Lecture 8 – Chapter 5
Network Control Plane

CIS 5617, Spring2019
Anduo Wang
Based on Slides created by JFK/KWR

7th edition
Jim Kurose, Keith Ross
Pearson/Addison Wesley
April 2016

Chapter 5: outline

5.1 introduction

5.2 routing protocols

- link state
- distance vector

5.3 intra-AS routing in the Internet: OSPF

5.4 routing among the ISPs: BGP

5.5 The SDN control plane

Making routing scalable

our routing study thus far - idealized

- all routers identical
- network "flat"

… *not* true in practice

scale: with billions of destinations:

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

administrative autonomy

- internet = 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")

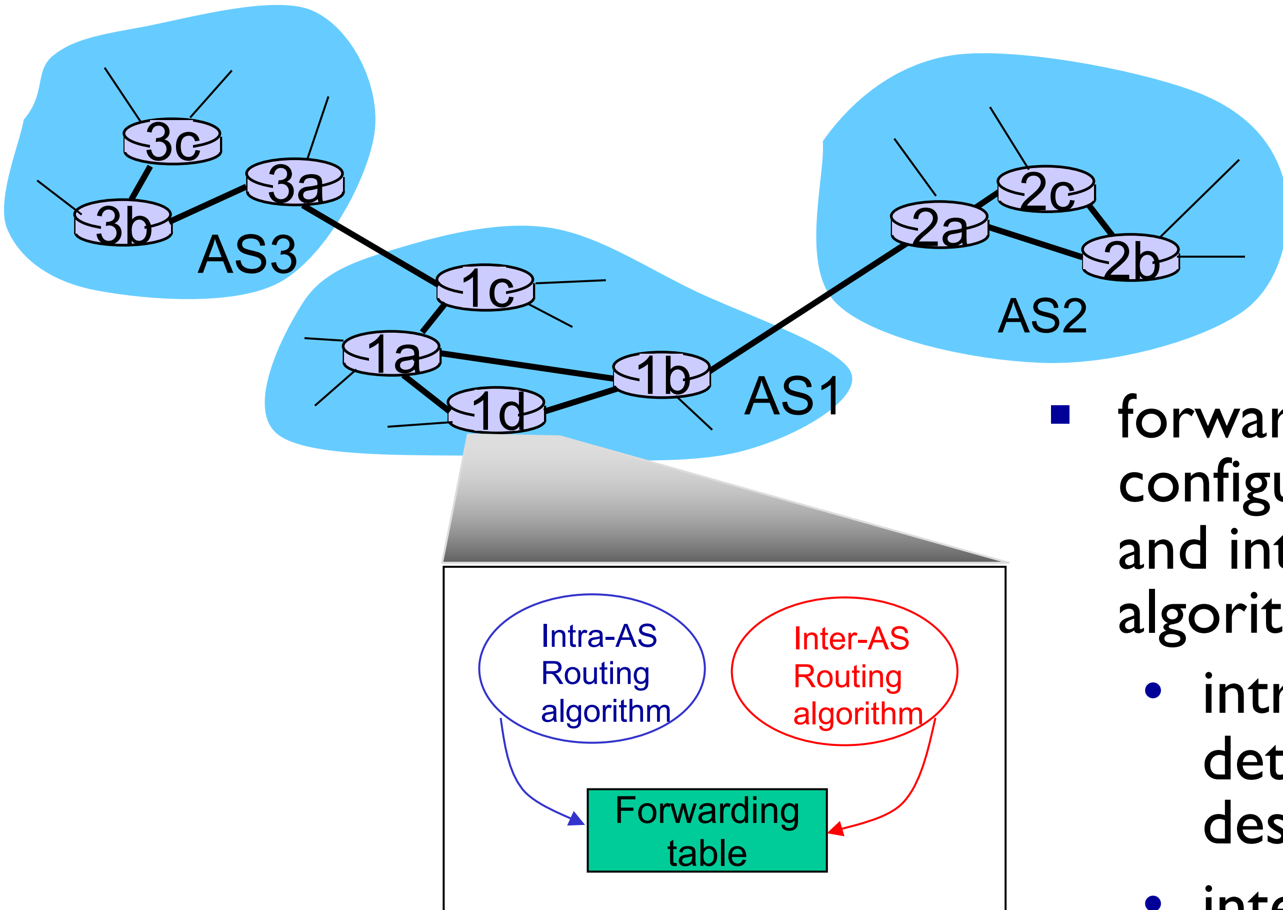
intra-AS routing

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

inter-AS routing

- routing among AS'es
- gateways perform inter-domain routing (as well as intra-domain routing)

Interconnected ASes



- forwarding table configured by both intra- and inter-AS routing algorithm
  - intra-AS routing determine entries for destinations within AS
  - inter-AS & intra-AS determine entries for external destinations

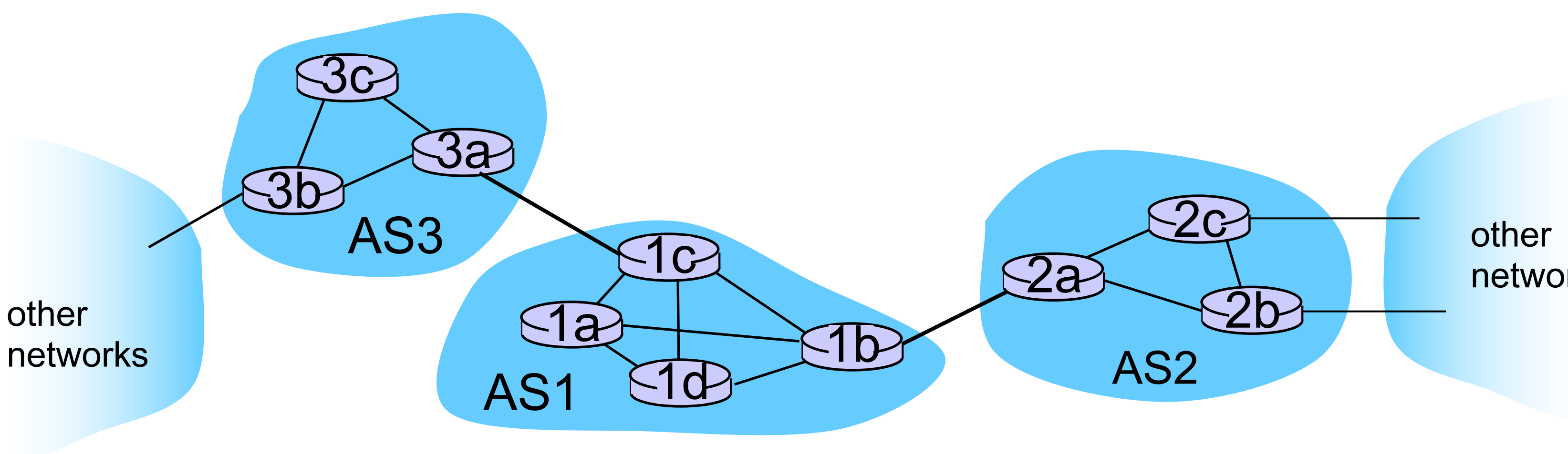
Inter-AS tasks

- suppose router in AS1 receives datagram destined outside of AS1:
  - router should forward packet to gateway router, but which one?

AS1 must:

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

job of inter-AS routing!



Intra-AS Routing

- also known as *interior gateway protocols (IGP)*
- most common intra-AS routing protocols:
  - RIP: Routing Information Protocol
  - OSPF: Open Shortest Path First (IS-IS protocol essentially same as OSPF)
  - IGRP: Interior Gateway Routing Protocol (Cisco proprietary for decades, until 2016)

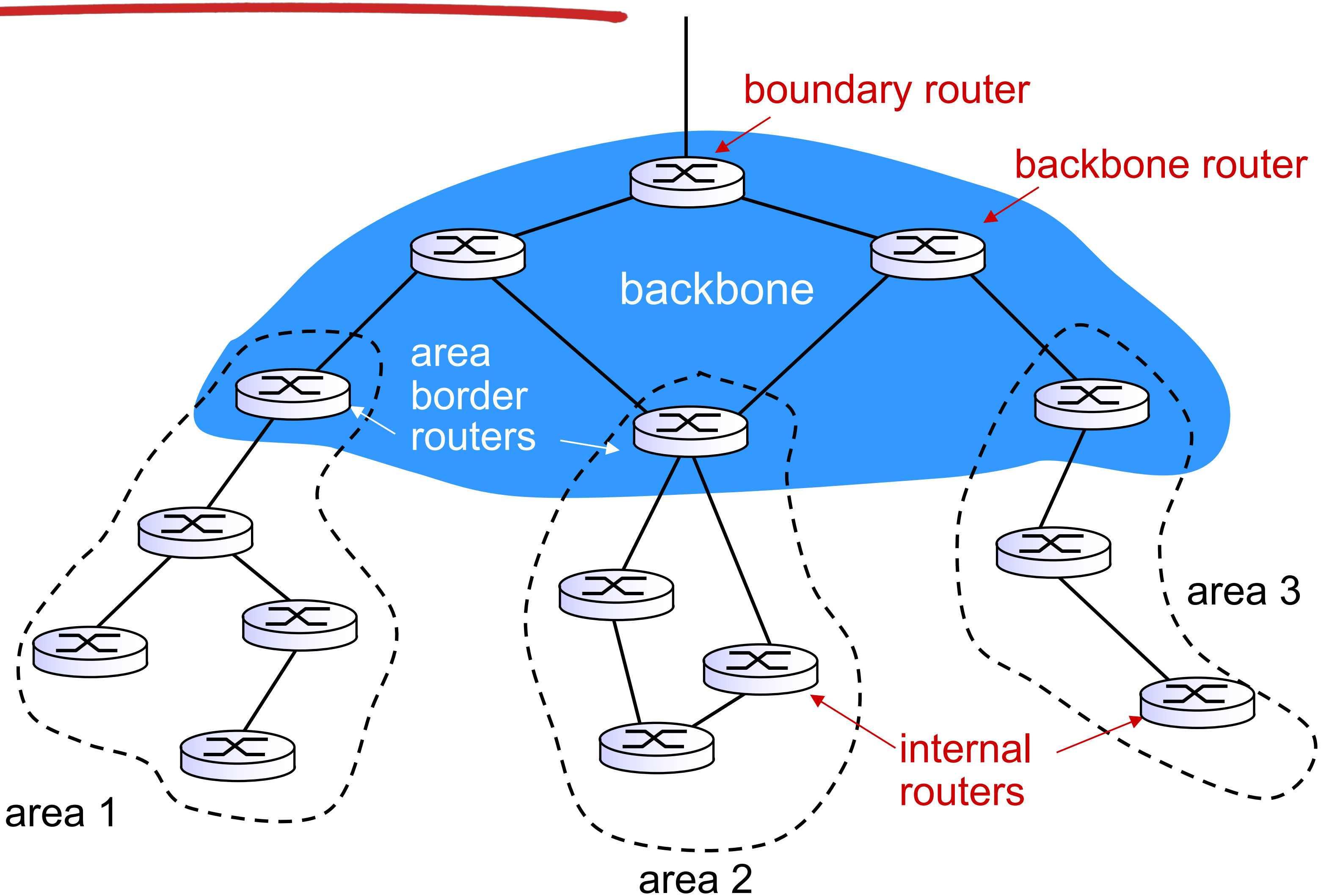
OSPF (Open Shortest Path First)

- "open": publicly available
- uses link-state algorithm
  - link state packet dissemination
  - topology map at each node
  - route computation using Dijkstra's algorithm
- router floods OSPF link-state advertisements to all other routers in *entire* AS
  - carried in OSPF messages directly over IP (rather than TCP or UDP
  - link state: for each attached link
- *IS-IS routing* protocol: nearly identical to OSPF

OSPF "advanced" features

- *security:* all OSPF messages authenticated (to prevent malicious intrusion)
- multiple same-cost paths allowed (only one path in RIP)
- for each link, multiple cost metrics for different TOS (e.g., satellite link cost set low for best effort ToS; high for real-time ToS)
- integrated uni- and multi-cast support:
  - Multicast OSPF (MOSPF) uses same topology data base as OSPF
- hierarchical OSPF in large domains.

Hierarchical OSPF



Hierarchical OSPF

- *two-level hierarchy:* local area, backbone.
  - link-state advertisements only in area
  - each nodes has detailed area topology; only know direction (shortest path) to nets in other areas.
- *area border routers:* "summarize" distances to nets in own area, advertise to other Area Border routers.
- *backbone routers:* run OSPF routing limited to backbone.
- *boundary routers:* connect to other AS'es.

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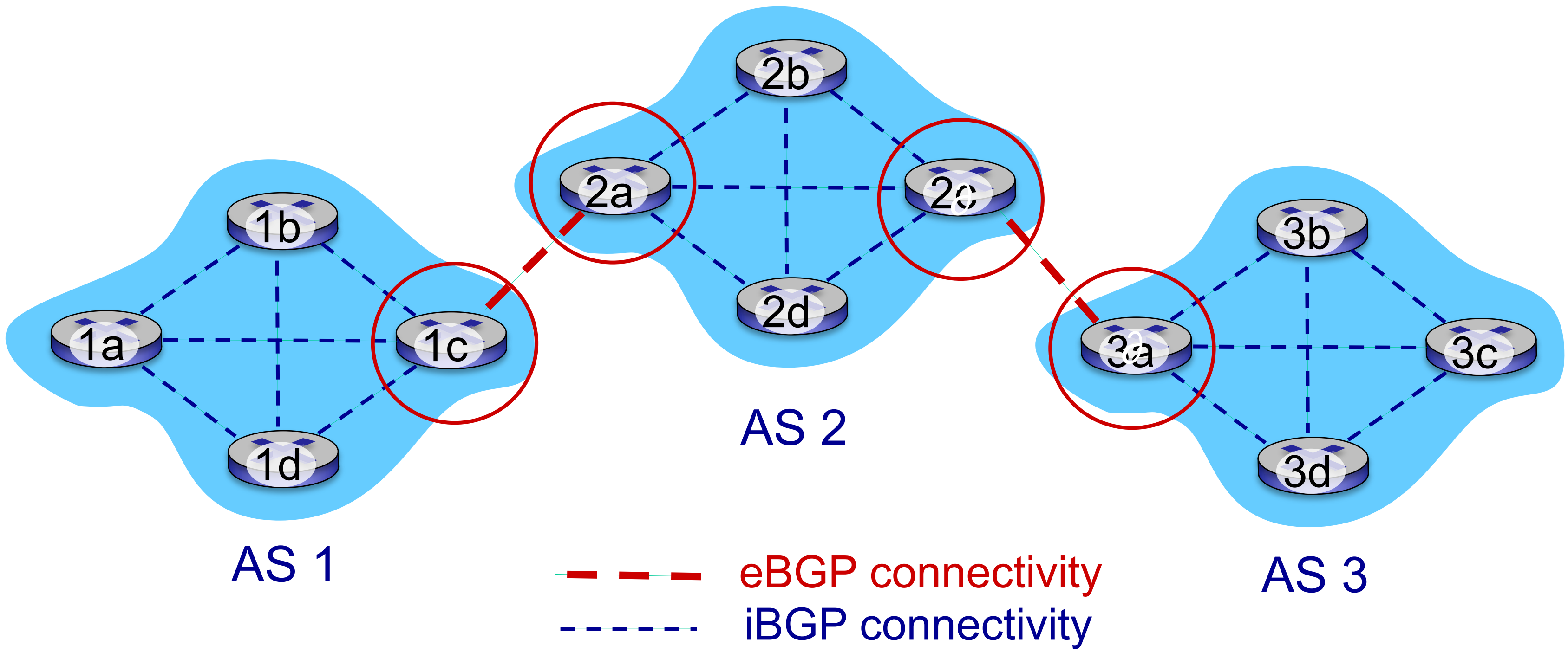
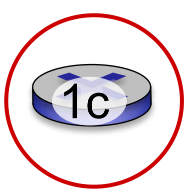
Internet inter-AS routing: BGP

- BGP (Border Gateway Protocol): *the* de facto inter-domain routing protocol
  - "glue that holds the Internet together"
- 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*
- allows subnet to advertise its existence to rest of Internet: *"I am here"*

eBGP, iBGP connections

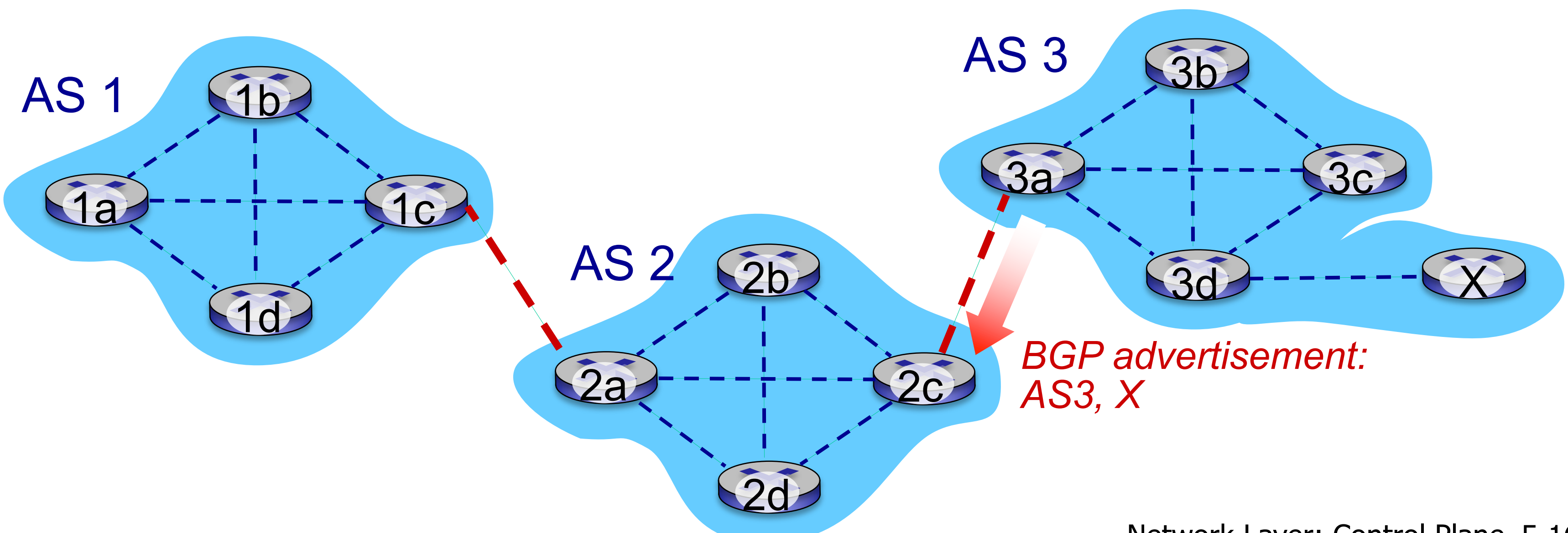




gateway routers run both eBGP and iBGP protools

BGP basics

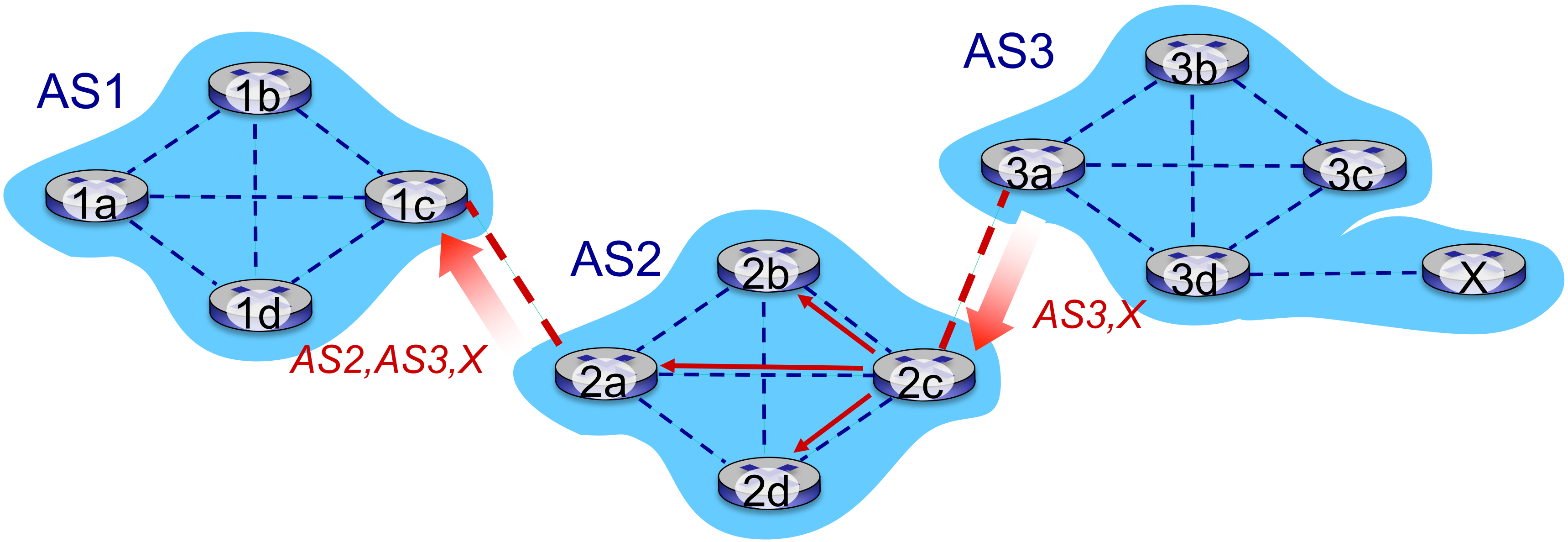
- BGP session: two BGP routers ("peers") exchange BGP messages over semi-permanent TCP connection:
  - advertising *paths* to different destination network prefixes (BGP is a "path vector" protocol)
- when AS3 gateway router 3a advertises path AS3,X to AS2 gateway router 2c:
  - AS3 *promises* to AS2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



Path attributes and BGP routes

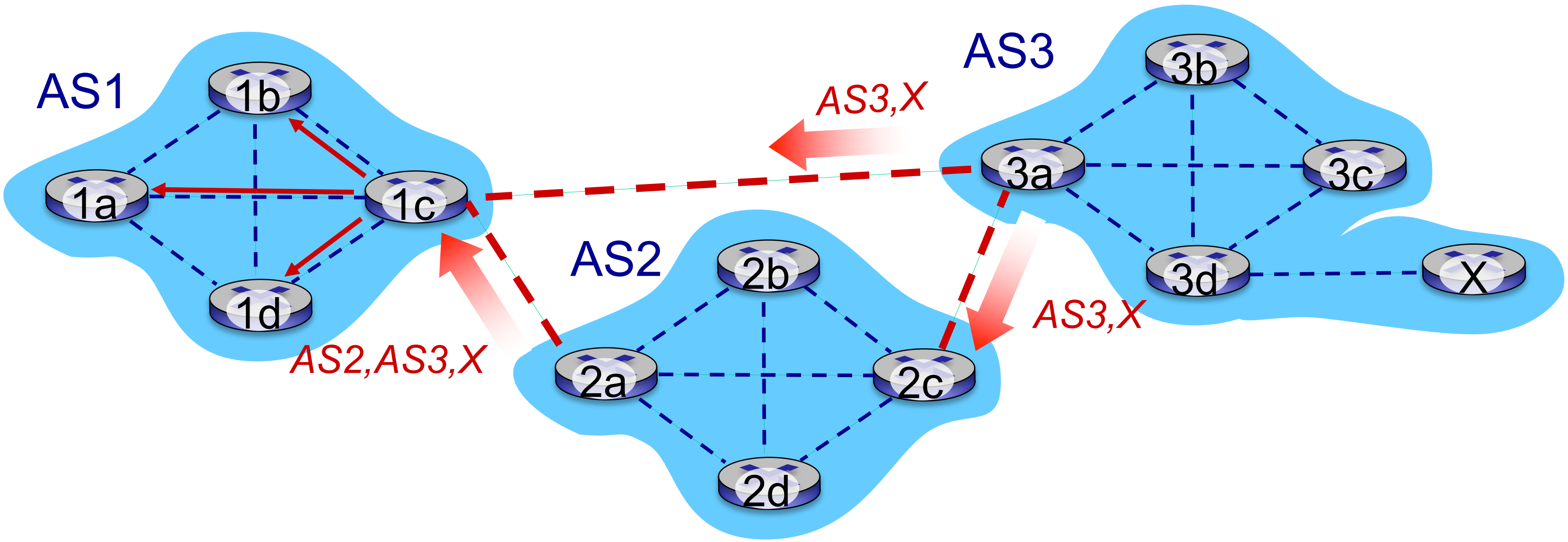
- advertised prefix includes BGP attributes
  - prefix + attributes = "route"
- two important attributes:
  - AS-PATH: list of ASes through which prefix advertisement has passed
  - NEXT-HOP: indicates specific internal-AS router to next-hop AS
- *Policy-based routing:*
  - gateway receiving route advertisement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



gateway router may learn about multiple paths to destination:

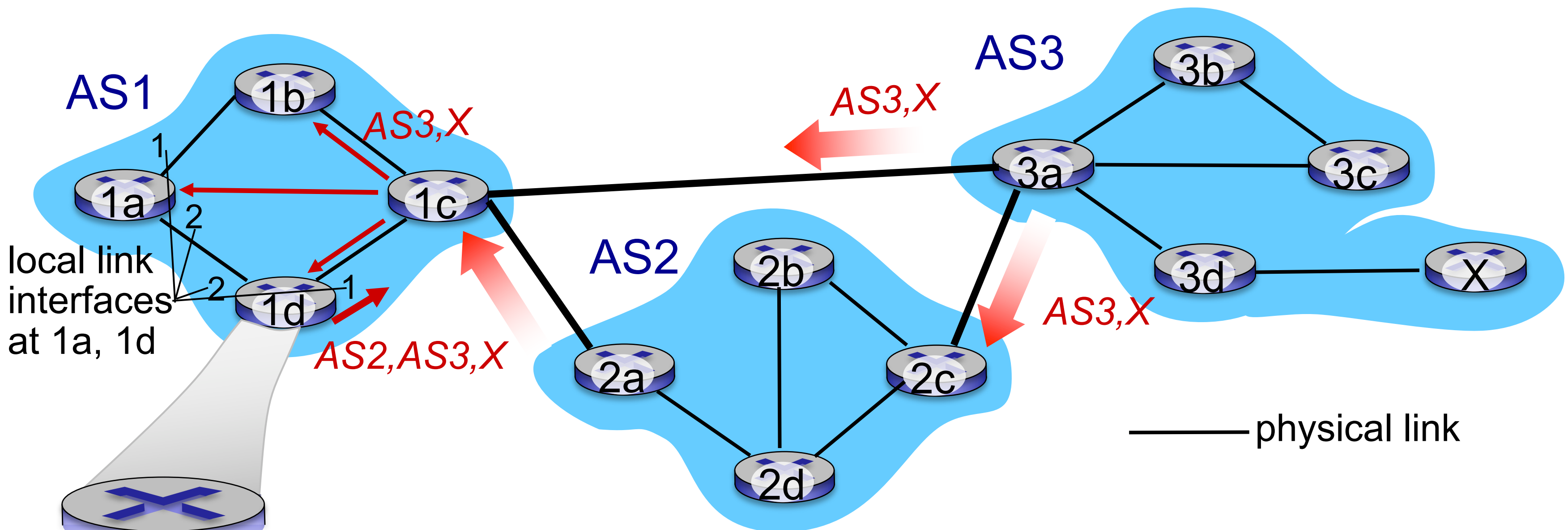
- AS1 gateway router 1c learns path *AS2,AS3,X* from 2a
- AS1 gateway router 1c learns path *AS3,X* from 3a
- Based on policy, AS1 gateway router 1c chooses path *AS3,X, and advertises path within AS1 via iBGP*

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, OSPF, forwarding table entries

Q: how does router set forwarding table entry to distant prefix?

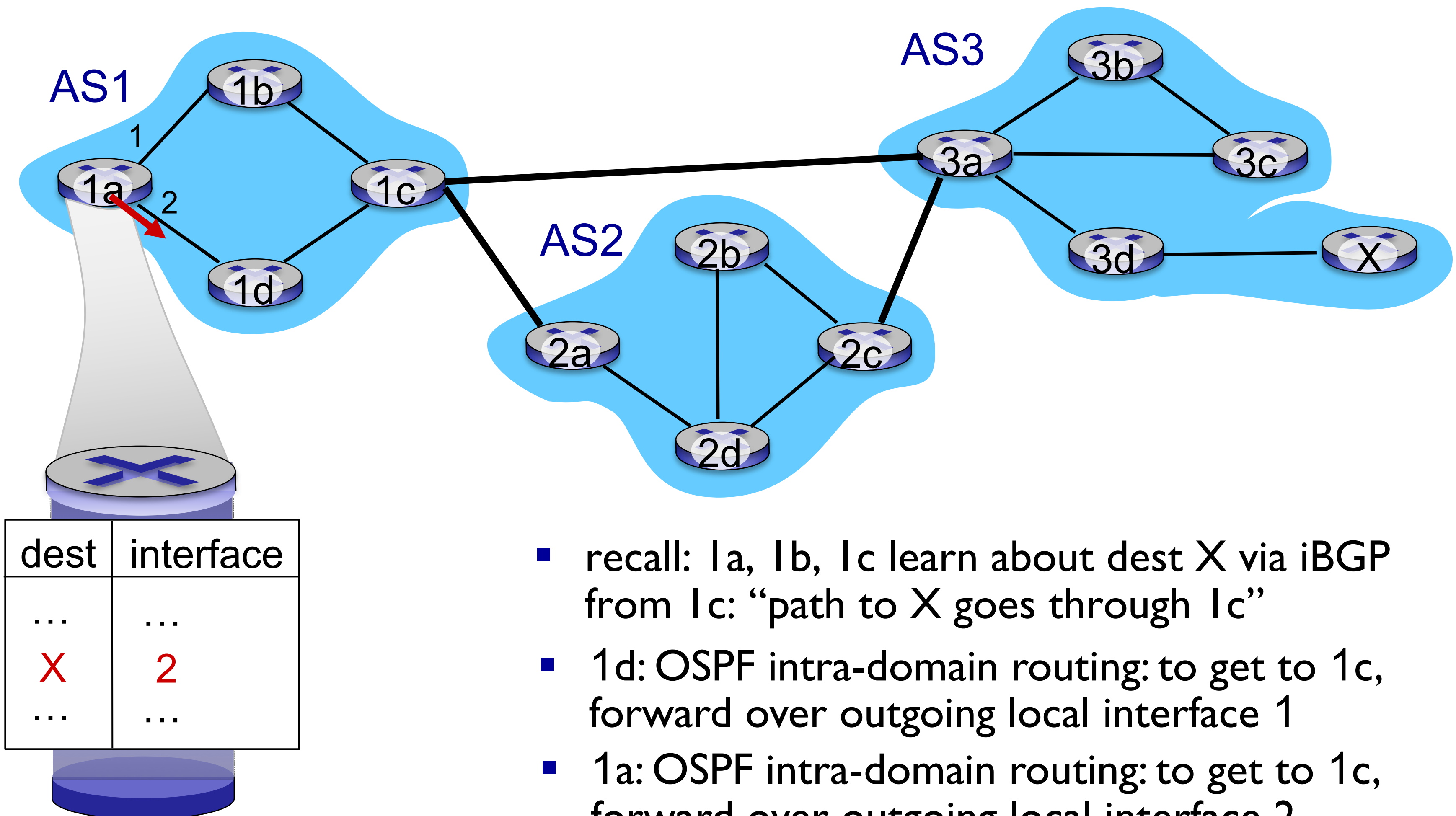


dest	interface
…	…
X	1
…	…

- recall: 1a, 1b, 1c learn about dest X via iBGP from 1c: "path to X goes through 1c"
- 1d: OSPF intra-domain routing: to get to 1c, forward over outgoing local interface 1

BGP, OSPF, forwarding table entries

Q: how does router set forwarding table entry to distant prefix?



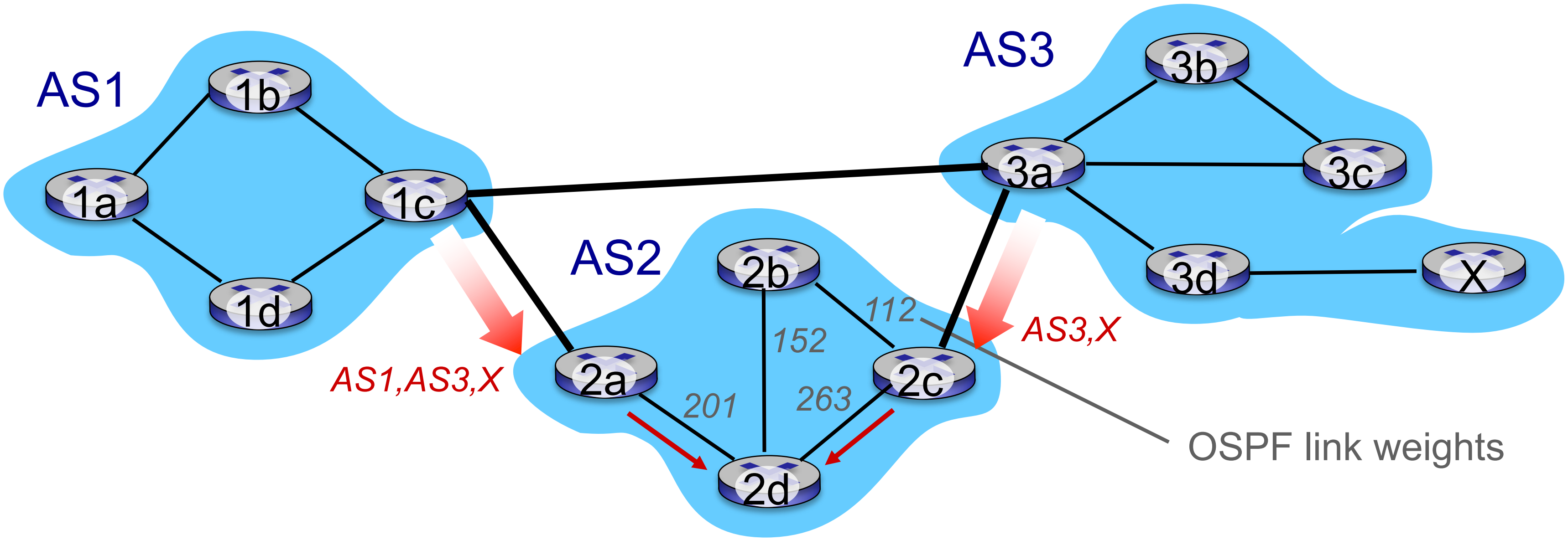
dest	interface
…	…
X	2
…	…

- recall: 1a, 1b, 1c learn about dest X via iBGP from 1c: "path to X goes through 1c"
- 1d: OSPF intra-domain routing: to get to 1c, forward over outgoing local interface 1
- 1a: OSPF intra-domain routing: to get to 1c, forward over outgoing local interface 2

BGP route selection

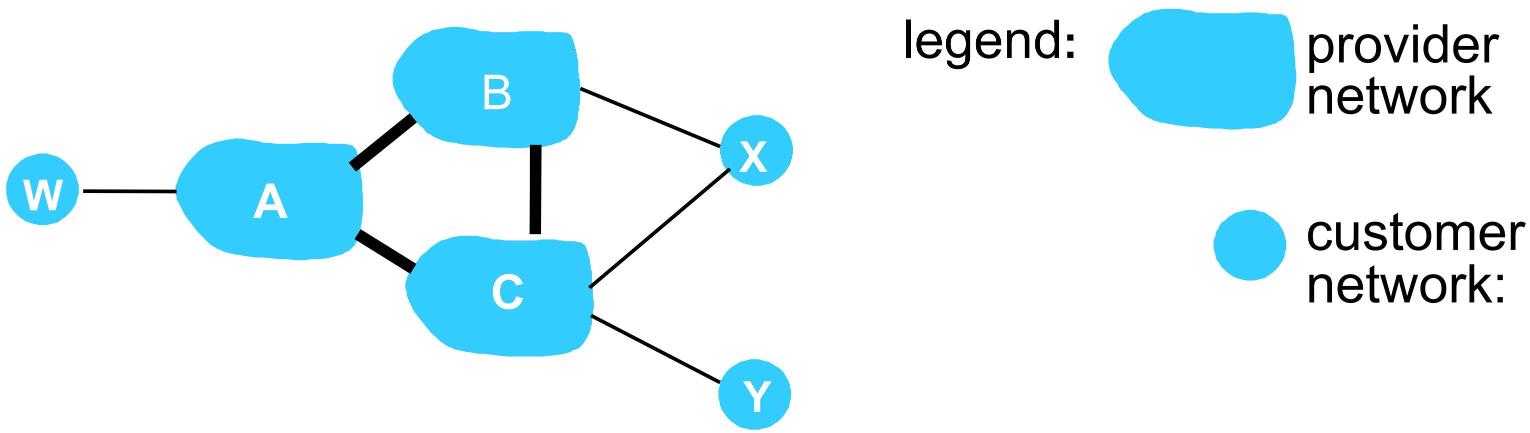
- router may learn about more than one route to destination AS, selects route based on:
  1. local preference value attribute: policy decision
  2. shortest AS-PATH
  3. closest NEXT-HOP router: hot potato routing
  4. additional criteria

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!

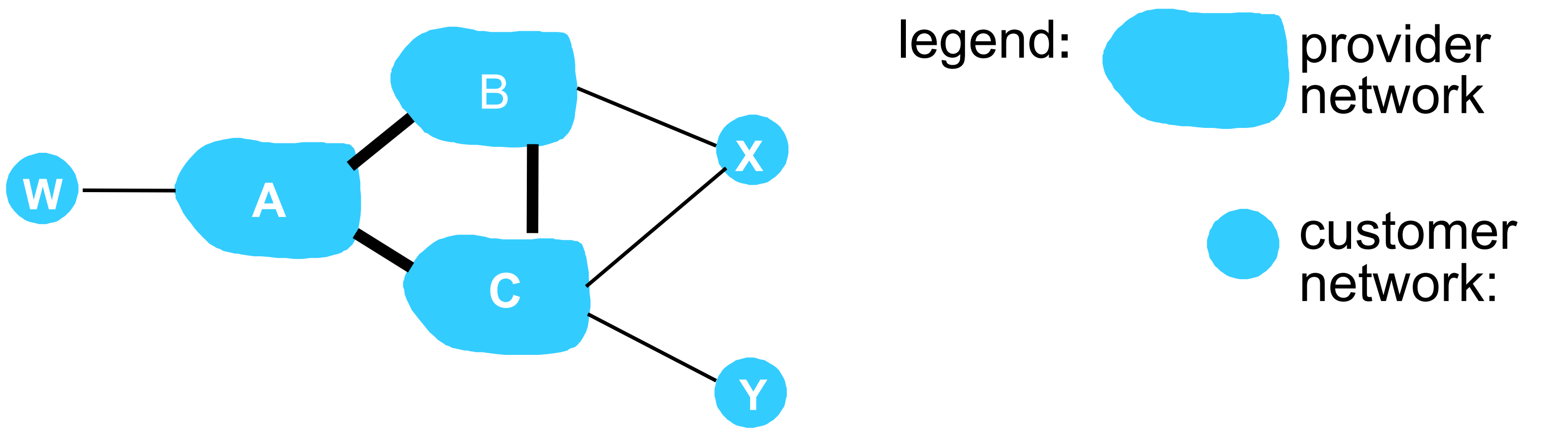
BGP: achieving policy via advertisements



Suppose an ISP only wants to route traffic to/from its customer networks (does not want to carry transit traffic between other ISPs)

- A advertises path Aw to B and to C
- B *chooses not to advertise* BAw to C:
  - B gets no "revenue" for routing CBAw, since none of C, A, w are B's customers
  - C does not learn about CBAw path
- C will route CAw (not using B) to get to w

BGP: achieving policy via advertisements



Suppose an ISP only wants to route traffic to/from its customer networks (does not want to carry transit traffic between other ISPs)

- 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

Why different Intra-, Inter-AS routing ?

policy:

- inter-AS: admin wants control over how its traffic routed, who routes through its net.
- intra-AS: single admin, so no policy decisions needed

scale:

- hierarchical routing saves table size, reduced update traffic

performance:

- intra-AS: can focus on performance
- inter-AS: policy may dominate over performance

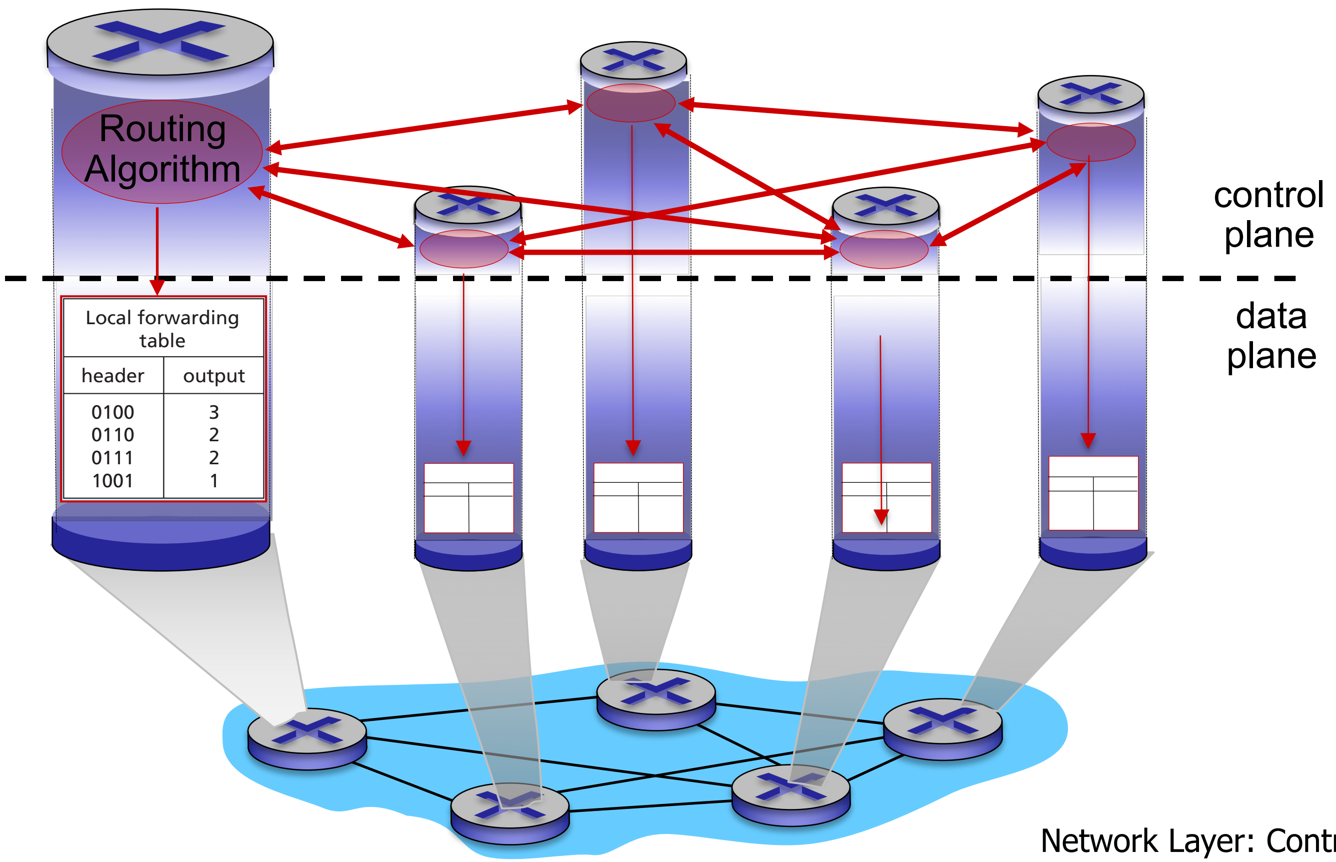
Chapter 5: outline

Software defined networking (SDN)

- Internet network layer: historically has been implemented via distributed, per-router 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

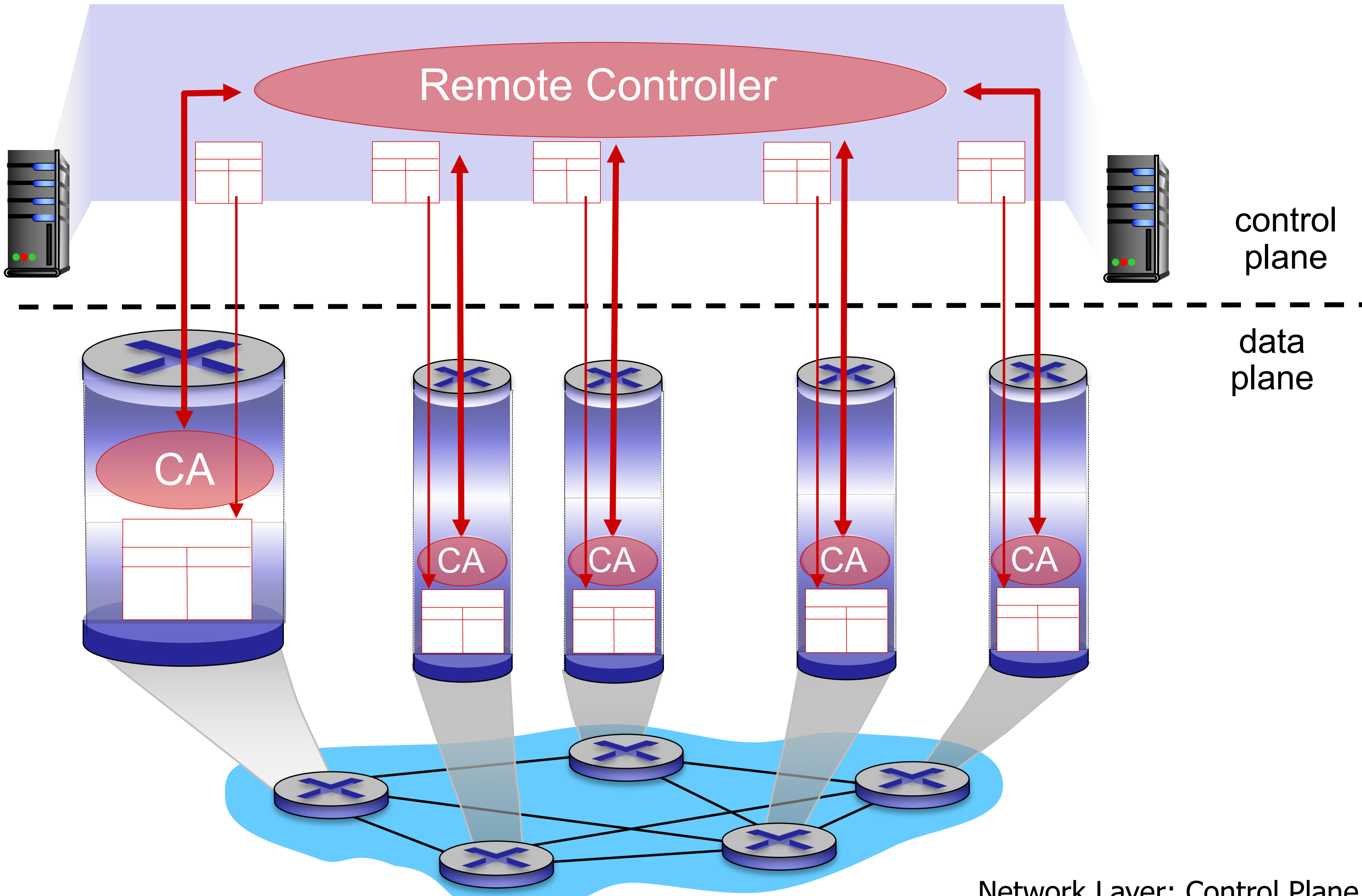
Recall: per-router control plane

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



Recall: logically centralized control plane

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

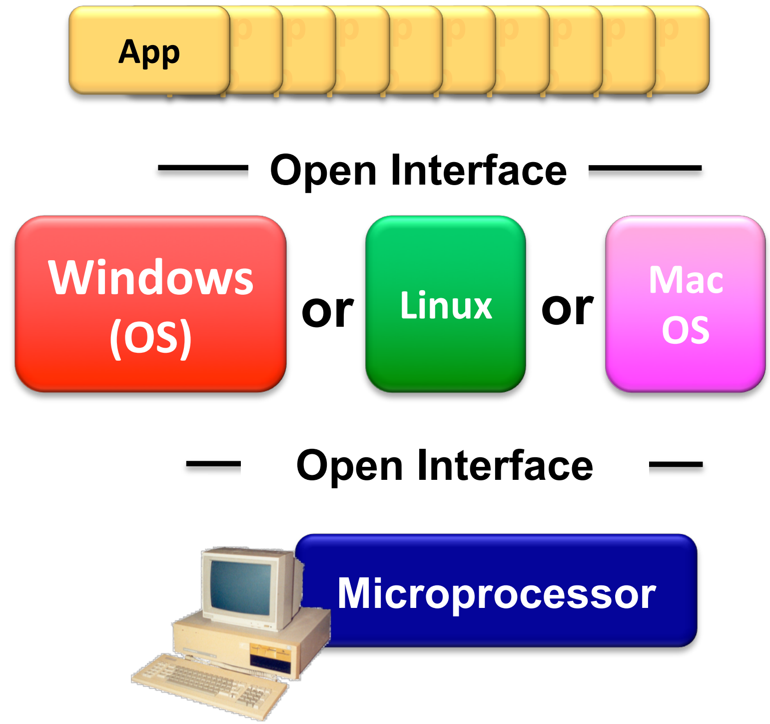


Software defined networking (SDN)

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

Analogy: mainframe to PC evolution*

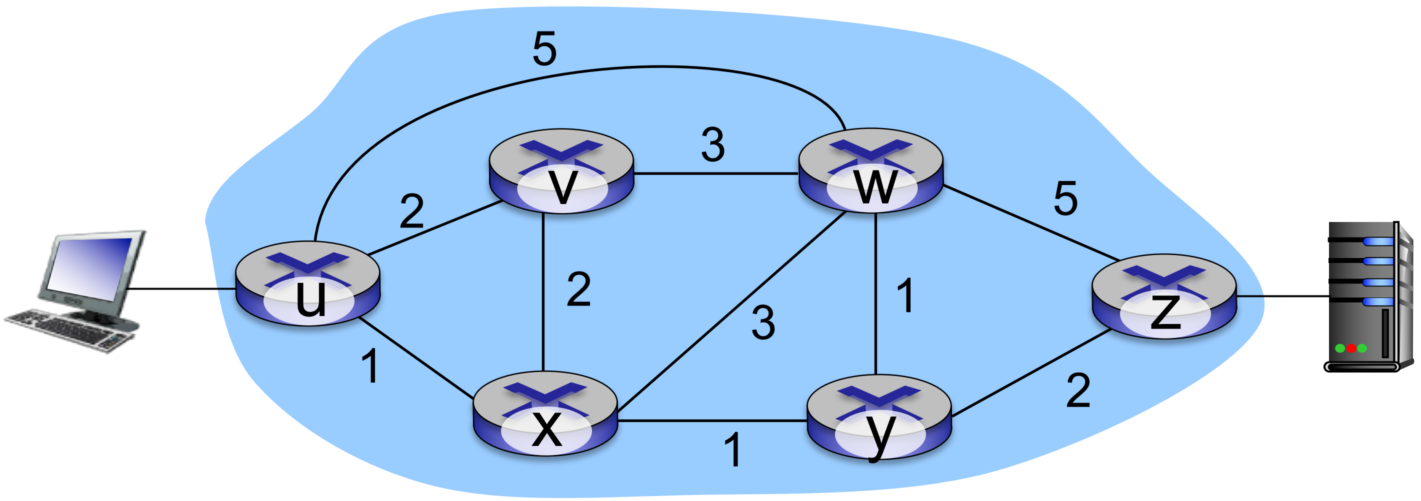


Vertically integrated
Closed, proprietary
Slow innovation
Small industry

Horizontal
Open interfaces
Rapid innovation
Huge industry

* Slide courtesy: N. McKeown

Traffic engineering: difficult traditional routing

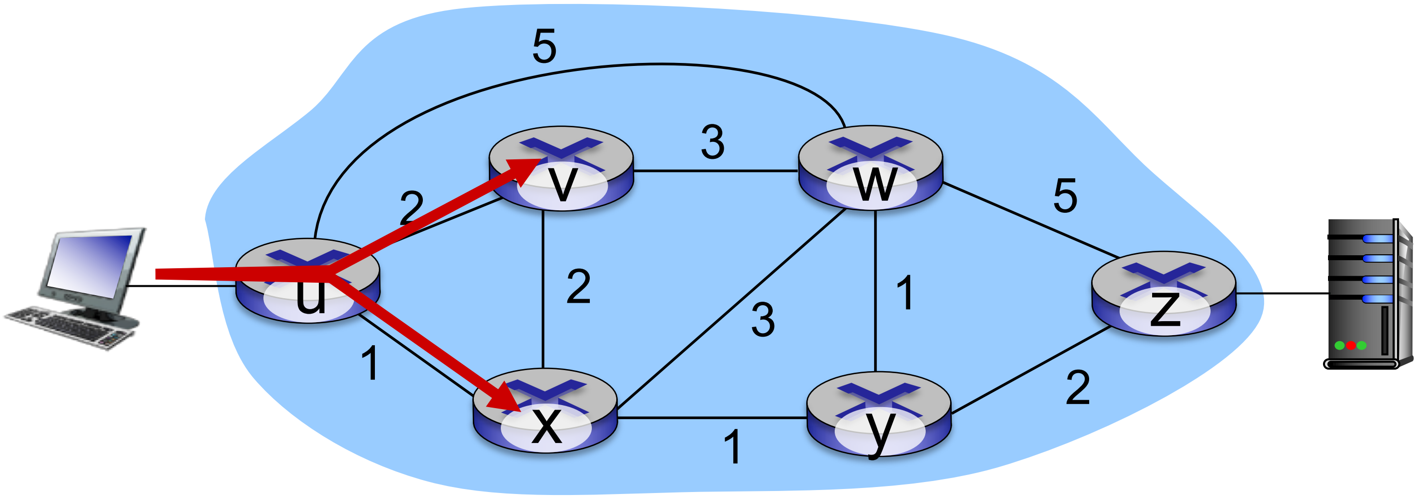


Q: what if network operator wants u-to-z traffic to flow along *uvwz*, x-to-z traffic to flow *xwyz*?

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

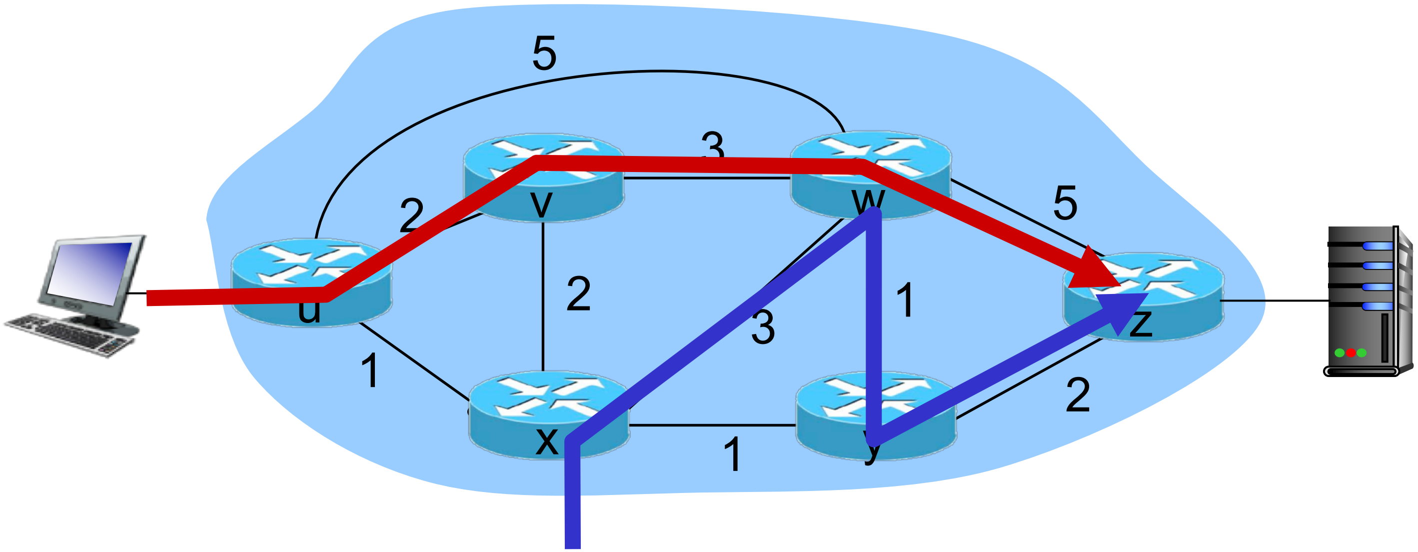
Link weights are only control "knobs": wrong!

Traffic engineering: difficult



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)

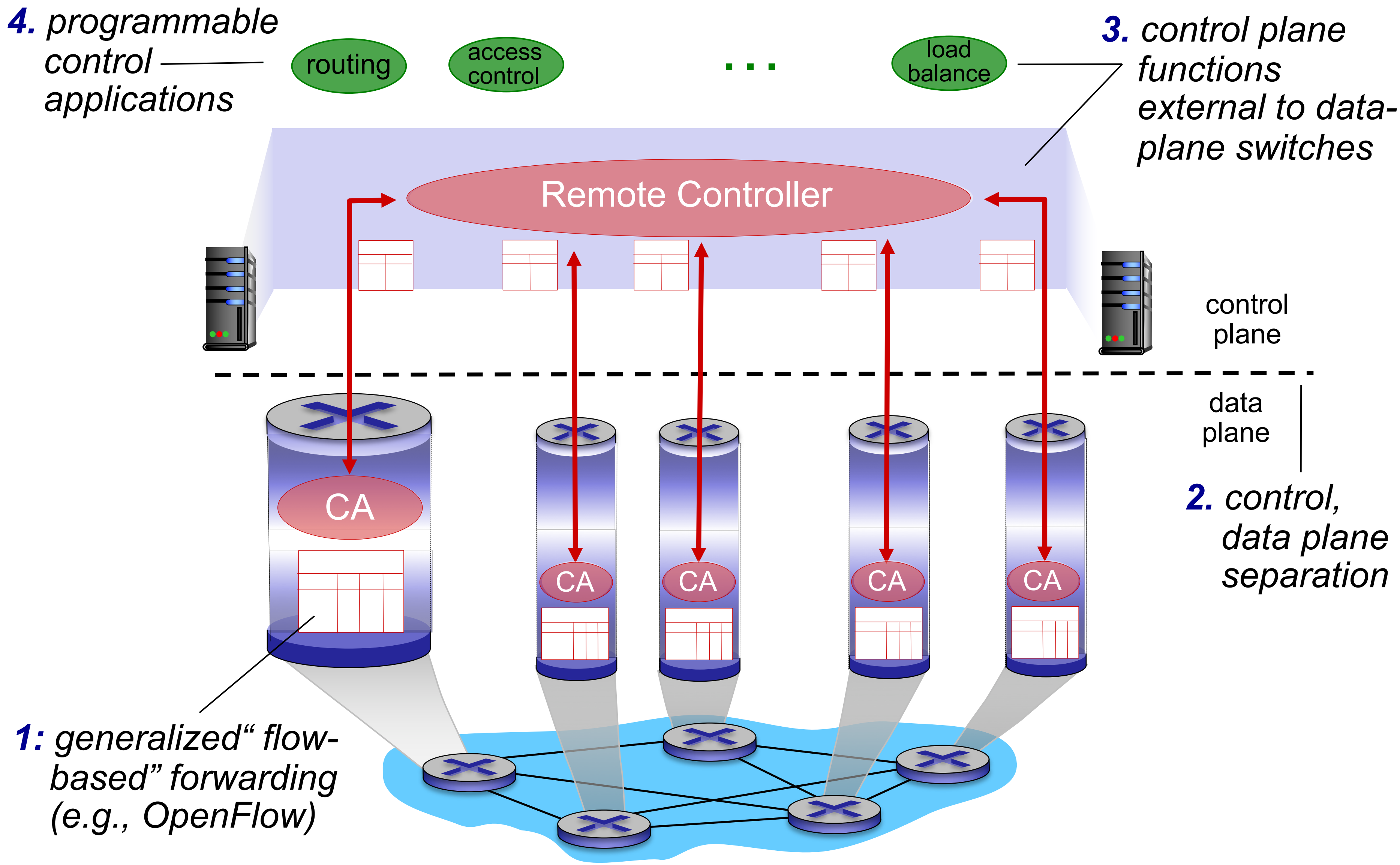
Traffic engineering: difficult



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

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

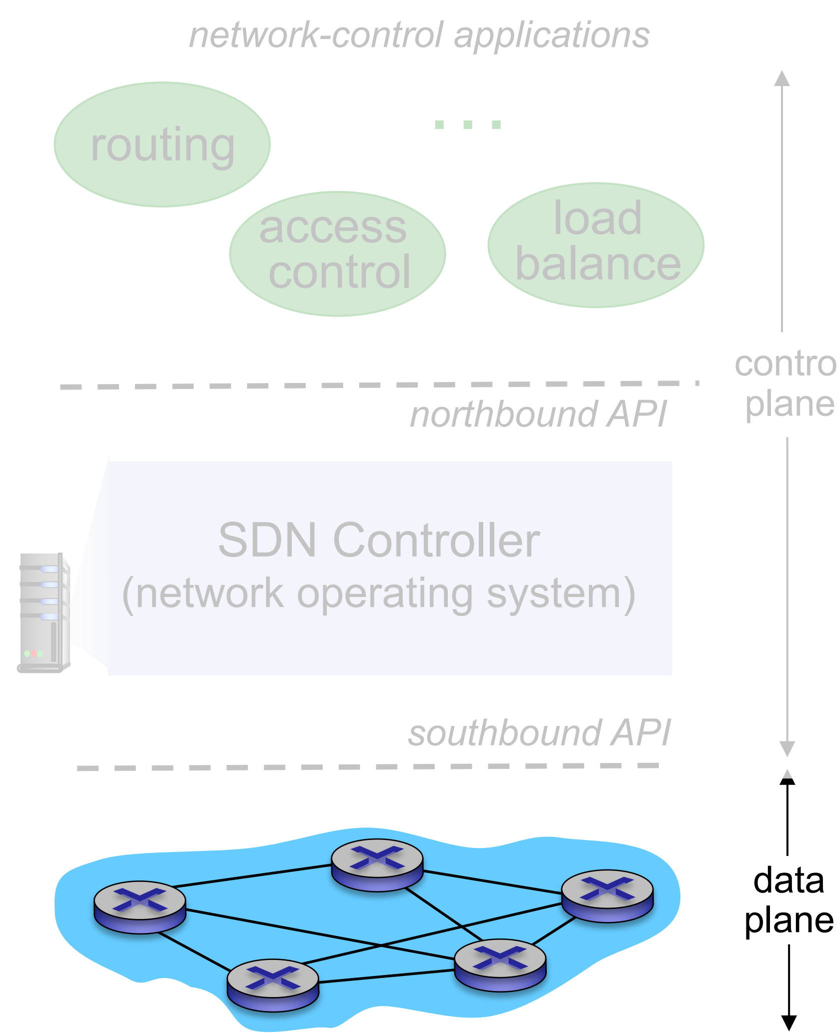
Software defined networking (SDN)



SDN perspective: data plane switches

Data plane switches

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

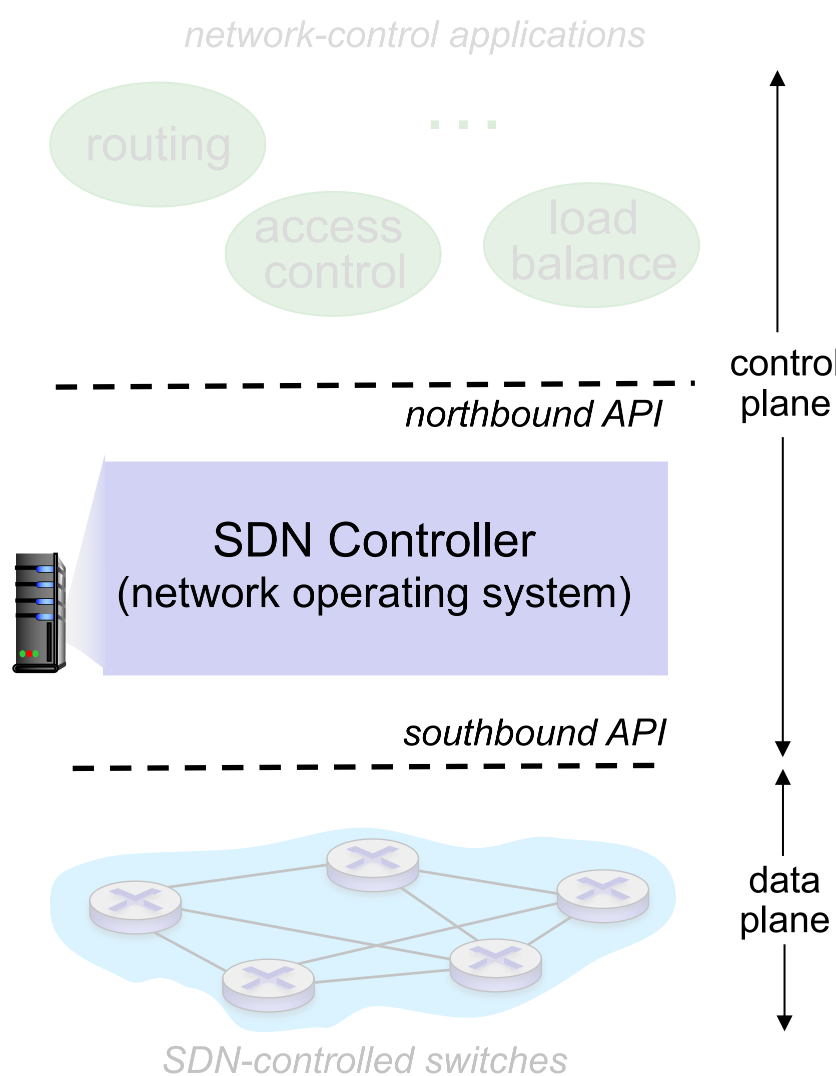


SDN-controlled switches

SDN perspective: SDN controller

SDN controller (network OS):

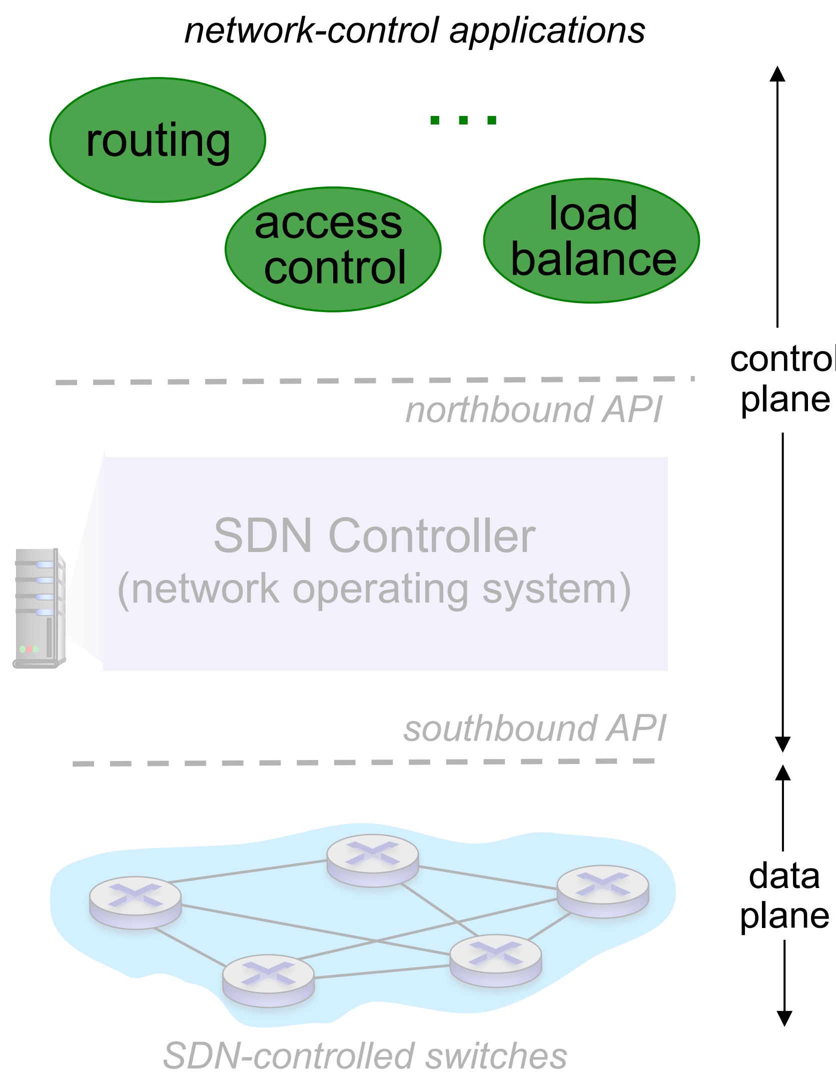
- maintain network state information
- interacts with network control applications "above" via northbound API
- interacts with network switches "below" via southbound API
- implemented as distributed system for performance, scalability, fault-tolerance, robustness



SDN perspective: control applications

network-control apps:

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

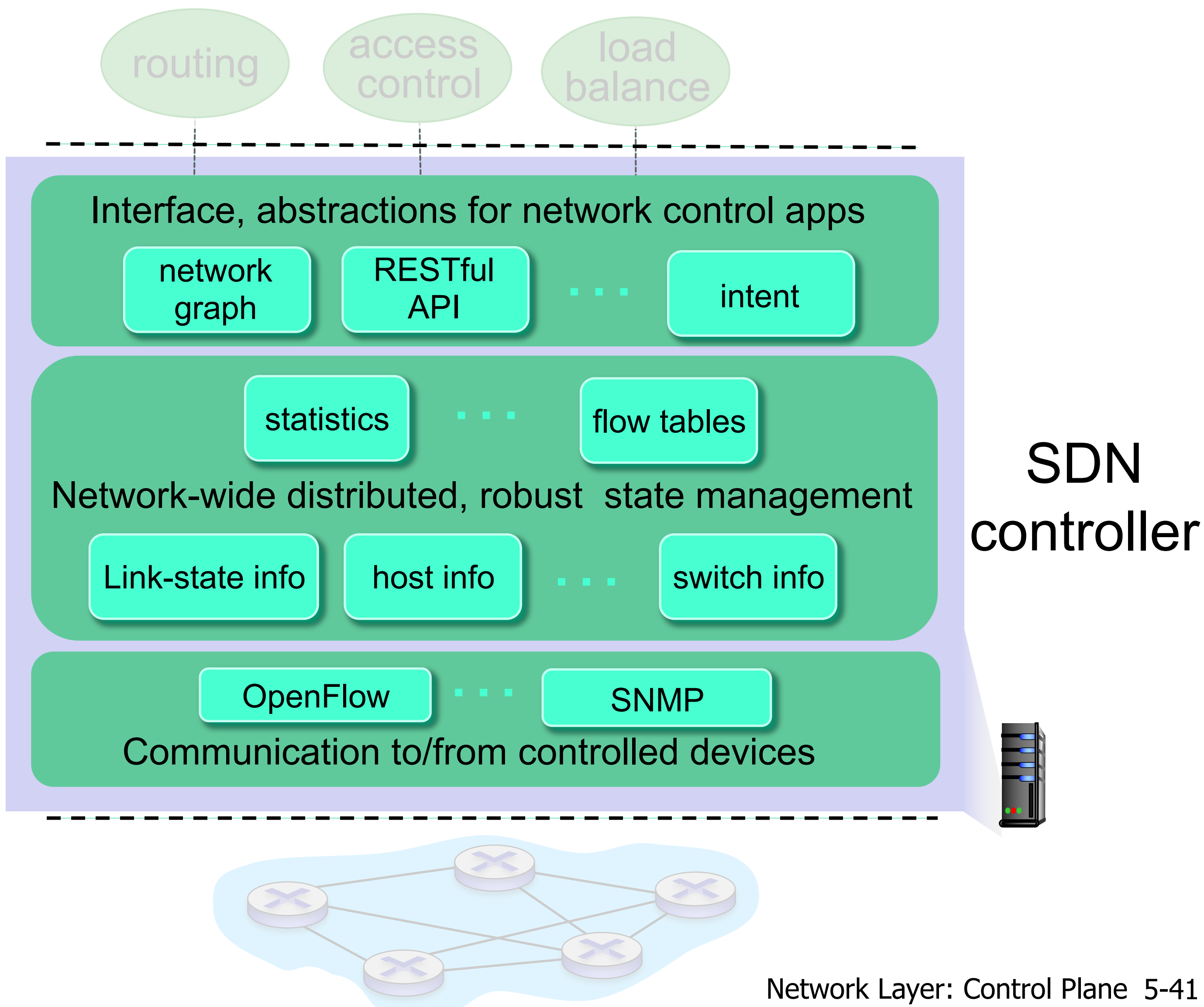


Components of SDN controller

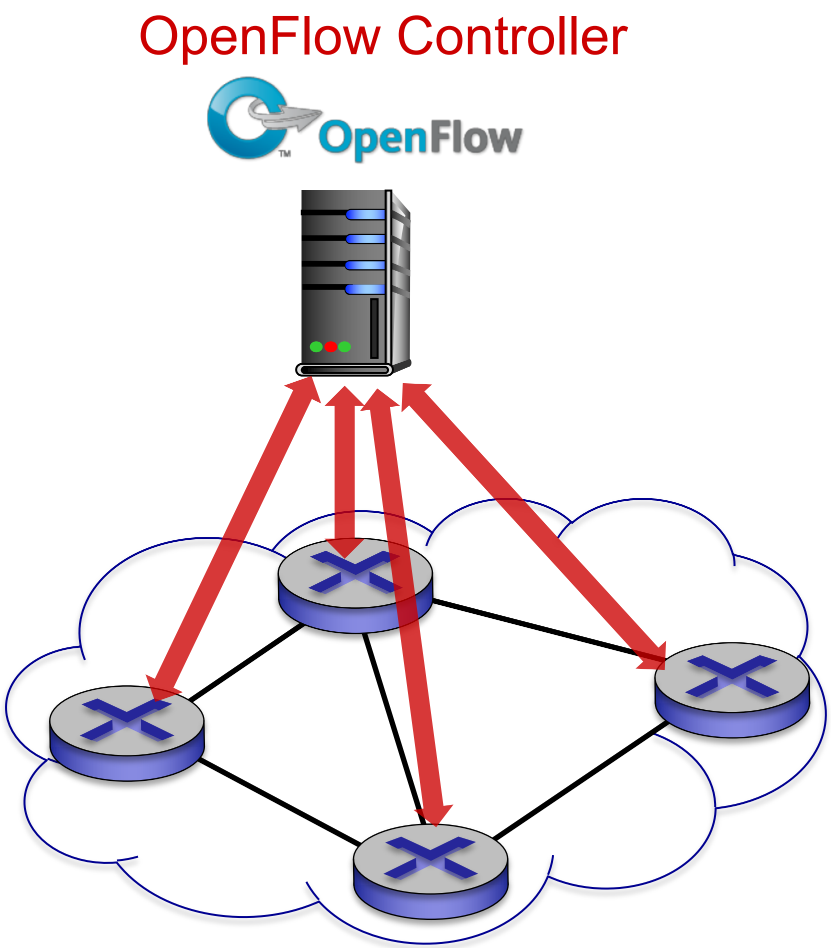
Interface layer to network control apps: abstractions API

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

communication layer: 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)

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