



Controlled Disaggregation and Multihoming in DCNs

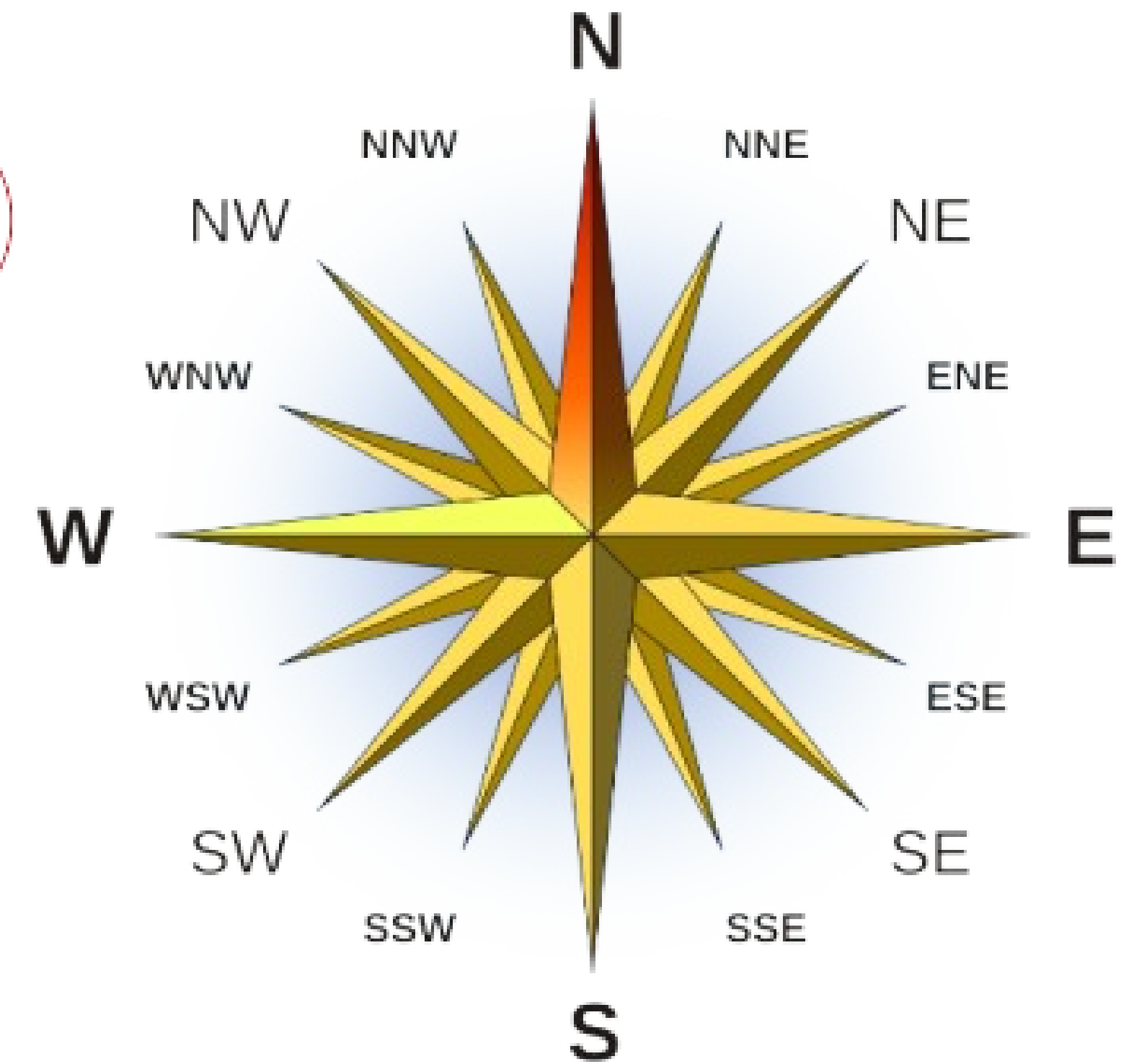
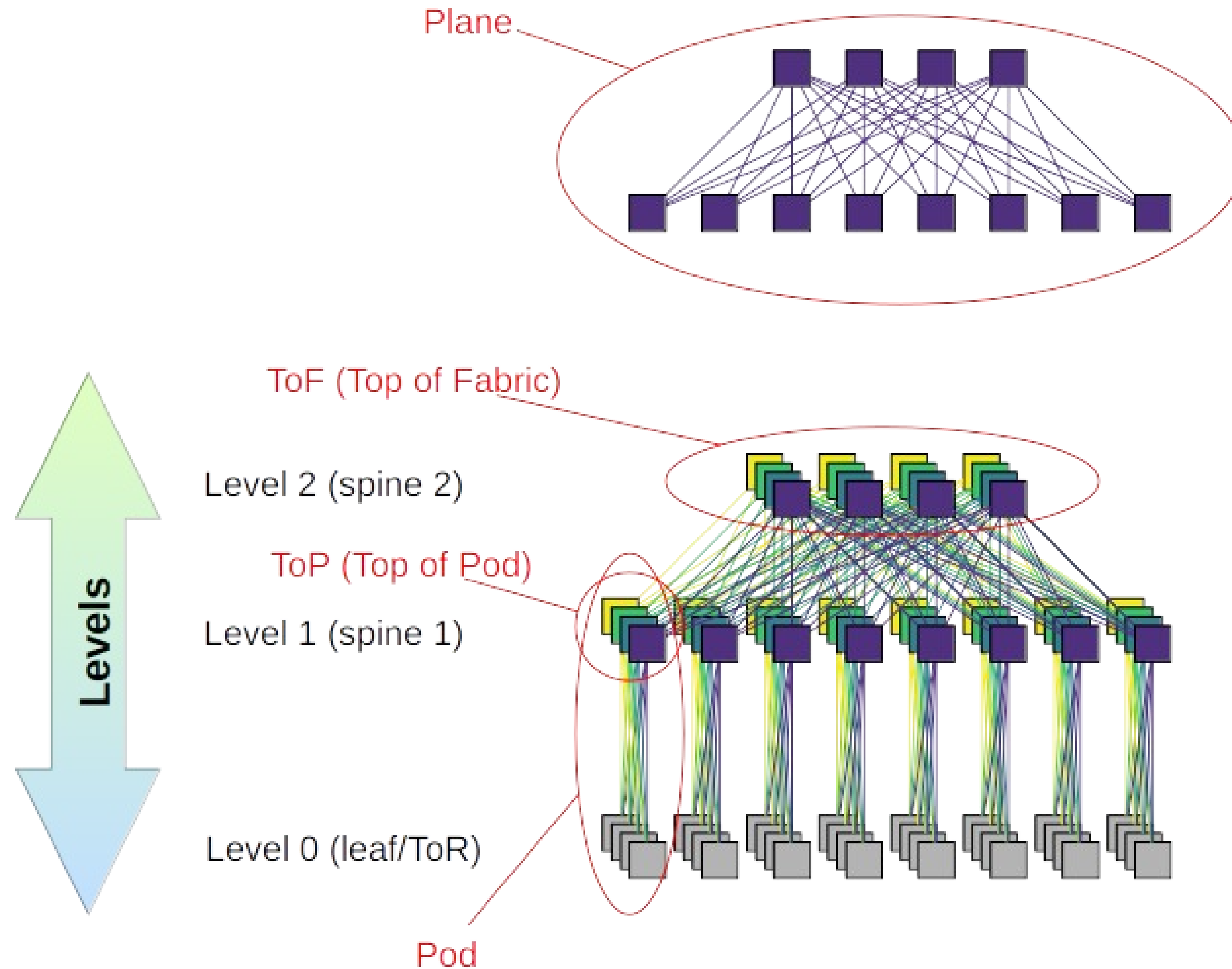
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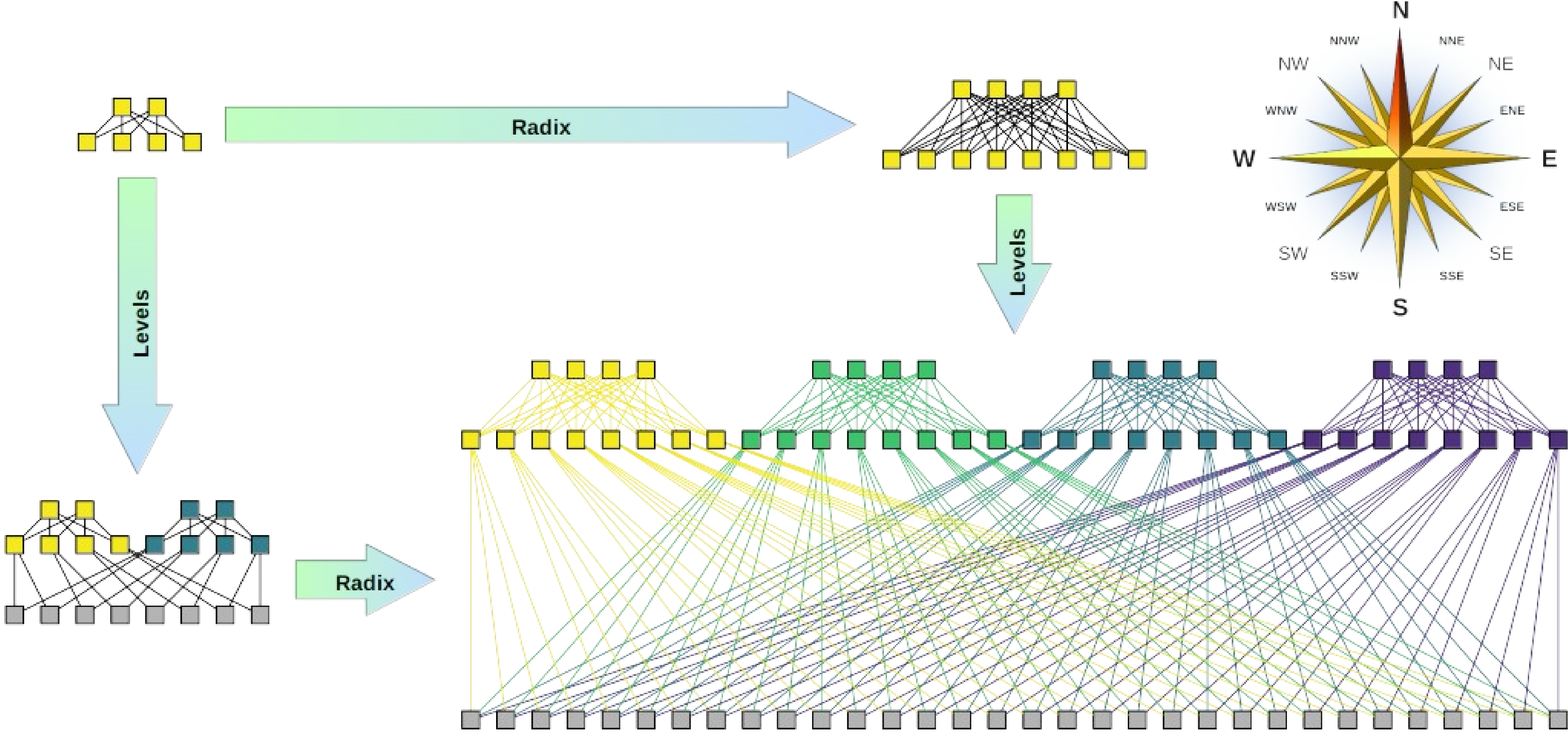
Conditional Disaggregation and Multihoming in DCNs

- Why do it
- Some problems which are difficult to solve with BGP
 - In Fat Tree every level is completely disjoint (no connectivity within level)
 - Some decisions can't be made using only local info
 - But can be elegantly solved with RIFT
- Discussion scope:
 - L3 DCNs only
 - reachability only, not asymmetrical bandwidth
 - no discussion of RIFT internals - available elsewhere

Multi-stage Clos Overview



Clos – Levels and Radix



Why Aggregate

- Smaller routing and forwarding state
- Potentially smaller blast radius

Aggregate Multipath Routes

- Default or DCN aggregate
 - Points north
 - Propagates southward from the ToF
- Smaller aggregates
 - Appear when we do host multihoming / extra mesh between levels / top of PoD aggregates for redundancy (this also causes valley routing)
 - Direction depends on location in the DCN
 - Propagate north to the ToF, then reflected and propagate south

Why Disaggregate

- Multipath + multiple destinations covered by aggregate + [remote] failures
 - some nodes originating (or pointed to) by aggregate may not have reachability to some destinations
 - some direct nexthops become invalid for some destinations
- Clos: single path from ToF node to leaf
 - Any failures along that path make part of topology (ToF or even lower level spine nodes) invalid as nexthops for prefixes behind that leaf
 - can't use northward default anymore
 - in Clos going up/north narrows available part of topology - e.g. once plane selected can't go to another plane
- Note: "just always disaggregate everything" may be an option
 - Makes worst case scenario normal
 - Forwarding state can be a problem

Conditional Disaggregation

- What can't be decided based on local information:
 - Do we need to inject/propagate specifics because some other nodes on the same level don't have routes to some destinations?
 - Do we have max set of reachable destinations?
- All levels are disjoint - node doesn't know what info other nodes on the same level have
- Easy to handle if we start with completely disaggregated
 - Worst case state all the time
- Or full set of destinations is known in advance and distributed to all nodes
 - Usually not feasible

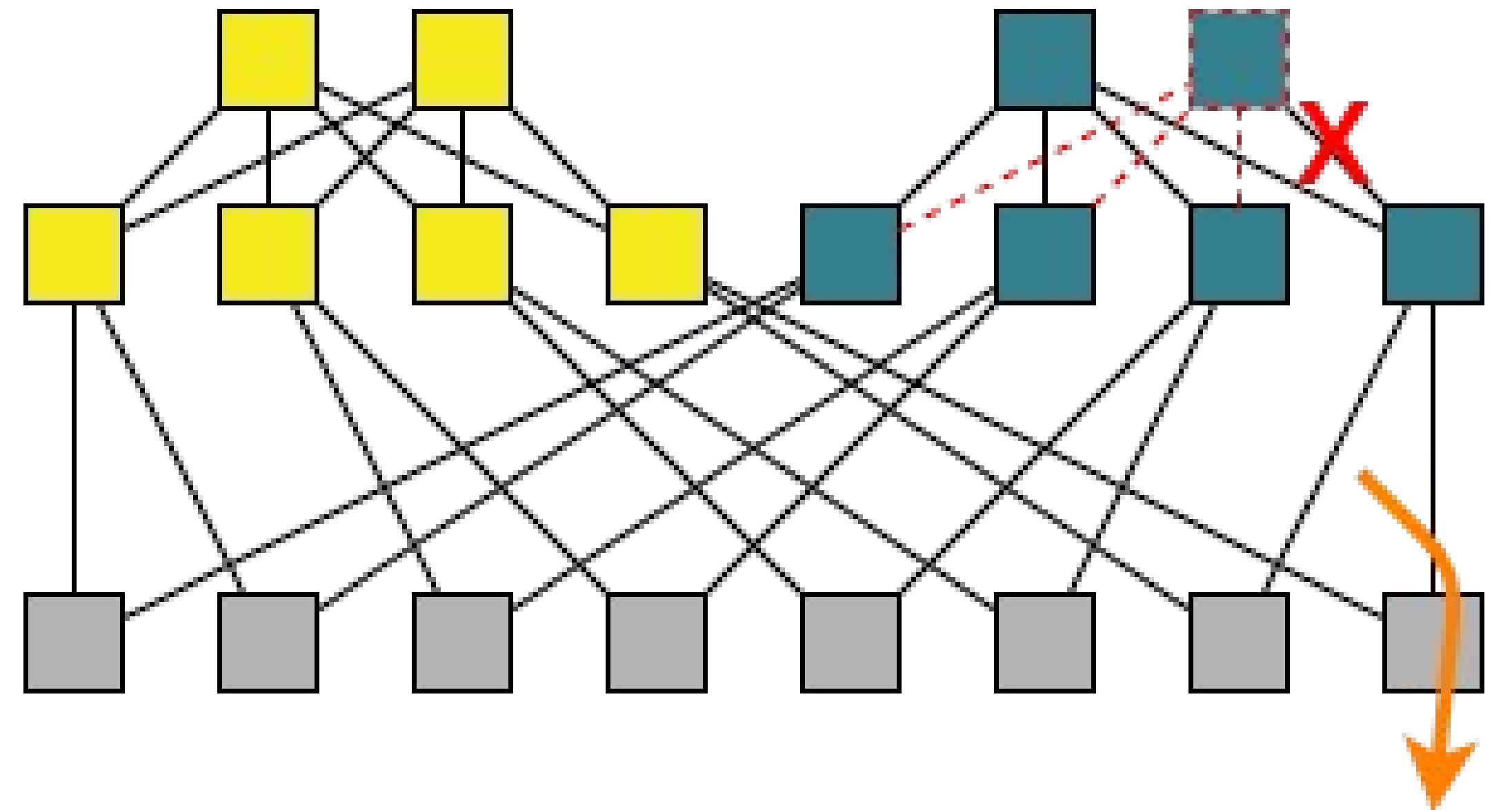
Failure on Level 2

- Can't use default on some spine 1s

level2 / spine2

level1 / spine1

level0 / leaf



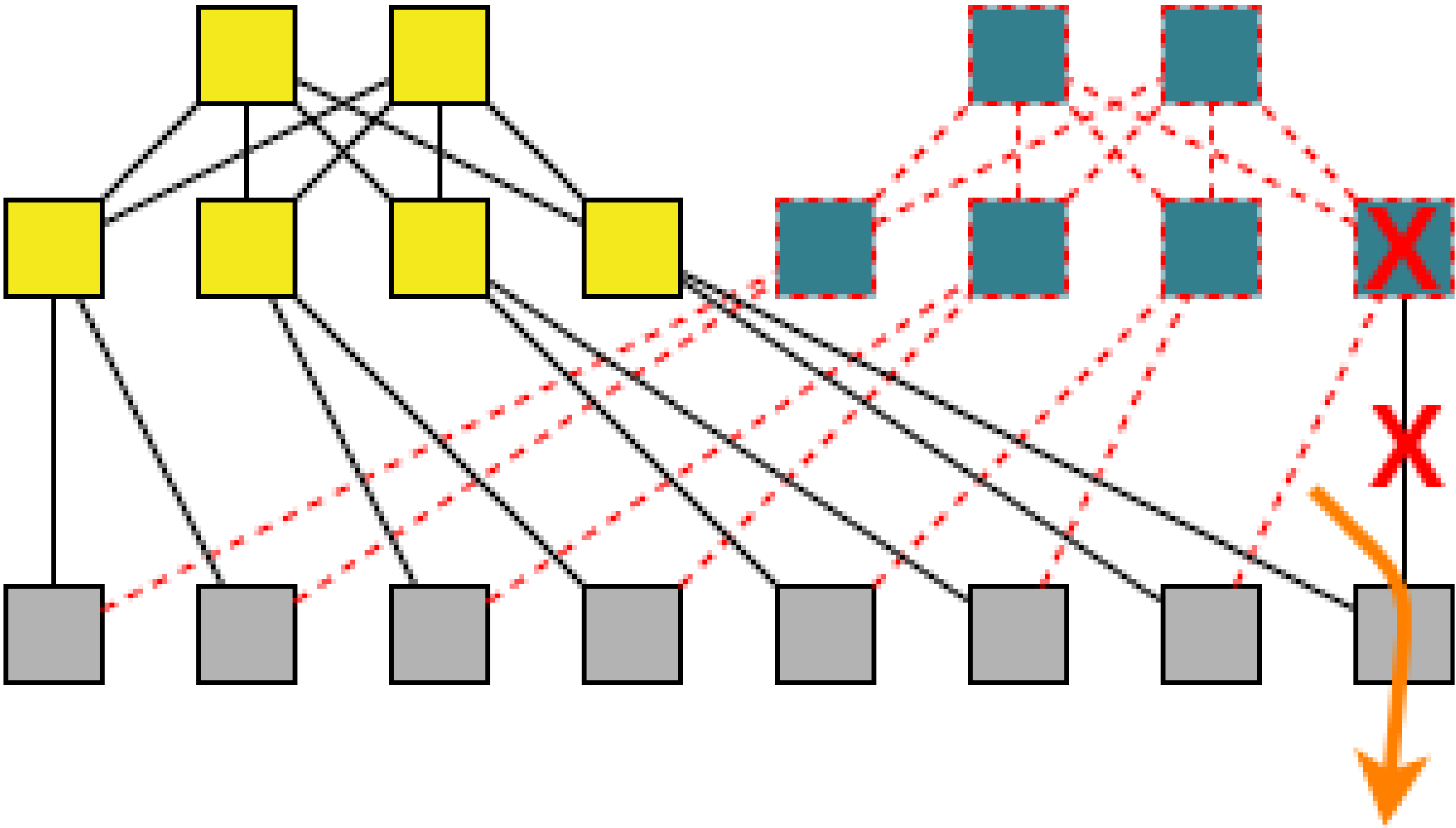
Failure on Level 1

- Can't use default on all leaves

level2 / spine2

level1 / spine1

level0 / leaf



More on Failures

- Situation becomes more interesting with more spine levels
 - Need to disaggregate below level where remote failure happened => the lower level where failure happened the larger blast radius
 - When considering failures south links belong to same level as node and north links belong to the next level
- Most deployments don't need > 2 spine levels

Failures and Forwarding State

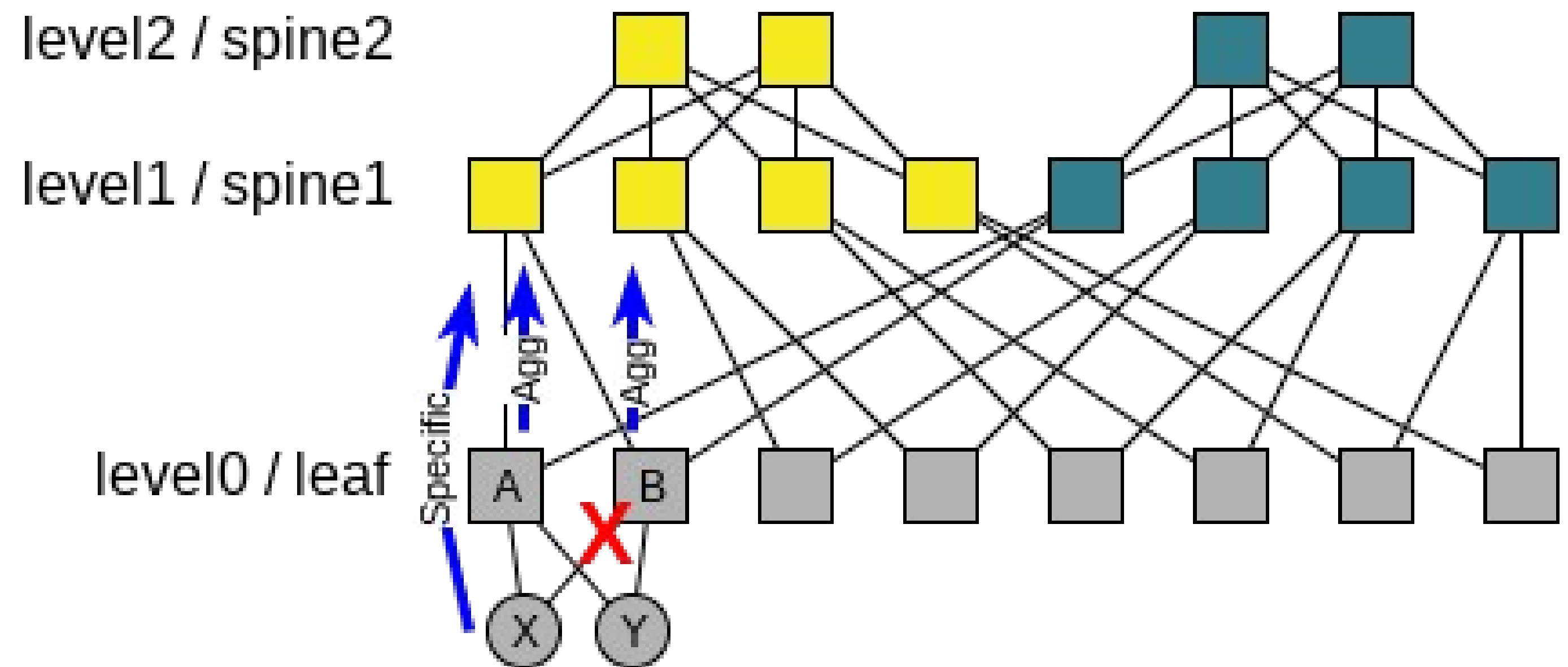
- ECMP forwarding state is often a scarce resource
 - Limited table sizes - ECMP NH groups and ECMP NHs
 - Grows fast - $\#NH_NHS = \#NH_GROUPS * \#ECMP_WIDTH$
 - North ECMP width 32 to 64 is common.
- ECMP scaling is most problematic on intermediate (non-ToF) spines:
 - have north routes & high north radix
- Leaves/ToRs normally have much smaller north radix
 - with narrow ECMP (normally leaves/ToRs) max $\#NH_GROUPS$ is limited by number of NH combinations = $2^{\text{NORTH_RADIX}}$
- IP routes with the same set of NHs normally share NH groups
- Each failure potentially introduces new route and new ECMP group

L3 Host Multihoming

- Pair of leaves originate the same aggregate prefix(es)
 - Until something fails
- Leaf doesn't have enough local information and can't figure out:
 - if host is dead or just lost one of the uplinks => host needs to decide
 - if another leaf in pair is alive and injecting the same aggregates
- Assuming valley free routing
 - No traffic reflection via top of Pod - it introduces its own corner cases - can choose between blackholes and loops
- Massive transient specific route injection can be a serious problem
 - e.g. DCN or PoD power up

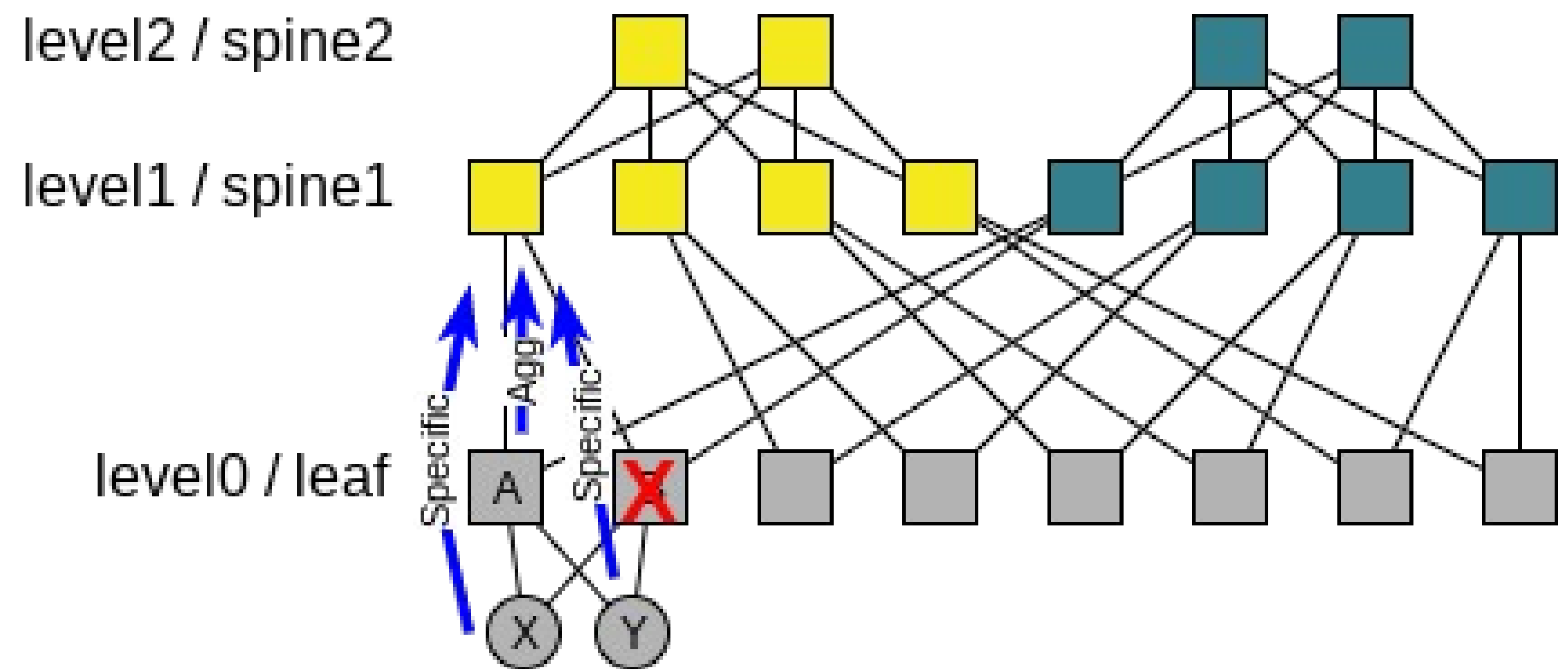
Host uplink failure

- Leaf A doesn't know that host X is unreachable via B
- Host can decide and inject specific route



Leaf failure

- Leaf B is down
- All attached hosts injects specifics
- Leaf A has no way to know that B is down and it's Ok to suppress specifics



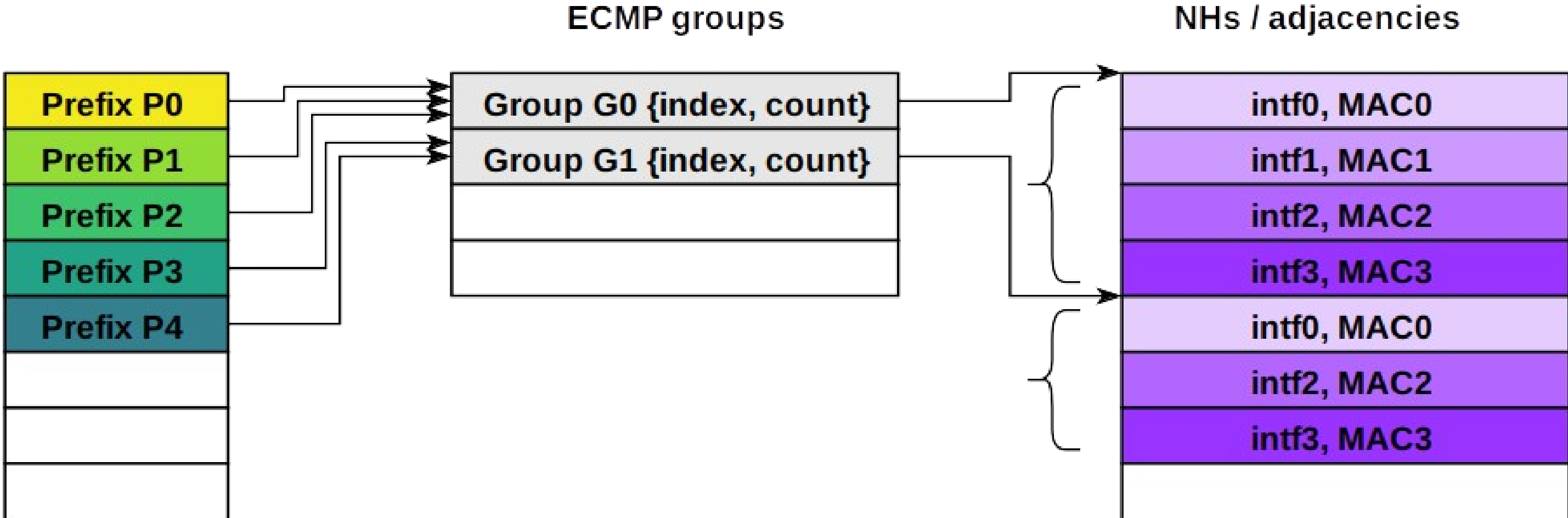
Backup Slides

Dense topologies and ECMP: MPLS vs IP

- IP: can share NH/rewrite entries for different destinations
- MPLS: normally need unique entry per {ingress label, egress interface} tuple
 - but with SR-style global labels optimizations are possible and some chipsets can do that

IP ECMP

LPM lookup with ECMP result



MPLS ECMP

LFIB lookup with ECMP result

