

Serving DNNs like Clockwork

Performance Predictability from the Bottom Up



Arpan Gujarati



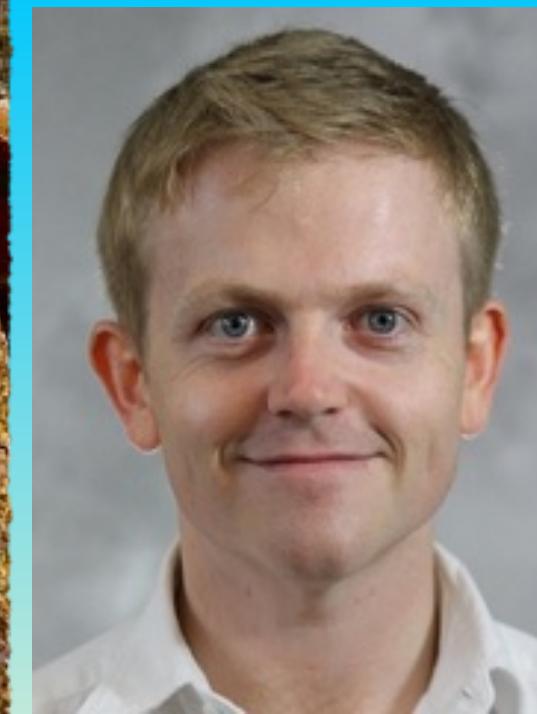
Safya Alzayat



Wei Hao



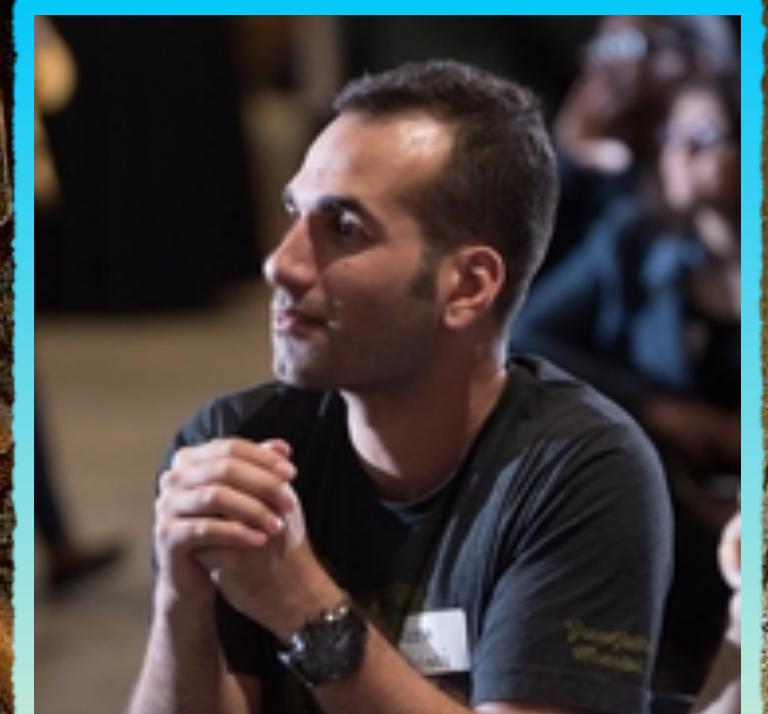
Antoine Kaufman



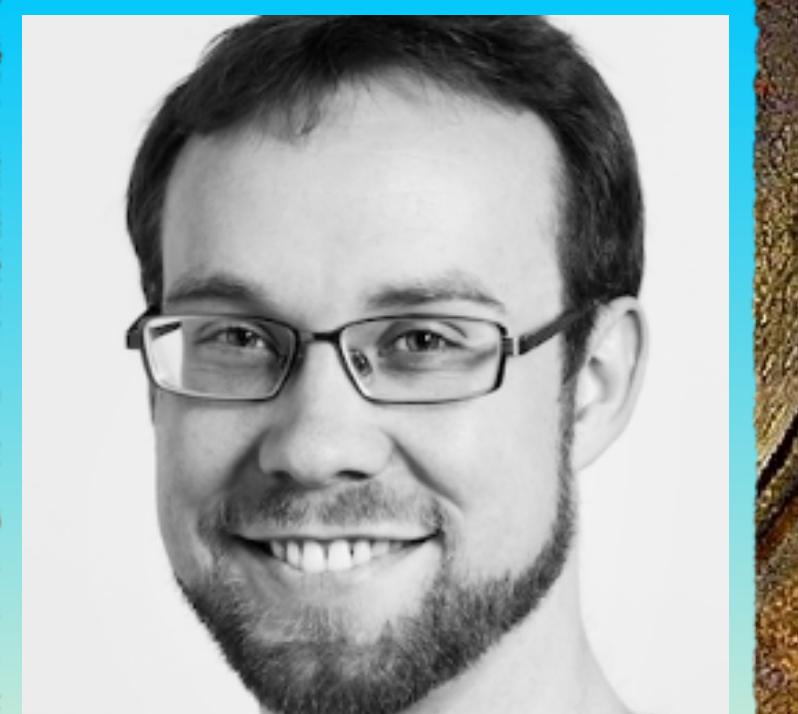
Jonathan Mace



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR SOFTWARE SYSTEMS



Reza Karimi



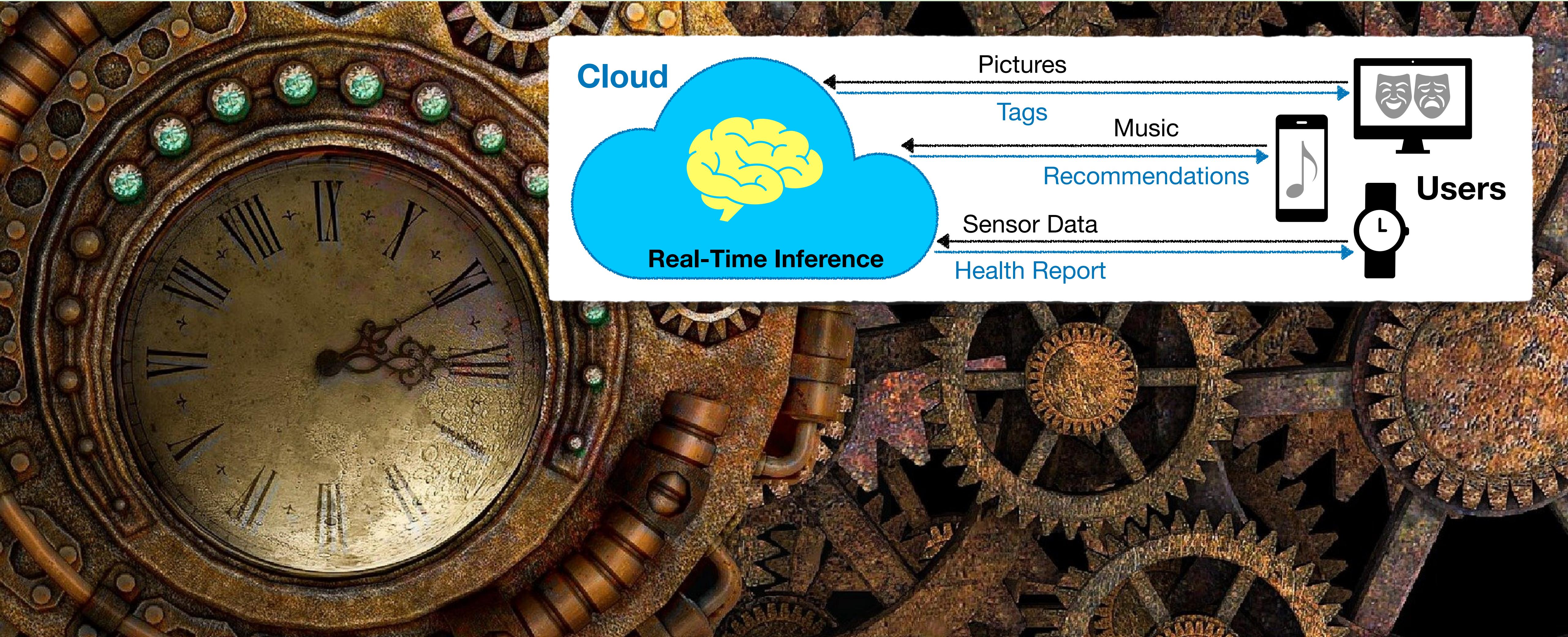
Ymir Vigfusson



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Serving DNNs like Clockwork

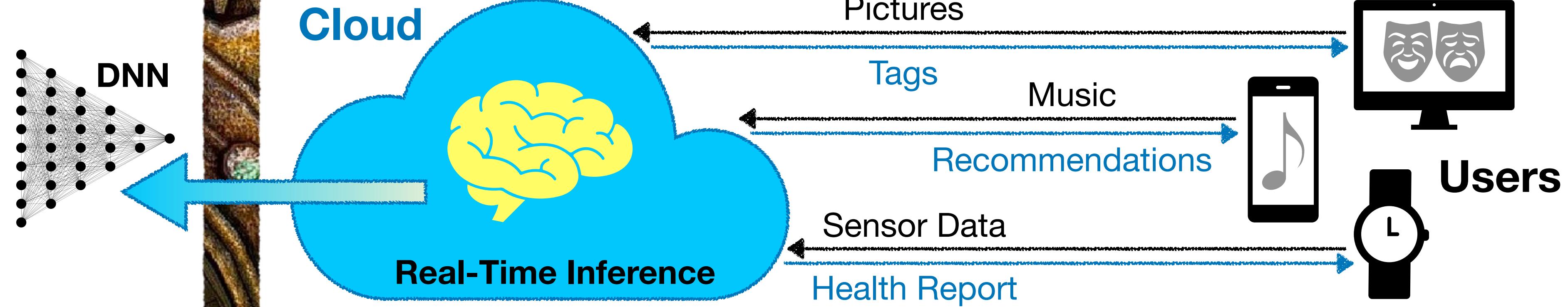
Performance Predictability from the Bottom Up



Serving DNNs like Clockwork

Performance Predictability from the Bottom Up

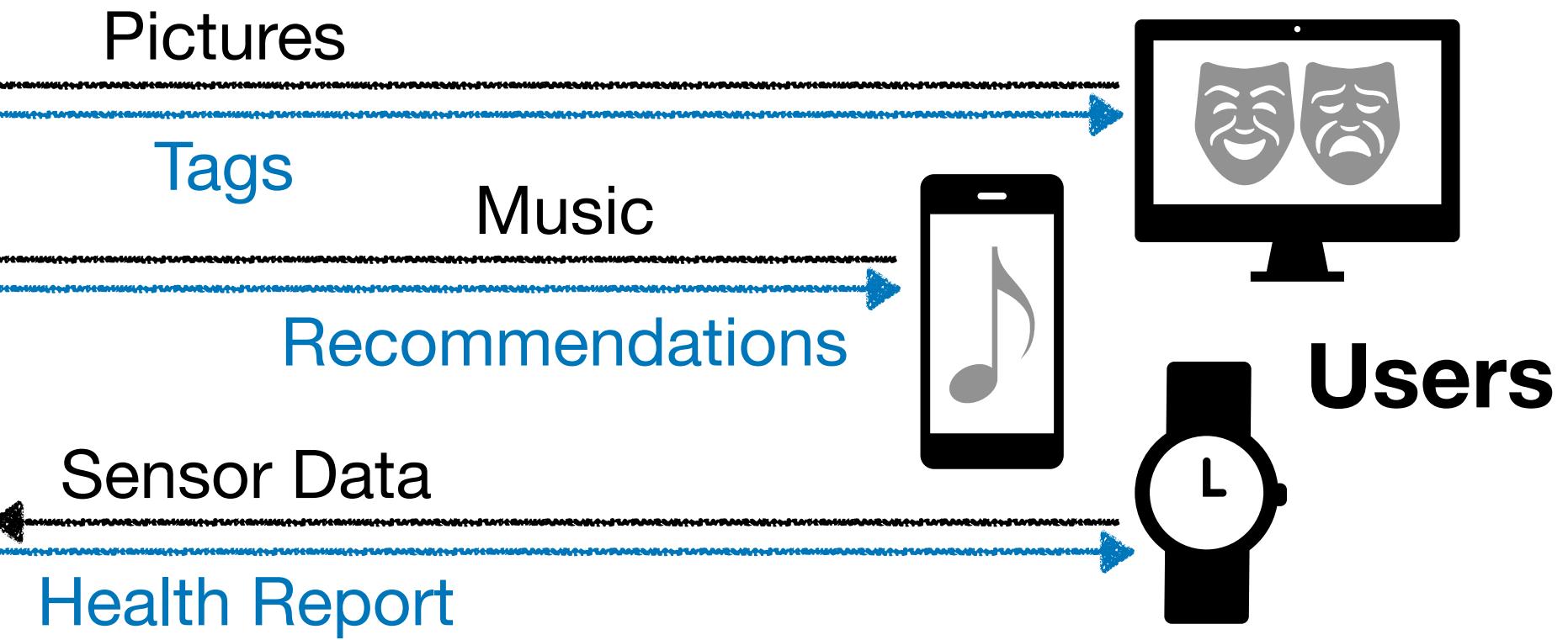
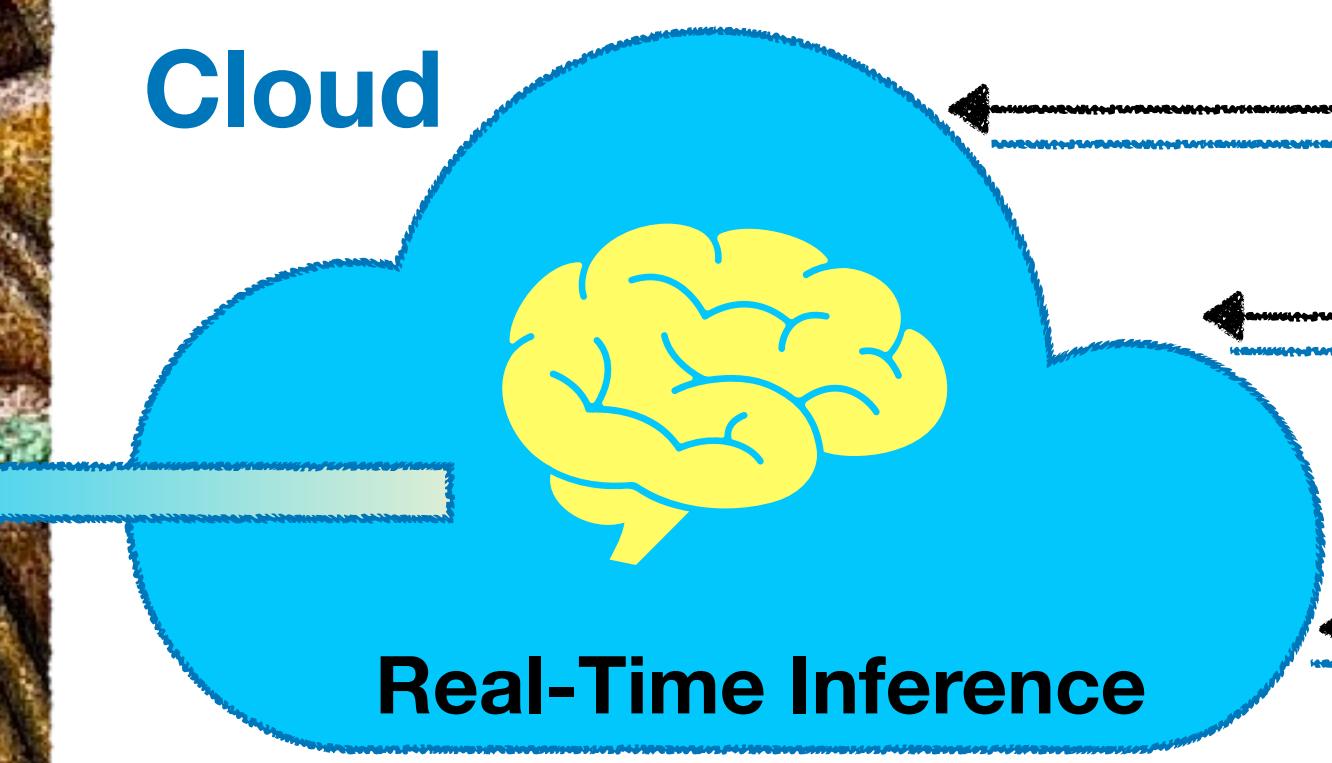
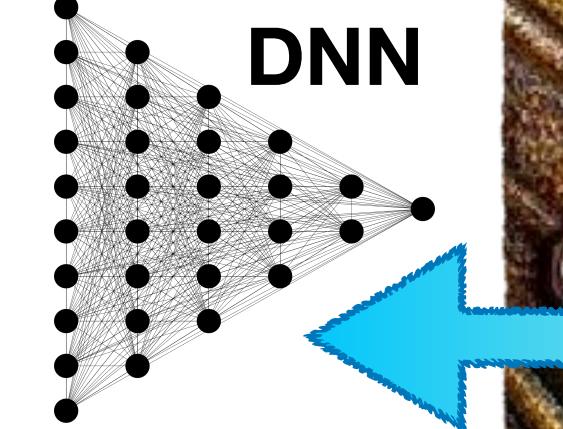
DNN inference
has a very
predictable
execution time!



Serving DNNs like Clockwork

Performance Predictability from the Bottom Up

DNN inference
has a very
predictable
execution time!

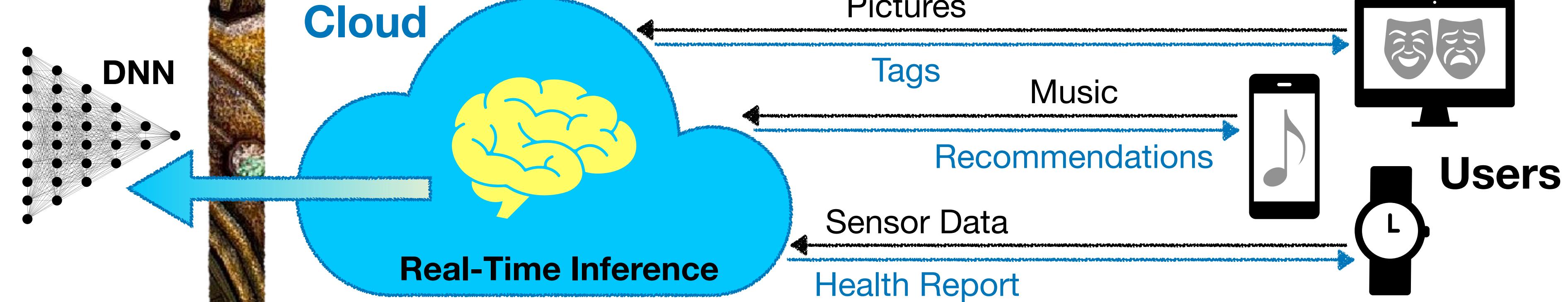


Clockwork
End-to-end predictable
DNN serving platform
for the Cloud

Serving DNNs like Clockwork

Performance Predictability from the Bottom Up

DNN inference
has a very
predictable
execution time!



Clockwork
End-to-end predictable
DNN serving platform
for the Cloud

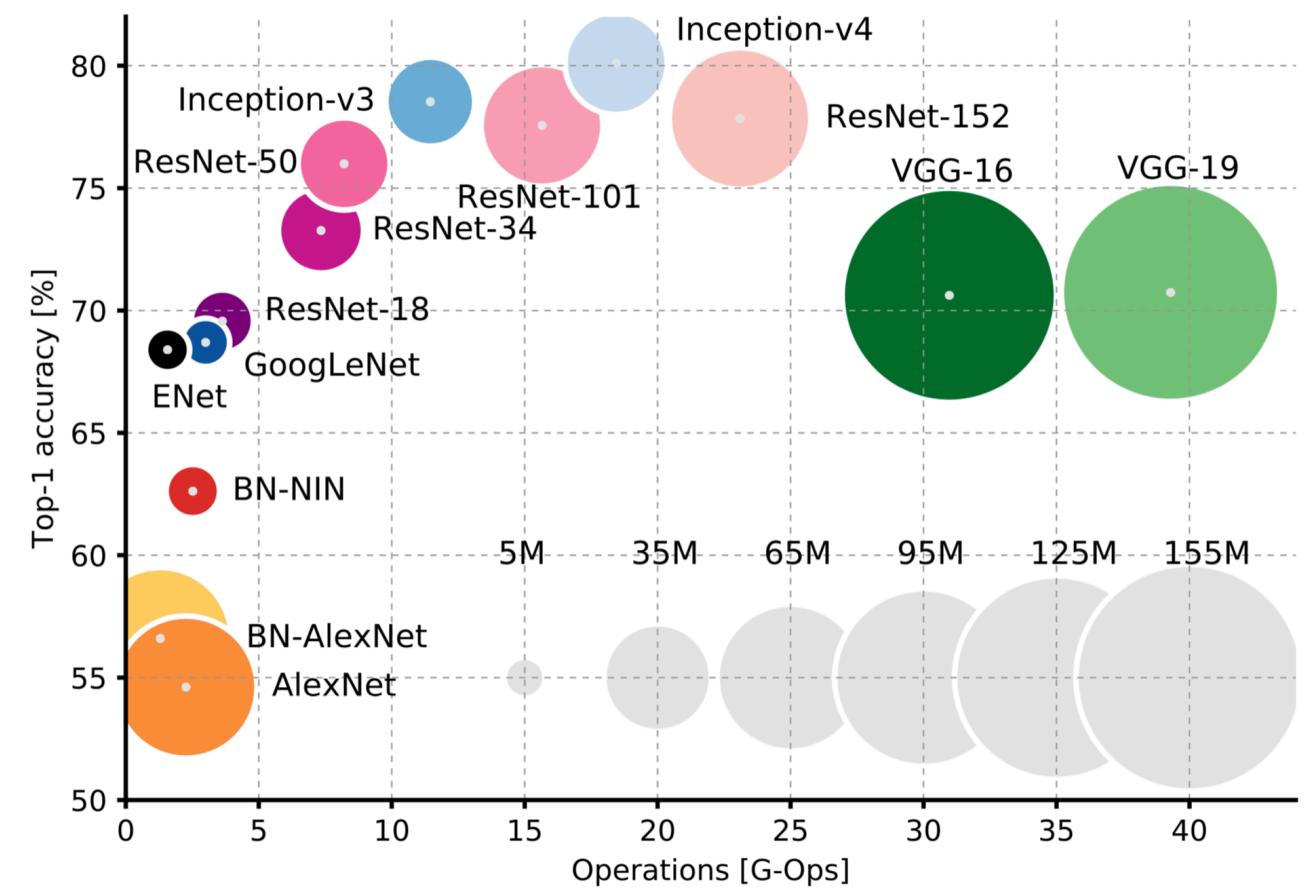
- ✓ Supports 1000s of models concurrently per GPU
- ✓ Mitigates tail latency, supporting tight latency SLOs (10–100 ms)
- ✓ Close to ideal goodput under overload, contention, and bursts

Background

Inference Serving at the Cloud Scale is Difficult

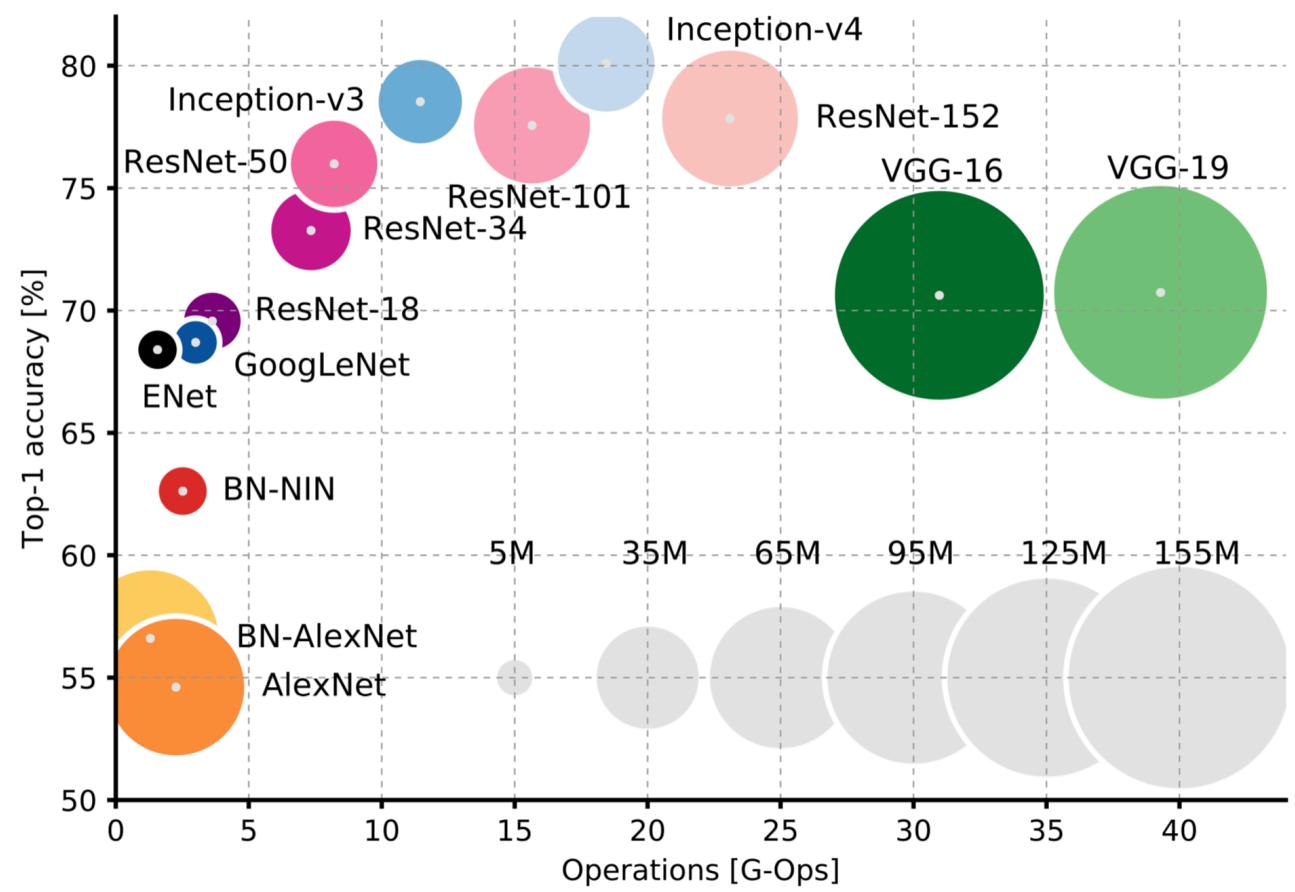
Inference Serving at the Cloud Scale is Difficult

1000s of trained models of different types and resource requirements

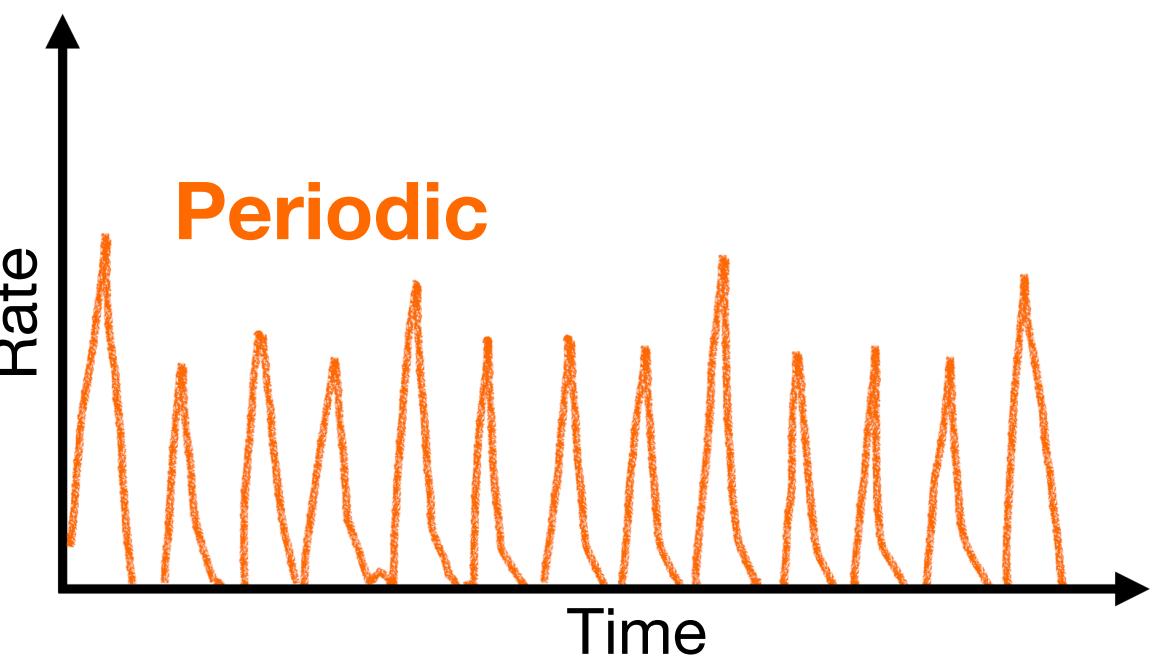


Inference Serving at the Cloud Scale is Difficult

1000s of trained models of different types and resource requirements

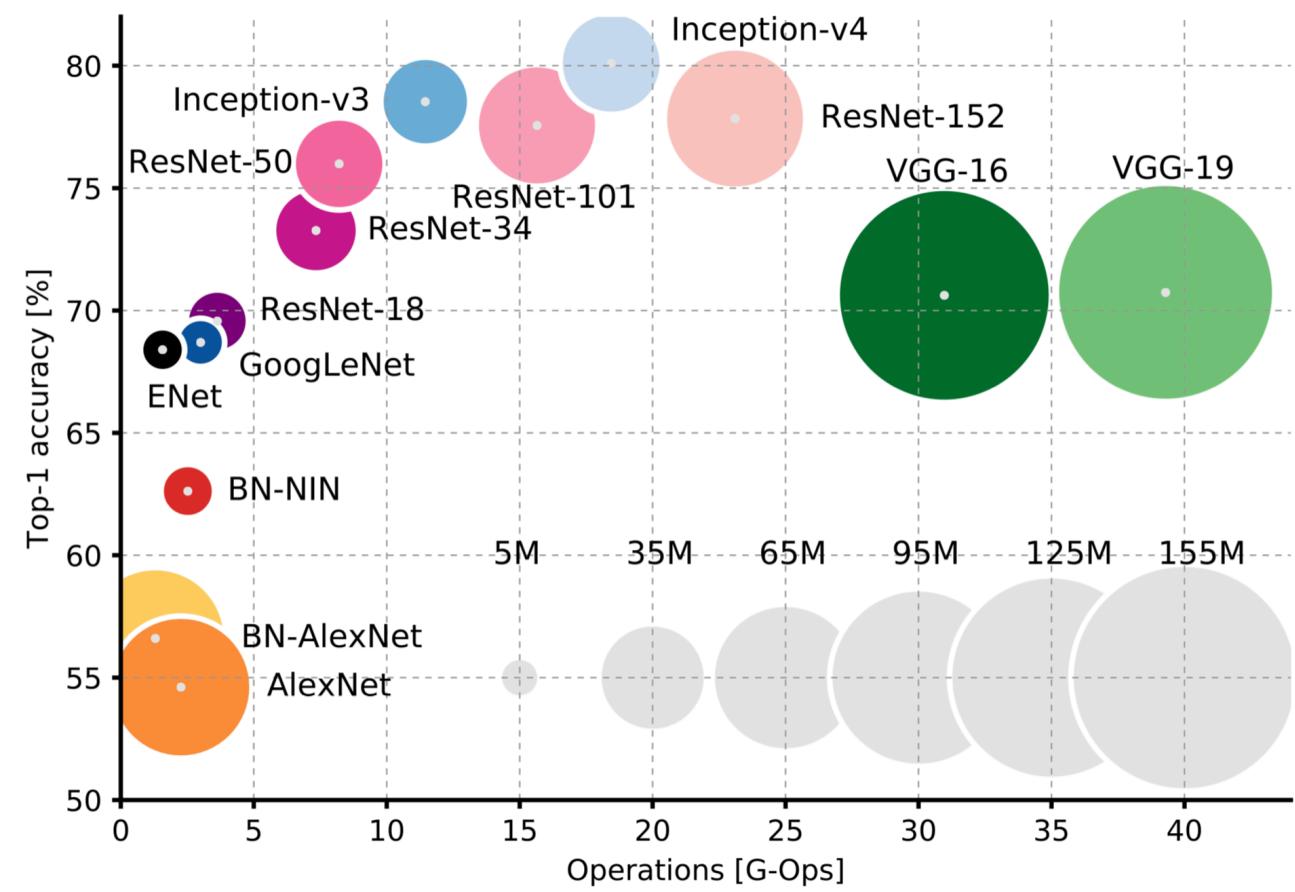


Requests arrive at different rates and regularity

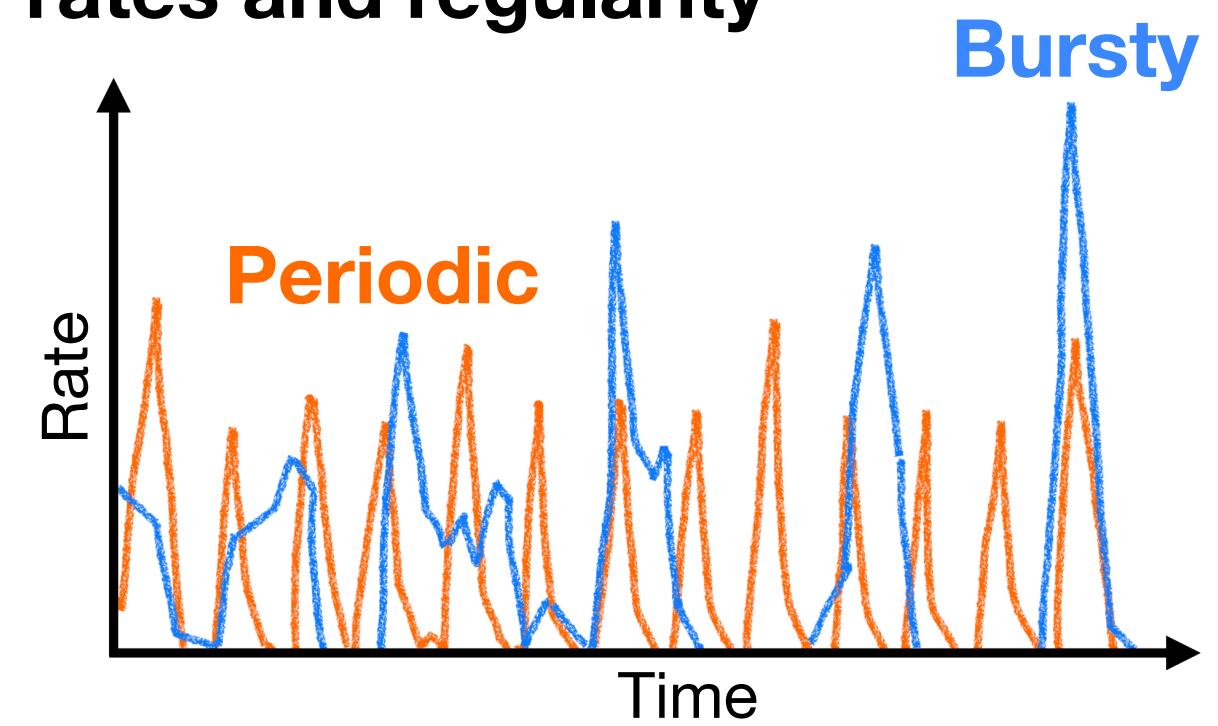


Inference Serving at the Cloud Scale is Difficult

1000s of trained models of different types and resource requirements

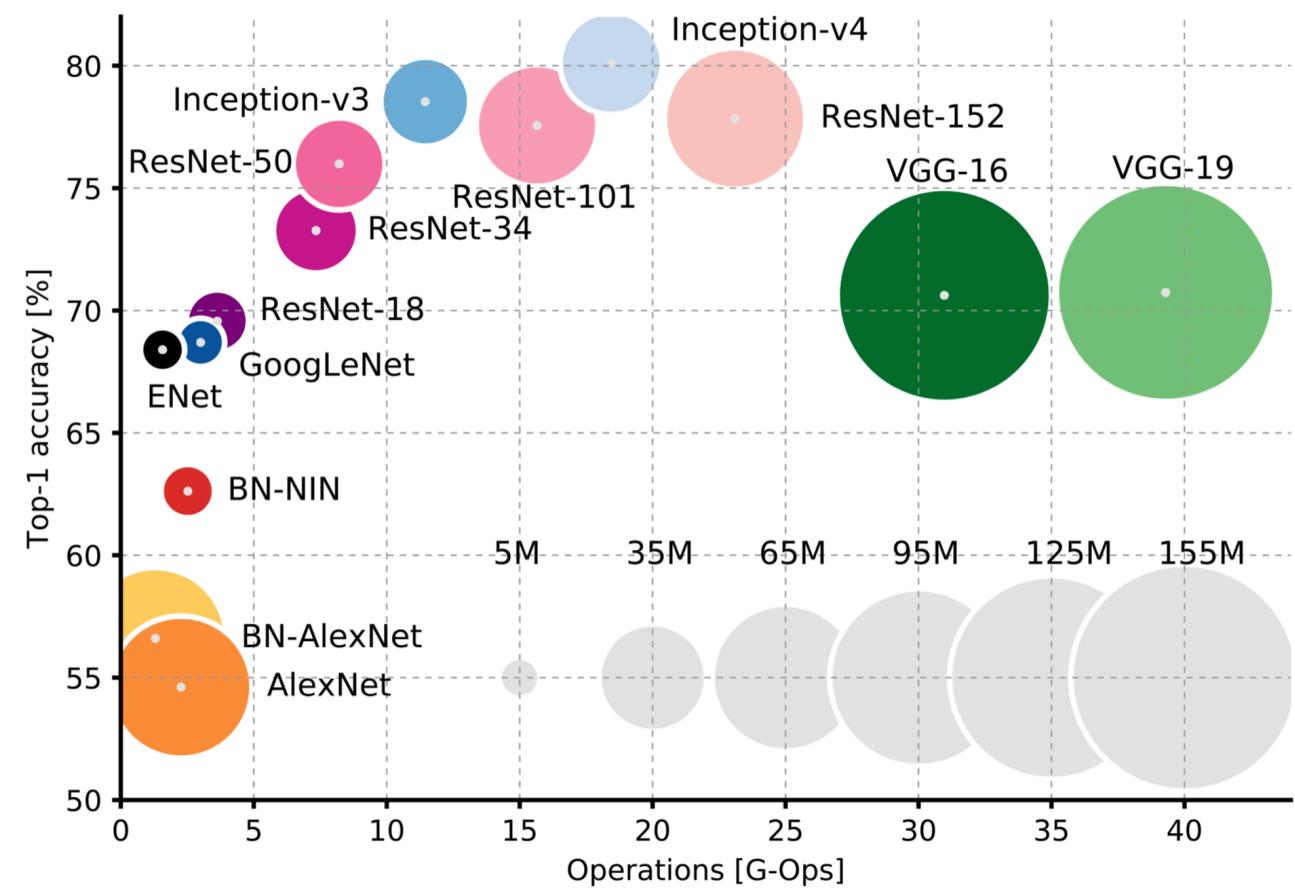


Requests arrive at different rates and regularity

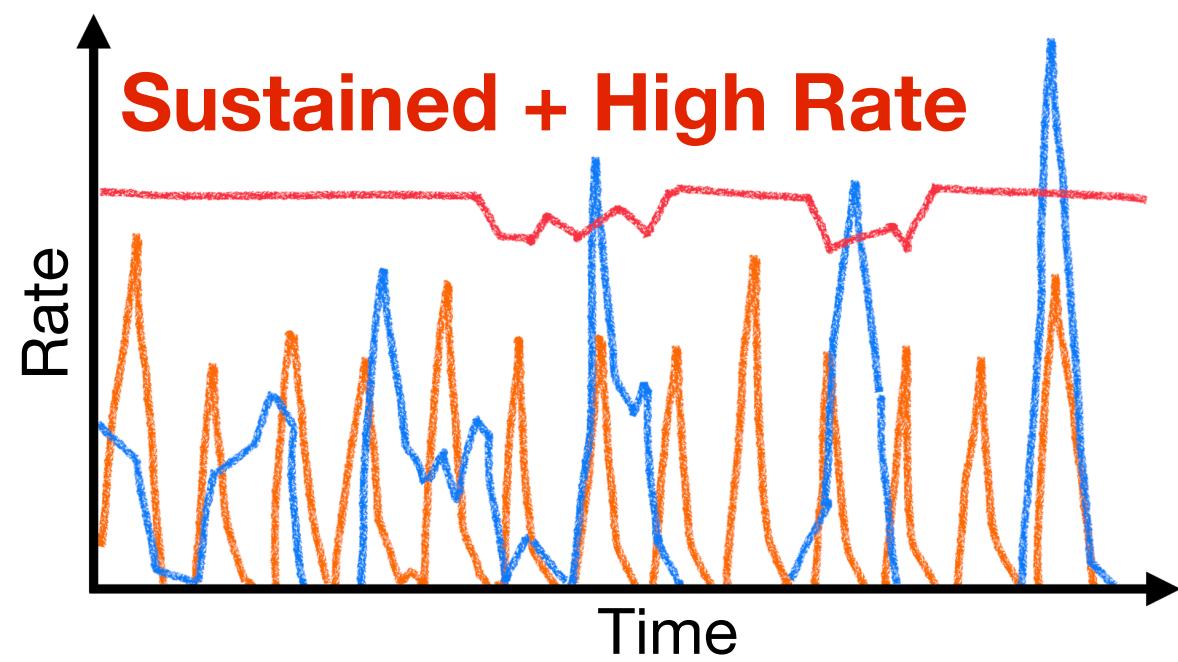


Inference Serving at the Cloud Scale is Difficult

1000s of trained models of different types and resource requirements

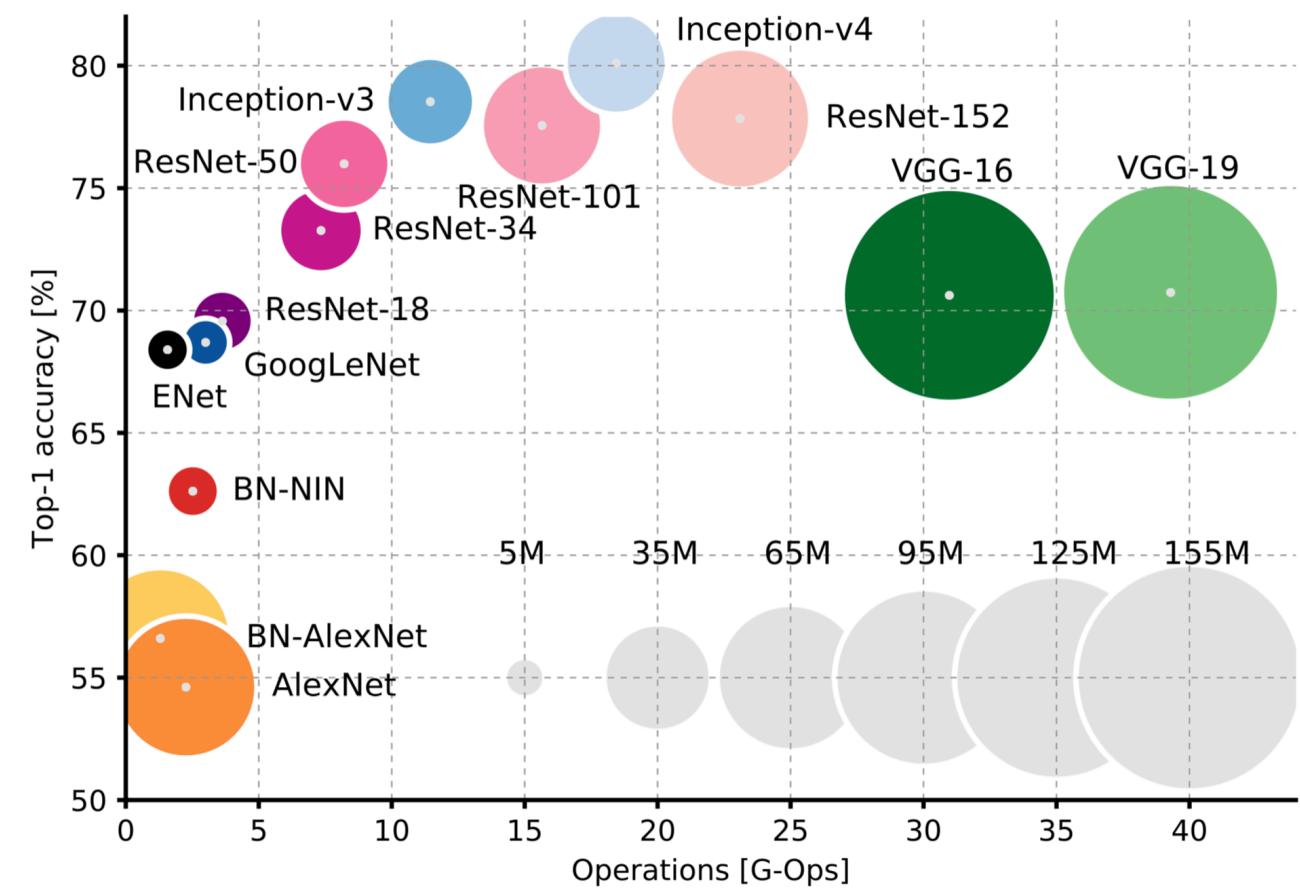


Requests arrive at different rates and regularity

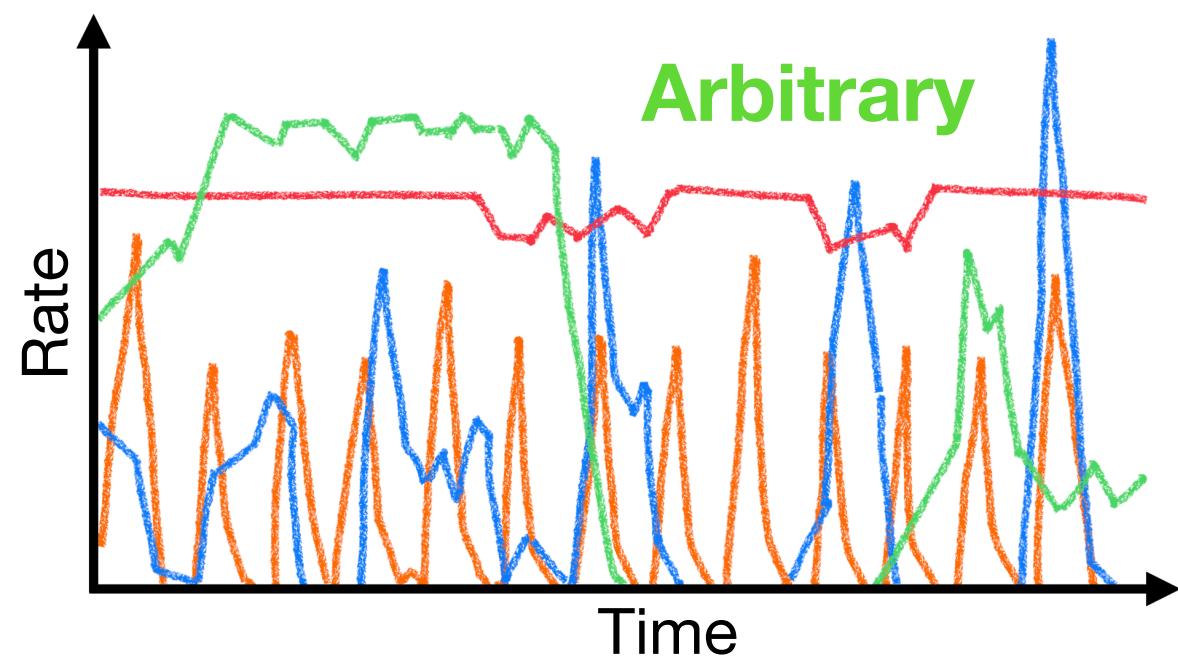


Inference Serving at the Cloud Scale is Difficult

1000s of trained models of different types and resource requirements

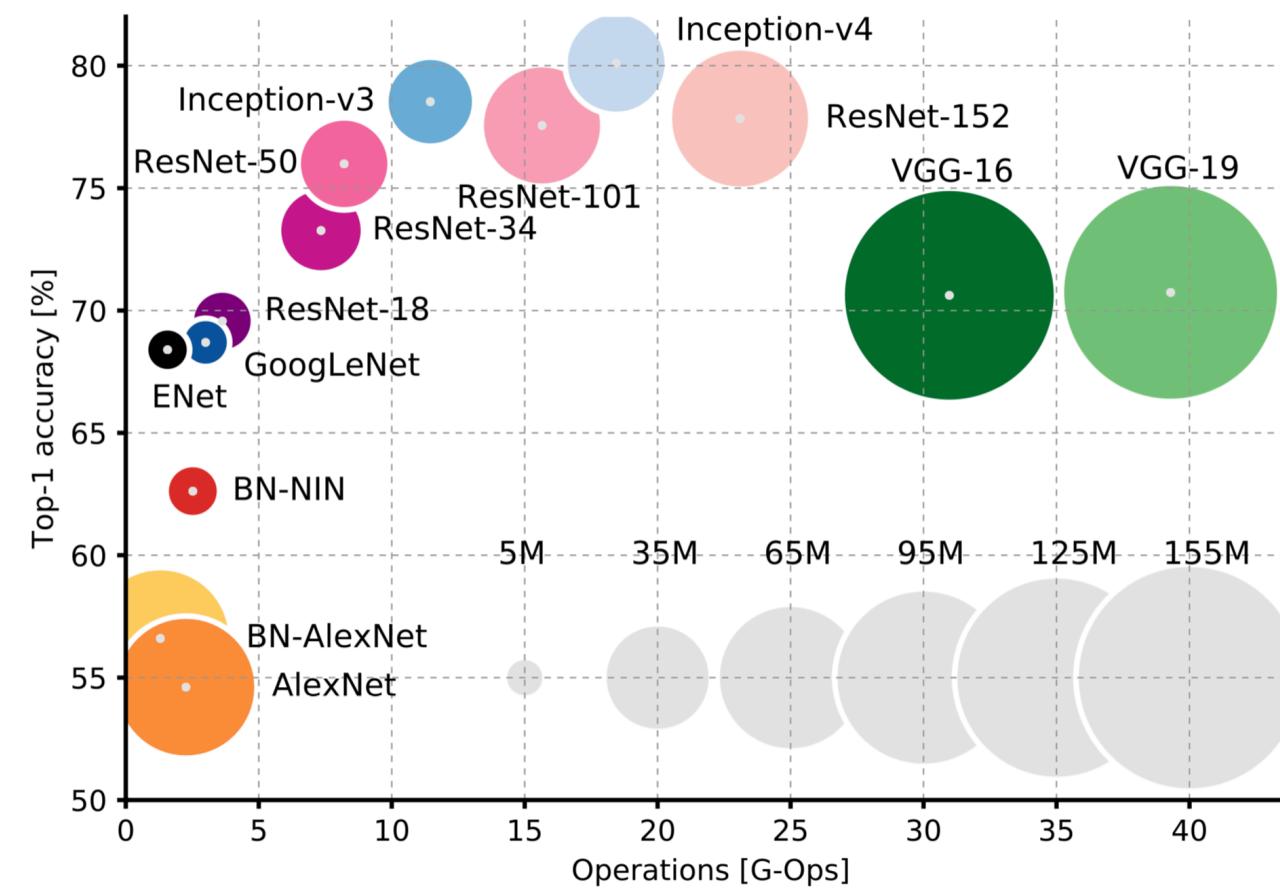


Requests arrive at different rates and regularity

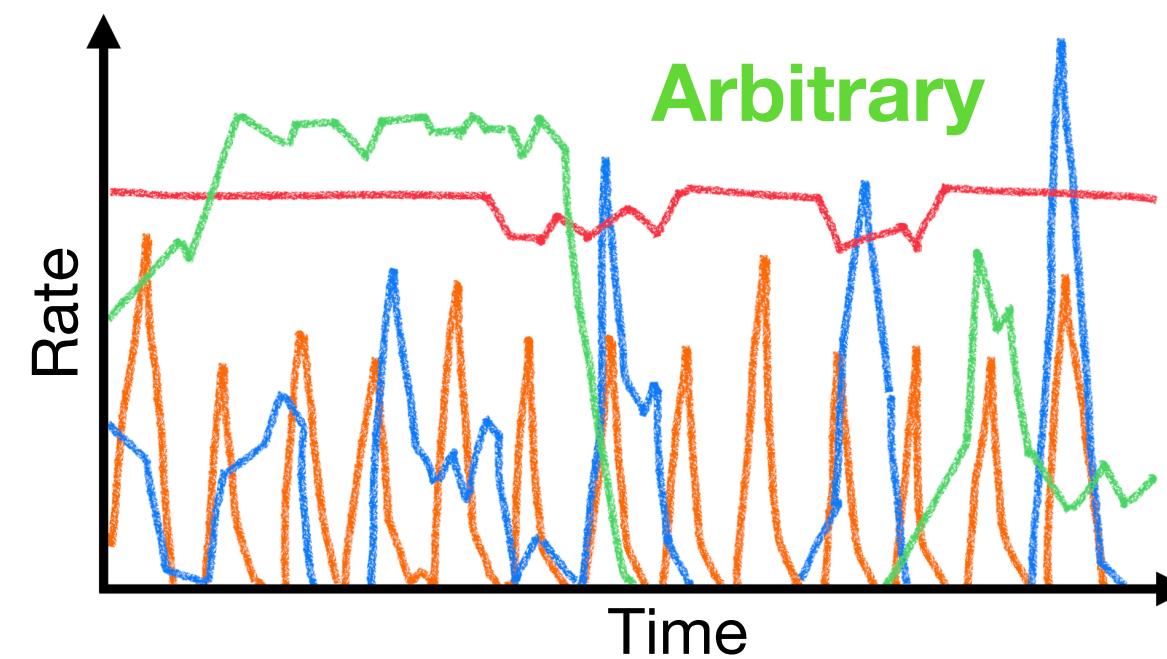


Inference Serving at the Cloud Scale is Difficult

1000s of trained models of different types and resource requirements



Requests arrive at different rates and regularity

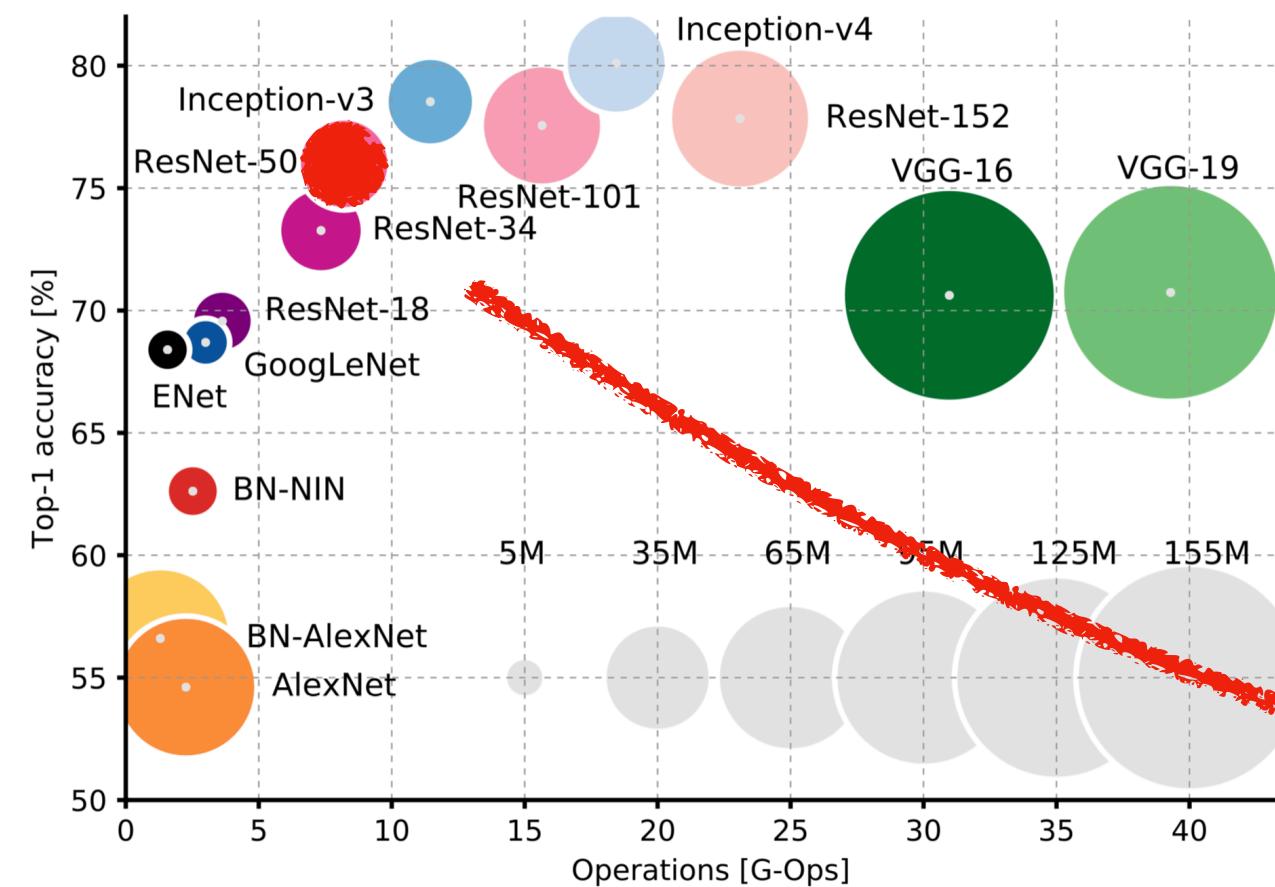


Each request has an inherent deadline

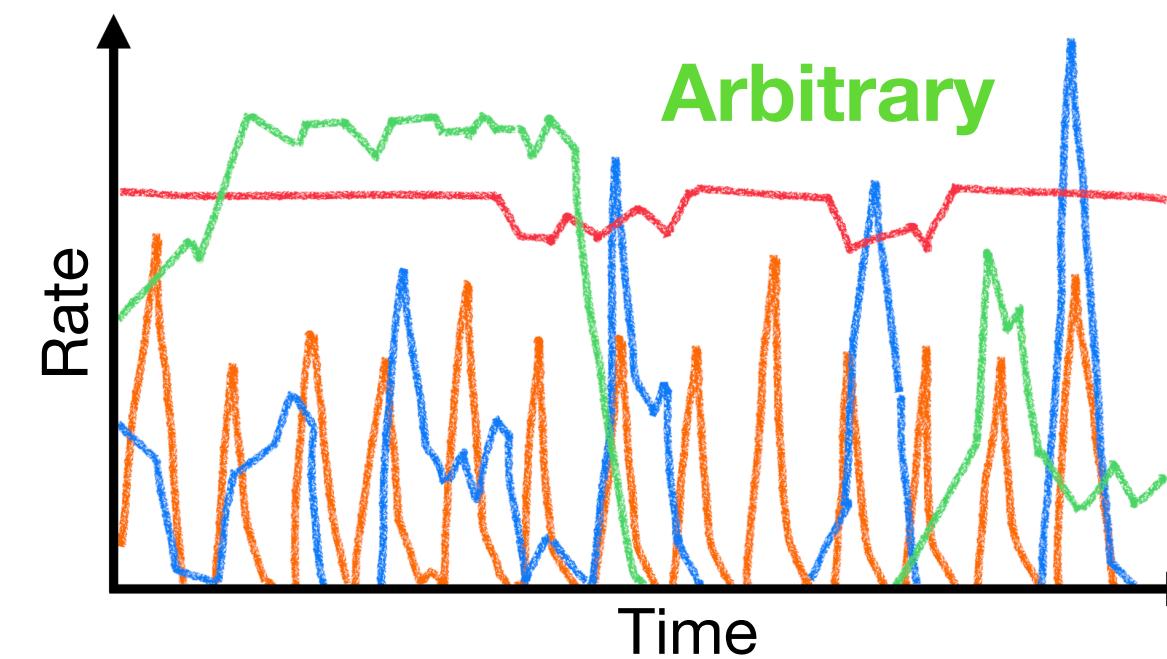
Latency SLOs
(e.g., 100ms)

Inference Serving at the Cloud Scale is Difficult

1000s of trained models of different types and resource requirements



Requests arrive at different rates and regularity

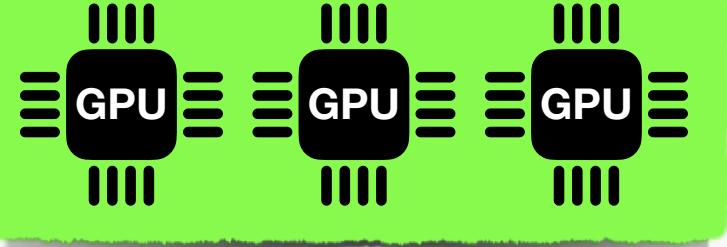


Each request has an inherent deadline

Latency SLOs
(e.g., 100ms)

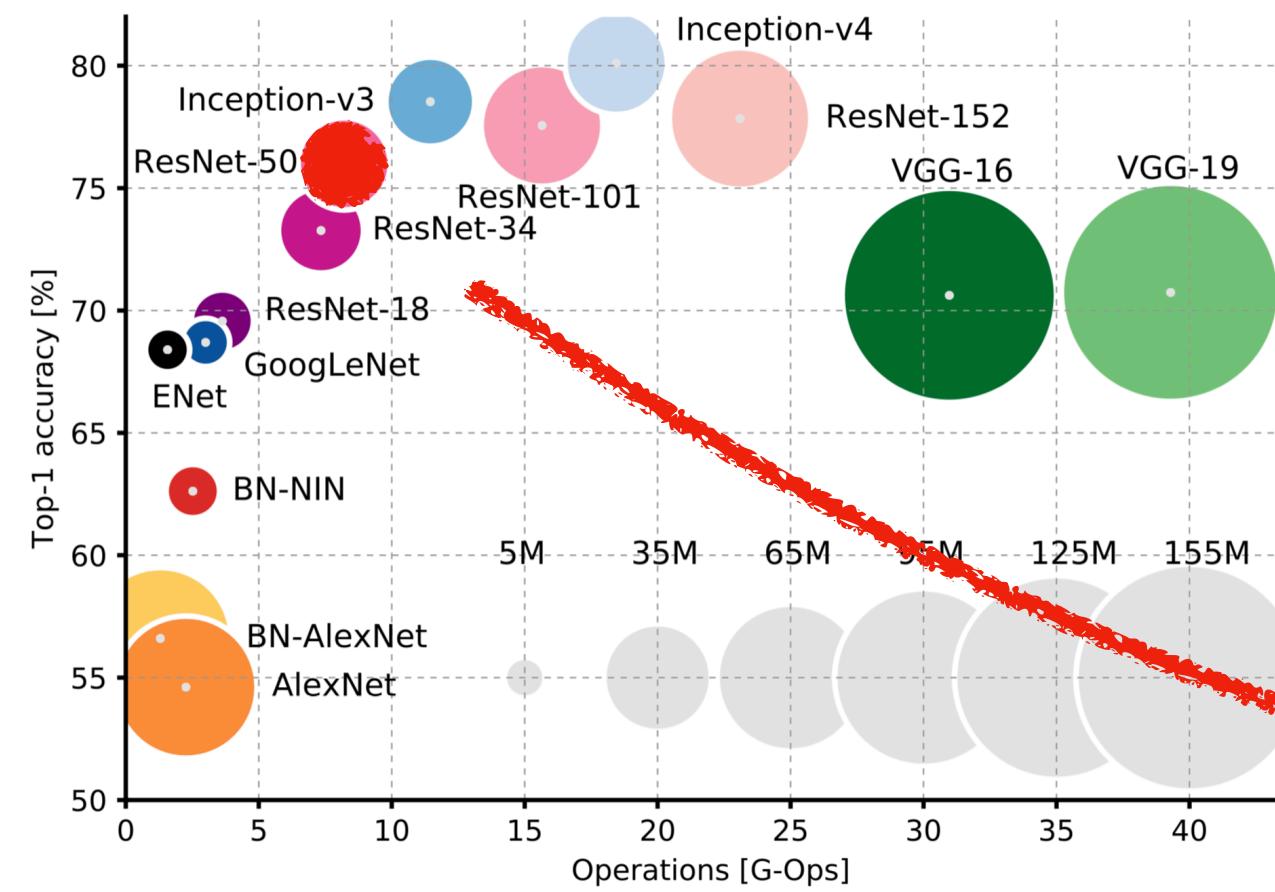
ResNet-50	Latency	Throughput
CPU	175 ms	6 req/s
GPU	2.8 ms	350 req/s

HW accelerators are necessary!

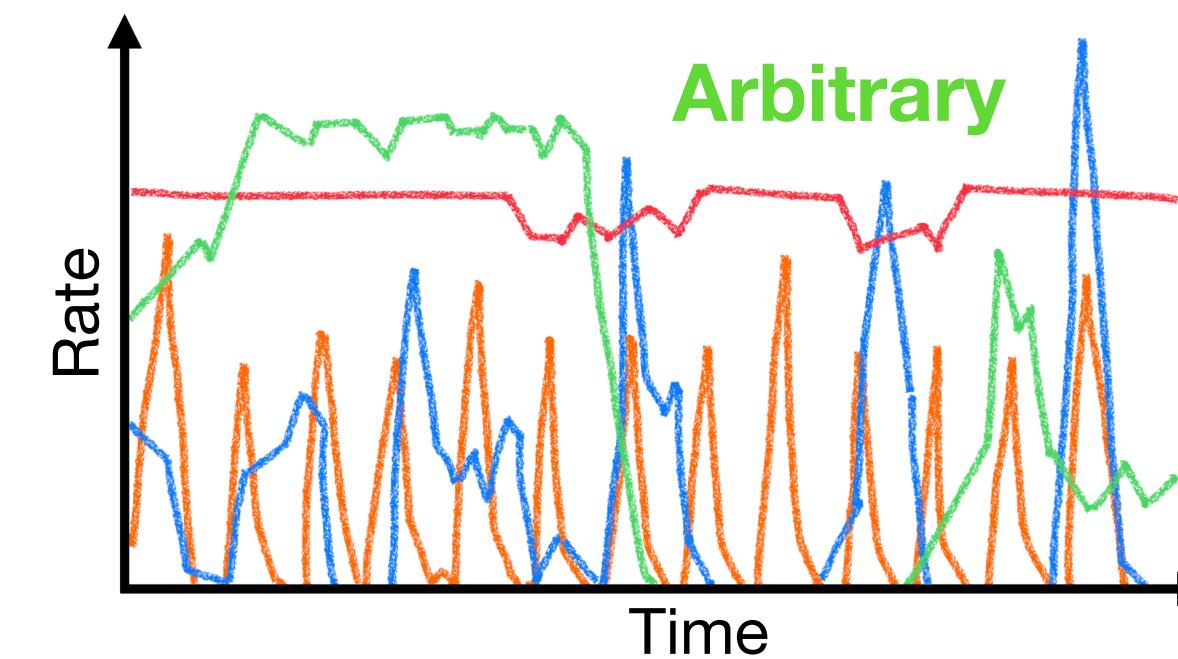


Inference Serving at the Cloud Scale is Difficult

1000s of trained models of different types and resource requirements



Requests arrive at different rates and regularity

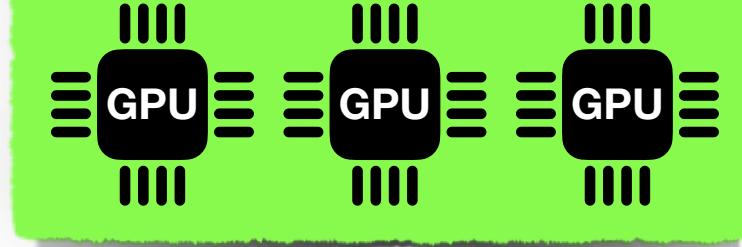


Each request has an inherent deadline

Latency SLOs
(e.g., 100ms)

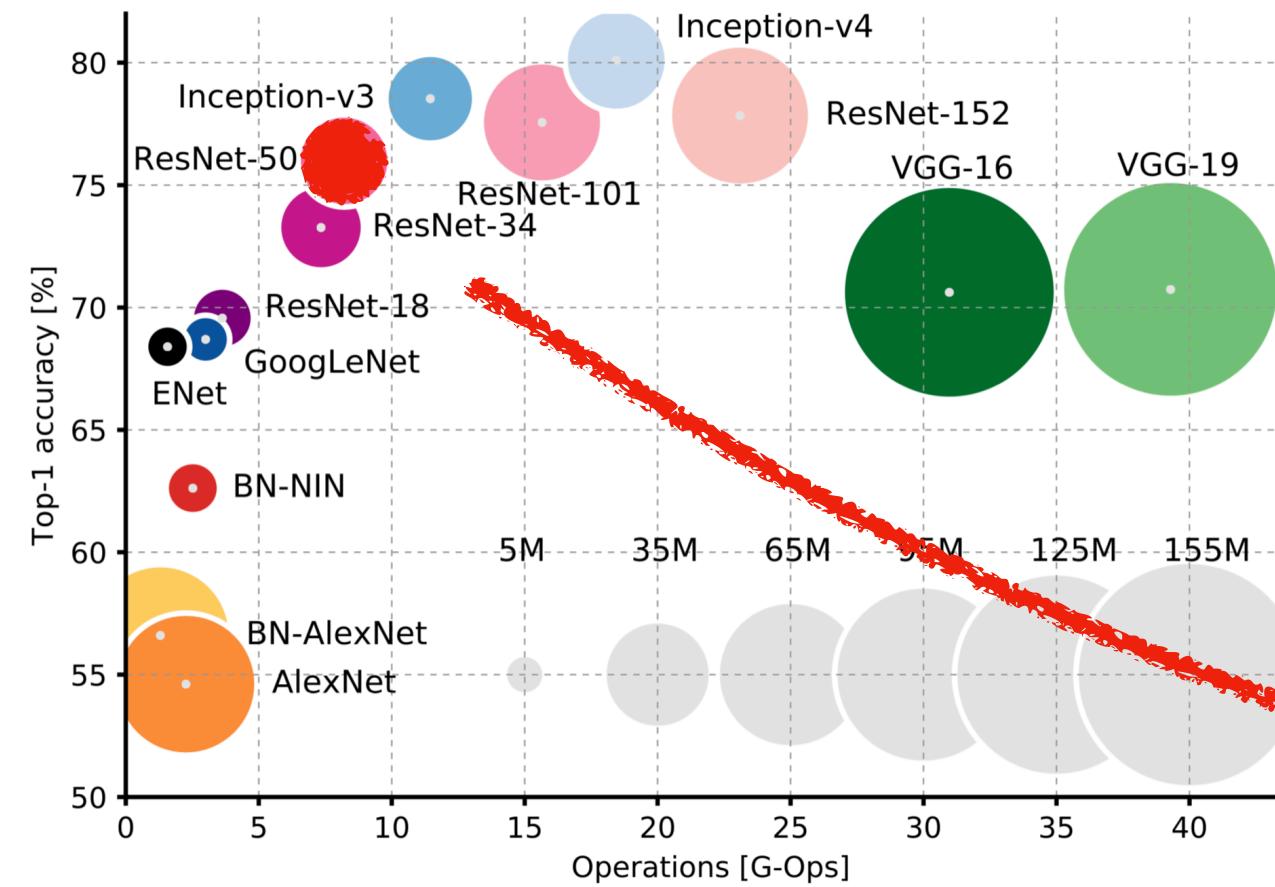
ResNet-50	Latency	Throughput	Cost
CPU	175 ms	6 req/s	\$
GPU	2.8 ms	350 req/s	\$\$\$

HW accelerators are necessary!

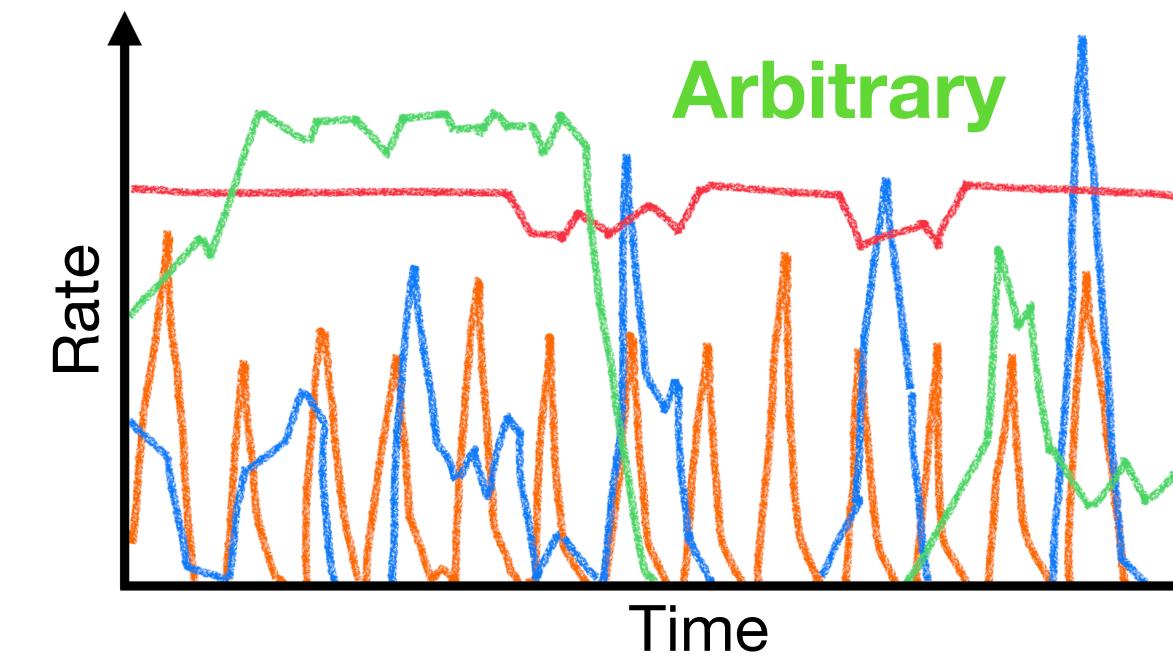


Inference Serving at the Cloud Scale is Difficult

1000s of trained models of different types and resource requirements



Requests arrive at different rates and regularity

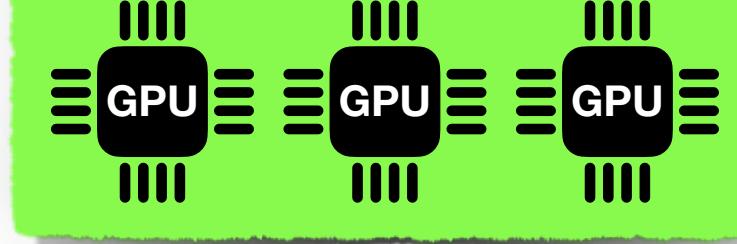


Each request has an inherent deadline

Latency SLOs
(e.g., 100ms)

ResNet-50	Latency	Throughput	Cost
CPU	175 ms	6 req/s	\$
GPU	2.8 ms	350 req/s	\$\$\$

HW accelerators are necessary!



Problem

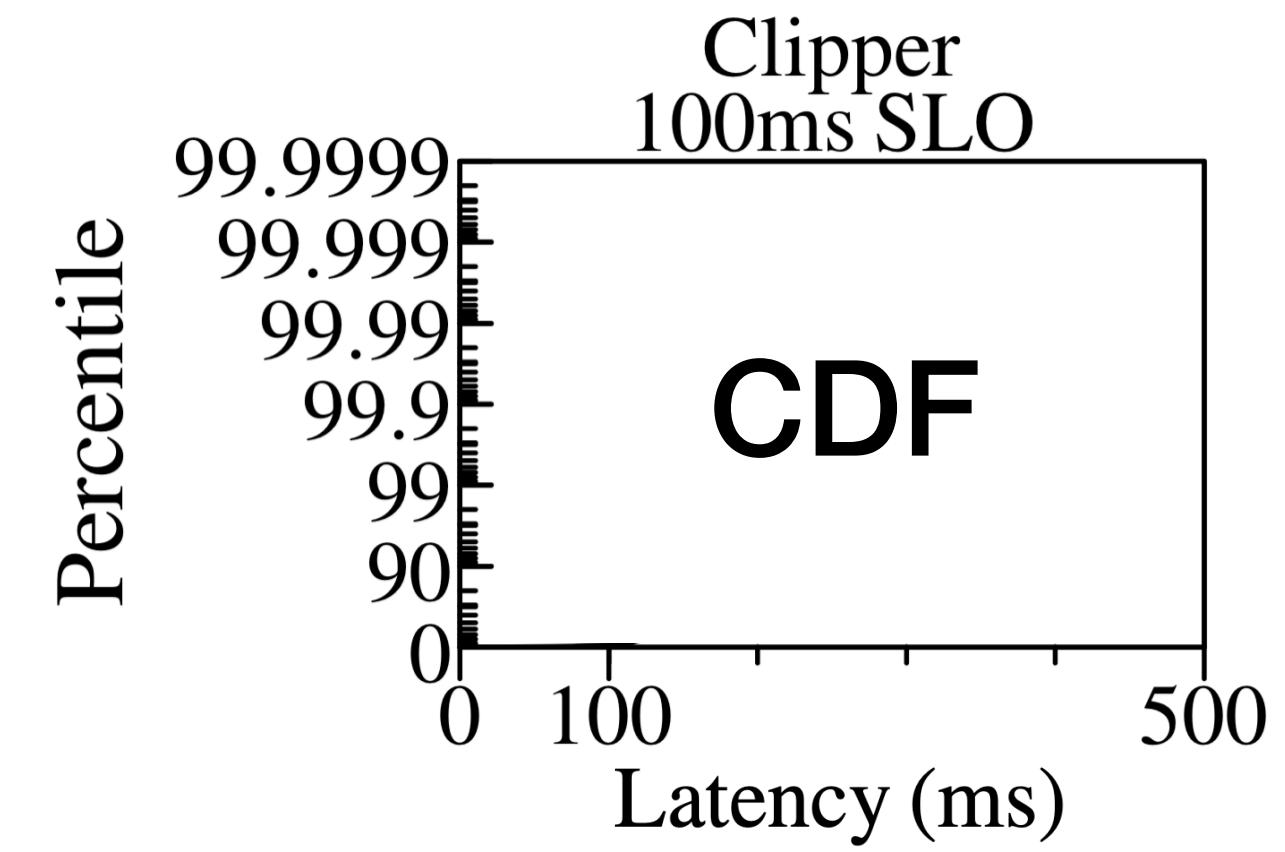
How can cloud providers efficiently share resources while meeting SLOs?

Existing Systems Incur Very High Tail Latency

Existing Systems Incur Very High Tail Latency

Inference latency

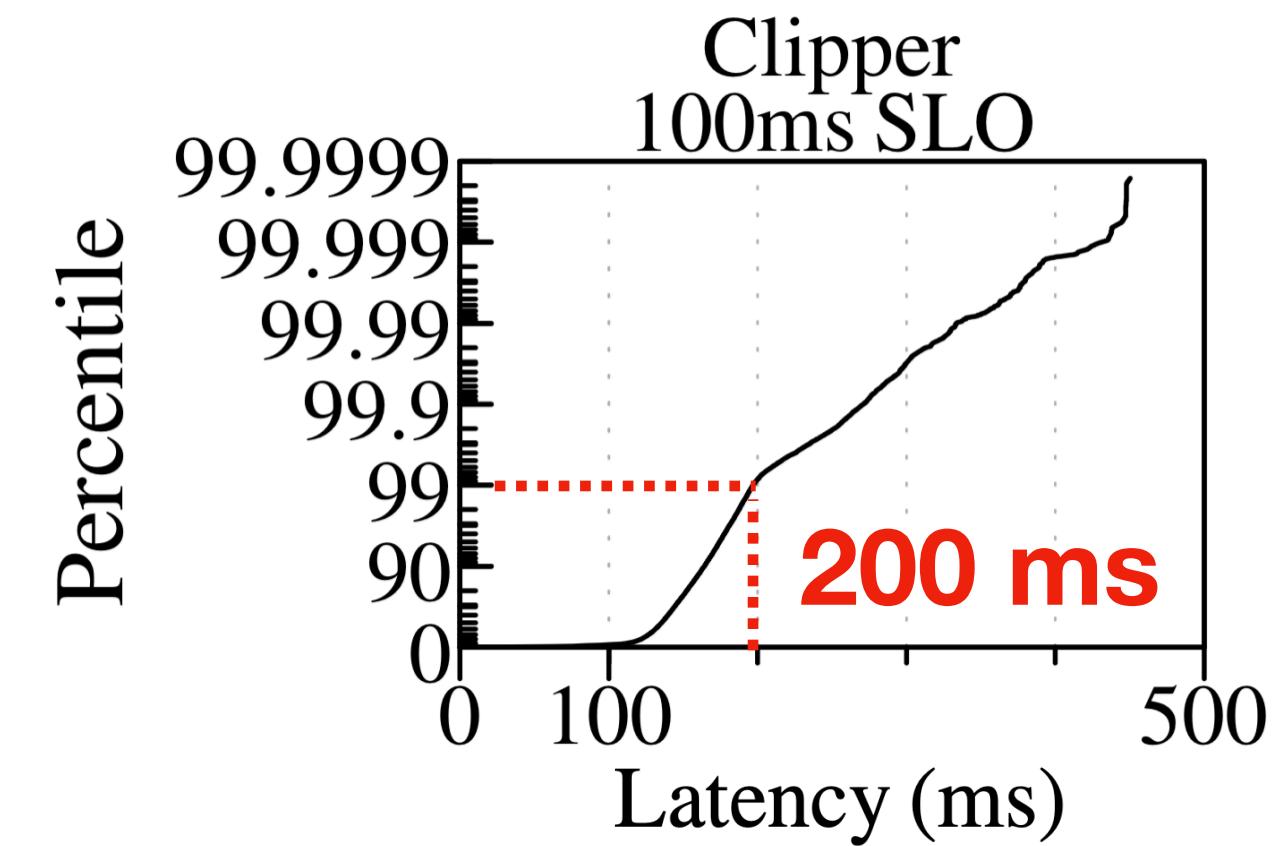
- 15 trained ResNet50
- Single GPU worker
- 16 concurrent requests per model



Existing Systems Incur Very High Tail Latency

Inference latency

- 15 trained ResNet50
- Single GPU worker
- 16 concurrent requests per model

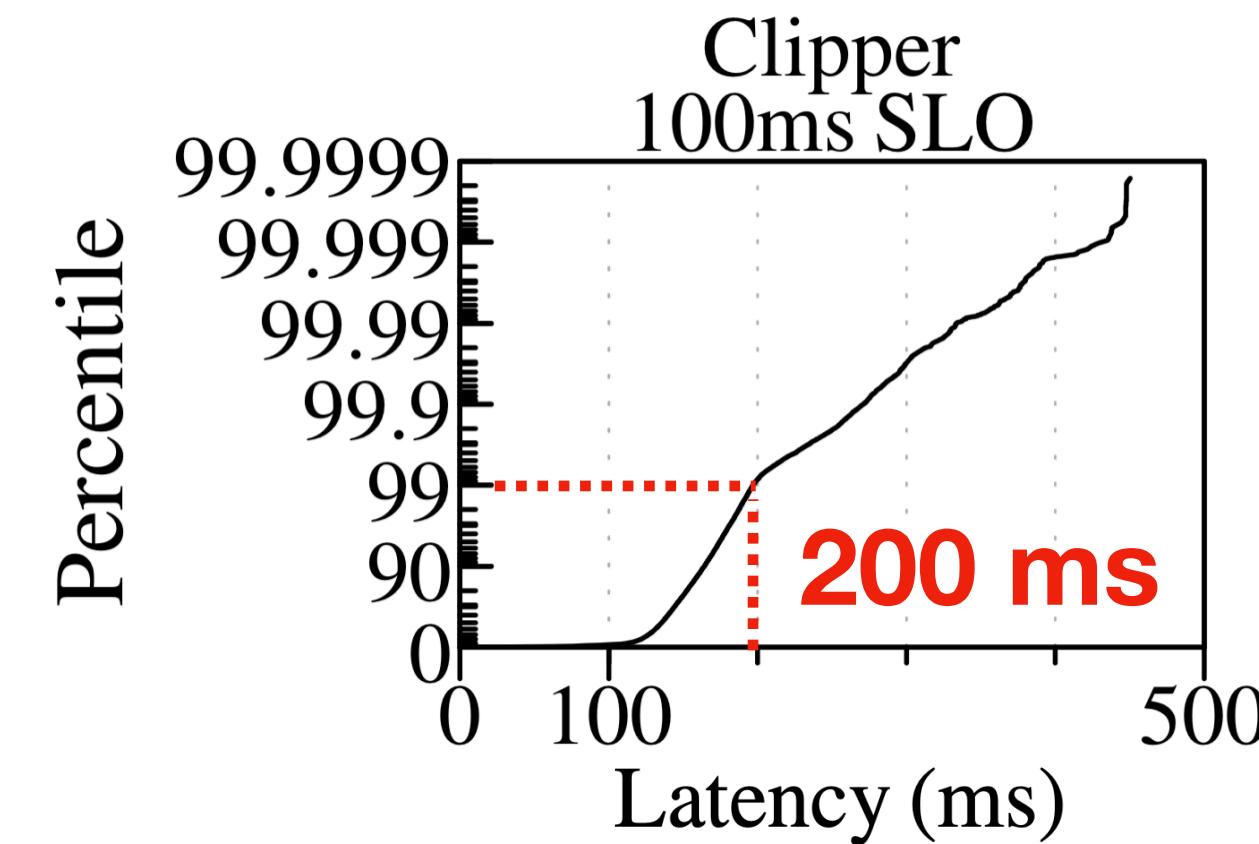


Tail latency >> SLO

Existing Systems Incur Very High Tail Latency

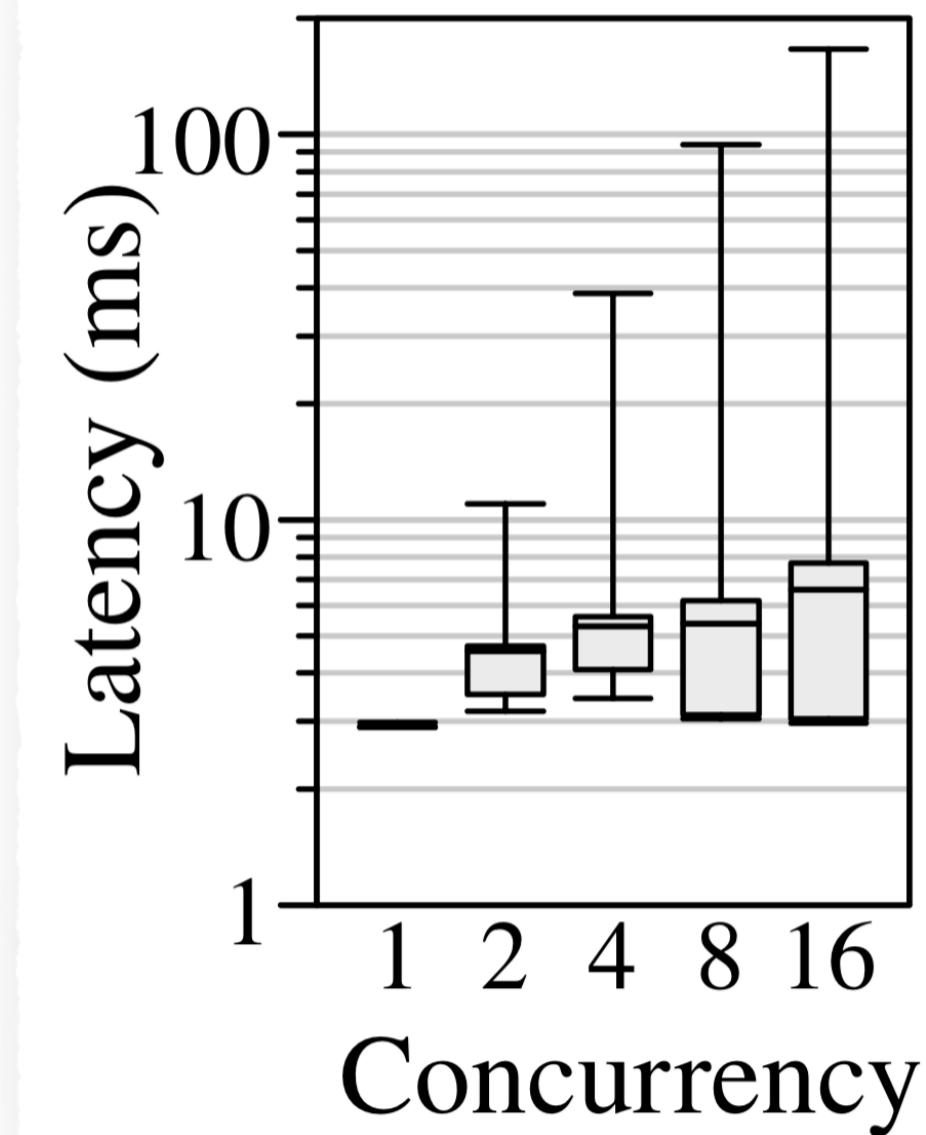
Inference latency

- 15 trained ResNet50
- Single GPU worker
- 16 concurrent requests per model



Tail latency >> SLO

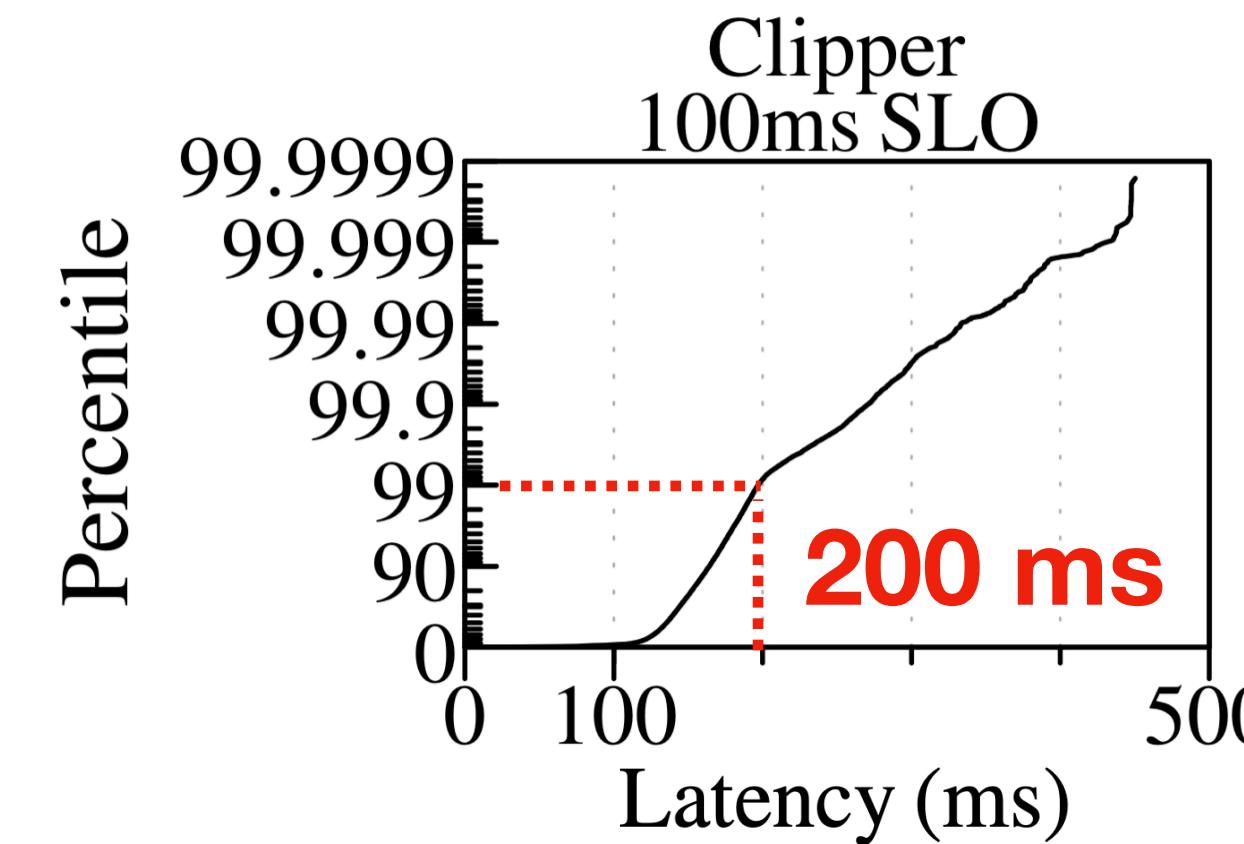
Concurrent
DNN inference
over GPU



Existing Systems Incur Very High Tail Latency

Inference latency

- 15 trained ResNet50
- Single GPU worker
- 16 concurrent requests per model

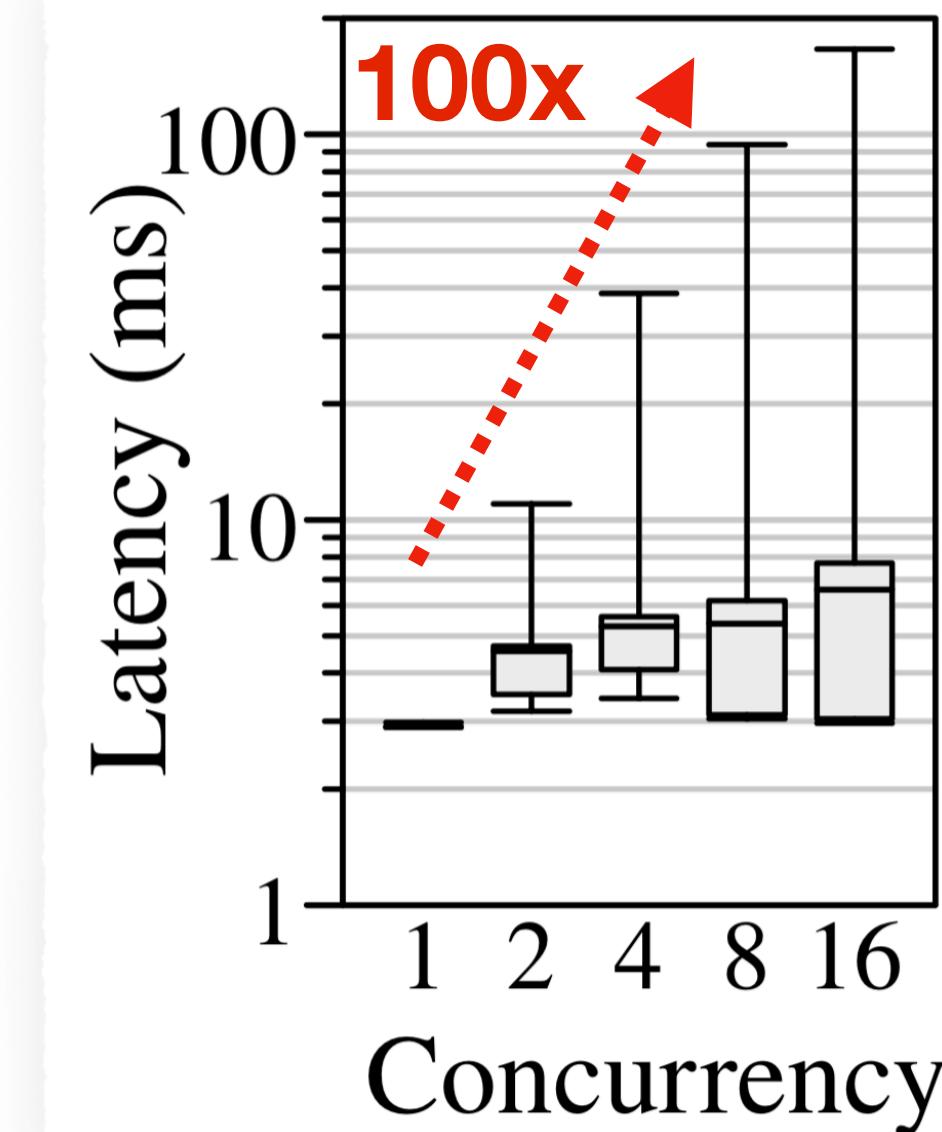


Tail latency >> SLO

Concurrent DNN inference over GPU

High variance in latency

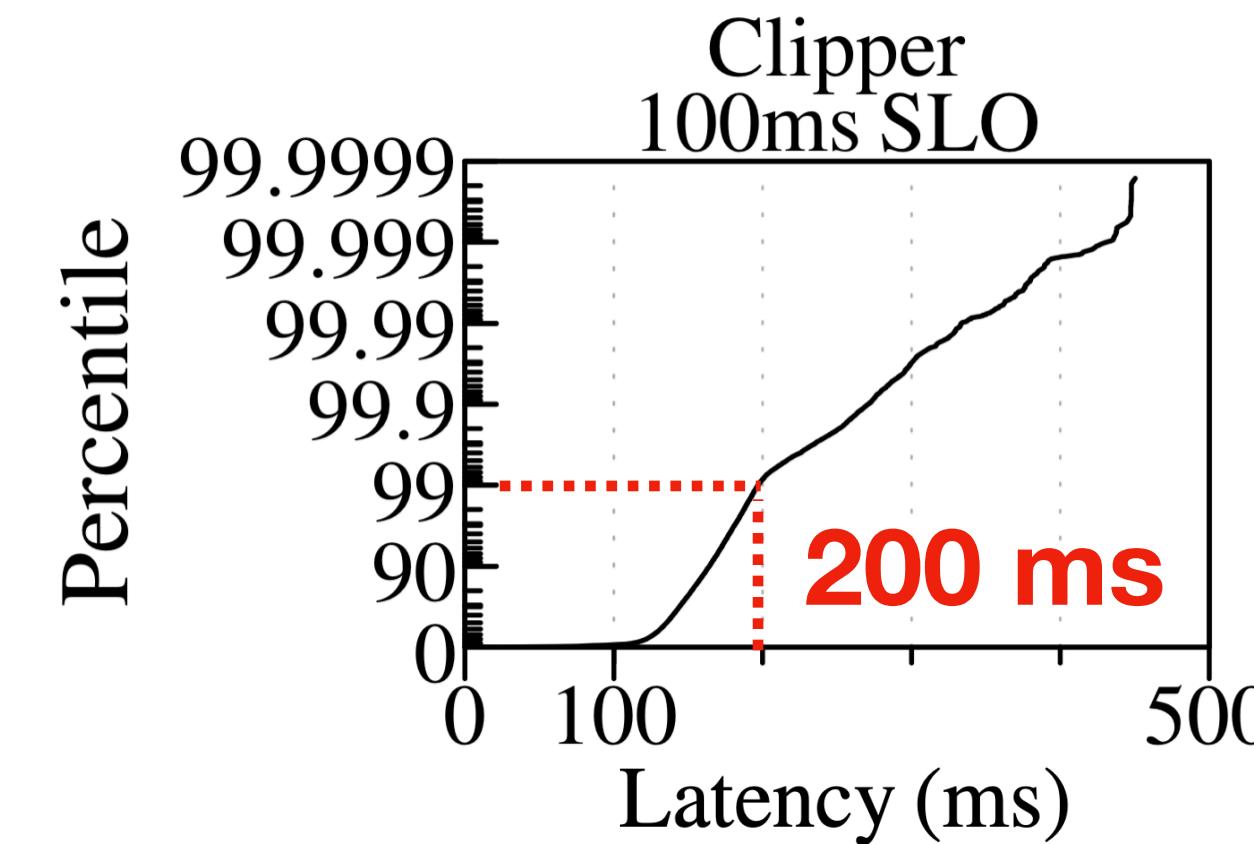
Throughput gains only 25%



Existing Systems Incur Very High Tail Latency

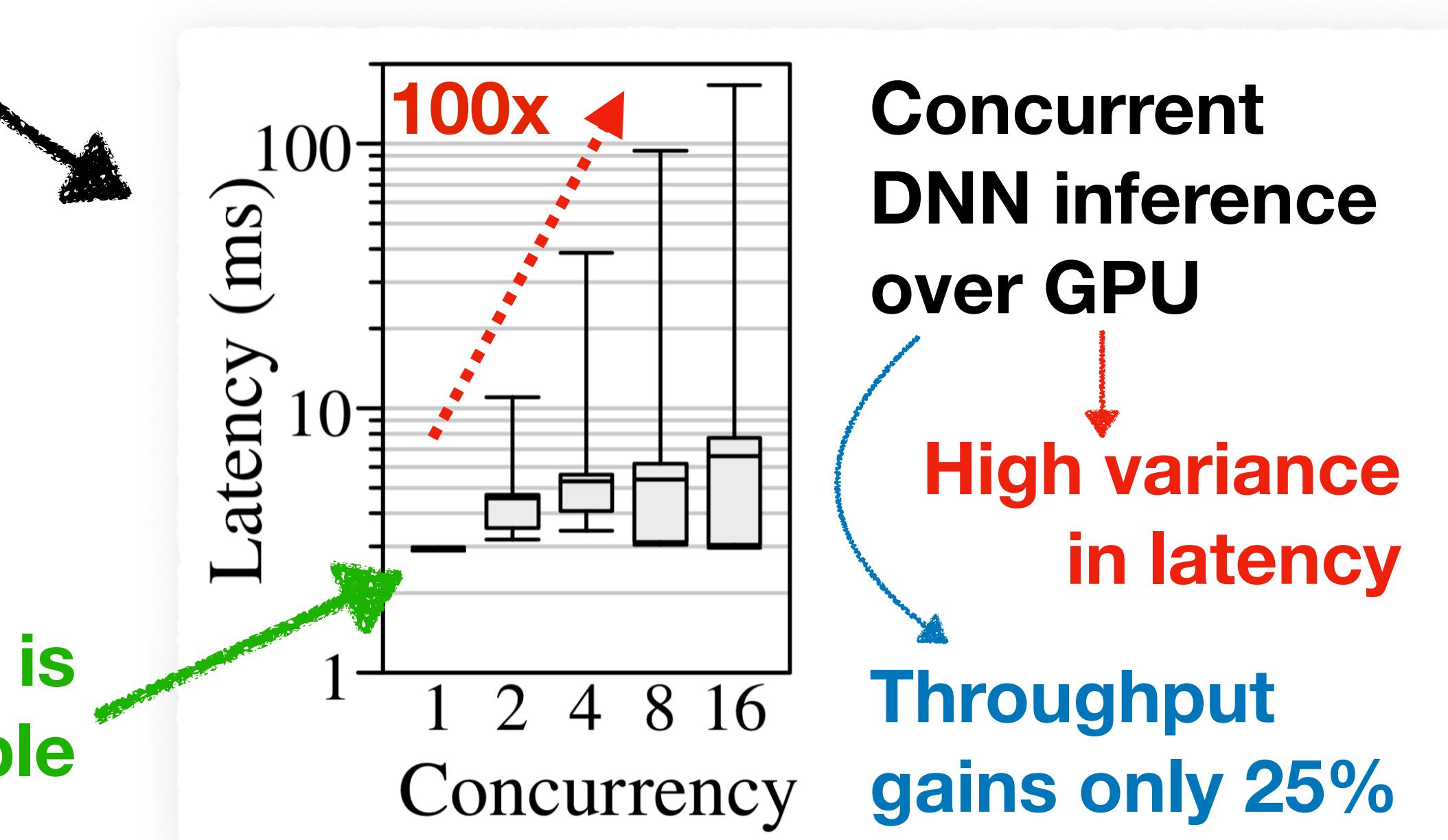
Inference latency

- 15 trained ResNet50
- Single GPU worker
- 16 concurrent requests per model



Tail latency >> SLO

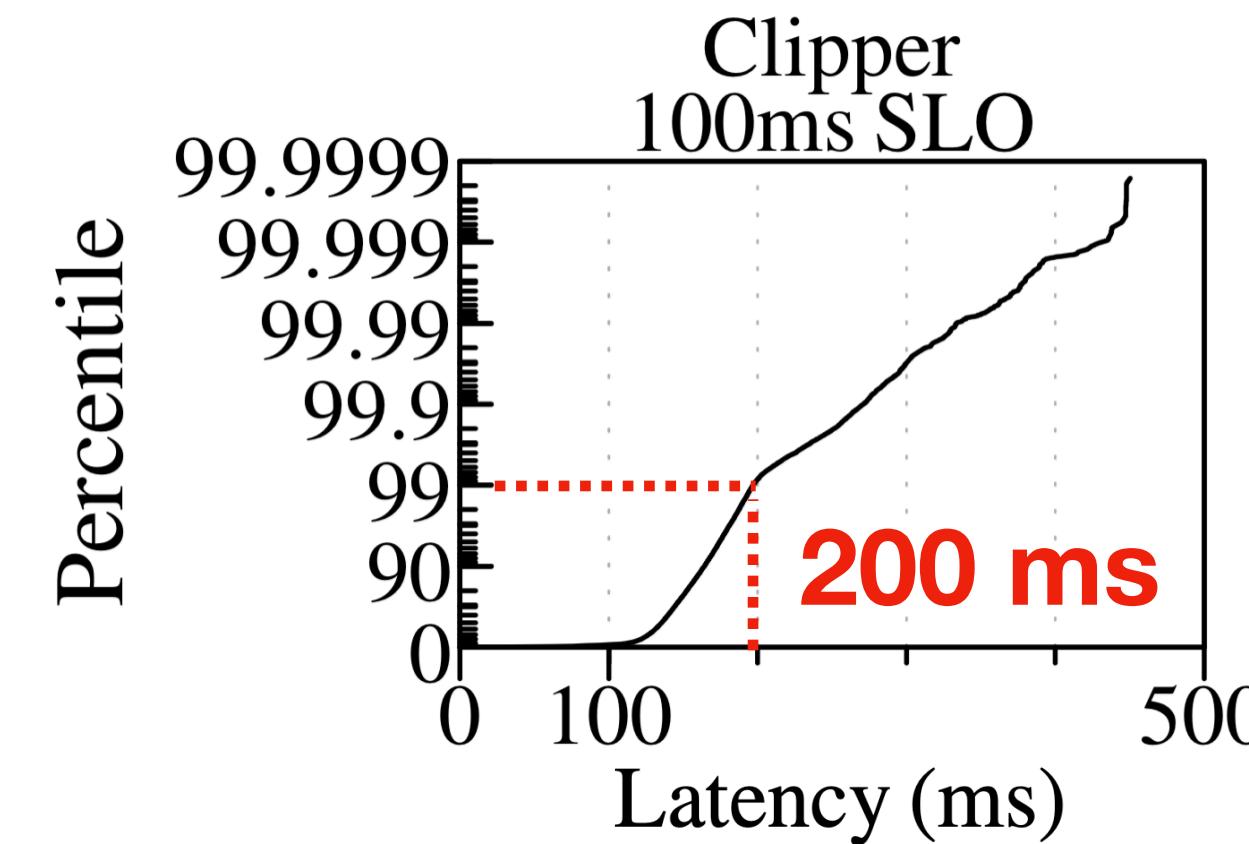
Single-thread latency is extremely predictable



Existing Systems Incur Very High Tail Latency

Inference latency

- 15 trained ResNet50
- Single GPU worker
- 16 concurrent requests per model

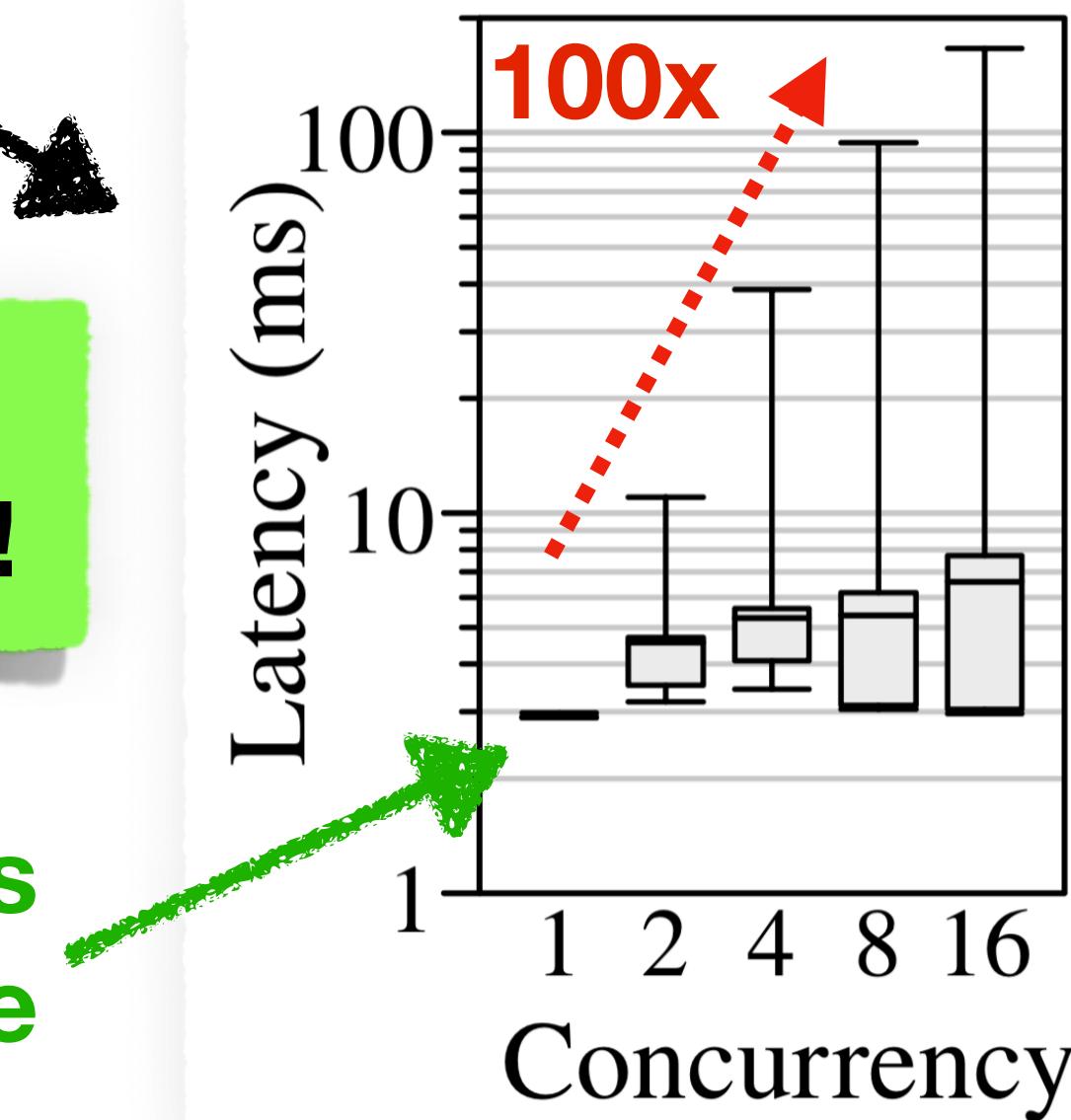


Tail latency >> SLO

Preserves DNN predictability at every stage of model serving

Clockwork adopts a contrasting approach!

Single-thread latency is extremely predictable



Concurrent DNN inference over GPU

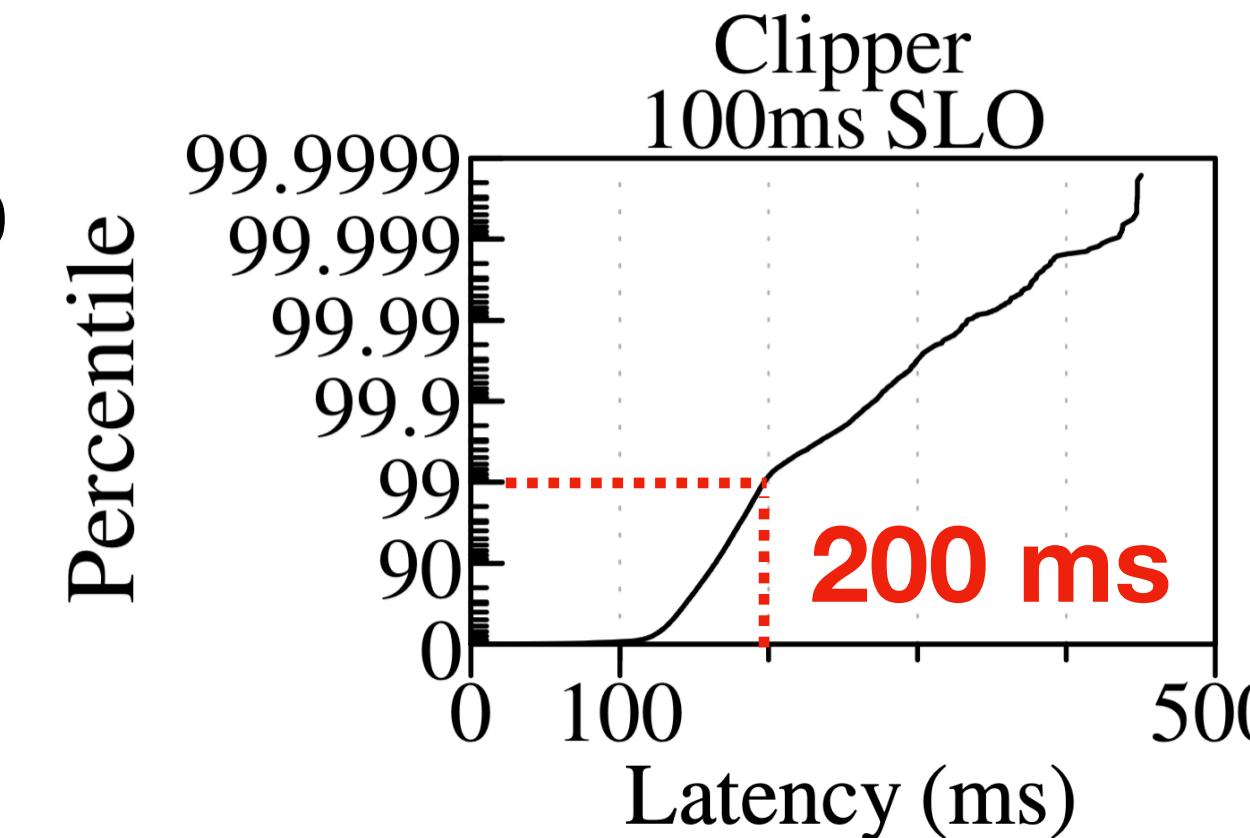
High variance in latency

Throughput gains only 25%

Existing Systems Incur Very High Tail Latency

Inference latency

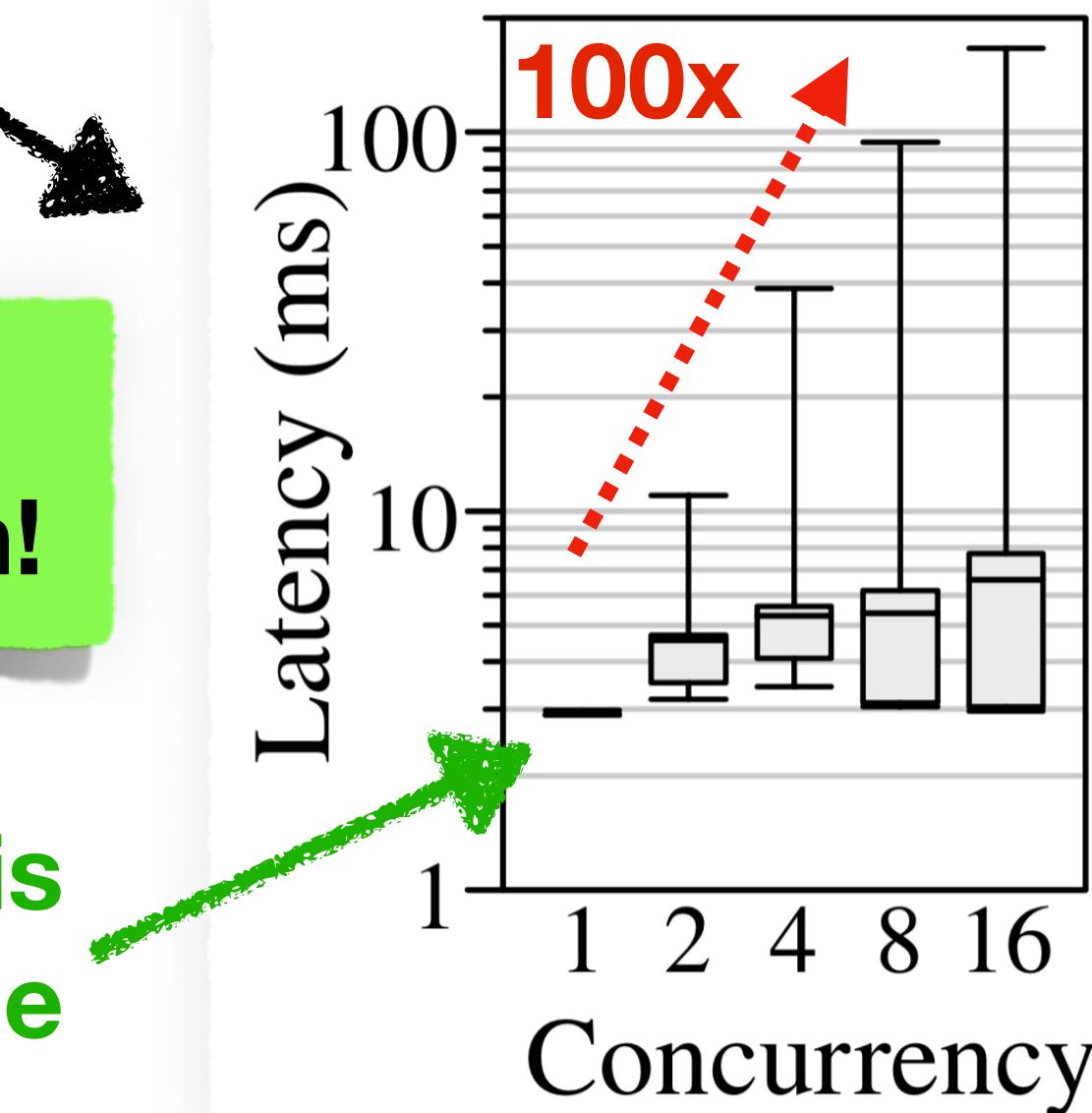
- 15 trained ResNet50
- Single GPU worker
- 16 concurrent requests per model



Tail latency >> SLO

Clockwork adopts a contrasting approach!

Single-thread latency is extremely predictable

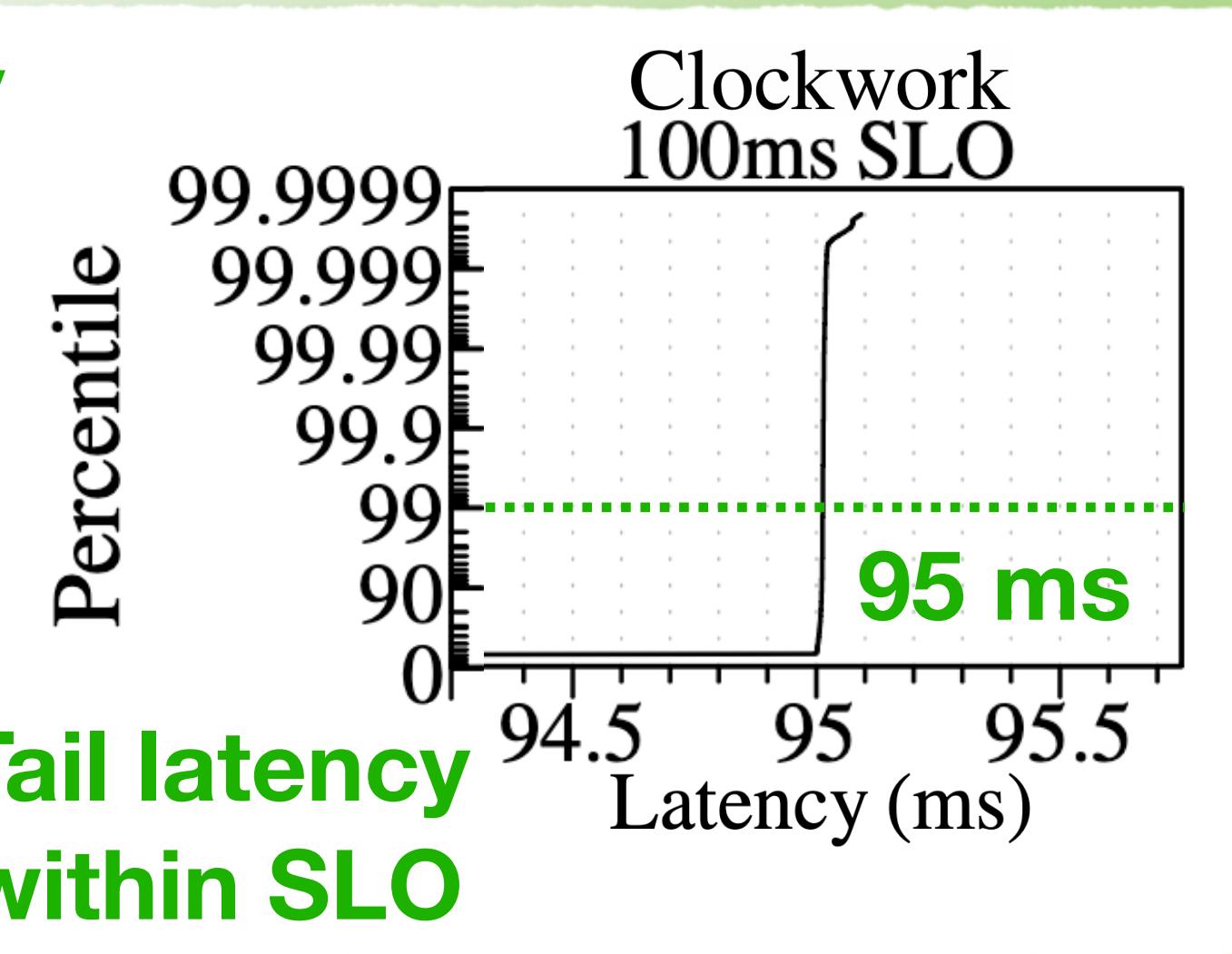


Concurrent DNN inference over GPU

High variance in latency

Throughput gains only 25%

Preserves DNN predictability at every stage of model serving



How does Clockwork Achieve End-to-End Predictability?

Design Principles

Goal: 1000s of models, many users, limited resources

Design Principles

Goal: 1000s of models, many users, limited resources

Maximize sharing

Design Principles

Goal: 1000s of models, many users, limited resources

1. Predictable worker with no choices

Maximize sharing

Design Principles

Goal: 1000s of models, many users, limited resources

1. Predictable worker with no choices

2. Consolidating choices at a central controller

Maximize sharing

Design Principles

Goal: 1000s of models, many users, limited resources

1. Predictable worker with no choices

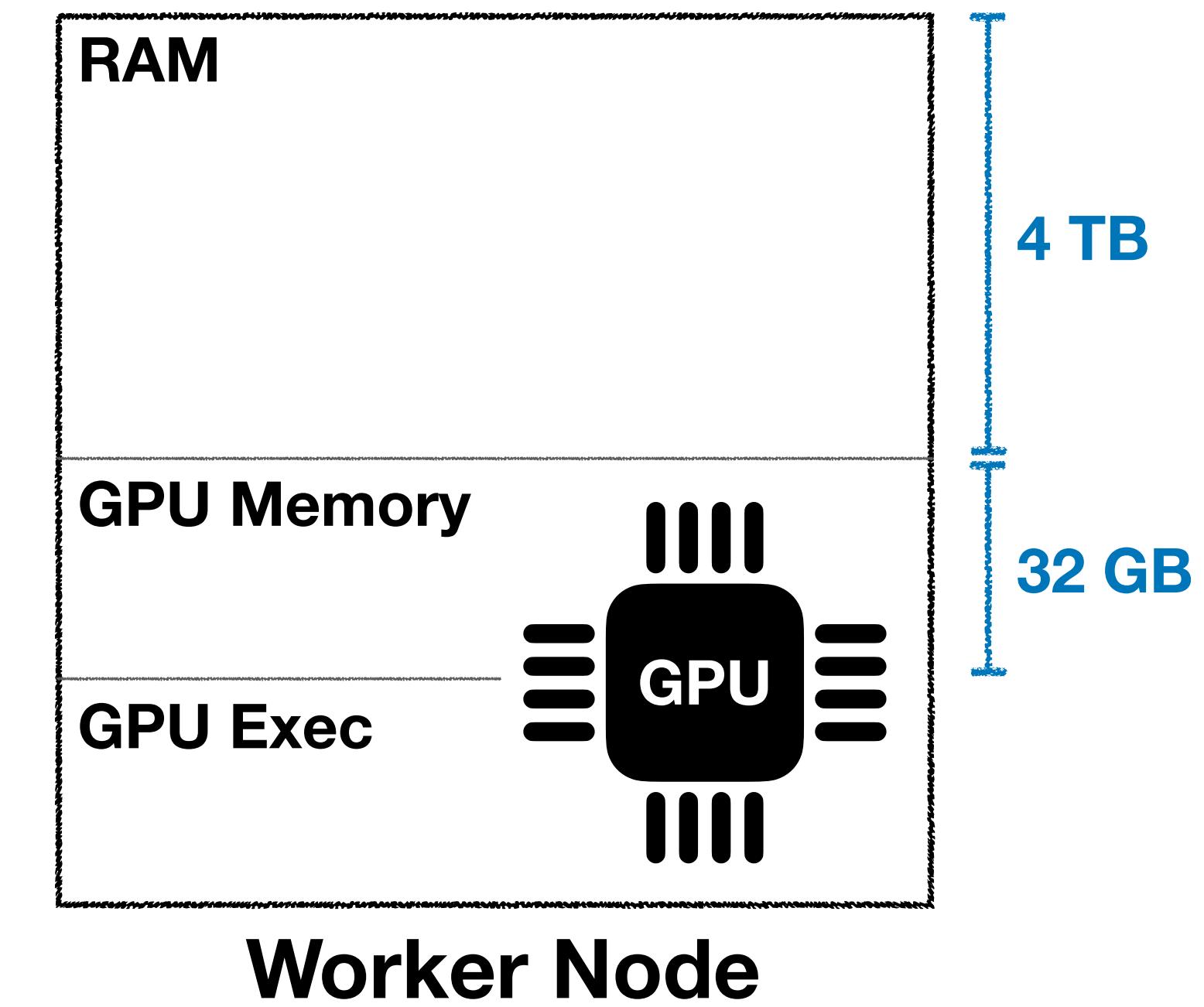
2. Consolidating choices at a central controller

3. Deadline-aware scheduling for SLO compliance

Maximize sharing

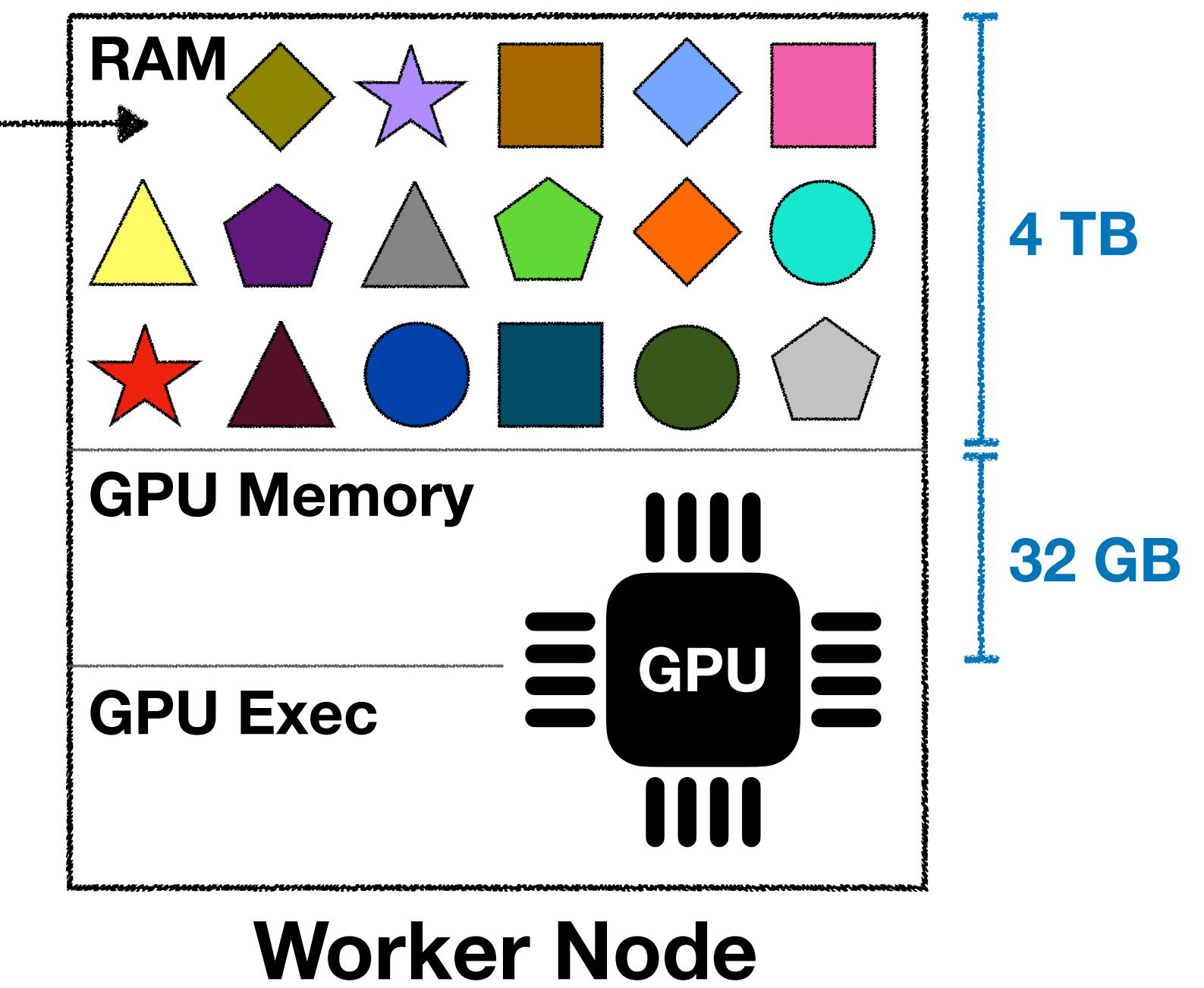


Designing a Predictable Worker (1/2)

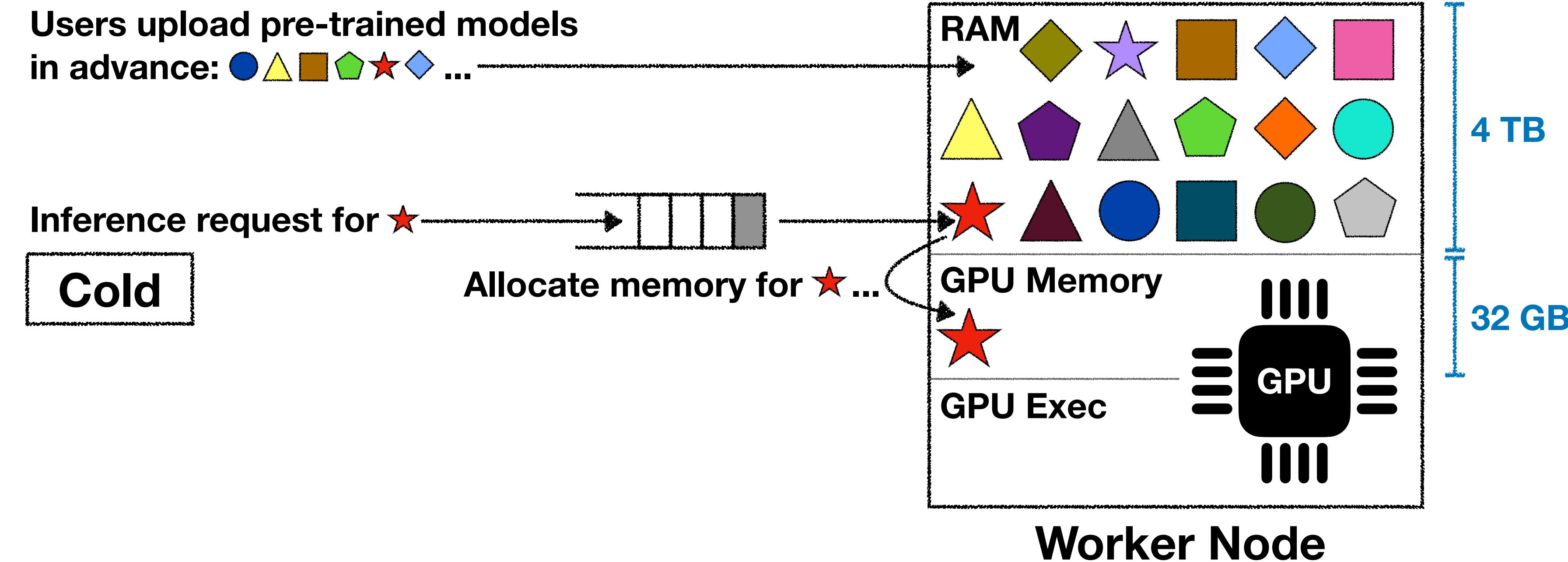


Designing a Predictable Worker (1/2)

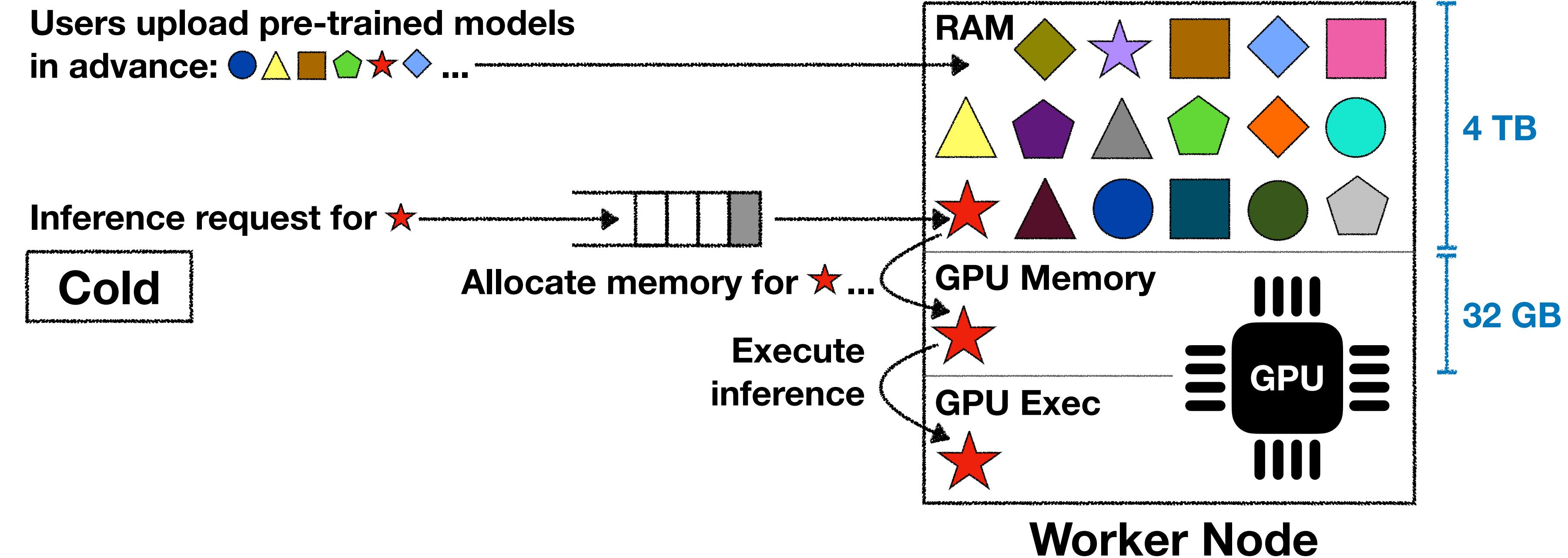
Users upload pre-trained models
in advance: ● ▲ ■ ▶ ★ ◆ ...



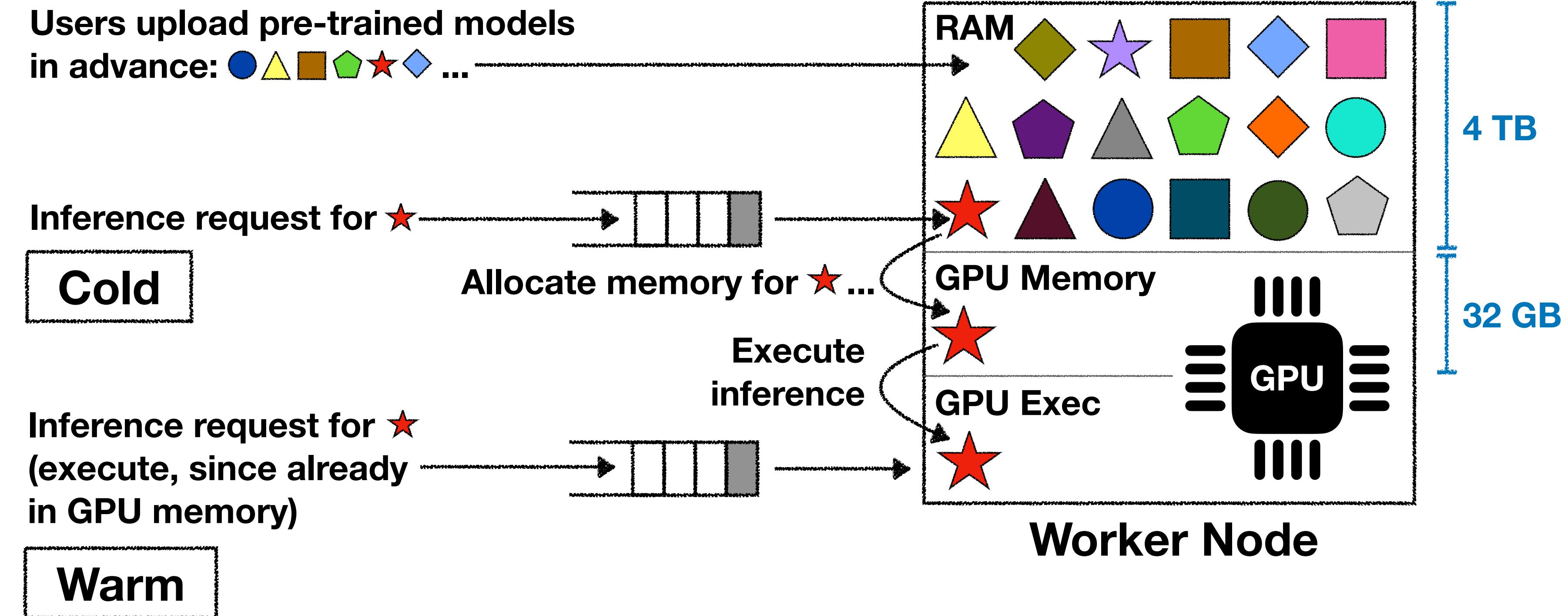
Designing a Predictable Worker (1/2)



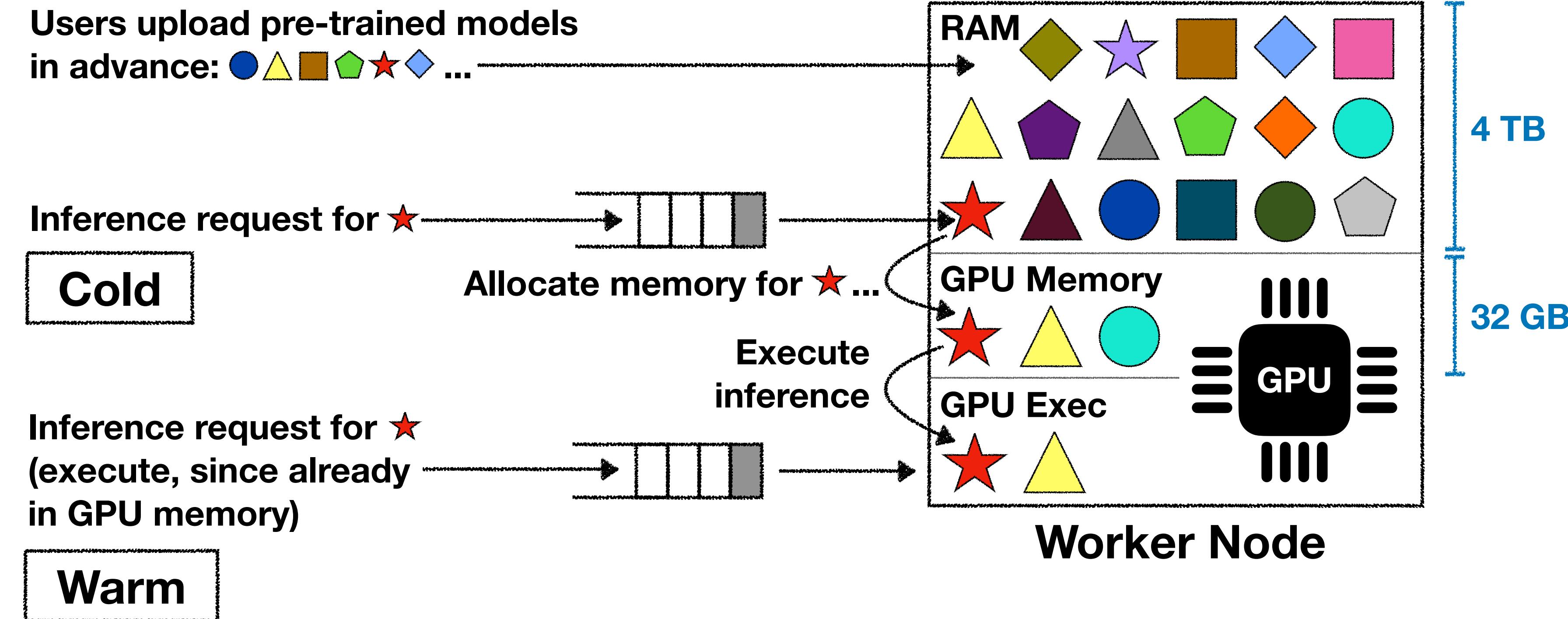
Designing a Predictable Worker (1/2)



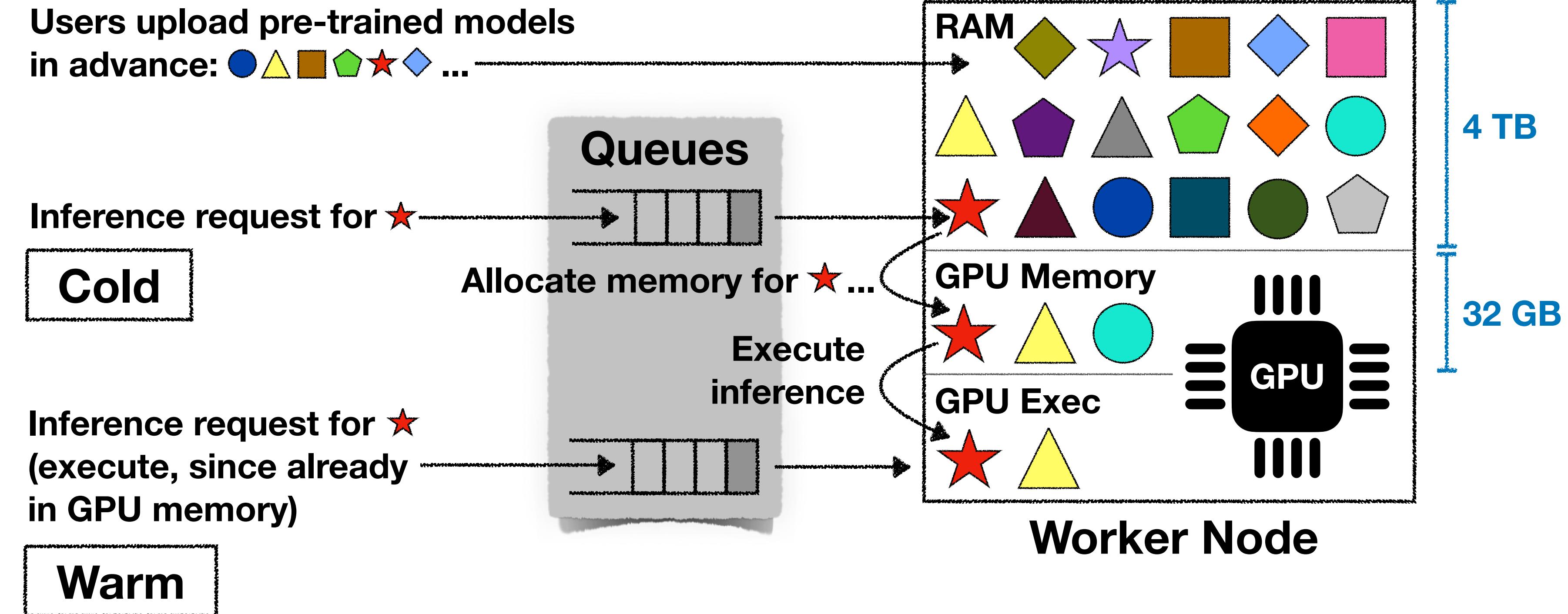
Designing a Predictable Worker (1/2)



Designing a Predictable Worker (1/2)

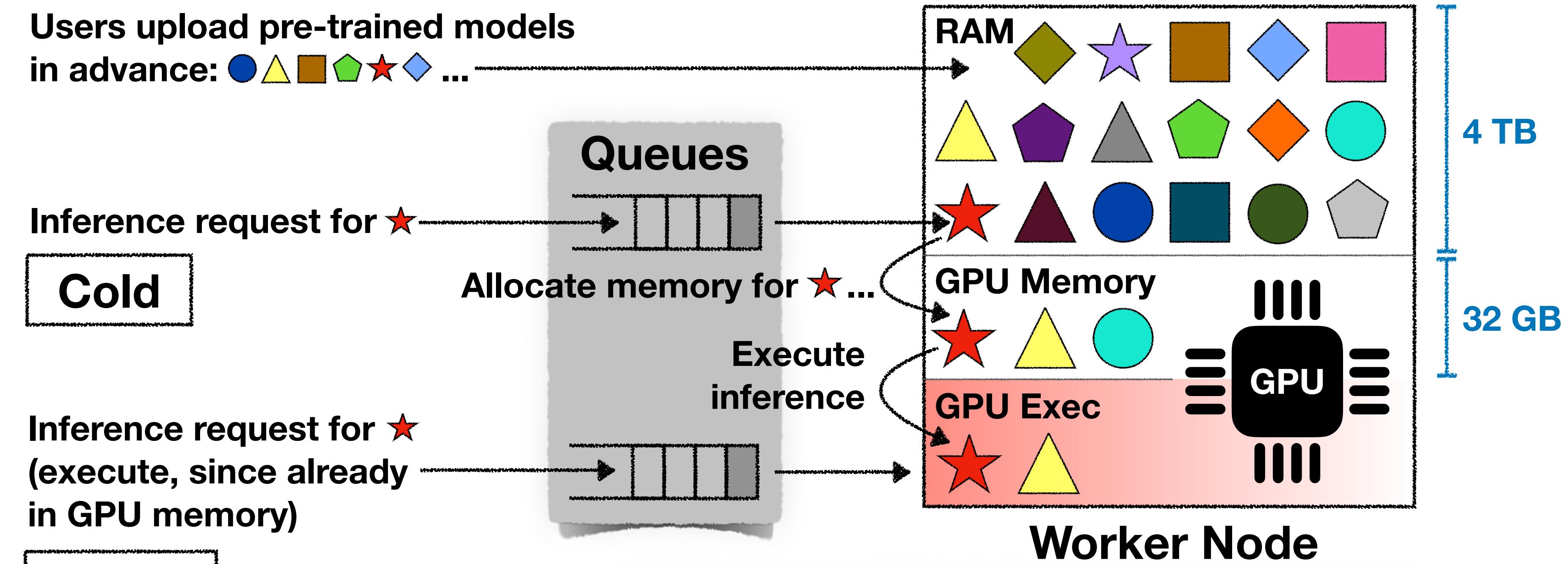


Designing a Predictable Worker (1/2)



Designing a Predictable Worker (1/2)

Users upload pre-trained models
in advance: ● ▲ ■ ▶ ★ ◆ ...



Designing a Predictable Worker (1/2)

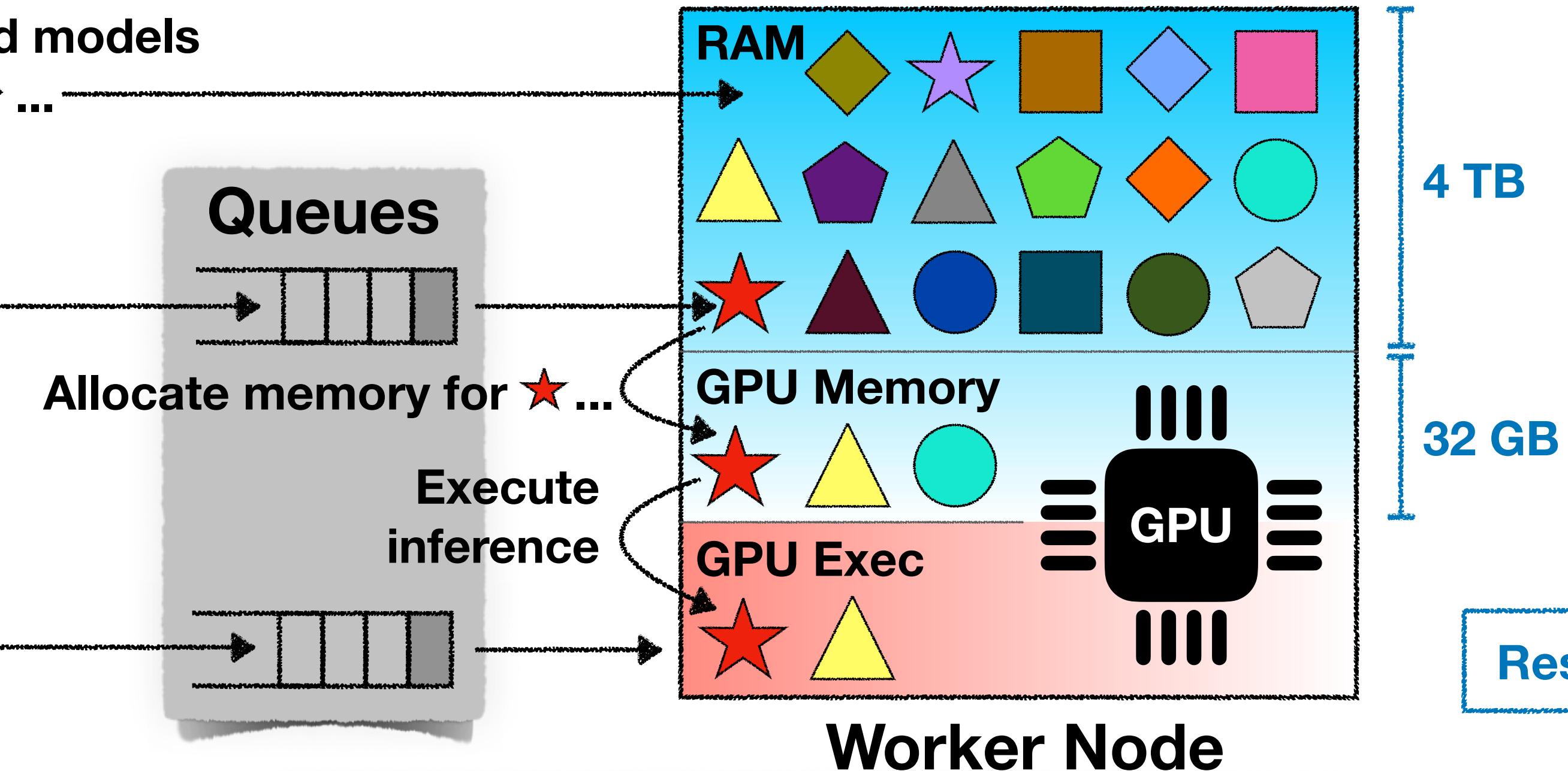
Users upload pre-trained models
in advance: ● ▲ ■ ▶ ★ ◆ ...

Inference request for ★

Cold

Inference request for ★
(execute, since already
in GPU memory)

Warm



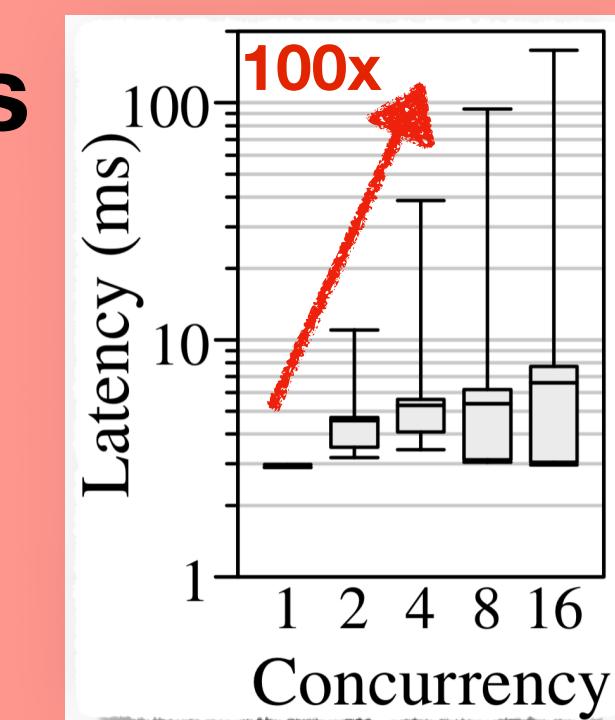
Managed memory
can be unpredictable
- GPU memory (cache)
hits & misses

ResNet-50 — Hit: 2.3 ms | Miss: 10.6 ms

Concurrent inferences

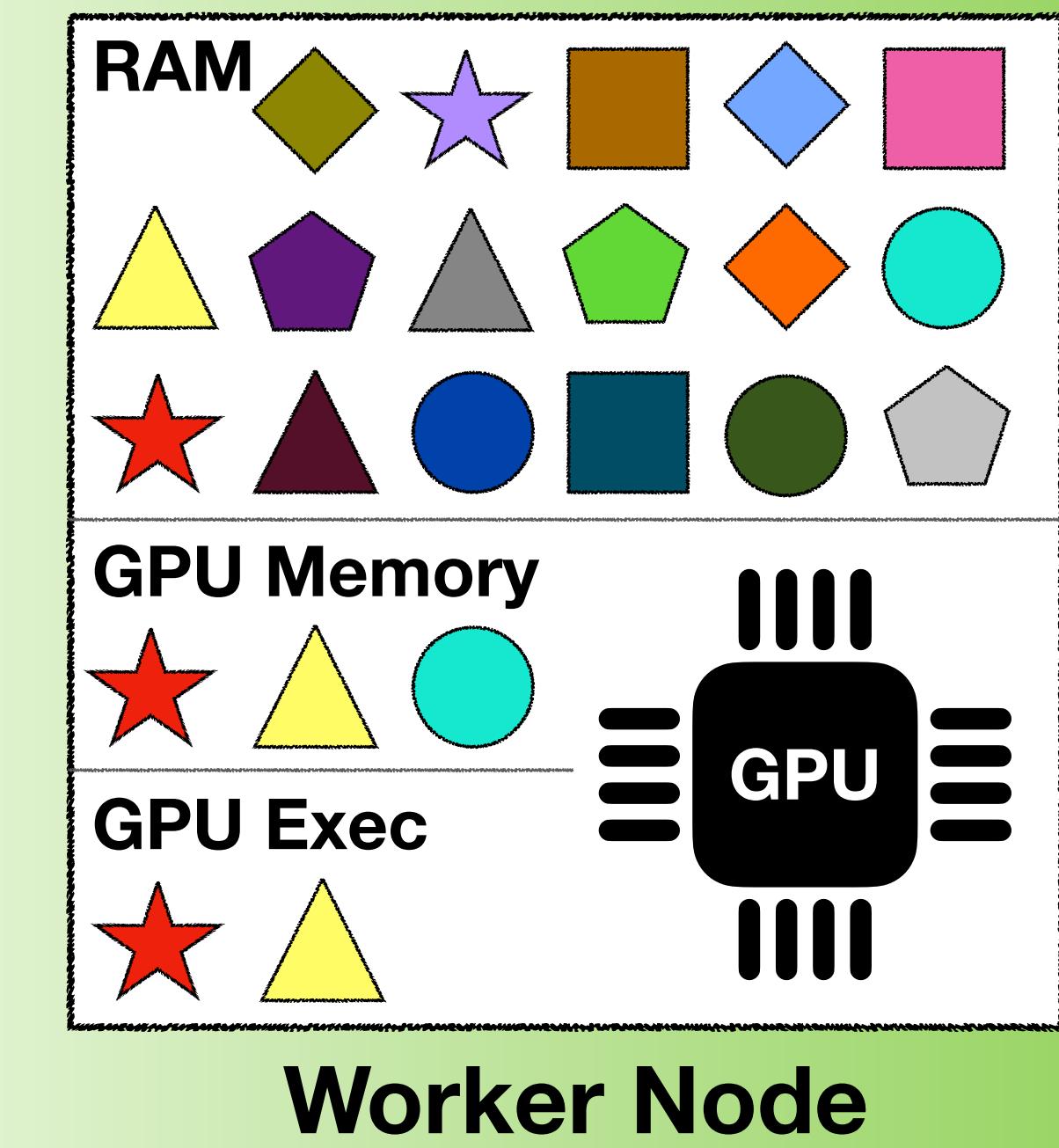
+ Proprietary &
undocumented policies

→ Unpredictable
response times



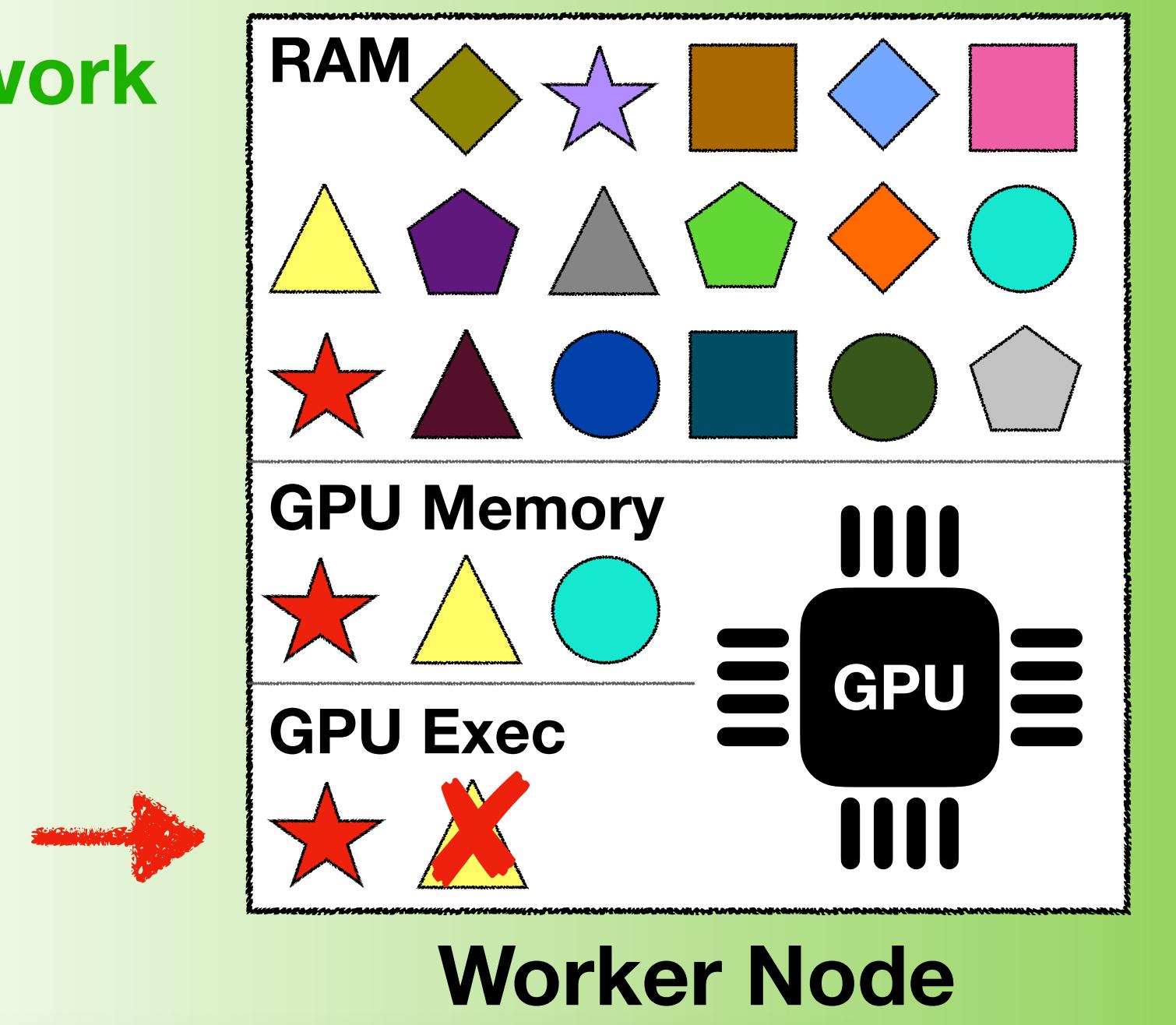
Designing a Predictable Worker (2/2)

Predictable Clockwork
worker process



Designing a Predictable Worker (2/2)

Predictable Clockwork
worker process



Worker Node

Concurrent inferences

+ Proprietary &
undocumented policies

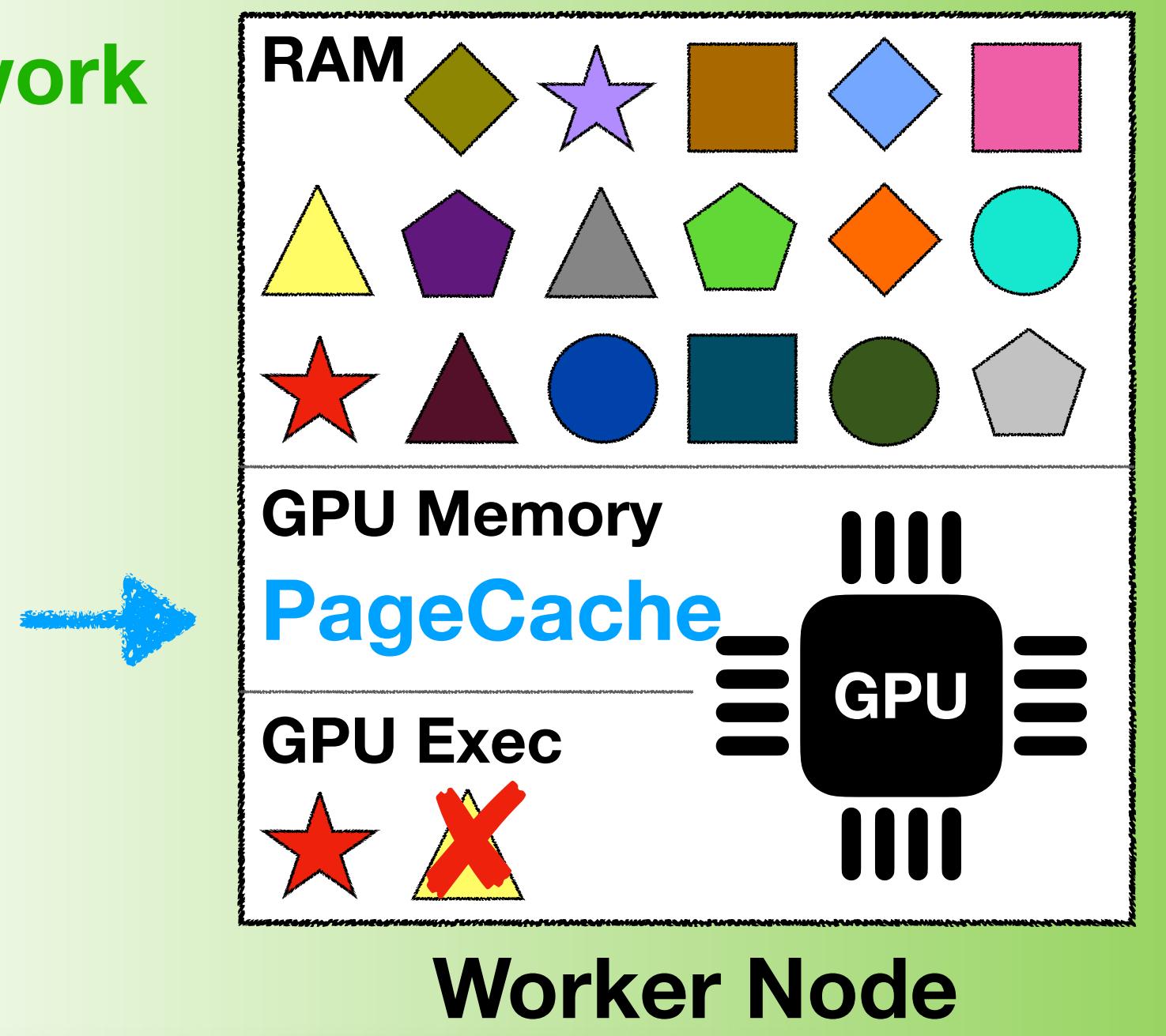
→ Unpredictable
response times

Solution

Execute inference
one at a time

Designing a Predictable Worker (2/2)

Predictable Clockwork
worker process



Managed memory
can be unpredictable

Solution

Preallocate GPU memory &
manage it explicitly using
LOAD/UNLOAD actions

Concurrent inferences

+ Proprietary &
undocumented policies

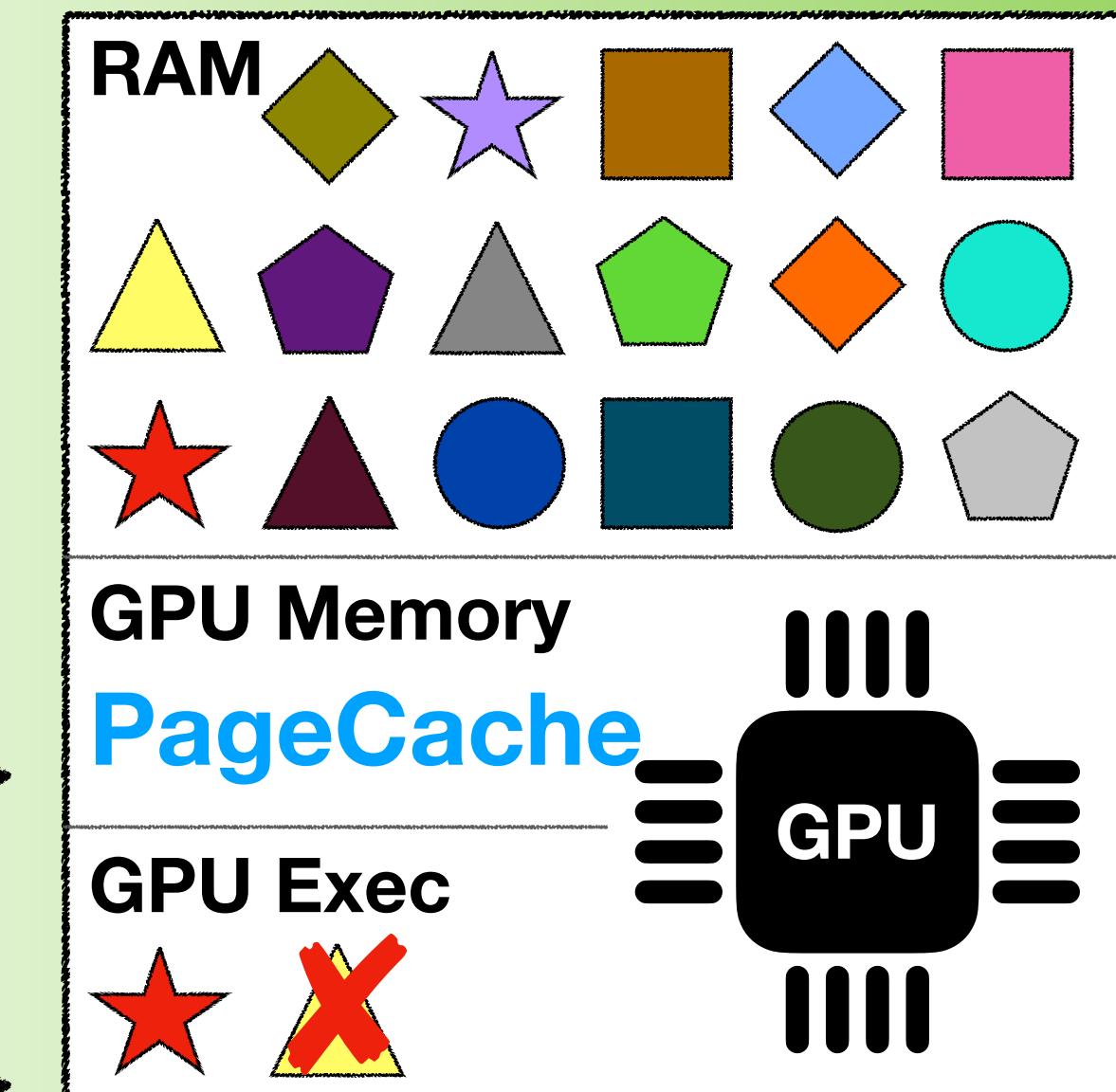
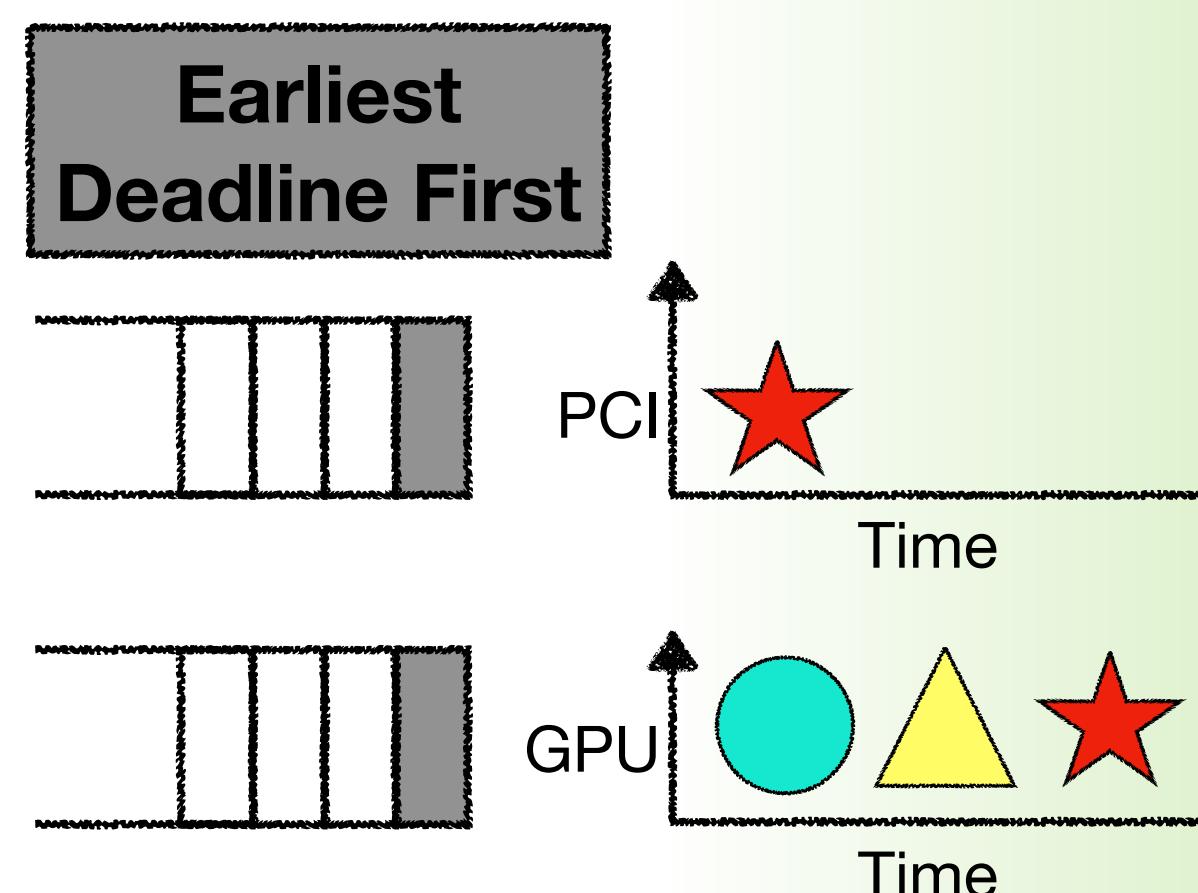
→ Unpredictable
response times

Solution

Execute inference
one at a time

Designing a Predictable Worker (2/2)

Predictable Clockwork worker process



Worker Node

Managed memory can be unpredictable

Solution

Preallocate GPU memory & manage it explicitly using LOAD/UNLOAD actions

Concurrent inferences

+ Proprietary & undocumented policies

→ Unpredictable response times

Solution

Execute inference one at a time

Designing a Predictable Worker (2/2)

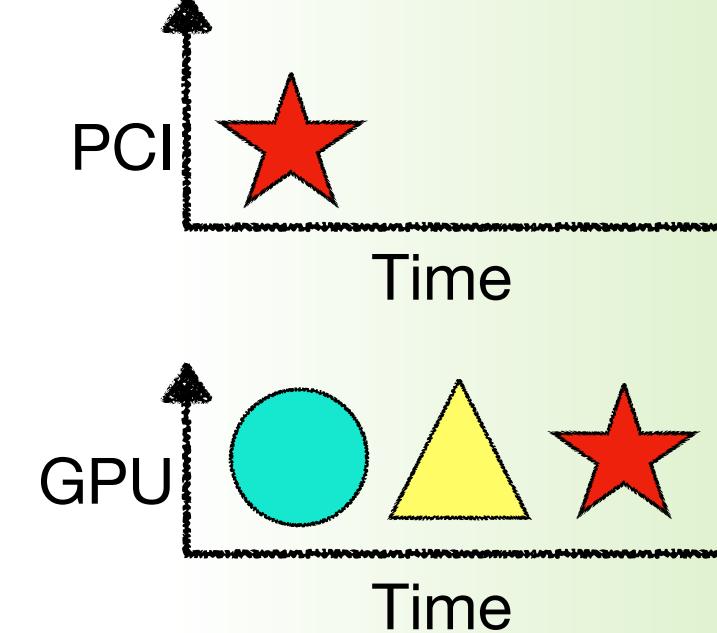
Choices outsourced via action APIs

Predictable Clockwork worker process

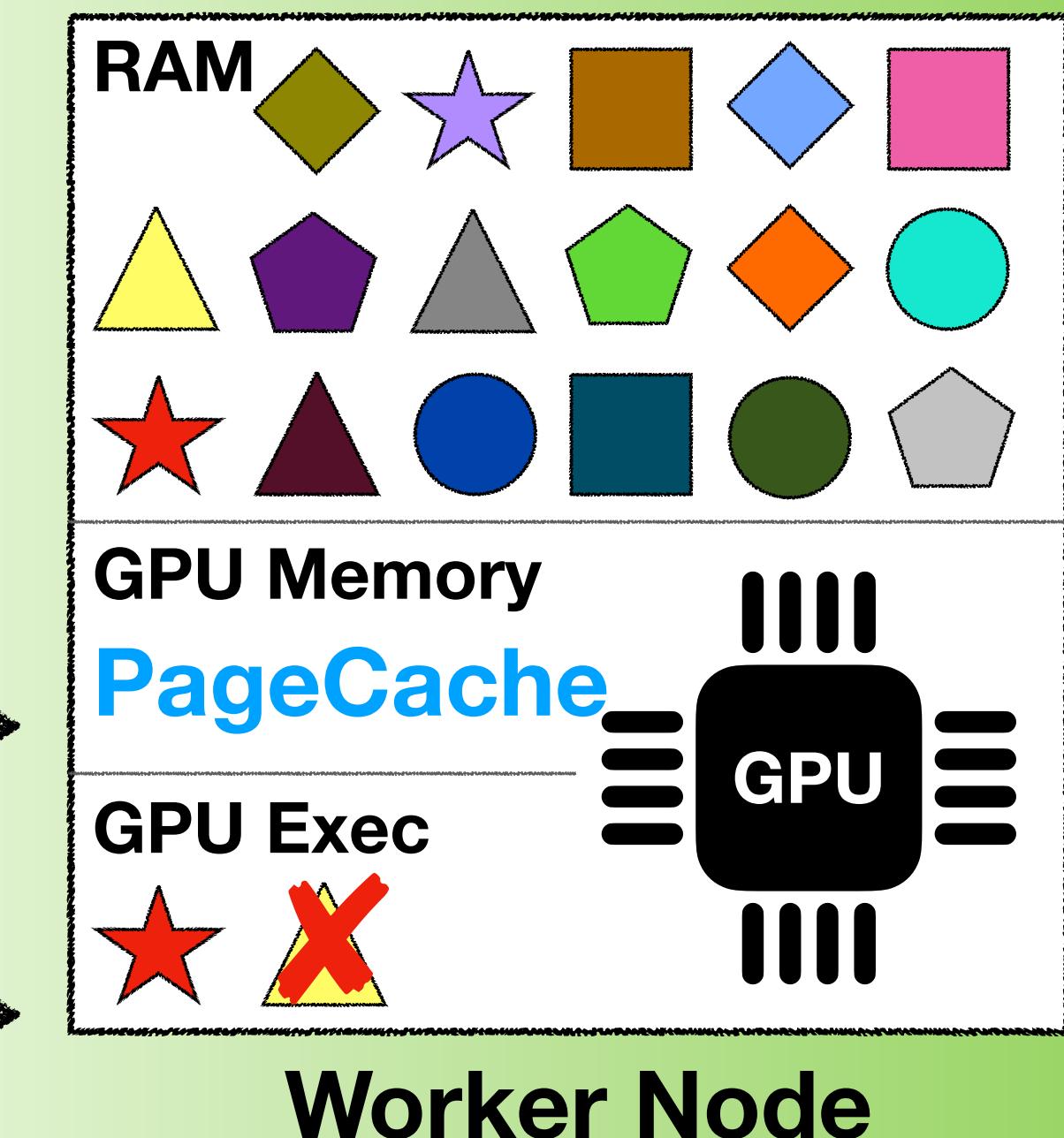
LOAD/UNLOAD (◊, Deadline)



Earliest Deadline First



INFER (★, I/P, Deadline)



Concurrent inferences

+ Proprietary & undocumented policies

→ Unpredictable response times

Solution

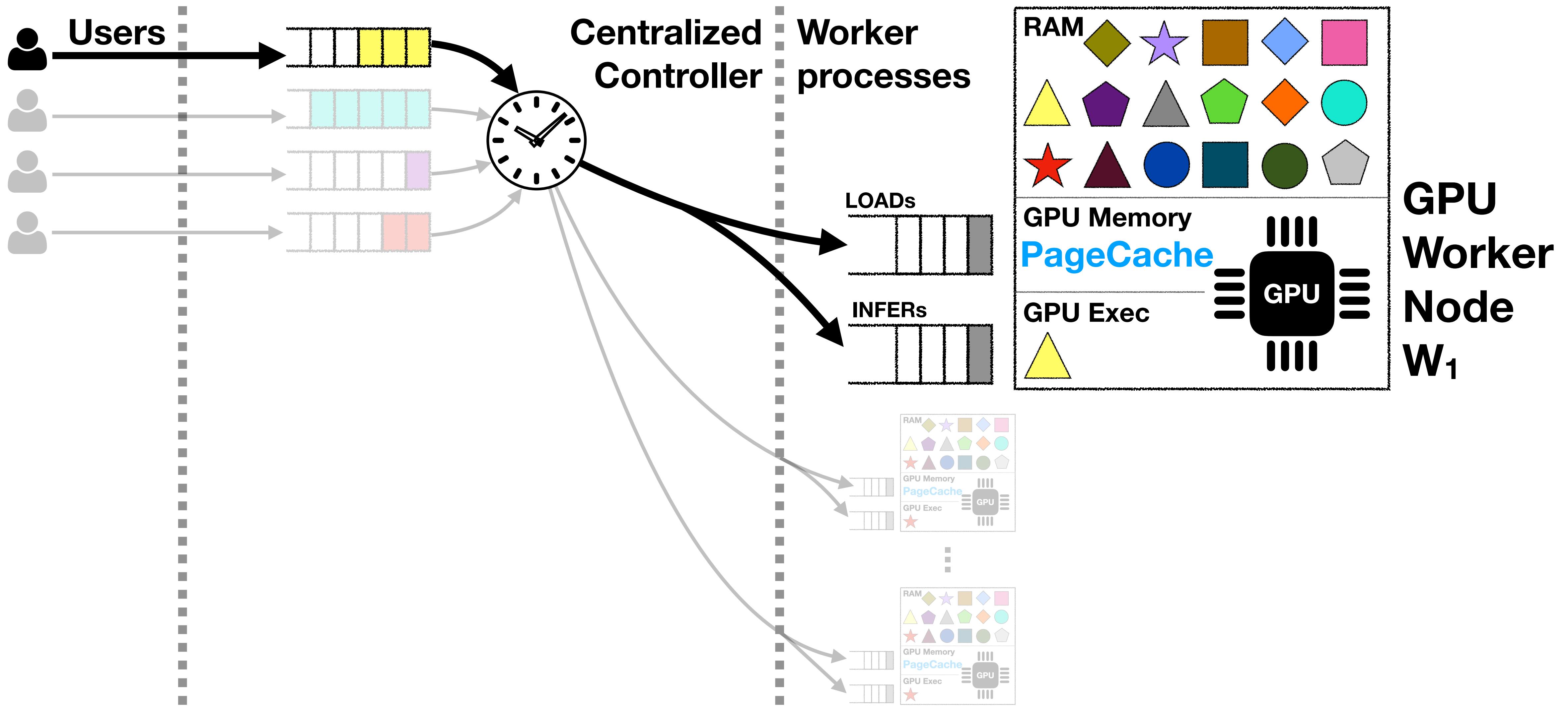
Execute inference one at a time

Managed memory can be unpredictable

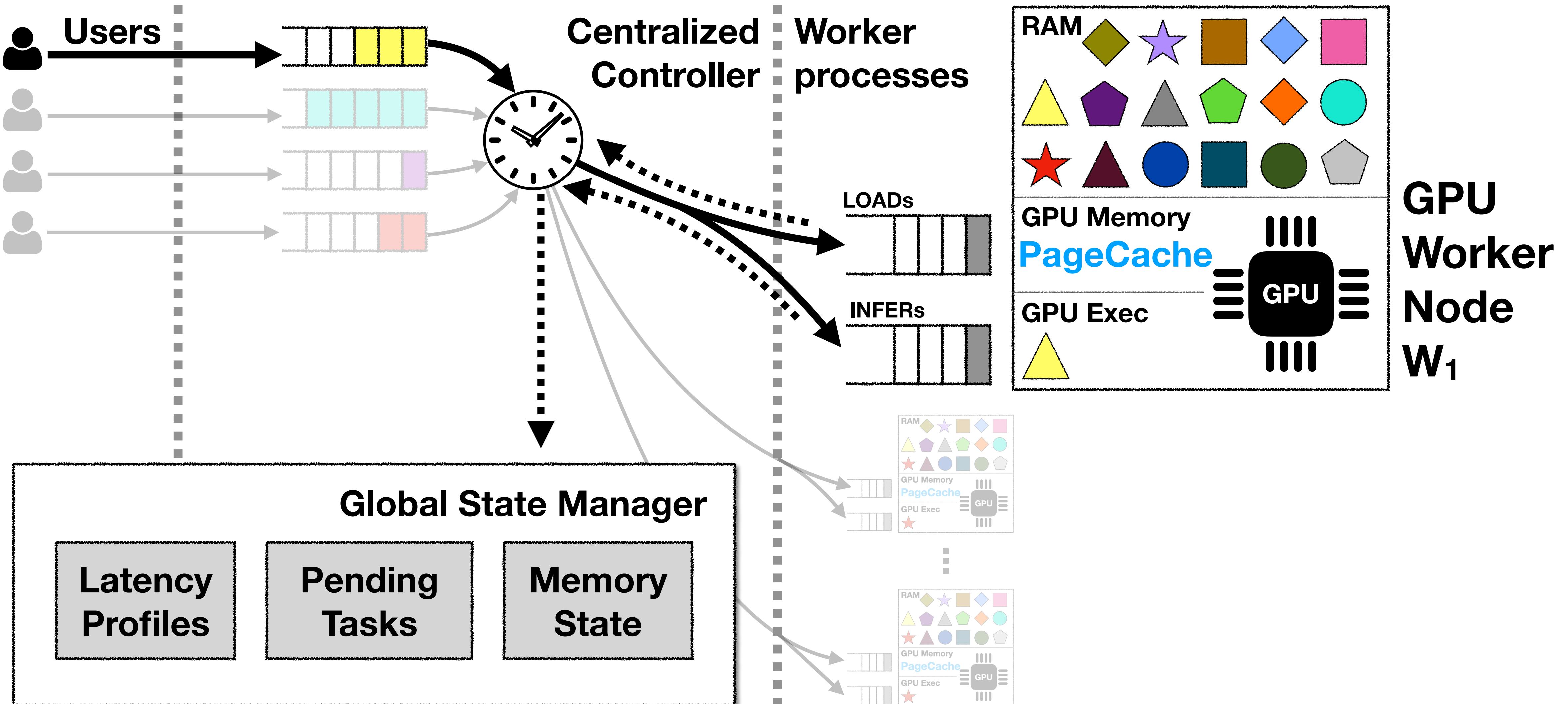
Solution

Preallocate GPU memory & manage it explicitly using LOAD/UNLOAD actions

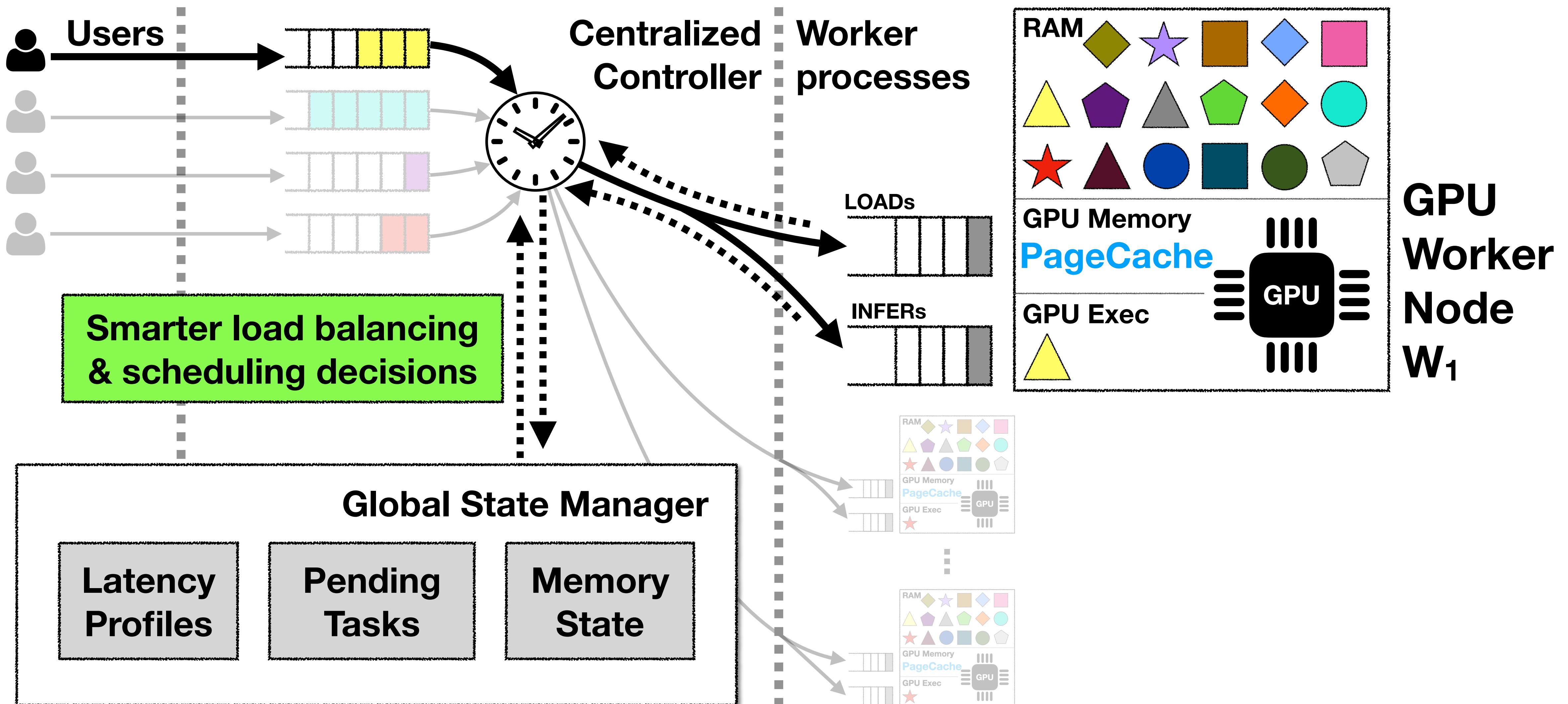
Consolidating Choices



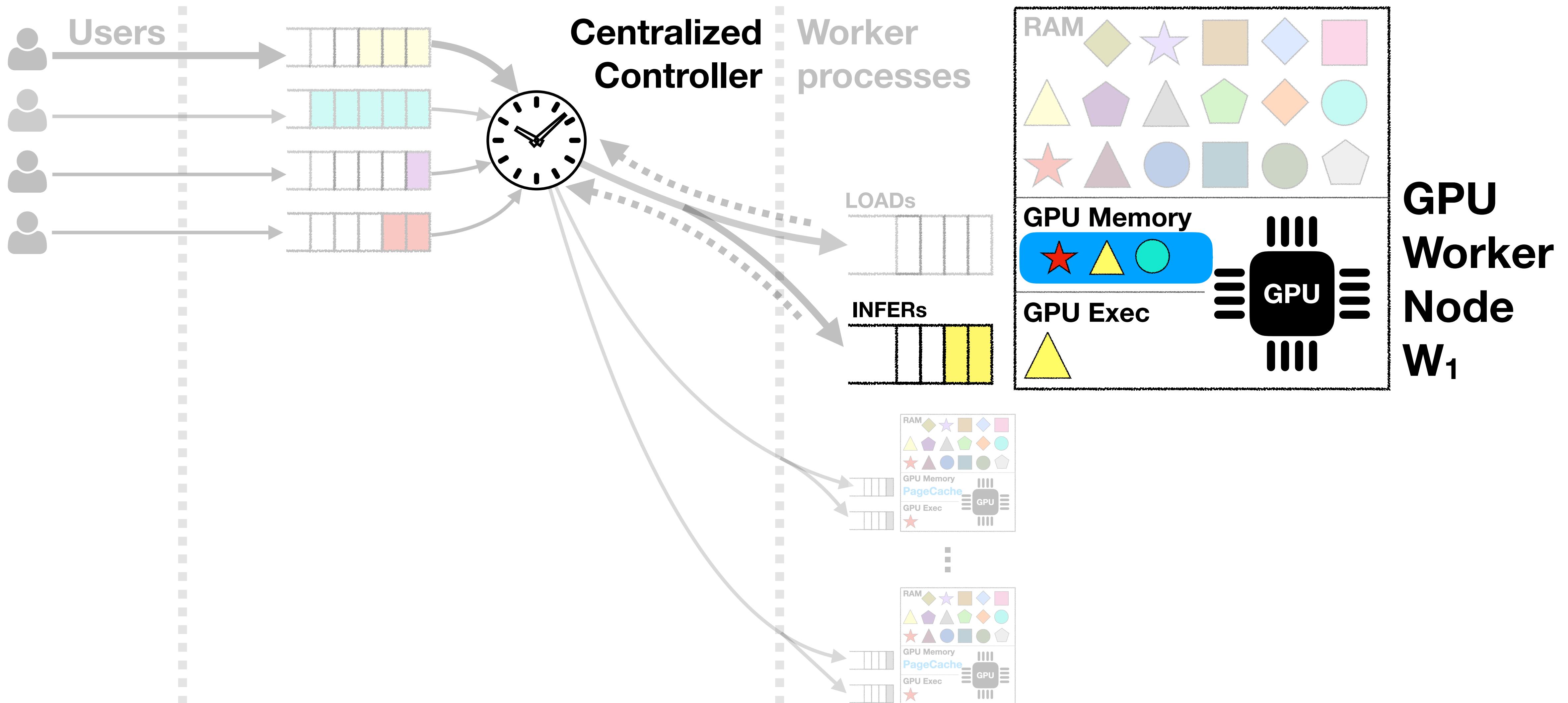
Consolidating Choices



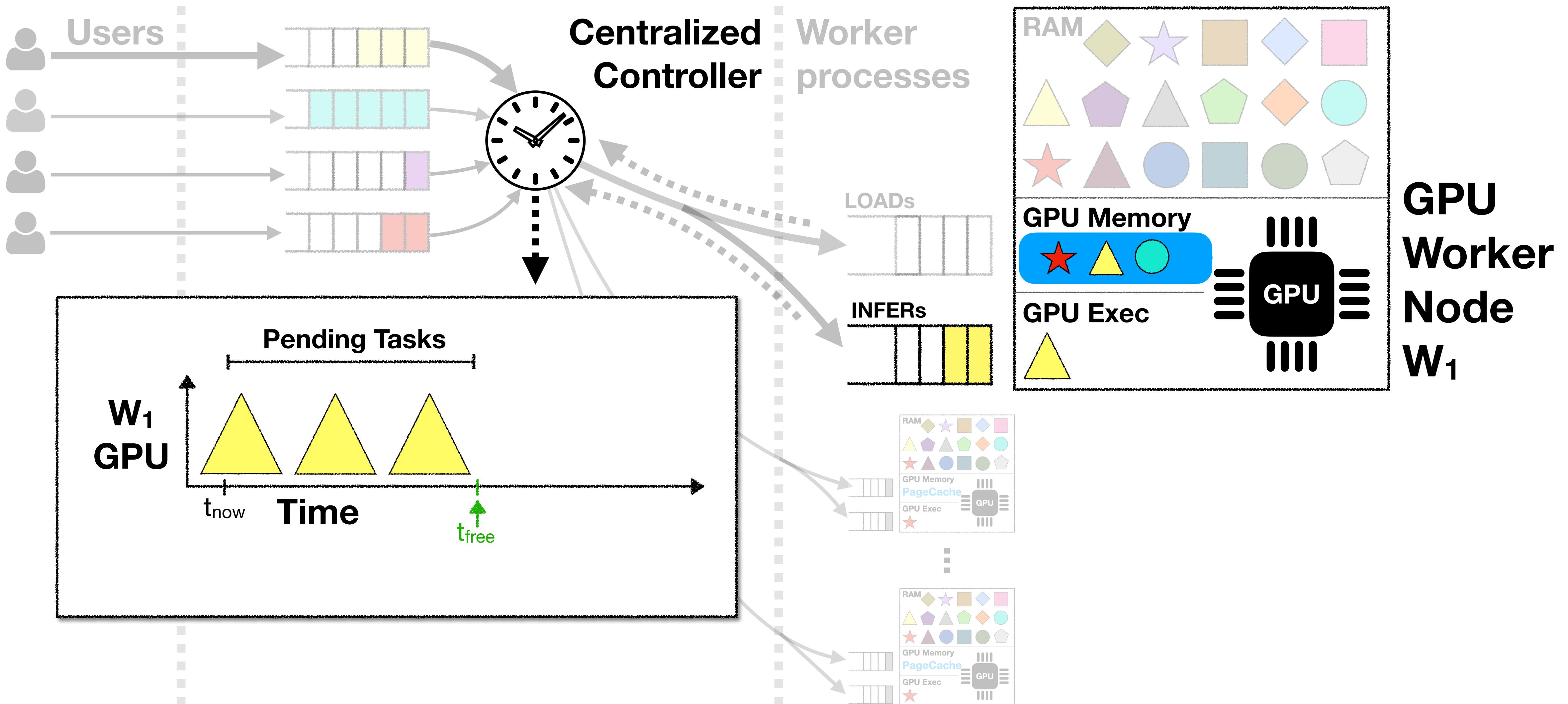
Consolidating Choices



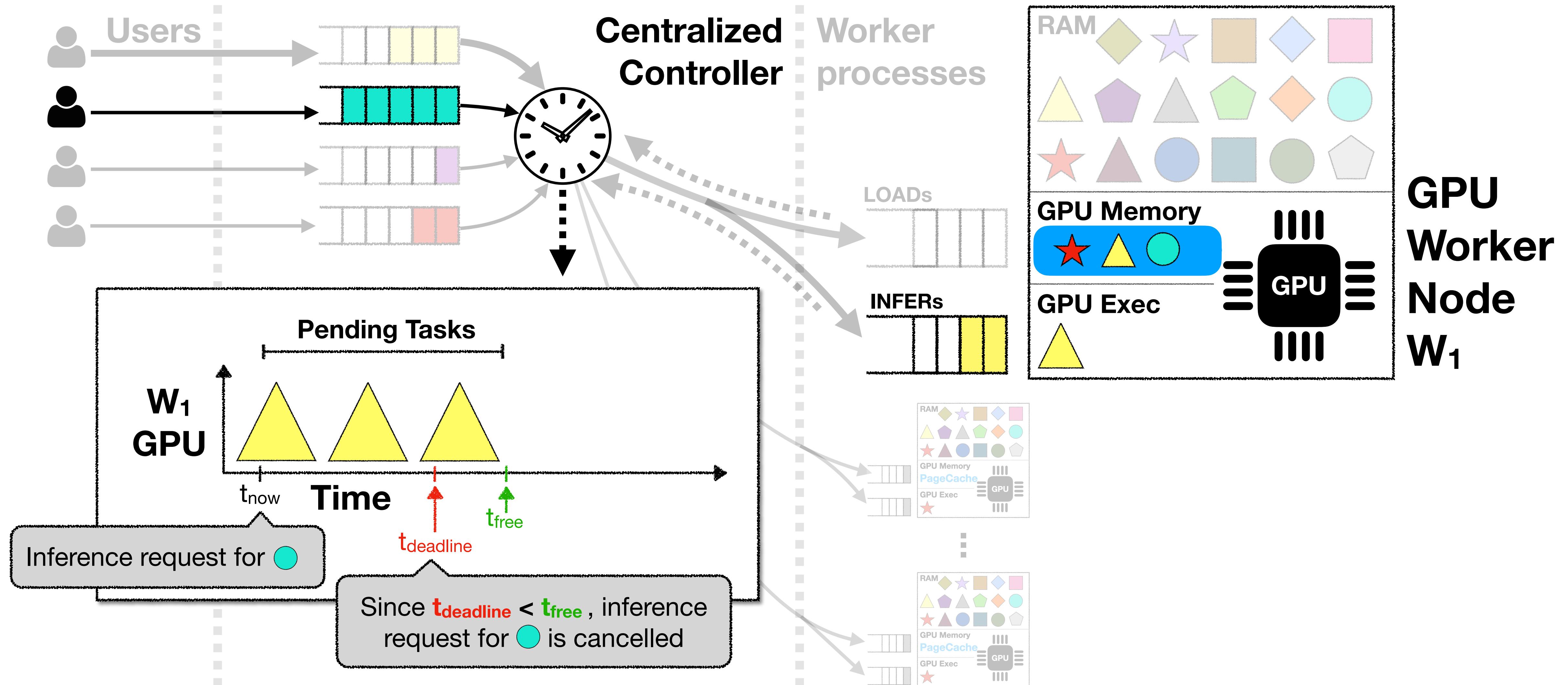
SLO-aware Scheduling



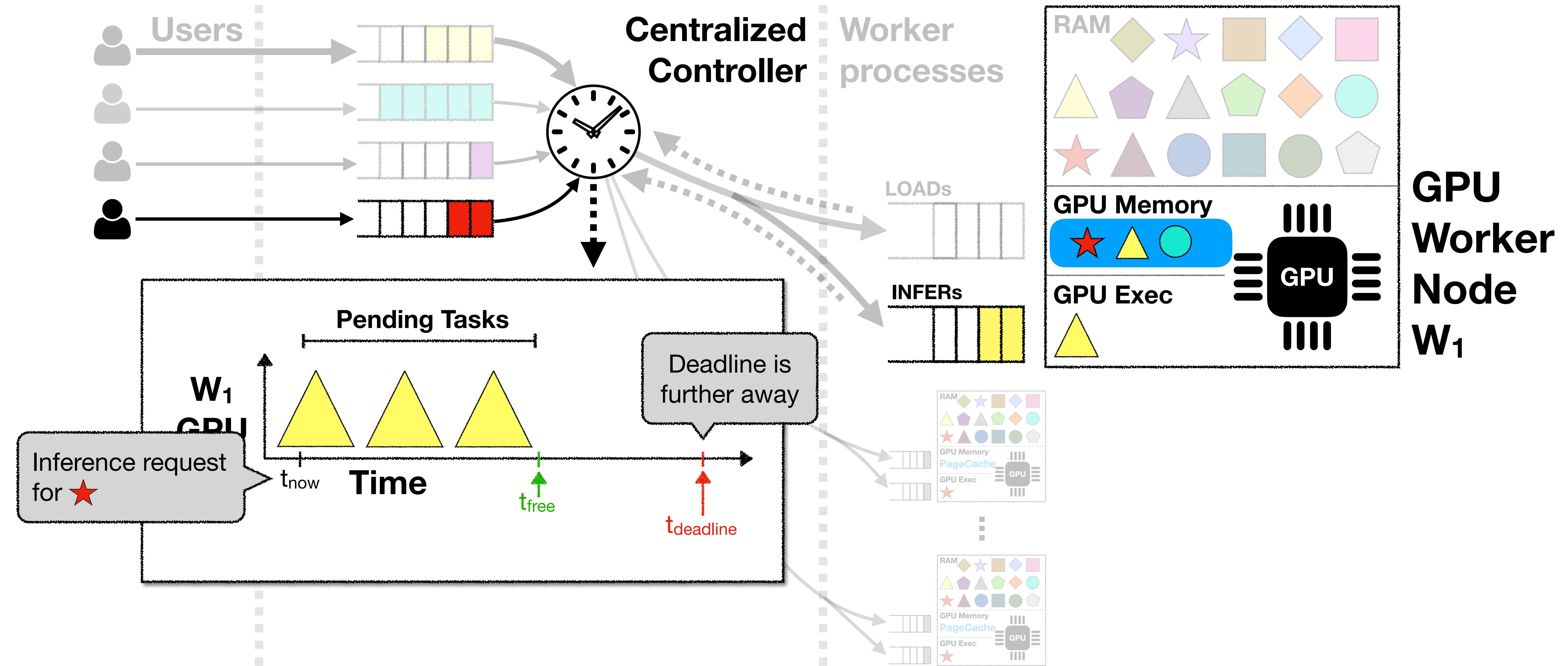
SLO-aware Scheduling



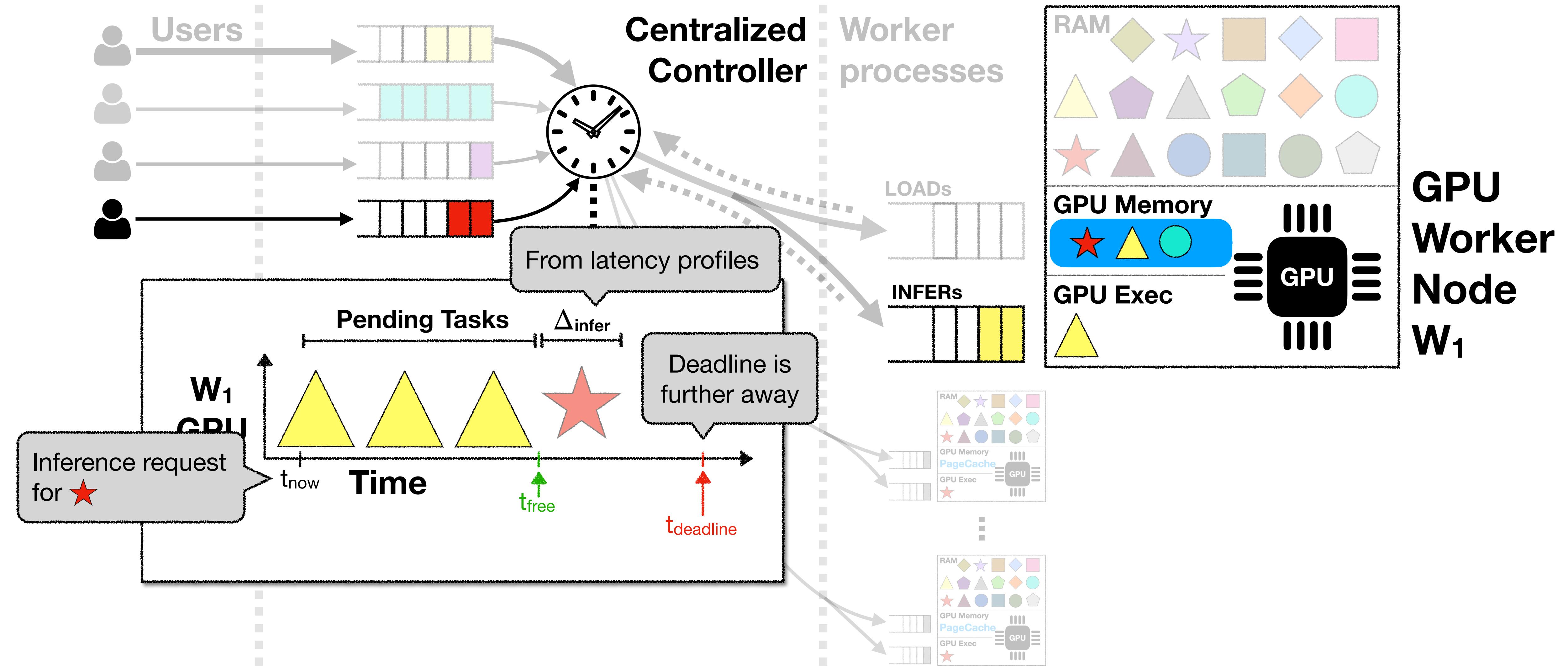
SLO-aware Scheduling



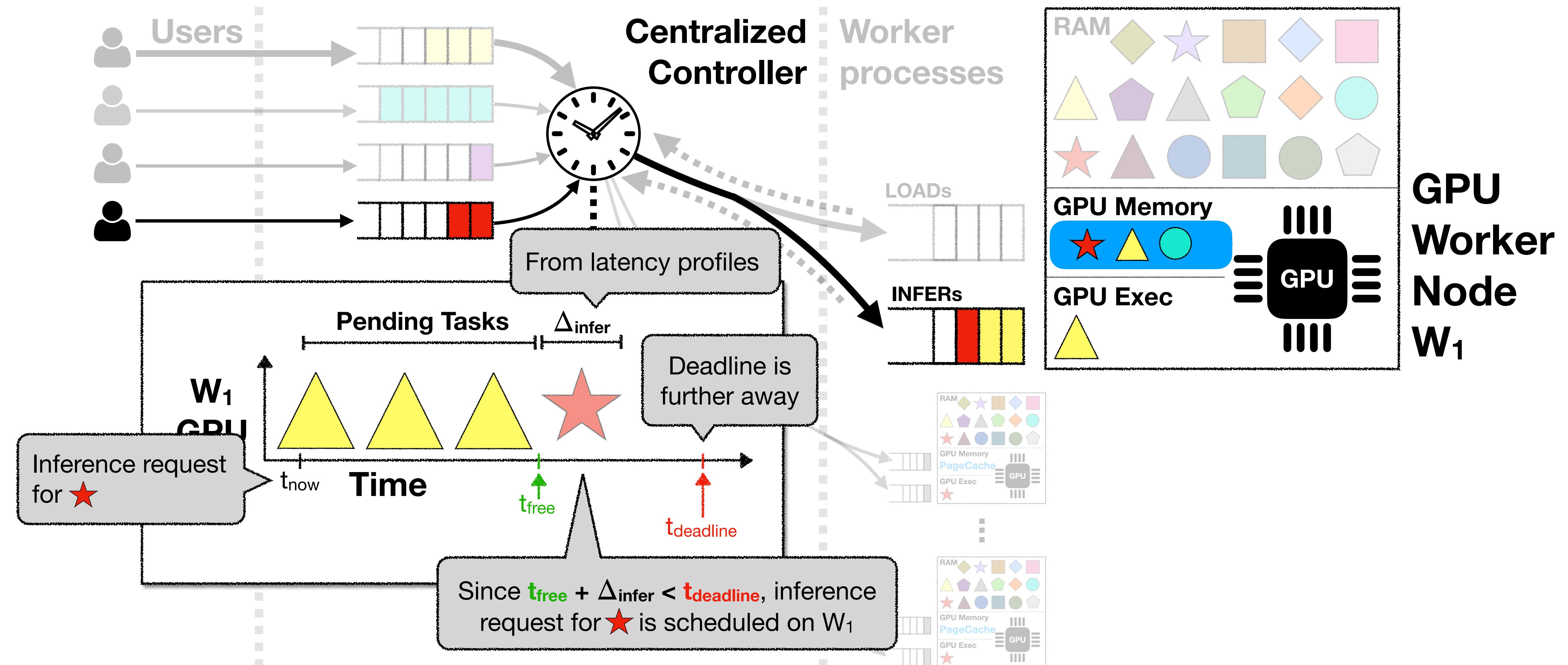
SLO-aware Scheduling



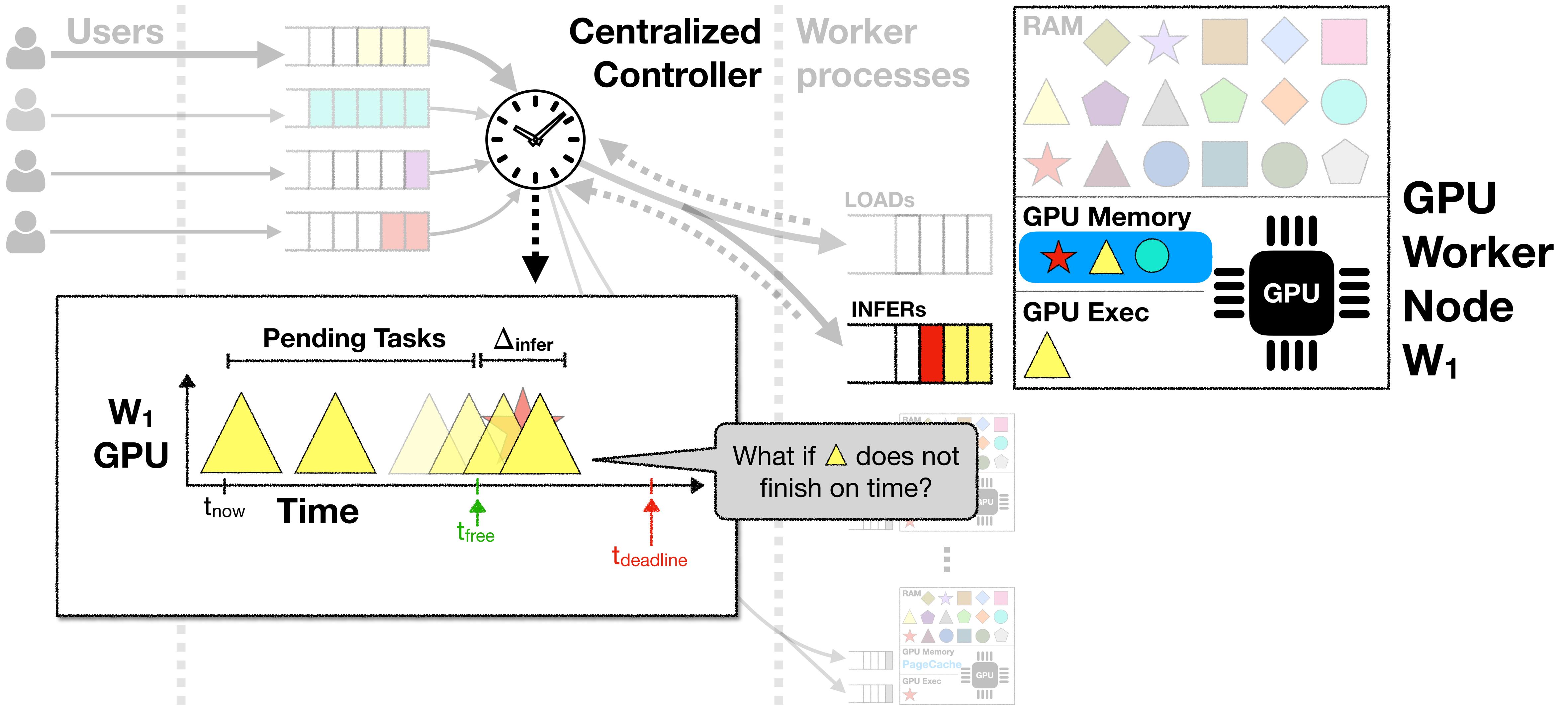
SLO-aware Scheduling



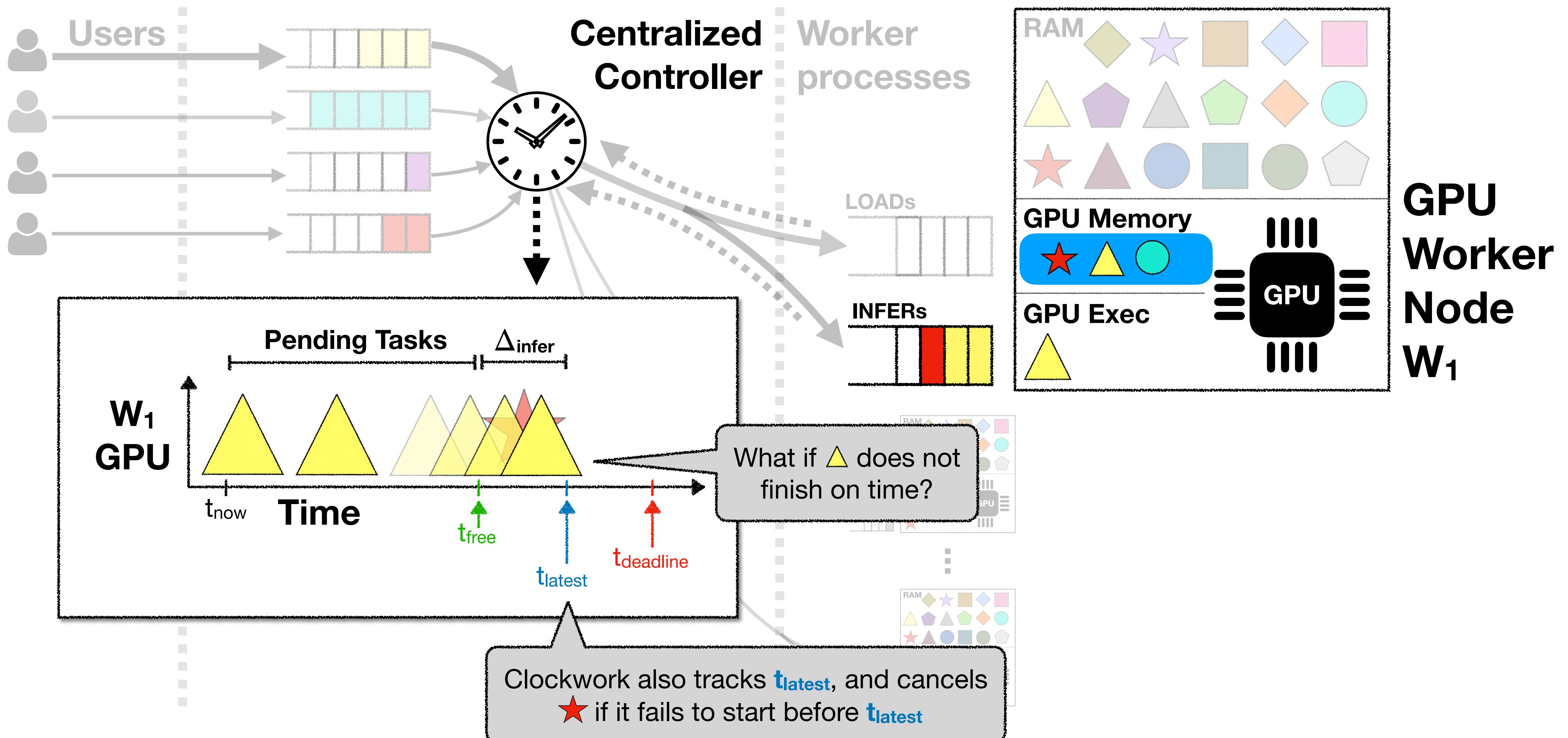
SLO-aware Scheduling



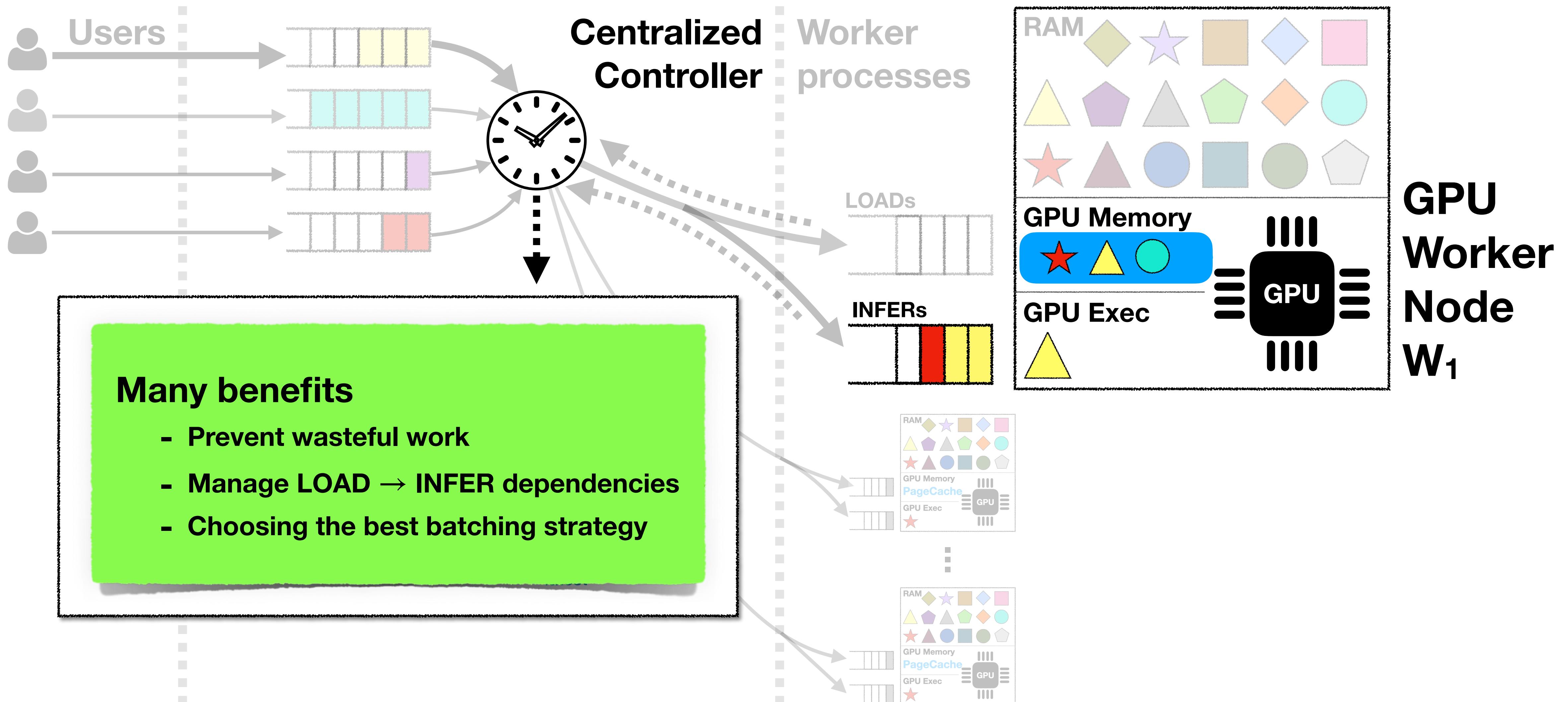
SLO-aware Scheduling



SLO-aware Scheduling



SLO-aware Scheduling



Evaluation

Questions

Questions

How does Clockwork compare to prior model serving systems Clipper and INFaaS?

Questions

How does Clockwork compare to prior model serving systems Clipper and INFaaS?

Can Clockwork serve thousands of model instances?

Questions

How does Clockwork compare to prior model serving systems Clipper and INFaaS?

Can Clockwork serve thousands of model instances?

How low can Clockwork go in terms of the latency SLOs it can satisfy?

Questions

How does Clockwork compare to prior model serving systems Clipper and INFaaS?

Can Clockwork serve thousands of model instances?

How low can Clockwork go in terms of the latency SLOs it can satisfy?

Can Clockwork isolate the performance of latency-sensitive clients from batch requests without latency SLOs?

Questions

Simple workloads in controlled settings

How does Clockwork compare to prior model serving systems Clipper and INFaaS?

Can Clockwork serve thousands of model instances?

How low can Clockwork go in terms of the latency SLOs it can satisfy?

Can Clockwork isolate the performance of latency-sensitive clients from batch requests without latency SLOs?

Questions

Simple workloads in controlled settings

How does Clockwork compare to prior model serving systems Clipper and INFaaS?

Can Clockwork serve thousands of model instances?

How low can Clockwork go in terms of the latency SLOs it can satisfy?

Can Clockwork isolate the performance of latency-sensitive clients from batch requests without latency SLOs?

Are Clockwork workers predictable?

Does consolidating choice help achieve end-to-end predictability?

Can Clockwork controller Scale?

**Workloads
from
production
traces**

Questions

Simple workloads in controlled settings

How does Clockwork compare to prior model serving systems Clipper and INFaaS?

Can Clockwork serve thousands of model instances?

How low can Clockwork serve latency SLOs? How many SLOs can it satisfy?

Can Clockwork isolate the performance of latency-sensitive clients from batch requests without latency SLOs?

This talk



Are Clockwork workers predictable?

Does consolidating choice help achieve end-to-end predictability?

Can Clockwork controller Scale?

Workloads
from
production
traces

Experiment Setup

12 Workers: NVIDIA Tesla v100 GPU | 32 GB GPU Memory + **1 Controller** + **1 Client**

Experiment Setup

12 Workers: NVIDIA Tesla v100 GPU | 32 GB GPU Memory

+

1 Controller

+

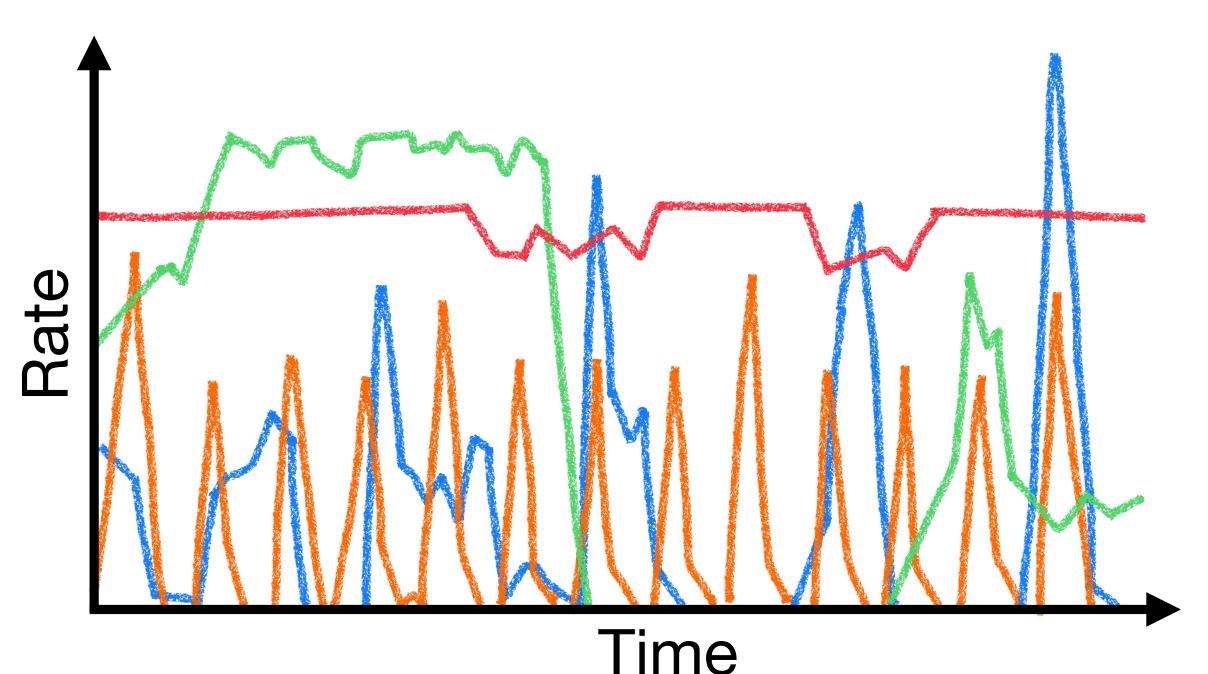
1 Client

Microsoft's Azure Functions →

Shahrad et al. "Serverless in the Wild: Characterizing and Optimizing the Serverless Workload at a Large Cloud Provider." USENIX ATC 2020

46,000 functions, 2 weeks

- Heavy sustained workloads
- Low utilization cold workloads
- Workloads with periodic spikes
- Bursty workloads



Workload

Experiment Setup

12 Workers: NVIDIA Tesla v100 GPU | 32 GB GPU Memory

+

1 Controller

+

1 Client

Microsoft's Azure Functions

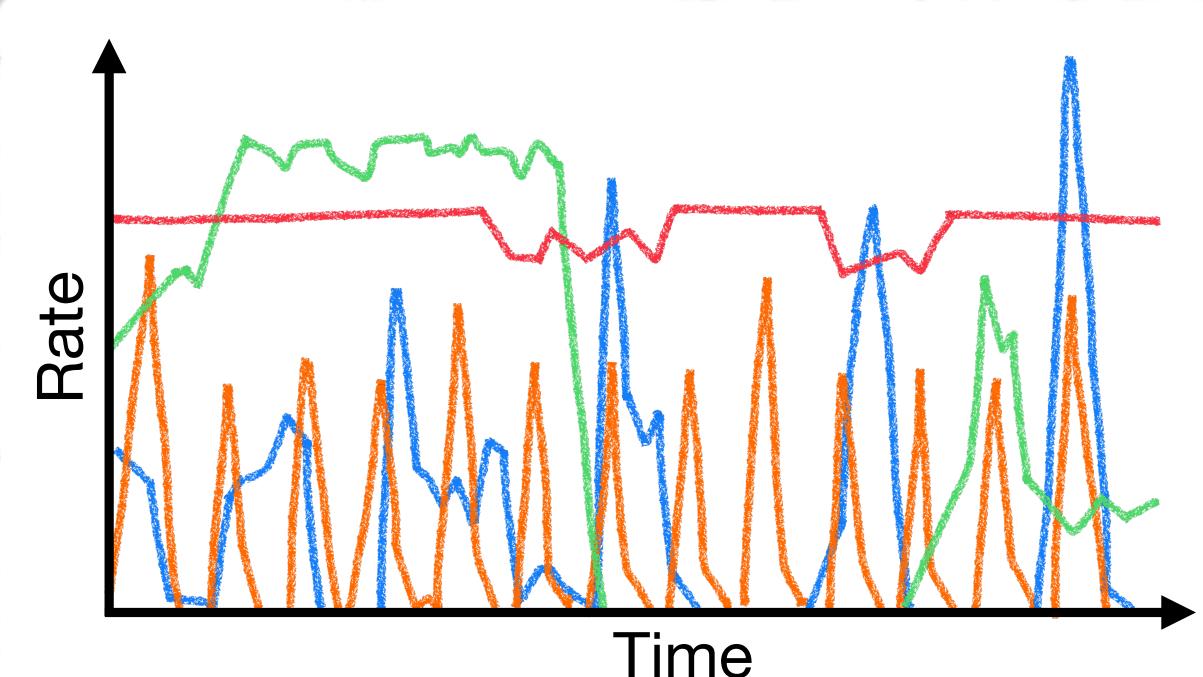
Shahrad et al. "Serverless in the Wild: Characterizing and Optimizing the Serverless Workload at a Large Cloud Provider." USENIX ATC 2020

4026 model instances

- Saturates 768 GB RAM
- 61 different model architectures
- ResNet, DenseNet, Inception, etc.

46,000 functions, 2 weeks

- Heavy sustained workloads
- Low utilization cold workloads
- Workloads with periodic spikes
- Bursty workloads



Workload

Are Clockwork Workers Predictable?

Are Clockwork Workers Predictable?

Clockwork relies on predicting the model inference latency for scheduling

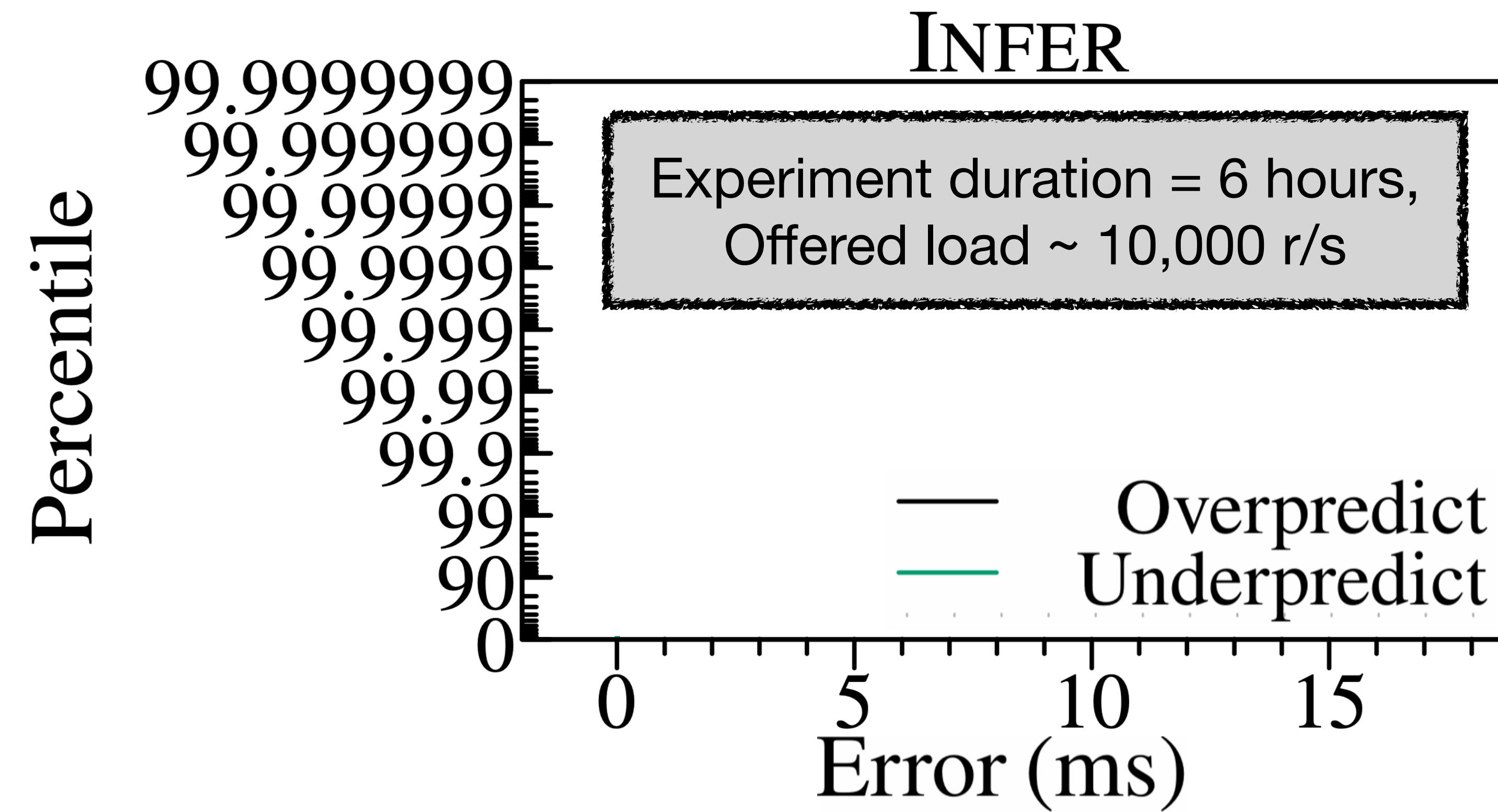
Overpredictions → Idle resources
Underpredictions → SLO violations

Are Clockwork Workers Predictable?

Clockwork relies on predicting the model inference latency for scheduling

Overpredictions → **Idle resources**

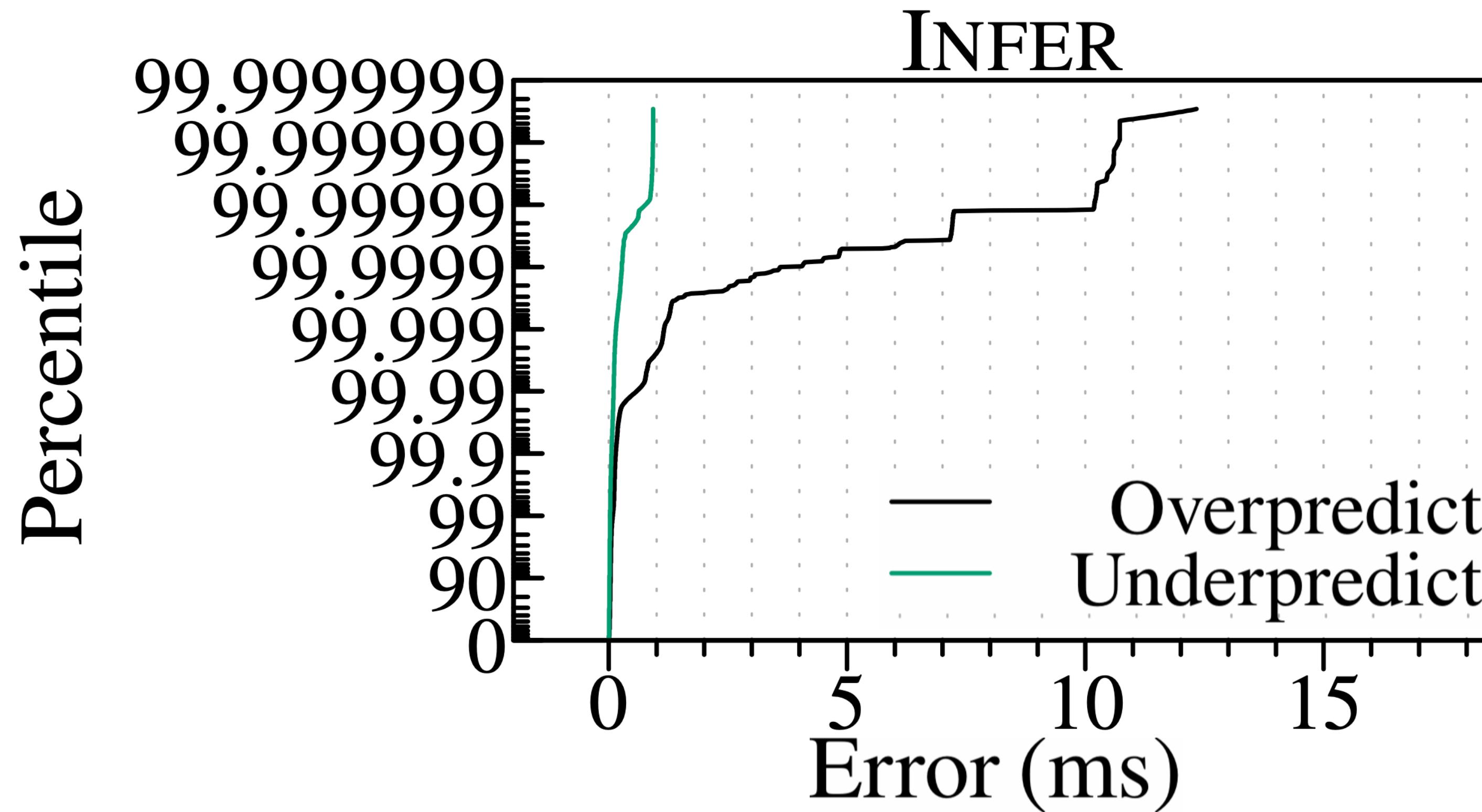
Underpredictions → **SLO violations**



Are Clockwork Workers Predictable?

Clockwork relies on predicting the model inference latency for scheduling

Overpredictions → Idle resources
Underpredictions → SLO violations

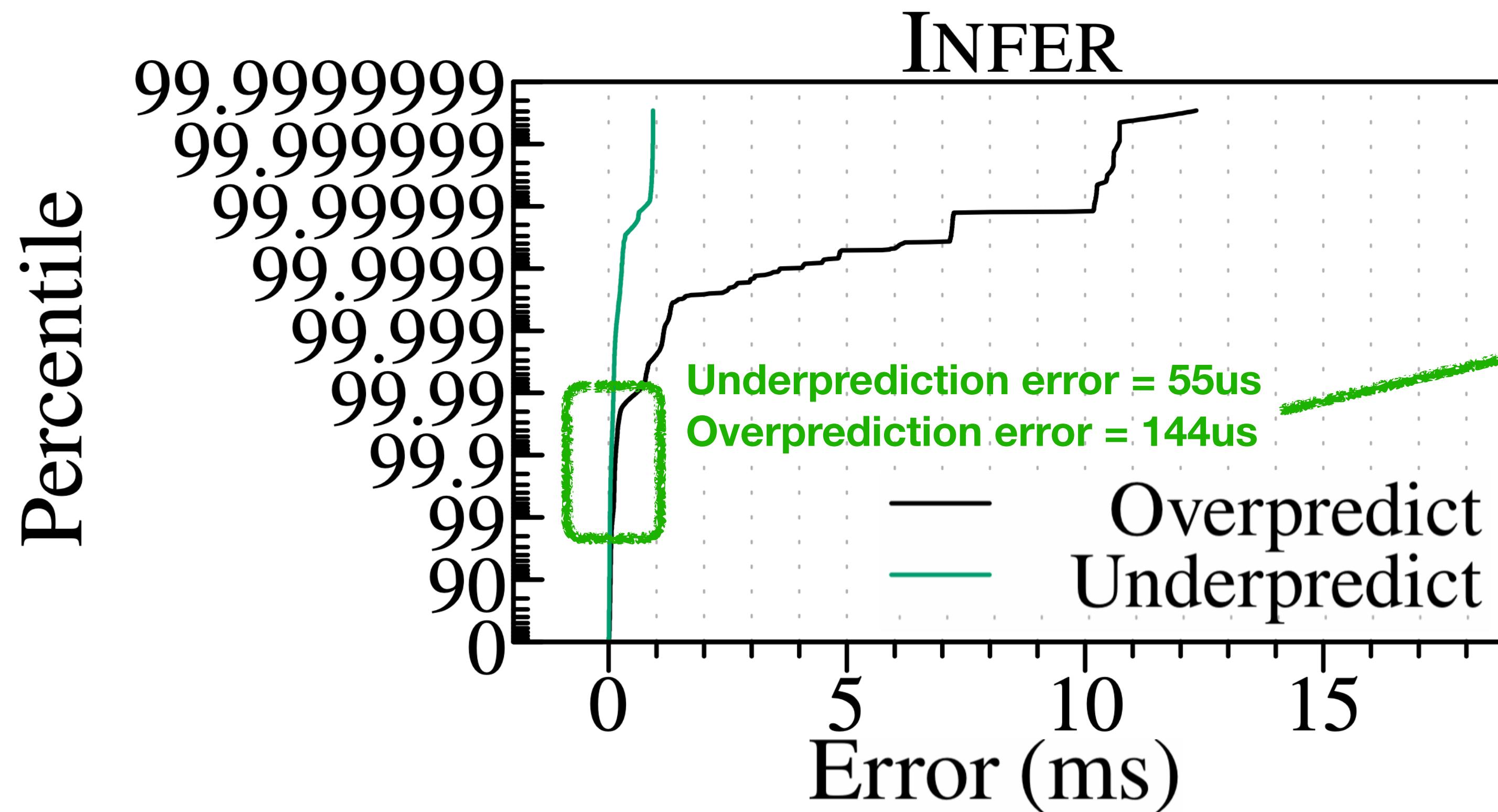


Clockwork consistently overpredicts more than its underpredicts

Are Clockwork Workers Predictable?

Clockwork relies on predicting the model inference latency for scheduling

Overpredictions → Idle resources
Underpredictions → SLO violations



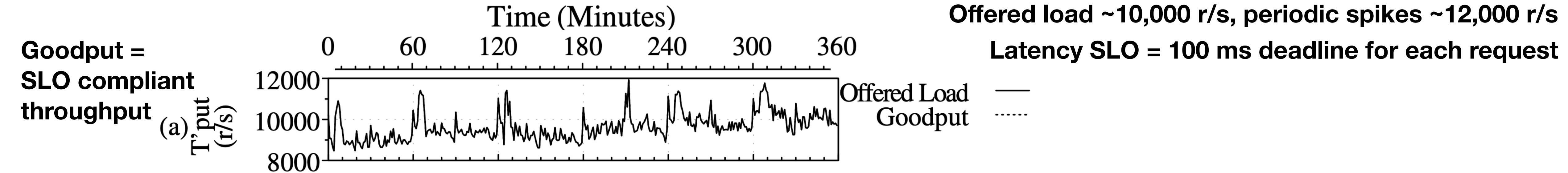
Clockwork consistently overpredicts more than its underpredicts

Errors are significant only in extremely rare cases

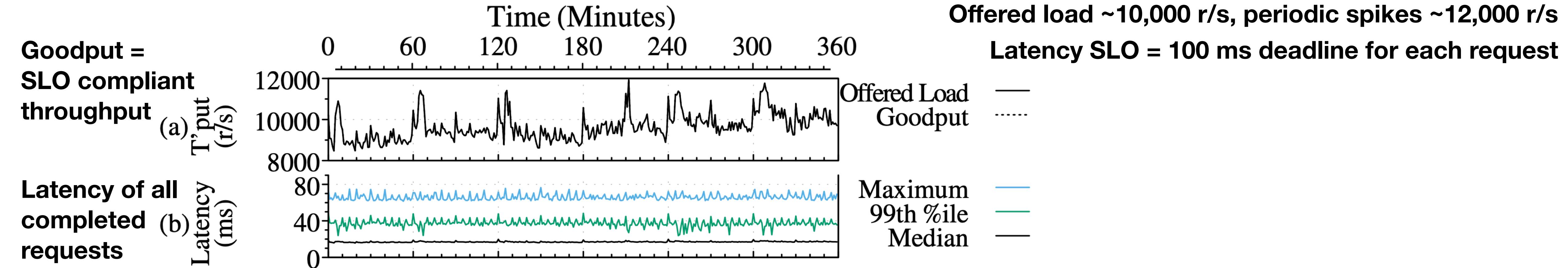
Does Consolidating Choice Help?

Offered load ~10,000 r/s, periodic spikes ~12,000 r/s
Latency SLO = 100 ms deadline for each request

Does Consolidating Choice Help?



Does Consolidating Choice Help?



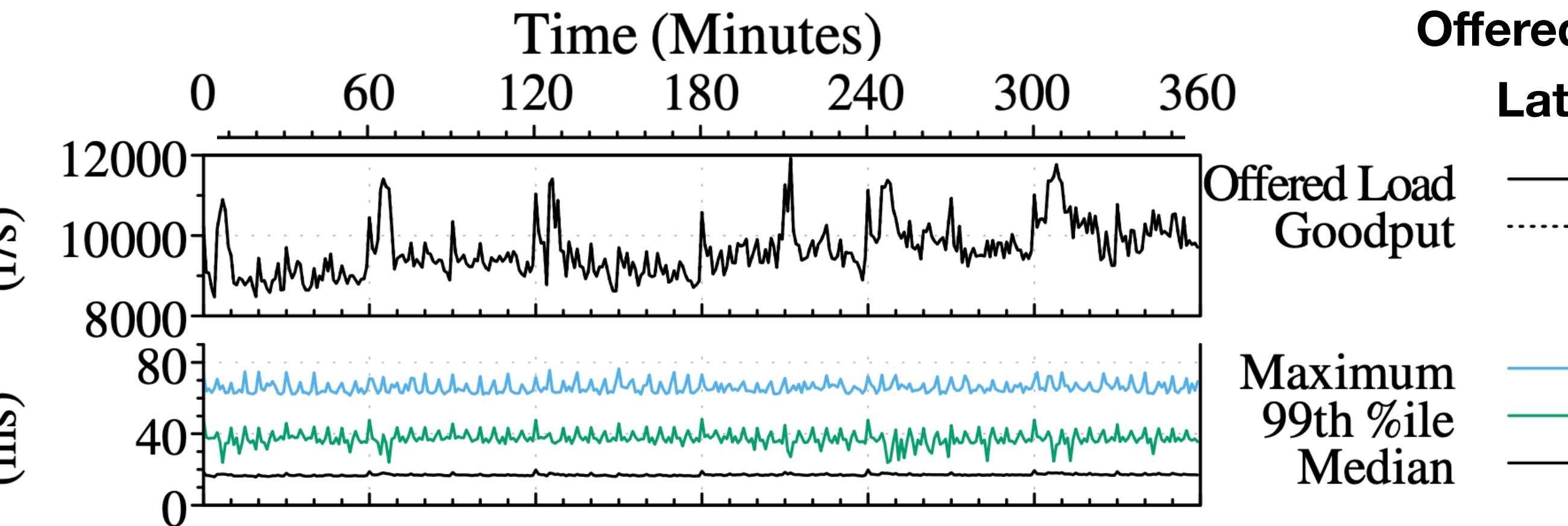
Does Consolidating Choice Help?

Goodput =
SLO compliant
throughput

(a)

Latency of all
completed requests

(b)



Offered load ~10,000 r/s, periodic spikes ~12,000 r/s
Latency SLO = 100 ms deadline for each request

The workload is successfully scheduled by Clockwork

- Goodput \approx offered load
- Out of 208 million requests, only 58 failed due to mispredictions
- All others completed within SLO

Does Consolidating Choice Help?

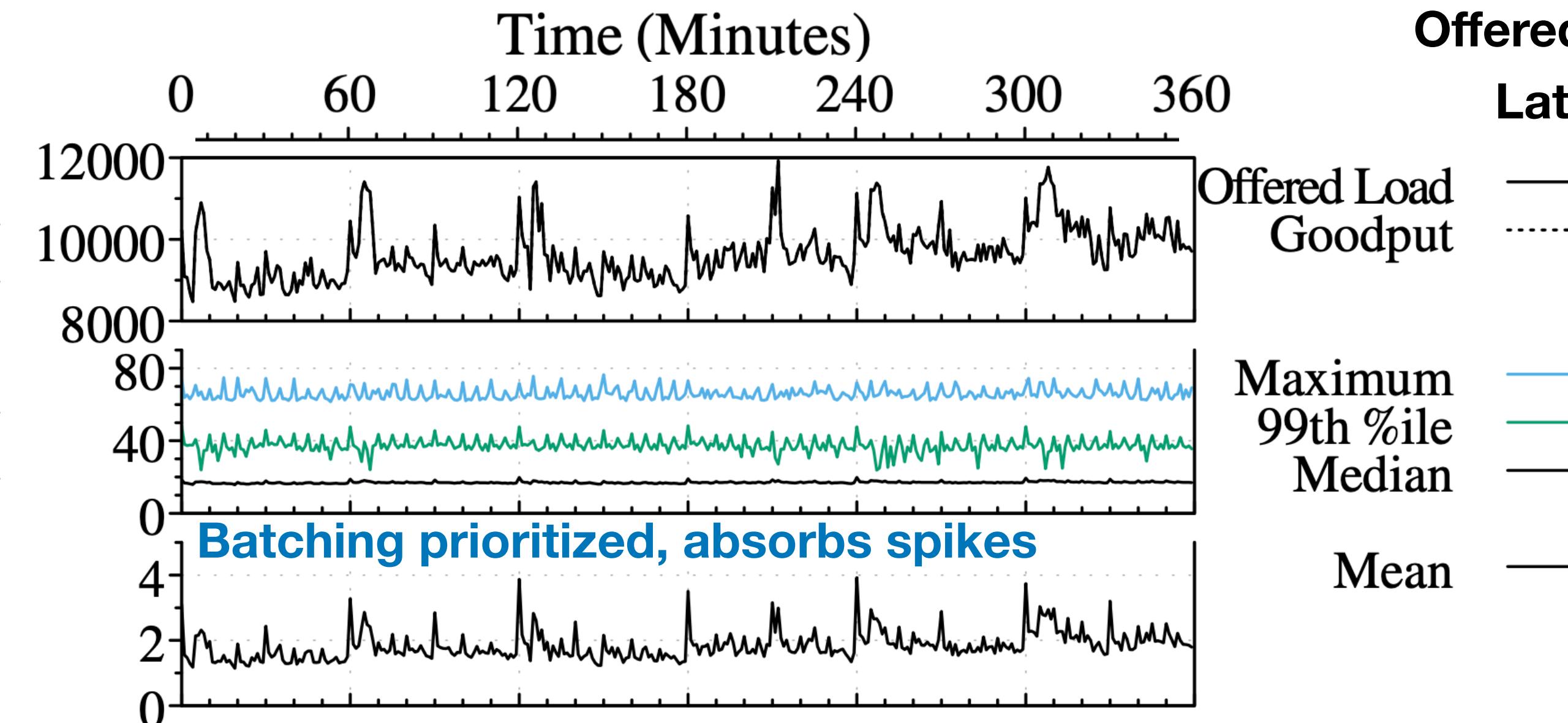
Goodput =
SLO compliant
throughput

(a) T_p^{put} (r/s)

Latency of all
completed requests

(b) Latency (ms)

(c) Batch Size



Offered load ~10,000 r/s, periodic spikes ~12,000 r/s
Latency SLO = 100 ms deadline for each request

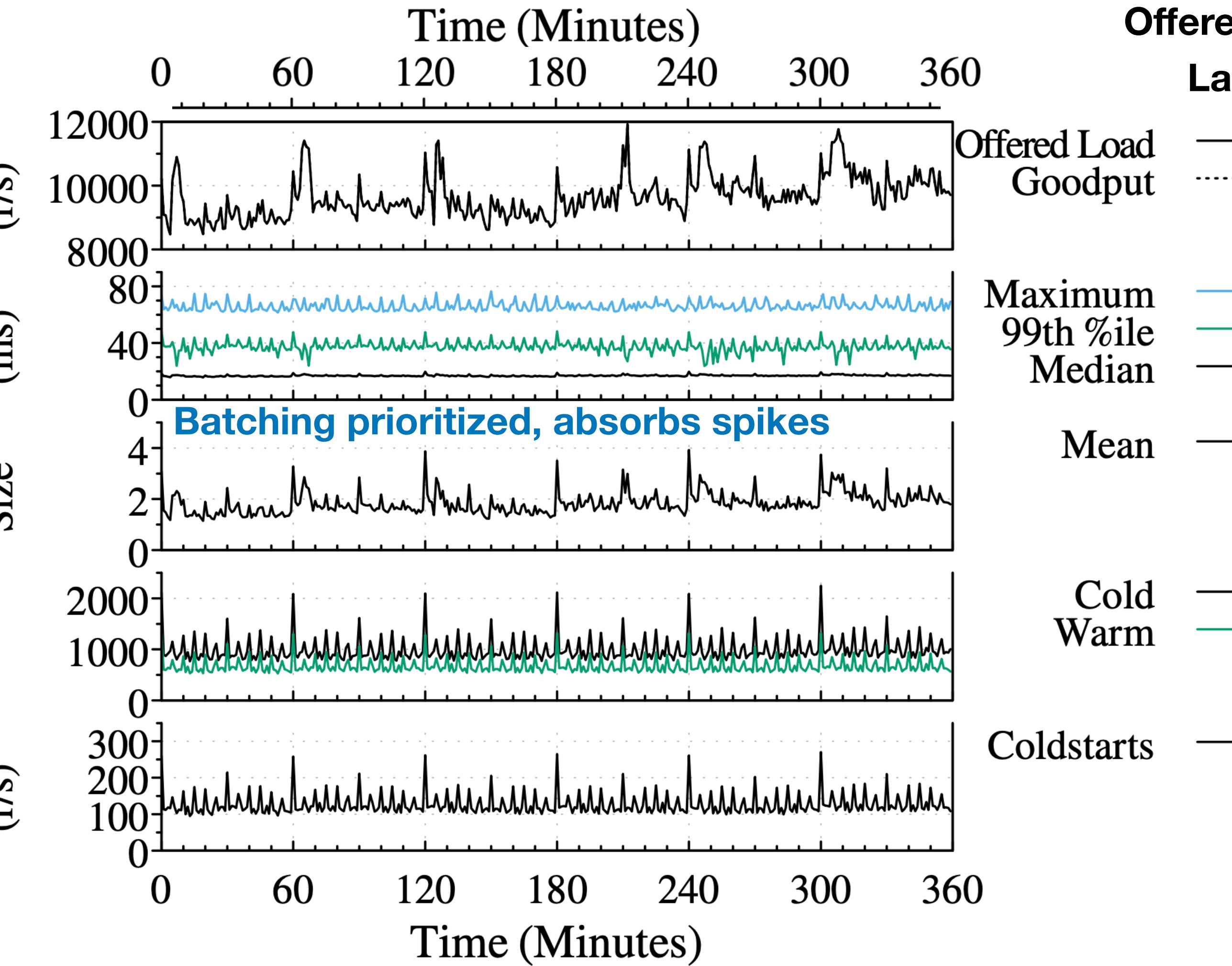
The workload is successfully scheduled by Clockwork

- Goodput \approx offered load
- Out of 208 million requests, only 58 failed due to mispredictions
- All others completed within SLO

Does Consolidating Choice Help?

Goodput =
SLO compliant
throughput

(a)



Latency of all
completed requests

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

Offered load ~10,000 r/s, periodic spikes ~12,000 r/s

Latency SLO = 100 ms deadline for each request

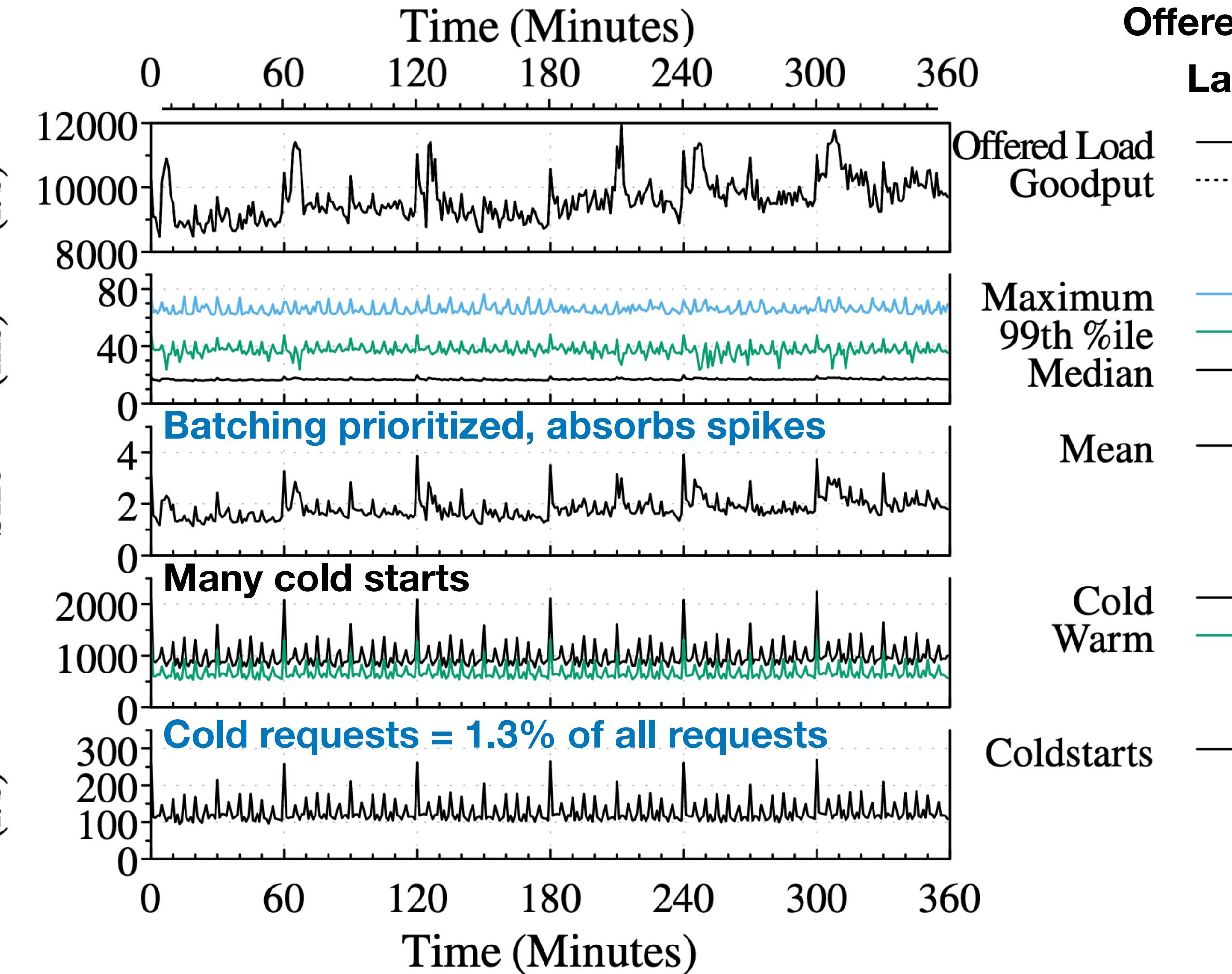
The workload is successfully scheduled by Clockwork

- Goodput \approx offered load
- Out of 208 million requests, only 58 failed due to mispredictions
- All others completed within SLO

Does Consolidating Choice Help?

Goodput =
SLO compliant
throughput

(a)



Latency of all
completed requests

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

Offered load ~10,000 r/s, periodic spikes ~12,000 r/s

Latency SLO = 100 ms deadline for each request

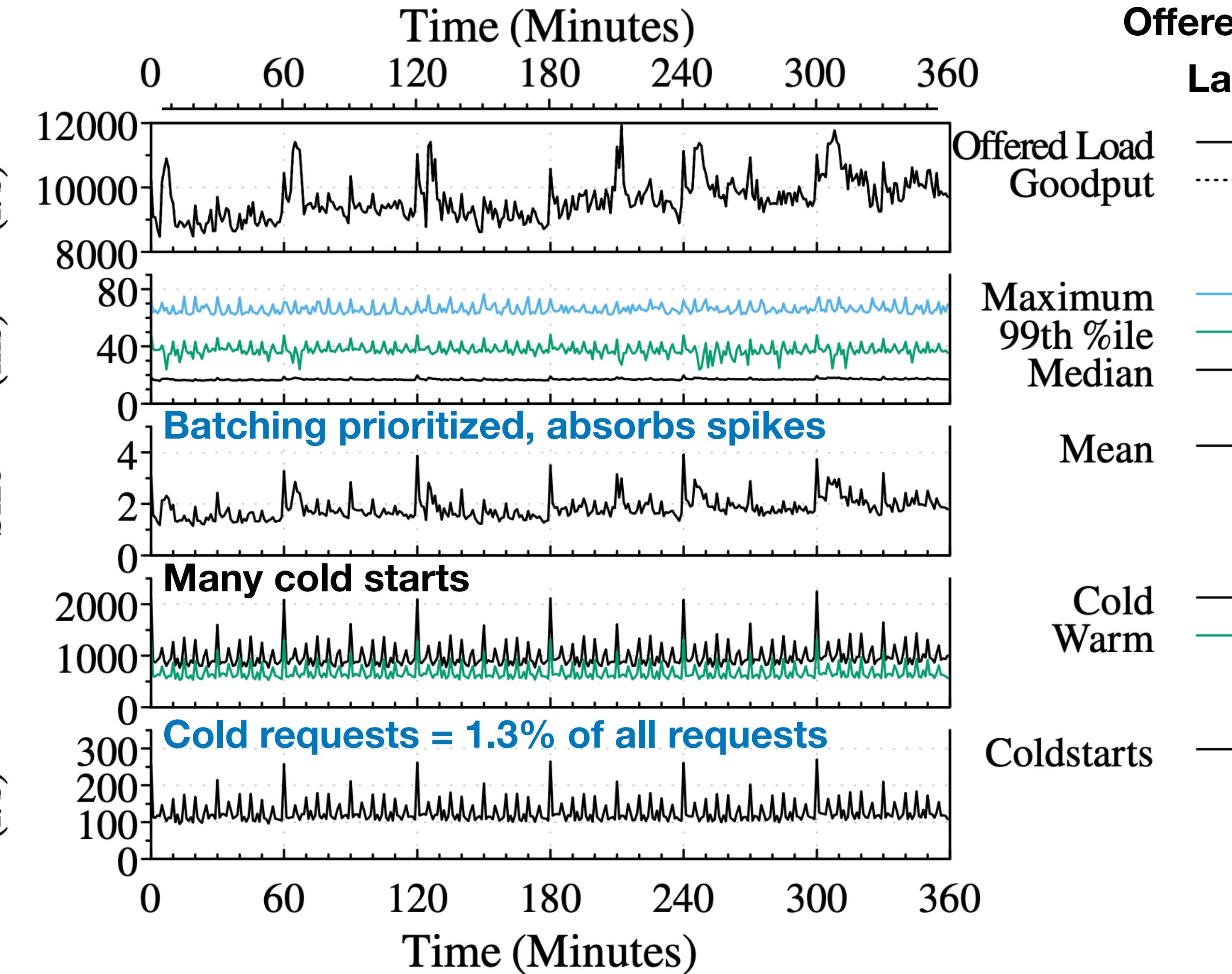
The workload is successfully scheduled by Clockwork

- Goodput \approx offered load
- Out of 208 million requests, only 58 failed due to mispredictions
- All others completed within SLO

Does Consolidating Choice Help?

Goodput =
SLO compliant
throughput

(a)



Latency of all
completed requests

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

Offered load ~10,000 r/s, periodic spikes ~12,000 r/s

Latency SLO = 100 ms deadline for each request

The workload is successfully scheduled by Clockwork

- Goodput \approx offered load
- Out of 208 million requests, only 58 failed due to mispredictions
- All others completed within SLO

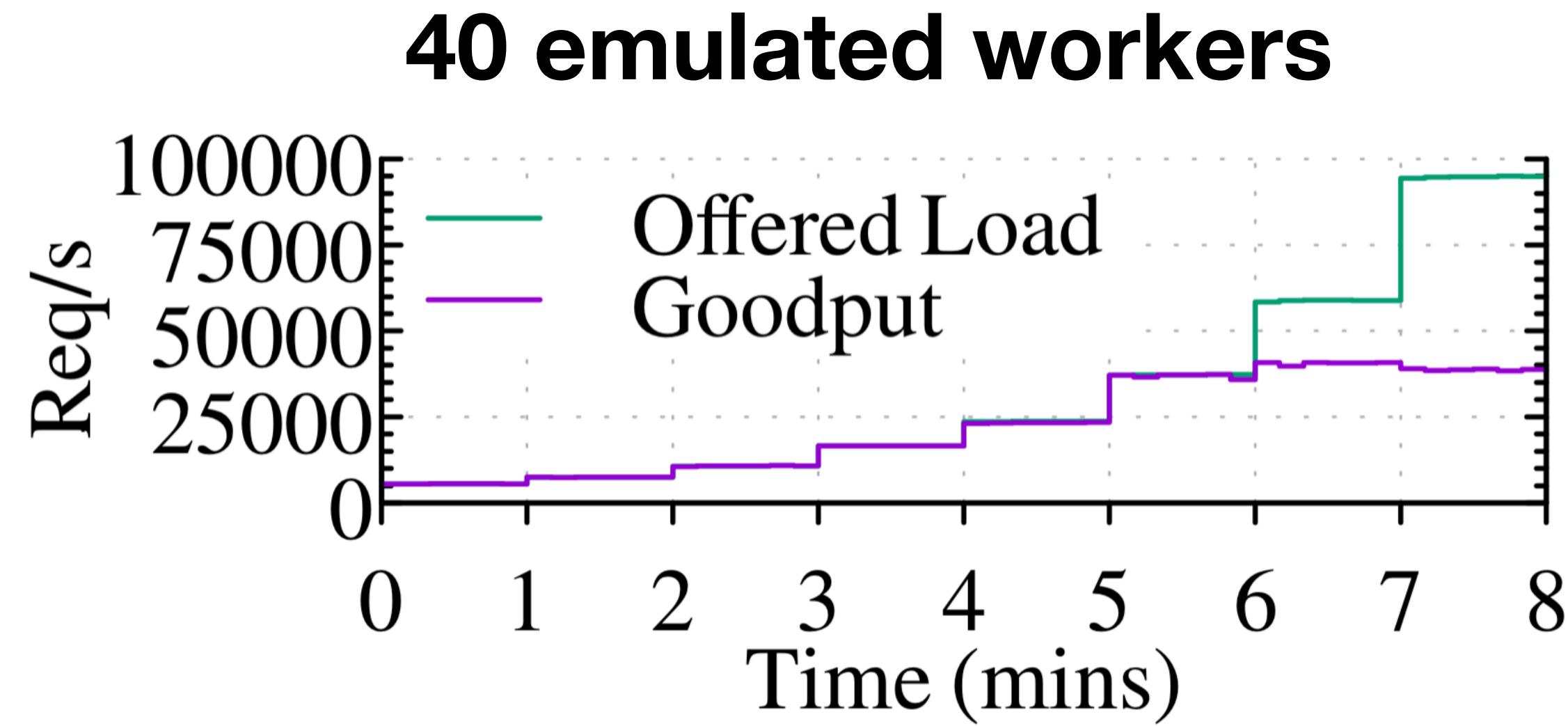
Does Clockwork Controller Scale?

Does Clockwork Controller Scale?

Methodology

- Replace GPU workers with emulated workers
- From the controller's vantage point, nothing changes
- Measure the peak goodput as we vary #workers

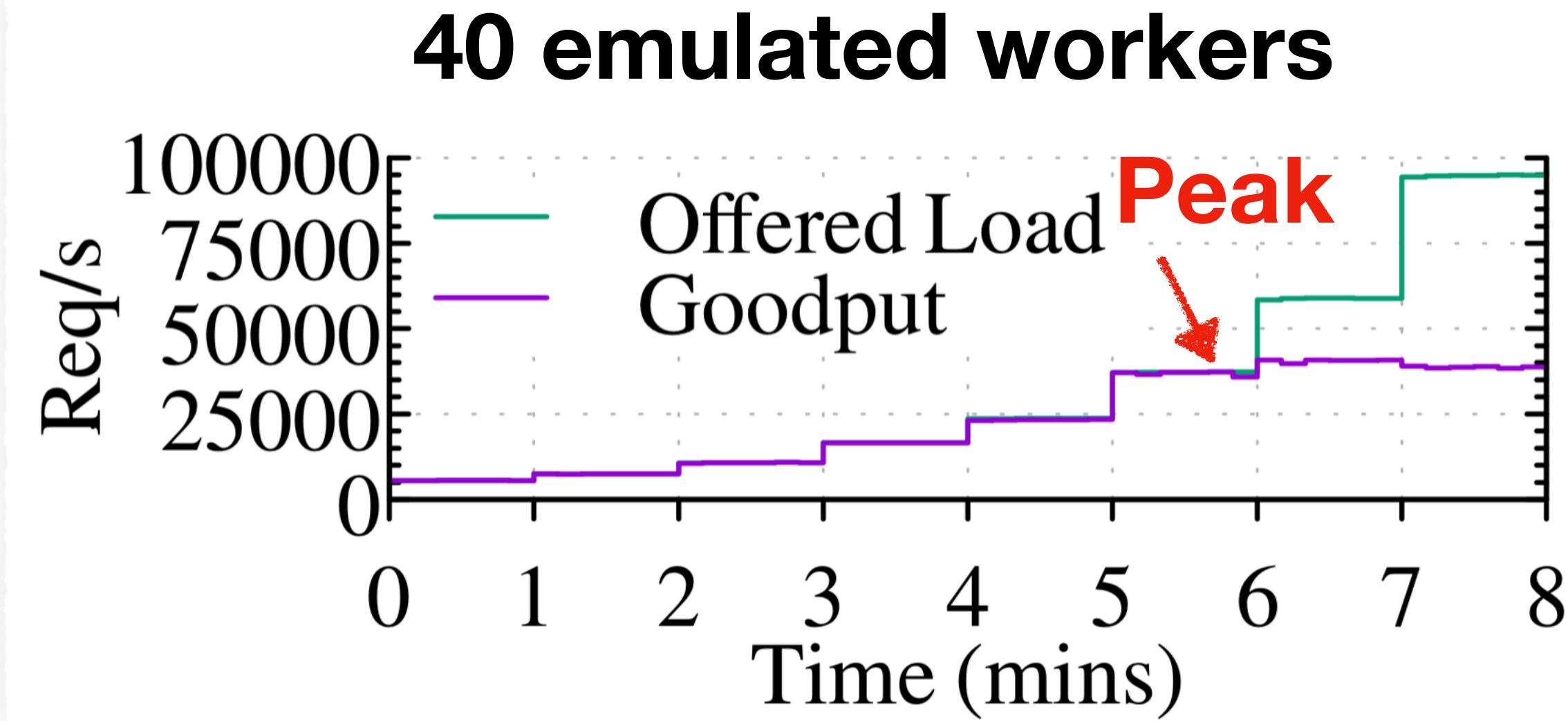
Does Clockwork Controller Scale?



Methodology

- Replace GPU workers with emulated workers
- From the controller's vantage point, nothing changes
- Measure the peak goodput as we vary #workers

Does Clockwork Controller Scale?



Methodology

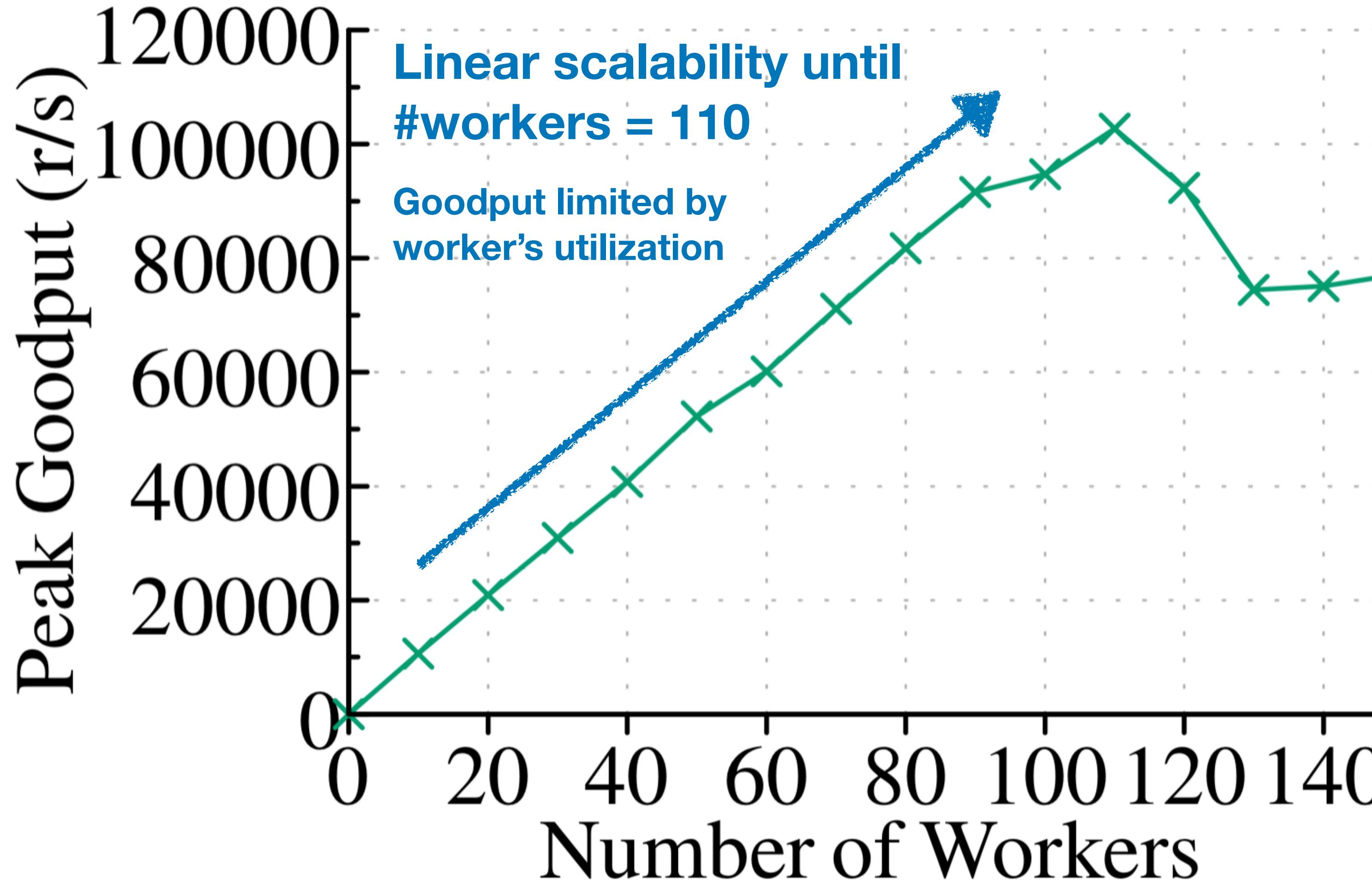
- Replace GPU workers with emulated workers
- From the controller's vantage point, nothing changes
- Measure the peak goodput as we vary #workers

Does Clockwork Controller Scale?

Methodology

- Replace GPU workers with emulated workers
- From the controller's vantage point, nothing changes
- Measure the peak goodput as we vary #workers

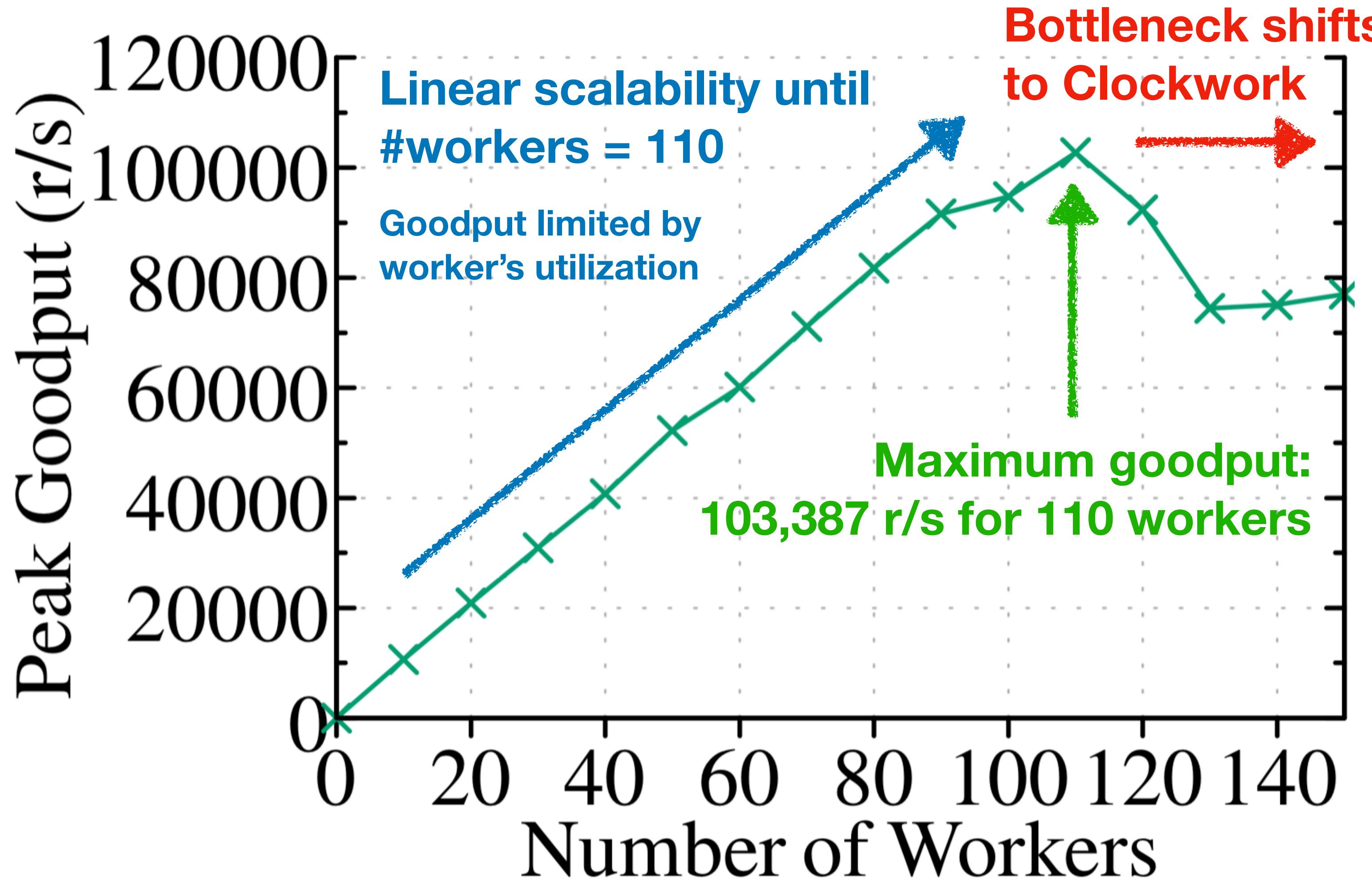
Does Clockwork Controller Scale?



Methodology

- Replace GPU workers with emulated workers
- From the controller's vantage point, nothing changes
- Measure the peak goodput as we vary #workers

Does Clockwork Controller Scale?



Methodology

- Replace GPU workers with emulated workers
- From the controller's vantage point, nothing changes
- Measure the peak goodput as we vary #workers

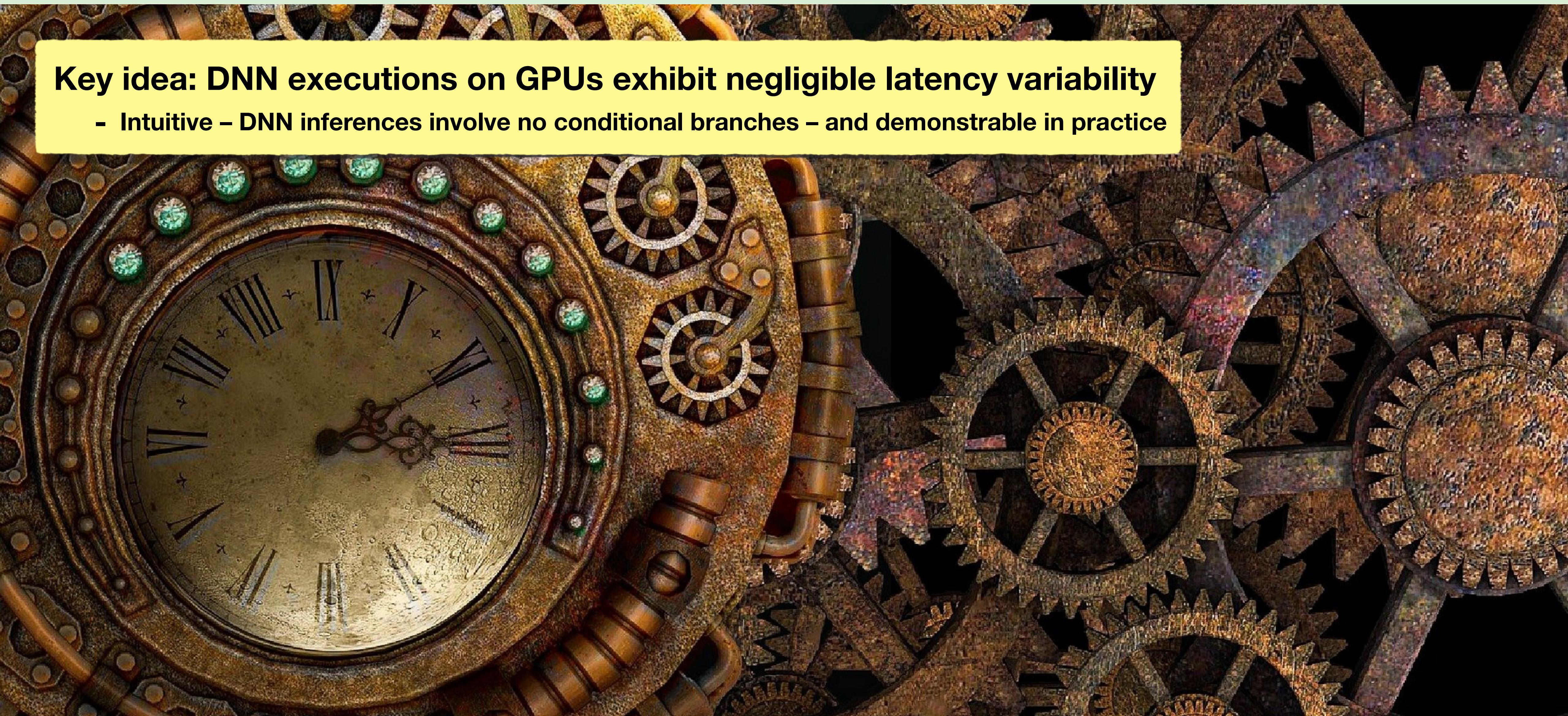
Summary



Summary

Key idea: DNN executions on GPUs exhibit negligible latency variability

- Intuitive – DNN inferences involve no conditional branches – and demonstrable in practice



Summary

Key idea: DNN executions on GPUs exhibit negligible latency variability

- Intuitive – DNN inferences involve no conditional branches – and demonstrable in practice

Clockwork: From DNN predictability to an E2E predictable DNN serving platform

- Recursively ensures that all internal architecture components have predictable performance
- Concentrating all choices in a centralized controller

Summary

Key idea: DNN executions on GPUs exhibit negligible latency variability

- Intuitive – DNN inferences involve no conditional branches – and demonstrable in practice

Clockwork: From DNN predictability to an E2E predictable DNN serving platform

- Recursively ensures that all internal architecture components have predictable performance
- Concentrating all choices in a centralized controller

Outperforms state-of-the-art DNN serving platforms

- Efficiently fulfills aggressive tail-latency SLOs
- Supports 1000s of DNN models with varying workload characteristics concurrently on each GPU

Summary

Key idea: DNN executions on GPUs exhibit negligible latency variability

- Intuitive – DNN inferences involve no conditional branches – and demonstrable in practice

Clockwork: From DNN predictability to an E2E predictable DNN serving platform

- Recursively ensures that all internal architecture components have predictable performance
- Concentrating all choices in a centralized controller

Outperforms state-of-the-art DNN serving platforms

- Efficiently fulfills aggressive tail-latency SLOs
- Supports 1000s of DNN models with varying workload characteristics concurrently on each GPU

<https://gitlab.mpi-sws.org/cld/ml/clockwork>

ARTIFACT
EVALUATED



AVAILABLE

ARTIFACT
EVALUATED



FUNCTIONAL

ARTIFACT
EVALUATED



REPRODUCED