

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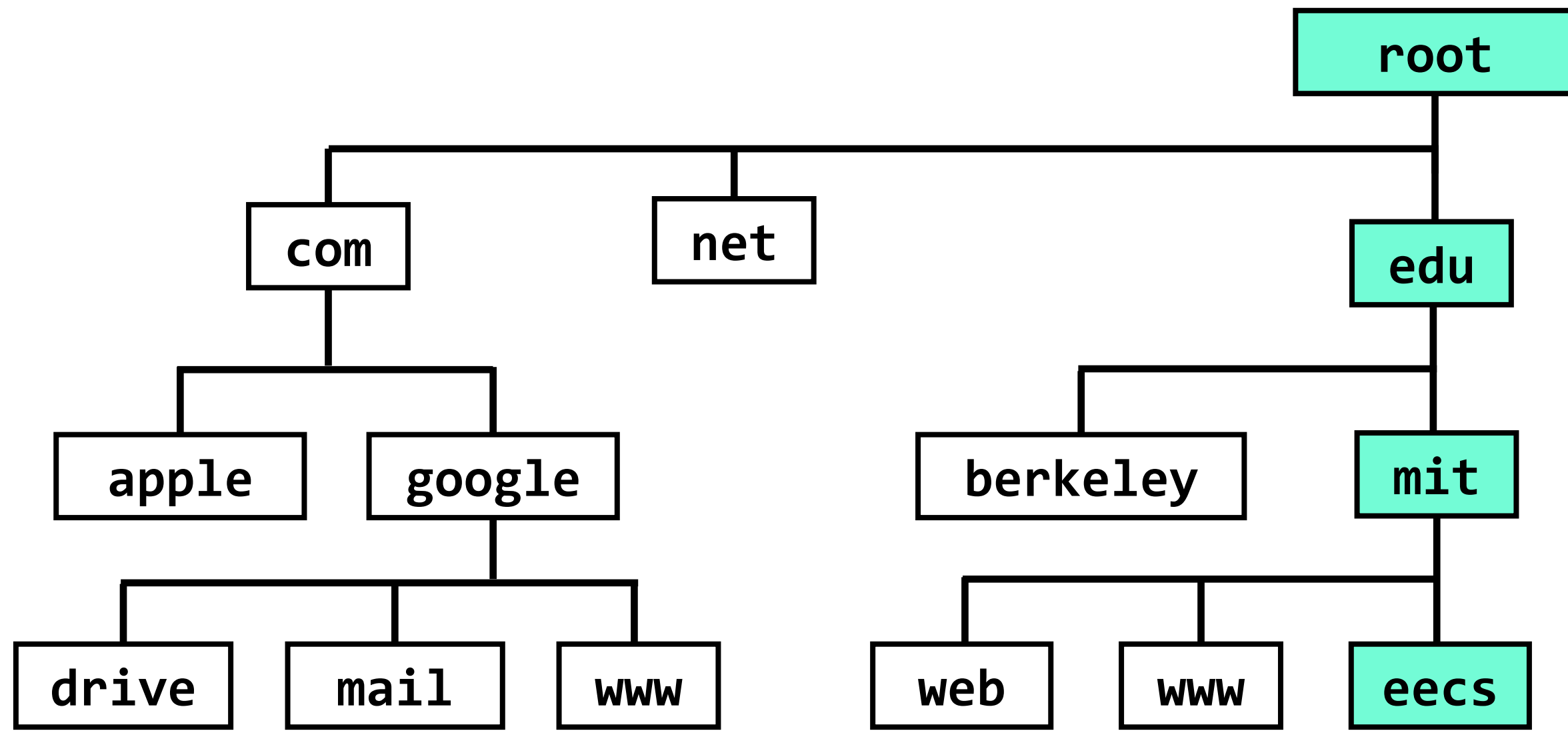
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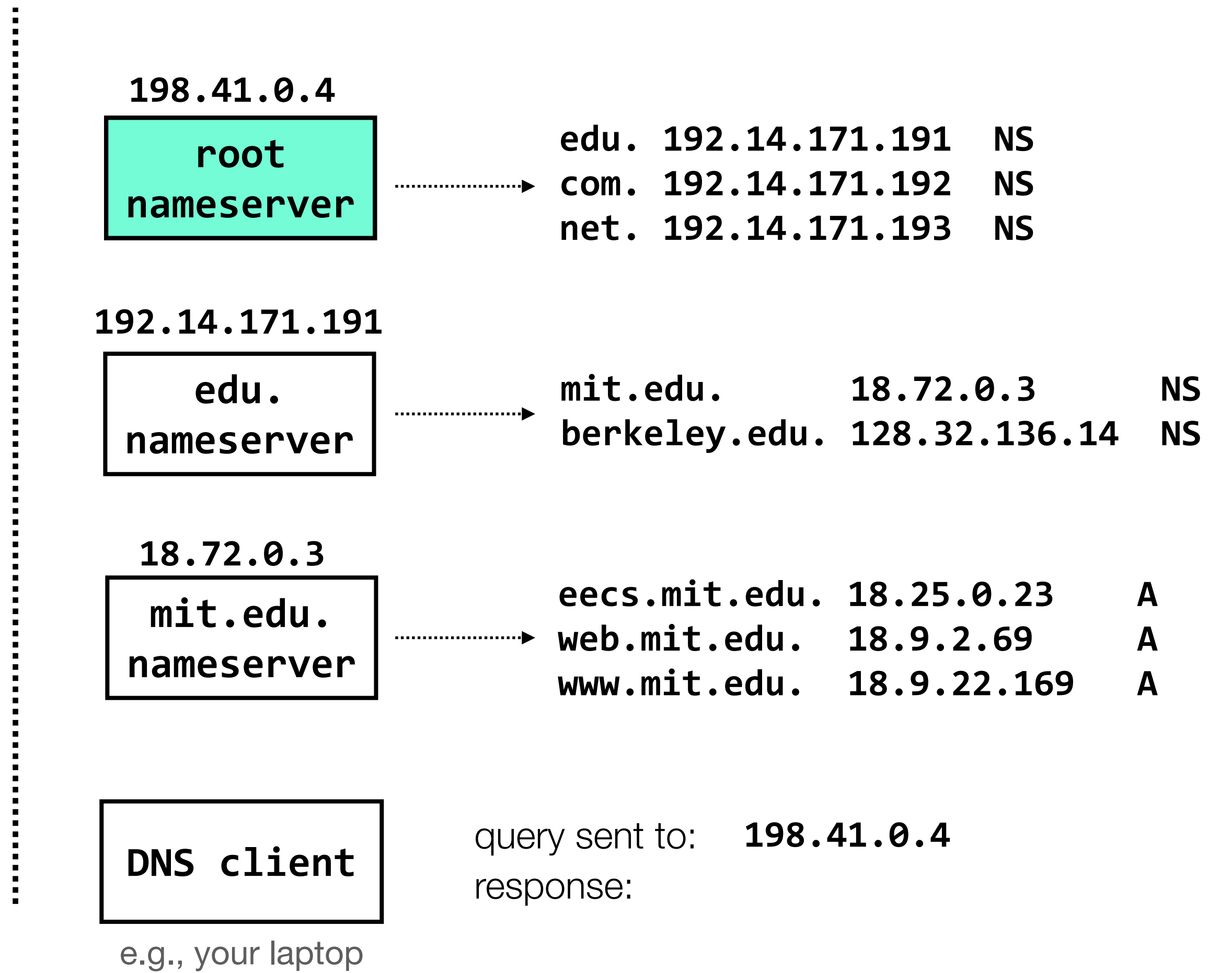
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the **domain name system (DNS)**, which maps **hostnames** (eecs.mit.edu) to **IP addresses** (18.25.0.23)

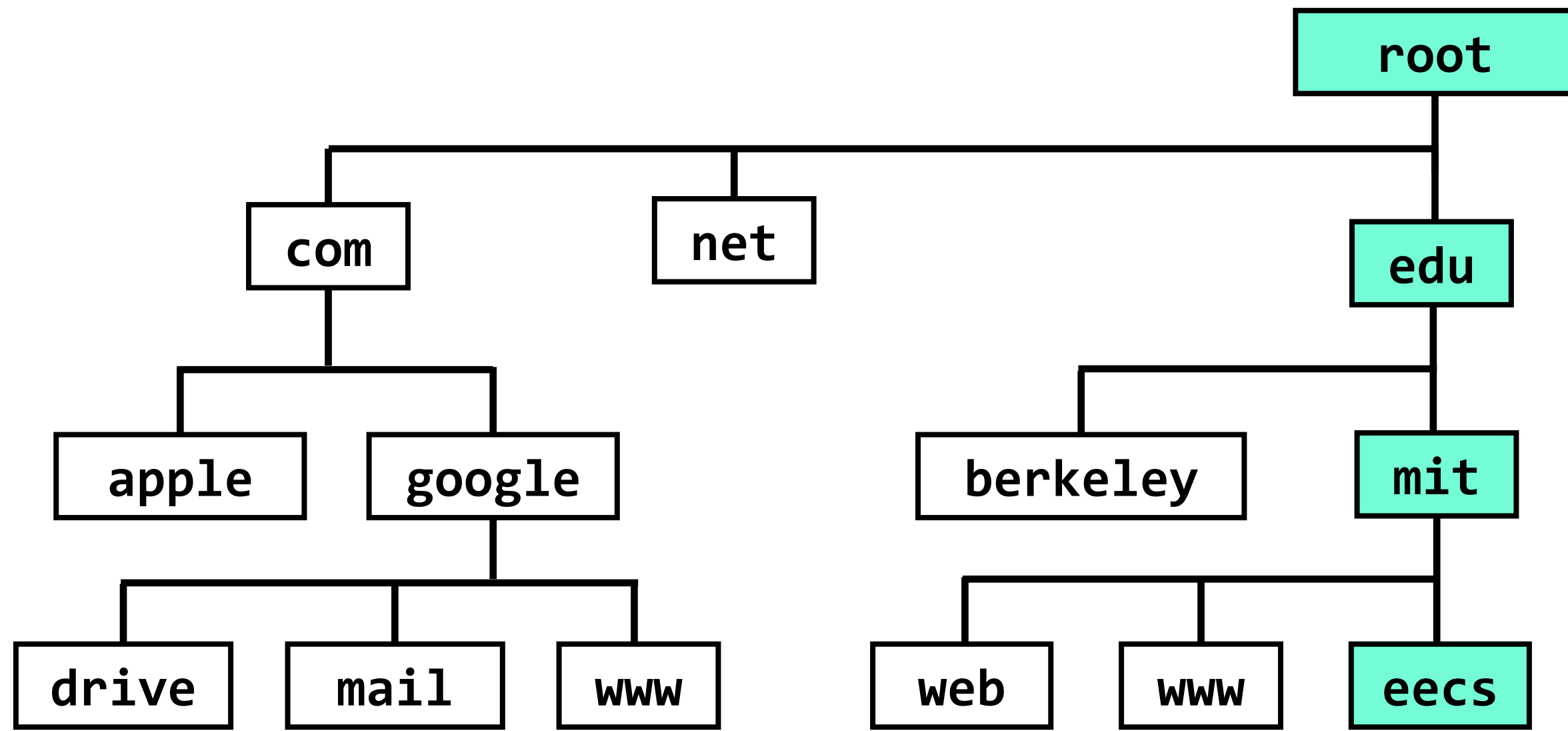


a partial view of the DNS hierarchy. each box represents a **zone**. name servers within a zone keep track of that zone's mappings

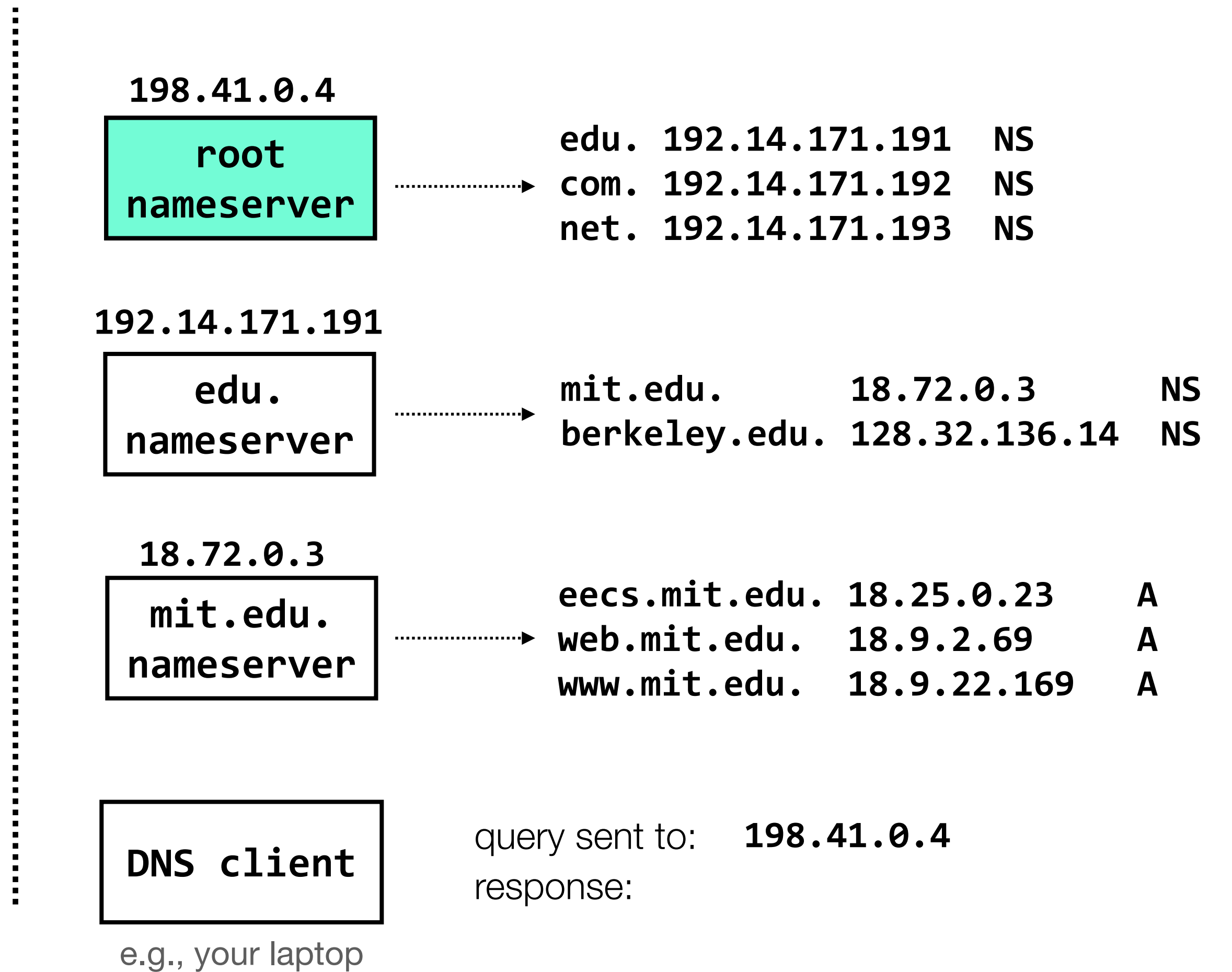


# 6.1800 in the past

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



**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

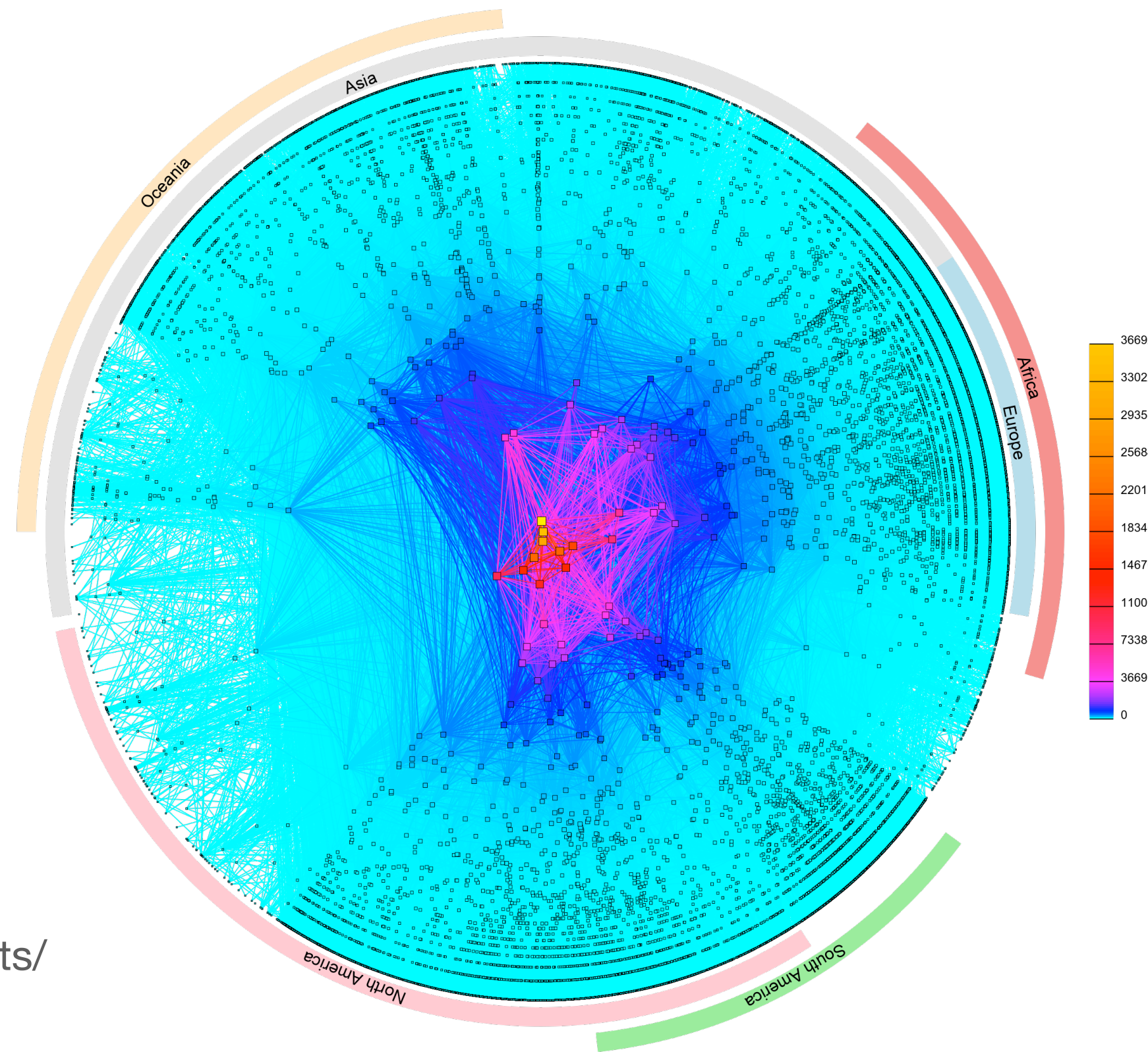
TCP, UDP

OSPF, EGP, DNS

congestion collapse

policy routing

CIDR



CAIDA's IPv4 AS Core,  
January 2020

([https://www.caida.org/projects/  
cartography/as-core/2020/](https://www.caida.org/projects/cartography/as-core/2020/))

**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:  
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**distance-vector  
routing**

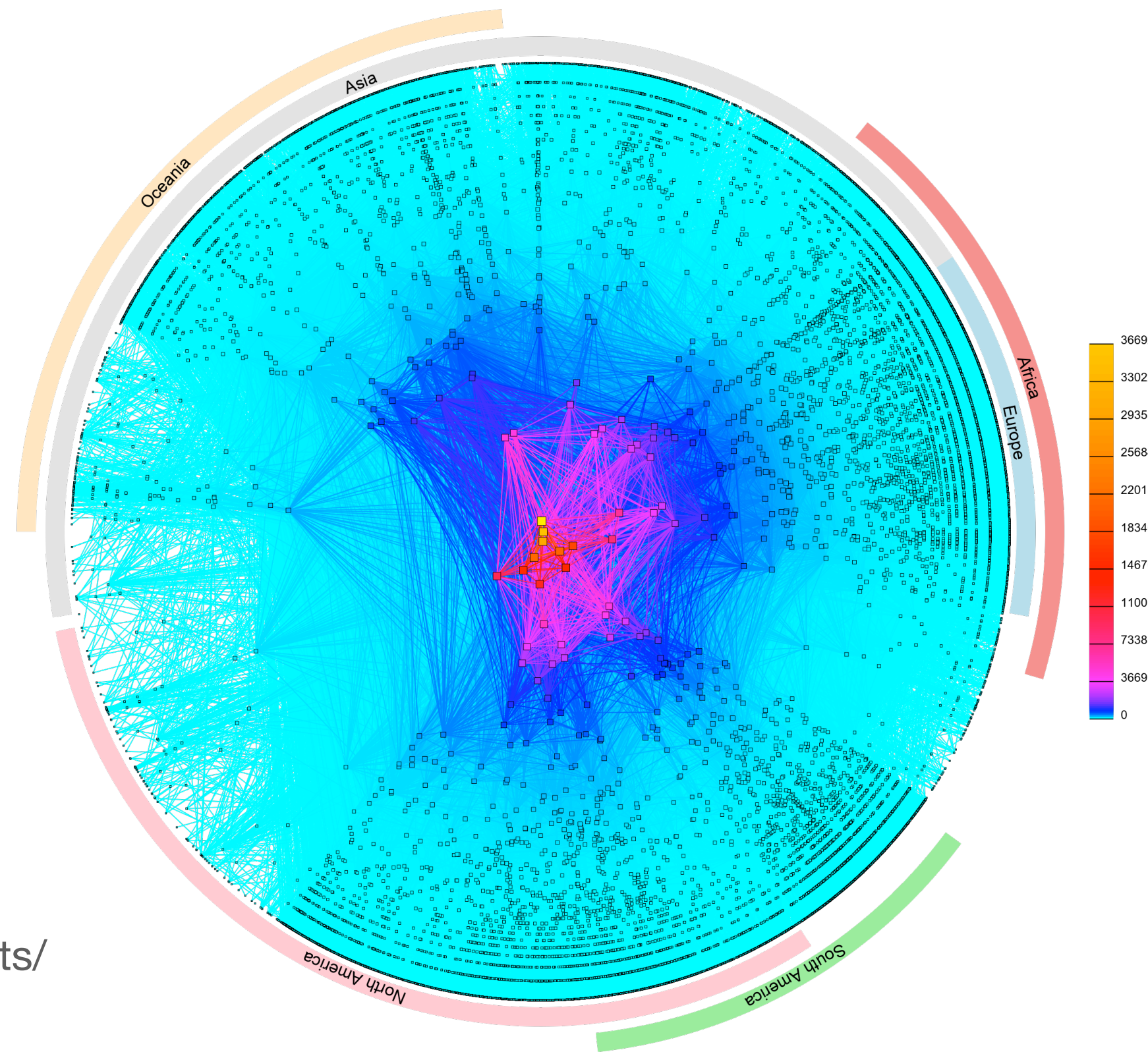
TCP, UDP

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

congestion collapse

policy routing

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CAIDA's IPv4 AS Core,  
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([https://www.caida.org/projects/  
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**today:** routing in general  
(not specifically on the Internet)

**application**

the things that  
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sharing the network,  
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*examples: TCP, UDP*

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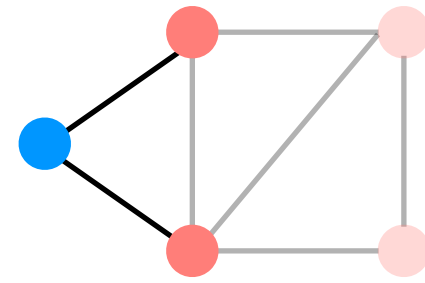
**goal of a routing protocol:** allow each switch to know, for every node **dst** in the network, a **minimum-cost** route to **dst**



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

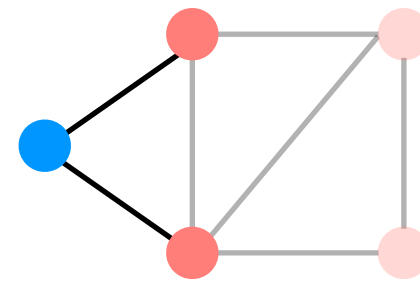
**distributed routing:** nodes build up their own routing tables, rather than having tables given to them by a centralized authority

1. nodes learn about their neighbors via the HELLO protocol

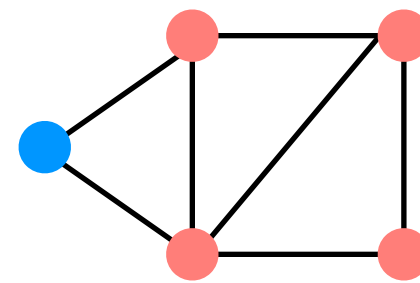


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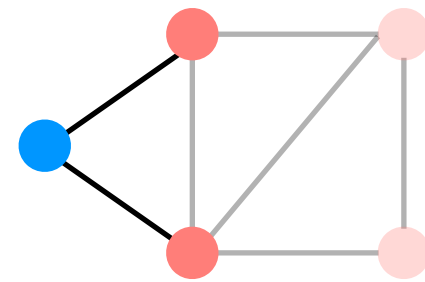


2. nodes learn about other reachable nodes via advertisements

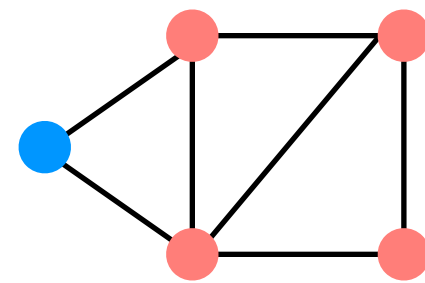


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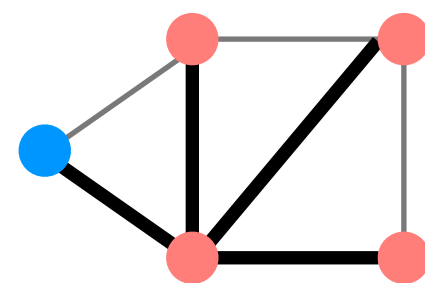
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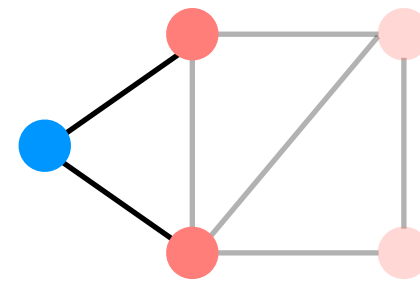


3. nodes determine the minimum-cost routes (of the routes they know about)

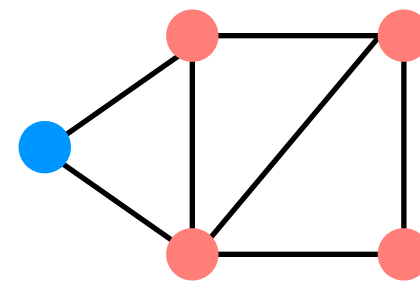


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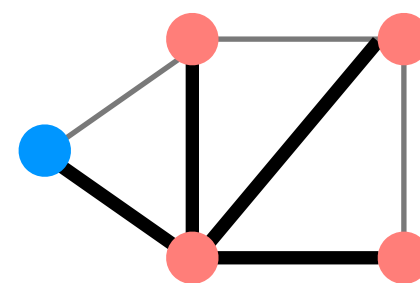
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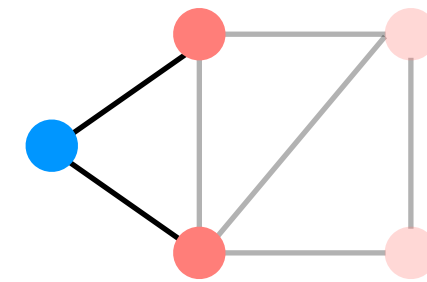
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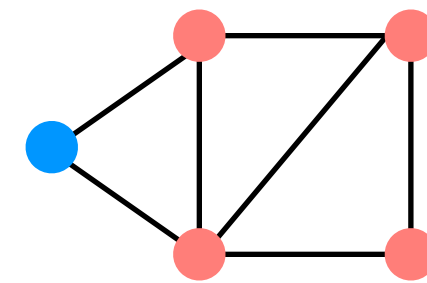
what the advertisements contain, and how the nodes use those advertisements to determine the min-cost routes, will change depending on the specific protocol

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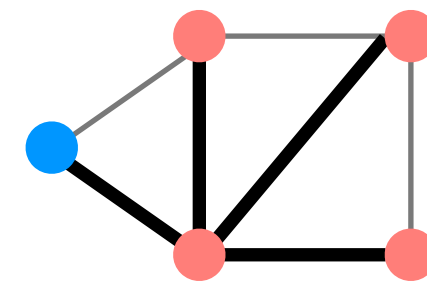
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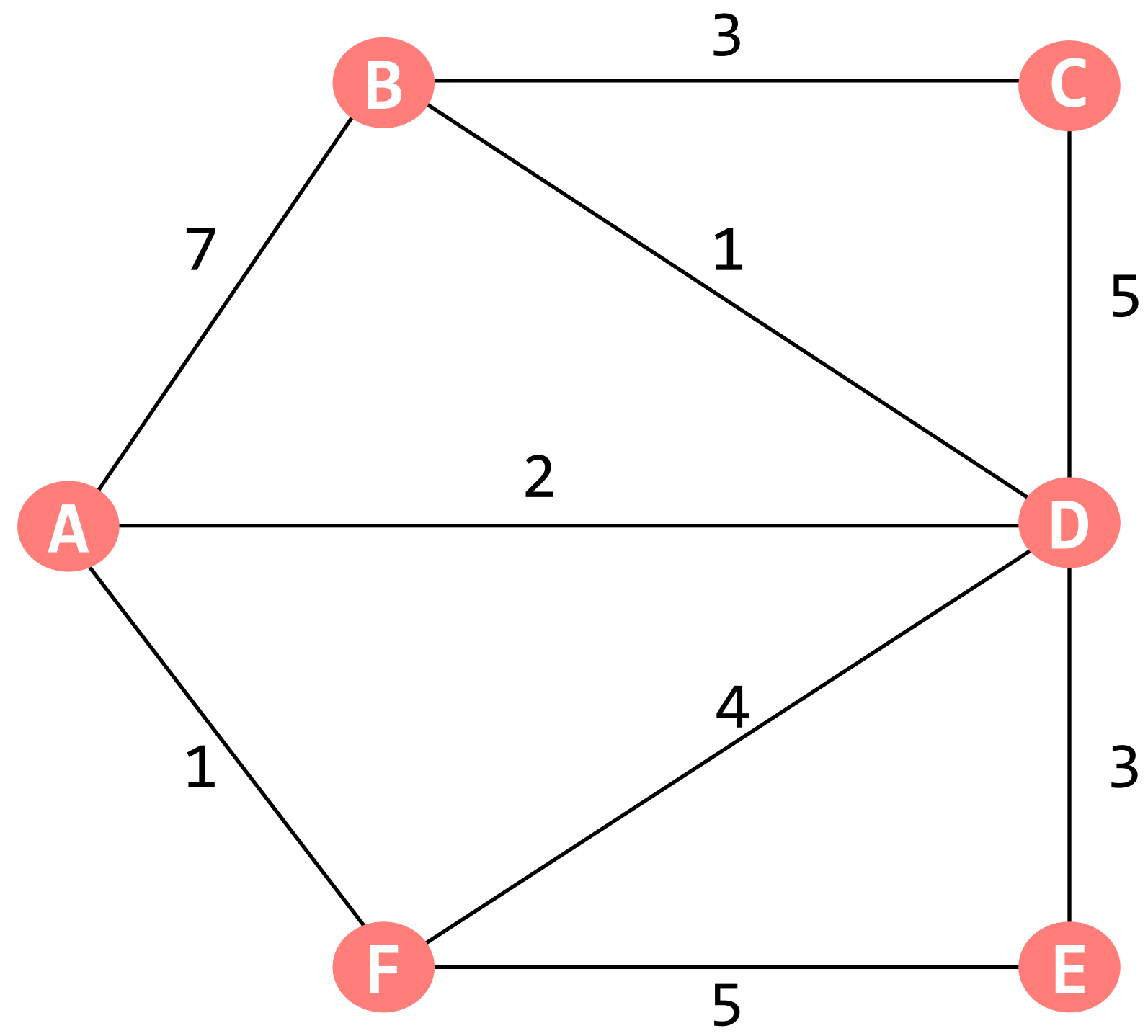


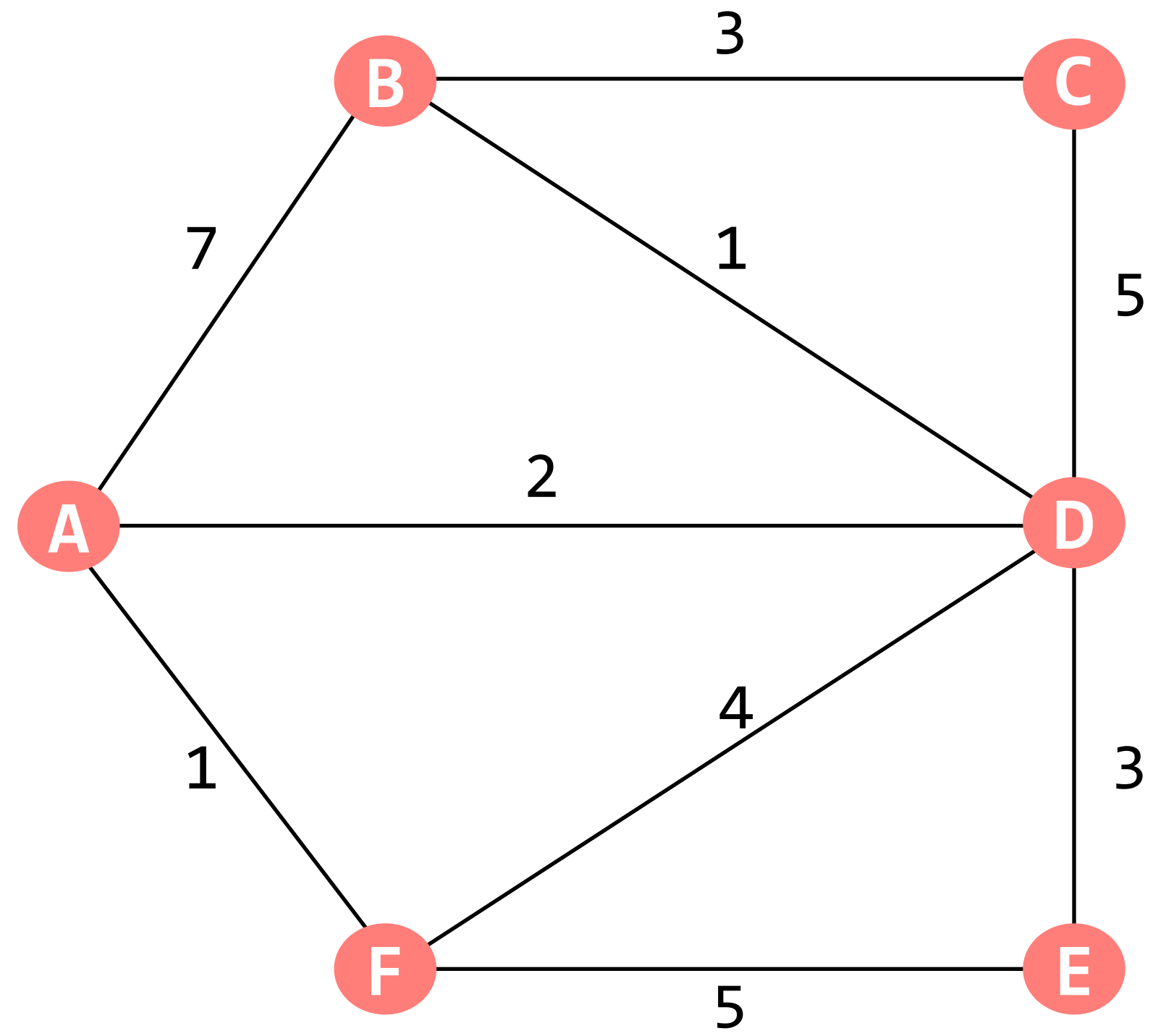
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**all of these steps happen periodically, which allows the routing protocol to detect and respond to failures, and adapt to other changes in the network**

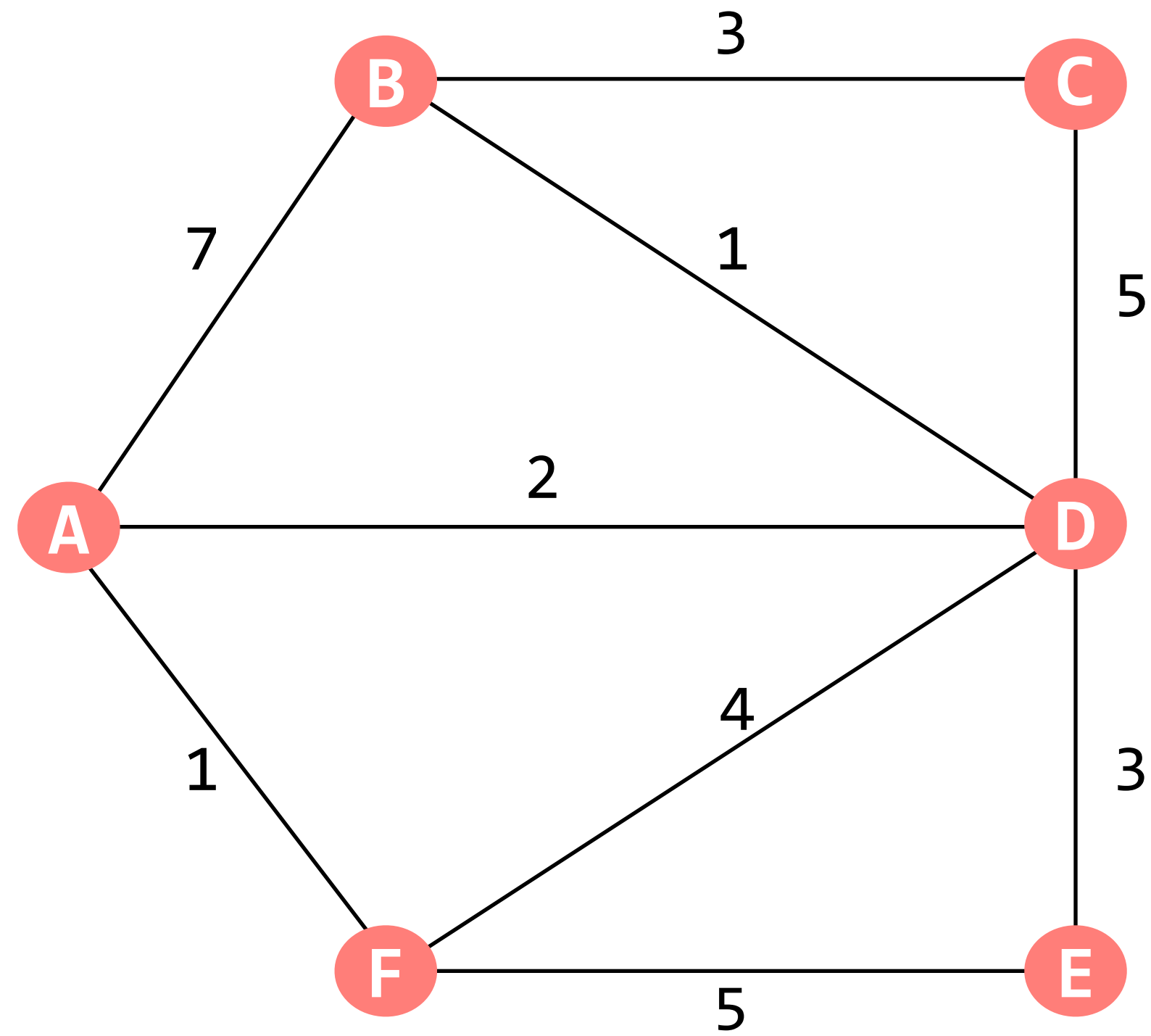




link state



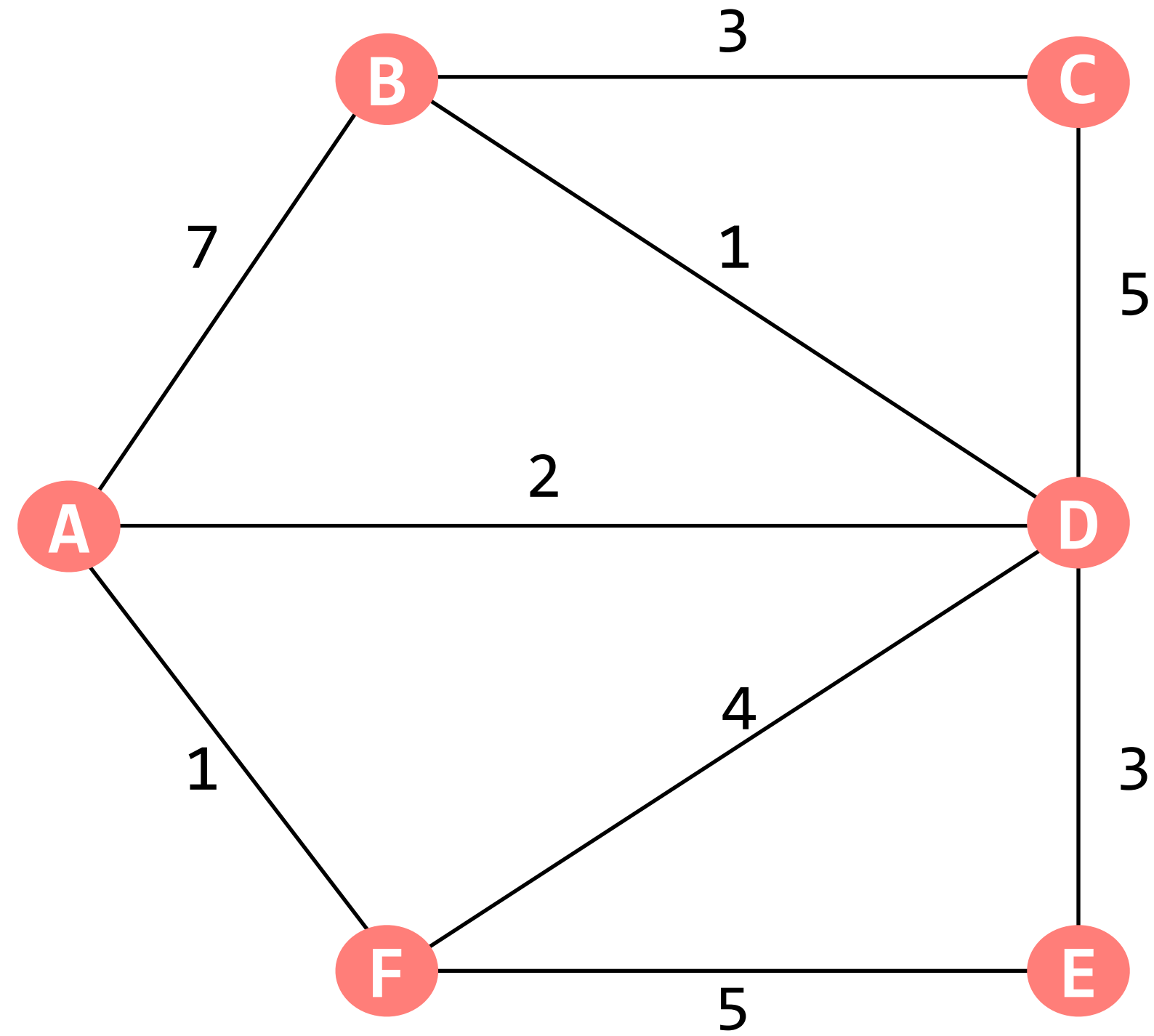
**link-state routing:** disseminate full topology information so that nodes can run a shortest-path algorithm



link state

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

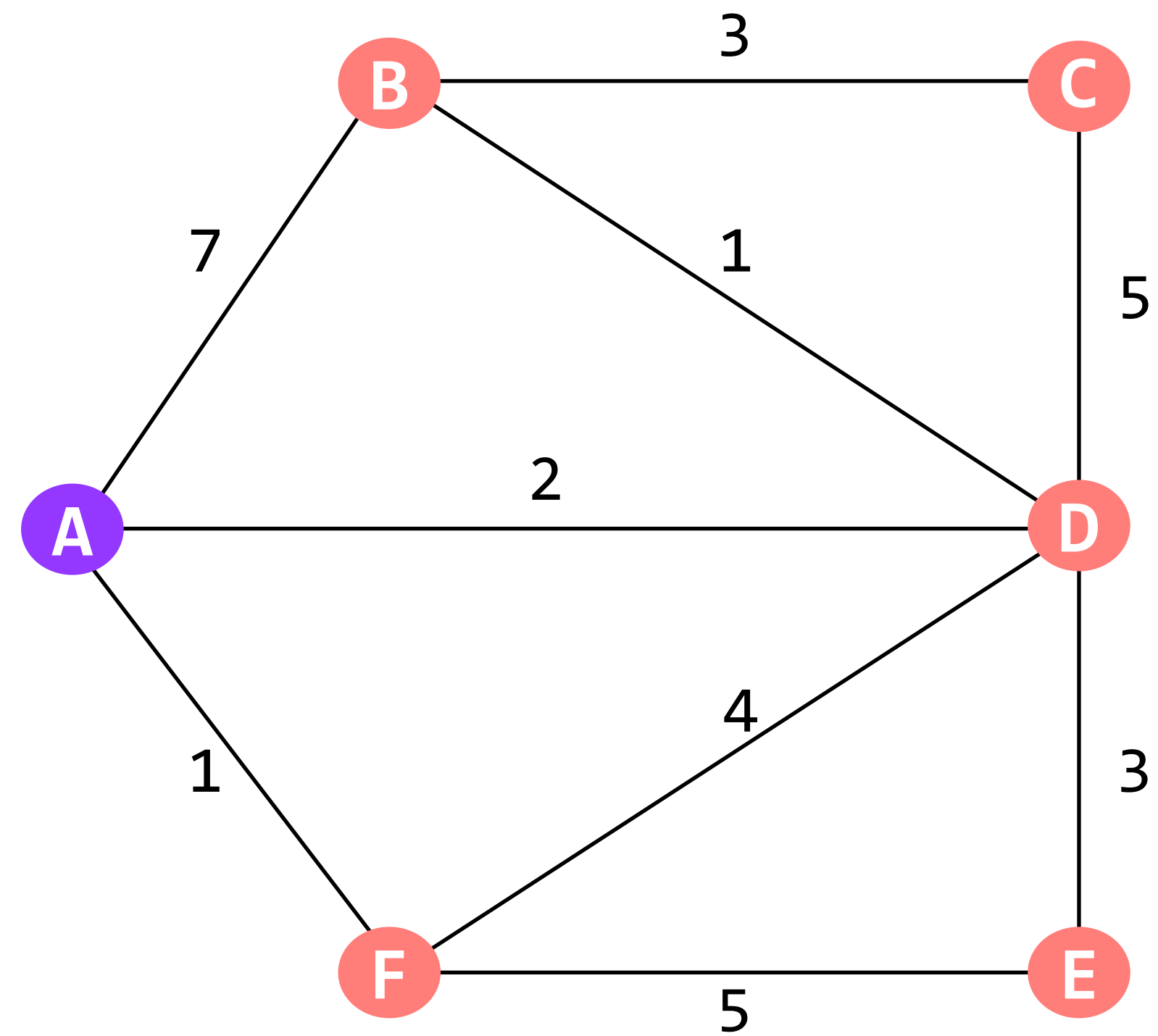


## link state

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



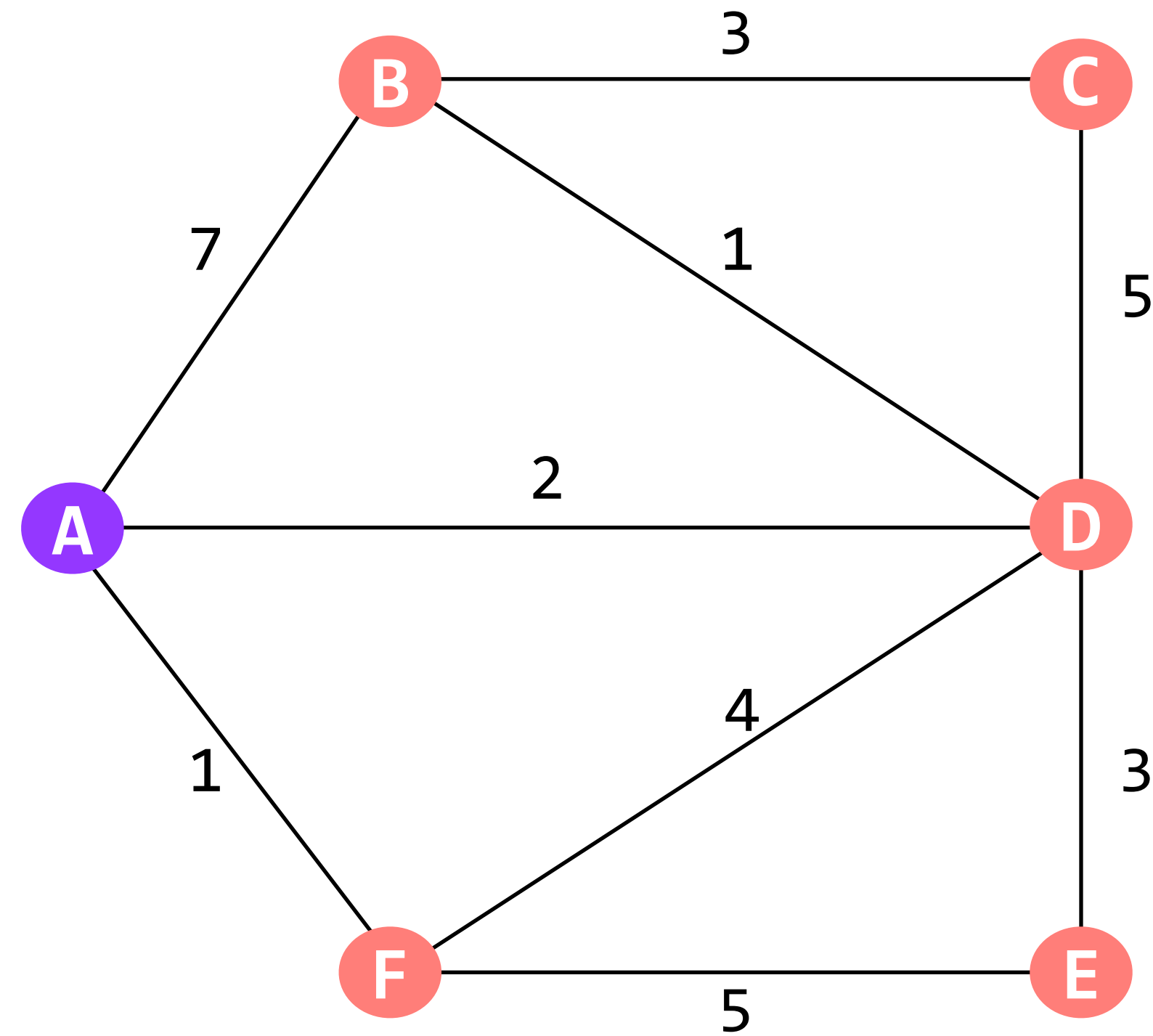
A's advertisement: [(B,7),(D,2),(F,1)]

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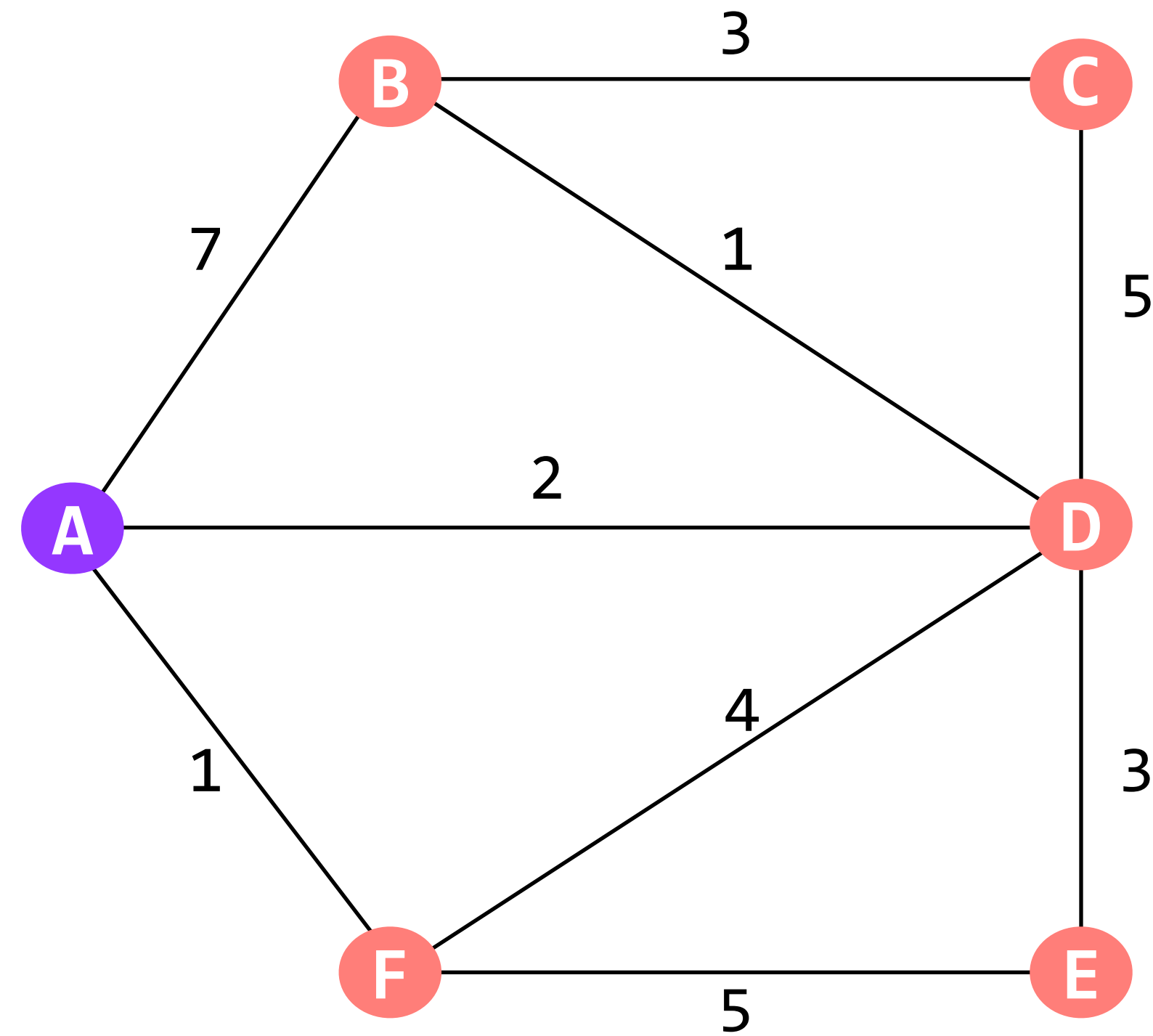
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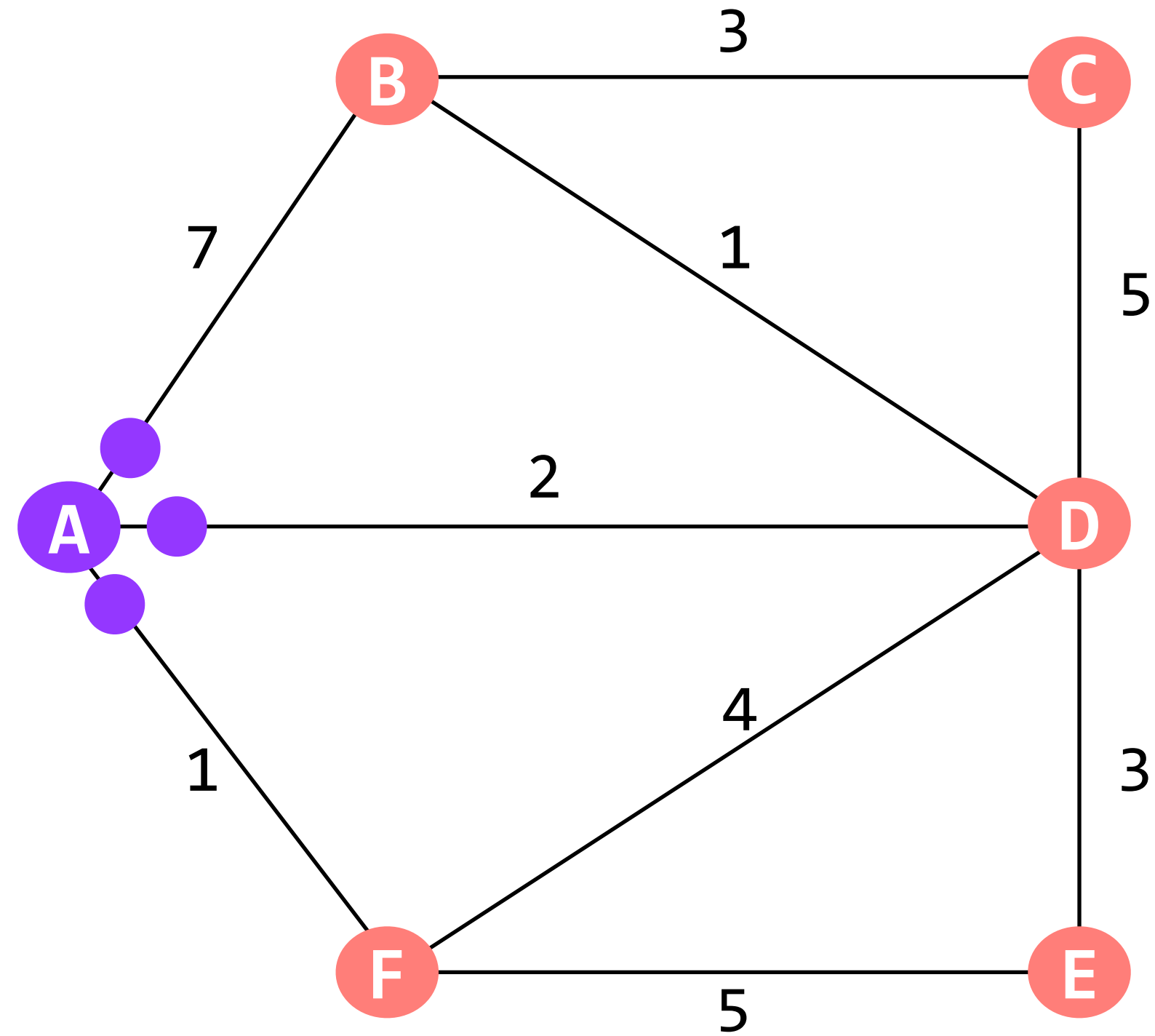
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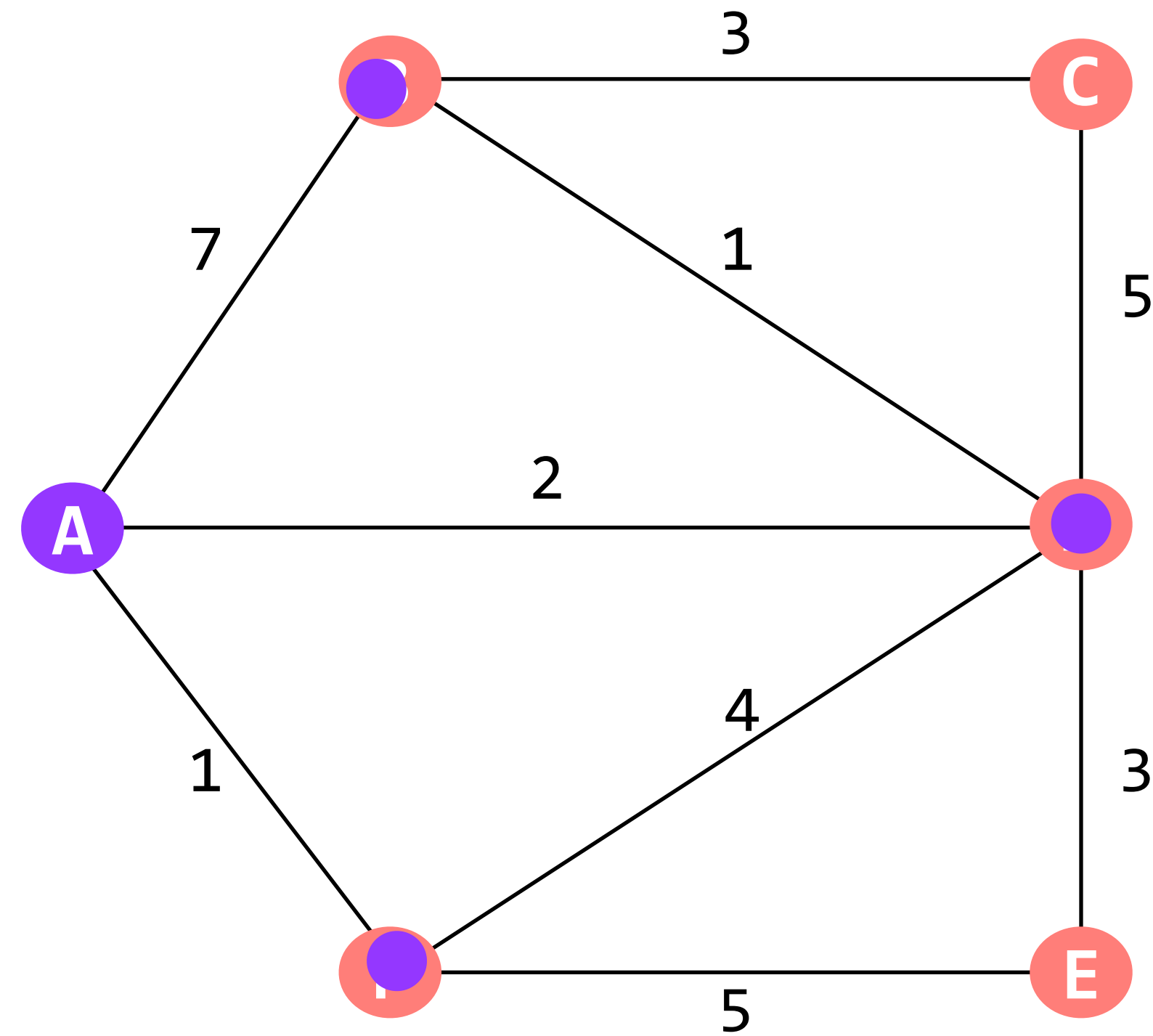
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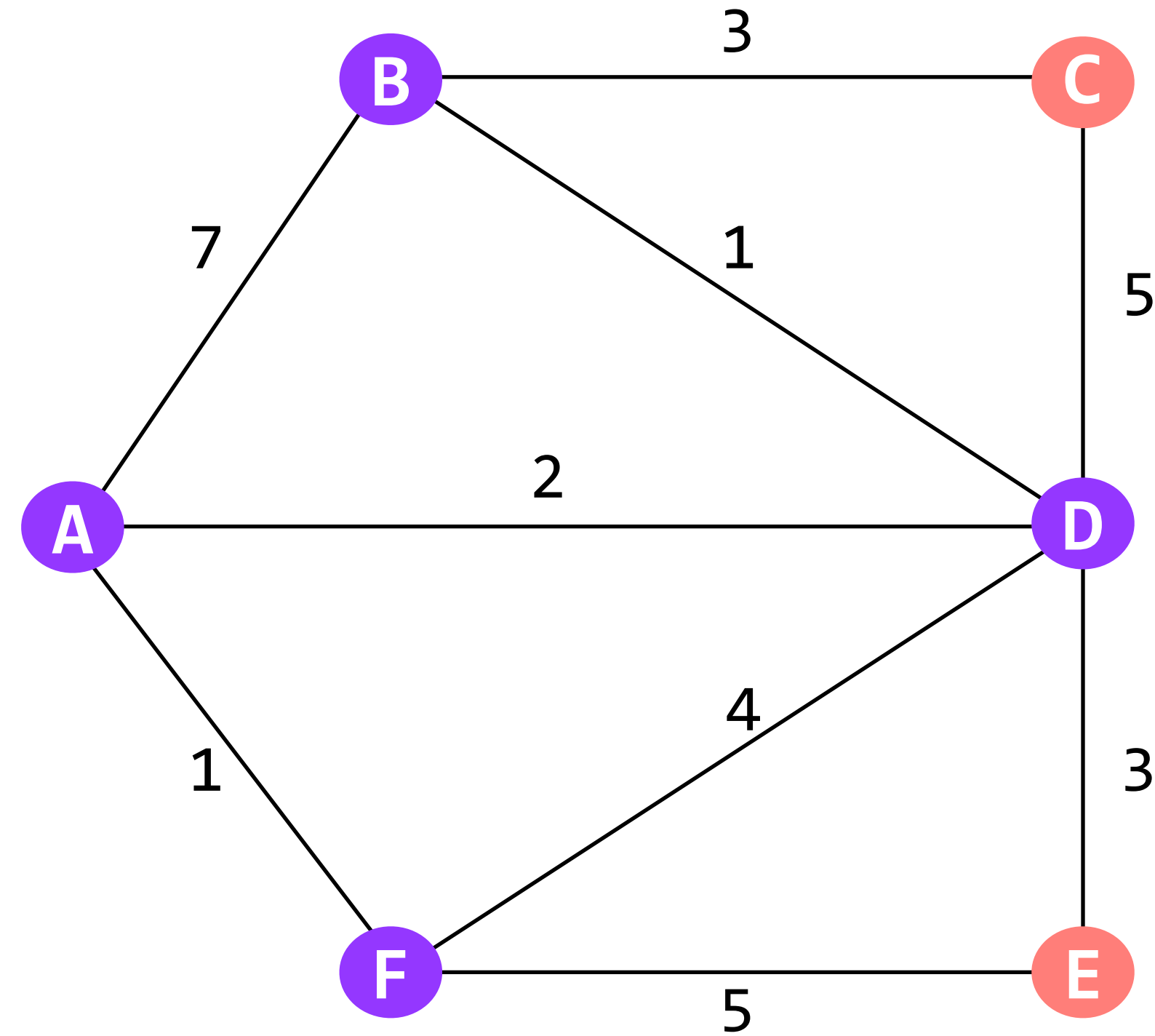
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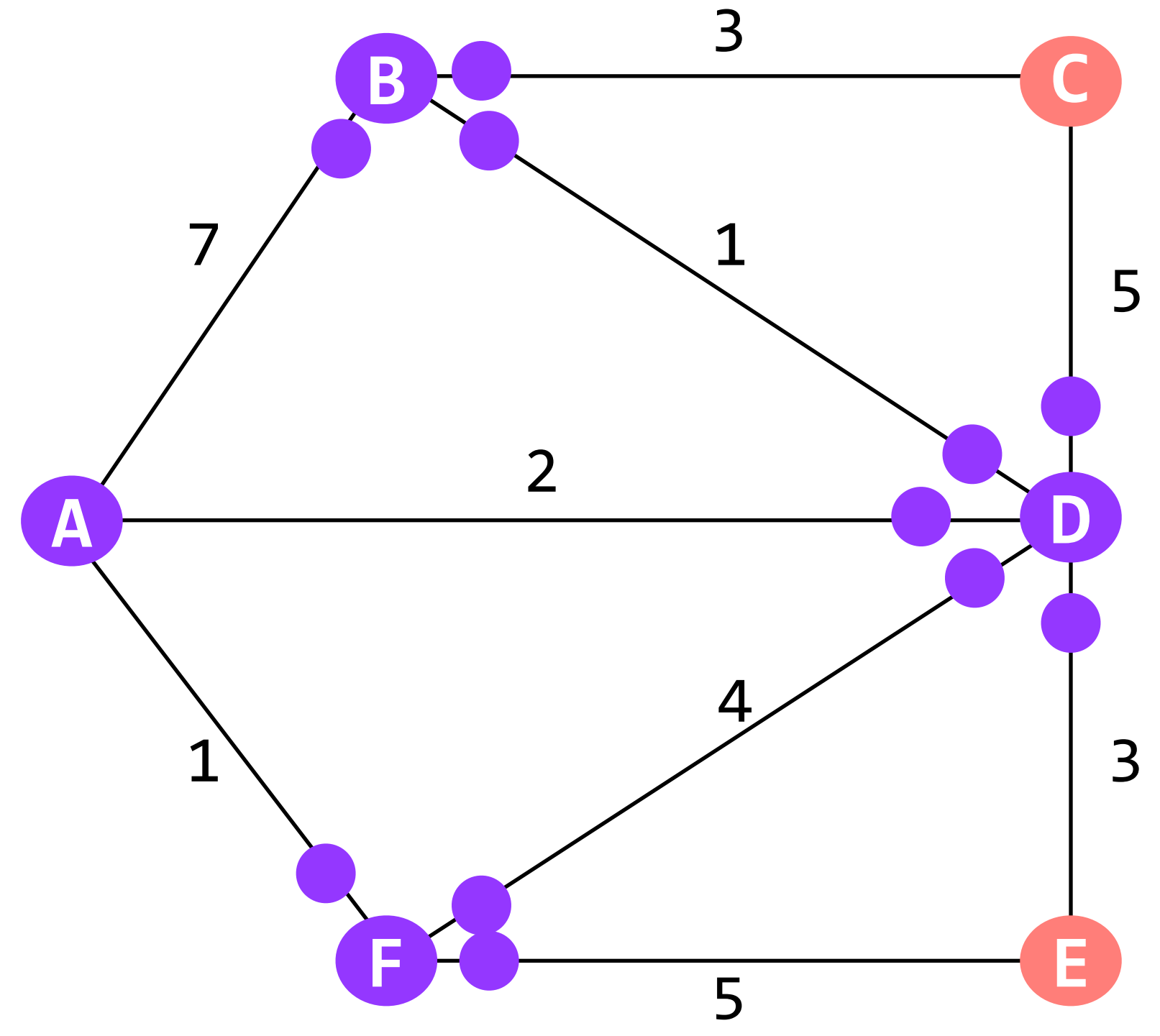
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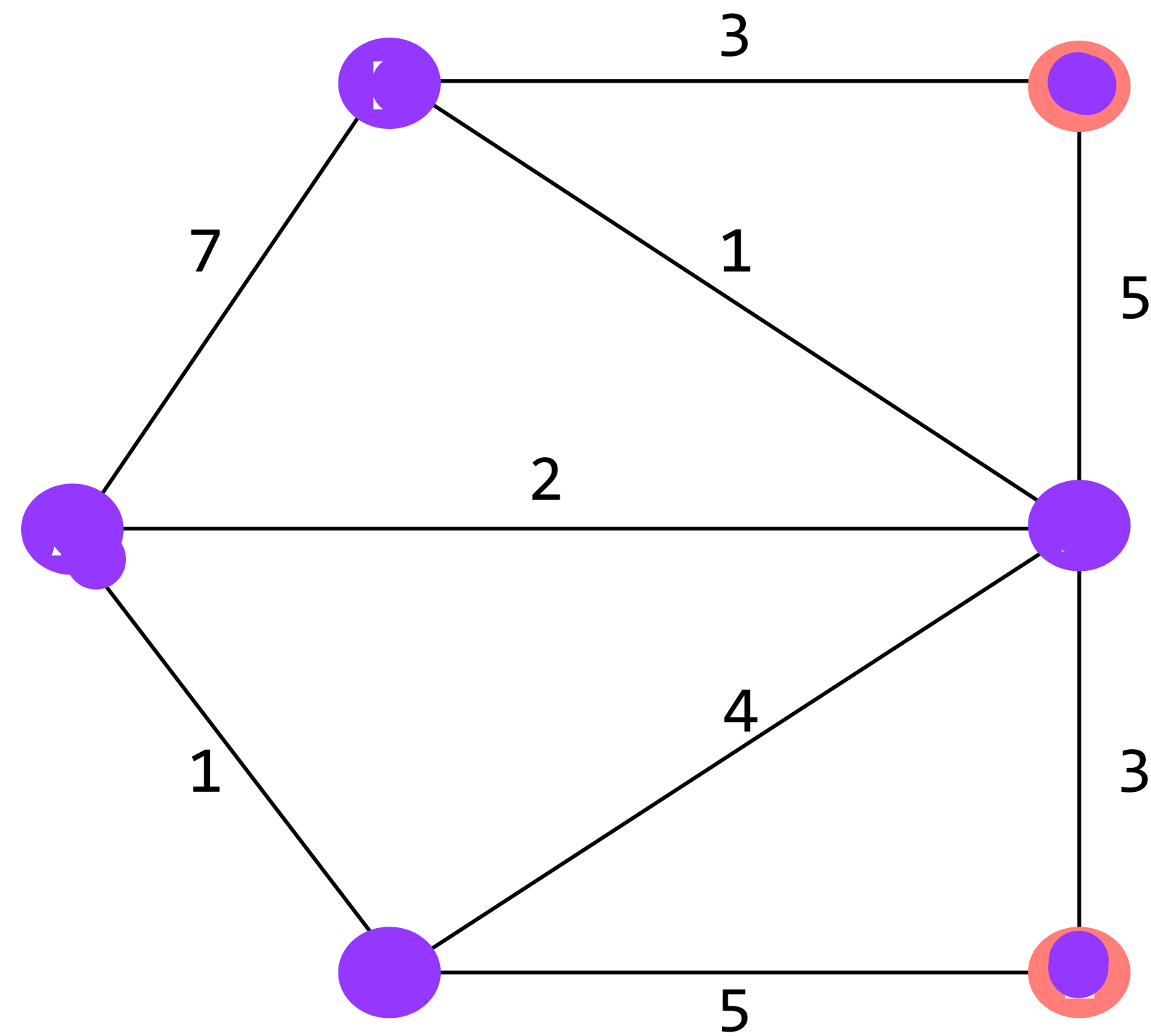
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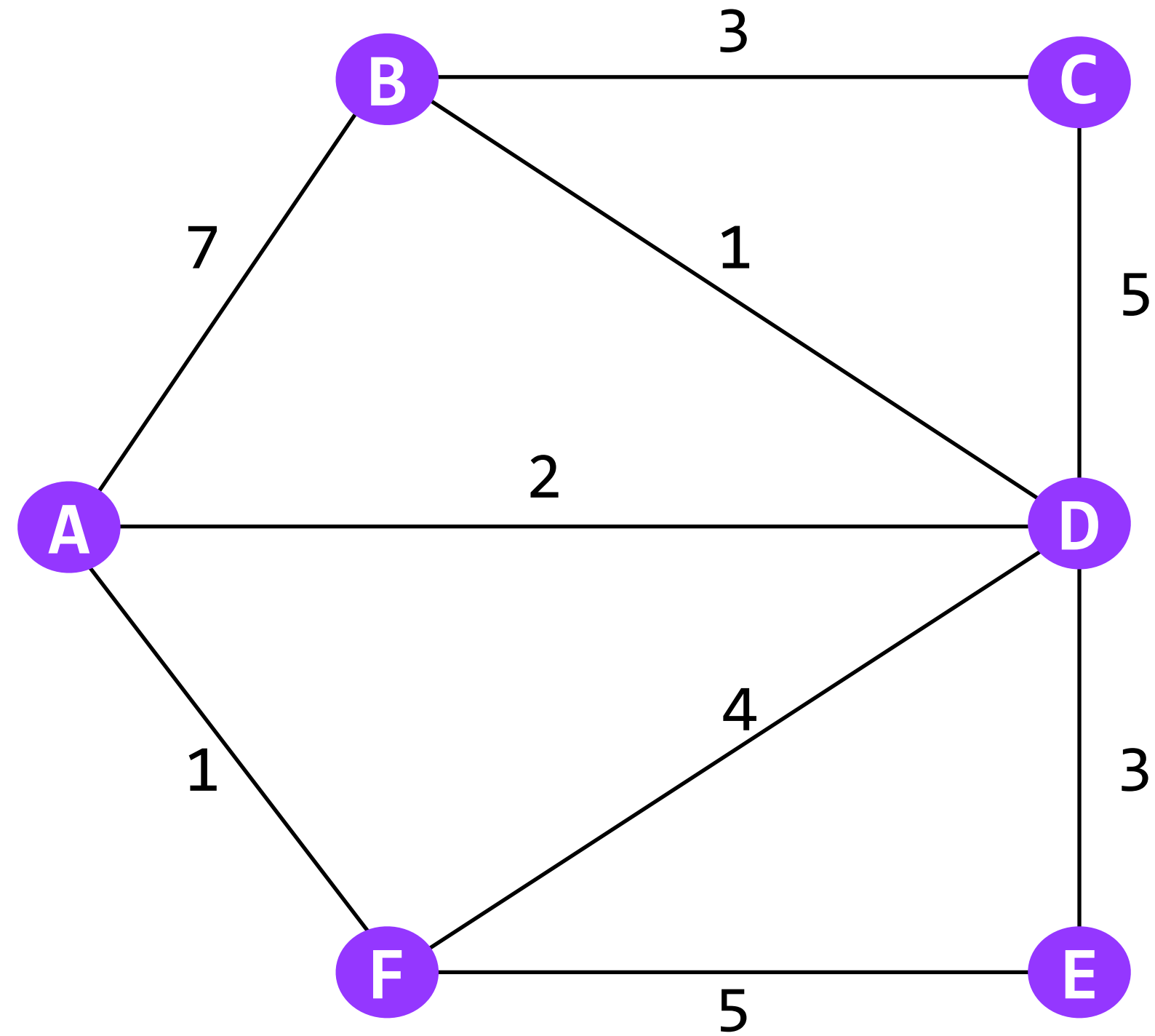
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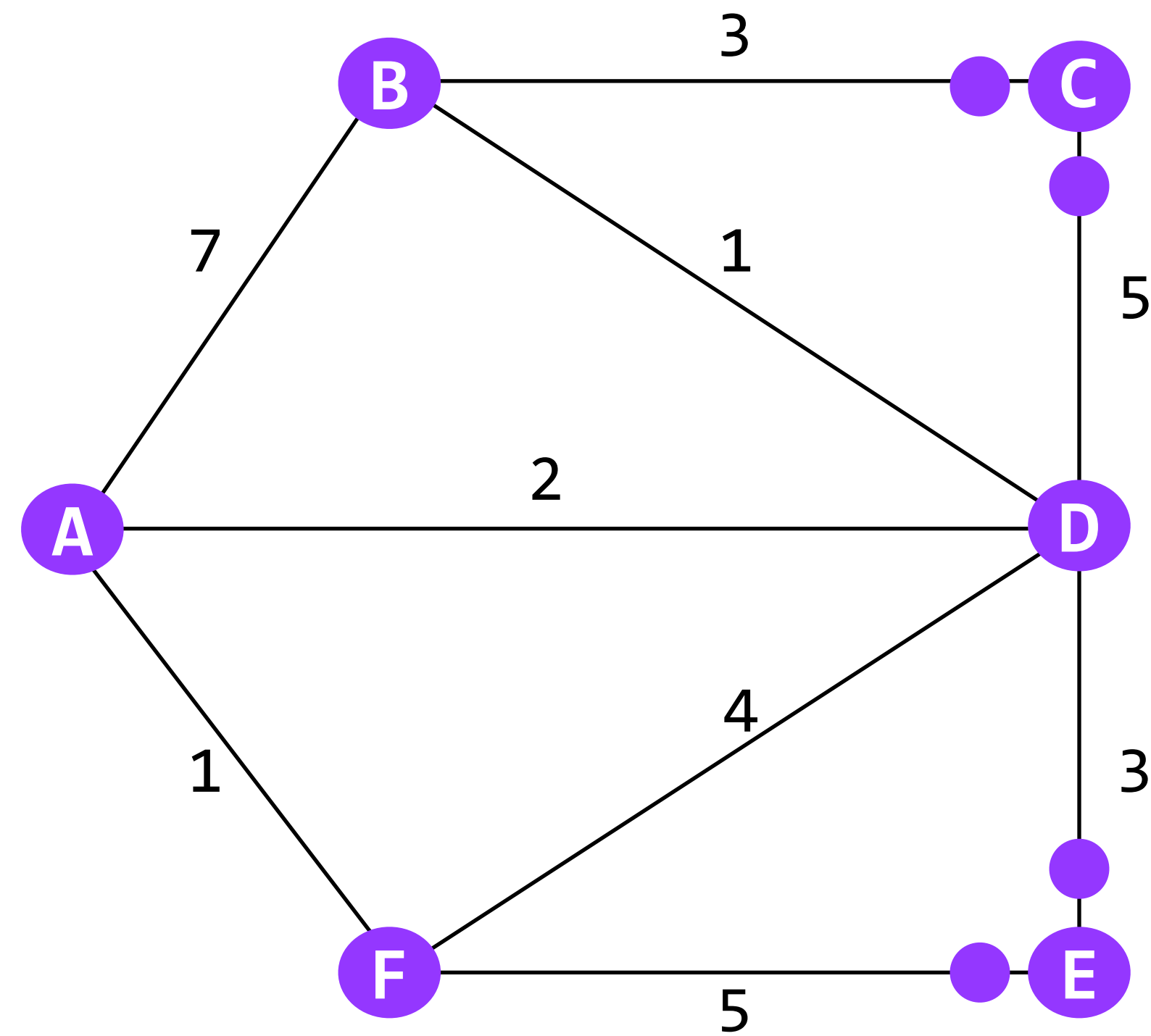
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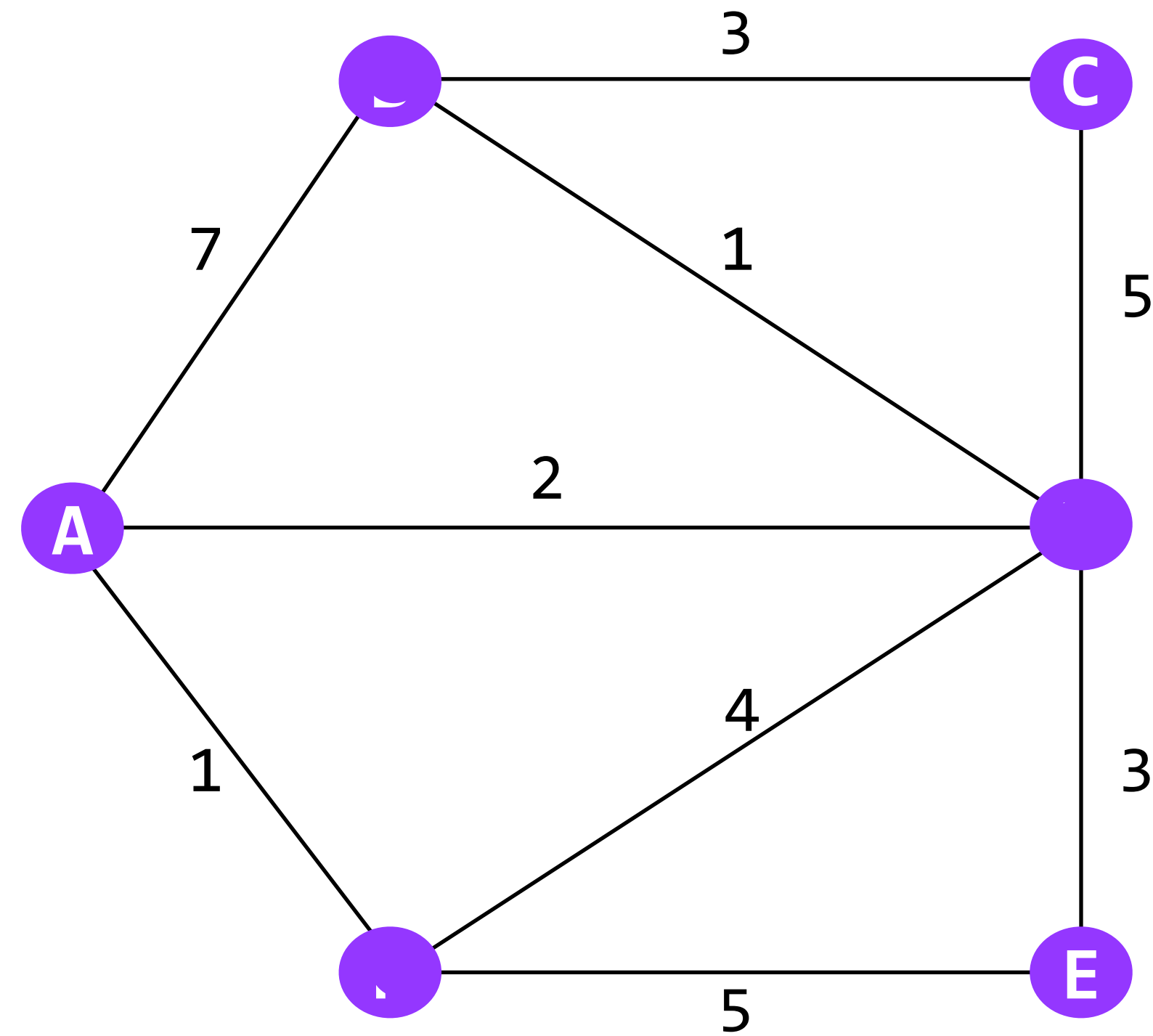
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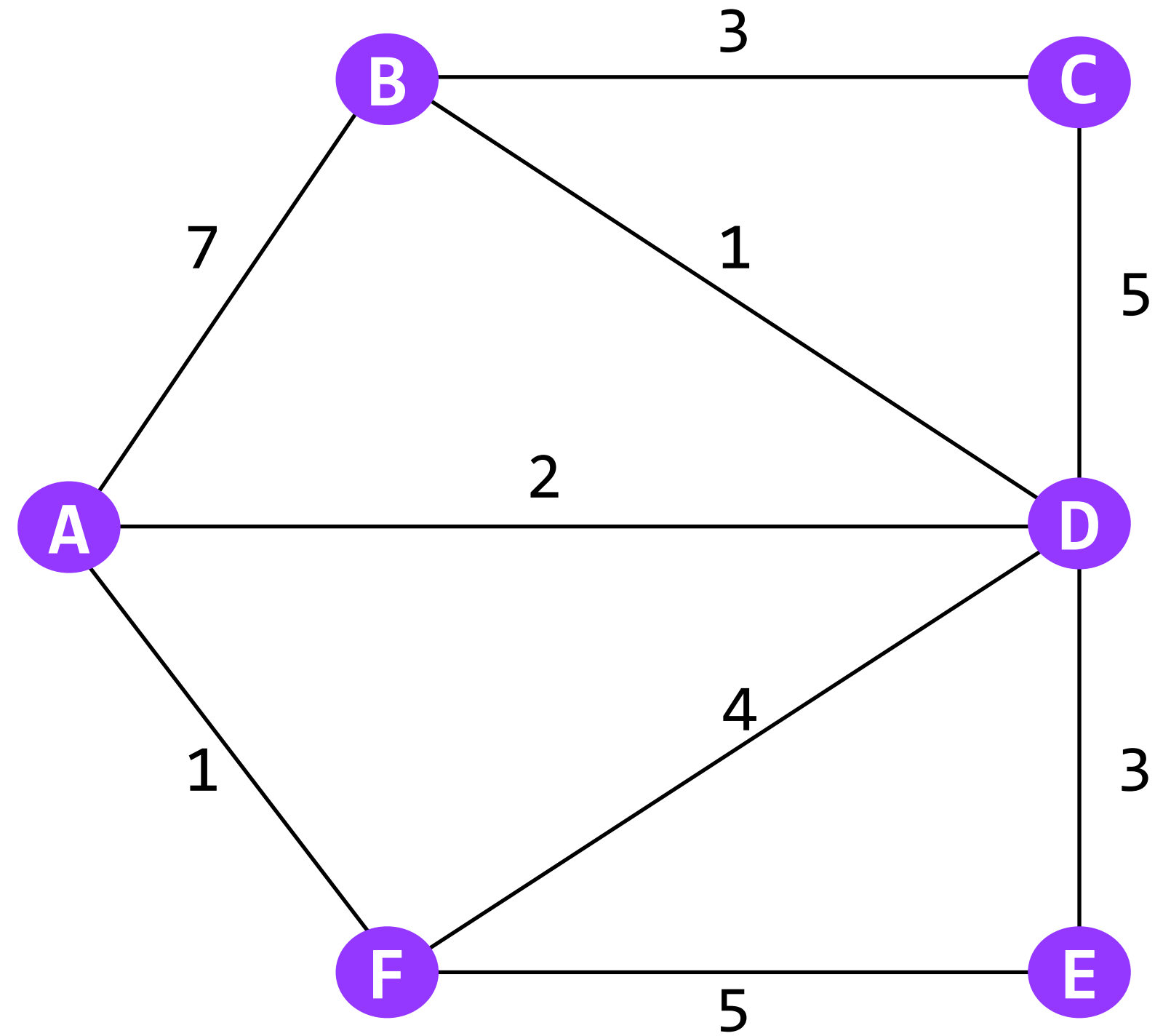
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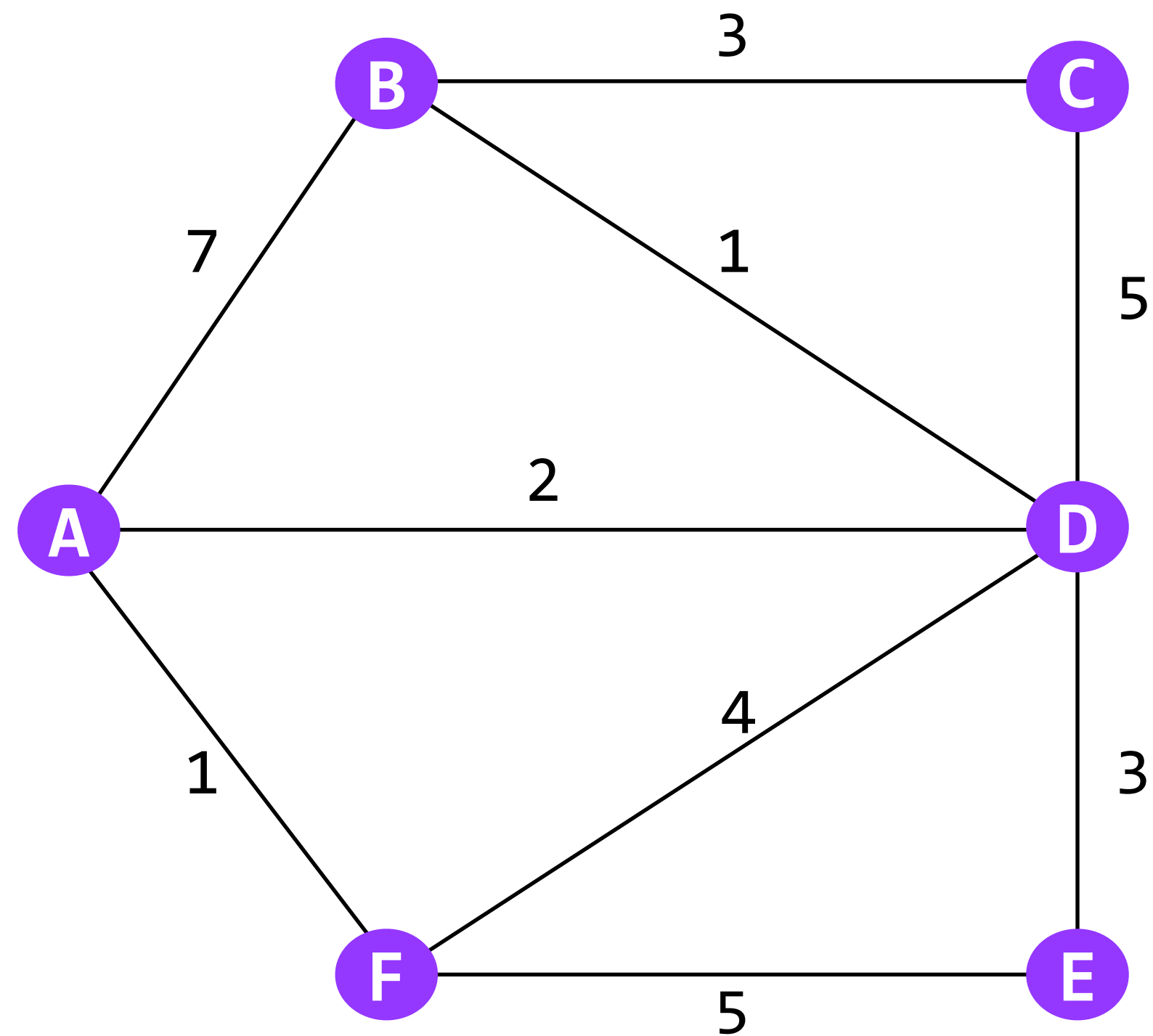
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nodes keep track of which advertisements they've forwarded so that they don't re-forward them

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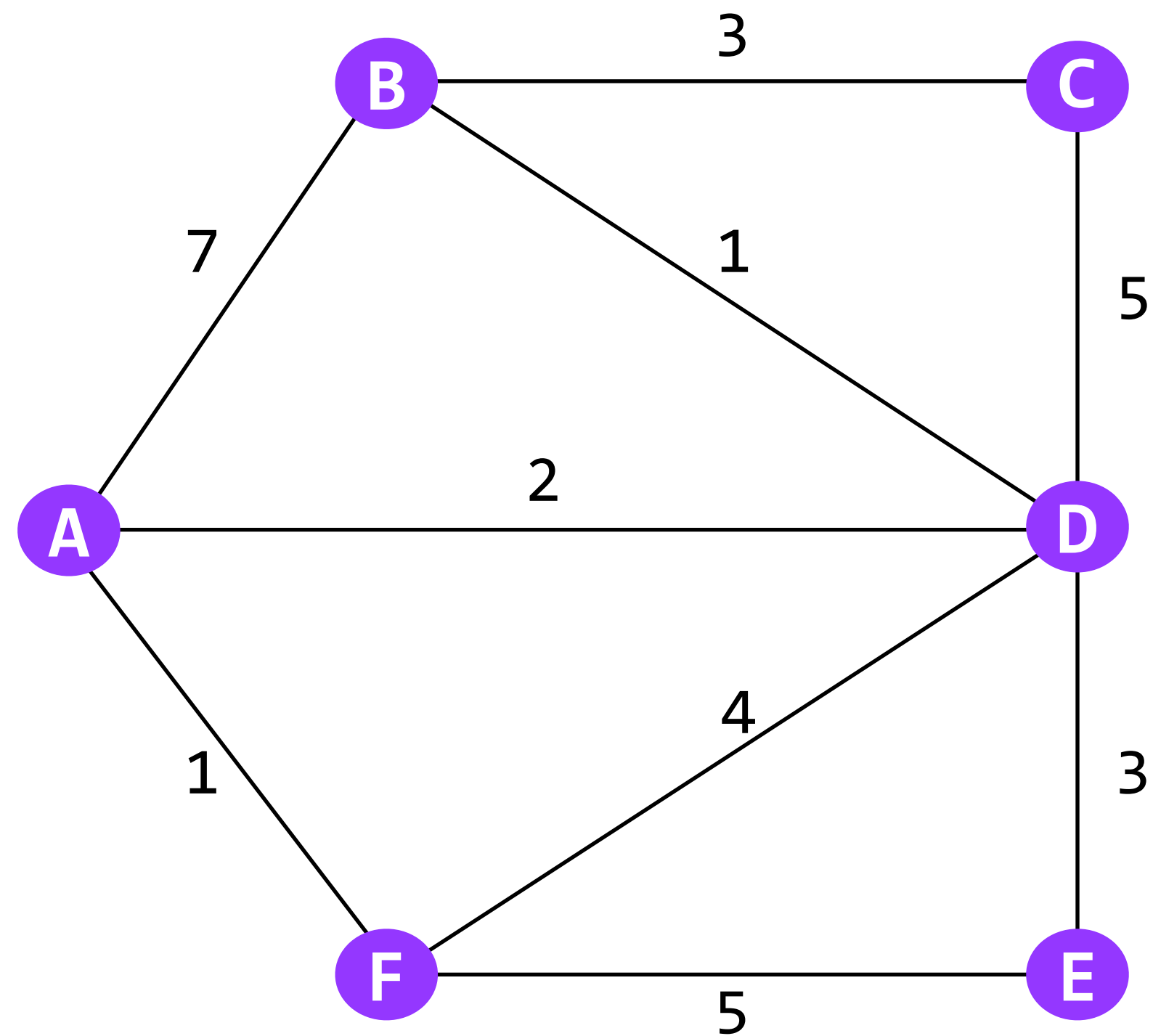
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they can also be a bit smarter about flooding, and not forward an advertisement back to the node that sent it

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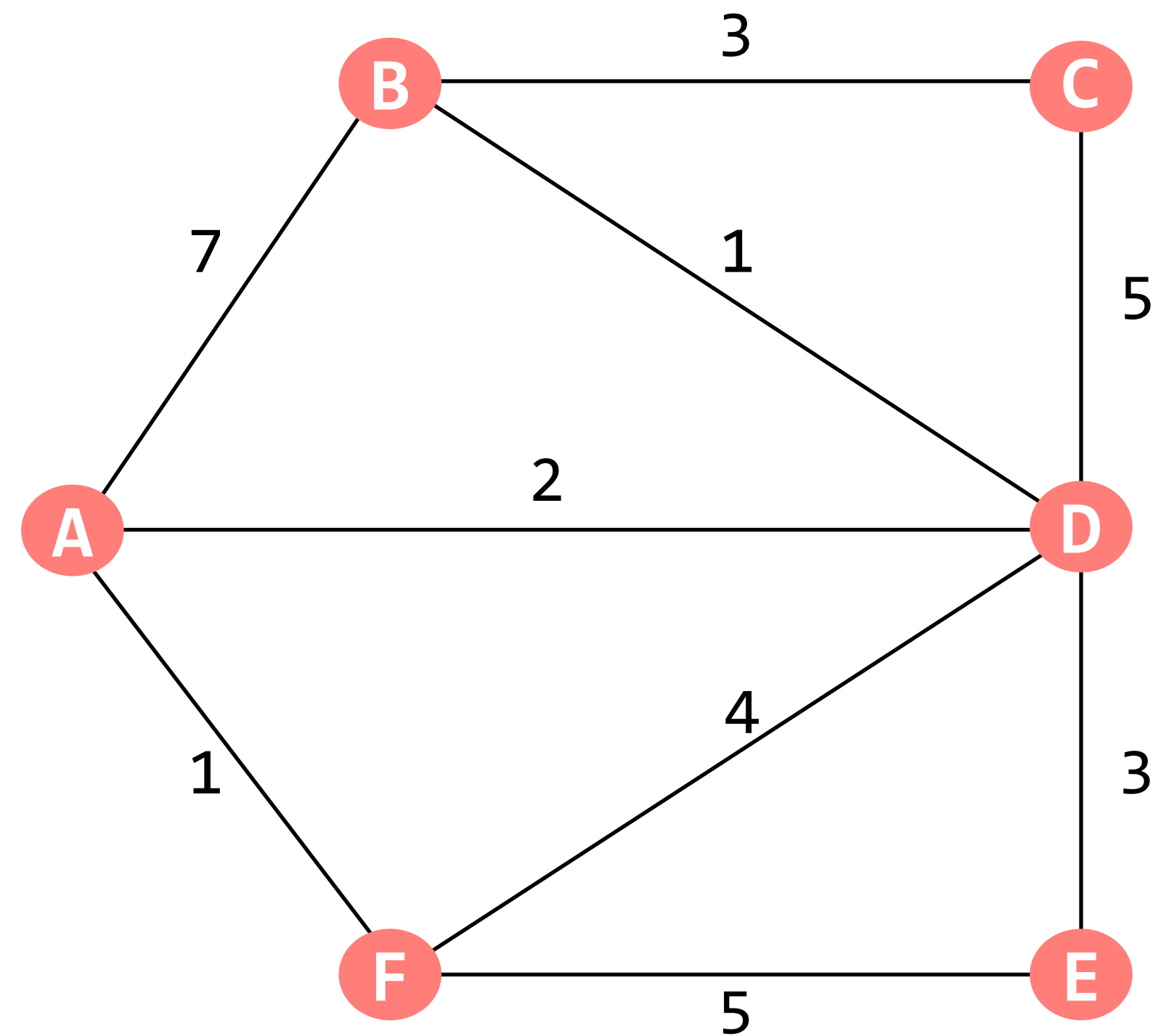
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nodes *integrate* advertisements by running Dijkstra's Algorithm

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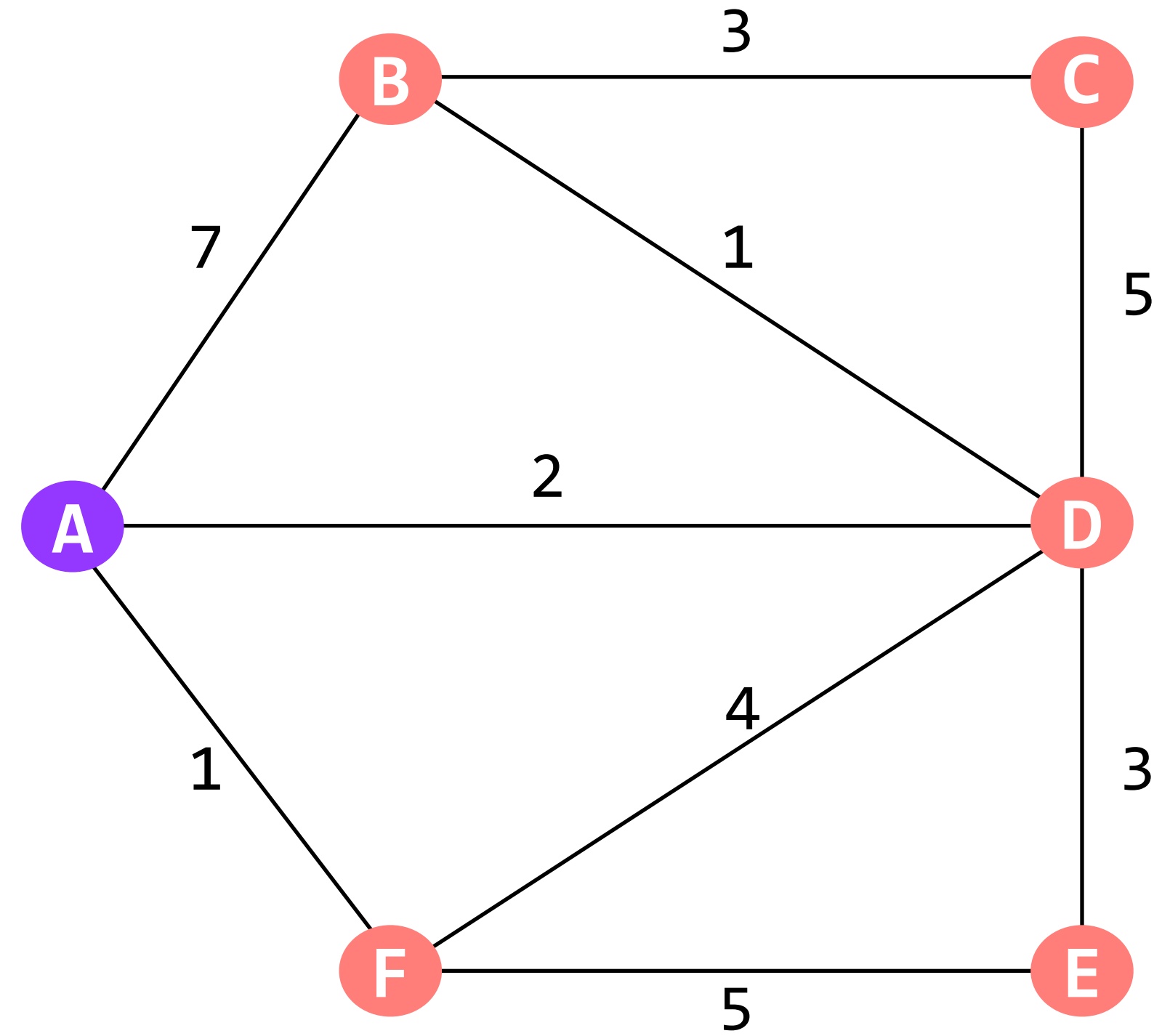
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A's routing table

dst	route	cost
B	A-B	7
C	?	$\infty$
D	A-D	2
E	?	$\infty$
F	A-F	1

**link state**

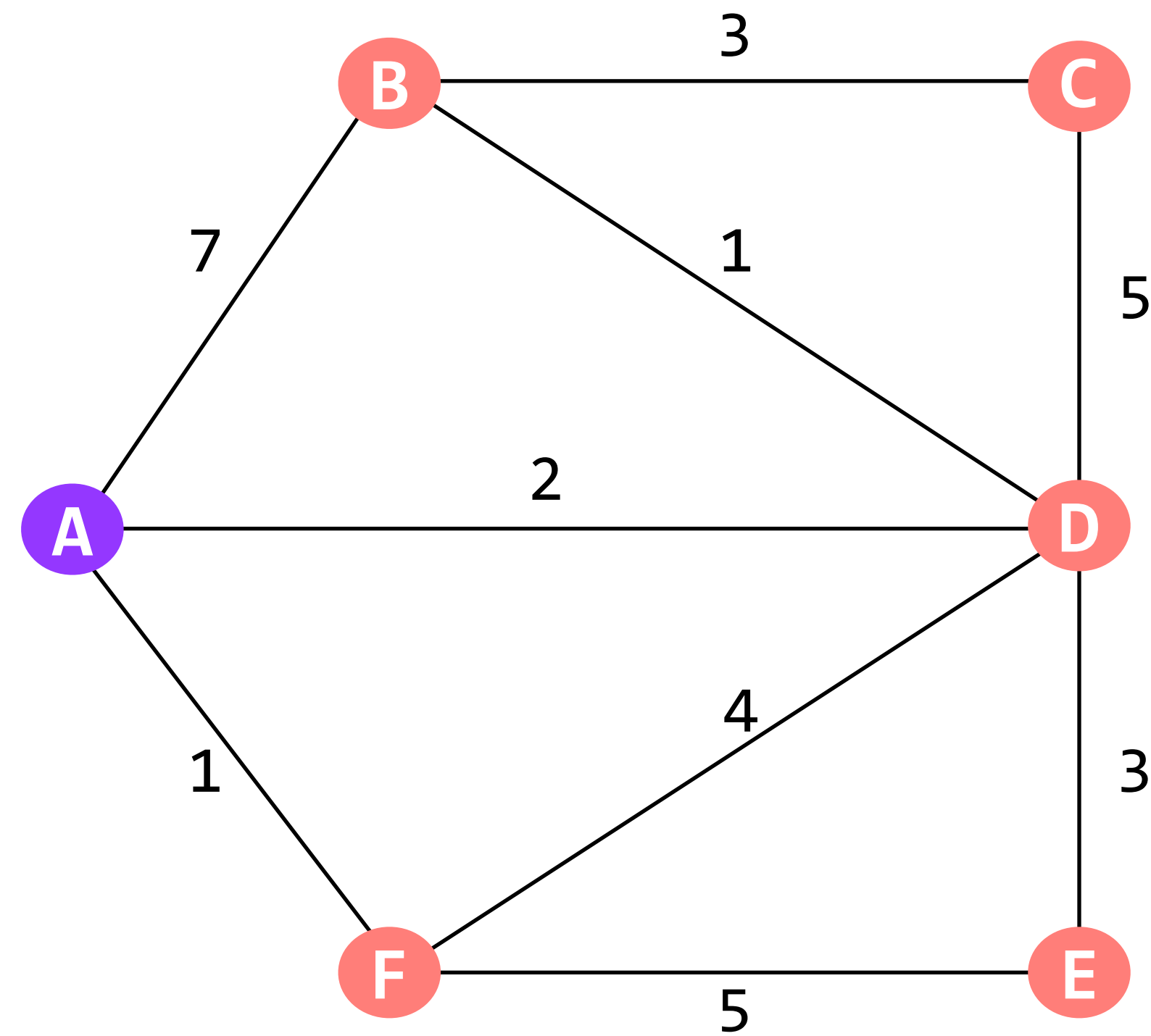
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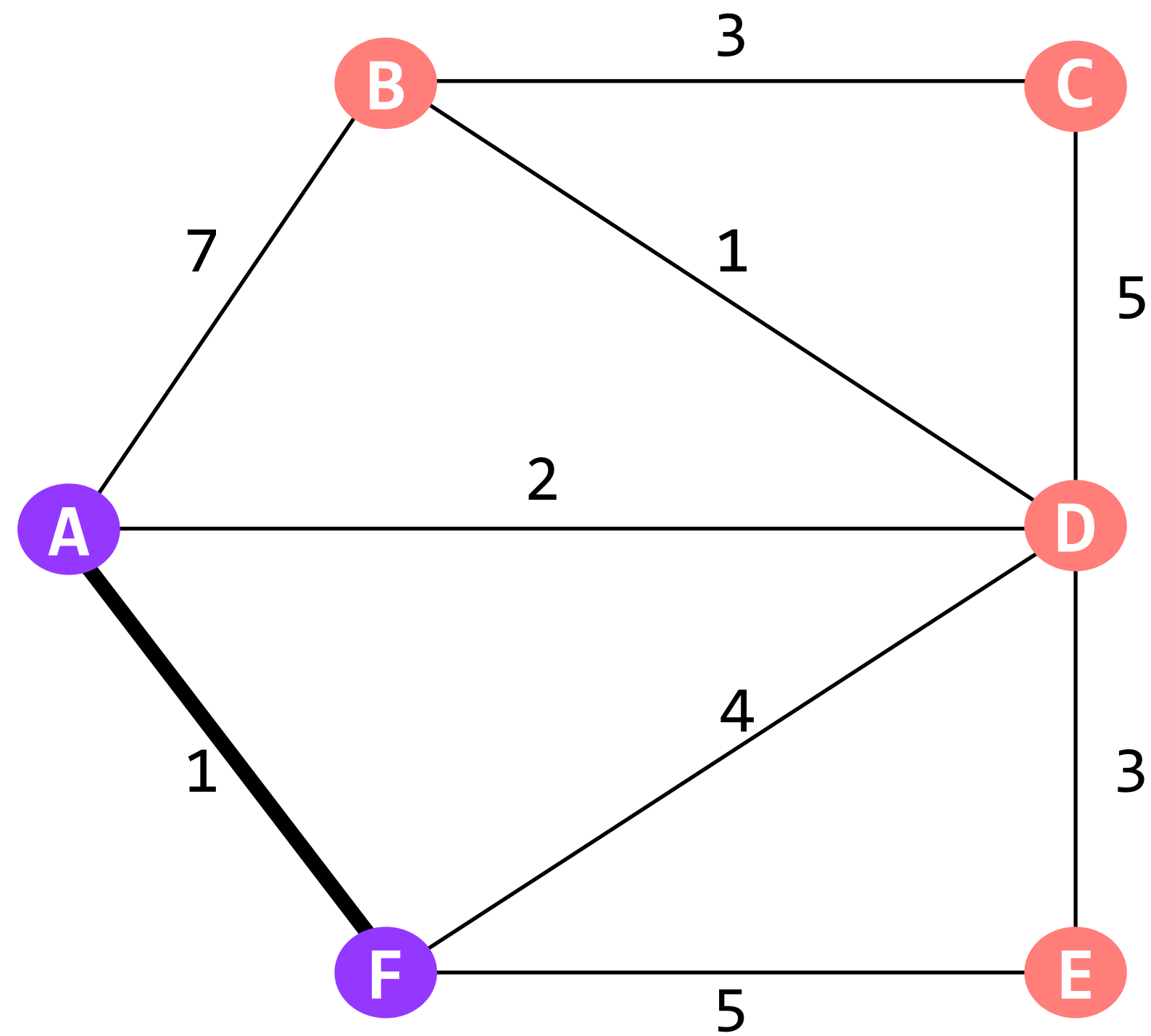
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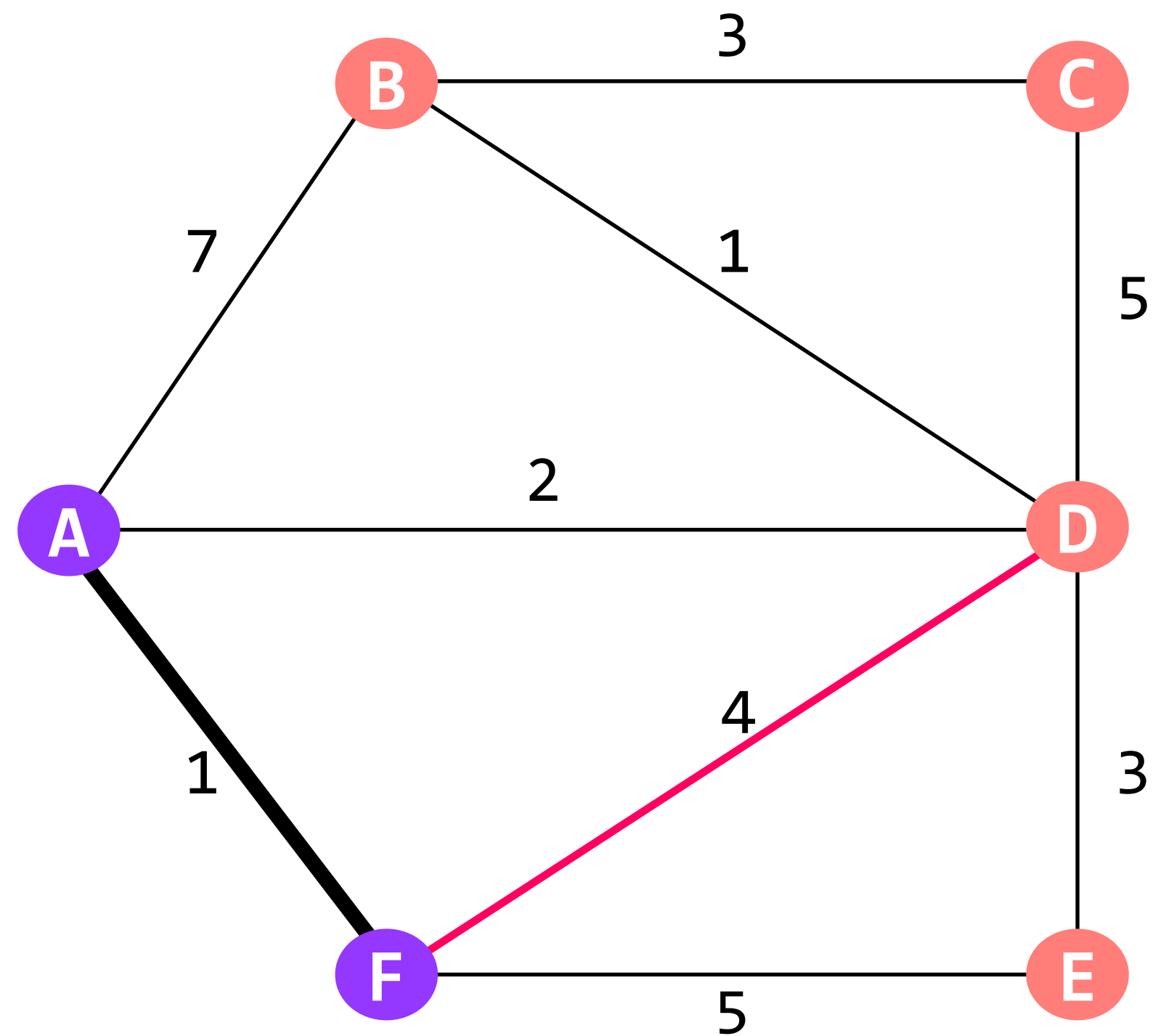
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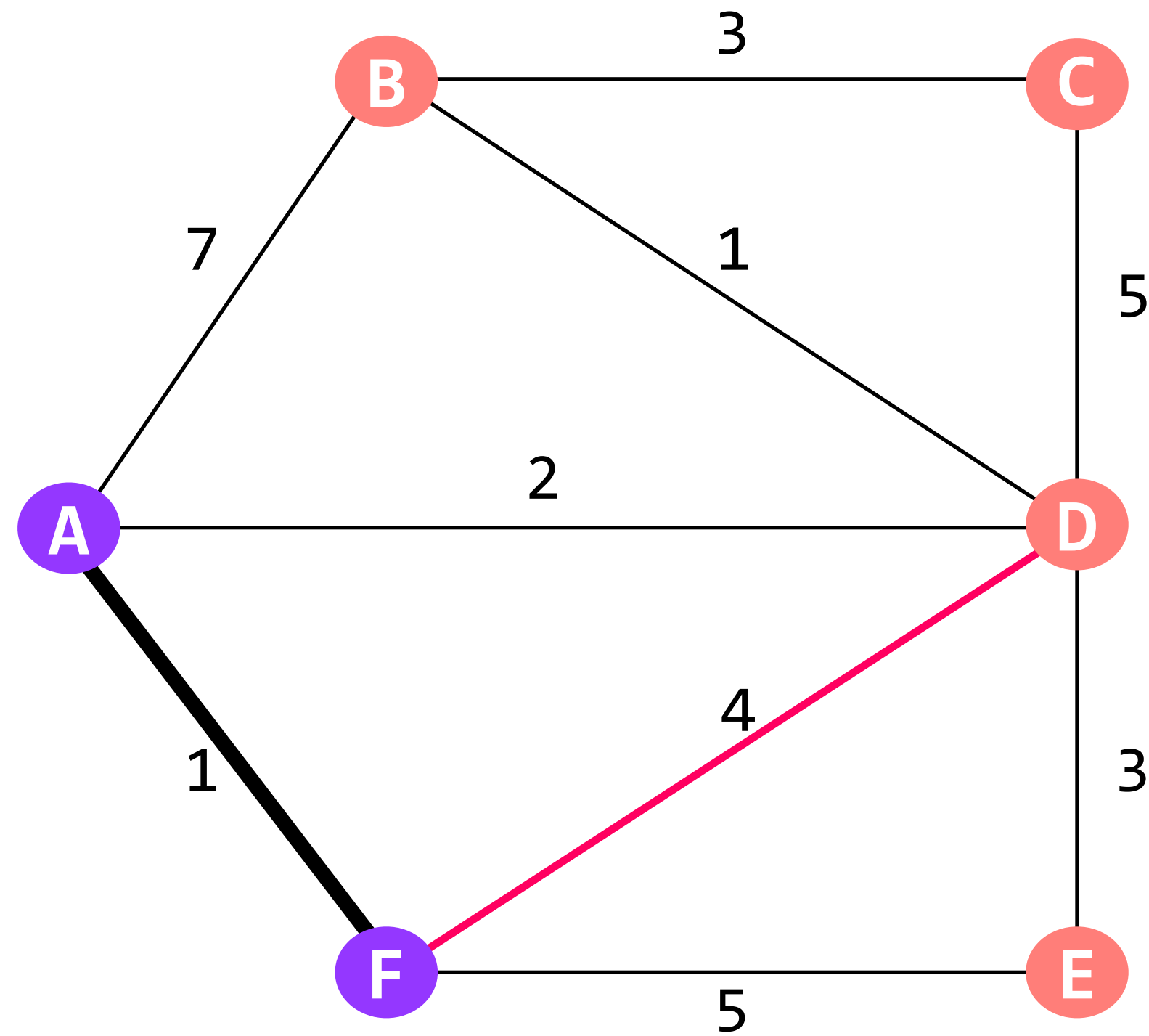
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C	?	$\infty$
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E	?	$\infty$
<b>F</b>	<b>A-F</b>	<b>1</b>

F does not provide A with a better route to D

## link state

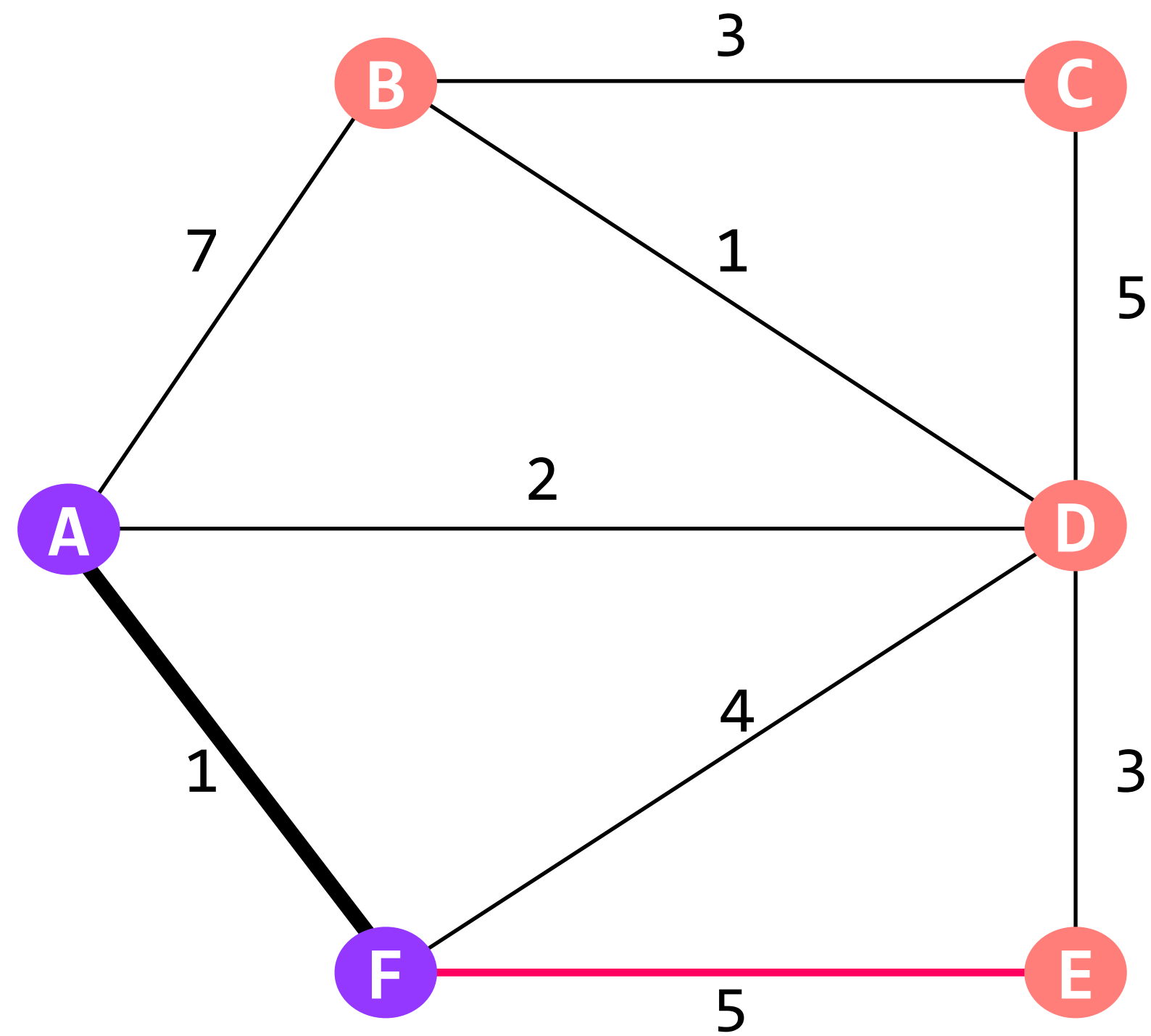
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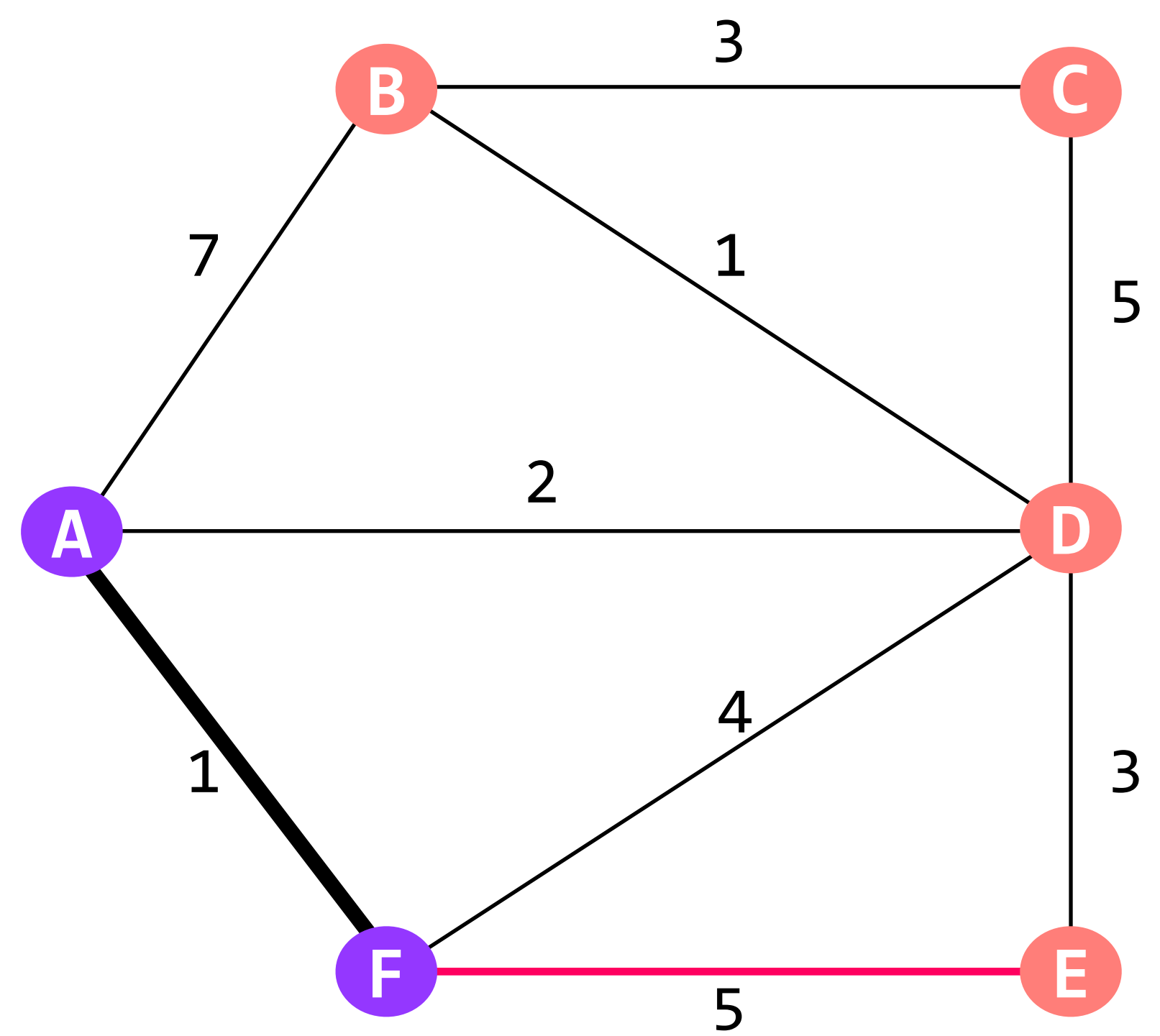
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A's routing table

dst	route	cost
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C	?	$\infty$
D	A-D	2
E	A-F	6 = the cost from A to F + the cost from F to E
<b>F</b>	<b>A-F</b>	<b>1</b>

**link state**

**what's in an advertisement**

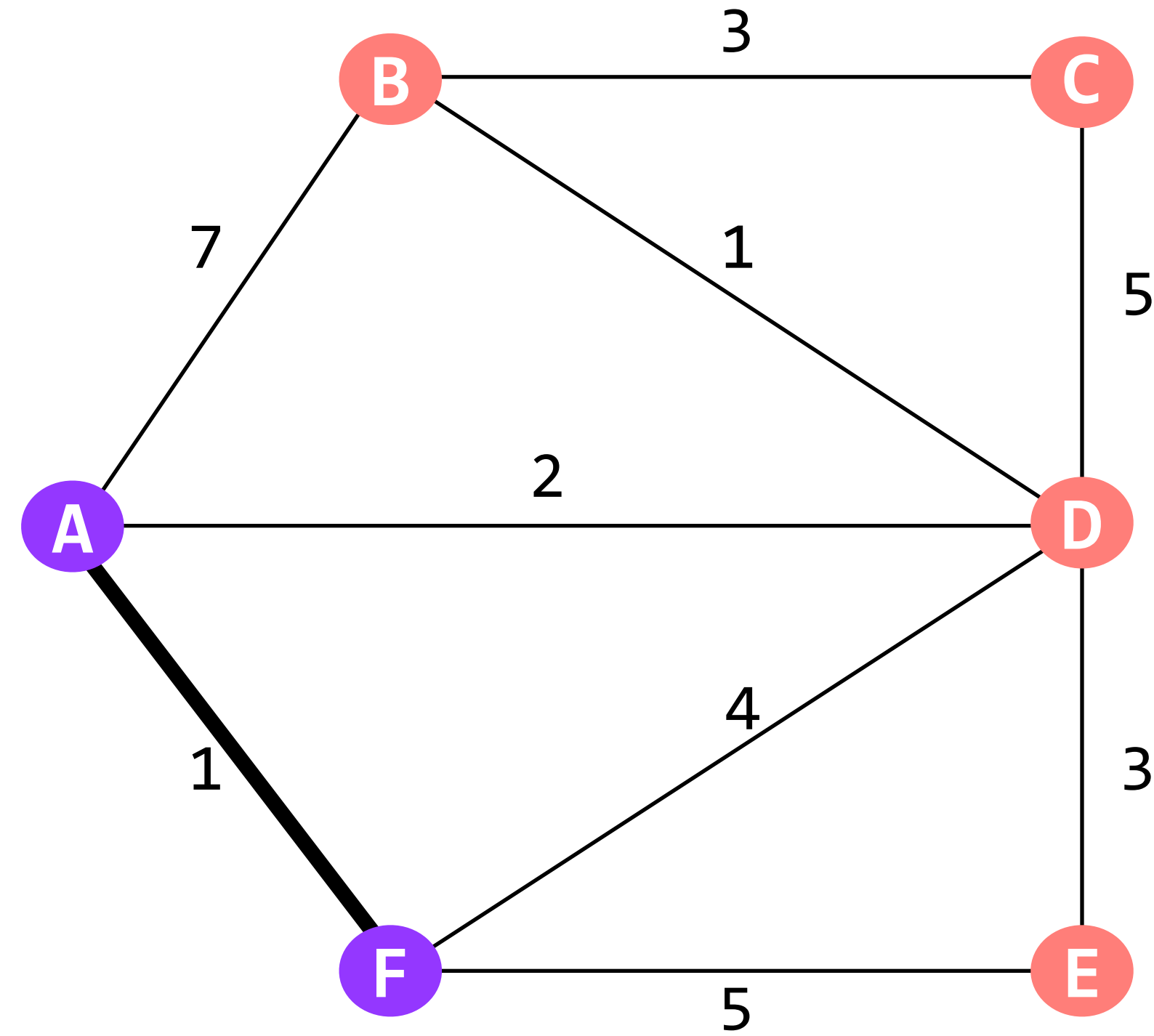
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<b>F</b>	<b>A-F</b>	<b>1</b>

**link state**

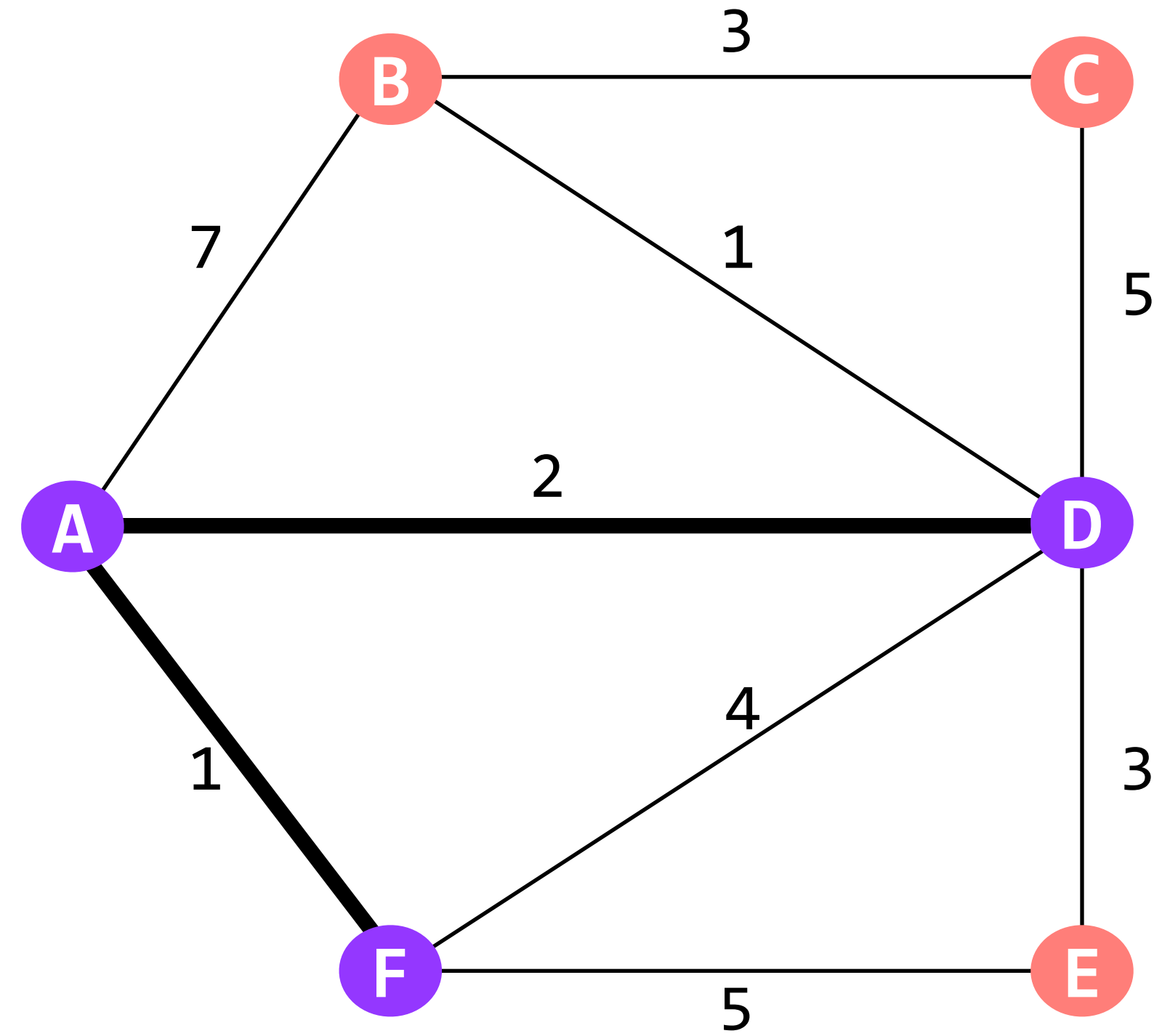
**what's in an advertisement**

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	?	$\infty$
D	A-D	2
E	A-F	6
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**link state**

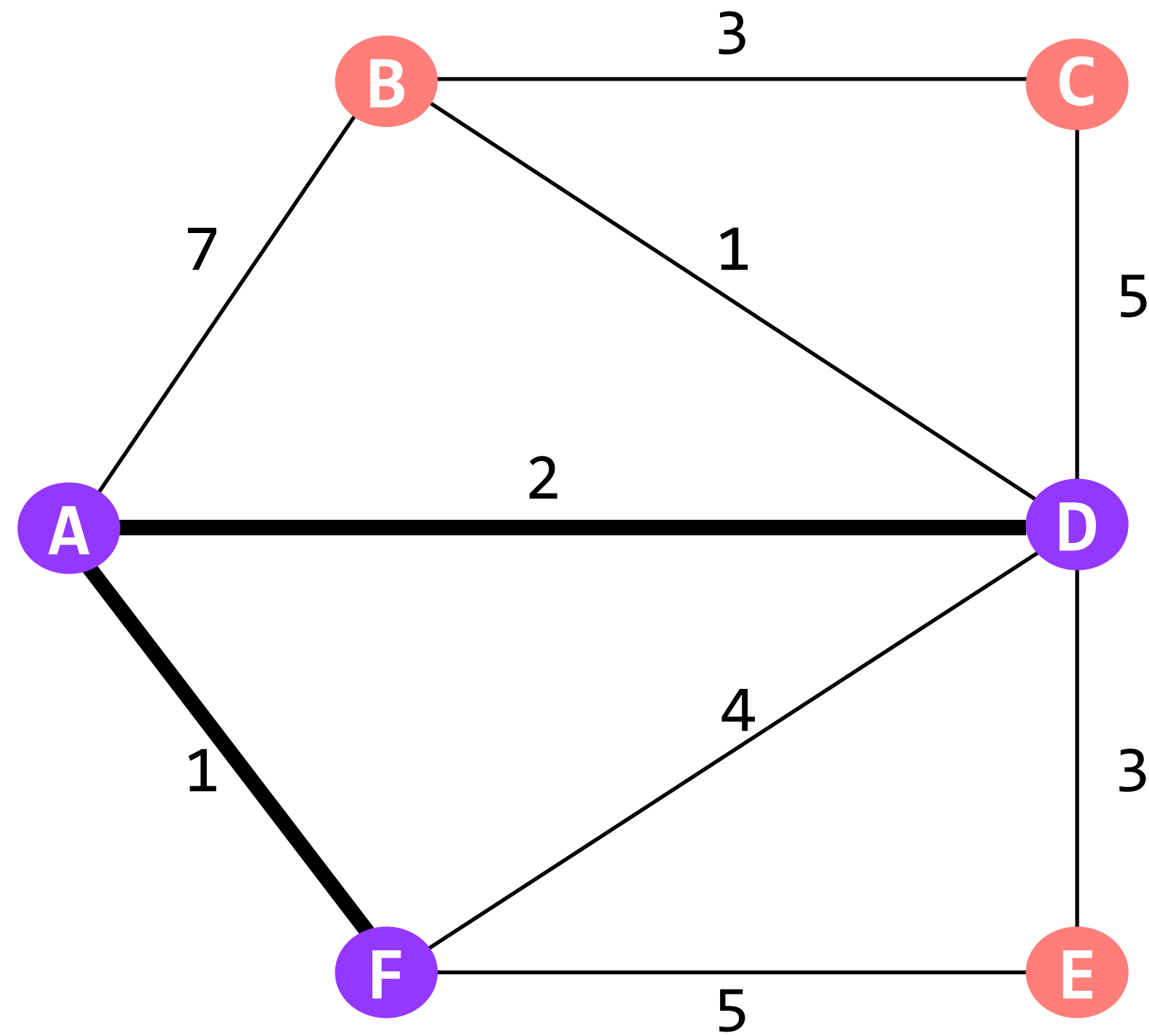
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**question:** what will A's routing table look like after we're done visiting all of D's neighbors?

**link state**

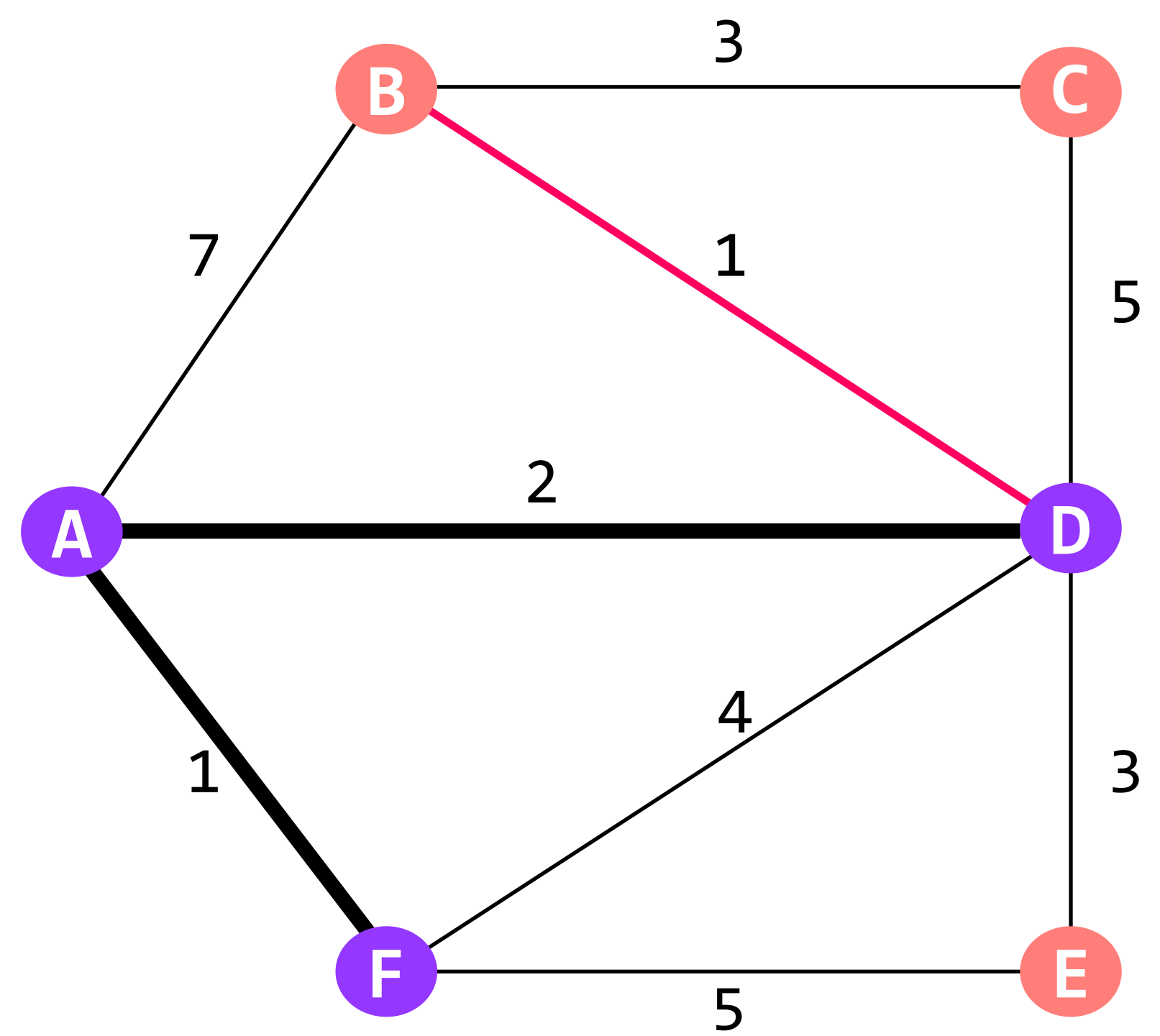
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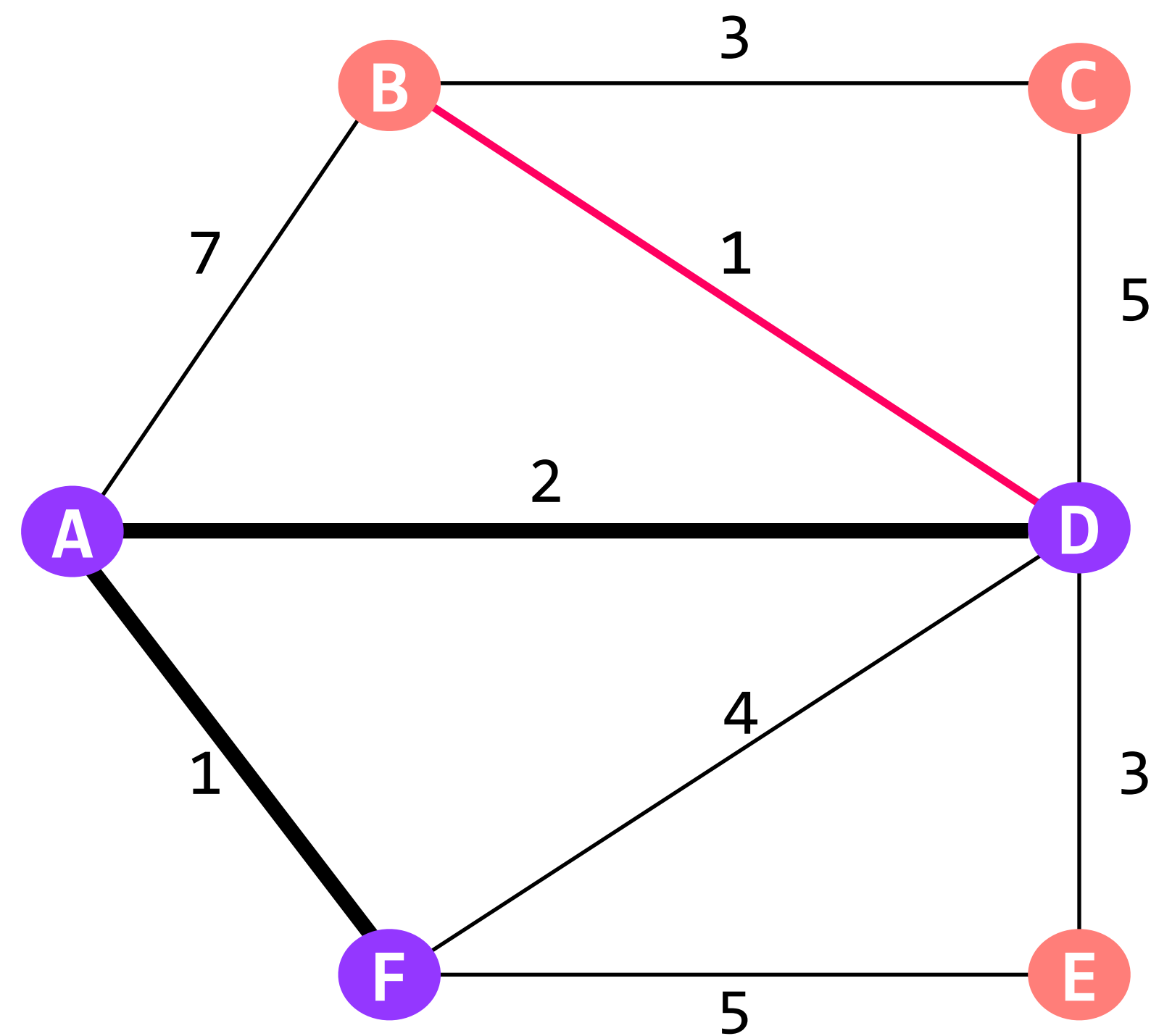
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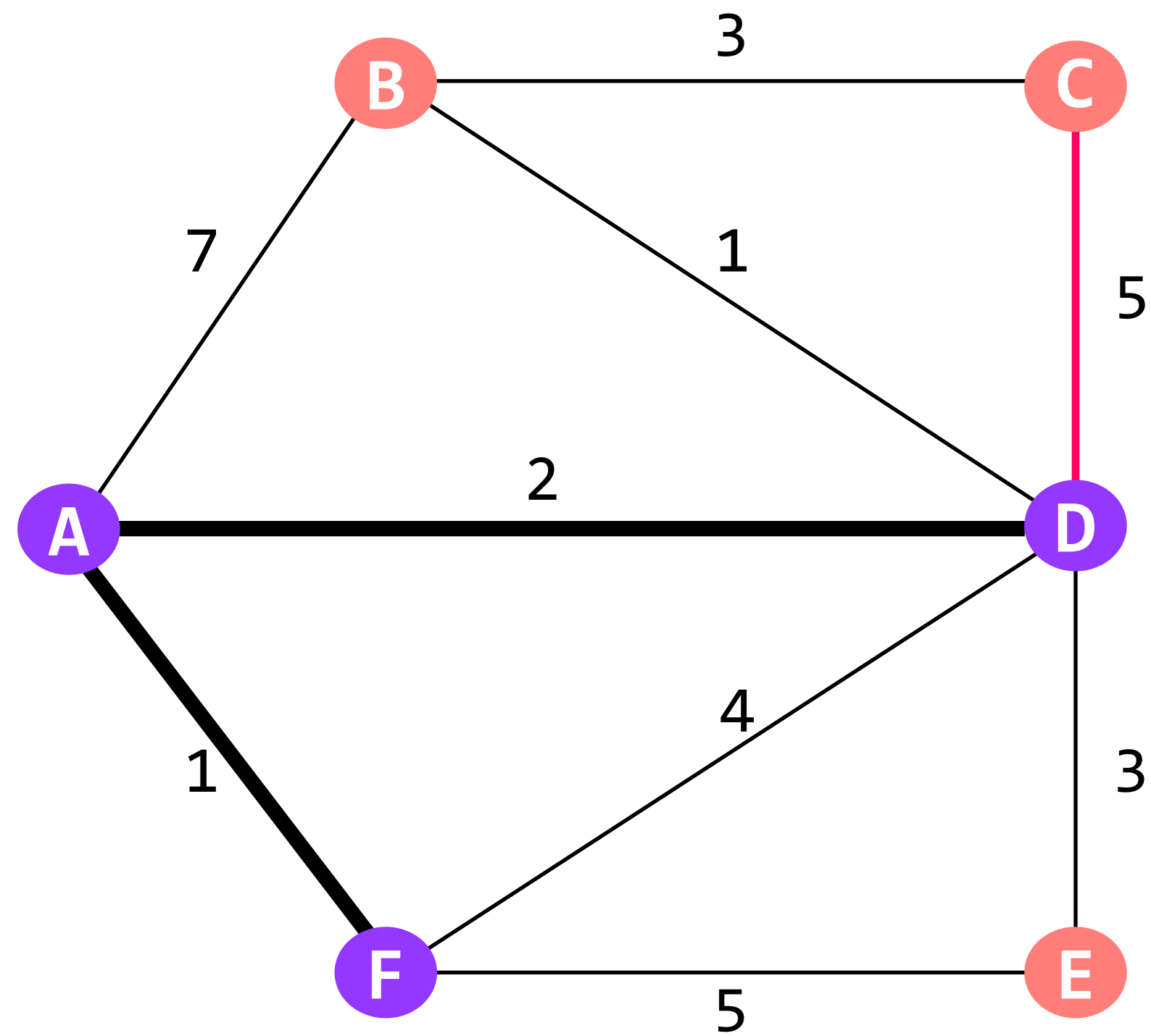
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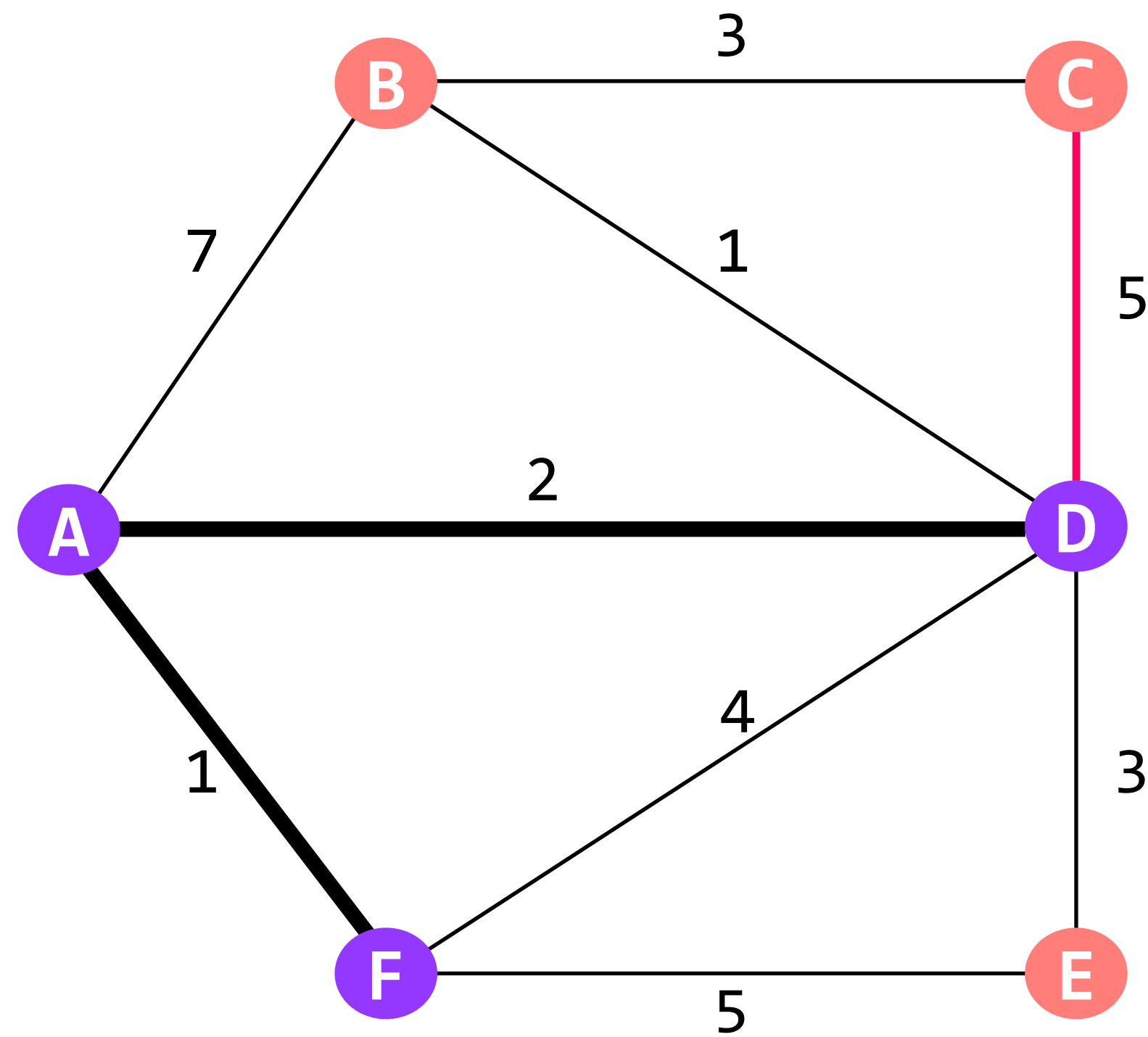
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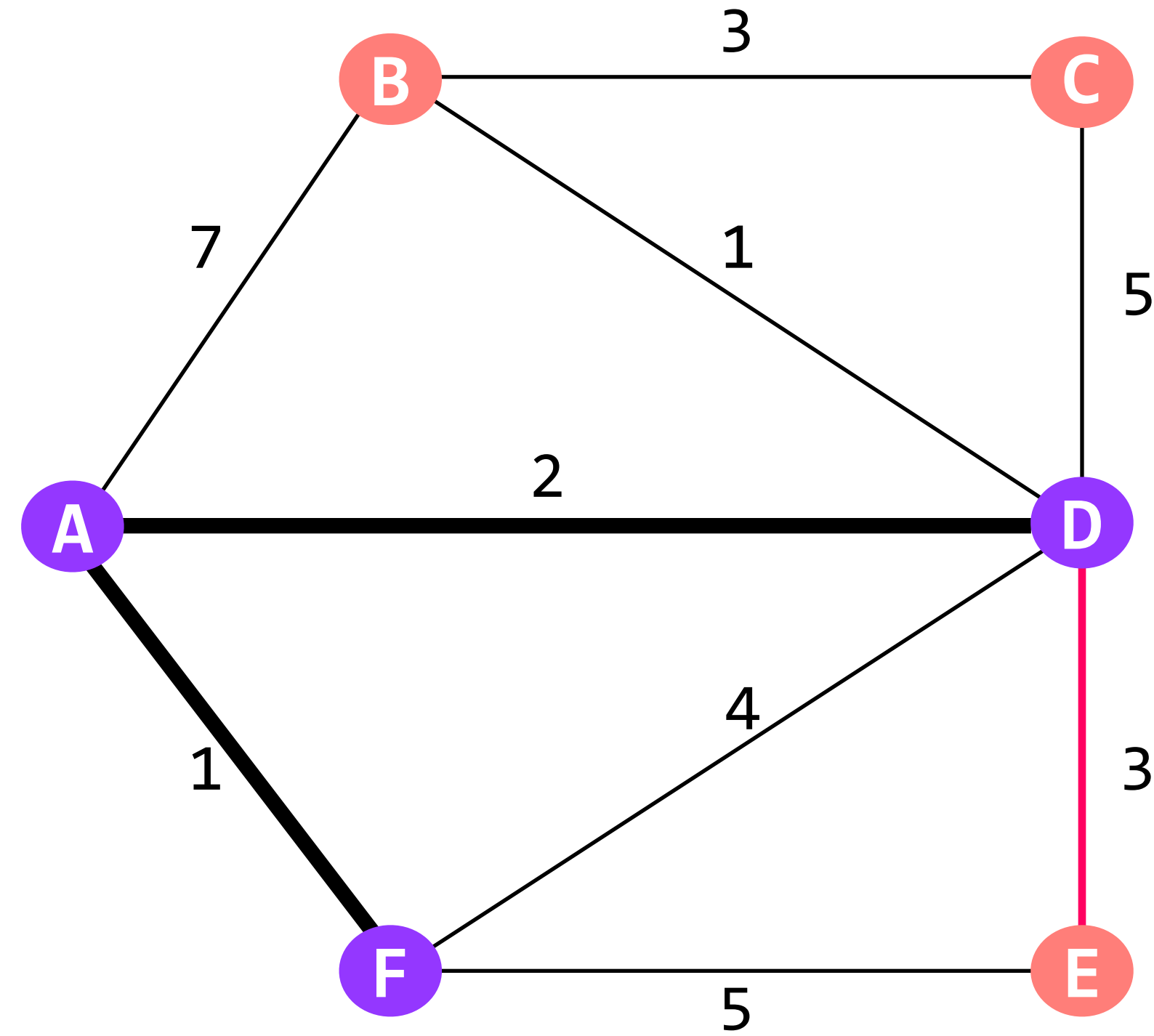
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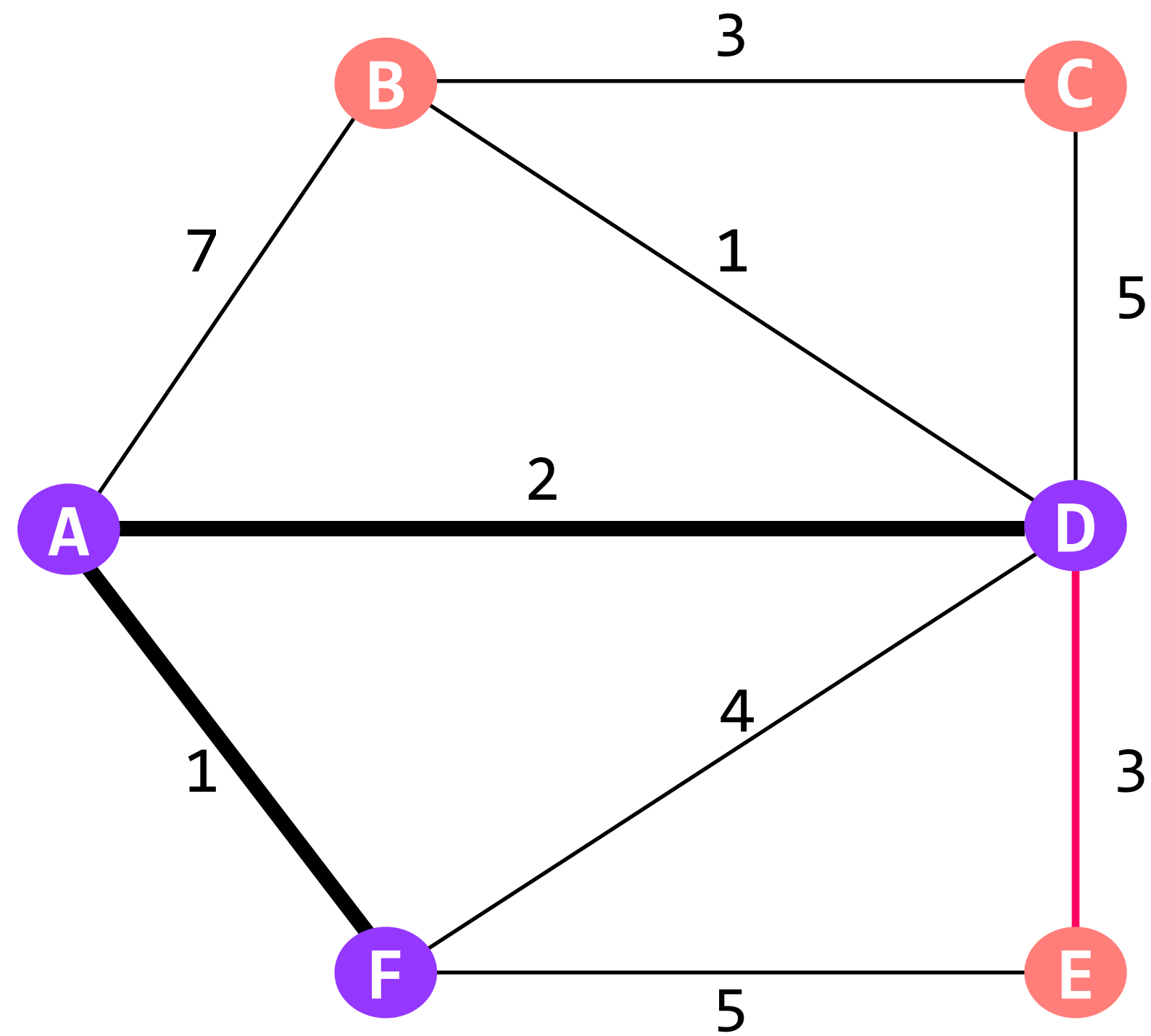
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<b>D</b>	<b>A-D</b>	<b>2</b>
E	A-D	5
<b>F</b>	<b>A-F</b>	<b>1</b>

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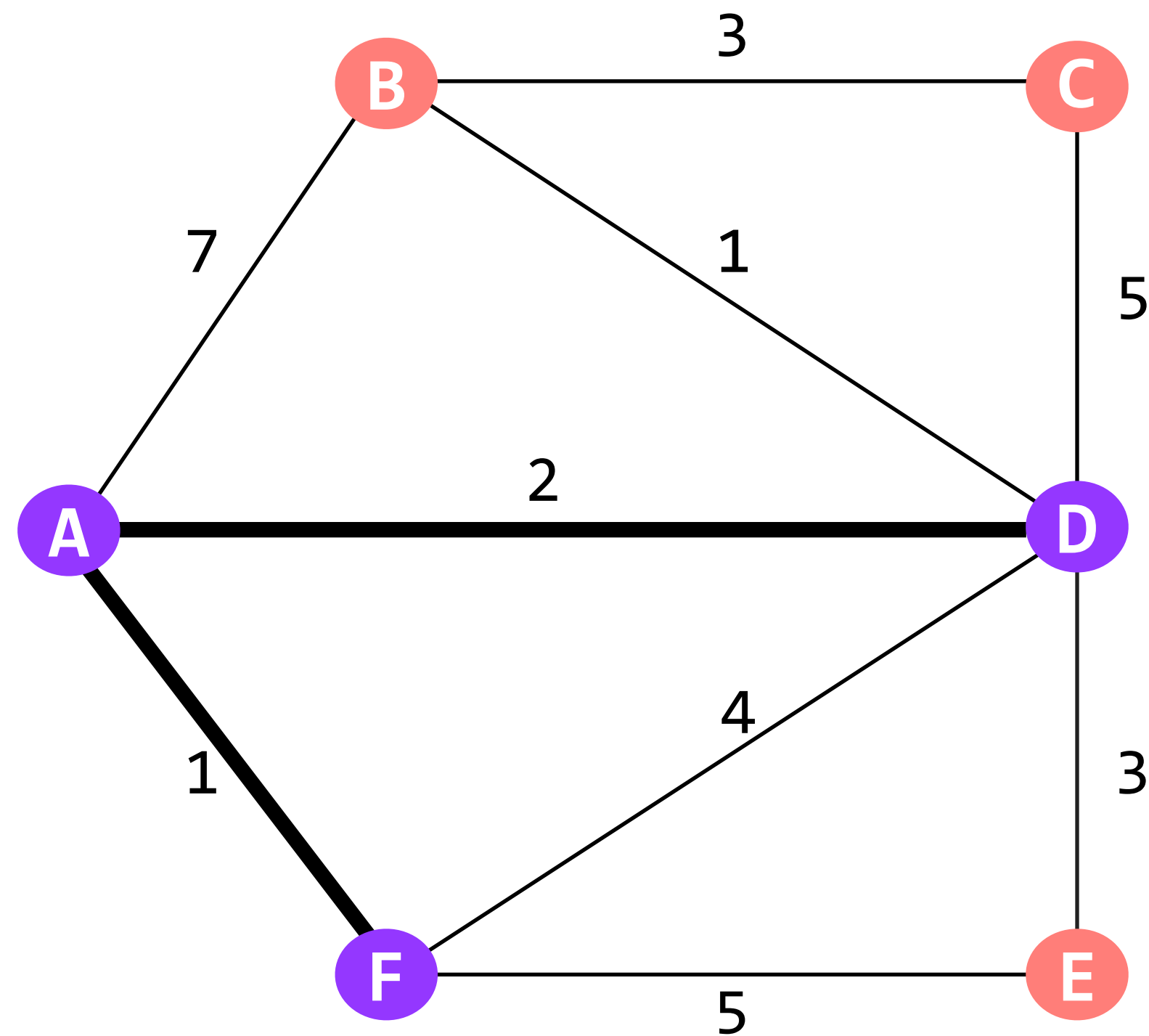
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we don't need to "visit" F; we already know the shortest path to it

## link state

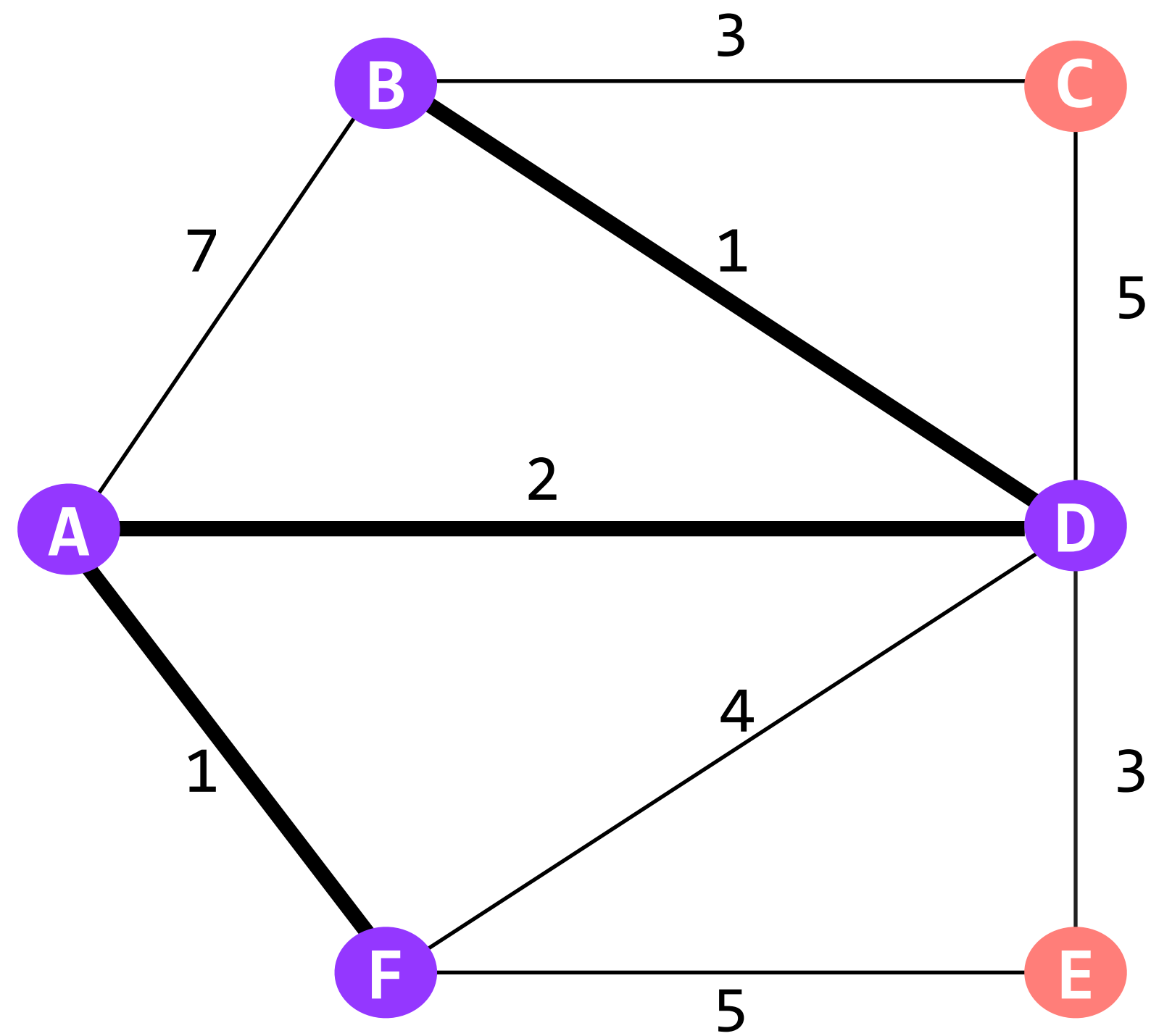
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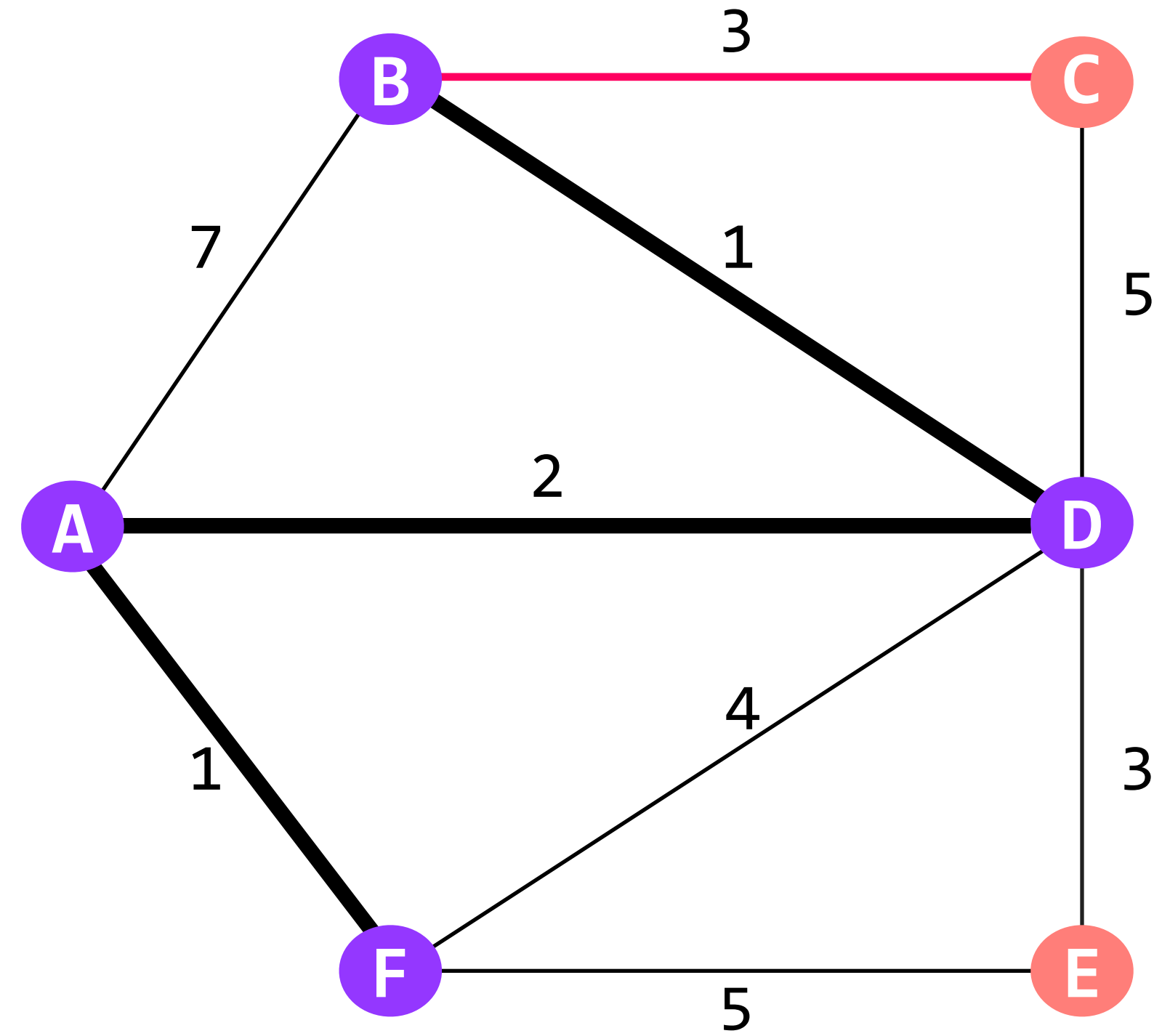
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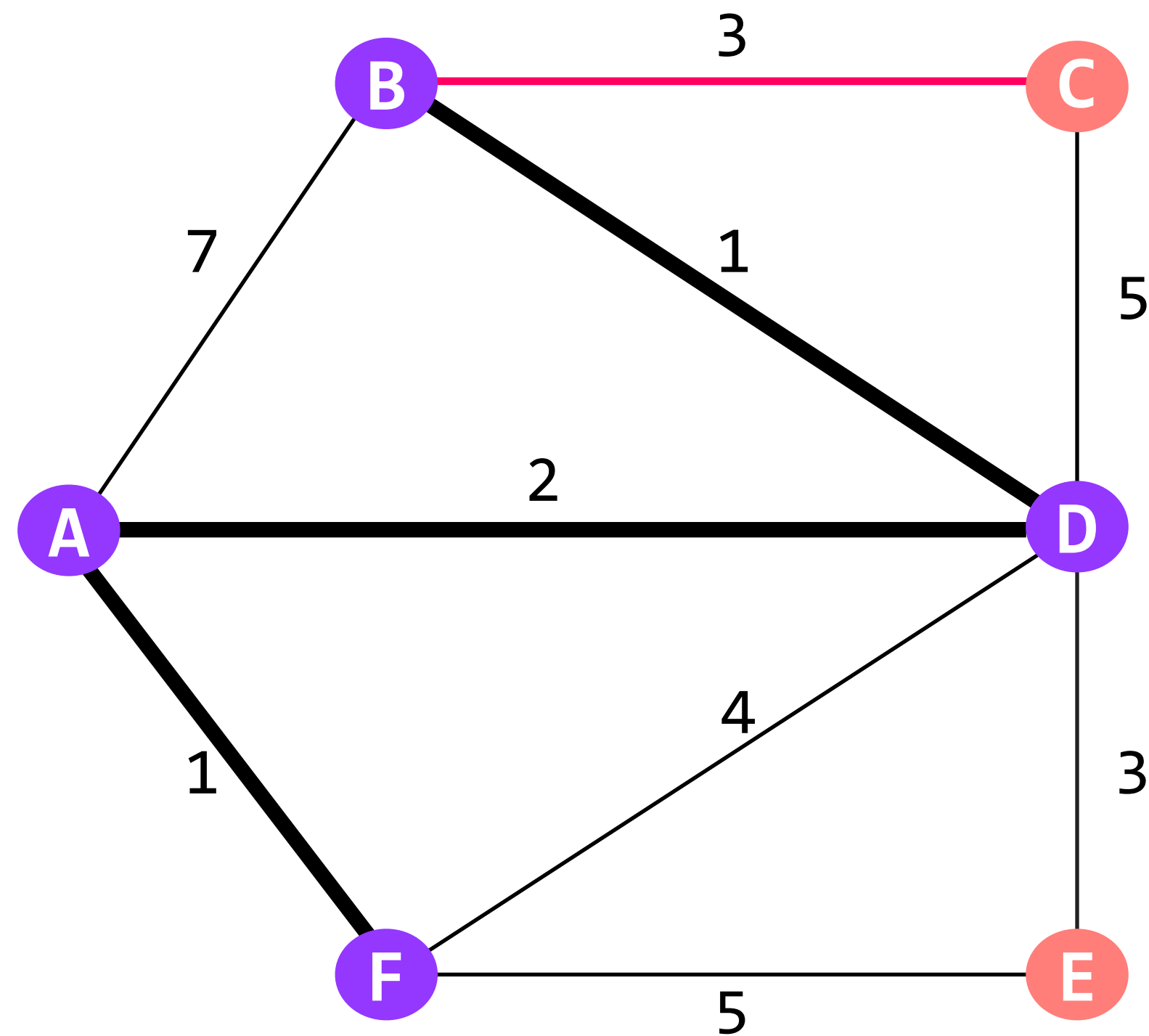
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notice that *A's route* doesn't change, but the cost needs to update (and the actual path of the packets from A to C has changed)

## link state

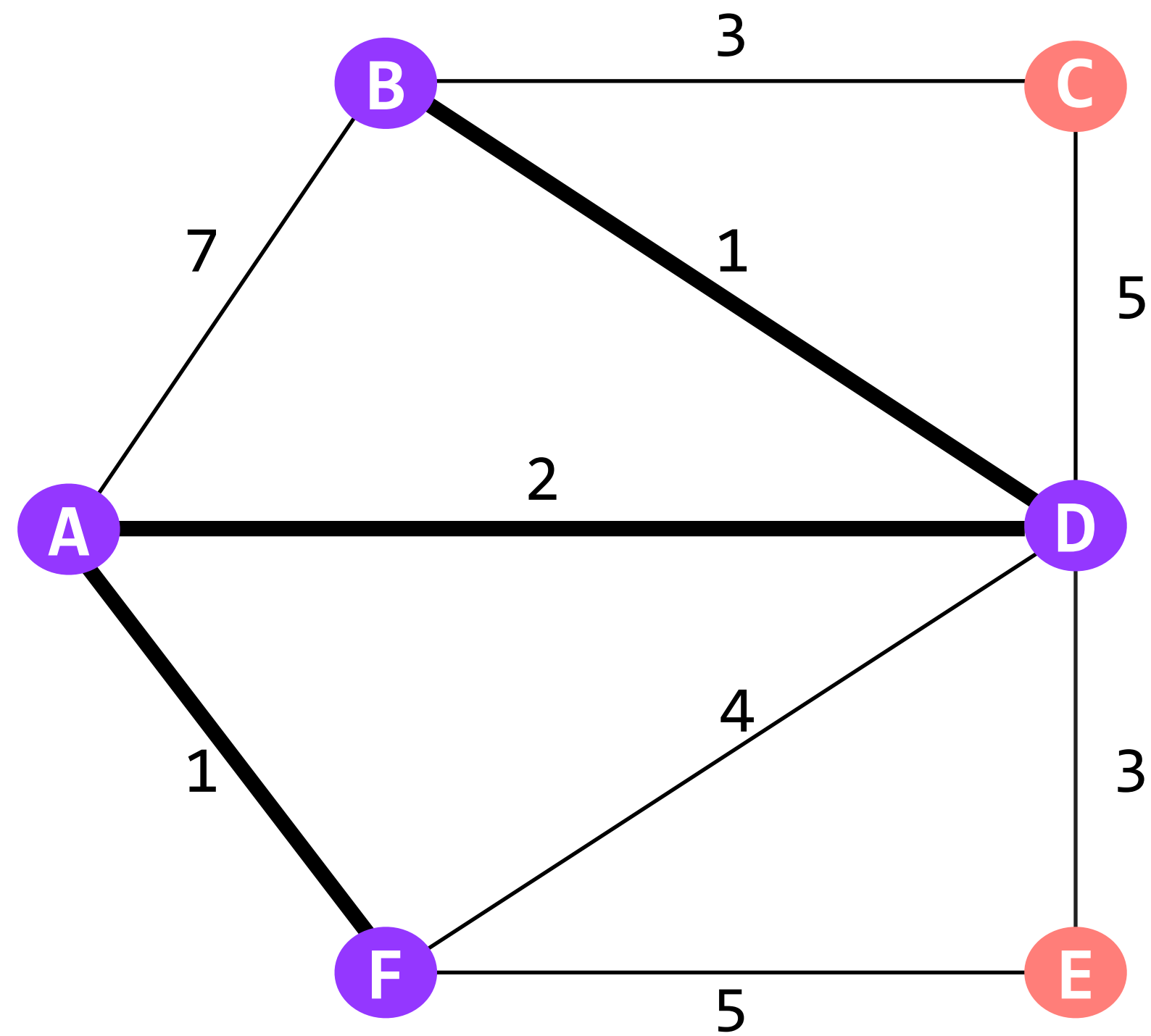
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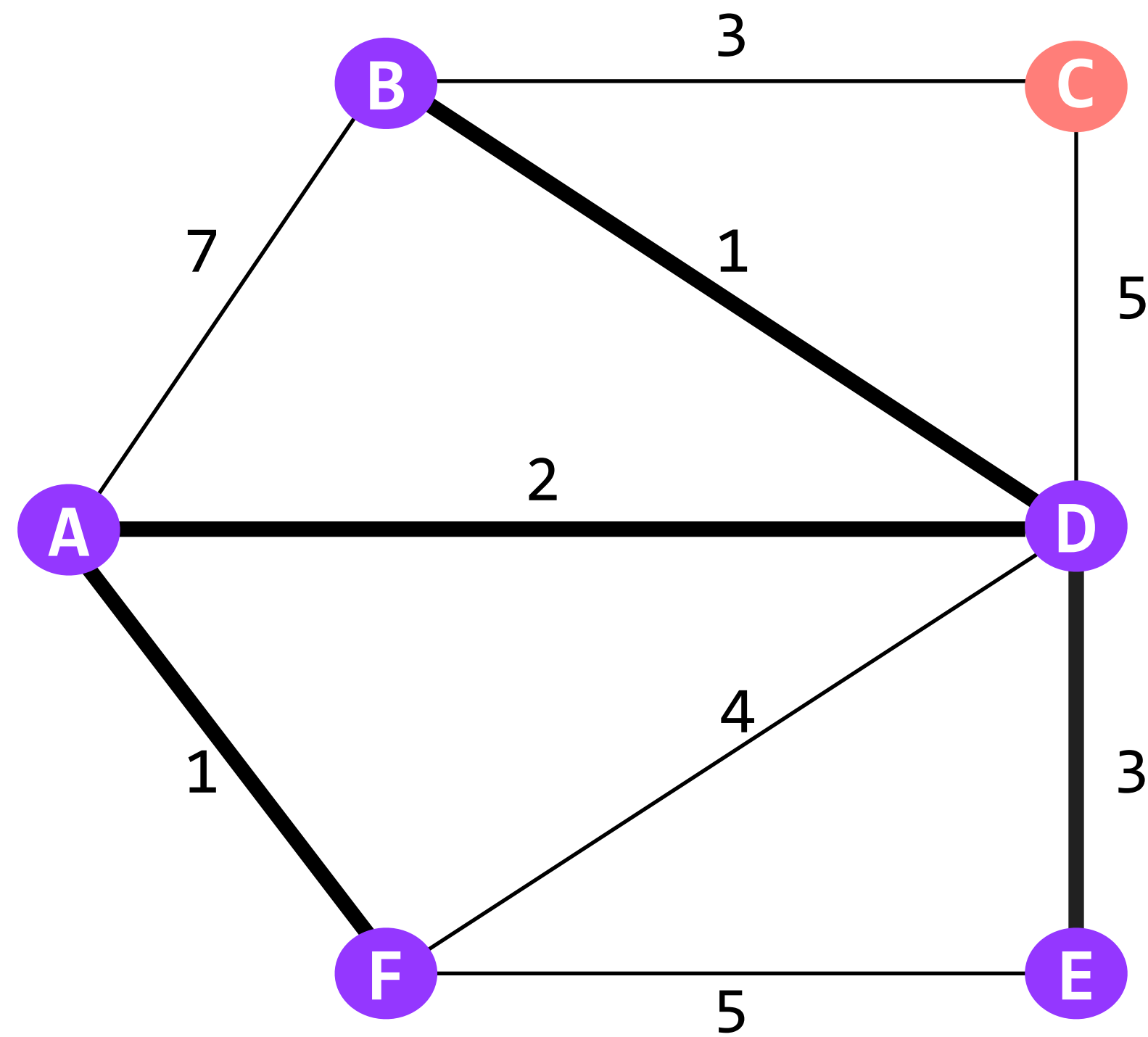
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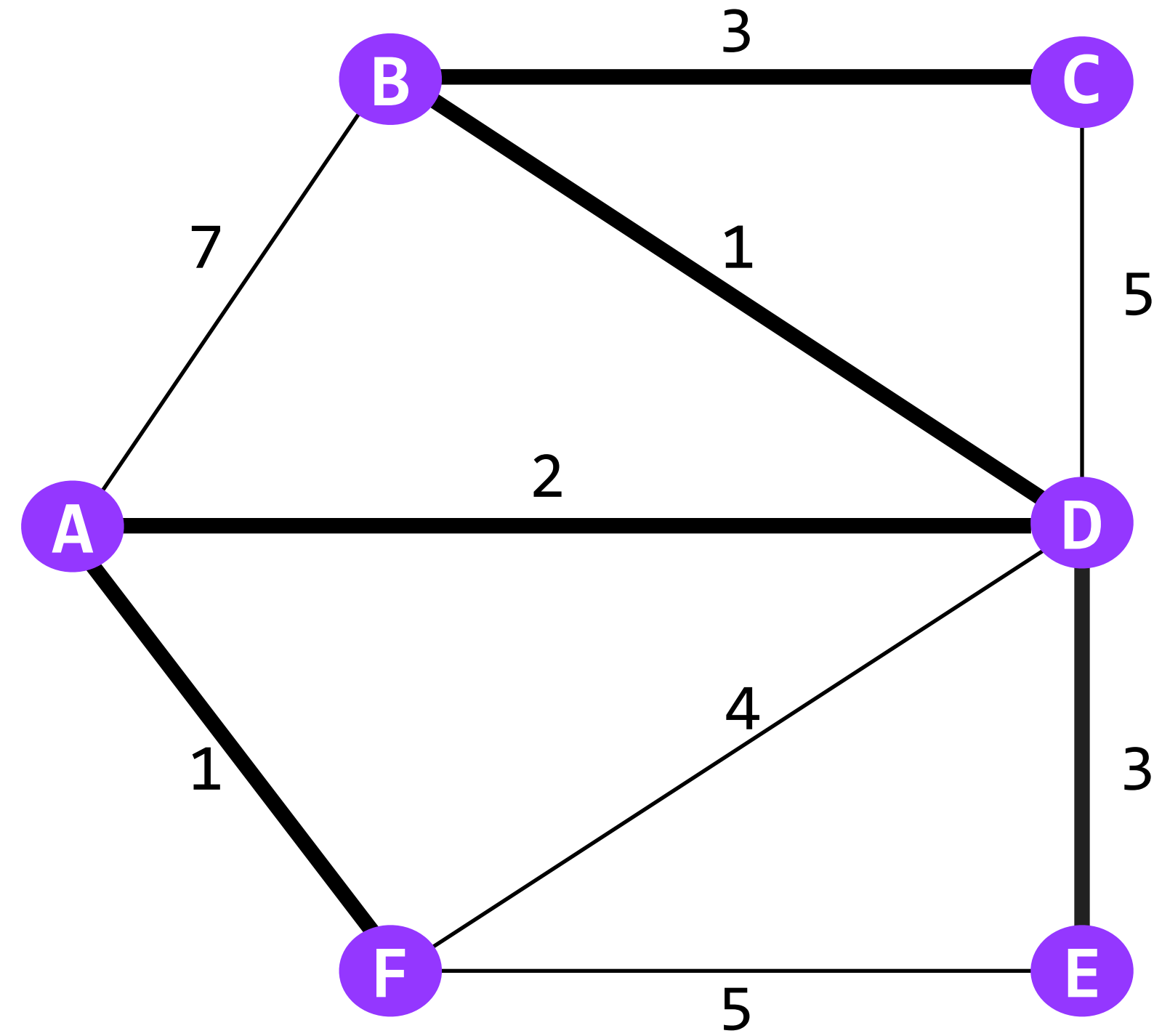
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**link state**

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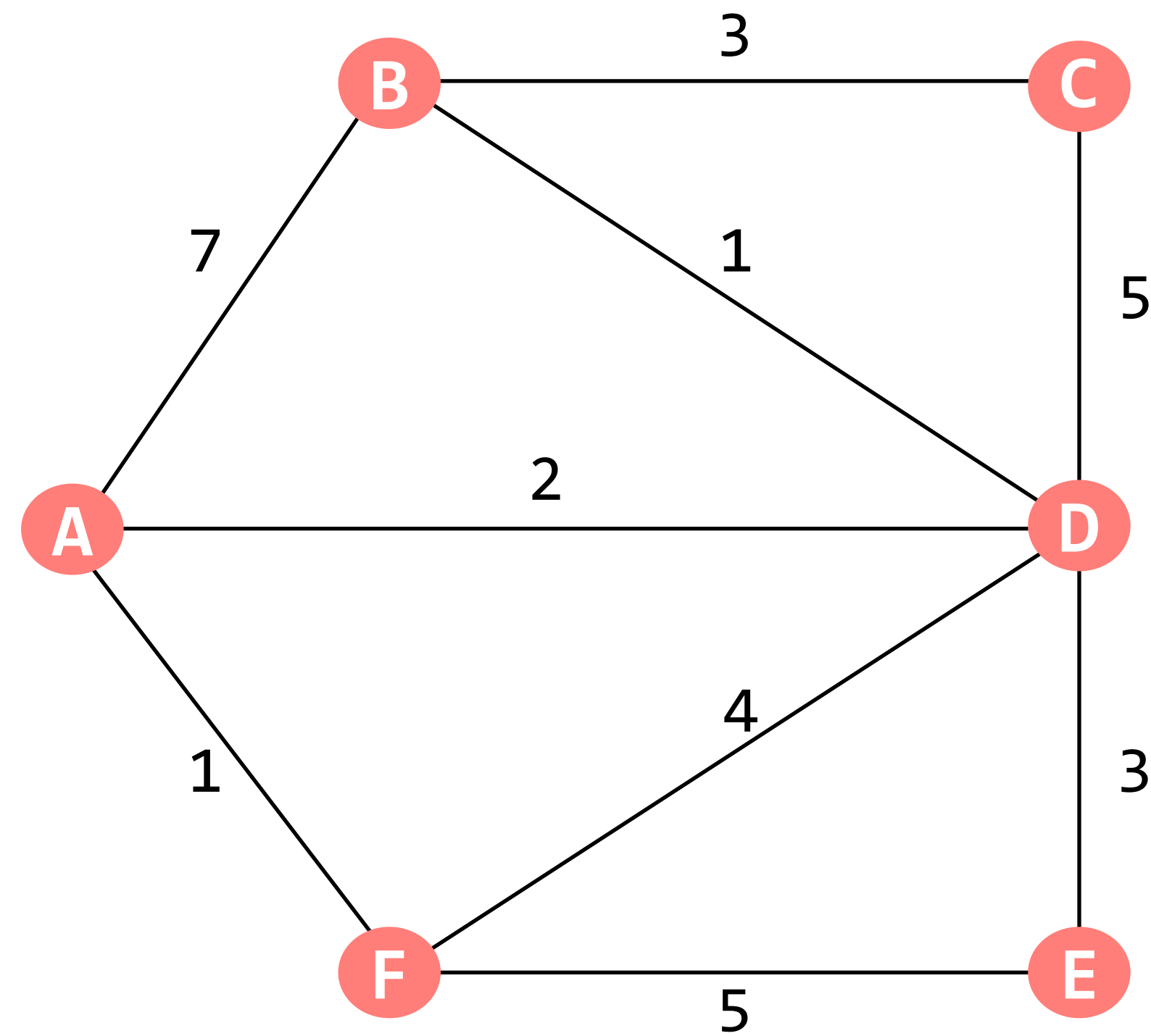
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## link state

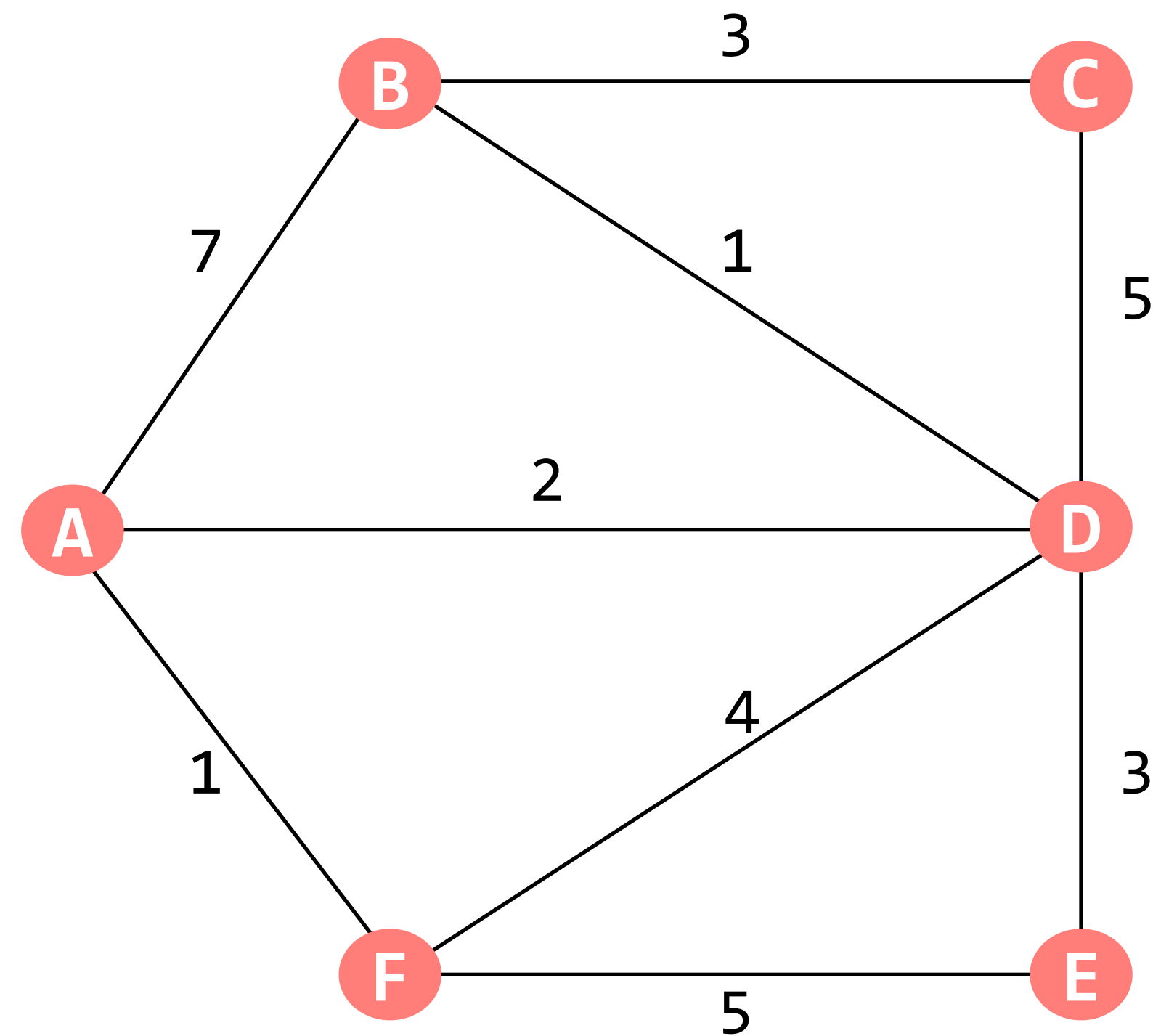
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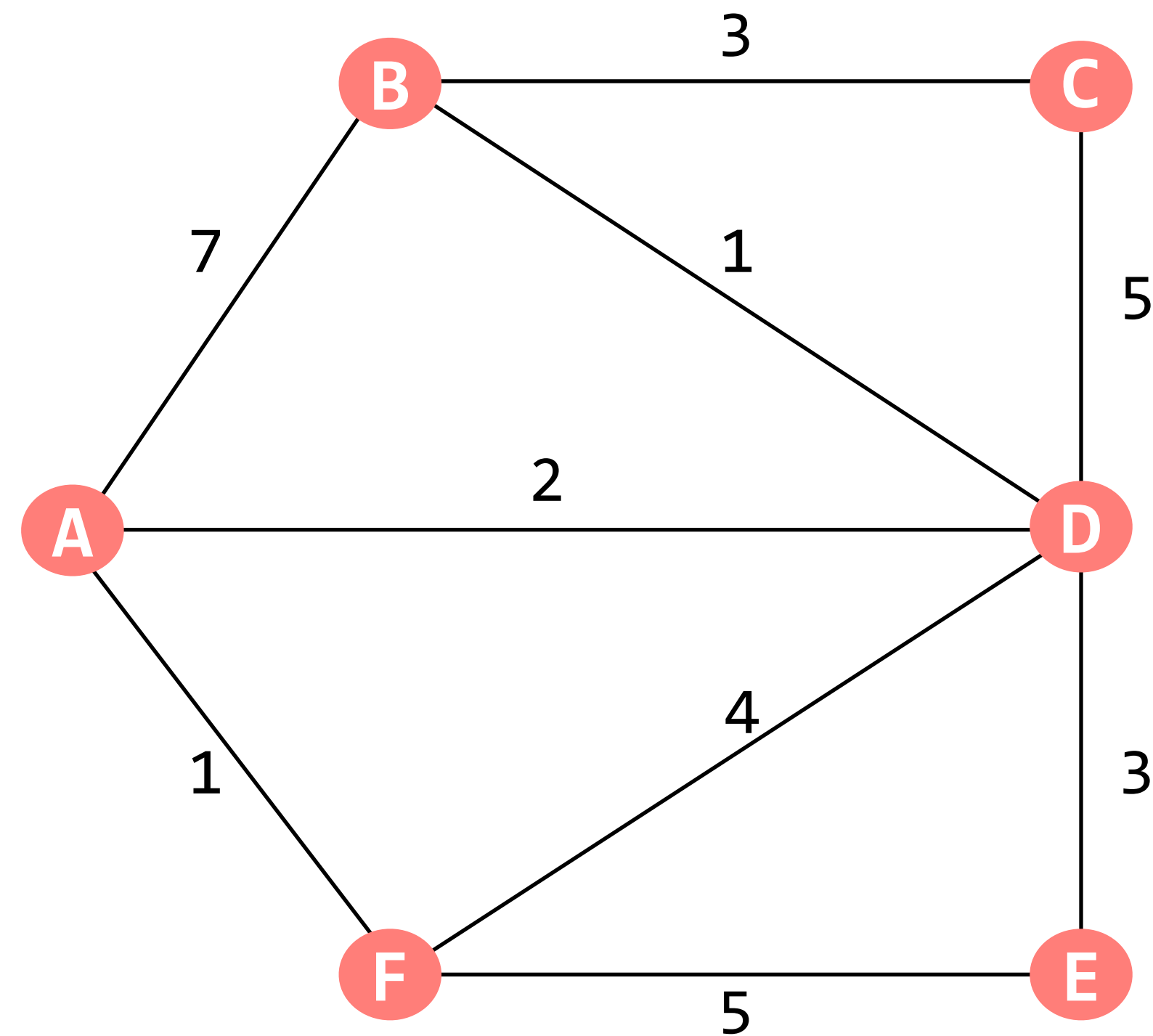
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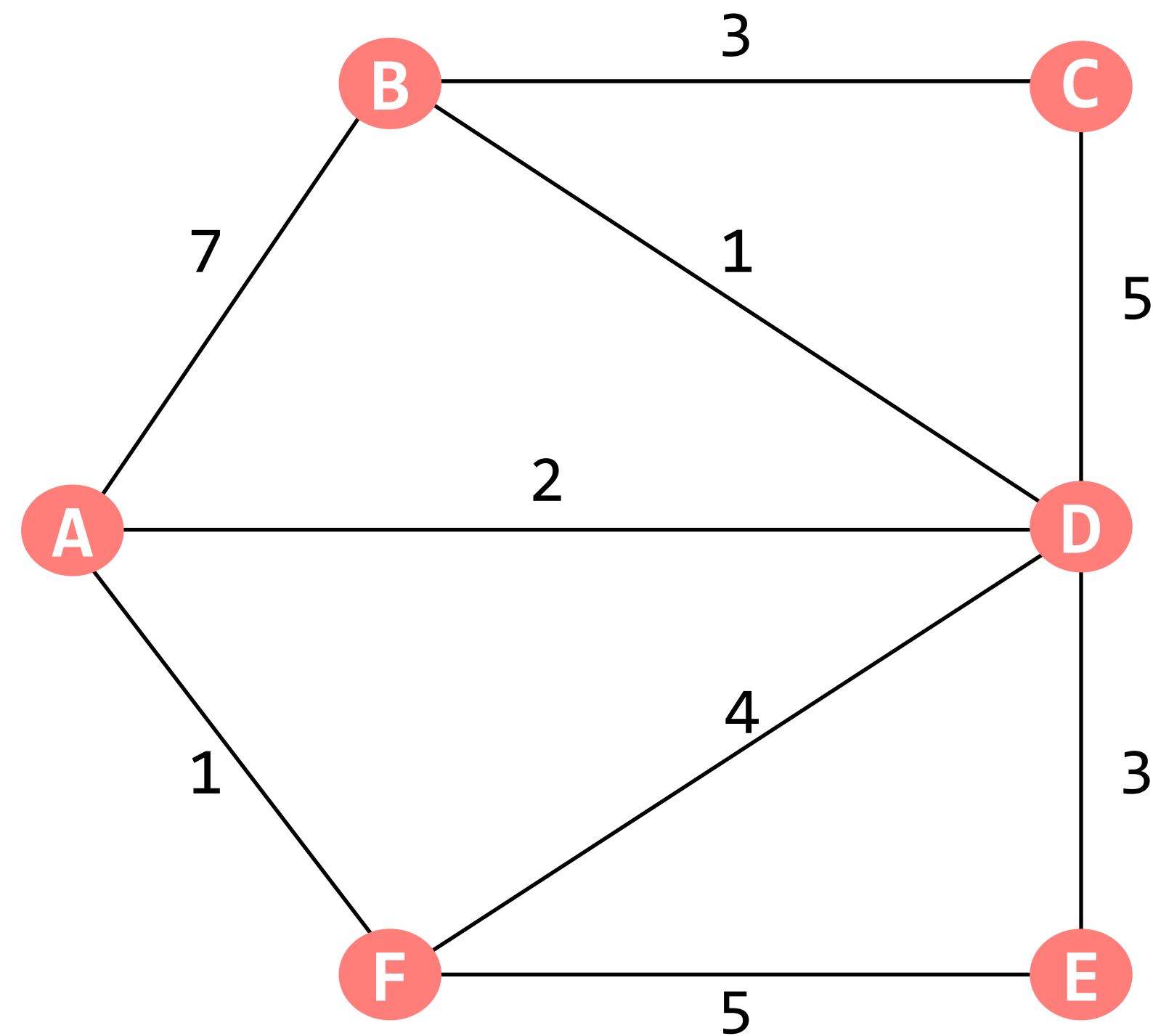
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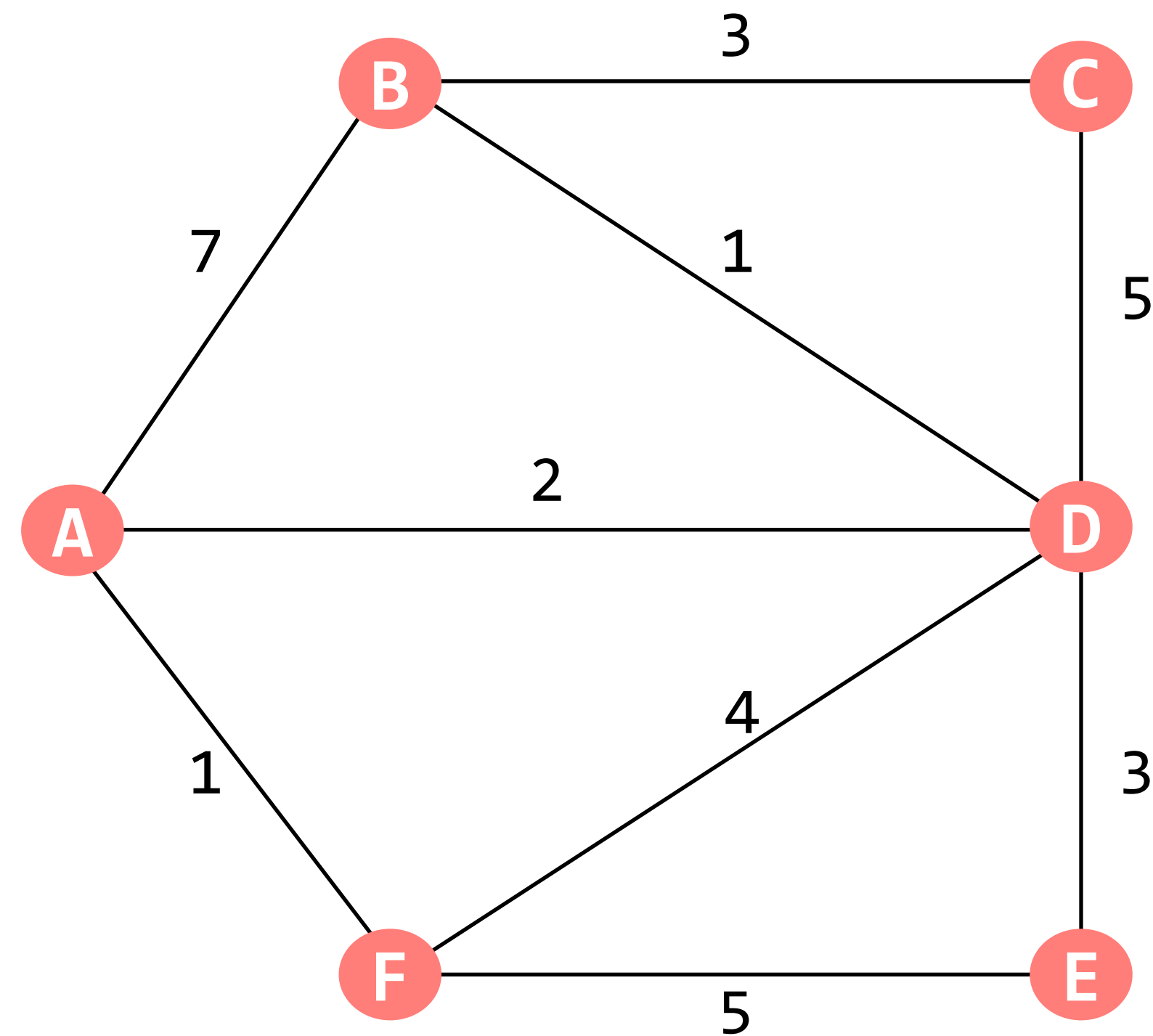
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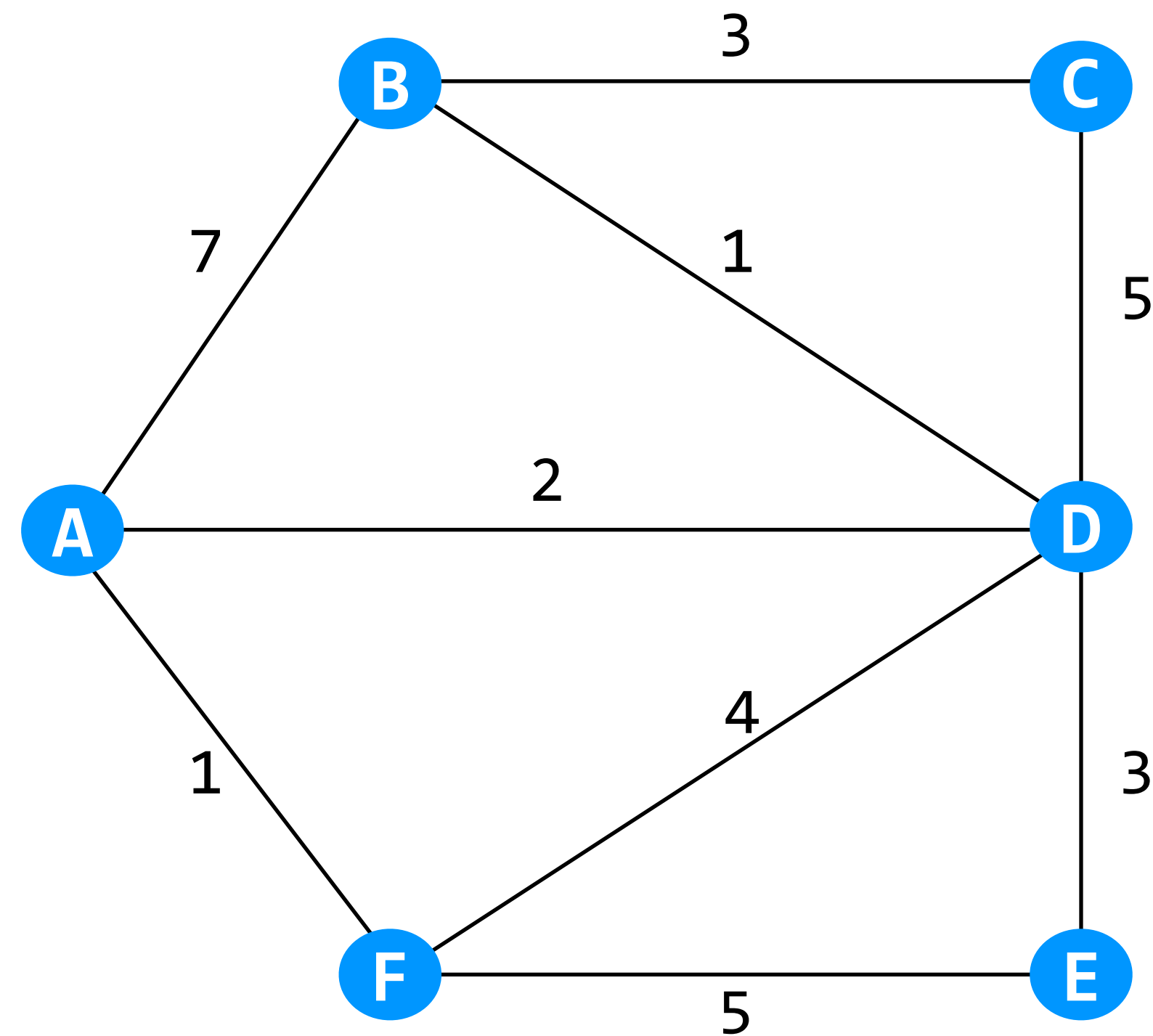
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the **overhead** of flooding

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



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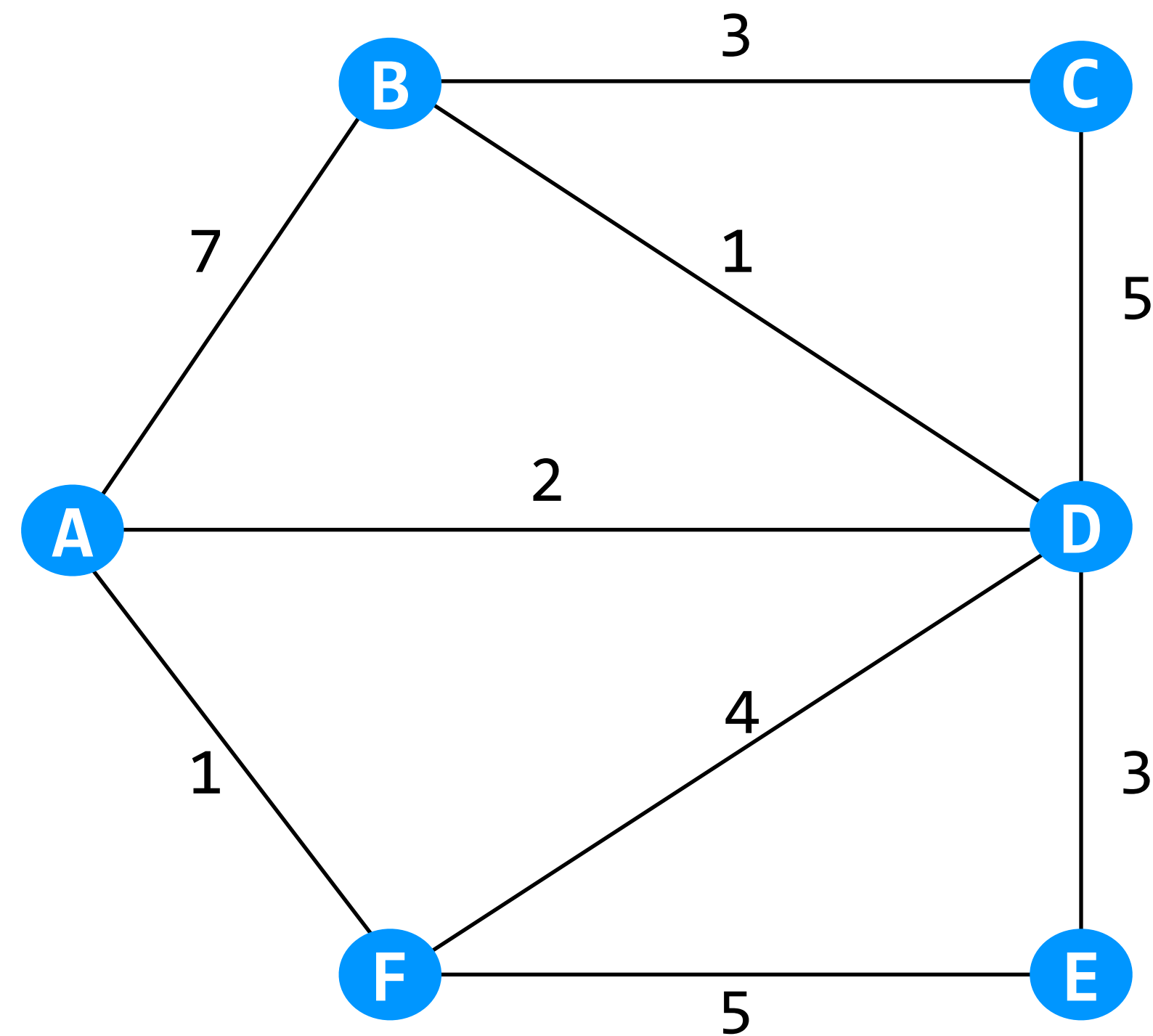
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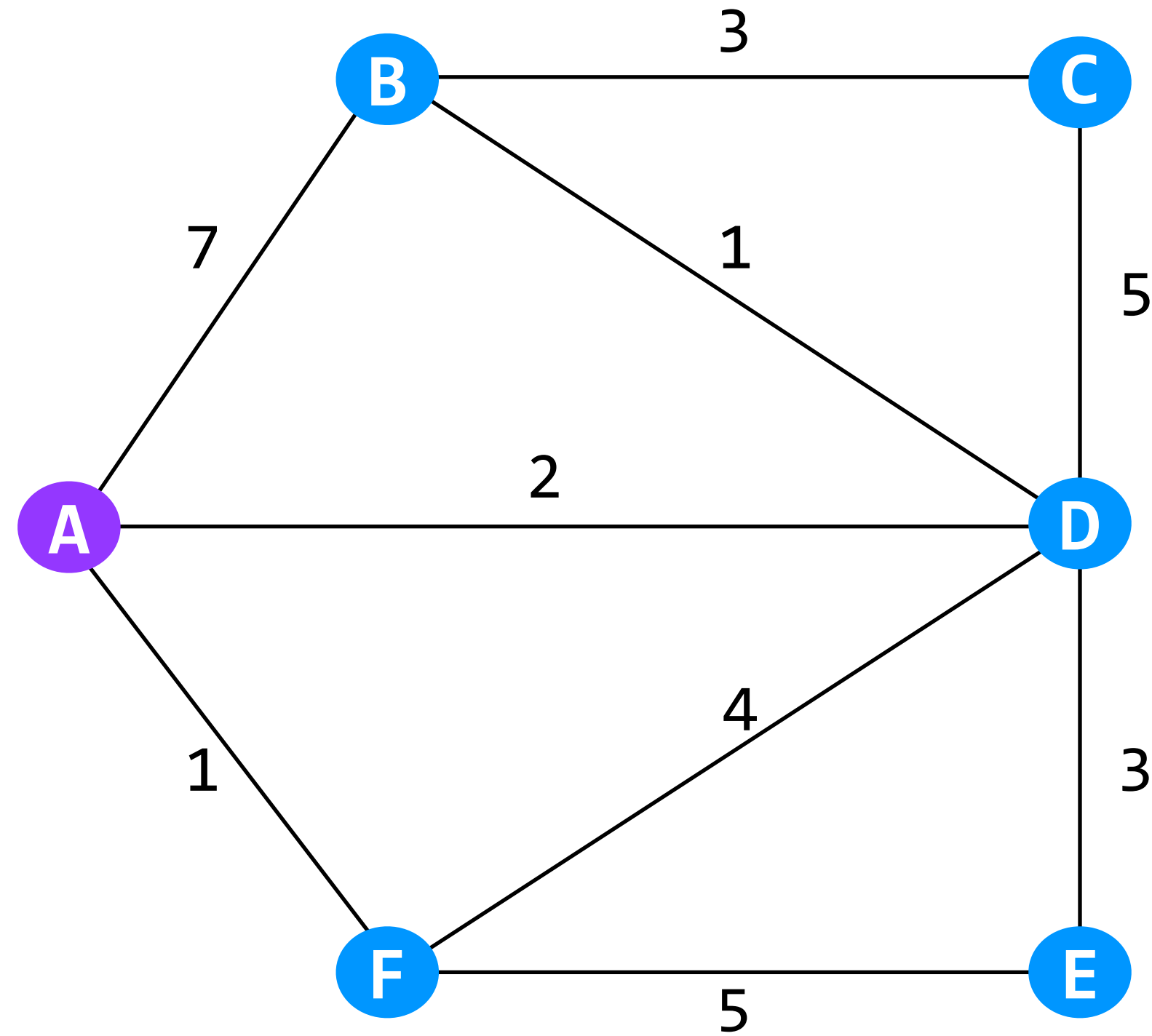
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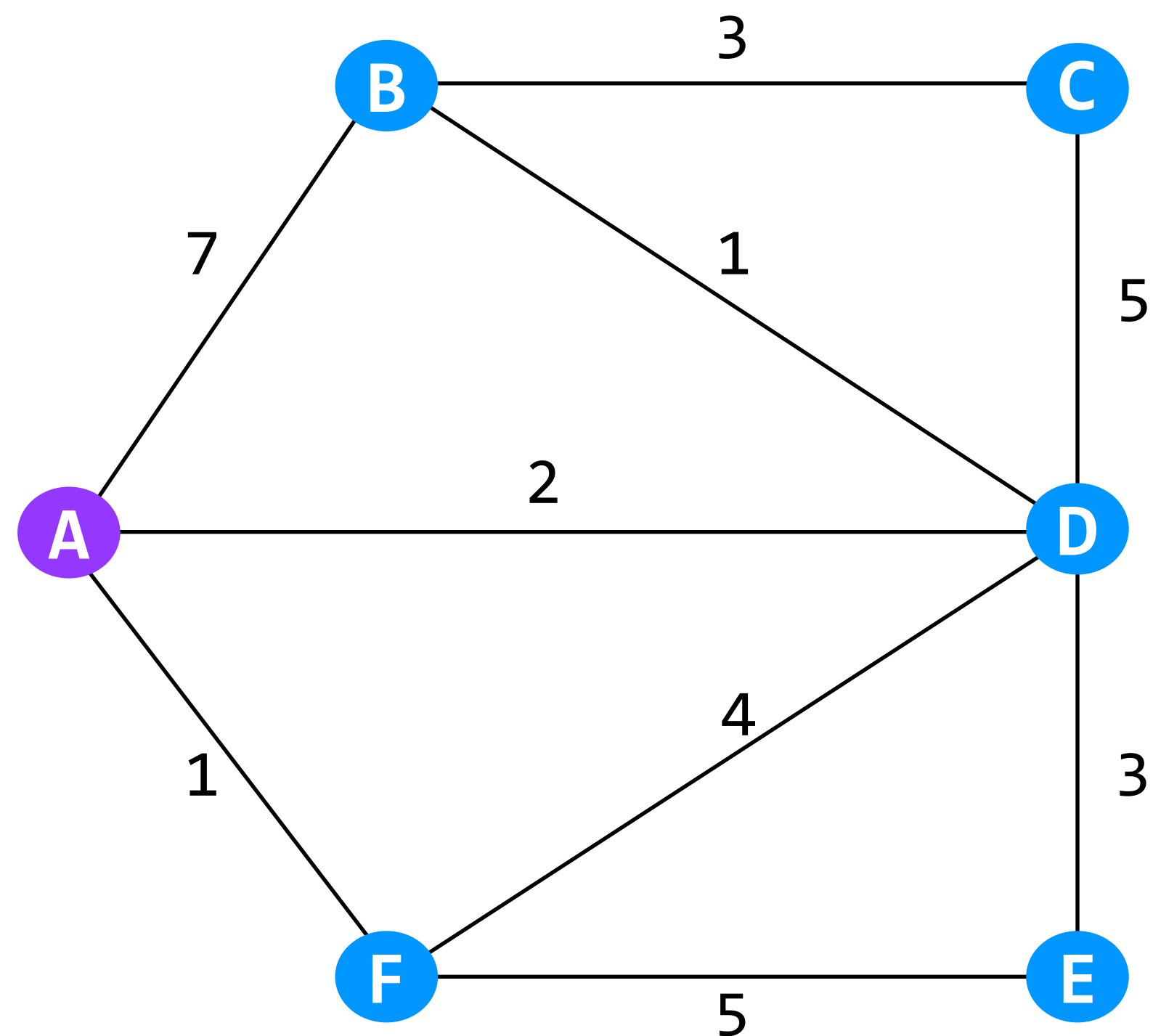
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A could also include  $(A,0)$  here

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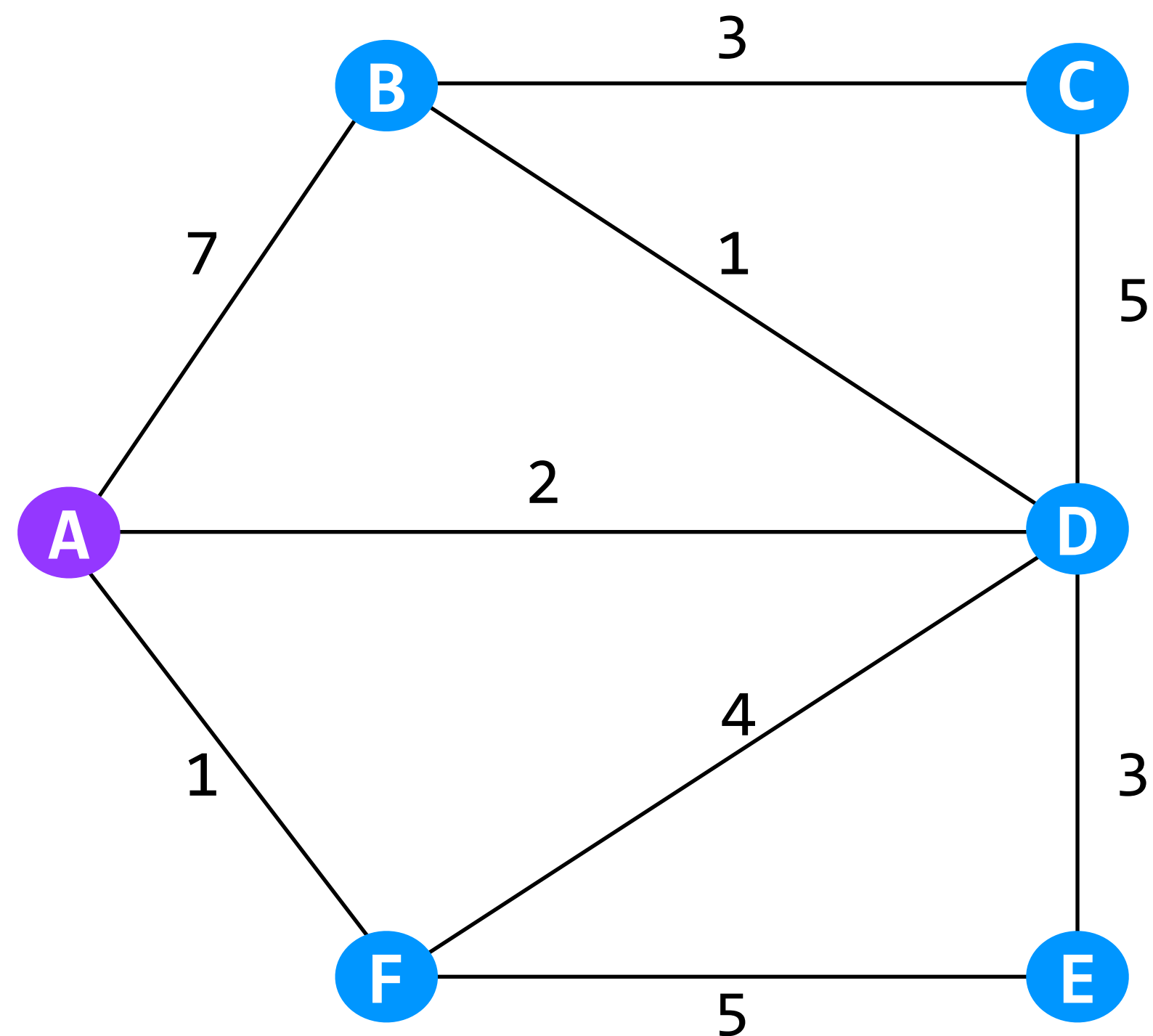
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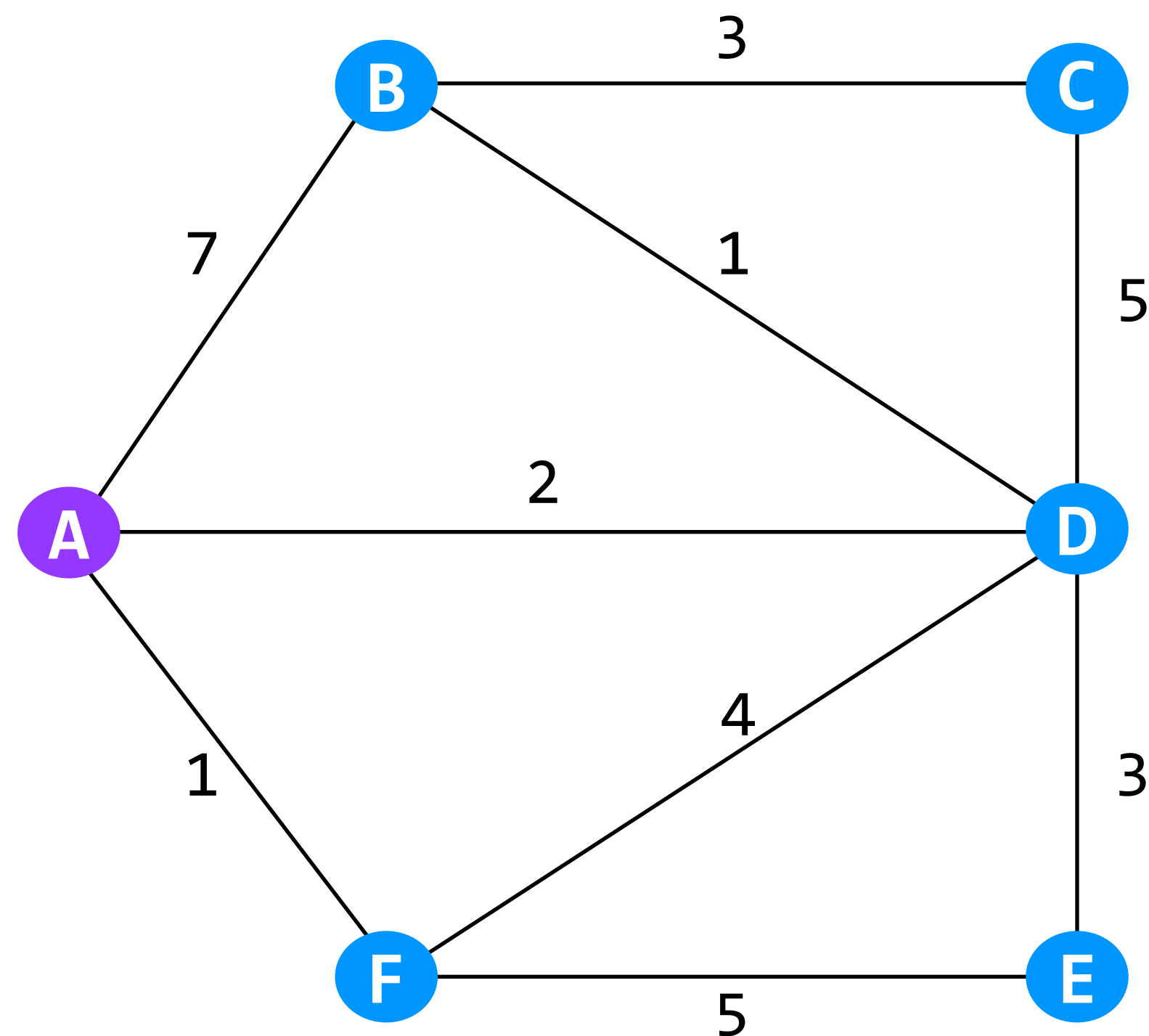
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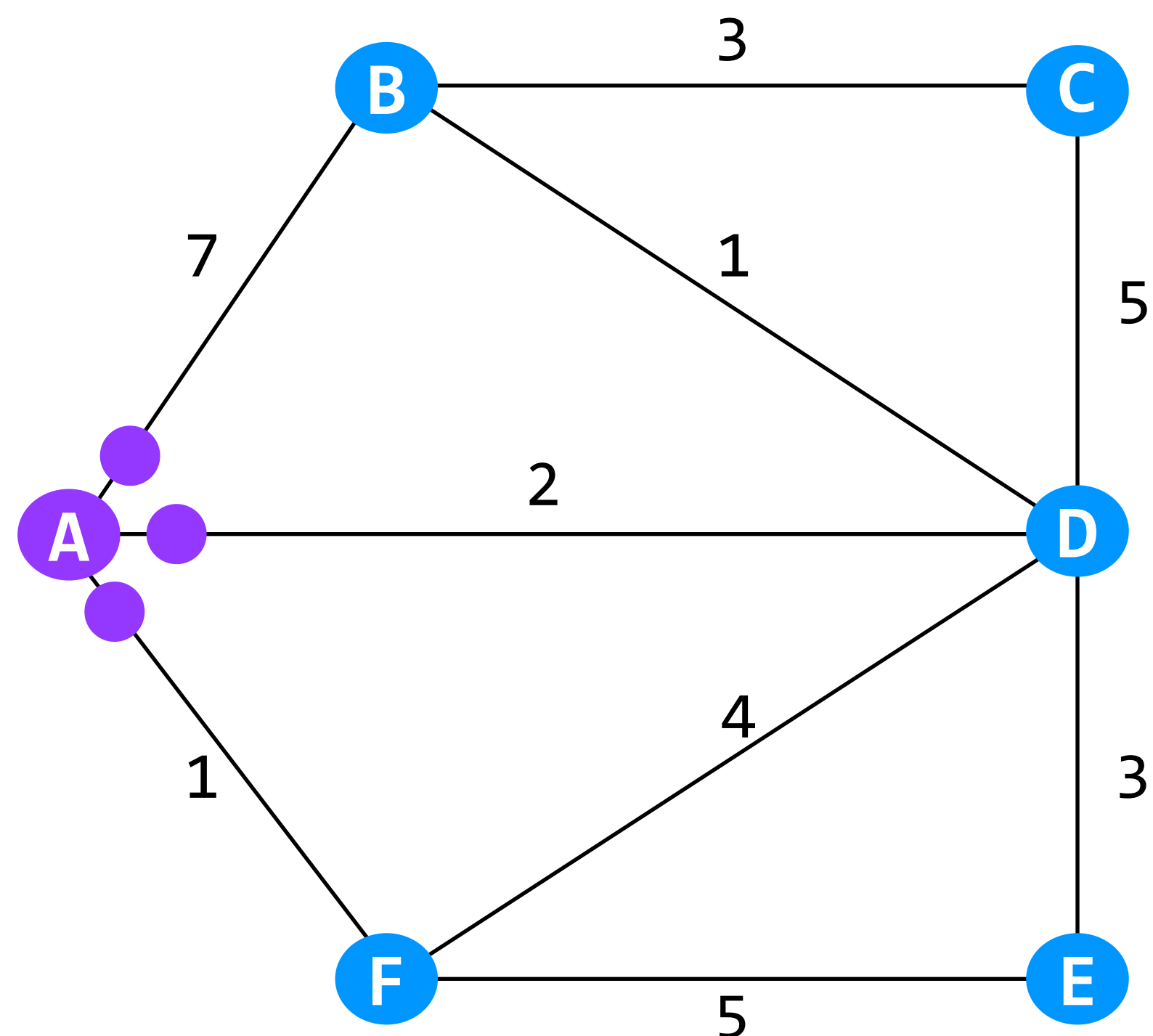
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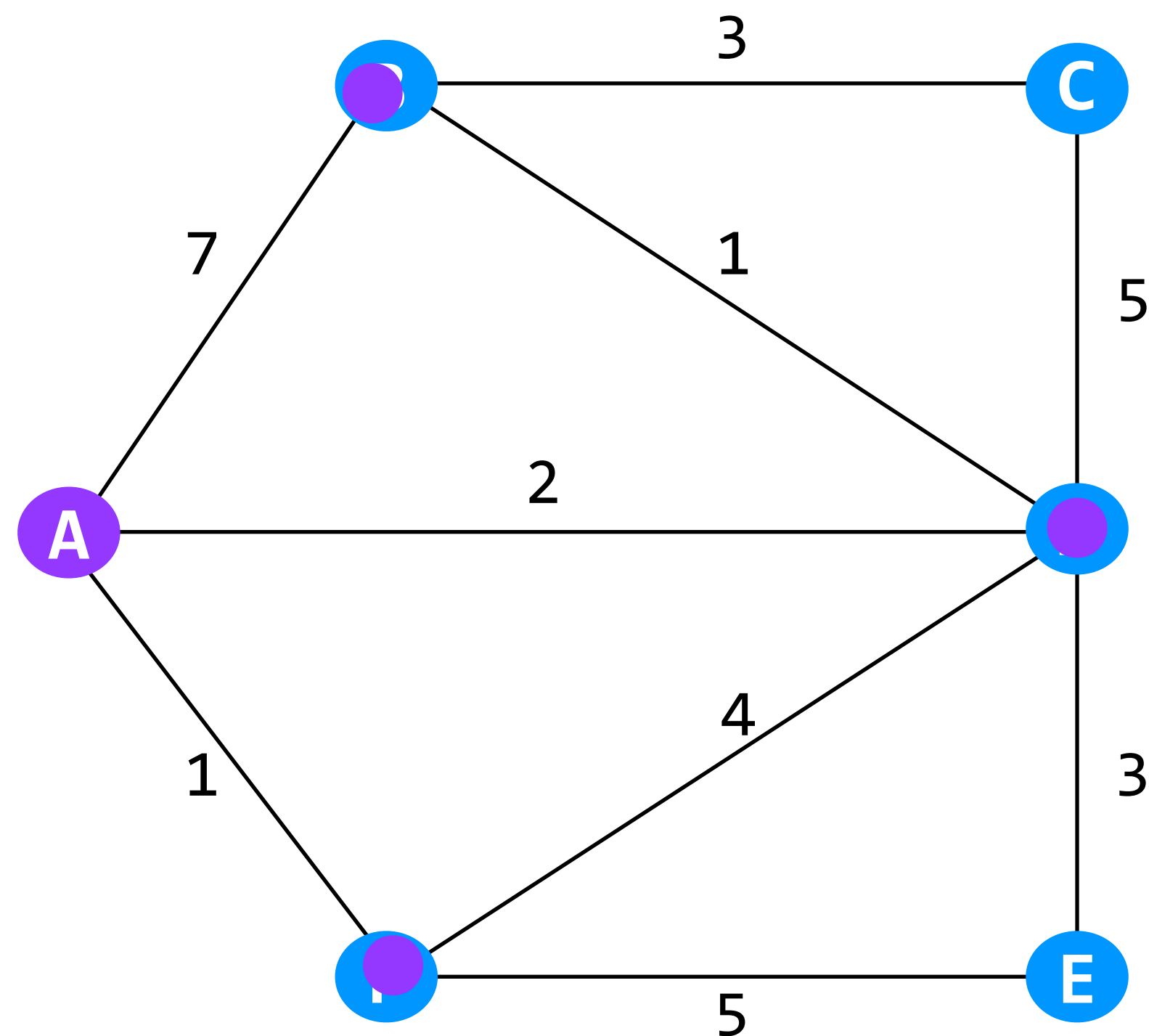
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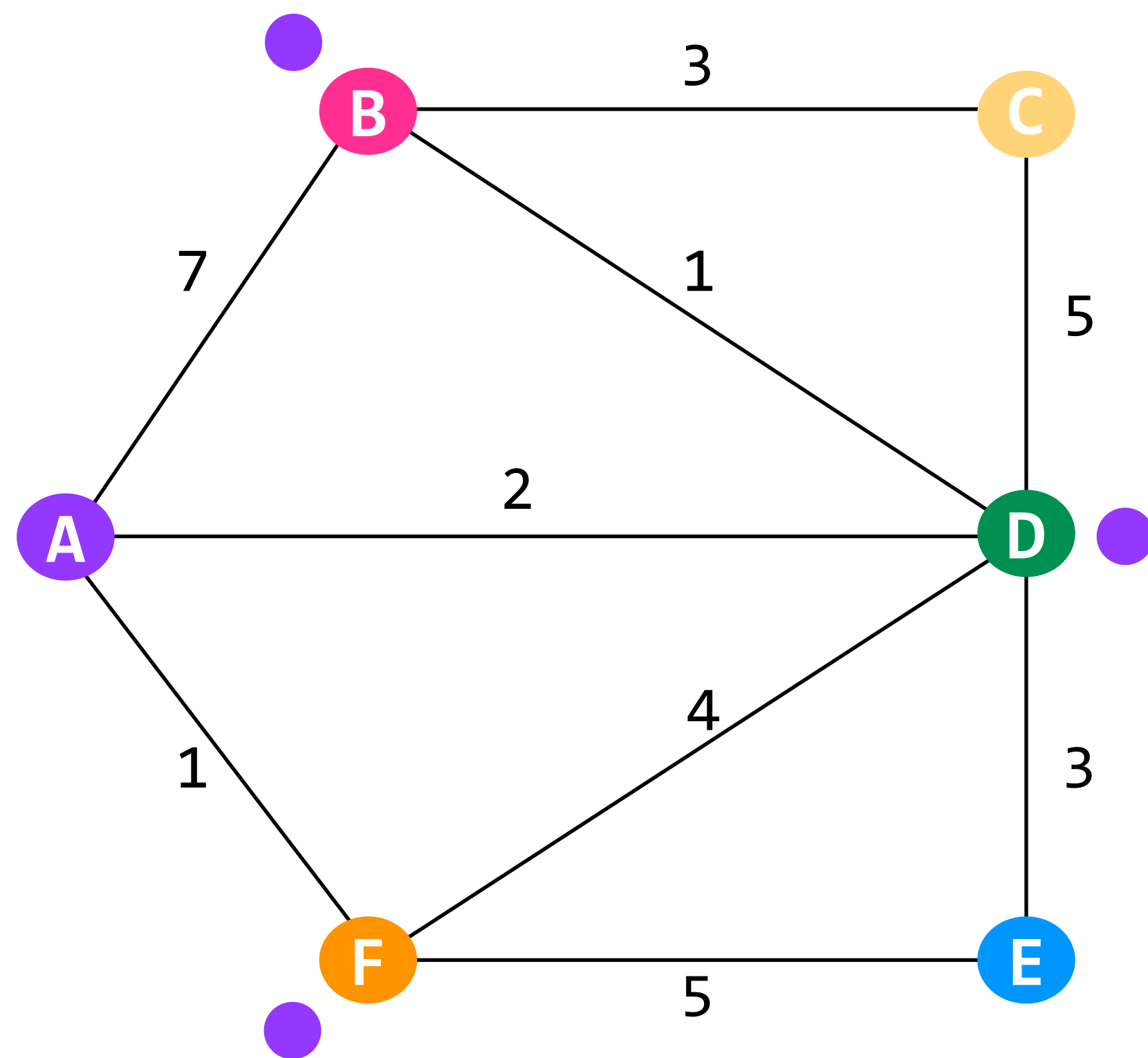
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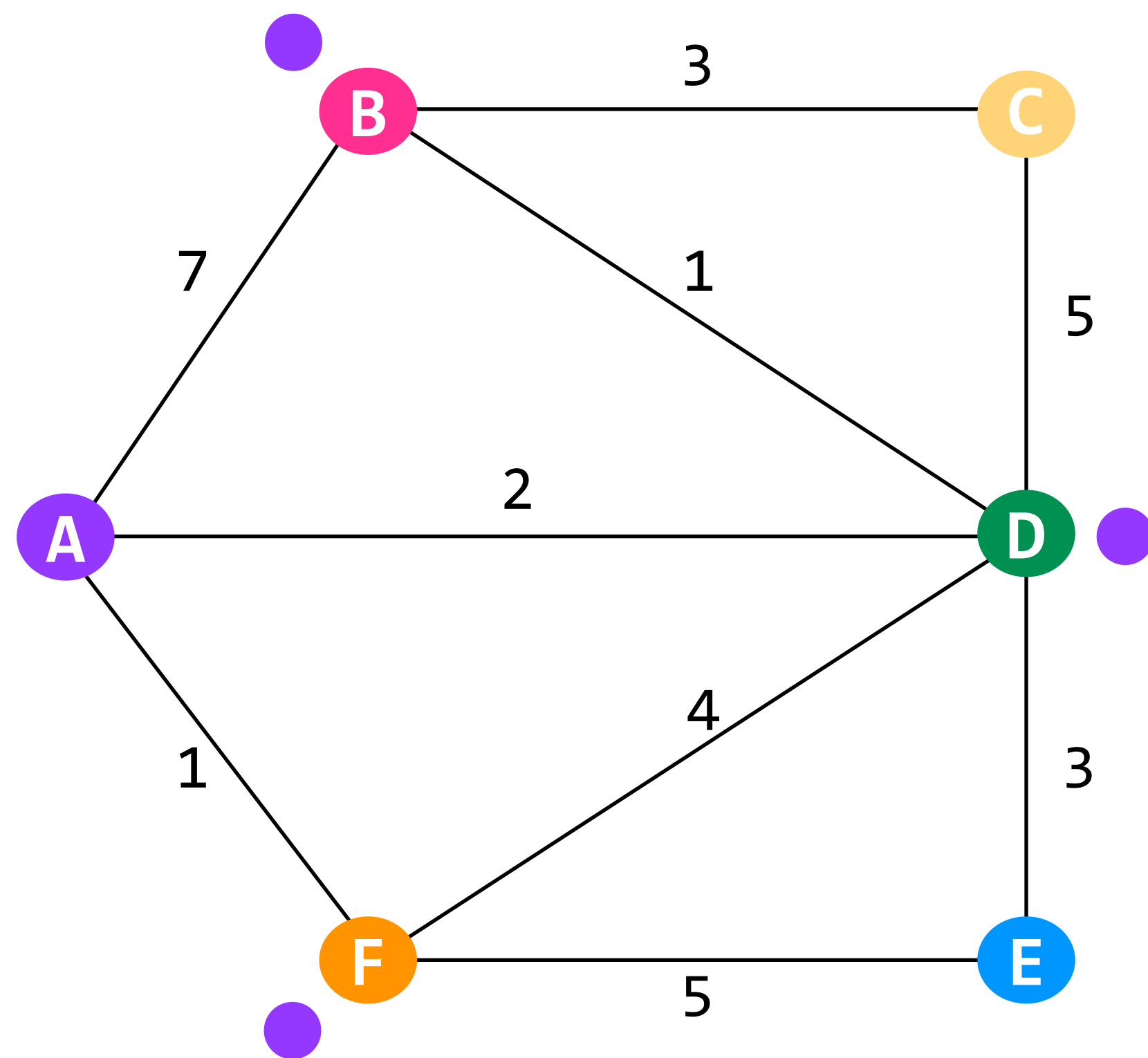
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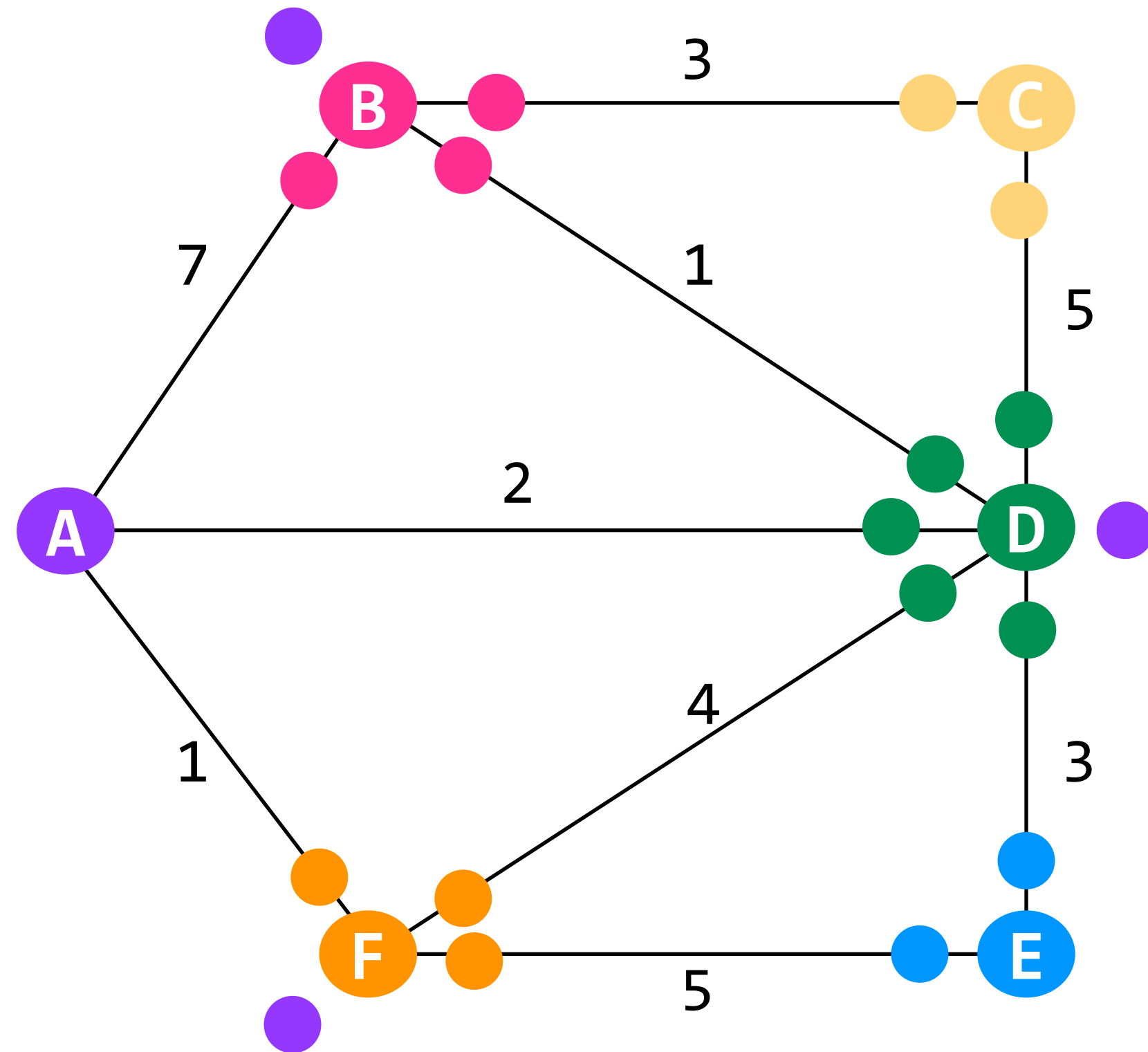
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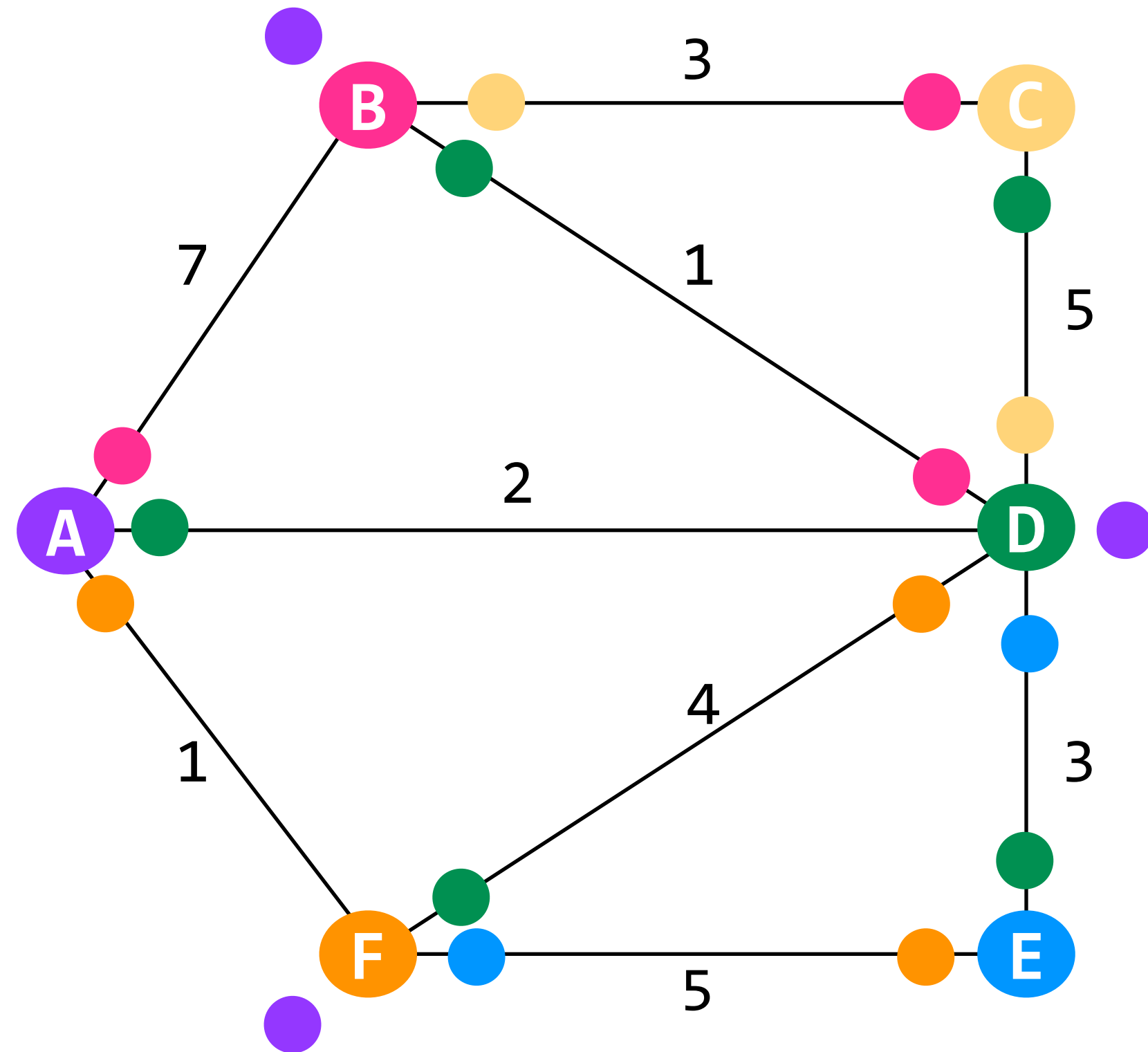
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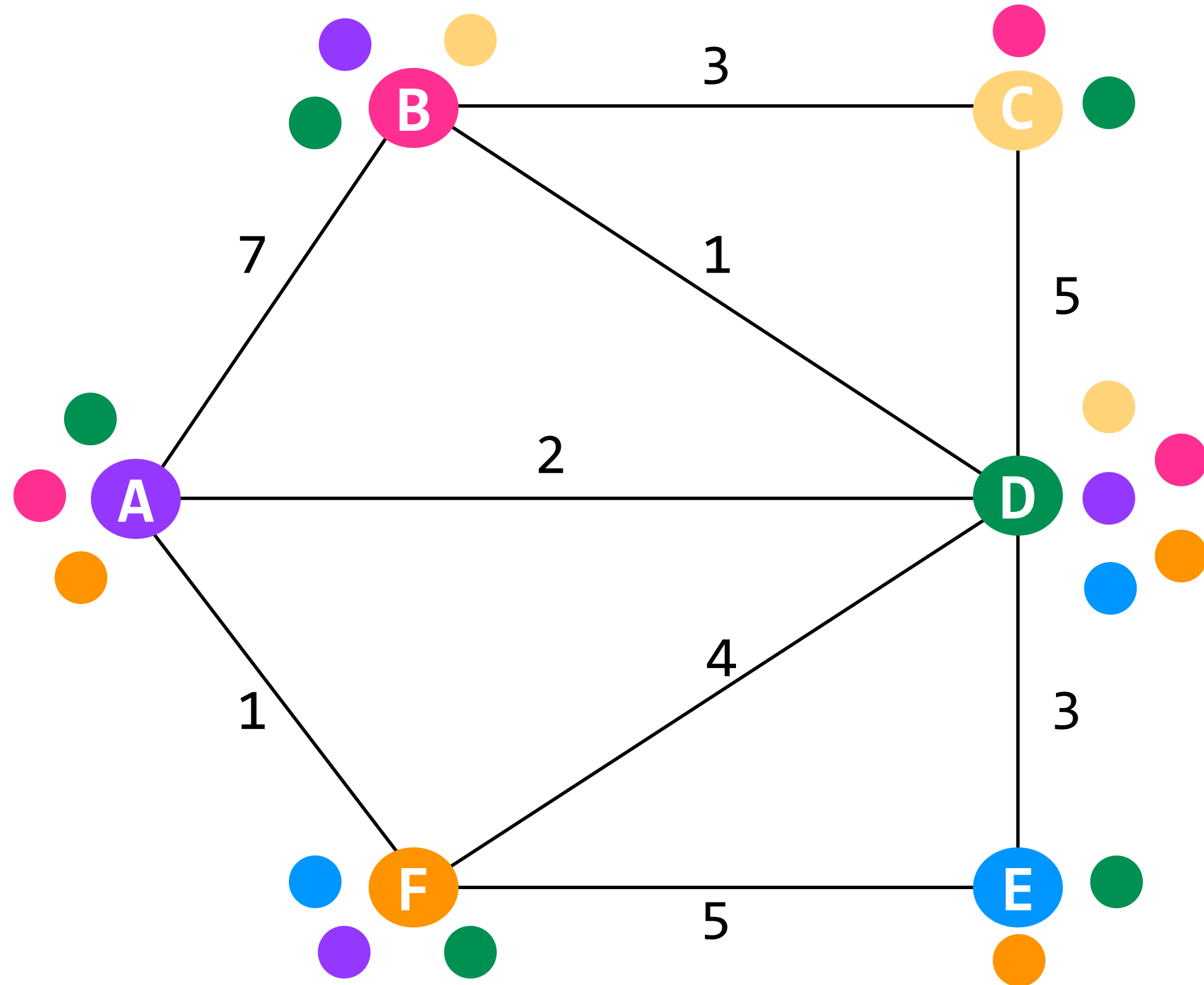
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F	A-F	1

A's neighbors **do not** forward A's advertisements; they *do* send advertisements of their own to A

**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**

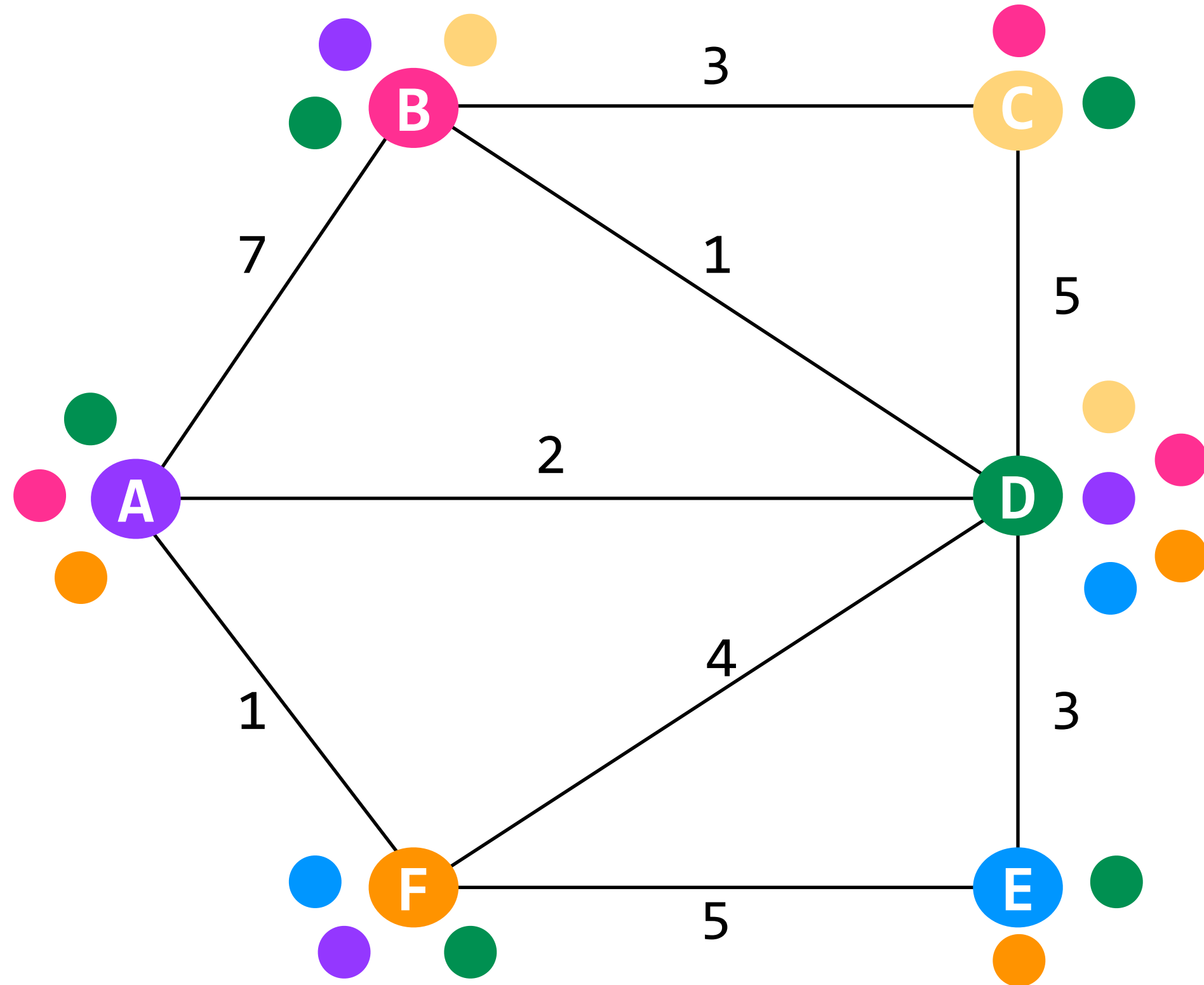
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flooding makes link-state routing very resilient to failure

**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 first advertisement: [(B,7),(D,2),(F,1)]

A's routing table

dst	route	cost
B	A-B	7
D	A-D	2
F	A-F	1

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

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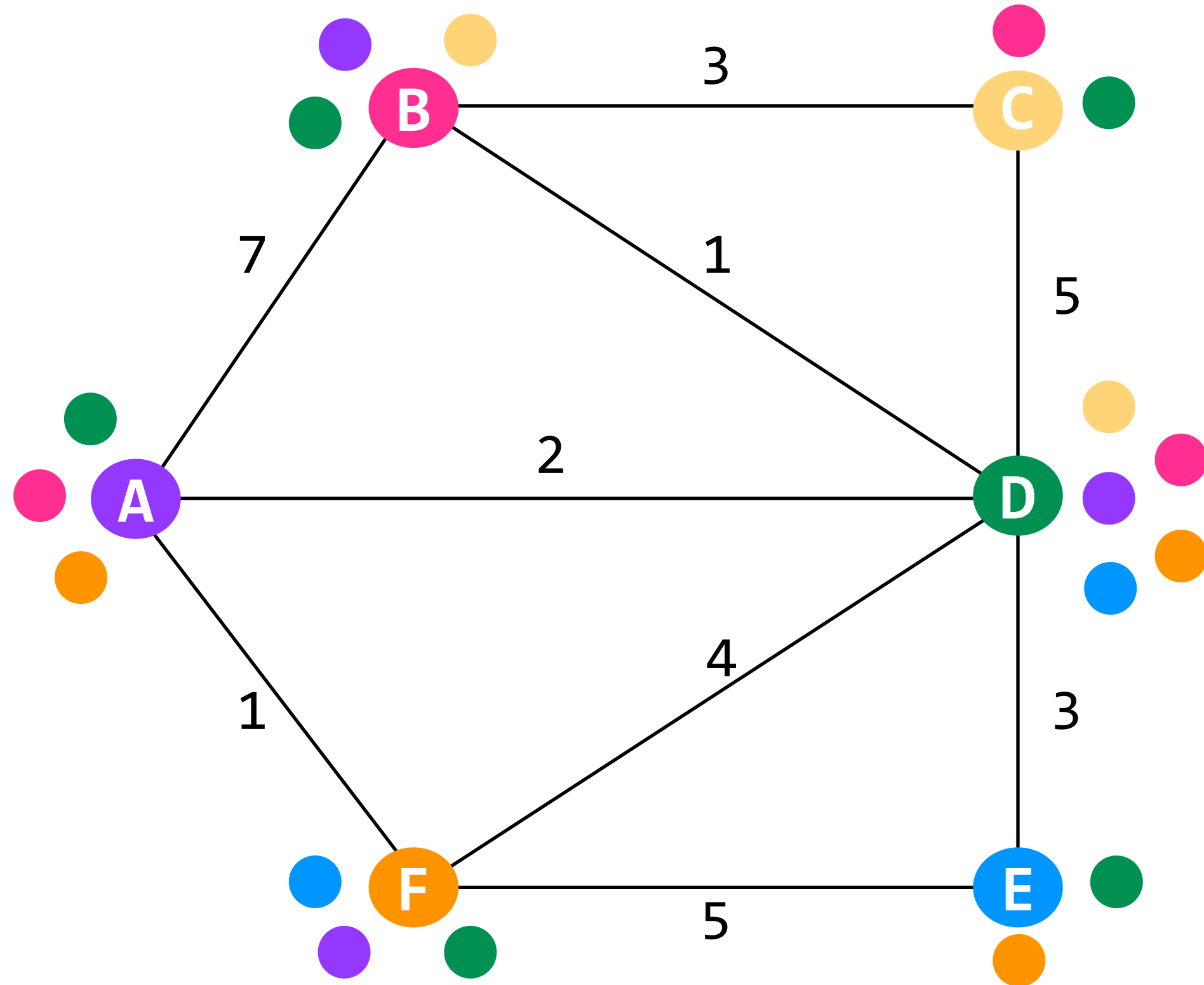
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A's routing table

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)]

A receives advertisements from B, D, and F

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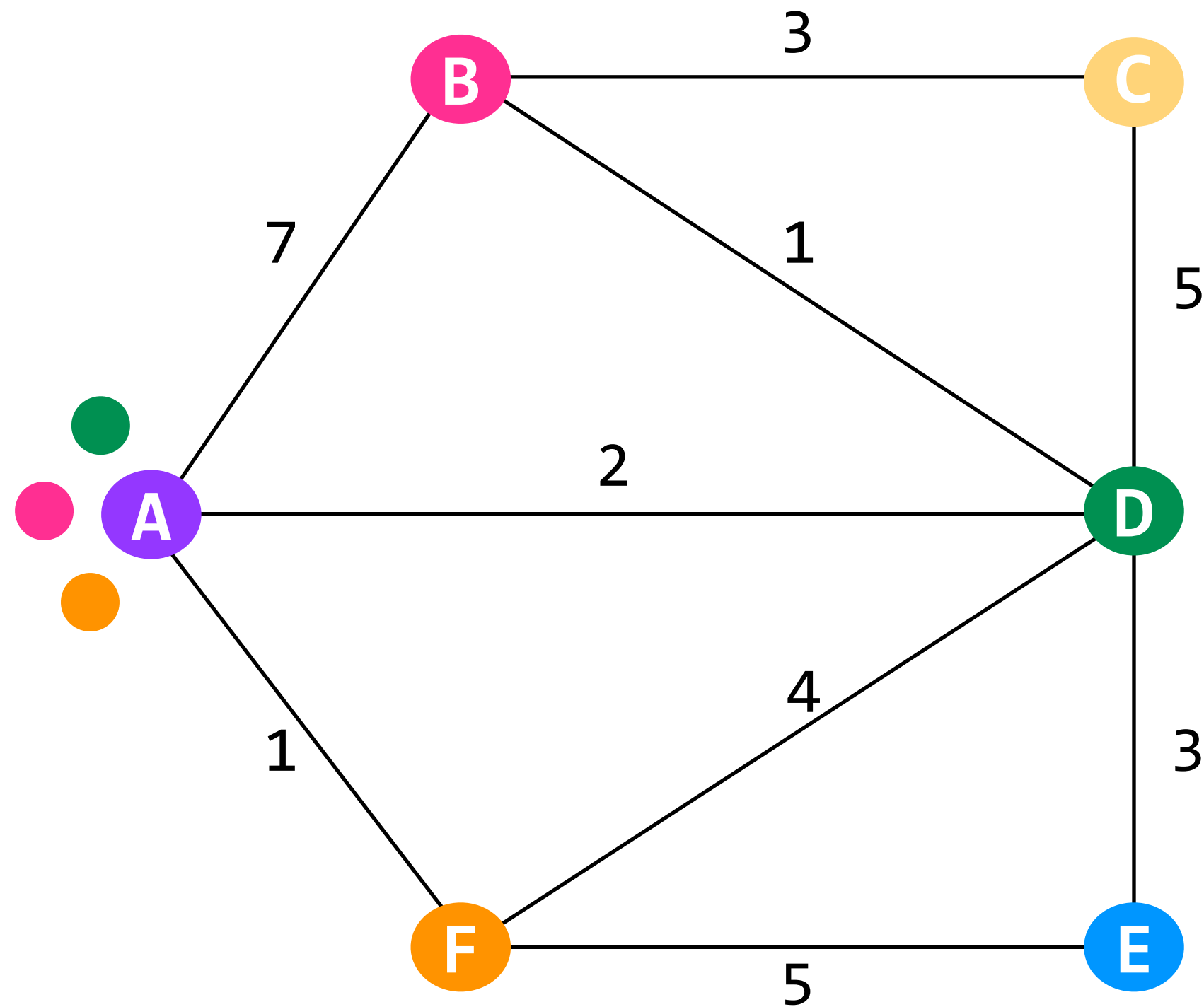
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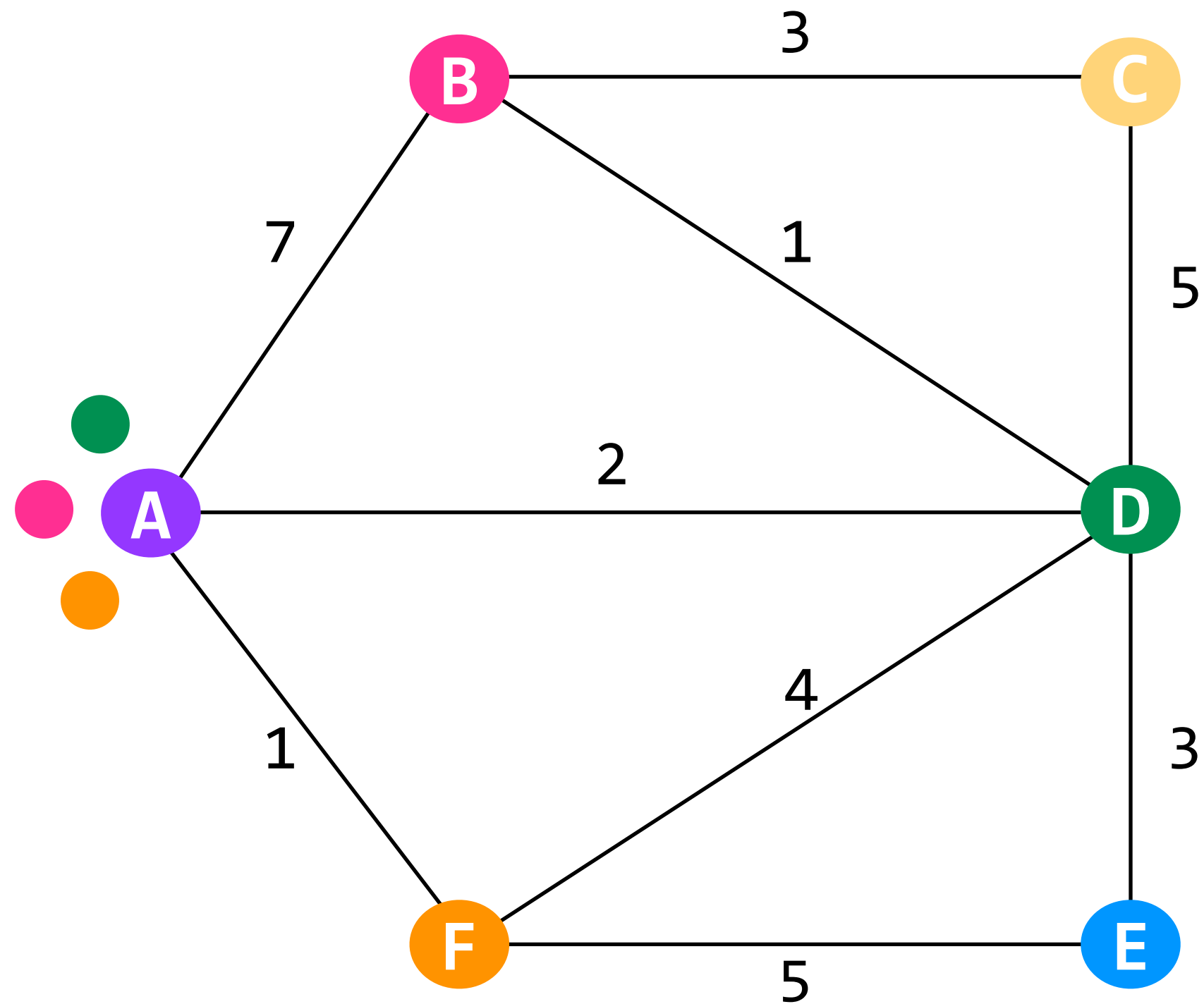
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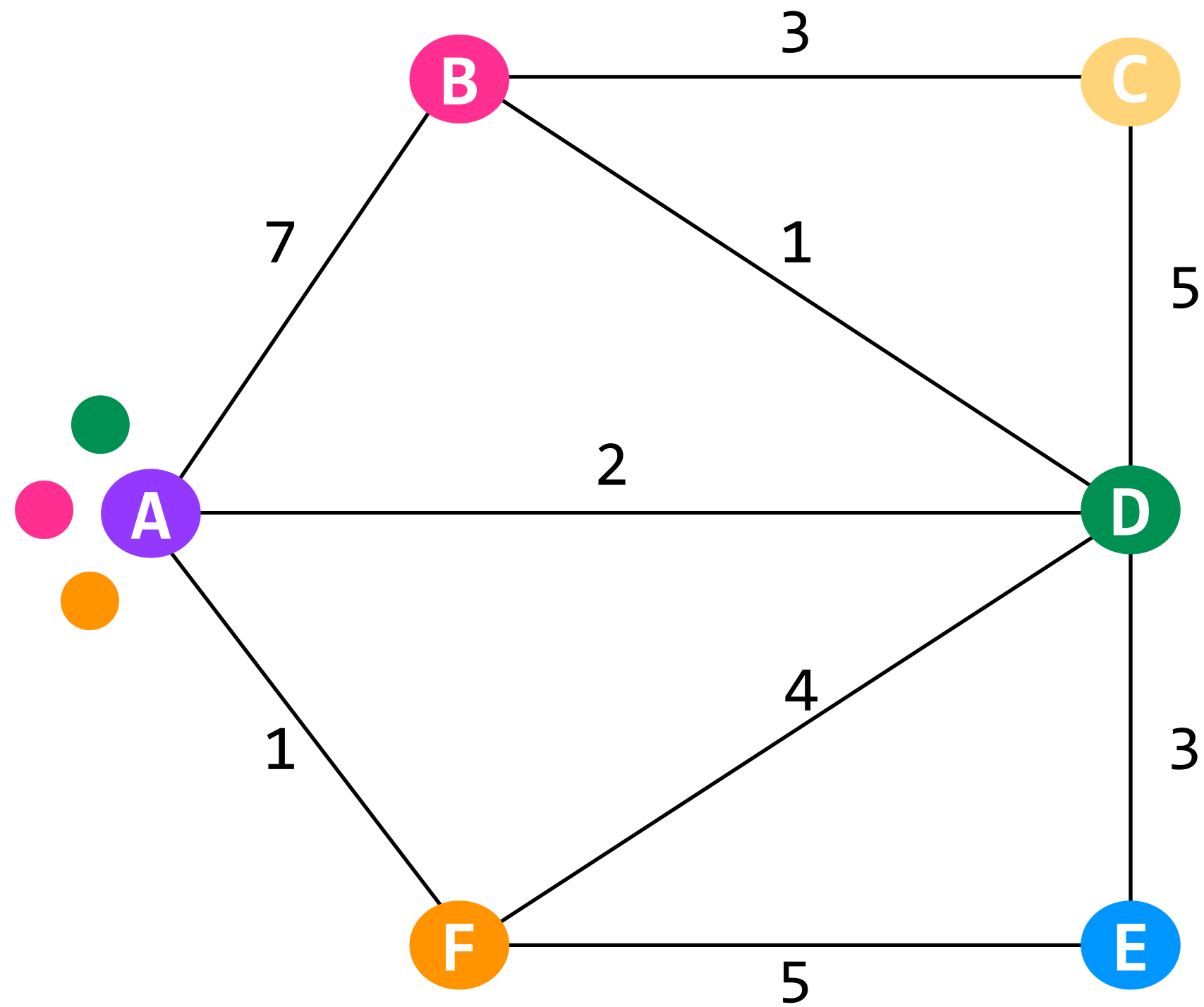
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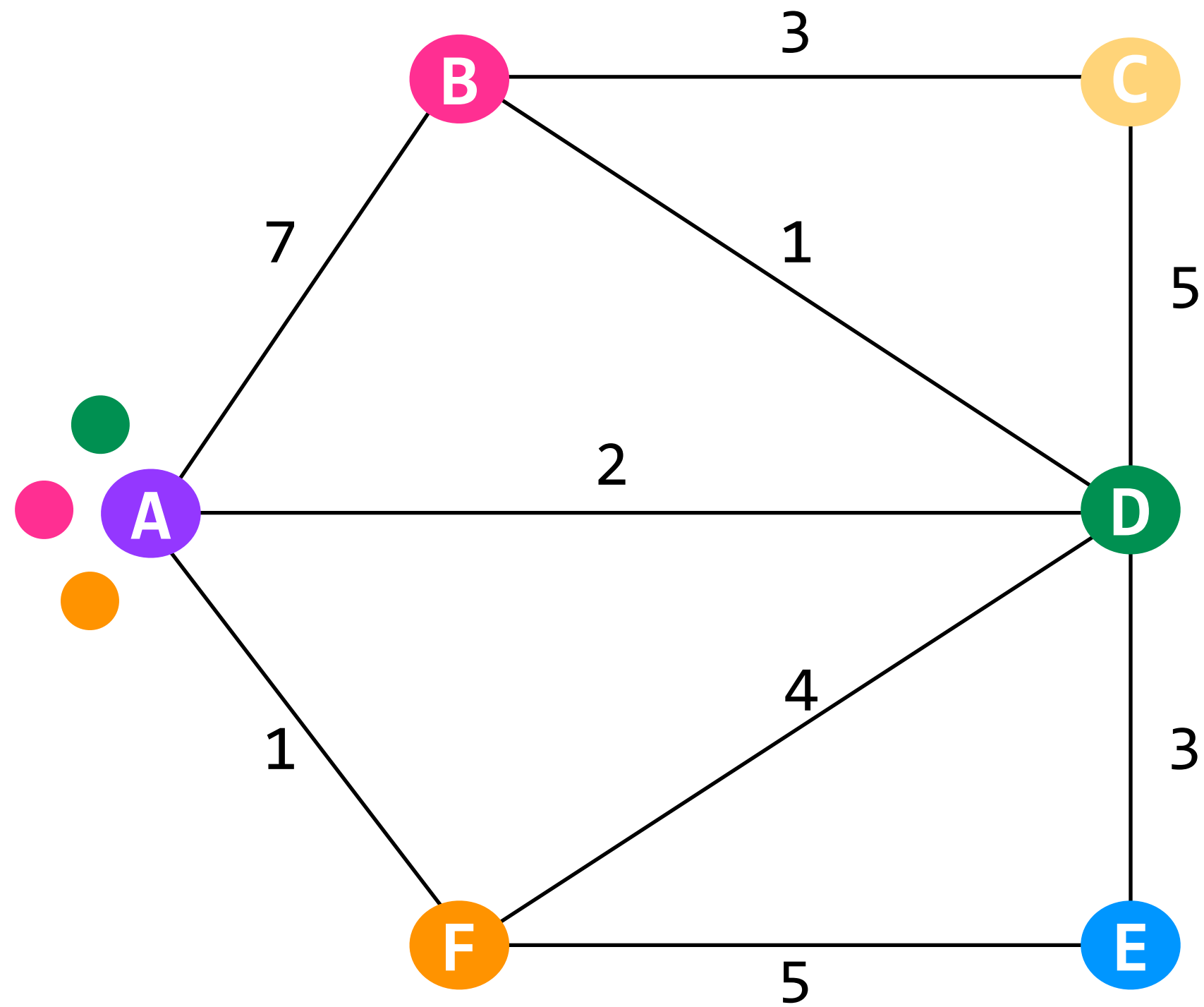
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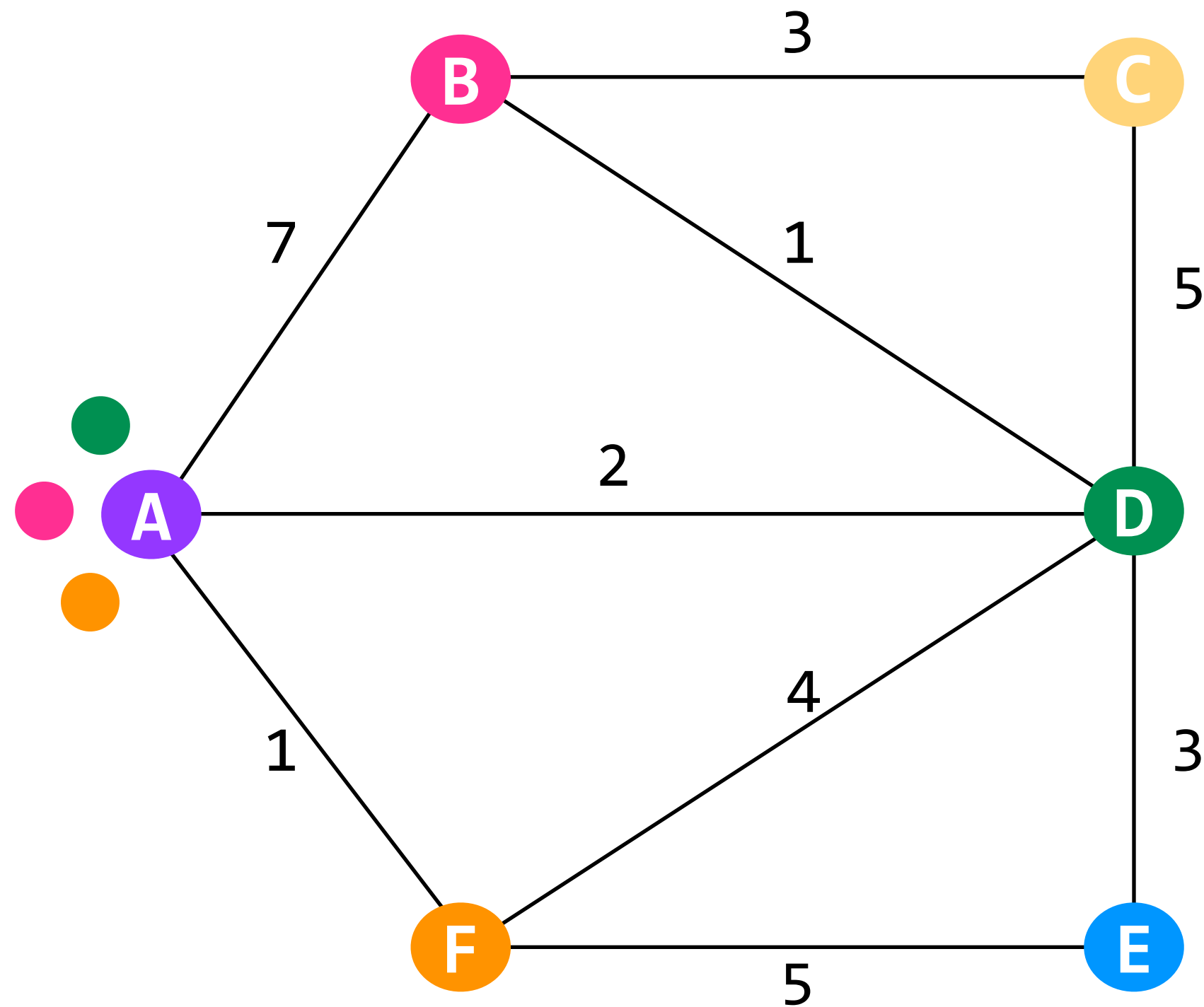
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A's cost to B + B's cost to C

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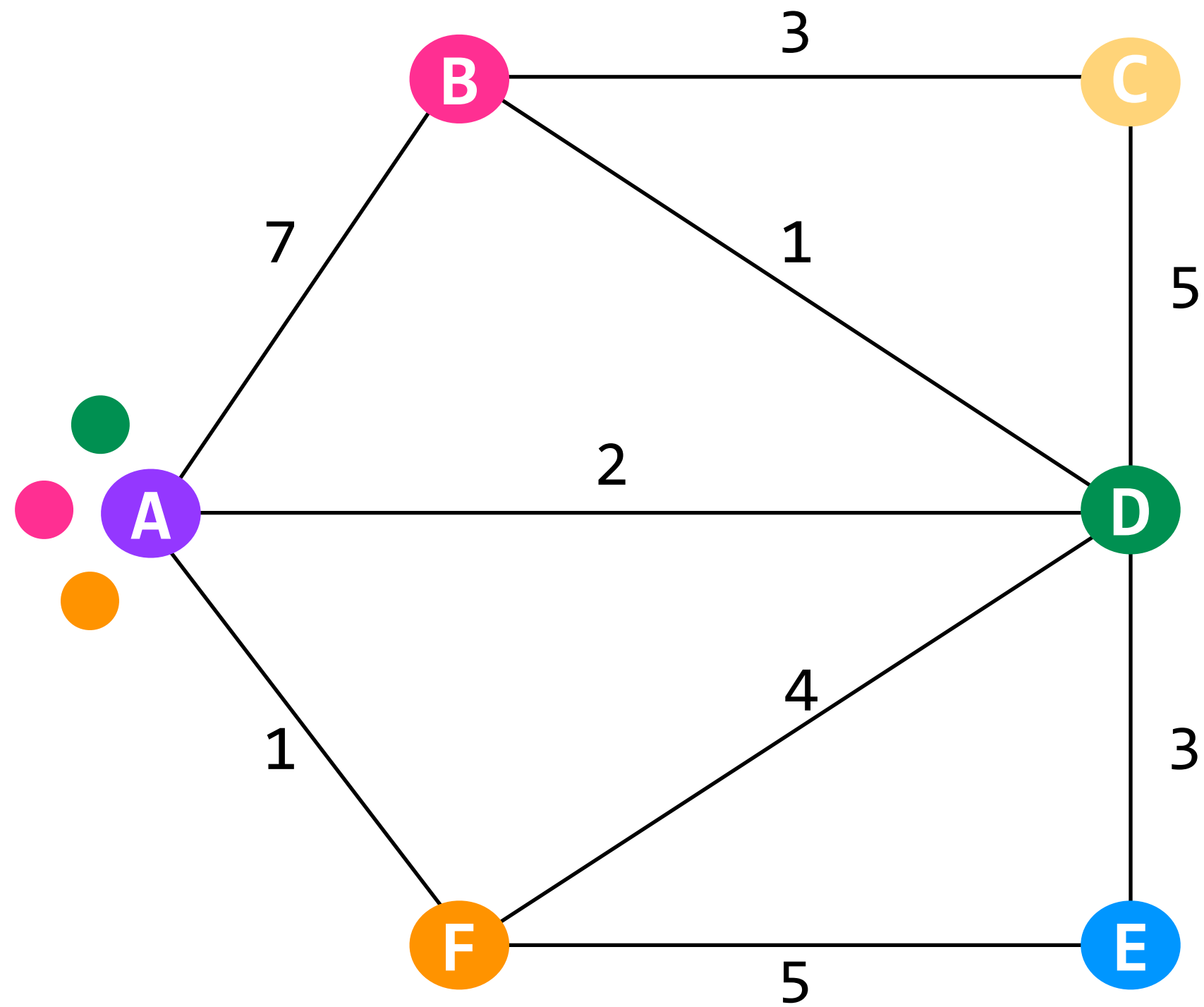
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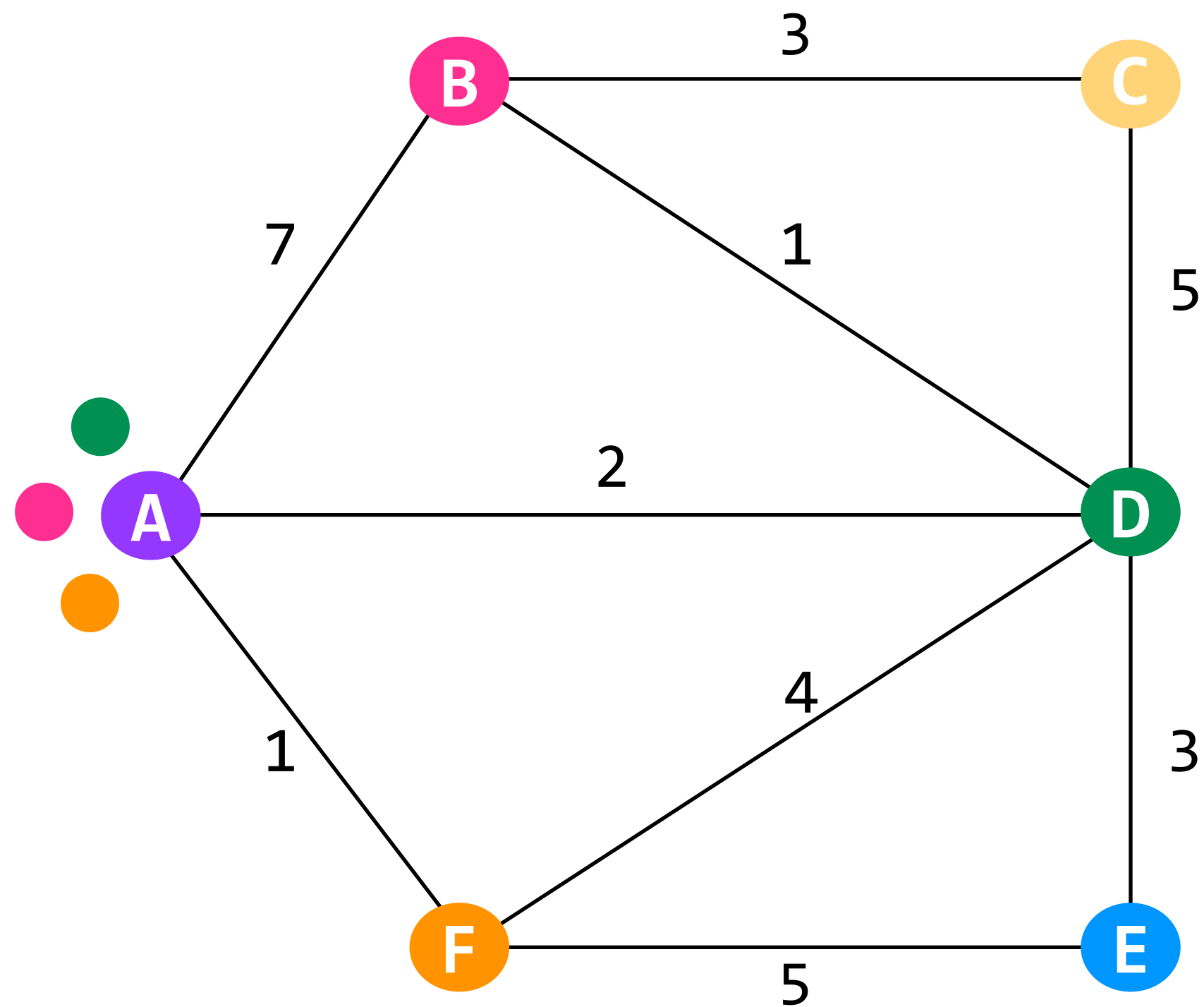
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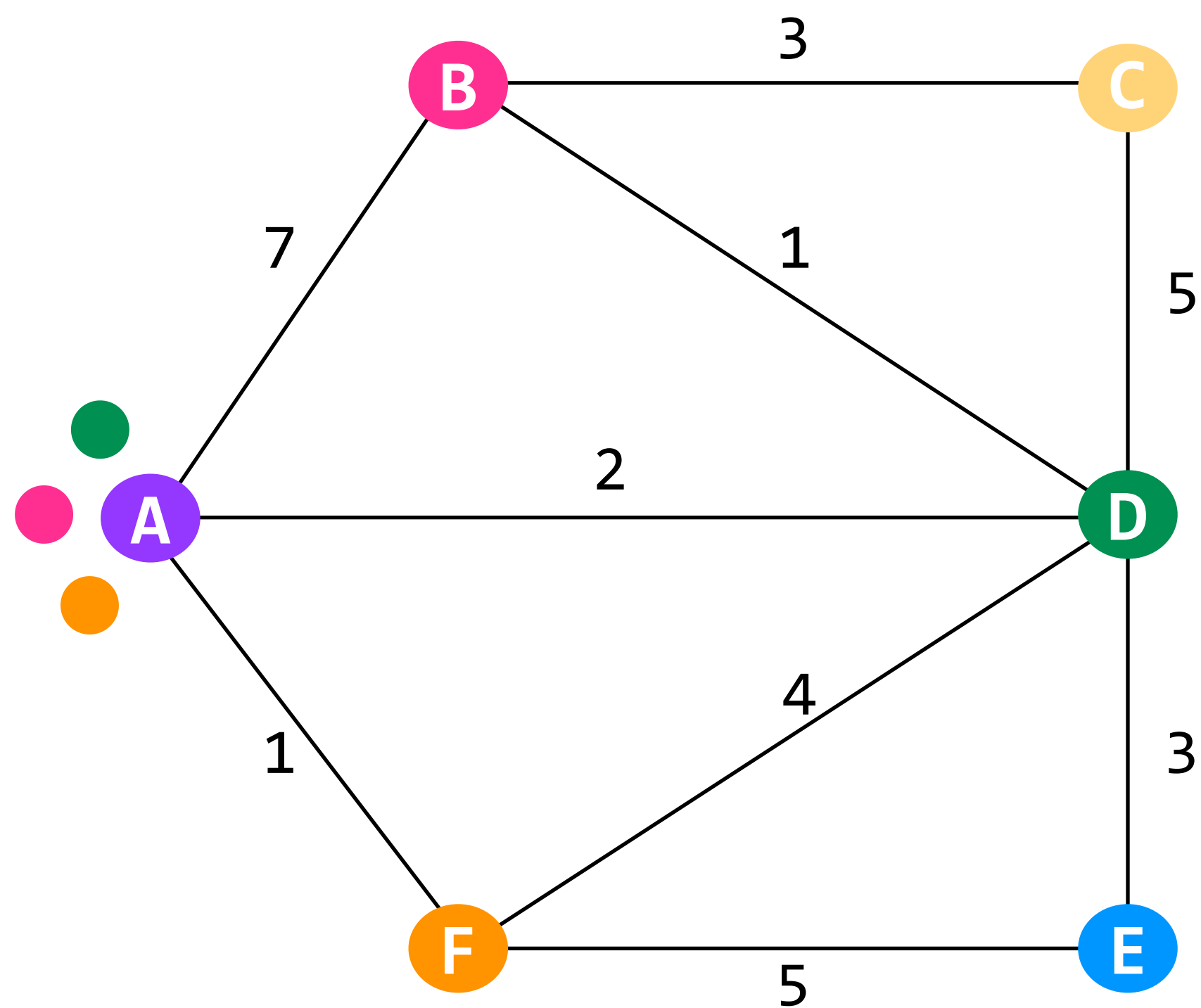
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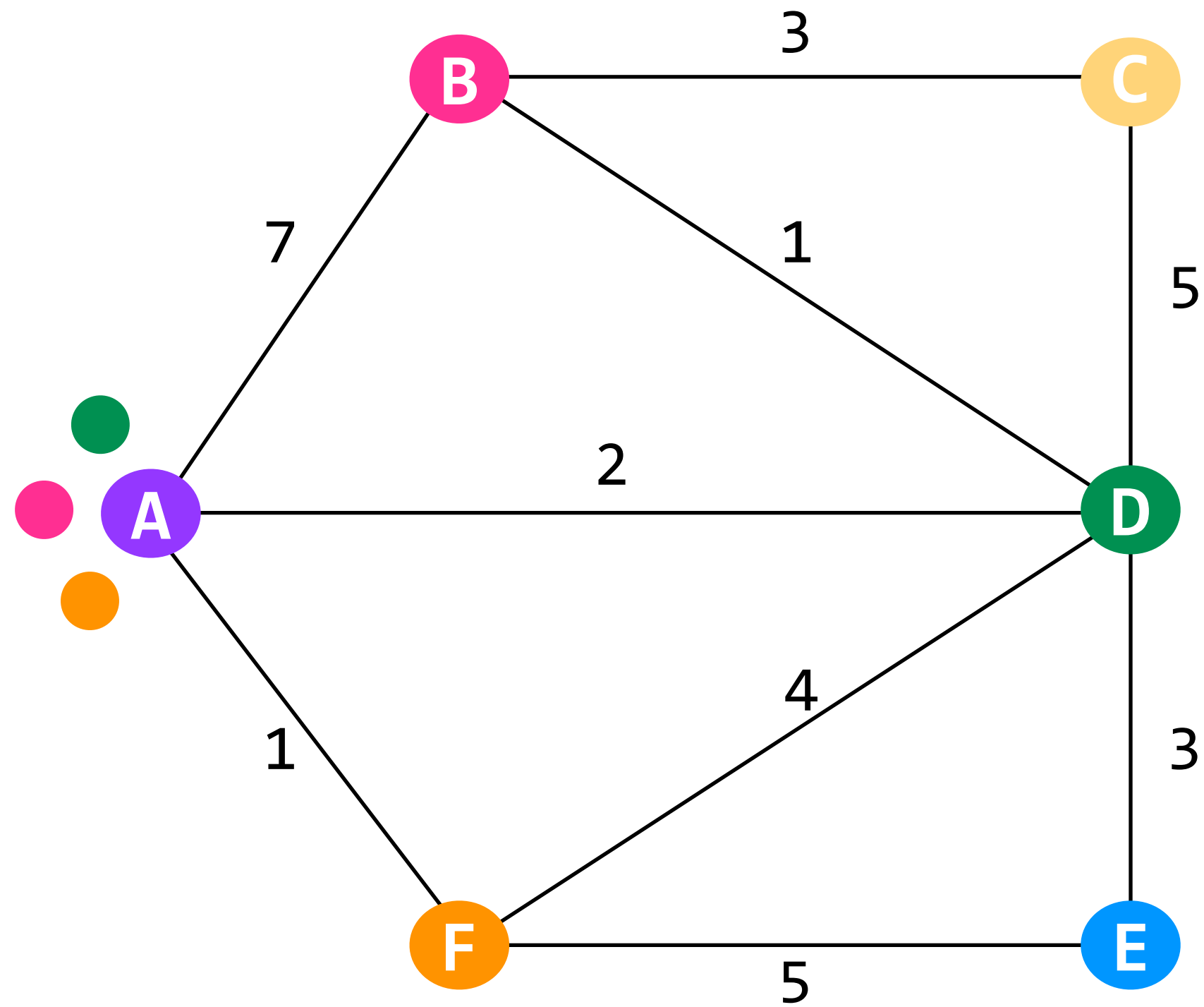
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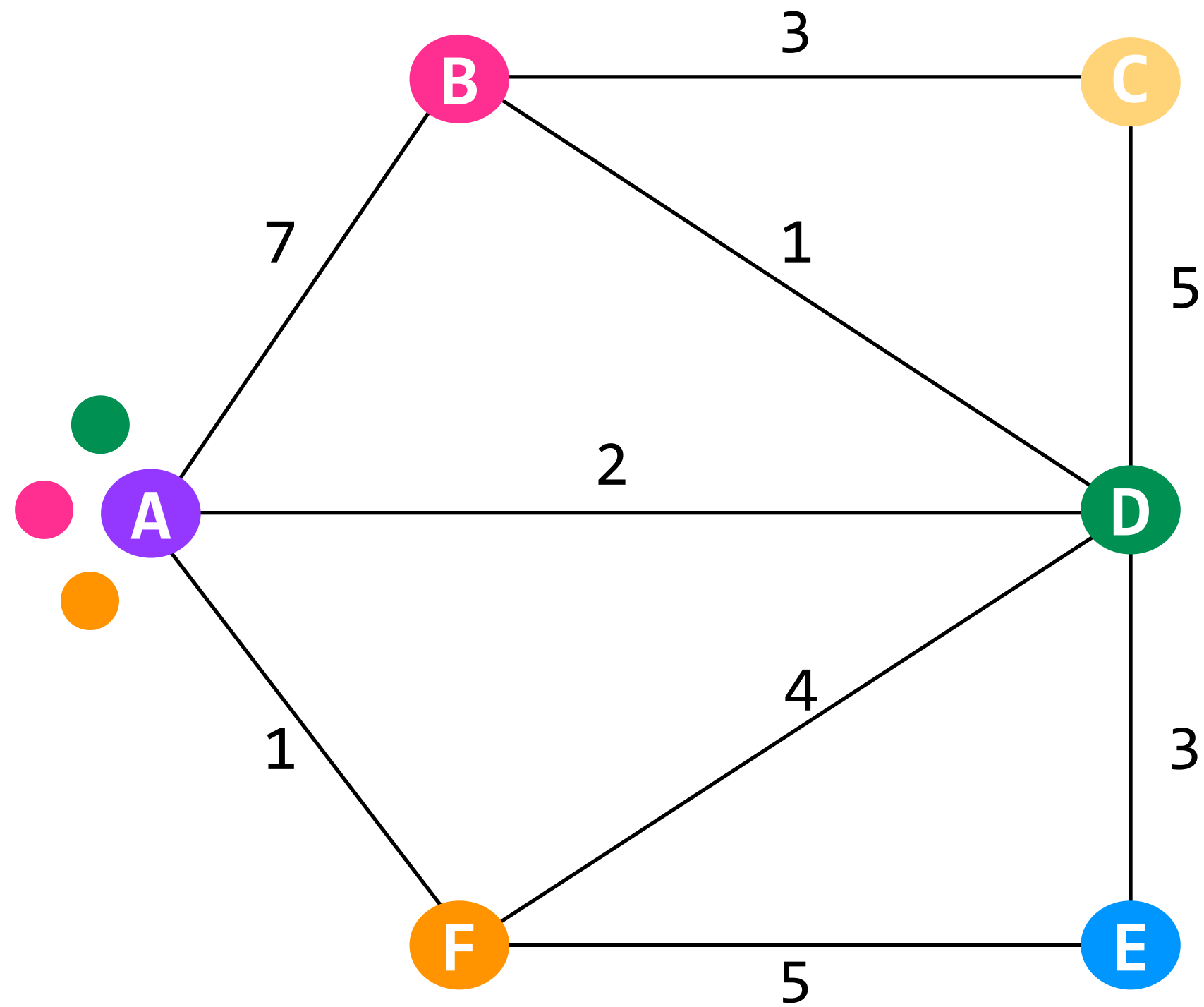
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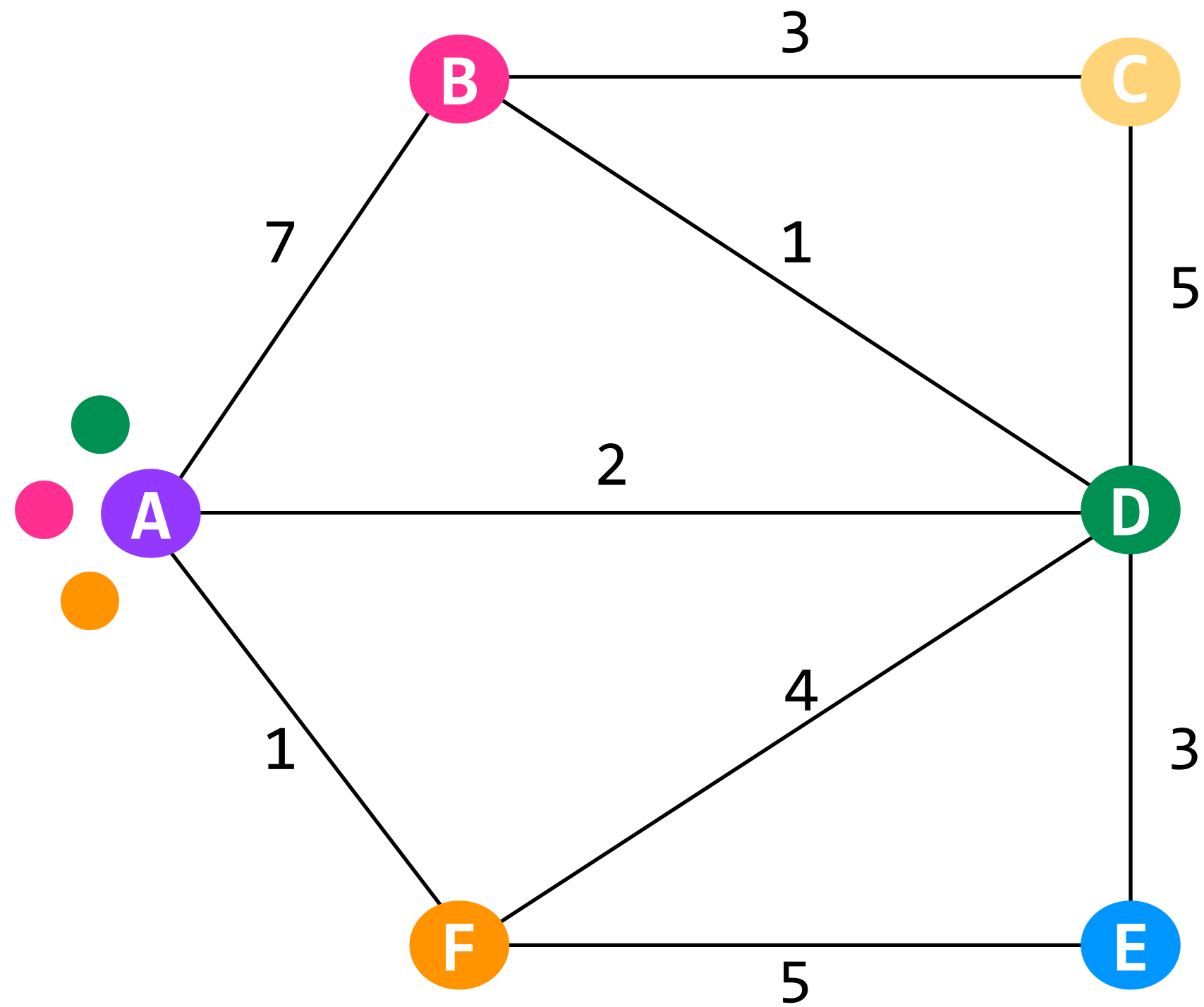
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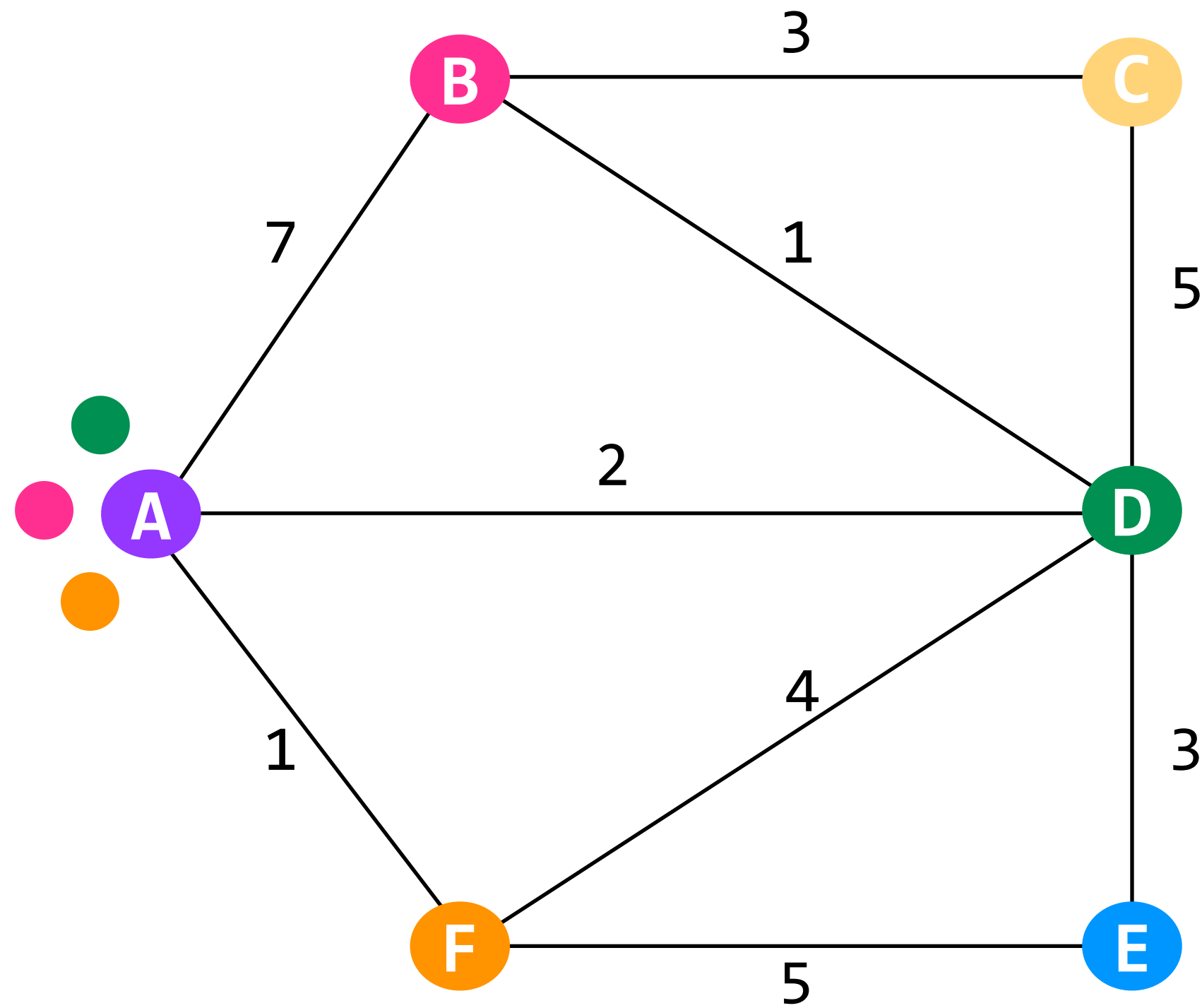
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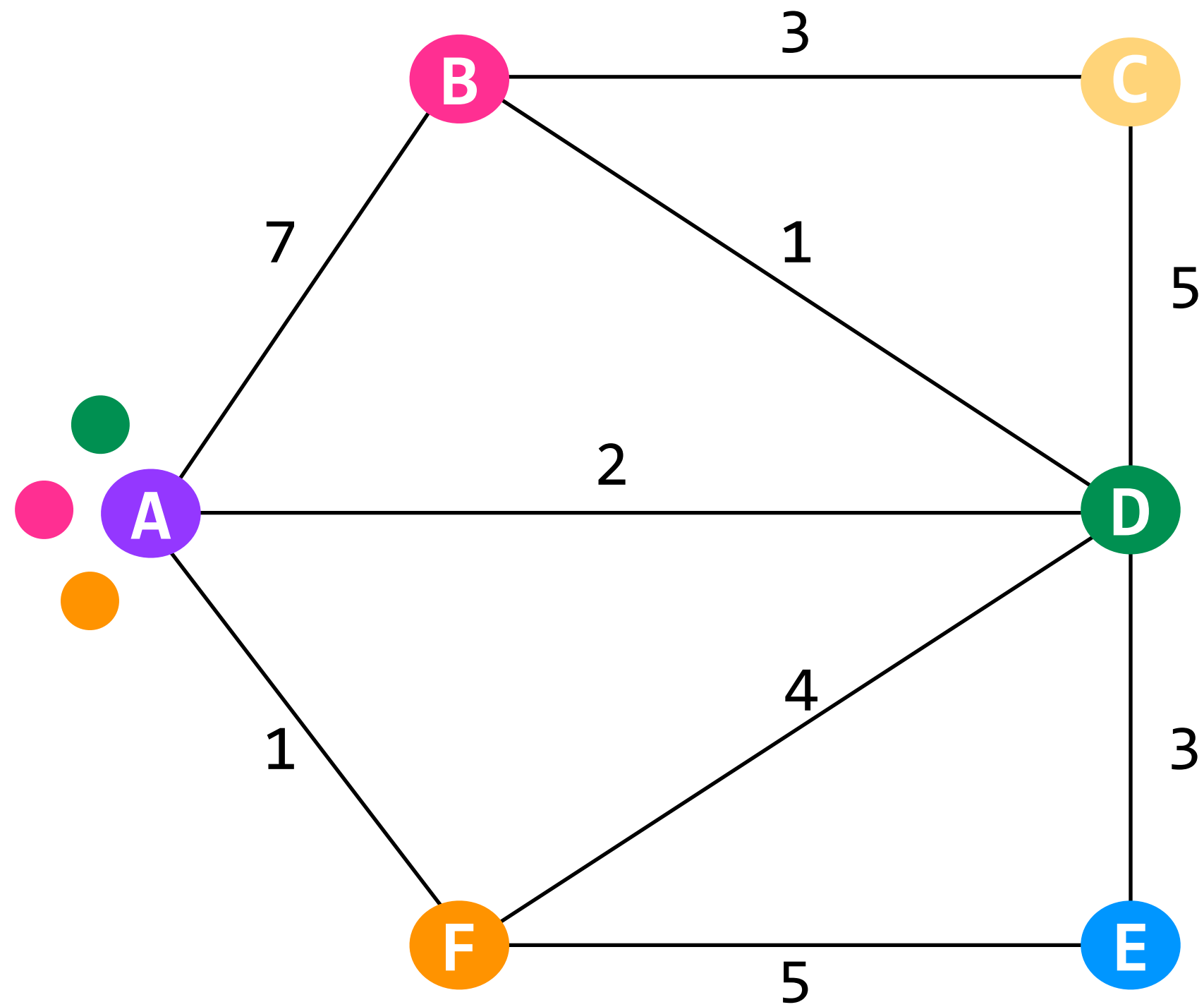
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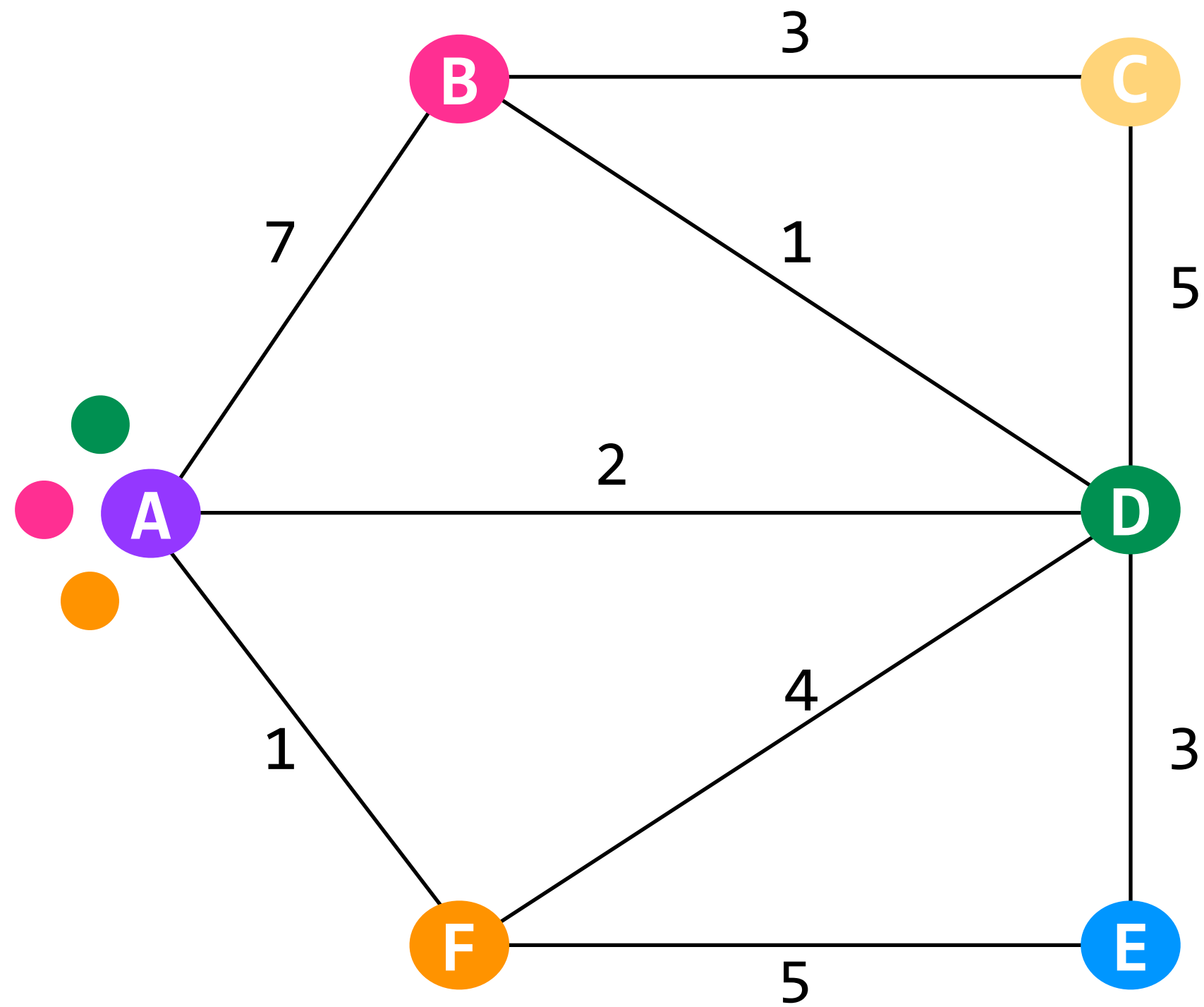
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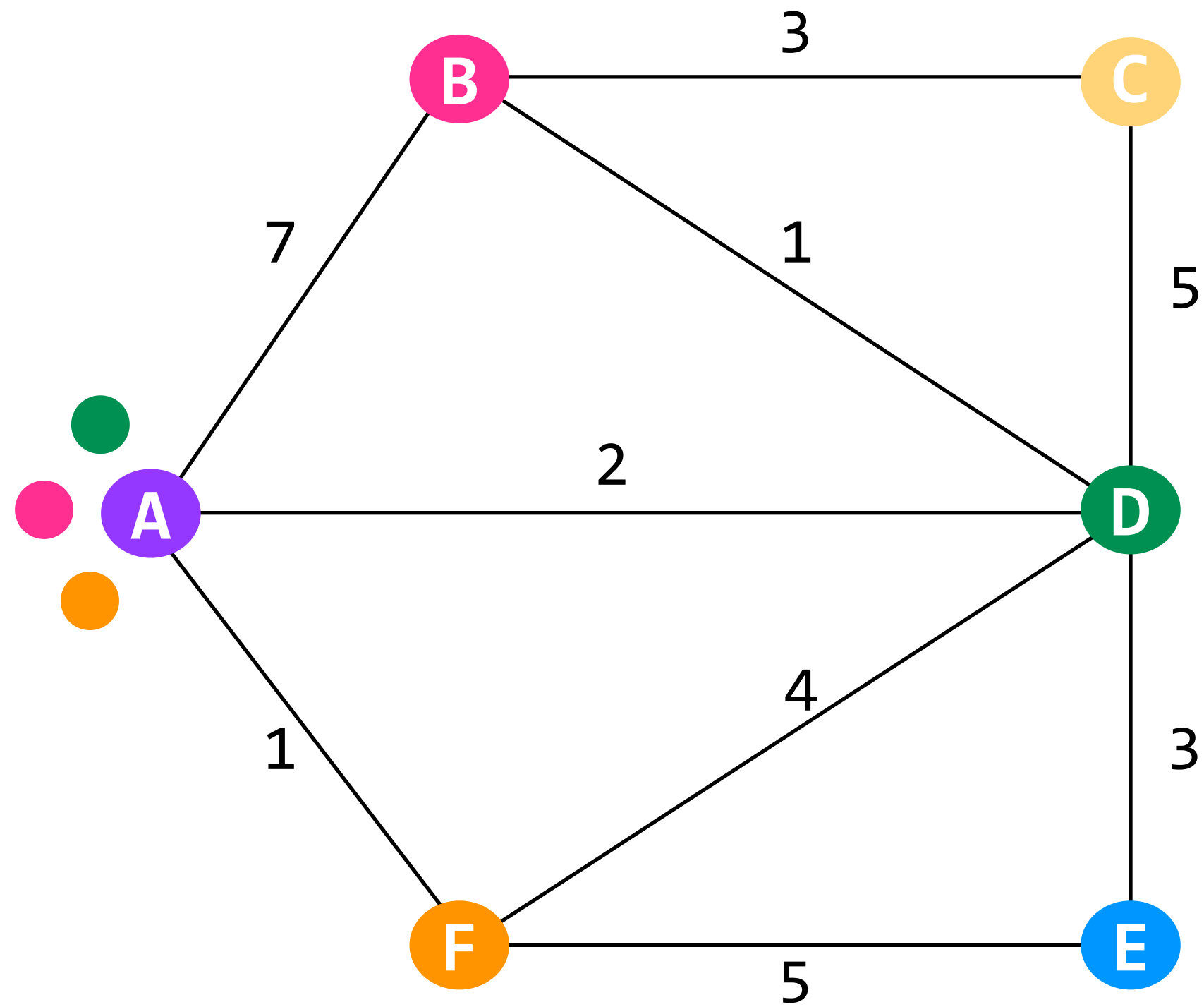
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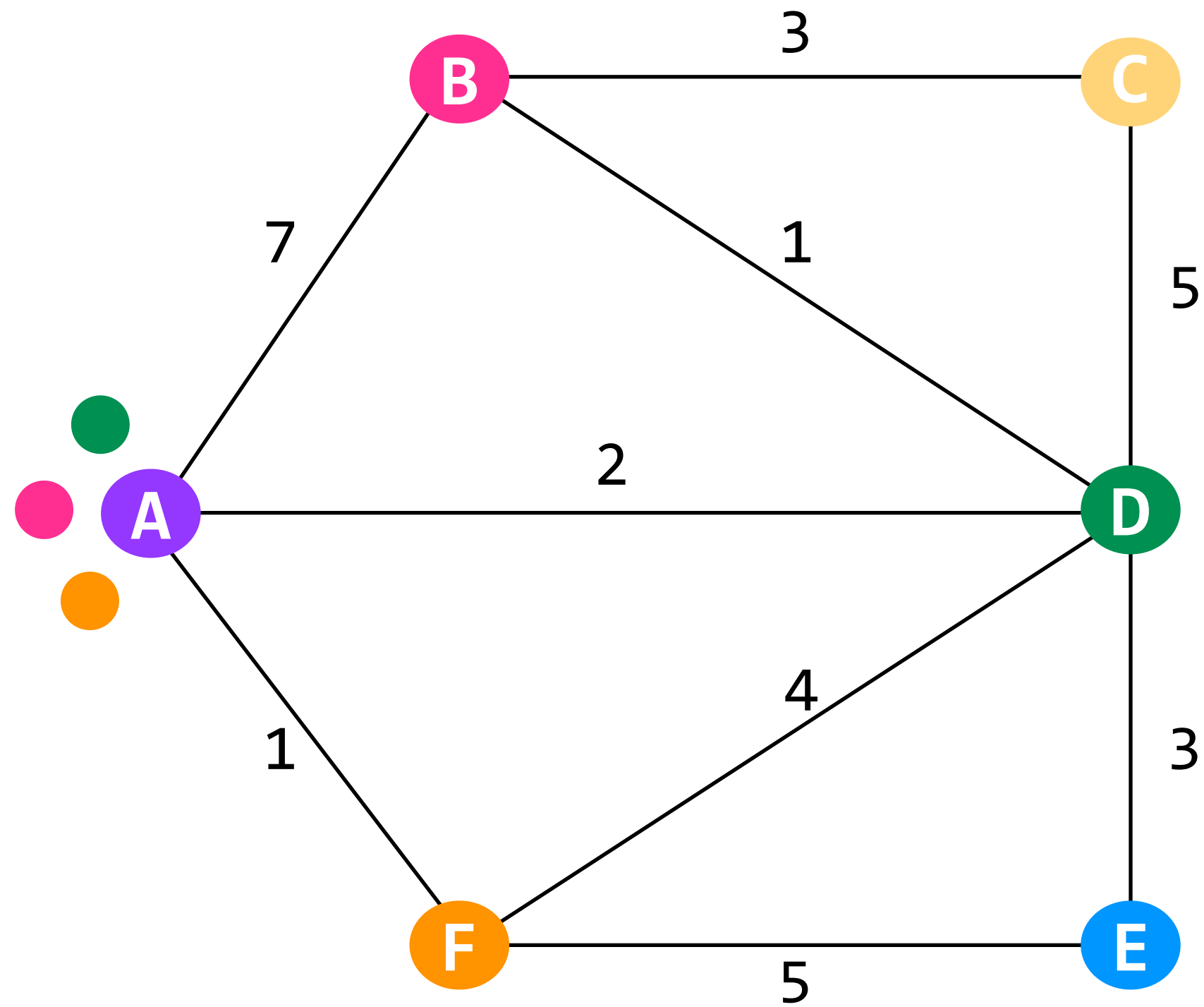
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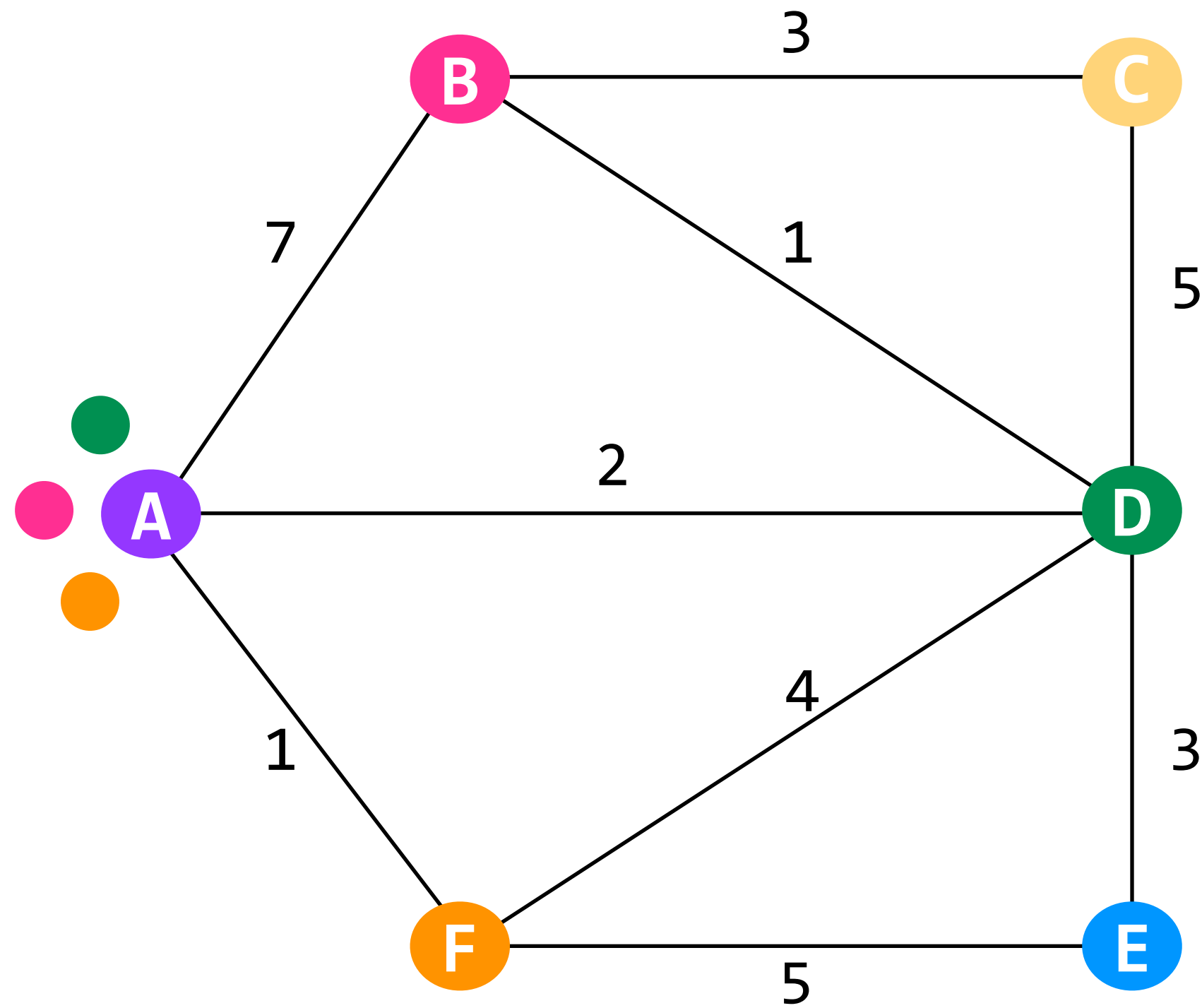
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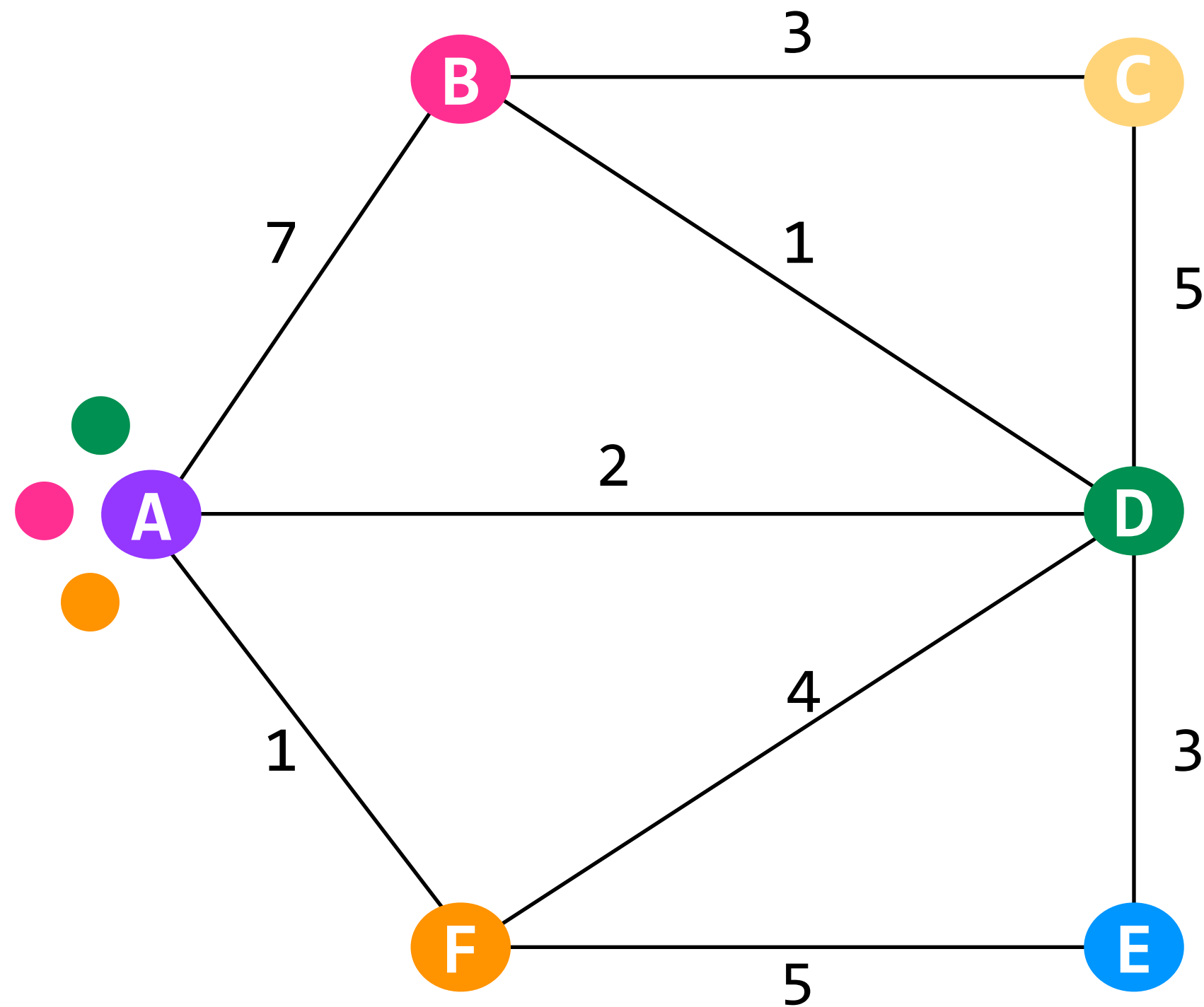
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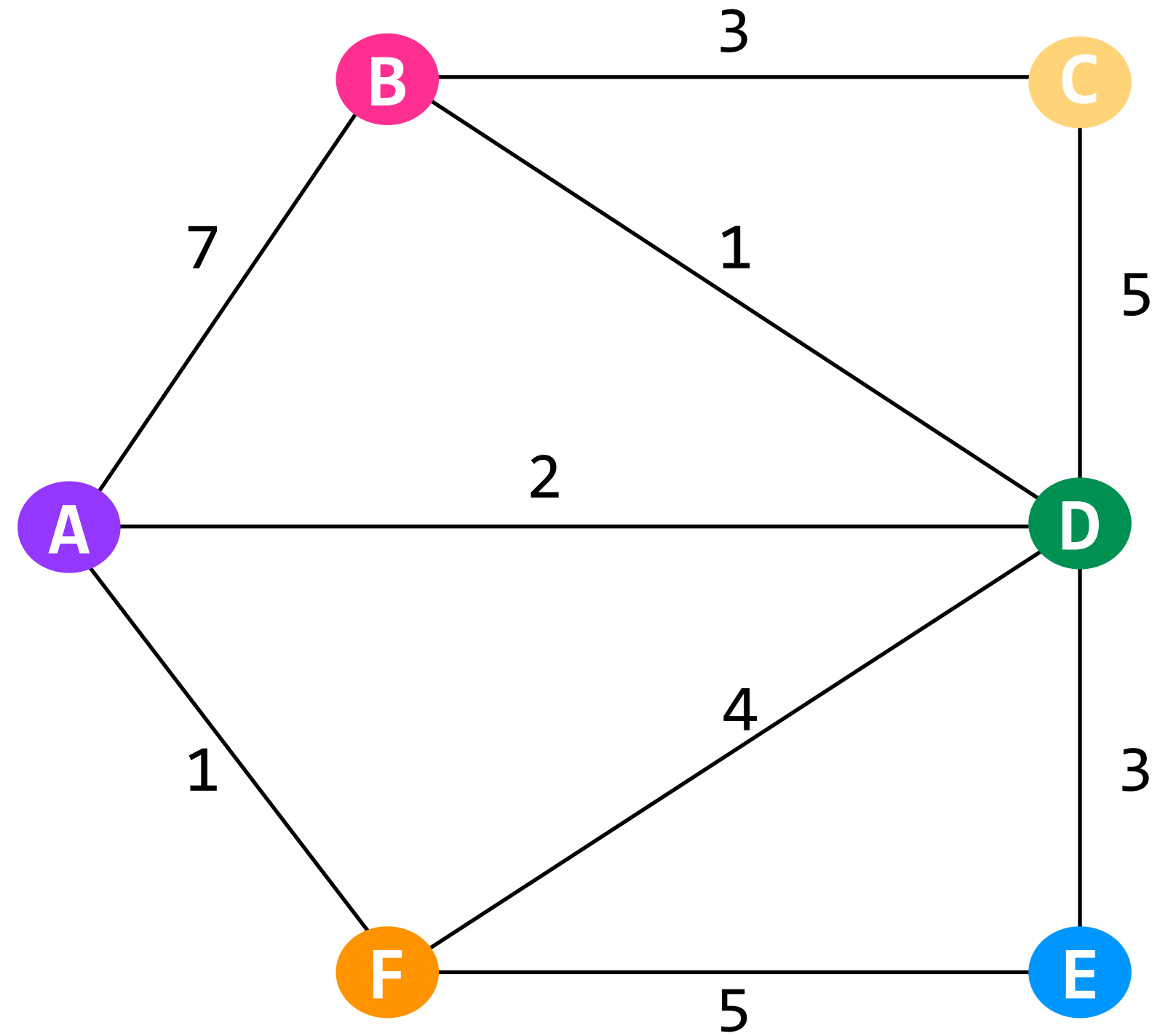
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this is A's routing table after one round of advertisements; note that it does not have knowledge of the min-cost path to C yet

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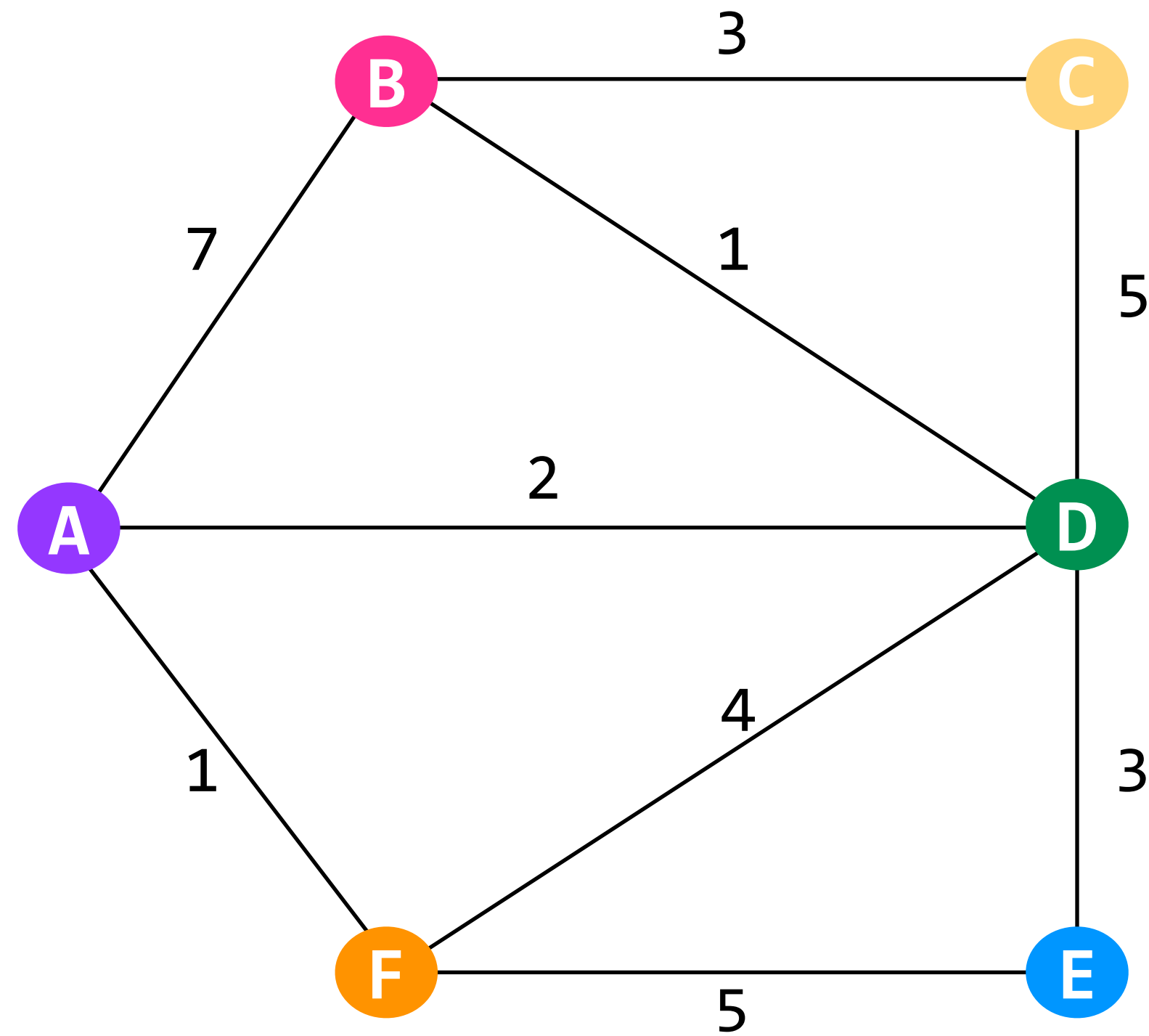
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**question:** what does A's *next* advertisement look like?

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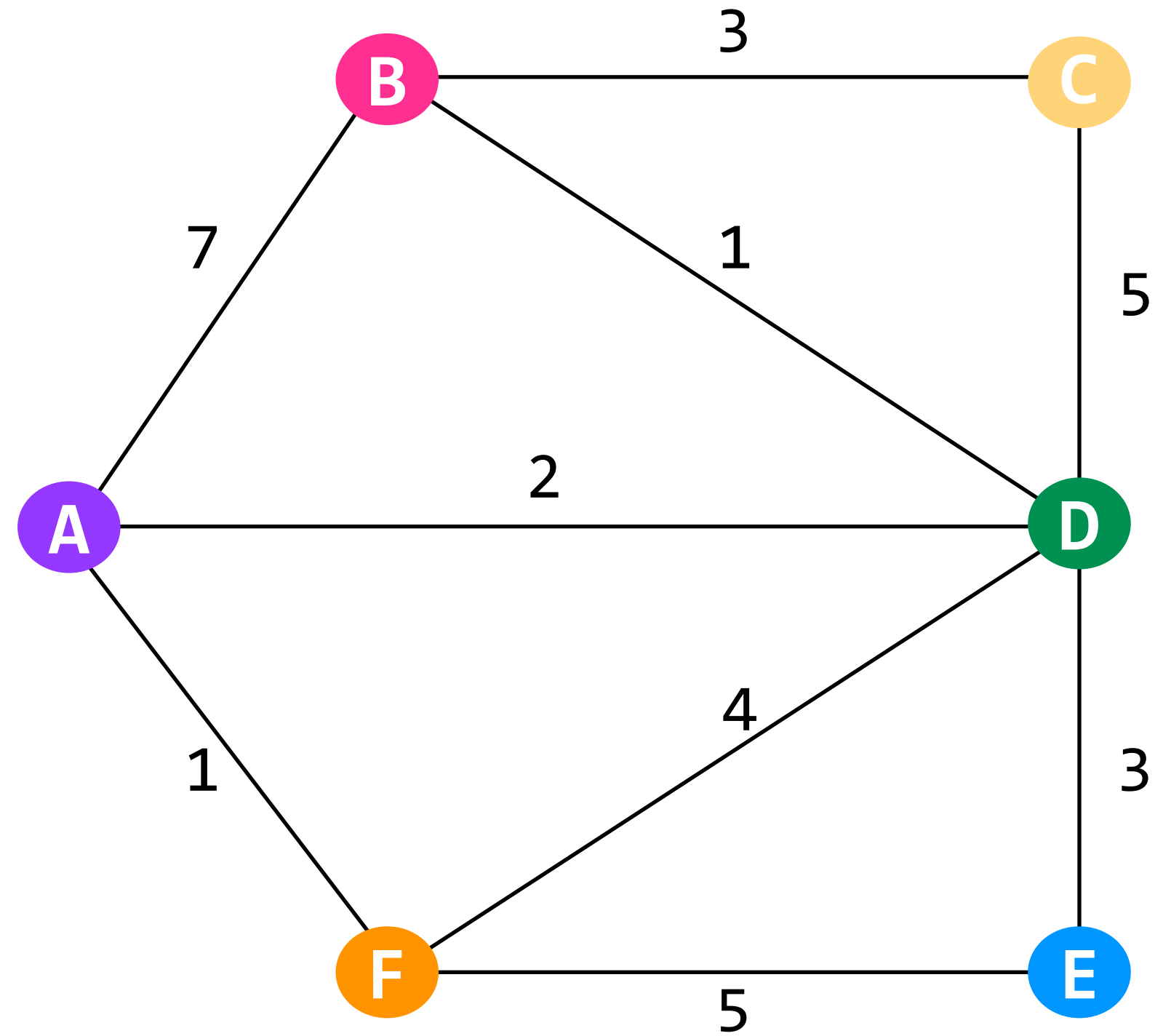
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A's second adv:

$[(B,3), (C,7), (D,2), (E,5), (F,1)]$

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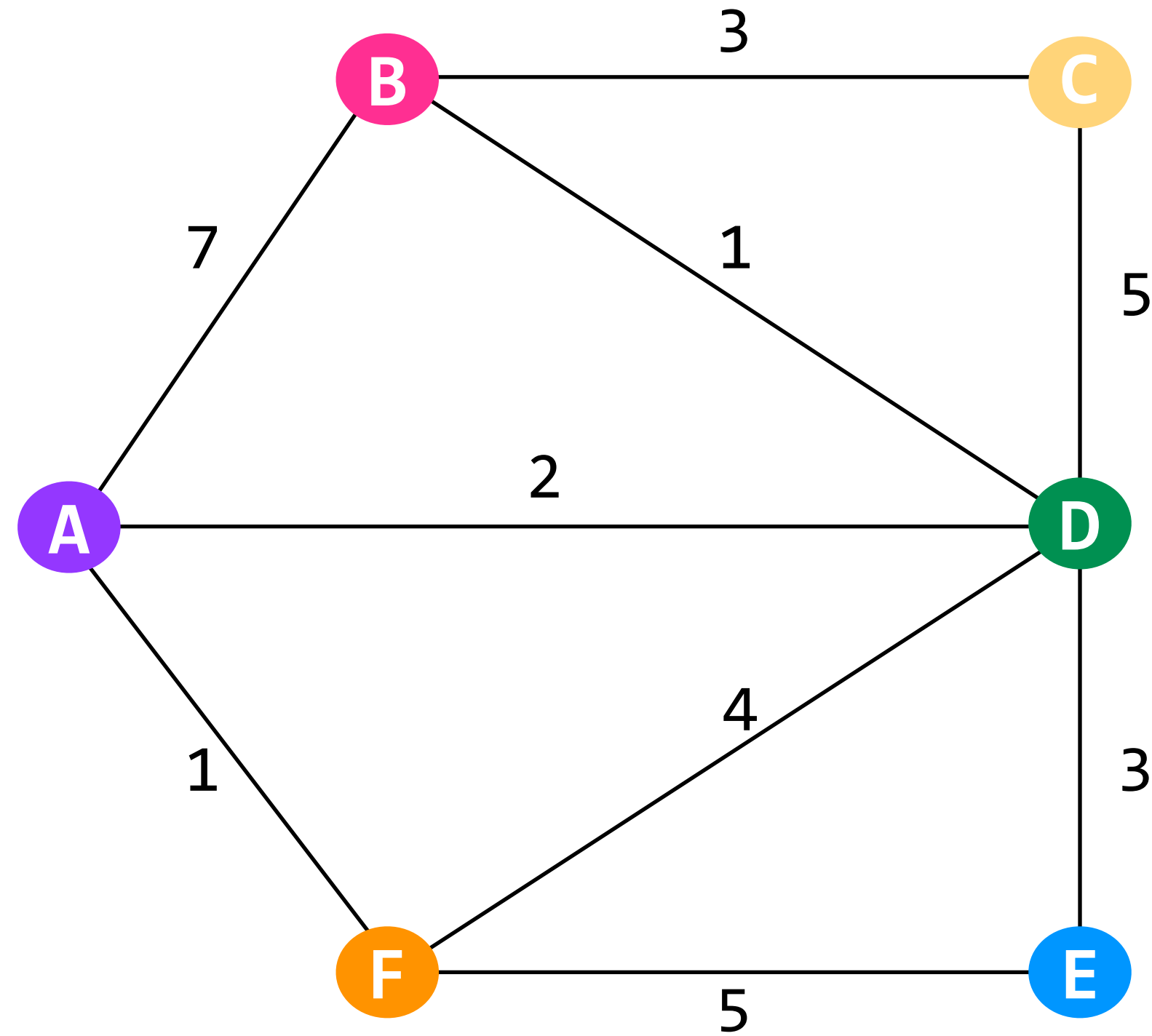
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A's second adv:

$[(B,3), (C,7), (D,2), (E,5), (F,1)]$

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

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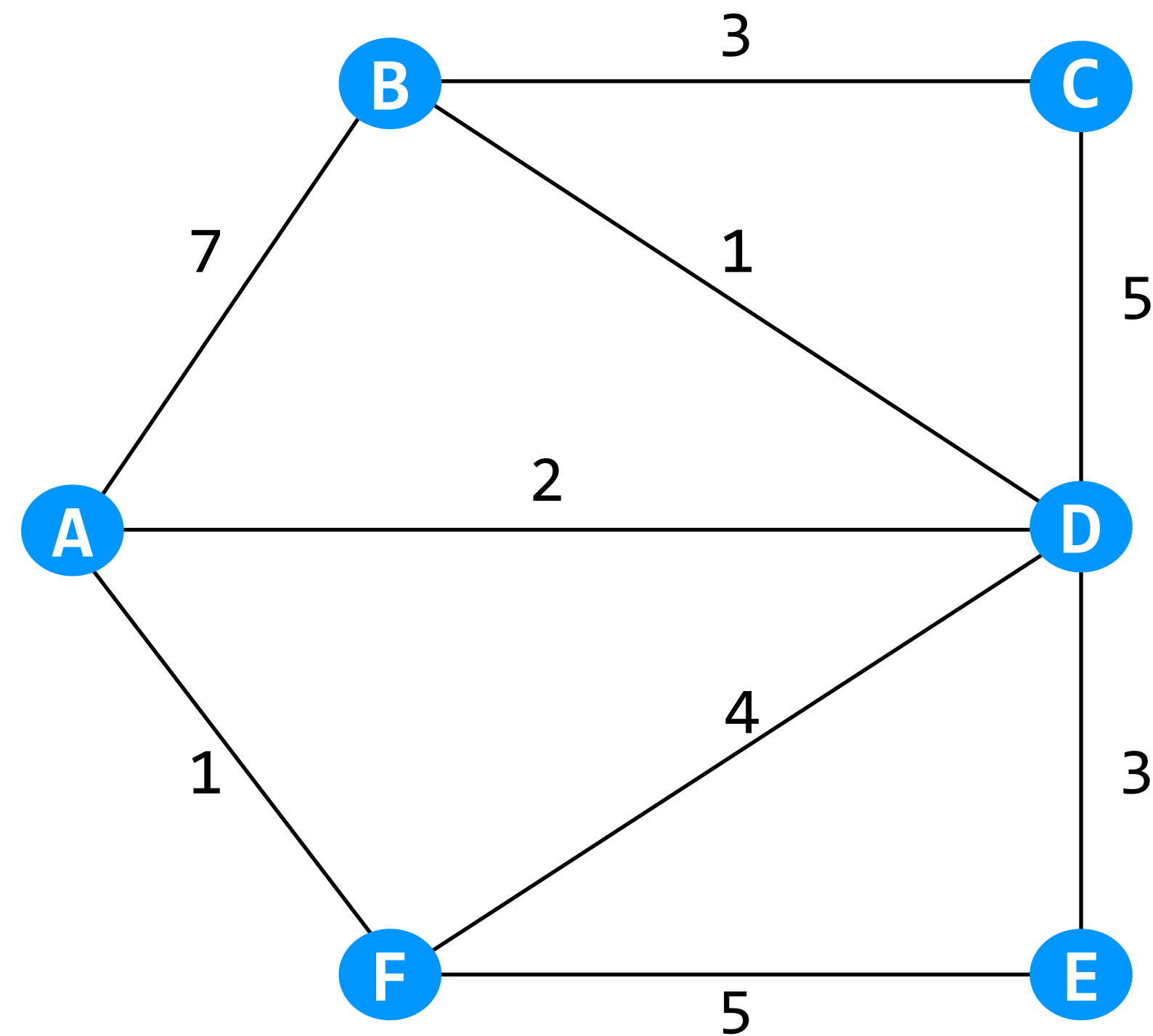
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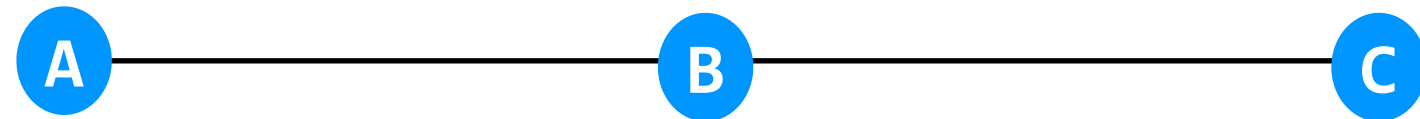
failures can be complicated because of timing

#### 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 sends advertisements at t=0, 10, 20,..; B sends advertisements at t=5, 15, 25,..  
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

## 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

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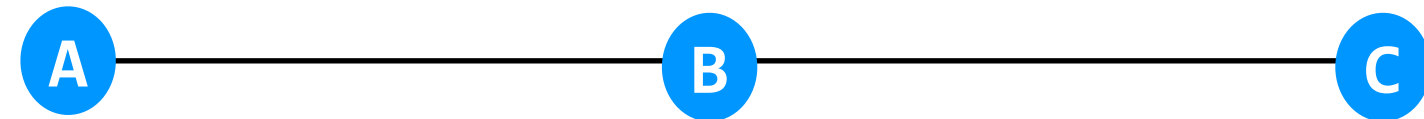
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C: A->B, 2	C: None, inf

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

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

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

t=9: B<->C fails

t=10: B receives the following advertisement from A:  
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t=9: B<->C fails

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

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

t=15: A receives the following advertisement from B:  
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## distance vector

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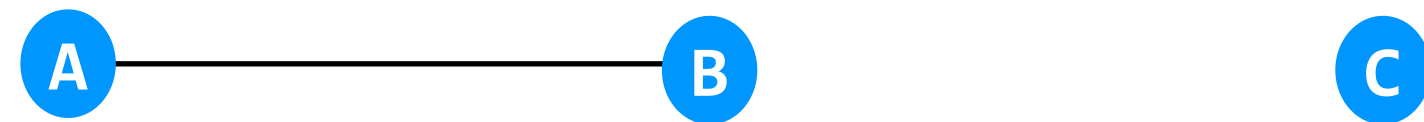
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A: Self, 0	A: B->A, 1
B: A->B, 1	B: Self, 0
C: A->B, 2	C: None, inf

t=9: B<->C fails

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

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

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

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

## link state

## distance vector

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C: A->B, 2

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

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

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B: A->B, 1  
C: A->B, 4

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

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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## distance vector

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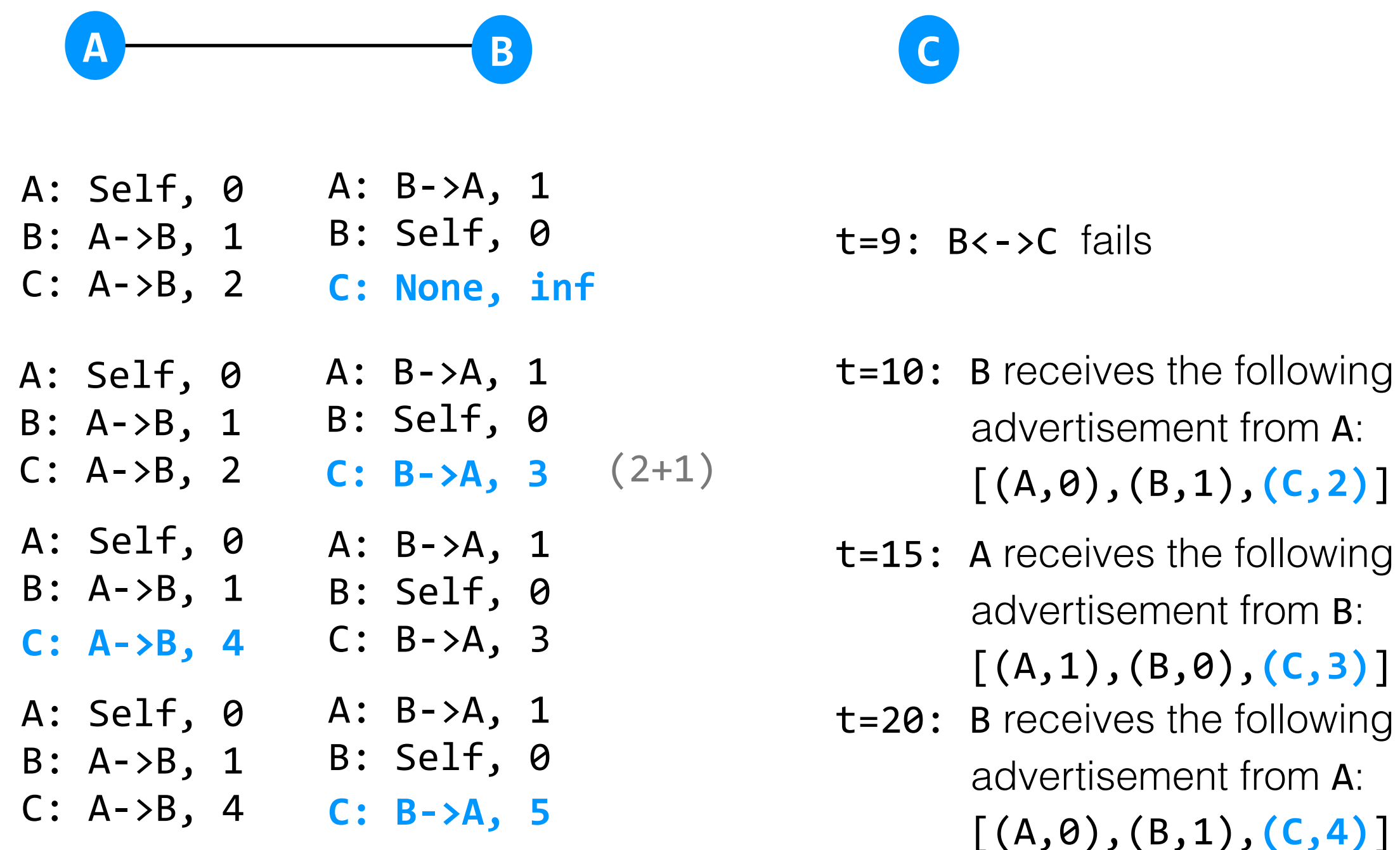
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A sends advertisements at  $t=0, 10, 20, \dots$ ; B sends advertisements at  $t=5, 15, 25, \dots$   
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every link has cost 1



A: Self, 0	A: B->A, 1	
B: A->B, 1	B: Self, 0	t=9: B<->C fails
C: A->B, 2	C: None, inf	
A: Self, 0	A: B->A, 1	t=10: B receives the following advertisement from A:
B: A->B, 1	B: Self, 0	[(A,0), (B,1), (C,2)]
C: A->B, 2	C: B->A, 3 (2+1)	
A: Self, 0	A: B->A, 1	t=15: A receives the following advertisement from B:
B: A->B, 1	B: Self, 0	[(A,1), (B,0), (C,3)]
C: A->B, 4	C: B->A, 3	
A: Self, 0	A: B->A, 1	t=20: B receives the following advertisement from A:
B: A->B, 1	B: Self, 0	[(A,0), (B,1), (C,4)]
C: A->B, 4	C: B->A, 5	

**continues until both costs to C are INFINITY**

## link state

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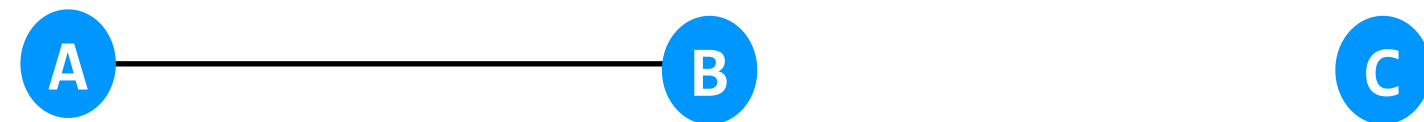
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*every link has cost 1*



t=9: B<->C fails

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

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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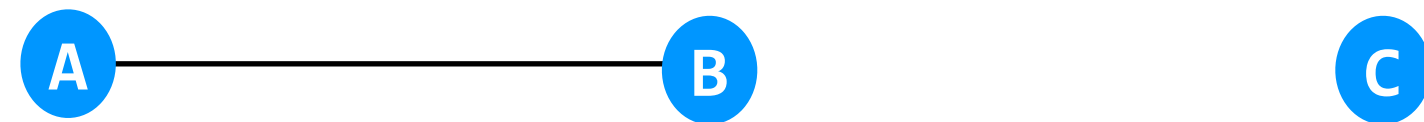
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every link has cost 1*



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

t=9: B<->C fails

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

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t=9: B<->C fails

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[(A, 0)]

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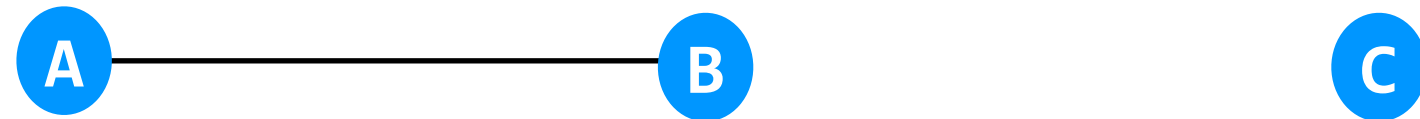
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A: Self, 0	A: B->A, 1
B: A->B, 1	B: Self, 0
C: A->B, 2	<b>C: None, inf</b>

t=9: B<->C fails

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

t=10: B receives the following advertisement from A:  
[(A, 0)]

A: Self, 0	A: B->A, 1
B: A->B, 1	B: Self, 0
<b>C: None, inf</b>	C: None, inf

t=15: A receives the following advertisement from B:  
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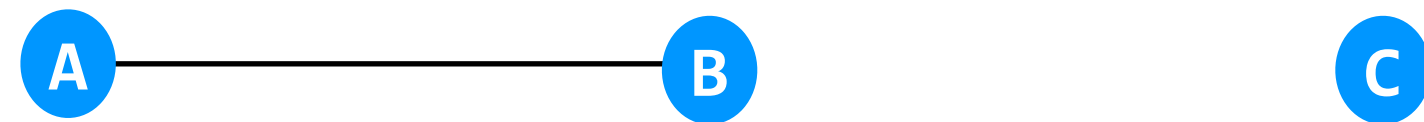
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<b>C: None, inf</b>	C: None, inf

t=15: A receives the following advertisement from B:  
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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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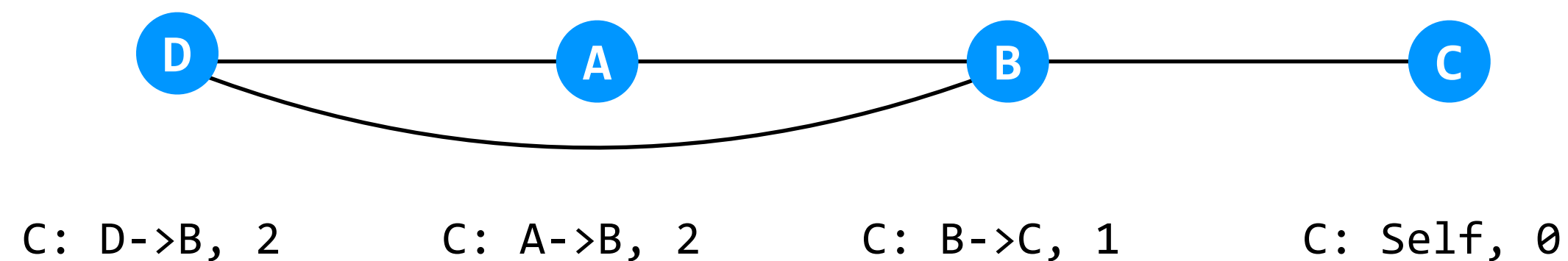
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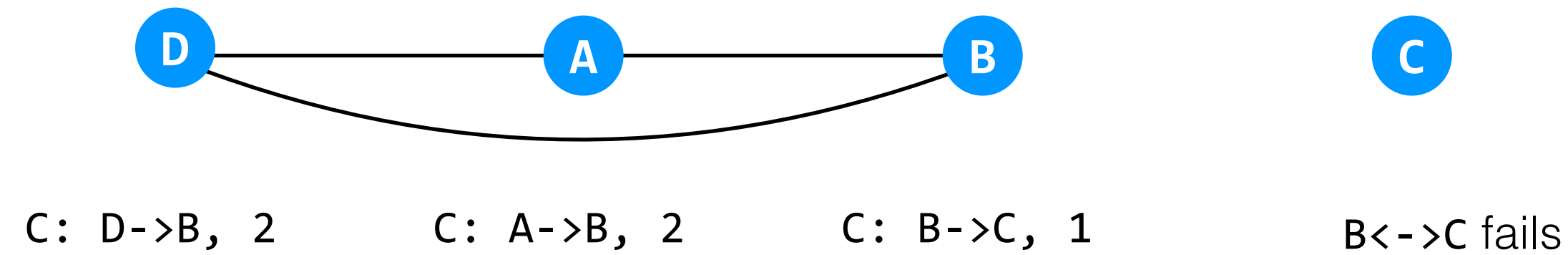
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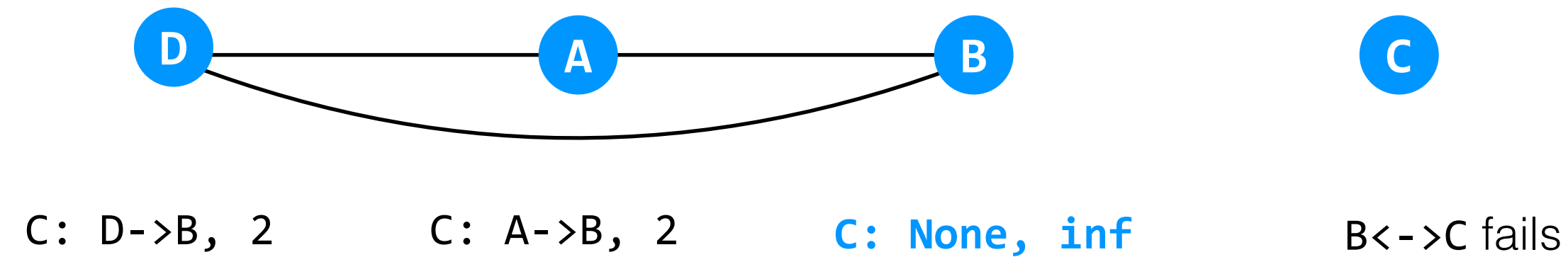
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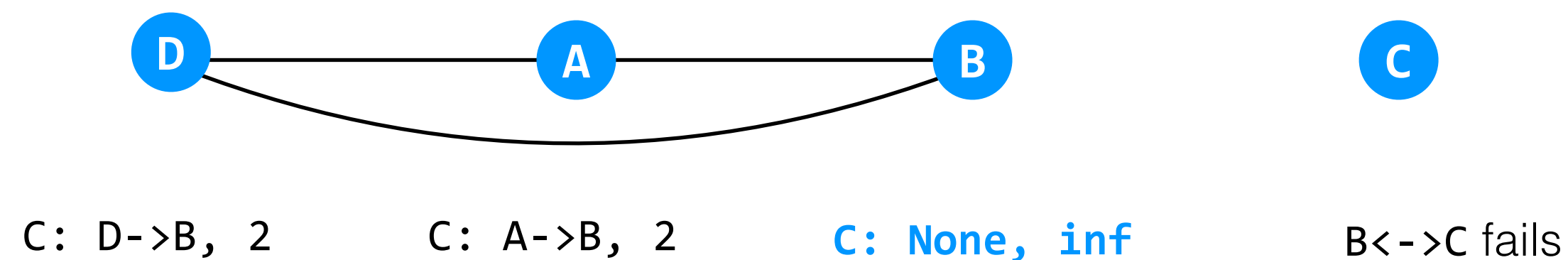
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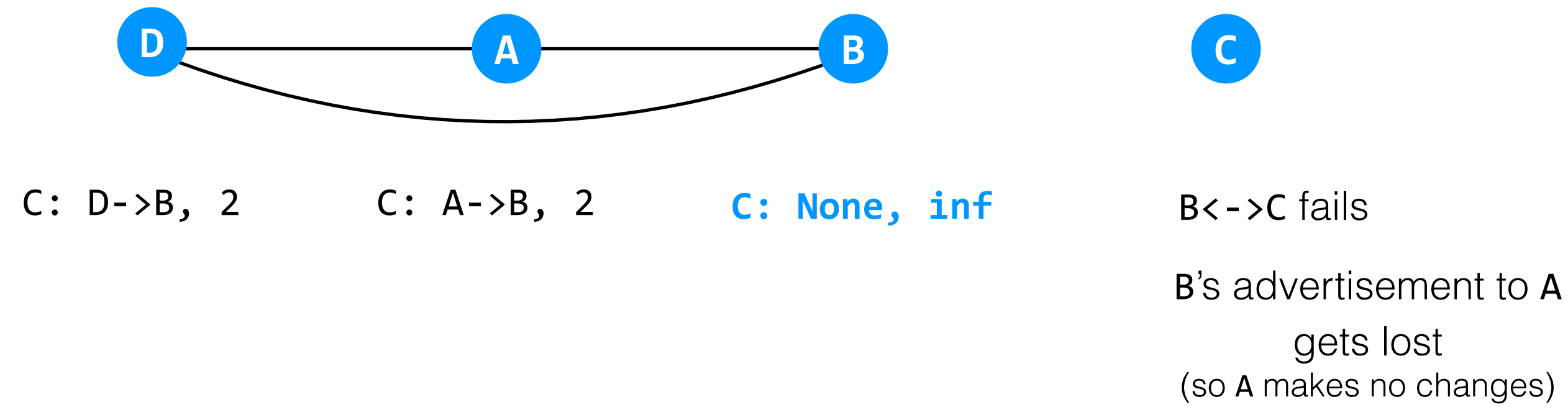
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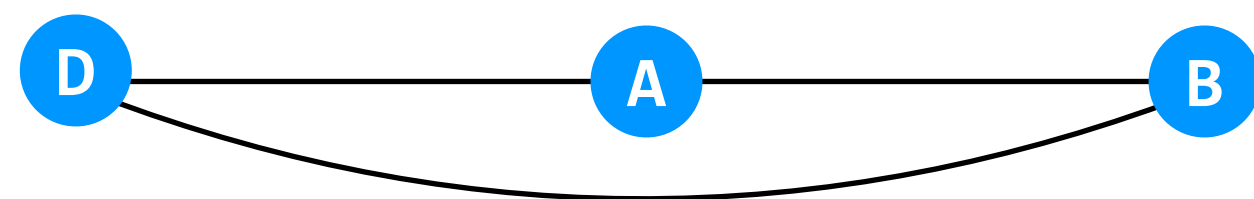
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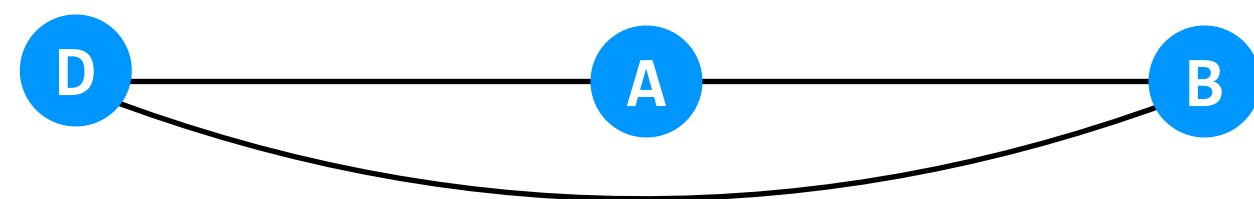
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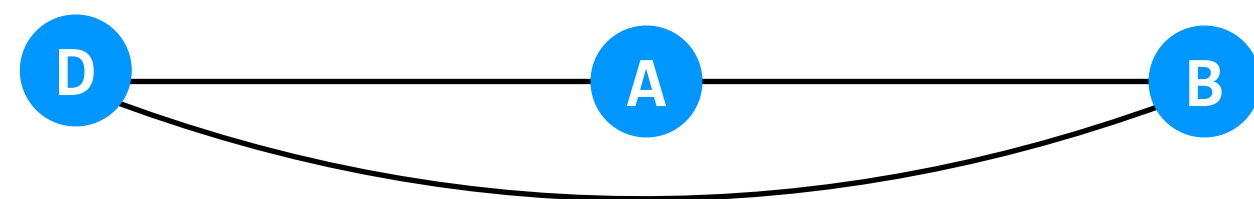
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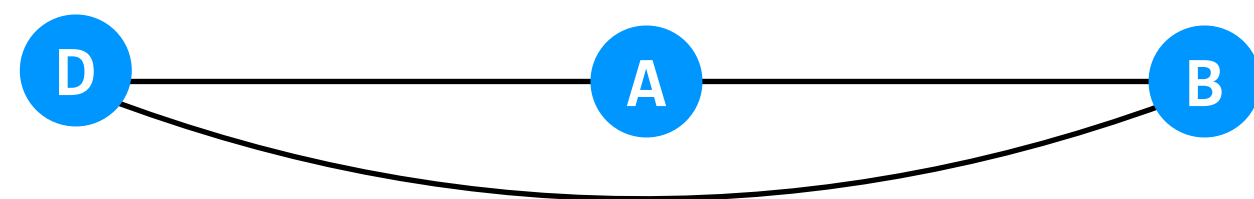
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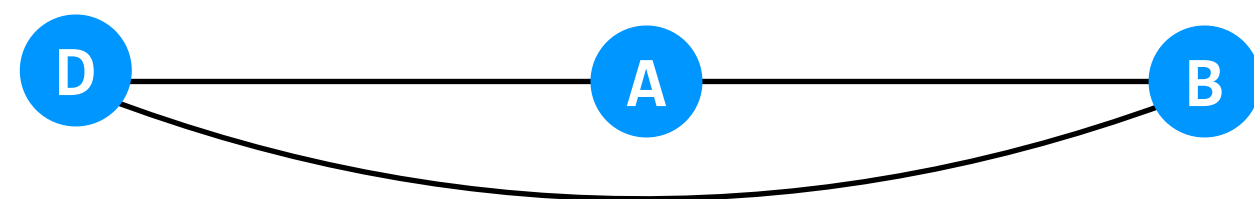
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C: None, inf

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C: D->A, 3

C: A->B, 2

C: B->D, 4

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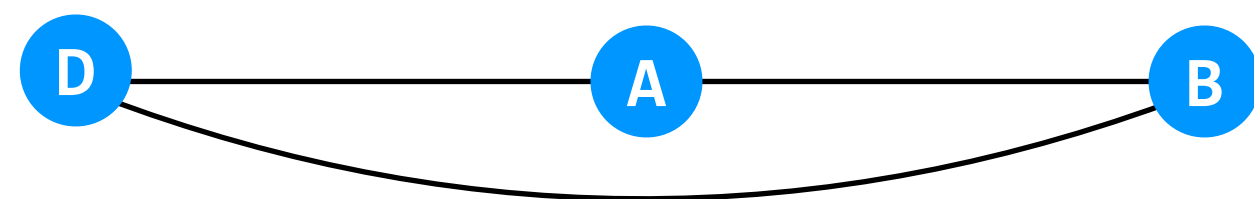
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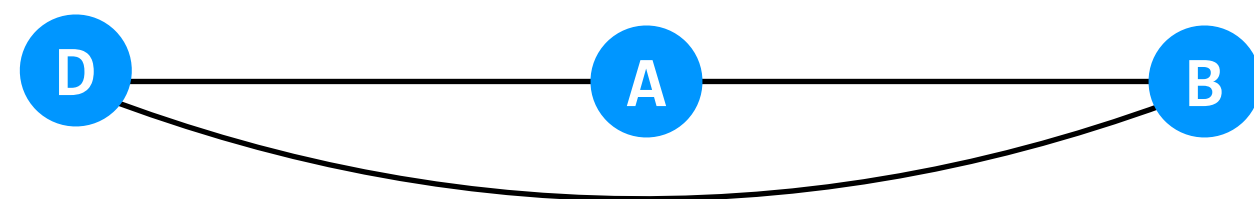
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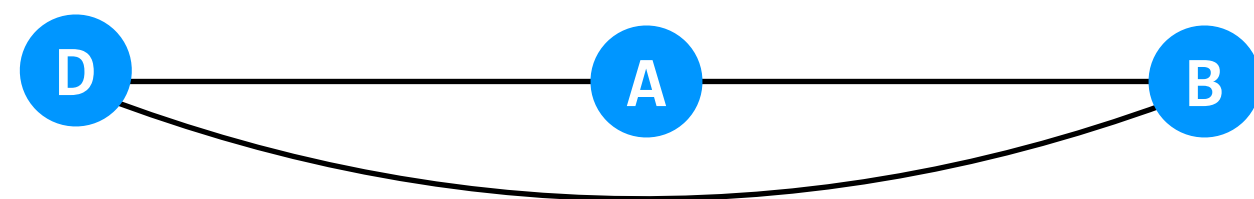
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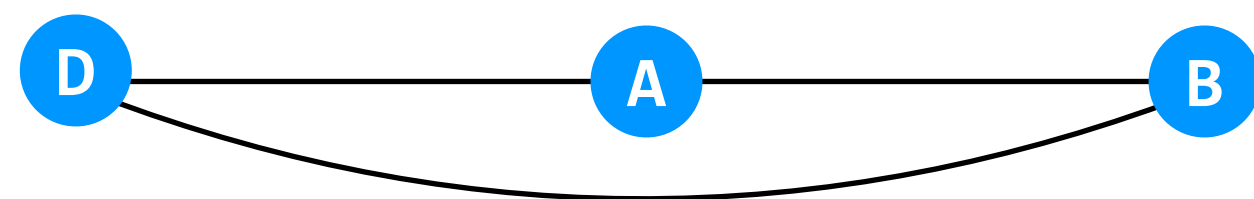
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failure handling

**link state**

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**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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1970s:  
ARPAnet

1978: flexibility and  
layering

early 80s: growth → change

late 80s: growth → problems

1993:  
commercialization

hosts.txt

**distance-vector  
routing**

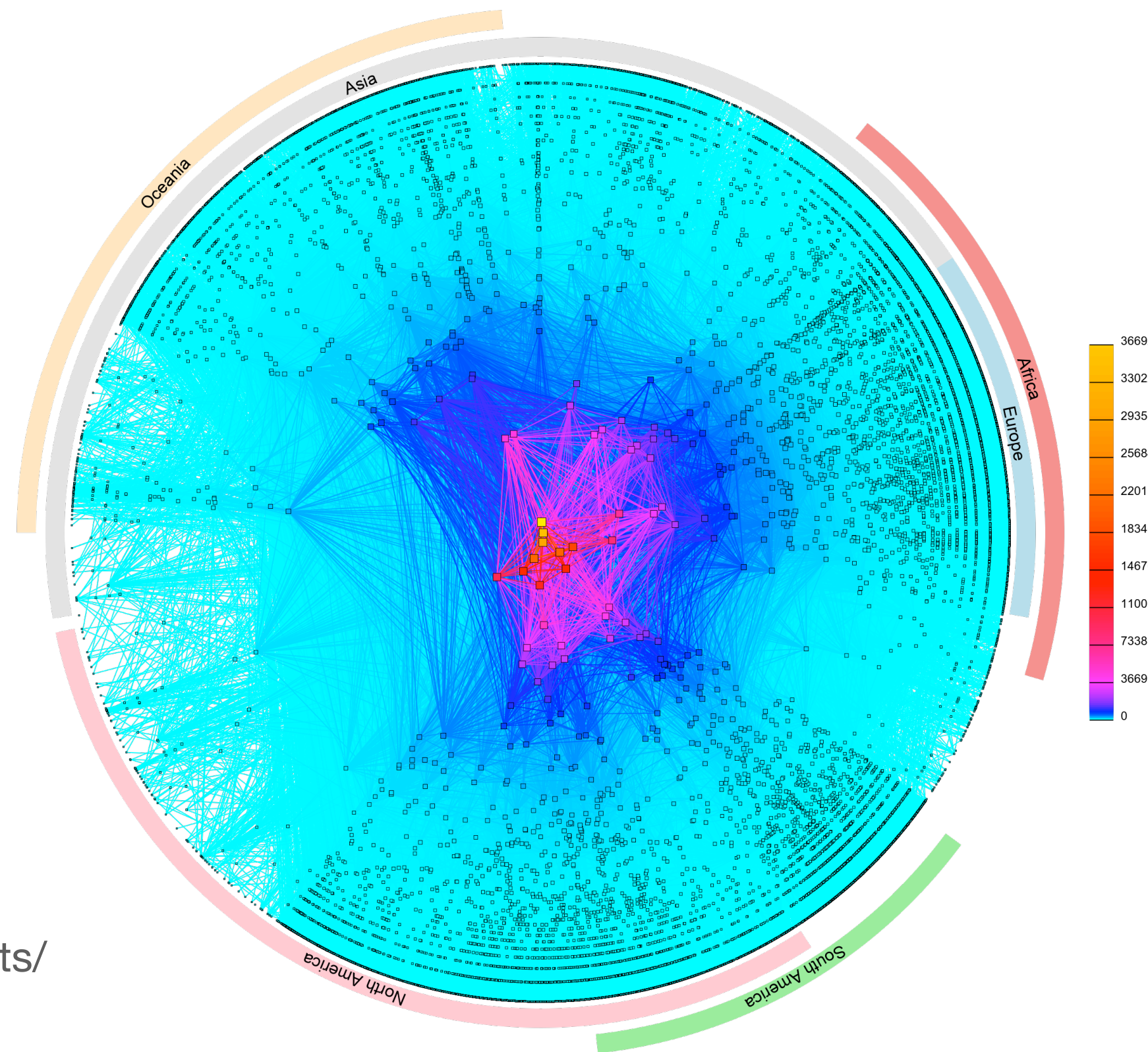
TCP, UDP

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

congestion collapse

policy routing

CIDR



CAIDA's IPv4 AS Core,  
January 2020

([https://www.caida.org/projects/  
cartography/as-core/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)

**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)*