

Weighted voting for optimising Streamlined Blockchain Consensus Algorithms

Diana Micloiu – supervised by Dr. Jérémie Decouchant and Rowdy Chotkan

1. Introduction

Consensus denotes the collective agreement of network participants, a mechanism needed to ensure proper functionality of distributed systems.

Byzantine Fault Tolerant (BFT) represents a family of protocols which enable systems to tolerate arbitrary node failures; in particular, protocols require $3f+1$ nodes to withstand f failures.

Streamlined algorithms – use leader rotation in each round to shift the communication burden from the leader.

Weighted voting – in the consensus mechanism, the voting power of a node depends on a weight metric.

3. Scientific Gap

The impact of **weighted voting** has been applied so far only on first generation consensus algorithms, in **AWARE** [1].

The research aims to address the benefits of **weighted voting on streamlined algorithms** such as **Hotstuff** [4].

The research also looks into the possibility of using a **generalised weighting scheme in AWARE** (rather than the binary one) for **optimising the recovery performance of the system**.

4. Methodology

Weighted voting on streamlined algorithms:

- Design an algorithm that would emulate **Hotstuff** behaviour, combined with the binary weighted voting mechanism presented in **WHEAT**.
- Develop a **latency prediction method** for a given distributed scenario.
- Use **Exhaustive Search** or **Simulated Annealing** for finding out the best weight distribution that would minimise latency given a network setting.

Generalised Weighting Scheme for AWARE:

- Design a **Simulated Annealing** approach for finding a weighting scheme that performs at least as well as the AWARE binary one.
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2. Background

AWARE (Adaptive Wide-Area REplication) [1]:

- Deterministic, self-monitoring and self-optimising algorithm for optimising the latency of the blockchain.
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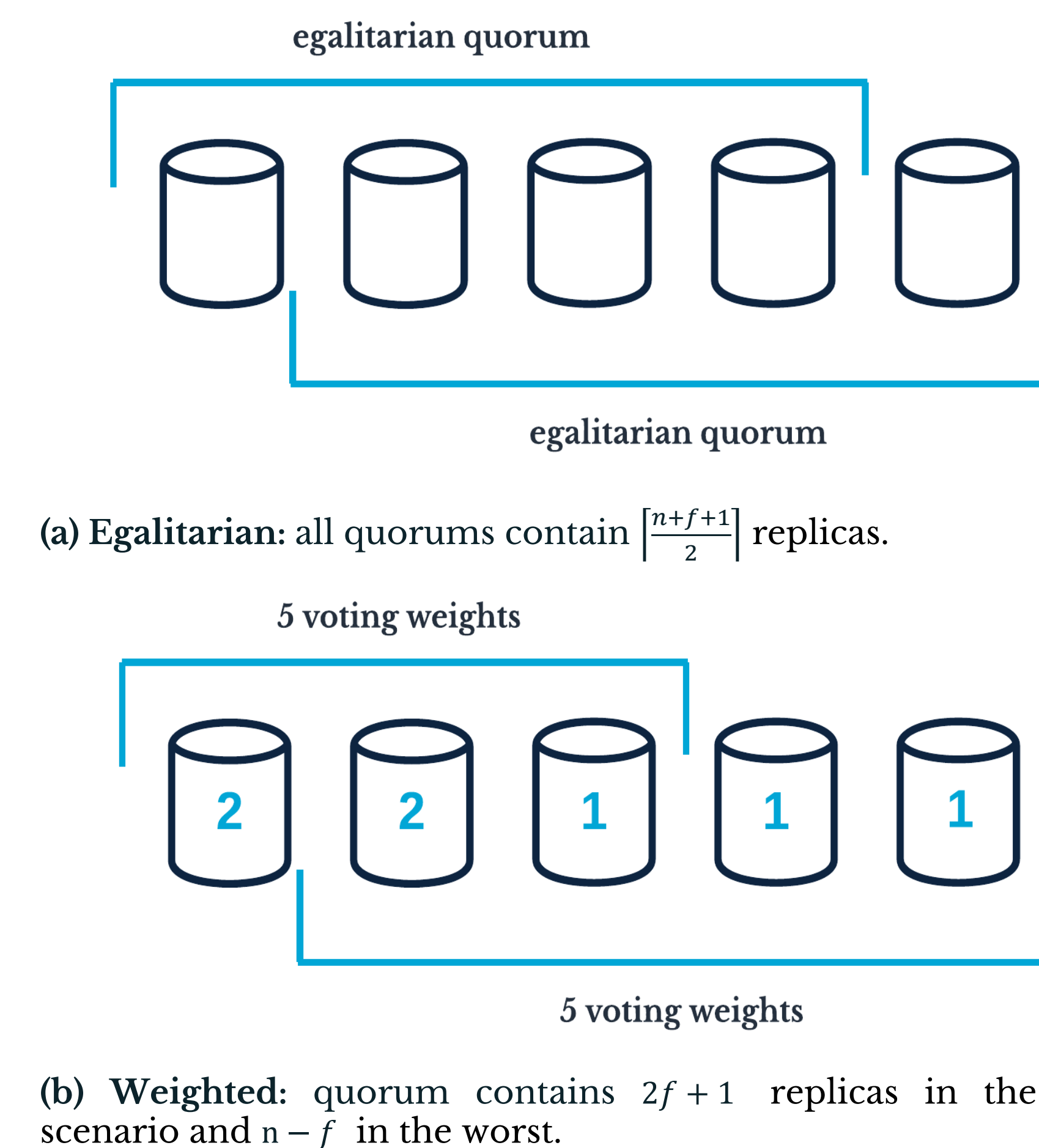


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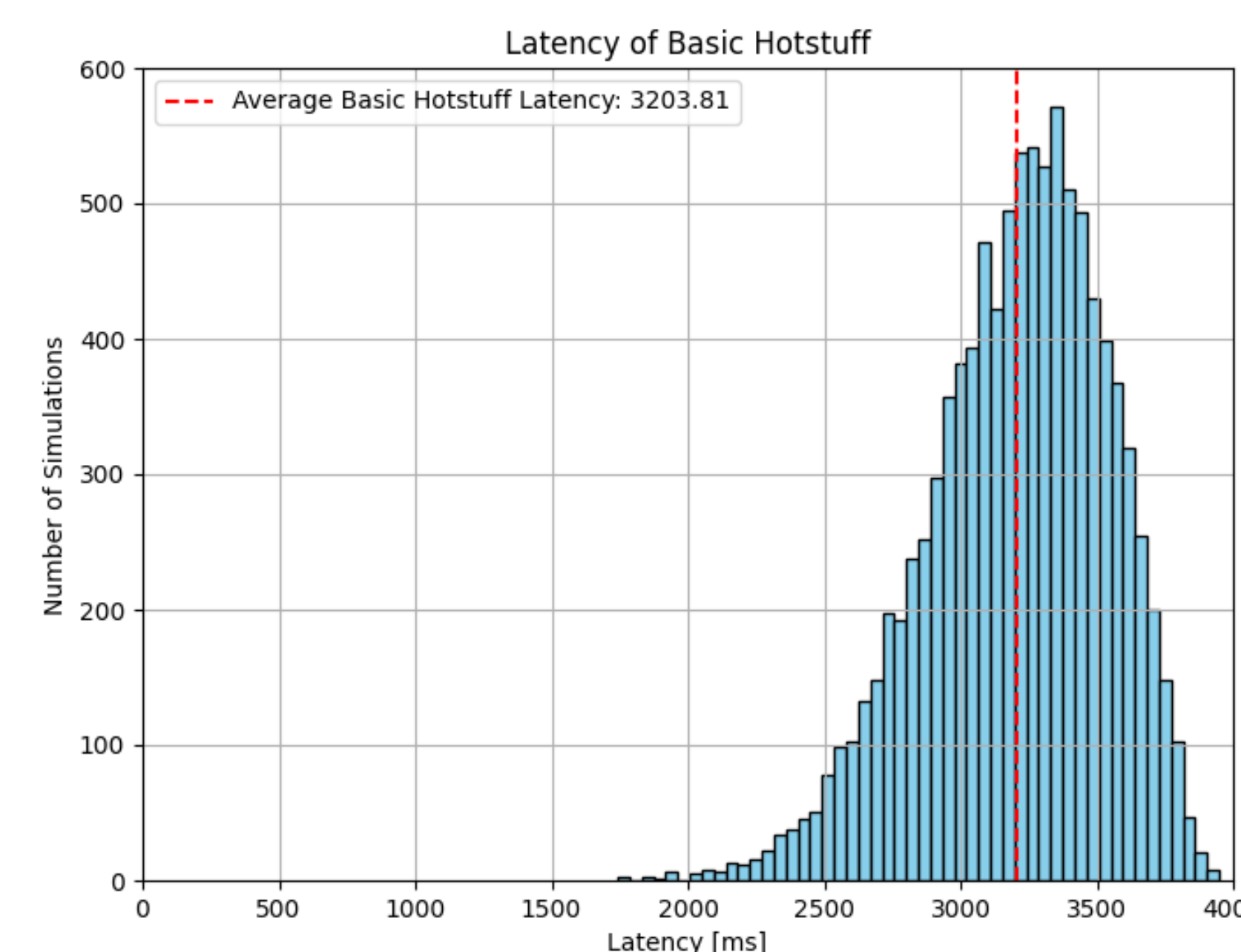


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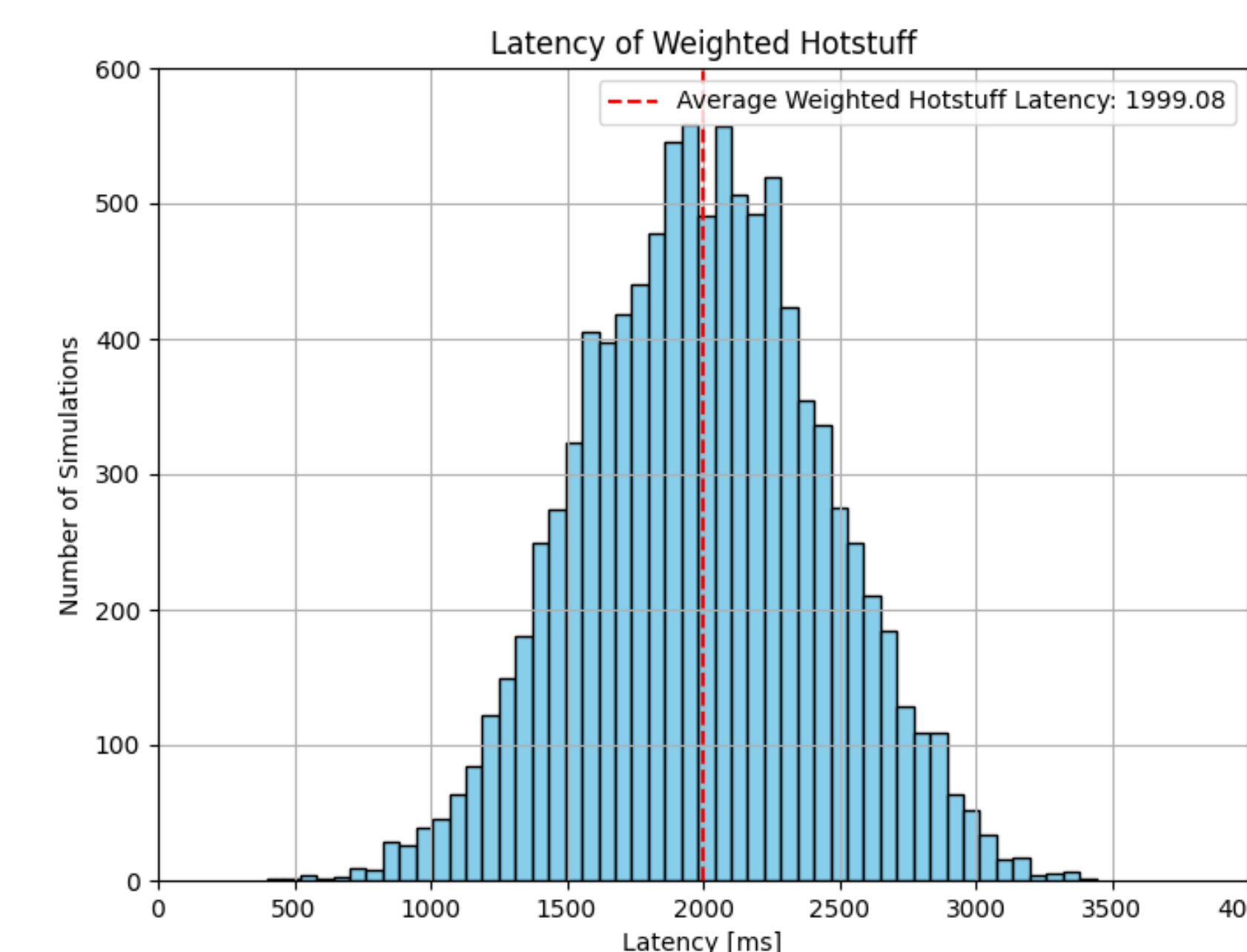


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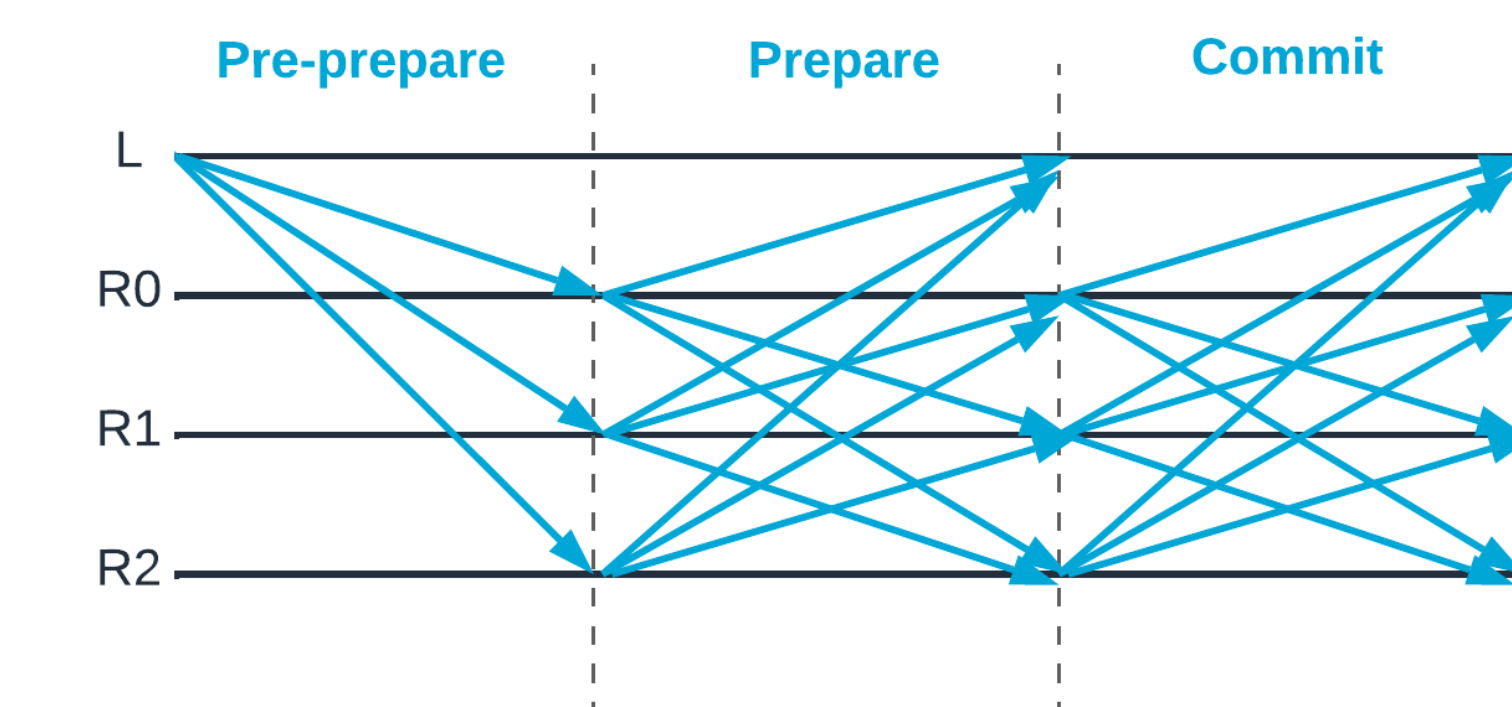


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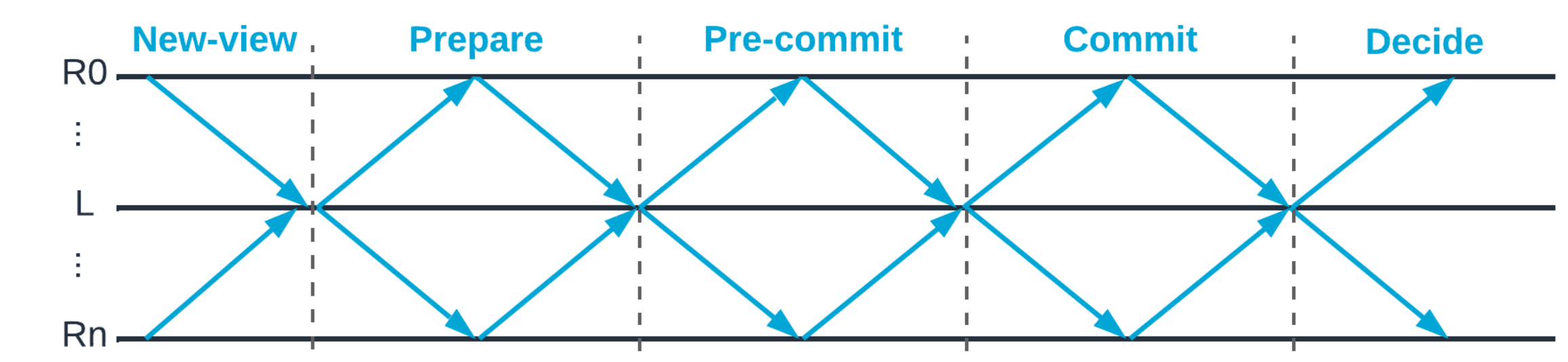


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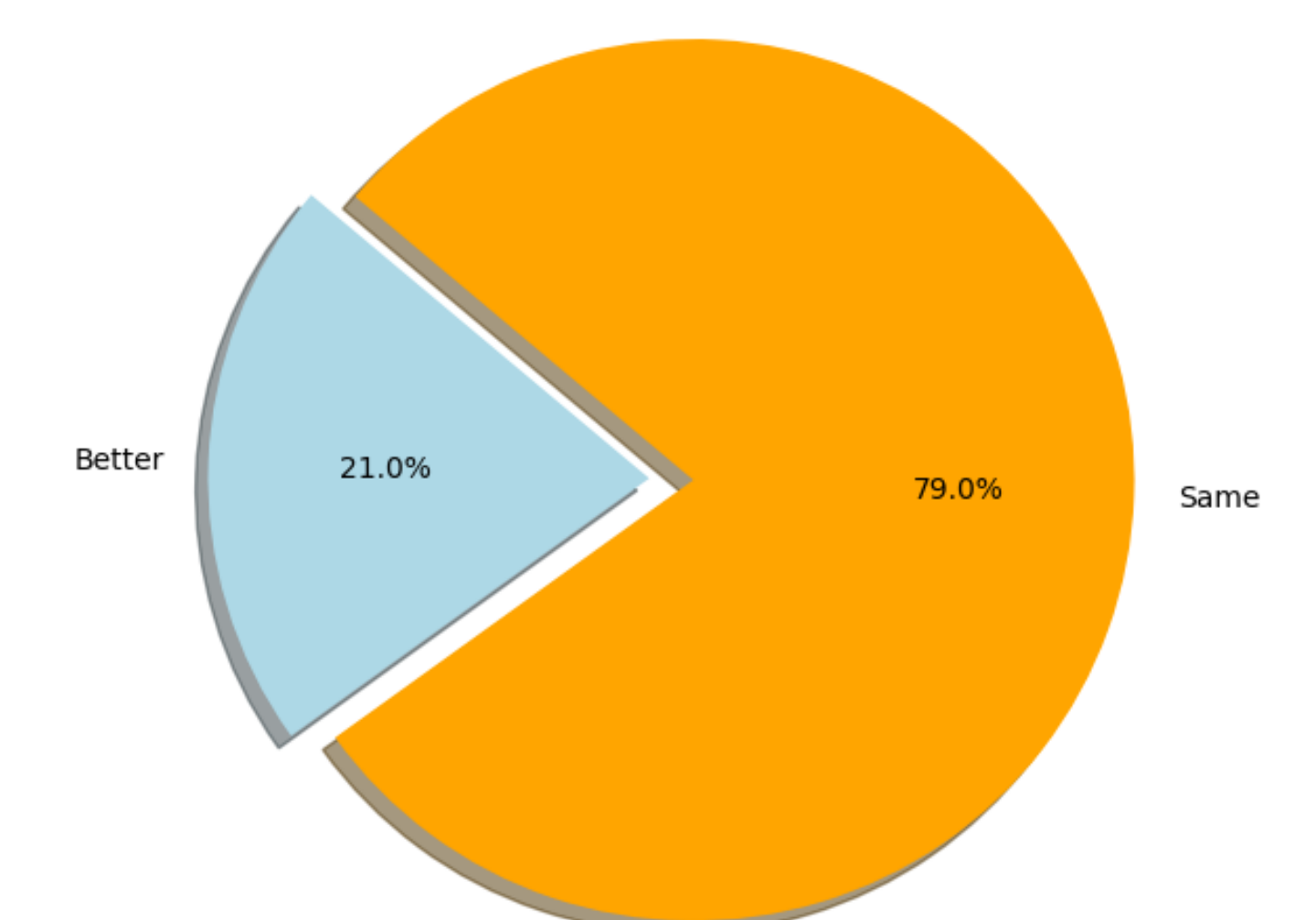


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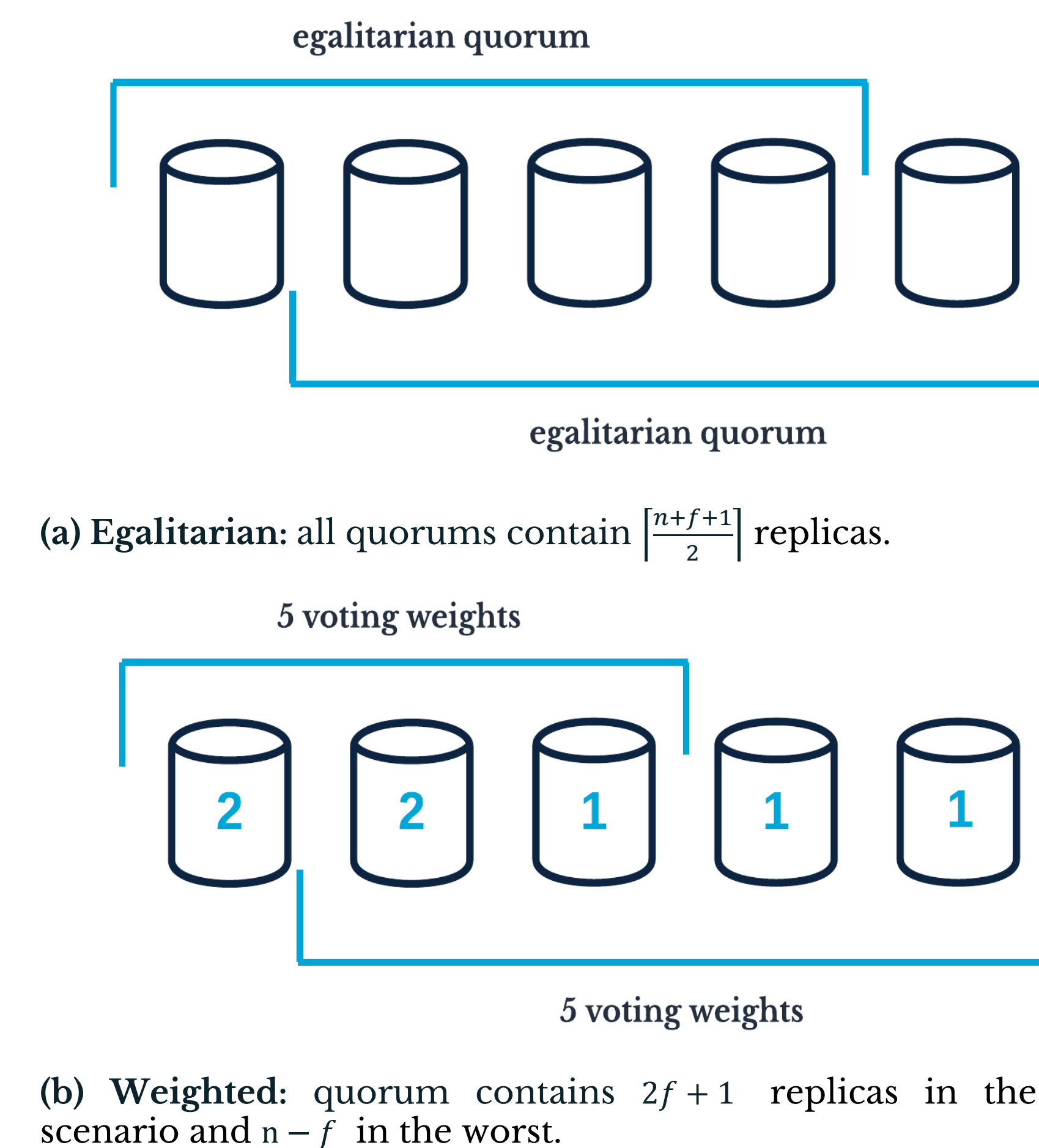


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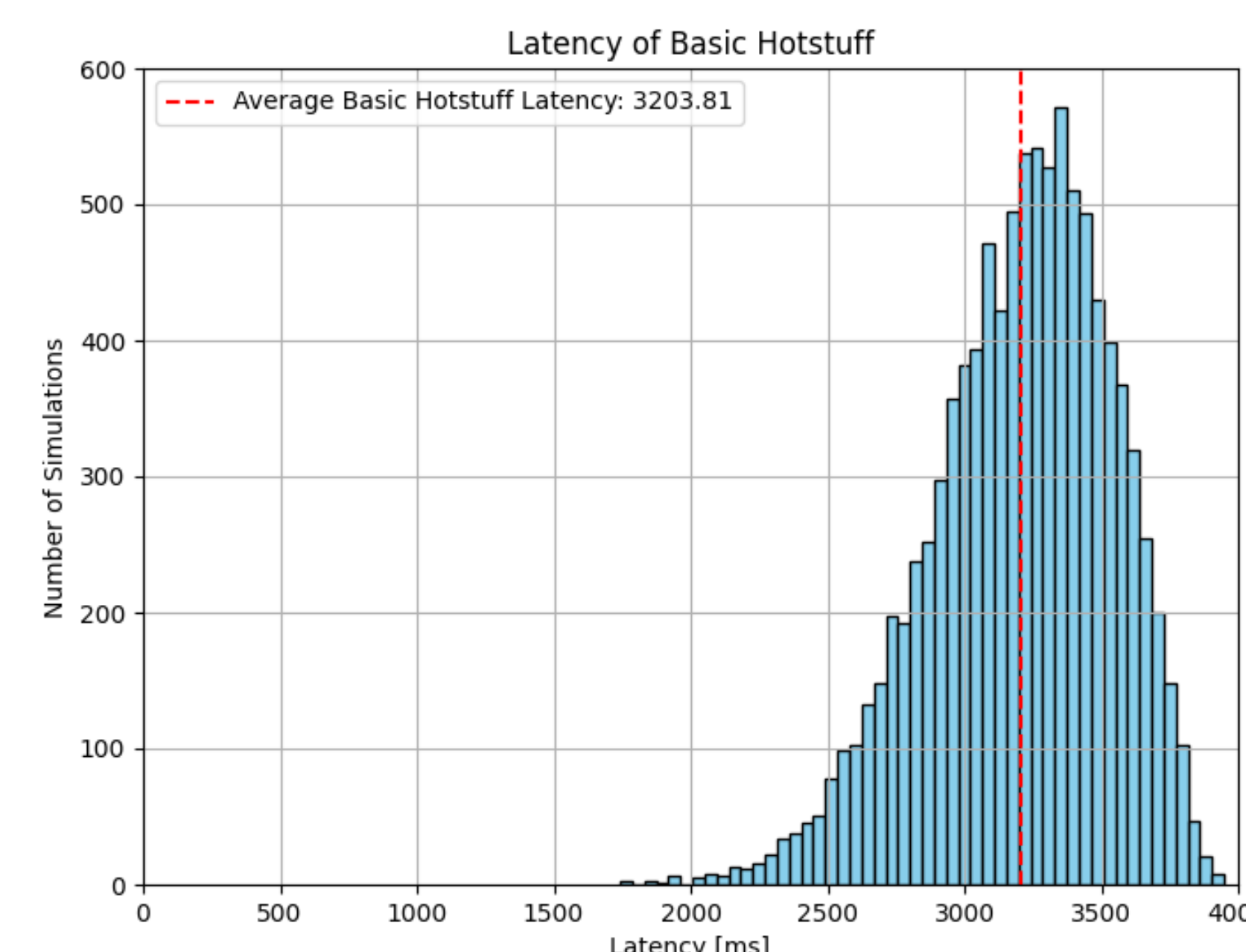


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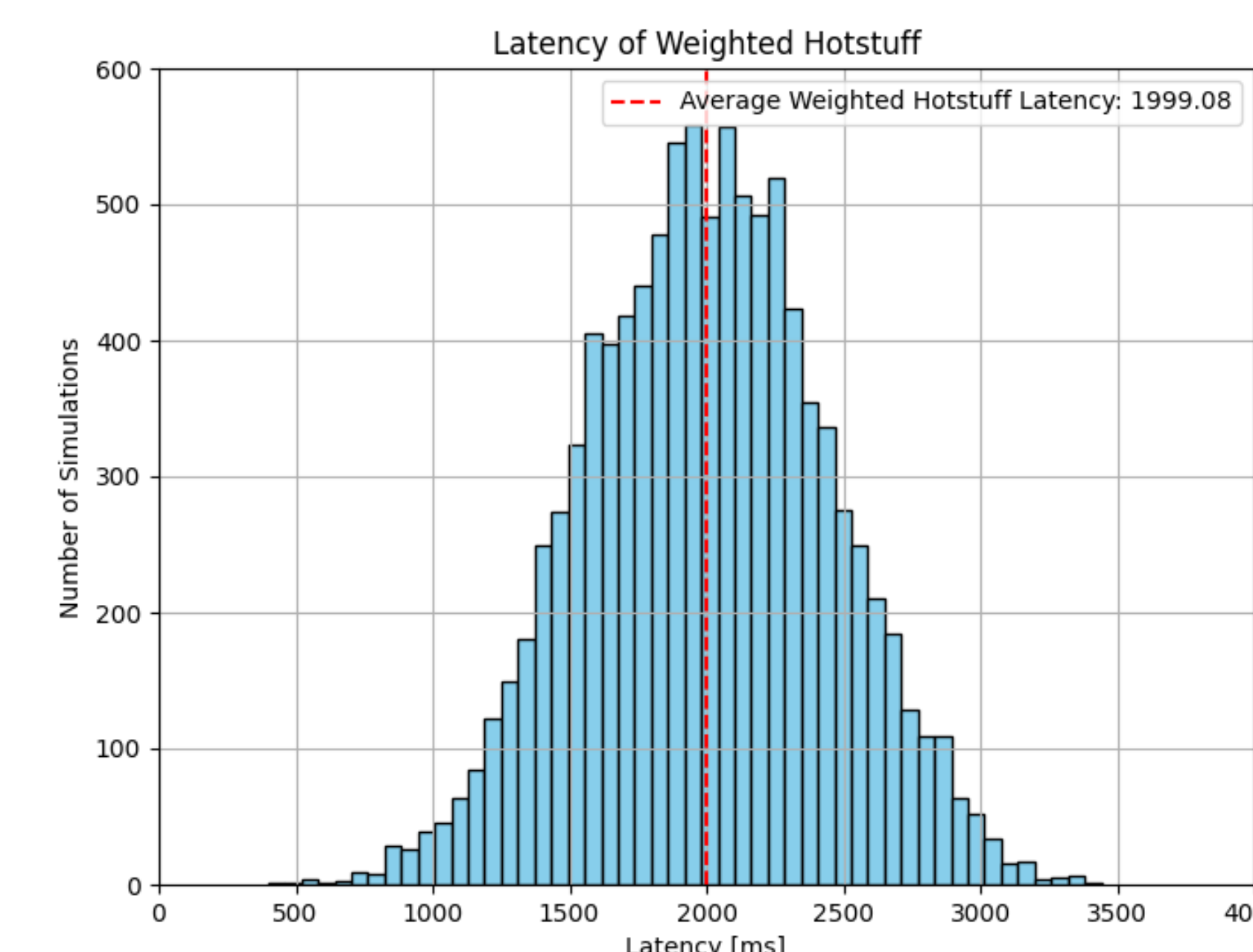


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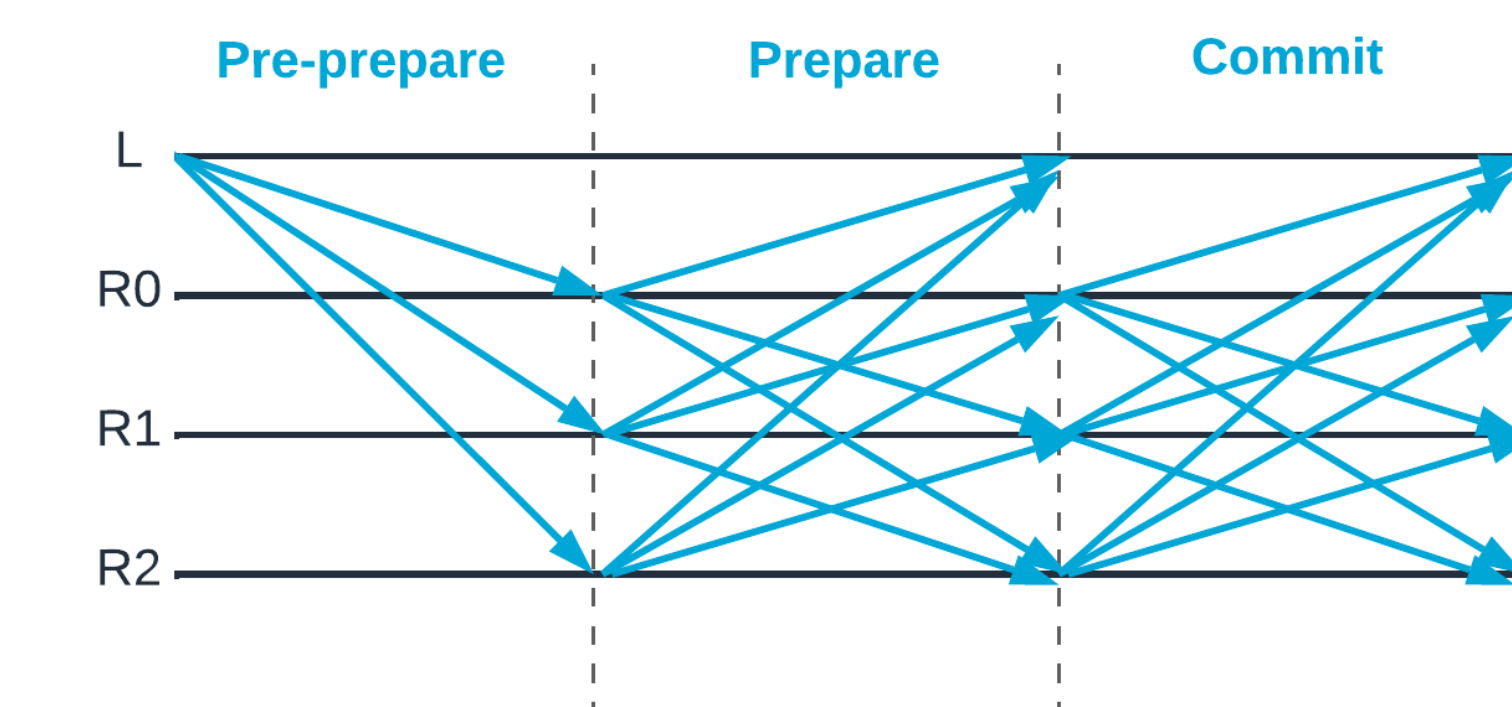


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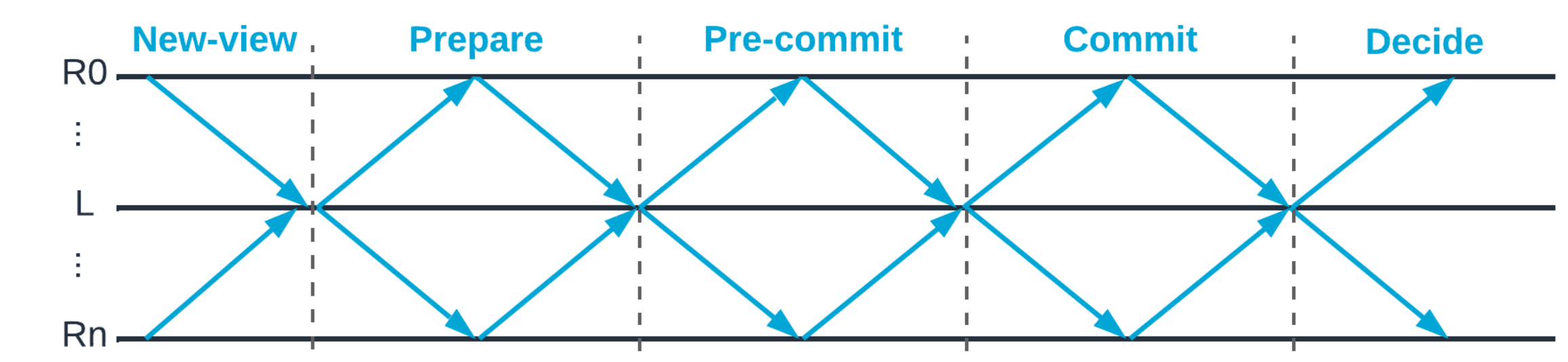


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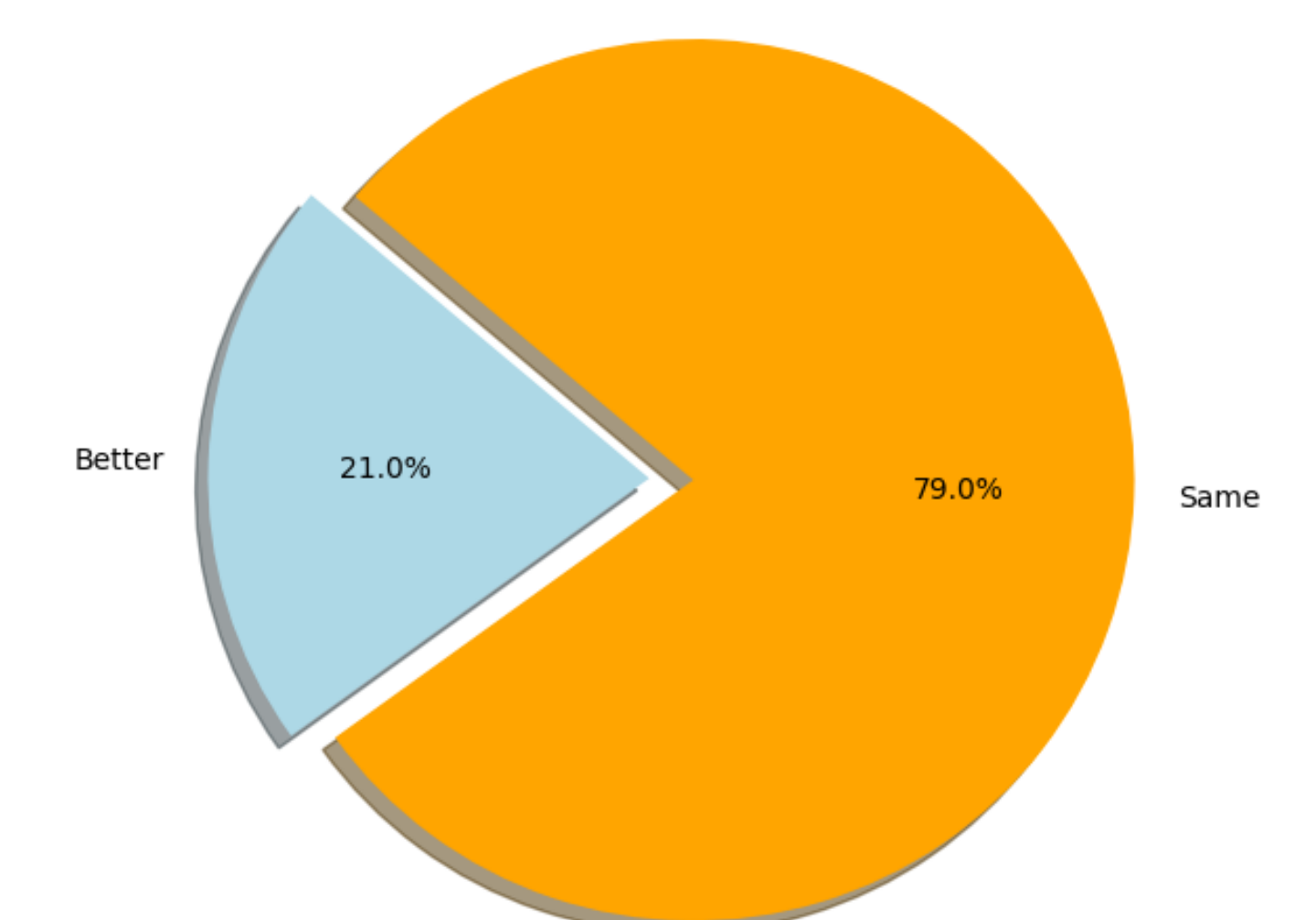
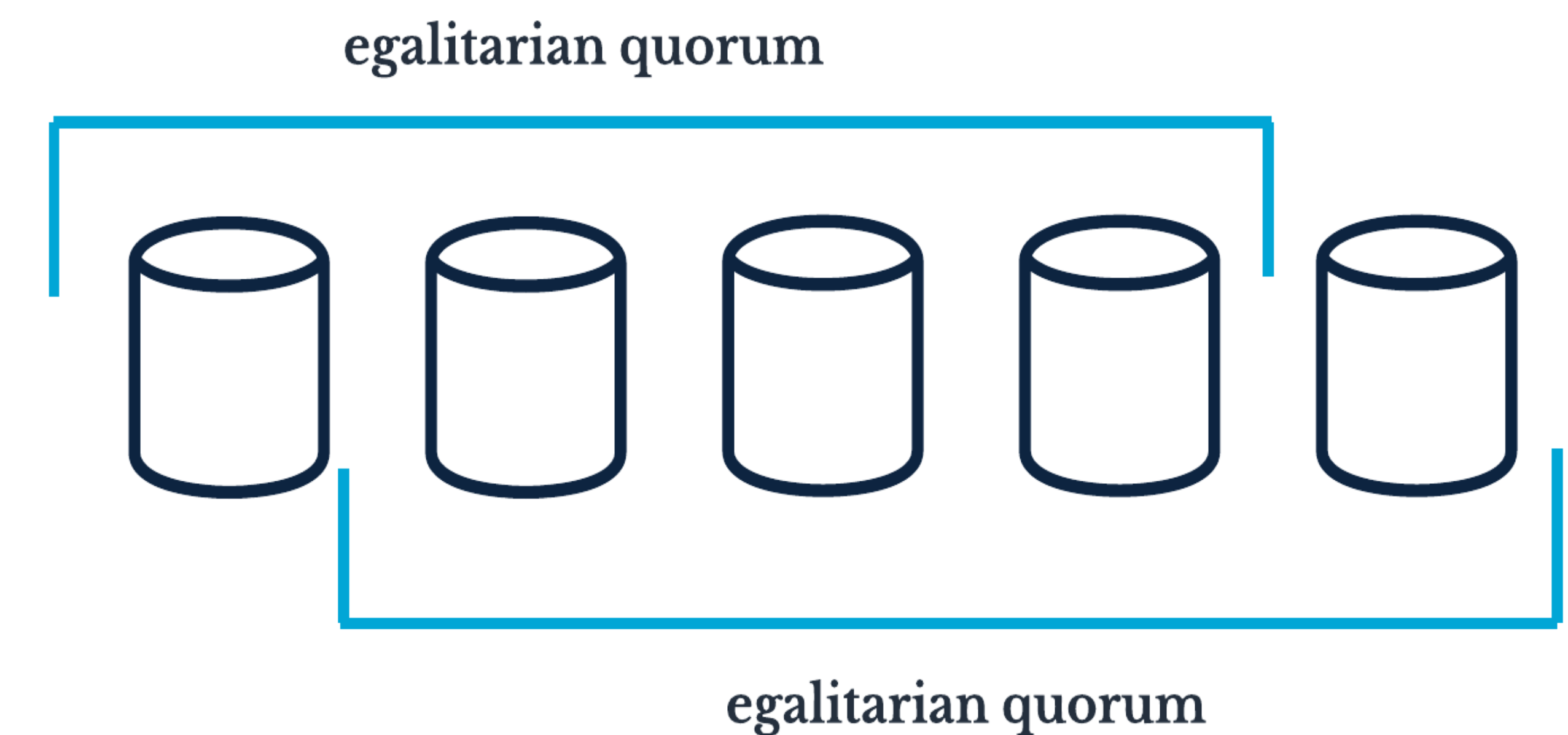


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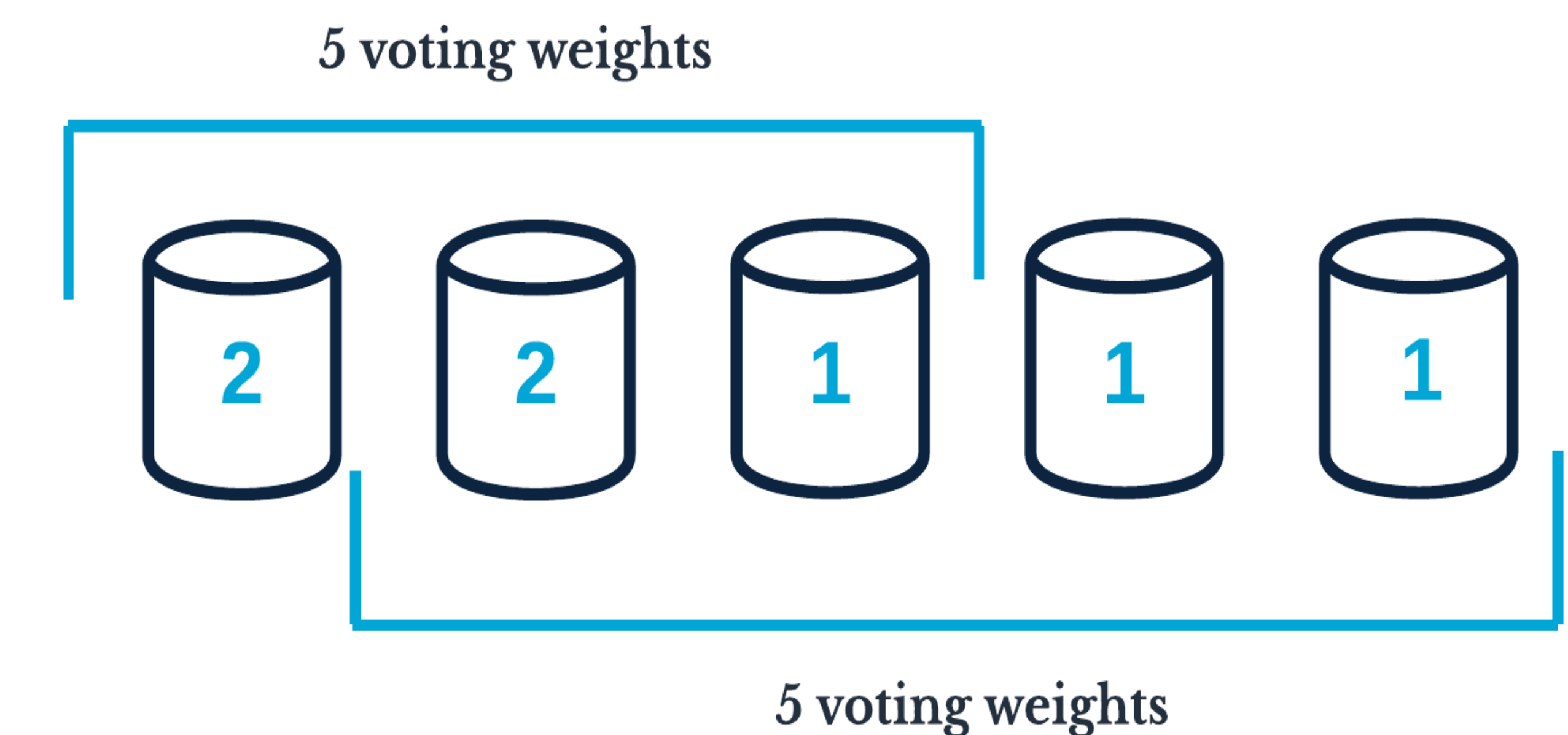
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(a) Egalitarian: all quorums contain $\left\lceil \frac{n+f+1}{2} \right\rceil$ replicas.



(b) Weighted: quorum contains $2f + 1$ replicas in the best-case scenario and $n - f$ in the worst.

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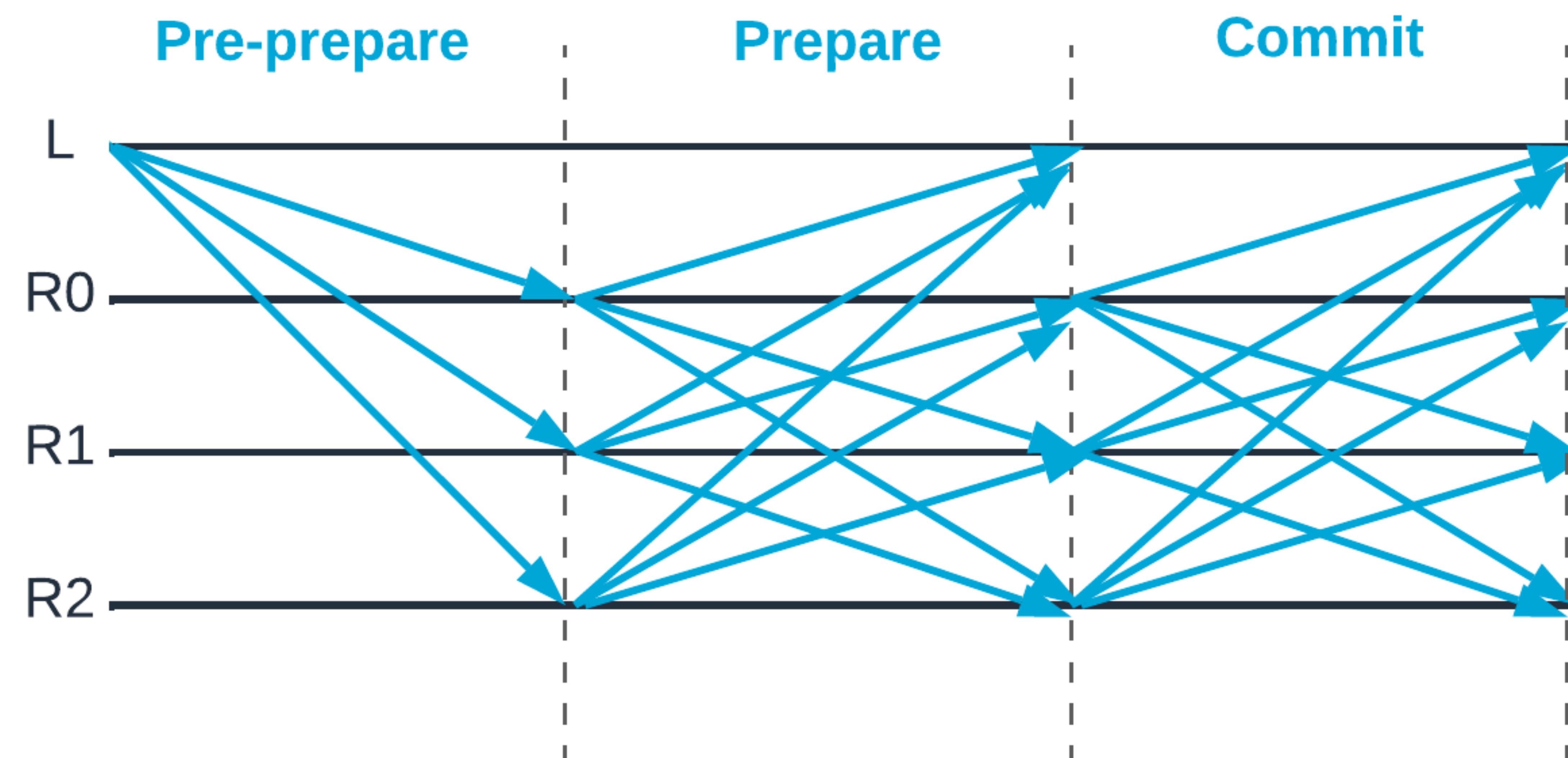


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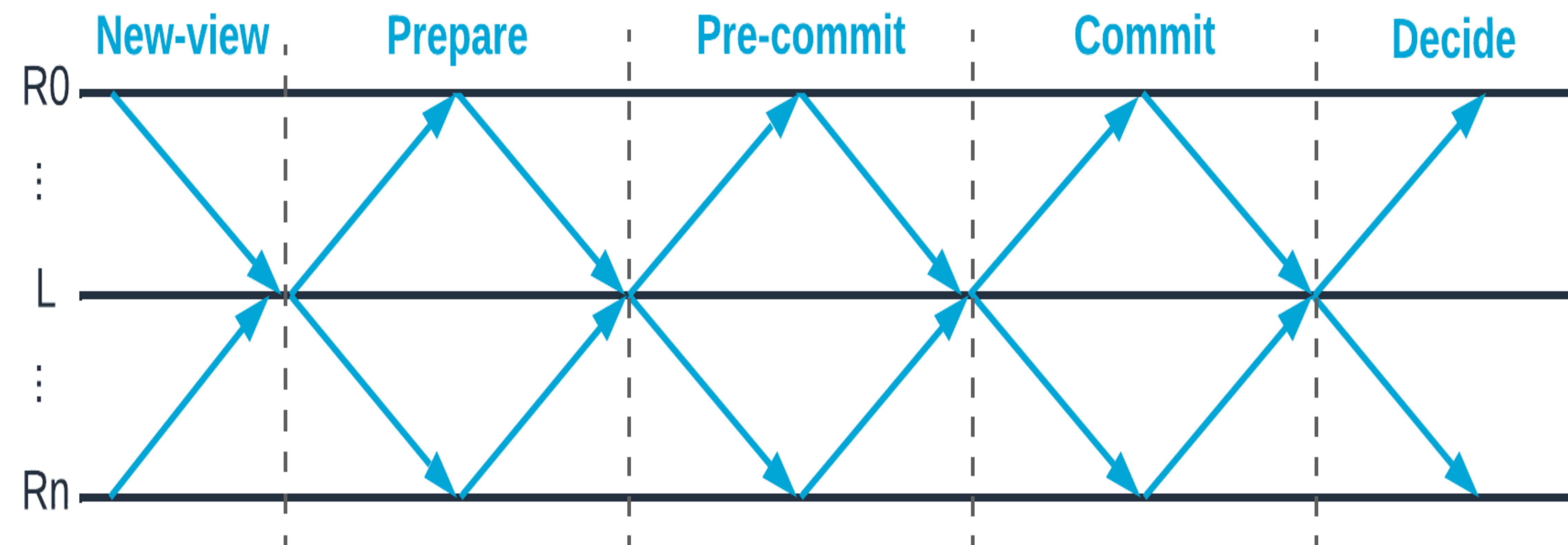


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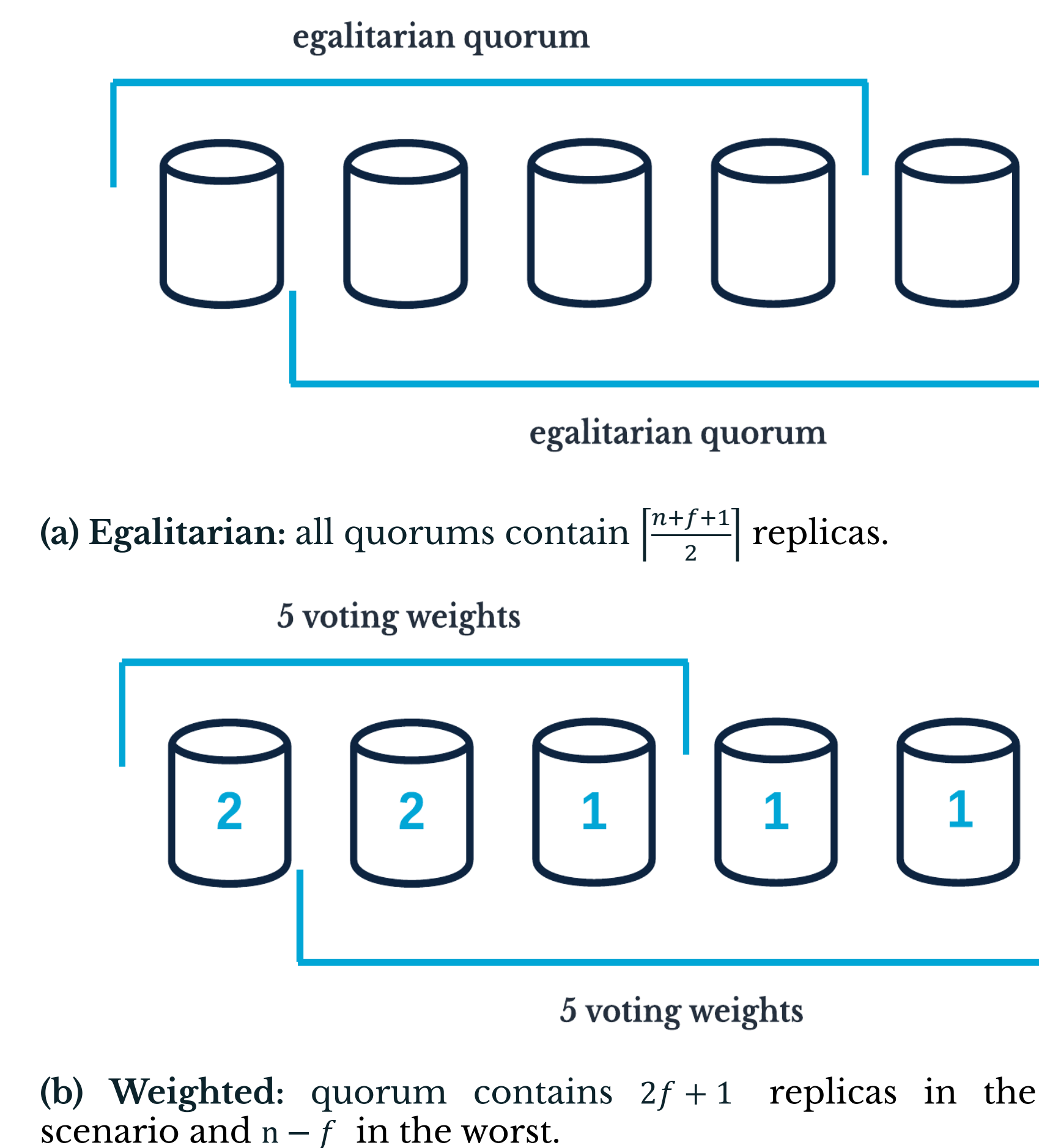


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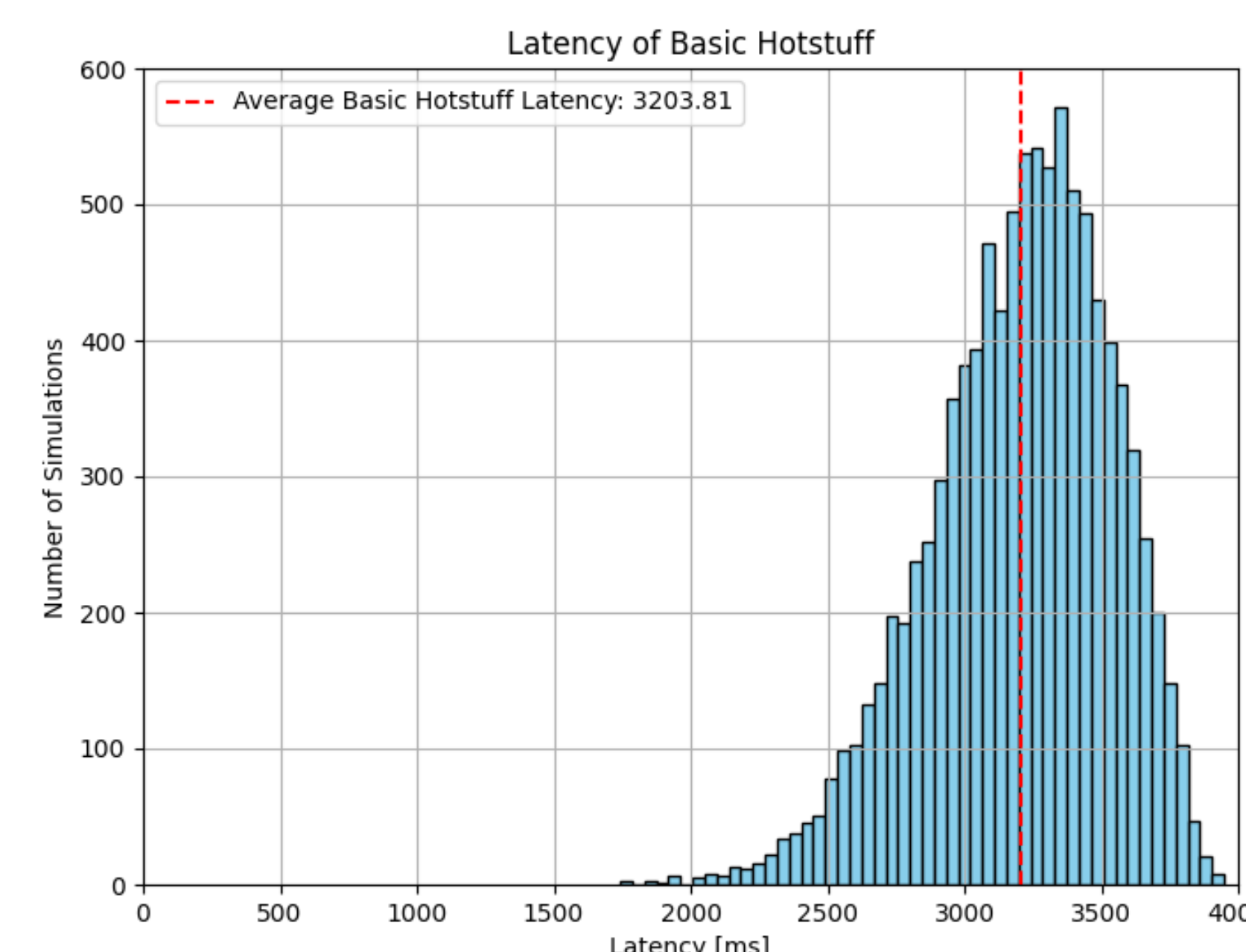


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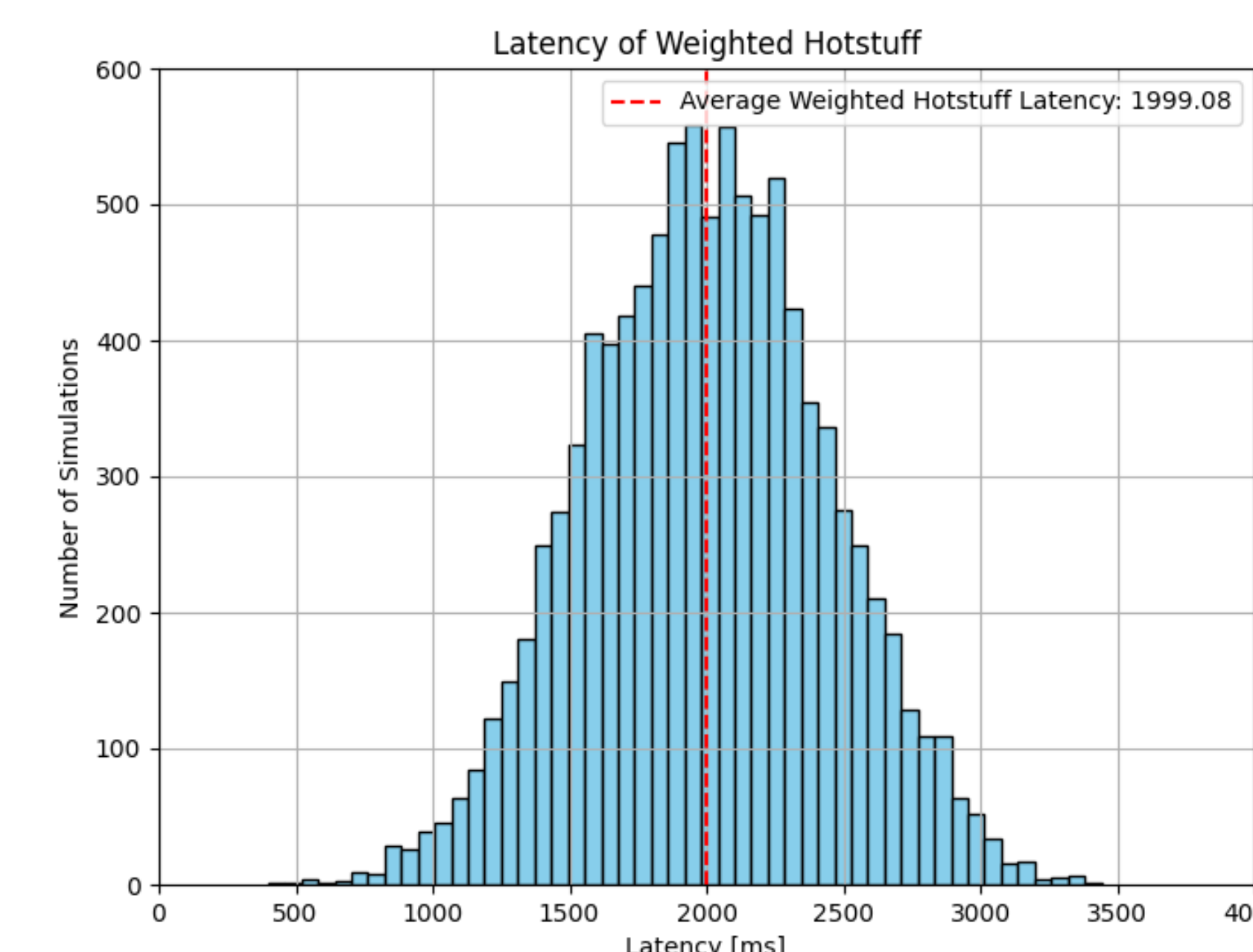


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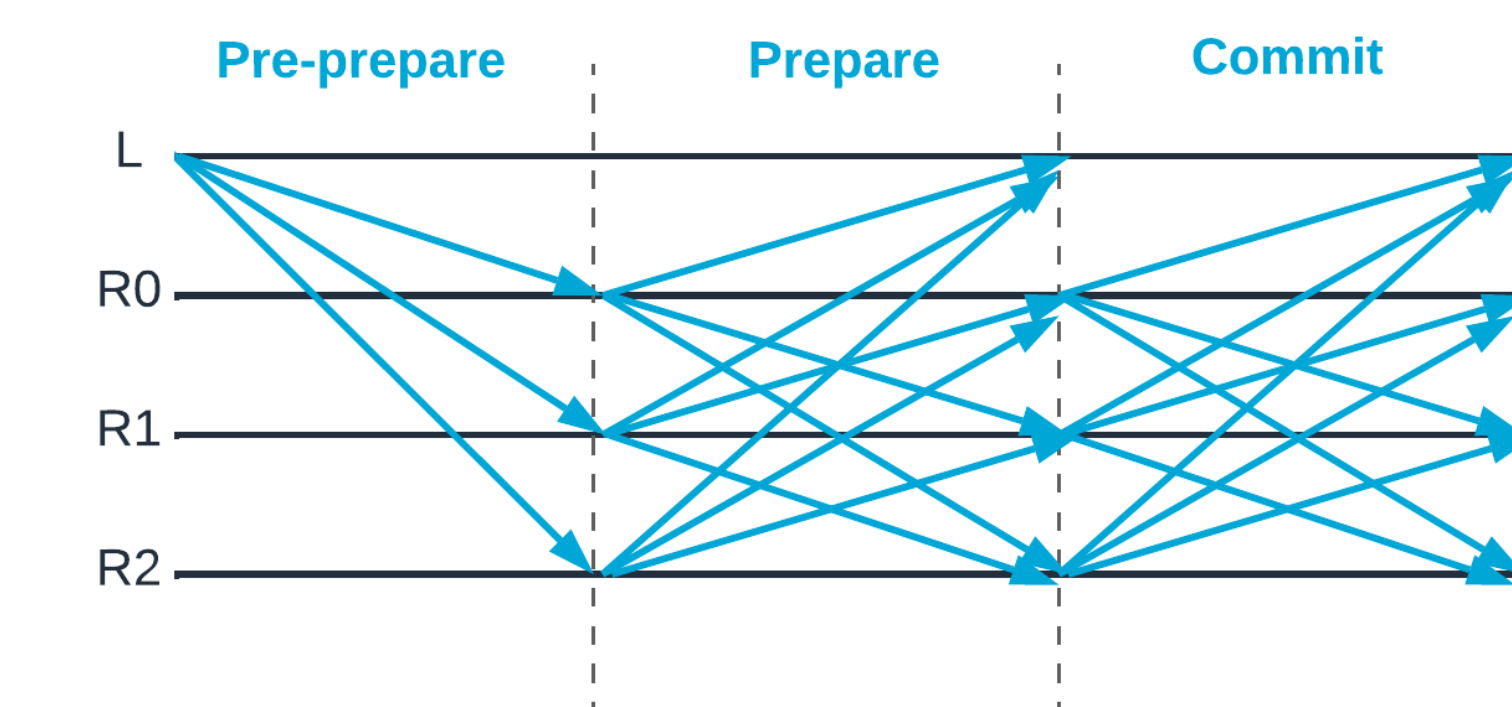


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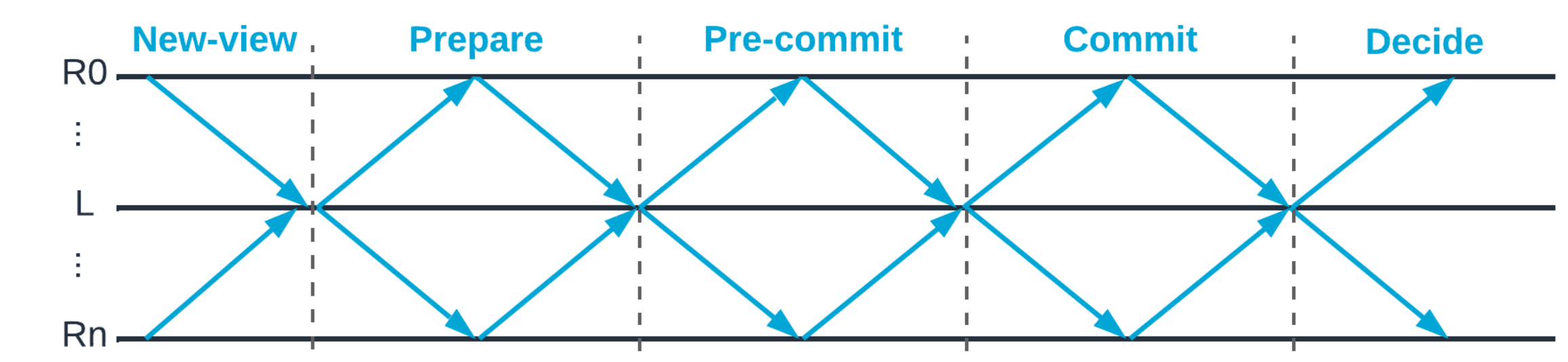


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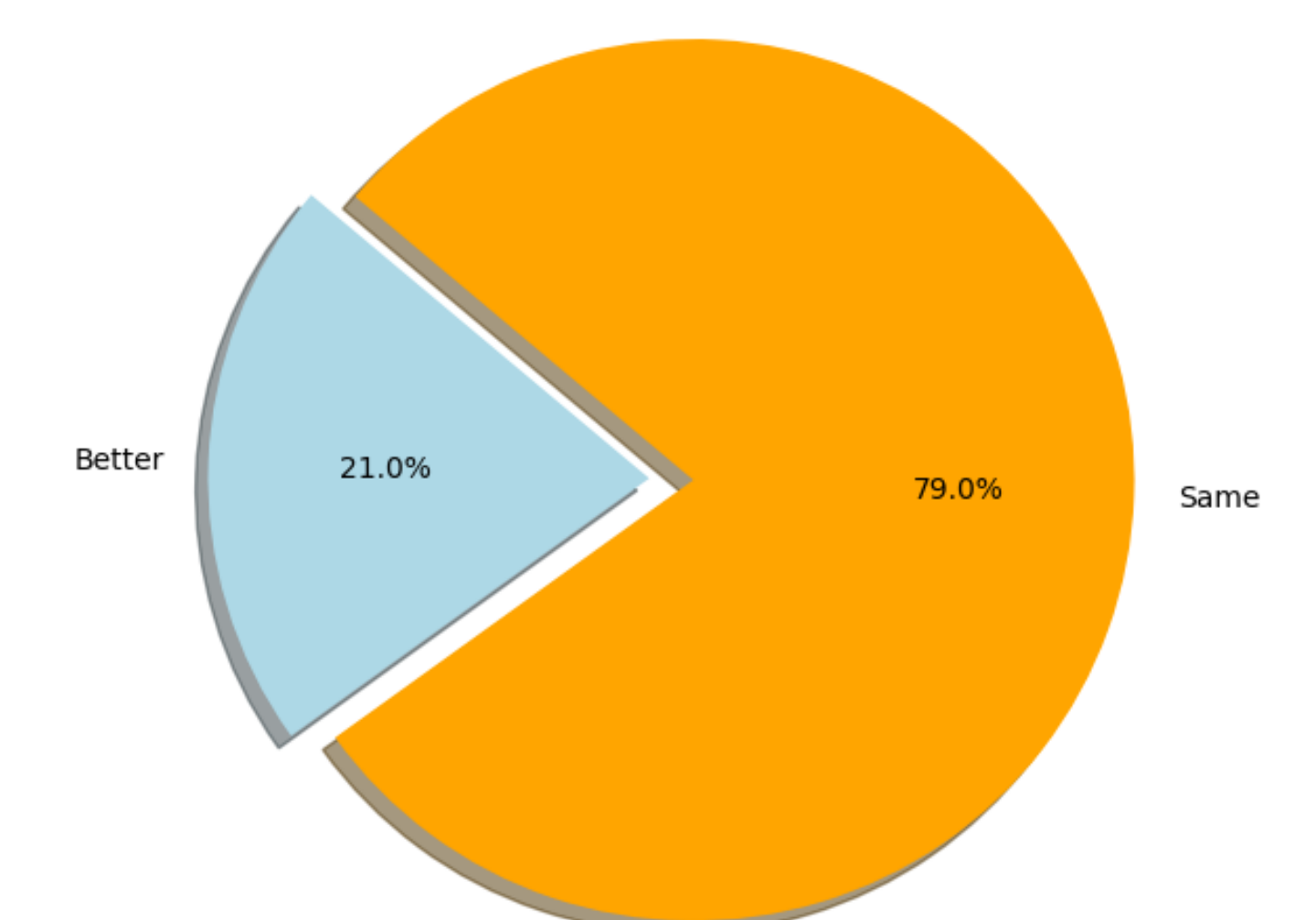


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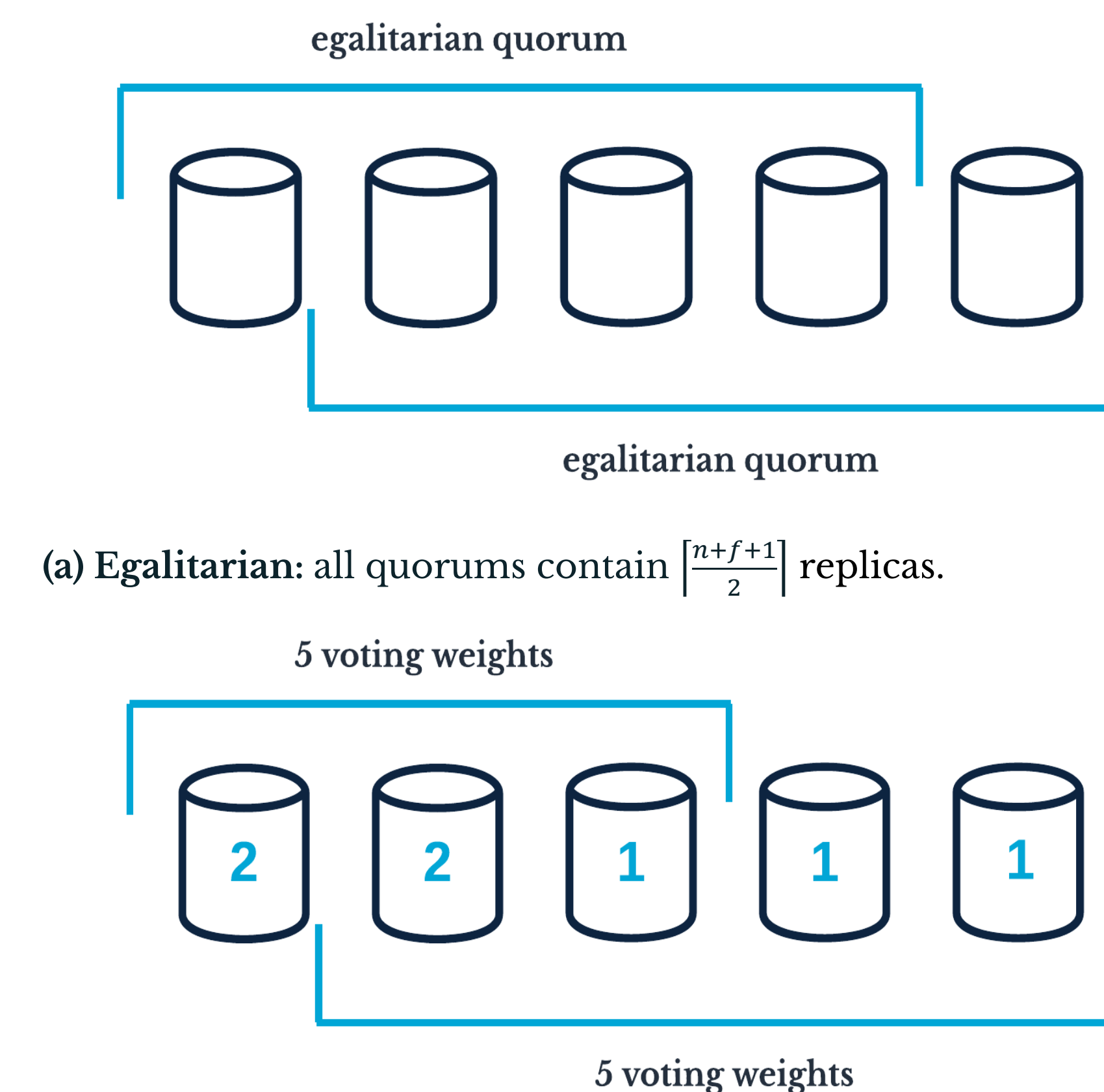


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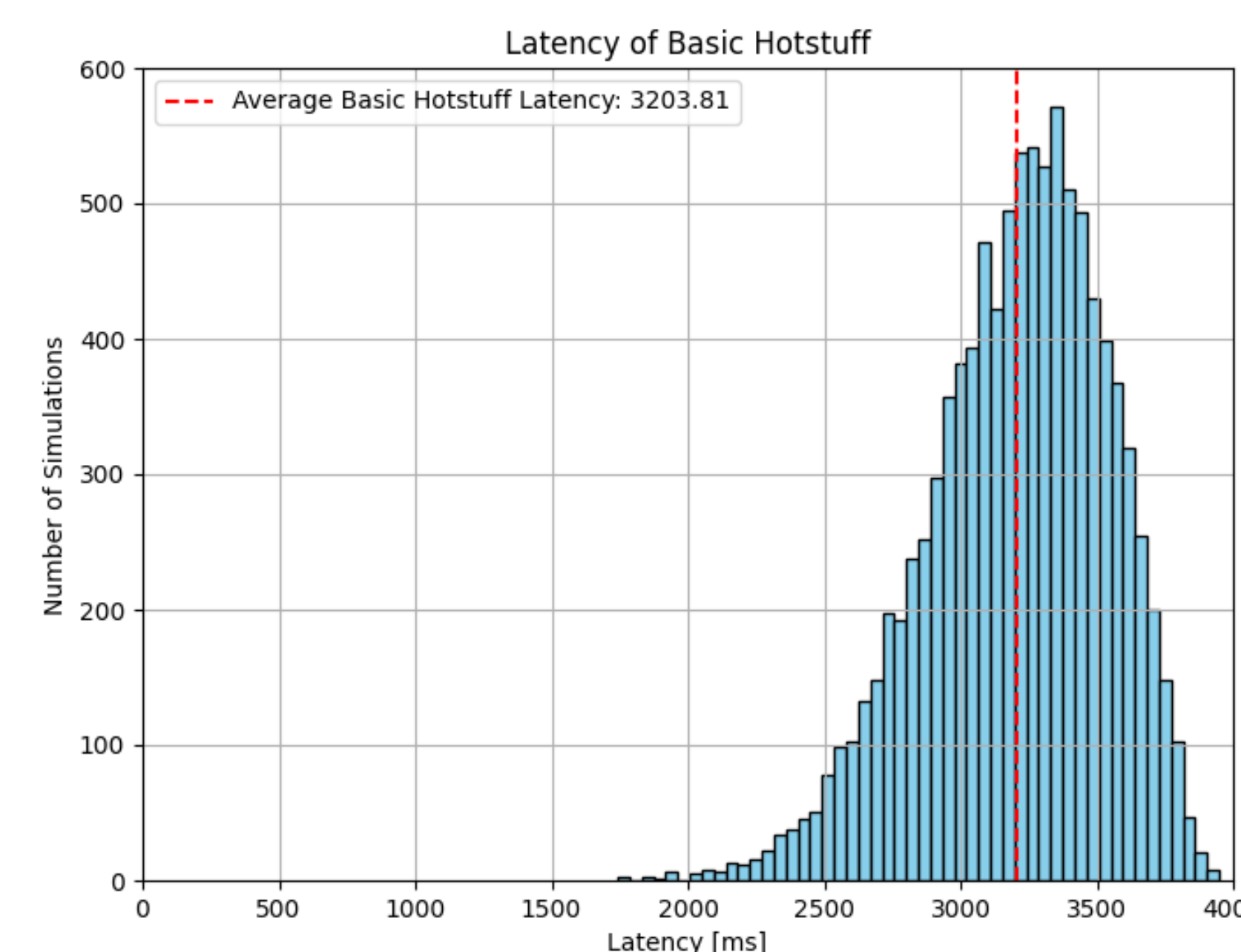


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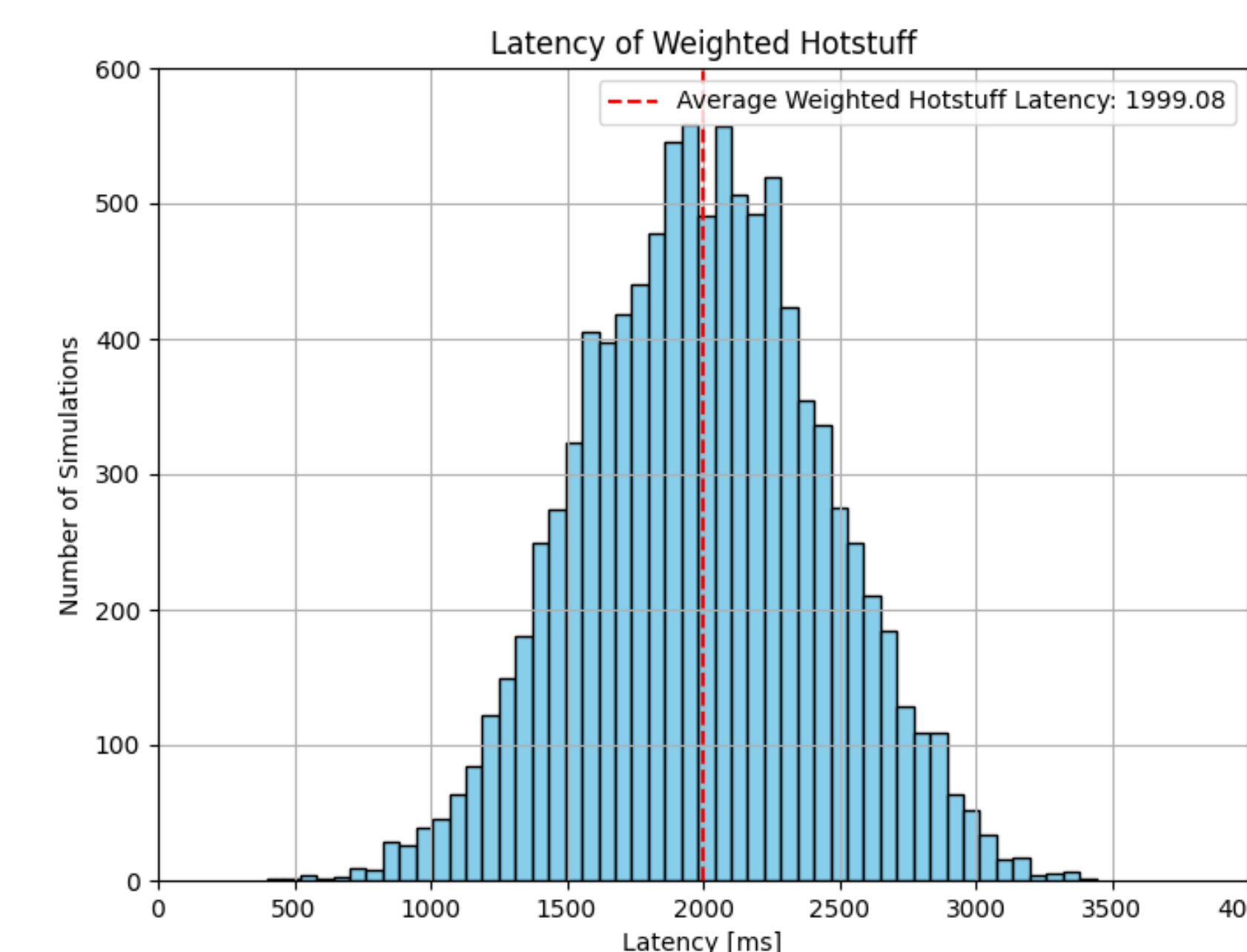


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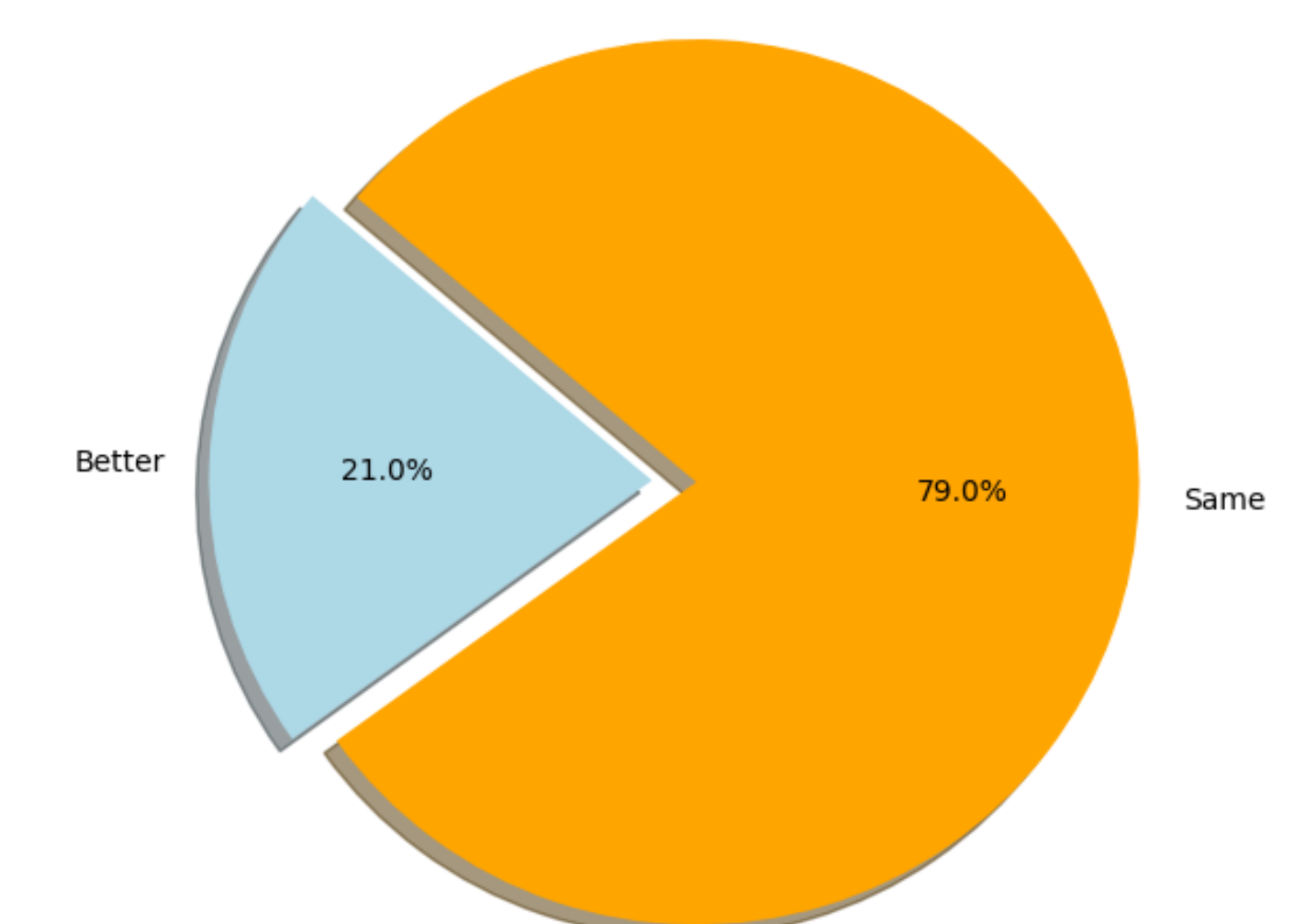


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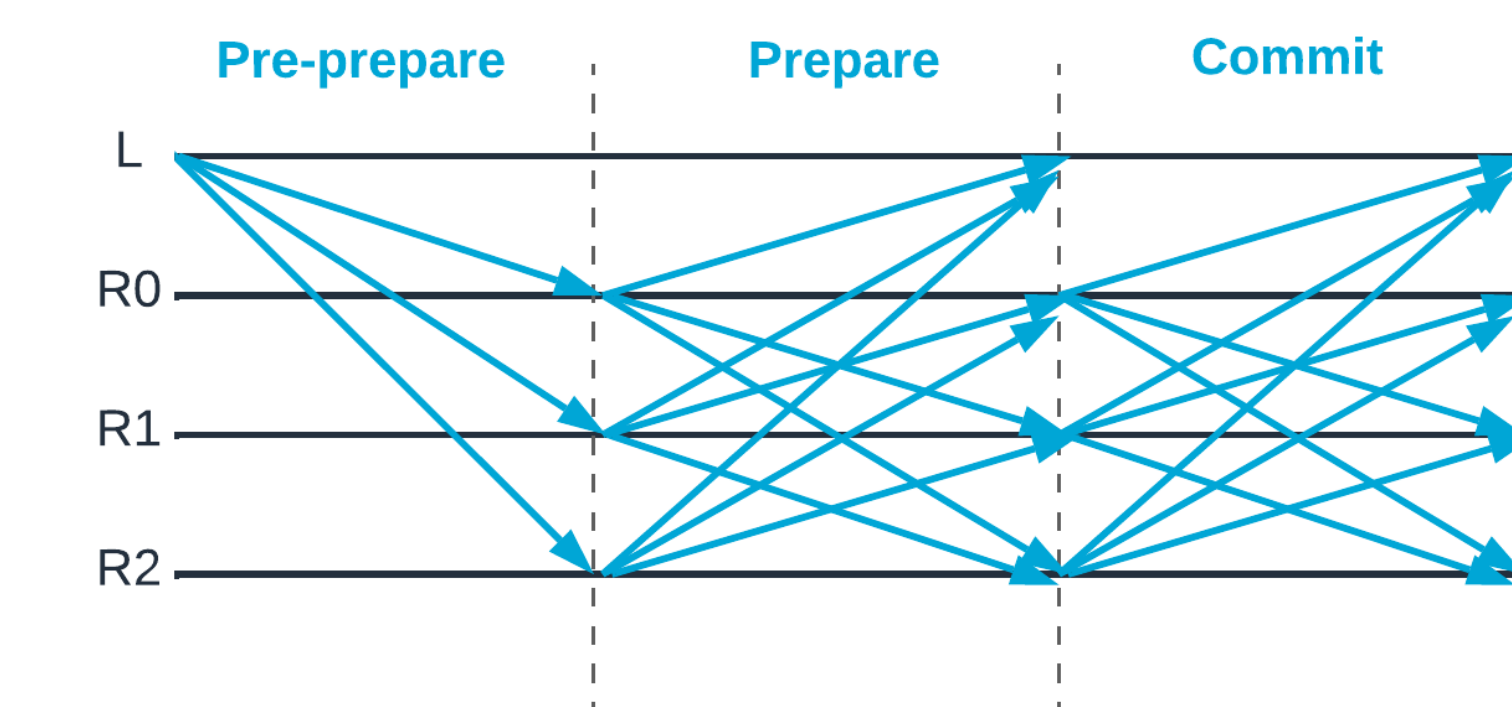


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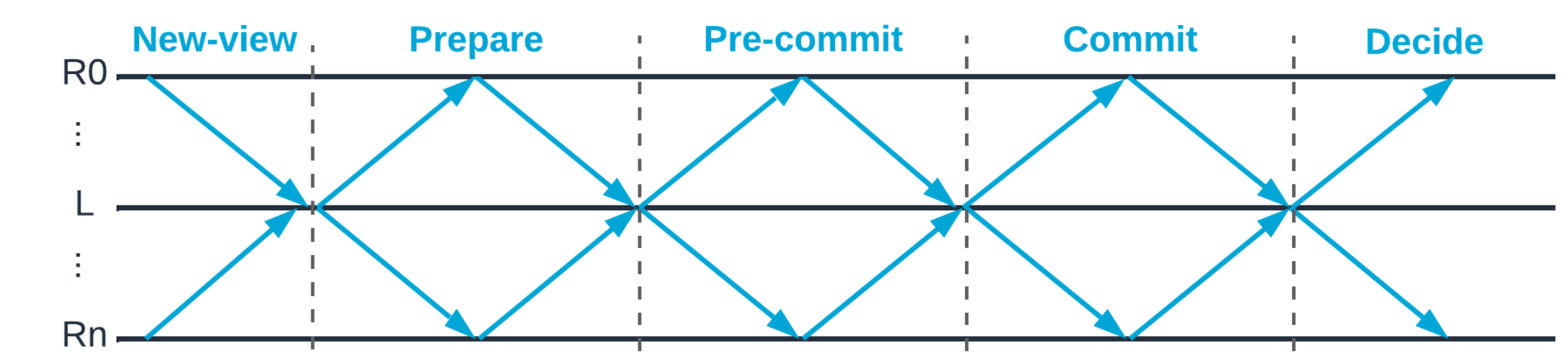


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References

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- Deterministic, self-monitoring and self-optimising algorithm for optimising the latency of the blockchain.
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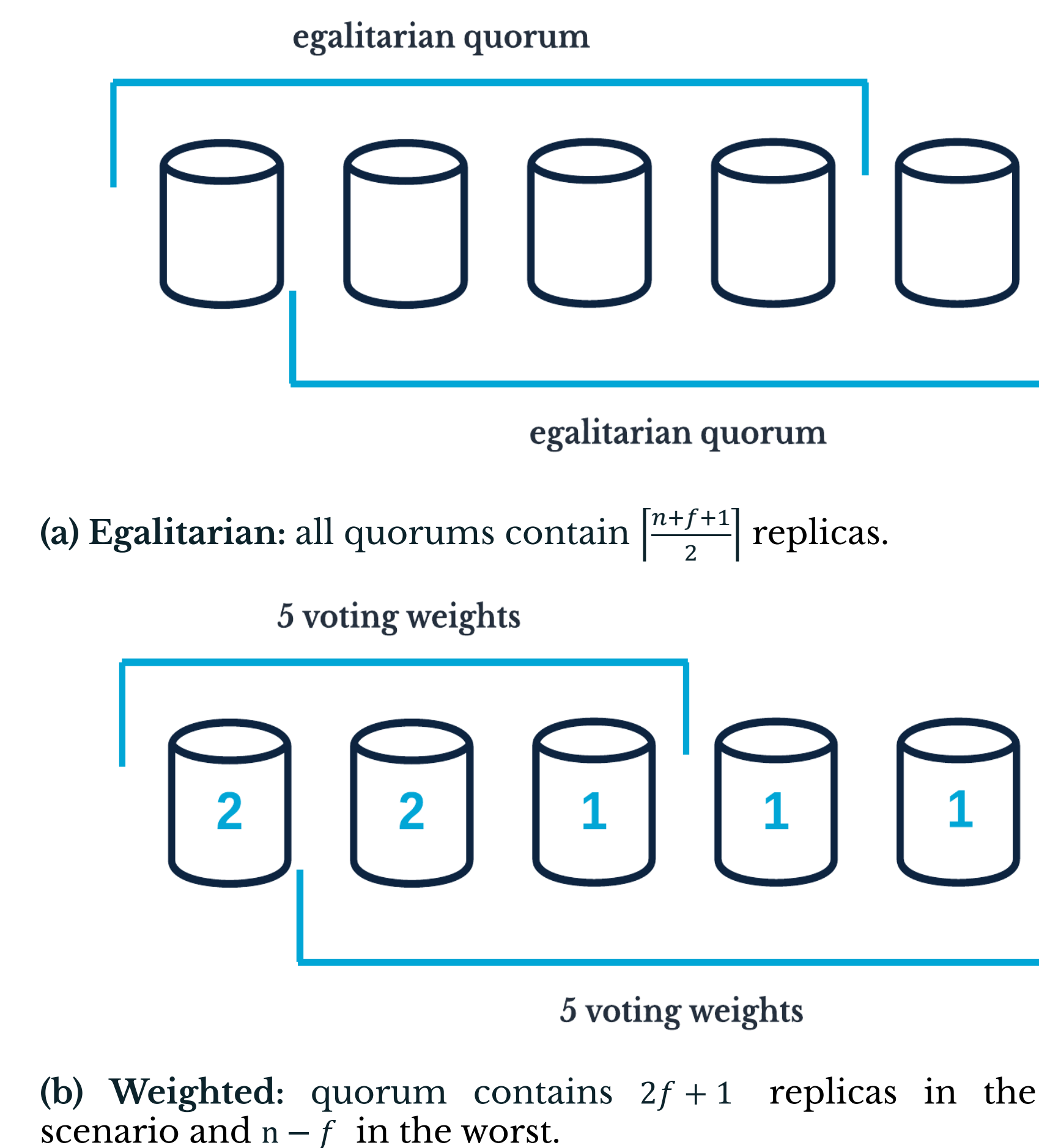


Figure 1: Possible quorums for $n = 5$, $f = 1$, $\Delta = 1$ additional weights

5. Results

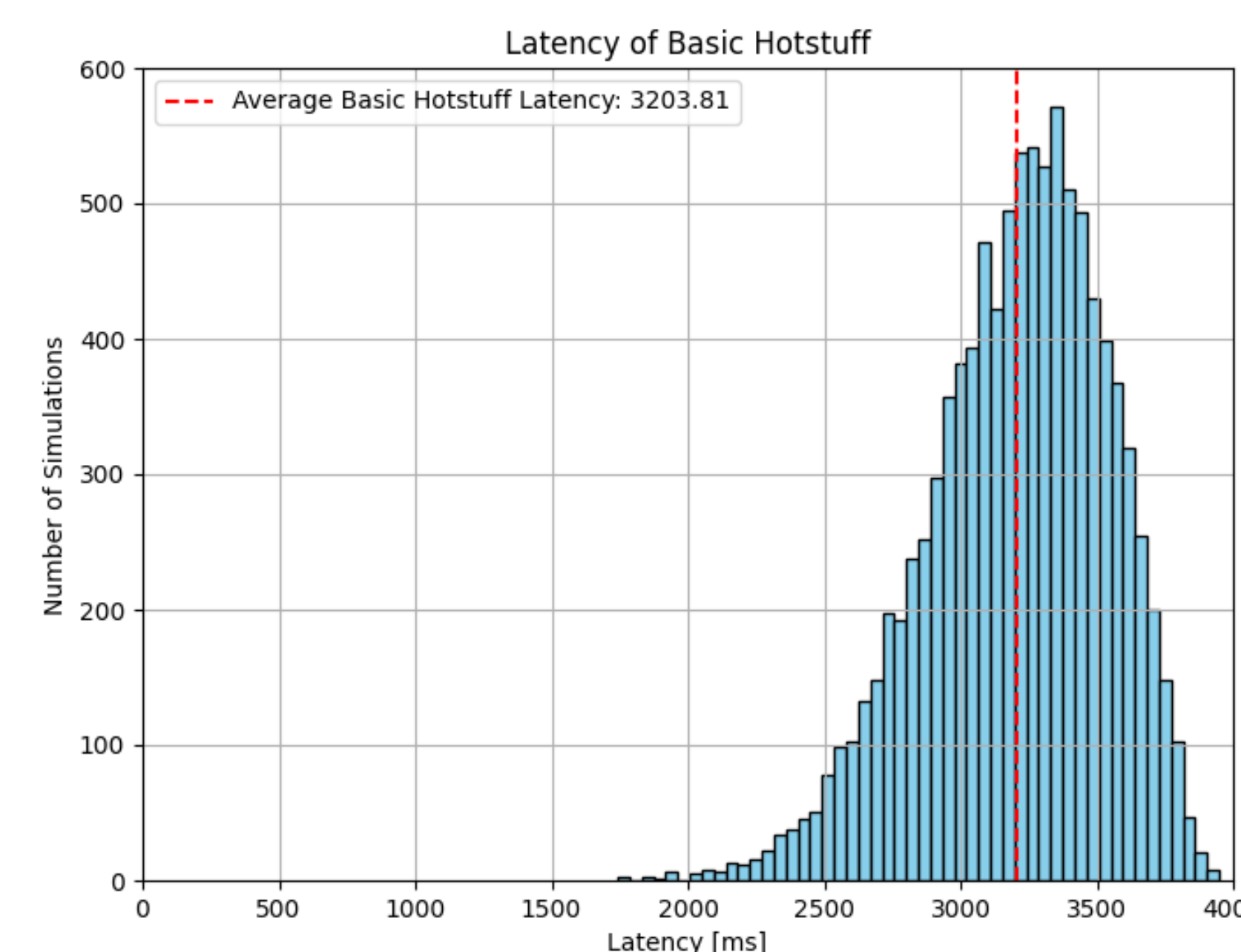


Figure 4: Basic Hotstuff latency analysis on $N = 10000$ simulations in a system with $n = 4$, $f = 1$

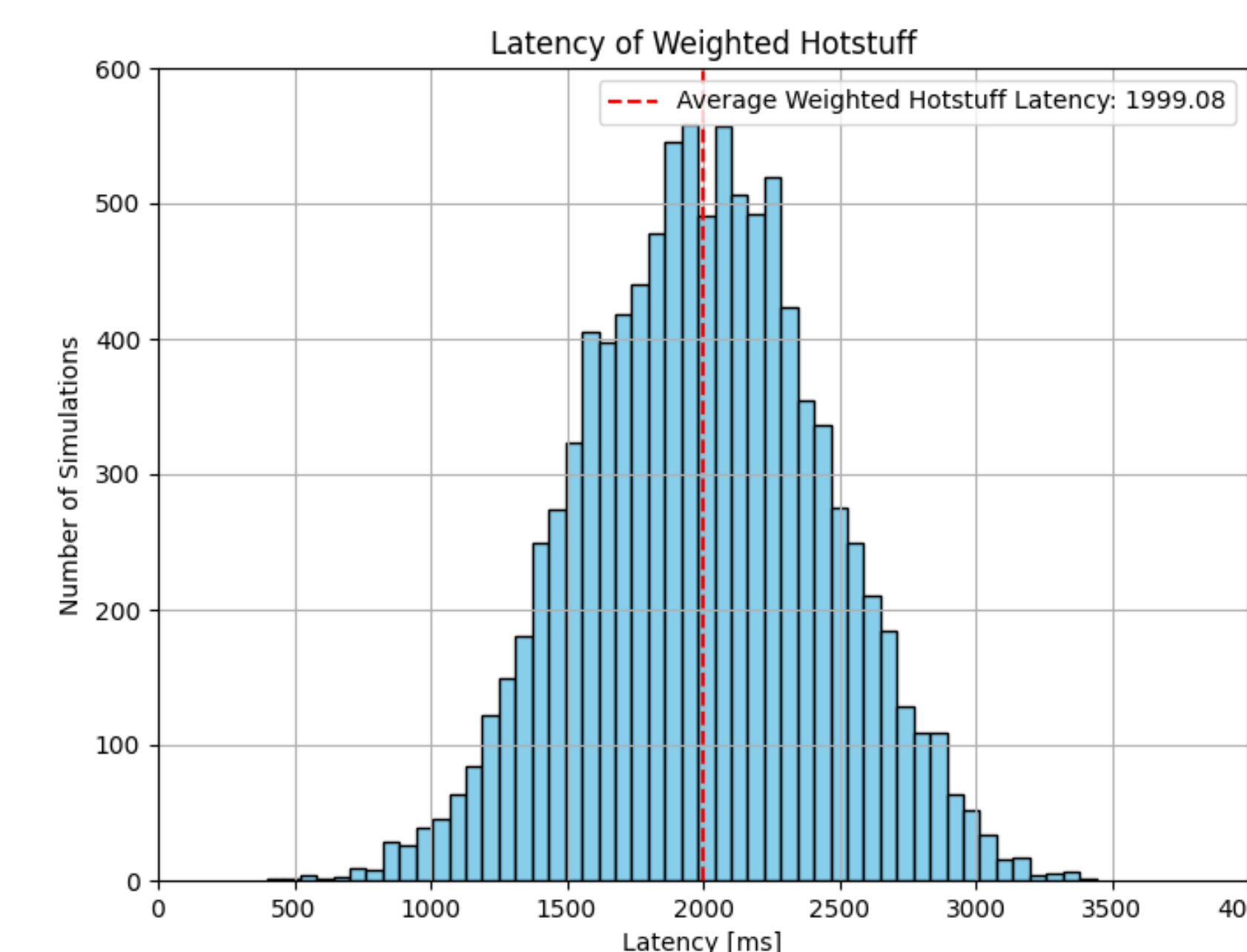


Figure 5: Weighted Hotstuff latency analysis on $N = 10000$ simulations in a system with $n = 5$, $f = 1$, $\Delta = 1$

Generalised vs Binary weighting in AWARE - Analysis on Recovery Performance

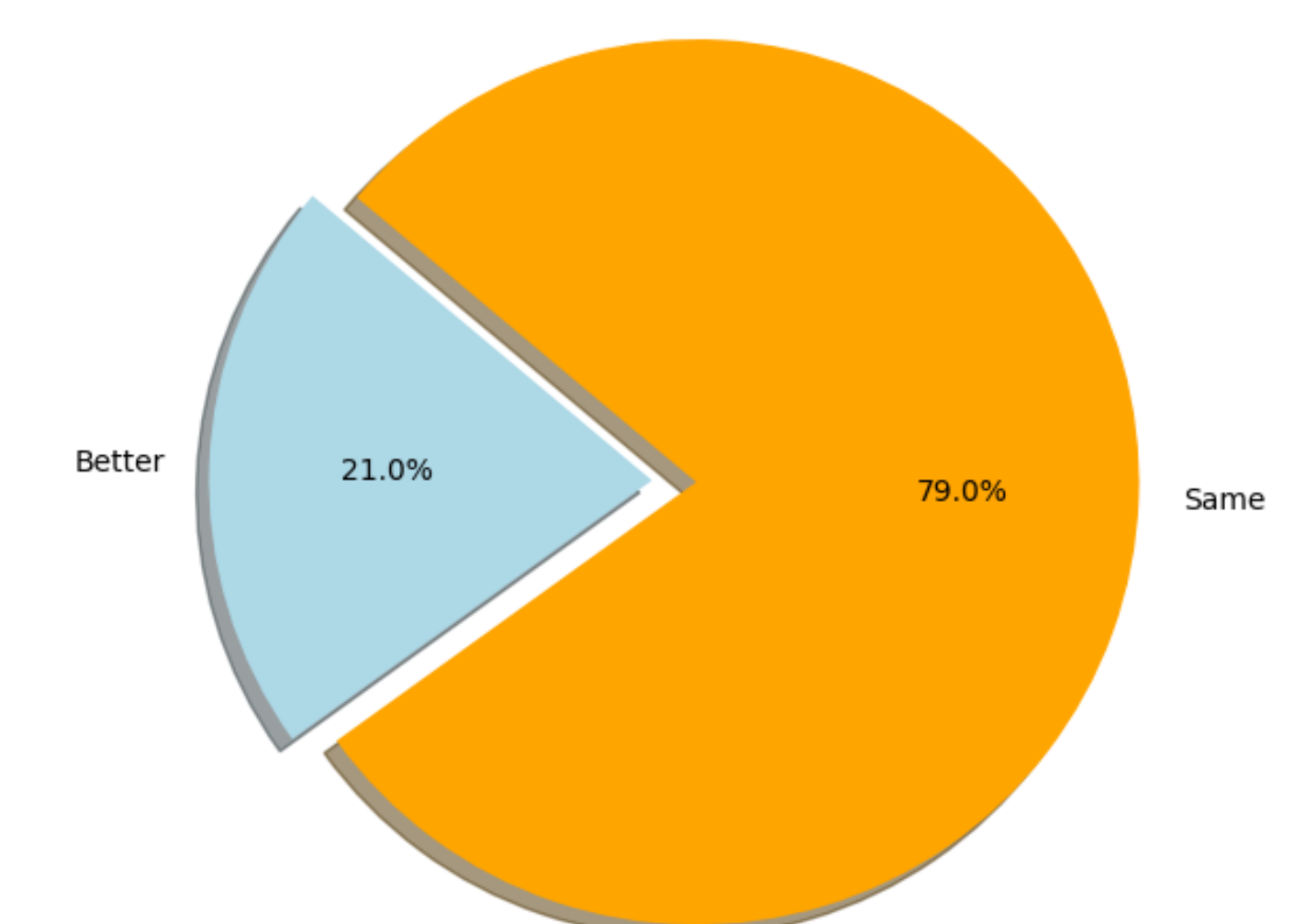


Figure 6: Recovery performance of **Generalised Weighting Scheme** on AWARE in a system with $n = 5$, $f = 1$, $\Delta = 1$

PBFT (Practical Byzantine Fault Tolerance) [4]:

- Designed in the late 90s by Liskov and Castro to work efficiently in asynchronous systems.
- One leader which gets re-elected in later rounds *if idle*.
- $O(n^2)$ communication complexity

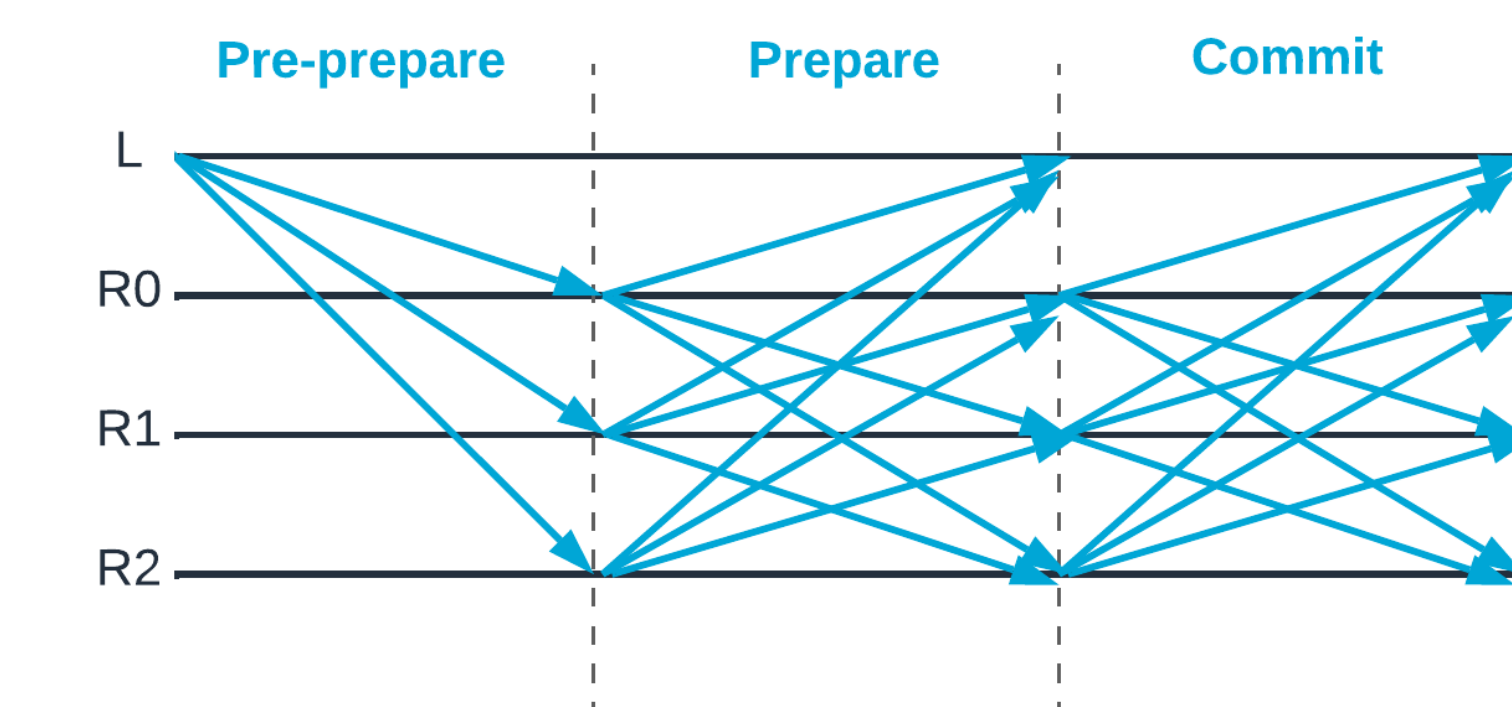


Figure 2: PBFT communication phases.

Hotstuff [5]:

- Streamlined algorithm** comprising 5 communication phases.
- New leader is randomly assigned in each round.
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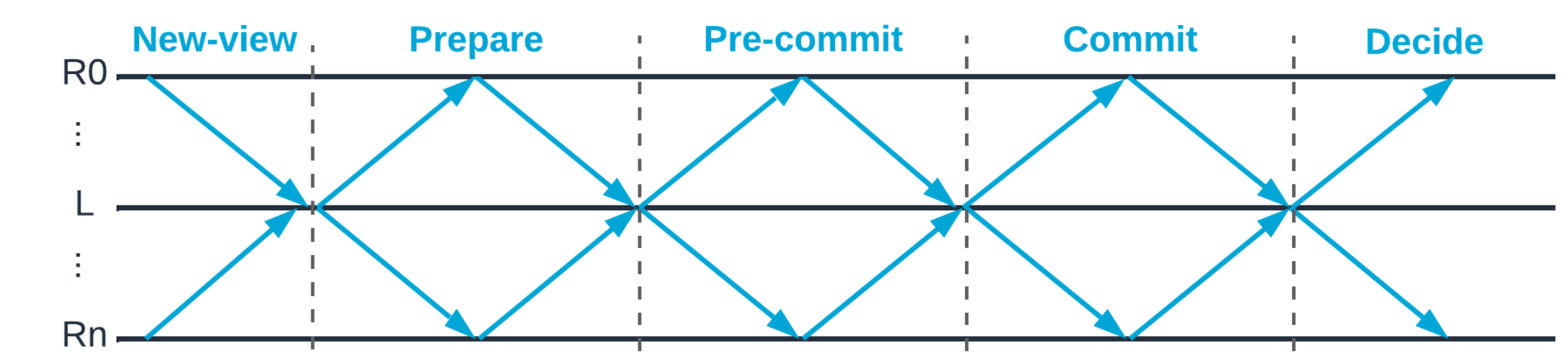


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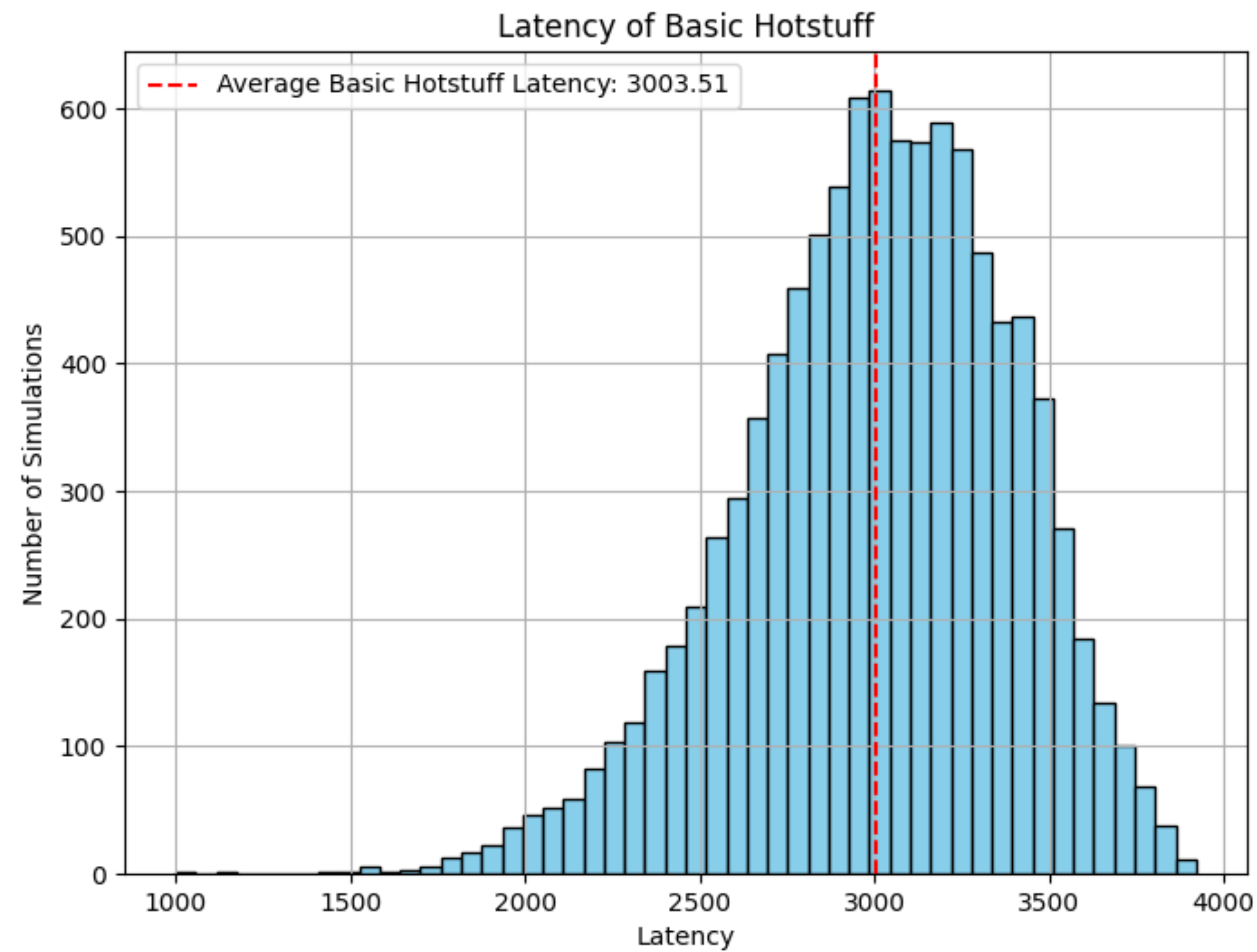


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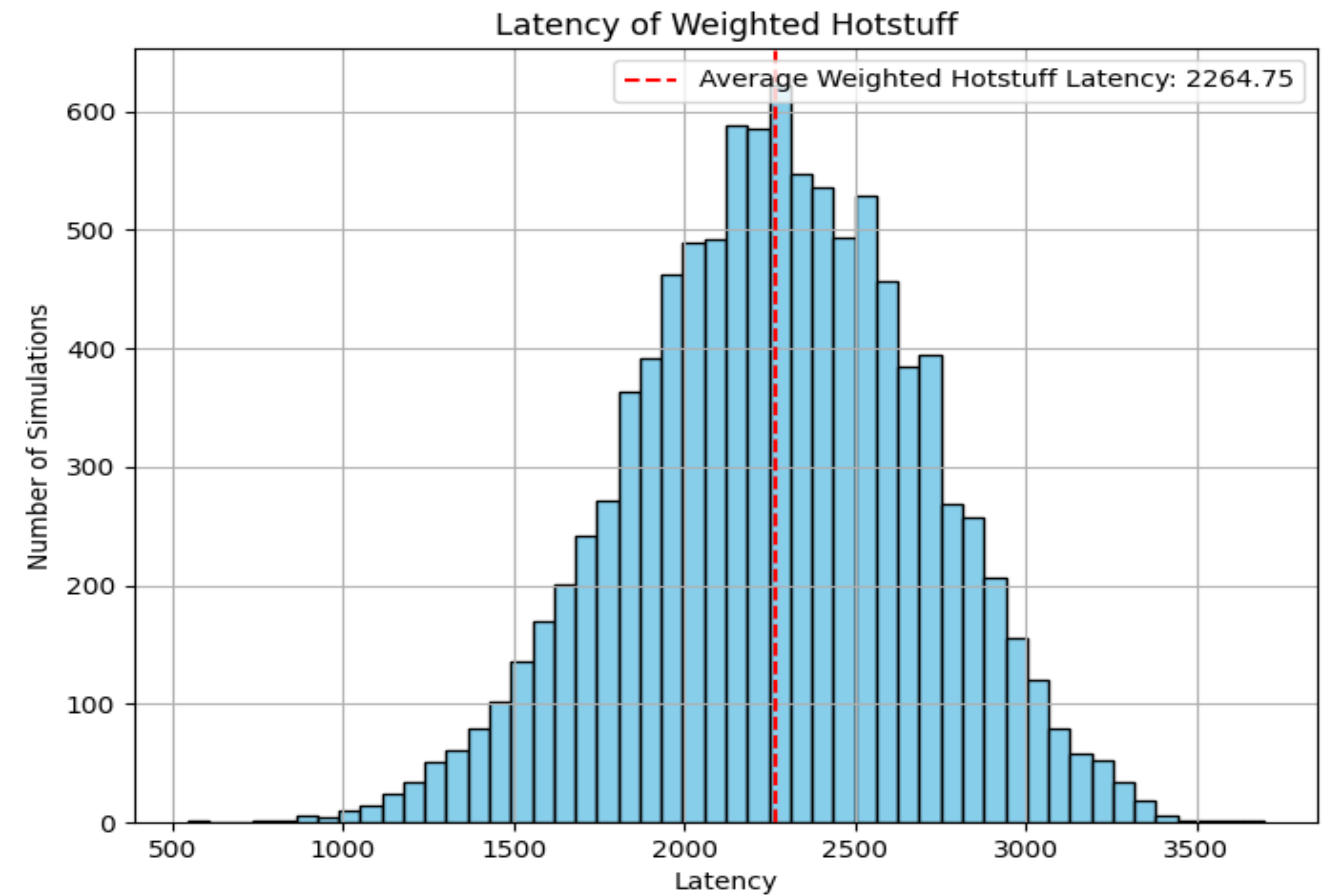


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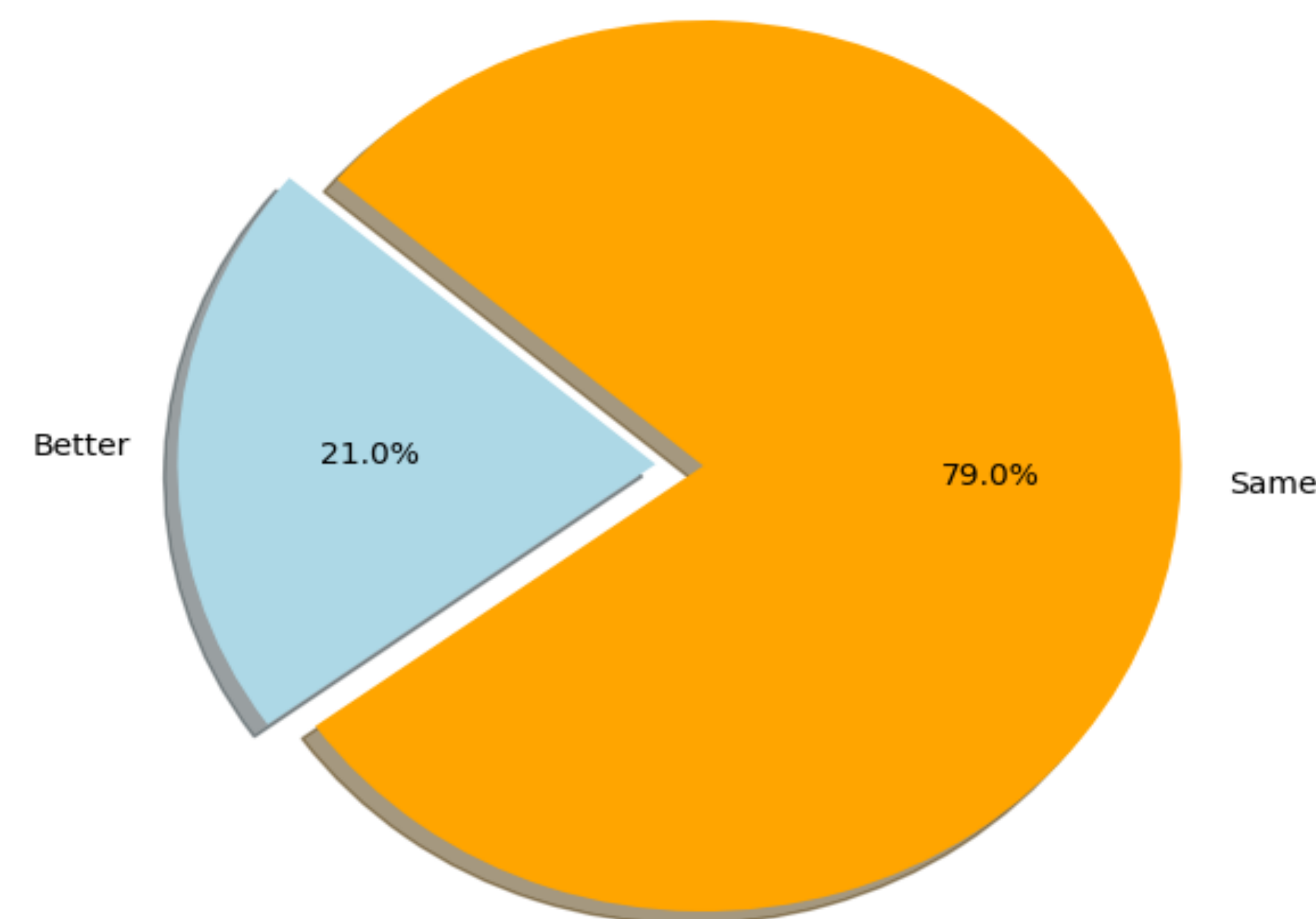


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Weighted voting for optimising Streamlined Blockchain Consensus Algorithms

Diana Micloiu – supervised by Dr. Jérémie Decouchant and Rowdy Chotkan

1. Introduction

Consensus denotes the collective agreement of network participants, a mechanism needed to ensure proper functionality of distributed systems.

Byzantine Fault Tolerant (BFT) represents a family of protocols which enable systems to tolerate arbitrary node failures; in particular, protocols require $3f+1$ nodes to withstand f failures.

Streamlined algorithms – use leader rotation in each round to shift the communication burden from the leader.

Weighted voting – in the consensus mechanism, the voting power of a node depends on a weight metric.

3. Scientific Gap

The impact of **weighted voting** has been applied so far only on first generation consensus algorithms, in **AWARE** [1].

The research aims to address the benefits of **weighted voting on streamlined algorithms** such as **Hotstuff** [4].

The research also looks into the possibility of using a **generalised weighting scheme in AWARE** (rather than the binary one) for **optimising the recovery performance of the system**.

4. Methodology

Weighted voting on streamlined algorithms:

- Design an algorithm that would emulate **Hotstuff** behaviour, combined with the binary weighted voting mechanism presented in **WHEAT**.
- Develop a **latency prediction method** for a given distributed scenario.
- Use **Exhaustive Search** or **Simulated Annealing** for finding out the best weight distribution that would minimise latency given a network setting.

Generalised Weighting Scheme for AWARE:

- Design a **Simulated Annealing** approach for finding a weighting scheme that performs at least as well as the AWARE binary one.
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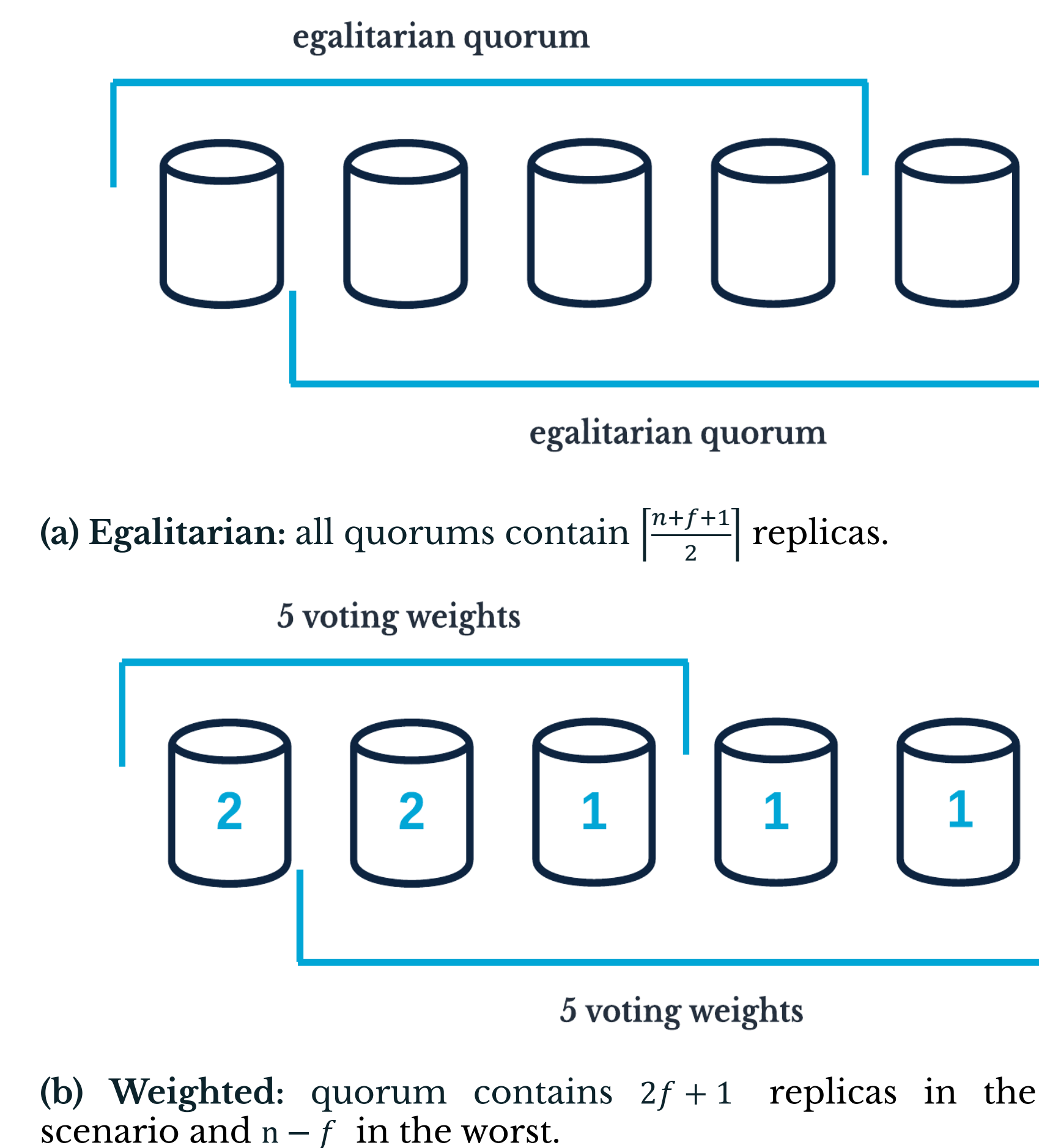


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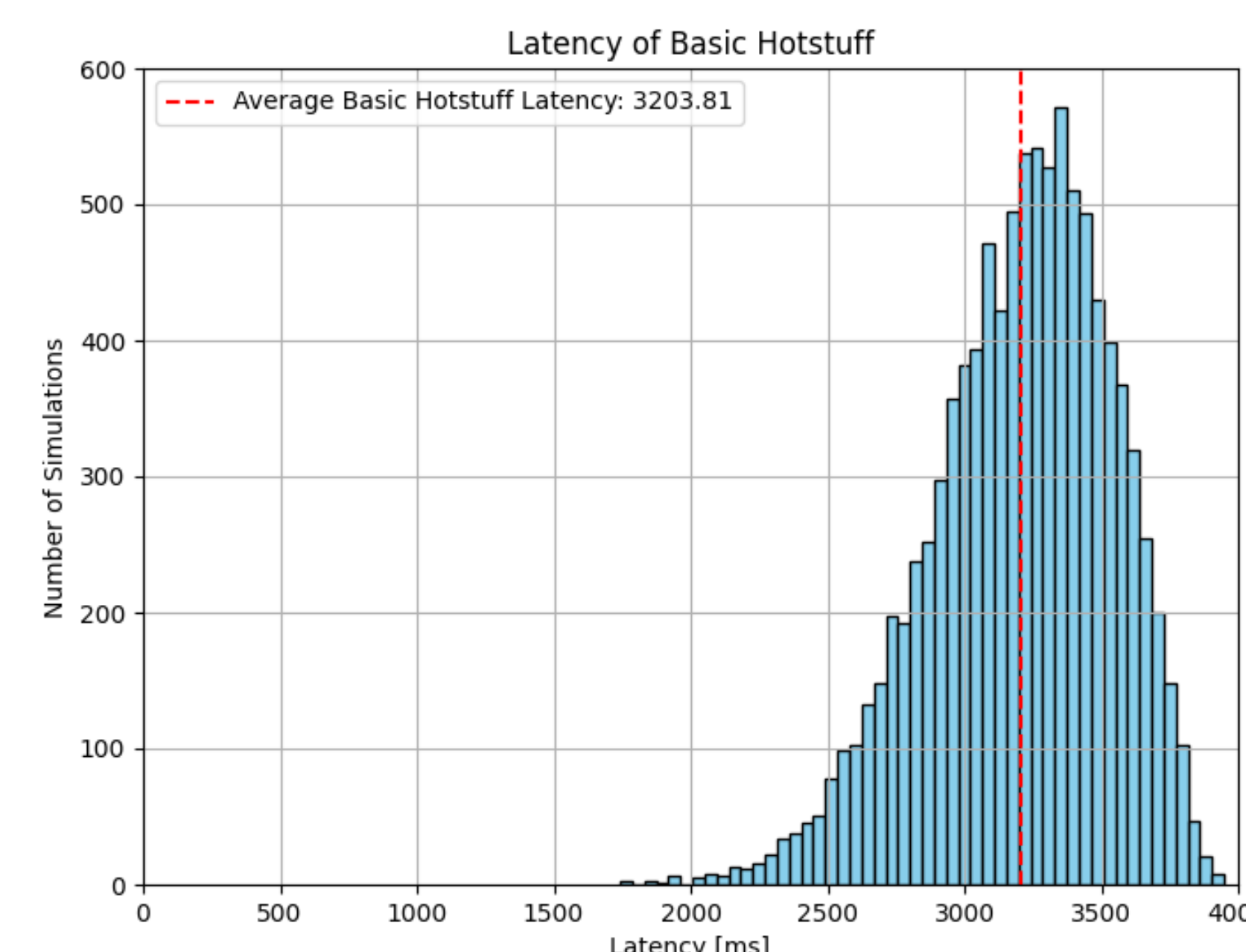


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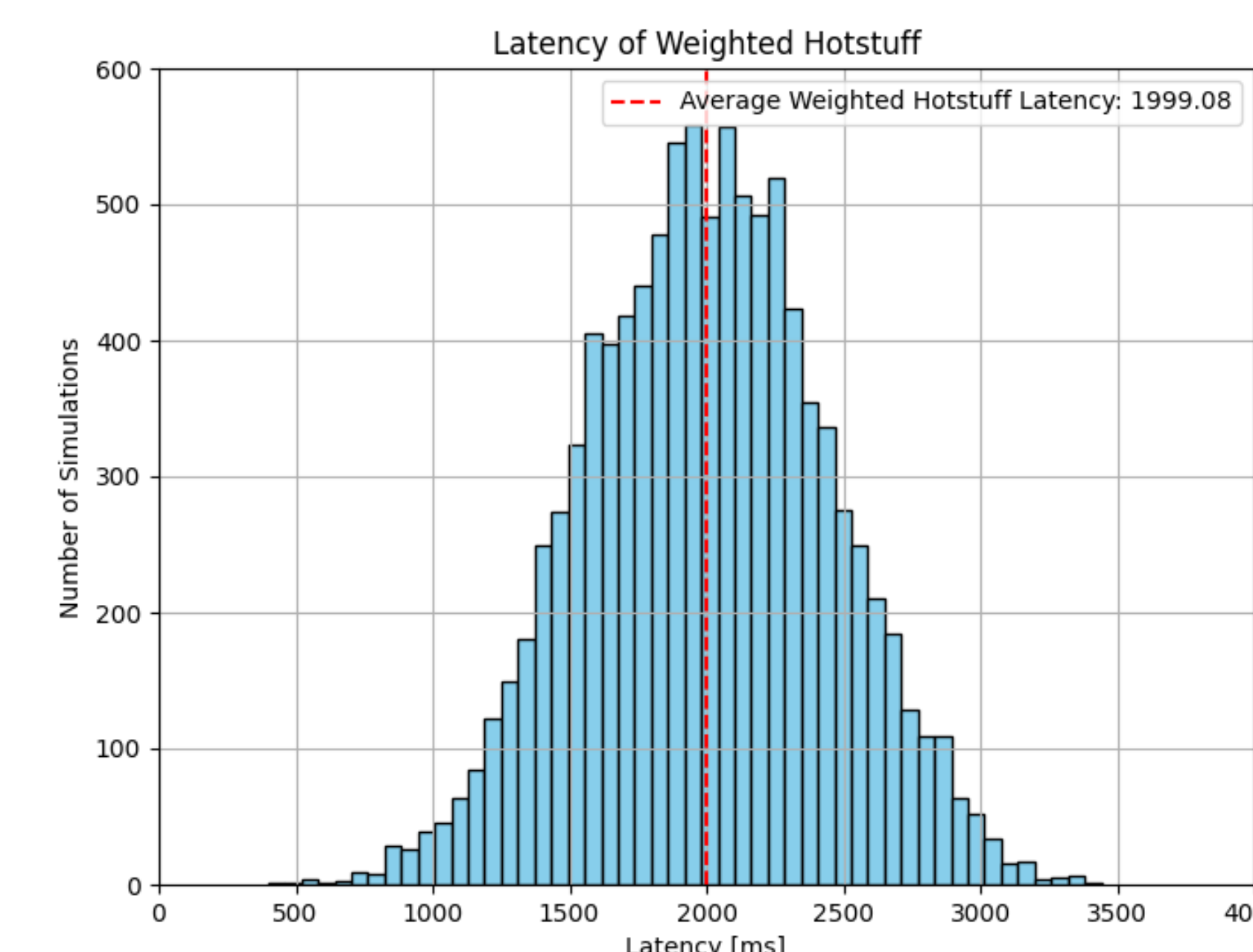


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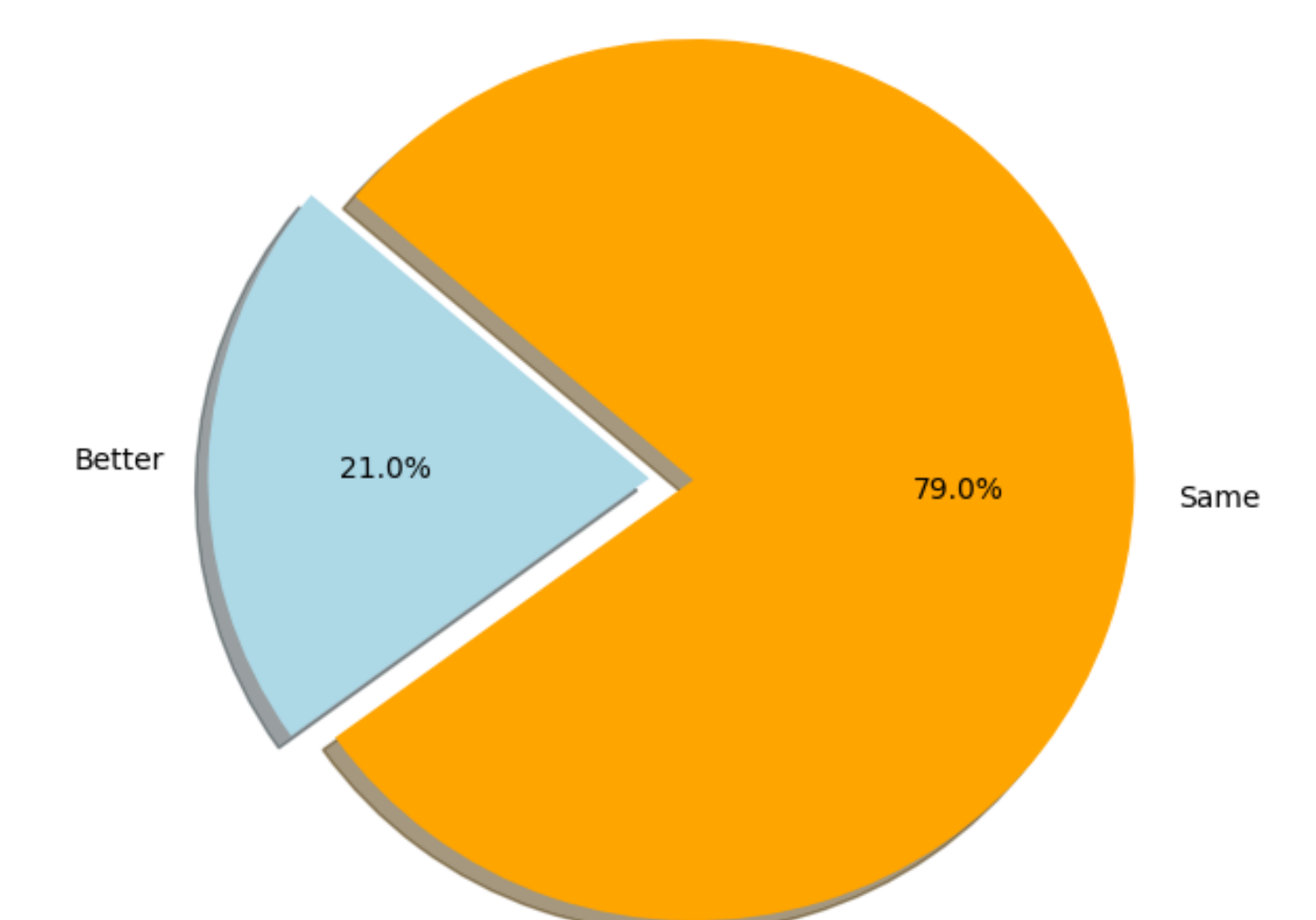


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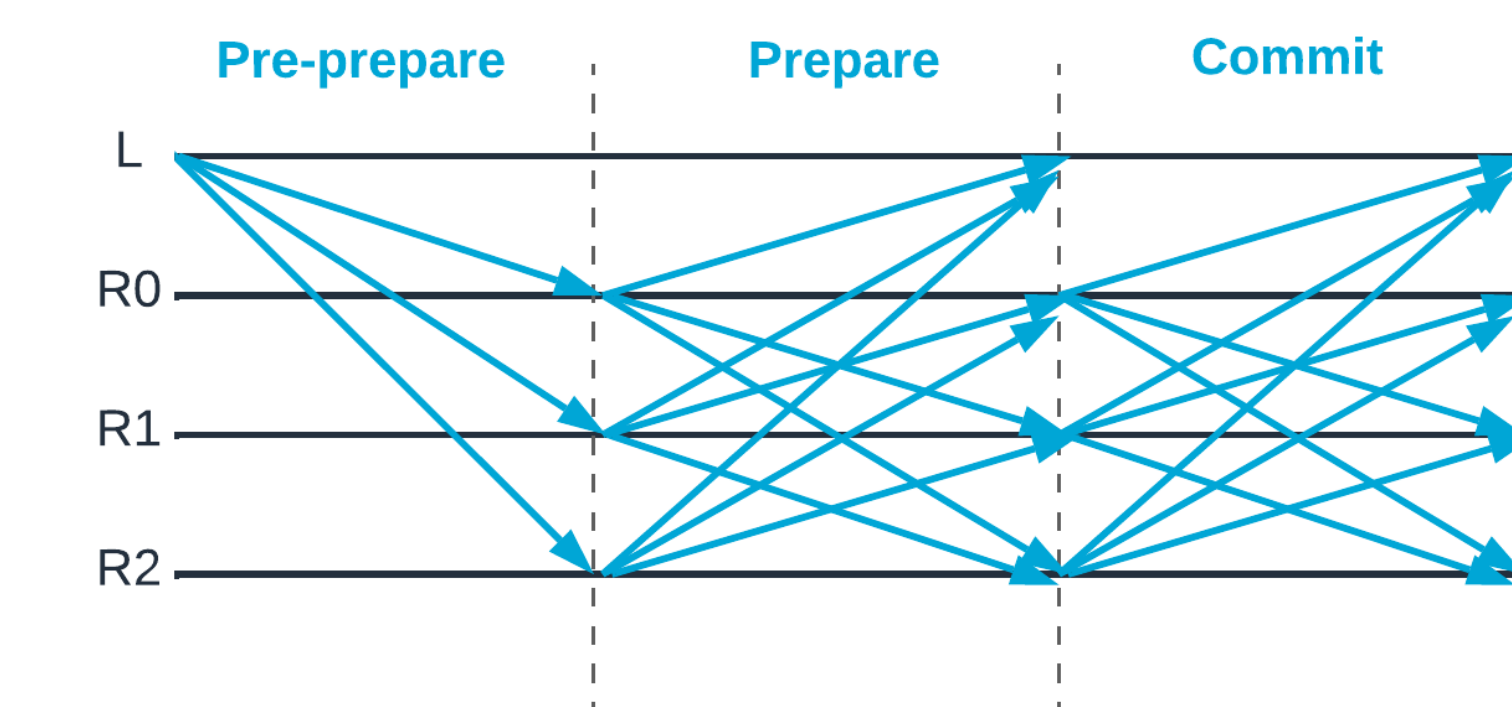


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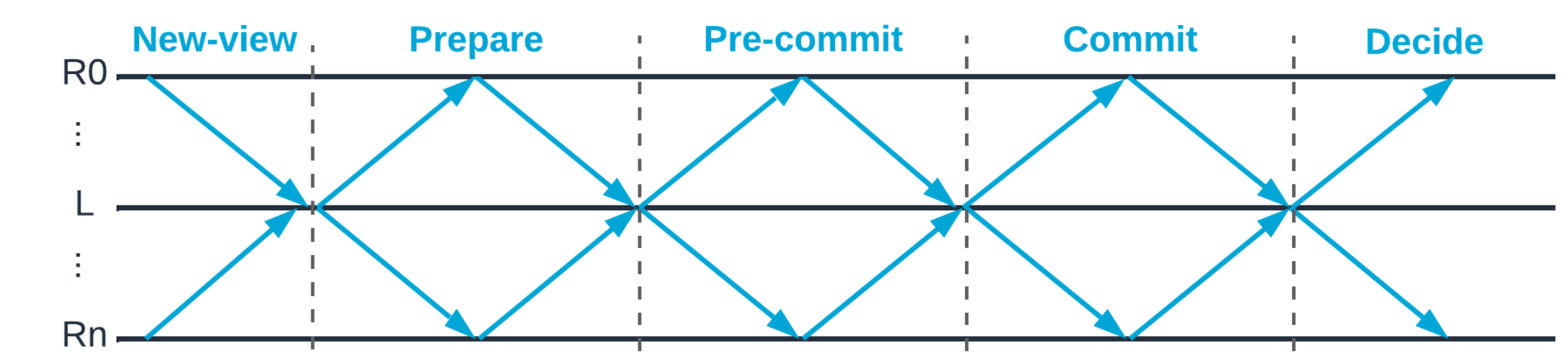


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