# Exploiting Serverless Function to Build a Cost-effective Cloud Storage

CS 4740: Cloud Computing
Fall 2024
Lecture 14d

Yue Cheng



#### Rule-breaking approach

\* Quoted from "<u>A Rule-Breaking Approach to Research</u>", by Todd Austin, MICRO'24.

- A rule-breaking approach is effective and exciting
  - Identify a rule no one breaks
  - Invent a way to break that rule
  - See what happens!
- You will often find yourself in fertile ground
  - The "rules" are typically learned early or based on "conventional wisdom"
  - The "rules" create dogma that hide opportunity
- 50% will be intrigued with your crazy idea
- 50% will think your crazy idea will never work
- Embrace the pushback, it will inform and sharpen

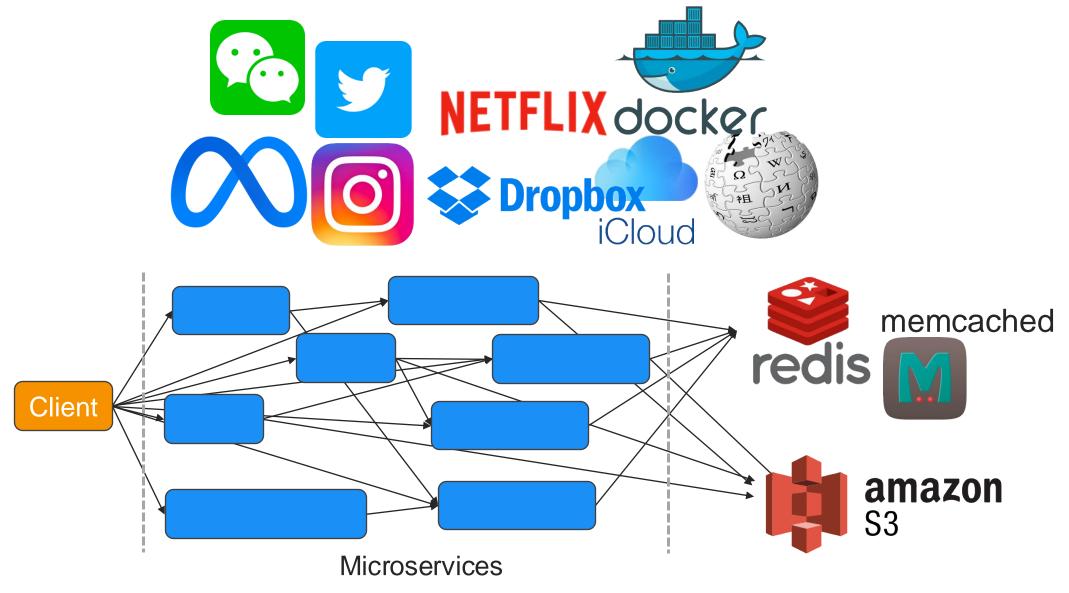


#### Breaking rules in serverless

- Rule: Serverless functions are stateless and can never work as storage
- Rule-breaking idea: Use functions as a brand-new storage medium to build a first-of-its-kind cloud storage system
  - Exploiting provider's function caching to retain data between func invocations
  - Erasure coding + replication to improve availability and performance
  - Reasonable performance+availability while being extremely cost-effective for not-toobusy storage workloads
  - Case study: IBM Docker registry



#### Internet-scale web apps are storage-intensive

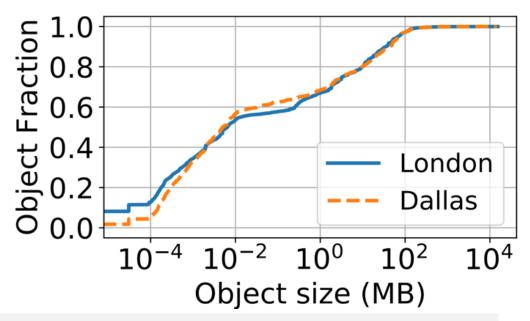


- Collected the workload traces of IBM Cloud Container Registry service for a duration of 75 days across seven datacenters in 2017
- Selected datacenters: Dallas & London



- Object size distribution
- Large objects' reuse patterns
- Storage footprint

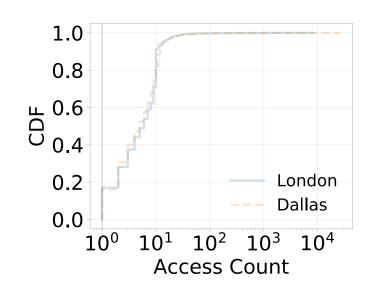
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- Large objects' reuse patterns
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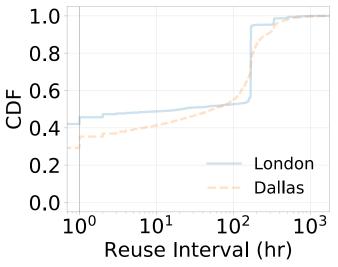


#### Extreme variability in object sizes:

- Object sizes span over 9 orders of magnitude
- > 20% of objects > 10MB

- Object size distribution
- Large objects' reuse patterns
- Storage footprint

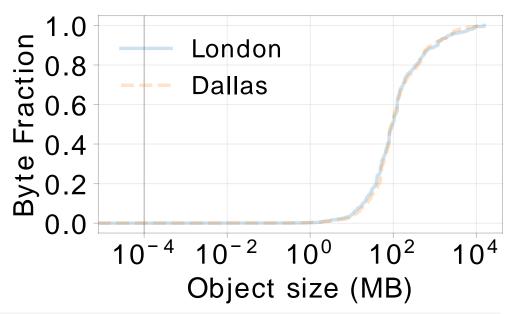




#### Caching large objects is beneficial:

- > 30% large object being accessed 10+ times
- > Around 35-45% of them get reused within 1 hour

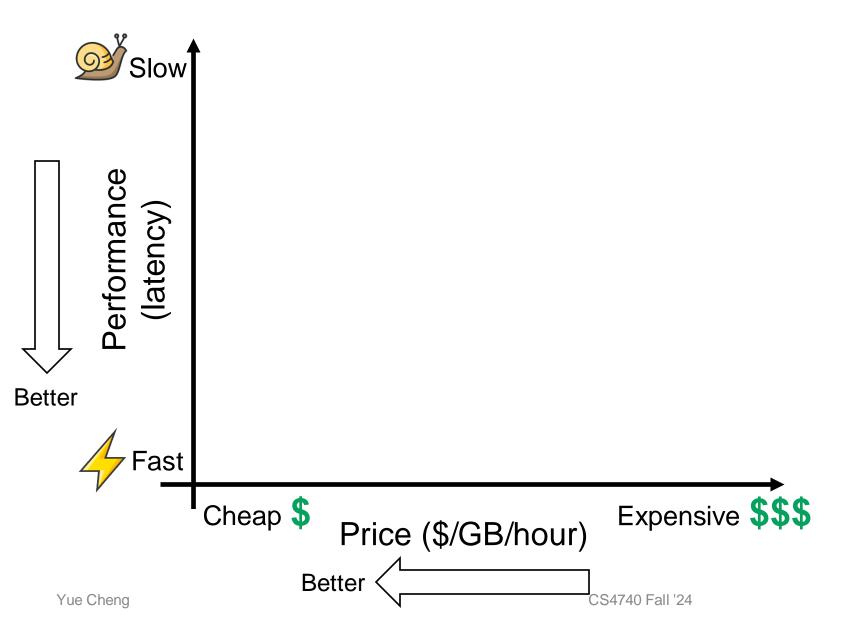
- Object size distribution
- Large objects' reuse patterns
- Storage footprint



#### Extreme tension between small and large objects:

➤ Large objects (>10MB) occupy 95% storage footprint

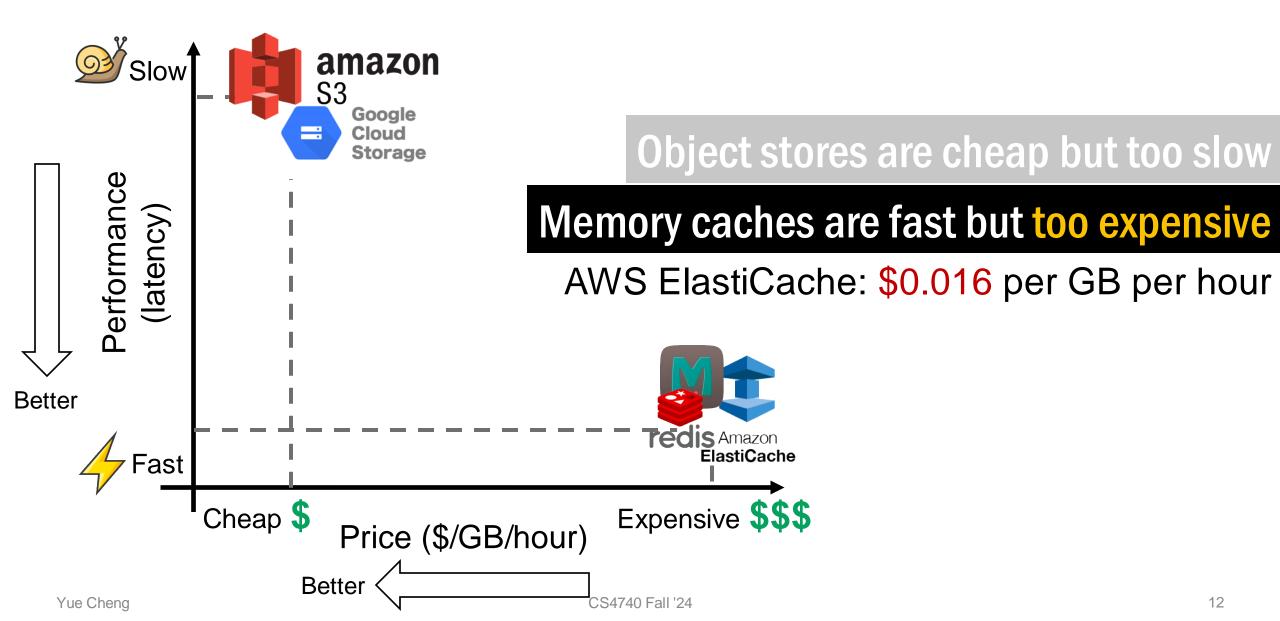
#### Today's cloud storage landscape



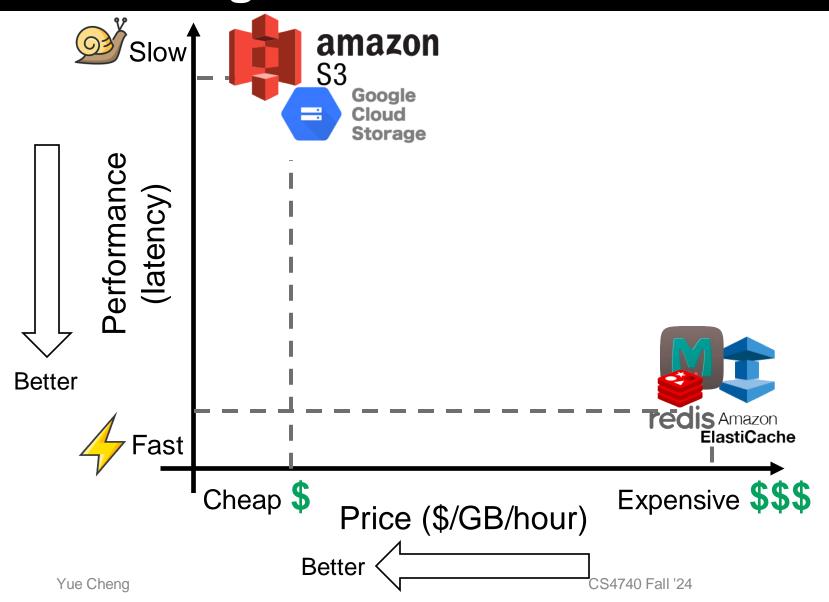
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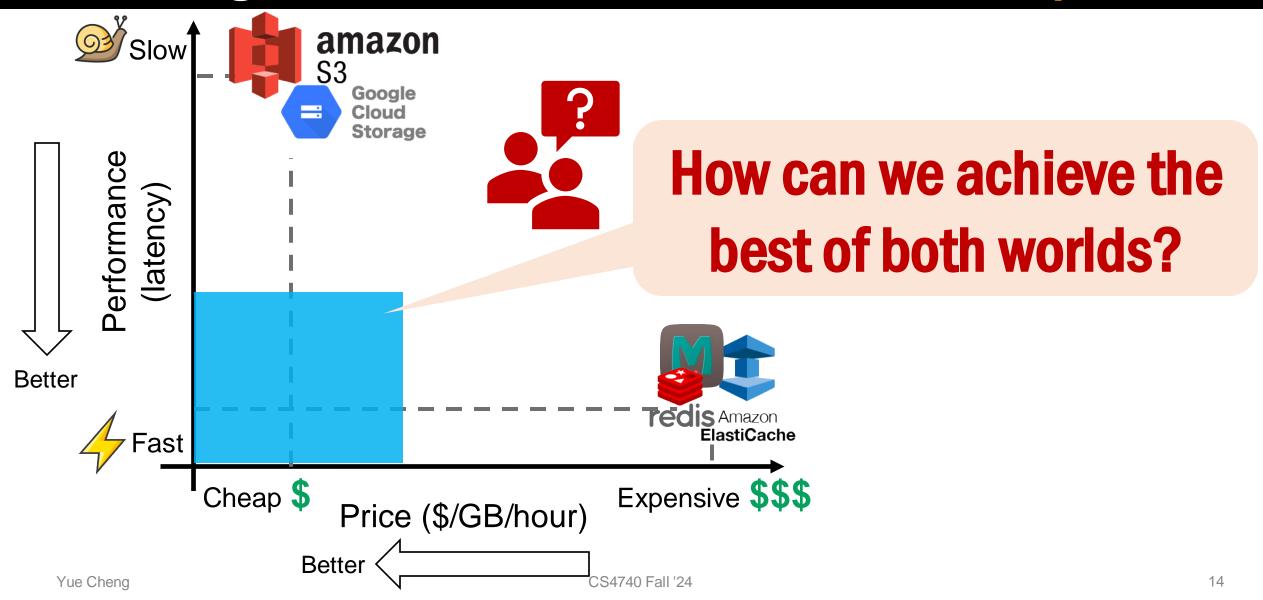
#### Today's cloud storage landscape



- Caching both small and large objects is challenging
- Existing solutions either too slow or too expensive



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- Existing solutions either too slow or too expensive



## InfiniCache: A cost-effective and highperformance memory cache built atop FaaS

- Insight #1: Serverless functions' <CPU, RAM>
  resources are pay-per-use
- Insight #2: Serverless providers offer "free" function memory caching for tenants

## InfiniCache: A cost-effective and highperformance memory cache built atop FaaS

- Insight #1: Serverless functions' <CPU, RAM>
  resources are pay-per-use → Cheap
- Insight #2: Serverless providers offer "free" function memory caching for tenants → Fast and cheap

High-level idea: Use Lambda functions to cache data objects

A strawman proposal that directly caches data objects in Lambda functions' memory may not work because of those FaaS limitations:

No guaranteed data availability

Banned inbound network

Limited per-function resources

High-level idea: Use Lambda functions to cache data objects

A strawman proposal that directly caches data objects in Lambda functions' memory may not work because of those FaaS limitations:

No guaranteed data availability

Banned inbound network

Limited per-function resources

▲ Serverless functions could be reclaimed any time

♠ In-memory state is lost



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High-level idea: Use Lambda functions to cache data objects

A strawman proposal that directly caches data objects in Lambda functions' memory may not work because of those FaaS limitations:

No guaranteed data availability

Banned inbound network

Limited per-function resources

▲ Serverless functions cannot run as a server



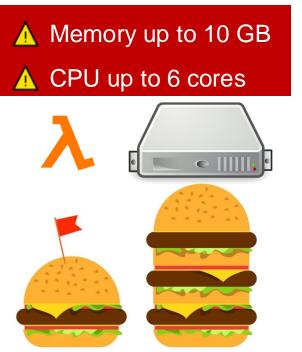
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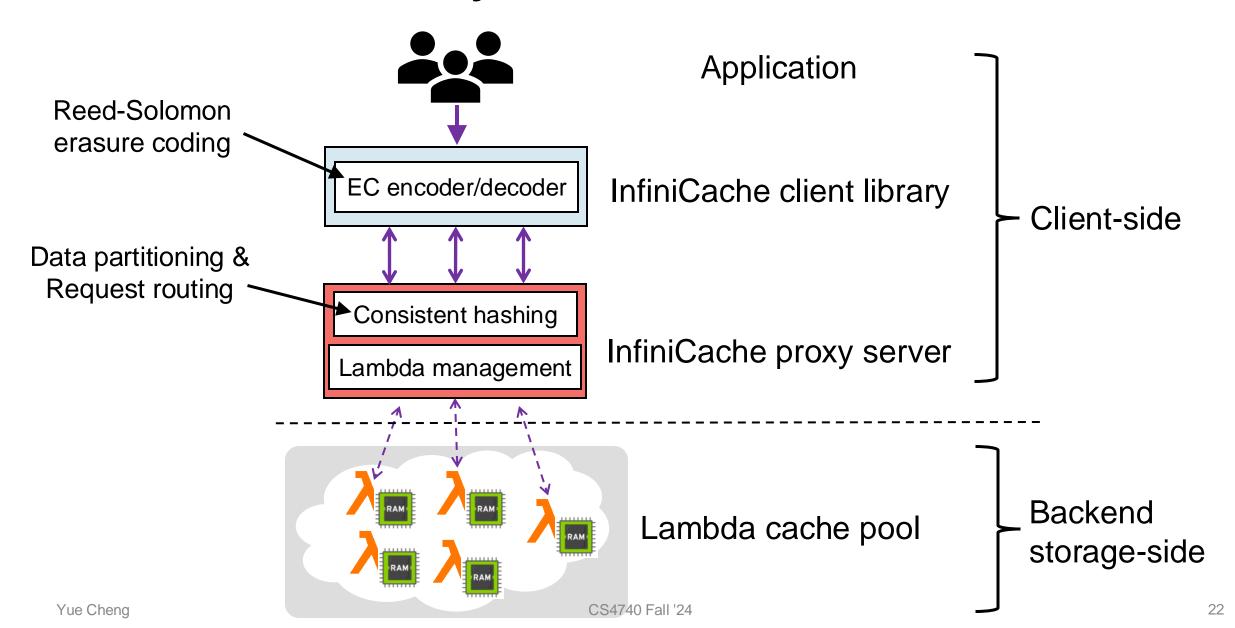
Limited per-function resources



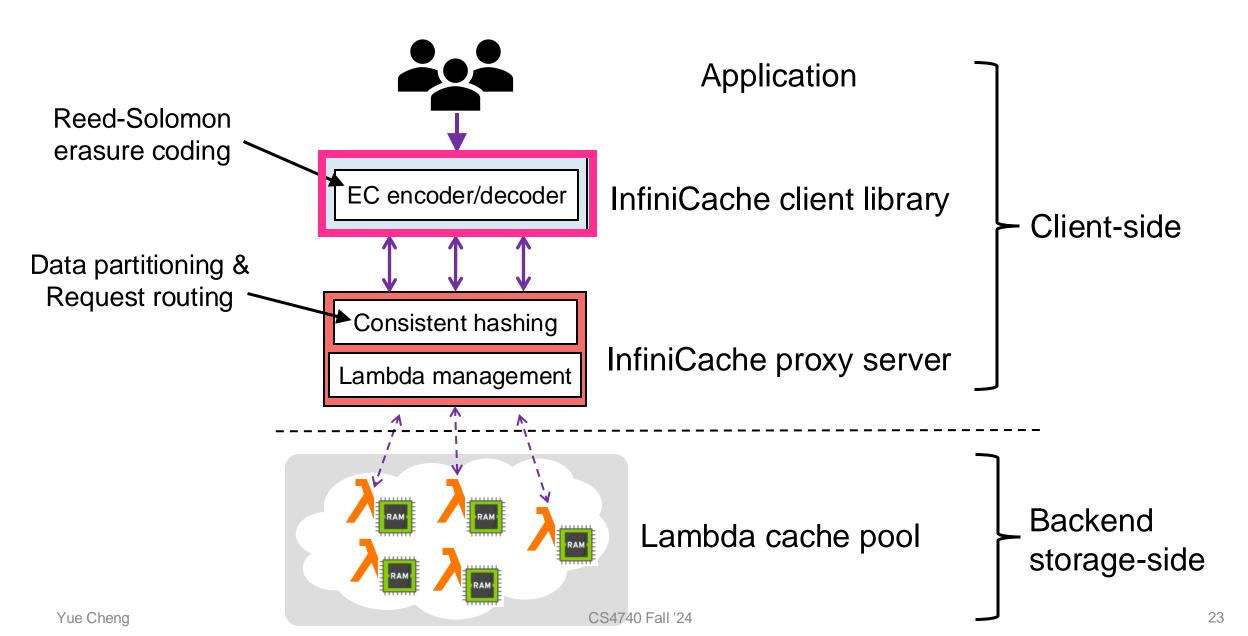
#### InfiniCache: The first memory cache built atop FaaS

- InfiniCache achieves high data availability by using erasure coding and delta-sync periodic data backup across functions
- InfiniCache achieves high performance by utilizing the aggregated, parallel network bandwidth of multiple functions
- InfiniCache achieves similar performance to AWS ElastiCache while reducing the \$\$ cost by 31-96X

#### InfiniCache bird's eye view



#### Let's look at RAID and Reed-Solomon EC first



# RAID: Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks

#### Wish List for a Disk

- Wish it to be faster
  - I/O is always the performance bottleneck

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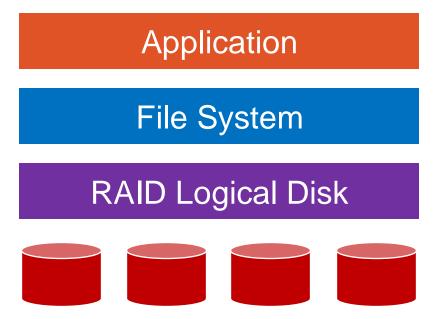
- Wish it to be more reliable
  - We don't want our valuable data to be gone

#### Only One Disk?

- Sometimes we want many disks
  - For higher performance
  - For larger capacity
  - For better reliability

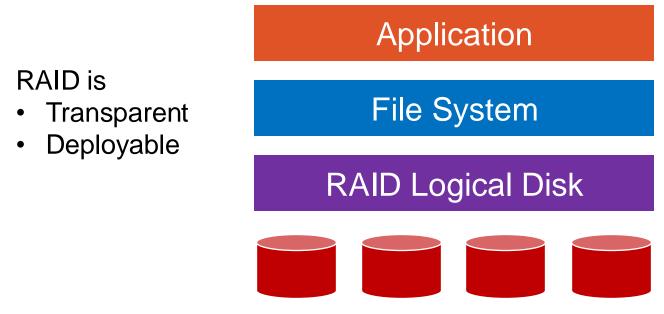
• Challenge: Most file systems work on only one disk

RAID: Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks



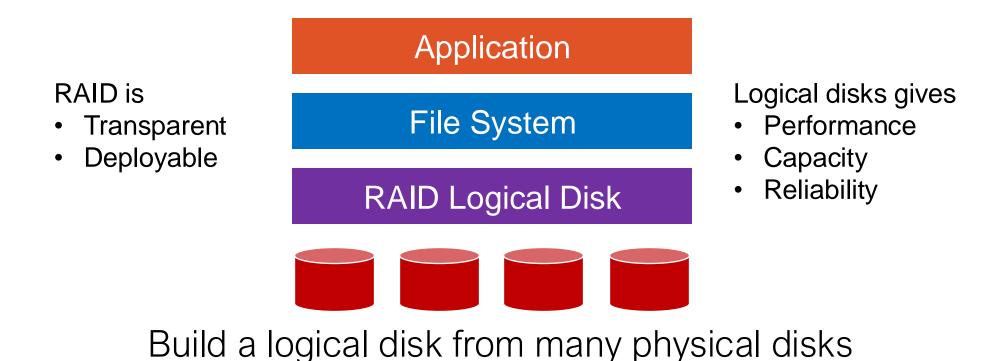
Build a logical disk from many physical disks

RAID: Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks

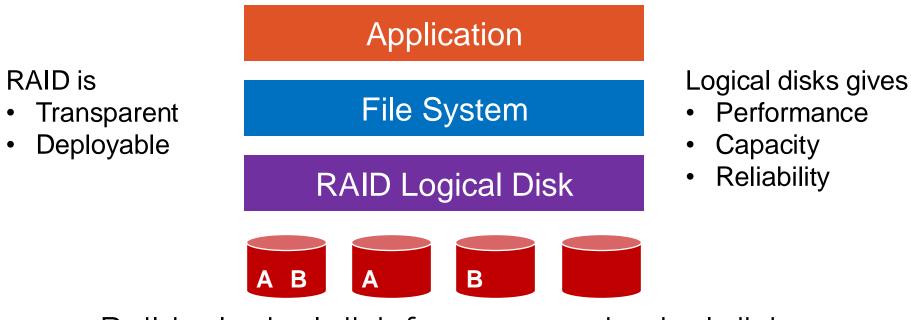


Build a logical disk from many physical disks

RAID: Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks



RAID: Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks



Build a logical disk from many physical disks

#### Why Inexpensive Disks?

• Economies of scale! Cheap disks are popular

 You can often get many commodity hardware components for the same price as a few expensive components

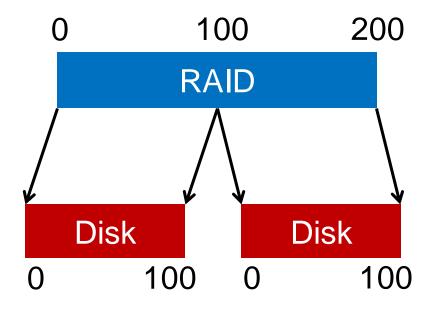
#### Why Inexpensive Disks?

Economies of scale! Cheap disks are popular

- You can often get many commodity hardware components for the same price as a few expensive components
- Strategy: Write software to build high-quality logical devices from many cheap devices
  - Tradeoff: To compensate poor properties of cheap devices

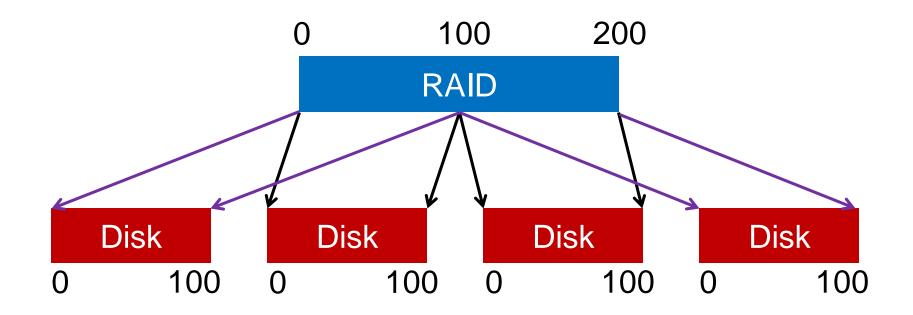
#### **General Strategy**

Build fast and large disks from smaller ones



#### **General Strategy**

Build fast and large disks from smaller ones Add more disks for reliability++!



#### **RAID Metrics**

- Capacity
  - How much space can apps use?
- Reliability
  - How many disks can we safely lose?
  - Assume fail-stop model!

#### **RAID Levels**



(a) RAID 0: non-redundant striping.



(b) RAID 1: mirrored disks.



(c) RAID 2: memory-style error-correcting codes.



(d) RAID 3: bit-interleaved parity.



(e) RAID 4: block-interleaved parity.



(f) RAID 5: block-interleaved distributed parity.



(g) RAID 6: P + Q redundancy.

#### RAID Level 0





(a) RAID 0: non-redundant striping.



(b) RAID 1: mirrored disks.



(c) RAID 2: memory-style error-correcting codes.



(d) RAID 3: bit-interleaved parity.



(e) RAID 4: block-interleaved parity.



(f) RAID 5: block-interleaved distributed parity.

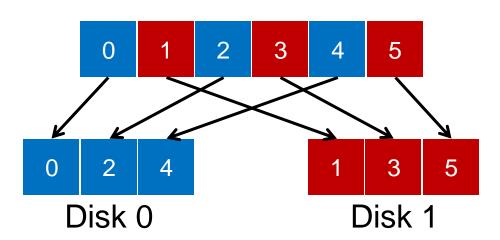


(g) RAID 6: P + Q redundancy.

## **RAID-0: Striping**

- No redundancy
- Serves as upper bound for
  - Performance
  - Capacity

Logical blocks



#### 4 Disks

Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3
0	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15

### 4 Disks

	Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3
-	0	1	2	3
stripe:	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15

## How to Map?

- Given logical address A:
  - Disk = ...
  - Offset = ...

Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3	
0	1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	

## How to Map?

- Given logical address A:
  - Disk = A % disk count
  - Offset = A / disk\_count

Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3	
 0	1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	

## Mapping Example: Find Block 13

• Given logical address 13:

• Offset = 
$$13 / 4 = 3$$

	Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3
Offset ()	0	1	2	3
1	4	5	6	7
2	8	9	10	11
3	12	(13)	14	15

#### **Chunk Size = 1**

Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3
0	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15

#### **Chunk Size = 1**

Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3
 0	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15

#### Chunk Size = 2

Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3	
0	2	4	6	chunk size:
1	3	5	7	2 blocks
8	10	12	14	
9	11	13 CS4740 Fall '24	15	

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#### **Chunk Size = 1**

	Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3	
•	0	1	2	3	ice.
	4	5	6	7	
	8	9	10	11	
	12	13	14	15	

In all following examples, we assume chunk size of 1

#### Chunk Size = 2

Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3	
0	2	4	6	chunk size:
1	3	5	7	2 blocks
8	10	12	14	
9	11	13 CS4740 Fall '24	15	

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## **RAID-0 Analysis**

1. What is capacity? N \* C

N is the number of disks C is the capacity of each disk

2. How many disks can fail? 0

#### RAID Level 1



(a) RAID 0: non-redundant striping.





(b) RAID 1: mirrored disks.



(c) RAID 2: memory-style error-correcting codes.



(d) RAID 3: bit-interleaved parity.



(e) RAID 4: block-interleaved parity.



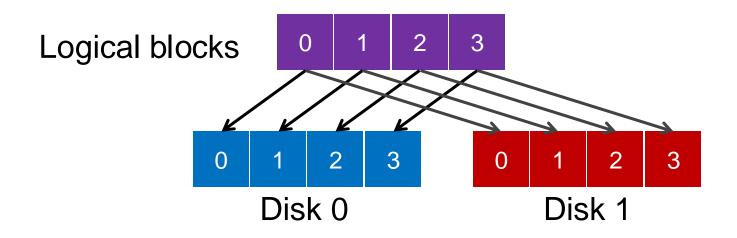
(f) RAID 5: block-interleaved distributed parity.



(g) RAID 6: P + Q redundancy.

## **RAID-1: Mirroring**

• RAID-1 keeps two copies of each block



## **Assumption**

- Assume disks are fail-stop
  - Two states
    - They work or they don't
  - We know when they don't work

### 4 Disks

Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3
0	0	1	1
2	2	3	3
4	4	5	5
6	6	7	7

#### 4 Disks

Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3	
0	0	1	1	
2	2	3	3	
4	4	5	5	
6	6	7	7	

How many disks can fail?

## **RAID-1** Analysis

1. What is capacity? N/2 \* C

2. How many disks can fail? 1 or maybe N / 2

#### RAID Level 4



(a) RAID 0: non-redundant striping.



(b) RAID 1: mirrored disks.



(c) RAID 2: memory-style error-correcting codes.



(d) RAID 3: bit-interleaved parity.



(e) RAID 4: block-interleaved parity.



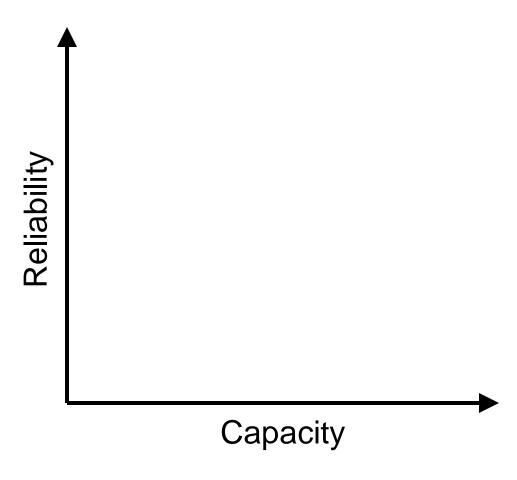
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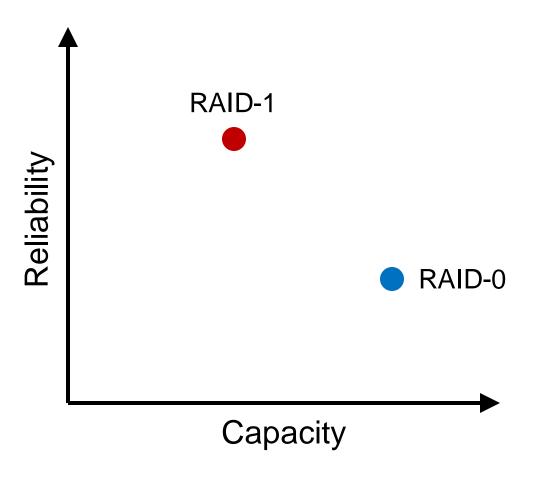
(g) RAID 6: P + Q redundancy.



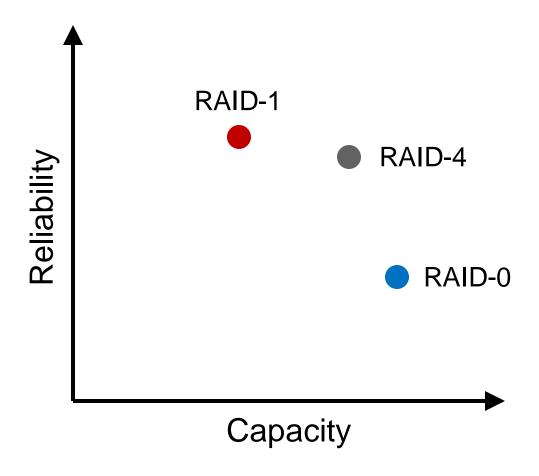
### RAID-4



## RAID-4



#### RAID-4



## **RAID-4 Strategy**

• Use parity disk

• In algebra, if an equation has N variables, and N-1 are known, you can also solve for the unknown

• Treat the sectors/blocks across disks in a stripe as an equation

## 5 Disks

	Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3	Disk 4
7	0	1	2	3	P0
	4	5	6	7	P1
	8	9	10	11	P2
	12	13	14	15	P3

	Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3	Disk 4
stripe:					
					(parity)

	Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3	Disk 4
stripe:	4	3	0	2	

(parity)

	Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3	Disk 4
stripe:	4	3	0	2	9
					(parity)

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	Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3	Disk 4
stripe:	X	3	0	2	9
					(parity)

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	Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3	Disk 4
stripe:	4	3	0	2	9
					(parity)

C <sub>0</sub>	C1	C2	C3	P
0	0	1	1	XOR(0,0,1,1) = 0
0	1	0	0	XOR(0,1,0,0) = 1

C <sub>0</sub>	C1	C2	C3	P
0	0	1	1	XOR(0,0,1,1) = 0
0	1	0	0	XOR(0,1,0,0) = 1

- P = 0: The number of 1 in a stripe must be an even number
- P = 1: The number of 1 in a stripe must be an odd number

	Block0	Block1	Block2	Block3	Parity
stripe:	00	10	11	10	11
	10	01	00	01	10

- P = 0: The number of 1 in a stripe must be an even number
- P = 1: The number of 1 in a stripe must be an odd number

	Block0	Block1	Block2	Block3	Parity
stripe:	Х	10	11	10	11
	10	01	00	01	10

- P = 0: The number of 1 in a stripe must be an even number
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	Block0	Block1	Block2	Block3	Parity
stripe:	X	10	11	10	11
	10	01	00	01	10

Block
$$0 = XOR(10,11,10,11) = 00$$

- P = 0: The number of 1 in a stripe must be an even number
- P = 1: The number of 1 in a stripe must be an odd number

	Block0	Block1	Block2	Block3	Parity
stripe:	00	10	11	10	11
	10	01	00	01	10

Block
$$0 = XOR(10,11,10,11) = 00$$

- P = 0: The number of 1 in a stripe must be an even number
- P = 1: The number of 1 in a stripe must be an odd number

# **RAID-4 Analysis**

1. What is capacity? (N-1) \* C

2. How many disks can fail? 1

#### RAID Level 5



(a) RAID 0: non-redundant striping.



(b) RAID 1: mirrored disks.



(c) RAID 2: memory-style error-correcting codes.



(d) RAID 3: bit-interleaved parity.



(e) RAID 4: block-interleaved parity.



(f) RAID 5: block-interleaved distributed parity.



(g) RAID 6: P + Q redundancy.



#### **RAID-5: Rotating Parity**

Disk 0	Disk 1	Disk 2	Disk 3	Disk 4
0	1	2	3	P0
5	6	7	P1	4
10	11	P2	8	9
15	P3	12	13	14
P4	16	17	18	19

RAID-5 works almost identically to RAID-4, except that it rotates the parity block across drives

# **RAID-5 Analysis**

1. What is capacity? (N-1) \* C

2. How many disks can fail? 1

#### RAID Level 6



(a) RAID 0: non-redundant striping.



(b) RAID 1: mirrored disks.



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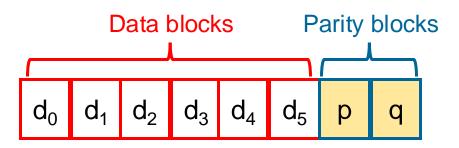
(f) RAID 5: block-interleaved distributed parity.





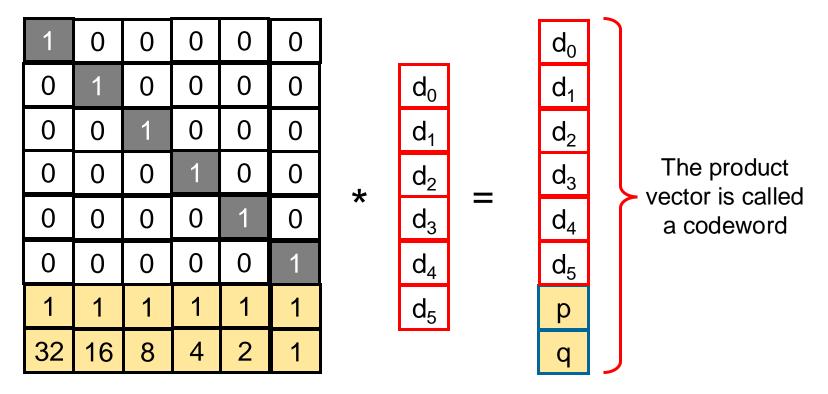
(g) RAID 6: P + Q redundancy.

#### RAID-6



RAID-6 can fail at most 2 disks at a time.

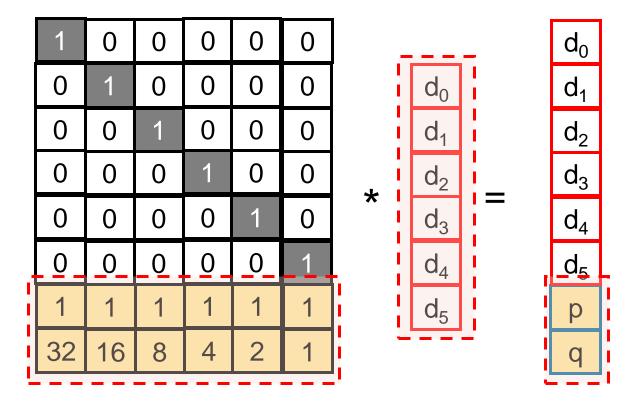
# **Encoding**



Generator matrix

$$[8 \times 6] * [6 \times 1] = [8 \times 1]$$

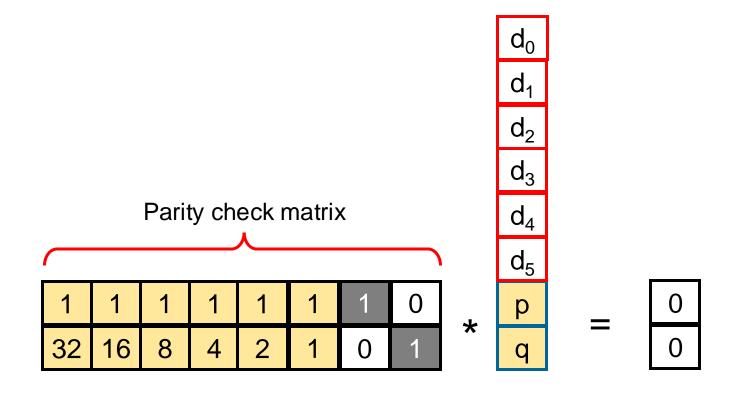
#### **Encoding**



 $d_0 \oplus d_1 \oplus d_2 \oplus d_3 \oplus d_4 \oplus d_5 \longrightarrow p$ 

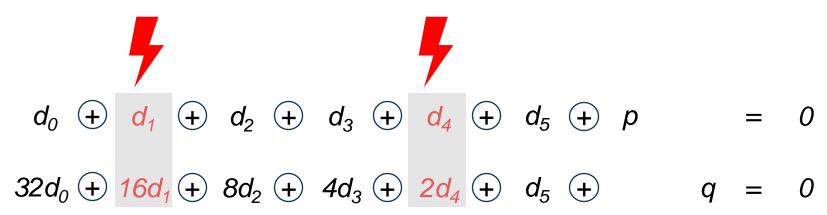
 $32d_0 \oplus 16d_1 \oplus 8d_2 \oplus 4d_3 \oplus 2d_4 \oplus d_5 \longrightarrow q$ 

### Decoding with a parity check matrix

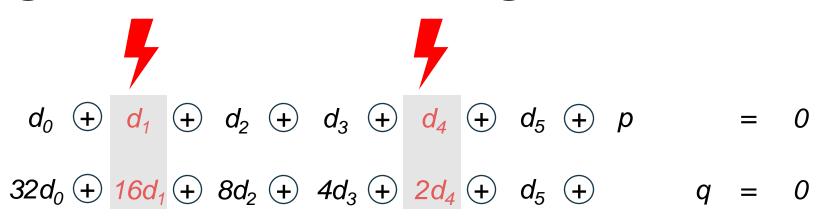


$$d_0 \oplus d_1 \oplus d_2 \oplus d_3 \oplus d_4 \oplus d_5 \oplus p = 0$$

$$32d_0 \oplus 16d_1 \oplus 8d_2 \oplus 4d_3 \oplus 2d_4 \oplus d_5 \oplus q = 0$$

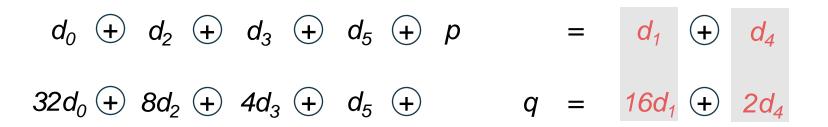


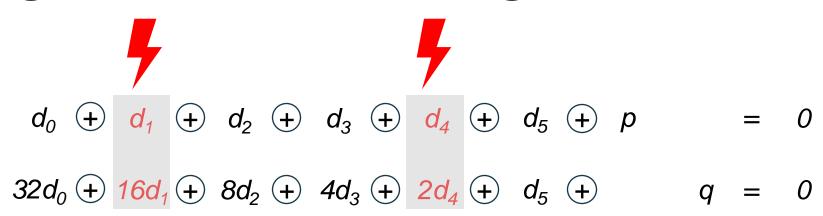
Suppose disk1 ( $\frac{d_1}{d_1}$ ) and disk4 ( $\frac{d_4}{d_1}$ ) fail



Suppose disk1 ( $\frac{d_1}{d_1}$ ) and disk4 ( $\frac{d_4}{d_4}$ ) fail

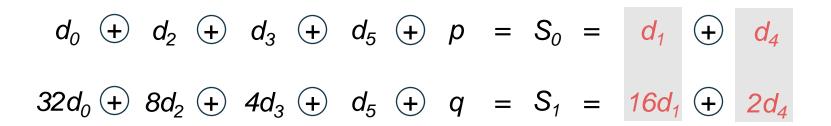
Step 1: Put the failed data on the right of the equations.

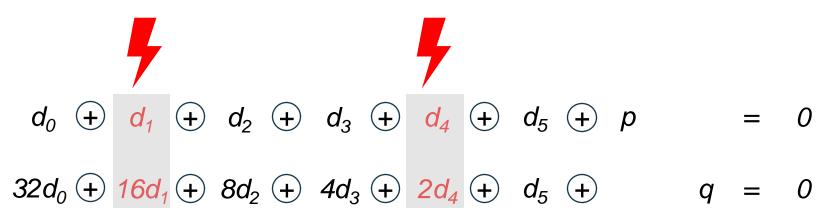




Suppose disk1 ( $\frac{d_1}{d_1}$ ) and disk4 ( $\frac{d_4}{d_4}$ ) fail

Step 2: Calculate the left sides, since those all exist.





Suppose disk1 ( $\frac{d_1}{d_1}$ ) and disk4 ( $\frac{d_4}{d_4}$ ) fail

#### Step 3: Solve using Gaussian Elimination or Matrix Inversion.

$$S_0 = d_1 + d_4$$

$$C_1 = \frac{(2S_0 + S_1)}{(16 + 2)}$$

$$S_1 = 16d_1 + 2d_4$$

$$d_4 = S_0 + d_1$$

### **RAID-6 Analysis**

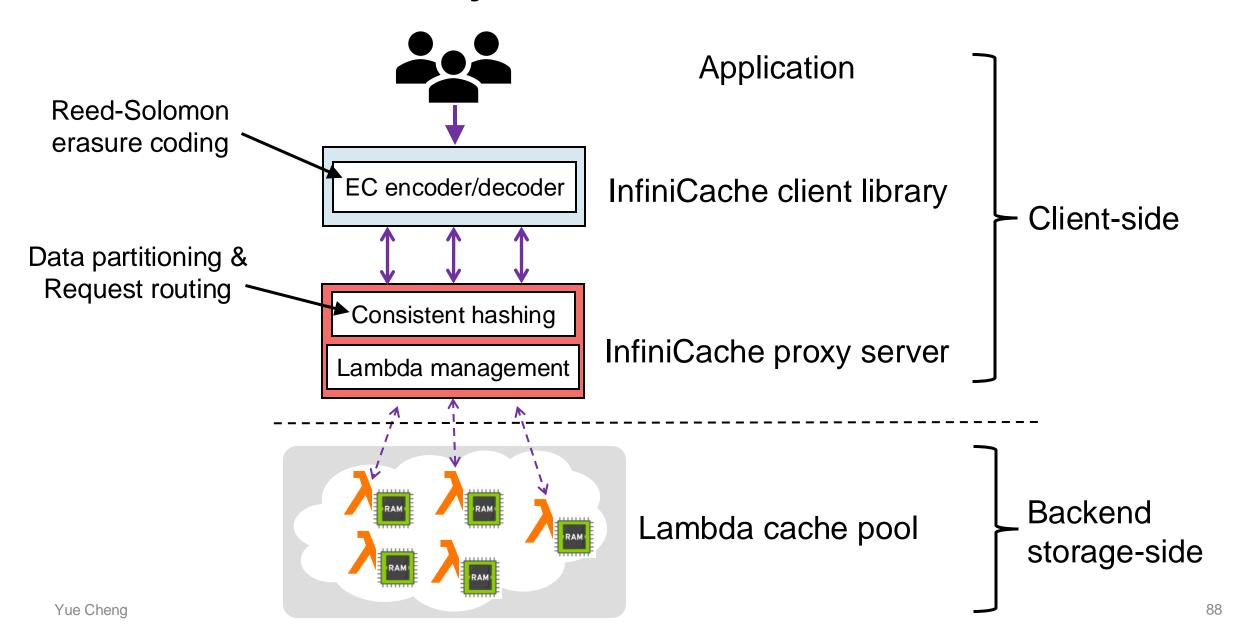
Assuming a RS configuration of 6+2

1. What is capacity? (N-2) \* C where N = 8

2. How many disks can fail? 2

# Switching back to InfiniCache

#### InfiniCache bird's eye view





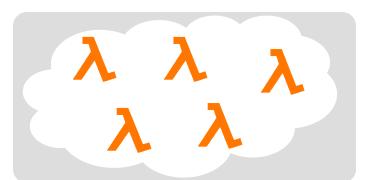
**Application** 

EC encoder

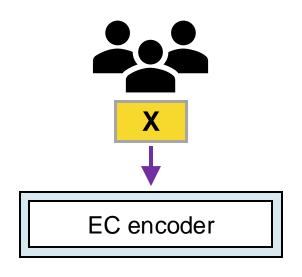
InfiniCache client library

Request routing

InfiniCache proxy



Lambda cache pool

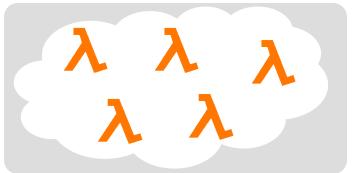


#### **Application**

InfiniCache client library

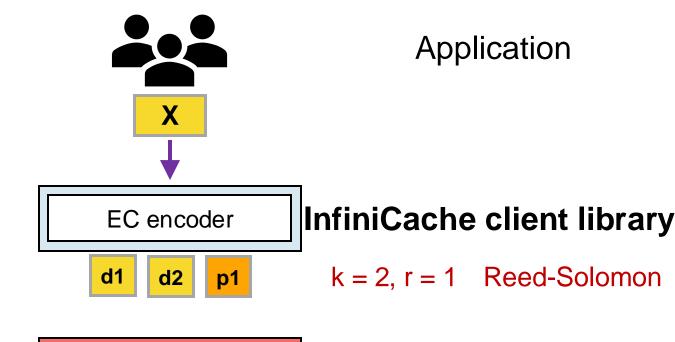
Request routing

InfiniCache proxy



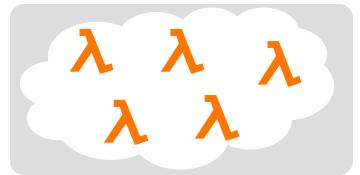
Lambda cache pool

 Object is split and encoded into k+r chunks



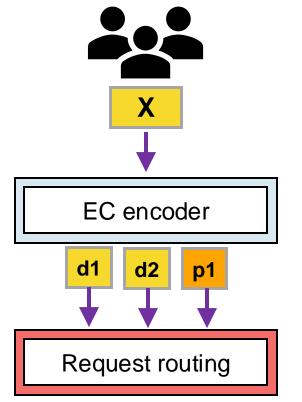
Request routing

InfiniCache proxy



Lambda cache pool

- Object is split and encoded into k+r chunks
- 2. Object chunks are sent to the proxy in parallel

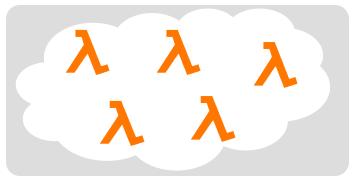


**Application** 

InfiniCache client library

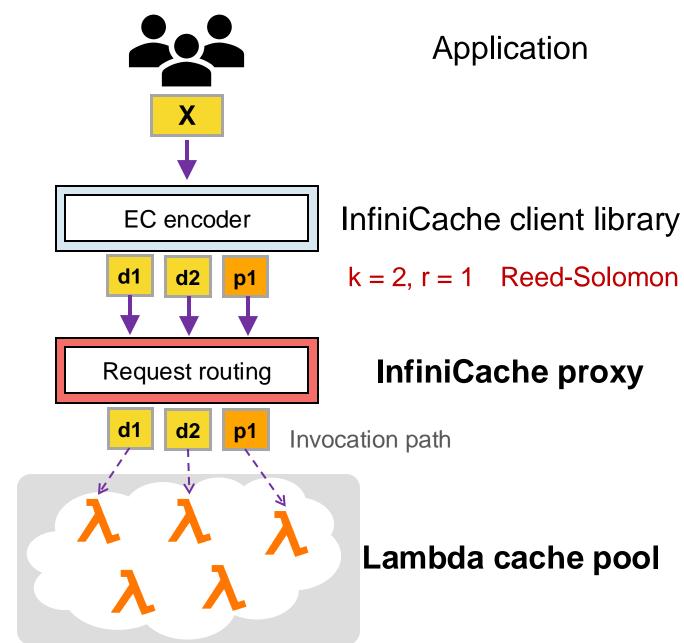
k = 2, r = 1 Reed-Solomon

InfiniCache proxy

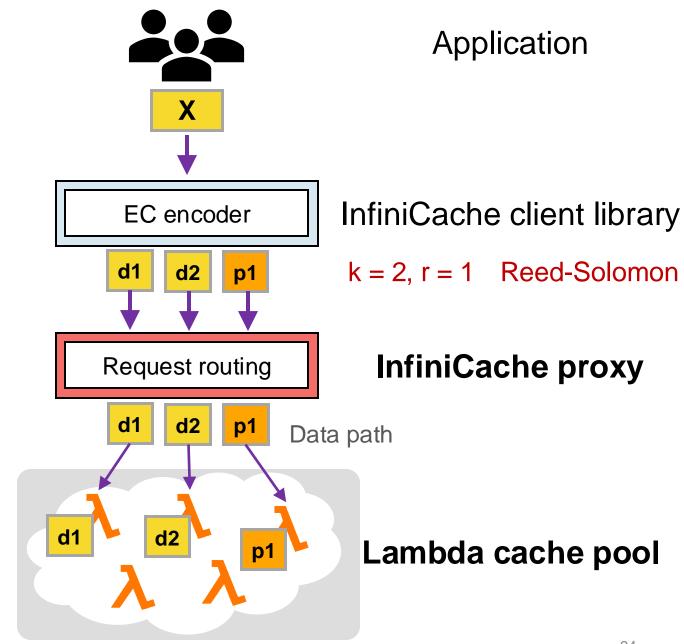


Lambda cache pool

- Object is split and encoded into k+r chunks
- 2. Object chunks are sent to the proxy in parallel
- 3. Proxy invokes Lambda cache nodes



- Object is split and encoded into k+r chunks
- 2. Object chunks are sent to the proxy in parallel
- 3. Proxy invokes Lambda cache nodes
- 4. Proxy streams object chunks to Lambda cache nodes





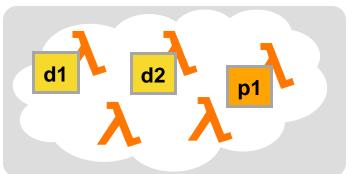
**Application** 

EC decoder

InfiniCache client library

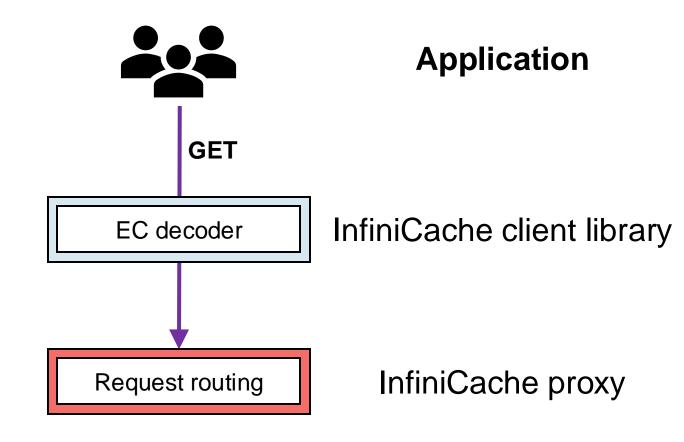
Request routing

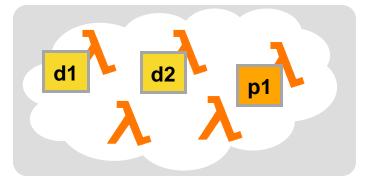
InfiniCache proxy



Lambda cache pool

1. Client sends GET request





Lambda cache pool

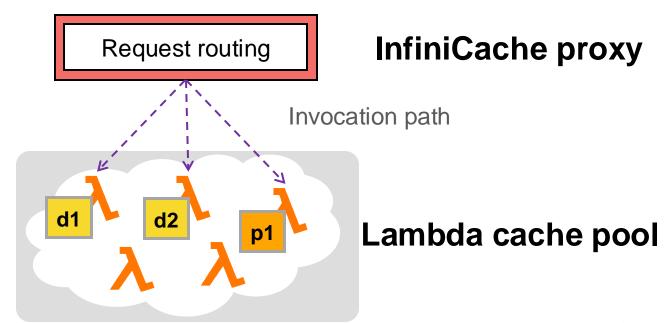


**Application** 

- 1. Client sends GET request
- 2. Proxy invokes associated Lambda cache nodes

EC decoder

InfiniCache client library



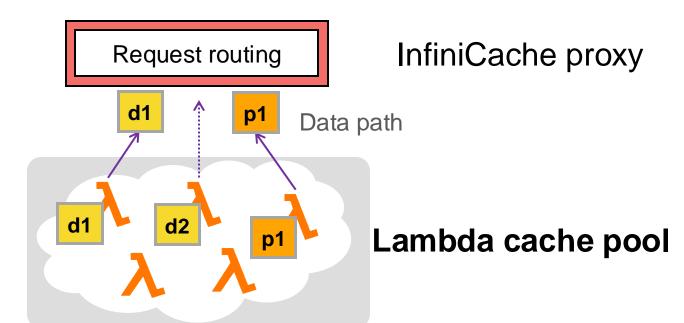


#### **Application**

- 1. Client sends GET request
- 2. Proxy invokes associated Lambda cache nodes
- 3. Lambda cache nodes transfer object chunks to proxy

EC decoder

InfiniCache client library



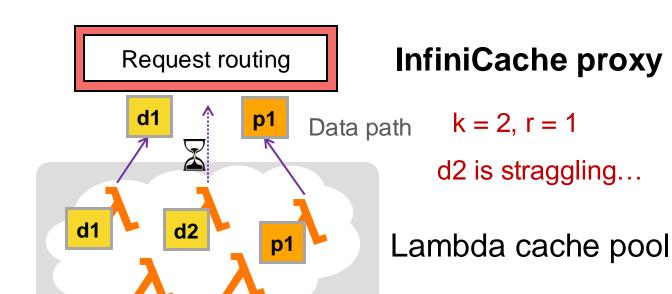


#### **Application**

- 1. Client sends GET request
- 2. Proxy invokes associated Lambda cache nodes
- 3. Lambda cache nodes transfer object chunks to proxy
  - First-d optimization: Proxy drops straggler Lambda

EC decoder

InfiniCache client library





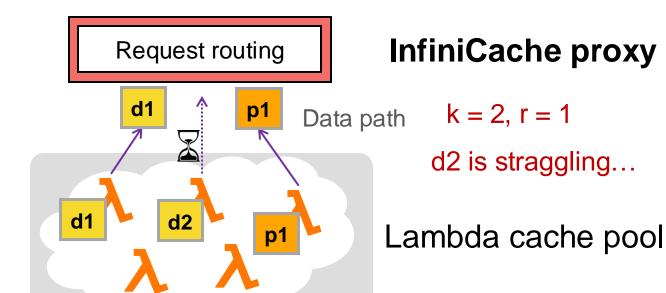
**Application** 

Recall MapReduce uses replication to tackle **stragglers**; turns out storage-efficient redundancy technique **erasure coding** can achieve the same goal.

- 1. Client s quest
- 2. Proxy invo ciated Lambda ca des
- 3. Lambda cach odes transfer object chunks proxy
  - First-d opti nization: Proxy drops straggler Lambda

EC decoder

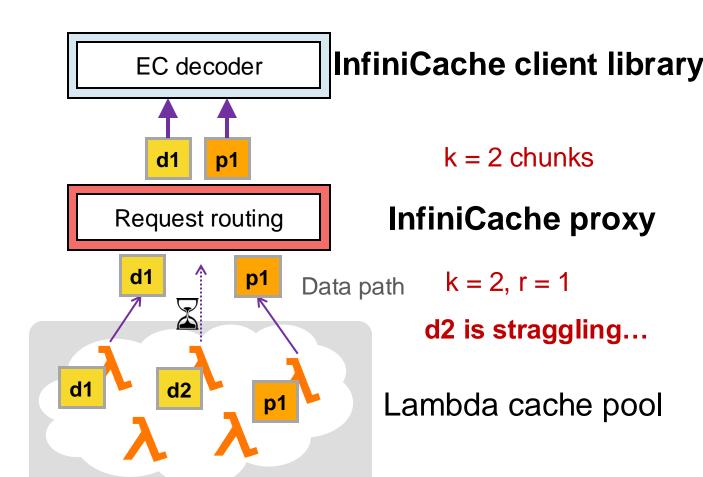
InfiniCache client library



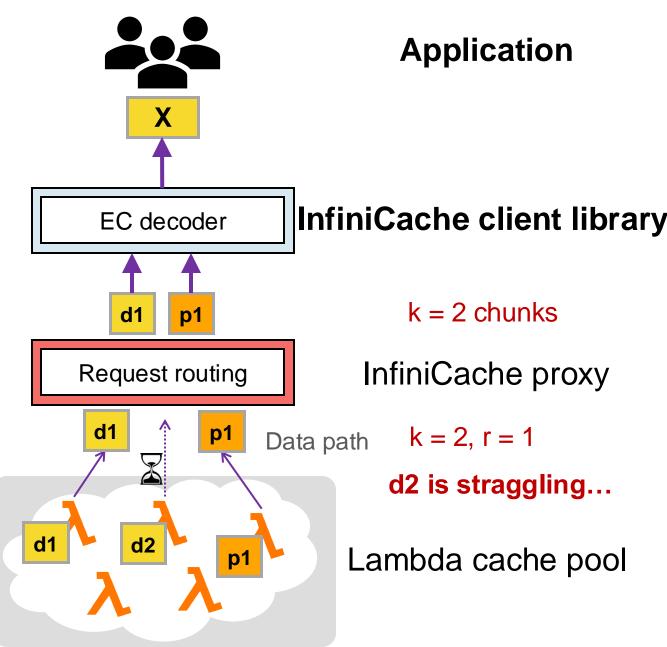


#### **Application**

- 1. Client sends GET request
- 2. Proxy invokes associated Lambda cache nodes
- 3. Lambda cache nodes transfer object chunks to proxy
- 4. Proxy streams k=2 chunks in parallel to client



- 1. Client sends GET request
- 2. Proxy invokes associated Lambda cache nodes
- 3. Lambda cache nodes transfer object chunks to proxy
- 4. Proxy streams k=2 chunks in parallel to client
- 5. Client library decodes k chunks





#### **Application**

**Tradeoff:** Computational cost of EC decoding **vs.** delay waiting for the straggler (typically, **computational cost < straggler delay**, thanks to the efficient implementation of modern EC libraries)

- 1. Client send
- 2. Proxy invoke Lambda cach
- 3. Lambda cache object chunks to
- 4. Proxy streams k=2 unks in parallel to client

ansfer

InfiniCache client library EC decoder k = 2 chunks Request routing InfiniCache proxy **d1** k = 2, r = 1Data path d2 is straggling... d1 d2 Lambda cache pool

5. Client library decodes k chunks

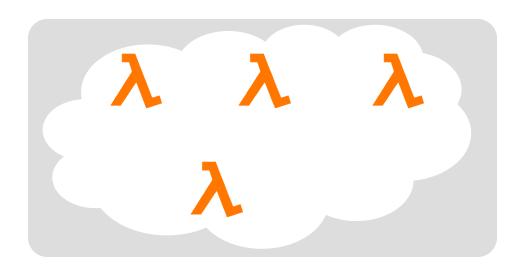
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### Maximizing data availability

- Erasure-coding
- Periodic warm-up
- Smart delta-sync backup

1. Lambda nodes are cached by AWS when not running

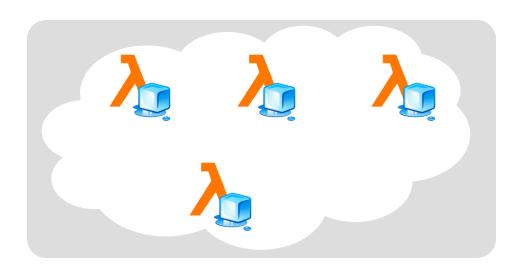




- 1. Lambda nodes are cached by AWS when not running
  - AWS may reclaim cold Lambda functions after they are idling for a period



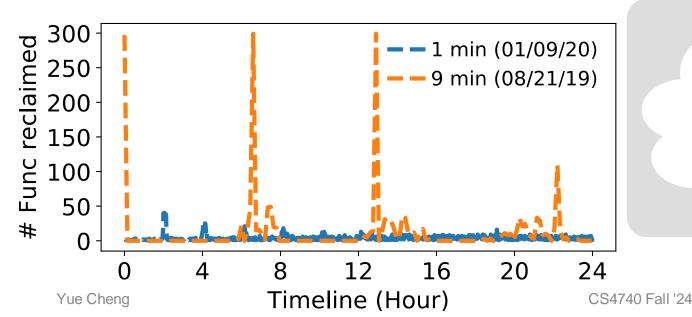


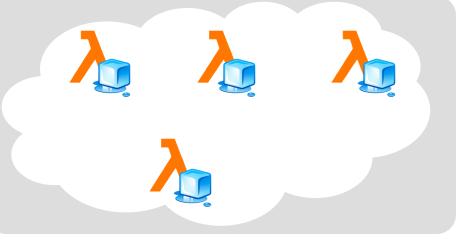


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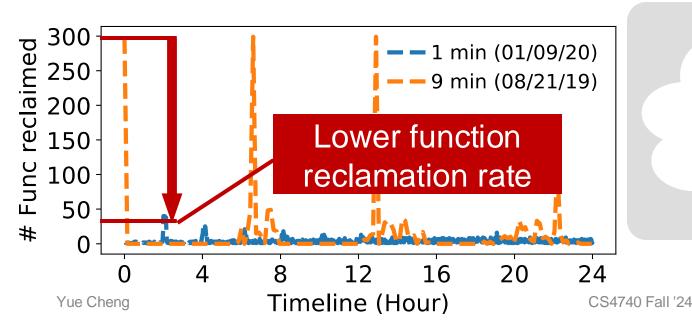


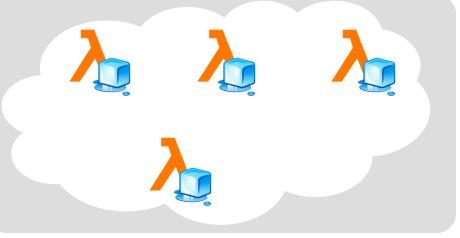


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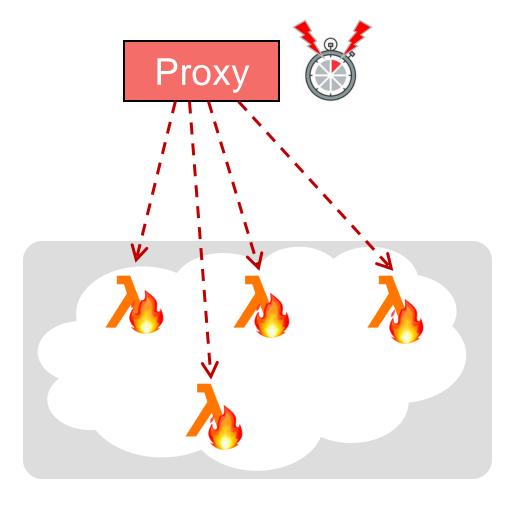




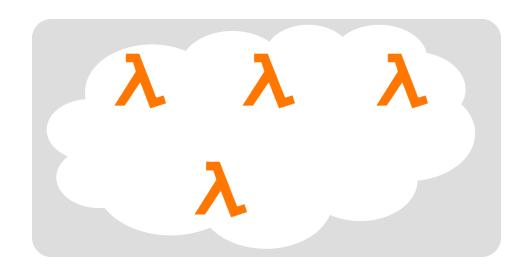




- 1. Lambda nodes are cached by AWS when not running
- 2. Proxy periodically invokes sleeping Lambda cache nodes to extend their lifespan

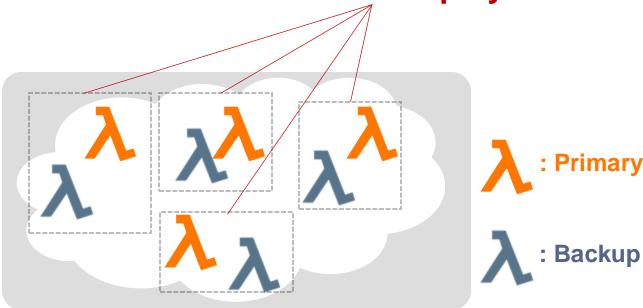




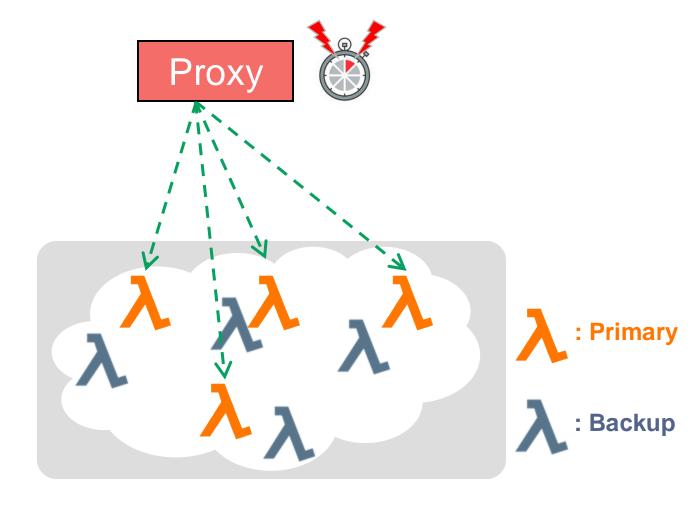




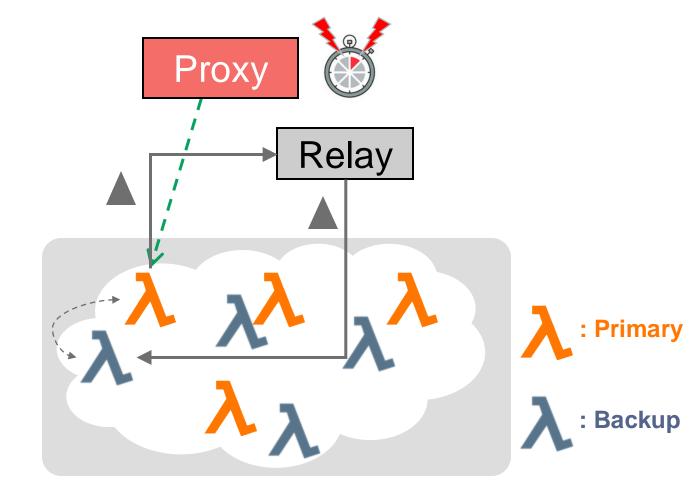
#### **Function deployment**



1. Proxy periodically sends out backup commands to Lambda cache nodes



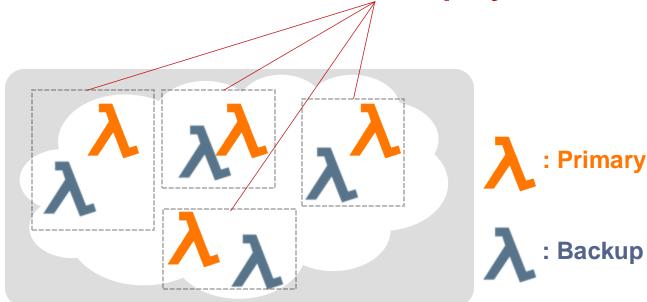
- 1. Proxy periodically sends out backup commands to Lambda cache nodes
- 2. Lambda node performs deltasync with its peer replica
  - Source Lambda propagates deltaupdate to destination Lambda



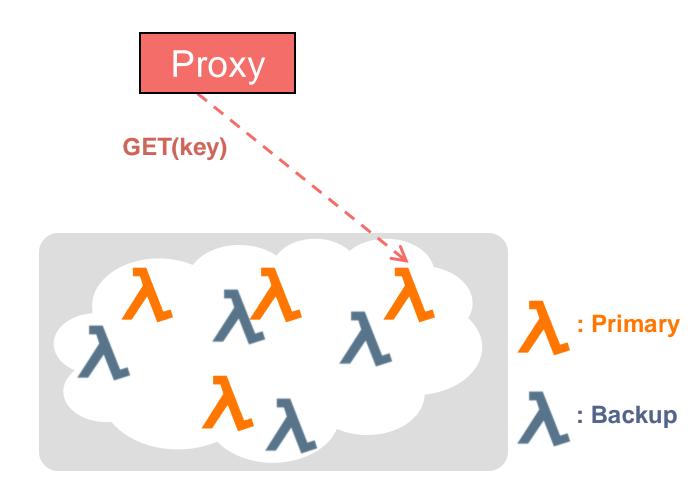
### Seamless failover



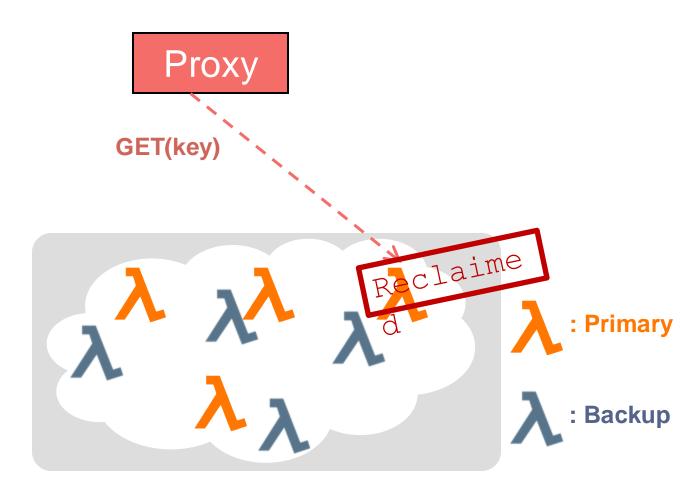
#### **Function deployment**



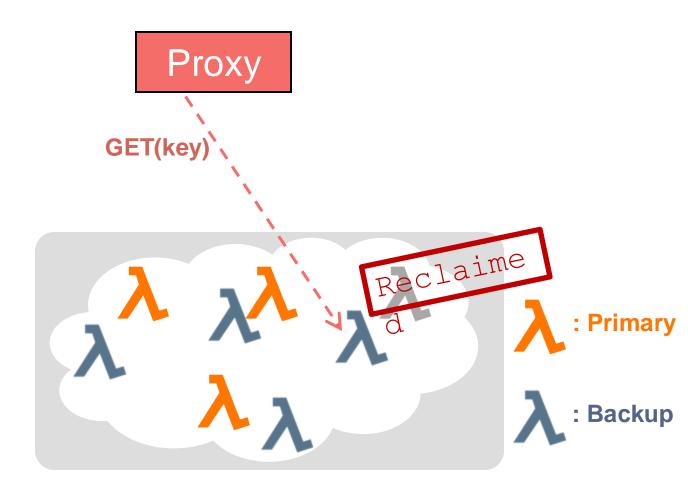
1. Proxy invokes a Lambda cache node with a GET request



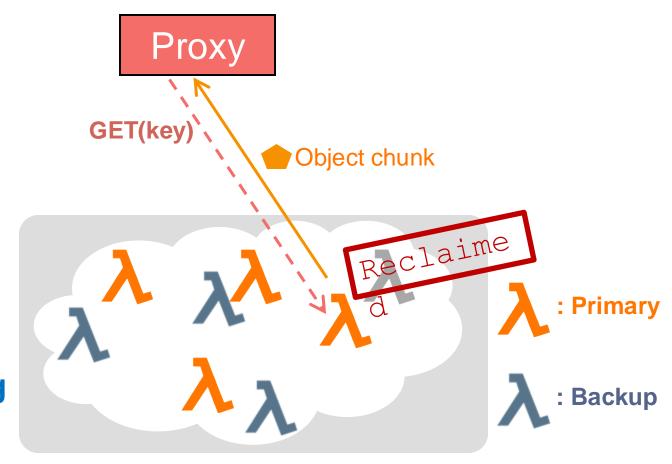
- 1. Proxy invokes a Lambda cache node with a GET request
- 2. Source Lambda gets reclaimed

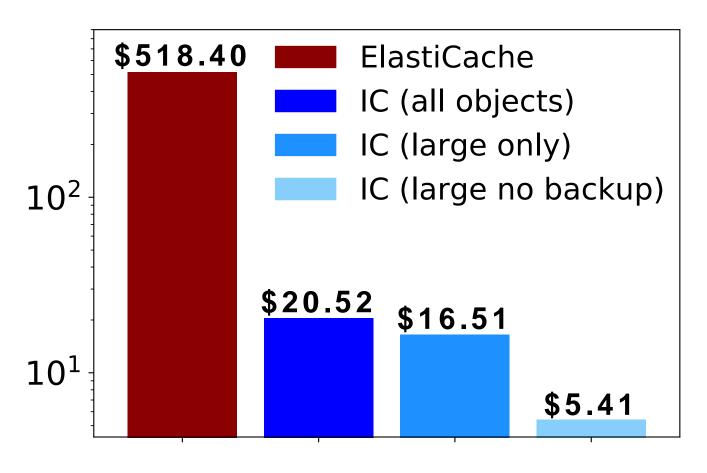


- 1. Proxy invokes a Lambda cache node with a GET request
- 2. Source Lambda gets reclaimed
- 3. The invocation request gets seamlessly redirected to the backup Lambda



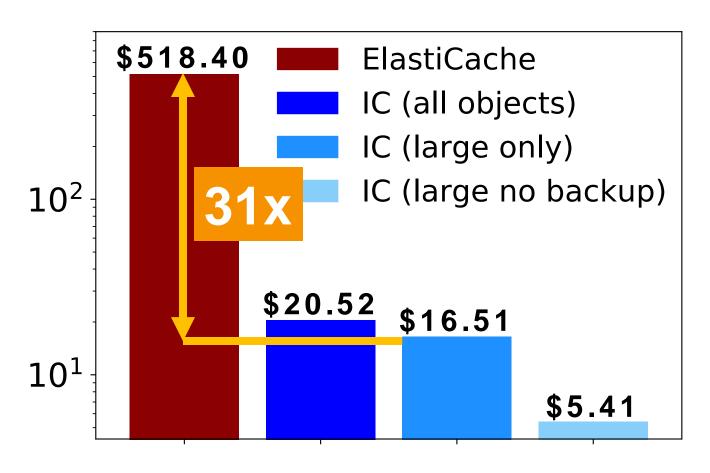
- Proxy invokes a Lambda cache node with a GET request
- 2. Source Lambda gets reclaimed
- 3. The invocation request gets seamlessly redirected to the backup Lambda
  - Failover gets automatically done and the backup becomes the primary
  - By exploiting the auto-scaling feature of AWS Lambda





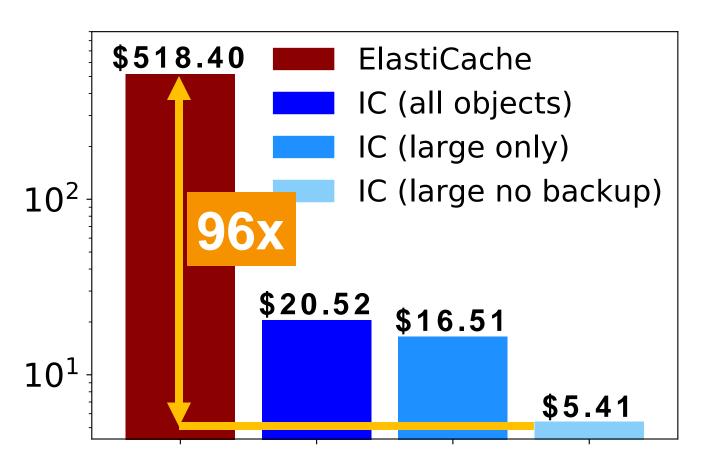
Workload setup

- All objects
- Large object only
  - Object larger than 10MB
- Large object w/o backup



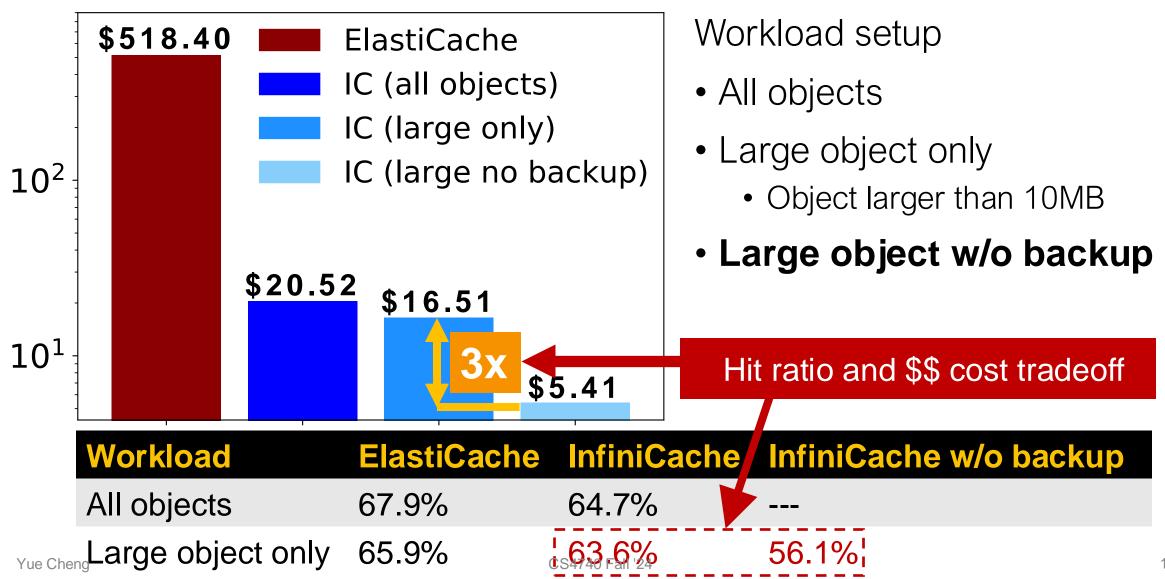
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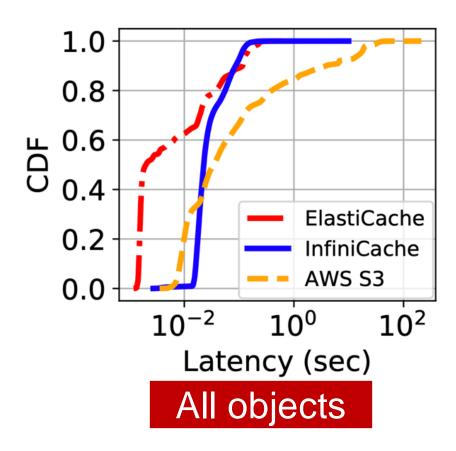


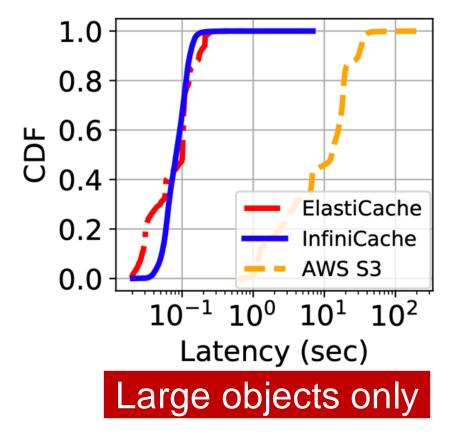
Workload setup

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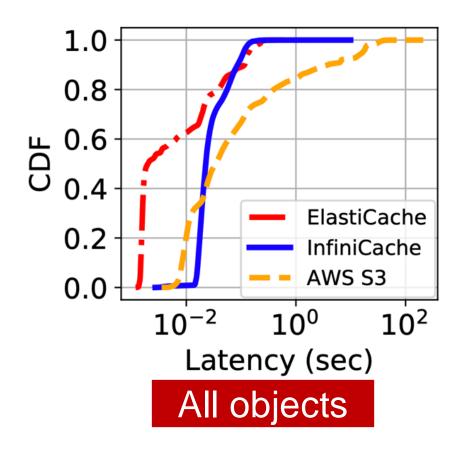


#### Performance of InfiniCache

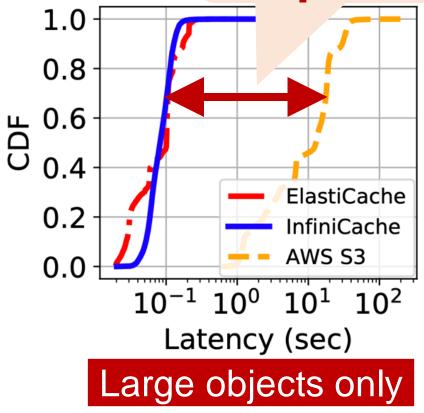




### Performance of InfiniCache



# > 100 times improvement



#### **Discussion**

- InfiniCache's cost saving benefits have conditions
  - The same condition holds for many different types of serverless/FaaS apps
- Unit time \$ cost increases with the access rate

