

Harmonizing Speculative and Non-Speculative Execution in Architectures for Ordered Parallelism

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There is a (false) dichotomy in parallelization

SPECULATIVE PARALLELIZATION

Simplifies parallel programming

Uncovers abundant parallelism

NON-SPECULATIVE PARALLELIZATION

Lower overheads

Parallel irrevocable actions

Current systems offer all-or-nothing speculation

Goal: Bring non-speculative execution to systems that support ordered parallelism

Espresso

- Expressive task-based execution model
- Coordinates concurrent speculative and non-speculative ordered tasks
- 256-core speedups up to **2.5x** vs. all-speculative

Capsules

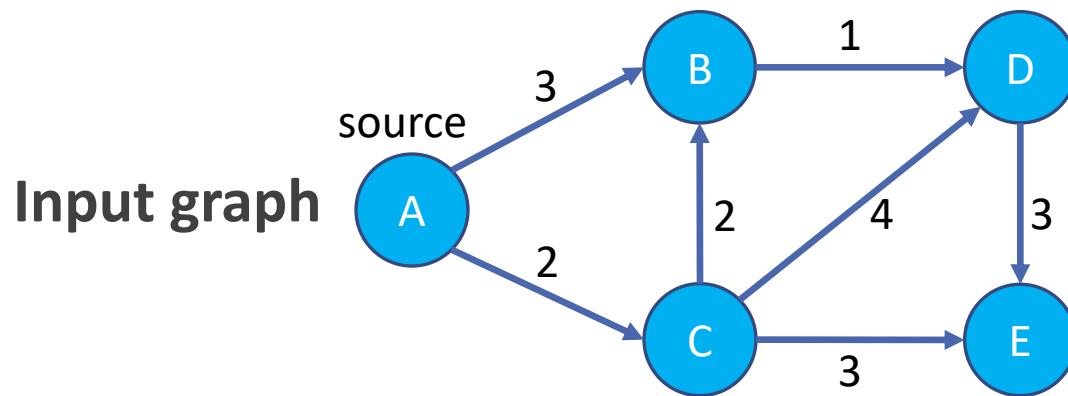
- Let speculative tasks safely invoke software-managed speculation
- Enable important system services:
e.g. memory allocator that improves performance up to **69x**

Espresso in action

THE NEED FOR SPECULATIVE AND NON-SPECULATIVE PARALLELISM

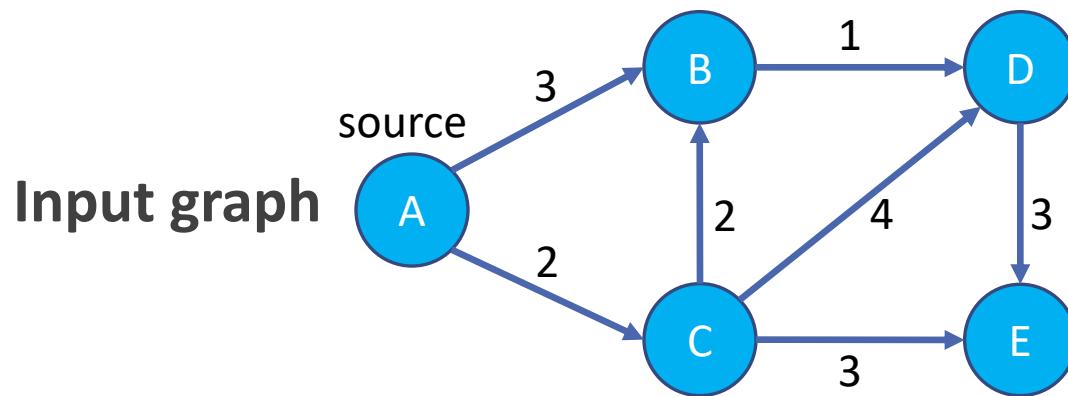
Example: Dijkstra's algorithm

Finds shortest path tree on a graph with weighted edges



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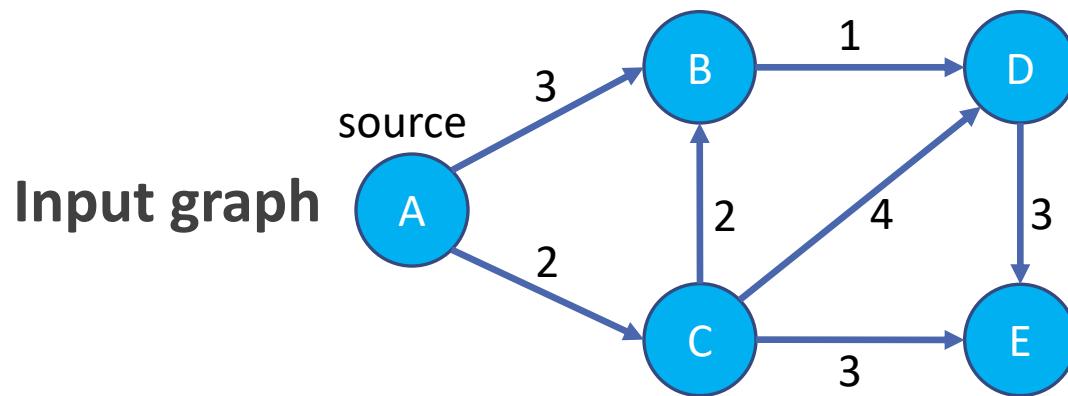


Task graph

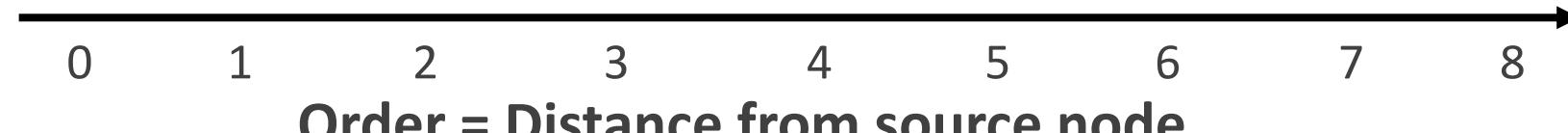


Example: Dijkstra's algorithm

Finds shortest path tree on a graph with weighted edges

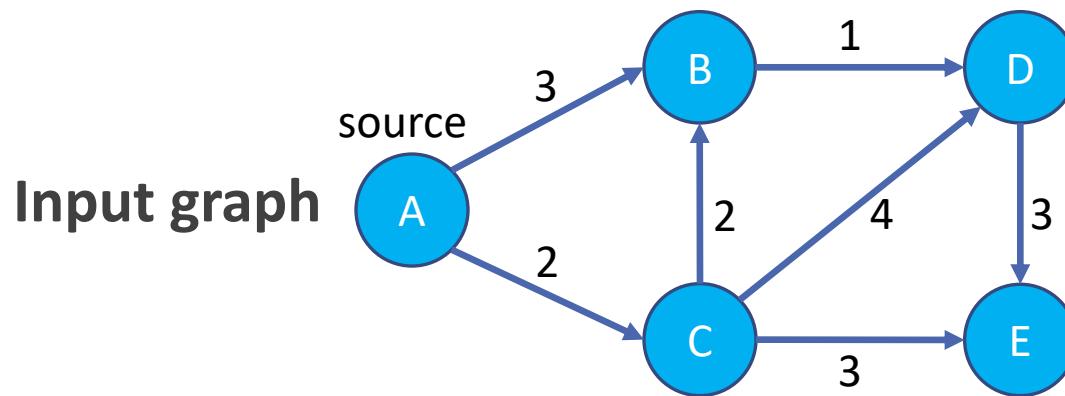


Task graph



Example: Dijkstra's algorithm

Finds shortest path tree on a graph with weighted edges



Task graph



○ To be processed

● First to visit vertex

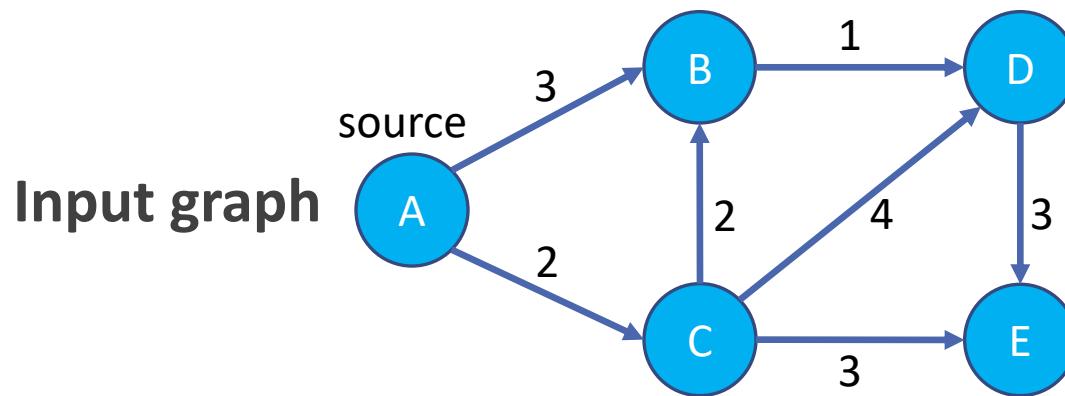
○ Vertex already visited



Order = Distance from source node

Example: Dijkstra's algorithm

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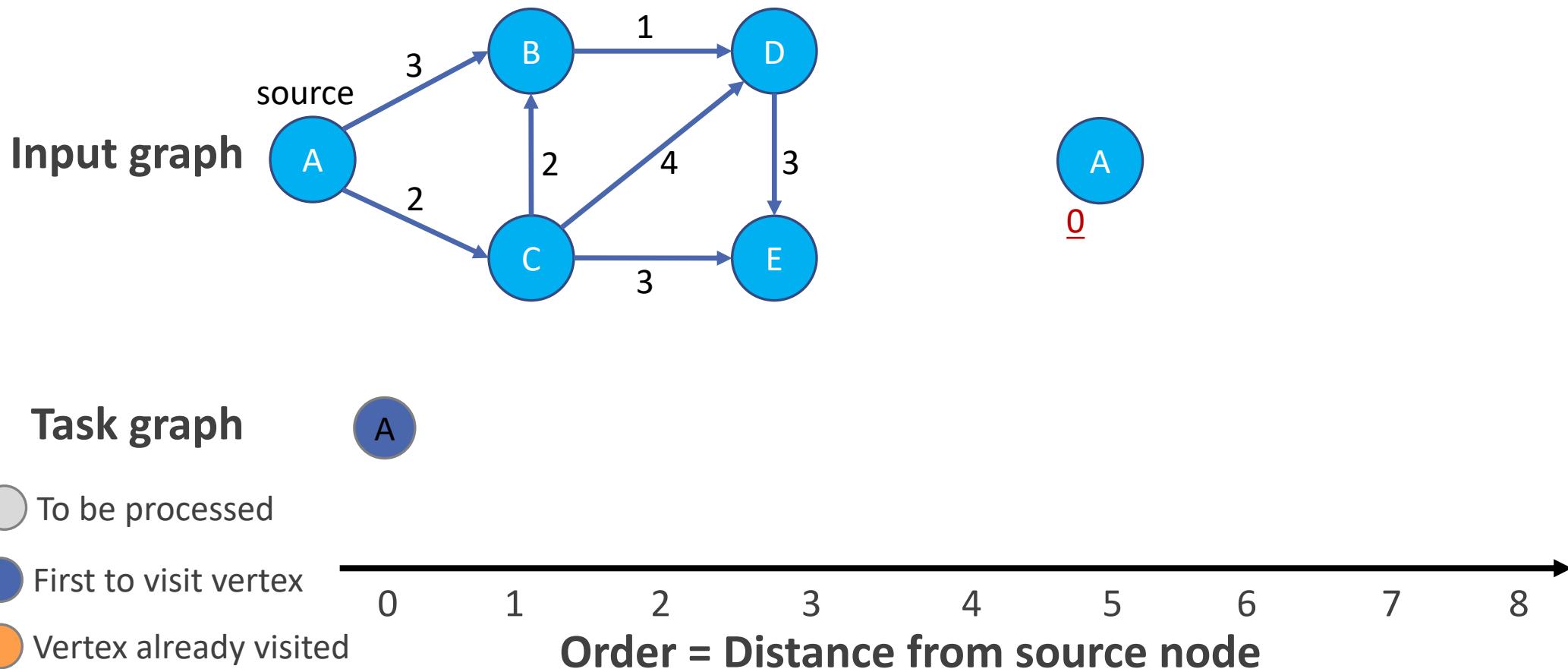
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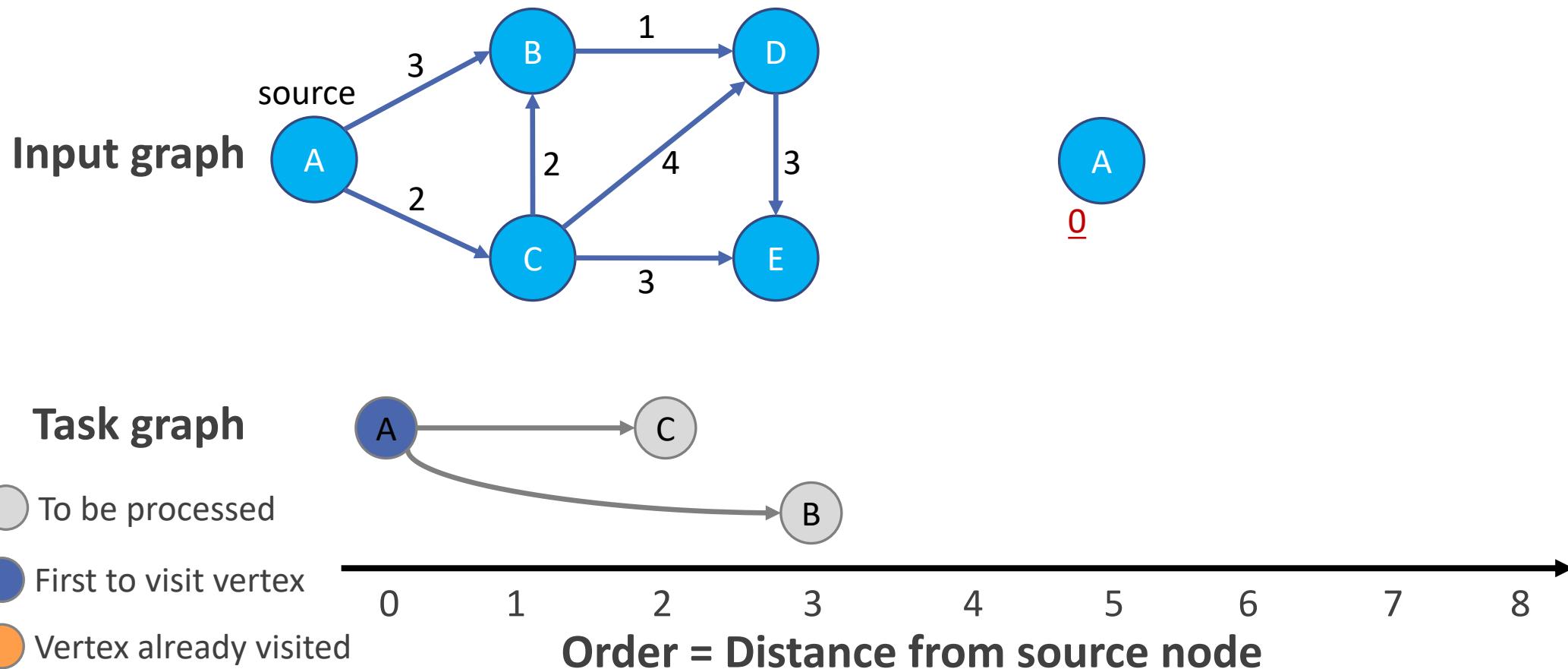
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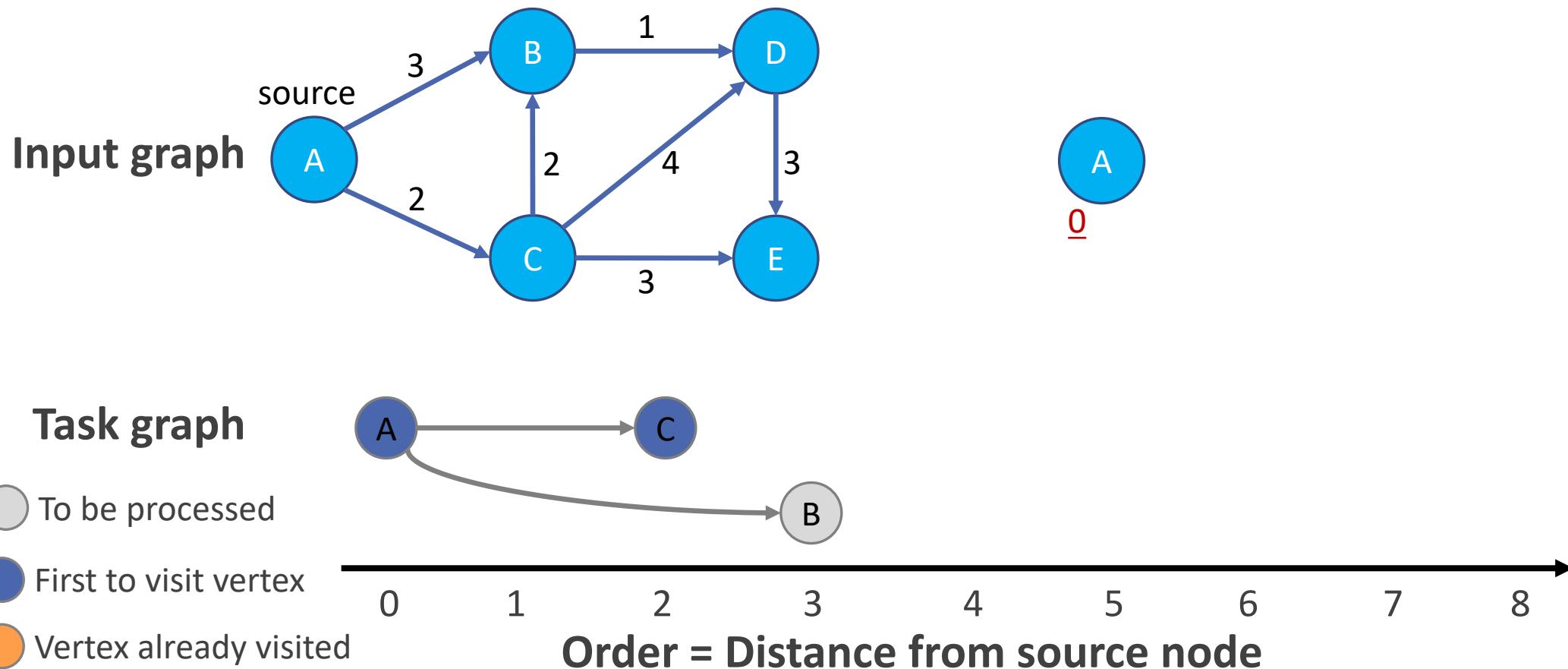
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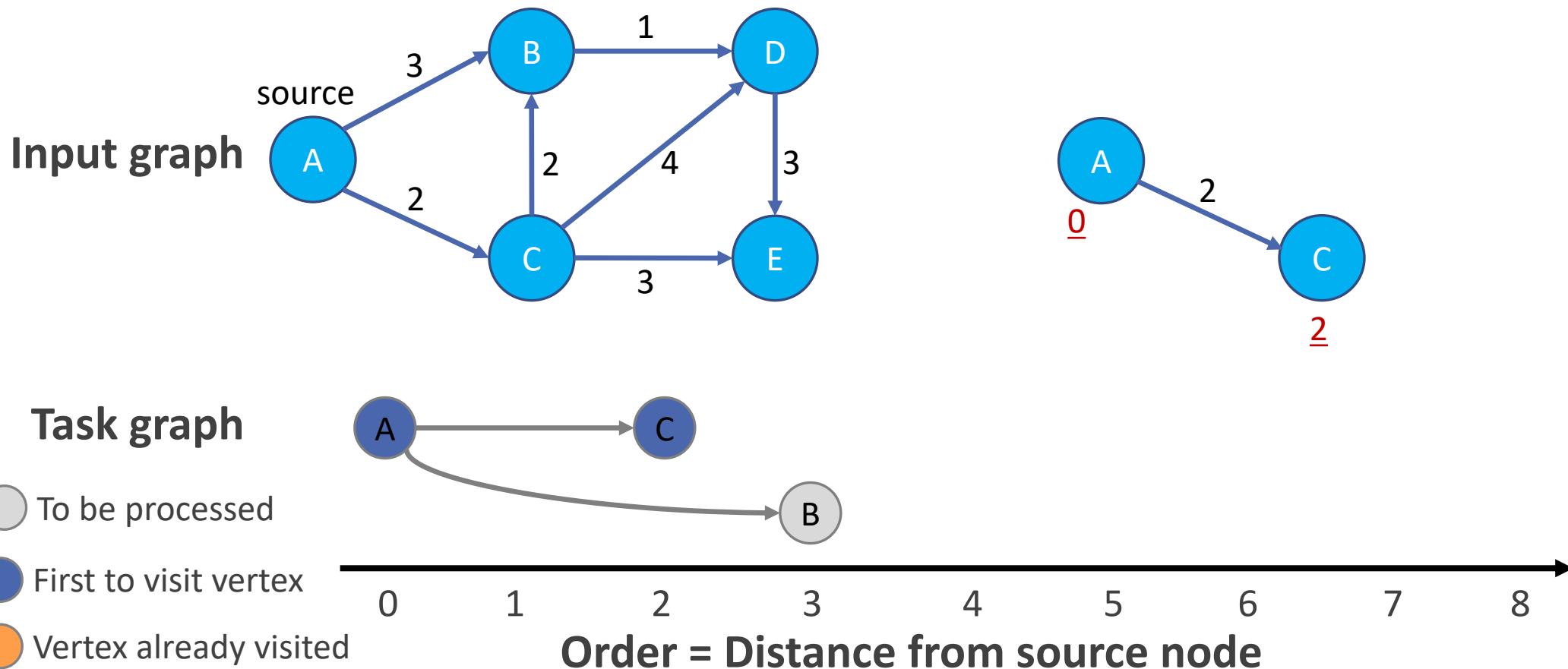
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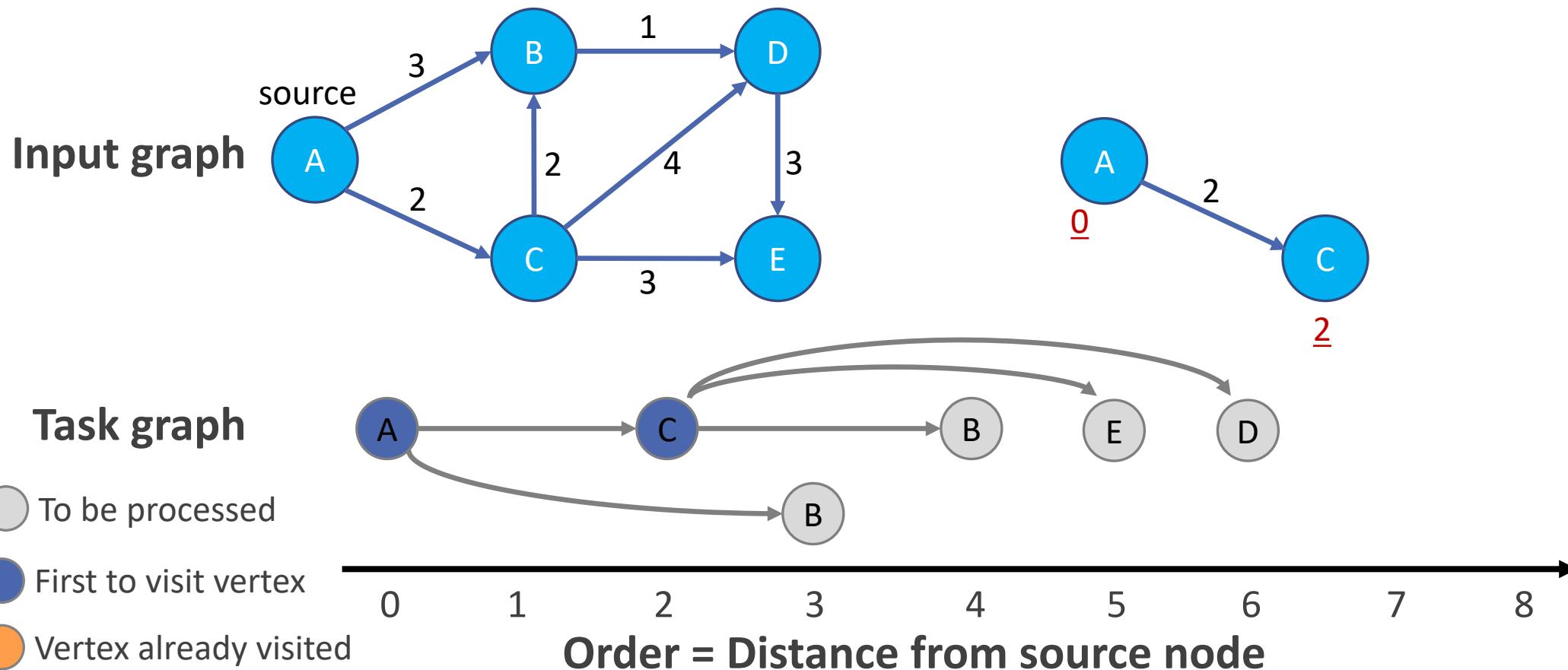
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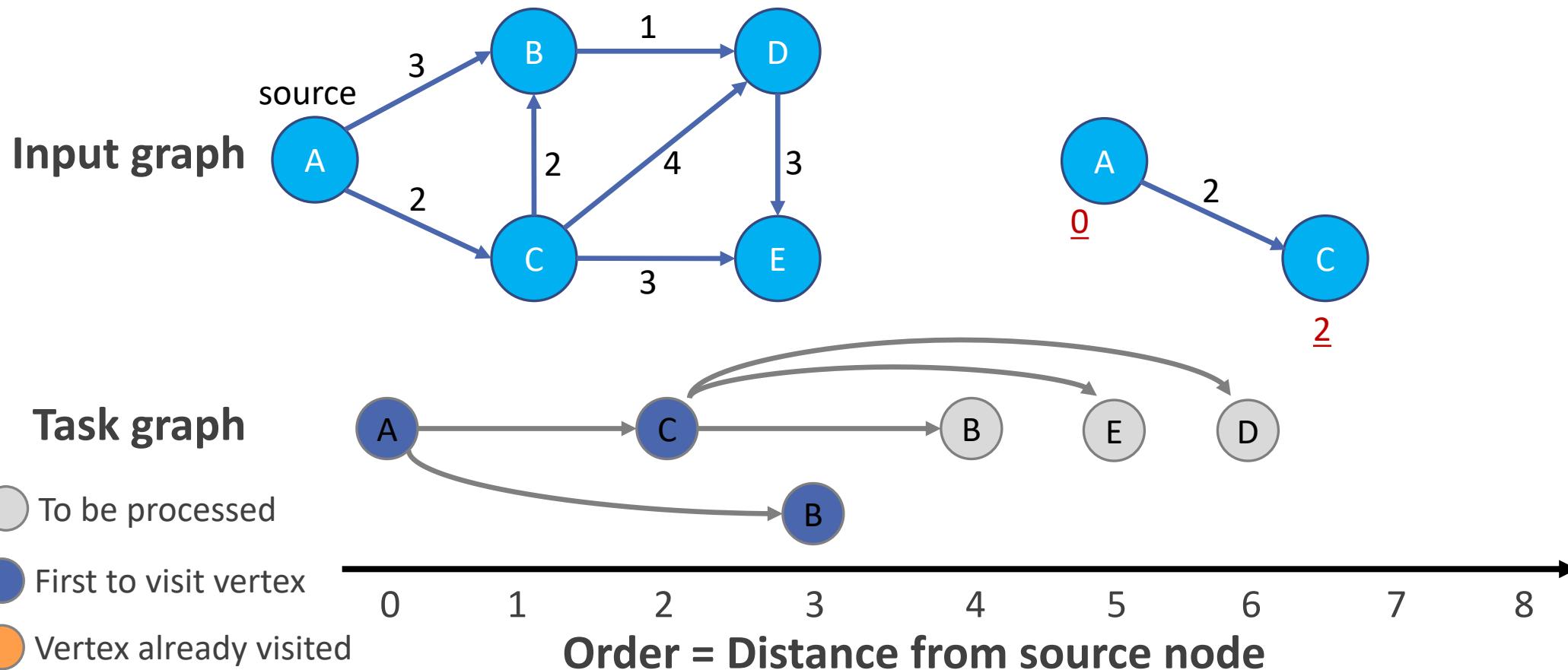
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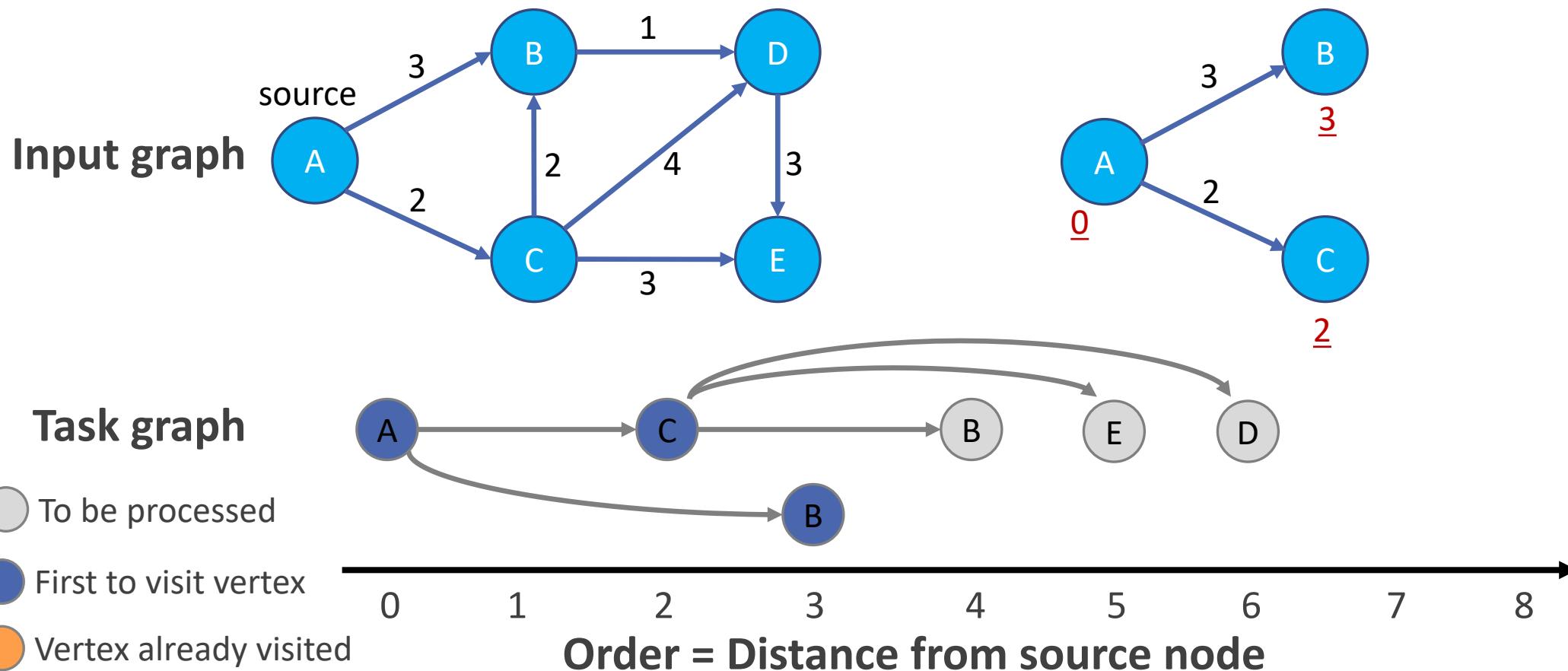
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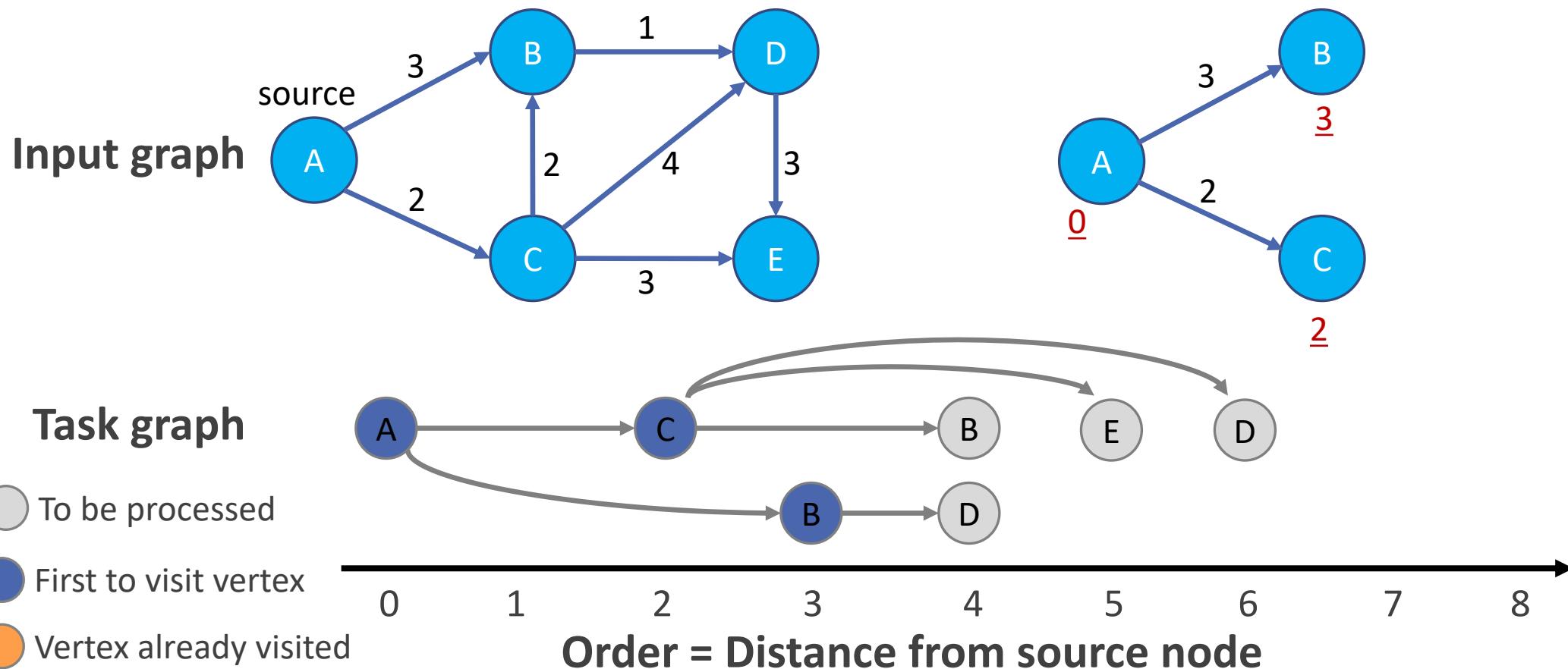
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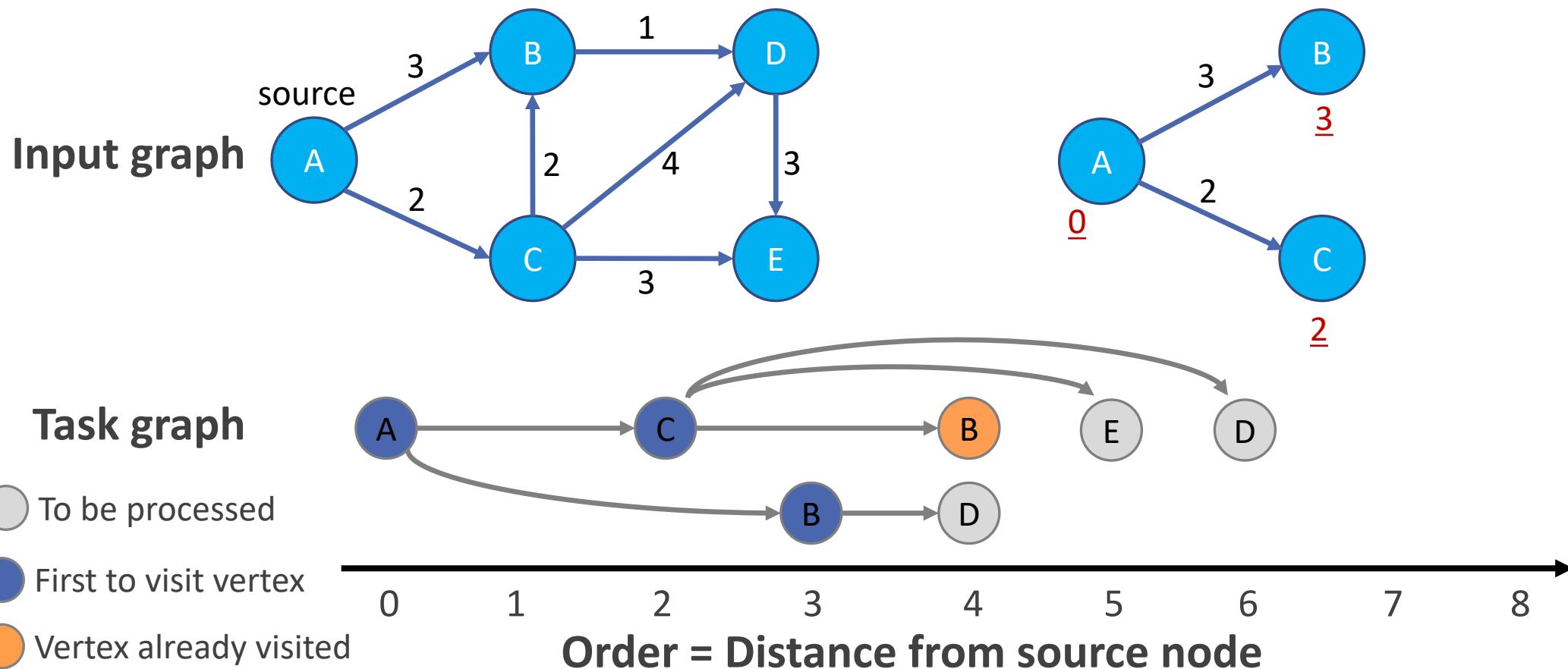
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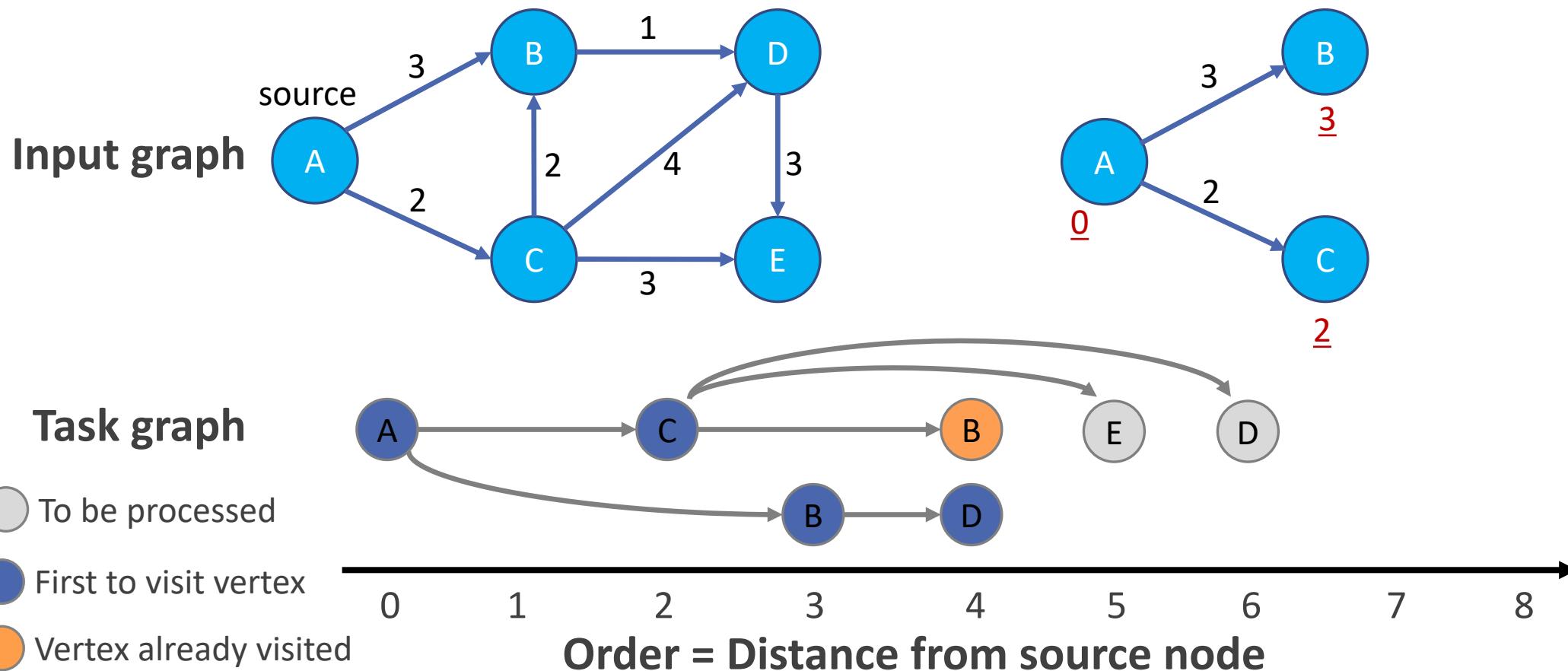
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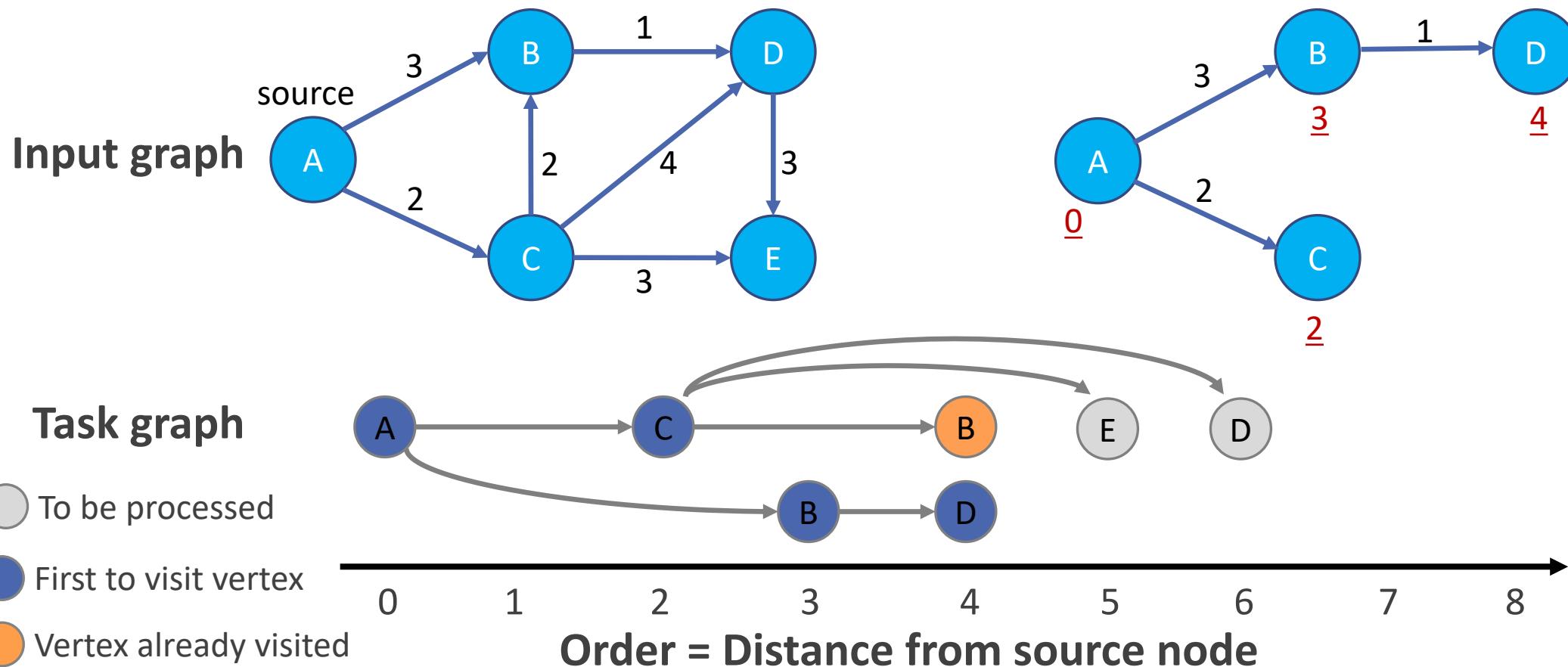
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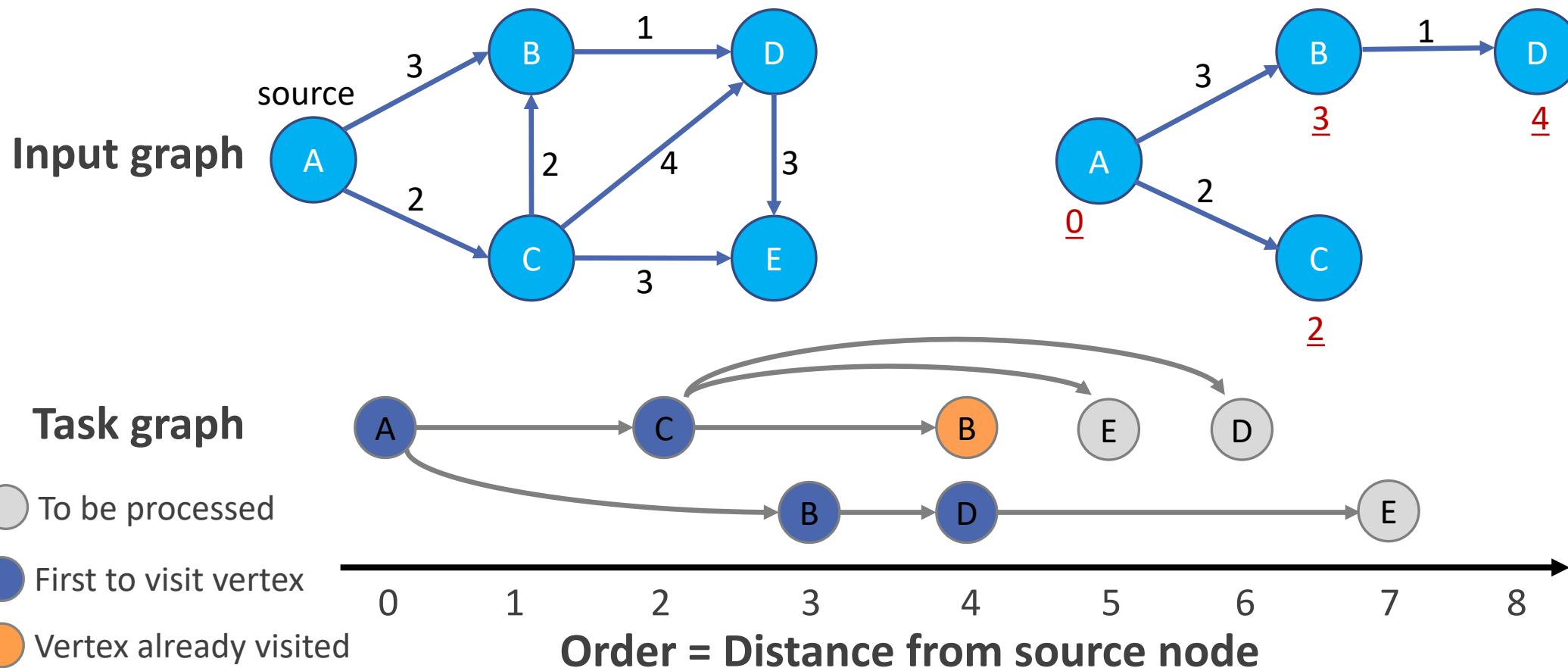
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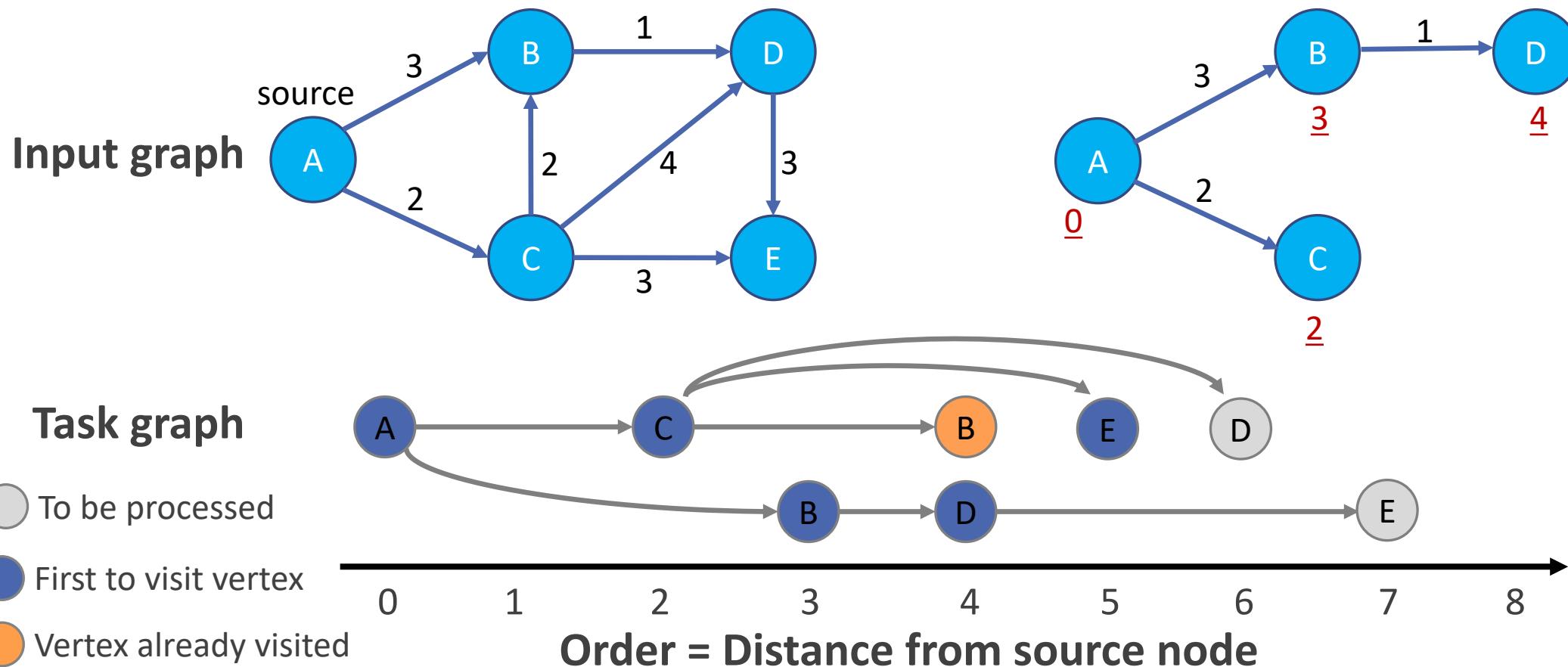
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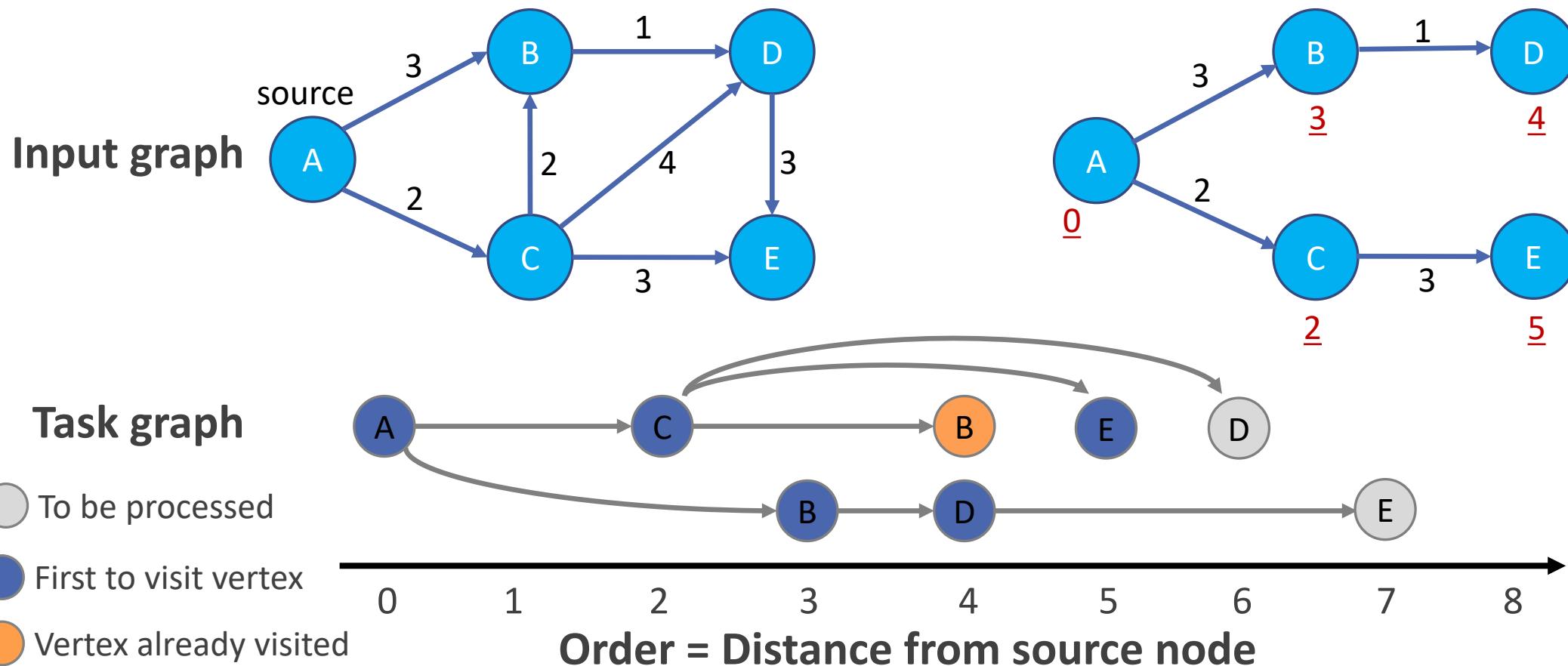
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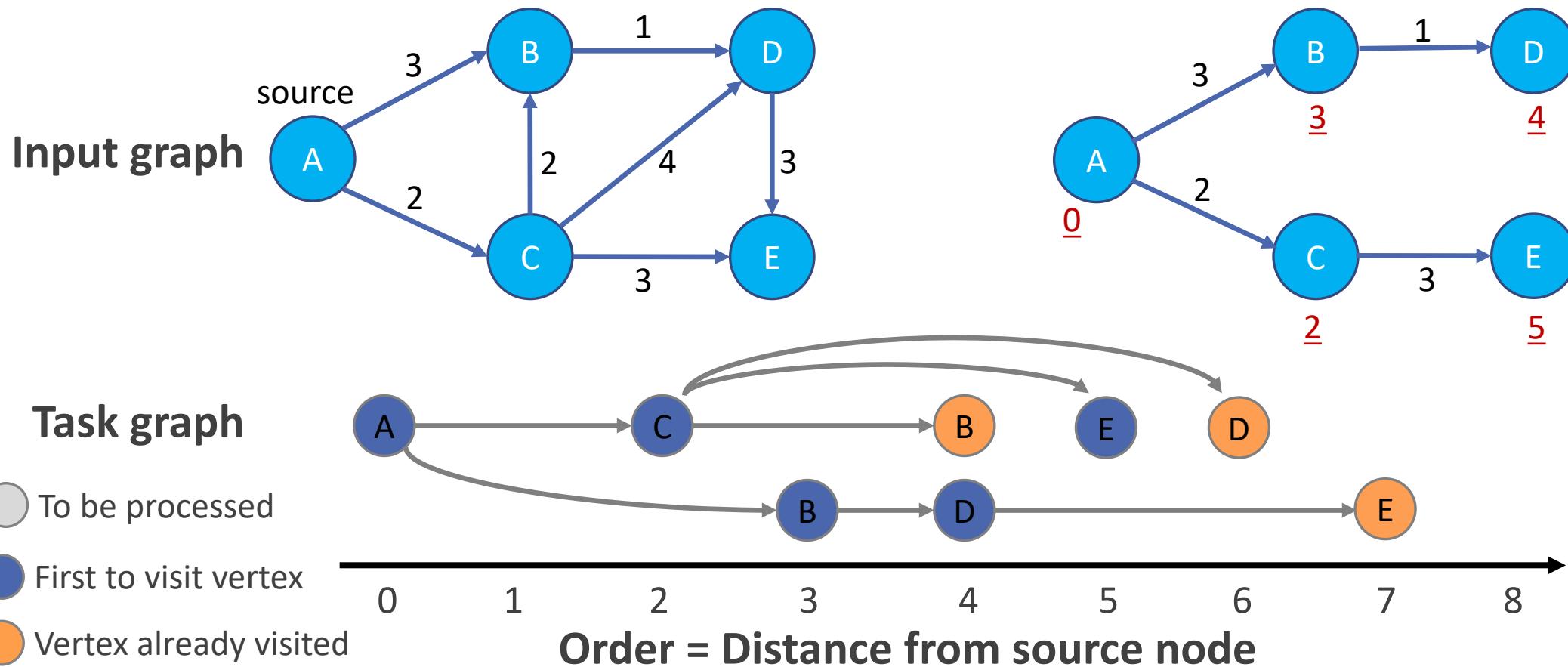
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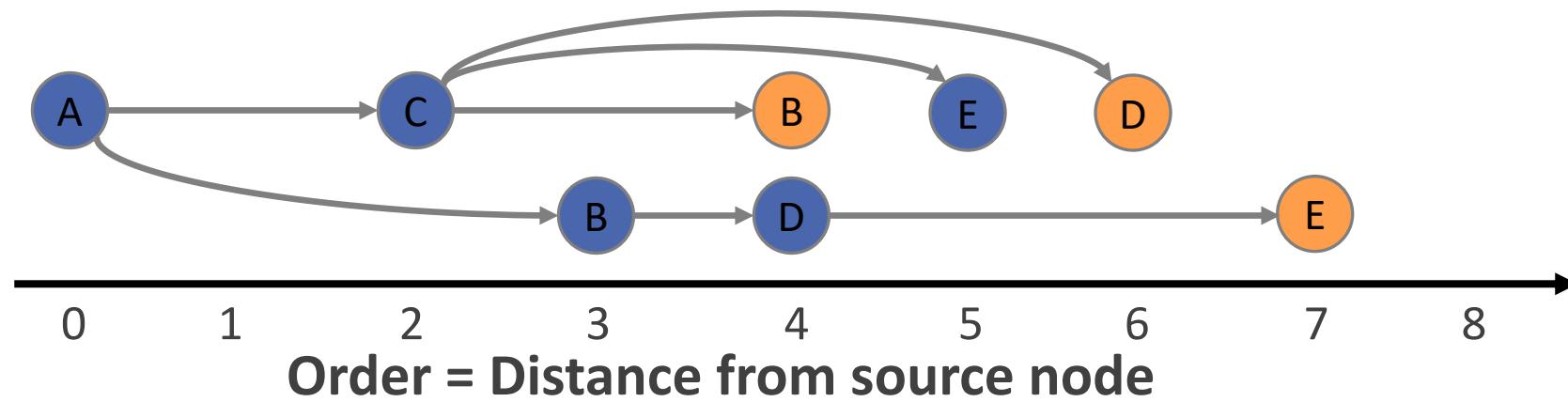
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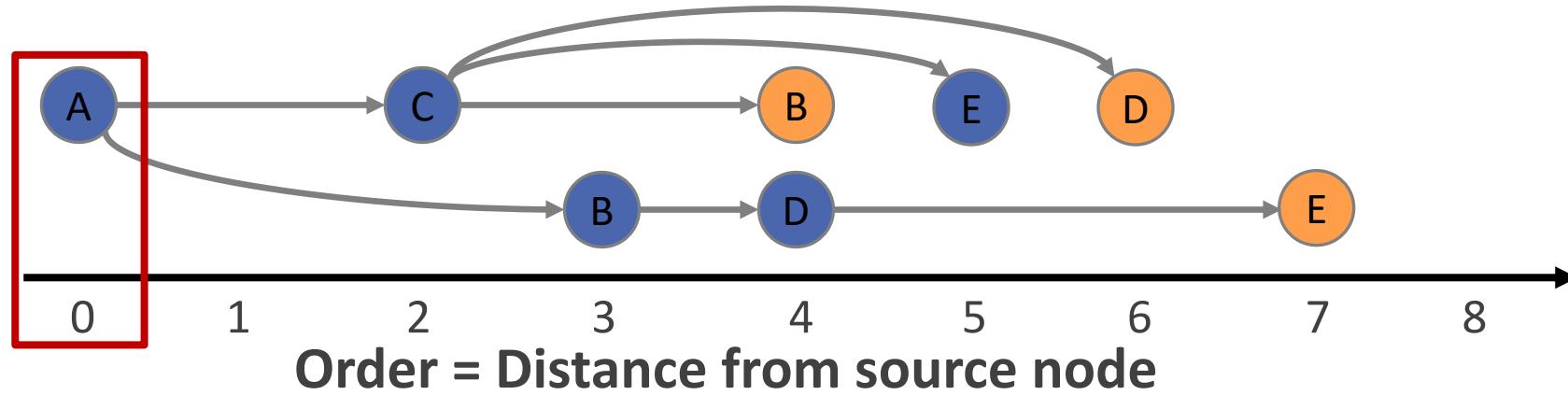
Parallelism in Dijkstra's algorithm?

Task graph



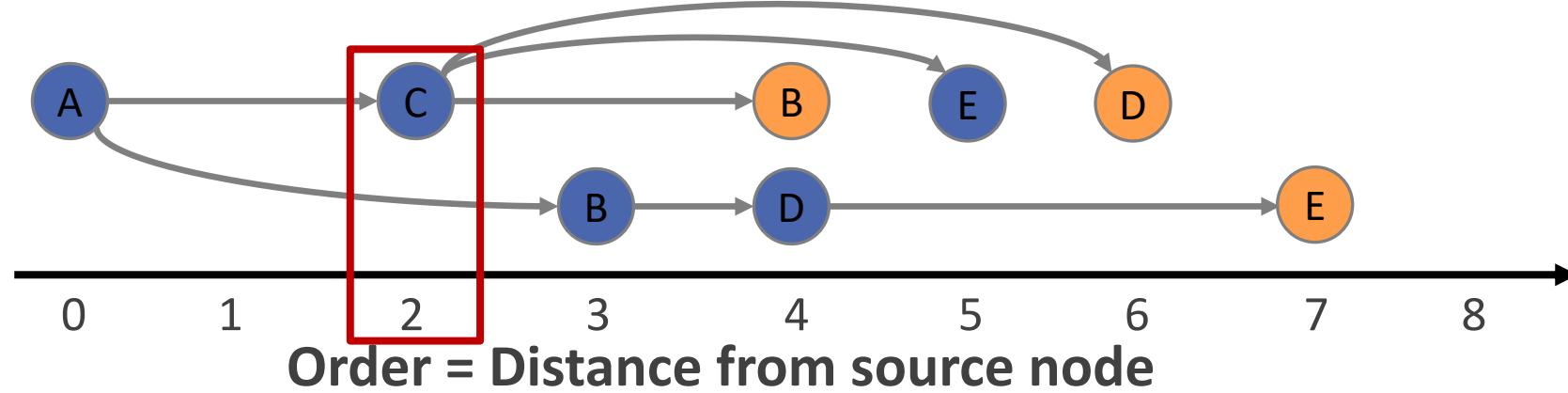
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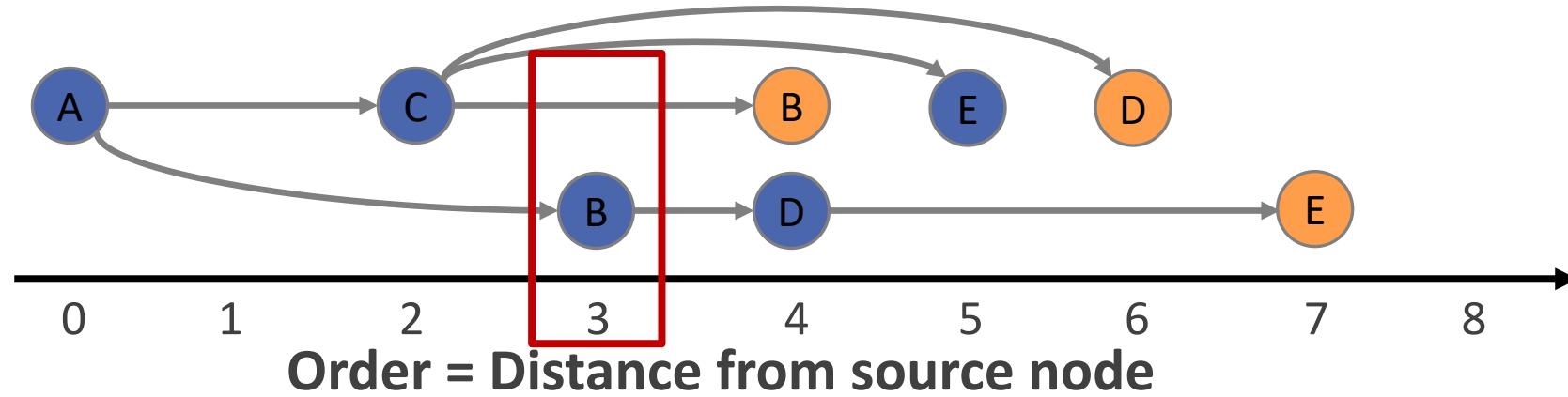
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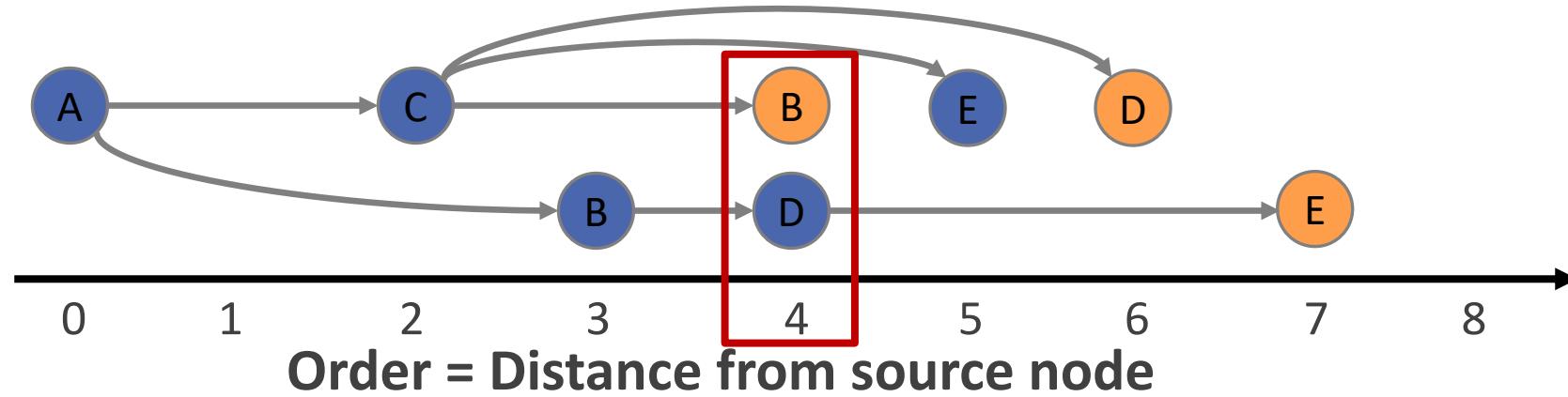
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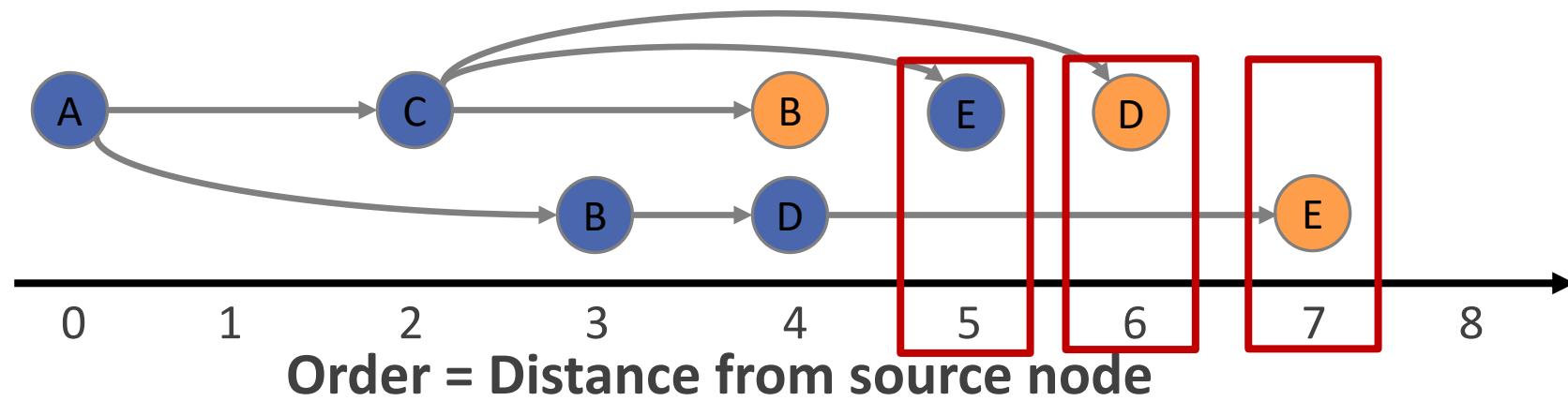
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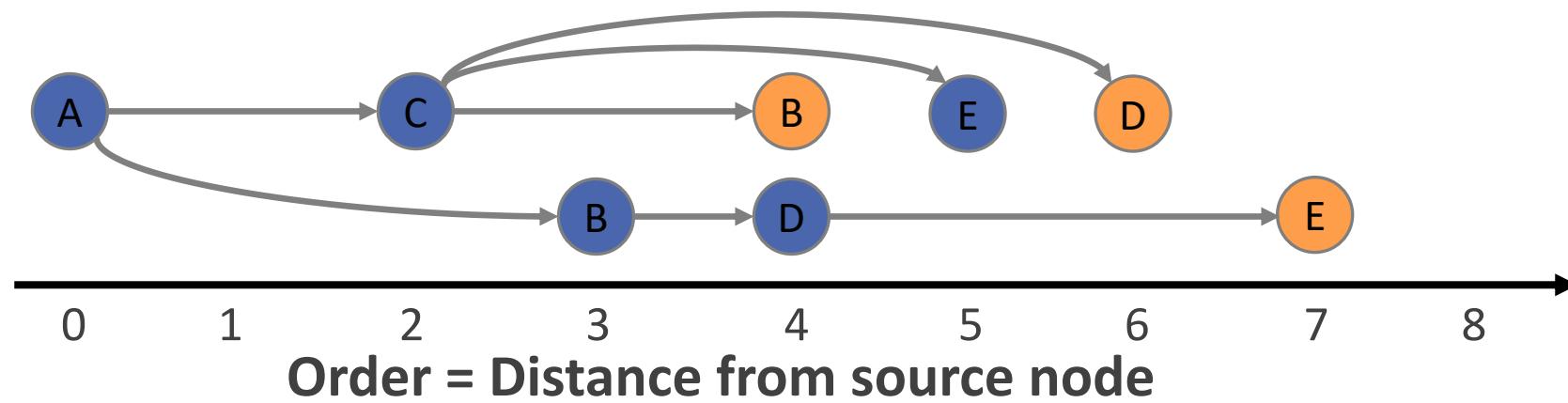
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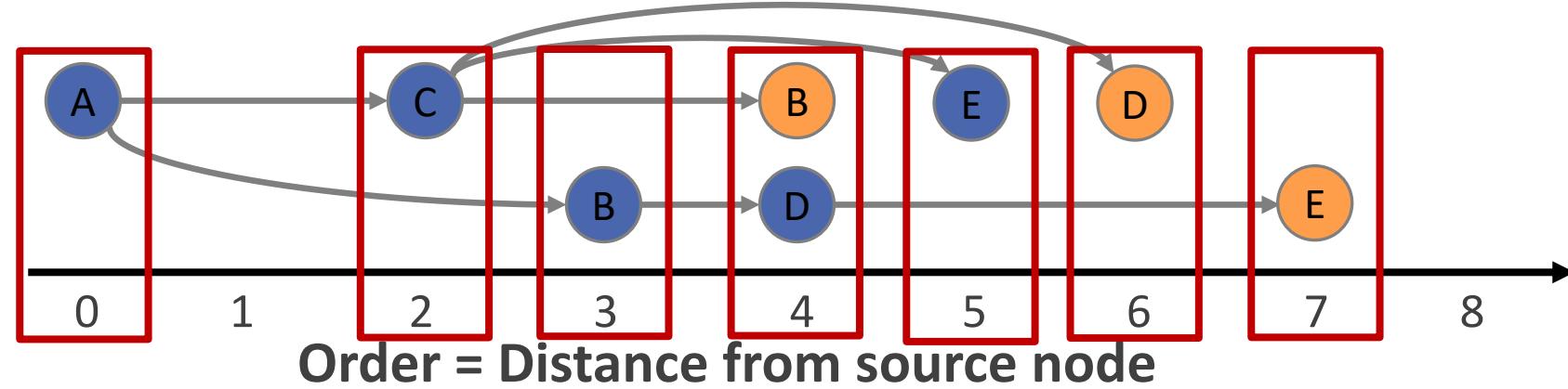
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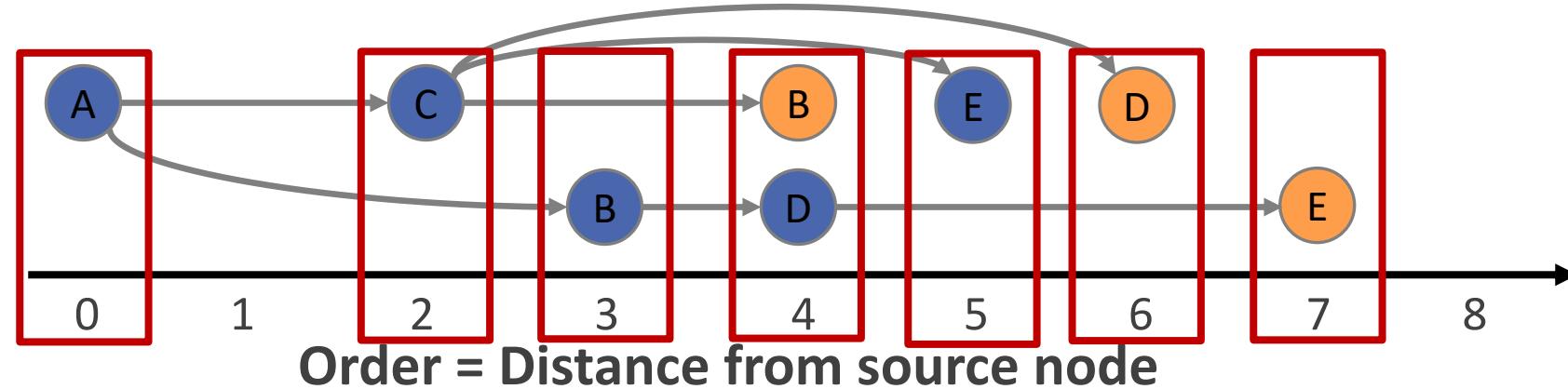
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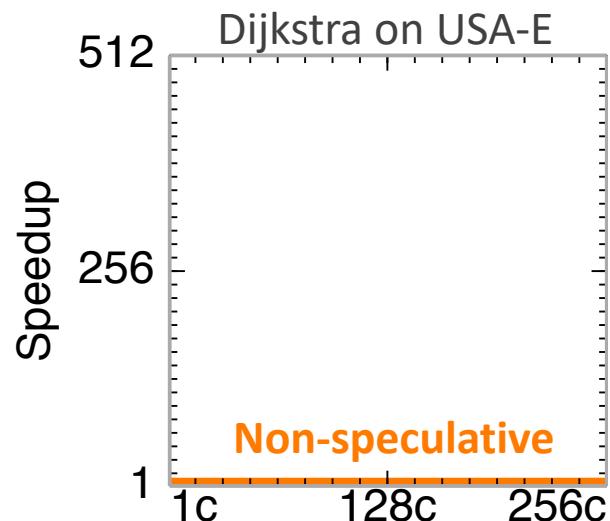


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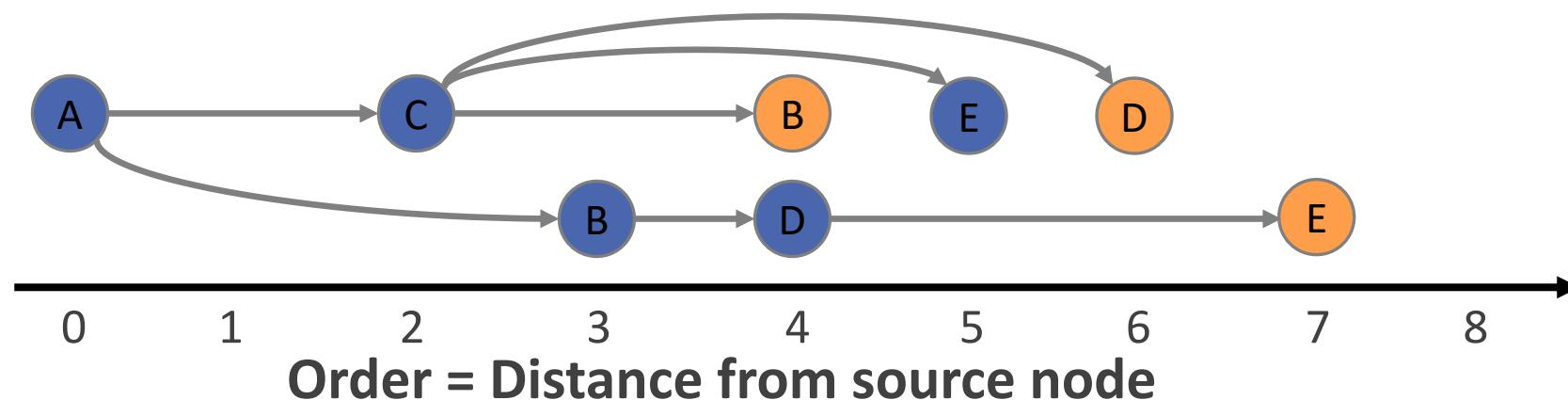


Dijkstra
performance

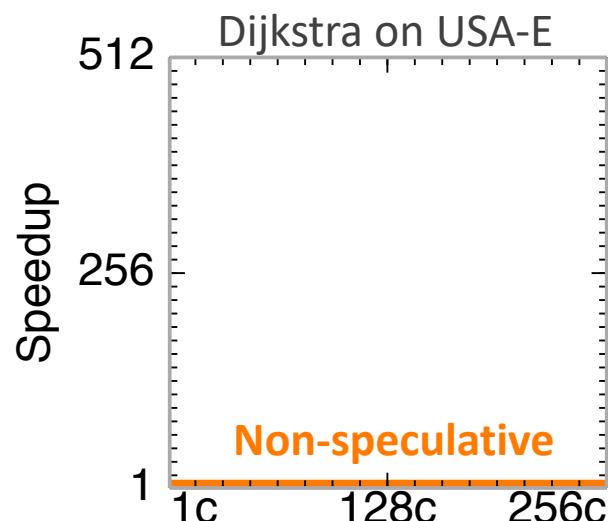


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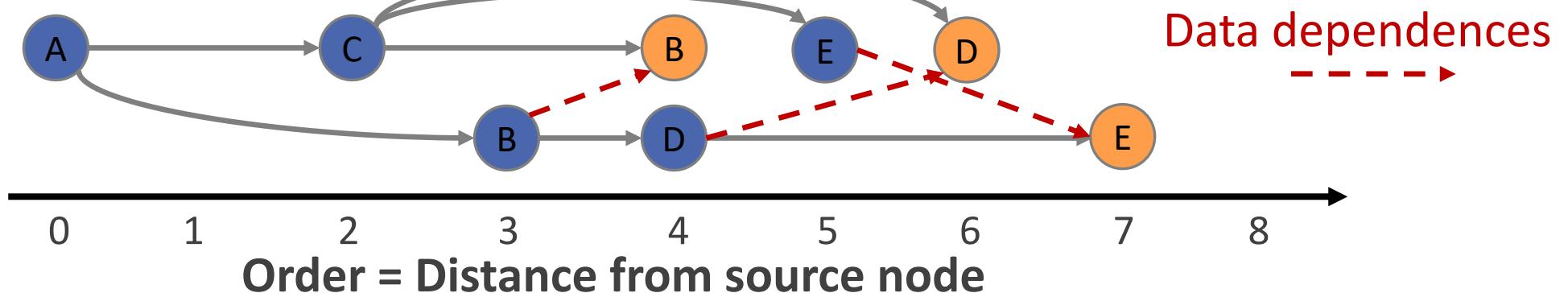


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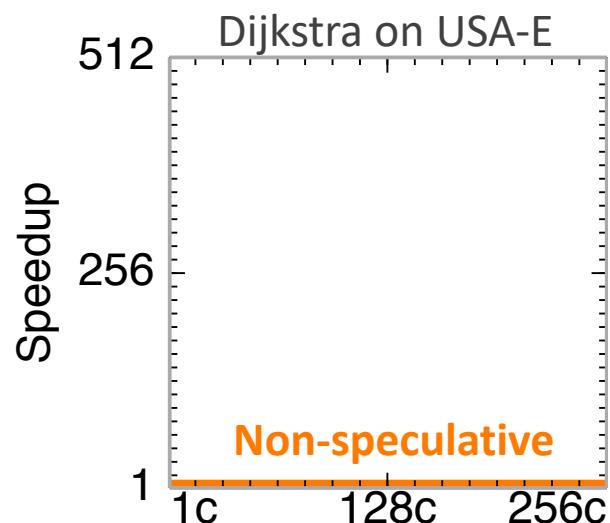


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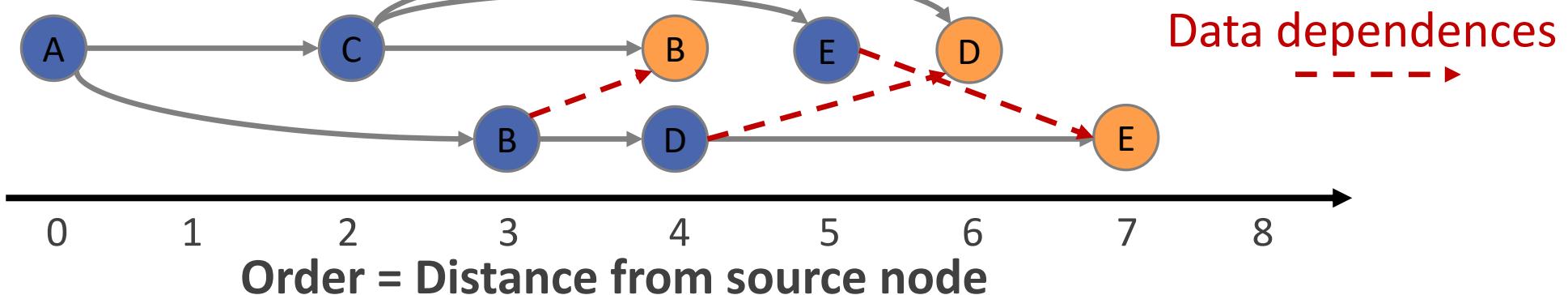


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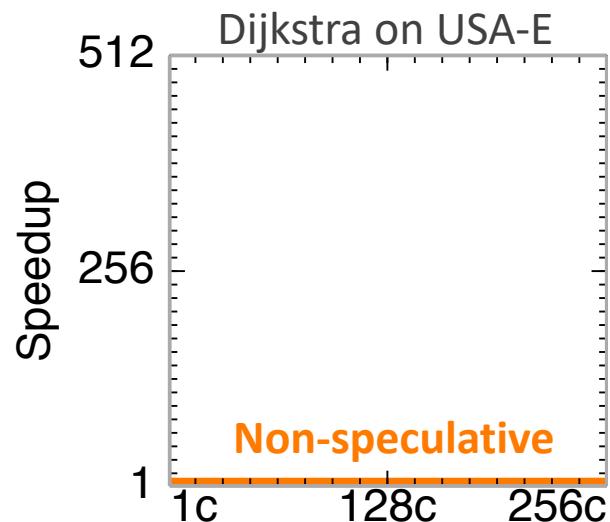


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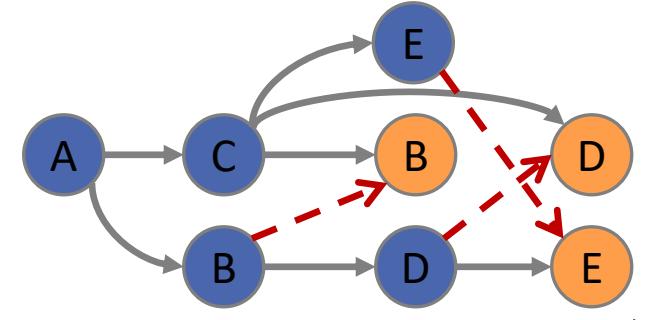


Dijkstra
performance



Valid
out-of-order
schedule

Time



Dijkstra as a Swarm program [MICRO'15]

```
void dijkstraTask(Timestamp dist, Vertex* v) {
    if (v->distance == UNSET) {
        v->distance = dist;
        for (Vertex* n : v->neighbors) {
            Timestamp nDist = dist + weight(v, n);
            swarm::enqueue(dijkstraTask, nDist, n);
        }
    }
}
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Function Pointer Timestamp Arguments

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Function Pointer

Timestamp

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Implicit Parallelism

Function Pointer

Timestamp

Arguments

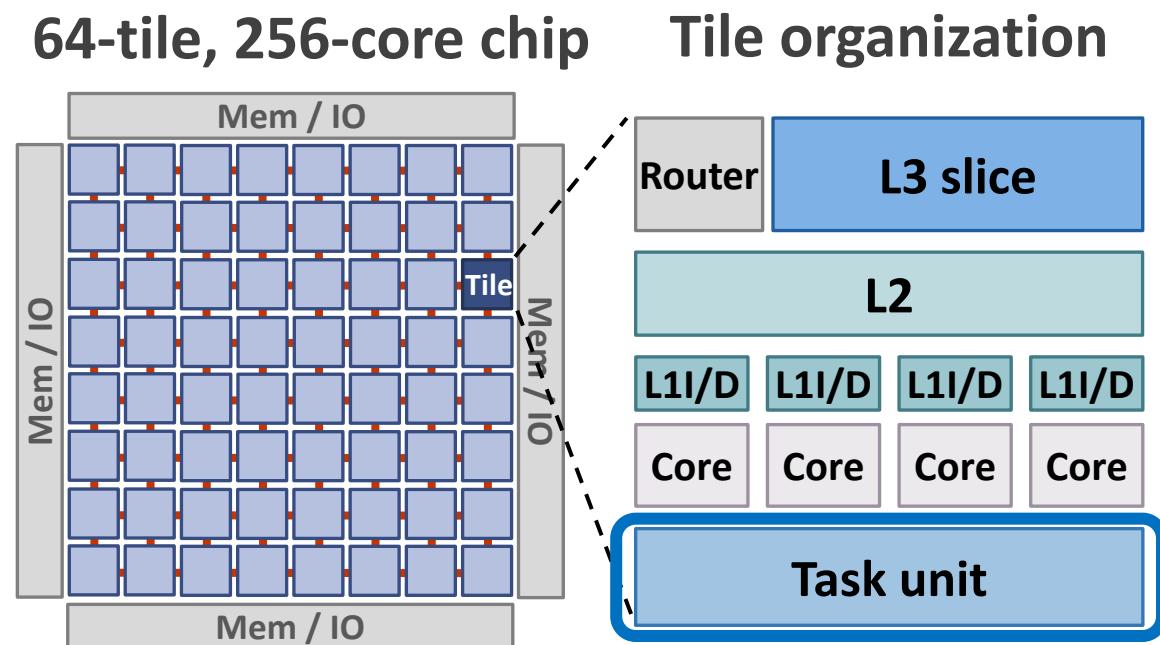
No explicit synchronization

Conveys new work to hardware as soon as possible

Swarm microarchitecture [MICRO'15]

Swarm executes all tasks
speculatively and out of order

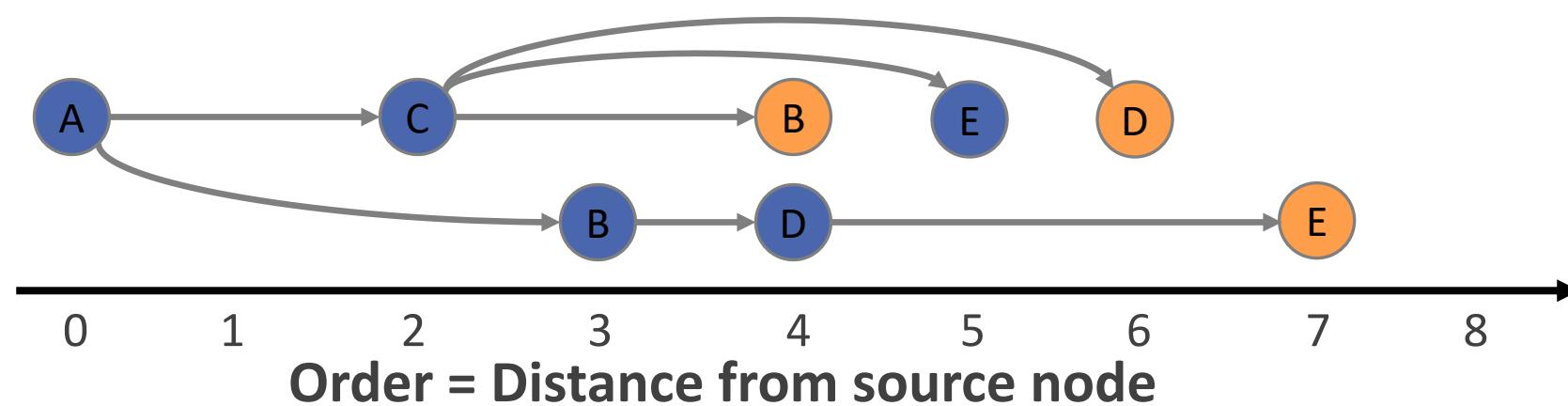
Large hardware task queues
Scalable ordered speculation
Scalable ordered commits



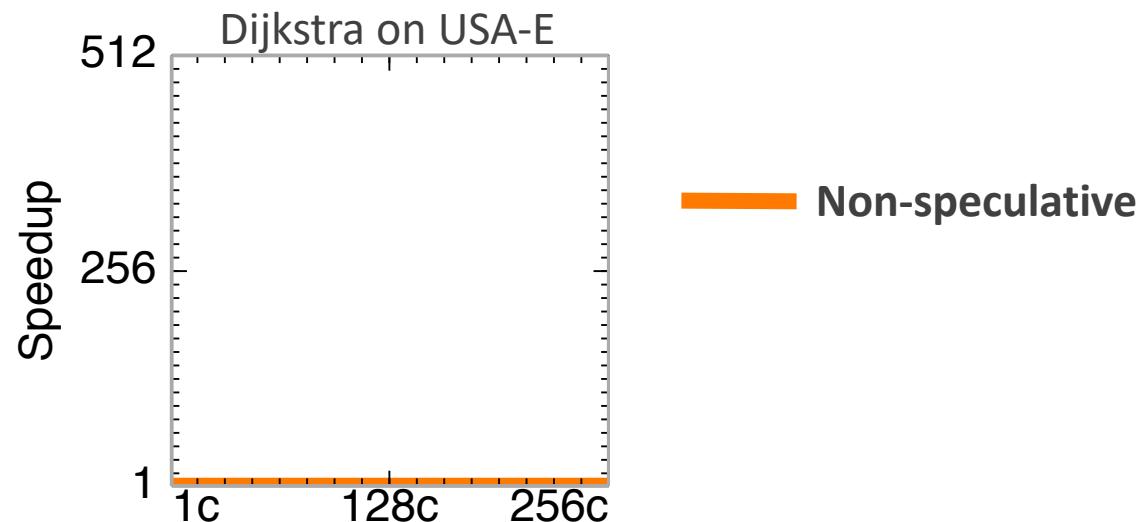
Efficiently supports thousands of tiny speculative tasks

Dijkstra's algorithm has speculative parallelism

Task graph

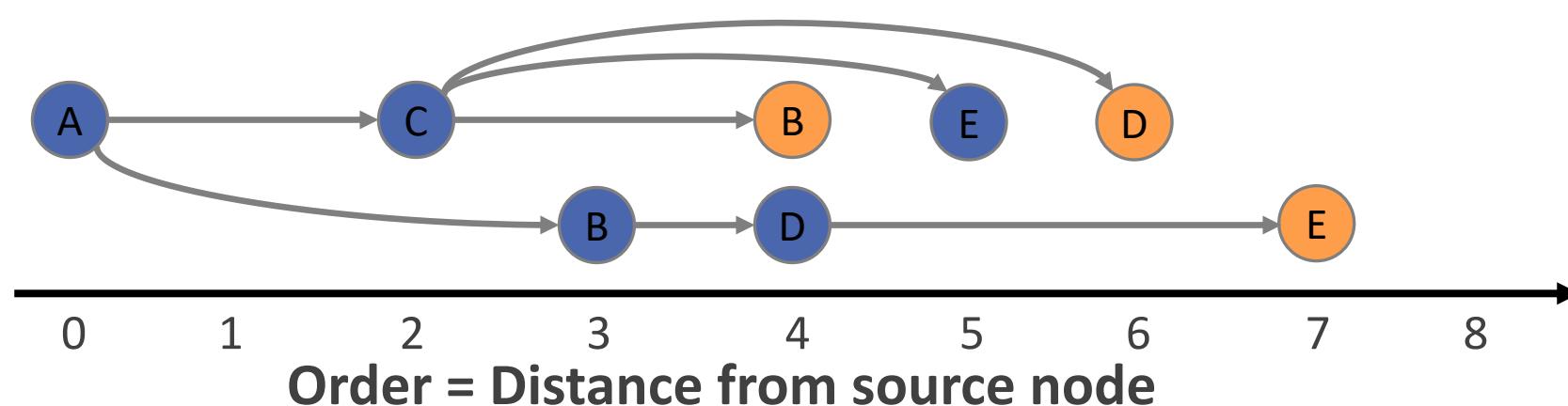


Dijkstra
performance

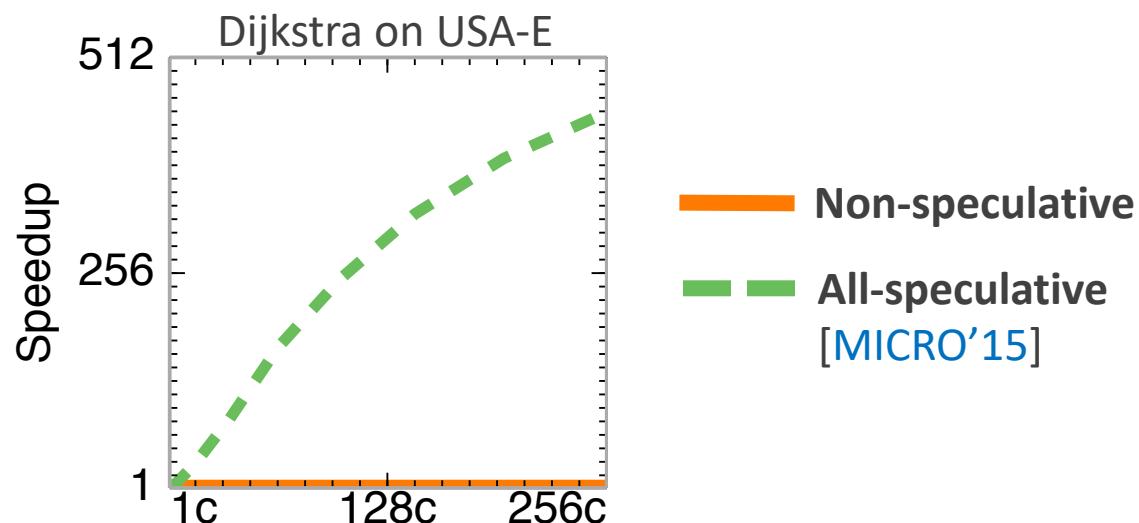


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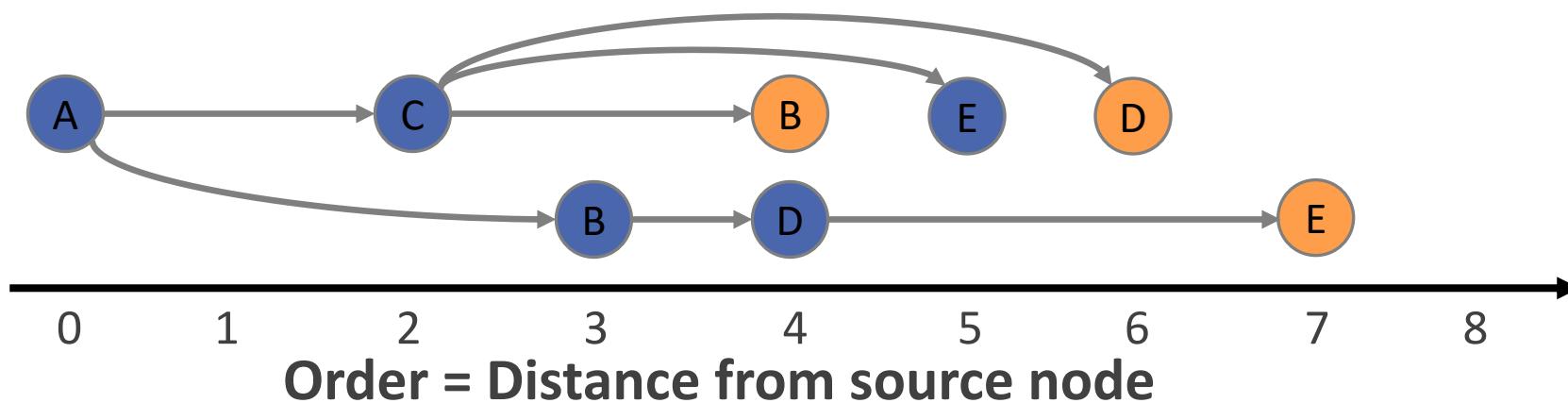


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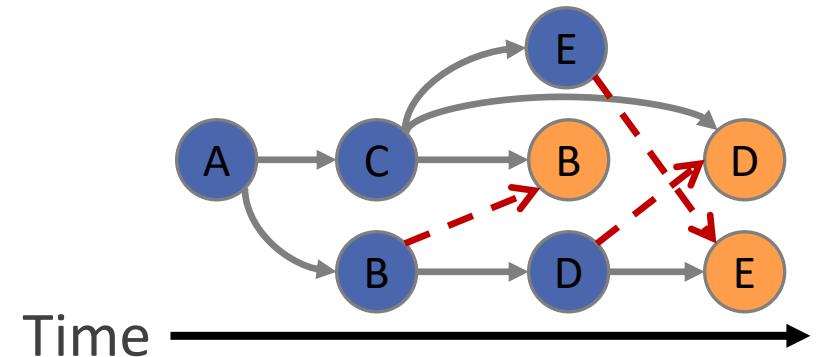
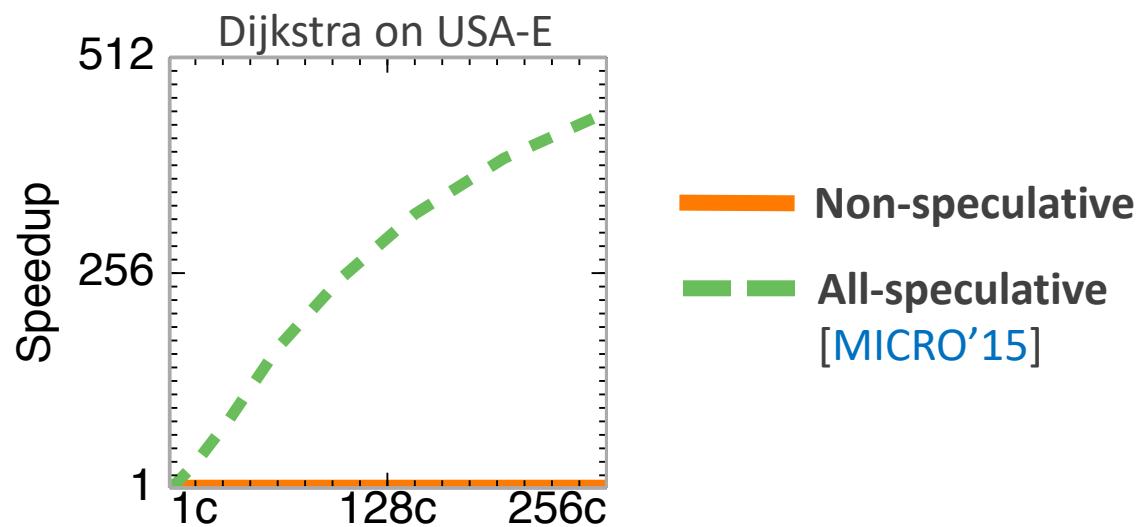


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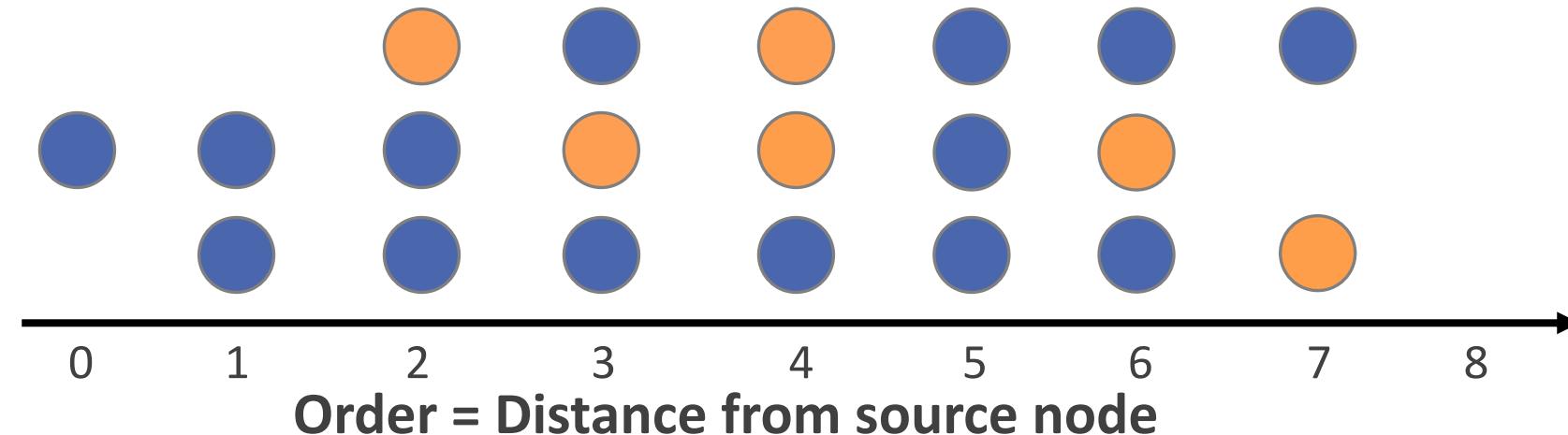


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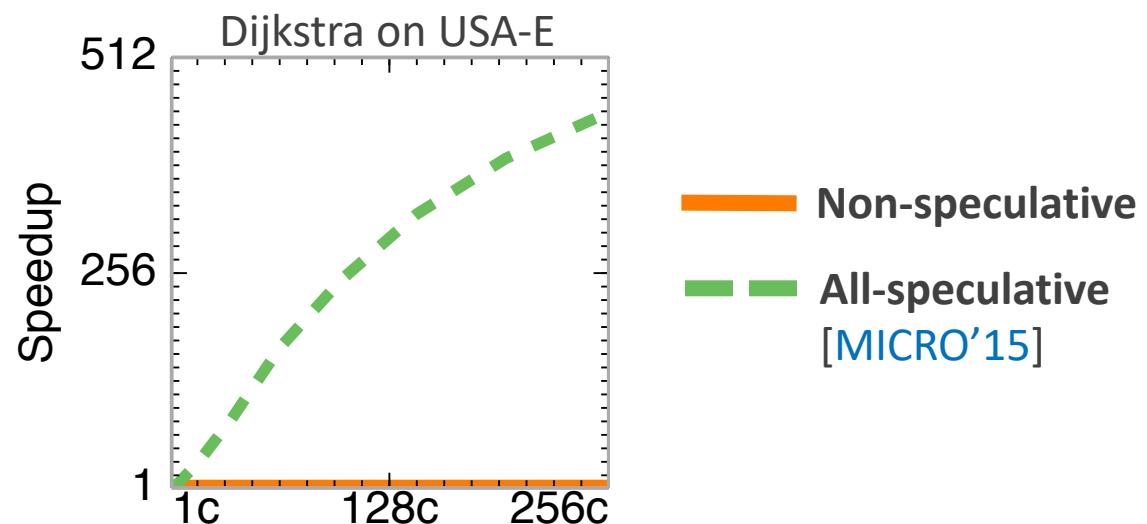


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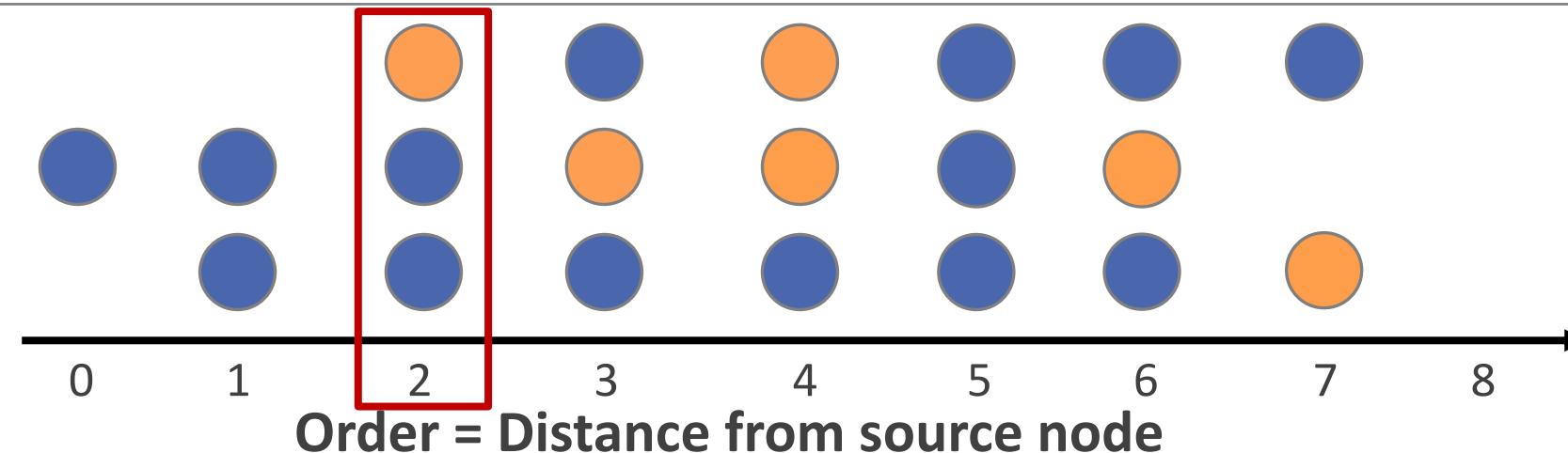


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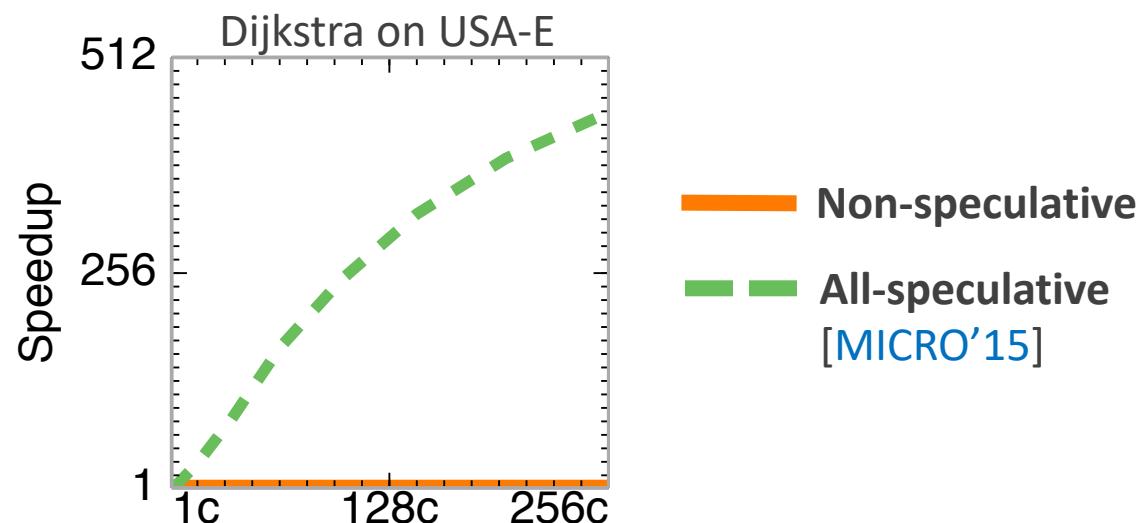


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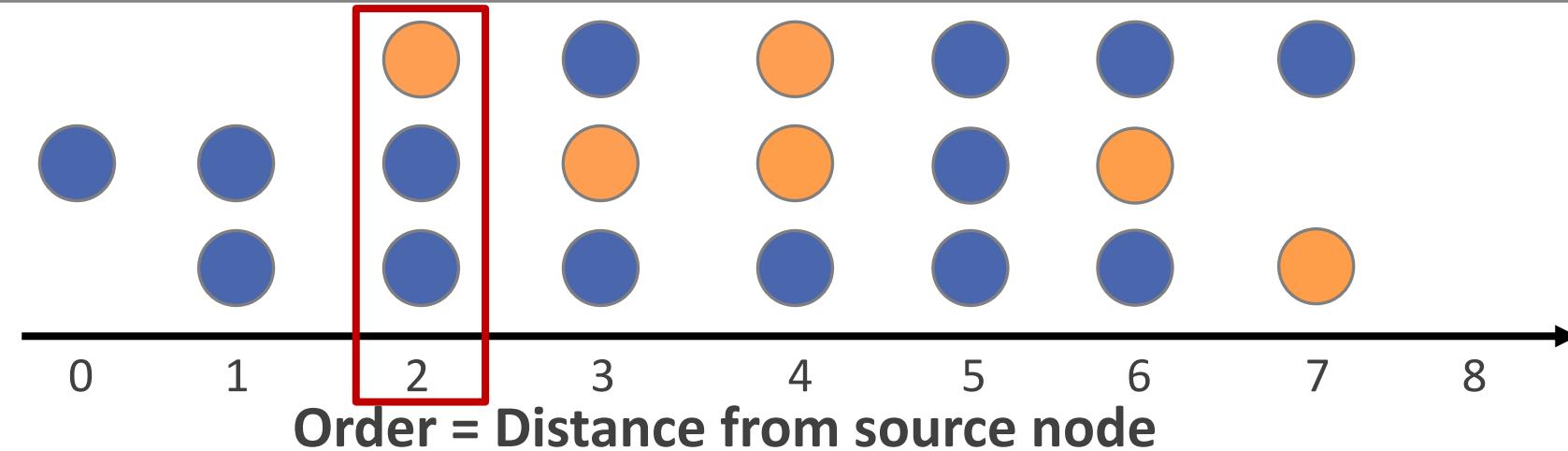


Dijkstra
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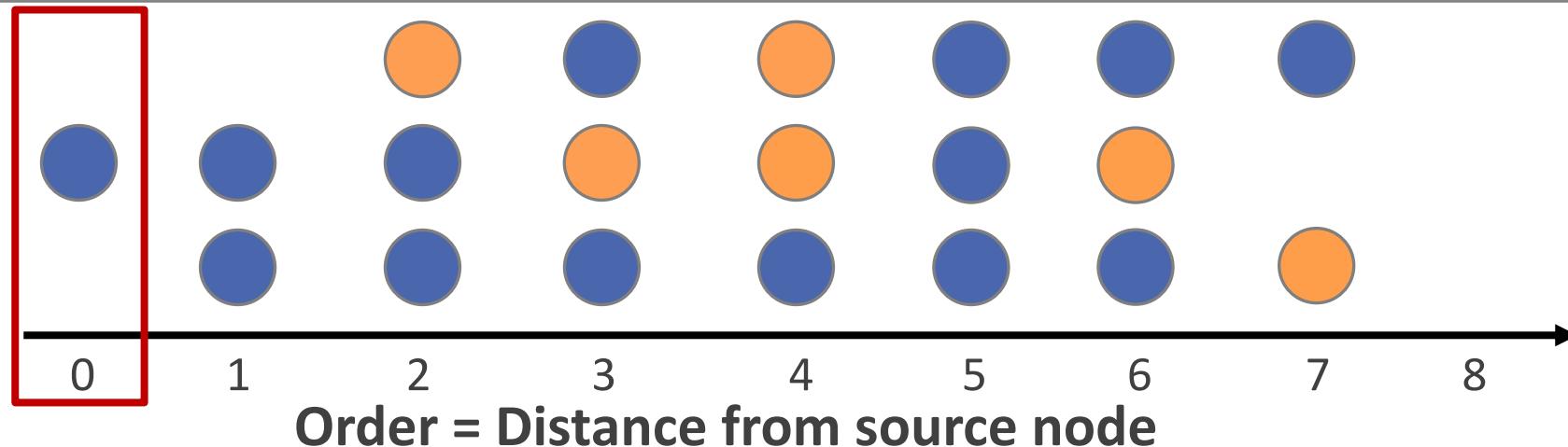


Dijkstra
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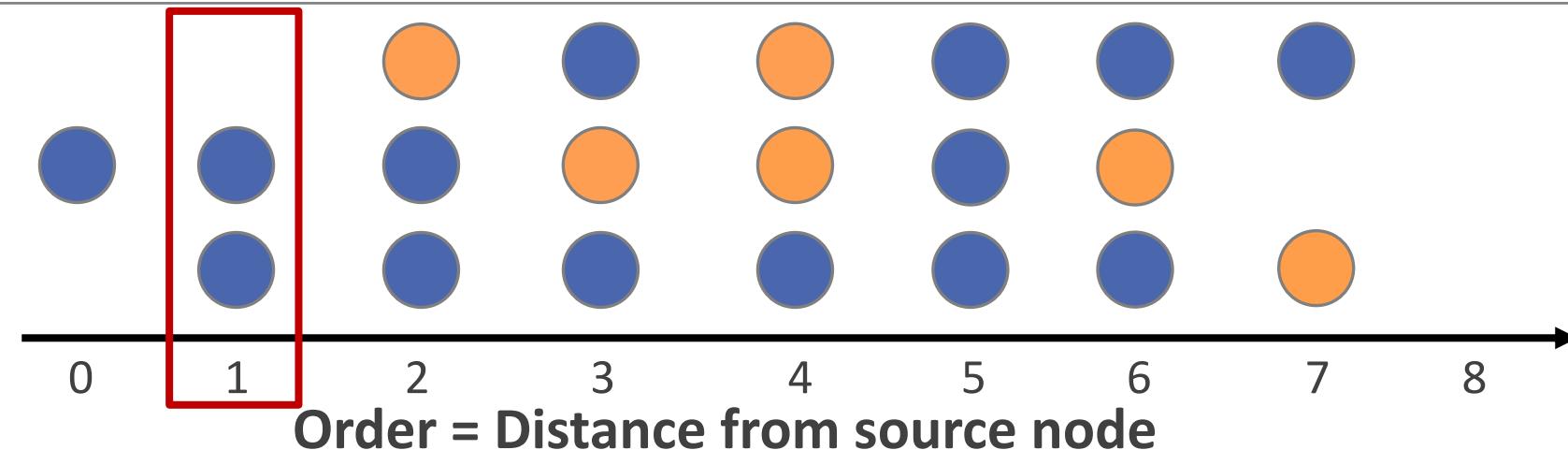


Dijkstra
performance



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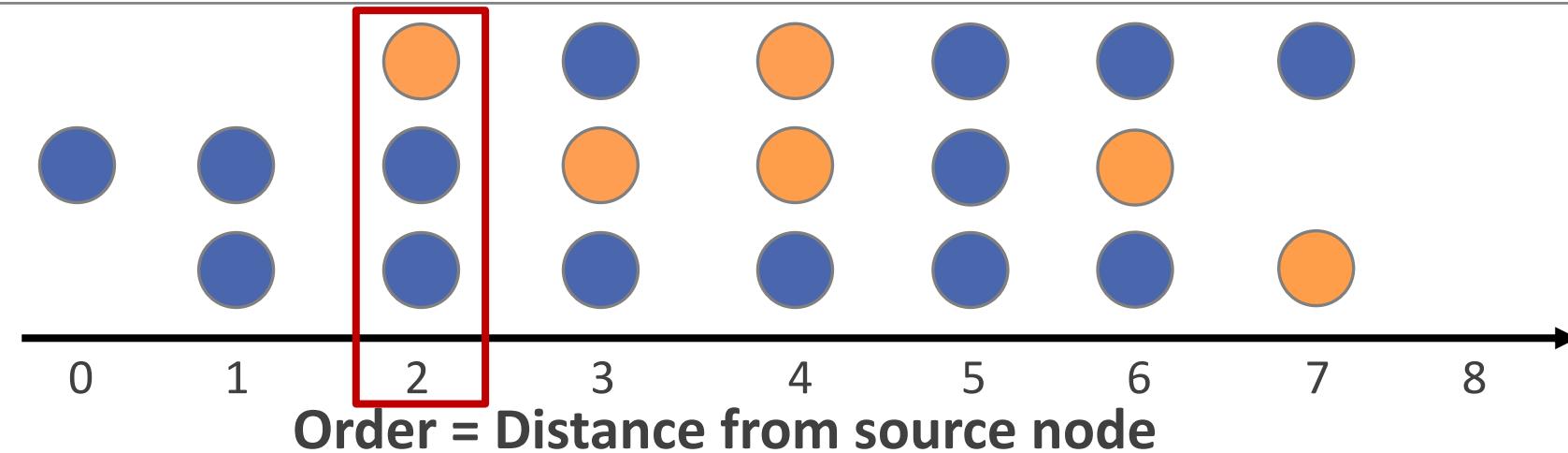


Dijkstra
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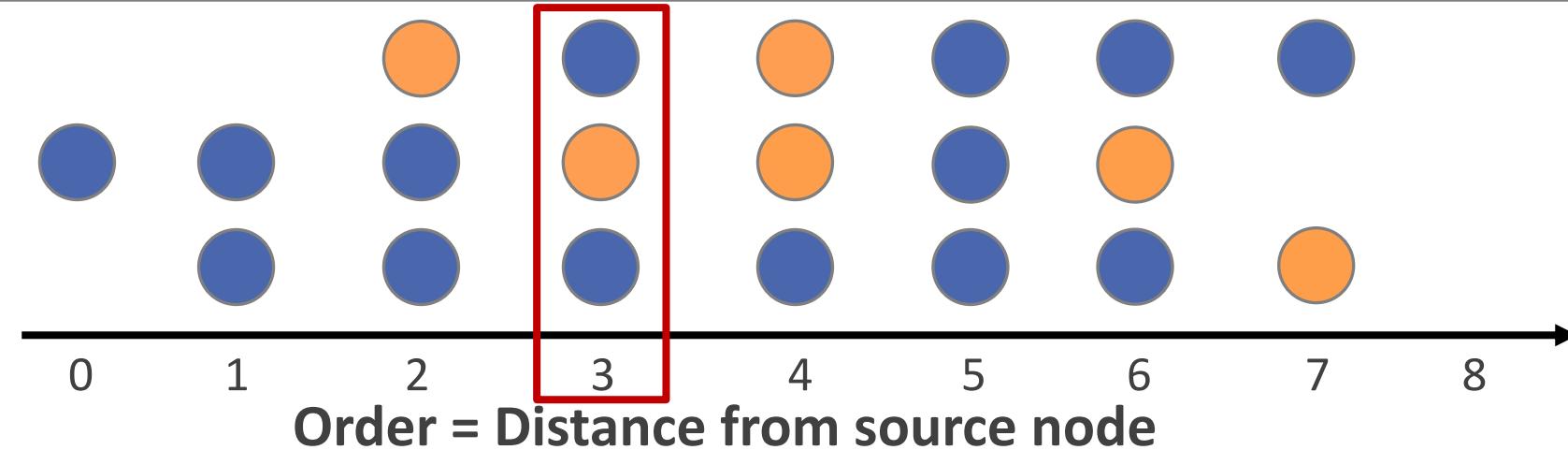


Dijkstra performance



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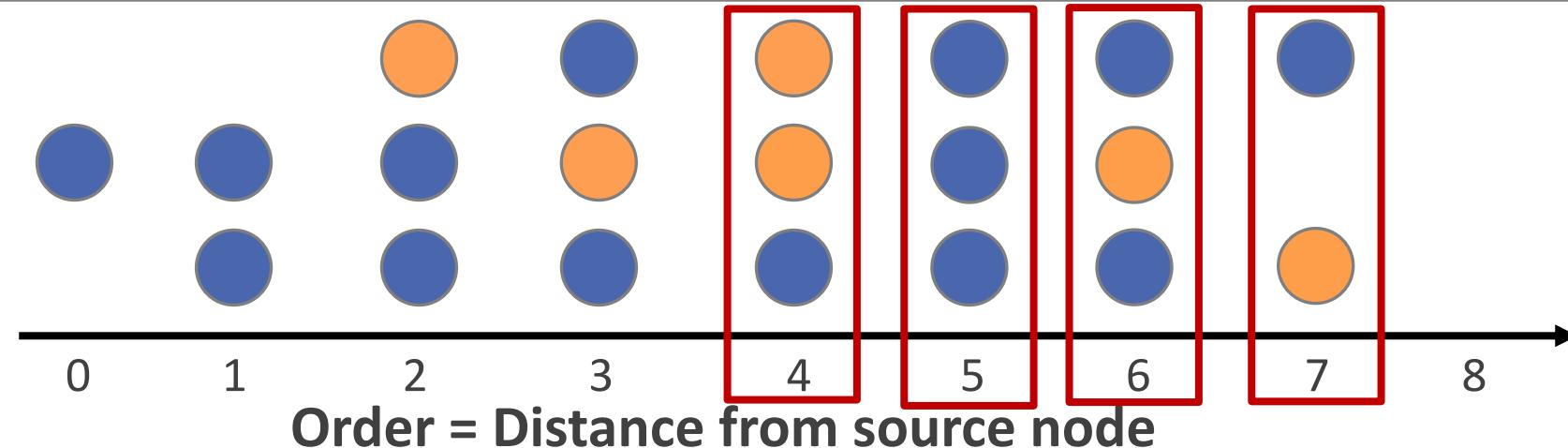


Dijkstra
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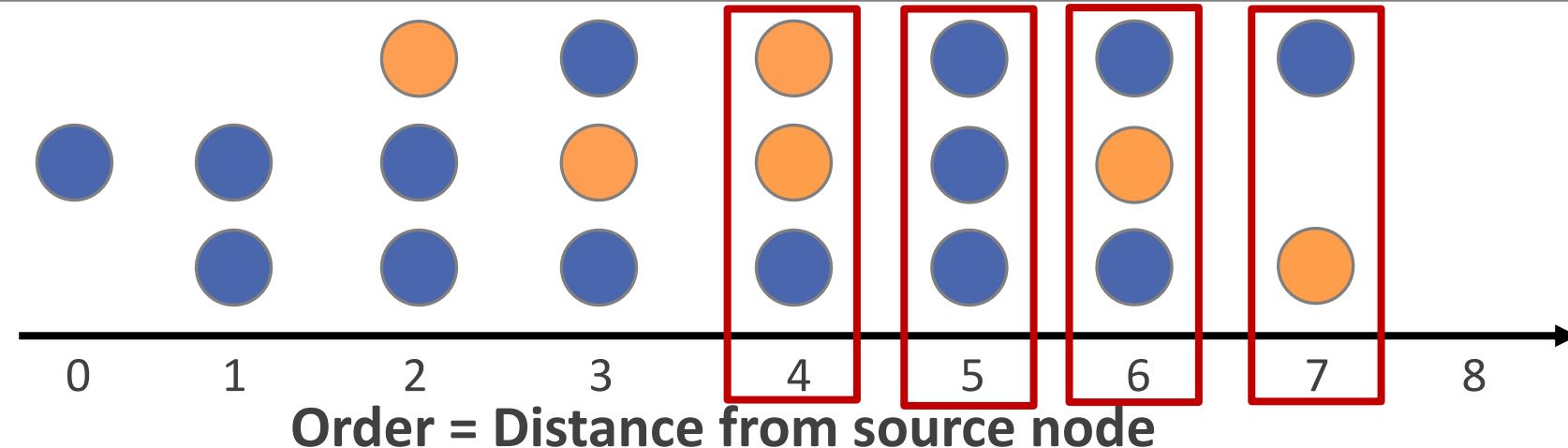


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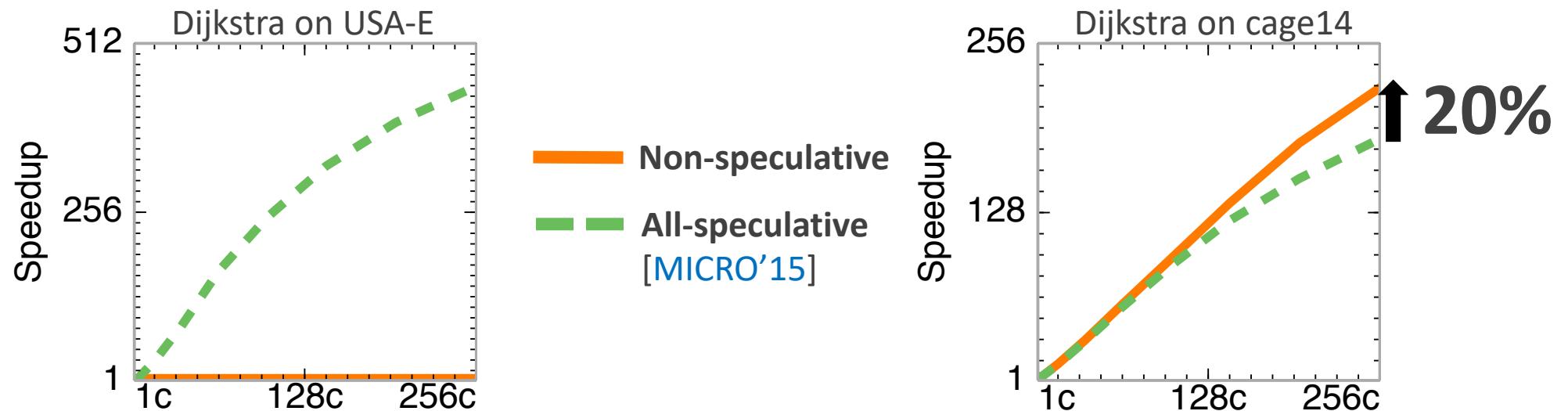


Dijkstra's algorithm has speculative parallelism

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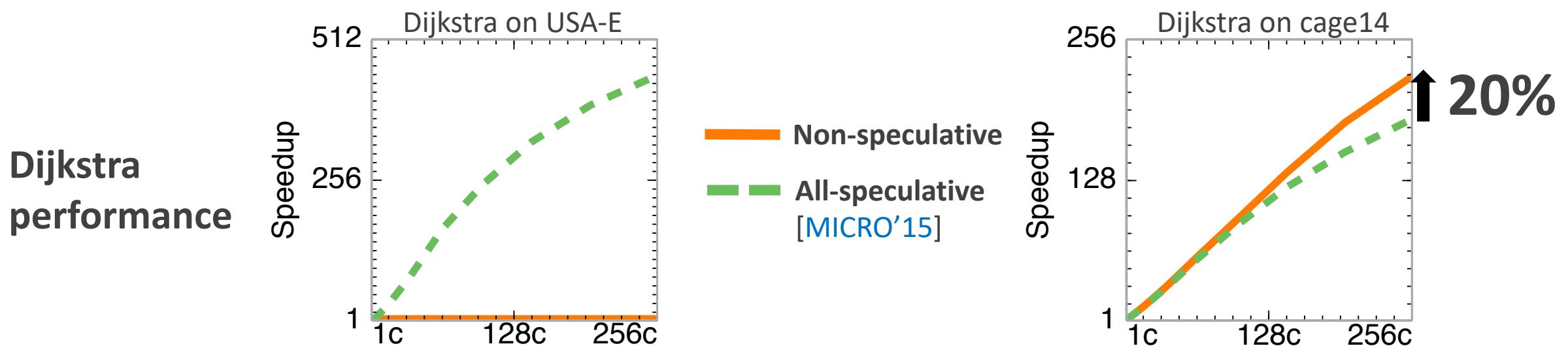


Dijkstra
performance



Dijkstra's algorithm has speculative parallelism

All-or-nothing speculation unduly burdens programmers

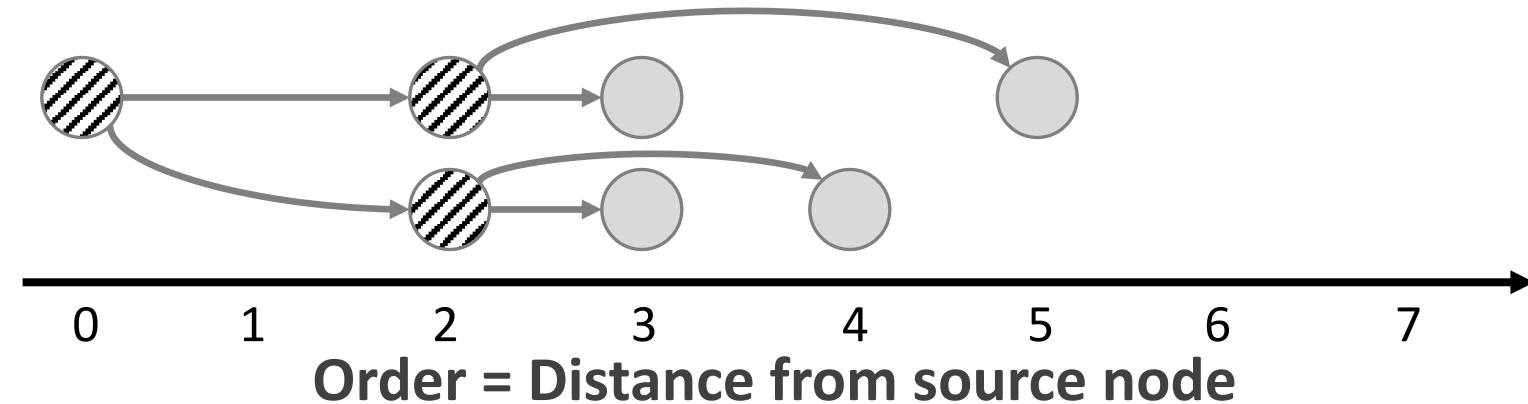


Dijkstra's algorithm needs a hybrid strategy

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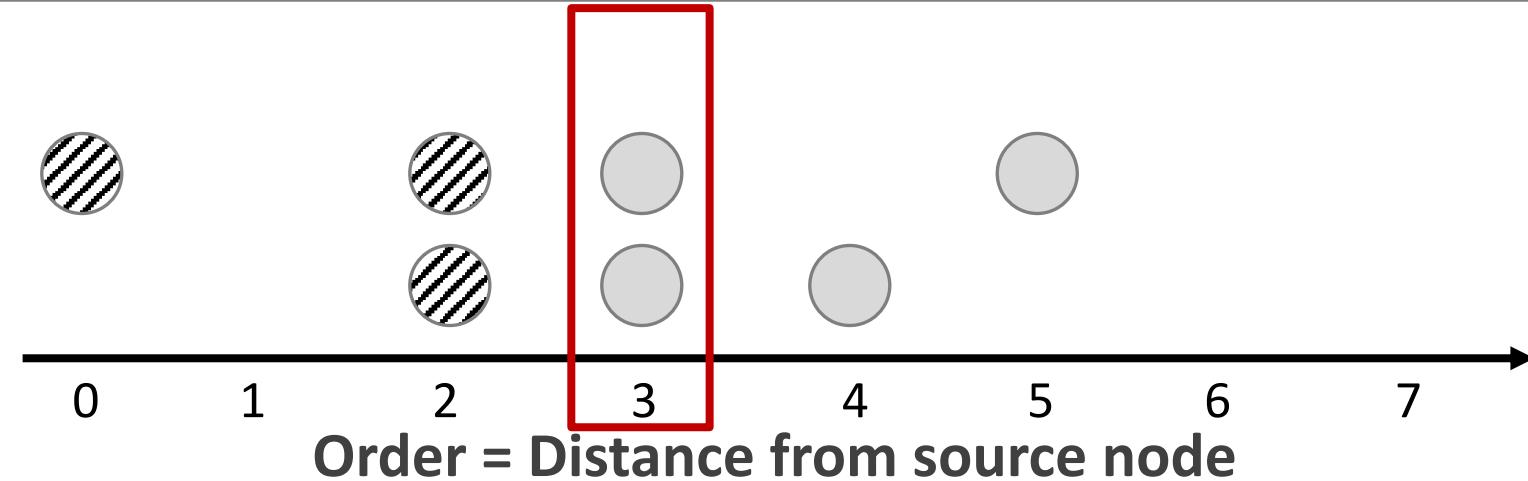
- To be processed
- Finished



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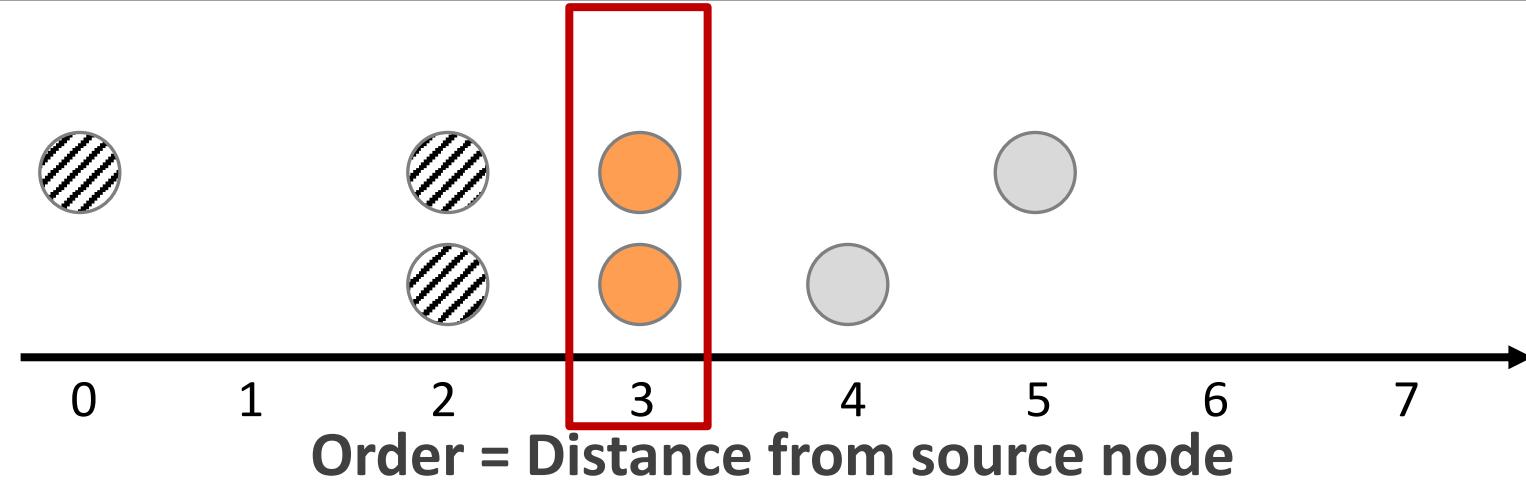
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Dijkstra's algorithm needs a hybrid strategy

Task graph

- To be processed
- Finished
- Running non-speculatively

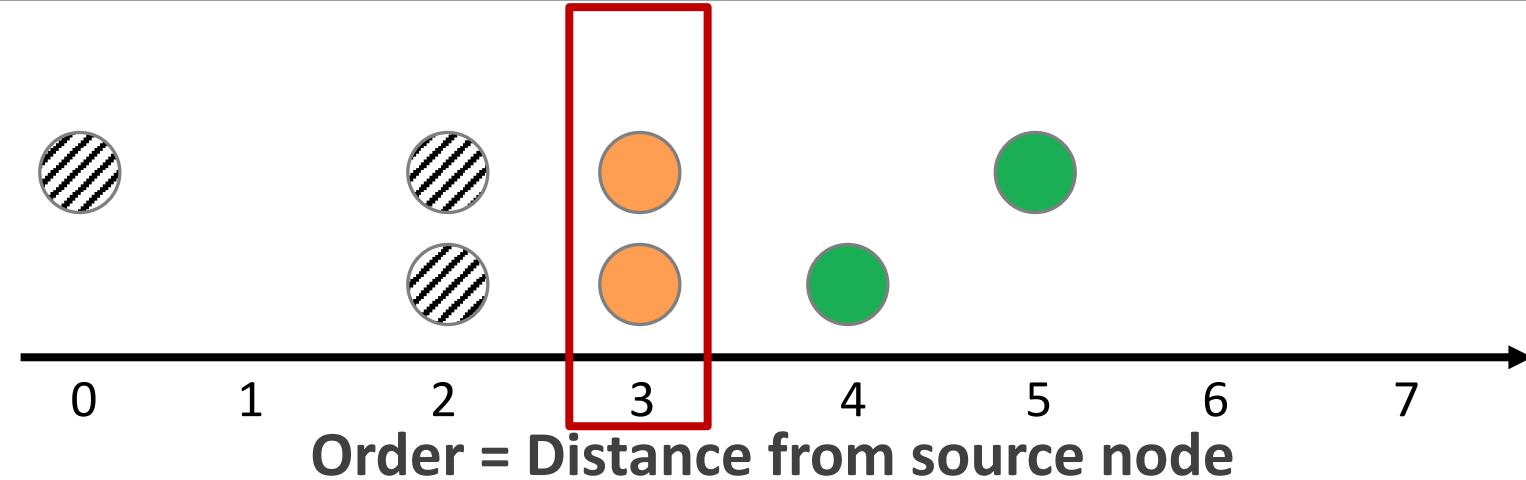


Run tasks **non-speculatively** when possible

Dijkstra's algorithm needs a hybrid strategy

Task graph

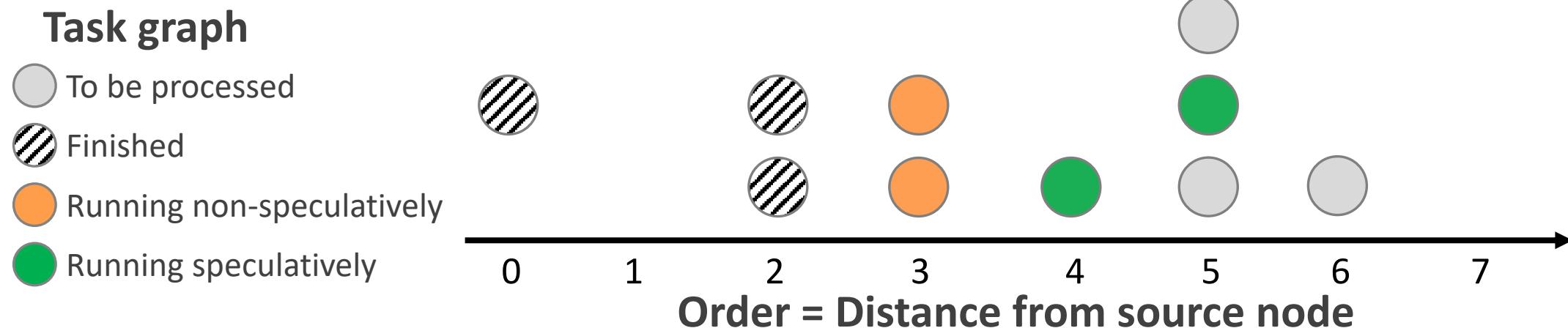
- To be processed
- Finished
- Running non-speculatively
- Running speculatively



Run tasks **non-speculatively** when possible

Keep cores busy with **speculative** ordered parallelism

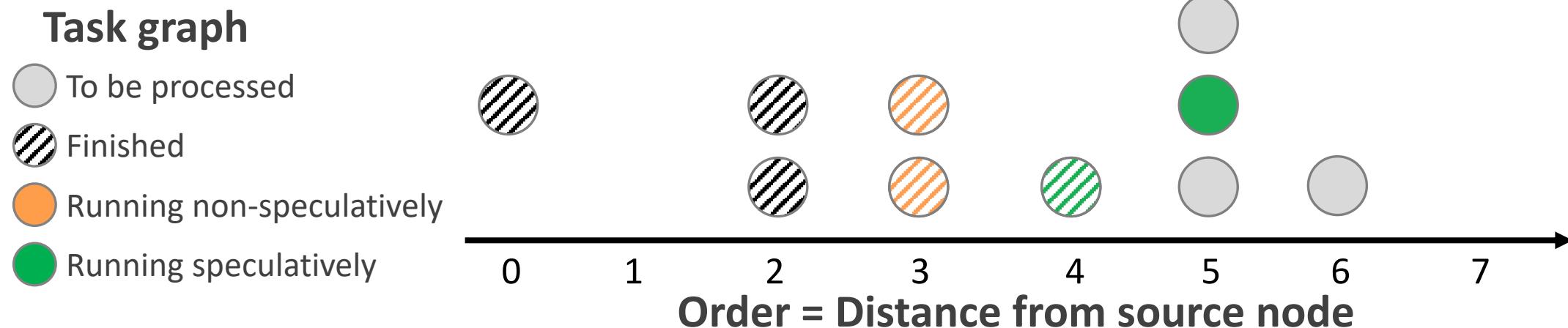
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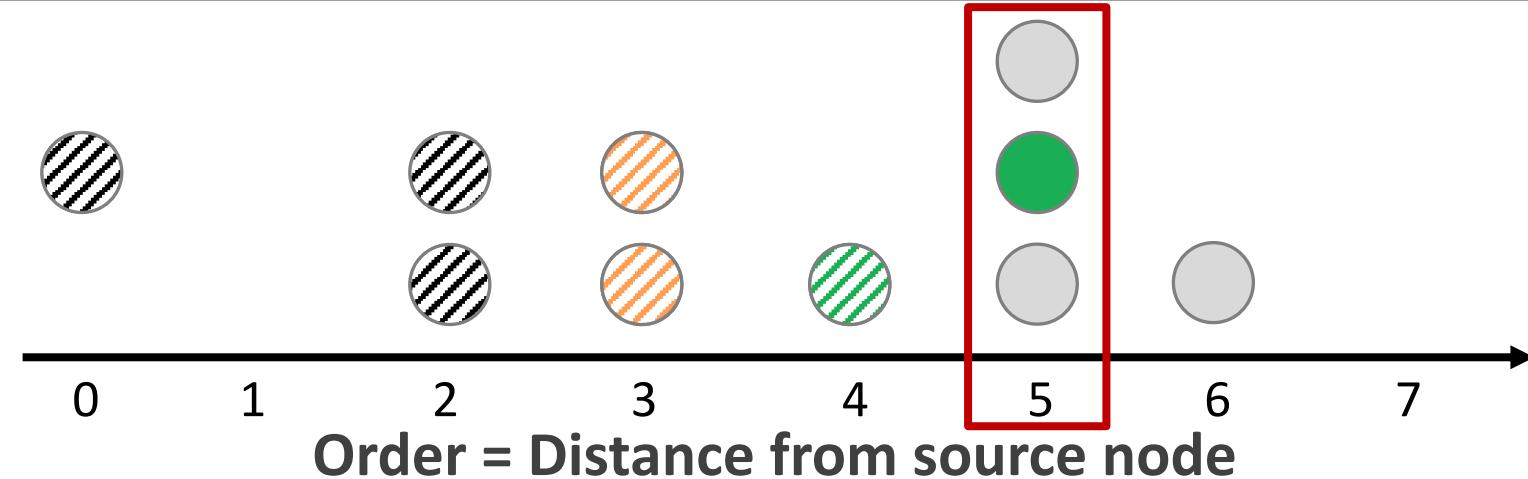
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Task graph

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- Running non-speculatively
- Running speculatively



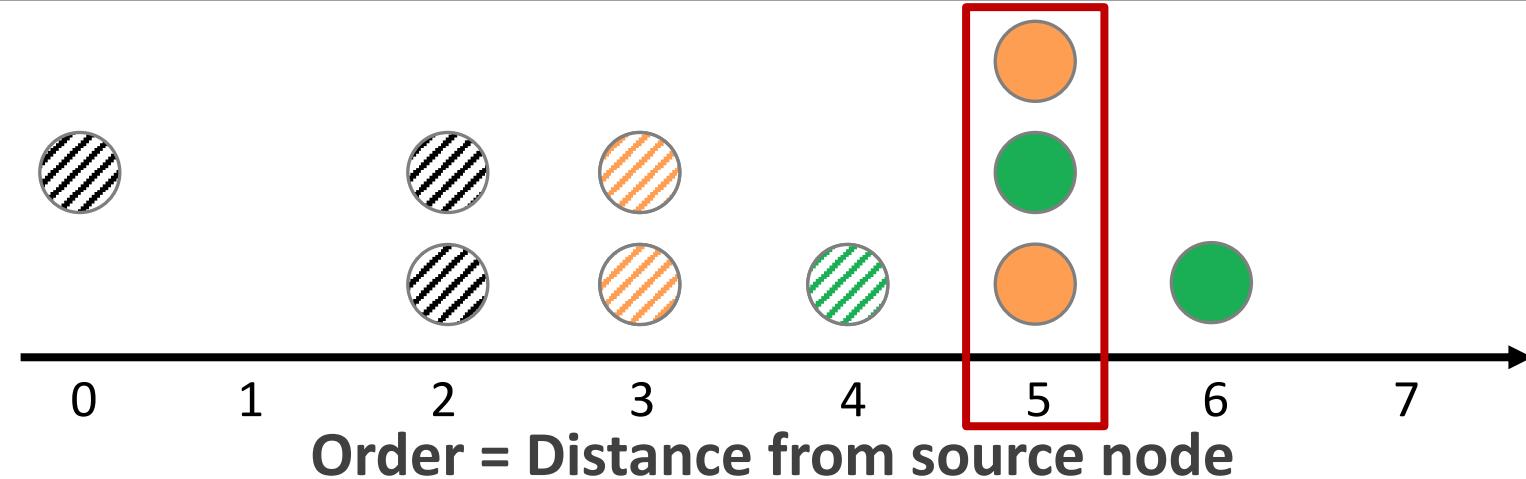
Run tasks **non-speculatively** when possible

Keep cores busy with **speculative** ordered parallelism

Dijkstra's algorithm needs a hybrid strategy

Task graph

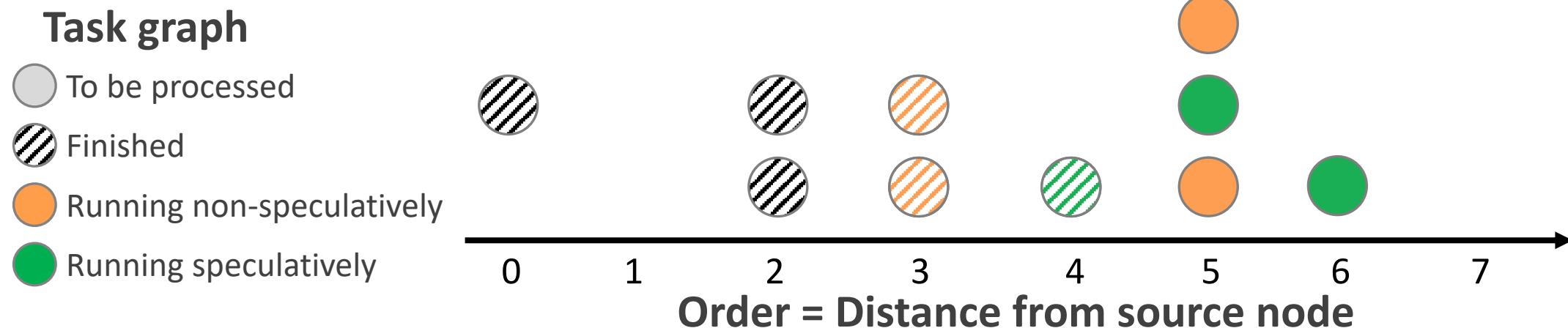
- To be processed
- Finished
- Running non-speculatively
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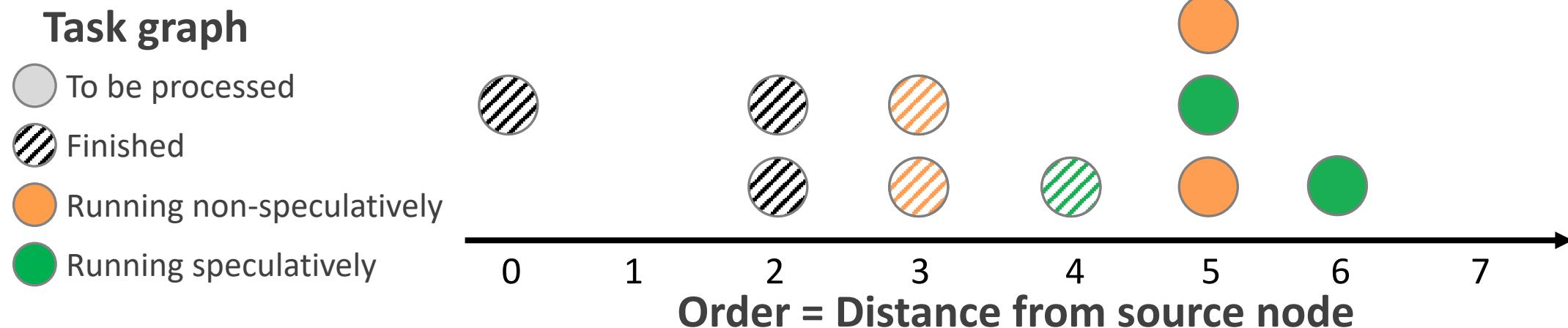


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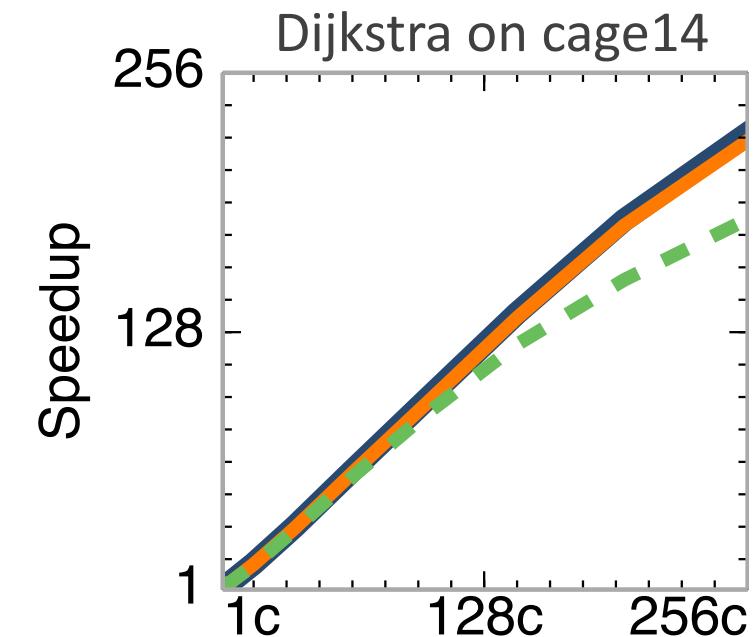
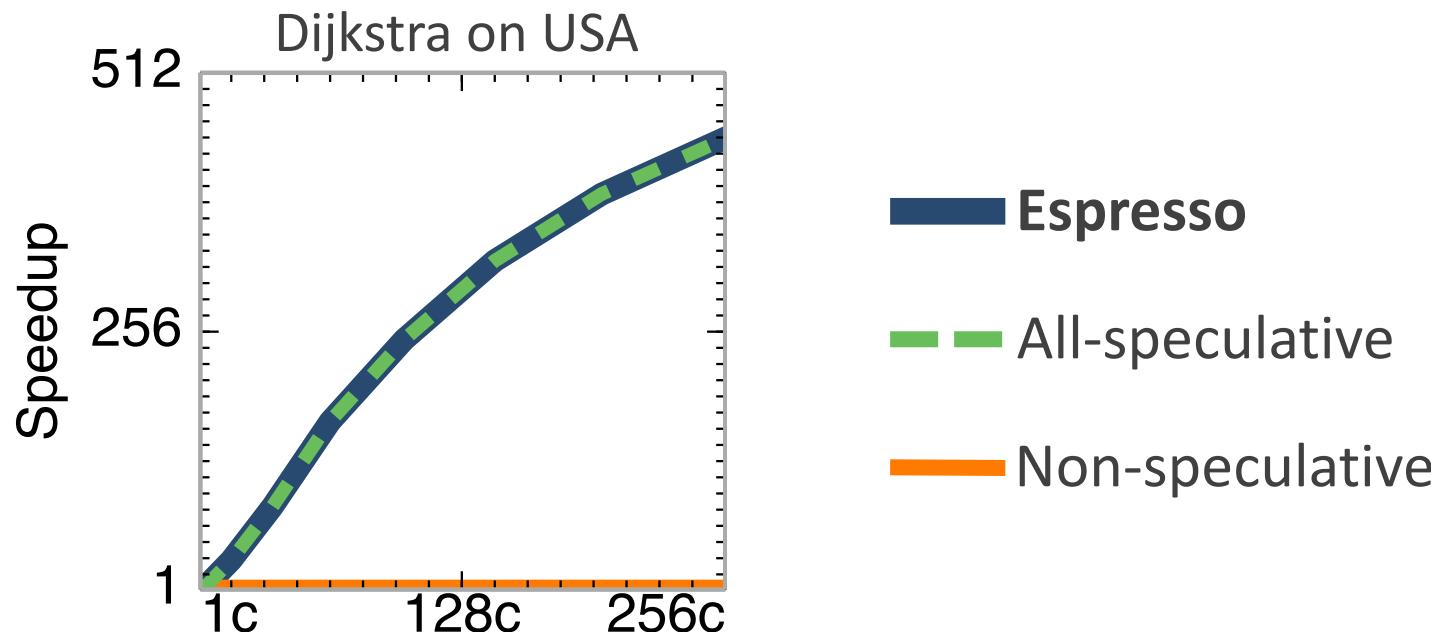
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Tasks in both modes must coordinate on shared data

Espresso reaps the benefits of non-speculative and speculative parallelism



Espresso avoids pathologies and scales best

Espresso

COORDINATING SPECULATIVE AND NON-SPECULATIVE PARALLELISM



Espresso execution model

Programs consist of tasks that run *speculatively* or *non-speculatively*

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Tasks in either mode can coordinate access to shared data

Espresso task dispatch

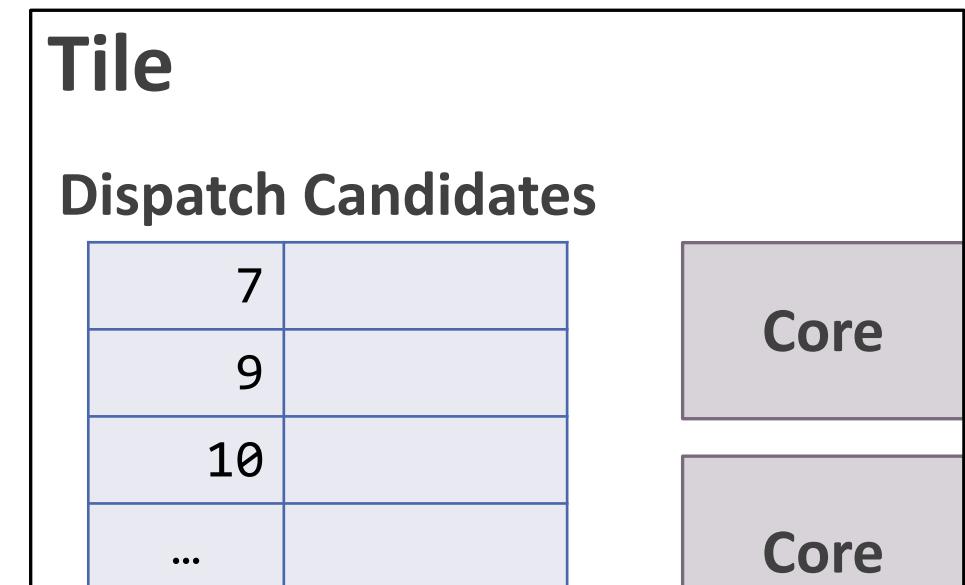
Espresso supports three task *types* that control speculation

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Espresso task dispatch

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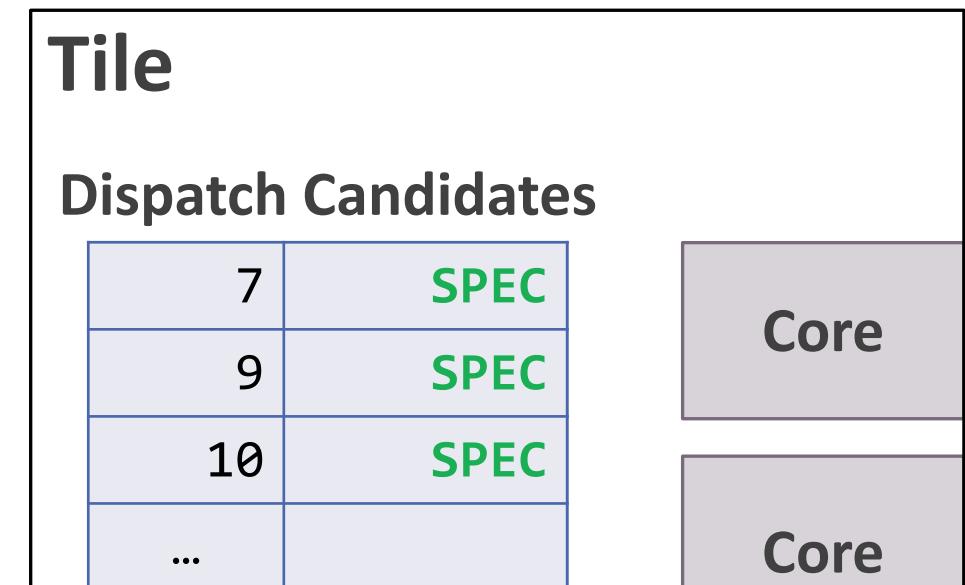
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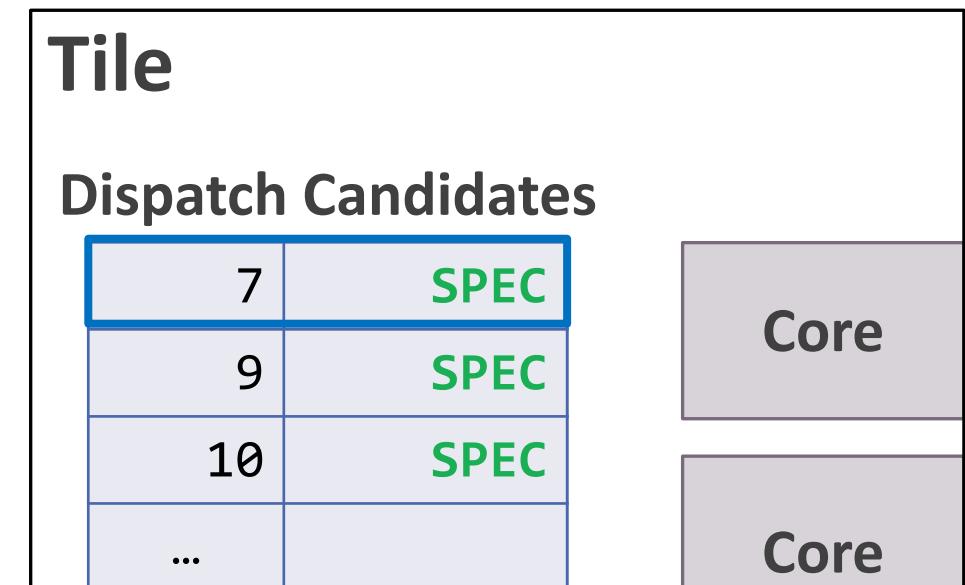
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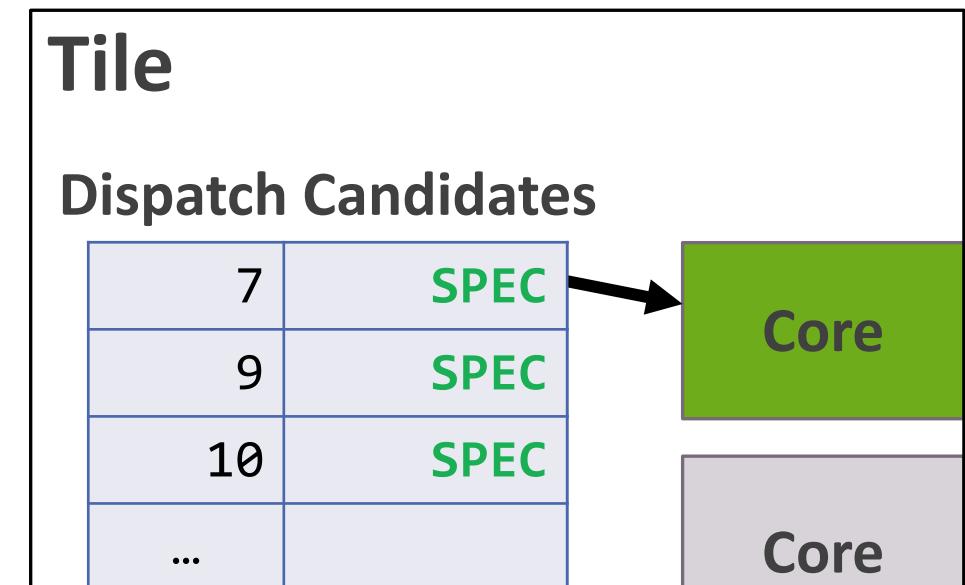
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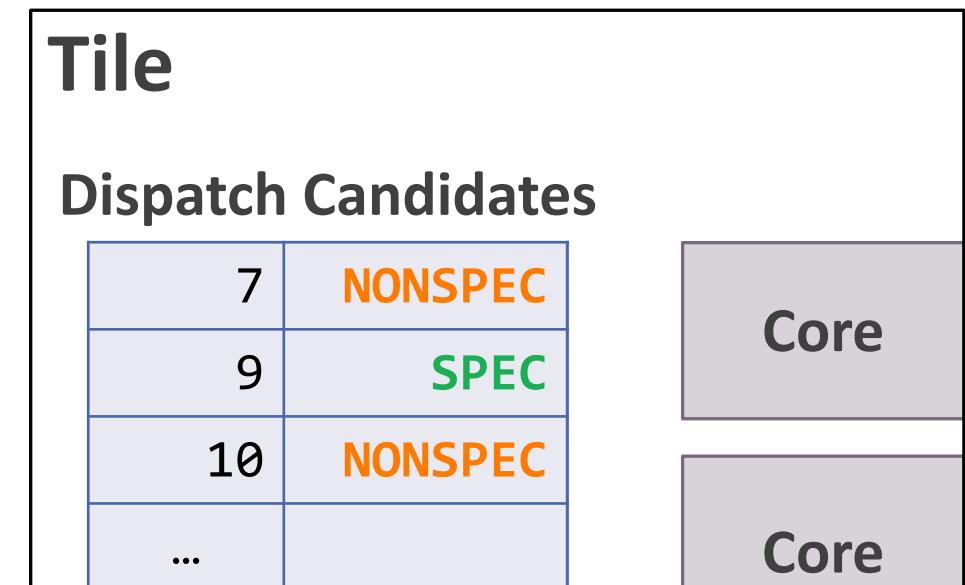
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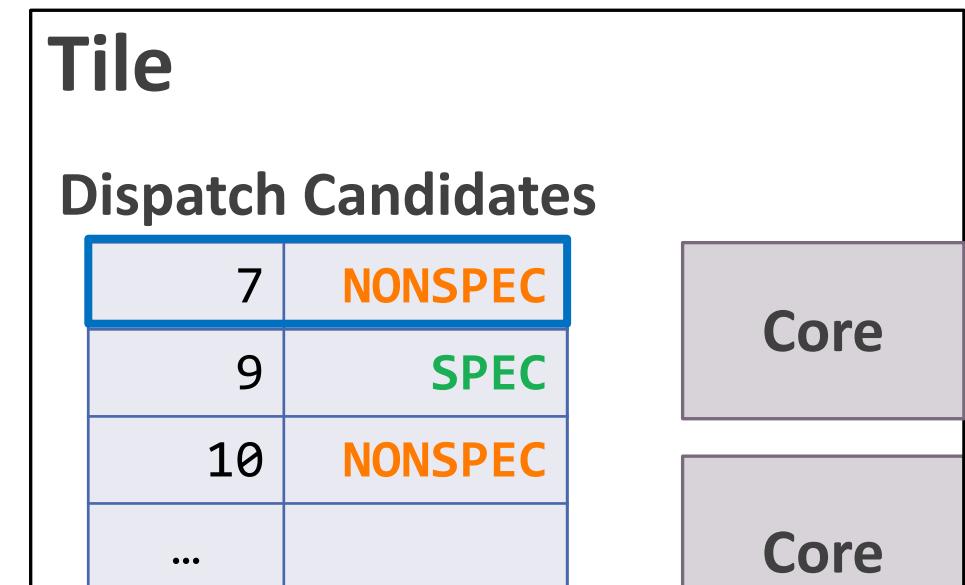
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        for (Vertex* n : v->neighbors)  
            espresso::create<NONSPEC>(  
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                n);  
    }  
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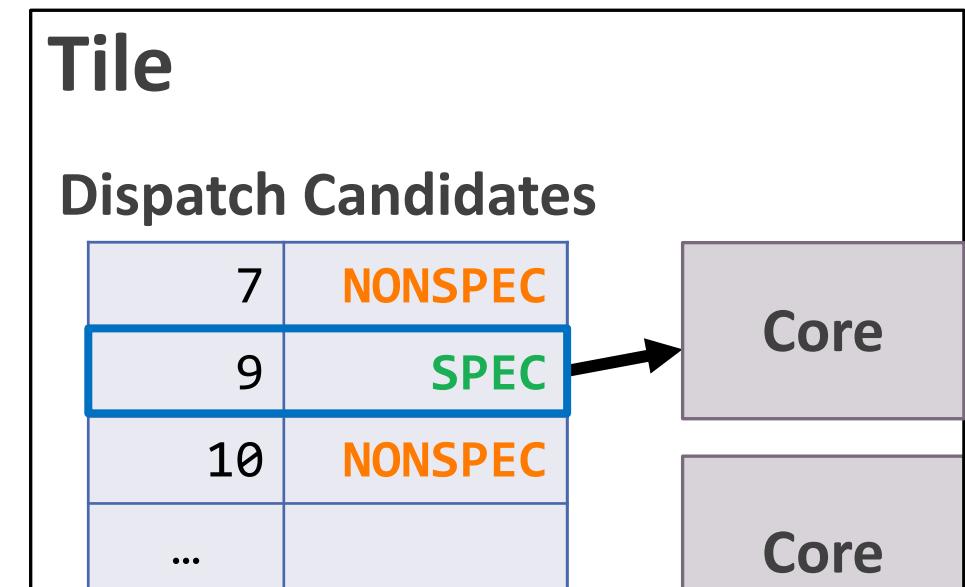
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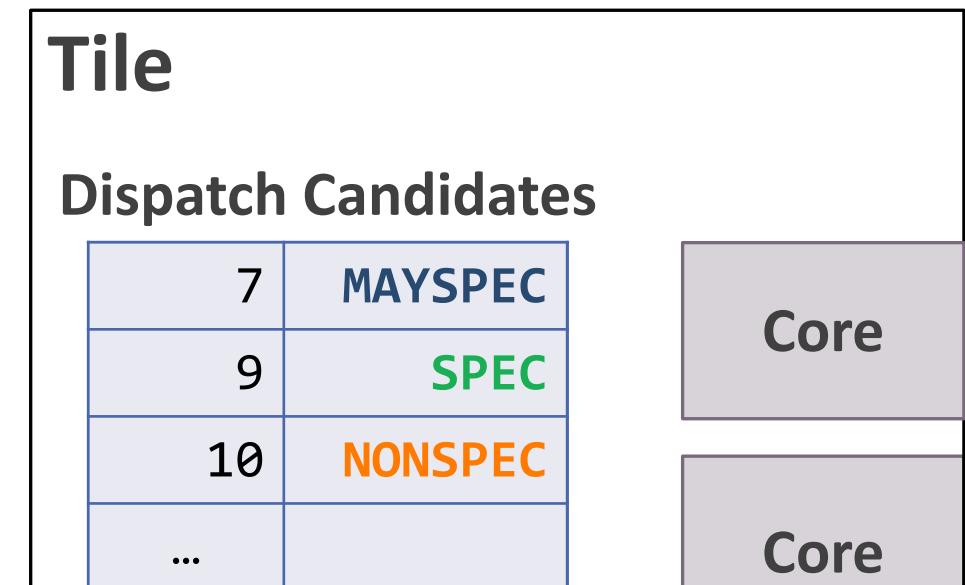
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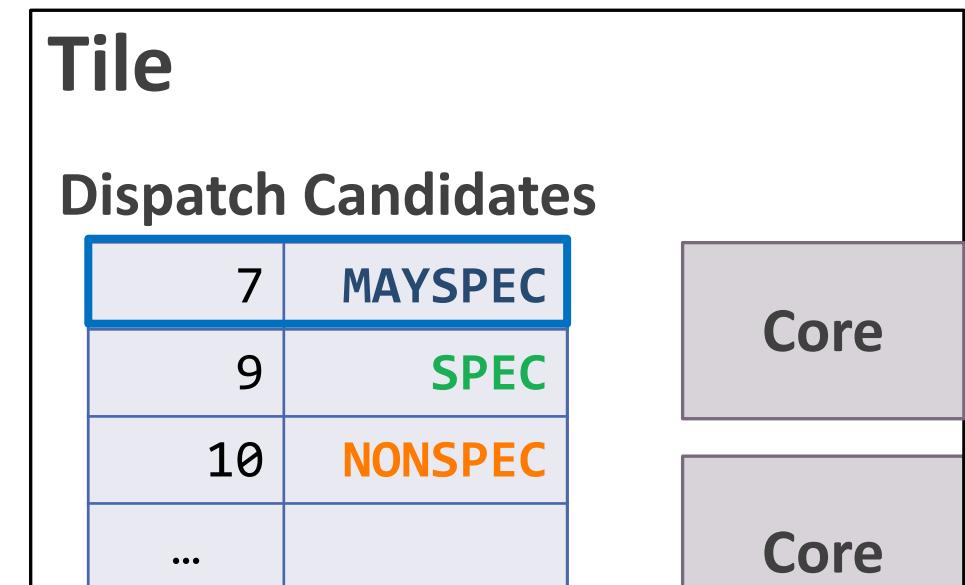
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Espresso task dispatch

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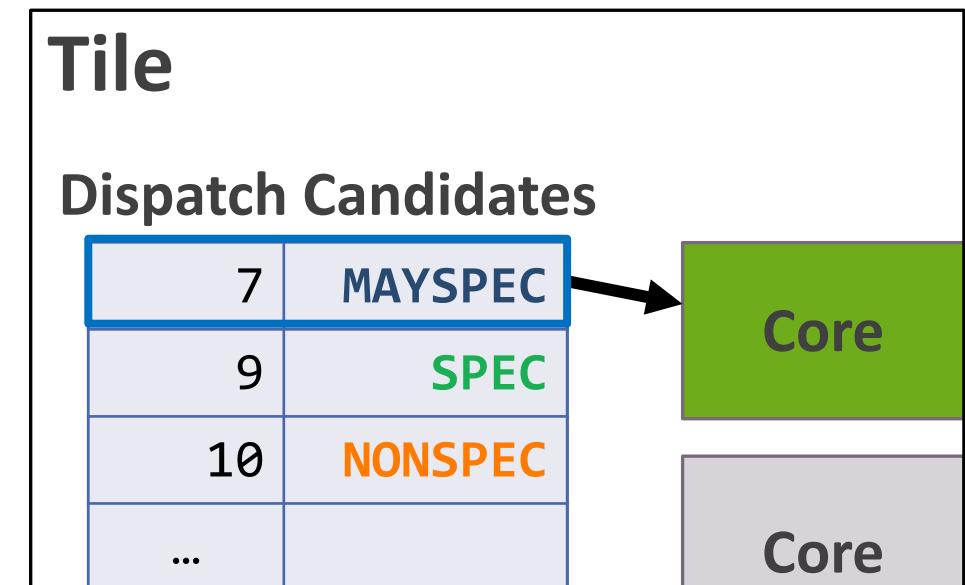
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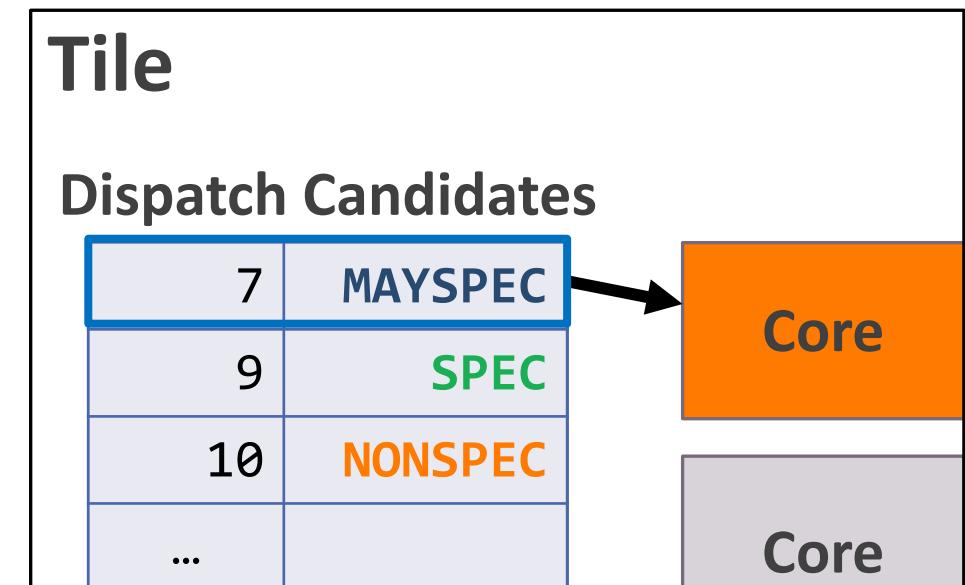
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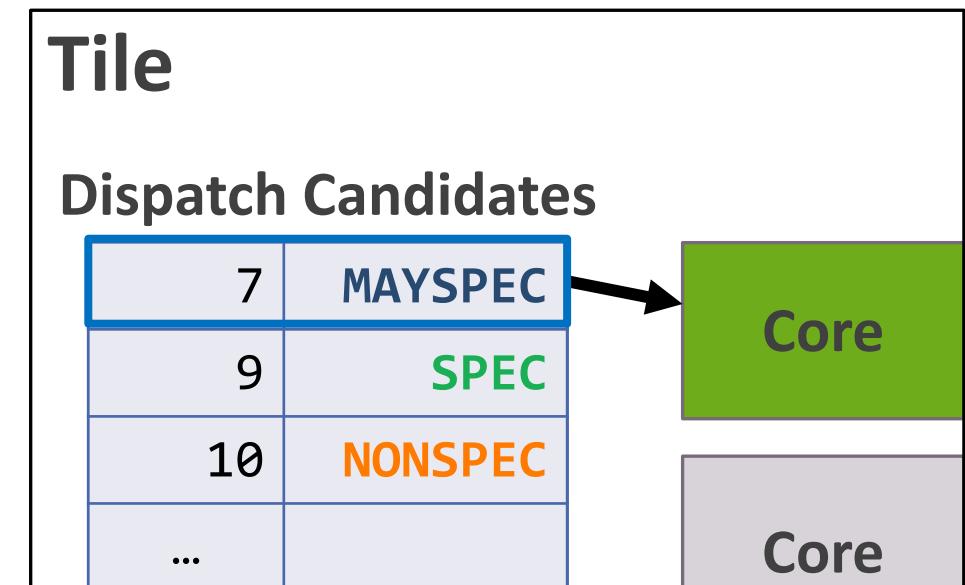
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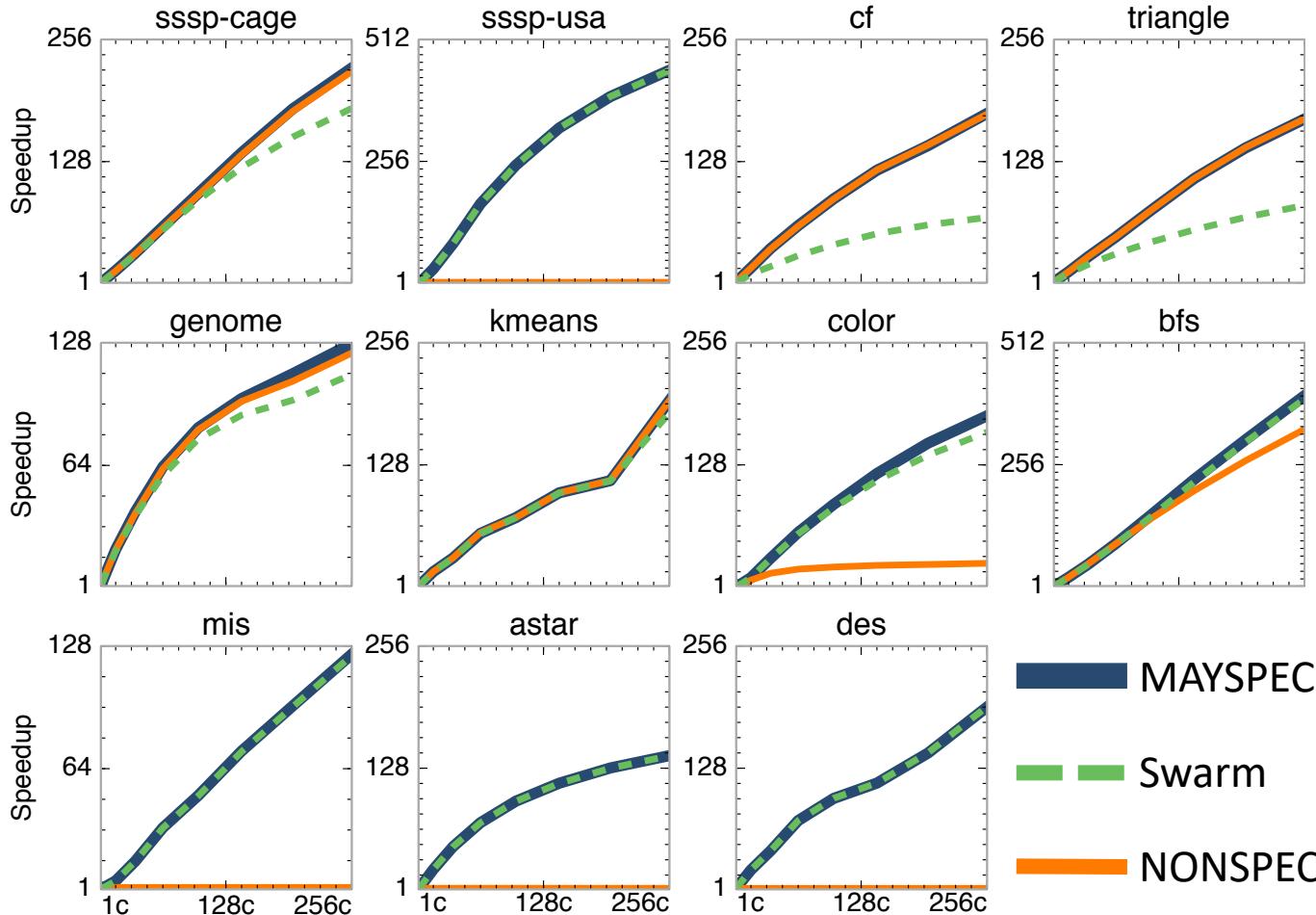
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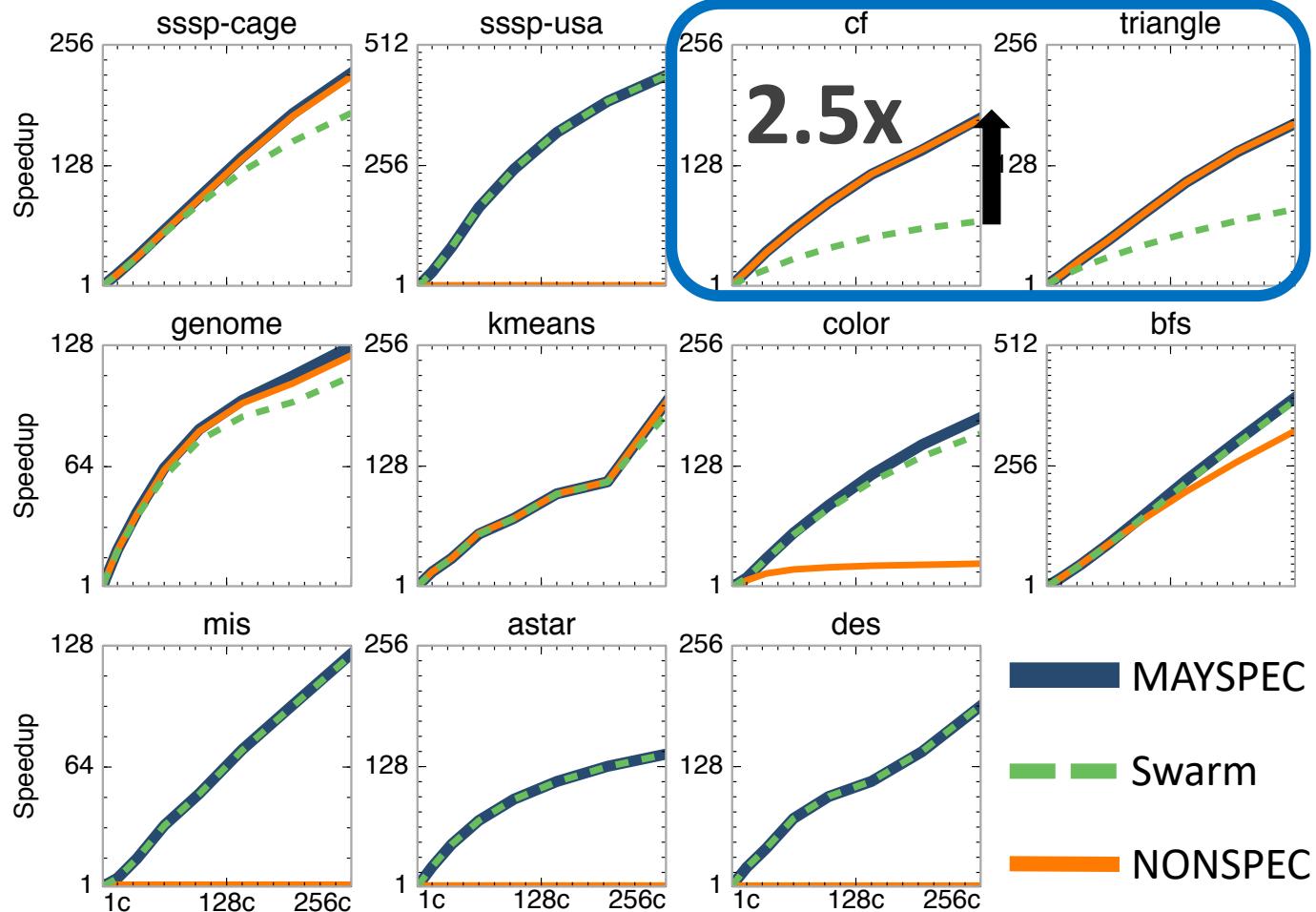
MAYSPEC lets the system decide whether to speculate

Espresso improves efficiency and programmability



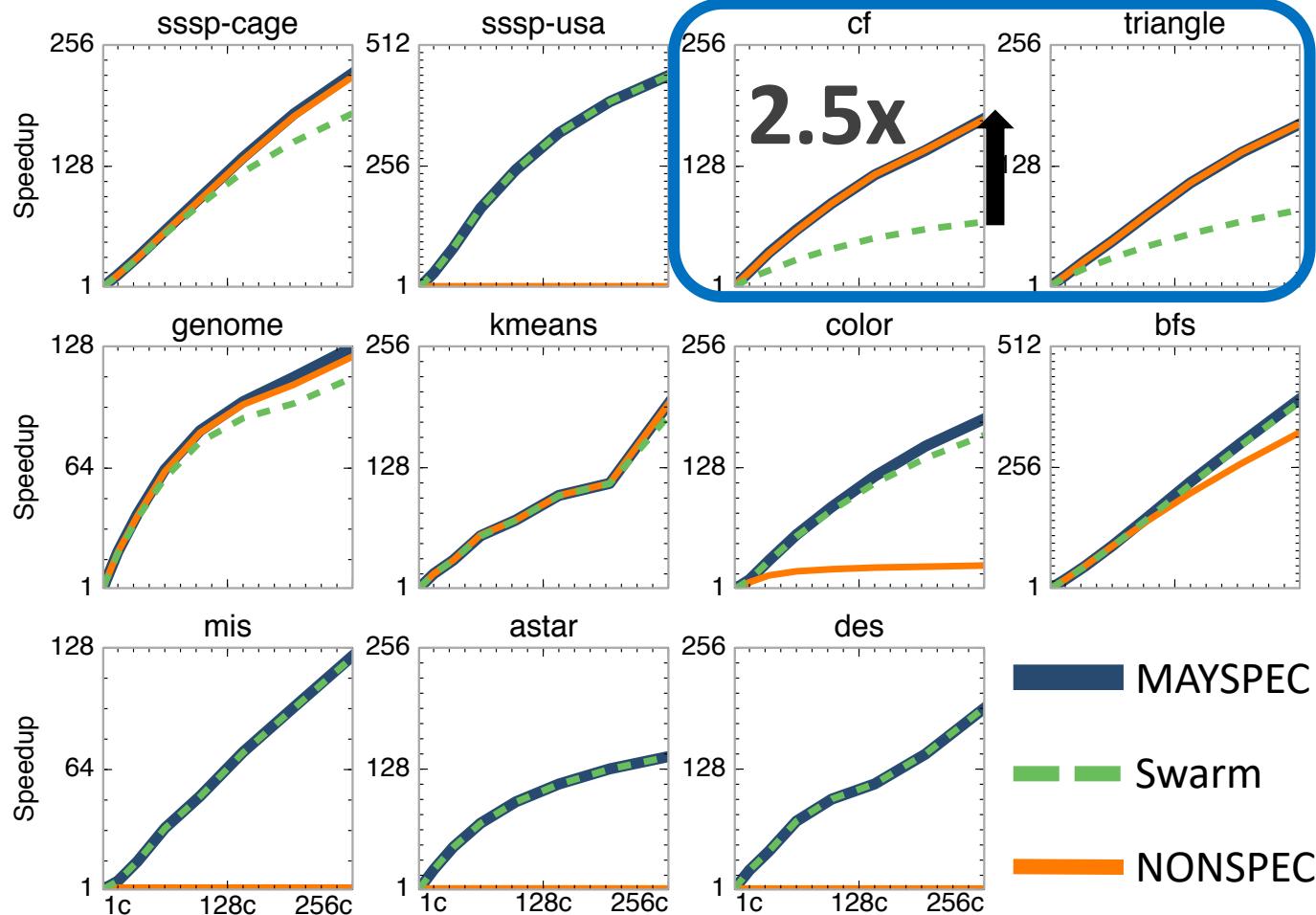
MAYSPEC allows programmers to exploit the best of speculative and non-speculative parallelism

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MAYSPEC allows programmers to exploit the best of speculative and non-speculative parallelism

MAYSPEC: 198x }
Swarm: 162x } 22% } 6.9x
NONSPEC: 29x gmean }

Please see the paper for more details!

Microarchitectural details

Interactions between speculative and non-speculative tasks:

- How are conflicts detected and resolved?
- How do timestamps-as-barriers affect the ordered commit protocol?

Espresso exception model

Additional results analysis

Capsules



ENABLING SOFTWARE-MANAGED SPECULATION WITH ORDERED PARALLELISM

Some actions should bypass HW speculation

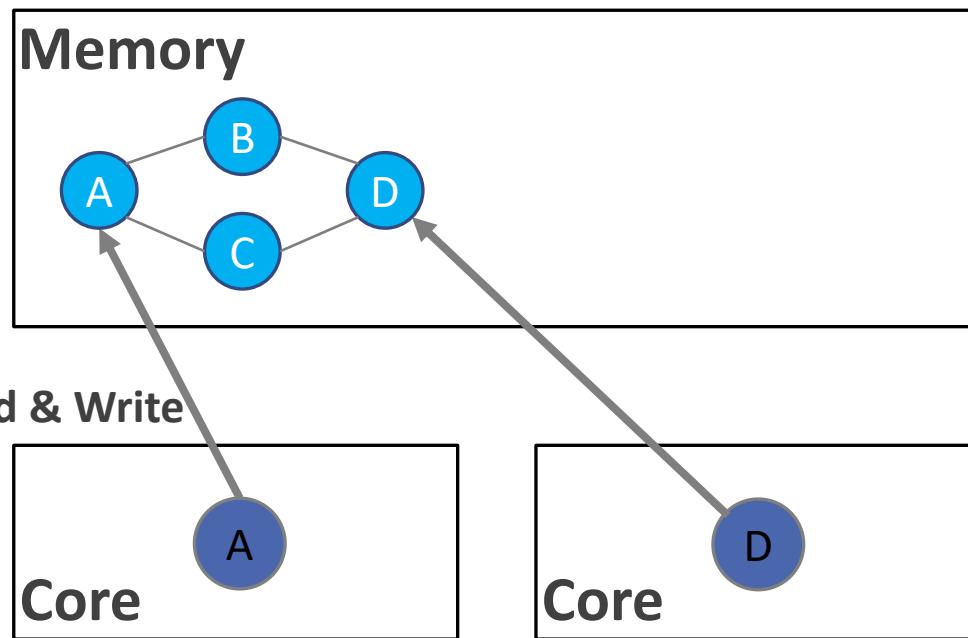
Discrete event simulation (DES) needs speculation to scale

DES also allocates memory within tasks

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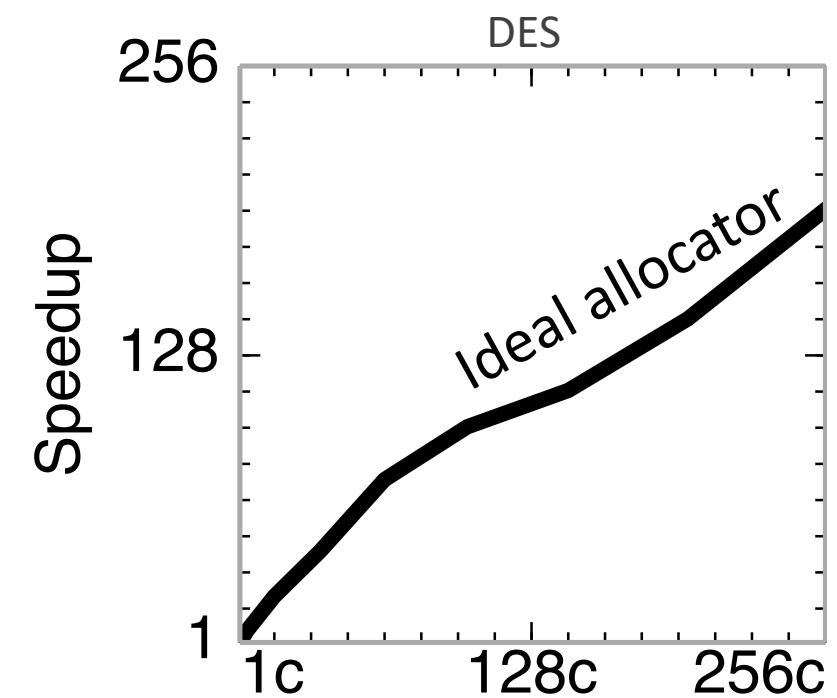
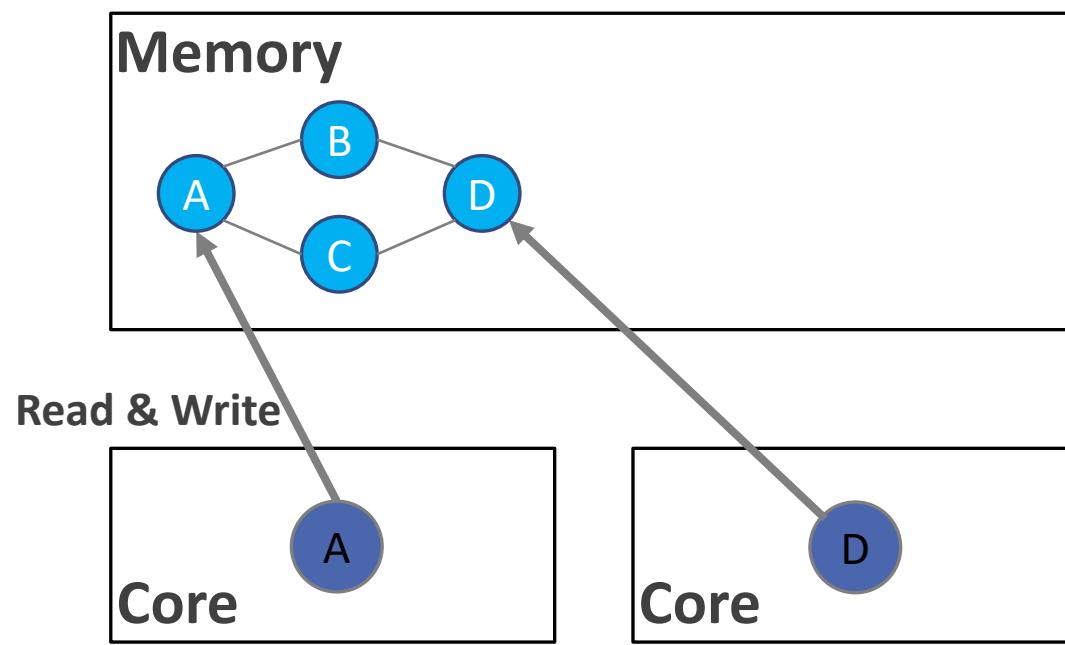
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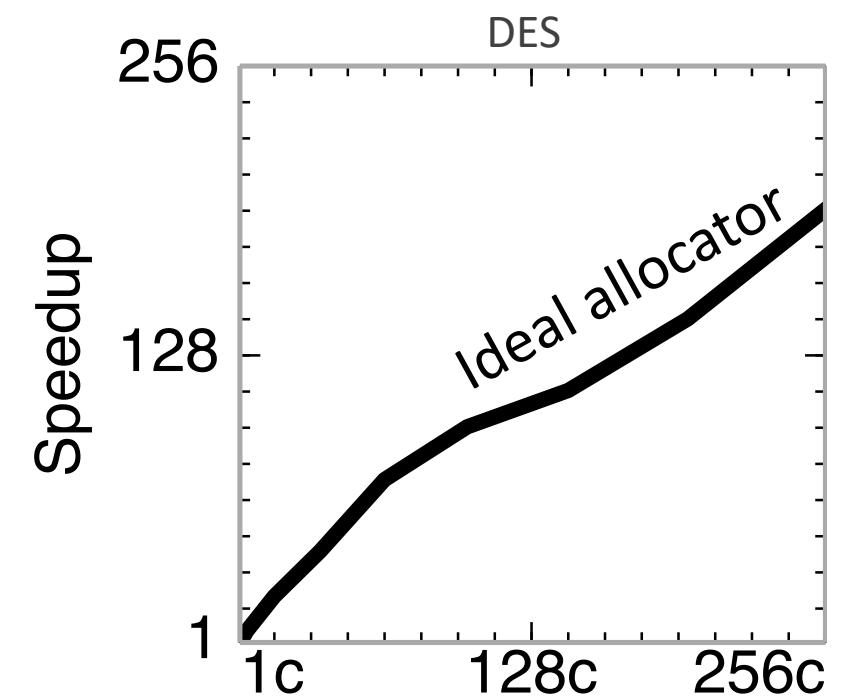
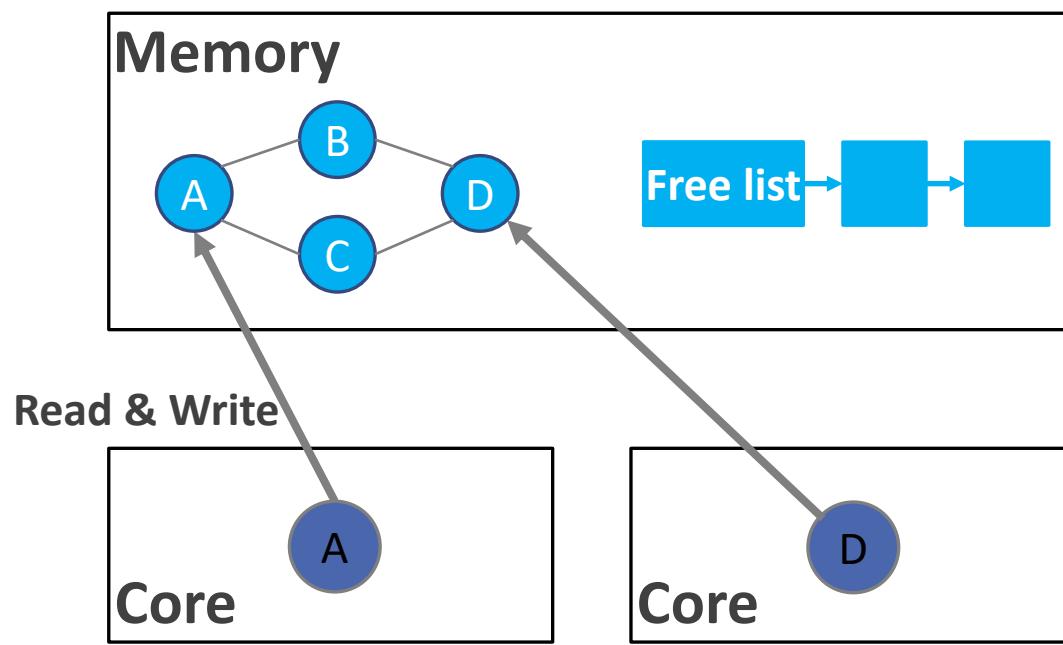
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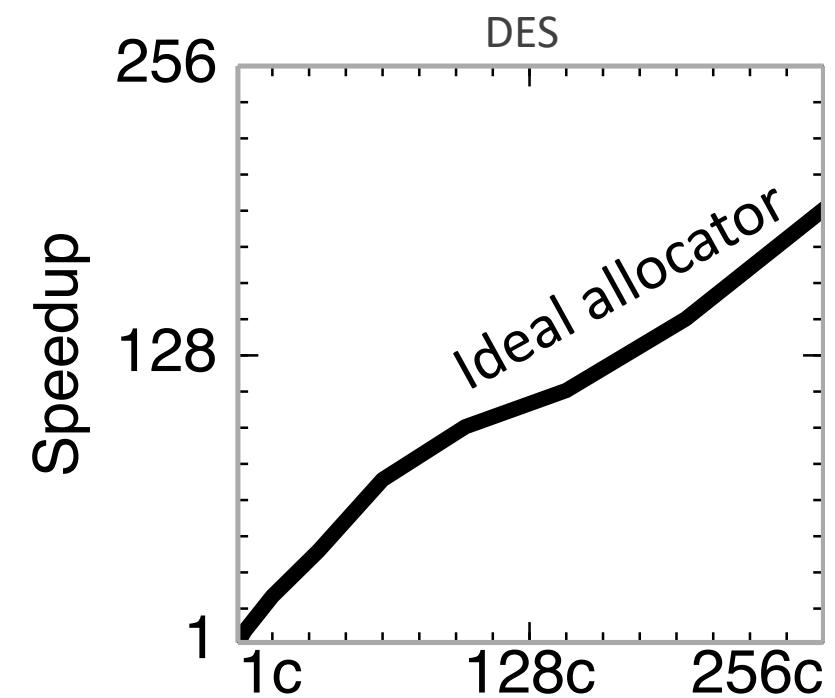
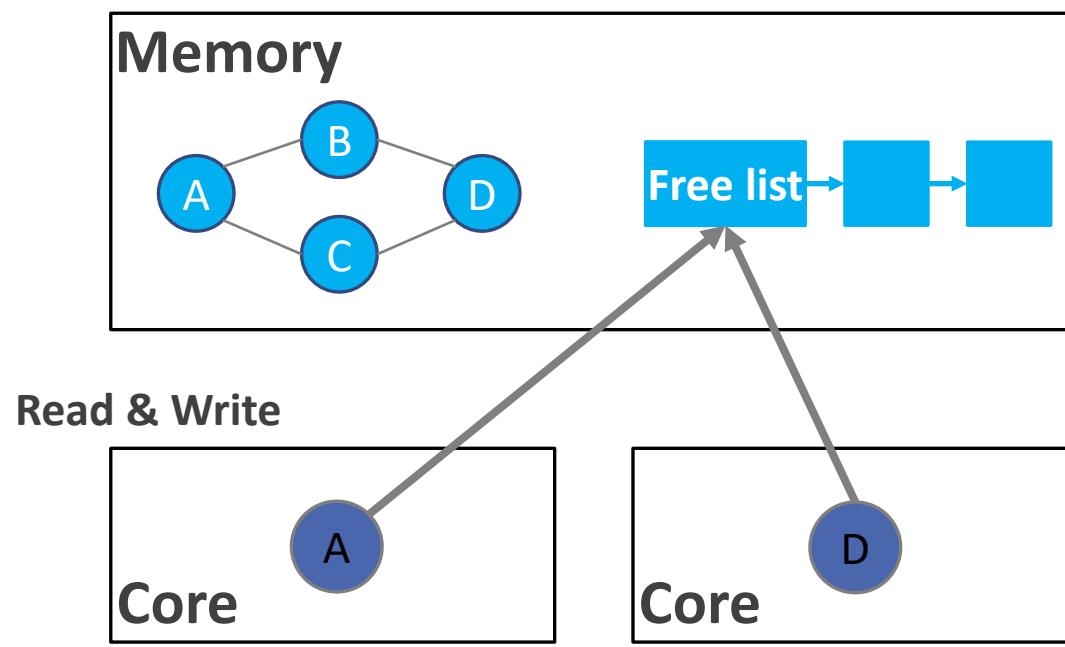
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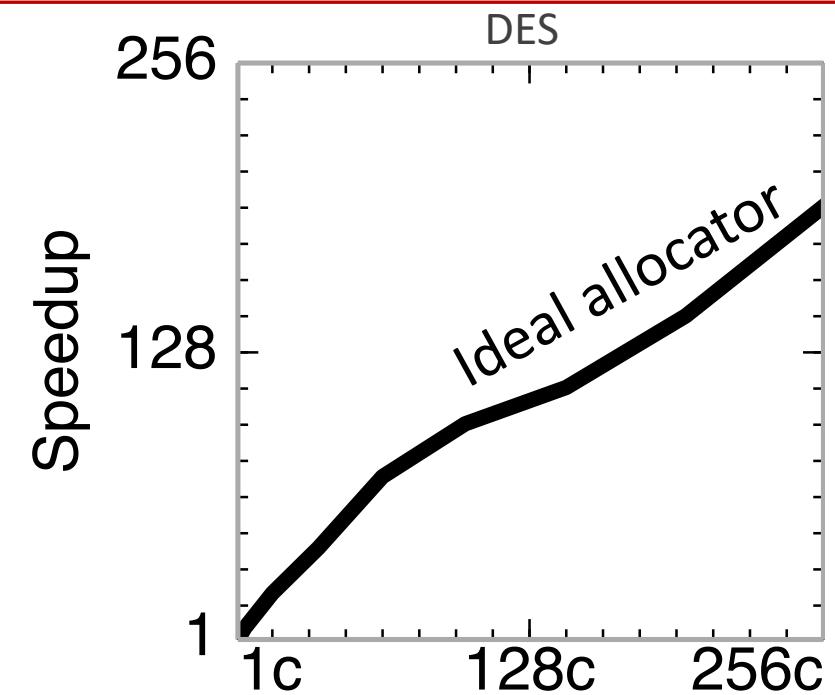
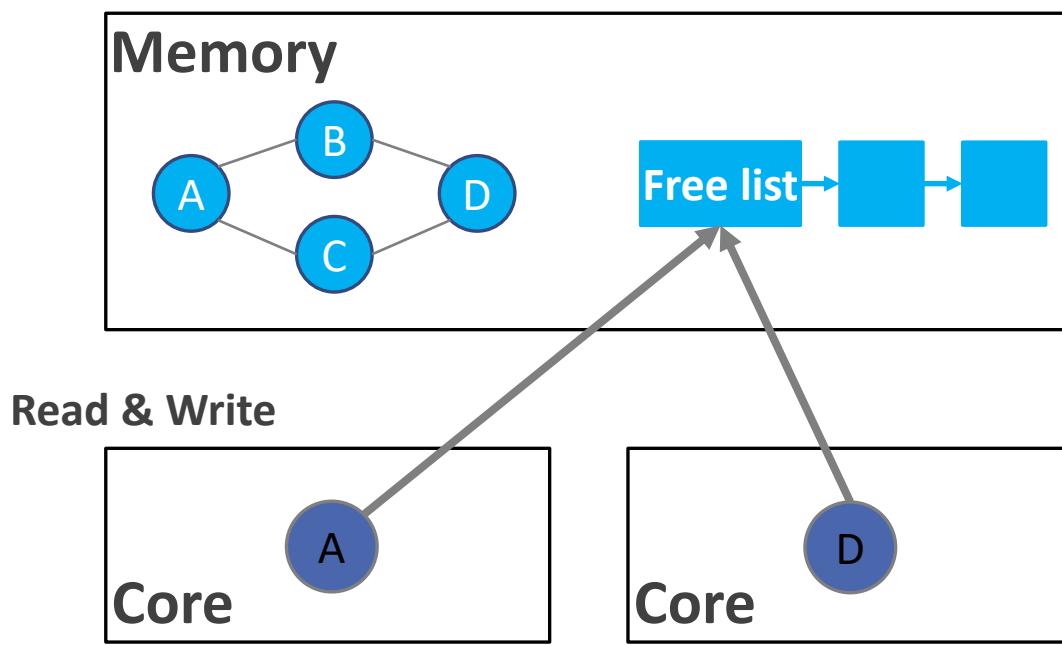
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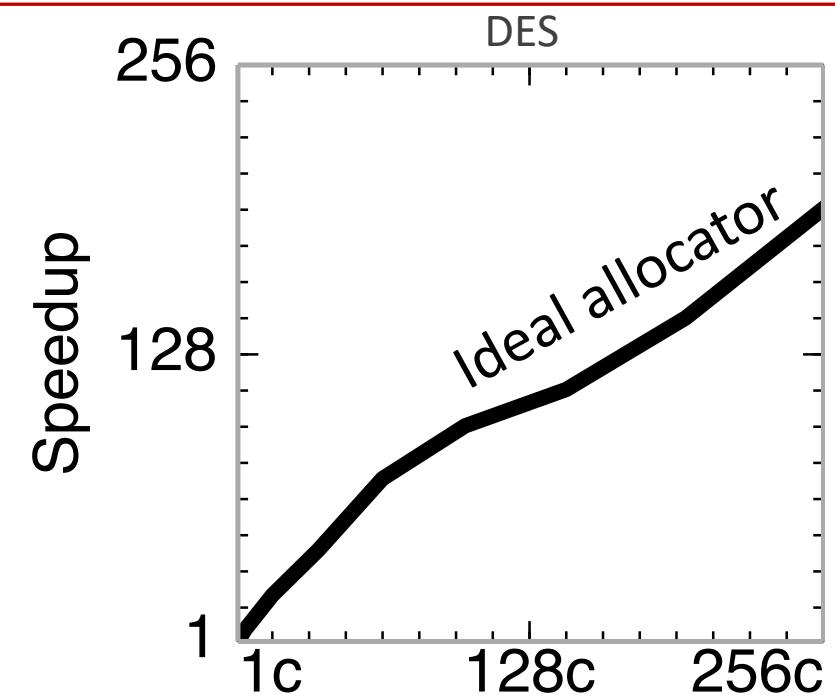
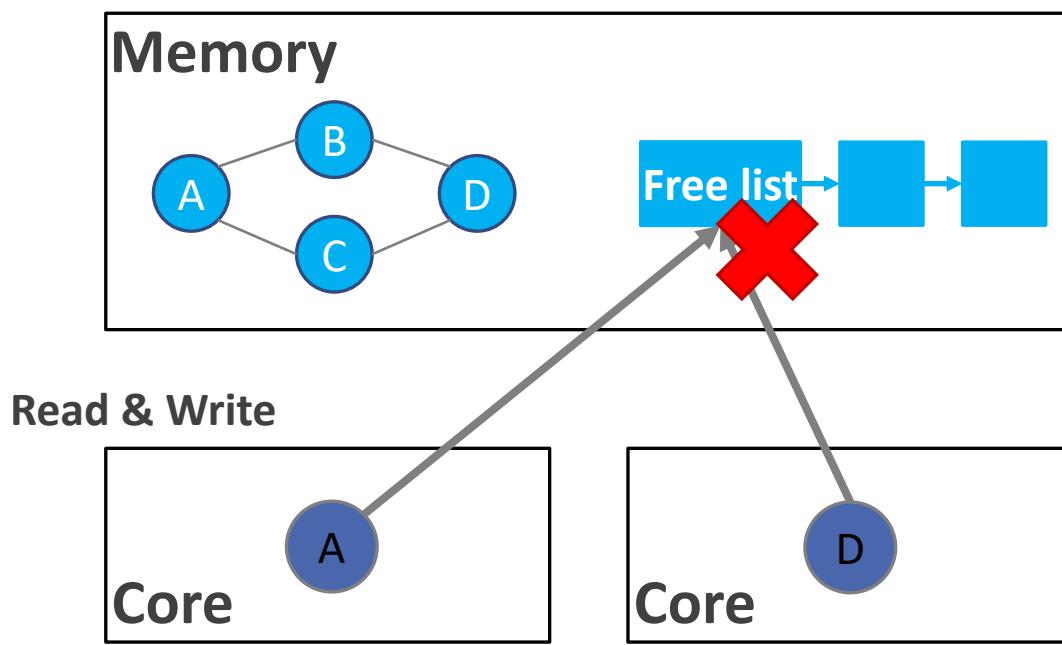
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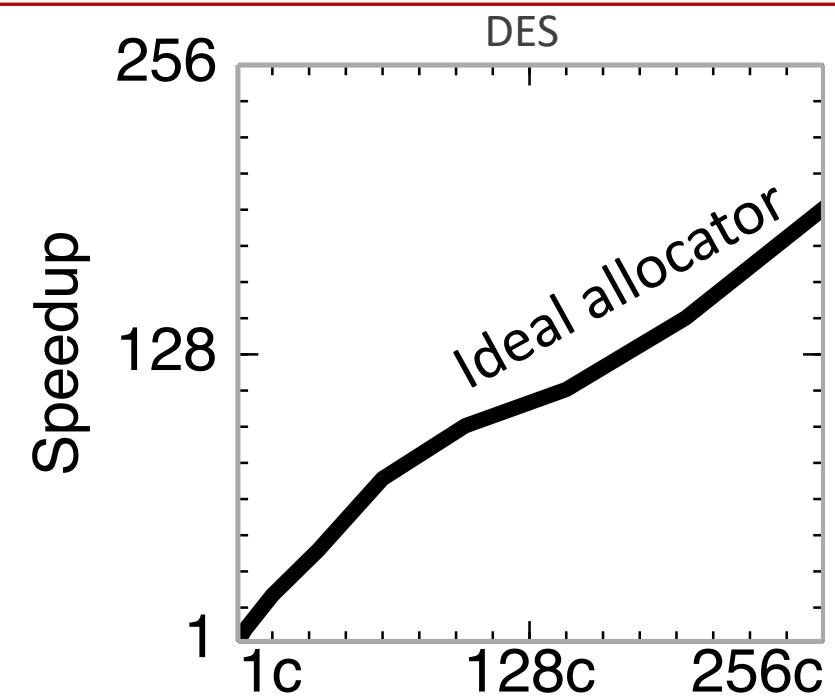
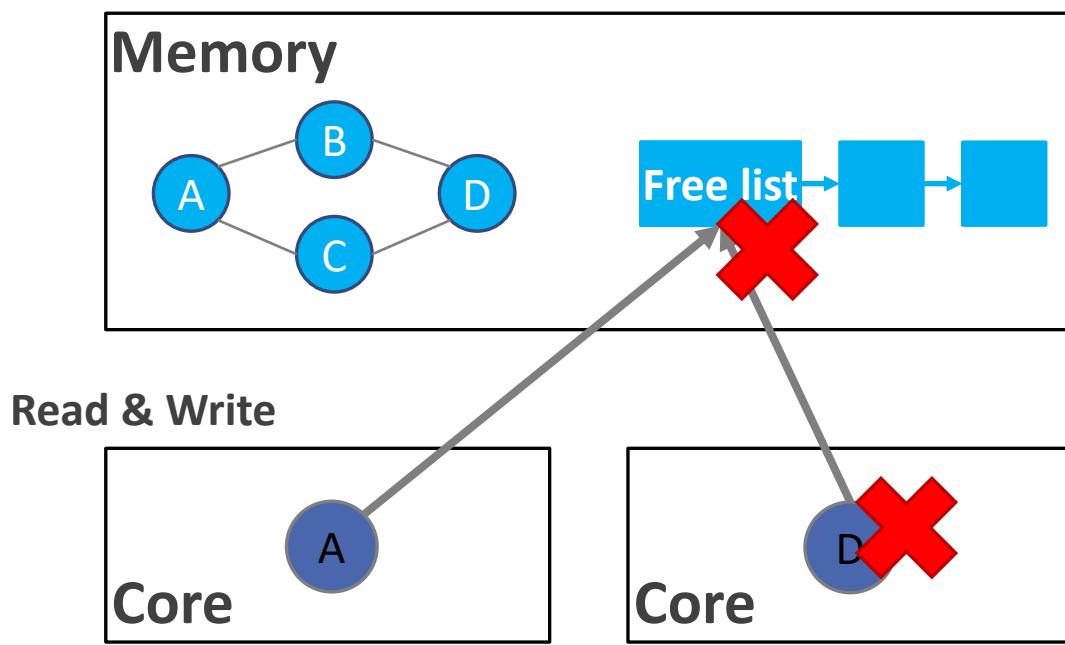
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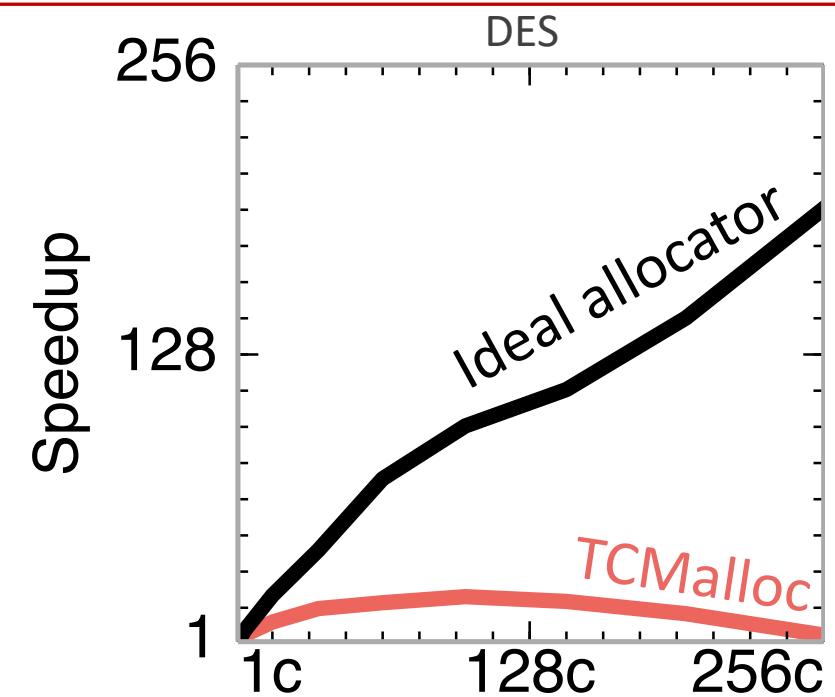
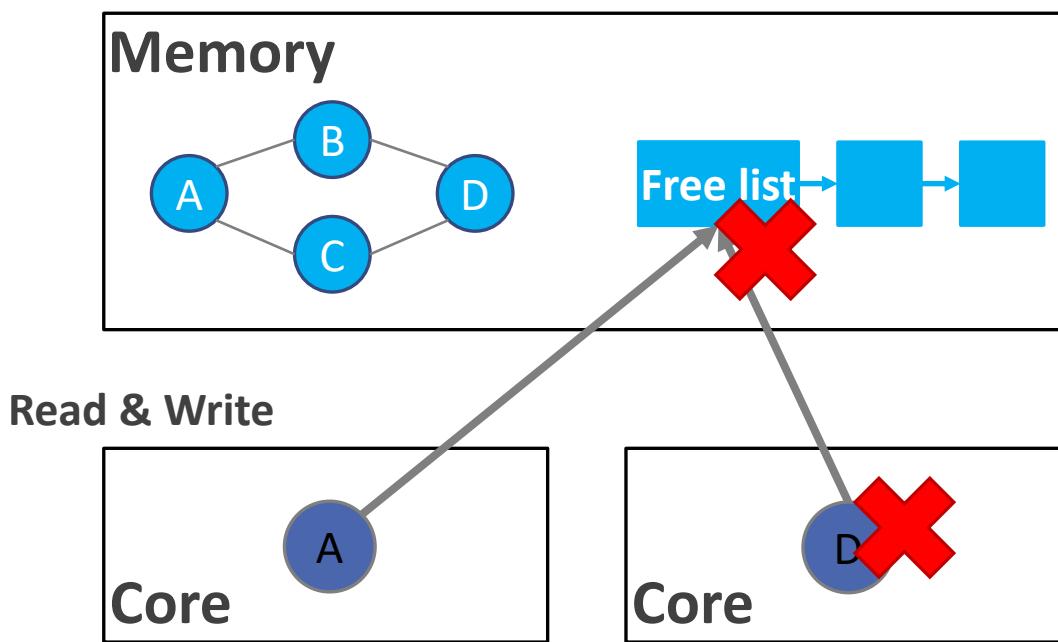
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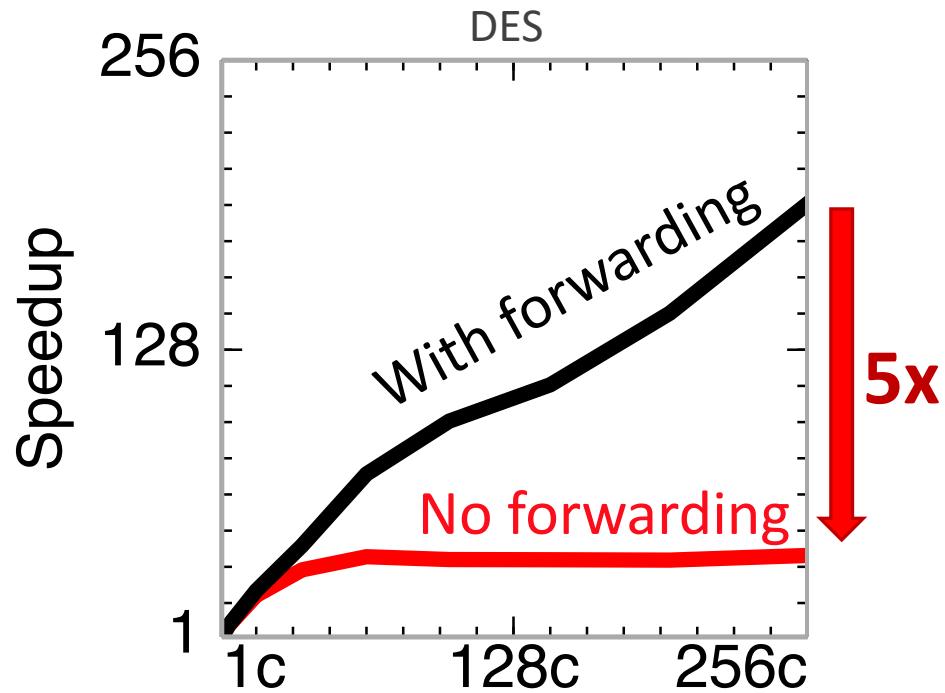
Disable hardware speculation [[Moravan, ASPLOS'06](#)]? **Speculative data forwarding creates challenges**

Speculative tasks can access data written by earlier, uncommitted tasks

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Critical for ordered parallelism

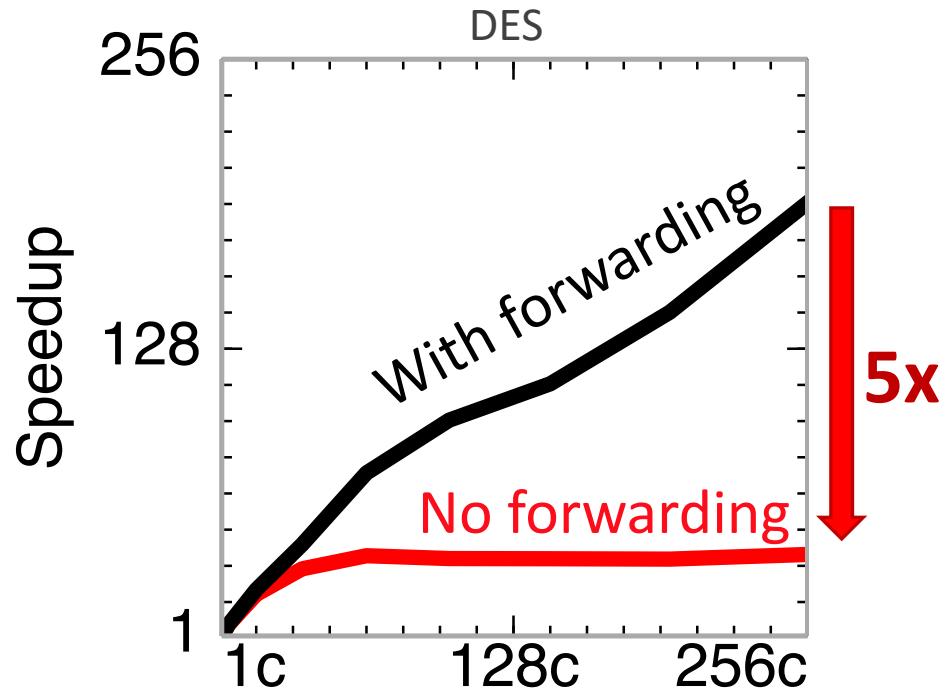


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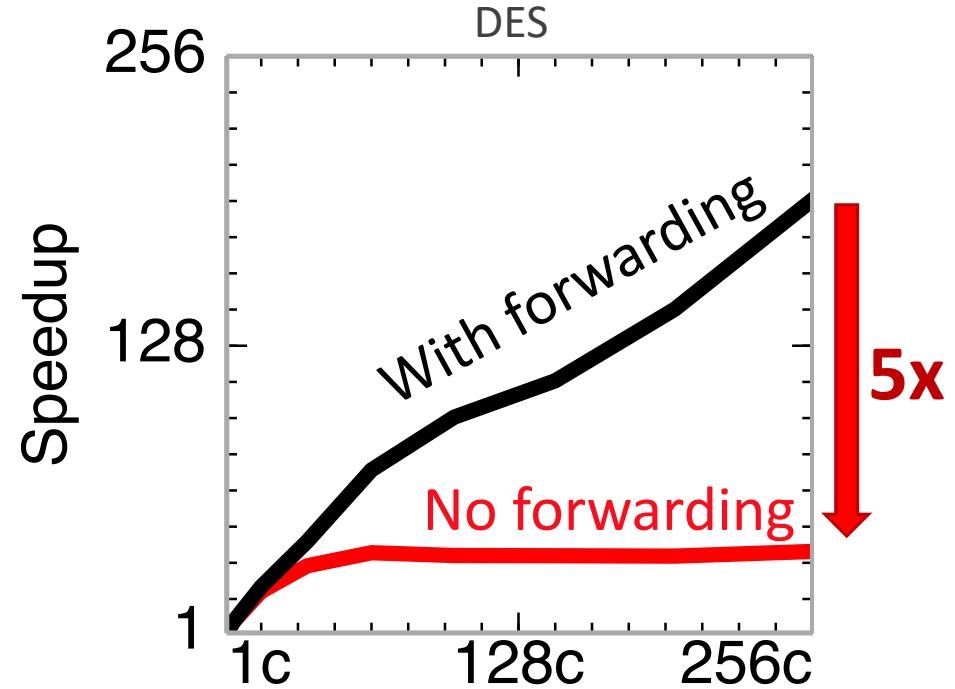
Can cause tasks to lose integrity 😠



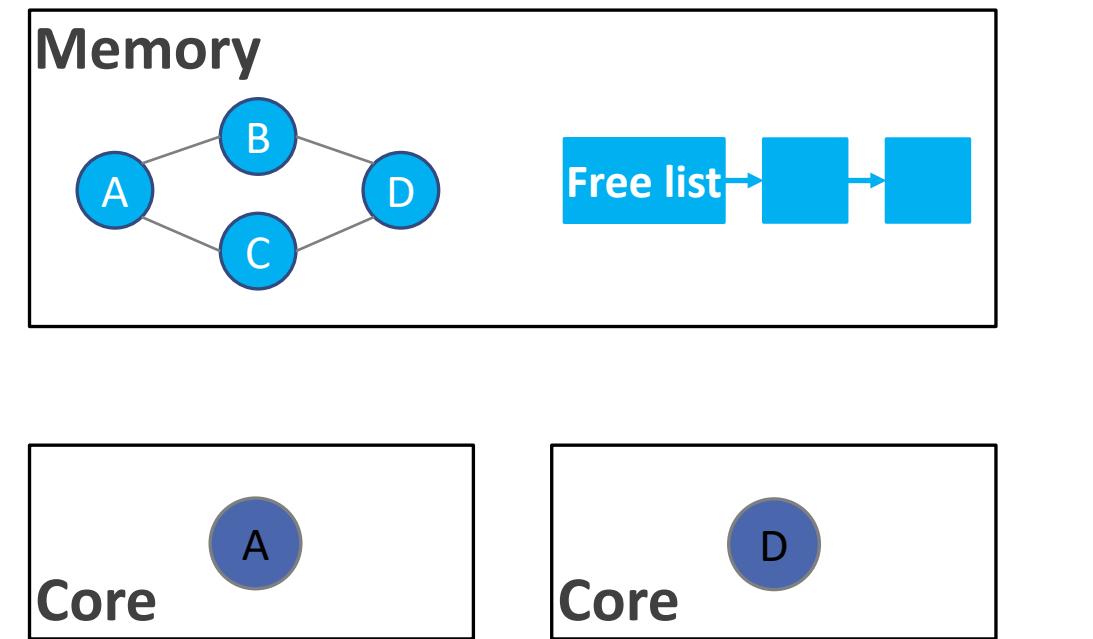
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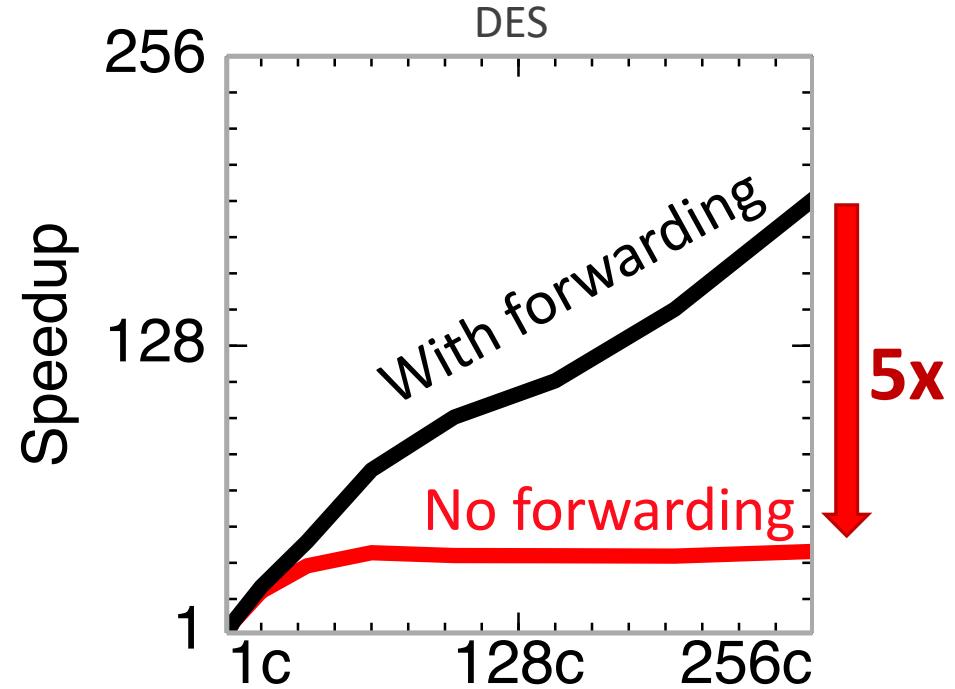
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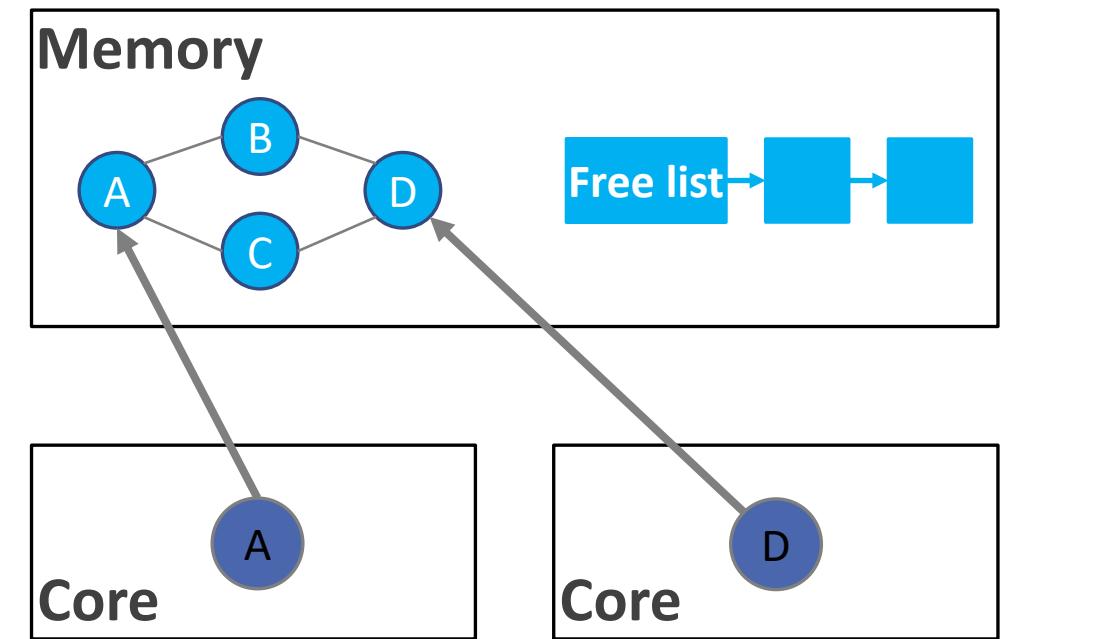
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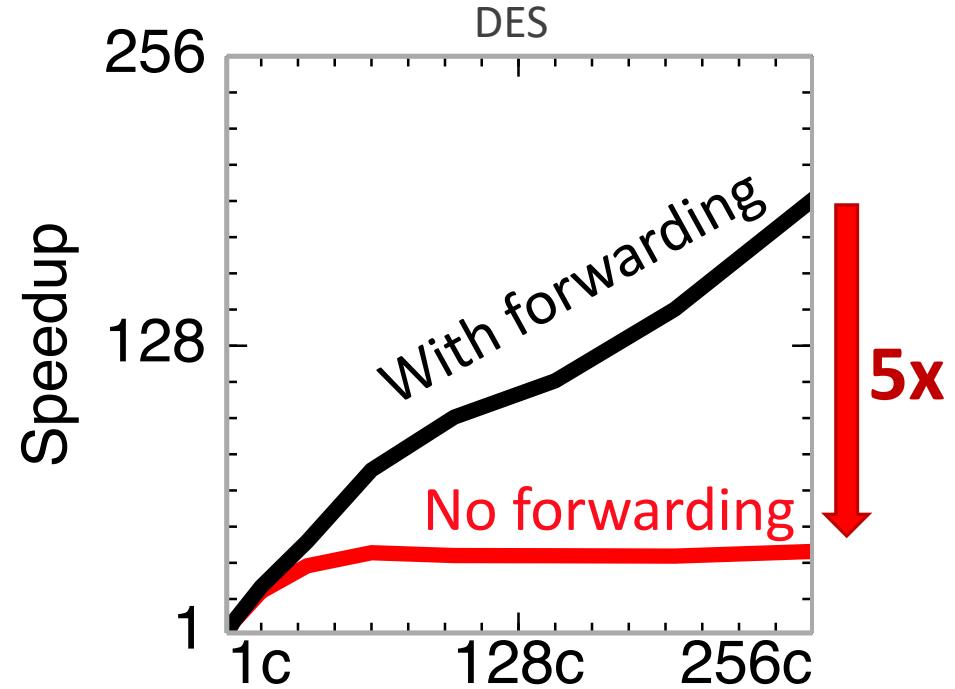
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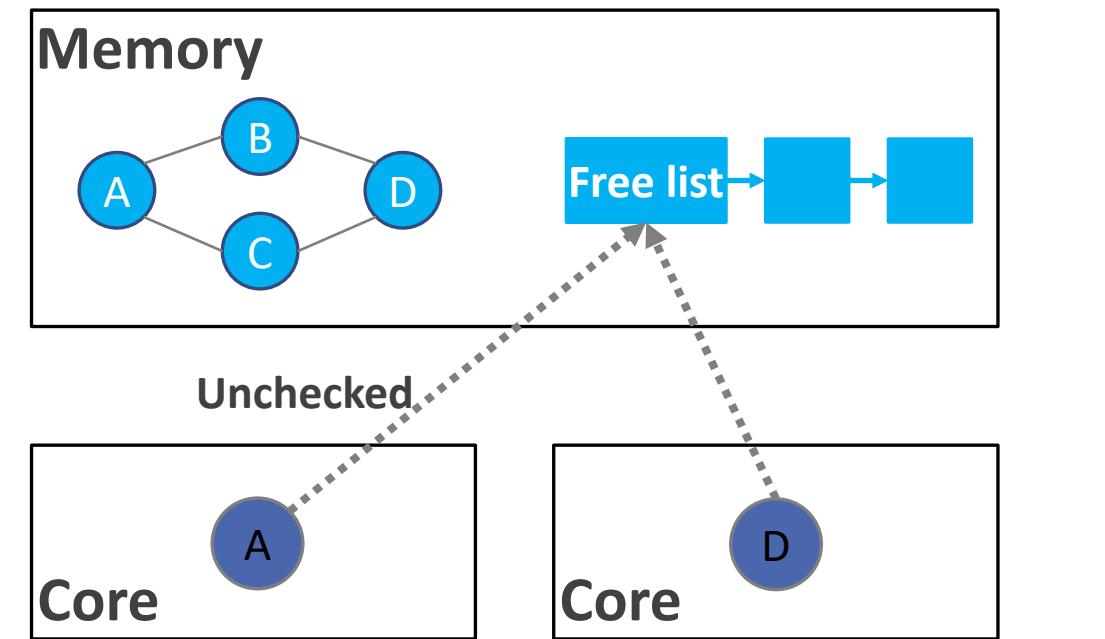
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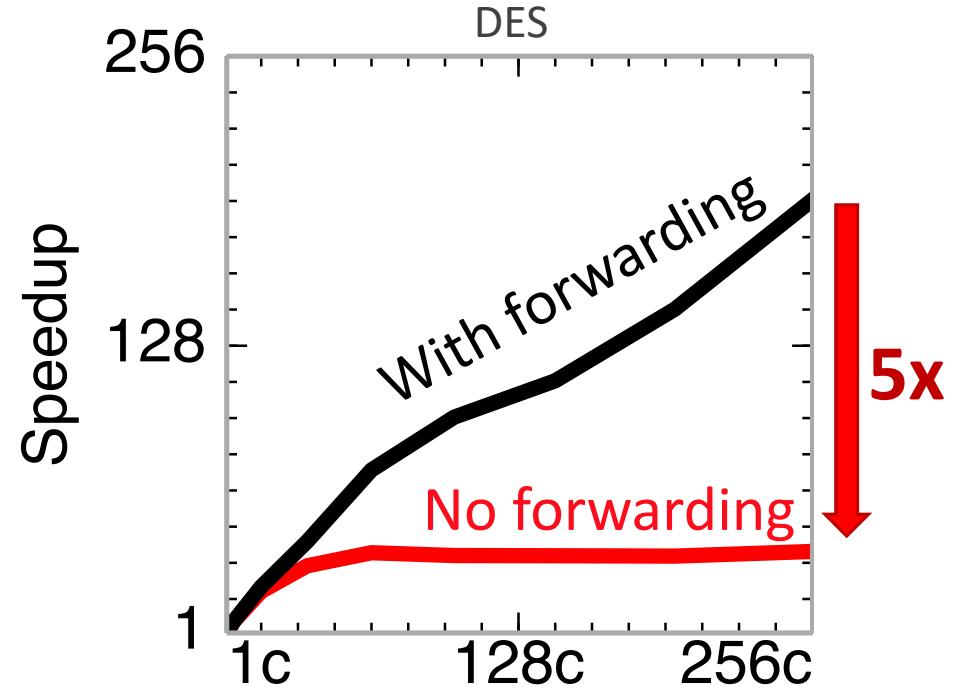
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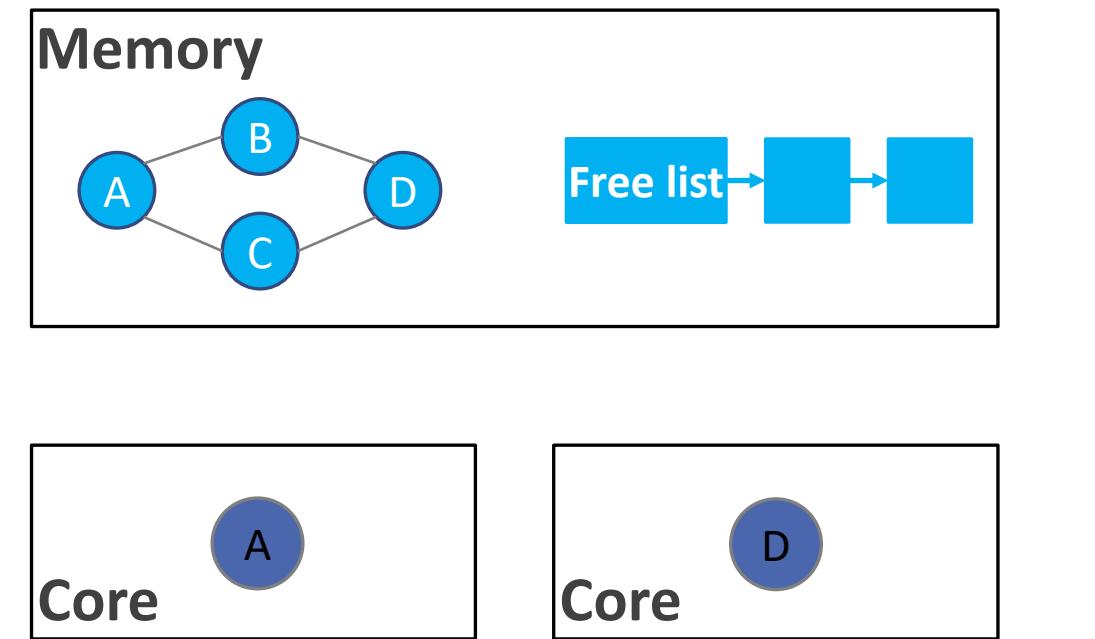
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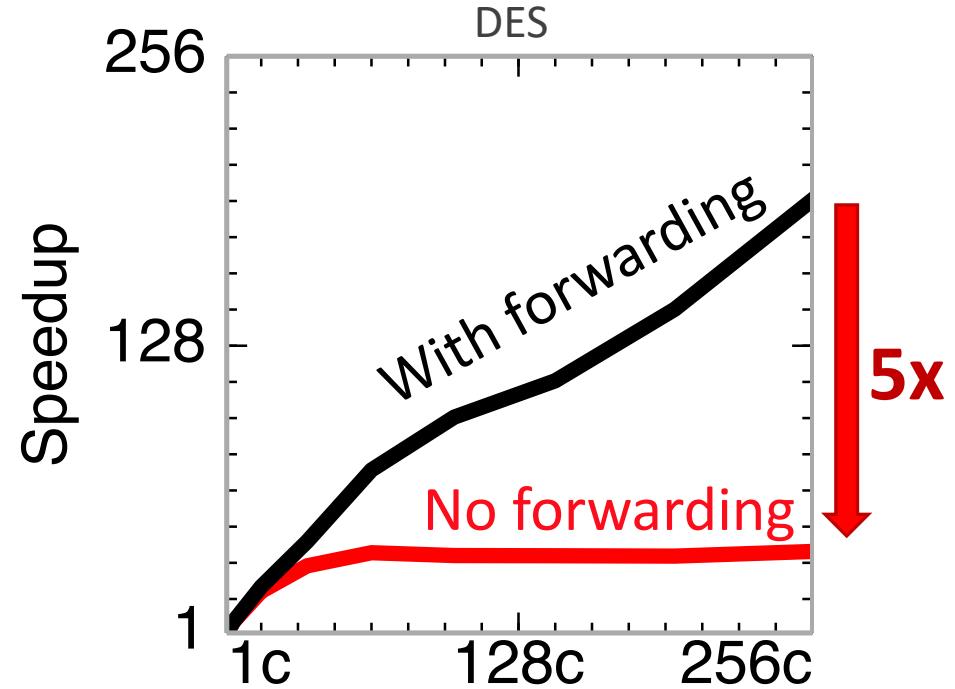
Can cause tasks to lose integrity 😠



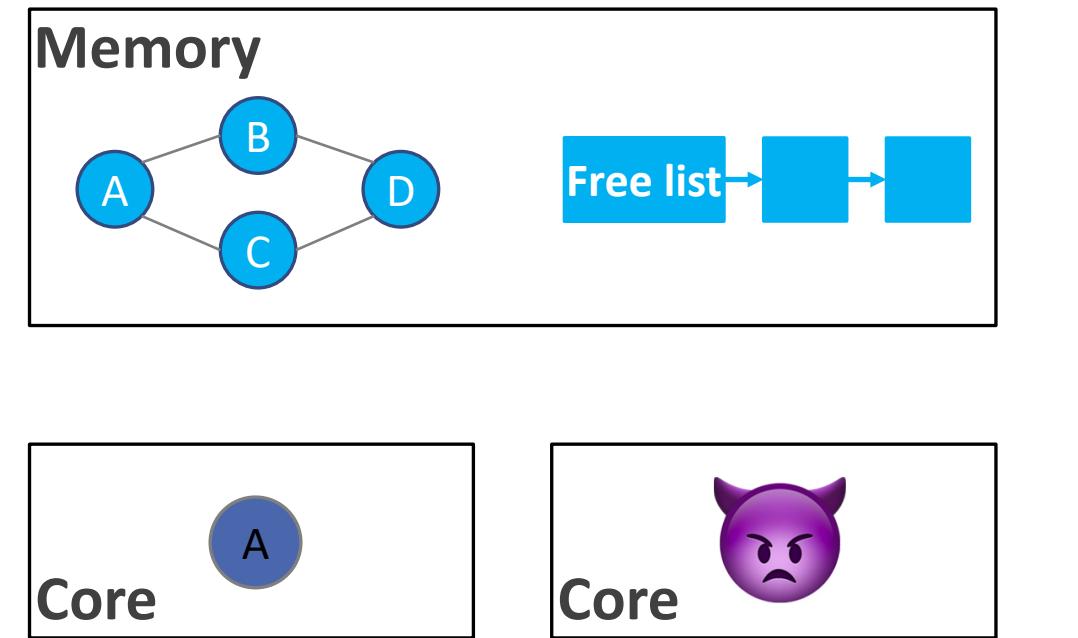
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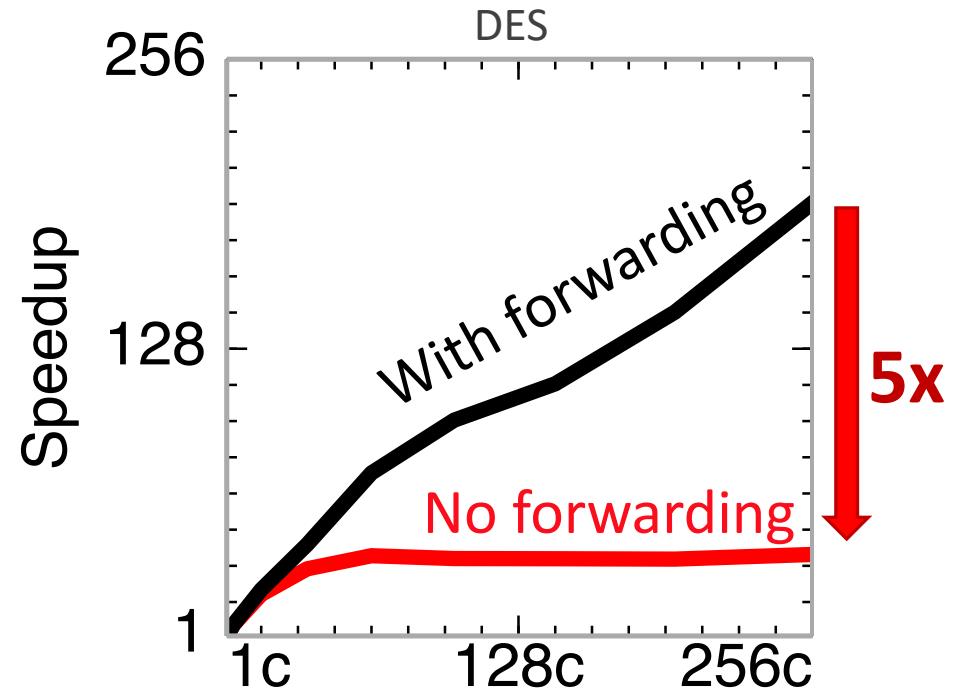
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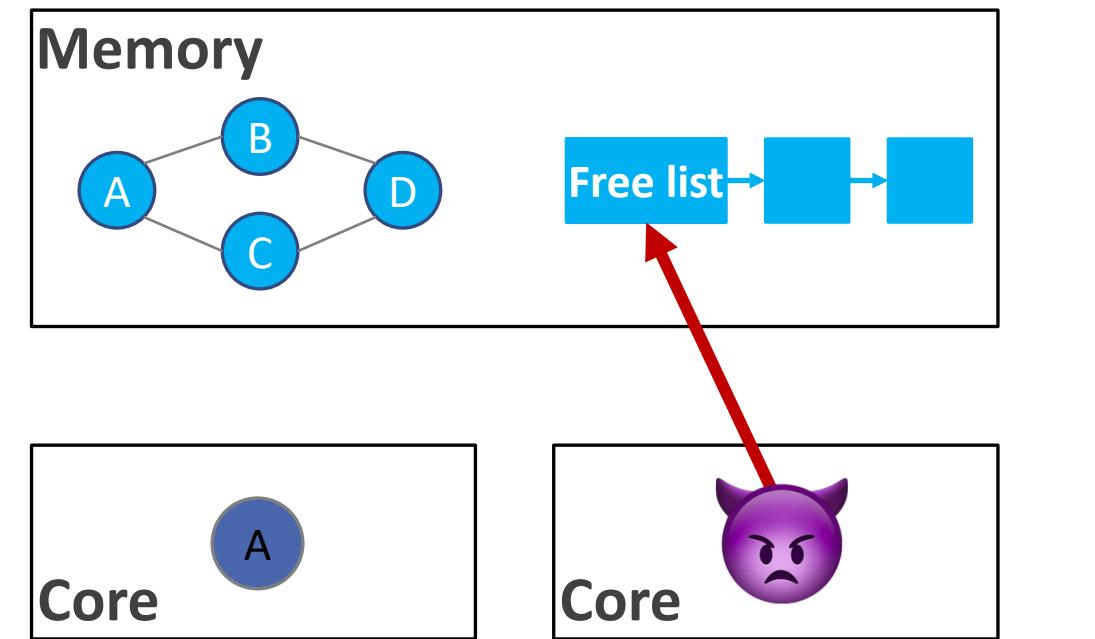
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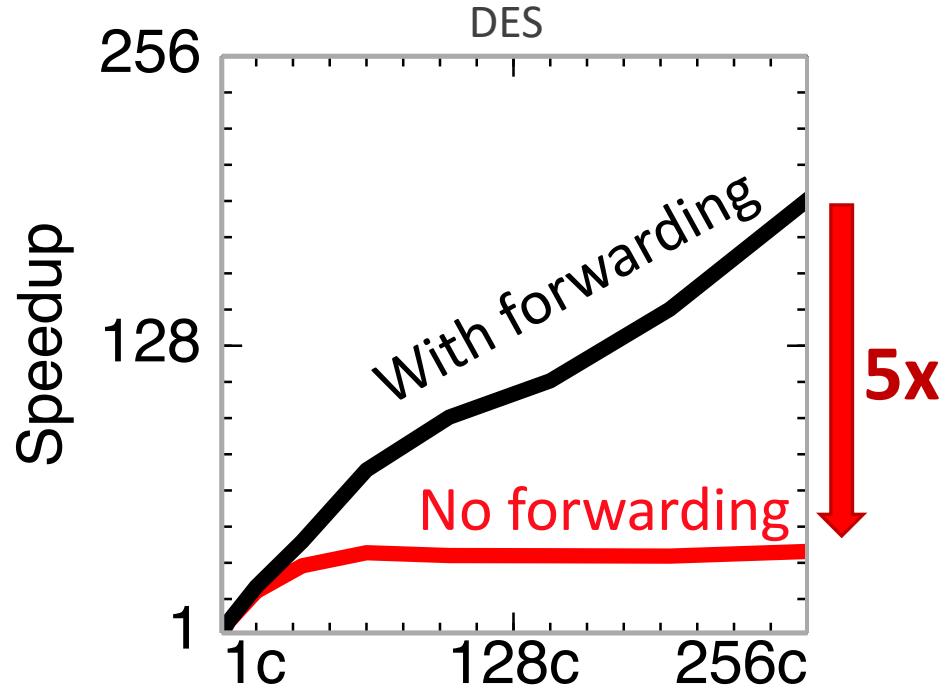
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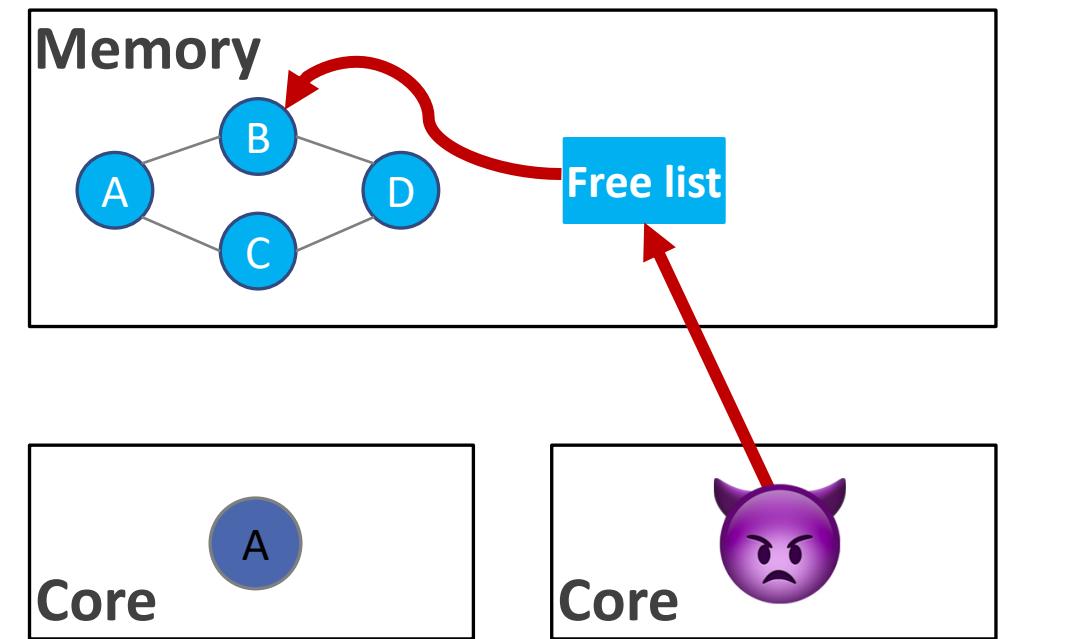
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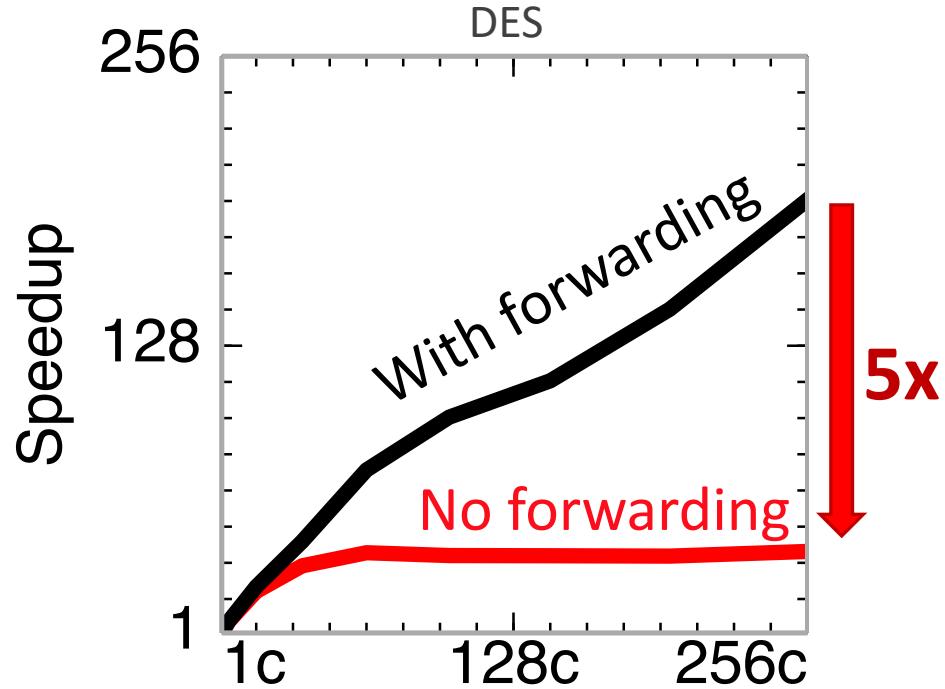
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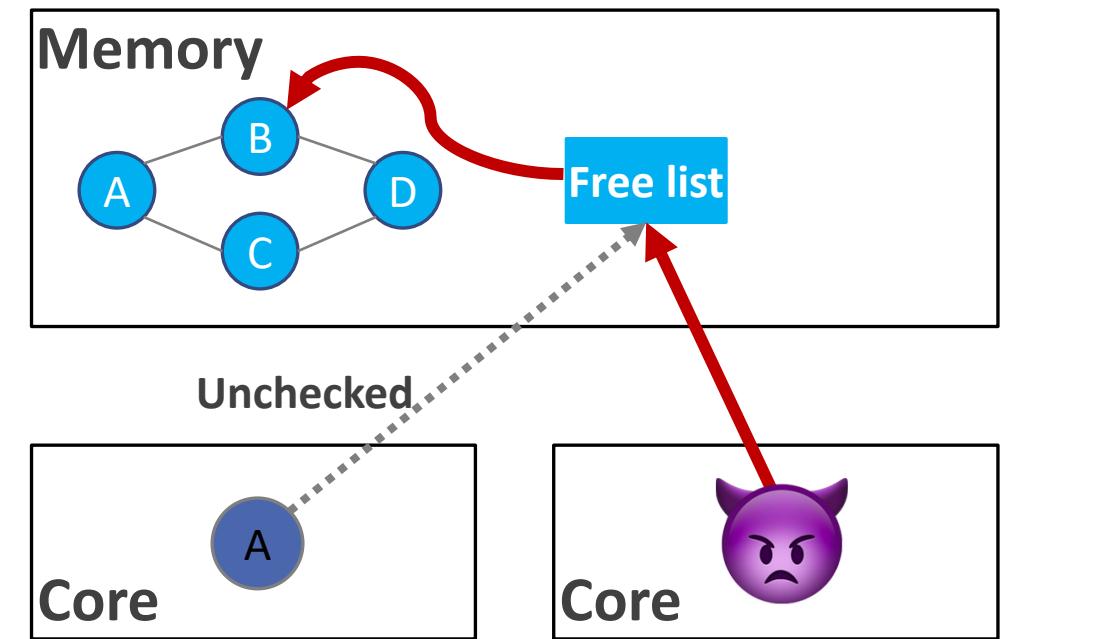
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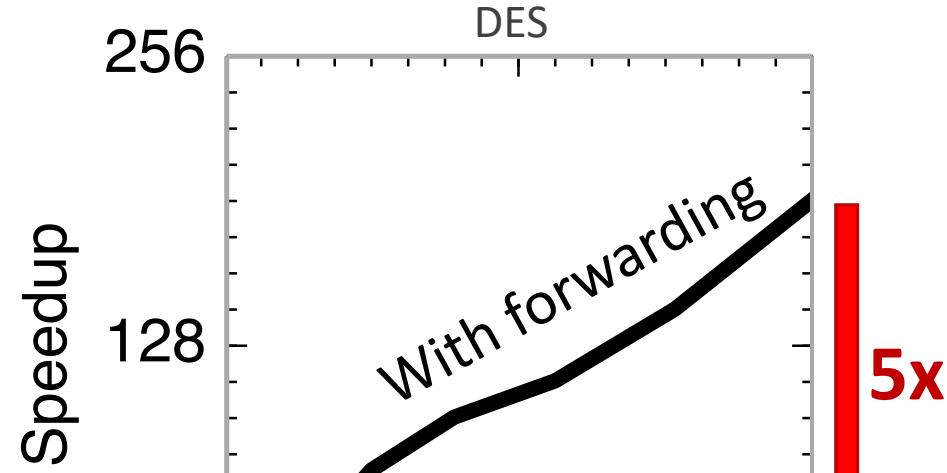
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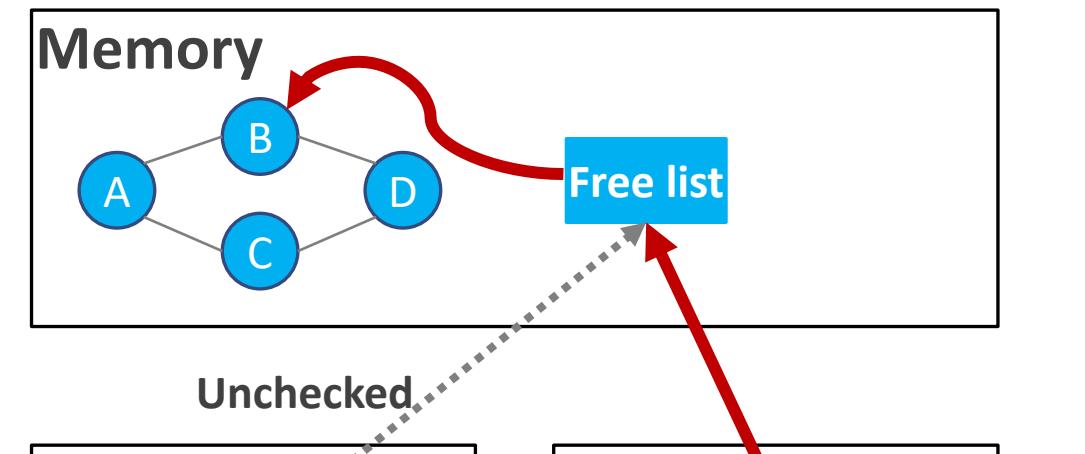
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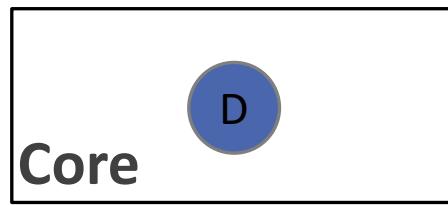
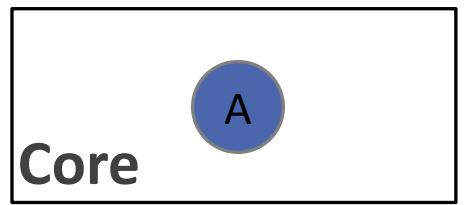
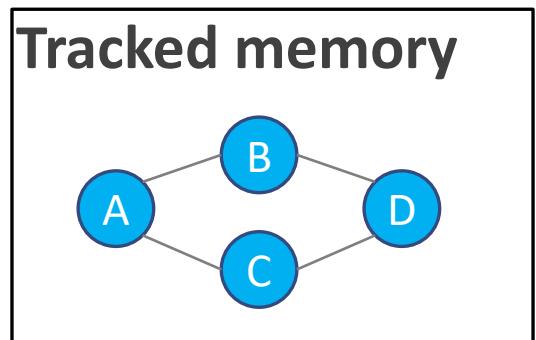
**Simply disabling hardware speculation
is unsafe with speculative forwarding**

Capsules ensure safety through OS-like protections

Untracked memory: protected from tasks that lose integrity

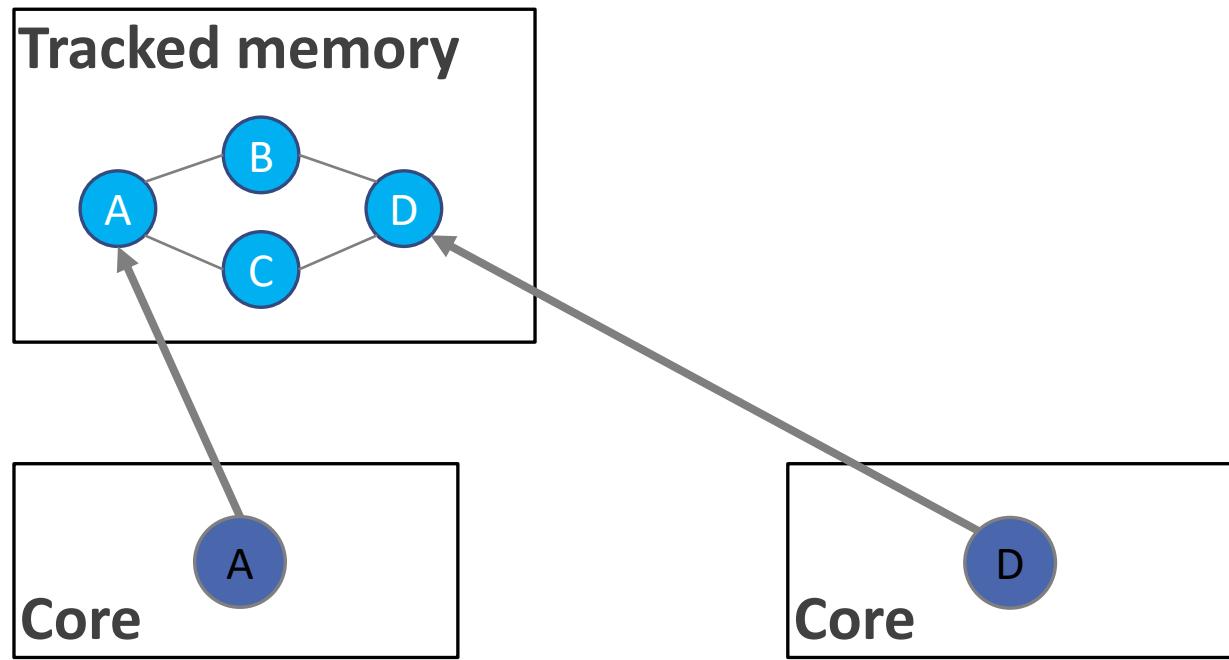
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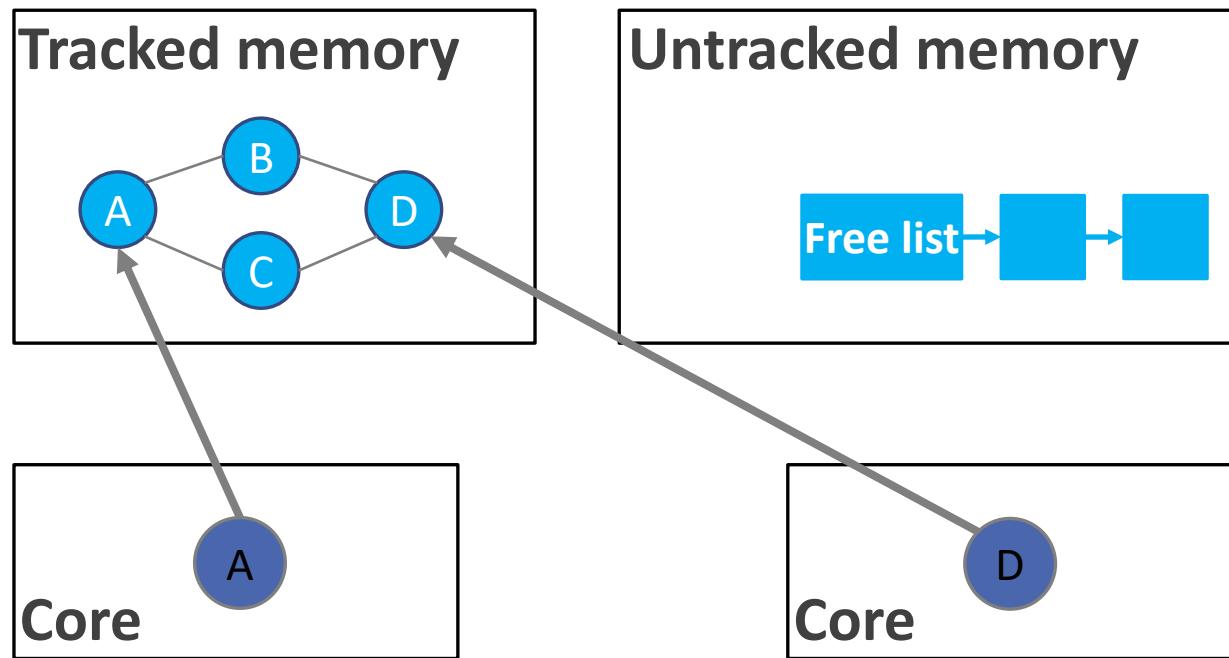
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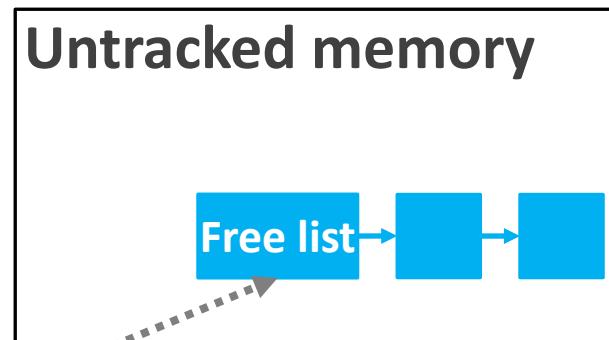
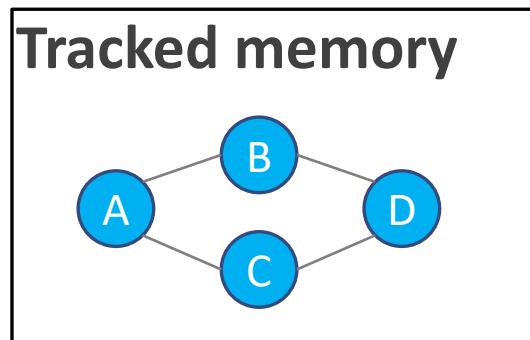
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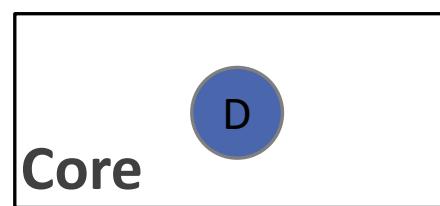
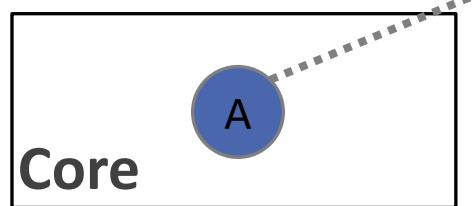
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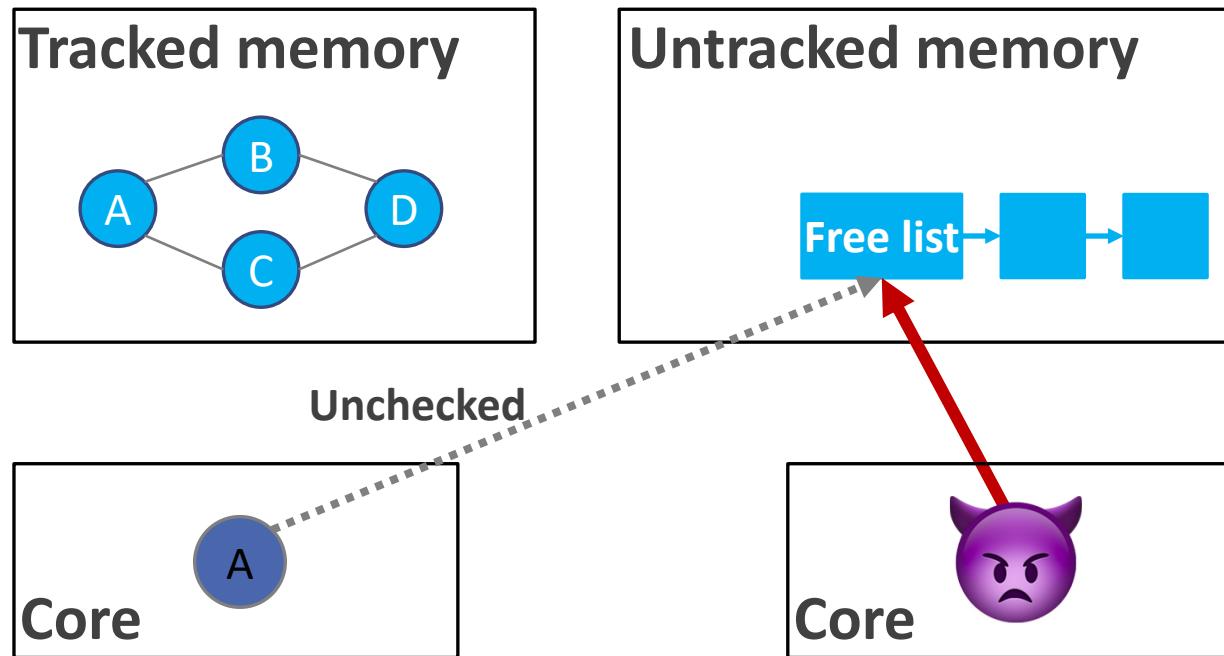
Unversioned, no conflict checks
Only accessible by

- non-speculative tasks
- speculative capsules



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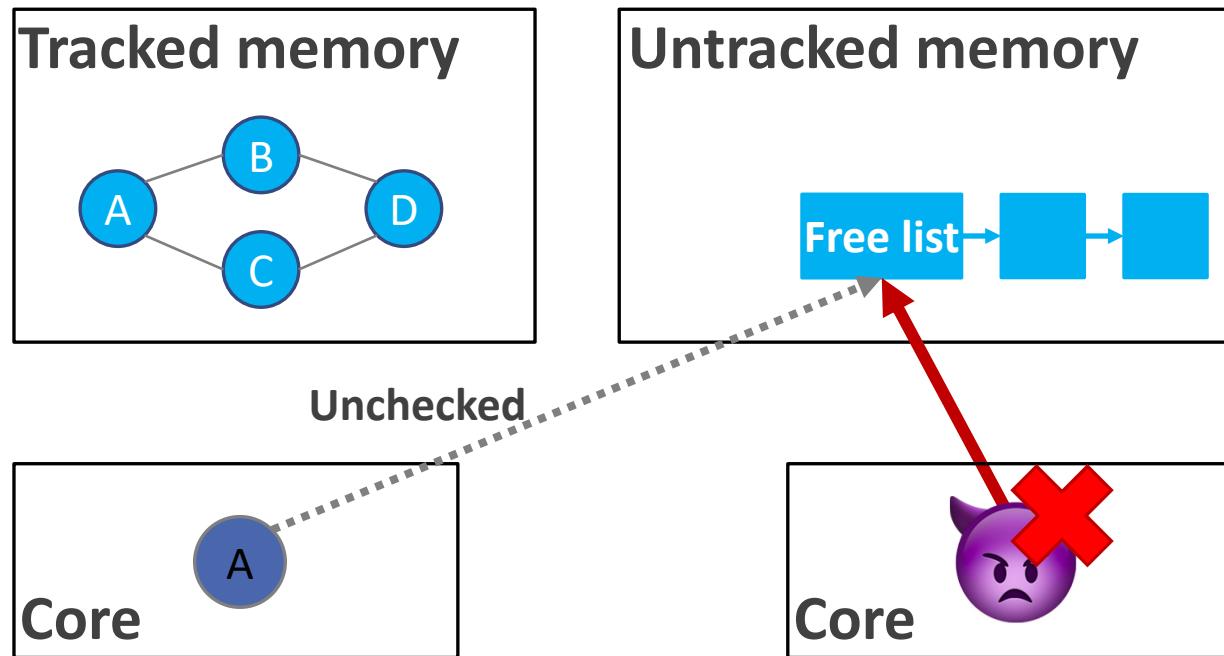


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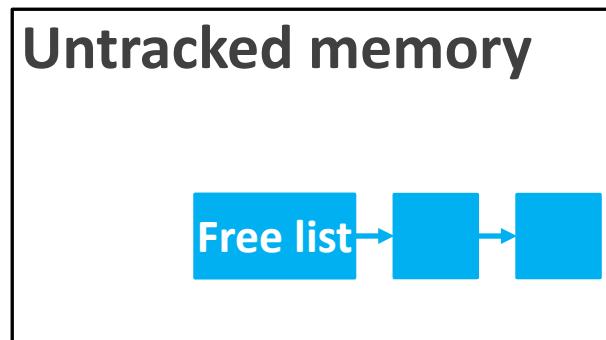
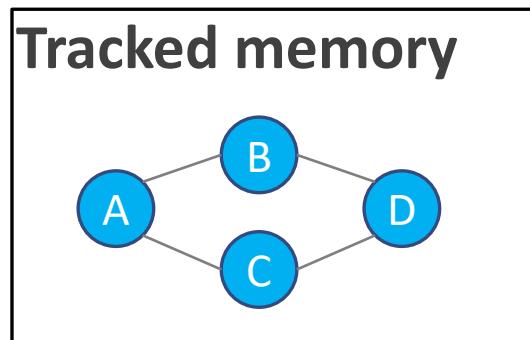


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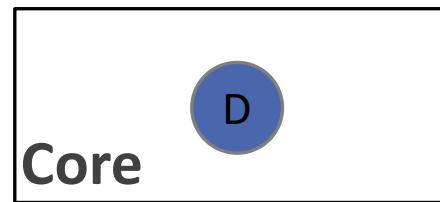
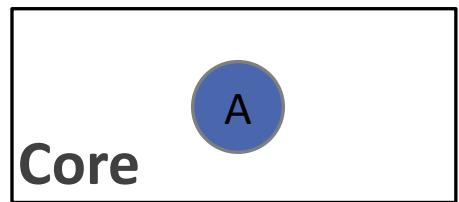
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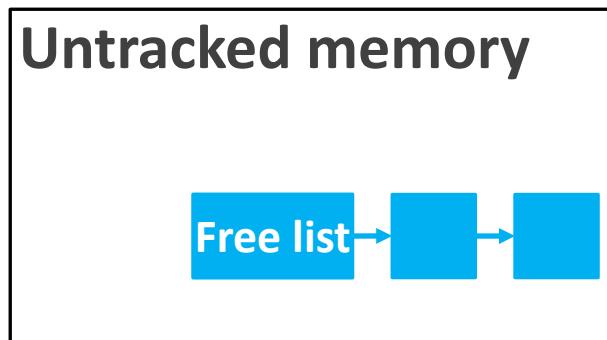
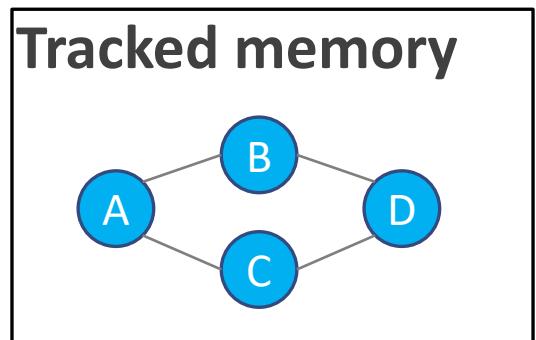
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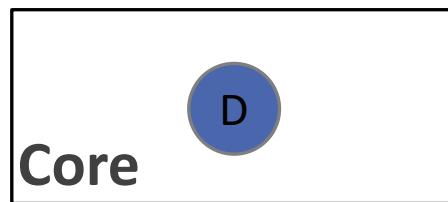
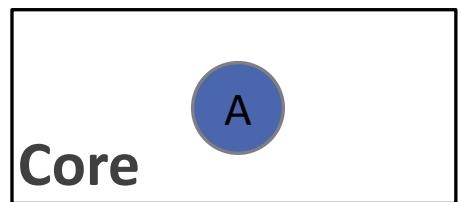
Vectored call interface: guarantees control-flow integrity in a capsule



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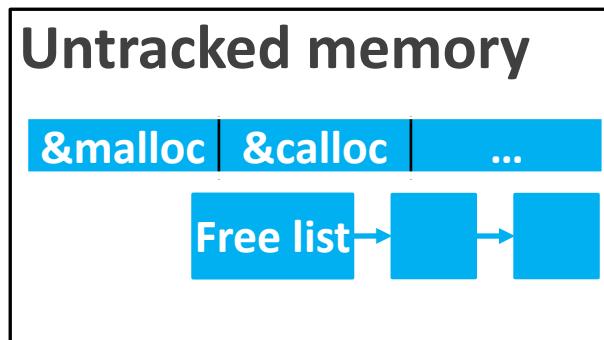
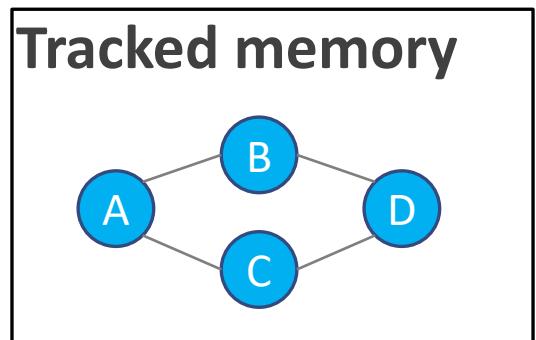
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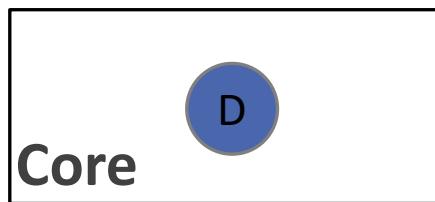
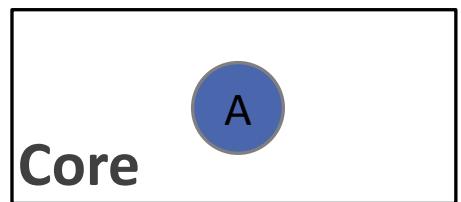


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Holds the capsule call vector



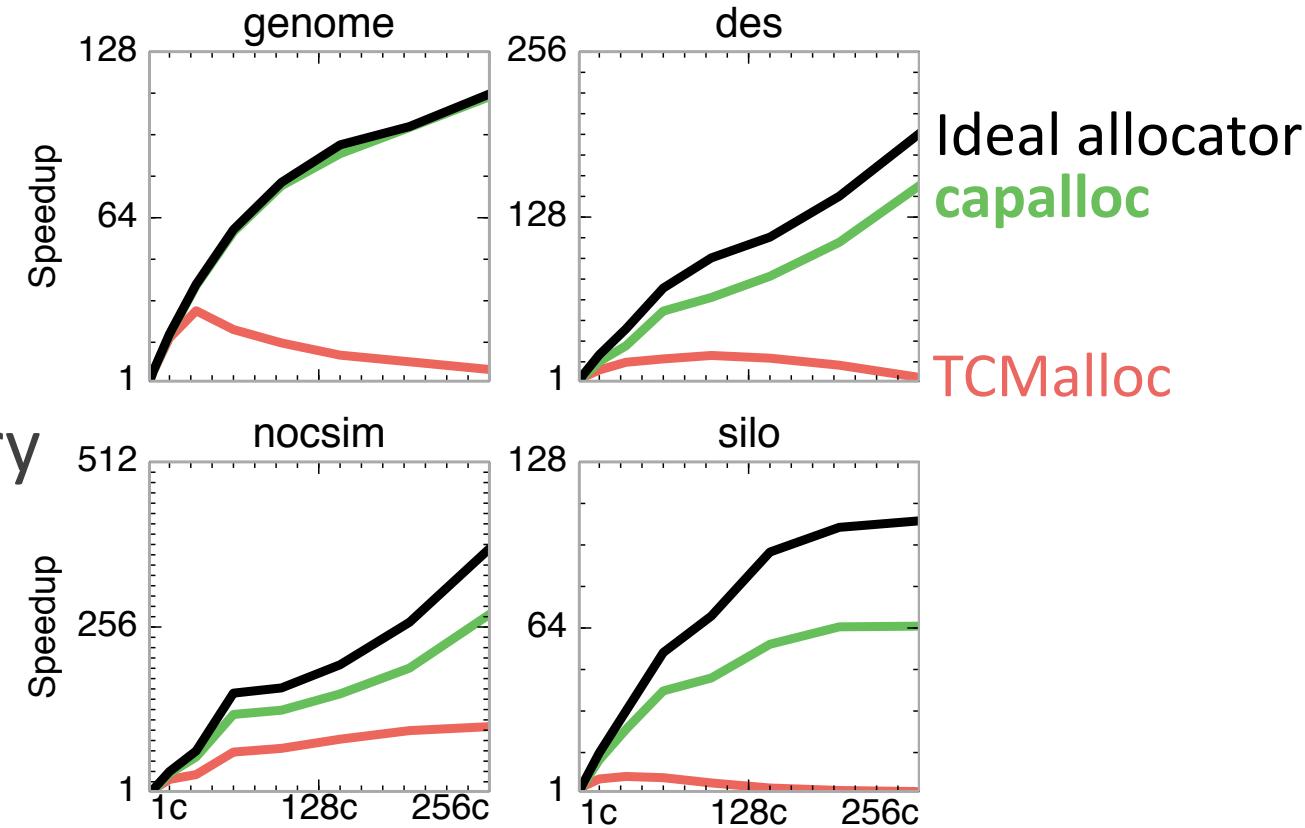
Capsules enable important system services

Capsule-based allocator

malloc, etc. are capsule functions

metadata resides in untracked memory

Only gmean 30% slower than ideal



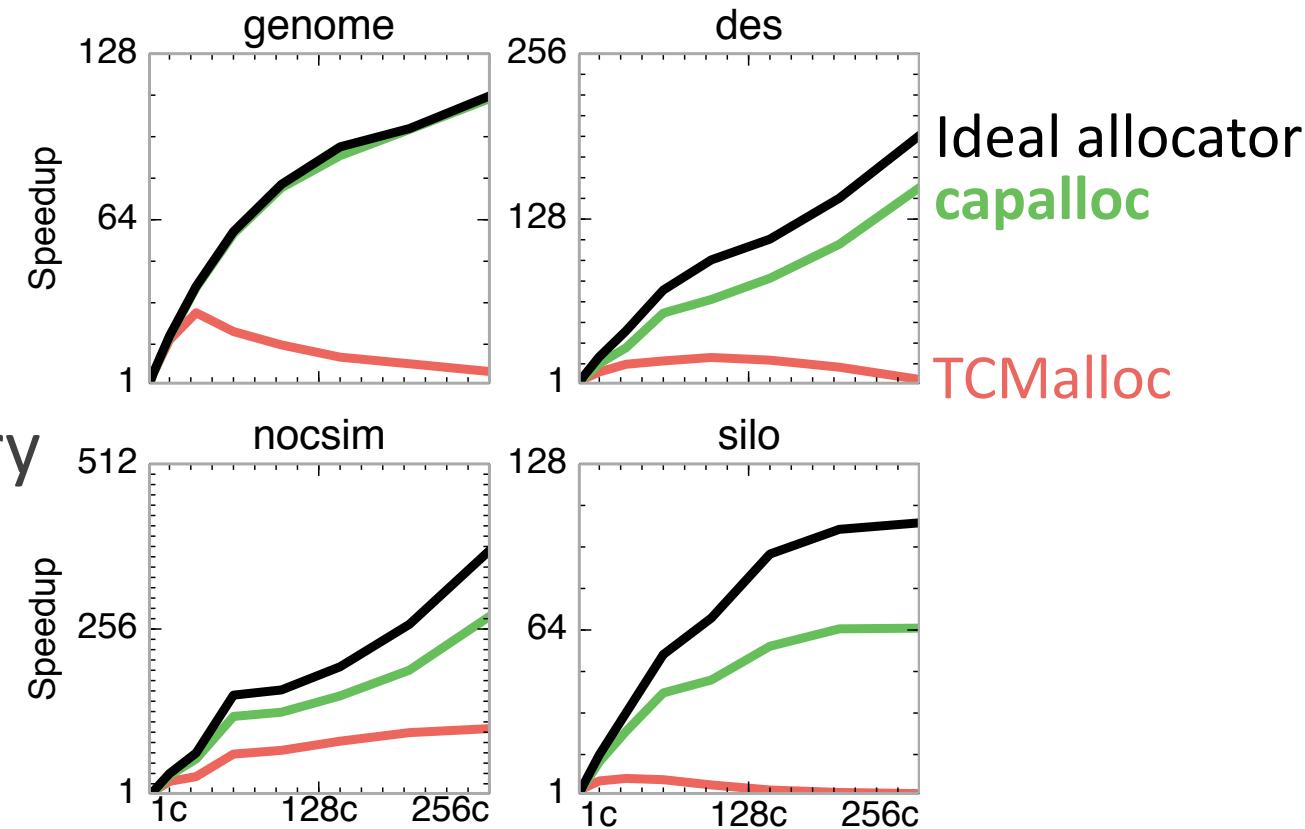
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capalloc retains the scalability of an ideal allocator

Conclusion

Speculative systems should support non-speculative execution to improve efficiency, ease programmability, and enable new capabilities

Espresso: an execution model for speculative and non-speculative tasks

- Provides shared synchronization mechanisms to all tasks
- Lets the system adaptively run tasks speculatively or non-speculatively

Capsules: speculative tasks safely invoke software-managed speculation

- Enable important speculation-friendly services like scalable memory allocation