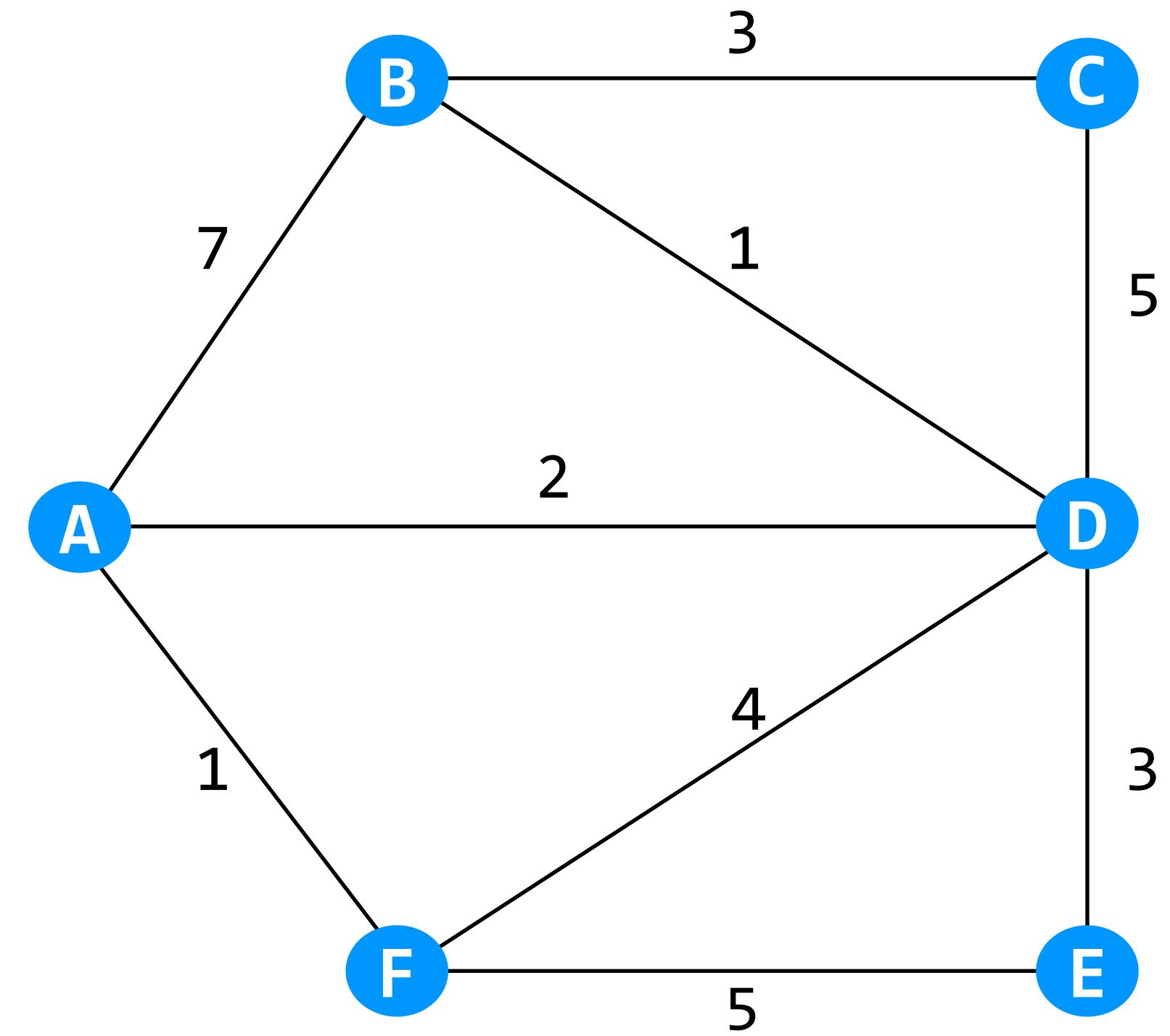
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the **overhead** of flooding

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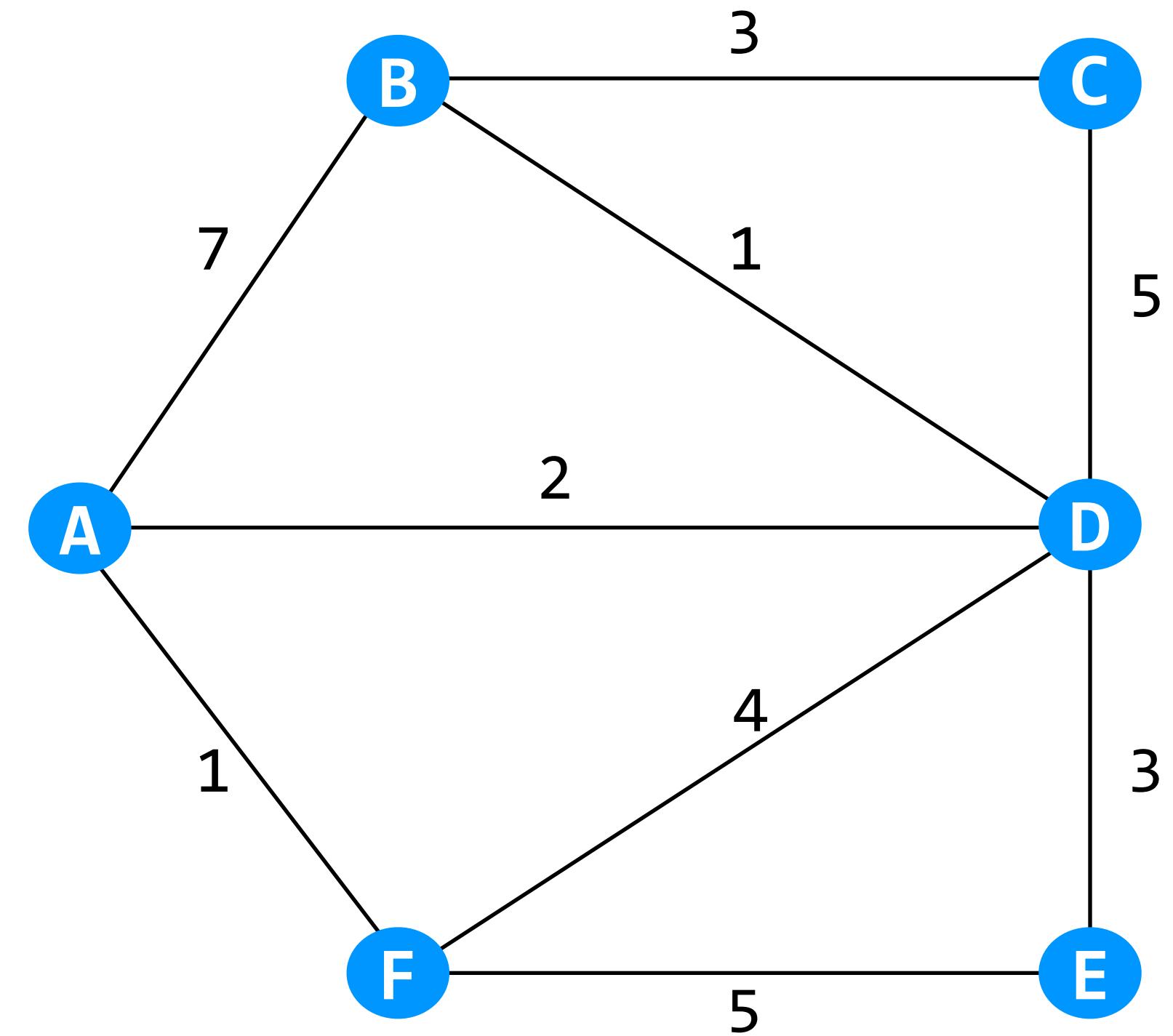
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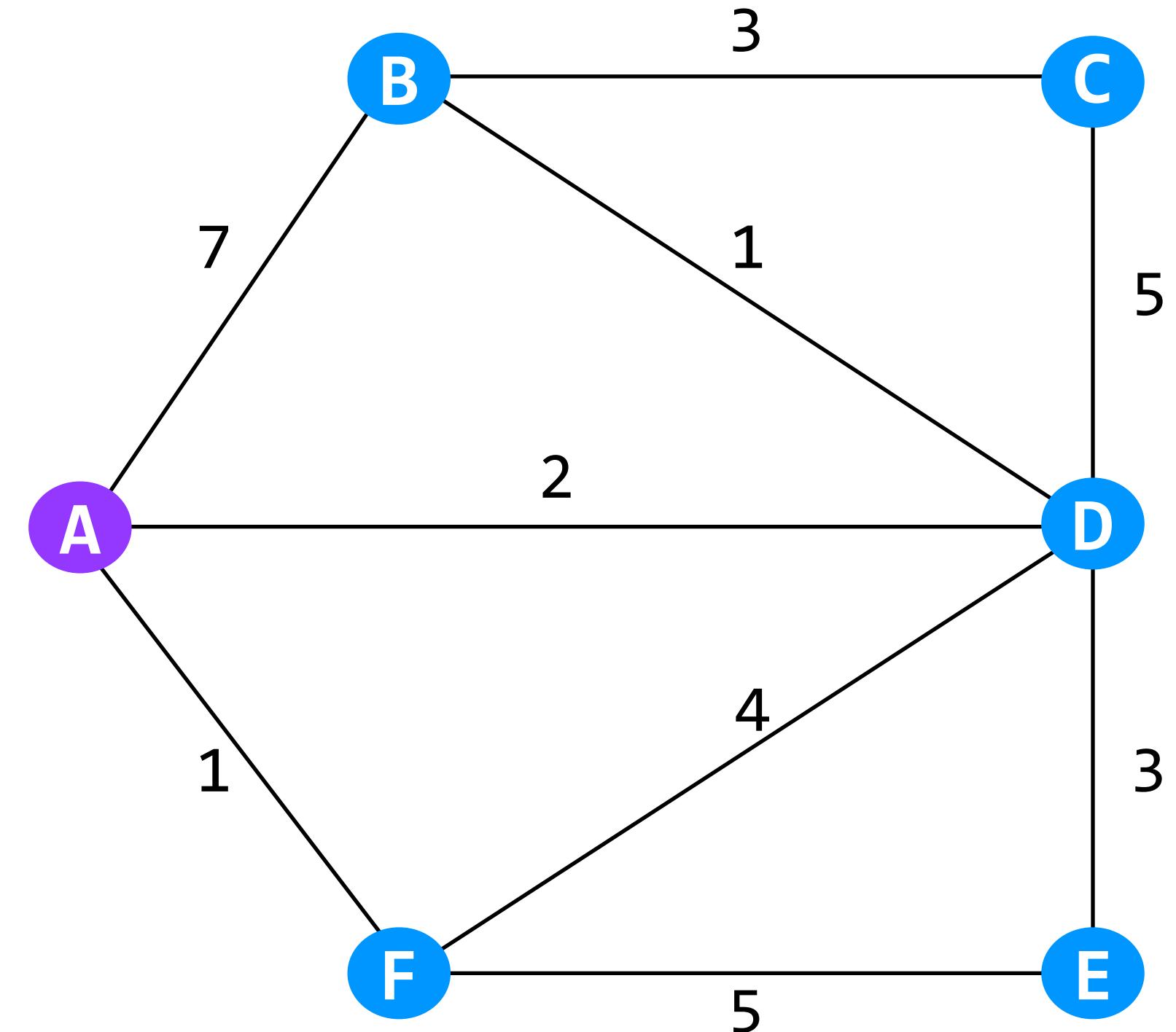
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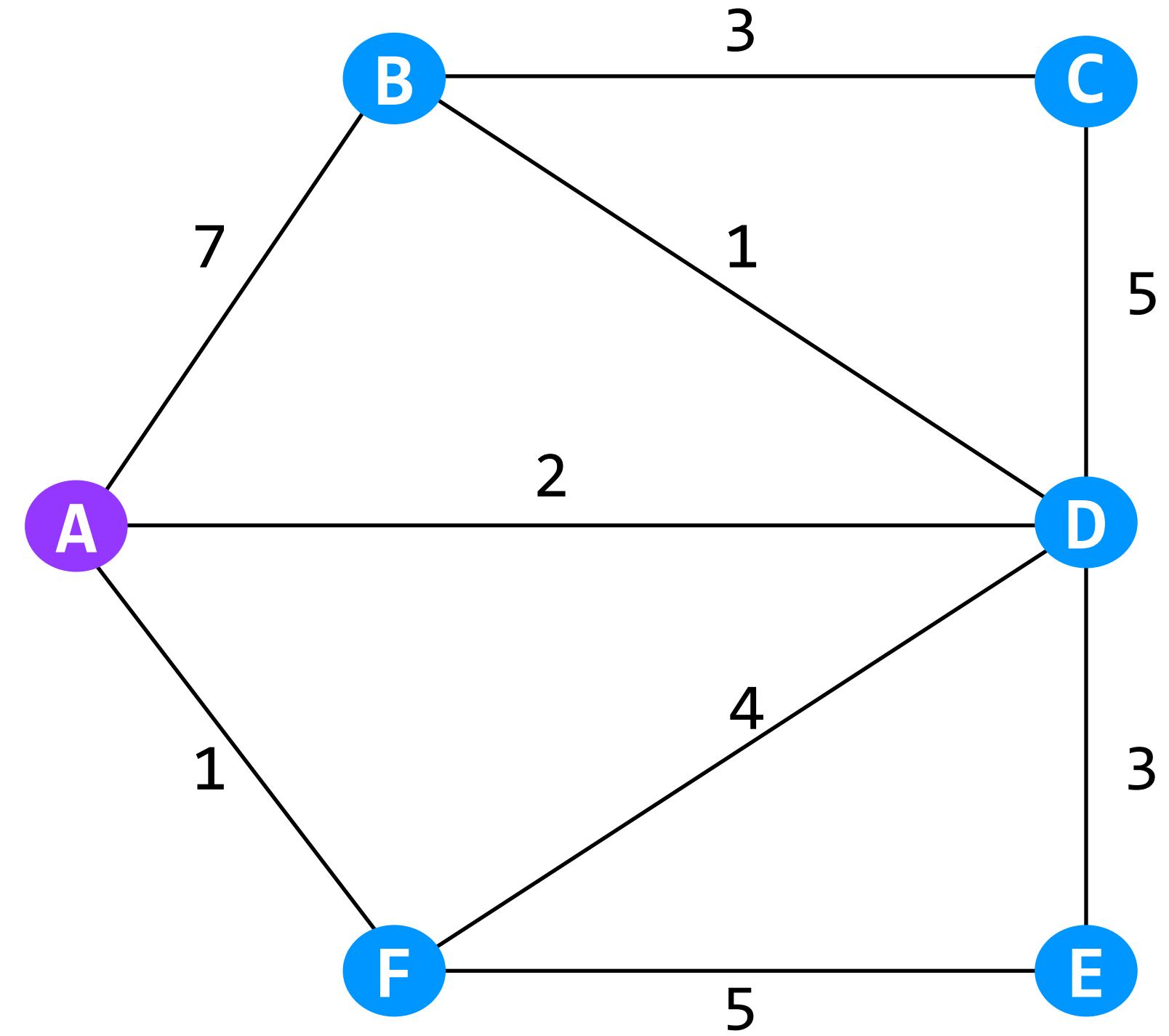
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A's first advertisement: $[(B, 7), (D, 2), (F, 1)]$

A could also include $(A, 0)$ here

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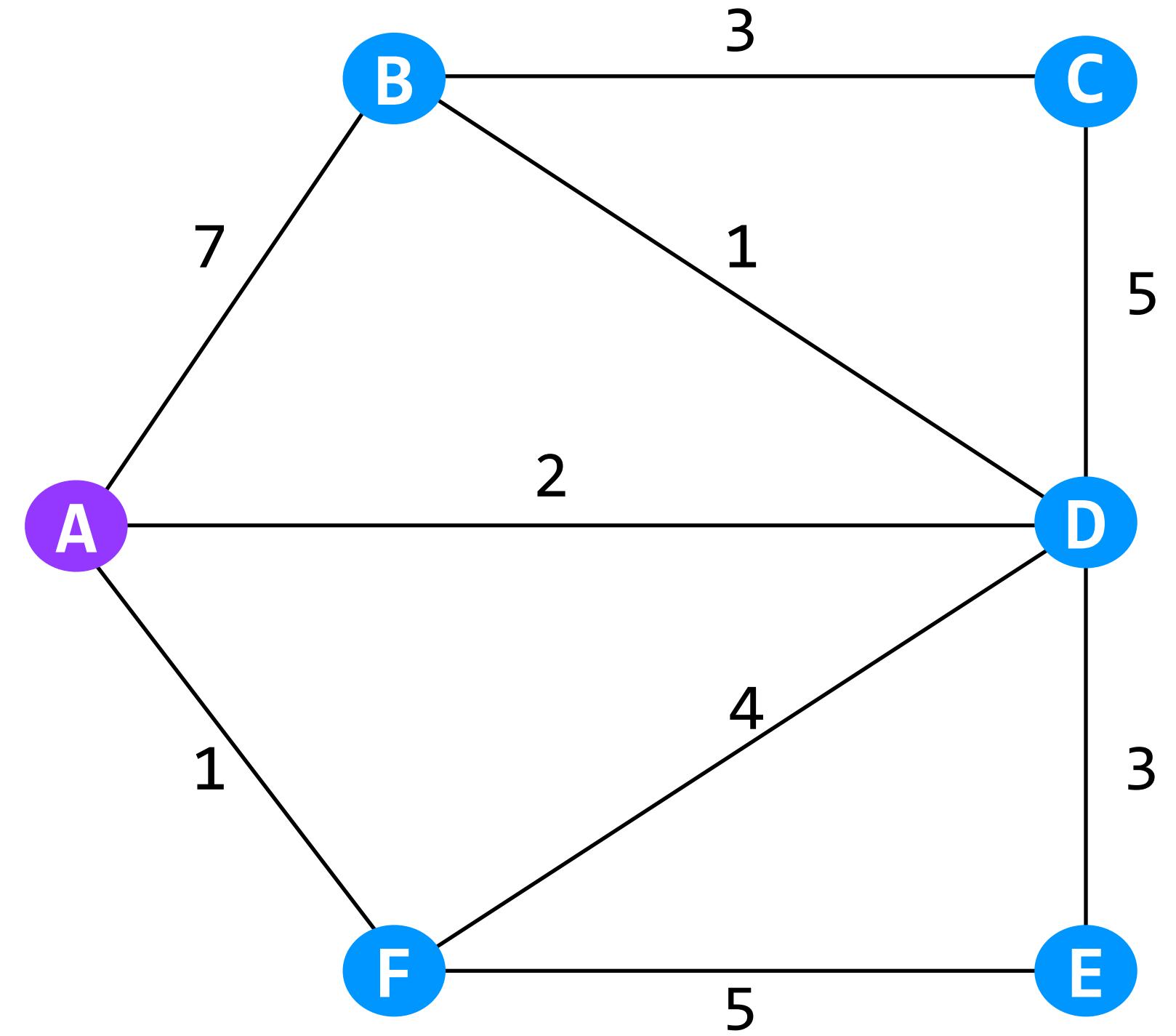
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A's advertisement reflects its routing table, and right now, A only knows about its neighbors

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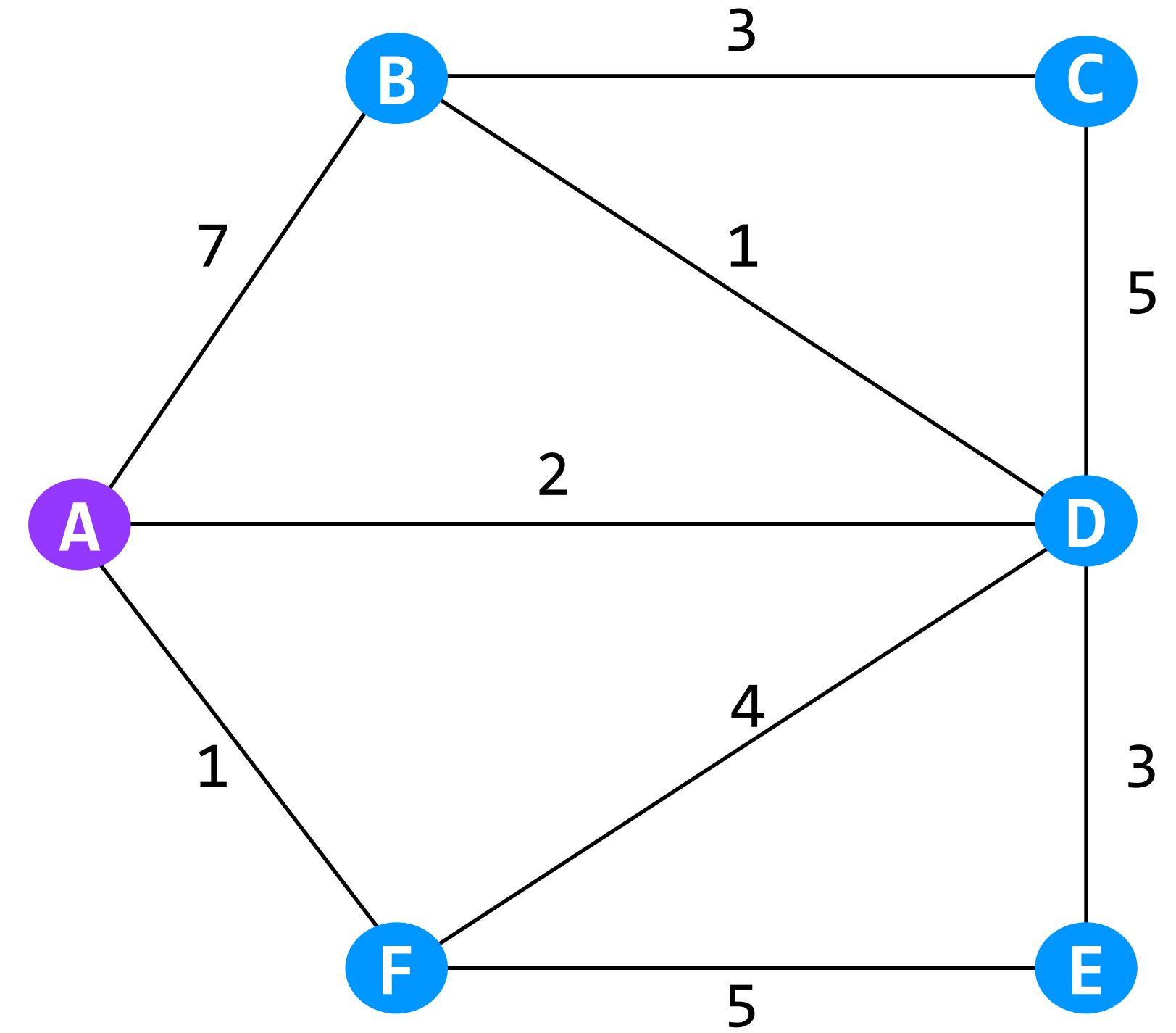
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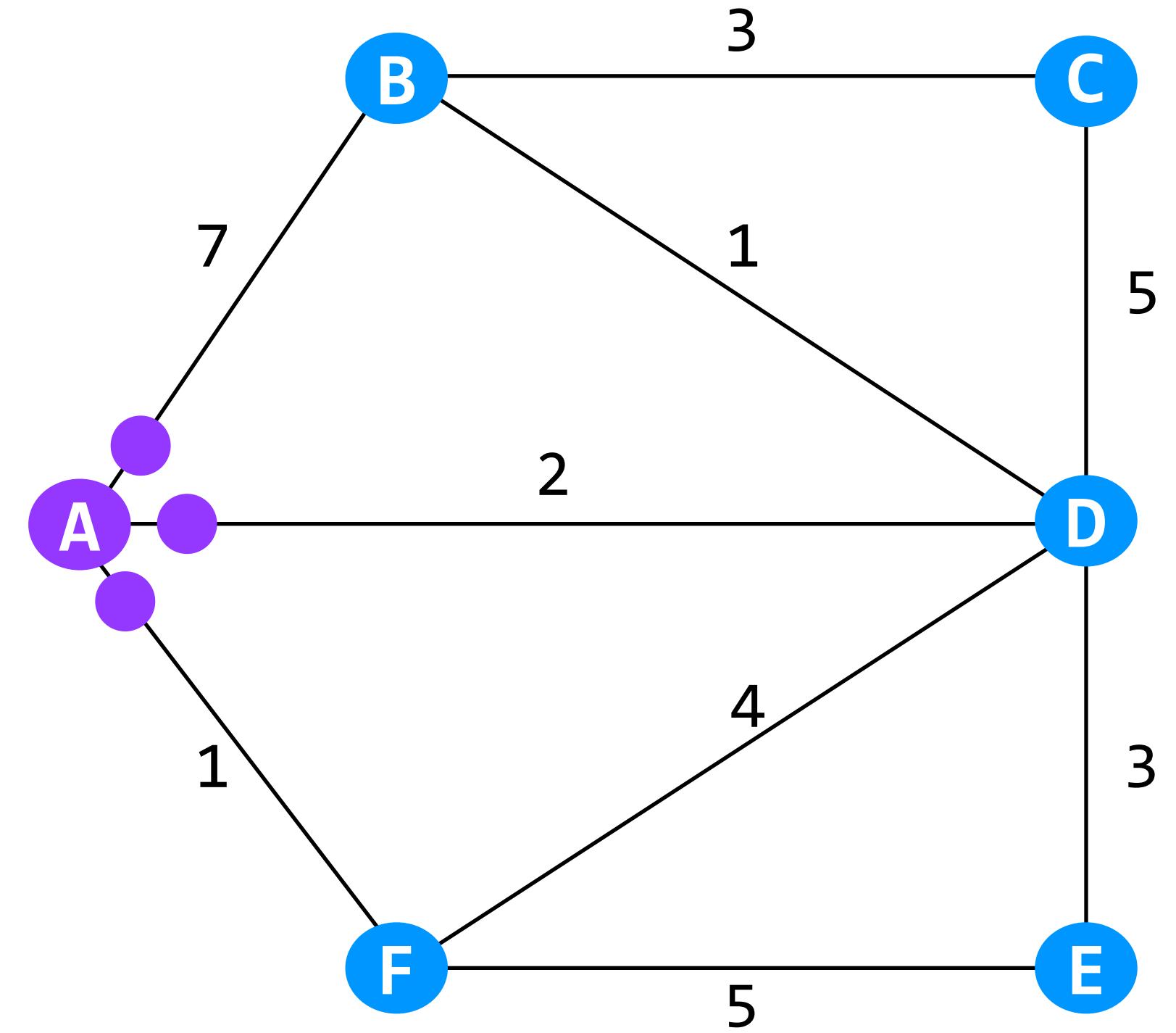
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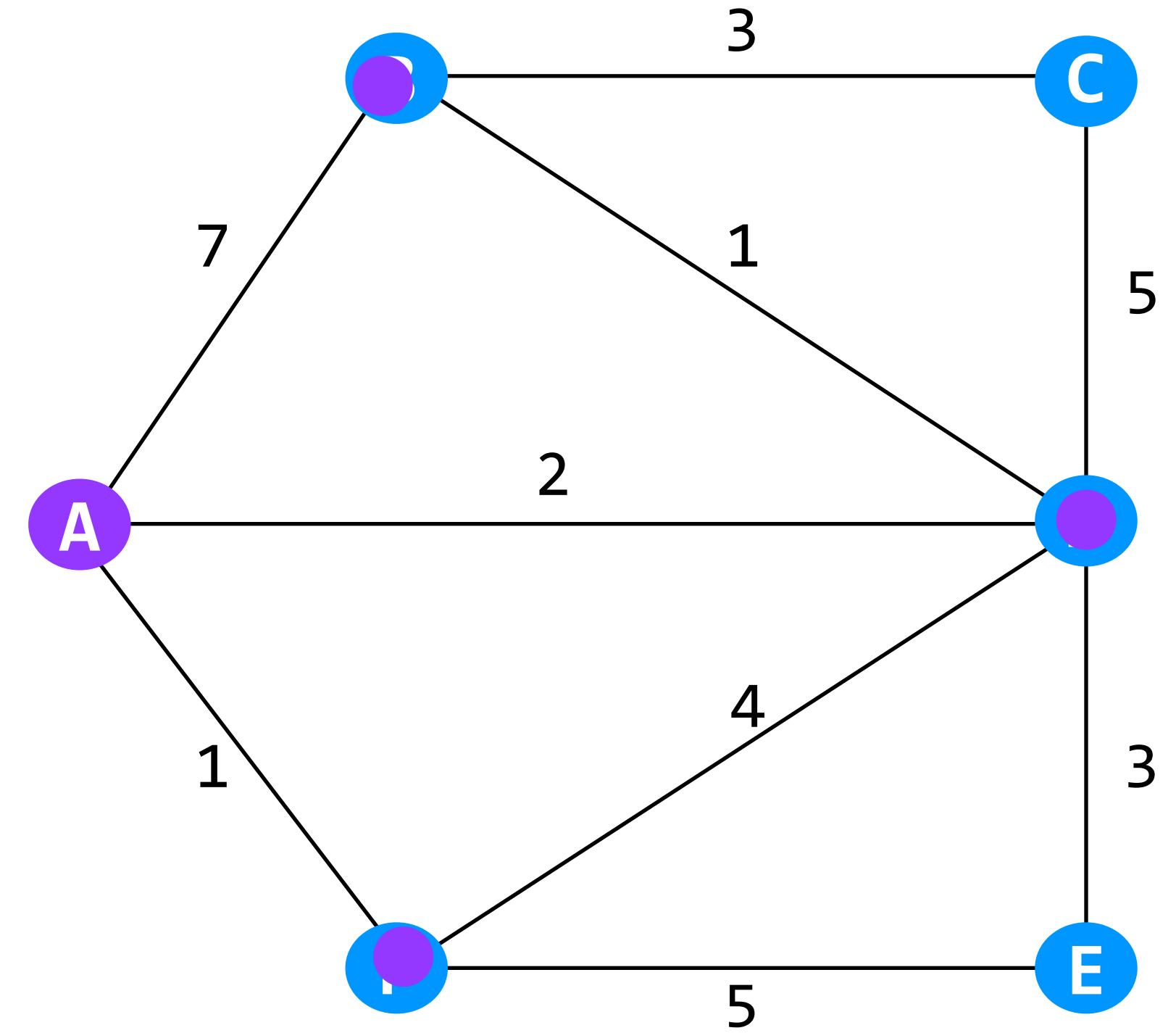
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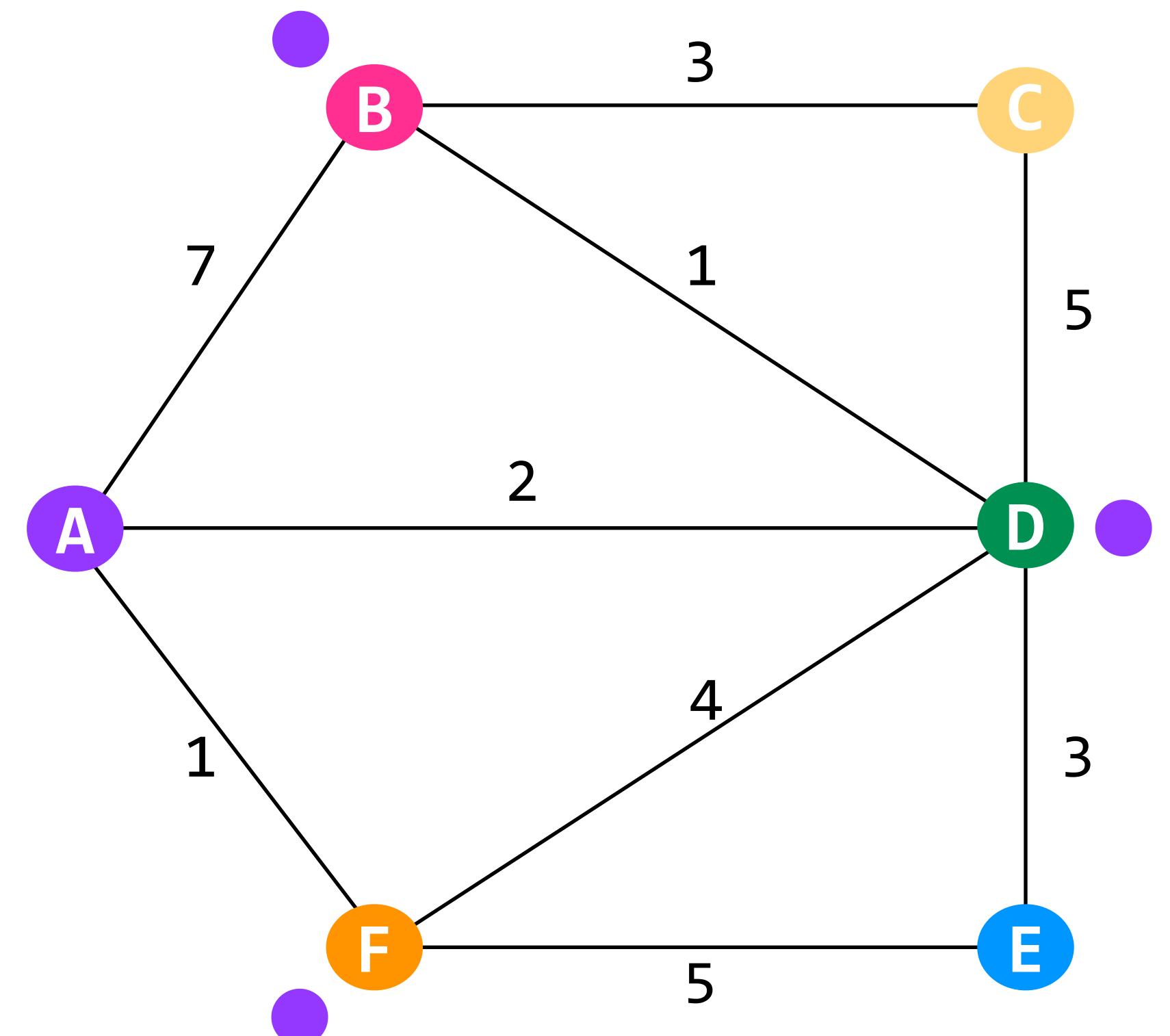
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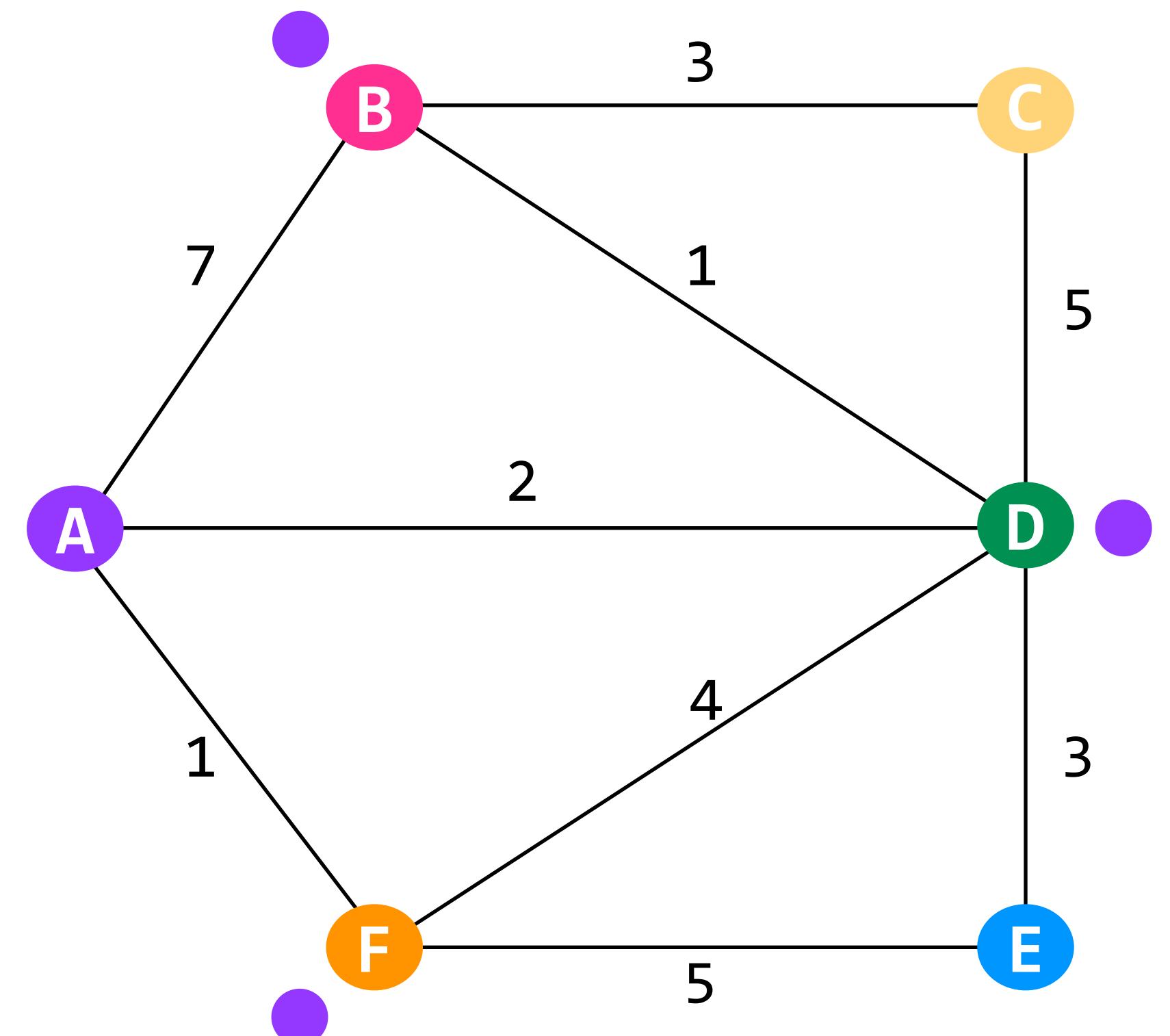
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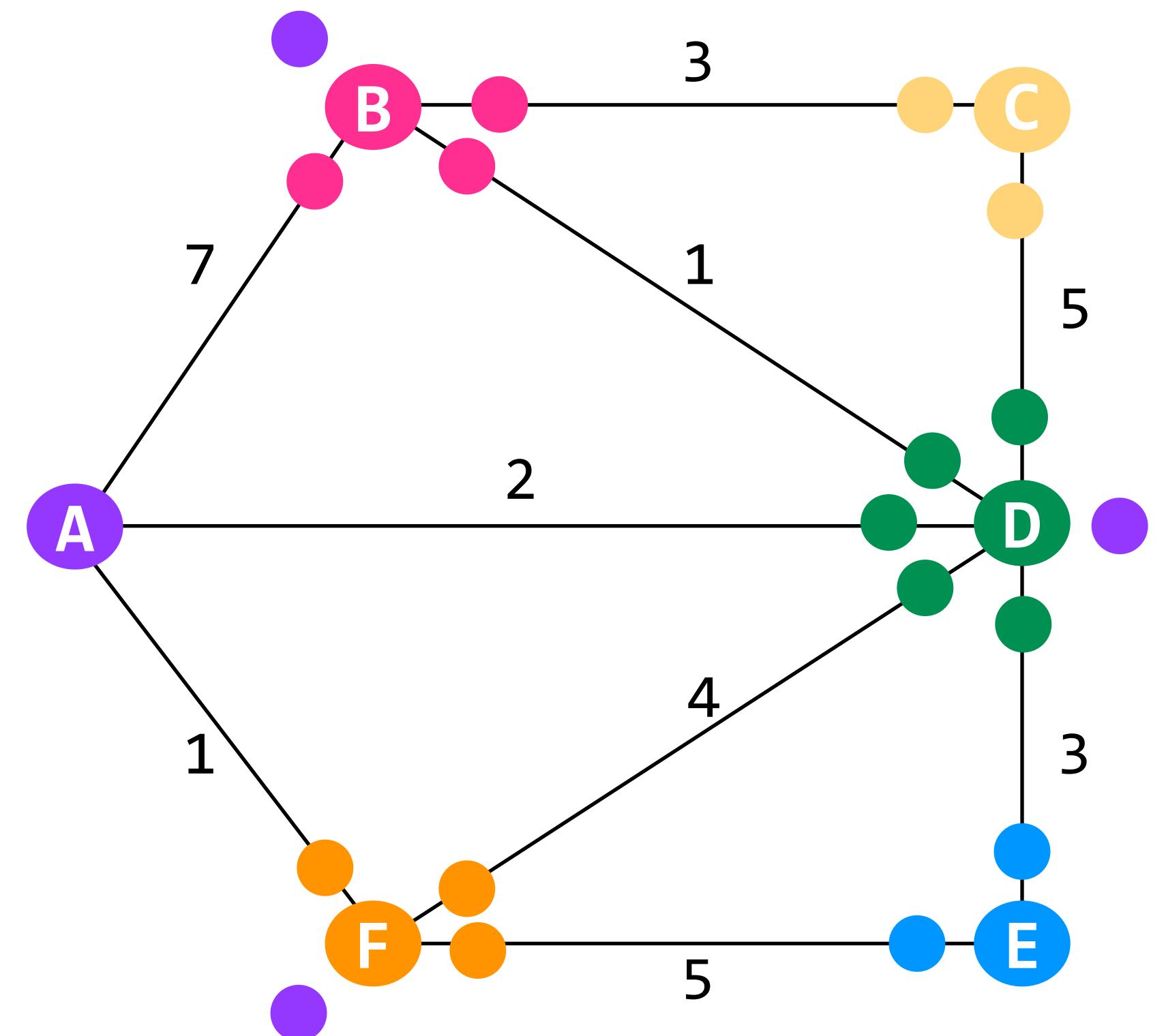
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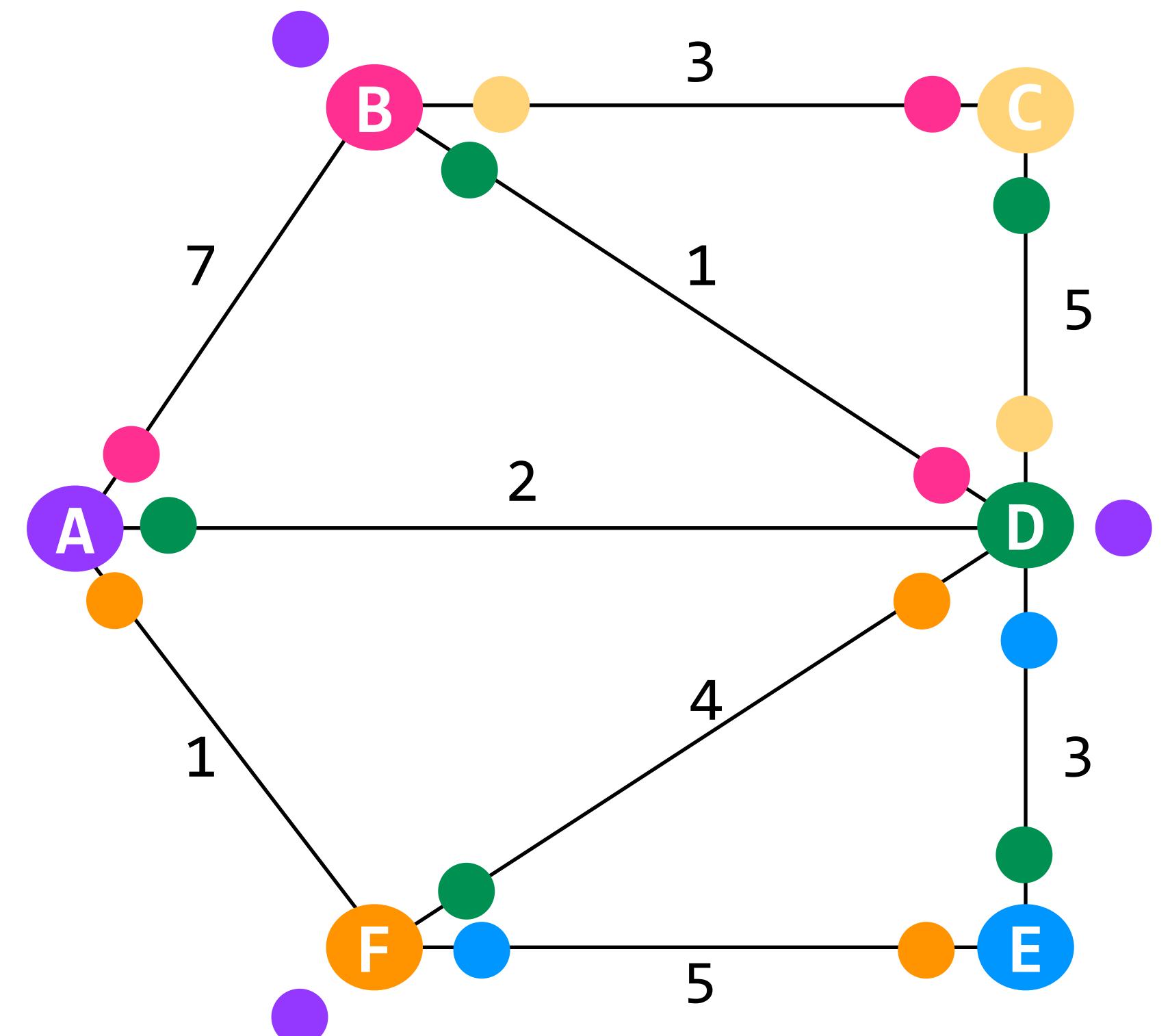
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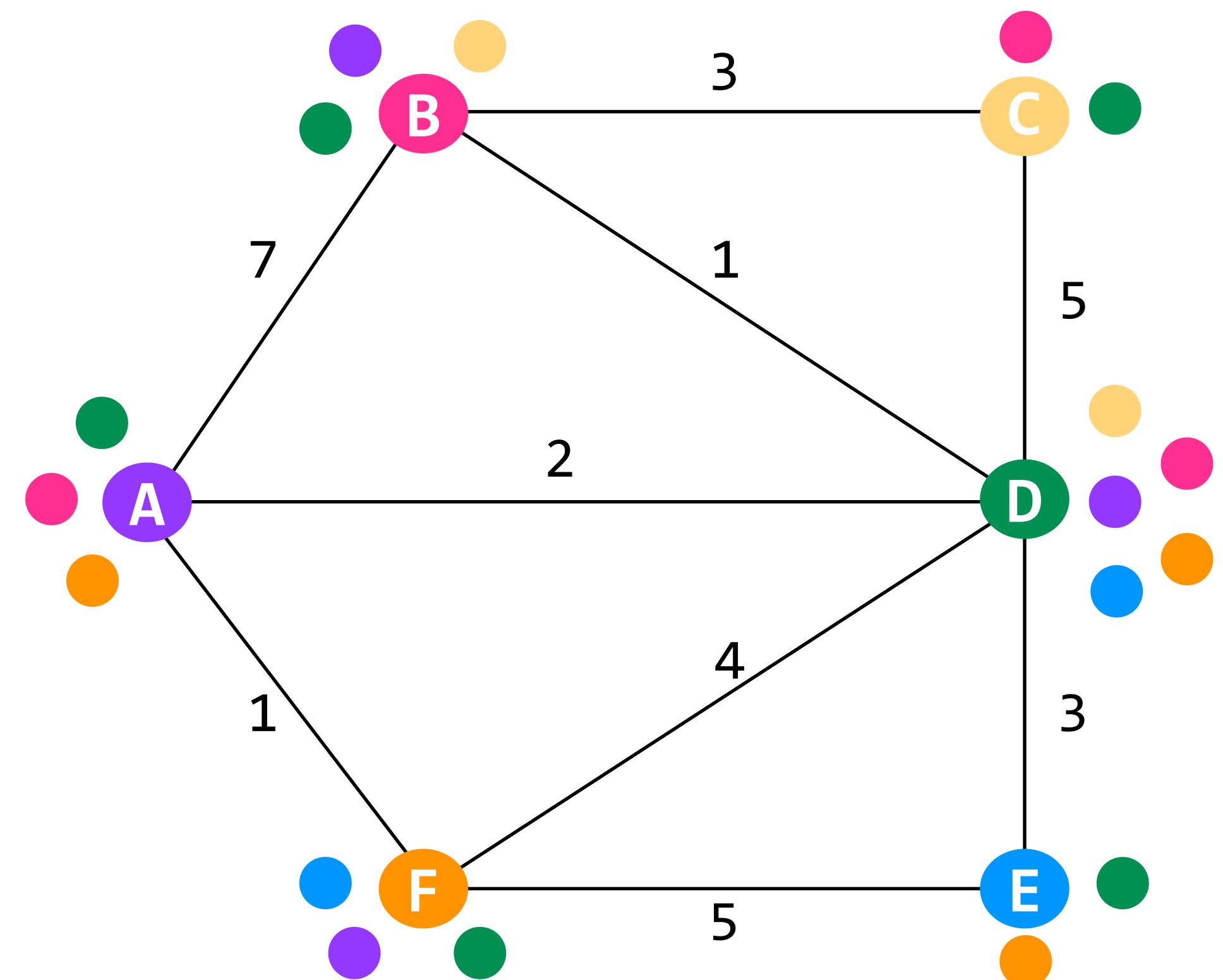
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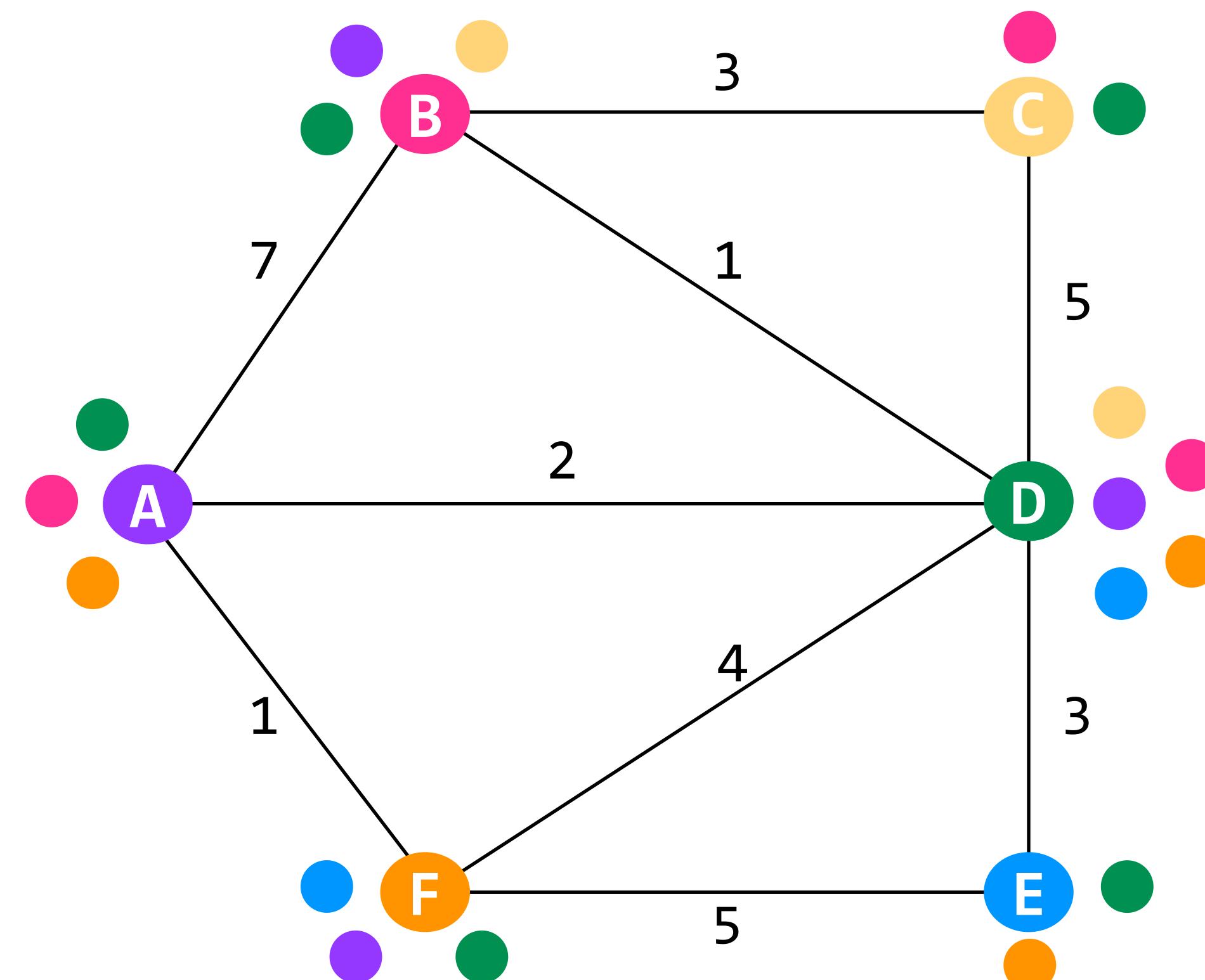
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question: what are the contents of
B's first advertisement?

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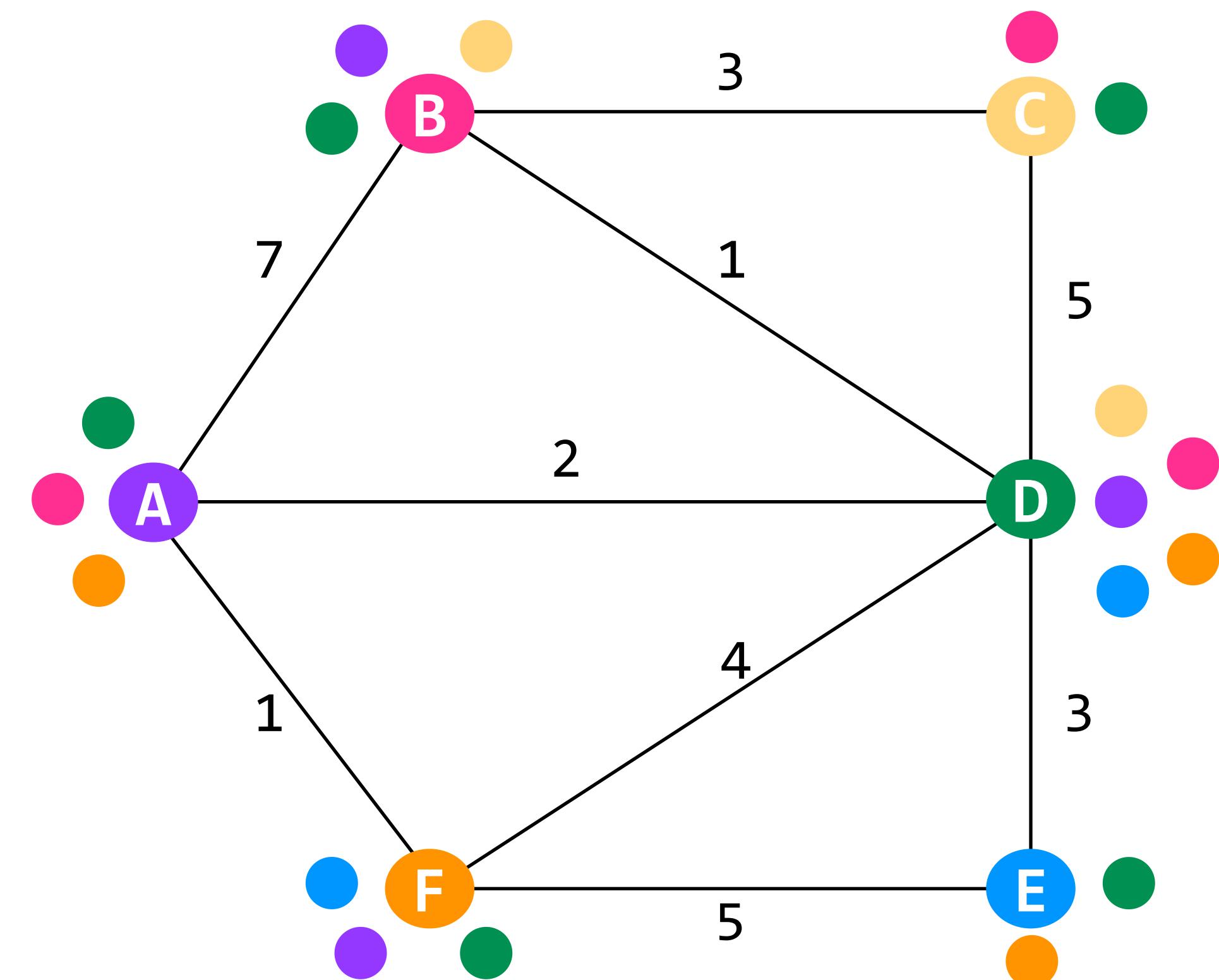
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B's first adv: [(A,7), (C,3), (D,1)]
 D's first adv: [(A,2), (B,1), (C,5), (E,3), (F,4)]
 F's first adv: [(A,1), (D,4), (E,5)]

A receives advertisements
from B, D, and F

link state

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its **link costs** to each of its **neighbors**

who gets a node's advertisement

effectively, **every other node** (via flooding)

distance vector

its **current costs** to **every node** it's aware of

only its **neighbors**

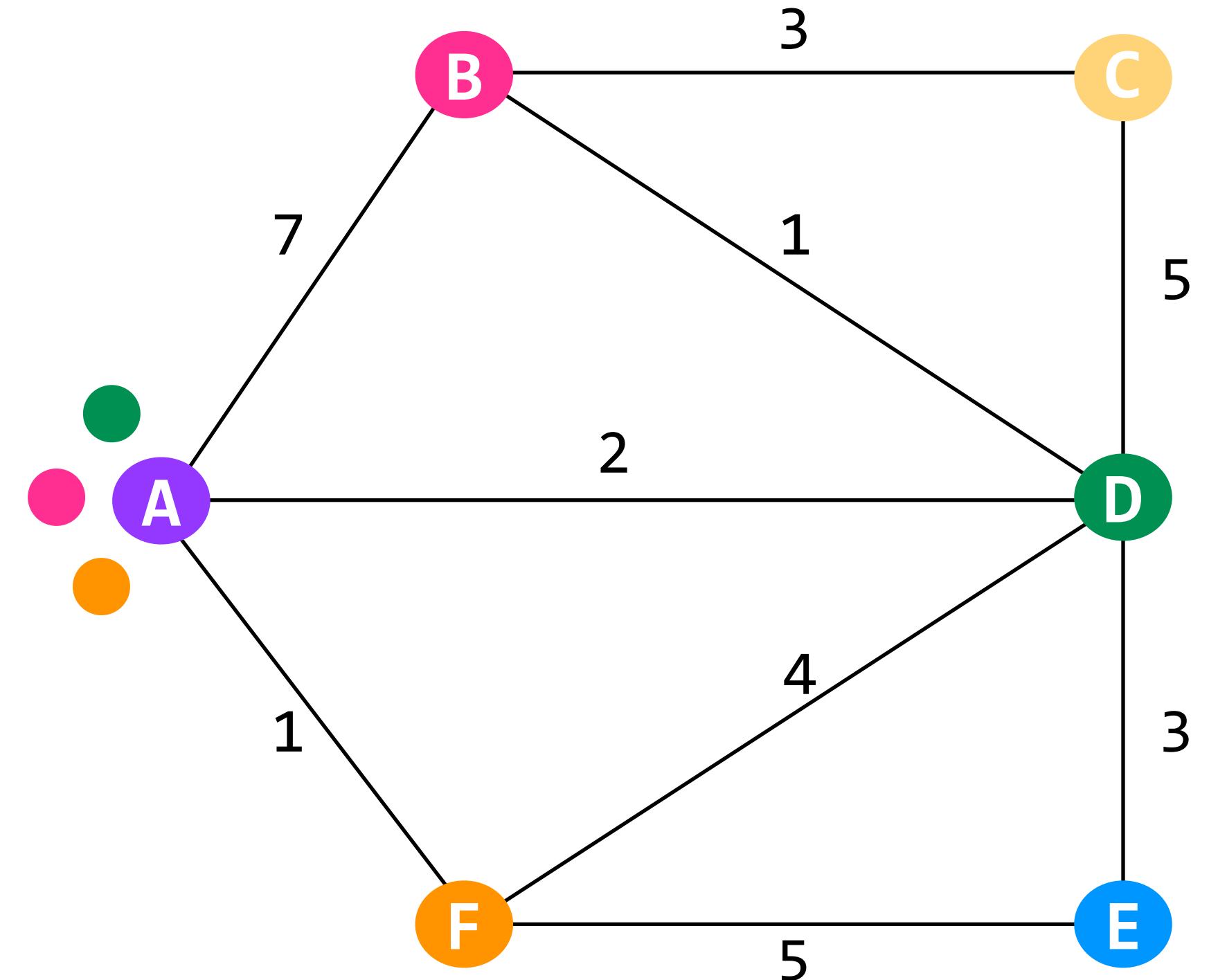
what happens when things fail?

flooding makes link-state routing very resilient to failure

what limits scale?

the **overhead** of flooding

distance-vector routing: disseminate information about the current *min costs* to each node, rather than the actual topology

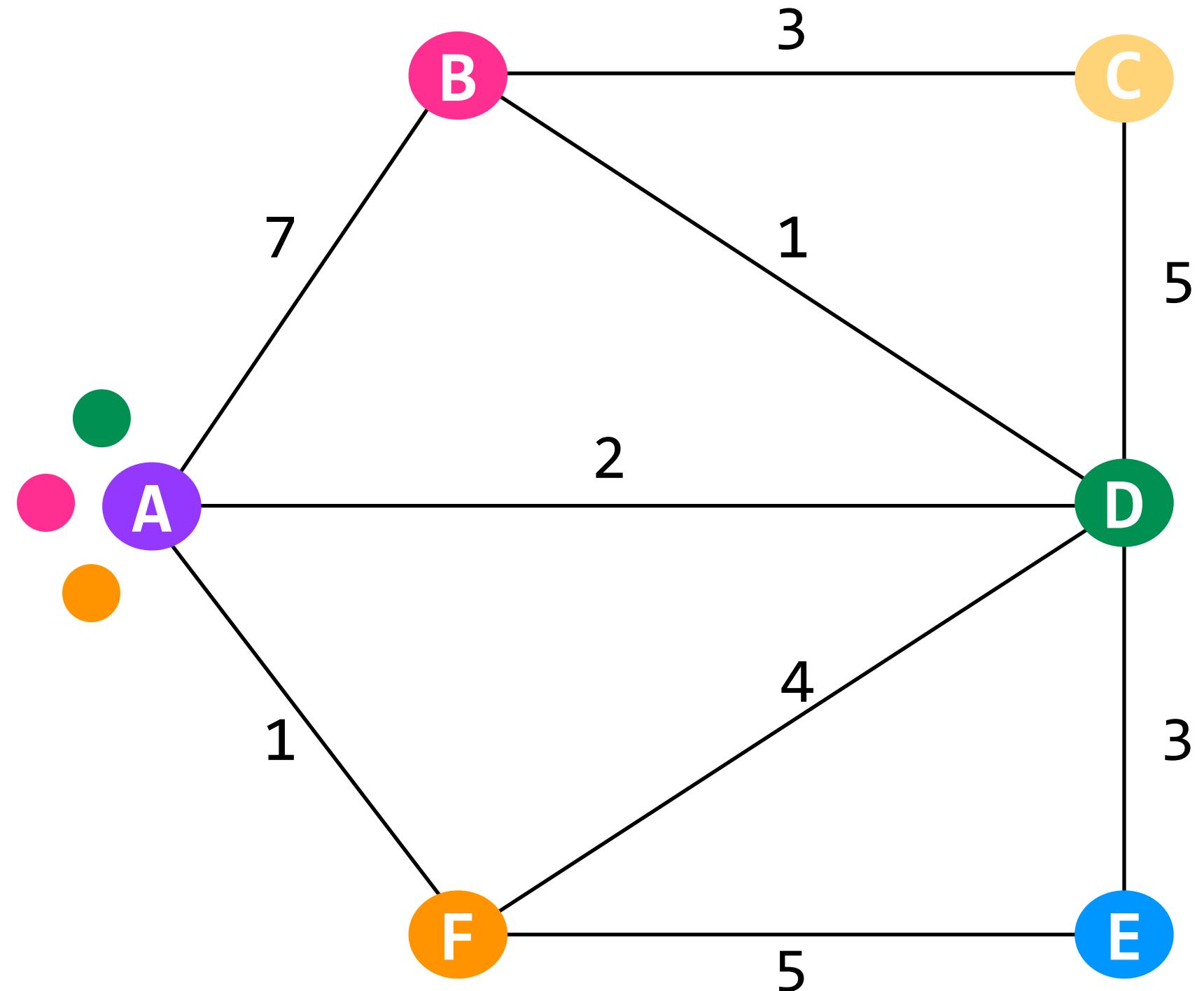


A's routing table		
dst	route	cost
B	A-B	7
D	A-D	2
F	A-F	1

B's first adv: $[(A, 7), (C, 3), (D, 1)]$
 D's first adv: $[(A, 2), (B, 1), (C, 5), (E, 3), (F, 4)]$
 F's first adv: $[(A, 1), (D, 4), (E, 5)]$

link state	distance vector
what's in an advertisement	its current costs to every node it's aware of
its link costs to each of its neighbors	
who gets a node's advertisement	only its neighbors
effectively, every other node (via flooding)	
what happens when things fail?	flooding makes link-state routing very resilient to failure
what limits scale?	the overhead of flooding

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dst	route	cost
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link state

what's in an advertisement

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who gets a node's advertisement

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flooding makes link-state routing very resilient to failure

distance vector

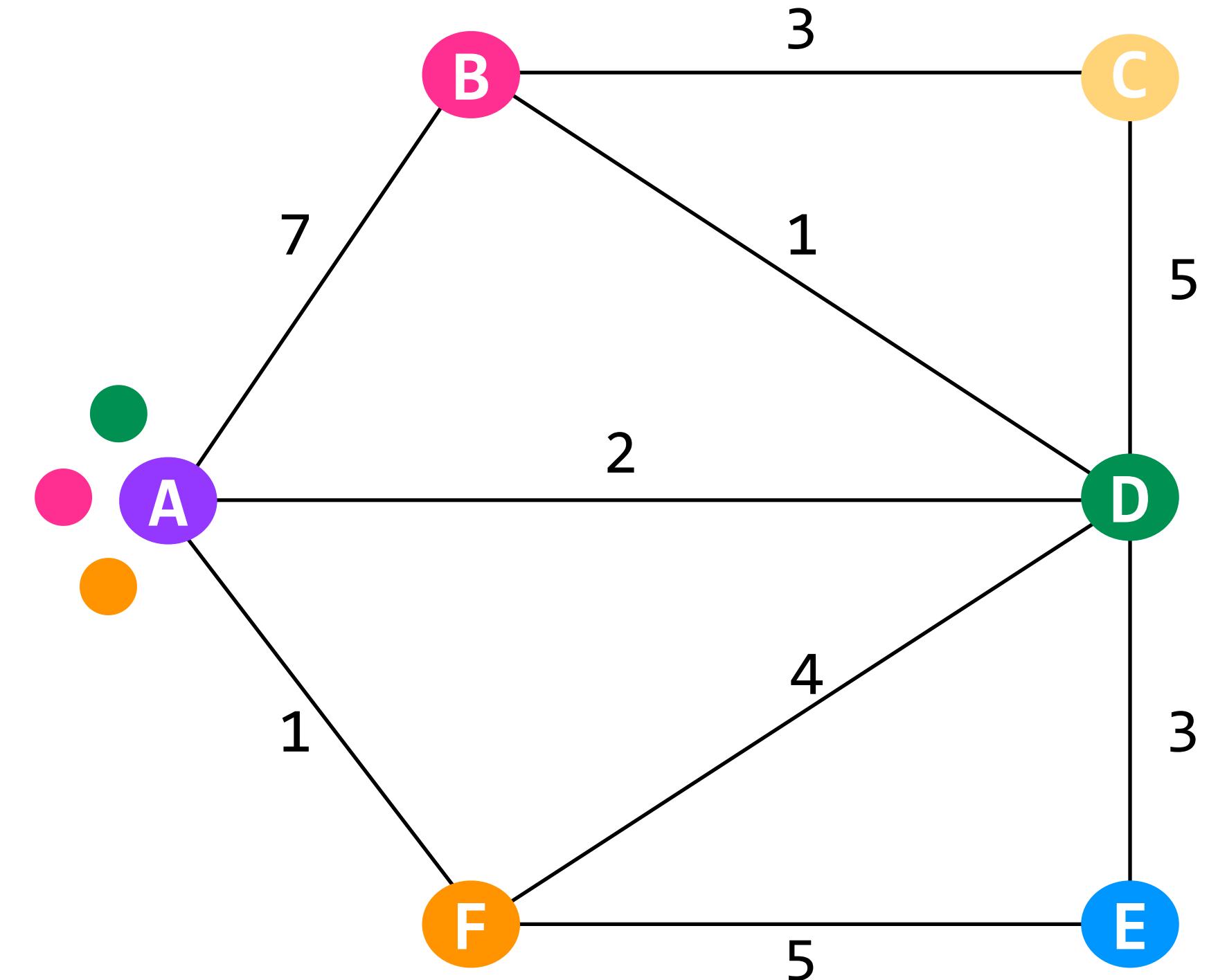
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what limits scale?

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distance-vector routing: disseminate information about the current *min costs* to each node, rather than the actual topology



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link state

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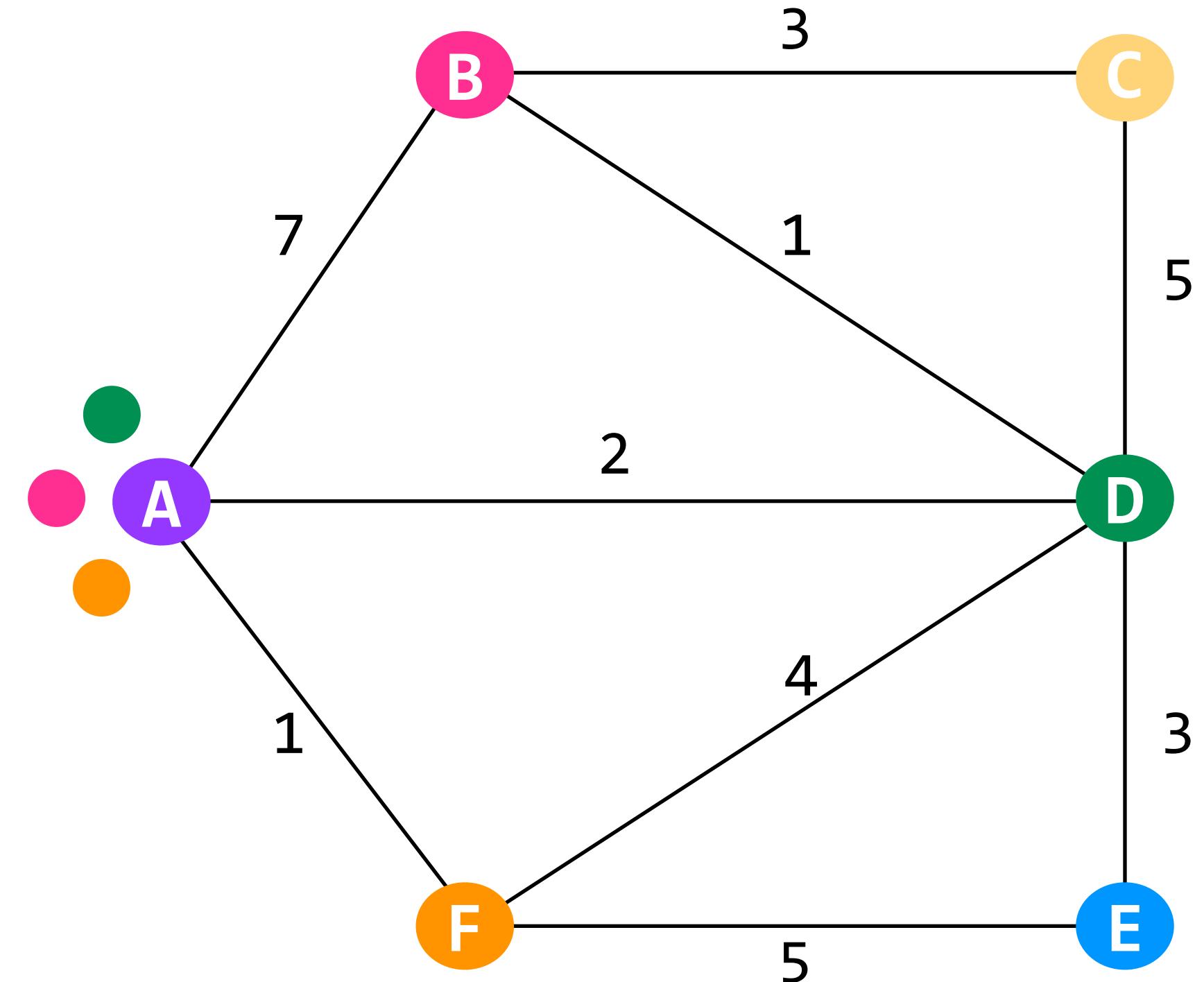
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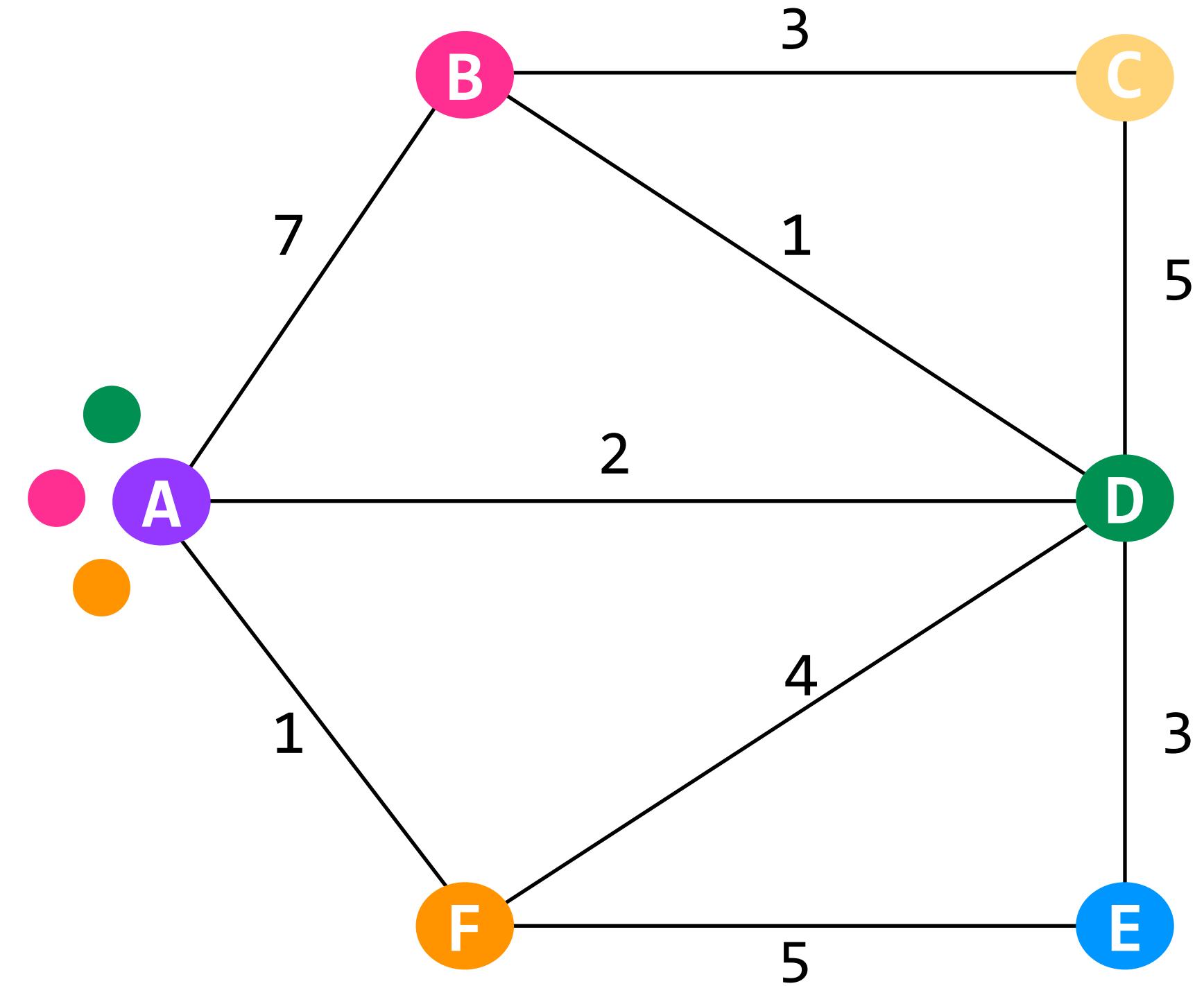
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distance-vector routing: disseminate information about the current *min costs* to each node, rather than the actual topology



A's routing table

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A's cost to B + B's cost to C

link state

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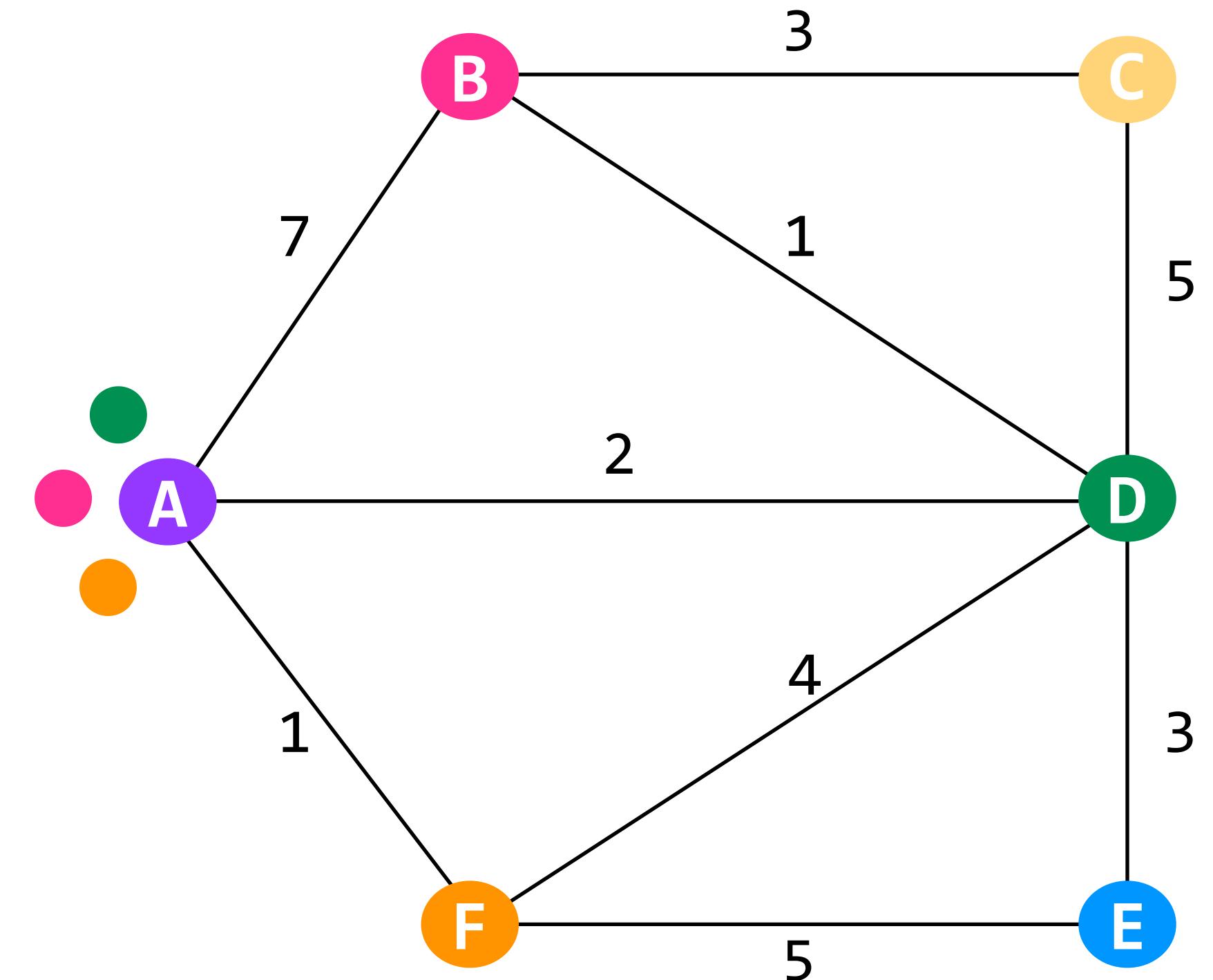
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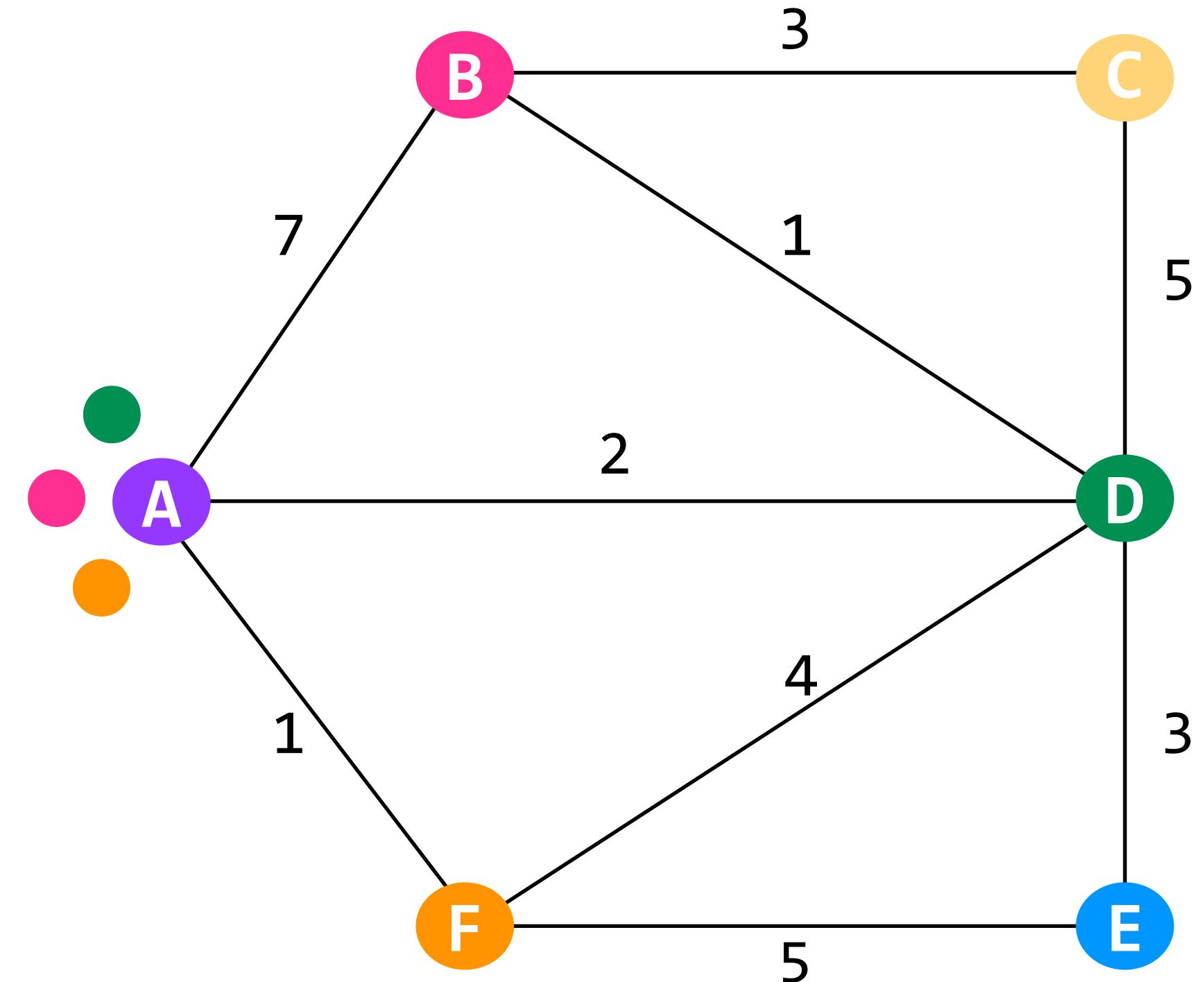
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link state **distance vector**

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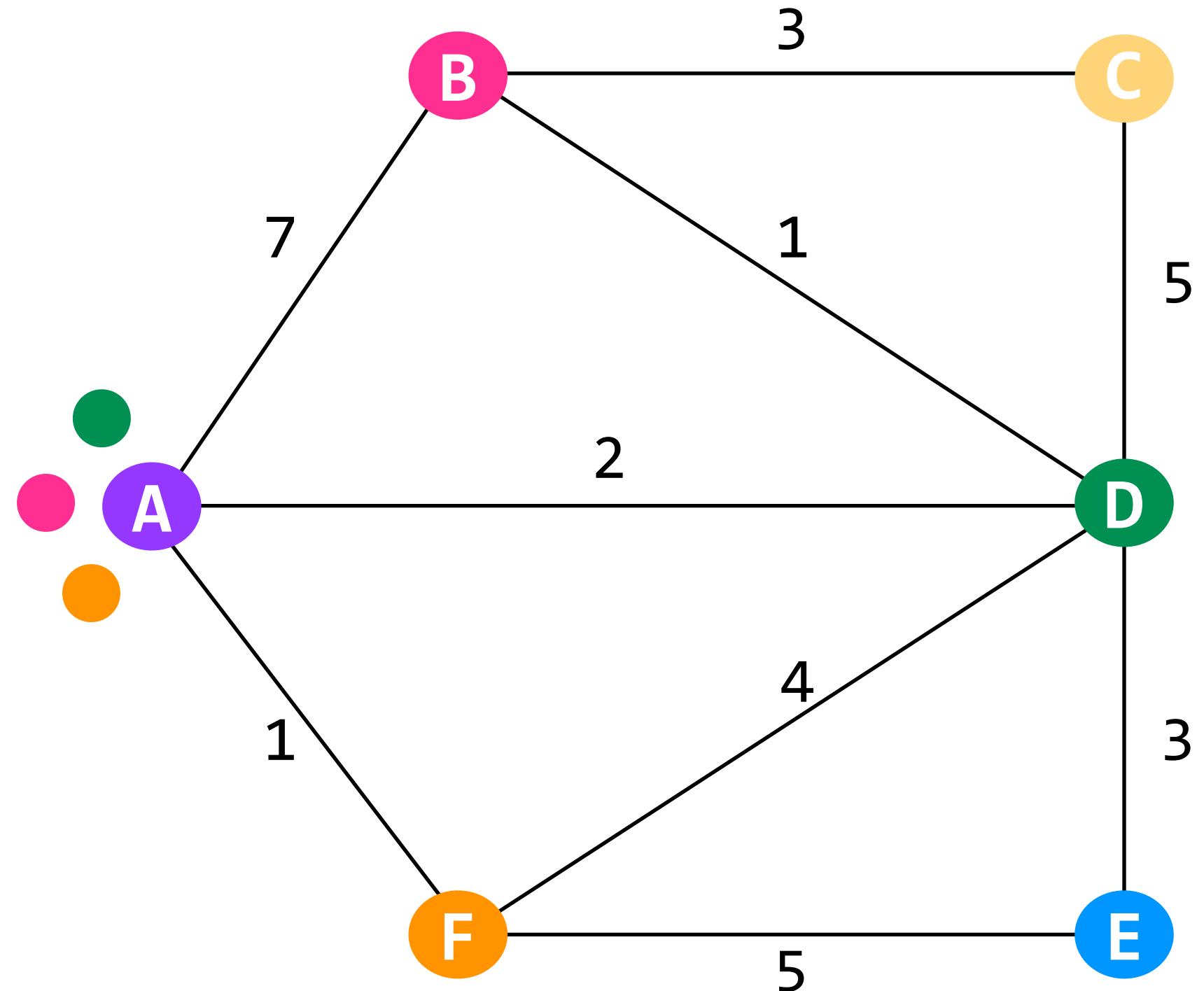
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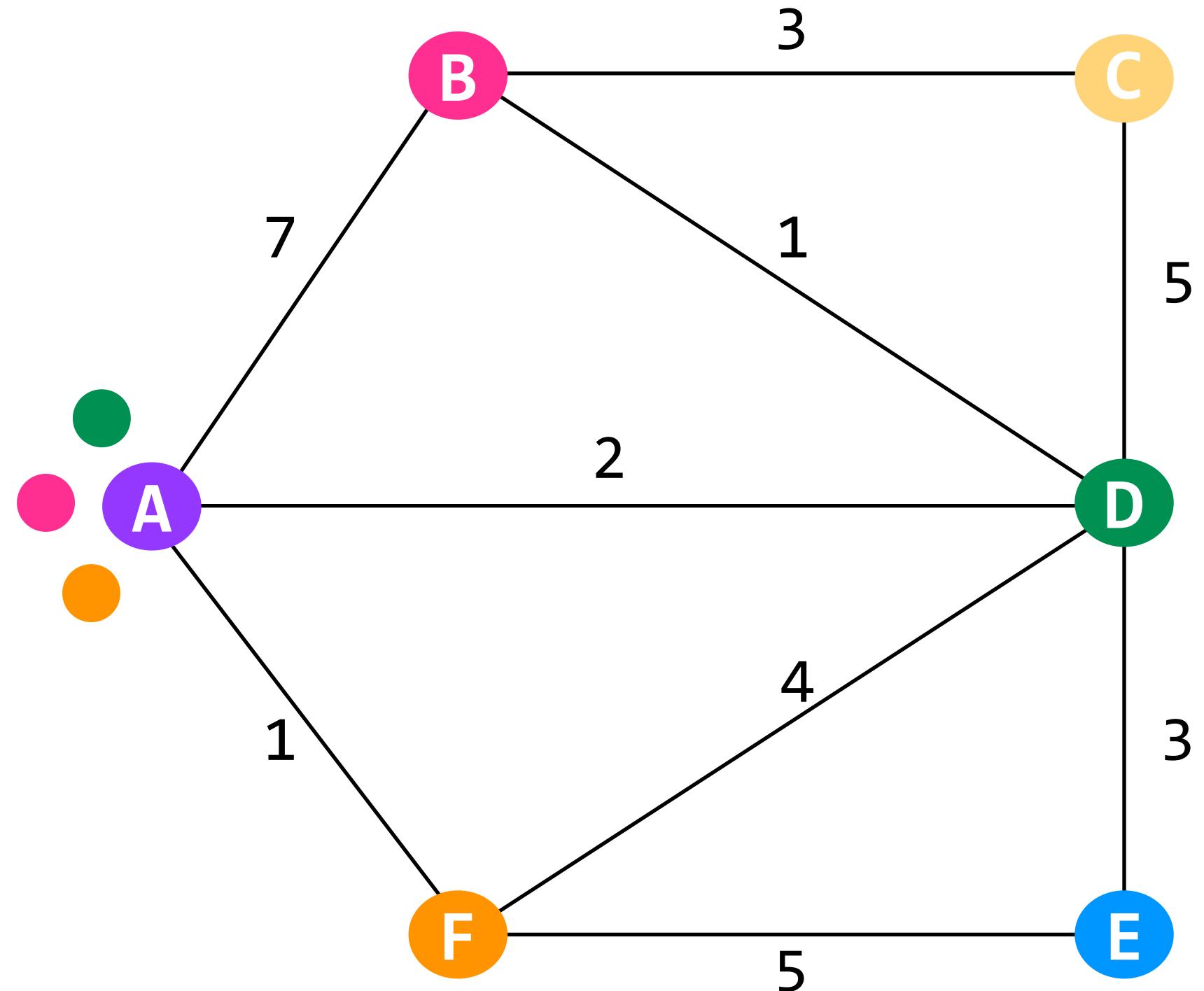


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link state	distance vector
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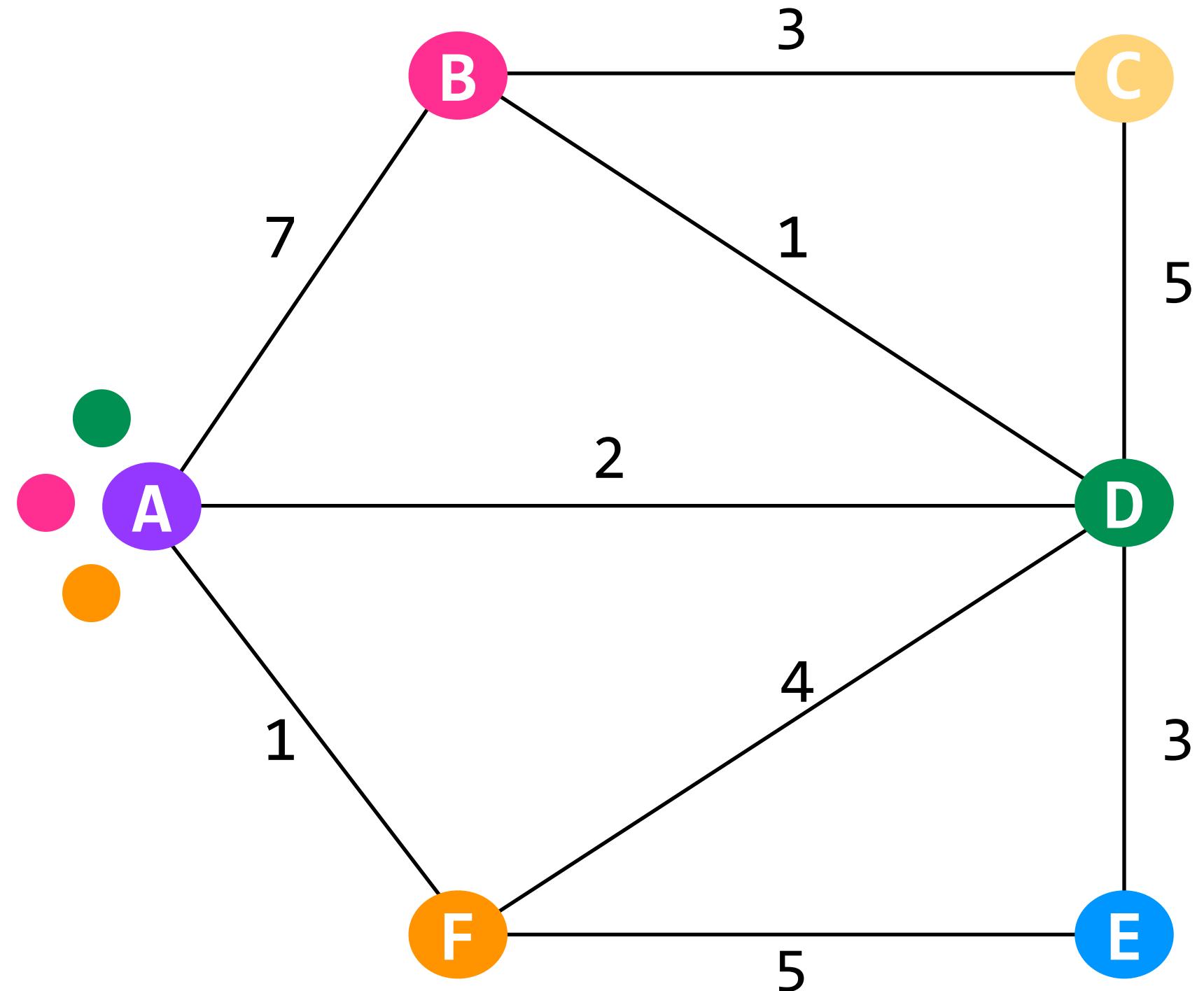
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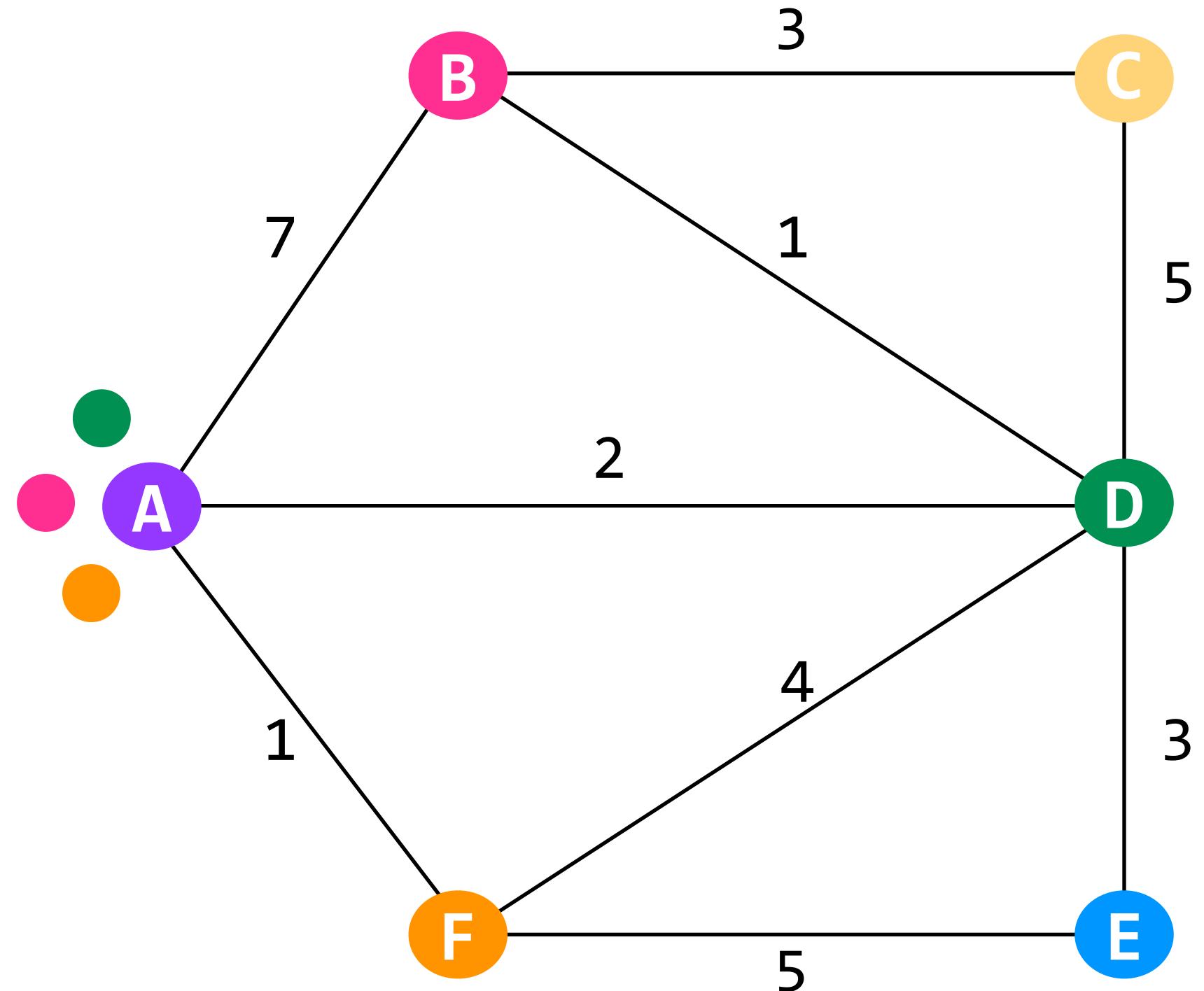
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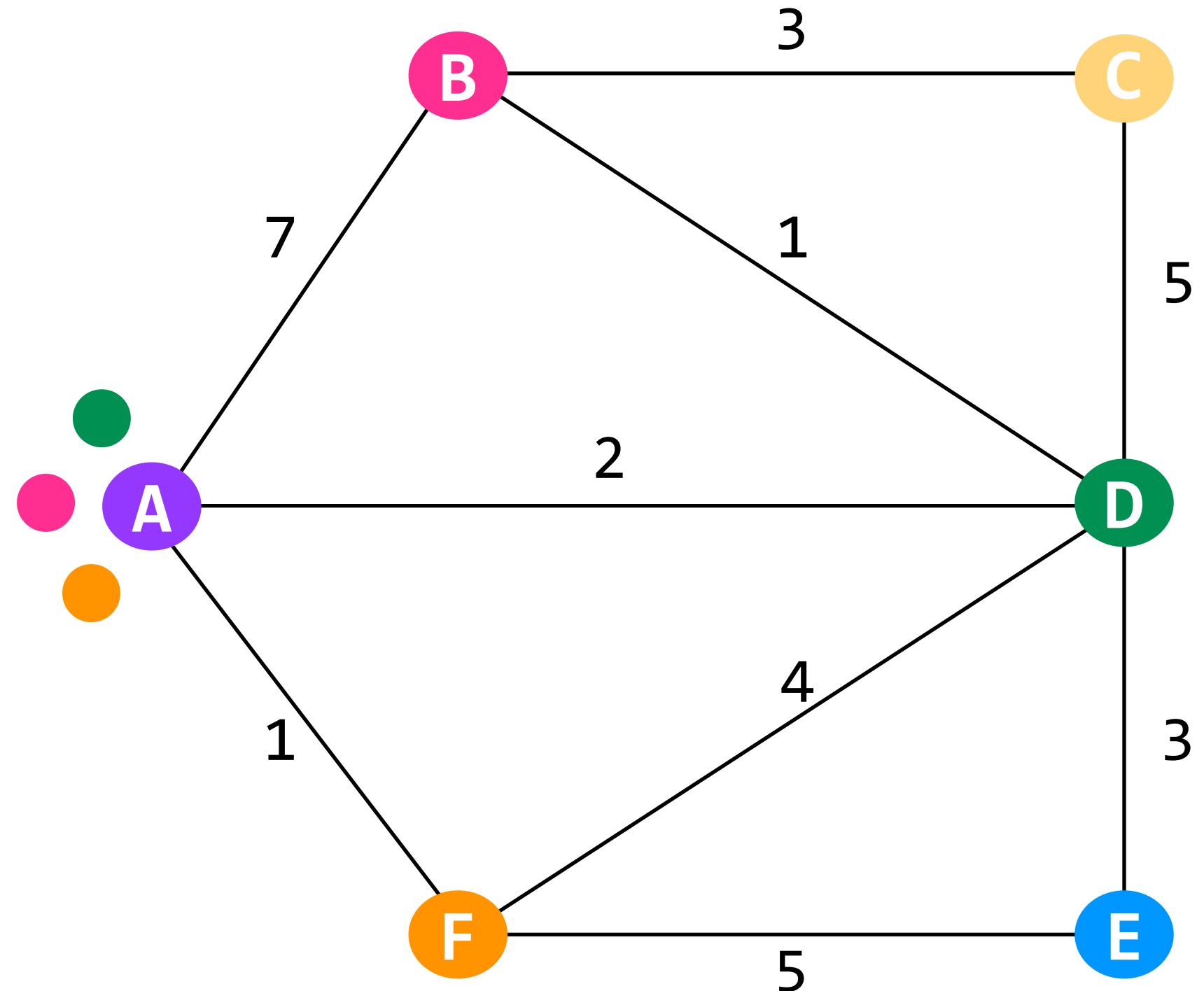
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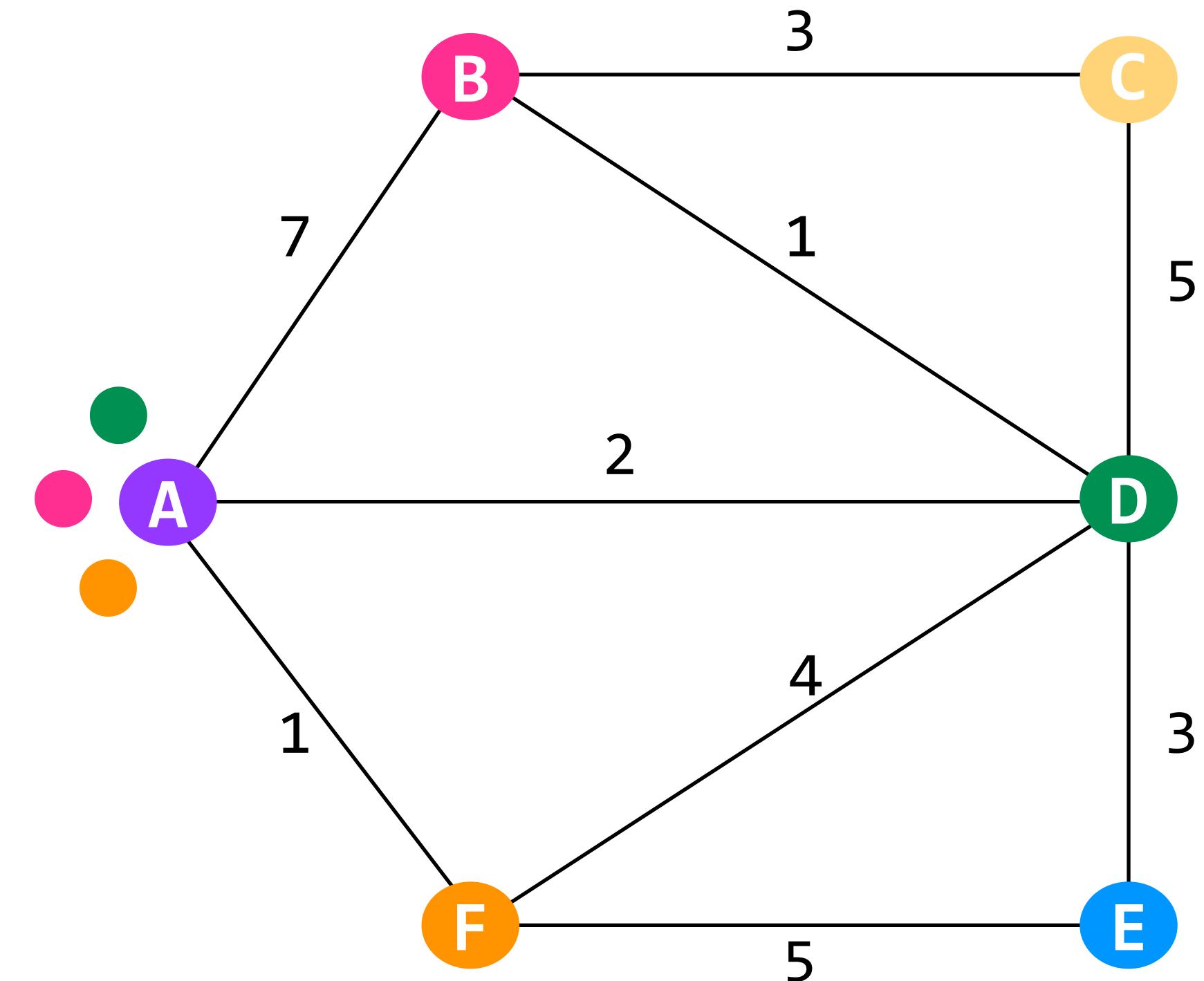
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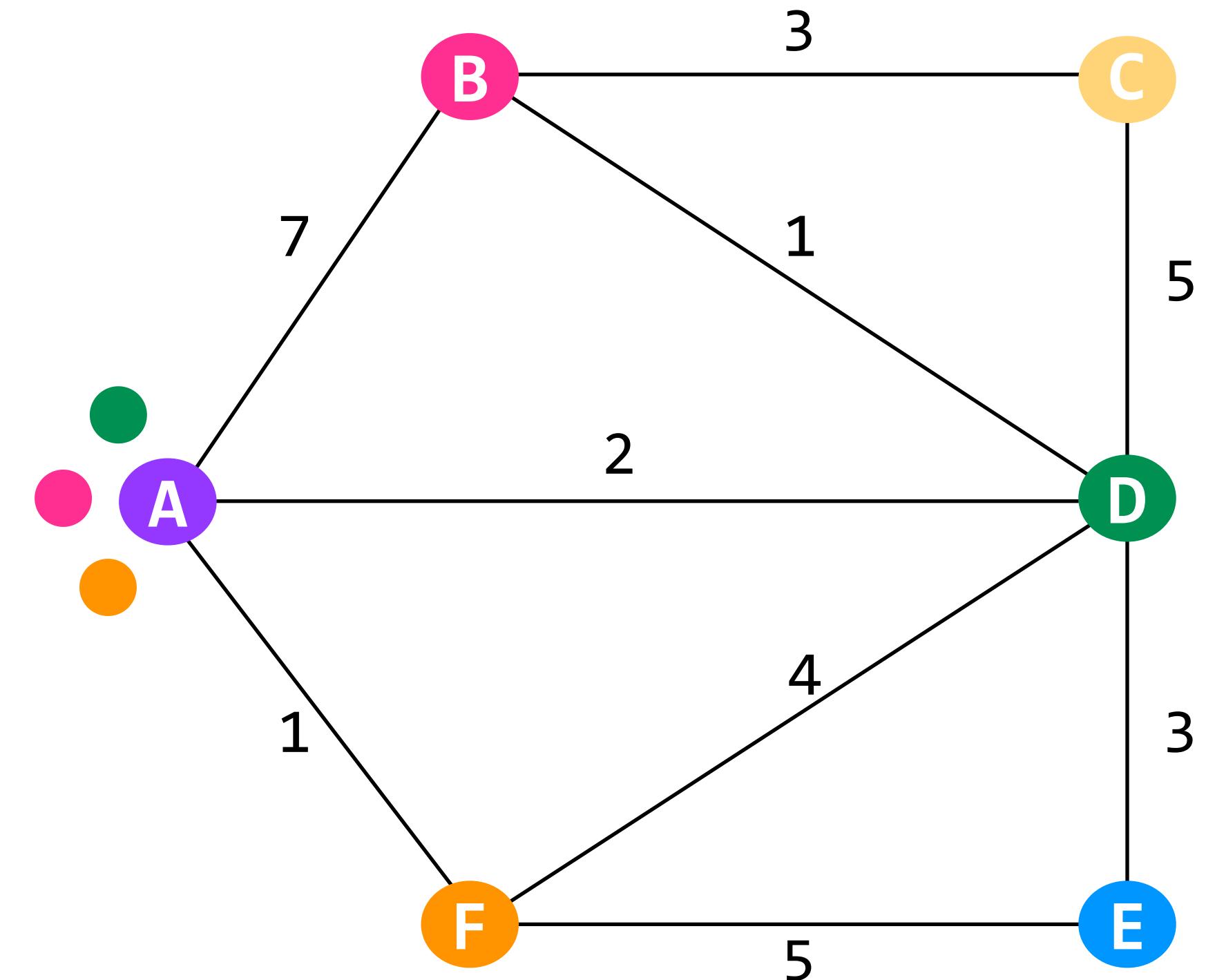
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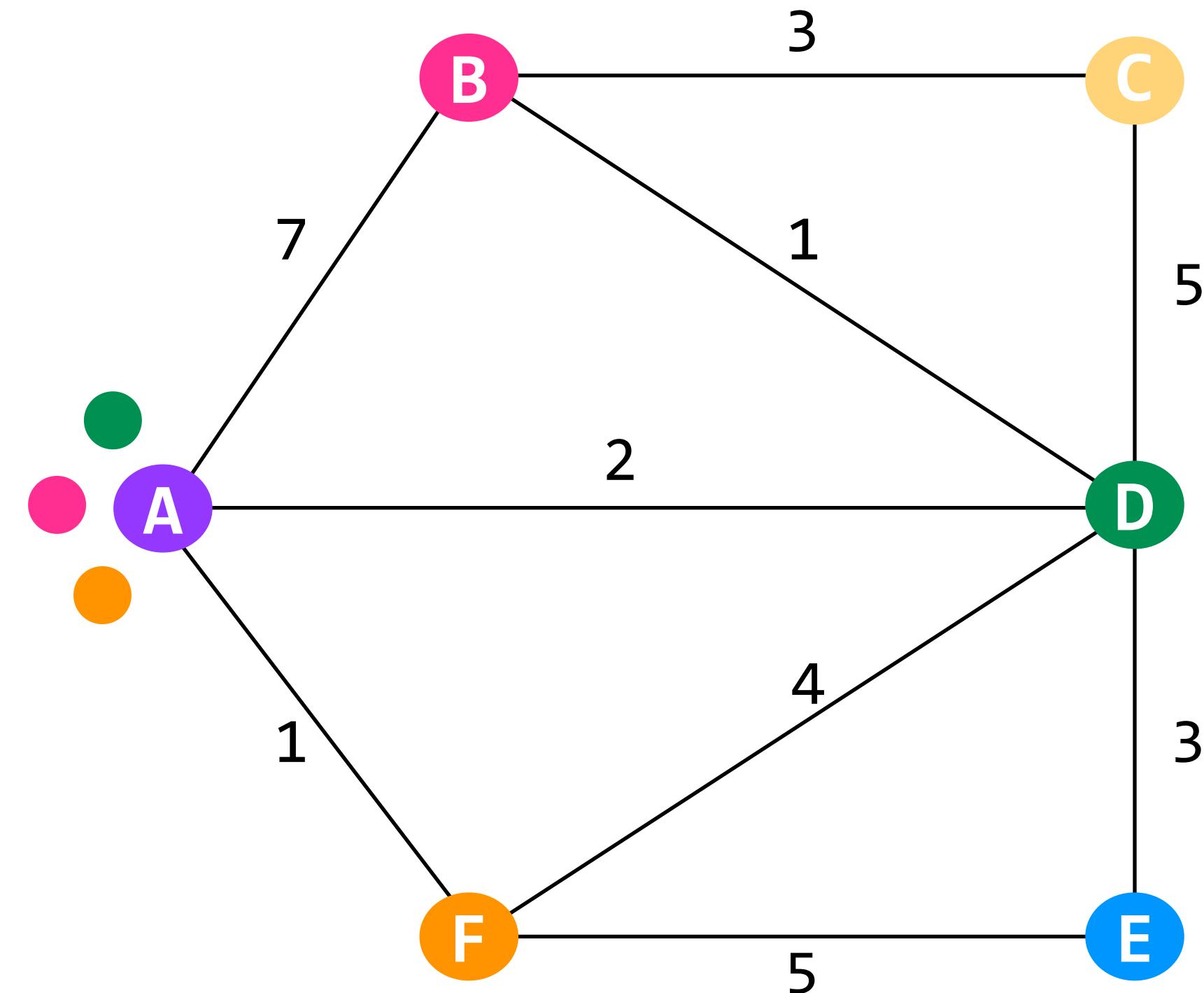
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what limits scale?

the **overhead** of flooding

distance-vector routing: disseminate information about the current *min costs* to each node, rather than the actual topology



A's routing table

dst	route	cost
B	A-D	3
C	A-D	7
D	A-D	2
E	A-D	5
F	A-F	1

D's first adv: [(A,2), (B,1), (C,5), (E,3), (F,4)]

link state **distance vector**

what's in an advertisement

its **link costs** to each of its **neighbors**

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who gets a node's advertisement

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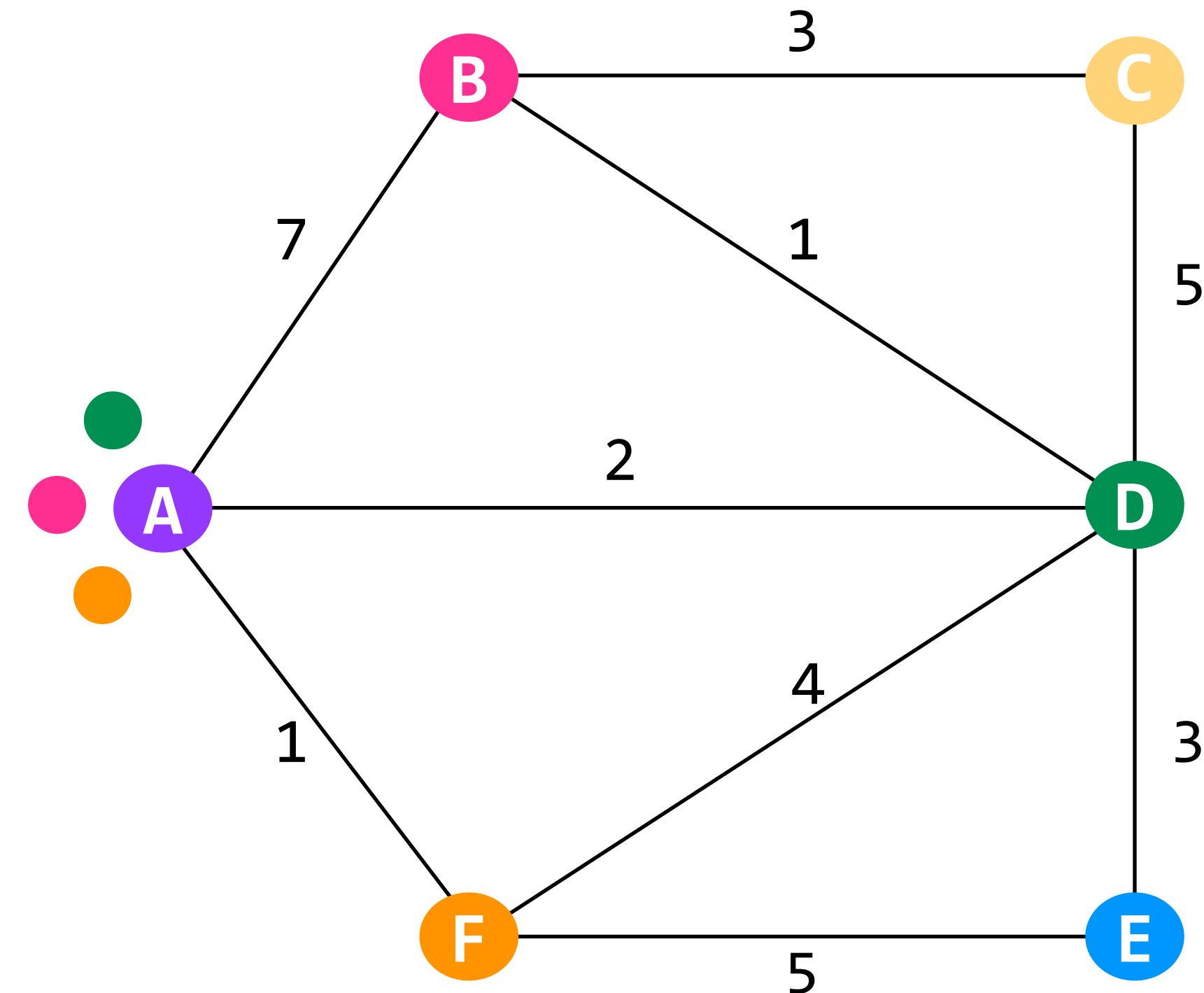
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C	A-D	7
D	A-D	2
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D's first adv: [(A,2), (B,1), (C,5), (E,3), (F,4)]

link state **distance vector**

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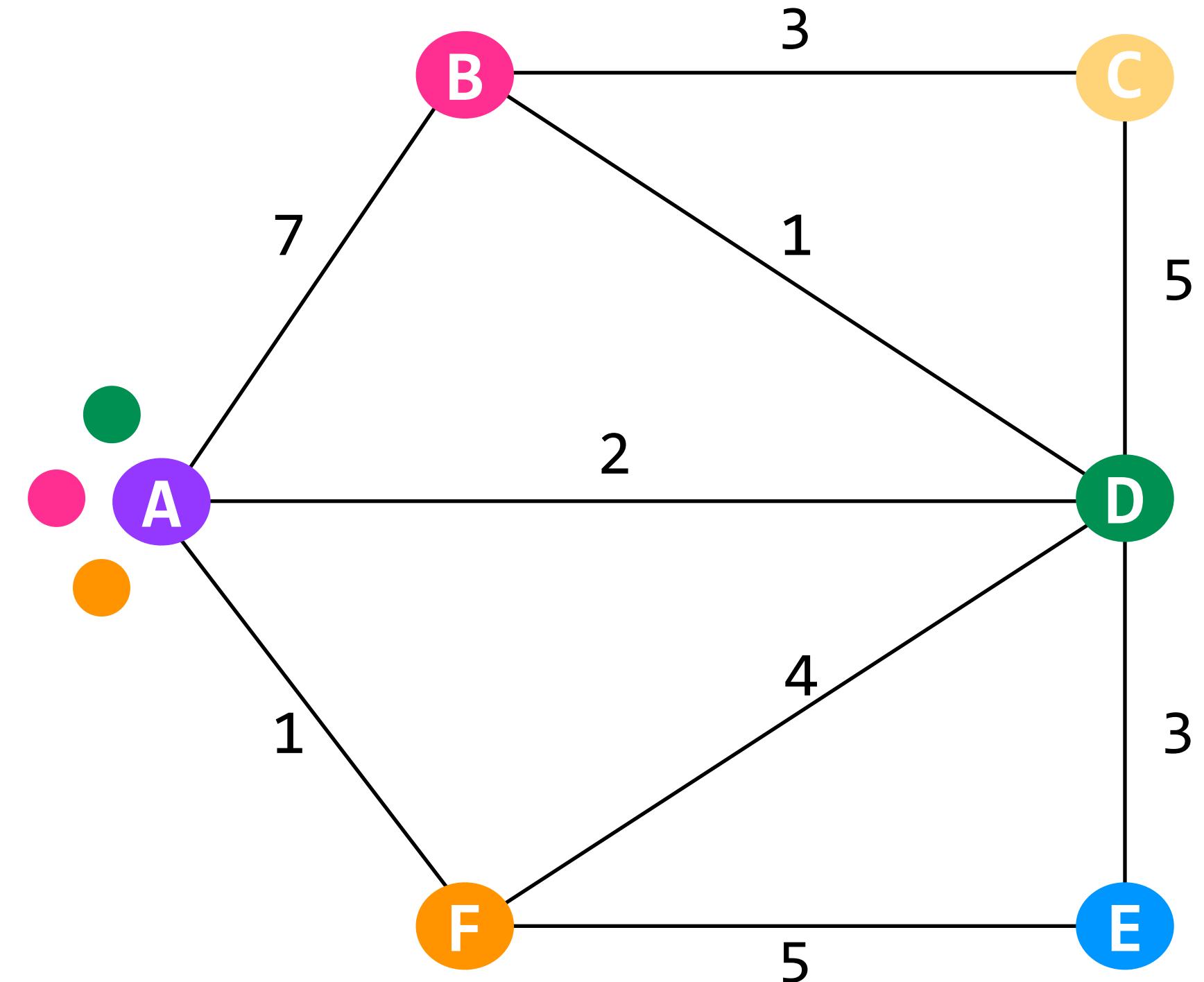
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A's routing table

dst	route	cost	
B	A-D	3	B's first adv: [(A,7), (C,3), (D,1)]
C	A-D	7	D's first adv: [(A,2), (B,1), (C,5), (E,3), (F,4)]
D	A-D	2	F's first adv: [(A,1), (D,4), (E,5)]
E	A-D	5	
F	A-F	1	

link state

what's in an advertisement

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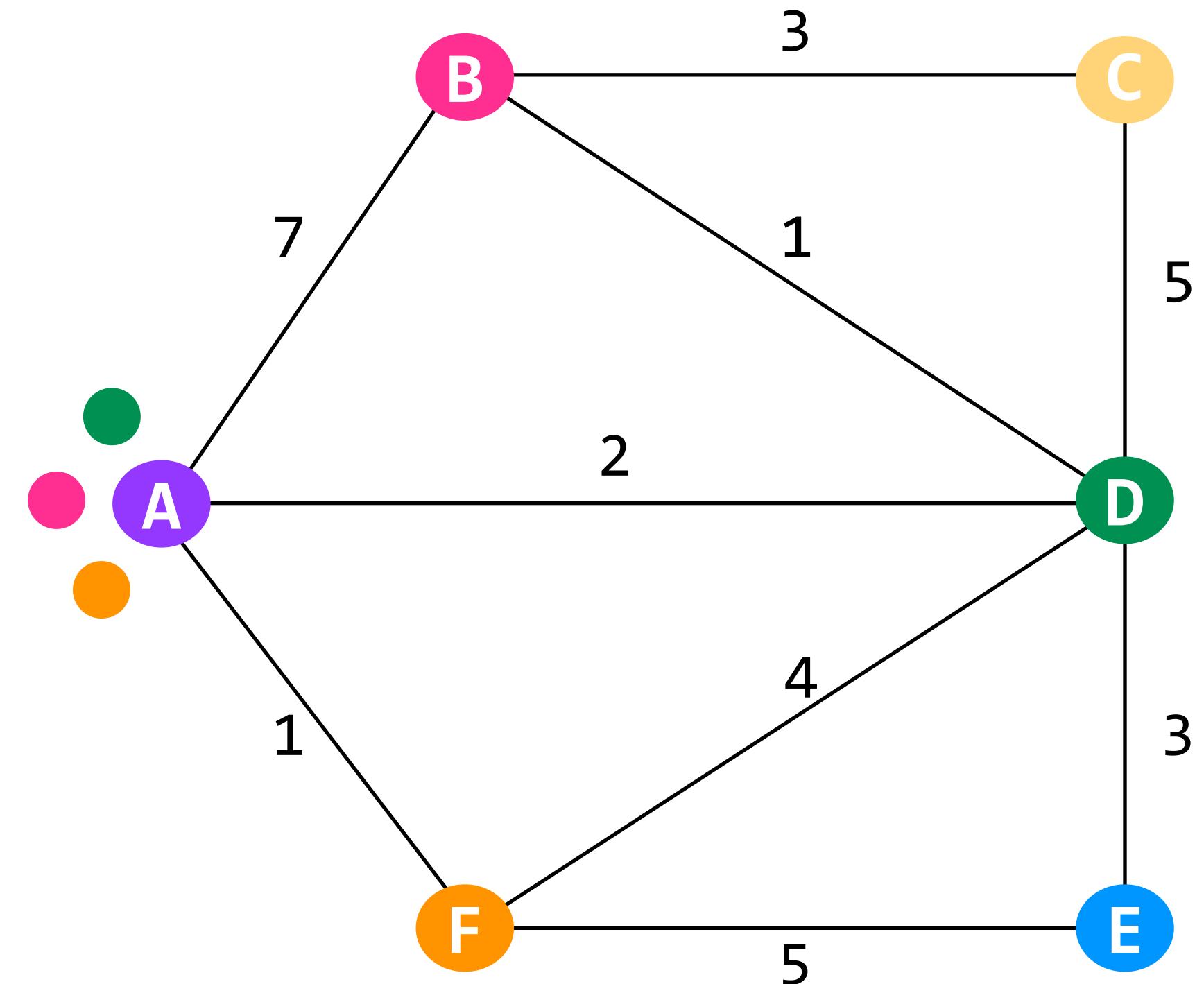
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A's routing table

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B	A-D	3
C	A-D	7
D	A-D	2
E	A-D	5
F	A-F	1

F's first adv: [(A,1), (D,4), (E,5)]

link state

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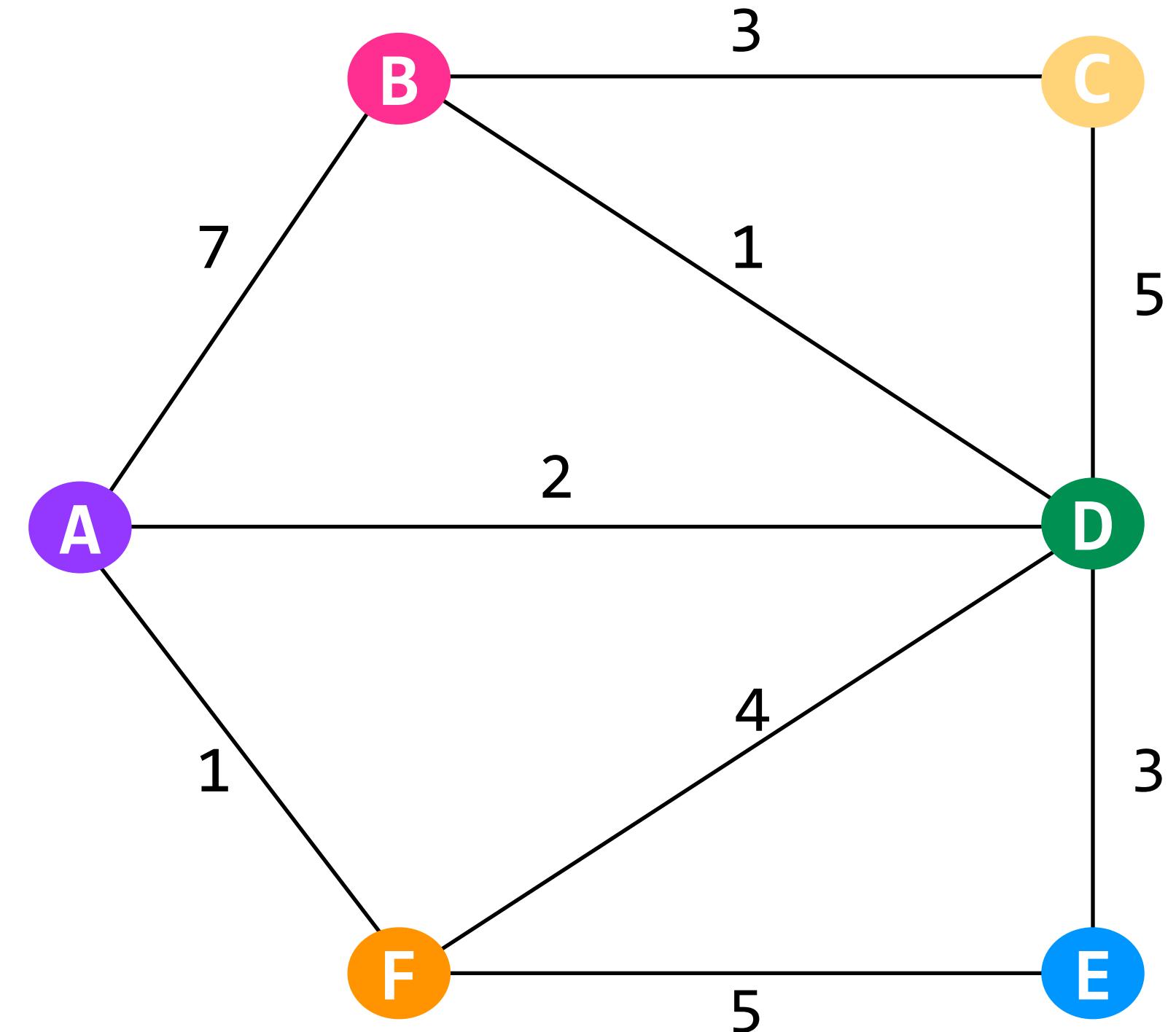
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A's routing table

dst	route	cost
B	A-D	3
C	A-D	7
D	A-D	2
E	A-D	5
F	A-F	1

this is A's routing table after one round of advertisements; note that it does not have knowledge of the min-cost path to C yet

link state

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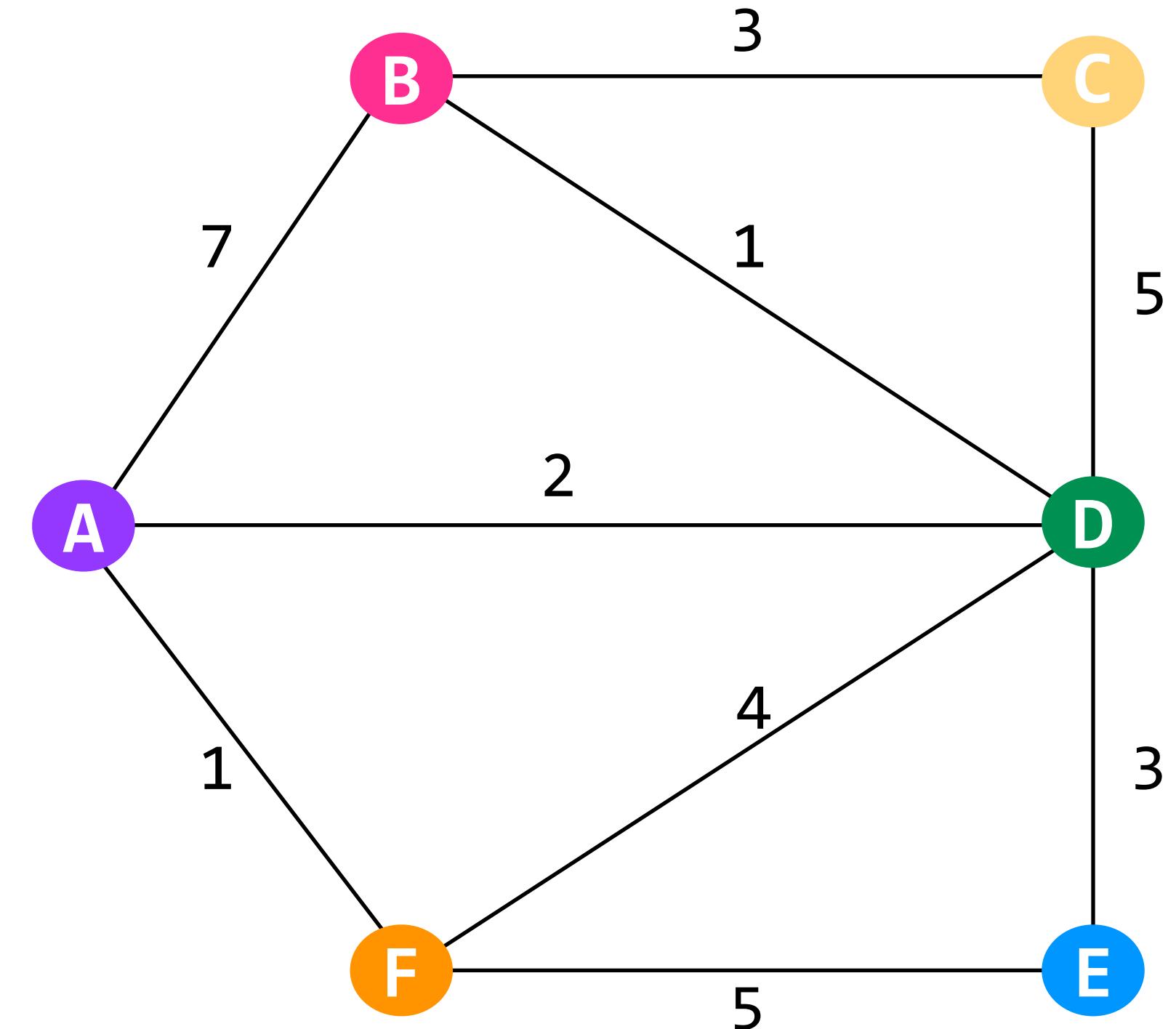
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distance-vector routing: disseminate information about the current *min costs* to each node, rather than the actual topology



A's routing table

dst	route	cost
B	A-D	3
C	A-D	7
D	A-D	2
E	A-D	5
F	A-F	1

question: what does A's *next advertisement* look like?

link state

what's in an advertisement

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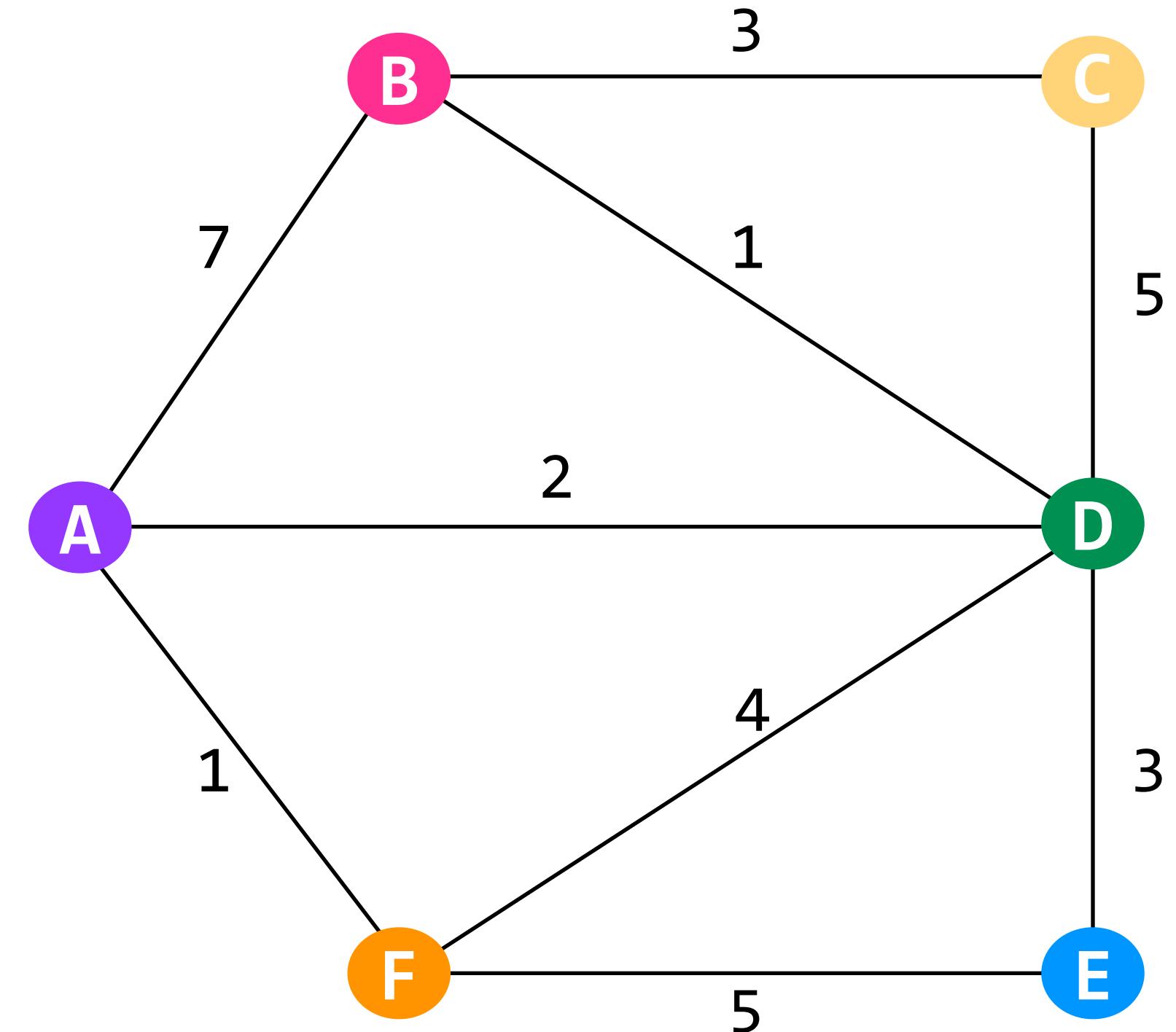
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A's routing table

dst	route	cost
B	A-D	3
C	A-D	7
D	A-D	2
E	A-D	5
F	A-F	1

A's second adv:
[(B,3), (C,7), (D,2), (E,5), (F,1)]

link state

what's in an advertisement

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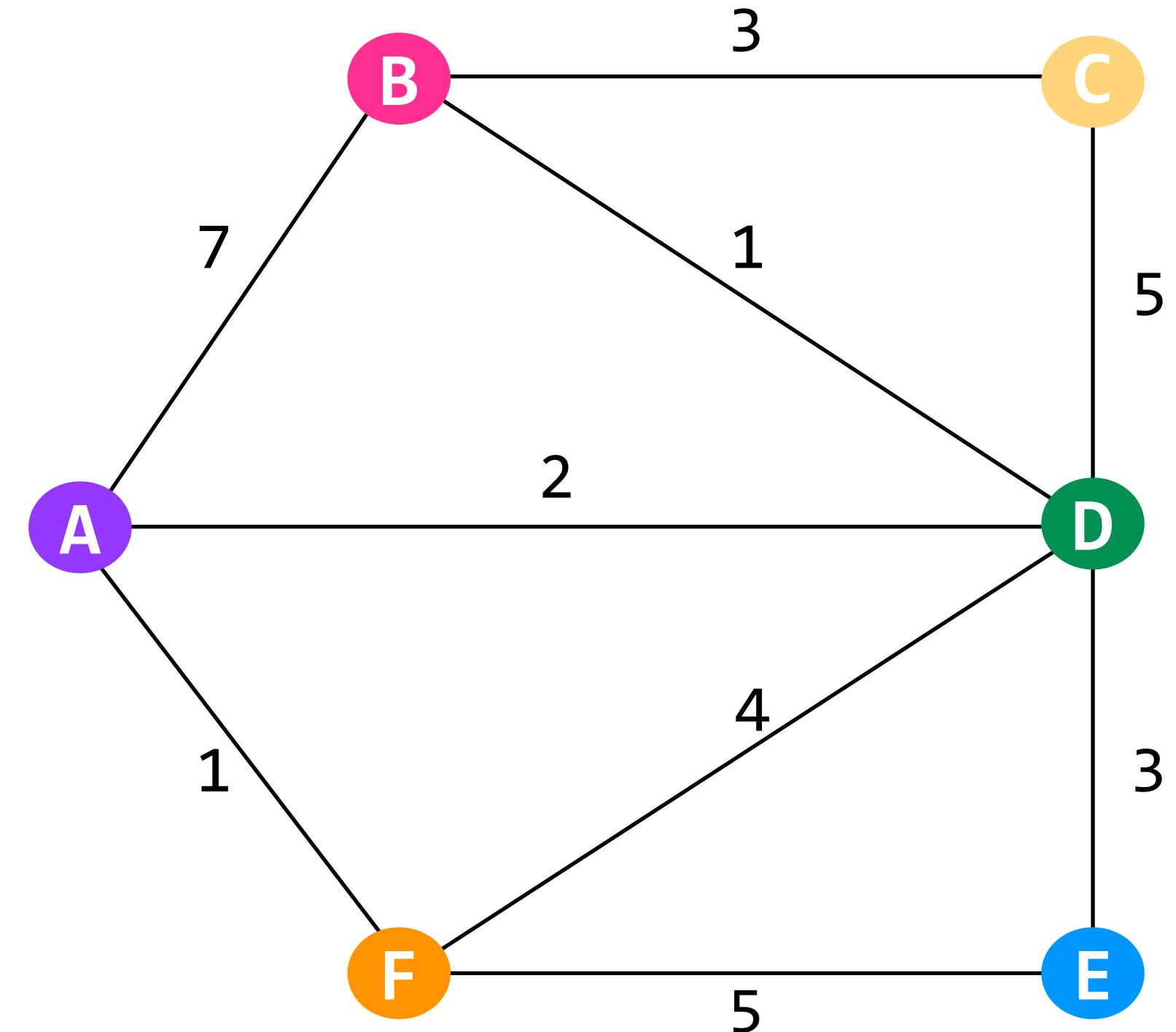
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A's second adv:
[(B,3), (C,7), (D,2), (E,5), (F,1)]

A will learn about the correct min-cost path to C in the next round of advertisements; try that out for yourself!

link state

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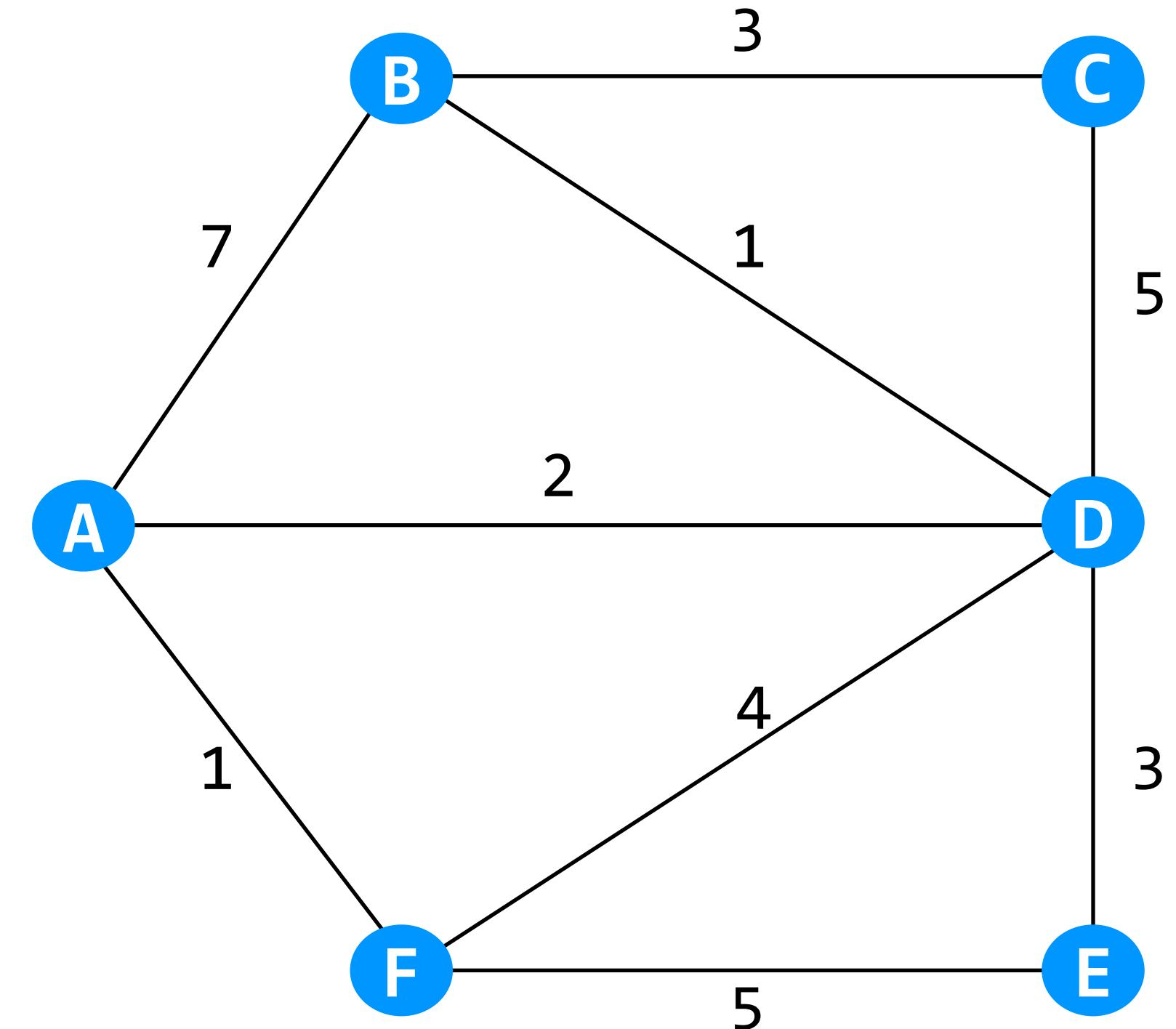
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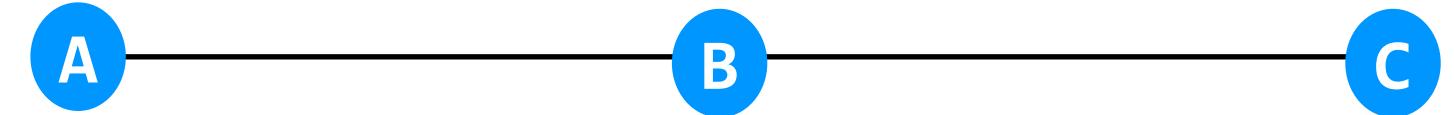
only its **neighbors**

what limits scale?

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distance-vector routing: disseminate information about the current *min costs* to each node, rather than the actual topology

A sends advertisements at $t=0, 10, 20, \dots$; B sends advertisements at $t=5, 15, 25, \dots$
every link has cost 1



A: Self, 0 A: B->A, 1
B: A->B, 1 B: Self, 0
C: A->B, 2 C: B->C, 1

link state

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failures can be complicated because of timing

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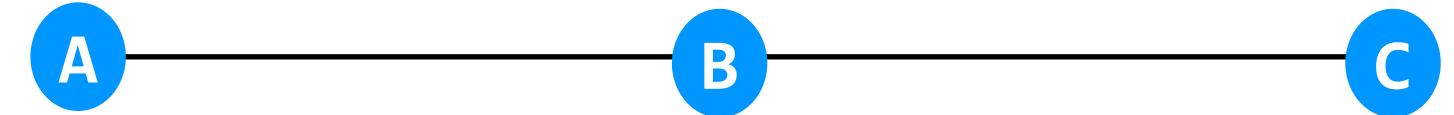
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$t=9$: B<->C fails

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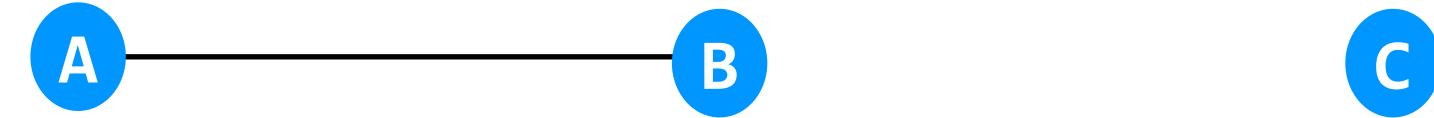
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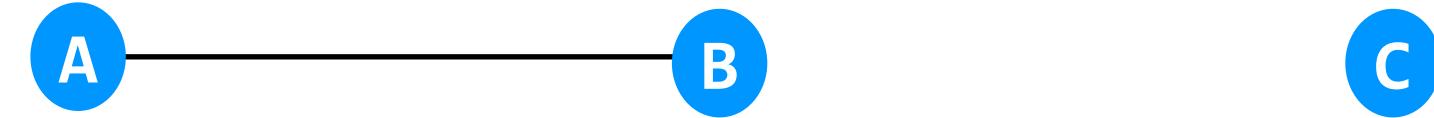
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$t=9$: B<->C fails

$t=10$: B receives the following
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[(A,0),(B,1),**(C,2)**]

link state

what's in an advertisement

its **link costs** to each of
its **neighbors**

who gets a node's advertisement

effectively, **every other
node** (via flooding)

what happens when things fail?

flooding makes link-
state routing very
resilient to failure

failures can be
complicated
because of timing

what limits scale?

the **overhead** of
flooding

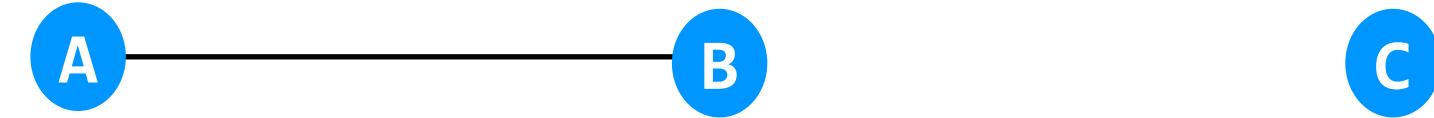
distance vector

its **current costs** to
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only its **neighbors**

distance-vector routing: disseminate information about the current *min costs* to each node, rather than the actual topology

A sends advertisements at $t=0, 10, 20, \dots$; B sends advertisements at $t=5, 15, 25, \dots$
every link has cost 1



A: Self, 0 A: B->A, 1
B: A->B, 1 B: Self, 0
C: A->B, 2 **C: None, inf**

A: Self, 0 A: B->A, 1
B: A->B, 1 B: Self, 0
C: A->B, 2 **C: B->A, 3** (2+1)

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$t=15$: A receives the following advertisement from B:
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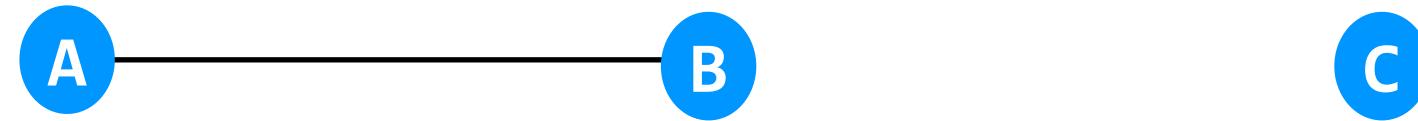
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A: Self, 0 A: B->A, 1
B: A->B, 1 B: Self, 0
C: A->B, 4 C: B->A, 3

$t=9$: B<->C fails

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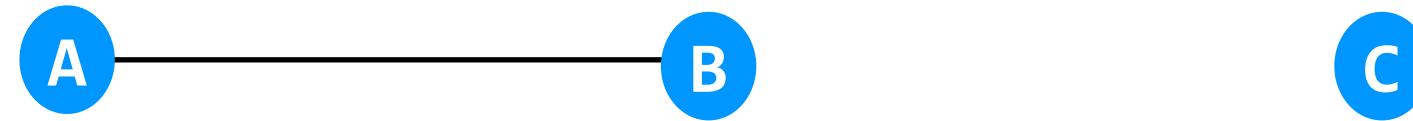
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A: Self, 0 A: B->A, 1
B: A->B, 1 B: Self, 0
C: **A->B, 4** C: B->A, 3

$t=9$: B<->C fails

$t=10$: B receives the following advertisement from A:
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$t=15$: A receives the following advertisement from B:
[(A,1),(B,0),(C,3)]

$t=20$: B receives the following advertisement from A:
[(A,0),(B,1),(C,4)]

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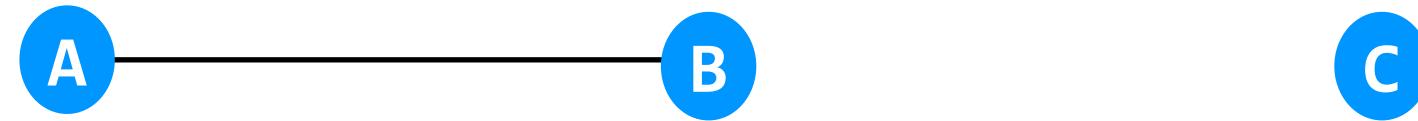
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C: A->B, 4 C: B->A, 3

A: Self, 0 A: B->A, 1
B: A->B, 1 B: Self, 0
C: A->B, 4 **C: B->A, 5**

$t=9$: B<->C fails

$t=10$: B receives the following advertisement from A:
[(A,0),(B,1),**(C,2)**]

$t=15$: A receives the following advertisement from B:
[(A,1),(B,0),**(C,3)**]

$t=20$: B receives the following advertisement from A:
[(A,0),(B,1),**(C,4)**]

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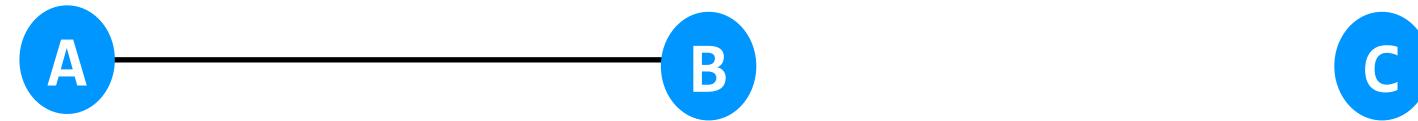
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$t=15$: A receives the following advertisement from B:
[(A,1),(B,0),**(C,3)**]

$t=20$: B receives the following advertisement from A:
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continues until both costs to C are INFINITY

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$t=9$: $B \leftrightarrow C$ fails

new strategy (“split horizon”): don't send advertisements about a route to the node providing the route

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failures can be complicated because of timing

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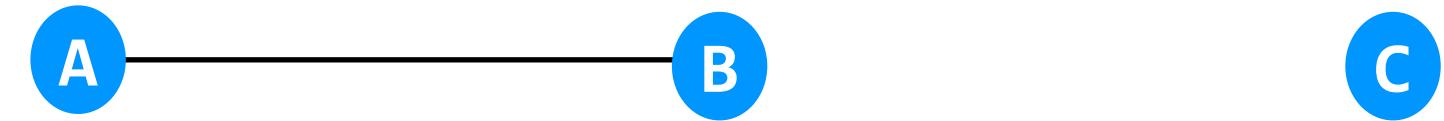
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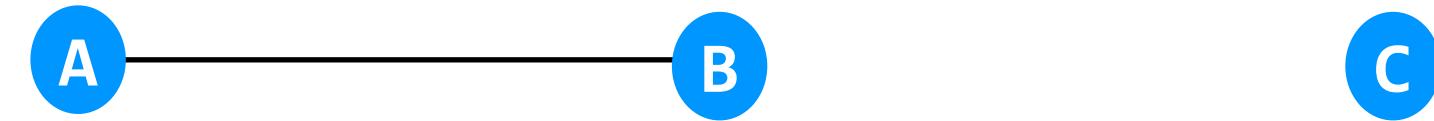
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[(A, 0)]

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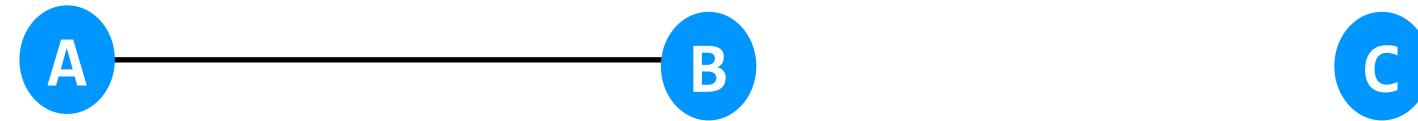
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C: A->B, 2 C: None, inf

$t=9$: B<->C fails

$t=10$: B receives the following advertisement from A:
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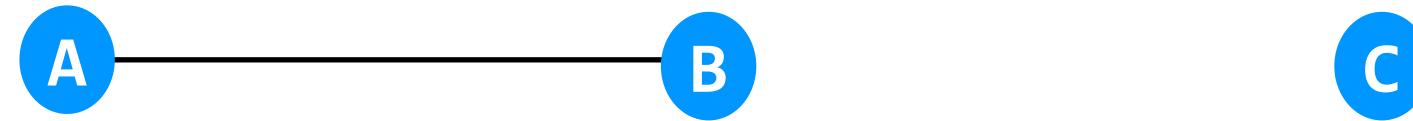
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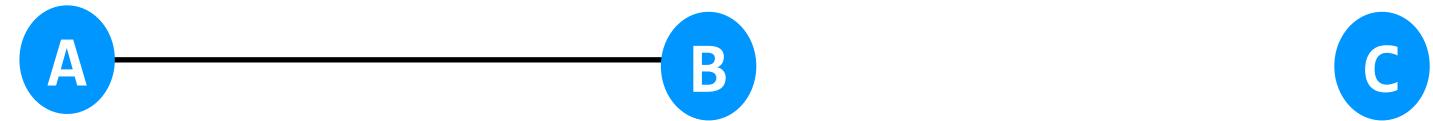
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new strategy (“split horizon”): don't send advertisements about a route to the node providing the route

split horizon takes care of this particular case

in this example, nodes will explicitly include their route/cost to themselves in their advertisements;
you can make distance-vector work either way

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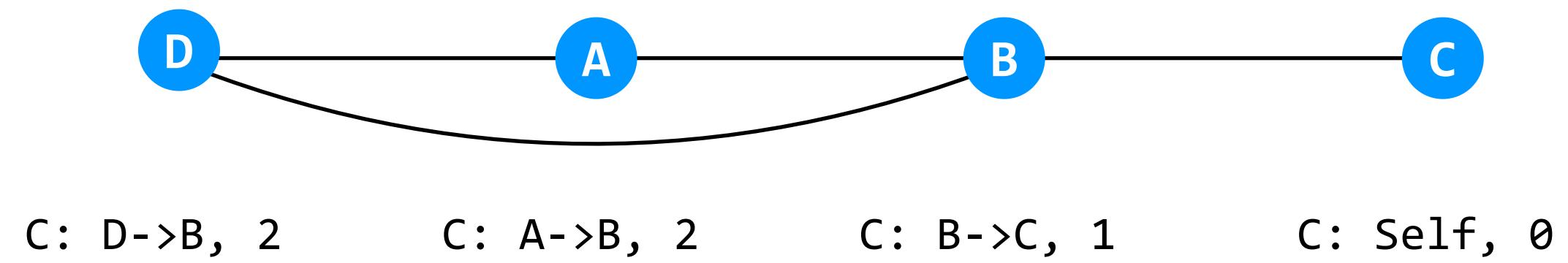
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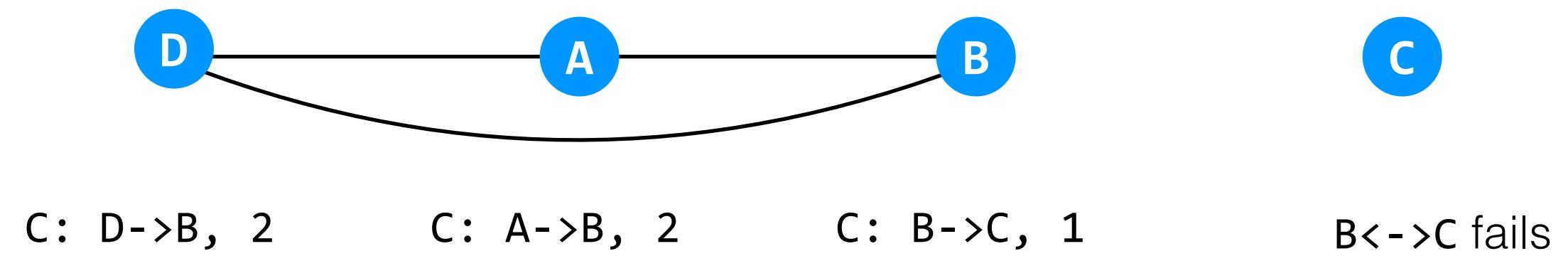
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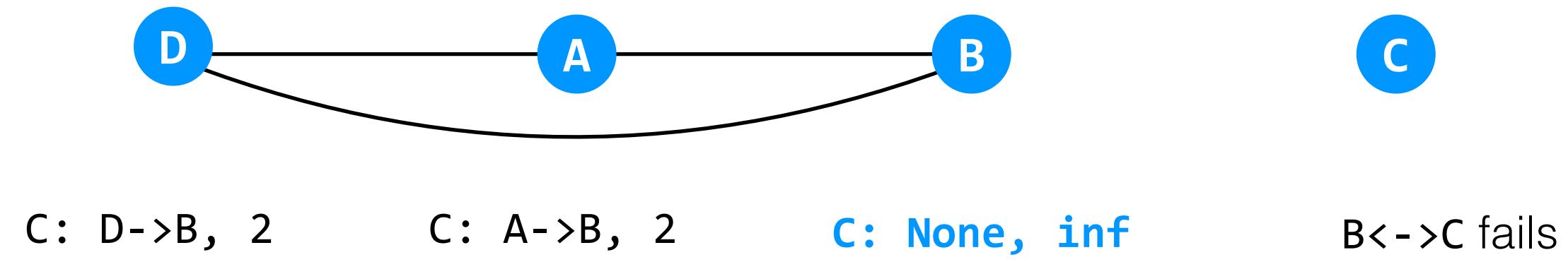
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link state	distance vector
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its current costs to every node it's aware of	
who gets a node's advertisement	
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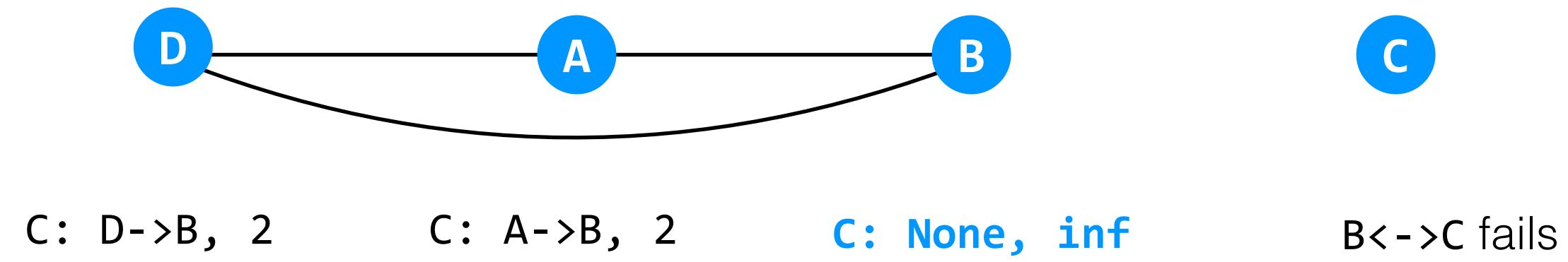
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distance-vector routing: disseminate information about the current *min costs* to each node, rather than the actual topology



new strategy (“split horizon”): don't send advertisements about a route to the node providing the route

link state **distance vector**

what's in an advertisement

its **link costs** to each of its **neighbors**

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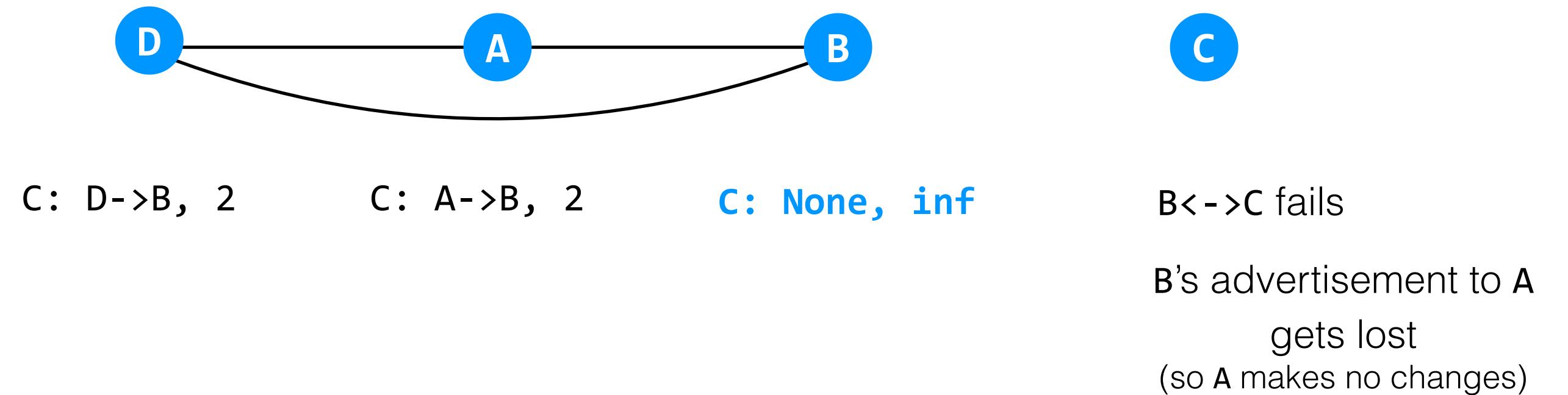
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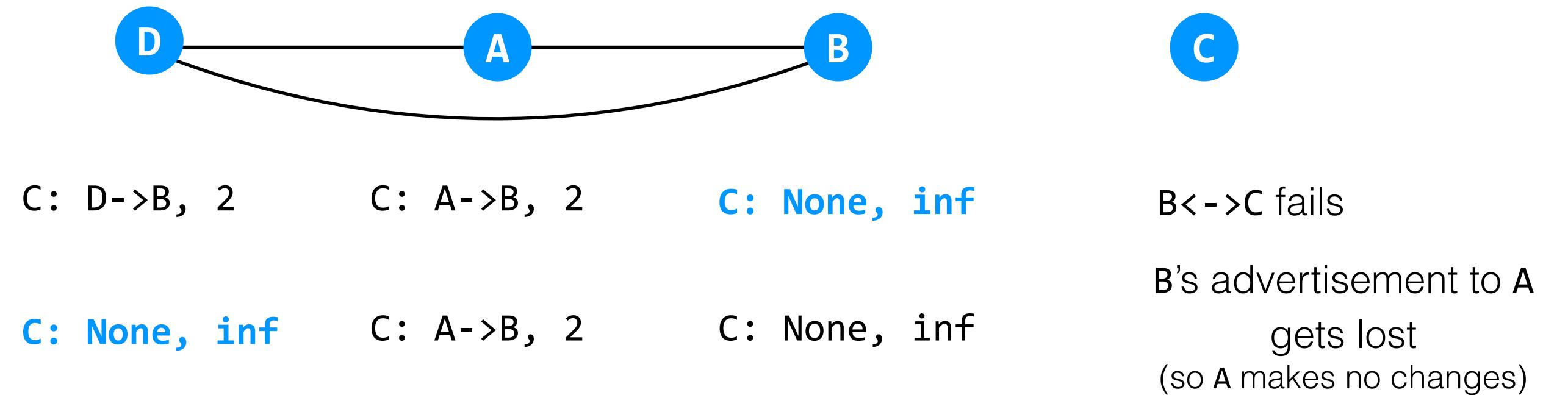
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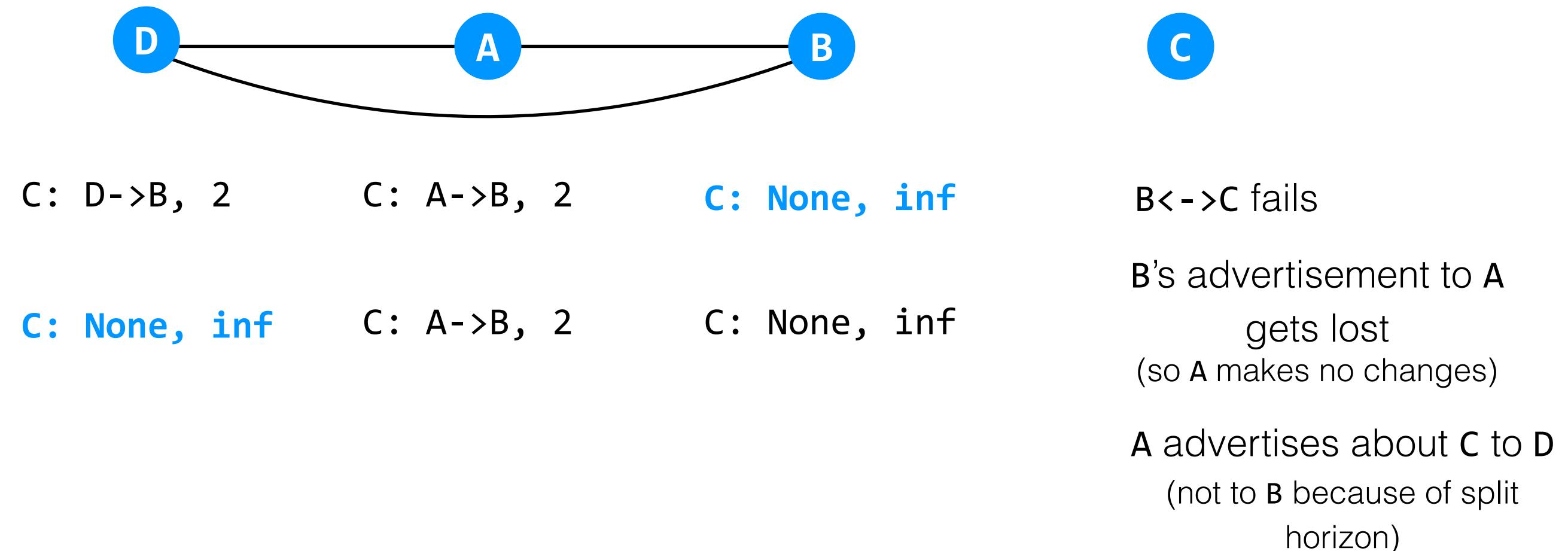
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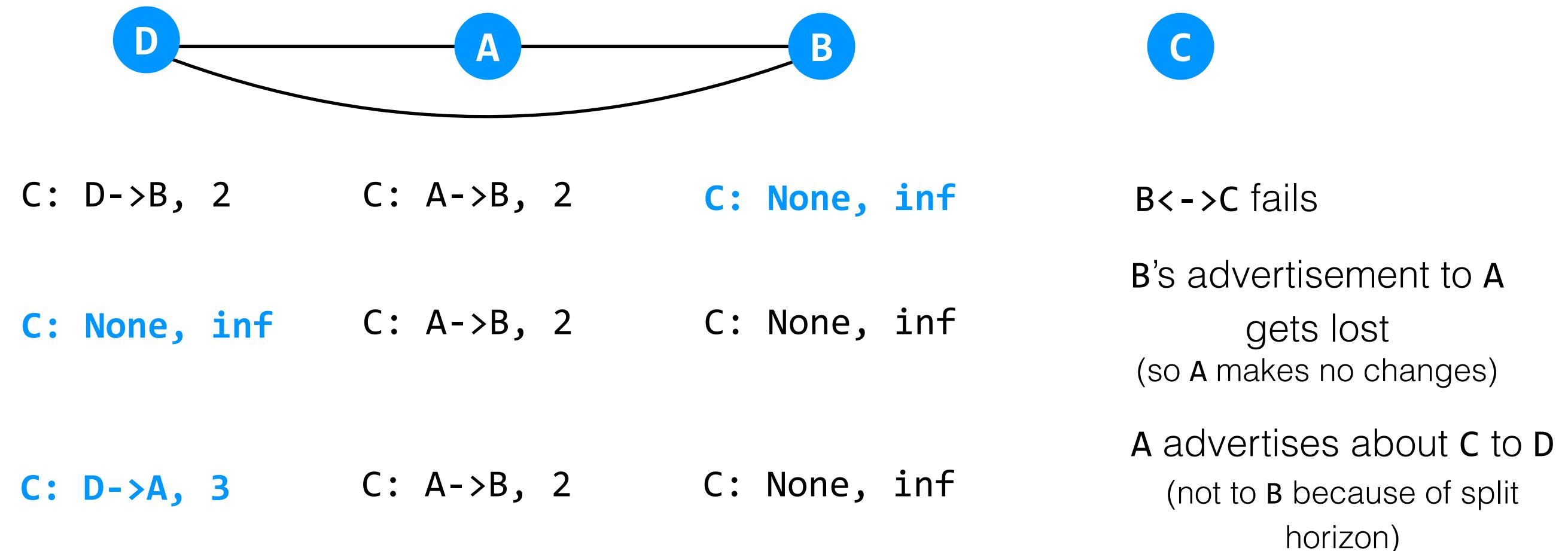
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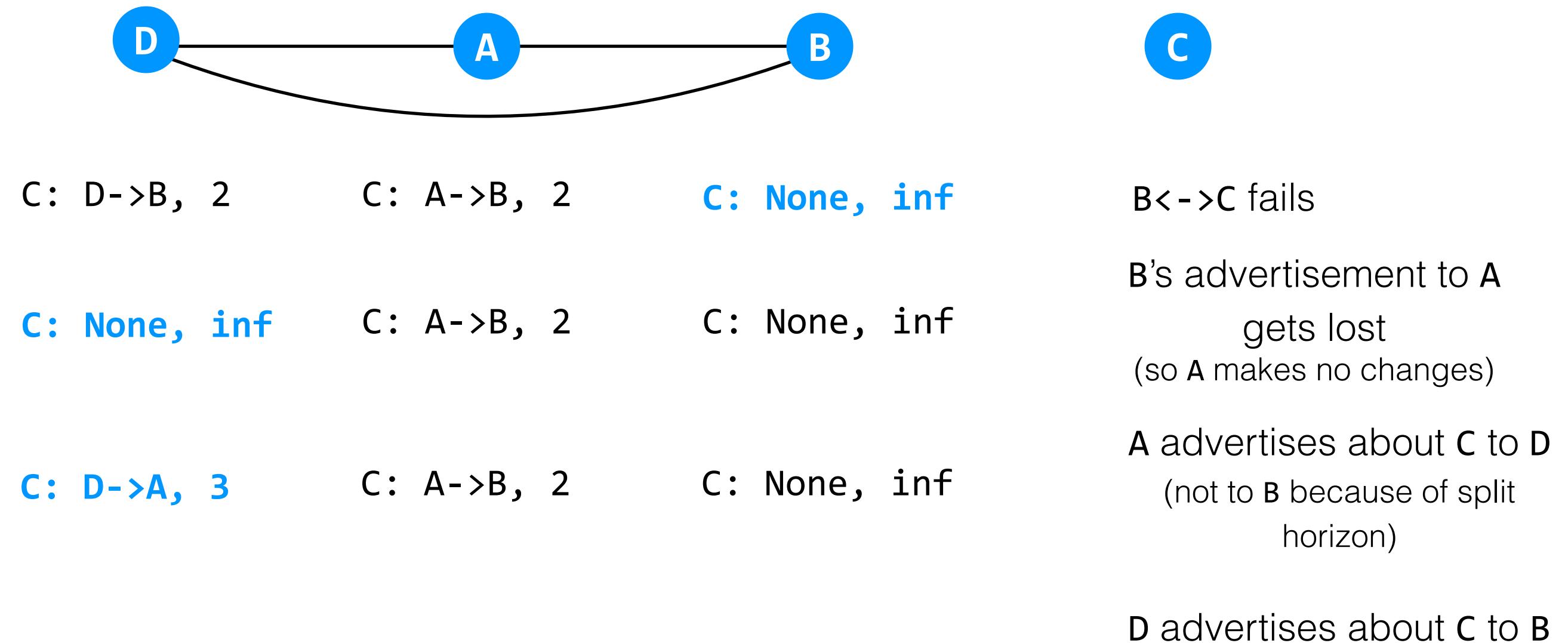
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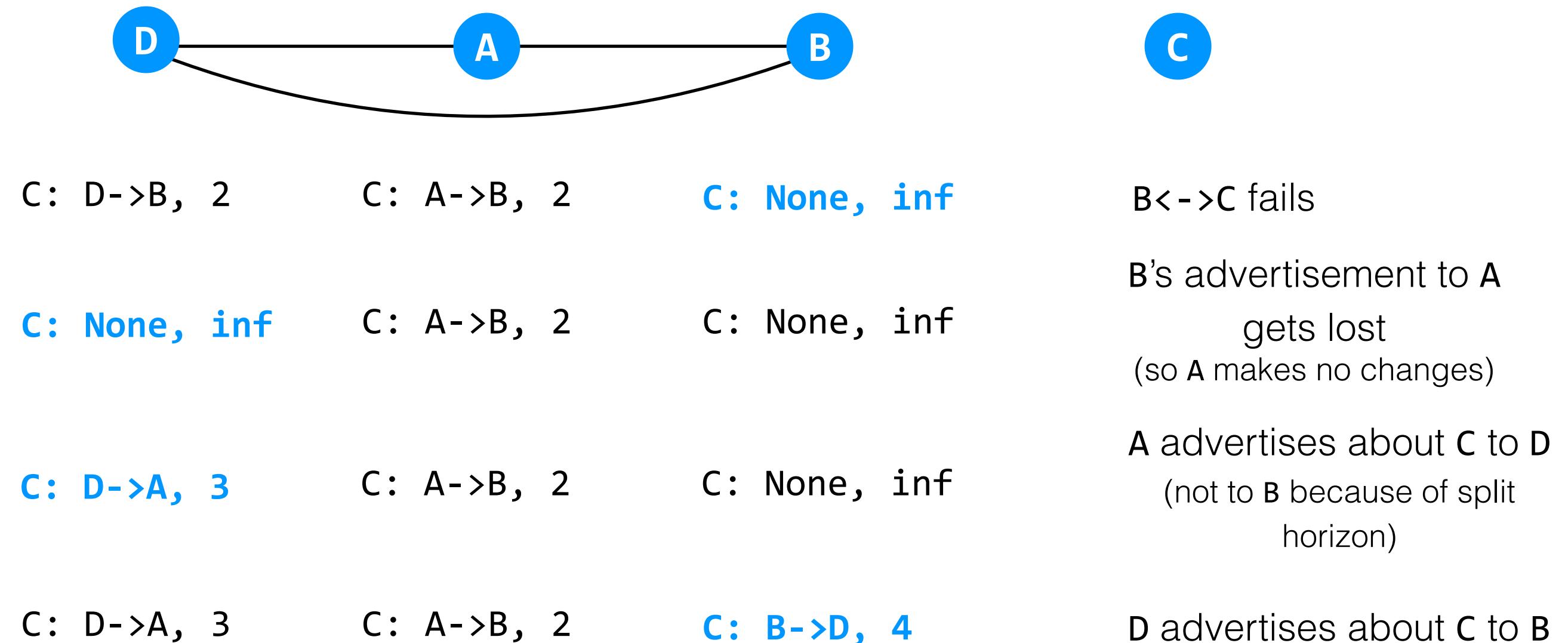
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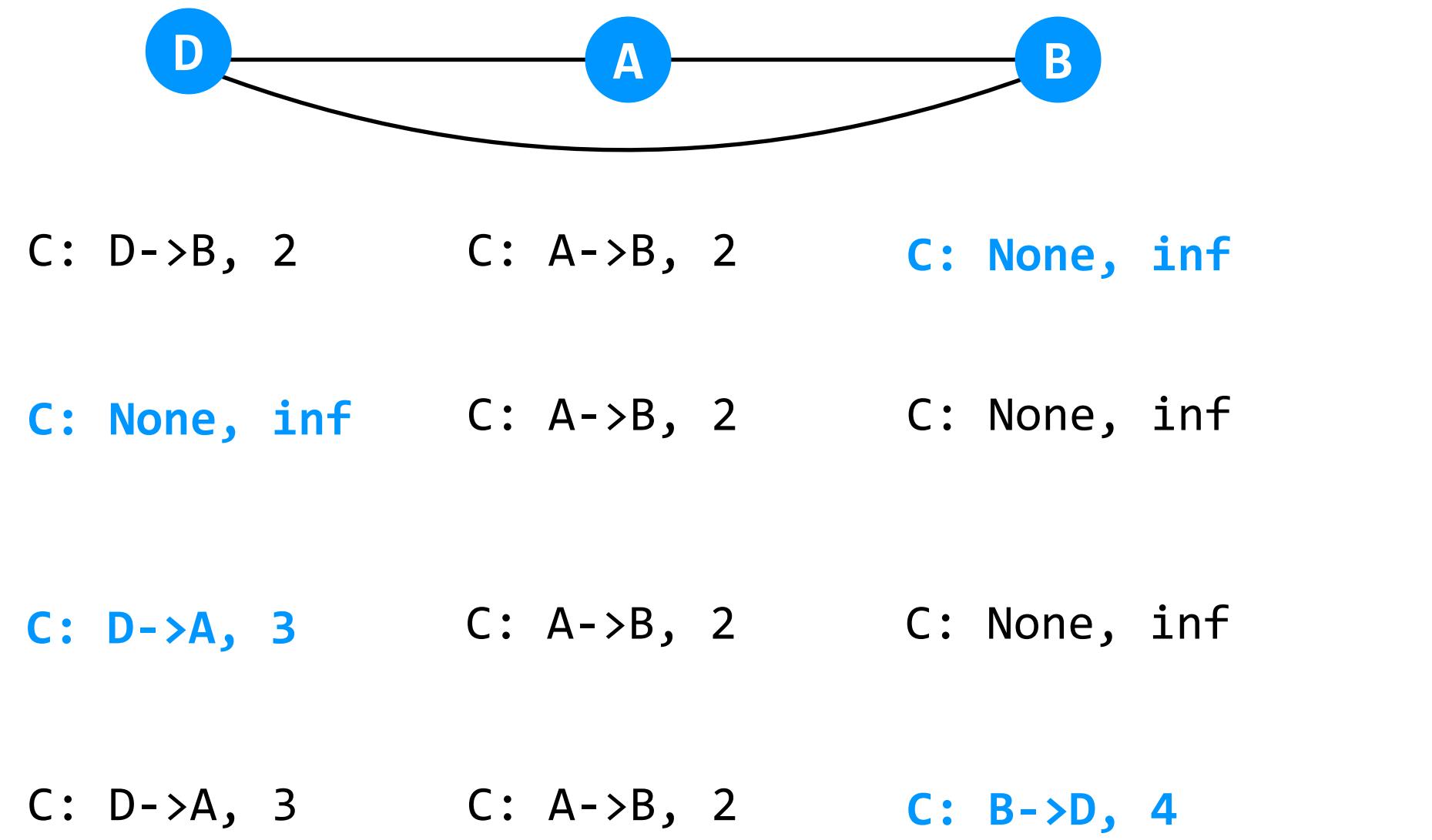
distance-vector routing: disseminate information about the current *min costs* to each node, rather than the actual topology



new strategy (“split horizon”): don't send advertisements about a route to the node providing the route

link state	distance vector
what's in an advertisement	its link costs to each of its neighbors
	its current costs to every node it's aware of
who gets a node's advertisement	
effectively, every other node (via flooding)	only its neighbors
what happens when things fail?	
flooding makes link-state routing very resilient to failure	failures can be complicated because of timing
what limits scale?	
the overhead of flooding	

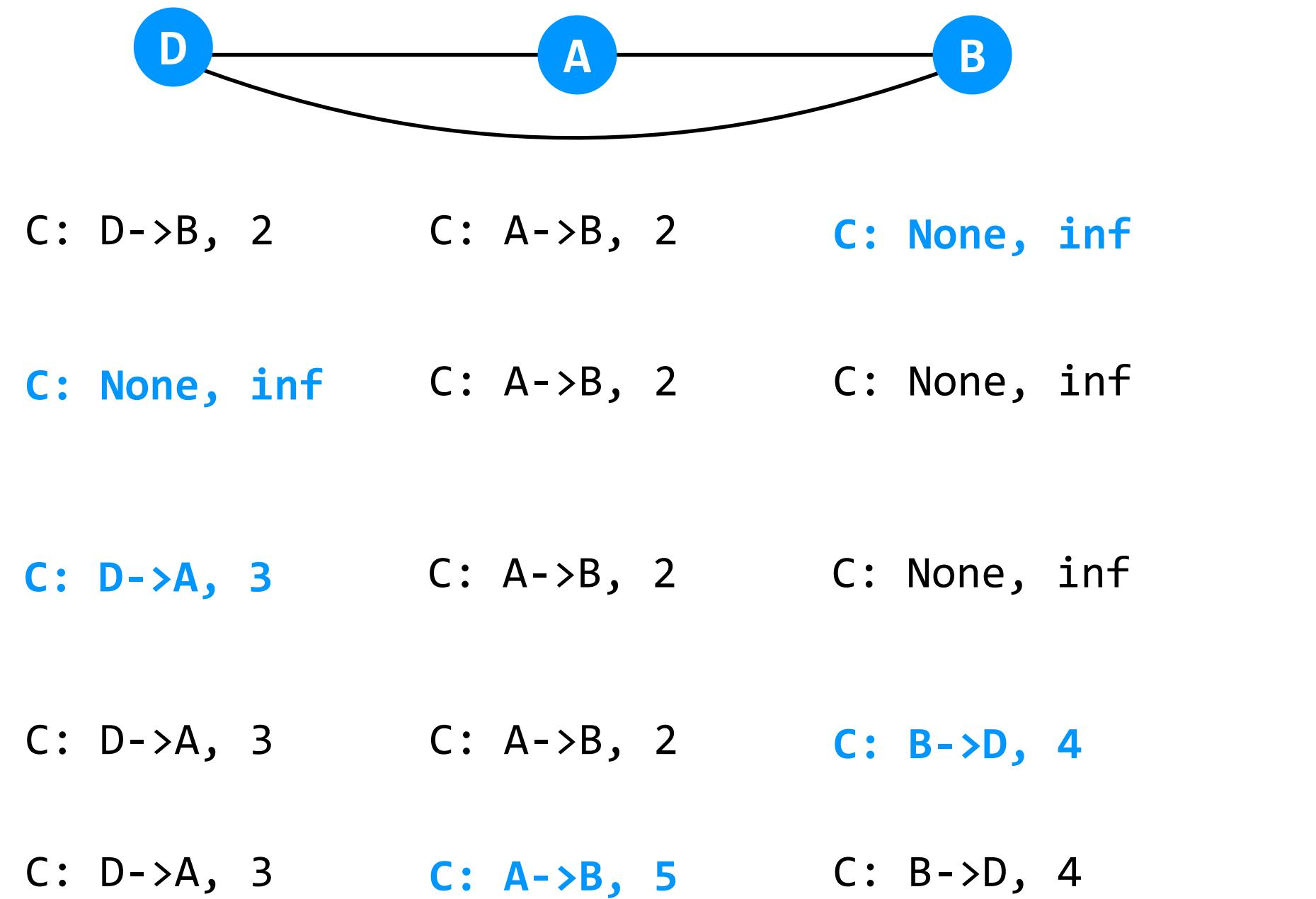
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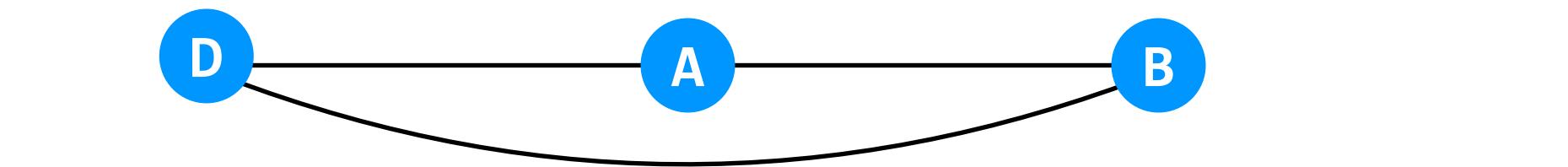
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C: D->B, 2

C: A->B, 2

C: None, inf

C: None, inf

C: A->B, 2

C: None, inf

C: D->A, 3

C: A->B, 2

C: None, inf

C: D->A, 3

C: A->B, 2

C: B->D, 4

C: D->A, 3

C: A->B, 5

C: B->D, 4

continues until all costs to C are INFINITY

new strategy (“split horizon”): don’t send advertisements about a route to the node providing the route

link state

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its **link costs** to each of its **neighbors**

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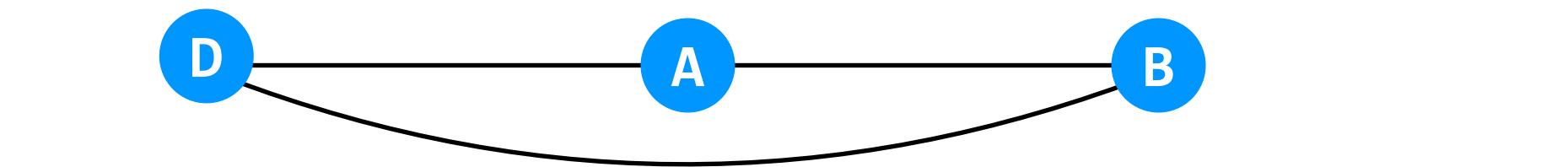
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distance vector

its **current costs** to **every node it's aware of**

distance-vector routing: disseminate information about the current *min costs* to each node, rather than the actual topology



C: D->B, 2 C: A->B, 2 **C: None, inf**

C: None, inf C: A->B, 2 C: None, inf

C: D->A, 3 C: A->B, 2 C: None, inf

C: D->A, 3 C: A->B, 2 **C: B->D, 4**

C: D->A, 3 **C: A->B, 5** C: B->D, 4

continues until all costs to C are INFINITY

new strategy (“split horizon”): don't send advertisements about a route to the node providing the route

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its **current costs** to **every node it's aware of**

only its **neighbors**

what limits scale?

the **overhead** of flooding

failure handling

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failures can be
complicated
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the **overhead** of
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failure handling

neither one of these algorithms will scale to the size of the internet, nor do either of them allow for *policy routing*

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what's in an advertisement

its **current costs** to **every node** it's aware of

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failures can be complicated because of timing

failure handling

1970s:
ARPAnet

1978: flexibility and
layering

early 80s: growth → change

late 80s: growth → problems

1993:
commercialization

hosts.txt

**distance-vector
routing**

TCP, UDP
OSPF, EGP, DNS
(a link-state routing protocol)

congestion collapse

policy routing

CIDR

application

the things that
actually generate
traffic

transport

sharing the network,
reliability (or not)
examples: TCP, UDP

network

naming, addressing,
routing

examples: IP

link

communication between
two directly-connected
nodes

*examples: ethernet, bluetooth,
802.11 (wifi)*

CAIDA's IPv4 AS Core,
January 2020
(<https://www.caida.org/projects/cartography/as-core/2020/>)

IP networks can route using either distance-vector routing (RIP) or link-state routing (OSPF)

