

# CS144: An Introduction to Computer Networks

Routing: How do packets know the way?

Today:

Bellman Ford and Dijkstra, and

How does routing work in the Internet?

(Part 2 of 3)



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# Videos and Lectures this week

**Lectures:** Mostly the “why” we do it this way

**Videos:** Mostly the “what” and the “how”

I assume you watched three videos: [Basics](#), [Bellman-Ford & Dijkstra](#)

Today’s lecture and discussion:

1. *[Recap what we learned in Lecture 1](#)*
2. *[Lowest-cost spanning tree: What if each link has a different cost?](#)*
3. *[Dijkstra vs. Bellman Ford](#)*
4. *[How routing works in the Internet](#)*

Before Friday, watch Videos [Internet & BGP](#)

# Recap of Lecture 1

Methods used for routing in the Internet:

1. Flooding: When we don't know the topology
2. Source routing: When the end host wants to pick the route
3. A distributed algorithm such as Bellman-Ford or Dijkstra: Routers deliver packet once to the correct destination along the lowest-cost path.

Bellman-Ford (distance-vector algorithm):

- Fully distributed
- Routers do not need to know the topology
- Can be hard to stabilize when links, weights or routers change
- Was the basis of the original RIP routing protocol

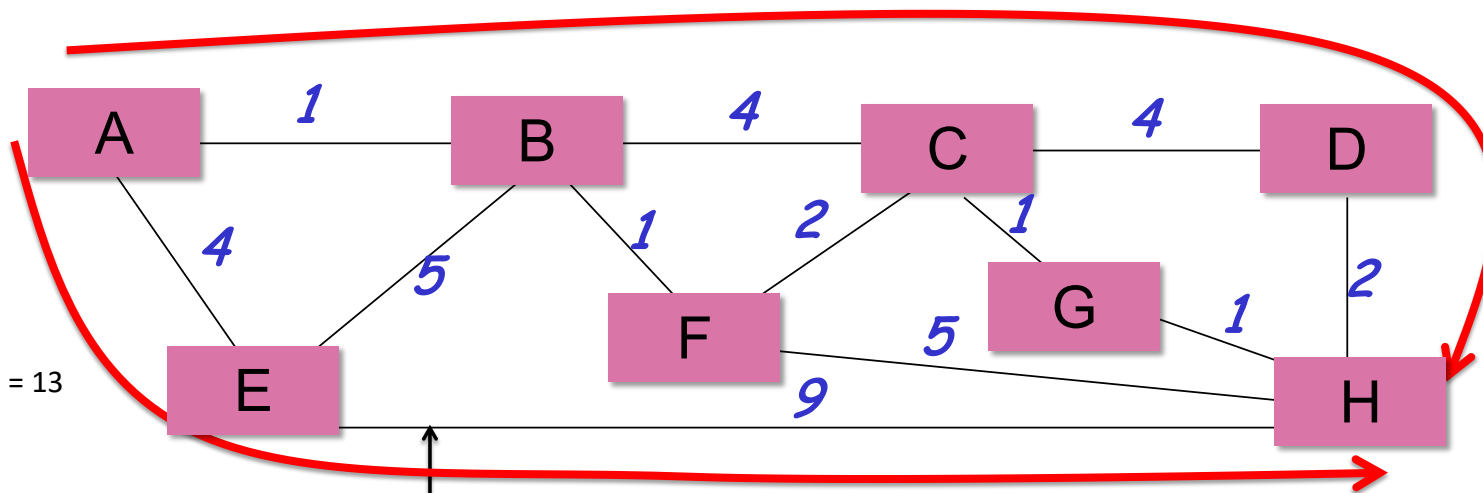
Dijkstra (link-state algorithm):

- Two phases: determine topology, then runs Dijkstra's algorithm
- Each router calculates lowest cost spanning tree to every other router
- Is the basis of the widely used OSPF and IS-IS protocols

What if each link has a “cost”?

Cost = 1+4+4+2 = 11

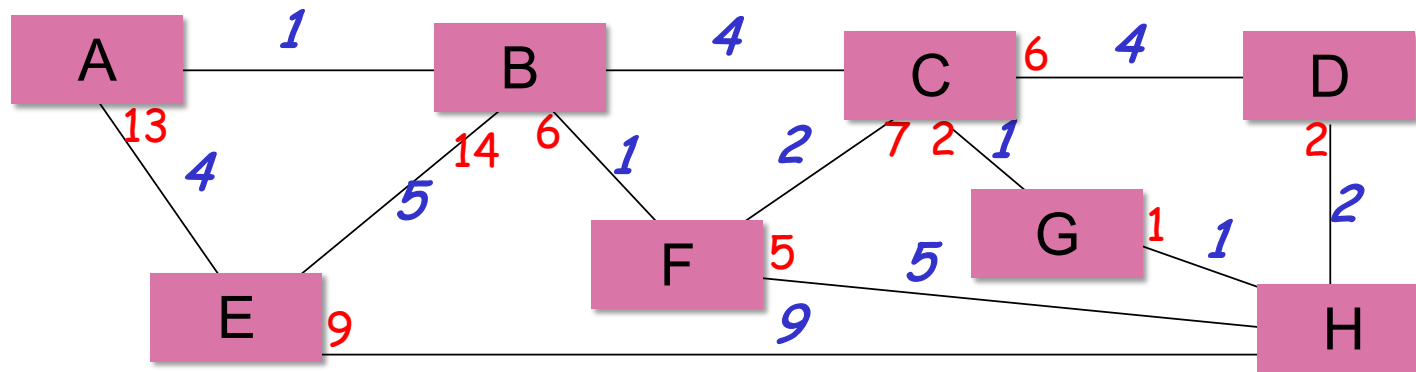
Cost = 4+9 = 13



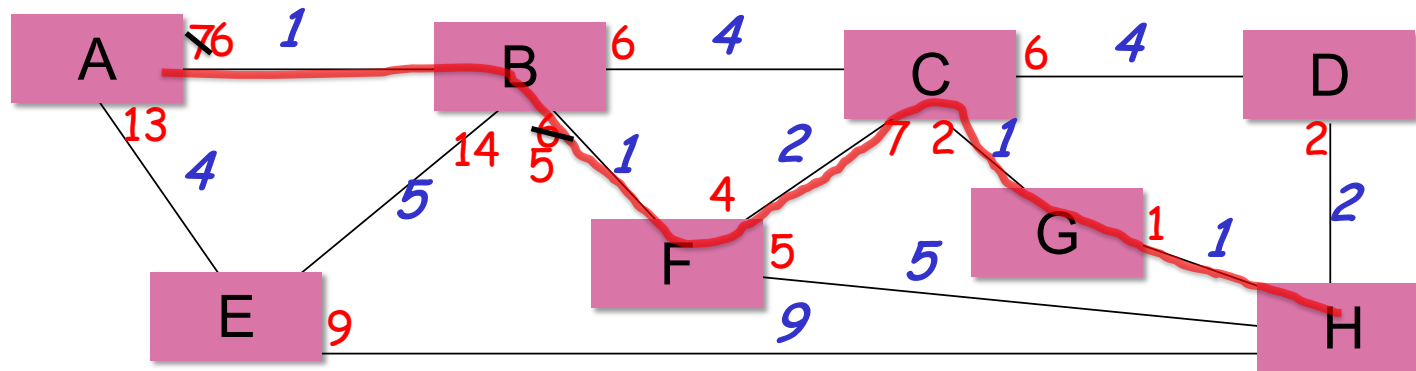
### “Expensive link”:

It might be very long. e.g. a link from Europe to USA.  
Or it might be very busy. e.g. it connects to Google or CNN.  
Or it may be very slow. e.g. 1Mb/s instead of 100Mb/s.

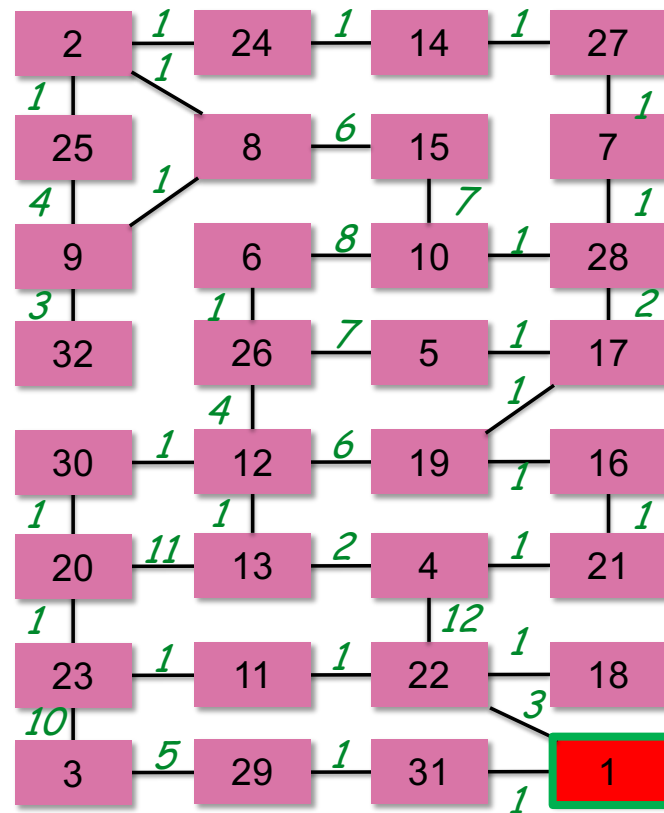
# Find lowest cost path to H



# Find lowest cost path to H

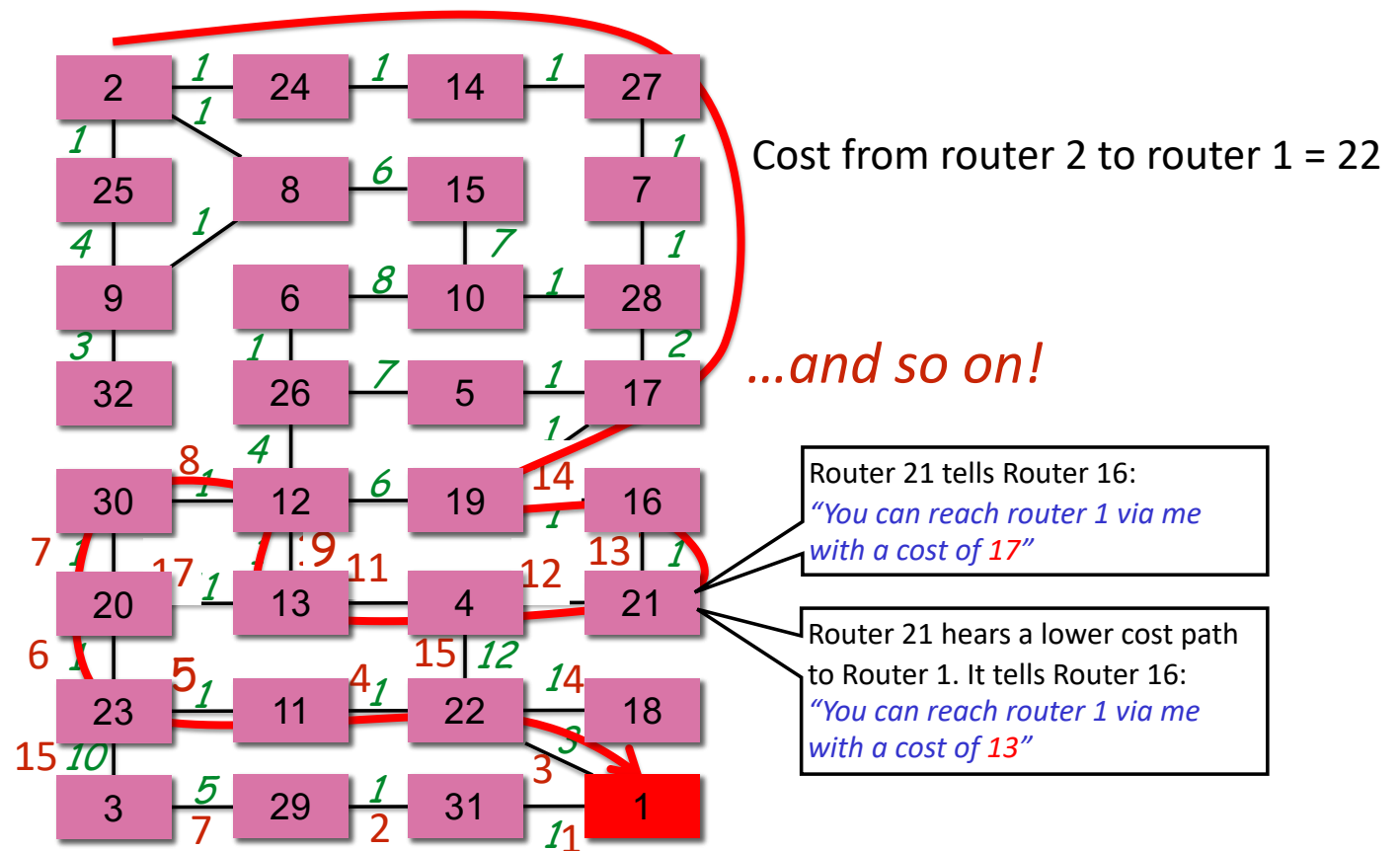


Find the lowest cost spanning tree rooted on 1





# Find the lowest cost spanning tree rooted on 1



# The Distributed Bellman-Ford Algorithm

Example: Find min-cost spanning tree to router **R**

- Assume routers know cost of link to each neighbor.
- Router  $R_i$  maintains value of cost  $C_i$  to reach **R**, and the next hop.
- Vector  $\underline{\mathbf{C}}=(C_1, C_2, \dots)$  is the *distance vector* to **R**.
- Initially, set  $\underline{\mathbf{C}} = (\infty, \infty, \dots \infty)$ 
  1. After **T** seconds,  $R_i$  sends  $C_i$  to its neighbors.
  2. If  $R_i$  learns of a lower cost path, update  $C_i$ . Remember next hop.
  3. Repeat.

# The Distributed Bellman-Ford Algorithm

## Questions:

1. What is the maximum run time of the algorithm?
2. Will the algorithm always converge?
3. What happens when routers/links fail?

# Observations

Bellman Ford: Doesn't need to know topology.  
Distributed. Hard to stabilize.

Dijkstra: more work, but easier to stabilize, particularly  
with different link costs.

The routers in most enterprises, including Stanford, use  
IETF standard protocols based on Dijkstra: IS-IS or OSPF

# How routing works in the Internet

# How routing works in the Internet

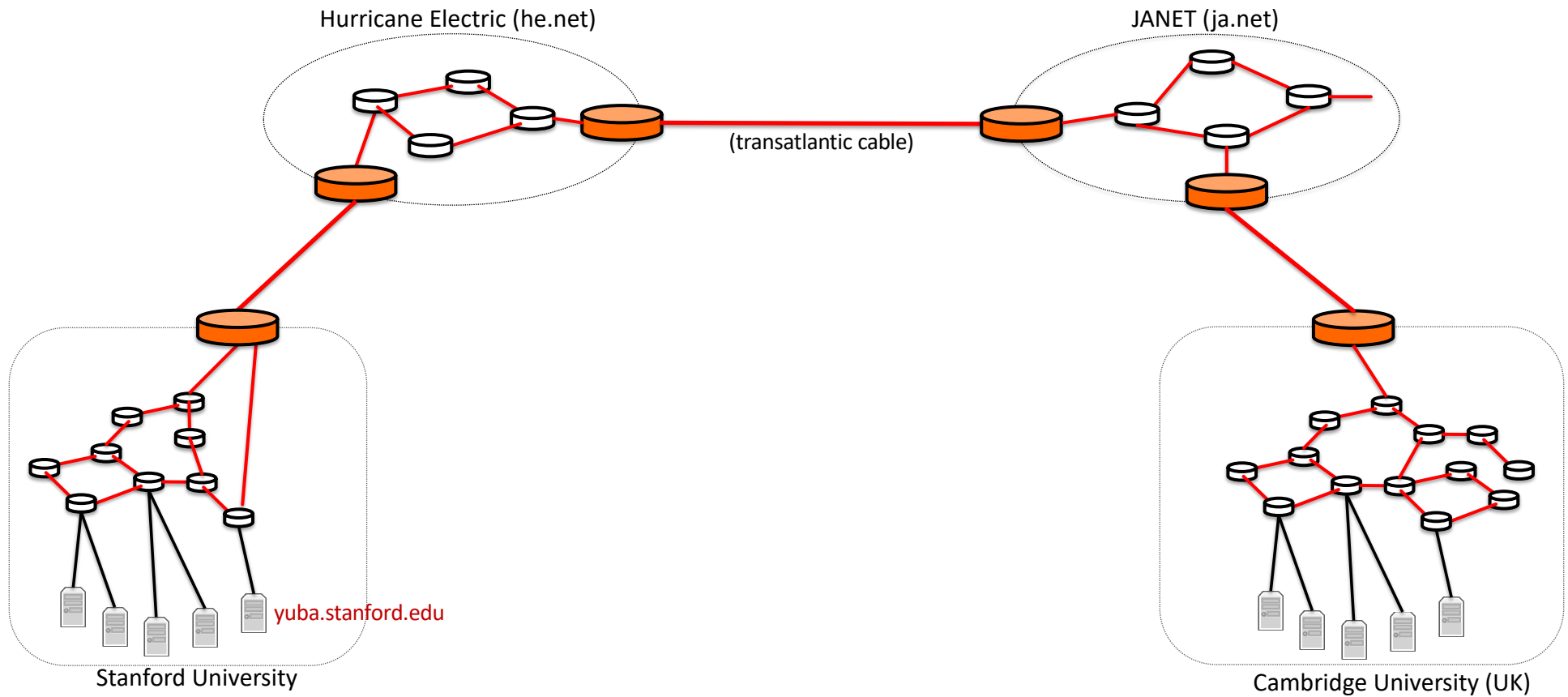
Internet routing is hierarchical.

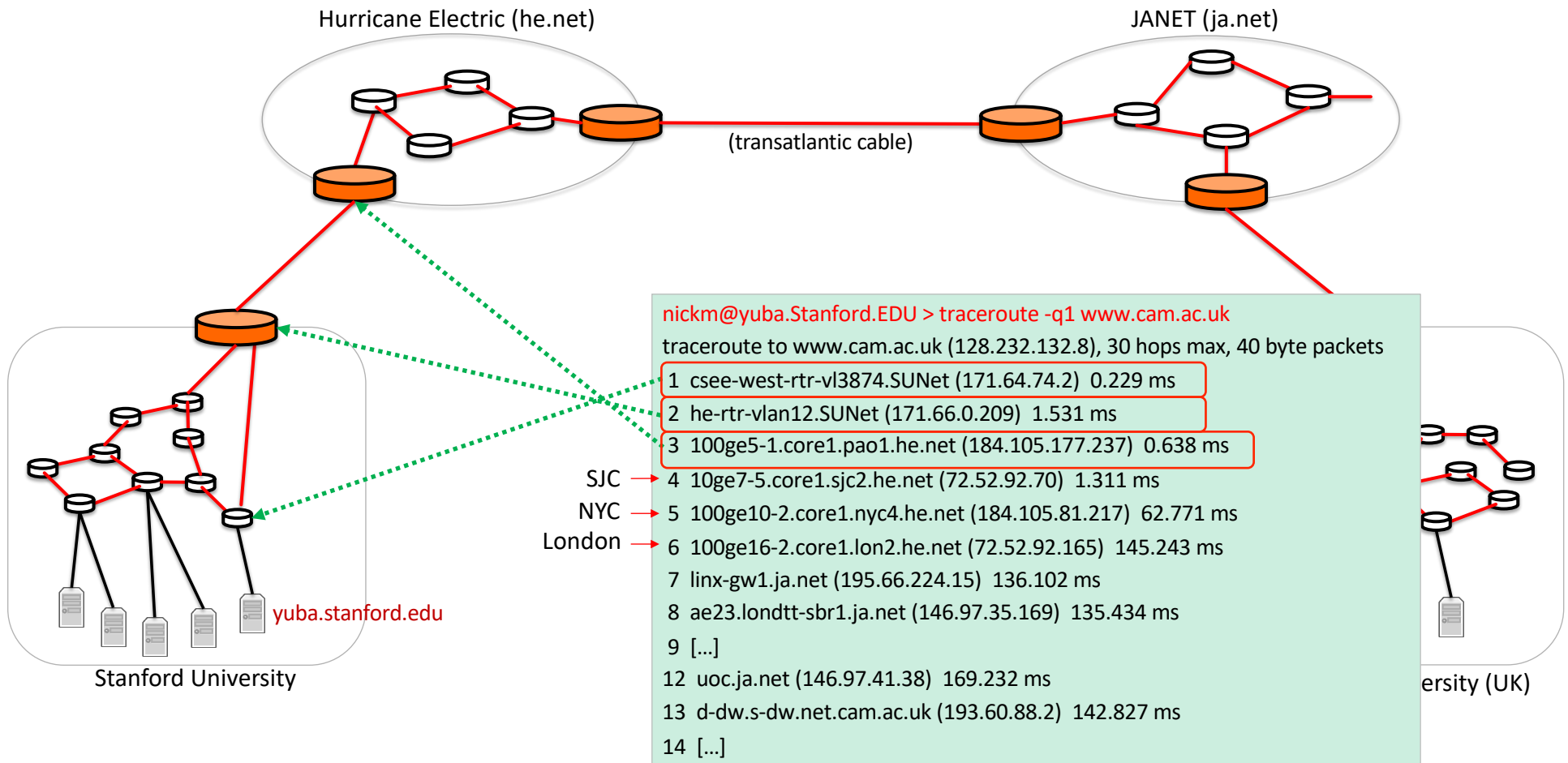
The Internet is divided into Autonomous Systems (AS's).

Each AS owner can decide how to route packets within each AS.

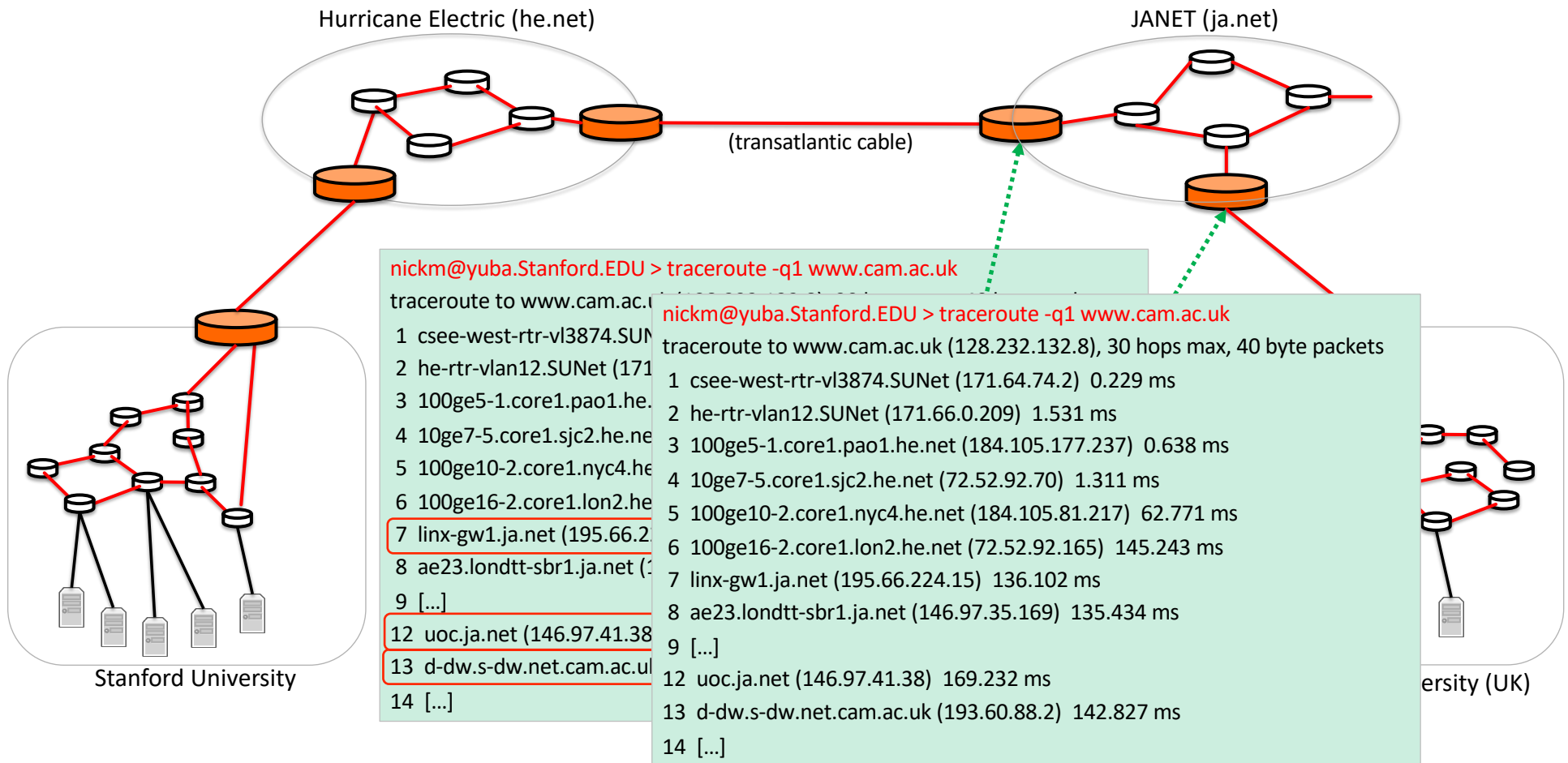
Everyone agrees to use the same protocol (BGP) to route packets between AS's.

In the Internet, Autonomous Systems (AS's) have Border Routers (**orange**).  
The border routers route packets to each other using the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP).









# AS (Autonomous System) numbers

```
nickm@yuba.Stanford.EDU > traceroute -q1 www.cam.ac.uk
traceroute to www.cam.ac.uk (128.232.132.8), 30 hops max, 40 byte packets
 1 csee-west-rtr-vl3874.SUNet (171.64.74.2) 0.229 ms
 2 he-rtr-vlan12.SUNet (171.66.0.209) 1.531 ms
 3 100ge5-1.core1.pao1.he.net (184.105.177.237) 0.638 ms
 4 10ge7-5.core1.sjc2.he.net (72.52.92.70) 1.311 ms
 5 100ge10-2.core1.nyc4.he.net (184.105.81.217) 62.771 ms
 6 100ge16-2.core1.lon2.he.net (72.52.92.165) 145.243 ms
 7 linx-gw1.ja.net (195.66.224.15) 136.102 ms
 8 ae23.londtt-sbr1.ja.net (146.97.35.169) 135.434 ms
 9 [...]
12 uoc.ja.net (146.97.41.38) 169.232 ms
13 d-dw.s-dw.net.cam.ac.uk (193.60.88.2) 142.827 ms
14 [...]
```

```
nickm> whois -h whois.cymru.com 146.97.35.169
```

AS	IP	AS Name
786	146.97.35.169	JANET Jisc Services Limited, GB

JANET is AS 786

e.g. yuba.Stanford.edu

```
nickm> whois -h whois.cymru.com 171.64.74.155
```

AS	IP	AS Name
32	171.64.74.155	STANFORD, US

Stanford is AS 32



Autonomous Systems (AS's) usually connect to each other  
in an Internet eXchange Point (IXP)

