



# Queues don't matter when you can JUMP them

Matthew P. Grosvenor   Malte Schwarzkopf   Ionel Gog

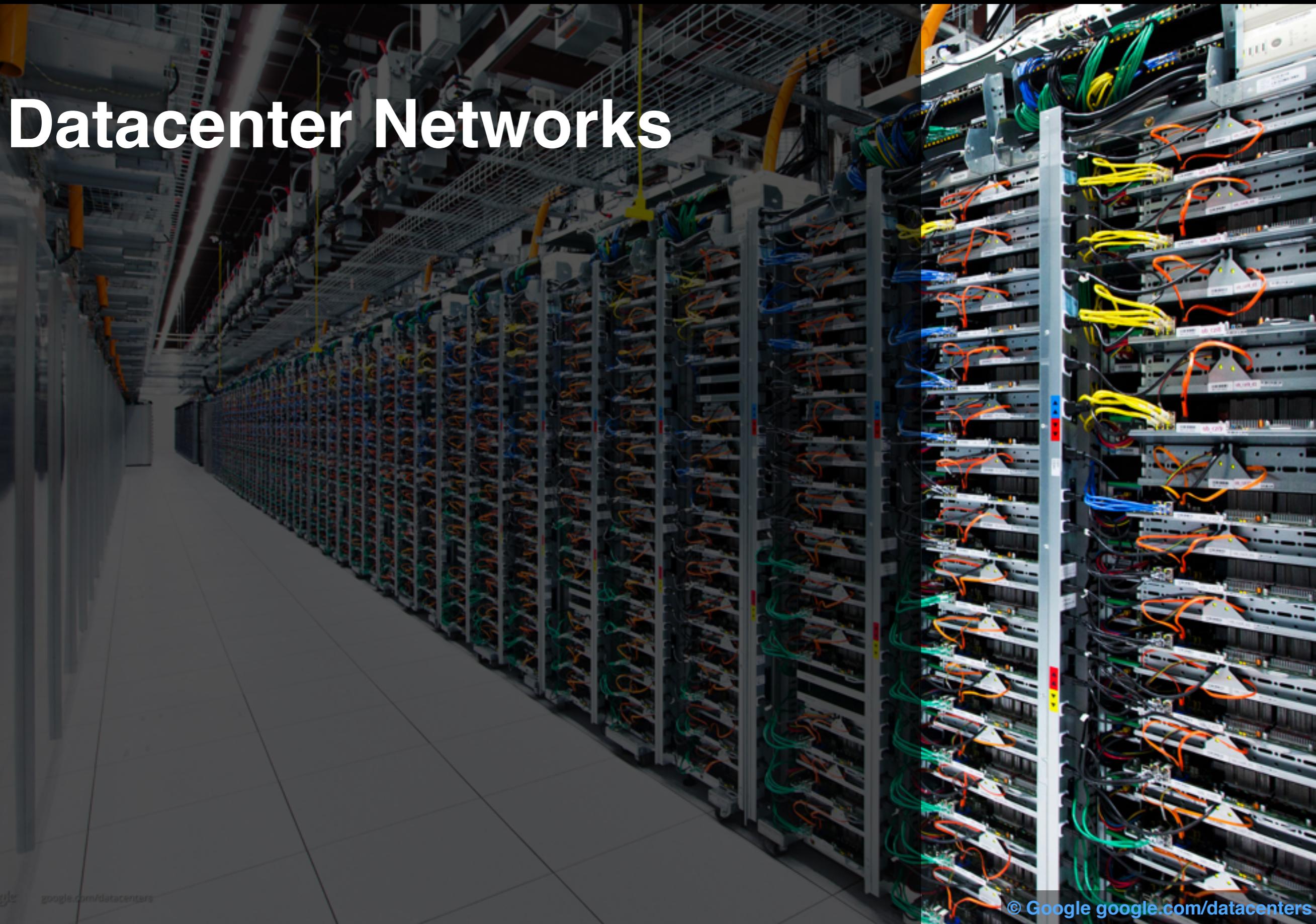
Andrew W. Moore   Robert N. M. Watson   Steven Hand   Jon Crowcroft



# Context

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## Datacenter Networks



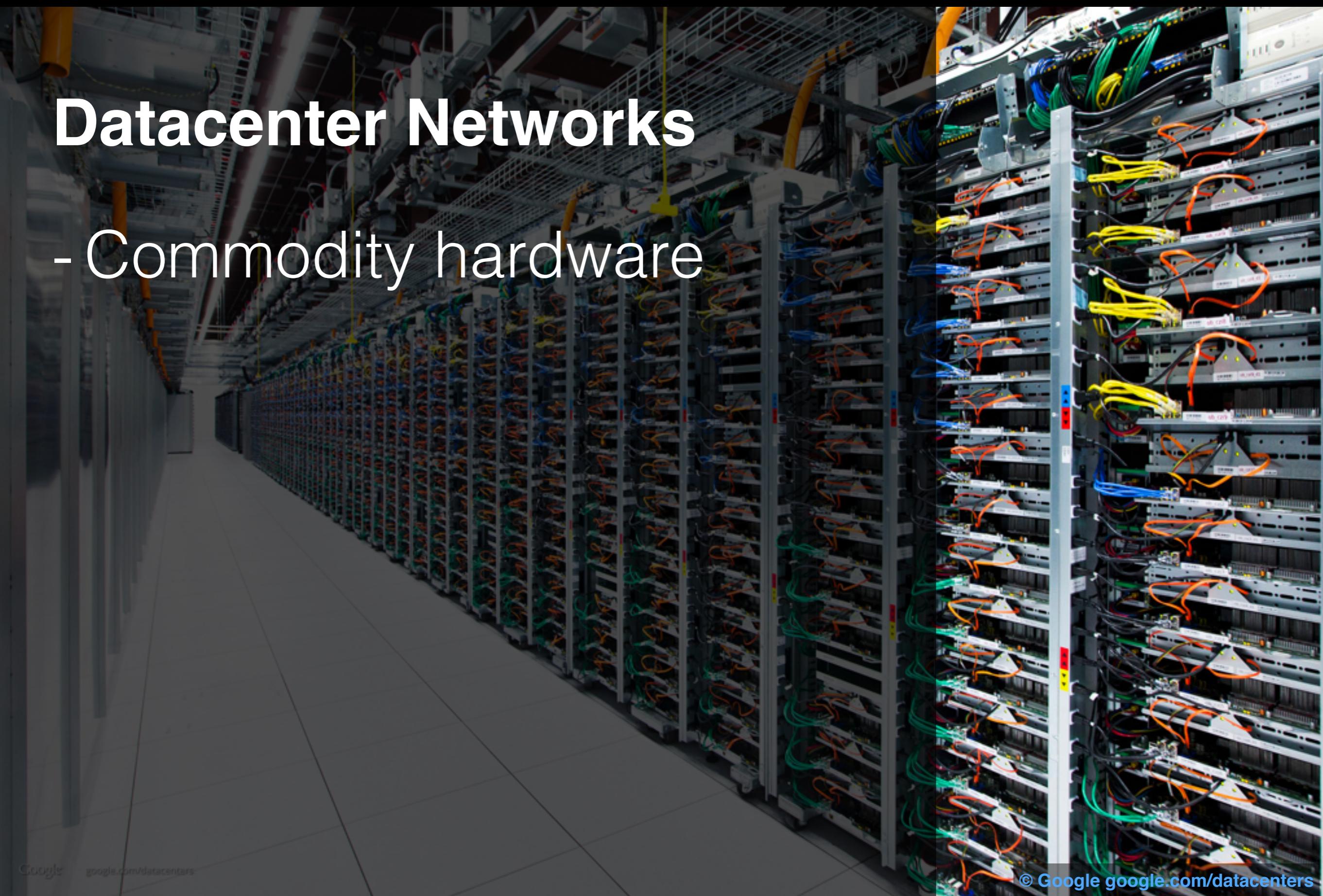


# Context

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## Datacenter Networks

- Commodity hardware



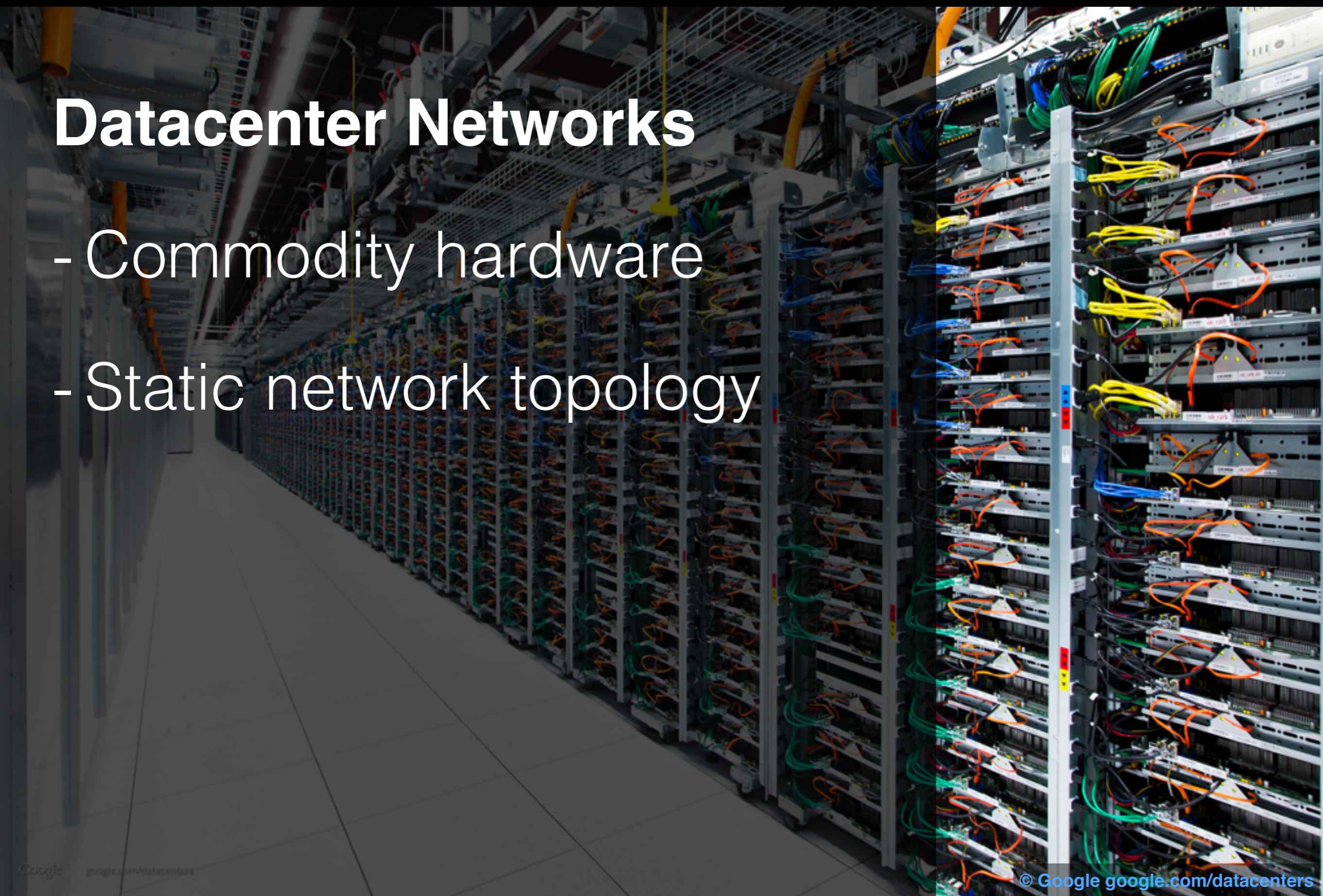


# Context

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## Datacenter Networks

- Commodity hardware
- Static network topology





# Context

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## Datacenter Networks

- Commodity hardware
- Static network topology
- Single administrative domain





# Context

## Datacenter Networks

- Commodity hardware
- Static network topology
- Single administrative domain
- Some level of cooperation





# Context

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## Datacenter Networks

- Commodity hardware
- Static network topology
- Single administrative domain
- Some level of cooperation
- Statistically Multiplexed



# Context

## Datacenter Networks

- Commodity hardware
- Static network topology
- Single administrative domain
- Some level of cooperation
- **Statistically Multiplexed**



# Context

## Datacenter Networks

- Commodity hardware
- Static
- Single administrative domain
- Level of cooperation
- Statistically Multiplexed

**latency  
NO GUARANTEES**



# Application impact

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## Illustrative experiment

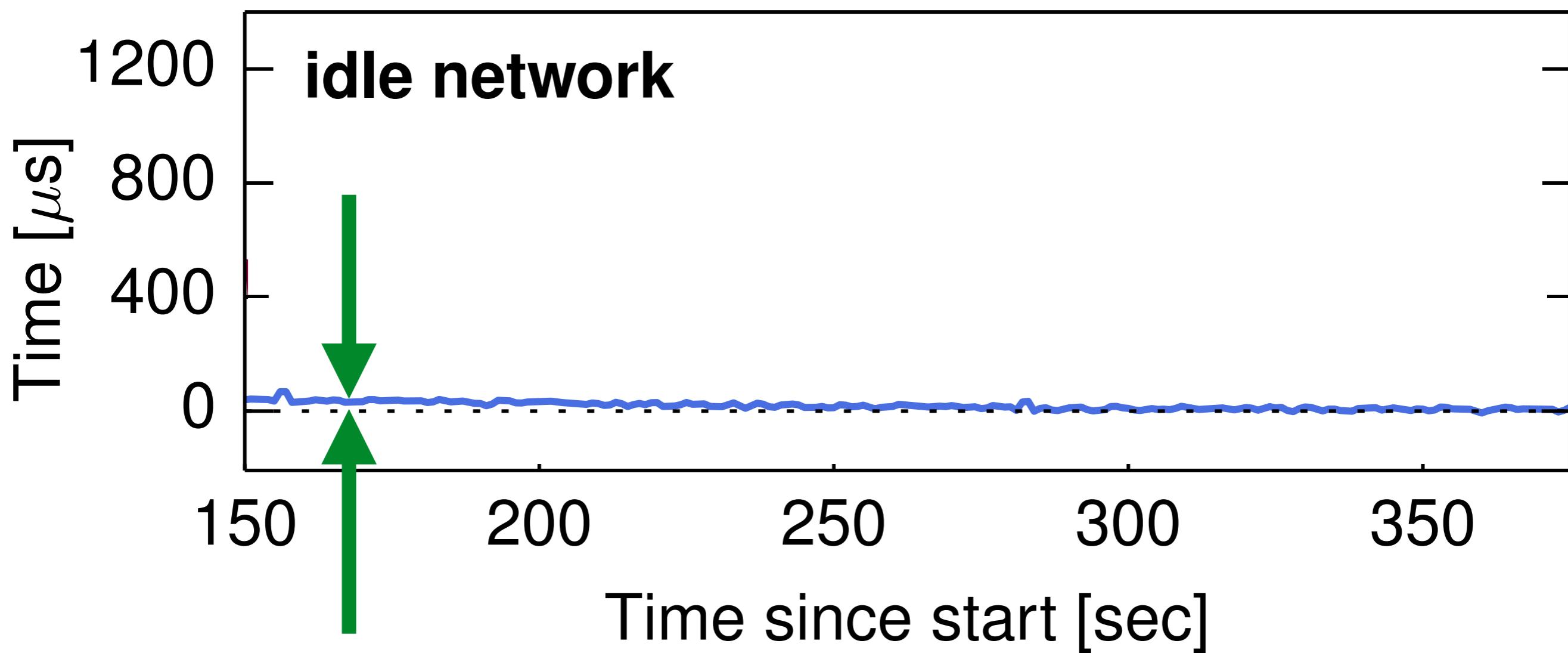
- 12 node 10G test cluster
- 8 nodes *Hadoop MR*
- 2 nodes *PTPd*
- 2 nodes *memcached*



# Application impact

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— PTPd offset



**PTP sync offset: close to zero = good**

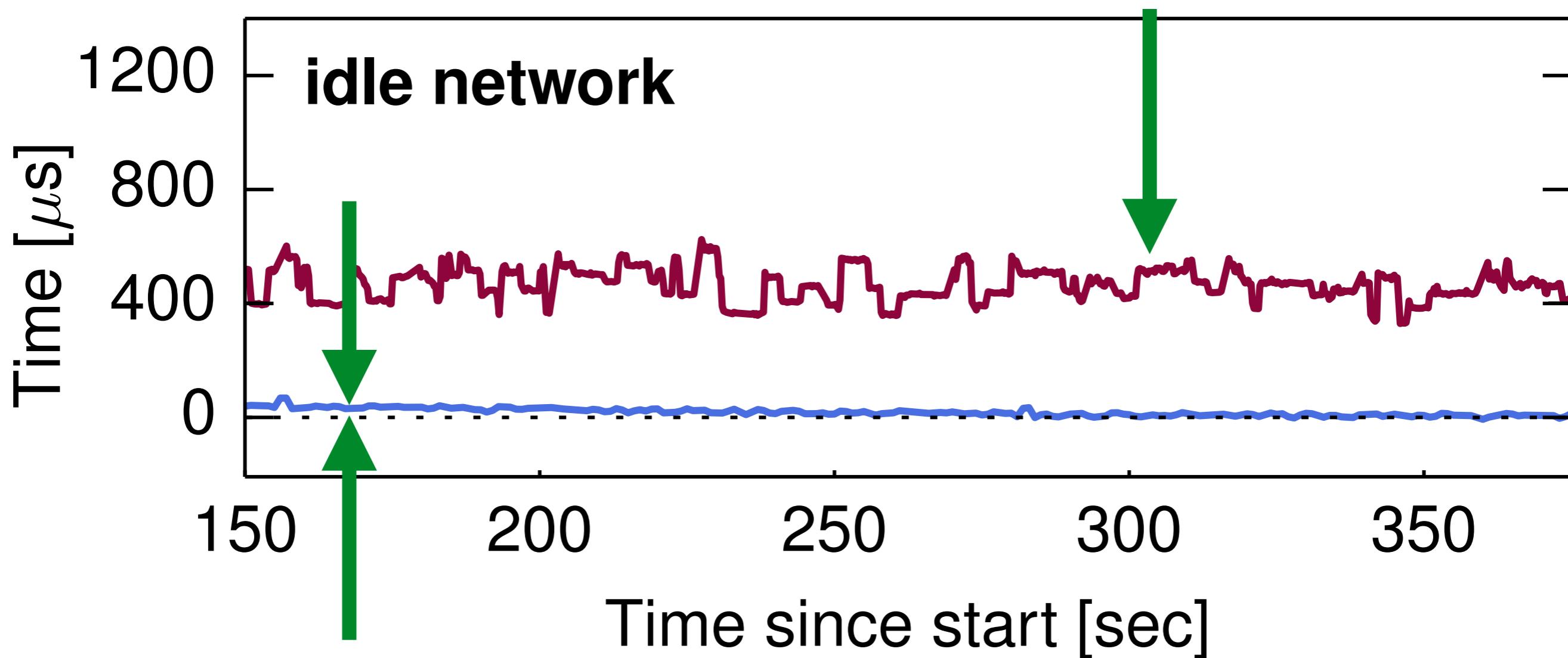


# Application impact

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— PTPd offset — memcached avg. latency

**memcached latency: lower = good**



**PTP sync offset: close to zero = good**

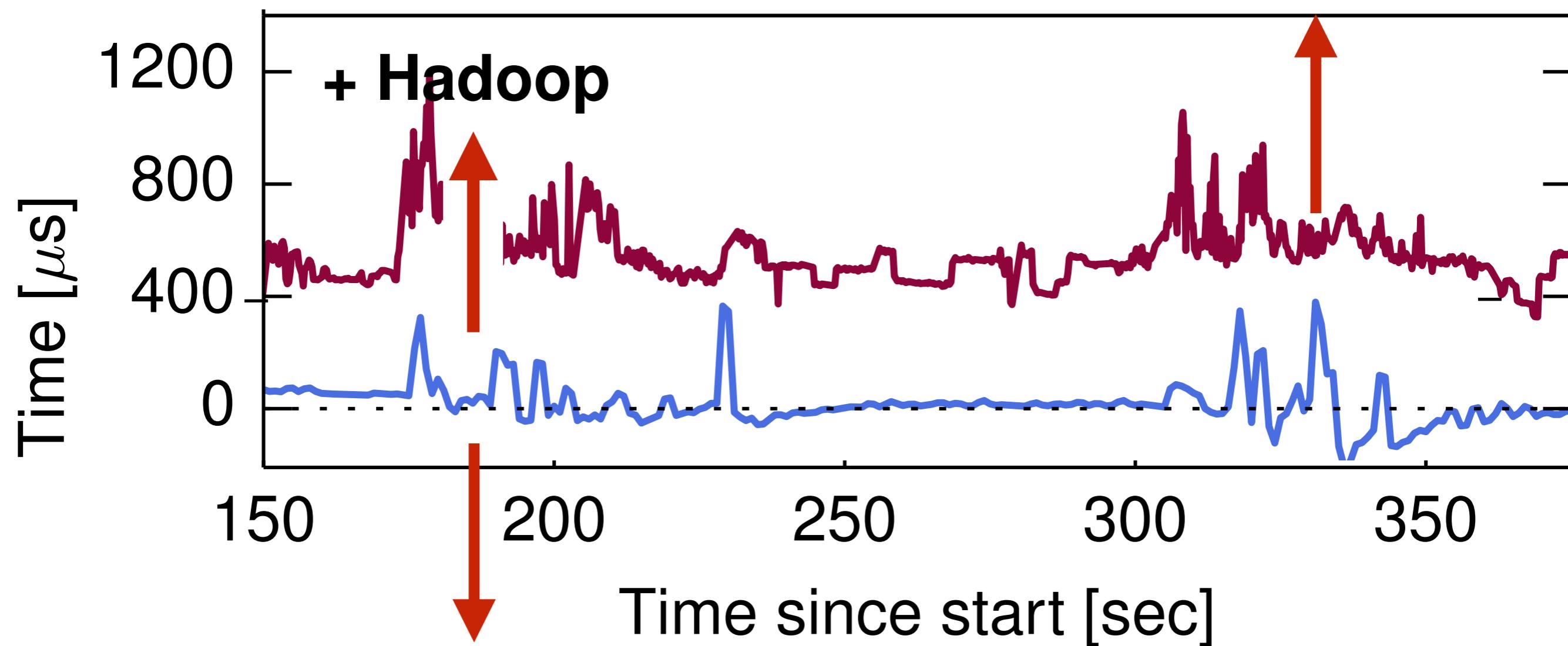


# Application impact

13

— PTPd offset — memcached avg. latency

**memcached latency: higher = bad**



**PTP sync offset: away from zero = bad**

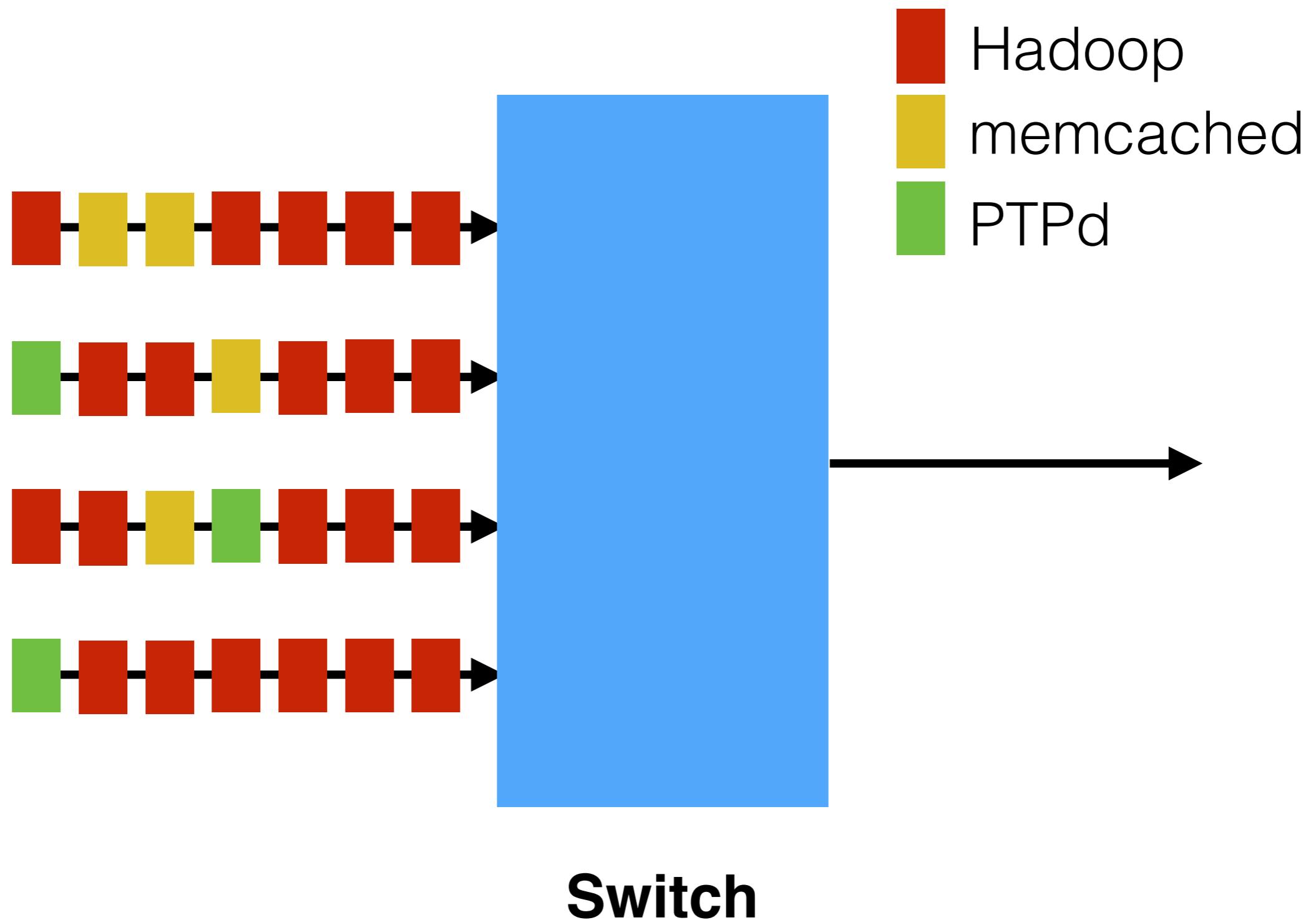


# What's the problem?





# Network Interference

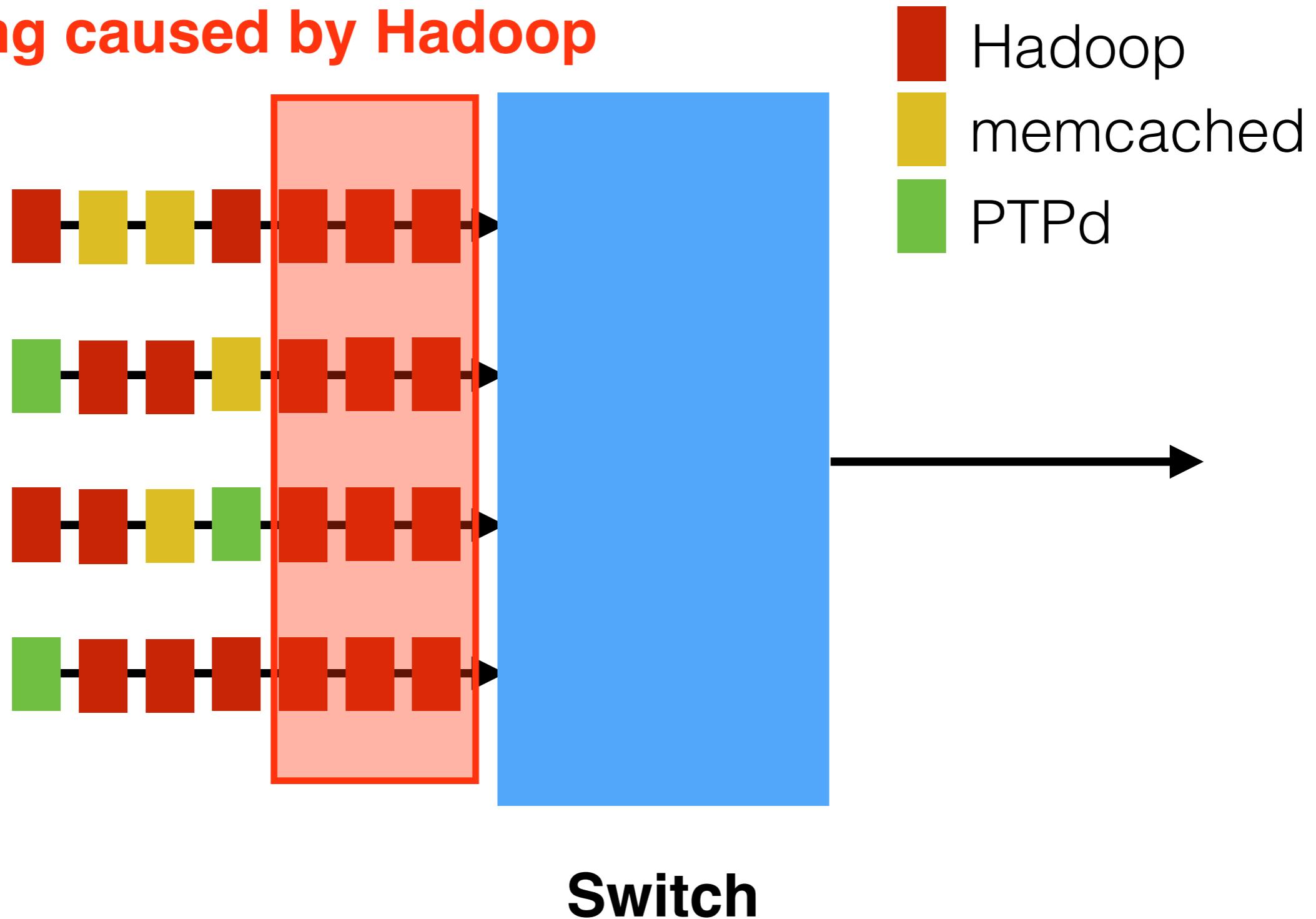




# Network Interference

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## Queuing caused by Hadoop

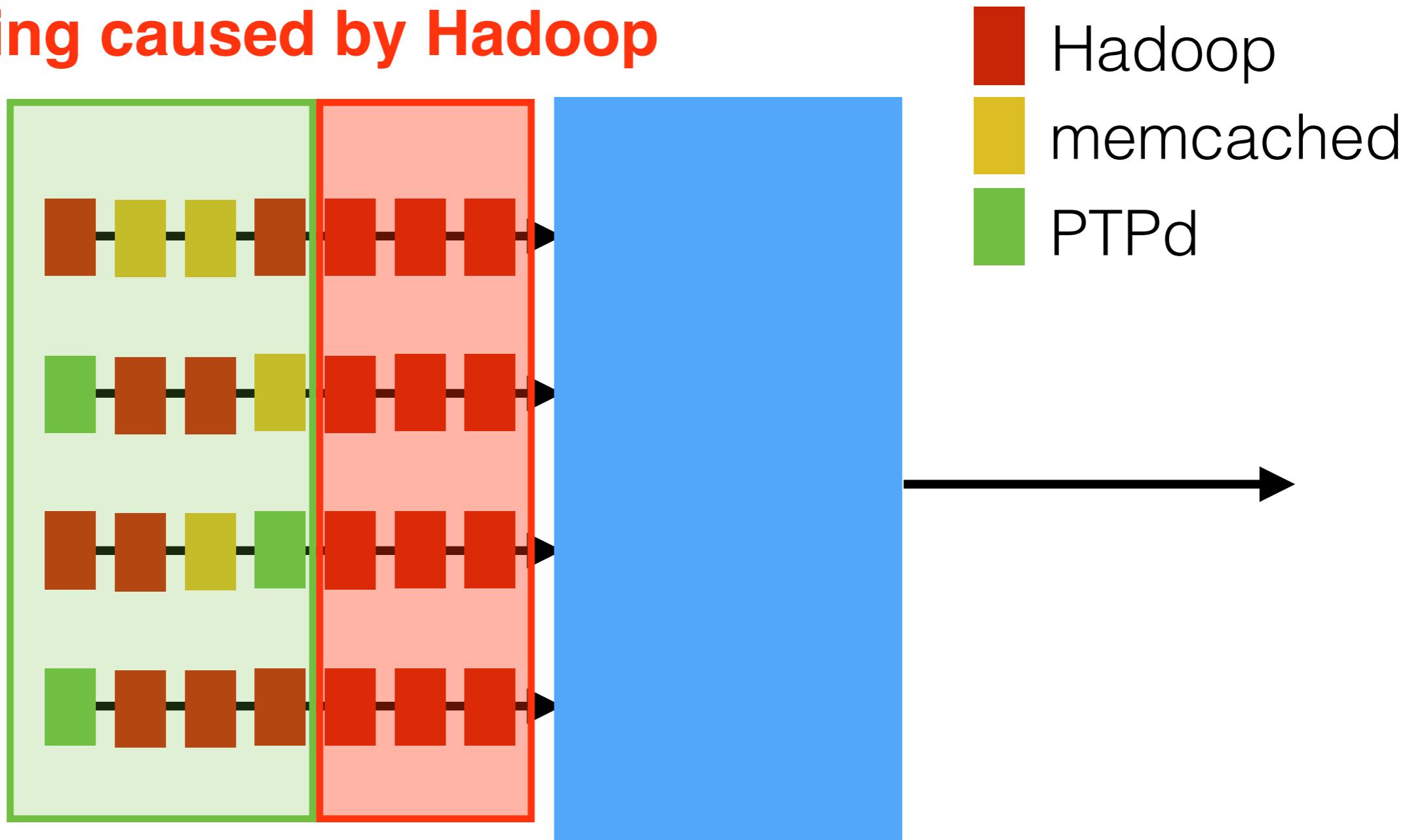




# Network Interference

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## Queuing caused by Hadoop



Delaying traffic from PTPd  
and memcached

Switch



# Key Idea

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## Network Interference:

Congestion from one application causes queuing that delays traffic from another\* application.

\*possibly related



# Solving network interference?

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## Borrow some old ideas

Packet by Packet Generalised Processor Sharing (PGPS)

(Weighted) Fair Queuing (WFQ)

Differentiated Service Classes (diff-serv)

Parekh-Gallager Theorem



# Solving network interference?

20

## Borrow some old ideas

Packet by Packet Generalised Processor Sharing (PGPS)

(Weighted) Fair Queuing (WFQ)

Differentiated Service Classes (diff-serv)

Parekh-Gallager Theorem

**Apply in a new context : Datacenters**



# Opportunities & Constraints

21

## Datacenter Opportunities



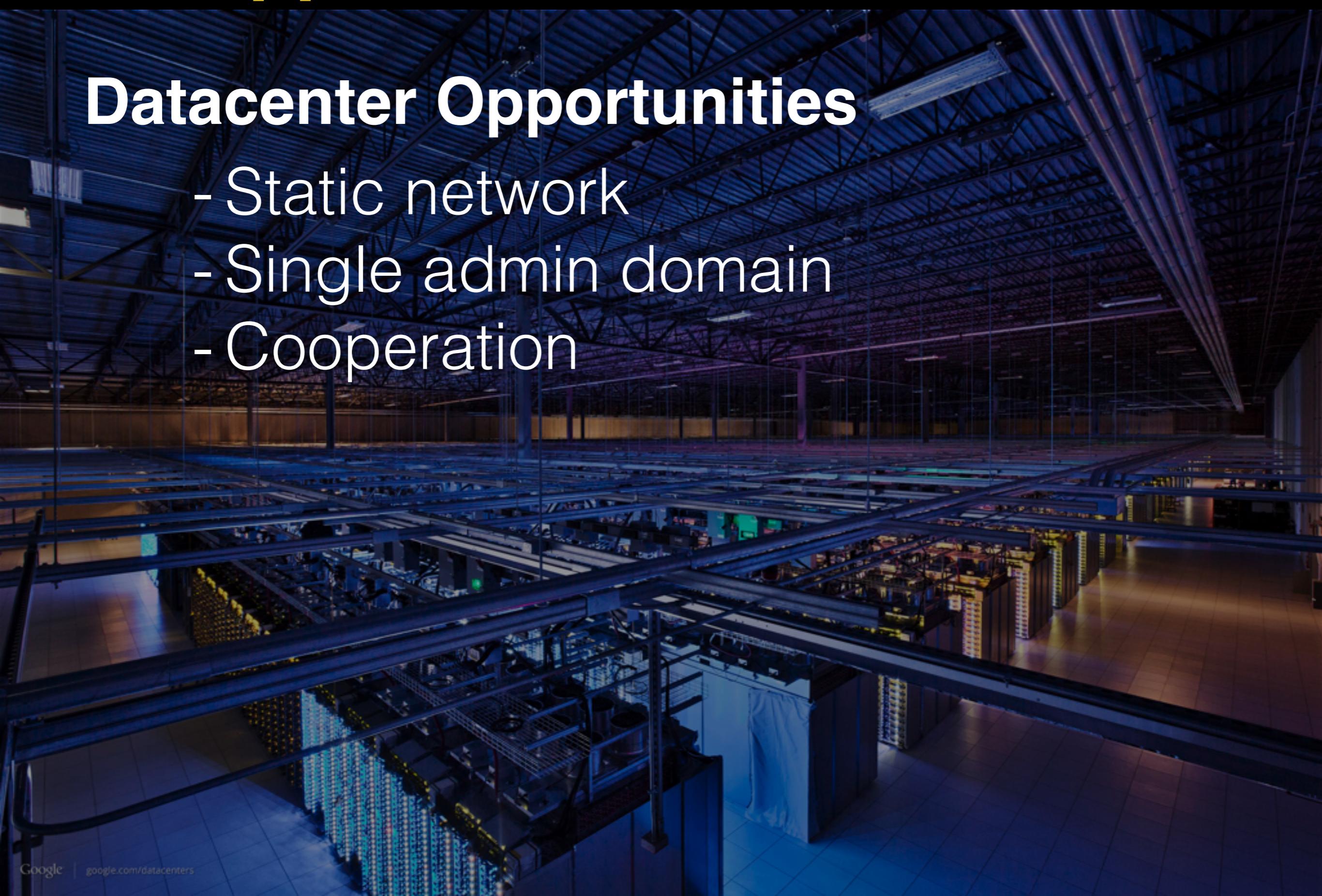


# Opportunities & Constraints

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## Datacenter Opportunities

- Static network
- Single admin domain
- Cooperation





# Opportunities & Constraints

23

## Datacenter Opportunities

- Static network
- Single admin domain
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## Deployability Constraints





# Opportunities & Constraints

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## Datacenter Opportunities

- Static network
- Single admin domain
- Cooperation

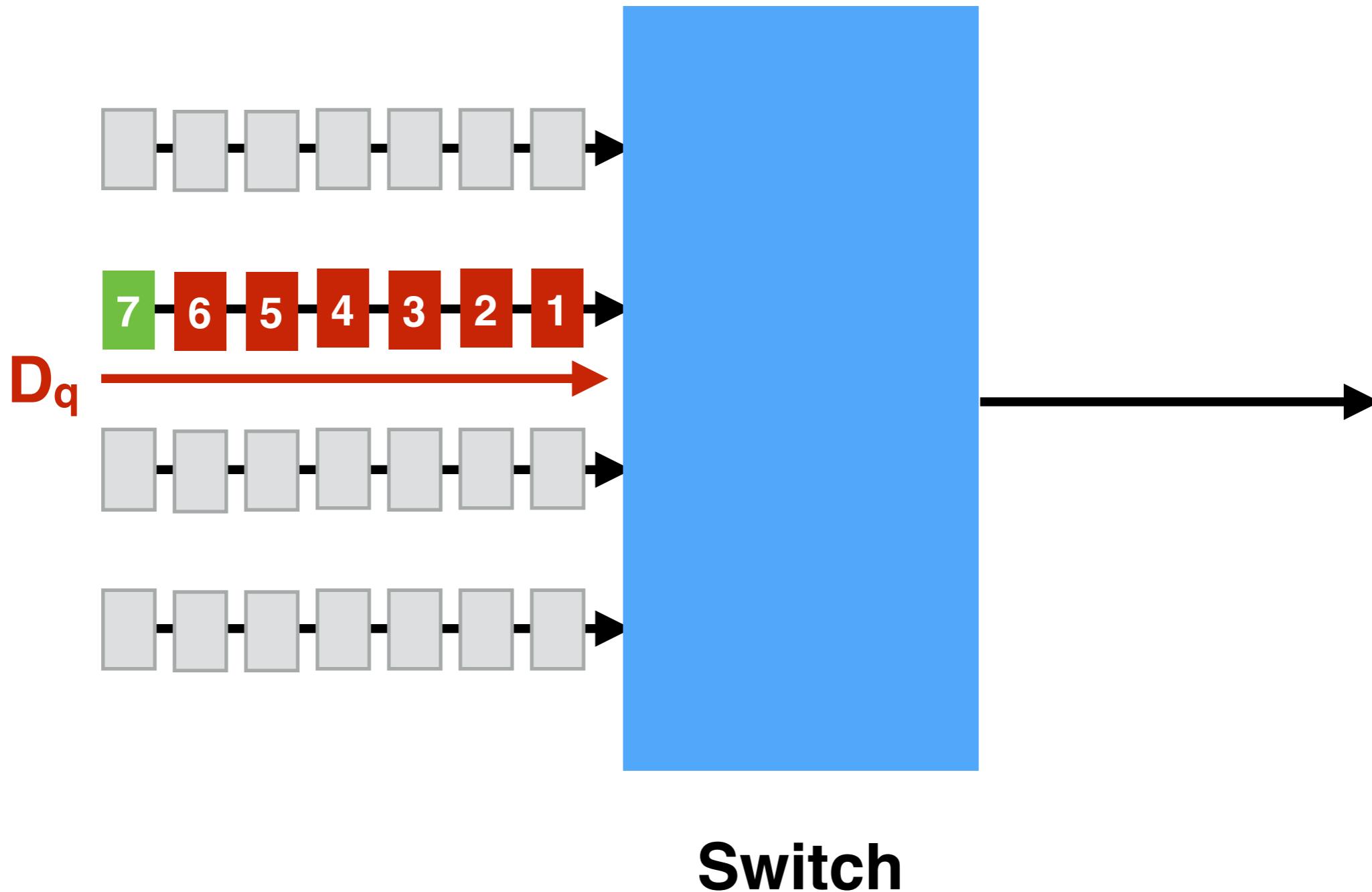
## Deployability Constraints

- Unmodified applications
- Unmodified kernel code
- Commodity hardware



# Understanding delays

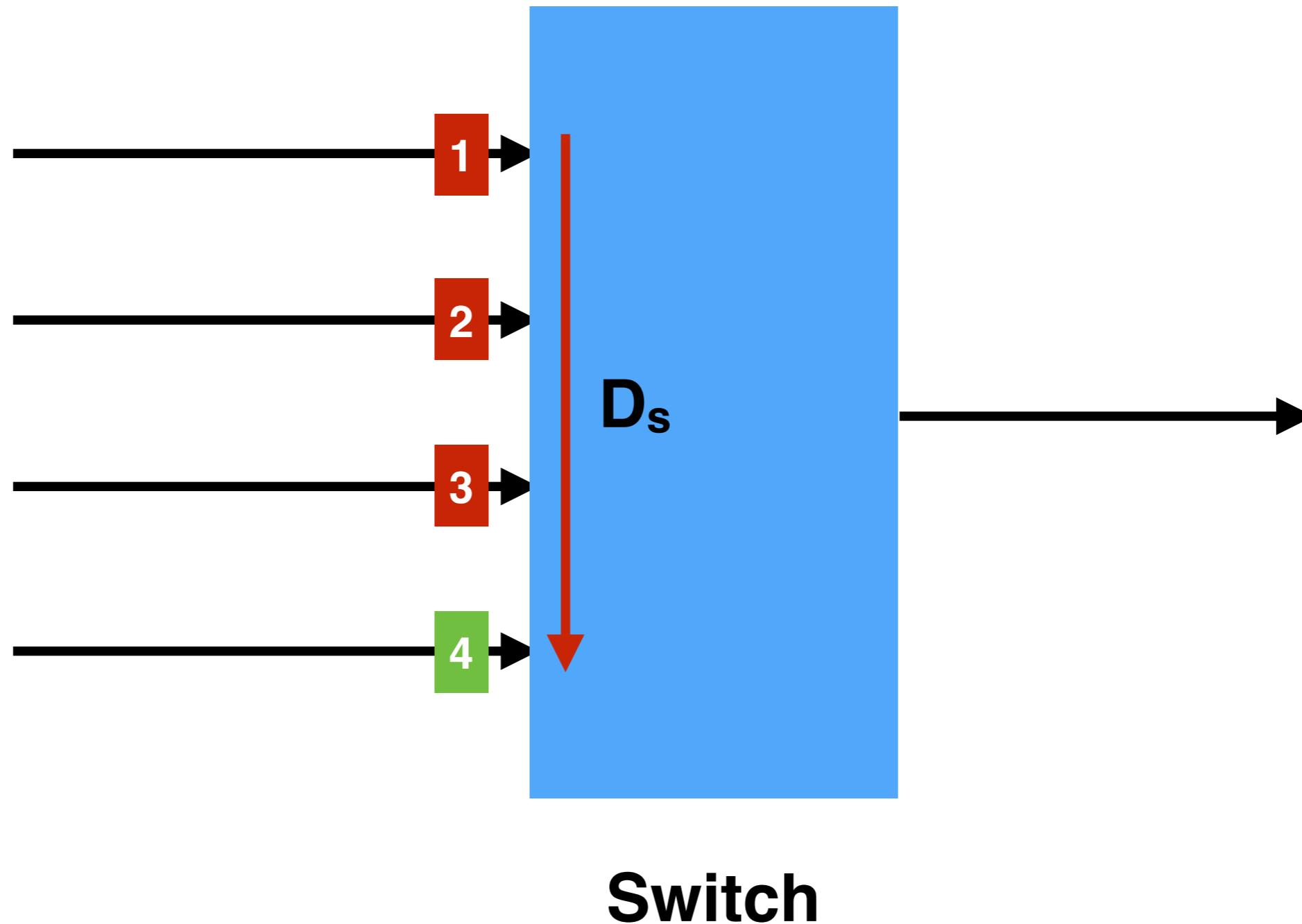
## Delay type I - Queuing Delay ( $D_q$ )





# Understanding delays

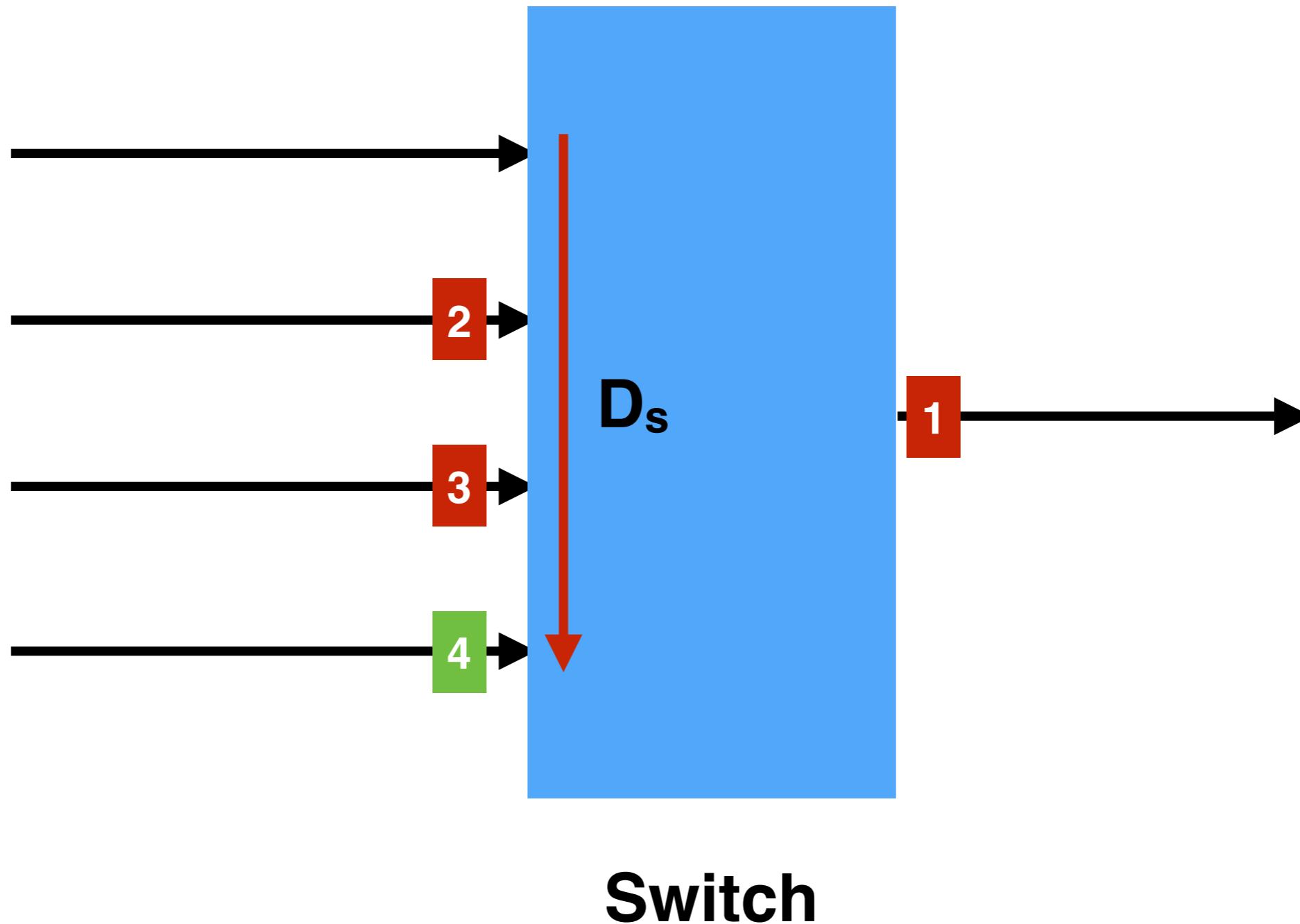
## Delay type II - Servicing Delay ( $D_s$ )





# Understanding delays

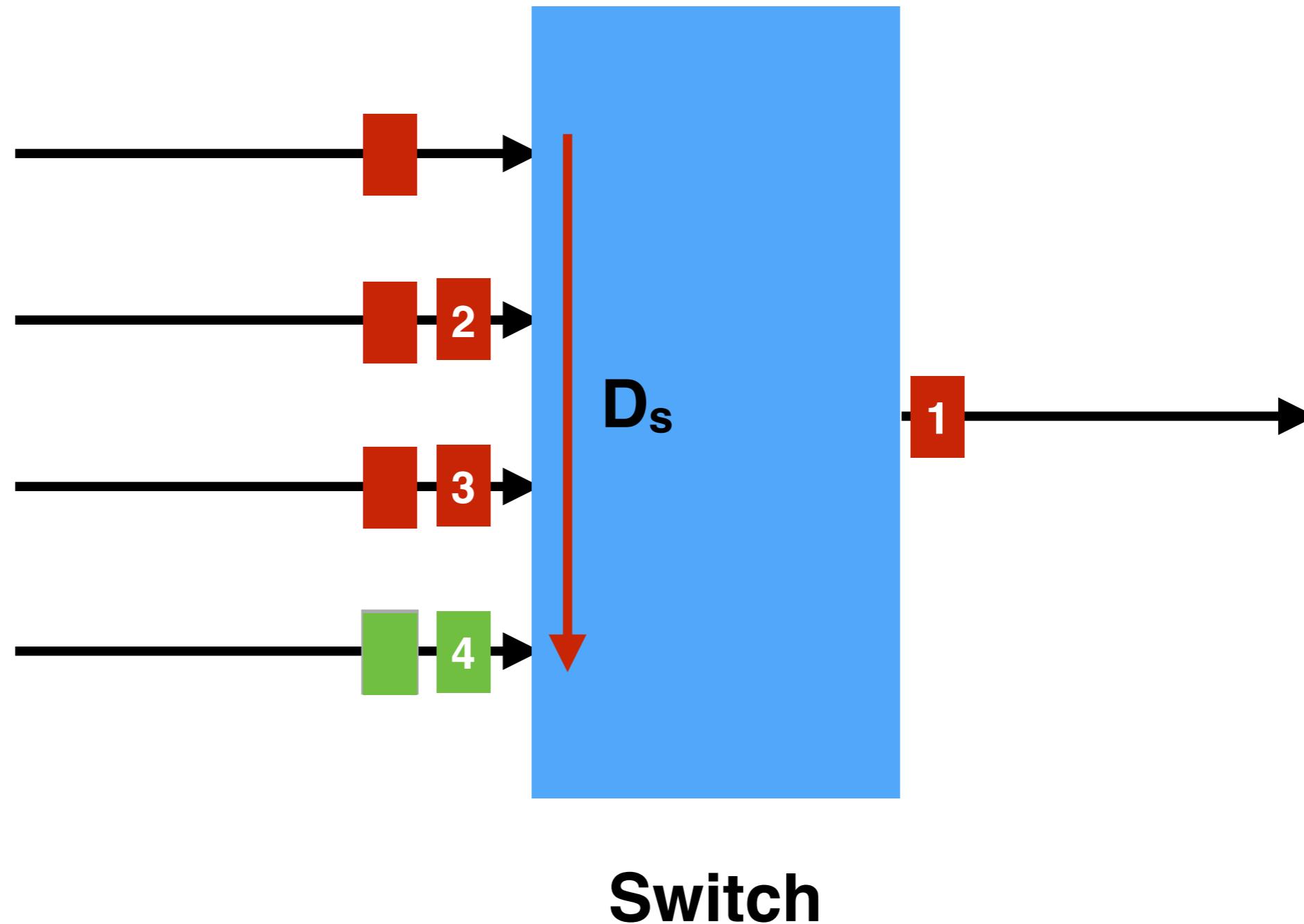
## Delay type II - Servicing Delay ( $D_s$ )





# Understanding delays

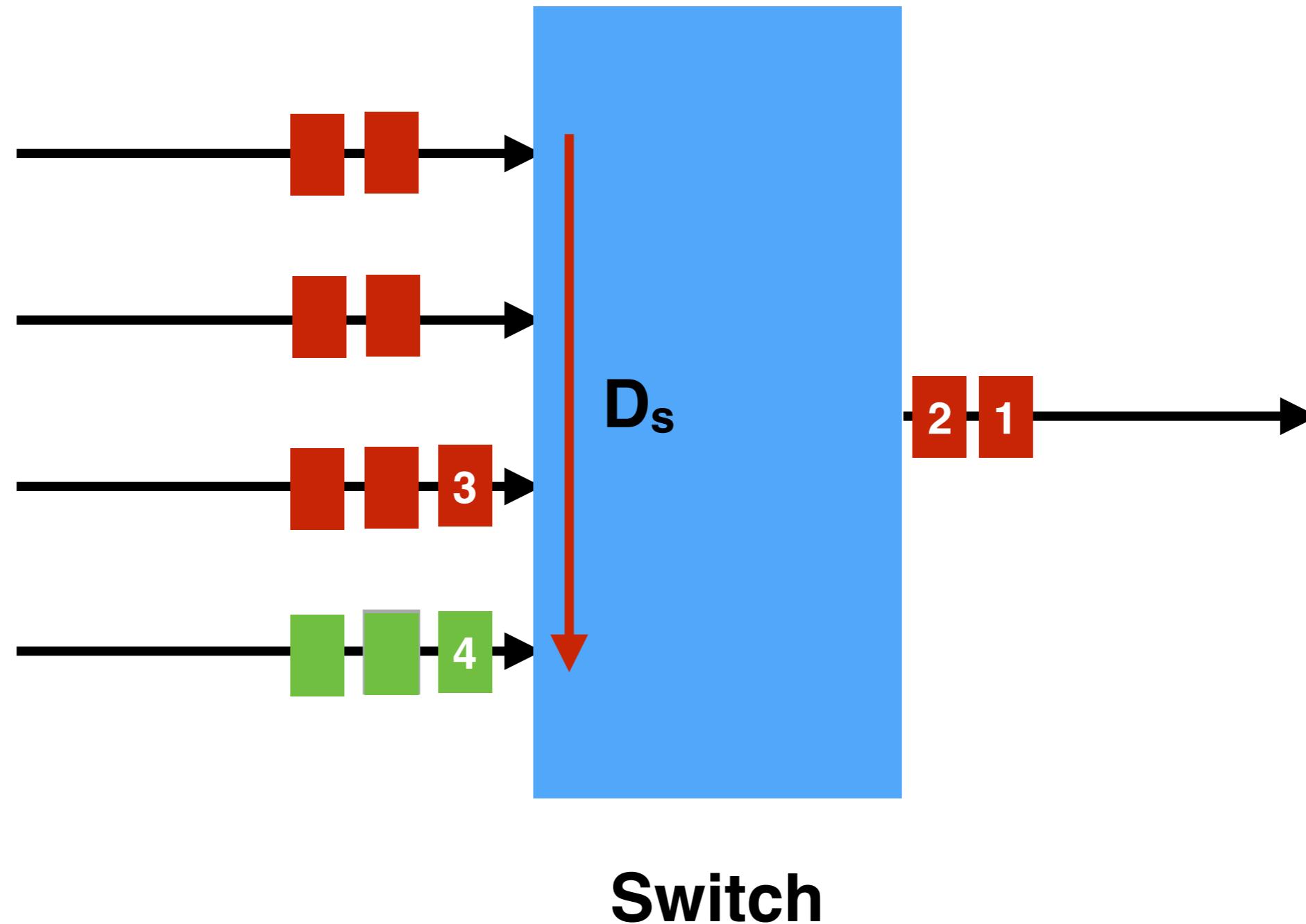
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# Understanding delays

## Delay type II - Servicing Delay ( $D_s$ )

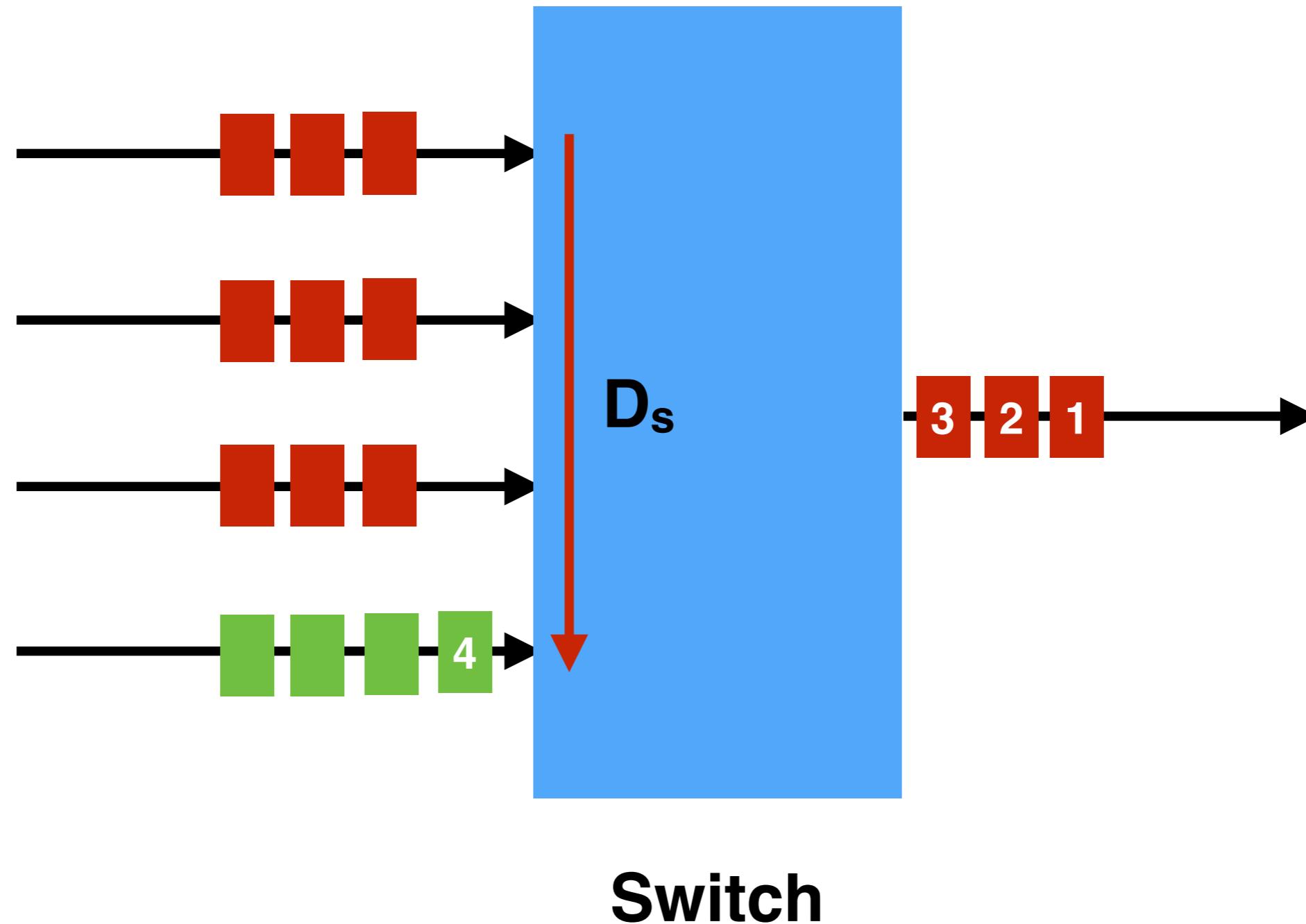




# Understanding delays

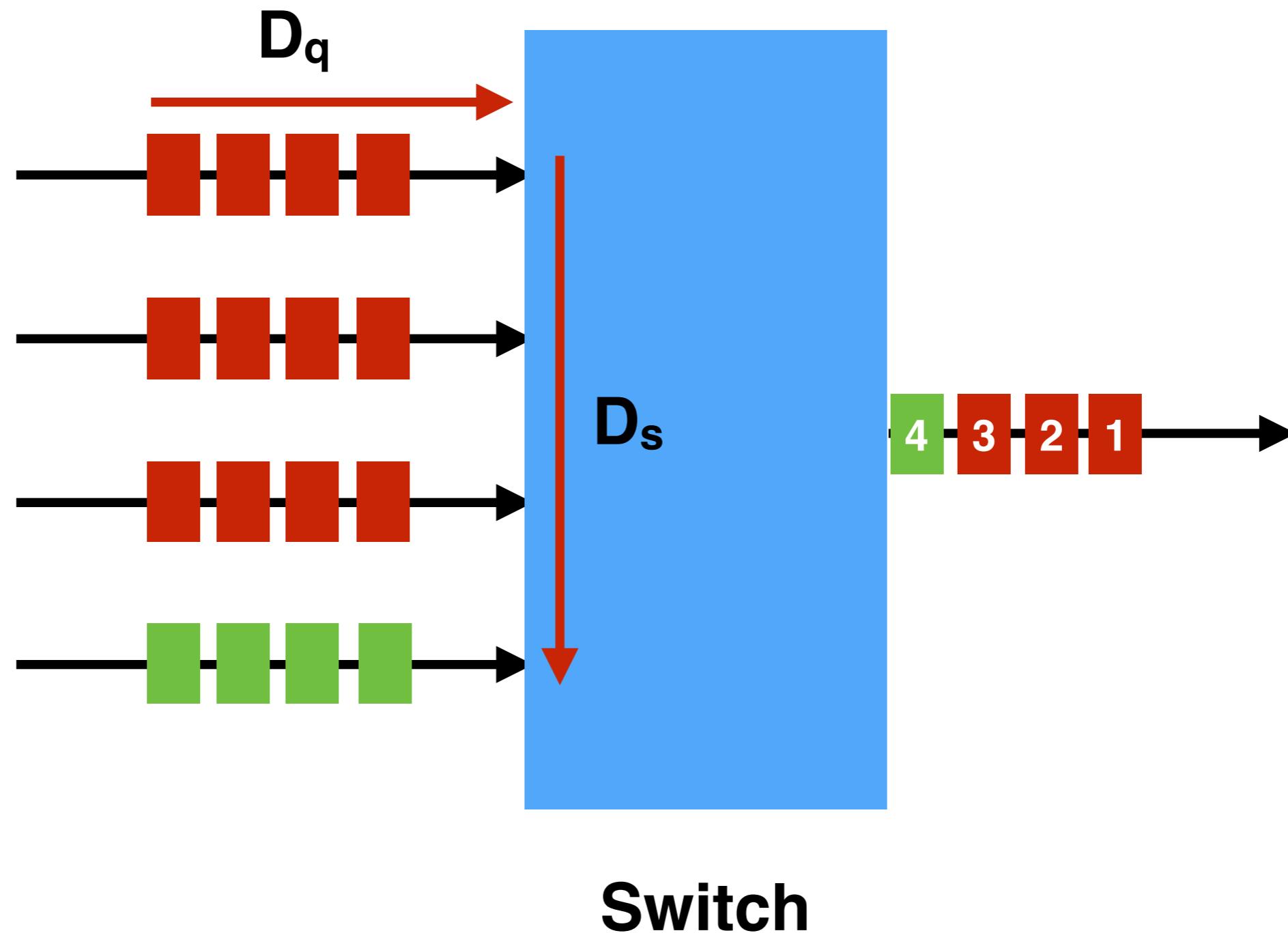
30

## Delay type II - Servicing Delay ( $D_s$ )





# Understanding delays

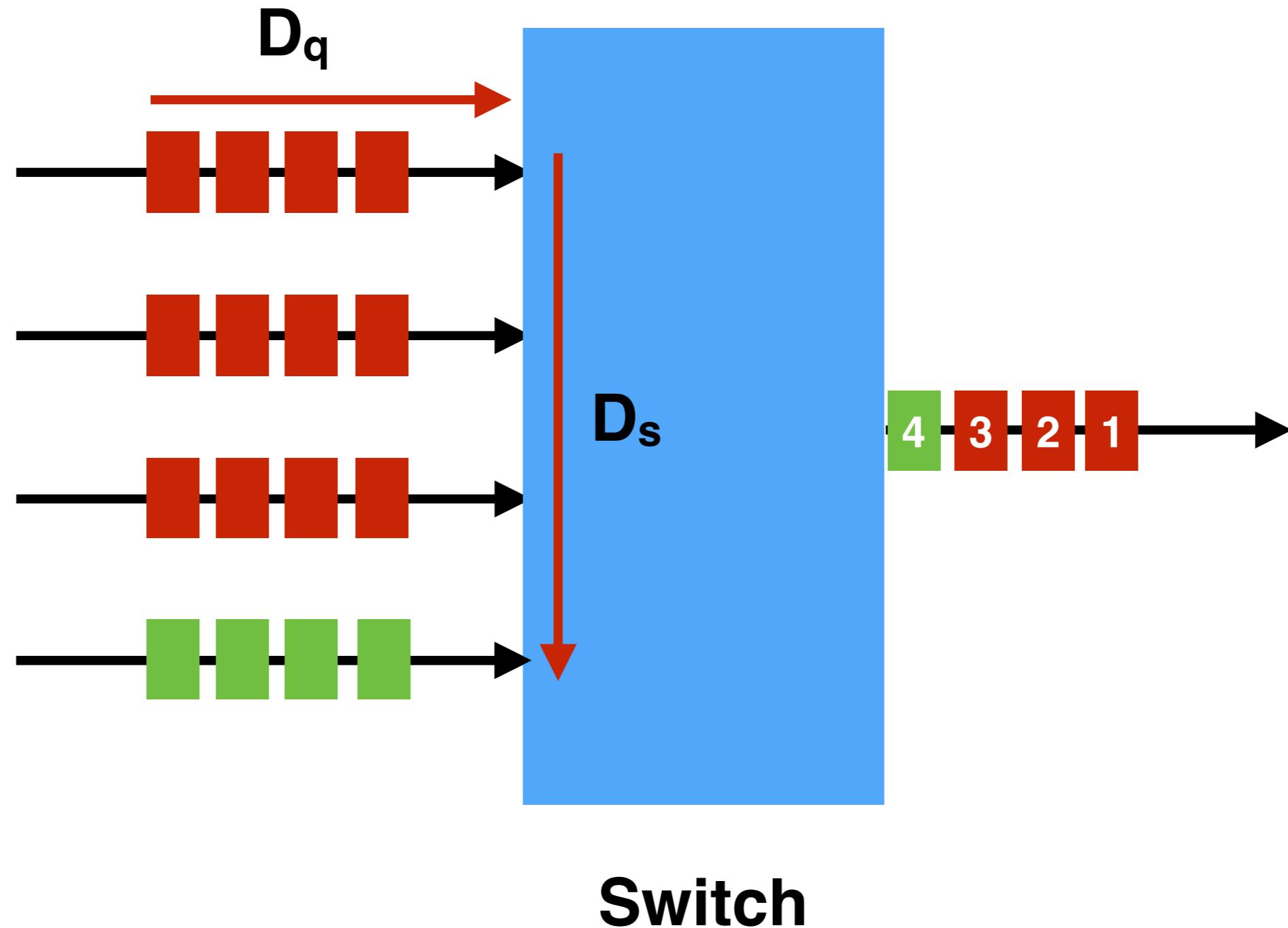




# Understanding delays

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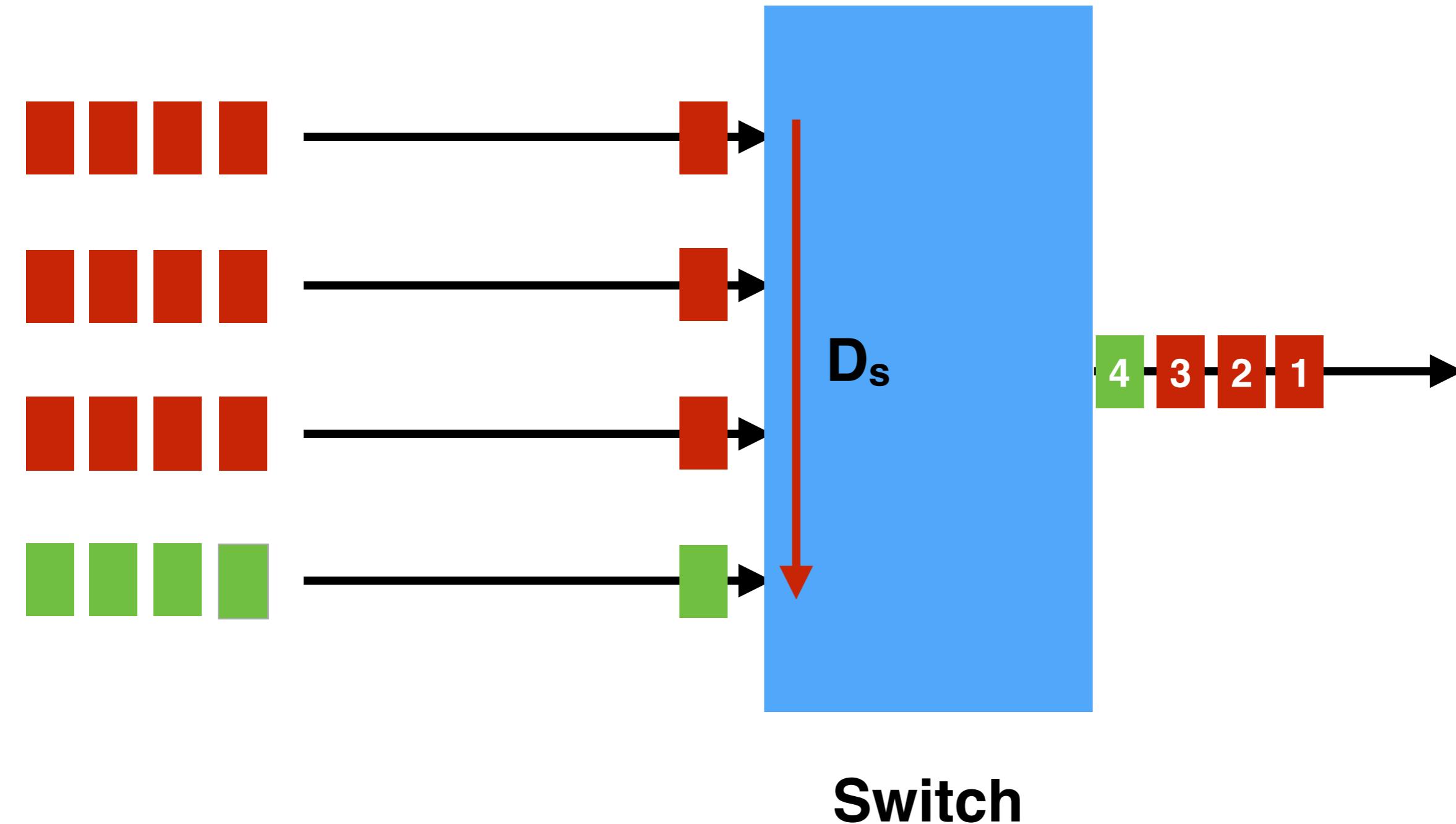
## Servicing delay causes queuing delay





# Eliminating Queuing Delay

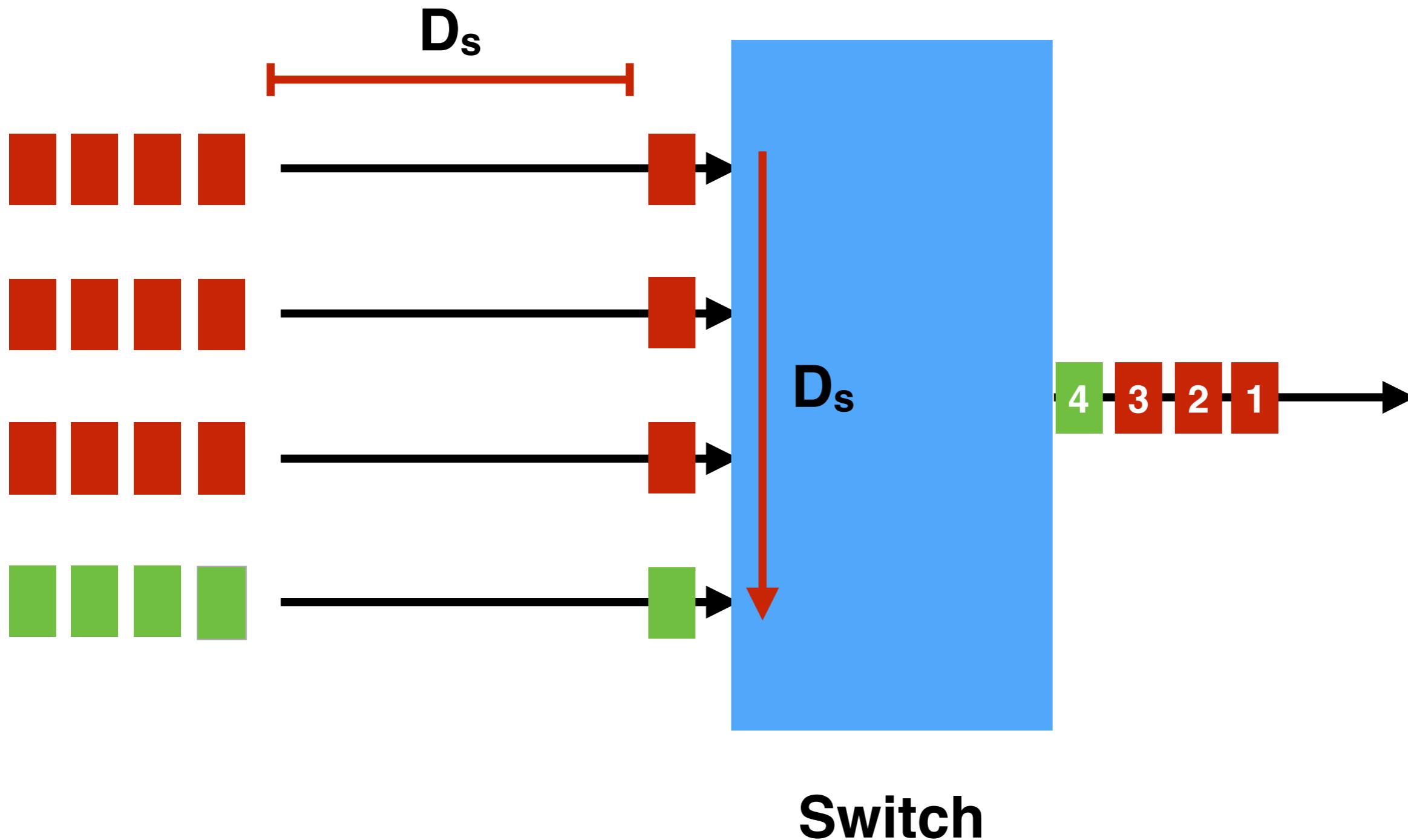
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# Eliminating Queuing Delay

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# Key Idea

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## Rate-Limiting

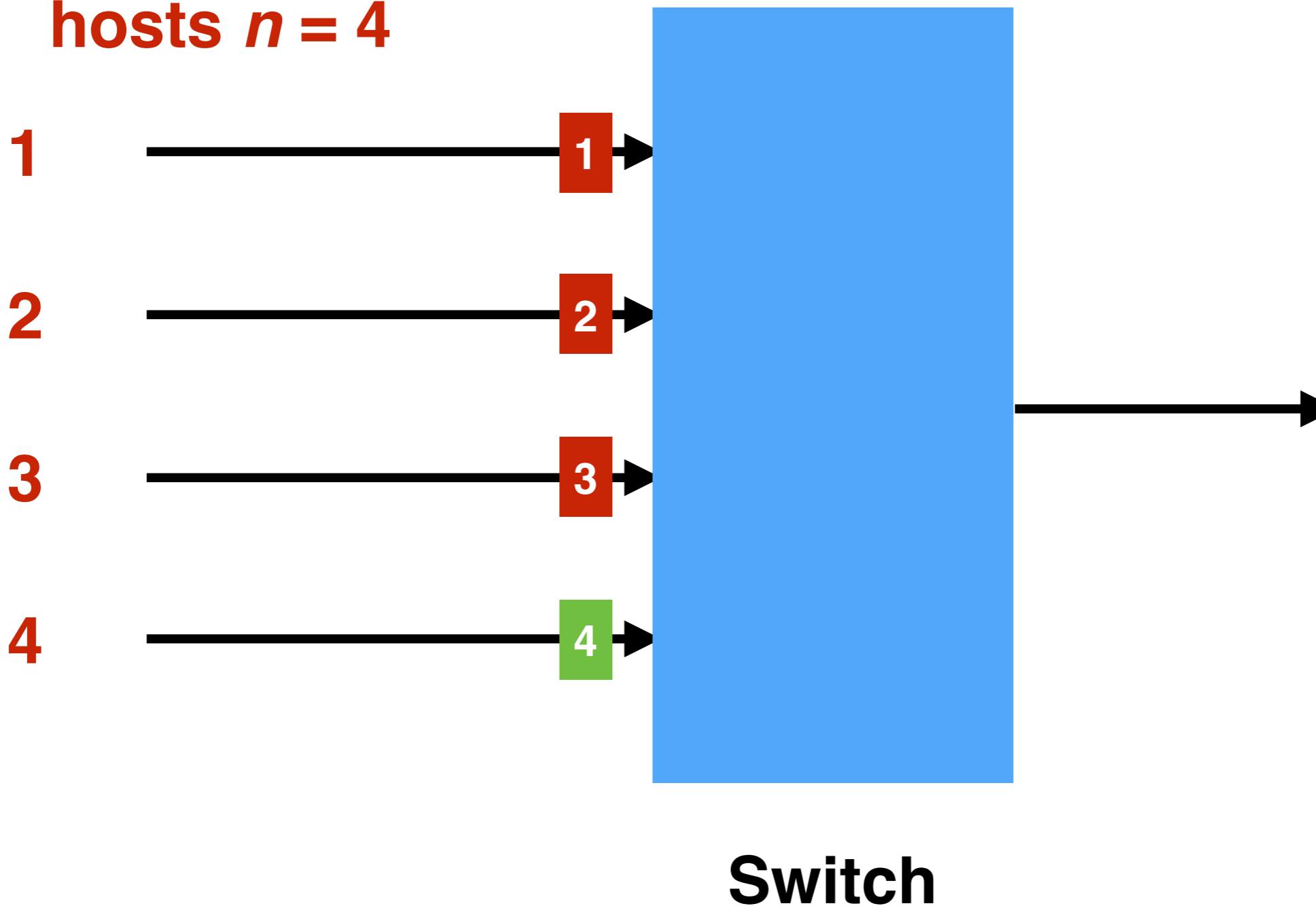
If we can find a bound for servicing delay, we can rate-limit hosts so that they never experience queuing delay



# Calculating Service Delay

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Assume sending  
hosts  $n = 4$

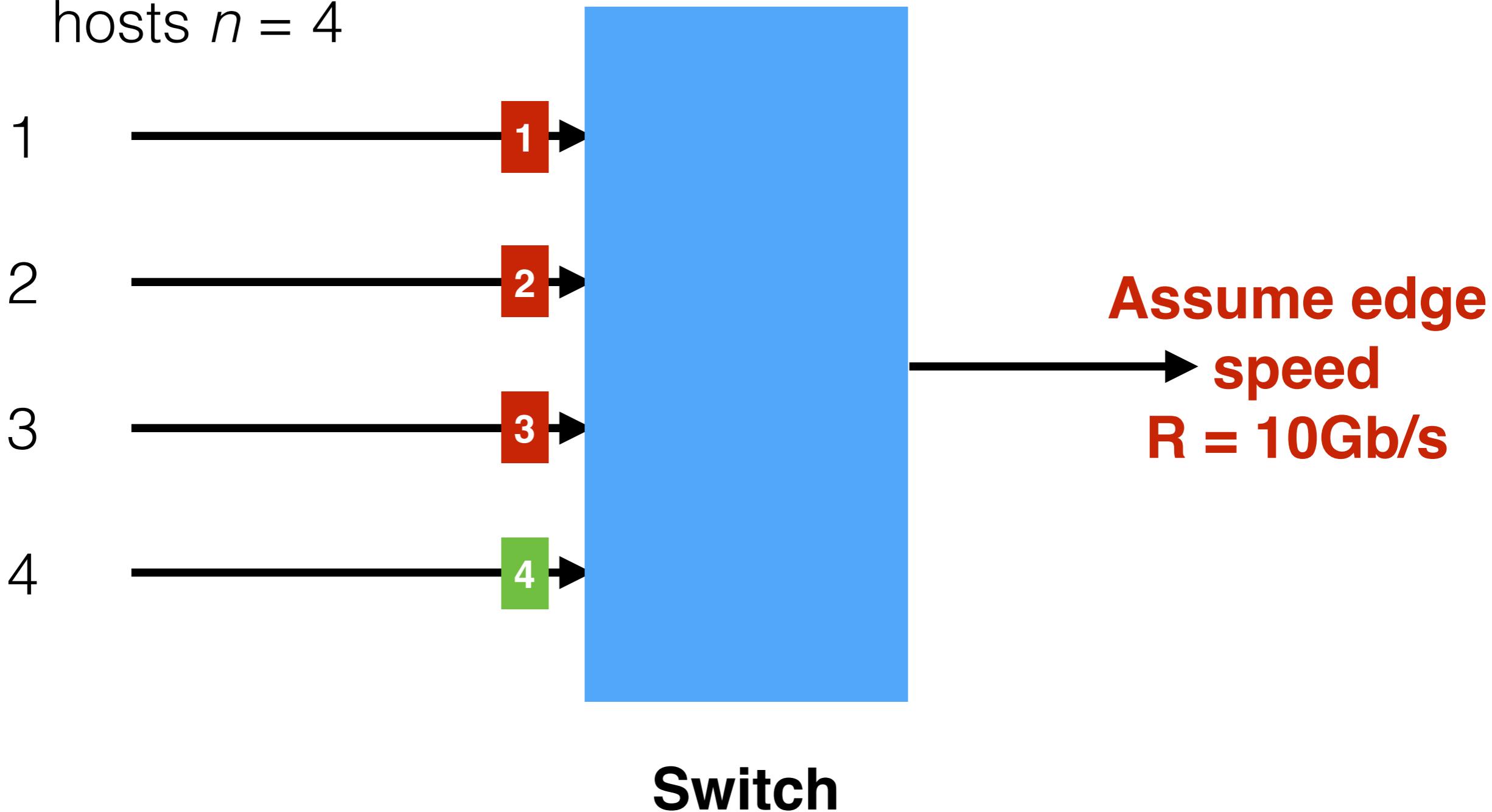




# Calculating Service Delay

37

Assume sending  
hosts  $n = 4$

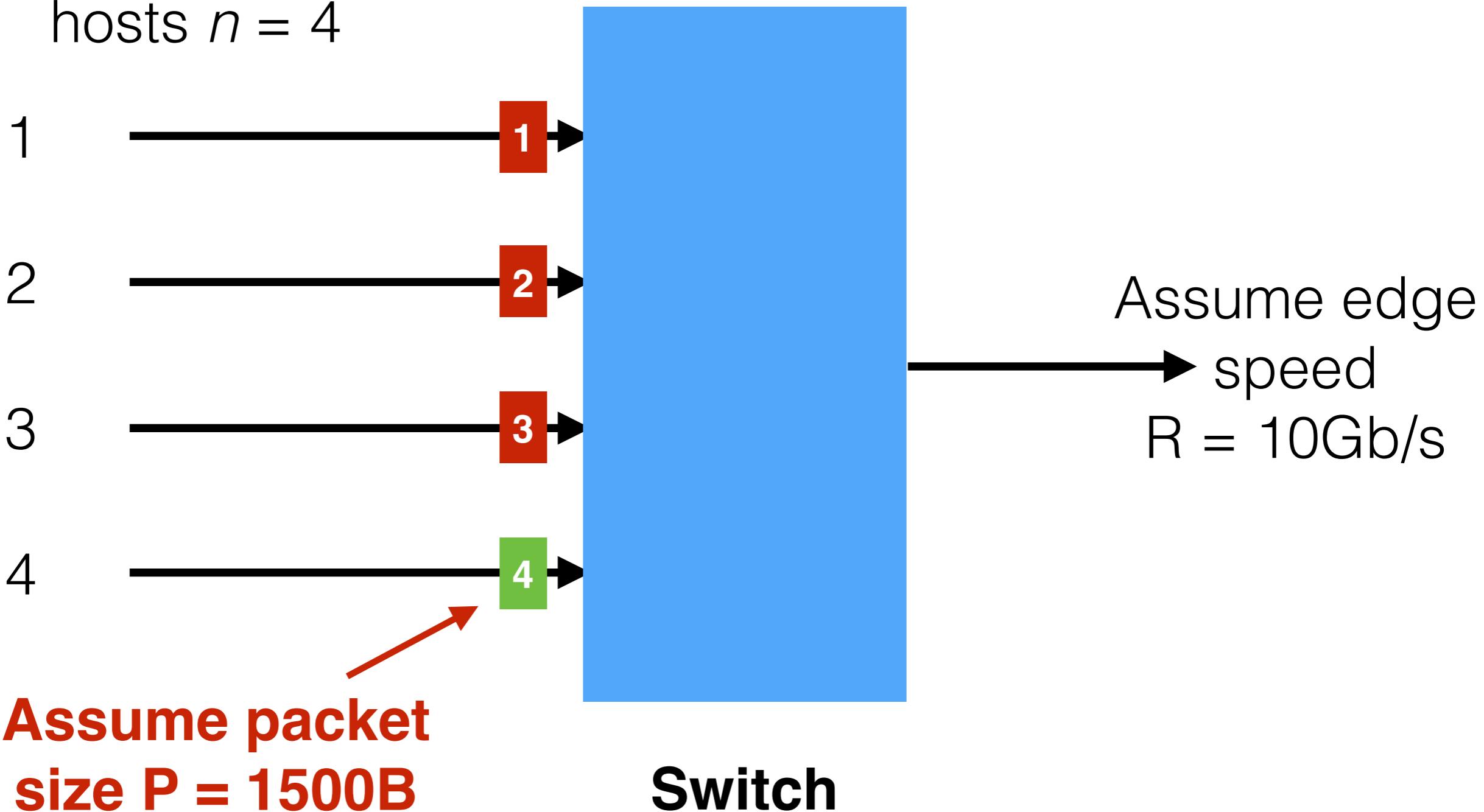




# Calculating Service Delay

38

Assume sending  
hosts  $n = 4$





# Calculating Service Delay

39

Assume sending hosts  $n = 4$

1



2



3



4



Assume packet size  $P = 1500B$

**Switch**

**Delay per packet**  
 $= P/R$   
 $= 1500B / 10Gb/s$   
 $= 1.5 \mu s$

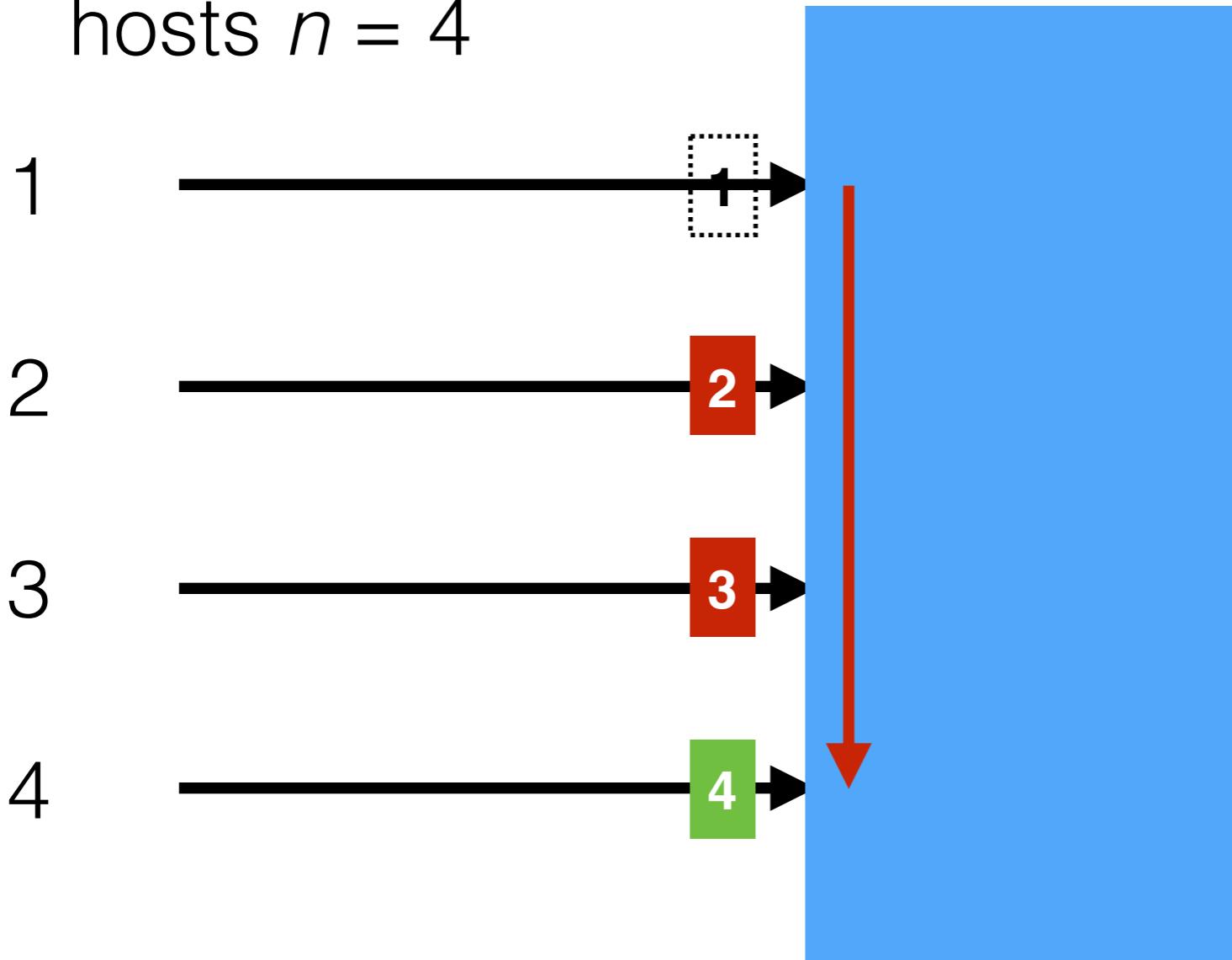
Assume edge speed  
 $R = 10Gb/s$



# Calculating Service Delay

40

Assume sending  
hosts  $n = 4$



Assume packet  
size  $P = 1500B$

**Switch**

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Delay per packet} &= P/R \\ &= 1500B / 10Gb/s \\ &= 1.5 \mu s\end{aligned}$$

Assume edge  
speed  
 $R = 10Gb/s$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Total delay} &= n \times \text{per packet} \\ &= 4 \times 1.5 \mu s \\ &= 6 \mu s\end{aligned}$$



# Calculating Servicing Delay

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$$\text{servicing delay} = n \times \frac{P}{R}$$



# Calculating Servicing Delay

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$$\text{servicing delay}^* = n \times \frac{P}{R}$$

Where

**n - number of hosts**

**P - bytes sent**

**R - edge speed**

\*Assuming a fair scheduler



# Calculating Servicing Delay

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$$\text{network}^{**} \quad P \\ \text{servicing delay}^* = n \times \frac{P}{R}$$

Where

**n - number of hosts**

**P - bytes sent**

**R - edge speed**

\*Assuming a fair scheduler

\*\*Apply hose constraint model

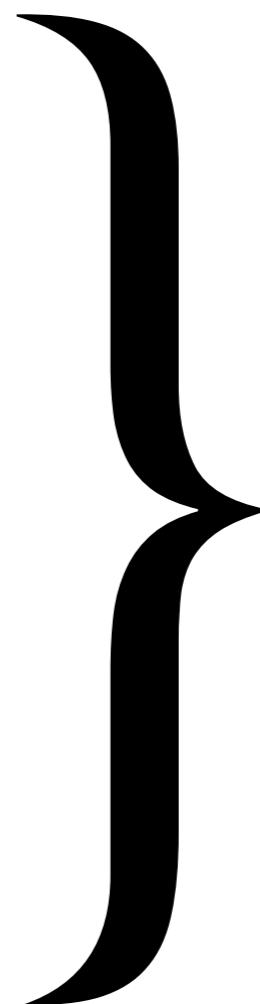


# Key Idea

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## Rate-Limiting

1. Network is idle
2. Hosts send  $\leq P$  bytes
3. Wait  $(n \times P / R)$  secs
4. Goto 1

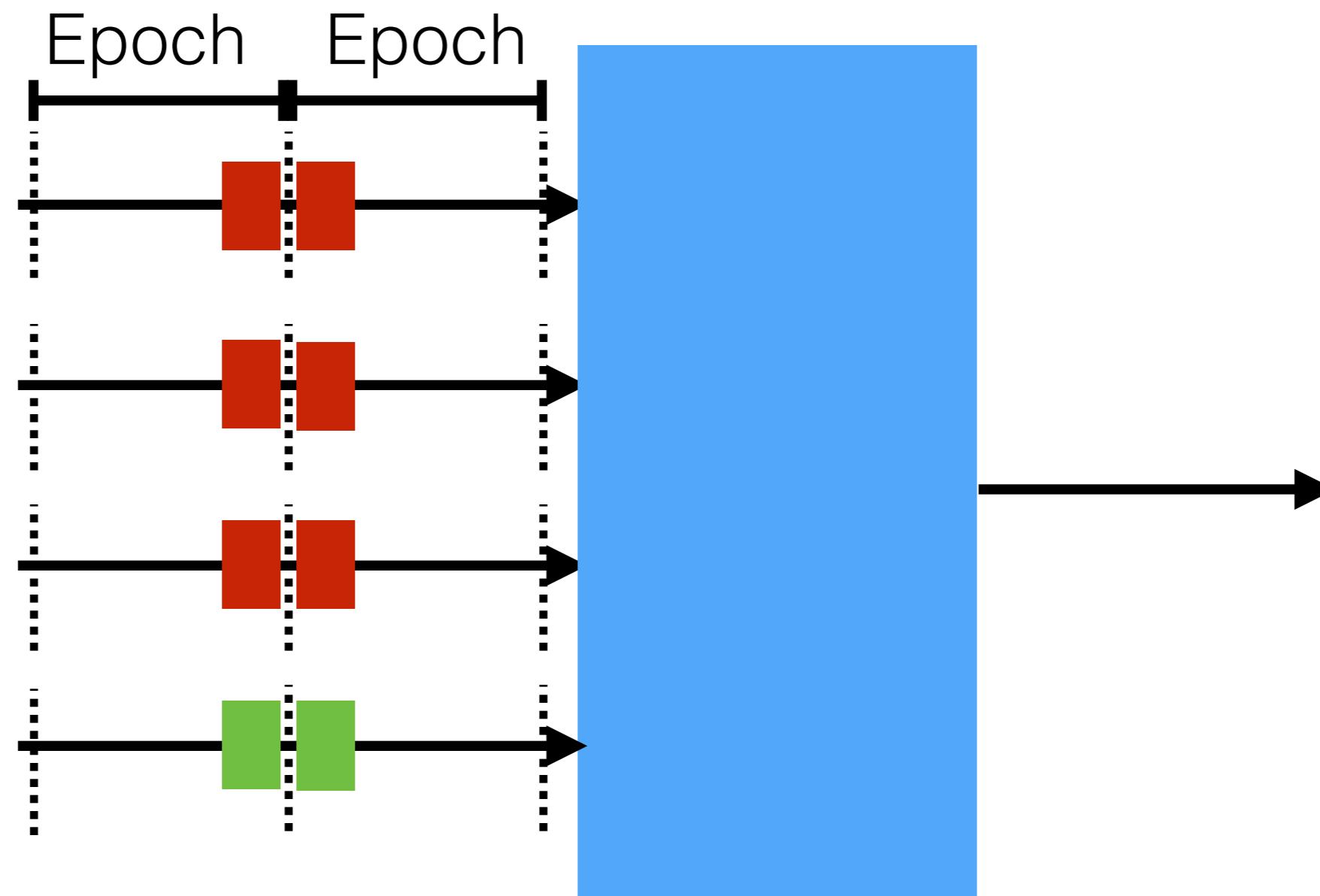


Network  
Epoch



# Eliminating Synchronization

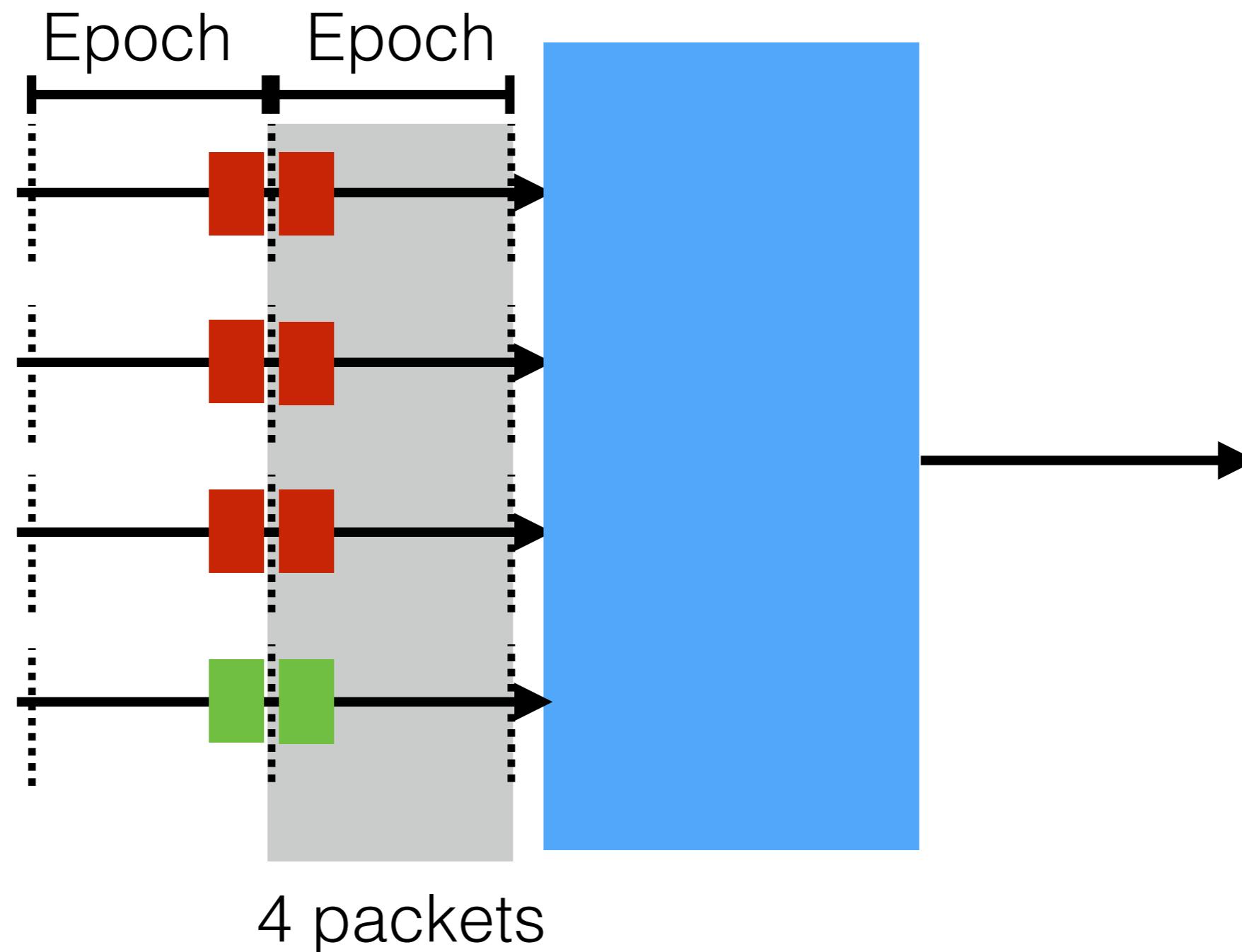
45





# Eliminating Synchronization

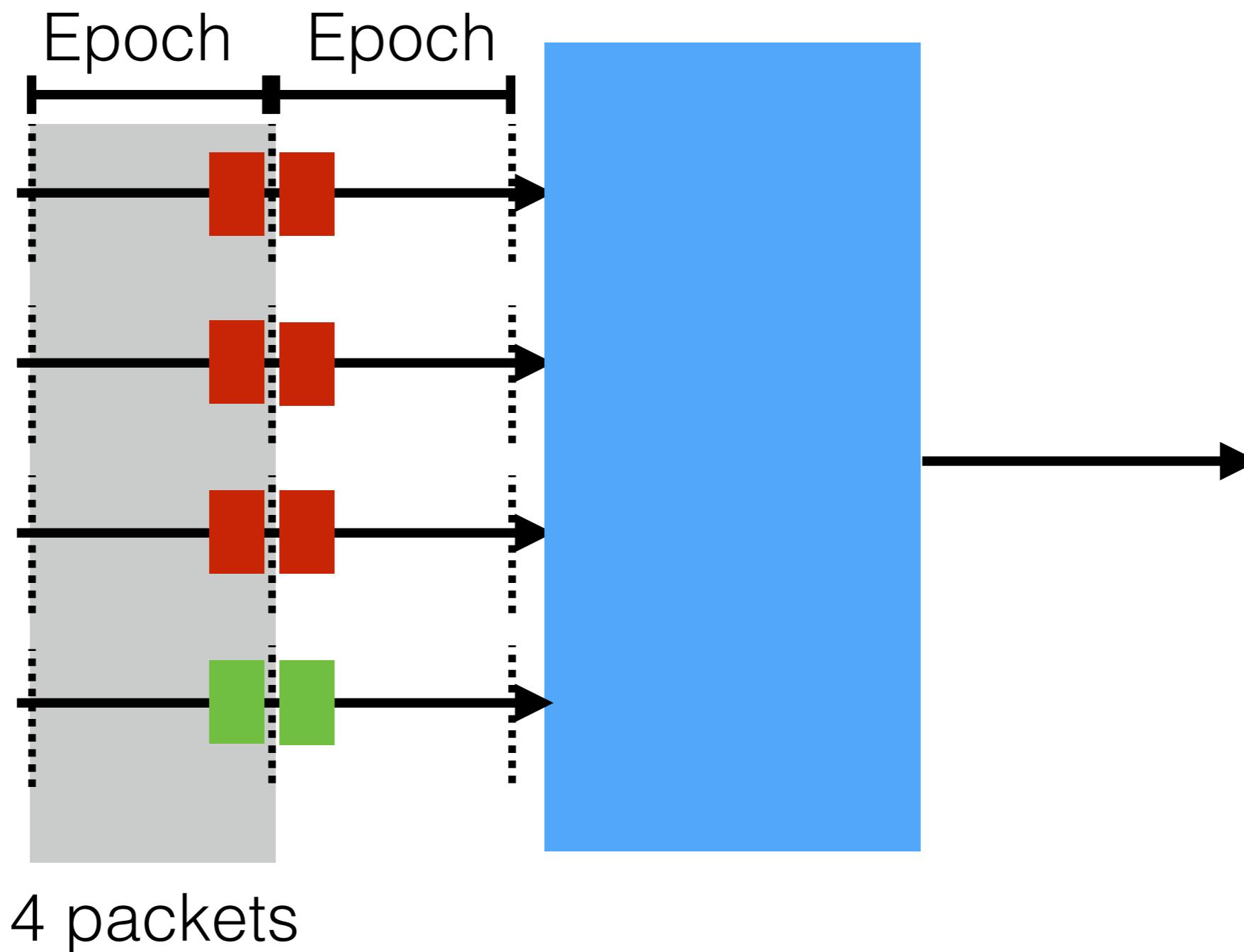
46





# Eliminating Synchronization

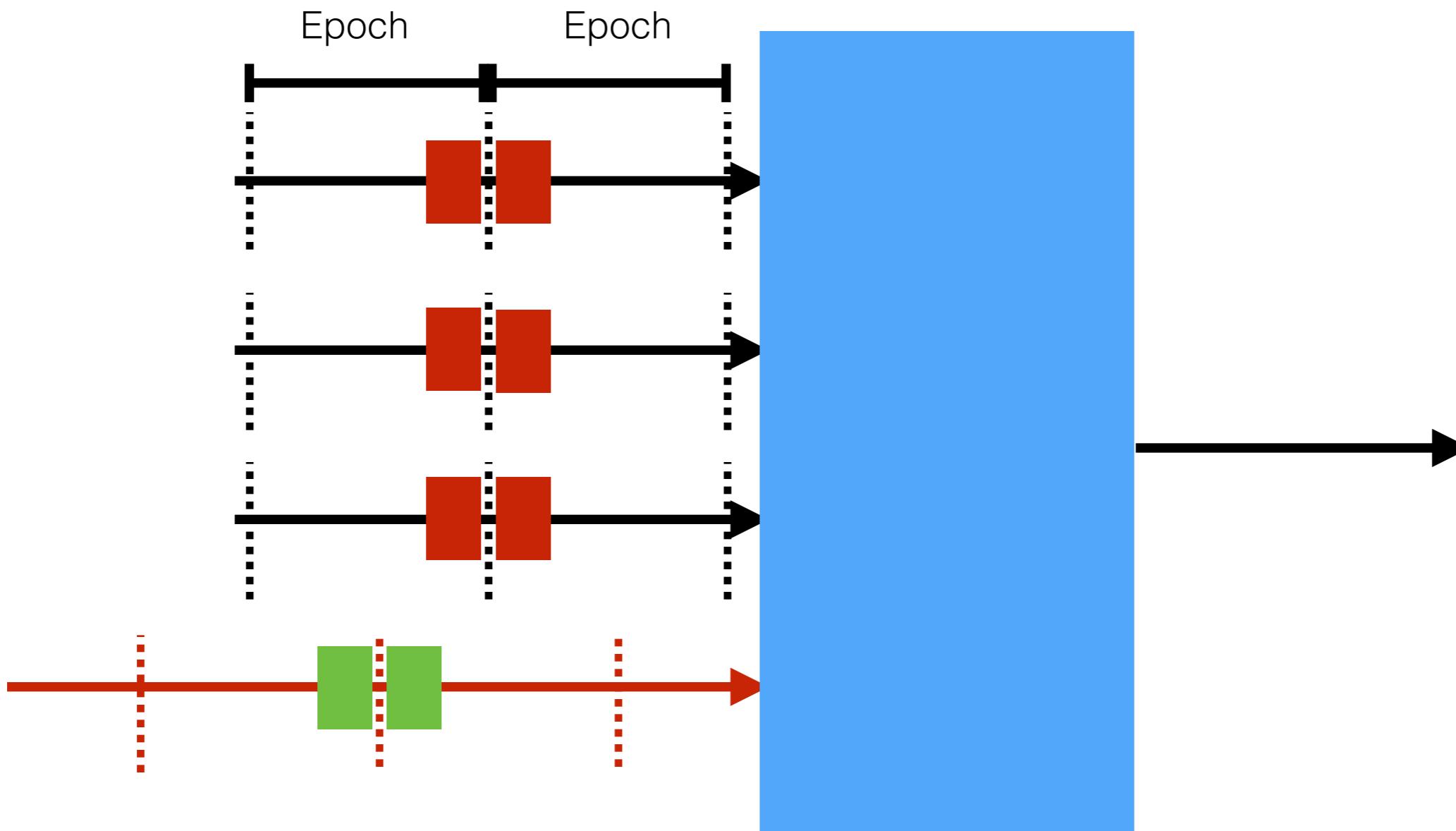
47





# Eliminating Synchronization

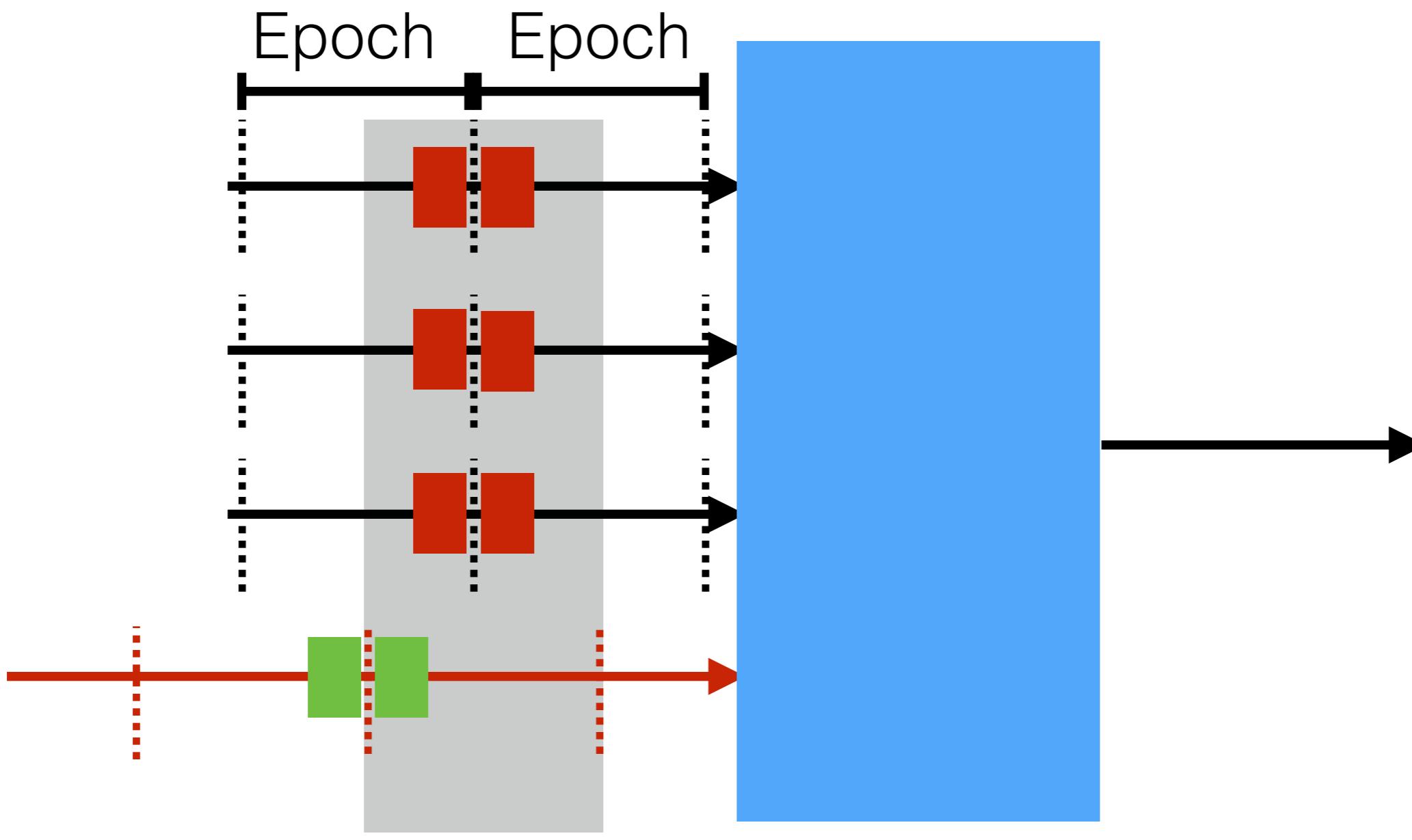
48





# Eliminating Synchronization

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**≈ 8 packets per  
epoch**



# Eliminating Synchronization

50

$$\text{network epoch} = \frac{2n}{R} \times P$$

Where

**n - number of hosts**

**P - bytes sent**

**R - edge speed**

**2 - mesochronous compensation**



# The dark side of network epoch

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$$\text{throughput} = \frac{R}{2n}$$

Where

**n** is the number of hosts

**R** is the edge speed



# The dark side of network epoch

52

$$\text{throughput} = \frac{10\text{Gb/s}}{2 \times 1000} = \mathbf{5\text{Mb/s}}$$

Where

$n = 1000$  hosts

$R = 10$  Gb/s



# The dark side of network epoch

53

$$\text{throughput}^* = \frac{10\text{Gb/s}}{2 \times 1000} = \mathbf{5\text{Mb/s}}$$

Where

$n = 1000$  hosts

$R = 10 \text{ Gb/s}$

**\*at guaranteed latency!**

solution:  
assume there is  
no problem?

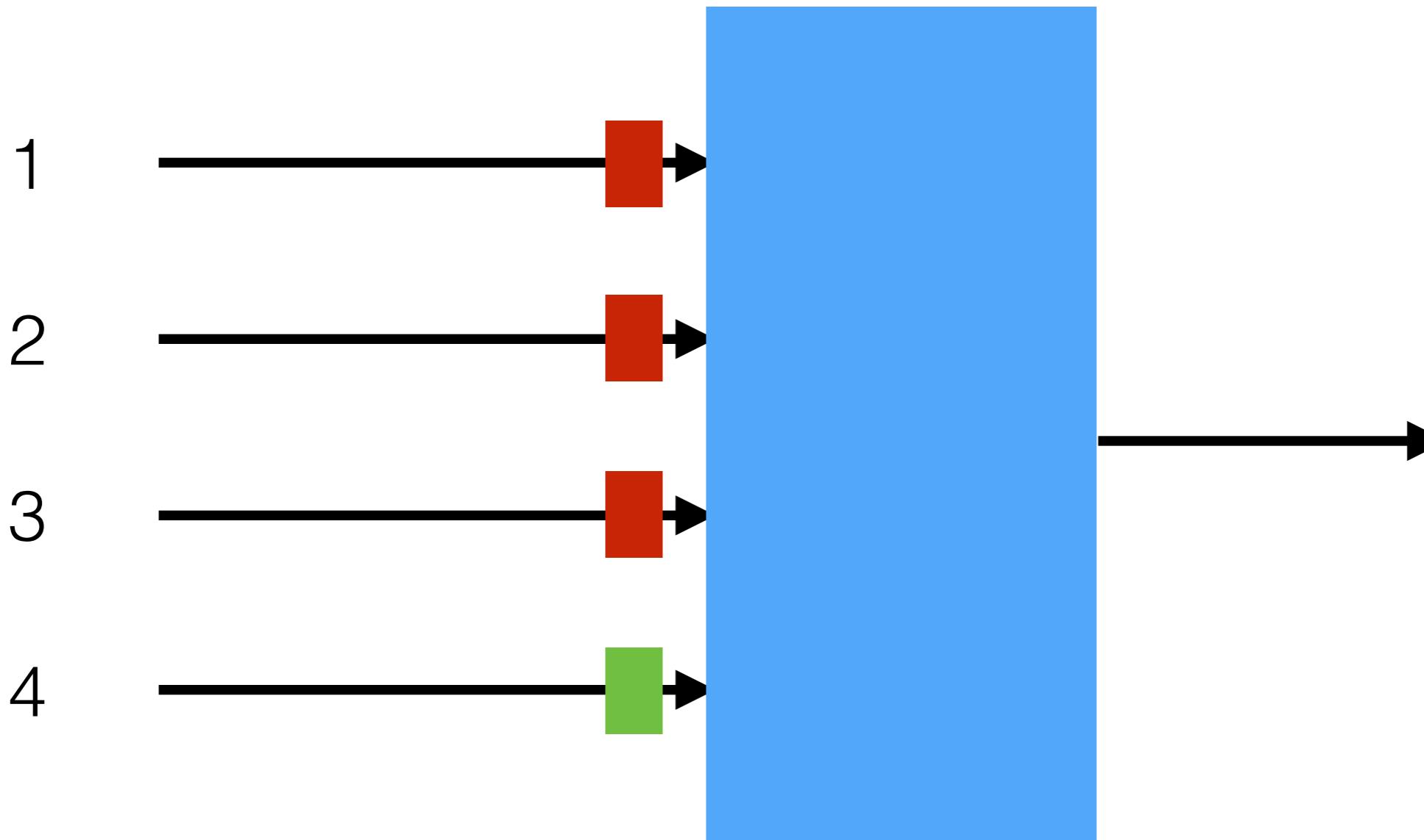




# Changing the assumptions

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## Pessimistic assumption of 4:1

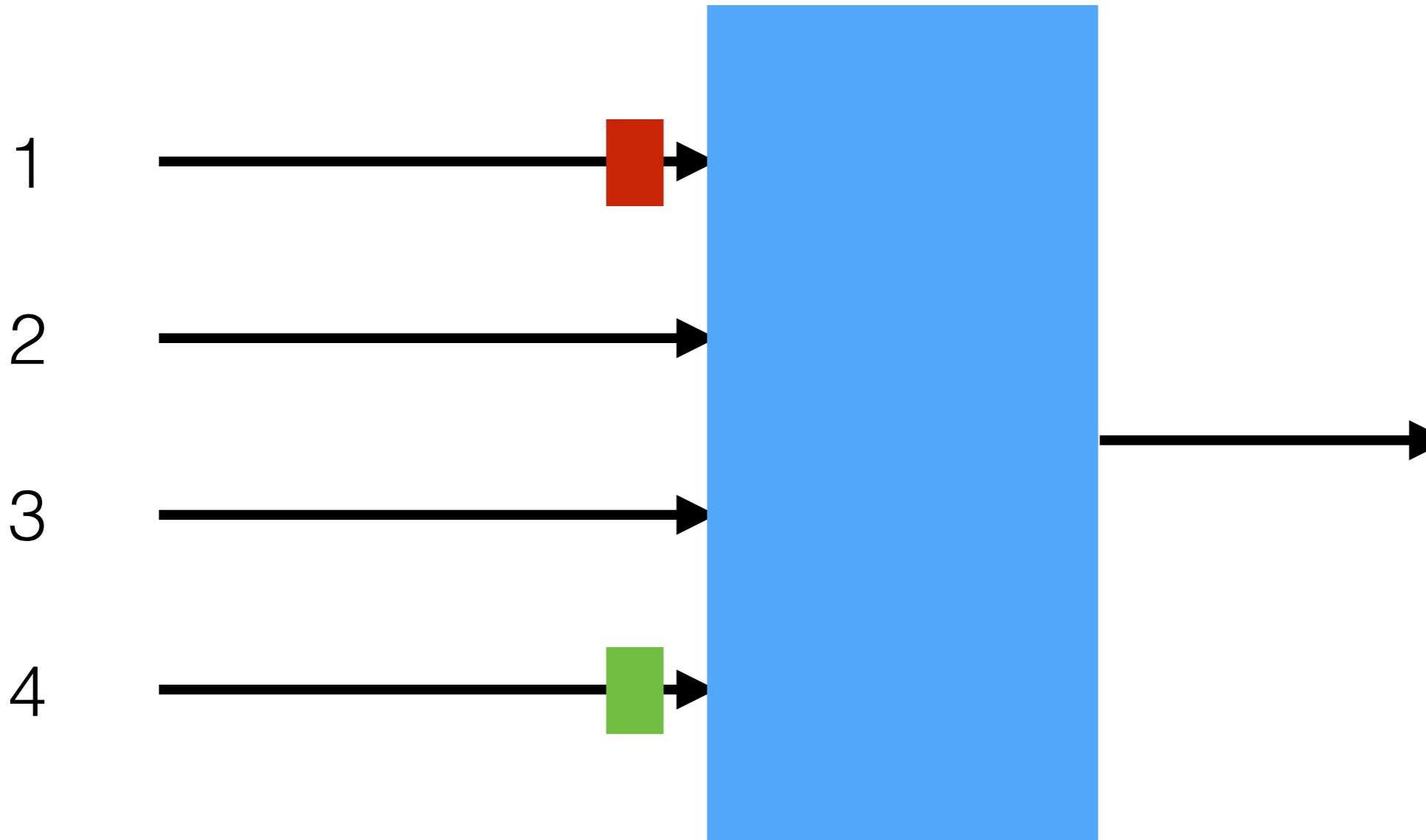




# Changing the assumptions

56

What if we assume 2:1?

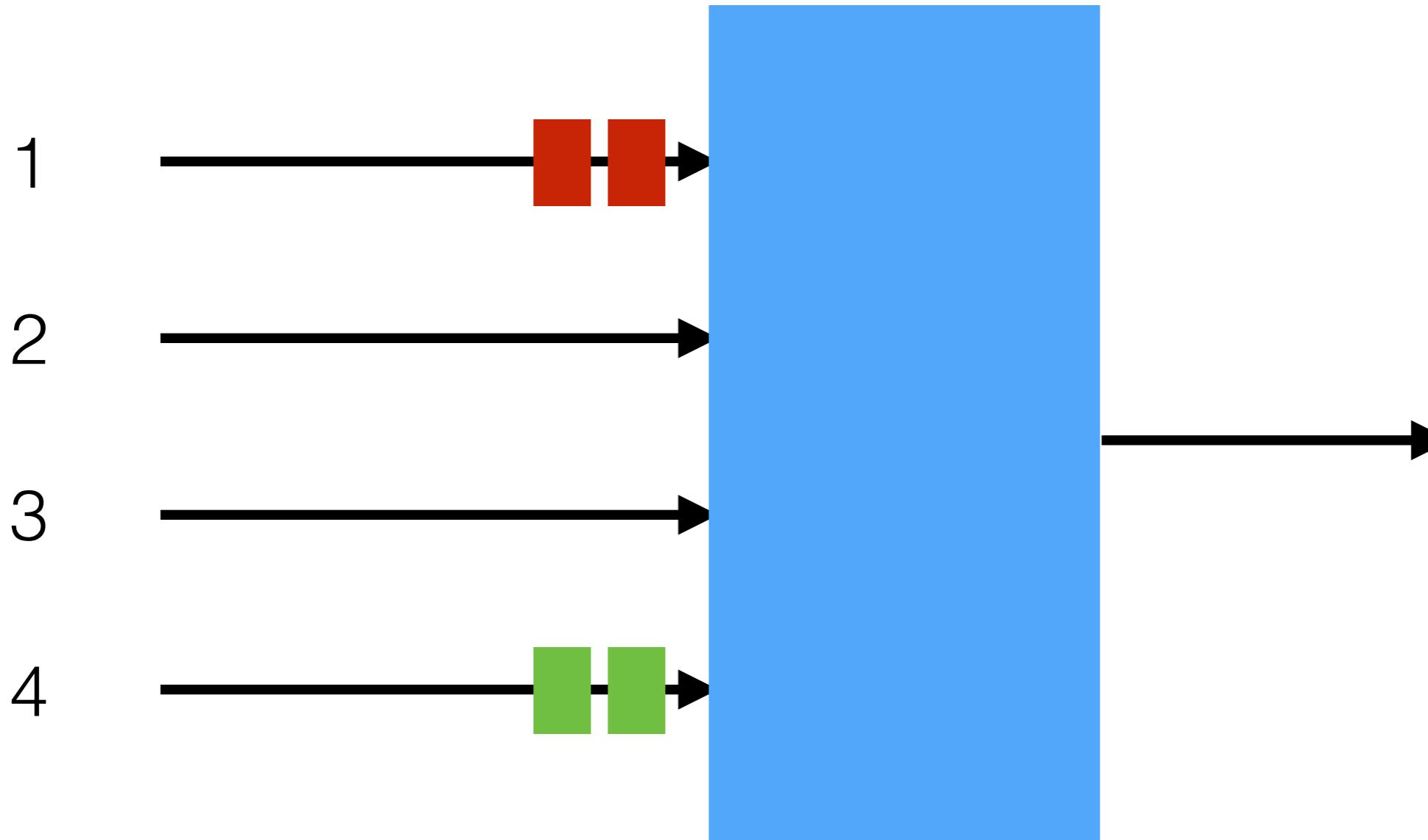




# Changing the assumptions

57

**What if we assume 2:1? Hosts can send 2x the rate!**

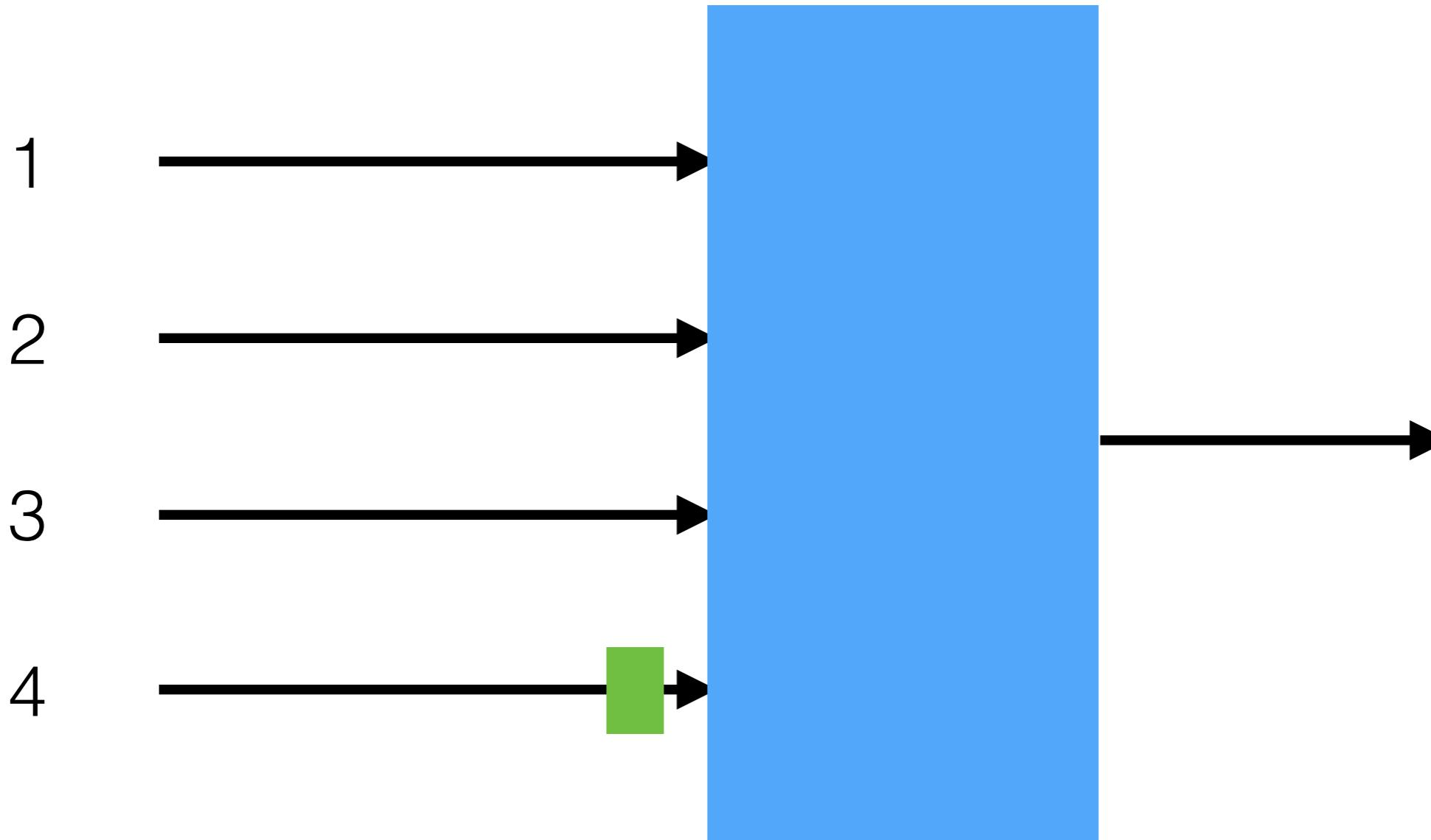




# Changing the assumptions

58

**What if we assume 1:1?**

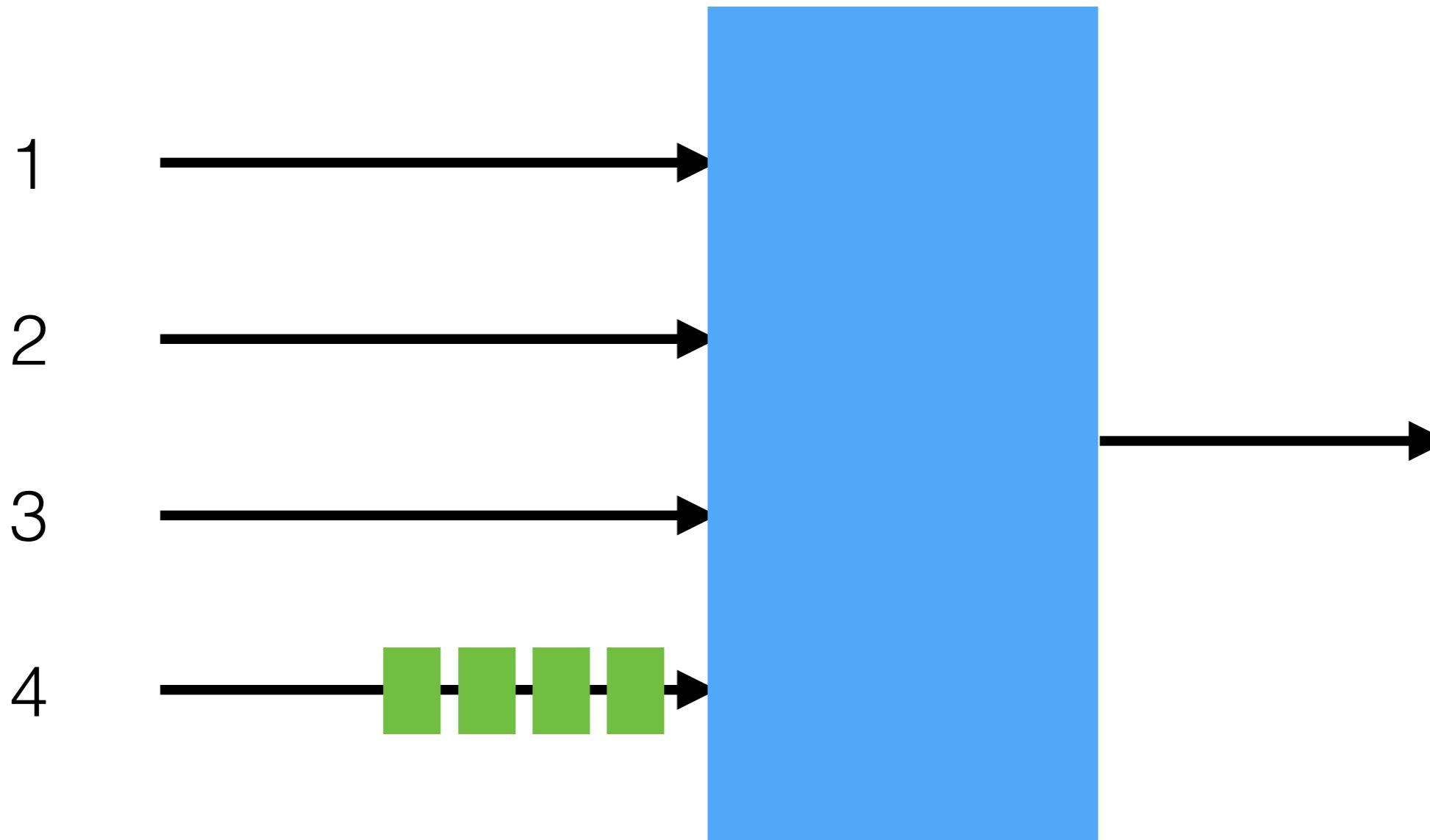




# Changing the assumptions

59

**What if we assume 1:1? Hosts can send 4x the rate!**

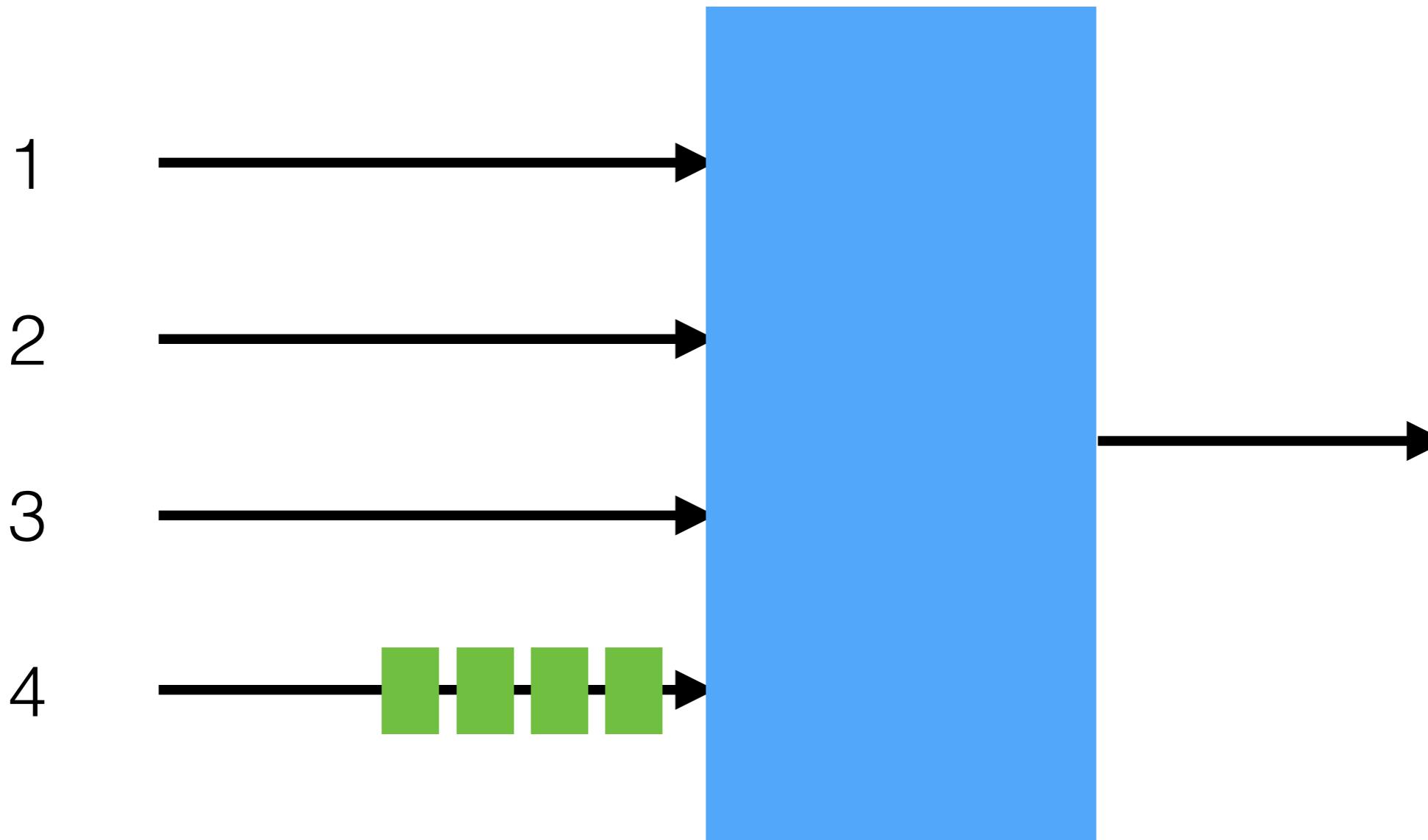




# Changing the assumptions

60

**What if assumption is wrong?**

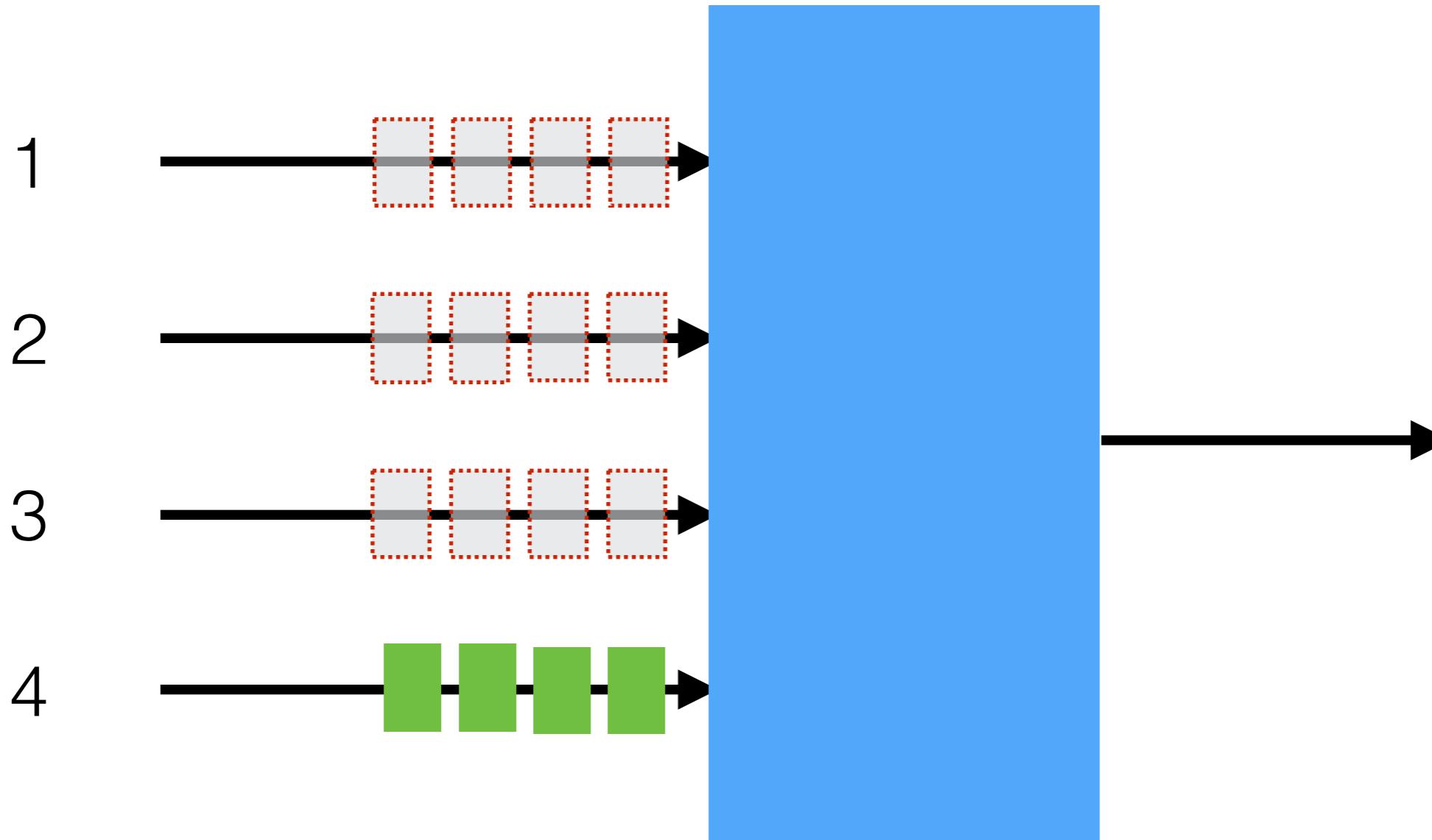




# Changing the assumptions

61

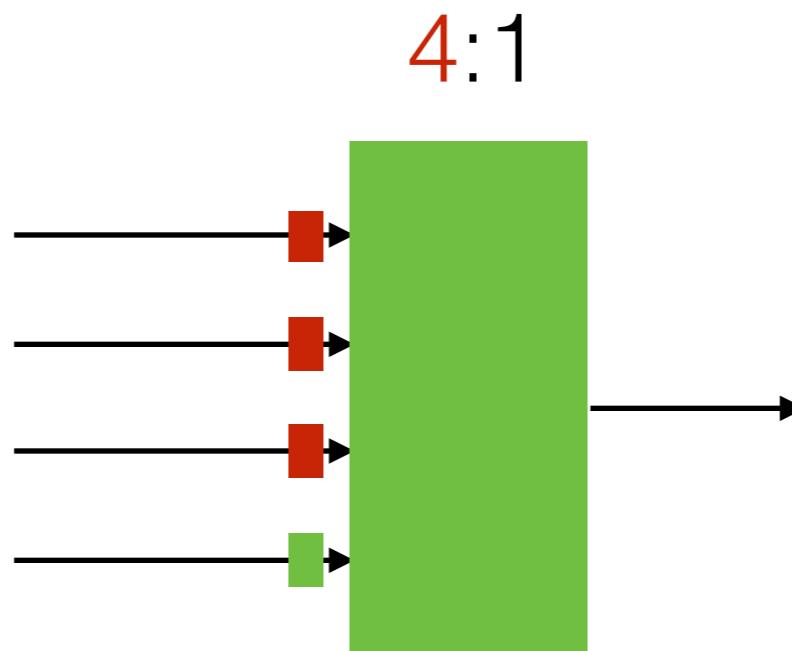
**What if assumption is wrong? Queuing will happen!**





# Which assumption?

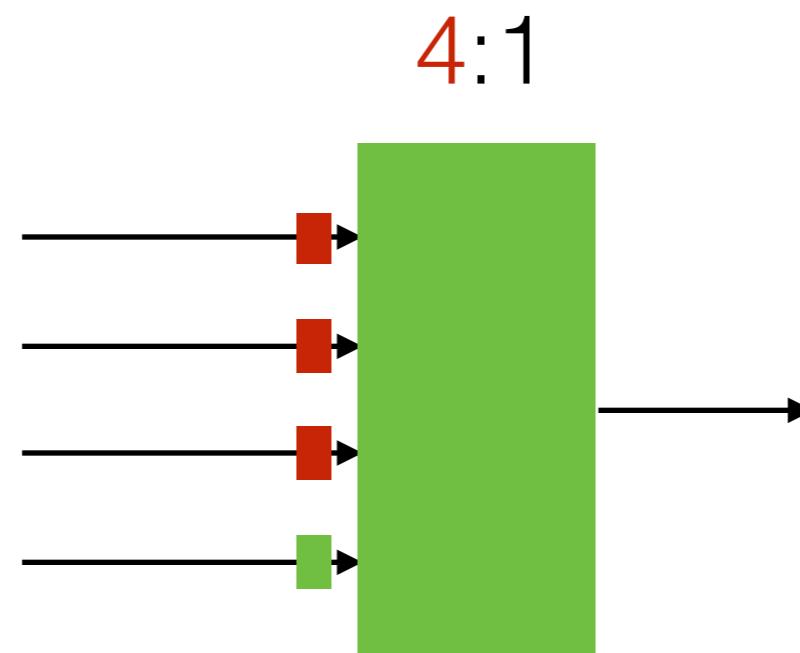
62





# Which assumption?

63



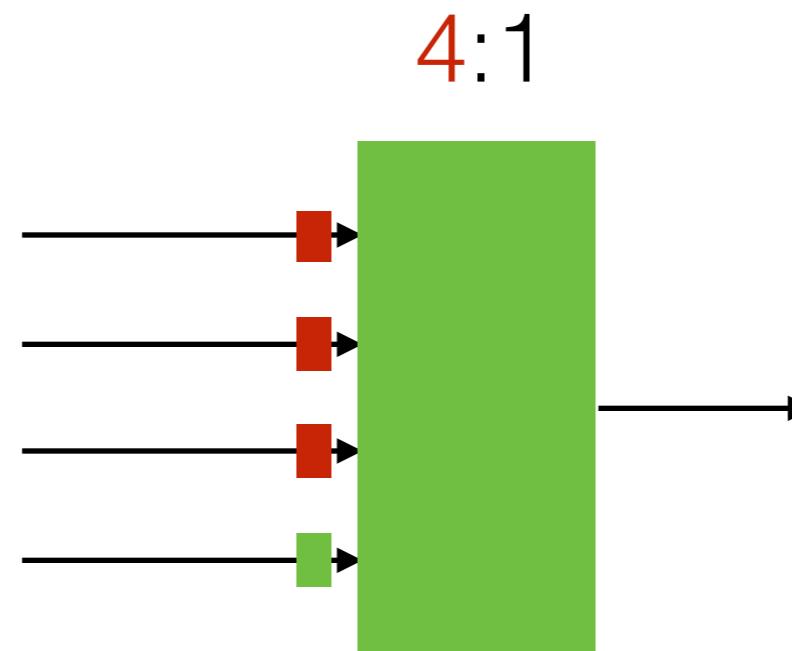
Rate limit



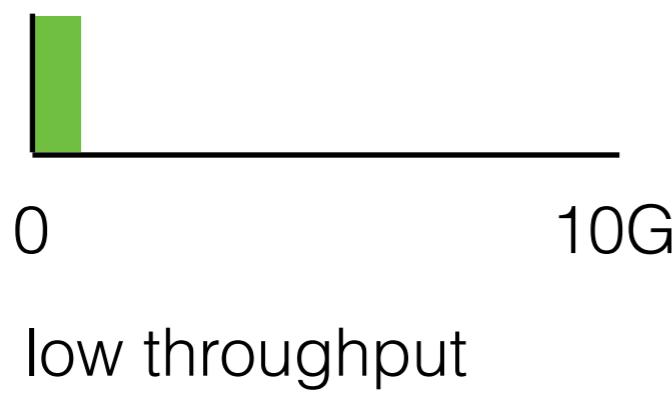


# Which assumption?

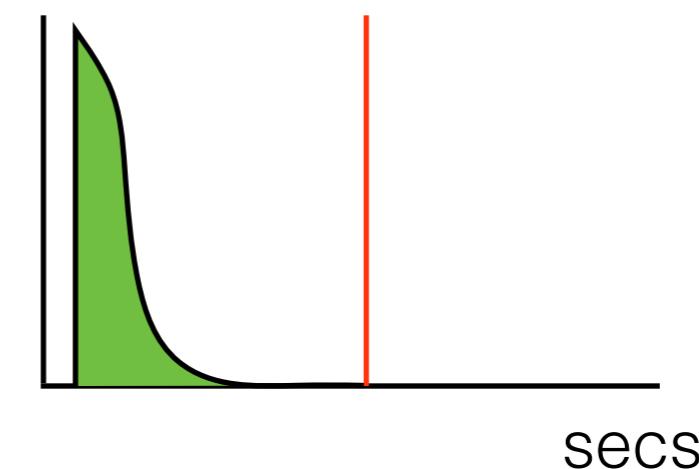
64



Rate limit



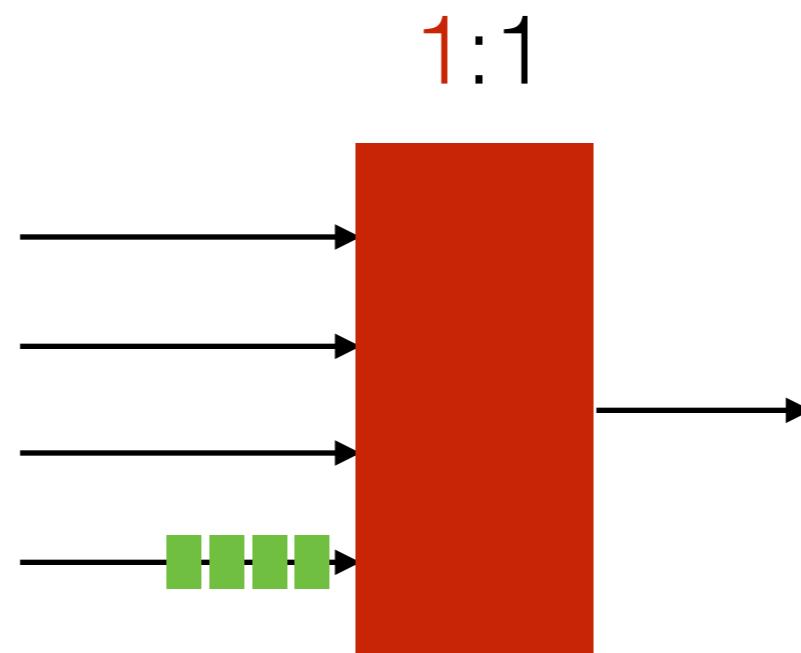
Latency Distribution



**guaranteed latency**



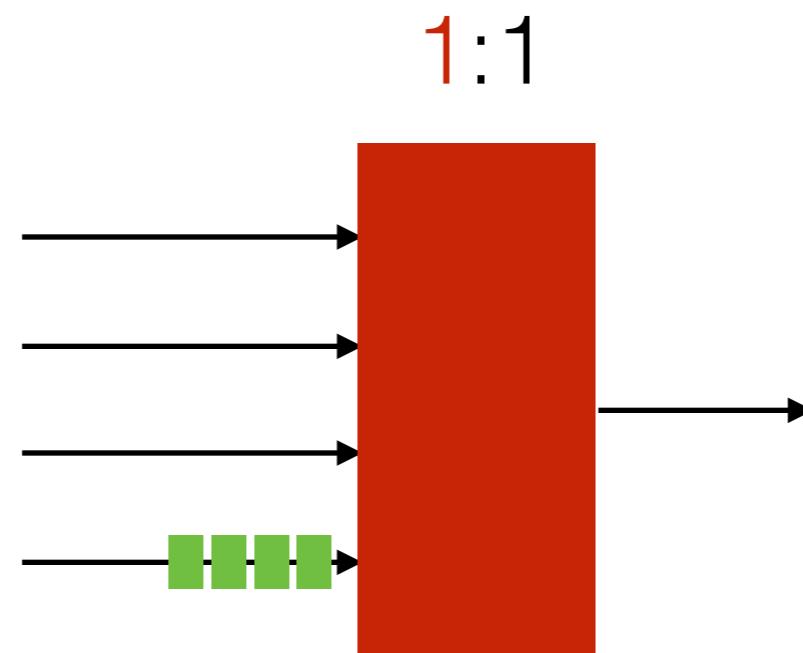
# Which assumption?





# Which assumption?

66



Rate limit

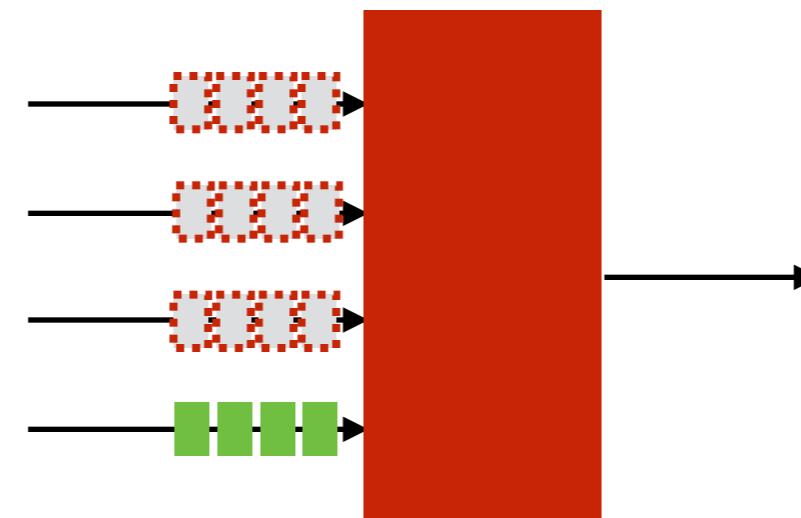




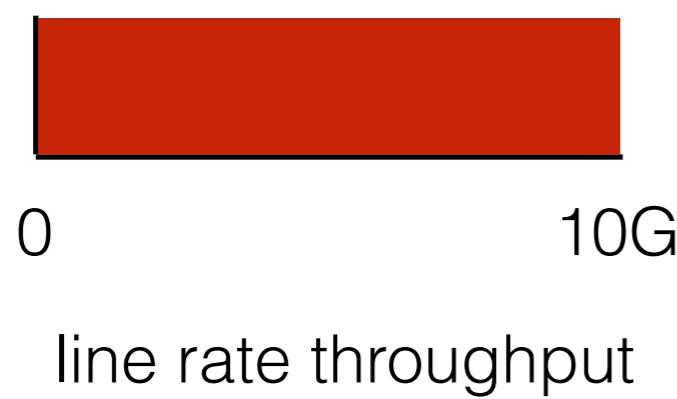
# Which assumption?

67

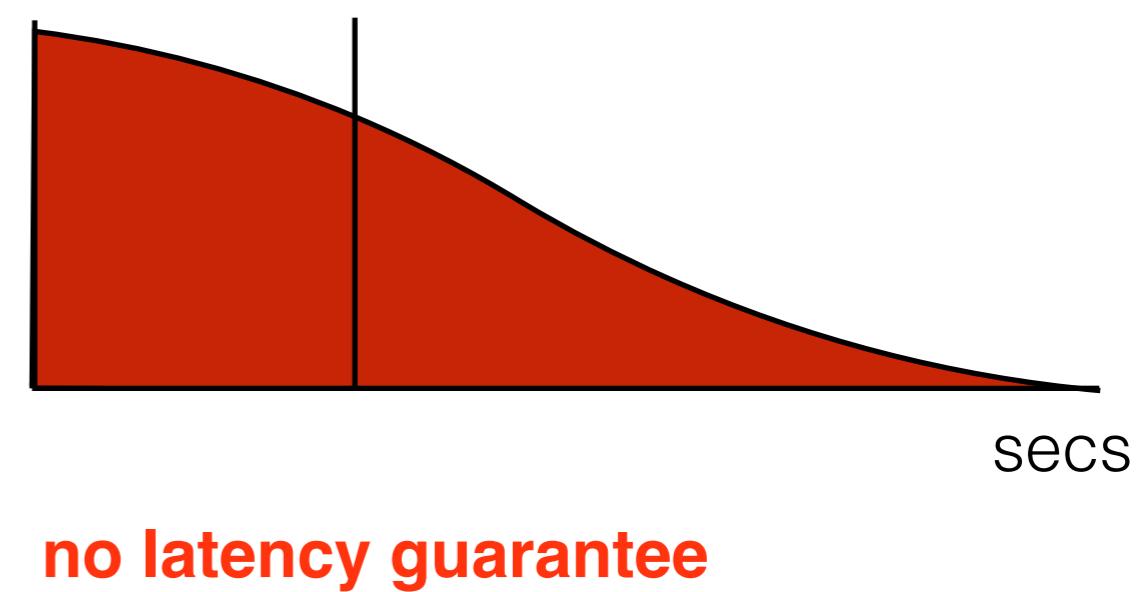
1:1



Rate limit



Latency Distribution



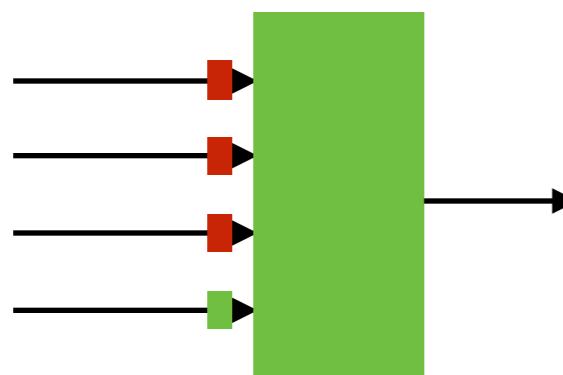
**no latency guarantee**



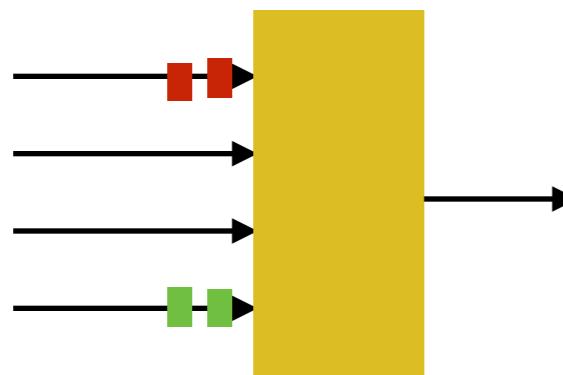
# Which assumption?

68

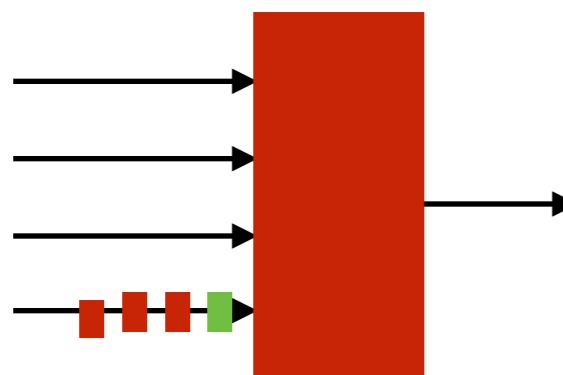
4:1



2:1



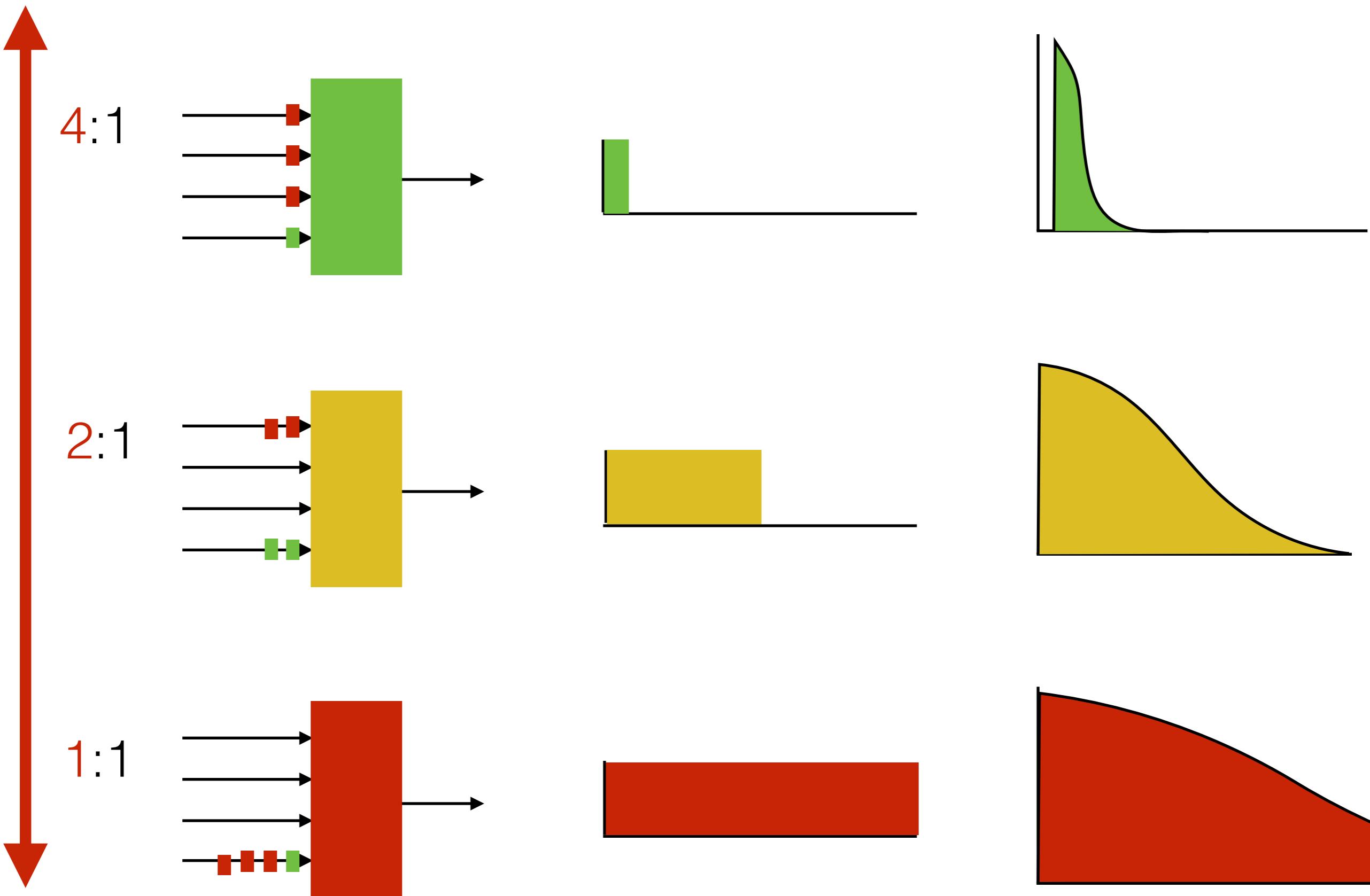
1:1





# Which assumption?

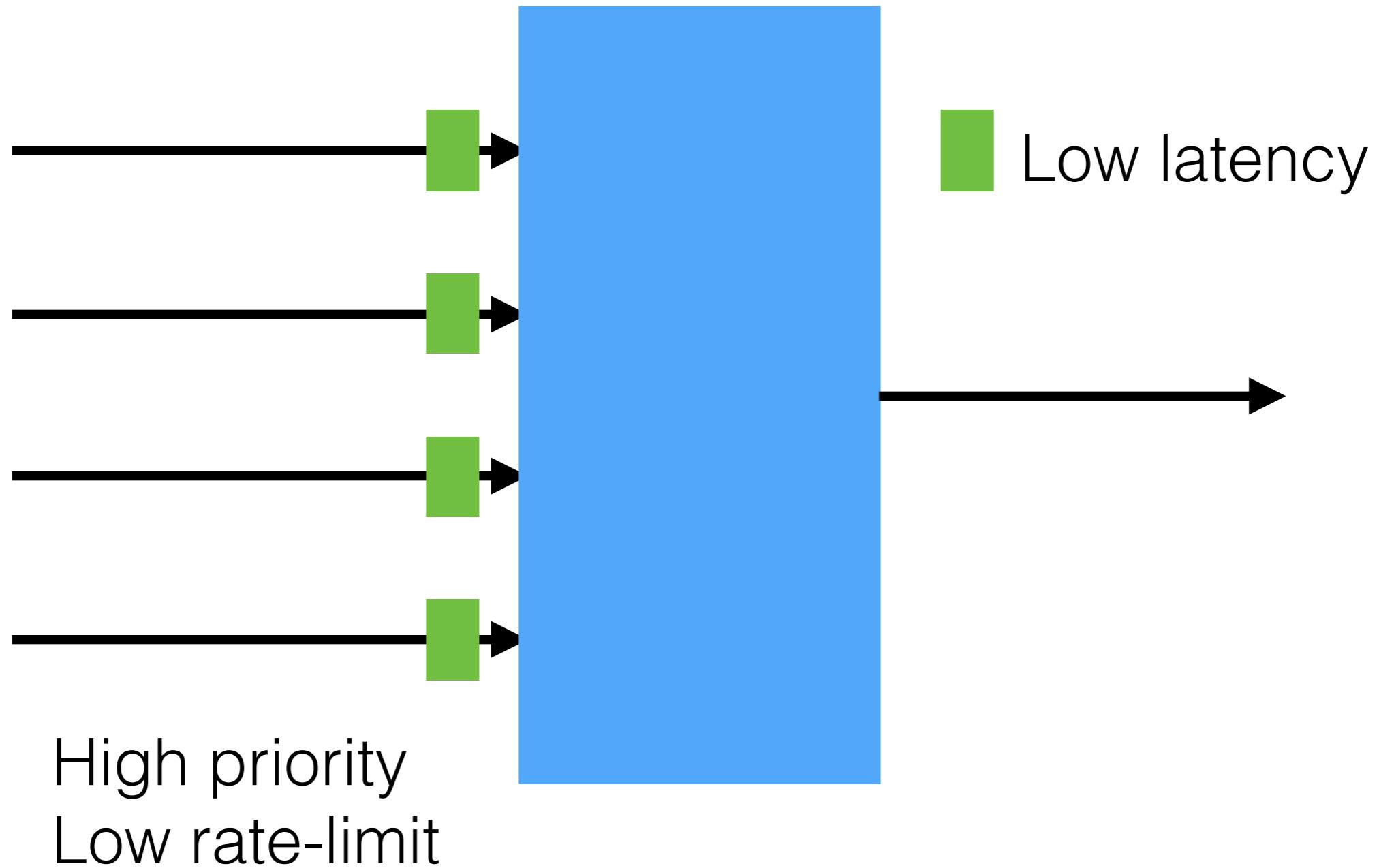
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# QJump with priorities

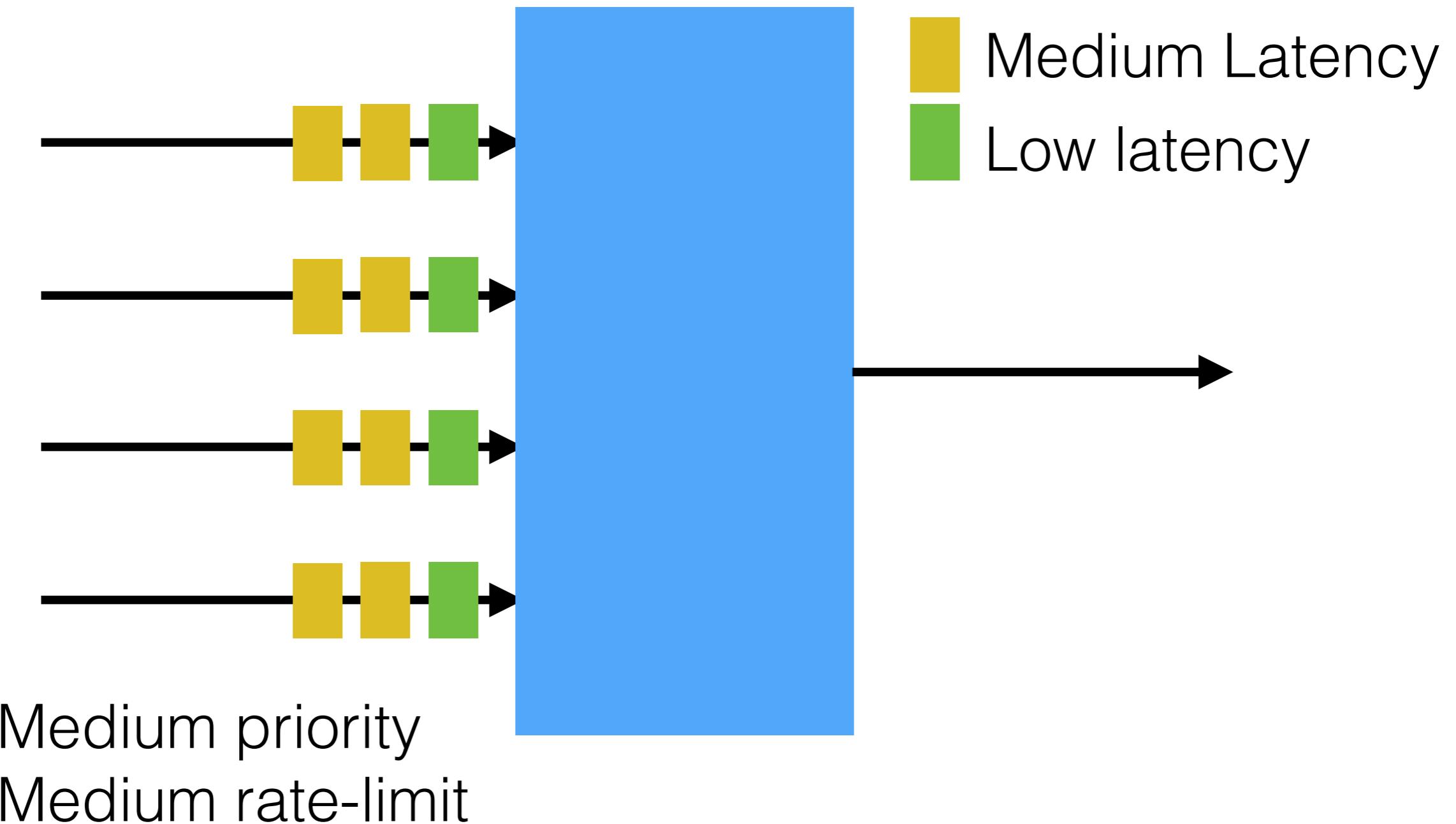
70





# QJump with priorities

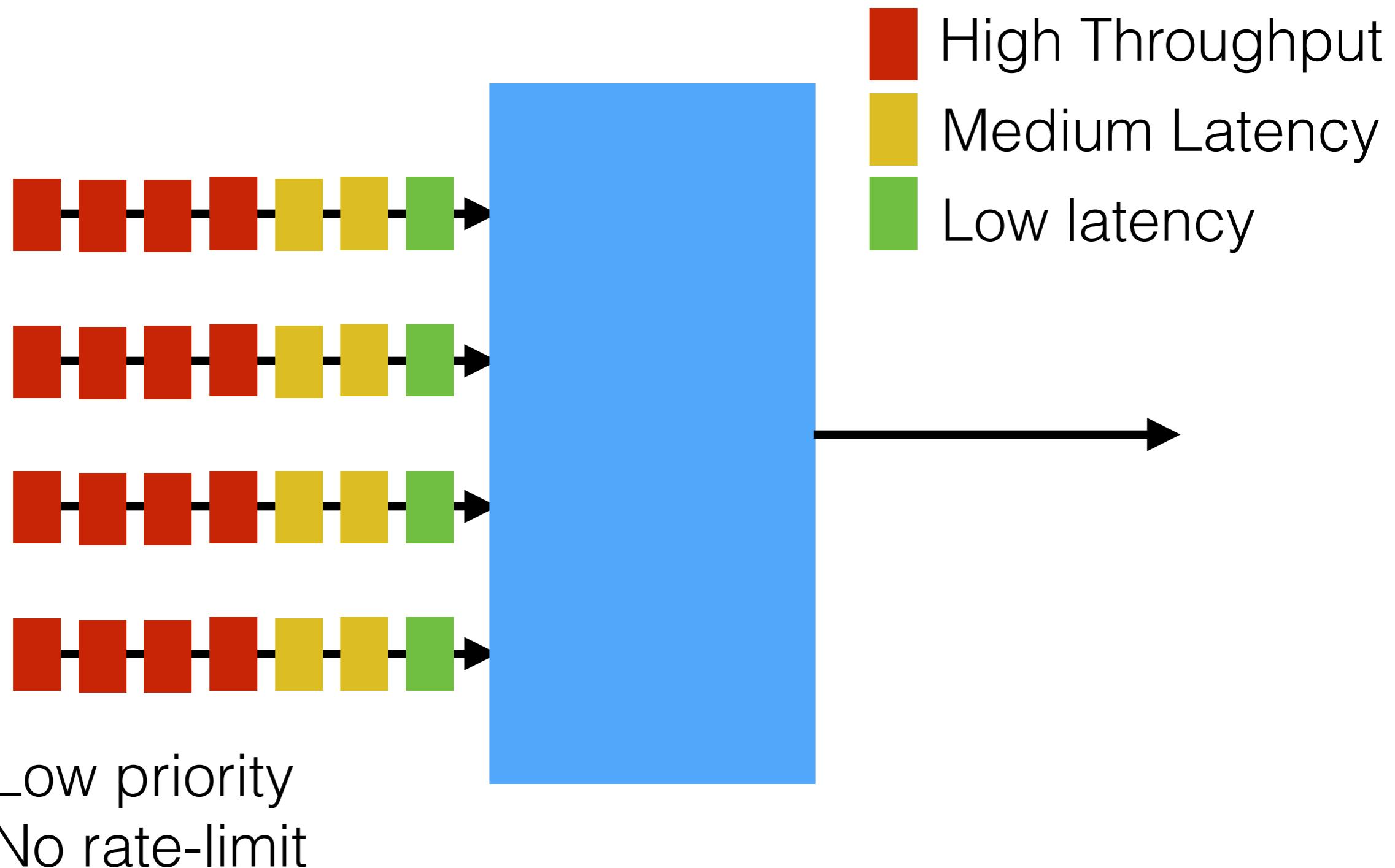
71





# QJump with priorities

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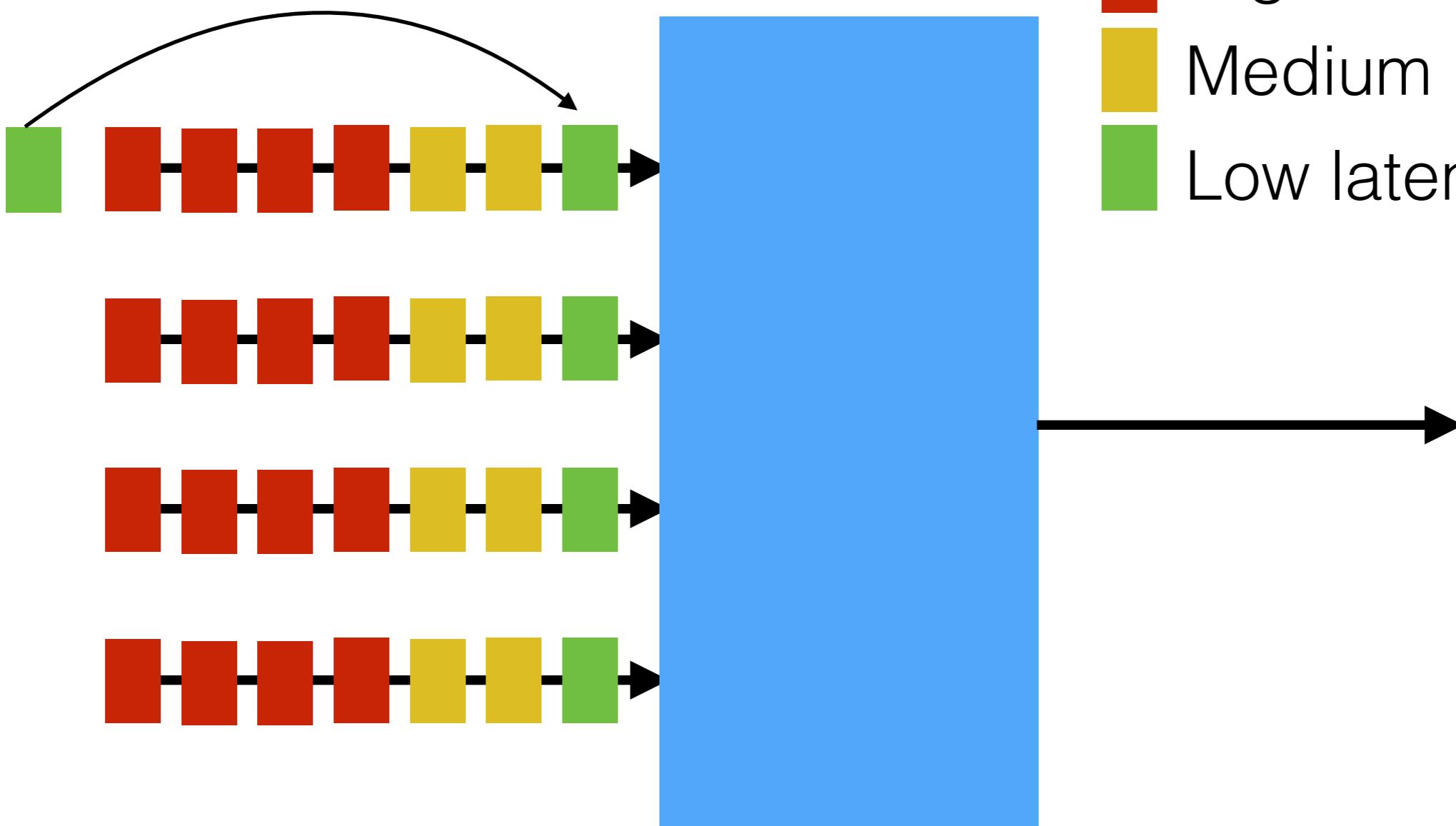




# QJump with priorities

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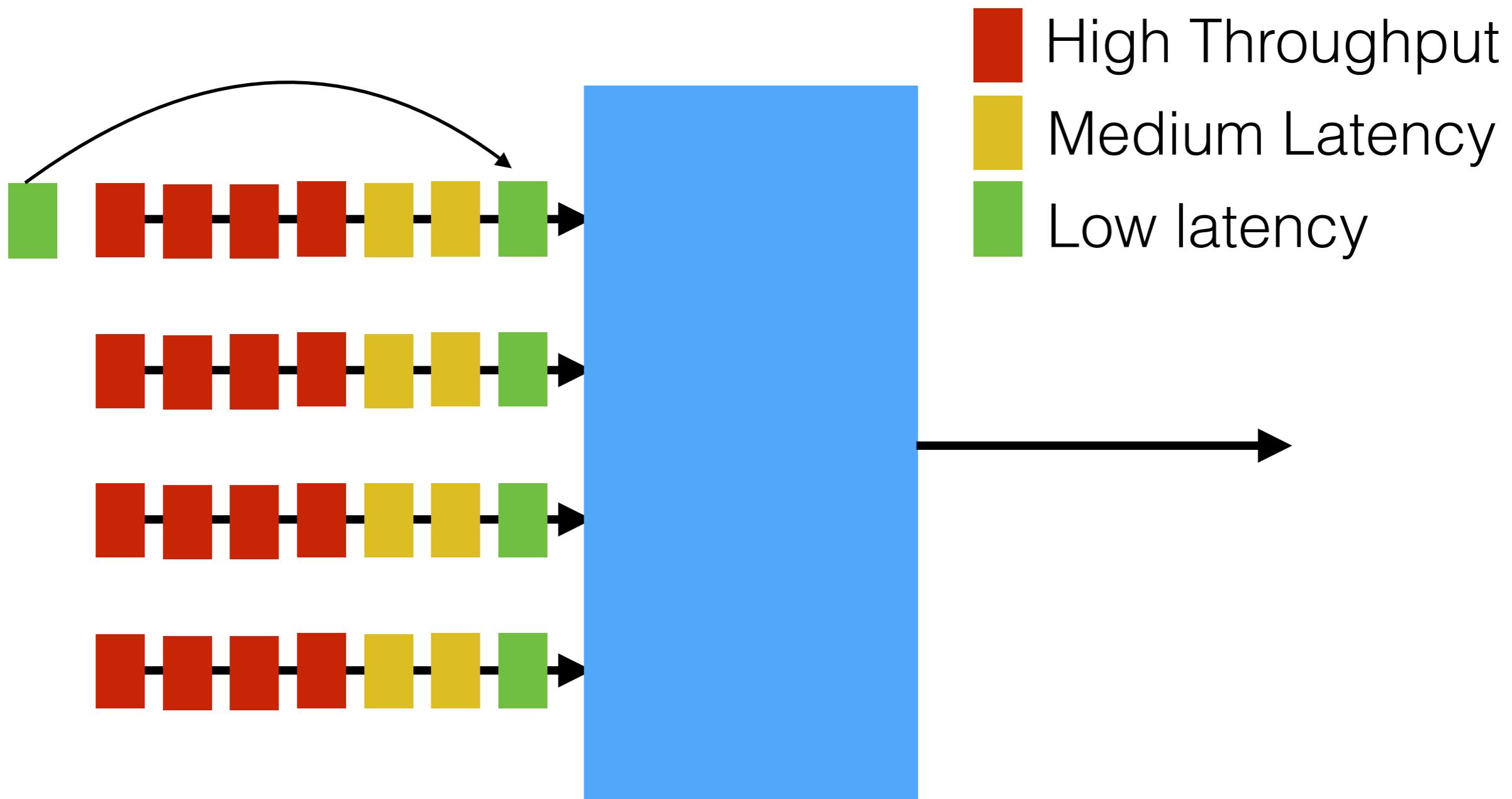
Queue Jumping!





# QJump with priorities

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**Queues don't matter when you can Jump them!**



# Key Idea

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## Prioritization

Use hardware priorities to run different QJump levels together, but isolated\* from each other.

\* from layers below



# Implementation

---

```
1 long epoch_cycles = to_cycles(network_epoch);
2 long timeout = start_time;
3 long bucket[NUM_QJUMP_LEVELS];
4
5 int qJumpRateLimiter(struct sk_buff* buffer) {
6     long cycles_now = asm("rdtsc"); /* read cycle ctr */
7     int level = buffer->priority;
8     if (cycles_now > timeout) { /* new token alloc? */
9         timeout += epoch_cycles;
10        bucket[level] = tokens[level];
11    }
12    if (buffer->len > bucket[level]) {
13        return DROP; /* tokens for epoch exhausted */
14    }
15    bucket[level] -= buffer->len;
16    sendToHWQueue(buffer, level);
17    return SENT;
18 }
```

---



# Implementation

## Linux TC

```
3 long bucket[NUM_QJUMP_LEVELS];  
4  
5 int qJumpRateLimiter(struct sk_buff* buffer) {  
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# Implementation

## Linux TC

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3 long bucket[NUM_QJUMP_LEVELS];  
4  
~36 cycles / packet  
7     int level = buffer->priority;  
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# Implementation

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14 }  
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16 sendToHWQueue(buffer, level);  
17 return SENT;  
18 }
```

## Smart Buffer Sizing



# Implementation

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## Linux TC

```
3 long bucket[NUM_QJUMP_LEVELS];  
4  
7 int level = buffer->priority;  
8 if (cycles_now > timeout) { /* new token alloc? */  
11 }
```

## Smart Buffer Sizing

```
12 if (buffer->len > bucket[level]) {
```

## Unmodified Applications

```
15 bucket[level] -= buffer->len;  
16 sendToHWQueue(buffer, level);  
17 return SENT;  
18 }
```



# Implementation

## Linux TC

```
3 long bucket[NUM_QJUMP_LEVELS];  
4  
7 int level = buffer->priority;  
8 if (cycles_now > timeout) { /* new token alloc? */
```

## Smart Buffer Sizing

```
11 }  
12 if (buffer->len > bucket[level]) {
```

## Unmodified Applications

```
15 bucket[level] -= buffer->len;
```

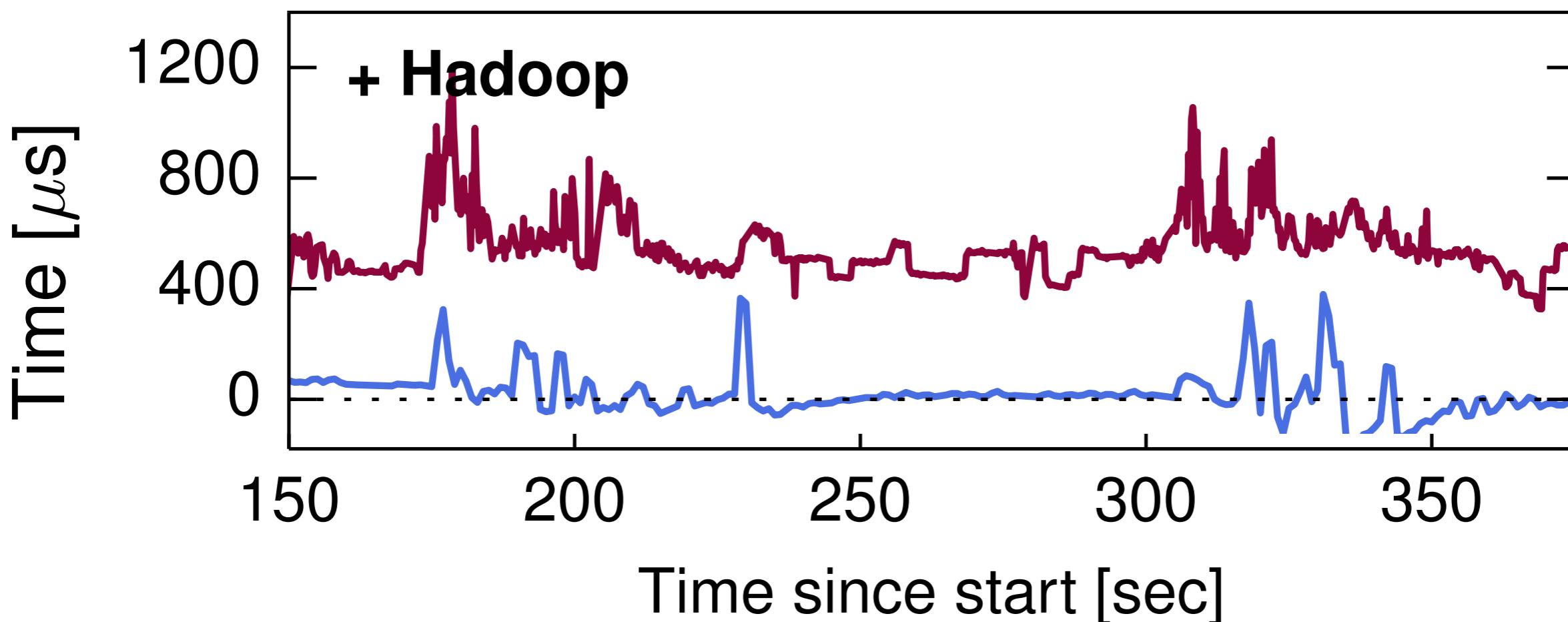
## 802.1 Q

```
18 }
```



# How well does it work?

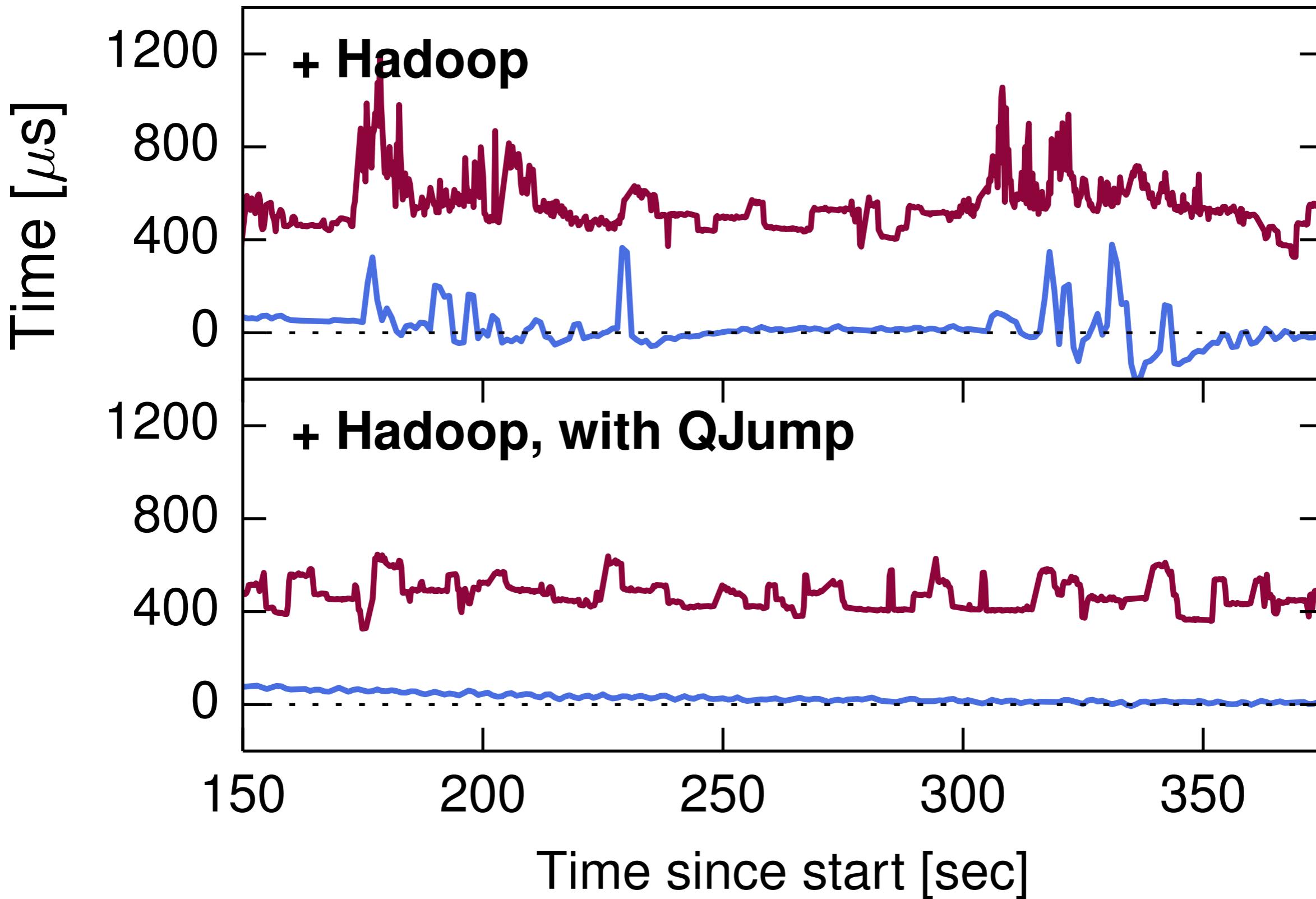
82





# How well does it work?

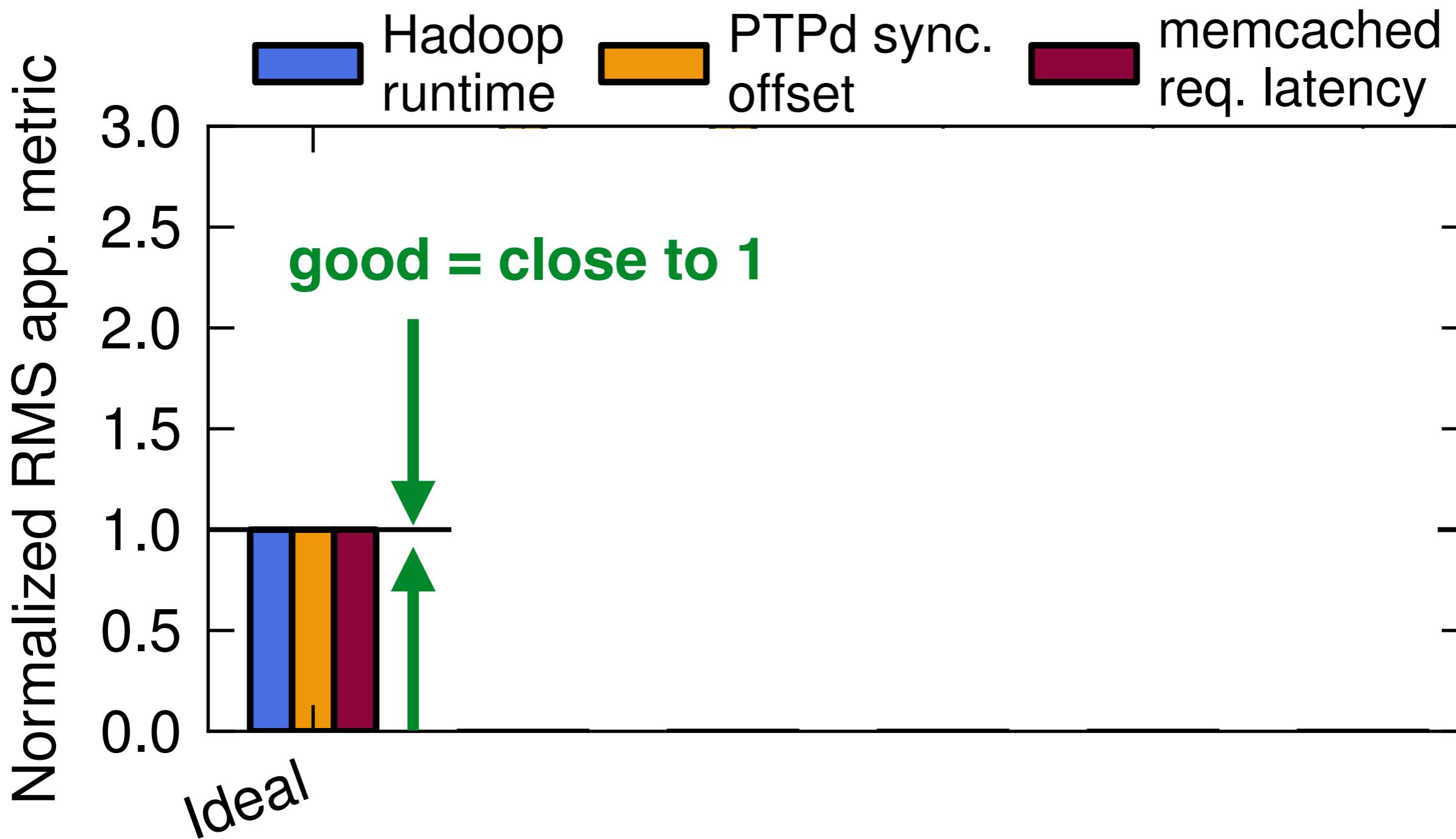
83





# How does it compare?

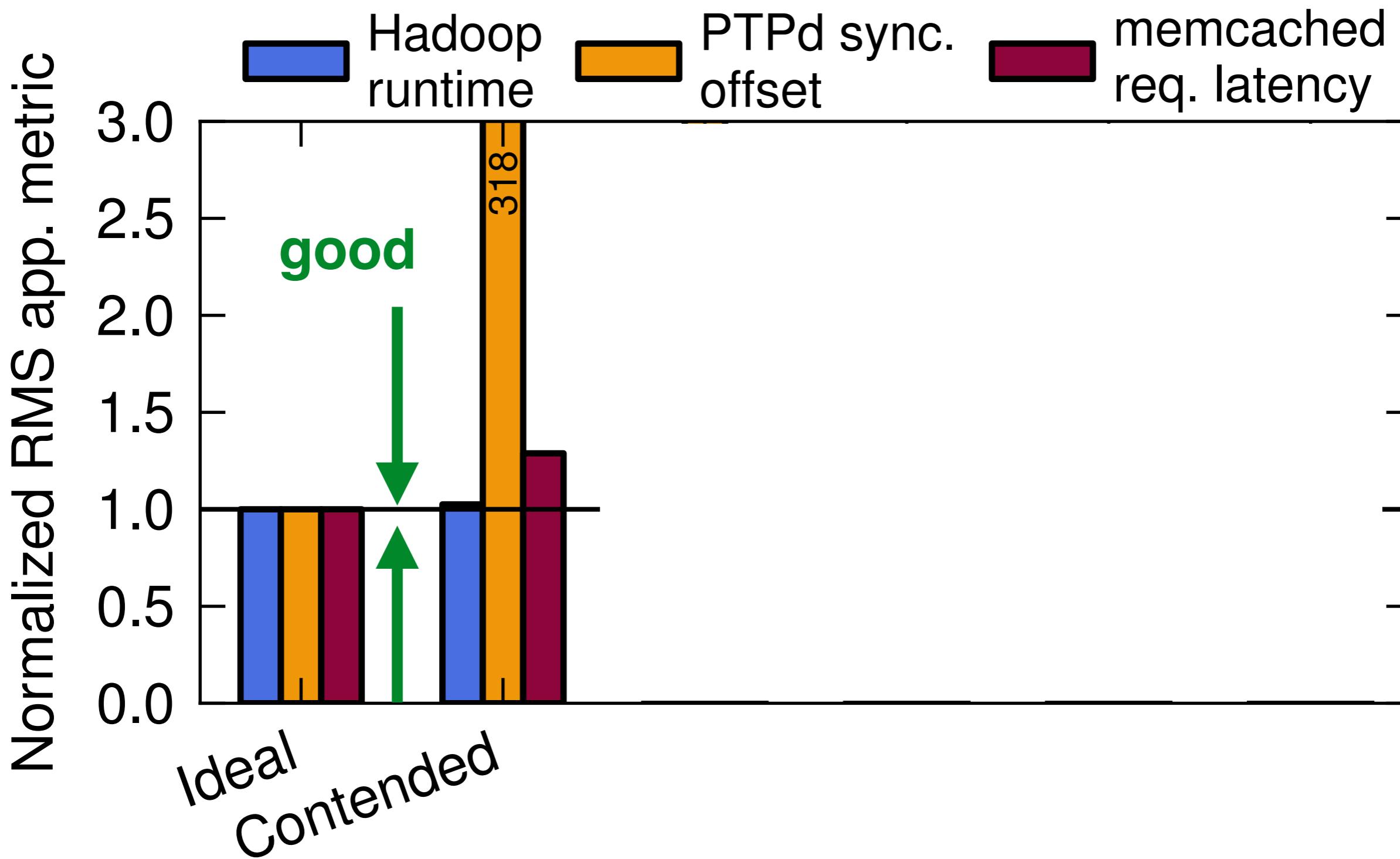
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# How does it compare?

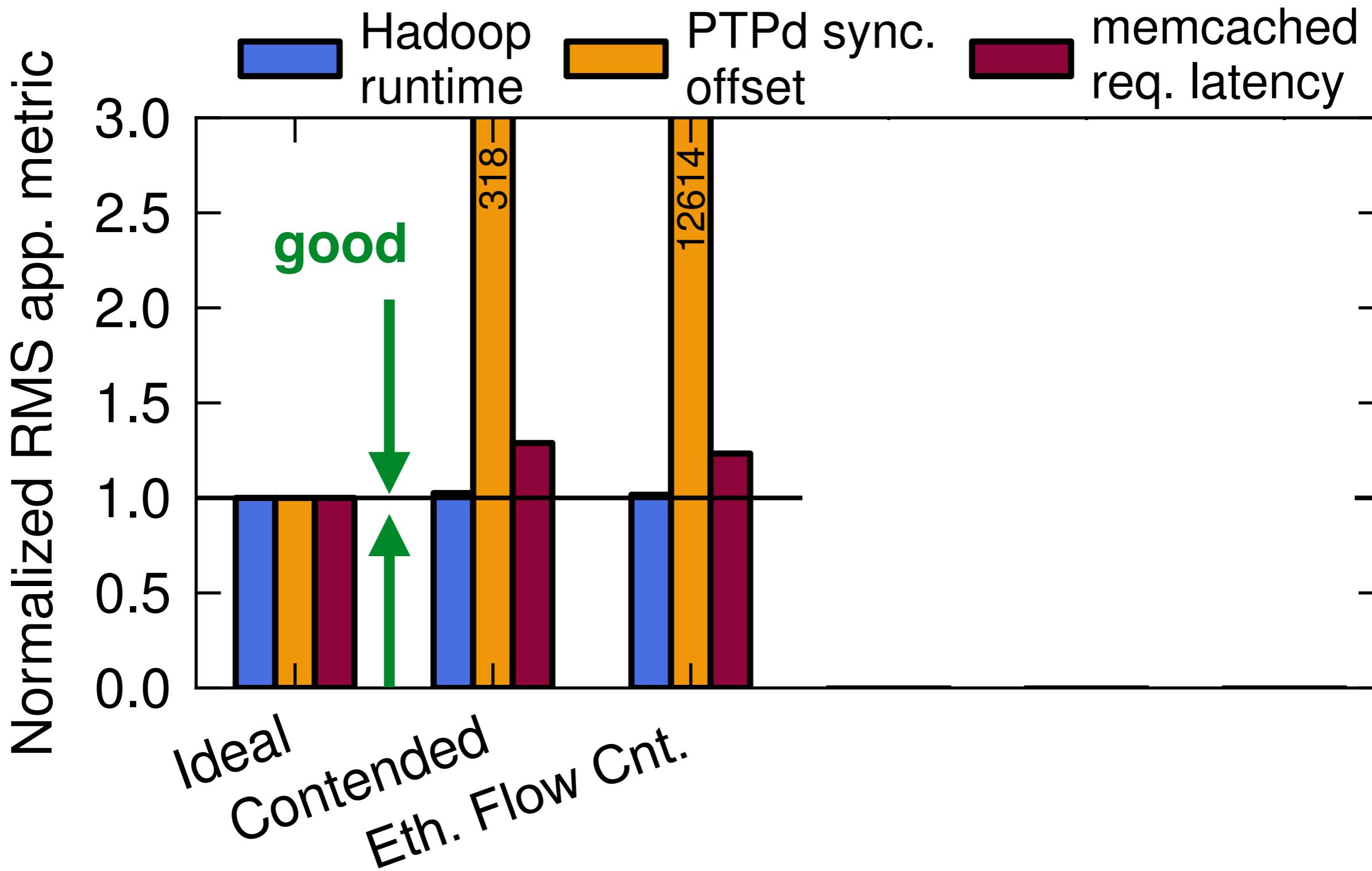
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# How does it compare?

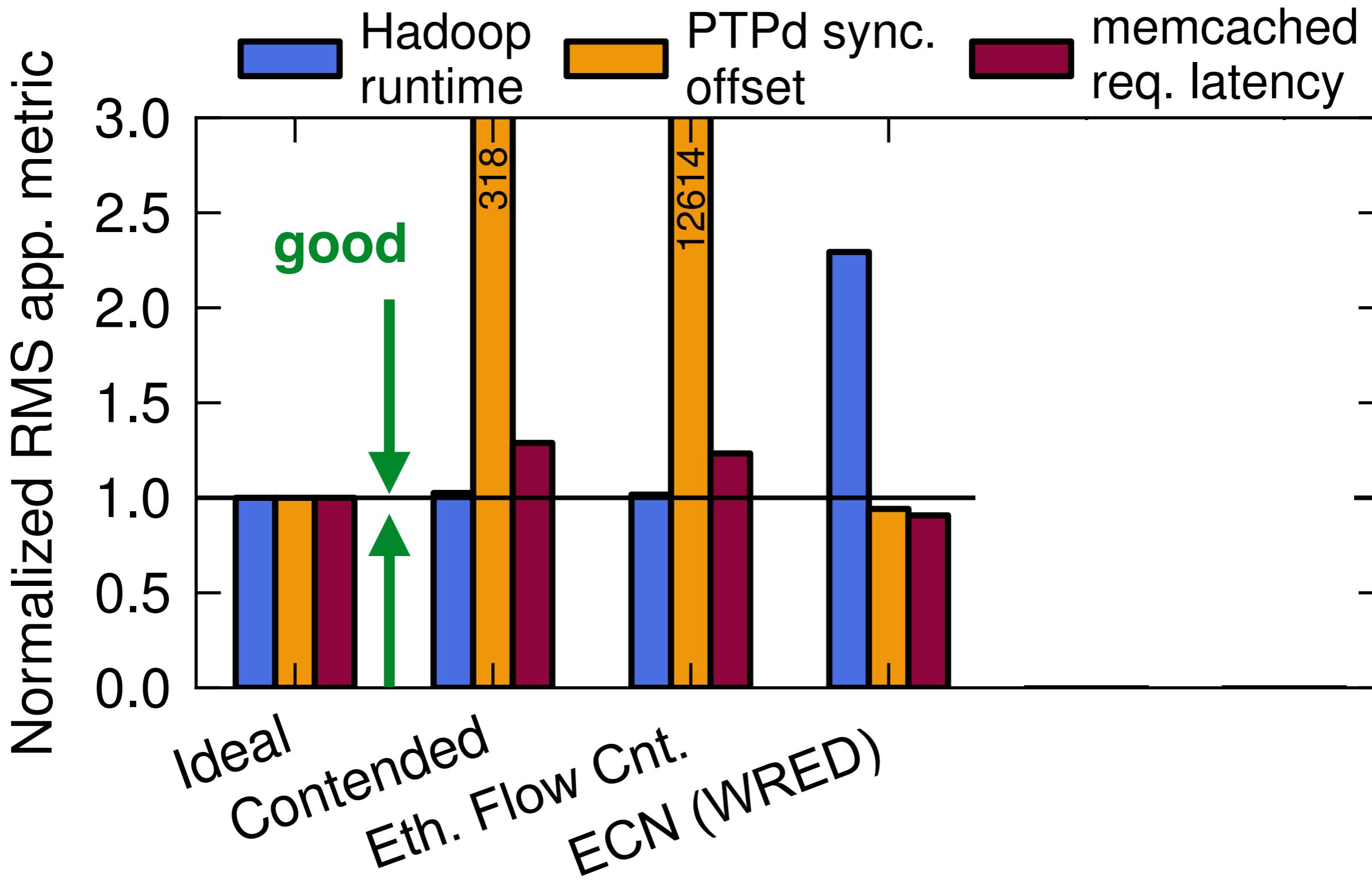
86





# How does it compare?

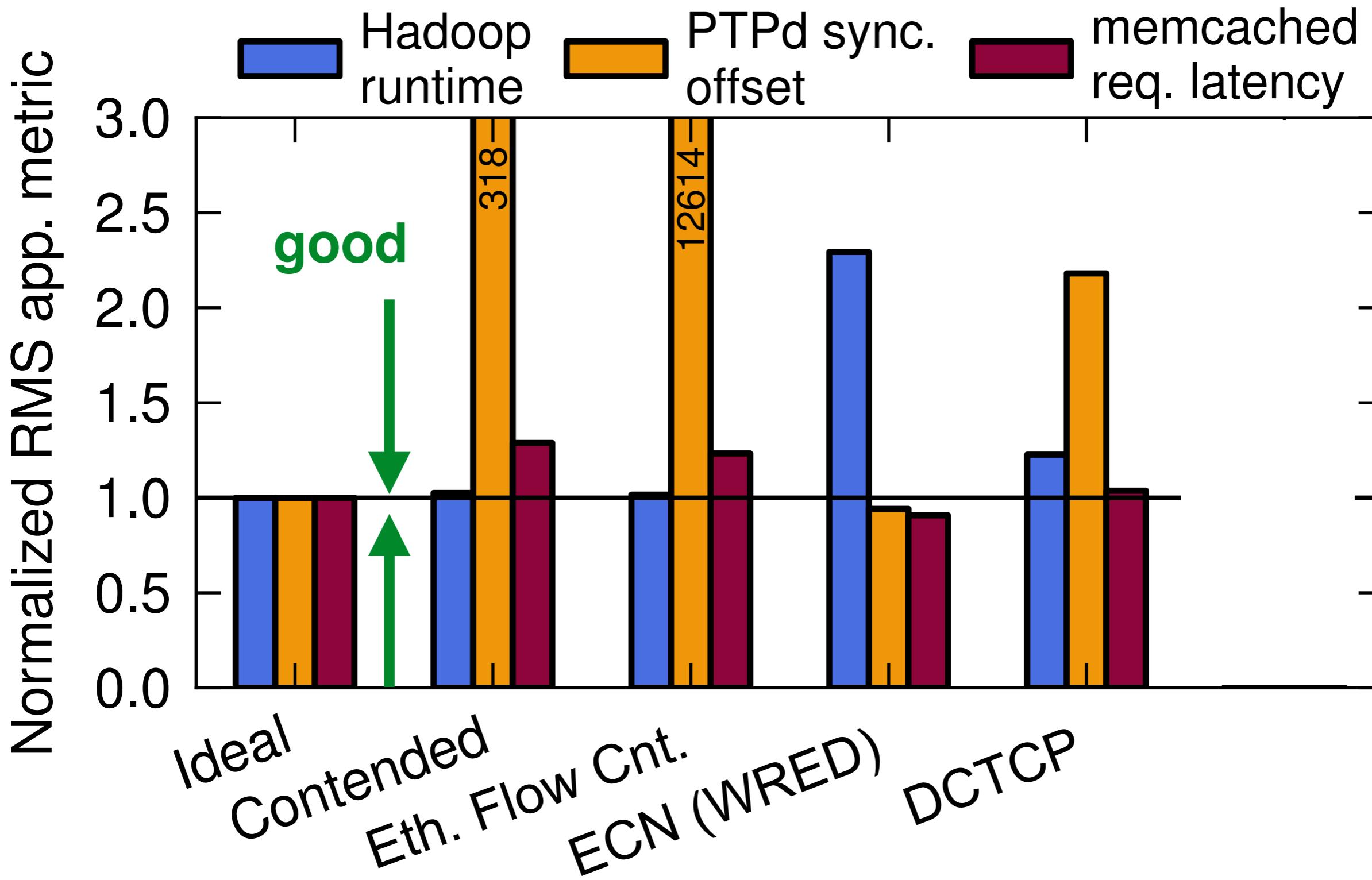
87





# How does it compare?

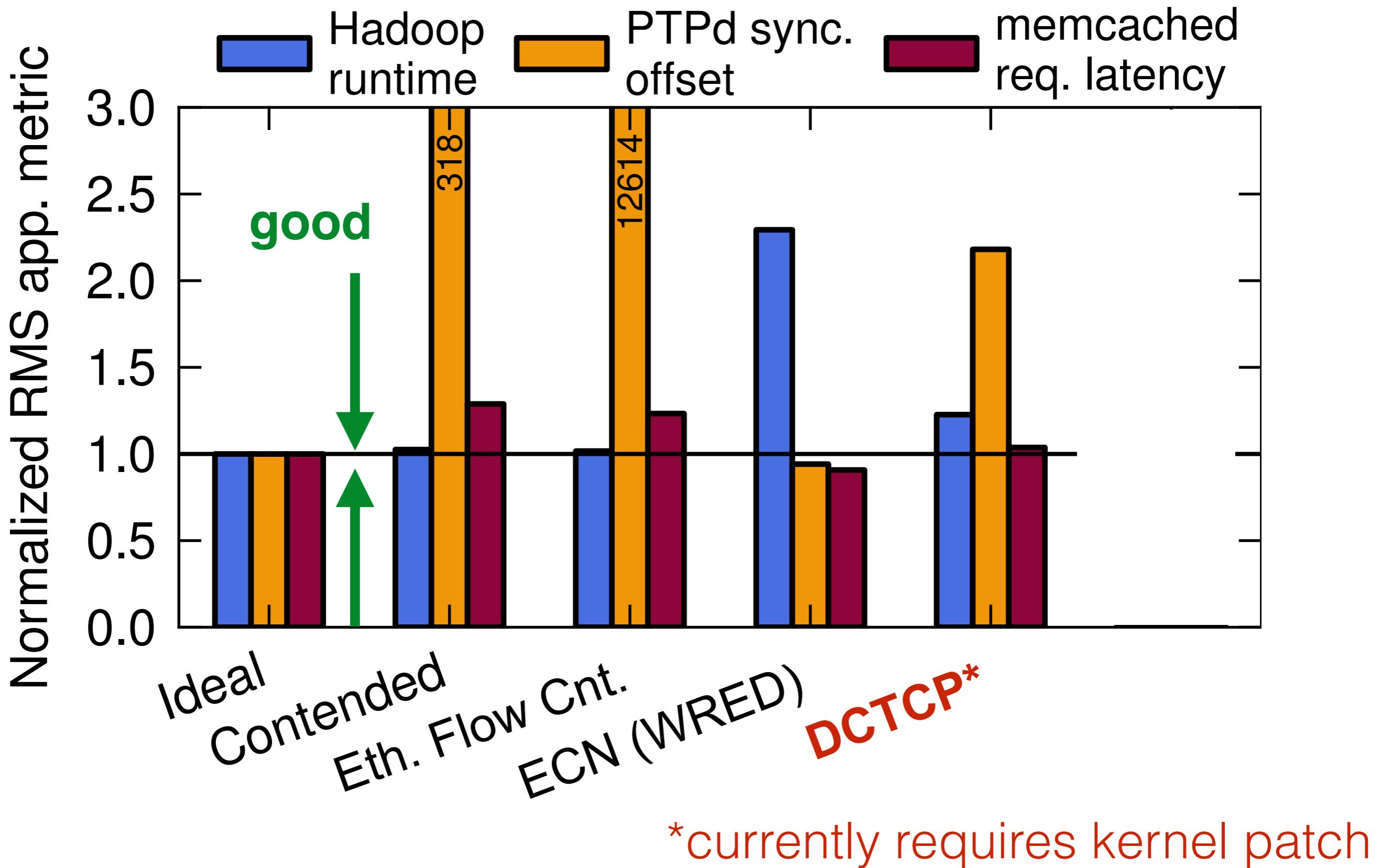
88





# How does it compare?

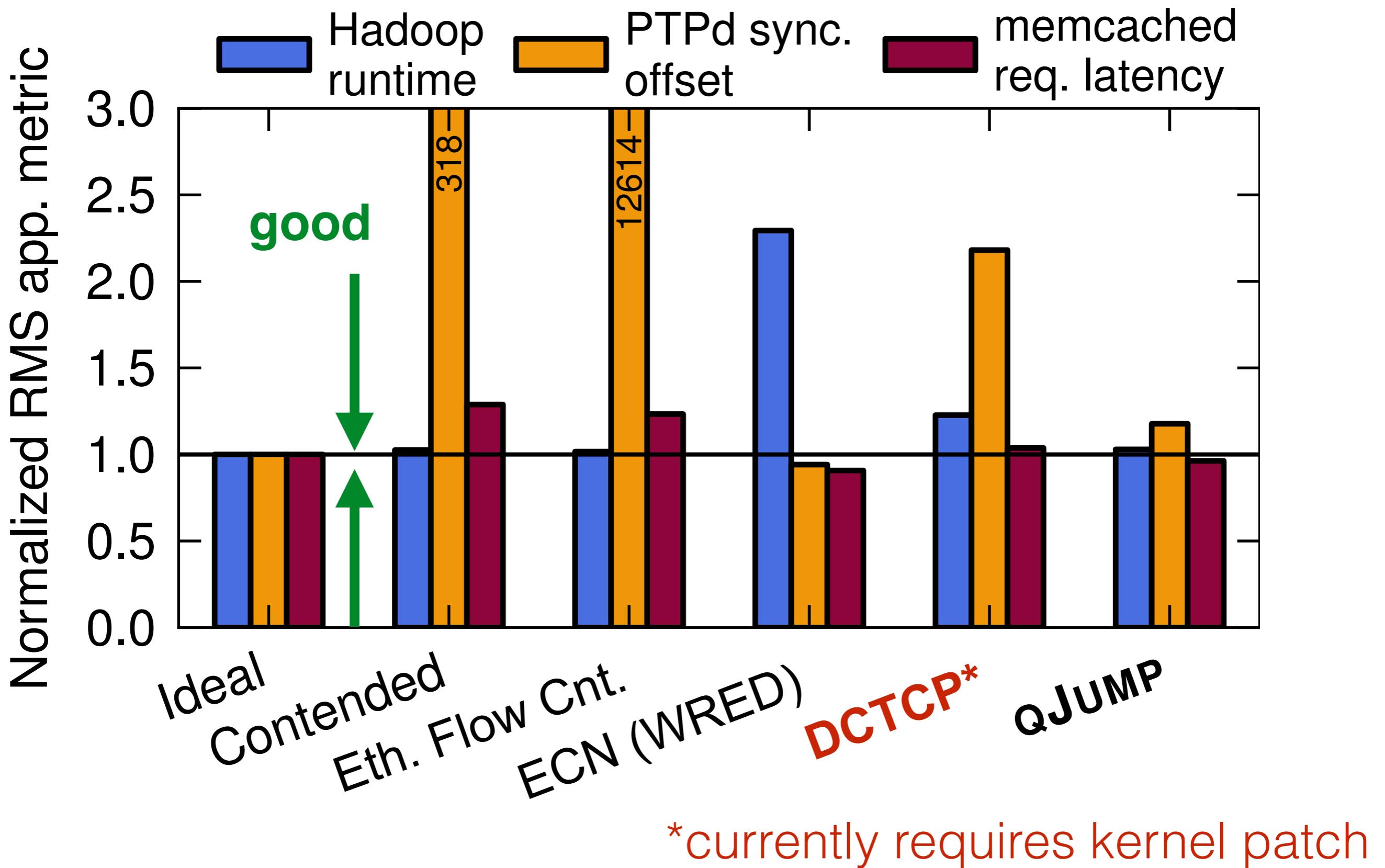
89





# How does it compare?

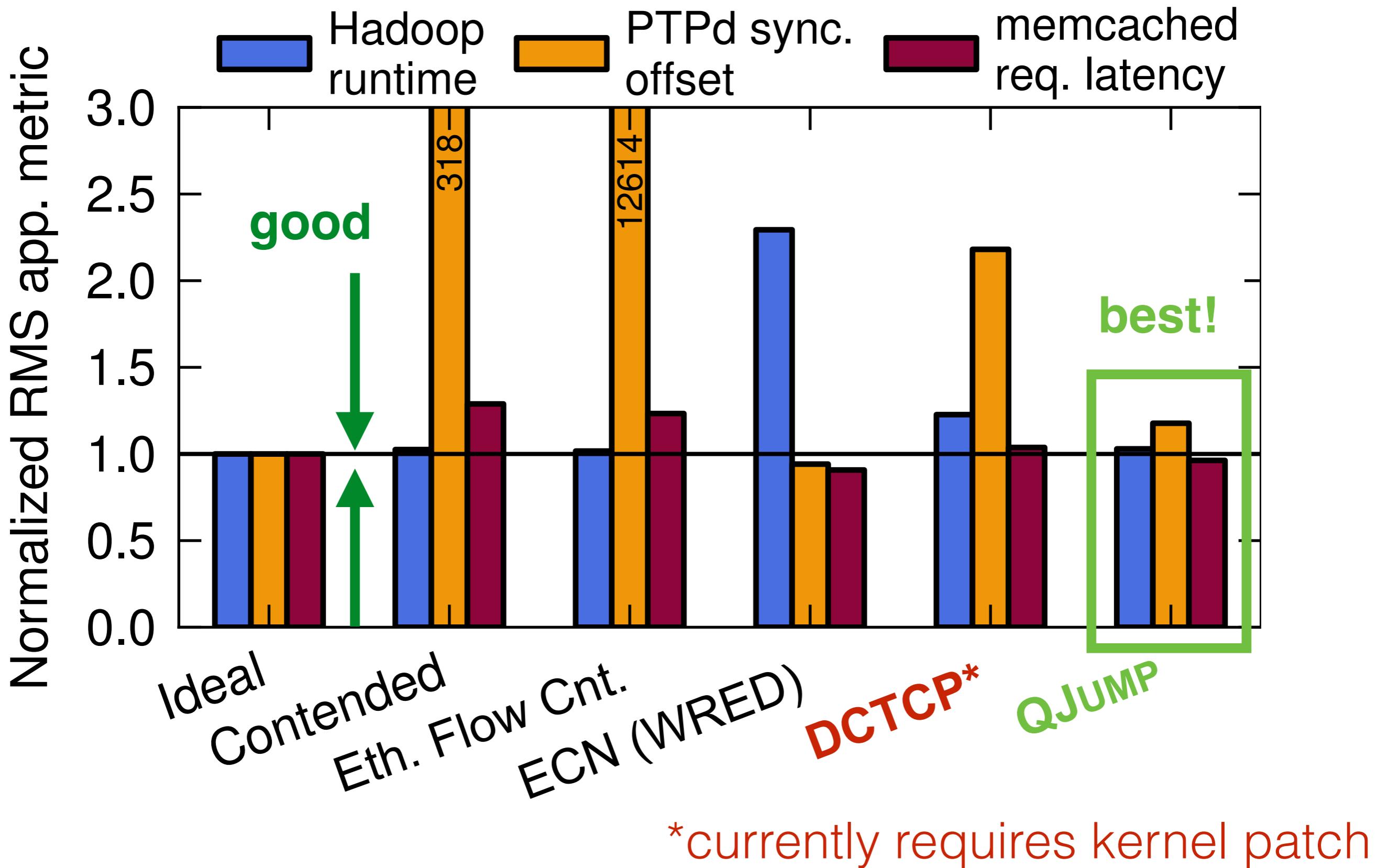
90





# How does it compare?

91





# Conclusions

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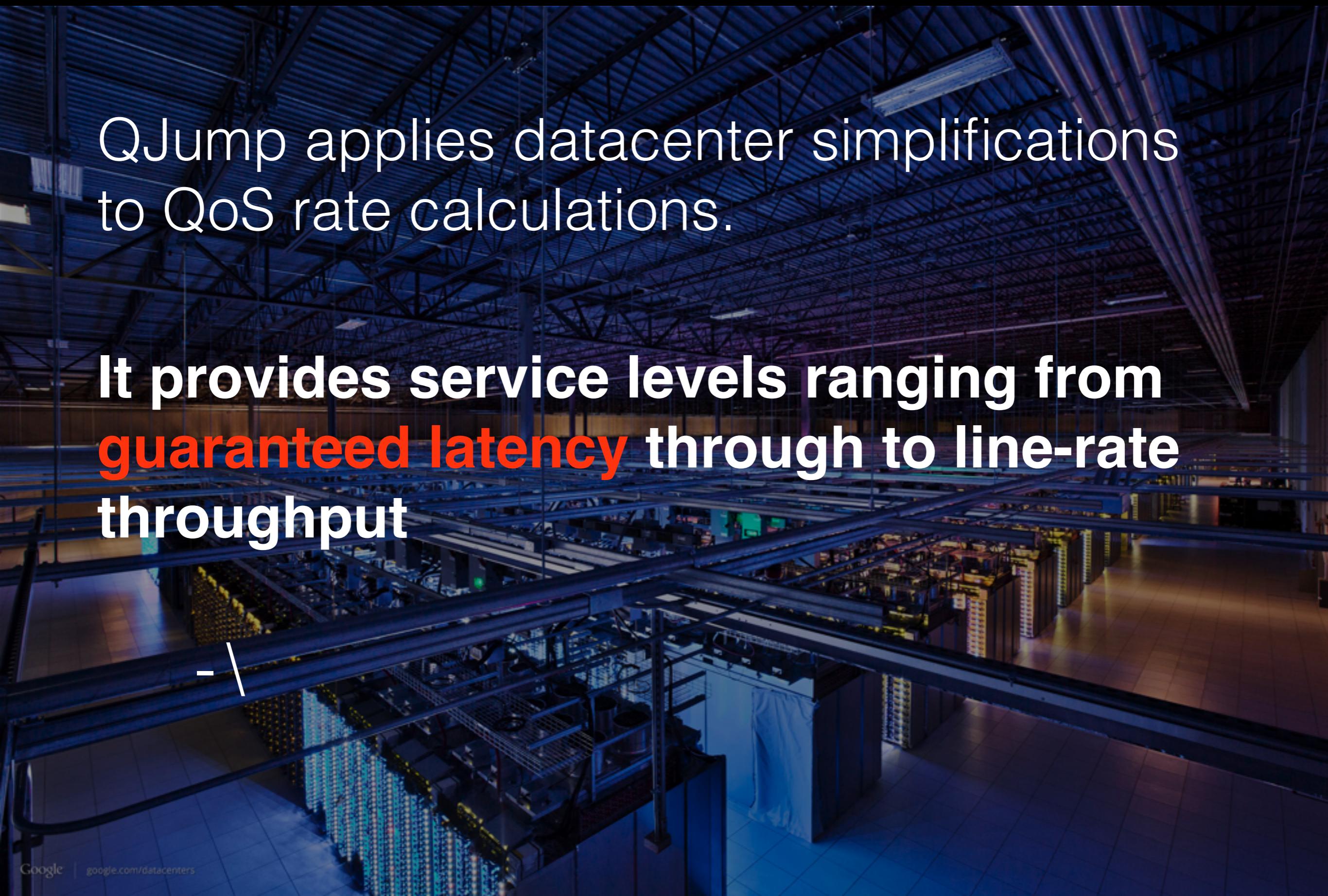


QJump applies **datacenter simplifications** to QoS rate calculations.



# Conclusions

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QJump applies datacenter simplifications to QoS rate calculations.

It provides service levels ranging from **guaranteed latency** through to line-rate throughput

- |



# Conclusions

94



QJump applies datacenter opportunities to simplify QoS rate calculations.

It provides service levels ranging from guaranteed latency through to line-rate throughput

**It can be deployed using **without modifications** to applications, kernel code or hardware.**



# Want to know more?

Queues don't matter when you can JUMP them!

Matthew P. Grosvenor    Malte Schwarzkopf    Ionel Gog    Robert N. M. Watson  
Andrew W. Moore    Steven Hand<sup>†</sup>    Jon Crowcroft

*University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory*

<sup>†</sup> now at Google, Inc.

## Abstract

QJUMP is a simple and immediately deployable approach to controlling network interference in datacenter networks. Network interference occurs when congestion from throughput-intensive applications causes queueing that delays traffic from latency-sensitive applications. To mitigate network interference, QJUMP applies Internet QoS-inspired techniques to datacenter applications. Each application is assigned to a latency sensitivity level (or class). Packets from higher levels are rate-limited in the end host, but once allowed into the network can “jump-the-queue” over packets from lower levels. In settings with known node counts and link speeds, QJUMP can support service levels ranging from strictly bounded latency (but with low rate) through to line-rate throughput (but with high latency variance).

We have implemented QJUMP as a Linux Traffic Control module. We show that QJUMP achieves bounded latency and reduces in-network interference by up to 300×, outperforming Ethernet Flow Control (802.3x), ECN (WRED) and DCTCP. We also show that QJUMP improves average flow completion times, performing close to or better than DCTCP and pFabric.

## 1 Introduction

Many datacenter applications are sensitive to tail latencies. Even if as few as one machine in 10,000 is a straggler, up to 18% of requests can experience high latency [13]. This has a tangible impact on user engagement and thus potential revenue [8, 9].

One source of latency tails is *network interference*, connection from throughput-intensive applications

cause queueing that extends memcached request latency tails by 85 times the interference-free maximum (§2).

If memcached packets can somehow be prioritized to “jump-the-queue” over Hadoop’s packets, memcached will no longer experience latency tails due to Hadoop. Of course, multiple instances of memcached may still interfere with *each other*, causing long queues or incast collapse [10]. If each memcached instance can be appropriately rate-limited at the origin, this too can be mitigated.

These observations are not new: QoS technologies like DiffServ [7] demonstrated that coarse-grained classification and rate-limiting can be used to control network latencies. Such schemes struggled for widespread deployment, and hence provided limited benefit [12]. However, unlike the Internet, datacenters have well-known network structures (i.e. host counts and link rates), and the bulk of the network is under the control of a single authority. In this environment, we can enforce system-wide policies, and calculate specific rate-limits which take into account worst-case behavior, ultimately allowing us to provide a guaranteed bound on network latency.

QJUMP implements these concepts in a minimal rate-limiting Linux kernel module and application utility. QJUMP has four key features. It:

1. resolves network interference for latency-sensitive applications **without sacrificing utilization** for throughput-intensive applications;
2. offers **bounded latency** to applications requiring low-rate, latency-sensitive messaging (e.g. timing, consensus and network control systems);
3. is **simple and immediately deployable**, requiring no changes to hardware or application code; and
4. **performs close to or better** than competing sys-



# Want to know more?

Setup	50 <sup>th</sup> %	99 <sup>th</sup> %	
one host, idle network	85	126µs	
two hosts, shared switch	110	130µs	<b>u can JUMP them!</b>
shared source host, shared egress port	228	268µs	
shared dest. host, shared ingress port	125	278µs	Ionel Gog      Robert N. M. Watson †                Jon Crowcroft
shared host, shared ingress and egress	221	229µs	<i>Computer Laboratory</i>
<b>two hosts, shared switch queue</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>2,100µs</b>	

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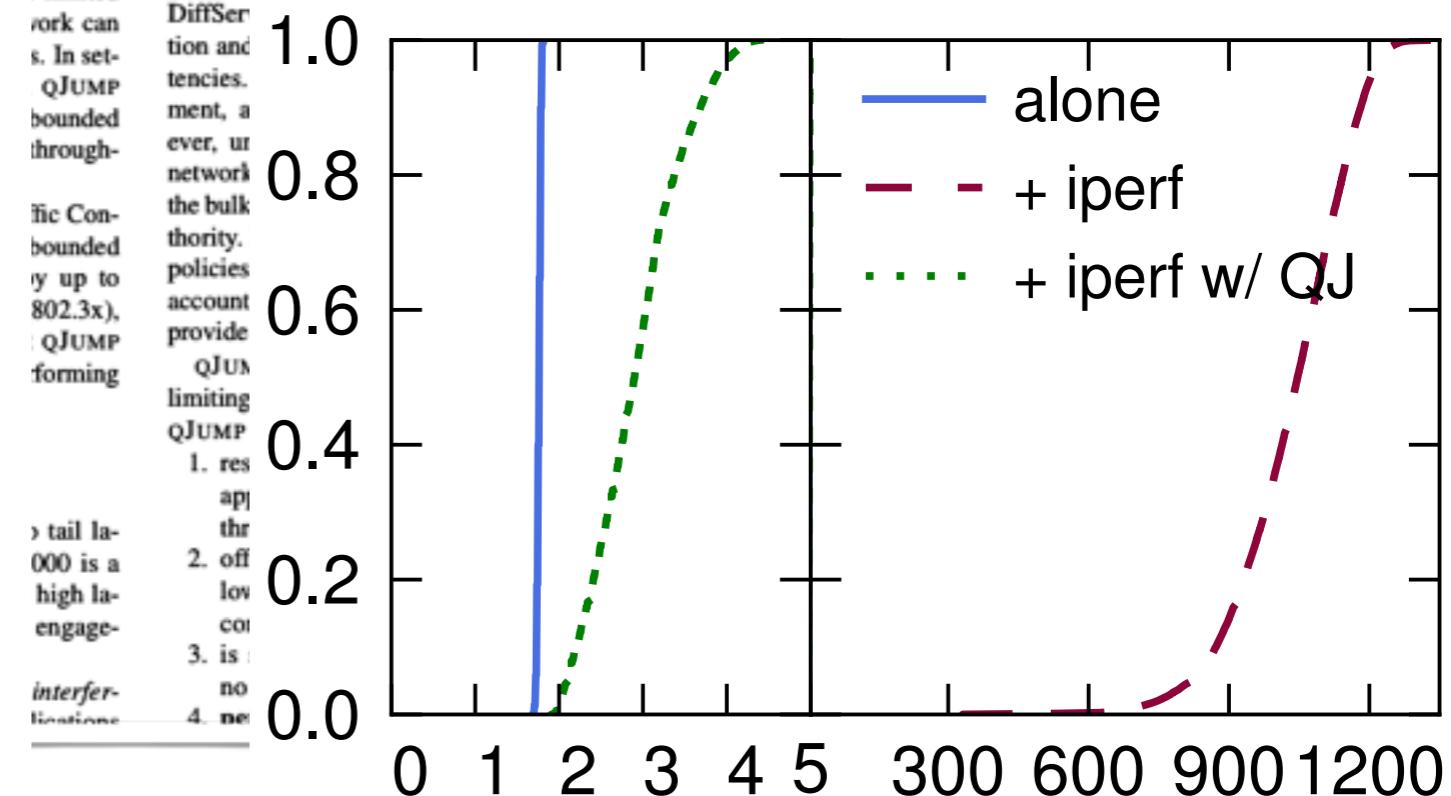
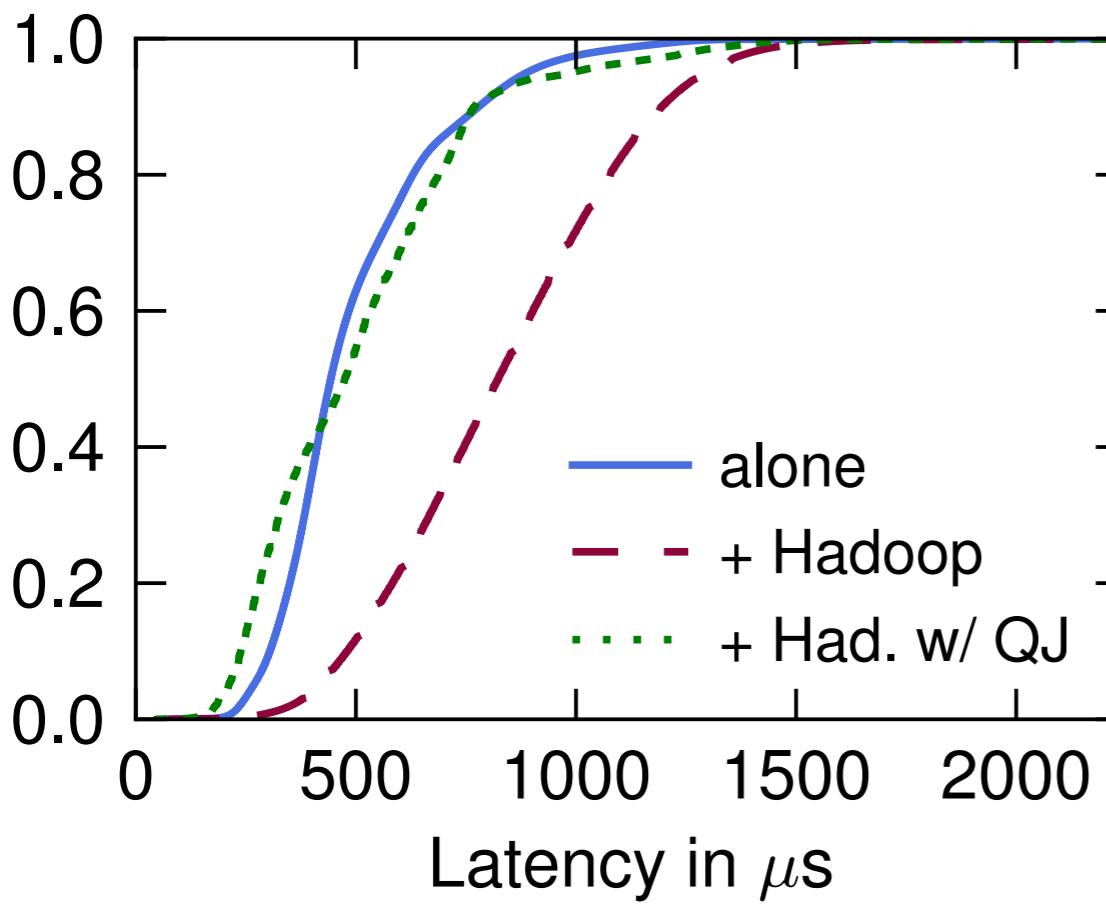
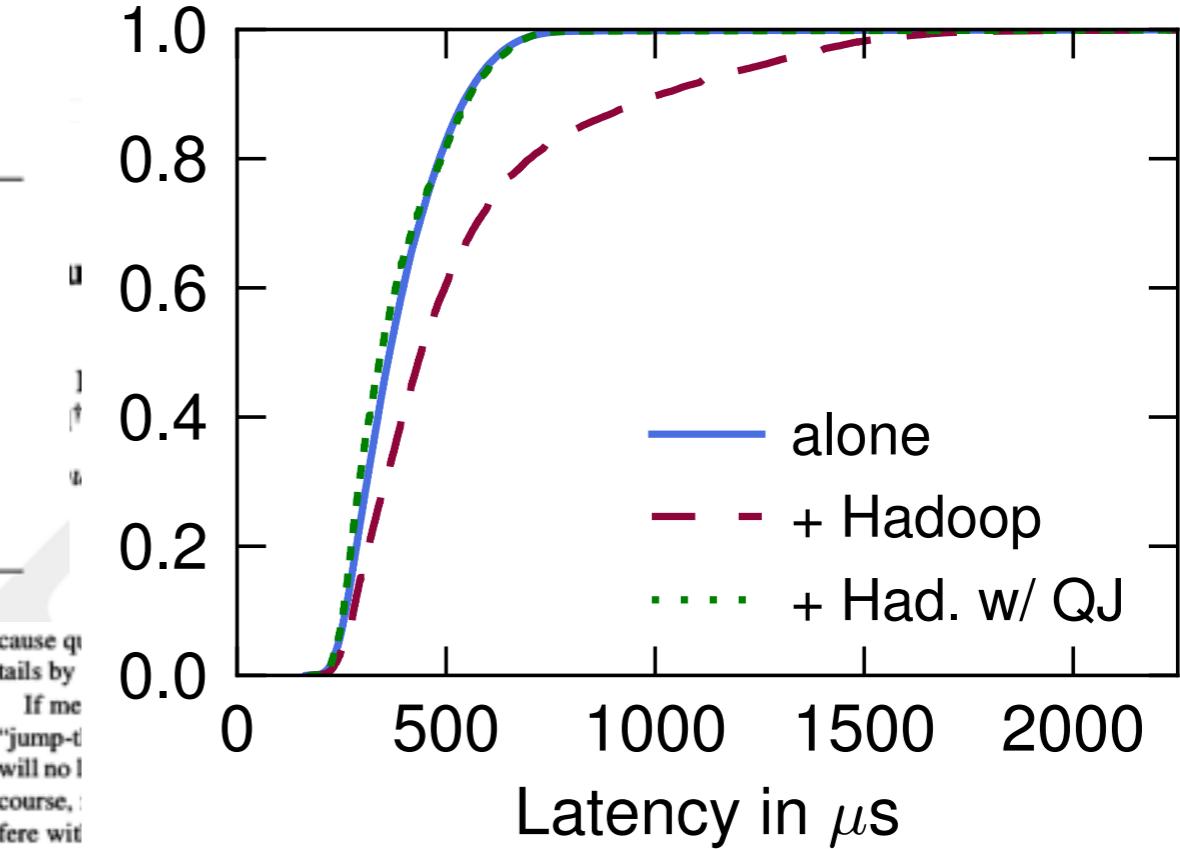
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# Want to know more?

97

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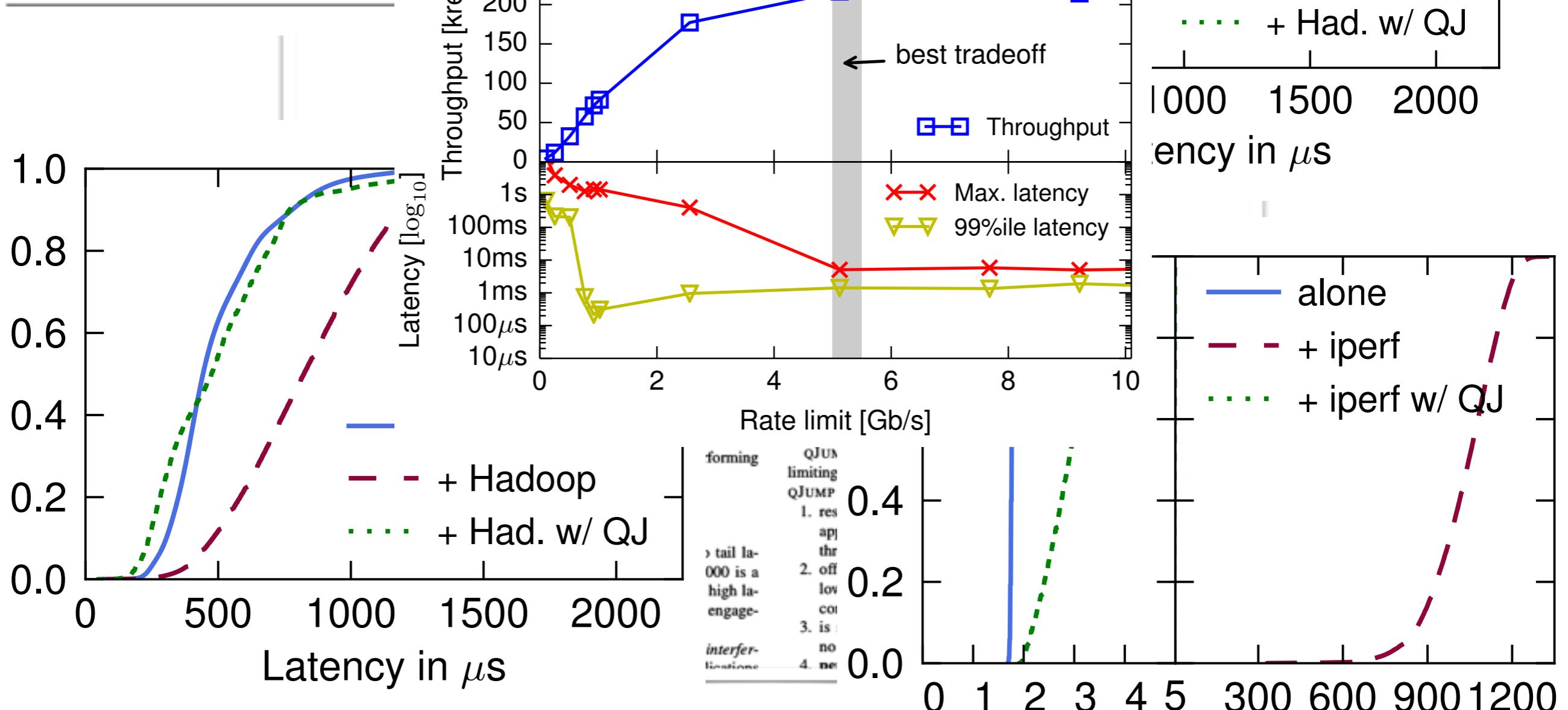


# Want to know more?

98

Setup	50 <sup>th</sup> %	99 <sup>th</sup> %
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shared host, shared ingress and egress	...	...

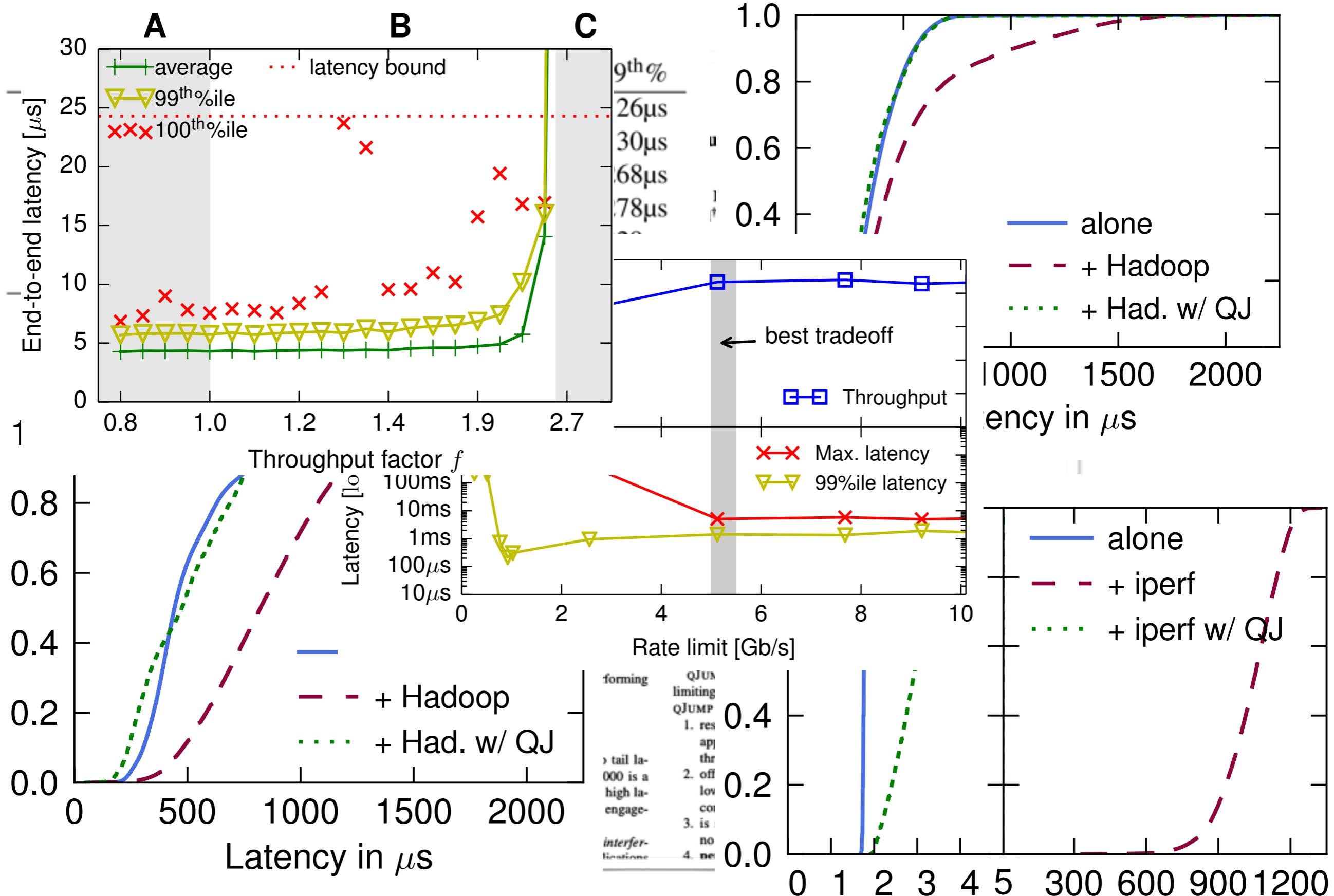
## two hosts, shared switch





# Want to know more?

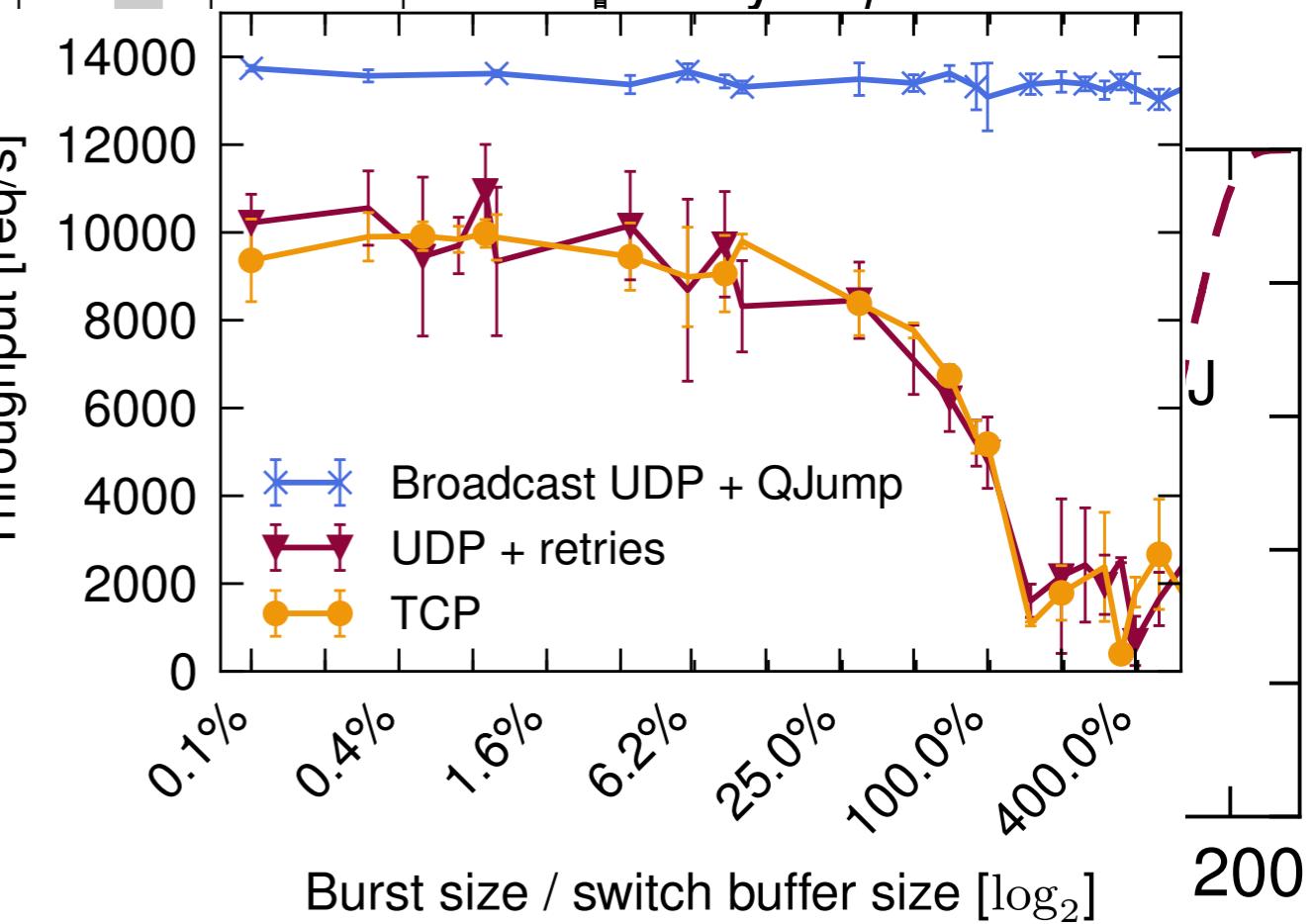
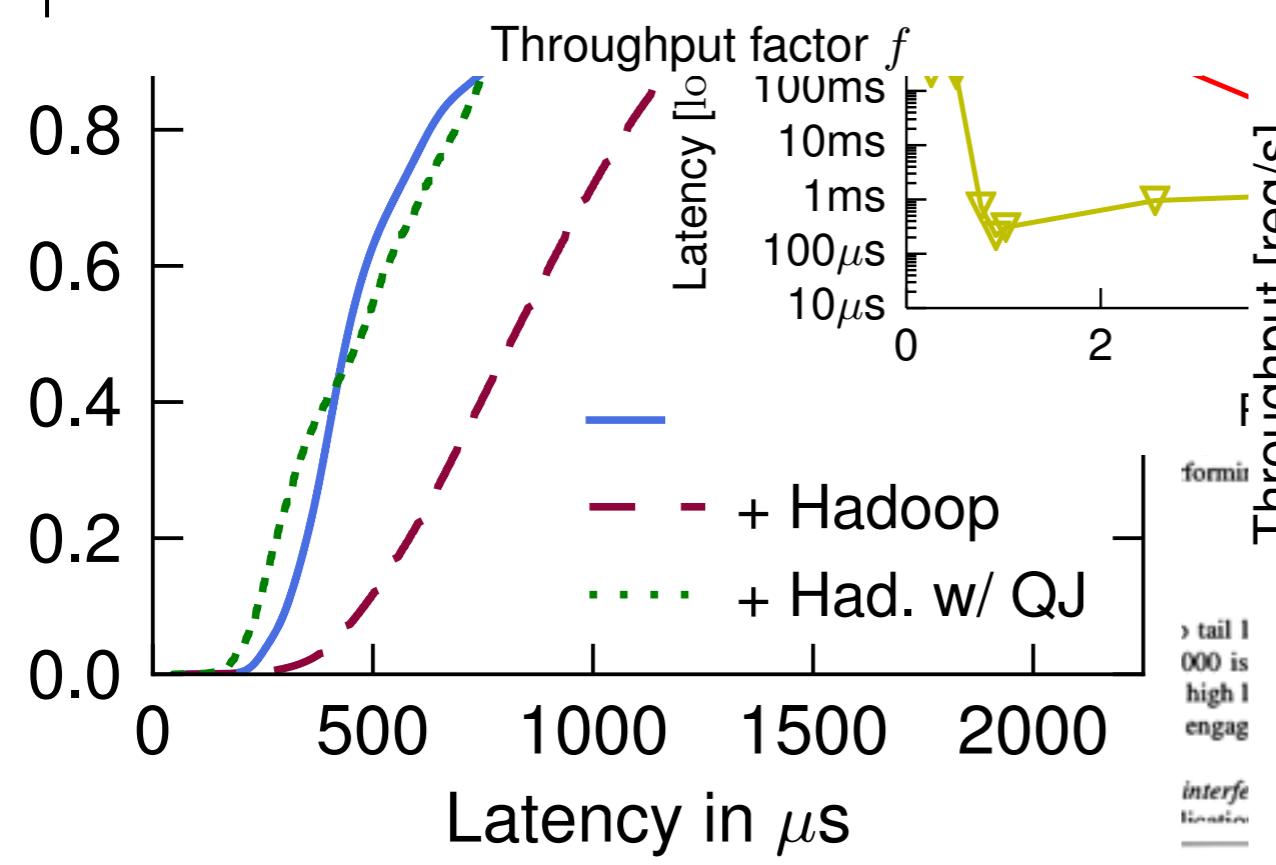
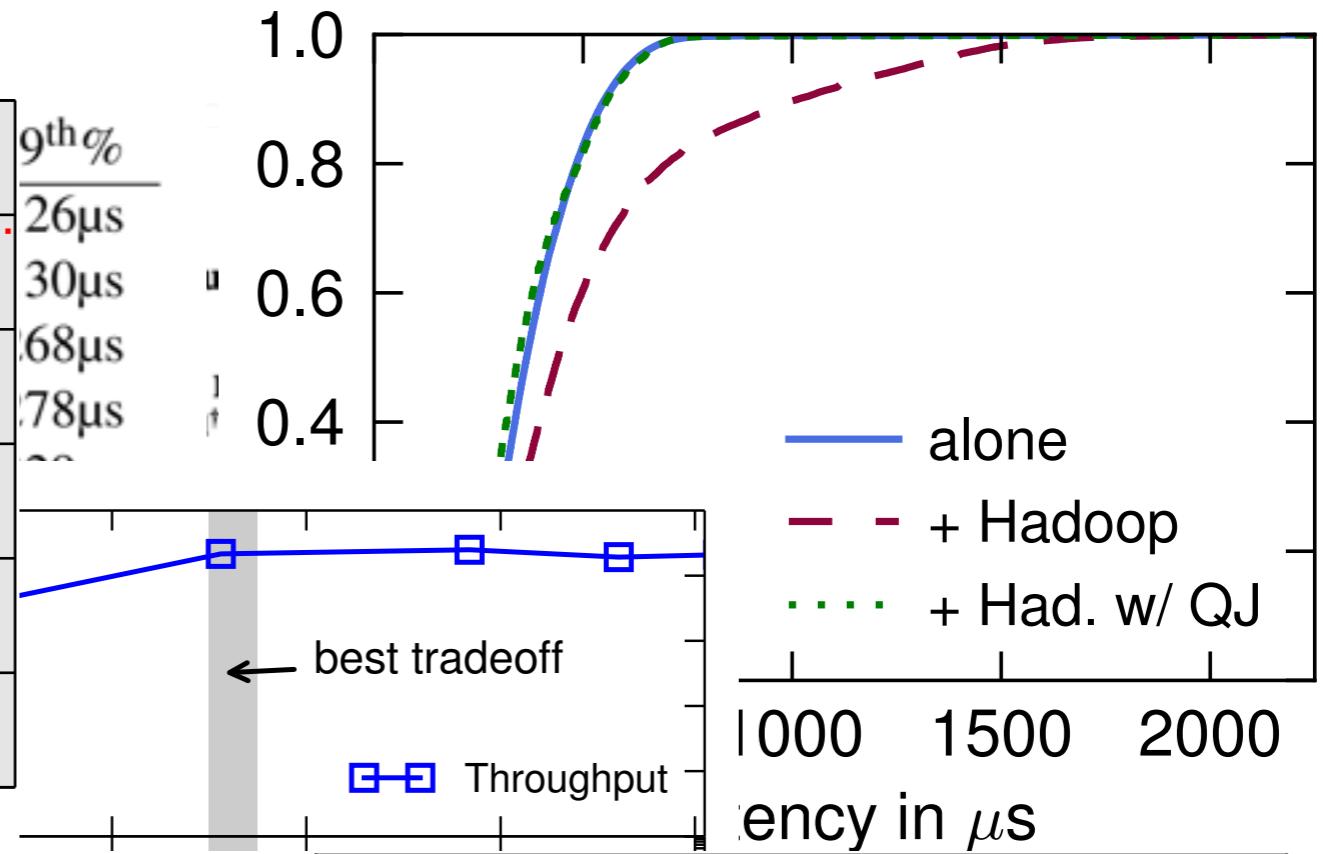
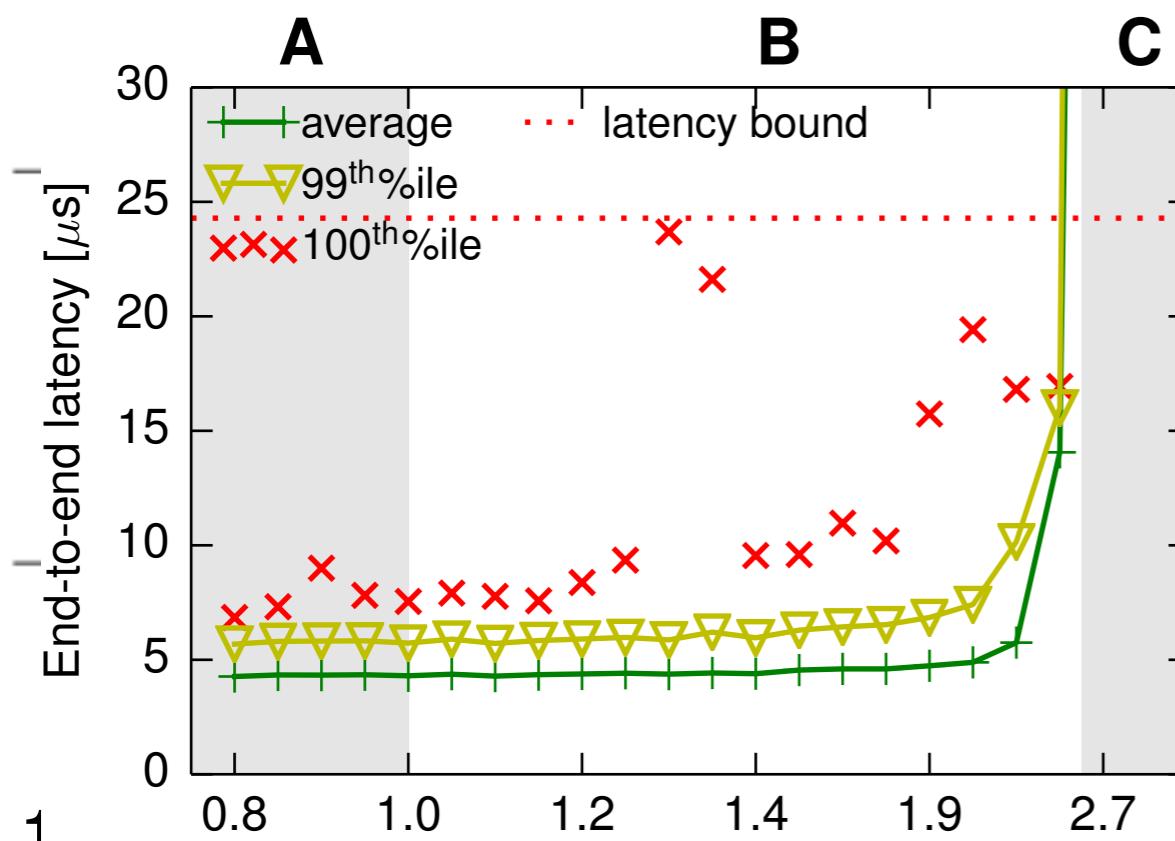
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# Want to know more?

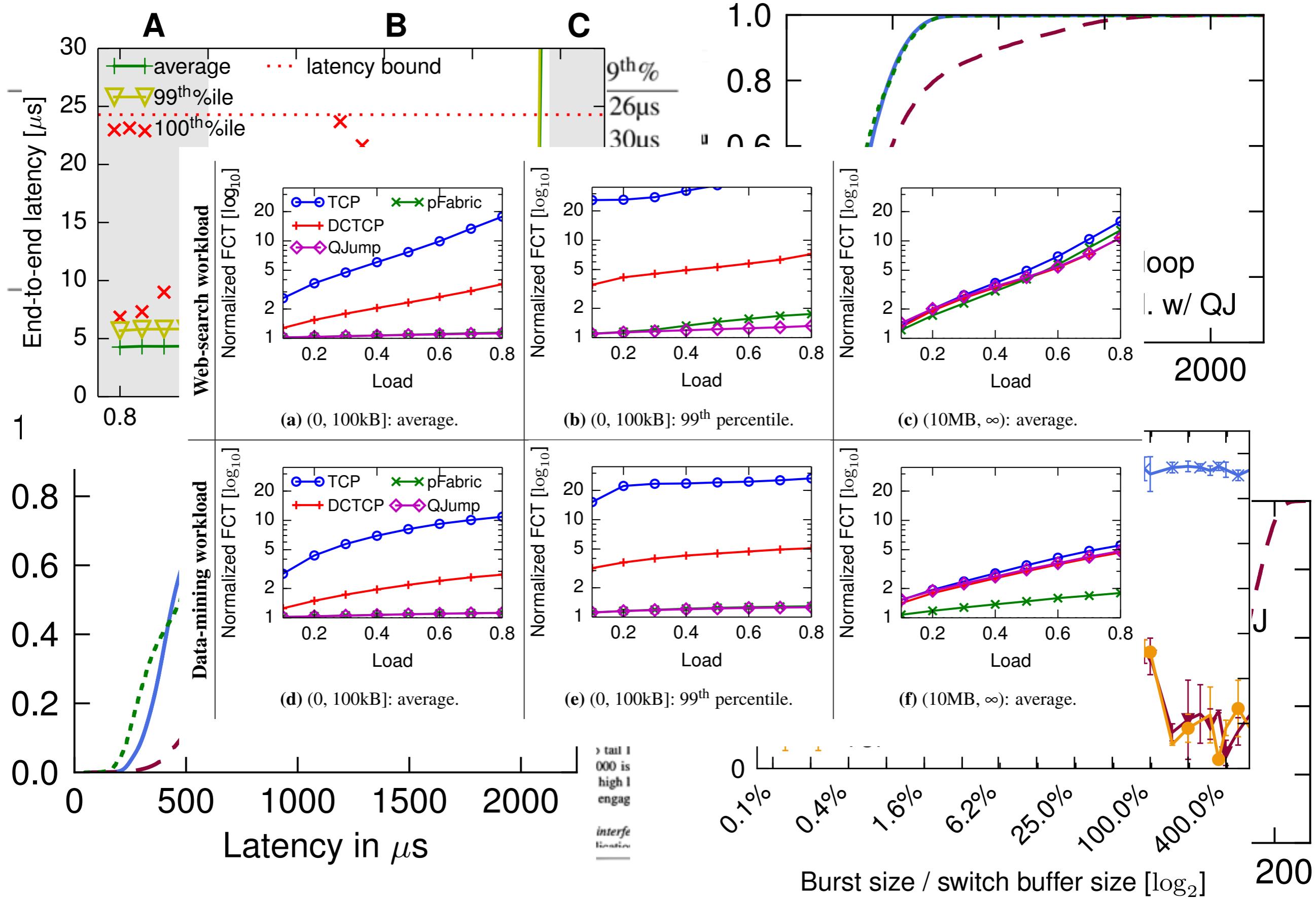
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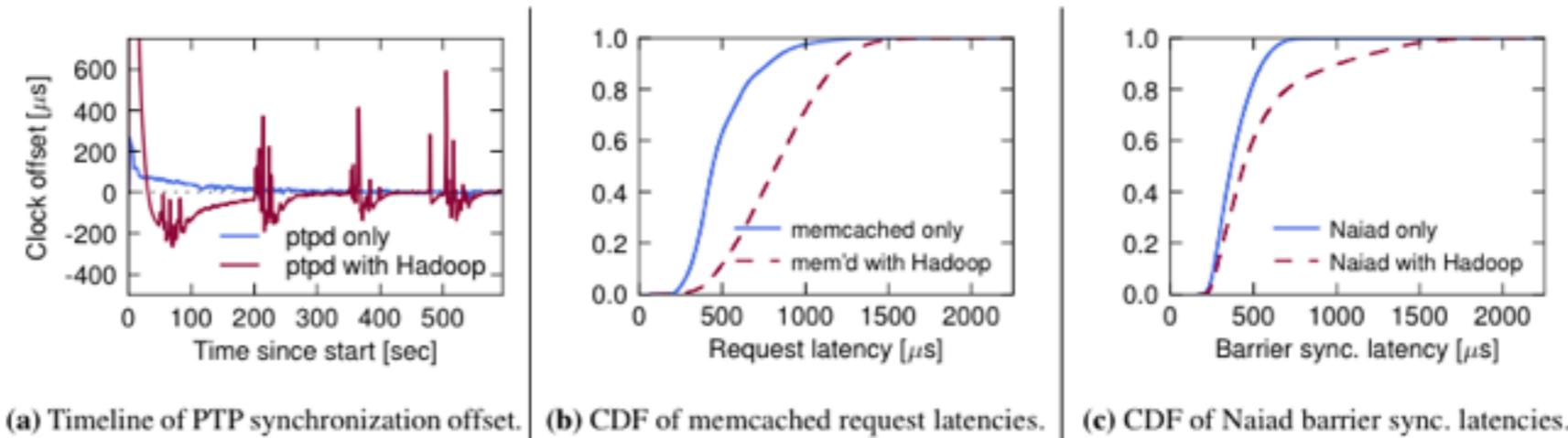


# Want to know more?

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# Just one more thing...



**Figure 1:** Motivating experiments: Hadoop traffic interferes with (a) PTPd, (b) memcached and (c) Naiad traffic.

Setup	50 <sup>th</sup> %	99 <sup>th</sup> %
one host, idle network	85	126μs
two hosts, shared switch	110	130μs
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<b>two hosts, shared switch queue</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>2,100μs</b>

**Table 1:** Median and 99<sup>th</sup> percentile latencies observed as ping and iperf share various parts of the network.

## 2 Motivation

We begin by showing that shared switch queues are the primary source of network interference. We then quantify the extent to which network interference impacts application-observable metrics of performance.

### 2.1 Where does the latency come from?

in §6) and measure the effects.

**1. Clock Synchronization** Precise clock synchronization is important to distributed systems such as Google’s Spanner [11]. PTPd offers microsecond-granularity time synchronization from a time server to machines on a local network. In Figure 1a, we show a timeline of PTPd synchronizing a host clock on both an idle network and when sharing the network with Hadoop. In the shared case, Hadoop’s shuffle phases causes queuing, which delays PTPd’s synchronization packets. This causes PTPd to temporarily fall 200–500μs out of synchronization, 50× worse than on an idle network.

**2. Key-value Stores** Memcached is a popular in-memory key-value store used by Facebook and others to store small objects for quick retrieval [25]. We benchmark memcached using the memaslap load generator<sup>2</sup> and measure the request latency. Figure 1b shows the distribution of request latencies on an idle network and a



# Just one more thing...

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QJump

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## Figure 1a / 5

Figure 1a (page 2) is used as a motivational experiment to show that Hadoop MapReduce is capable of interfering with the behaviour of precision time protocol. This figure is repeated in Figure 5 (page 8) in a slightly different form, combined with results from memcached combined. In this case, the figure shows that QJump is capable of resolving interference in PTPd as well as memchaced.

### Figure 1a





# Just one more thing...

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## NSDI 2015 - Queues don't matter when you can Jump them!

### Figure Description

Fig. 1a PTPd synchronization offset with and without sharing the network with Hadoop Map-Reduce

Fig. 1b Memcached request latencies with and without sharing the network with Hadoop Map-Reduce

Fig. 1c Naiad barrier synchronization latencies with and without sharing the network with Hadoop Map-Reduce

Tbl. 1 Latencies observed as ping and iperf share various parts of the network

Fig. 3a Ping packet latency across a switch with and without QJump enabled

Fig. 3b QJump reducing memcached request latency in the presence of Hadoop Map-Reduce traffic

Fig. 3c QJump fixes Naiad barrier synchronization latency in the presence of Hadoop Map-Reduce traffic

Fig. 5 PTPd, memcached and Hadoop sharing a cluster, with and without QJump enabled

Fig. 6 QJump offers constant two phase commit throughput even at high levels of network interference

Fig. 7 QJump comes closest to ideal performance when compared with Ethernet Flow Control, ECN and DCTCP

Fig. 9 Normalized flow completion times in a 144-host simulation. QJump outperforms stand-alone TCP, DCTCP and pFabric for small flows

Fig. 10 Memcached throughput and latency as a function of the QJump rate limits

Fig. 11 Latency bound validation of QJump with 60 host generating full rate, fan in traffic



# Just one more thing...

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JUMP THE QUEUE

Limit yourself to get ahead

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Guaranteed latency in datacenter networks

QJump offers a range of network service levels, from guaranteed latency for low-rate, latency-sensitive network coordination services to line-rate throughput



# Conclusions

106

QJump applies datacenter opportunities to simplify QoS rate calculations.

It provides levels of service from guaranteed latency through to line-rate throughput

It can be deployed using without modifications to applications, kernel code or hardware.

**All source data, patches and source code at**

**<http://camsas.org/qjump>**

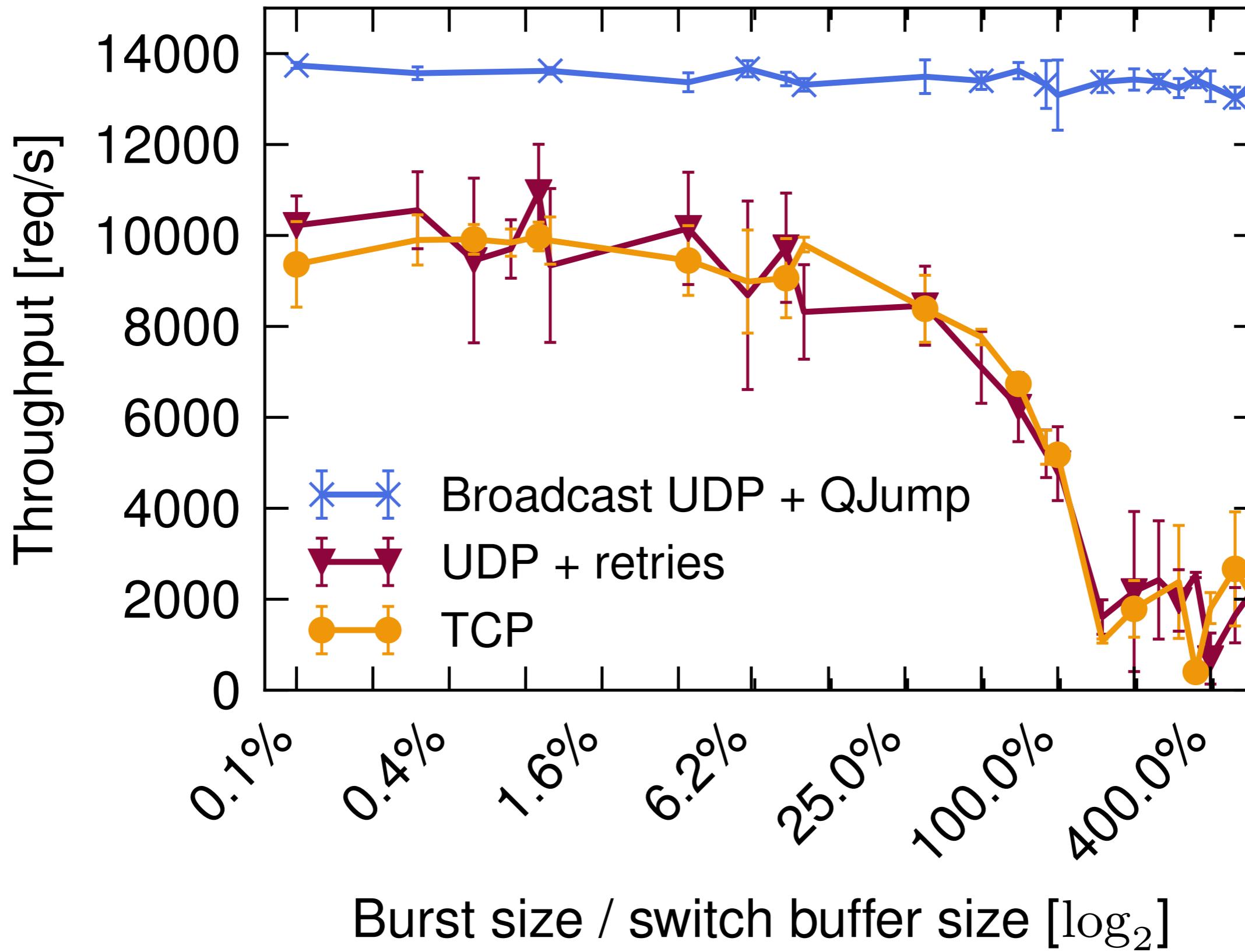
This work was jointly supported by the EPSRC INTERNET Project EP/H040536/1 and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), under contract FA8750-11-C-0249. The views, opinions, and/or findings contained in this article/presentation are those of the author/presenter and should not be interpreted as representing the official views or policies, either expressed or implied, of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency or the Department of Defense.

# Backup Slides



# What is it good for?

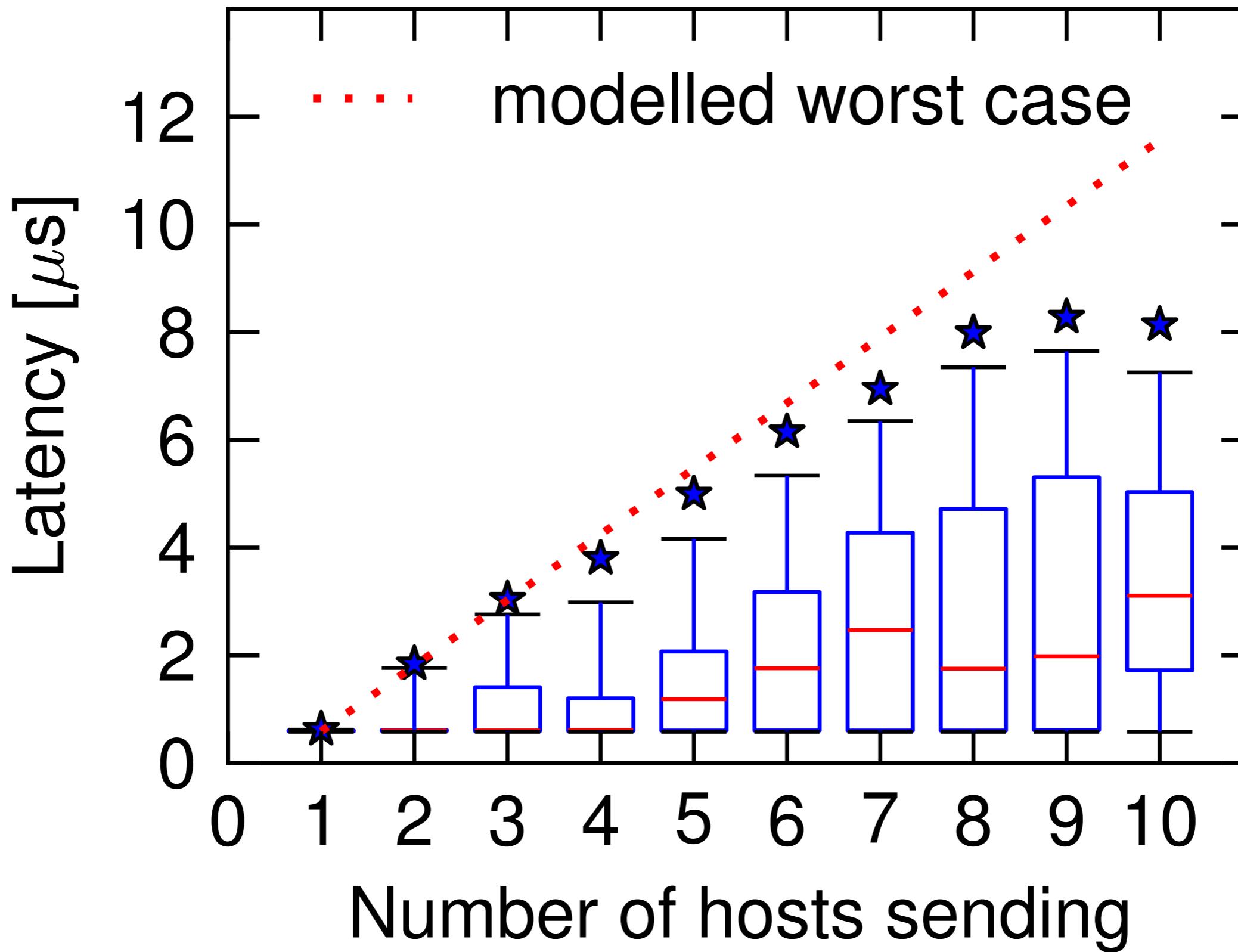
108





# Accuracy of Switch Model

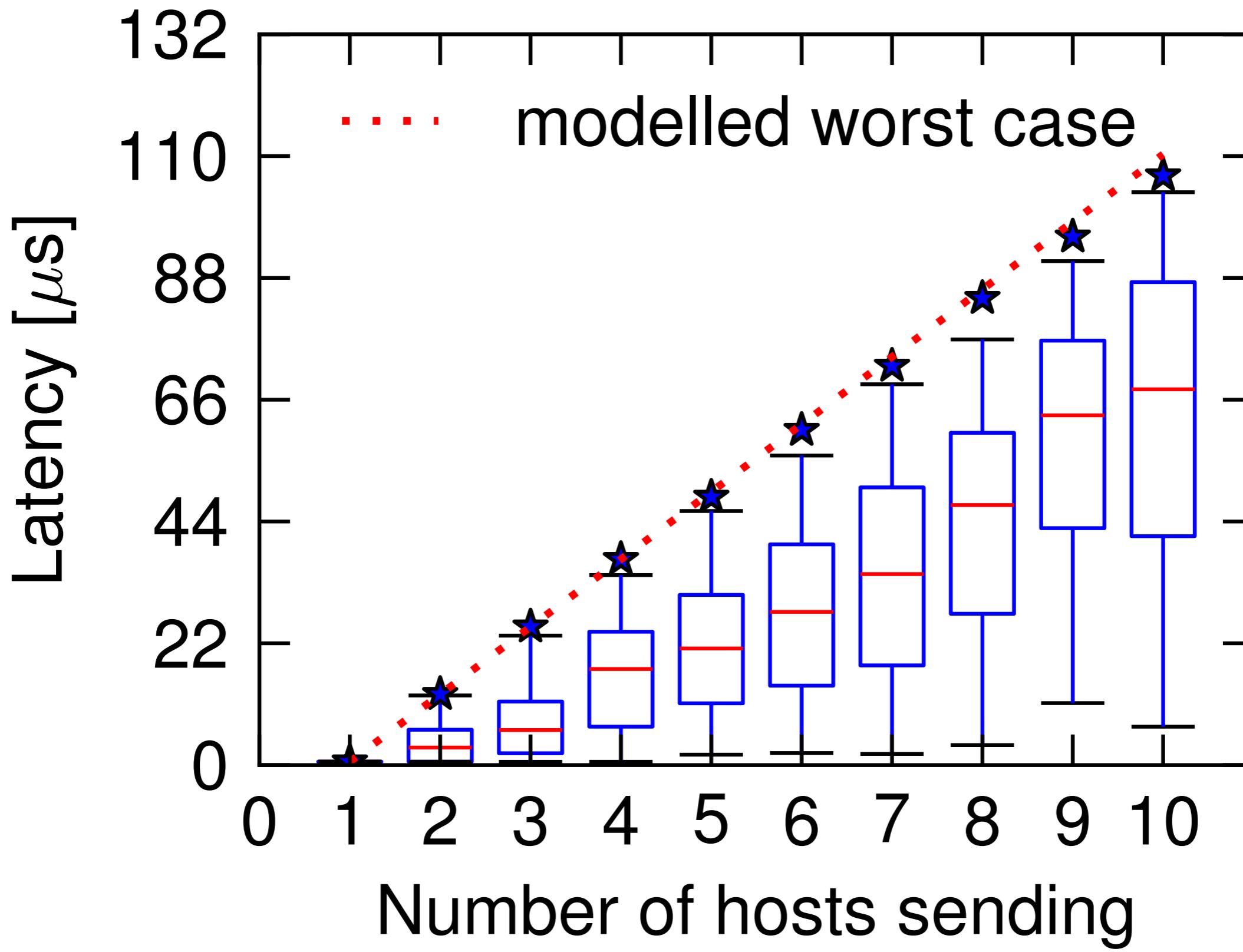
109





# Accuracy of Switch Model

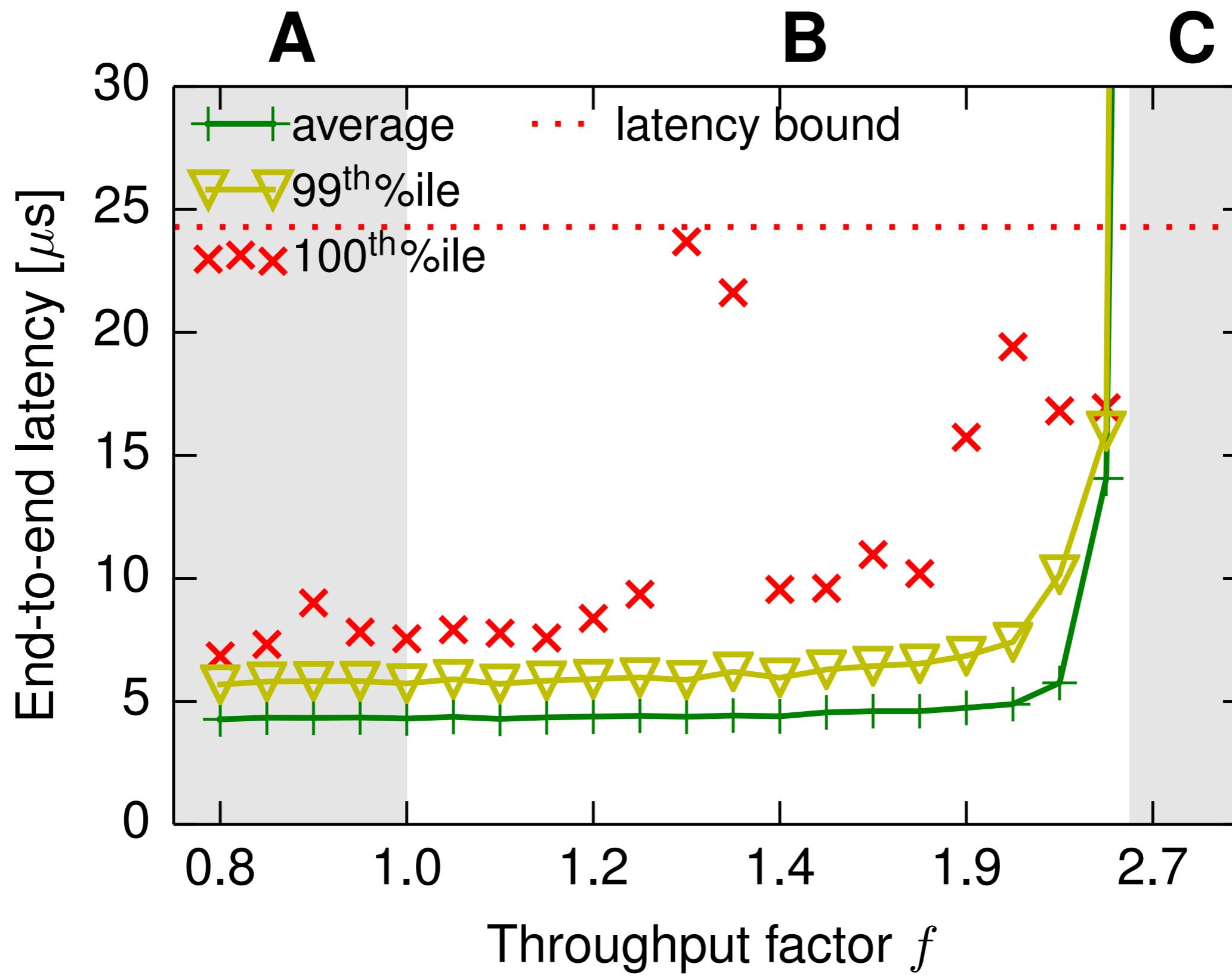
110





# Sensitivity to $f$

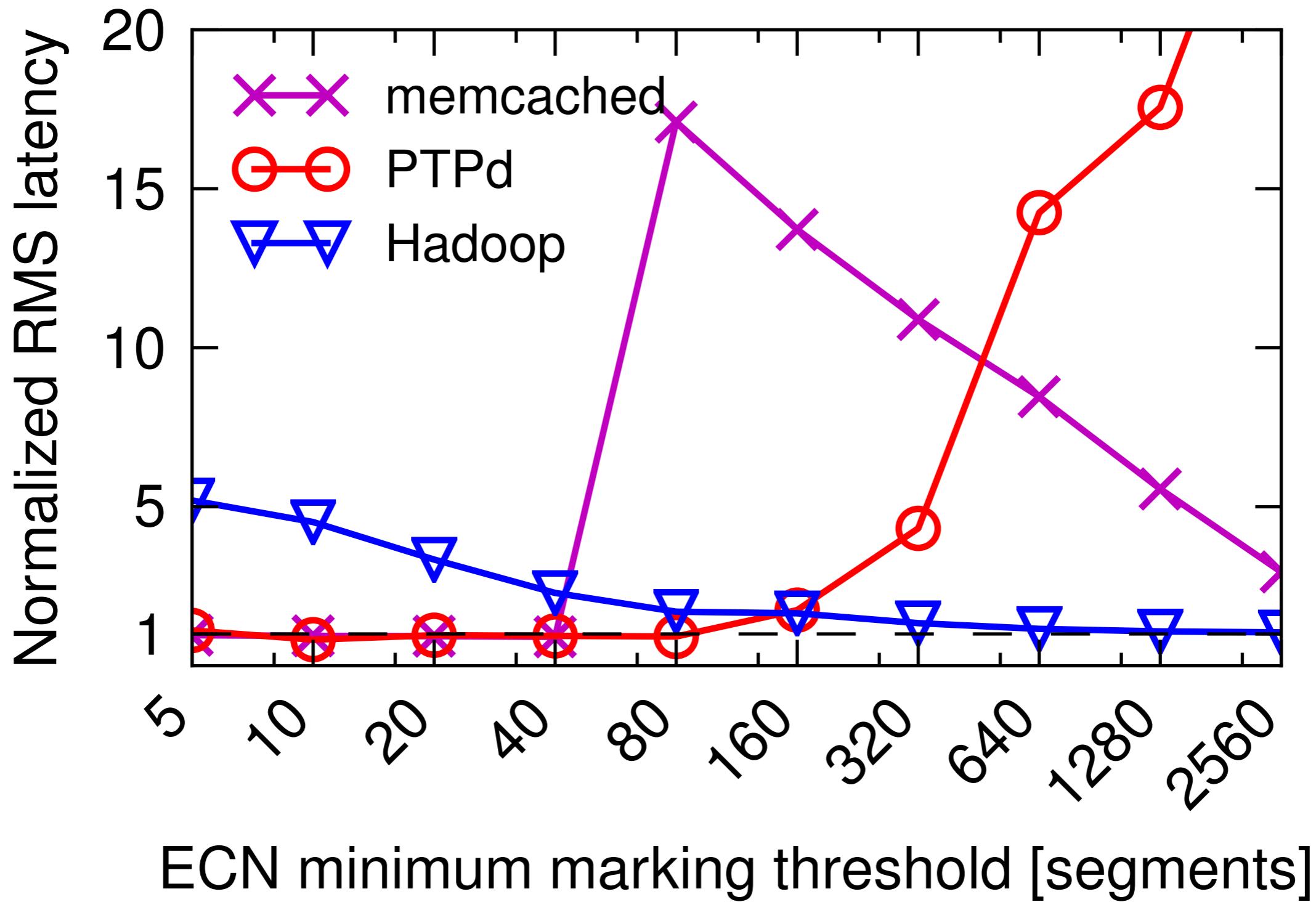
111





# ECN WRED Config.

112





# Host based interference?

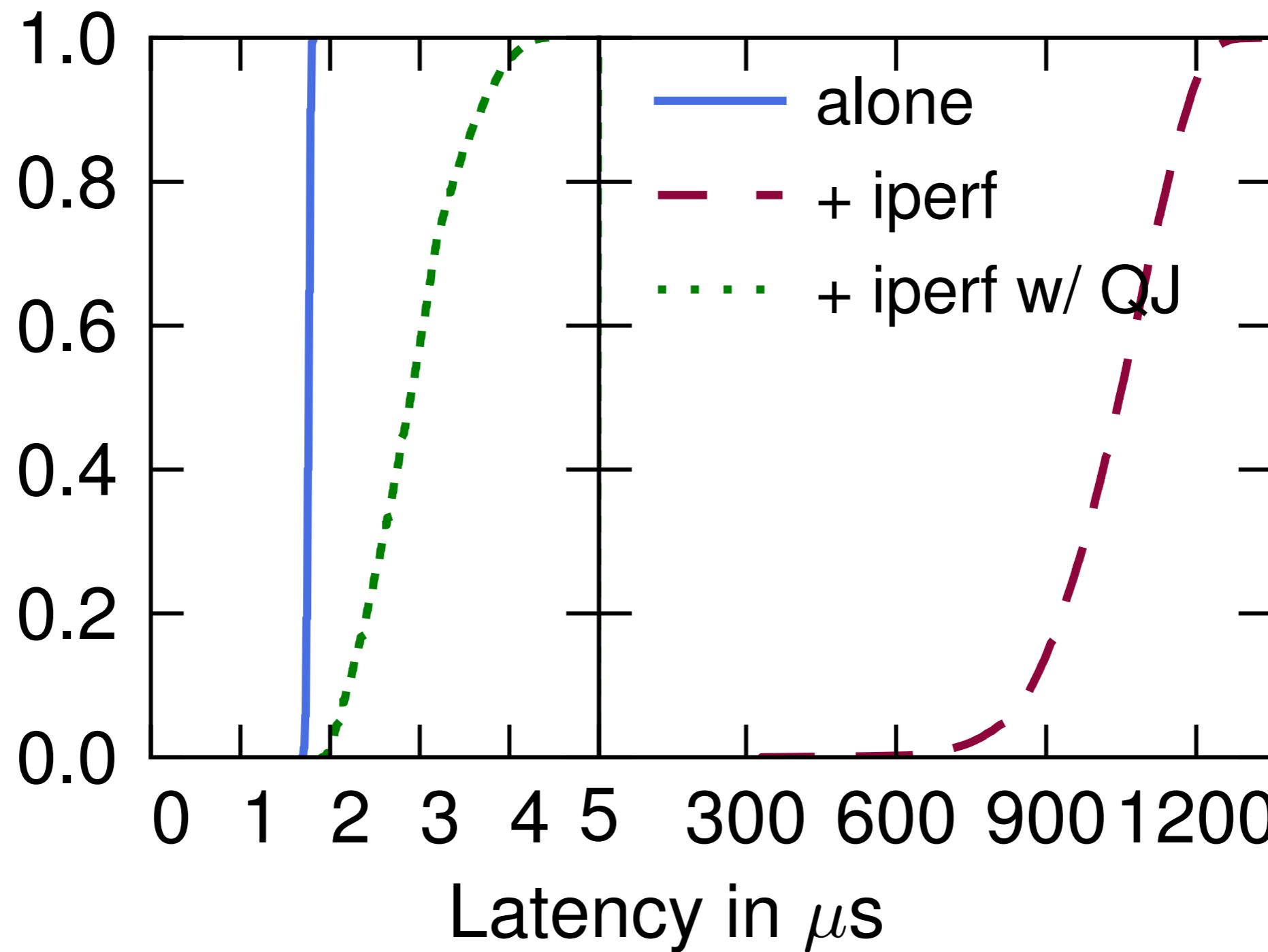
Setup	50 <sup>th</sup> %	99 <sup>th</sup> %
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# Switch Queue Interference

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Ping (rpc) vs Iperf (bulk transfer)

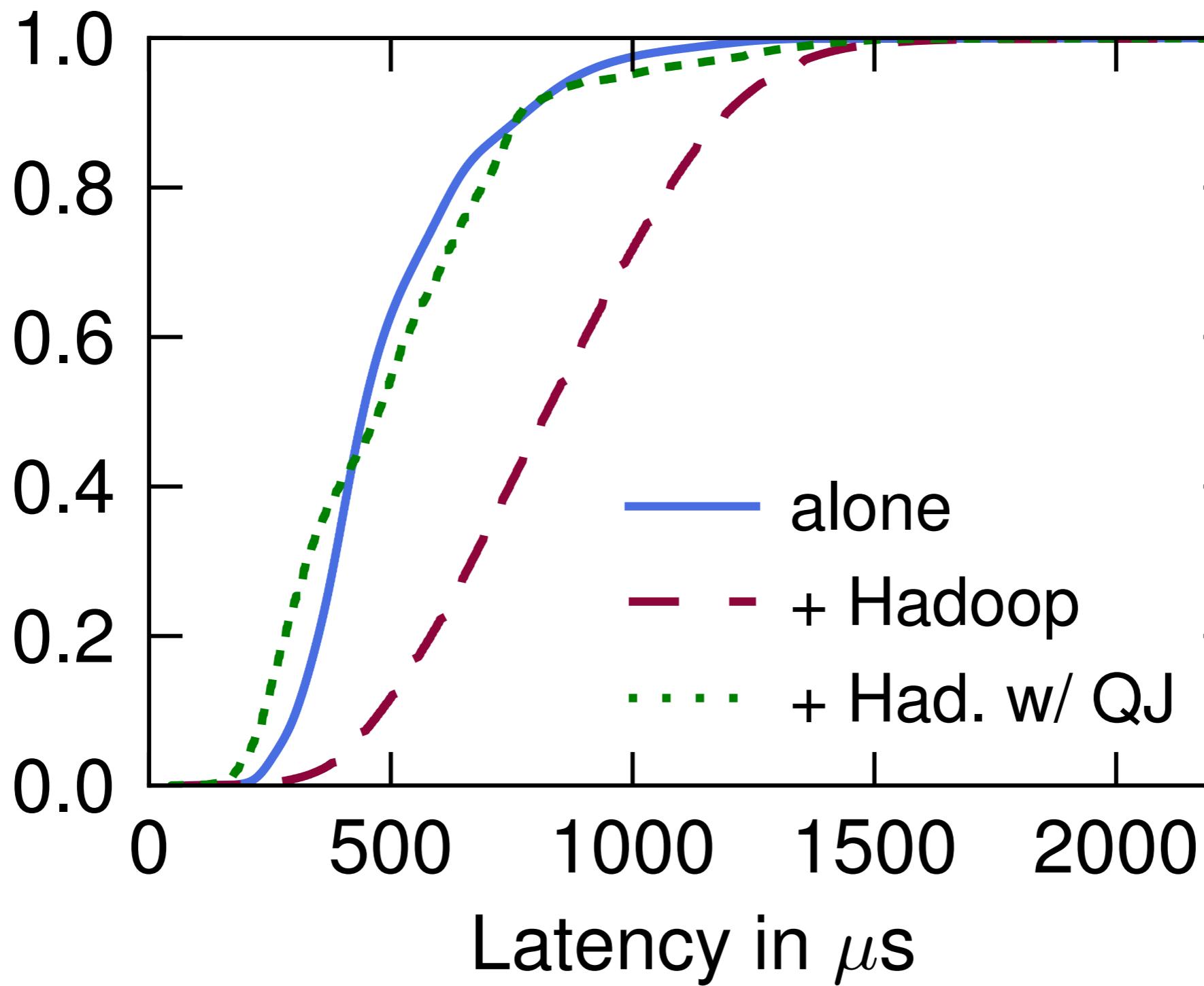




# How well does it work?

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memcached key-value store vs Hadoop

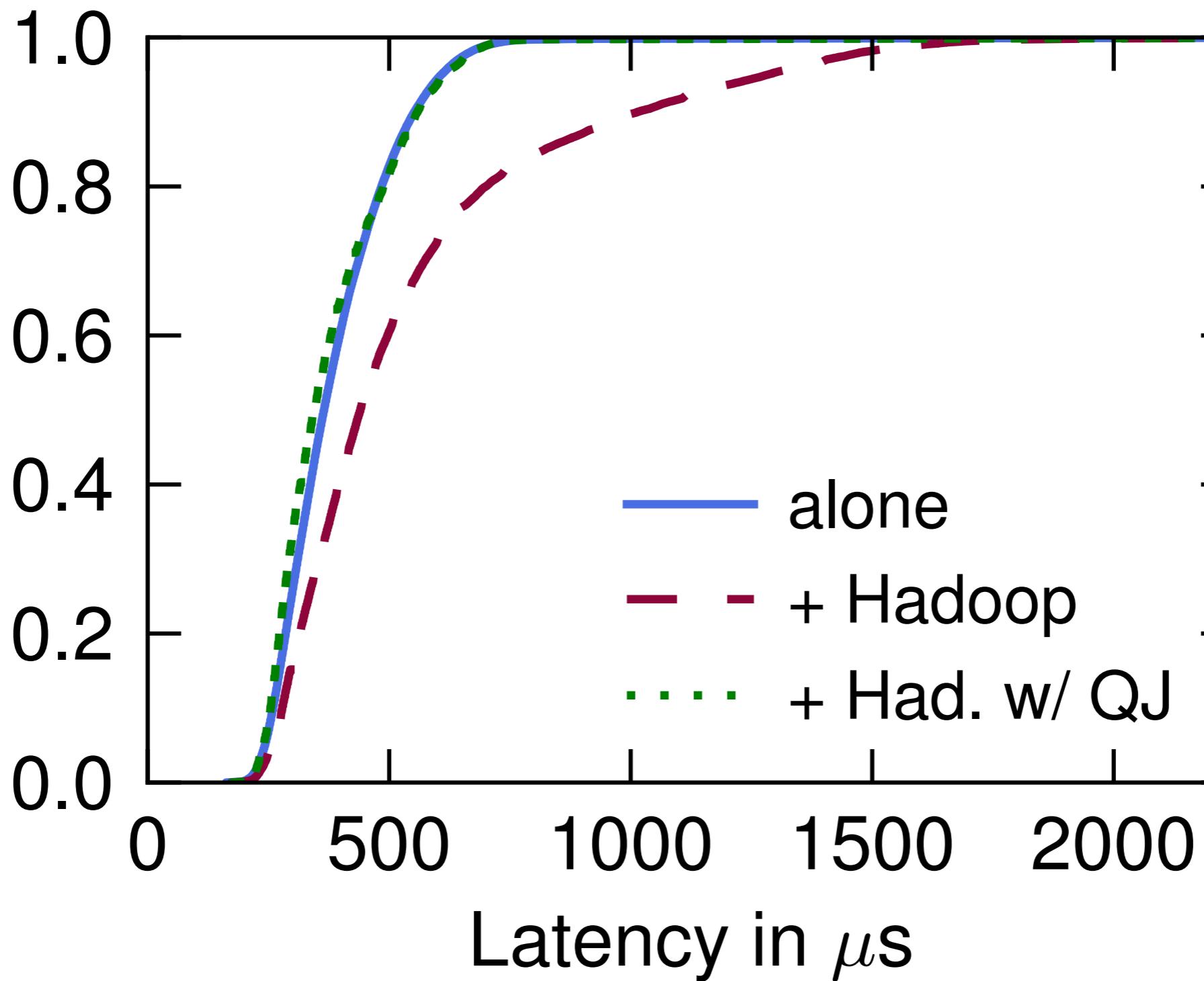




# How well does it work?

116

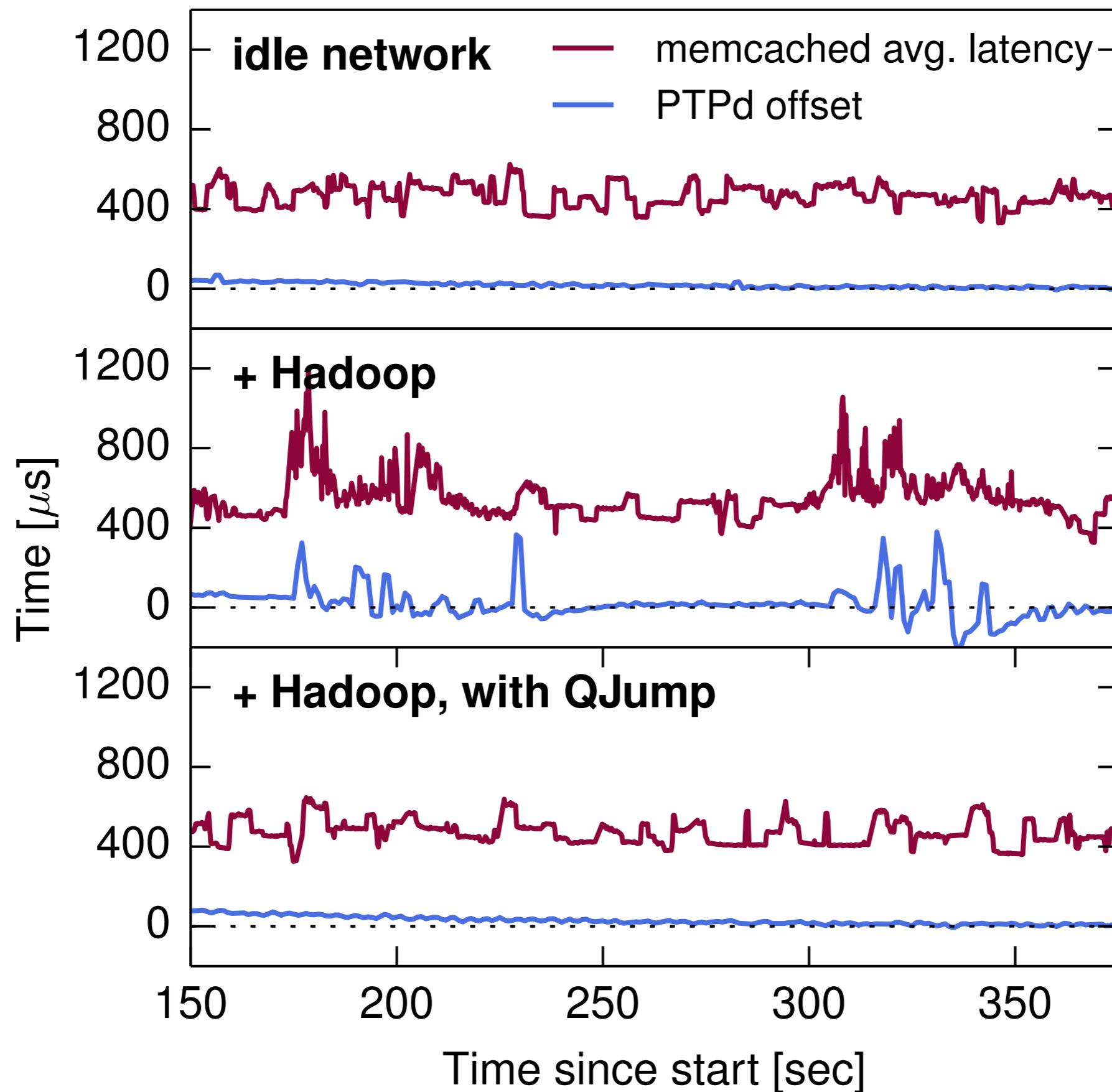
Naiad data processing framework vs Hadoop





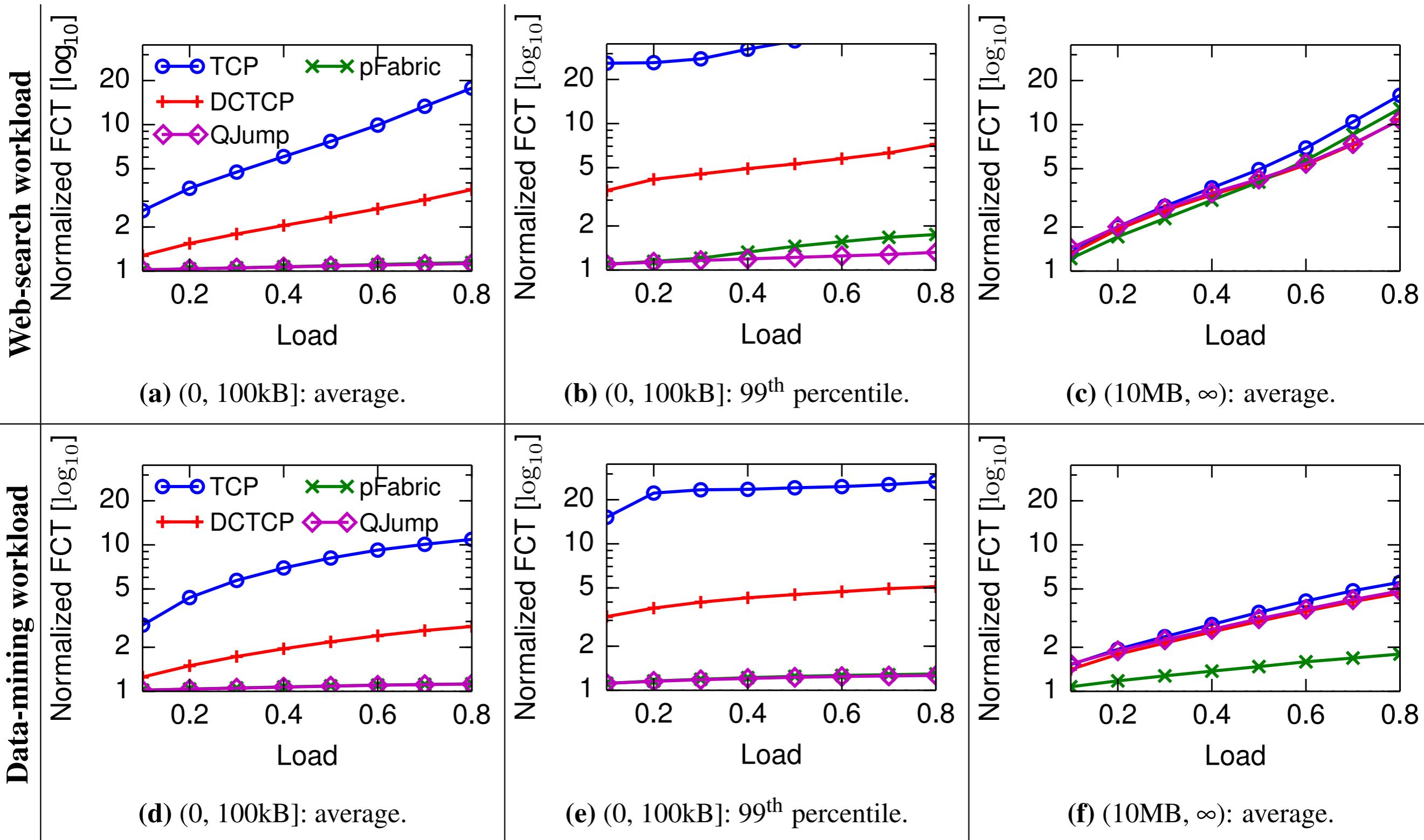
# How well does it work?

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# Flow Completion Times





# How to calculate $f$

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