

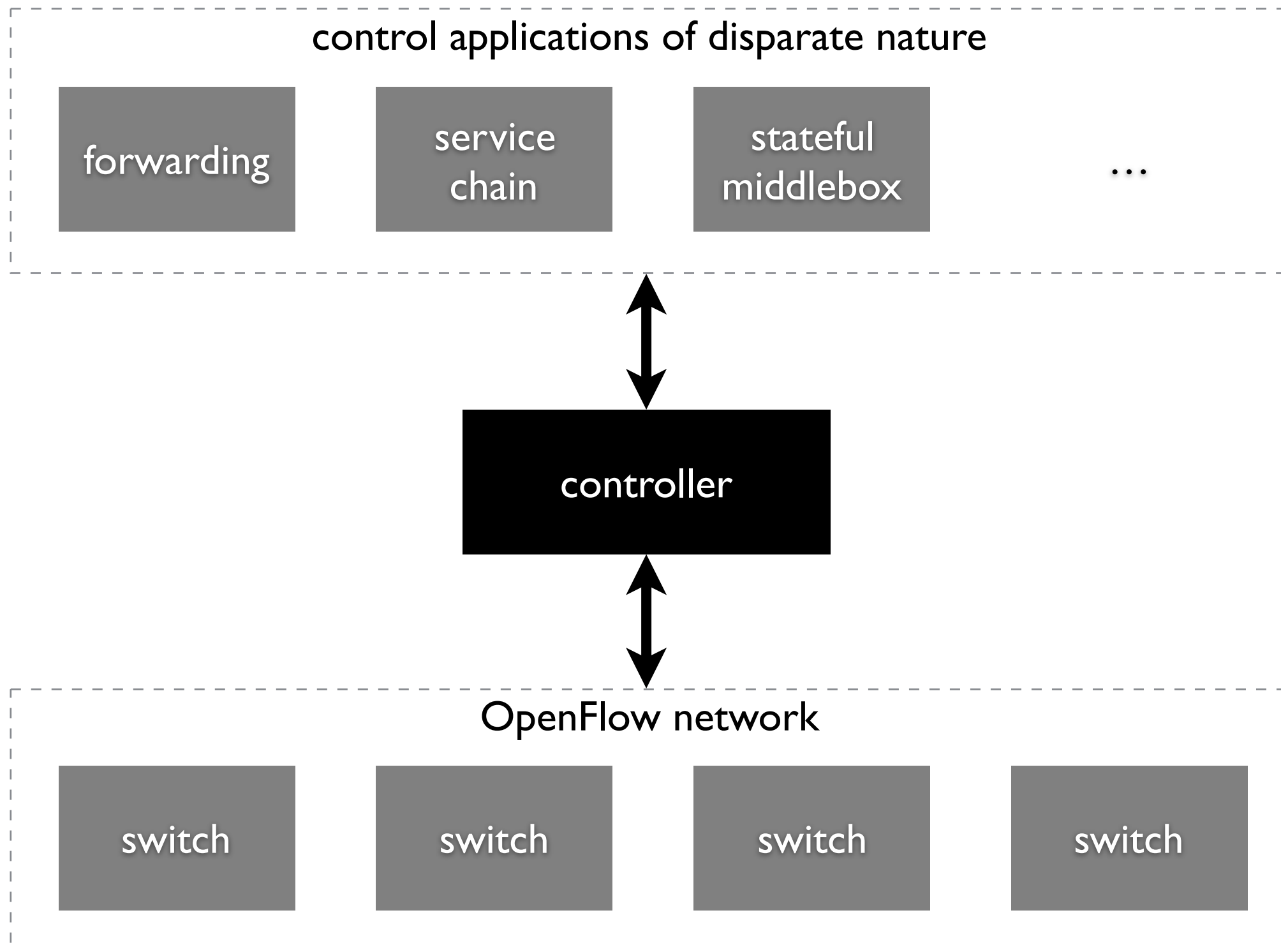
SDN abstraction and security: a database perspective

Anduo Wang* Jason Croft† Xueyuan Mei†
Matthew Caesar† Brighten Godfrey†

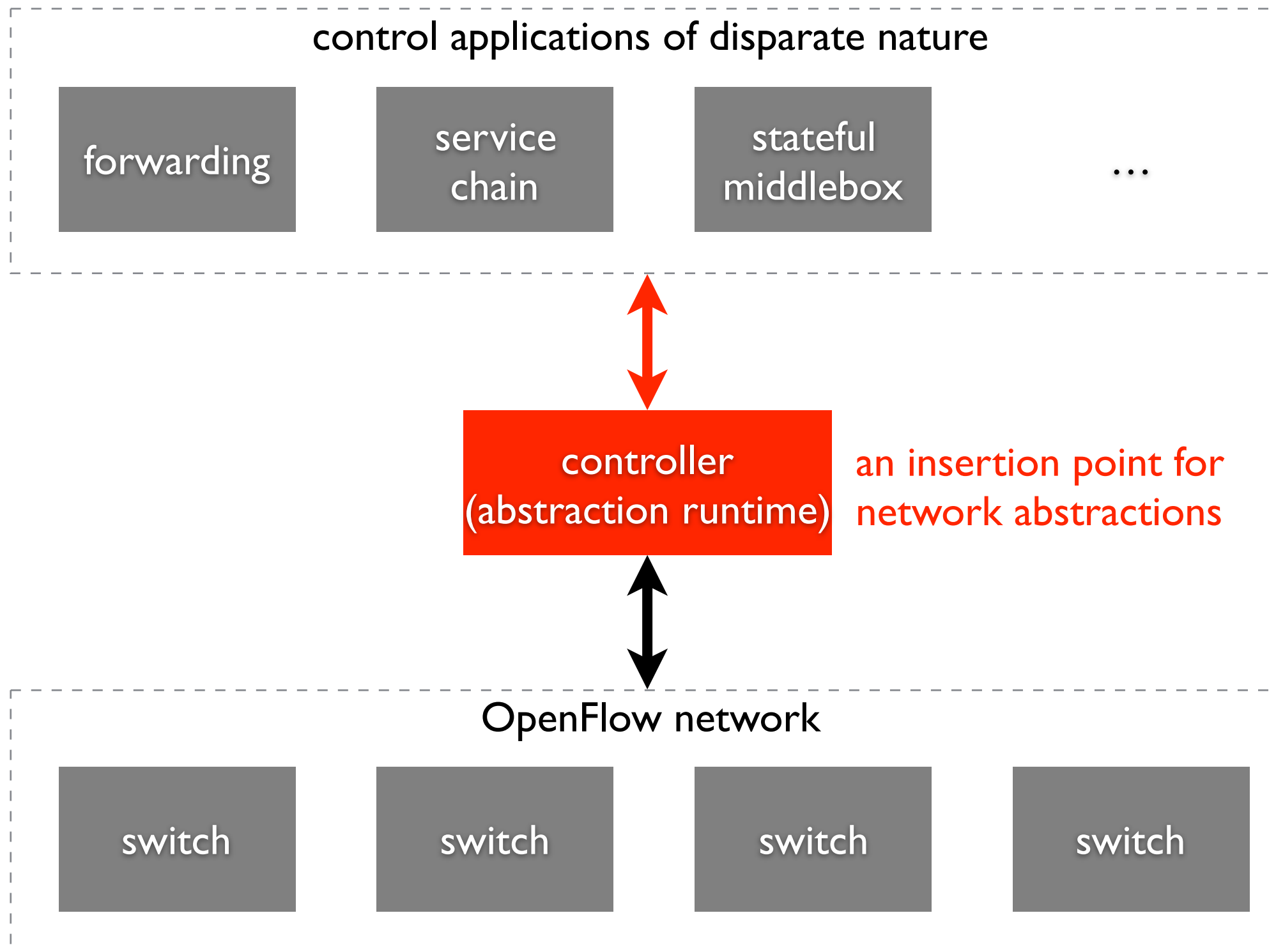
**Temple University*

†University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

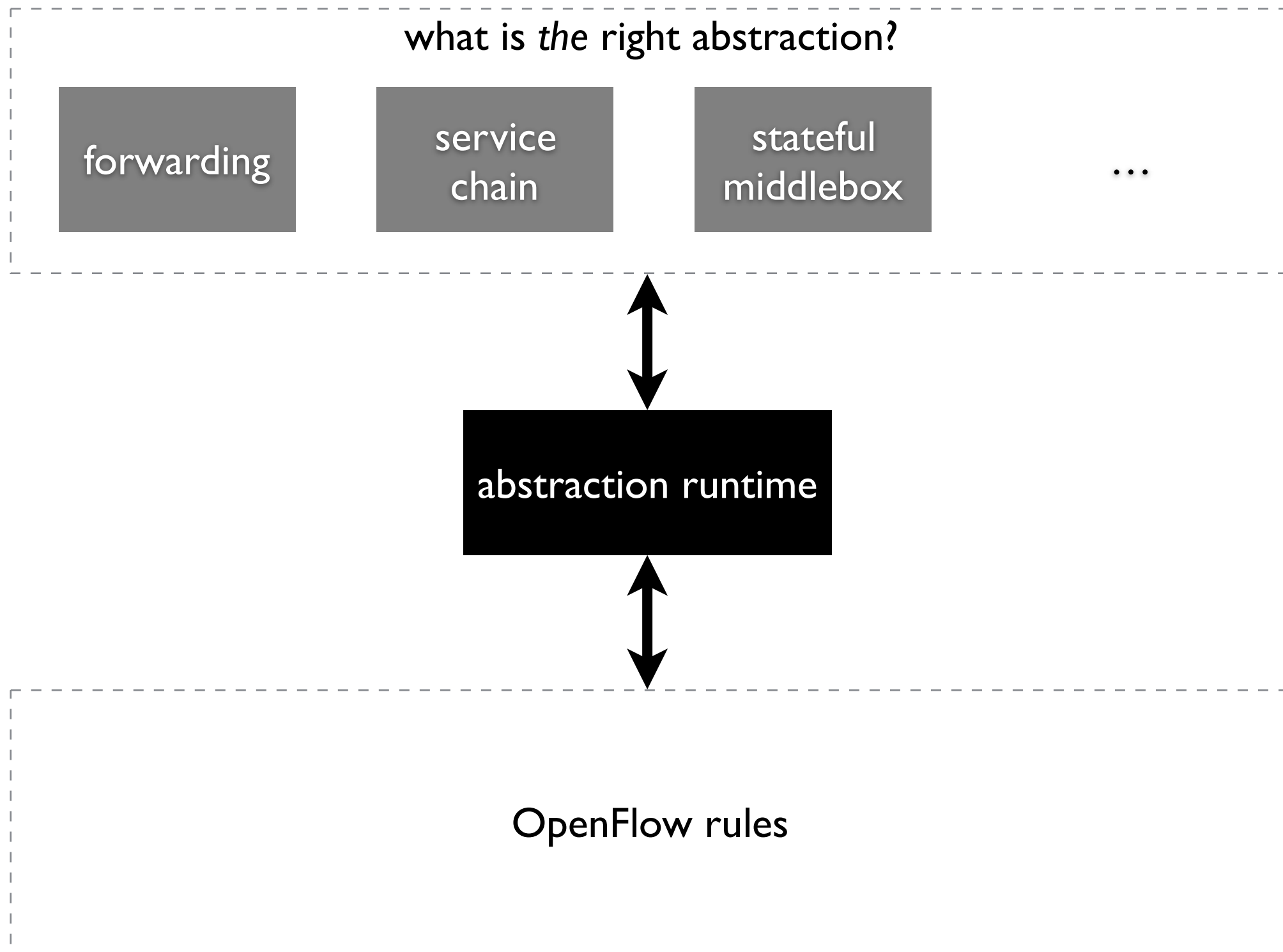
software-defined network



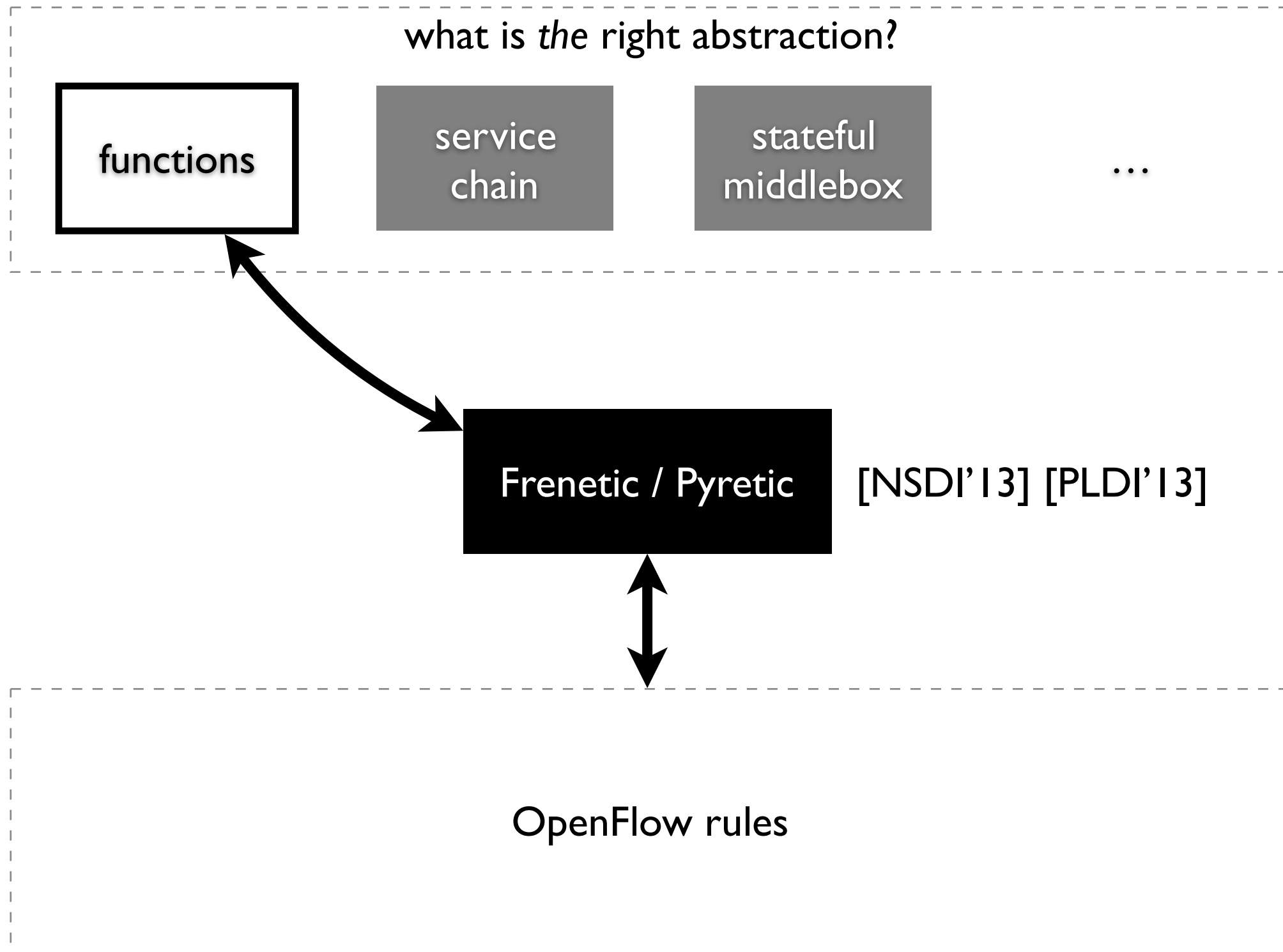
software-defined network



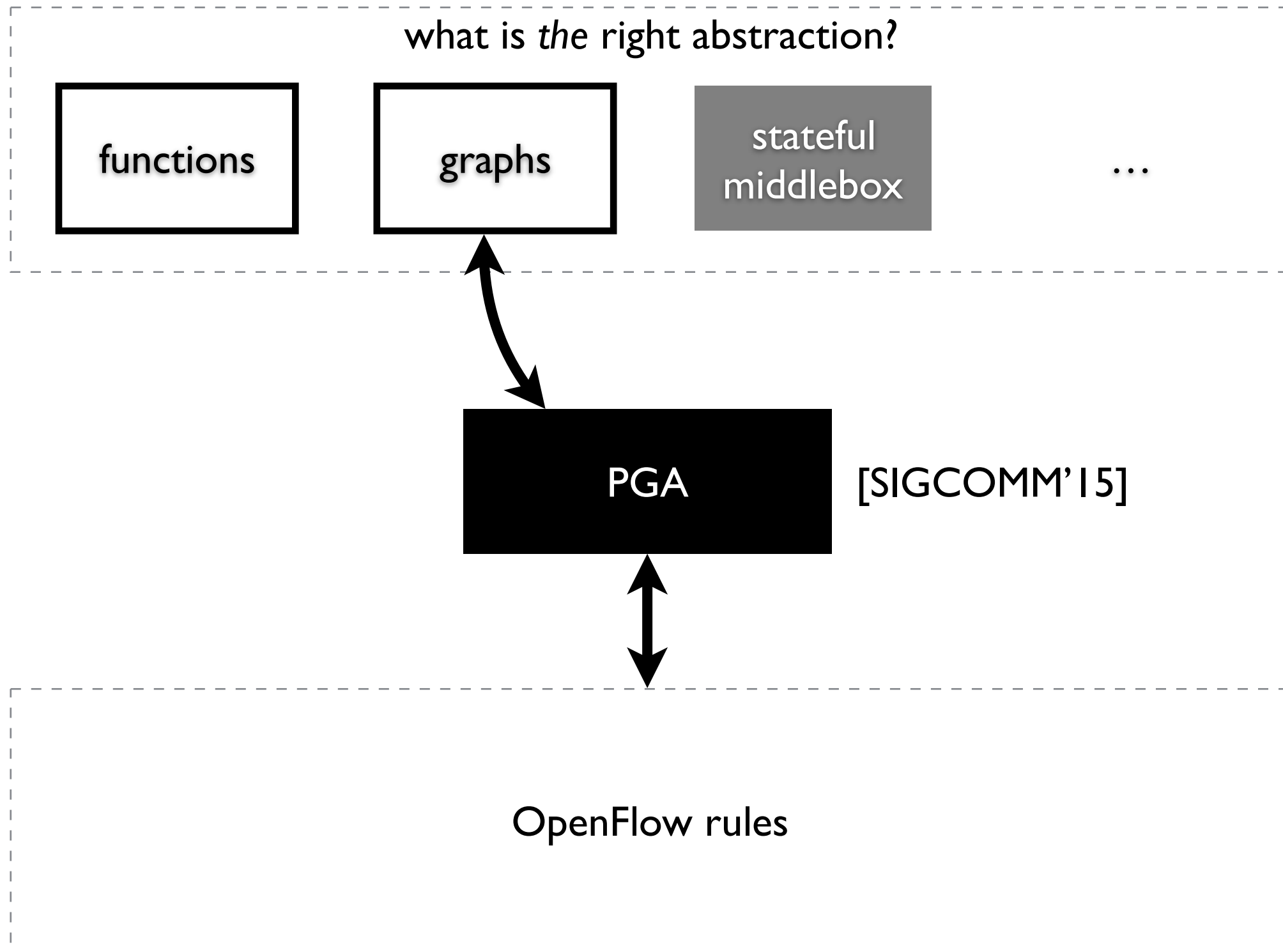
abstractions



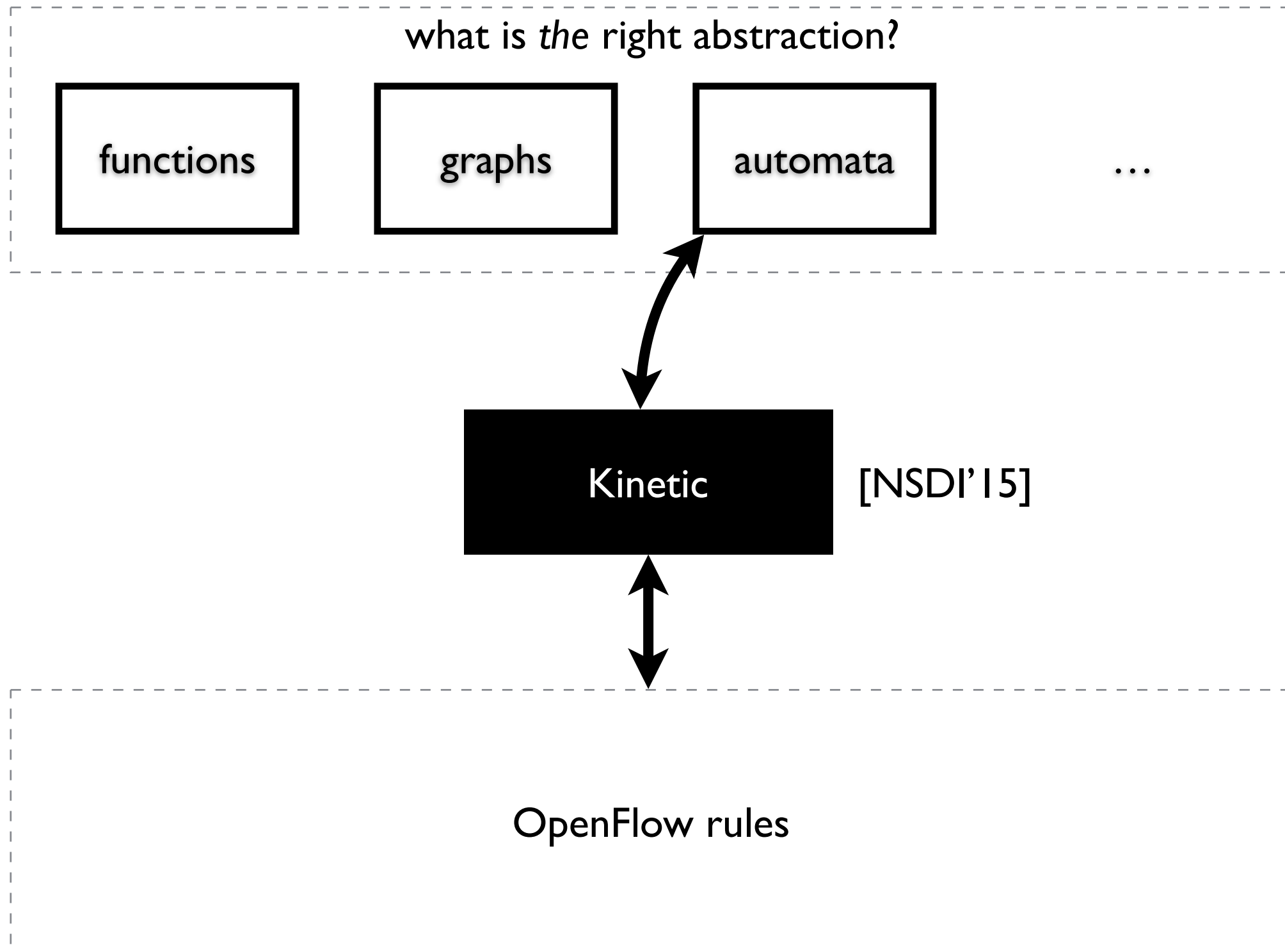
abstractions



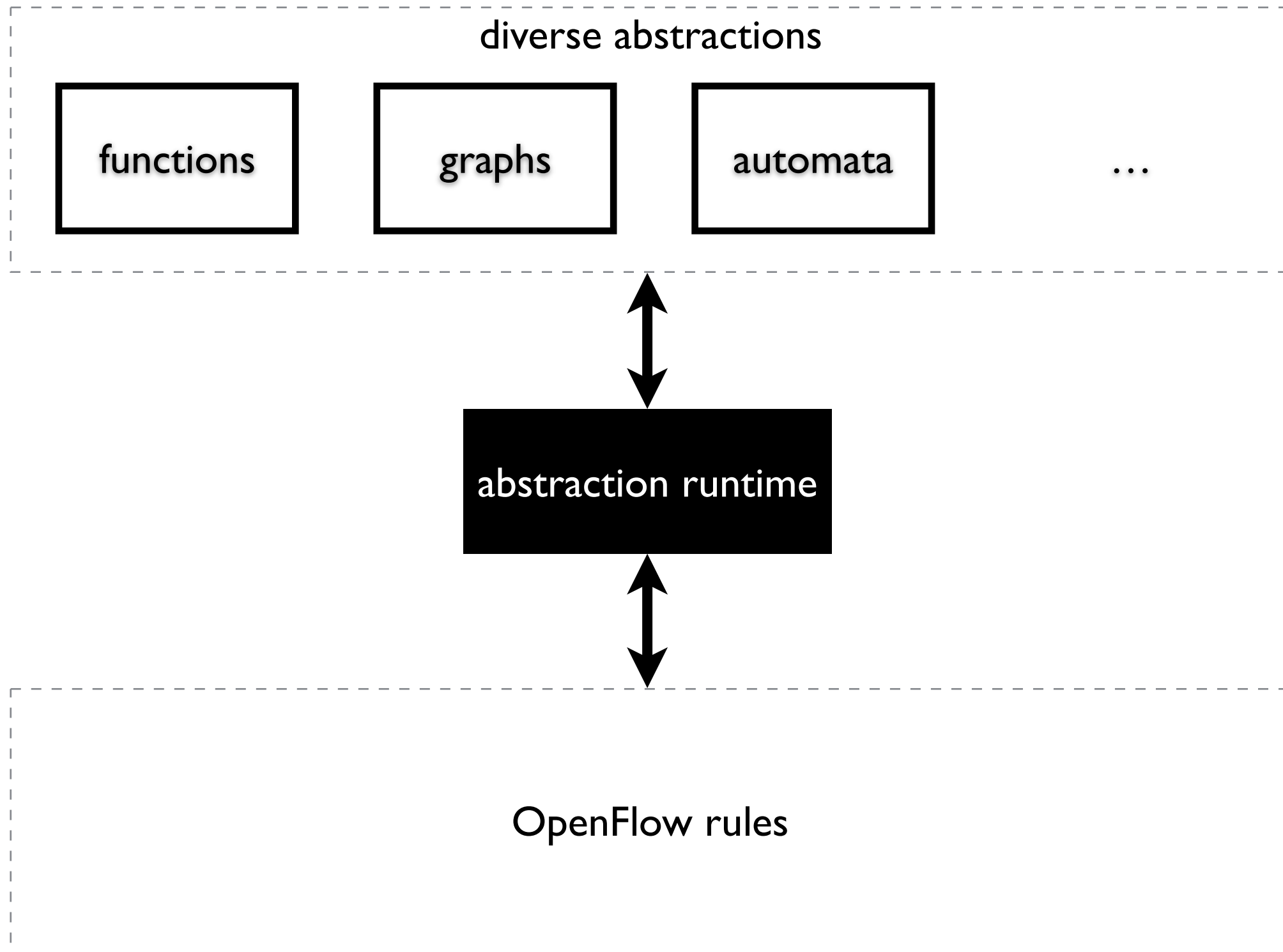
abstractions



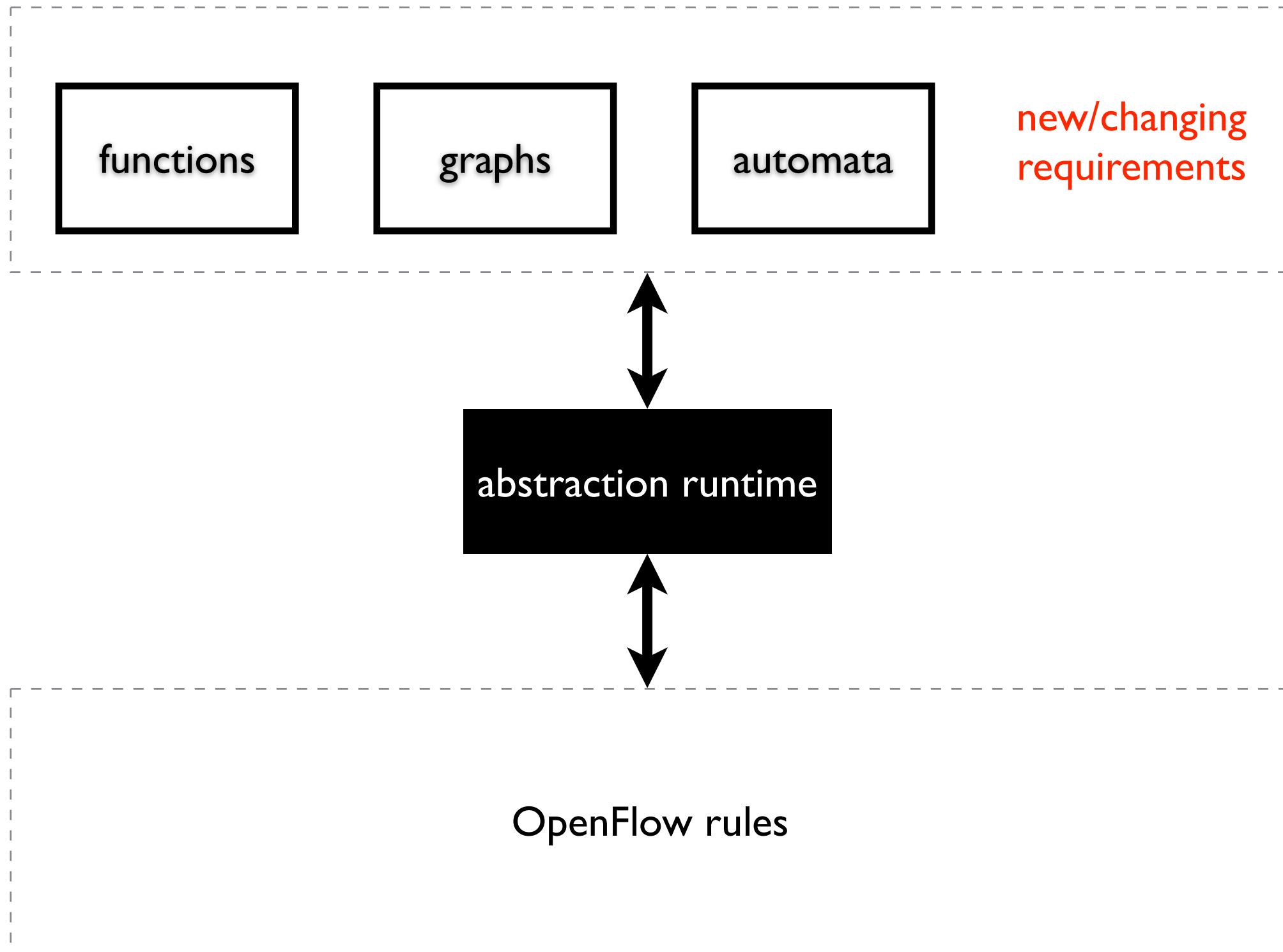
abstractions



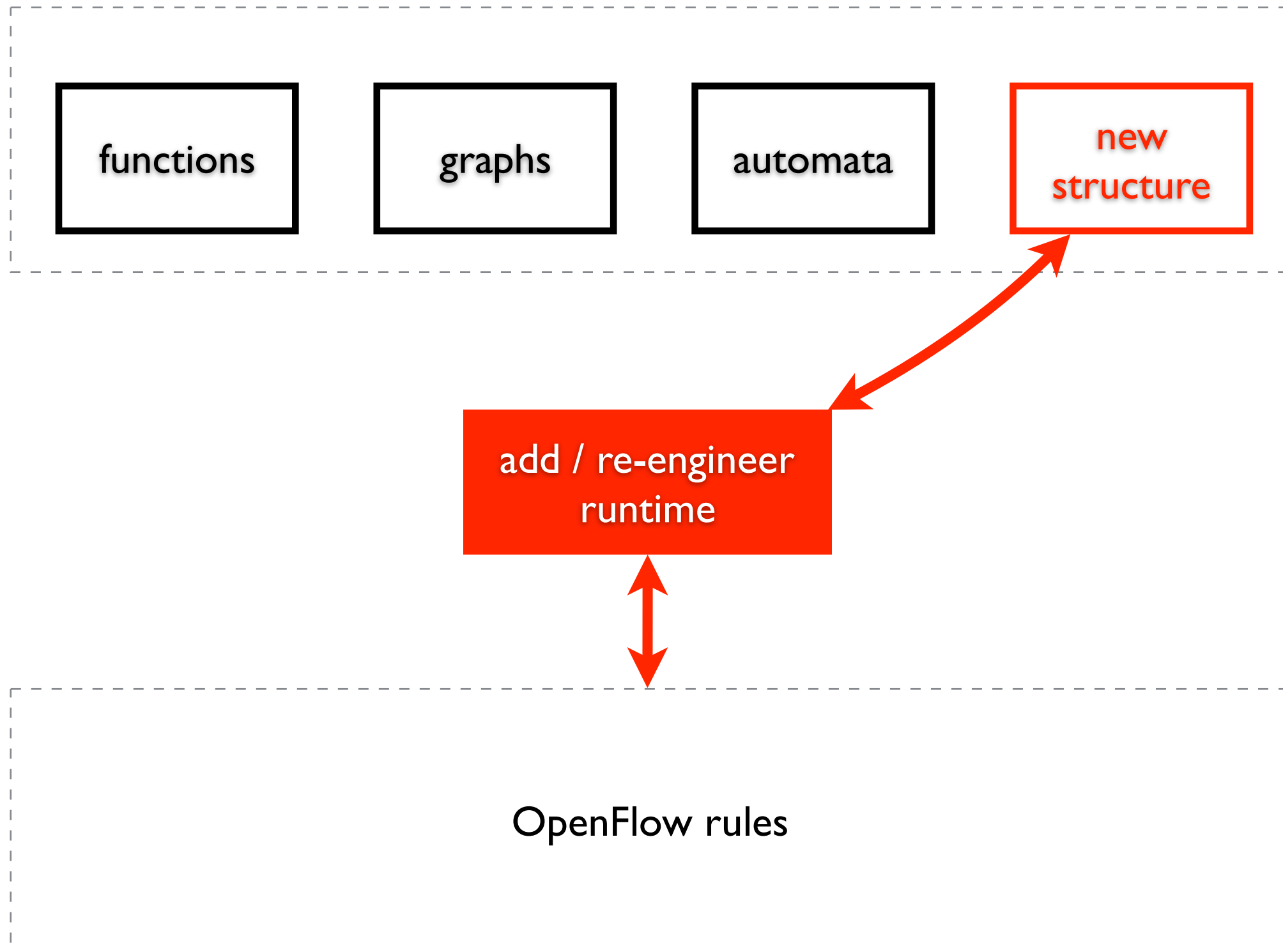
abstractions



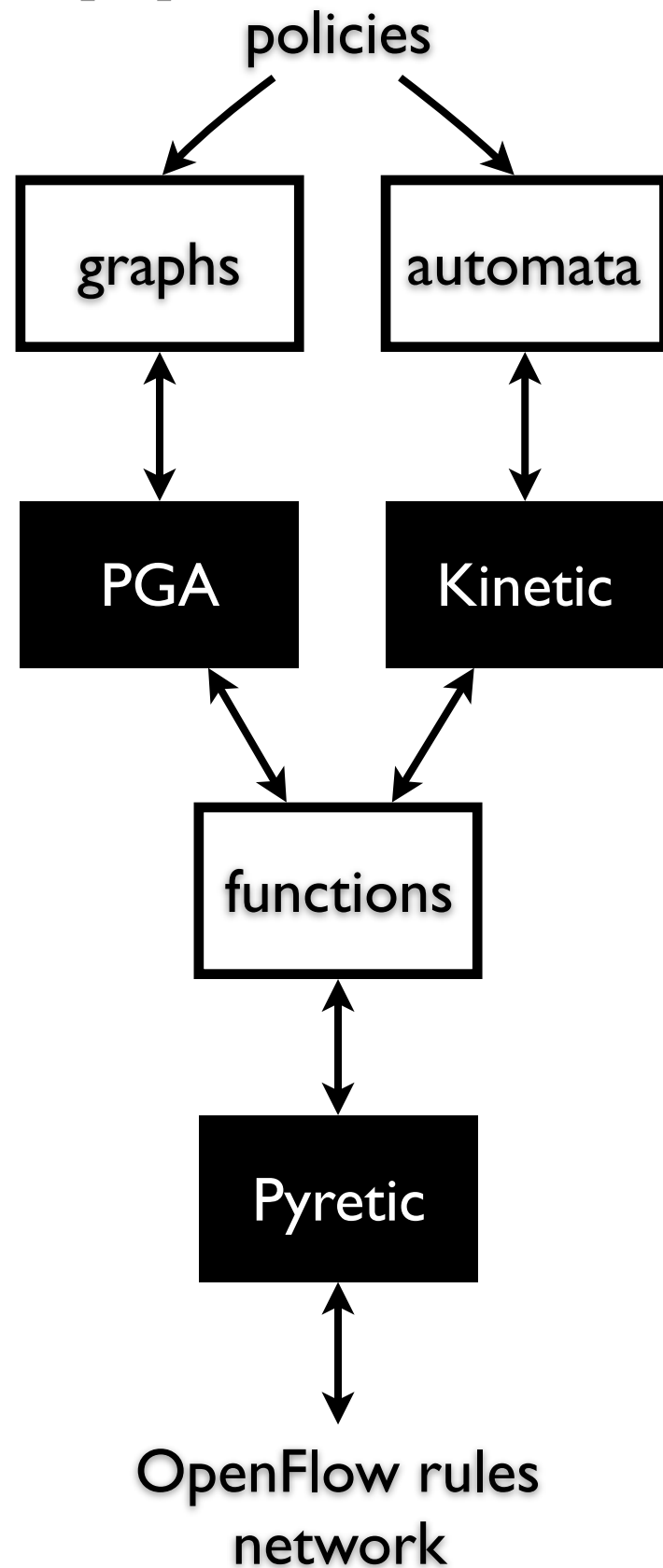
but network keeps evolving



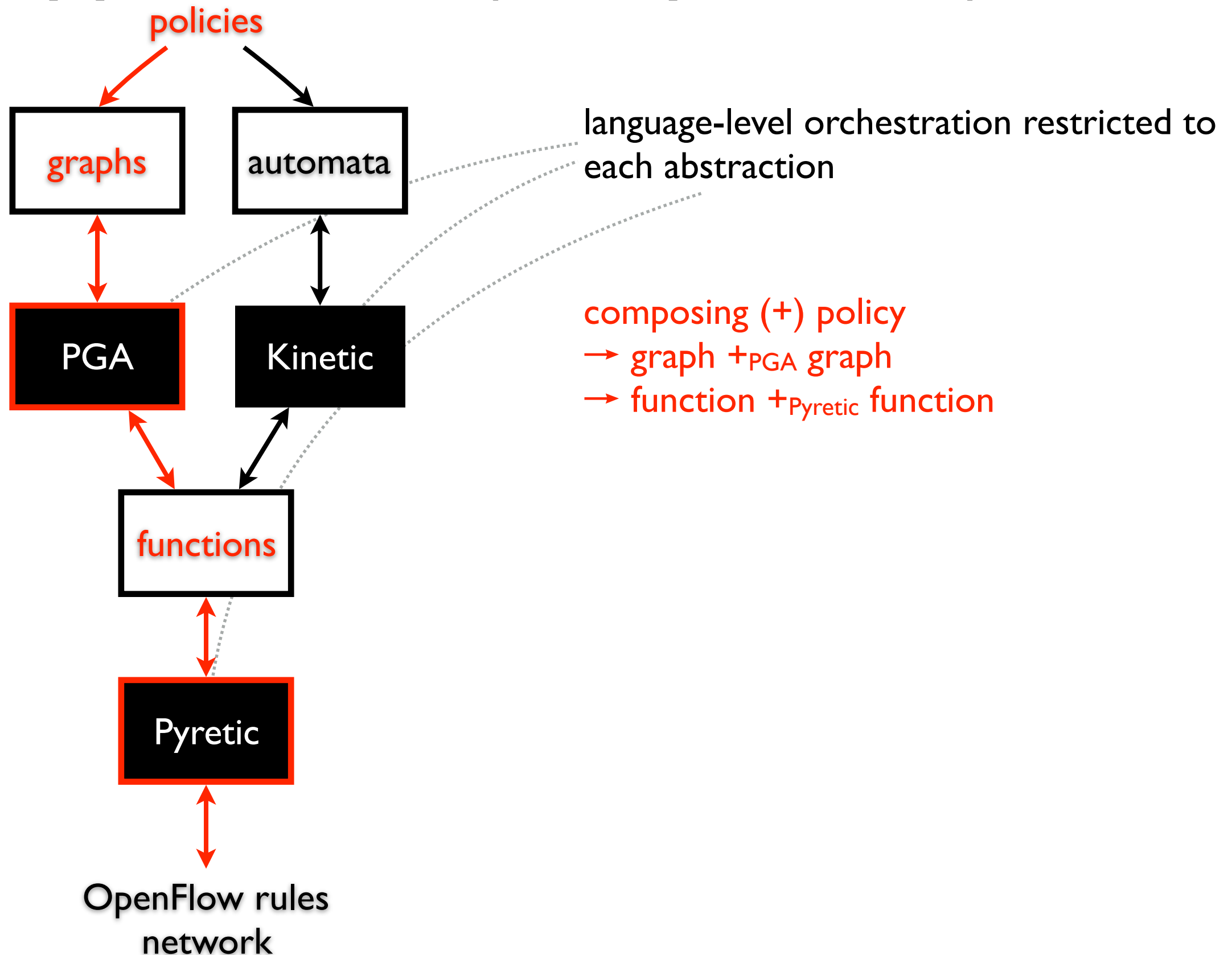
but network keeps evolving



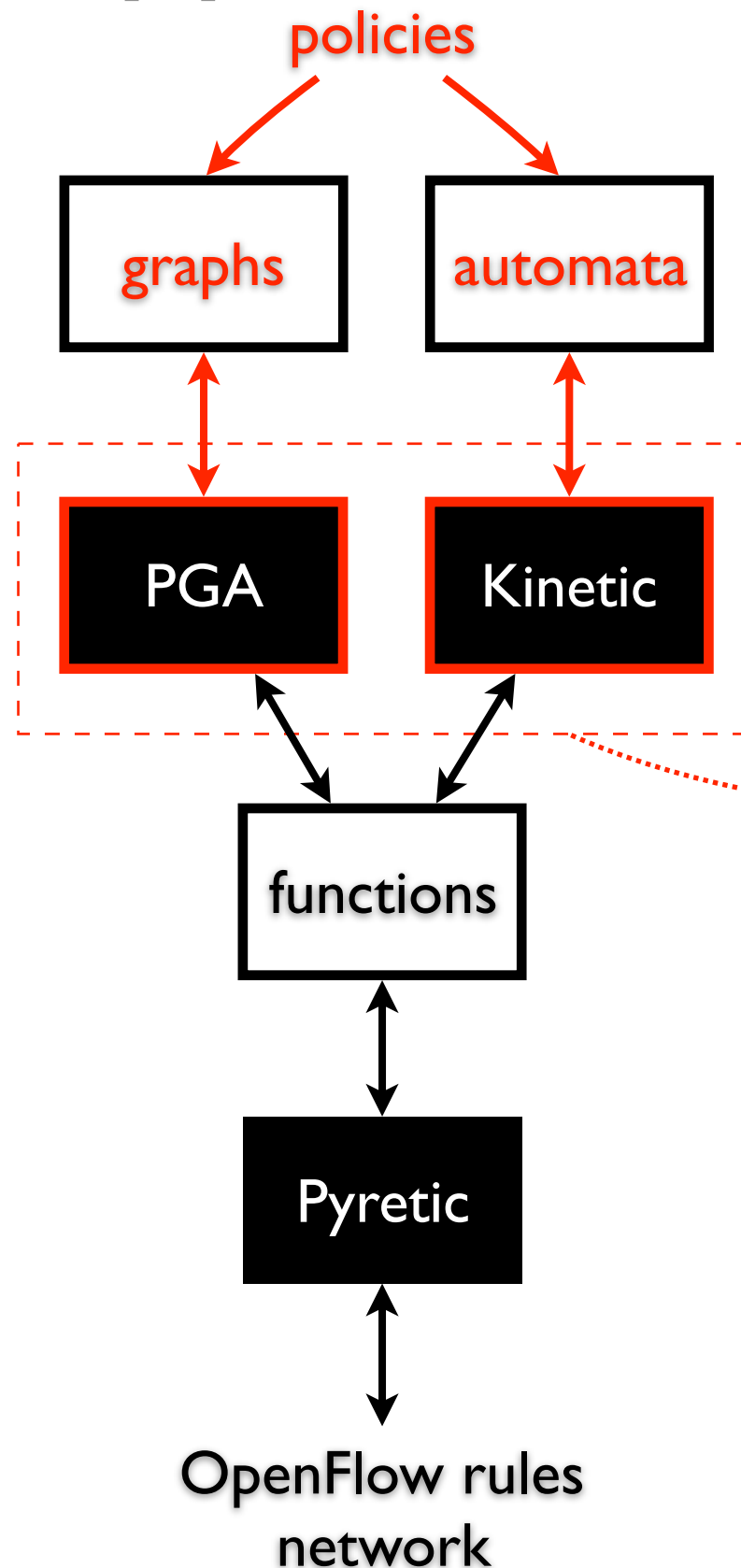
and applications (components) interact



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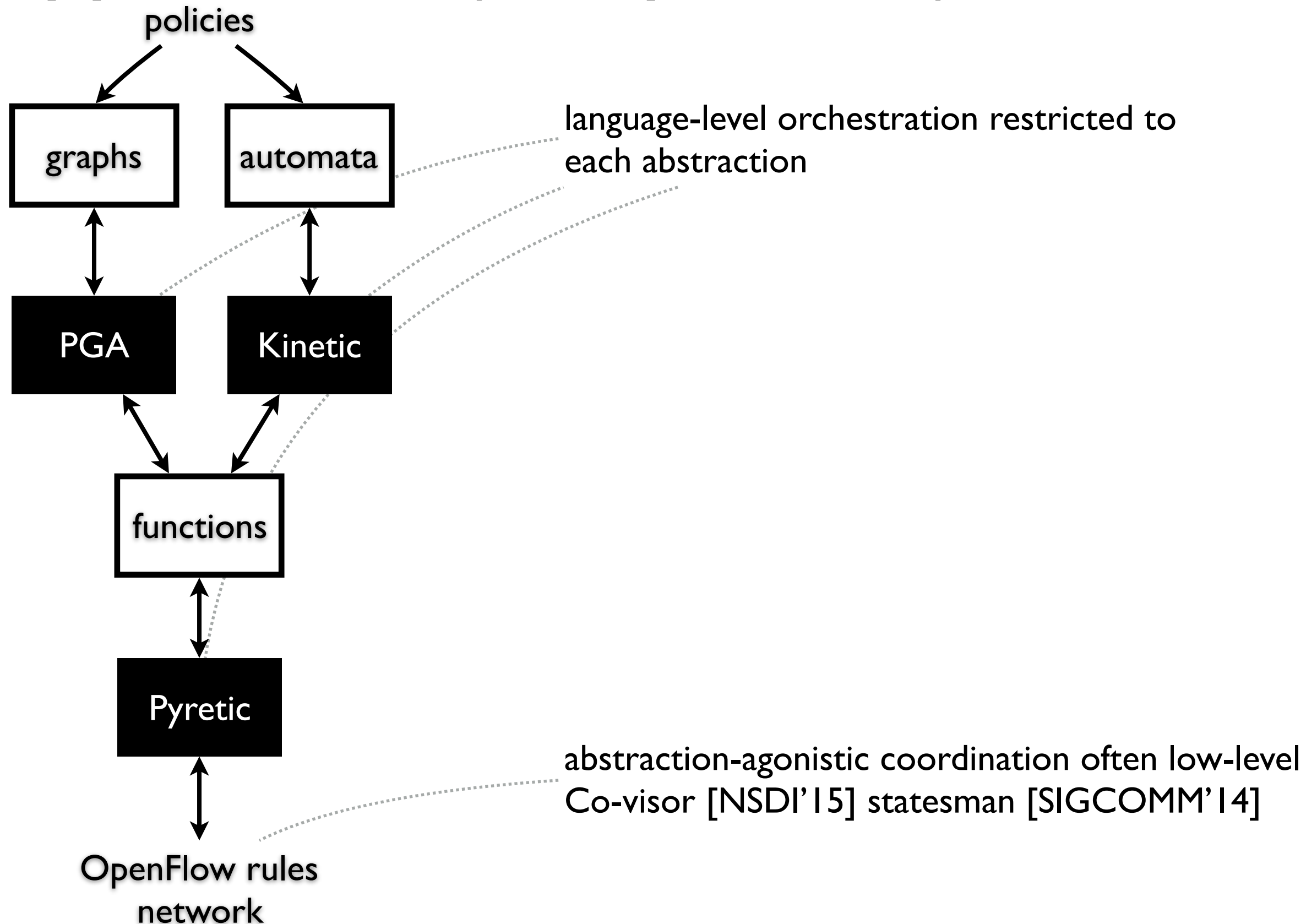


language-level orchestration restricted to each abstraction

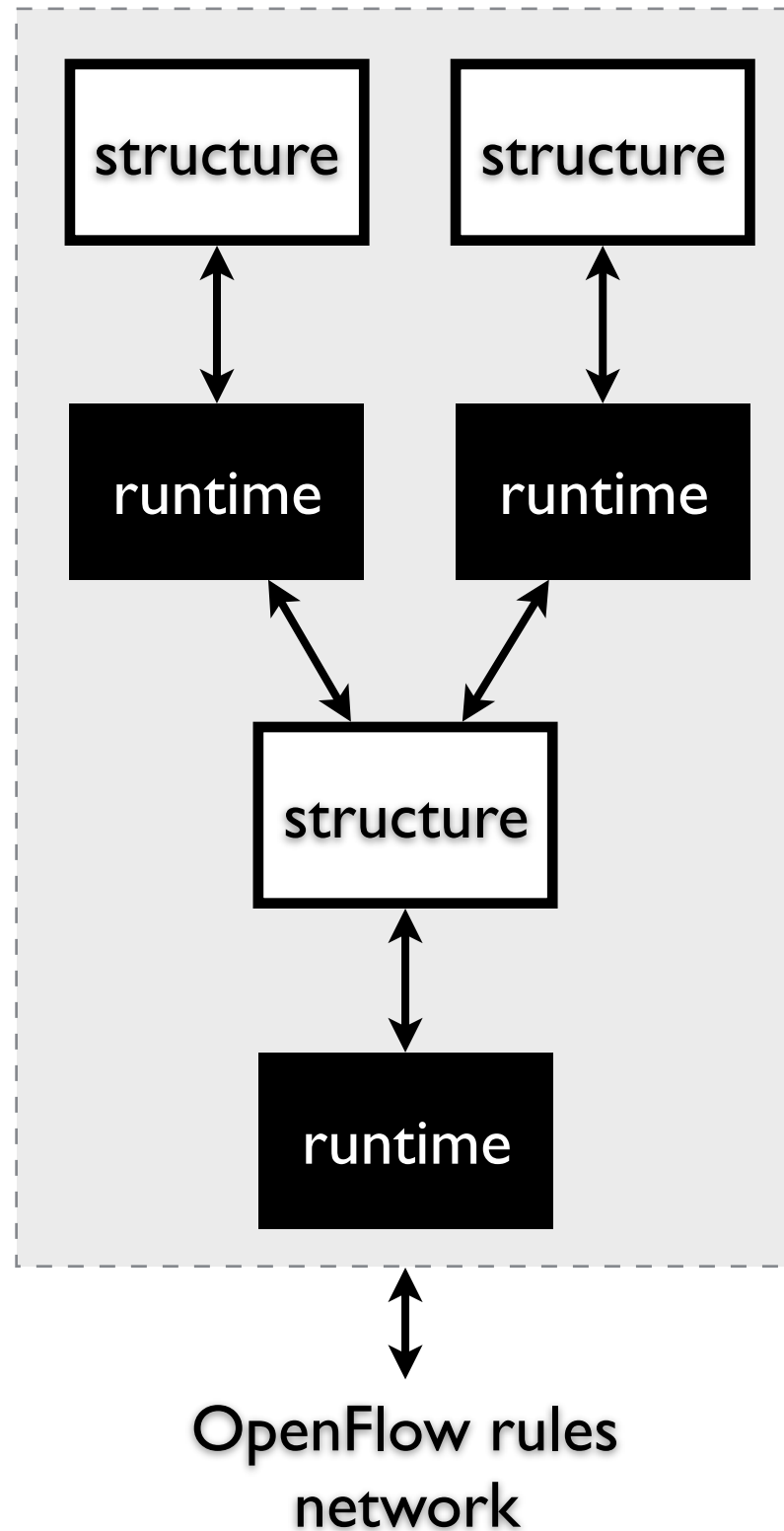
composing (+) policy
→ graph +? automata

how to integrate the runtime?
hard-wire internals?

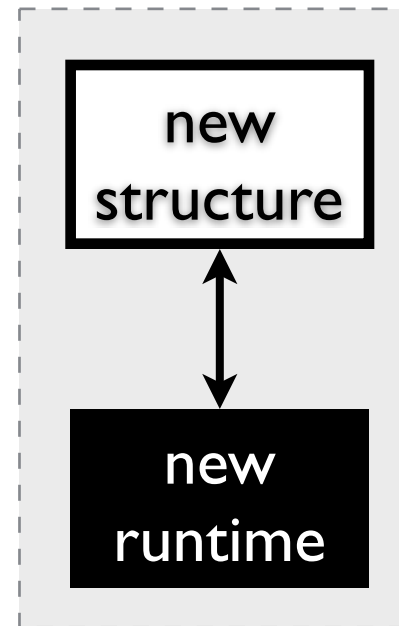
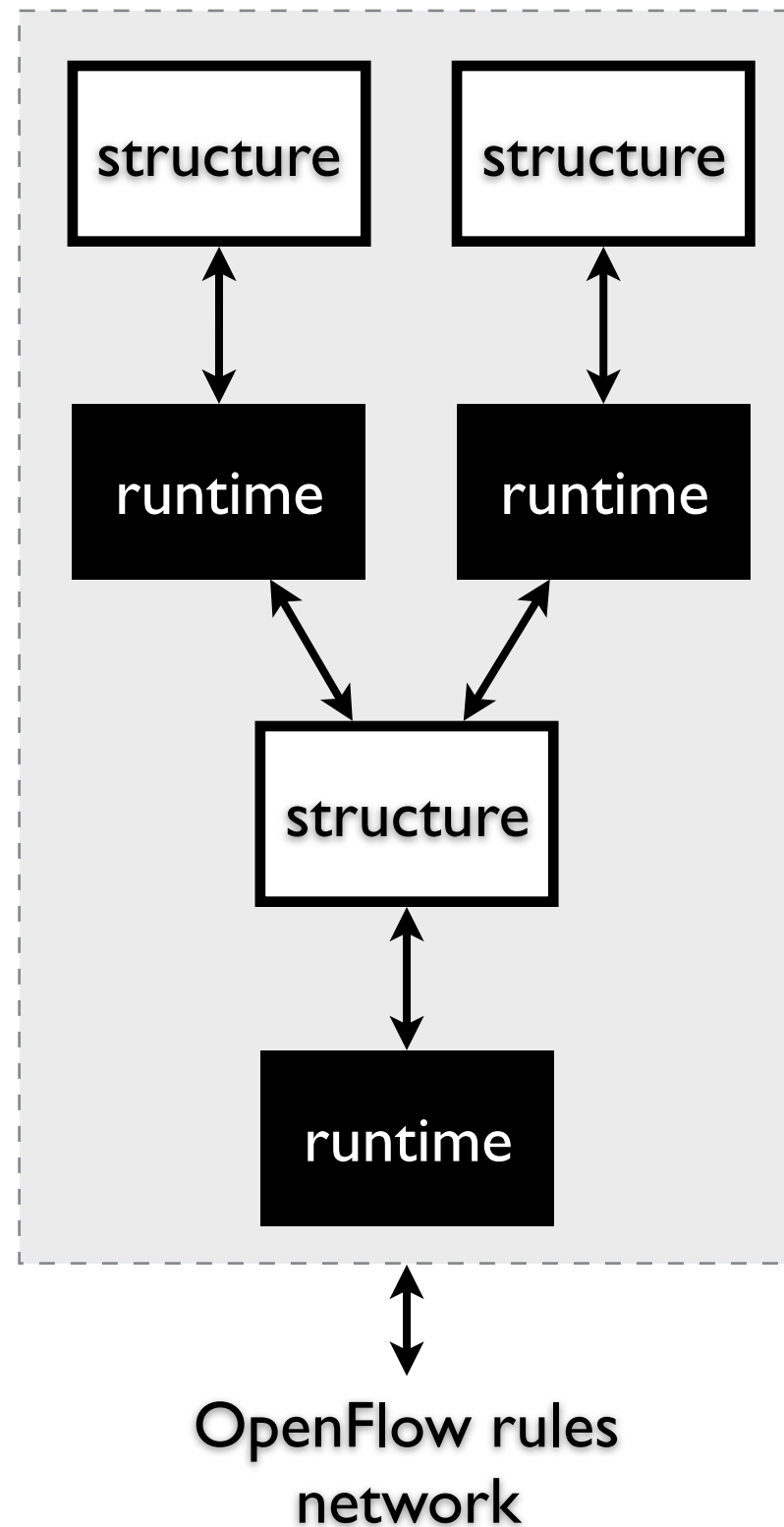
and applications (components) interact



current state of abstraction research

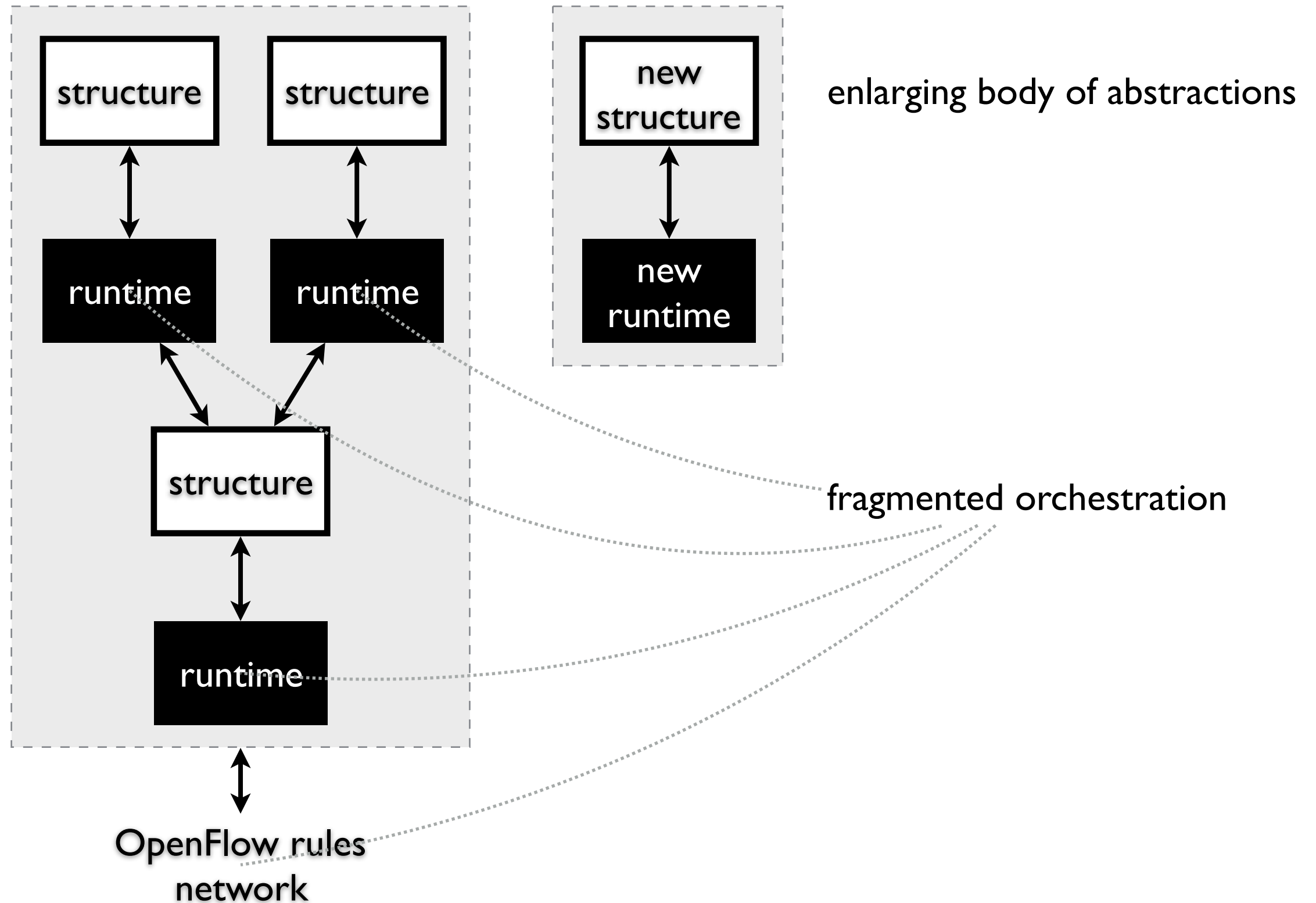


current state of abstraction research



enlarging body of abstractions

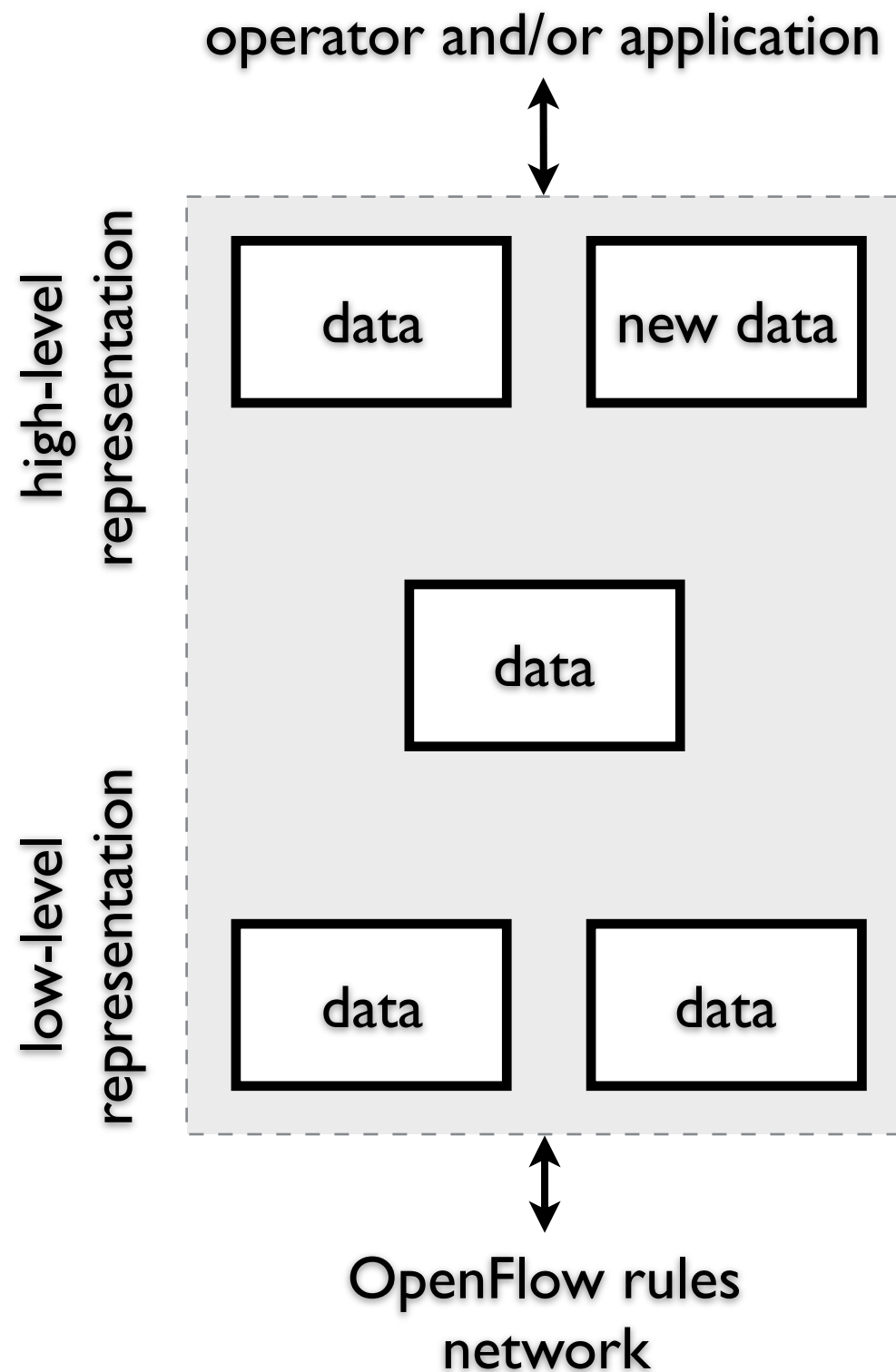
current state of abstraction research



our perspective

SDN control revolves around data representation

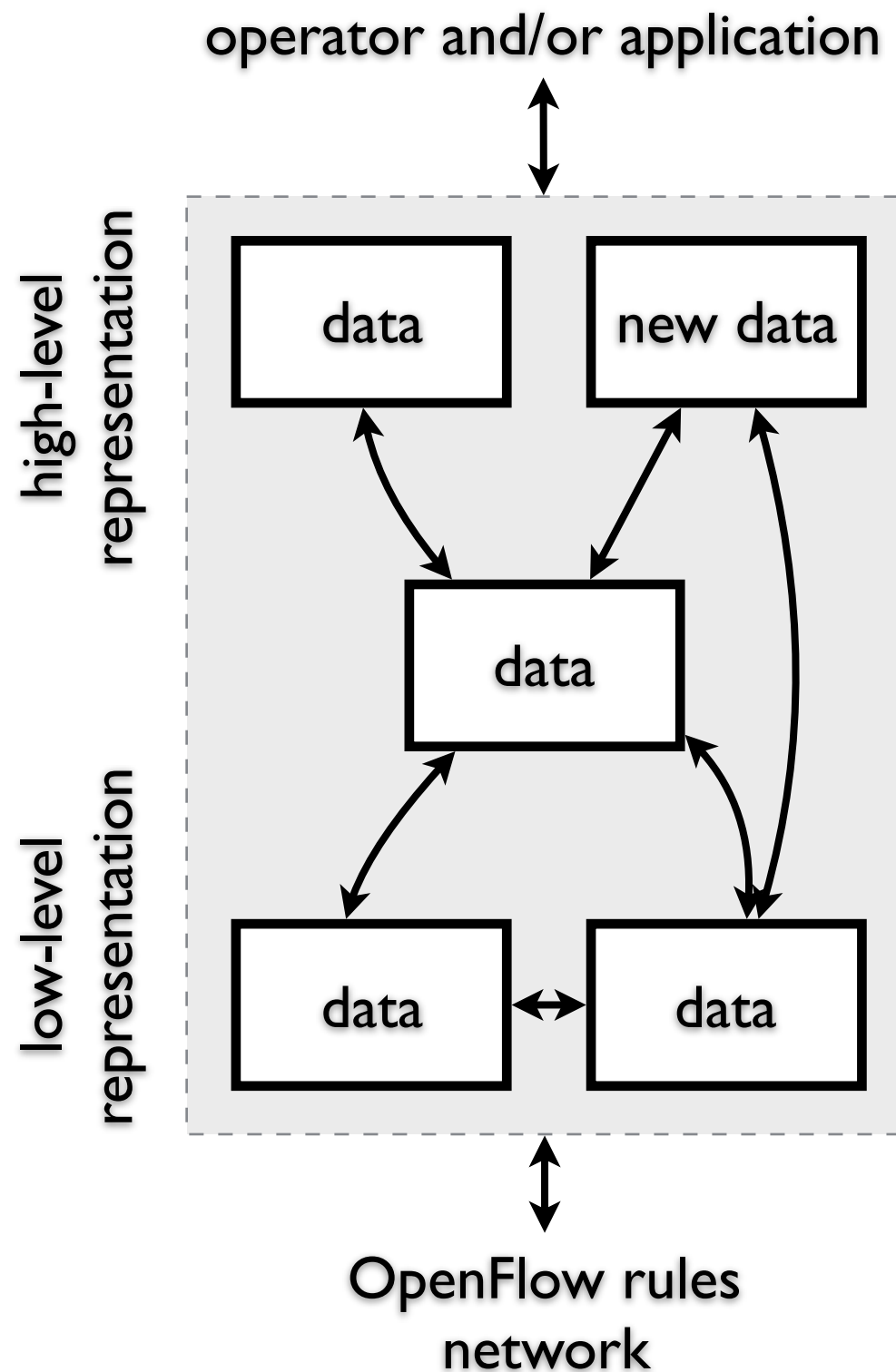
- discard specialized, pre-compiled, fixed structures
- adopt a *plain data representation*



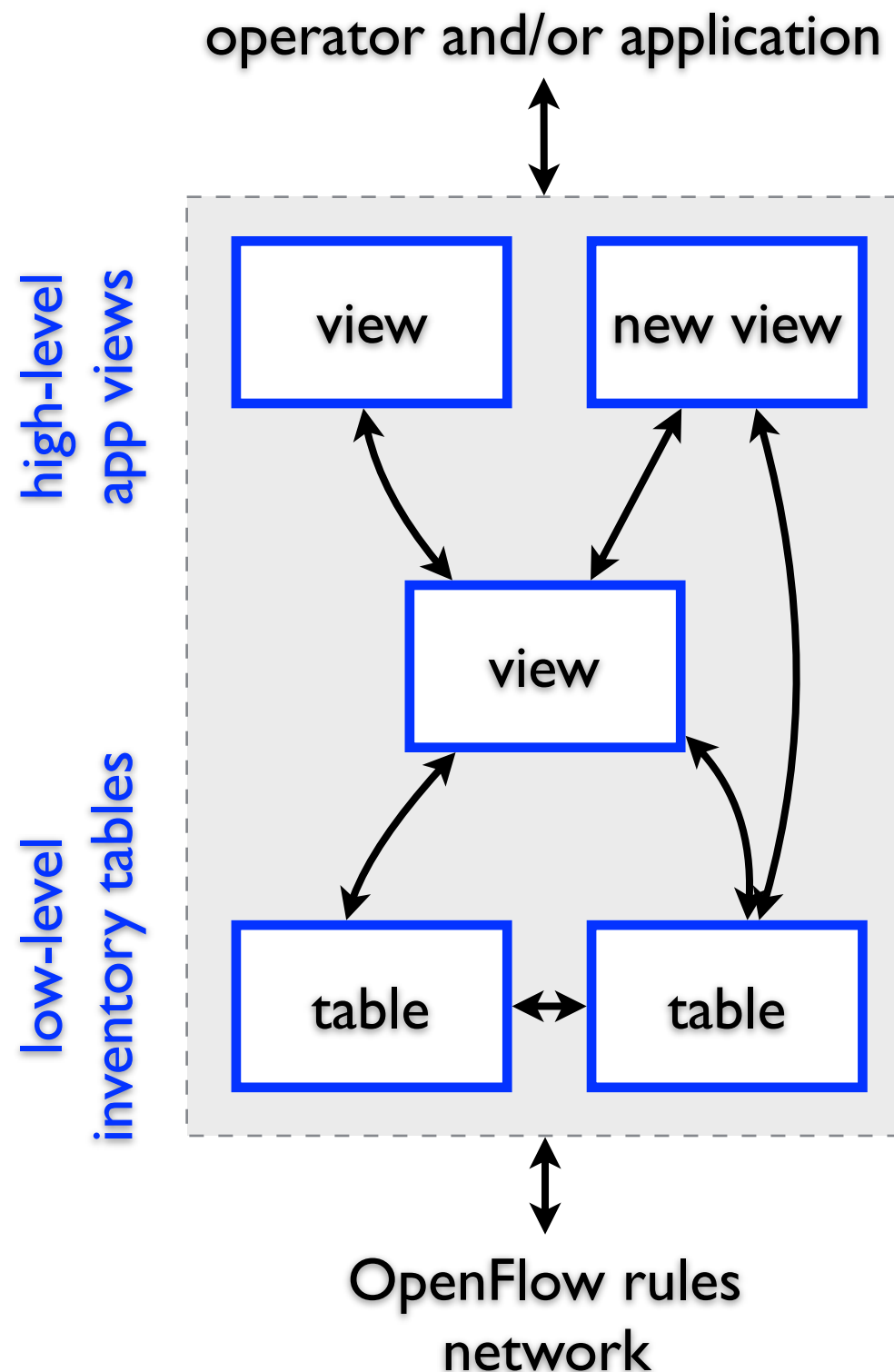
our perspective

SDN control revolves around data representation

- discard specialized, pre-compiled, fixed structures
- adopt a *plain data representation*
- use a *universal data language*

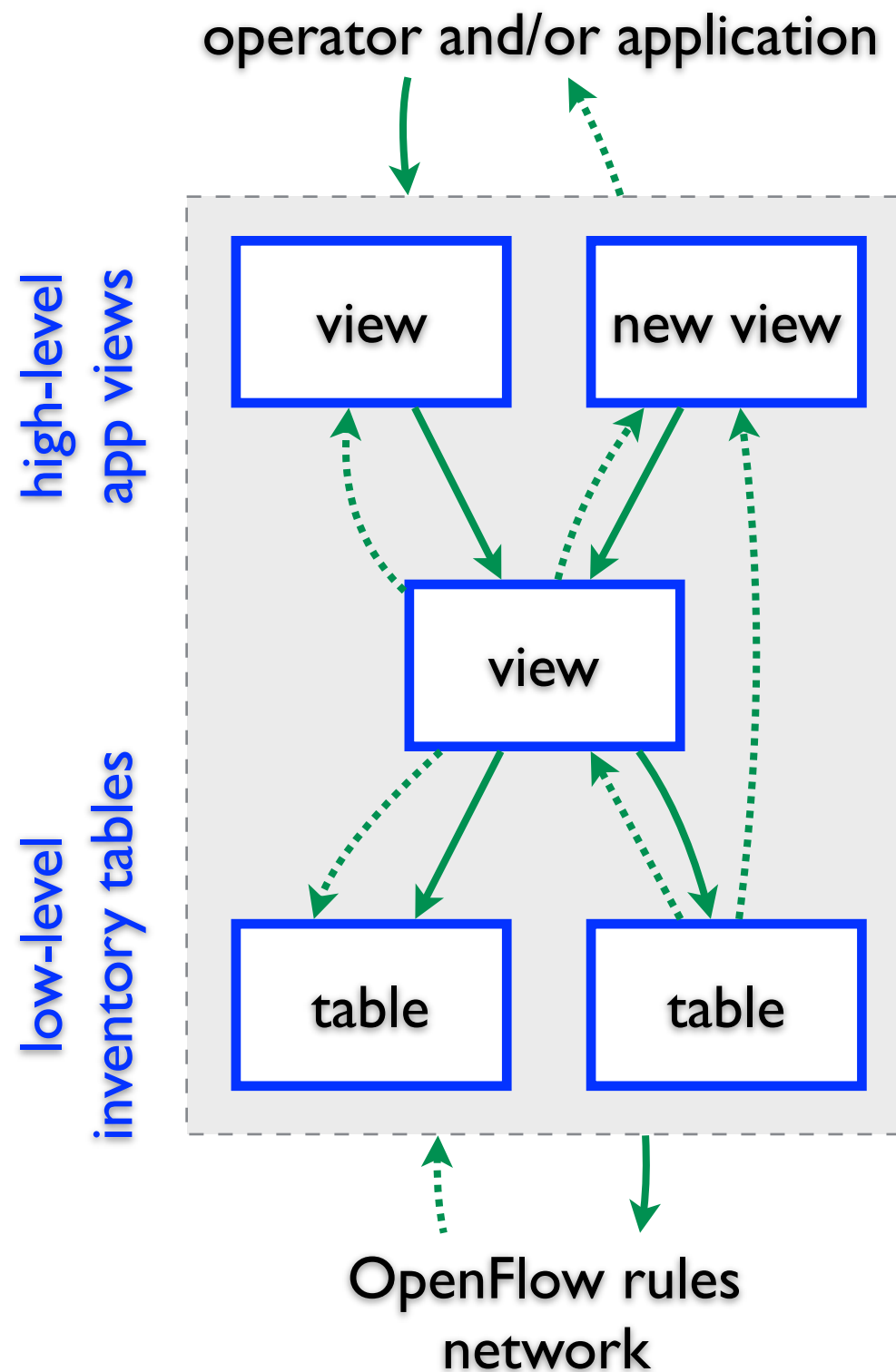


a database-defined network



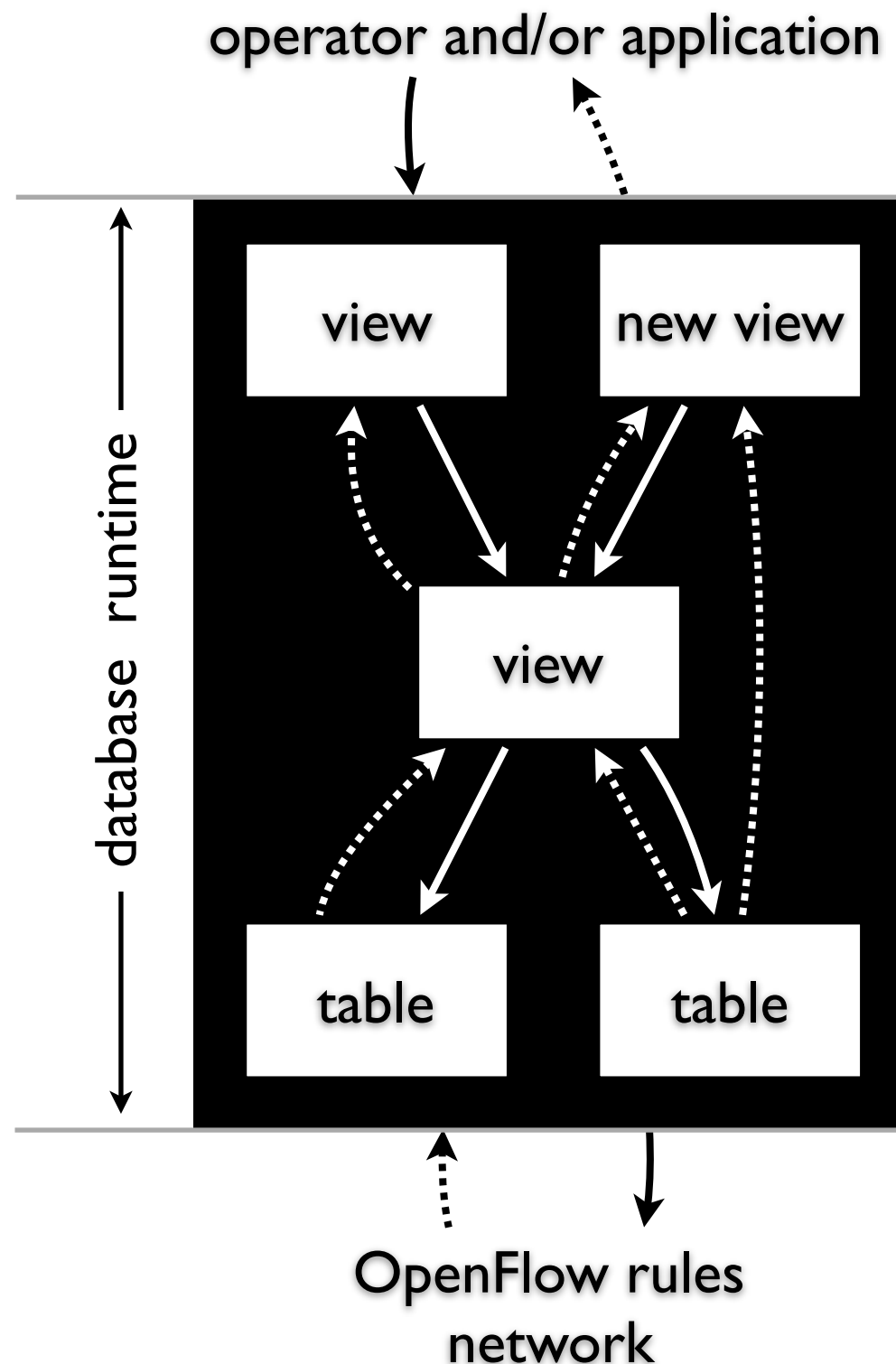
- **relation** — the plain data representation
- table — stored relation
- view — virtual relation

a database-defined network



- ─ **relation** — the plain data representation
 - ─ table — stored relation
 - ─ view — virtual relation
- ─ **SQL** — the universal data language
 - ─ query, update, trigger, rule

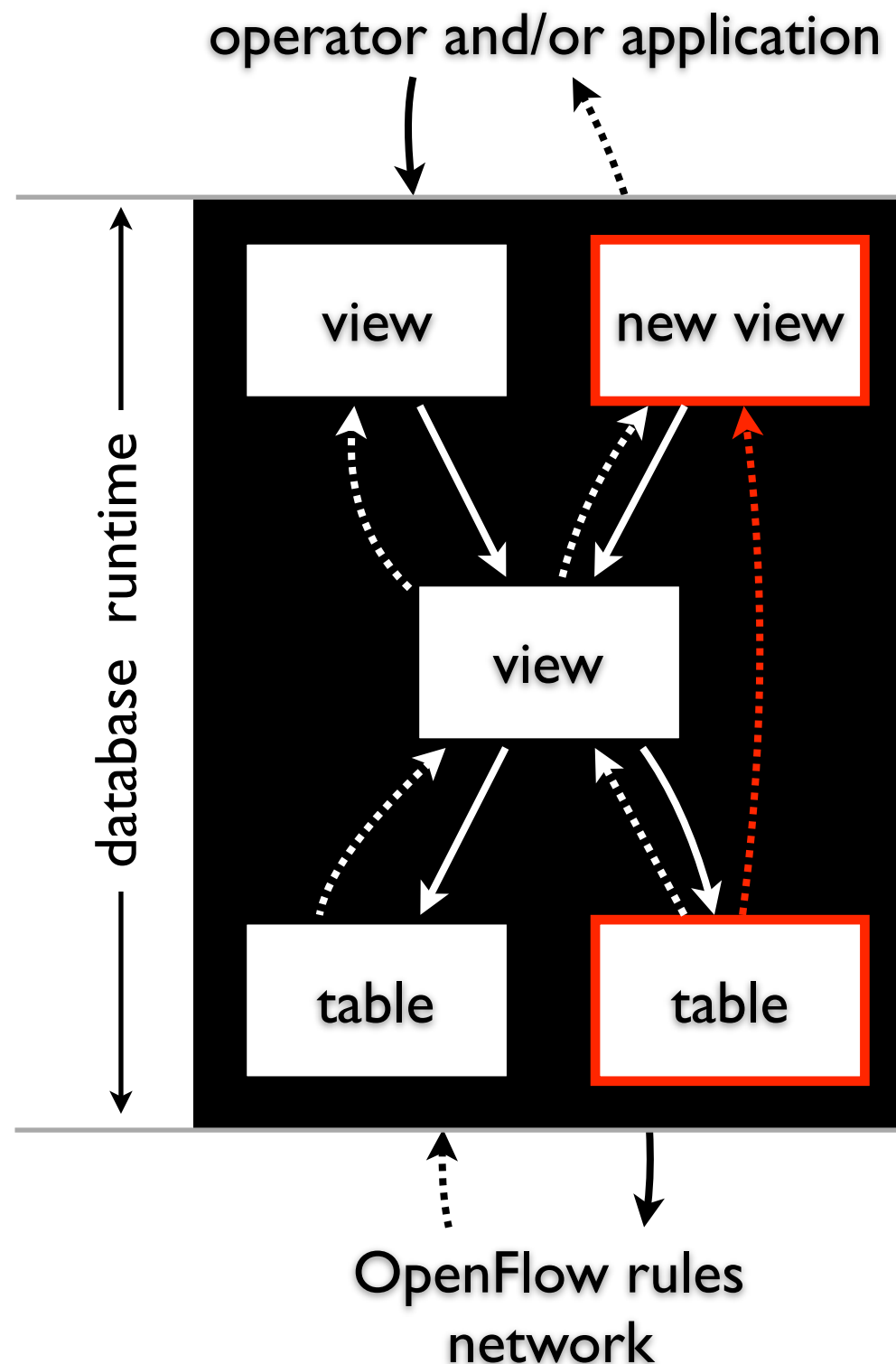
Ravel: a realization with SQL database



attractive features

- ad-hoc programmable abstraction via views
- orchestration across abstractions via view mechanism
- orchestration across applications via data mediation
- network control via SQL

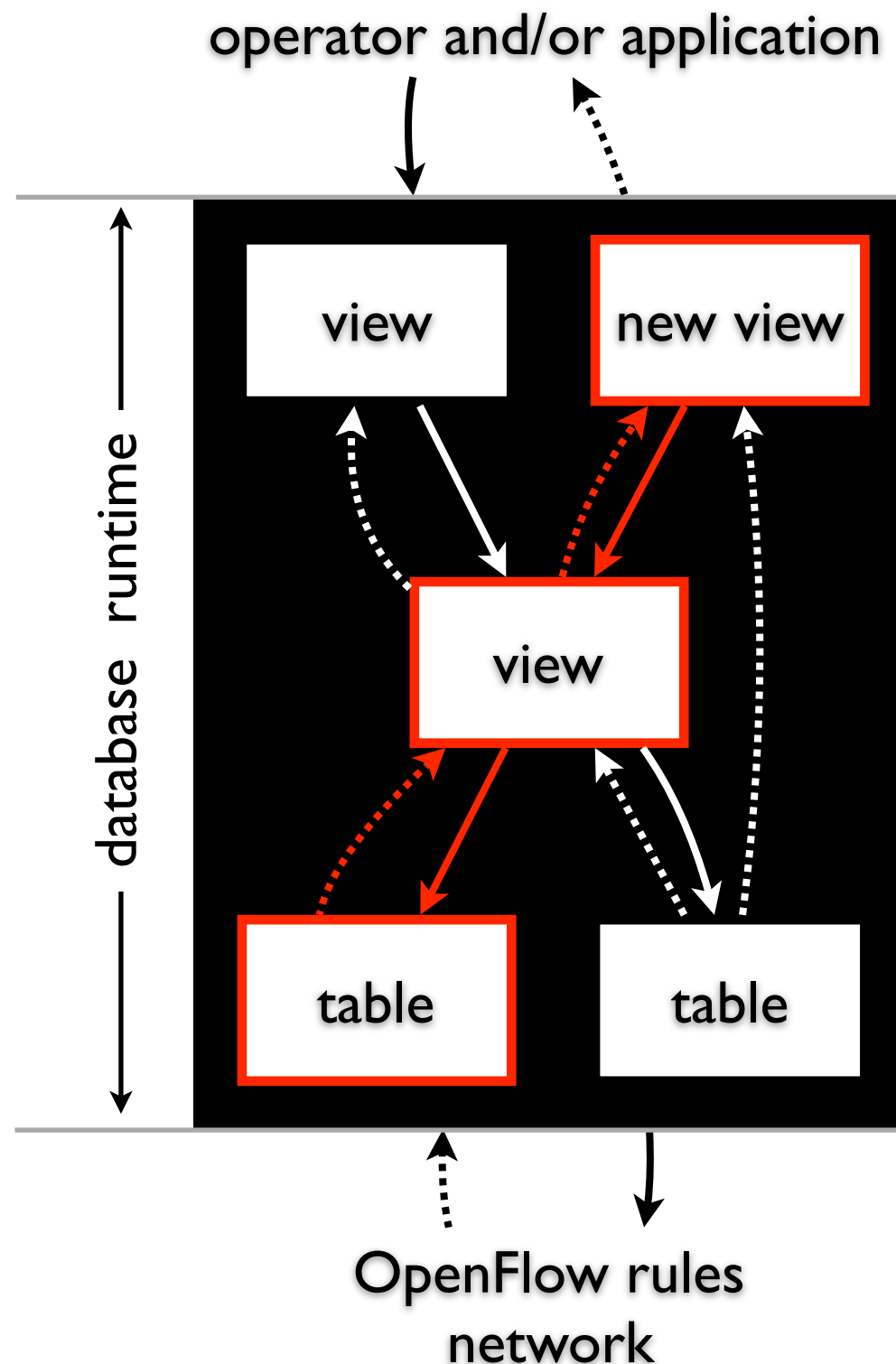
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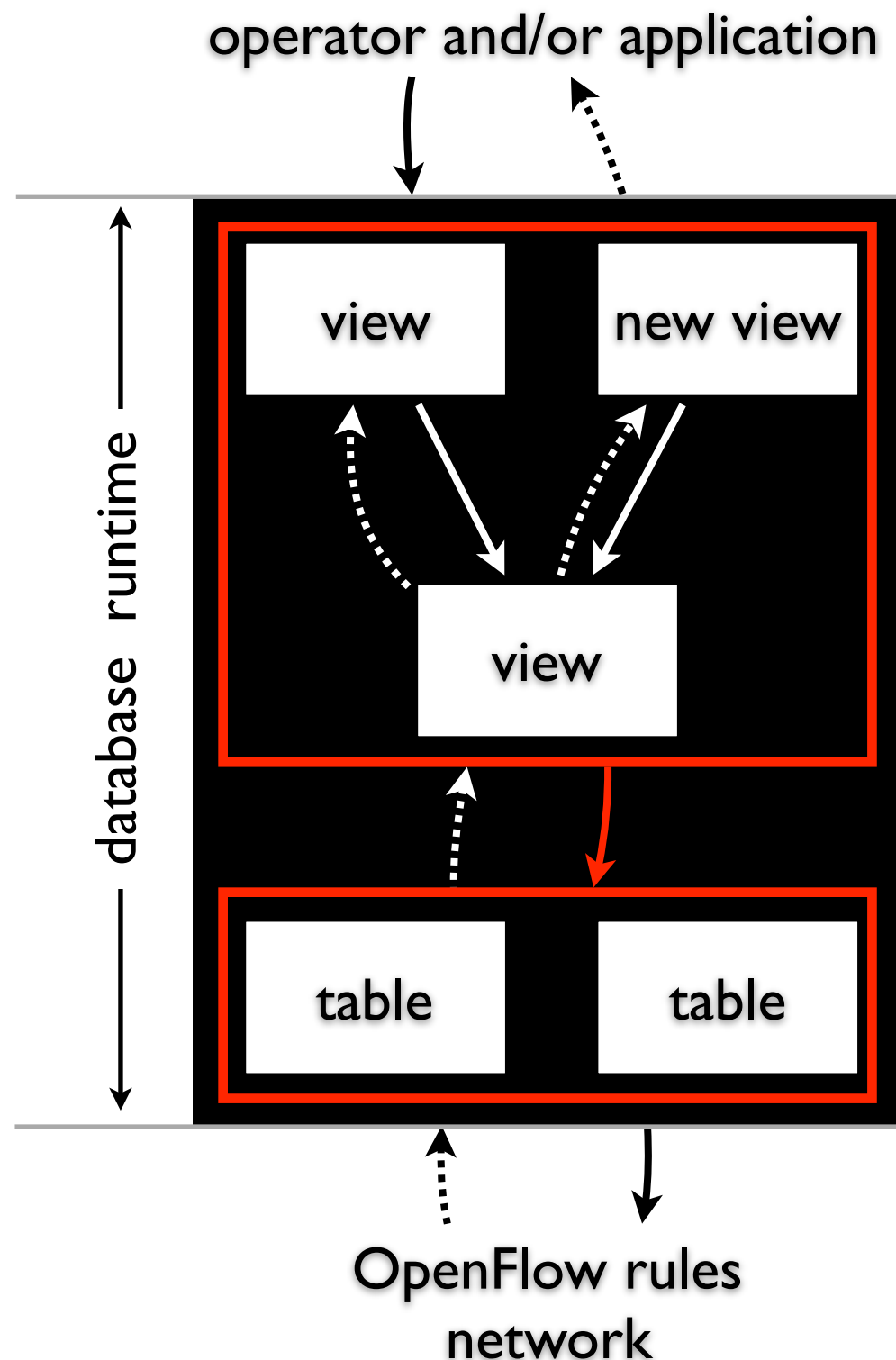
Ravel: a realization with SQL database



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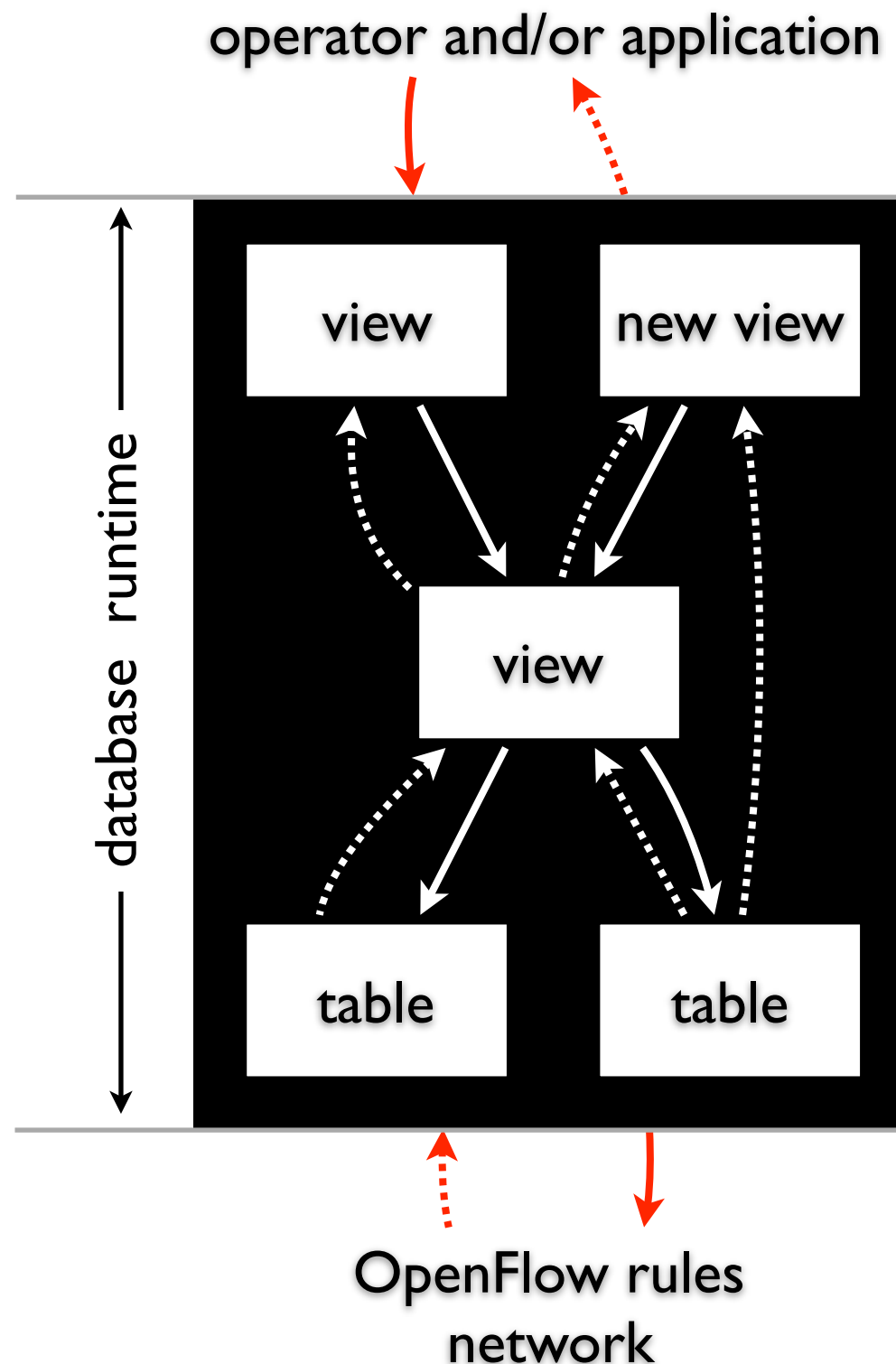
Ravel: a realization with SQL database



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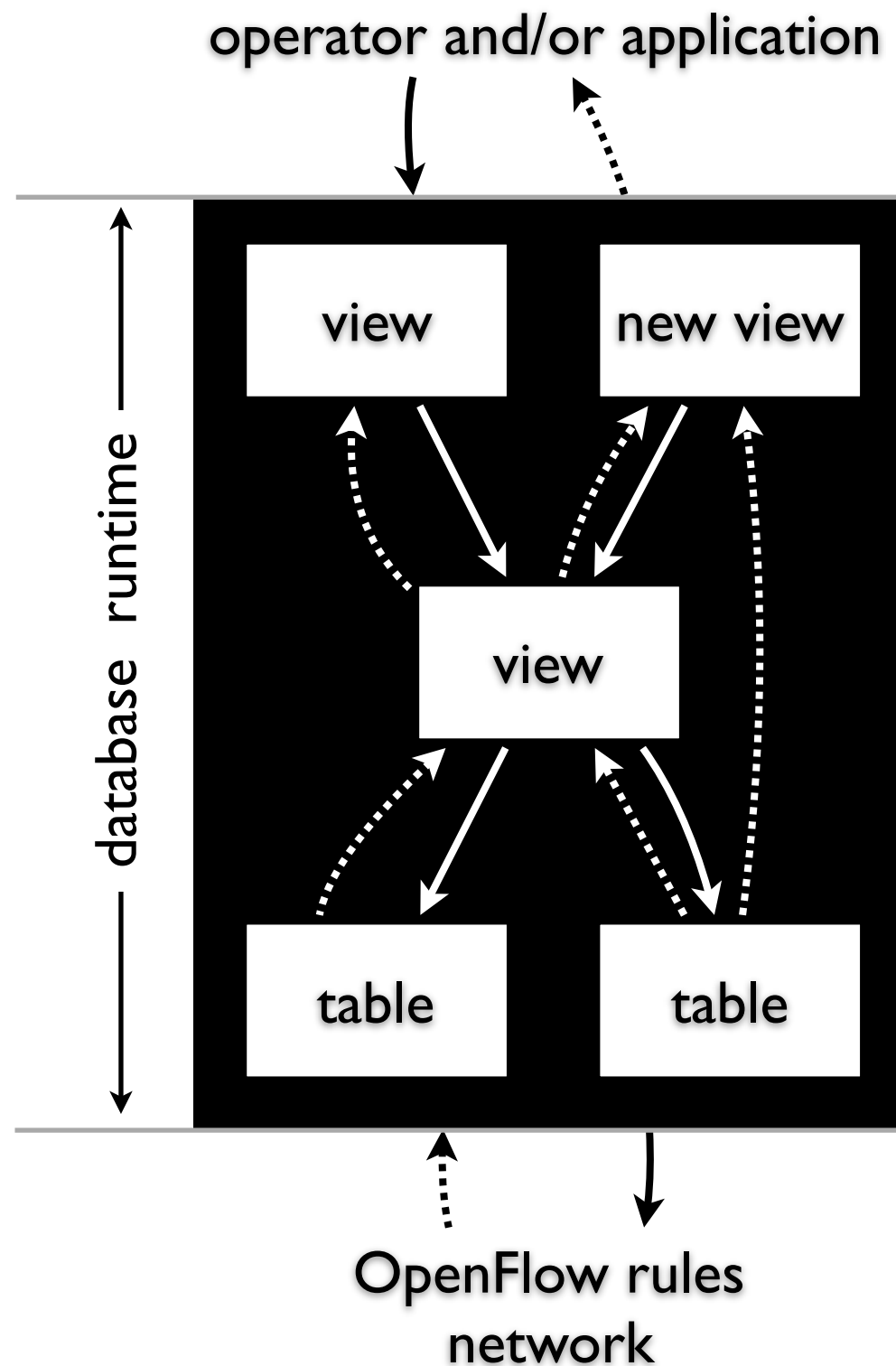
Ravel: a realization with SQL database



attractive features

- ad-hoc programmable abstraction via views
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- network control via SQL

Ravel: a realization with SQL database



attractive features

- abstraction
- orchestration
- SQL

abstraction: network tables

reachability matrix

fid	src	dst	vol	...
1	h_1	h_4	5	
2	h_2	h_3	9	

...

topology

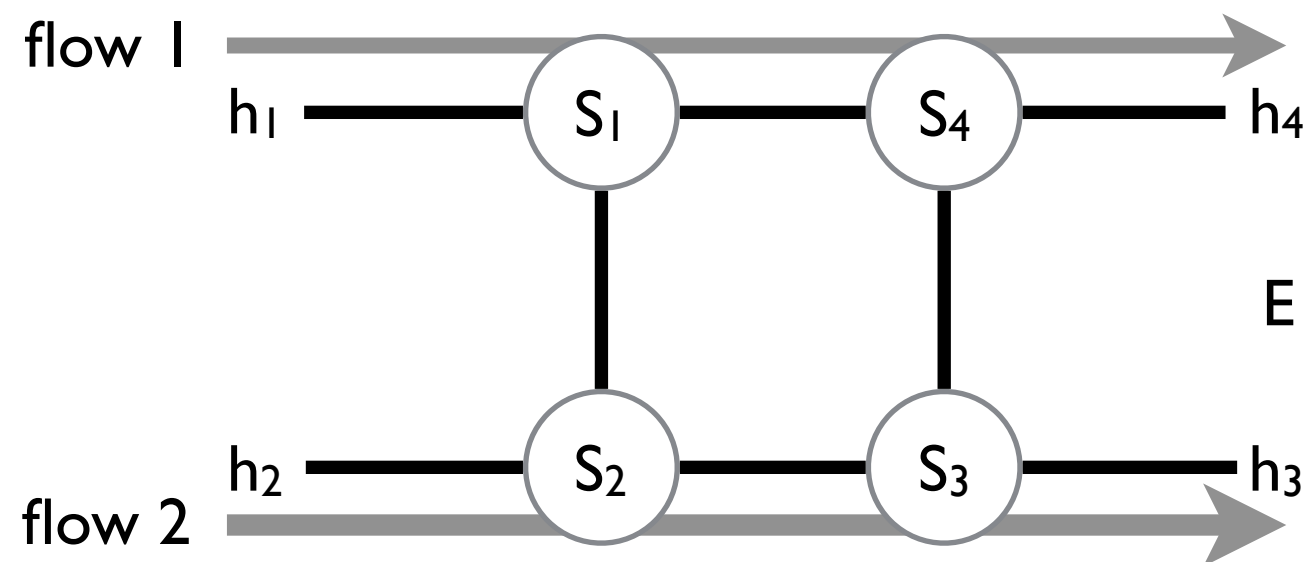
sid	nid
S_1	S_2
S_1	S_3
S_1	h_1

...

configuration

fid	sid	nid
1	S_1	S_4
1	S_4	h_4

...



abstraction: application view

firewall view: monitoring unsafe flows violating
acl policy

```
CREATE VIEW acl_violation AS (  
  SELECT fid  
  FROM rm  
  WHERE FW = 1 AND  
    (src, dst) NOT IN  
    (SELECT end1, end2 FROM acl  
      WHERE allow = 1)  
);
```

```
CREATE TABLE acl (  
  end1 integer, end2 integer, allow integer  
);
```

firewall control: repairing violation

```
CREATE RULE acl_repair AS  
  ON DELETE TO acl_violation  
  DO INSTEAD  
    DELETE FROM rm WHERE fid = OLD.fid;
```

abstraction: application view

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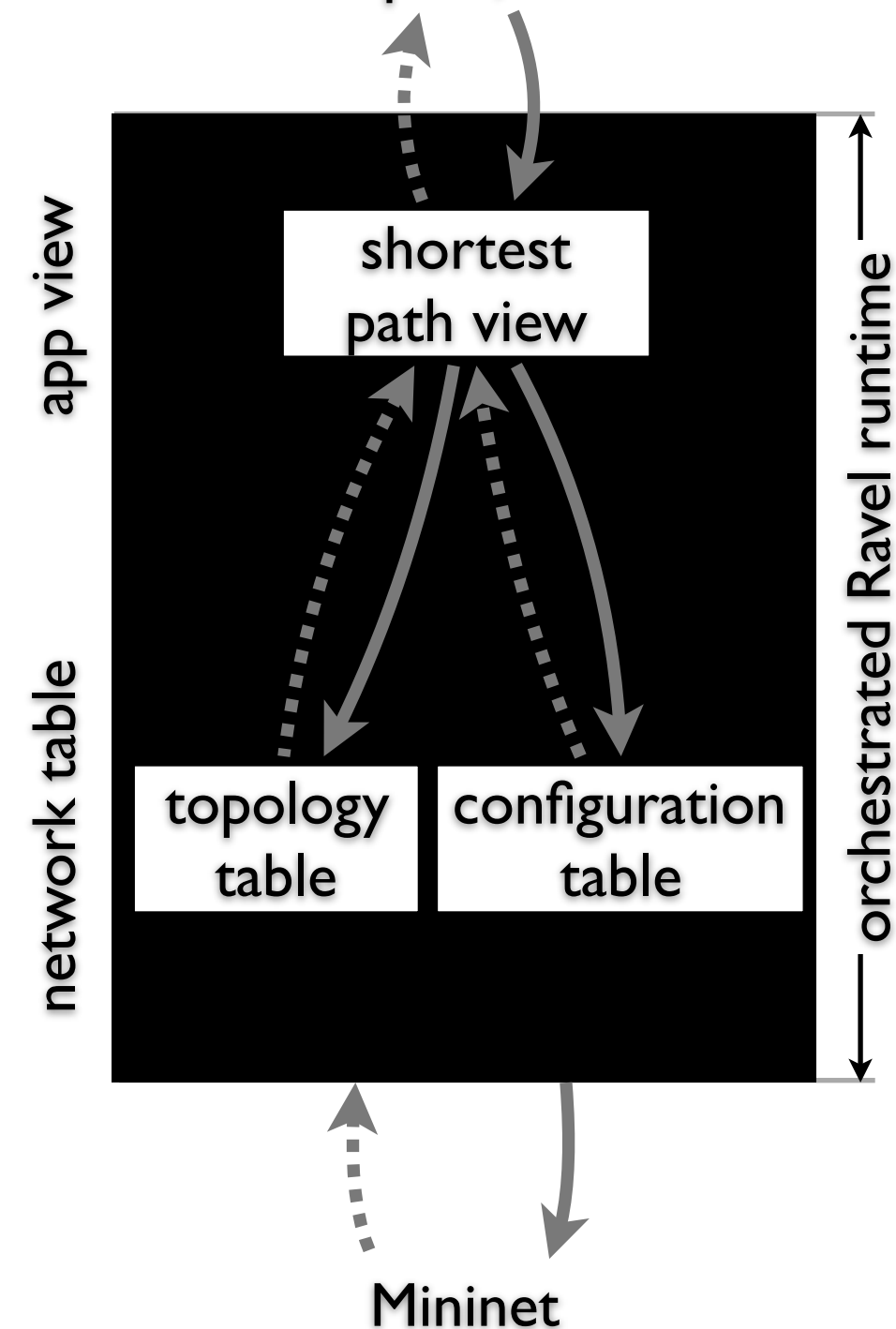
many more

- routing, stateful firewall, service chain policy between subdomains ...

orchestration across representations

routing app: check
broken path, re-route

SQL rule:
upon broken path, re-route

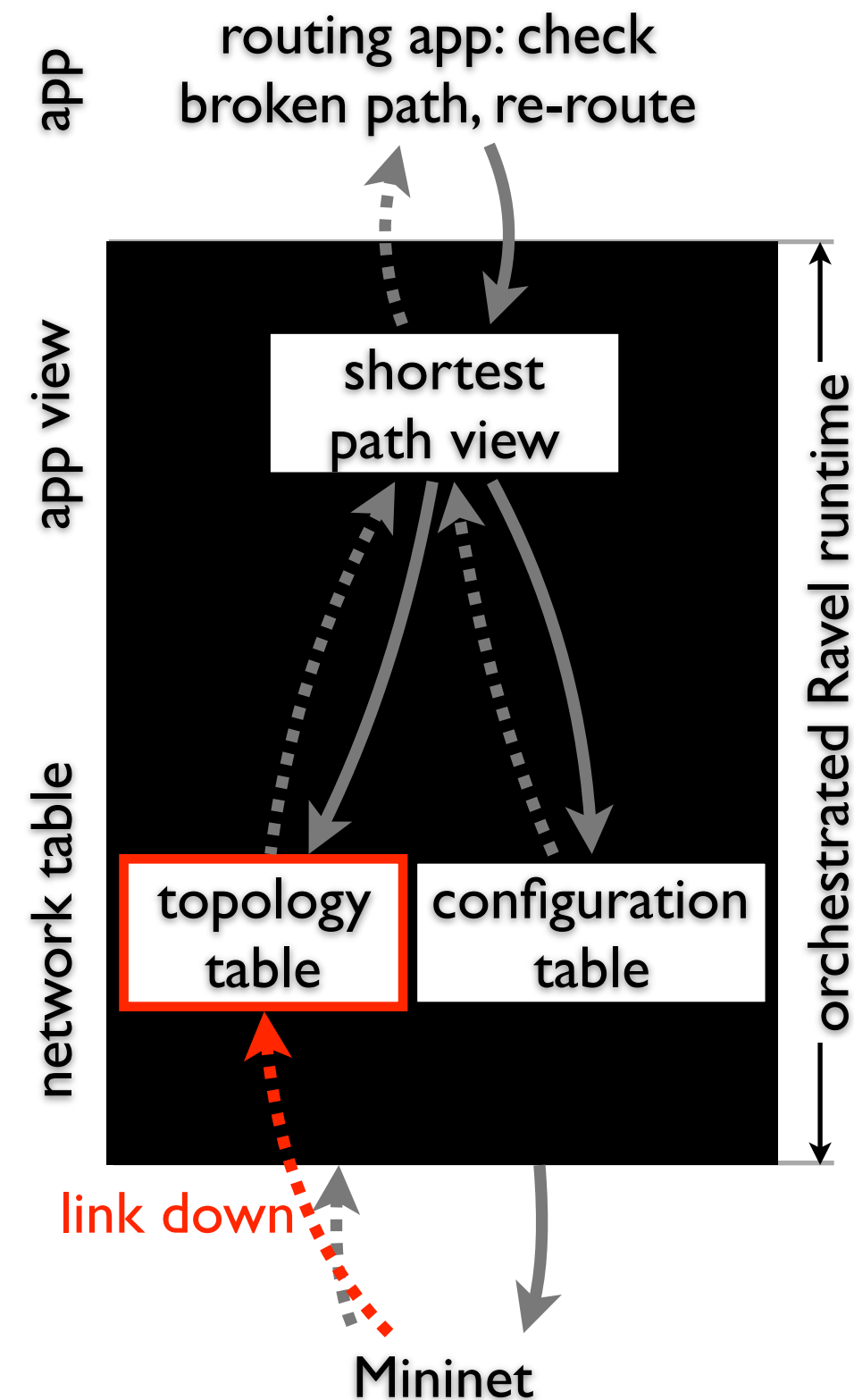


shortest path	

topology		

configuration		

orchestration across representations



SQL rule:
upon broken path, re-route

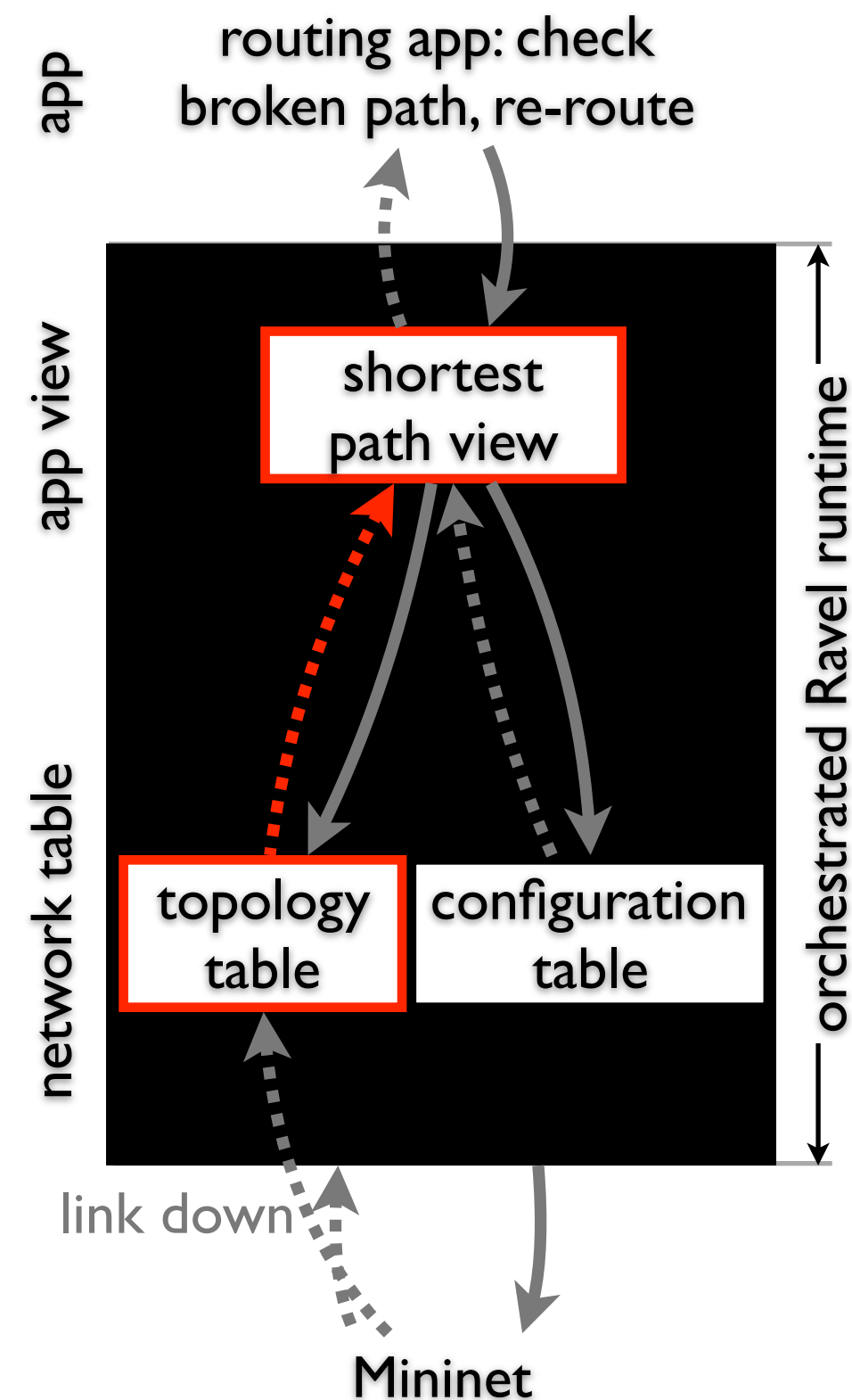
shortest path	

	topology		
	sid	nid	active
-	172	39	1
+	172	39	0

configuration		

Mininet link (172,39) down

orchestration across representations



SQL rule:
upon broken path, re-route

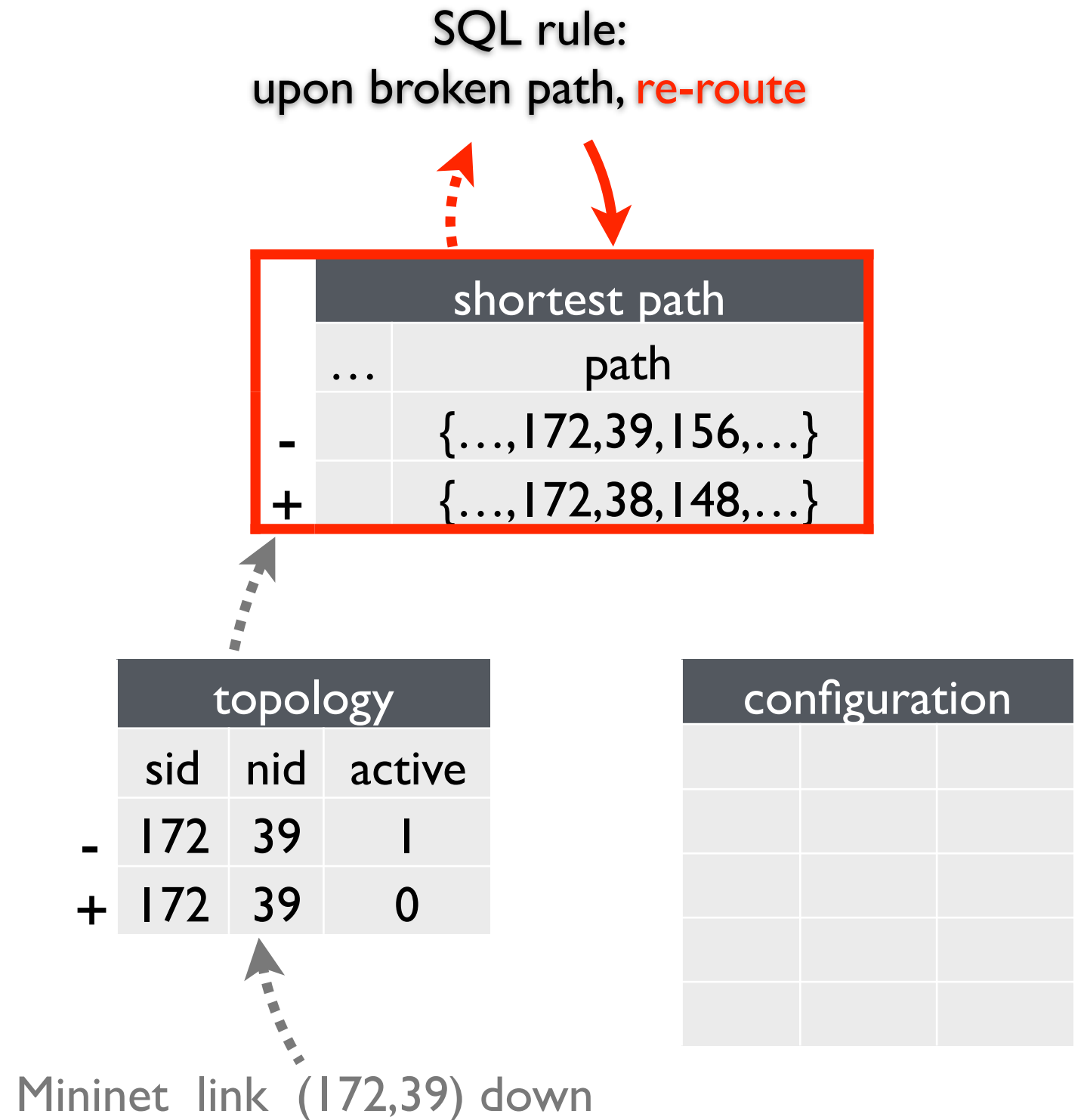
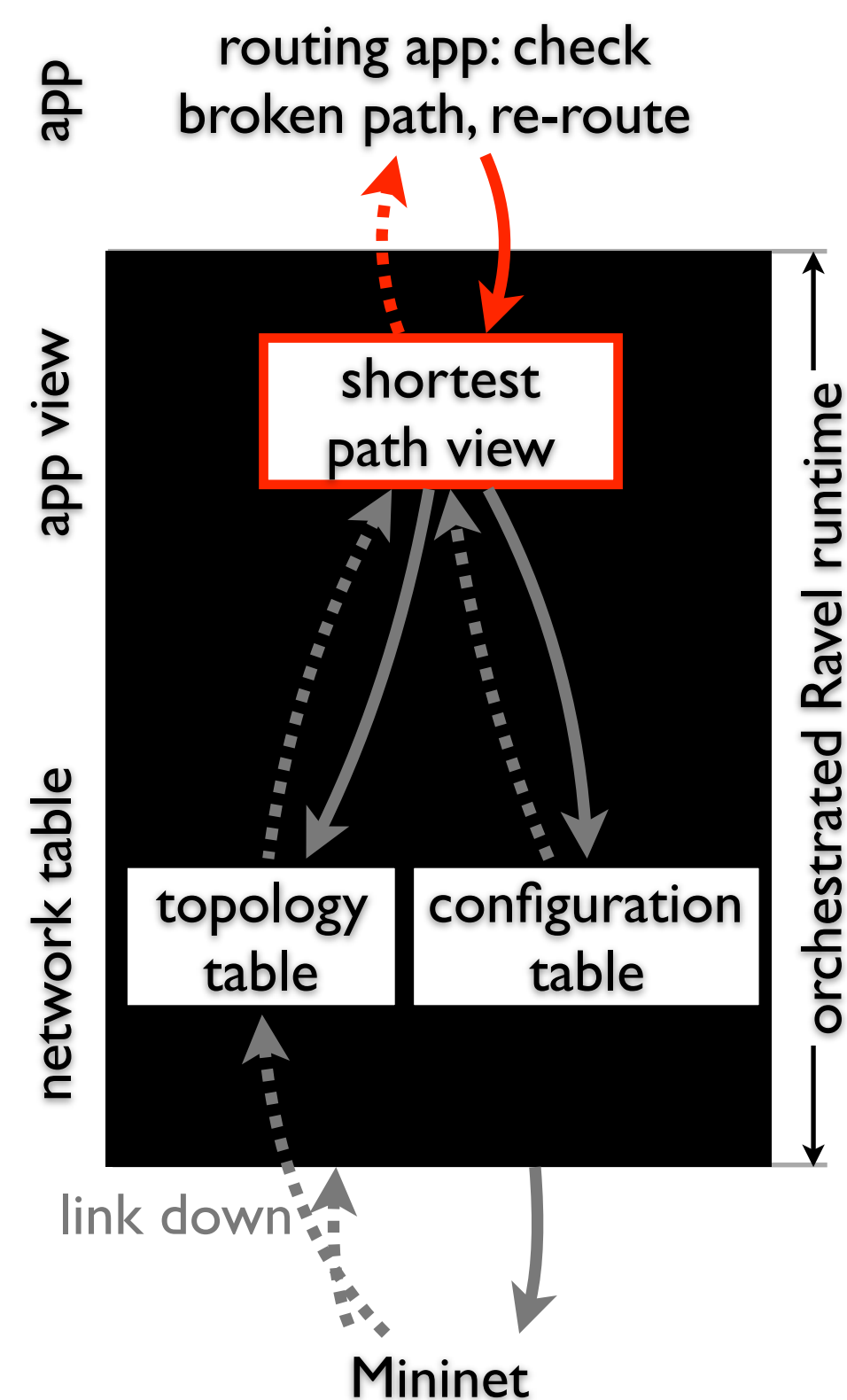
	shortest path	
	...	path
-	{..., 172, 39, 156, ...}	

	topology		
	sid	nid	active
-	172	39	1
+	172	39	0

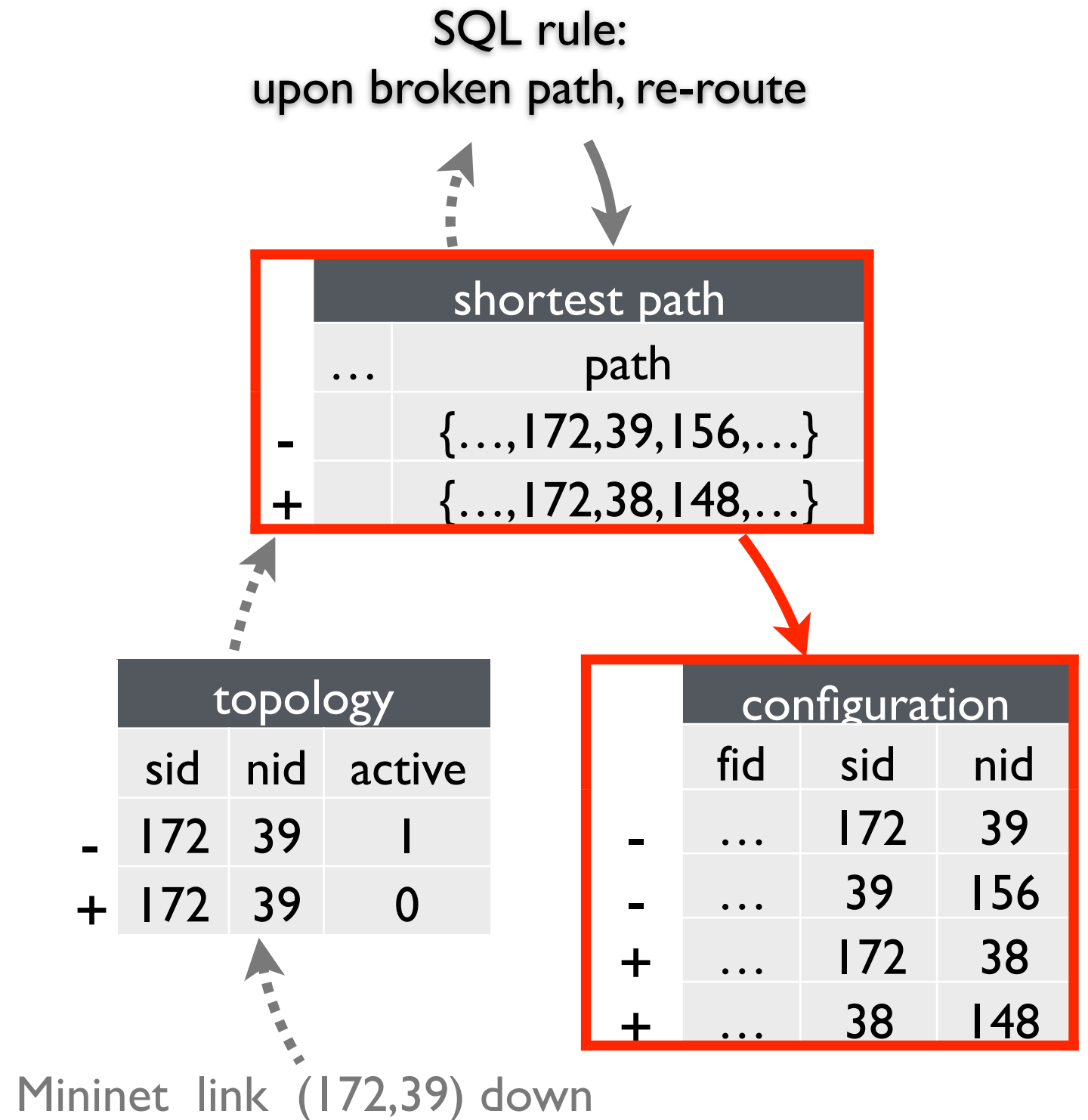
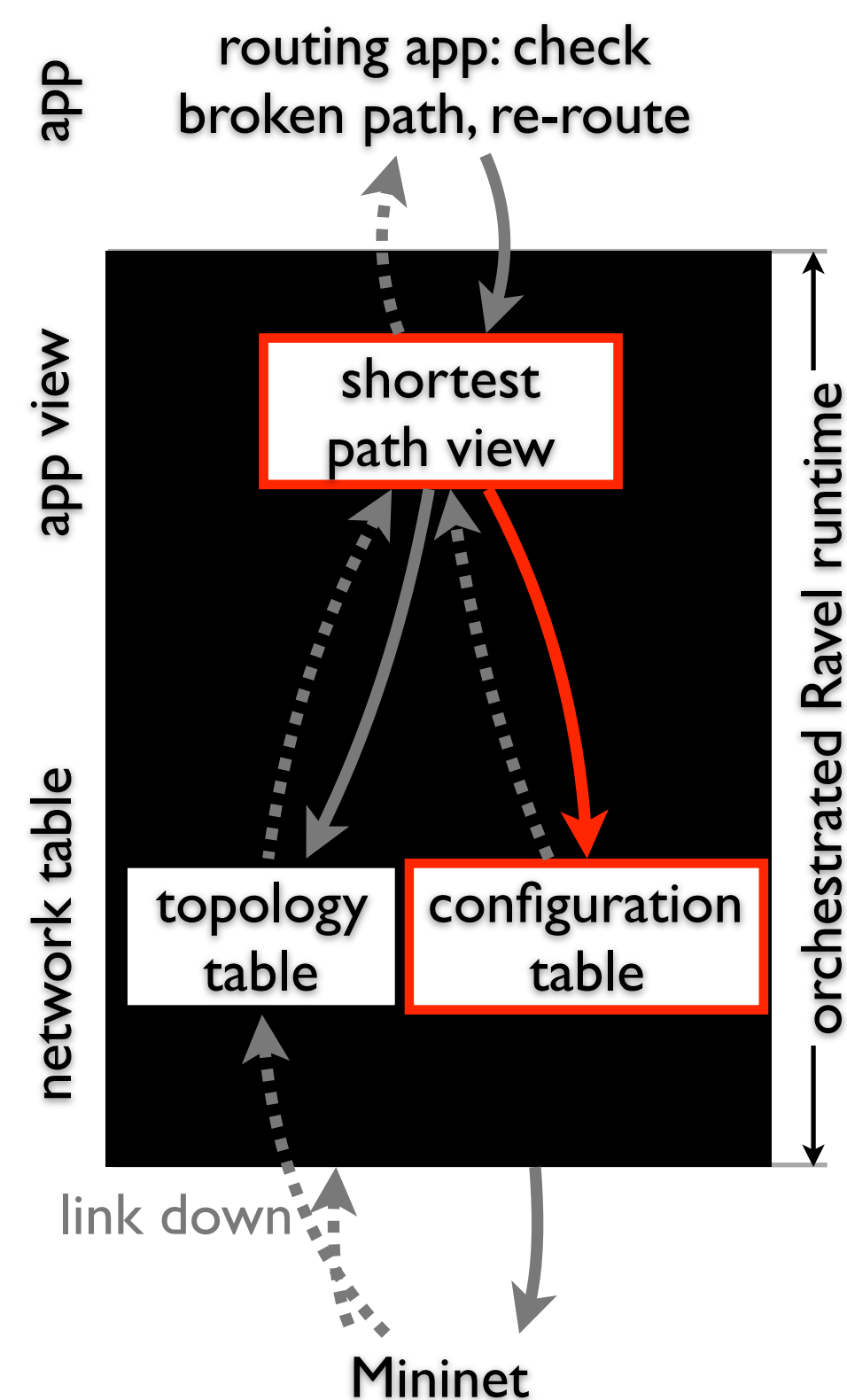
configuration		

Mininet link (172,39) down

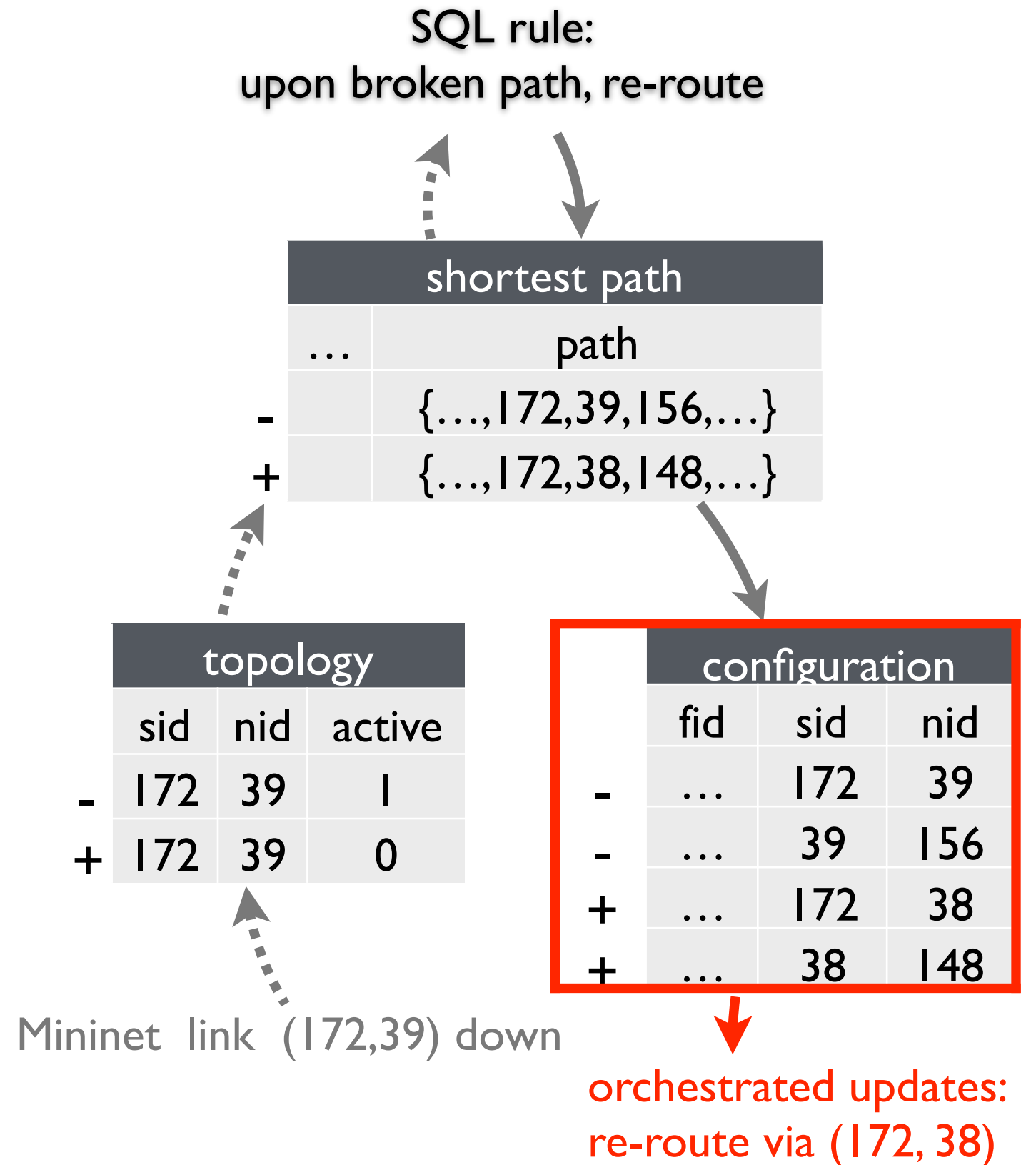
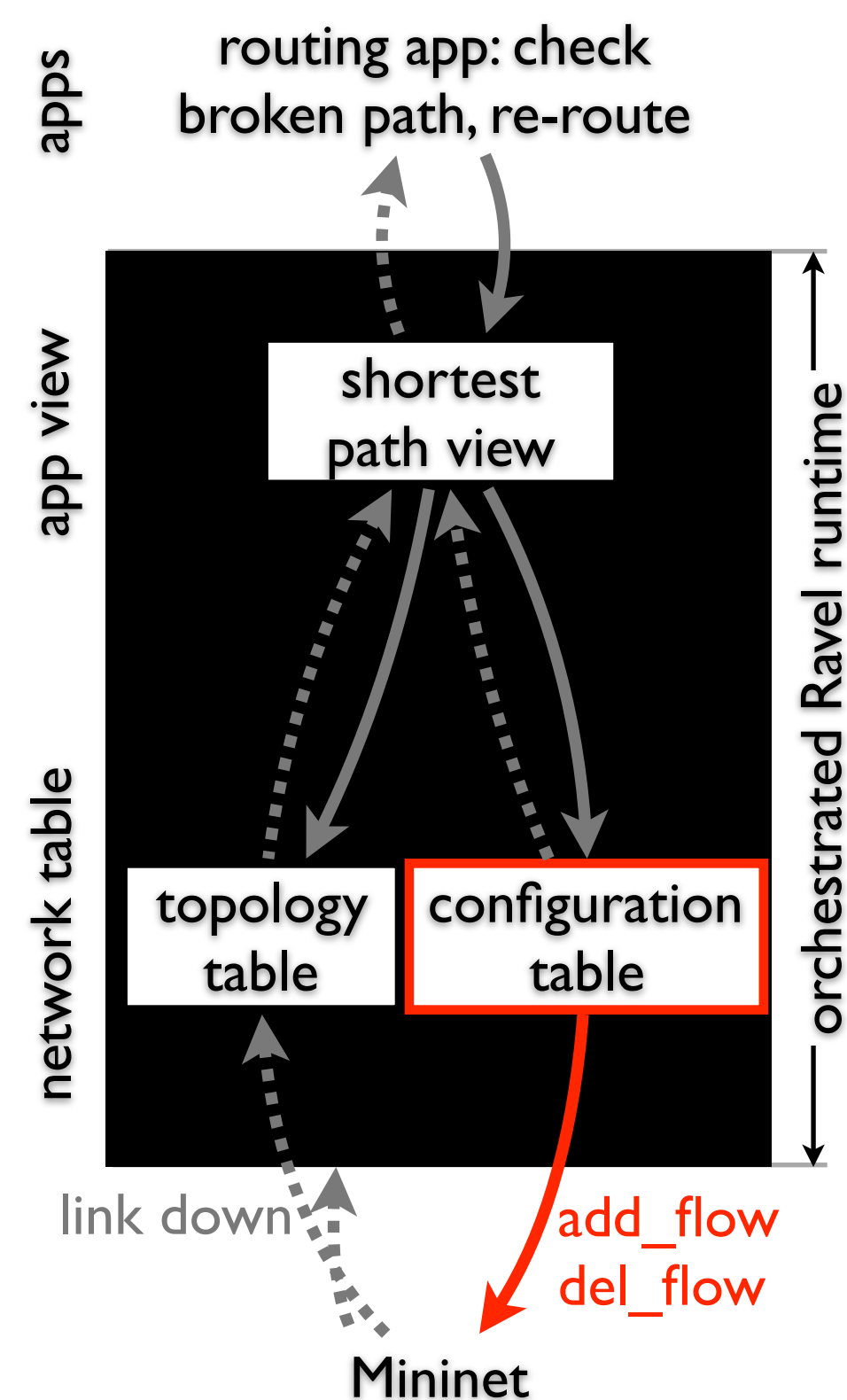
orchestration across representations



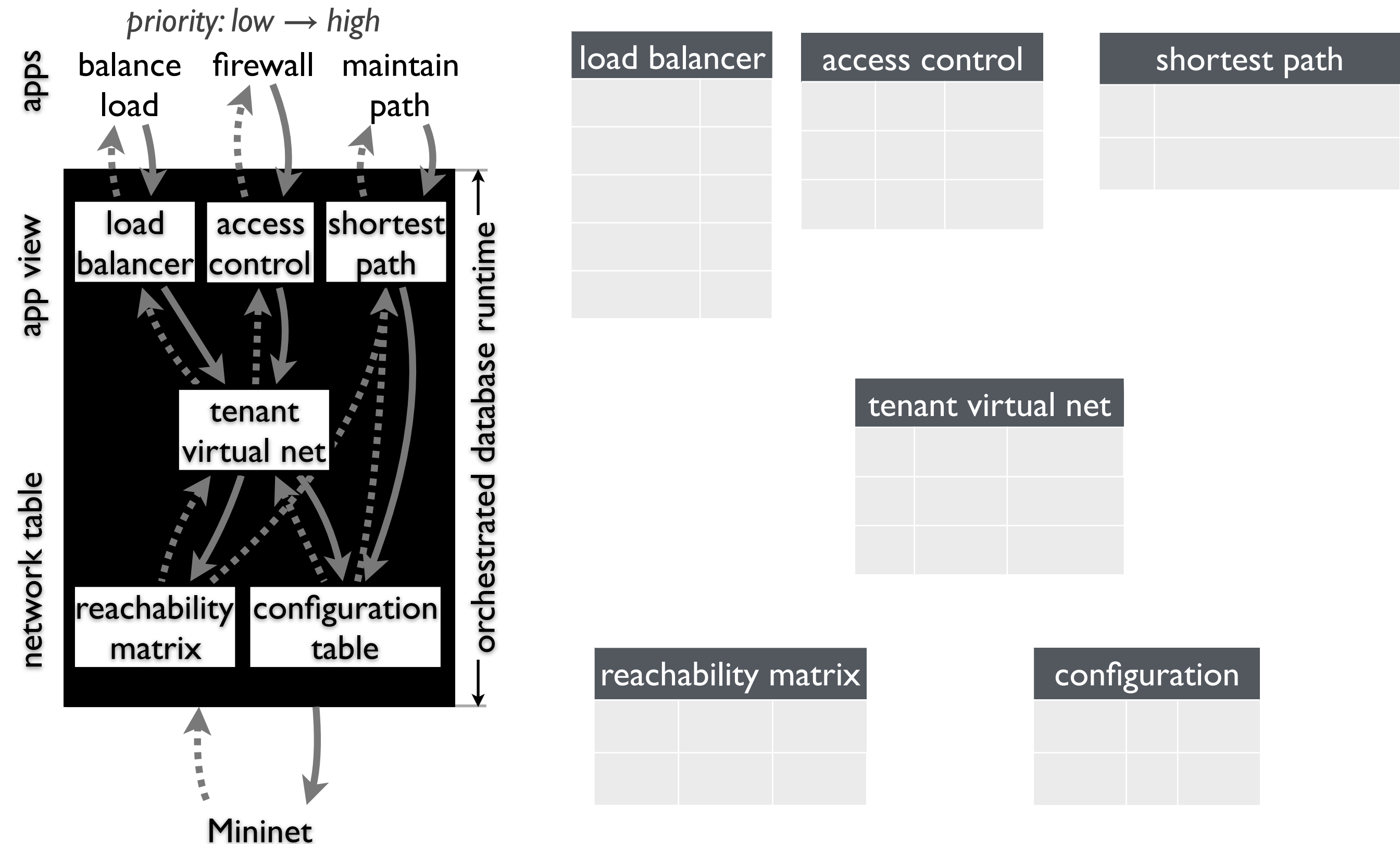
orchestration across representations



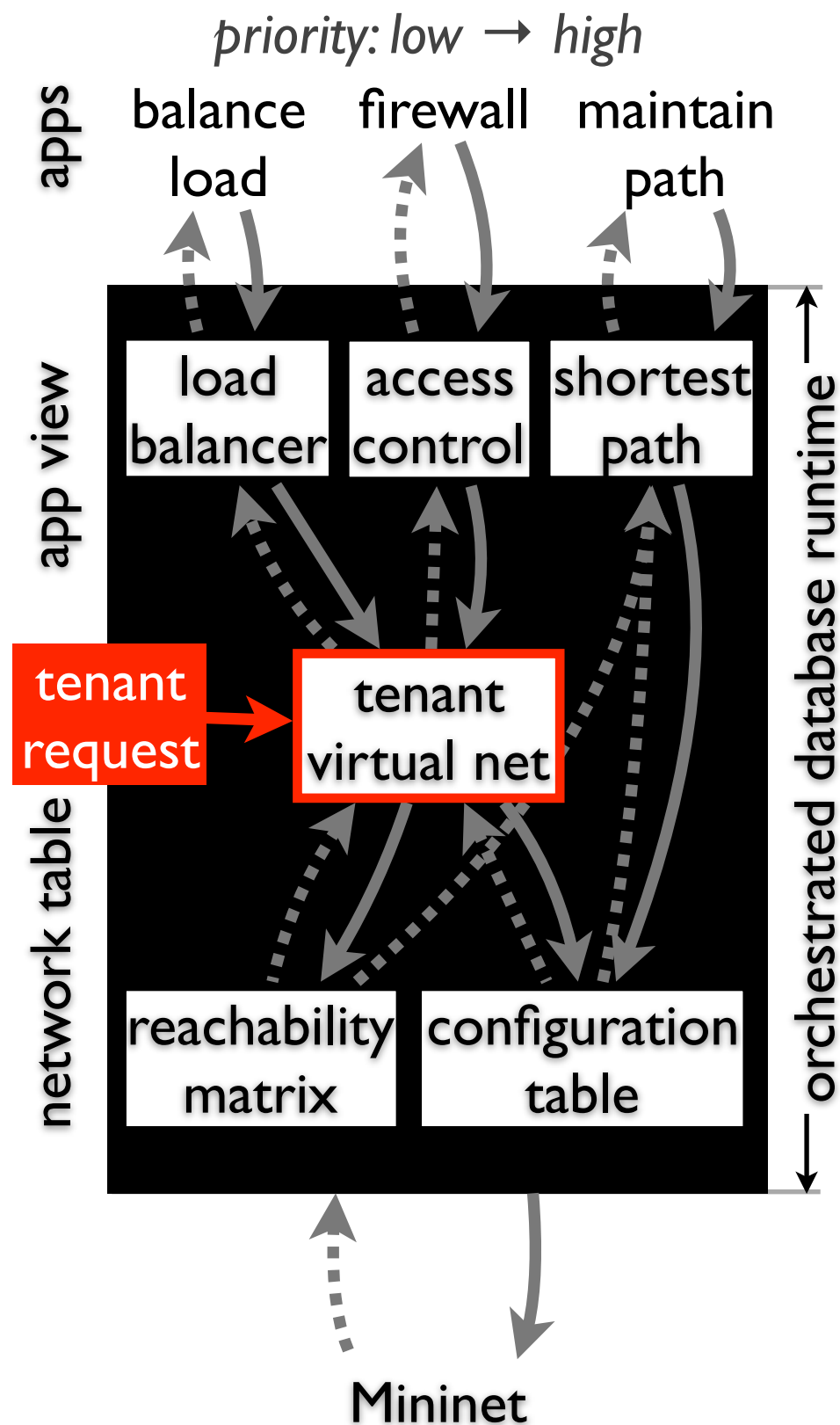
orchestration across representations



orchestration across applications



orchestration across applications



load balancer	

access control		

shortest path	

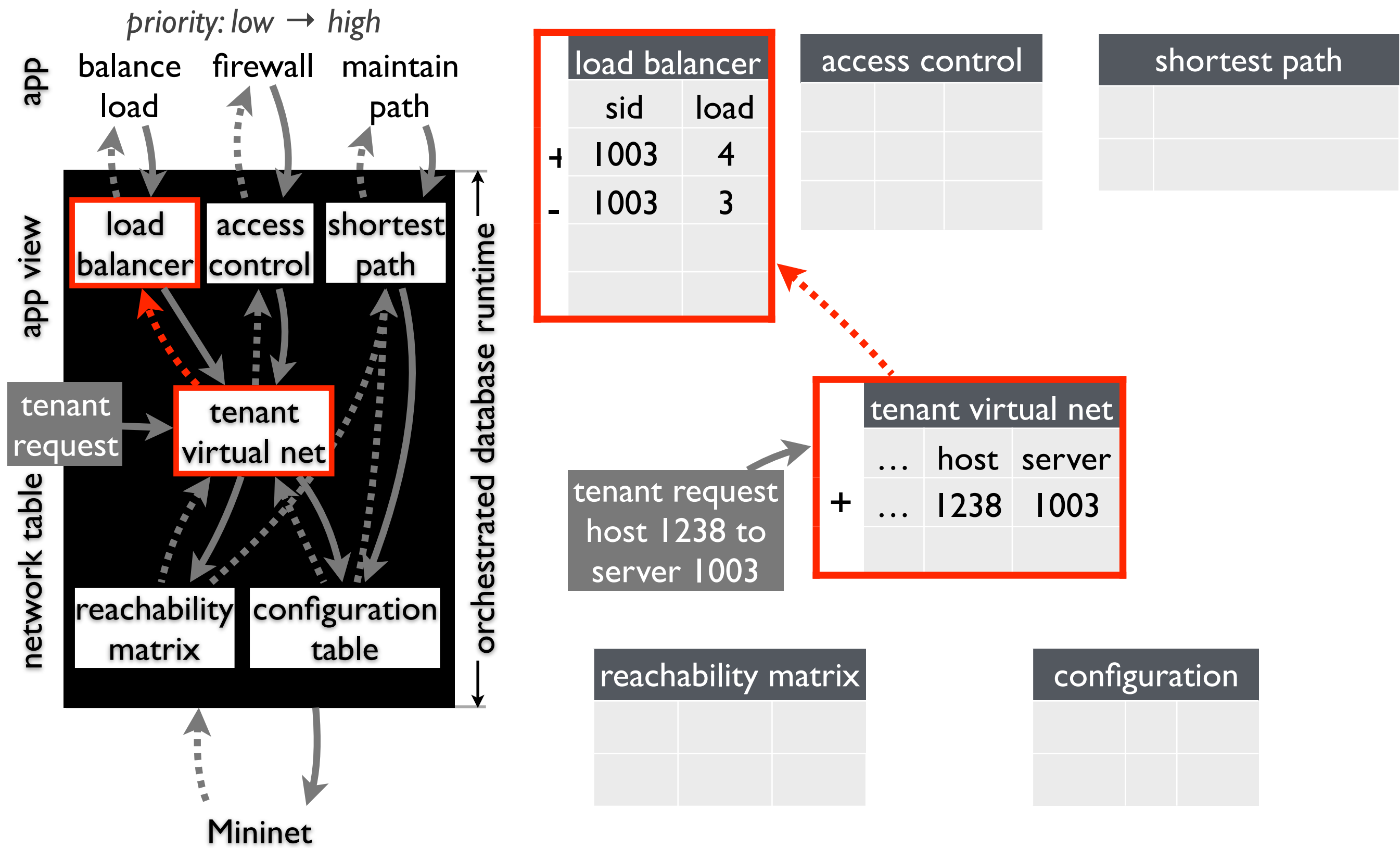
tenant request
host 1238 to
server 1003

tenant virtual net		
...	host	server
+	...	1238 1003

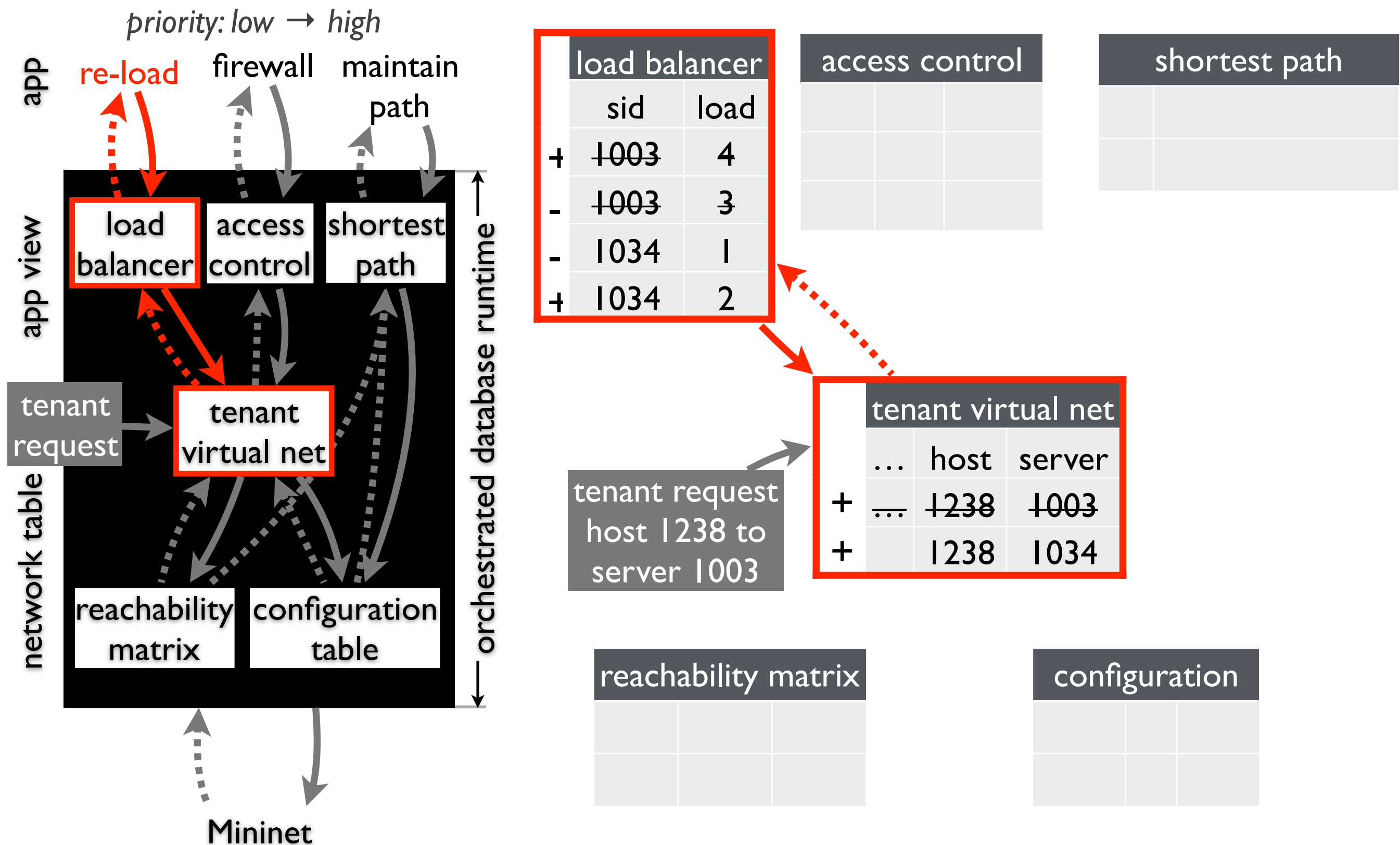
reachability matrix		

configuration		

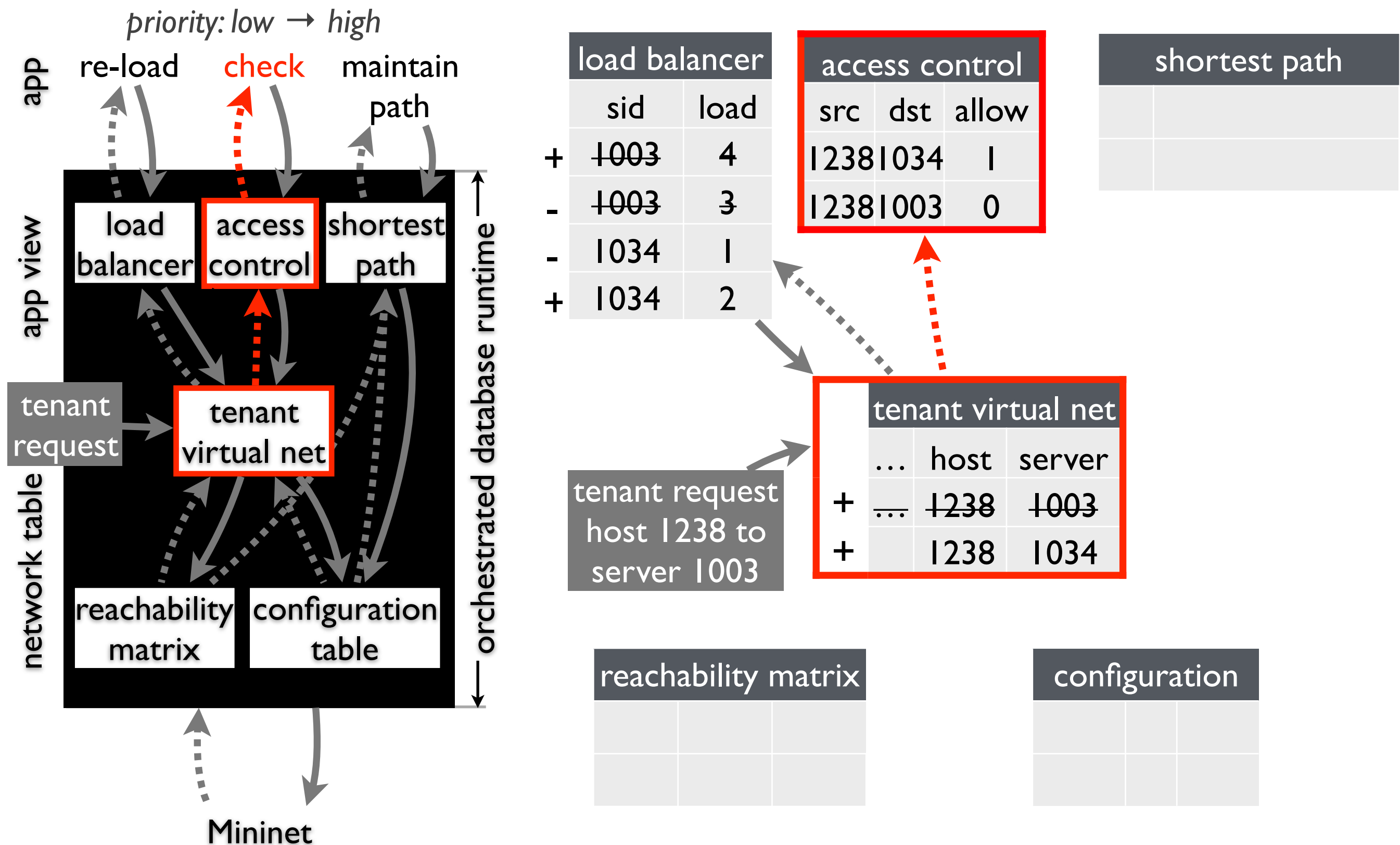
orchestration across applications



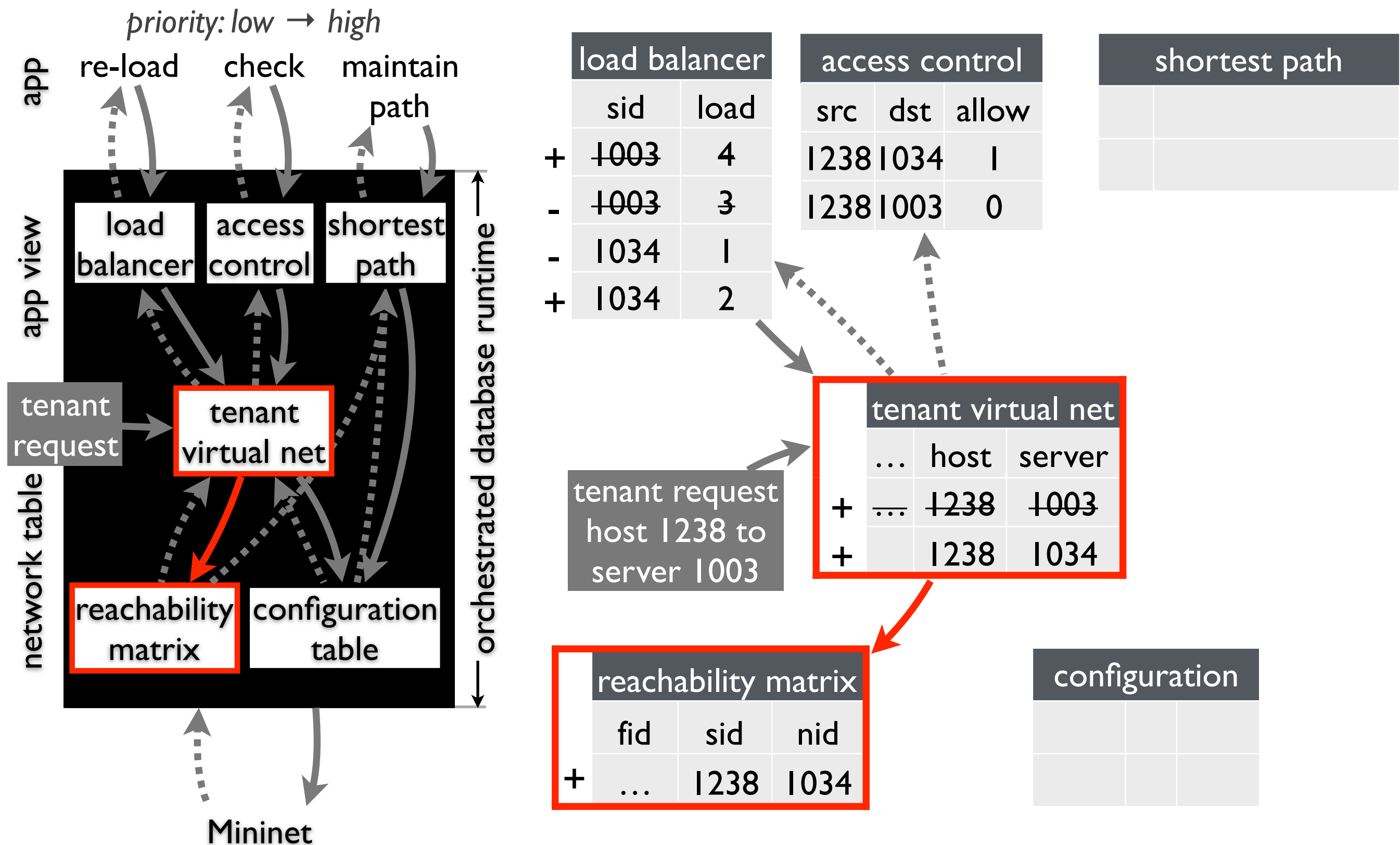
orchestration across applications



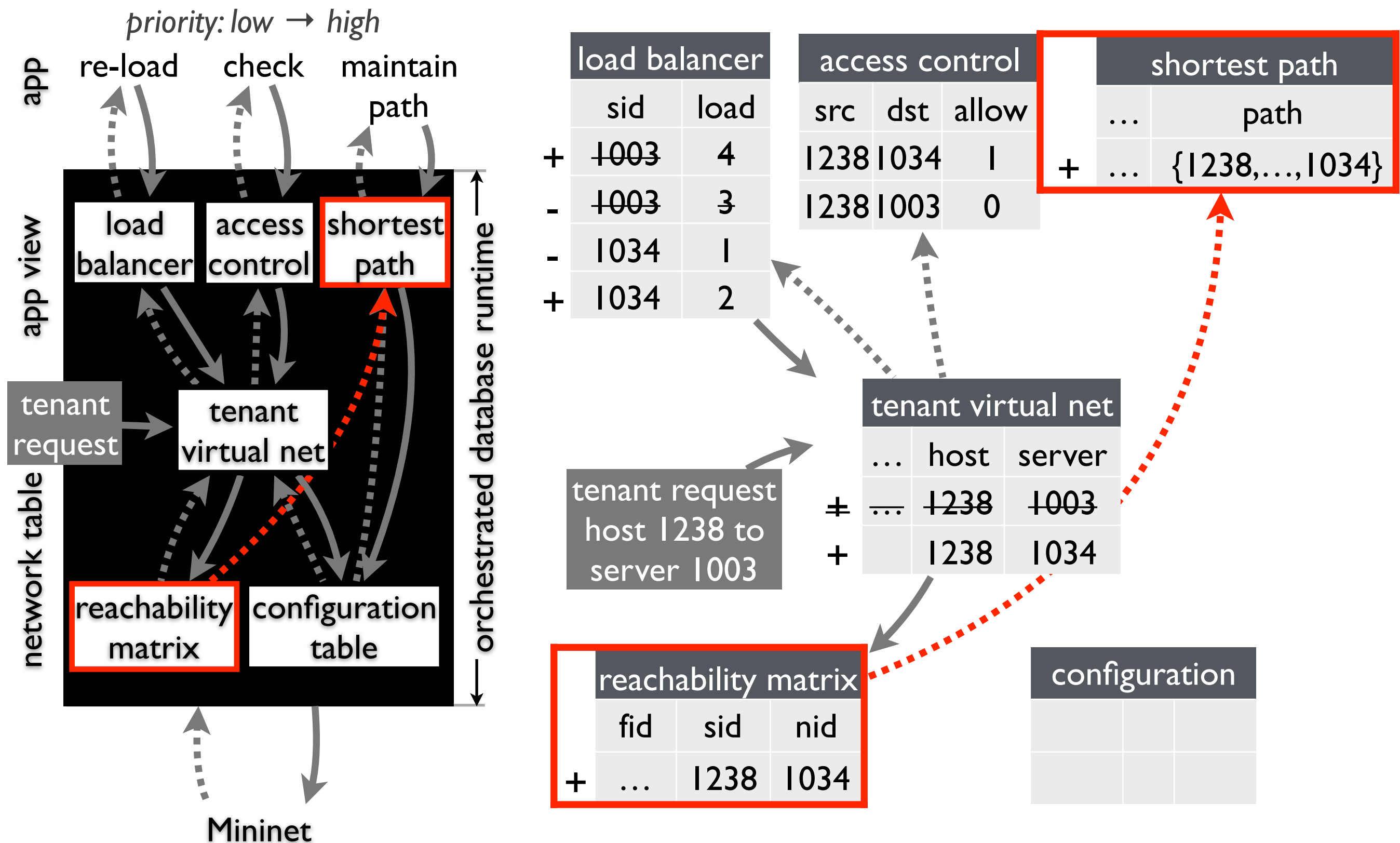
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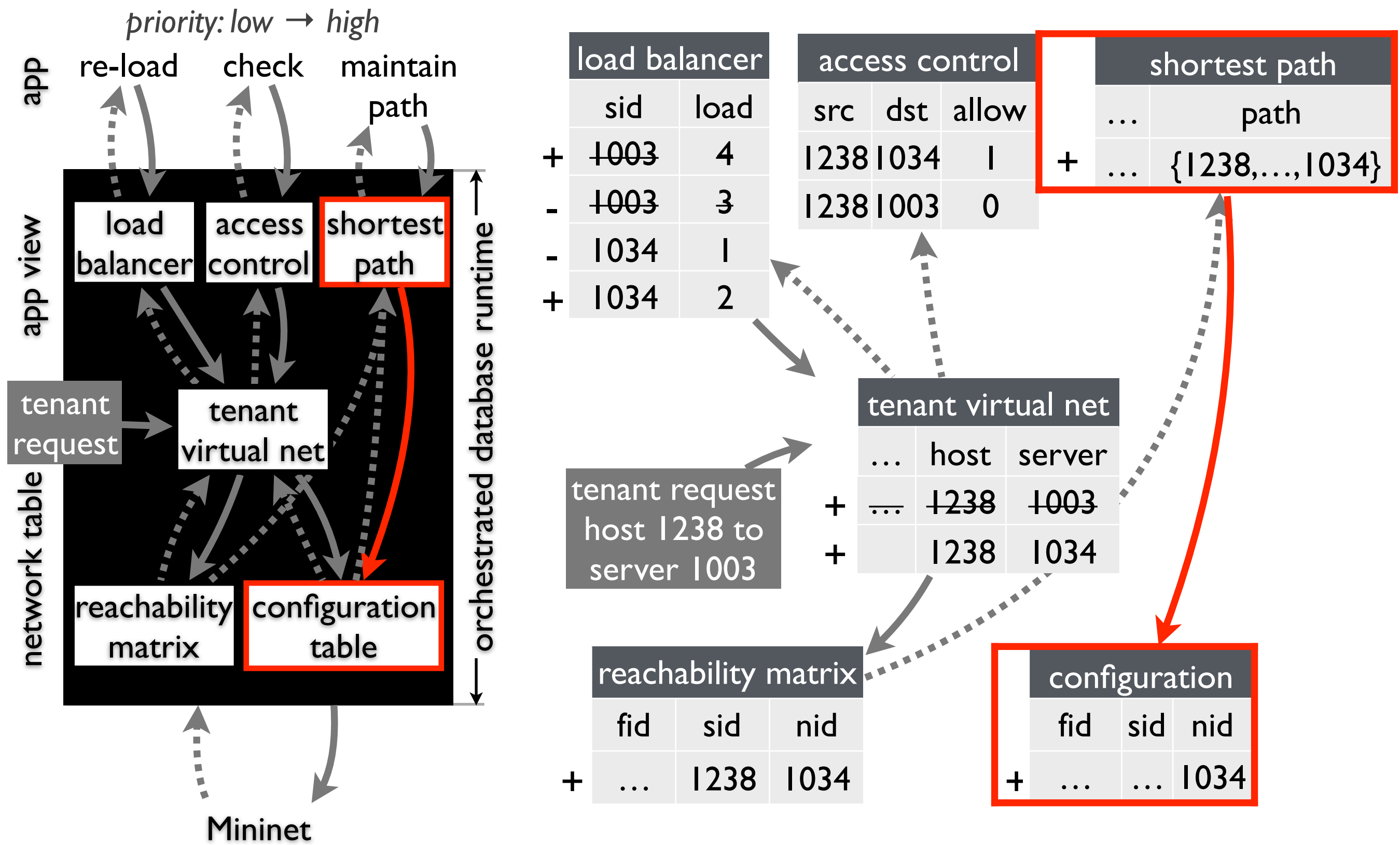
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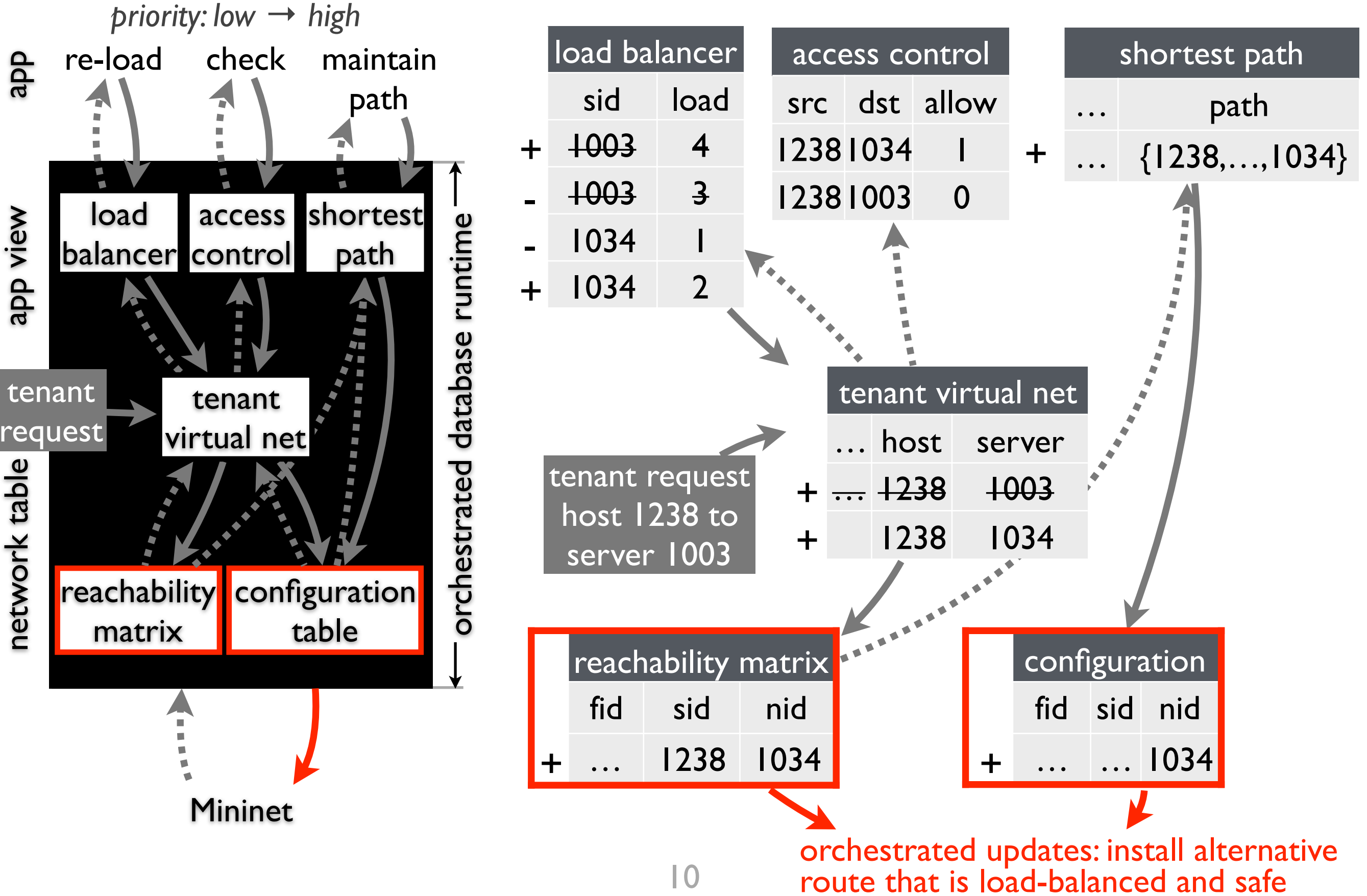
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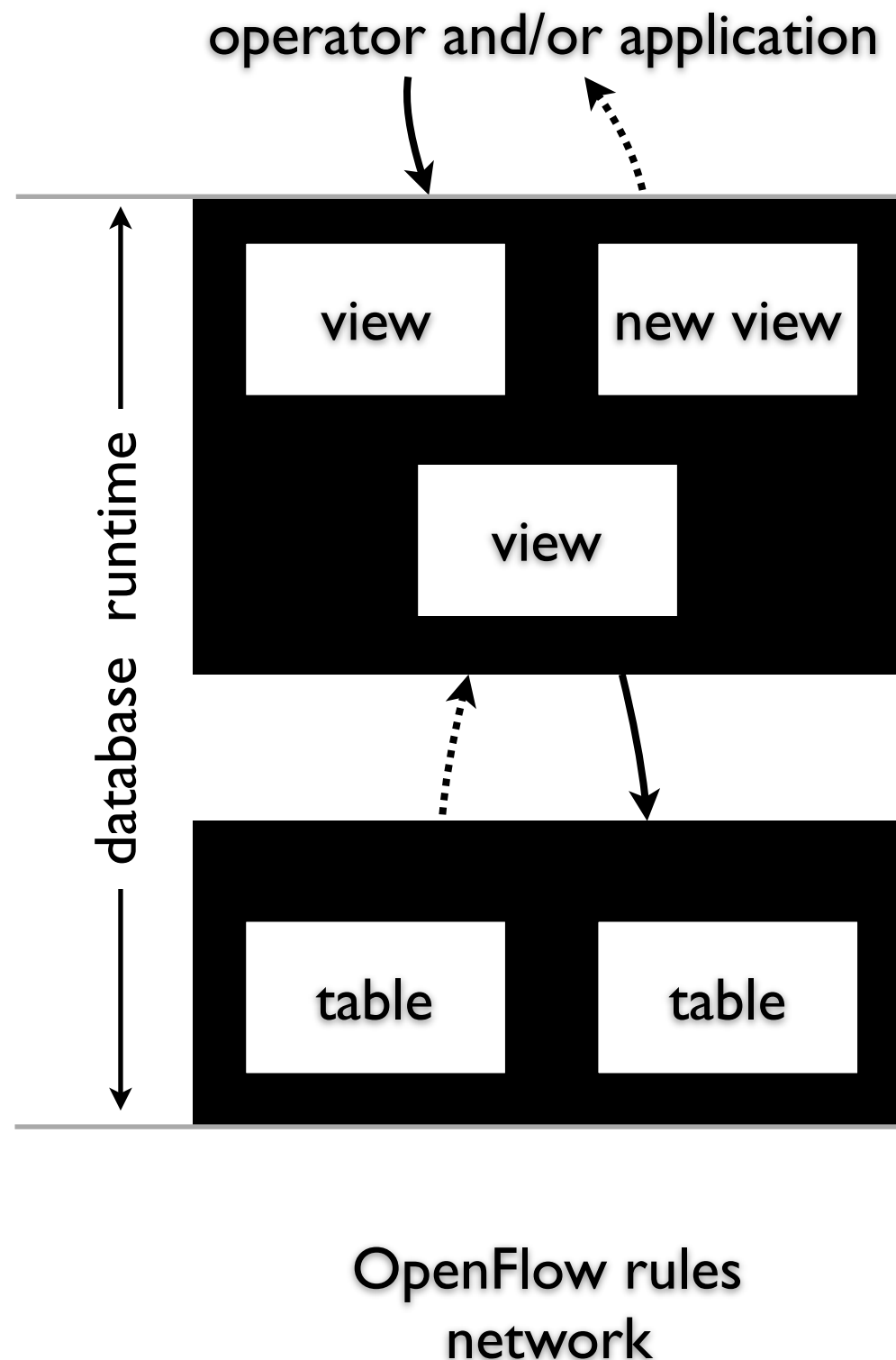
orchestration across applications



orchestration across applications



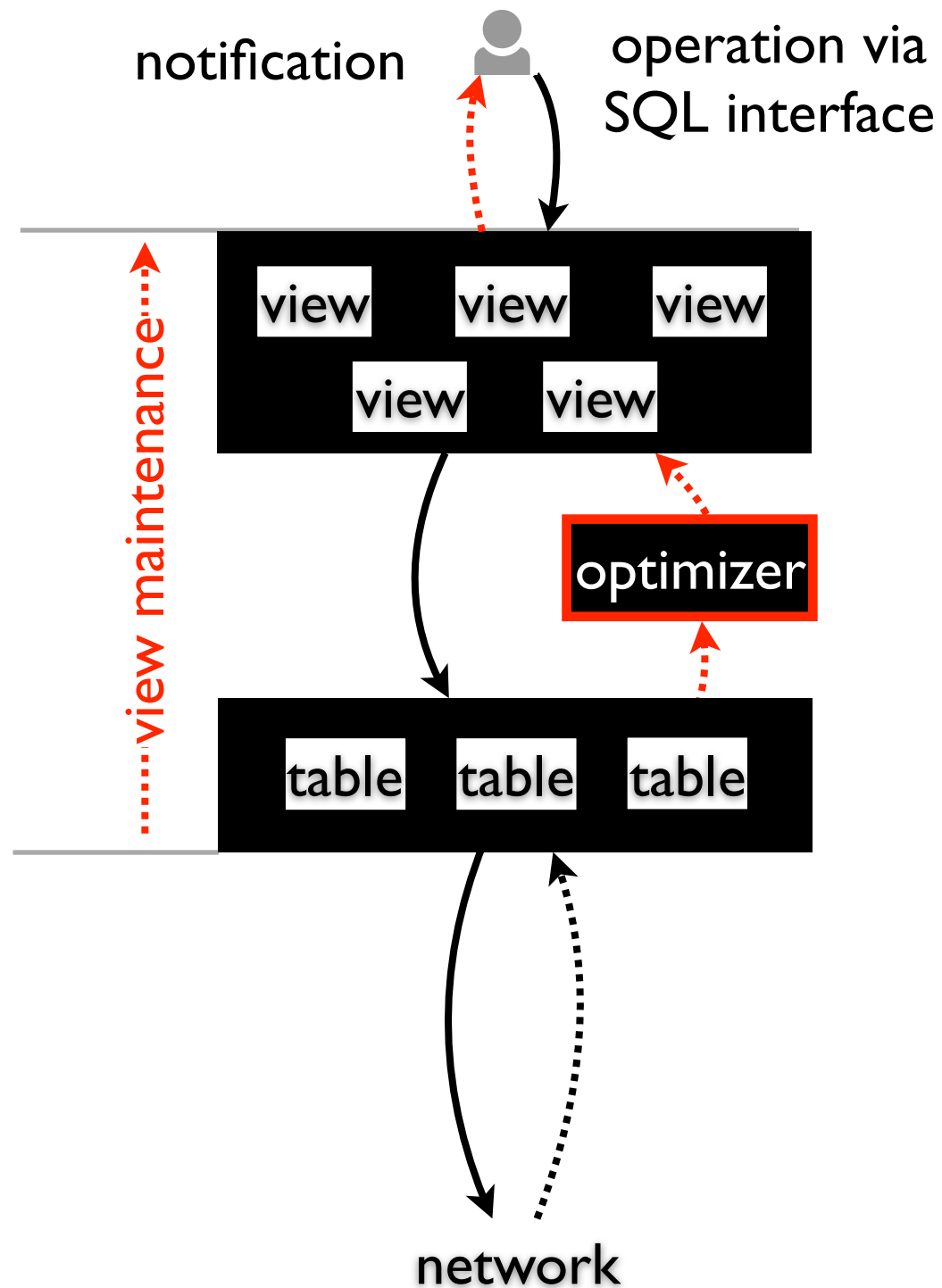
achieving *Ravel* advantages



attractive features

- ad-hoc programmable abstraction via views
- orchestration across abstractions via view mechanism
- orchestration across applications via data mediation
- network control via SQL

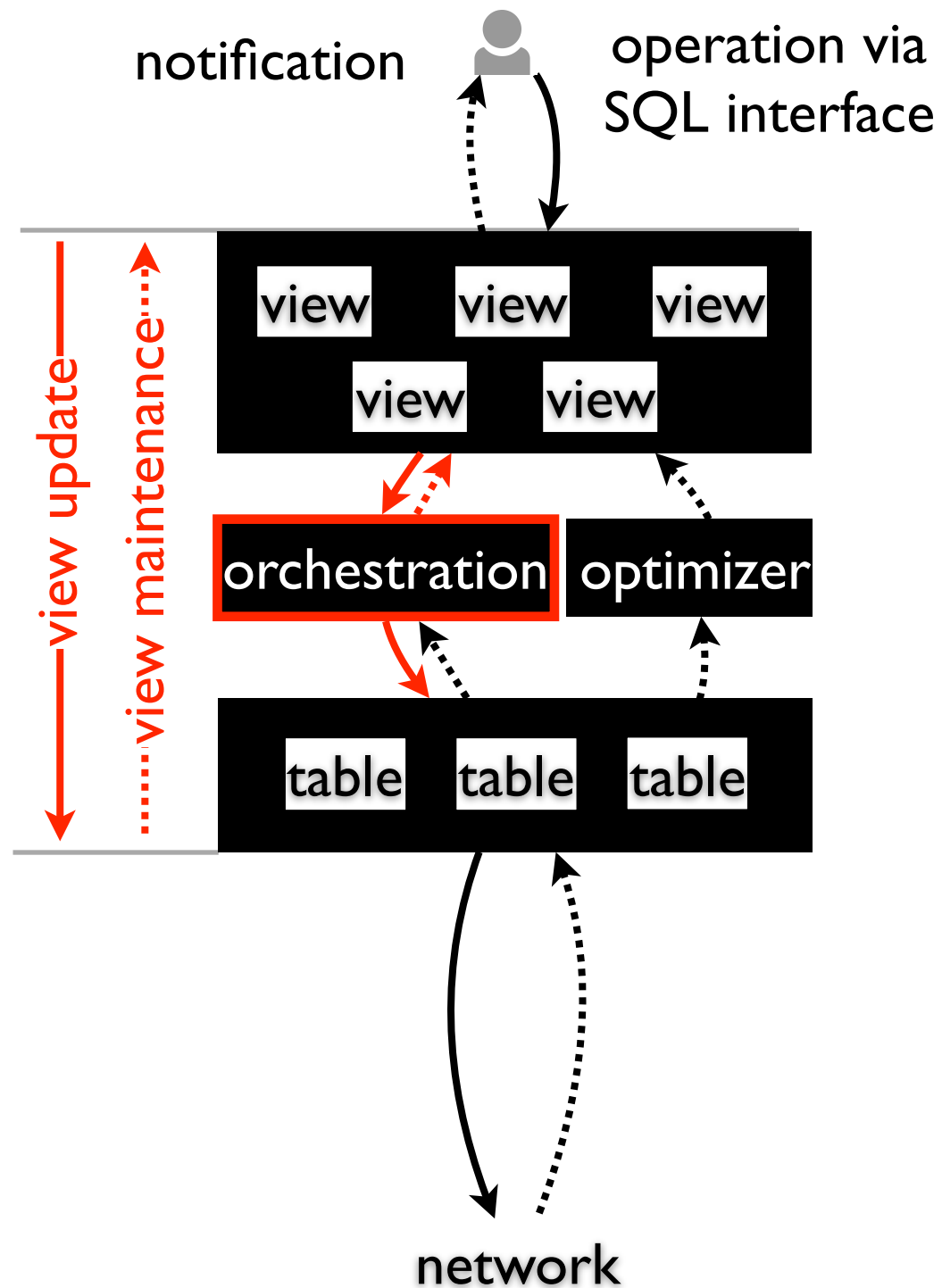
runtime



ad-hoc programmable abstraction via views

- challenge: inefficient user view
- solution: optimizer
 - materialize user view with fast maintenance algorithm
 - one order of magnitude faster access with small maintenance overhead — 0.01~10ms

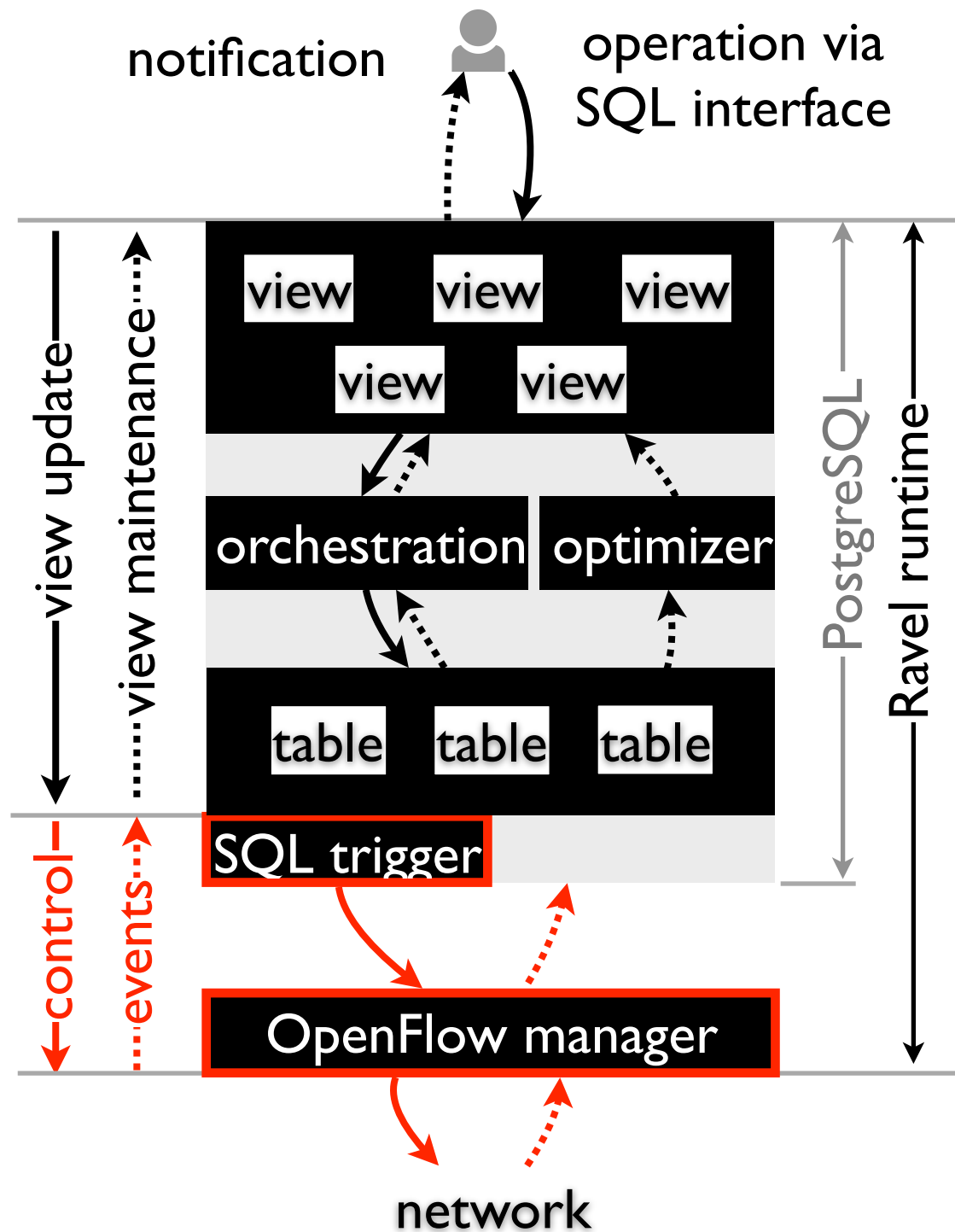
runtime



orchestration across applications

- challenge: database lacking inter-view support
- solution: mediation protocol
 - translate app priority into view updates that dynamically merge into a coherent data plane

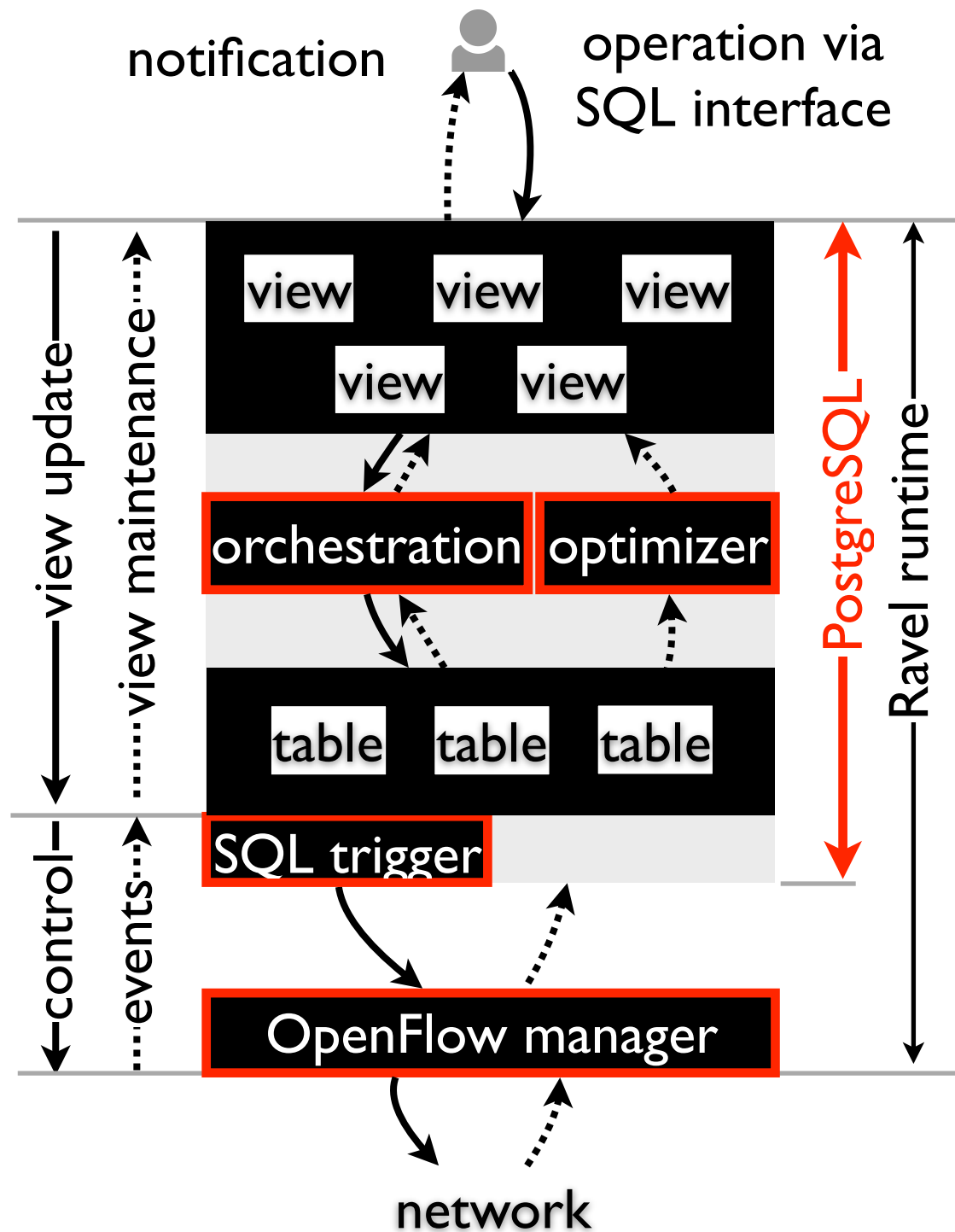
runtime



SDN control via SQL

- challenge: database lacks connection to network data plane
- solution: SQL trigger + OF manager

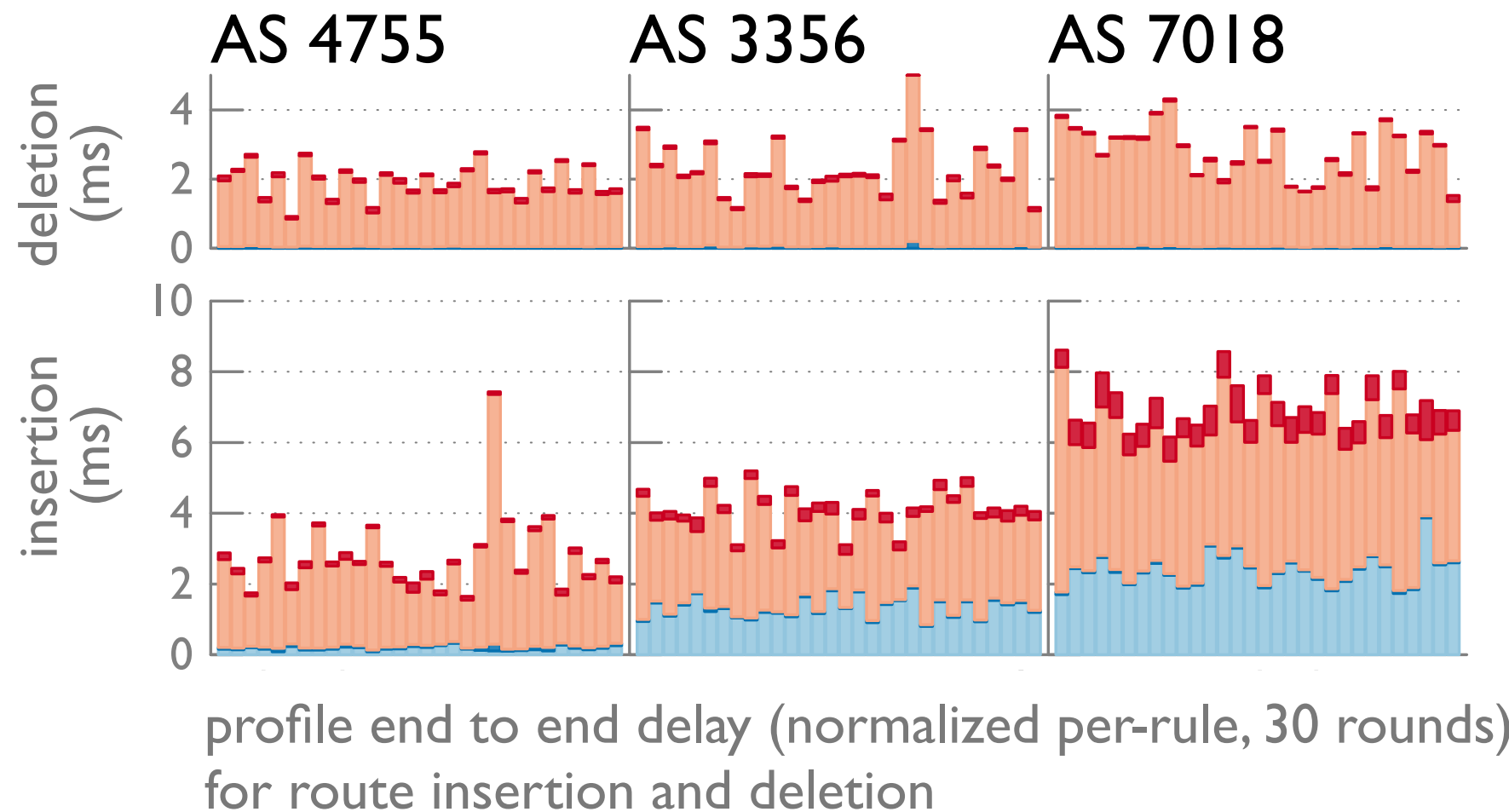
runtime



a high-performance runtime

- PostgreSQL
- orchestration
- optimizer
- SQL trigger and OF manager

evaluation

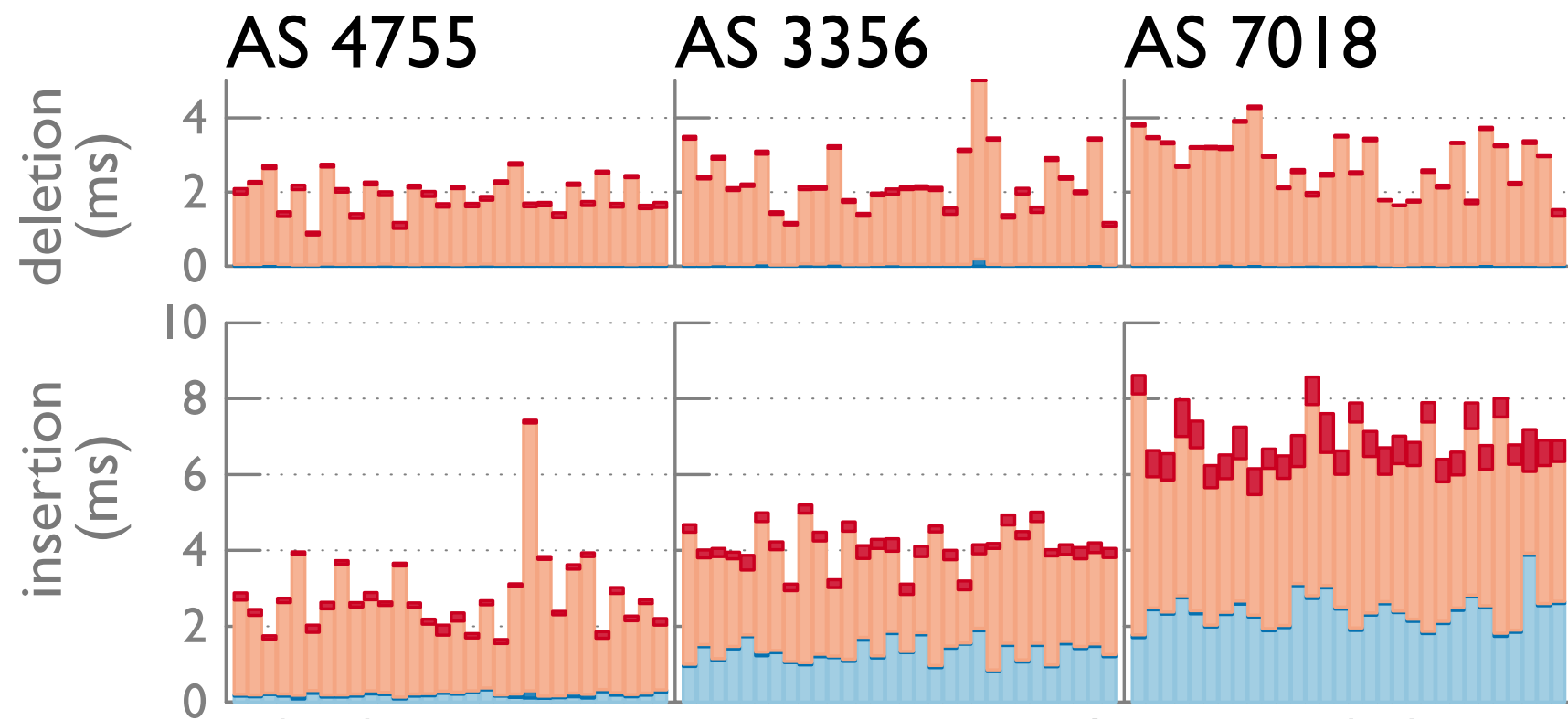


Rocketfuel ISP topology

AS#	nodes	links
4755	142	258
3356	1772	13640
7018	25382	11292

compute path
lookup ports
write to table
trigger/rule

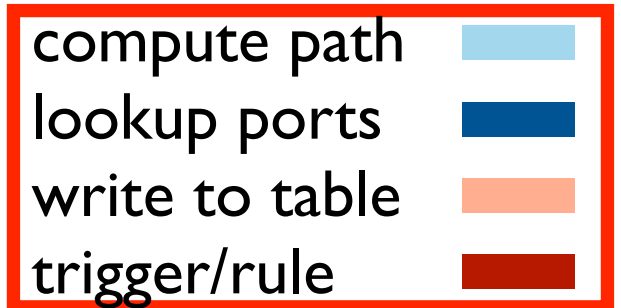
evaluation



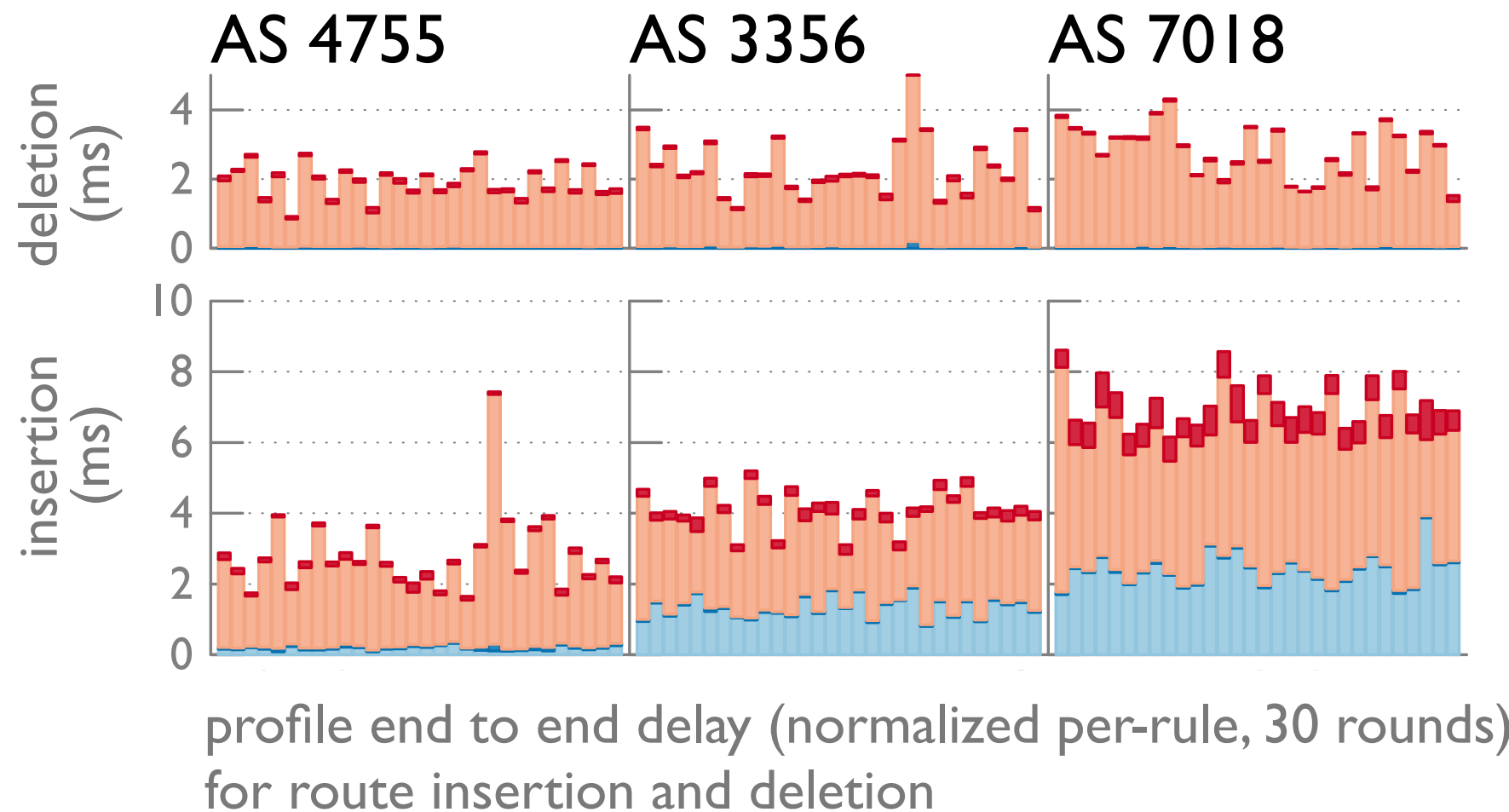
profile end to end delay (normalized per-rule, 30 rounds)
for route insertion and deletion

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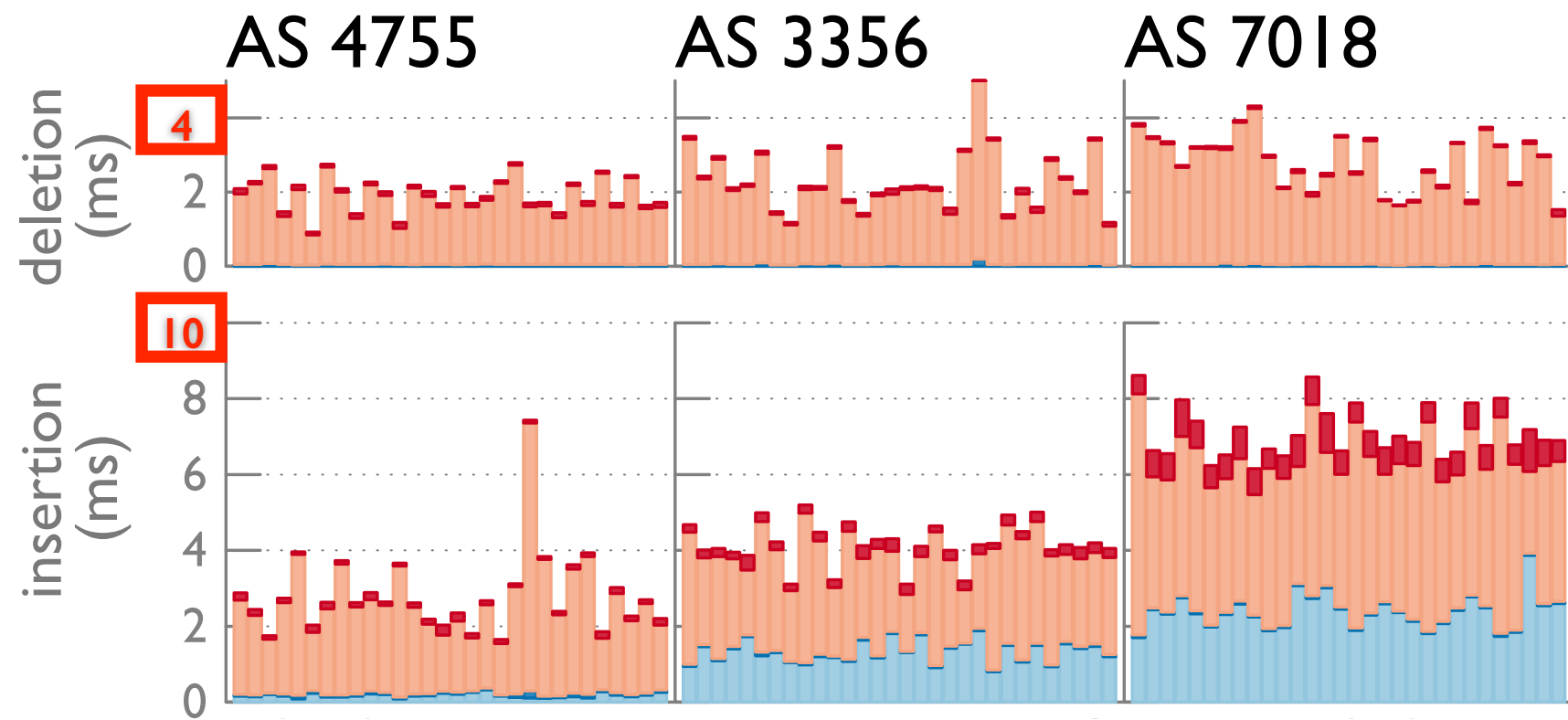


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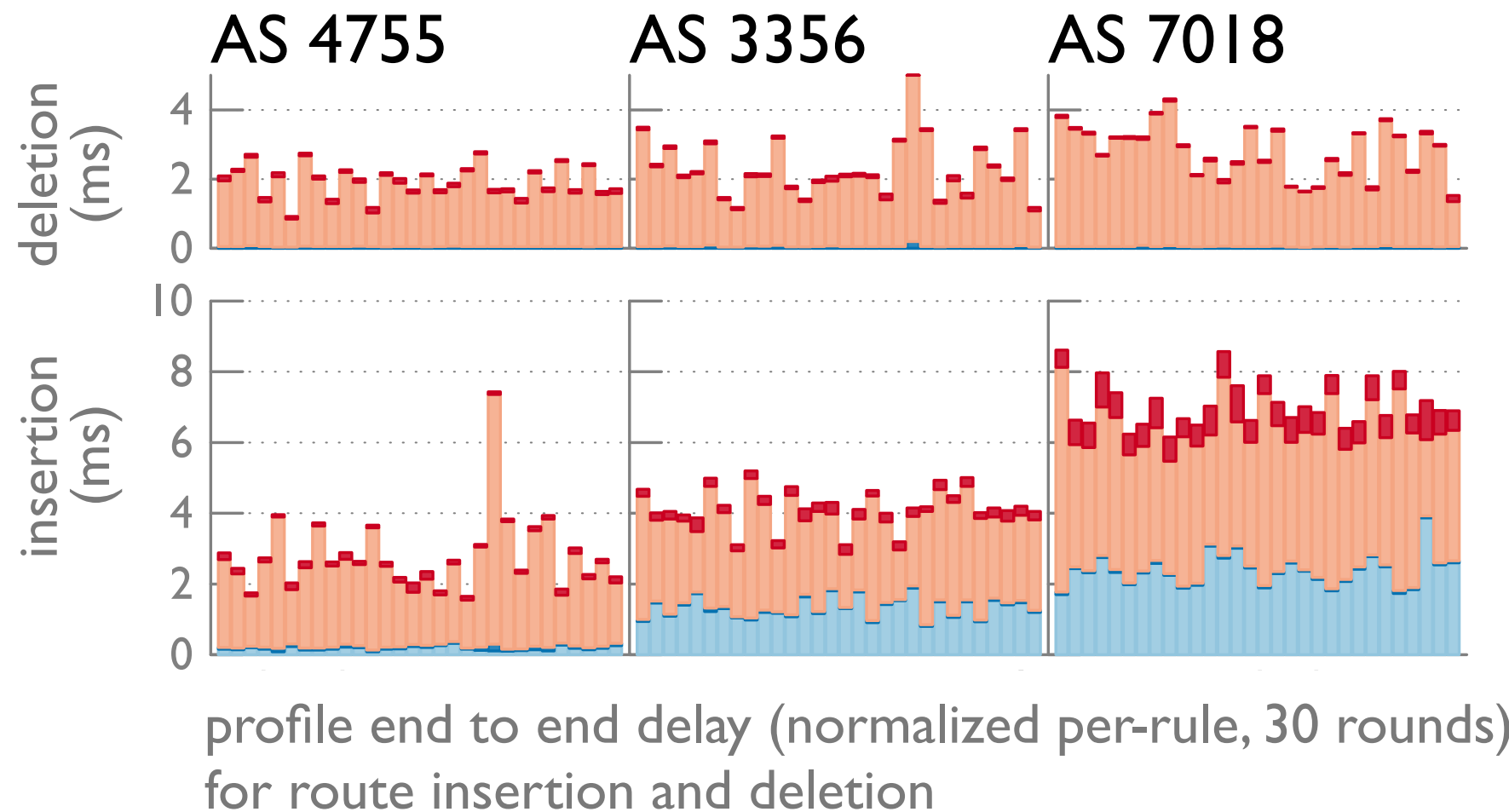
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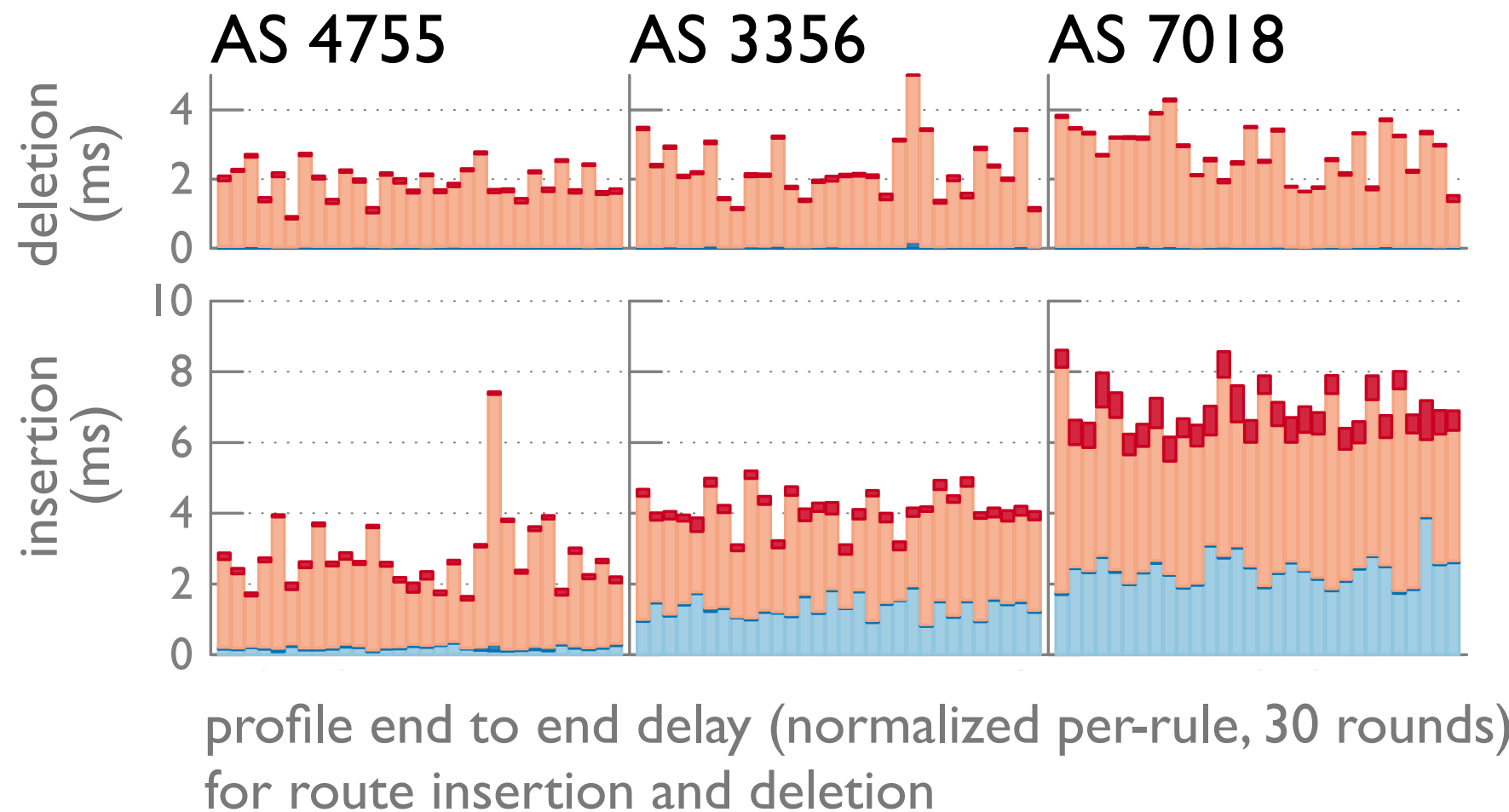


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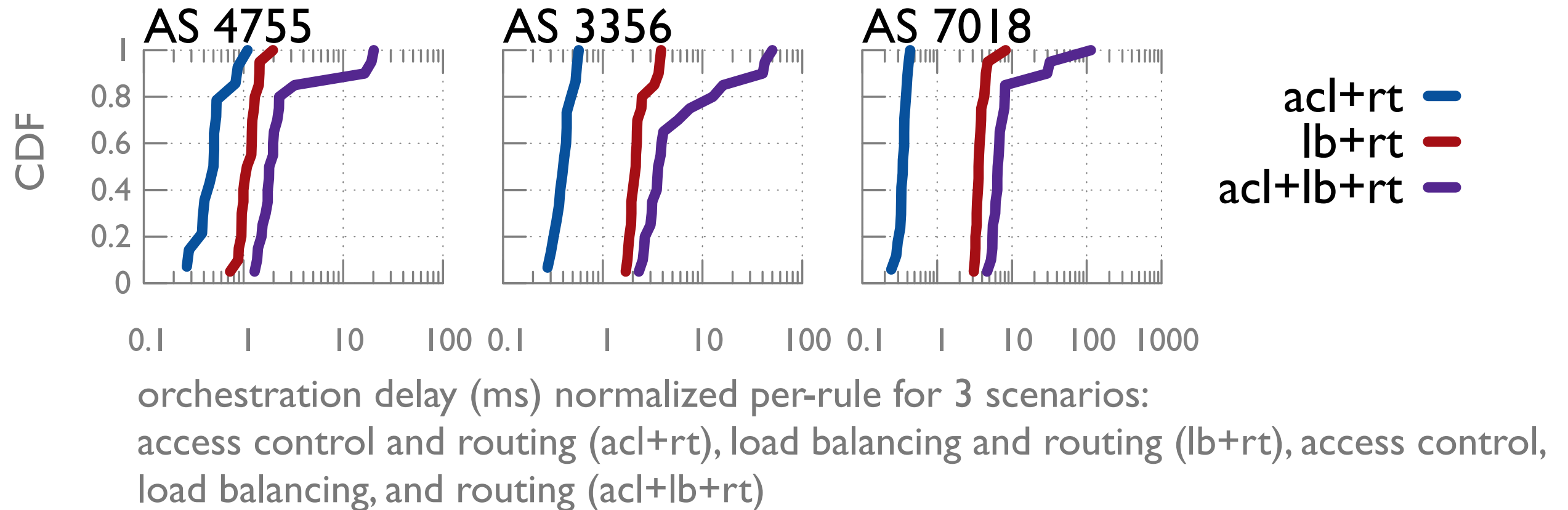
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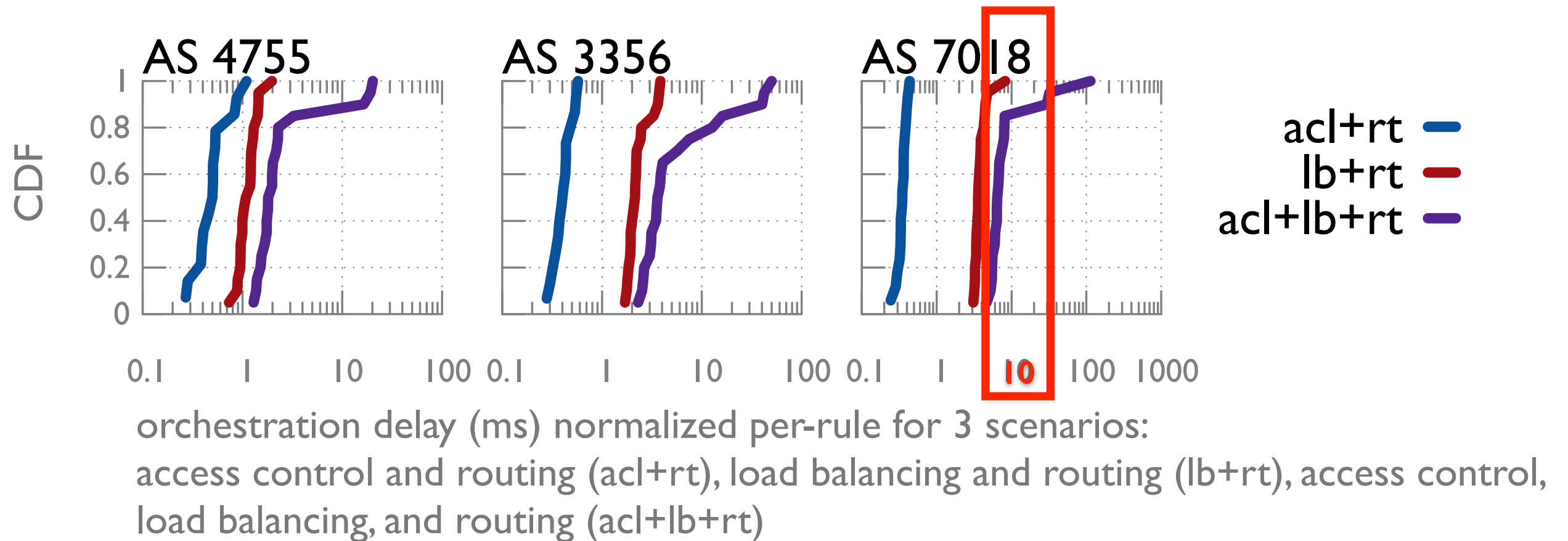
similar profile on fat-tree topology (fewer nodes, more links)

- total delay < 30ms for fat-tree with 5120 switches and 196608 links

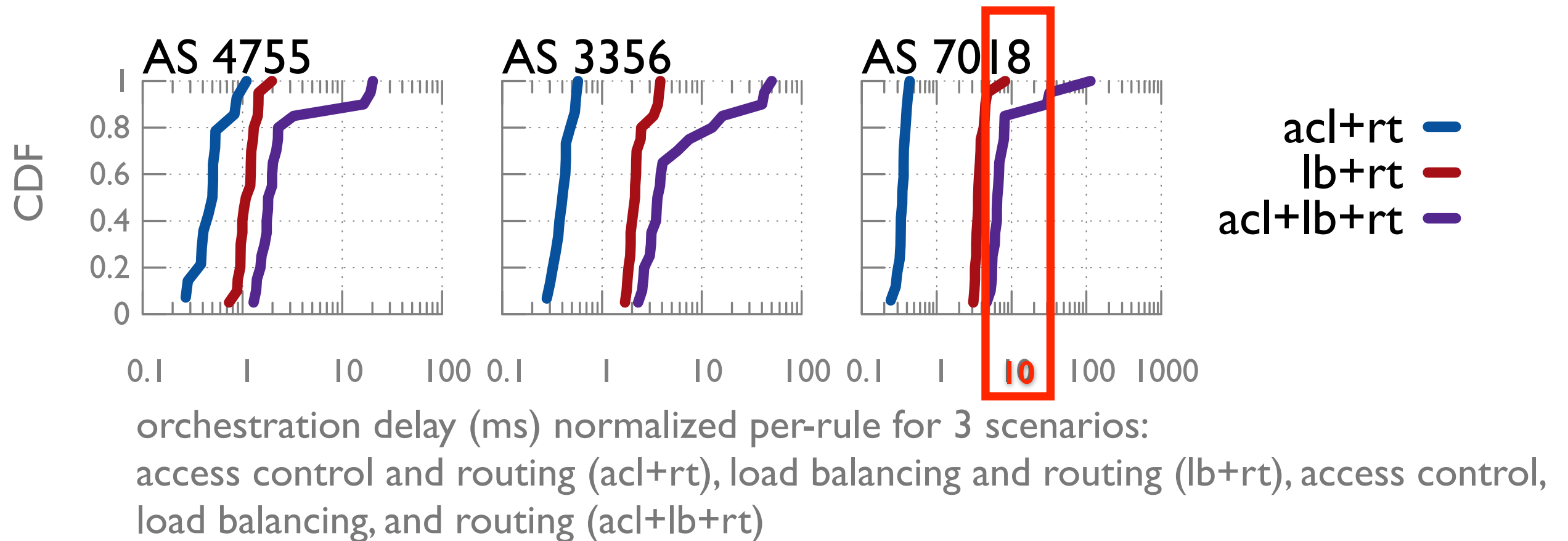
evaluation



evaluation



evaluation



orchestration also scales gracefully on fat-tree

- < 30ms for fat-tree with 5120 switches and 196608 links

demo



demo



towards a secure Ravel

improper modification of data

- unauthorized modification
- one-directional information flow

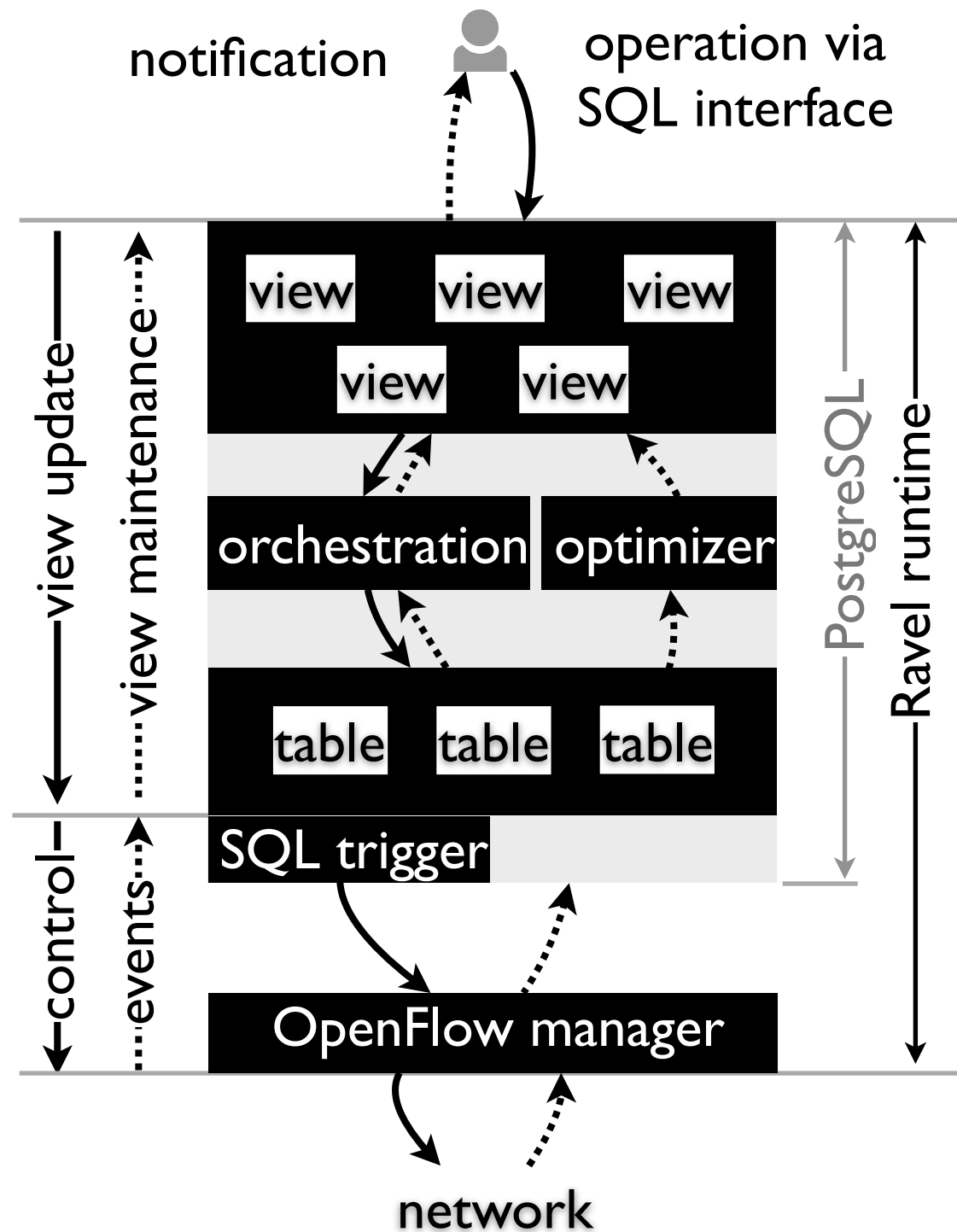
towards a secure Ravel

expectation of data quality

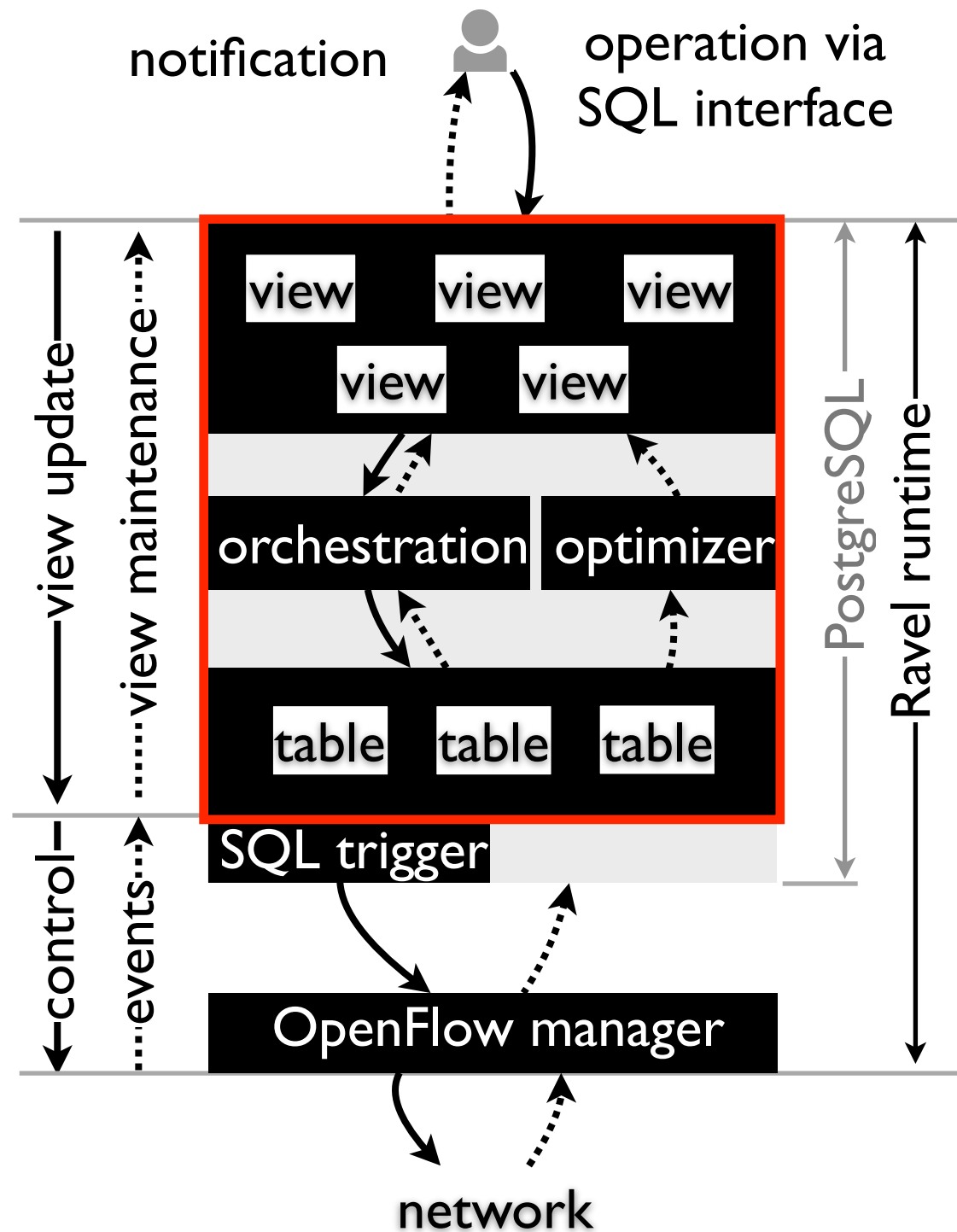
improper medication of data

- unauthorized modification — access control (ACL)
- one-directional information flow

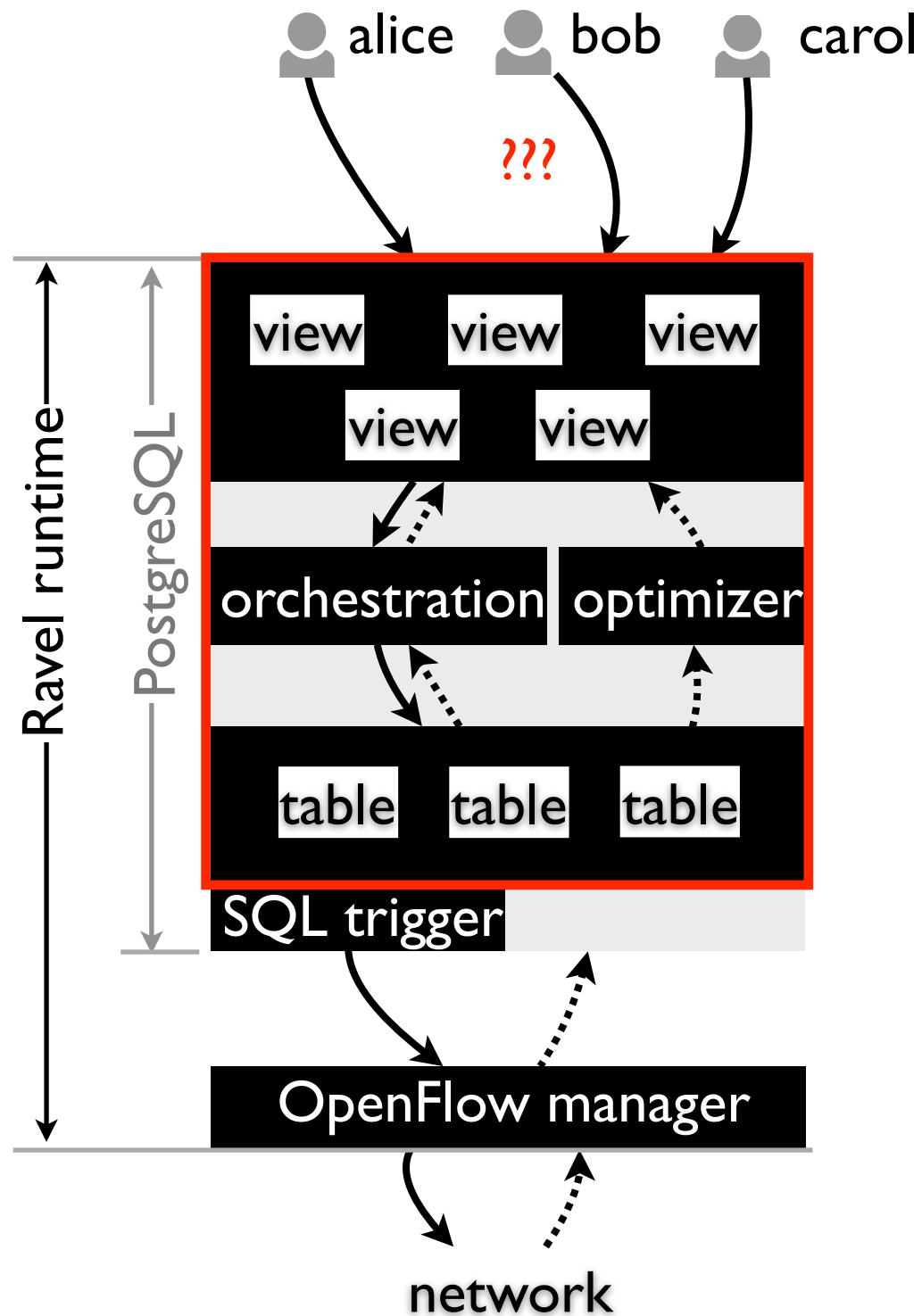
ACL in Ravel



ACL in Ravel



ACL in Ravel



example scenario

a SDN network and multiple tenants

- admin can see/modify all resources, see/modify the network
- tenants can only see the resources they pay
- tenants can only manage their portions of network under contract

SLA (service level agreement)

tenant	switches	rate limit	connectivity
alice	{1,2,3,4}	20	{alice}
bob	{51,52,53,...}	50	{bob, alice}
carol	{100,101,...}	10	{carol, alice}

explicit access control list (ACL)

<principal, subject, operation>

ACL on topology

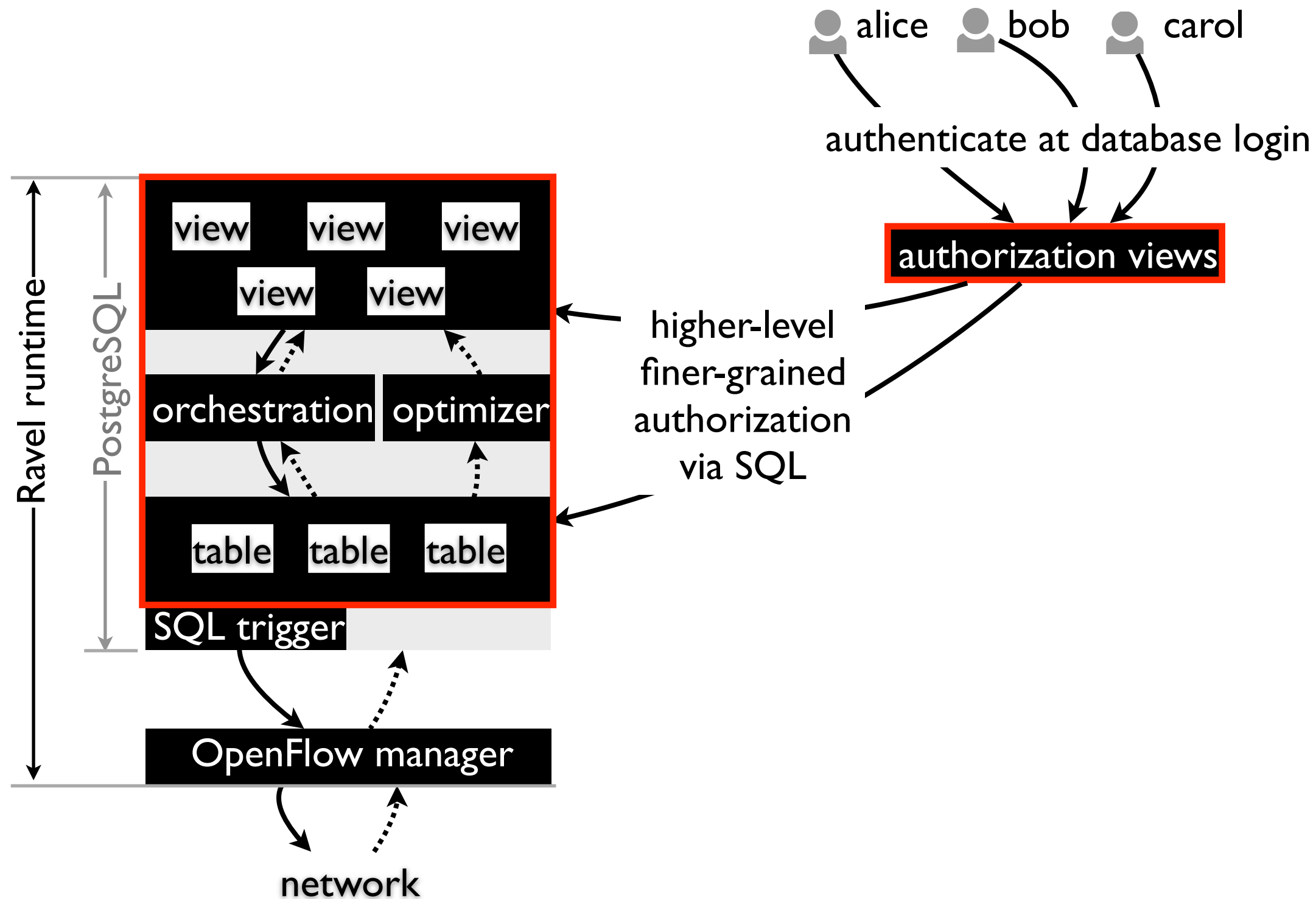
users	switches	privilege
alice	1	read
alice	2	read
alice	...	read
bob	...	read
carol	...	read
admin	...	read,write
...

ACL on configuration

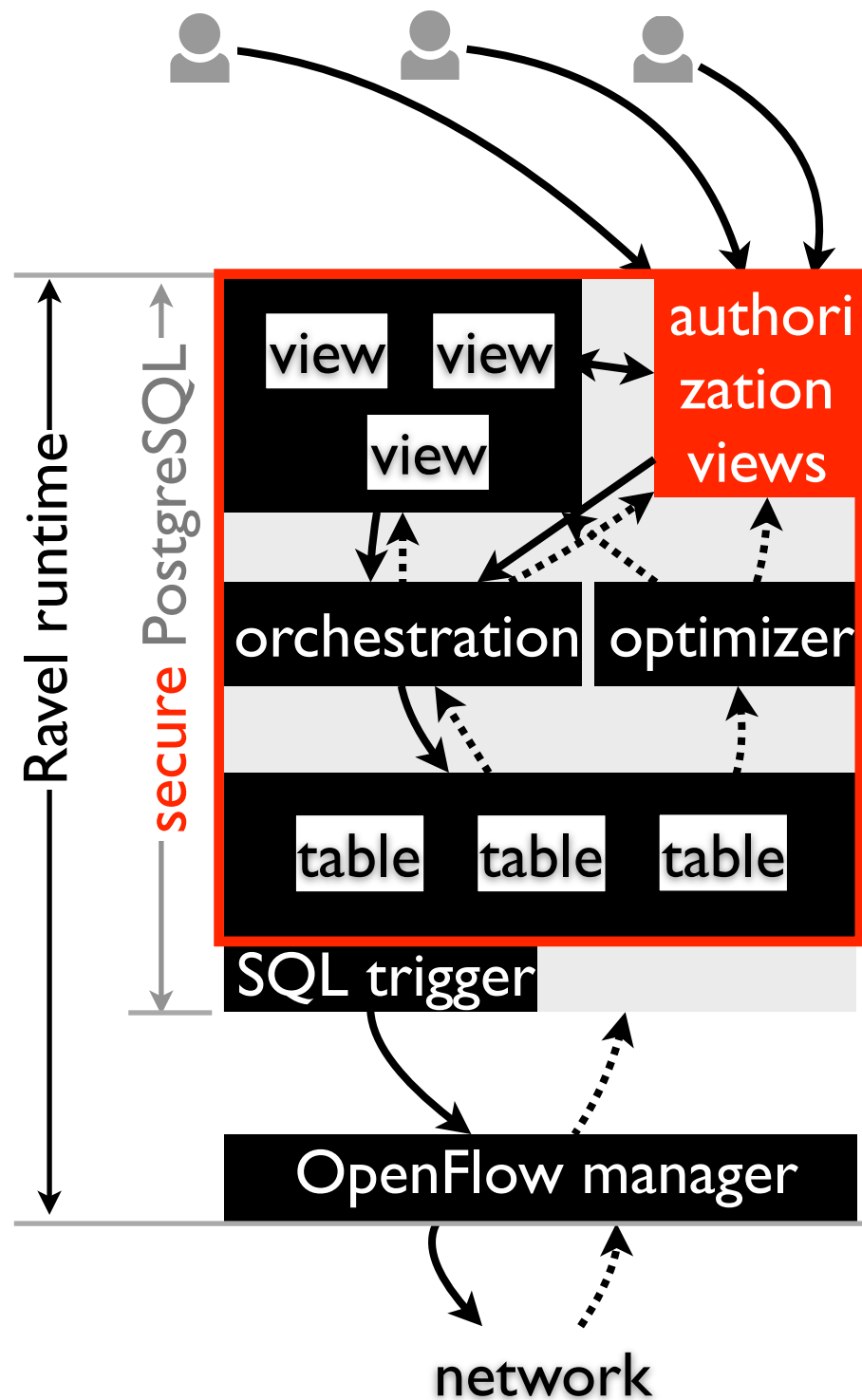
users	flows (source, destination, rate)	privilege
alice	(1,2,<20)	read,write
alice	(2,3,<20)	read,write
alice
bob
...

- very low-level
- update ACL as tenant contract evolves

ACL in Ravel



ACL in Ravel



authorization views: a strawman solution

associate each table with an ACL

- <principal, allowed operation>

create a separate view

- if only a portion of a table is granted to a principal
- benefit: dynamic, content-based

authorization views: a strawman solution

```
-- admin policy
GRANT SELECT, UPDATE, INSERT, DELETE ON topology TO admin;
GRANT SELECT, UPDATE, INSERT, DELETE ON configuration TO admin;

-- alice policy
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW topology_alice AS (
    SELECT sid, nid FROM topology
    WHERE (topology.sid = 1 OR topology.sid = 2 OR ...);

CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW configuration_alice AS (
    SELECT fid, sid, nid FROM configuration
    WHERE ((topology.sid = 1 AND topology.nid = 2) OR
           (topology.sid = 1 AND topology.nid = 2) OR ...) AND
           rate < 20);

GRANT SELECT ON topology_alice TO alice;
GRANT SELECT, INSERT, DELETE, UPDATE ON configuration_alice TO alice;

-- bob policy, carol policy ...
```


limitations

many tenants

- for each tenant, create a separate view?

dynamic tenant membership

- add/remove views?

SLAs evolving

- update tenant views?

more examples:

- tenants can only access the resources they pay
- raise tenant rate limit to 100

finer-grained, higher-level ACL

capture the intent rather than extent

dynamic, context-based

SQL query over data
in p *and other parts* of
the network database

a network table of arity n
 $p(_, _, \dots, _)$



access control view of n+1 arity
 $p_acl(\text{principal}, _, _, \dots, _)$

finer-grained, higher-level ACL

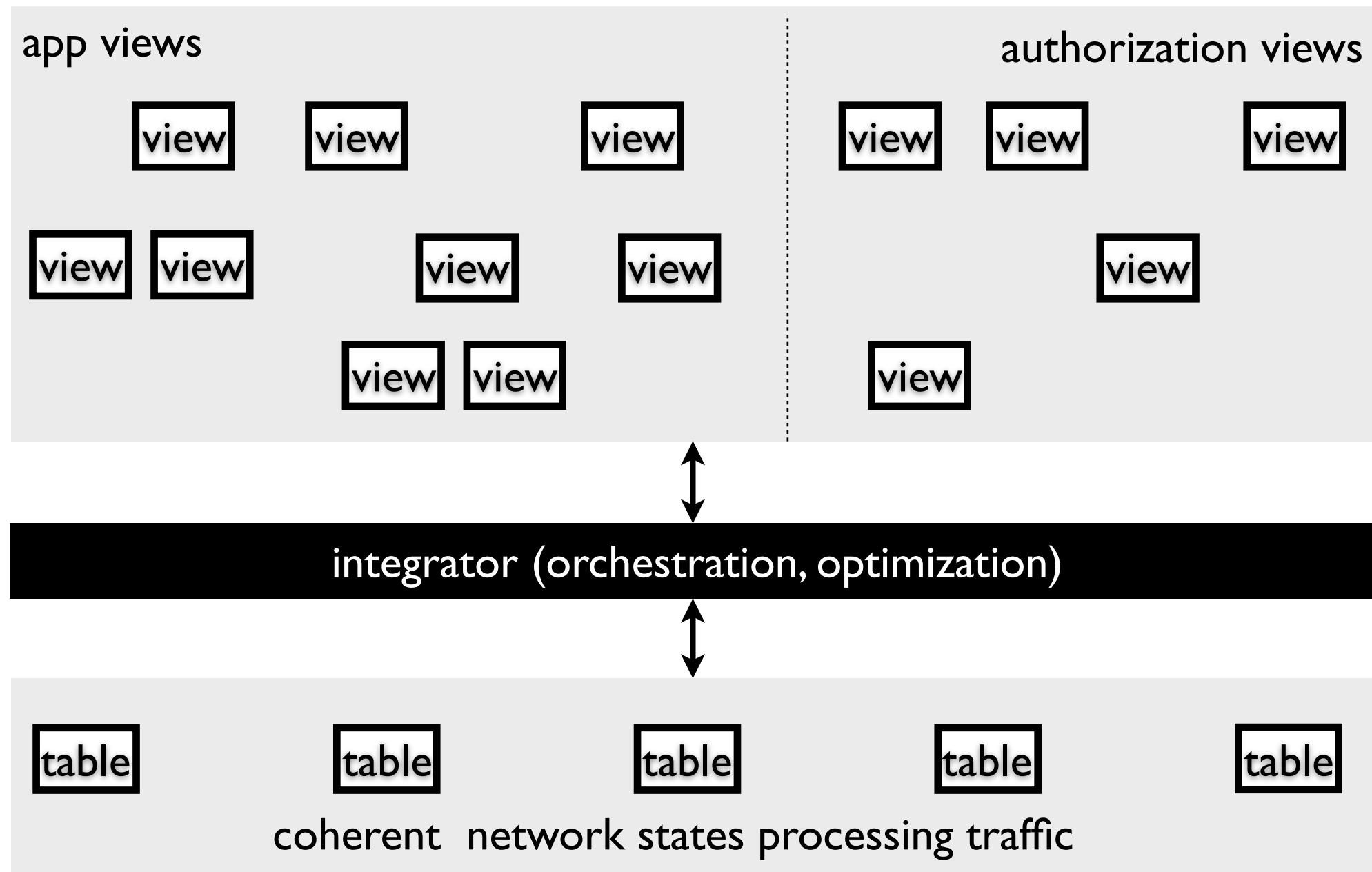
- a tenant can only access the leased network topology
- admin can access the whole topology

```
CREATE VIEW topology_acl AS (  
  -- admin policy  
  (SELECT 'admin' as principal,  
    sid, nid  
    FROM topology)  
  UNION  
  
  -- tenant policy  
  (SELECT tenant as principal,  
    sid, nid  
    FROM topology, SLA  
    WHERE topology.sid IN SLA.switches  
      AND topology.nid IN SLA.switches));
```

```
CREATE VIEW topology_public AS (  
  SELECT sid, nid FROM topology_acl  
  WHERE principal = 'current_user')  
  
GRANT SELECT ON topology_public TO public;
```

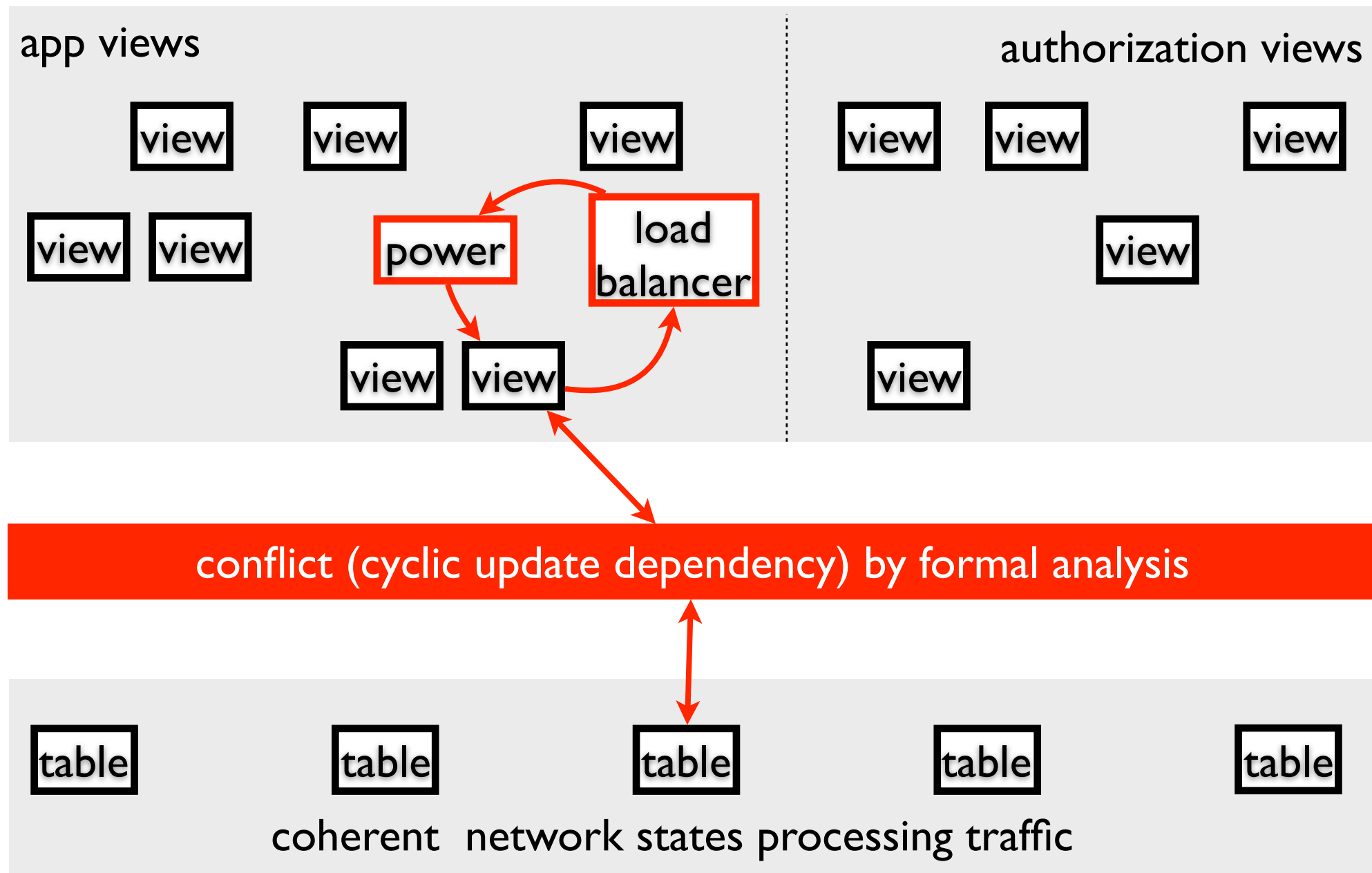
looking forward

data integration as a networking service



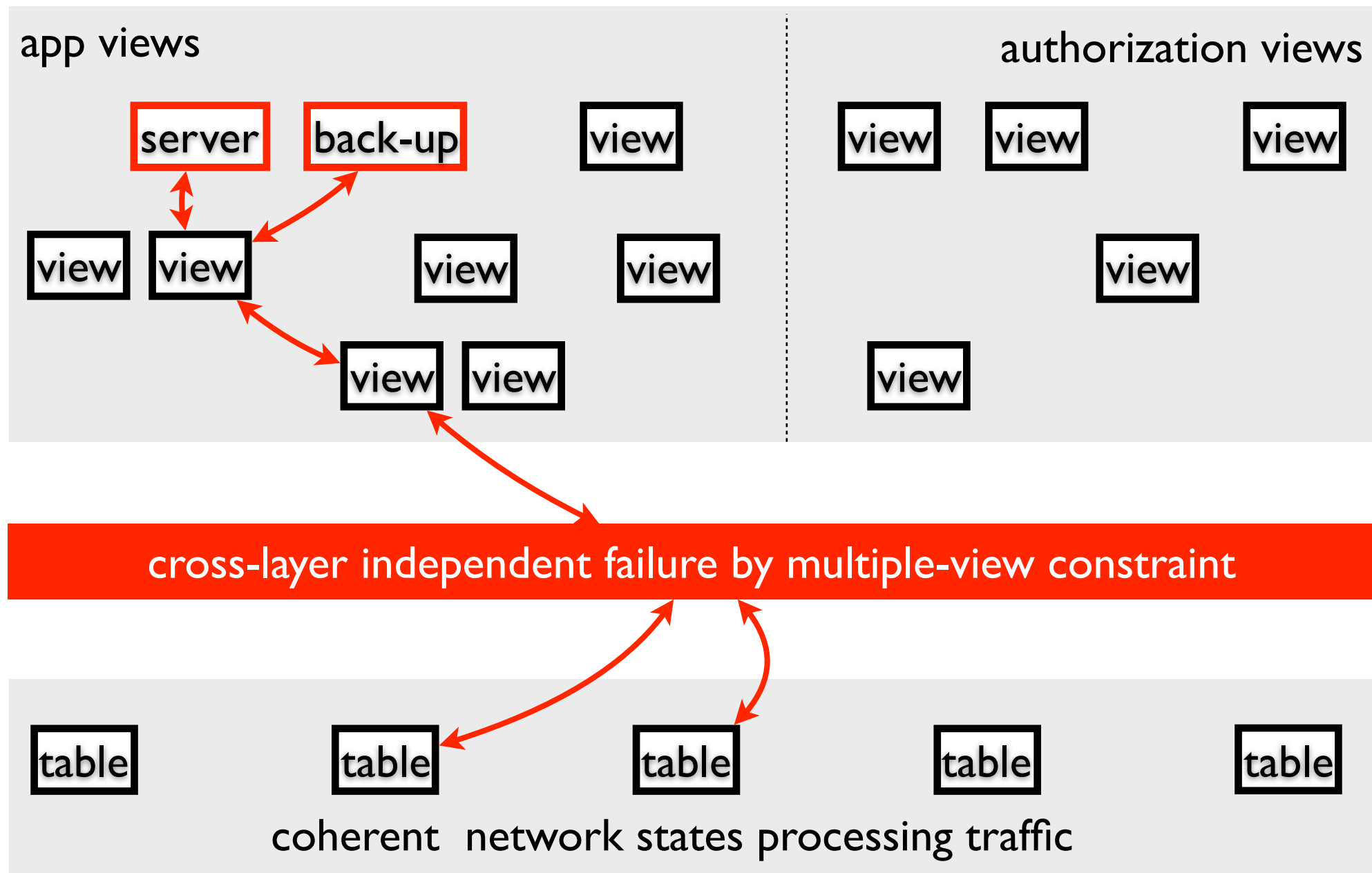
looking forward

data integration as a networking service



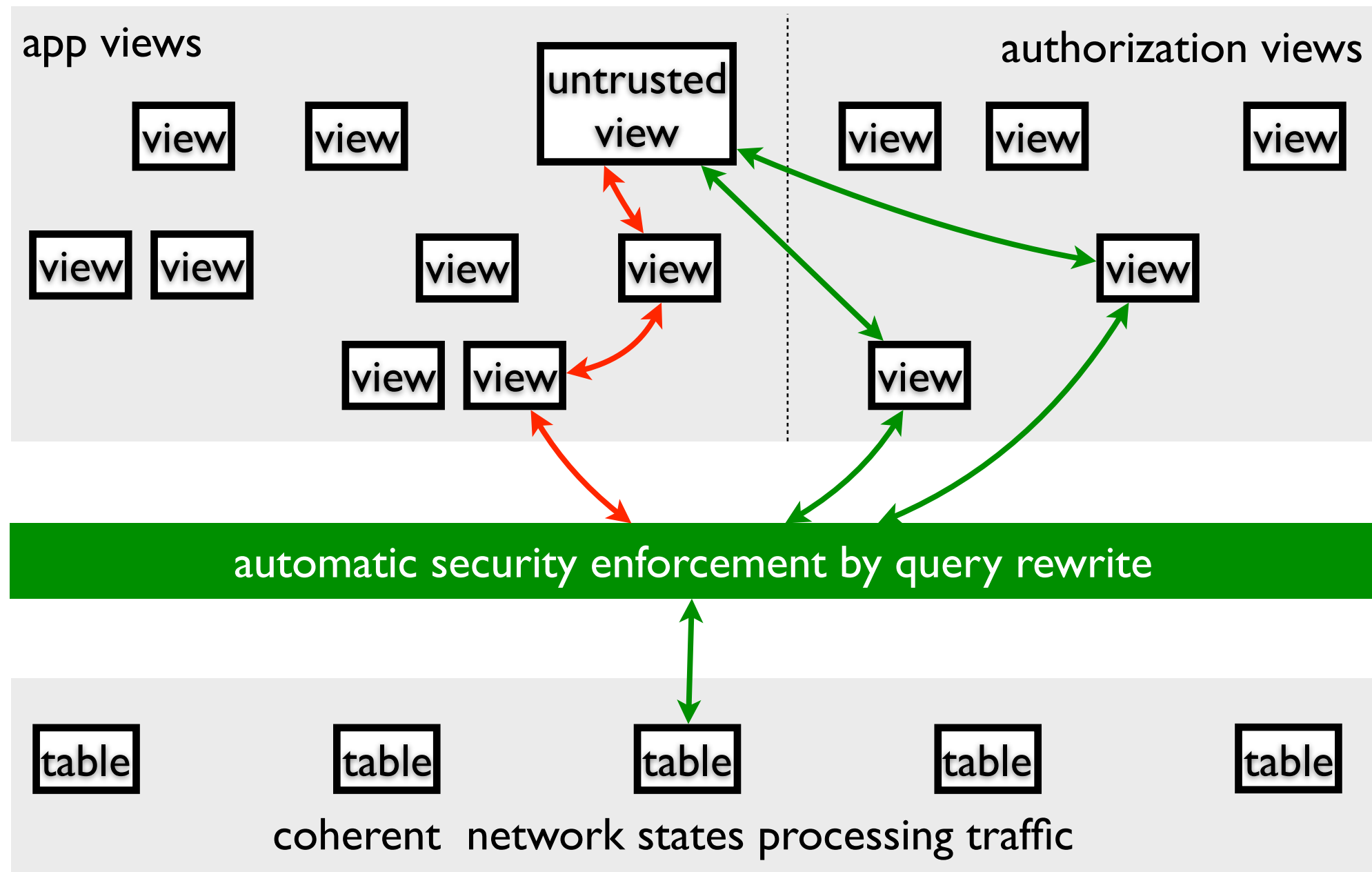
looking forward

data integration as a networking service



looking forward

data integration as a networking service



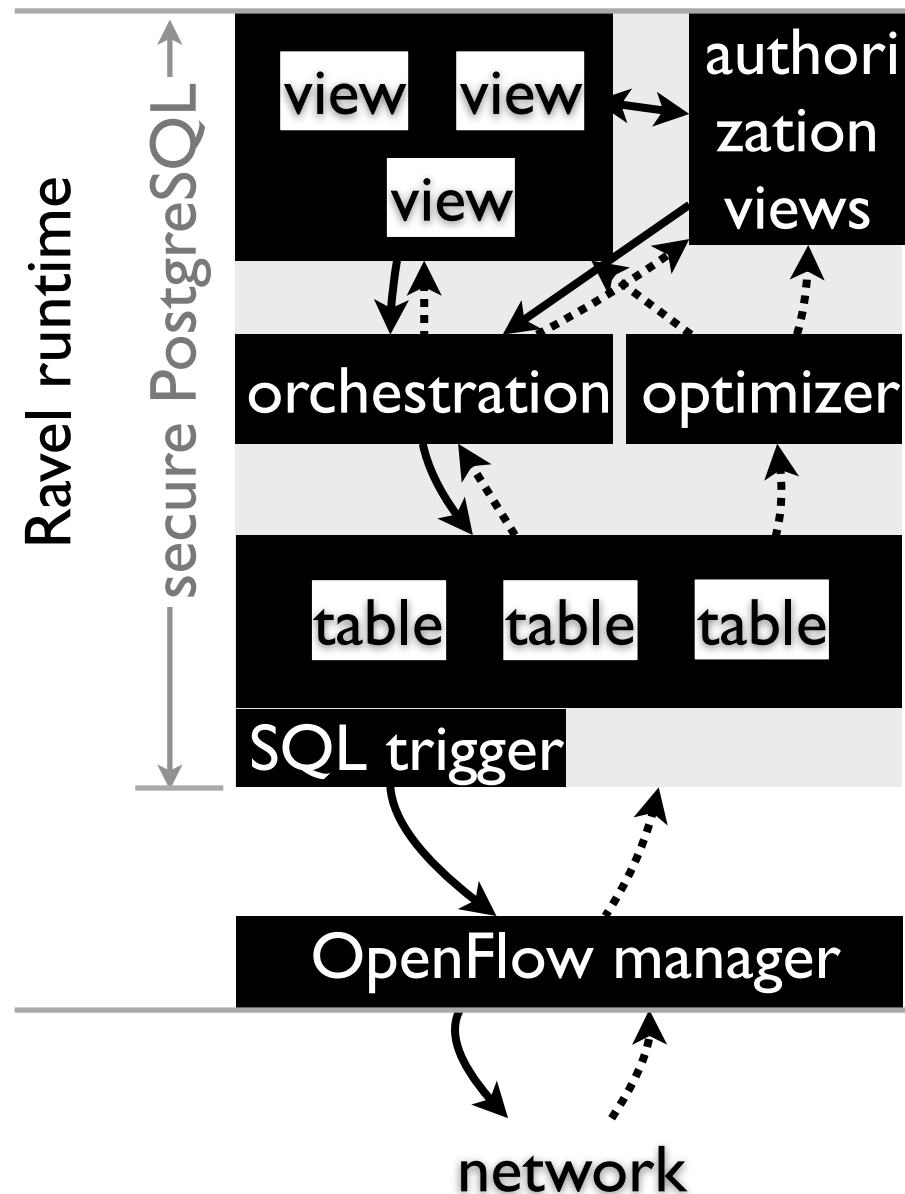
conclusion

this talk: via SQL

- orchestratable abstraction
- finer-grained access control

looking forward

- data integration as a networking service





playtime

download *Ravel*

ravel-net.org/download

start playing: tutorials, add your own app

ravel-net.org

explore more

github.com/ravel-net