

# Smart Contracts for Crowdsourced Spectrum Sensing

Aalto CS Forum Talk,

March 1st, 2019

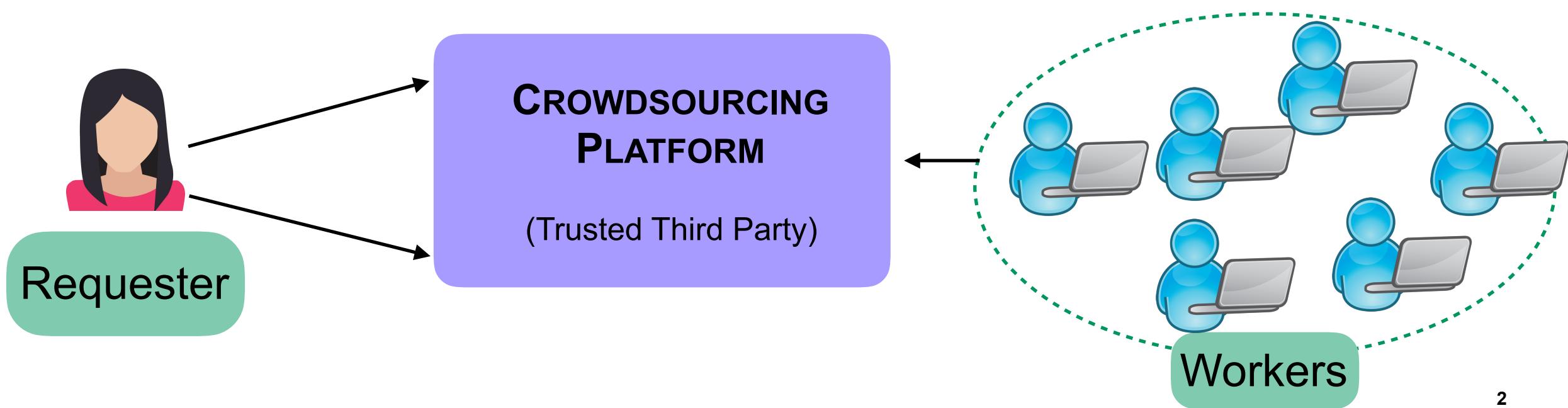
Suzan Bayhan

Telecommunication Networks Group, TU Berlin

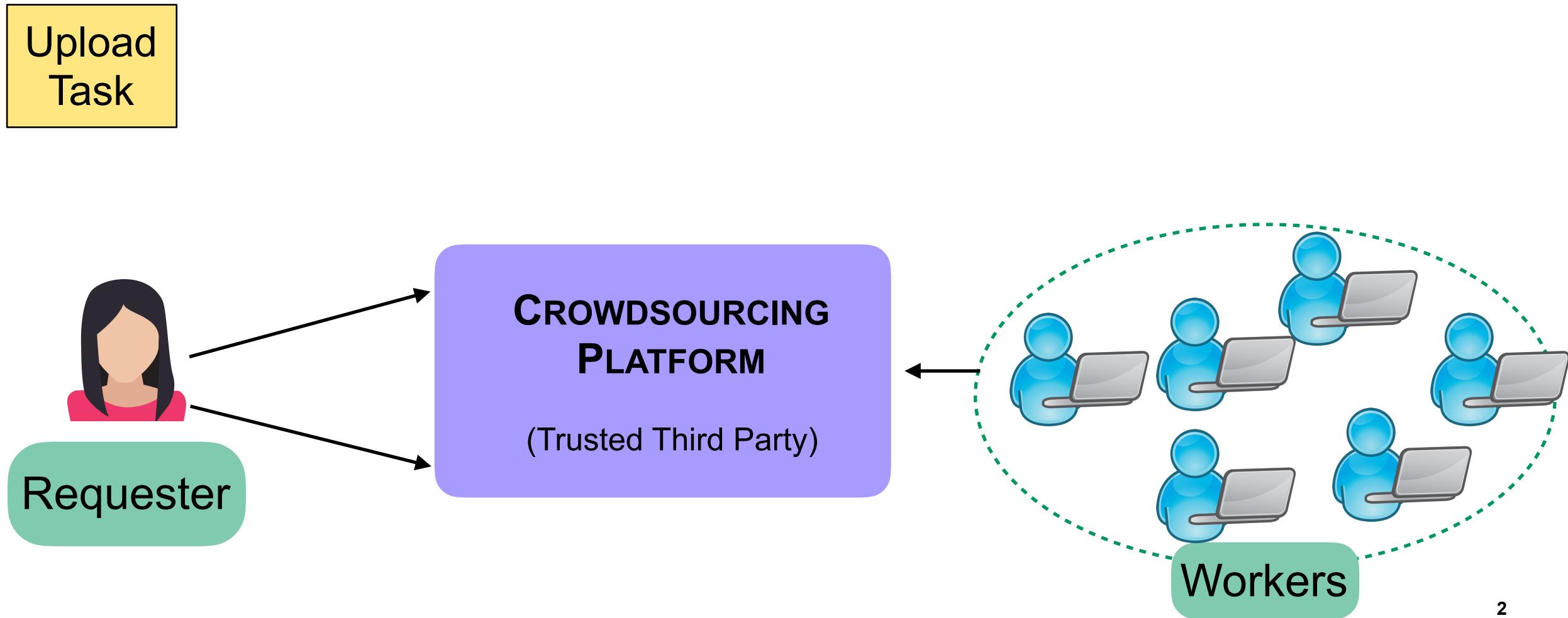
[suzanbayhan.github.io](https://suzanbayhan.github.io)

Collaborators: Anatolij Zubow, Piotr Gawlowicz, Adam Wolisz

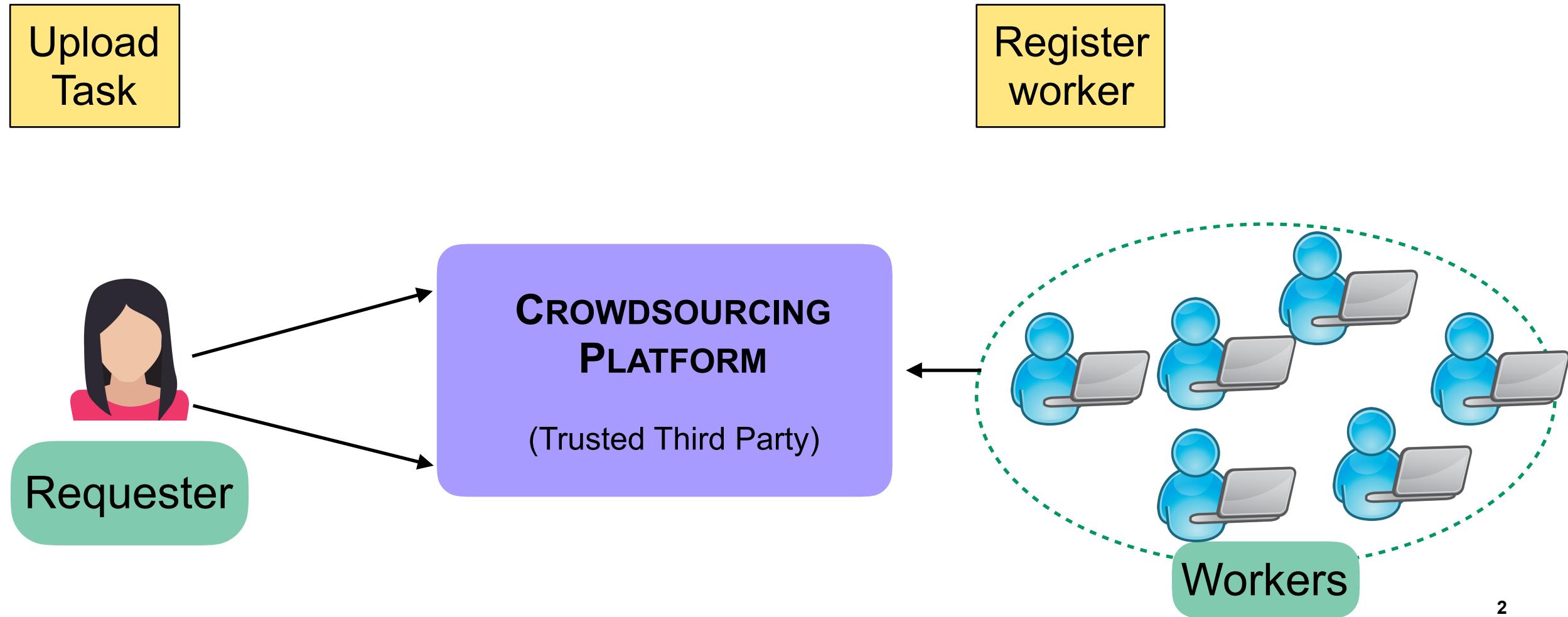
# Typical centralized crowdsourcing solutions: requester, workers, crowdsourcing platform



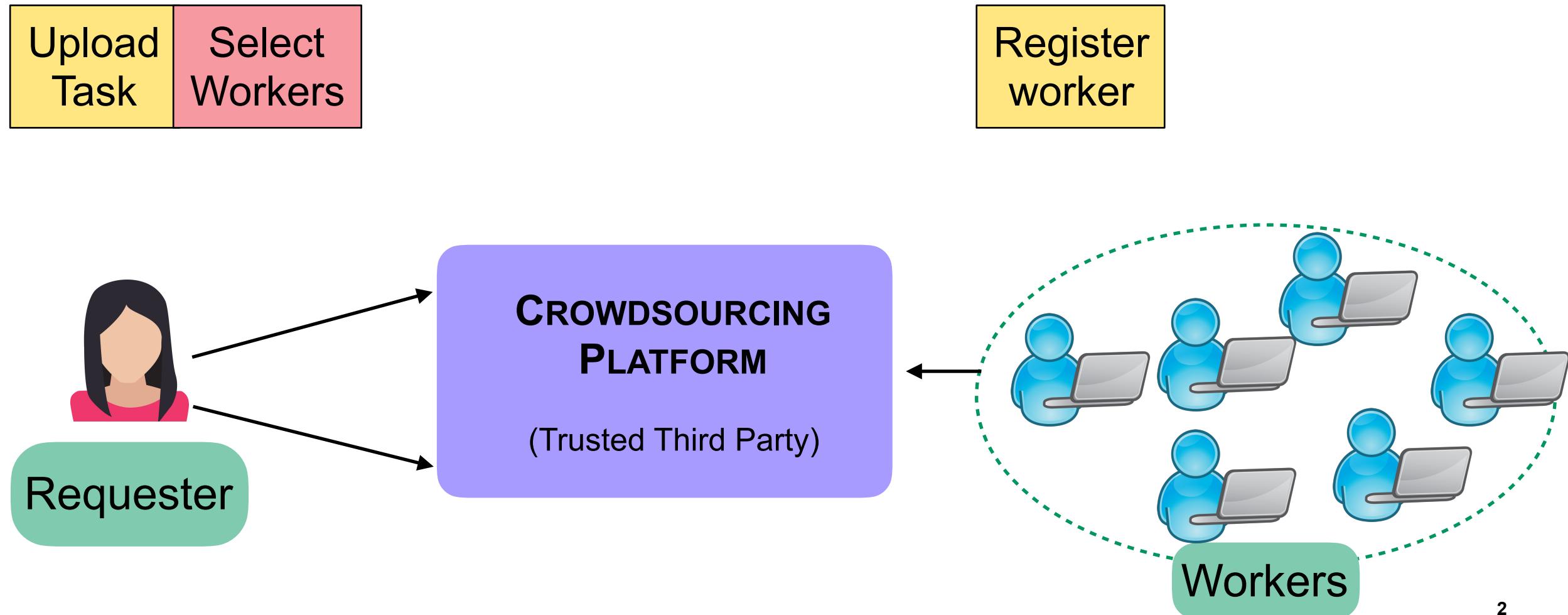
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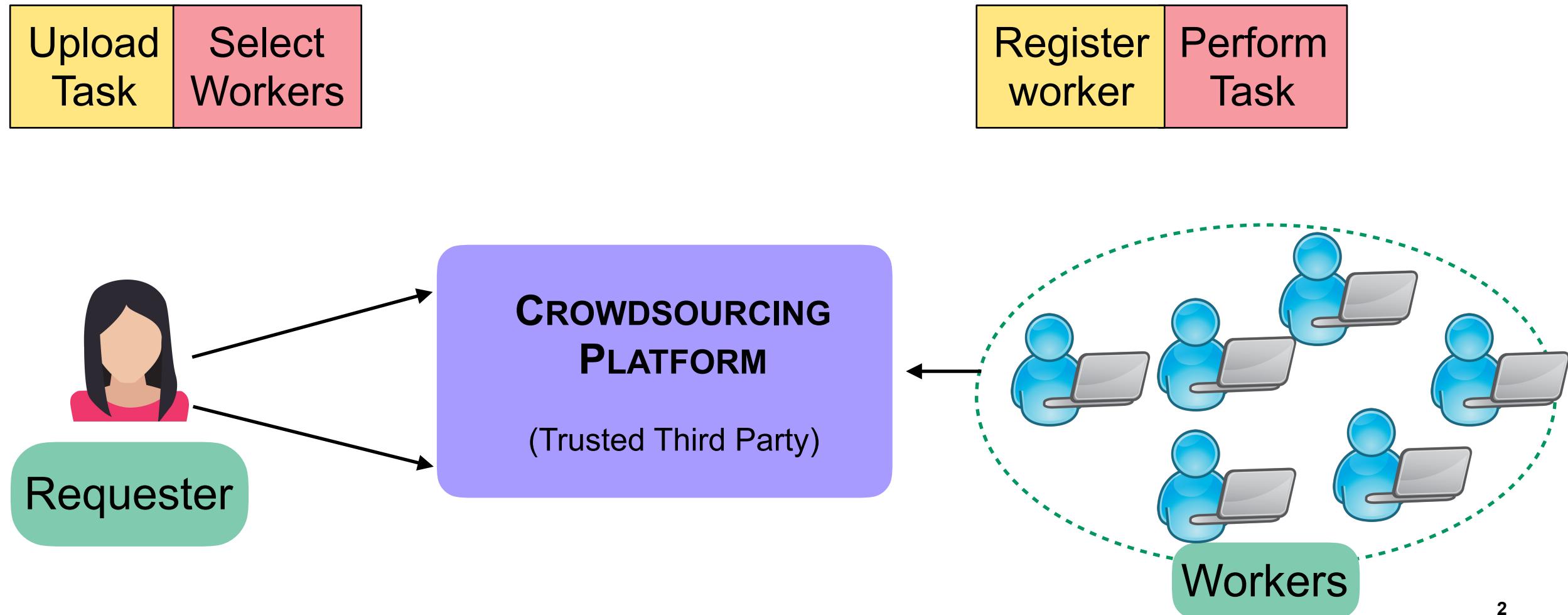
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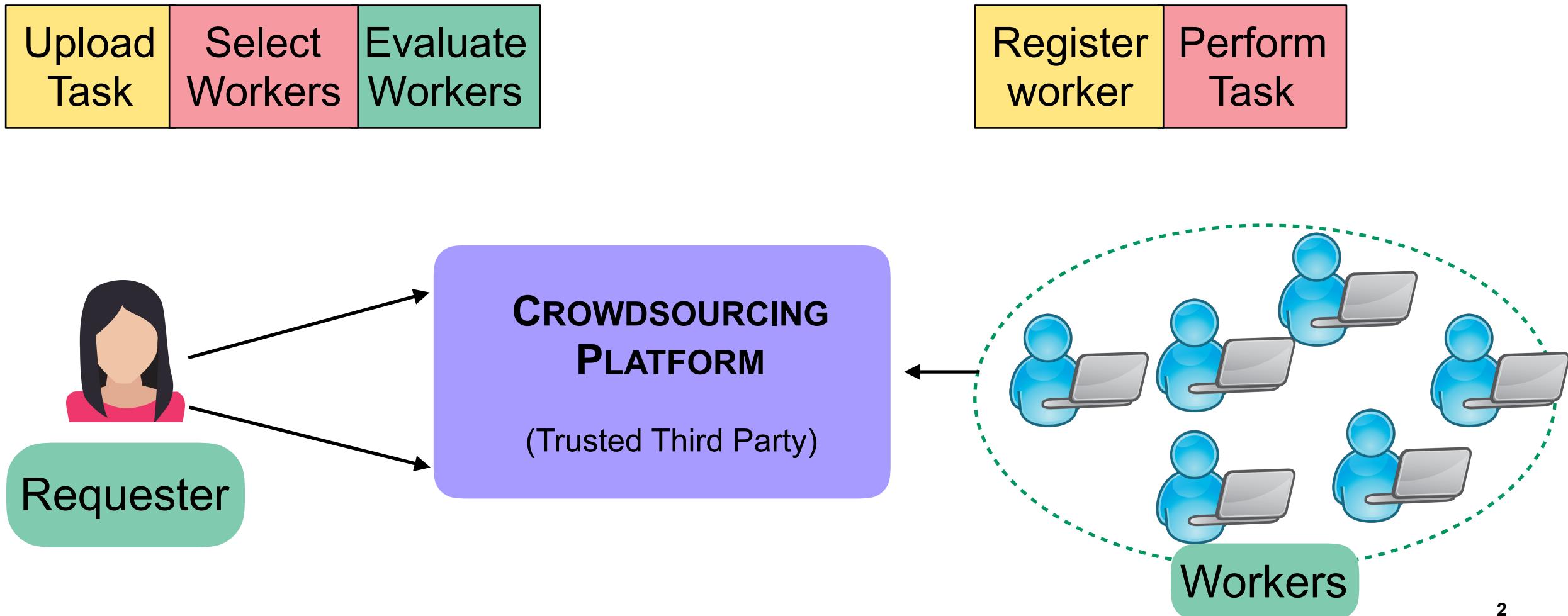
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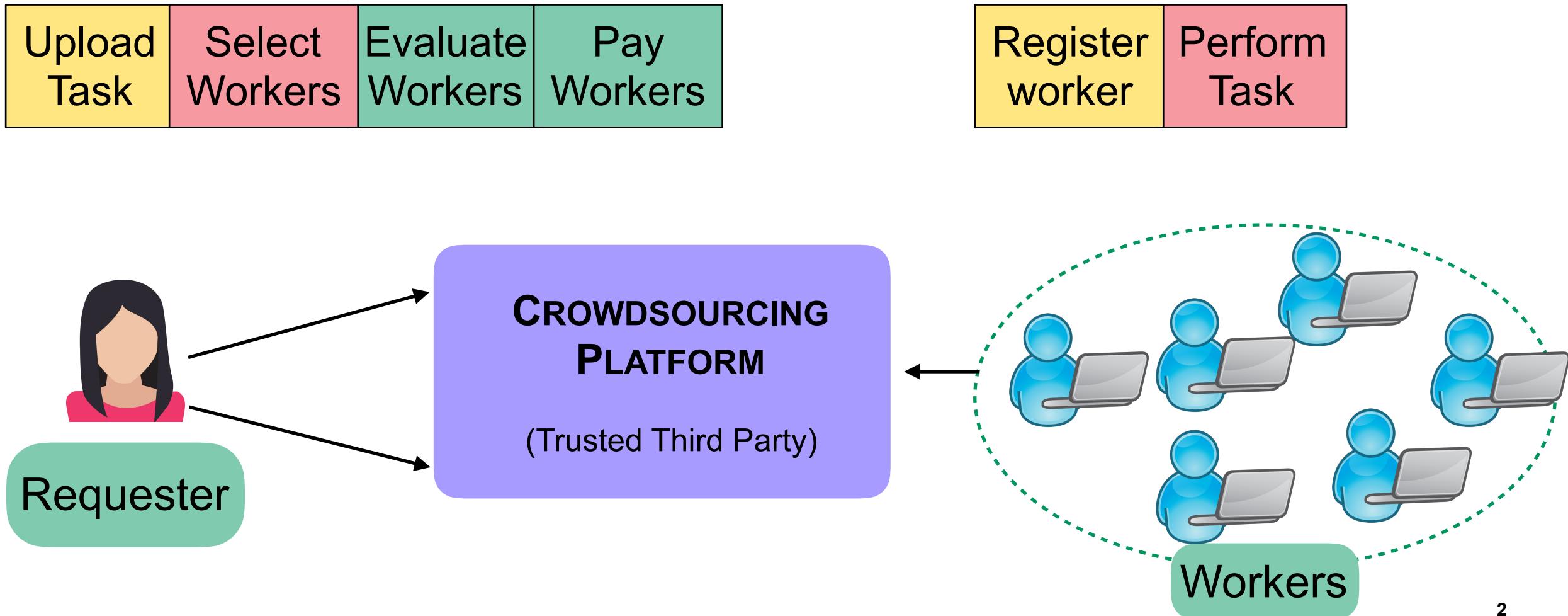
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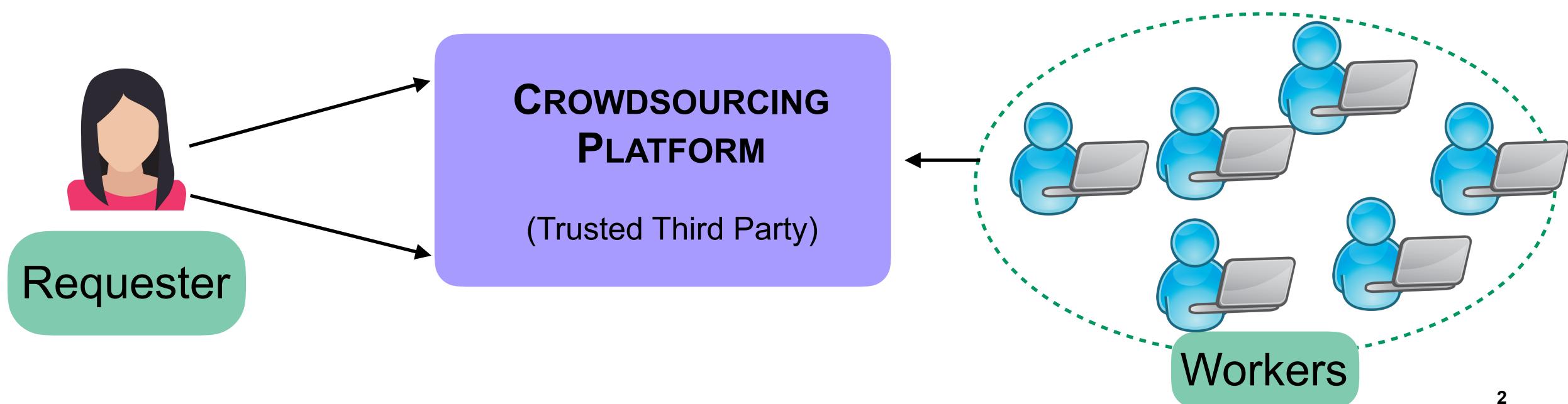
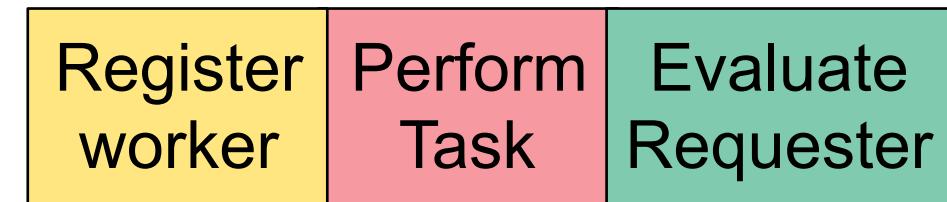
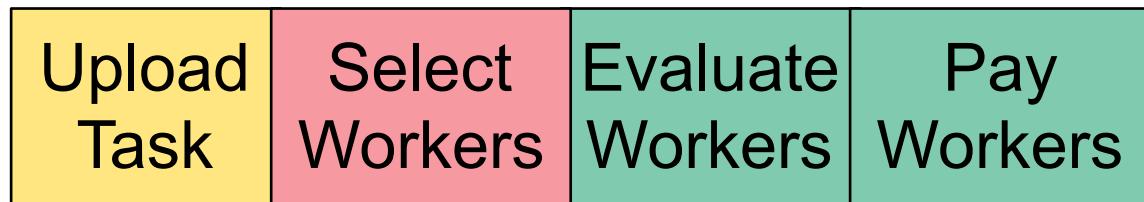
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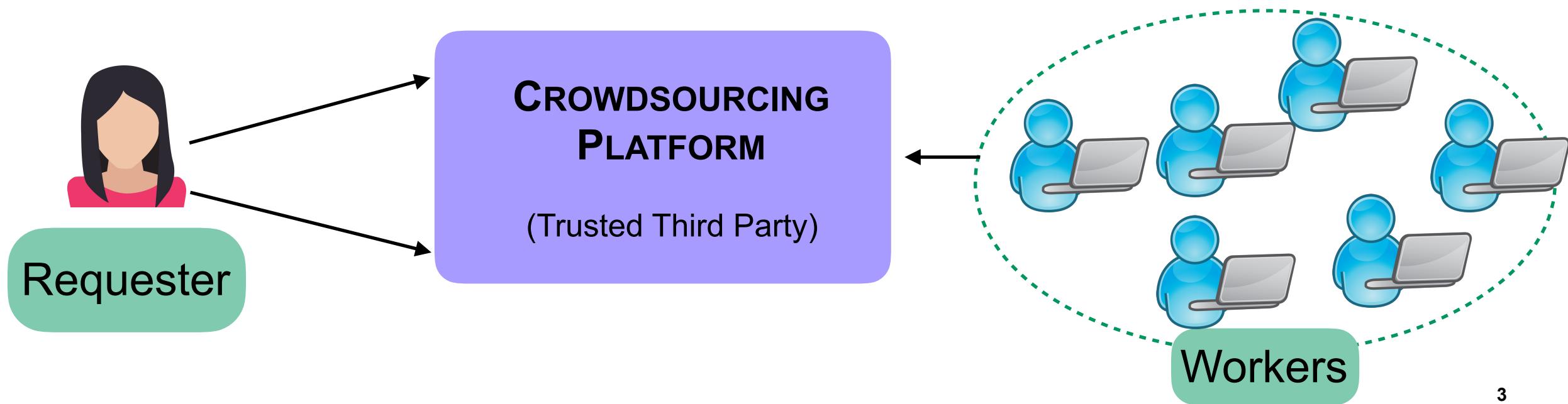
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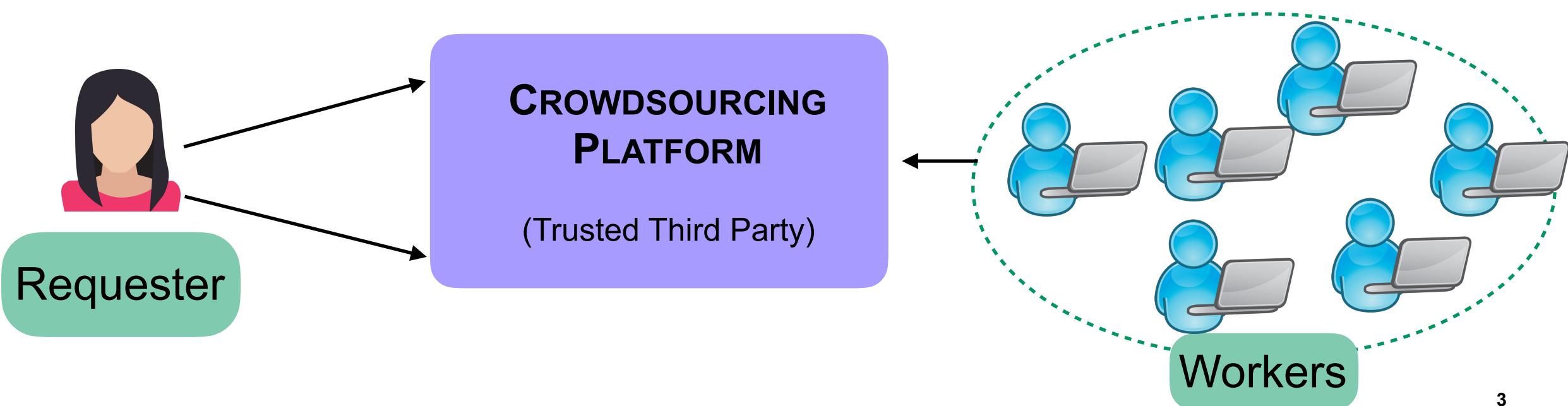


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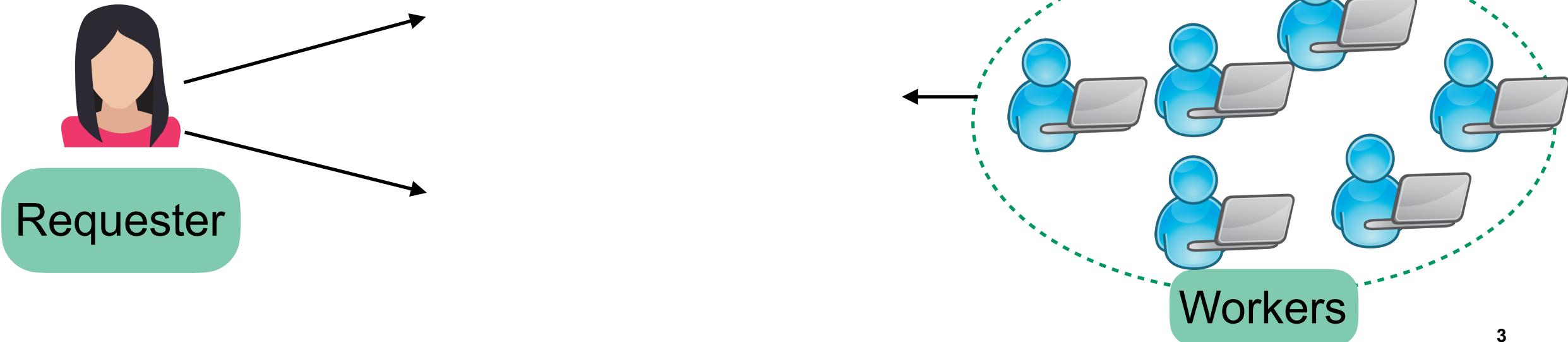
- Trust
- Service fees
- Single point of failure
- Dispute resolving (repudiation of payments)
- Prone to attacks or fraud (free-riders)
- Heterogeneity (e.g., uncalibrated, low-precision sensors)



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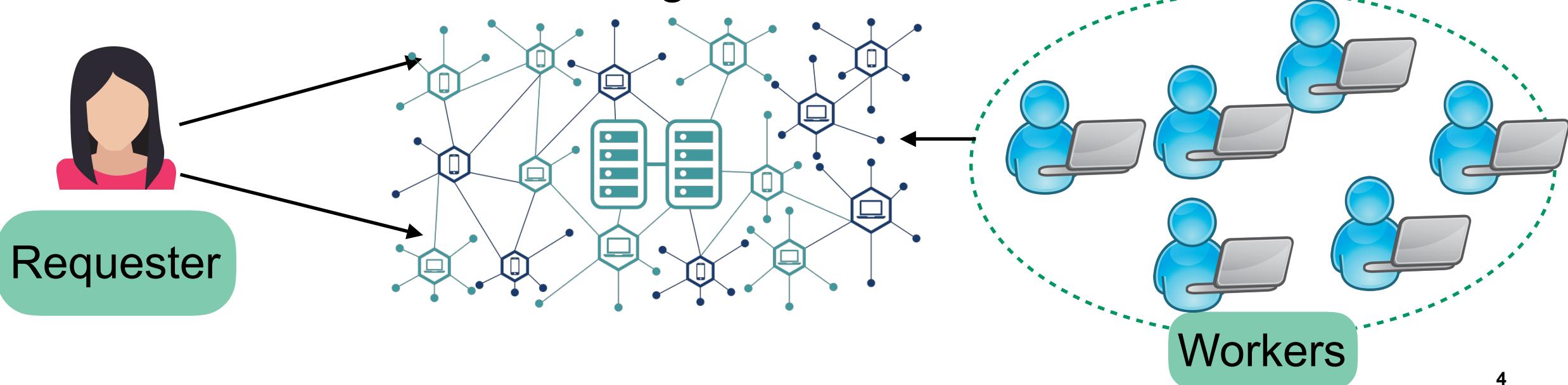
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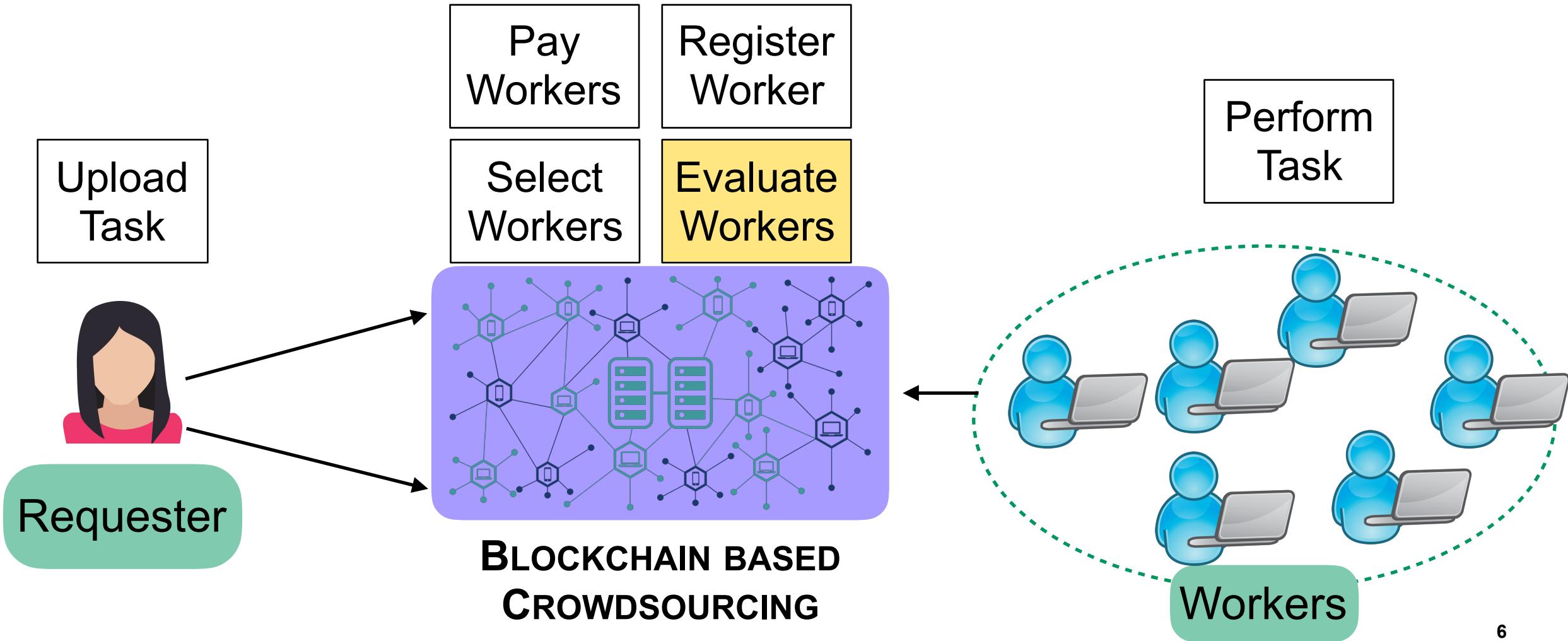
## Distributed ledger solutions



# Distributed Ledgers for Crowdsourcing

- a decentralized crowdsourcing system
  - smart contracts (SC) to implement functions of a crowdsourcing platform
  - requires a secure environment which is decentralized, unalterable and programmable: provided by Blockchain networks
  - *transaction fee* for miners who confirm the transaction and support blockchain running persistently [Li 2019]
- 
- Lu, Yuan, Qiang Tang, and Guiling Wang. "Zebralancer: Private and anonymous crowdsourcing system atop open blockchain." *IEEE ICDCS* 2018.
  - M. Li *et al.*, "CrowdBC: A Blockchain-based Decentralized Framework for Crowdsourcing," in *IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems*, 2019.

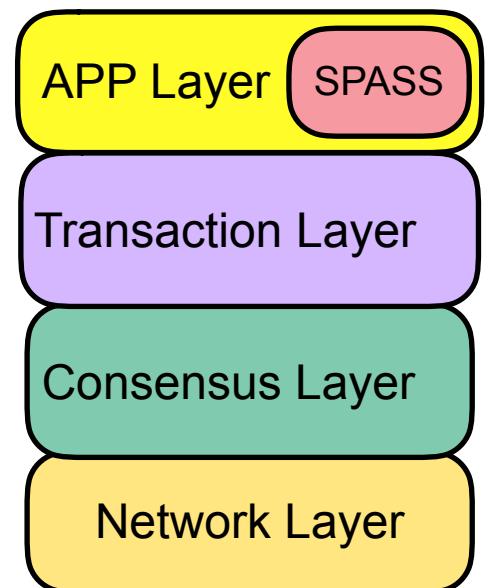
# Challenge: SCs storage and processing limited



# Spass: Spectrum Sensing as a Service via Smart Contracts

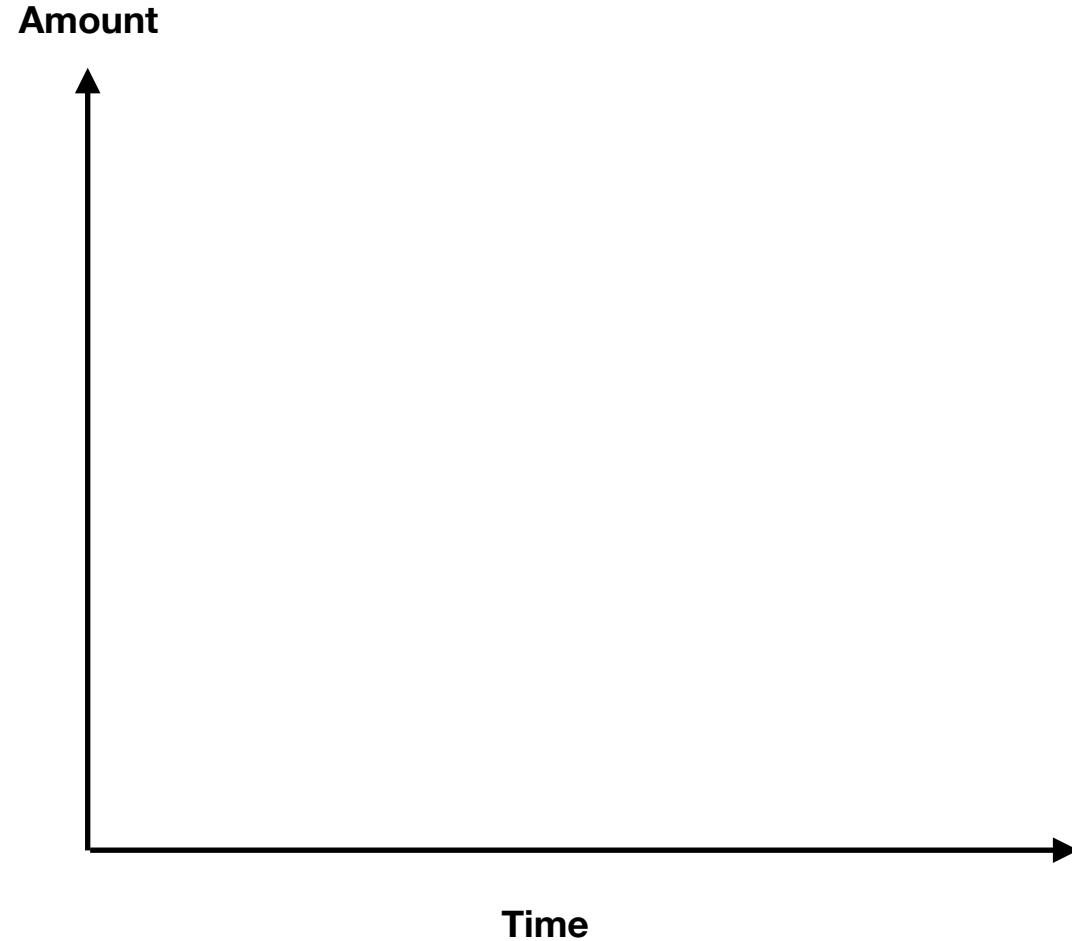
presented at IEEE DySPAN 2018

(under review, IEEE Transactions on Cognitive Communications and Networking)

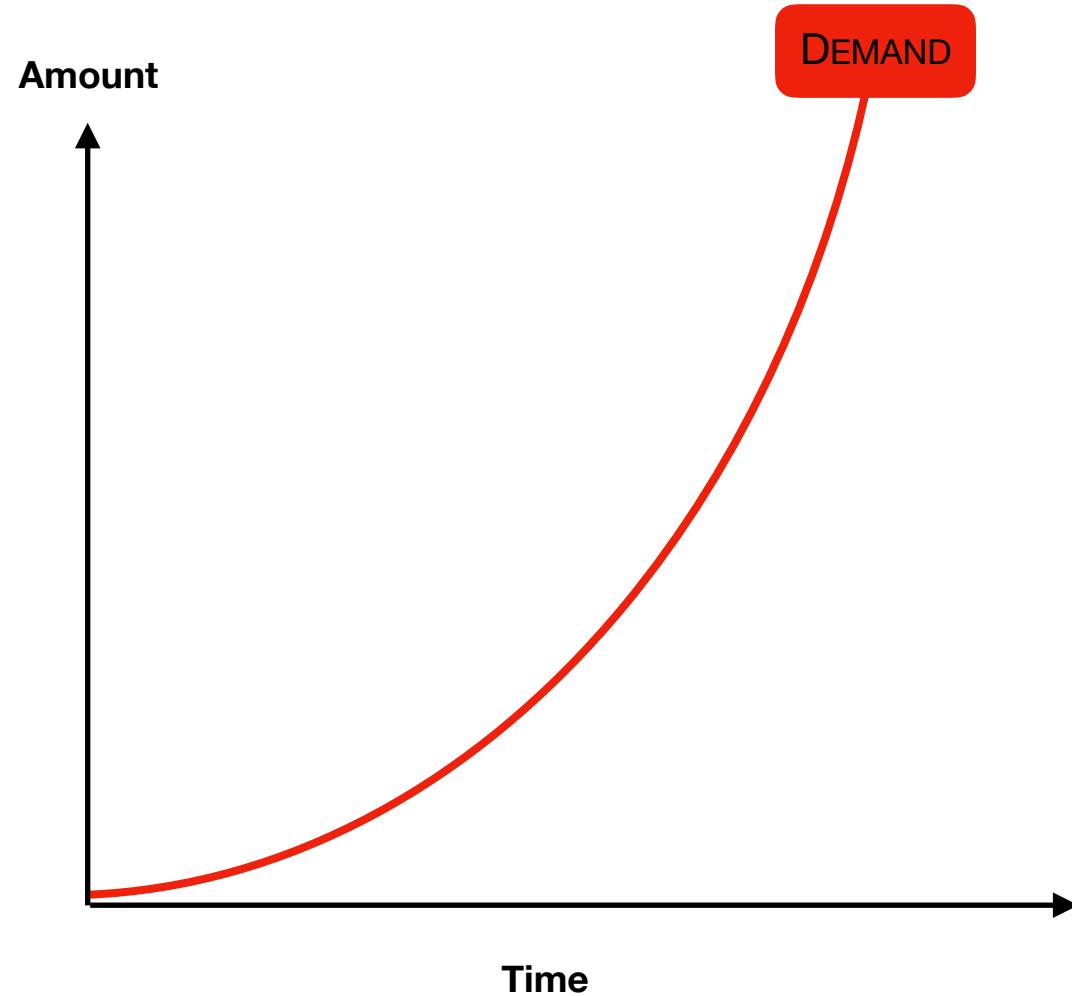


# Need for more network capacity

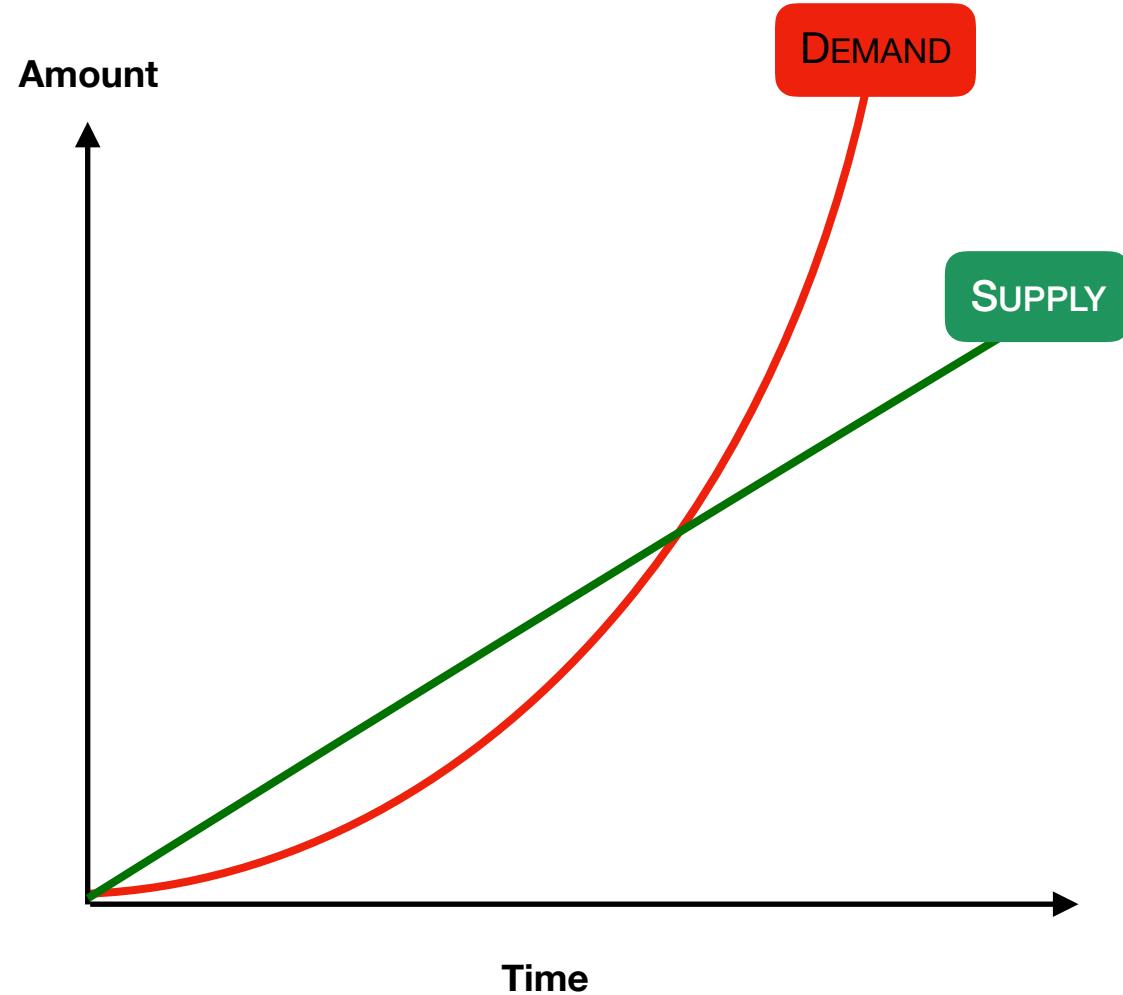
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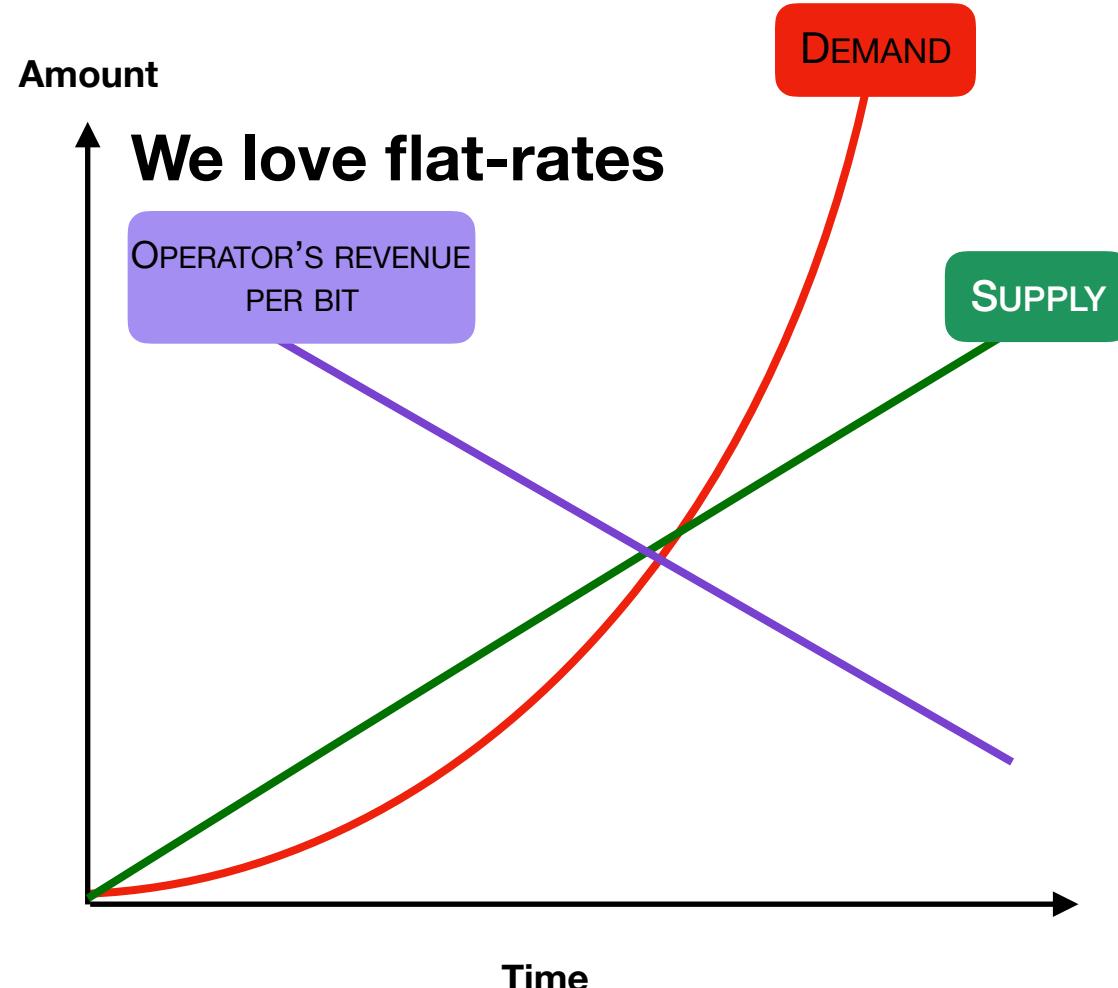
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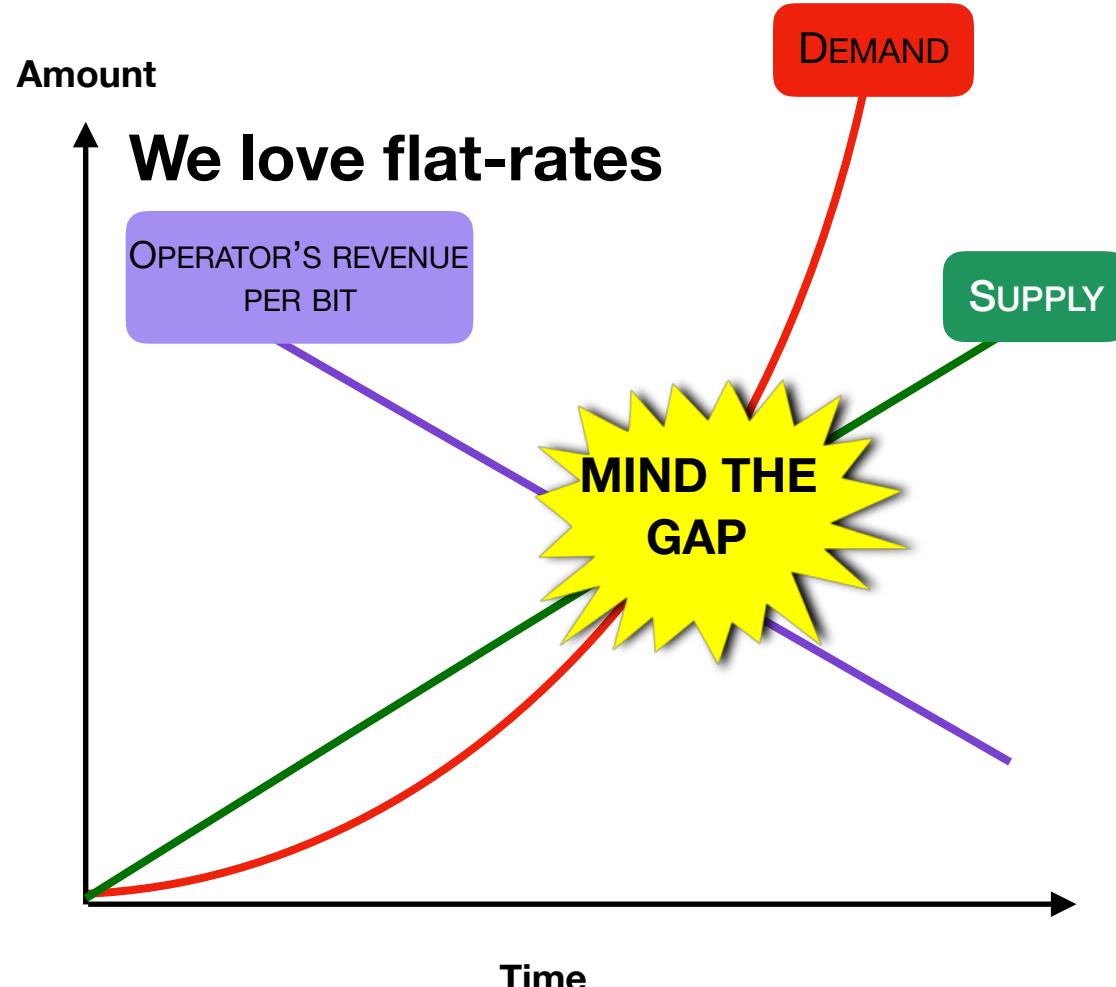


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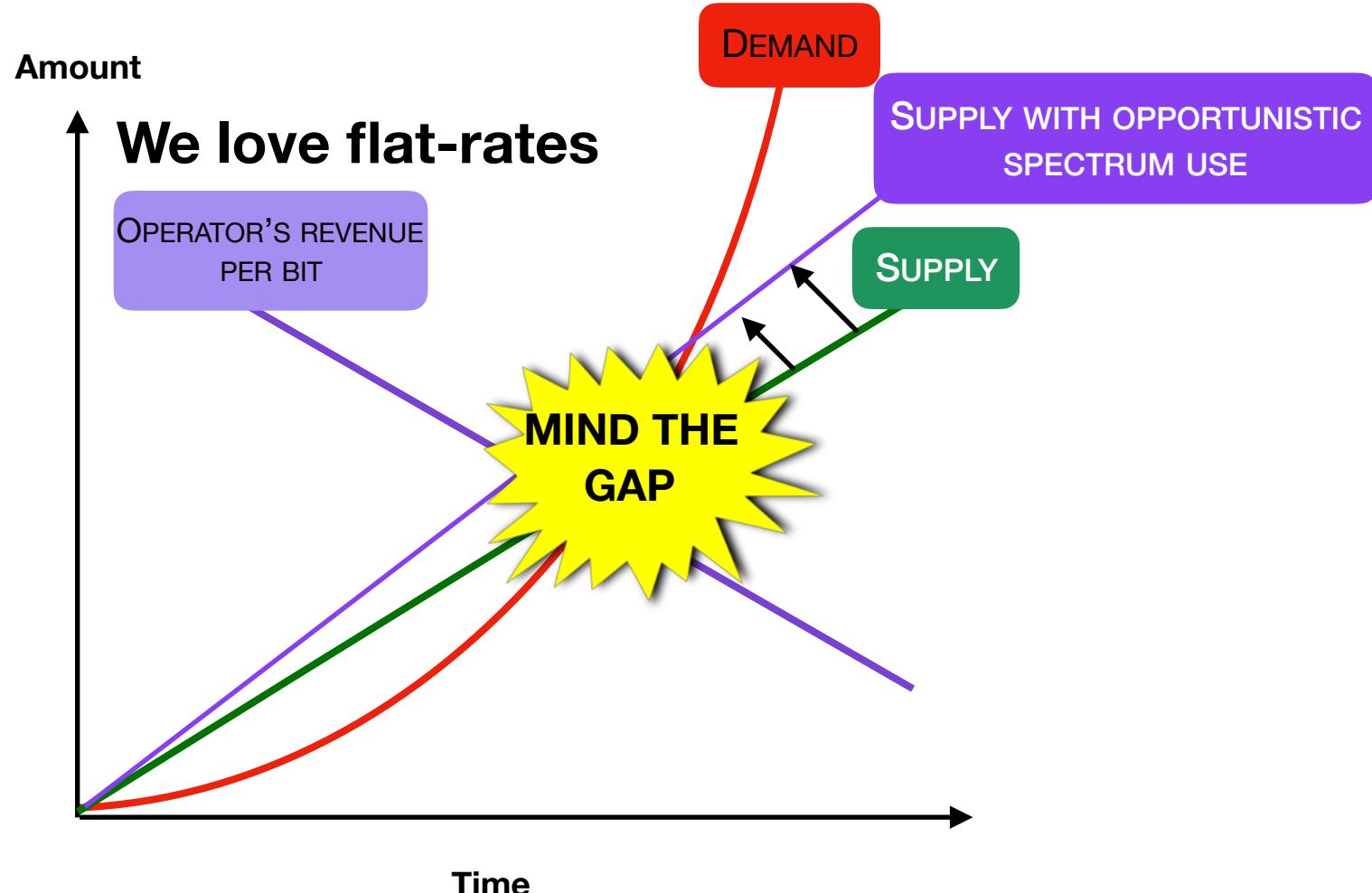
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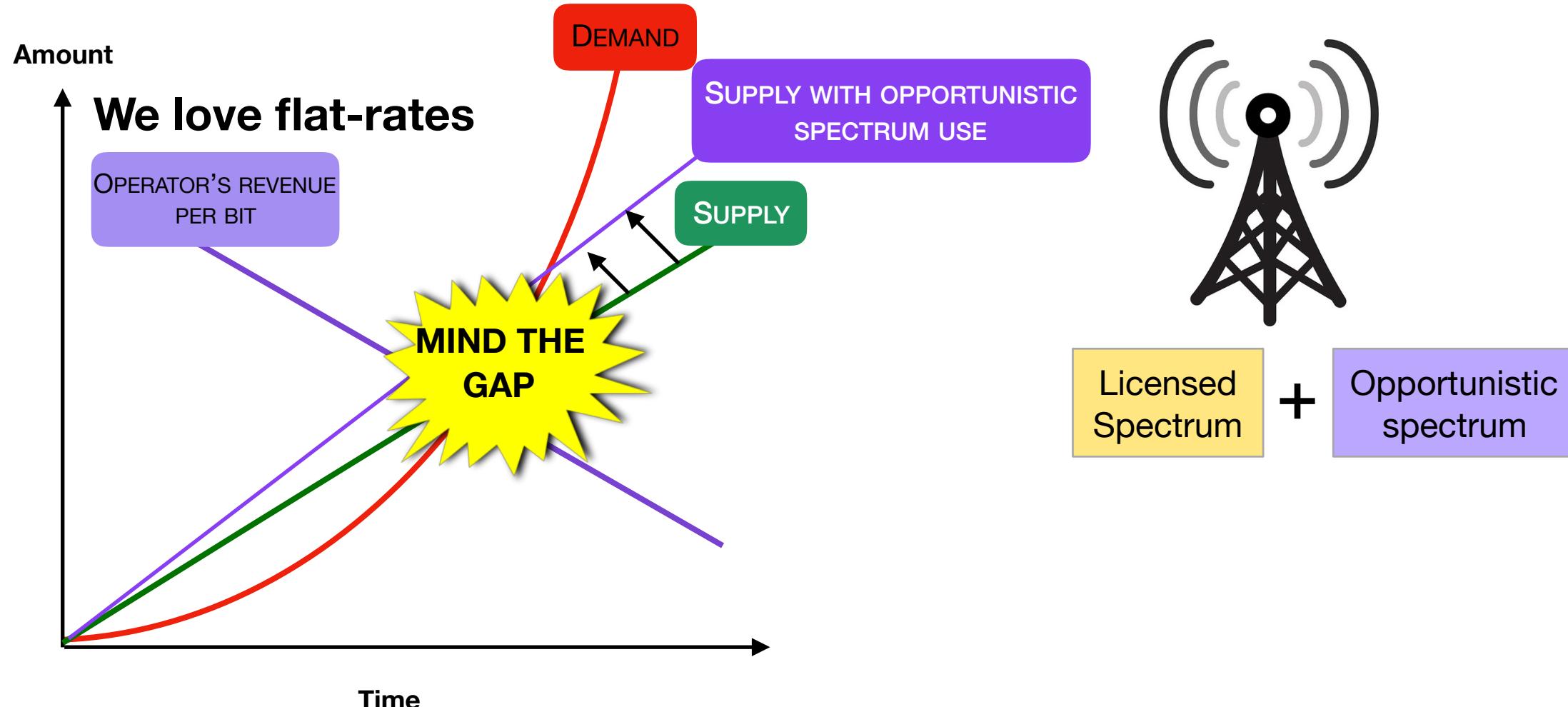
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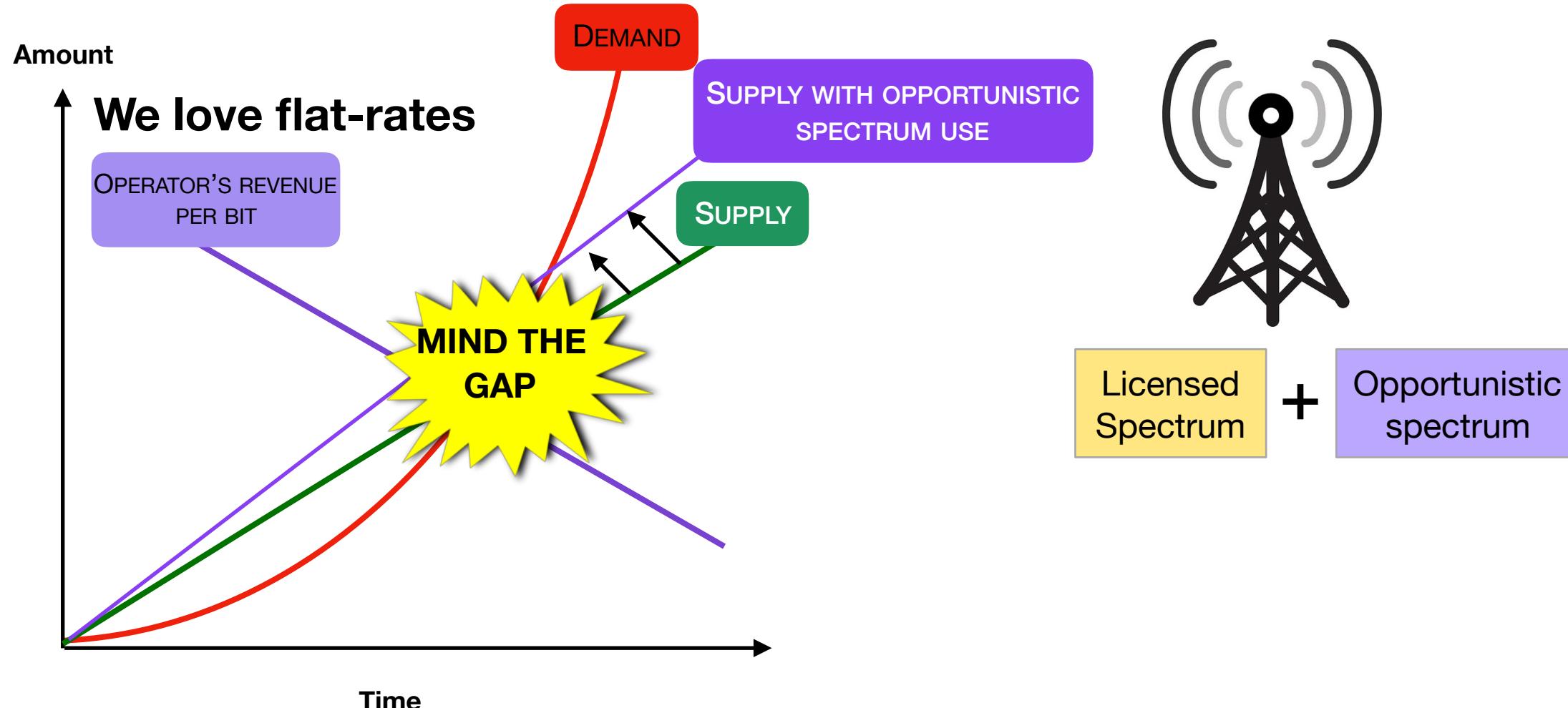
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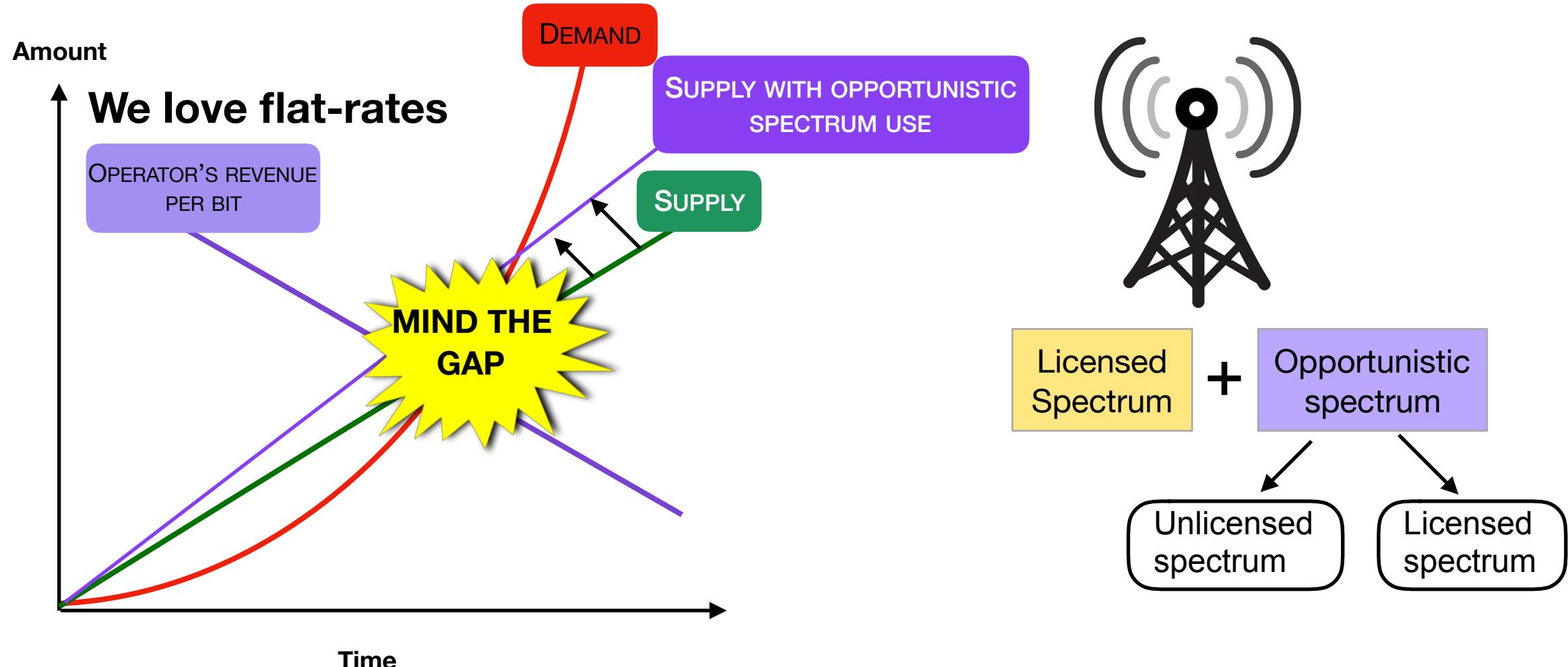
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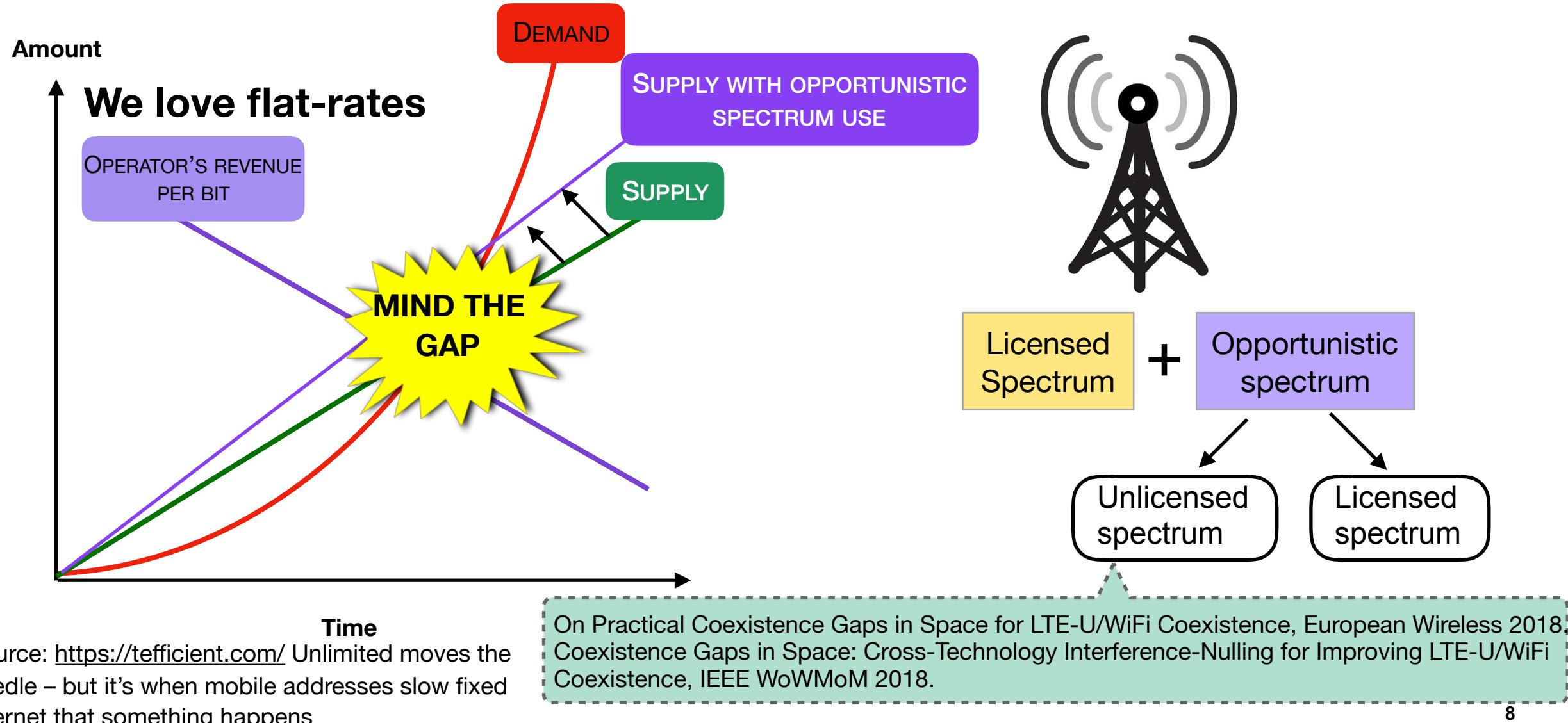
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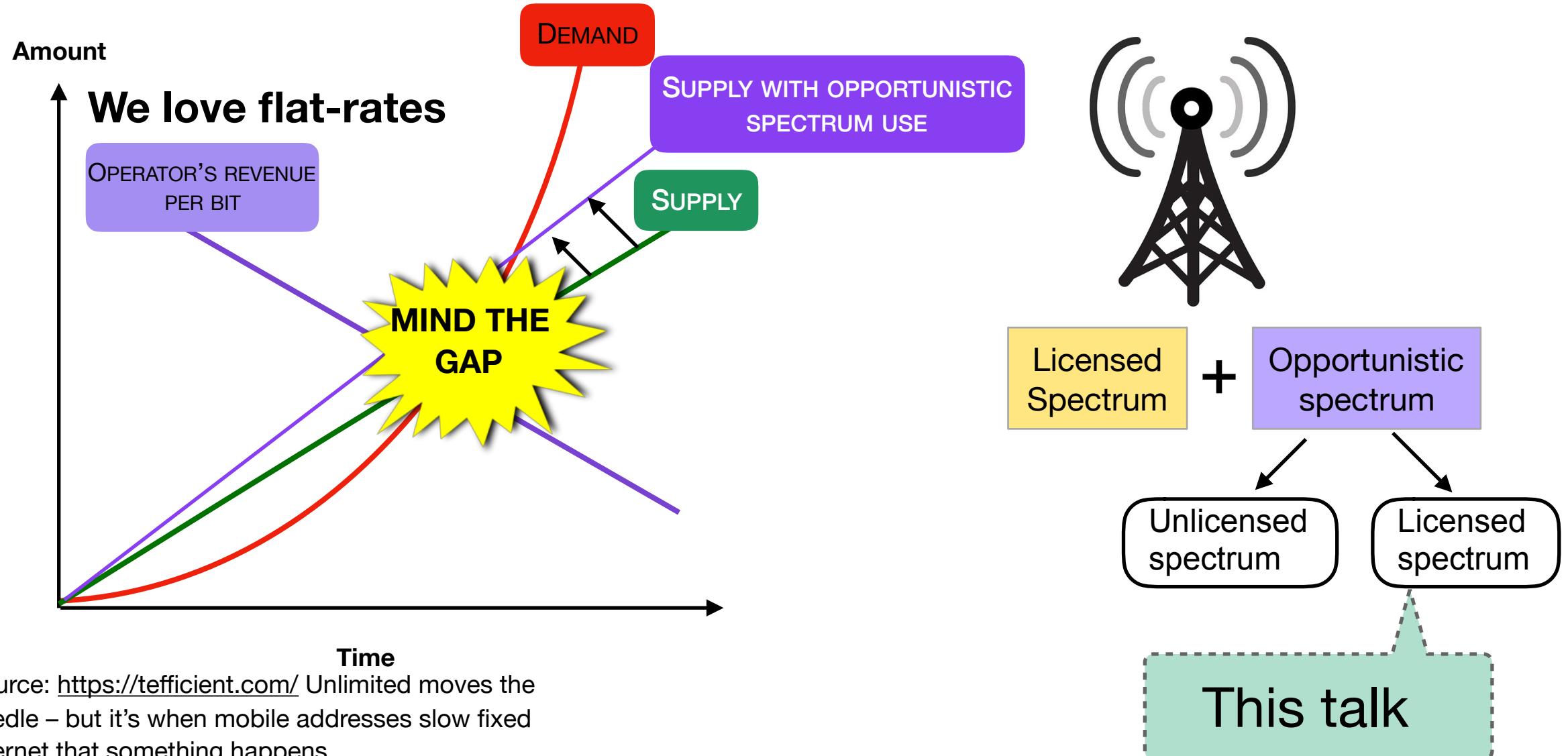


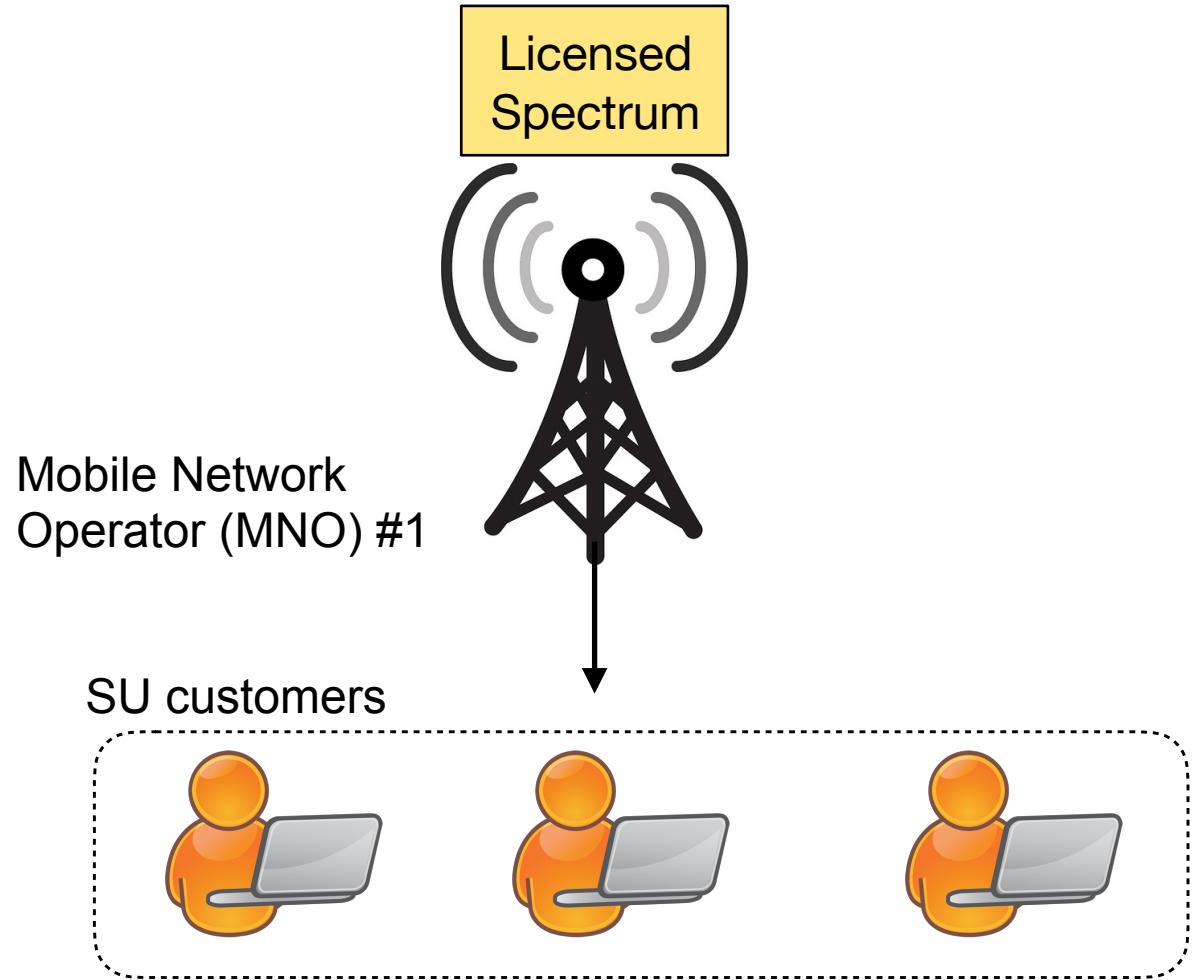
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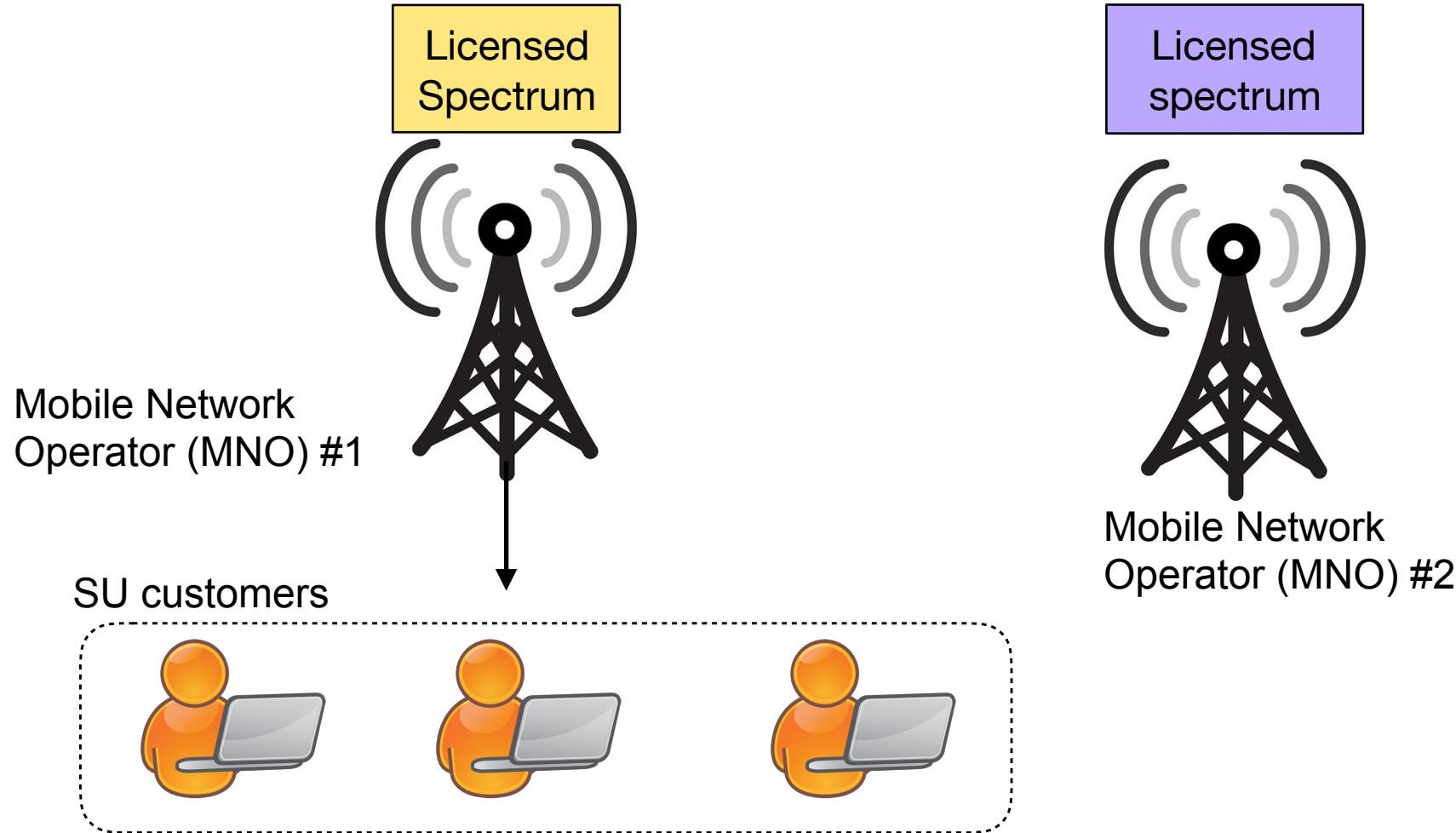
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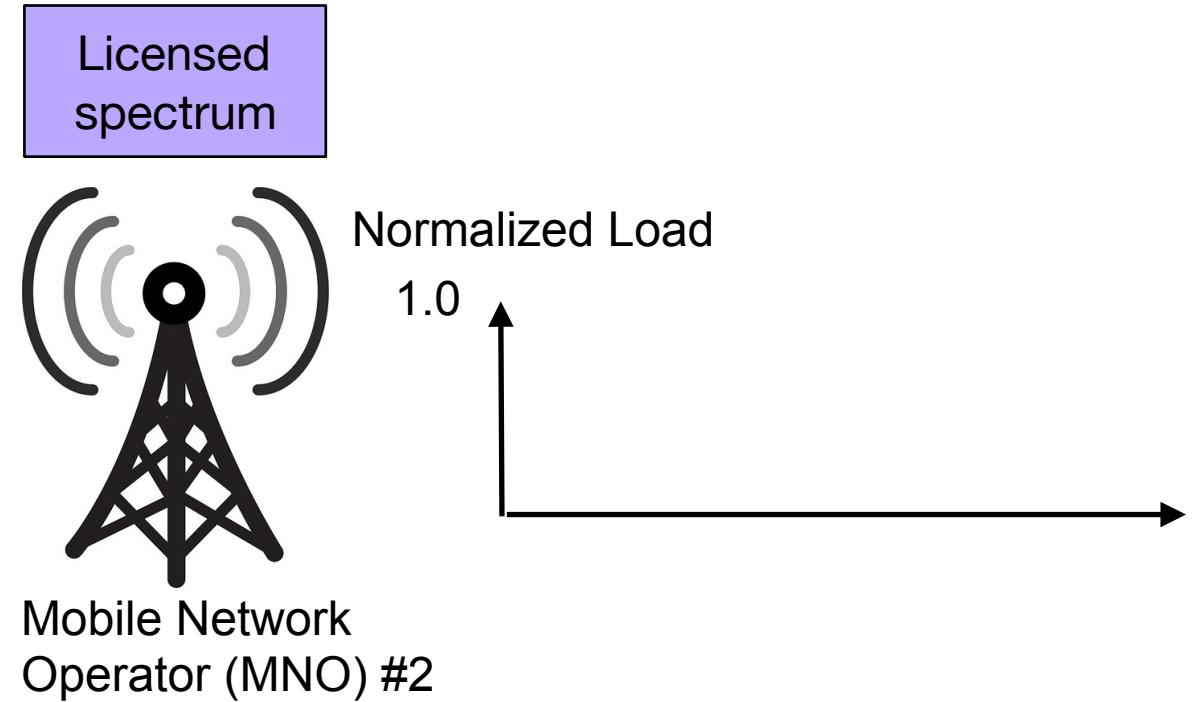
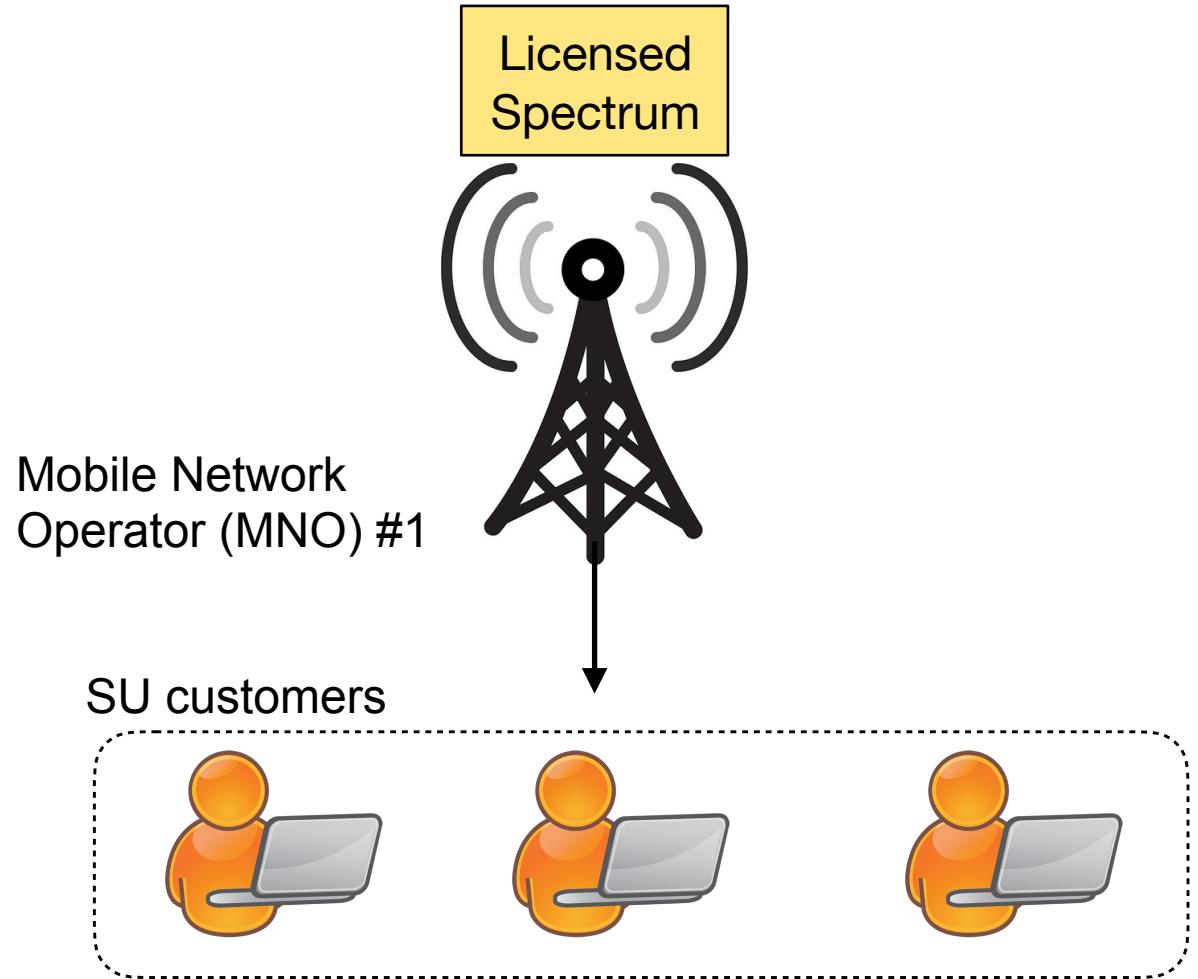


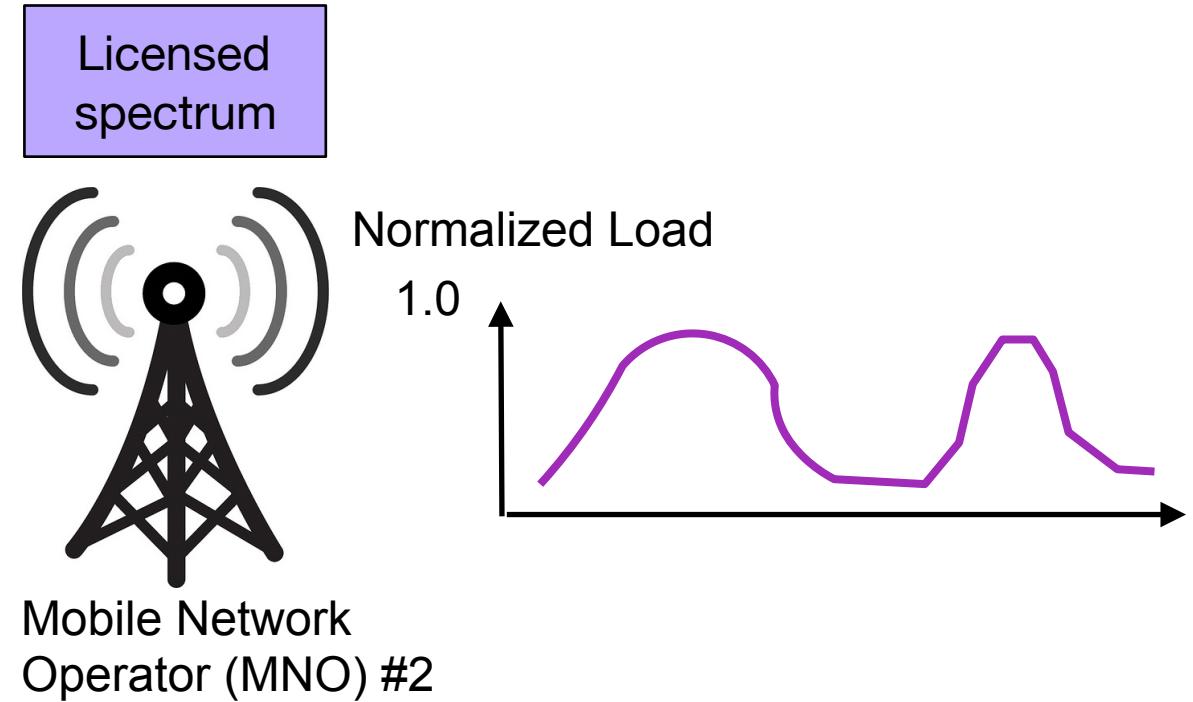
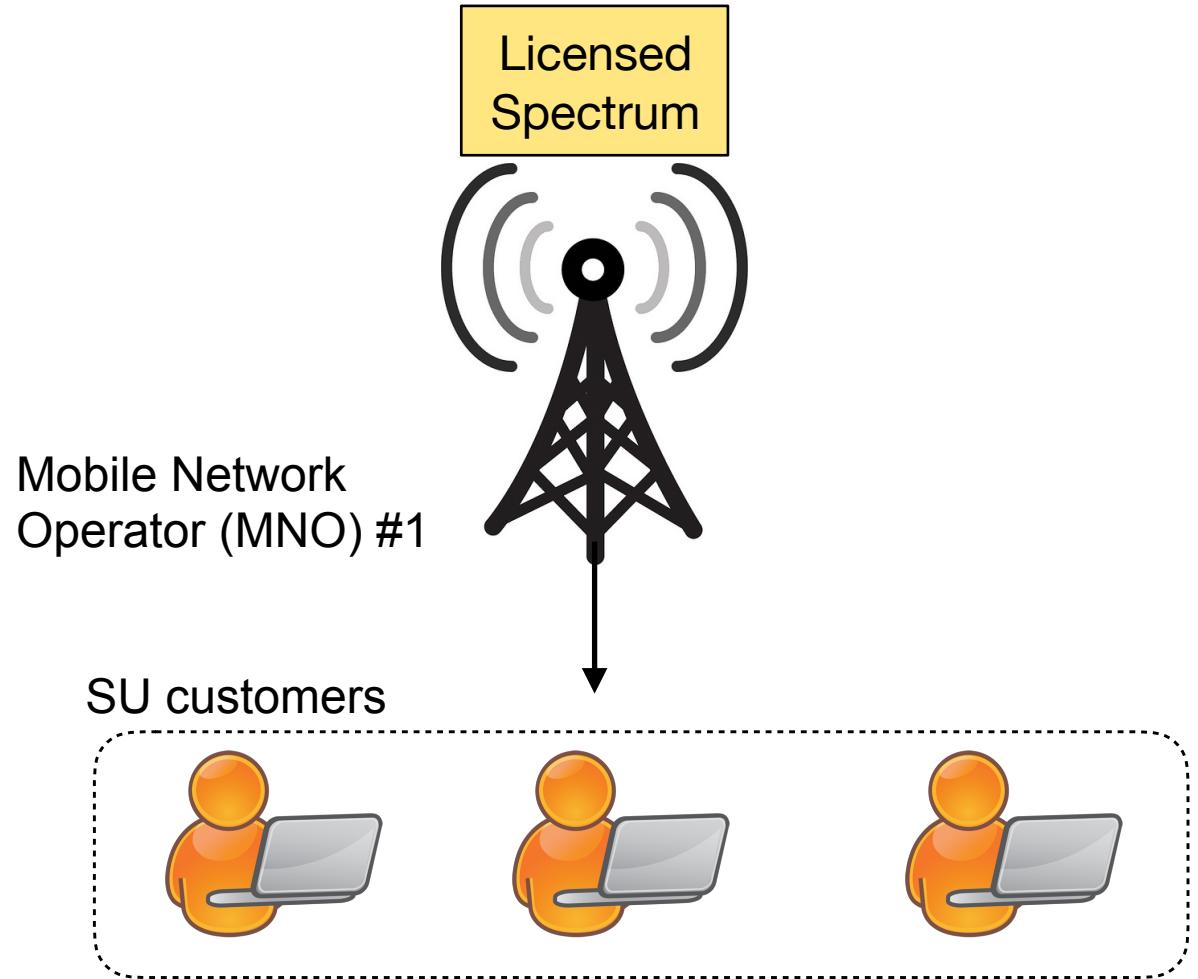
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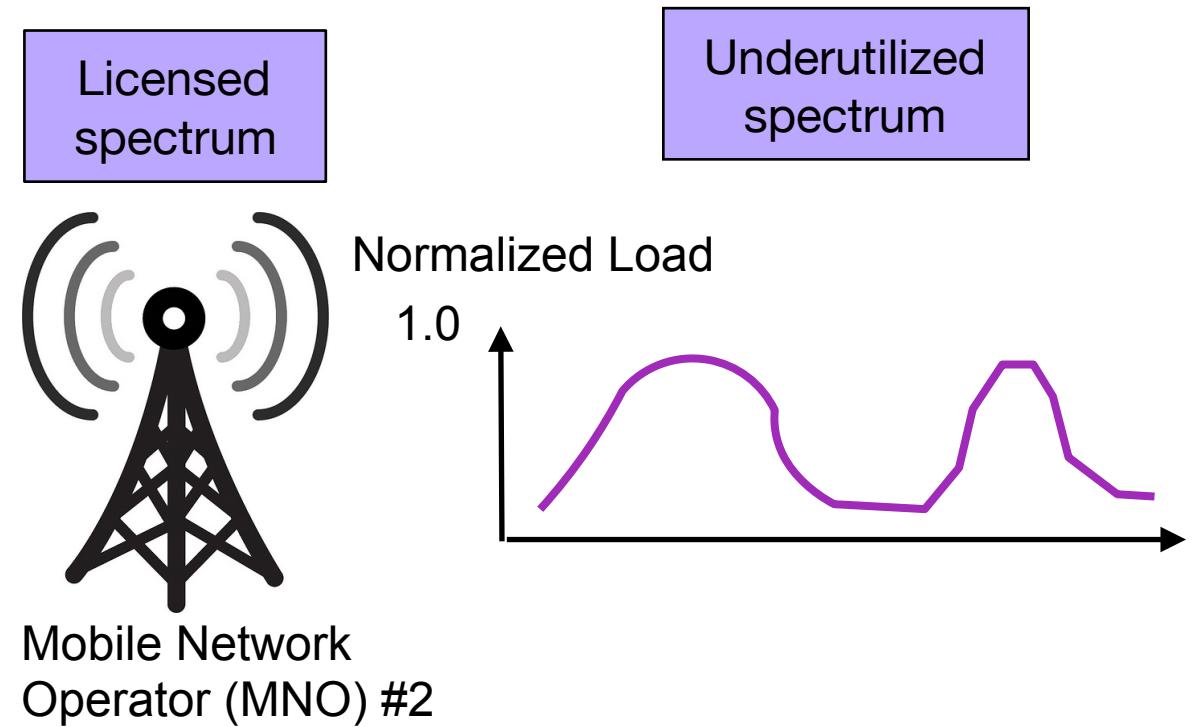
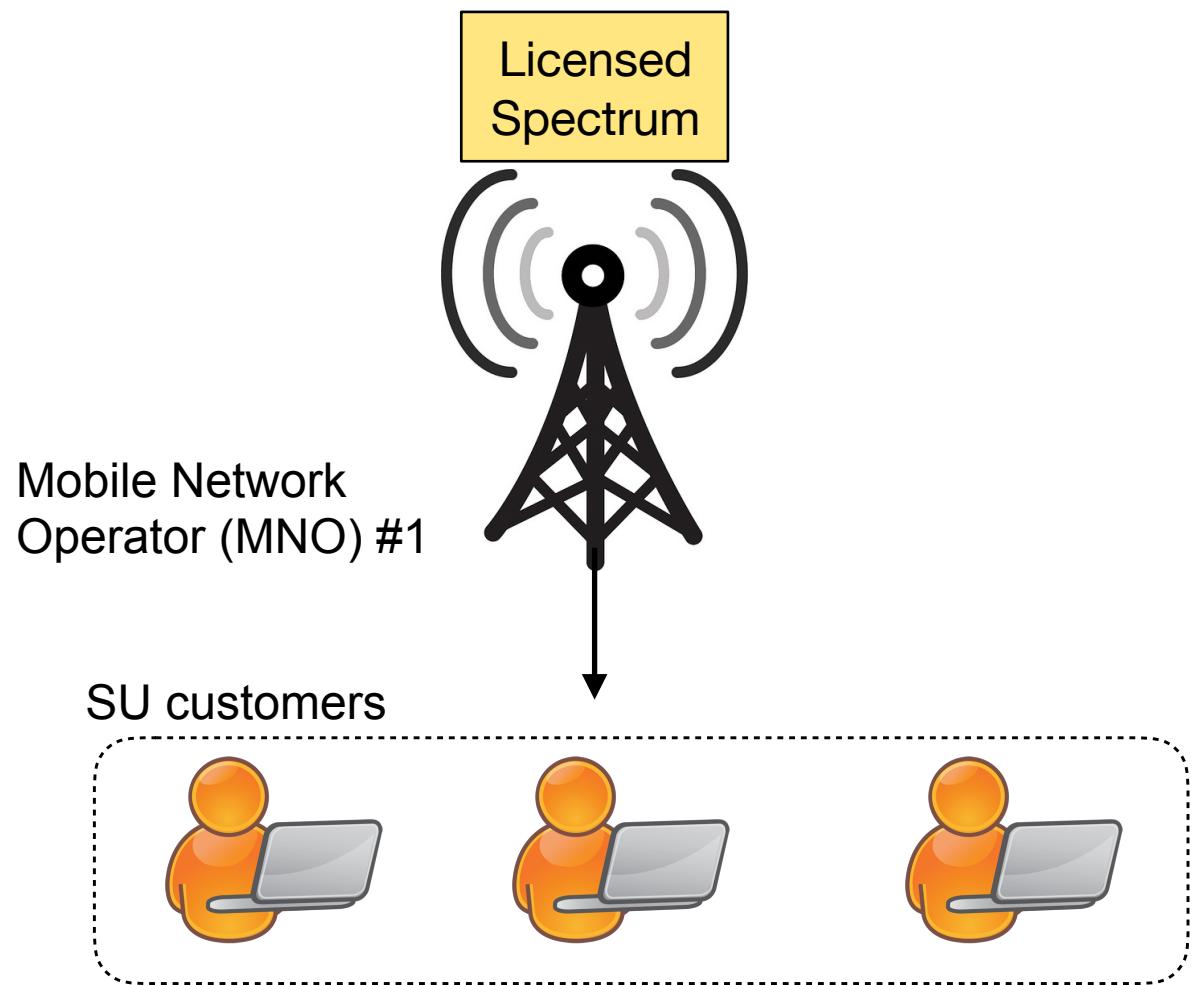


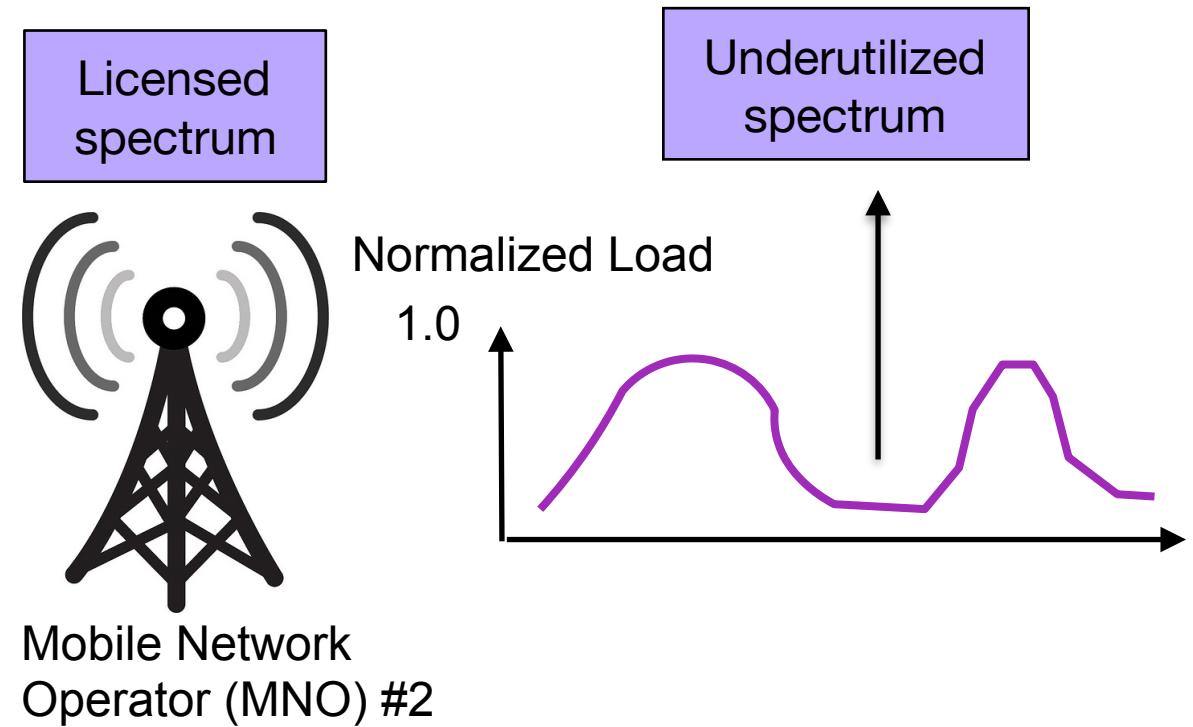
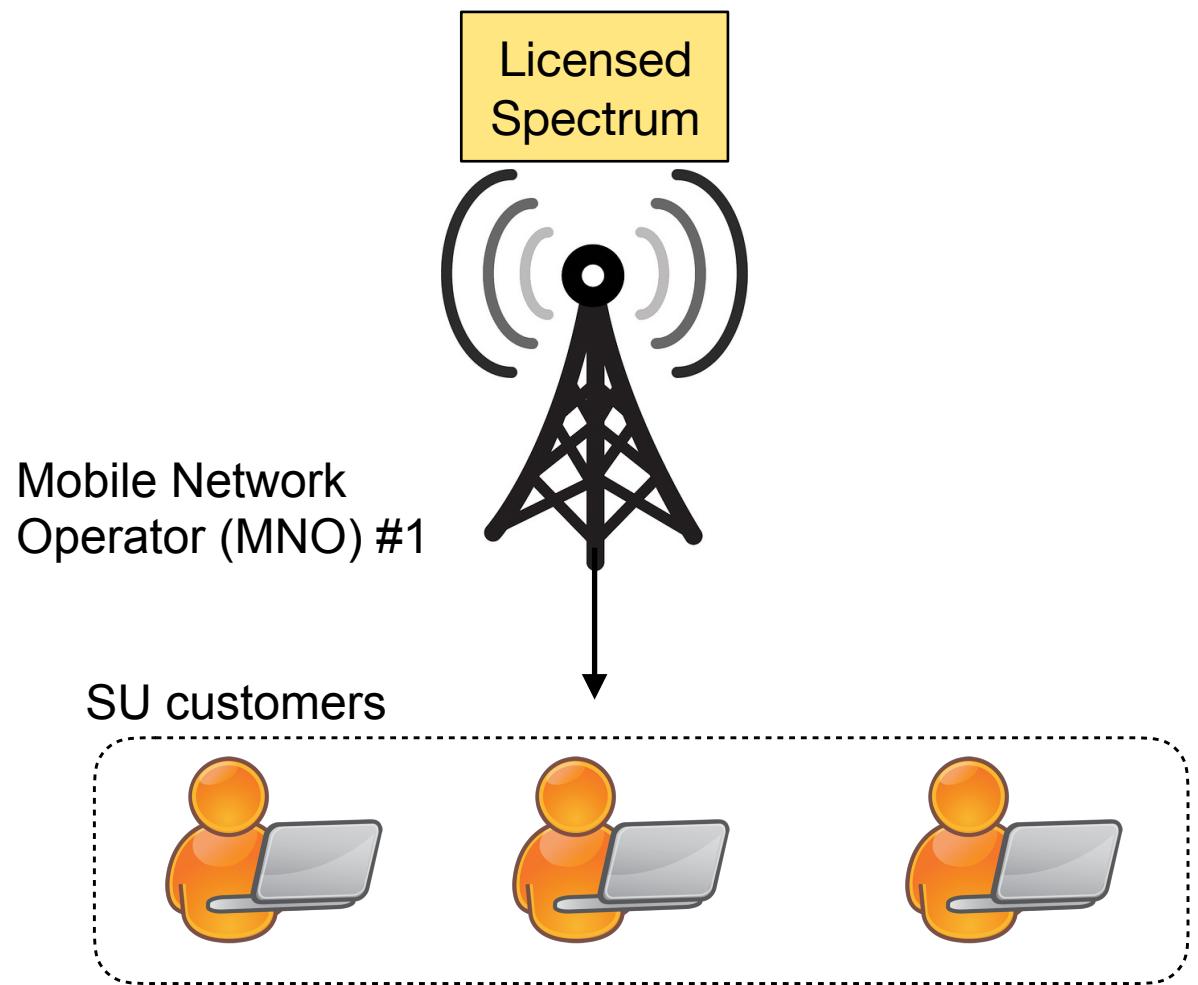


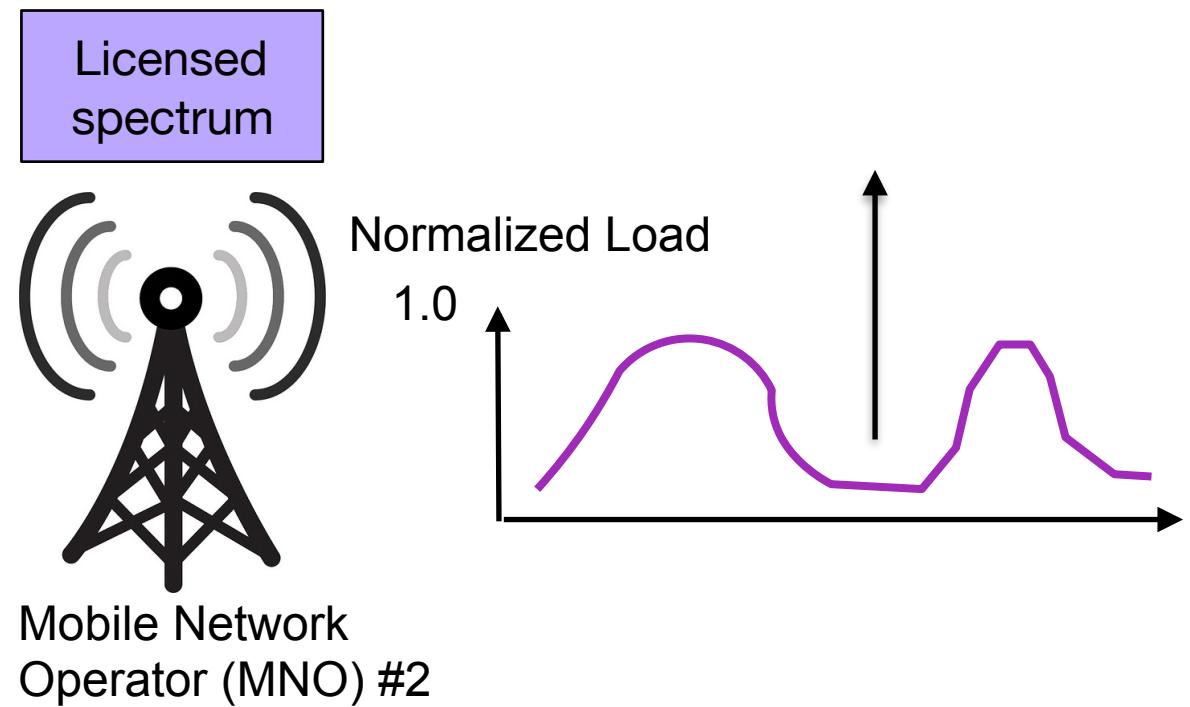
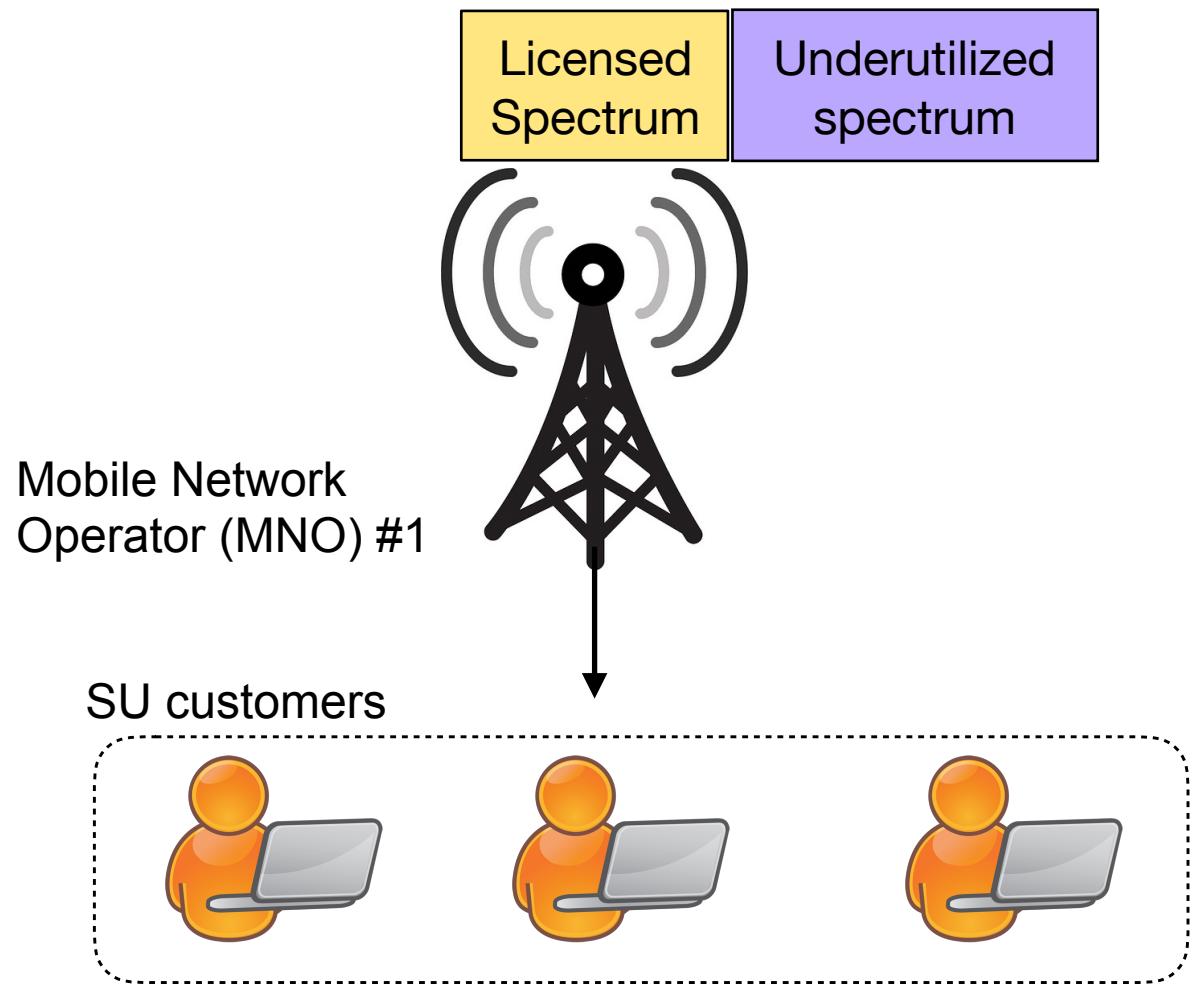




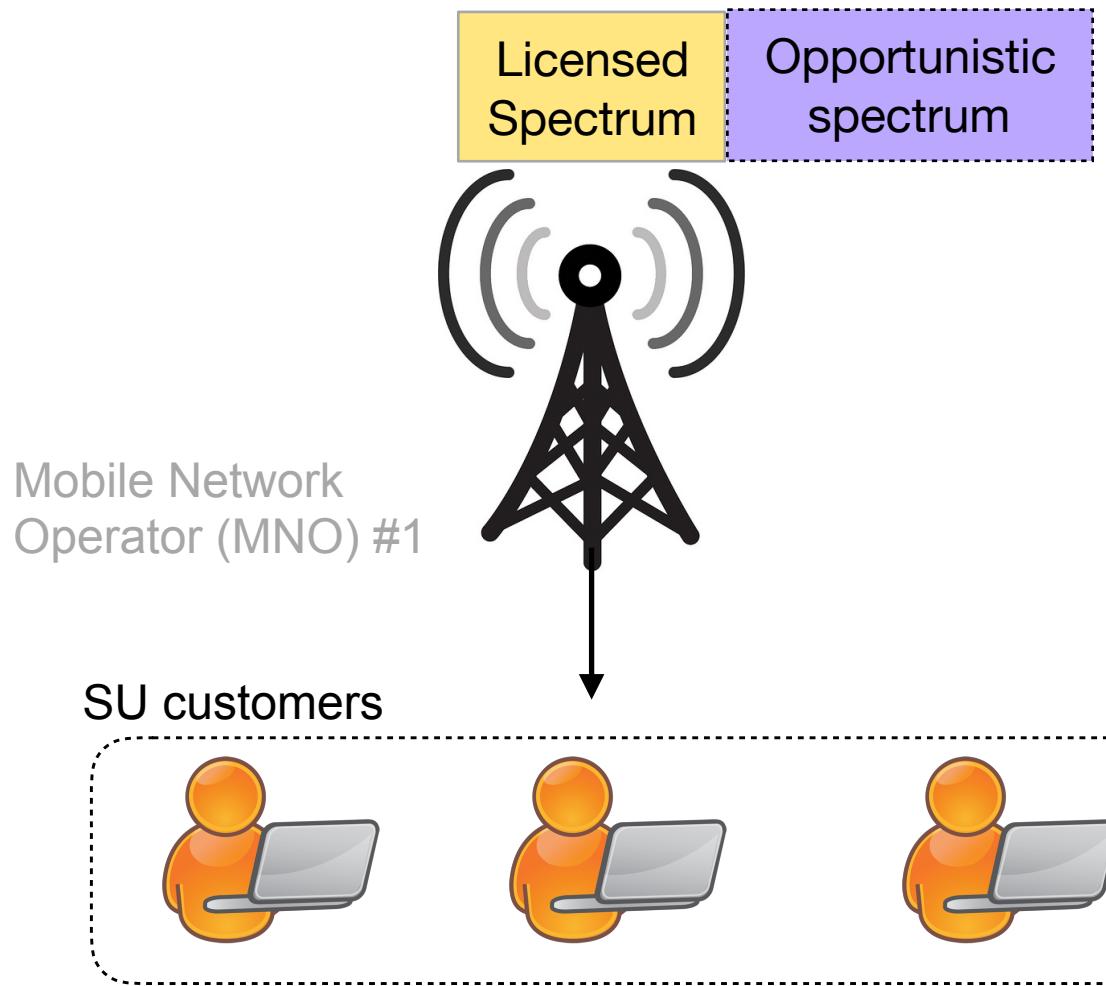




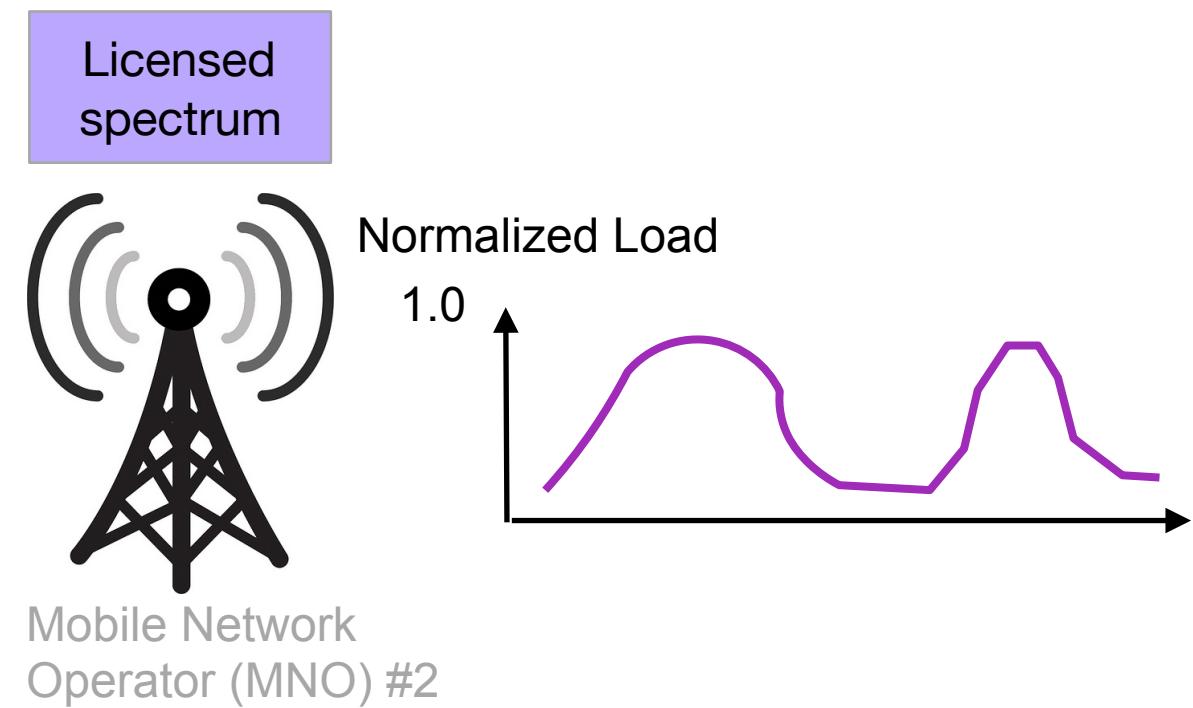




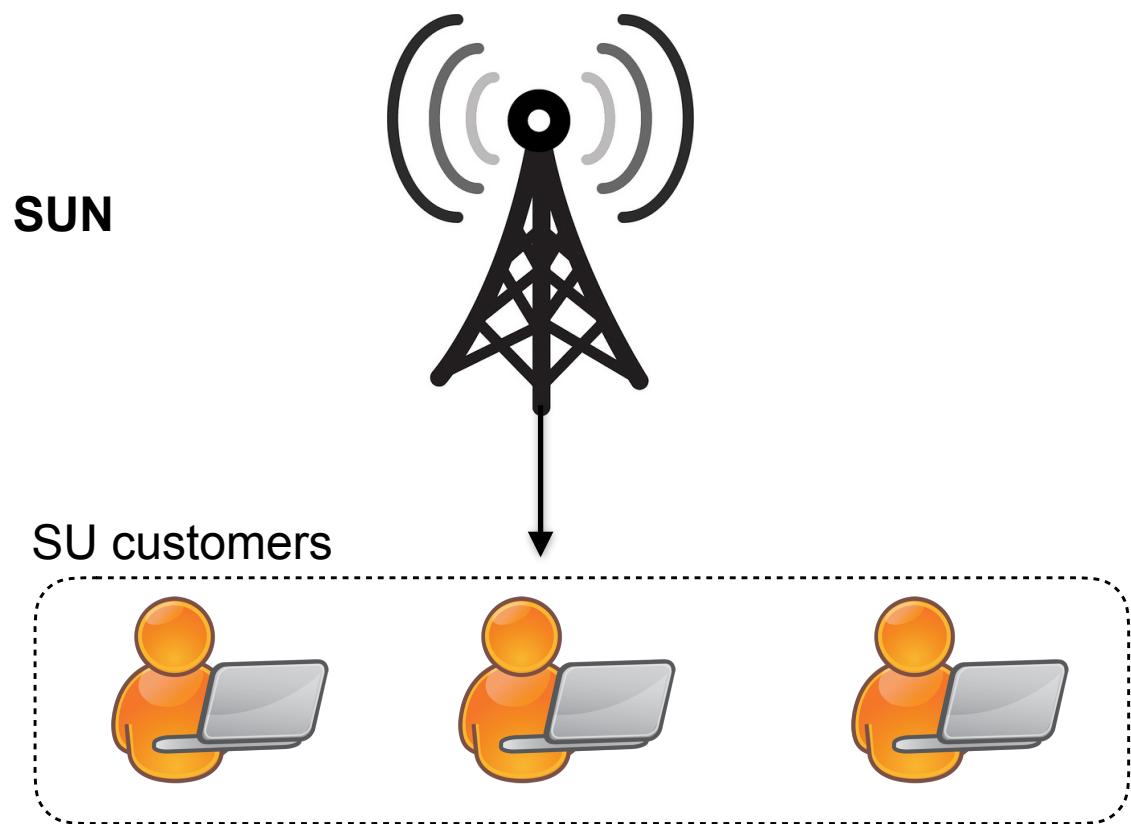
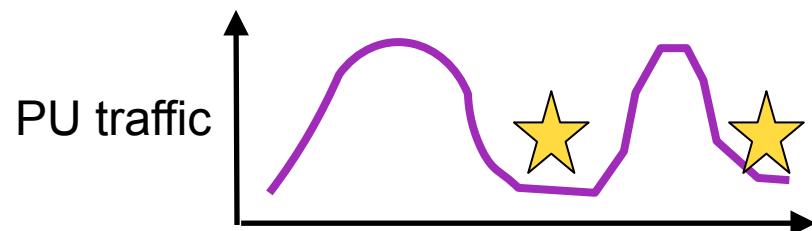
## Secondary User Network (SUN)



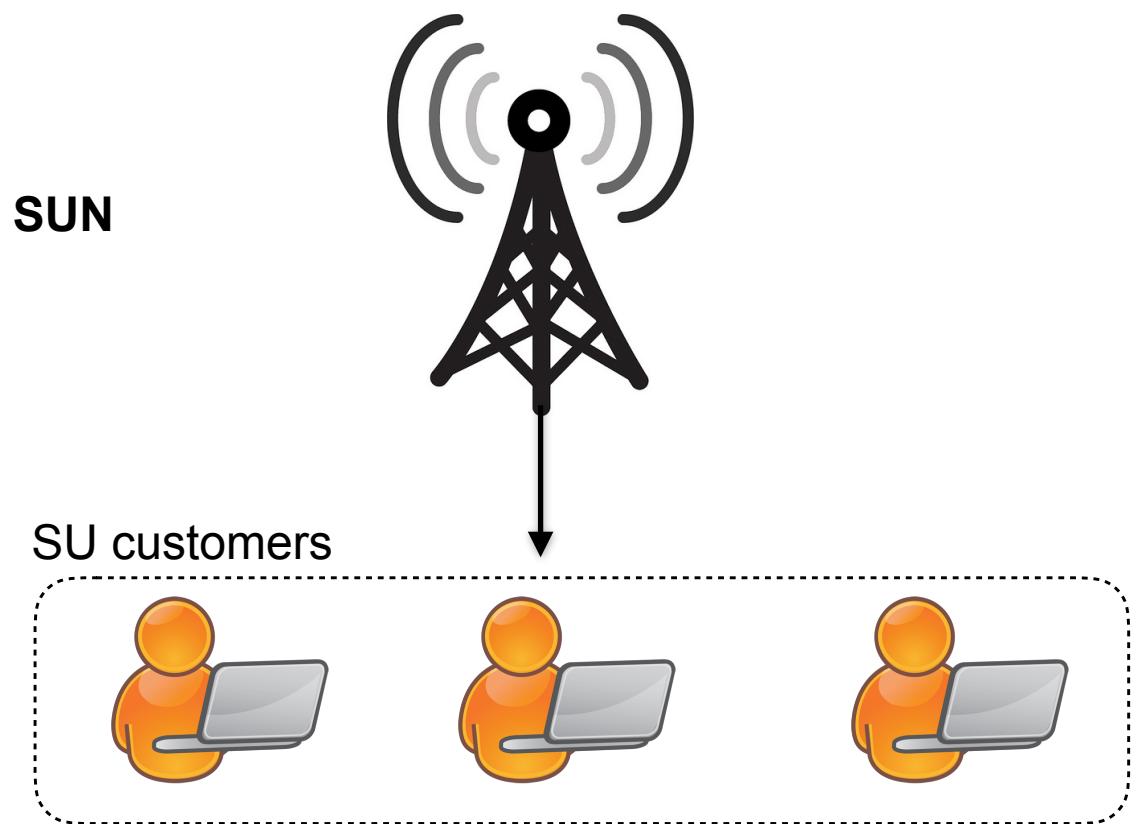
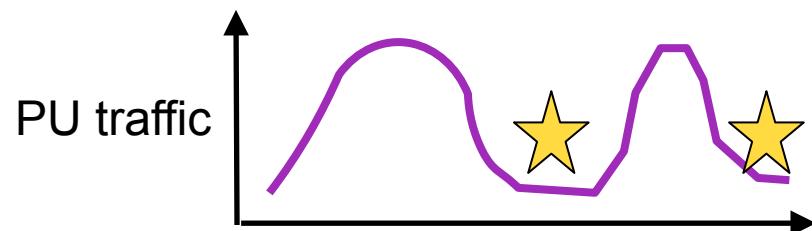
## Primary User (PU) Network



# Crowdsourced spectrum discovery

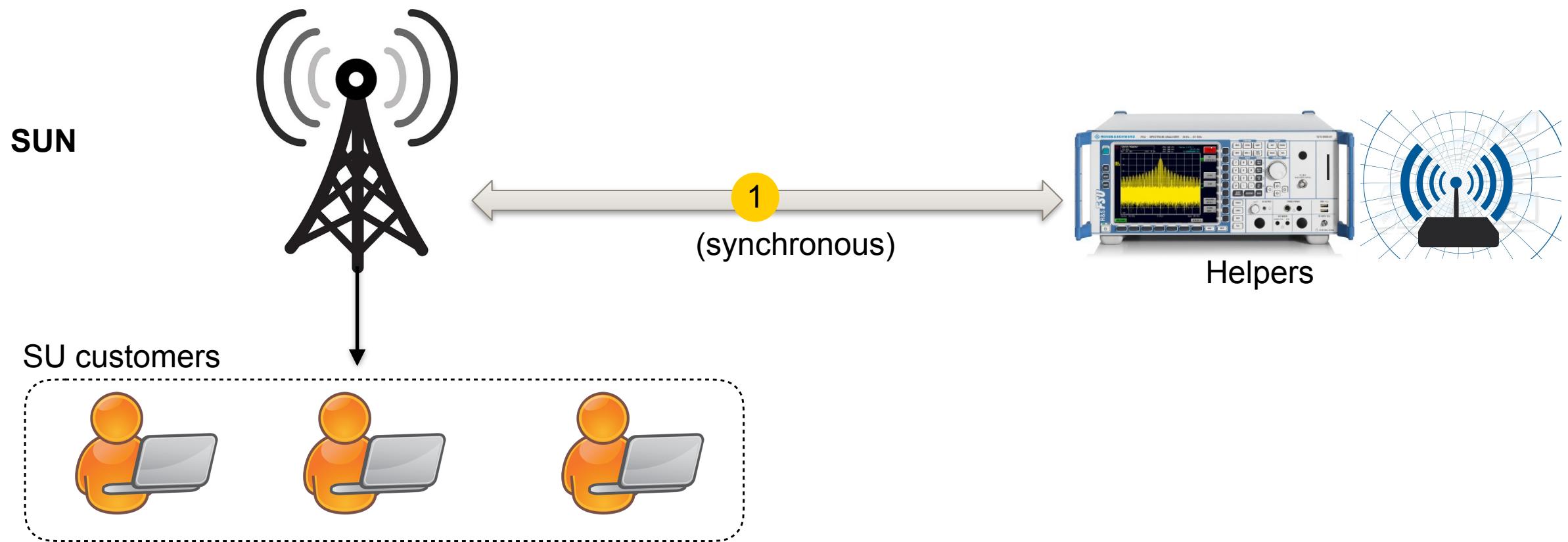
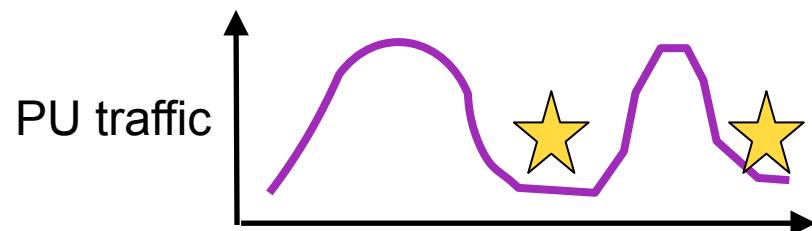


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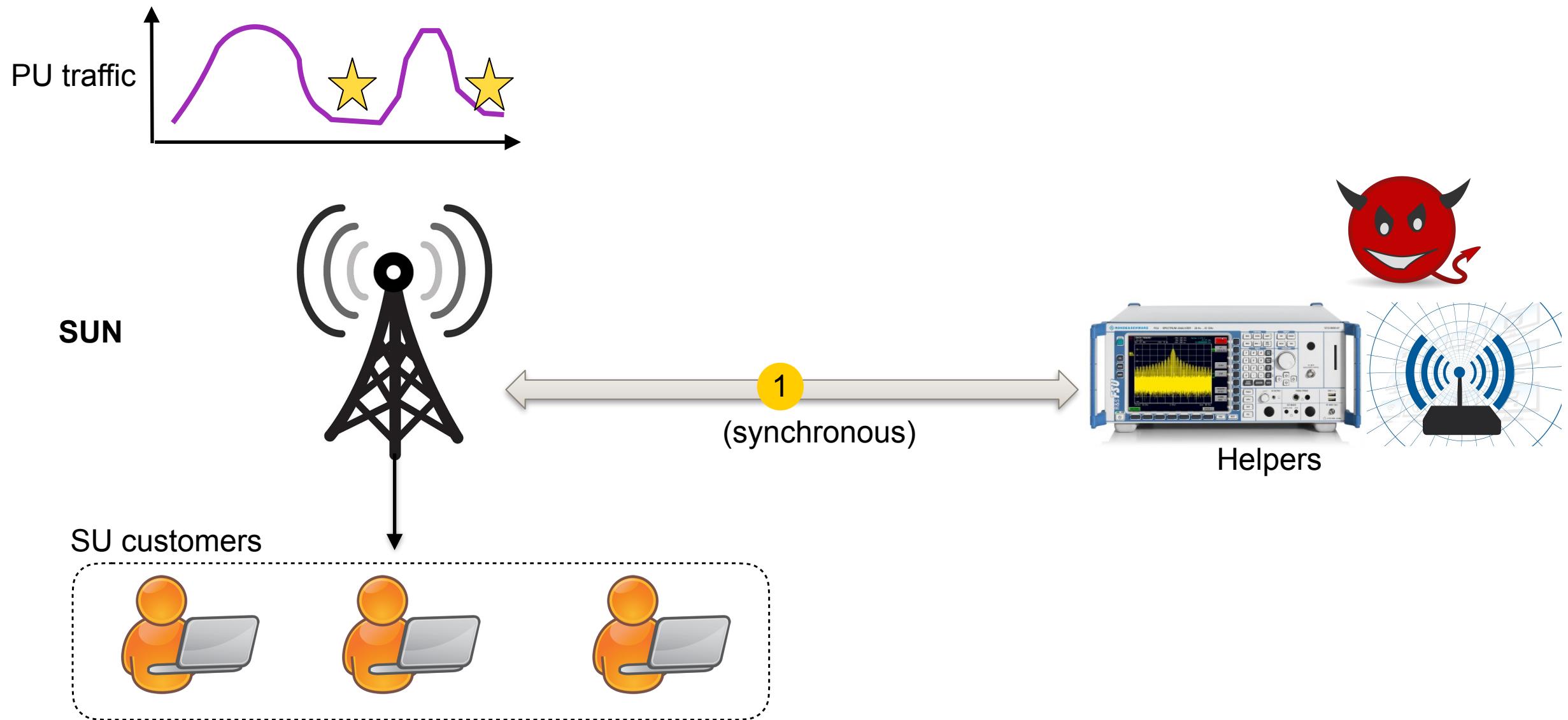


Helpers

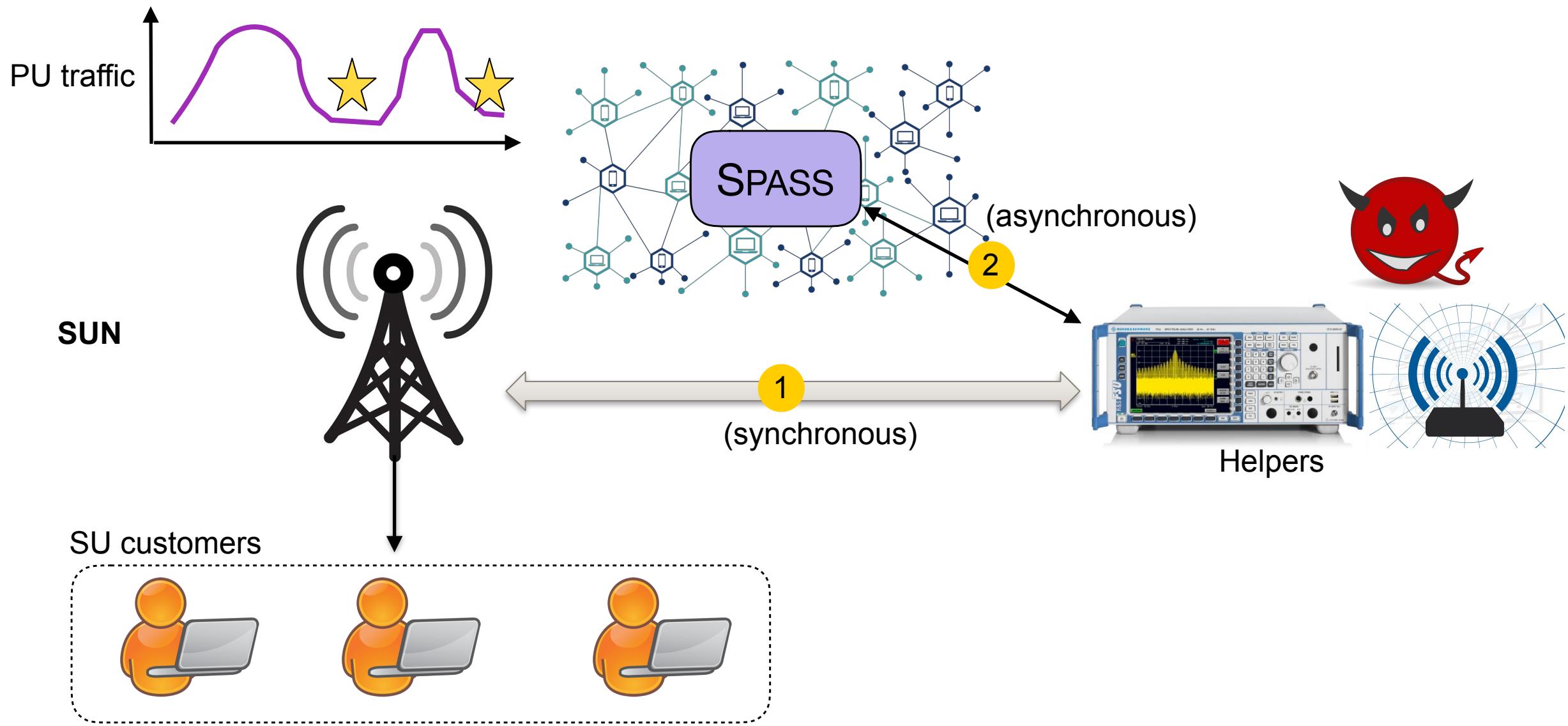
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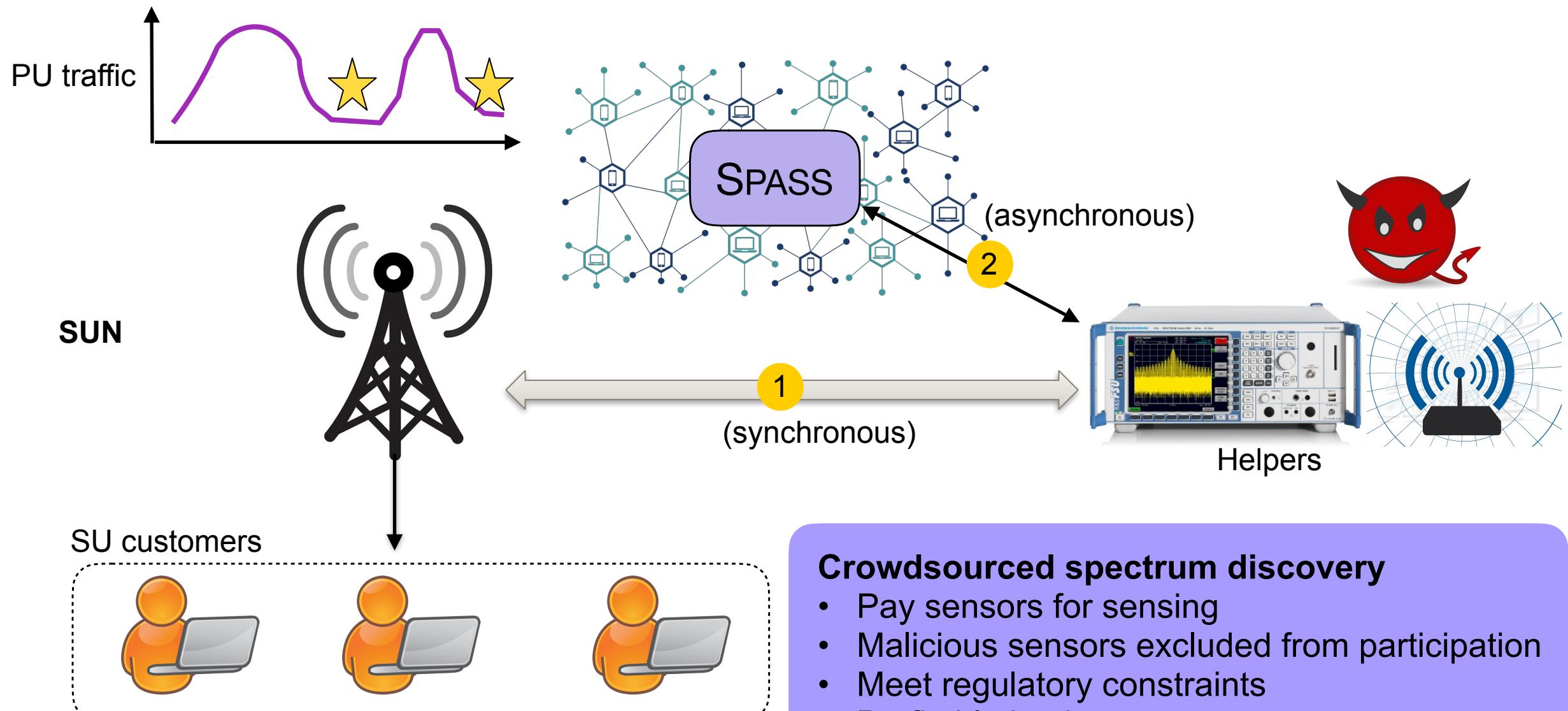
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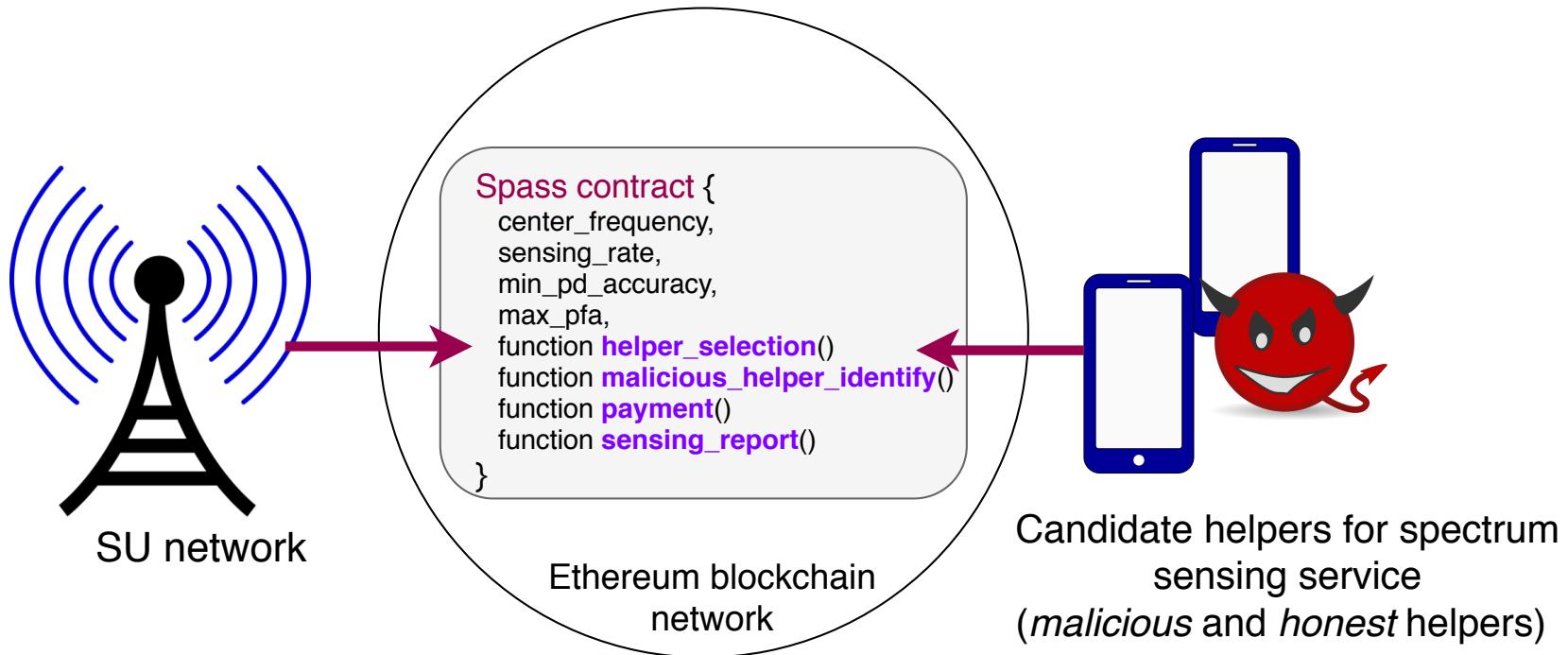
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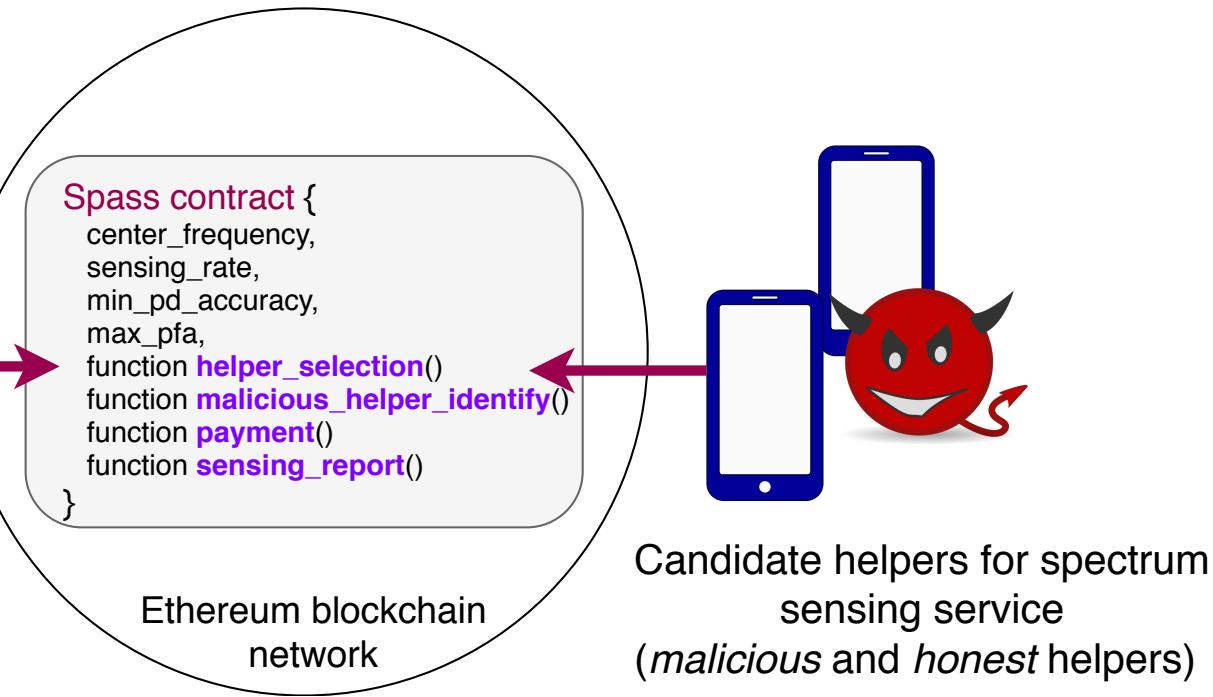


# A Spass contract



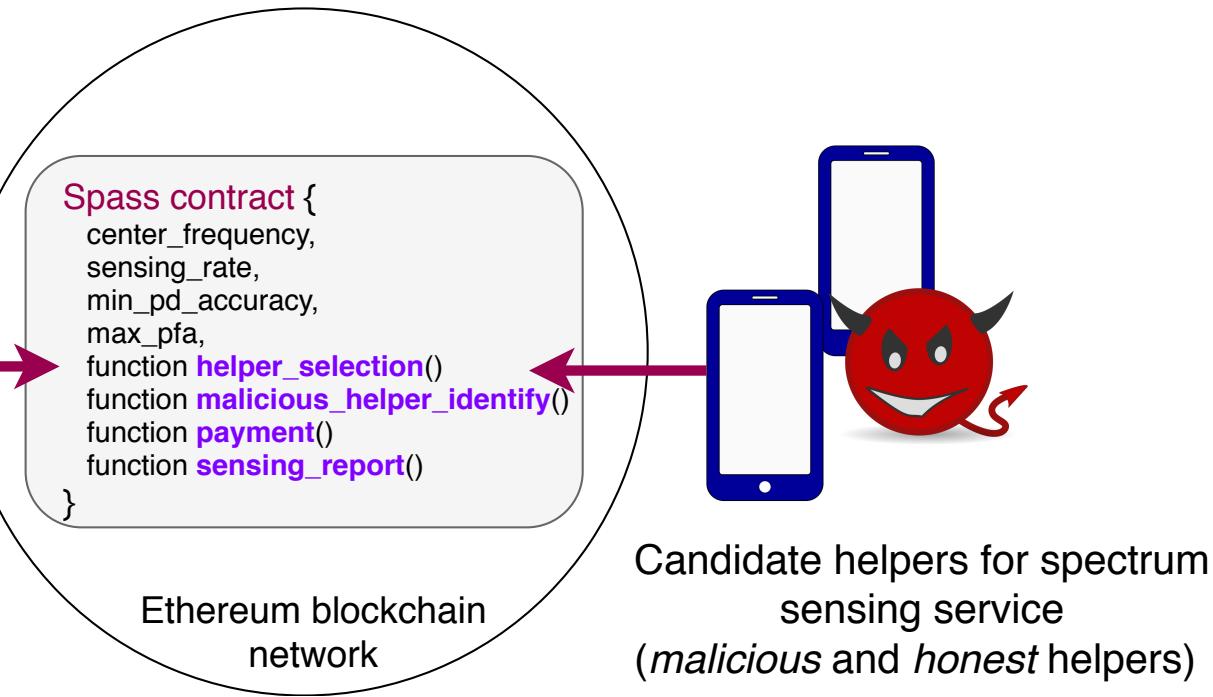
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  - Write operations are expensive! (internal storage and manipulation of the contract)
  - Higher cost with increasing complexity of computation

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# A Spass contract



Operation	Gas	Description
ADD/SUB	3	Arithmetic operation
MUL/DIV	5	Arithmetic operation
ADDMOD/MULMOD	8	Arithmetic operation
AND/OR/XOR	3	Bitwise logic operation
LT/GT/SLT/SGT/EQ	3	Comparison operation
POP	2	Stack operation
PUSH/DUP/SWAP	3	Stack operation
MLOAD/MSTORE	3	Memory operation
JUMP	8	Unconditional jump
JUMPI	10	Conditional jump
SLOAD	200	Storage operation
SSTORE	5,000/20,000	Storage operation
BALANCE	400	Get balance of an account
CREATE	32,000	Create a new account using CREATE
CALL	25,000	Create a new account using CALL

Gas costs: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1m89CVujrQe5LAFJ8-YAUCCNK950dUzMQPMJBxRtGCqs/edit#gid=0>

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# Our proposal: Smart Contracts for Spectrum Sensing (Spass)

- (i) what is the *cost of running smart contract* based spectrum discovery?
- (ii) given that both the helpers and the miners have to be paid, under which conditions an MNO can sustain a *profitable business* via smart-contract based spectrum discovery?
- (iii) How can the smart-contract catch *free-riders* among the sensing participants?

# Spass

- Design goals
- Contract functionality
- Optimal contract parameters
- Malicious helper identification
- Performance
- Business feasibility of Spass

# For a feasible business model

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SU MNO

Regulators

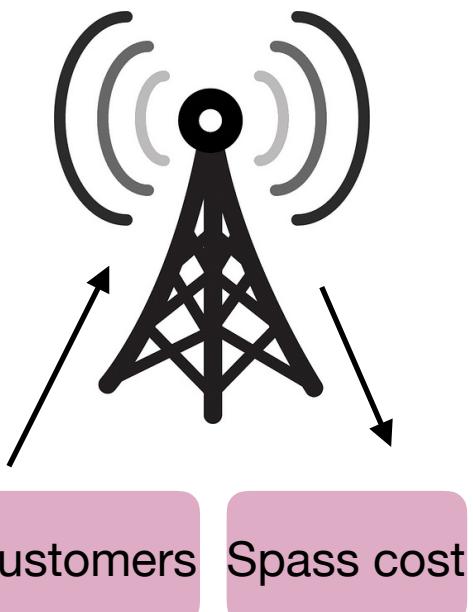
Helper nodes (sensors)

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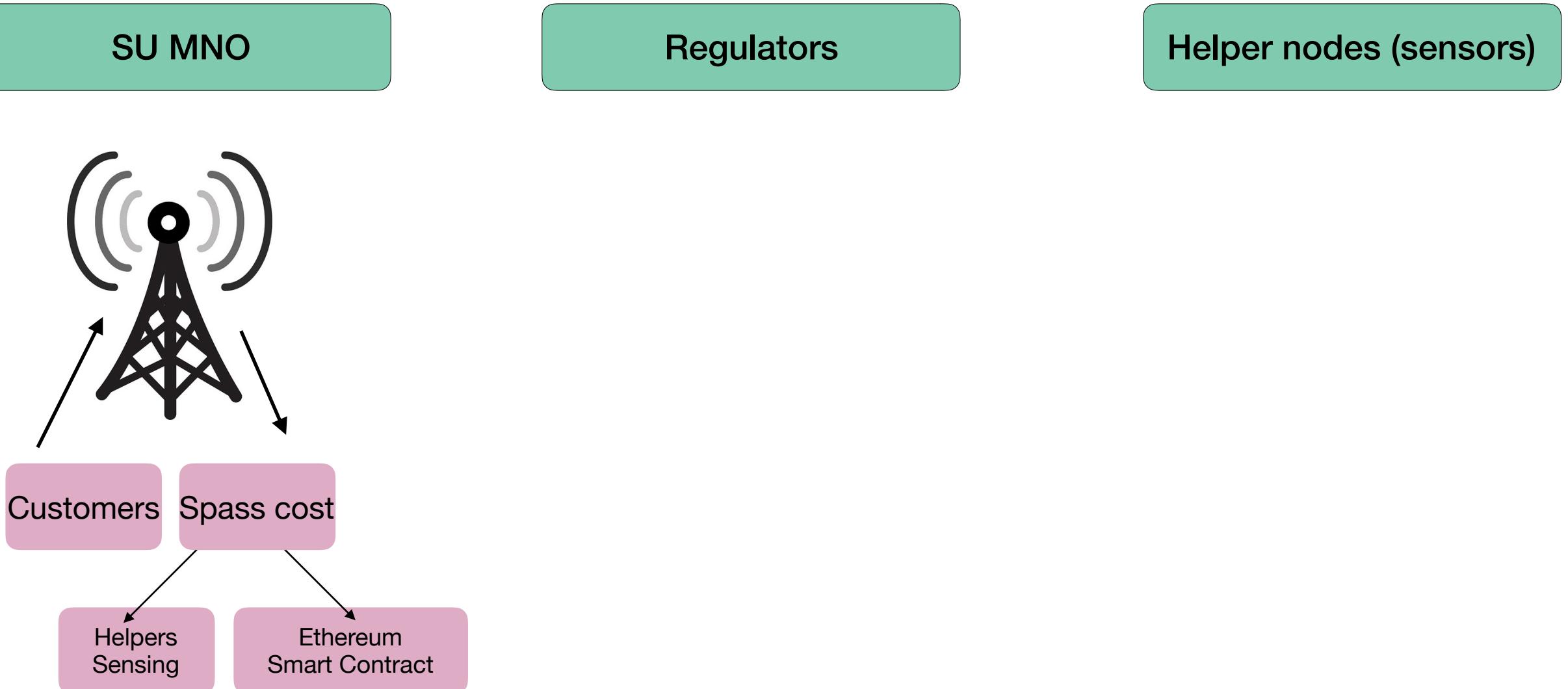
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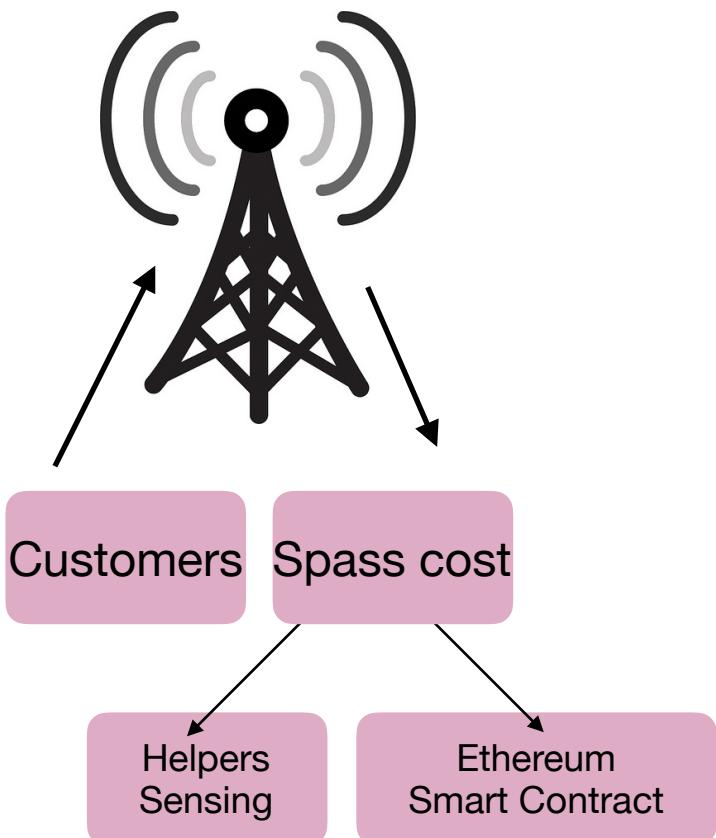


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 **Viestintävirasto**  
Finnish Communications  
Regulatory Authority

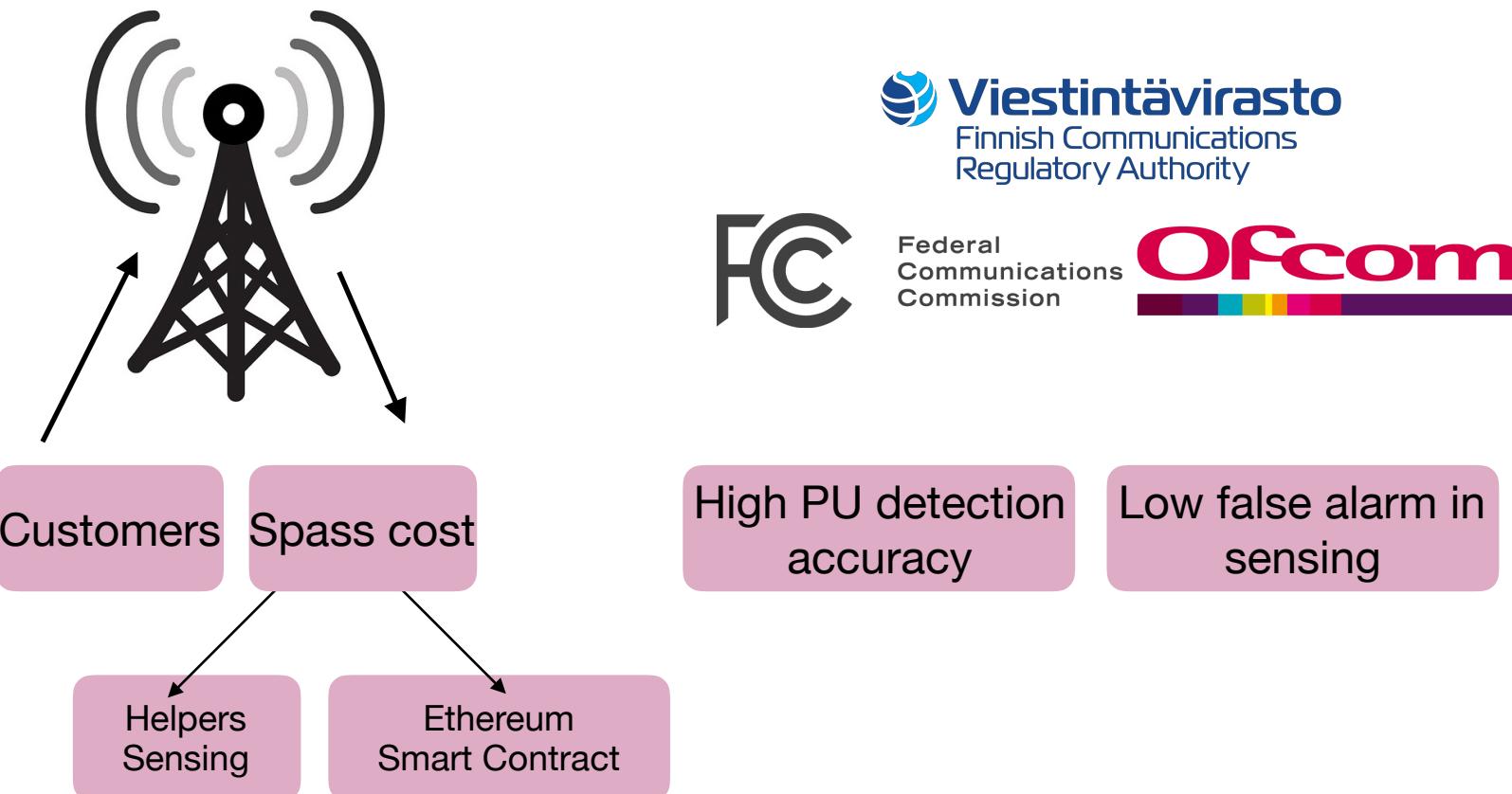
 Federal  
Communications  
Commission 

# For a feasible business model

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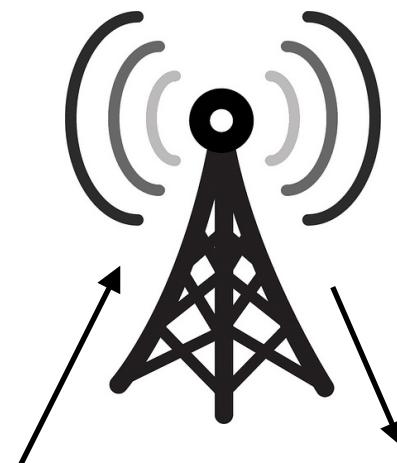
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# For a feasible business model

SU MNO



Customers

Spass cost

Helpers  
Sensing

Ethereum  
Smart Contract

Regulators

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Finnish Communications  
Regulatory Authority

FCC

Federal  
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Ofcom

Helper nodes (sensors)

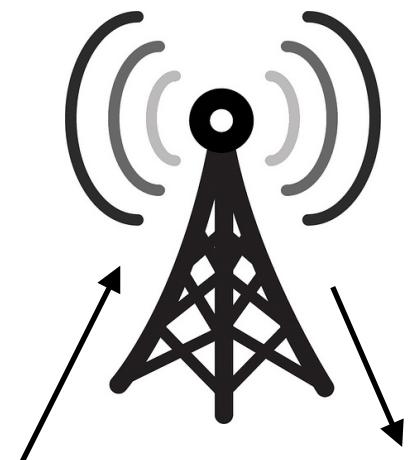


High PU detection  
accuracy

Low false alarm in  
sensing

# For a feasible business model

SU MNO



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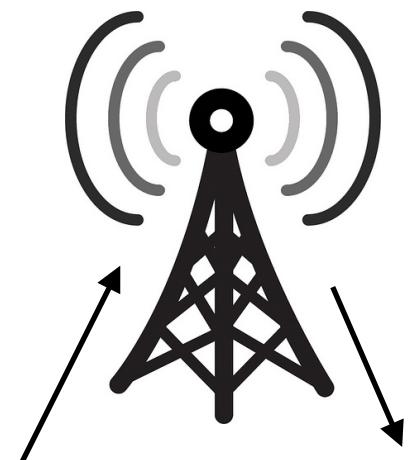


Attracting  
honest helpers

Able to catch  
malicious helpers  
(free riders)

# For a feasible business model

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This talk

# Spass

- Design goals

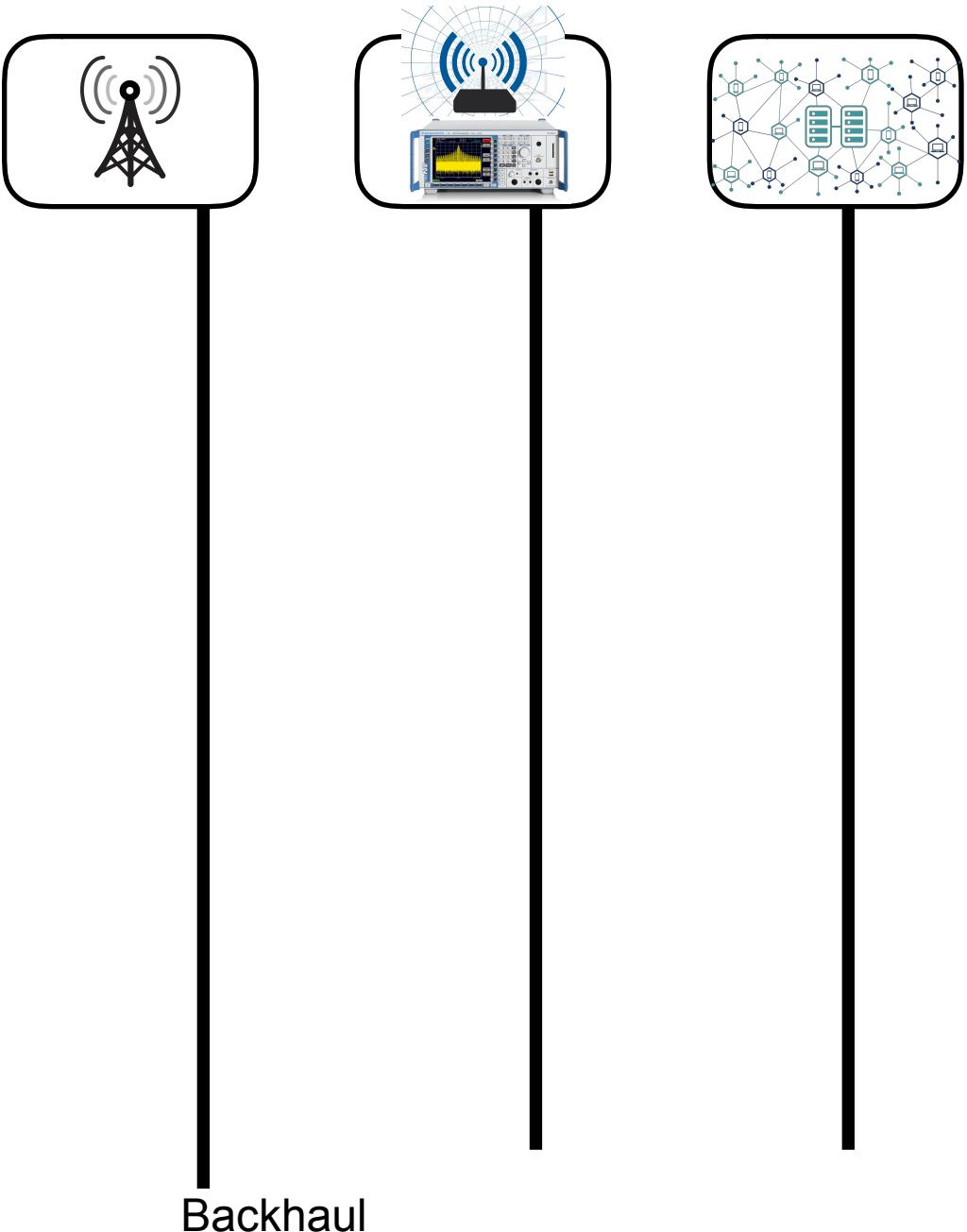
## **Contract functionality**

- Optimal contract parameters
- Malicious helper identification
- Performance
- Business feasibility of Spass



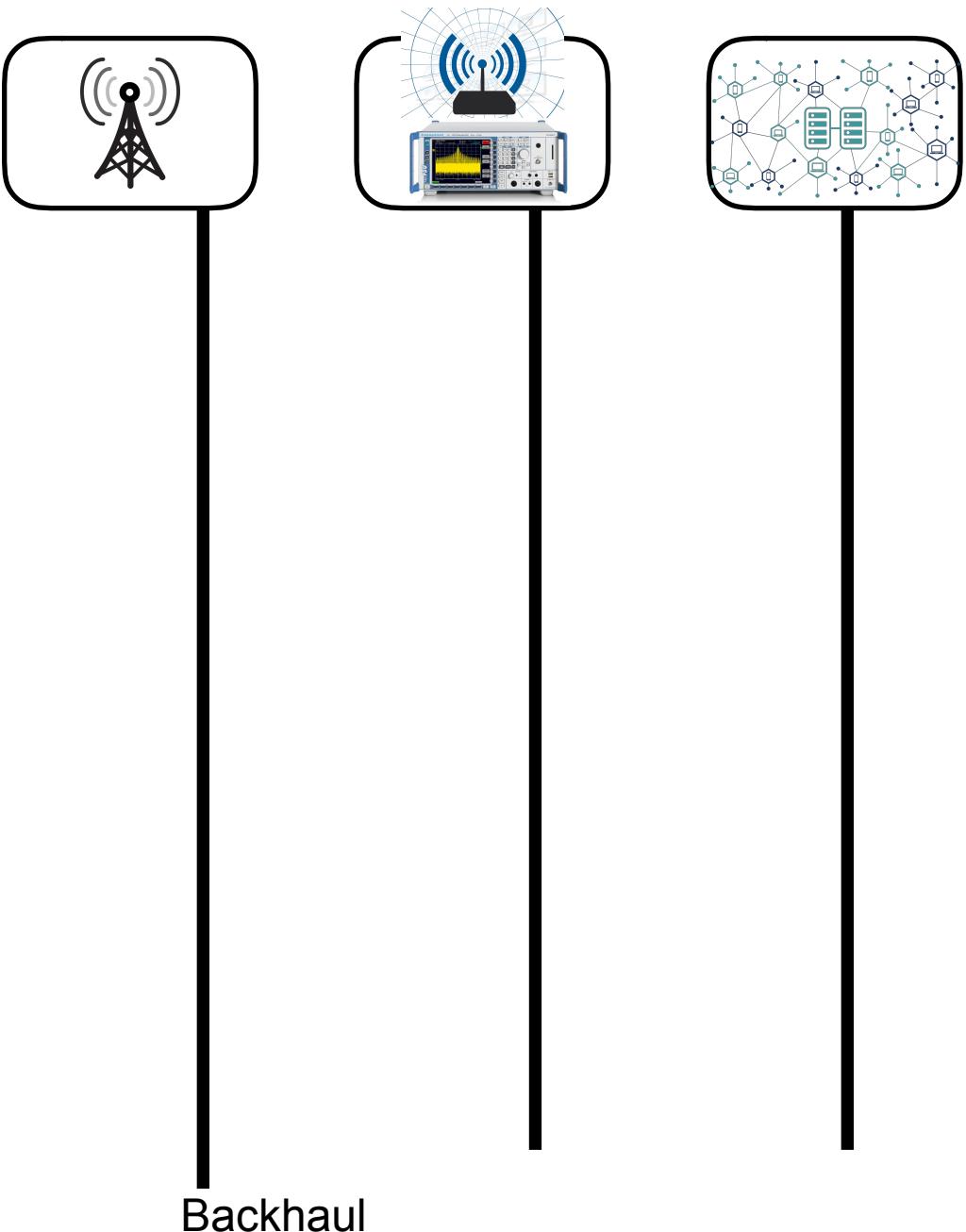
# Message flow

- Contract duration: a certain time period



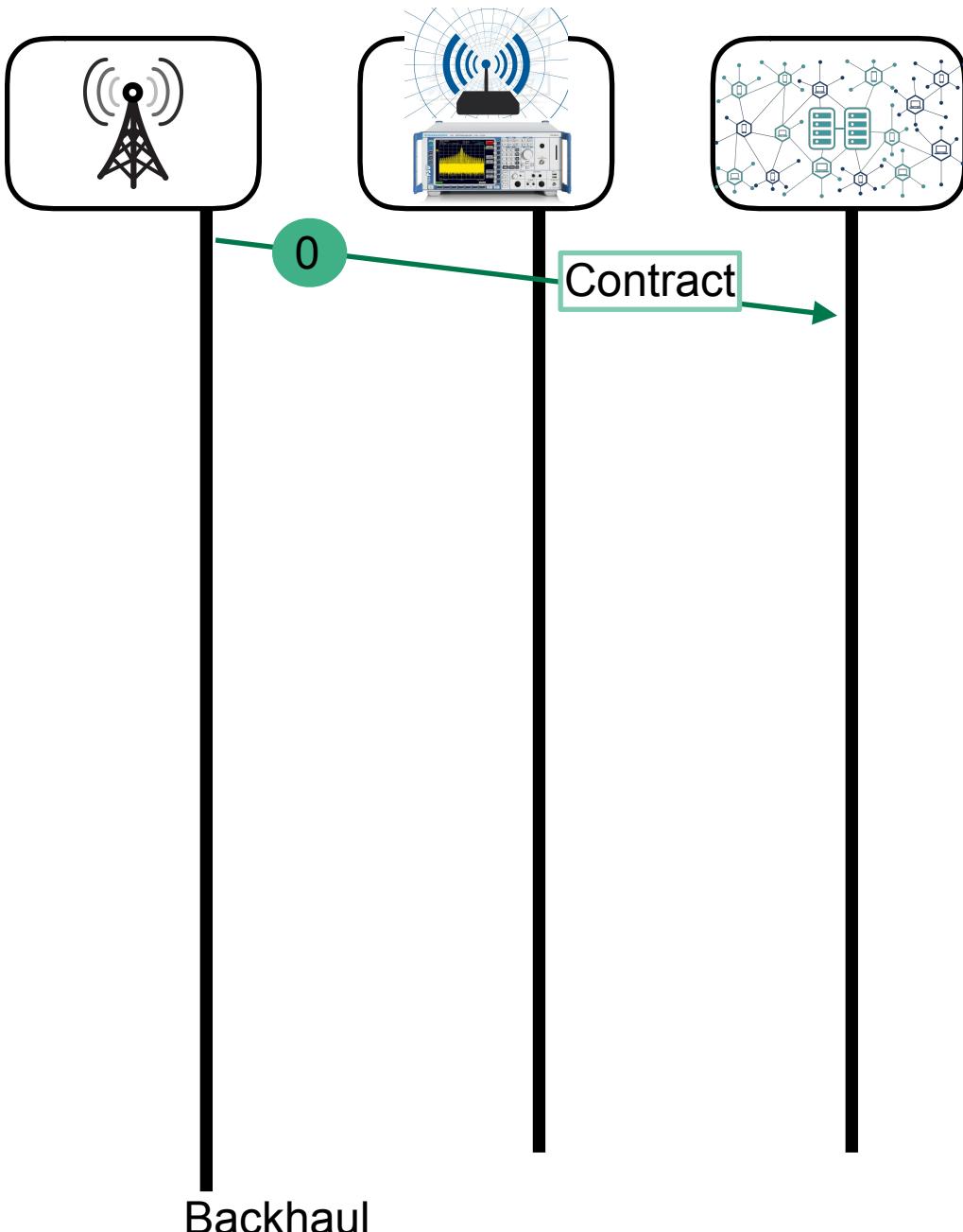
# Message flow

- Contract duration: a certain time period
- SUN uploads the contract to Ethereum and receives a unique ETH address
- SUN broadcasts the contract address over the air



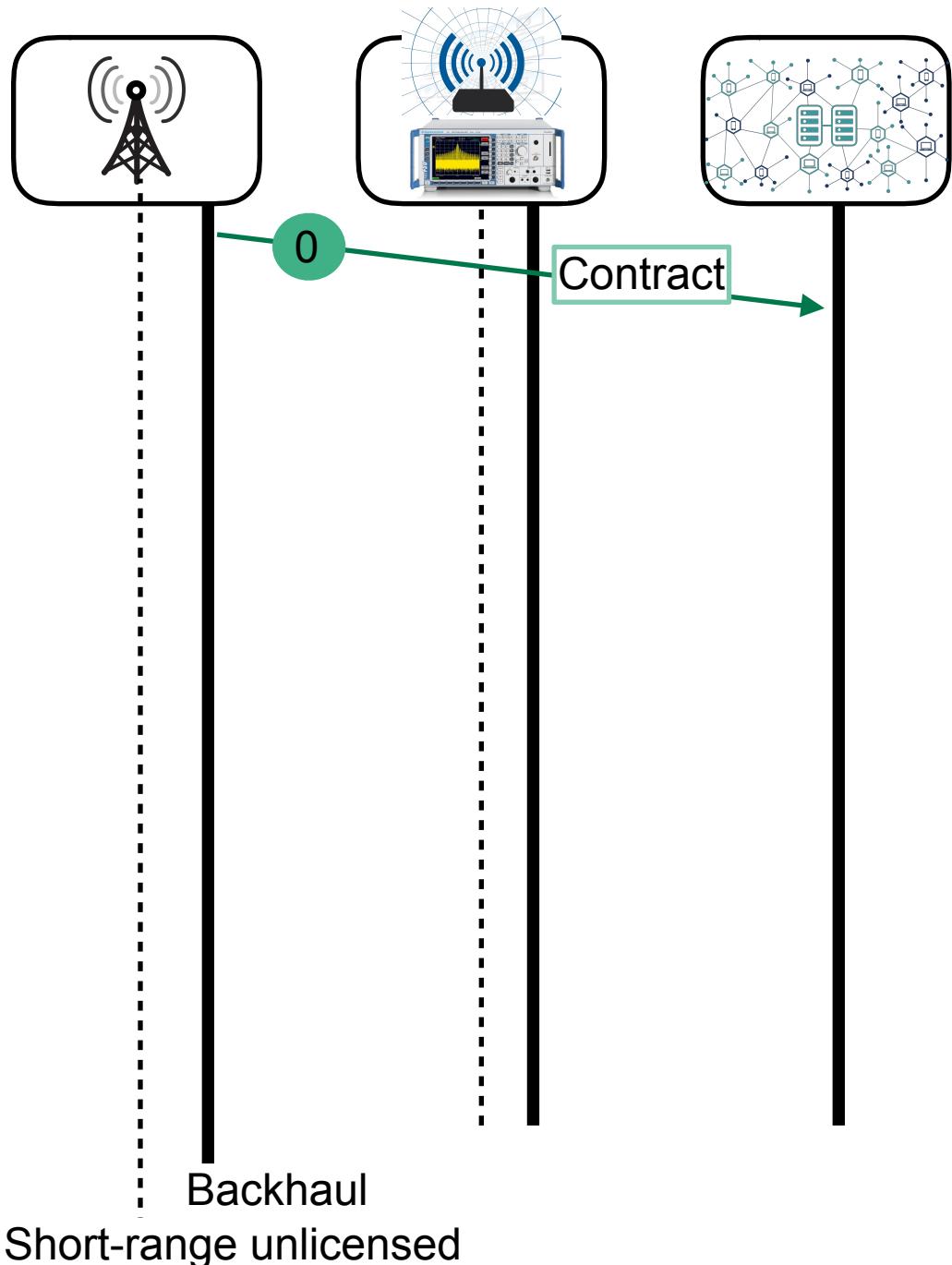
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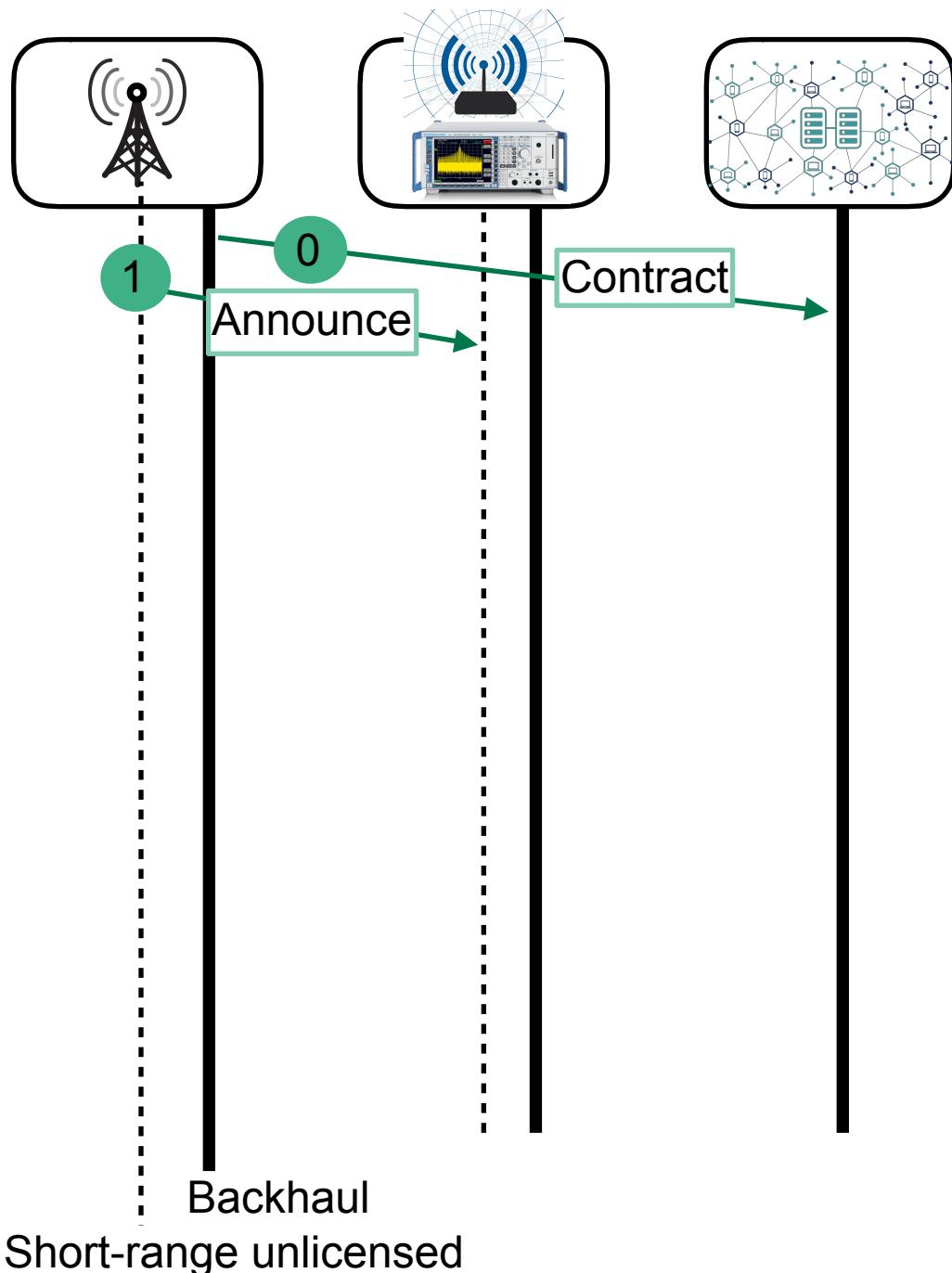
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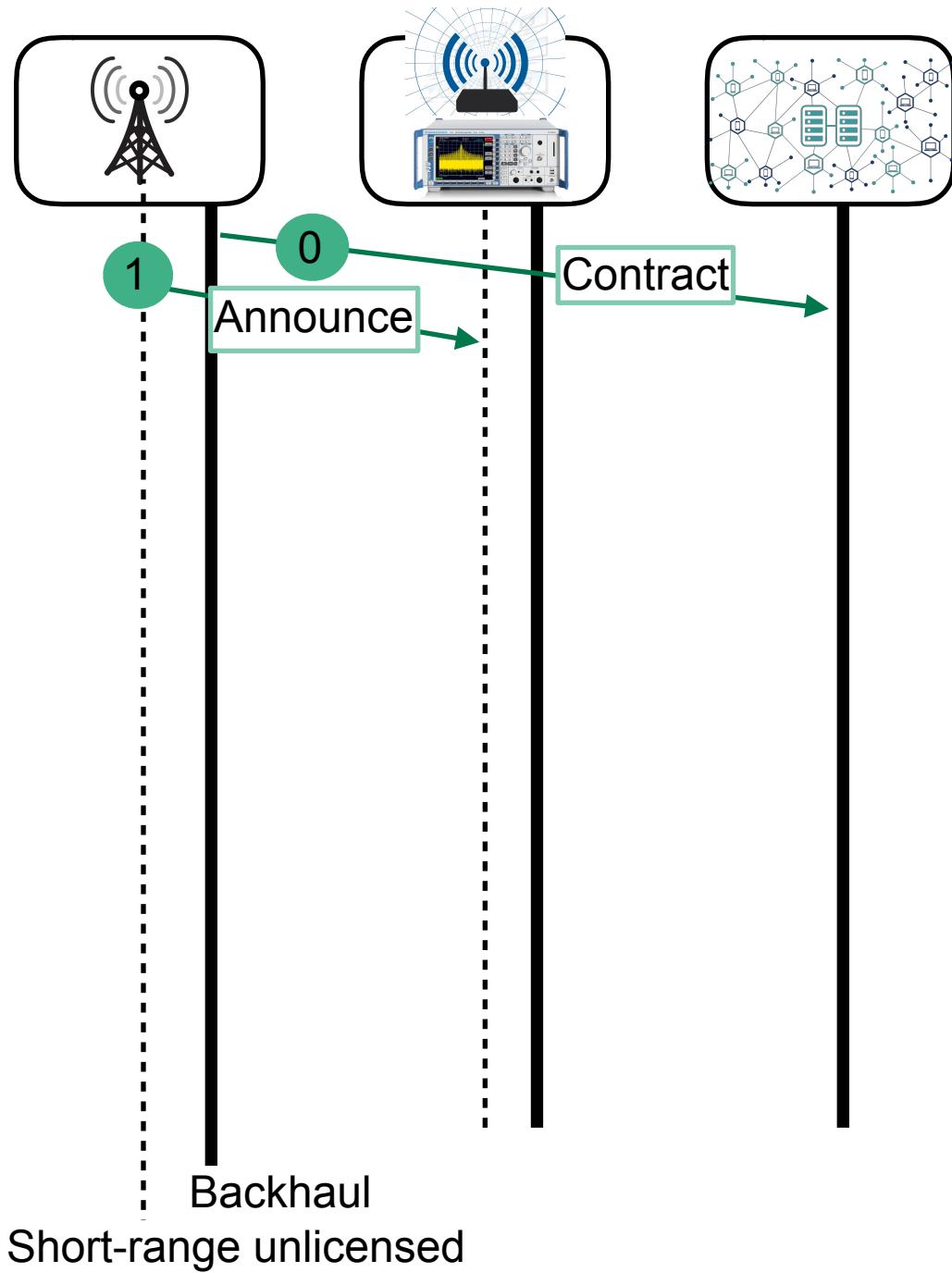


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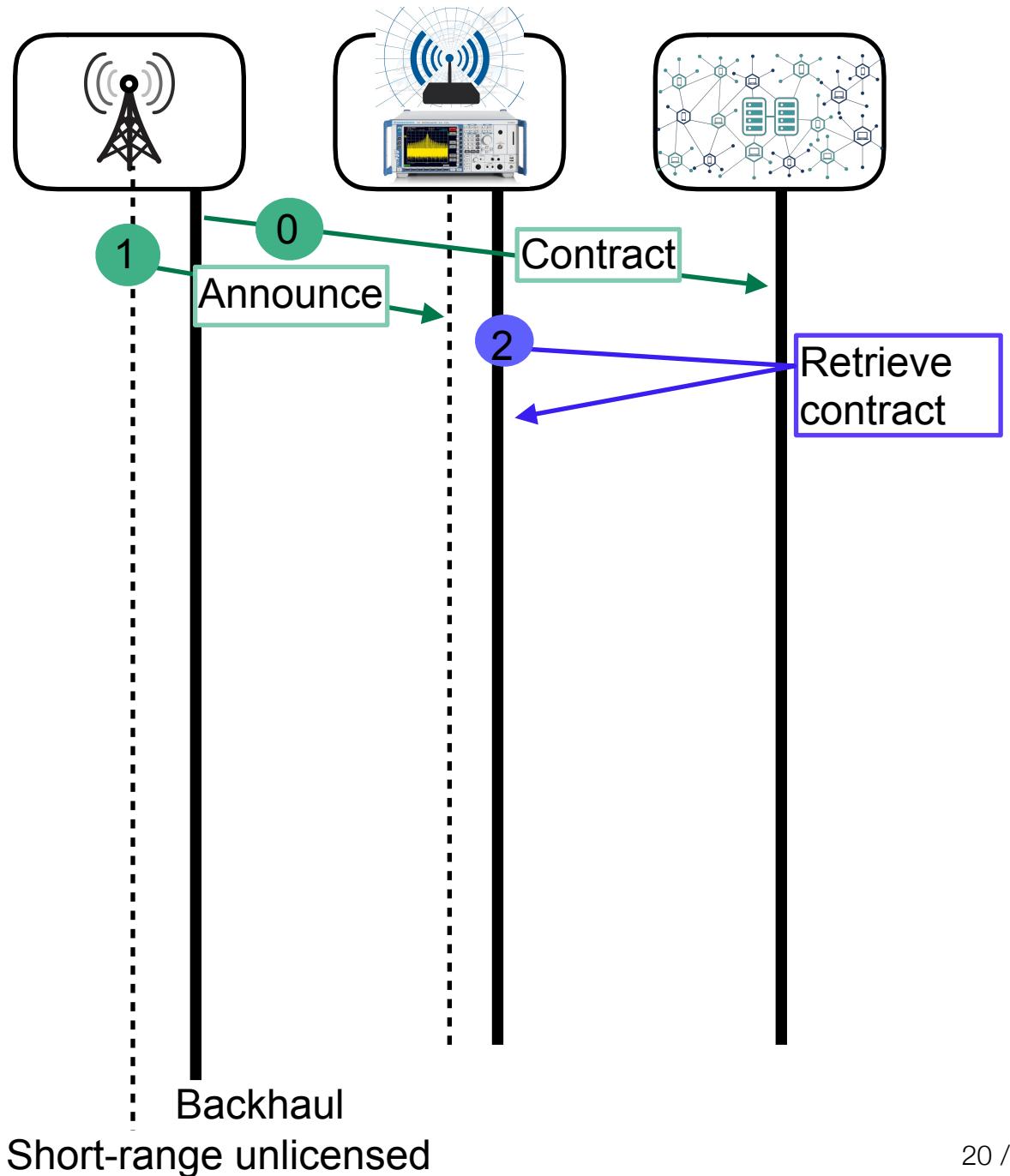
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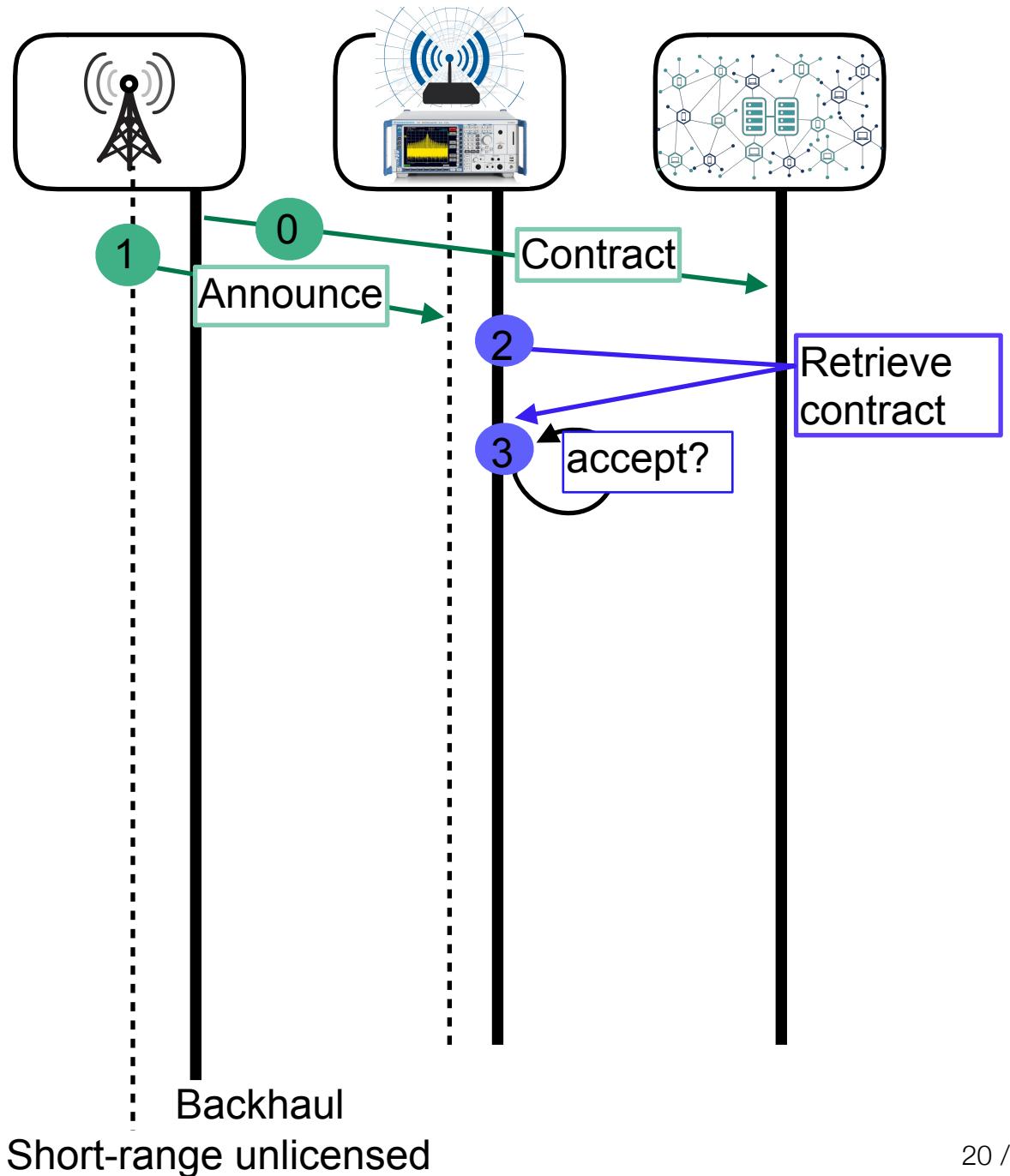
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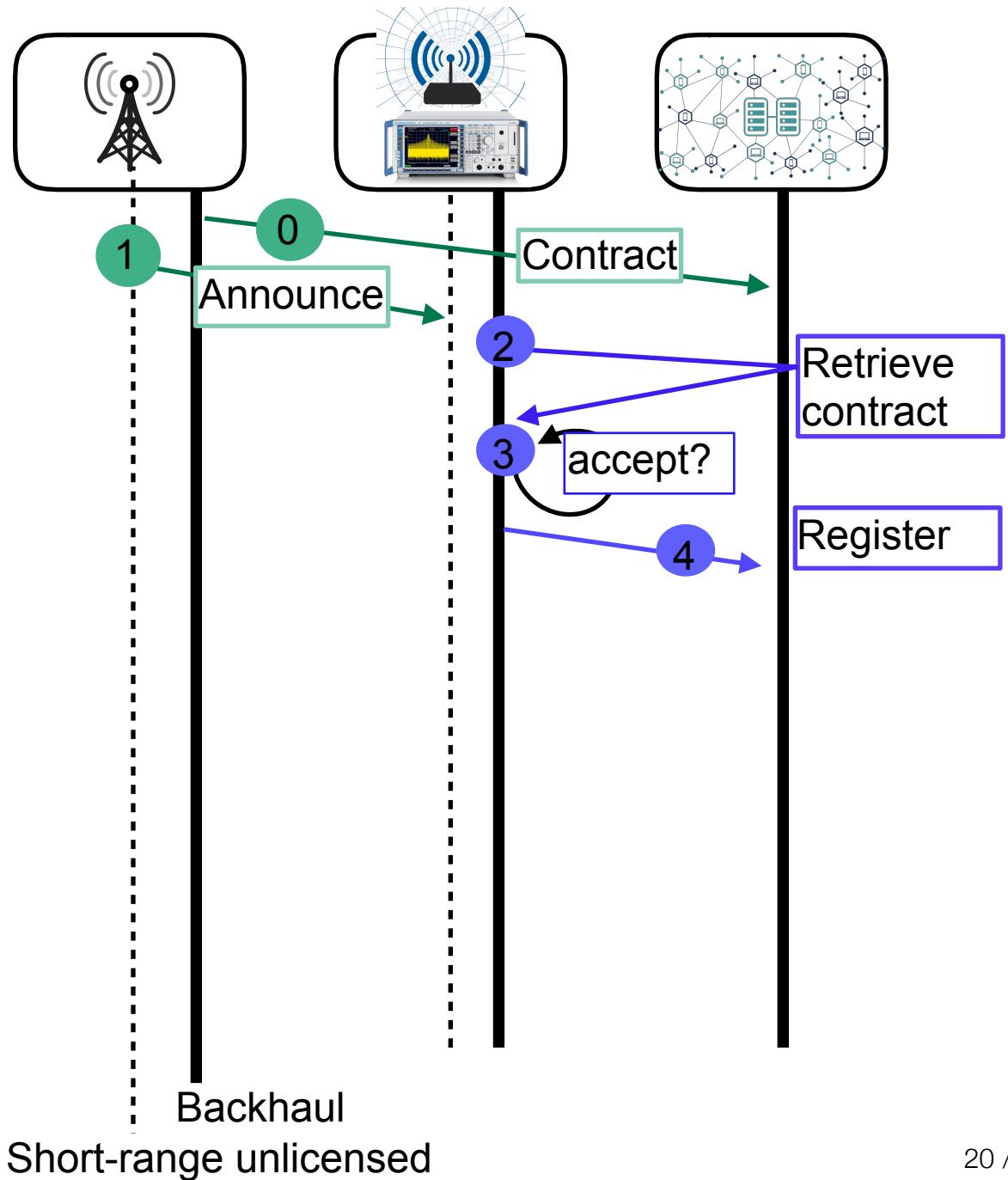
# Message flow



# Message flow

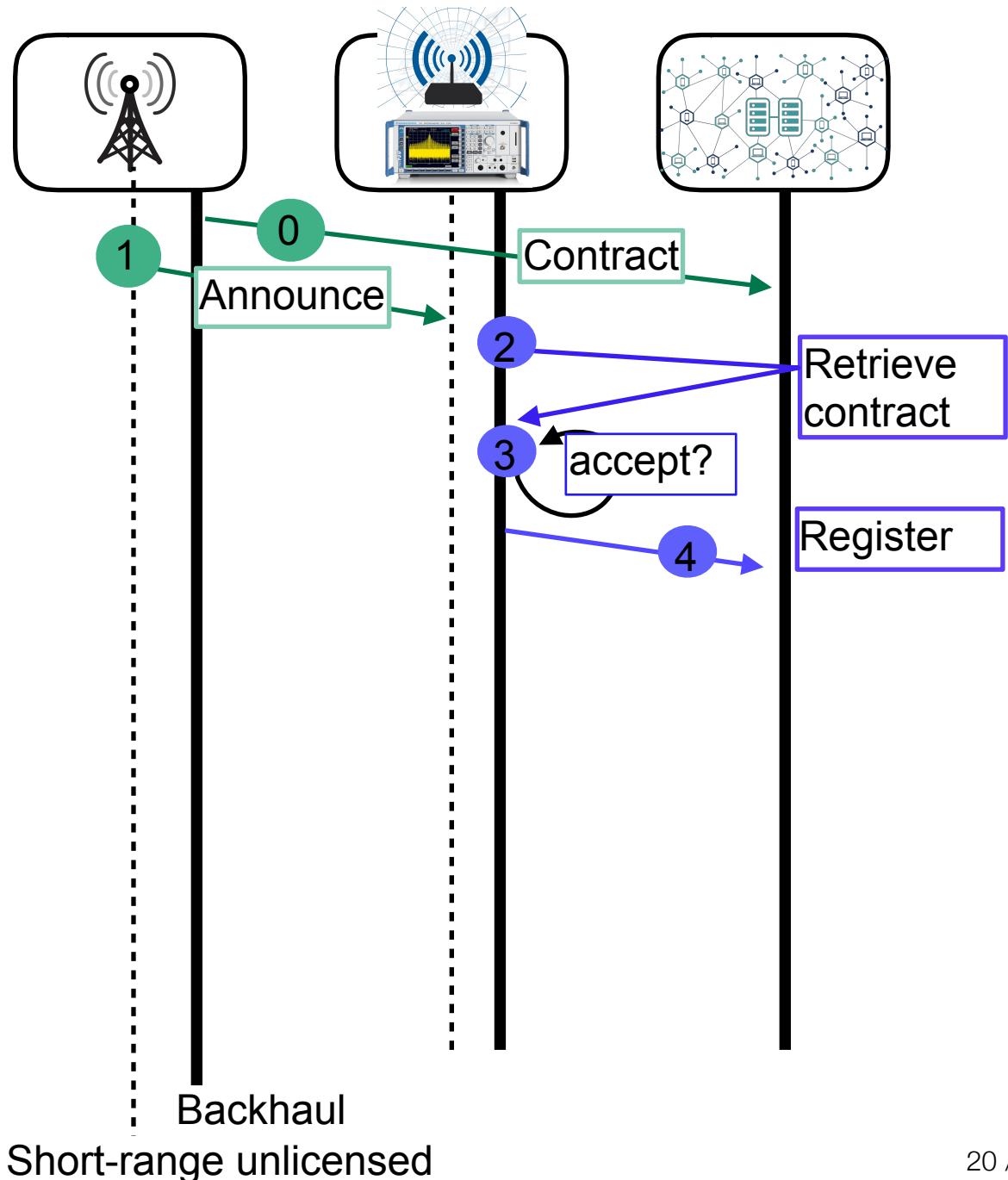


# Message flow



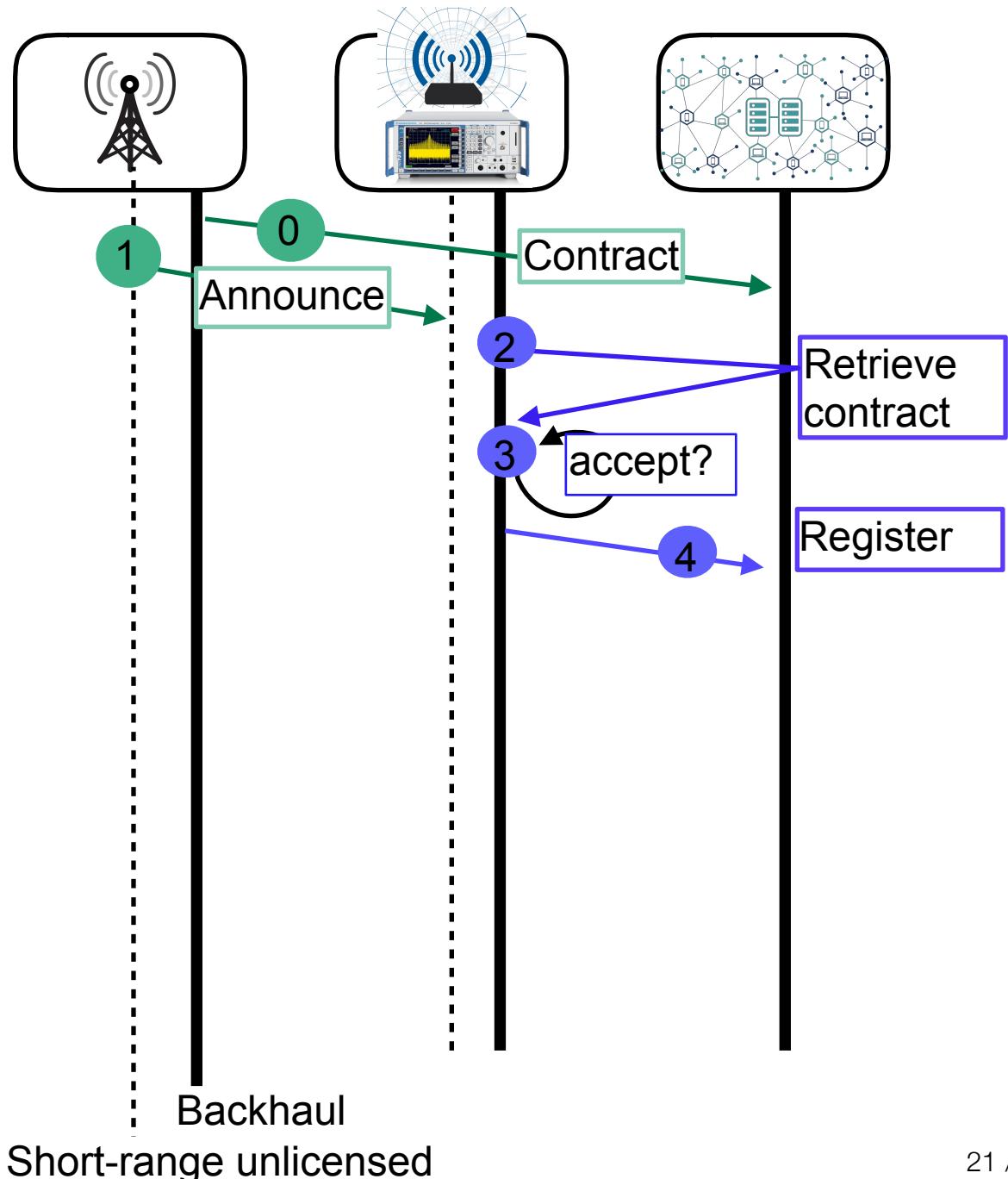
# Message flow

- Helpers register:
  - accuracy in PU detection, false alarms
  - Sensing service price, location, etc.



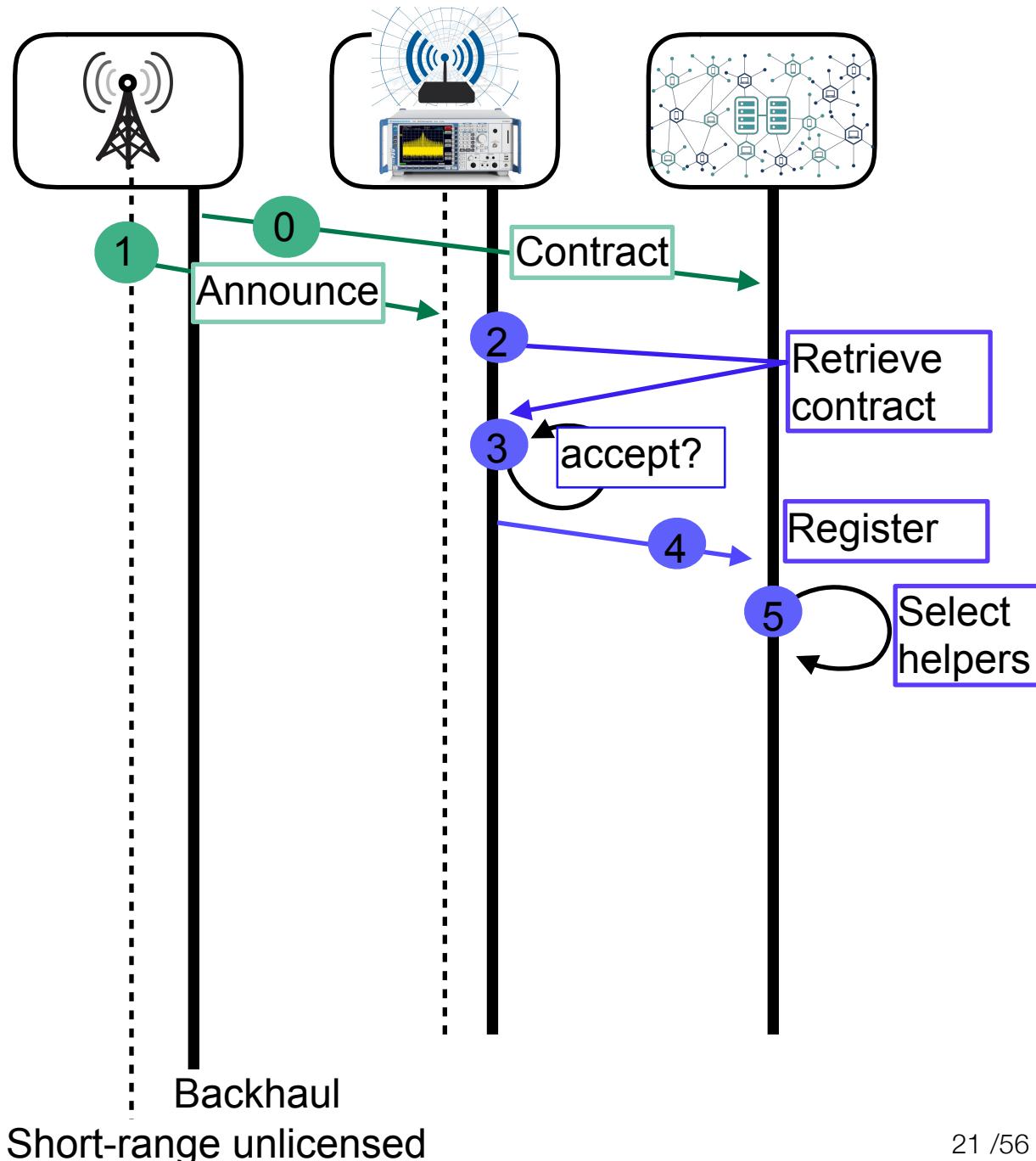
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- Helpers register:
  - accuracy in PU detection, false alarms
  - Sensing service price, location, etc.
- Helper selection:
  - Goal: SUN's profit is maximised
  - Input parameters: cost, sensing reliability, reputation etc.
  - Global sensing accuracy fulfils regulatory requirements

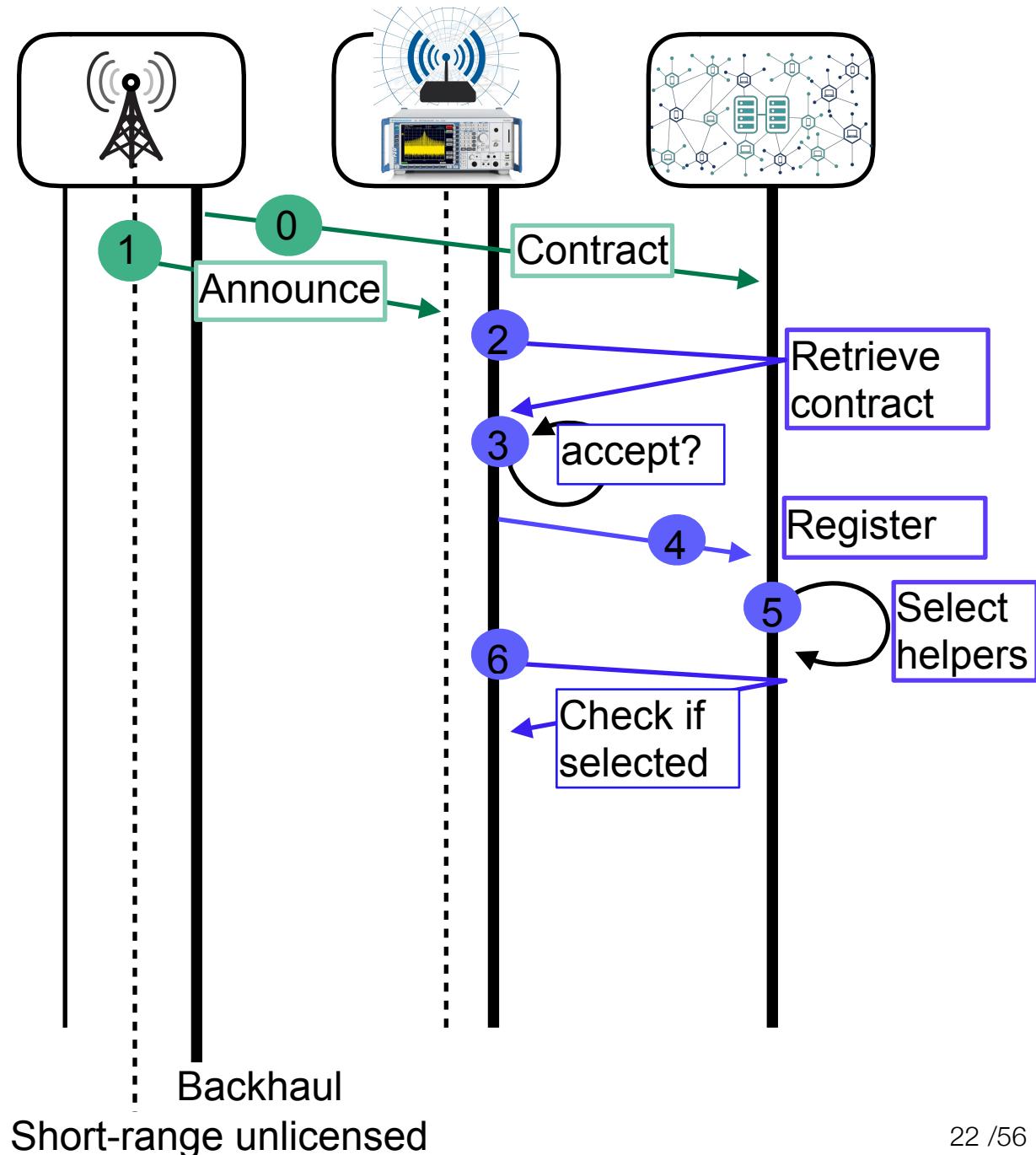


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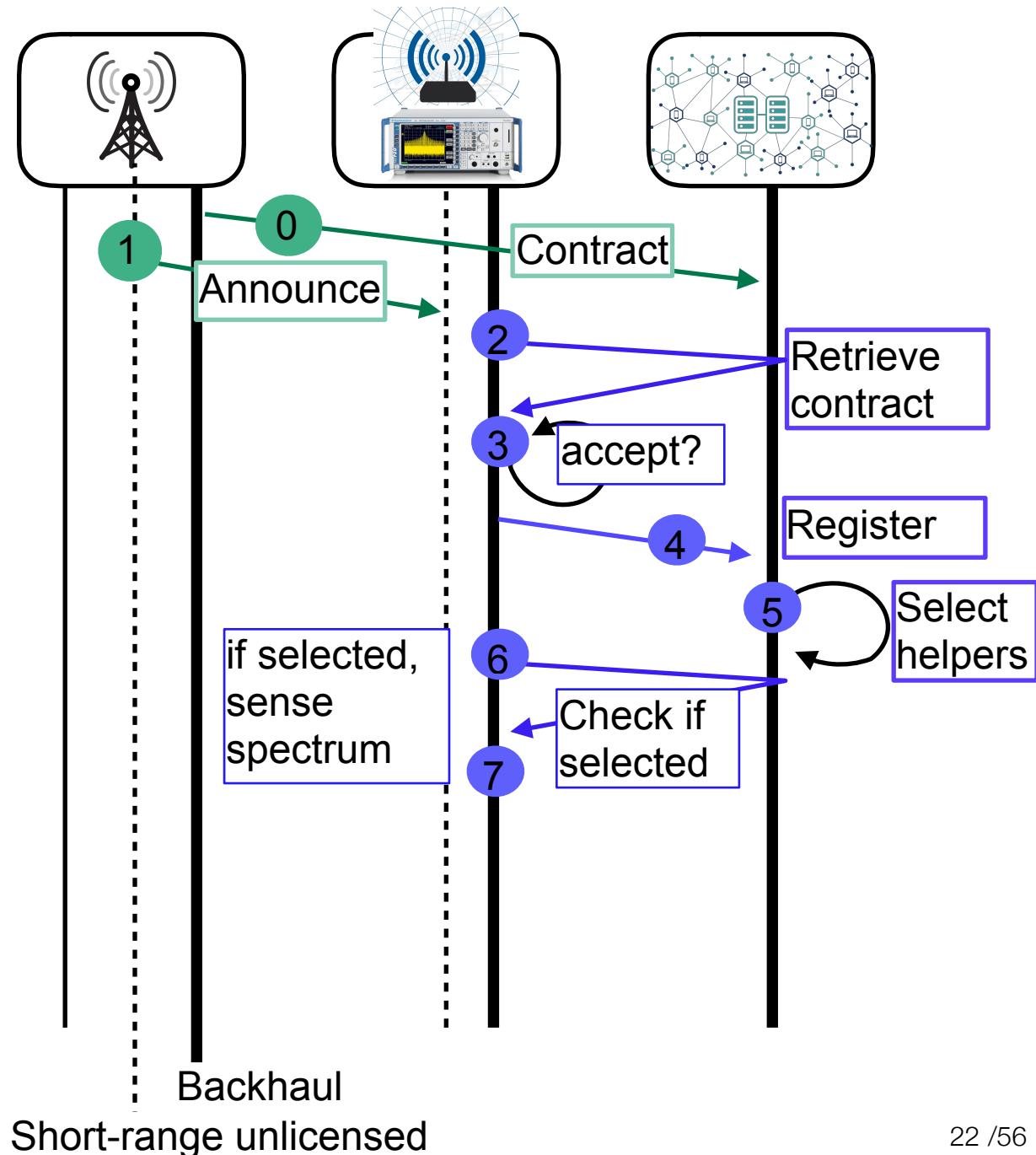
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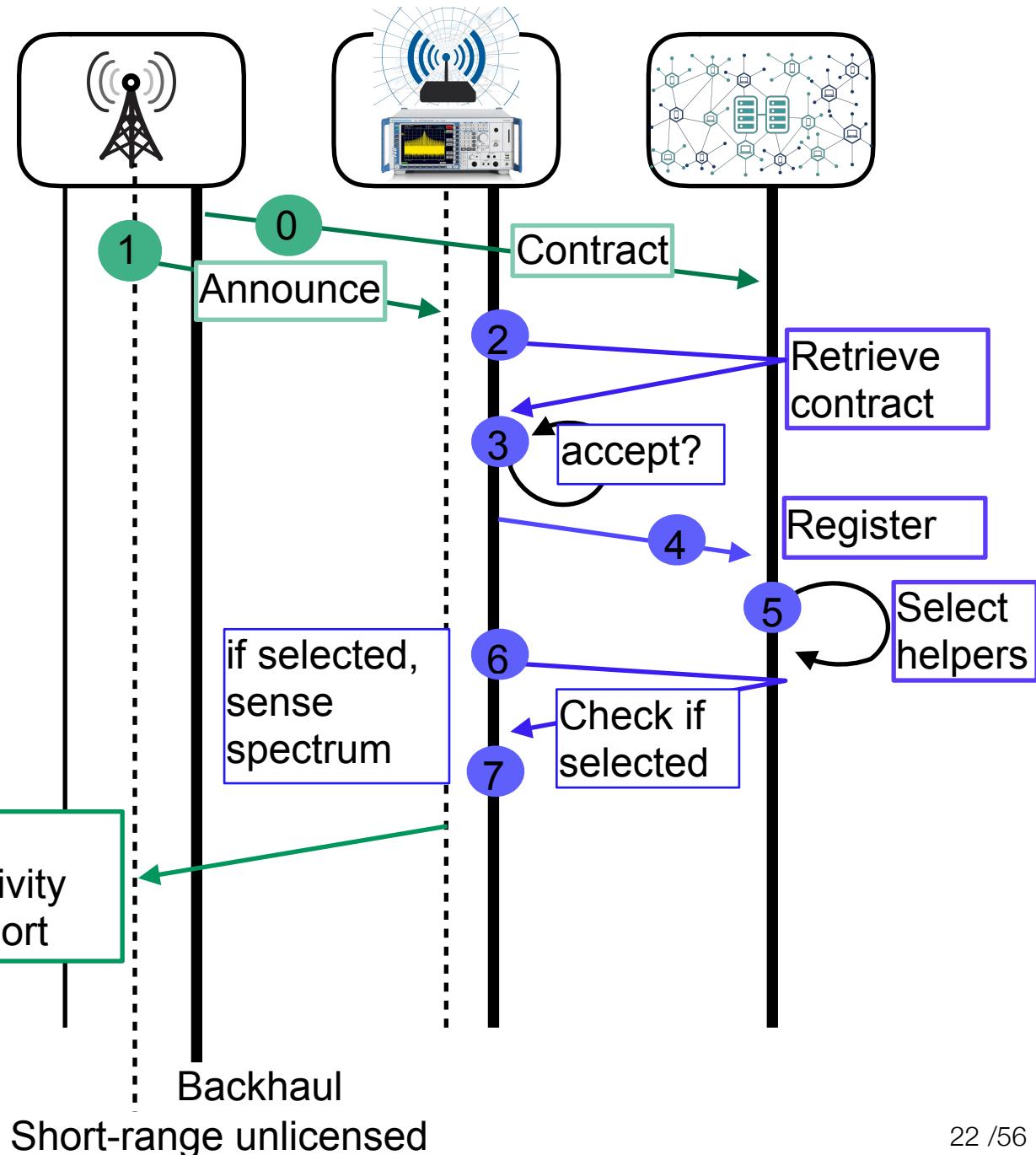
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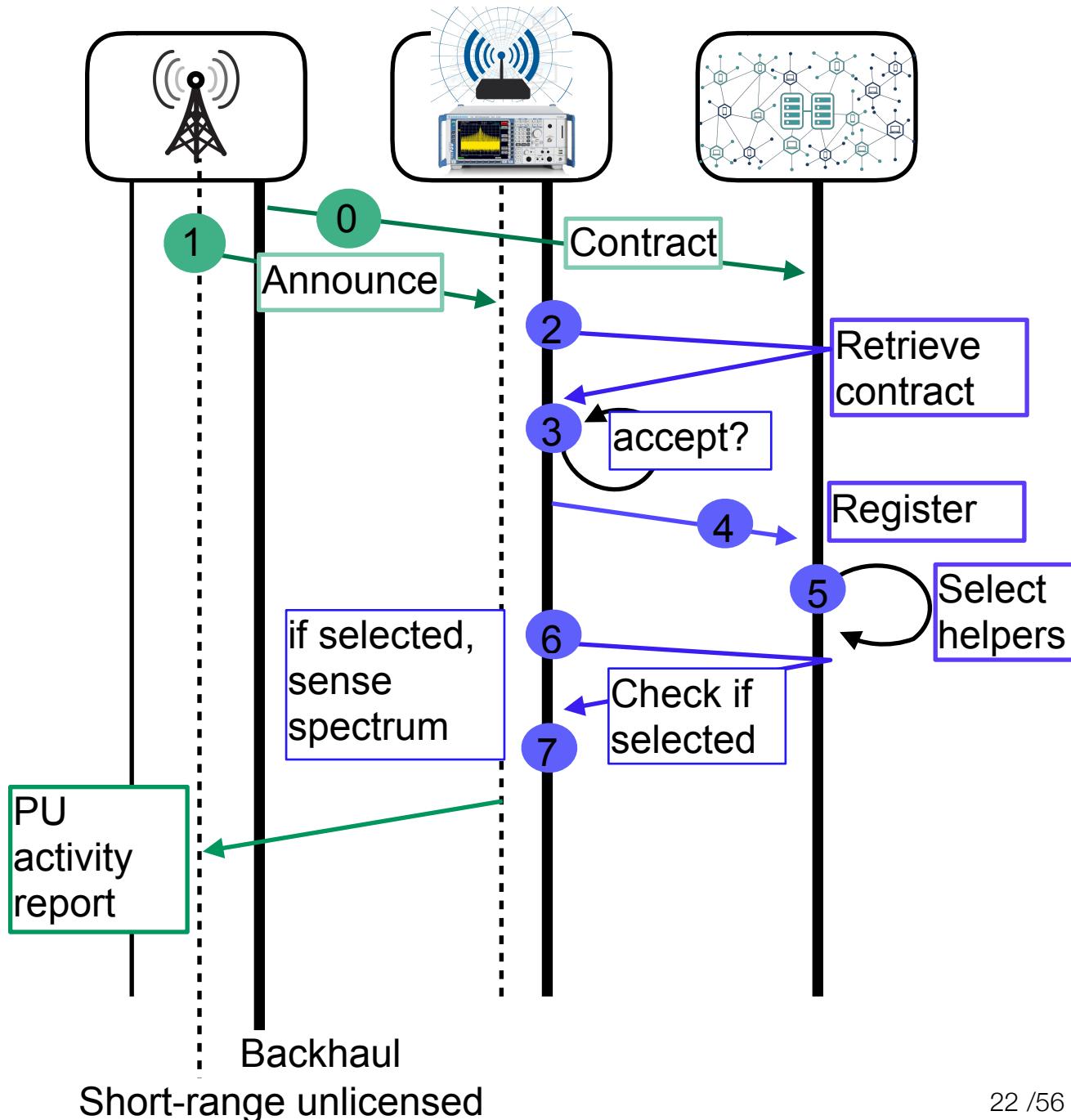


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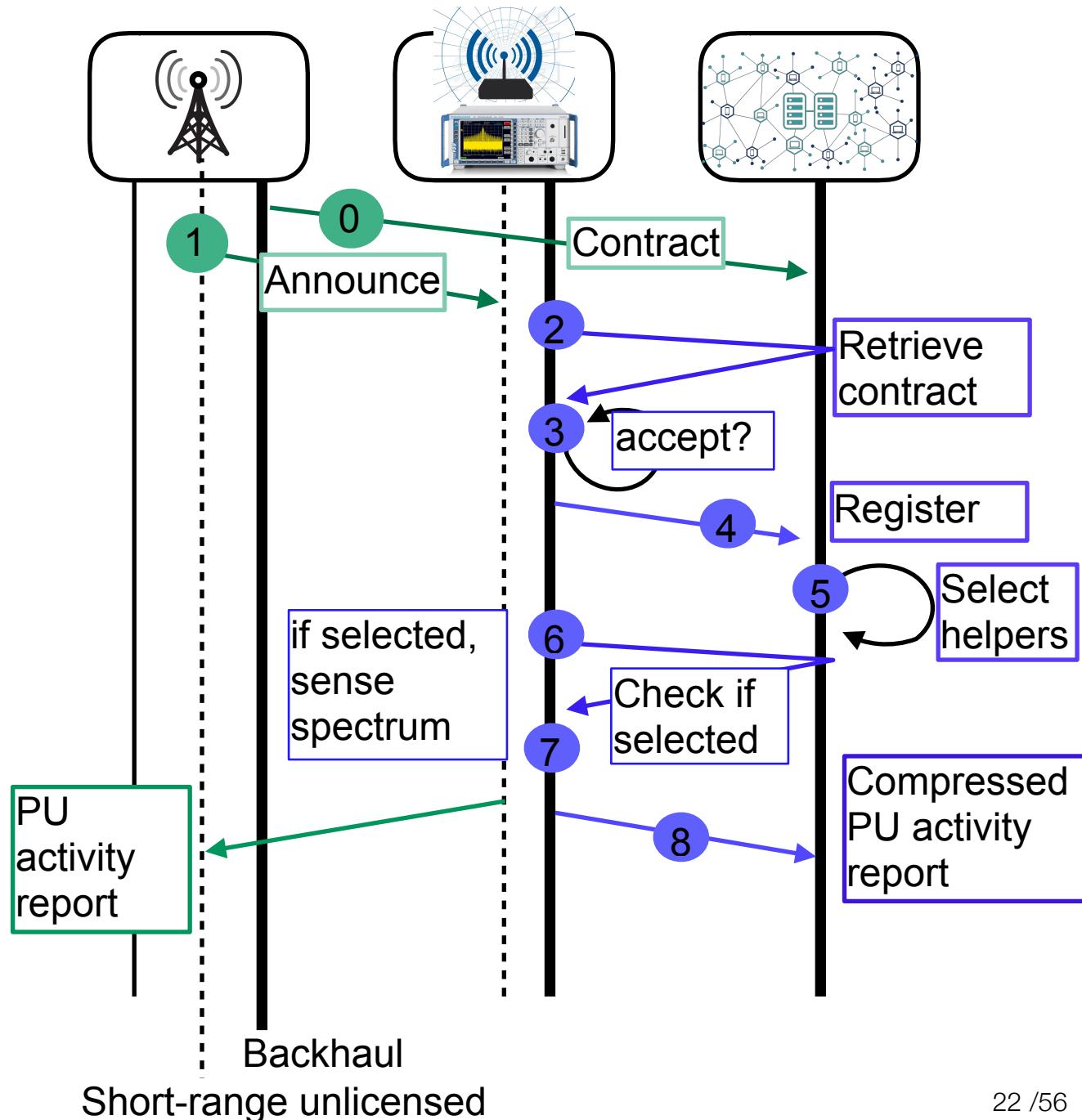
# Message flow

- Spectrum sensing
  - Energy detection (hard decision: 0 or 1)
  - PU activity report (binary array)
  - SUN sensing decision fusion: majority voting
- Helper accuracy verification
  - Compressed reports
  - Malicious helper detection and payment
  - Goal: High malicious helper detection accuracy, low # blacklisted honest helpers
  - Payment to only whitelisted-helpers



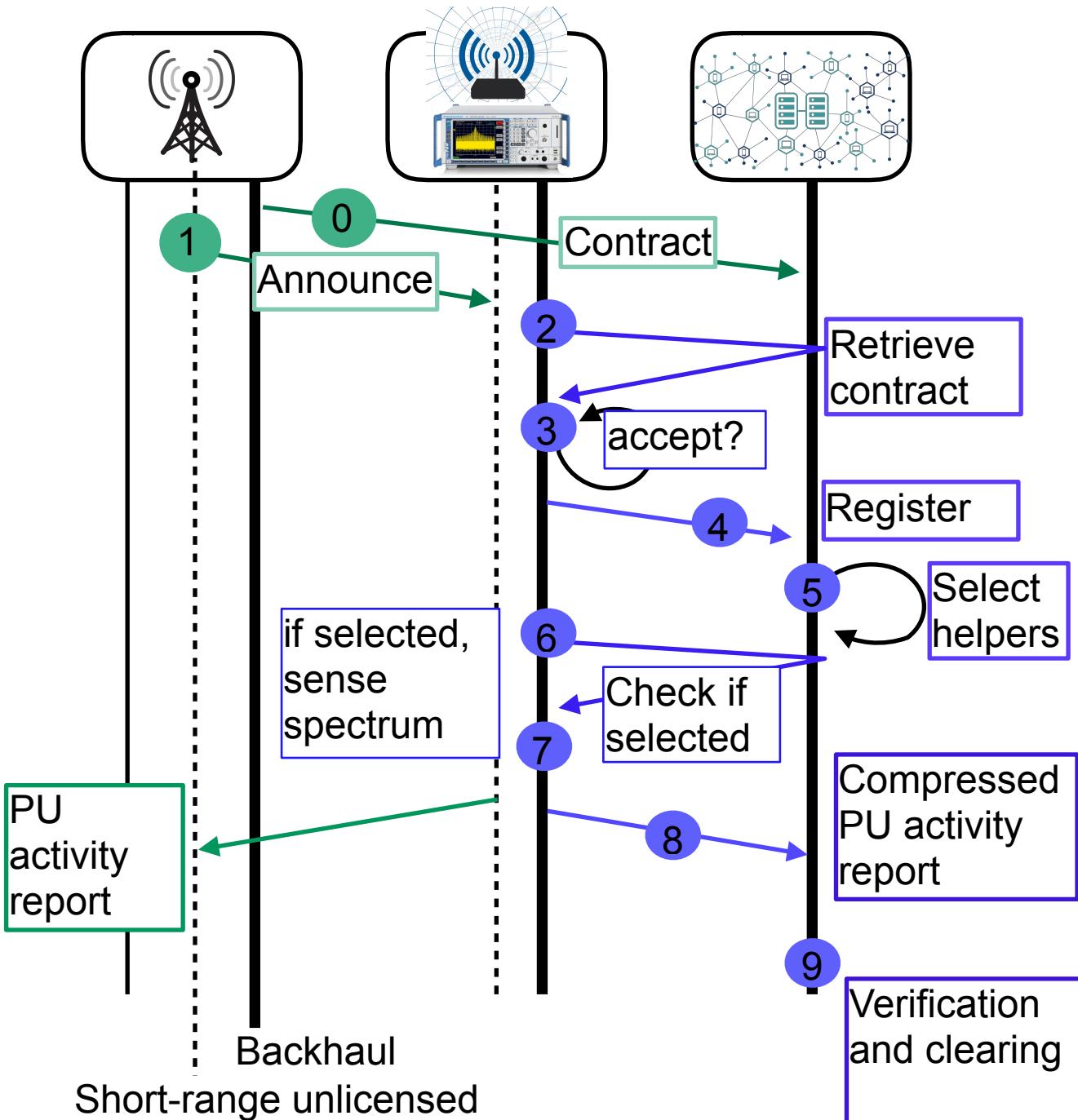
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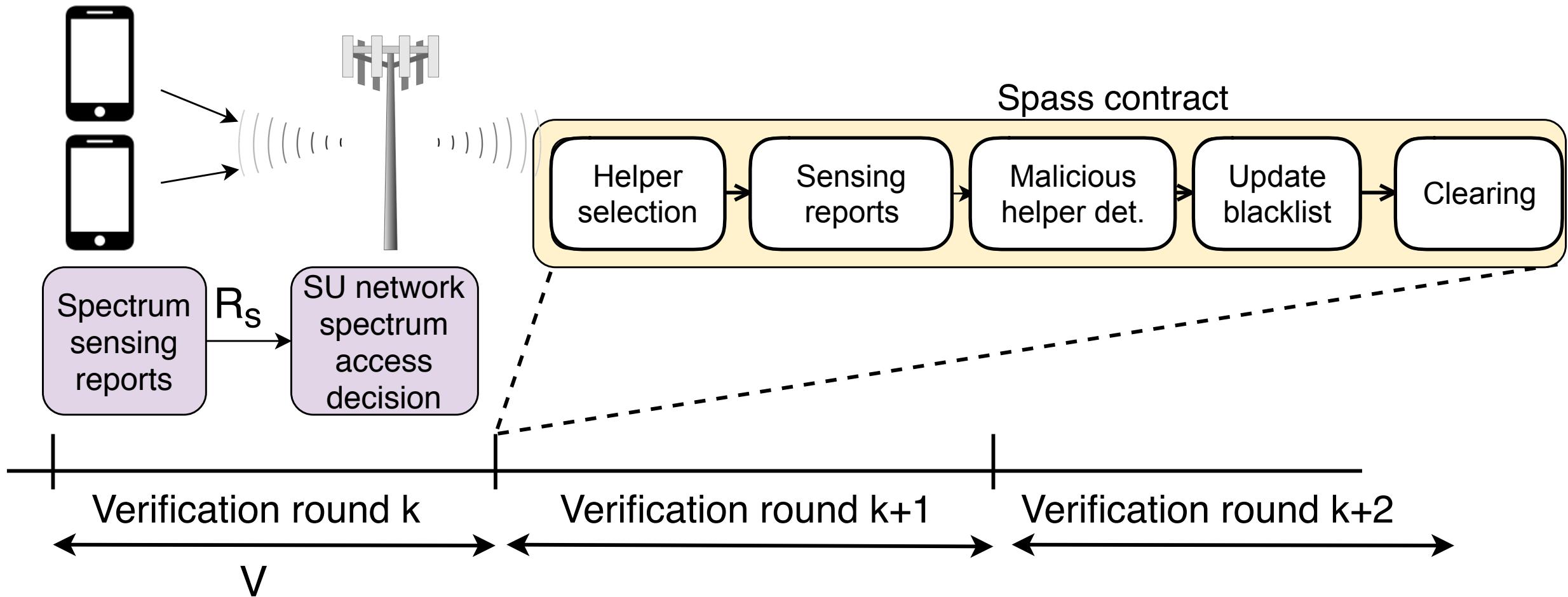
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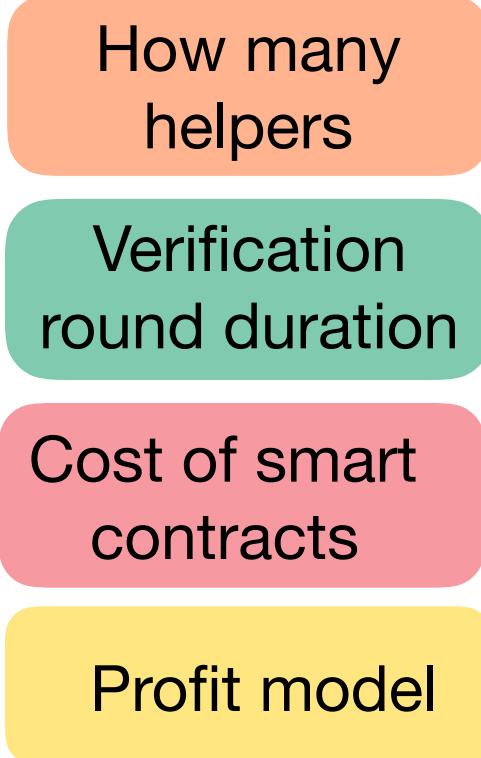
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How to *design* a smart contract so that SUN maximises its profit?

Spass



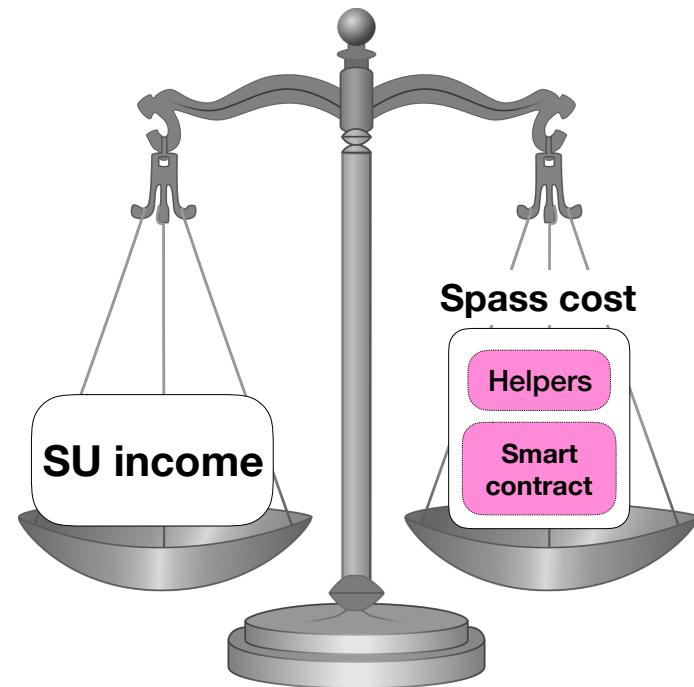
- Design goals
  - Contract functionality
  - Malicious helper identification
  - Performance
  - Business feasibility of Spass
- Optimal contract parameters**

# Assumptions

- Primary User (PU)
  - active with probability  $p_1$  and inactive with  $p_0$
  - known by SUN and helpers
- Homogenous helpers with identical sensing cost and accuracy
  - Probability of detection ( $P_d$ )
  - Probability of false alarm ( $P_f$ )
- Malicious helpers with identical sensing accuracy: *free riders (no energy consumption for sensing or colluding)*
  - do not sense the spectrum but generate data using their statistical knowledge of  $p_0$
  - Fraction of malicious helper population known by the SUN
  - Malicious helpers do not collude and do not change their strategy

# SUN profit

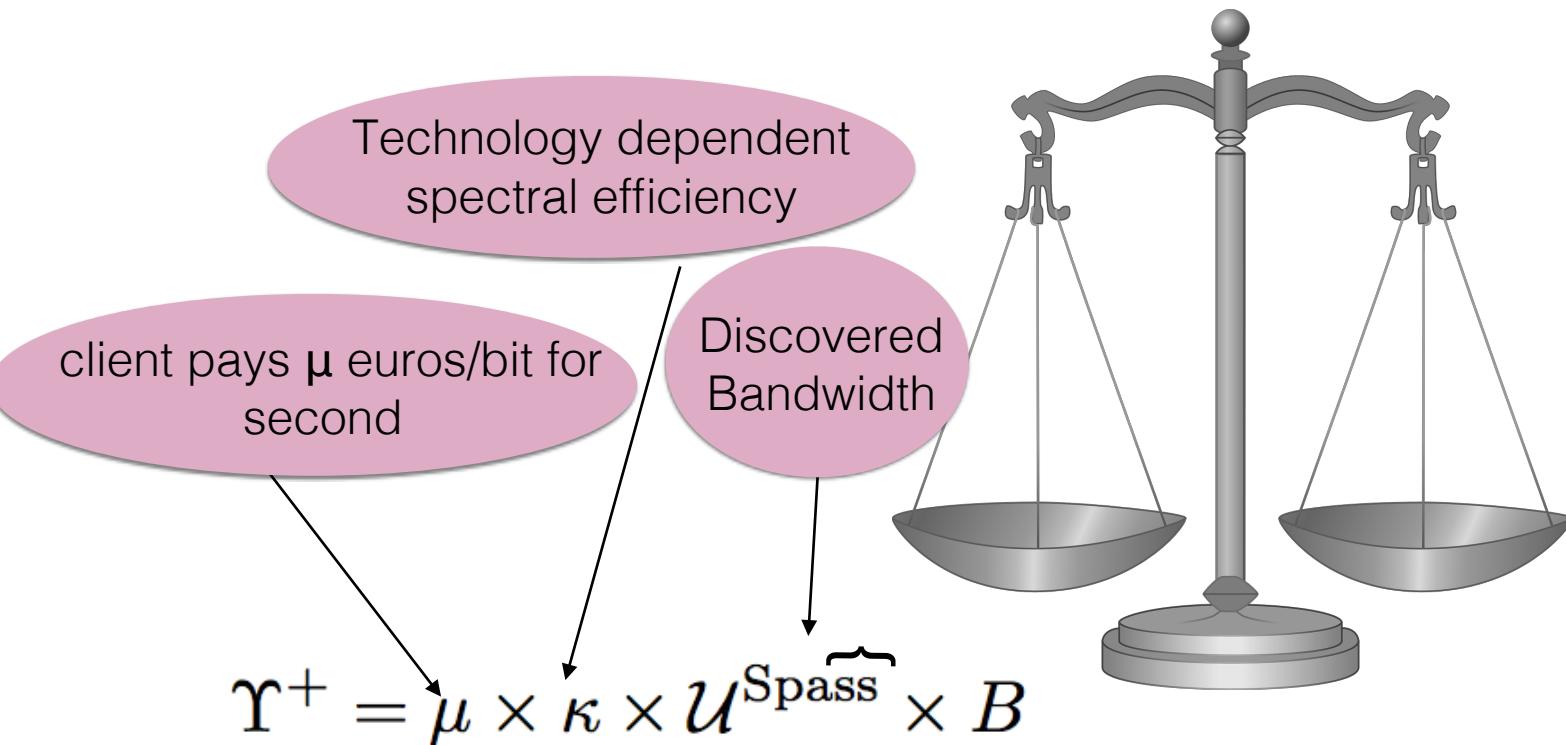
- **Income:** Monetary gain accumulated over all verification rounds by serving its customers over the opportunistic spectrum
- **Payment:** Helpers sensing service and the smart contract cost



# SUN profit in a verification round

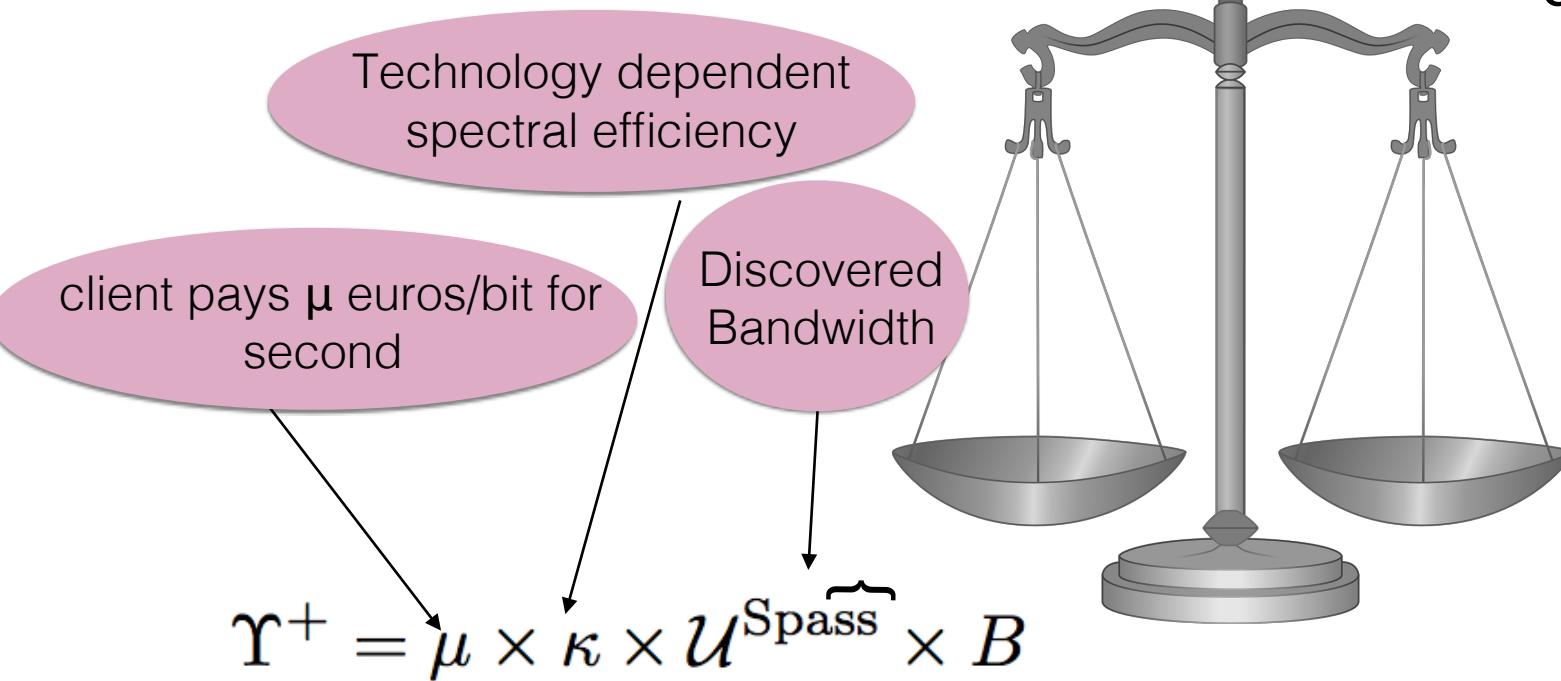


# SUN profit in a verification round

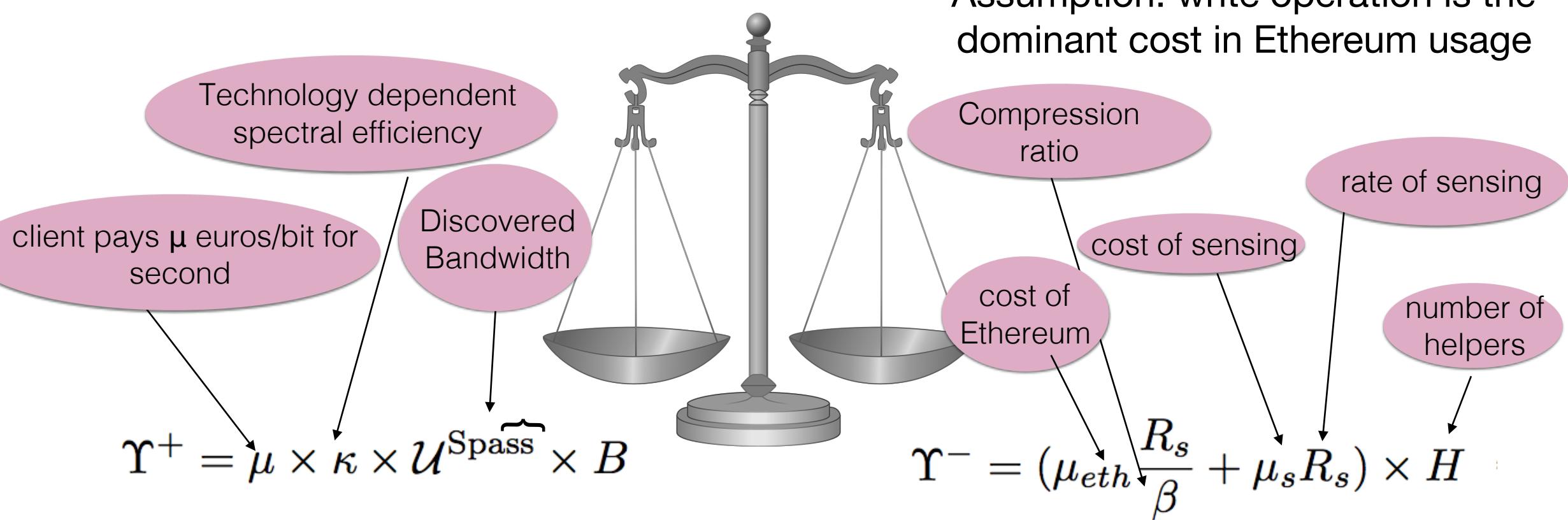


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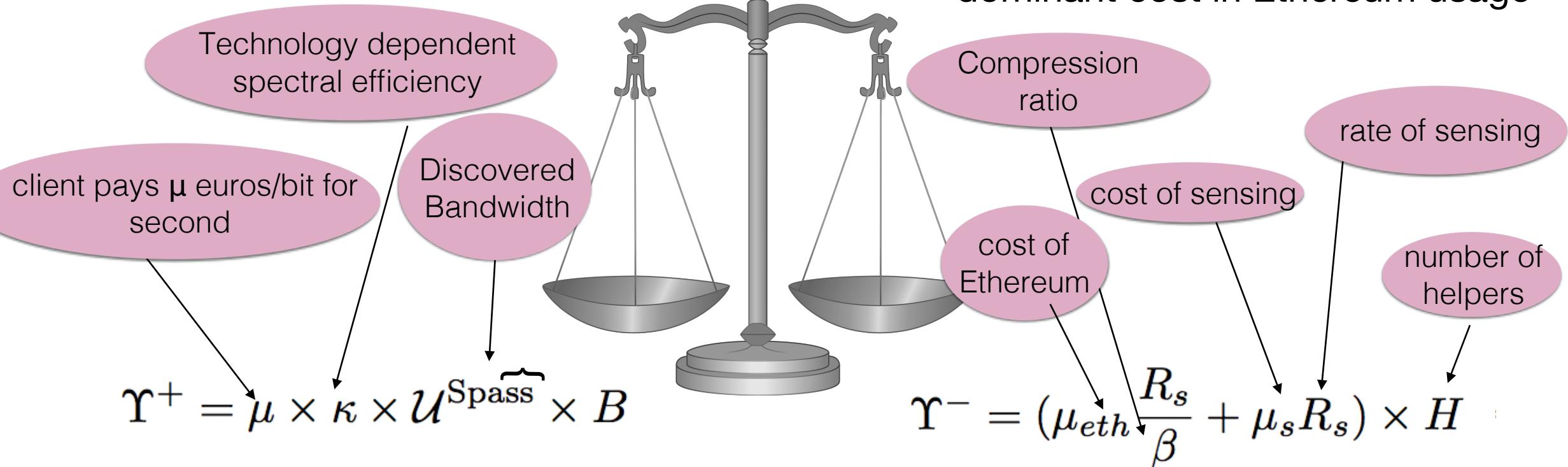
Assumption: write operation is the dominant cost in Ethereum usage



# SUN profit in a verification round



# SUN profit in a verification round



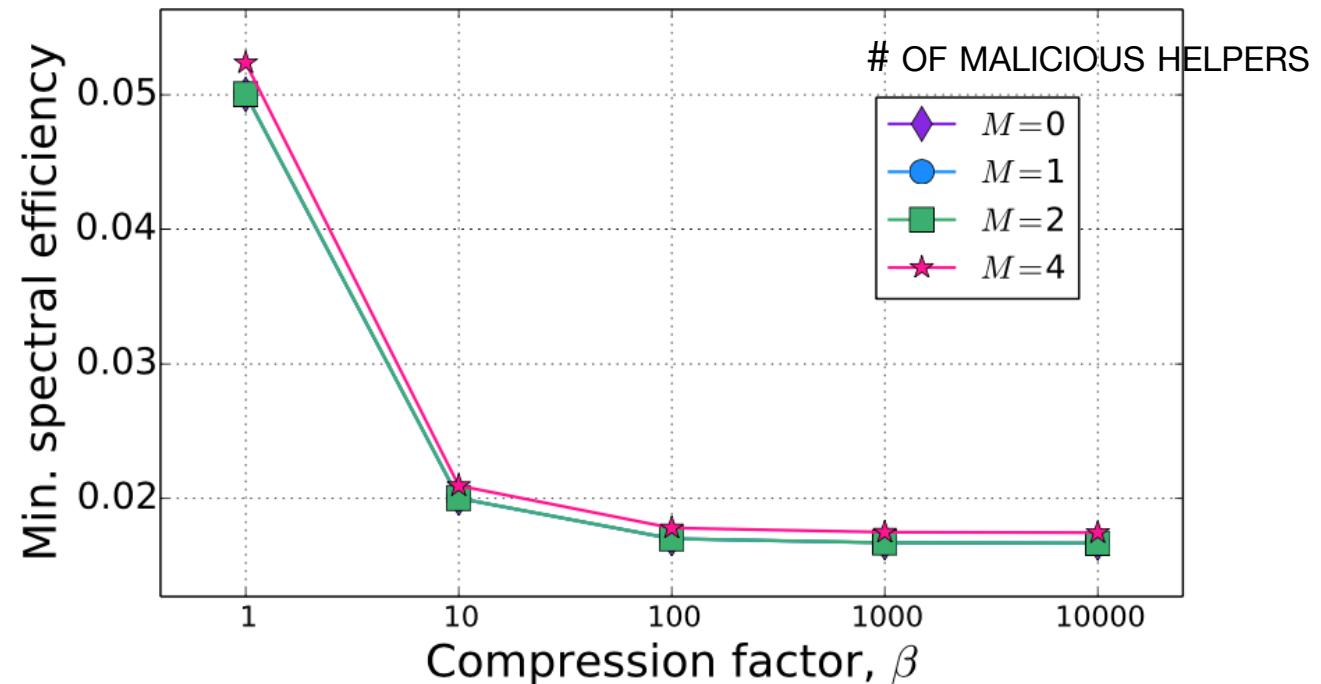
We find the operation range of an SU network in which it can make profit from Spass: net profit>0

$$\Delta \Upsilon = \Upsilon^+ - \Upsilon^- > 0.$$

# When is Spass profitable?

Required min. spectral efficiency

$$\kappa > \frac{R_s(\mu_{eth}/\beta + \mu_s) \times H}{\mu \times \mathcal{U}^{\text{Spass}} \times B}$$



Impact of compression  $\beta$  under  $H = 4$ .

$$\mathbf{P1:} \max_{V,H} \left( V \sum_{v=1}^{N_V} \mu \kappa \mathcal{U}_v - (H - \tilde{M}_v) R_s \left( \frac{\mu_{eth}}{\beta} + \mu_s \right) \right) \quad (8)$$

$$N_V = T_c/V \quad (9)$$

$$\mathcal{U}_v = p_0 (1 - \bar{p}_f(H)) \quad (10)$$

$$\bar{p}_f(H) = \sum_{j=0}^H \binom{H}{j} \psi^j (1-\psi)^{H-j} p_f(H,j) \quad (11)$$

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$$\tilde{M}_v = H(\psi q_d + (1-\psi)q_f) \quad (13)$$

$$q_f \leq q_f^* \text{ and } q_d \geq q_d^* \quad (14)$$

$$\bar{p}_f(H) \leq p_f^* \text{ and } \bar{p}_d(H) \geq p_d^* \quad (15)$$

$$S = \frac{R_s V}{\beta} \quad (16)$$

$$V \in \{1, \dots, T_c\} \text{ and } H \in \{1, \dots, N\} \quad (17)$$

- Utility: probability of detecting the spectrum opportunity

**P1:**  $\max_{V,H} \left( V \sum_{v=1}^{N_V} \mu \kappa \mathcal{U}_v - (H - \tilde{M}_v) R_s \left( \frac{\mu_{eth}}{\beta} + \mu_s \right) \right)$  (8)

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- Utility: probability of detecting the spectrum opportunity

Expected utility if H helpers sense

Expected false alarm probability

False alarm probability under j malicious helpers and total H helpers

$$S = \frac{R_s V}{\beta} \quad (16)$$

$$V \in \{1, \dots, T_c\} \text{ and } H \in \{1, \dots, N\} \quad (17)$$

$$\textbf{P1:} \max_{V,H} \left( V \sum_{v=1}^{N_V} \mu \kappa \mathcal{U}_v - (H - \tilde{M}_v) R_s \left( \frac{\mu_{eth}}{\beta} + \mu_s \right) \right) \quad (8)$$

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Fraction of malicious helpers in all population  
 $q_d, q_f$ : true and false detections

$$\mathbf{P1:} \max_{V,H} \left( V \sum_{v=1}^{N_V} \mu \kappa \mathcal{U}_v - (H - \tilde{M}_v) R_s \left( \frac{\mu_{eth}}{\beta} + \mu_s \right) \right) \quad (8)$$

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- Utility: probability of detecting the spectrum opportunity
- Regulatory requirements on sensing accuracy are satisfied
- Malicious helpers are not paid
- For sustainable operation, honest helpers are not blacklisted and malicious helpers are detected with high probability

$$\mathbf{P1:} \max_{V,H} \left( V \sum_{v=1}^{N_V} \mu \kappa \mathcal{U}_v - (H - \tilde{M}_v) R_s \left( \frac{\mu_{eth}}{\beta} + \mu_s \right) \right) \quad (8)$$

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- Utility: probability of detecting the spectrum opportunity
- Regulatory requirements on sensing accuracy are satisfied
- Malicious helpers are not paid
- For sustainable operation, honest helpers are not blacklisted and malicious helpers are detected with high probability
- Sensing report size under compression factor  $\beta$

$$S = \frac{R_s V}{\beta} \quad (16)$$

$$V \in \{1, \dots, T_c\} \text{ and } H \in \{1, \dots, N\} \quad (17)$$

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- Utility: probability of detecting the spectrum opportunity
- Regulatory requirements on sensing accuracy are satisfied
- Malicious helpers are not paid
- For sustainable operation, honest helpers are not blacklisted and malicious helpers are detected with high probability
- Sensing report size under compression factor  $\beta$

$R_s$ : Rate of sensing (bps)  
 $\beta$ : compression factor

$$\mathbf{P1:} \max_{V,H} \left( V \sum_{v=1}^{N_V} \mu \kappa \mathcal{U}_v - (H - \tilde{M}_v) R_s \left( \frac{\mu_{eth}}{\beta} + \mu_s \right) \right) \quad (8)$$

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$$\tilde{M}_v = H(\psi q_d + (1-\psi)q_f) \quad (13)$$

$$q_f \leq q_f^* \text{ and } q_d \geq q_d^* \quad (14)$$

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$$S = \frac{R_s V}{\beta} \quad (16)$$

$$V \in \{1, \dots, T_c\} \text{ and } H \in \{1, \dots, N\} \quad (17)$$

- Utility: probability of detecting the spectrum opportunity
- Regulatory requirements on sensing accuracy are satisfied
- Malicious helpers are not paid
- For sustainable operation, honest helpers are not blacklisted and malicious helpers are detected with high probability
- Sensing report size under compression factor beta

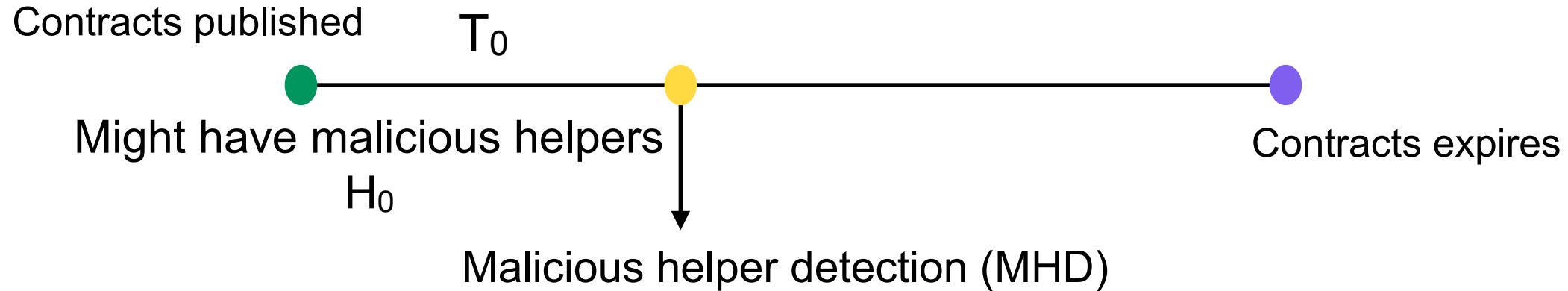
But, we do not have a closed formula for malicious helper detection accuracy!

# Simplified problem: two phase operation

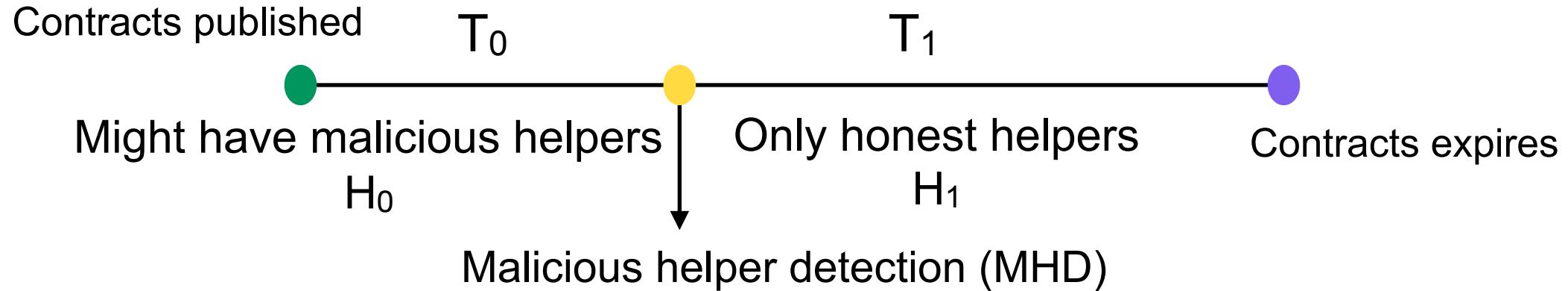
Contracts published



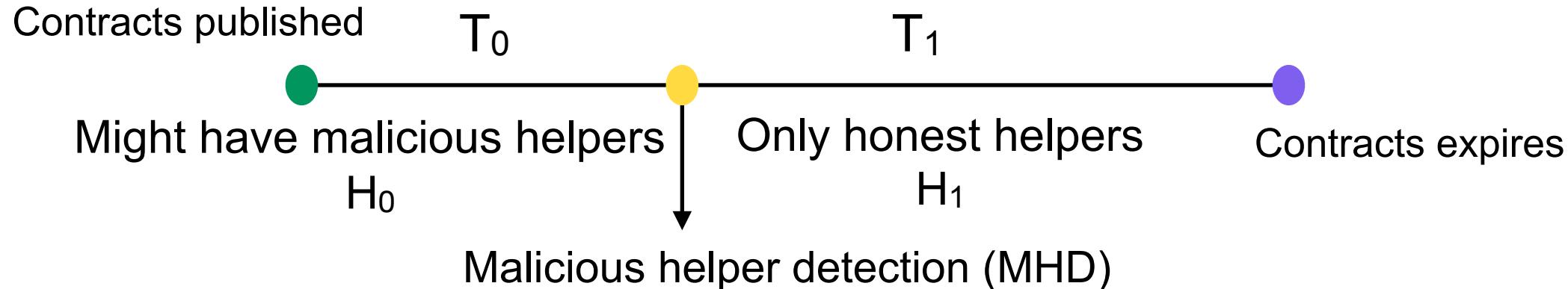
# Simplified problem: two phase operation



# Simplified problem: two phase operation



# Simplified problem: two phase operation



- Requirement: After the first phase, all malicious helpers are (must be) detected by our MHD algorithm
- Malicious helpers do not change their strategy

# Simplified problem: two phase operation

- Now, decision on  $H_0, H_1, T_0$

- $T_0$ : the minimum duration that the MHD algorithm needs for detection of all malicious helpers
- We find  $T_0$  via Monte Carlo simulations
- $H_0, H_1$ : exhaustive search  $O(N^2)$  where  $N$  is number of candidates

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P2:} \max_{T_0, H_0, H_1} & T_0(\mu\kappa\mathcal{U}_0 - H_0 R_s(\frac{\mu_{eth}}{\beta} + \mu_s)) \\ & + (T_c - T_0)(\mu\kappa\mathcal{U}_1 - H_1 R_s(\frac{\mu_{eth}}{\beta} + \mu_s)) \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

$$T_0 \leq T_c \quad (19)$$

$$\mathcal{U}_0 = p_0(1 - \bar{p}_f(H_0)) \quad (20)$$

$$\mathcal{U}_1 = p_0(1 - p_f(H_1)) \quad (21)$$

$$H_0 \geq H_1 \quad (22)$$

$$p_f(H_1) \geq p_f^* \text{ and } p_d(H_1) \geq p_d^* \quad (23)$$

$$\bar{p}_f(H_0) \geq p_f^* \text{ and } \bar{p}_d(H_0) \geq p_d^* \quad (24)$$

$$S_{\min} \geq \frac{R_s T_0}{\beta} \quad (25)$$

# How to decrease cost of Spass?

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**Our approach: Decrease the amount of data written to the contract**

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Lossless compression  
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Compression ratio:  $\beta$

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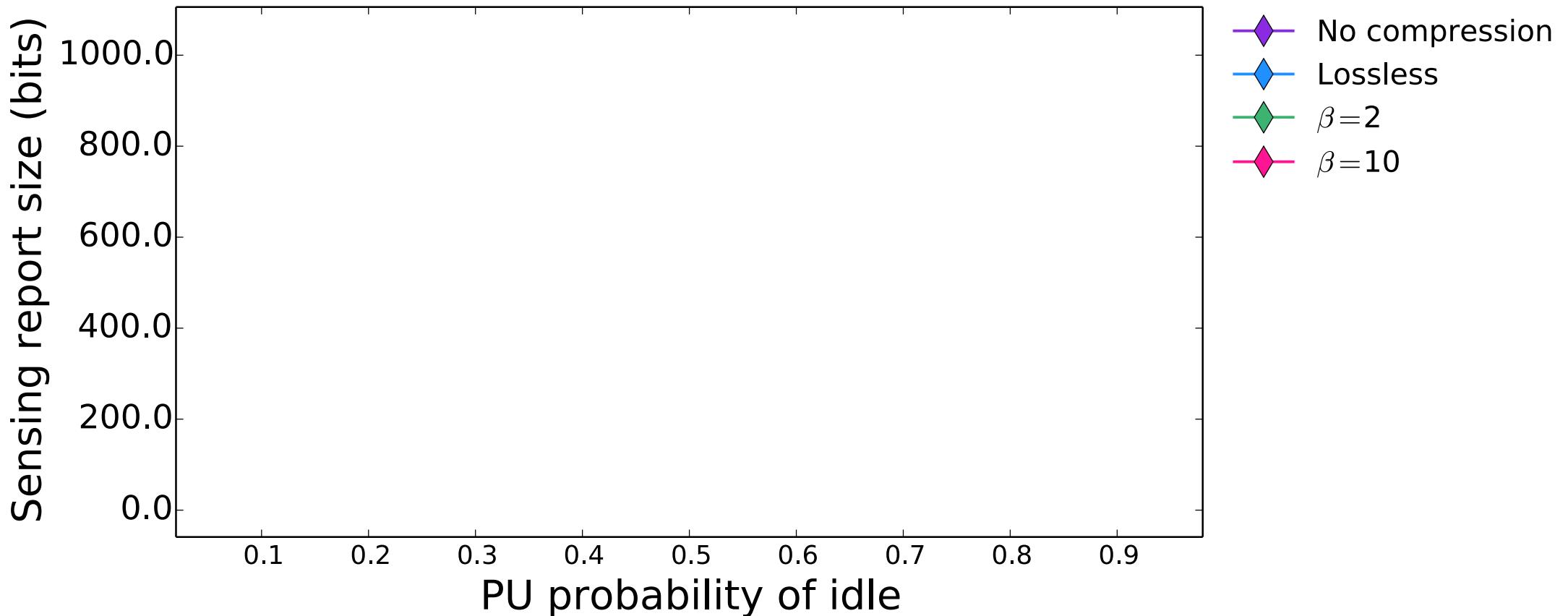


Lossy compression  
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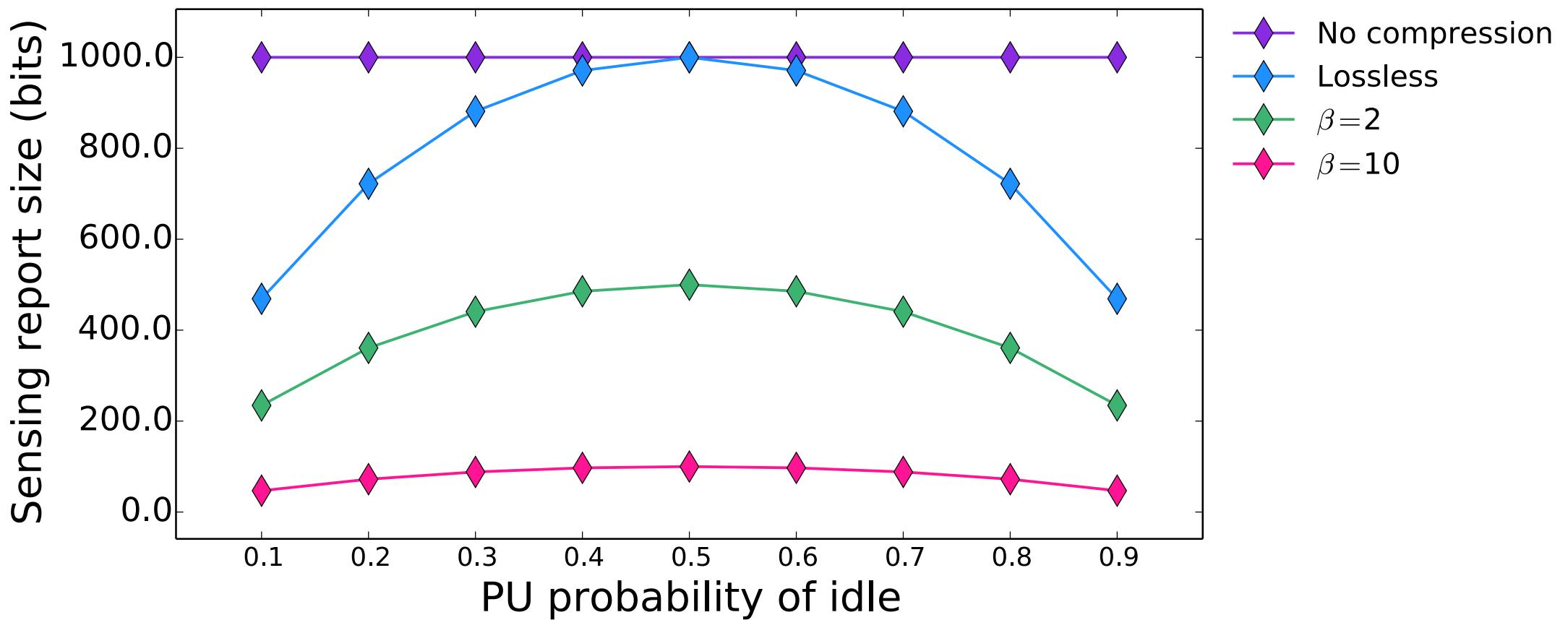
Compression ratio:  $\beta$

**Might affect malicious helper detection algorithm's accuracy**

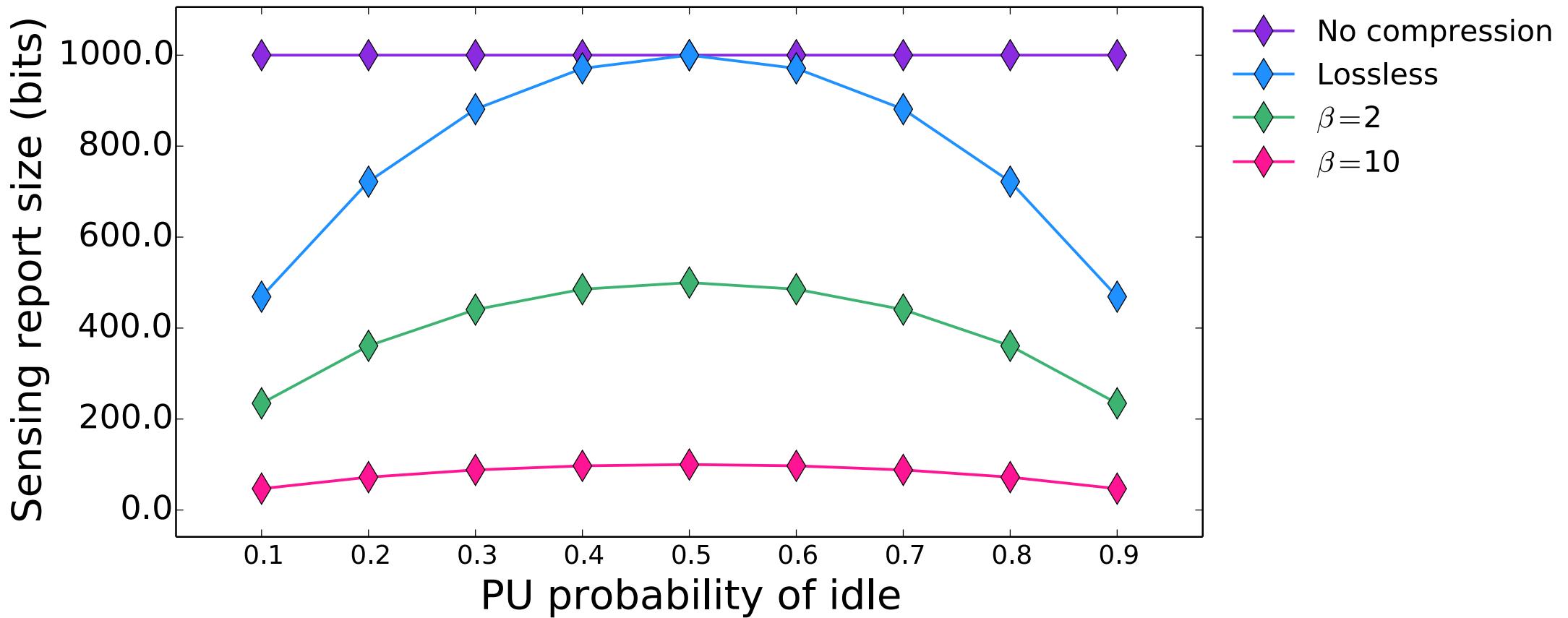
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- Higher compression when low/high PU idle

# Spass



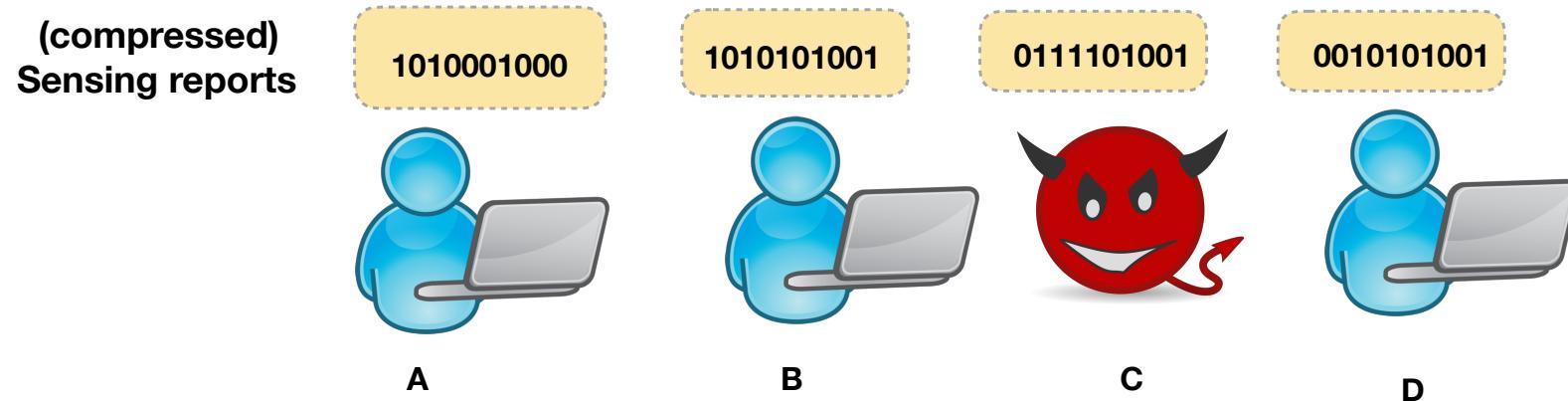
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- **Malicious helper identification**
  - Performance
  - Business feasibility of Spass

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# Clustering-based malicious Helper Identification (CHI)



Honest helper model:  
Identical sensing accuracy  
 $P_{h_d}$ ,  $P_{h_{fa}}$

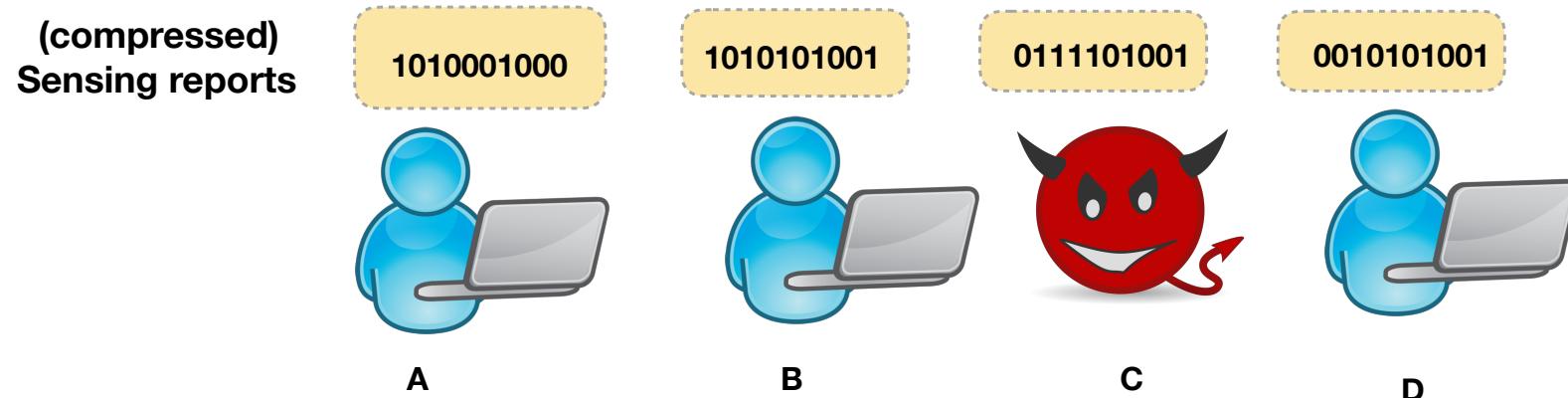
Malicious helper model:  
Knows  $P_0$ ,  
Generates fake sensing  
bits without performing  
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1 with prob  $\alpha_1 = (1 - p_0)$ .

$$P_{m_f}^f = p_0 \alpha_1 = p_0(1-p_0)$$

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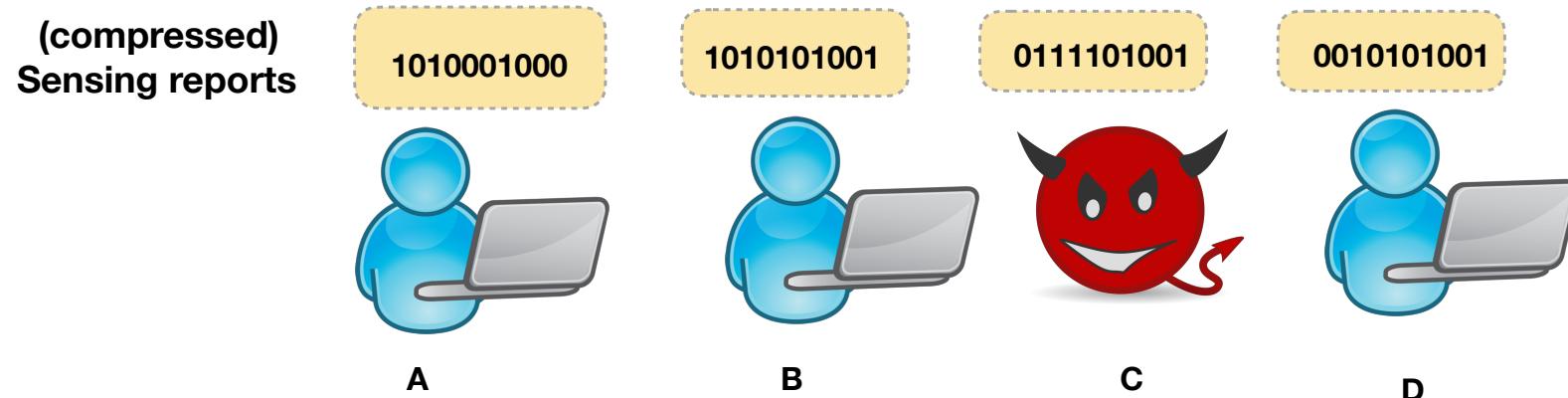
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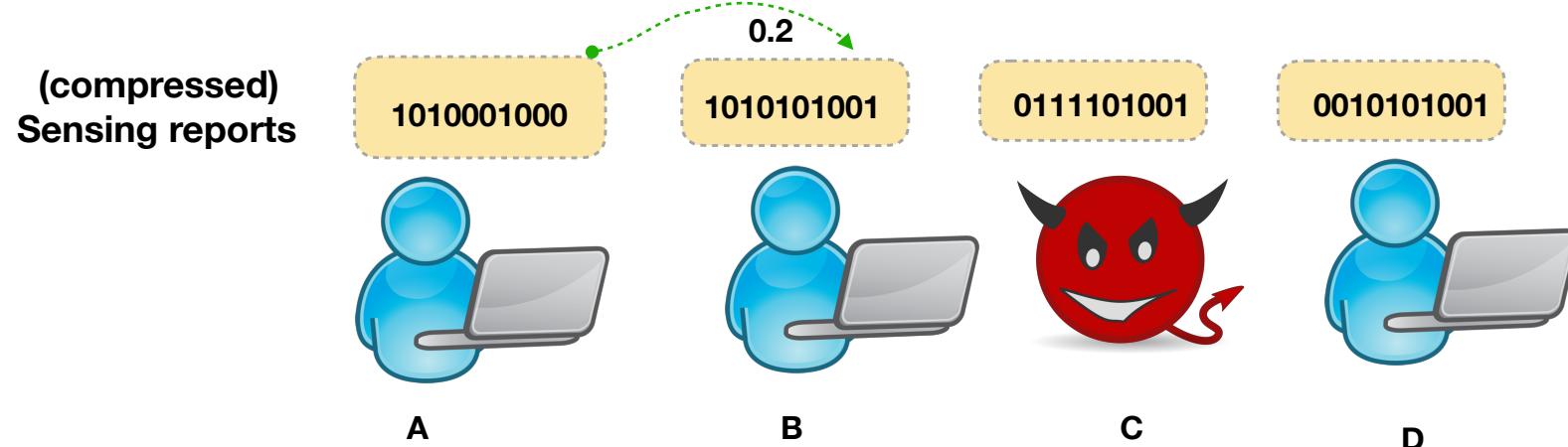
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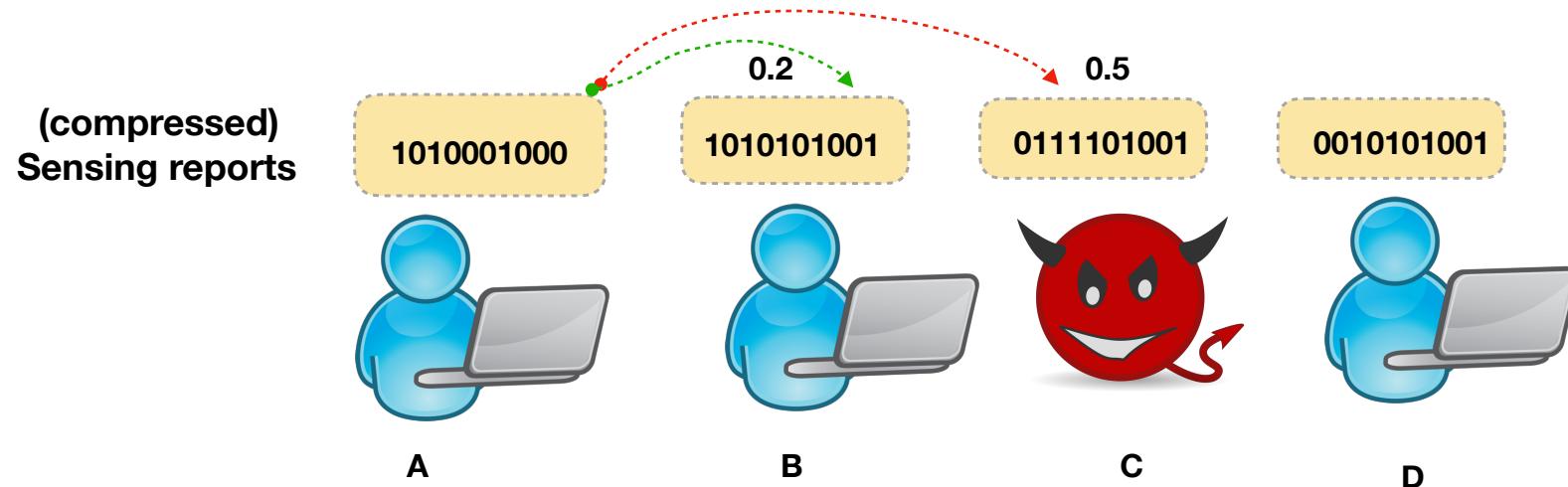
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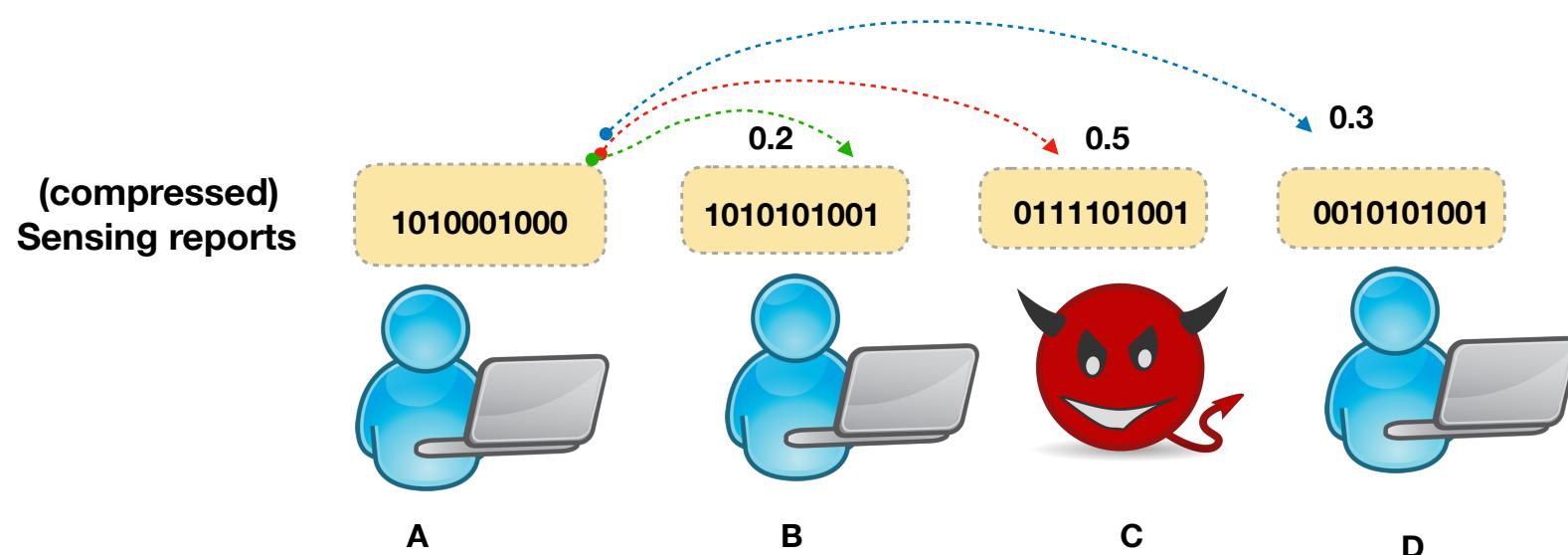
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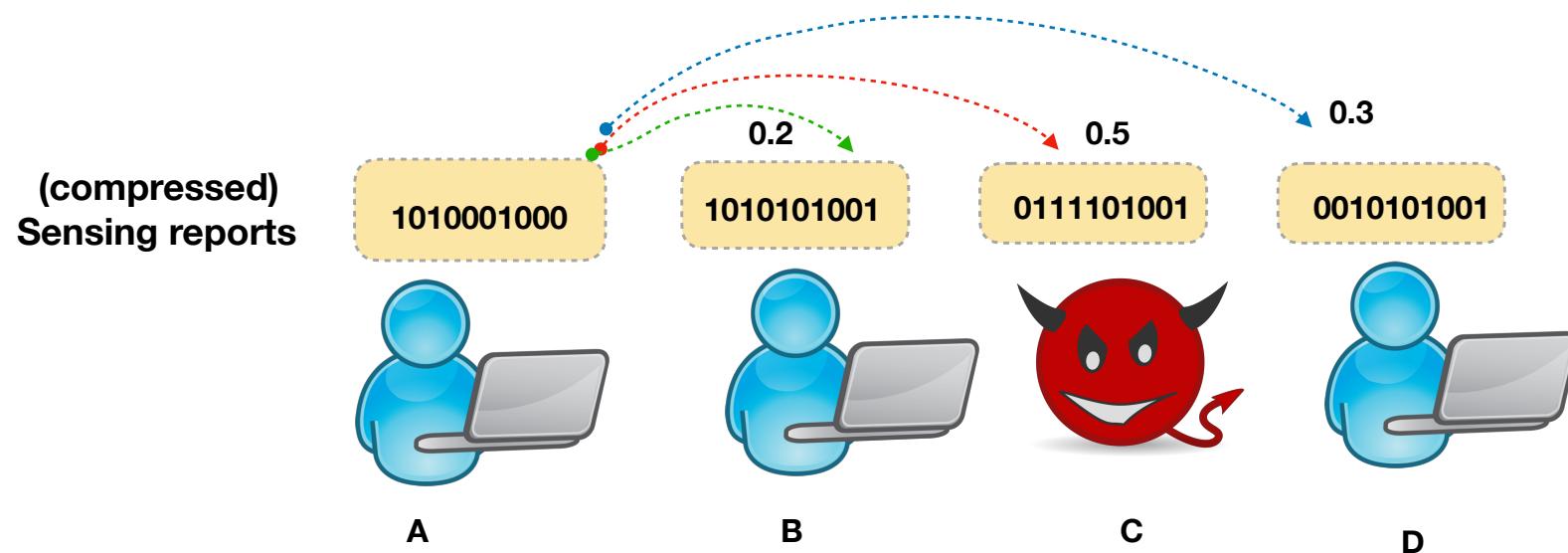
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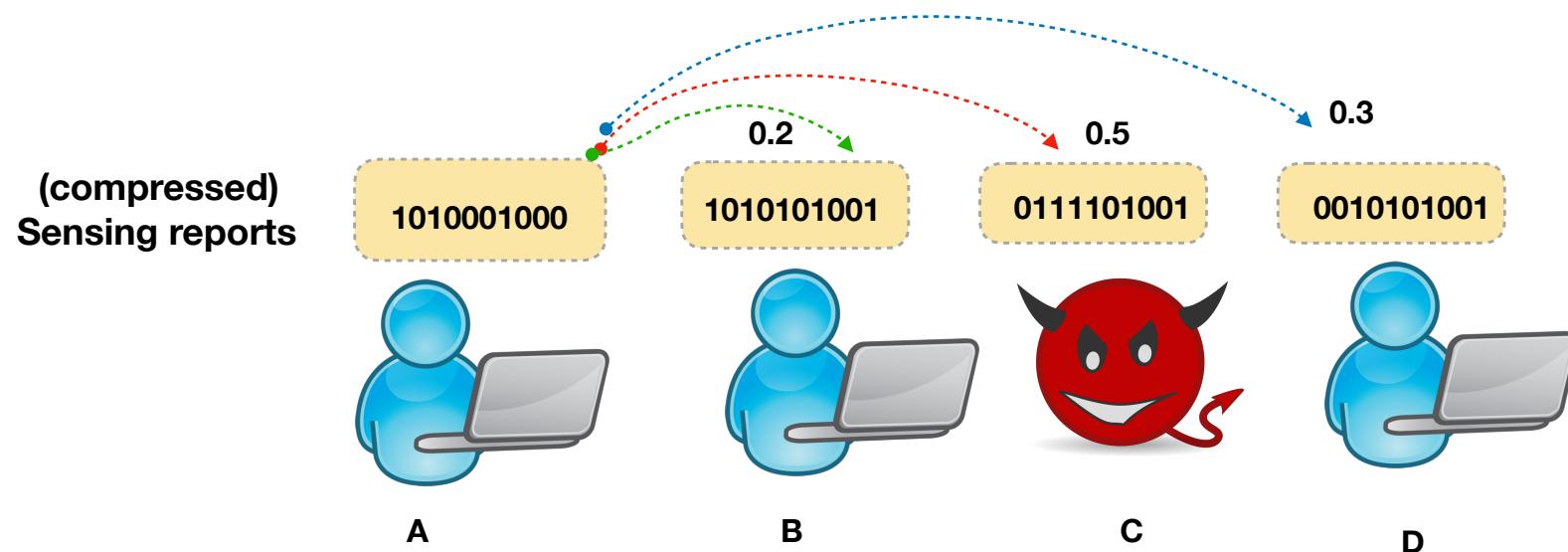


- **Distance between two helpers**
  - normalized Hamming distance of two helper reports
- **Helper score:** x-percentile of its distance from other helpers

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  - normalized Hamming distance of two helper reports
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If 50-percentile: Score-A = [0.2, **0.3**, 0.5]

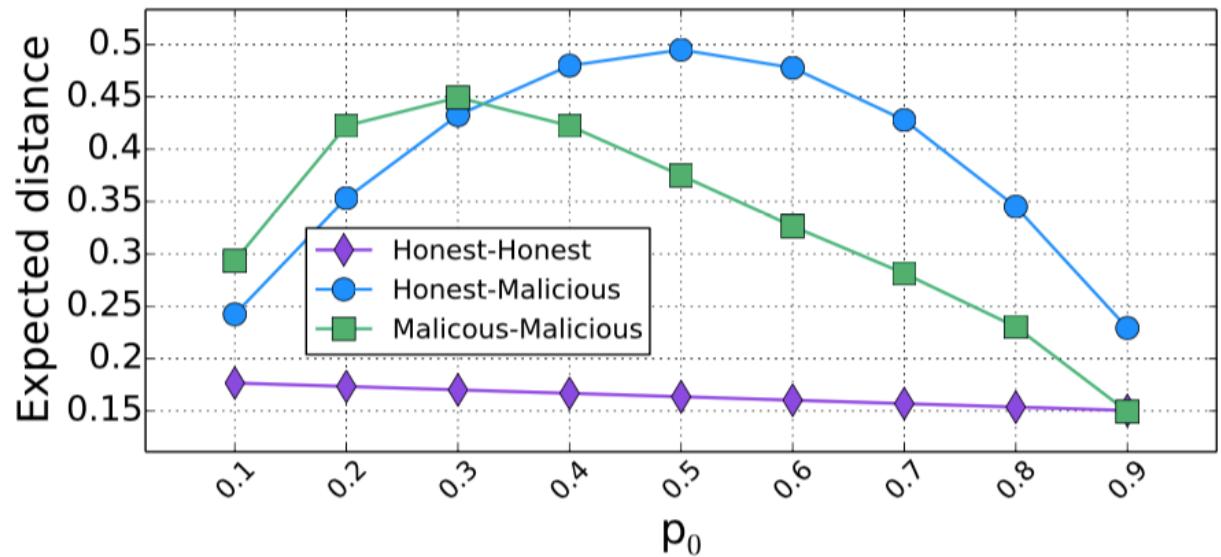
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# Key insight of CHI

- Honest helpers with similar sensing reports
  - Short distance from each other
  - Similar and low scores
- Malicious helpers (do not collude and do not sense the spectrum)
  - High distance from each other and from honest helpers
- Two clusters
  - Honest helper cluster and malicious helper cluster



(b) Expected distance between two helpers according to their type with increasing  $p_0$ .

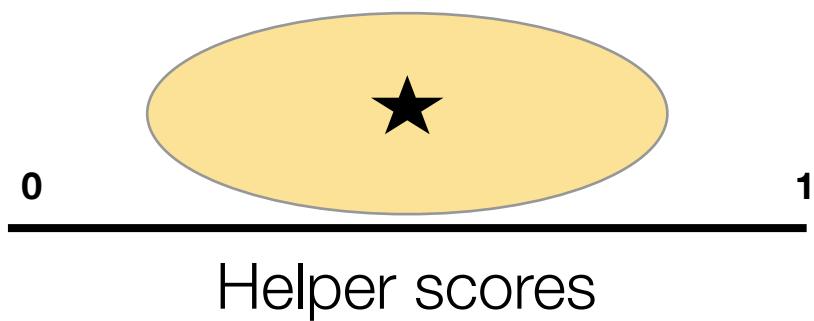
# CHI: one or two clusters?

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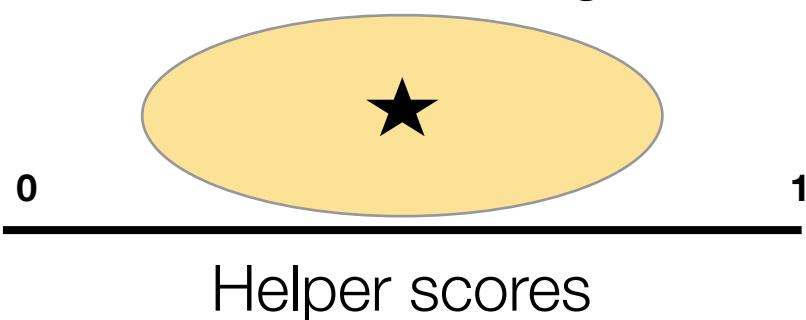
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K-means clustering for K=1

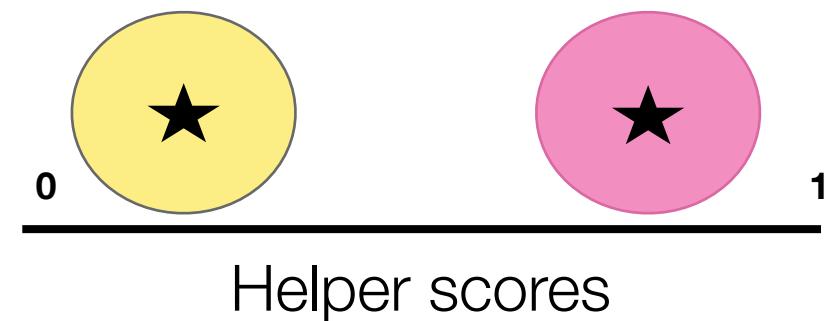


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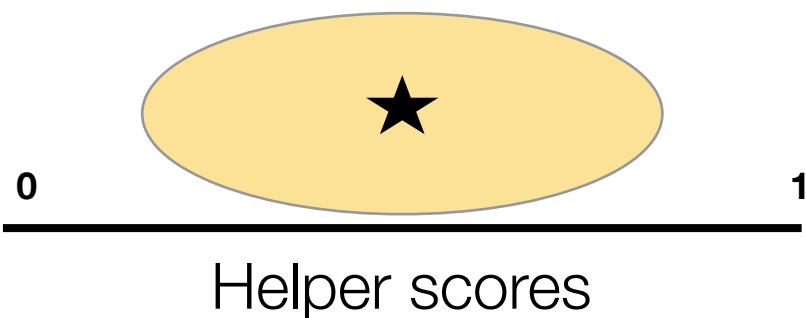


K-means clustering for K=2

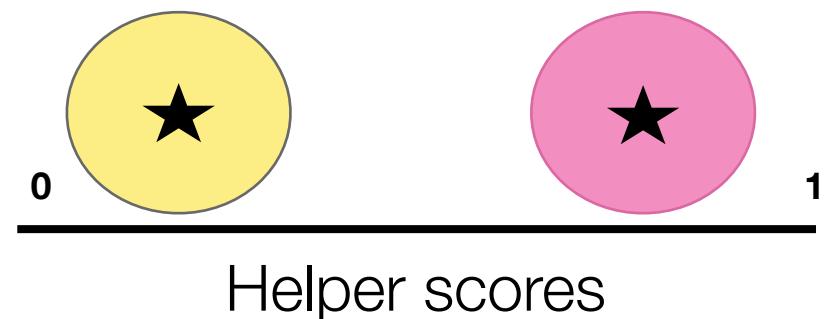


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K-means clustering for K=2



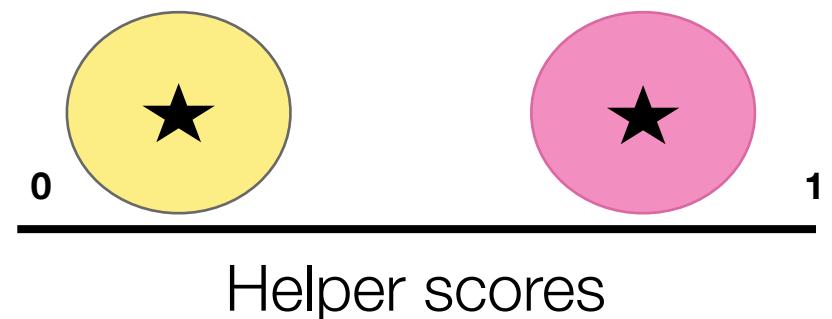
- Is the clustering accuracy **better above a threshold** for  $K=2$  compared to  $K=1$ ?

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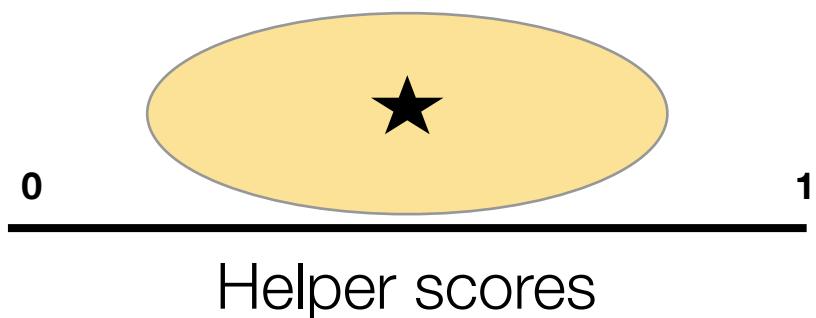
ALL  
HELPERS  
ARE  
HONEST

No

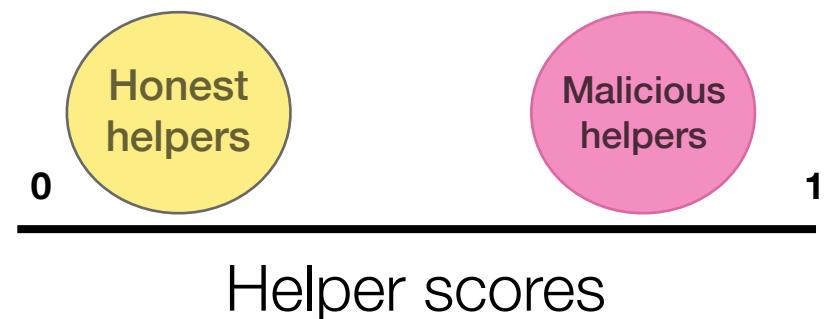
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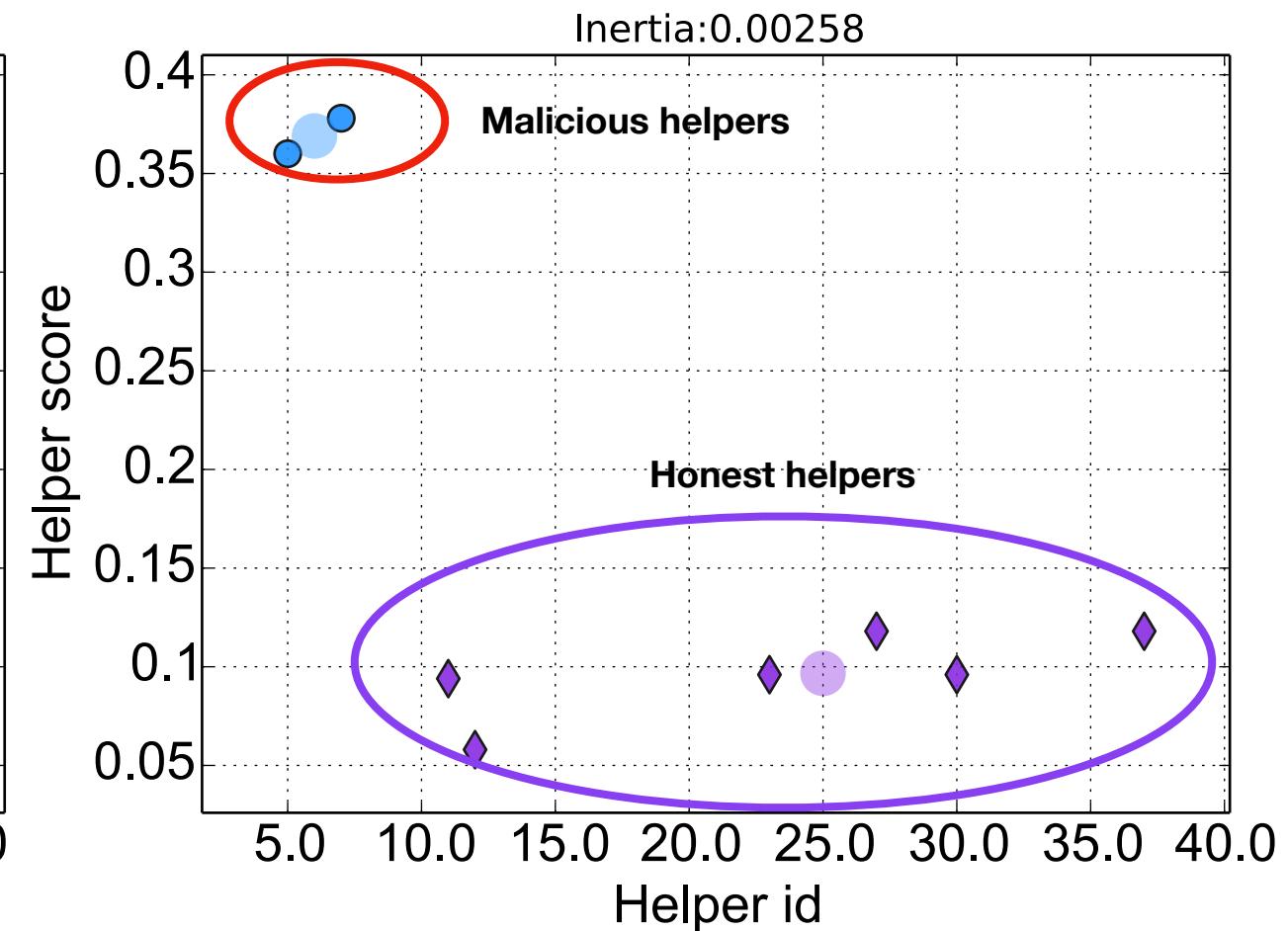
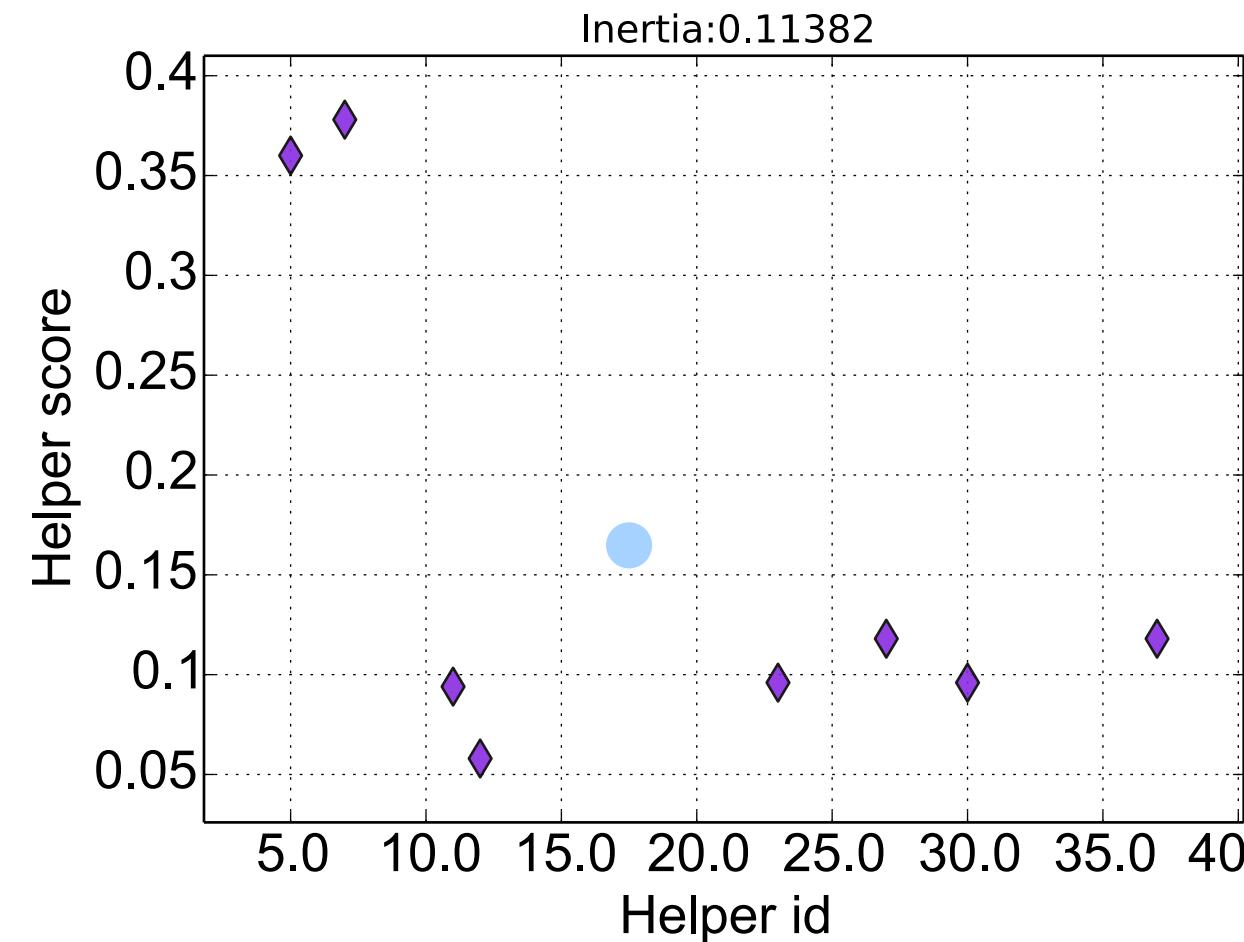


K-means clustering for K=2

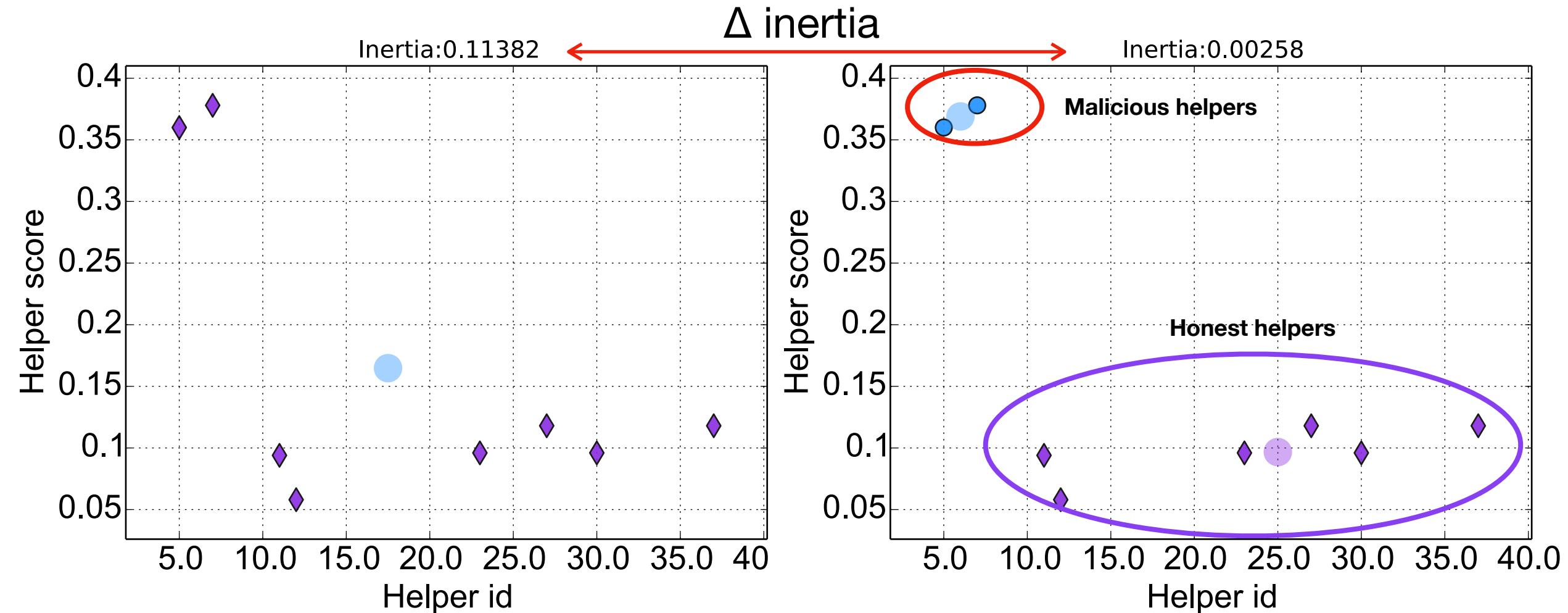


- ALL  
HELPERS  
ARE  
HONEST
- No
- Yes
- CLUSTER WITH  
HIGHER SCORES  
ARE MALICIOUS  
HELPERS
- Is the clustering accuracy **better above a threshold** for  $K=2$  compared to  $K=1$ ?

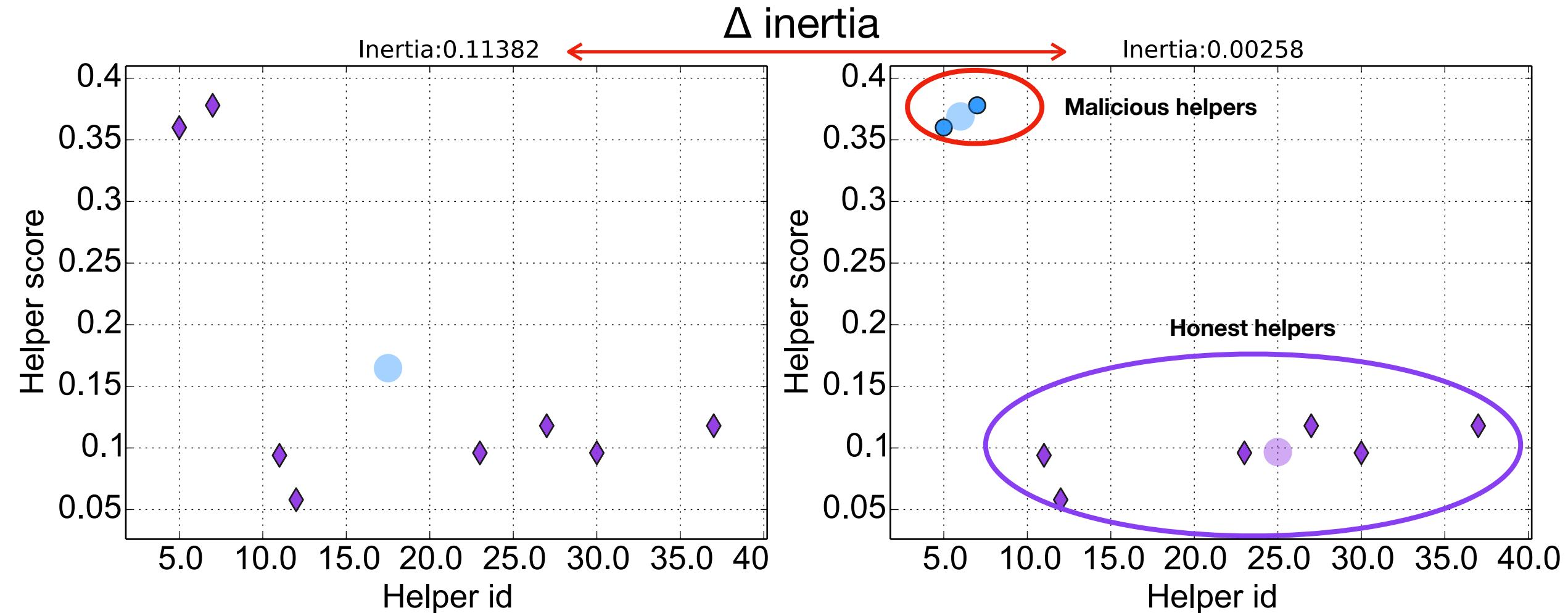
# CHI clusters for K=1 and K=2



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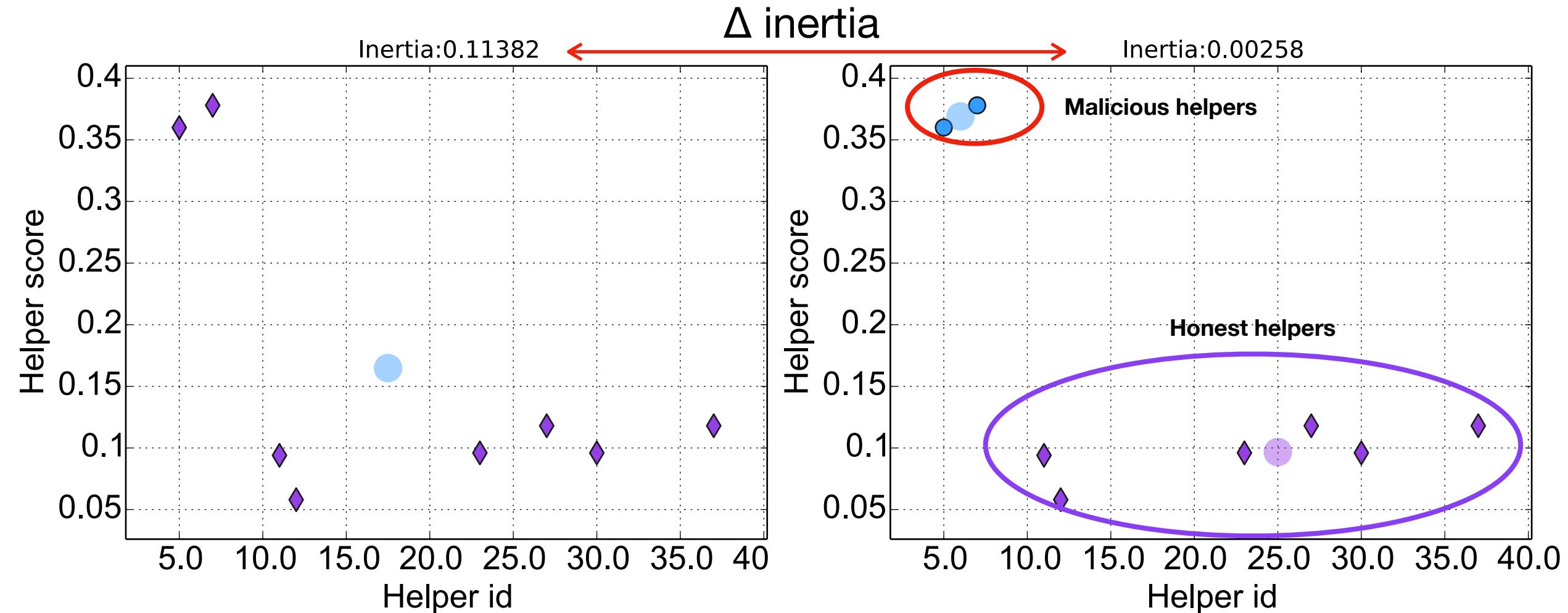


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High inertia difference indicates the existence of malicious helper(s)

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# Spass

- Design goals
- Contract functionality
- Optimal contract parameters
- Malicious helper identification

## **Performance**

- Business feasibility of Spass

# Spass

- Optimal number of helpers
- Robustness of CHI to malicious helpers
- Impact of lossy compression
- Sensing accuracy

- Design goals
- Contract functionality
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## **Performance**

- Business feasibility of Spass

# Optimal number of helpers

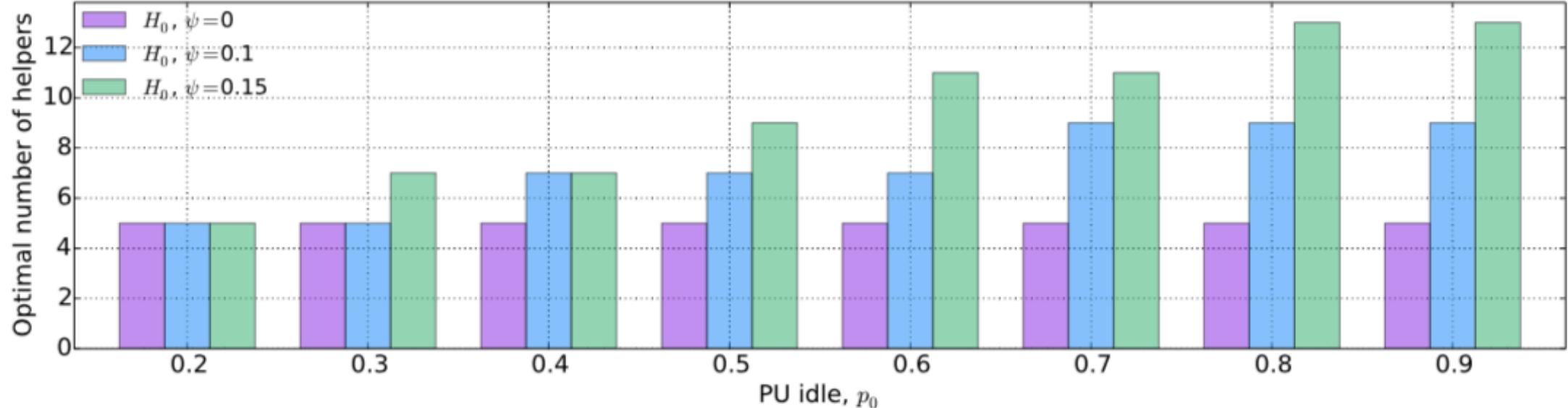
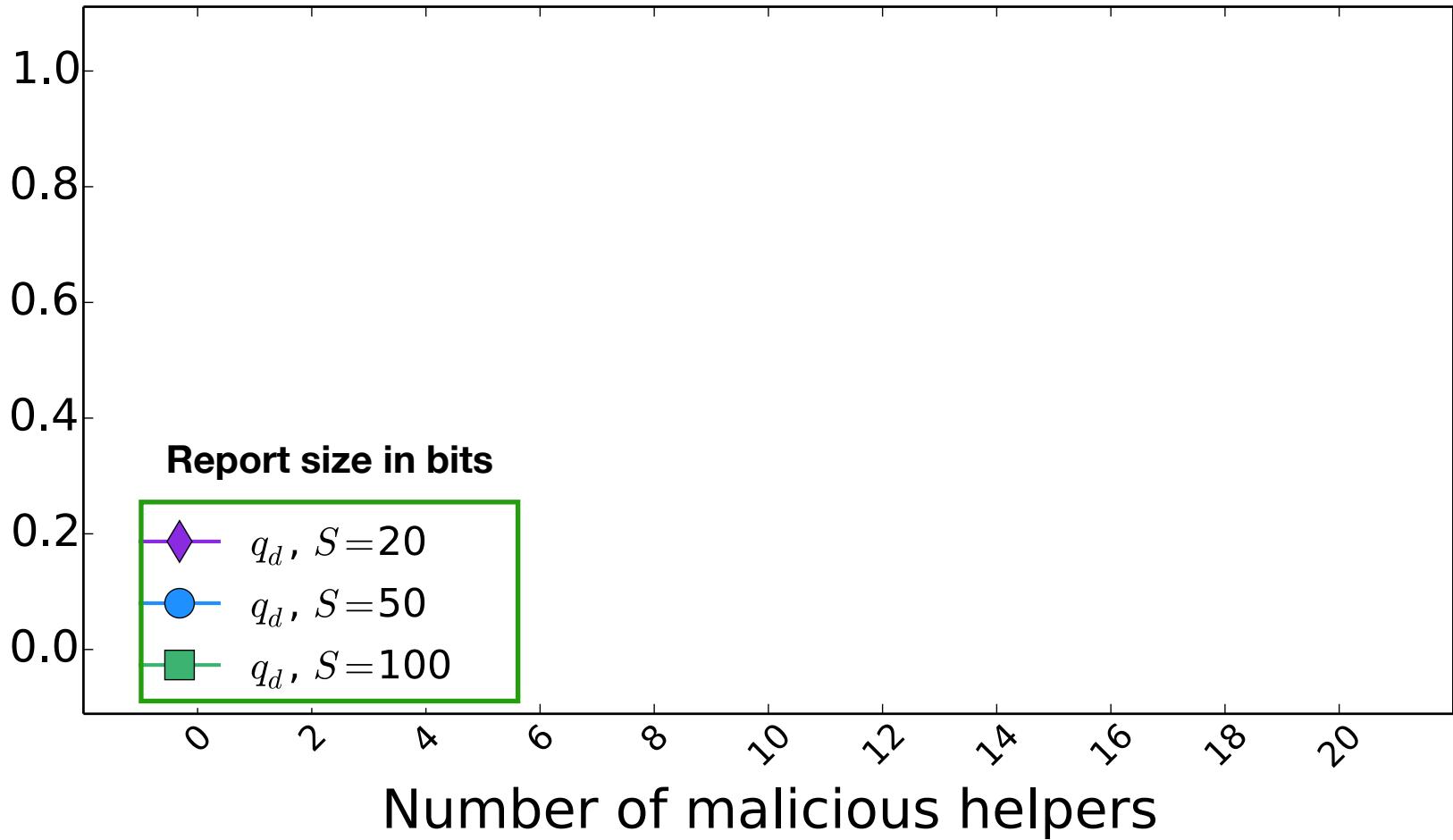


Fig. 8. Impact of increasing  $p_0$  on optimal number of helpers for various  $\psi$  values. Following parameters are used:  $R_s = 5, \mu_{eth} = 0.1, \mu_s = 0.05, \mu = 1$ , and  $\beta = 10, \kappa = 10$ .

- Higher  $P_0$ , higher number of helpers
- More malicious helpers expected, more helpers need to be selected

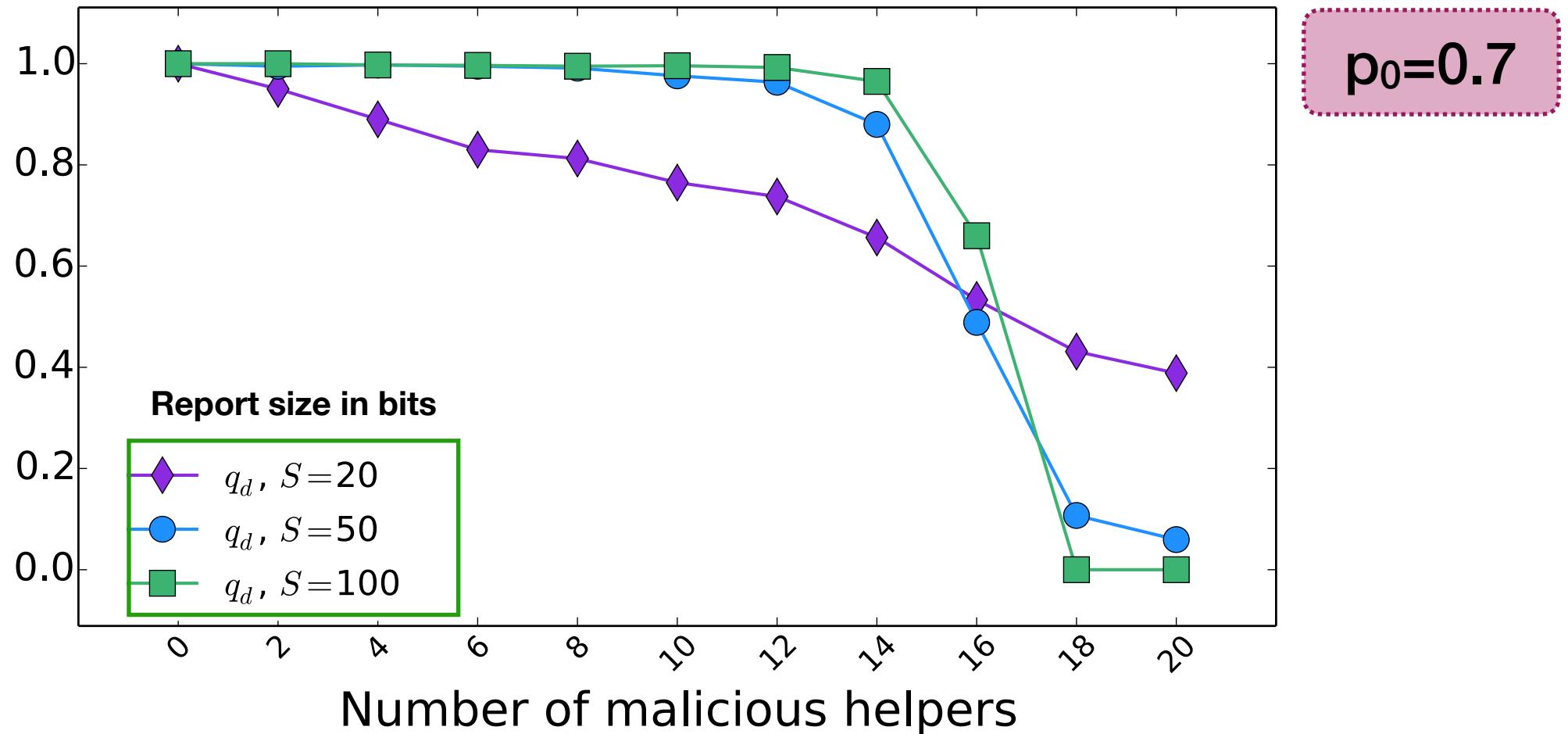
Malicious  
helper  
detection  
accuracy



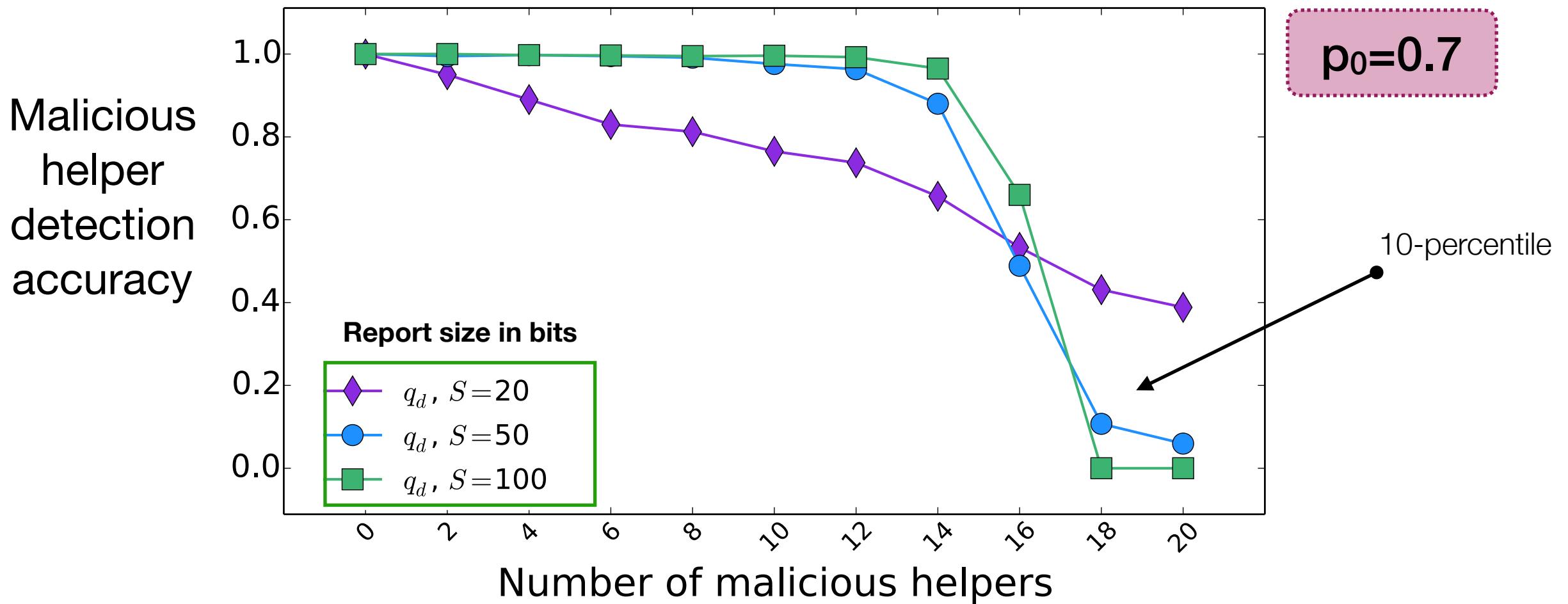
$p_0=0.7$

# CHI achieves high malicious helper detection accuracy

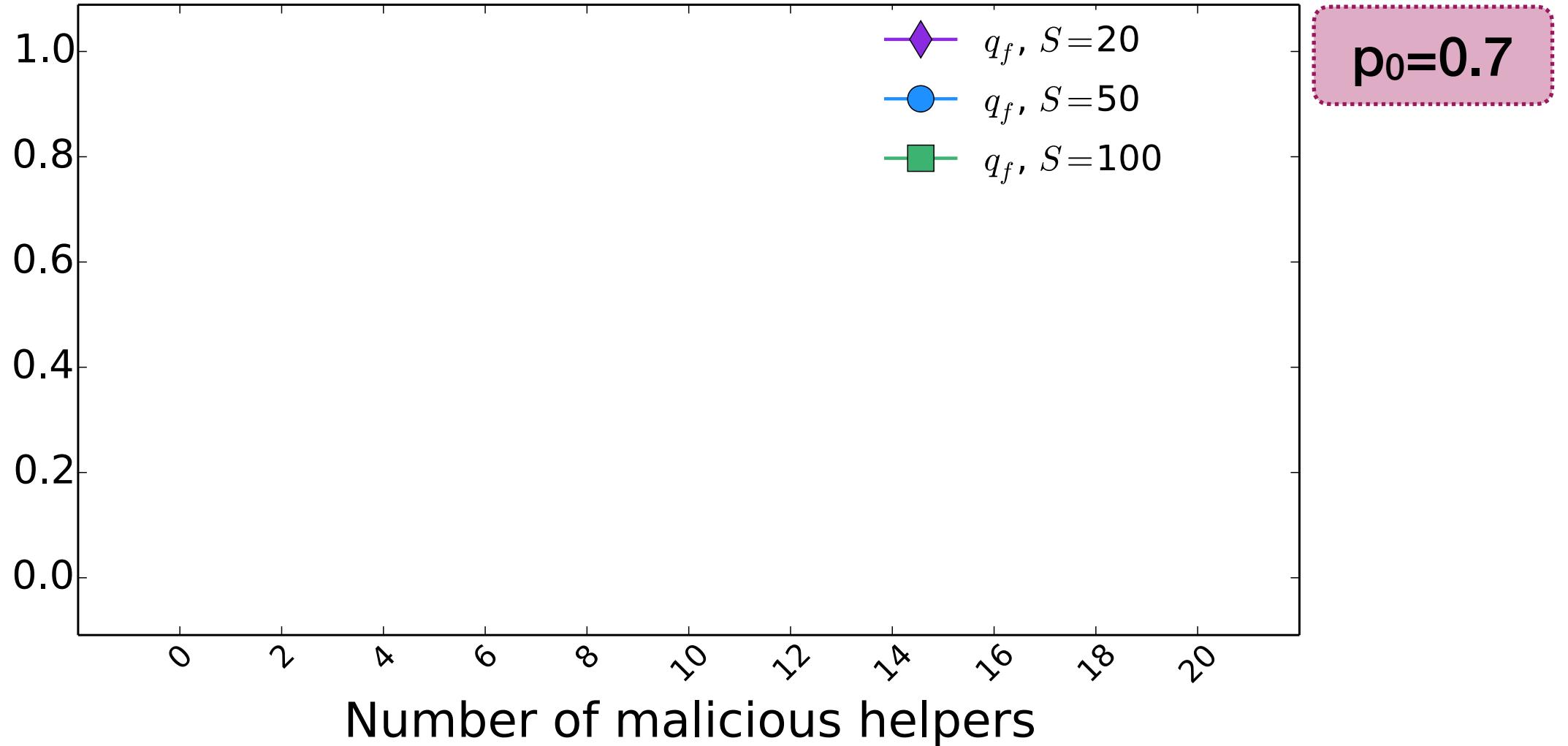
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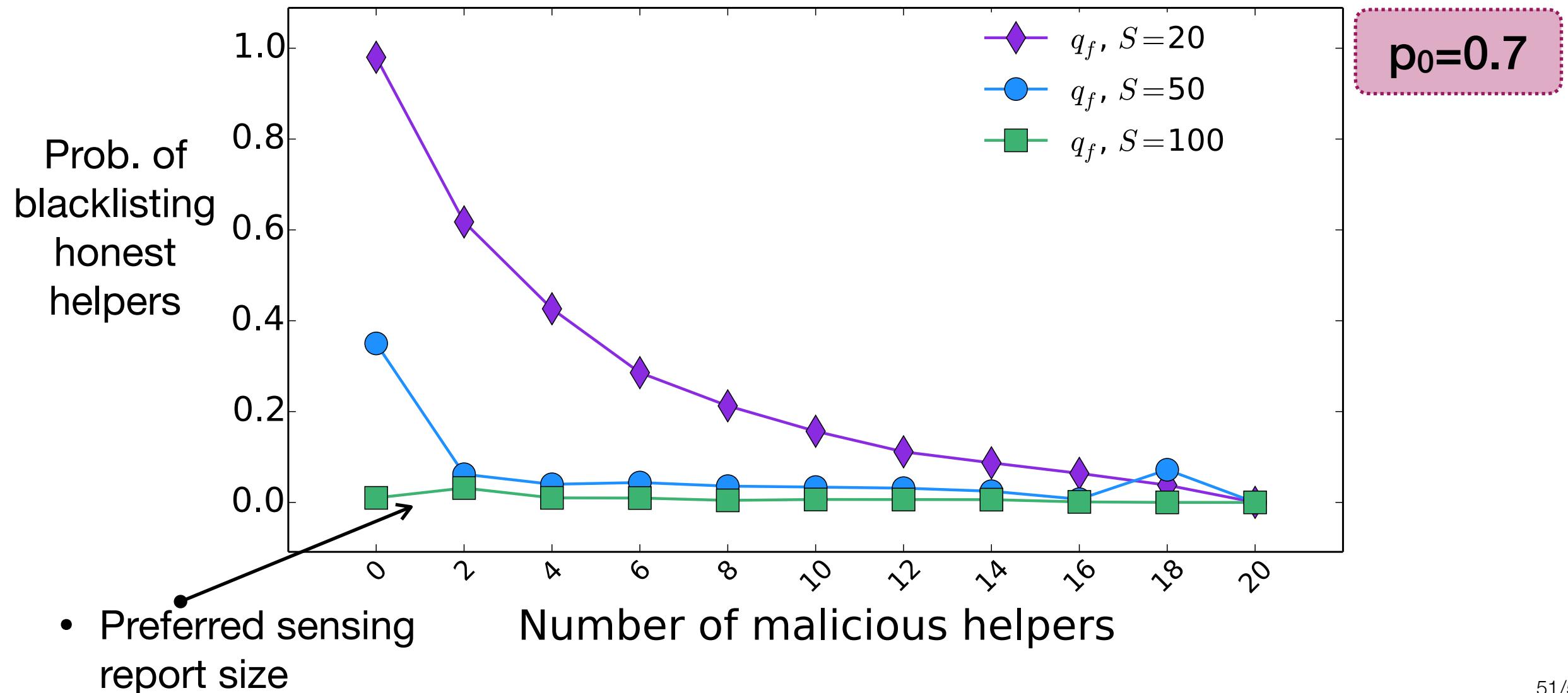
# CHI achieves high malicious helper detection accuracy



Prob. of  
blacklisting  
honest  
helpers

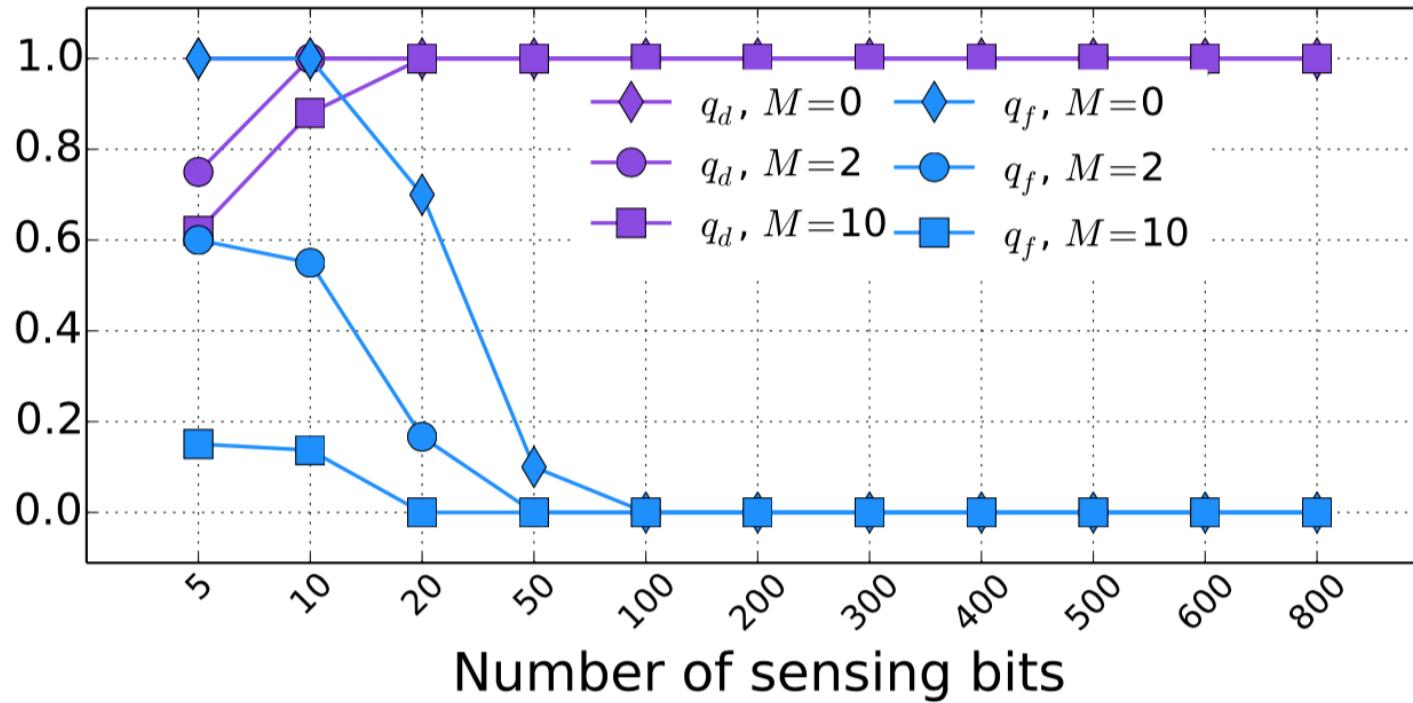


Almost always no false alarms if report size is bigger than 100 bits



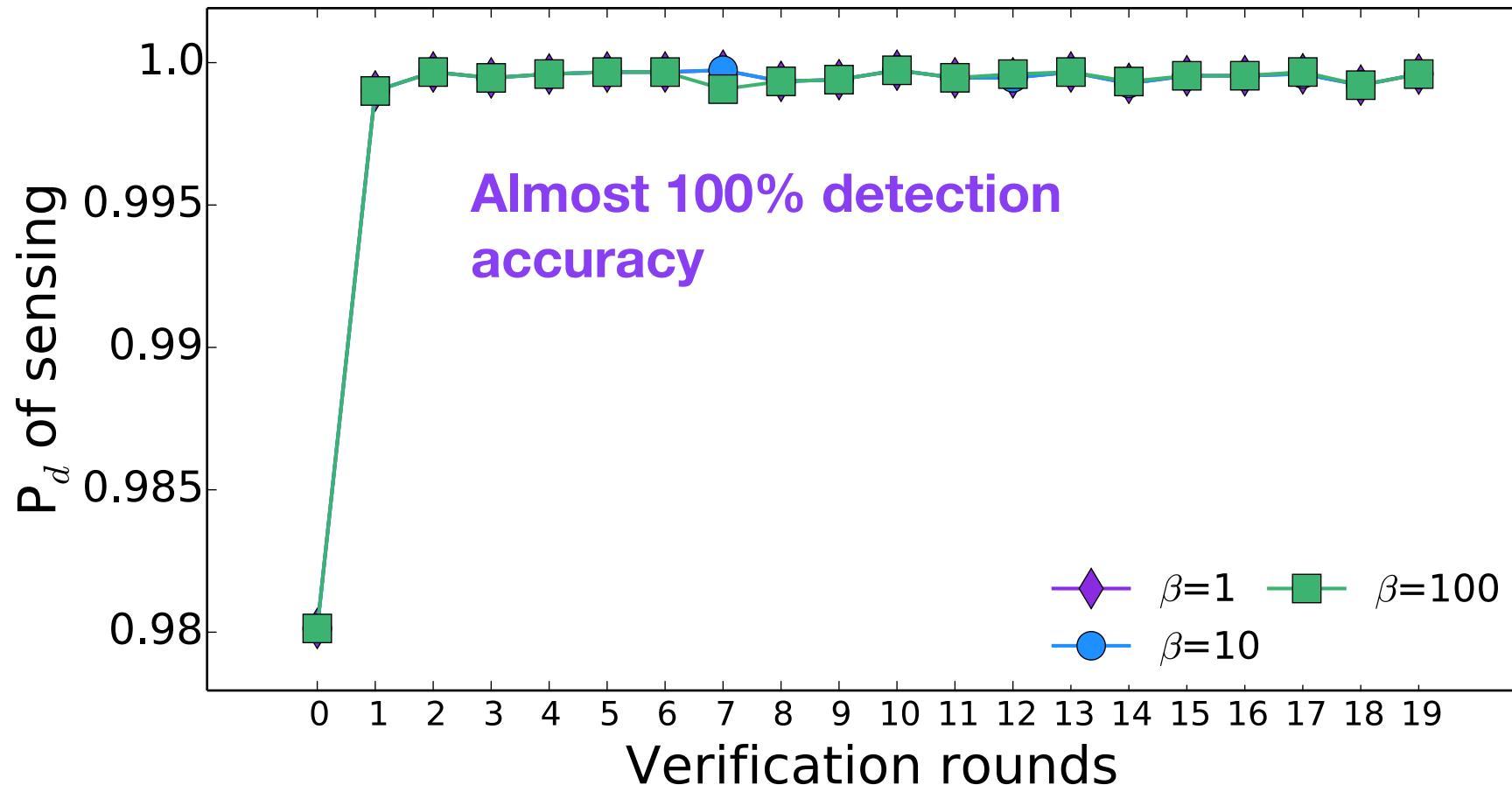
# Minimum report size needed

CHI  
accuracy



(b) Impact of  $S$  on accuracy.

# Spectrum discovery with very high accuracy



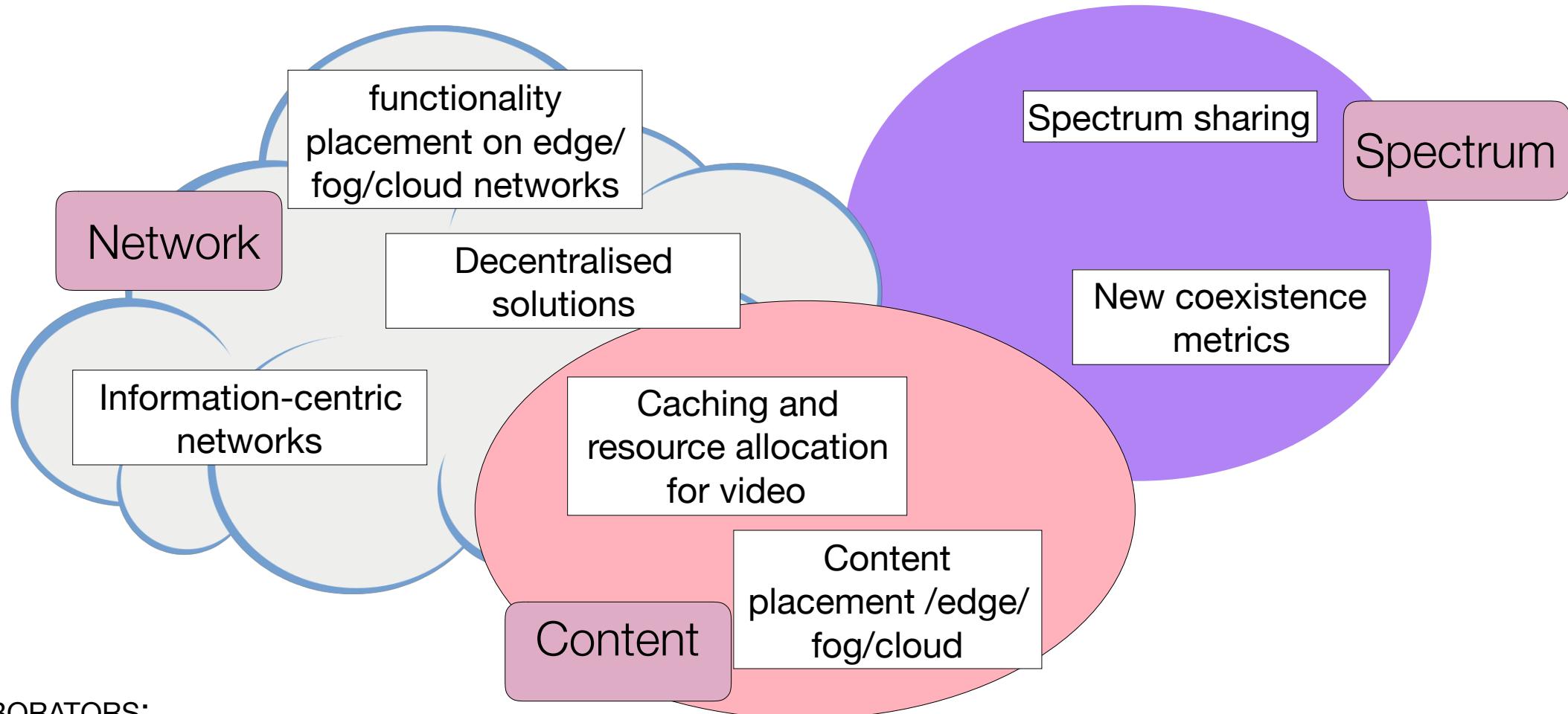
# In a nutshell

- Spass: [https://github.com/zubow/Spass\\_contract](https://github.com/zubow/Spass_contract)
  - Spectrum sensing as a service using smart contracts (Ethereum)
  - Cost of smart contract usage and helpers sensing service
  - Spass becomes profitable under *some* conditions
  - Optimal number of helpers and verification round durations
- Possible directions:
  - More sophisticated malicious users
  - Pricing and reward assignment based on helper capabilities
  - Computation cost should also be considered

# Crowdsourcing for spectrum sensing

- Spectrum monitoring for policy making and misuse detection
    - SpecGuard
  - Radio Environment Map construction (spectrum sensing provider)
    - SpecSense
  - Pricing for crowdsensing
    - Han et al.
  - Malicious sensor identification
    - Catch Me If You Can
  - Privacy aspects
    - DPSense
- Jin, Xiaocong, et al. "Specguard: Spectrum misuse detection in dynamic spectrum access systems." *IEEE TMC* 2018
  - Chakraborty, Ayon, et al. "Specsense: Crowdsensing for efficient querying of spectrum occupancy." *IEEE INFOCOM* 2017
  - DPSense: Differentially Private Crowdsourced Spectrum Sensing, ACM CCS 2018
  - Ying, Xuhang, Sumit Roy, and Radha Poovendran. "Pricing mechanisms for crowd-sensed spatial-statistics-based radio mapping." *IEEE Transactions on Cognitive Communications and Networking*, 2017.
  - Han, Kai, He Huang, and Jun Luo. "Quality-Aware Pricing for Mobile Crowdsensing." *IEEE/ACM TON* 2018
  - Li, Husheng, and Zhu Han. "Catch me if you can: An abnormality detection approach for collaborative spectrum sensing in cognitive radio networks." *IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications* 2010.

# The future is **unlicensed**, **diverse**, and **decentralized**



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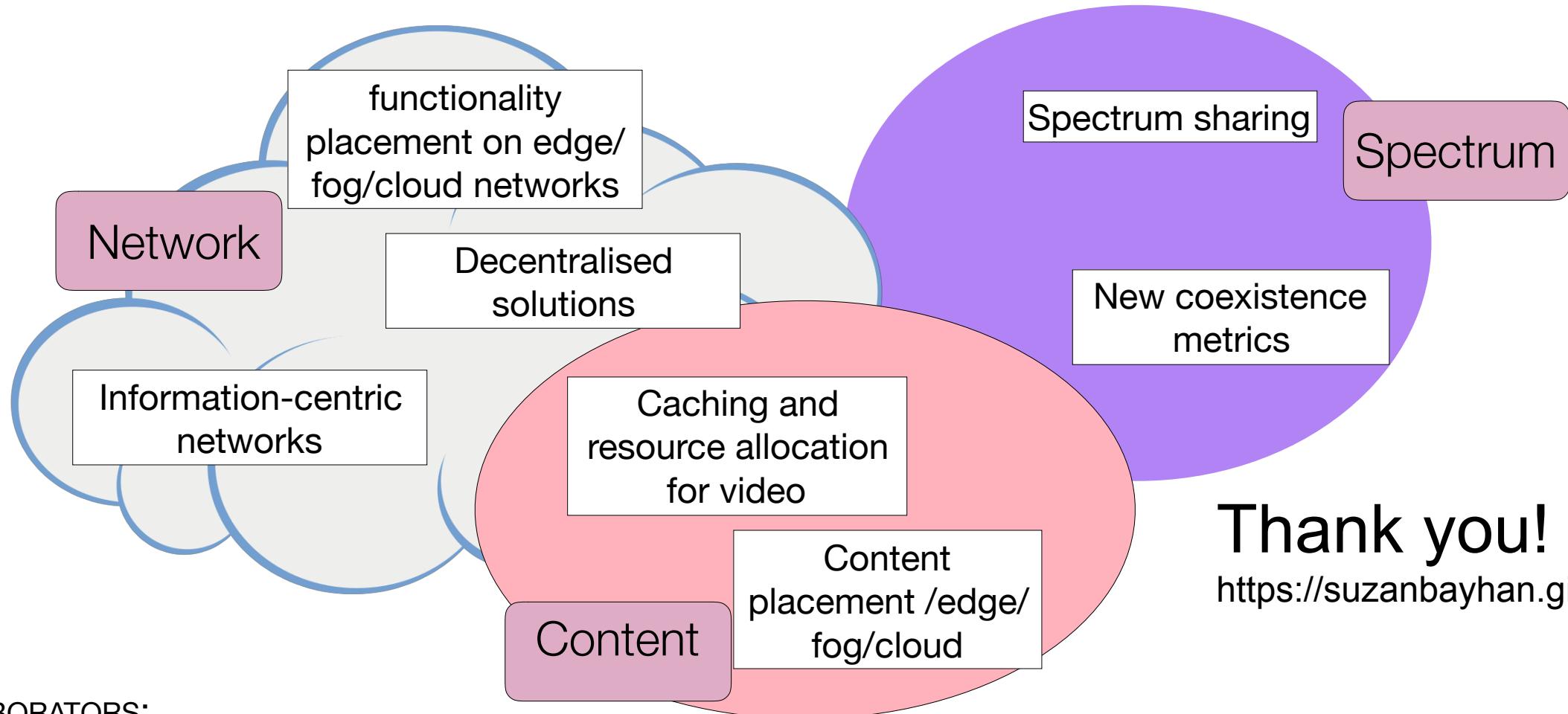
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of Applied Sciences  
**zhaw** School of  
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Berlin  
**tu** Berlin



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CAMBRIDGE  
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**Thank you!**  
<https://suzanbayhan.github.io/>

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**tu** berlin



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# Talk Abstract

To cope with the huge increase in cellular data traffic, mobile network operators (MNO) consider using also other spectrum bands which are under-utilized spatiotemporally. To discover such spectrum opportunities, several studies suggest exploiting the ubiquity of mobile devices to perform spectrum sensing. However, current solutions for crowdsourced spectrum sensing overlook the fact that mobile devices lack the incentives to sense without certain benefits as spectrum sensing results in energy and CPU overhead. To encourage participation, we explore the use of smart contracts running on a distributed ledger (e.g., Ethereum) for an MNO to announce its need for spectrum sensing, the interested sensors to register themselves as candidate sensors, and MNO to pay the selected sensors for their service. Despite the simplicity of the idea, the realization requires more thoughts as smart-contracts are limited in their storage and processing capacity, and incurs a high cost for the write operation. I will introduce our proposal Spass: spectrum sensing as a service via smart contracts and address the following questions: (i) what is the cost of running smart contract based spectrum discovery? and (ii) given that both the helpers and the miners have to be paid, under which conditions an MNO can sustain a profitable business via smart-contract based spectrum discovery? (iii) How can the smart-contract catch free-riders among the sensing participants?

**Bio:**Suzan Bayhan is a senior researcher at TU Berlin and a docent in Computer Science at the University of Helsinki. She got her Ph.D. from Bogazici University in 2012 and worked as a post-doc at the University of Helsinki between 2012-2016. She was on N2Women board between 2017-2018. Her current research interests are resource allocation for wireless networks, spectrum sharing, and edge/fog/cloud computing. Suzan will join the University of Twente on September 2019 as an Assistant Professor.