

# Serving DNNs like Clockwork

## Performance Predictability from the Bottom Up



Arpan Gujarati



Safya Alzayat



Wei Hao



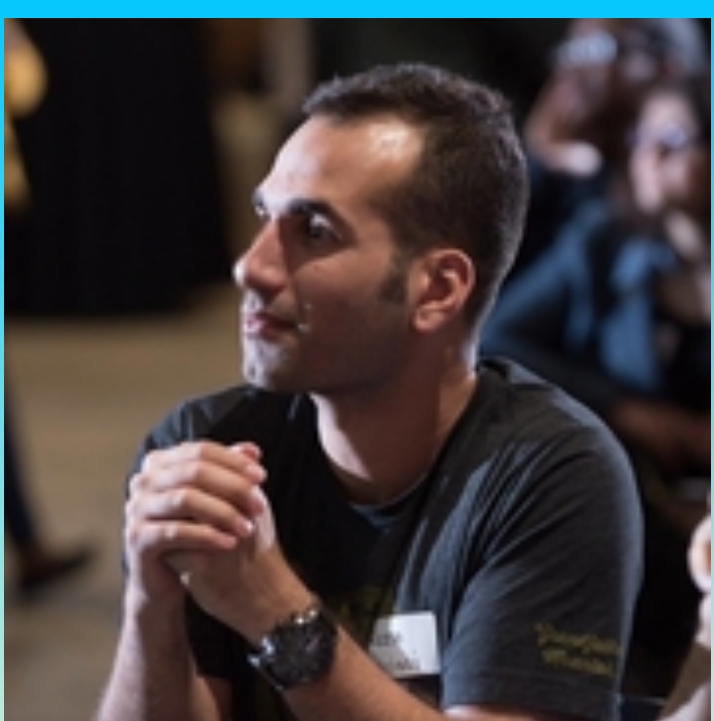
Antoine Kaufman



Jonathan Mace



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
FOR SOFTWARE SYSTEMS



Reza Karimi



Ymir Vigfusson

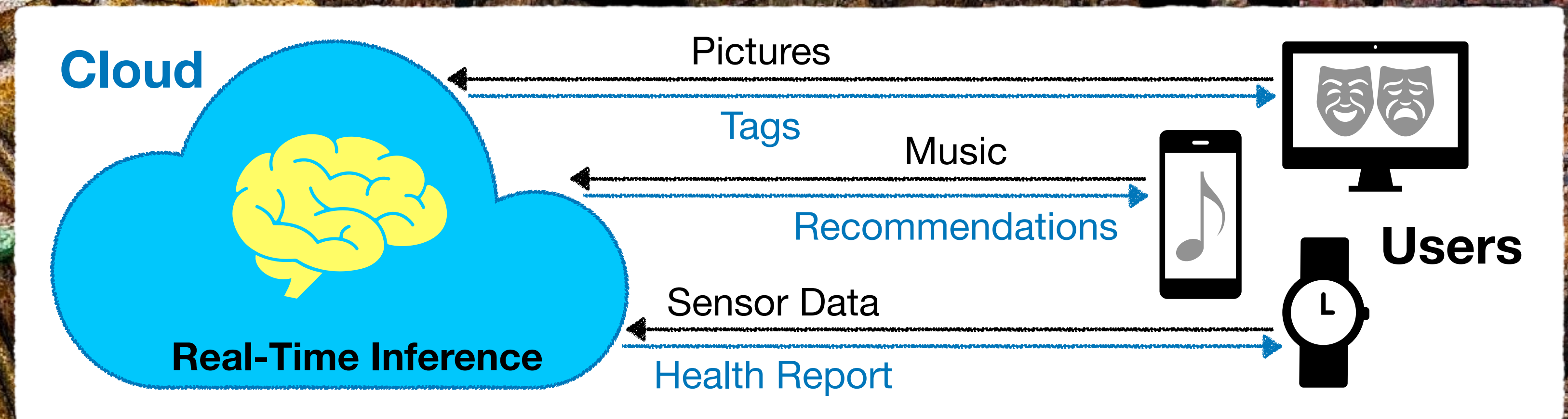


EMORY  
UNIVERSITY



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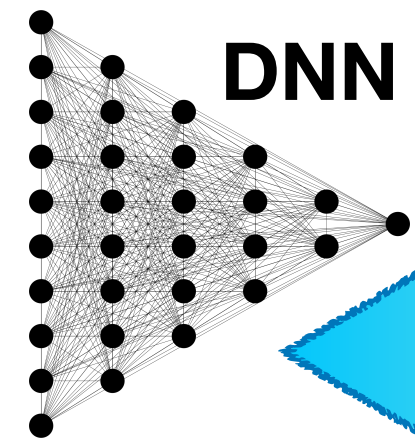




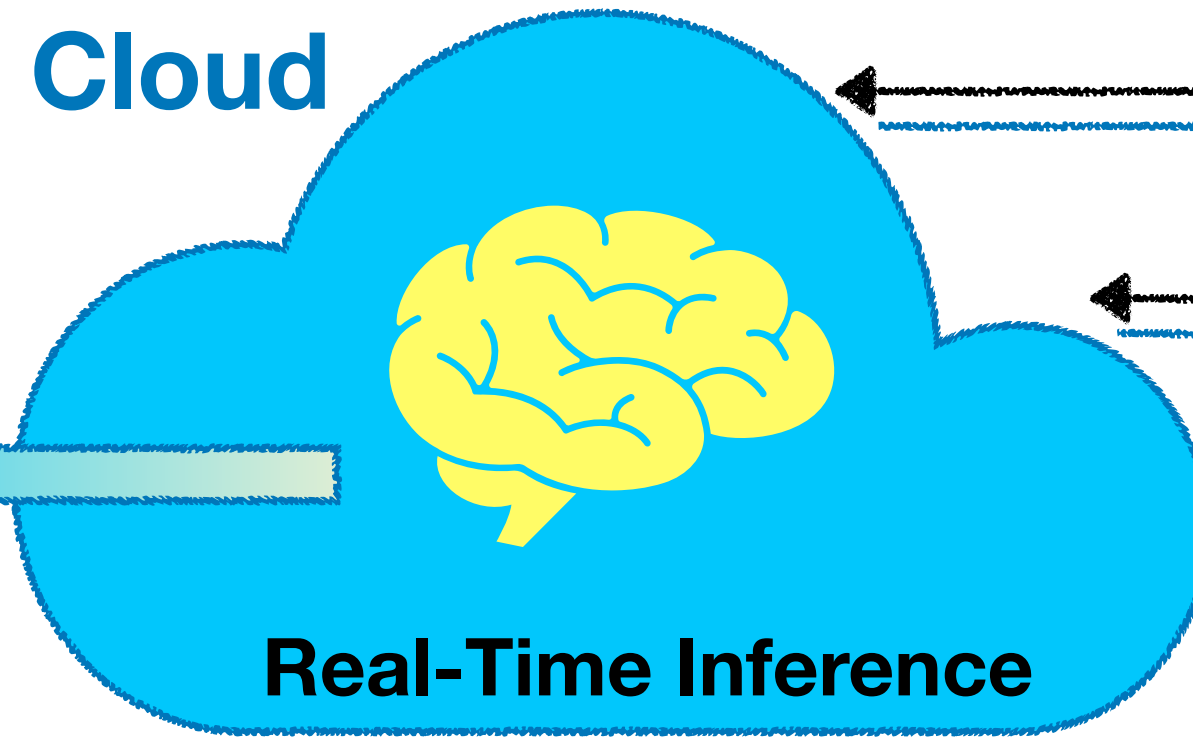
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## Performance Predictability from the Bottom Up

**DNN inference  
has a very  
predictable  
execution time!**



**Cloud**



**Real-Time Inference**

Pictures

Tags

Music

Recommendations

Sensor Data

Health Report



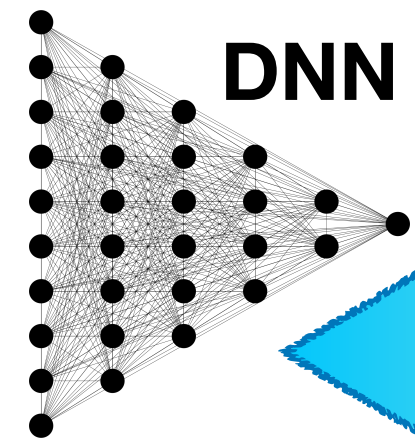
**Users**



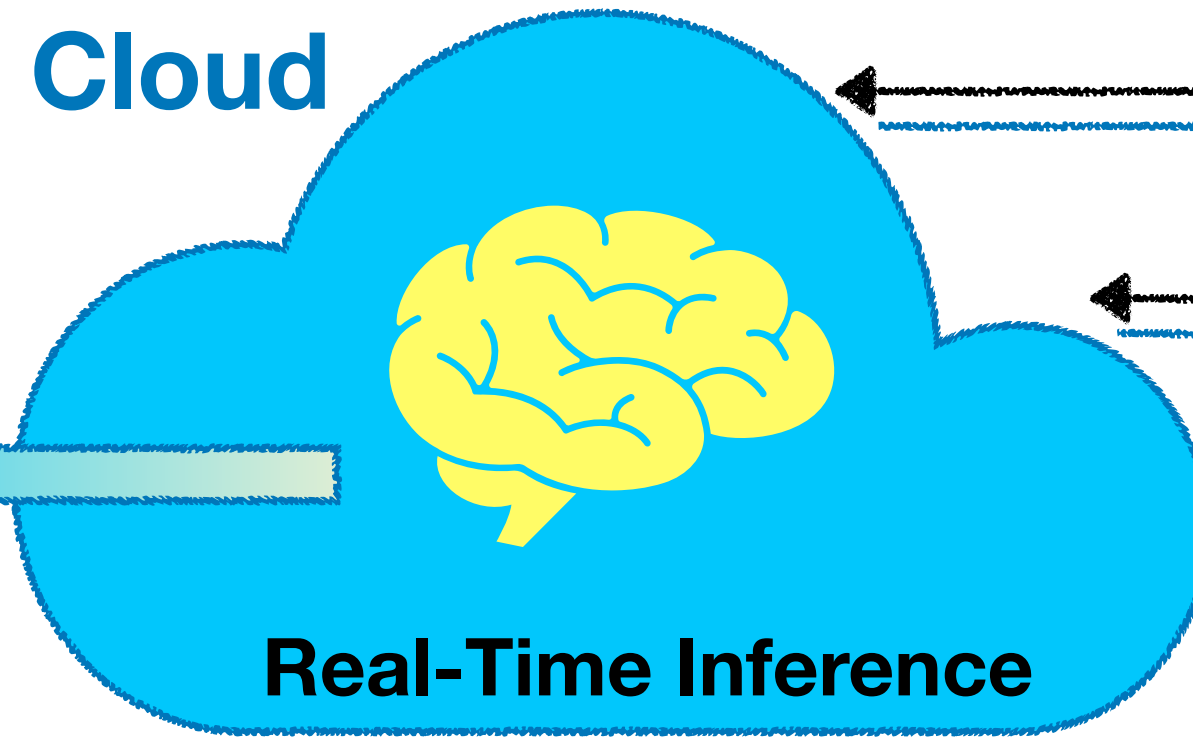
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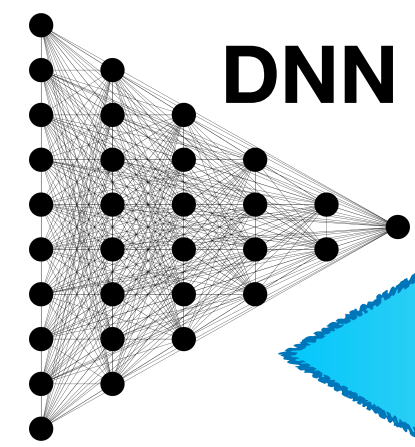
**End-to-end predictable  
DNN serving platform  
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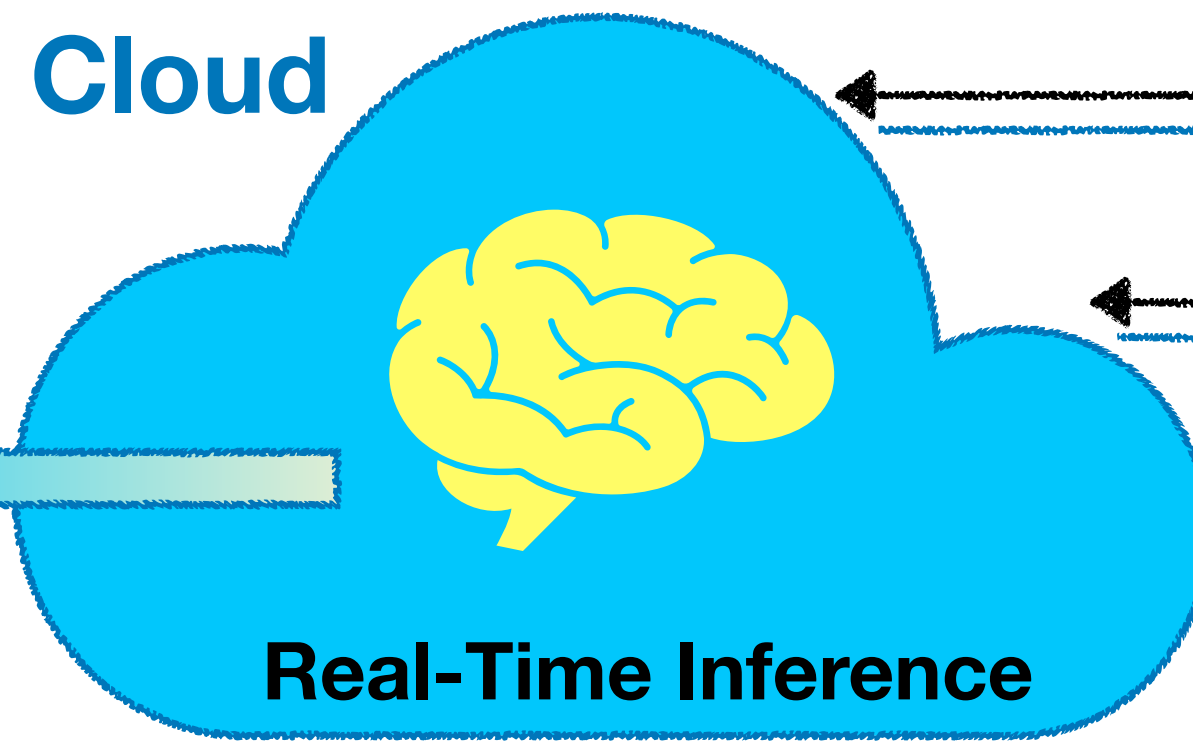
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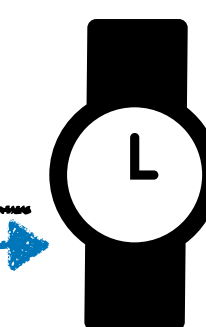
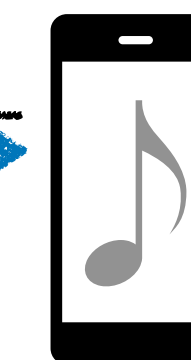
Tags

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**Users**

**Clockwork**

**End-to-end predictable  
DNN serving platform  
for the Cloud**

✓ Supports 1000s of models  
concurrently per GPU

✓ Mitigates tail latency, supporting  
tight latency SLOs (10—100 ms)

✓ Close to ideal goodput under  
overload, contention, and bursts



# Background

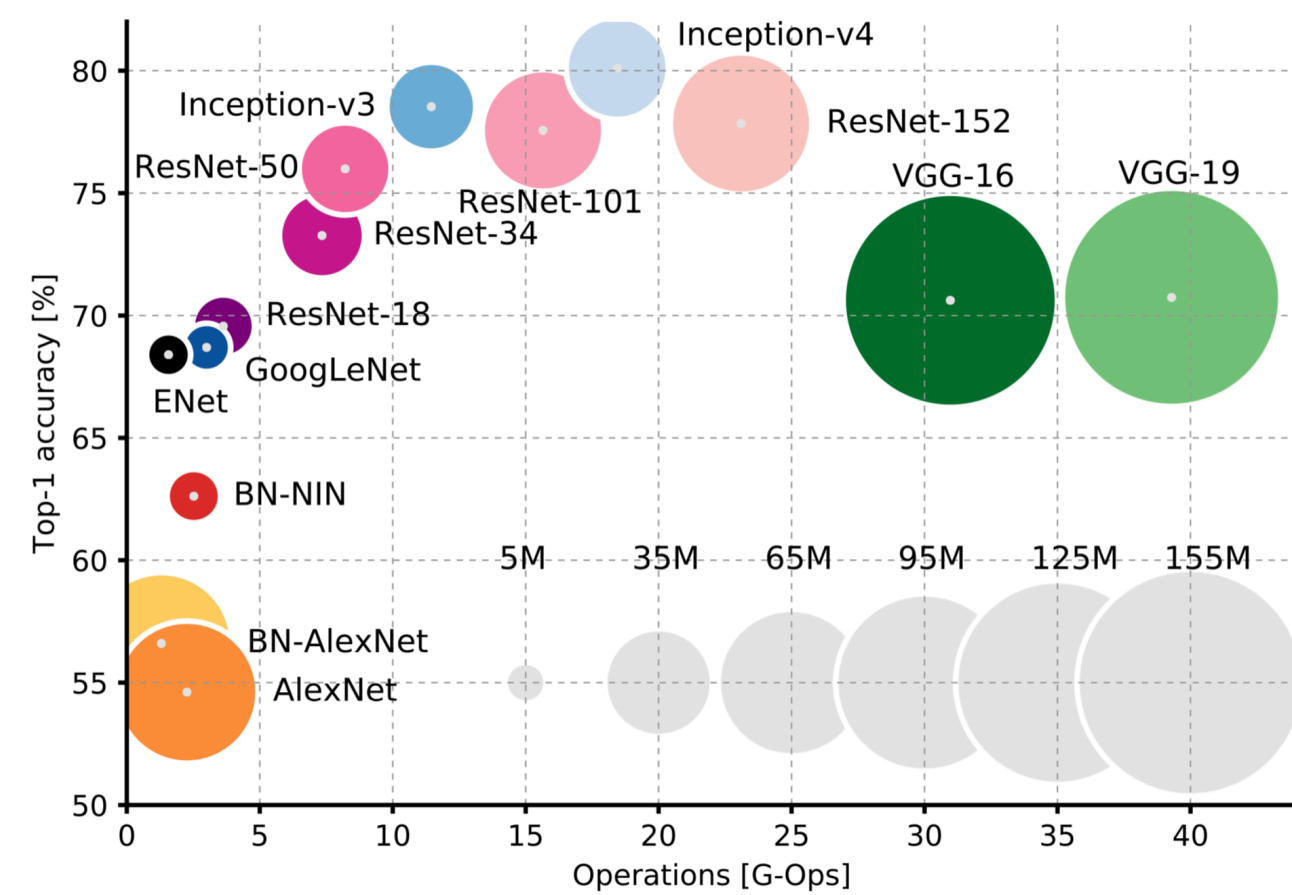


# Inference Serving at the Cloud Scale is Difficult



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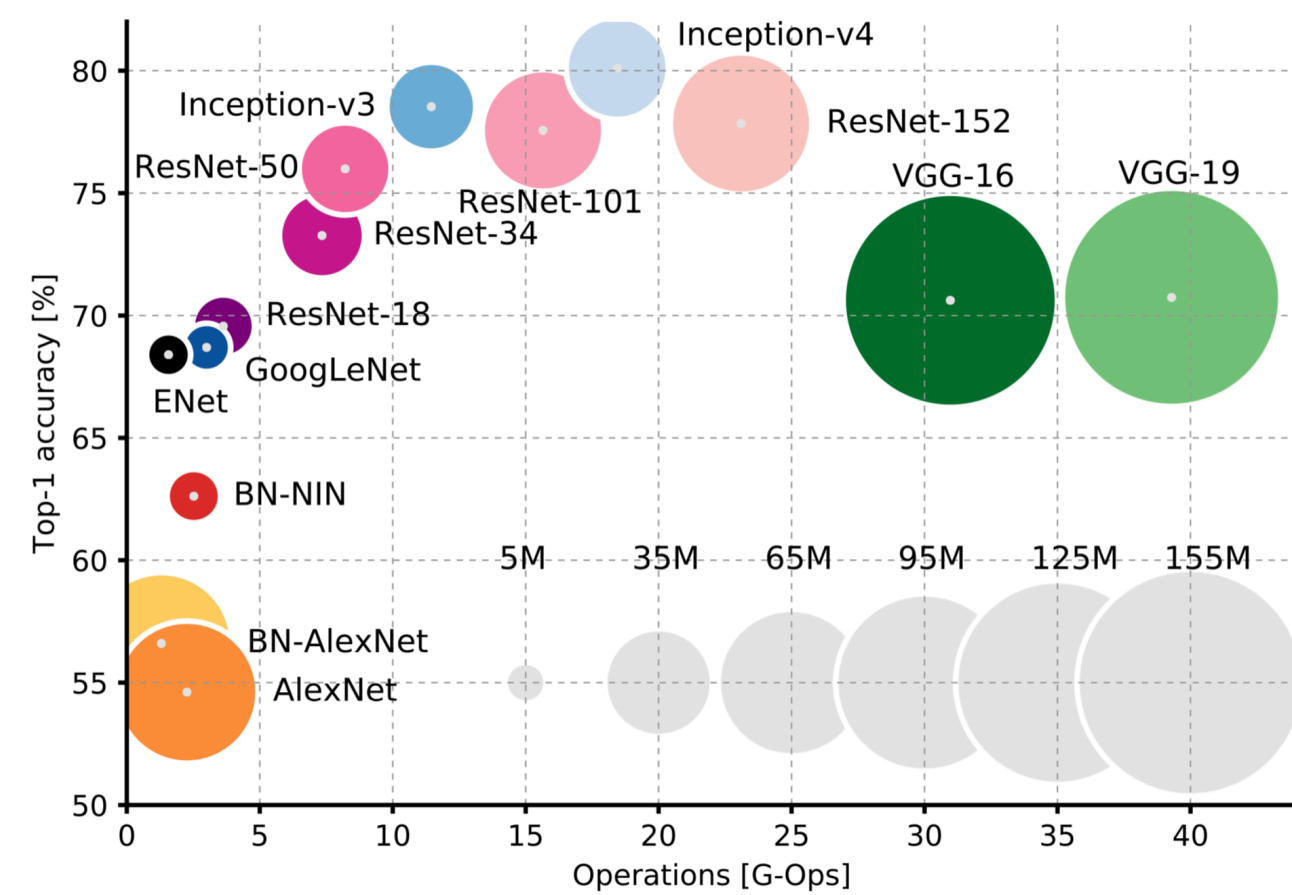
1000s of trained models of different types and resource requirements



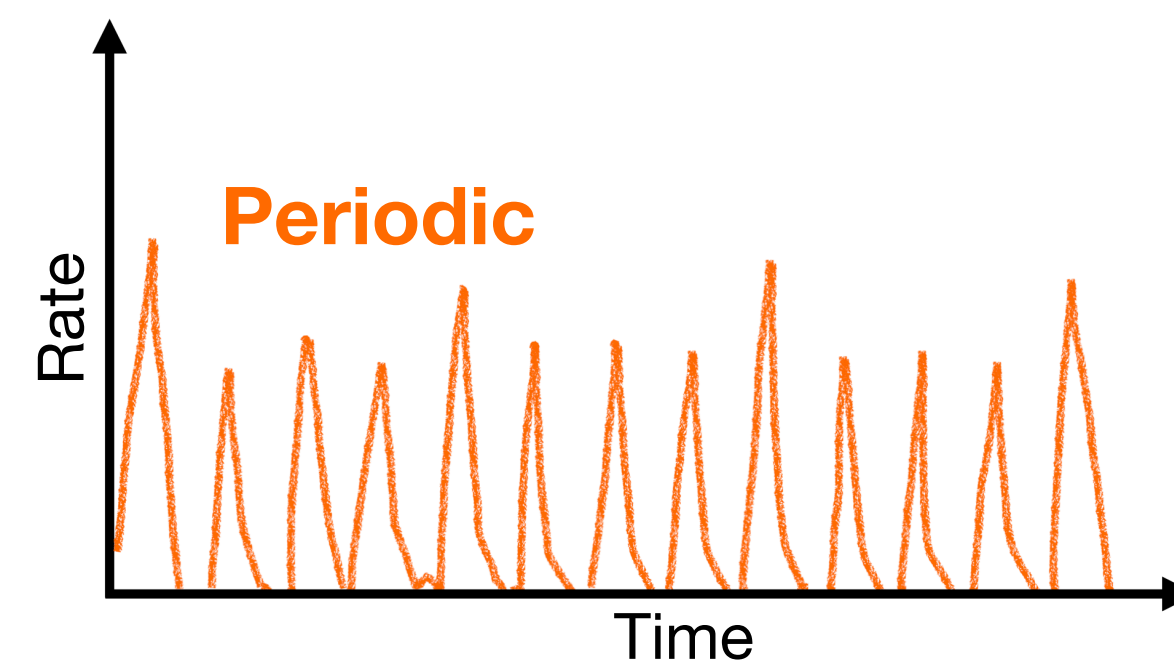


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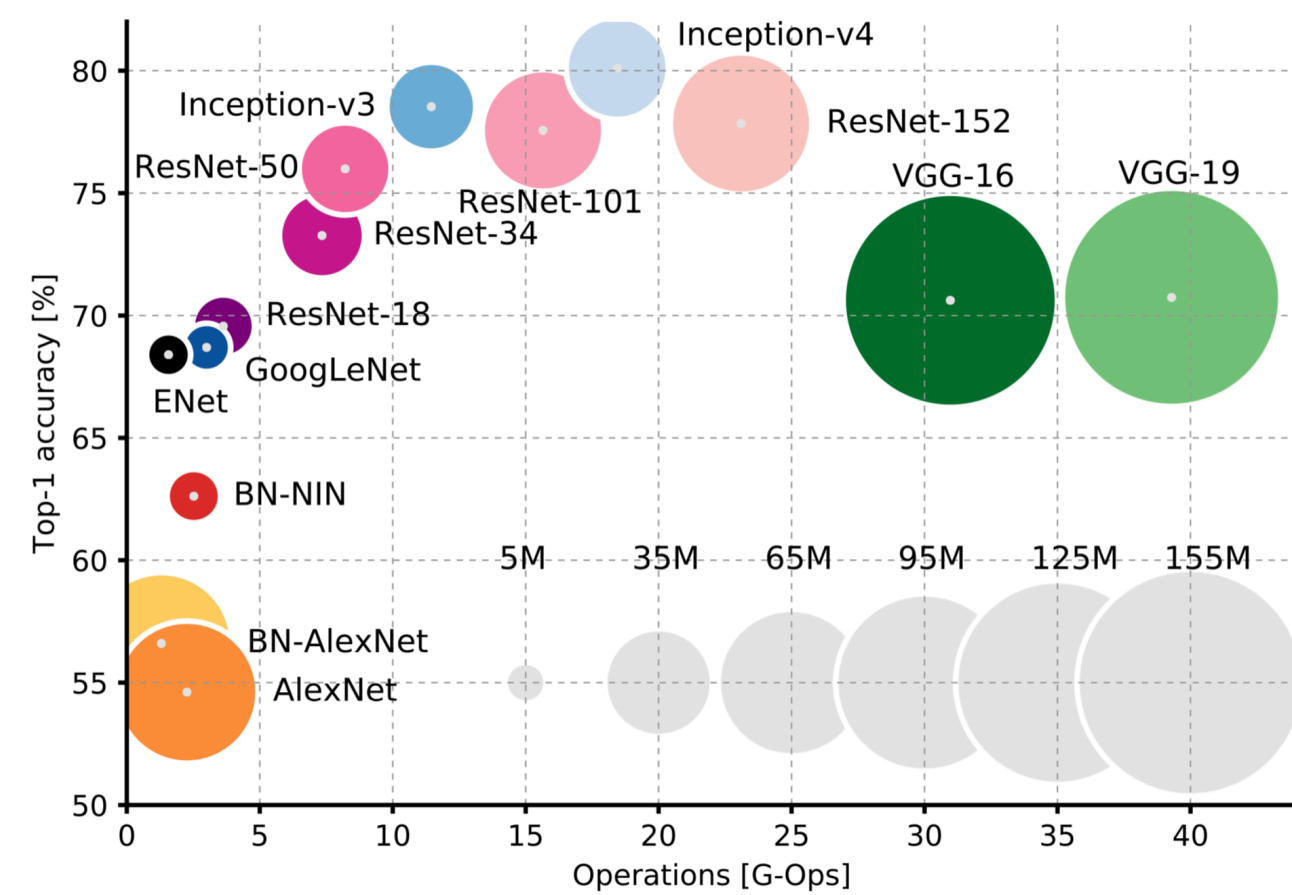
## Requests arrive at different rates and regularity



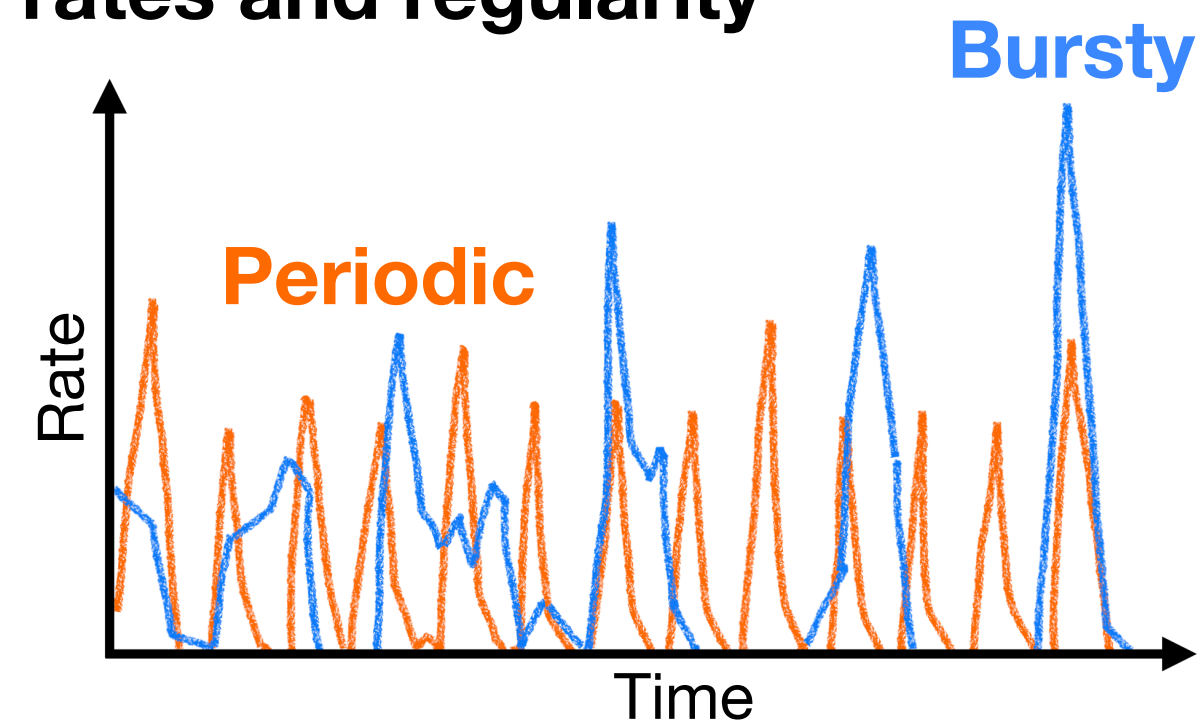


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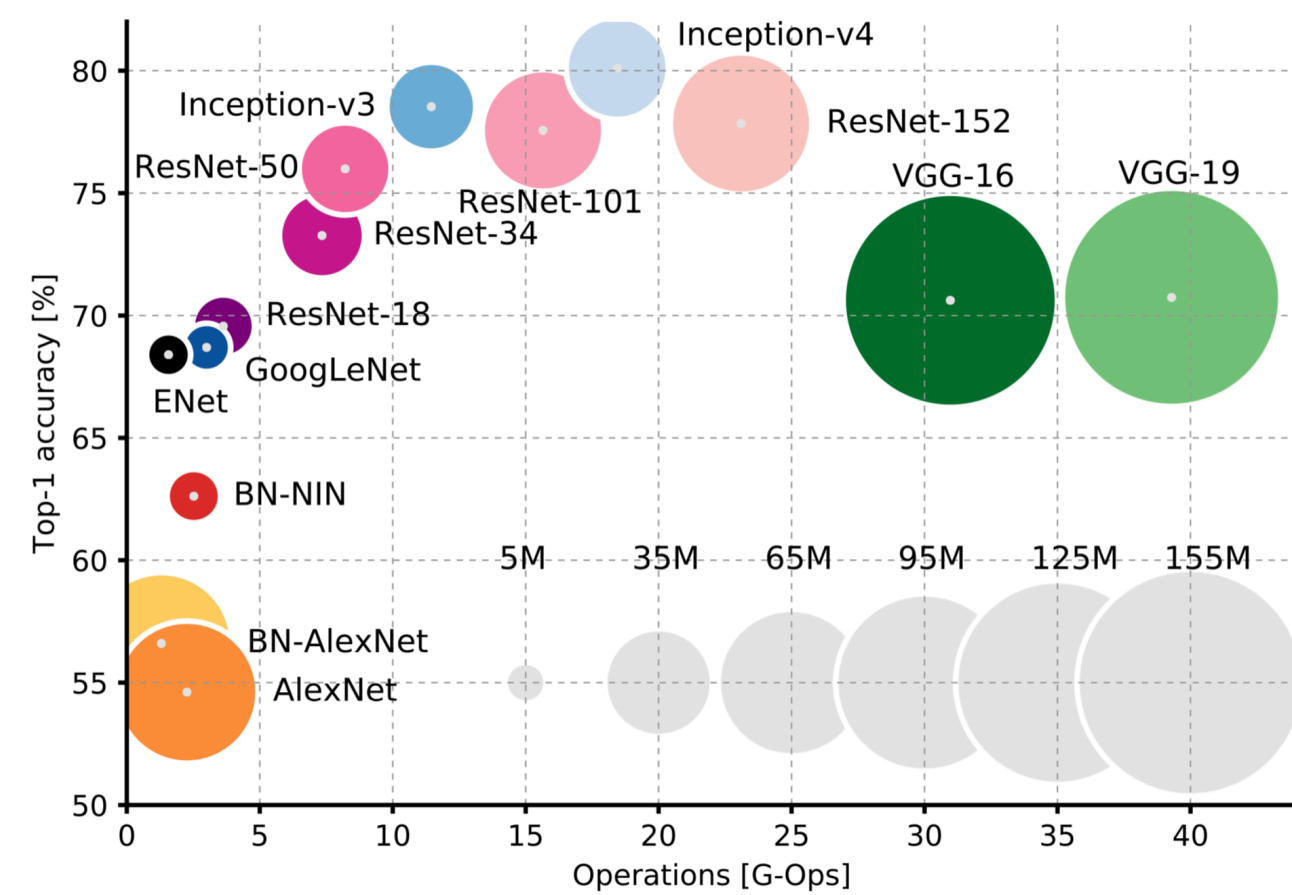
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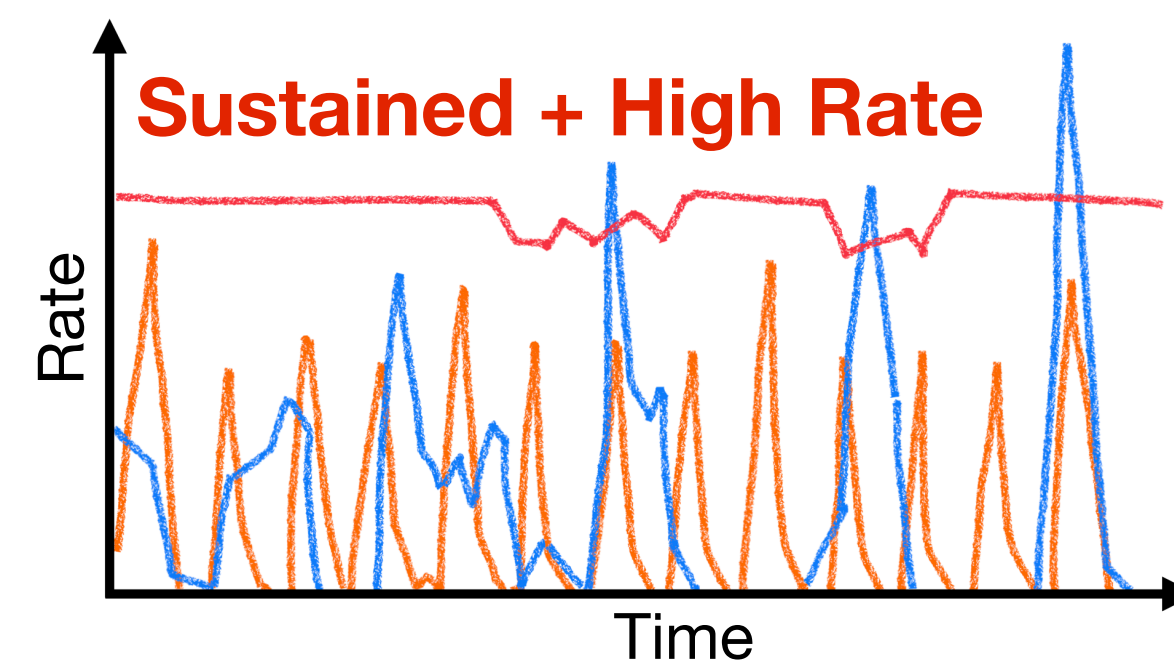


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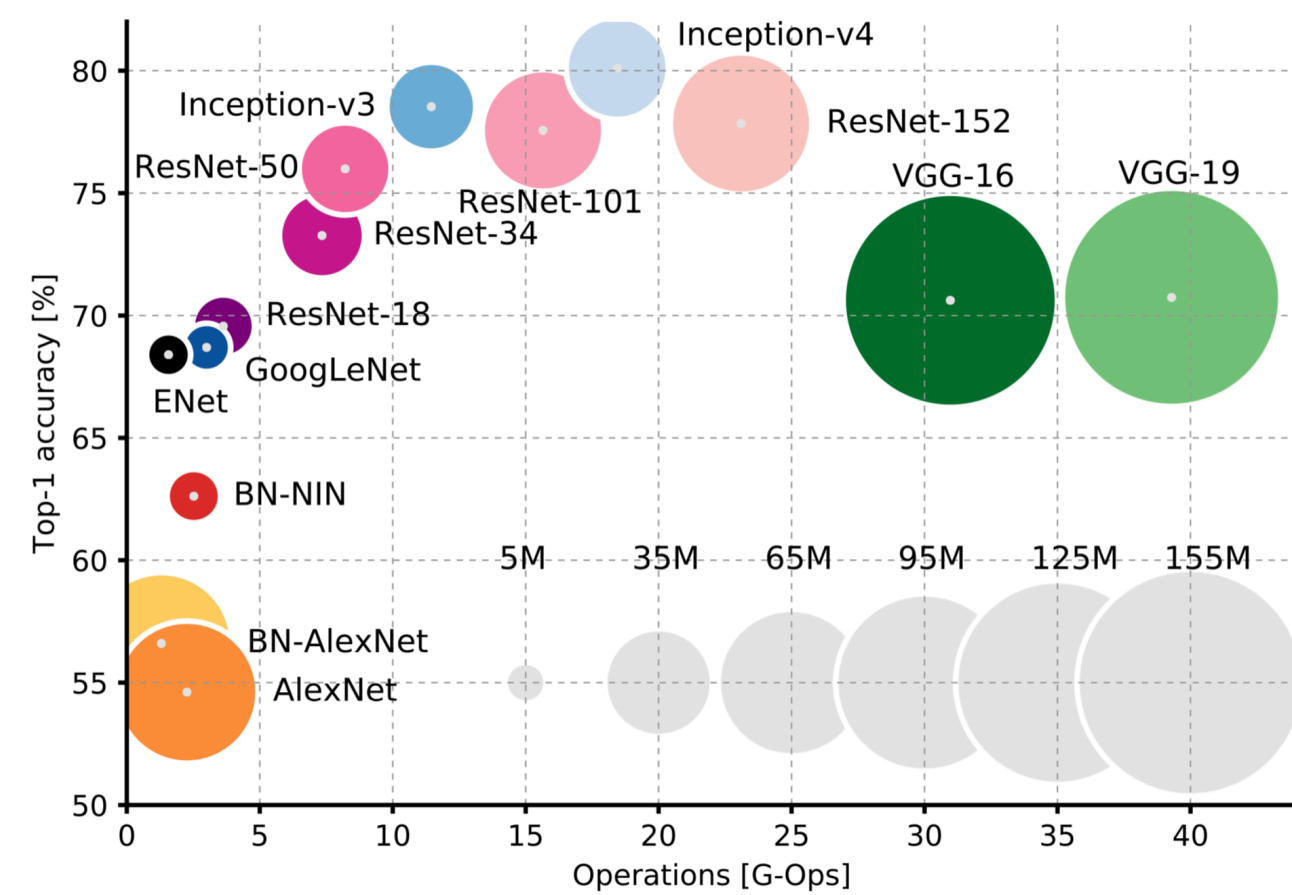
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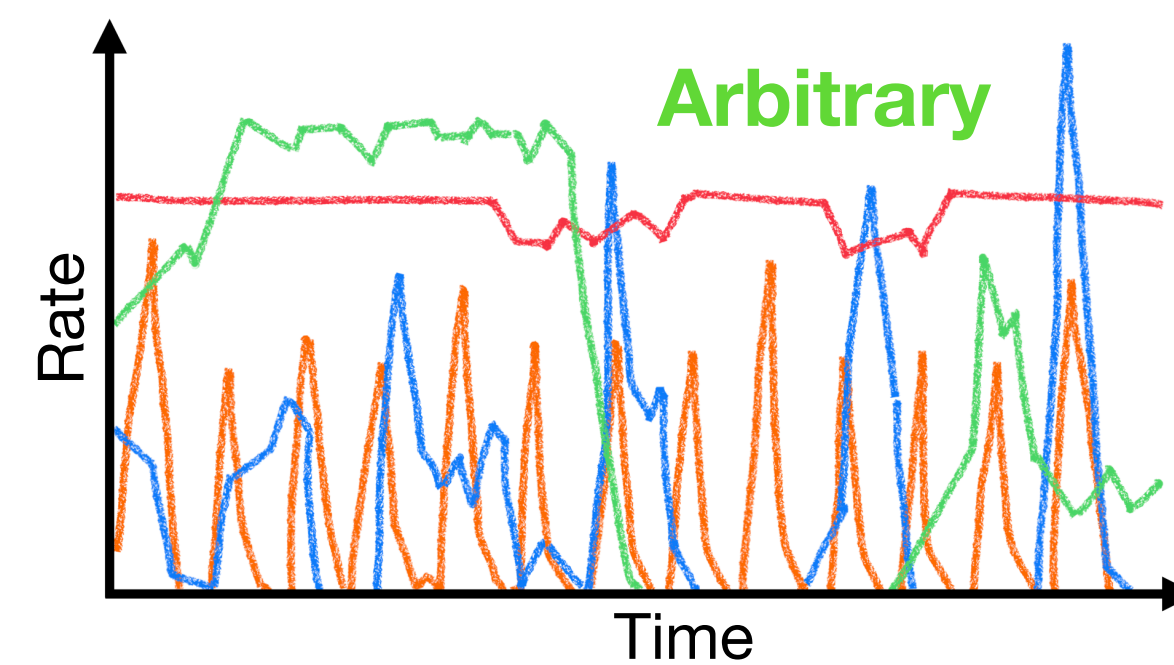


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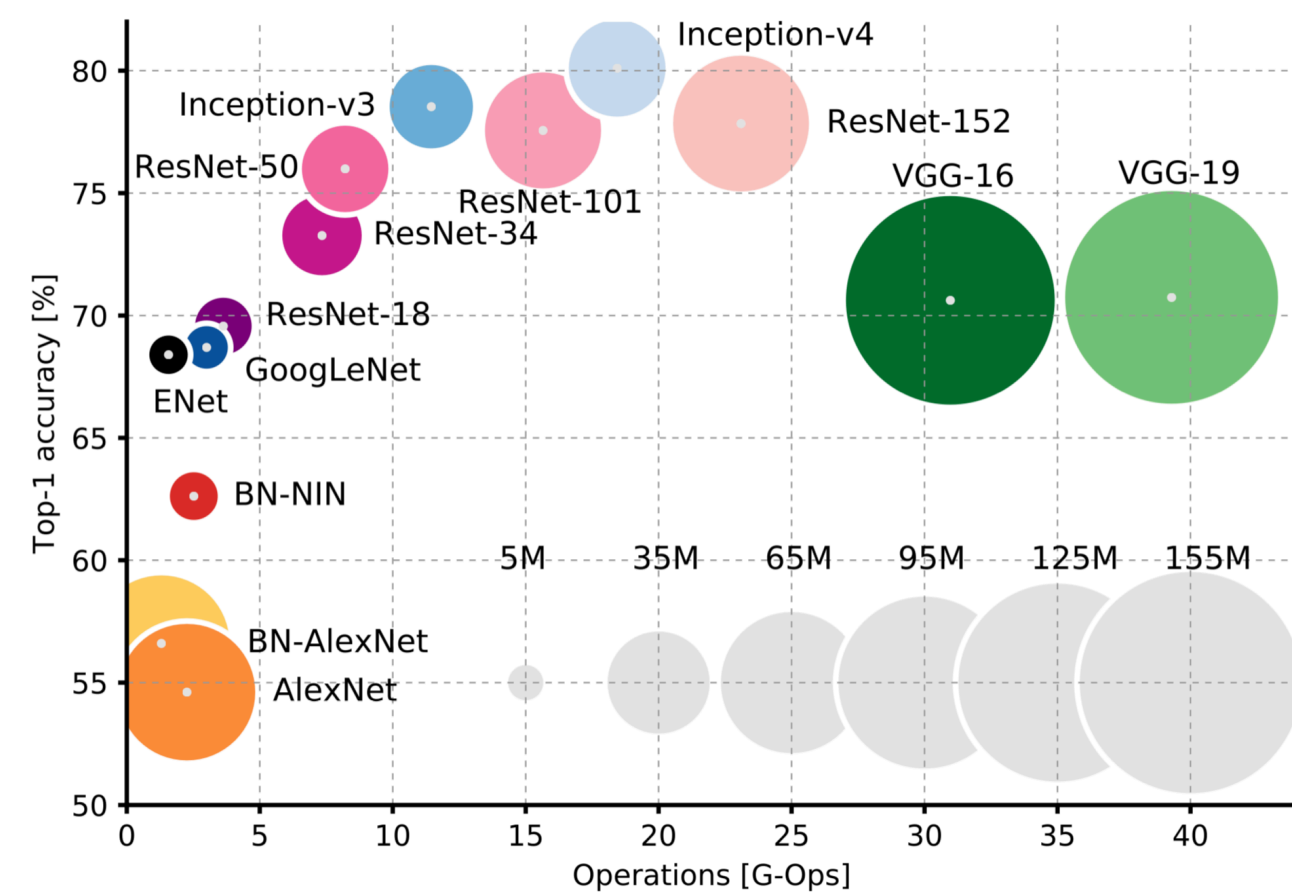
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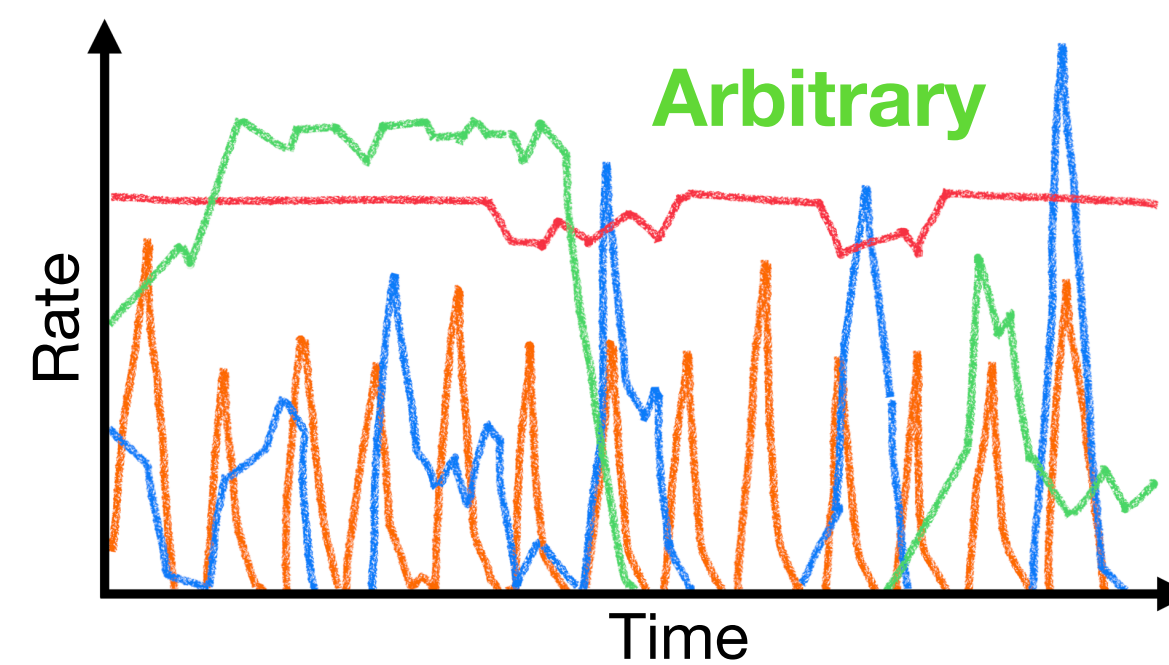


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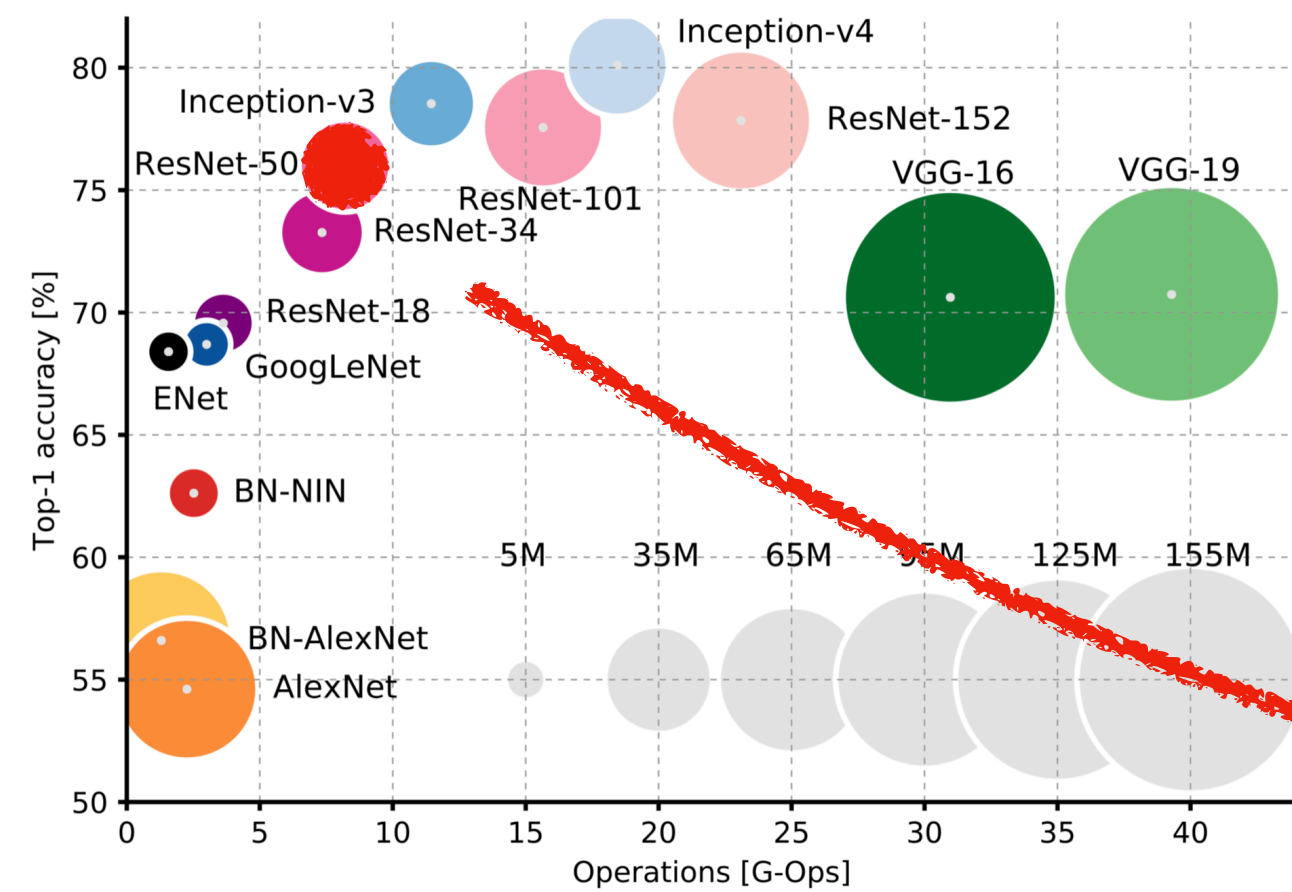
Each request has an inherent deadline

**Latency SLOs**  
(e.g., 100ms)

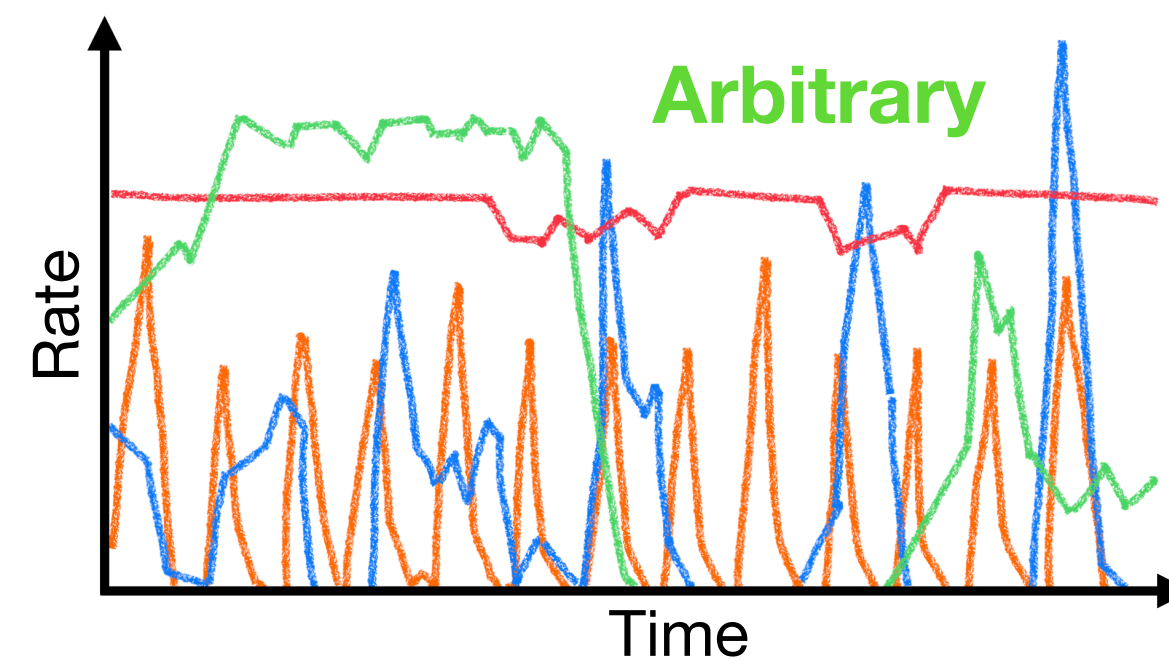


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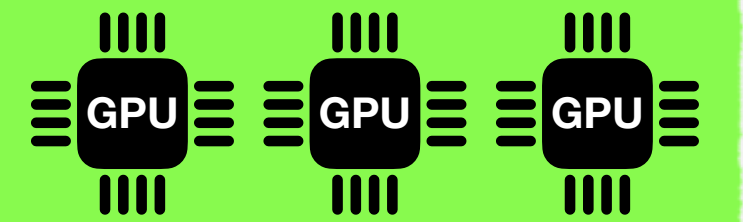
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HW accelerators are necessary!

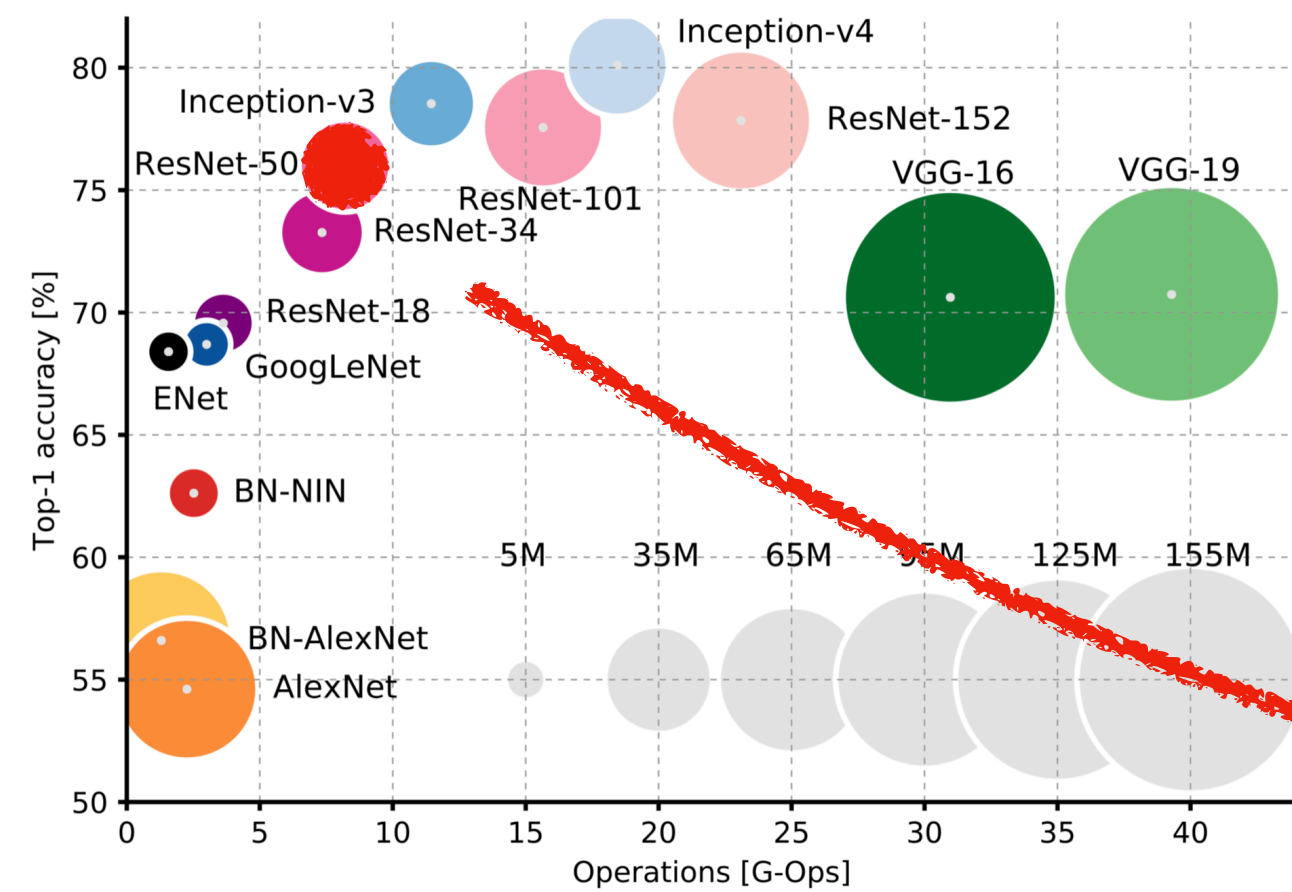


ResNet-50	Latency	Throughput
CPU	175 ms	6 req/s
GPU	2.8 ms	350 req/s

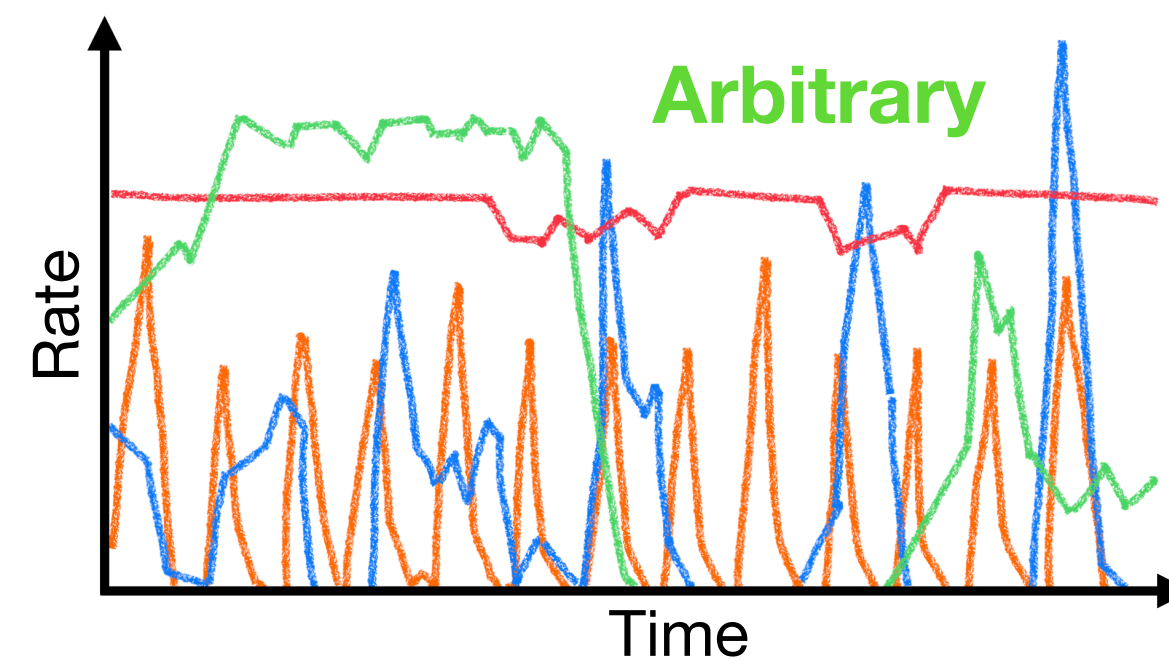


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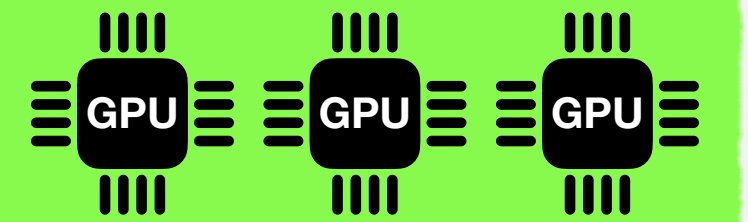
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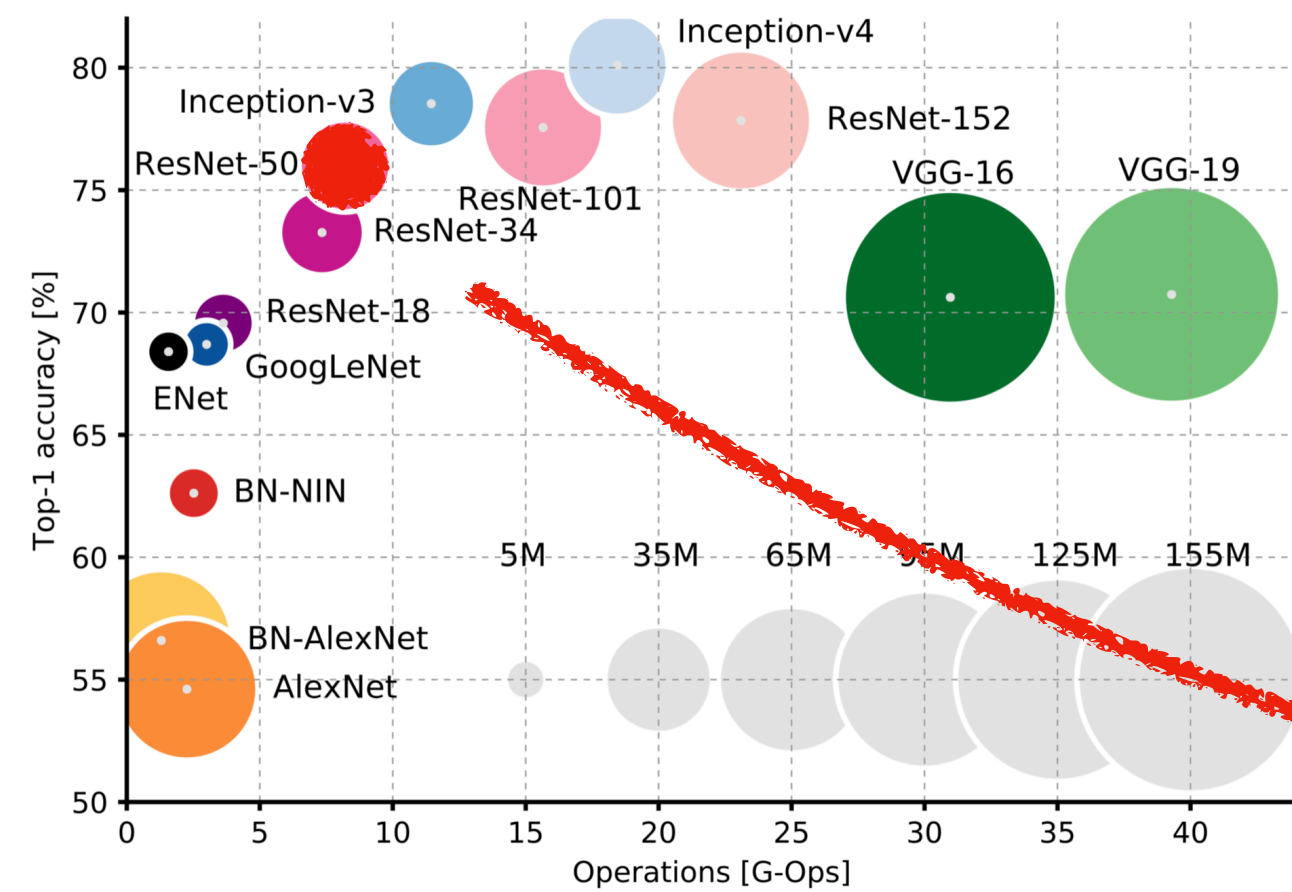


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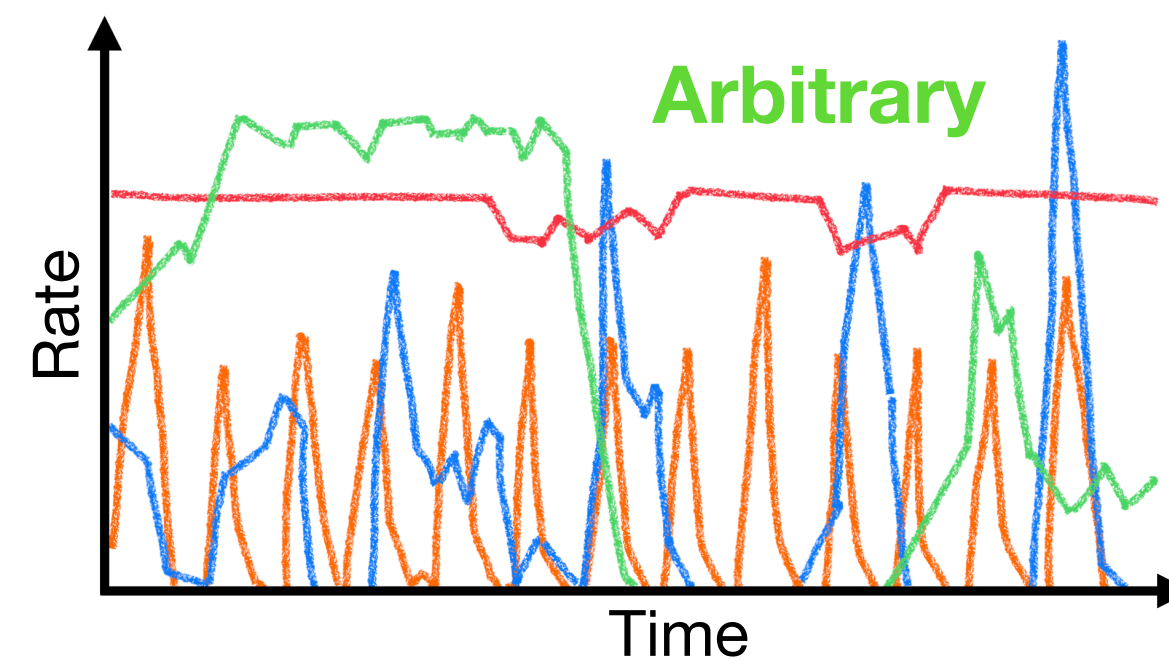


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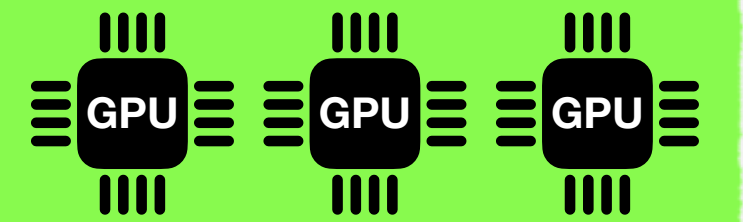
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## Problem

How can cloud providers efficiently share resources while meeting SLOs?



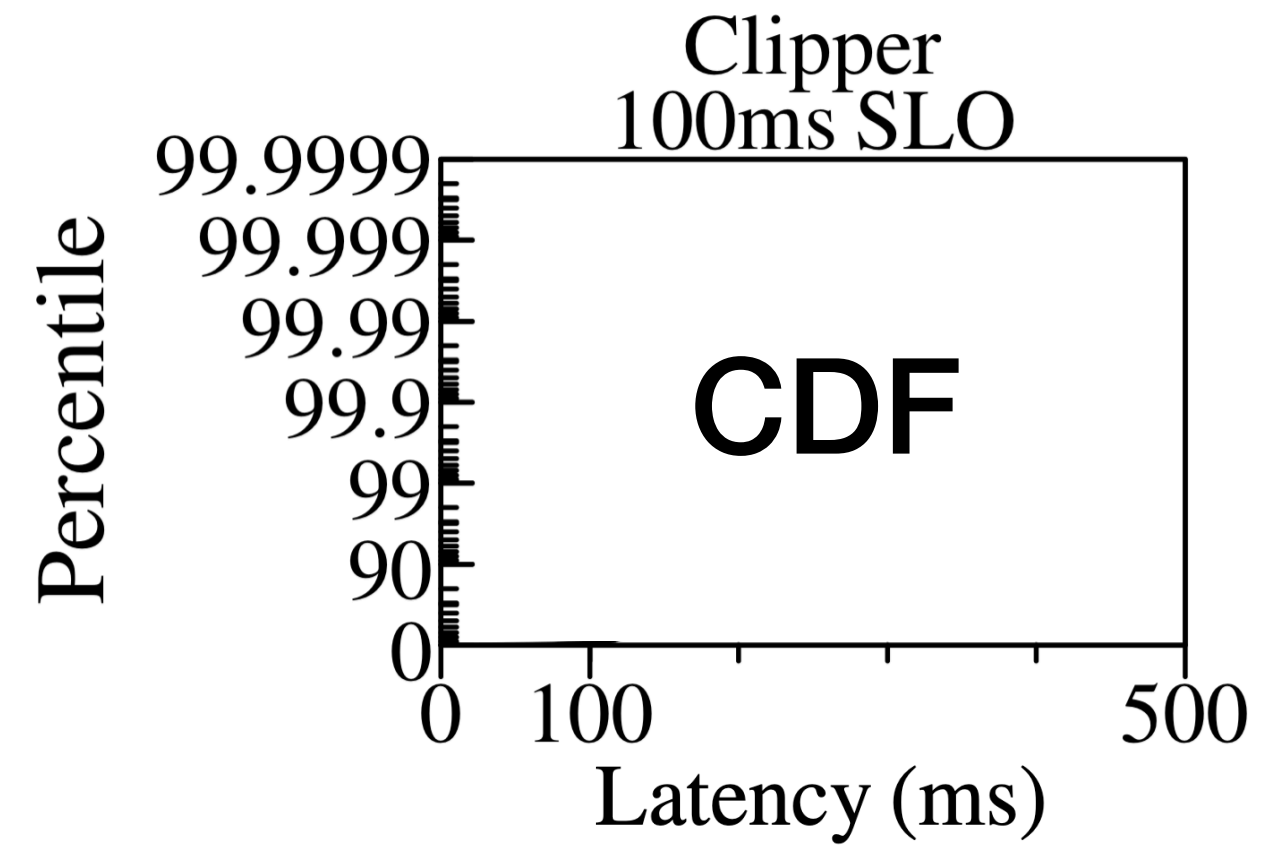
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## Inference latency

- 15 trained ResNet50
- Single GPU worker
- 16 concurrent requests per model



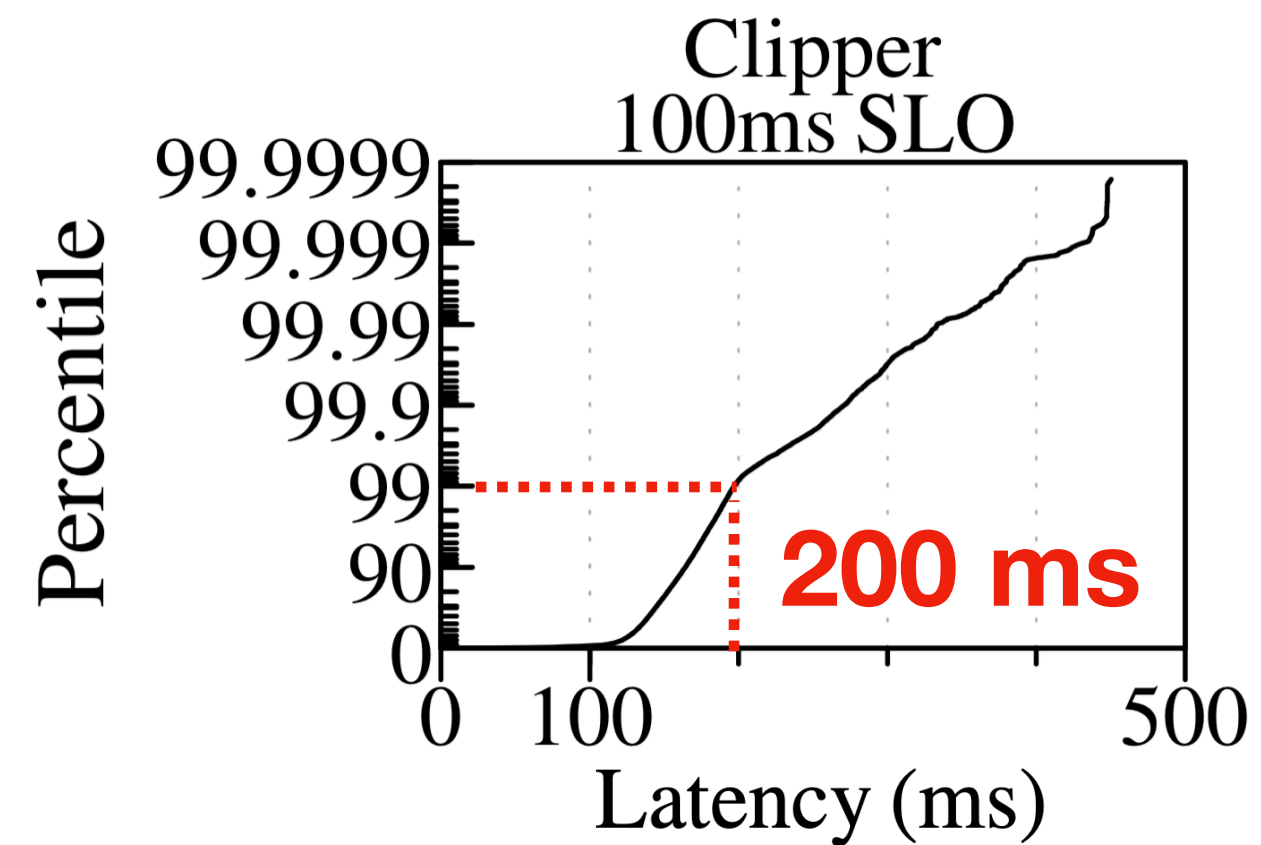


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**Tail latency >> SLO**



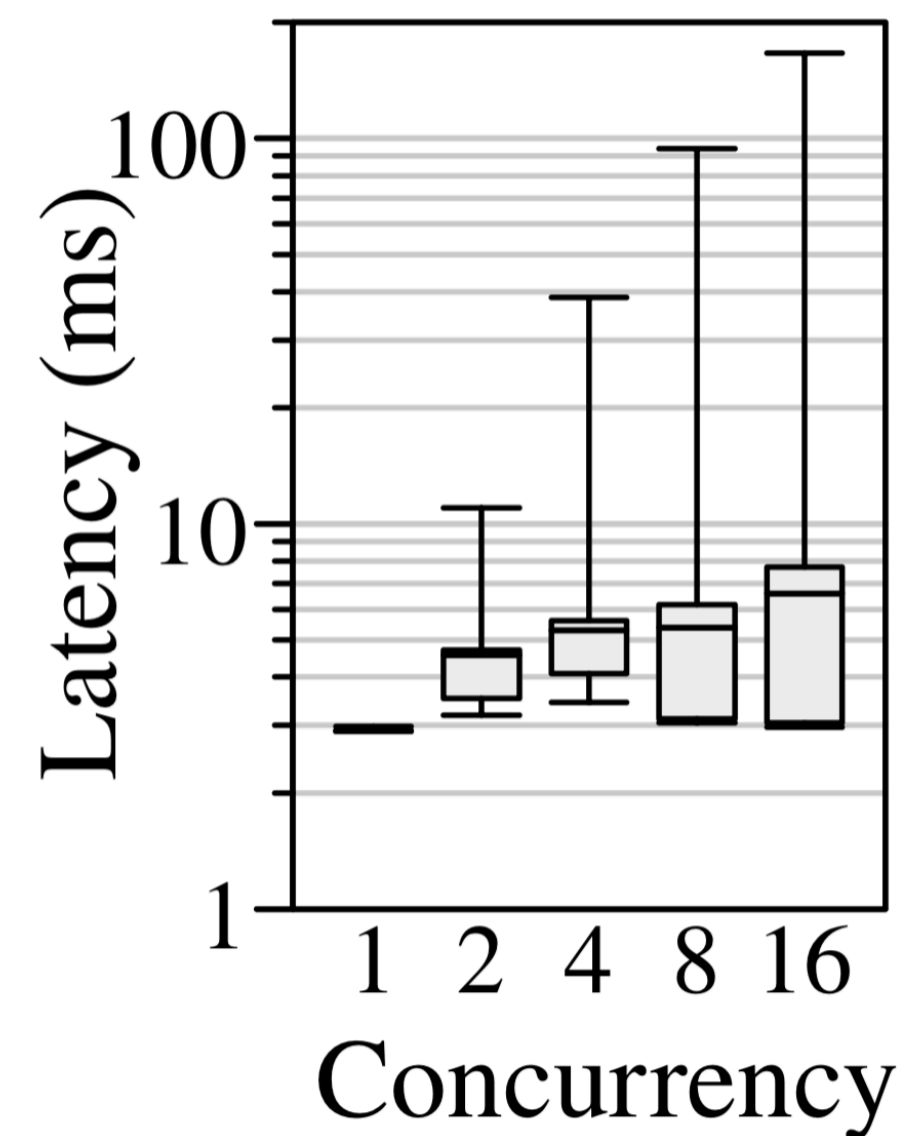
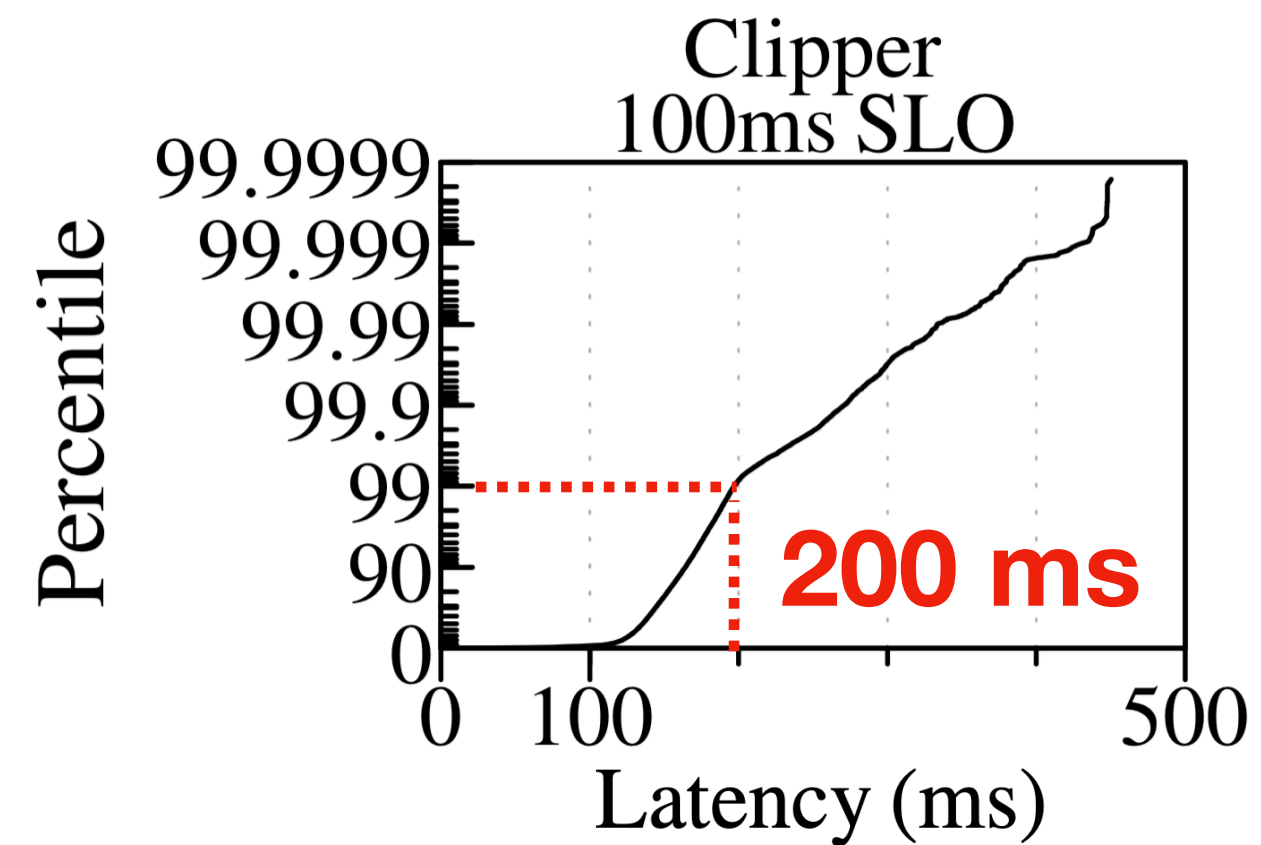


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**Concurrent  
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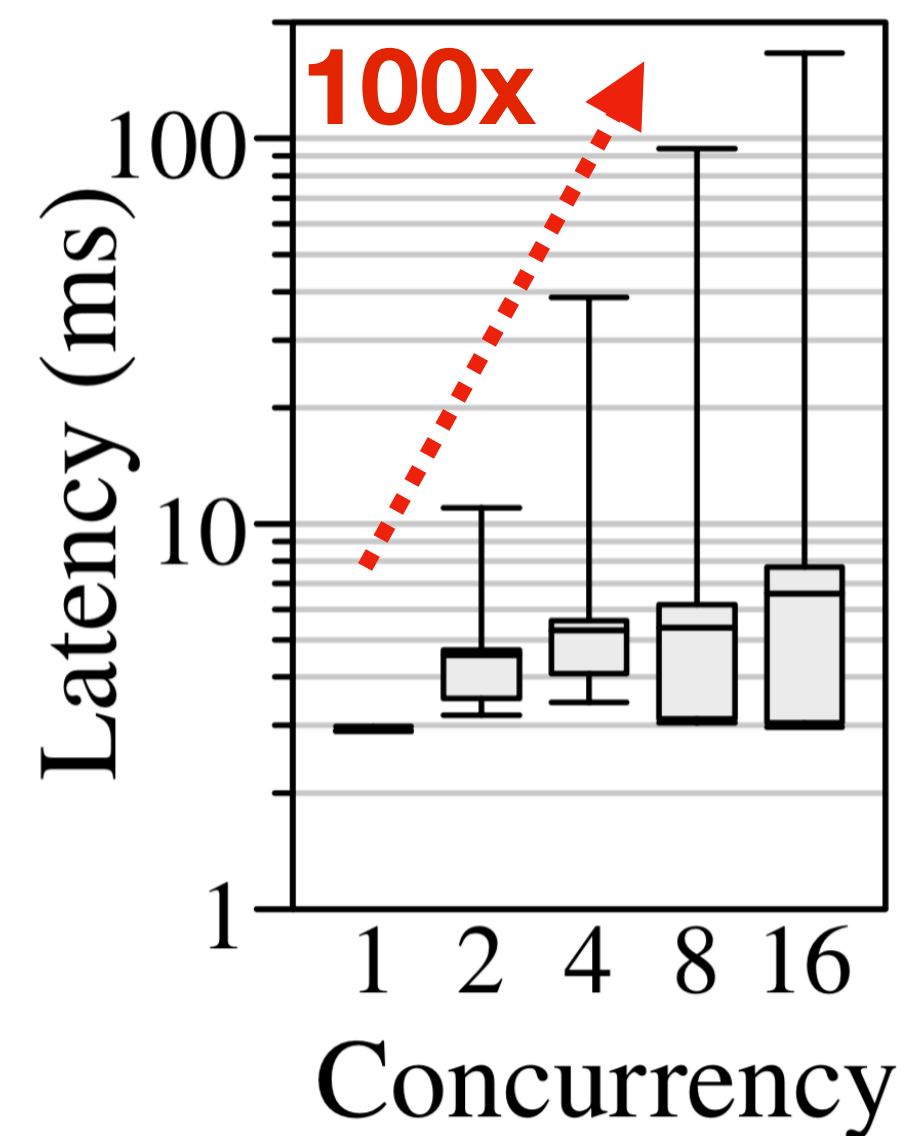
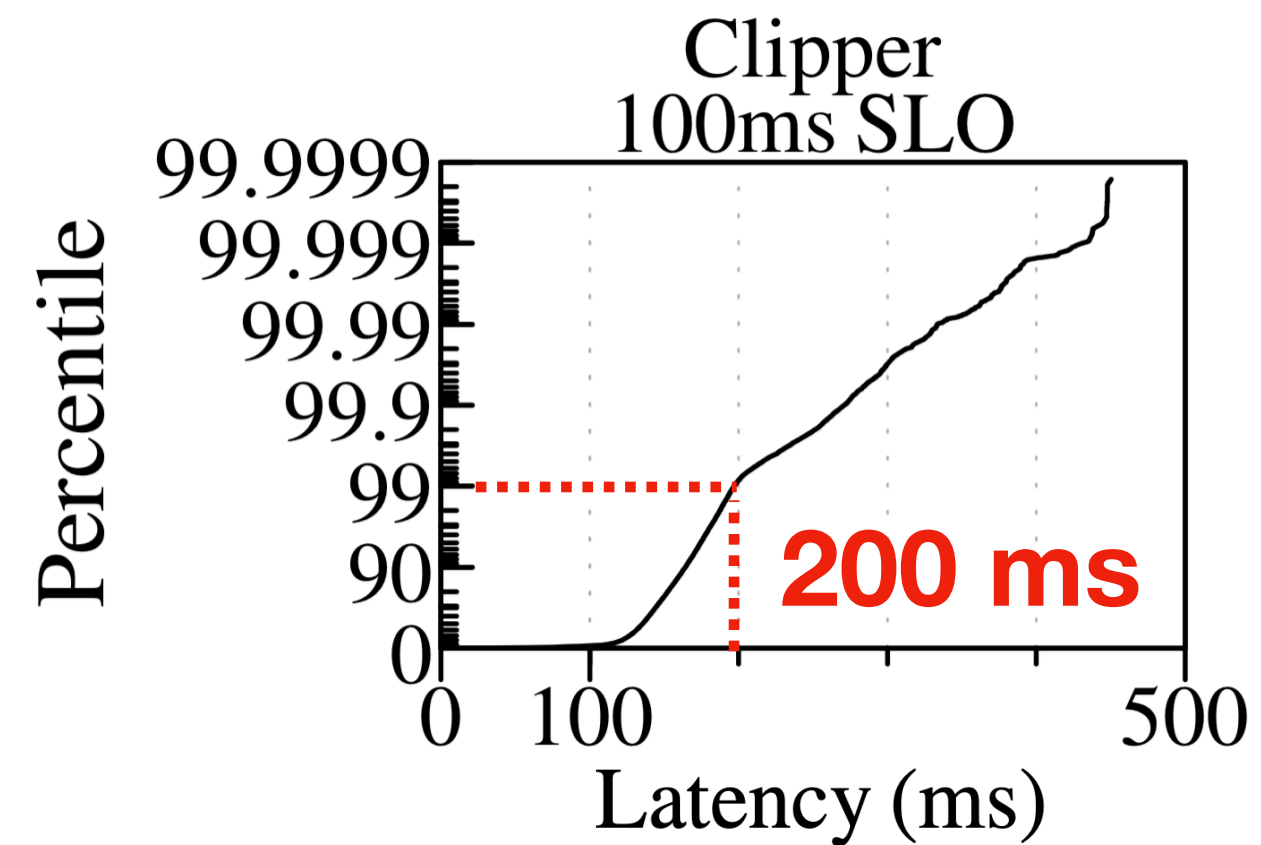


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**High variance  
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**Throughput  
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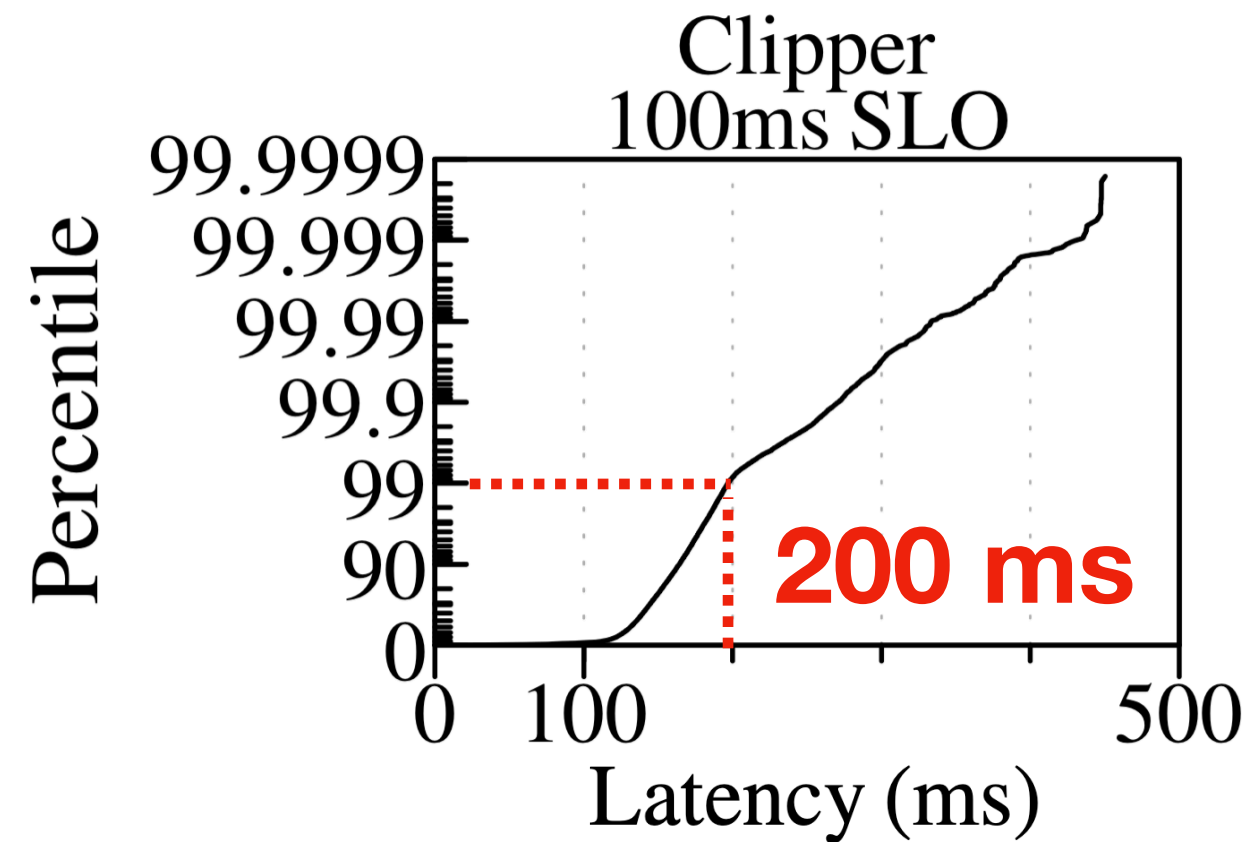


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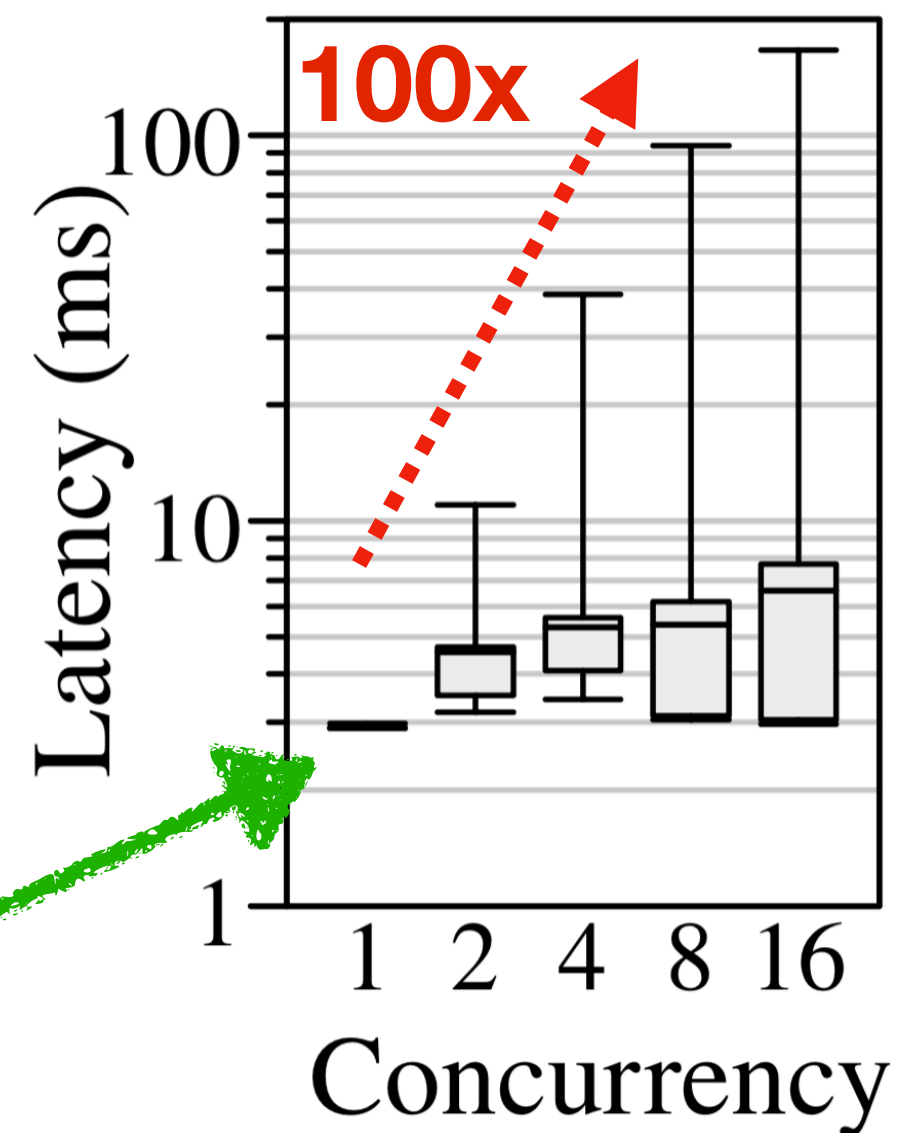
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**Single-thread latency is extremely predictable**



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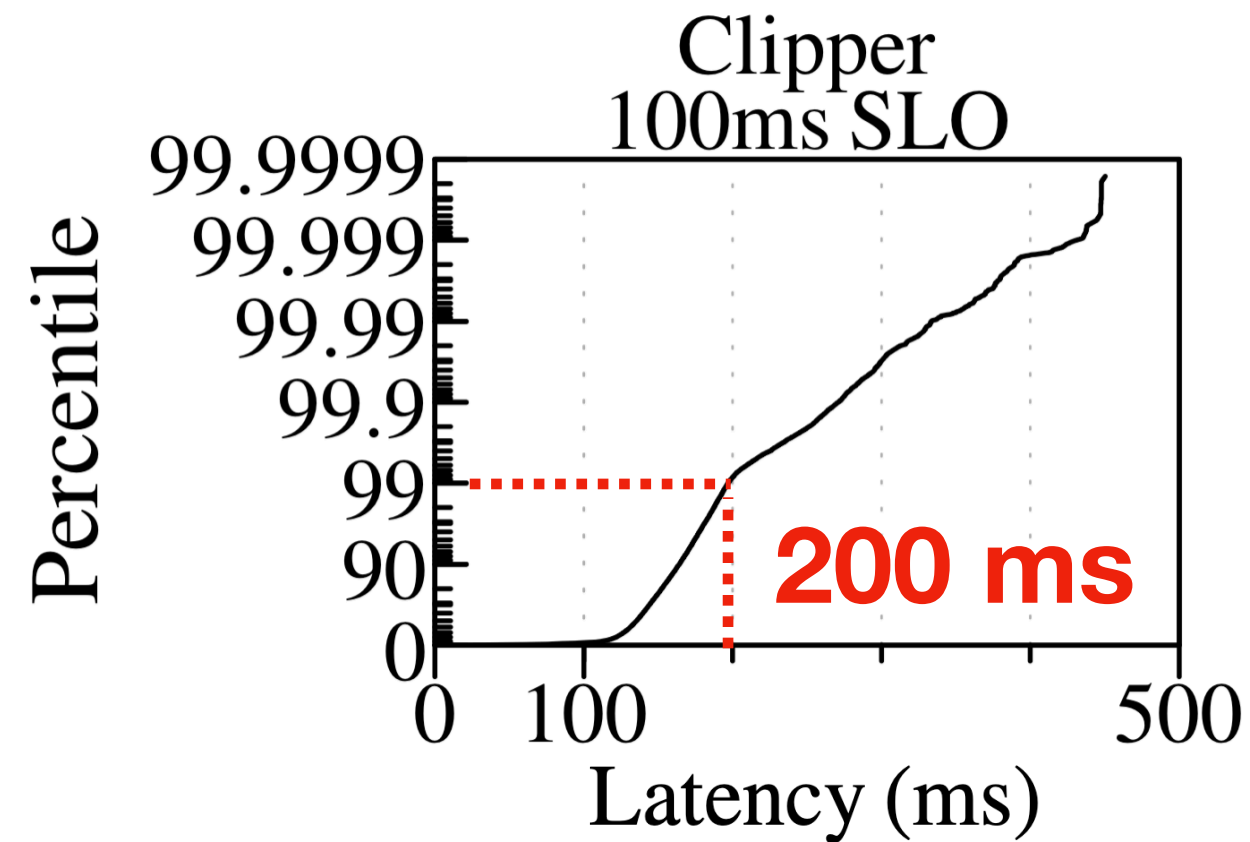


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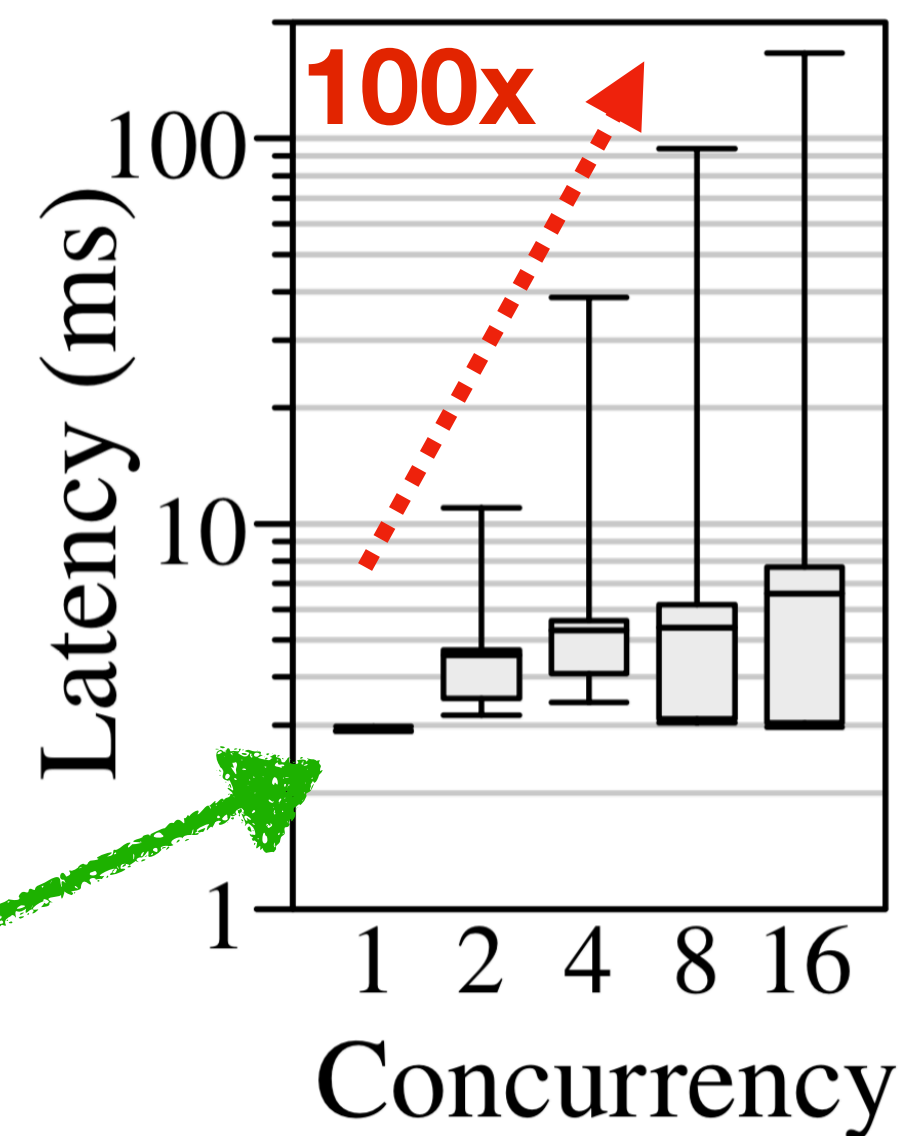
**Tail latency >> SLO**



**Preserves DNN predictability at every stage of model serving**

**Clockwork adopts a contrasting approach!**

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**Concurrent DNN inference over GPU**

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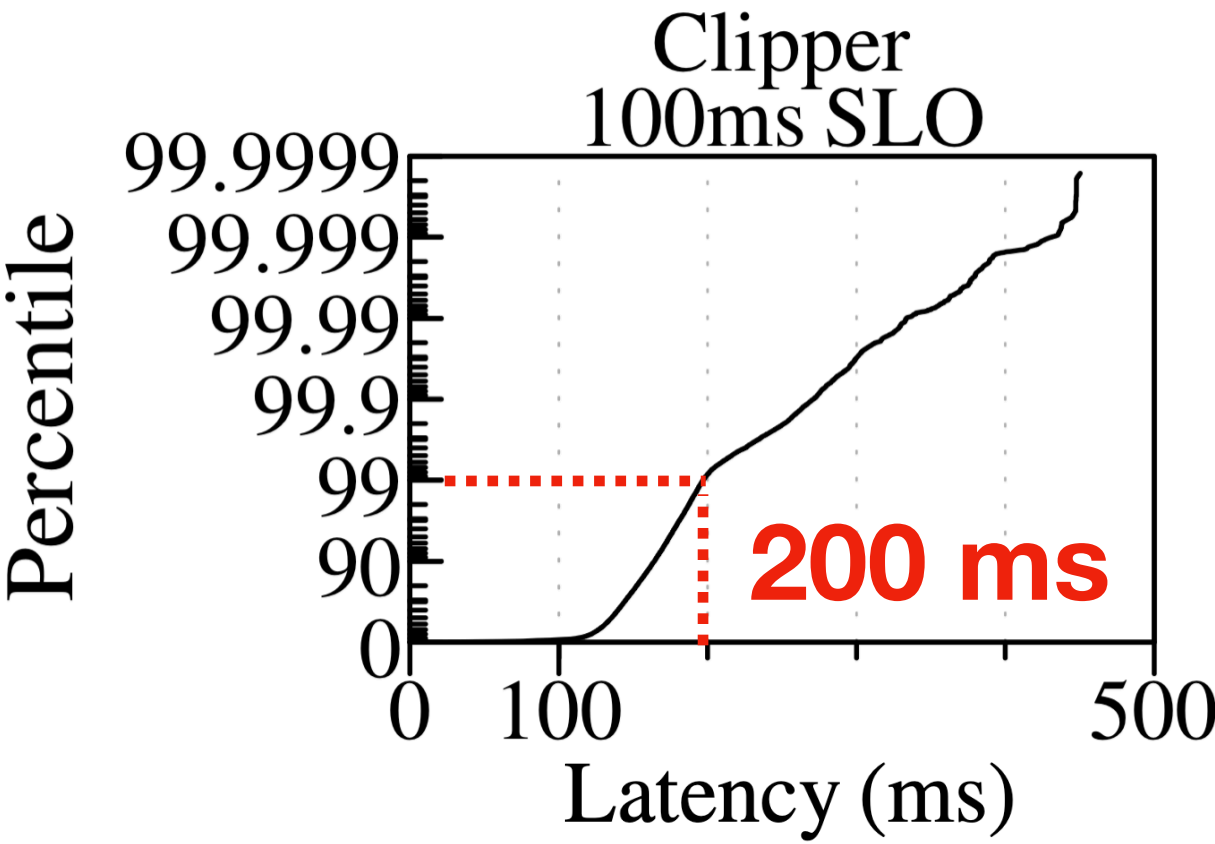


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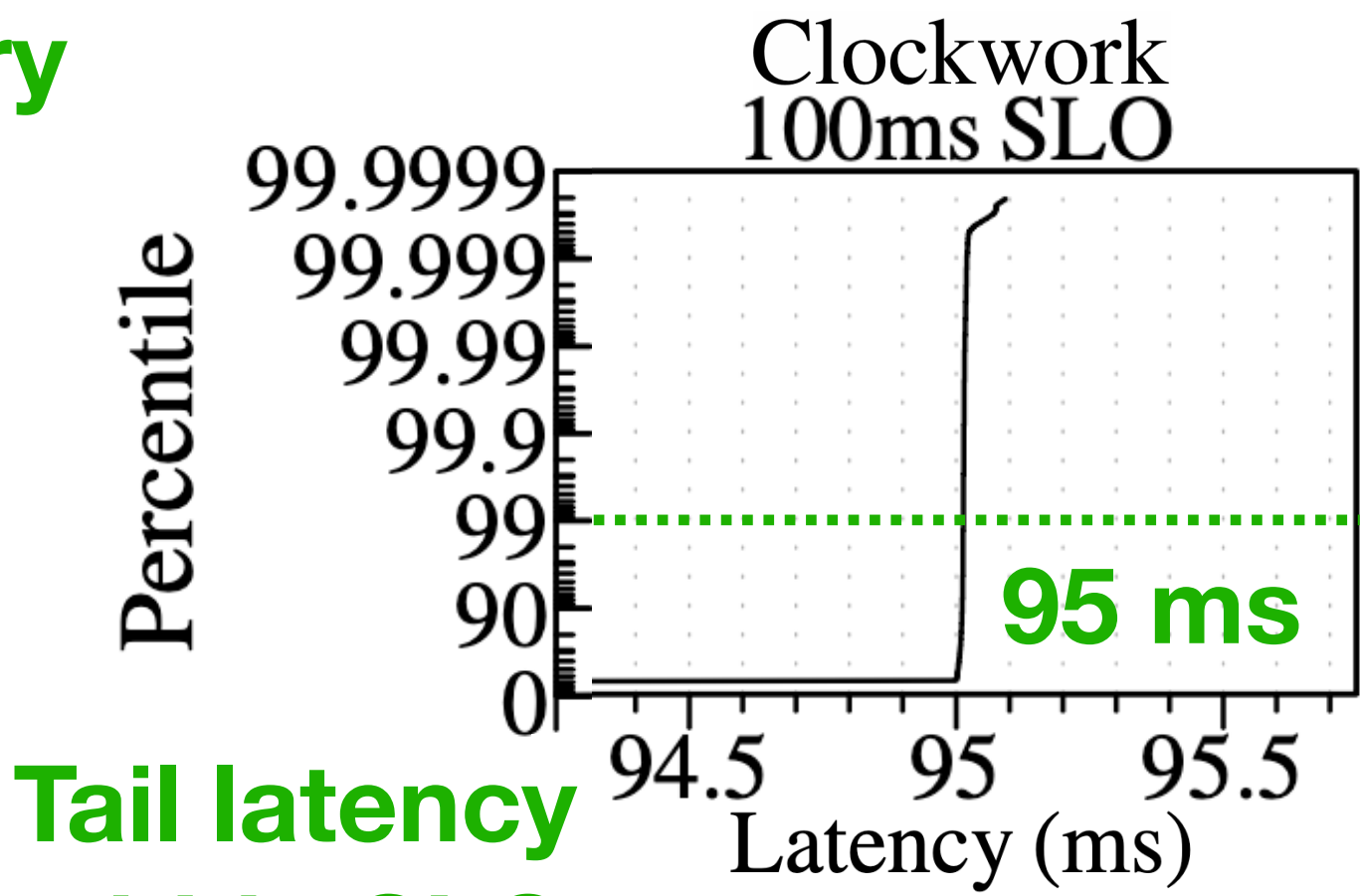
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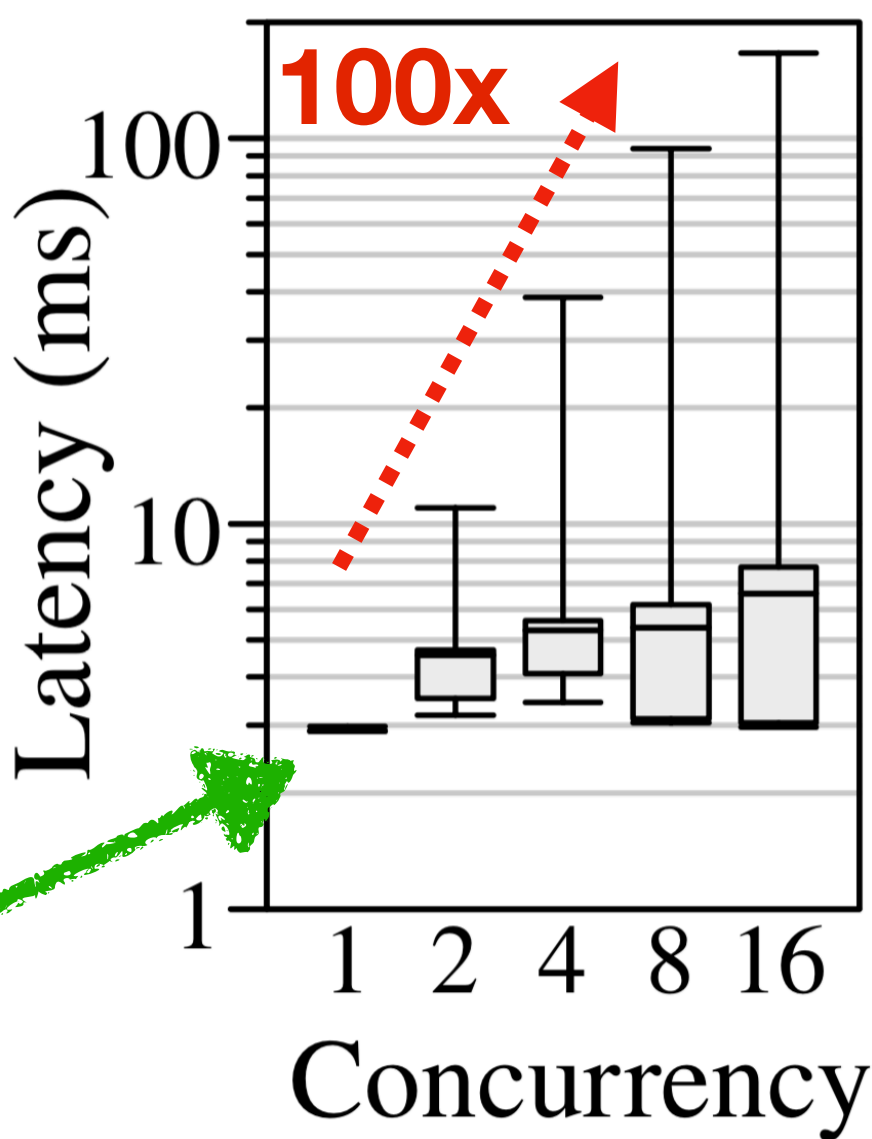
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**Tail latency within SLO**

**Clockwork adopts a contrasting approach!**

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**Concurrent DNN inference over GPU**

**High variance in latency**

**Throughput gains only 25%**



# How does Clockwork Achieve End-to-End Predictability?



# Design Principles

**Goal: 1000s of models, many users, limited resources**



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**Maximize sharing**



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**1. Predictable worker with no choices**

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**2. Consolidating choices at a central controller**



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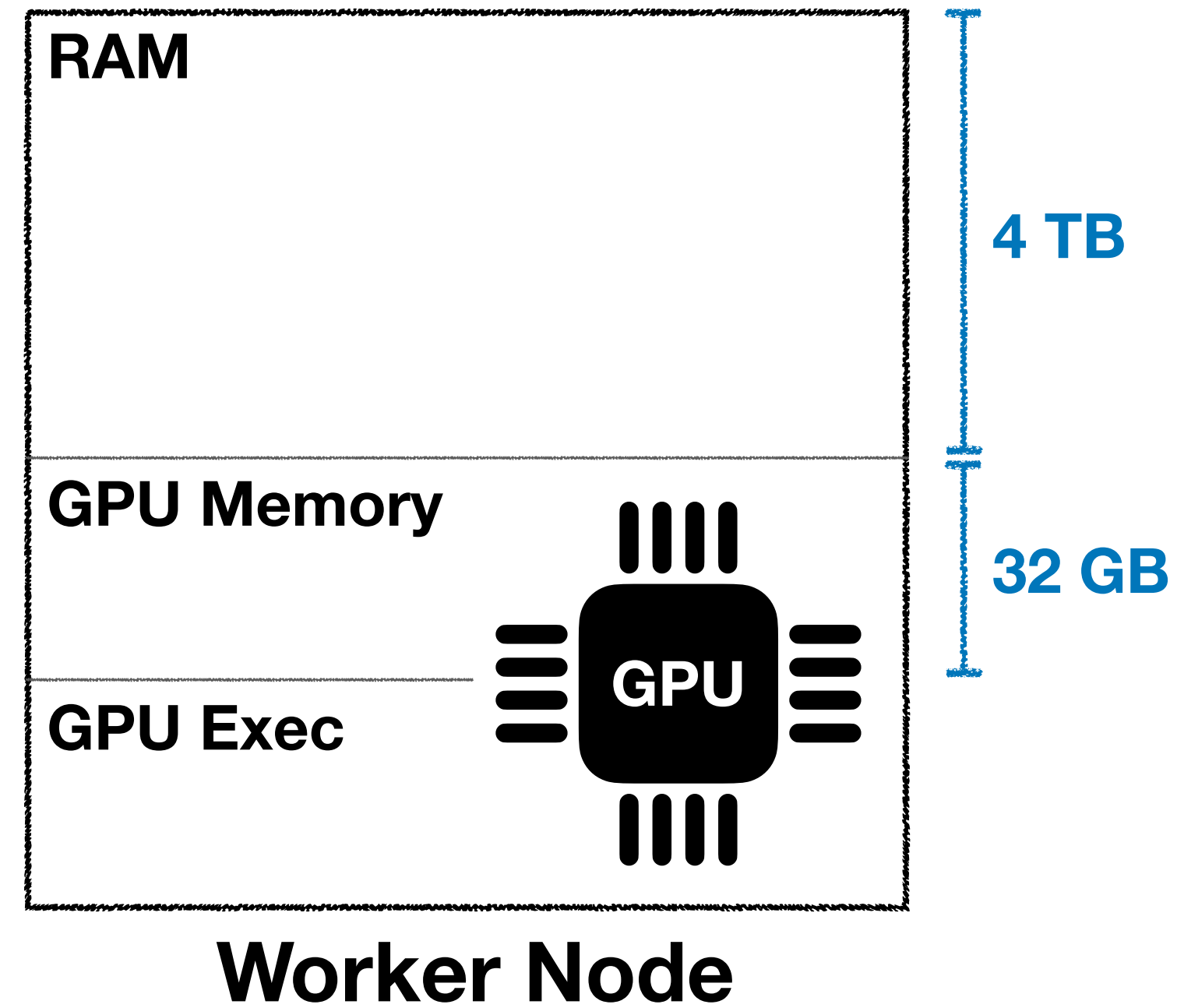
**Maximize sharing**

**2. Consolidating choices at a central controller**

**3. Deadline-aware scheduling for SLO compliance**



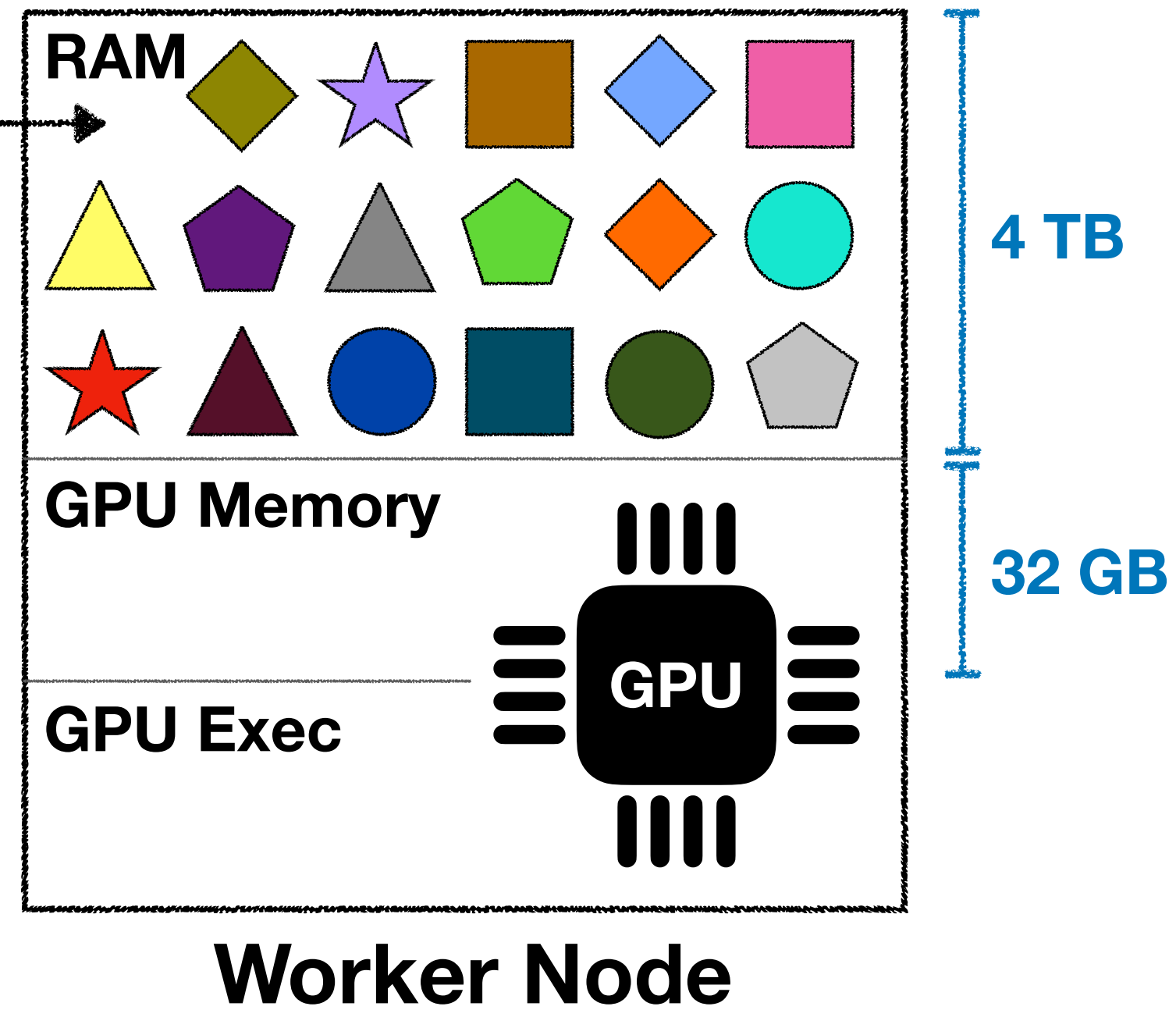
# Designing a Predictable Worker (1/2)





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Users upload pre-trained models  
in advance: ● ▲ ■ ◆ ★ ...





# Designing a Predictable Worker (1/2)

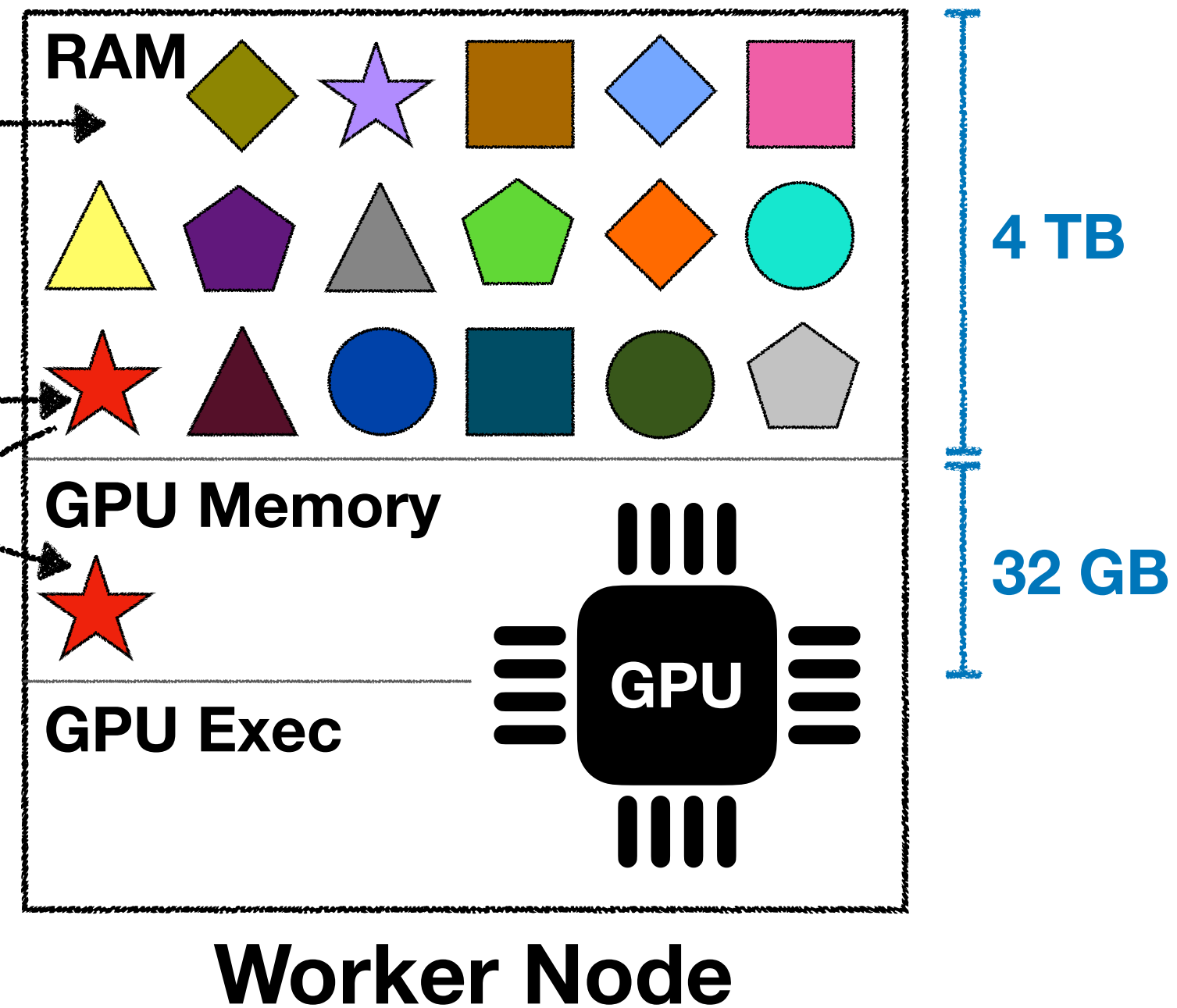
Users upload pre-trained models

in advance: ● ▲ ■ ◆ ★ ...

Inference request for ★

Cold

Allocate memory for ★ ...





# Designing a Predictable Worker (1/2)

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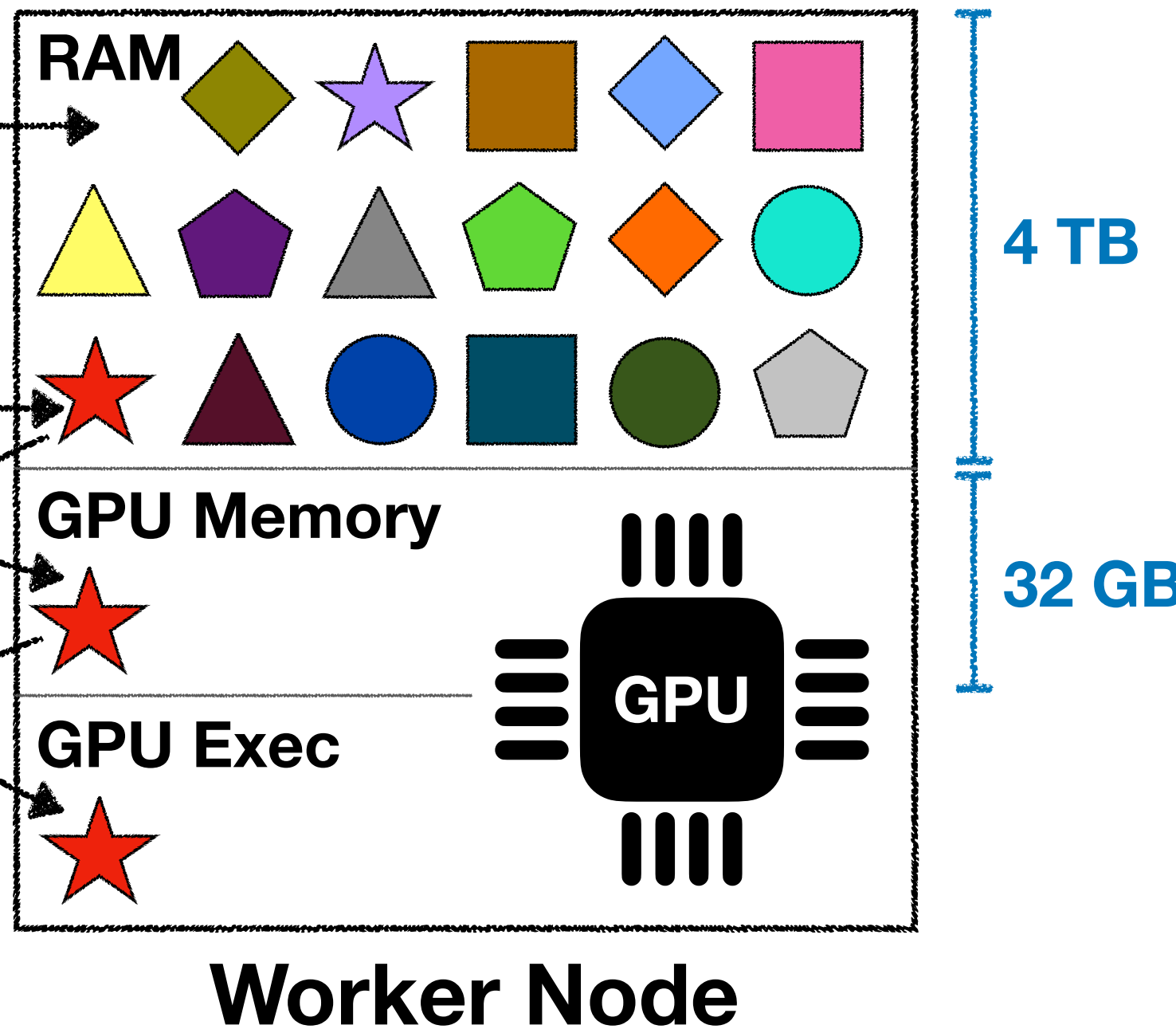
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Cold

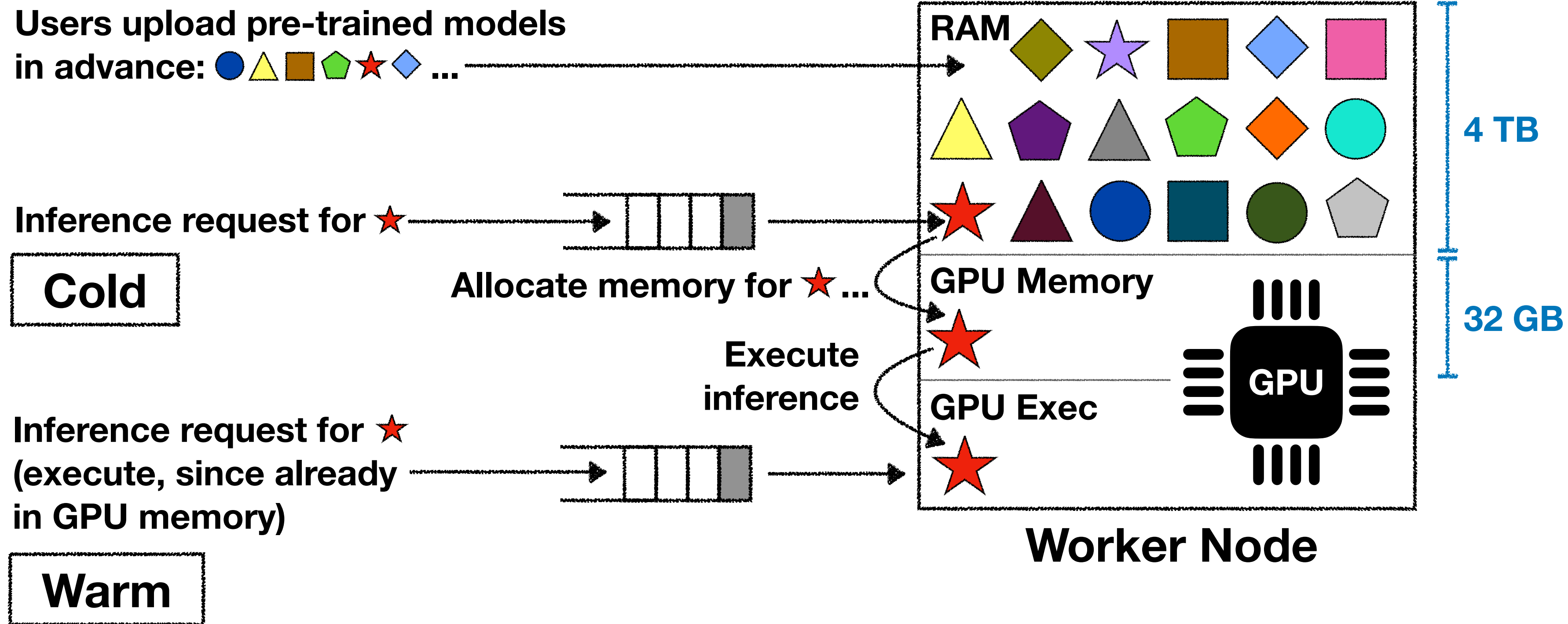
Allocate memory for ★ ...

Execute  
inference

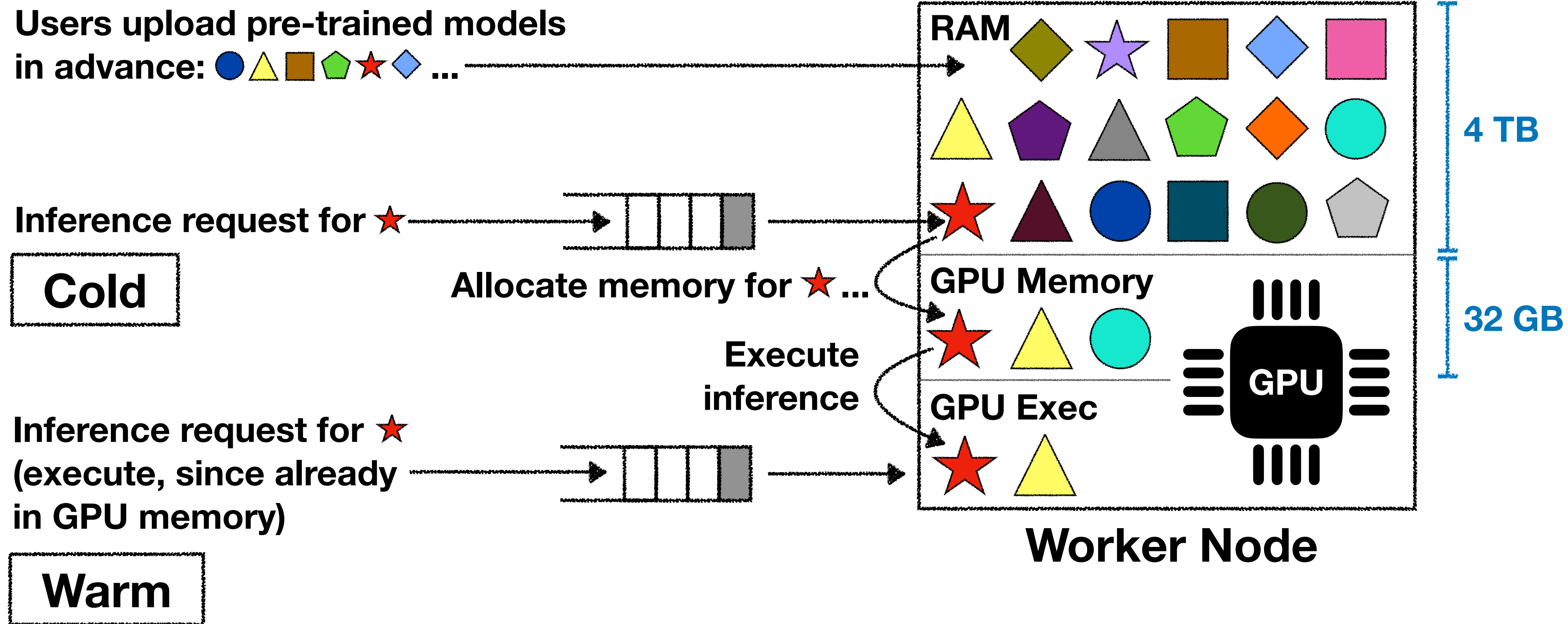




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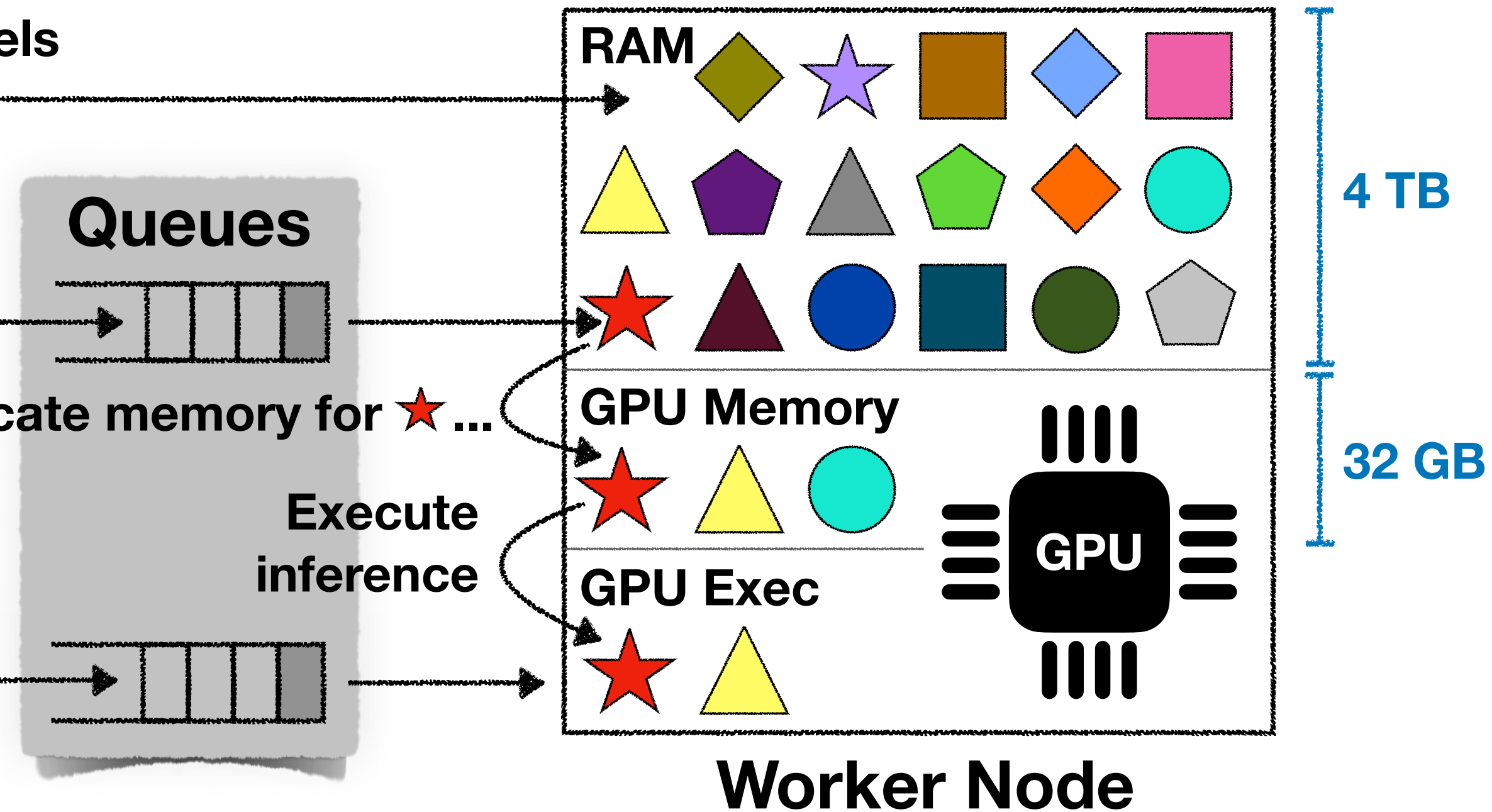
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Allocate memory for ★ ...

Execute  
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Inference request for ★  
(execute, since already  
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Warm



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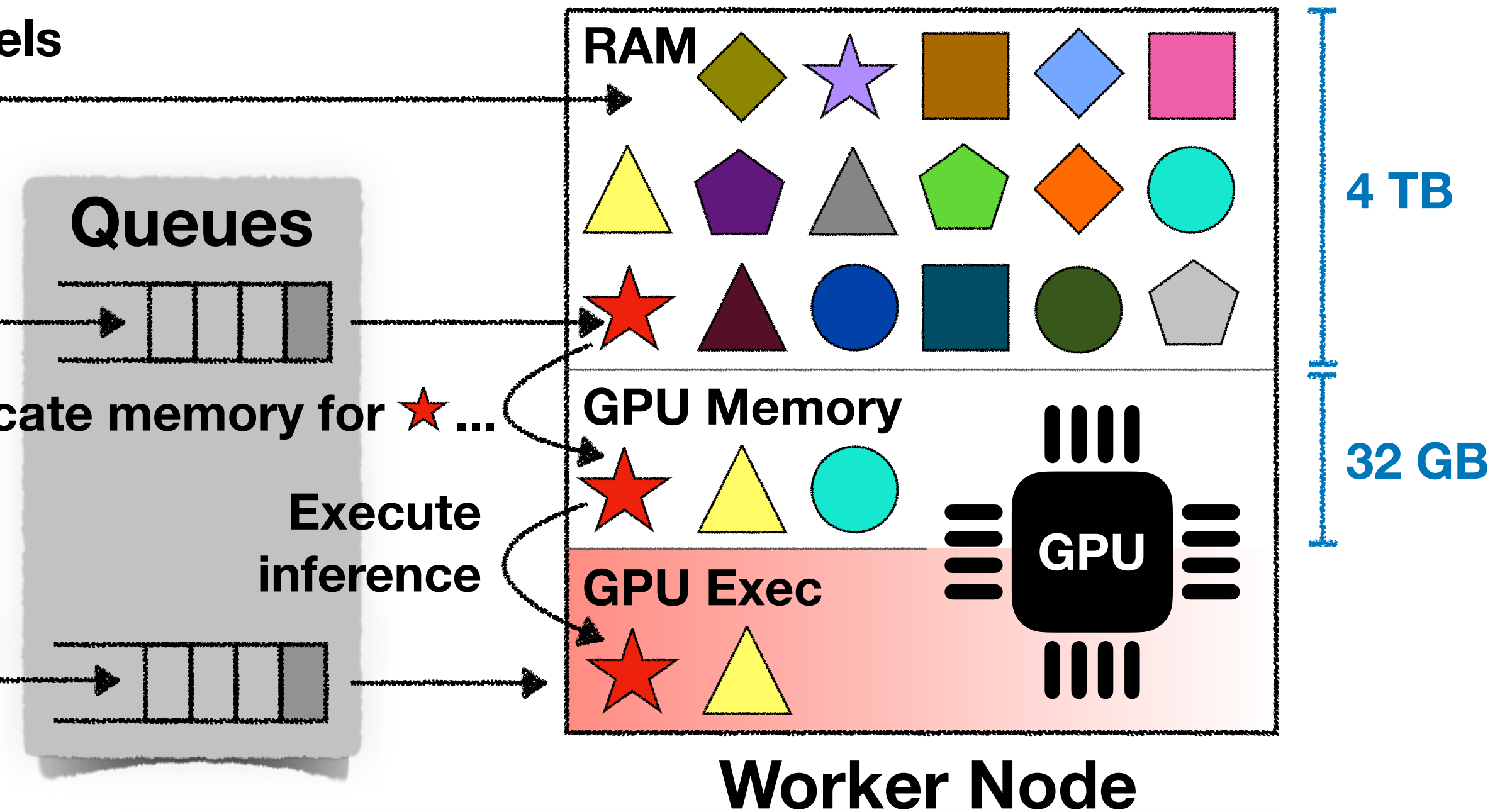
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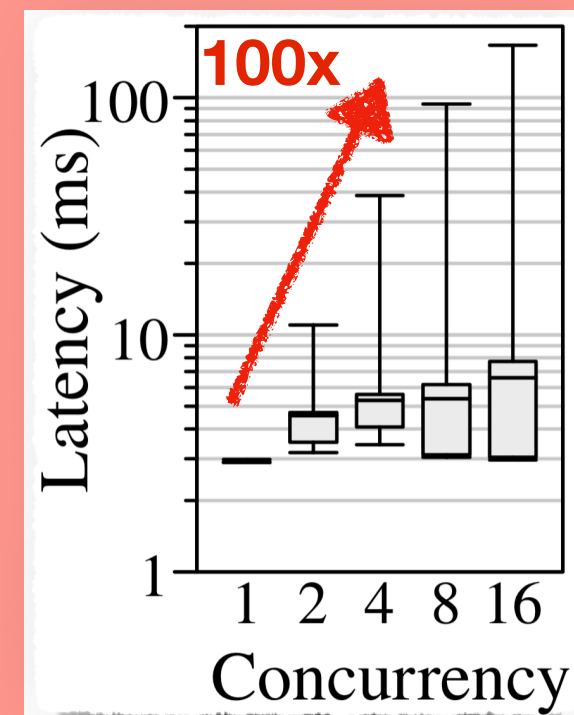
Warm



Concurrent inferences

+ Proprietary &  
undocumented policies

➔ Unpredictable  
response times





# Designing a Predictable Worker (1/2)

Users upload pre-trained models  
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Inference request for ★

Cold

Allocate memory for ★ ...

Inference request for ★  
(execute, since already  
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Warm

Queues

RAM

GPU Memory

GPU Exec

GPU

Worker Node

4 TB

32 GB

Managed memory  
can be unpredictable

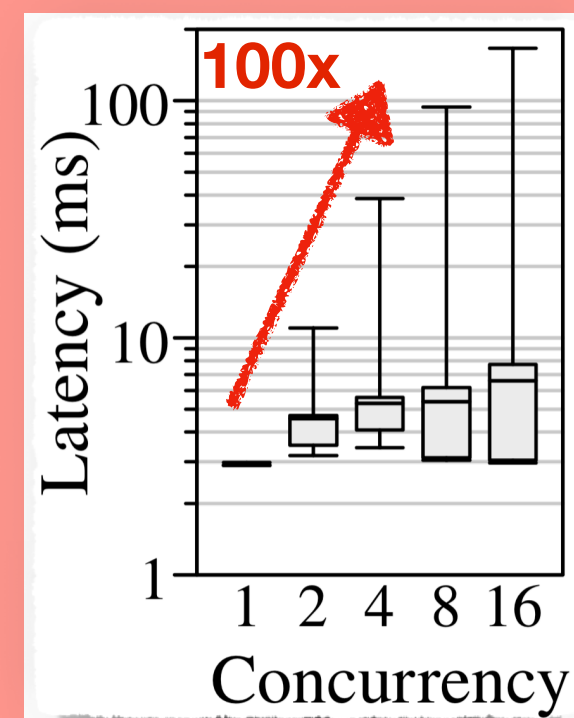
- GPU memory (cache)  
hits & misses

ResNet-50 — Hit: 2.3 ms | Miss: 10.6 ms

Concurrent inferences

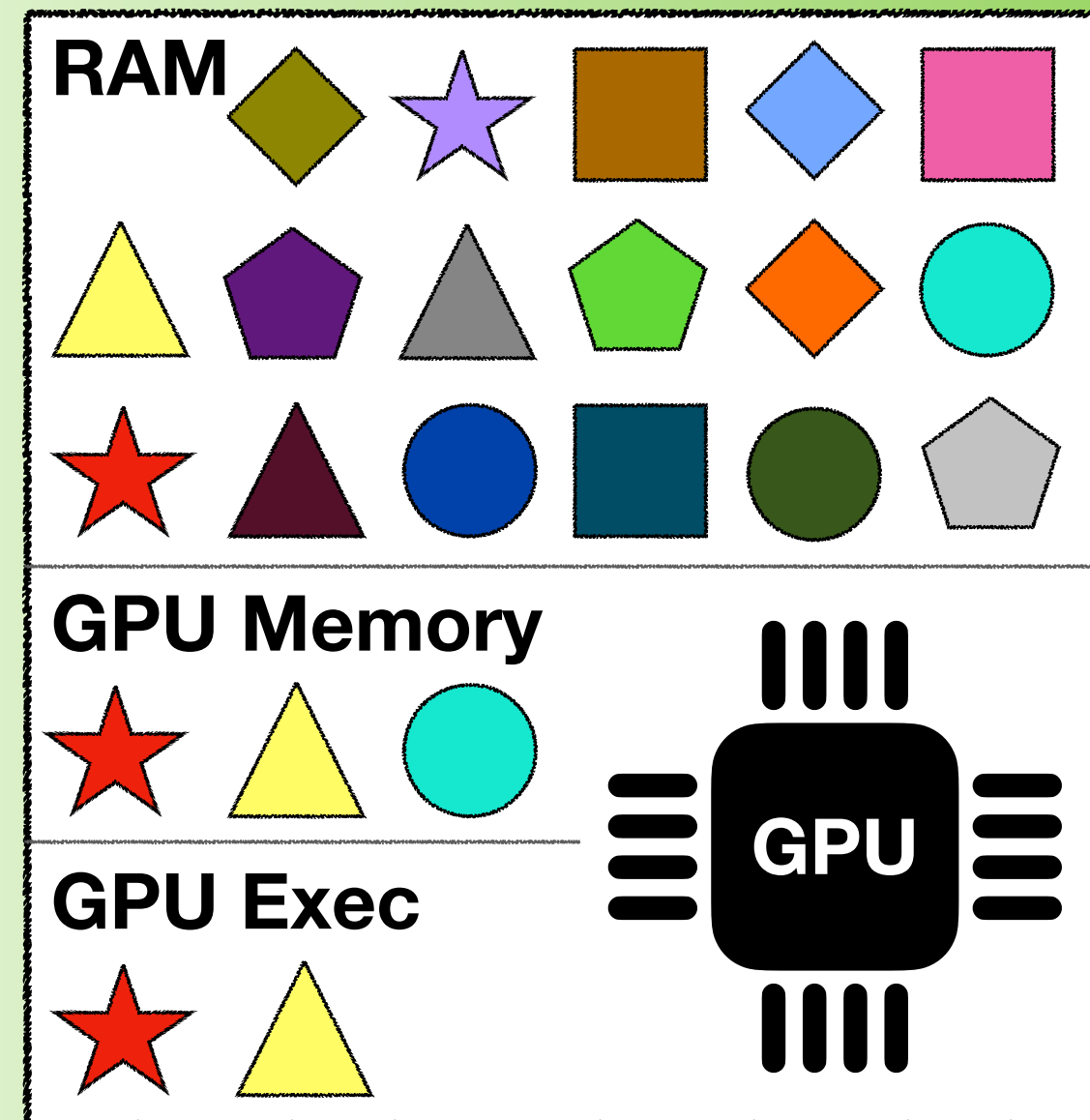
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# Designing a Predictable Worker (2/2)

Predictable Clockwork  
worker process

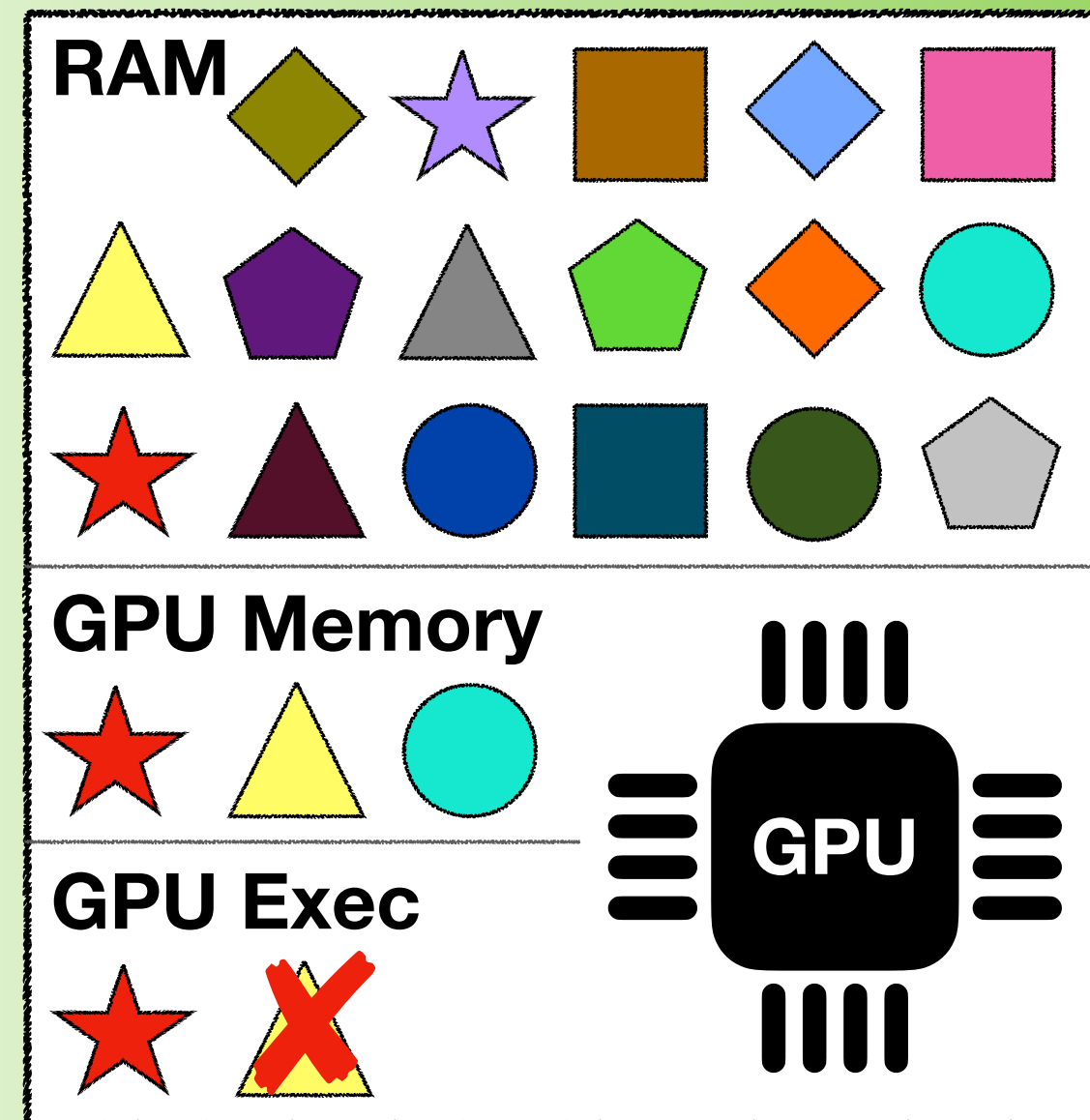


Worker Node



# Designing a Predictable Worker (2/2)

Predictable Clockwork  
worker process



Worker Node

Concurrent inferences

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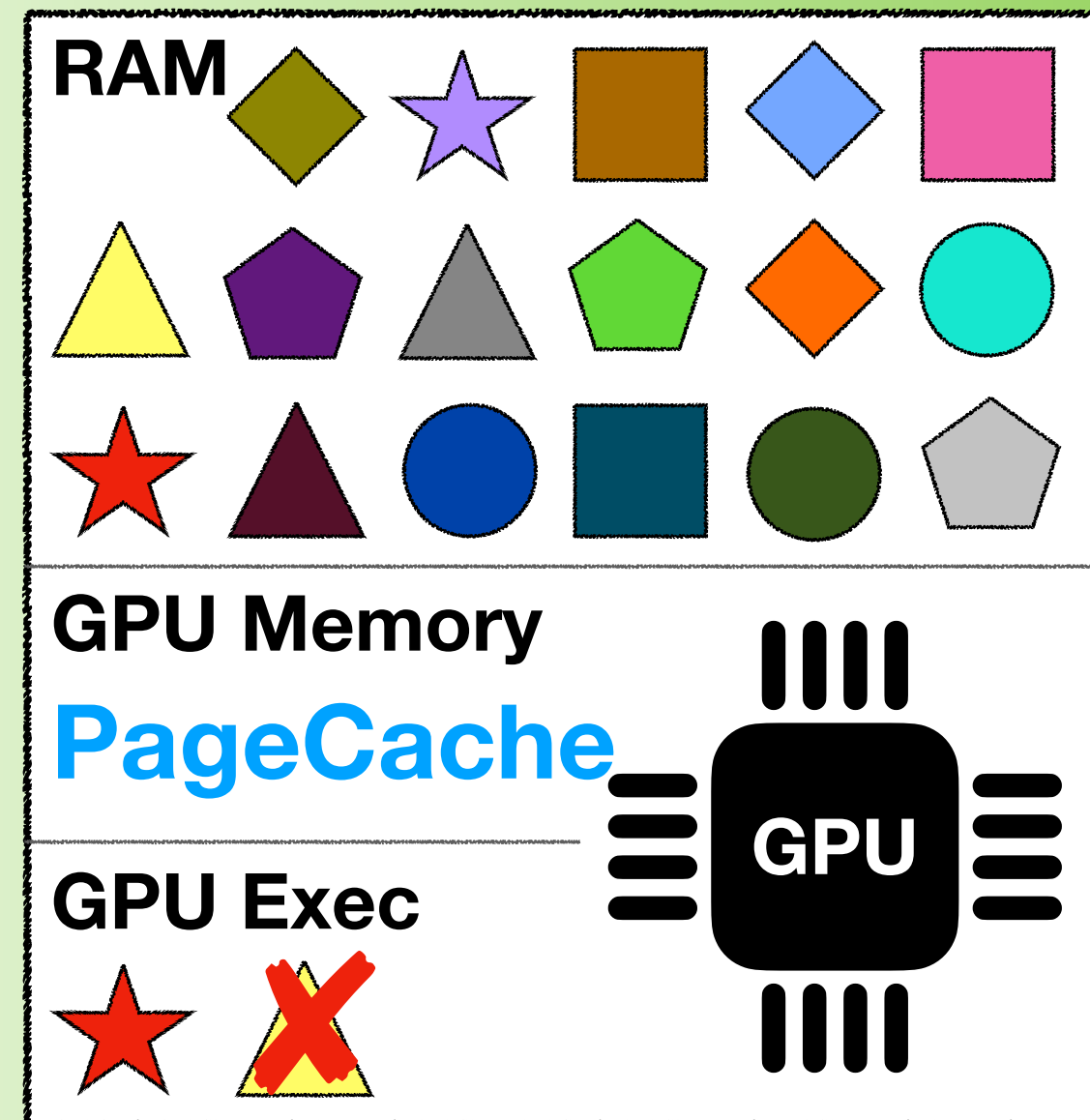
➡ Unpredictable  
response times

Solution

Execute inference  
one at a time

# Designing a Predictable Worker (2/2)

Predictable Clockwork  
worker process



Worker Node

Managed memory  
can be unpredictable

Solution

Preallocate GPU memory &  
manage it explicitly using  
LOAD/UNLOAD actions

Concurrent inferences

+ Proprietary &  
undocumented policies

→ Unpredictable  
response times

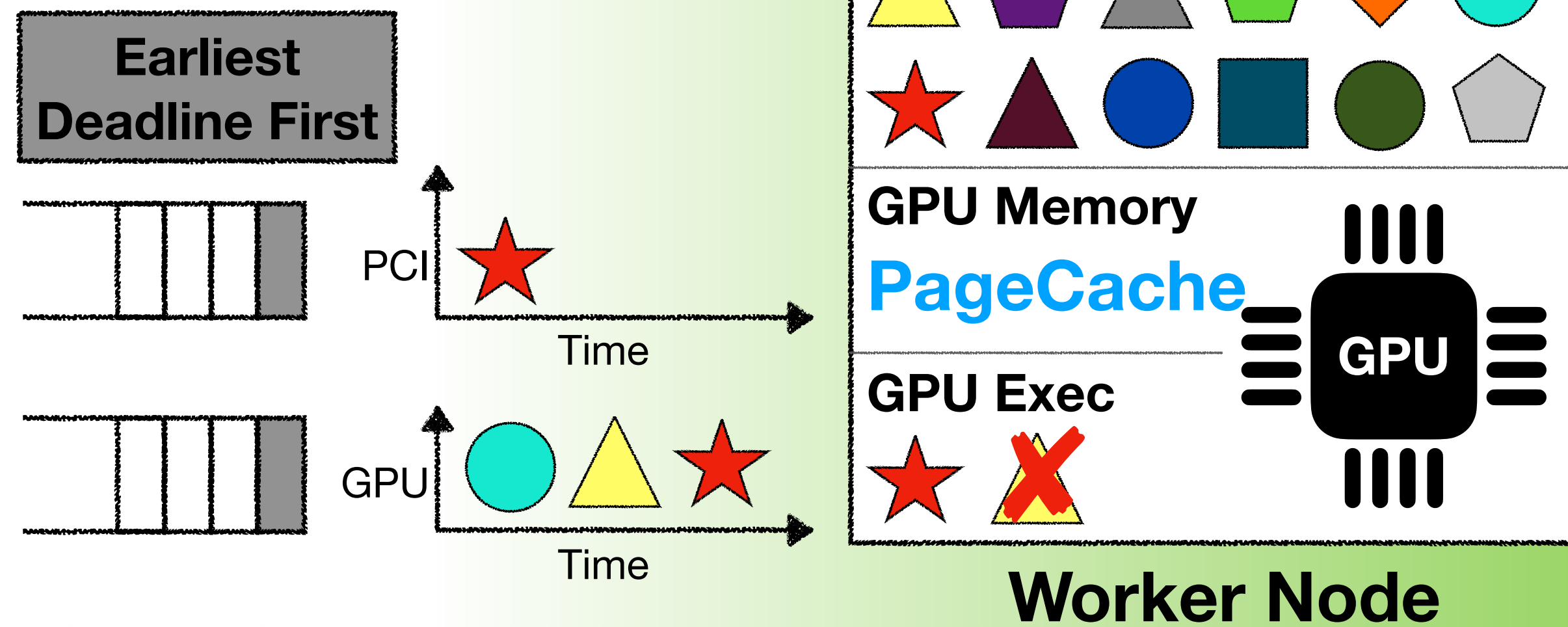
Solution

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# Designing a Predictable Worker (2/2)

## Predictable Clockwork worker process



**Managed memory  
can be unpredictable**

### Solution

**Preallocate GPU memory &  
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LOAD/UNLOAD actions**

## Concurrent inferences

**+** Proprietary &  
undocumented policies

**→** Unpredictable  
response times

### Solution

**Execute inference  
one at a time**

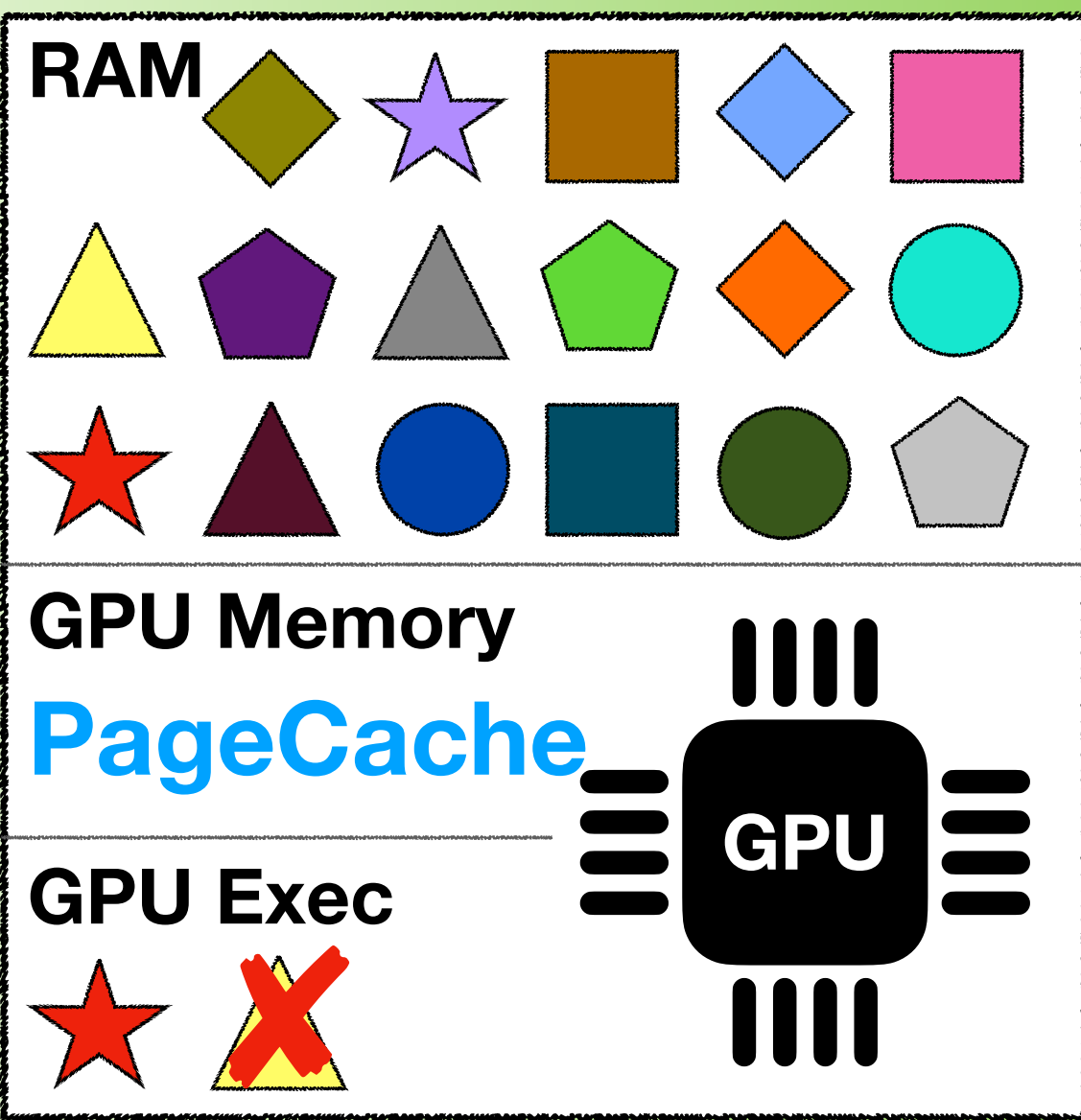
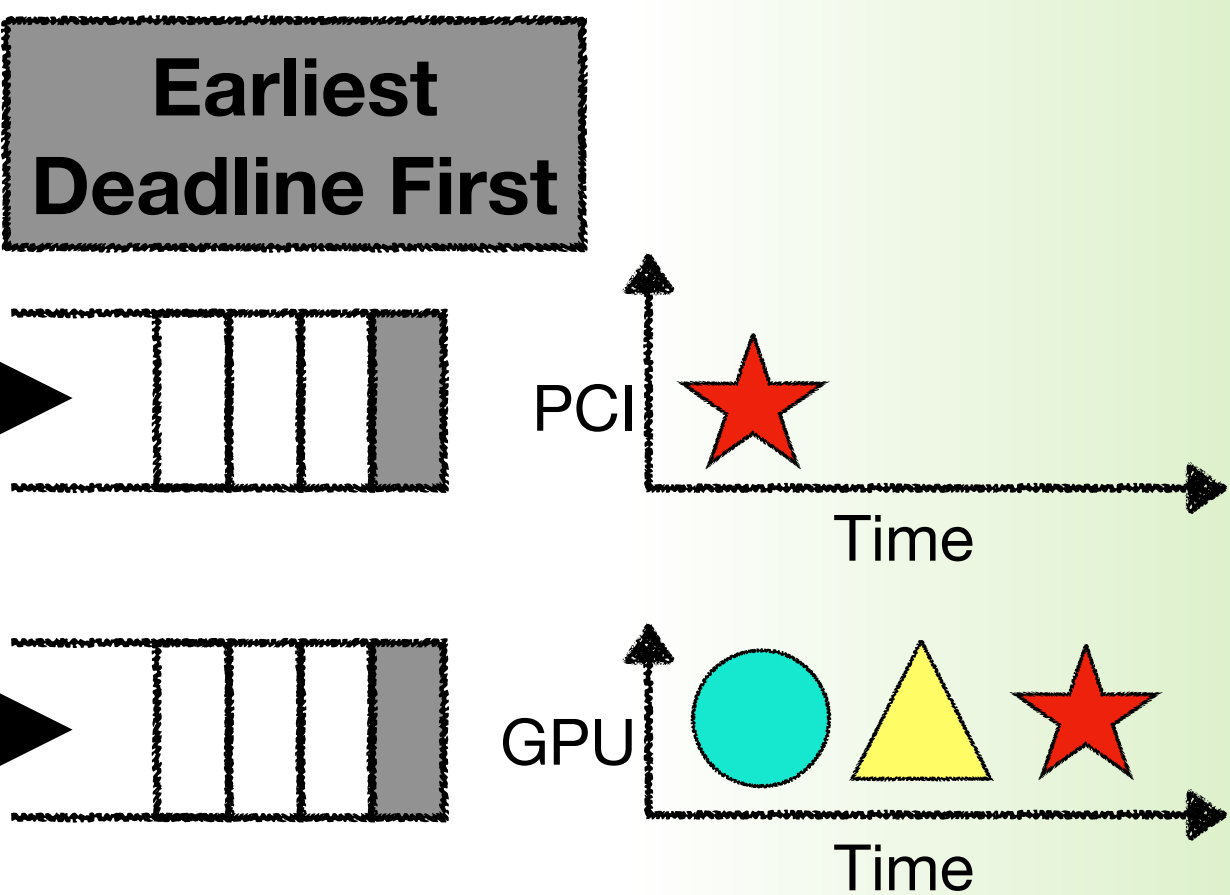
# Designing a Predictable Worker (2/2)

Choices outsourced  
via action APIs

Predictable Clockwork  
worker process

LOAD/UNLOAD (◆, Deadline)

INFER (★, I/P, Deadline)



Worker Node

Managed memory  
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Solution

Preallocate GPU memory &  
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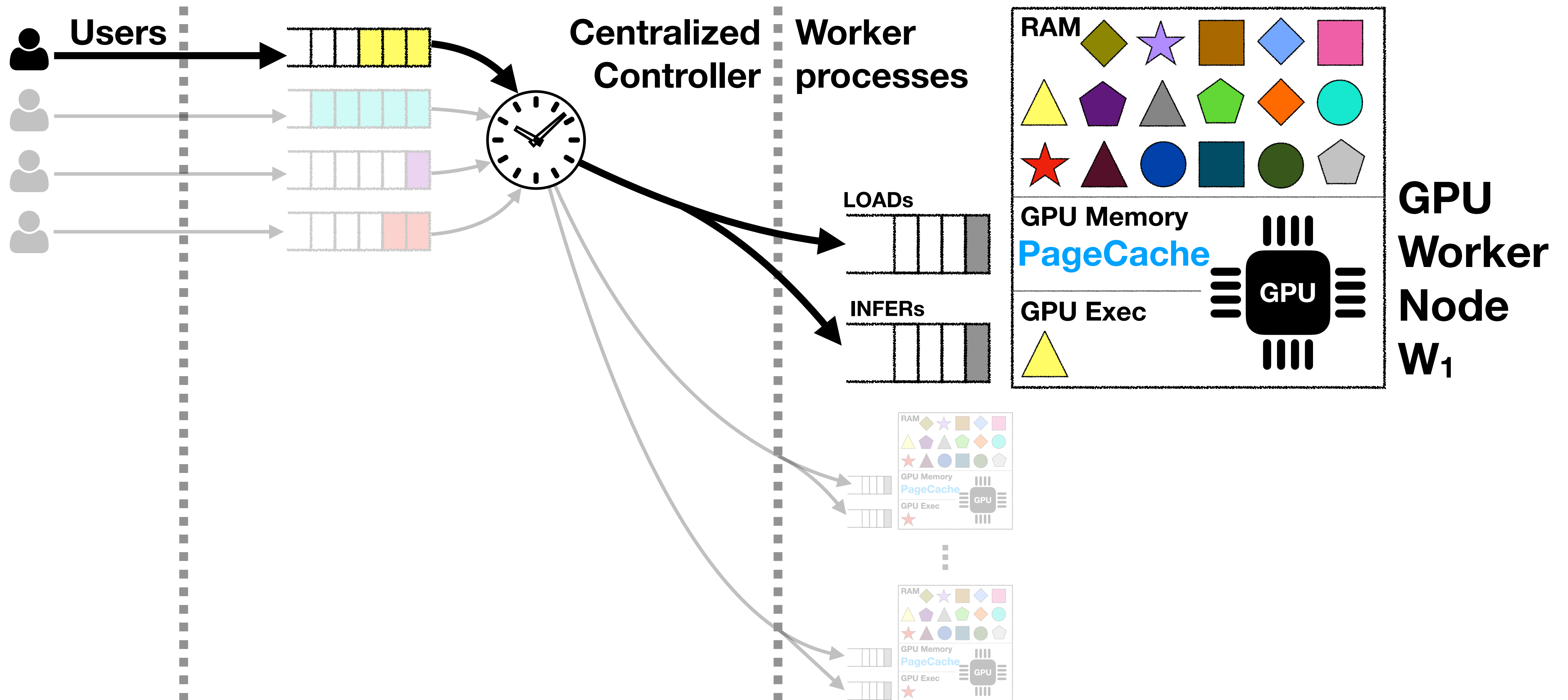
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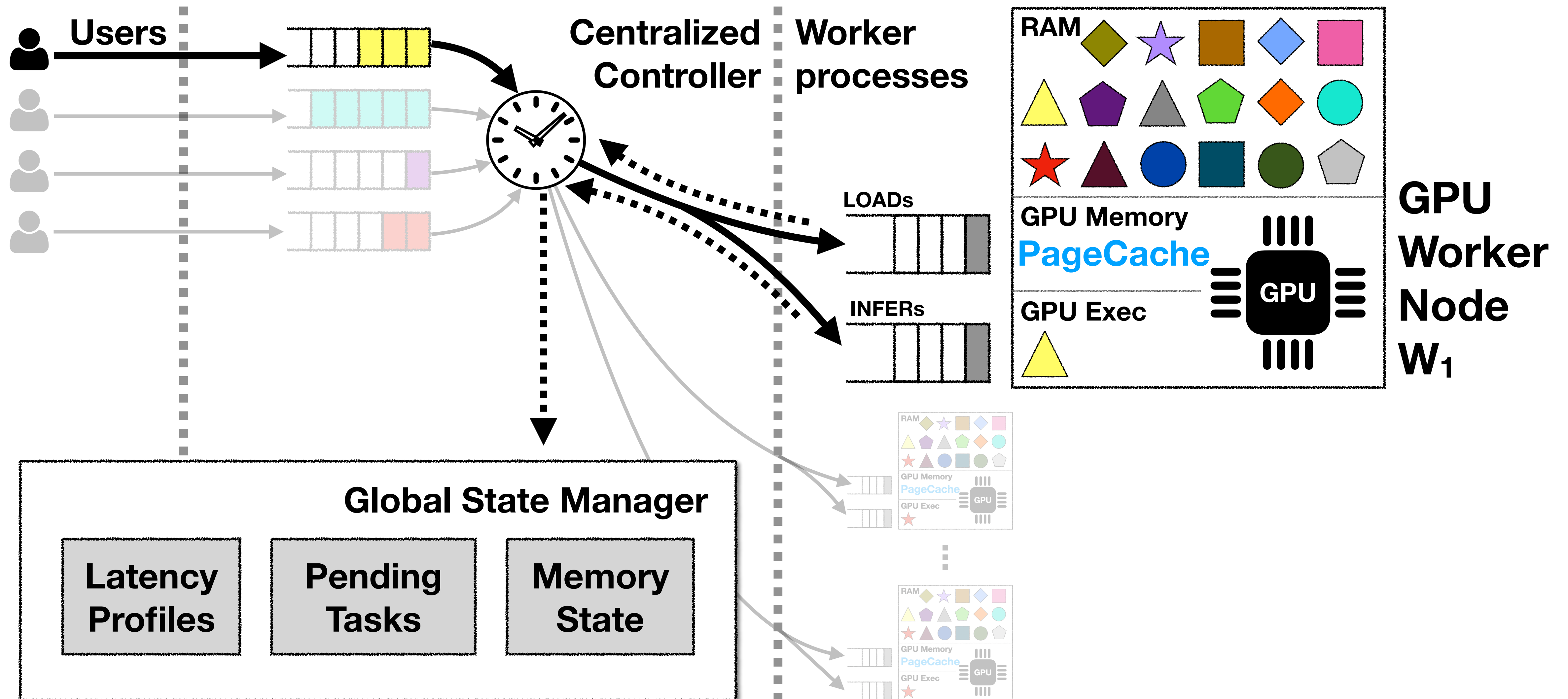
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# Consolidating Choices

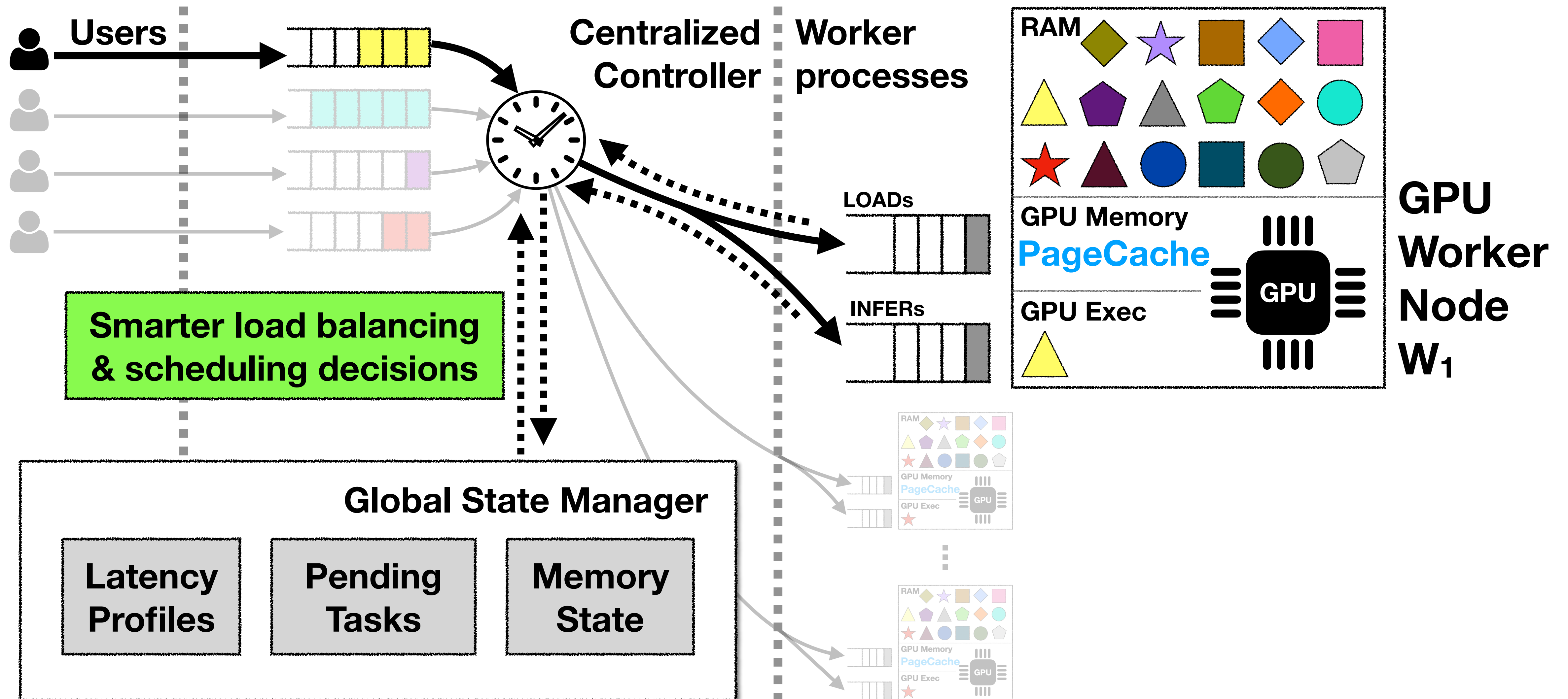


# Consolidating Choices

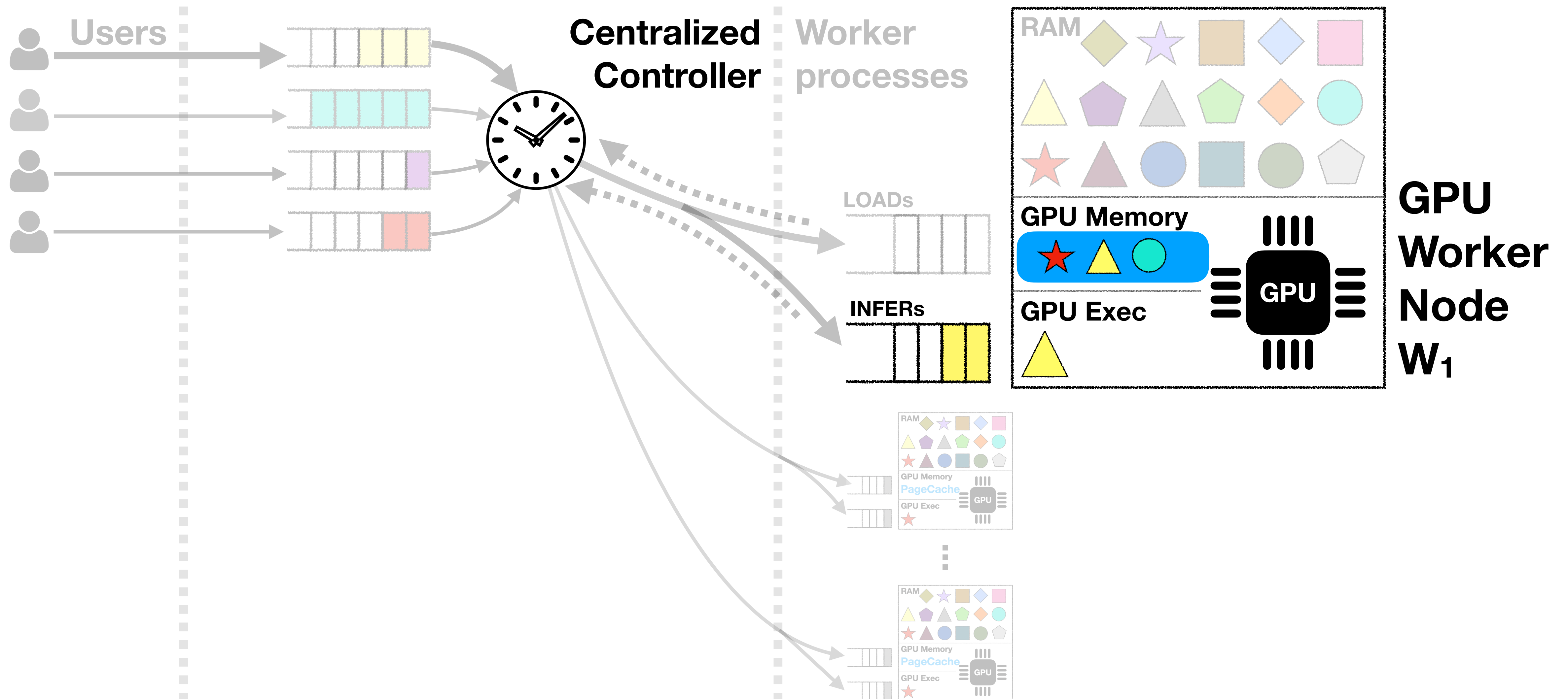




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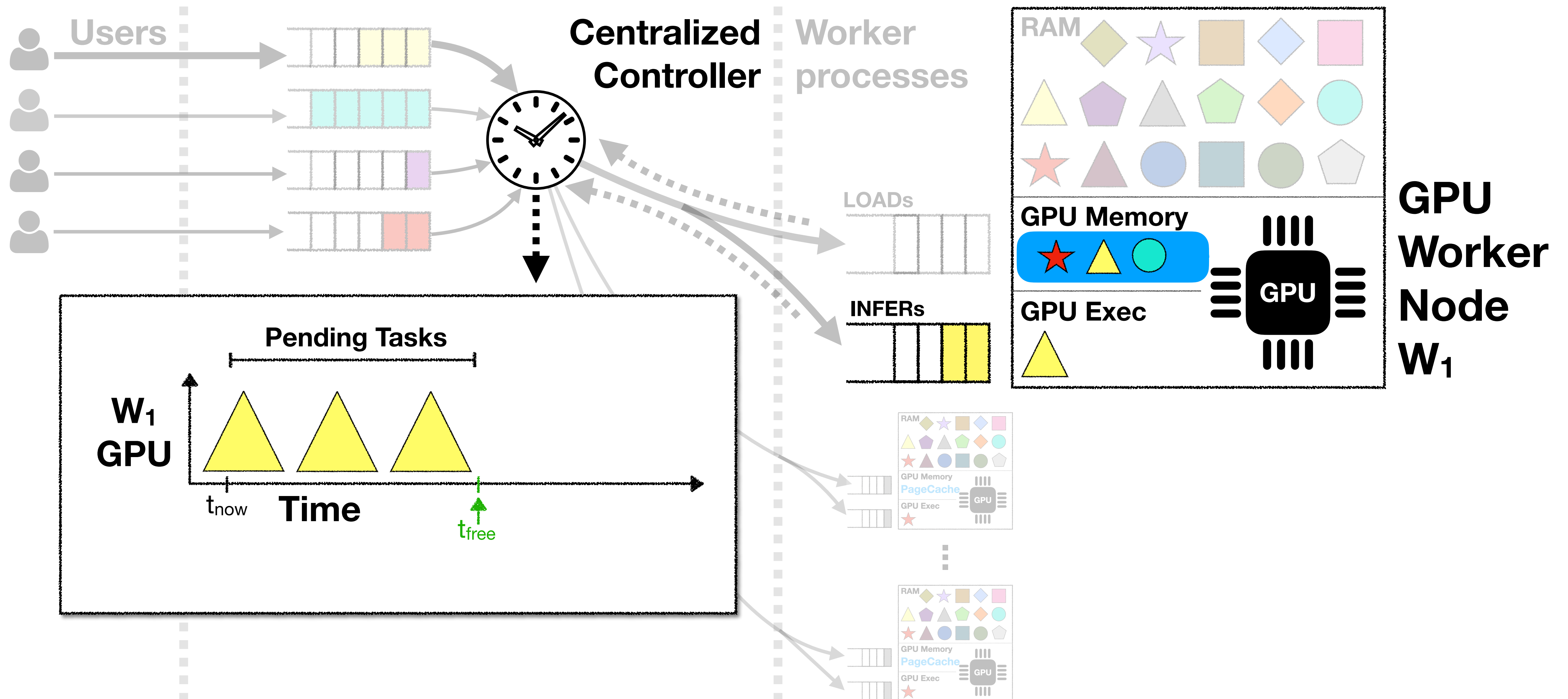


# SLO-aware Scheduling

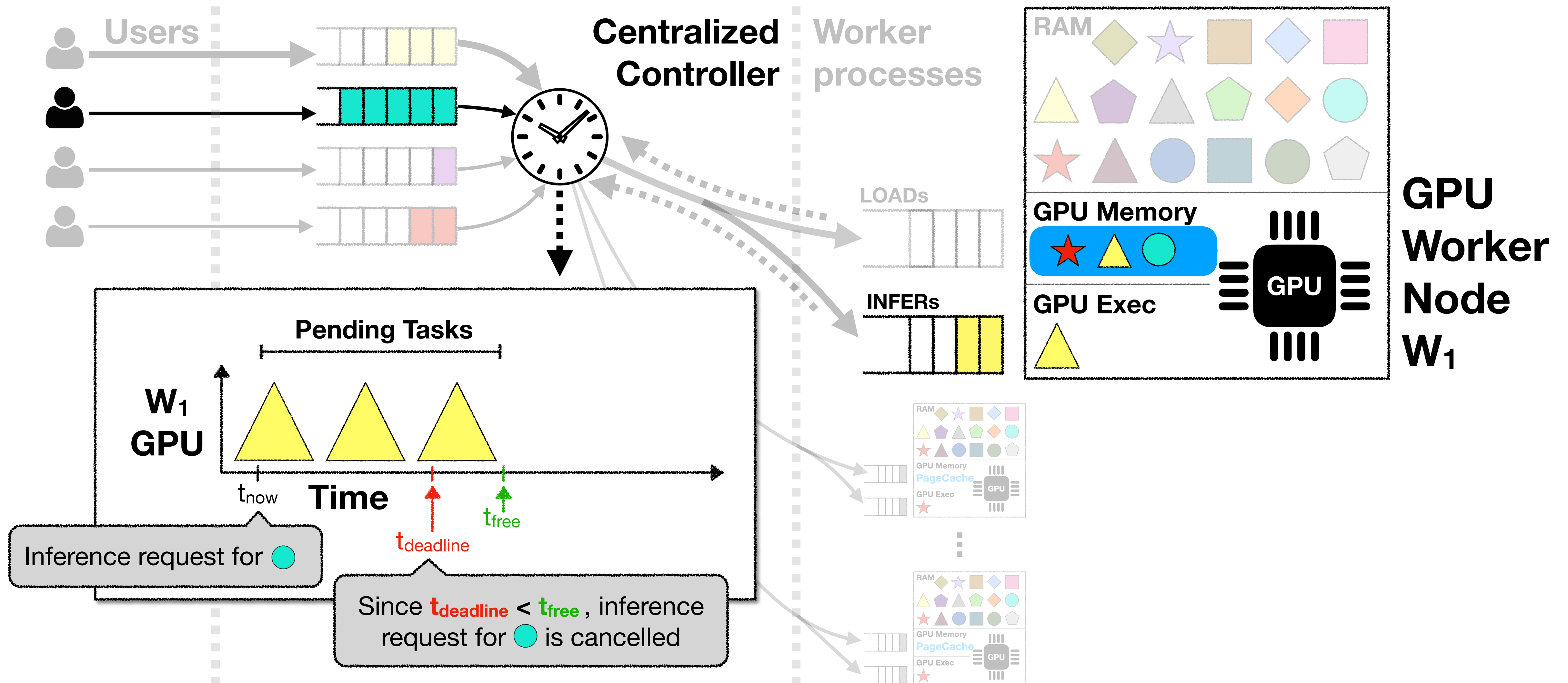




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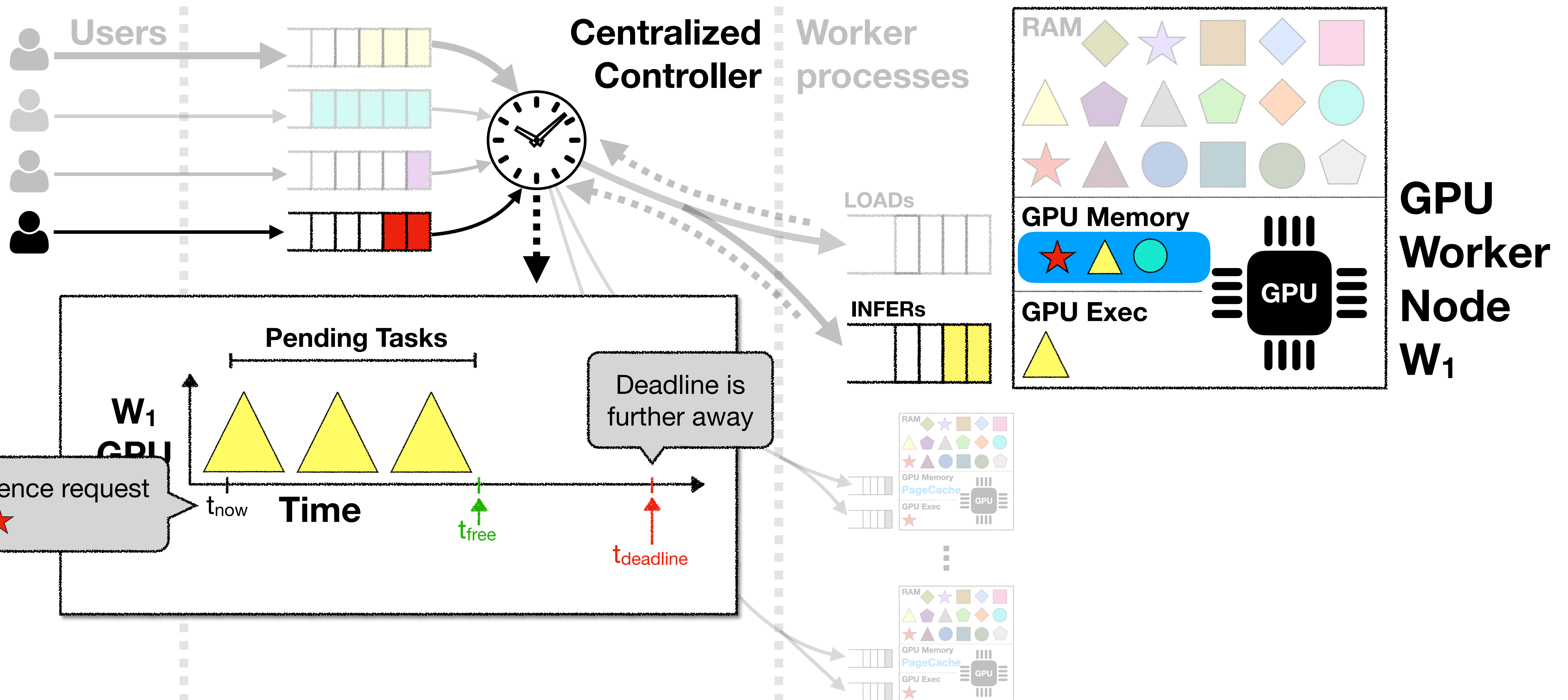


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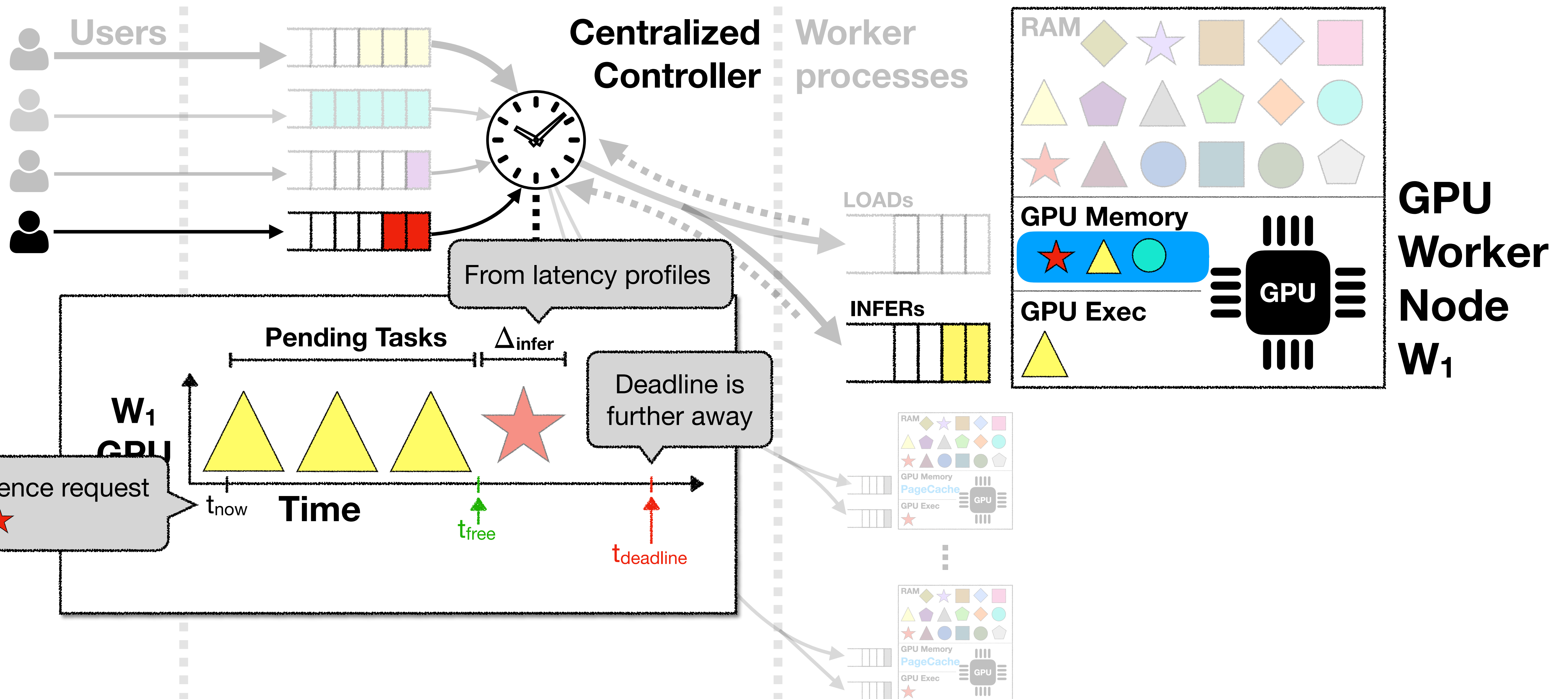




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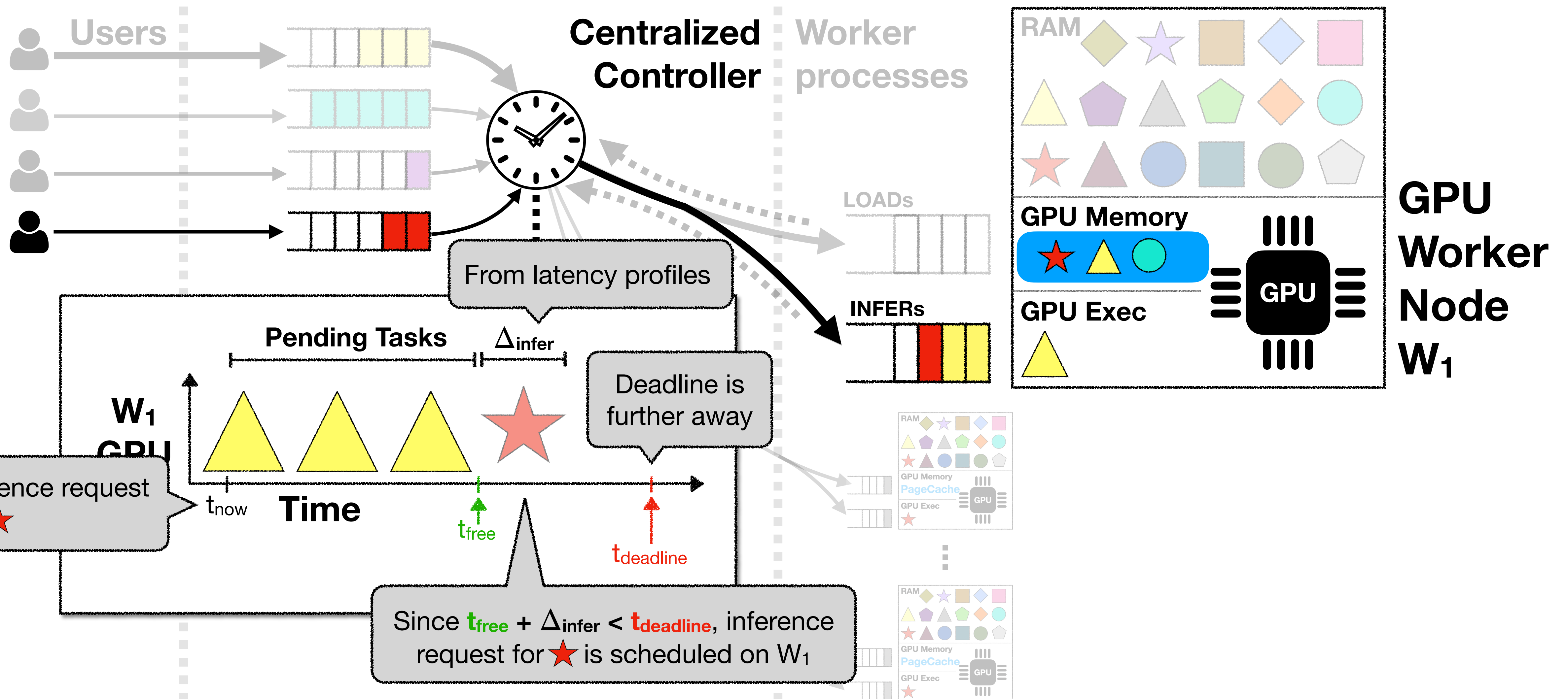


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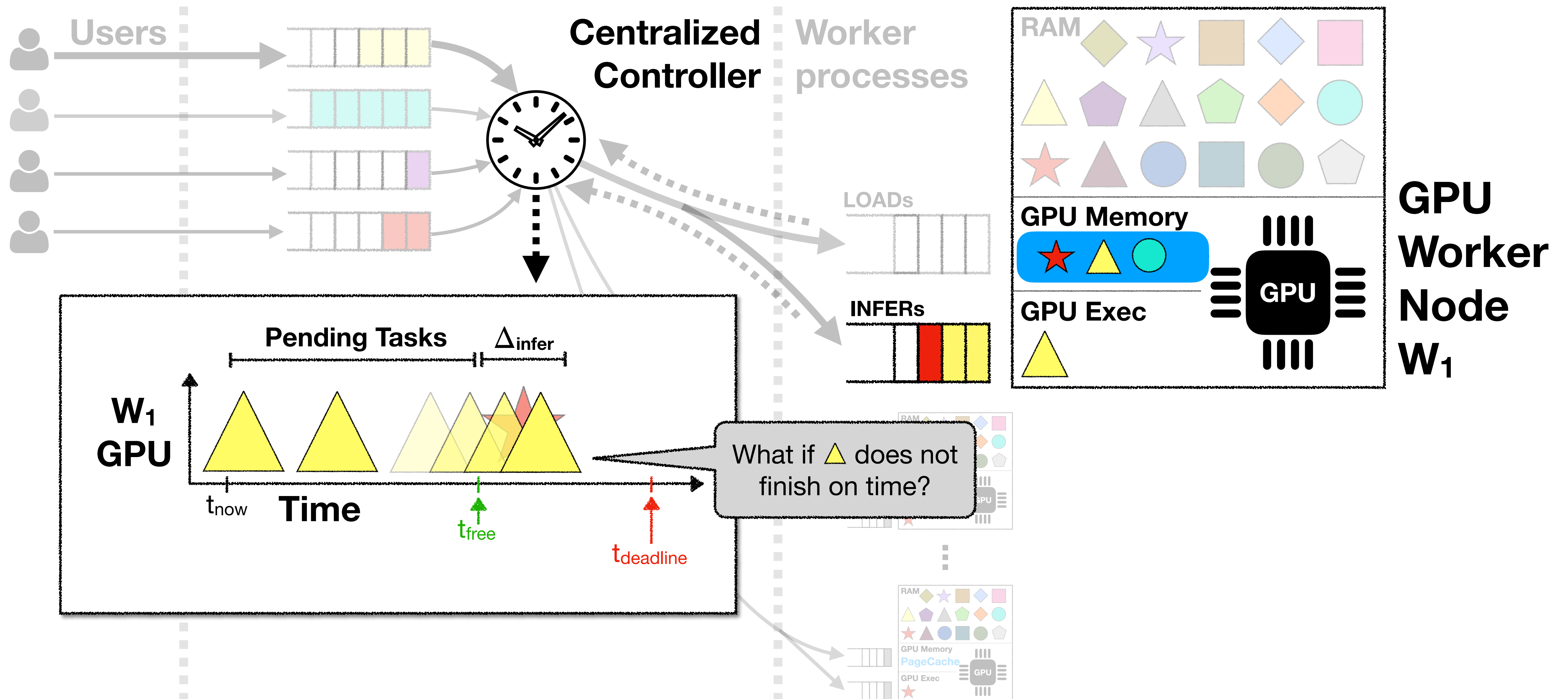




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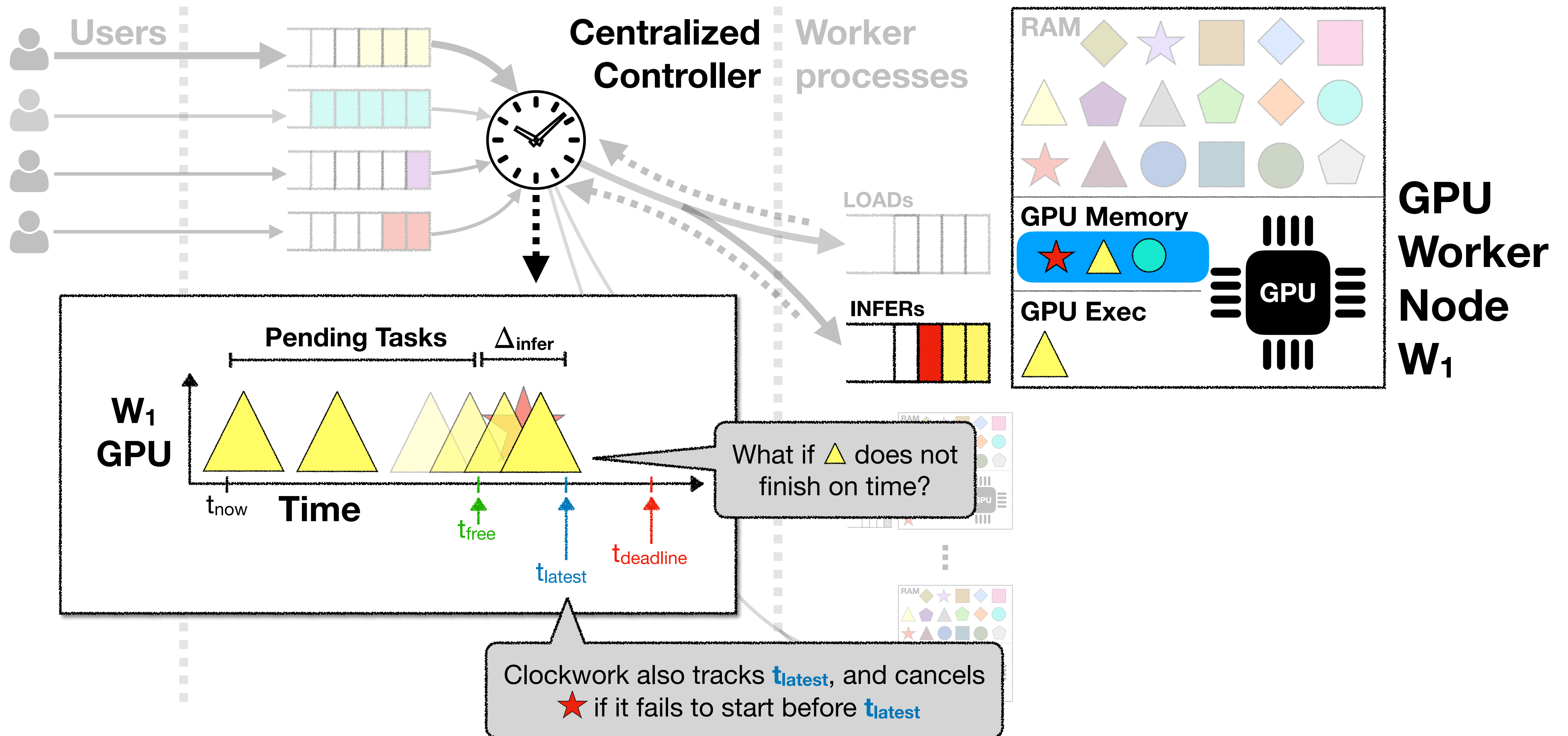


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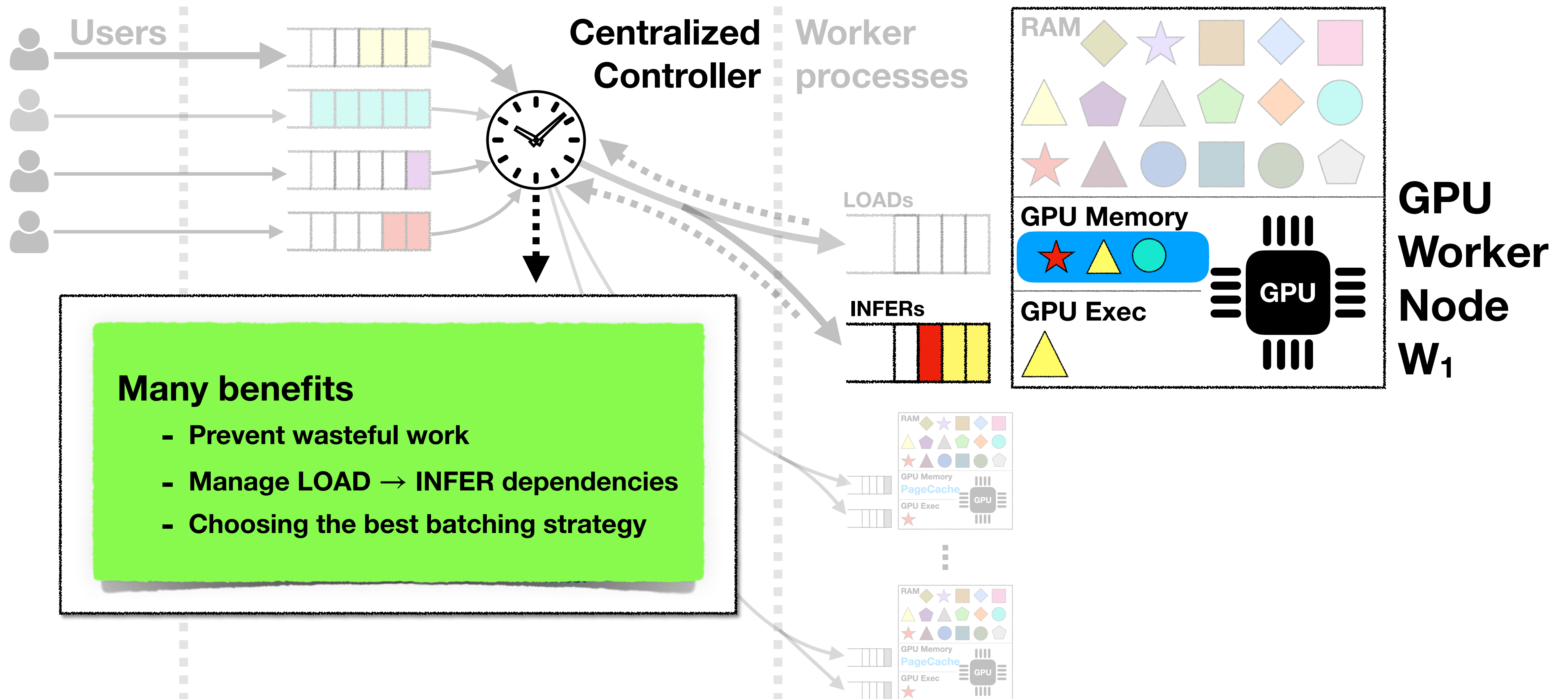




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# Evaluation

# Questions



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**This talk**



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# Experiment Setup

**12 Workers: NVIDIA Tesla v100 GPU | 32 GB GPU Memory**

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**1 Controller**

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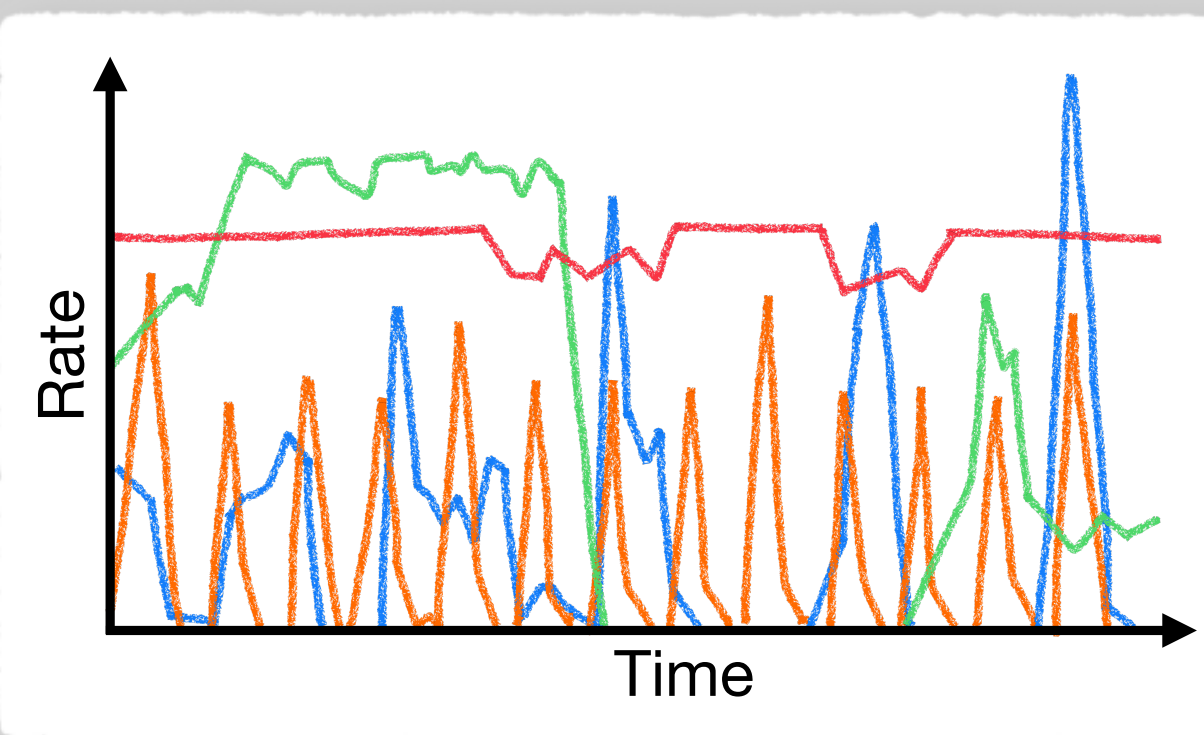
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46,000 functions, 2 weeks

- Heavy sustained workloads
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## Workload

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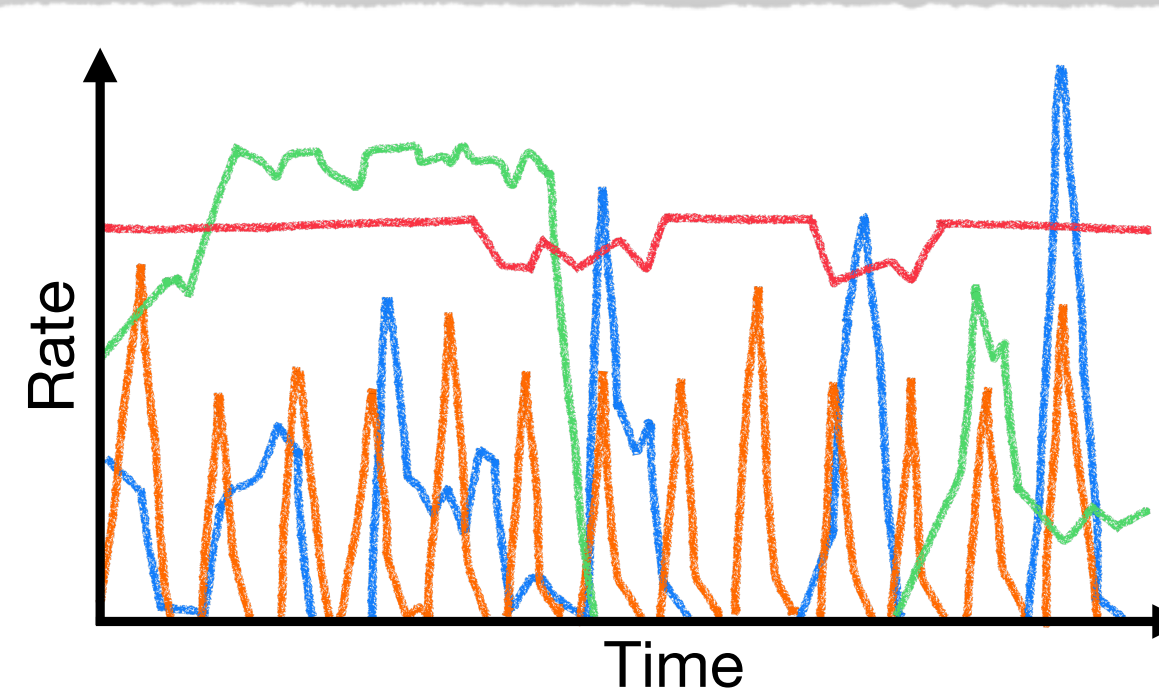
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4026 model instances

- Saturates 768 GB RAM
- 61 different model architectures
- ResNet, DenseNet, Inception, etc.

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## Workload



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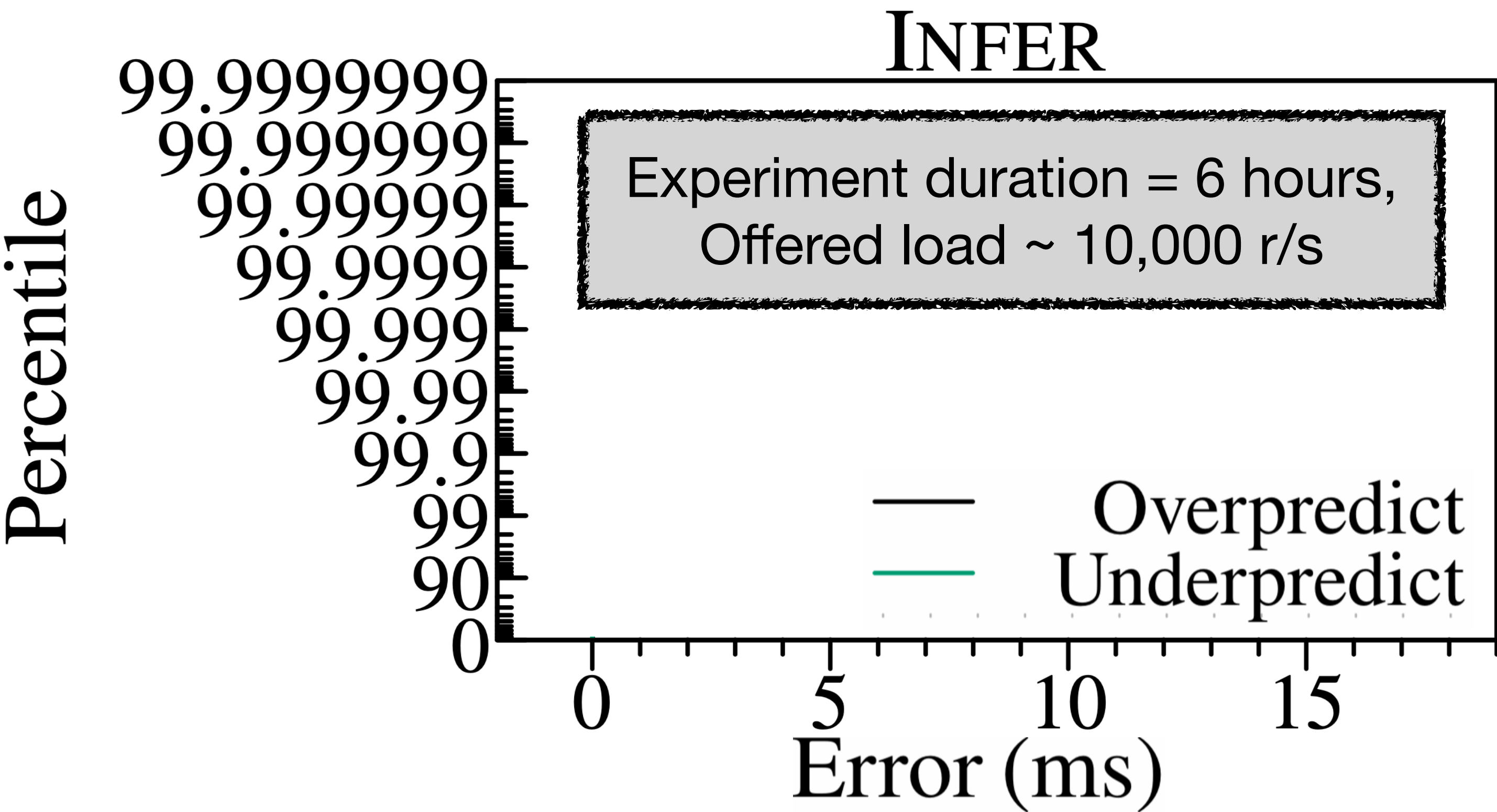
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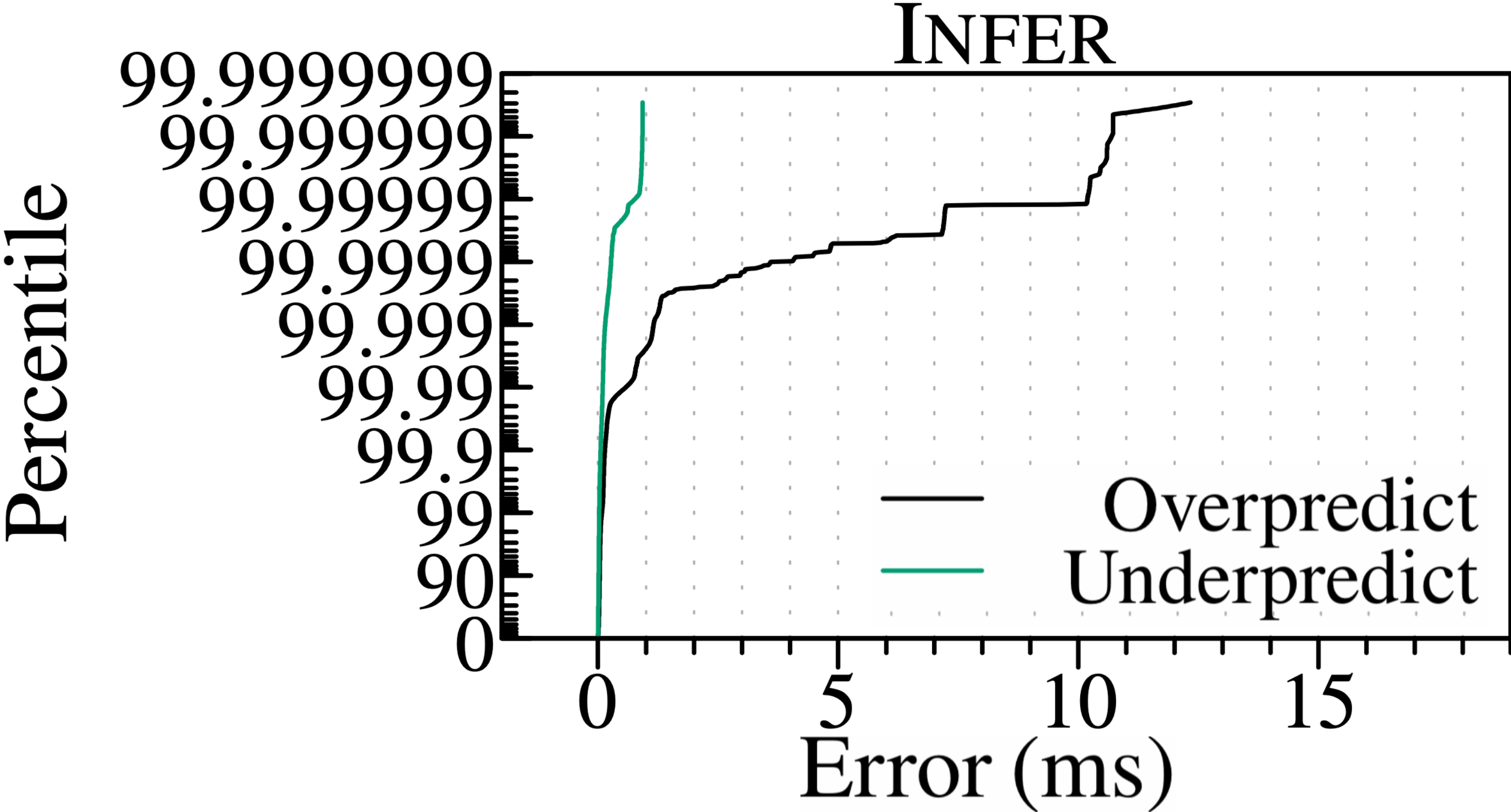
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Clockwork consistently overpredicts more than its underpredicts

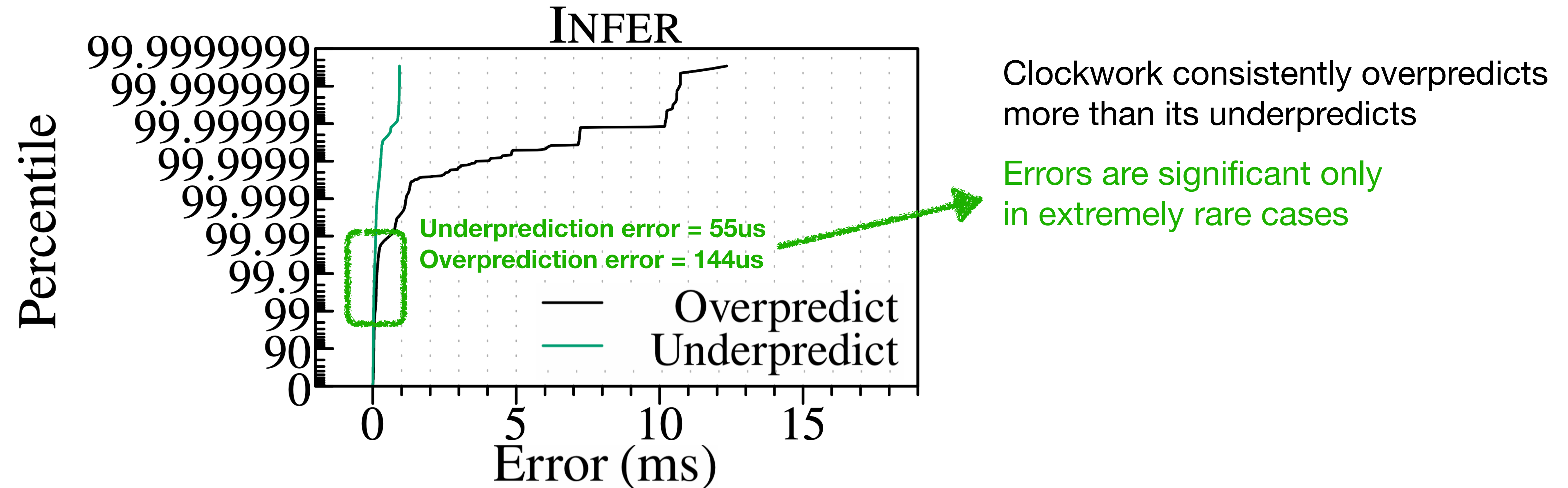


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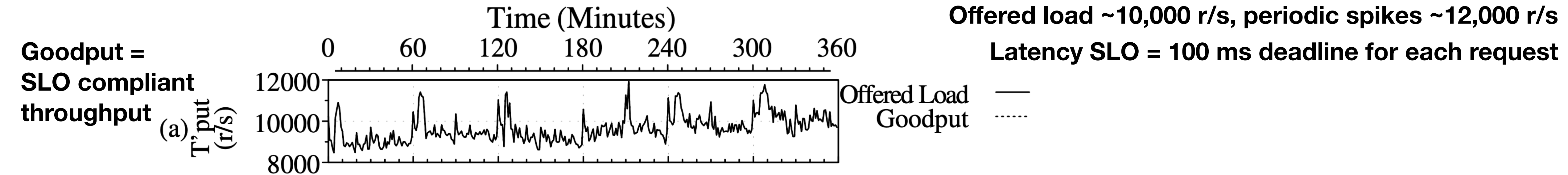
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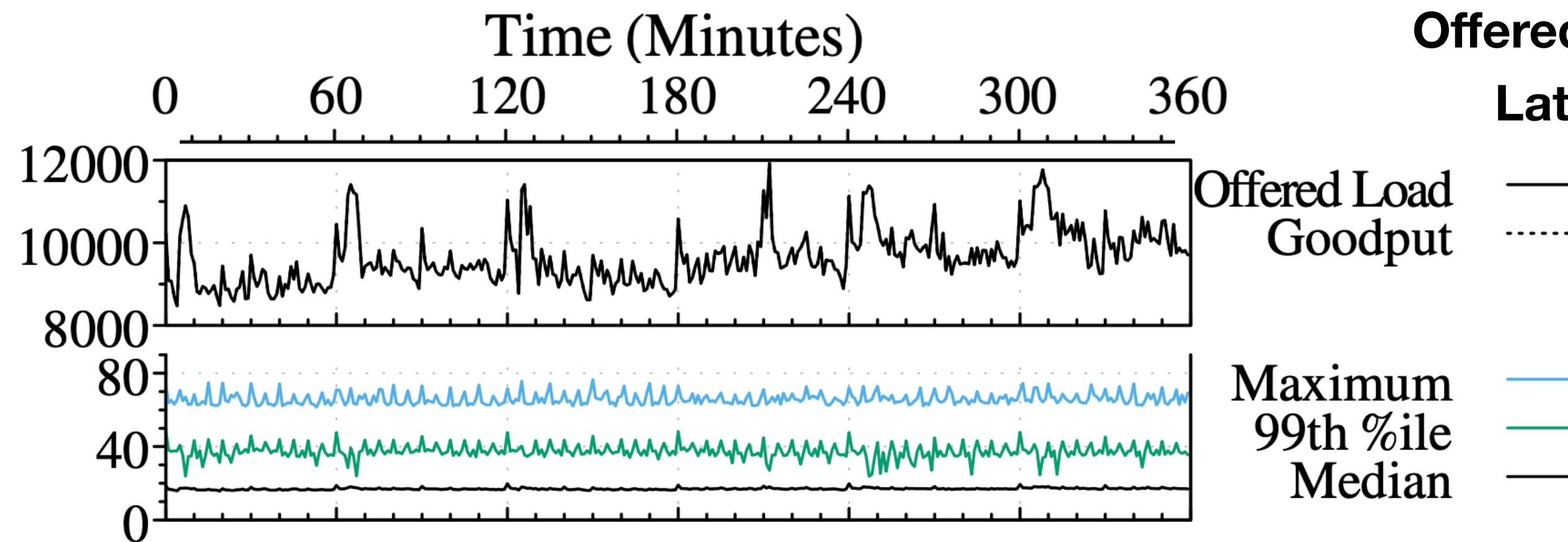
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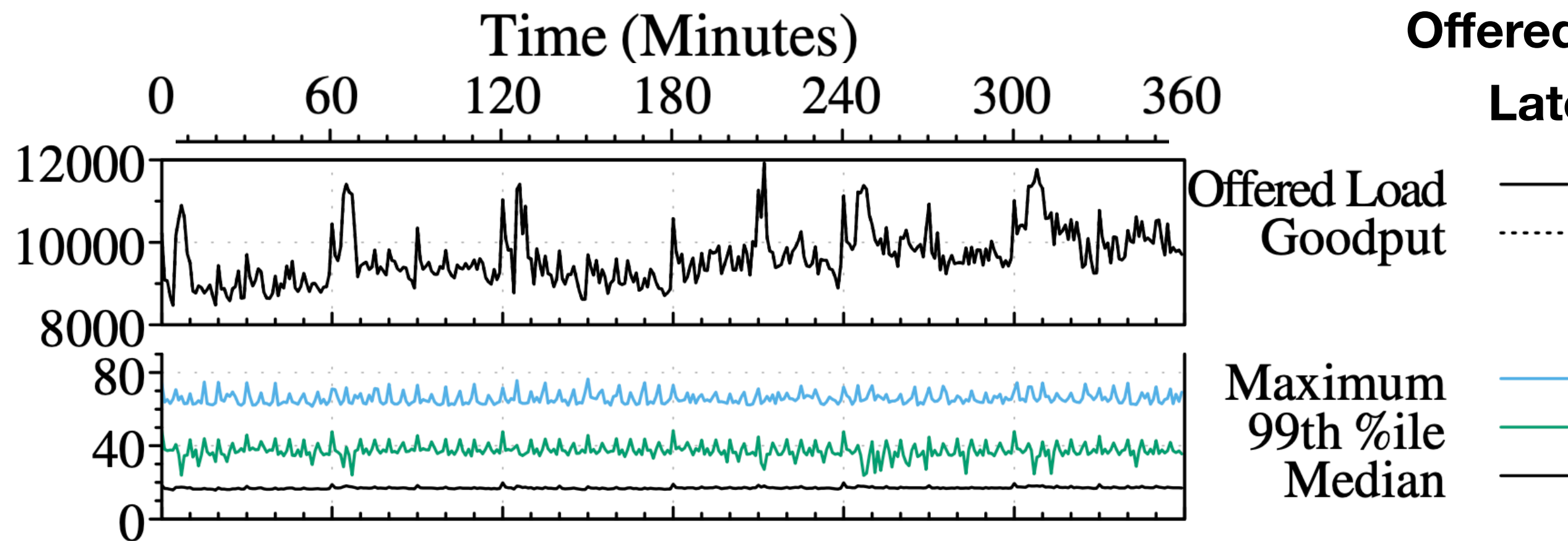
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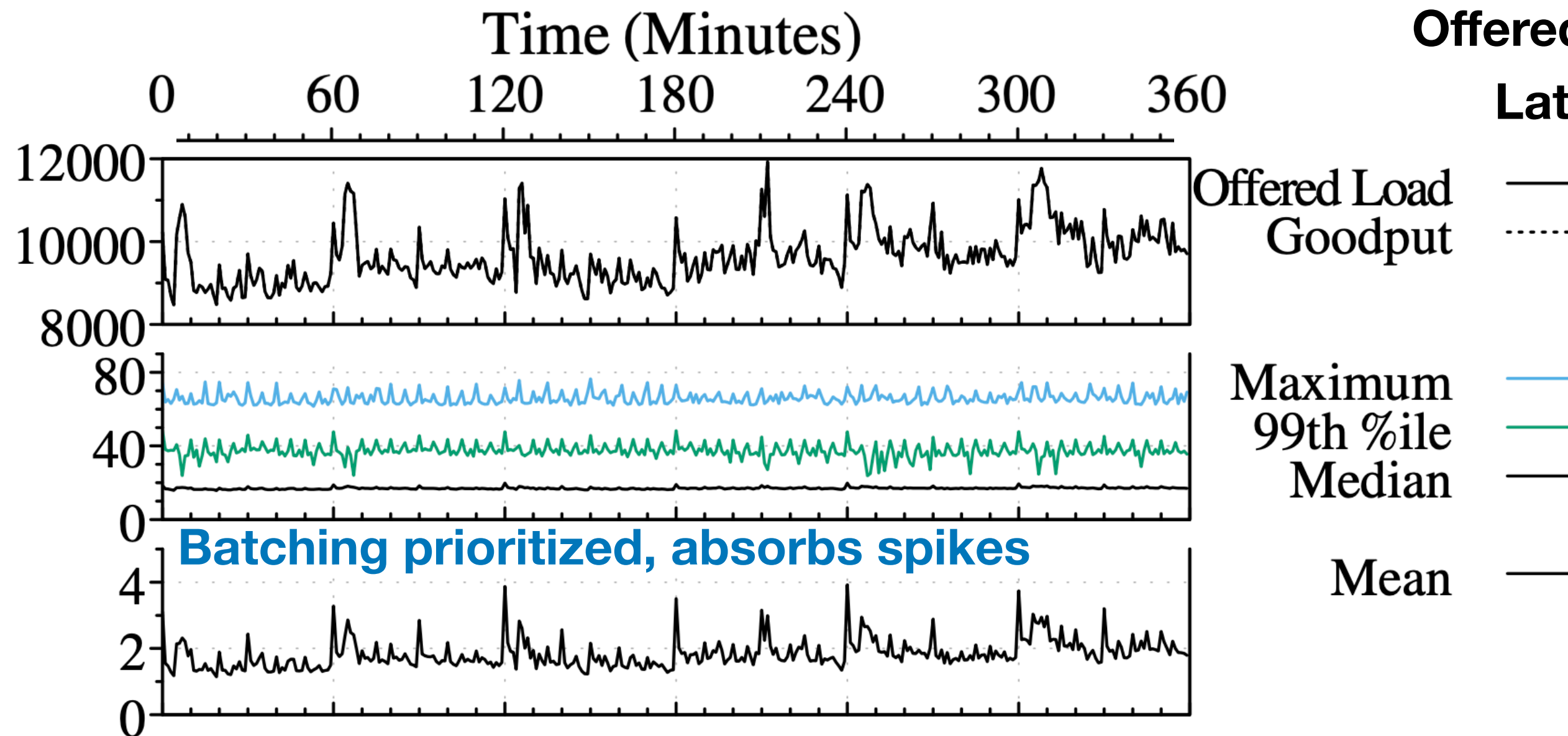
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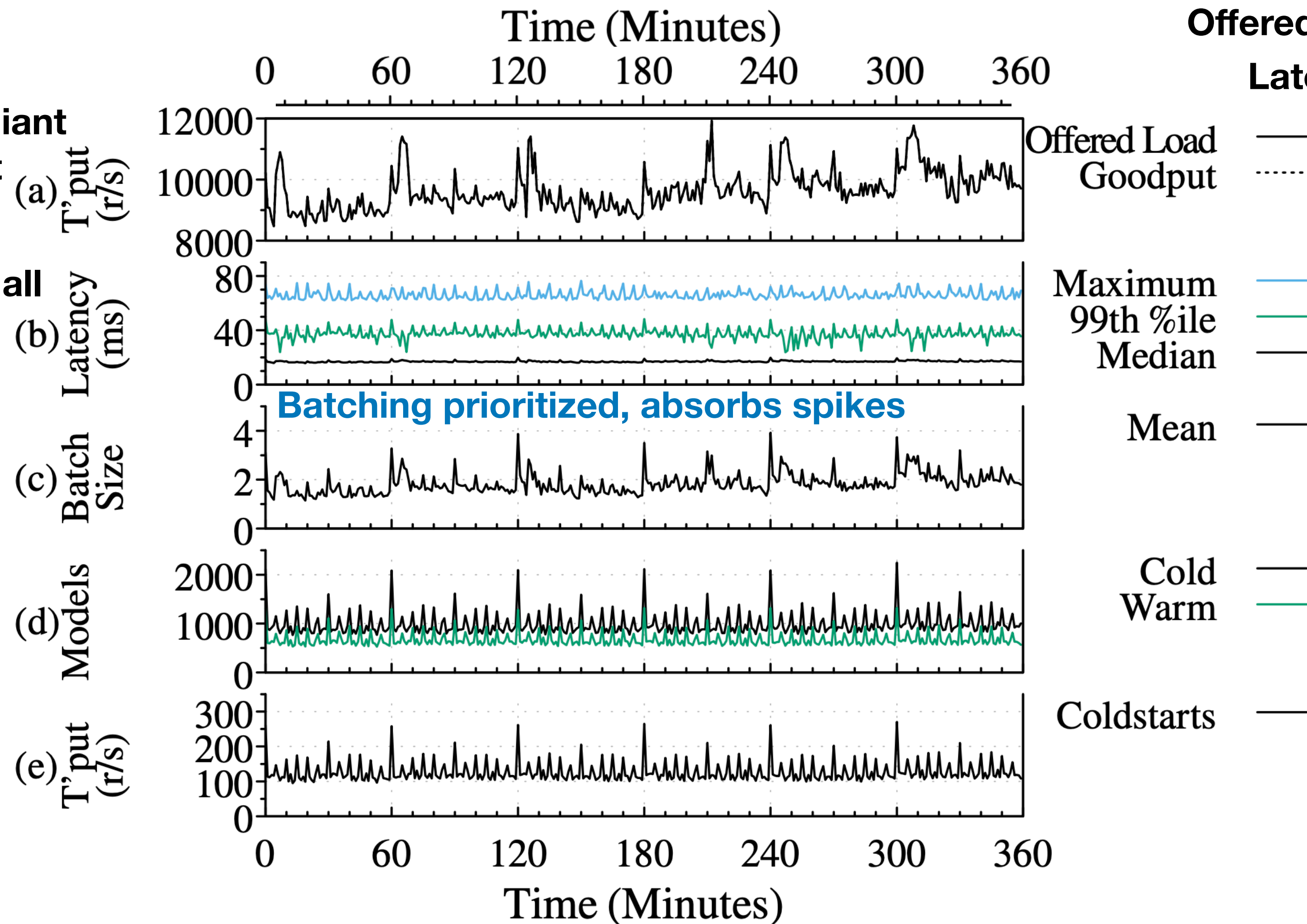
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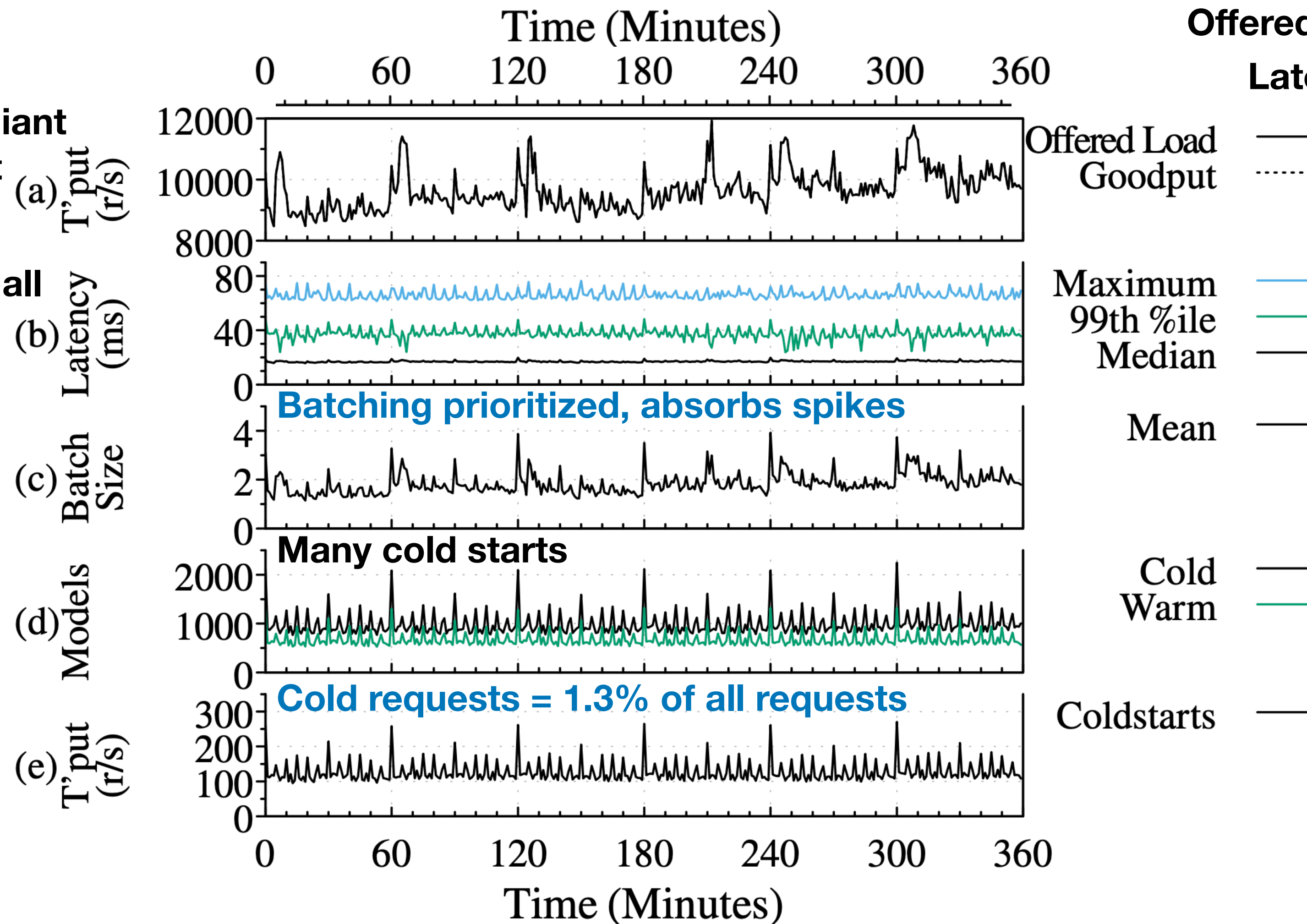
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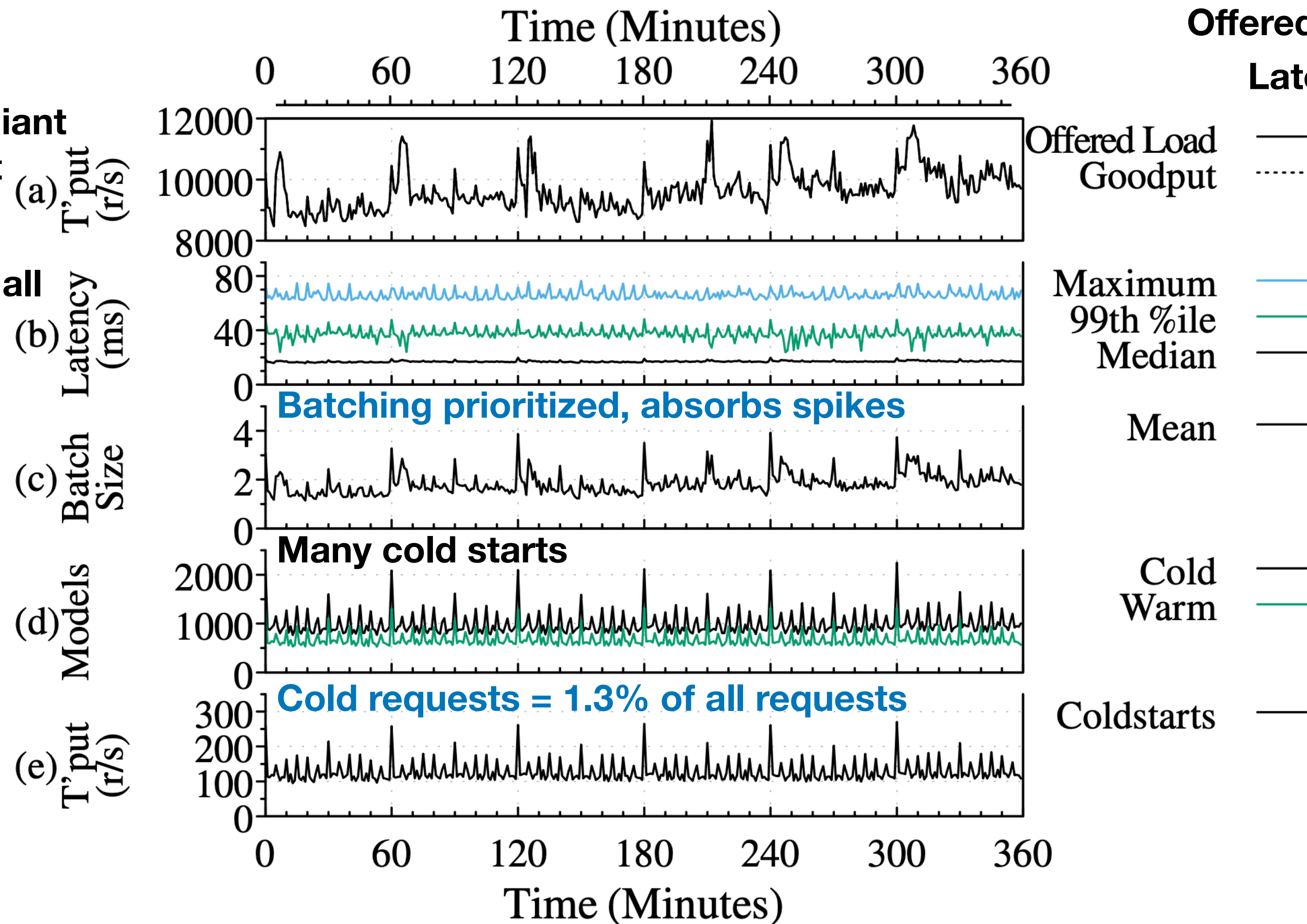
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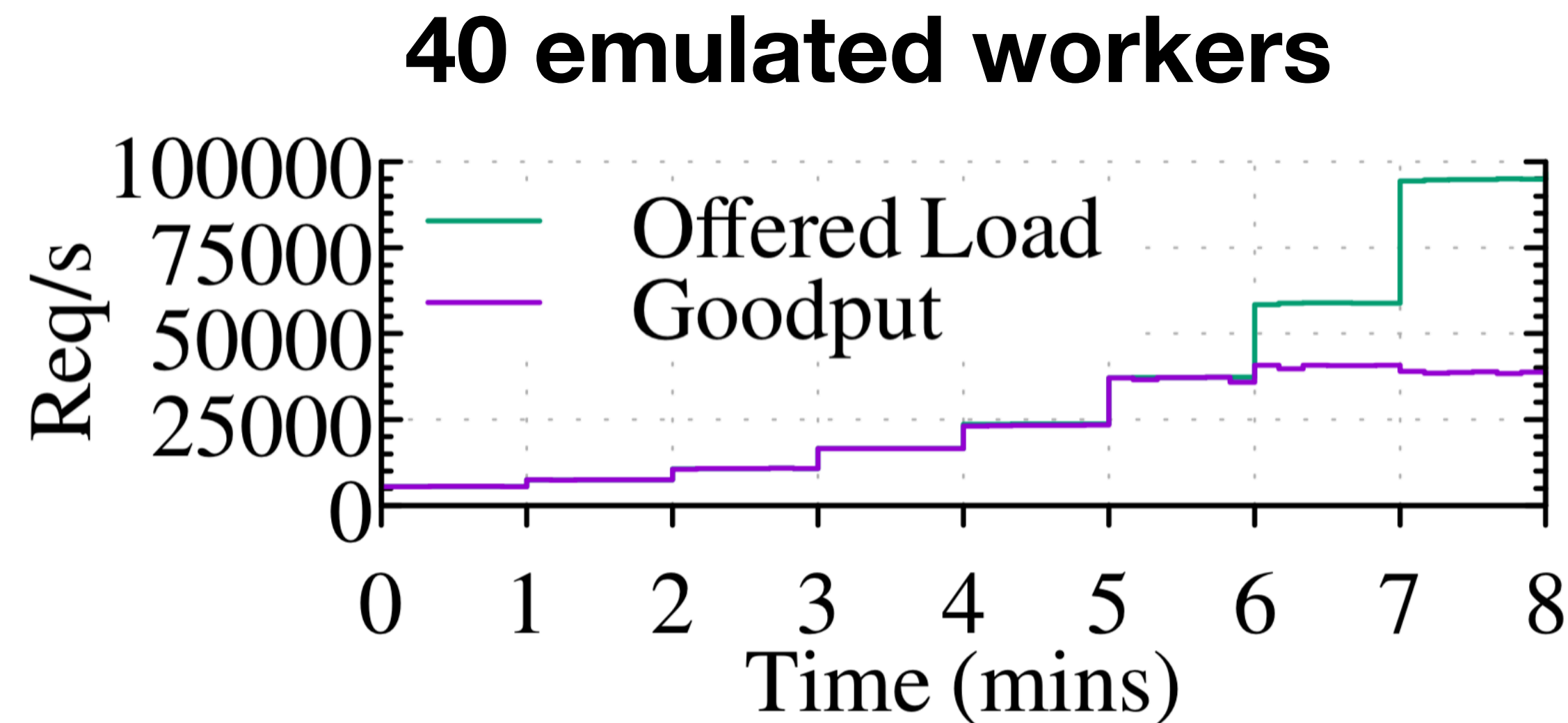


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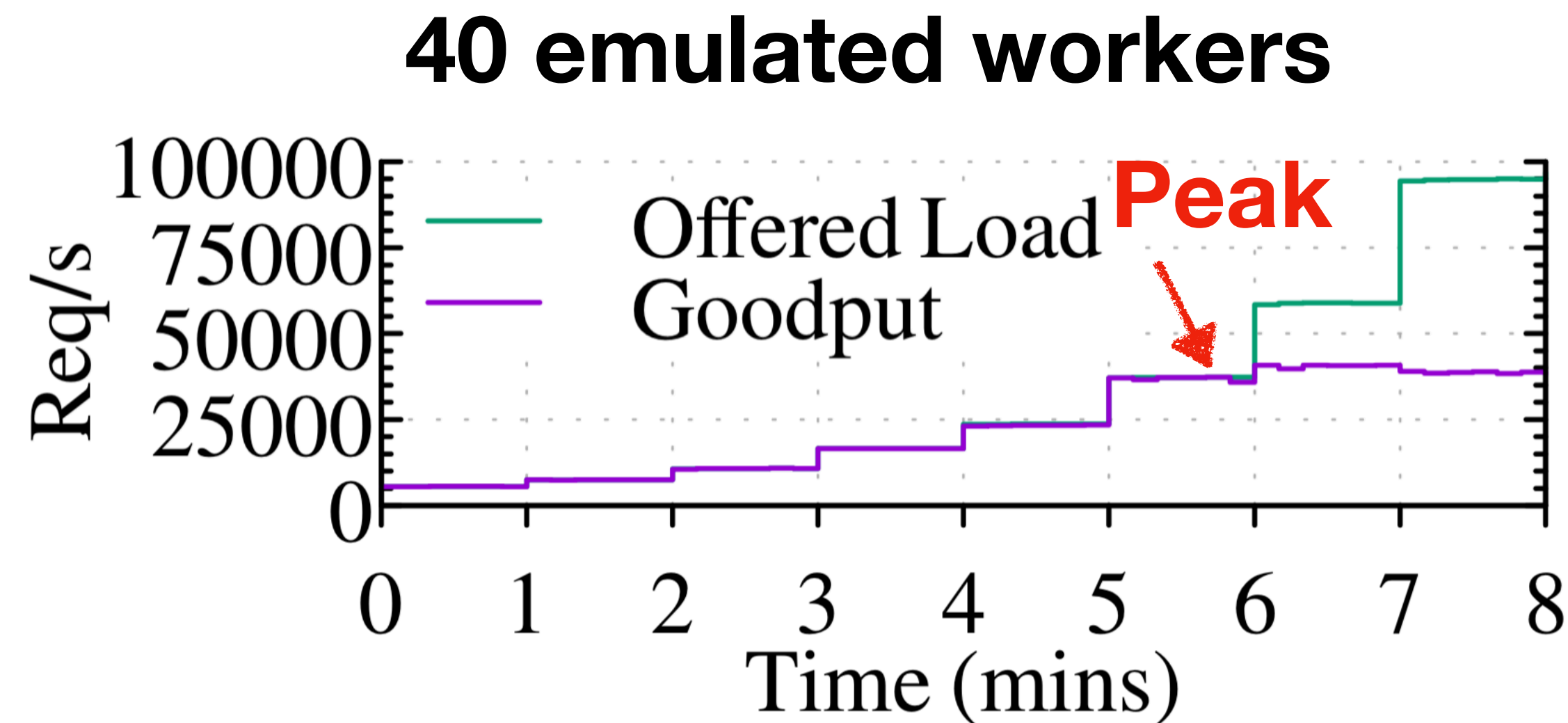


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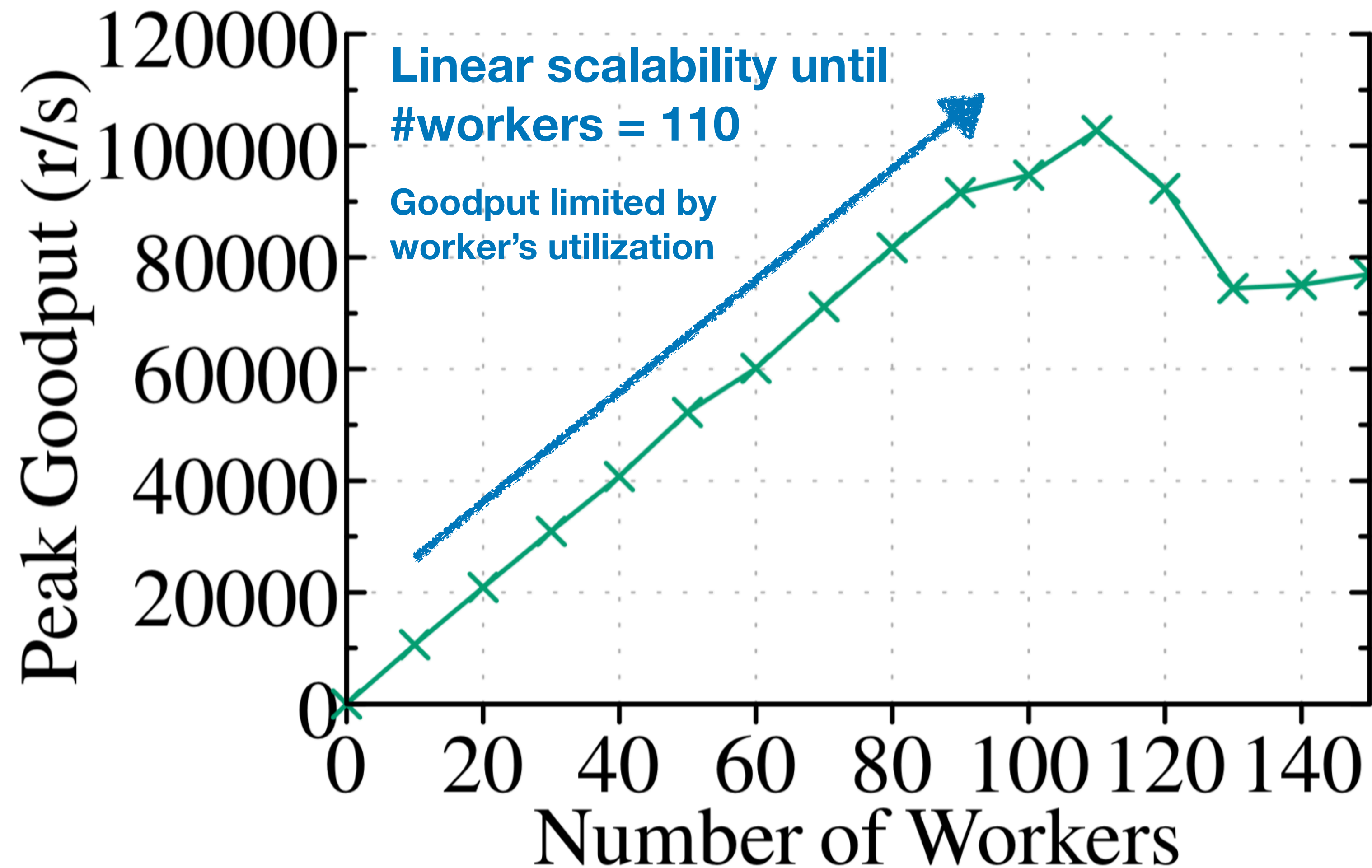
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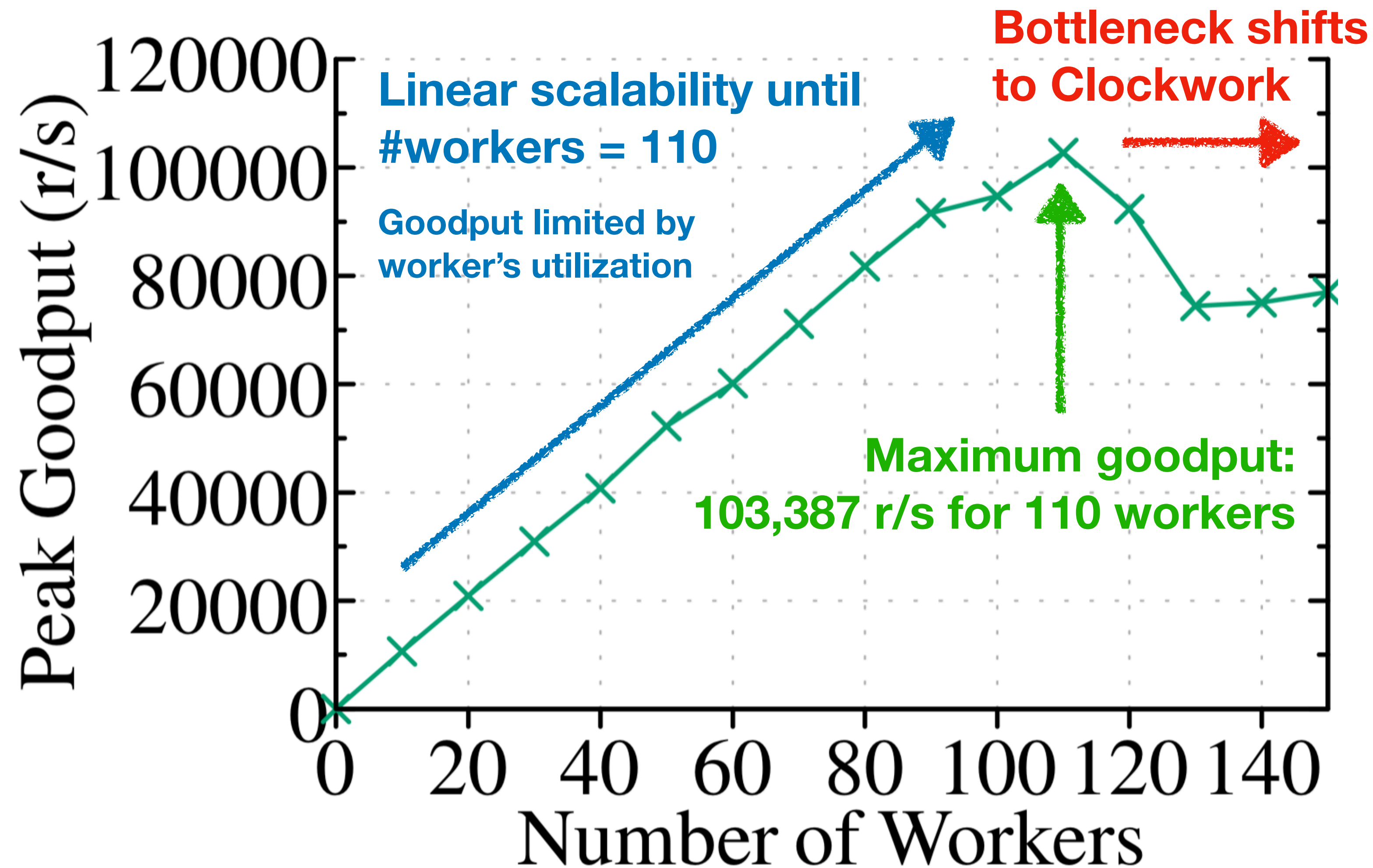


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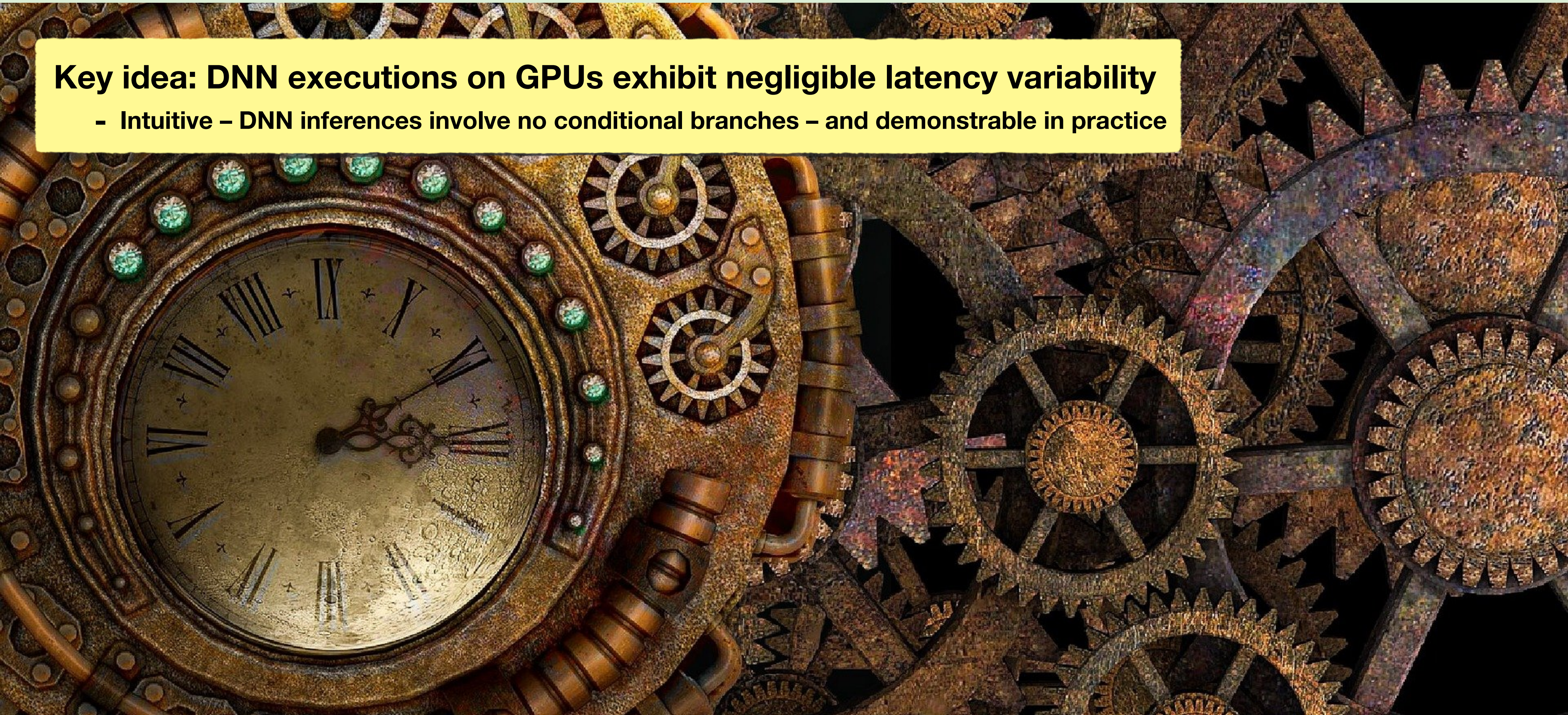




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<https://gitlab.mpi-sws.org/cld/ml/clockwork>

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EVALUATED**



**AVAILABLE**

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