



Hunting Mice with μ s Circuit Switches

Nathan Farrington
George Porter
Yeshaiahu Fainman
George Papen
Amin Vahdat[†]

UC San Diego

[†]Google

Hybrid Data Center Networks



The diagram illustrates a hybrid data center network architecture. At the bottom, a dark blue rectangular box with vertical stripes represents the 'Cluster of Hosts (Pod, Rack, Container)'. Two lines extend upwards from this box, each connecting to a light gray cloud shape. The left cloud is labeled 'Packet-switched Network (PSN)' and the right cloud is labeled 'Circuit-switched Network (CSN)'. The background features a brick wall pattern above a concrete base.

Packet-switched
Network (PSN)

Circuit-switched
Network (CSN)

Cluster of Hosts
(Pod, Rack, Container)

Hybrid Data Center Networks

Packet-switched
Network (PSN)

Circuit-switched
Network (CSN)

- Lower CAPEX
- Lower OPEX
- Requires scheduling algorithm

Cluster of Hosts
(Pod, Rack, Container)

1. Hybrid DCNs

Q. I am a packet. Do I go over the PSN or the CSN?

A. CSN. If a circuit exists between our pod and the destination pod, then the circuit setup time cost has already been paid.

Corollary. A scheduling algorithm should maximize the throughput over the CSN.

1. Hybrid DCNs

Q. I am a circuit switch. How should I be configured, both right now, and in the future?

The Talk-in-a-Slide Slide

Prior hybrid DCNs use *Hotspot Scheduling*

- Throughput depends on workload
- Not clear how to benefit from faster switch technology

We propose *Traffic Matrix Scheduling*

- Achieves 100% throughput on all workloads
- Trading off:
 - Switching time
 - Host buffering
 - Offered load
- Able to use faster switch technology
- But also requires faster switch technology

Outline

1. Hybrid DCNs

2. Algorithms

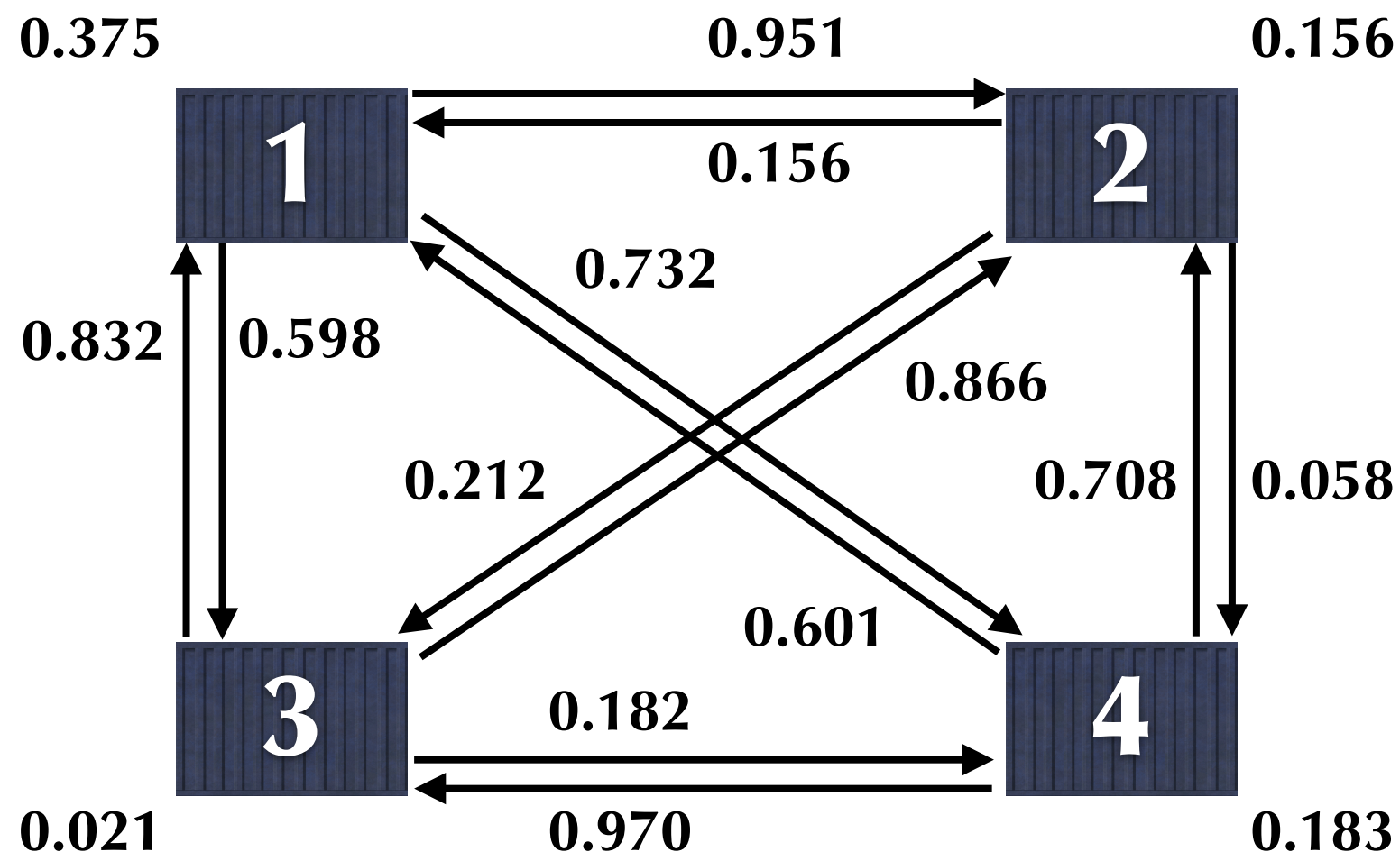
- Linear and Stochastic Scaling
- Hotspot Scheduling
- Traffic Matrix Scheduling

3. Analysis

Linear and Stochastic Scaling

2. Algorithms: Linear and Stochastic Scaling

In general, pods have unequal demands.



Units are percentage of total link capacity.

2. Algorithms: Linear and Stochastic Scaling

Traffic demand matrix (TDM)

		<i>destination pods</i>			
		1	2	3	4
<i>source pods</i>	1	0.375	0.951	0.732	0.598
	2	0.156	0.156	0.058	0.866
	3	0.601	0.708	0.021	0.970
	4	0.832	0.212	0.182	0.183

$$\text{TDM} = [m_{ij}]$$

$$\forall i \forall j \quad 0 \leq m_{ij} \leq 1$$

2. Algorithms: Linear and Stochastic Scaling

An *admissible* TDM has all row sums (R_i) and all column sums (C_i) less than or equal to 1.

	1	2	3	4	R_i
1	0.375	0.951	0.732	0.598	2.656
2	0.156	0.156	0.058	0.866	1.236
3	0.601	0.708	0.021	0.970	2.300
4	0.832	0.212	0.182	0.183	1.417
C_i	1.964	2.027	0.993	2.617	

Admissible is also called *doubly substochastic*.

2. Algorithms: Linear and Stochastic Scaling

We want admissible TDMs because

- **Pods cannot send more than their link capacity.**
- **Pods cannot receive more than their link capacity.**

2. Algorithms: Linear and Stochastic Scaling

**Any TDM can be made admissible
with *linear scaling*.**

	1	2	3	4	R_i	
1	0.375	0.951	0.732	0.598	2.656	← C
2	0.156	0.156	0.058	0.866	1.236	
3	0.601	0.708	0.021	0.970	2.300	
4	0.832	0.212	0.182	0.183	1.417	
C_i	1.964	2.027	0.993	2.617		

Step 1. Choose $c = \max(R_i, C_i)$

2. Algorithms: Linear and Stochastic Scaling

**Any TDM can be made admissible
with *linear scaling*.**

$$\frac{1}{2.656} \begin{bmatrix} 0.375 & 0.951 & 0.732 & 0.598 \\ 0.156 & 0.156 & 0.058 & 0.866 \\ 0.601 & 0.708 & 0.021 & 0.970 \\ 0.832 & 0.212 & 0.182 & 0.183 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0.141 & 0.358 & 0.276 & 0.225 \\ 0.059 & 0.059 & 0.022 & 0.326 \\ 0.226 & 0.267 & 0.008 & 0.365 \\ 0.313 & 0.080 & 0.069 & 0.069 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} 1.000 \\ 0.466 \\ 0.866 \\ 0.531 \end{matrix}$$

0.739 0.764 0.375 0.985

Step 2. Multiply TDM by 1/c.

2. Algorithms: Linear and Stochastic Scaling

Bandwidth allocation matrix (BAM)

	1	2	3	4	R_i	
1	0.094	0.286	0.521	0.100	1.000	
2	0.144	0.173	0.152	0.531	1.000	$\forall i \ R_i = 1$
3	0.279	0.394	0.027	0.299	1.000	$\forall i \ C_i = 1$
4	0.483	0.147	0.299	0.071	1.000	
C_i	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000		

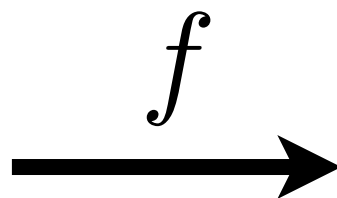
A BAM is called *doubly stochastic*.

2. Algorithms: Linear and Stochastic Scaling

Stochastic scaling uses the TDM
to compute the BAM.

TDM

	1	2	3	4	R_i
1	0.375	0.951	0.732	0.598	2.656
2	0.156	0.156	0.058	0.866	1.236
3	0.601	0.708	0.021	0.970	2.300
4	0.832	0.212	0.182	0.183	1.417
C_i	1.964	2.027	0.993	2.617	



BAM

	1	2	3	4	R_i
1	0.094	0.286	0.521	0.100	1.000
2	0.144	0.173	0.152	0.531	1.000
3	0.279	0.394	0.027	0.299	1.000
4	0.483	0.147	0.299	0.071	1.000
C_i	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	

Sinkhorn (1964)

$$\text{TDM} \rightarrow \text{BAM}^{(0)}$$

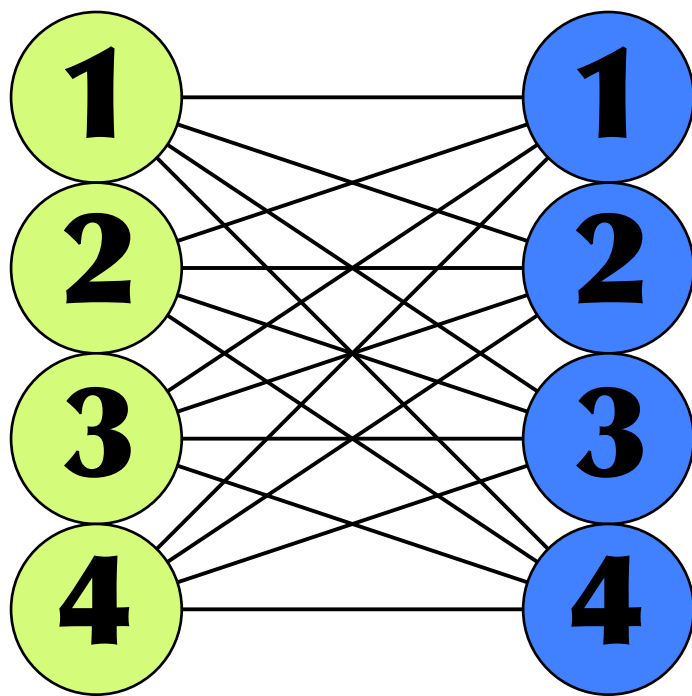
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1/R_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1/R_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1/R_N \end{bmatrix} \text{BAM}^{(i)} \begin{bmatrix} 1/C_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1/C_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1/C_N \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \text{BAM}^{(i+1)}$$

Stop when you have enough precision.

Hotspot Scheduling

2. Algorithms: Hotspot Scheduling

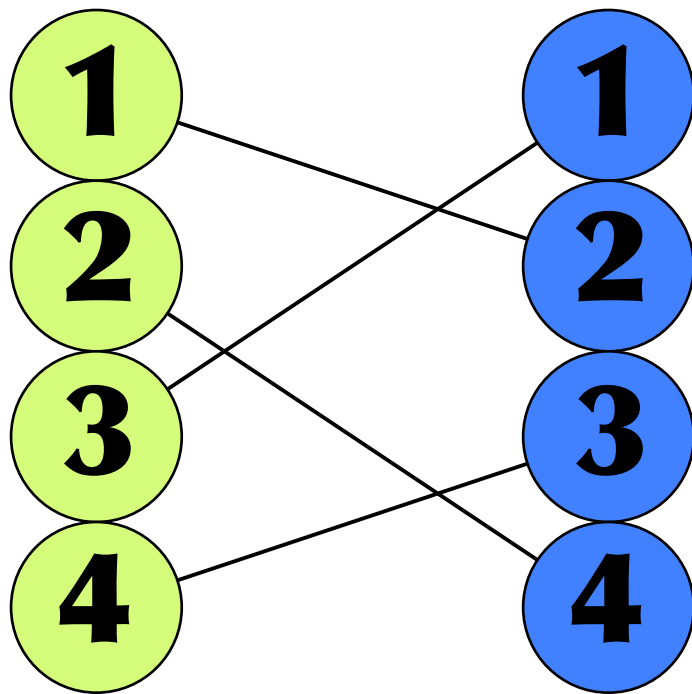
A circuit switch can be represented as both a bipartite graph and as an adjacency matrix.



	1	2	3	4
1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	1	1
3	1	1	1	1
4	1	1	1	1

2. Algorithms: Hotspot Scheduling

A maximal assignment on the bipartite graph is a permutation matrix.



	1	2	3	4
1	0	1	0	0
2	0	0	0	1
3	1	0	0	0
4	0	0	1	0

There are $O(N!)$ maximal assignments.

2. Algorithms: Hotspot Scheduling

Compute the max-weighted maximal matching (the maximum matching) on the BAM.

BAM										Assignment				
	1	2	3	4							1	2	3	4
1	0.094	0.286	0.521	0.100	→	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
2	0.144	0.173	0.152	0.531		2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
3	0.279	0.394	0.027	0.299		3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
4	0.483	0.147	0.299	0.071		4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Kuhn-Munkres (1955) is $O(N^3)$.

2. Algorithms: Hotspot Scheduling

Who uses Hotspot Scheduling?

c-Through [HotNets '09, SIGCOMM '10]

Flyways [HotNets '09, SIGCOMM '11]

Helios [SIGCOMM '10, OFC '11]

OSA [HotNets '10, NSDI '12]

MirrorMirror [HotNets '11, SIGCOMM '12]

2. Algorithms: Hotspot Scheduling

How does Hotspot Scheduling perform?

	1	2	3	4
1	0	1	0	0
2	0	0	0	1
3	1	0	0	0
4	0	0	1	0

100% Throughput

	1	2	3	4
1	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4
2	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4
3	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4
4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4

25% Throughput

**Hotspot Scheduling is best for hotspot traffic
and worst for all-to-all traffic.**

Problems

- 1. Lengthy computation before every circuit switch reconfiguration.**
- 2. Speeding up the switch technology does not speed up the computation.**
- 3. Performance is too dependent on communication patterns.**

Traffic Matrix Scheduling

2. Algorithms: Traffic Matrix Scheduling

Birkhoff-von Neumann Matrix Decomposition

BAM

0.094	0.286	0.521	0.100
0.144	0.173	0.152	0.531
0.279	0.394	0.027	0.299
0.483	0.147	0.299	0.071

Time Durations

$$\begin{aligned} &= \begin{matrix} \downarrow \\ 0.394 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{matrix} \searrow \\ 0.144 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{matrix} \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ 0.137 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &+ \begin{matrix} \downarrow \\ 0.094 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{matrix} \searrow \\ 0.071 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{matrix} \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ 0.056 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &+ \begin{matrix} \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ 0.053 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{matrix} \downarrow \\ 0.027 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{matrix} \searrow \\ 0.018 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{matrix} \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ 0.045 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Birkhoff-von Neumann Matrix Decomposition

BAM

0.094	0.286	0.521	0.100
0.144	0.173	0.152	0.531
0.279	0.394	0.027	0.299
0.483	0.147	0.299	0.071

$$= \sum_i^k c_i P_i$$

$$k \leq N^2 - 2N + 2$$

$$\forall i \quad 0 < c_i \leq 1$$

$$\sum_i^k c_i = 1$$

The BvN expansion is a convex combination.

2. Algorithms: Traffic Matrix Scheduling

We don't need to use all the terms.

BAM

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0.094 & 0.286 & 0.521 & 0.100 \\ 0.144 & 0.173 & 0.152 & 0.531 \\ 0.279 & 0.394 & 0.027 & 0.299 \\ 0.483 & 0.147 & 0.299 & 0.071 \end{bmatrix} > 0.394 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + 0.144 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

In this example:

- The first term is the same as Hotspot Scheduling.
- The first two terms provide 53.8% of the capacity.

2. Algorithms: Traffic Matrix Scheduling

How does Traffic Matrix Scheduling perform?

**100% Throughput
for any BAM**

Problems

1. **Very expensive: $O(N^{4.5})$**
2. **$O(N^2)$ terms in the worst case.**

Analysis

3. Analysis



Switching Time (t_{setup})

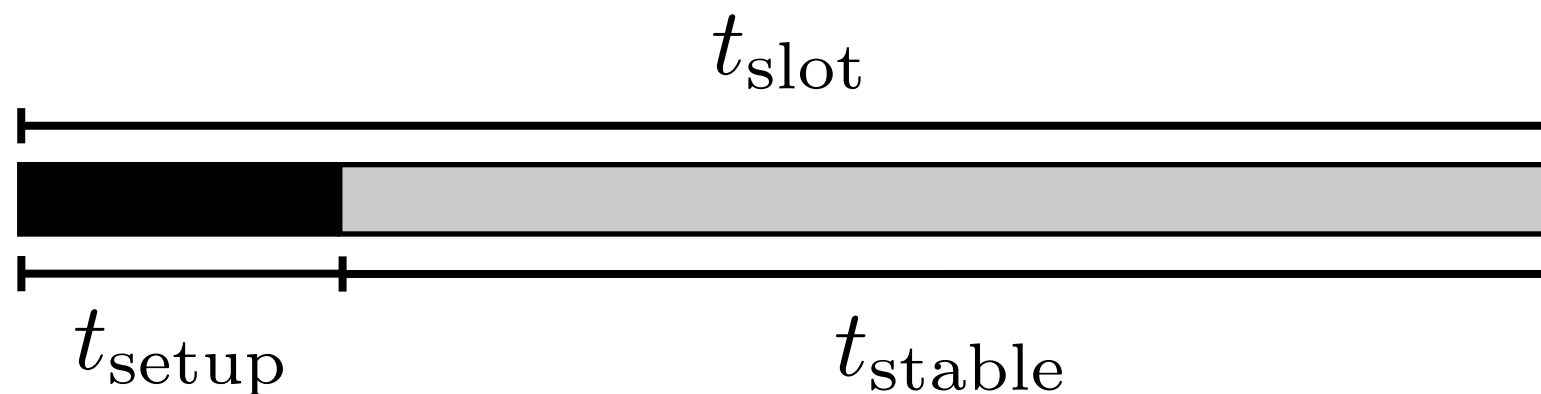
Host Buffering

Offered Load

PSN Capacity

Duty Cycle

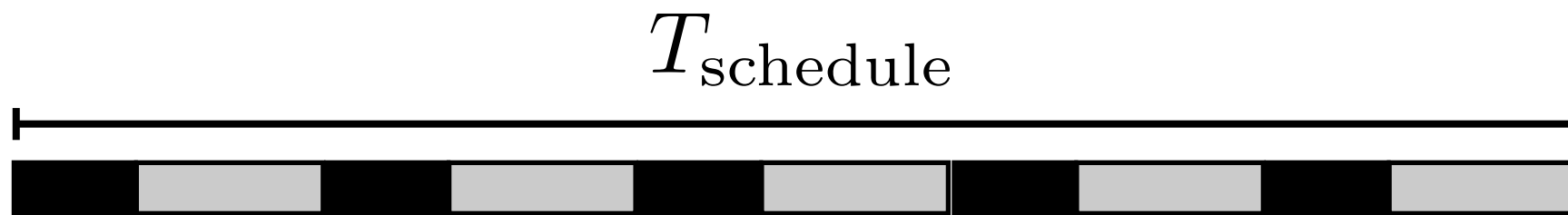
(equal-length time slots)



$$D = \frac{t_{\text{stable}}}{t_{\text{setup}} + t_{\text{stable}}} = \frac{t_{\text{stable}}}{t_{\text{slot}}}$$

Duty Cycle

(variable-length time slots)



$$T_{\text{setup}} = k t_{\text{setup}}$$

$$D = \frac{T_{\text{stable}}}{T_{\text{setup}} + T_{\text{stable}}} = \frac{T_{\text{stable}}}{T_{\text{schedule}}}$$

Effective Link Rate

$$L_{\text{effective}} = DL$$

**If your duty cycle is 90%,
then your 10G link becomes a 9G link.**

**Which is fine if your offered load
is not more than 9G.**

When can you achieve 100%?

n : number of time slots

CSN: circuit-switched network

PSN: packet-switched network

D: duty cycle

$$t_{\text{setup}} = 10\mu\text{s}$$

$$T_{\text{schedule}} = 1\text{ms}$$

Longest Time Slot First (LTF) Scheduling

If offered load is less than
9 Gb/s, we can achieve 100%
throughput over the CSN.

n	CSN	PSN	D
0	0%	100.0%	N/A
1	39.4%	60.6%	100.0%
2	53.8%	46.2%	98.0%
3	63.8%	36.2%	97.0%
4	72.7%	27.3%	96.0%
5	80.6%	19.4%	95.0%
6	87.3%	12.7%	94.0%
7	92.3%	7.7%	93.0%
8	96.6%	3.4%	92.0%
9	99.3%	0.7%	91.0%
10	100.0%	0%	90.0%



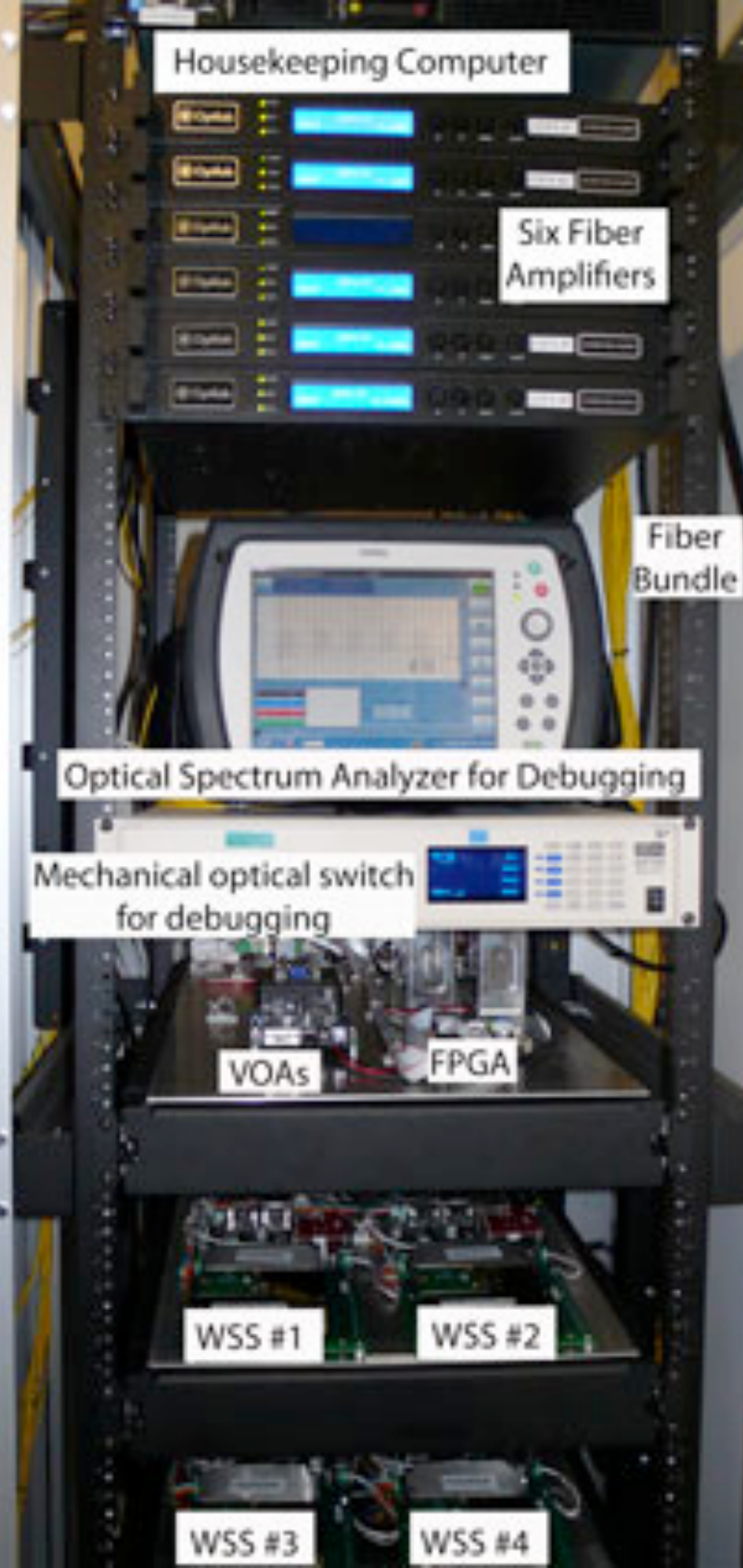
Host Buffer Requirements (all-to-all traffic)

$$B = L_{\text{effective}} (N - 1) t_{\text{slot}}$$

Helios $B = 9 \text{ Gb/s} (24 - 1) 270 \text{ ms} = 7.23 \text{ GB}$

Mordia $B = 9 \text{ Gb/s} (24 - 1) 100 \mu\text{s} = 2.74 \text{ MB}$

Each host requires this much buffering.



Conclusion

Prior hybrid DCNs use *Hotspot Scheduling*

- Throughput depends on workload
- Not clear how to benefit from faster switch technology

We propose *Traffic Matrix Scheduling*

- Achieves 100% throughput on all workloads
- Trading off:
 - Switching time
 - Host buffering
 - Offered load
- Able to use faster switch technology
- But also requires faster switch technology

Backup Slides

Other Topics

Hosts and TDMA?

- Requires microsecond precision
- NIC vs kernel implementation

TCP?

- 50% throughput on Mordia prototype

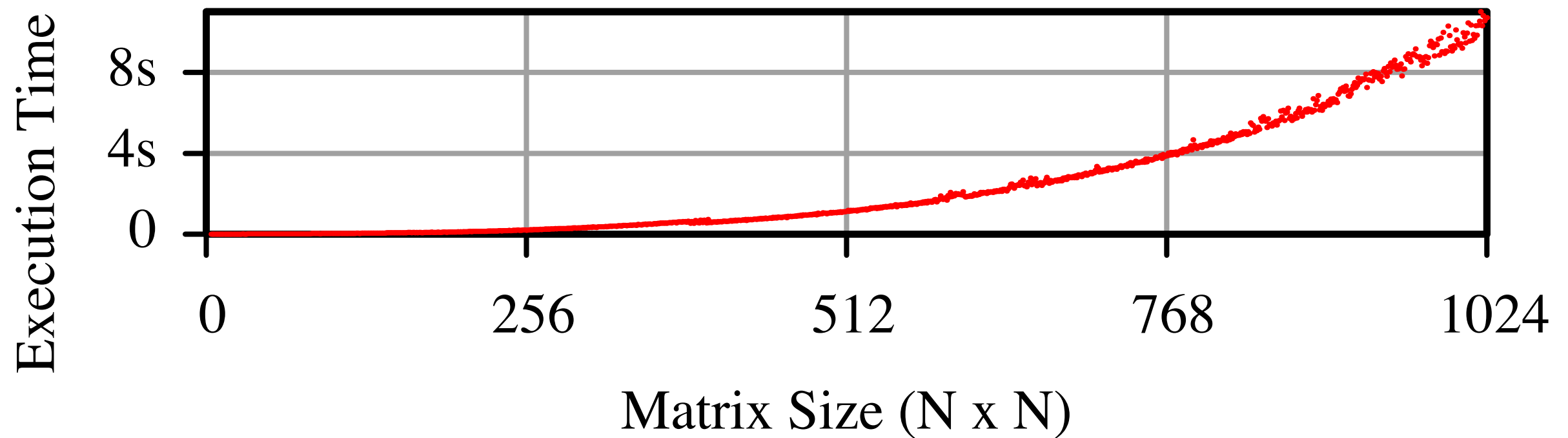
Latency-sensitive Traffic?

- Traffic Matrix Scheduling adds milliseconds of latency (T_{schedule}).

Mordia Optical Circuit Switch Prototype?

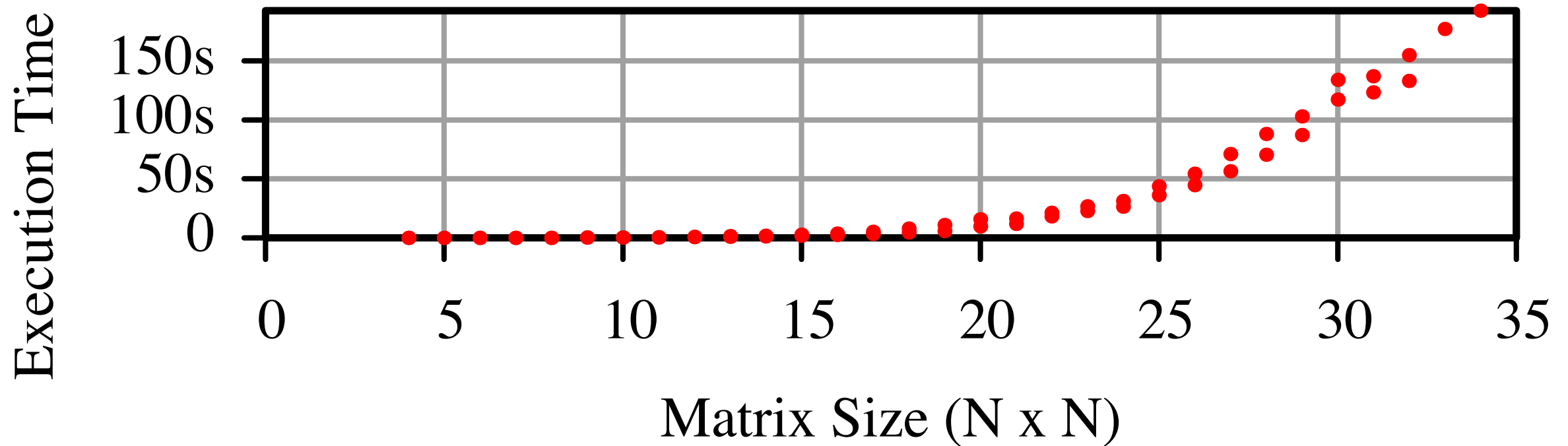
- No time in this talk, sorry.

2. Algorithms: Traffic Matrix Scheduling



Sinkhorn

2. Algorithms: Traffic Matrix Scheduling



Birkhoff