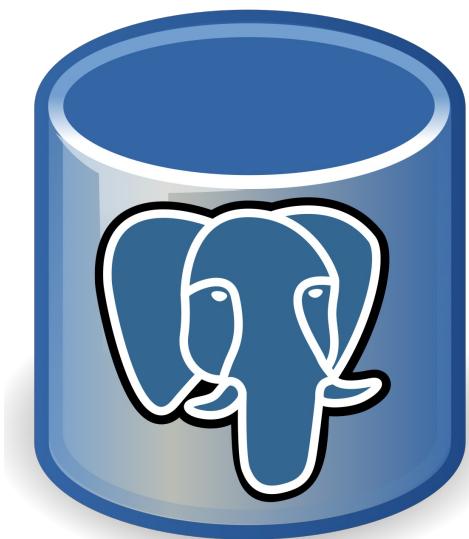


# Robust DB Tuning with ENDURE

Andy Huynh, Harshal A. Chaudhari, Evimaria Terzi, Manos Athanassoulis

# Database Knobs



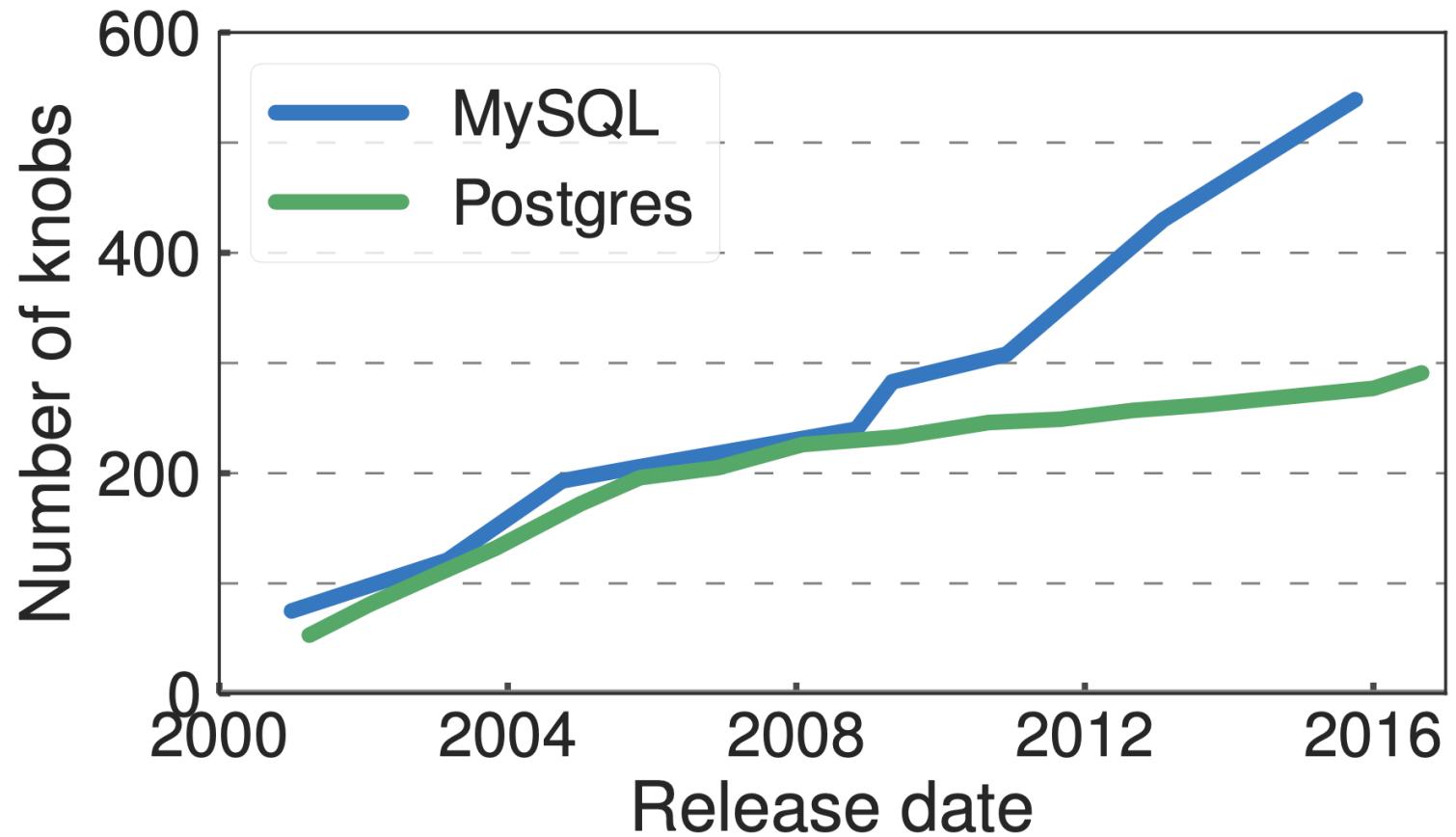
- ⚙️ effective\_cache\_size
- ⚙️ work\_mem
- ⚙️ wal\_sync\_method
- ⚙️ max\_prepared\_transactions
- ⚙️ random\_page\_cost
- ⚙️ checkpoint\_segments
- ⚙️ maintenance\_work\_mem
- ...
- ⚙️ shared\_buffers

**200+ settings**



**Determines  
performance**

# Database Complexity



# Complexity Sucks for Reproducibility

## Databricks Sets Official Data Warehousing Performance Record



by Reynold Xin and Mostafa Mokhtar  
Posted in COMPANY BLOG | November 12, 2021



AUTHOR  
Benoit Dageville



Thierry Cruanes

Today, we are proud to announce that **Dat 100TB TPC-DS**, the gold standard performance benchmark news, this result has been for

These results were corroborated by research which frequently runs TPC-DS on popular **benchmarked Databricks and Snowflake and 12x better in terms of price performance**. Warehouses such as Snowflake become production.



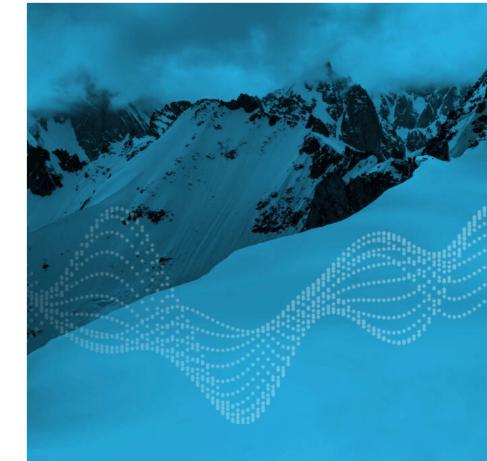
SHARE

SUBSCRIBE

NOV 12, 2021

## Industry Benchmarks and Competitors

Thought Leadership > Executive Platform



When we founded Snowflake, we set out to build an innovative platform. We had the opportunity to take into account what had worked well and what hadn't in prior architectures and implementations. We saw how we could leverage the cloud to rethink the limits of what was possible. We also focused on ease of use and building a system that "just worked." We knew there were many opportunities to improve upon prior implementations and innovate to lead on performance and scale, simplicity of administration, and data-driven collaboration.

## Snowflake Claims Similar Price/Performance to Databricks, but Not So Fast!



by Mostafa Mokhtar, Arsalan Tavakoli-Shiraji, Reynold Xin and Matei Zaharia  
Posted in COMPANY BLOG | November 15, 2021

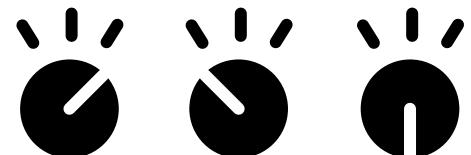
On Nov 2, 2021, we announced that **we set the official world record** for the fastest data warehouse with our Databricks SQL lakehouse platform. These results were audited and reported by the official Transaction Processing Performance Council (TPC) in a 37-page document **available online** at tpc.org. We also shared a third-party benchmark by the Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC) outlining that Databricks SQL is significantly faster and more cost effective than Snowflake.

A lot has happened since then: many congratulations, some questions, and some sour grapes. We take this opportunity to reiterate that **we stand by our blog post and the results: Databricks SQL provides superior performance and price performance over Snowflake, even on data warehousing workloads (TPC-DS)**.

# Age of Log-Structured Merge-Trees



High impact tuning knobs

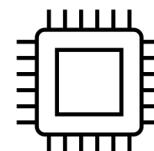
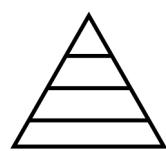


Compaction   Buffer size   Size ratio

Dictates performance!

How do we go about tuning these knobs?

# LSM Trees



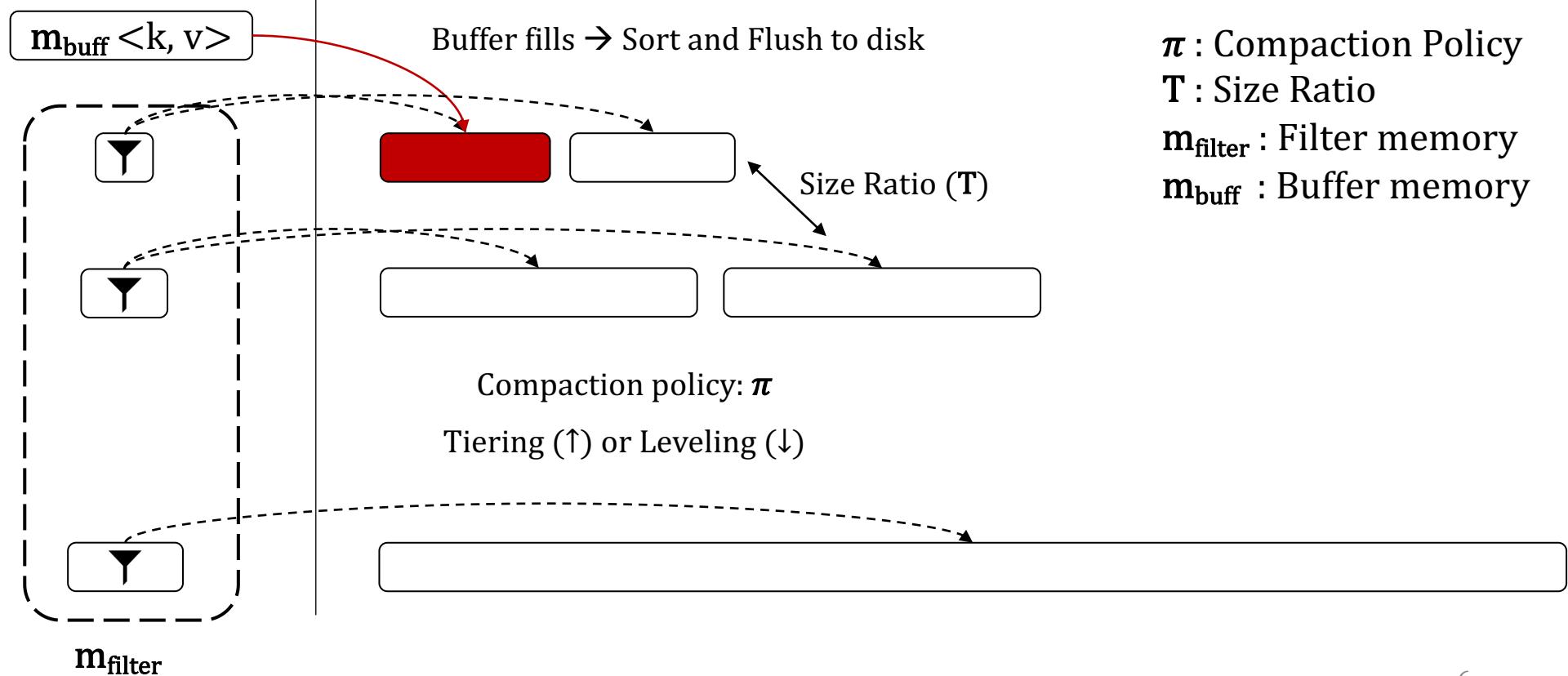
Buffer

Level 1

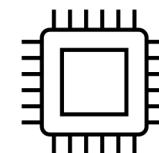
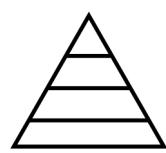
Level 2

...

Level L



# LSM Trees – A Point Read



READ: 62

Buffer

Level 1

Level 2

...

Level L

$m_{filter}$

How do we define a workload?

[6, 40]

[5, 96]

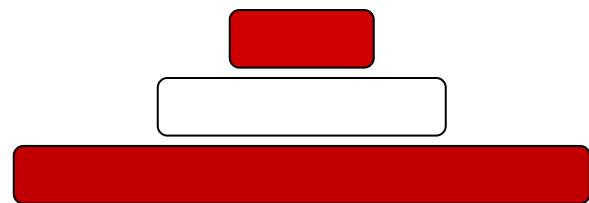
[0, 54]

[32, 144]

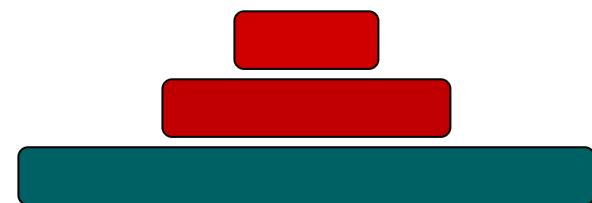
# Query Types

Workload :  $(z_0, z_1, q, w)$

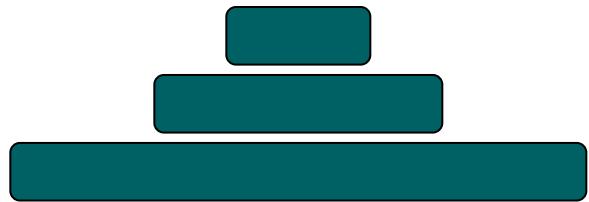
Empty Reads :  $z_0$



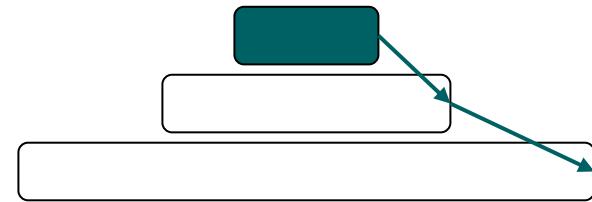
Non-Empty Reads :  $z_1$



Range Reads:  $q$



Writes :  $w$



Cool! How do we go about tuning?

# The LSM-Tuning Problem

$w$  : Workload  $(z_0, z_1, q, w)$

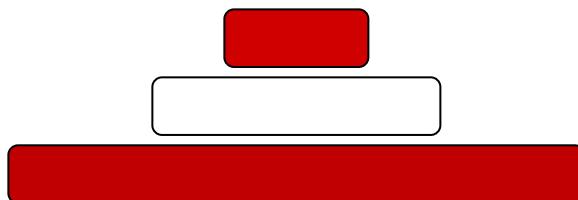
$\Phi$  : LSM Tree Design  $(m_{buff}, m_{filter}, T, \pi)$

$C$  : Cost

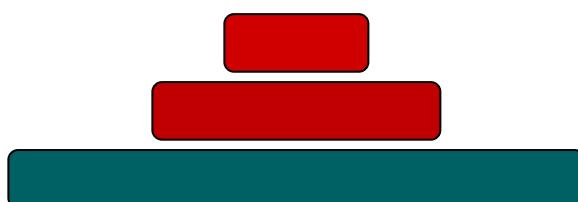
$$\Phi^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\Phi} C(w, \Phi)$$

# Point Reads

Empty Reads :  $z_0$



Non-Empty Reads :  $z_1$



Sum of  
false  
positives

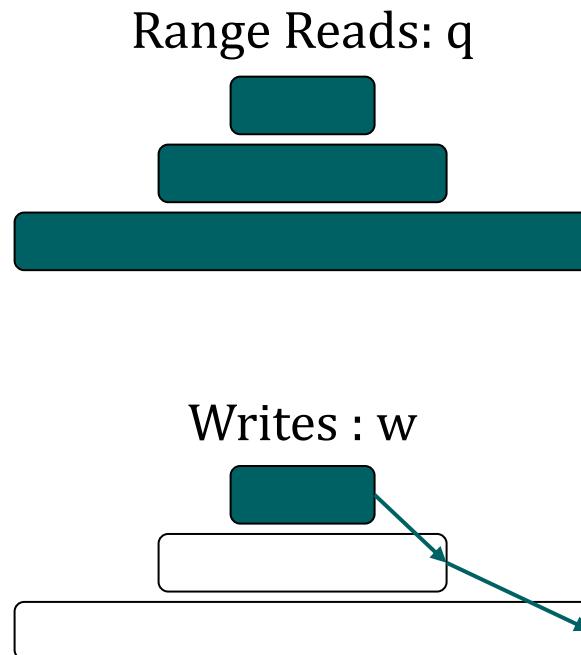
$$Z_0(\Phi) = \sum_{i=1}^L f_i$$

Probability query is  
satisfied at level i

False positives  
from levels above

$$Z_1(\Phi) = \sum_{i=1}^L \frac{T^{i-1} \cdot (T - 1)}{N_f(T)} \cdot \frac{m_{buf}}{E} \left( 1 + \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} f_j \right)$$

# Range-Reads and Writes



Sequential  
read based on  
selectivity

$$Q(\Phi) = S_{RQ} \cdot \frac{N}{B} + L \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ I/O per} \\ \text{Seek per} \\ \text{level} \end{array} \right\}$$

Average number of merges a write will participate in

$$W(\Phi) = \underbrace{\frac{L}{B} \cdot \frac{T-1}{2}}_{\text{Writes only flush}} \cdot (1 + A_{rw})$$

once buffer is full

# The LSM-Tuning Problem

$\mathbf{w}$  : Workload  $(z_0, z_1, q, w)$

$\Phi$  : LSM Tree Design  $(m_{buff}, m_{filter}, T, \pi)$

$C$  : Cost (I/O)

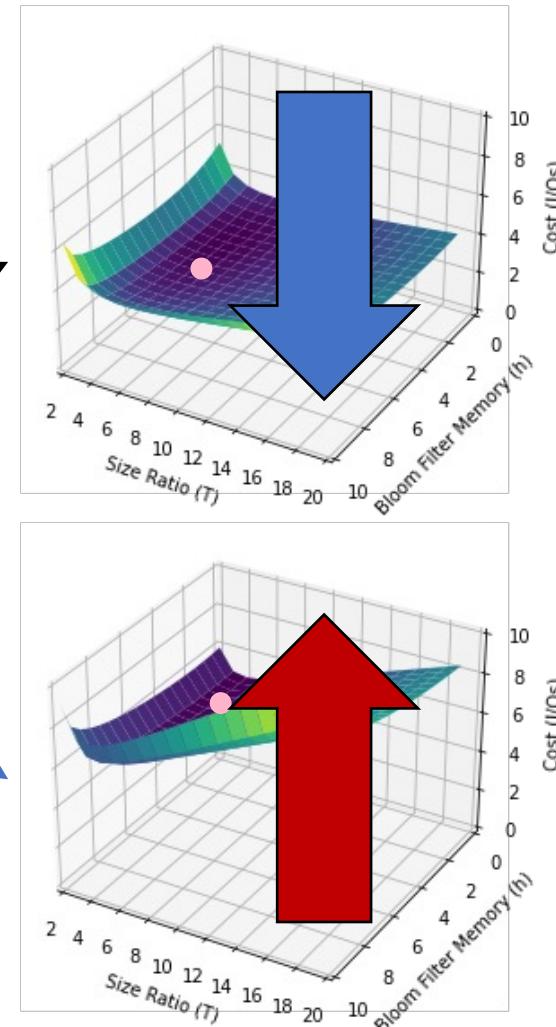
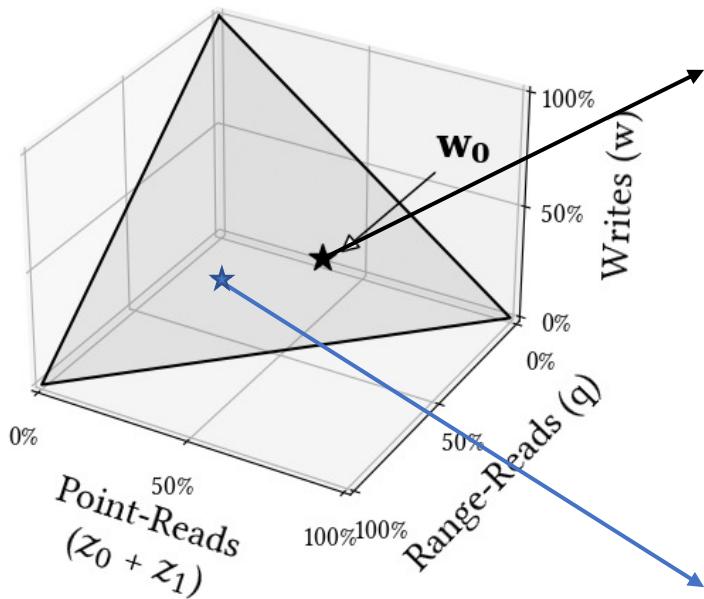
$$\Phi^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\Phi} C(\mathbf{w}, \Phi)$$

Define our **cost function**

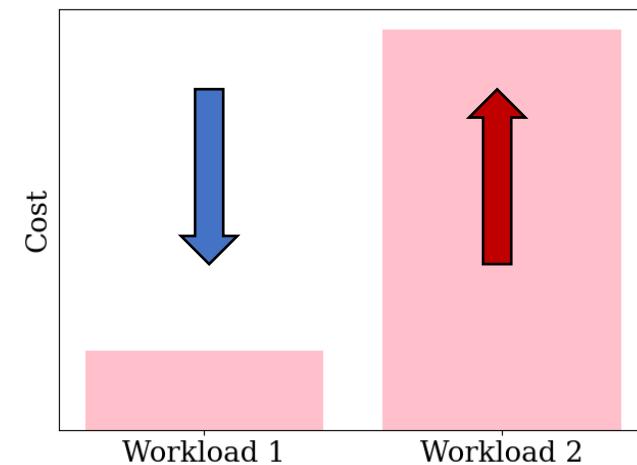
$$C(\hat{\mathbf{w}}, \Phi) = \hat{\mathbf{w}}^\top \mathbf{c}(\Phi) = z_0 \cdot Z_0(\Phi) + z_1 \cdot Z_1(\Phi) + q \cdot Q(\Phi) + w \cdot W(\Phi)$$

# Tuning Problems

$w_0$  : Workload  $(z_0, z_1, q, w)$



● 'Best' Configuration



Optimal tuning depends on workload

Workload uncertainty leads to  
sub-optimal tuning

# Outline

Introduction

LSM Trees Notation

Nominally Tuning LSM Trees

**ENDURE: Robustly Tuning LSM Trees**

The ENDURE Pipeline

ENDURE Evaluation

# The LSM-Tuning Problem

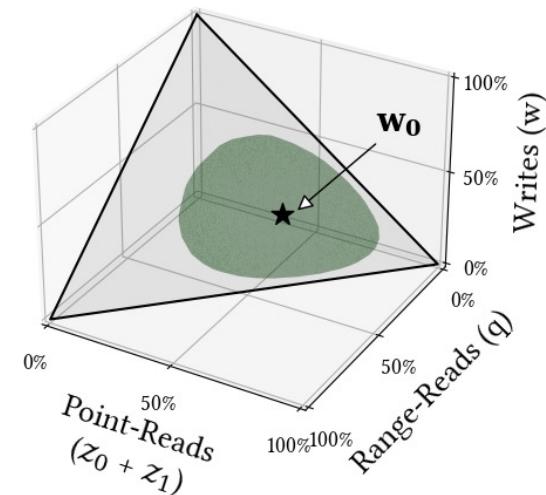
$\mathbf{w}$  : Workload  $(z_0, z_1, q, w)$

$\Phi$  : LSM Tree Design  $(m_{buff}, m_{filter}, T, \pi)$

$C$  : Cost (I/O)

$$\Phi^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\Phi} C(\mathbf{w}, \Phi)$$

Nominal



$U_w^\rho$ : Uncertainty Neighborhood of Workloads

$\rho$  : Size of this neighborhood

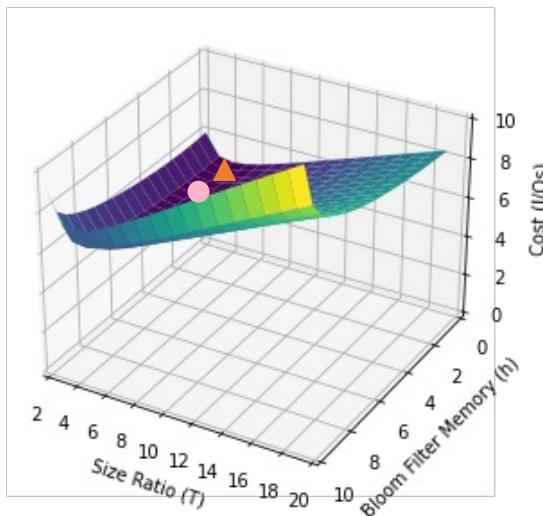
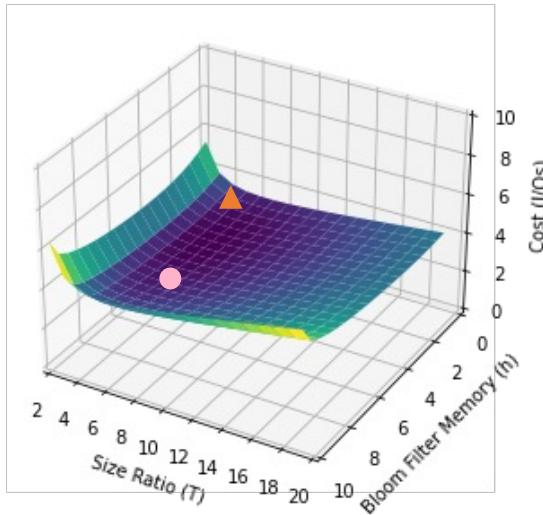
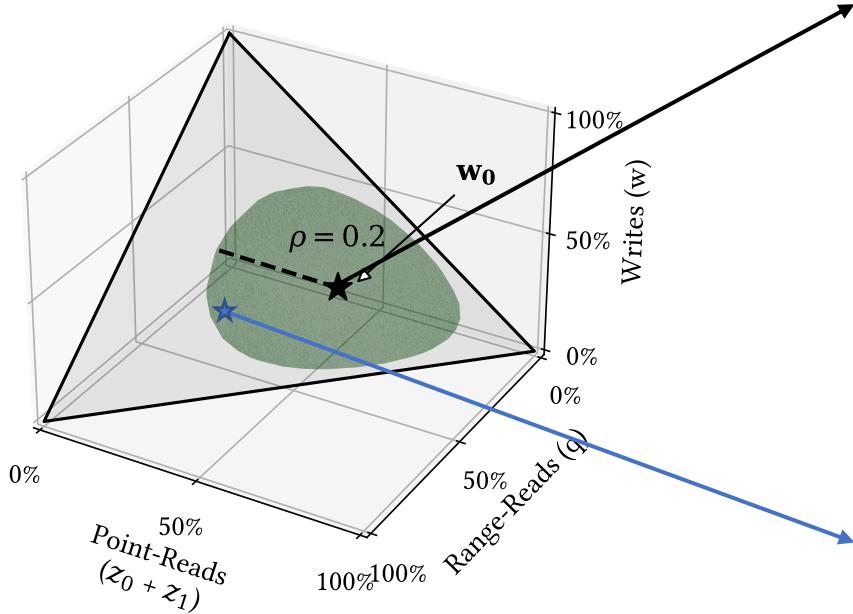
Robust

$$\Phi^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\Phi} C(\hat{\mathbf{w}}, \Phi)$$

$$s.t., \quad \hat{\mathbf{w}} \in U_w^\rho$$

# Robust Tuning

$\mathbf{w}_0$  : Workload  $(z_0, z_1, q, w)$

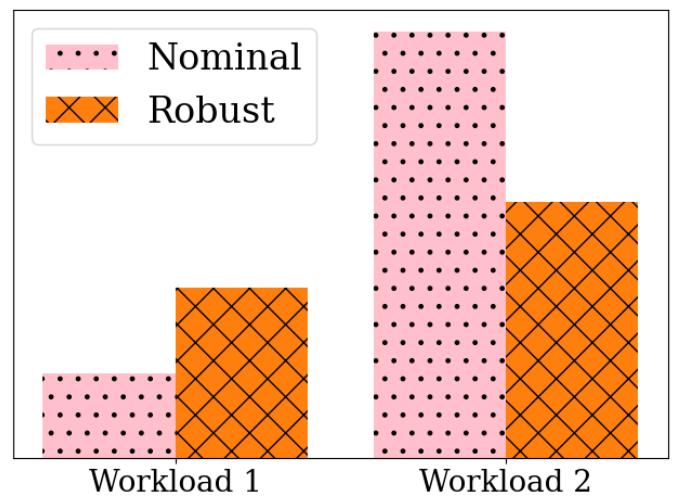


$$\Phi^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\Phi} C(\hat{\mathbf{w}}, \Phi)$$

$$s.t., \quad \hat{\mathbf{w}} \in U_w^\rho$$

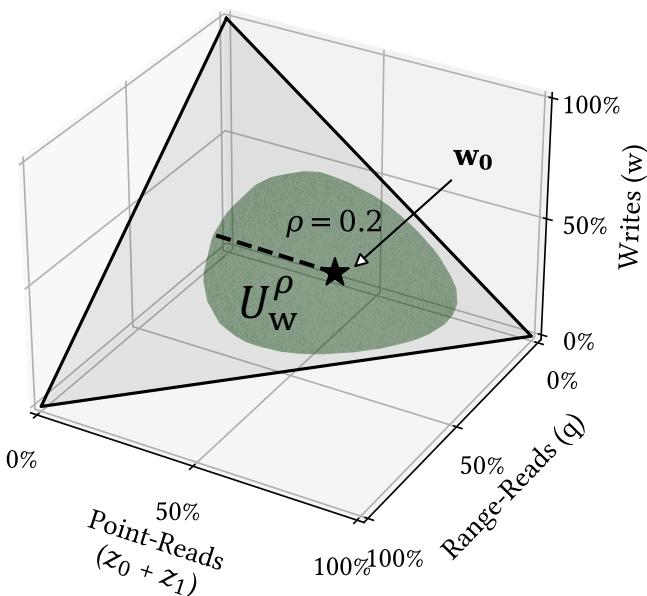
● Optimal configuration for expected workload

▲ Robust configuration for the workload neighborhood



# Uncertainty Neighborhood

Workload Characteristic



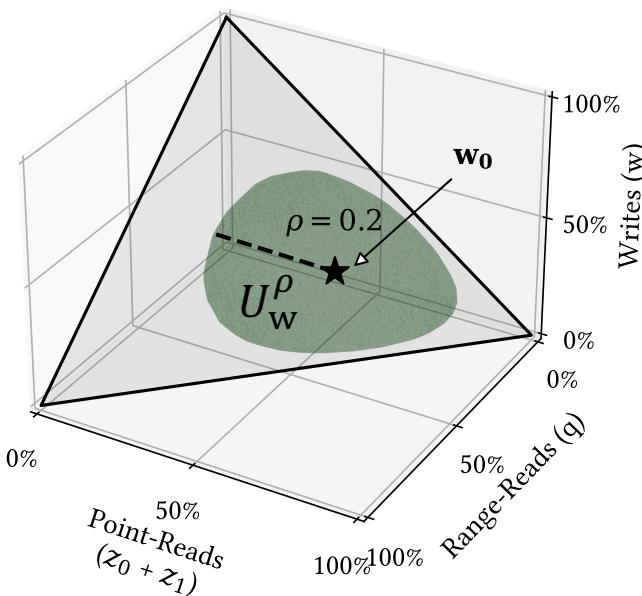
Neighborhood of workloads ( $\rho$ ) via the KL-divergence

$$I_{KL}(\hat{w}, w) = \sum_{i=1}^m \hat{w}_i \cdot \log\left(\frac{\hat{w}_i}{w_i}\right)$$

$U_w^\rho$ : Uncertainty Neighborhood of Workloads  
 $\rho$  : Size of this neighborhood

# Calculating Neighborhood Size

Workload Characteristic



**Historical workloads**

maximum/average uncertainty among workload pairings

**User provided workload uncertainty**

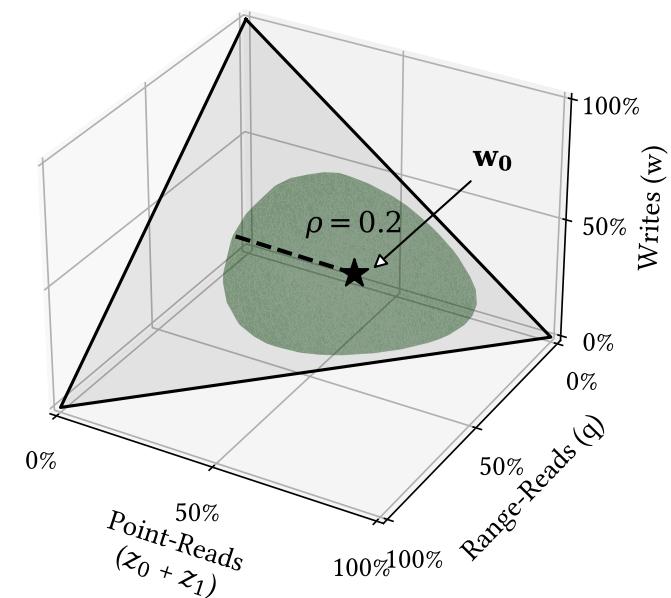
$U_w^\rho$ : Uncertainty Neighborhood of Workloads  
 $\rho$  : Size of this neighborhood

# Solving Robust Problem

Iterating over every possible workload is expensive

$$\Phi_R = \arg \min_{\Phi} \hat{\mathbf{w}}^T \mathbf{c}(\Phi)$$

s.t.  $\hat{\mathbf{w}} \in \mathcal{U}_{\mathbf{w}}^{\rho}$



# Solving Robust Problem

Iterating over every possible workload is expensive

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_R &= \arg \min_{\Phi} \hat{\mathbf{w}}^T \mathbf{c}(\Phi) \\ \text{s.t. } \hat{\mathbf{w}} &\in \mathcal{U}_{\mathbf{w}}^\rho\end{aligned}$$



$$\min_{\Phi} \max_{\hat{\mathbf{w}} \in \mathcal{U}_{\mathbf{w}}^\rho} \hat{\mathbf{w}}^T \mathbf{c}(\Phi)$$



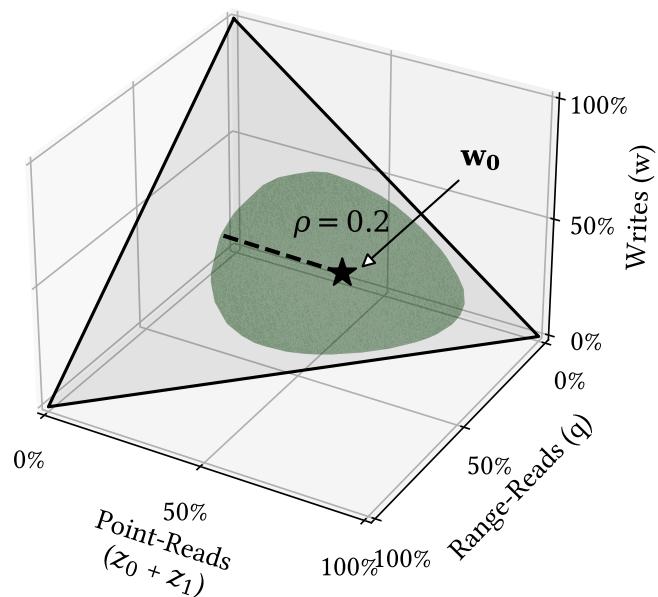
$$\min_{\Phi, \lambda \geq 0, \eta} \left\{ \eta + \rho \lambda + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^m w_i \phi_{KL}^* \left( \frac{c_i(\Phi) - \eta}{\lambda} \right) \right\}$$

Rewrite as a min-max

Find the dual of the maximization problem to reduce to a feasible problem [2]

# ENDURE Pipeline

Workload Characteristic

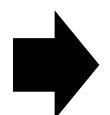


System Information

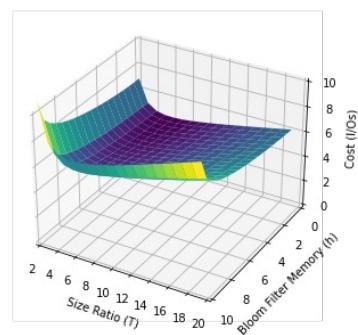
Page Size  
Memory Budget



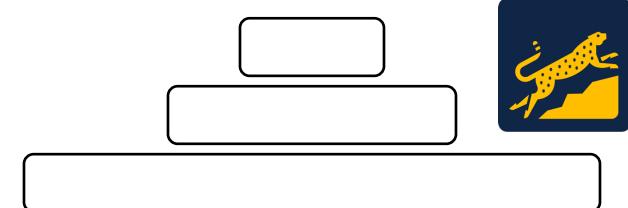
**ENDURE**  
Solves the  
Robust Problem



Expected performance



RocksDB Configuration



# Testing Suite



ENDURE in Python, implemented in tandem with RocksDB

## Uncertainty benchmark

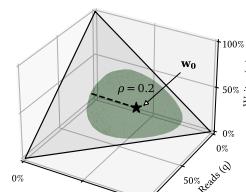
- 15 expected workloads
- 10K randomly sampled workloads as a test-set

## Normalized delta throughput

$$\Delta_w(\Phi_1, \Phi_2) = \frac{1/C(w, \Phi_2) - 1/C(w, \Phi_1)}{1/C(w, \Phi_1)}$$

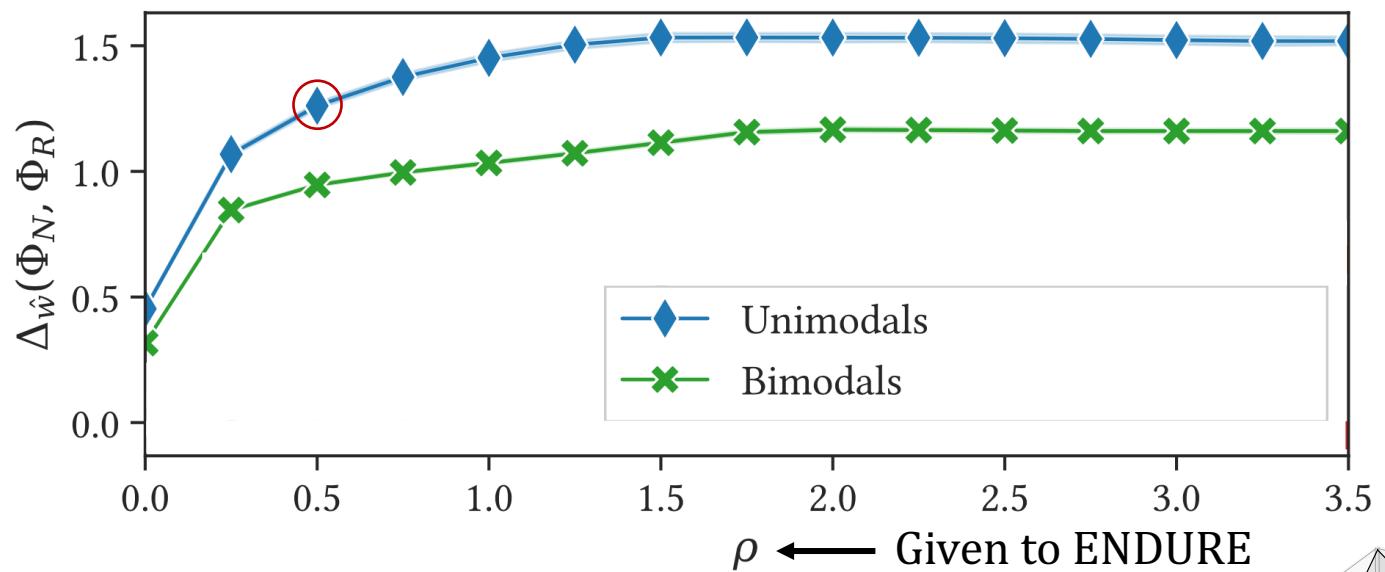
Nominal vs Robust:  $> 0$  is better

1 means 2x speedup

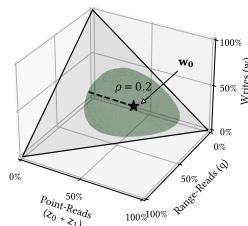


Index	$(z_0, z_1, q, w)$				Type
0	25%	25%	25%	25%	Uniform
1	97%	1%	1%	1%	Unimodal
2	1%	97%	1%	1%	
3	1%	1%	97%	1%	
4	1%	1%	1%	97%	
5	49%	49%	1%	1%	Bimodal
6	49%	1%	49%	1%	
7	49%	1%	1%	49%	
8	1%	49%	49%	1%	
9	1%	49%	1%	49%	
10	1%	1%	49%	49%	
11	33%	33%	33%	1%	Trimodal
12	33%	33%	1%	33%	
13	33%	1%	33%	33%	
14	1%	33%	33%	33%	

# Impact of Workload Type

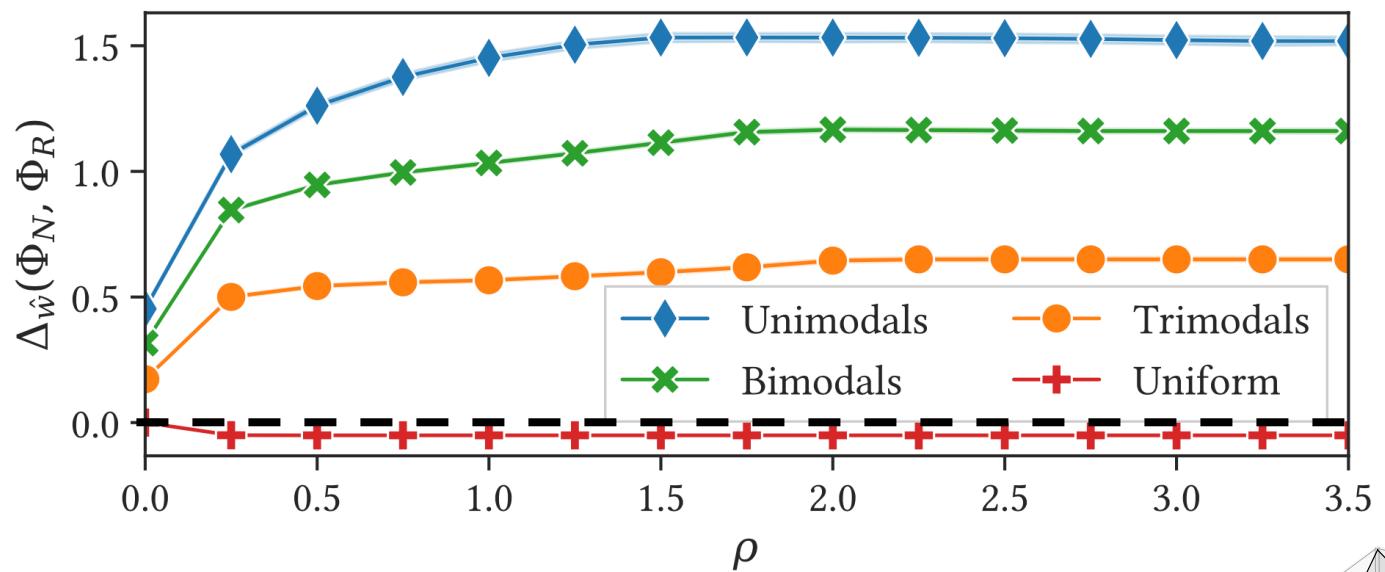


Unbalanced workloads result in overfitted nominal tunings



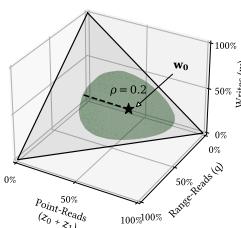
Index	$(z_0, z_1, q, w)$					Type
	0	25%	25%	25%	25%	
1	97%	1%	1%	1%	1%	Unimodal
2	1%	97%	1%	1%	1%	
3	1%	1%	97%	1%	1%	
4	1%	1%	1%	97%	1%	
5	49%	49%	1%	1%	1%	Bimodal
6	49%	1%	49%	1%	1%	
7	49%	1%	1%	49%	1%	
8	1%	49%	49%	1%	1%	
9	1%	49%	1%	49%	1%	
10	1%	1%	49%	49%	1%	
11	33%	33%	33%	1%	1%	Trimodal
12	33%	33%	1%	33%	1%	
13	33%	1%	33%	33%	1%	
14	1%	33%	33%	33%	1%	

# Impact of Workload Type



Unbalanced workloads result in overfitted nominal tunings

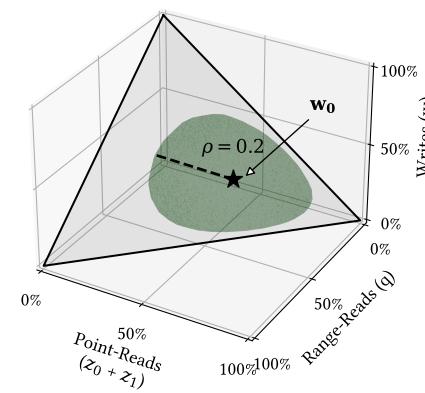
Tuning with uncertainty ( $\rho > 0.5$ ) provides benefits



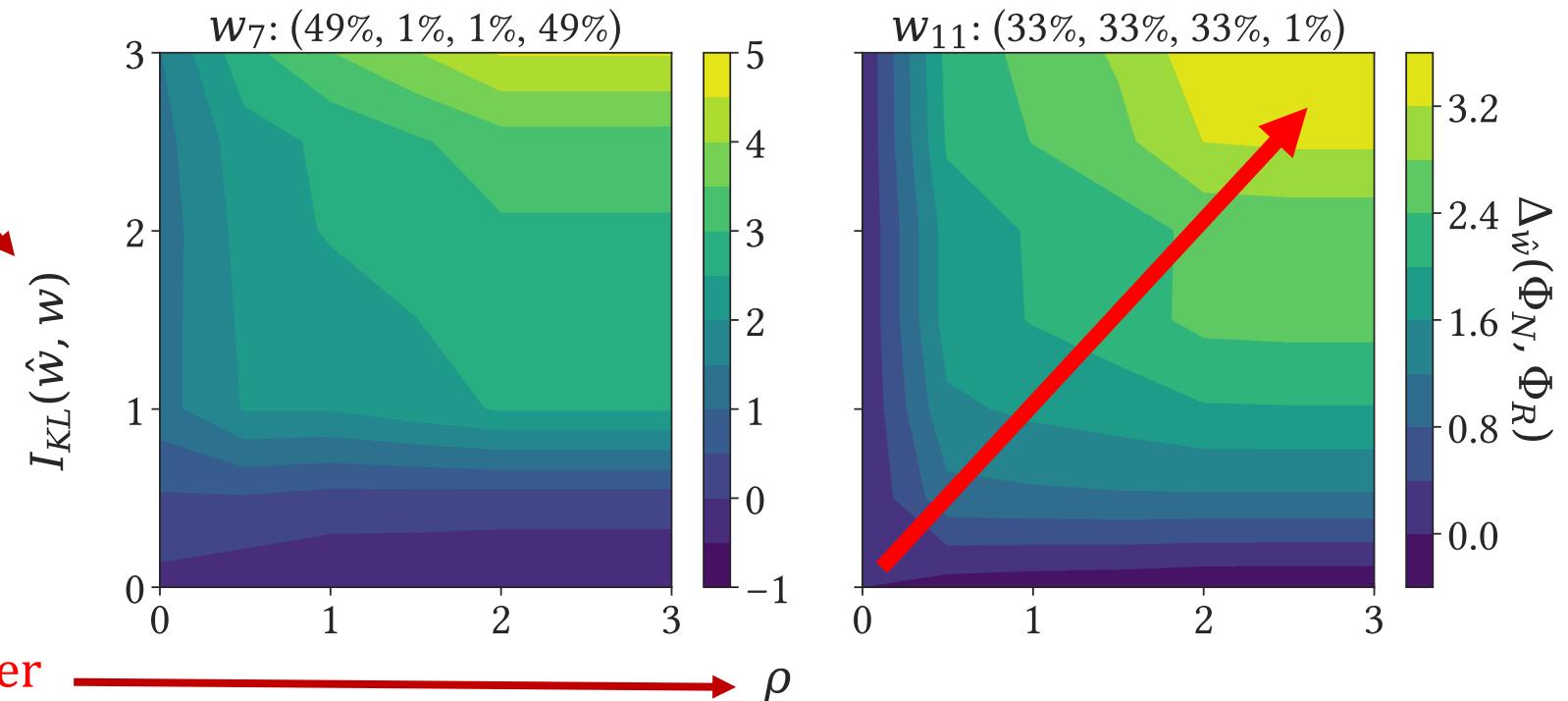
Index	$(z_0, z_1, q, w)$					Type
	0	25%	25%	25%	25%	
1	97%	1%	1%	1%	1%	Unimodal
2	1%	97%	1%	1%	1%	
3	1%	1%	97%	1%	1%	
4	1%	1%	1%	1%	97%	
5	49%	49%	1%	1%	1%	Bimodal
6	49%	1%	49%	1%	1%	
7	49%	1%	1%	49%	1%	
8	1%	49%	49%	1%	1%	
9	1%	49%	1%	49%	1%	
10	1%	1%	49%	49%	1%	
11	33%	33%	33%	1%	1%	Trimodal
12	33%	33%	1%	33%	1%	
13	33%	1%	33%	33%	1%	
14	1%	33%	33%	33%	1%	

# Relationship of Expected and Observed $\rho$

**Observed  $\rho$ :** distance from executed workload to expected workload



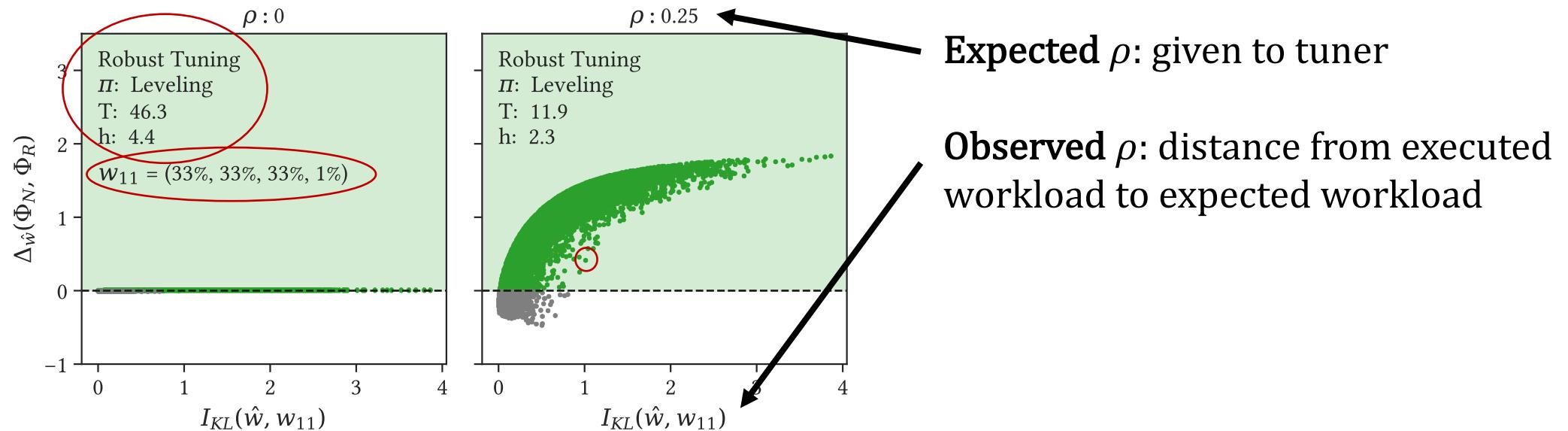
**Expected  $\rho$ :** workload given to tuner



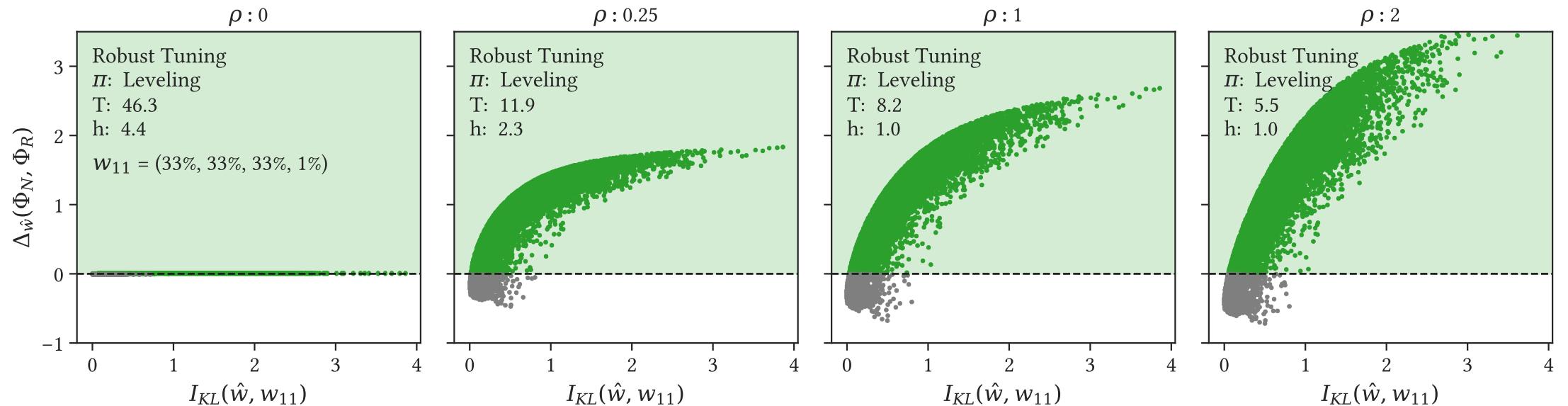
Highest throughput when observed and expected  $\rho$  match

Lowest throughput when  $\rho$  is mismatched

# Impact of Observed vs Expected $\rho$

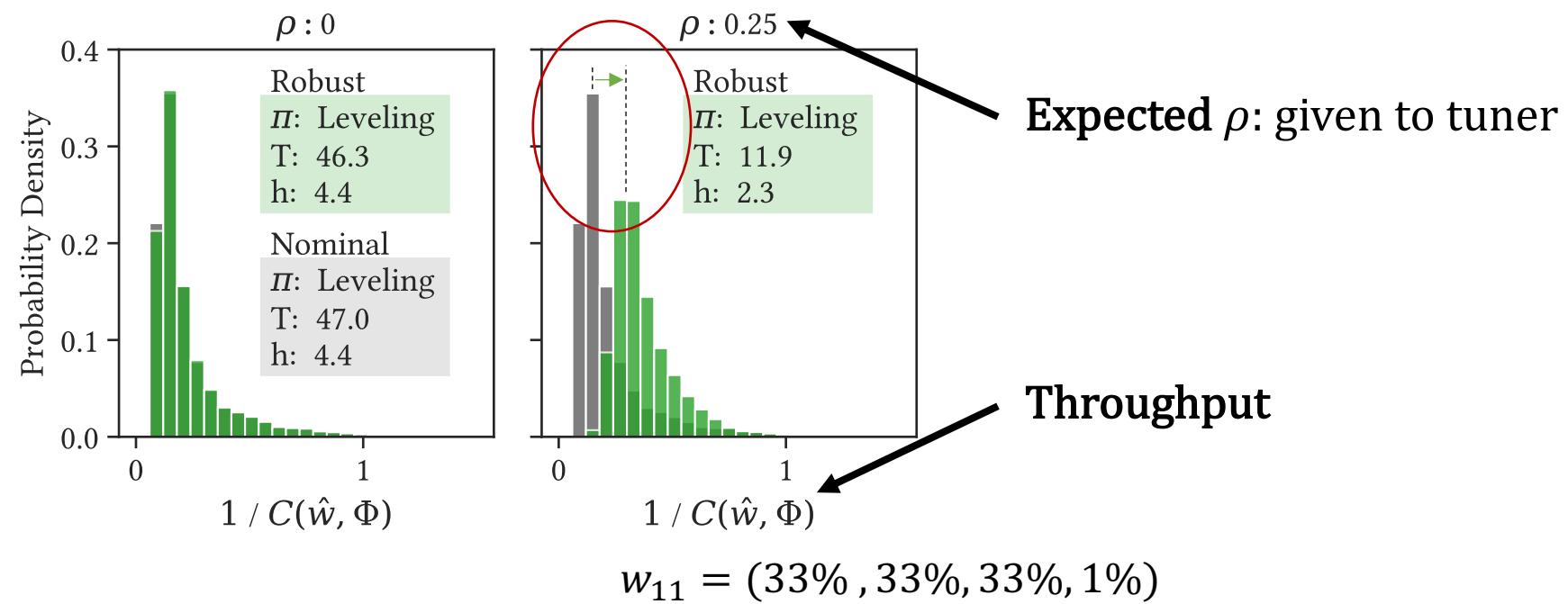


# Impact of Observed vs Expected $\rho$

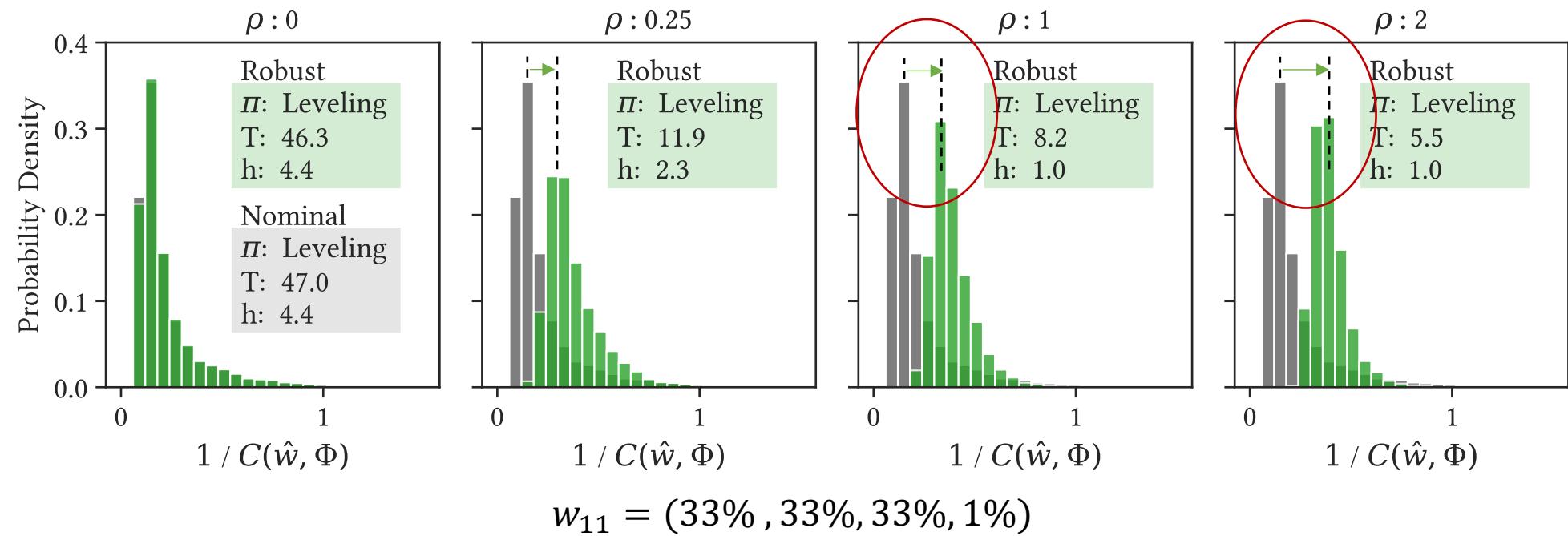


- Higher expected  $\rho$  accounts for more uncertainty,
- Potential speed up of 4x
- Higher expected  $\rho \rightarrow$  anticipates writes  $\rightarrow$  shallow tree

# $\rho$ and Performance Gain Distribution

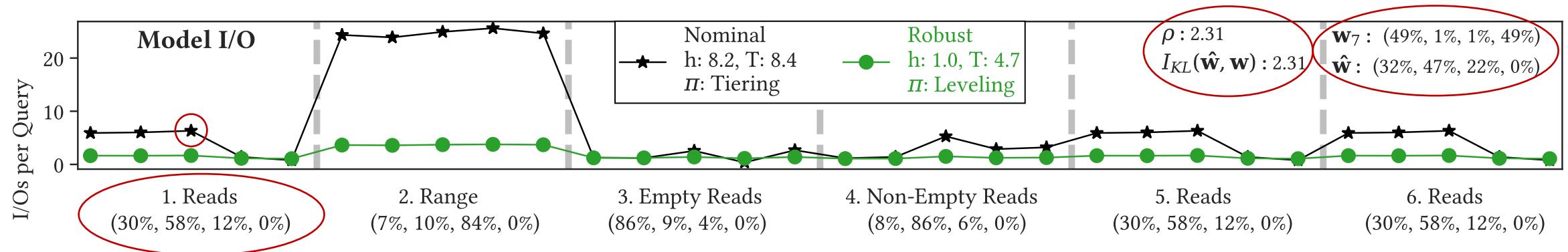


# $\rho$ and Performance Gain Distribution



Peak of the distribution moves towards higher throughput as we consider higher uncertainty

# Workload Sequence on RocksDB

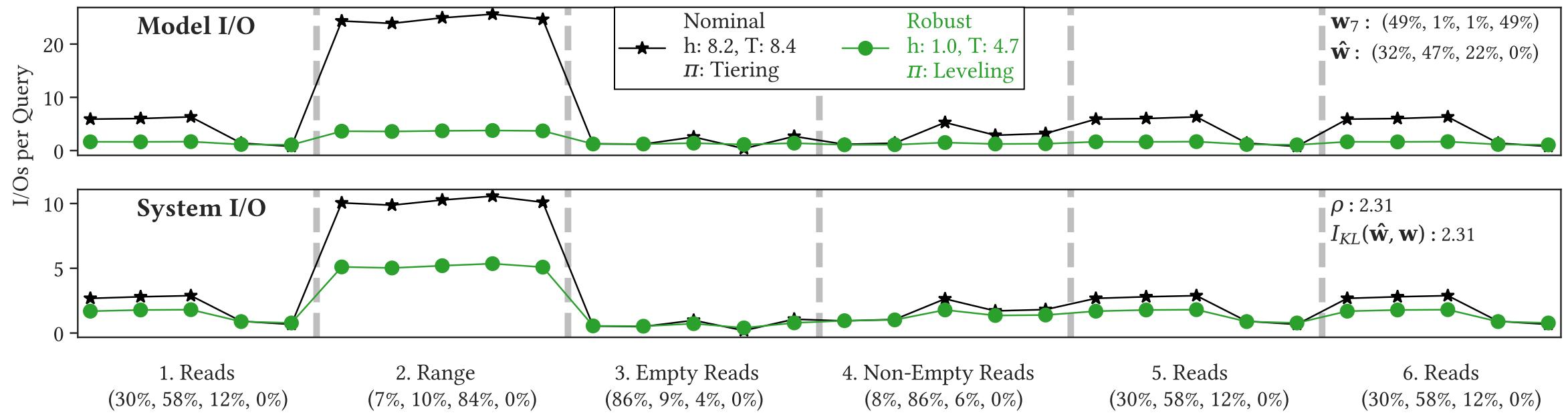


RocksDB instance setup with 10 million unique key-value pairs of size 1KB

Each observation period is 200K queries, with 5 observations per session 6 million queries to the DB

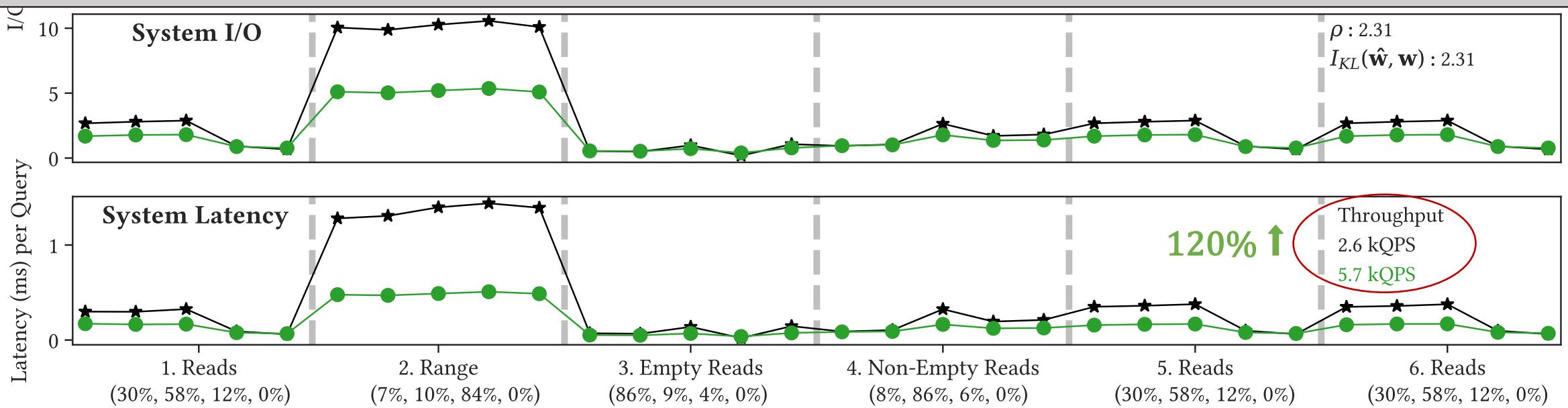
Writes are unique, range queries average 1-2 pages per level

# Workload Sequence



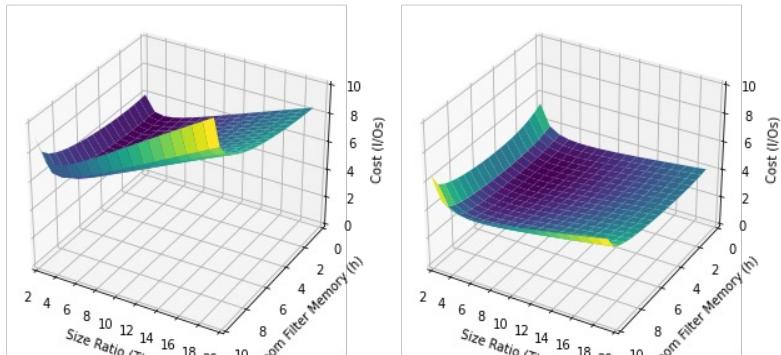
# Workload Sequence

Small subset of results! Take a look at the paper for a more detailed analysis



# Thanks!

Workload uncertainty creates suboptimal tunings



ENDURE: robust tuning using neighborhood of workloads

Deployed ENDURE on RocksDB

[disc.bu.edu/](http://disc.bu.edu/) 

[www.ndhuynh.com/](http://www.ndhuynh.com/)

 @nd\_huynh

