

Lecture 9 – Chapter 5

Network Control Plane

CIS 5617, Spring 2020

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Based on Slides created by JFK/KWR

7th edition

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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”)

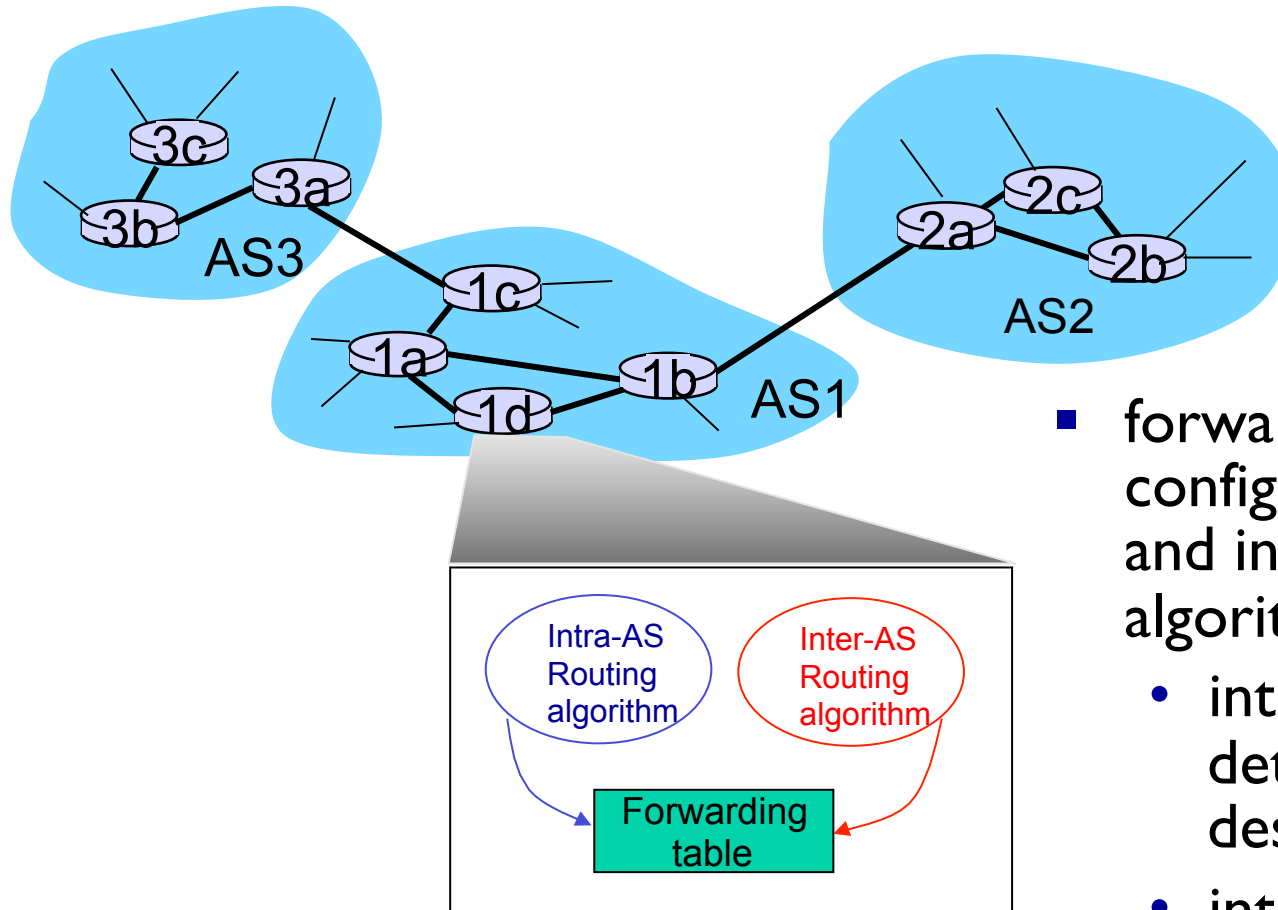
intra-AS routing

- 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

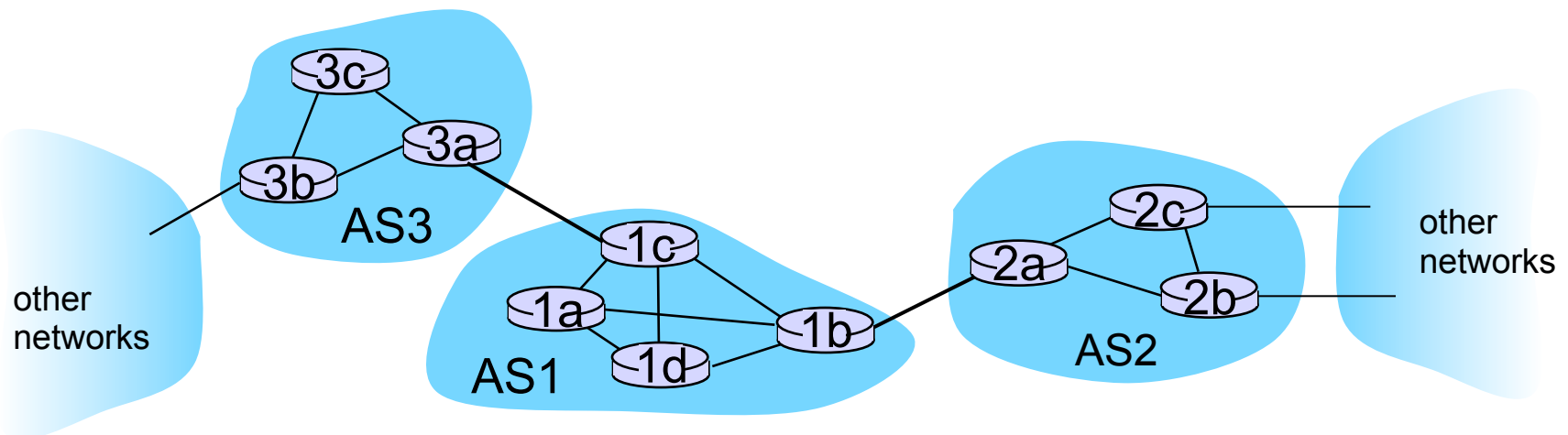
Inter-AS tasks

- 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 destds 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)

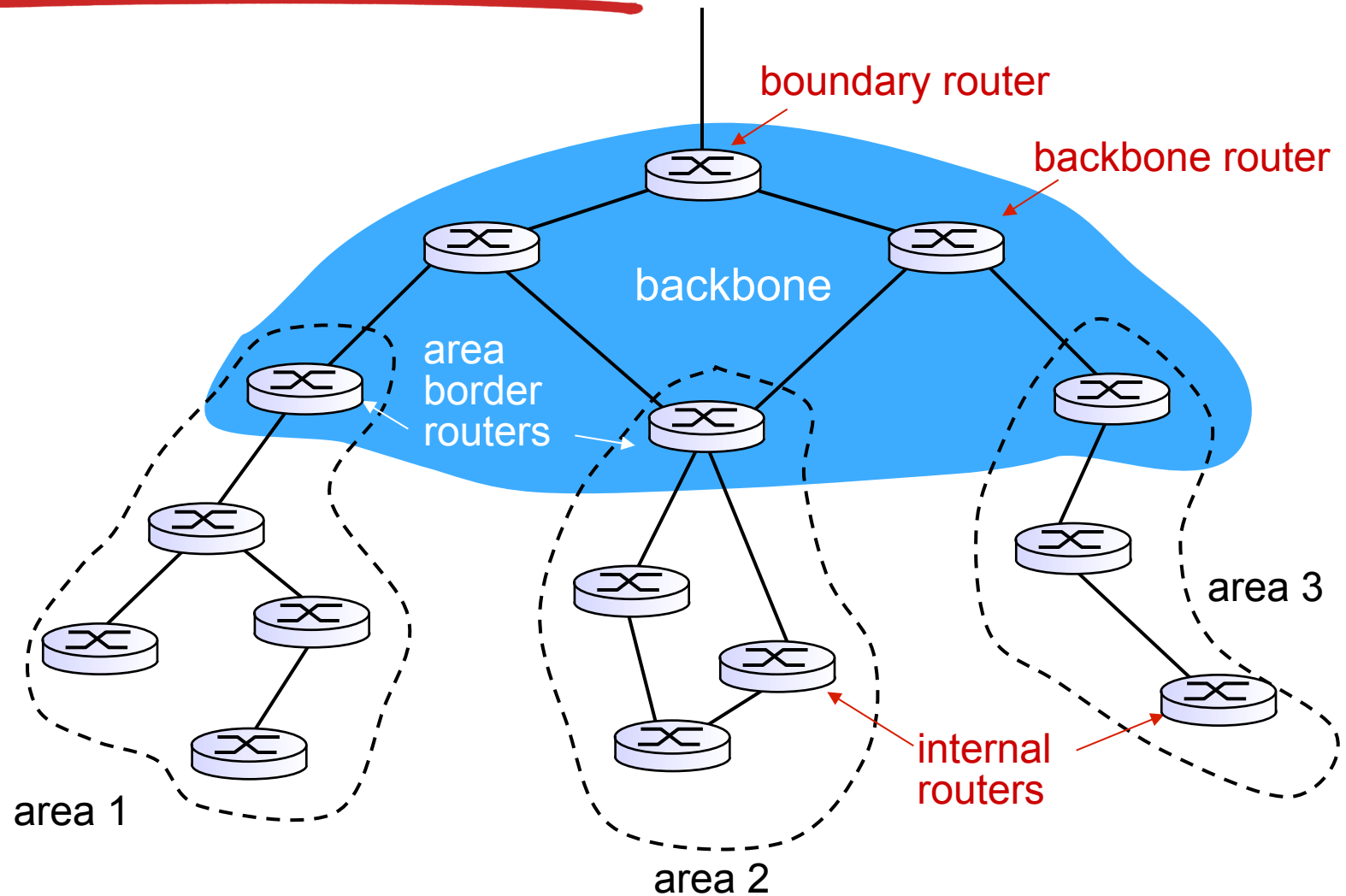
OSPF (Open Shortest Path First)

- “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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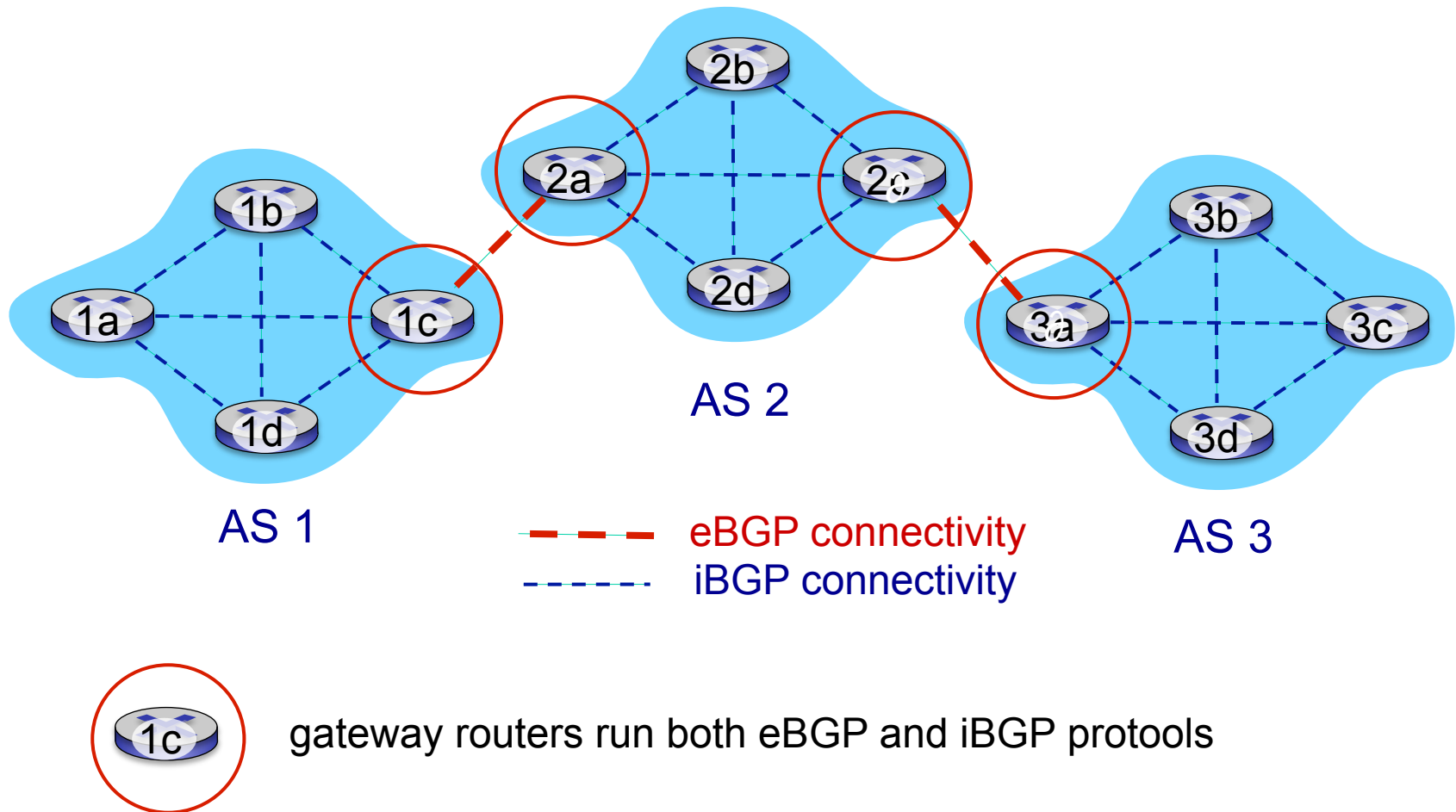
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Internet inter-AS routing: BGP

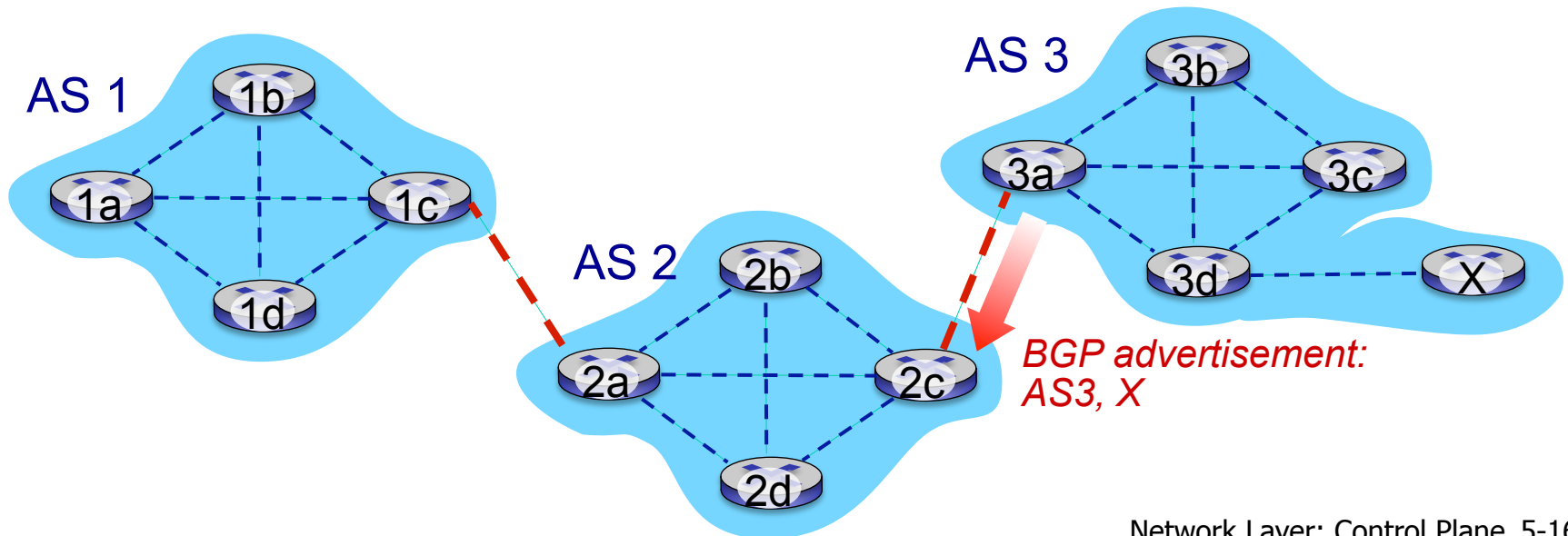
- **BGP (Border Gateway Protocol):** *the de facto inter-domain routing protocol*
 - “glue that holds the Internet together”
- BGP provides each AS a means to:
 - **eBGP:** obtain subnet reachability information from neighboring ASes
 - **iBGP:** propagate reachability information to all AS-internal 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



BGP basics

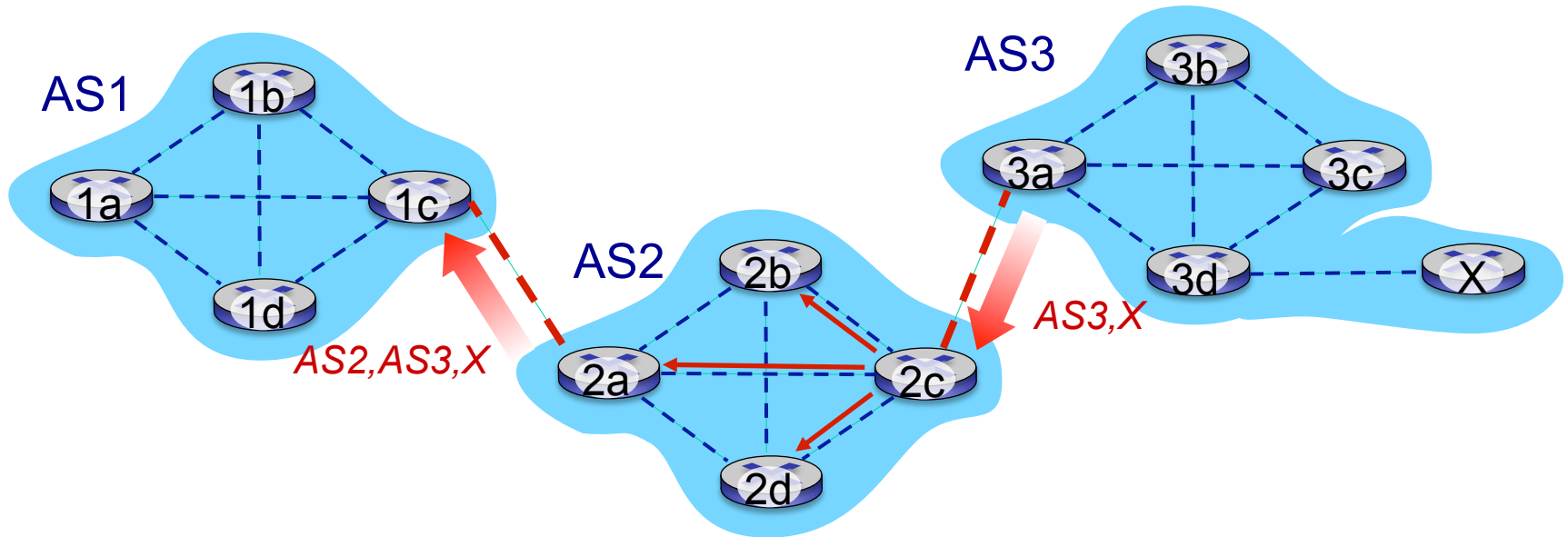
- **BGP session:** two BGP routers (“peers”) exchange BGP messages over semi-permanent TCP connection:
 - advertising *paths* to different destination network prefixes (BGP is a “path vector” protocol)
- when AS3 gateway router 3a advertises path **AS3,X** to AS2 gateway router 2c:
 - AS3 *promises*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



Path attributes and BGP routes

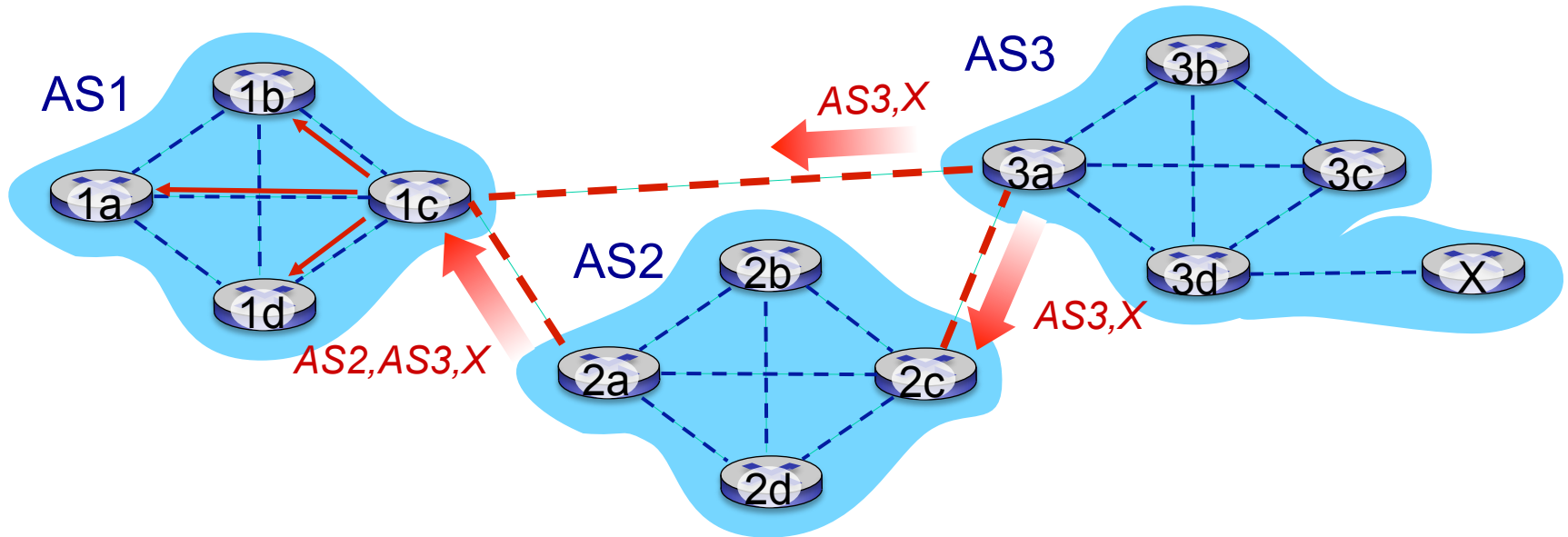
- advertised prefix includes BGP attributes
 - prefix + attributes = “route”
- two important attributes:
 - **AS-PATH**: list of ASes through which prefix advertisement has passed
 - **NEXT-HOP**: indicates specific internal-AS router to next-hop AS
- *Policy-based routing*:
 - gateway receiving route 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:

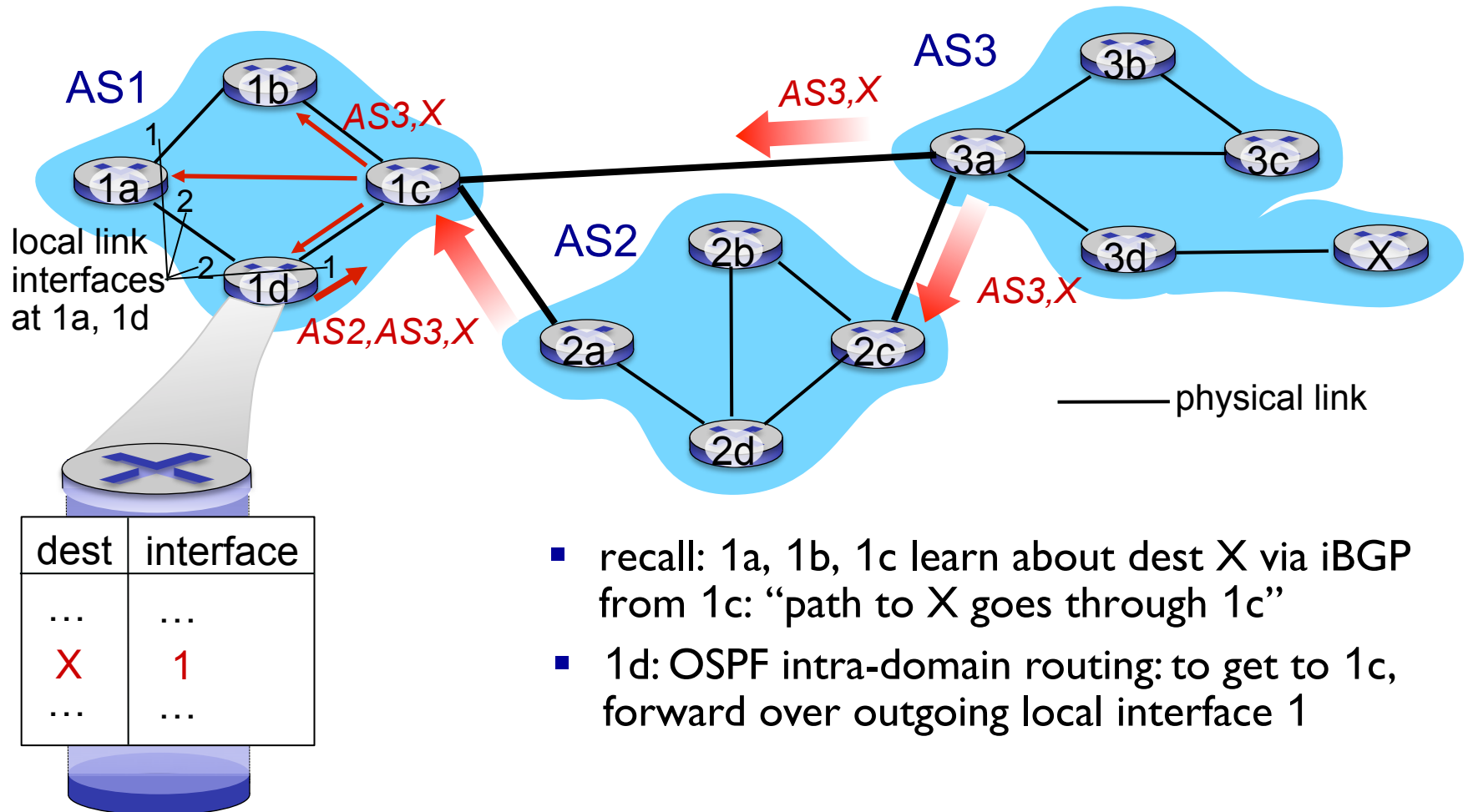
- AS1 gateway router 1c learns path **AS2,AS3,X** from 2a
- AS1 gateway router 1c learns path **AS3,X** from 3a
- Based on policy, AS1 gateway router 1c chooses path **AS3,X**, and *advertises path within AS1 via iBGP*

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

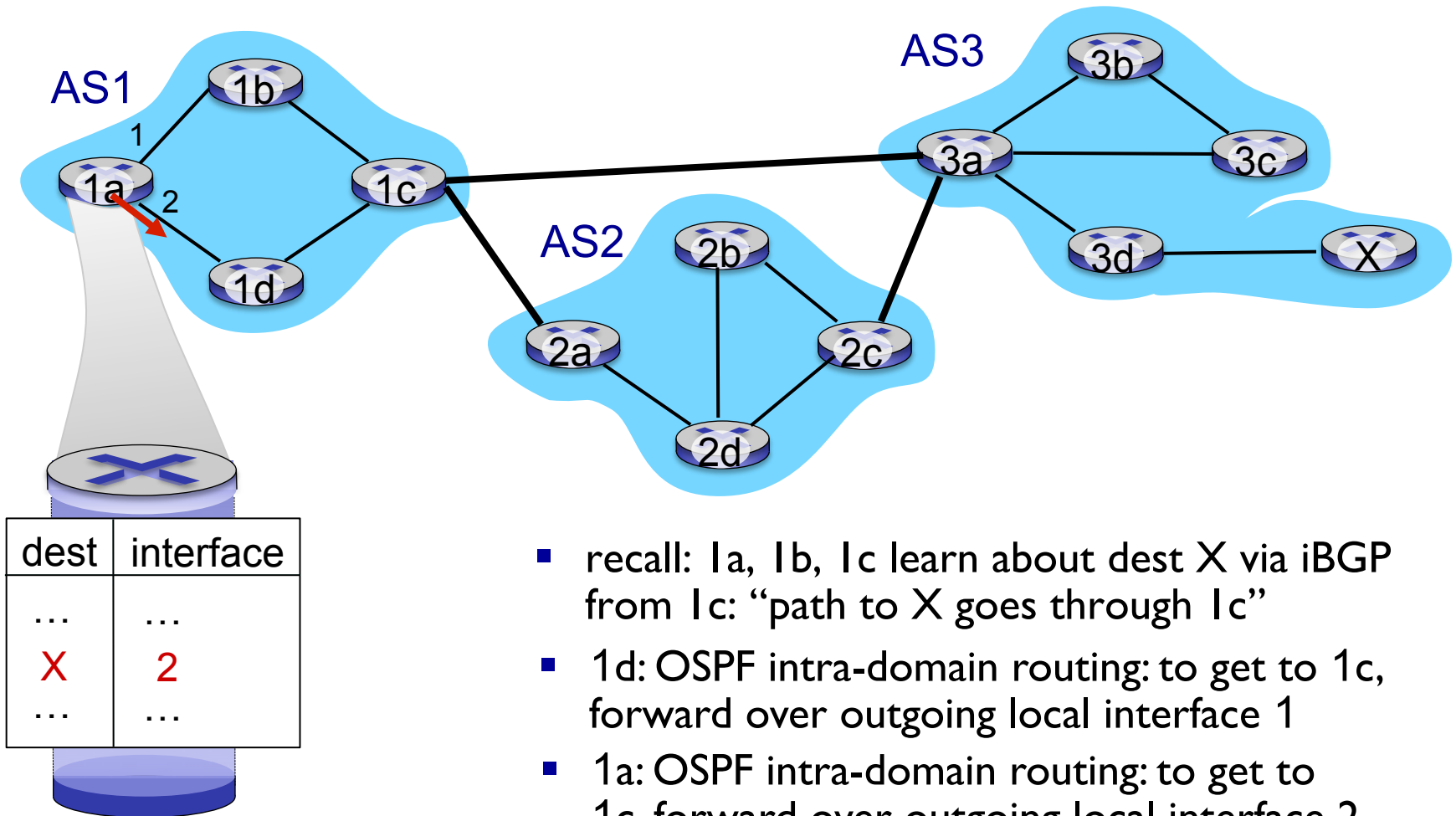
BGP, OSPF, forwarding table entries

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



BGP, OSPF, forwarding table entries

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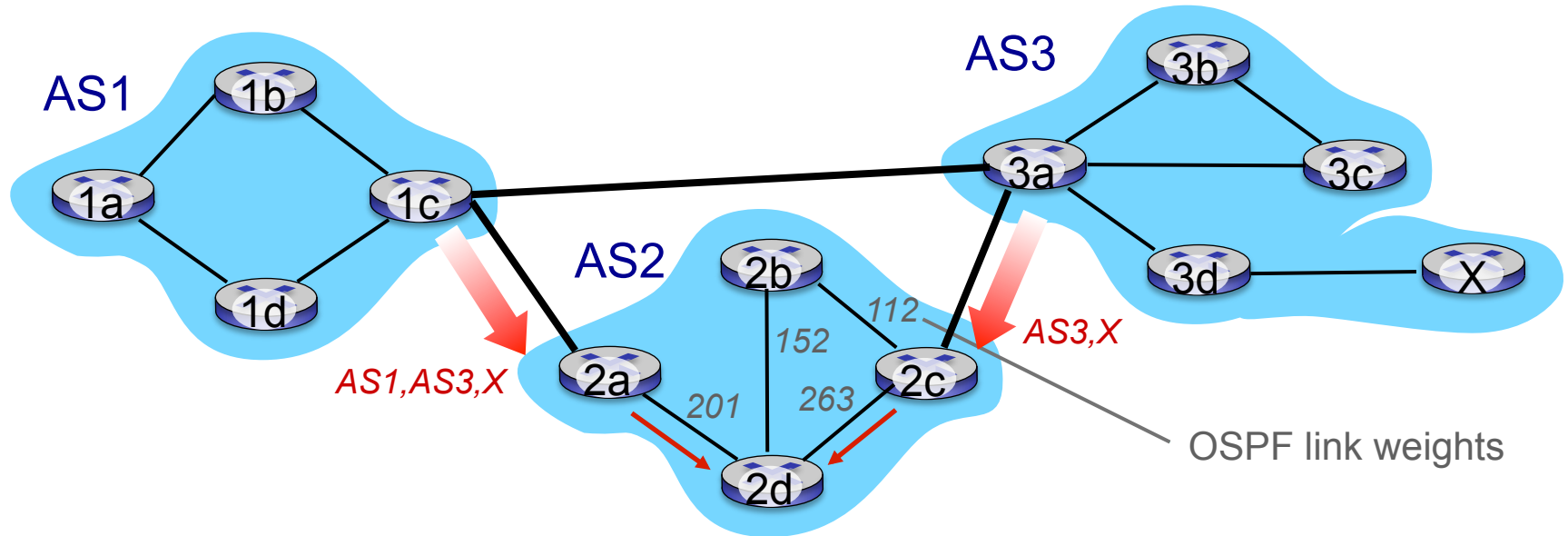


- recall: 1a, 1b, 1c learn about dest X via iBGP from 1c: “path to X goes through 1c”
- 1d: OSPF intra-domain routing: to get to 1c, forward over outgoing local interface 1
- 1a: OSPF intra-domain routing: to get to 1c, forward over outgoing local interface 2

BGP route selection

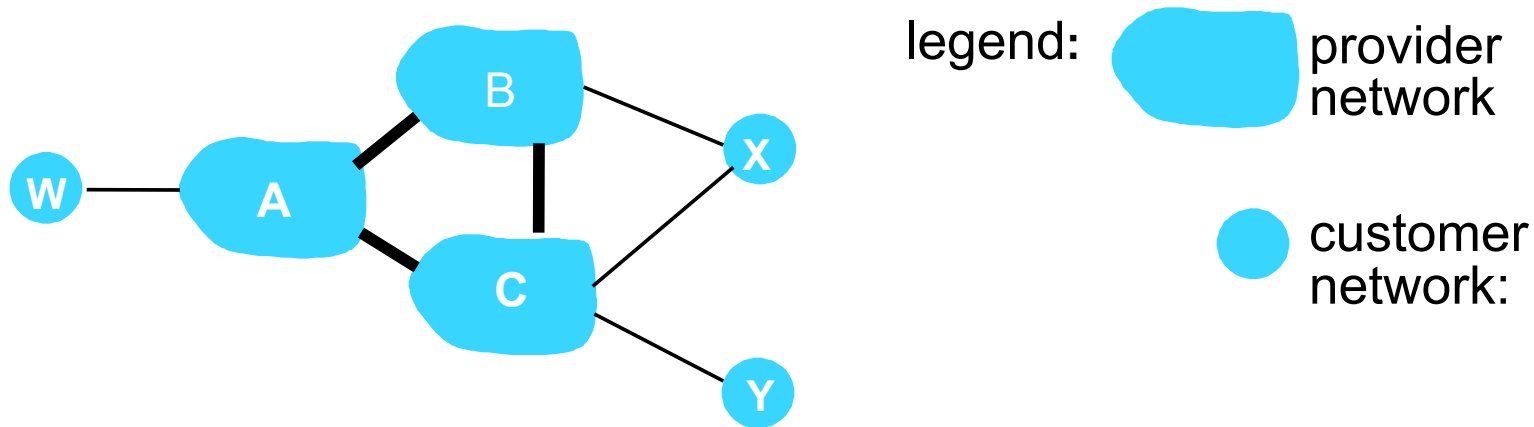
- router may learn about more than one route to destination AS, selects route based on:
 1. local preference value attribute: policy decision
 2. shortest AS-PATH
 3. closest NEXT-HOP router: hot potato routing
 4. additional criteria

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!

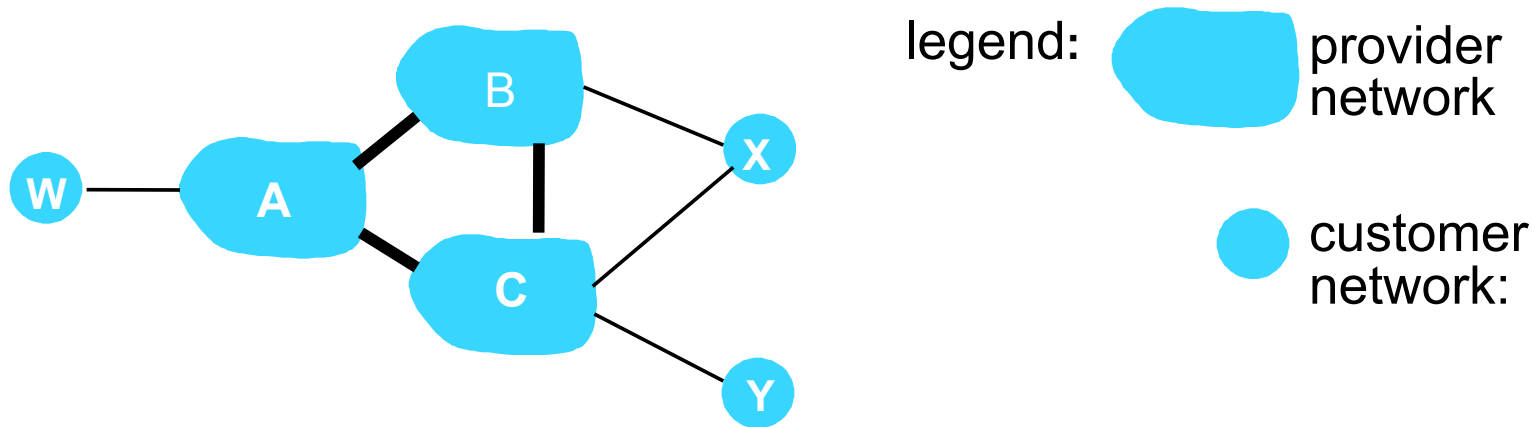
BGP: achieving policy via advertisements



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 A_w to B and to C
- B *chooses not to advertise* B_{A_w} to C:
 - B gets no “revenue” for routing C_{B_{A_w}}, since none of C, A, w are B’s customers
 - C does not learn about C_{B_{A_w}} path
- C will route C_{A_w} (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

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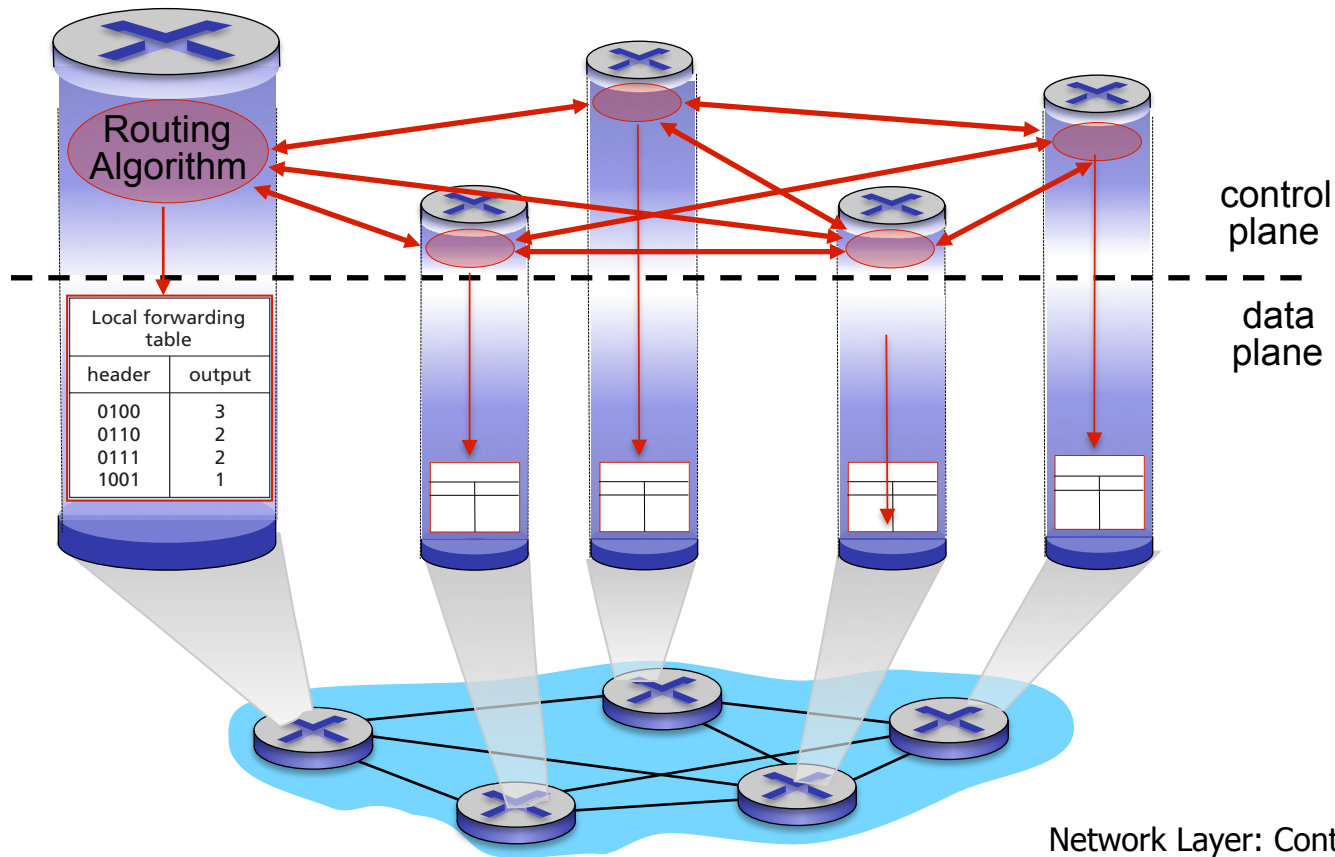
5.5 The SDN control plane

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

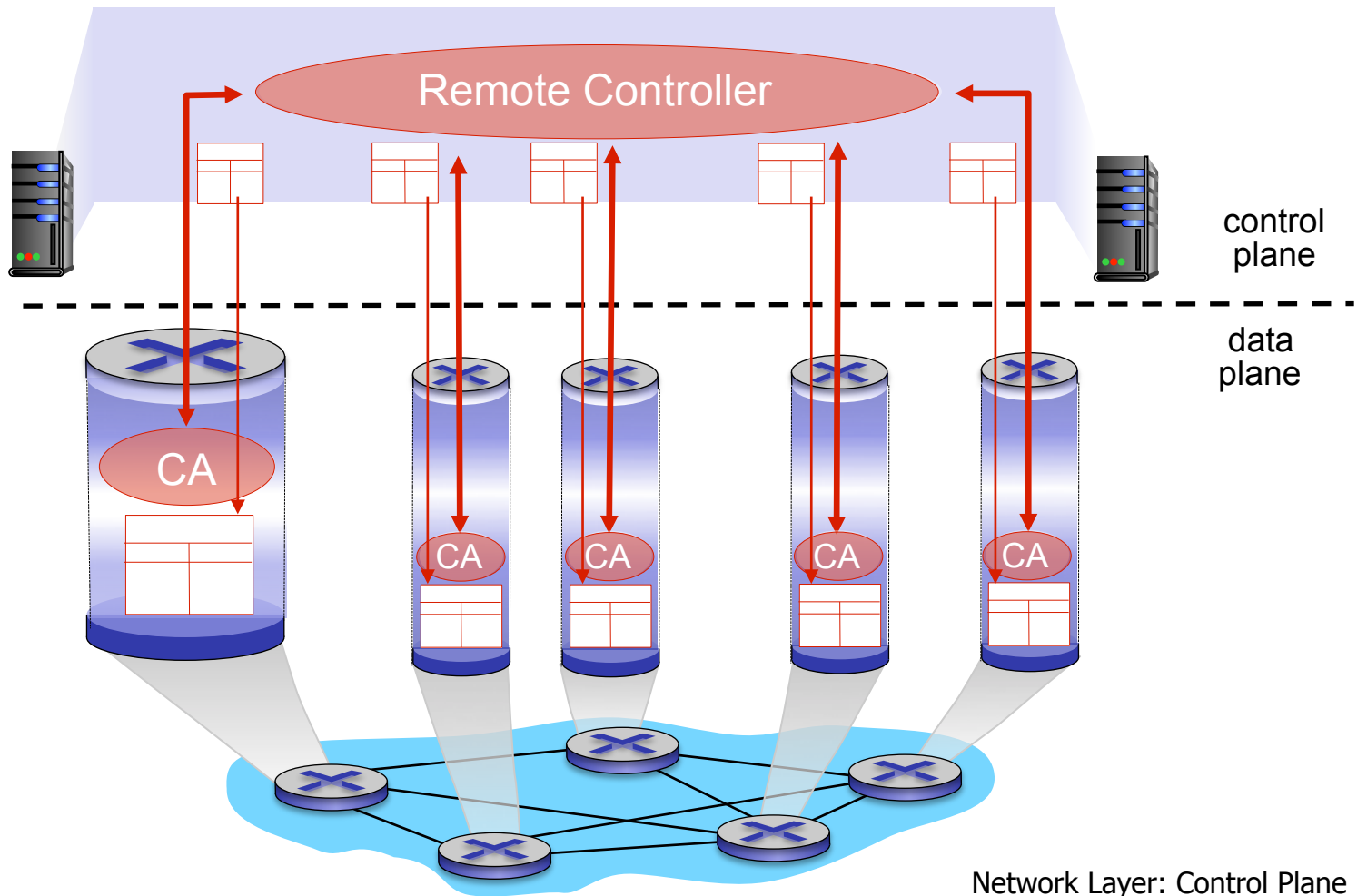
Recall: per-router control plane

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)

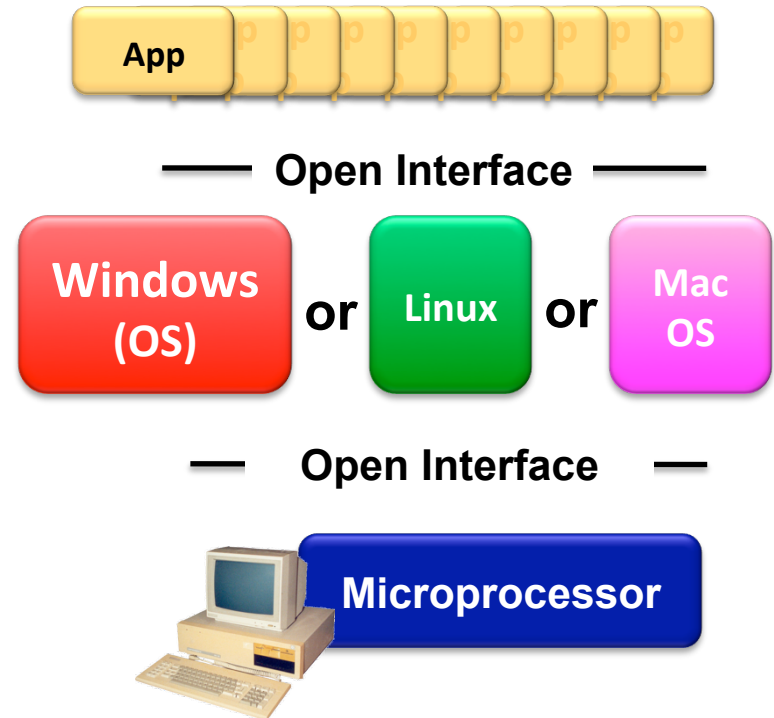
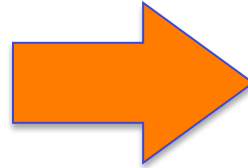
Why a *logically centralized* control plane?

- 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

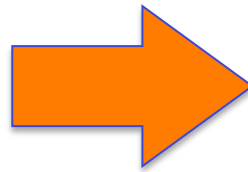
Analogy: mainframe to PC evolution*



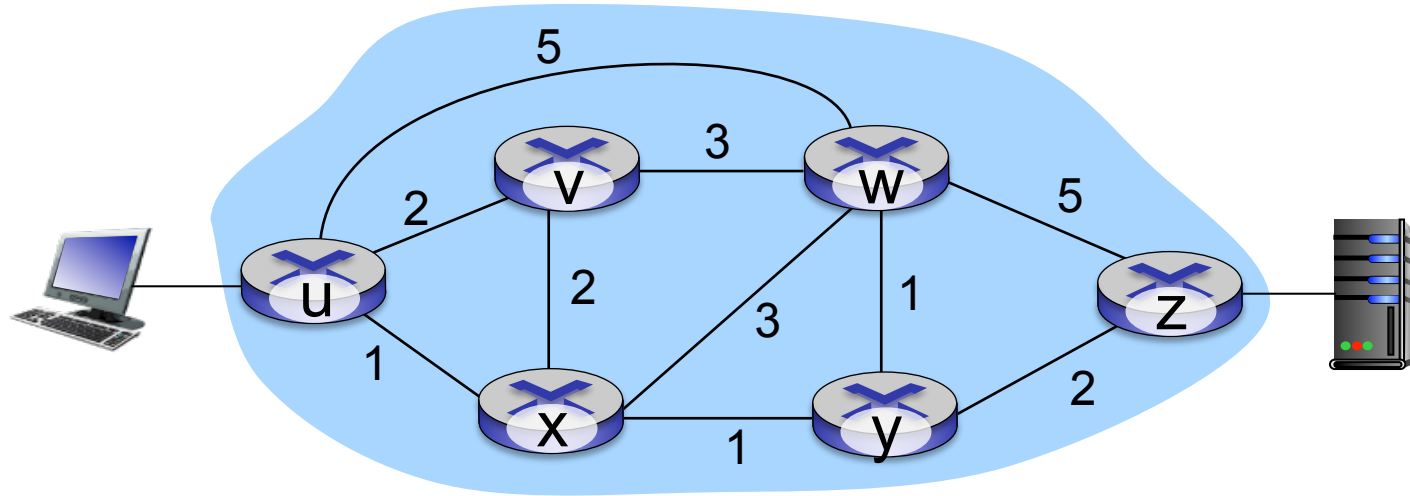
Vertically integrated
Closed, proprietary
Slow innovation
Small industry



Horizontal
Open interfaces
Rapid innovation
Huge industry



Traffic engineering: difficult traditional routing

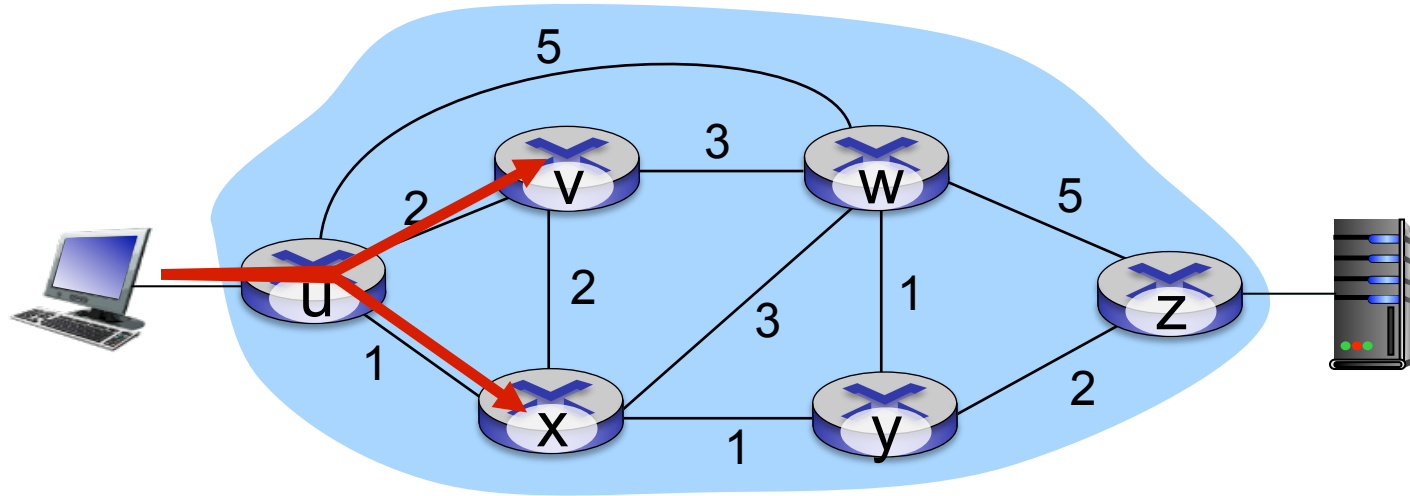


Q: what if network operator wants u-to-z traffic to flow along $uvwz$, x-to-z traffic to flow $xwyz$?

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!

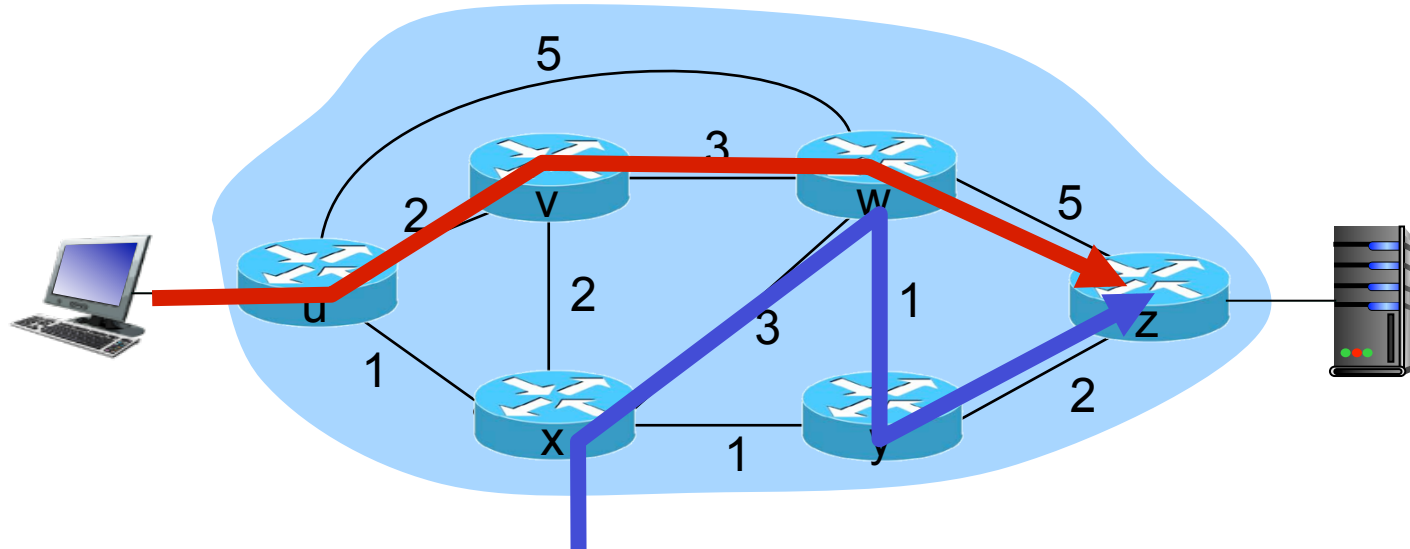
Traffic engineering: difficult



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)

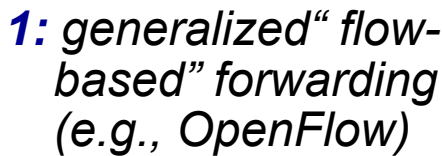
Traffic engineering: difficult



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)

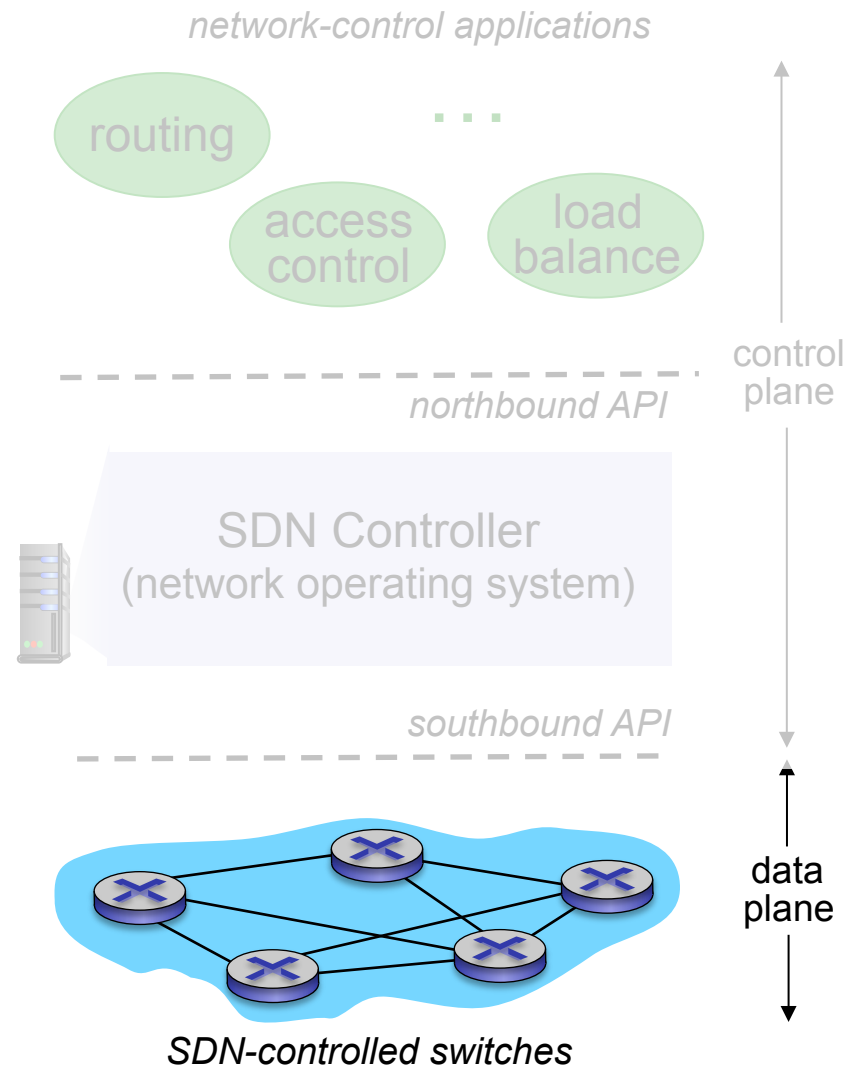
3. *control plane functions external to data-plane switches*



SDN perspective: data plane switches

Data plane switches

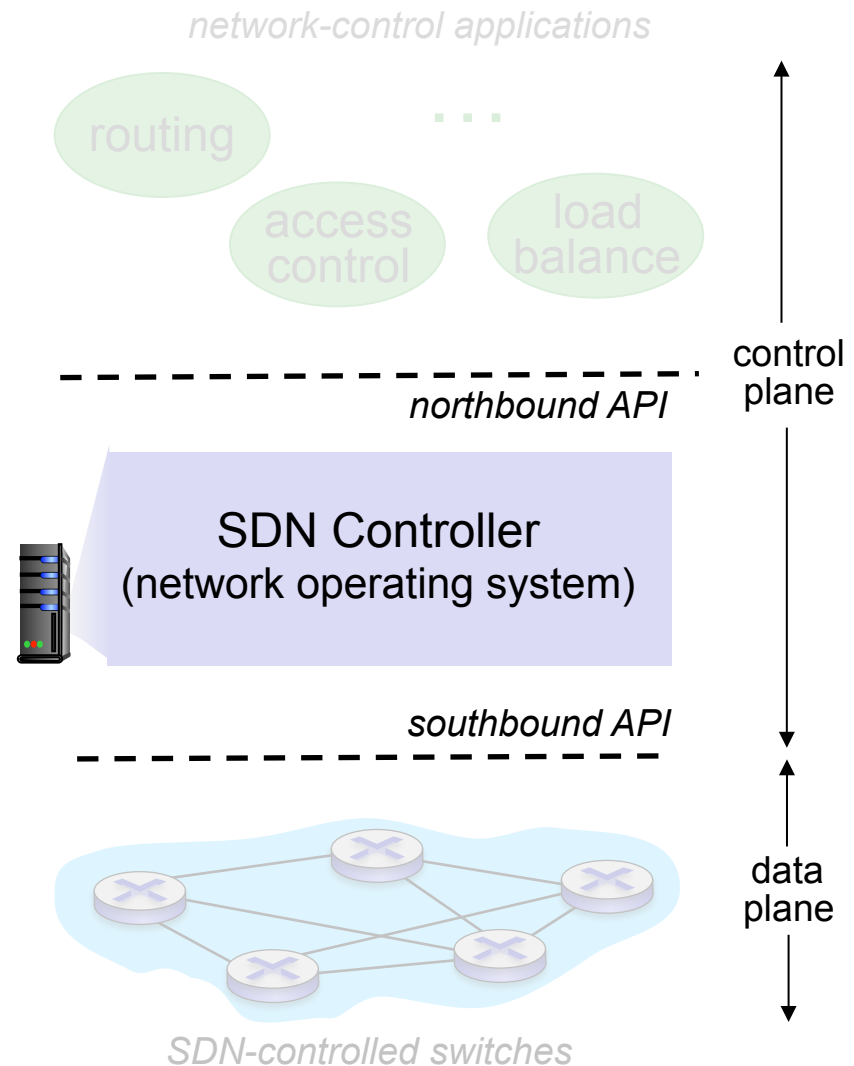
- fast, simple, commodity switches implementing generalized data-plane forwarding (Section 4.4) in hardware
- switch flow table computed, installed by controller
- API for table-based switch control (e.g., OpenFlow)
 - defines what is controllable and what is not
- protocol for communicating with controller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



SDN perspective: SDN controller

SDN controller (network OS):

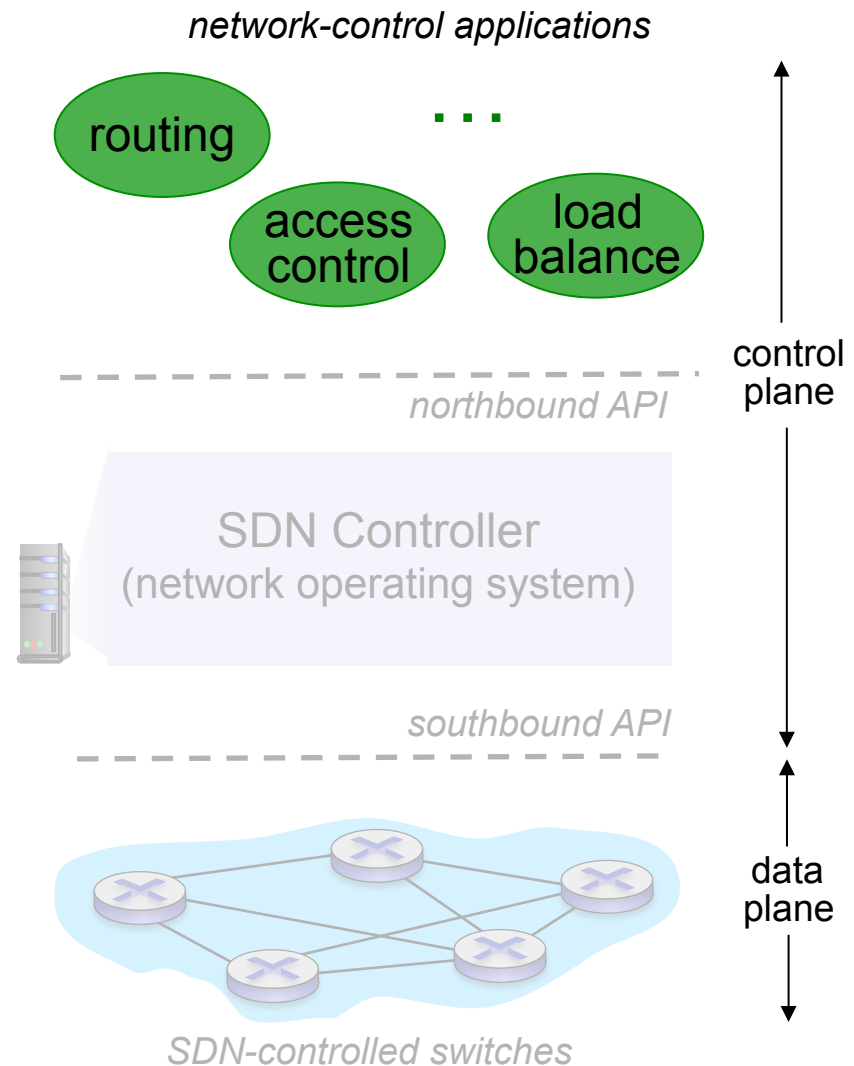
- maintain network state information
- interacts with network control applications “above” via northbound API
- interacts with network switches “below” via southbound API
- implemented as distributed system for performance, scalability, fault-tolerance, robustness



SDN perspective: control applications

network-control apps:

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

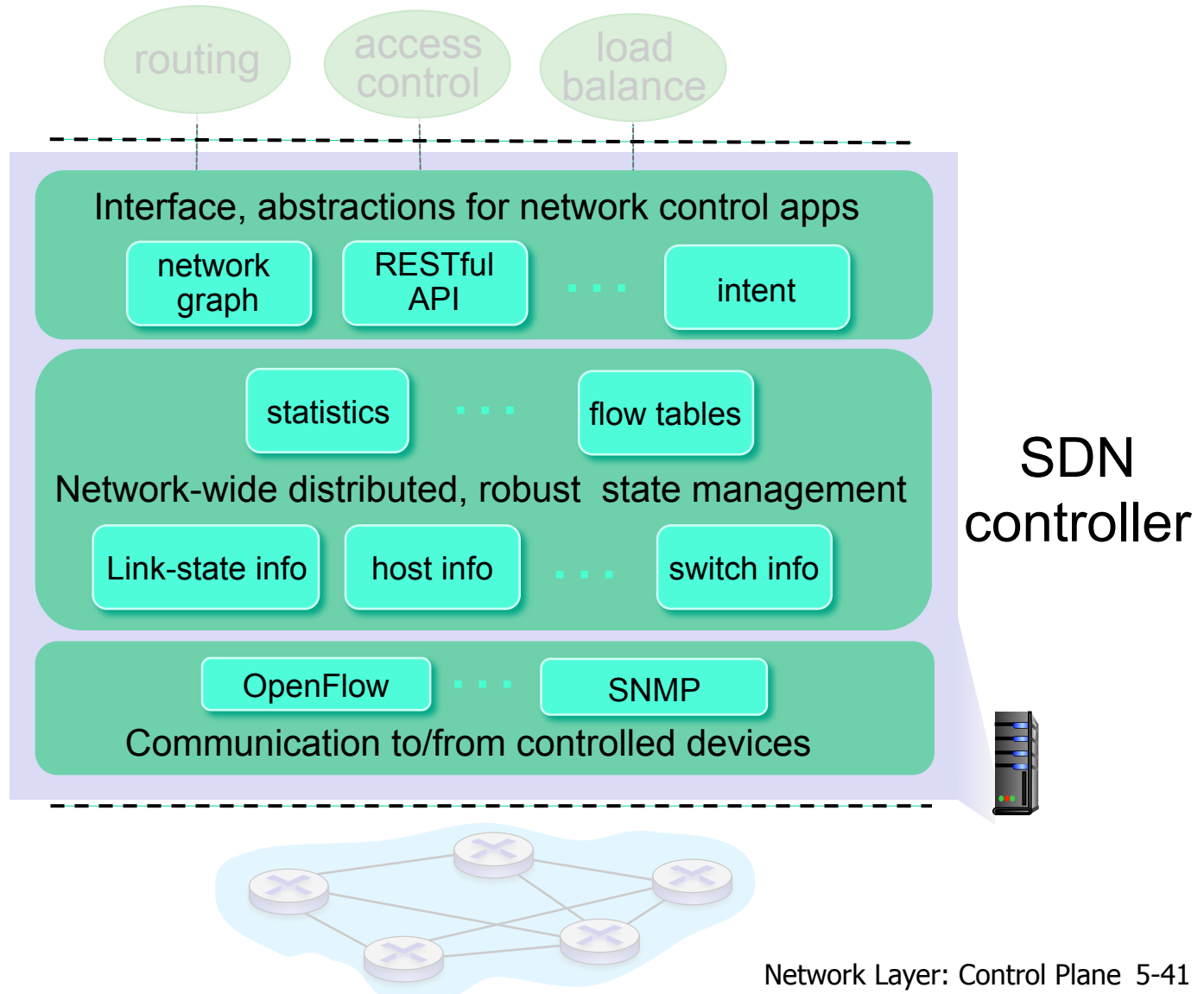


Components of SDN controller

Interface layer to network control apps: abstractions API

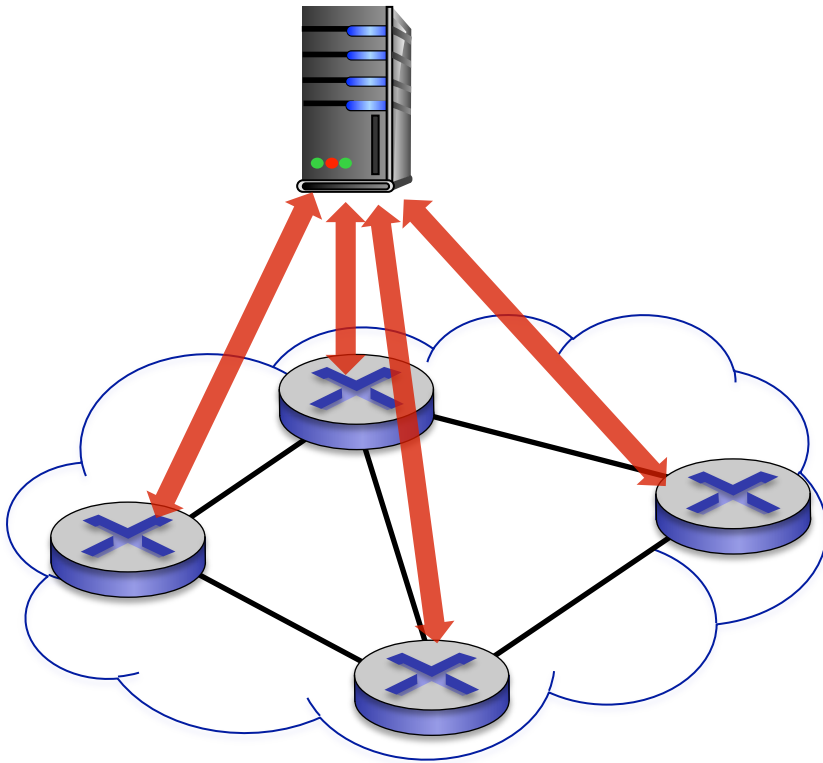
Network-wide state management layer: state of networks links, switches, services: a *distributed database*

communication layer: communicate between SDN controller and controlled switches



OpenFlow protocol

OpenFlow Controller



- 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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