

# Self-Adjusting Networks

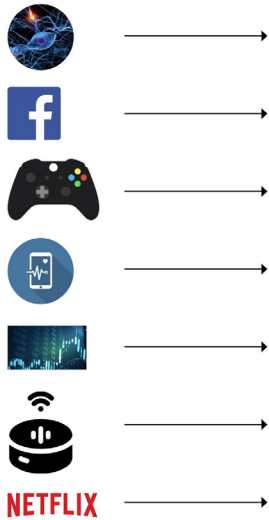
Stefan Schmid

“We cannot direct the wind,  
but we can adjust the sails.”

(Folklore)

# Trend:

## Data-Centric Applications

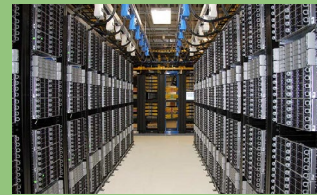


# Trend:

## Data-Centric Applications



Datacenters (“hyper-scale”)



# Trend:

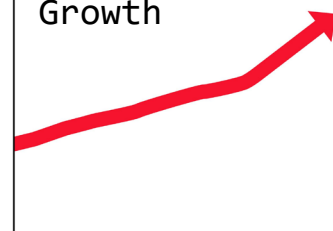
## Data-Centric Applications



Datacenters (“hyper-scale”)



Traffic  
Growth



Source: Facebook

# Trend:

## Data-Centric Applications

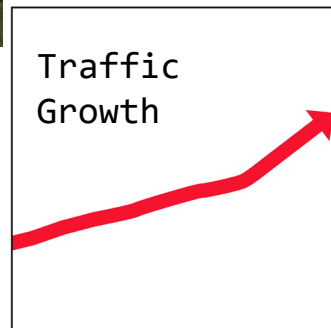


Datacenters (“hyper-scale”)



+network

Interconnecting networks:  
a **critical infrastructure**  
of our digital society.

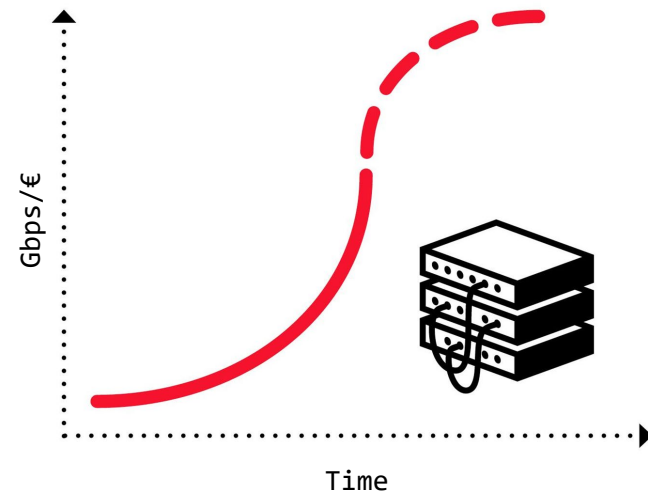


Source: Facebook

# The Problem:

## Huge Infrastructure, Inefficient Use

- Network equipment reaching capacity limits
  - Transistor density rates stalling
  - “End of **Moore’s Law** in networking” [1]
- Hence: more equipment, larger networks
- Resource intensive and: **inefficient**

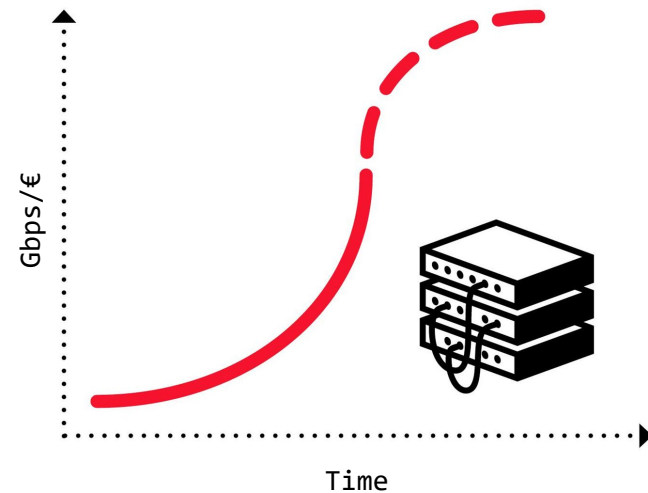


[1] Source: Microsoft, 2019

# The Problem:

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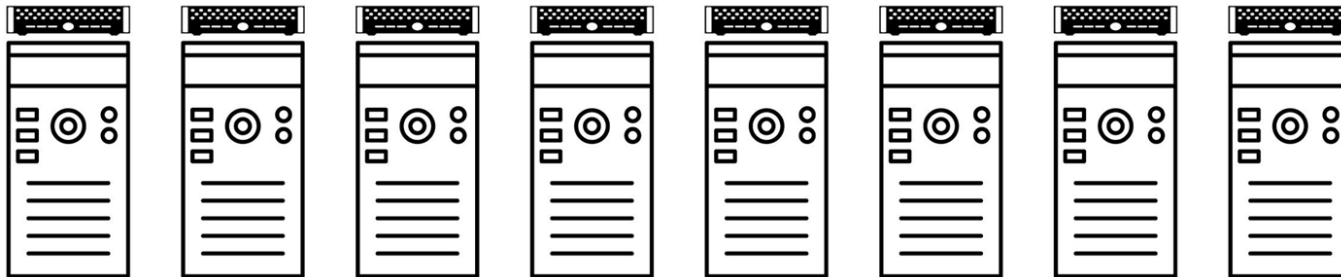
[1] Source: Microsoft, 2019

Annoying for companies,  
**opportunity** for researchers

# Root Cause:

Fixed and Demand-Oblivious Topology

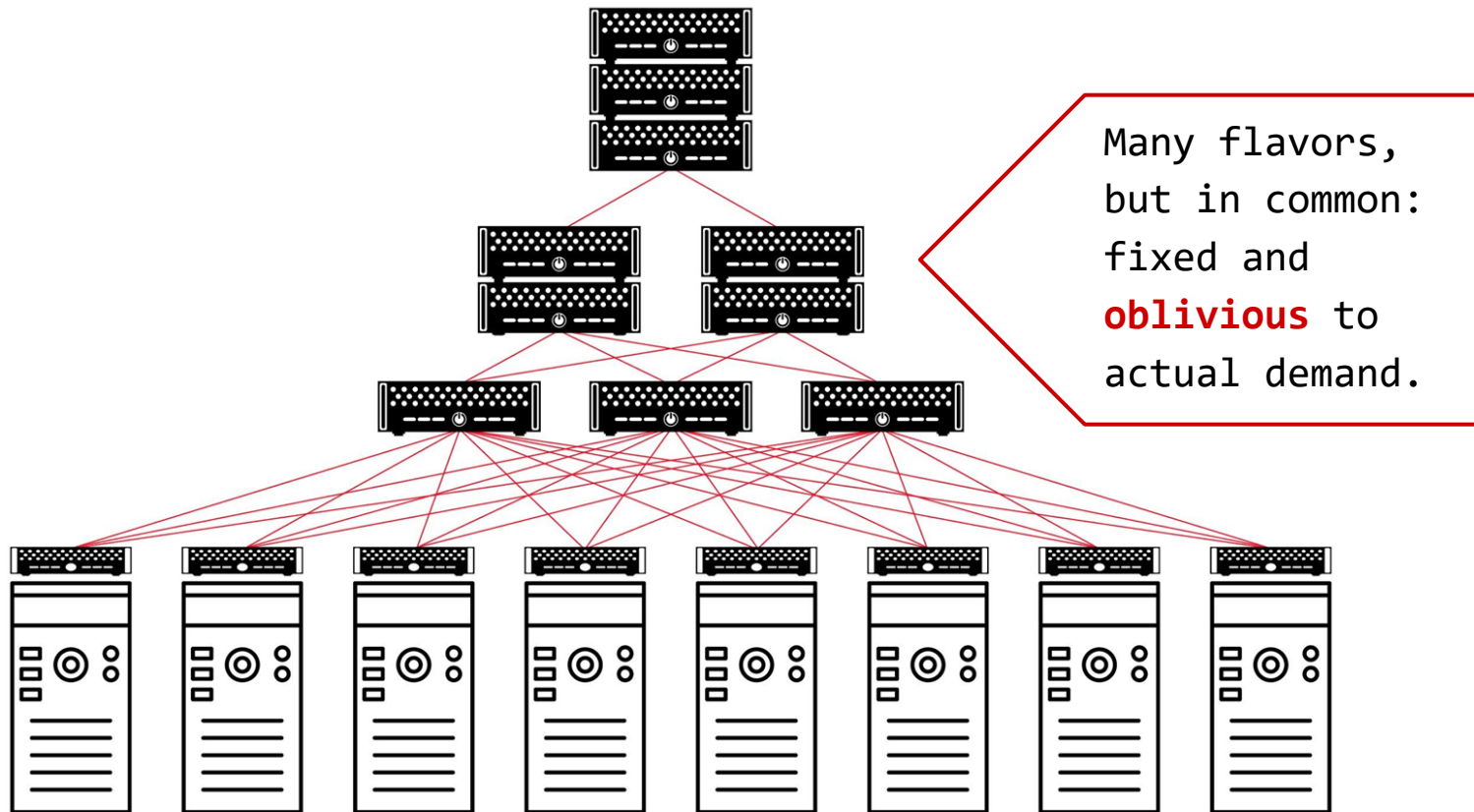
How to interconnect?





# Root Cause:

## Fixed and Demand-Oblivious Topology

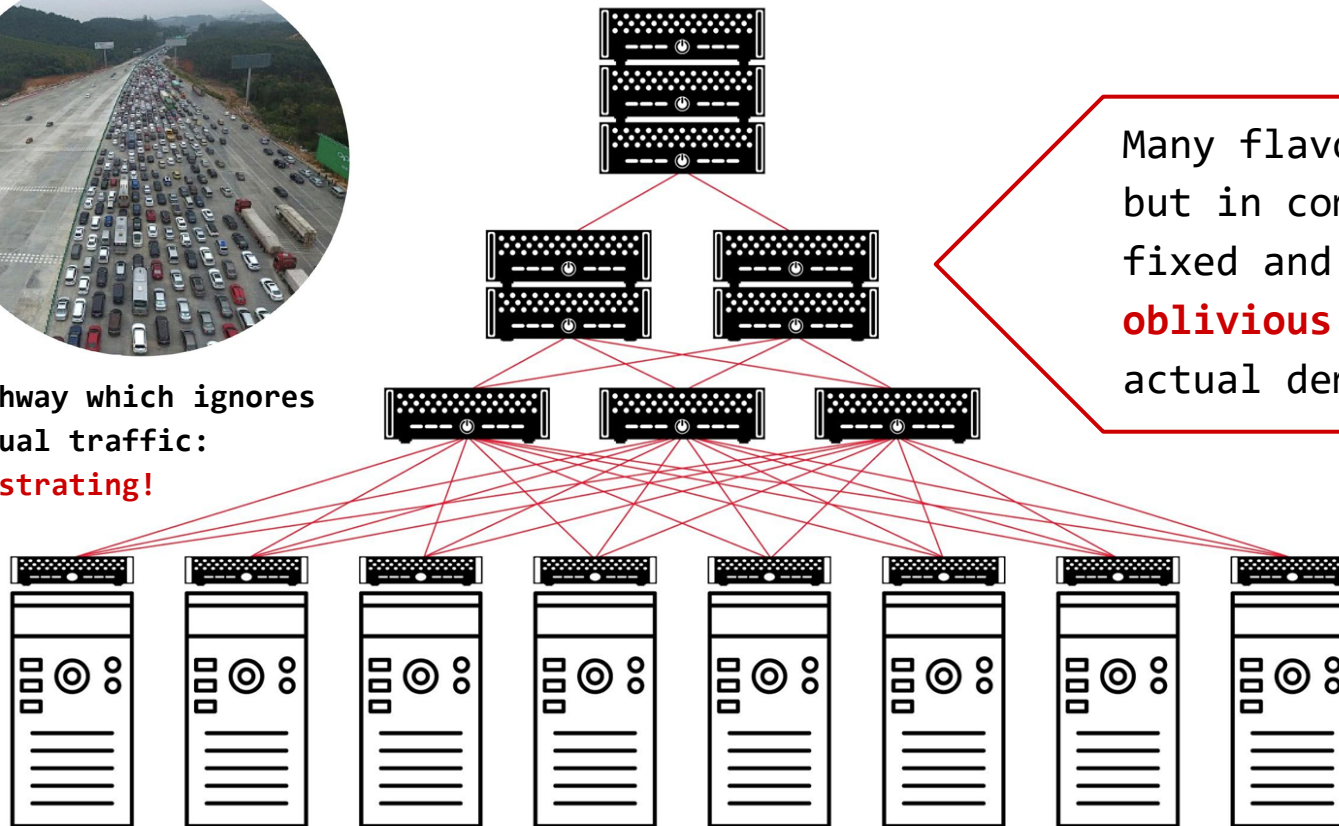


# Root Cause:

## Fixed and Demand-Oblivious Topology



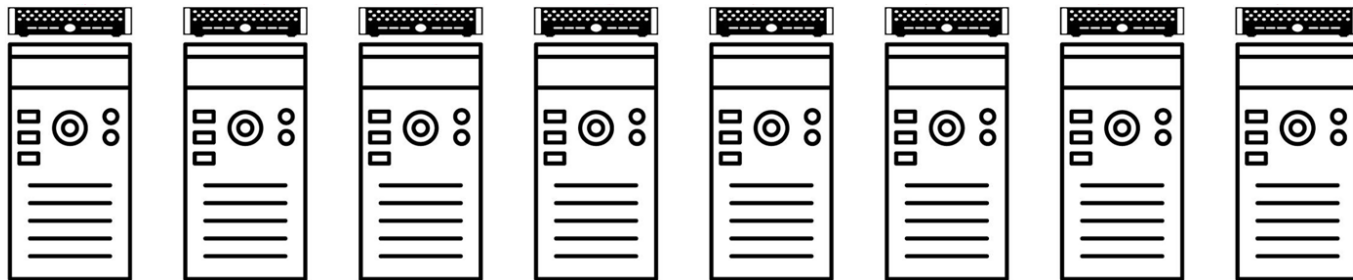
Highway which ignores  
actual traffic:  
**frustrating!**



Many flavors,  
but in common:  
fixed and  
**oblivious** to  
actual demand.

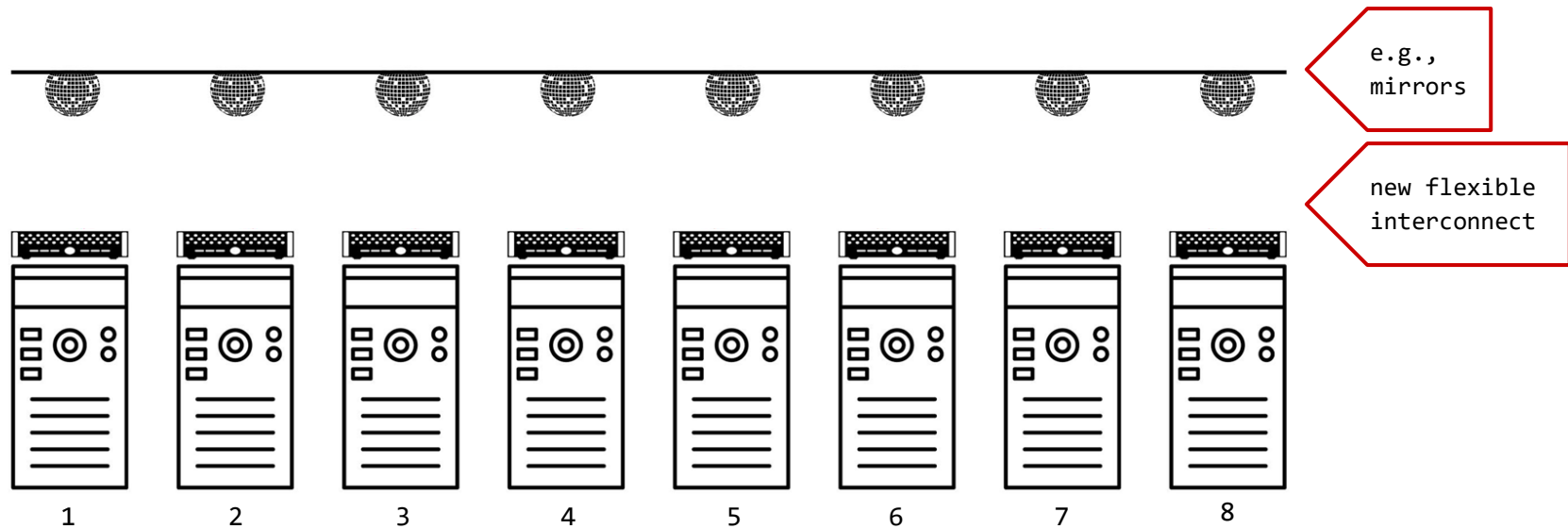
# Our Vision:

Flexible and Demand-Aware Topologies



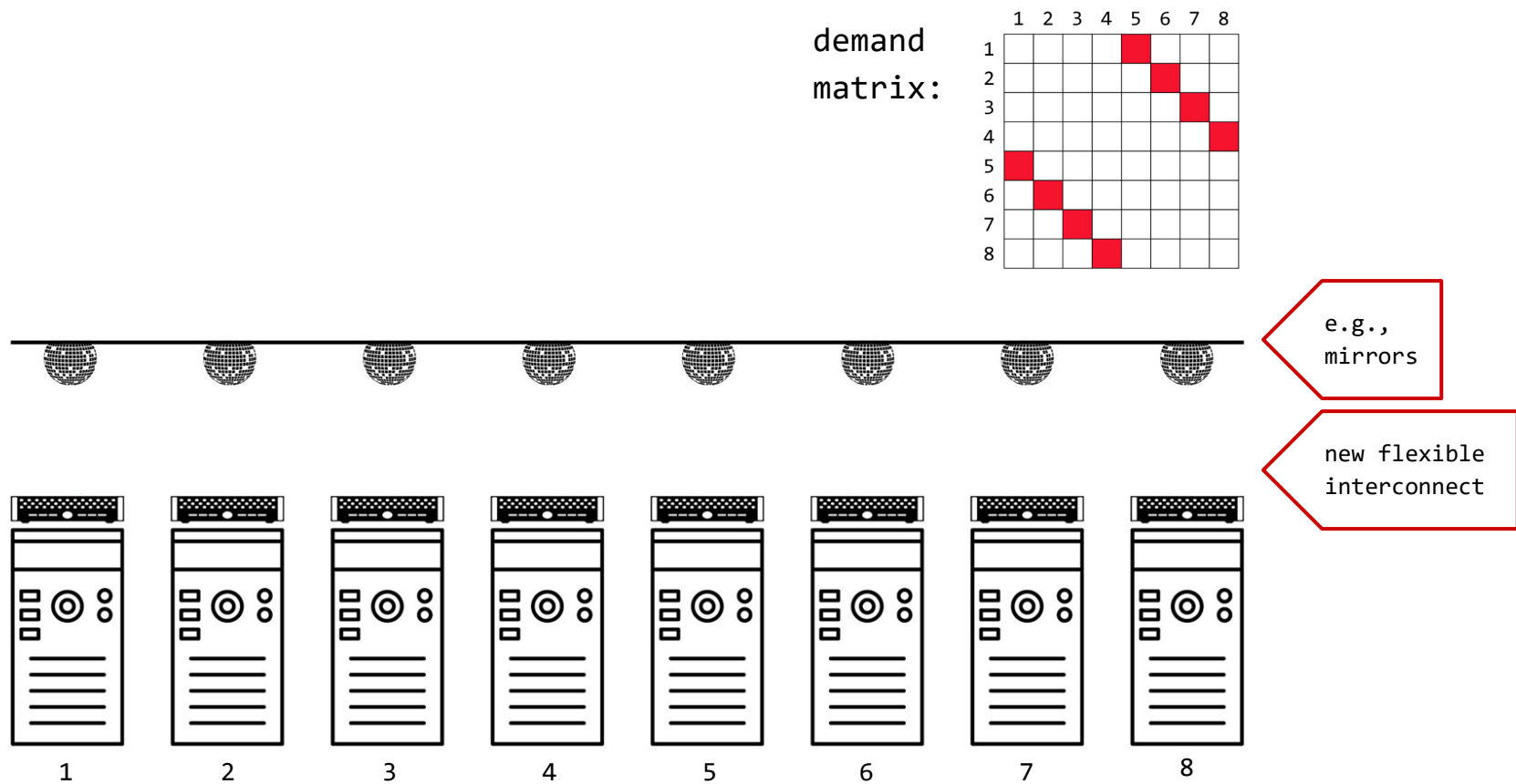
# Our Vision:

Flexible and Demand-Aware Topologies



# Our Vision:

## Flexible and Demand-Aware Topologies



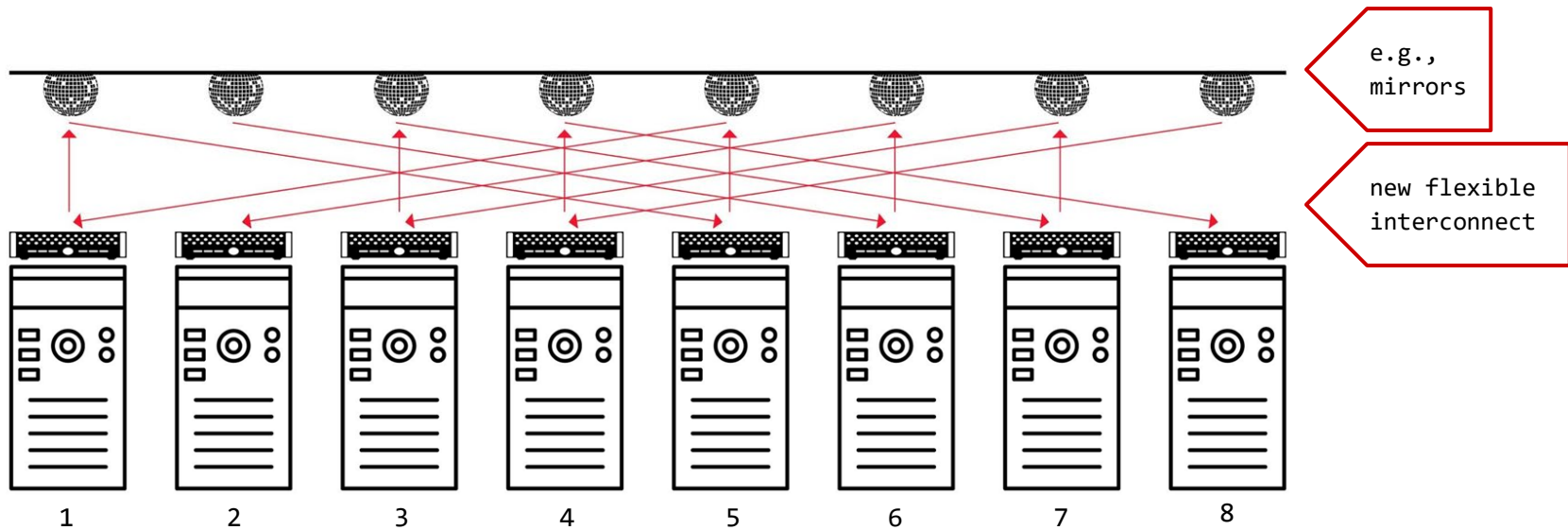
# Our Vision:

## Flexible and Demand-Aware Topologies

Matches demand

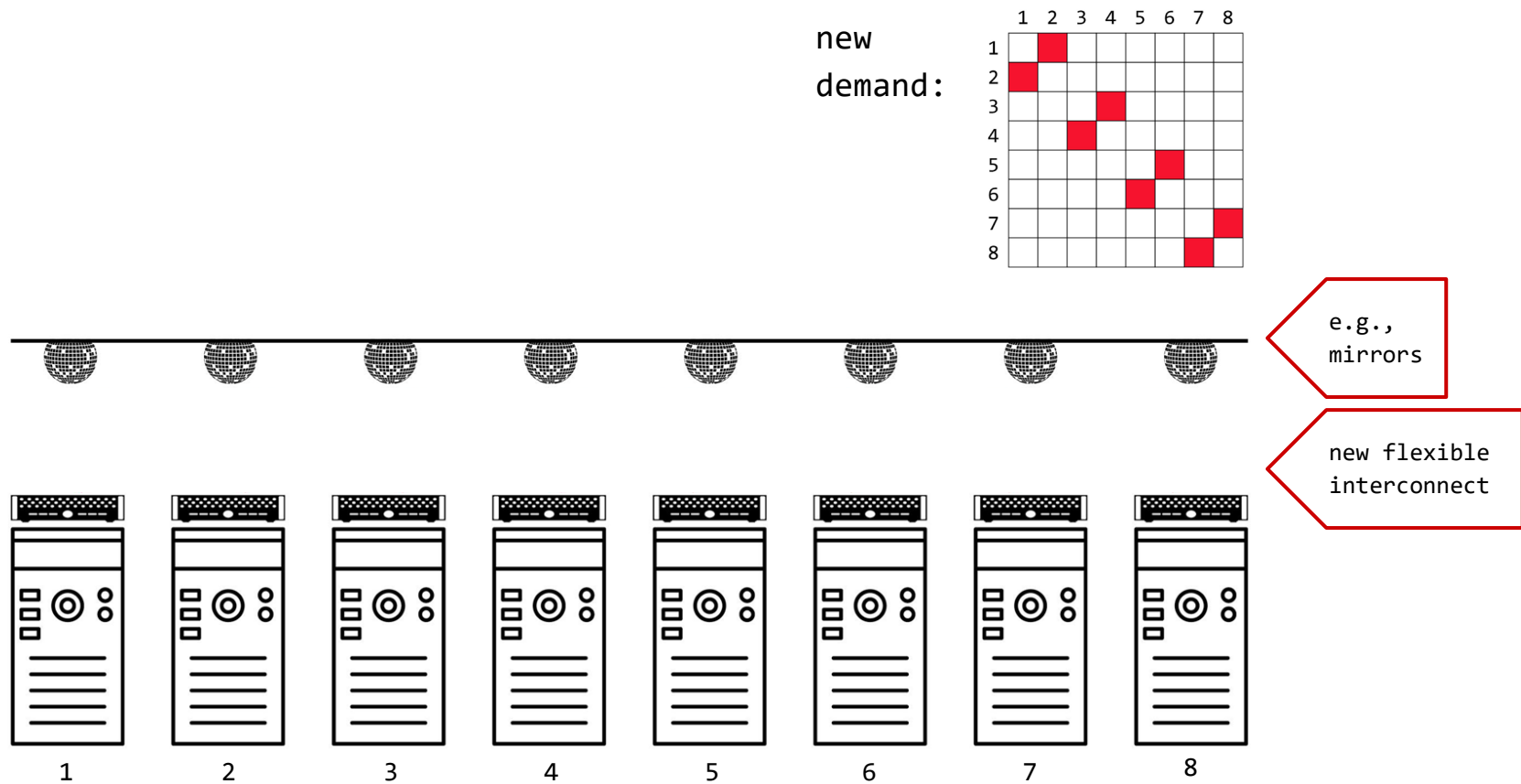
demand  
matrix:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1					■			
2						■		
3							■	
4								■
5	■							
6		■						
7			■					
8				■				



# Our Vision:

## Flexible and Demand-Aware Topologies



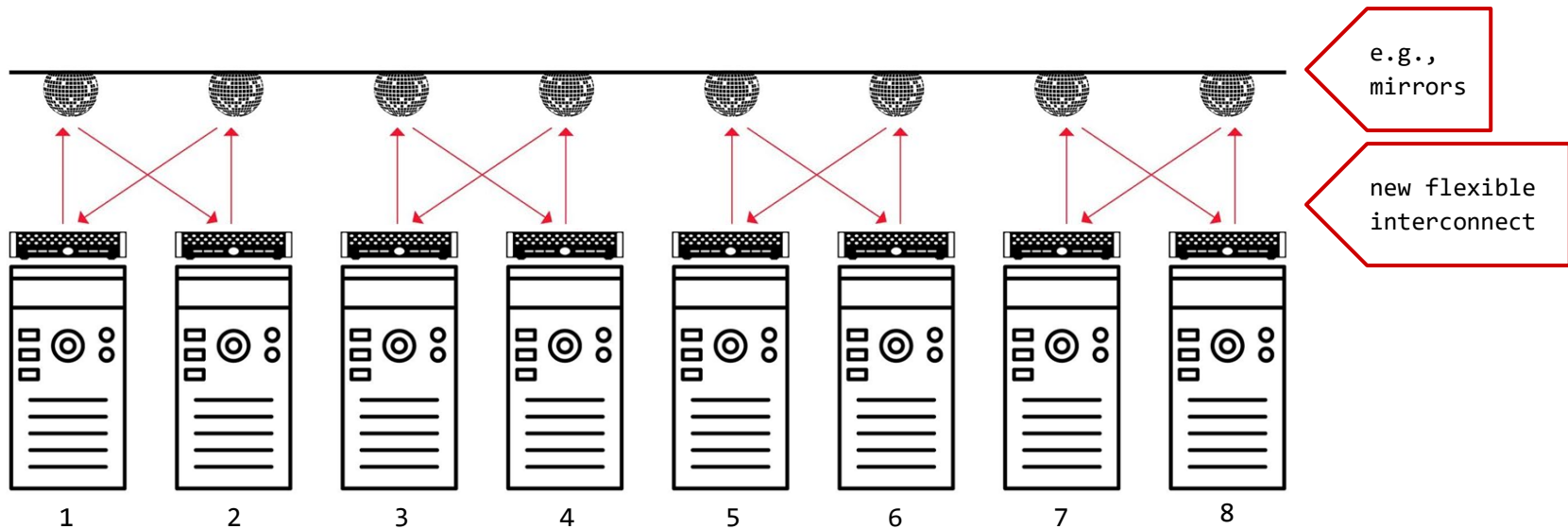
# Our Vision:

## Flexible and Demand-Aware Topologies

Matches demand

new  
demand:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								





# Our Vision:

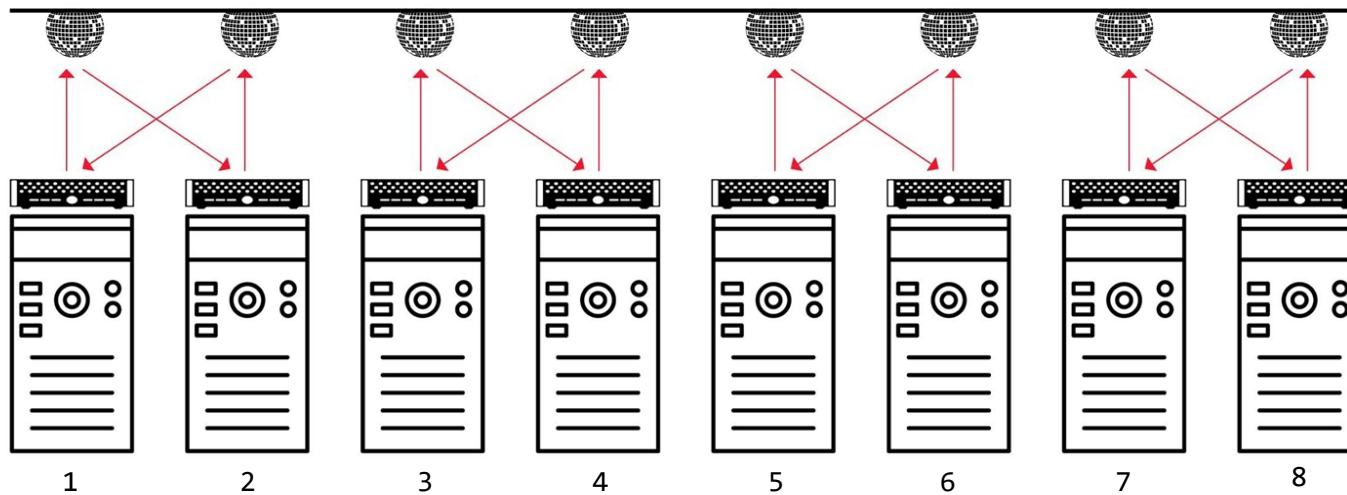
## Flexible and Demand-Aware Topologies



Self-Adjusting  
Networks

new  
demand:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								



e.g.,  
mirrors

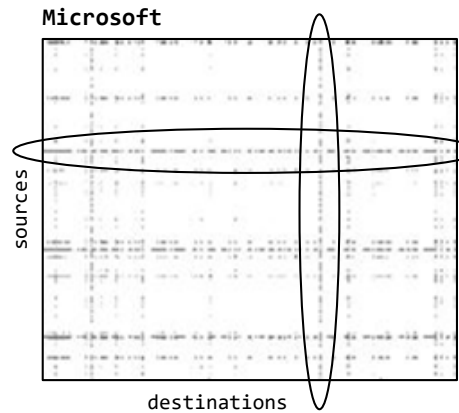
new flexible  
interconnect

# Our Motivation:

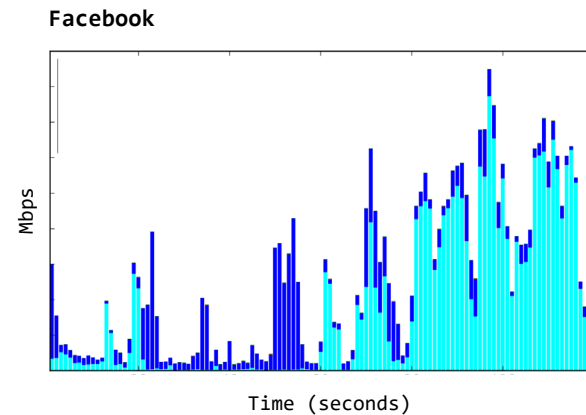
Much Structure in the Demand

Empirical studies:

traffic matrices **sparse** and **skewed**

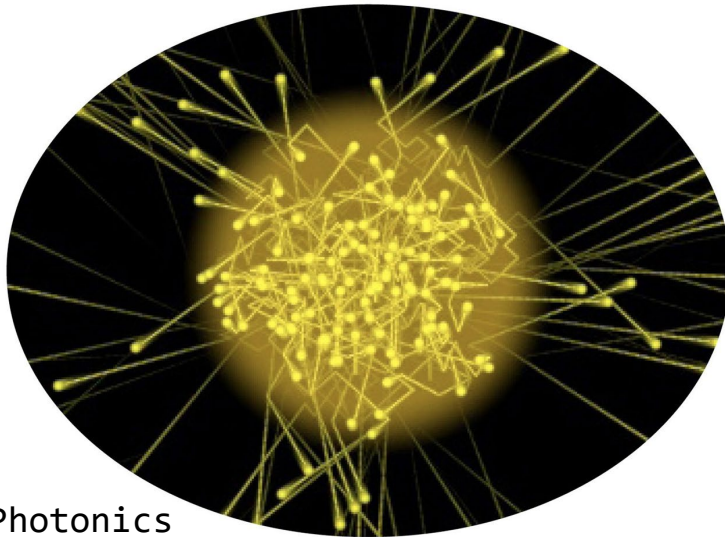


traffic **bursty** over time



My **hypothesis**: can be exploited.

# Sounds Crazy? Emerging Enabling Technology.



Photonics

H2020:

**“Photonics one of only five  
key enabling technologies  
for future prosperity.”**

US National Research Council:

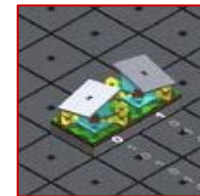
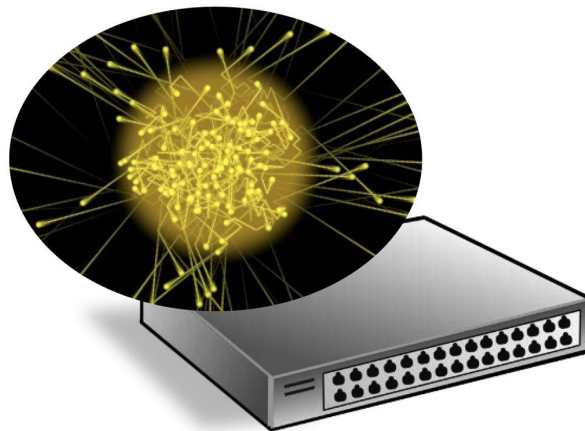
**“Photons are the new  
Electrons.”**

# Enabler:

## Novel Reconfigurable Optical Switches

→ **Spectrum** of prototypes

- Different sizes, different reconfiguration times
- From our last month's ACM **SIGCOMM** workshop



Prototype 1



Prototype 2



Prototype 3

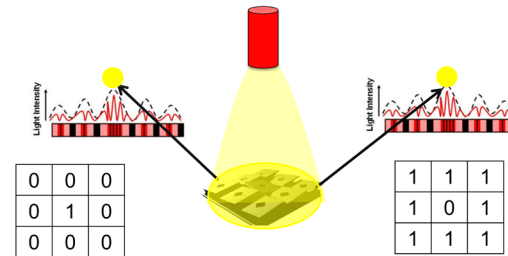
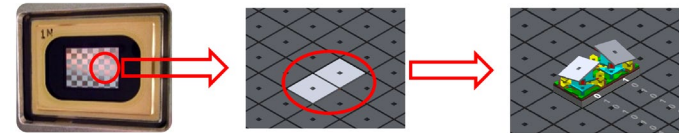
# Example: ProjecToR

→ Based on DMDs

→ programmable „image“

→ Challenge: limited  
**angular range**

→ namely  $\pm 3^\circ$

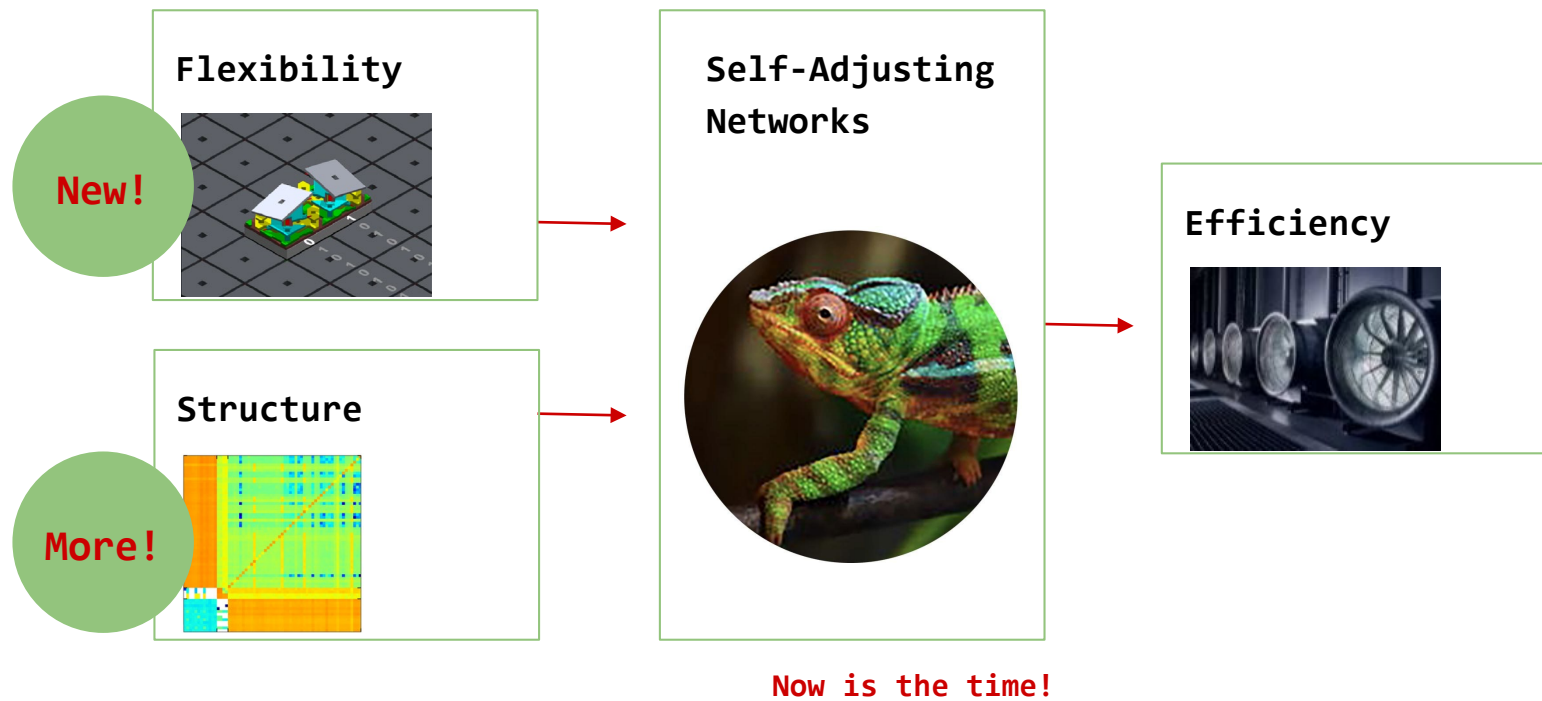


**Solution:**  
“disco  
balls” on  
ceiling

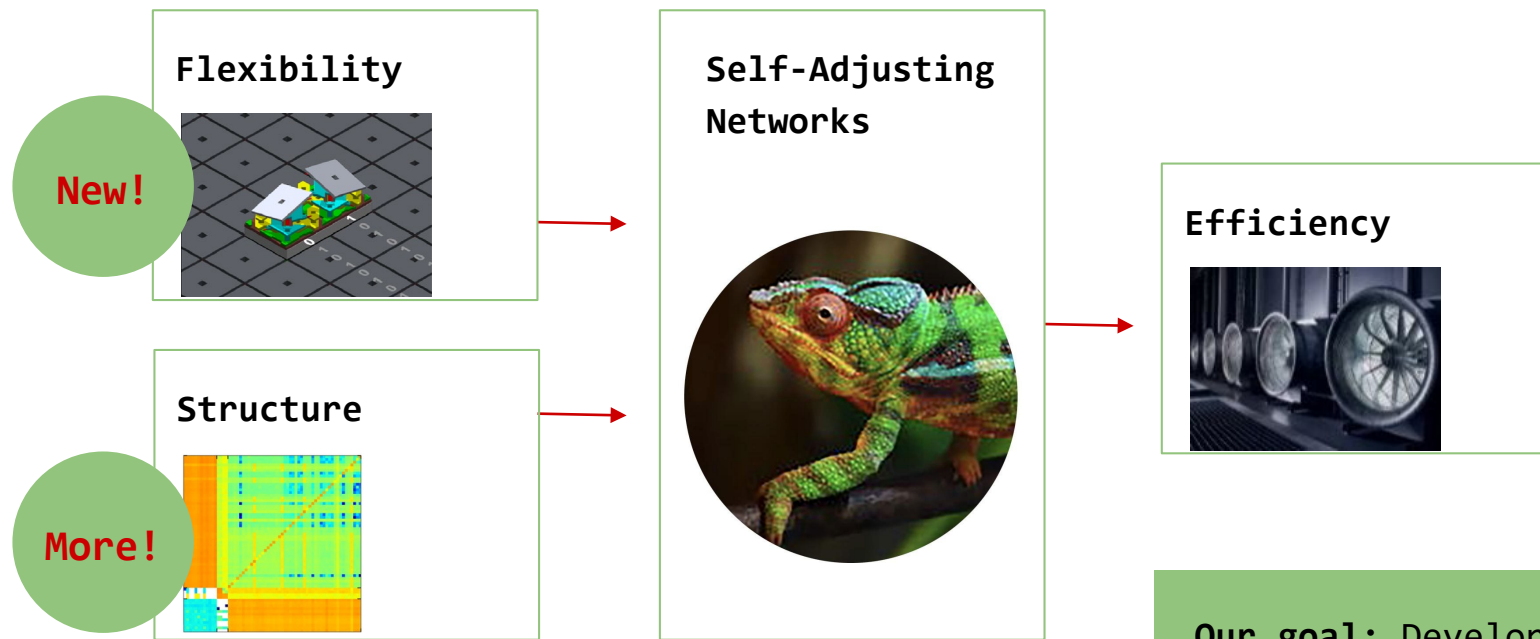


Manya Ghobadi (MIT)

# The Big Picture



# The Big Picture



Now is the time!

Our goal: Develop the theoretical **foundations** of demand-aware, self-adjusting networks.

# Unique Position:

Demand-Aware, Self-Adjusting Systems

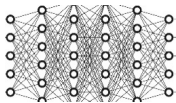
Everywhere, but mainly  
in software



Algorithmic trading



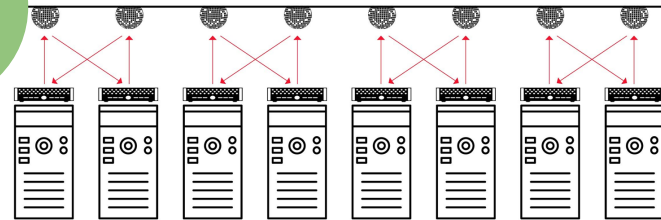
Recommender systems



Neural networks

VS

Our focus:  
in hardware





Question 1:

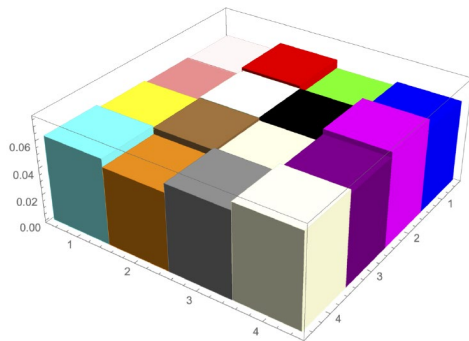
How to Quantify  
such “Structure”  
in the Demand?

# Intuition:

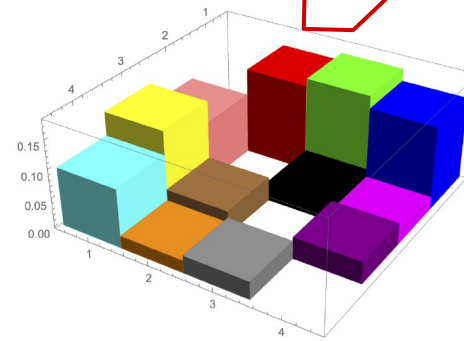
Which demand has more structure?

→ Traffic matrices of two different distributed ML applications

→ GPU-to-GPU



VS



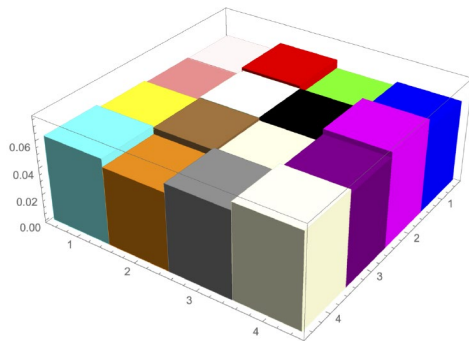
Color = communication pair

# Intuition:

Which demand has more structure?

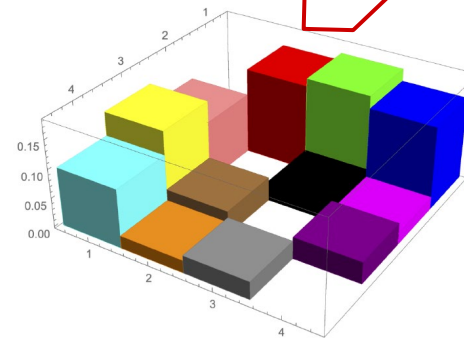
→ Traffic matrices of two different distributed ML applications

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**More uniform**

**VS**



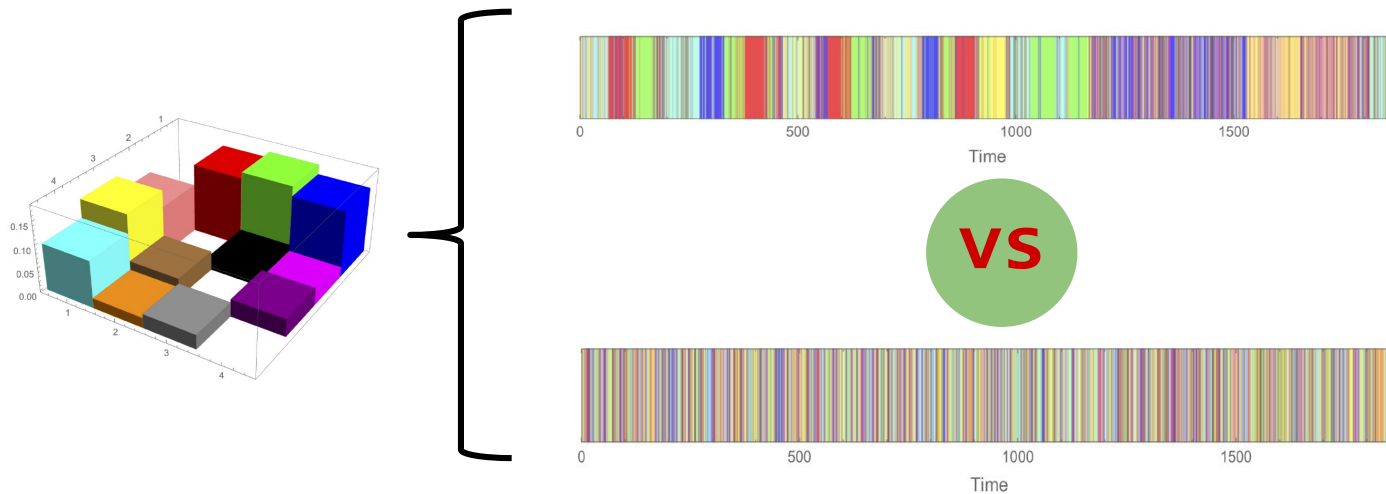
**More structure**

# Intuition:

## Spatial vs temporal structure

→ Two different ways to generate same traffic matrix:  
→ same non-temporal structure

→ Which one has more structure?

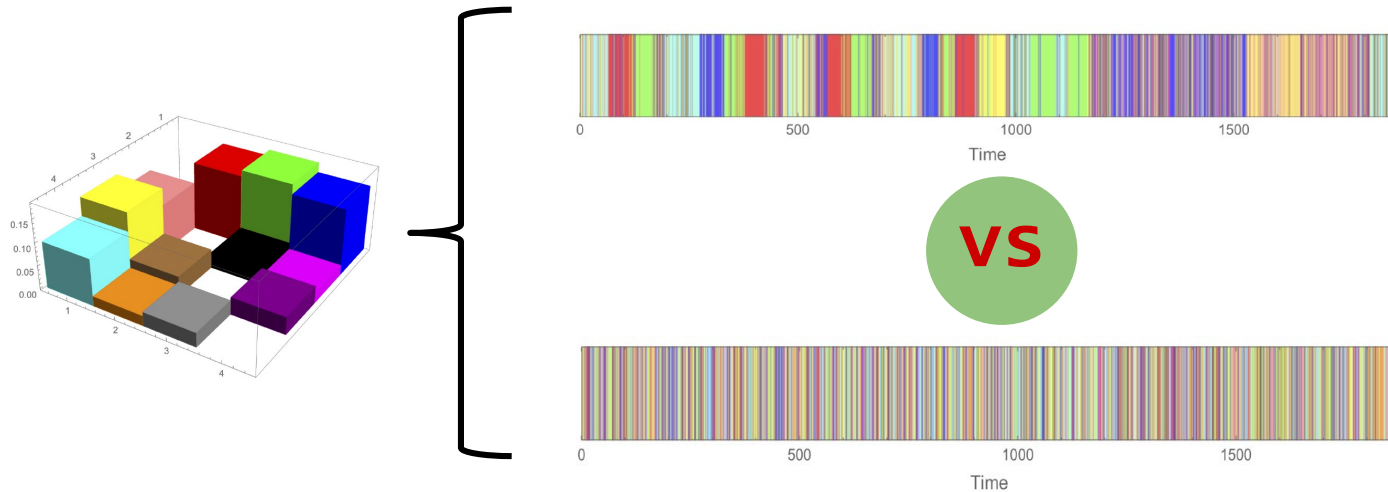


# Intuition:

Spatial vs temporal structure

→ Two different ways to generate same traffic matrix:  
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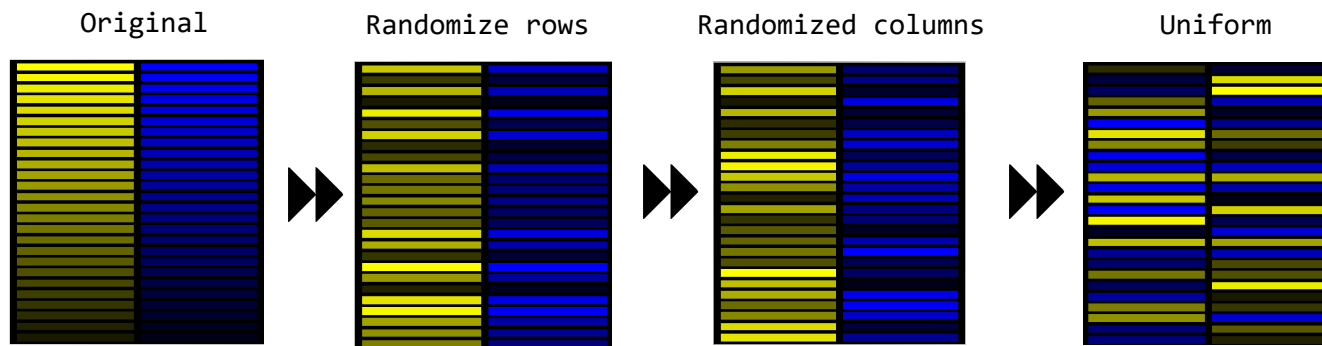
→ Which one has more structure?



Systematically?

# Trace Complexity:

A Systematic “Shuffle&Compress” Approach

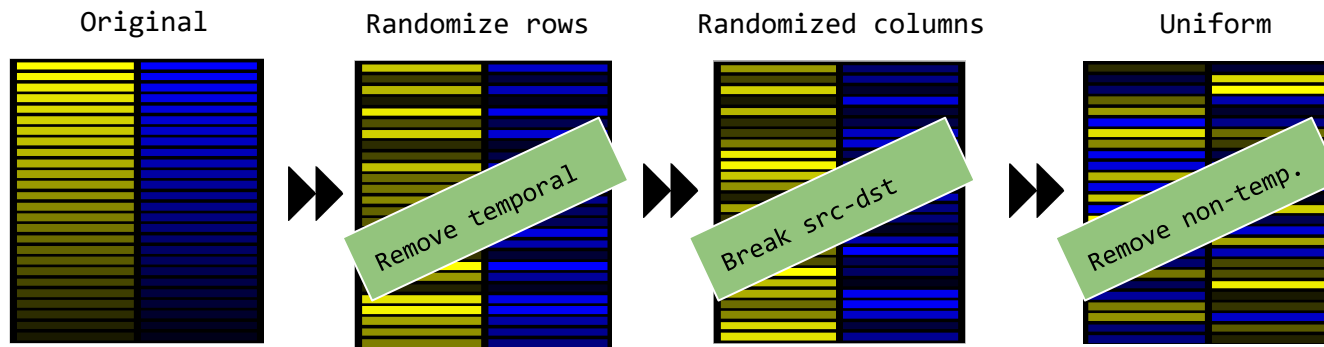


Increasing complexity (systematically randomized)

More structure (compresses better)

# Trace Complexity:

A Systematic “Shuffle&Compress” Approach

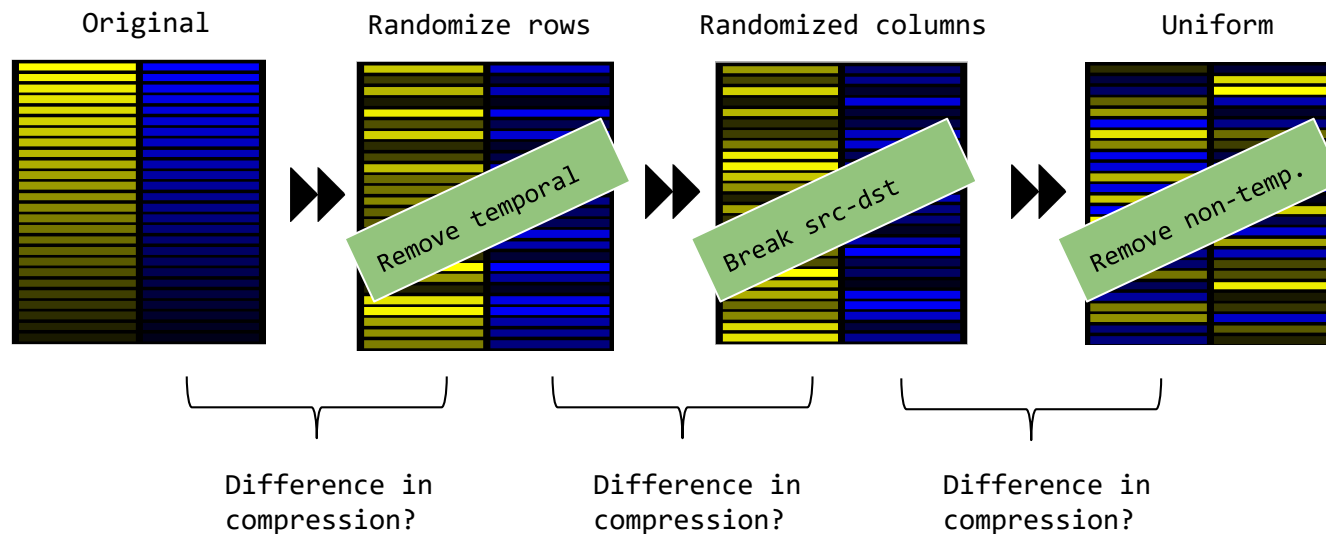


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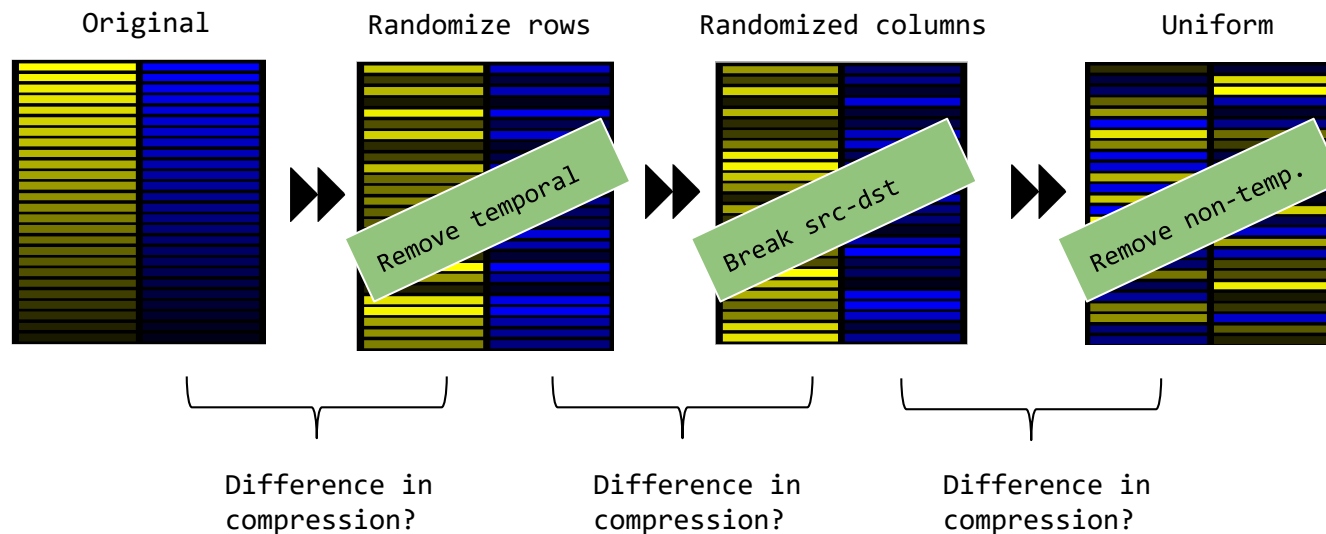
A Systematic “Shuffle&Compress” Approach





# Trace Complexity:

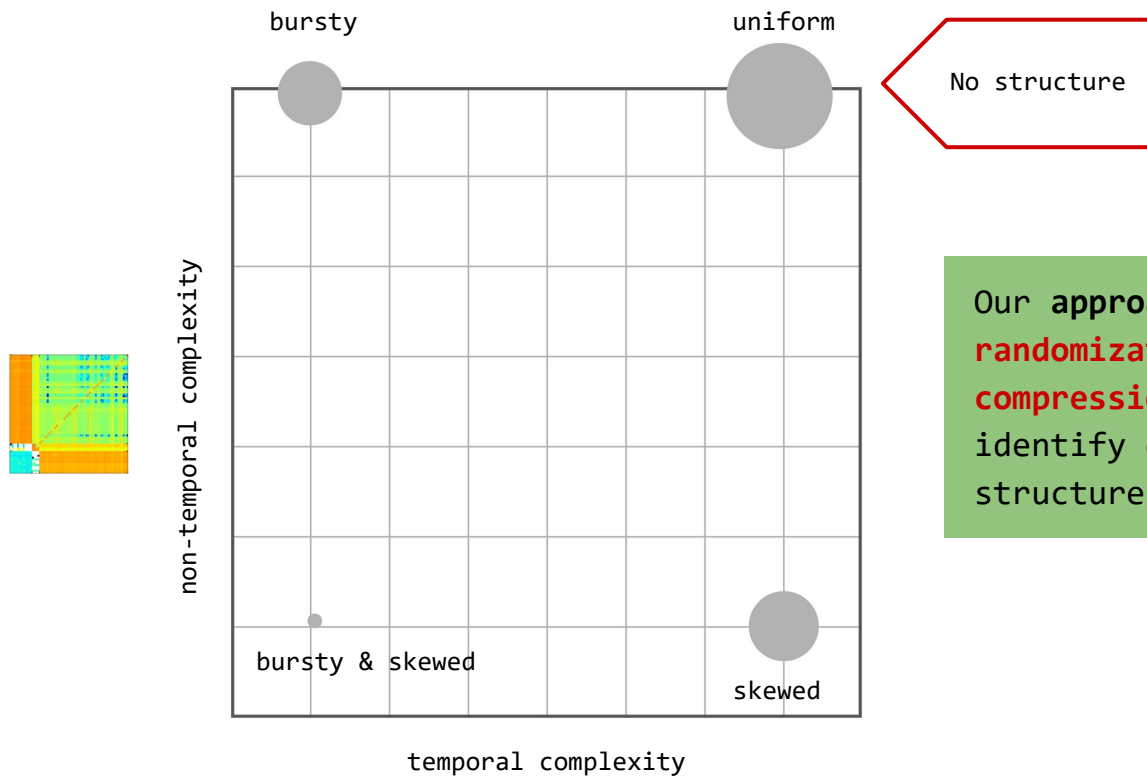
A Systematic “Shuffle&Compress” Approach



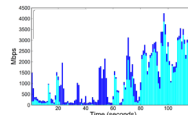
Can be used to define a “Complexity Map”!

Our Methodology:

# Complexity Map

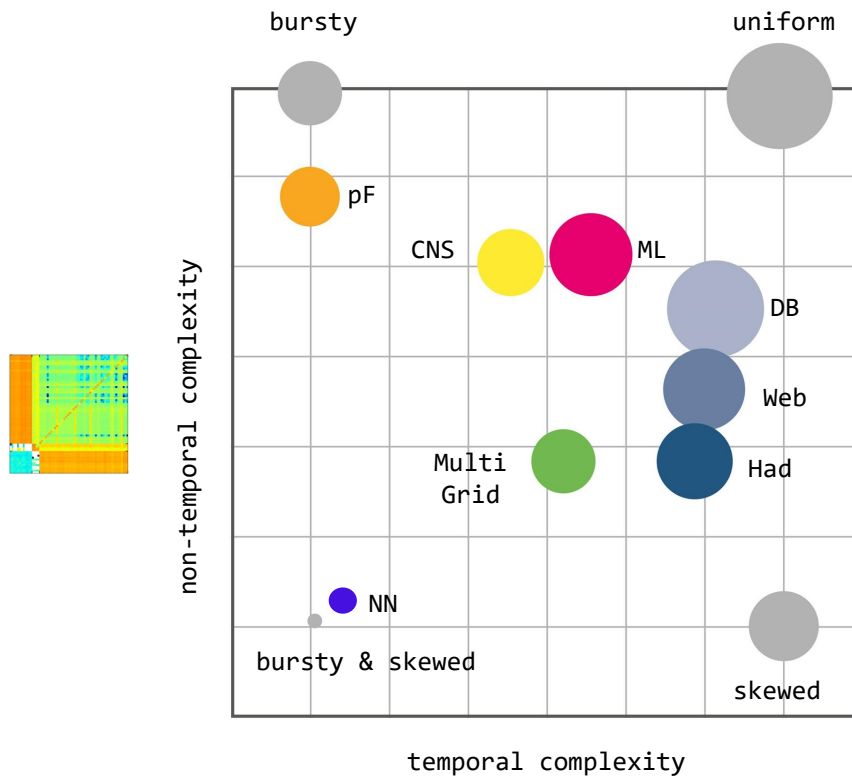


Our approach: iterative **randomization** and **compression** of trace to identify dimensions of structure.



Our Methodology:

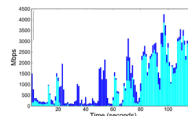
# Complexity Map



No structure

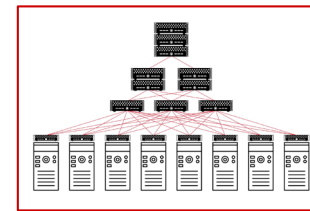
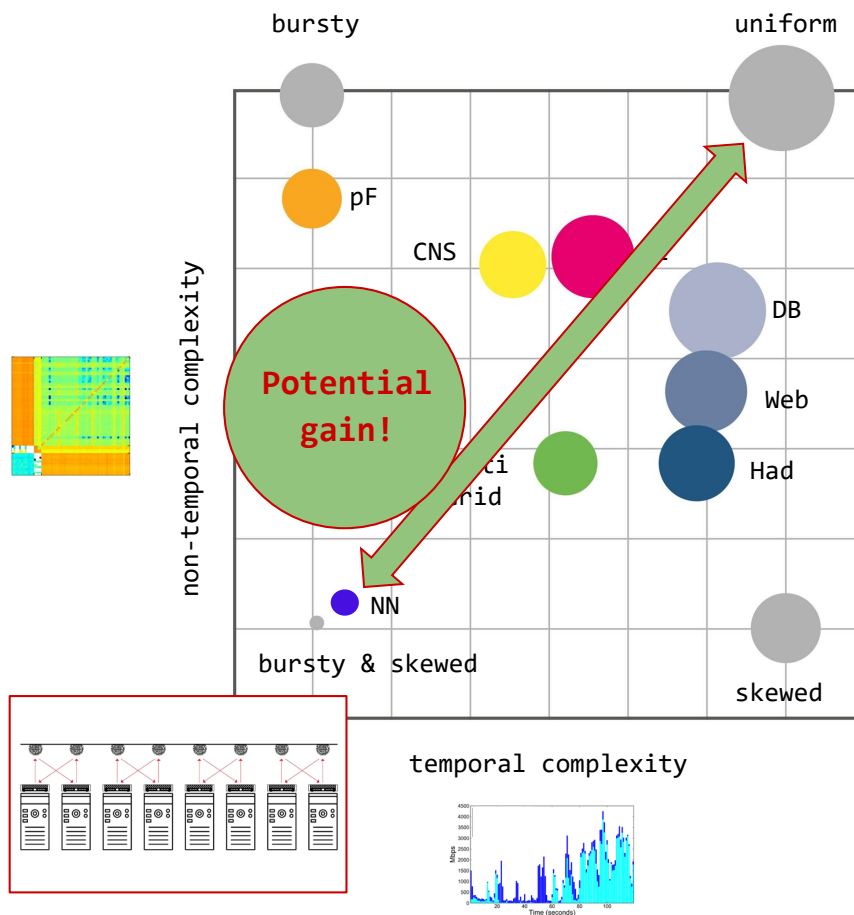
Our approach: iterative **randomization and compression** of trace to identify dimensions of structure.

**Different structures!**



Our Methodology:

# Complexity Map



Our approach: iterative **randomization** and **compression** of trace to identify dimensions of structure.

**Different structures!**

Question 2:

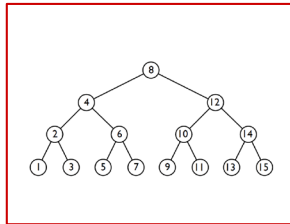
Given This Structure,  
What Can Be Achieved?  
Metrics and Algorithms?

A first insight: entropy of the demand.

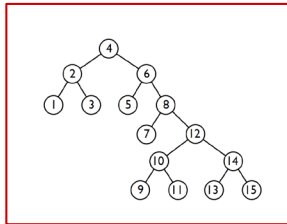
Our Approach:

# Connection to Datastructures

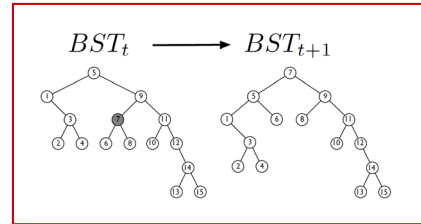
Traditional BST



Demand-aware BST



Self-adjusting BST

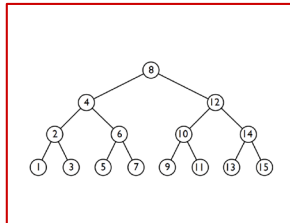


More structure: improved **access cost**

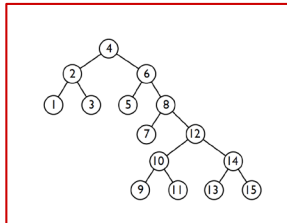
Our Approach:

# Connection to Datastructures & Coding

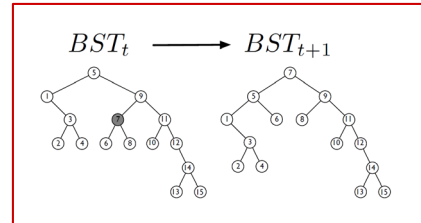
Traditional BST  
(Worst-case coding)



Demand-aware BST  
(Huffman coding)



Self-adjusting BST  
(Dynamic Huffman coding)

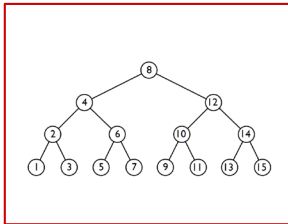


More structure: improved **access cost** / shorter **codes**

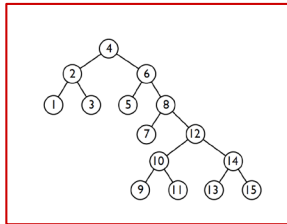
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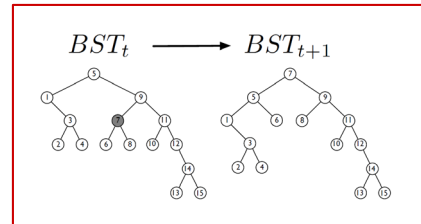
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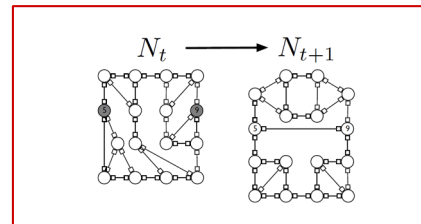
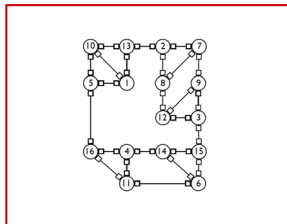
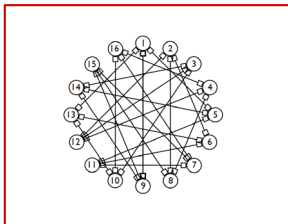
Demand-aware BST  
(Huffman coding)



Self-adjusting BST  
(Dynamic Huffman coding)



More structure: improved **access cost** / shorter **codes**



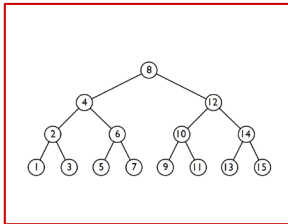
Similar **benefits**?



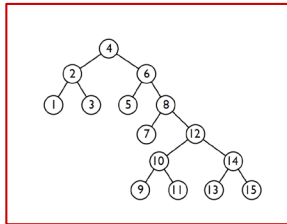
Our Approach:

# Connection to Datastructures & Coding

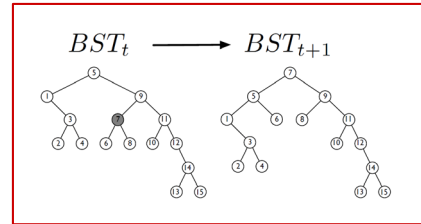
Traditional BST  
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Demand-aware BST  
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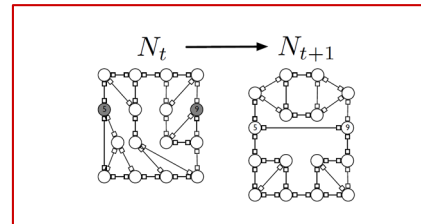
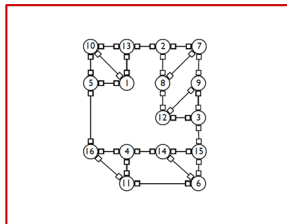
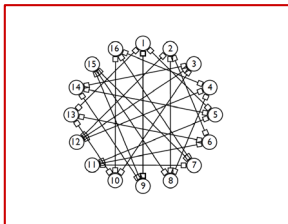


Self-adjusting BST  
(Dynamic Huffman coding)



More than  
an analogy!

More structure: improved **access cost** / shorter **codes**

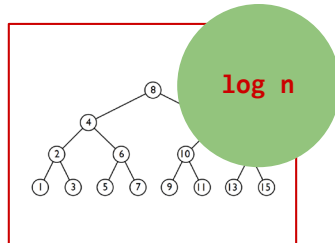


Similar **benefits**?

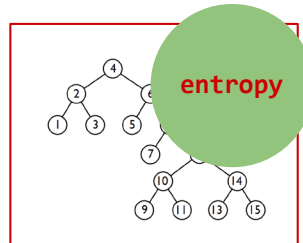
Our Approach:

# Connection to Datastructures & Coding

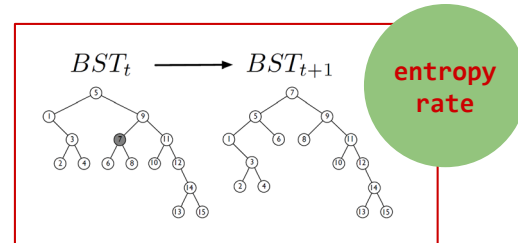
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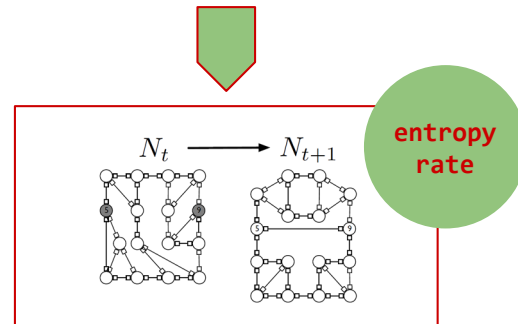
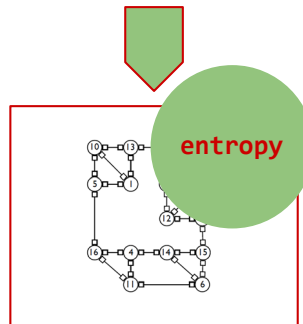
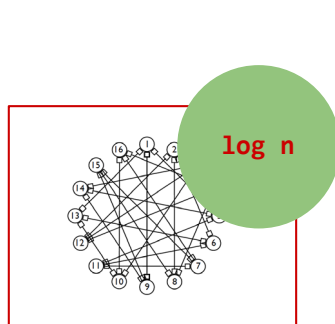
Demand-aware BST  
(Huffman coding)



Self-adjusting BST  
(Dynamic Huffman coding)



More than  
an analogy!



Generalize methodology:  
... and transfer  
entropy bounds and  
algorithms of data-  
structures to networks.

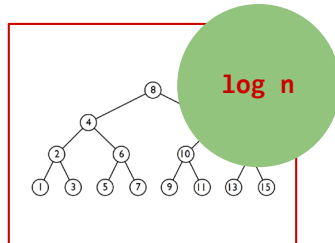
First result:  
Demand-aware networks  
of asymptotically  
optimal route lengths.

Reduced expected **route lengths!**

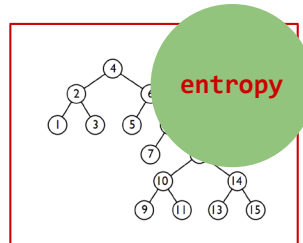
Our Approach:

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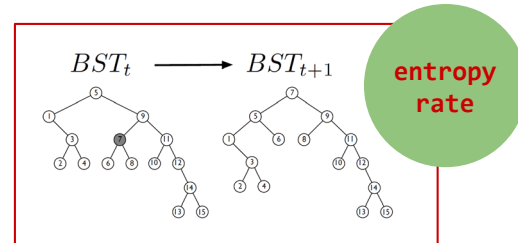
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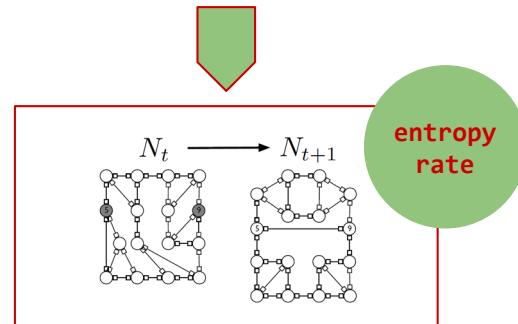
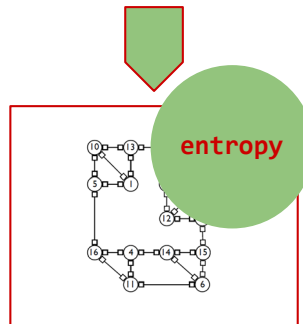
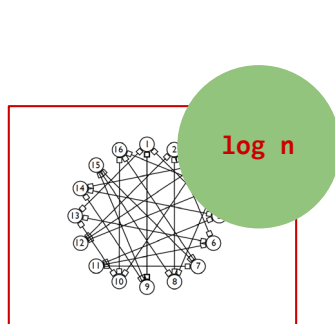
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Self-adjusting BST  
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More than  
an analogy!



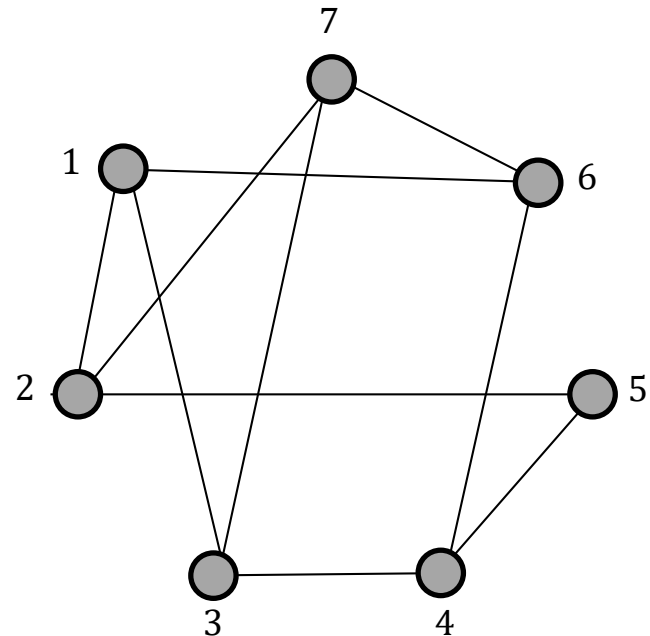
Generalize methodology:  
... and transfer  
entropy bounds and  
algorithms of data-  
structures to networks.

First result:  
Demand-aware networks  
of asymptotically  
optimal route lengths.

Reduced expected **route lengths!**

# An Example

		Destinations						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sources	1	0	$\frac{2}{65}$	$\frac{1}{13}$	$\frac{1}{65}$	$\frac{1}{65}$	$\frac{2}{65}$	$\frac{3}{65}$
	2	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	0	0	$\frac{2}{65}$
	3	$\frac{1}{13}$	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{13}$
	4	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	$\frac{4}{65}$	0	0
	5	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	$\frac{3}{65}$	$\frac{4}{65}$	0	0	0
	6	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{3}{65}$
	7	$\frac{3}{65}$	$\frac{2}{65}$	$\frac{1}{13}$	0	0	$\frac{3}{65}$	0

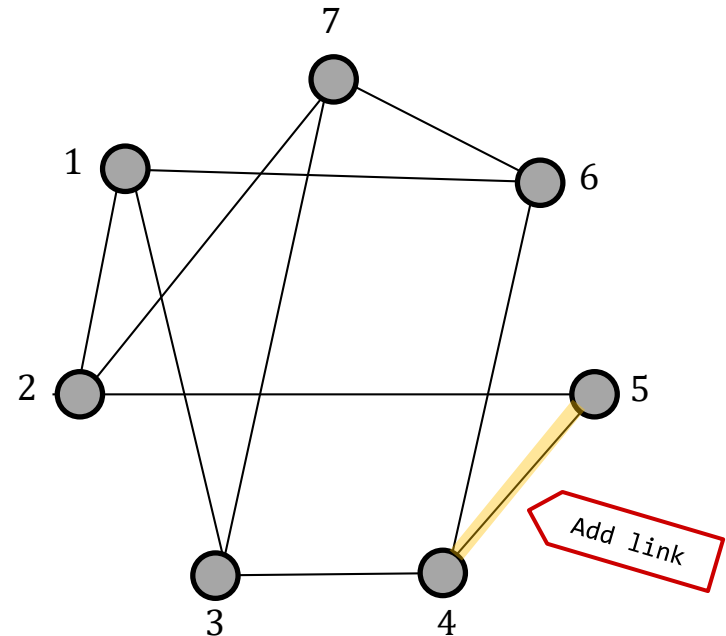


$$\text{ERL}(\mathcal{D}, N) = \sum_{(u,v) \in \mathcal{D}} p(u, v) \cdot d_N(u, v)$$

# An Example

		Destinations						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sources	1	0	$\frac{2}{65}$	$\frac{1}{13}$	$\frac{1}{65}$	$\frac{1}{65}$	$\frac{2}{65}$	$\frac{3}{65}$
	2	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	0	0	$\frac{2}{65}$
	3	$\frac{1}{13}$	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{13}$
	4	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	$\frac{4}{65}$	0	0
	5	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	$\frac{3}{65}$		0	0	0
	6	$\frac{2}{65}$	0		0	0	0	$\frac{3}{65}$
	7	$\frac{3}{65}$		$\frac{1}{13}$	0	0	$\frac{3}{65}$	0

Much from 4 to 5

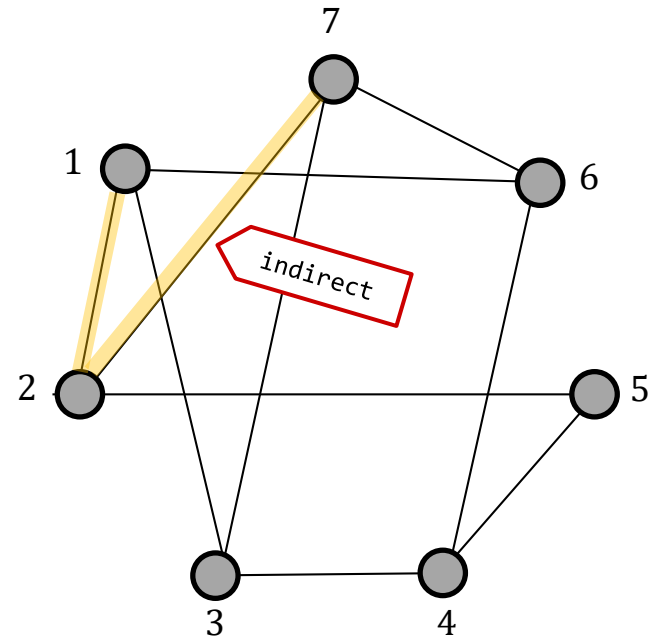


$$\text{ERL}(\mathcal{D}, N) = \sum_{(u,v) \in \mathcal{D}} p(u, v) \cdot d_N(u, v)$$

# An Example

Communicated with many

Sources	Destinations						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1	0	$\frac{2}{65}$	$\frac{1}{13}$	$\frac{1}{65}$	$\frac{1}{65}$	$\frac{2}{65}$
	2	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	0	$\frac{2}{65}$
	3	$\frac{1}{13}$	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	$\frac{1}{13}$
	4	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	$\frac{4}{65}$	0
	5	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	$\frac{3}{65}$	$\frac{4}{65}$	0	0
	6	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	0	0	0	$\frac{3}{65}$
	7	$\frac{3}{65}$	$\frac{2}{65}$	$\frac{1}{13}$	0	$\frac{3}{65}$	0

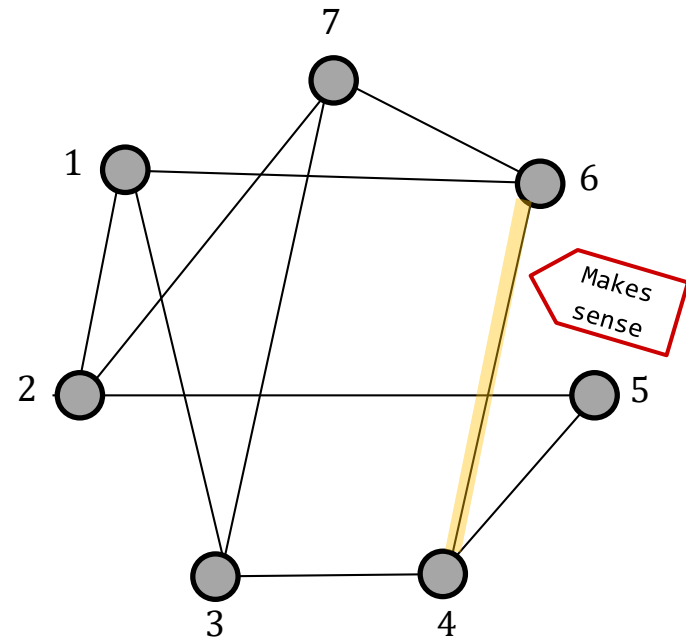


$$\text{ERL}(\mathcal{D}, N) = \sum_{(u,v) \in \mathcal{D}} p(u, v) \cdot d_N(u, v)$$

# An Example

		Destinations						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sources	1	0	$\frac{2}{65}$	$\frac{1}{13}$	$\frac{1}{25}$	$\frac{1}{65}$	$\frac{2}{65}$	$\frac{3}{65}$
	2	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	0	0	$\frac{2}{65}$
	3	$\frac{1}{13}$	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{13}$
	4	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	$\frac{4}{65}$	0	0
	5	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	$\frac{3}{65}$	$\frac{4}{65}$	0	0	0
	6	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{3}{65}$
	7	$\frac{3}{65}$	$\frac{2}{65}$	$\frac{1}{13}$	0	0	$\frac{3}{65}$	0

Don't communicate

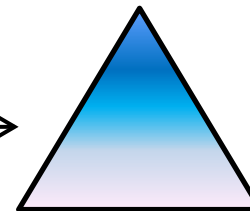


$$\text{ERL}(\mathcal{D}, N) = \sum_{(u,v) \in \mathcal{D}} p(u, v) \cdot d_N(u, v)$$

From Static Coding:

# Entropy Lower Bound

		Destinations						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sources	1	0	$\frac{2}{65}$	$\frac{1}{13}$	$\frac{1}{65}$	$\frac{1}{65}$	$\frac{2}{65}$	$\frac{3}{65}$
	2	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	0	0	$\frac{2}{65}$
	3	$\frac{1}{13}$	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{13}$
	4	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	$\frac{4}{65}$	0	0
	5	$\frac{1}{65}$	0	$\frac{3}{65}$	$\frac{4}{65}$	0	0	0
	6	$\frac{2}{65}$	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{3}{65}$
	7	$\frac{3}{65}$	$\frac{2}{65}$	$\frac{1}{13}$	0	0	$\frac{3}{65}$	0

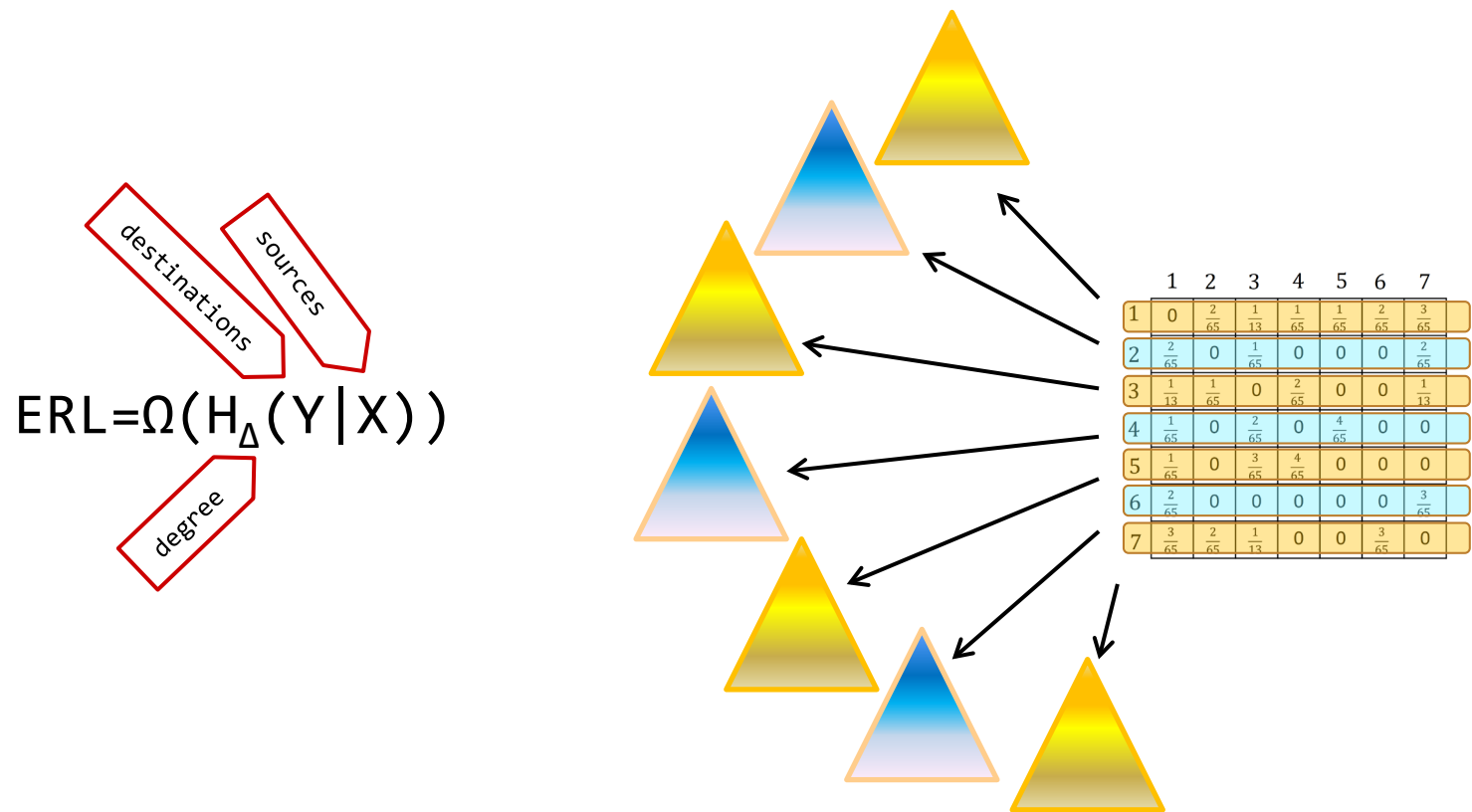


Huffman tree:  
“ego-tree”



From Static Coding:

# Entropy Lower Bound



From Static Coding:

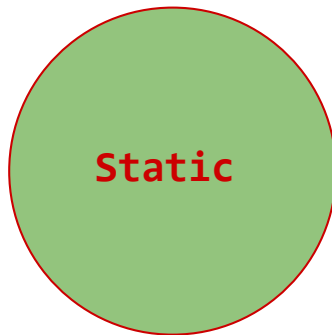
# Upper Bound and Algo

→ Idea for algorithm:

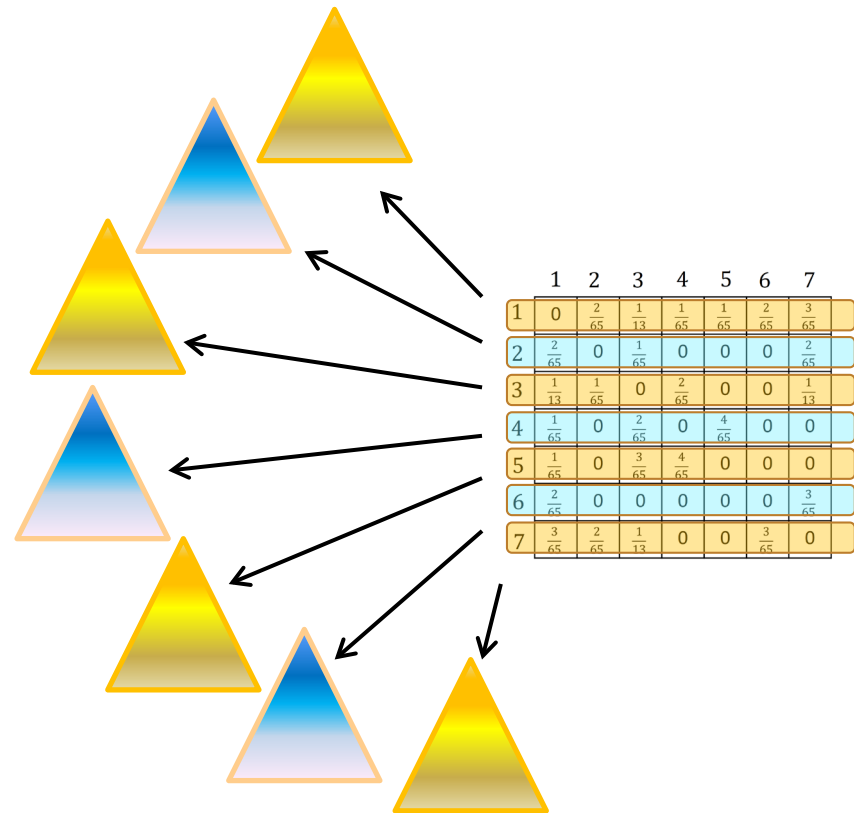
- union of trees
- reduce degree

→ Ok for sparse demands

- helper nodes



What about dynamic case?



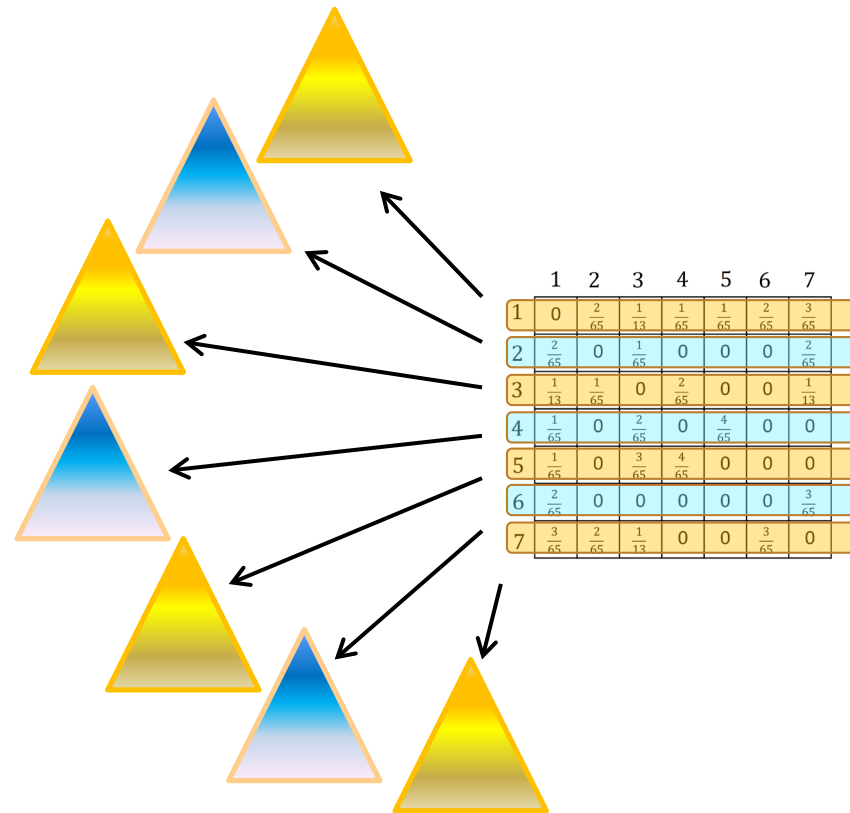
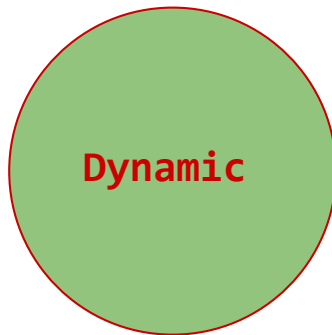
From Dynamic Coding:

# Dynamic Setting

→ Dynamic the same:

→ union of **dynamic ego-trees**

→ E.g., SplayNets



# Future Work

so far  
→  
scratched  
surface



to do 😊  
→

Notion of self-adjusting networks opens a **large uncharted field** with many questions:

- By how much can load be lowered, **energy** reduced, quality-of-service improved, etc. in demand-aware networks?
- How to **model** reconfiguration costs?
- How to render these networks **robust**?
- Impact on **other layers**?
- How to design **scalable** control planes?

Challenges:

Domain 1  
Models and  
metrics

Domain 2  
Algorithms

Domain 3  
Integration

Requires knowledge in networking, distributed systems, algorithms, performance evaluation.

# Future Work



Notion of self-adjusting networks opens a **large uncharted field** with many questions:

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Monika Henzinger  
(University  
of Vienna)

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Domain 1  
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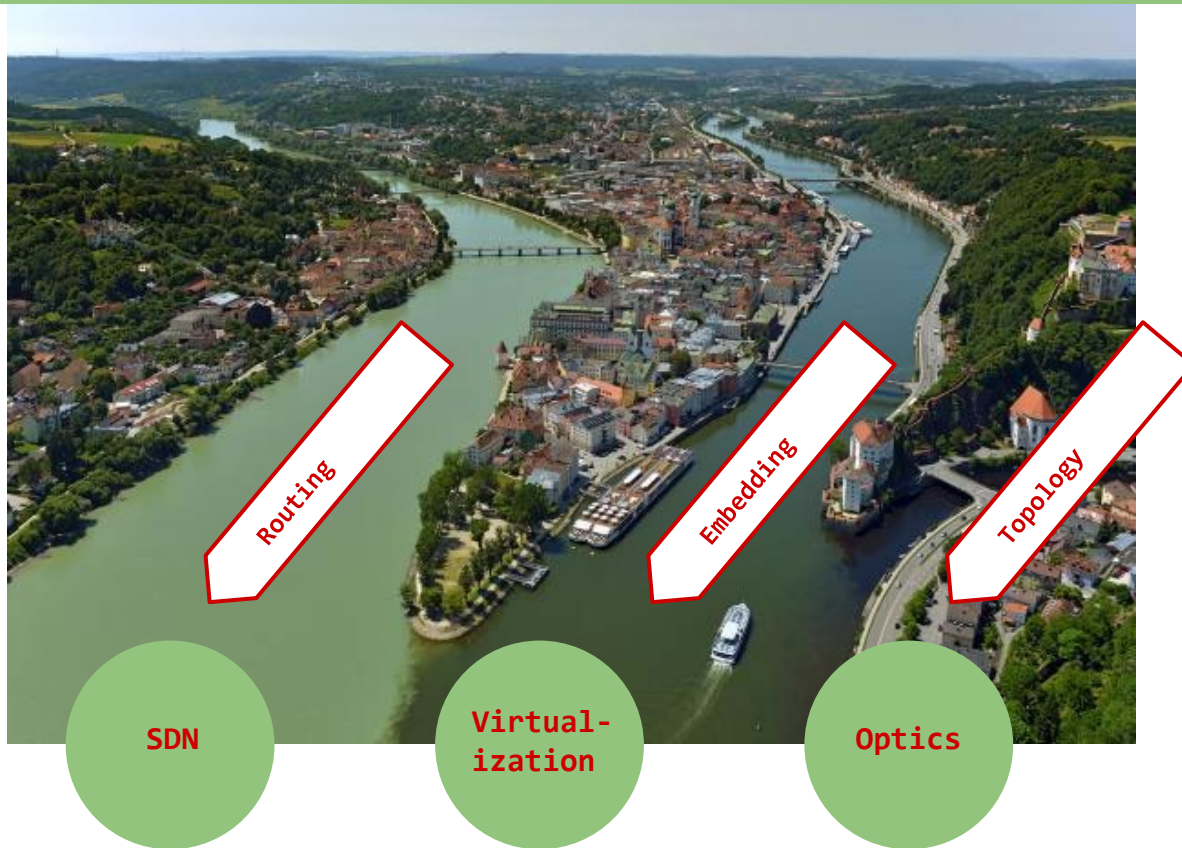
Even bigger picture:

# Flexible Networks



Even bigger picture:

# Flexible Networks



# Contributors



Chen Avin



Manya Ghobadi



Olga Goussevskaya



Klaus-Tycho Foerster



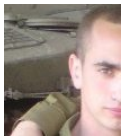
Kaushik Mondal



Ingo van Duijn



Iosif Salem



Khen Griner



Bruna Peres

et al.!

Funding:



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