Interactive Branched Video Streaming and Cloud Assisted Content Delivery

Niklas Carlsson

Linköping University, Sweden

@ Sigmetrics TPC workshop, Feb. 2016



The work here was in collaboration ...

- Including with students (alphabetic order):
 - Youmna Borghol (NICTA, Australia)
 - Vengatanathan Krishnamoorthi (Linköping University, Sweden)
 - Siddharth Mitra (IIT Dehli, India)
- ... and non-student collaborators (alphabetic order):
 - Sebastian Ardon (NICTA, Australia)
 - György Dan (KTH, Sweden)
 - Derek Eager (University of Saskatchewan, Canada)
 - Ajay Gopinathan (Google, USA)
 - Zongpeng Li (University of Calgary, Canada)
 - Anirban Mahanti (NICTA, Australia)
 - Nahid Shahmehri (Linköping University, Sweden)





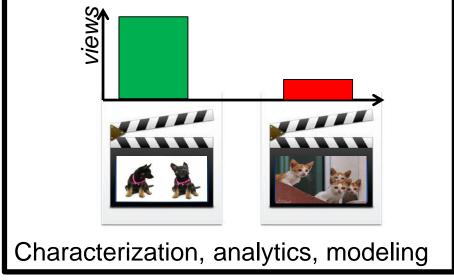




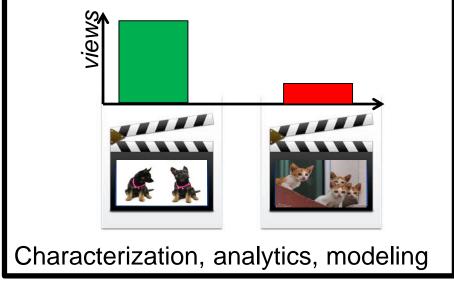


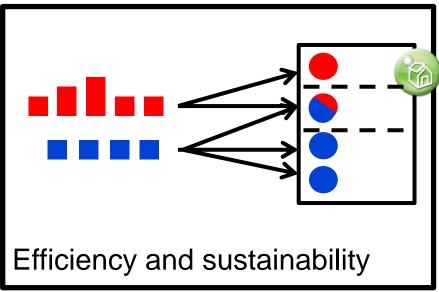




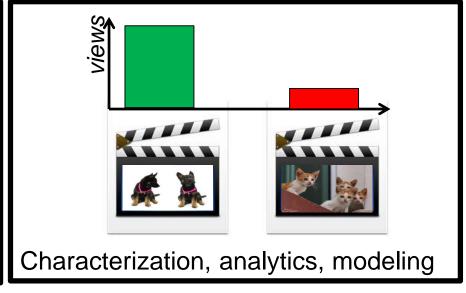


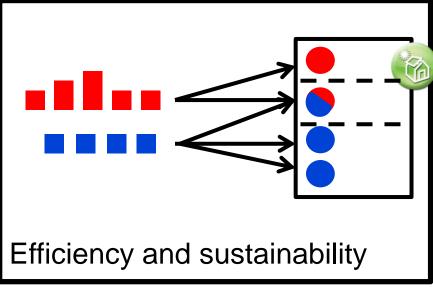


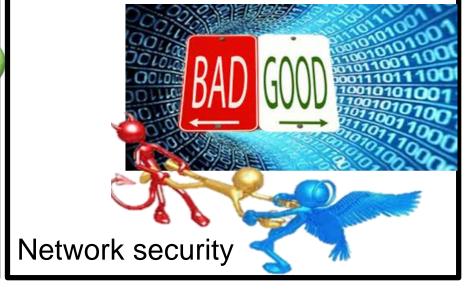




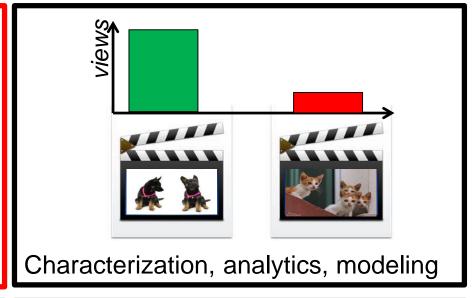


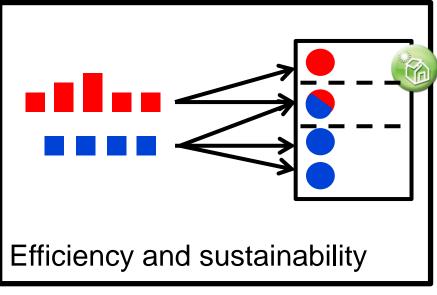














In this talk I will talk about

... innovative new streaming media ...



... cost-efficient delivery ...



... and determine who should serve who.





Quality-adaptive Prefetching for Interactive Branched Video using HTTP-based Adaptive Streaming

Proc. ACM Multimedia 2014.

Empowering the Creative User: Personalized HTTP-based Adaptive Streaming of Multi-path Nonlinear VideoProceedings of Multi-path Nonlinear Video

Proc. ACM FhMN@SIGCOMM 2013. (Also in ACM CCR). Best paper award

Bandwidth-aware Prefetching for Proactive Multi-video Preloading and Improved HAS Performance

Proc. ACM Multimedia 2015.

too sad

too sad too violent

too sad too violent too scary

• • •

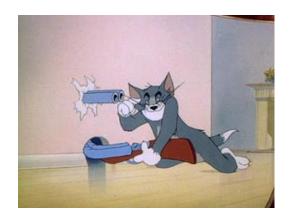
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• • •

... or where we may have wanted our favorite character to make a different choice...

too sad too violent too scary

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Allow user to selects between multiple storylines or alternative endings



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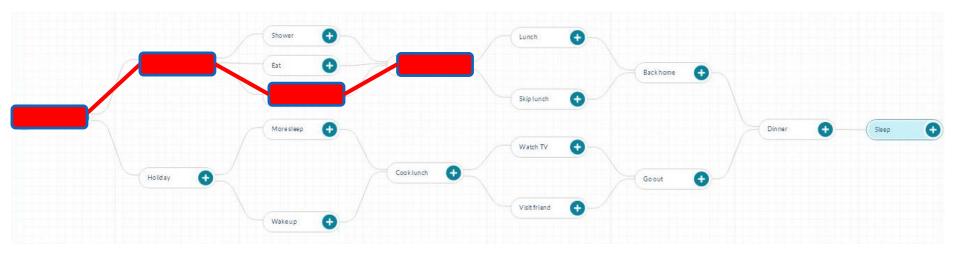
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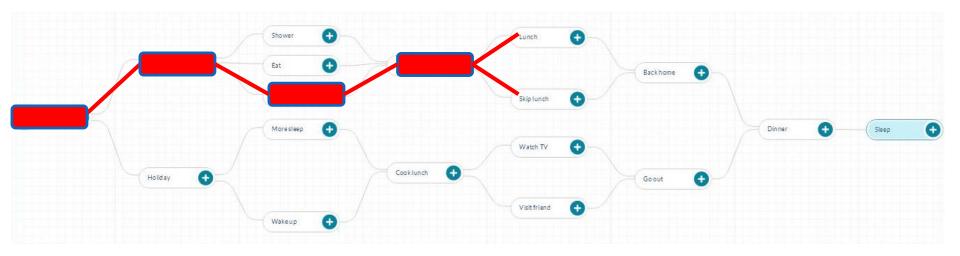
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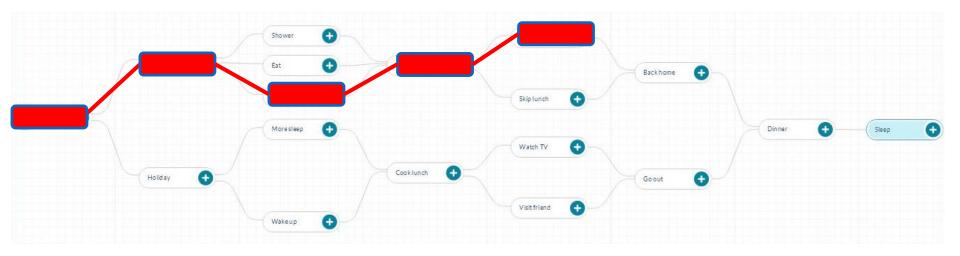
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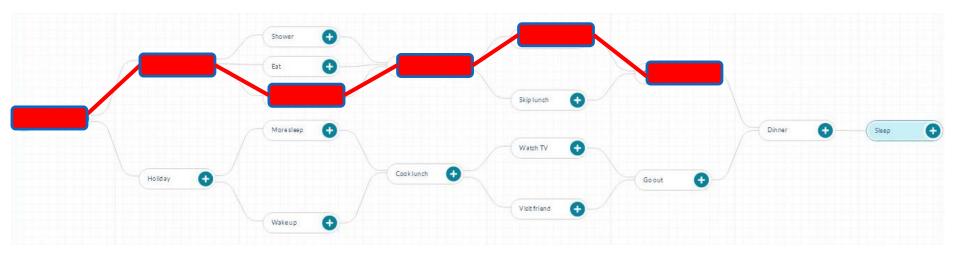
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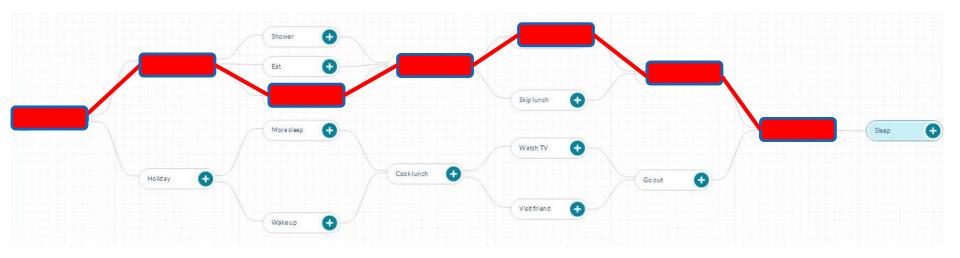
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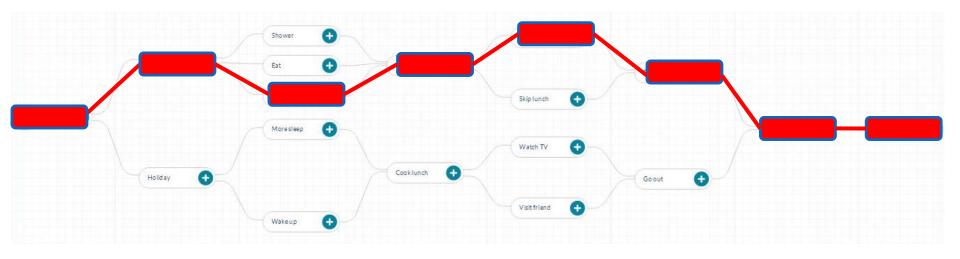
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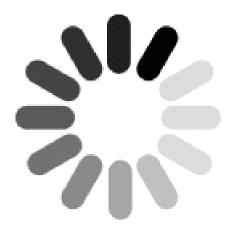
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We have solved ...

The problem of providing seamless playback in the presence of multiple branch options

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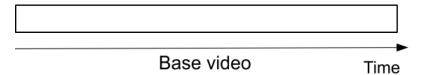


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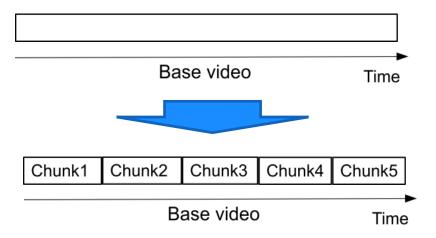
The problem of providing seamless playback in the presence of multiple branch options

- HTTP-based Adaptive Streaming
- Path and quality-aware prefetching

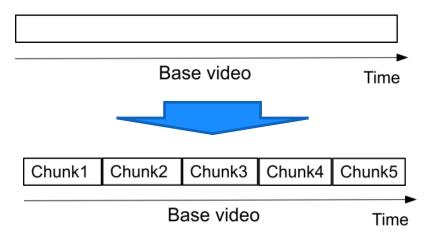




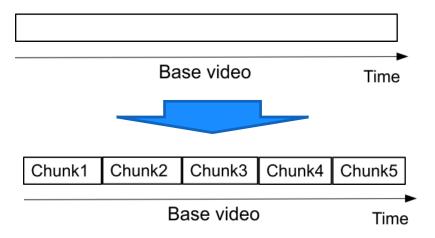
- HTTP-based streaming
 - Video is split into chunks
- - •



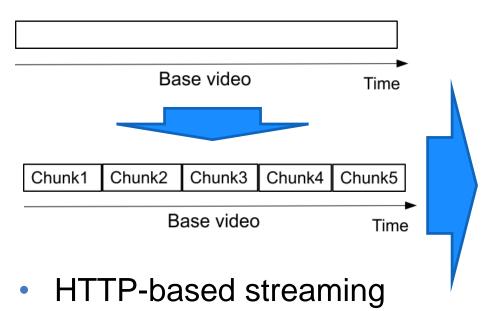
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- HTTP-based streaming
 - Video is split into chunks
 - Easy firewall traversal and caching



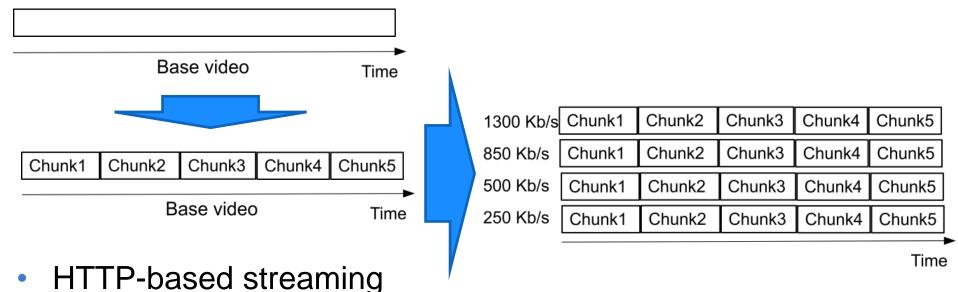
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 - Easy support for interactive VoD



- Video is split into chunks
- Easy firewall traversal and caching
- Easy support for interactive VoD
- HTTP-based adaptive streaming

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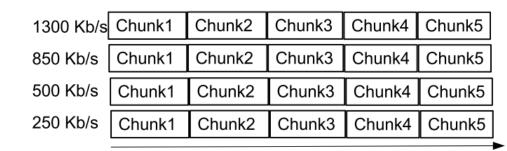
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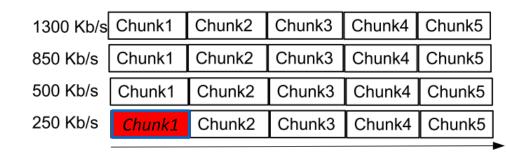
- Video is split into chunks
- Easy firewall traversal and caching
- Easy support for interactive VoD
- HTTP-based adaptive streaming
 - Multiple encodings of each chunk (defined in manifest file)

1300 Kb/s	Chunk1	Chunk2	Chunk3	Chunk4	Chunk5
850 Kb/s	Chunk1	Chunk2	Chunk3	Chunk4	Chunk5
500 Kb/s	Chunk1	Chunk2	Chunk3	Chunk4	Chunk5
250 Kb/s	Chunk1	Chunk2	Chunk3	Chunk4	Chunk5

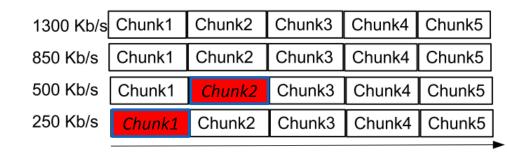
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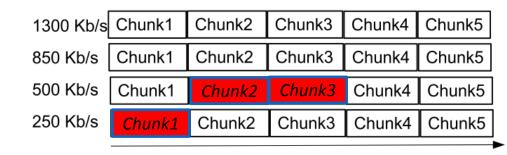
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 - Clients adapt quality encoding based on buffer/network conditions



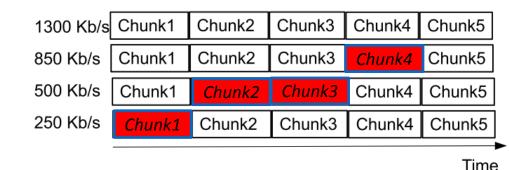
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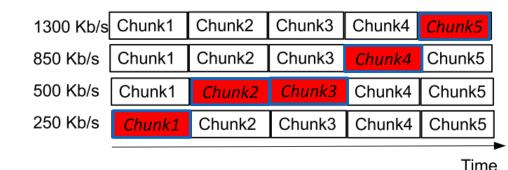
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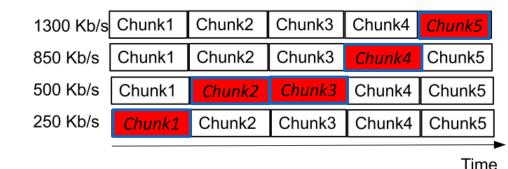
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- We develop a simple analytic model which allows us to define the prefetching problem as an optimization problem
 - Maximizes expected playback quality while avoiding stalls
- Based on our findings, we design optimized policies that determine:
 - When different chunks should be downloaded
 - 2. What quality level should be selected for each of these chunks
 - 3. How to manage playback buffers and (multiple) TCP connections such as to ensure smooth playback experience without excessive workahead (buffering)
- The design and implementation of the framework
- Experimental evaluation of our policies, which provide insights into the importance of careful adaptive policies

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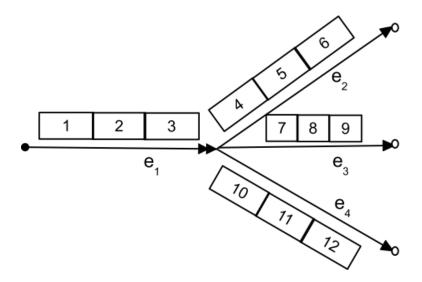
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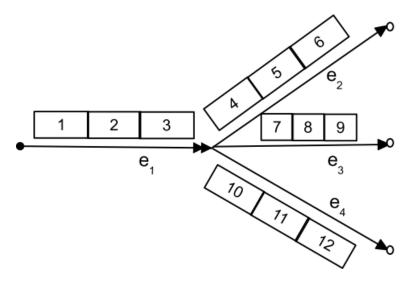
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Problem: Maximize quality, given playback deadlines and bandwidth conditions

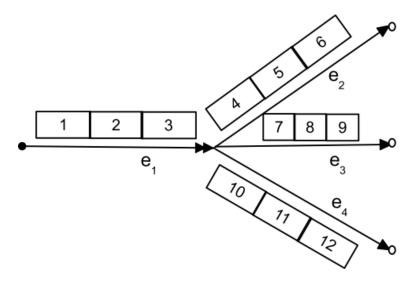


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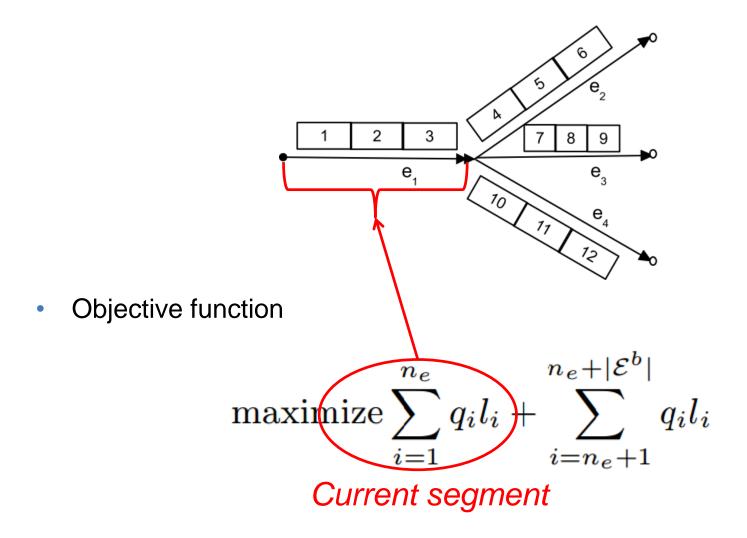
Objective function

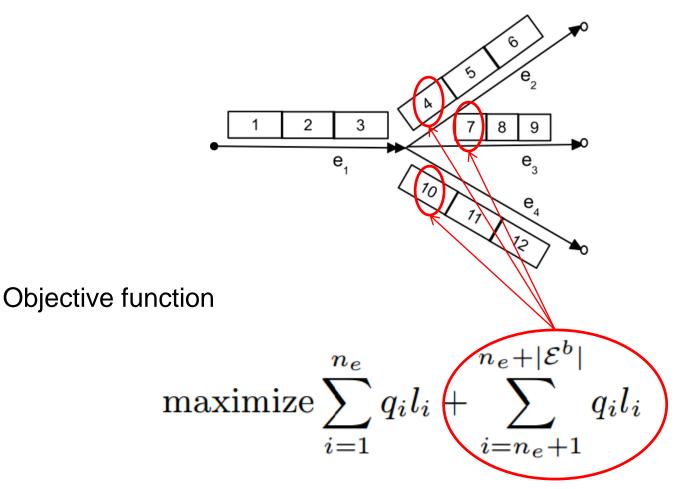
maximize playback quality



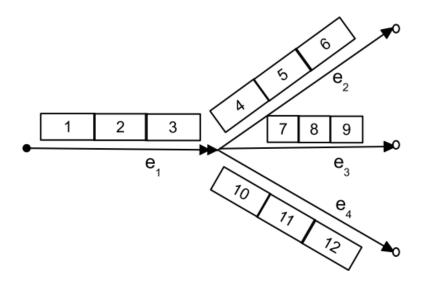
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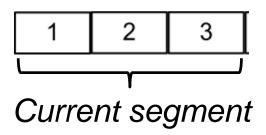
$$\text{maximize} \sum_{i=1}^{n_e} q_i l_i + \sum_{i=n_e+1}^{n_e+|\mathcal{E}^b|} q_i l_i$$

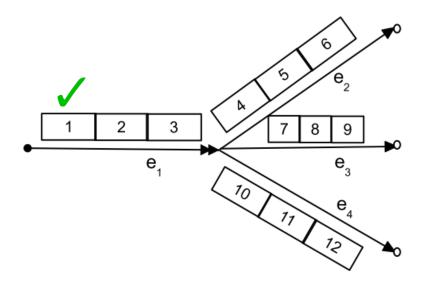


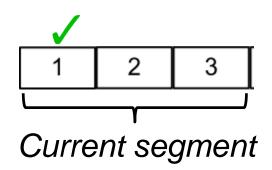


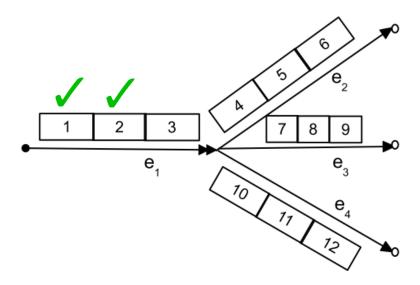
Beginning of next segment

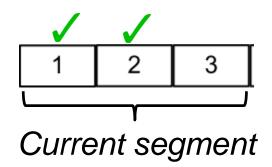


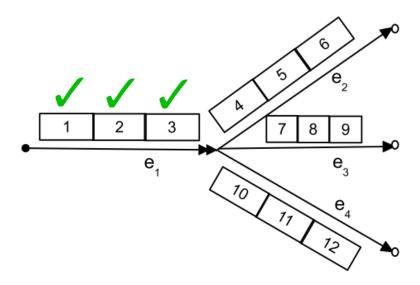


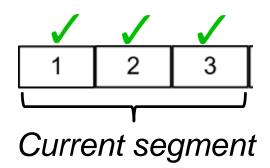


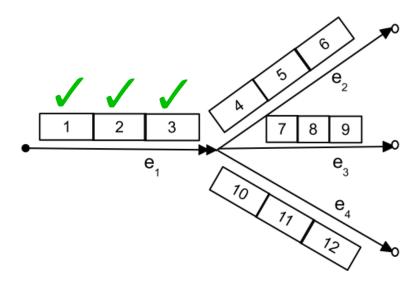


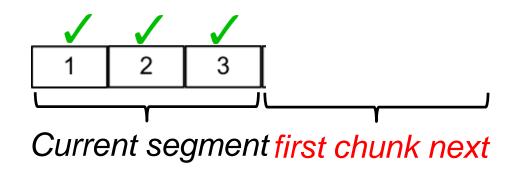


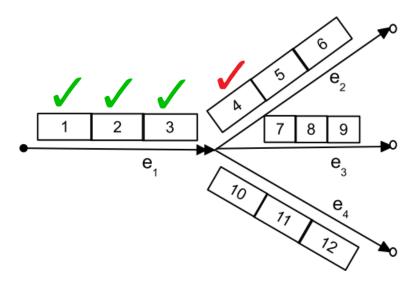


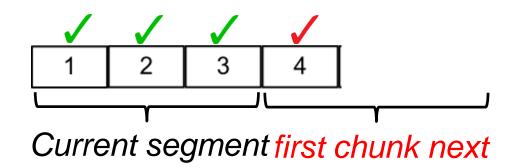


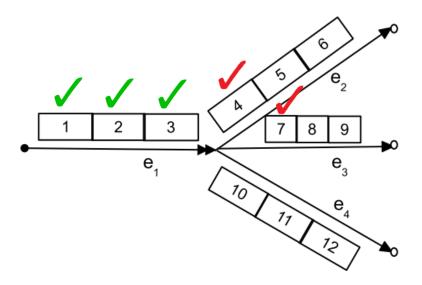


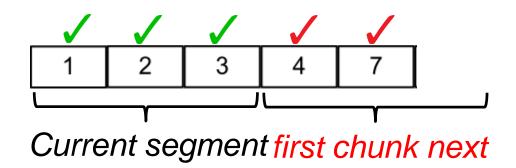


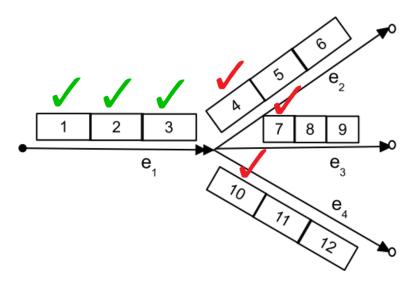


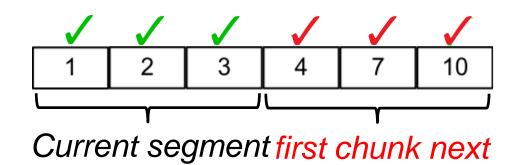


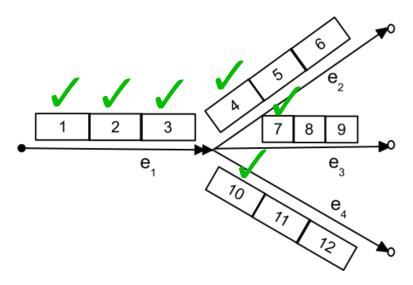




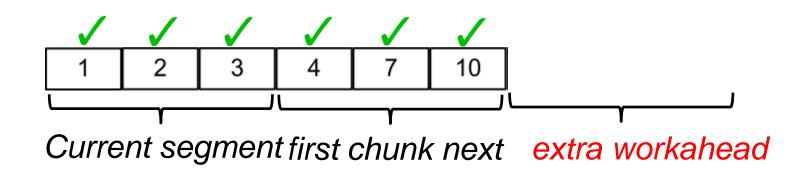


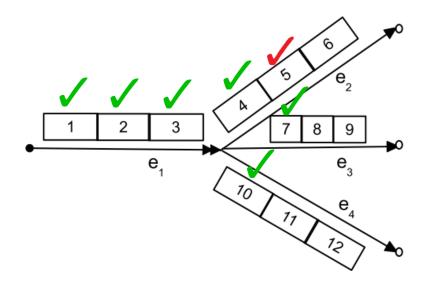




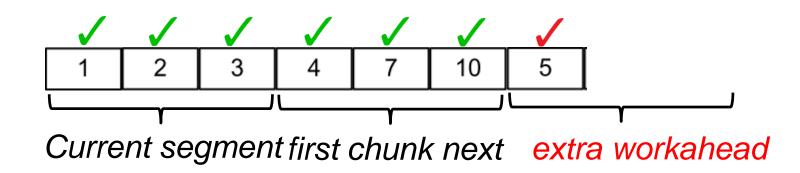


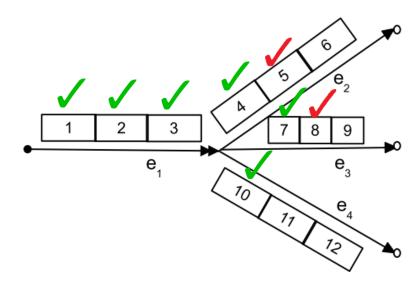
Download order: round robin (extra workahead)



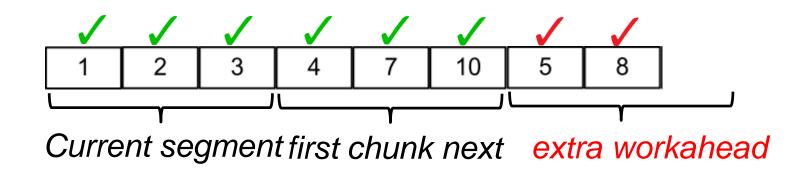


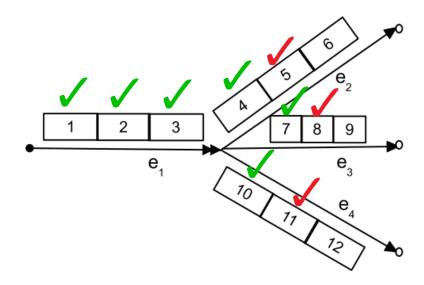
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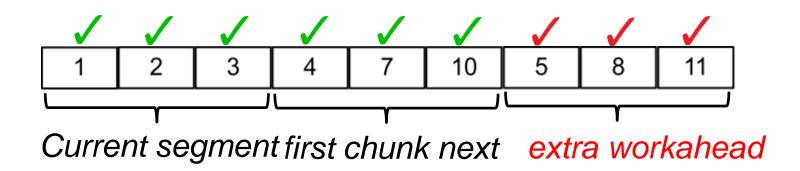


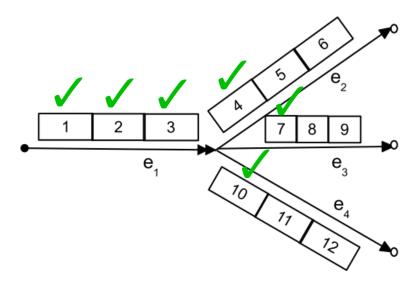
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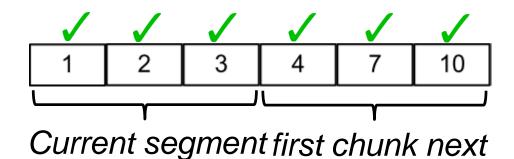


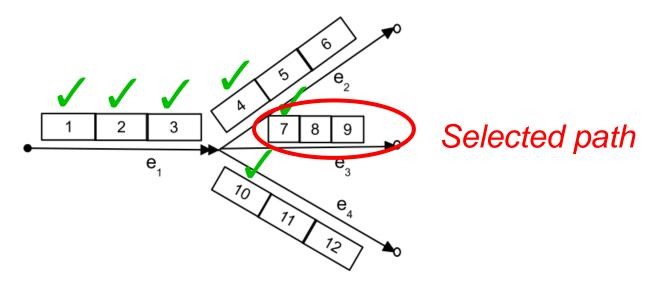


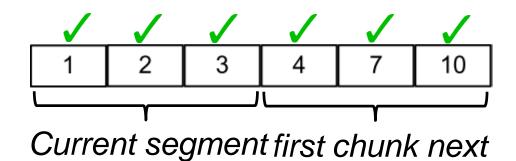
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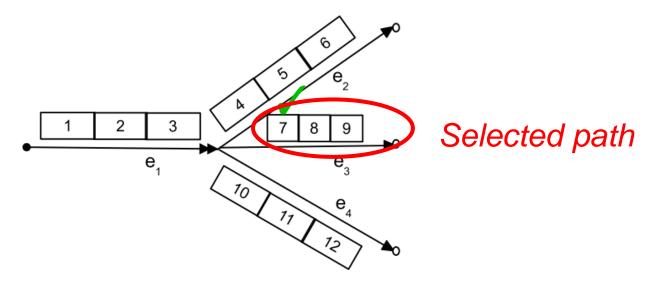


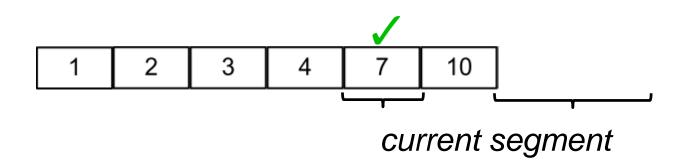


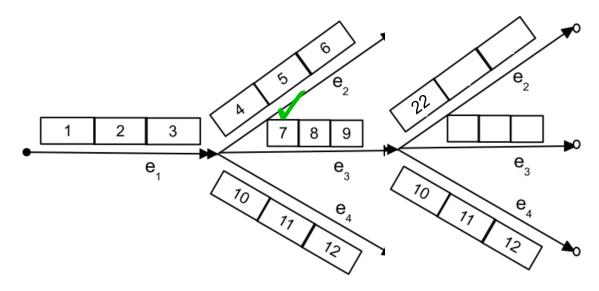


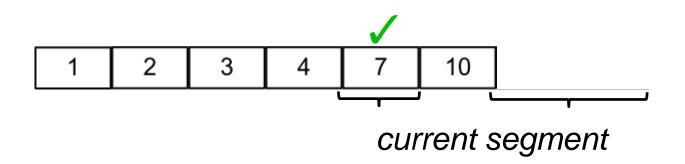


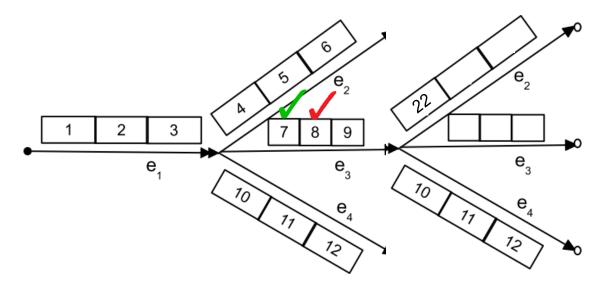


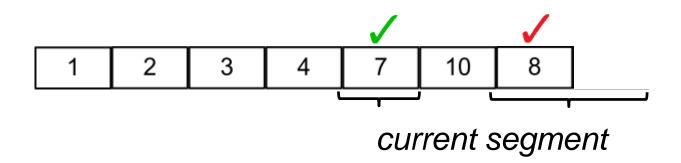


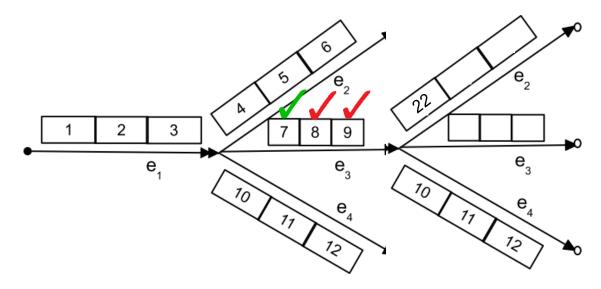


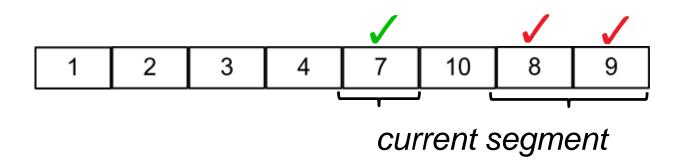


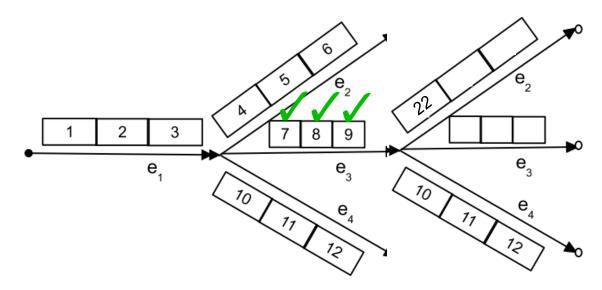


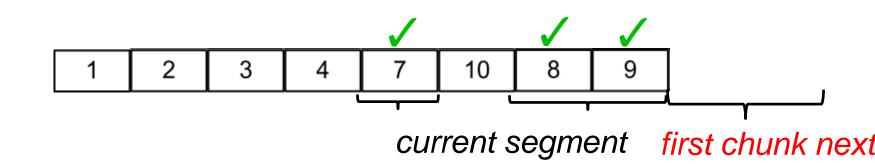


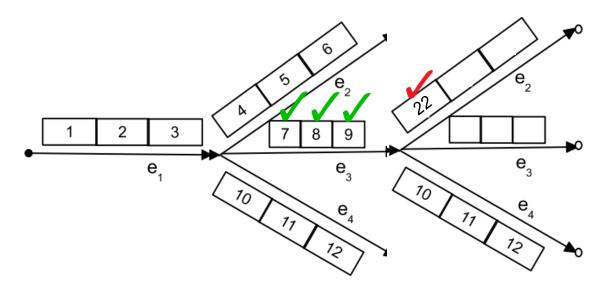


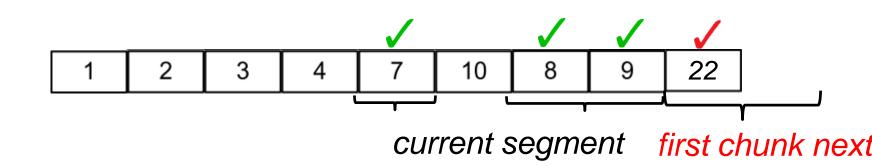


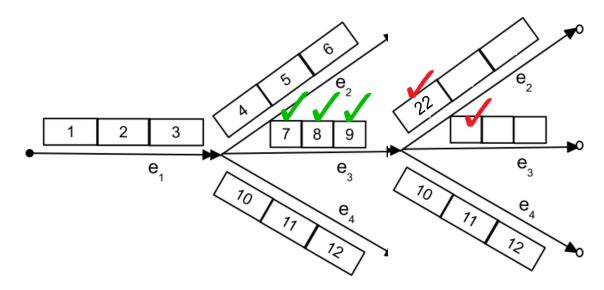


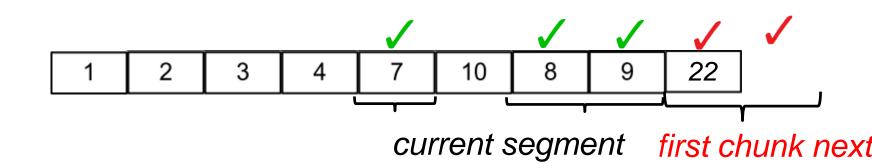


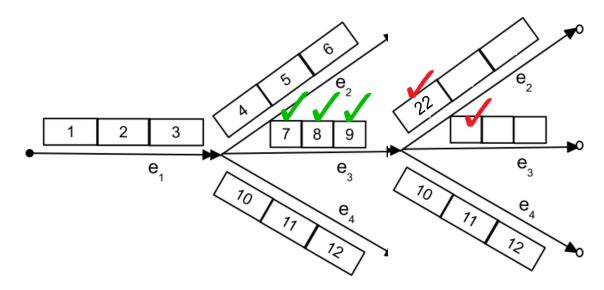


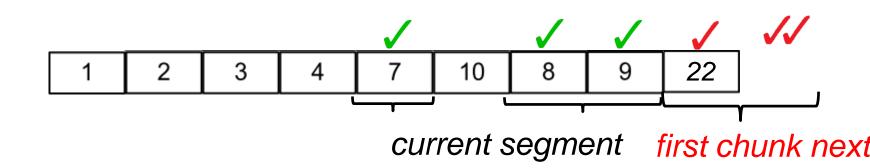


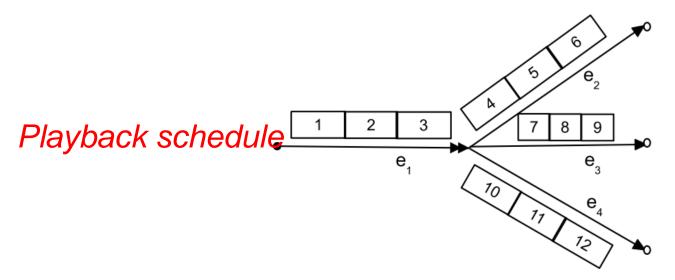




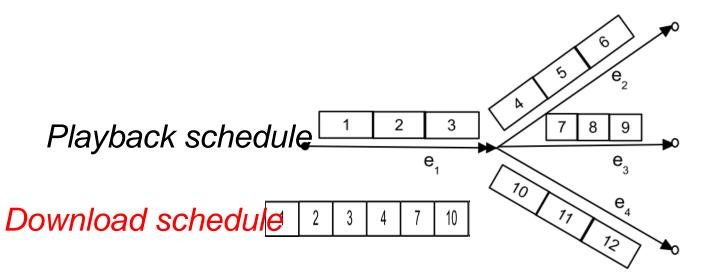




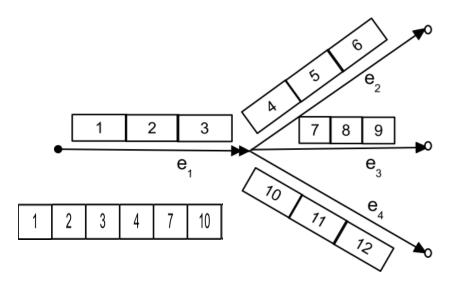




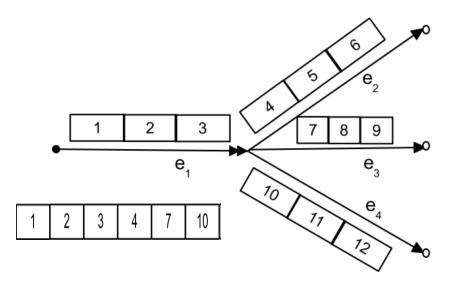
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 - for seamless playback without stalls



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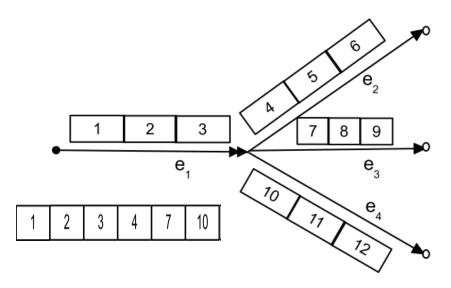


- Playback deadlines
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 - Current segment: e.g., 2 and 3



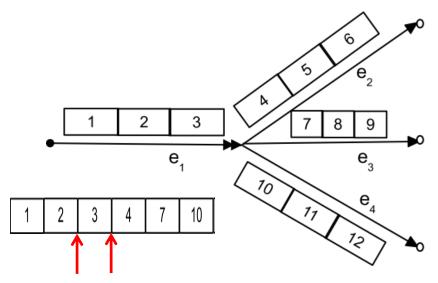
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$$t_i^c \le t_i^d = \tau + \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} l_j$$
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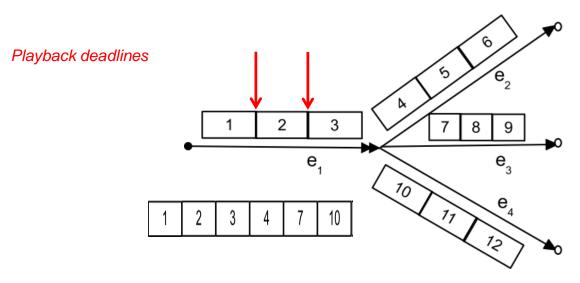
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 Download completion time



Download completion times

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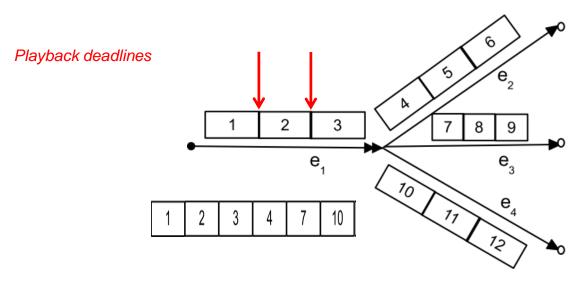
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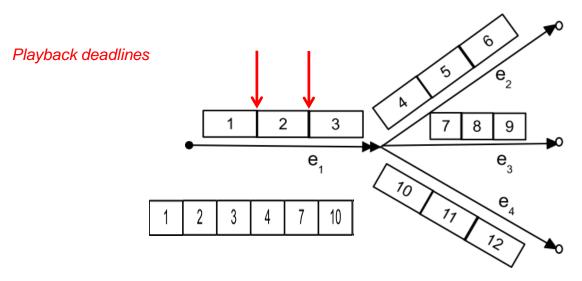
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Download completion time



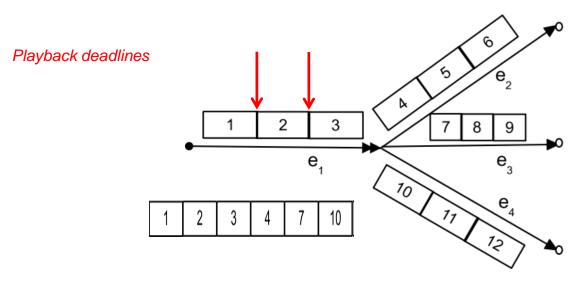
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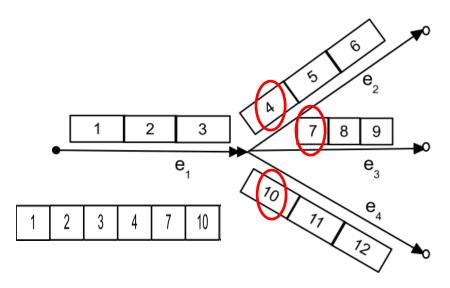
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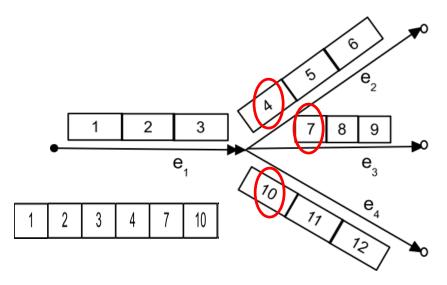


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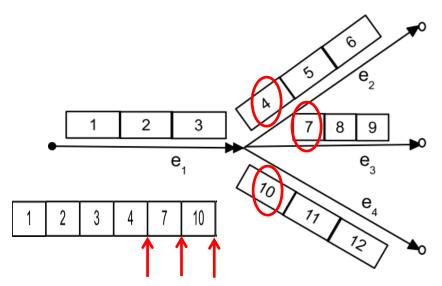


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 - First chunks next segment: e.g., 4, 7, and 10



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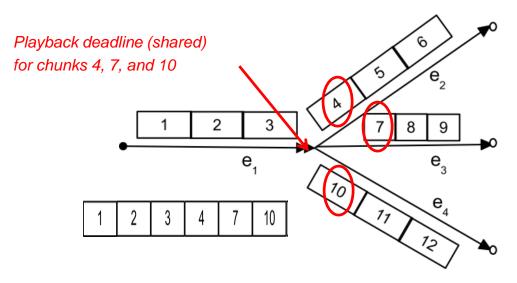
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Download completion times

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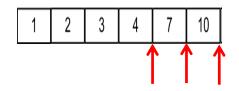
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 Time at which branch point is reached

Download completion times



$$t_i^c \le t_i^d = \tau + \sum_{j=1}^{n_e} l_j, \text{ if } n_e < i \le n_e + |\mathcal{E}^b|$$

Download completion times

- Download times t_i^c , rate estimations, and parallel connections
 - •
 - •
 - •

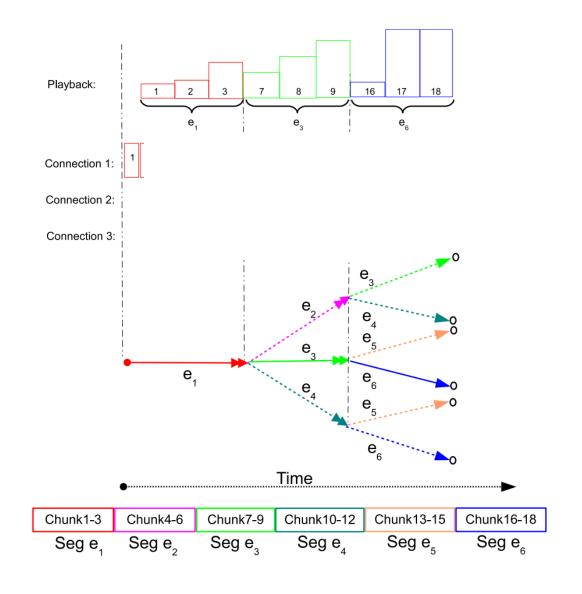
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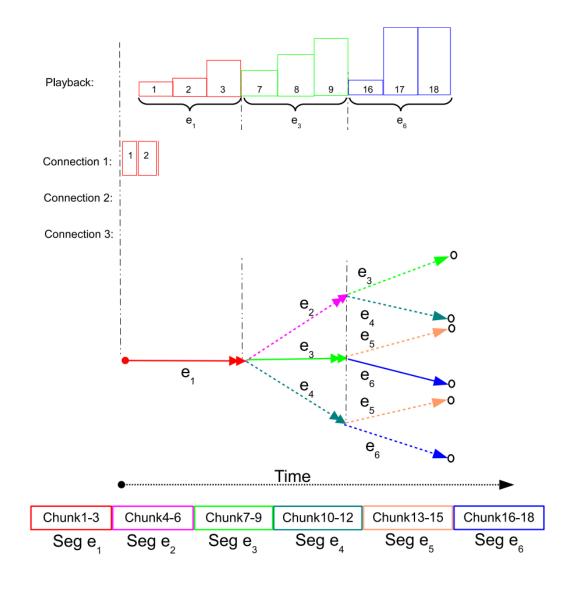
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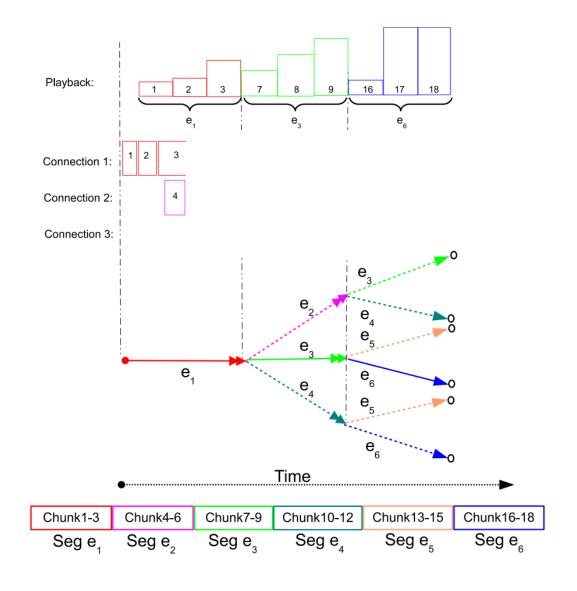
Concurrent Download Example

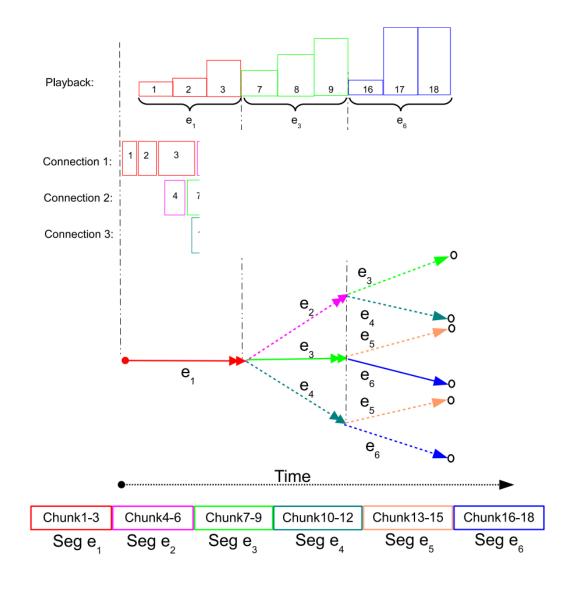


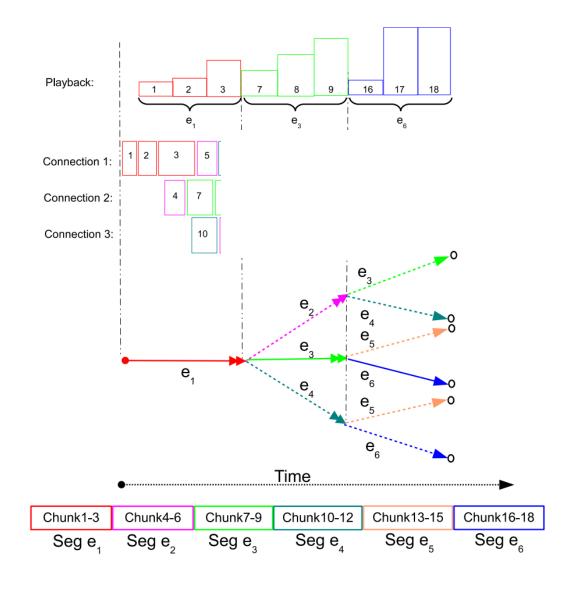
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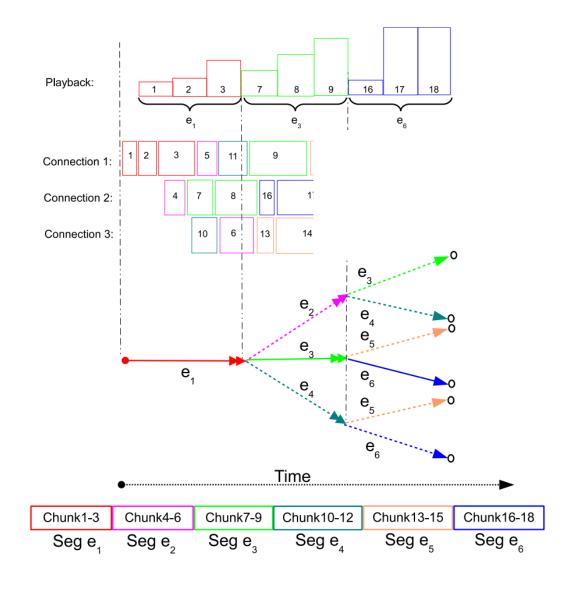


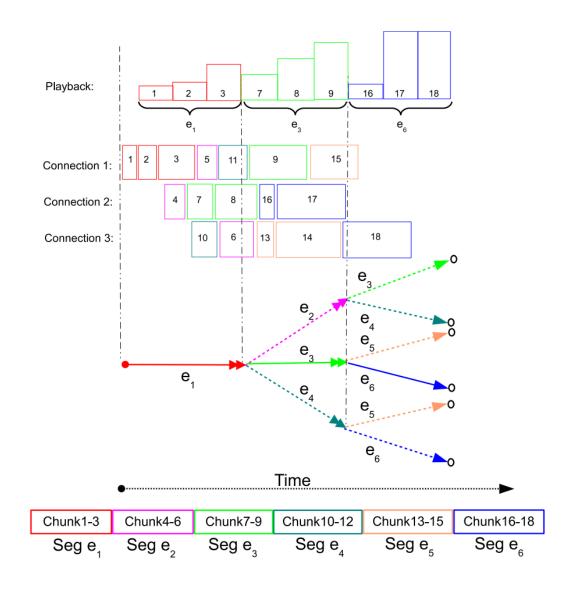
Concurrent Download Example







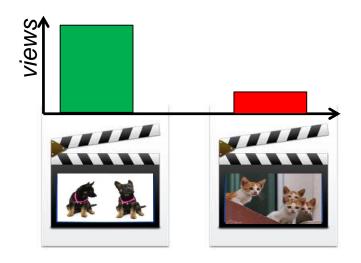




Interactive Branched Video Contributions

- Designed and implemented branched video player that achieve seamless streaming without playback interruptions
- Designed optimized policies that maximize playback quality while ensuring sufficient workahead to avoid stalls
- Evaluation shows that solution effectively adapt quality levels and number of parallel connections so as to provide best possible video quality, given current conditions

 Extensions, generalizations, and variations include "multifile prefetching for impatient users" [Proc. ACM Multimedia 2015]



The Untold Story of the Clones: Content-agnostic Factors that Impact YouTube Video Popularity

Proc. ACM SIGKDD 2012.

Characterizing and Modeling Popularity of User-generated Videos *Proc. IFIP PERFORMANCE* 2011.



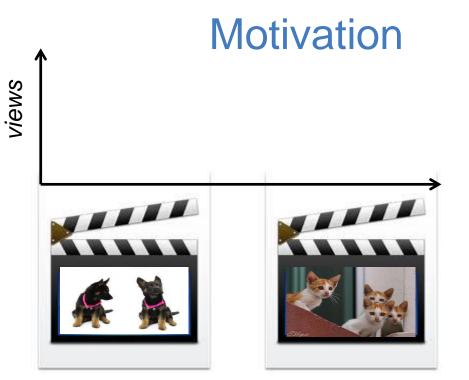
- Streaming services responsible for majority of traffic
- Video dissemination (e.g., YouTube) can have widespread impacts on opinions, thoughts, and cultures





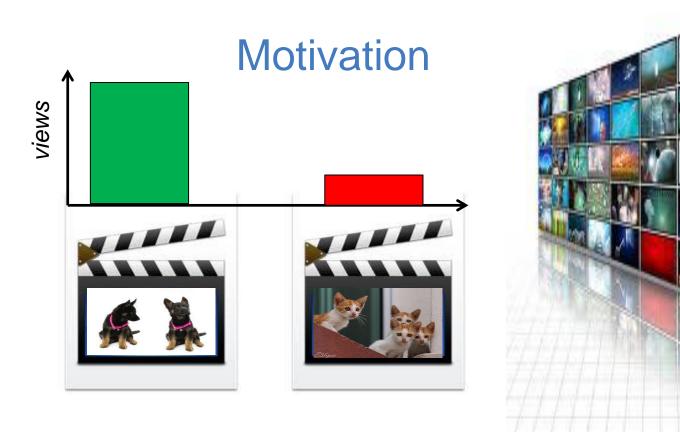


 Not all videos will reach the same popularity and have the same impact



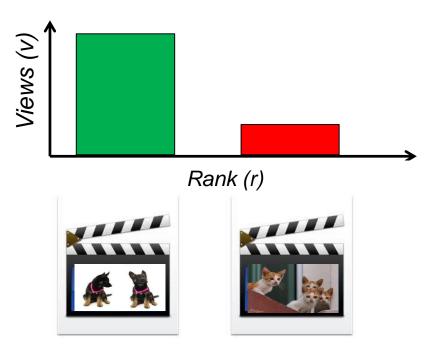


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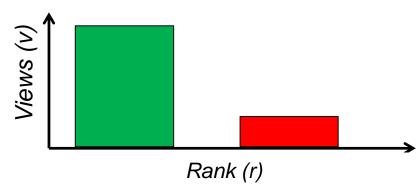


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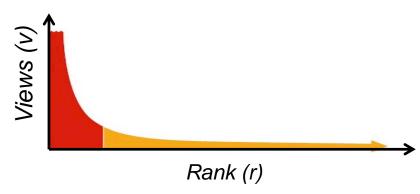




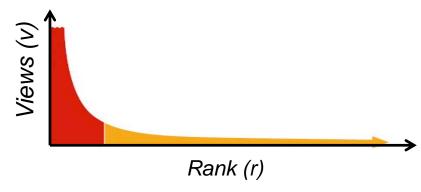


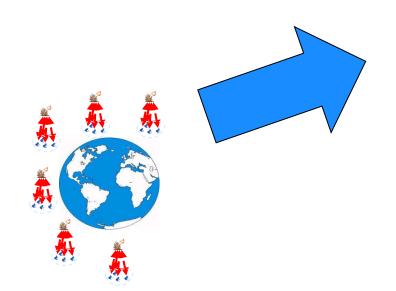


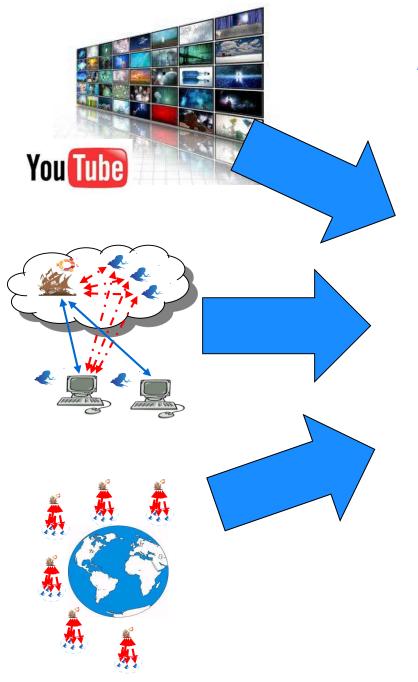


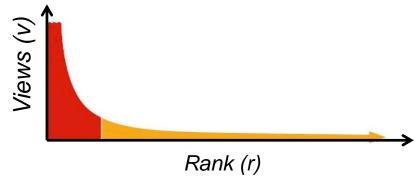




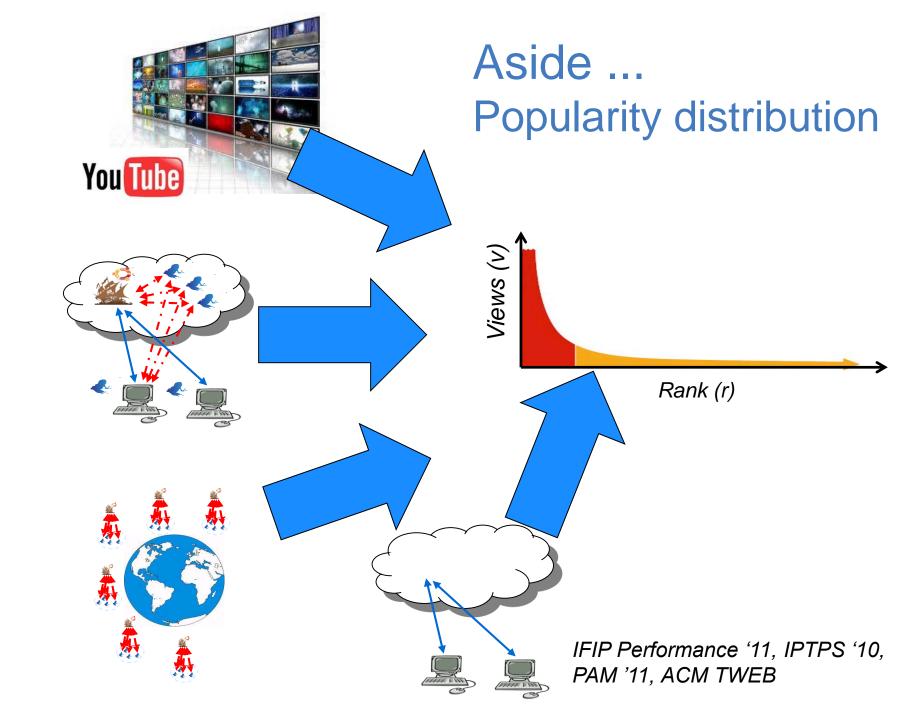


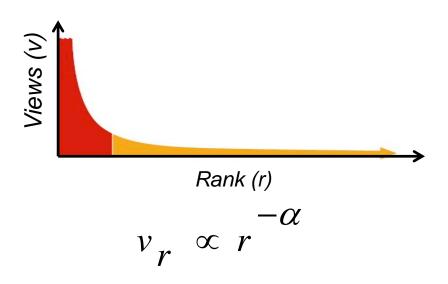


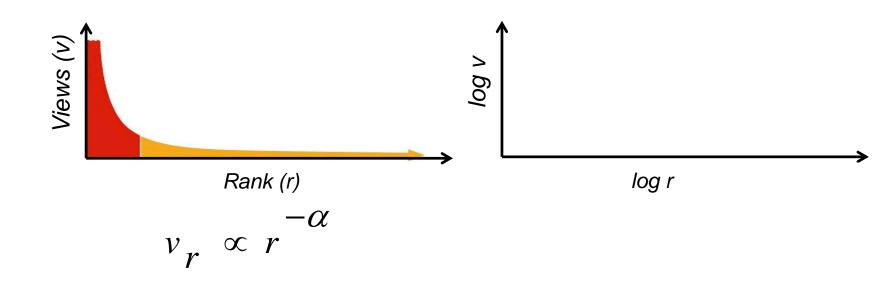


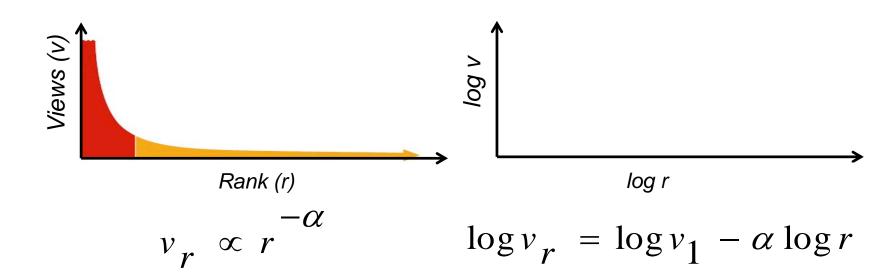


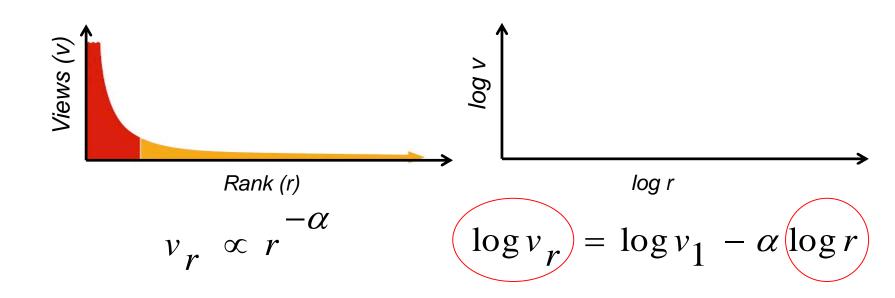
IFIP Performance '11, IPTPS '10, PAM '11

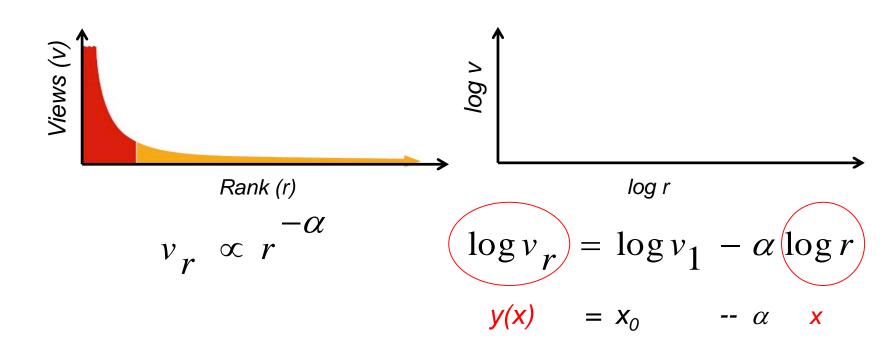


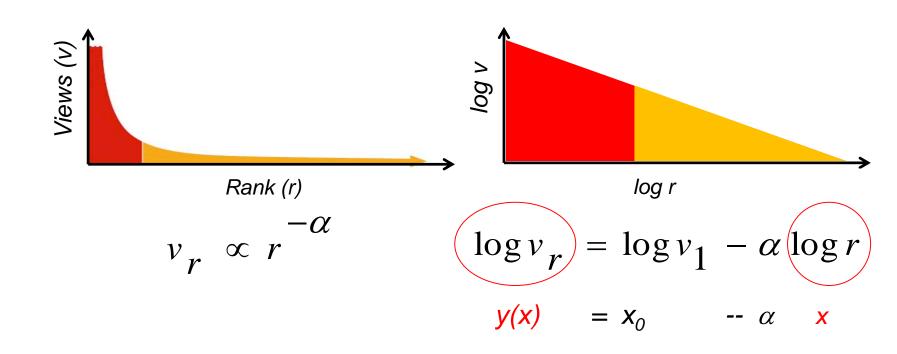


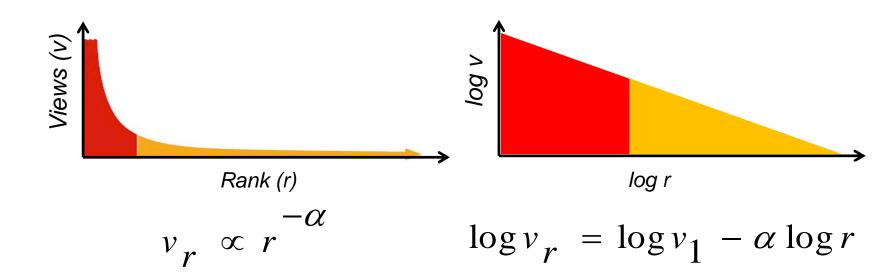


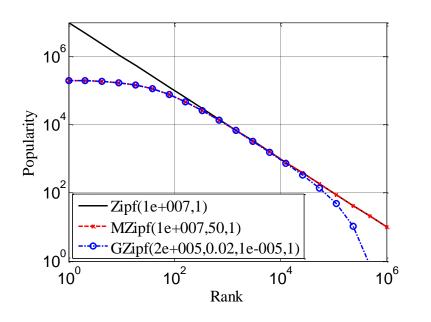


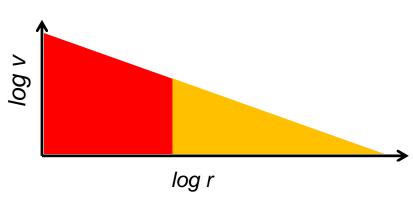




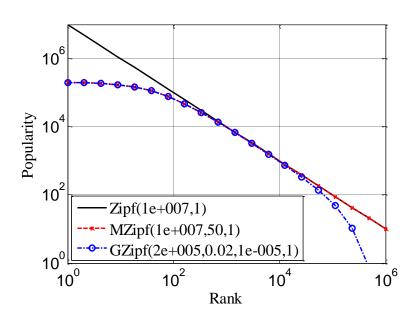


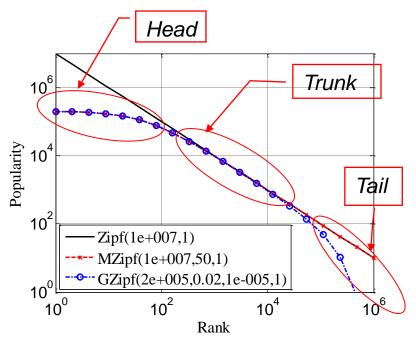






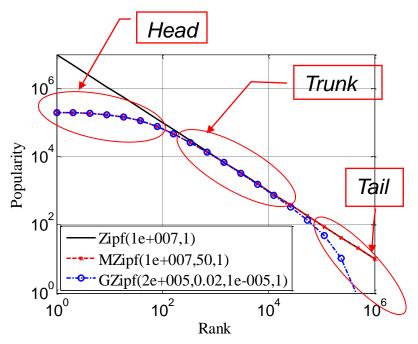
$$\log v_r = \log v_1 - \alpha \log r$$





- Popularity distribution statistics and models
 - Across services (impact on system design)
 - Lifetime vs current
 - Over different time period (churn)
 - Different sampling methods

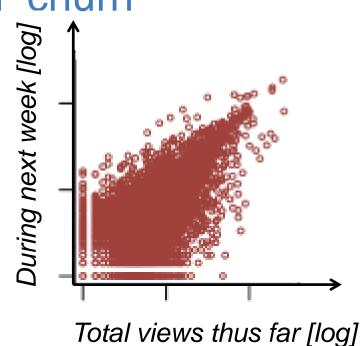
E.g., ACM TWEB, PAM '11, IFIP Performance '11, IPTPS '10



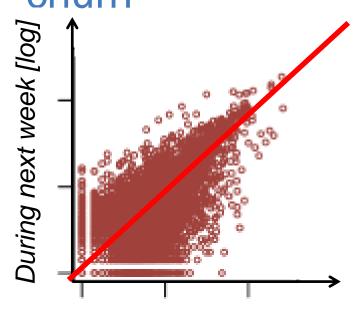
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Rich-gets-richer ... and churn



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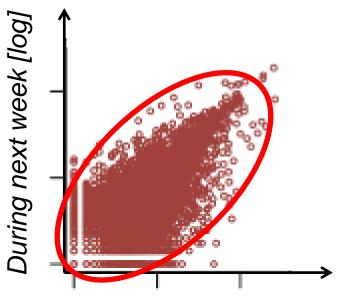


Total views thus far [log]

The more views a video has, the more views it is likely to get in the future

Rich-gets-richer ...

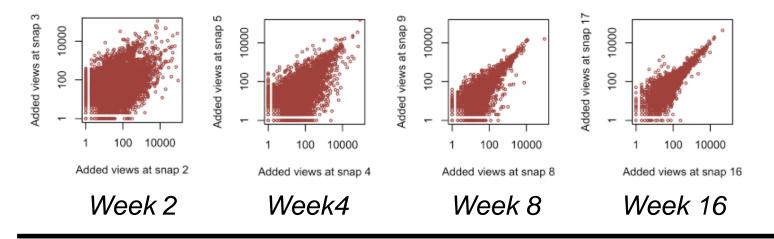
... and churn



Views during week [log]

- The more views a video has, the more views it is likely to get in the future
- The relative popularity of the individual videos are highly non-stationary

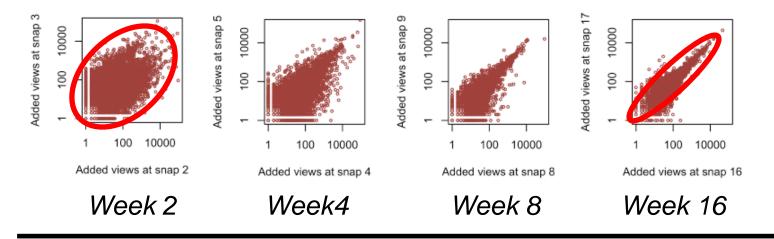
Rich-gets-richer ... and churn



Young videos Old videos

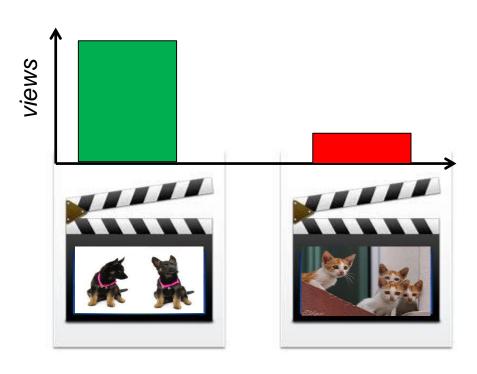
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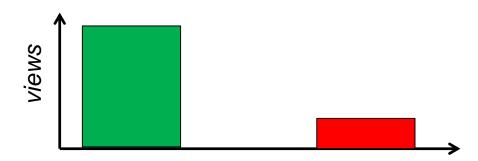
Rich-gets-richer ... and churn



Young videos Old videos

- The more views a video has, the more views it is likely to get in the future
- The relative popularity of the individual videos are highly non-stationary
- Some long-term popularity





Some popularity differences due to content differences

Some popularity differences due to content differences

Motivation

- Some popularity differences due to content differences
- But also because of other "content-agnostic" factors
 - The latter factors are of considerable interest but it has been difficult to accurately study them

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- Some popularity differences due to content differences
- But also because of other "content-agnostic" factors
 - The latter factors are of considerable interest but it has been difficult to accurately study them

In general, existing works **do not** take content differences into account .. .(e.g., large number of rich-gets-richer studies)

 Develop and apply a methodology that is able to accurately assess, both qualitatively and quantitatively, the impacts of various content-agnostic factors on video popularity

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You Tube

Clones

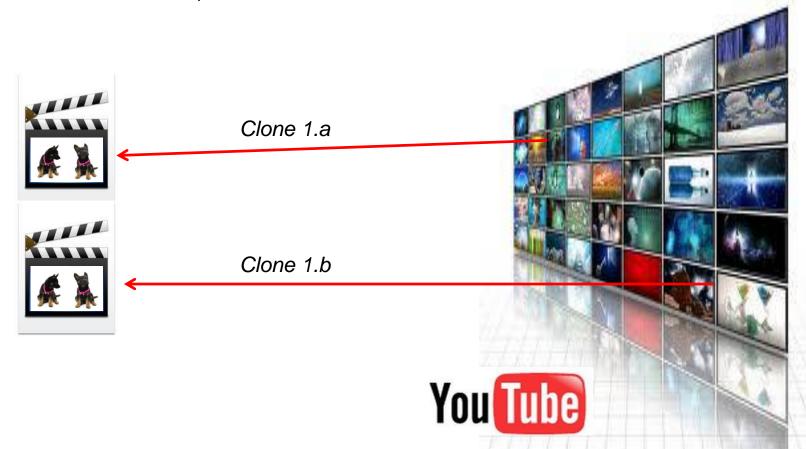
 Videos that have "identical" content (e.g., same audio and video track)



- Clones
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- Clones
 - Videos that have "identical" content
- Clone set

Set of videos that have "identical" content



Clone set 1



- Clones
 - Videos that have "identical" content
- Clone set

Set of videos that have "identical" content









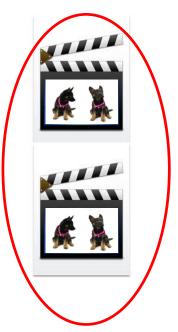






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Set of videos that have "identical" content









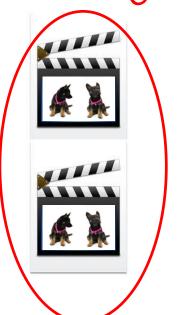




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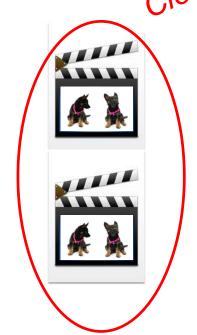








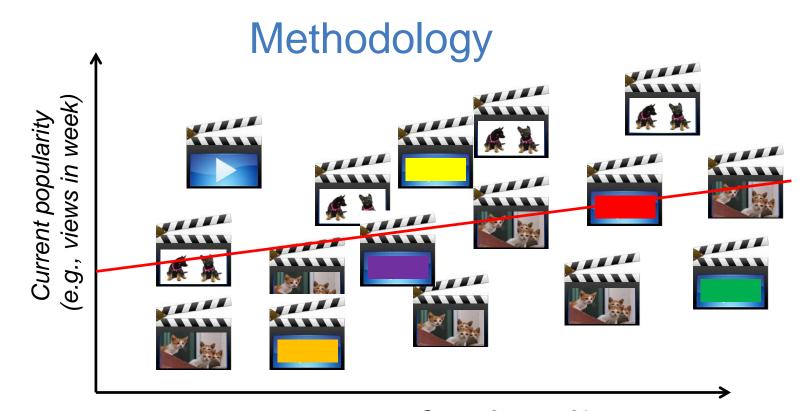
Clone sets allow us to control for content



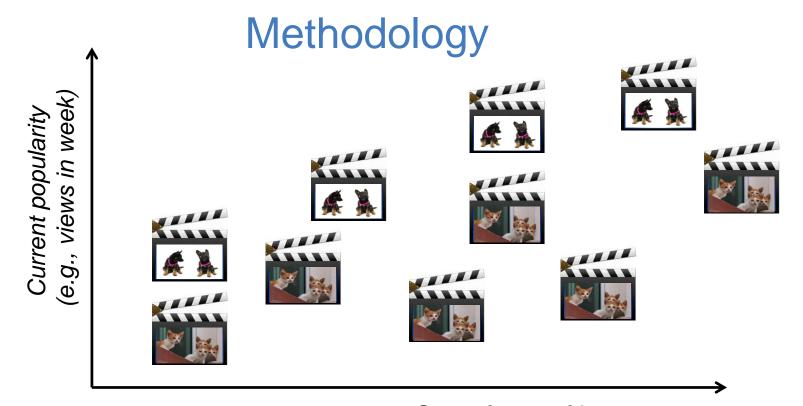








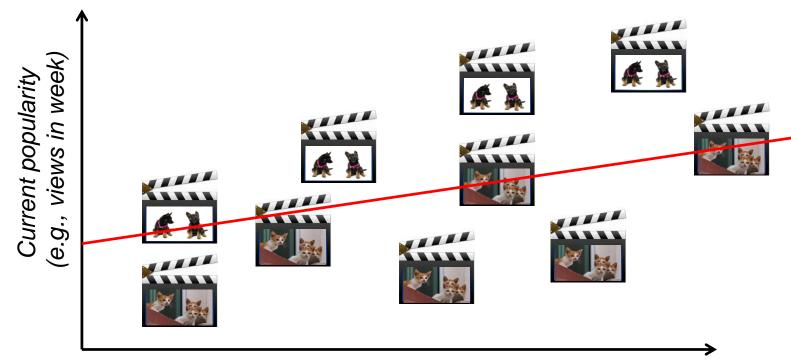
Some factor of interest



Some factor of interest

Focus on clone sets

Methodology: Aggregate model



(1) Aggregate model

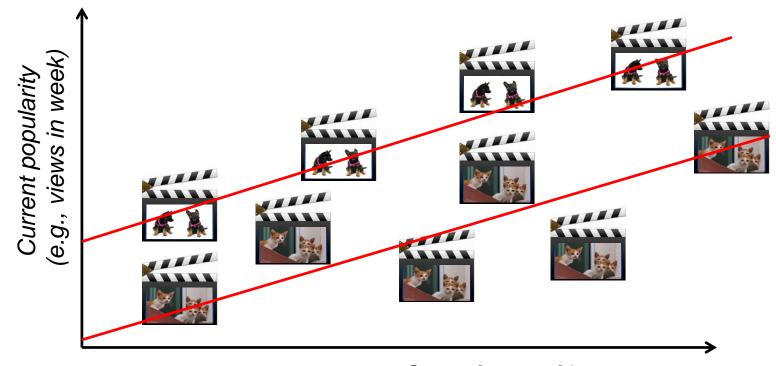
Some factor of interest

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \sum_{p=1}^P \beta_p X_{i,p} + \varepsilon_i$$

Predicted value

Error

Methodology: Content-based model



Some factor of interest

$$Y_{i} = \beta_{0} + \sum_{p=1}^{P} \beta_{p} X_{i,p} + \sum_{k=2}^{K} \gamma_{k} Z_{i,k} + \varepsilon_{i}$$

Predicted value

Error

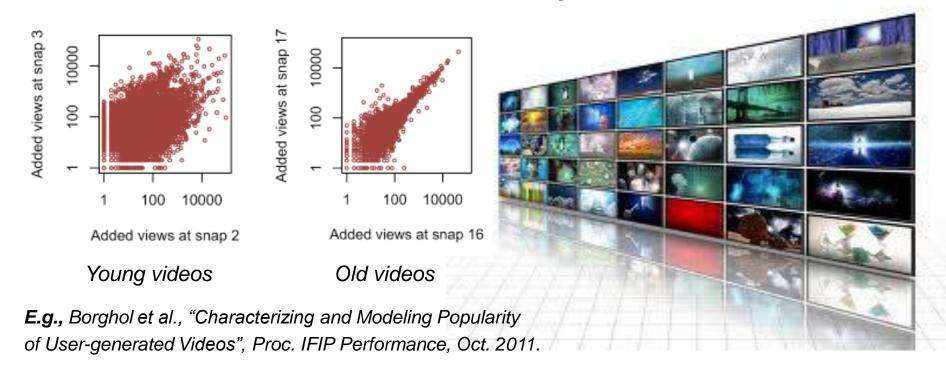


Dynamic Content Allocation for Cloud-assisted Service of Periodic Workloads

Proc. IEEE INFOCOM 2014



- Large amounts of data with varying popularity
- Multi-billion market (\$8B to \$20B, 2012-2015)
 - Goal: Minimize content delivery costs
- Migration to cloud data centers



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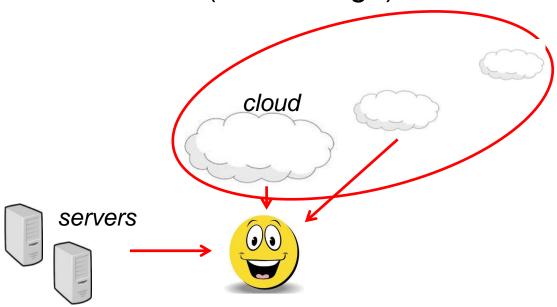
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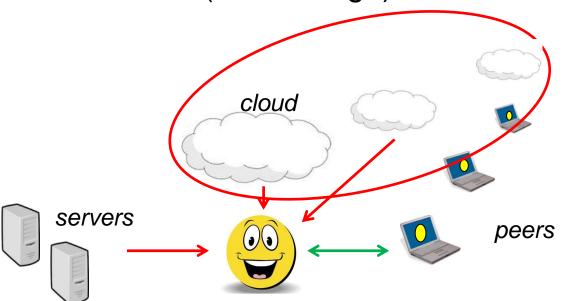
Motivation

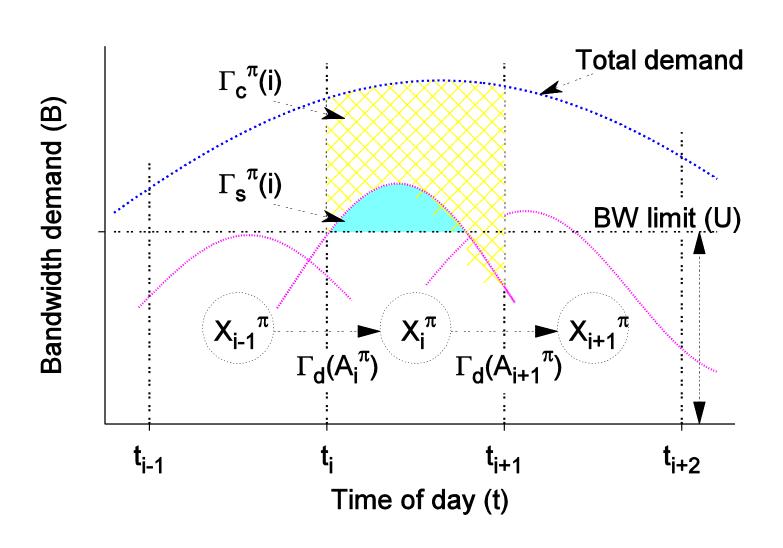
- Goal: Minimize content delivery costs
 - Capped servers: fixed bandwidth (and storage) cap
 - Elastic cloud bandwidth: flexible, but pays premium
- Dynamic content allocation: Want to utilize capped bandwidth (and storage) as much as possible

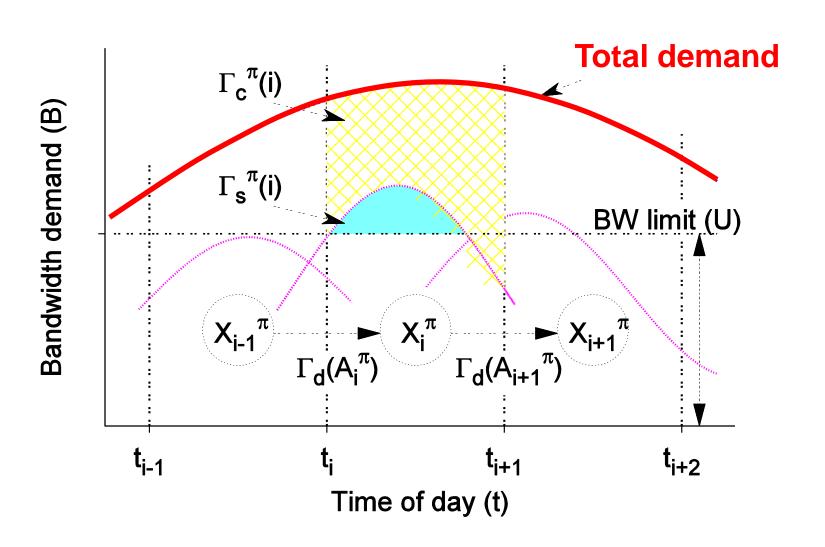


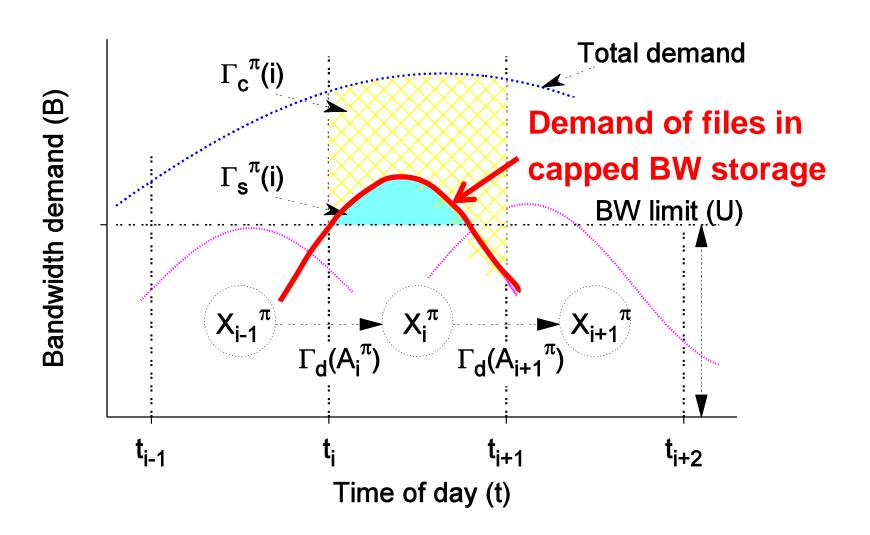
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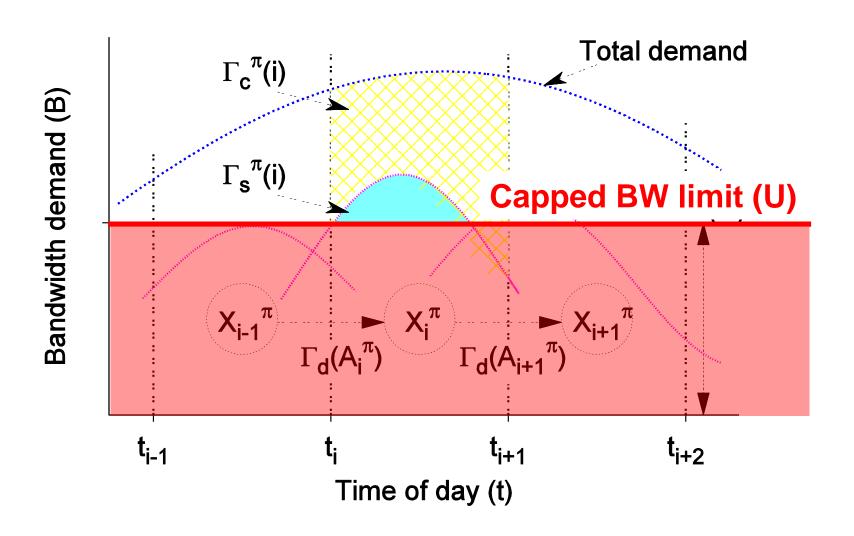
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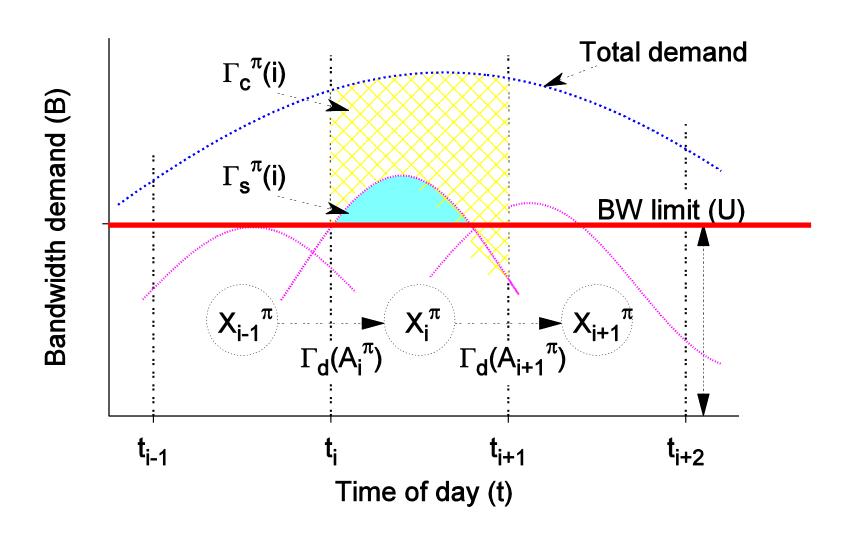


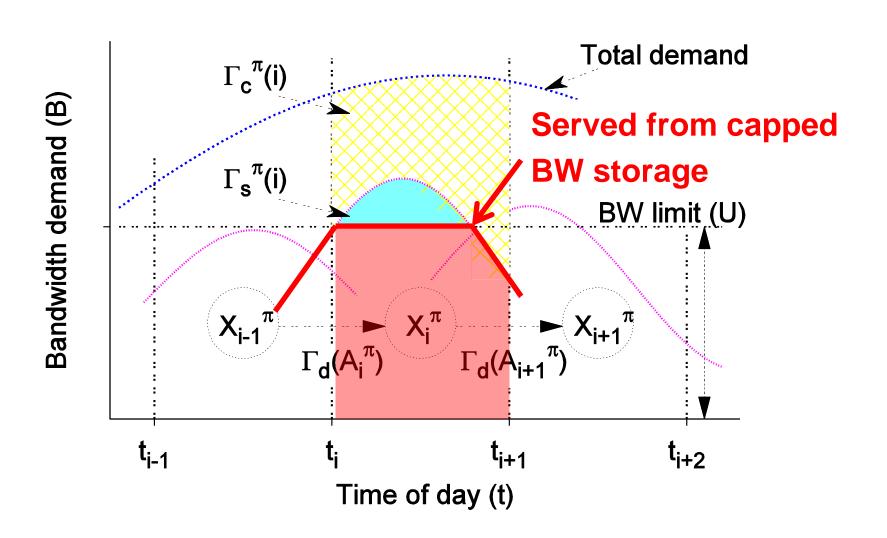




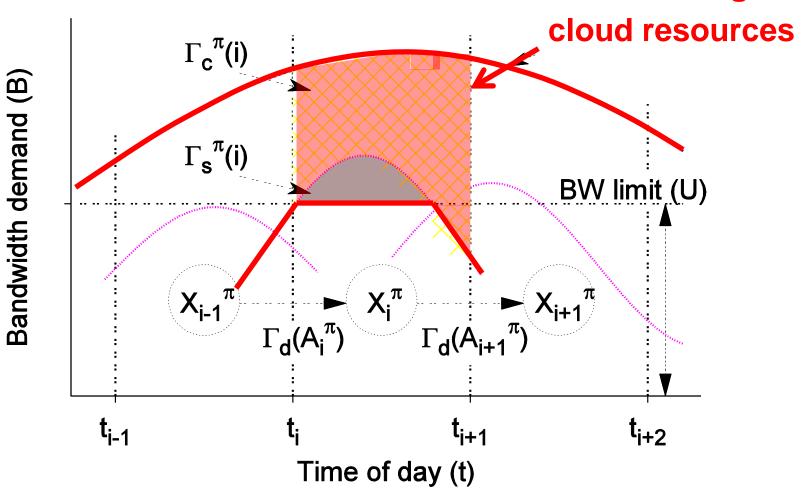


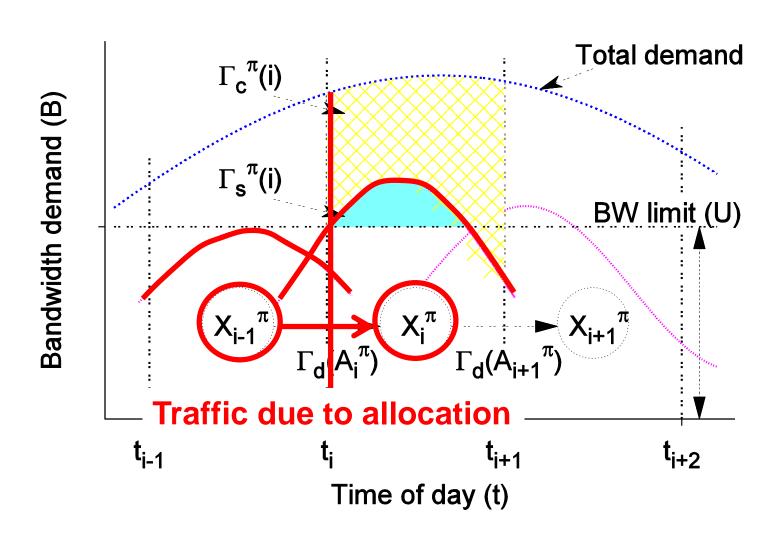


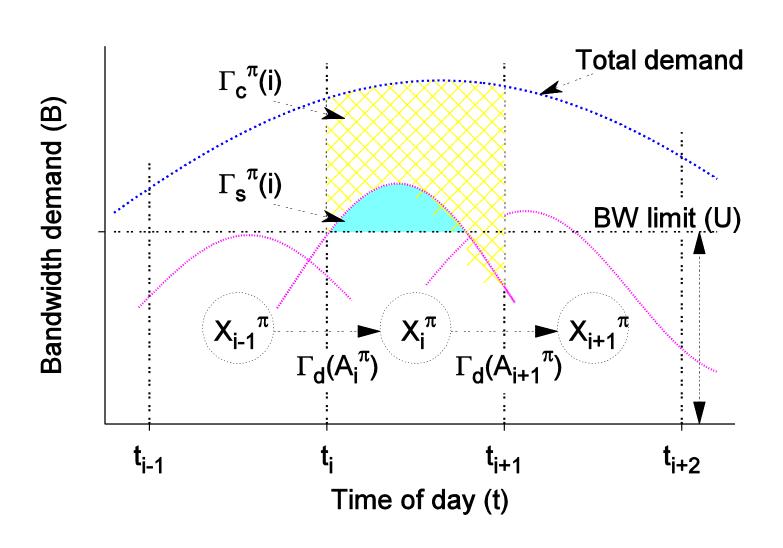


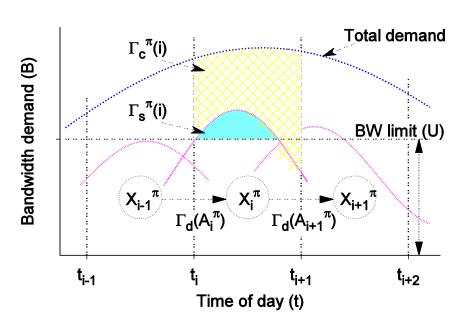












Traffic of files only in cloud

$$\Gamma_c^{\pi}(i) = E\left[\int_{t_i^{\pi}}^{t_{i+1}^{\pi}} \sum_{f \notin \mathcal{X}_i^{\pi}} B_f(t)\right]$$

Spillover traffic

$$\Gamma_s^{\pi}(i) = E \left[\int_{t_i^{\pi}}^{t_{i+1}^{\pi}} \left(\sum_{f \in \mathcal{X}_i^{\pi}} B_f(t) - U \right)^+ dt \right]$$

Traffic due to allocation

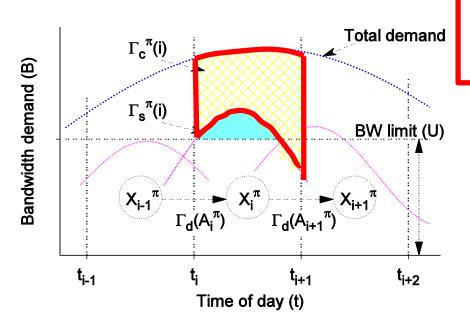
$$\Gamma_d^{\pi}(A_i^{\pi}) = \sum_{f \in A_i^{\pi}} L_f$$

Total expected cost

$$J^{\pi}(T, \mathcal{X}_0) = \gamma \times \sum_{i=0}^{I^{\pi}} \left\{ \Gamma_d^{\pi}(A_i^{\pi}) + \Gamma_c^{\pi}(i) + \Gamma_s^{\pi}(i) \right\}$$

Optimal policy

$$\pi^* = \arg\min_{\pi \in \Pi} J^{\pi}(T, \mathcal{X}_0)$$



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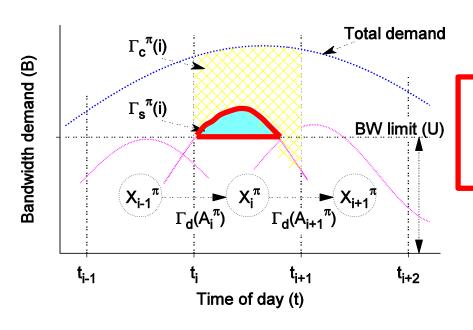
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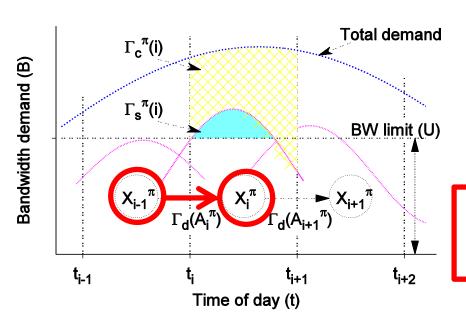
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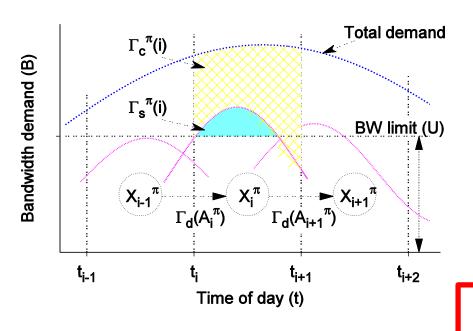
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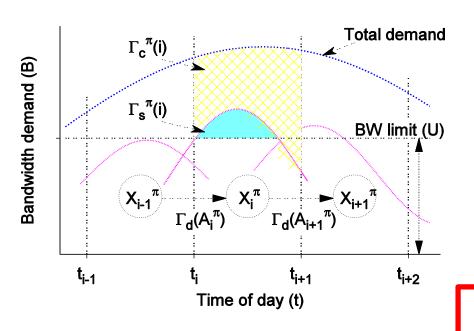
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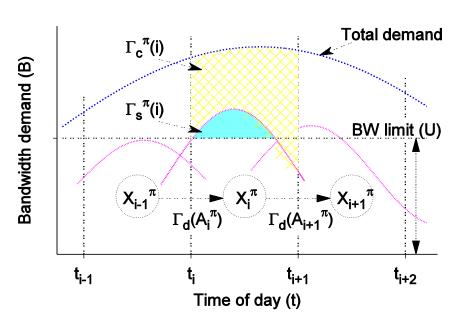
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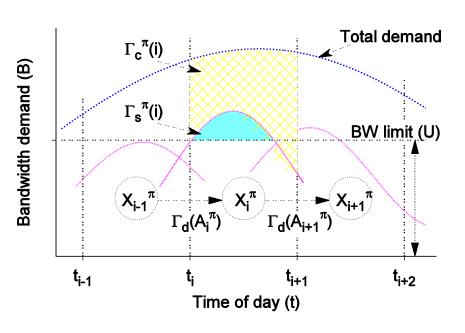
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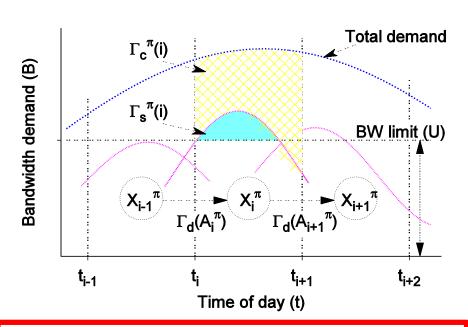
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Utilization maximization

Cost minimization formulation



Equivalent formulation

$$\overline{\Gamma}_{s}^{\pi}(i) = E\left[\int_{t_{i}^{\pi}}^{t_{i+1}^{\pi}} \min\left(U, \sum_{f \in \mathcal{X}_{i}^{\pi}} B_{f}(t)\right) dt\right]$$

$$U^{\pi}(T, \mathcal{X}_{0}) = \gamma \times \sum_{i=0}^{I^{\pi}} \left\{\overline{\Gamma}_{s}^{\pi}(i) - \Gamma_{d}^{\pi}(A_{i}^{\pi})\right\}$$
Optimal policy $\pi^{*} = \arg\max_{\pi \in \Pi} U^{\pi}(T, \mathcal{X}_{0})$

Traffic of files only in cloud

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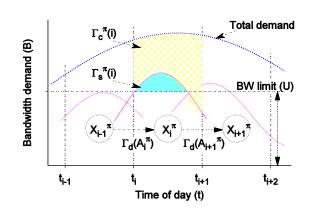
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Dynamic content allocation problem



- Formulate as a finite horizon dynamic decision process problem
- Show discrete time decision process is good approximation
- Exact solution as MILP
- Provide computationally feasible approximations (and prove properties about approximation ratios)
- Validate model and algorithms using traces from Spotify



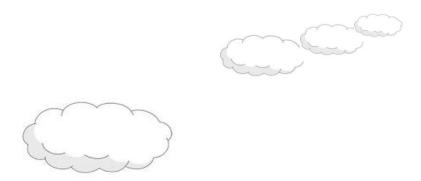
Caching and Optimized Request Routing in Cloud-based Content Delivery Systems

Proc. IFIP PERFORMANCE 2014.



- Migration to geographically distributed cloud data centers
 - Goal: Minimize content delivery costs

- Geographically distributed cloud
 - Elastic cloud bandwidth and storage
 - When sufficiently expensive storage costs, not all contents should be cached at all locations



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 - Elastic cloud bandwidth and storage
 - When sufficiently expensive storage costs, not all contents should be cached at all locations
- Two policy questions arise
 - What content should be cached where?
 - How should requests be routed?





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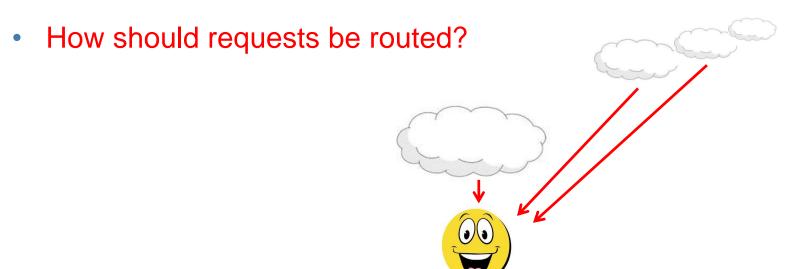


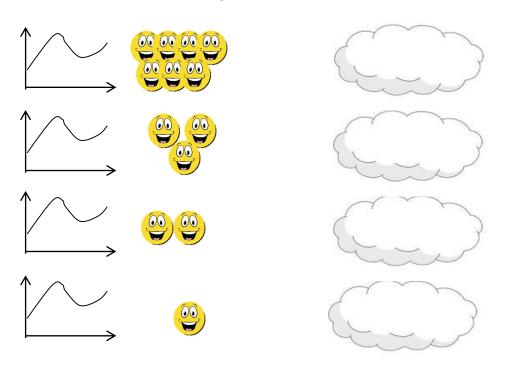






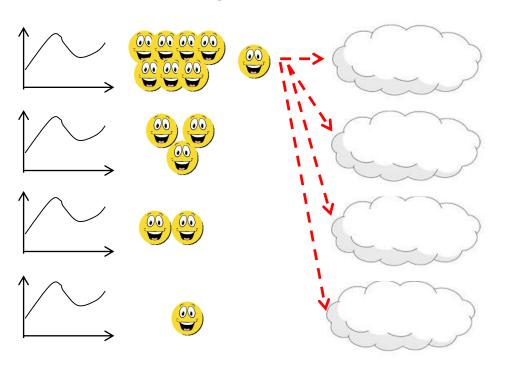
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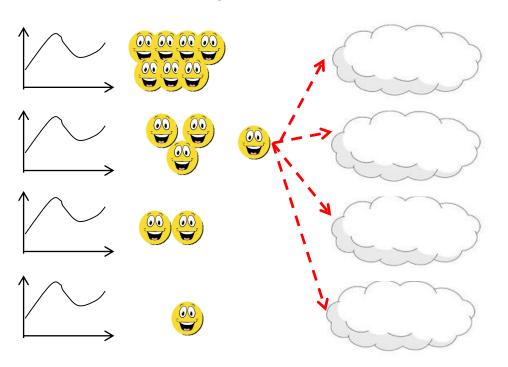
- 1) Request routing
- 2) TTL-caching

- Elastic cloud bandwidth and storage
 - TTL T_i used at each server location
- Optimized request routing determines content replication



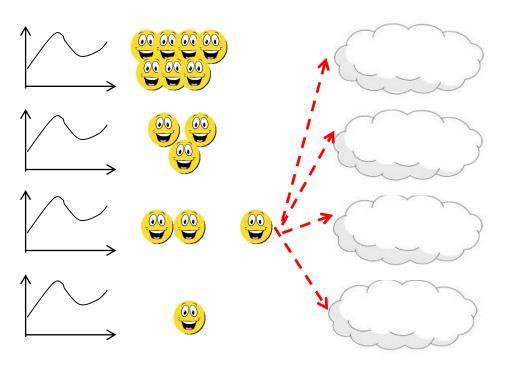
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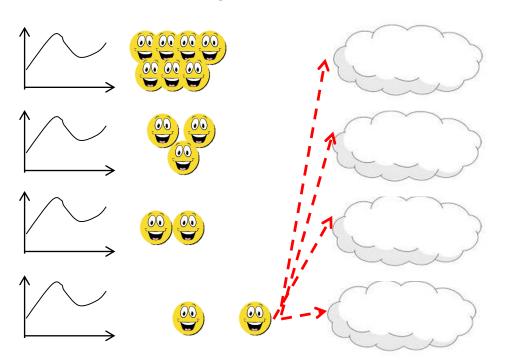
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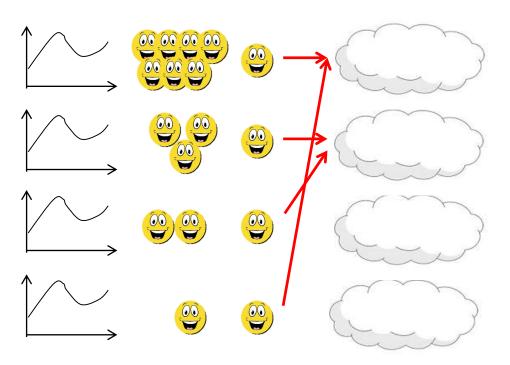
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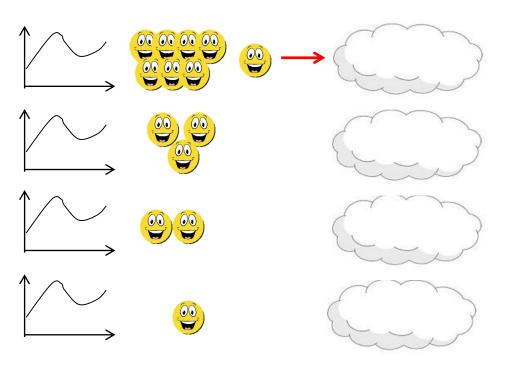
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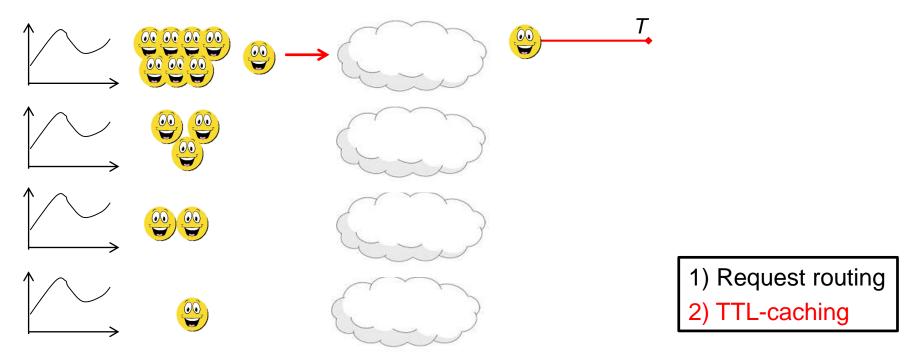
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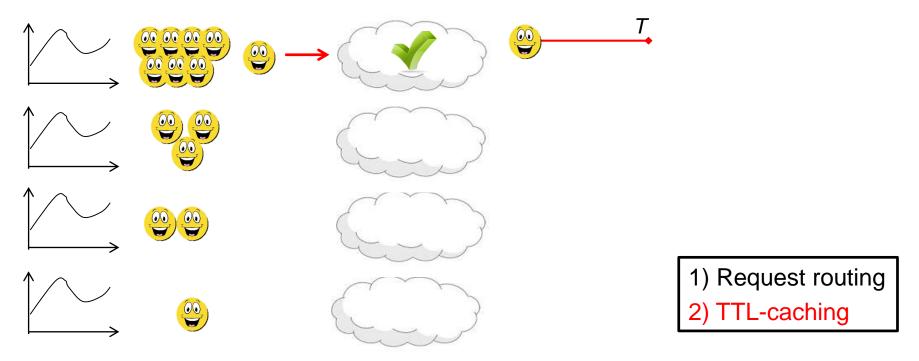


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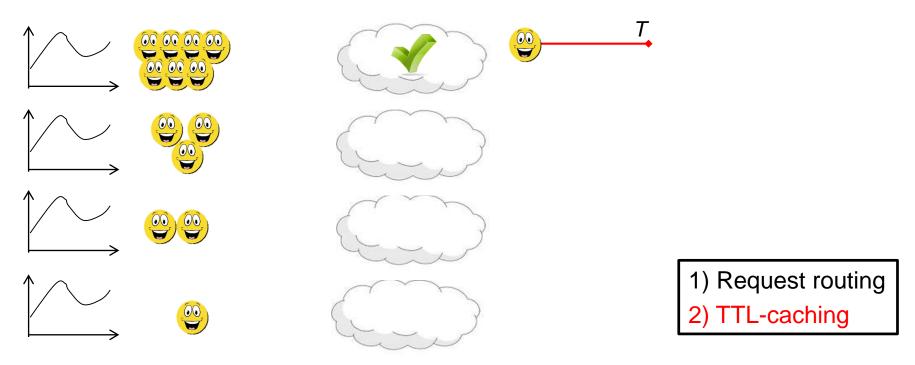
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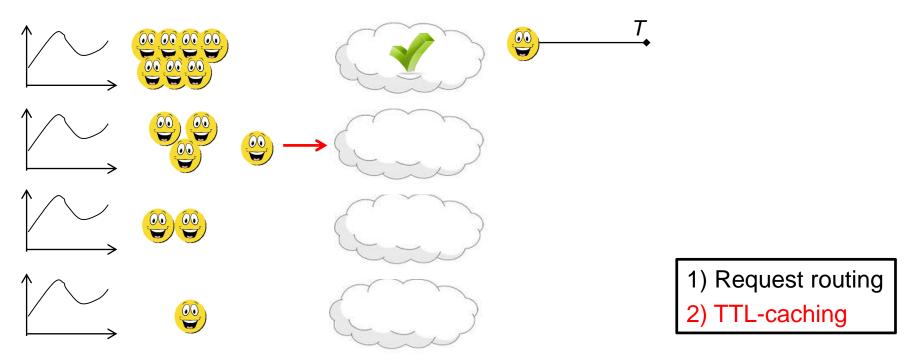
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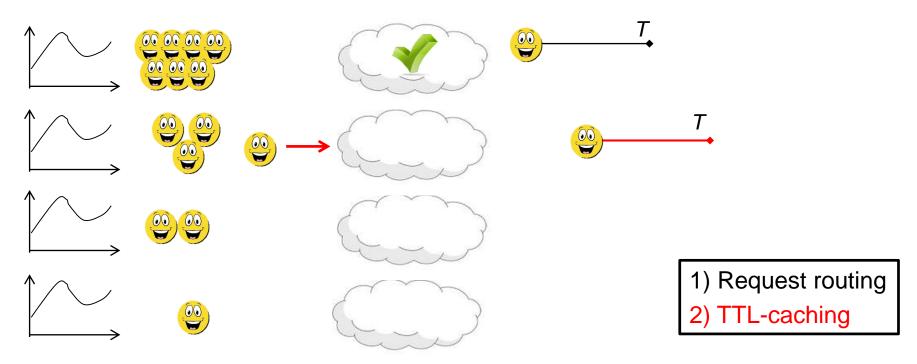
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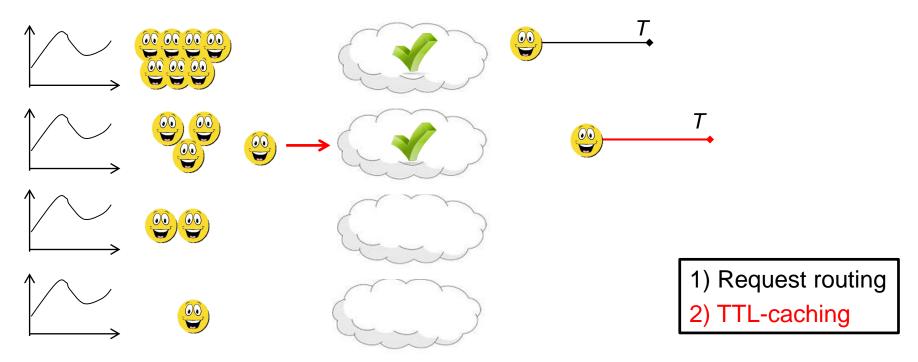
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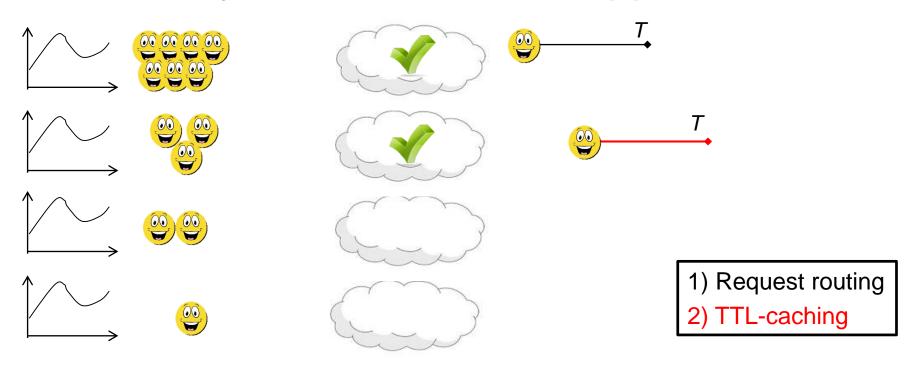
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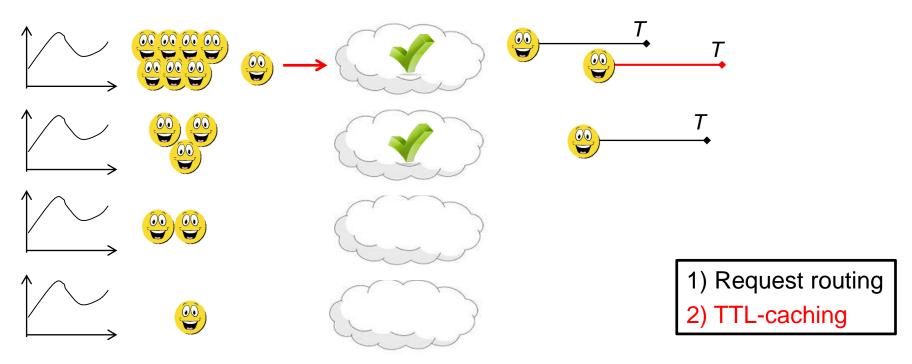
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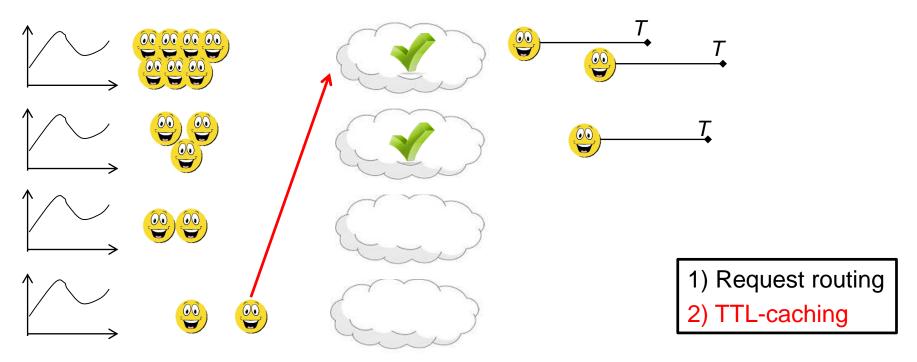
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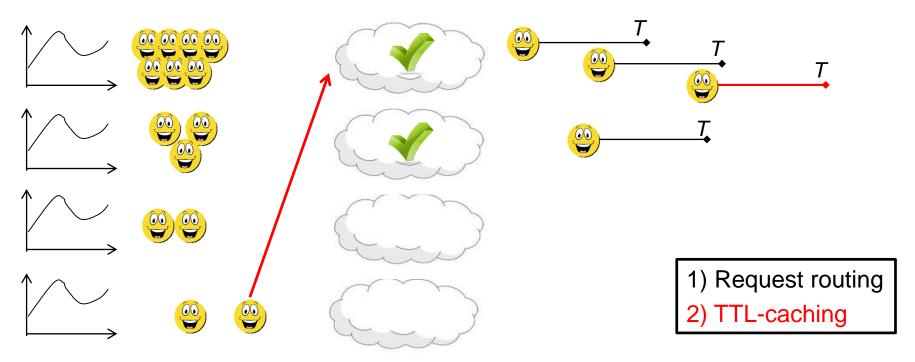
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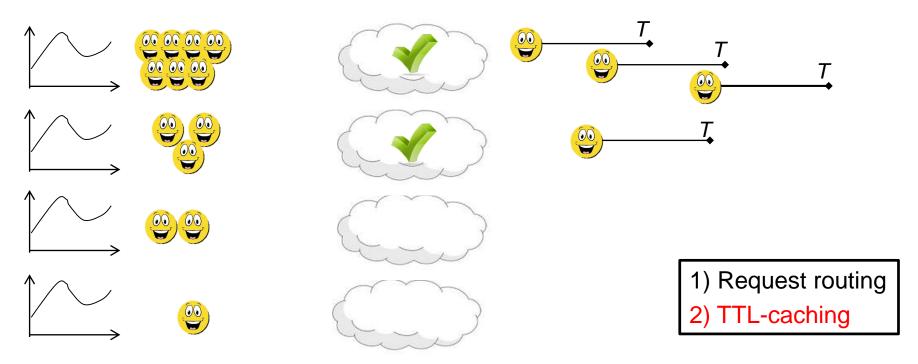
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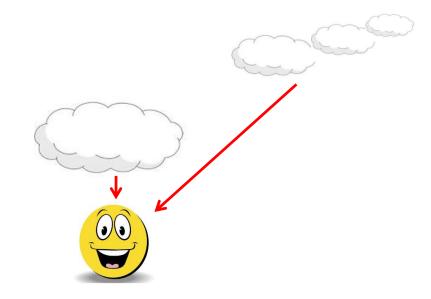
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Request routing optimization

Minimize

$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}} \left(\gamma_i e^{-\gamma_i T} + L(1 - e^{-\gamma_i T}) + R \sum_{c \in \mathcal{M}: i^*(c) \neq i} \lambda_{c,i} \right), \quad \text{where } \gamma_i = \sum_{c \in \mathcal{M}} \lambda_{c,i}$$

- Minimize content delivery costs
 - Cache miss cost
 - Cache storage cost
 - Remote routing cost



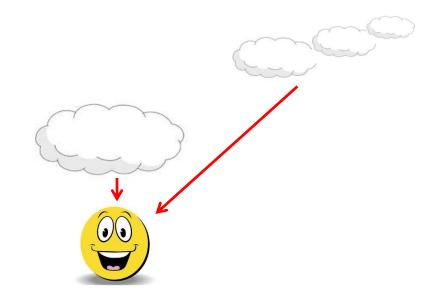
Minimize

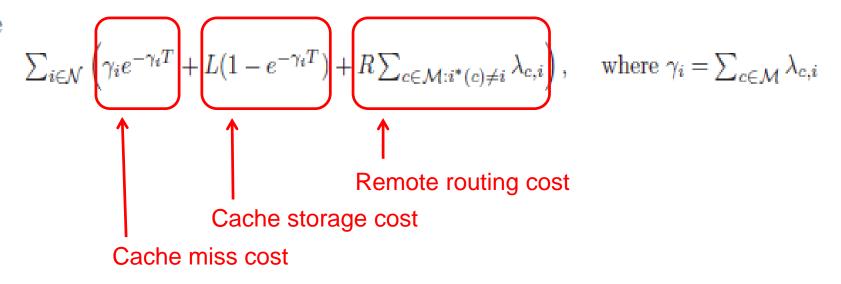
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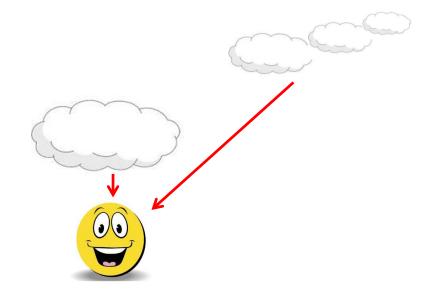
Aggregate request rate at server location i

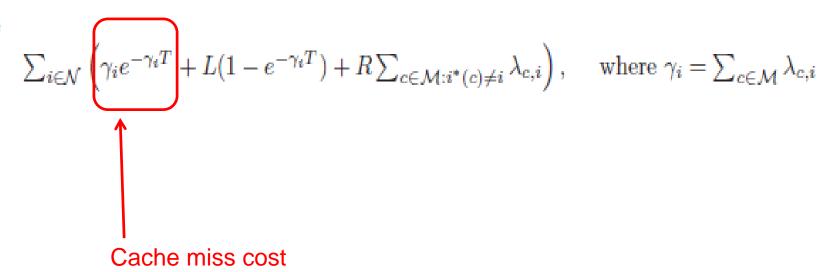
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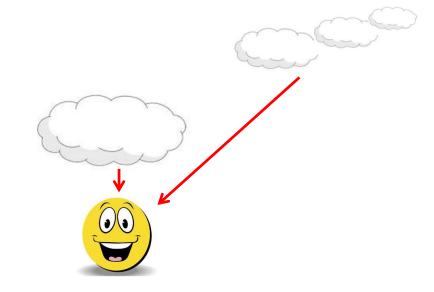


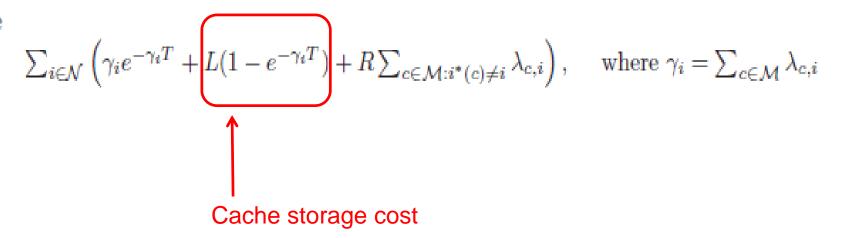
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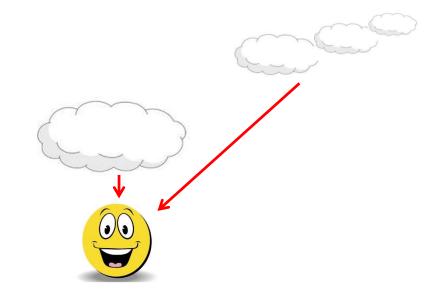


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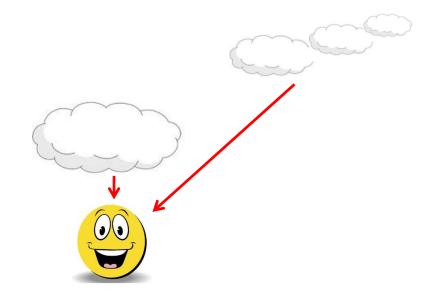


- Minimize content delivery costs
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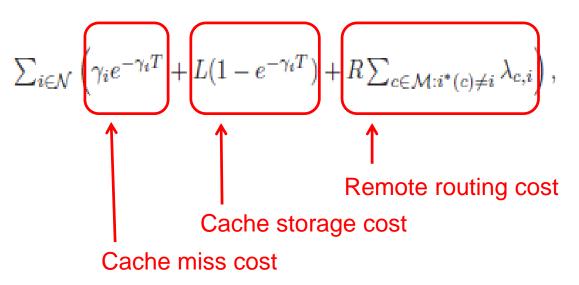


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Remote routing cost

- Minimize content delivery costs
 - Cache miss cost
 - Cache storage cost
 - Remote routing cost



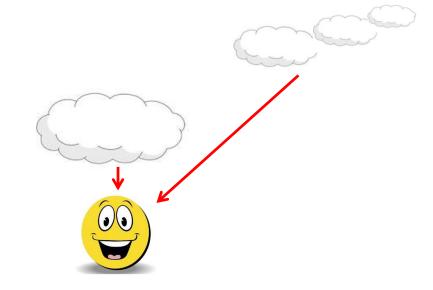
Minimize



where $\gamma_i = \sum_{c \in \mathcal{M}} \lambda_{c,i}$

Aggregate request rate at server location i

- Minimize content delivery costs
 - Cache miss cost
 - Cache storage cost
 - Remote routing cost



Minimize

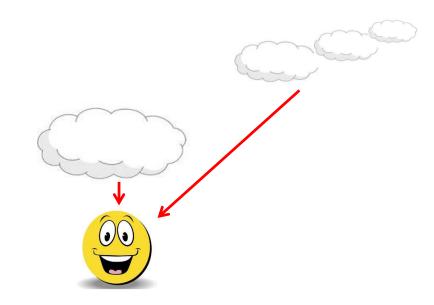
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Subject to

$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}} \lambda_{c,i} = \lambda_c, \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{M}$$
$$\lambda_{c,i} \ge 0, \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{N}, \forall c \in \mathcal{M}$$

Conservation constraints

- Minimize content delivery costs
 - Cache miss cost
 - Cache storage cost
 - Remote routing cost



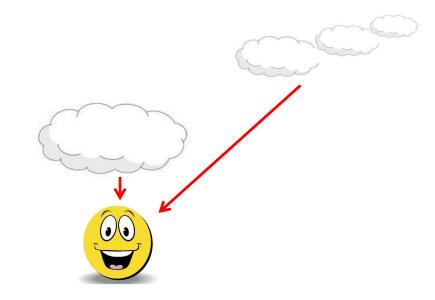
Minimize

$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}} \left(\gamma_i e^{-\gamma_i T} + L(1 - e^{-\gamma_i T}) + R \sum_{c \in \mathcal{M}: i^*(c) \neq i} \lambda_{c,i} \right), \quad \text{where } \gamma_i = \sum_{c \in \mathcal{M}} \lambda_{c,i}$$

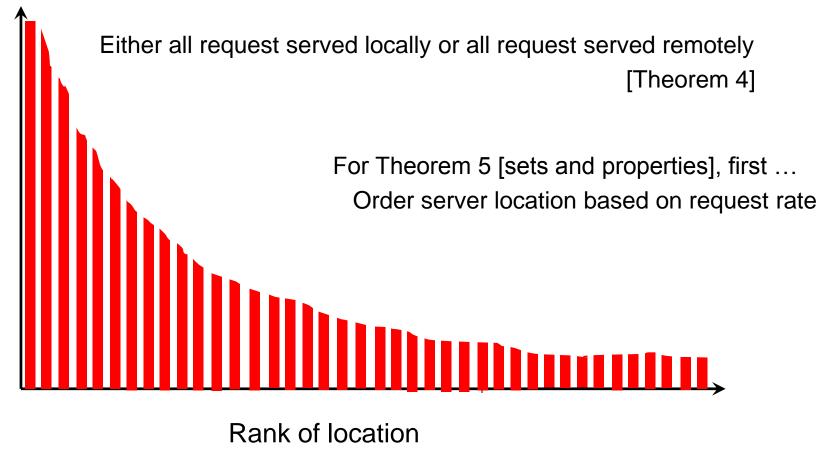
Subject to

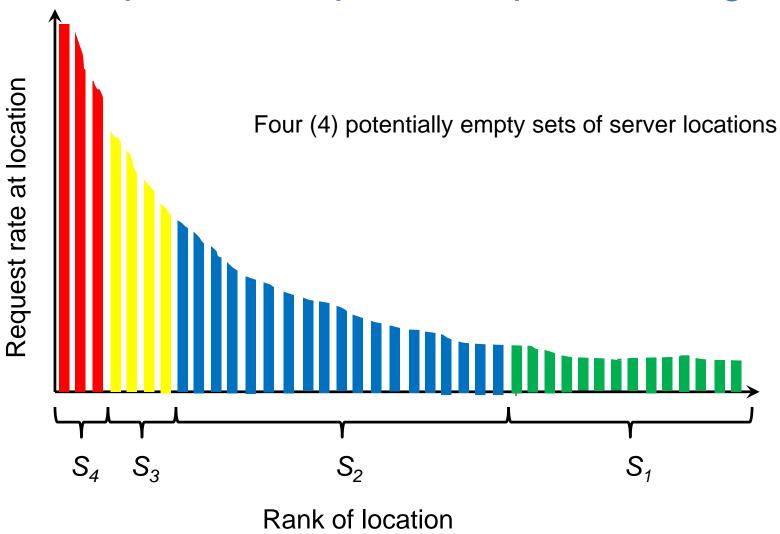
$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}} \lambda_{c,i} = \lambda_c, \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{M}$$
$$\lambda_{c,i} \ge 0, \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{N}, \forall c \in \mathcal{M}$$

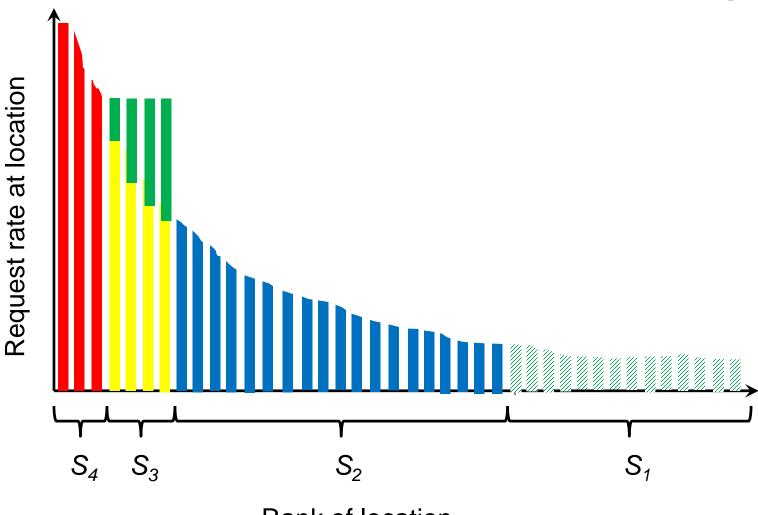
- Minimize content delivery costs
 - Cache miss cost
 - Cache storage cost
 - Remote routing cost



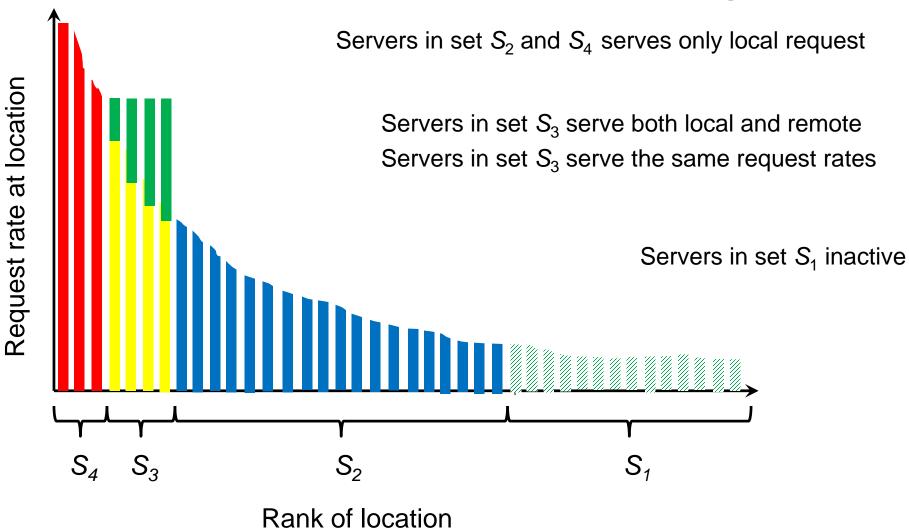
Request rate at location

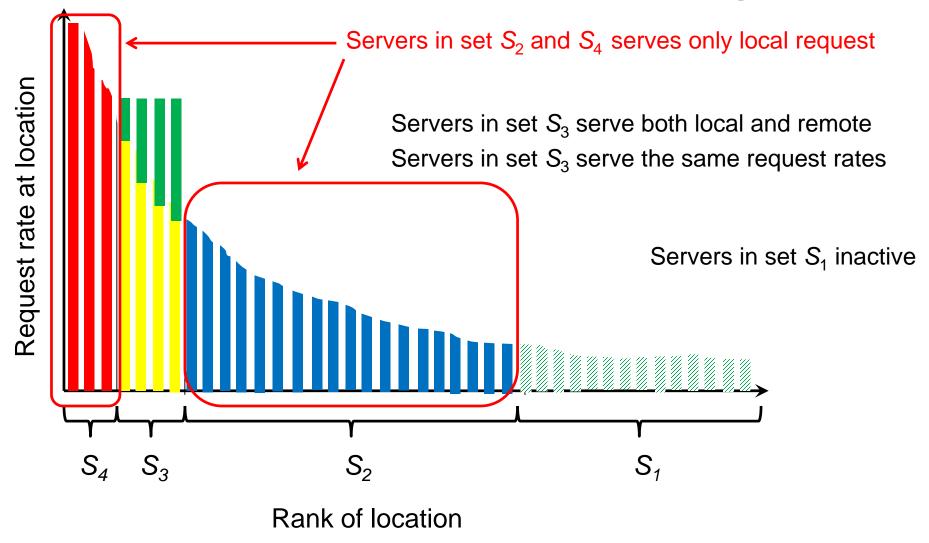


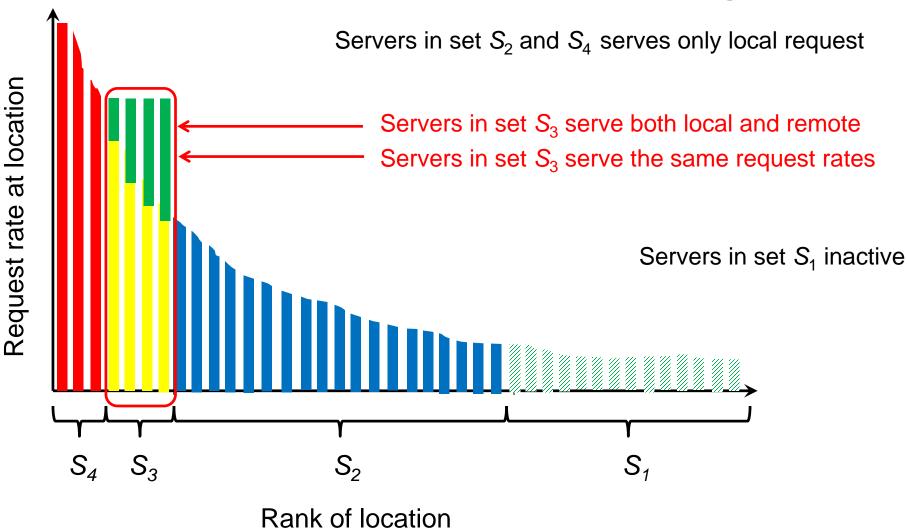


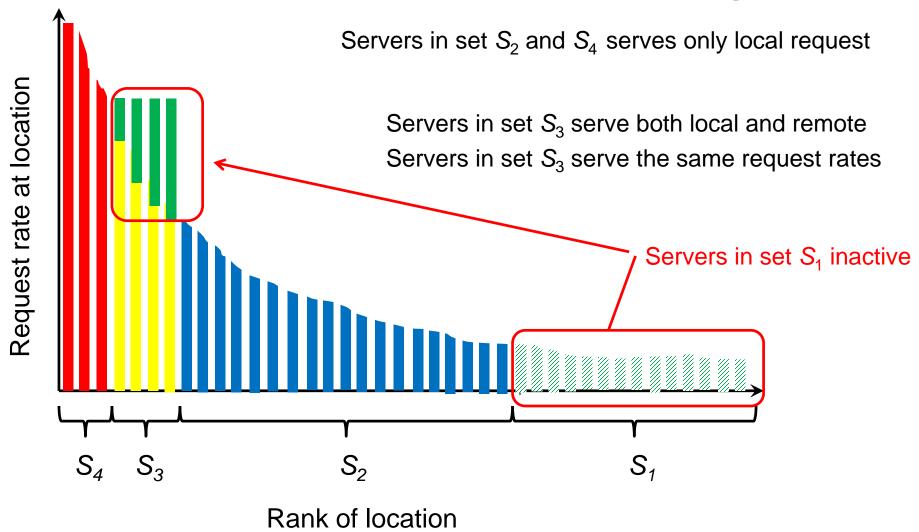


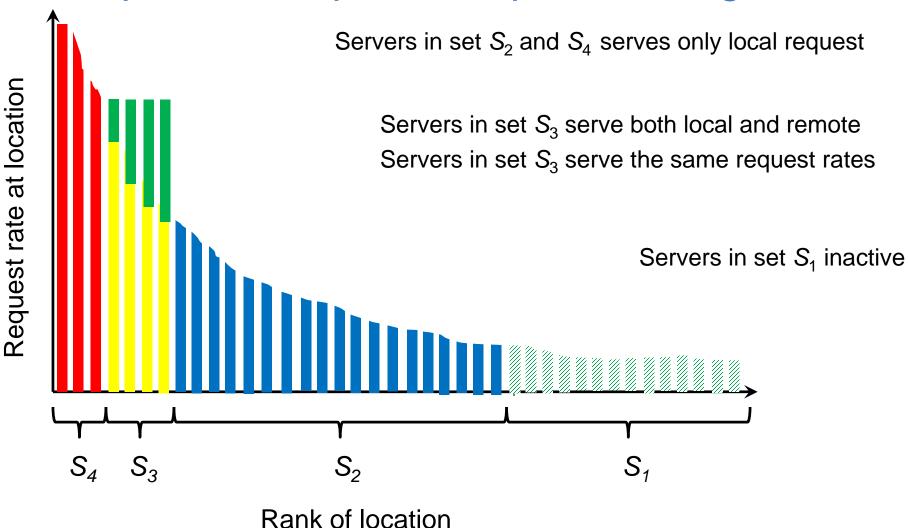
Rank of location



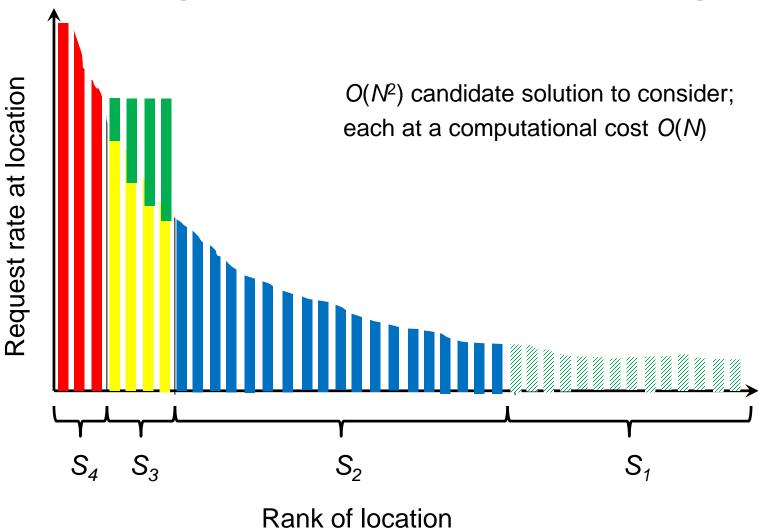




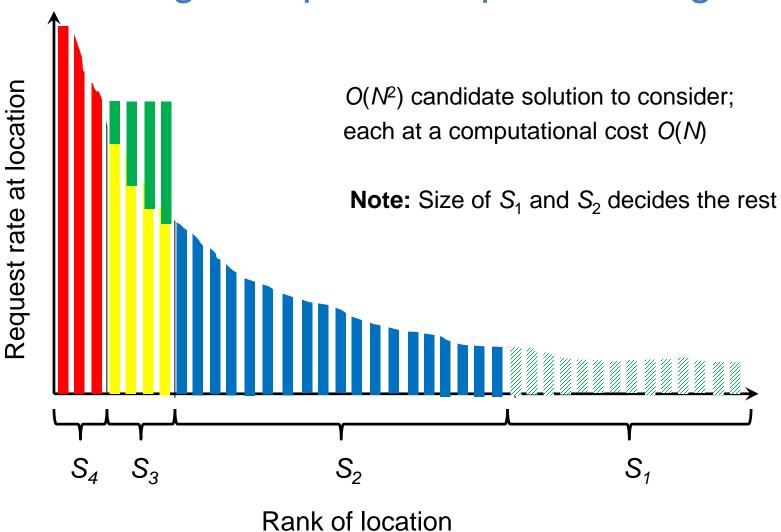




Finding the optimal request routing

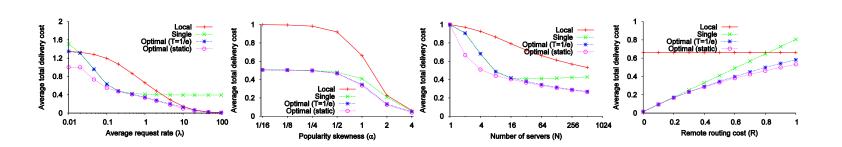


Finding the optimal request routing



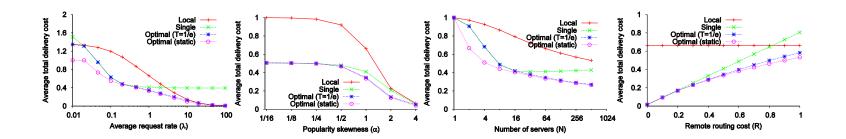
- Compare optimal dynamic policy with baselines
 - Always "local" server
 - Always "single" server
- As well as with optimal "static" placement (any T_i)

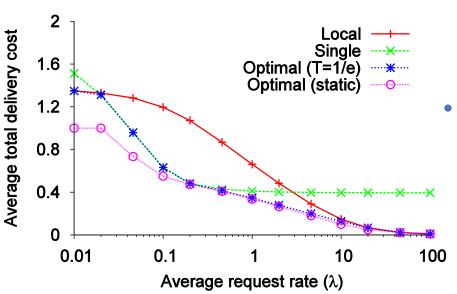
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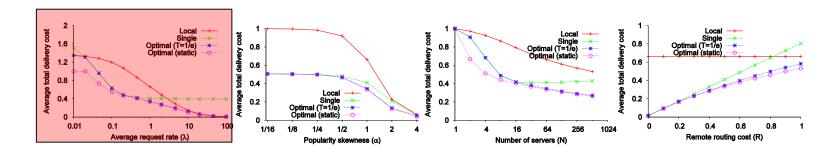
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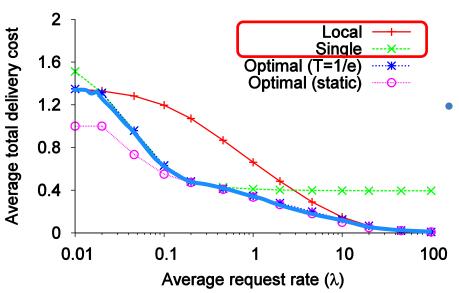
- Significantly outperform baselines ("local" and "single")
 - Difference can be unbounded
- Even with static load, costs typically close to those with static optimal placement (but much more flexible)



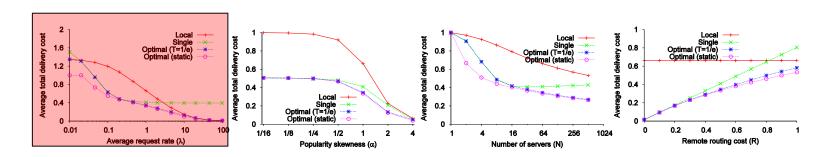


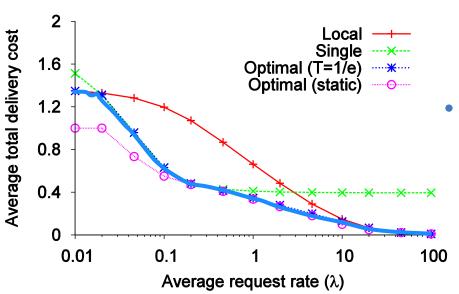
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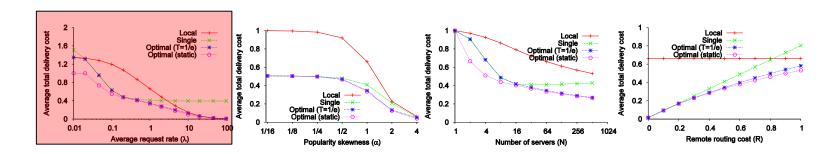


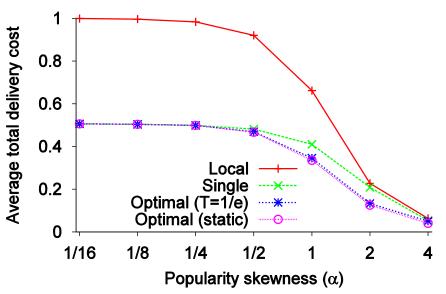
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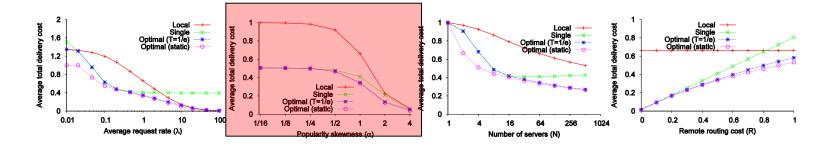


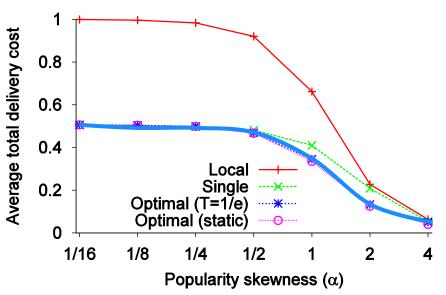
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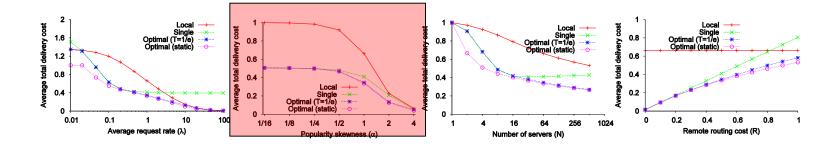


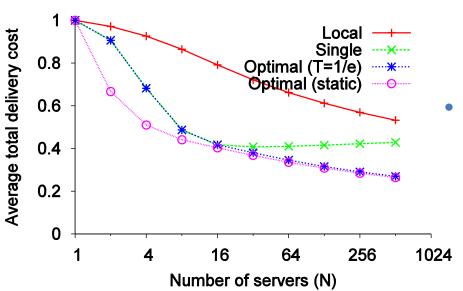
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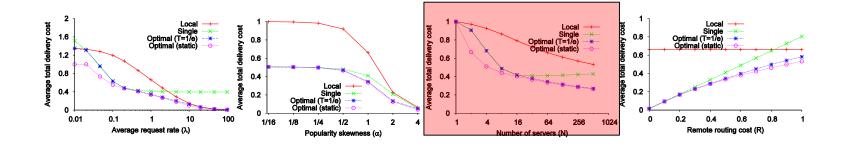


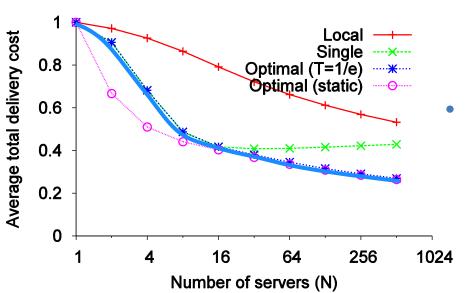
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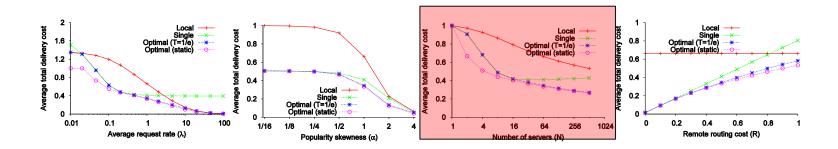


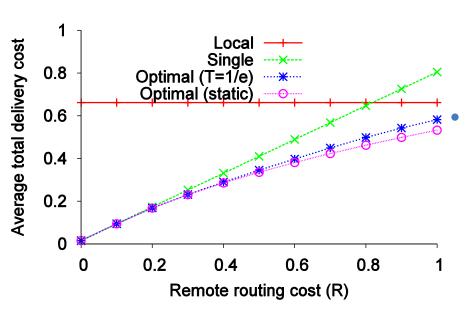
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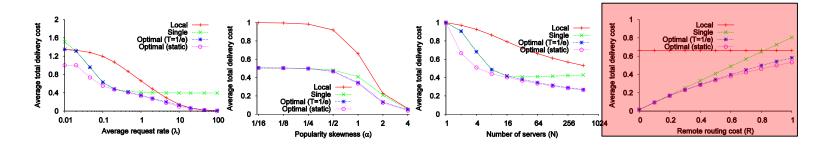


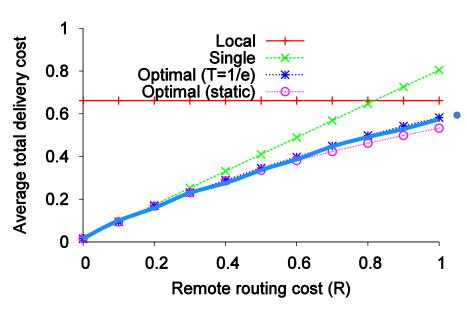
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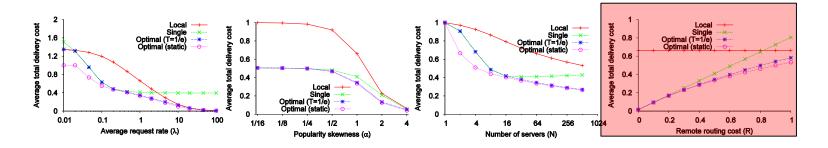


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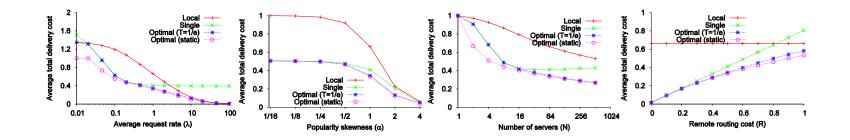




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Contributions

- Propose new delivery approach using distributed clouds
 - Request routing periodically updated
 - Cache content updated dynamically
- Formulate optimization problem
 - Non-convex, so standard techniques not directly applicable
- Identify and prove properties of optimal solution
 - Leverage properties to find optimal solution
- Comparison with optimal static placement and routing, as well as with baseline policies
- Present a lower-cost approximation solution that achieve within 2.5% of optimum

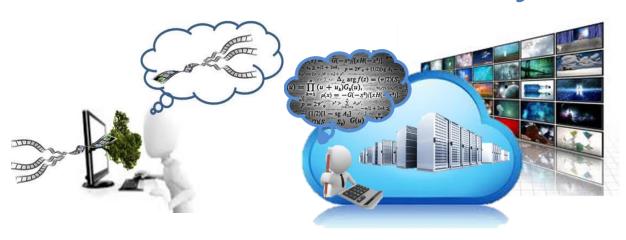










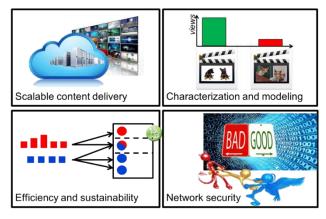












Scalable content delivery

Measurements, analysis, and modeling

Efficient and sustainable ICT

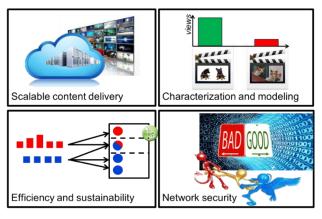
Security and emerging services



Niklas Carlsson (niklas.carlsson@liu.se)
Research overview and pubs: www.ida.liu.se/~nikca/

Summary and Thanks!!





Scalable content delivery

Measurements, analysis, and modeling

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