

# COGA

Combinatorial Optimization & Graph Algorithms



DFG Research Center MATHEON  
mathematics for key technologies

## Möhring, Rolf

# Online Scheduling of Bidirectional Traffic

## 默里·罗尔夫

**We are hiring!**



### BISEC

BEIJING INSTITUTE FOR  
SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING COMPUTING

北京科学与工程计算研究院



# Some of my applied projects



## Adaptive Traffic Control



the mind of movement



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung



## Routing of AGVs in the Hamburg harbor



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung



## Constructing periodic timetables in public transport



the mind of movement



Bahn Berlin 



## Coordinated traffic light control in networks



the mind of movement



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung



## Ship Traffic Optimization for the Kiel Canal



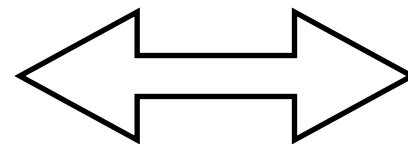
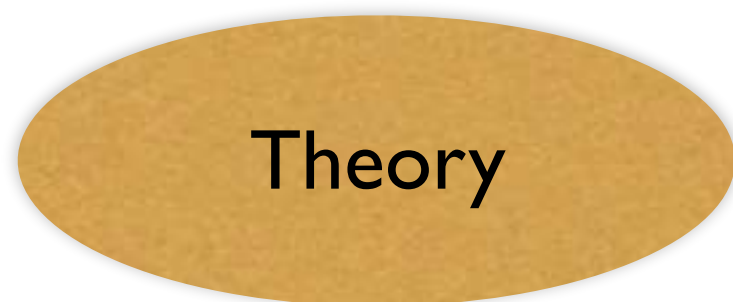
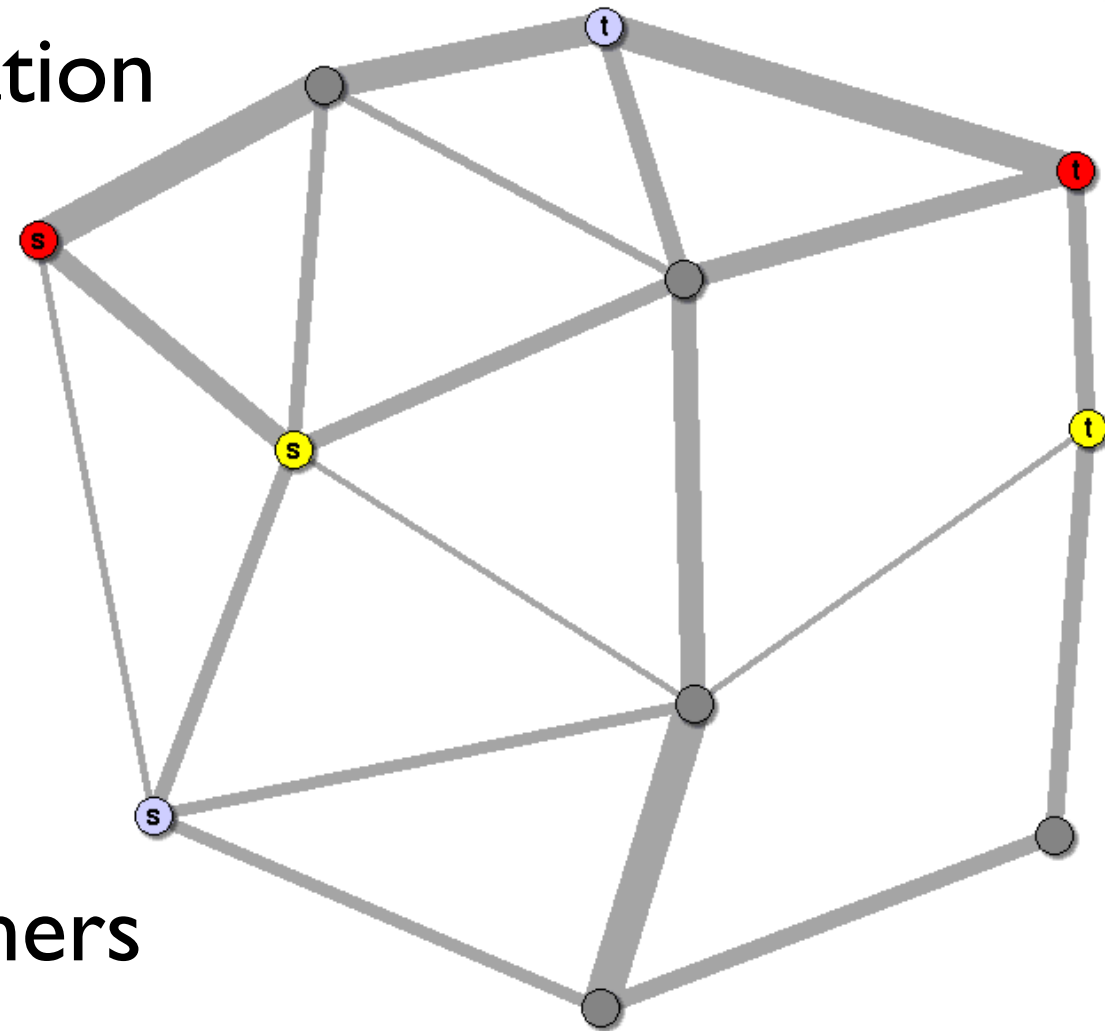
WSV.de

Wasser- und  
Schiffahrtsverwaltung  
des Bundes

# Common characteristics

Network flows (in many variations) and scheduling

- ▶ techniques from discrete optimization and operations research
  - network and graph algorithms, optimization, heuristics ...
  - integer linear programming
- ▶ modeling
- ▶ implementation skills
- ▶ speaking the language of practitioners





# Bidirectional Traffic



train networks



road networks



ship traffic



communication networks



# Optimizing the Kiel Canal

Elisabeth Lübbecke  
Marco Lübbecke  
Rolf Möhring

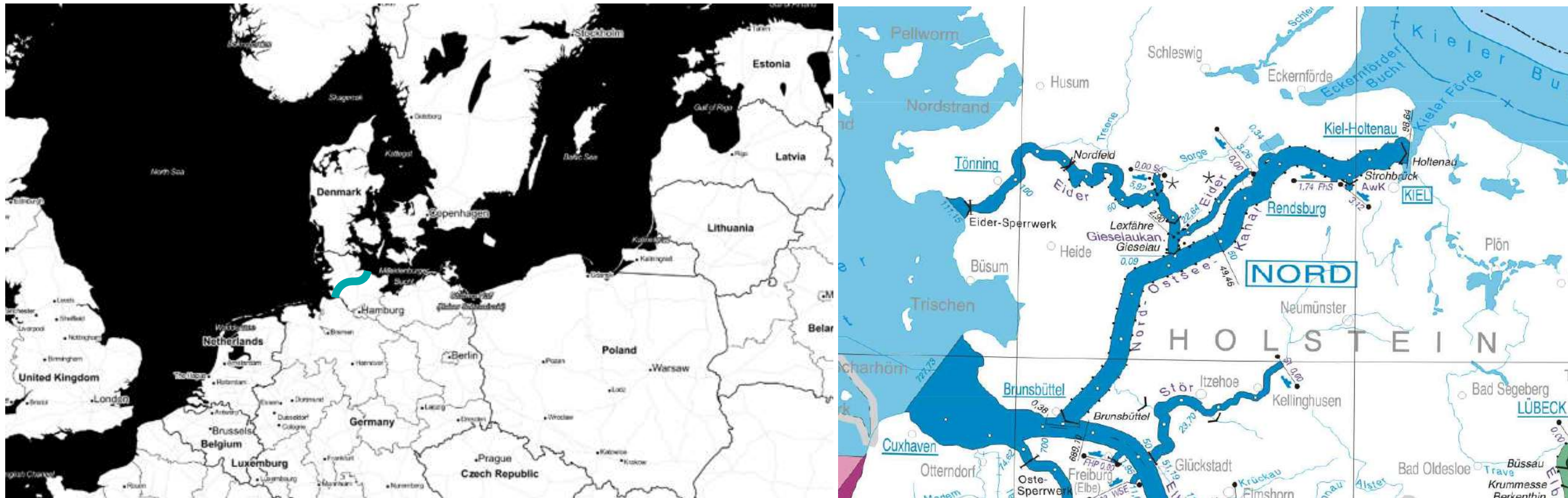


**WSV.de**

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des Bundes



# The Kiel Canal (Nord-Ostsee-Kanal)



- ▶ Connects North Sea and Baltic Sea
- ▶ 280 nautical miles saved compared to the way around Skaw
- ▶ Canal with highest traffic in the World

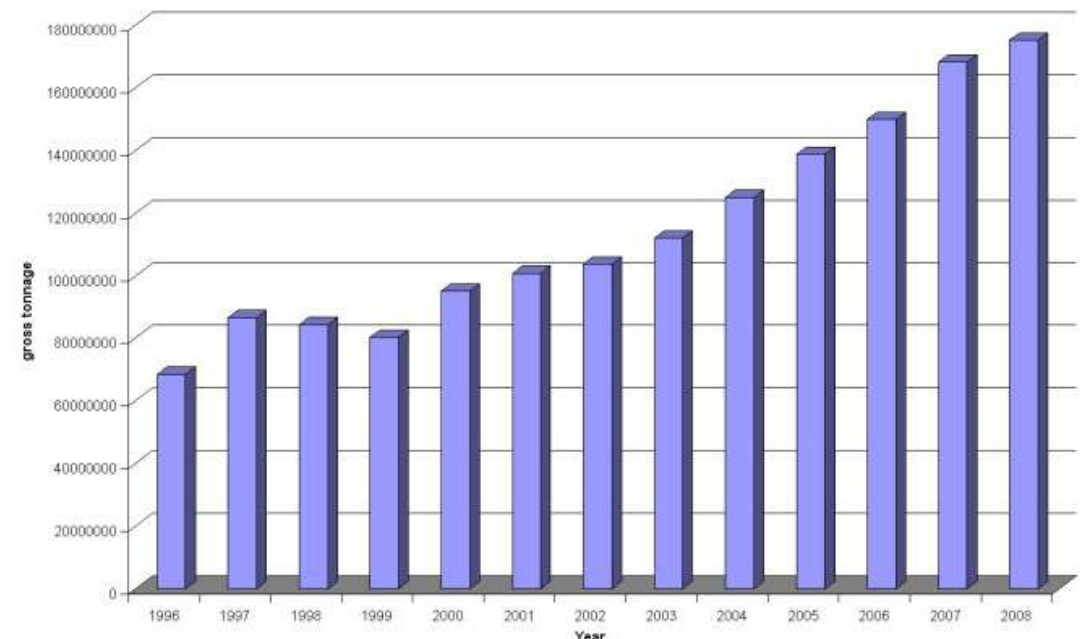
# Some traffic details

- ▶ Passage lasts 8–10 hours
- ▶ 40-50 vessels at the same time



- ▶ It's too tight in the canal
- ▶ traffic guidance is needed

- ▶ Increasing gross tonnage
- ▶ 1996 – 2008

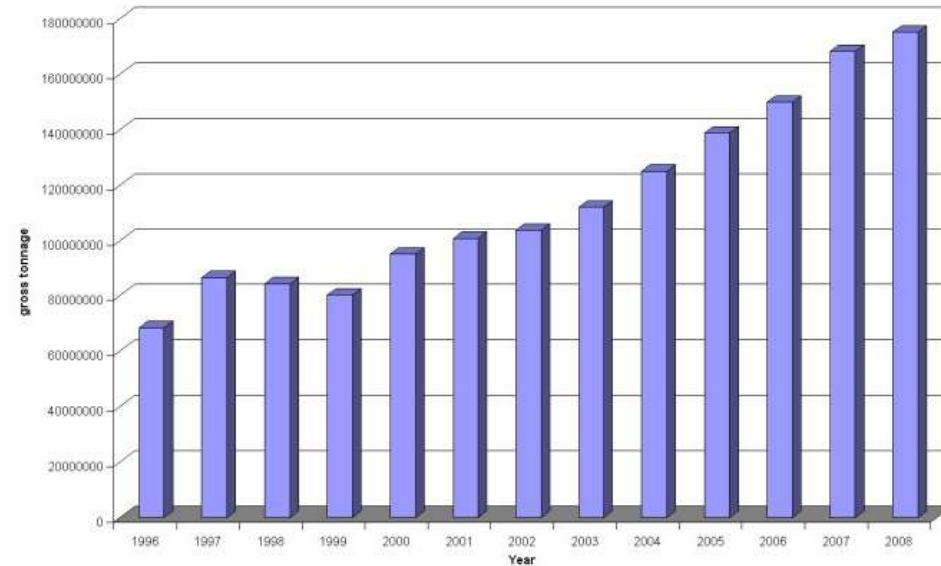




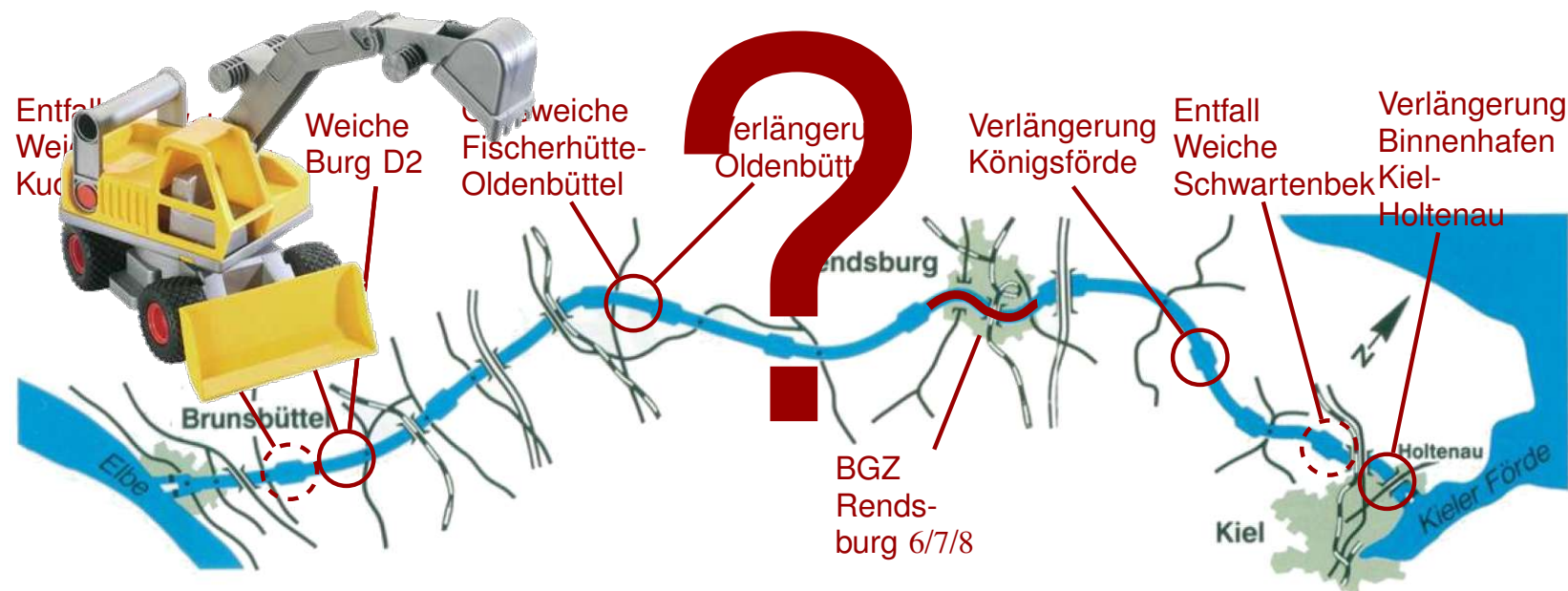
# Why optimization?

*We are not prepared for future traffic, need better routing*

Increasing gross tonnage  
1996 – 2008



*Canal needs enlargement*





# Why we (the COGA group)?

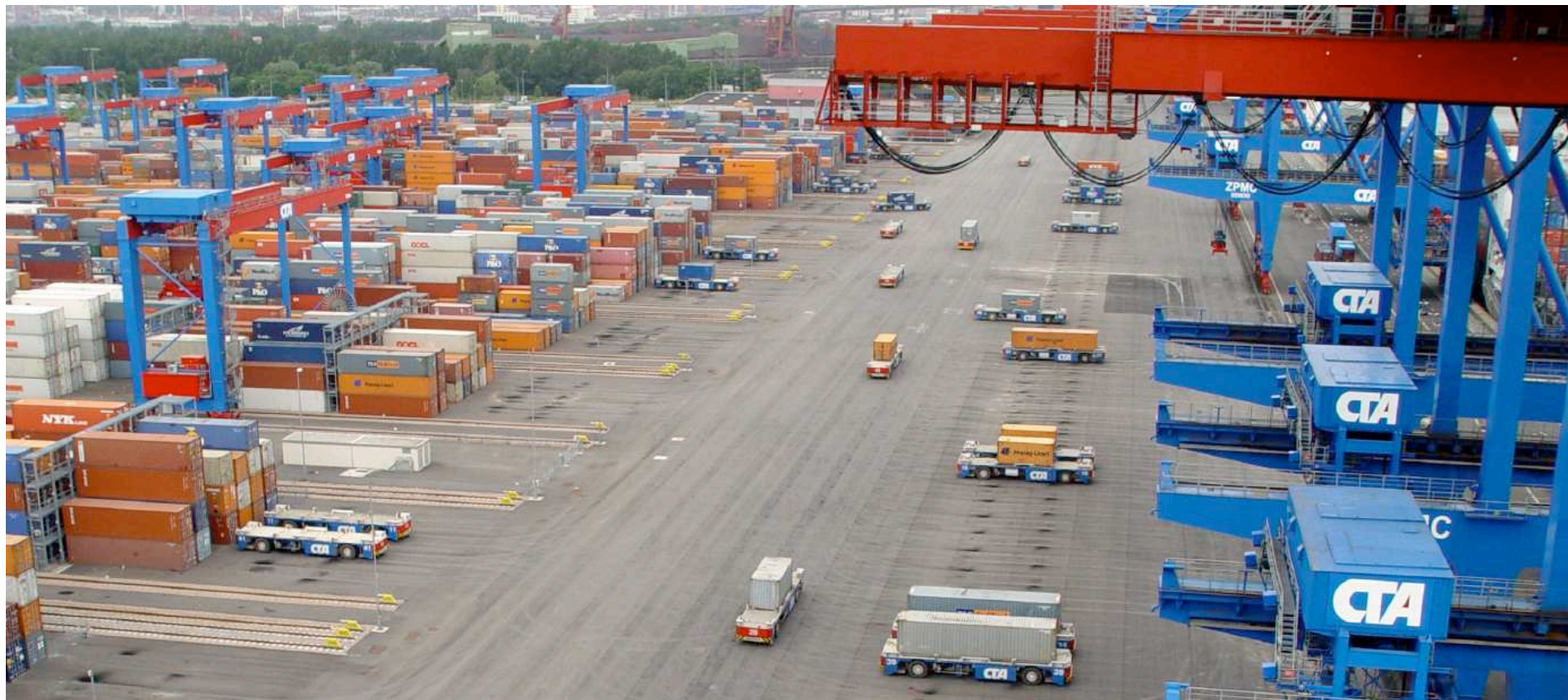
*They new about this application ...*



Routing of AGVs in the Hamburg harbor



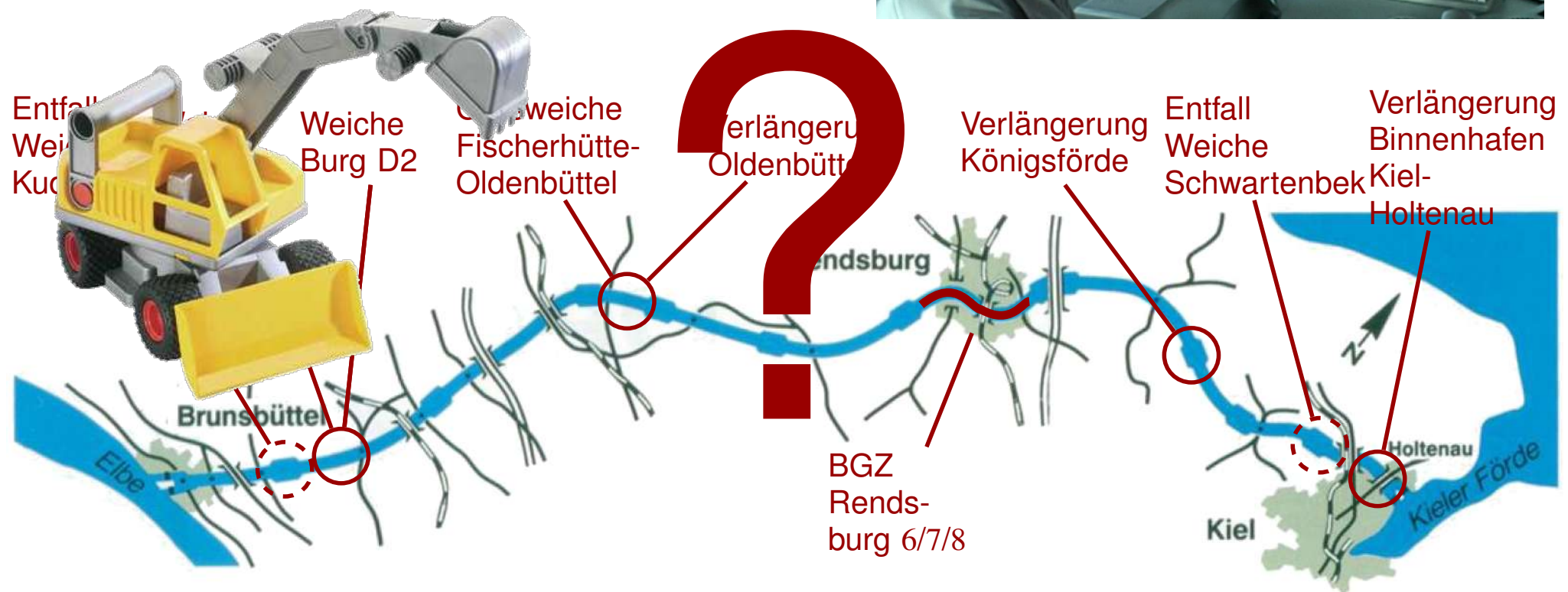
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*... and thought theirs was similar*

# What do you expect from us?

- ▶ Improve manual planning

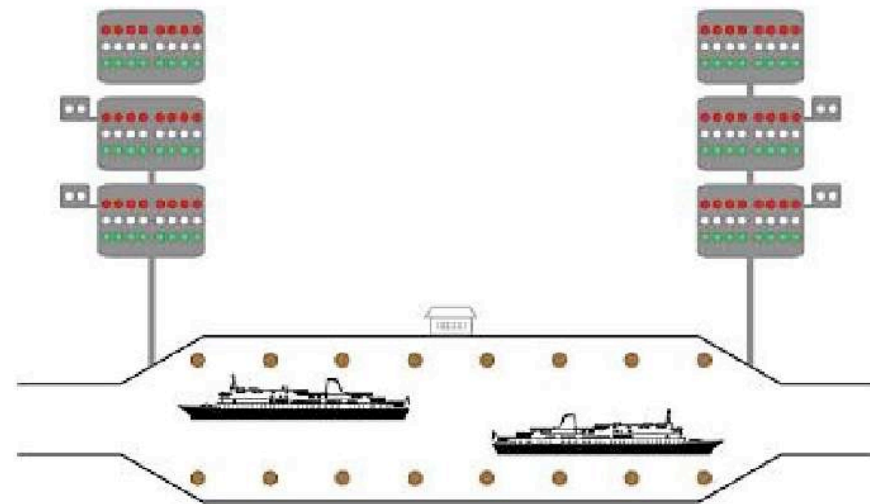


- ▶ Recommendations for canal enlargement (widening, new sidings ...) for future traffic
- ▶ Automated guidance during construction phase



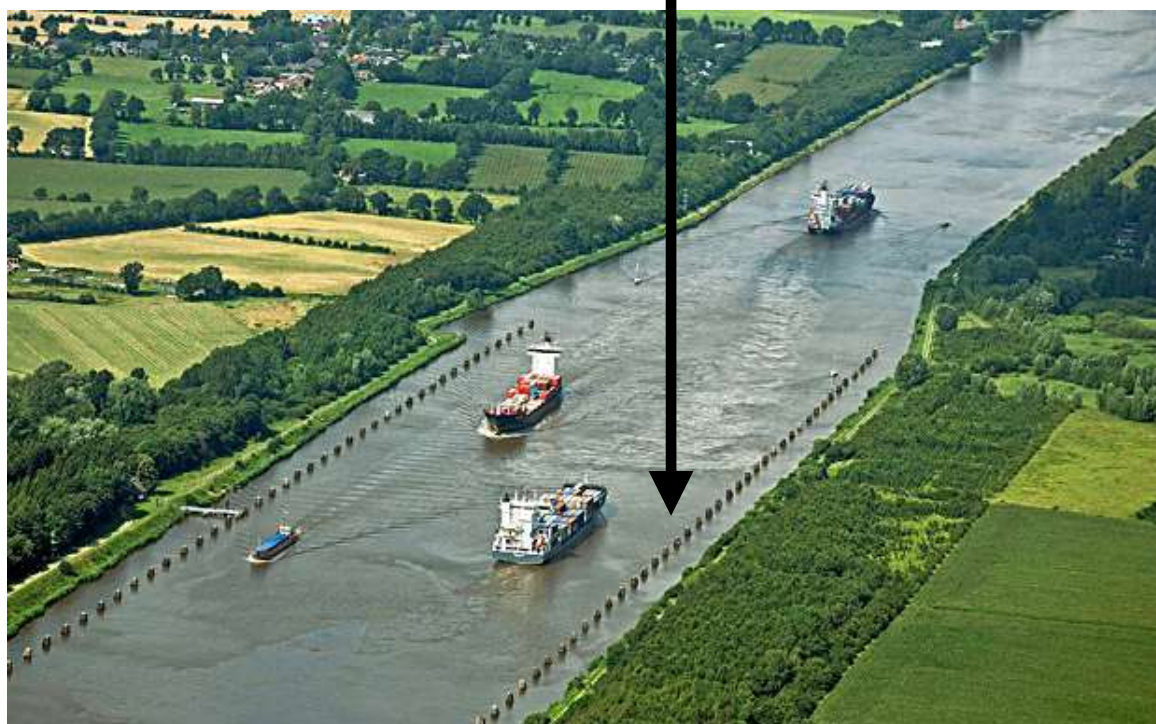
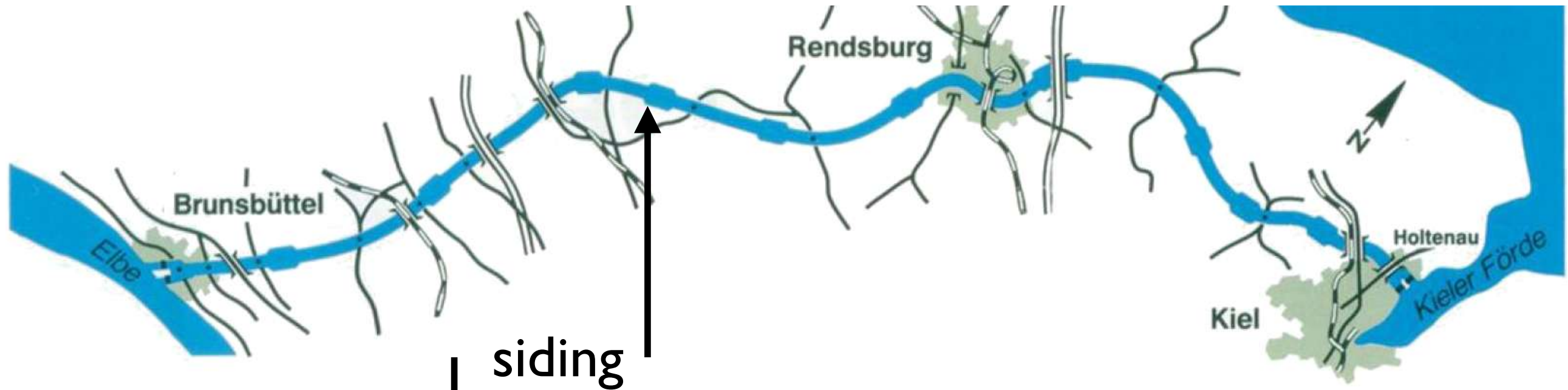
# What is the main problem?

*Opposing traffic creates the main problems ...*



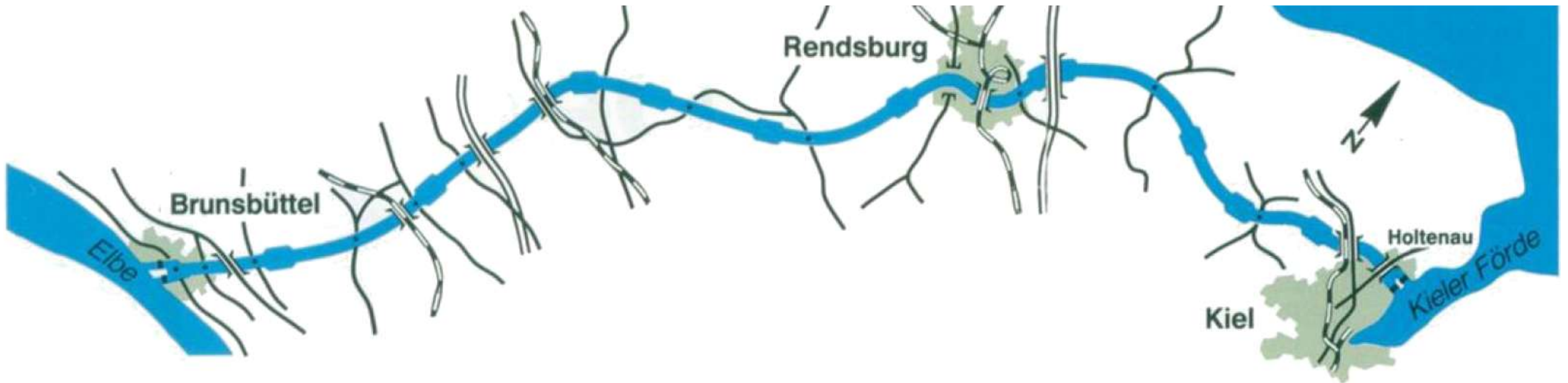
- ▶ Ships must be scheduled to wait in sidings (turnouts)
- ▶ Waiting can't be too long
- ▶ New ships arrive online

# Detailed view at a siding



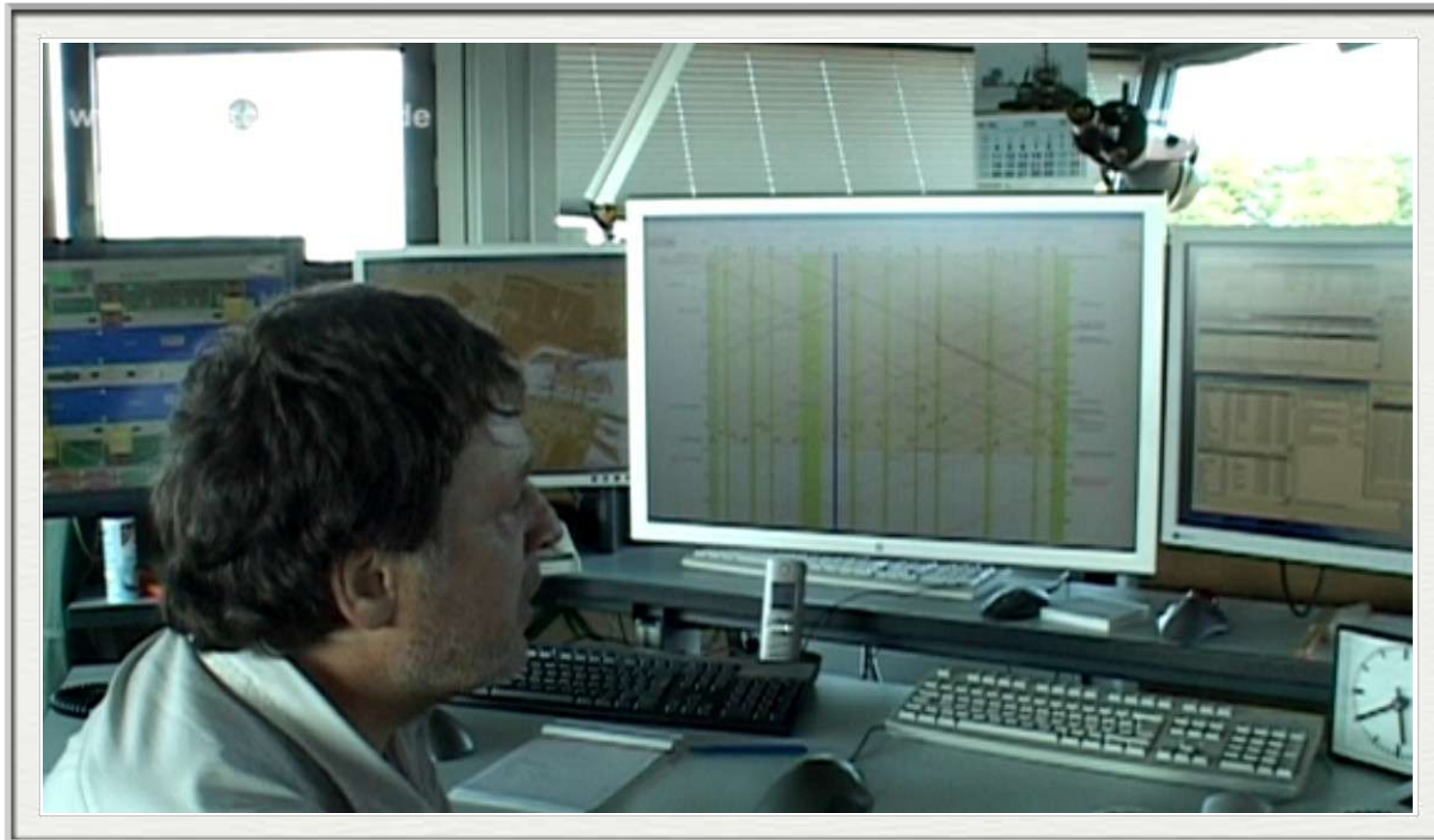


# A glimpse at traffic details



Combines routing and scheduling

# What is the current practice?



*Manual traffic guidance by experienced planners  
with a nautical background*



# Optimization model

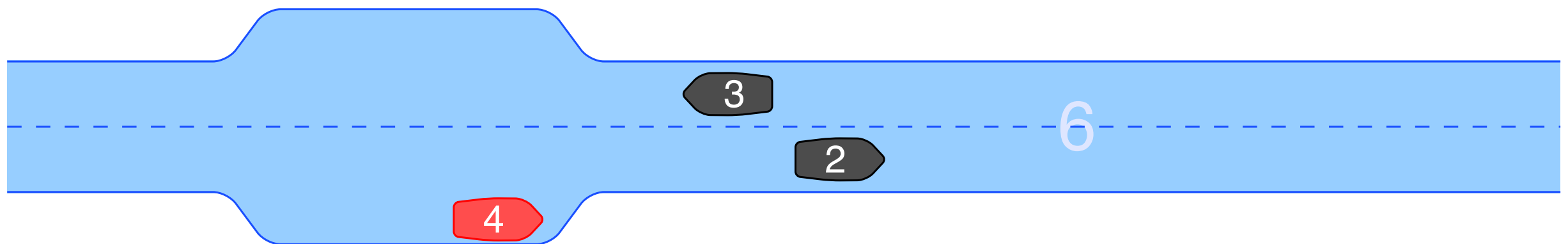
## ► The canal

- segments and sidings
- passing limits per segment
- capacities per siding

## ► The ships

- dimensions, type
- origin, destination
- release date, velocity

sum of ship types  $\leq$  passing limit of segment

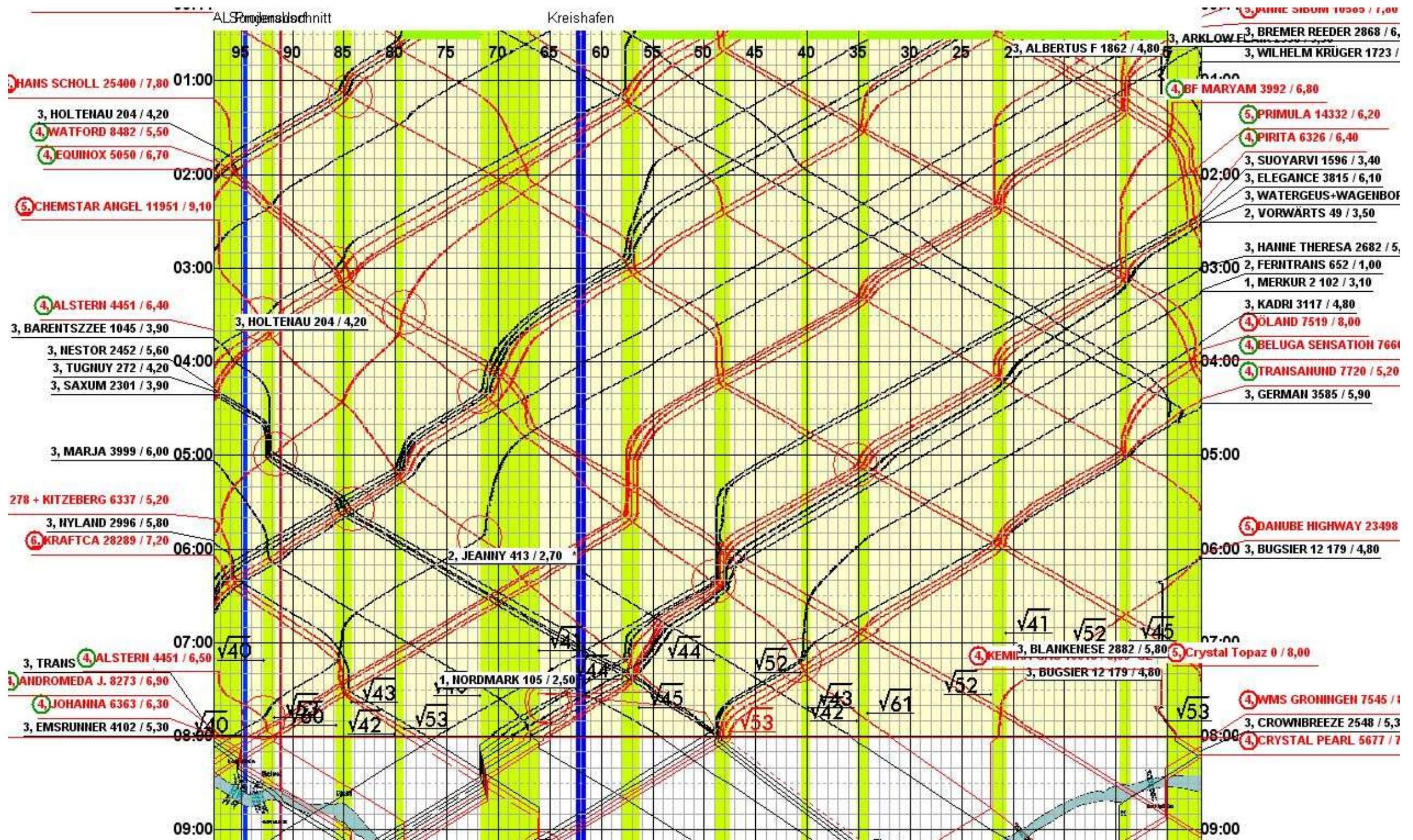


Goal: Find collision-free dynamic routes  
minimizing total waiting time  $\sum_{\text{ship } s} w_s$



# Is data available?

*Yes, we have a space time diagram of every day*





# Can we get data?

*Yes, we have everything on our computers ...*

- ▶ The canal
  - topography
  - capacities per siding
  - passing model
- ▶ The ships and their manually planned routes
  - plus traffic group, waiting times etc.



We agreed on a side contract to get the data out of their database



# Routing AGVs in the Hamburg Harbour

An aerial photograph of a large port terminal in Hamburg, Germany. A massive container ship, with 'P&O Nedlloyd' written on its side, is docked at a pier. The ship's deck is densely packed with multi-colored shipping containers. Numerous blue and red gantry cranes are positioned along the pier, ready for loading and unloading. The terminal area is filled with stacks of containers and various port infrastructure. In the background, the city of Hamburg is visible, including a large bridge and industrial buildings. The sky is clear and blue.

Ewgenij Gawrilow, Elisabeth Günther,  
Ekkehard Köhler, Rolf Möhring, Björn Stenzel



# Container Terminal Altenwerder (CTA)



- ▶ most modern container terminal
- ▶ far reaching automatization of the logistic processes
- ▶ expanding at high rates
- ▶ here: Transport of containers between waterside and storage area
  - with 70 Automated Guided Vehicles (AGVs)





# Overview of the harbor layout





# Overview of the harbor layout





# Routing area with AGVs

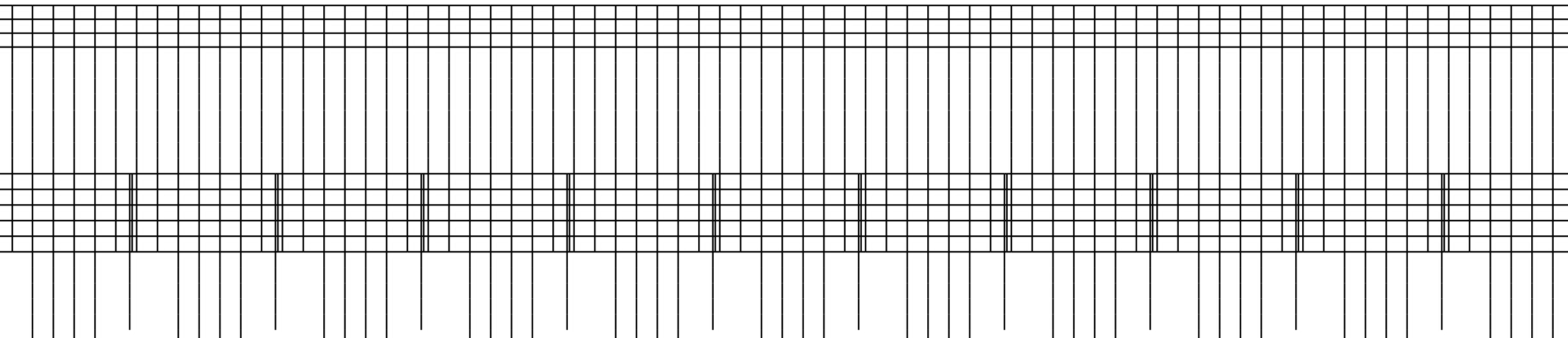




# Optimization model

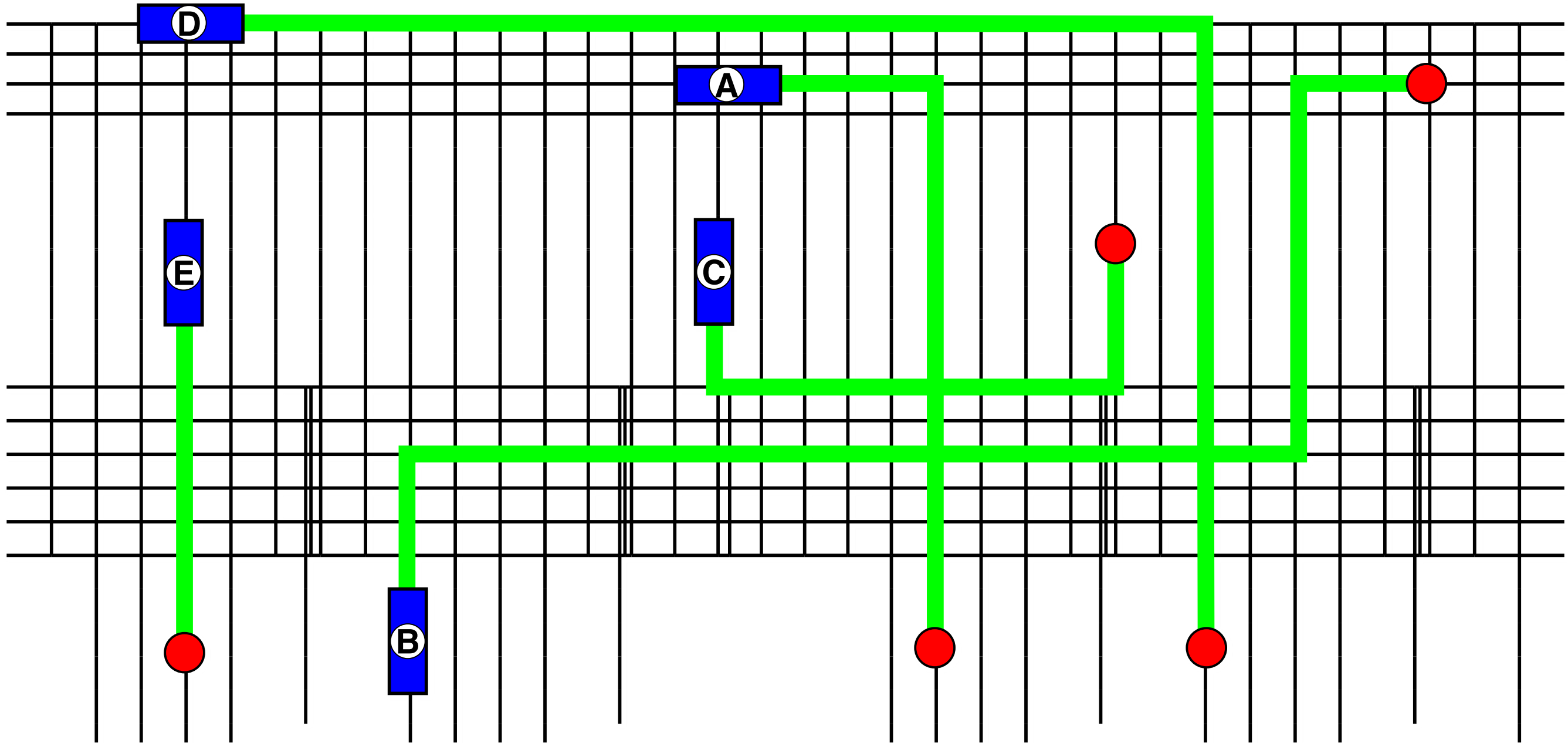
- ▶ Graph with 15,647 arcs and 5,445 vertices
- ▶ Travel times  $\tau_a$  on arc  $a$
- ▶ Sequence of routing requests with
  - start, destination, departure time
- ▶ Wanted:
  - collision-free routes
  - guaranteed arrival times
  - high throughput at the bridges (= cranes)

water side



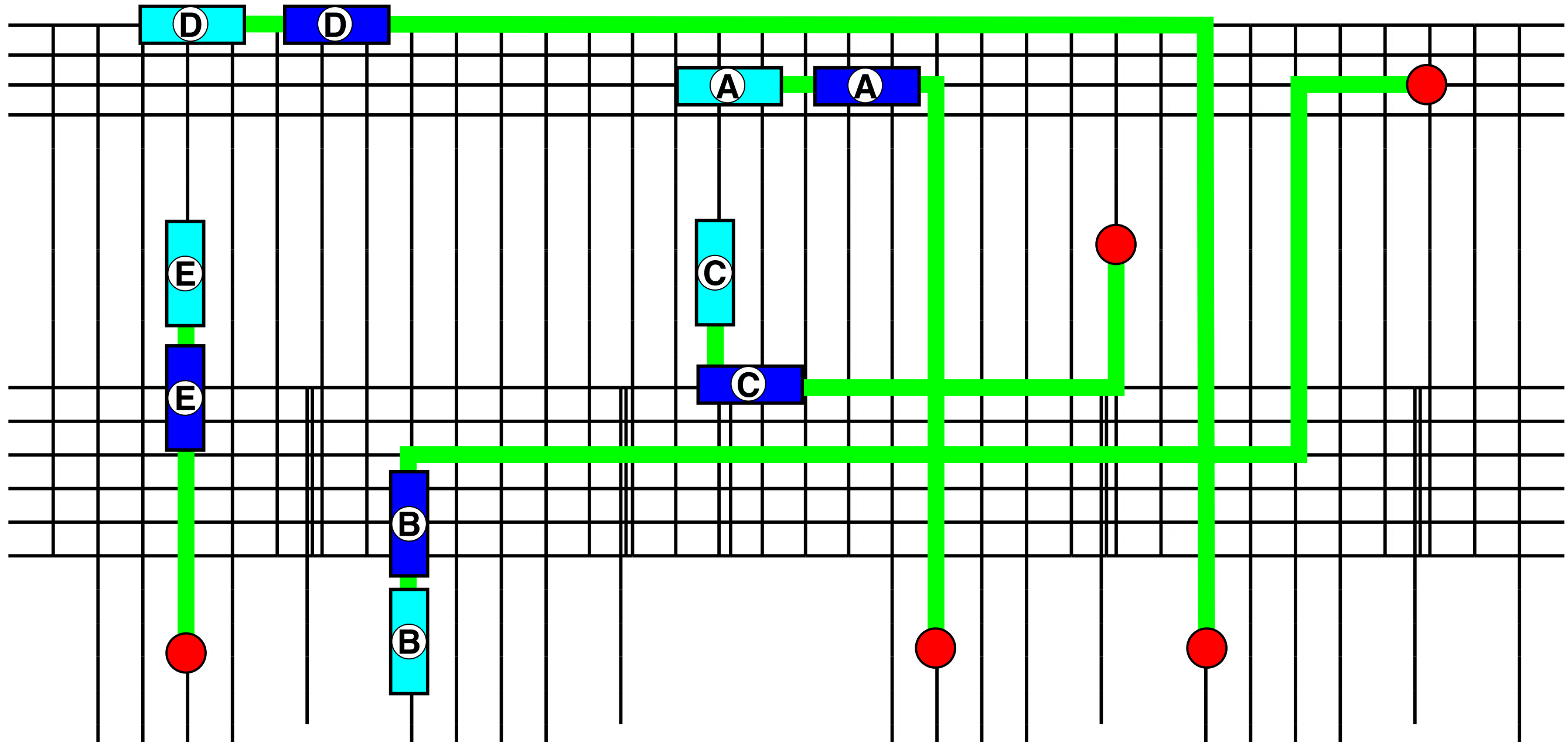
storage area

# Example of a routing

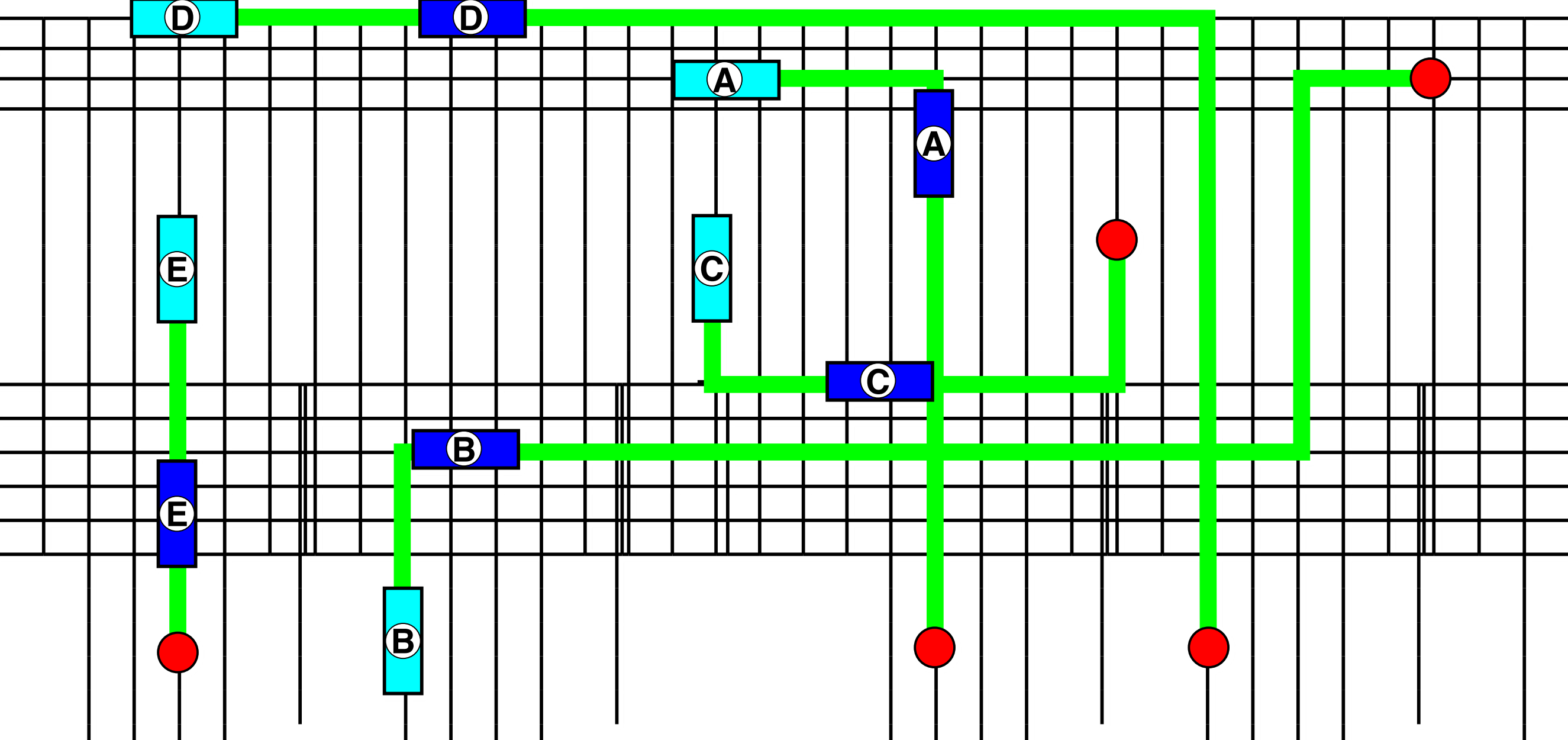




# Example of a routing

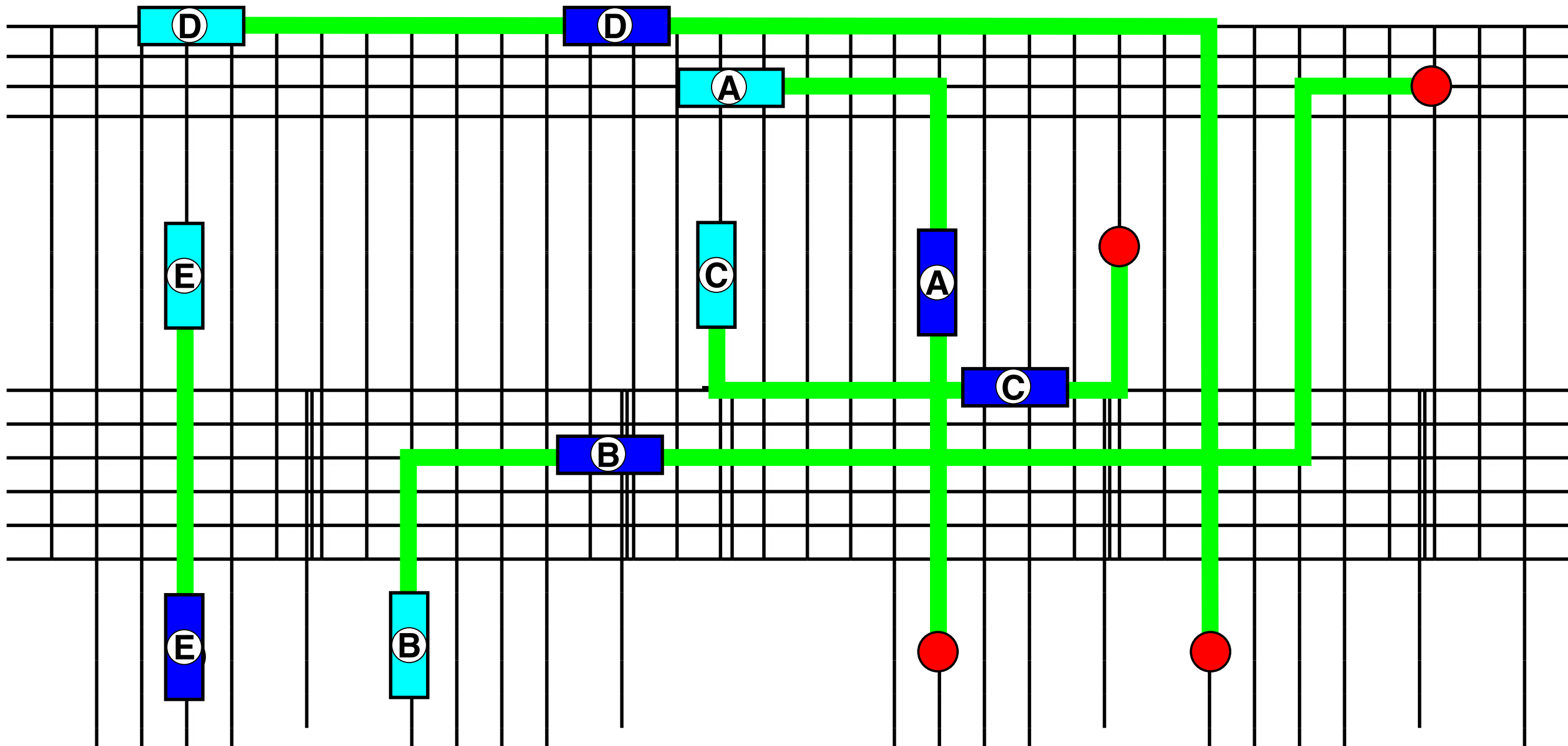


# Example of a routing

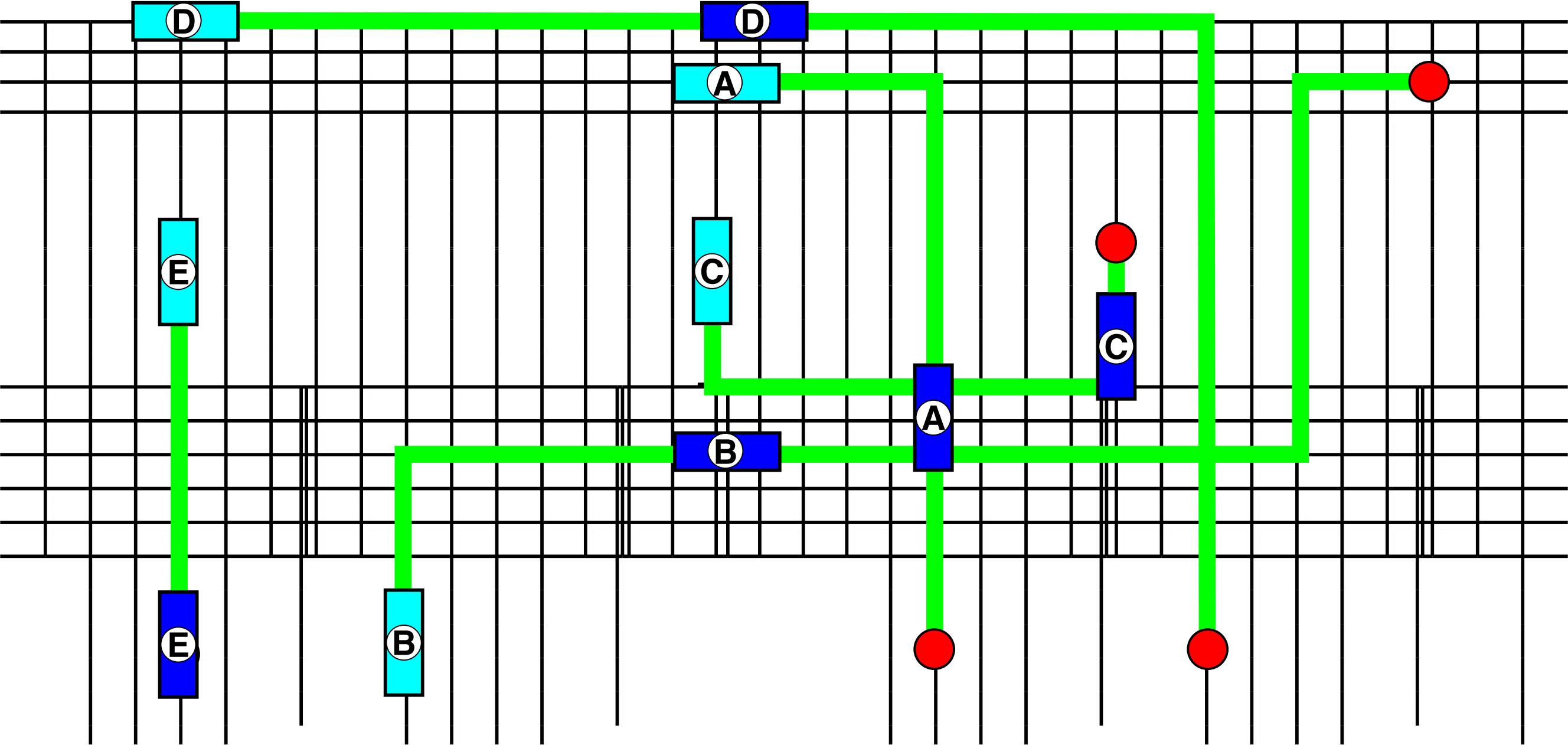




# Example of a routing

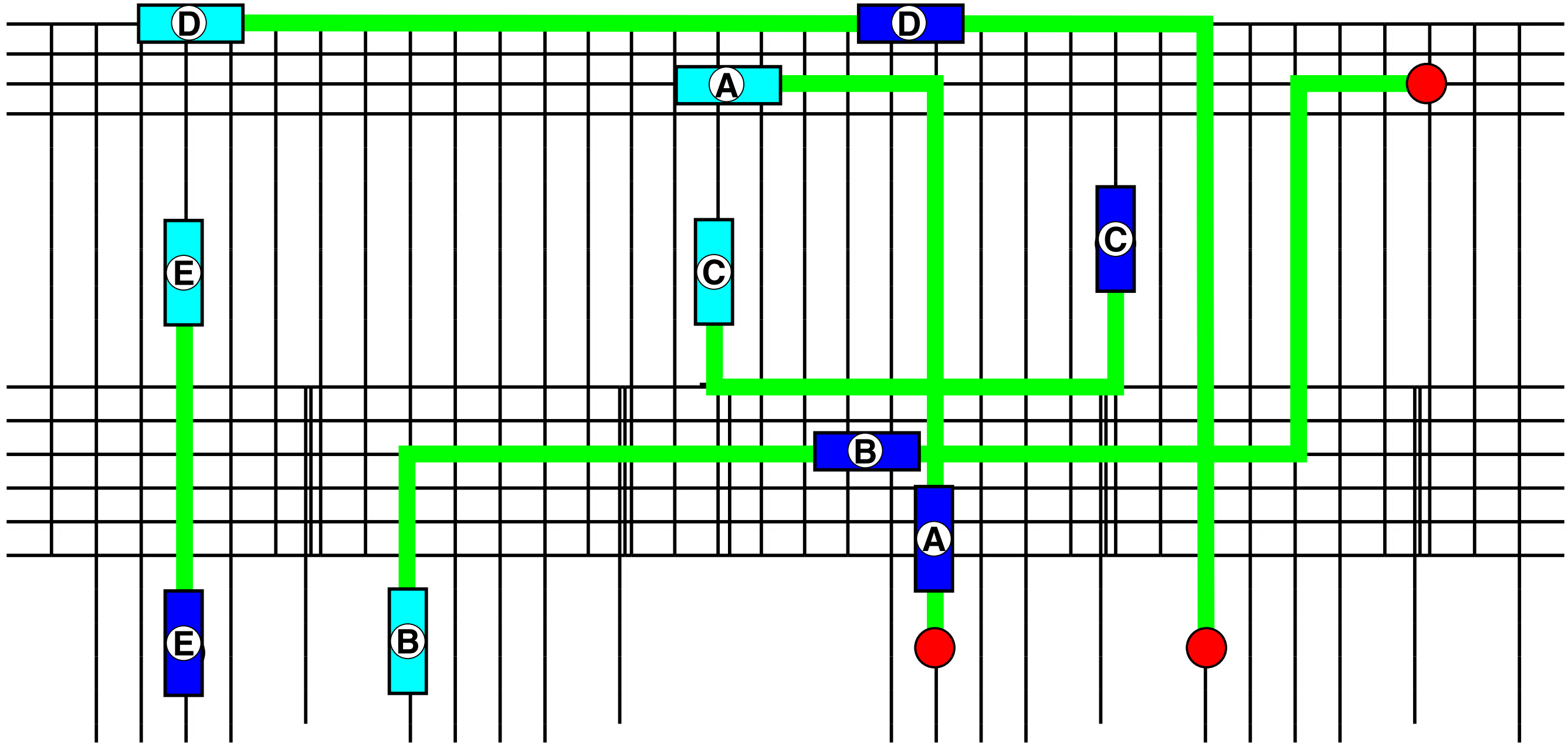


# Example of a routing

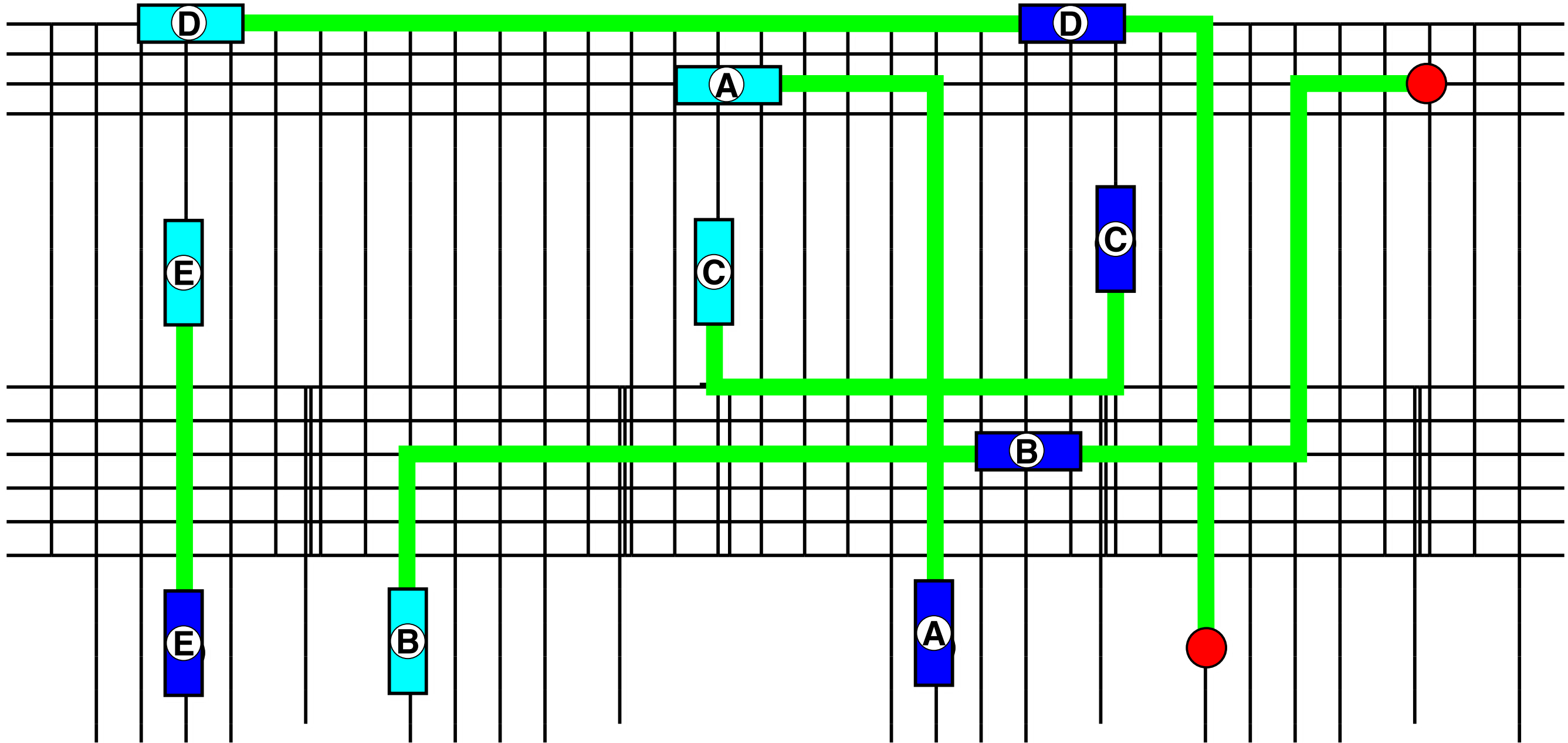




# Example of a routing

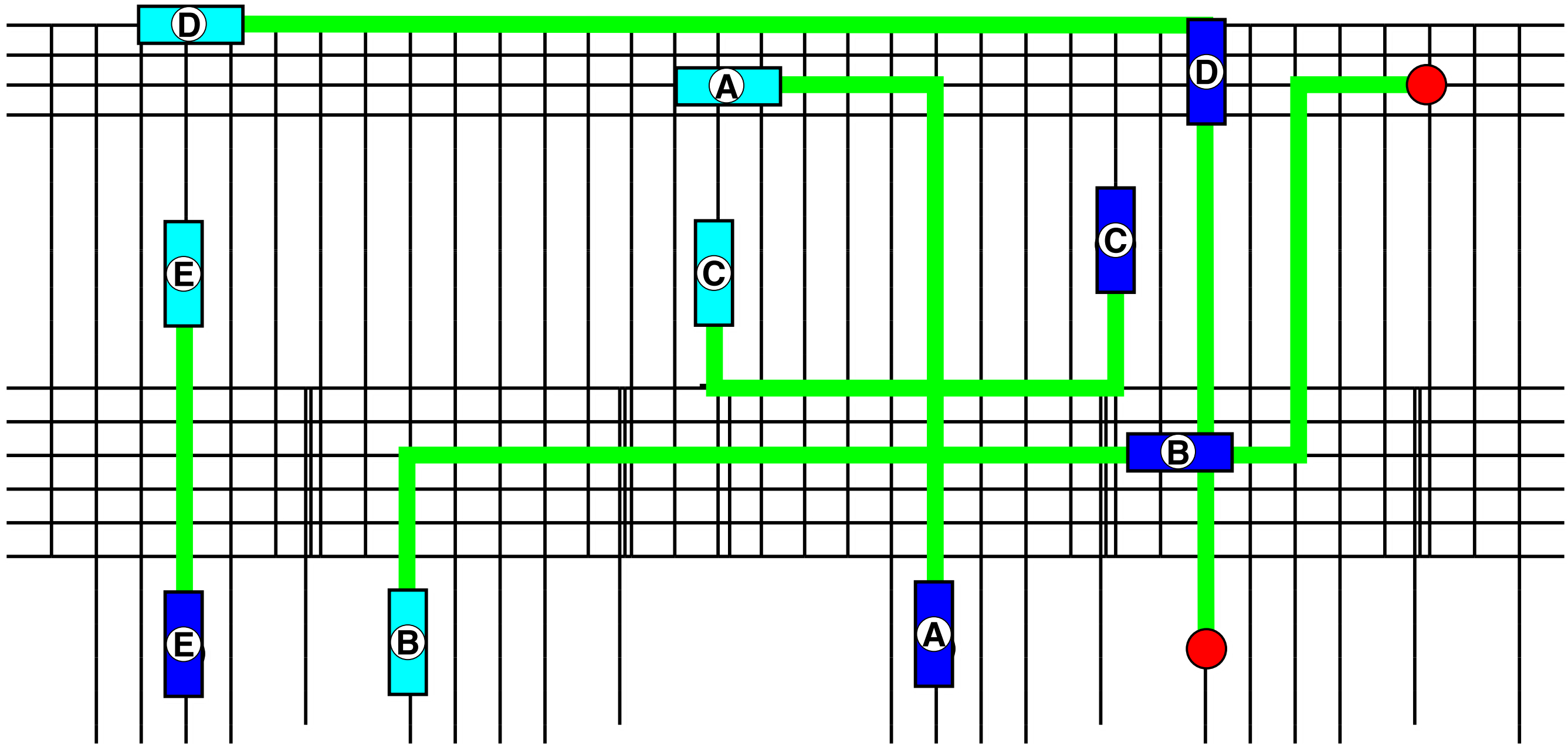


# Example of a routing

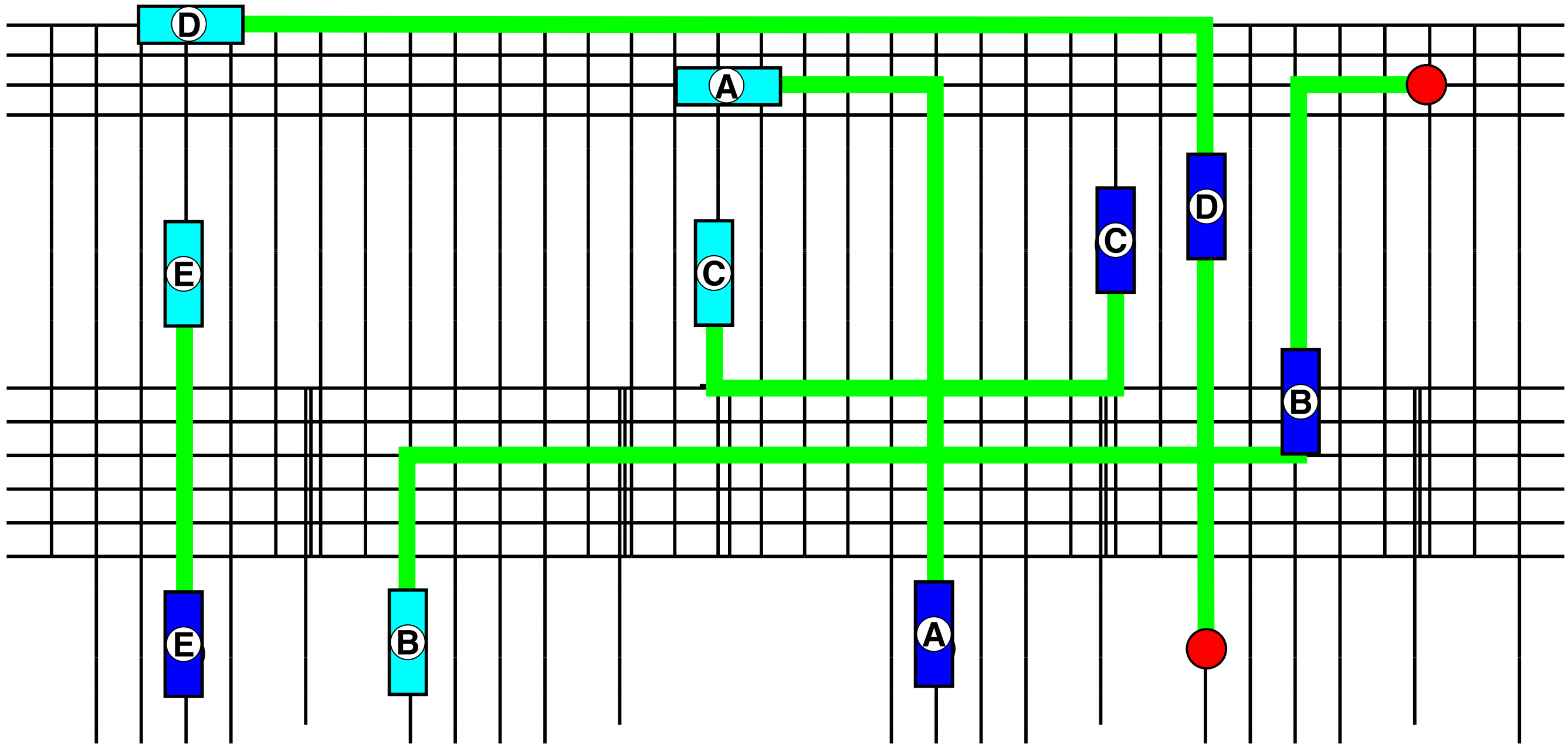




# Example of a routing

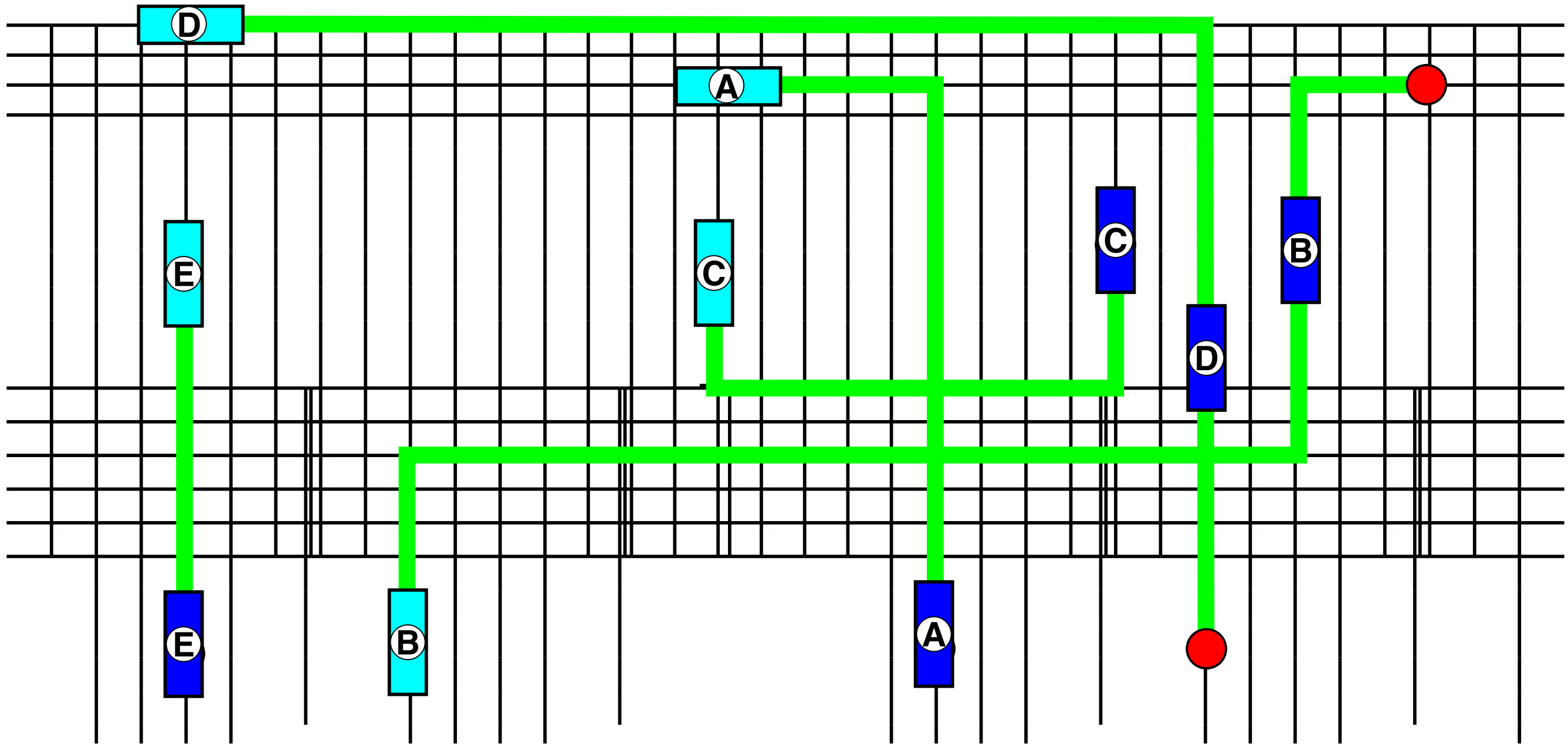


# Example of a routing

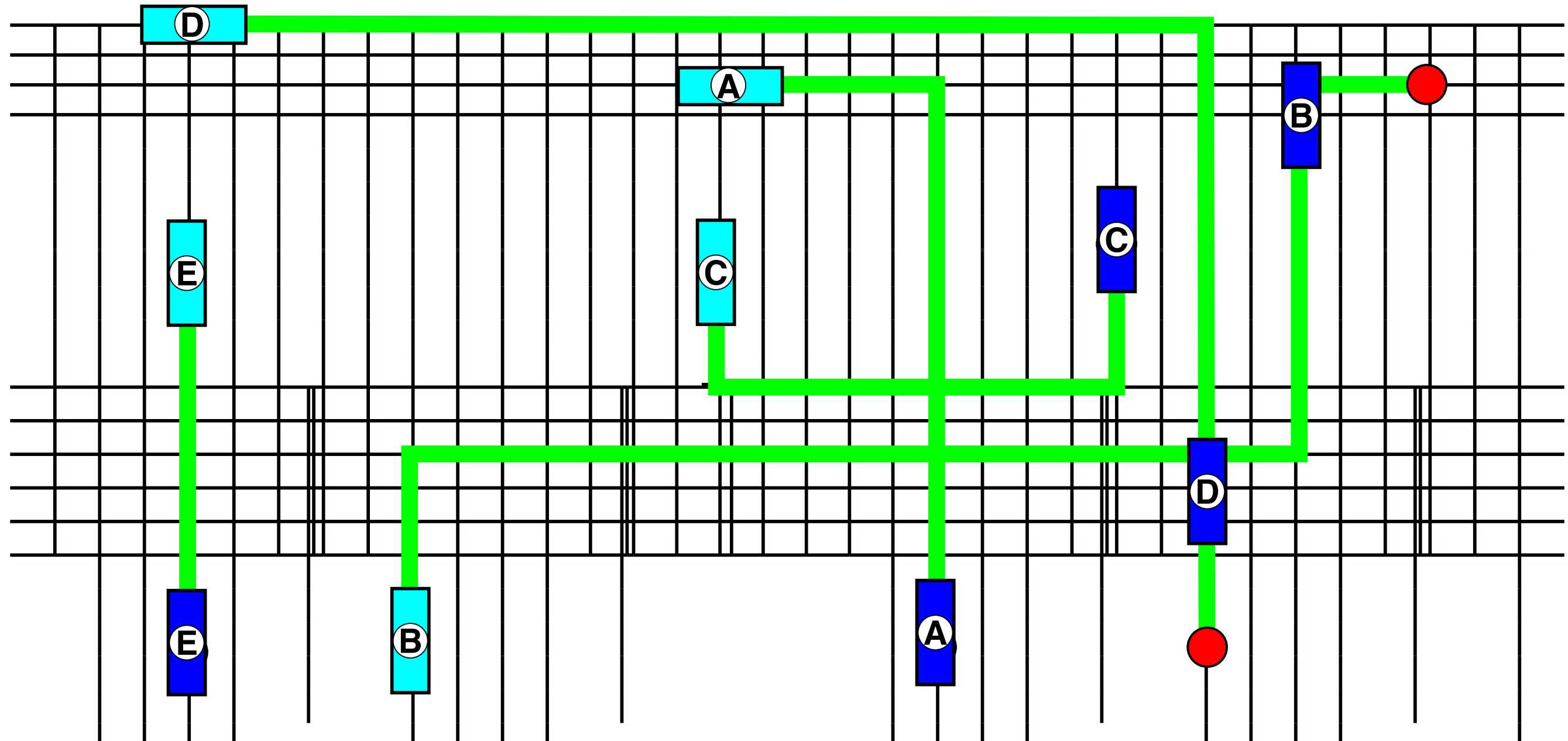




# Example of a routing

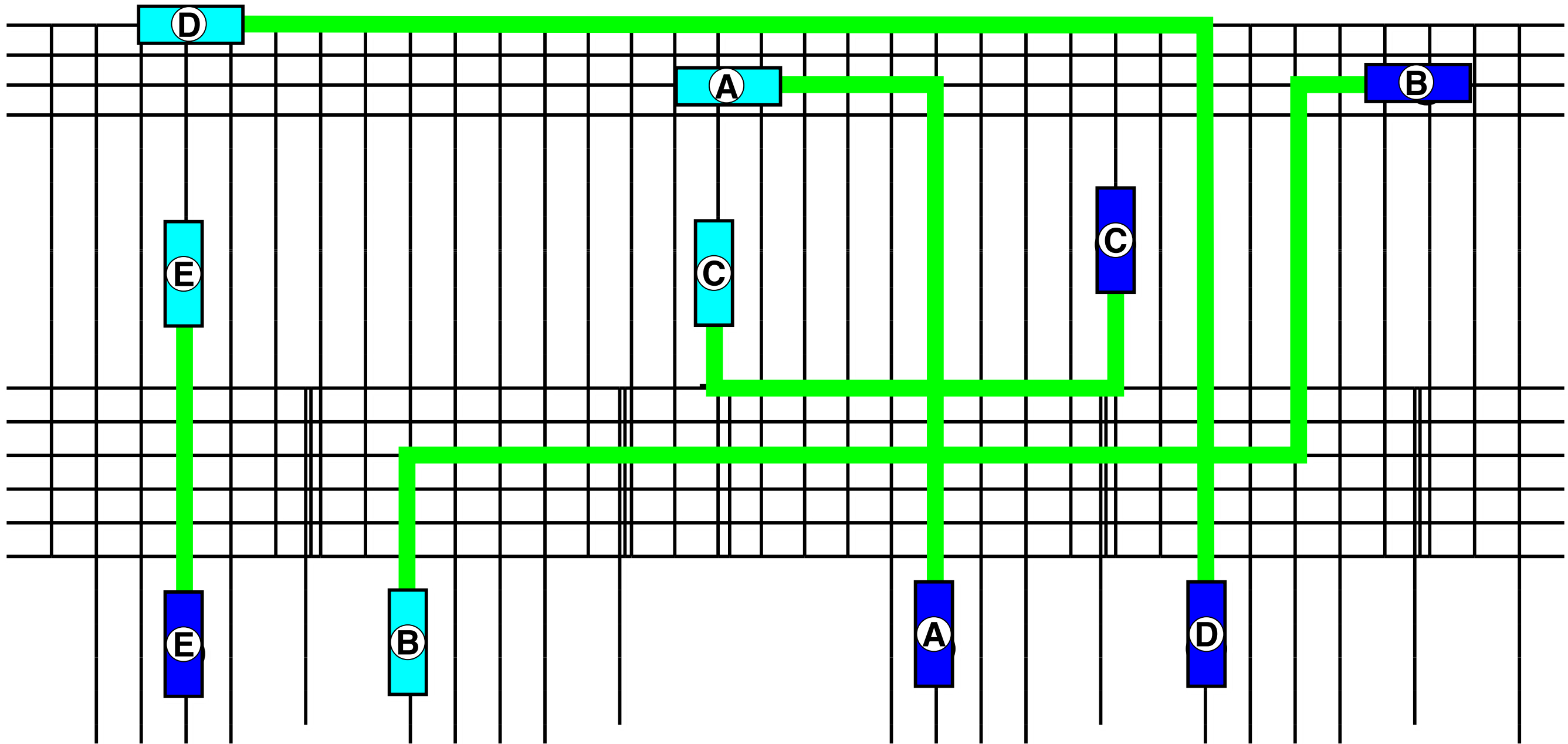


# Example of a routing

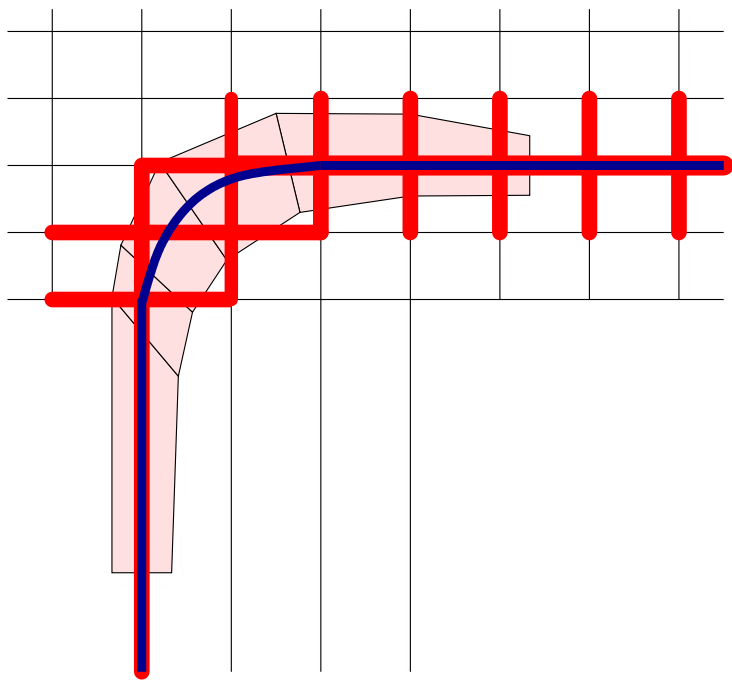




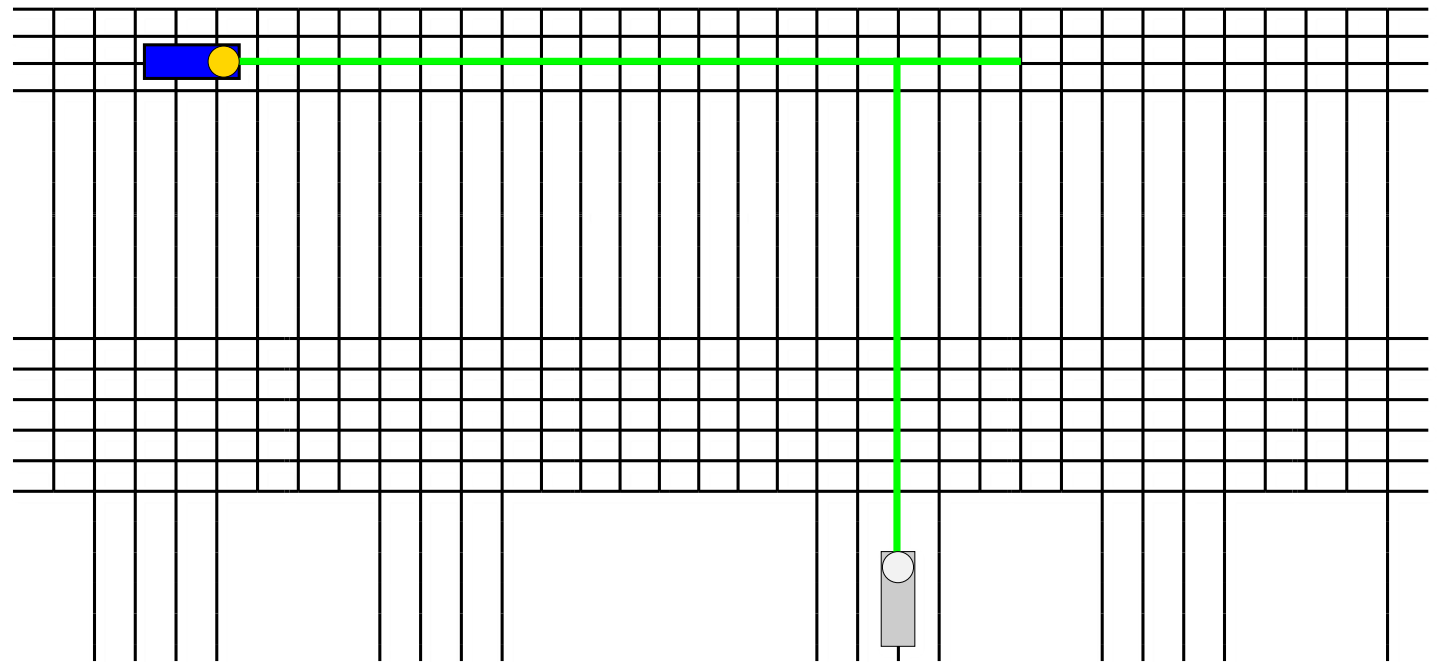
# Example of a routing



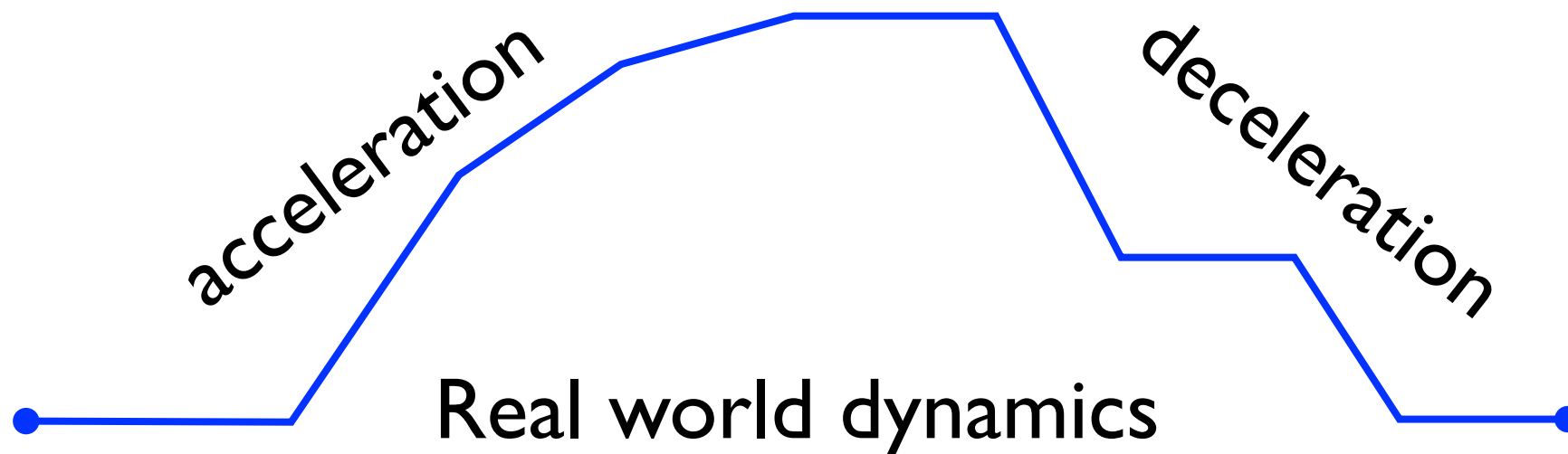
# Complicating conditions



Turning behavior



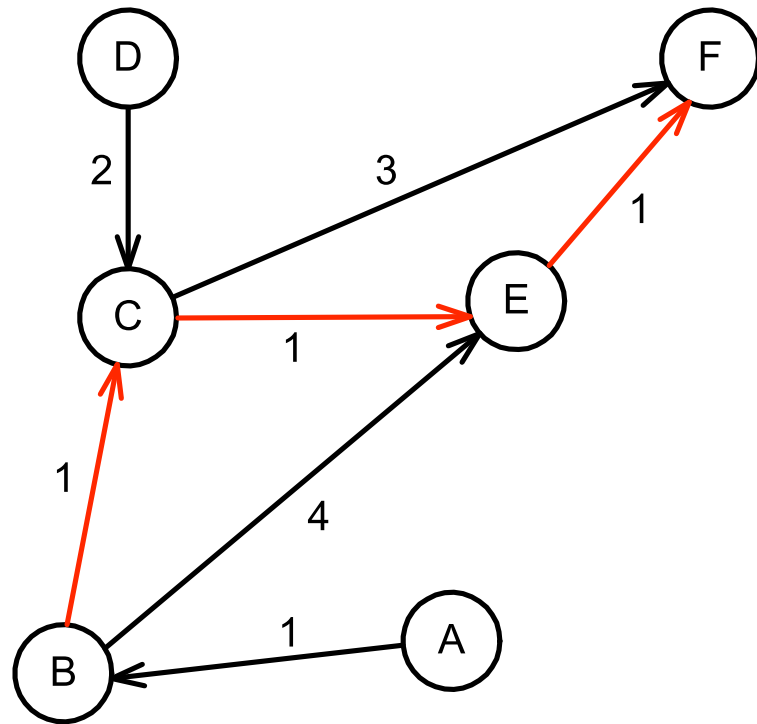
Orientation at the destination



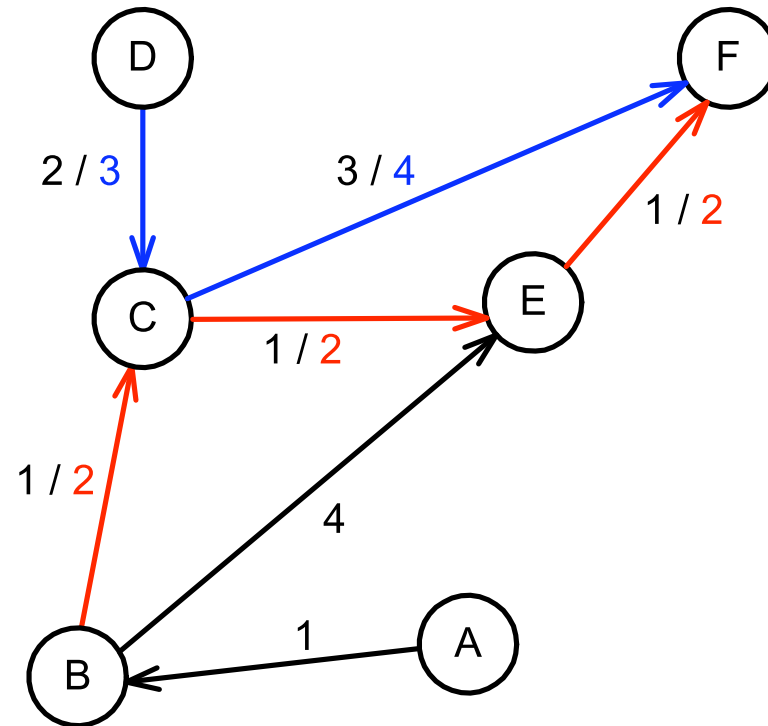
Real world dynamics



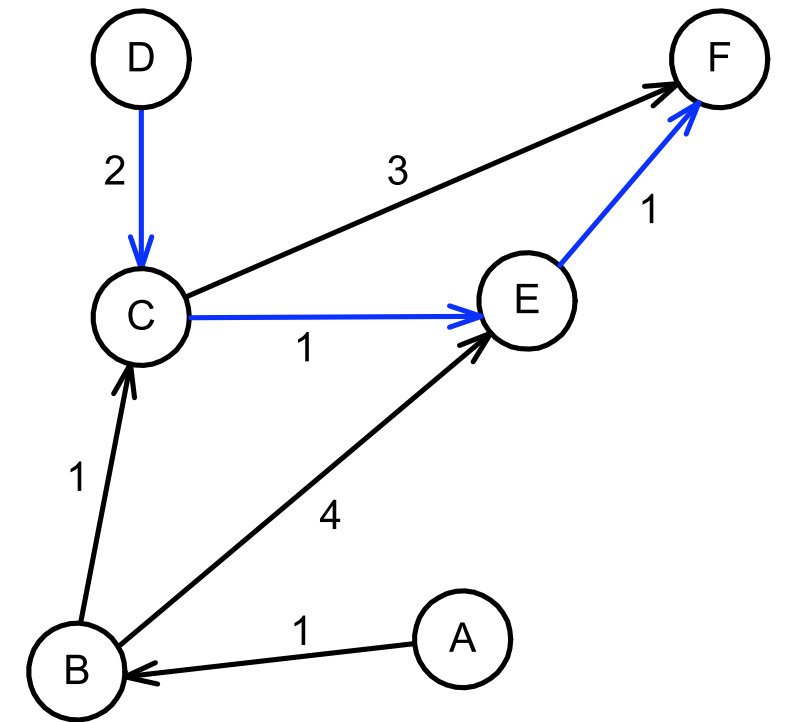
# Used: static routing methods



compute  
shortest path  
in graph



penalize used  
arcs, compute  
new path

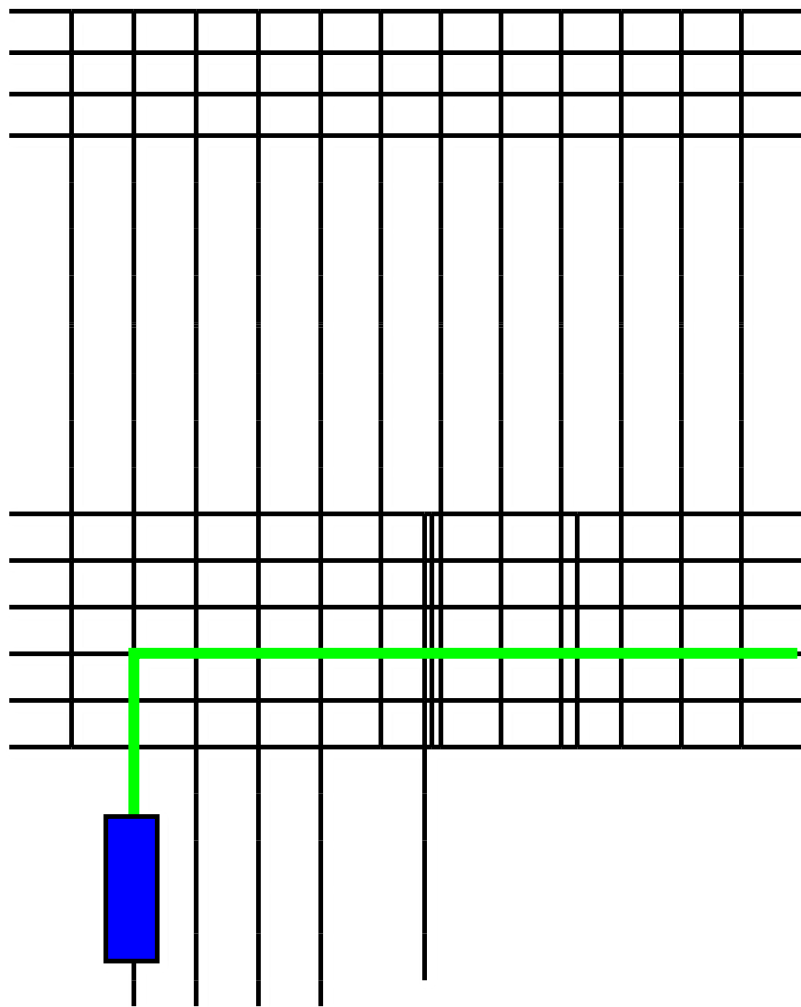


computed paths  
need not be  
shortest paths

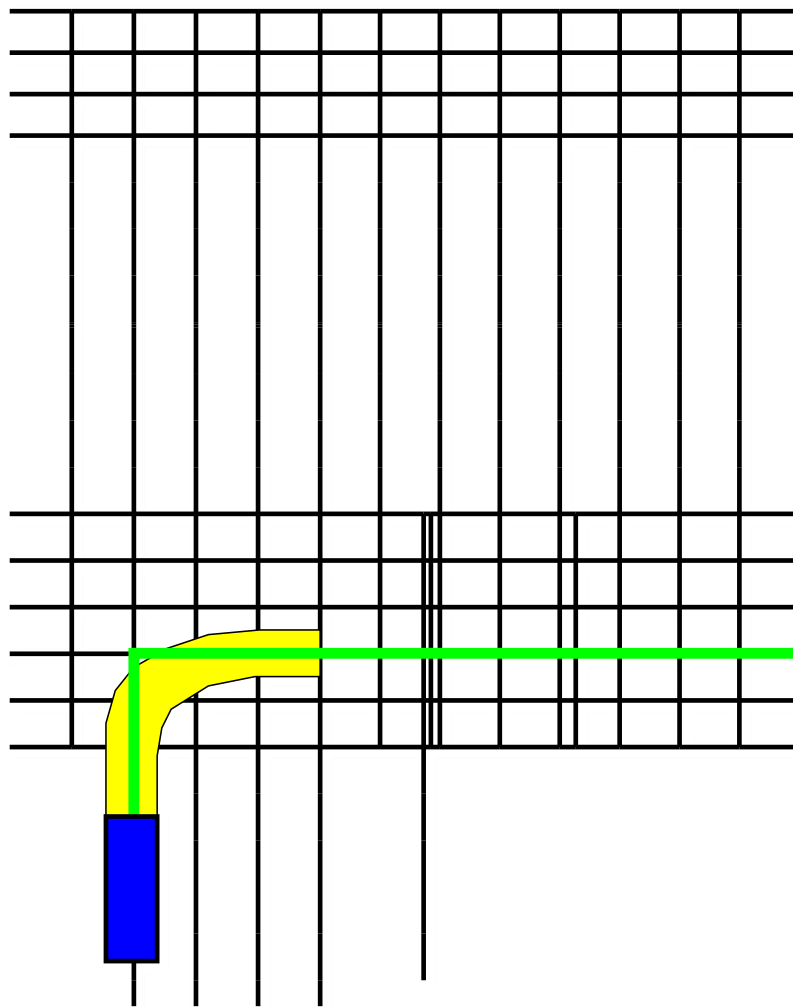
Hope that this avoids collisions at run time

# Needs collision control at run-time

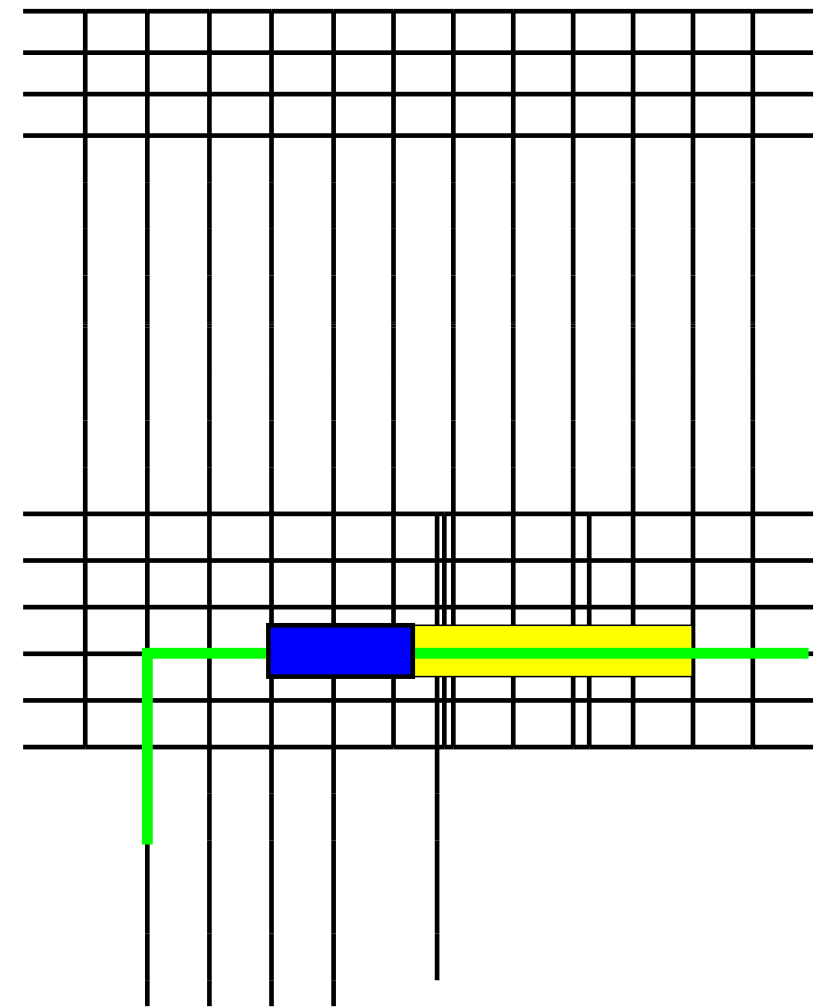
Reserve parts of a route exclusively for one AGV (**Claiming**)



Compute route



Claim 1

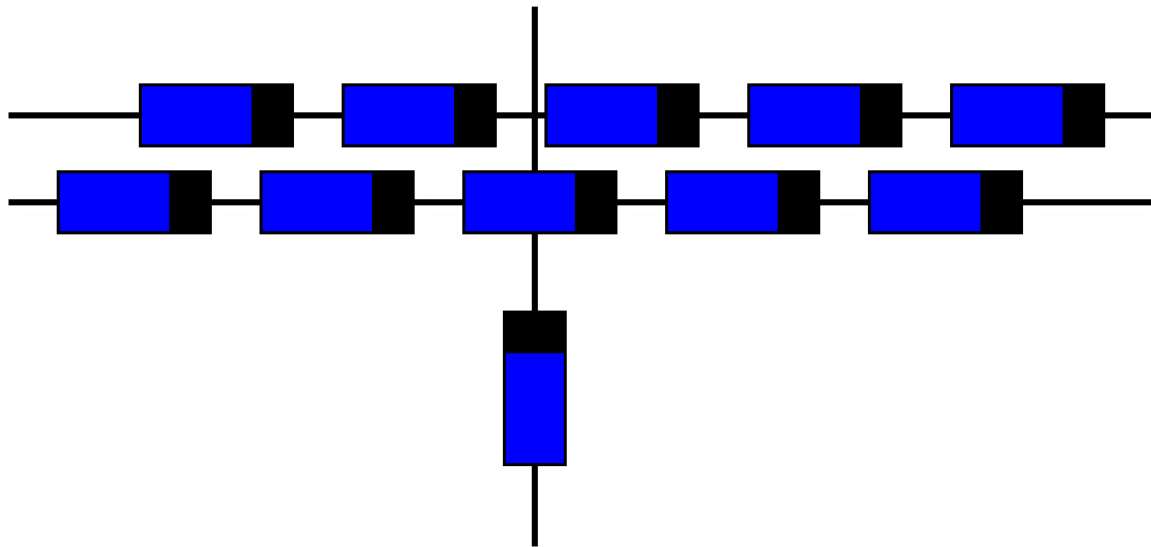


Claim 2

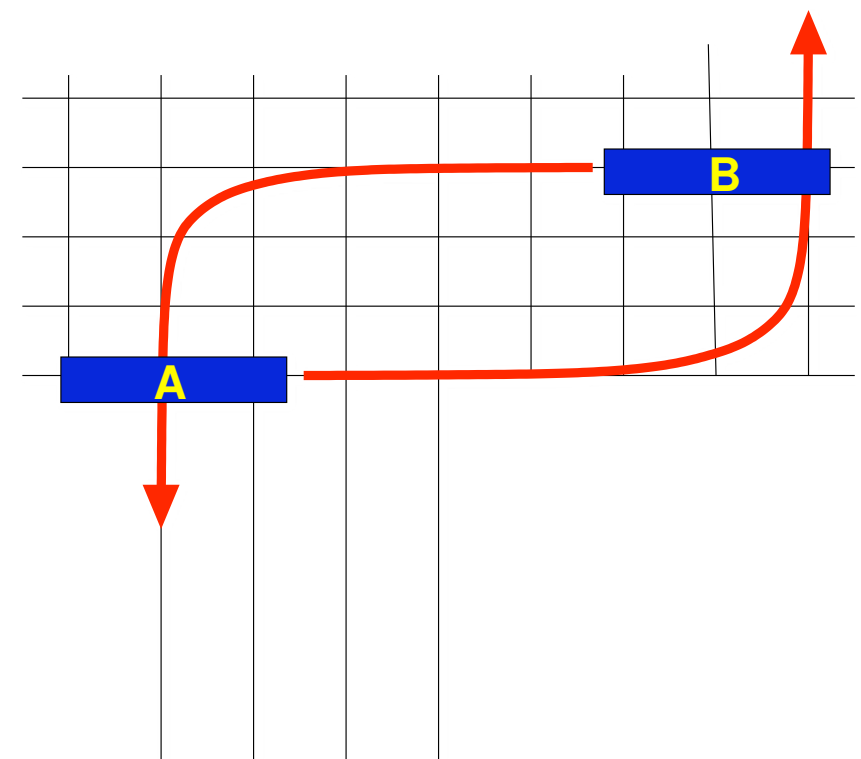


# Disadvantages of claiming

I. no guaranteed arrival times

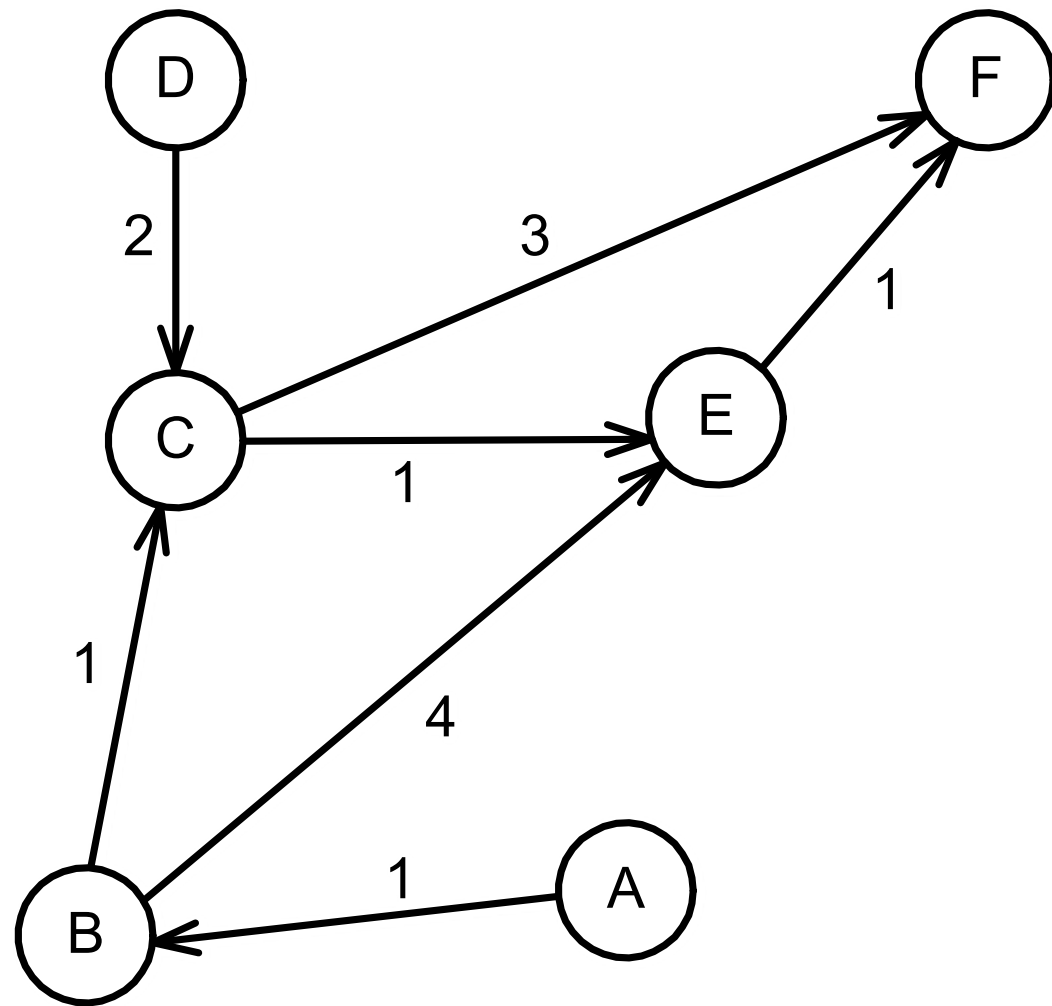


2. livelocks

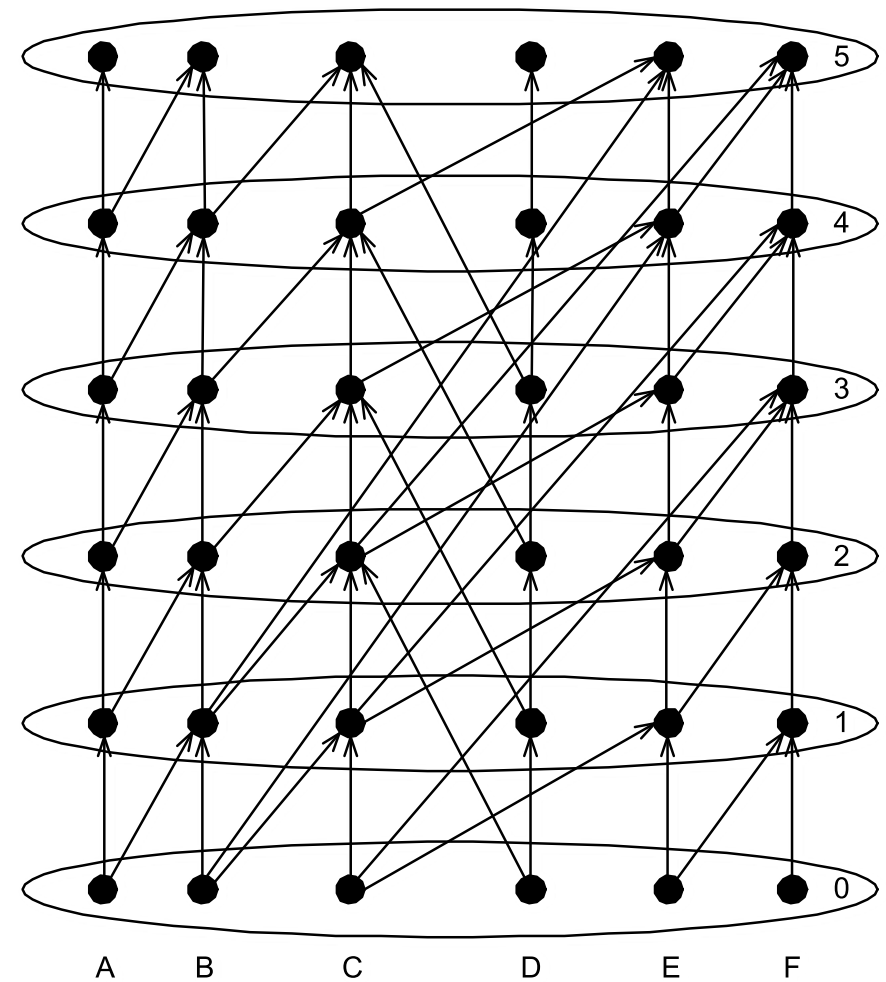


3. deadlocks

# Our approach: dynamic flows



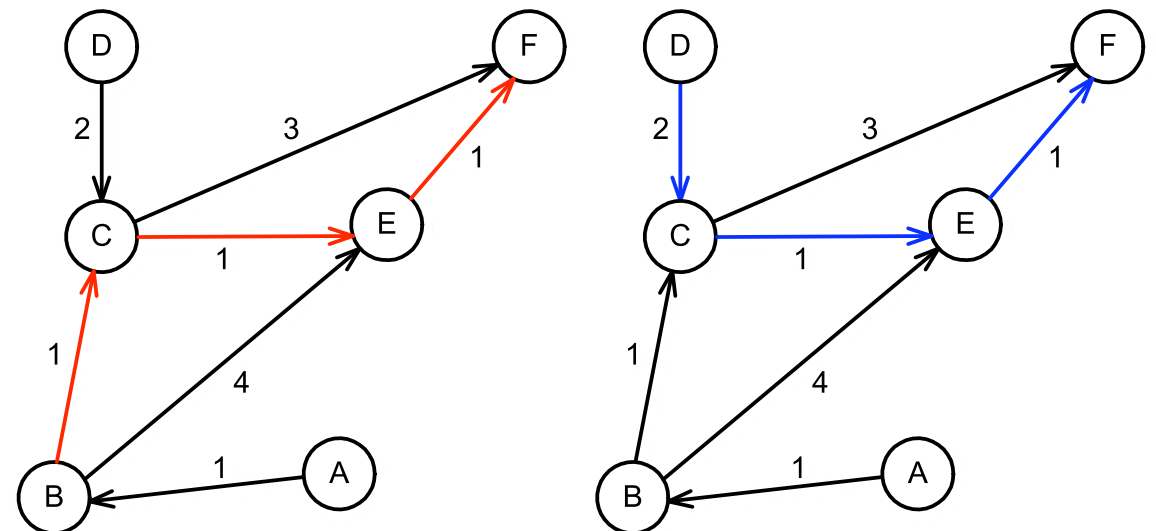
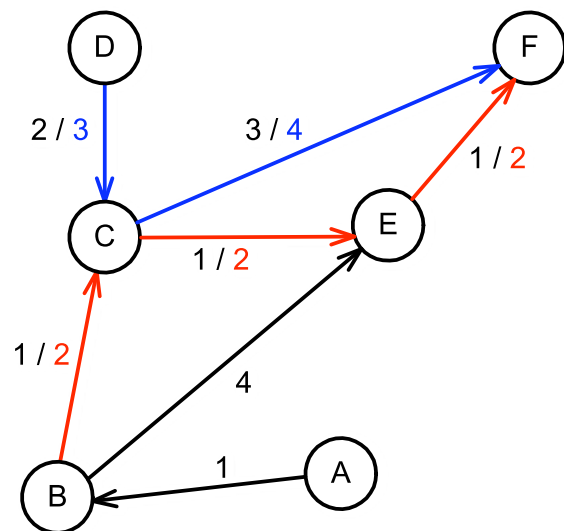
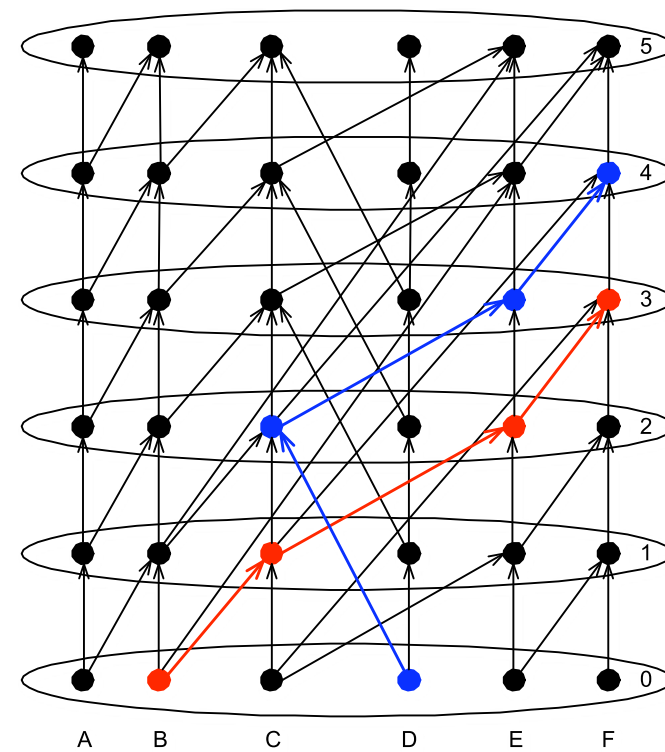
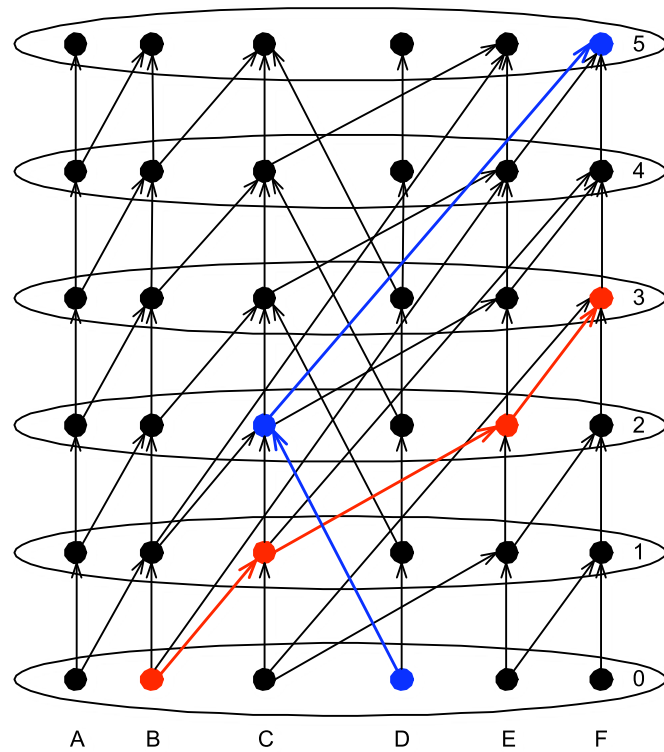
Graph



Time-expanded graph



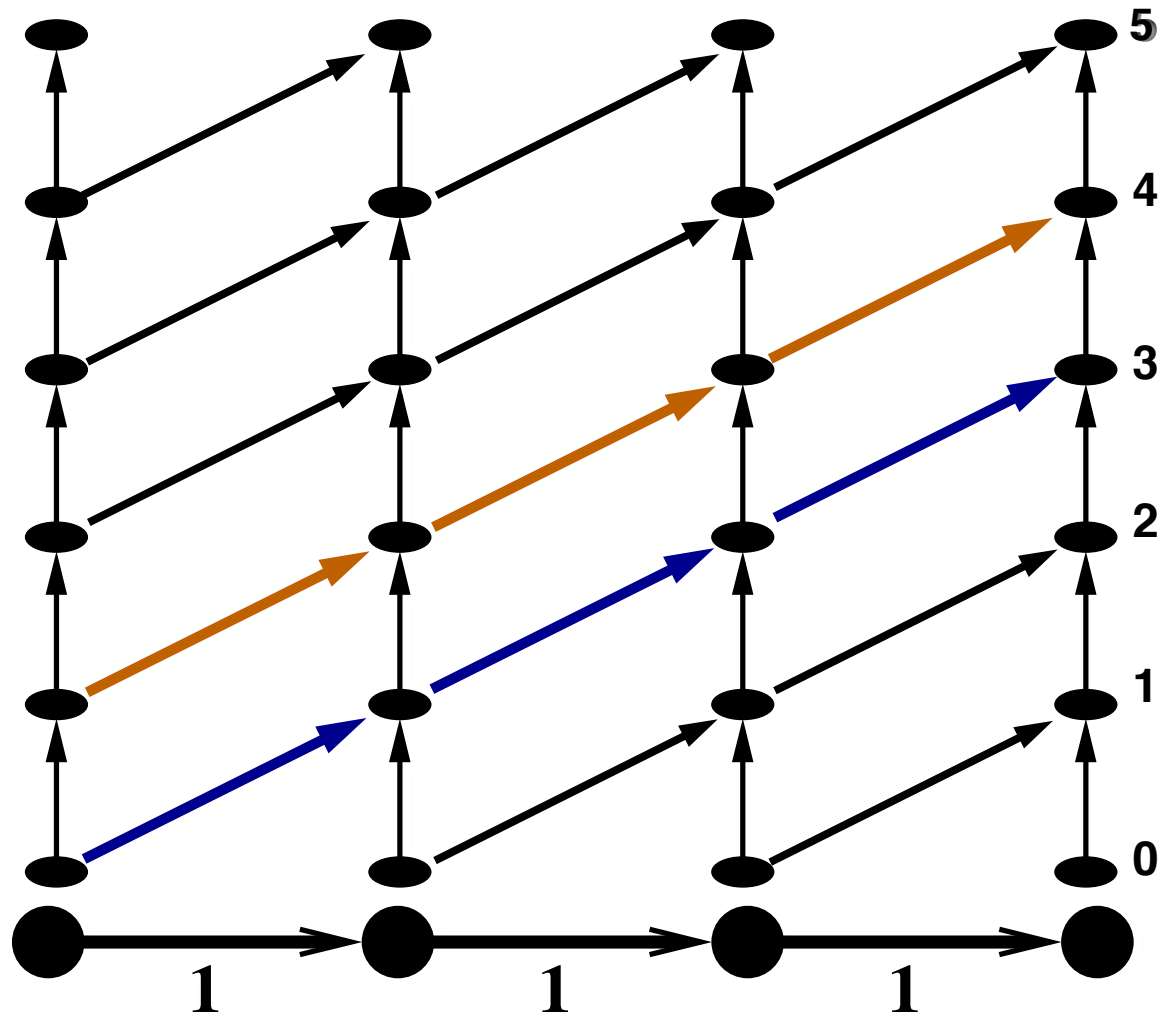
# Want disjoint paths in the time-expanded graph



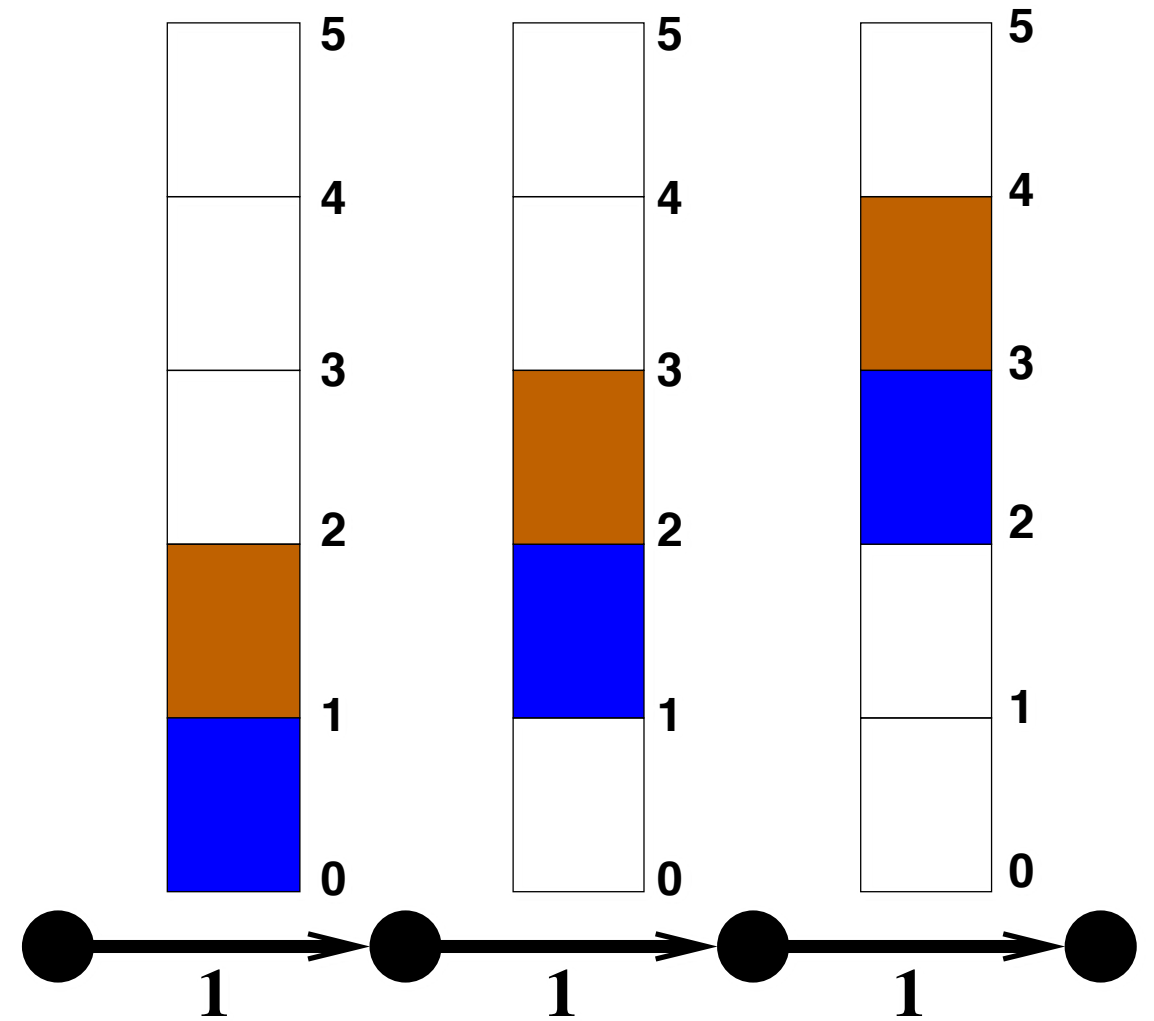
static routing,  $T = 5$

dynamic routing,  $T = 4$

# Modeling the time expansion



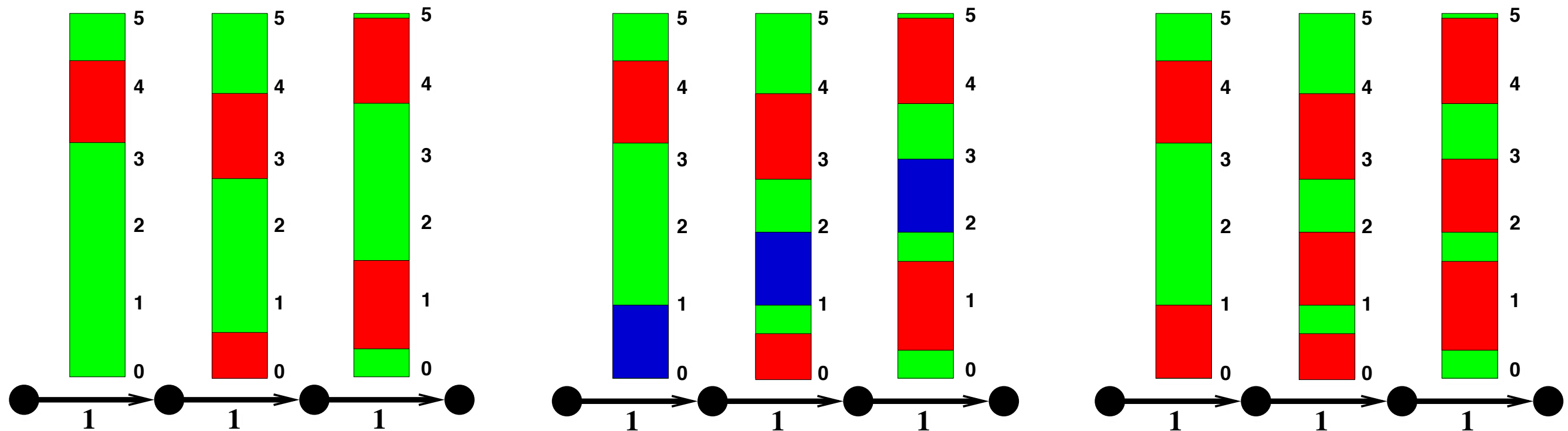
explicit time expansion



implicit time expansion

# Shortest paths with time-dependent blockings

modeled by implicit time expansion



Graph with  
blockings

New path  
compatible with  
blockings

Updated  
blockings



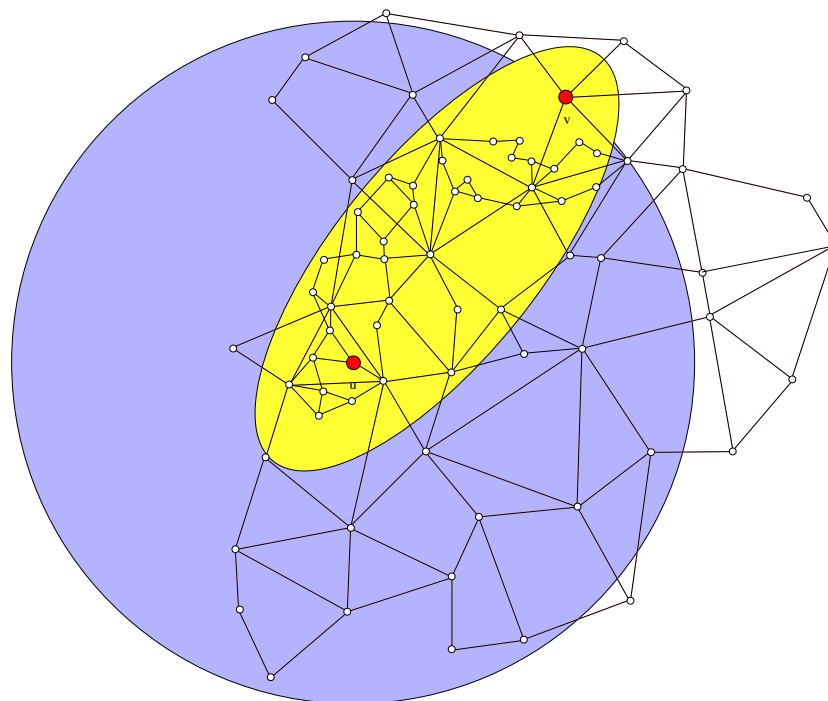
# Known: shortest paths with time windows

J. Desrosier, Y. Dumas, M. Solomon, F. Soumis:  
*Time Constrained Routing and Scheduling*  
in: Handbook in Operations Research and  
Management Science Vol. 8  
*Chapter 2: Network Routing*, pp. 35 - 139  
Elsevier 1995

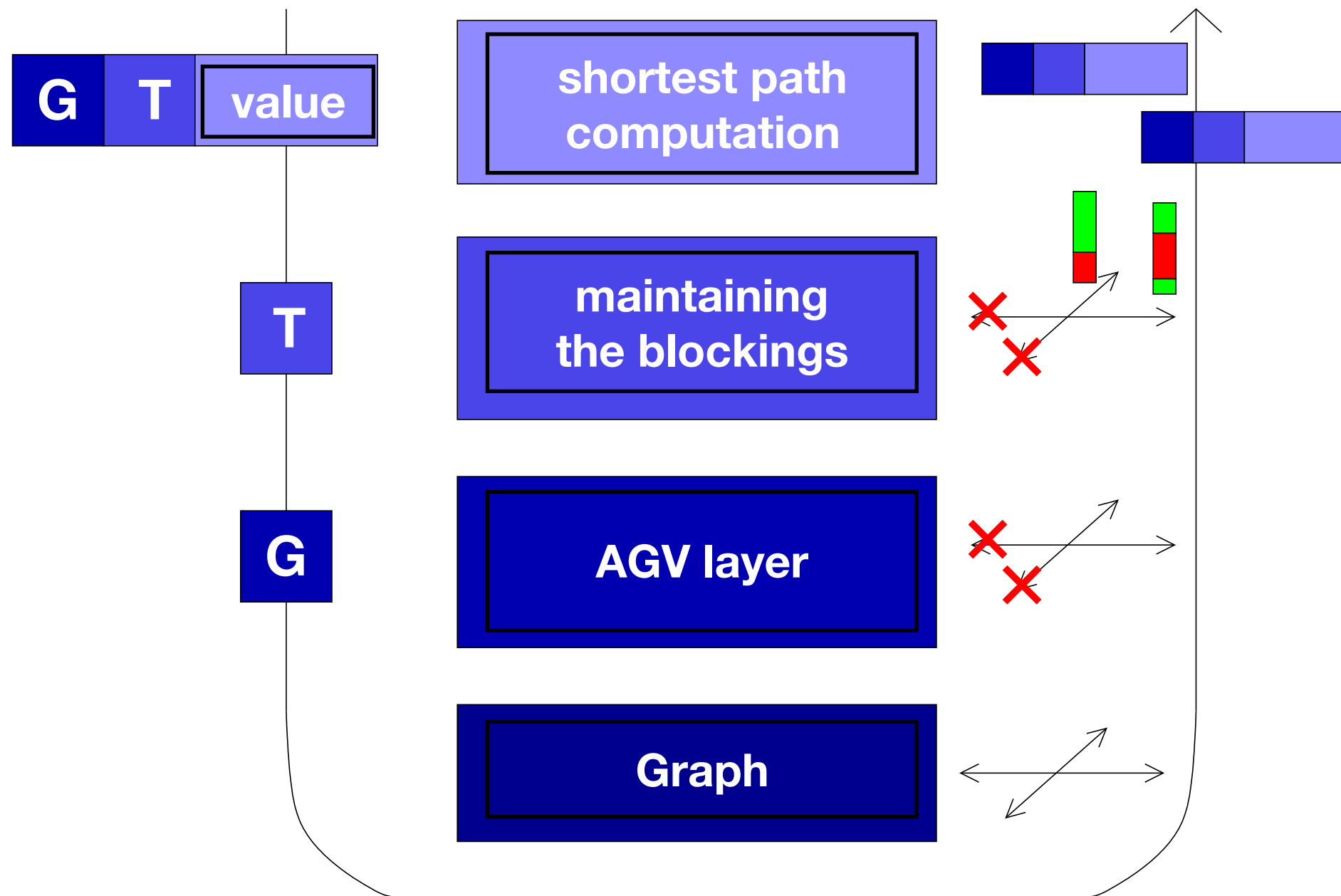
- Given: Graph  $G = (V, E)$  with cost  $c_a$ , travel time  $\tau_a$  and time windows  $F_a^i$  on every arc  $a$
- Wanted: Shortest path w.r.t. cost  $c_a$  that respects the time windows w.r.t. the  $\tau_a$
- algorithmically difficult (NP-hard)
- easy here, as  $c_a = \tau_a + \textit{time spent waiting}$

# Efficient algorithm

- ▶ Generalizes Dijkstra's algorithm, it minimizes *travel time  $\tau_a$  + time spent waiting*
- ▶ Polynomial run time and very fast in practice
- ▶ Works also w.r.t. **orientation** and **turning behavior** of the AGVs
- ▶ Additional speed up by goal-directed search

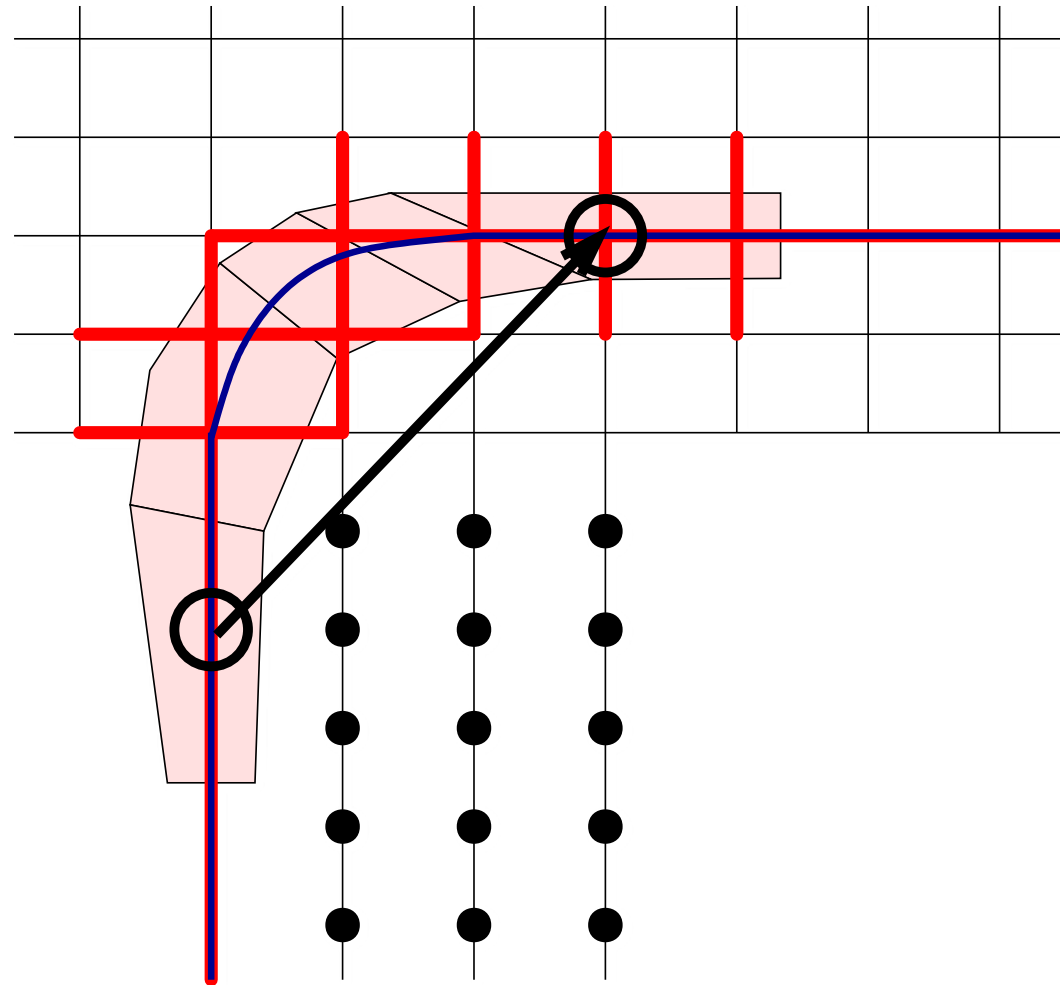


# Architecture of the algorithm





# Details of the AGV layer

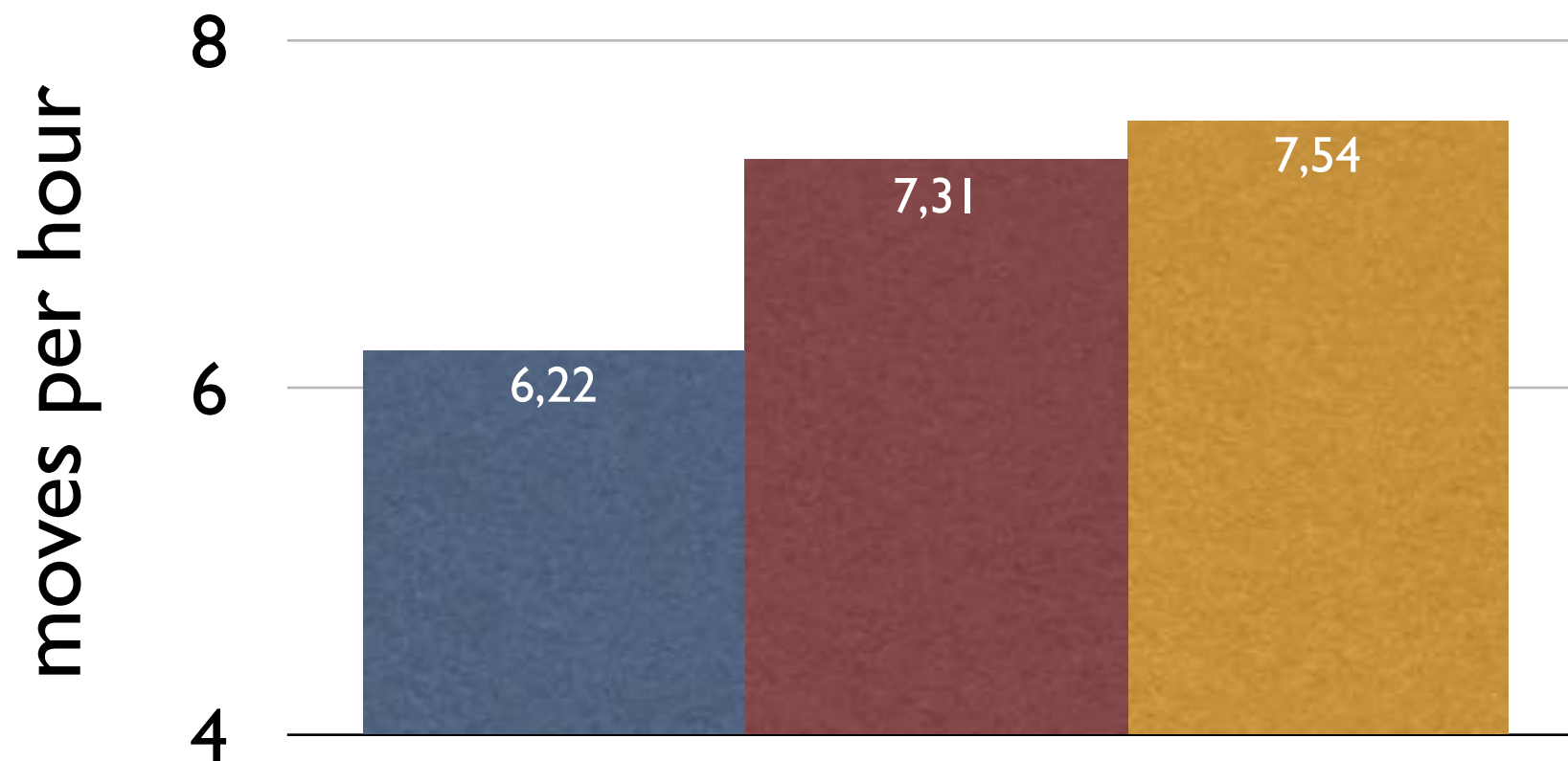


- ▶ Model the turning behavior through preprocessing
- ▶ Increases graph size to 5,445 vertices and 43,324 arcs



# Results for 79 AGV scenario - overview

■ GPT    ■ TUB unidirectional    ■ TUB bidirectional



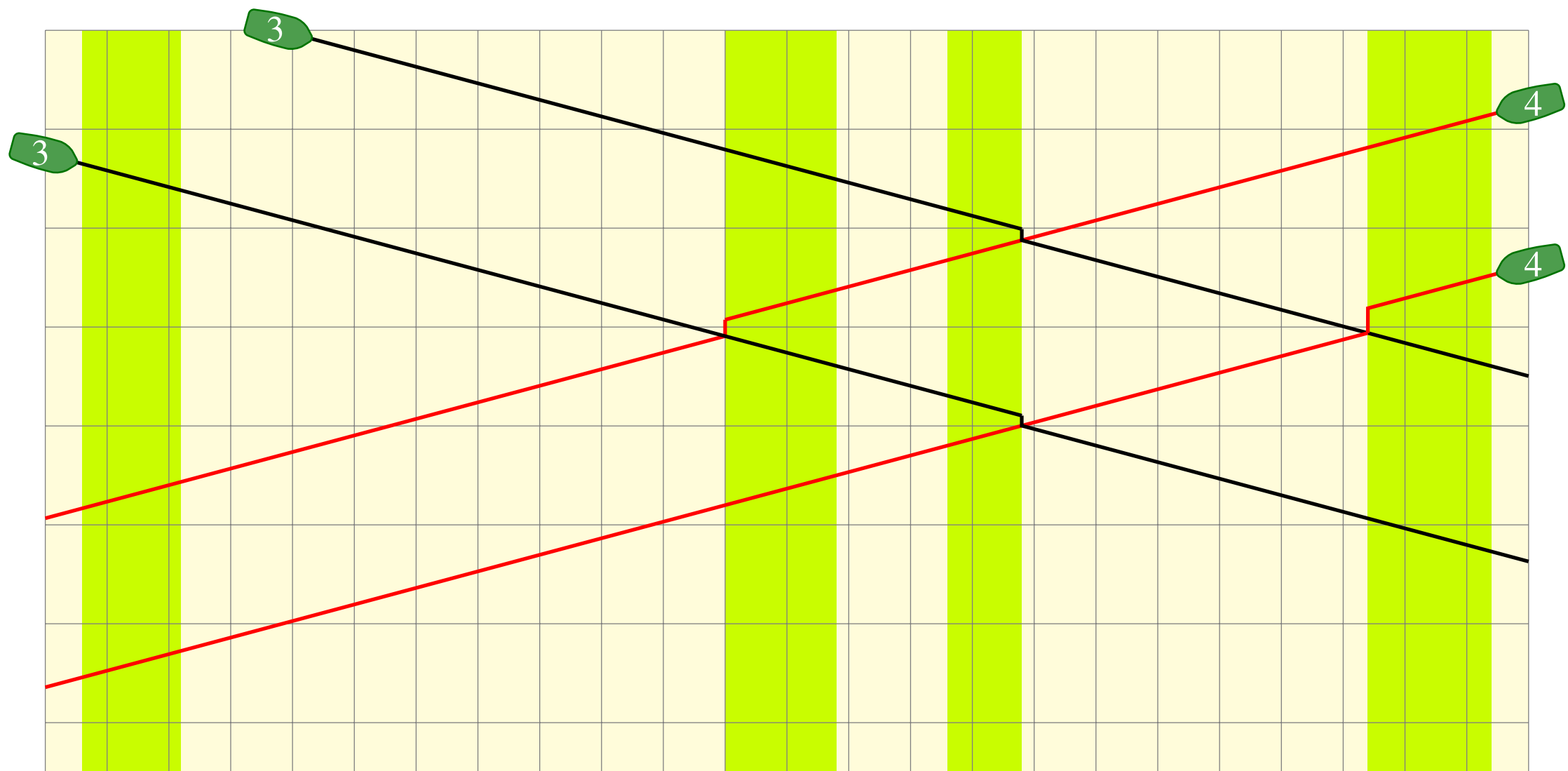
- ▶ 20% improvement in high traffic scenarios
- ▶ HHLA bought our software in 2009





# Sequential routing

- ▶ Can be arbitrarily bad
- ▶ There is no ordering that leads to an optimal solution



# Mixed integer optimization models are too weak

even for simplifications of the model

$$\min \sum_{s \in S, t \in T} w_{s,t}$$

s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} d_{s,e-s} + \tau_{s,e} &= d_{s,e} & s \in S, e \in \mathcal{E} \setminus \mathcal{T} \\ d_{s,t-s} + \tau_{s,t} + w_{s,t} &= d_{s,t} & s \in S, t \in \mathcal{T} \end{aligned}$$

**routing constraints**

$$\begin{aligned} z_{s_1, s_2, e} = 1 &\Rightarrow d_{s_1, e} + \Delta(s_1, s_2, e) \leq d_{s_2, e} & e \in \mathcal{E} \setminus \mathcal{T}, (s_1, s_2) \in C_e \\ z_{s_1, s_2, e} = 0 &\Rightarrow d_{s_2, e} + \Delta(s_2, s_1, e) \leq d_{s_1, e} & e \in \mathcal{E} \setminus \mathcal{T}, (s_1, s_2) \in C_e \end{aligned}$$

**scheduling constraints**

$$\underline{d}_{s,e} \leq d_{s,e} \leq \bar{d}_{s,e} \quad s \in S, e \in \mathcal{E}$$

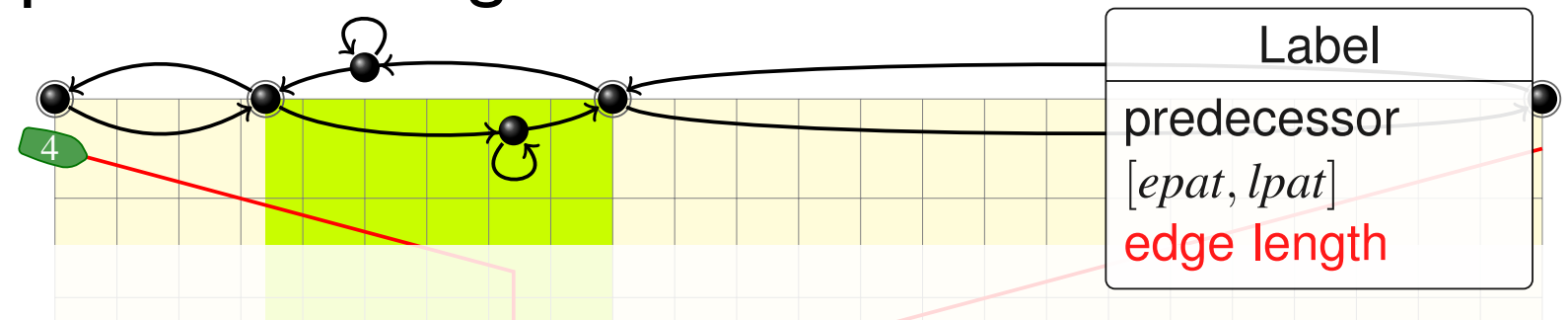
$$w_{s,t} \geq 0 \quad s \in S, t \in \mathcal{T}$$

$$z_{s_1, s_2, e} \in \{0, 1\} \quad e \in \mathcal{E} \setminus \mathcal{T}, (s_1, s_2) \in C_e$$

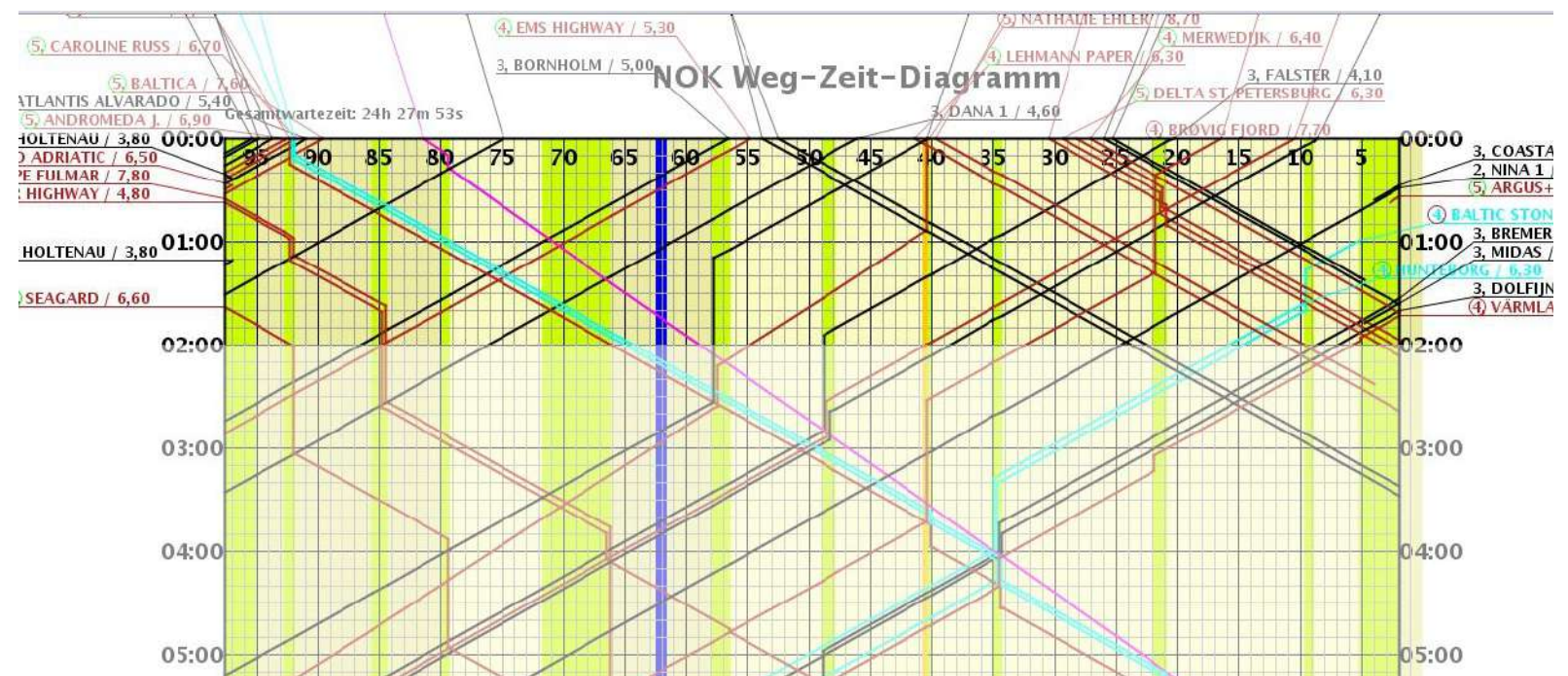


# Our algorithm

- ▶ The routing part is polynomial ... but the scheduling makes the problem strongly NP-hard
- ▶ Use the router developed for routing AGVs in a container terminal ...

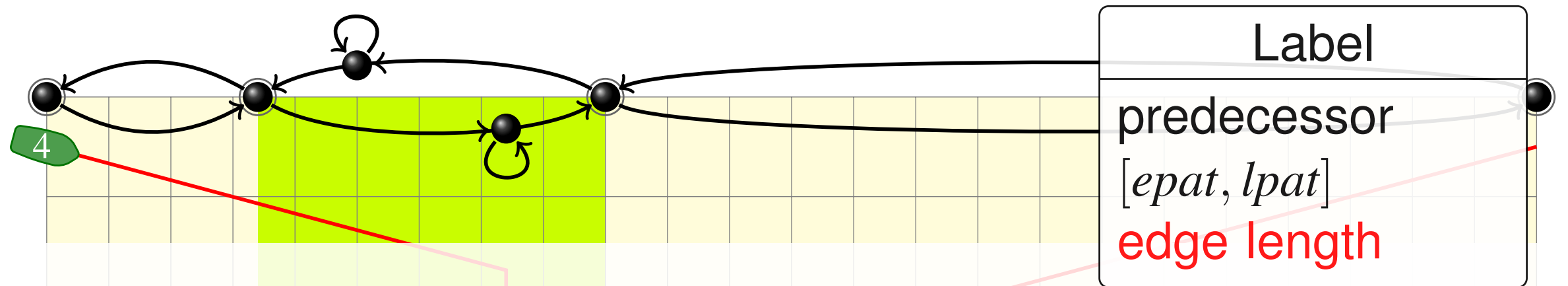


- ▶ ... and combine it with local search and a rolling time horizon for the scheduling



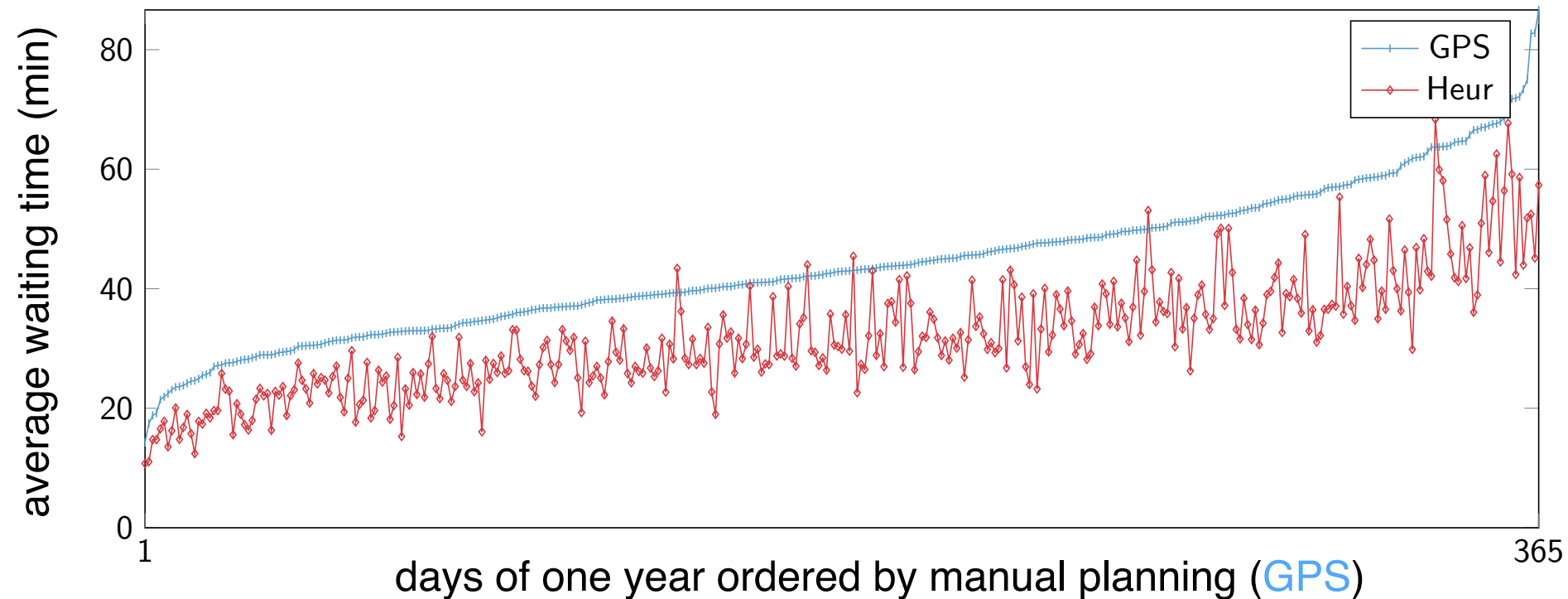
- ▶ Includes lock scheduling at both ends of the canal

# Some of the many more details



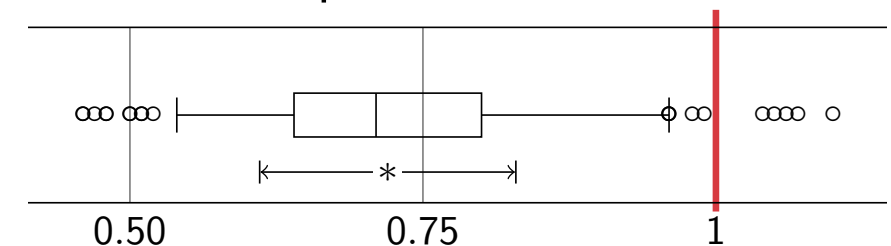
- ▶ algorithm takes all sidings at once into account
- ▶ ensures that partial routes can be extended to a complete route
- ▶ respects different ship properties, locations in sidings
- ▶ uses a special graph with “implicit discretization” and advanced blocking calculation for this purpose
- ▶ covers all real world details

# Results



data from the box

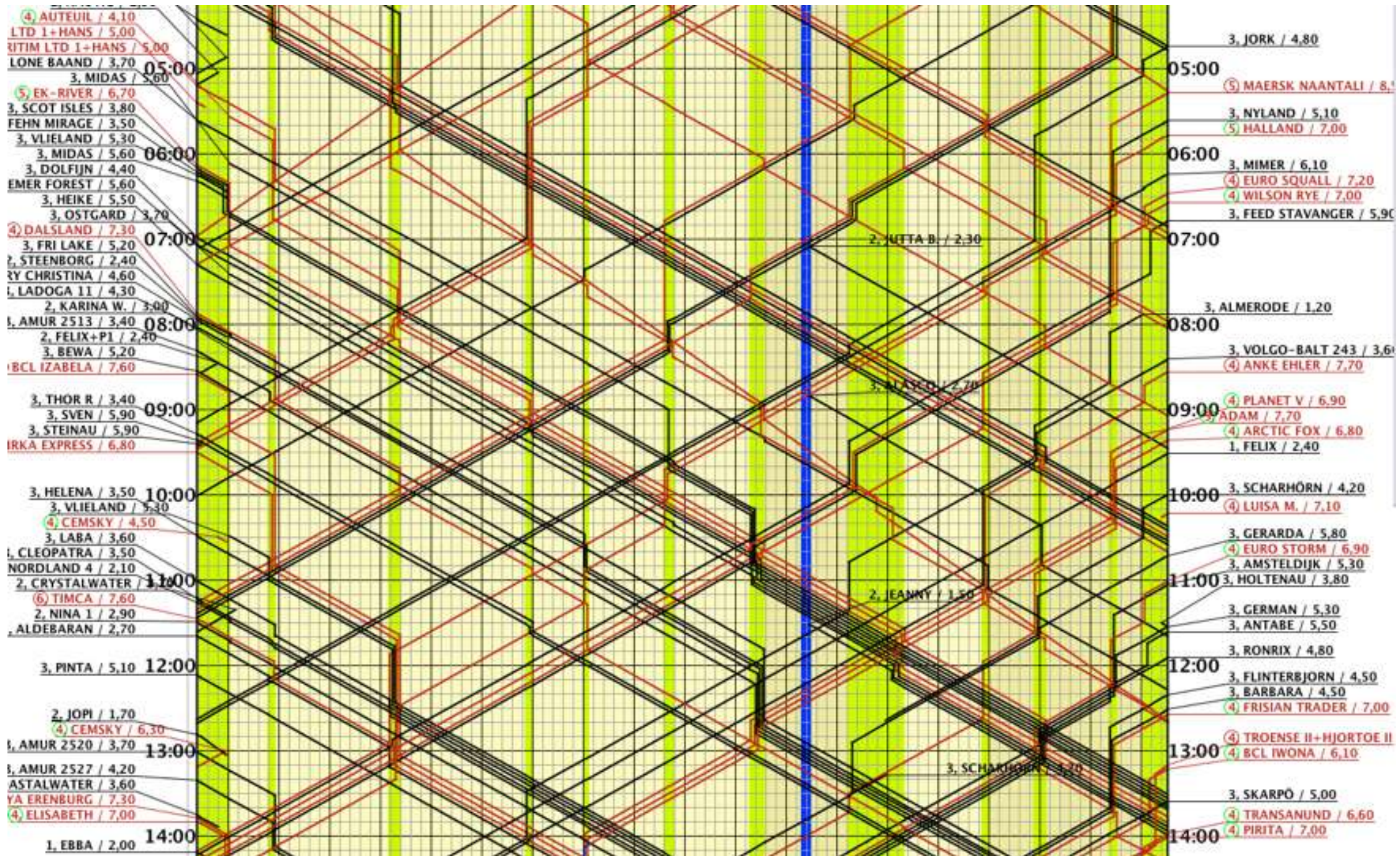
box plot Heur/GPS



- ▶ Similar behavior as manual planning
- ▶ 25% improvement on average
- ▶ thus suited for studying different options for the canal enlargement
- ▶ recommendations for enlargement made in 2011
- ▶ continuation of the project for the construction phase was planned

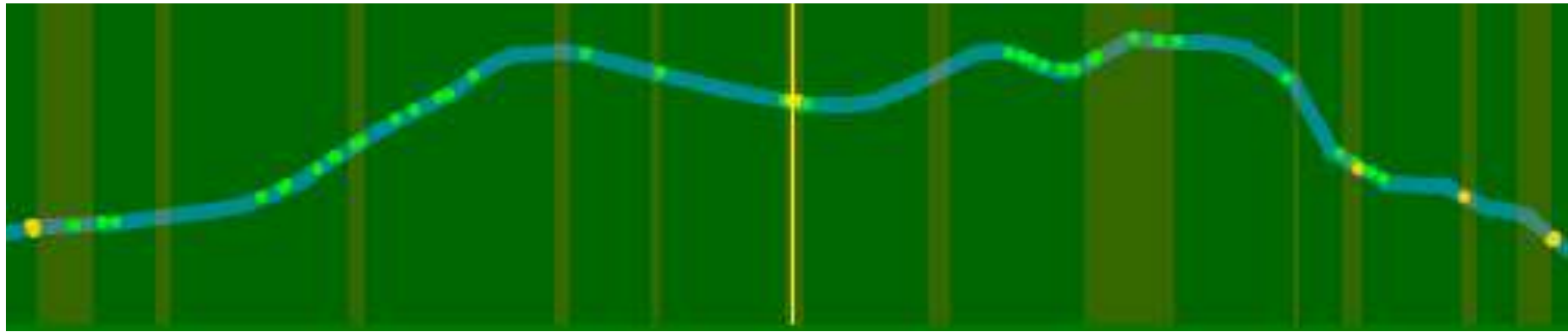


# Glimpses of the algorithm: Space-time diagram

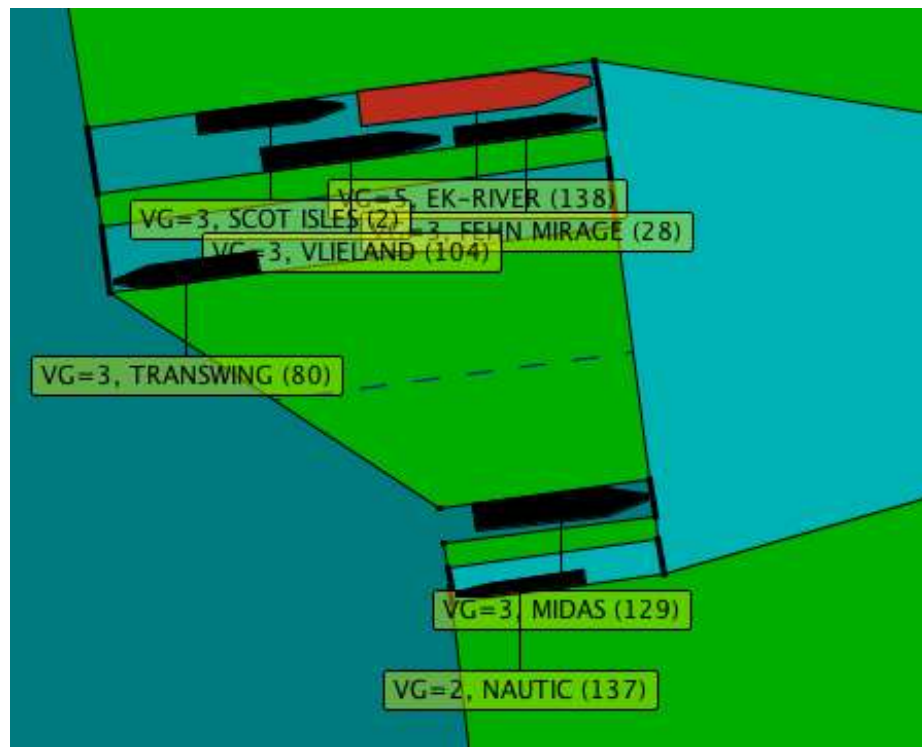




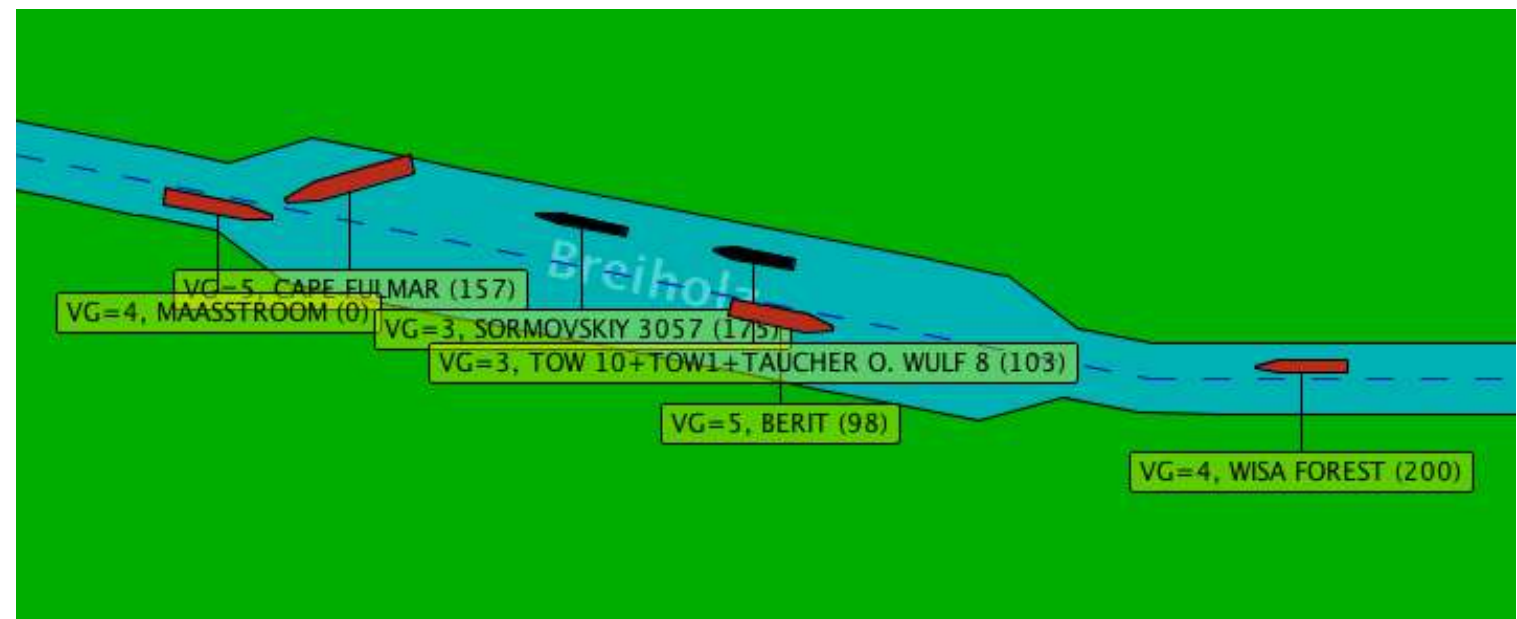
# Glimpses of the algorithm: Traffic visualization



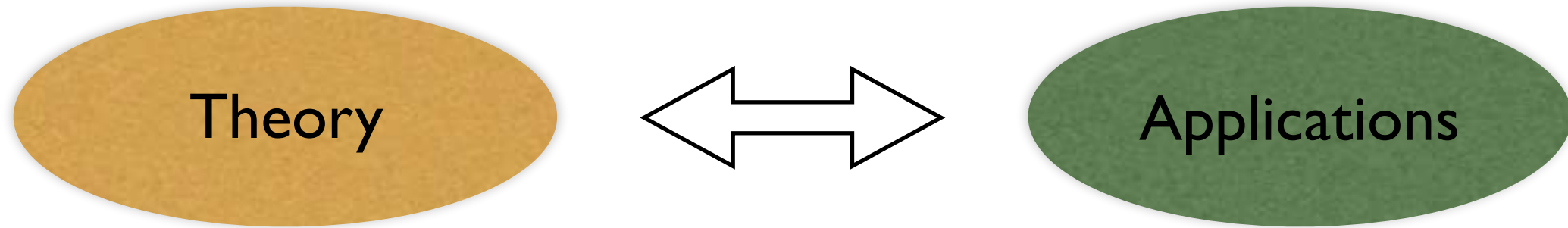
Global view



Locks in Brunsbüttel



Siding in Breiholz



Practice generates many theoretical questions that often are only solved after completion of the project

## Research questions from the AGV routing project

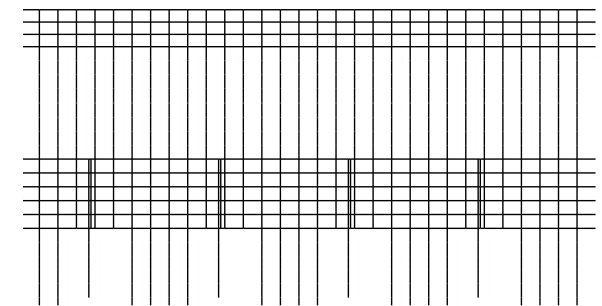
- ▶ Why route AGVs sequentially?
- ▶ What is the sequential gap?
- ▶ Can the static approach be improved?
- ▶ Is it competitive?

[Ewgenij Gawrilow, Max Klimm, R. M., Björn Stenzel]  
EURO J Transp Logist 2012



# Summary ex post analysis

- ▶ Complexity results justify sequential routing algorithm
  - polynomial in theory and fast in practice
- ▶ Sequential gap is small for harbor grid layout
  - less than 4% for 4-6 horizontal tracks
- ▶ Static approach can be improved by load balancing and proper deadlock avoidance
  - load balancing improves runtime
  - travel time for deadlock avoidance increases rapidly with traffic density
- ▶ Dynamic router is the clear winner for dense traffic
  - but (slightly) inferior in low traffic scenarios



# Research questions from the Kiel canal project

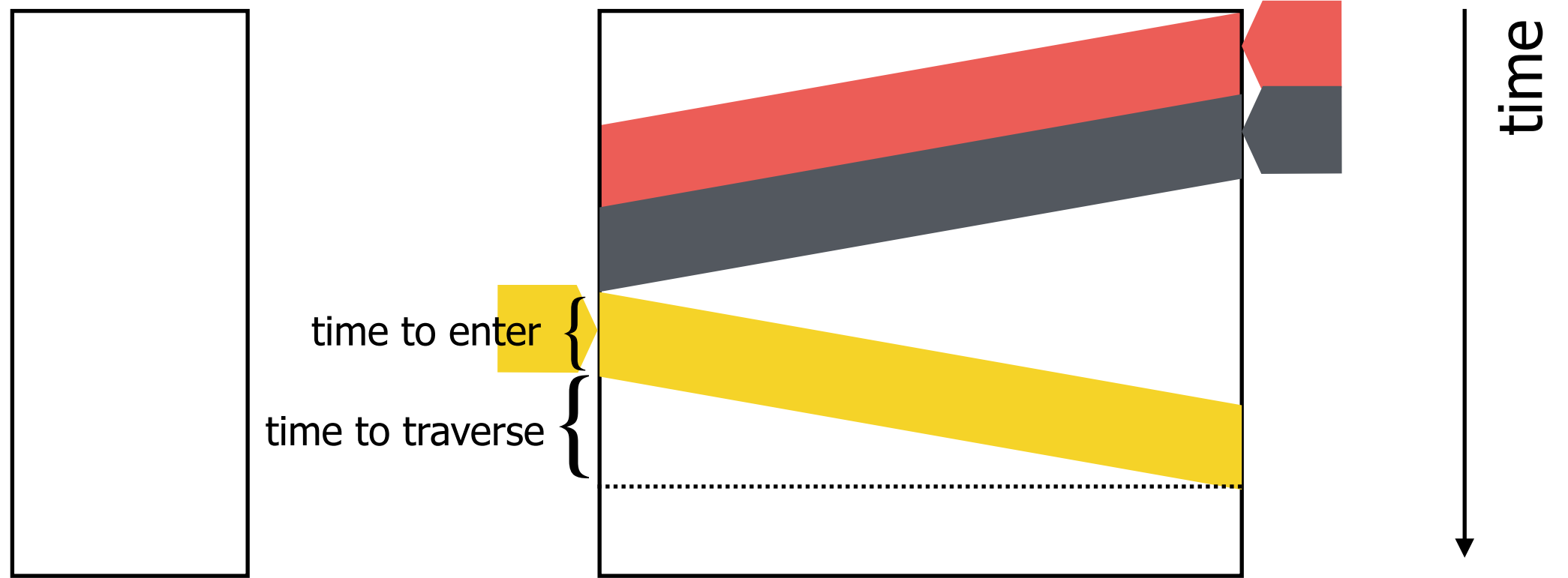
## Scheduling Bidirectional Traffic on a Path

Max Klimm | Technische Universität Berlin



joint work with Yann Dissers and Elisabeth Lübbecke  
ICALP 2015, LNCS 9134, pp. 406–418

# Space-time diagrams

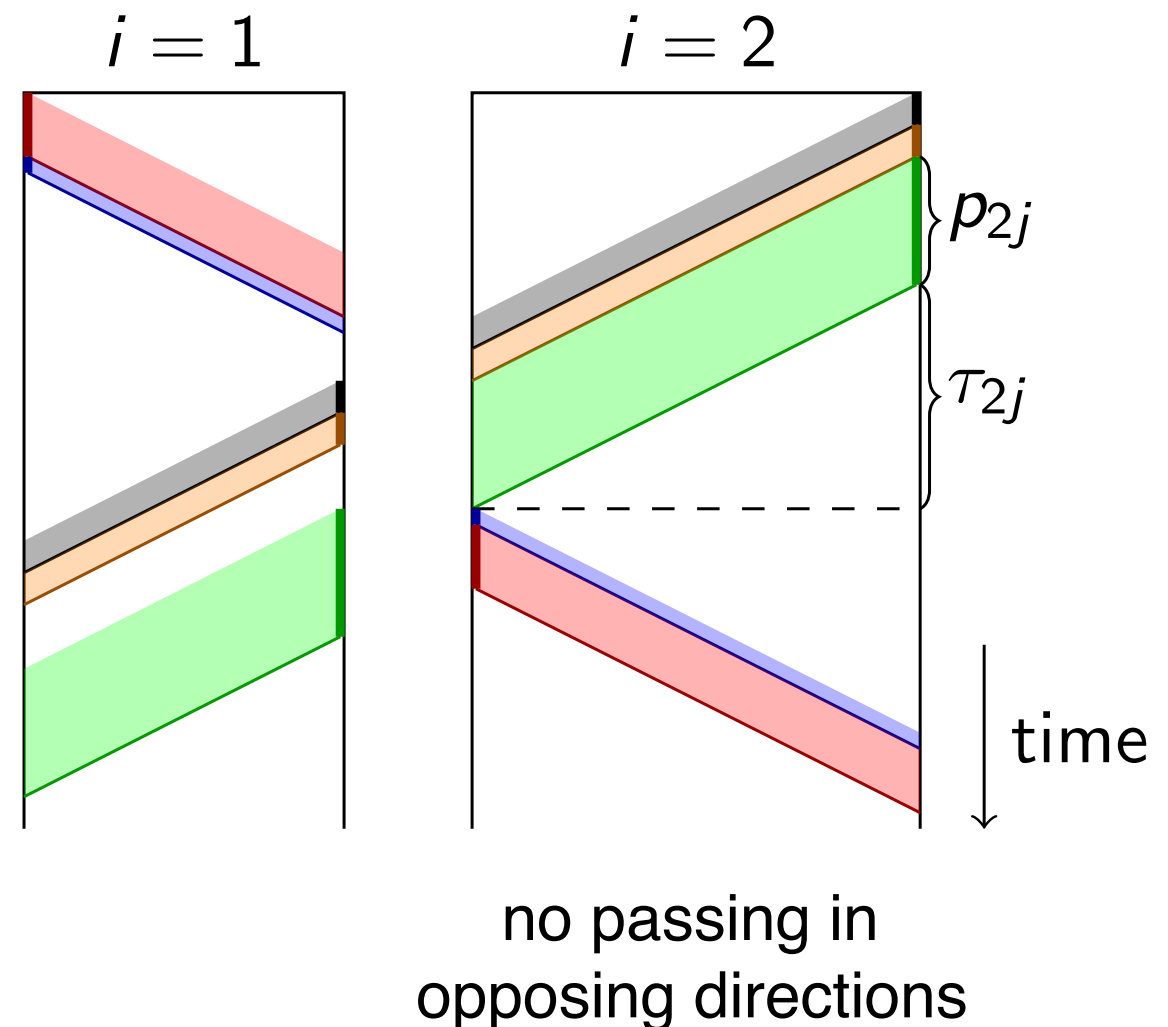




# Model

- ▶ segments  $1, \dots, m$  ordered from left to right
- ▶ transit time  $\tau_{ij}$
- ▶ rightbound and leftbound jobs  
 $J = J^r \cup J^l$
- ▶ release date  $r_j$
- ▶ processing time  $p_{ij}$
- ▶ start and target segments  $s_j, t_j$

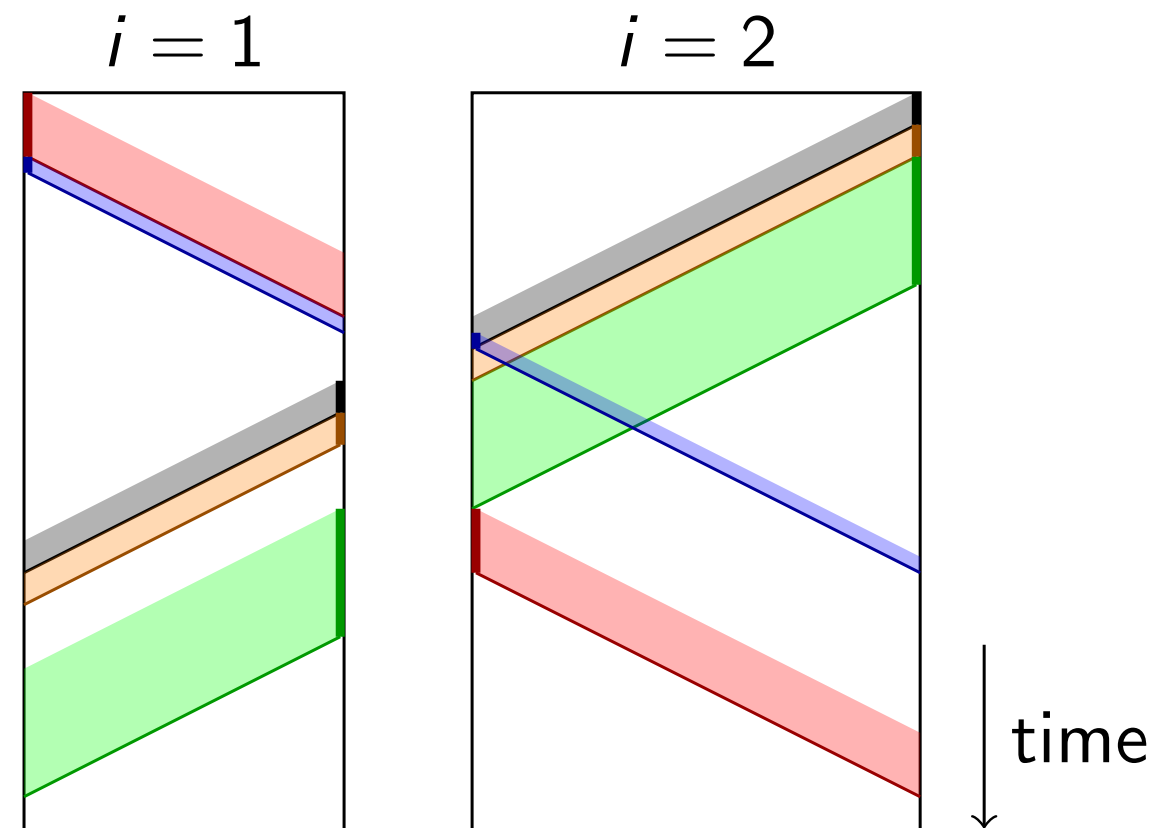
- ▶ objective:  $\sum C_j$   
(also  $\sum W_j$  or  $C_{\max}$ )



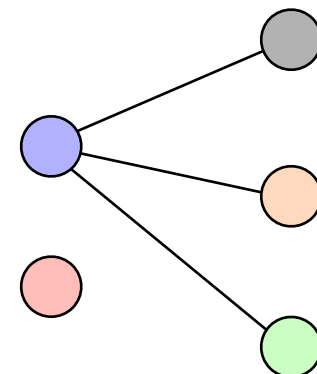
# Model

- ▶ segments  $1, \dots, m$  ordered from left to right
- ▶ transit time  $\tau_{ij}$
- ▶ compatibility graph  $G_i$
- ▶ rightbound and leftbound jobs  $J = J^r \cup J^l$
- ▶ release date  $r_j$
- ▶ processing time  $p_{ij}$
- ▶ start and target segments  $s_j, t_j$

- ▶ objective:  $\sum C_j$   
(also  $\sum W_j$  or  $C_{\max}$ )



blue ship may pass others



# Main results

	Number $m$ of segments		
compatibilities	$m = 1$	$m$ const.	$m$ arbitrary
<b>Identical jobs</b> ( $p_{ij} = p$ ), $\tau_{ij} = \tau_i$			
none compatible	polynomial	polynomial <sup>1</sup>	NP-hard <sup>2</sup>
const. types			
arbitrary	NP-hard <sup>3</sup>		
<b>Different jobs</b> ( $p_{ij} = p_j$ ), $\tau_{ij} = \tau_i$			
none or all	NP-hard		NP-hard <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> only if  $p = 1, \tau_i \leq \text{const}$ , <sup>2</sup> even if  $p = 0, \tau_i = 1$ , <sup>3</sup> even if  $\tau_i = p = 1$



# Main results

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<b>Different jobs</b> ( $p_{ij} = p_j$ ), $\tau_{ij} = \tau_i$			
none or all	PTAS	NP-hard	NP-hard <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> only if  $p = 1, \tau_i \leq \text{const}$ , <sup>2</sup> even if  $p = 0, \tau_i = 1$ , <sup>3</sup> even if  $\tau_i = p = 1$

# Related work in „classical“ scheduling

## Single machine scheduling:

- ▶ NP-hard
- ▶ PTAS
- ▶ of two job families with setup times

[Lenstra et al., 1977]

[Afrati et al., 1999]

## Flow shop scheduling:

- ▶ without release dates:
  - ▶ NP-hard already for  $m = 2$
  - ▶ no PTAS for arbitrary  $m$
- ▶ with release dates:
  - ▶ polynomial for  $p_{ij} = 1$

[Garey et al., 1976]

[Hoogeveen et al., 1998]

[Brucker et al., 2005]

## Job shop scheduling:

- ▶ with release dates:
  - ▶ PTAS for constant  $m$

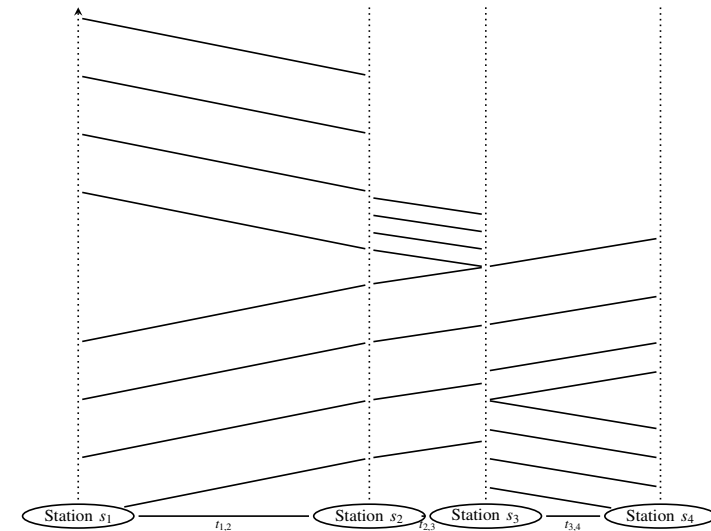
[Fishkin et al., 2003]

# Related work about bidirected traffic (I)

- ▶ Single Track Train Scheduling

J. Harbering, A. Ranade, M. Schmidt, Preprint, 2015

- complexity results about the scheduling (no compatibility graph)



- ▶ The generalized lock scheduling problem: An exact approach

J. Verstichel, P. De Causmaecker, F. Spieksma, G. Vanden Berghe, Transportation Research 2014

- ship placement, chamber assignment and lockage operation scheduling solved with mixed integer linear programming

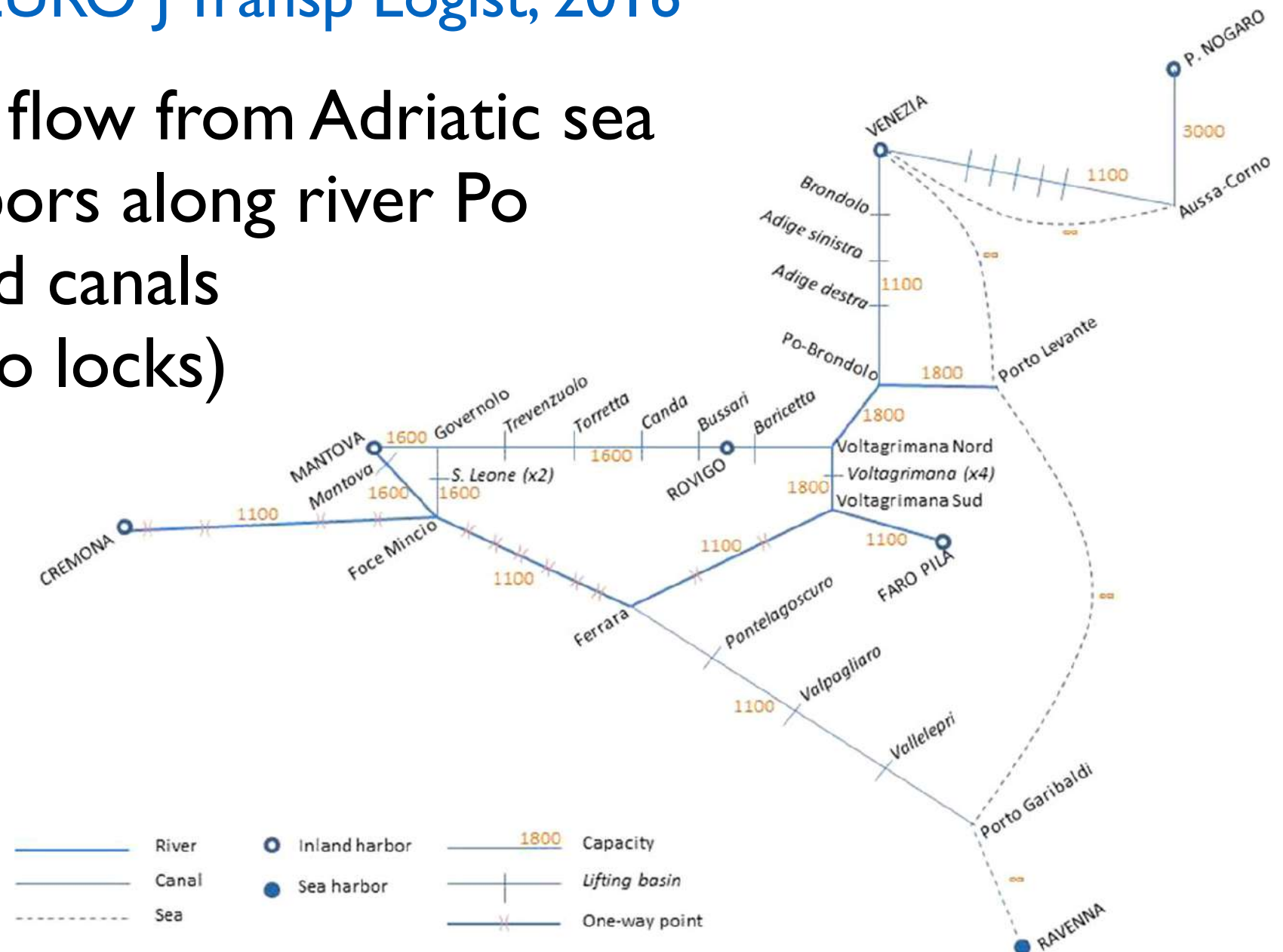


# Related work about bidirected traffic (2)

- ▶ A network flow model of the Northern Italy waterway system

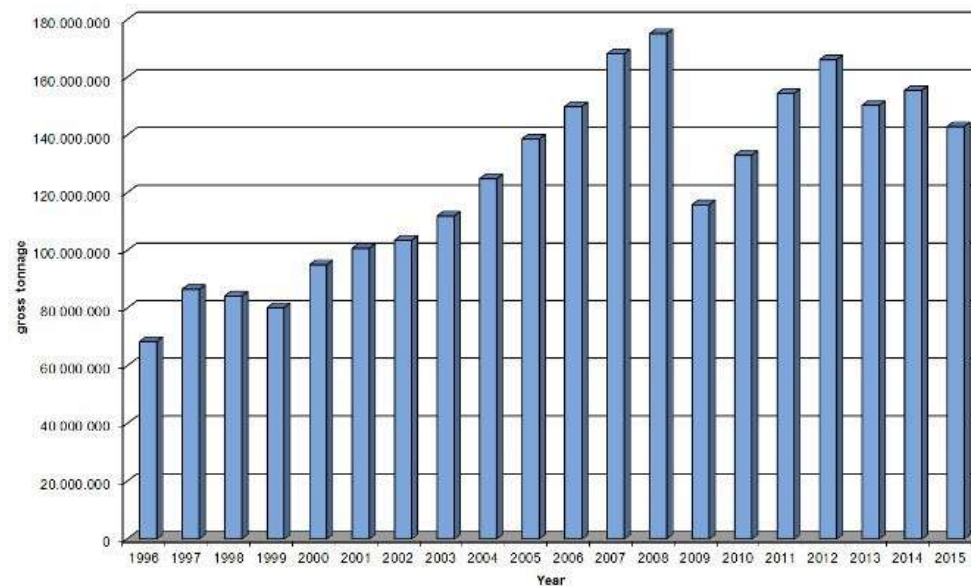
Giovanni Righini, EURO J Transp Logist, 2016

- estimate max flow from Adriatic sea to inland harbors along river Po and connected canals (considers also locks)



# After the completion of the project

- ▶ Total tonnage decreased after 2008



- ▶ 2014: Government provides € 265 million for enlargement of the Eastern part
  - New lock chamber in Kiel, starting in 2018
  - Improvements of bends in the Eastern part
  - Enlargements of sidings in the Eastern part

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**Fakultät II - Mathematik und Naturwissenschaften**  
**Institut für Mathematik, Sekr. MA 6-1**  
**Technische Universität Berlin**  
**Straße des 17. Juni 136**  
**10623 Berlin**  
**Germany**

phone: +49 +30 314-25728  
fax: +49 +30 314-25191

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