

The Art of Transiently Consistent Route Updates

Stefan Schmid

Aalborg University

Joint work mainly with:

Arne Ludwig, Jan Marcinkowski,
Szymon Dudycz, Matthias Rost

Modern Networked Systems: Programmable and Virtualized

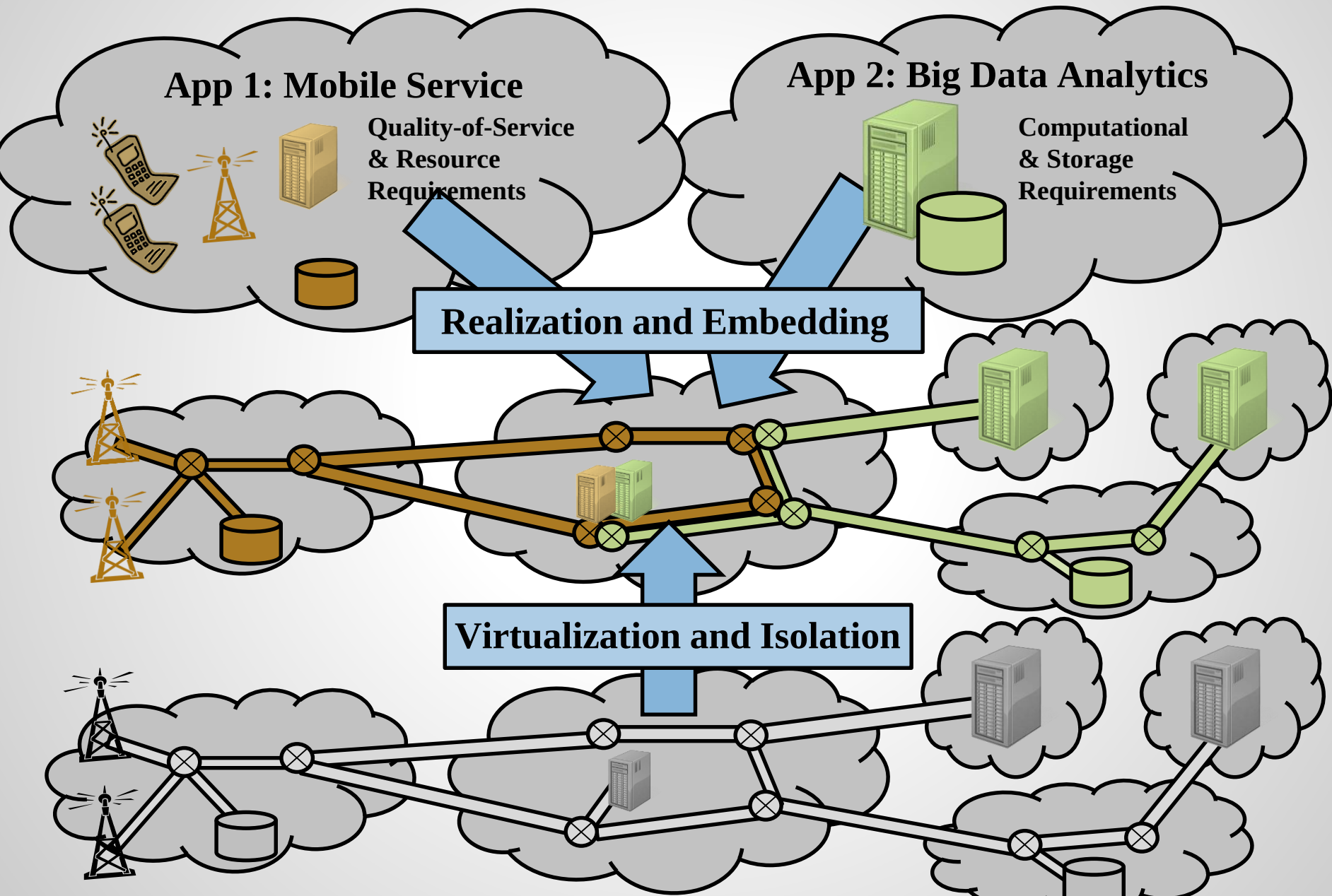
New flexibilities but also challenges: Great time to be a scientist! 😊



"We are at an interesting inflection point!"
Keynote by George Varghese
at SIGCOMM 2014



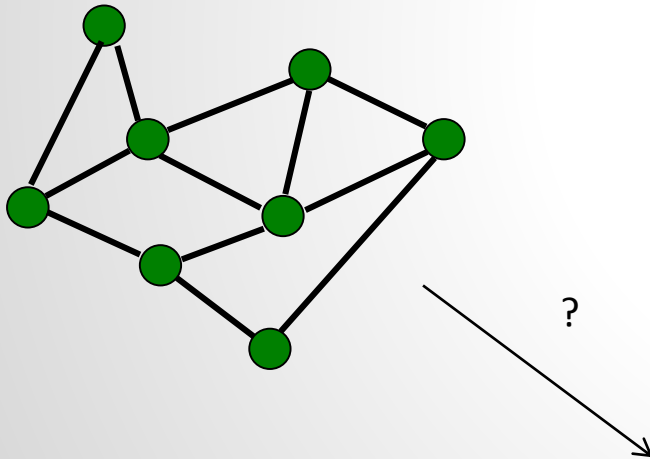
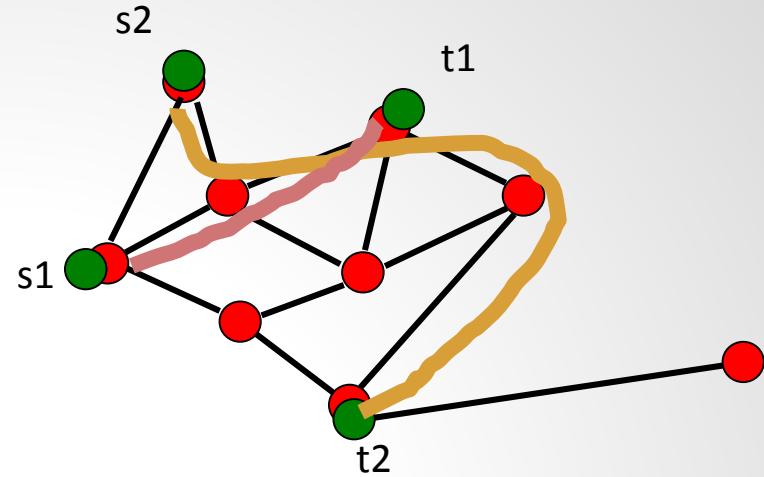
Challenge 1: Predictable Performance with Resource Sharing = Multi-Dimensional Performance Isolation



Challenge 2: Exploiting Allocation Flexibilities Non-Trivial

Start simple: exploit flexible routing between given tasks/VMs

- ❑ Integer multi-commodity flow problem with 2 flows?
- ❑ Oops: NP-hard



Forget about paths: exploit tasks/VM placement flexibilities!

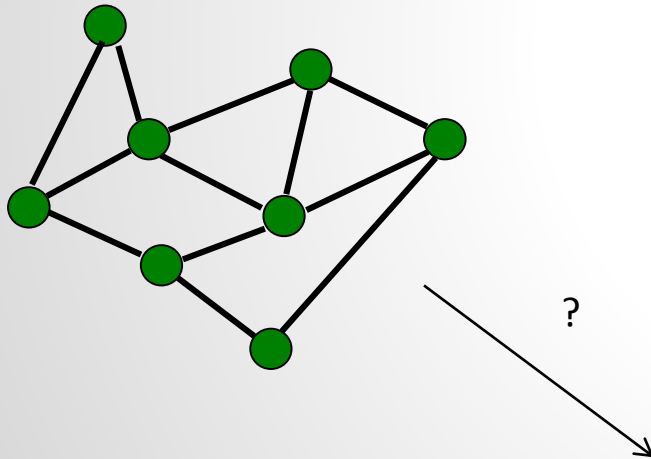
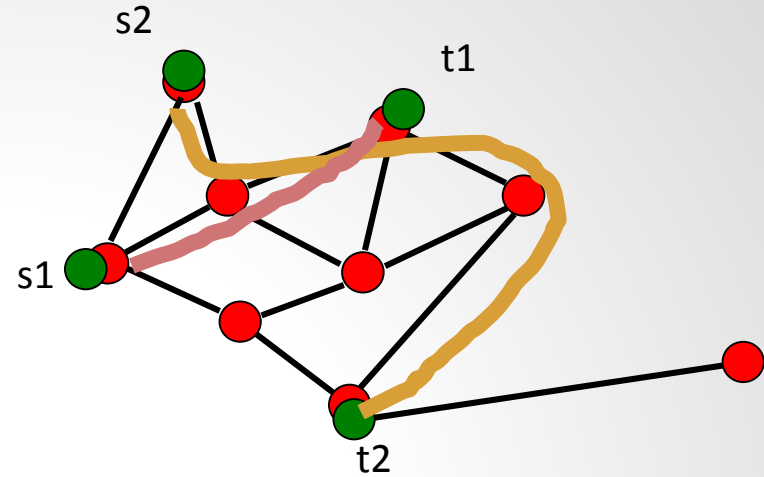
- ❑ Most simple: Minimum Linear Arrangement without capacities
- ❑ NP-hard ☹️



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[Beyond the Stars: Revisiting Virtual Cluster Embeddings](#)

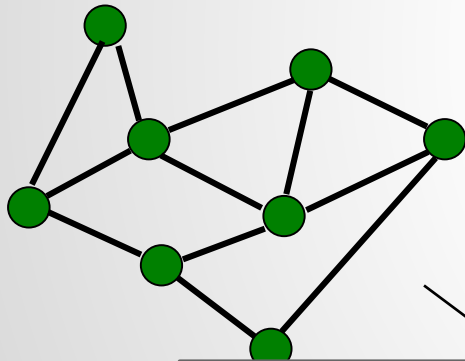
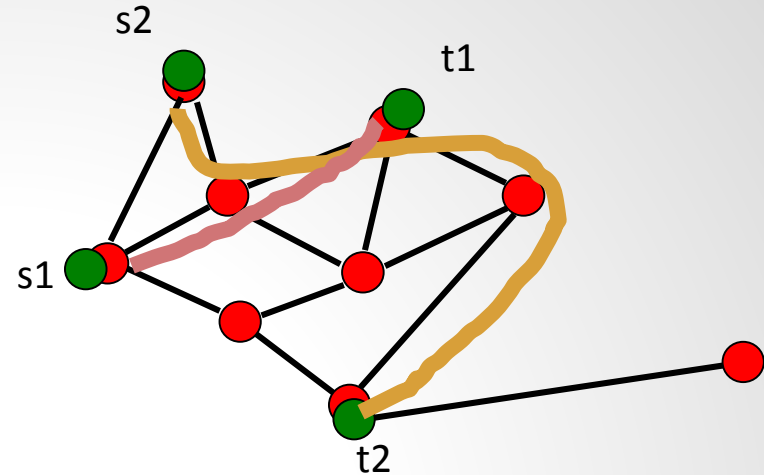
Matthias Rost, Carlo Fuerst, and Stefan Schmid.

ACM SIGCOMM Computer Communication Review (**CCR**), July 2015..

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Not only on Clos, but e.g., also on Ankit's Jellyfish etc.!

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- ❑ Most simple: Minimum Linear Arrangement without capacities
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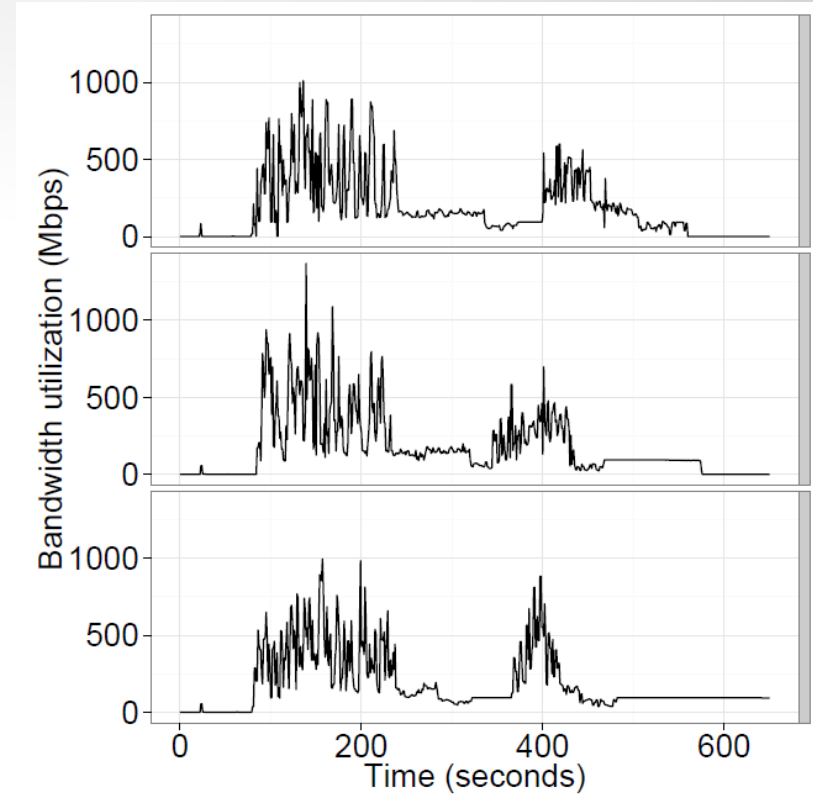
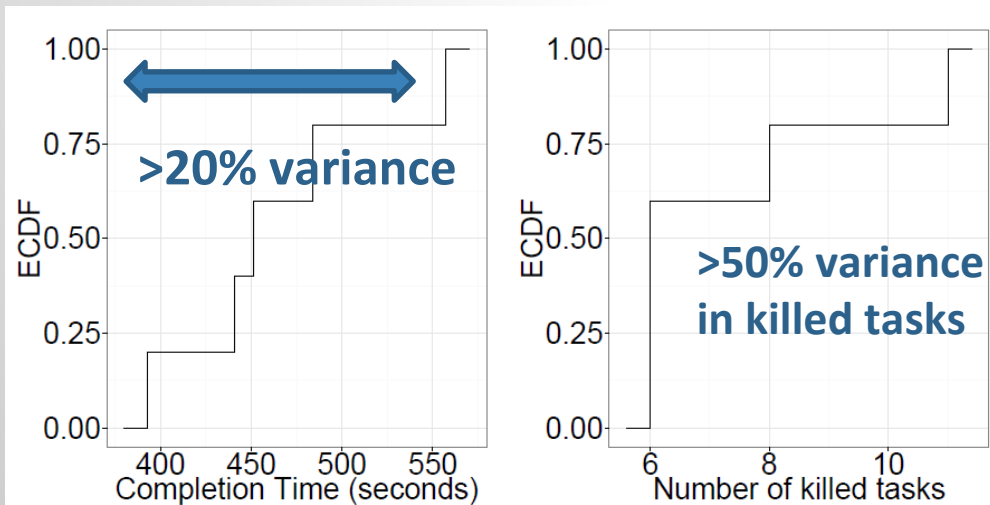
[Beyond the Stars: Revisiting Virtual Cluster Embeddings](#)

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Challenge 3: Dealing with Uncertainty

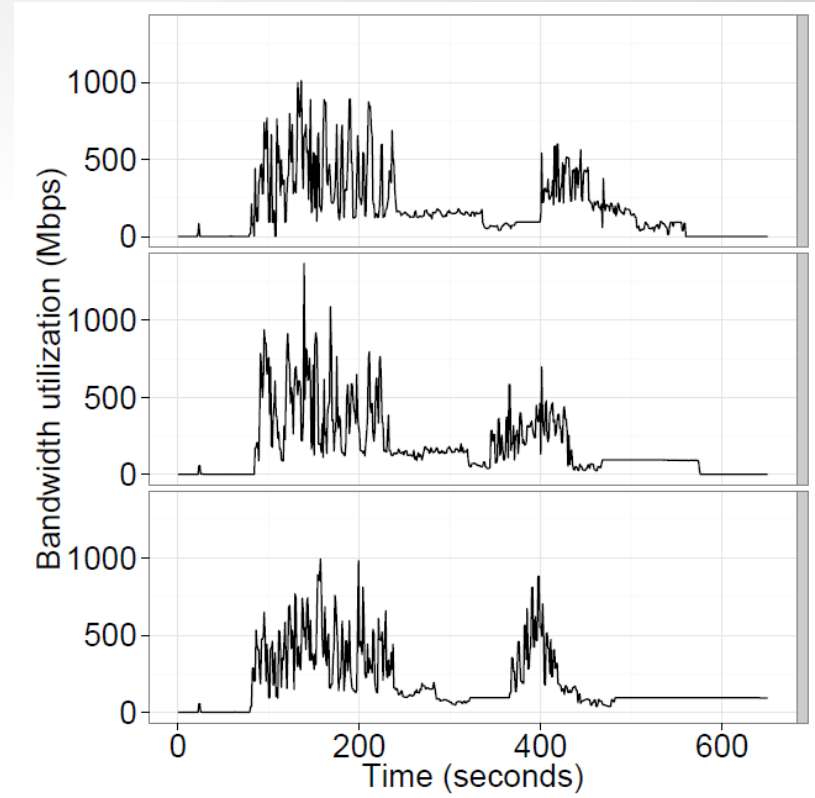
- ❑ Hadoop and scale-out data bases generate much network traffic
- ❑ **Temporal** resource patterns are hard to predict
- ❑ Resource allocations must be changed **online**
- ❑ **Tradeoffs:**
 - ❑ overprovisioning vs efficiency
 - ❑ benefit vs cost of reconfigurations!



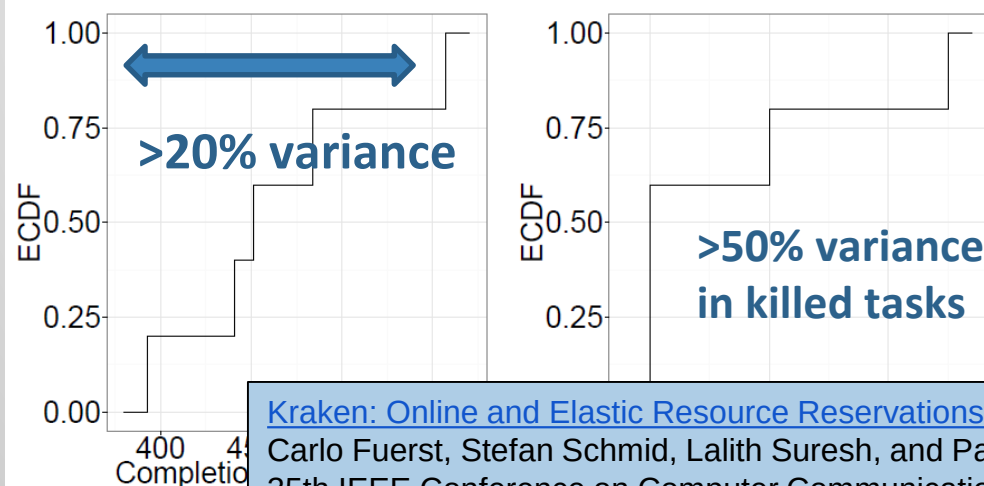
Bandwidth utilization of 3 different runs of the same **TeraSort workload (without interference)**

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Bandwidth utilization of 3 different runs of the same **TeraSort workload (without interference)**



[Kraken: Online and Elastic Resource Reservations for Multi-tenant Datacenters](#)

Carlo Fuerst, Stefan Schmid, Lalith Suresh, and Paolo Costa.

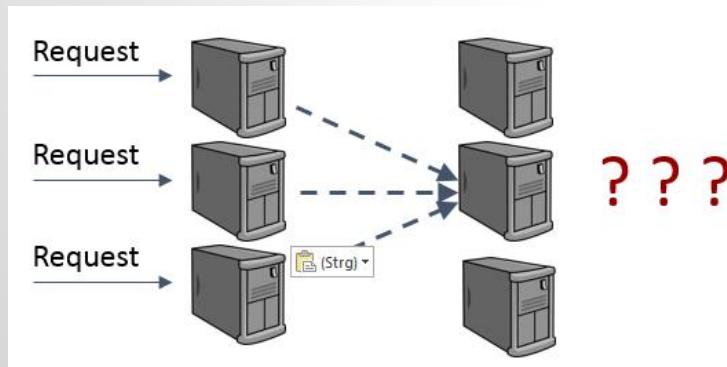
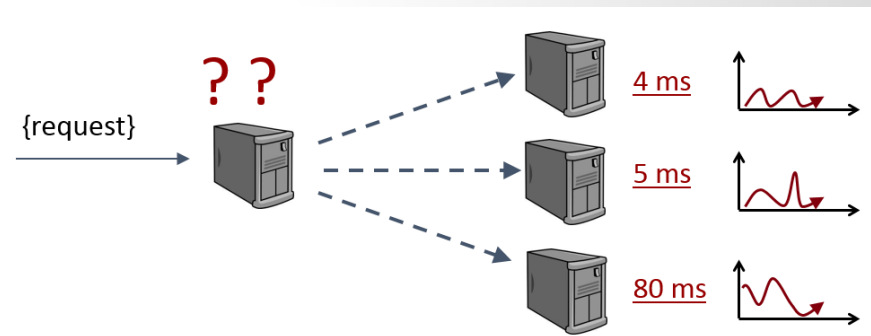
35th IEEE Conference on Computer Communications (**INFOCOM**), San Francisco, California, USA, April 2016.

Challenge 4: Exploiting Redundancy/Selection Flexibilities Non-Trivial

- ❑ Replica selection possible in **cloud data stores** (e.g., Cassandra)
- ❑ Idea: reduce tail latency
 - ❑ Tail matters: requests have many read/writes, a single late one can delay!
 - ❑ Stragglers even in well-provisioned systems

❑ Challenge 1: Heterogeneous and time-varying service times

- ❑ shared resources, log compaction, garbage collection, daemons, etc.

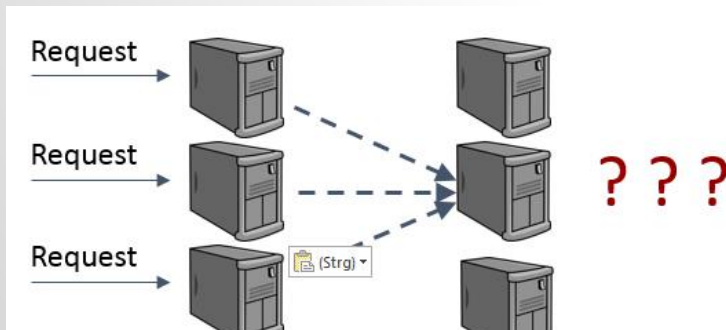
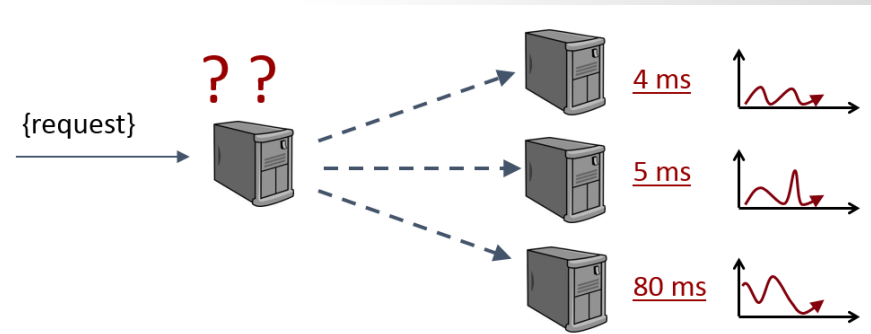


❑ Challenge 2: Distributed coordination

- ❑ avoid herd-behavior!
- ❑ also a control-theoretic problem

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[C3: Cutting Tail Latency in Cloud Data Stores via Adaptive Replica Selection](#)

Lalith Suresh, Marco Canini, Stefan Schmid, and Anja Feldmann.

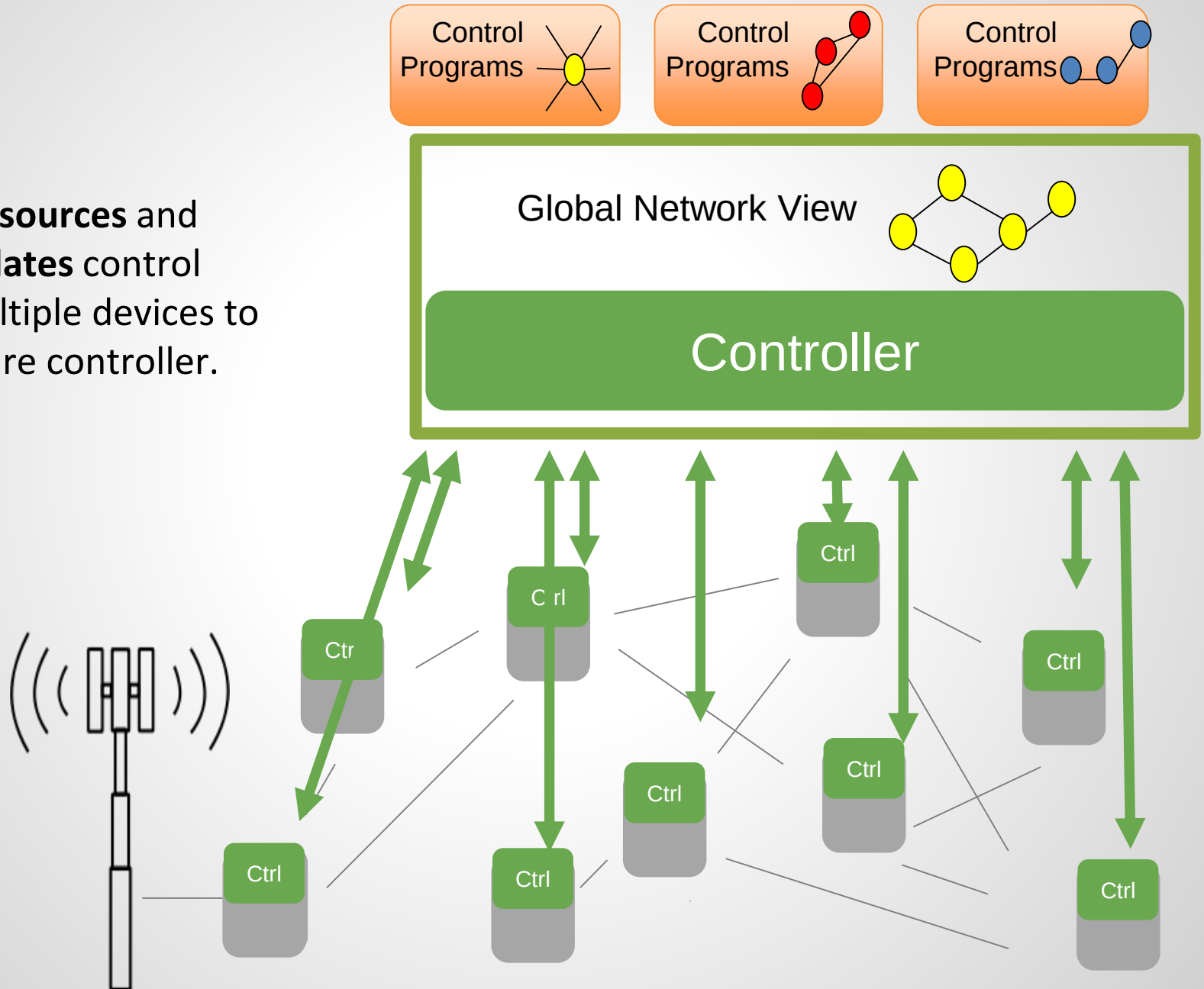
12th USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (**NSDI**), Oakland, California, USA, May 2015..

Focus Today: Challenges Related to Programmability

- ❑ Also one reason why I am here... 😊
 - ❑ German BSI project: How to make governmental networks and datacenters more secure?
- ❑ Startup on incremental SDN deployment in Berlin based on our USENIX ATC 2014 paper «Panopticon»
- ❑ Today: Network updates

SDN in a Nutshell

SDN **outsources** and **consolidates** control over multiple devices to a software controller.

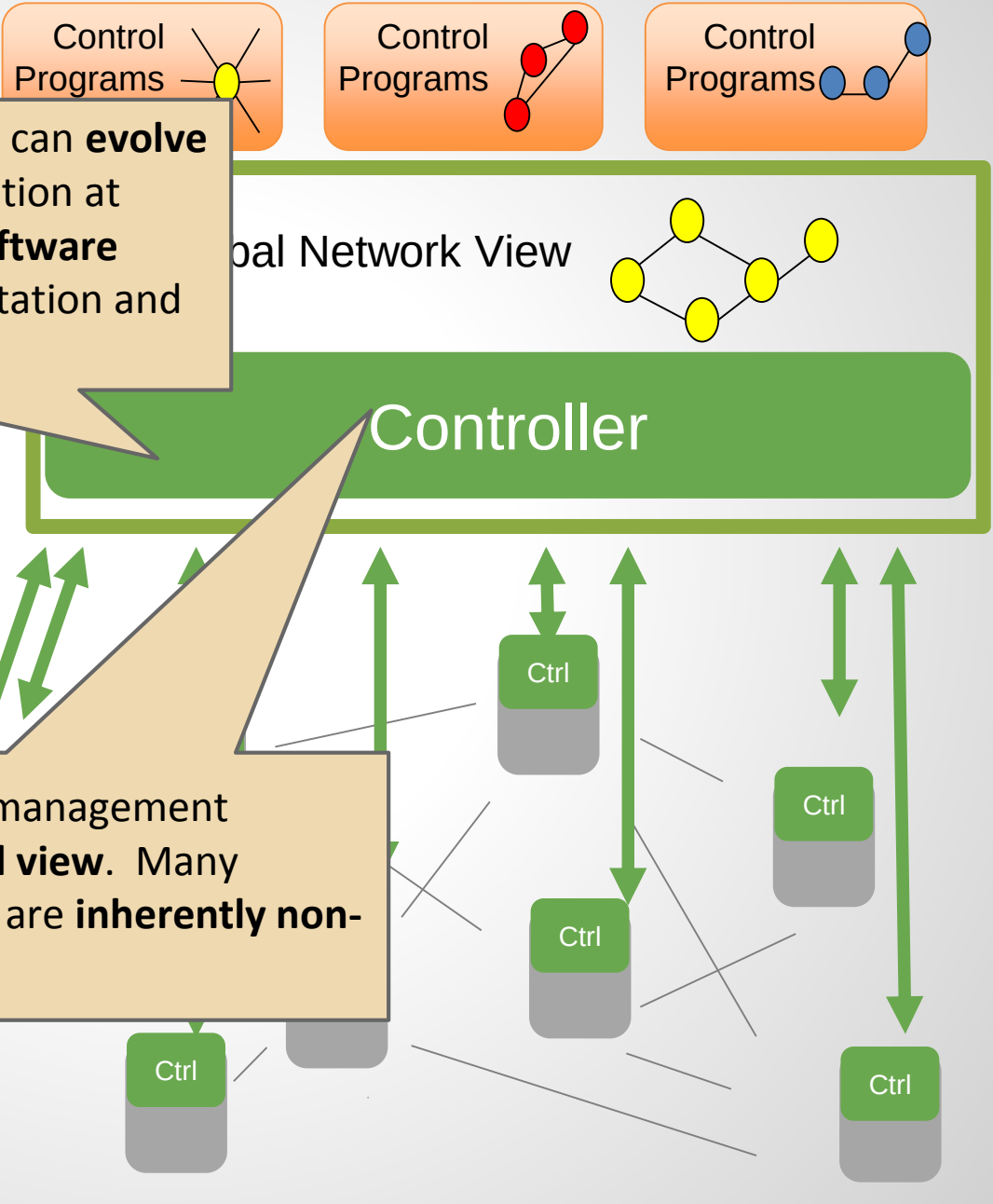


SDN in a Nutshell

Benefit 1: Decoupling! Control plane can **evolve independently** of data plane: innovation at speed of software development. **Software trumps hardware** for fast implementation and deployment.

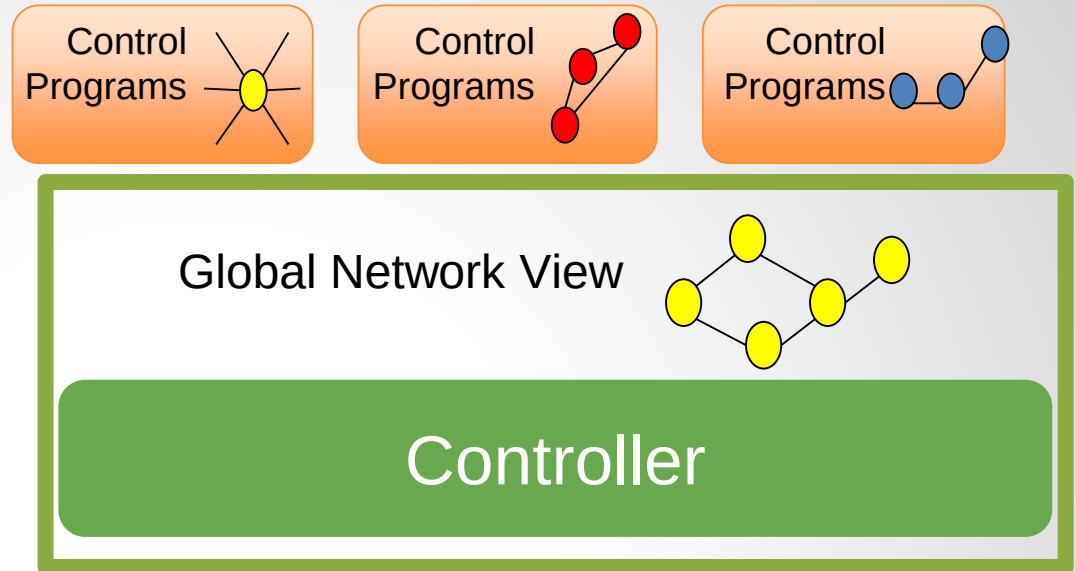
a software controller.

Benefit 2: Simpler network management through logically **centralized view**. Many network management tasks are **inherently non-local**.



SDN in a Nutshell

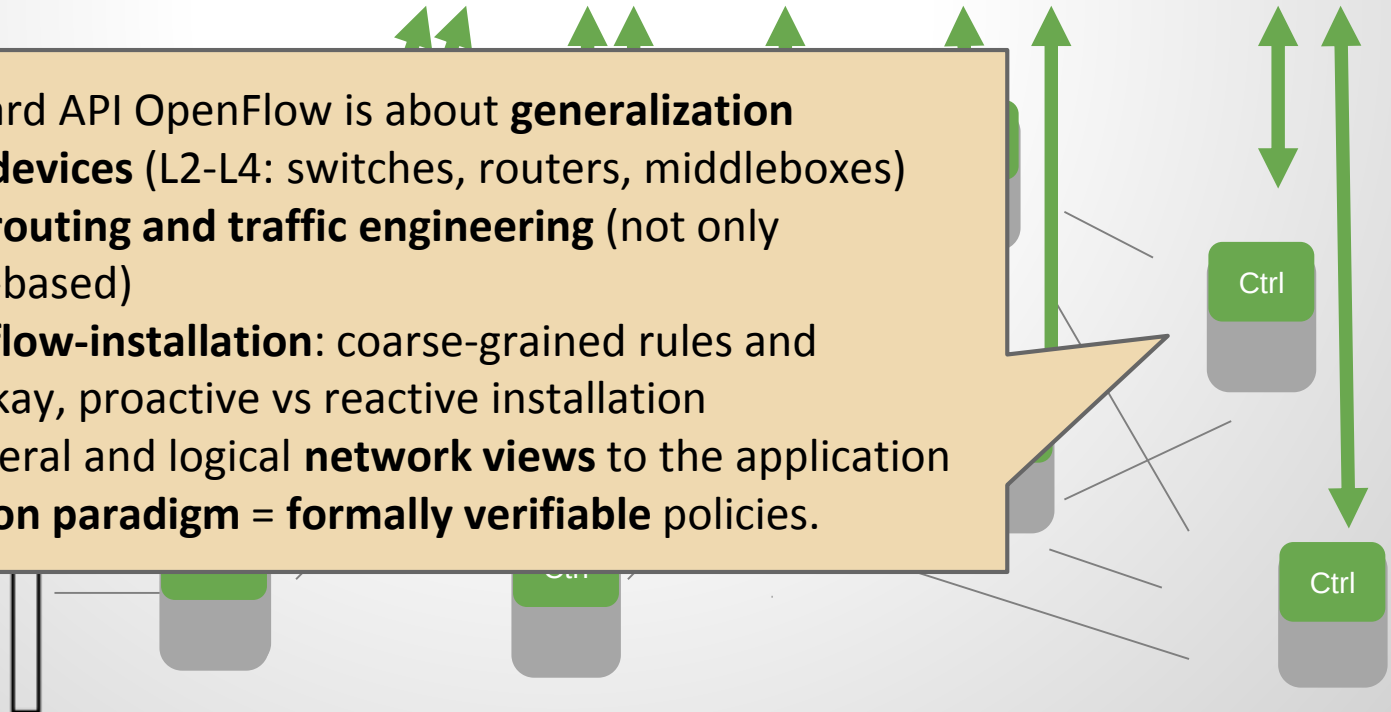
SDN **outsources** and **consolidates** control over multiple devices to a software controller.



Benefit 3: Standard API OpenFlow is about **generalization**

- Generalize **devices** (L2-L4: switches, routers, middleboxes)
- Generalize **routing and traffic engineering** (not only destination-based)
- Generalize **flow-installation**: coarse-grained rules and wildcards okay, proactive vs reactive installation
- Provide general and logical **network views** to the application

Also: **match-action paradigm** = **formally verifiable** policies.

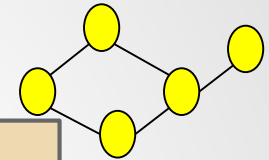


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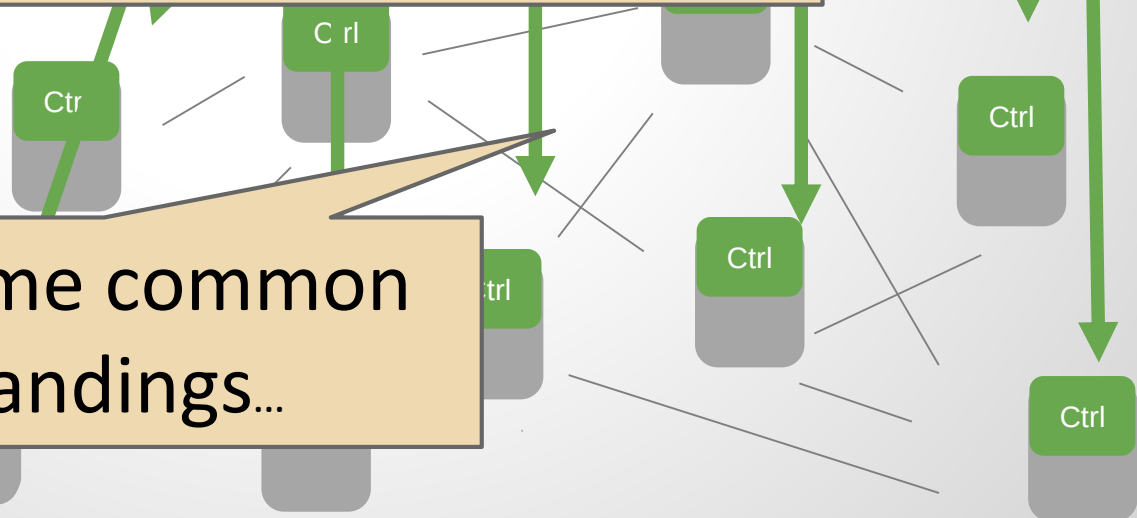
Global Network View



„SDN is about simplification!“
Really?

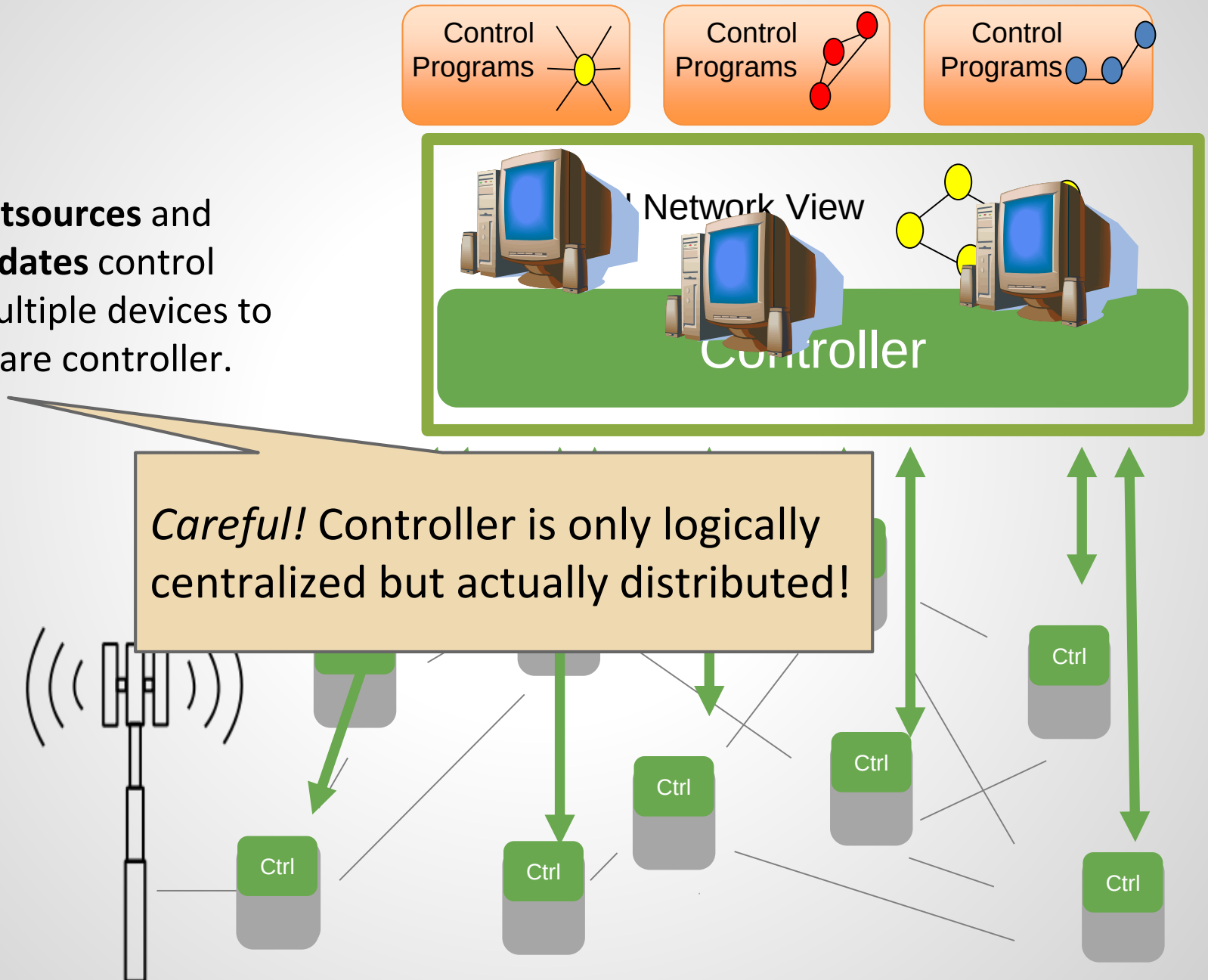


Careful! Some common
misunderstandings...



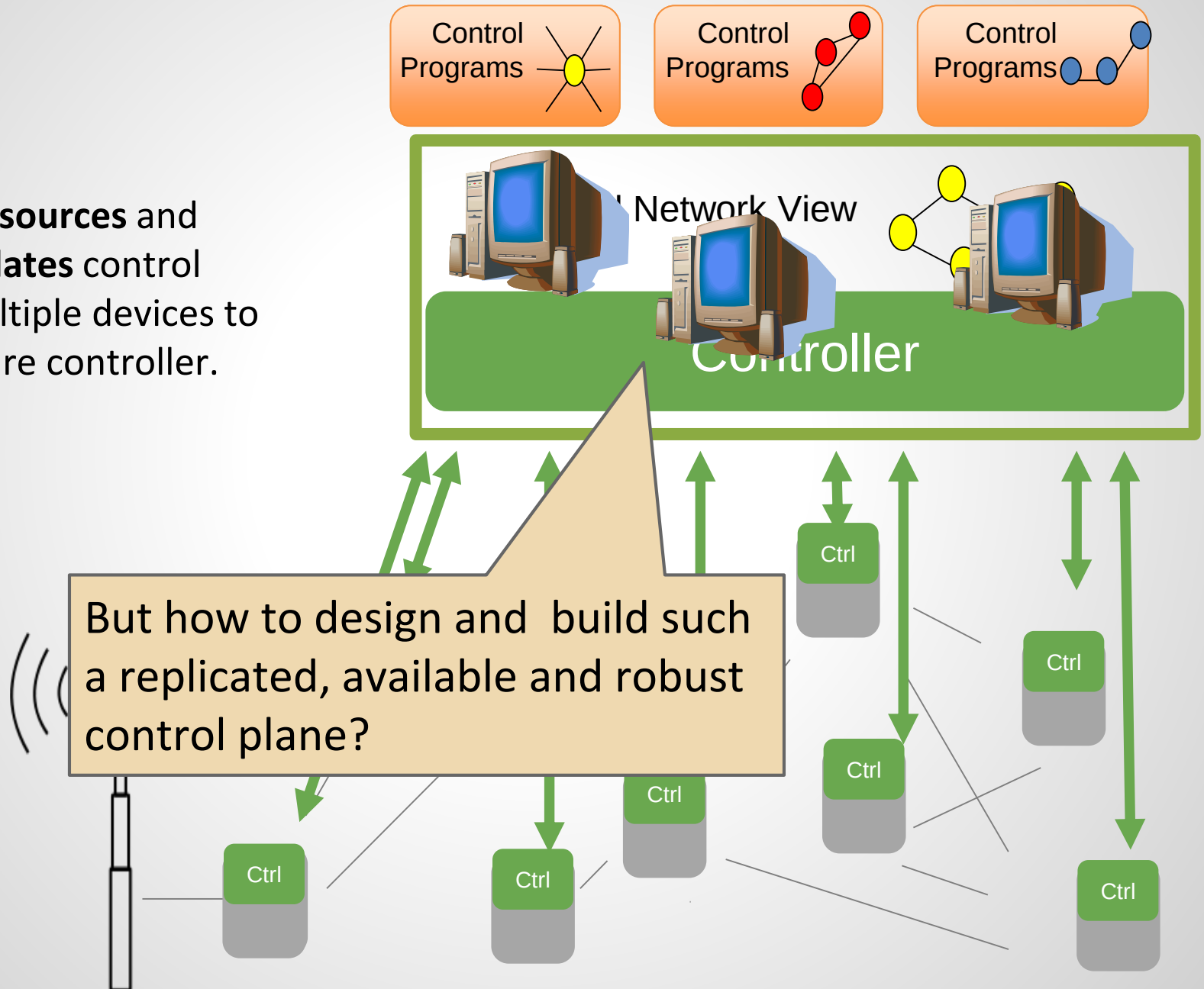
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SDN in a Nutshell

Can be seen as a transactional memory problem, with classic goals like safety (linearizability) and liveness (waitfreedom). But also with a twist... 😊

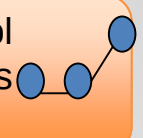
consolidates control over multiple devices to a software controller.

But how to design and build such a replicated control plane?

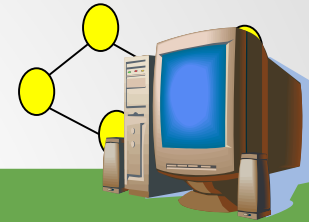
Control Programs



Control Programs



Network View



Controller

Ctrl

Ctrl

Ctrl

Ctrl

Ctrl

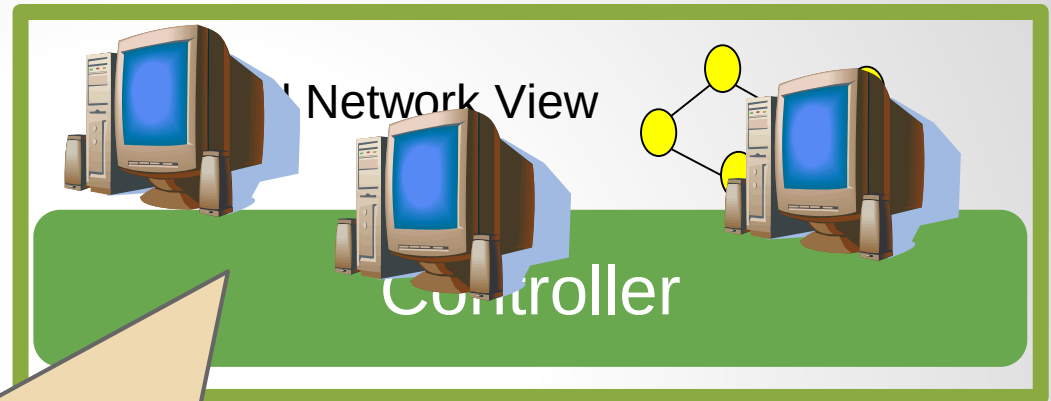
[A Distributed and Robust SDN Control Plane for Transactional Network Updates](#)

Marco Canini, Petr Kuznetsov, Dan Levin, and Stefan Schmid.

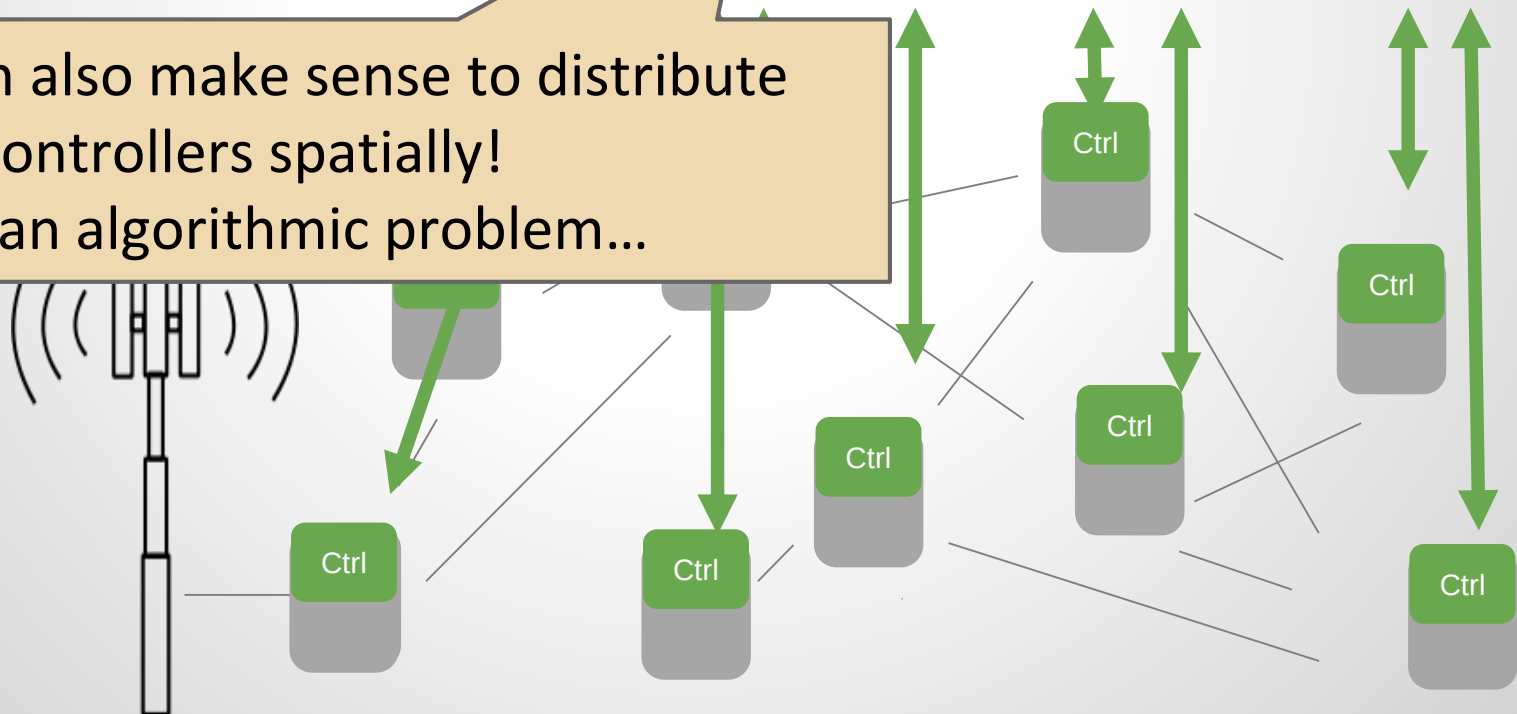
34th IEEE Conference on Computer Communications (**INFOCOM**), Hong Kong, April 2015..

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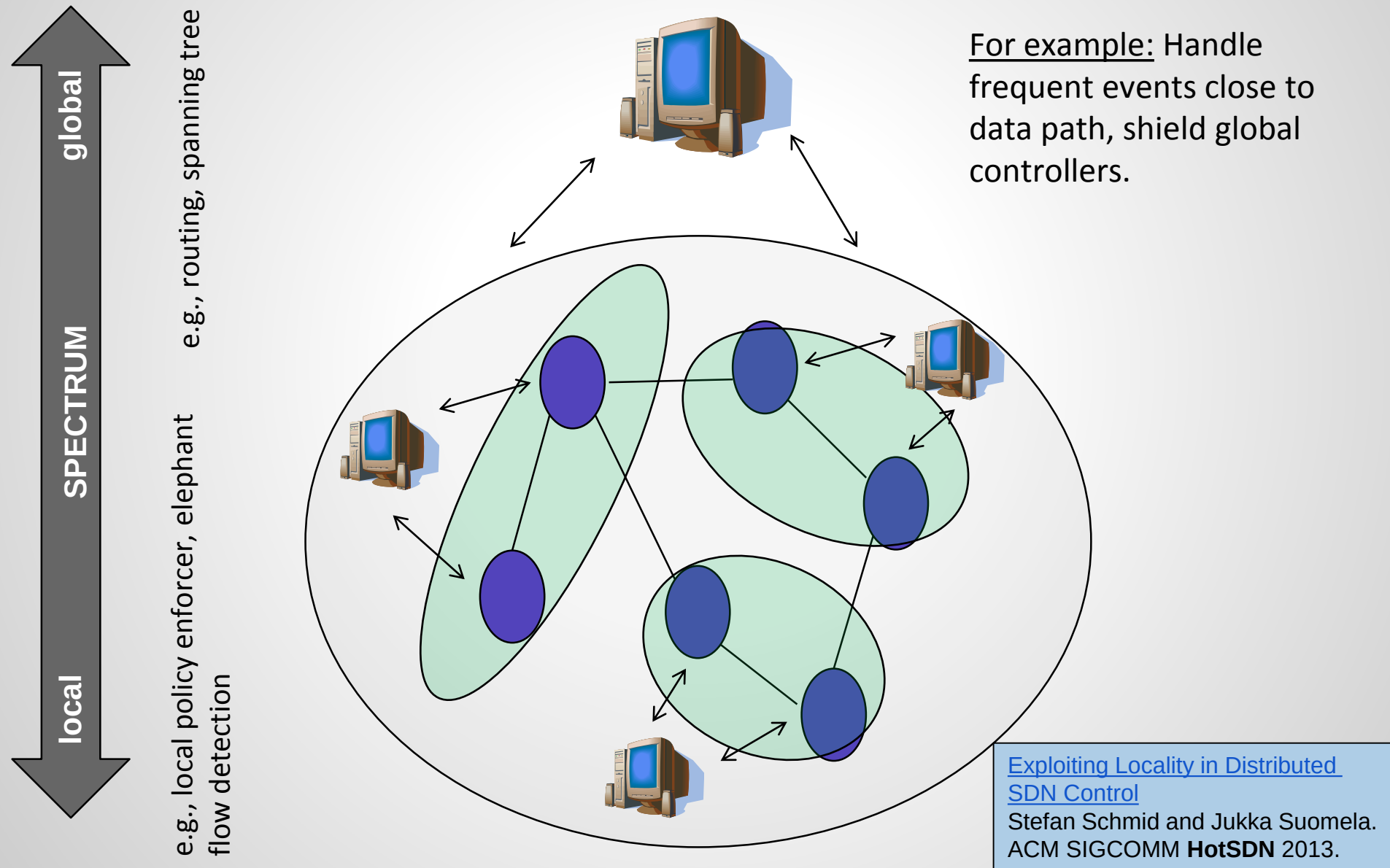
SDN **outsources** and **consolidates** control over multiple devices to a software controller.



It can also make sense to distribute the controllers spatially!
Also an algorithmic problem...

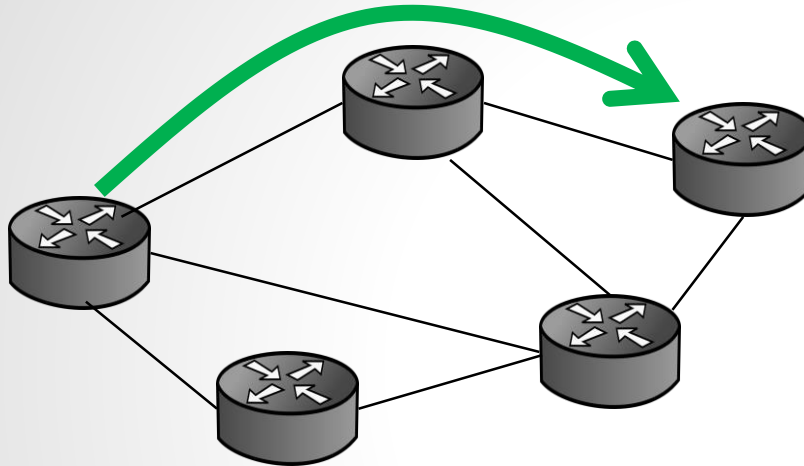


A Distributed Computing Challenge: What can and should be controlled locally?

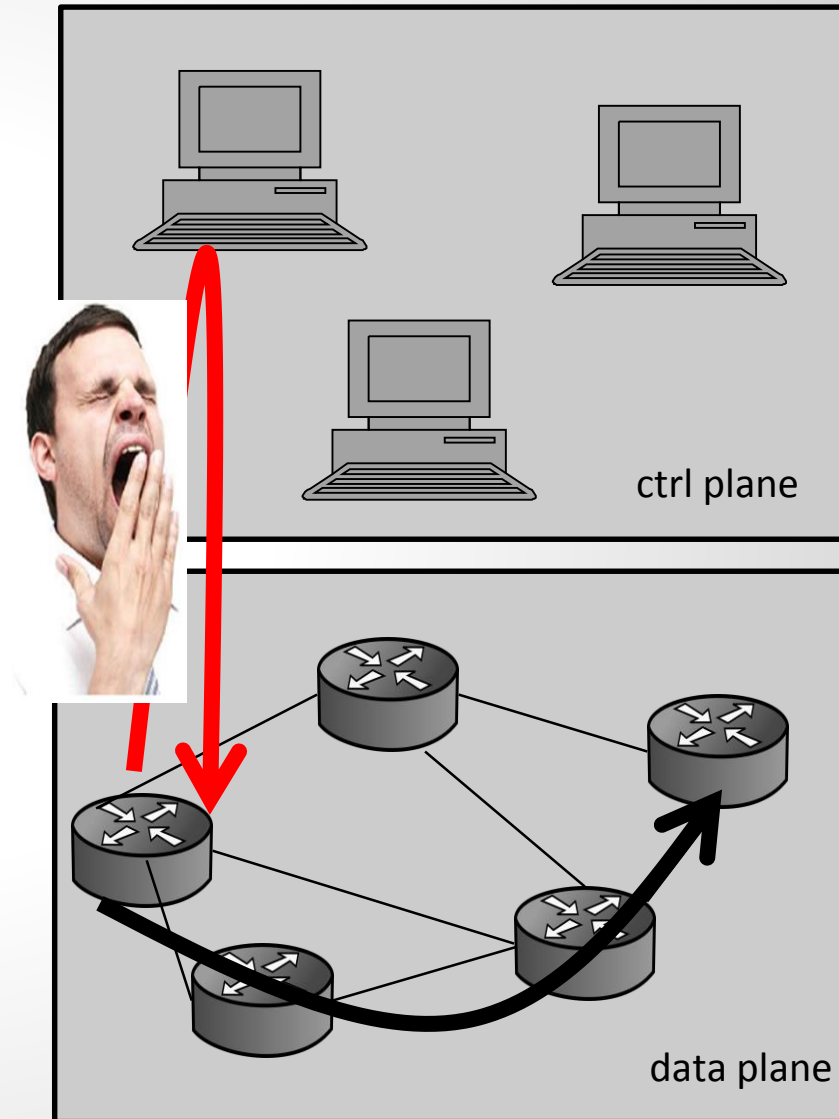
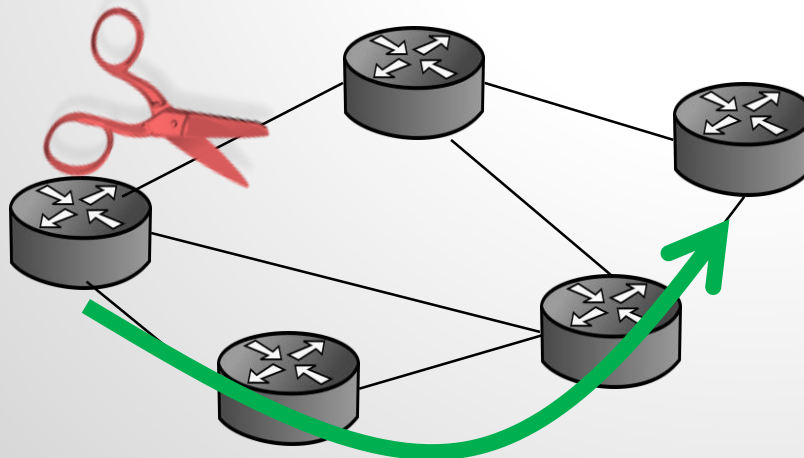


Some Logic Should Even Remain in Data Plane!

Before failover:



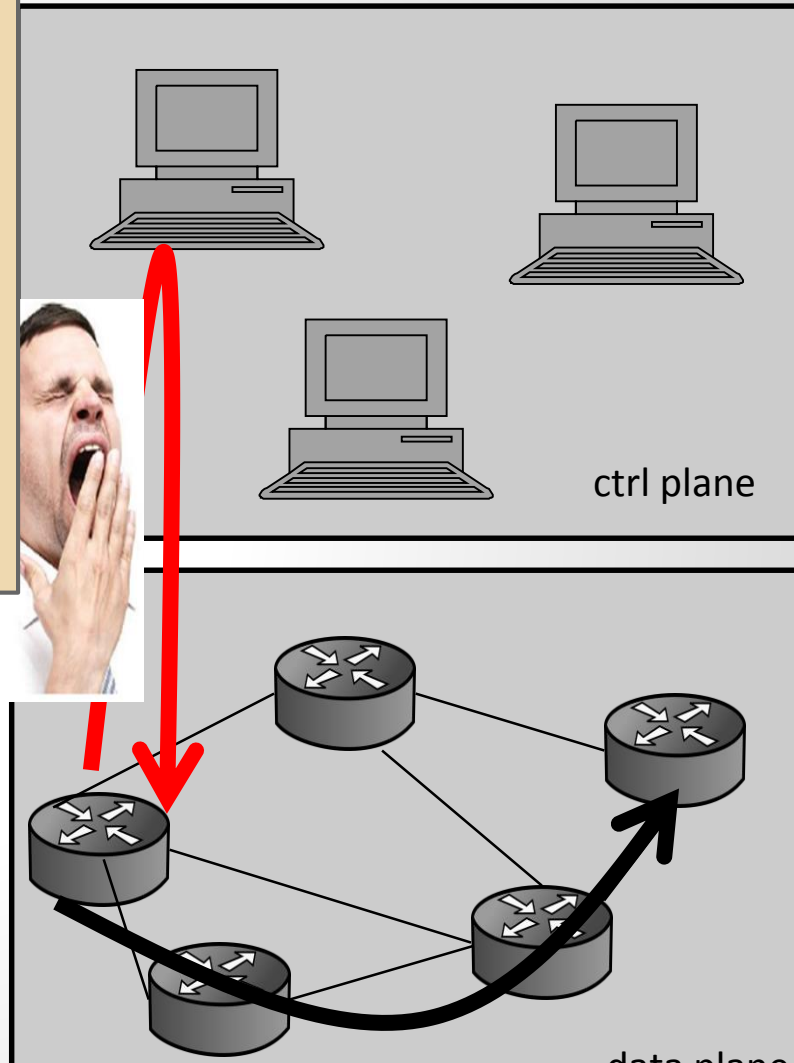
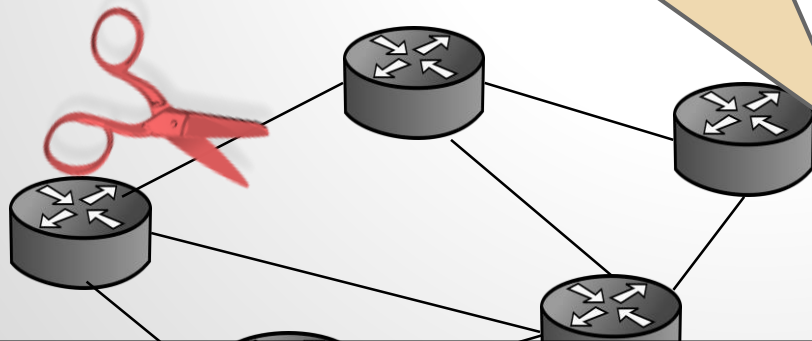
After failover:



Some Logic Should Even Remain in Data Plane!

Goal: Find routing path (inband) **as long as it exists!** A classic algorithmic problem (traversal with local information) in a **new flavor**.
OpenFlow vs MPLS: Cannot implement Ankit et al.'s link reversal algorithm?

After failover:



[Provable Data Plane Connectivity with Local Fast Failover: Introducing OpenFlow Graph Algorithms](#)

Michael Borokhovich, Liron Schiff, and Stefan Schmid.

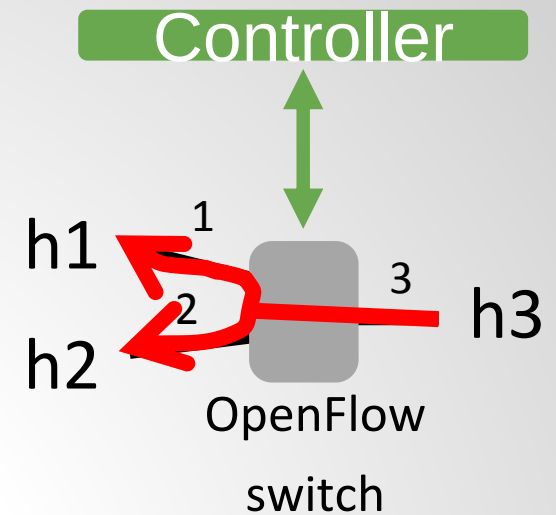
ACM SIGCOMM Workshop on Hot Topics in Software Defined Networking (**HotSDN**), Chicago, Illinois, USA, August 2014.

SDN raises fundamental algorithmic problems even for scenarios with a single controller!*

* And sometimes even a single switch...

Jennifer Rexford's Example: SDN MAC Learning Done Wrong

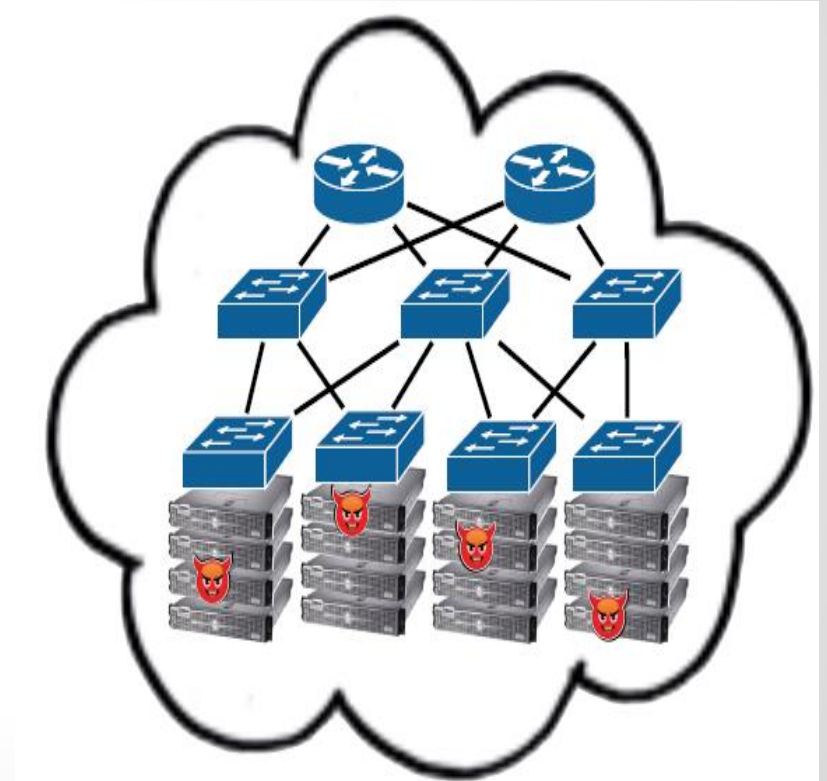
- ❑ MAC learning: The «Hello World»
 - ❑ a bug in early controller versions
- ❑ In legacy networks simple
 - ❑ Flood packets sent to unknown destinations
 - ❑ Learn host's location when it sends packets
- ❑ Pitfalls in SDN: learn sender => miss response
 - ❑ Assume: low priority rule * (no match): send to controller
 - ❑ h1->h2: Add rule h1@port1 (location learned)
 - ❑ Controller misses h2->h1 (as h1 known, h2 stay unknown!)
 - ❑ When h3->h2: flooding forever (learns h3, never learns h2)



Why Consistency Matters

Important, e.g., in Cloud

What if your traffic was *not* isolated from other tenants during periods of routine maintenance?



Thanks to Nate Foster for example!

Example: Outages

Even technically sophisticated companies are struggling to build networks that provide reliable performance.



We discovered a misconfiguration on this pair of switches that caused what's called a "bridge loop" in the network.

A network change was [...] executed incorrectly [...] more "stuck" volumes and added more requests to the re-mirroring storm



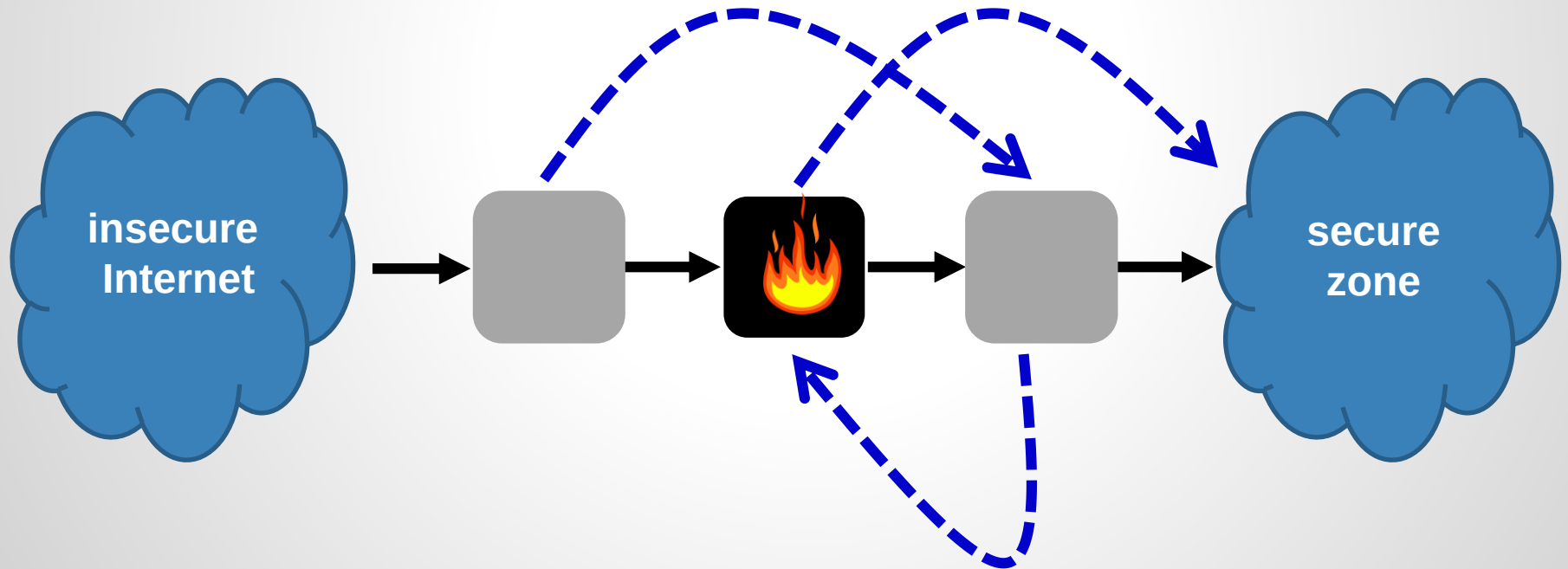
Service outage was due to a series of internal network events that corrupted router data tables

Experienced a network connectivity issue [...] interrupted the airline's flight departures, airport processing and reservations systems

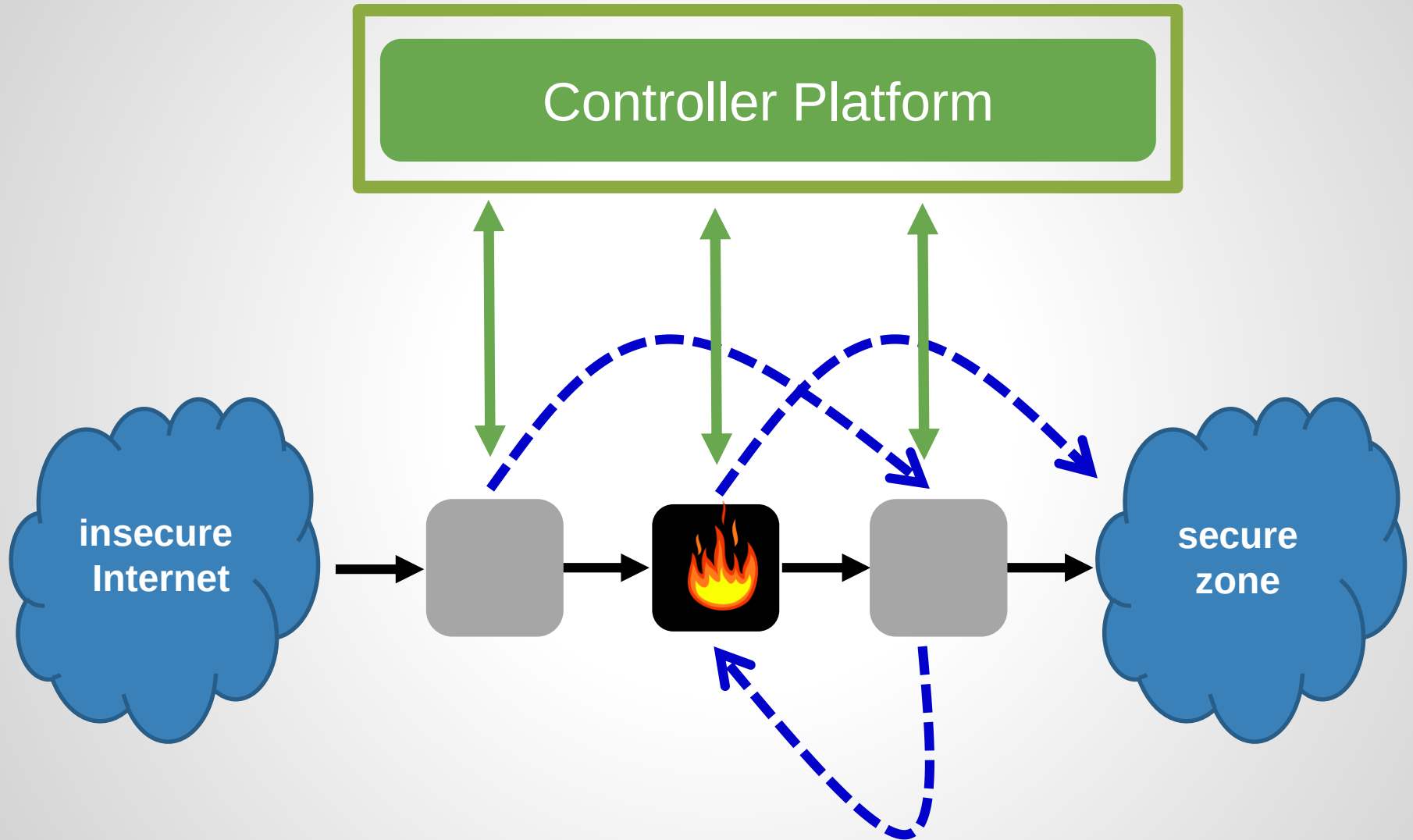


Thanks to Nate Foster for examples (at DSDN 2014)!

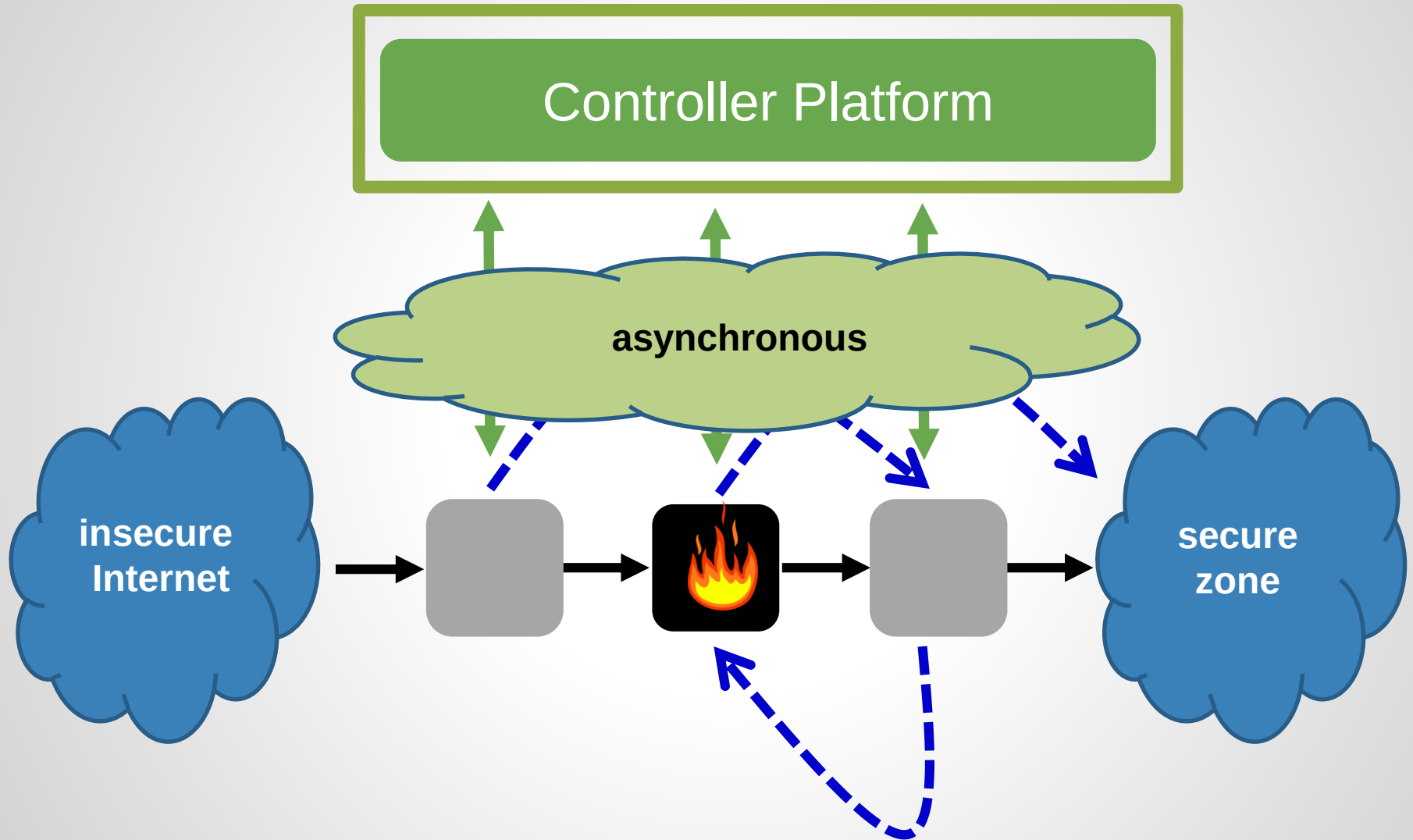
Challenge: Multi-Switch Updates



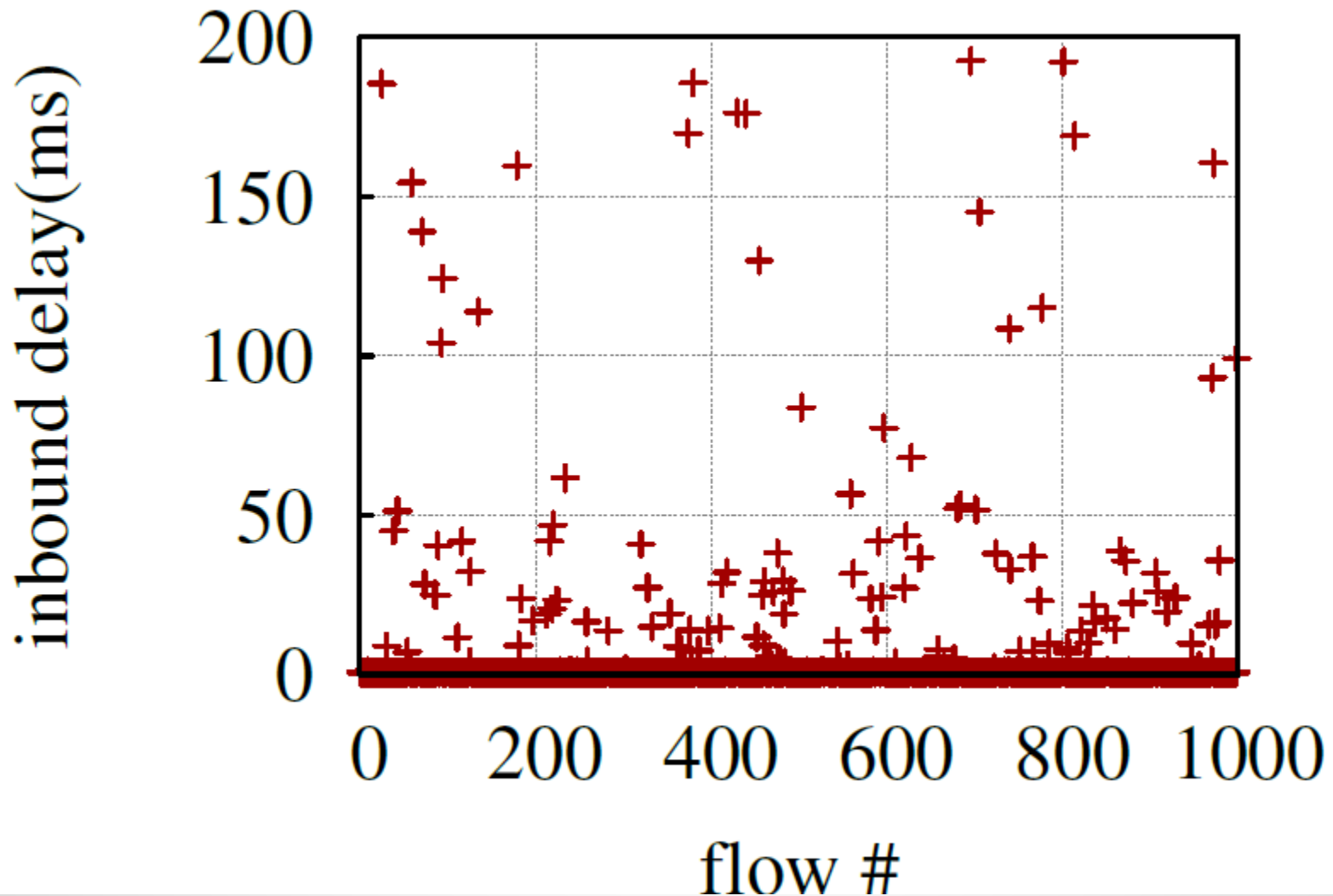
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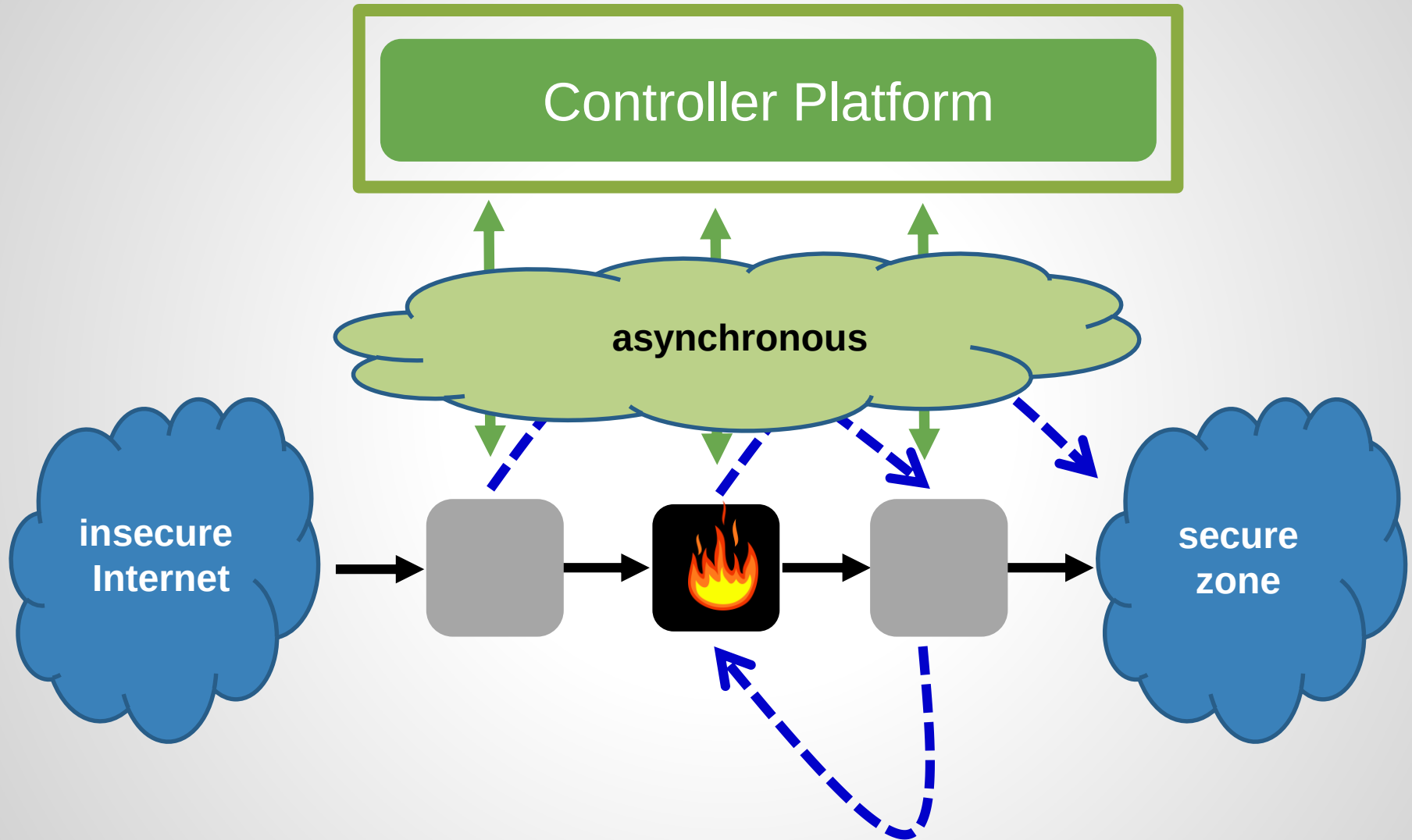


An Asynchronous Distributed System

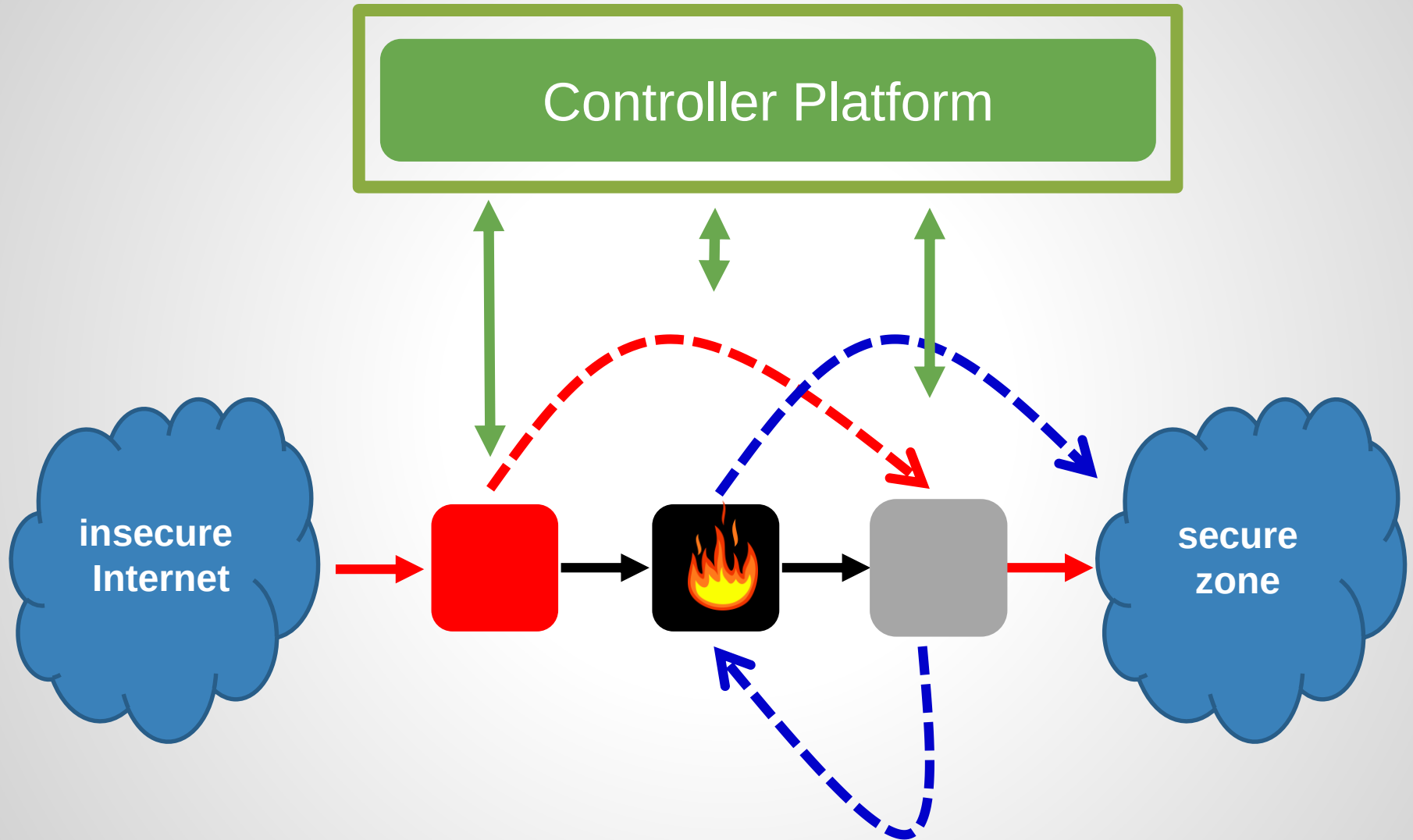


He et al., ACM SOSR 2015: without network latency
Jin et al., ACM SIGCOMM 2014: even higher variance

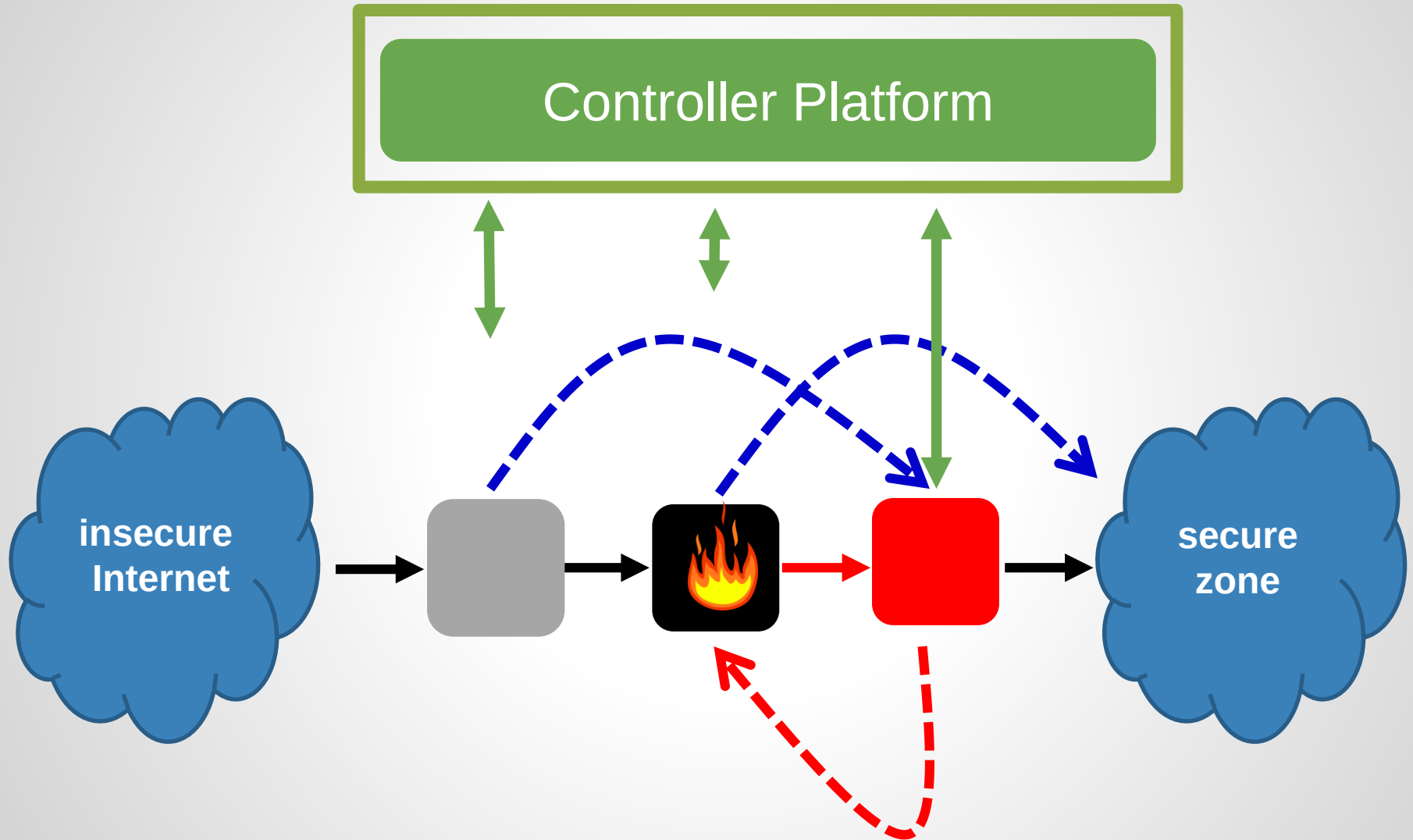
What Can Go Wrong?



Example 1: Bypassed Waypoint



Example 2: *Transient* Loop



What kind and level of consistency is needed?

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It depends 😊

The Spectrum of Consistency

per-packet consistency

Reitblatt et al., SIGCOMM 2012

**correct network
virtualization**

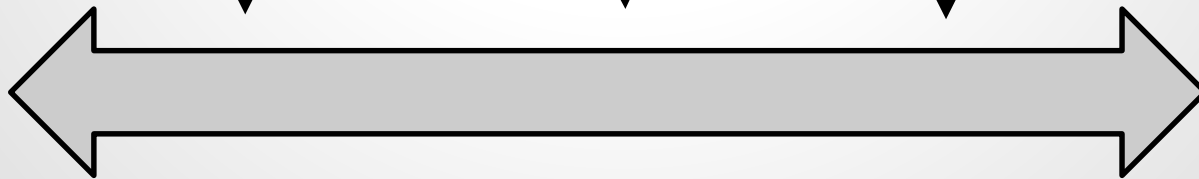
Ghorbani and Godfrey, HotSDN 2014

**weak, transient
consistency**
(loop-freedom,
waypoint enforced)

Ratul M. and Roger W., HotNets 2014

Ludwig et al., HotNets 2014

Strong



Weak

The Spectrum of Consistency

per-packet consistency

Reitblatt et al., SIGCOMM 2012

**correct network
virtualization**

Ghorbani and Godfrey, HotSDN 2014

**weak, transient
consistency**

(loop-free, no
writes enforced)

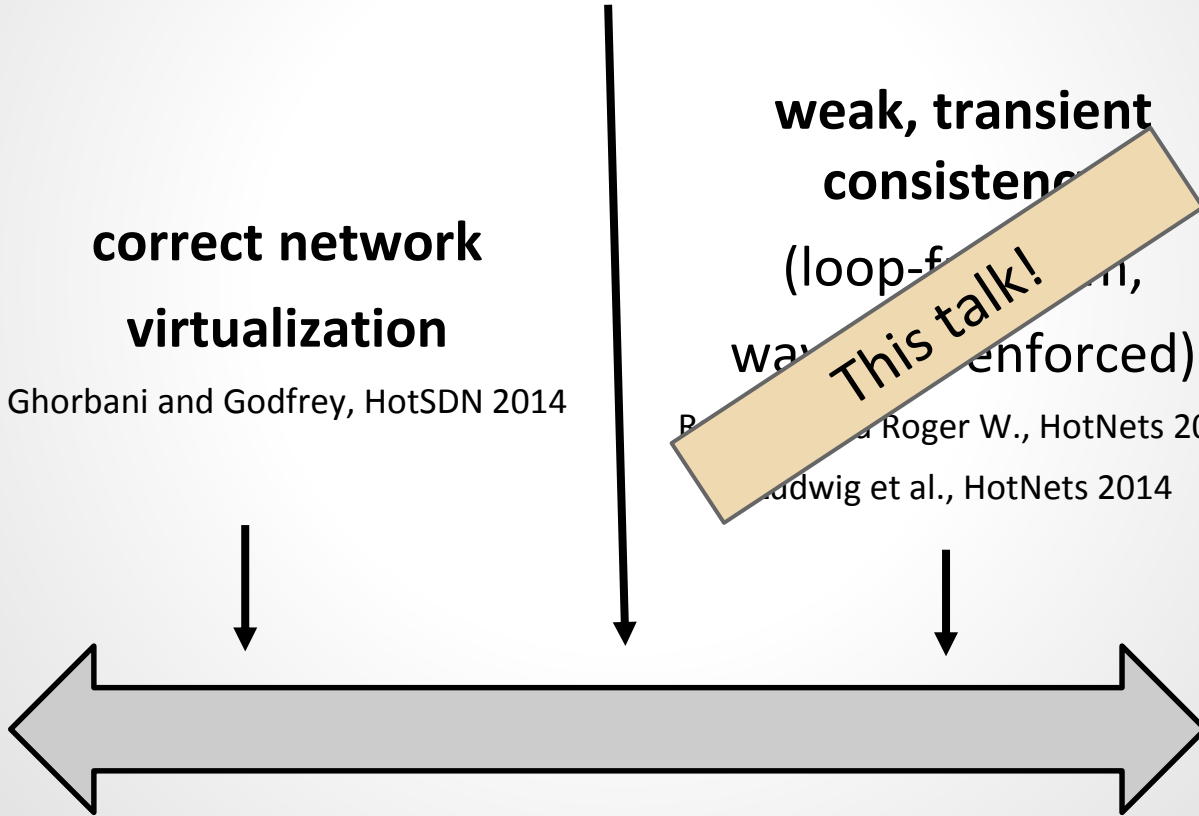
B. P. and Roger W., HotNets 2014

Ludwig et al., HotNets 2014

This talk!

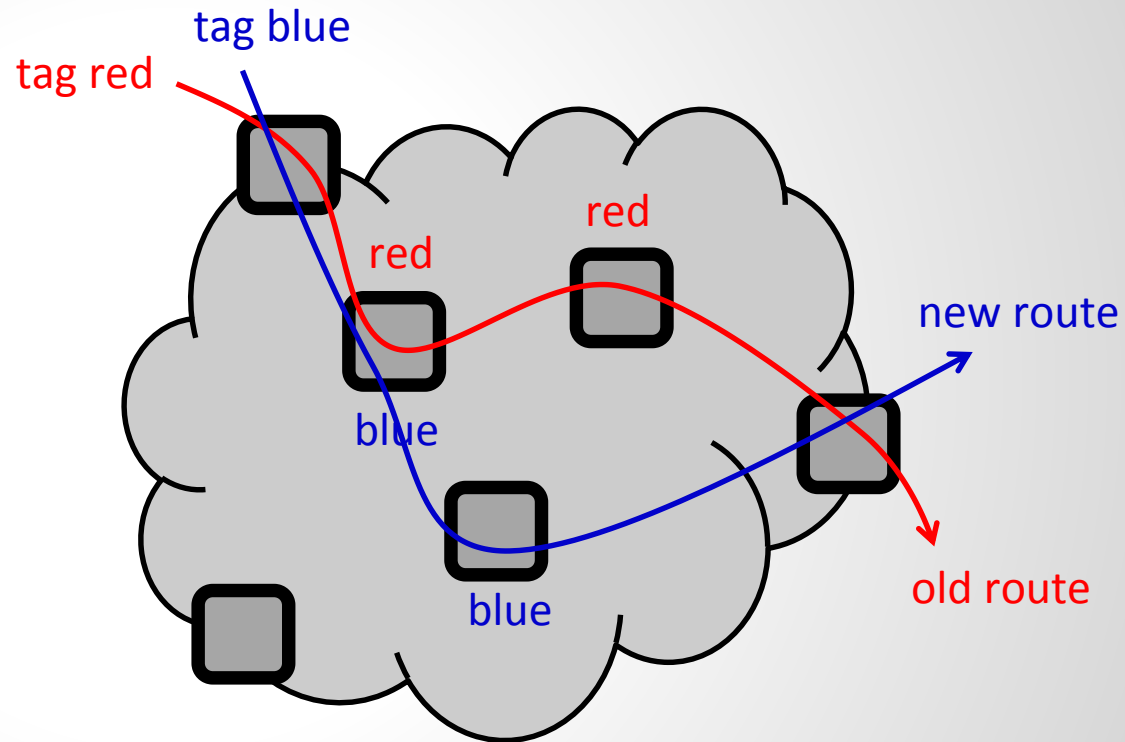
Strong

Weak



Almost everything can be solved with tagging...

- ❑ Old route: red
- ❑ New route: blue
- ❑ 2-Phase Update:
 - ❑ Install blue flow rules internally
 - ❑ Flip tag at ingress ports



The Case Against Tagging

❑ Correctness:

- ❑ Where to tag? Don't interfere with existing protocols!
- ❑ Tagging in the presence of middleboxes?

❑ Overhead:

- ❑ Header space is limited
- ❑ Looking up special header fields and tagging: extra latency?
- ❑ The approach requires extra rules on the switch (TCAM memory is a scarce resource)
- ❑ Coordination problem for distributed controllers?

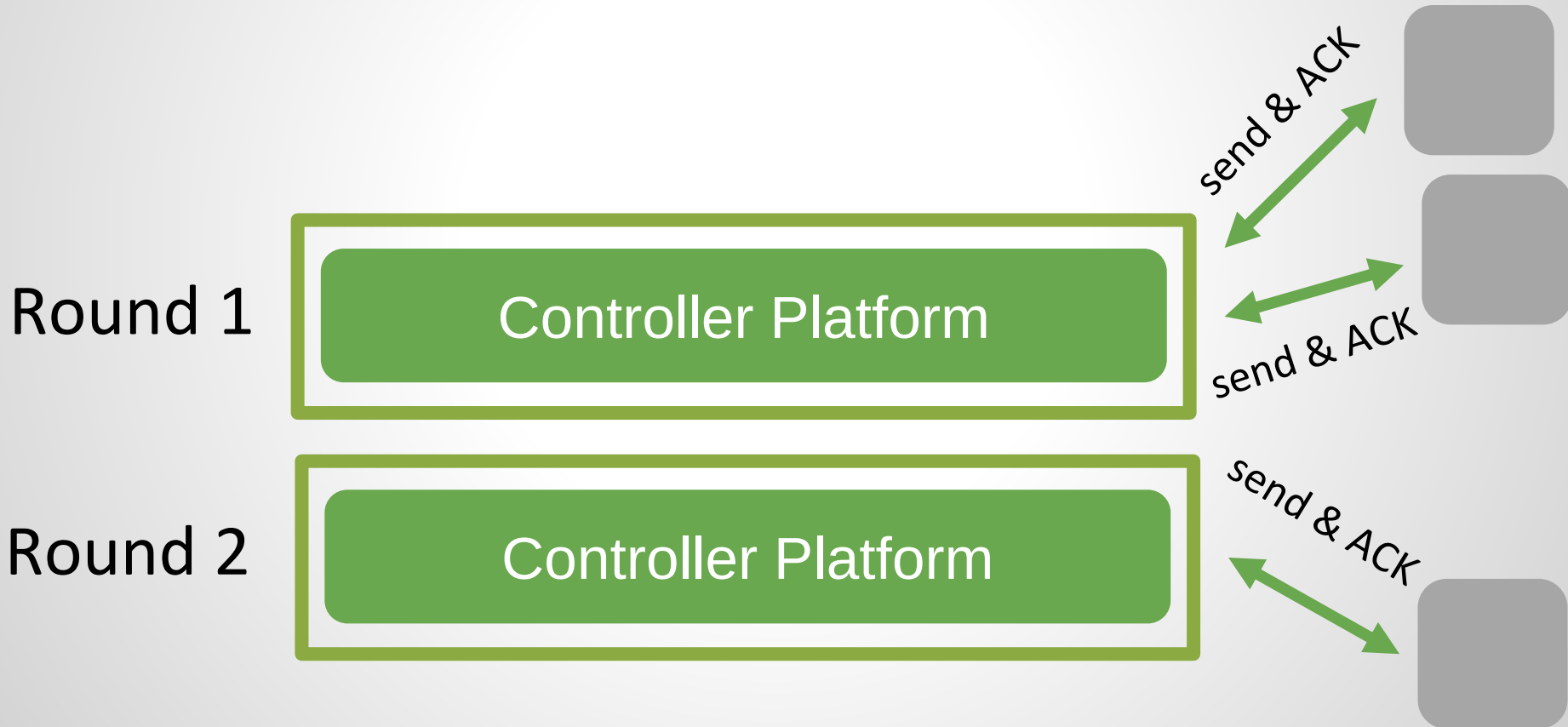
❑ Late updates:

- ❑ Updates start taking place late*

* Mahajan & Wattenhofer, ACM HotNets 2013

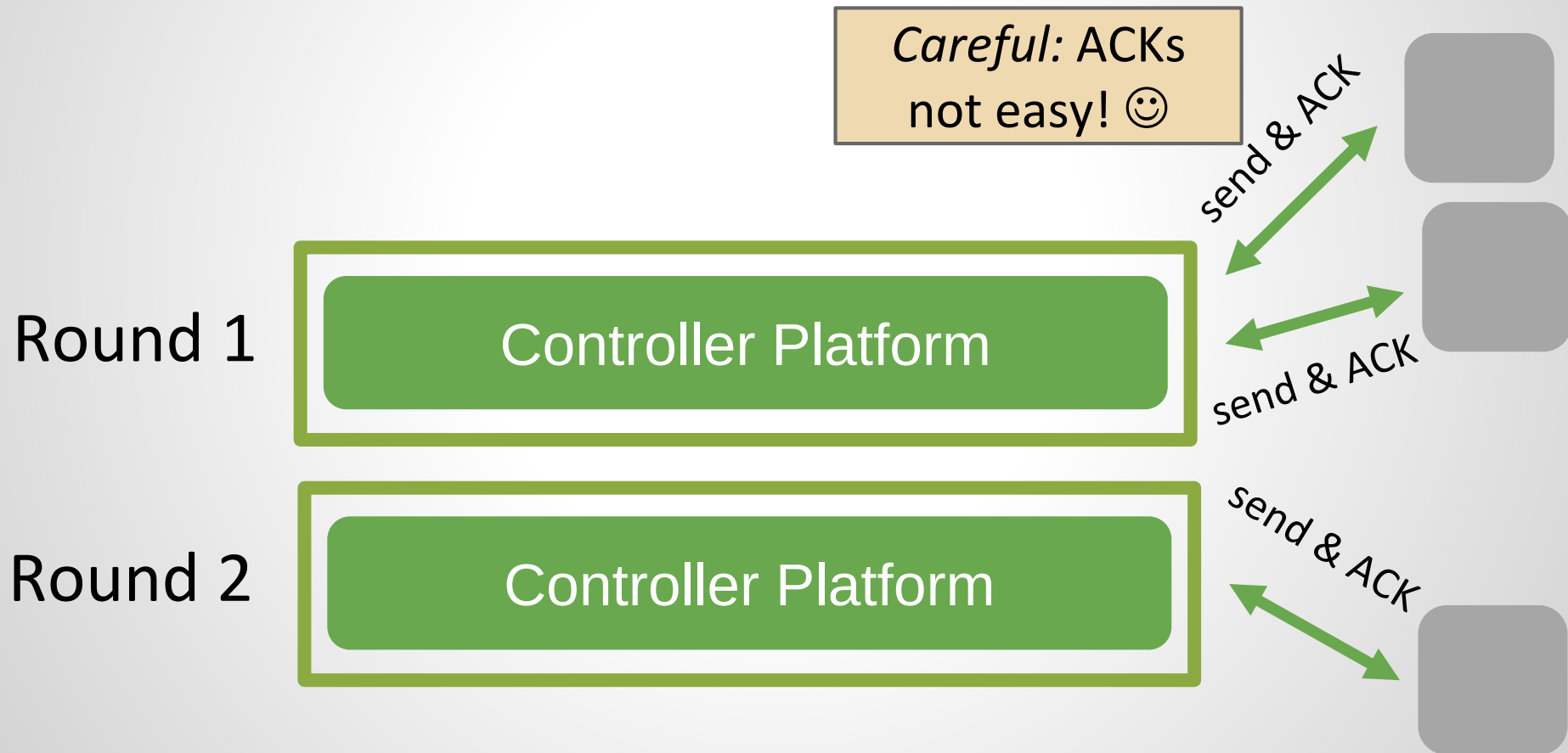
Transient Consistency: Model

Idea: Keep consistent by updating in multiple rounds



Transient Consistency: Model

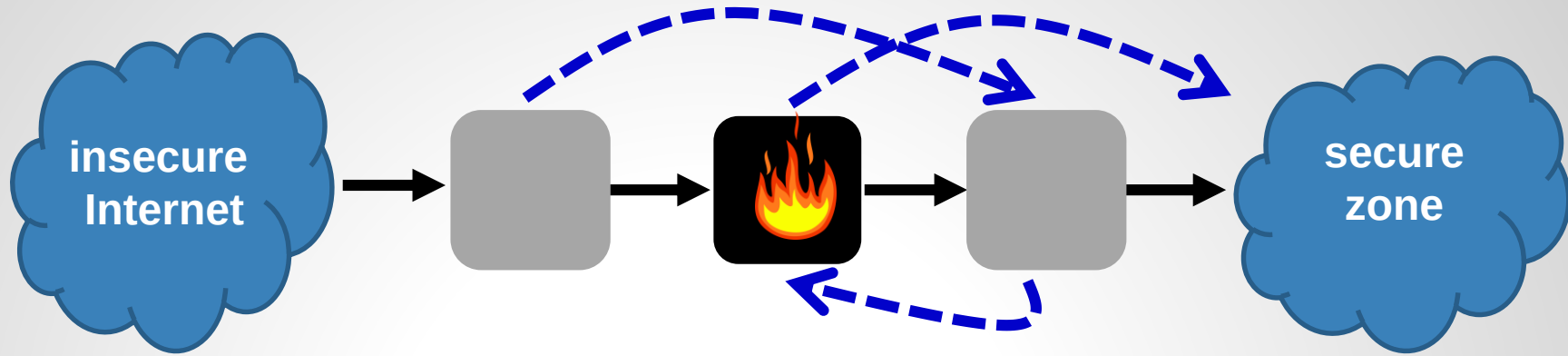
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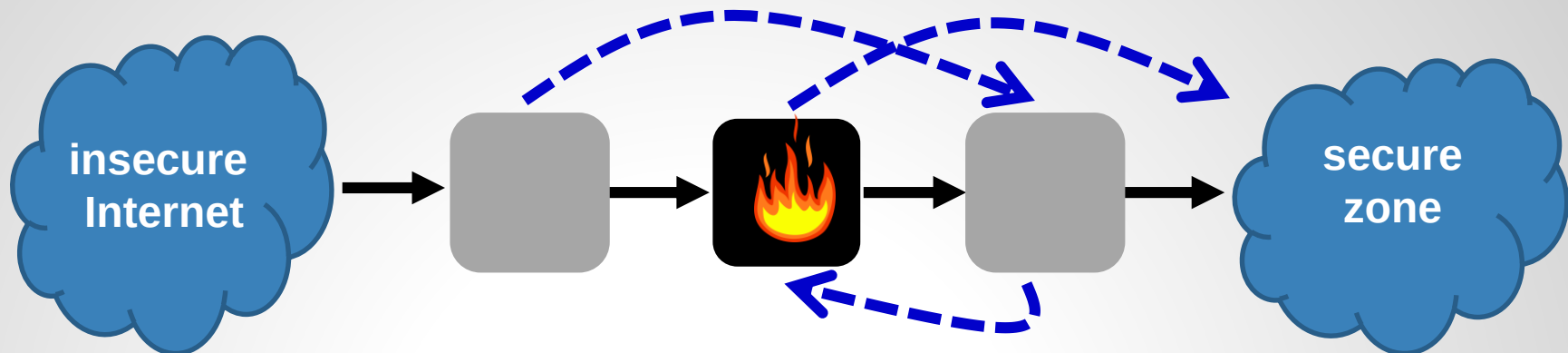
Kuzniar et al., PAM 2015

Kuzniar et al., ACM CONEXT 2014

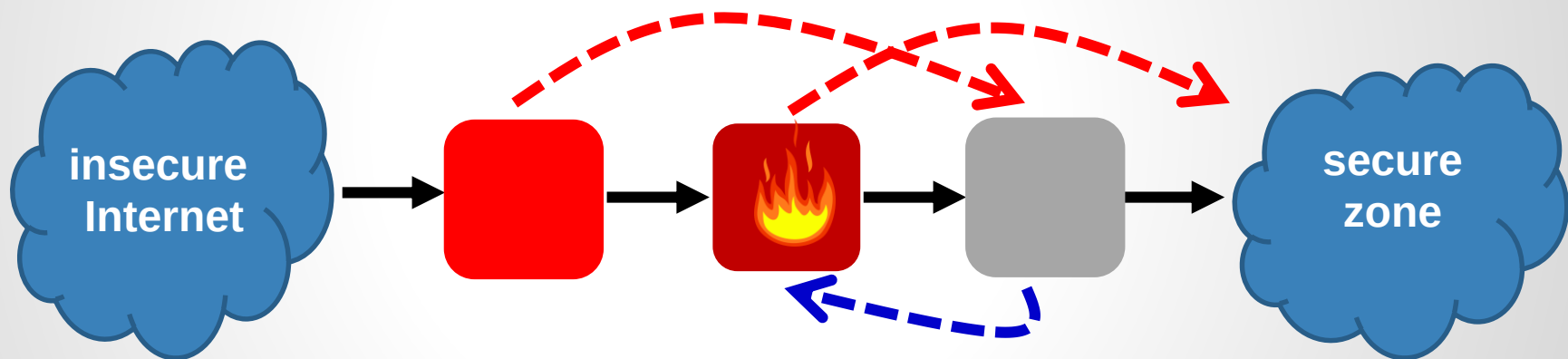
Going Back to Our Examples: LF Update?



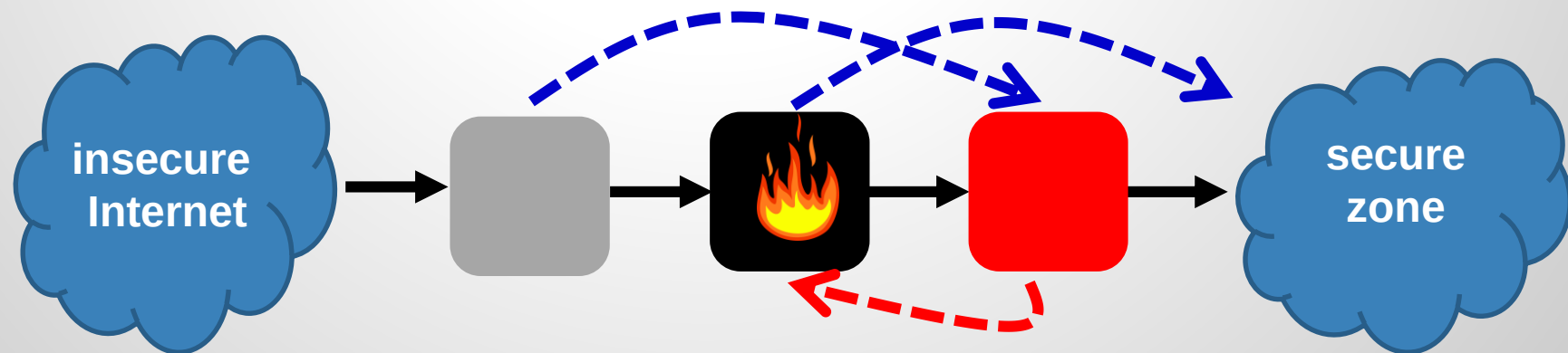
Going Back to Our Examples: LF Update!



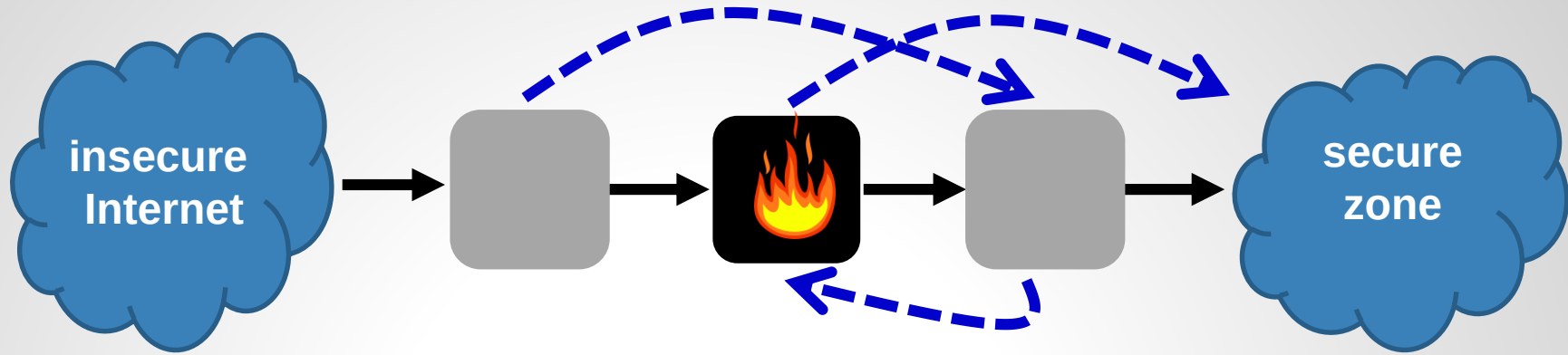
R1:



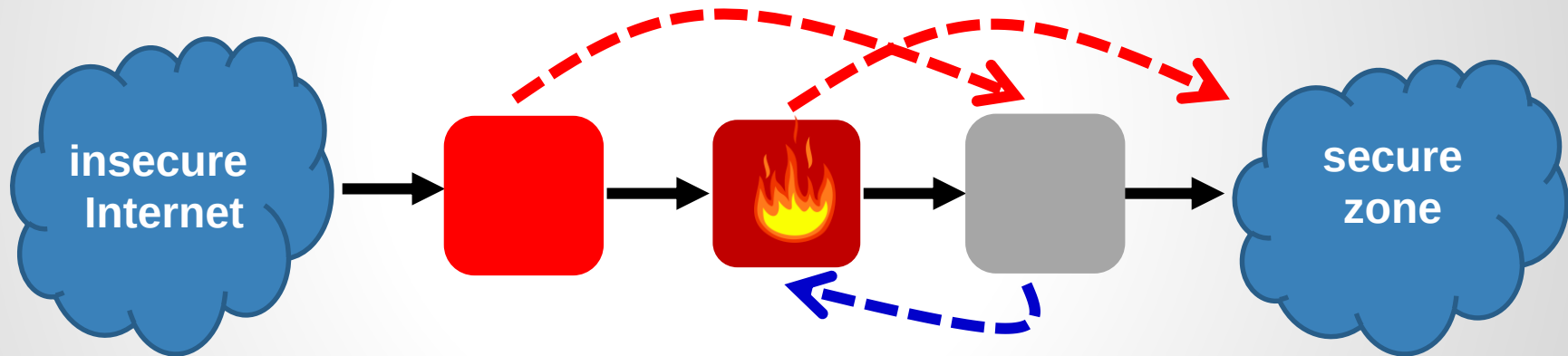
R2:



Going Back to Our Examples: LF Update!



R1:

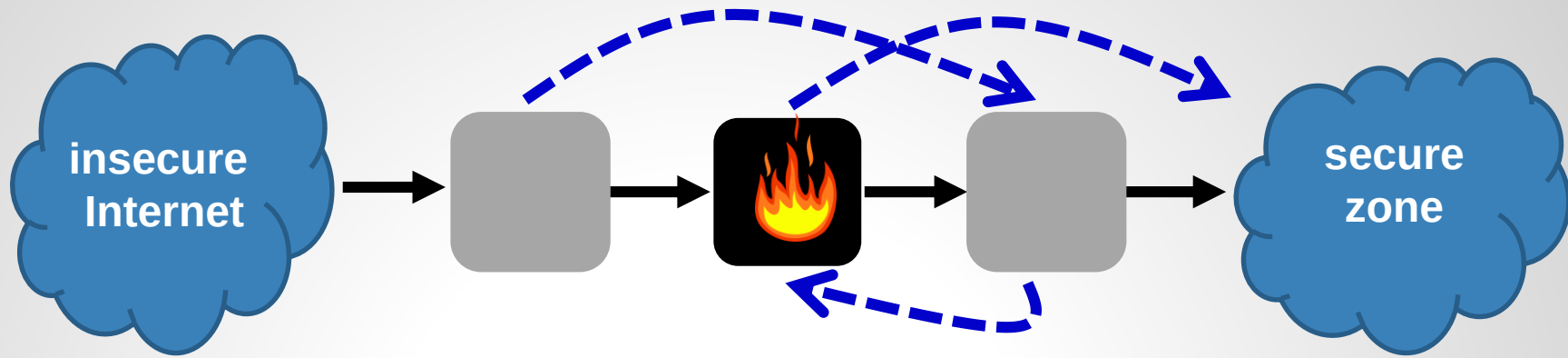


LF ok! But:

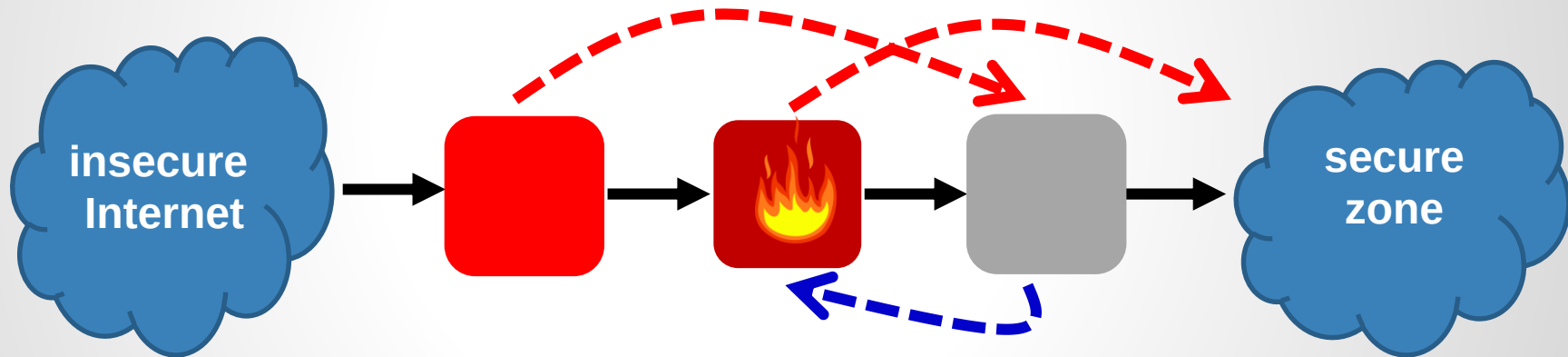
R2:

- Q1: Does a LF schedule always exist? Ideas?

Going Back to Our Examples: LF Update!



R1:

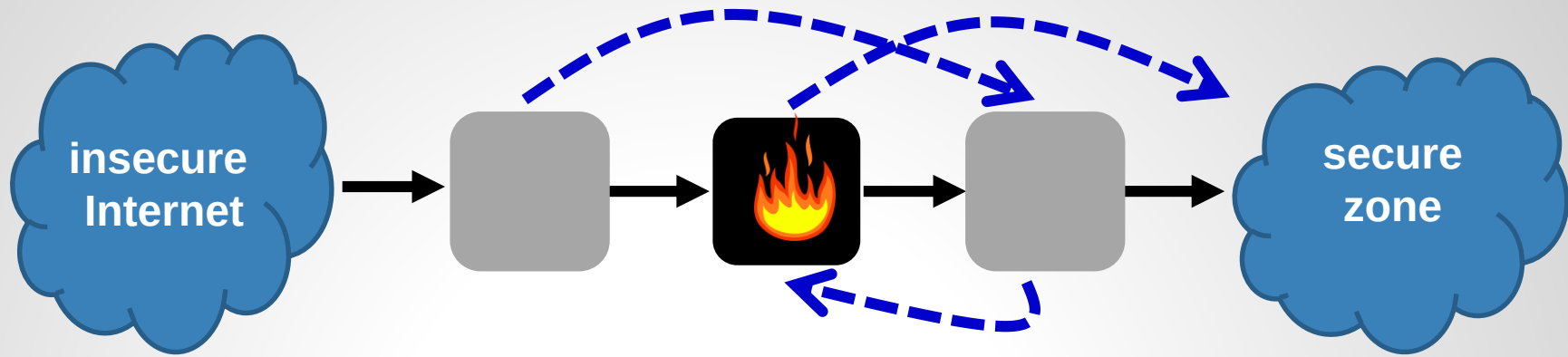


R2:

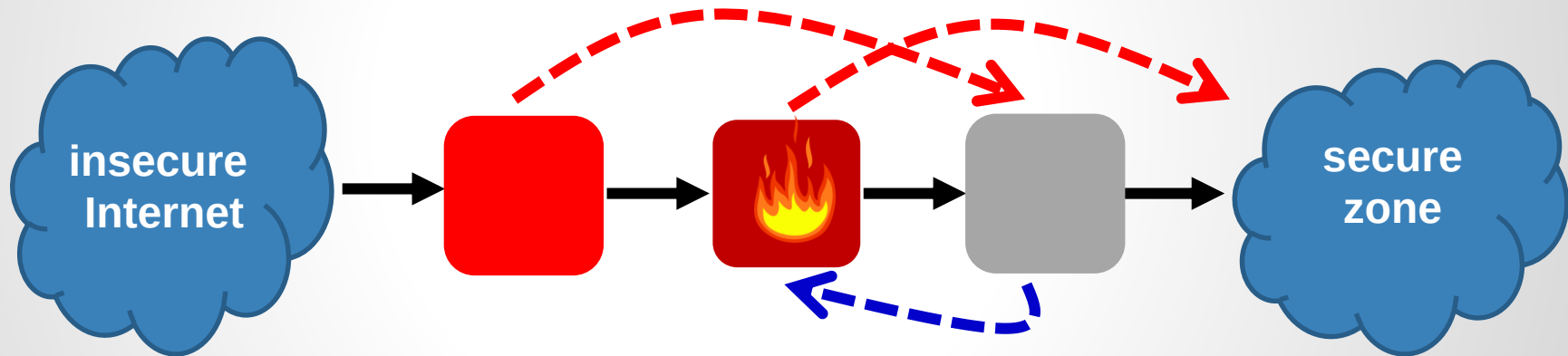
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- Q1: Does a LF schedule always exist? Ideas?
- Q2: What about WPE?

Going Back to Our Examples: LF Update!



R1:

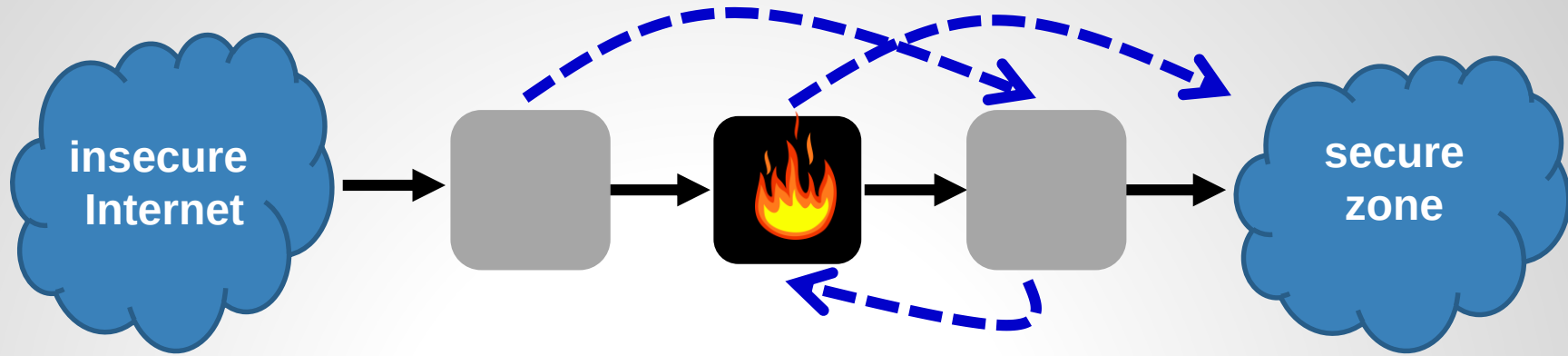


LF ok! But:

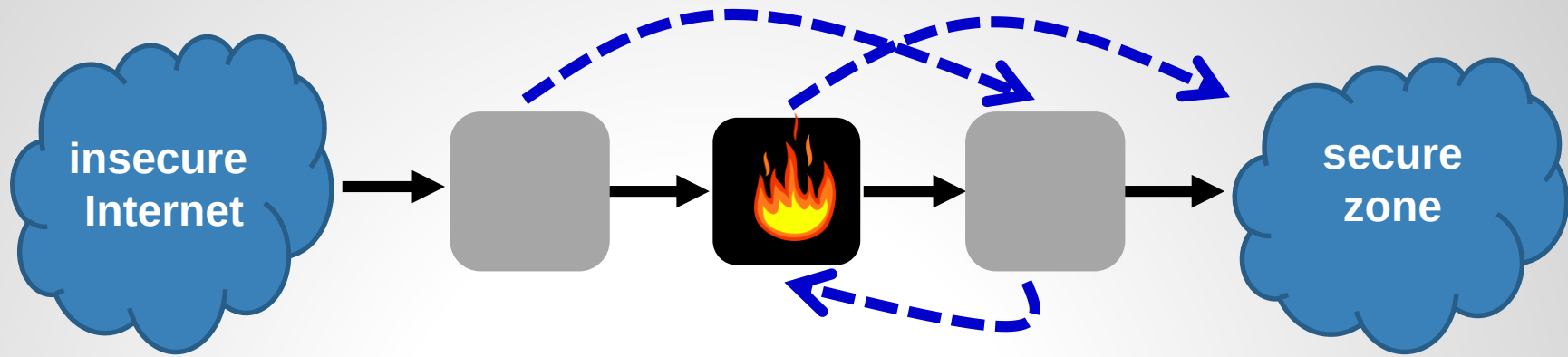
R2:

- Q1: Does a LF schedule always exist? Ideas?
- Q2: What about WPE? Violated in Round 1!

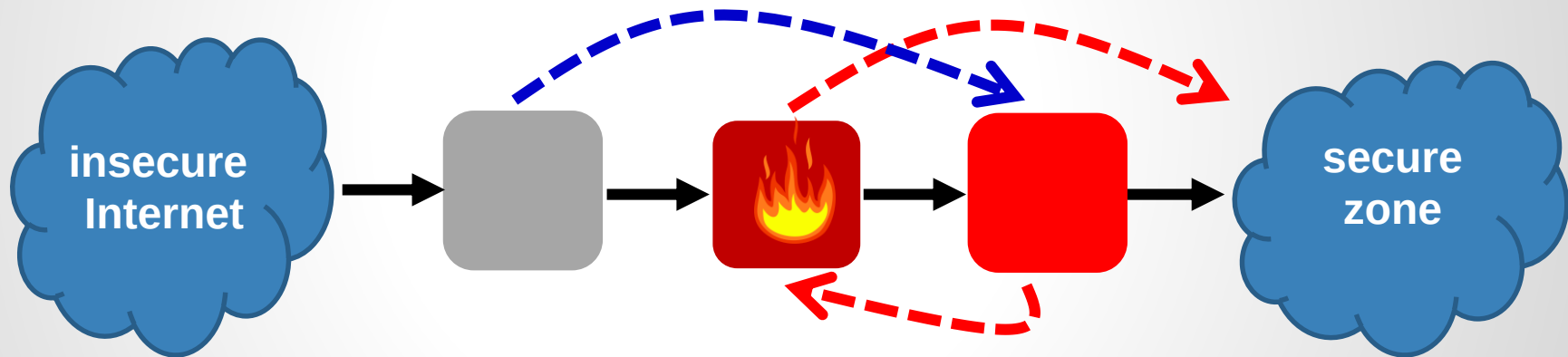
Going Back to Our Examples: WPE Update?



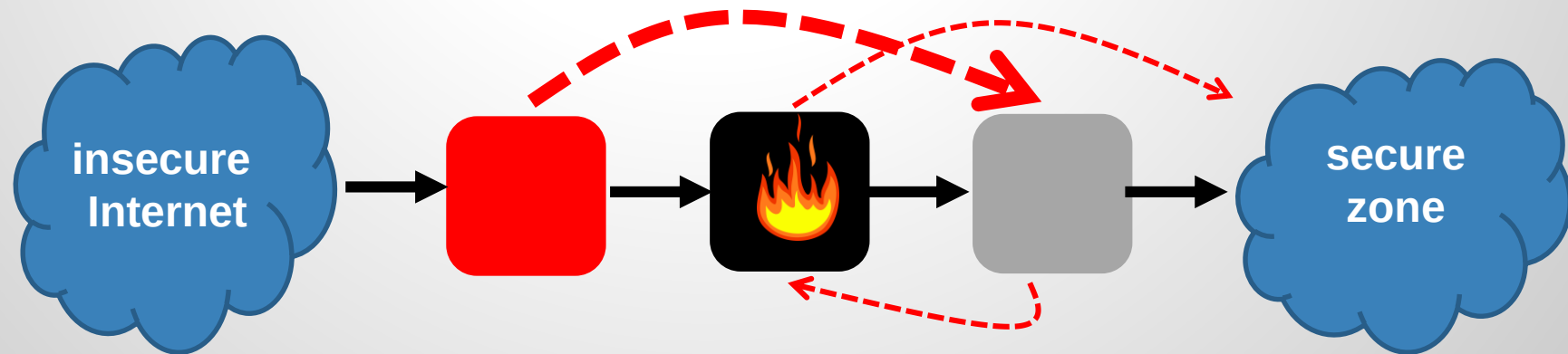
Going Back to Our Examples: WPE Update!



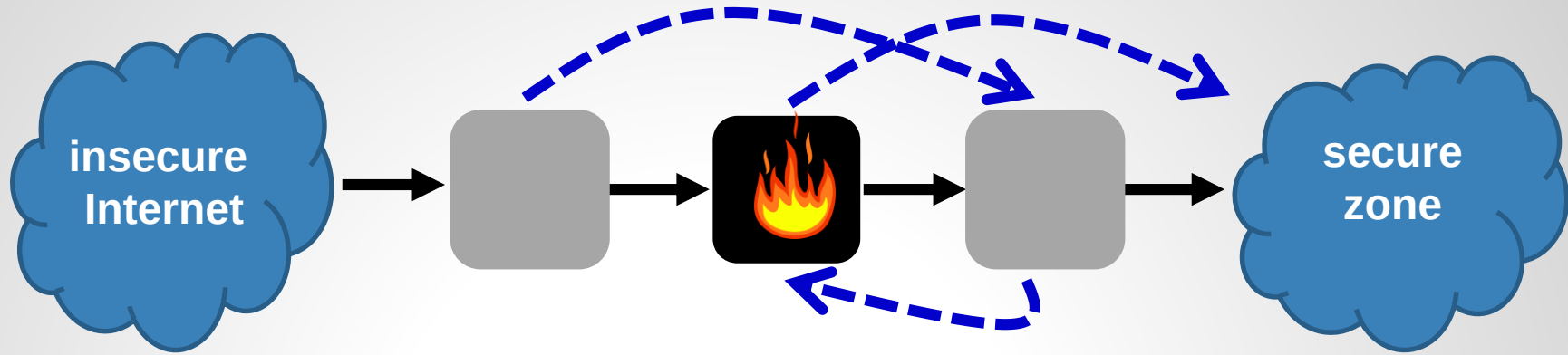
R1:



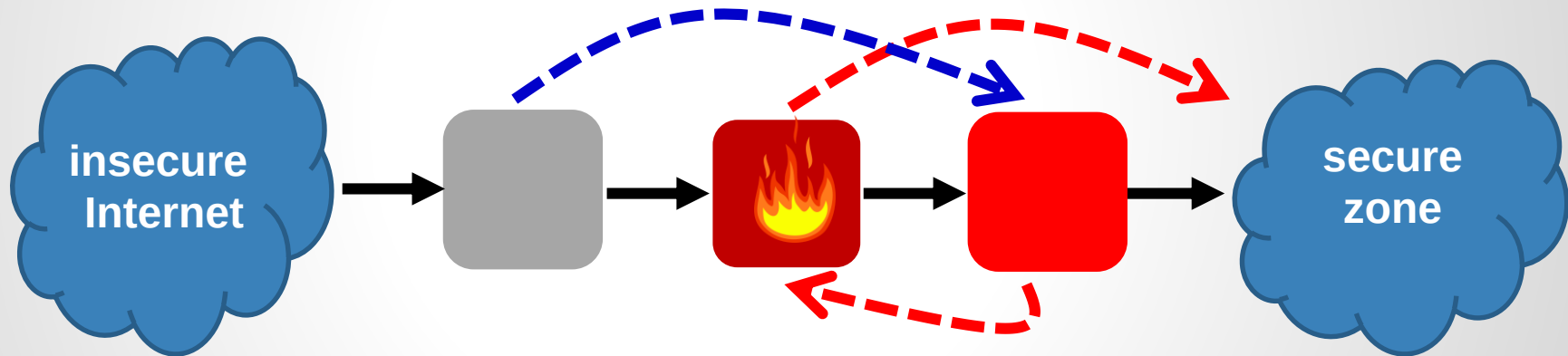
R2:



Going Back to Our Examples: WPE Update!



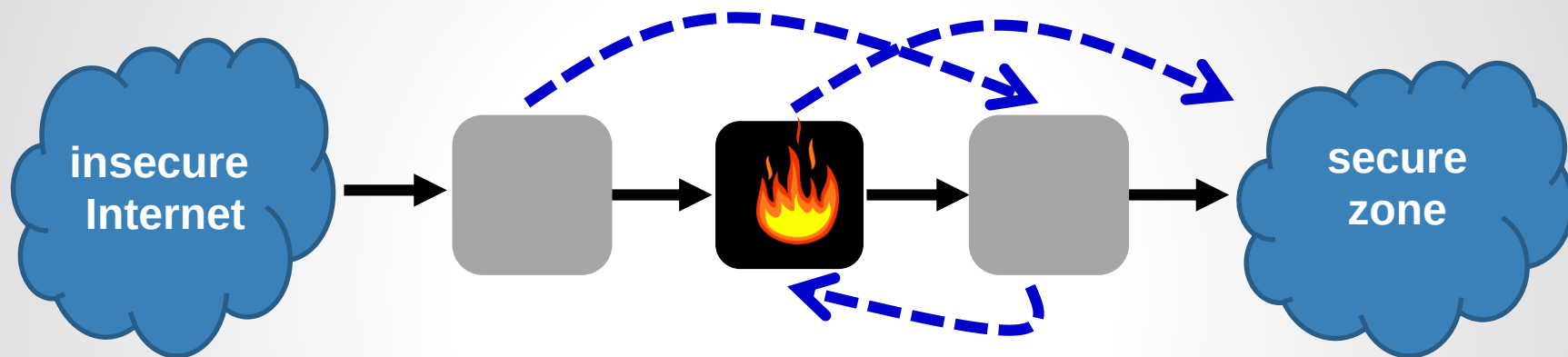
R1:



R2:

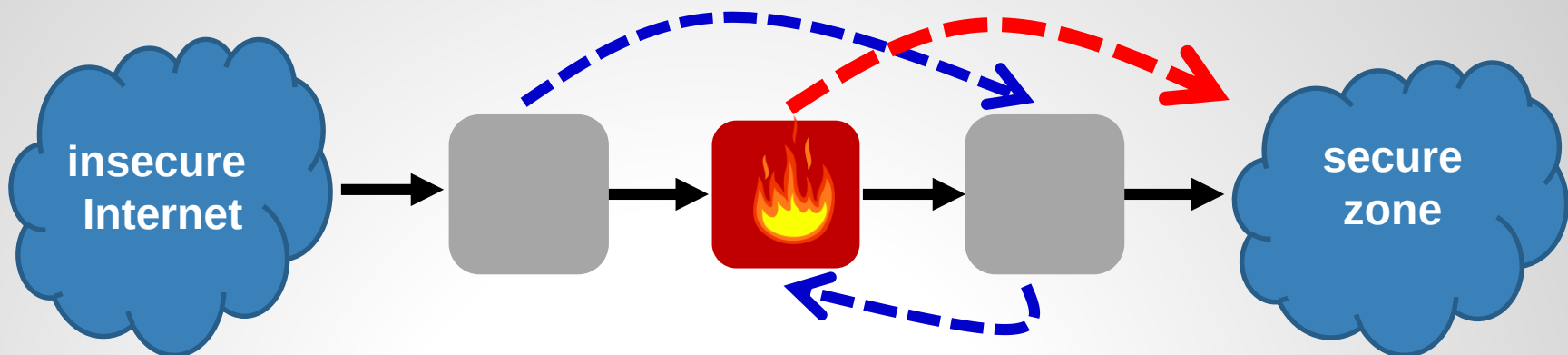
... ok but may violate LF in Round 1!

Going Back to Our Examples: Both WPE+LF?

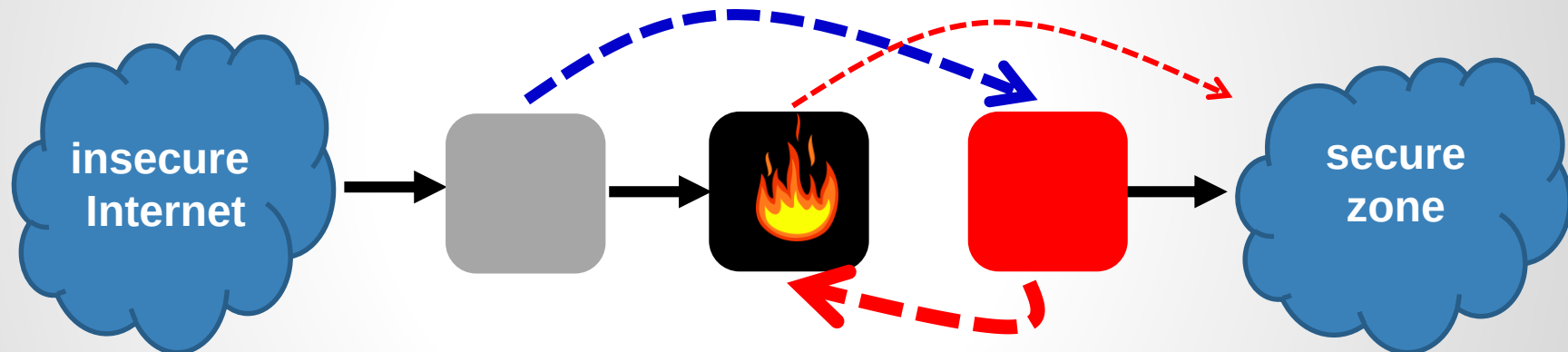


Going Back to Our Examples: WPE+LF!

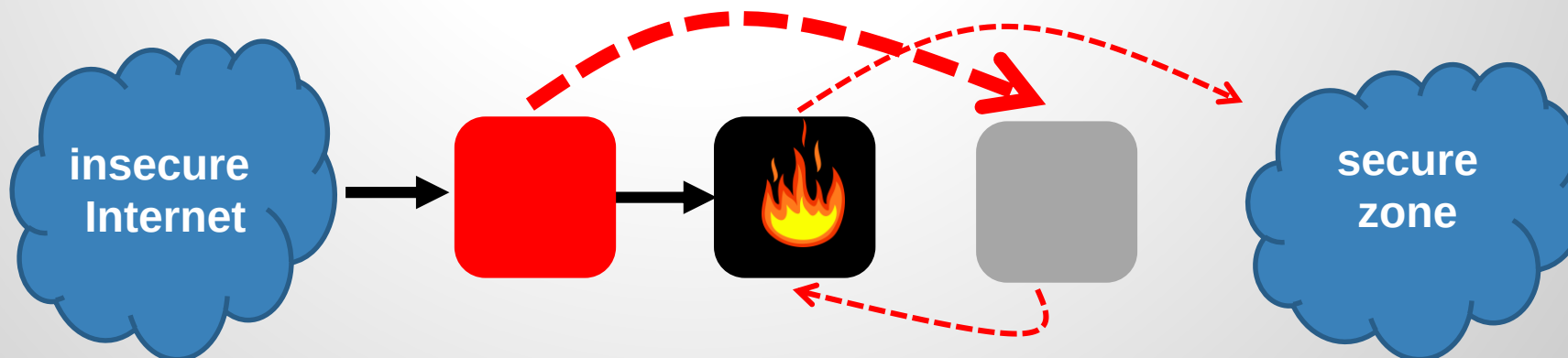
R1:



R2:

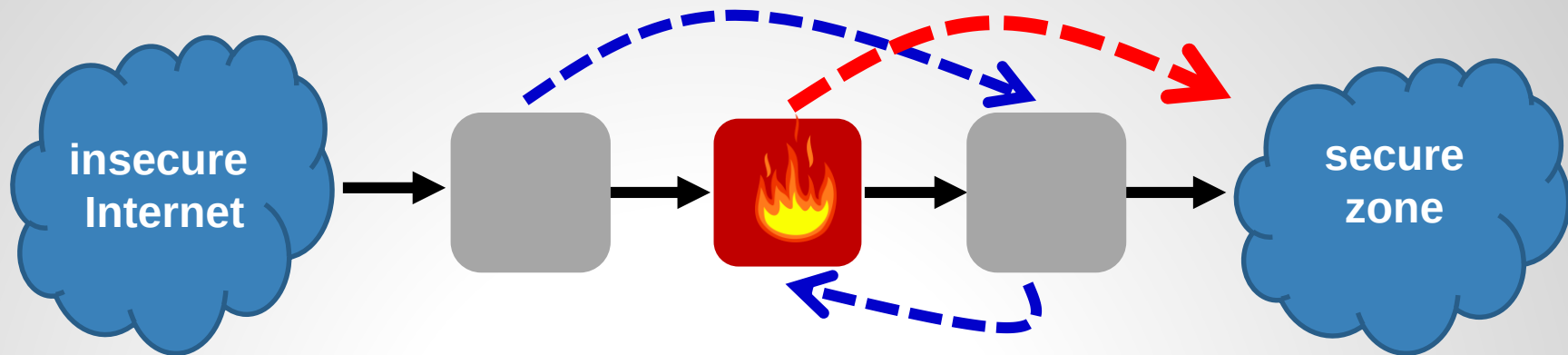


R3:

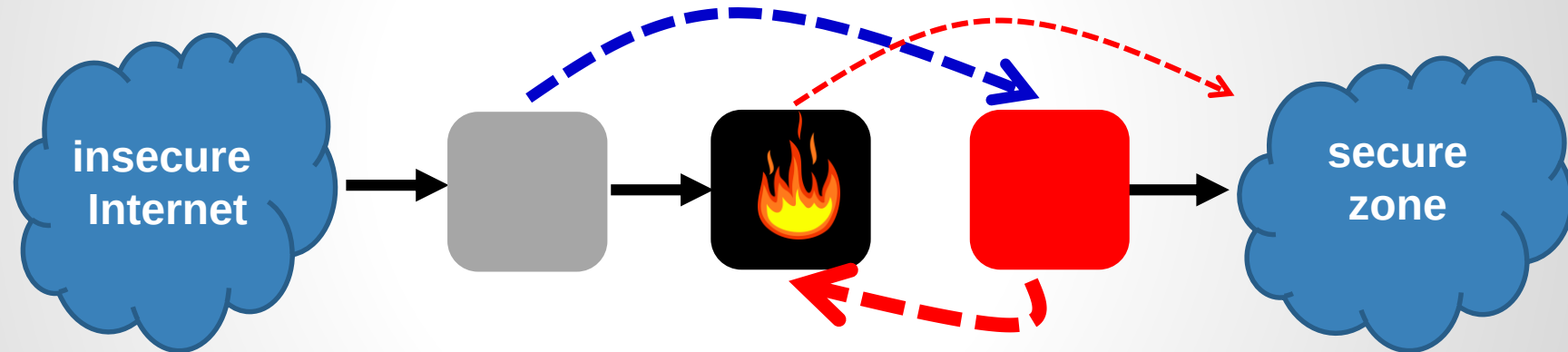


Going Back to Our Examples: WPE+LF!

R1:



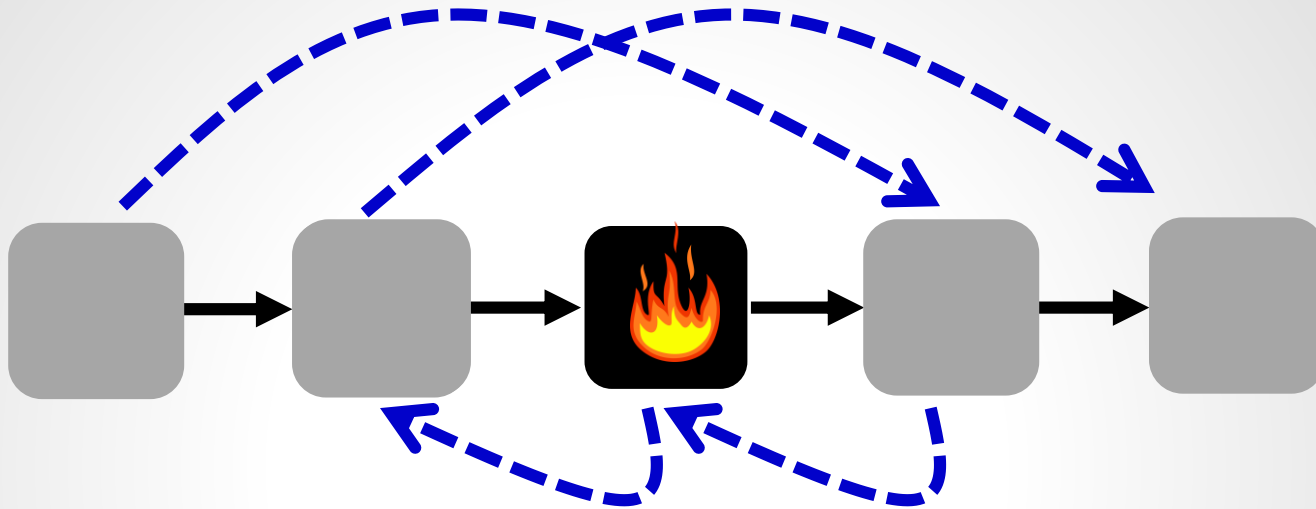
R2:



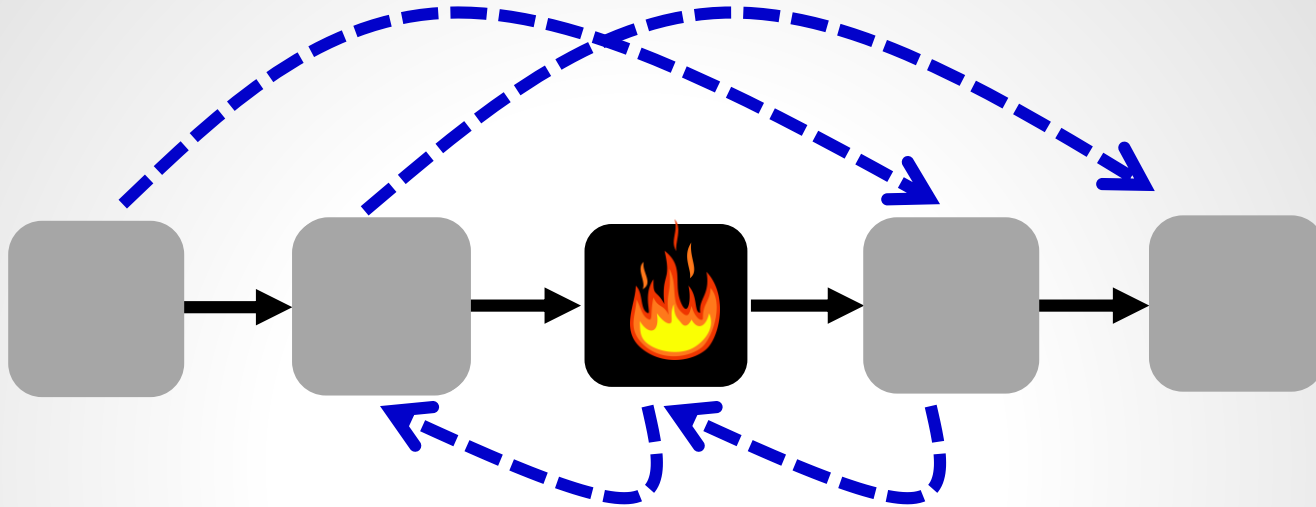
R3:

Is there always a WPE+LF schedule?

What about this one?



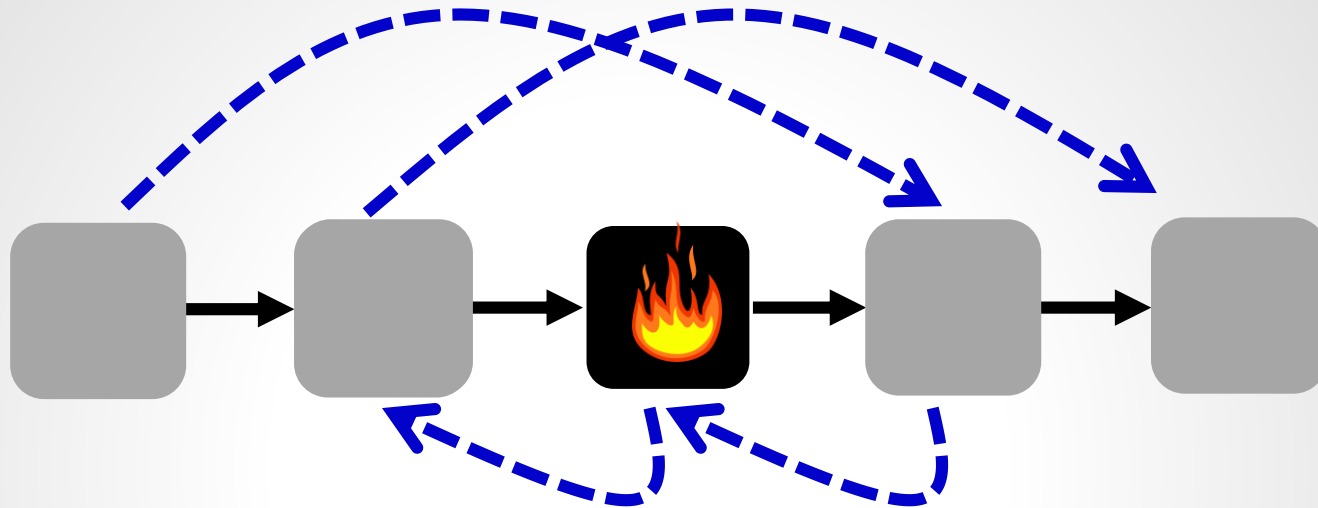
LF and WPE may conflict!



- ❑ Cannot update any forward edge in R1: WP
- ❑ Cannot update any backward edge in R1: LF

No schedule exists!

LF and WPE may conflict!



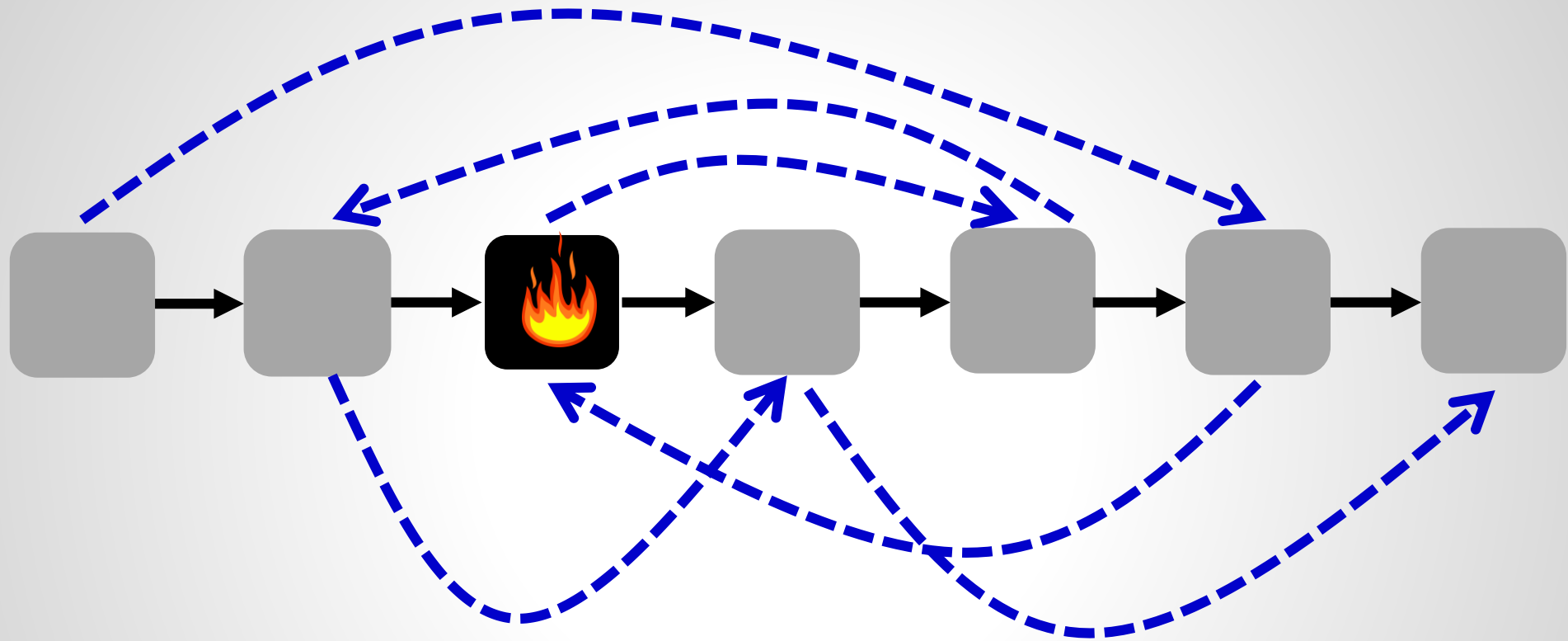
- ❑ Cannot update any forward edge in R1: WP
- ❑ Cannot update any backward edge in R1: LF

[Good Network Updates for Bad Packets: Waypoint Enforcement Beyond Destination-Based Routing Policies](#)

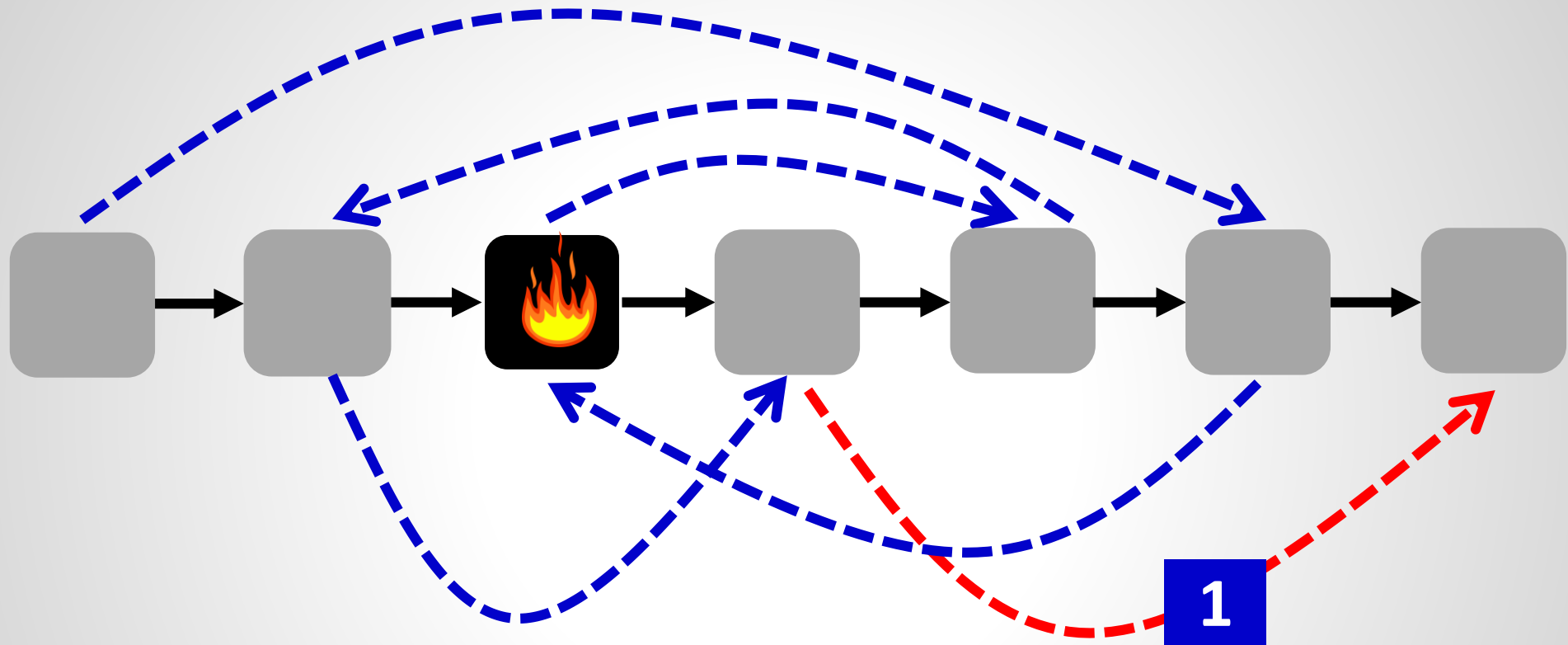
Arne Ludwig, Matthias Rost, Damien Foucard, and Stefan Schmid.

13th ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Networks (**HotNets**), Los Angeles, California, USA, October 2014...

What about this one?

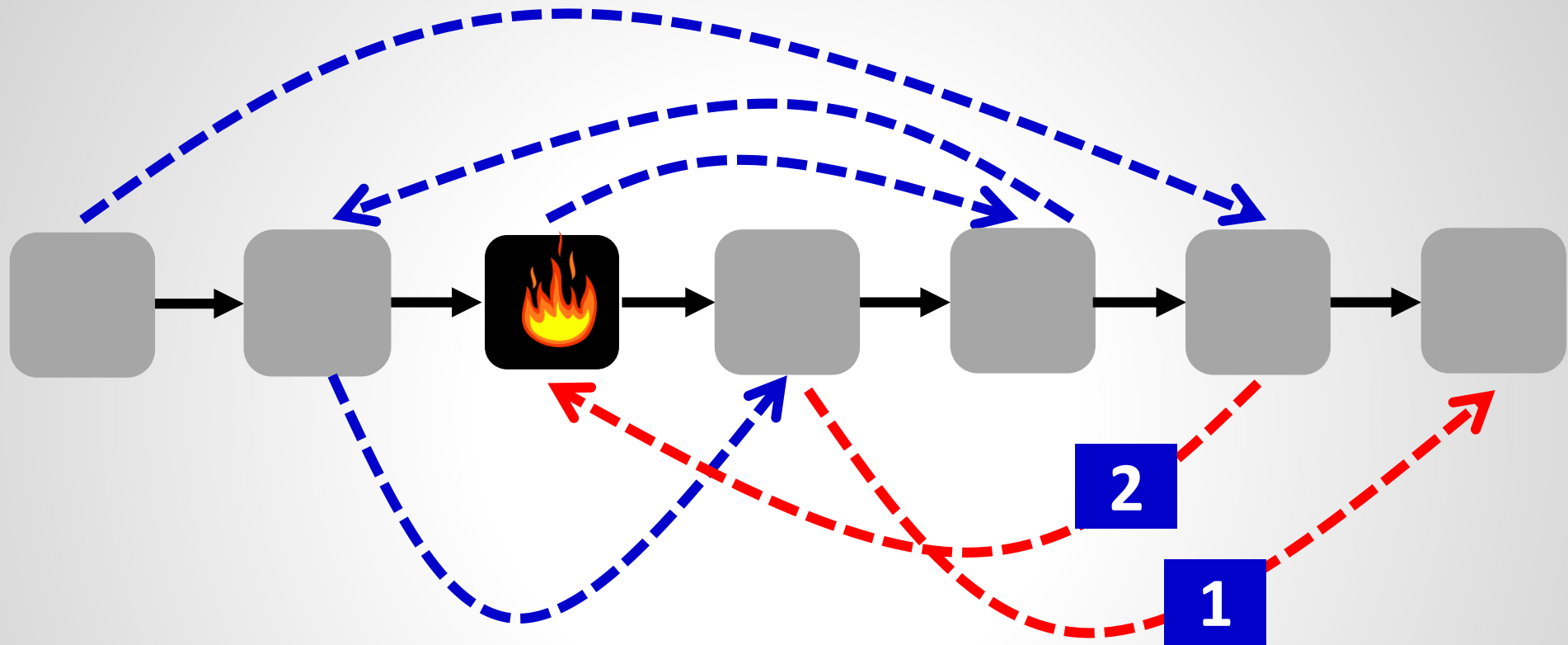


What about this one?



- ❑ Forward edge after the waypoint: safe!
- ❑ No loop, no WPE violation

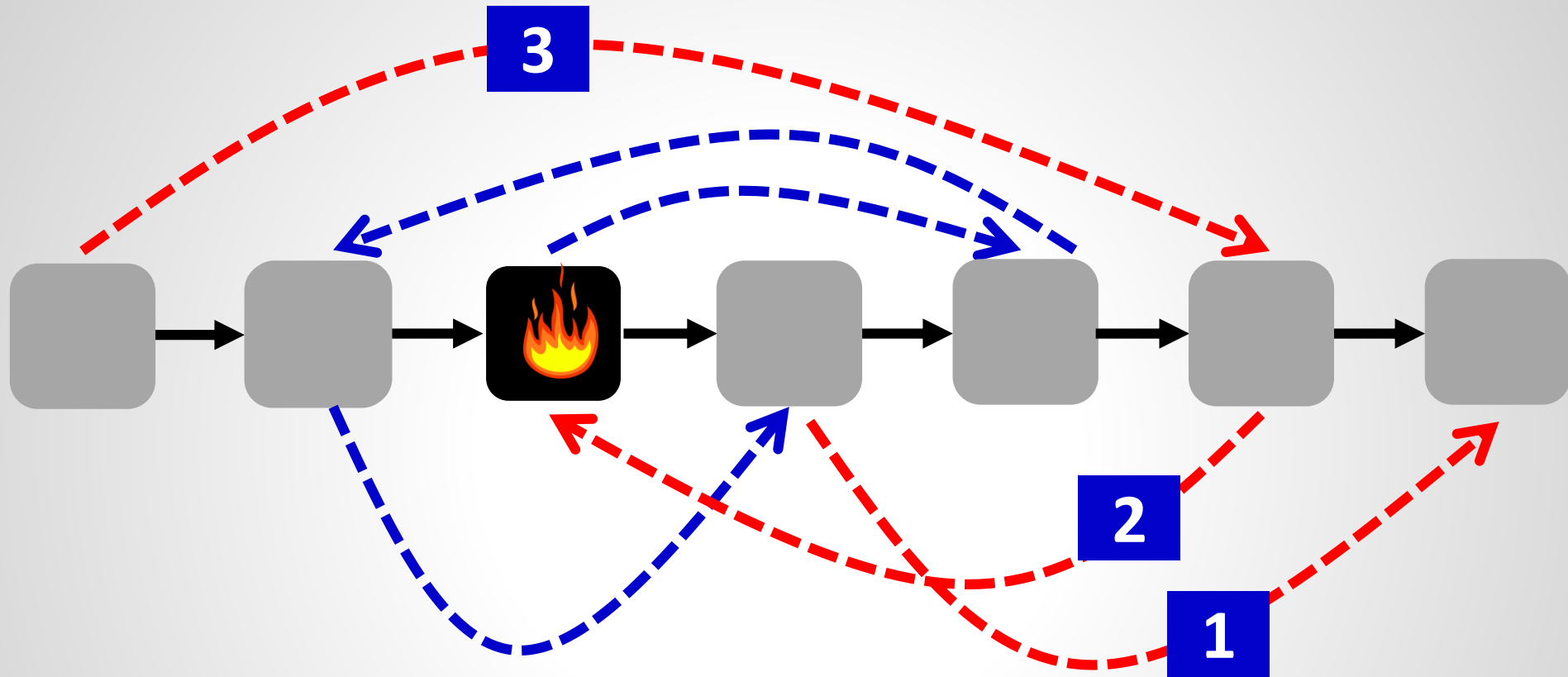
What about this one?



❑ Now this backward is safe too!

❑ No loop because exit through **1**

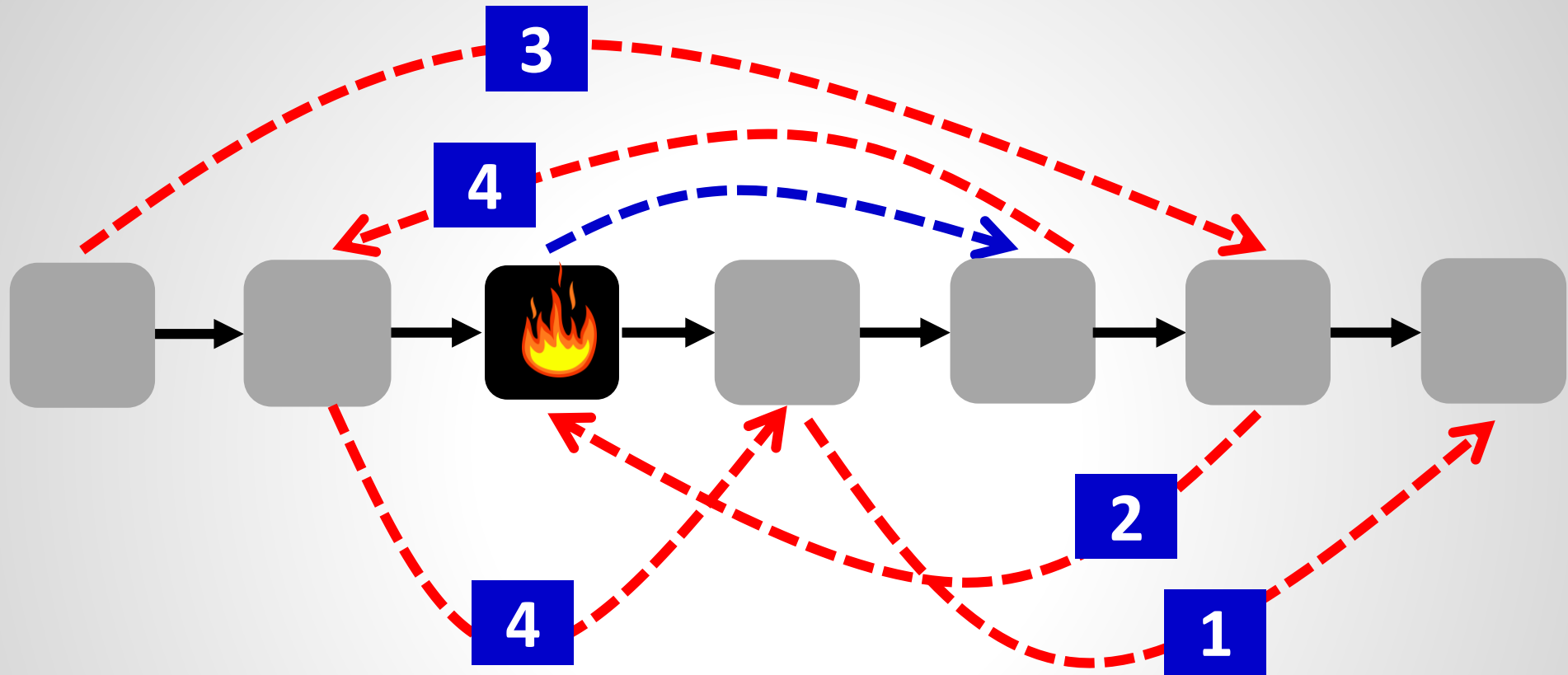
What about this one?



Now this is safe: **2** ready back to WP!

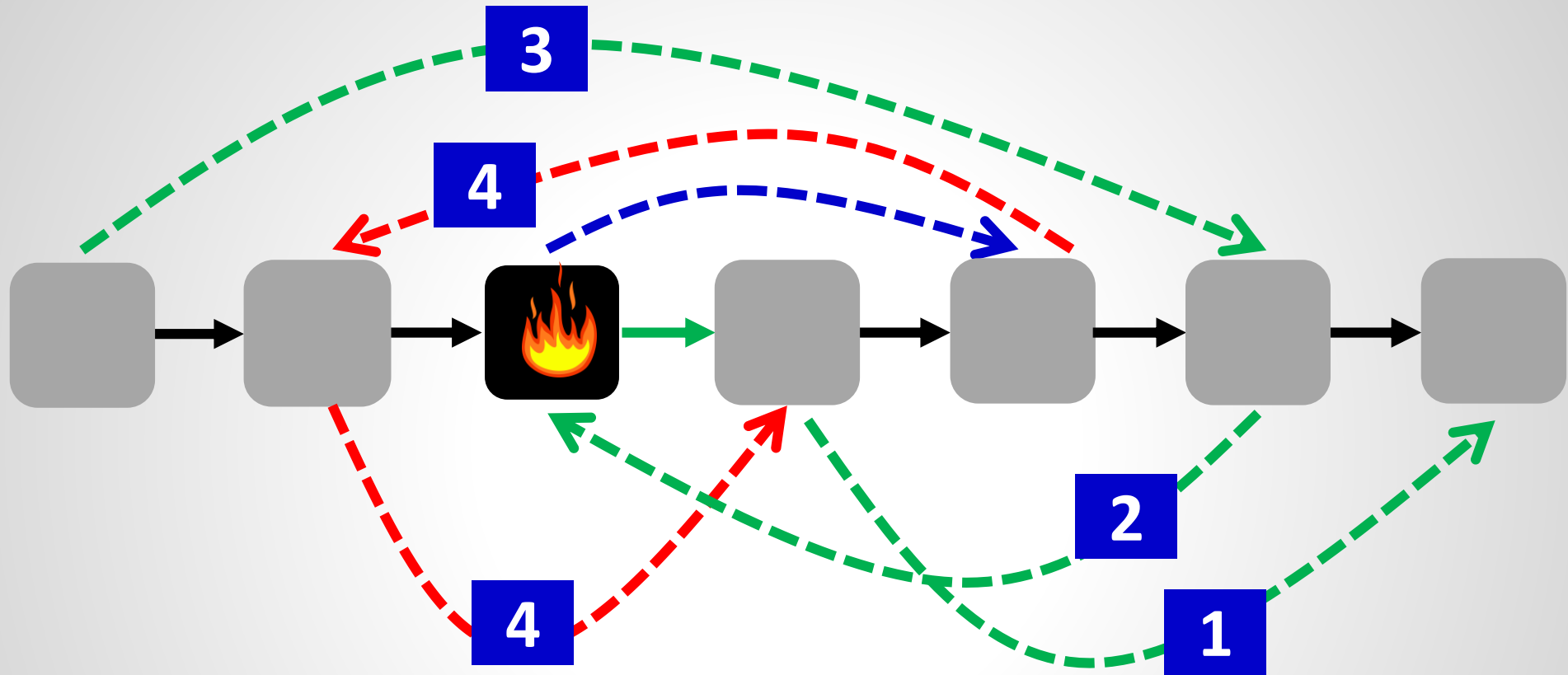
No waypoint violation

What about this one?



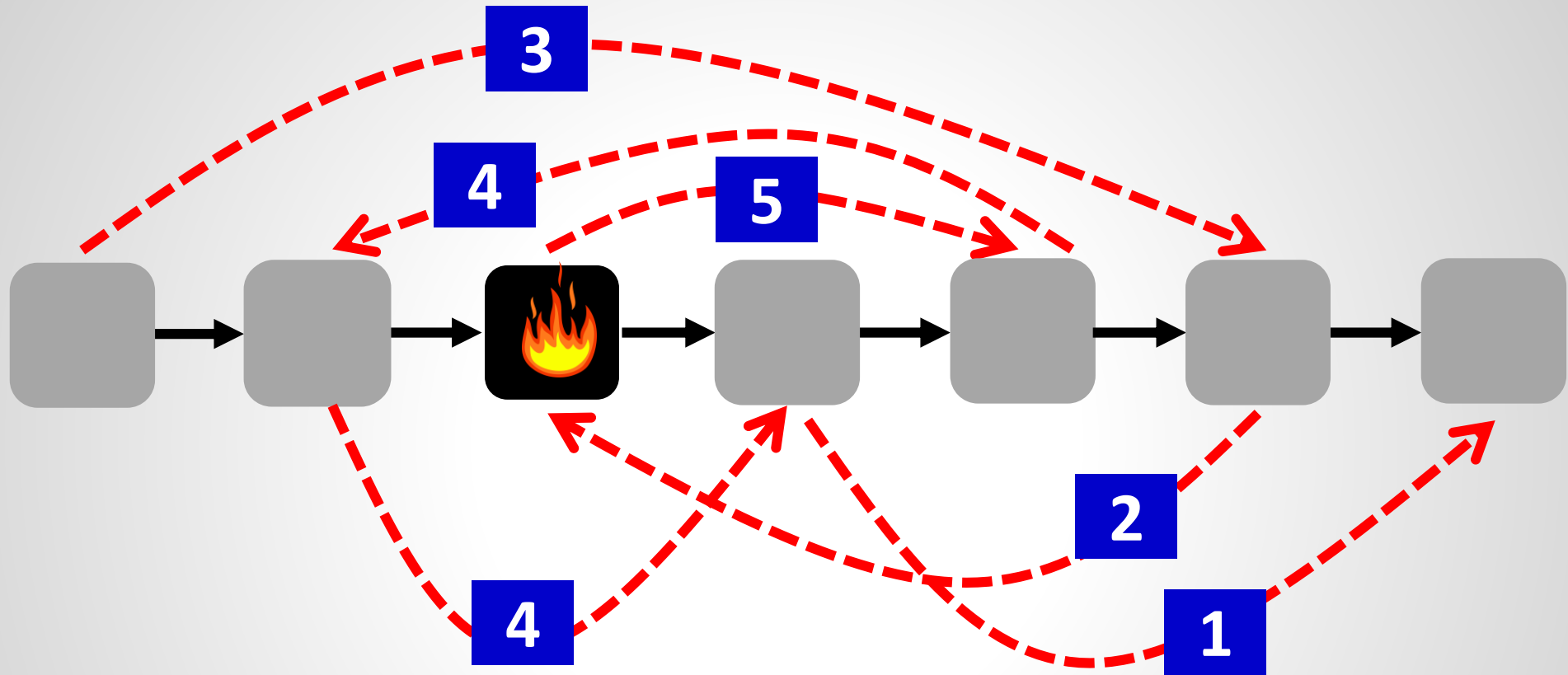
❑ Ok: loop-free and also not on the path (exit via **1**)

What about this one?

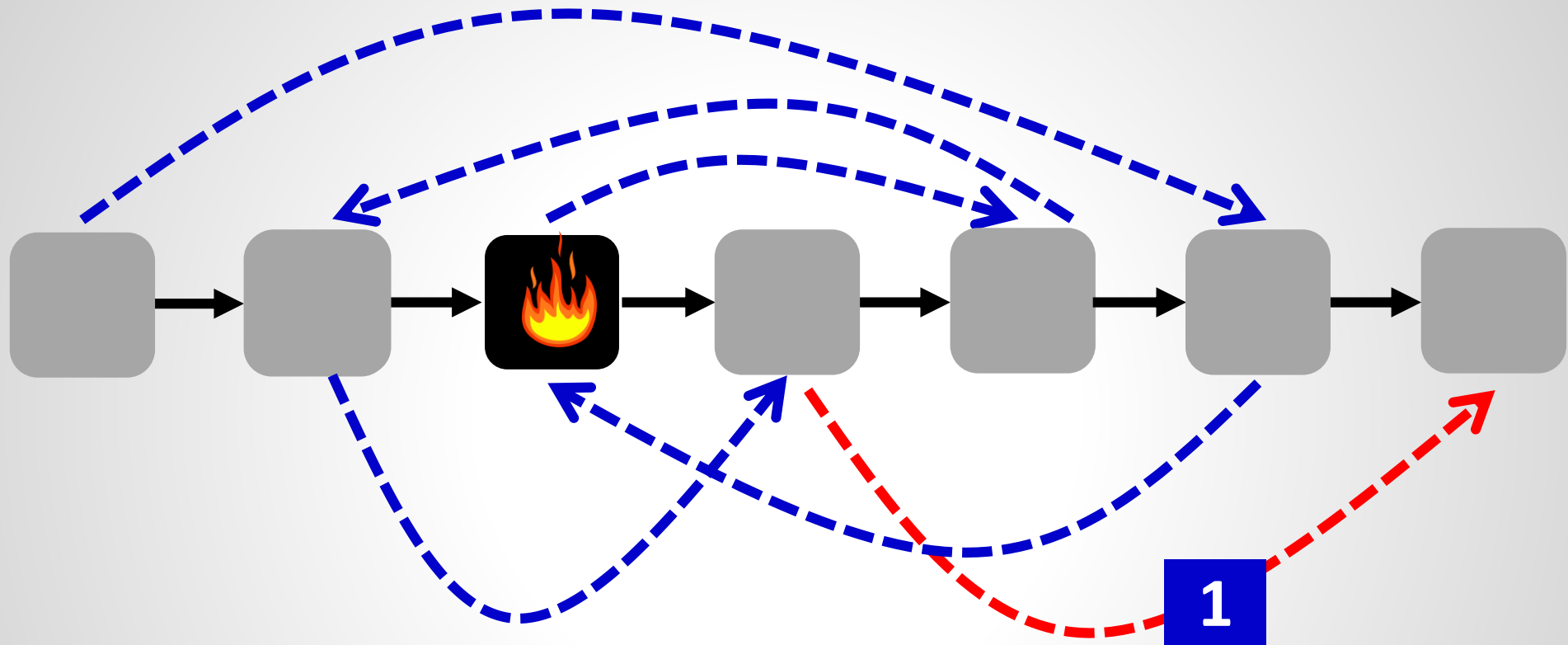


❑ Ok: loop-free and also not on the path (exit via **1**)

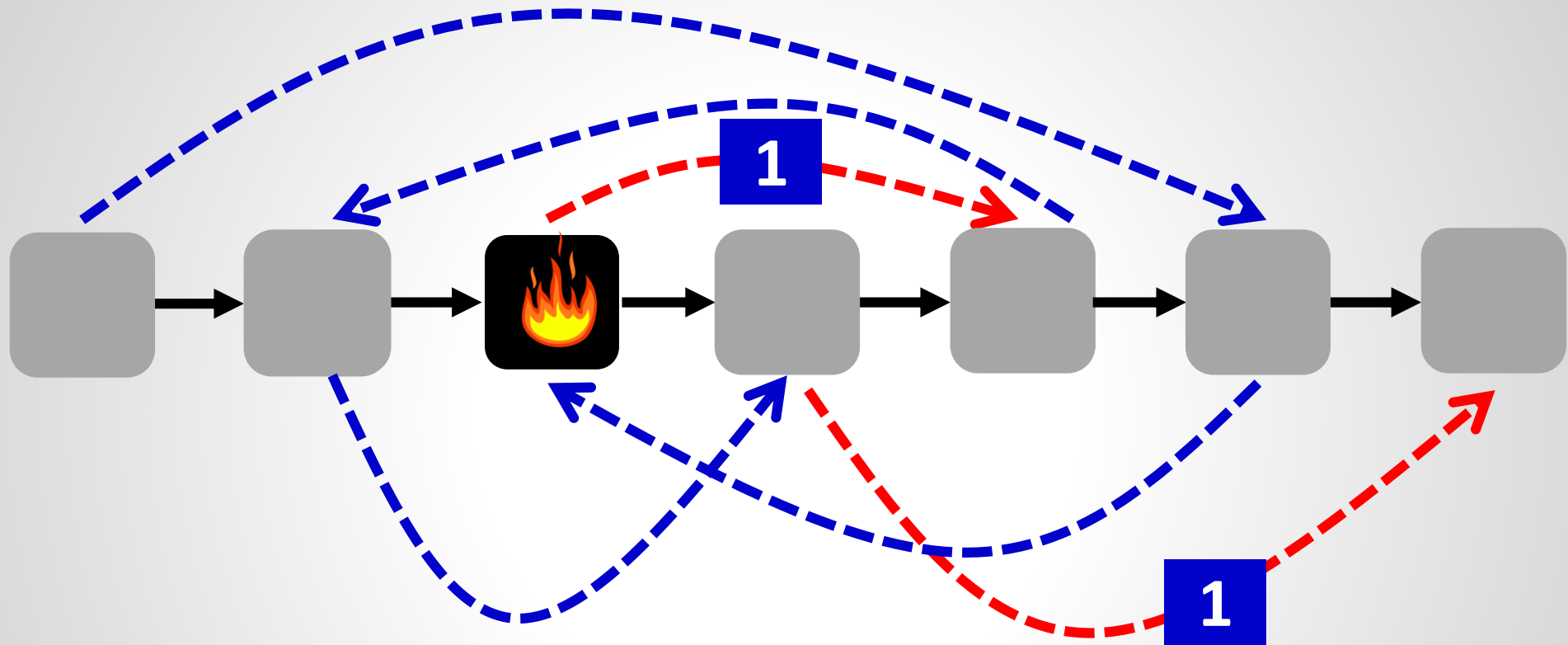
What about this one?



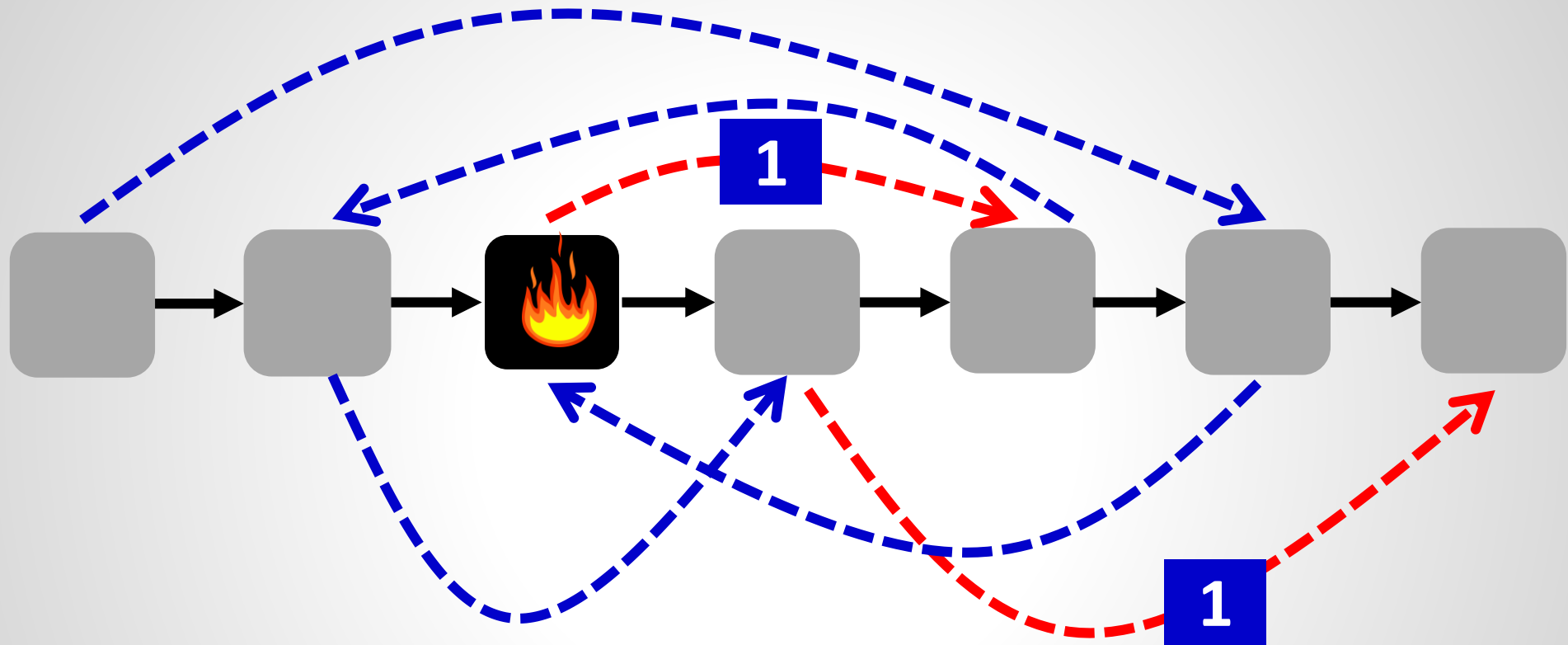
Back to the start: What if....



Back to the start: What if.... also this one?!

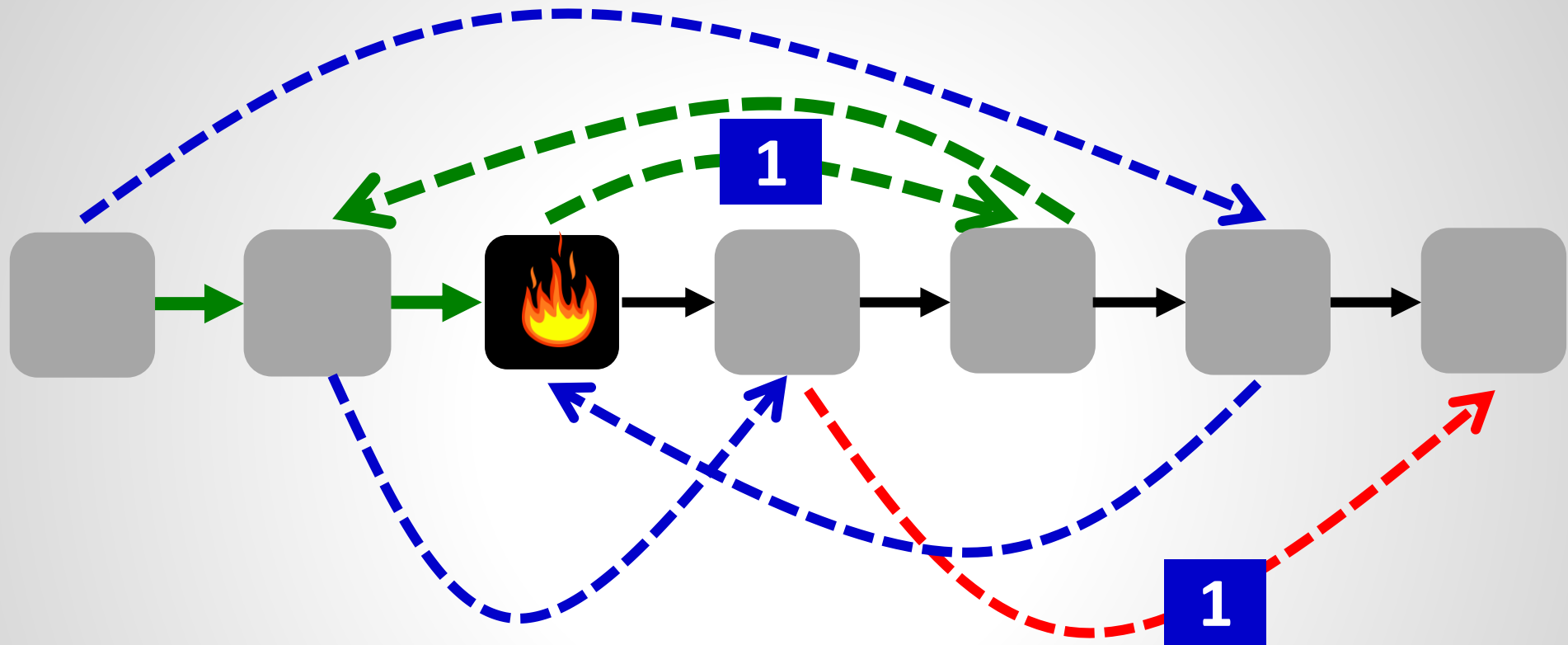


Back to the start: What if.... also this one?!



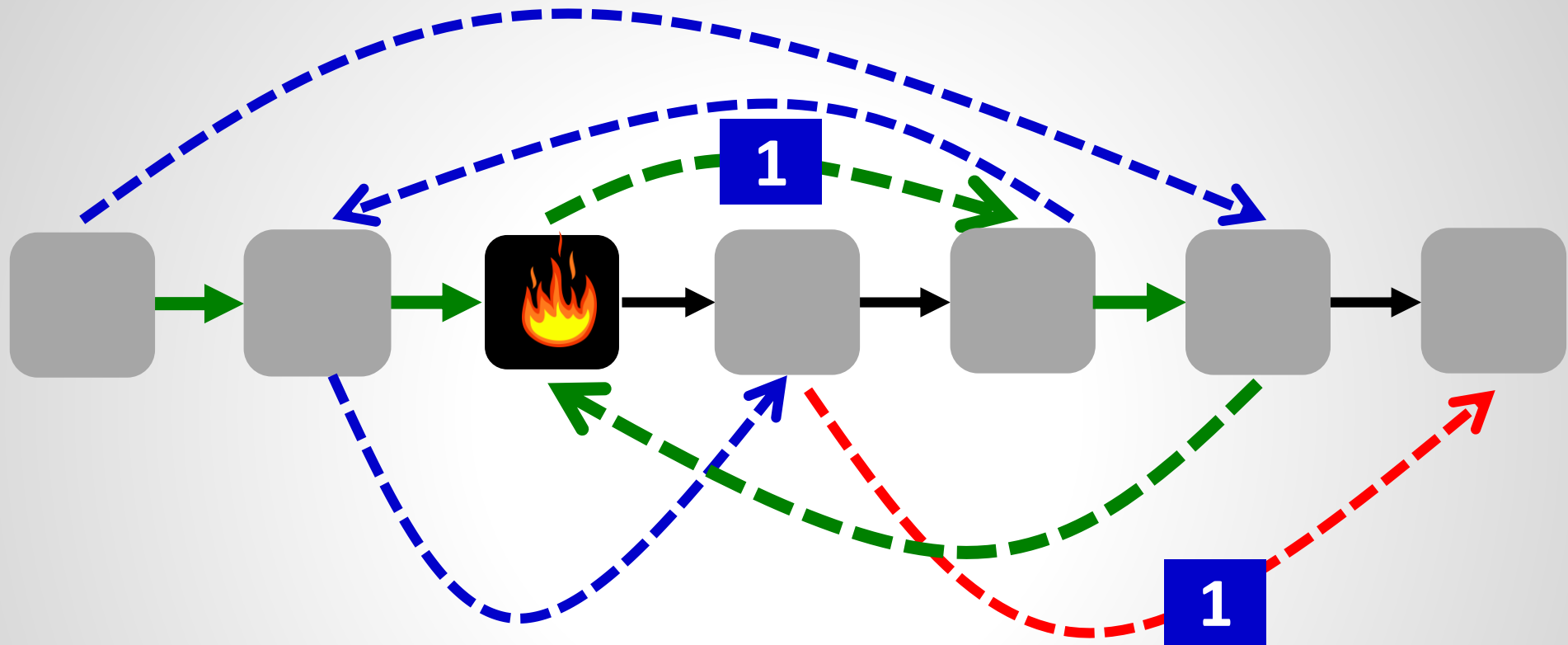
☐ Update any of the 2 backward edges? LF ☹️

Back to the start: What if.... also this one?!



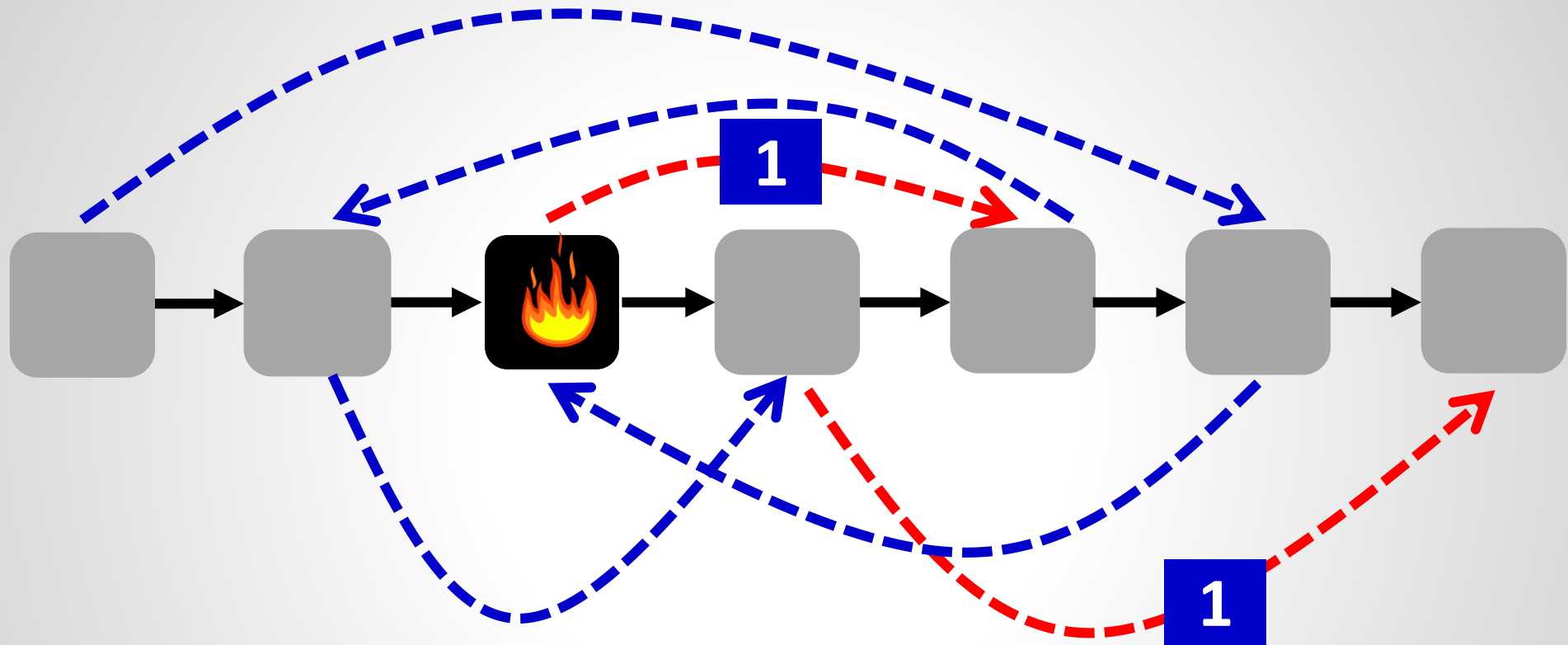
☐ Update any of the 2 backward edges? LF ☹️

Back to the start: What if.... also this one?!



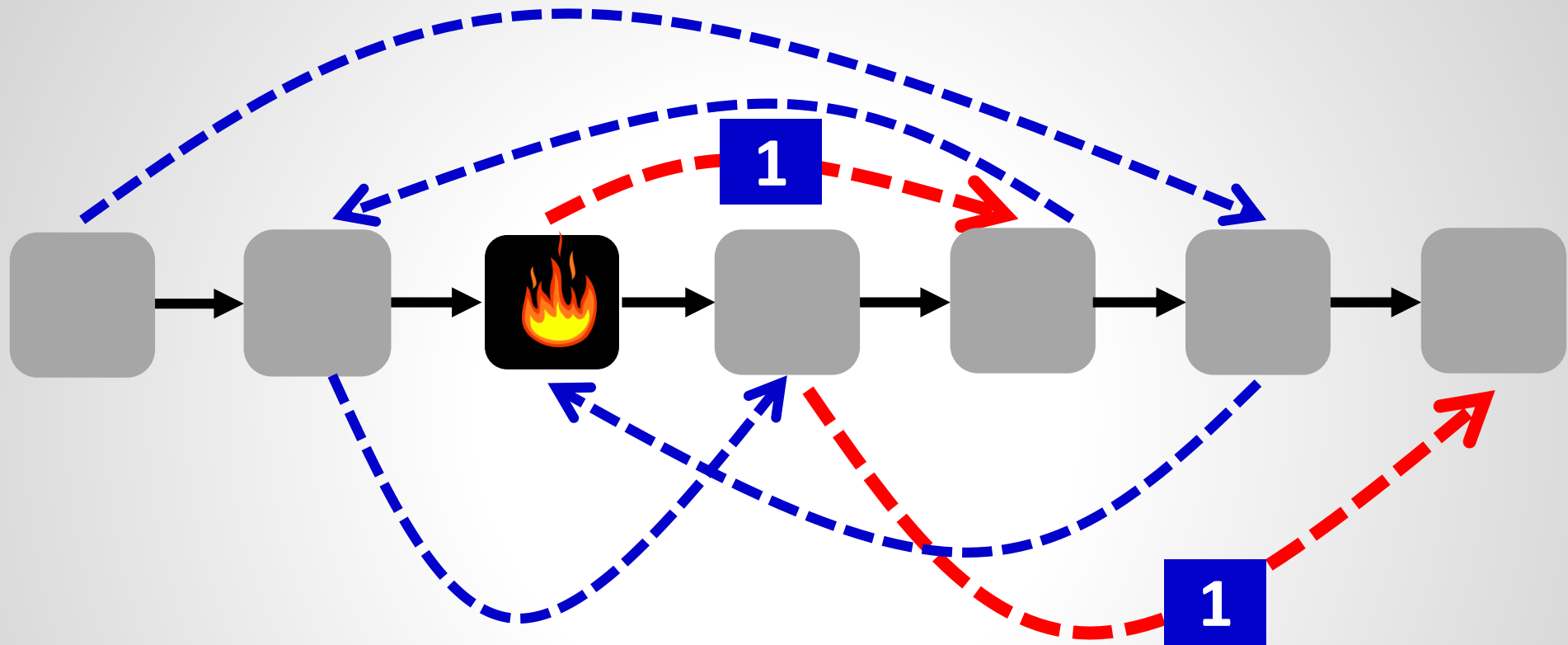
☐ Update any of the 2 backward edges? LF ☹️

Back to the start: What if.... also this one?!

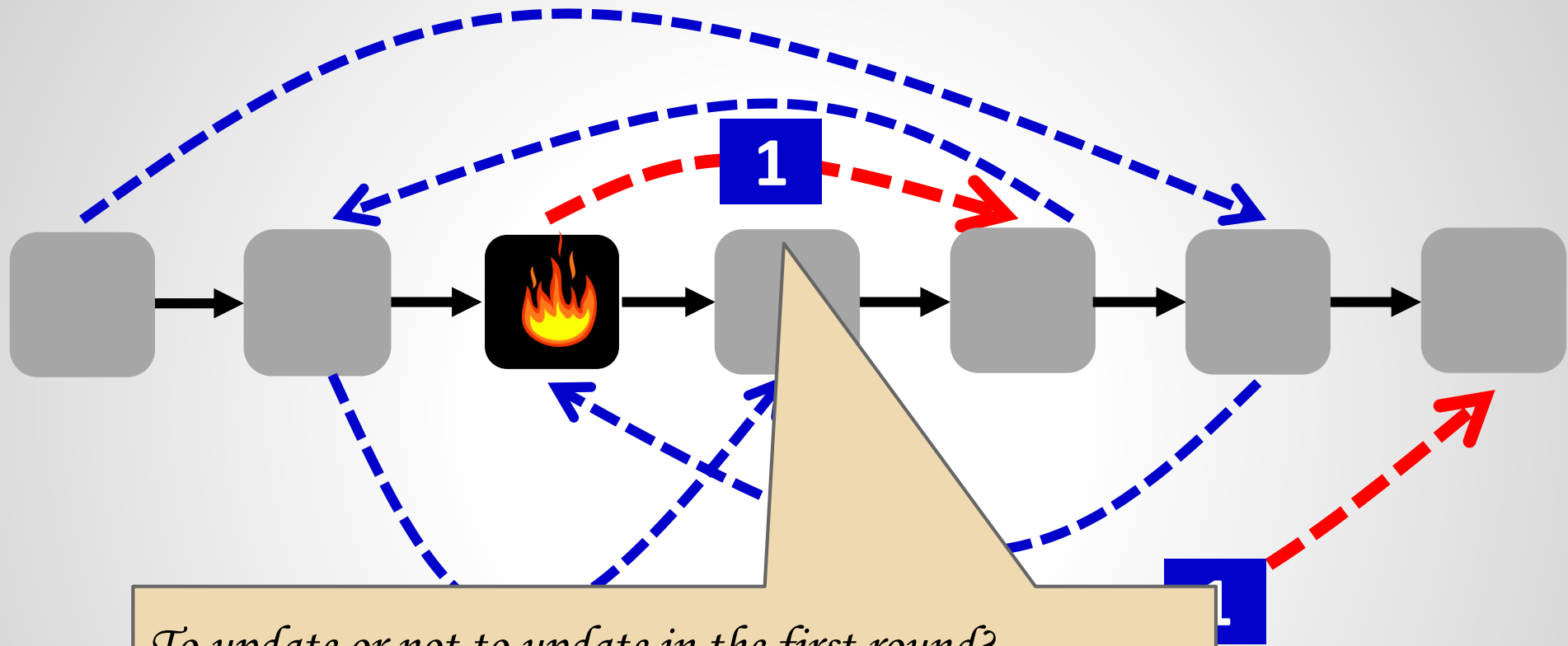


- ☐ Update any of the 2 backward edges? LF ☹️
- ☐ Update any of the 2 other forward edges? WPE ☹️
- ☐ What about a combination? Nope...

Back to the start: What if.... also this one?!



Back to the start: What if.... also this one?!

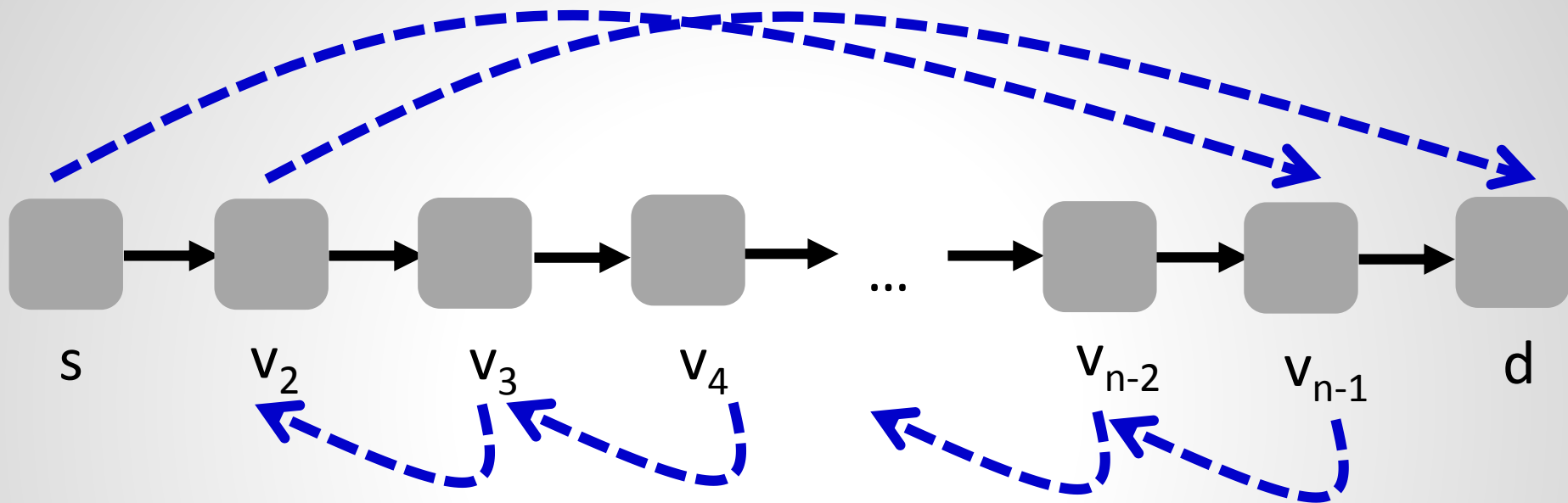


To update or not to update in the first round?
That is the question...
... which leads to NP-hardness!

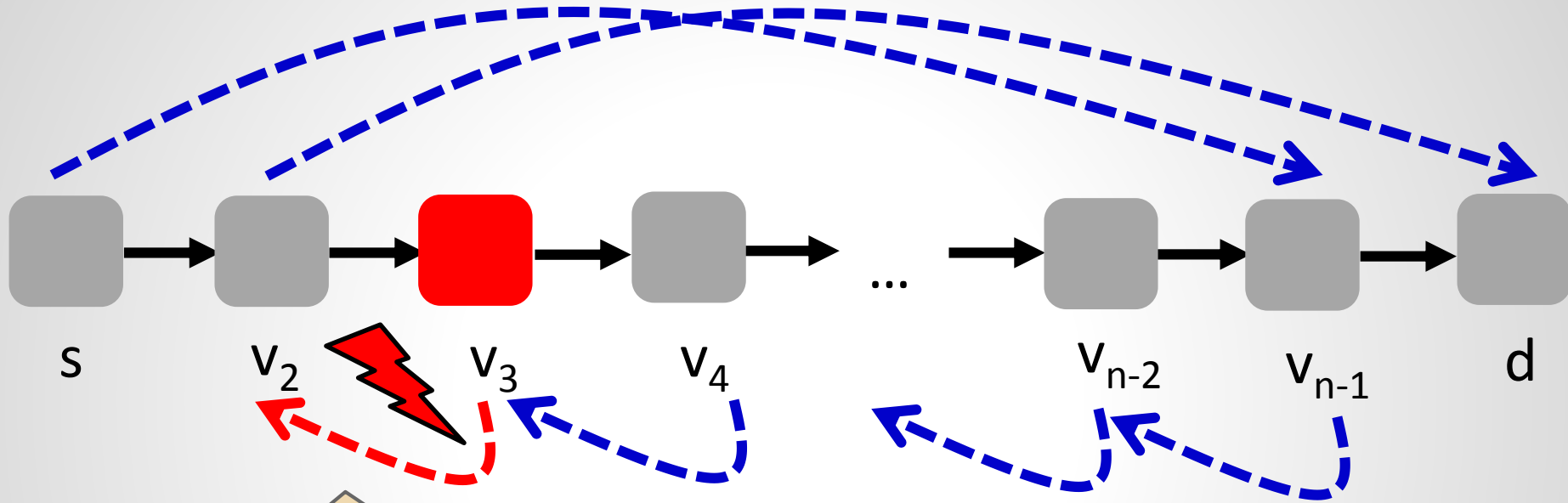
What about loop-freedom only?

What about loop-freedom only?
Always works! How many rounds?

How to update LF?

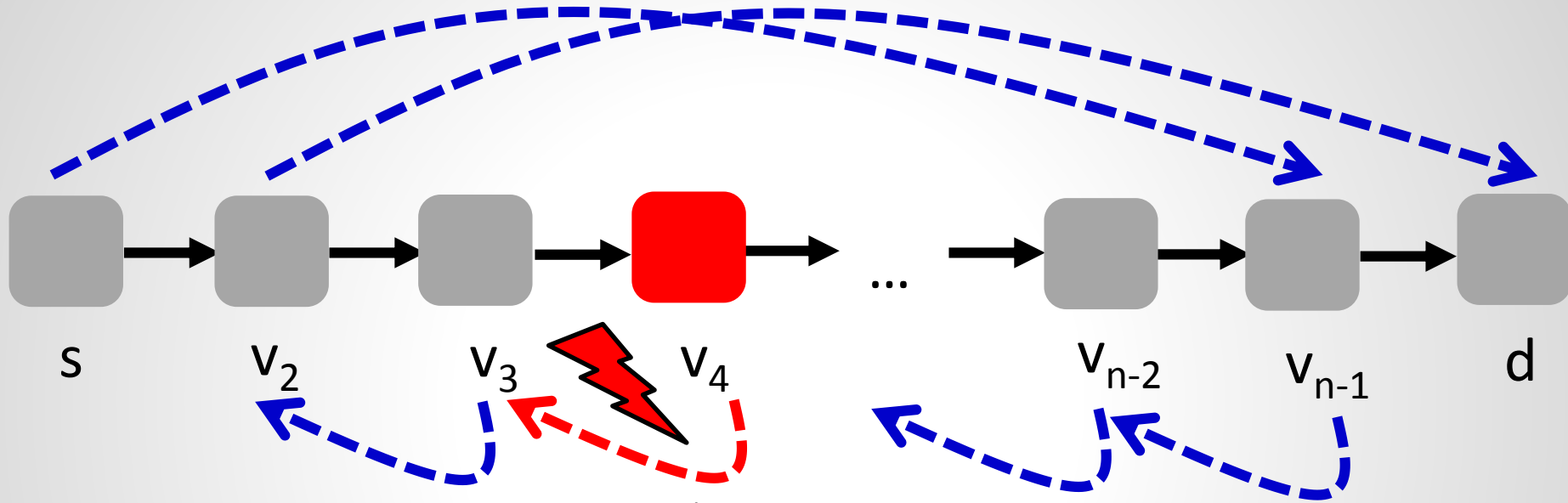


LF Updates Can Take Many Rounds!



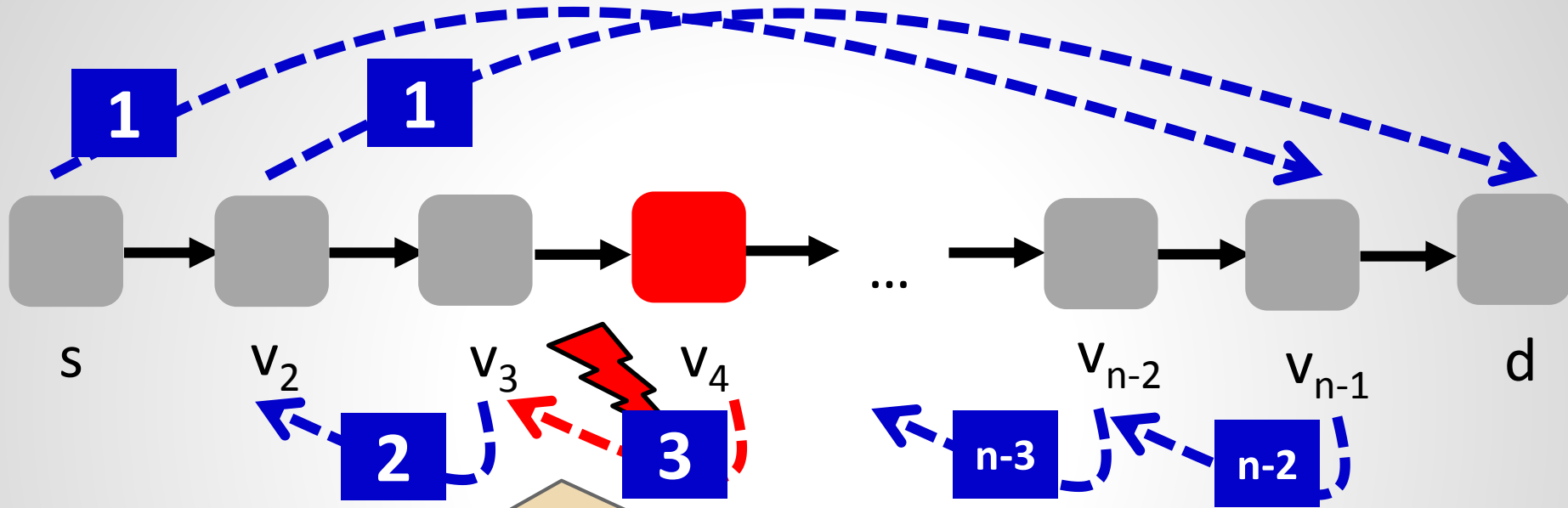
Invariant: need to update v_2 before v_3 !

LF Updates Can Take Many Rounds!



Invariant: need to update v_3 before v_4 !

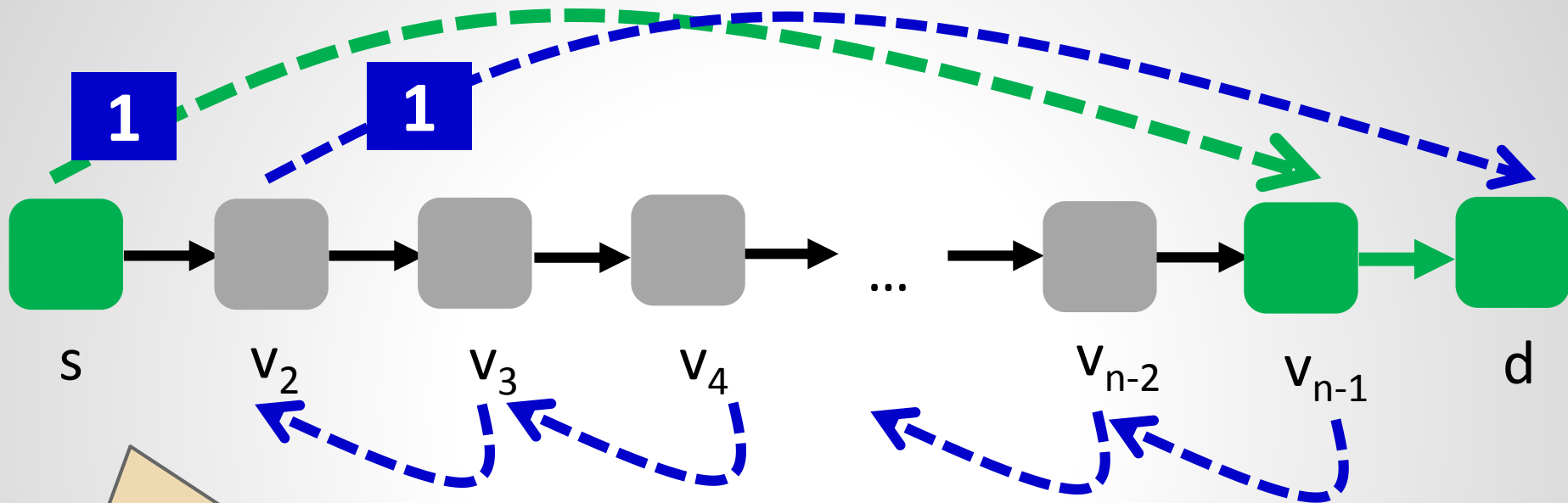
LF Updates Can Take Many Rounds!



Induction: need to update v_{i-1} before v_i (before v_{i+1} etc.)!

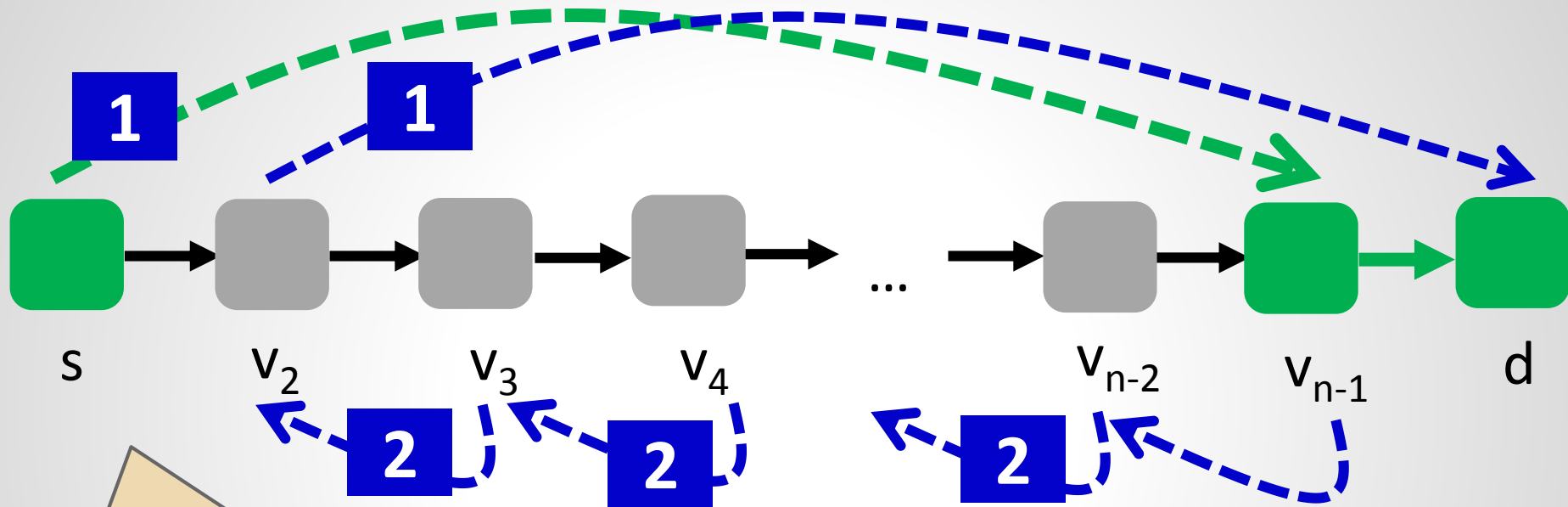
$\Omega(n)$ rounds?! In principle, yes...:
Need a path back out before
updating backward edge!

It is good to relax!



But: If s has been updated, nodes not on (s,d) -path!

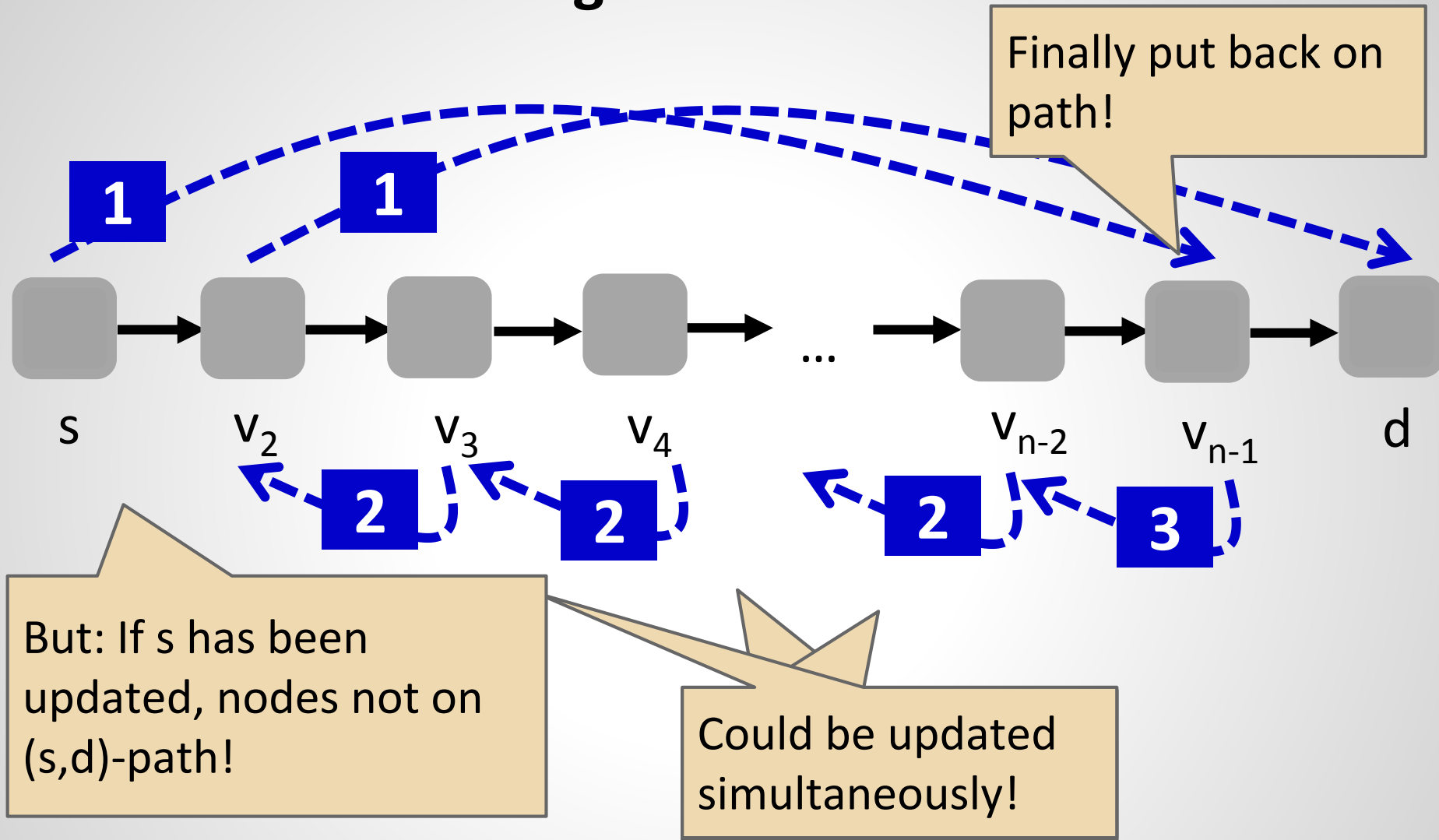
It is good to relax!



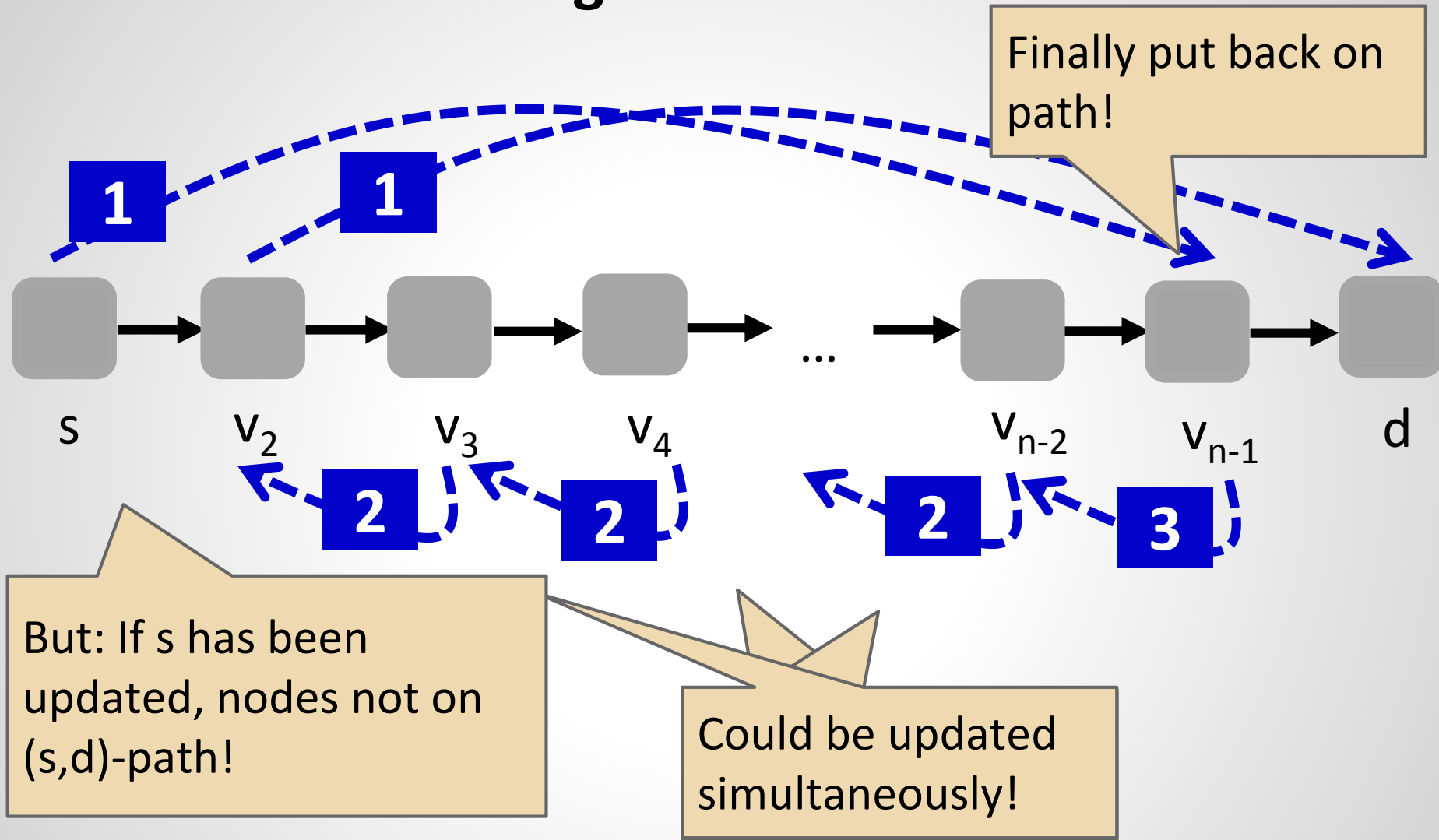
But: If s has been updated, nodes not on (s,d) -path!

Could be updated simultaneously!

It is good to relax!



It is good to relax!



3 rounds only!

Takeaways so far

- ❑ Strong (topological) loop-free update may take $\Omega(n)$ rounds
- ❑ Relaxed loop-free schedules may be $\Omega(n)$ times faster

Questions

- ❑ Strong loop-freedom: Can we compute optimal schedules?
- ❑ Relaxed loop-freedom: Are $O(1)$ rounds always enough?

Takeaways so far

- ❑ Strong (topological) loop-free update may take $\Omega(n)$ rounds
- ❑ Relaxed loop-free schedules may be $\Omega(n)$ times faster

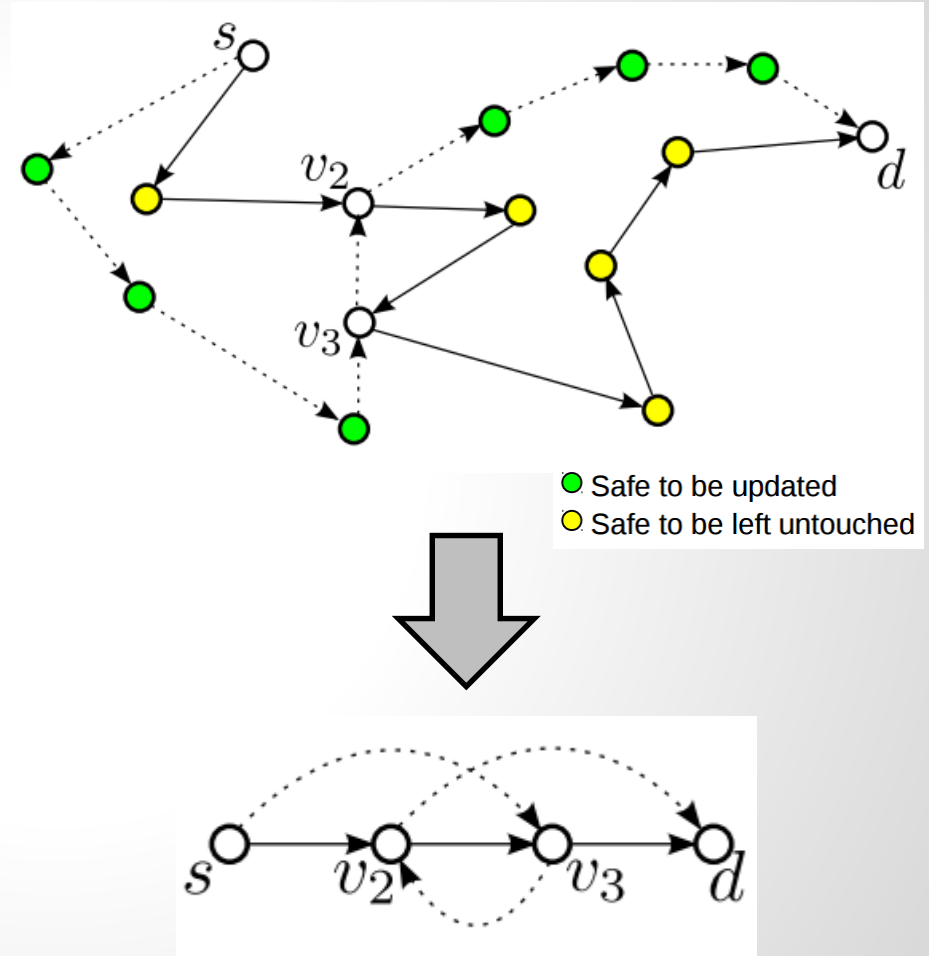
Generally NP-hard and greedy is bad.

- ❑ Strong loop-freeness: Can we compute optimal schedules?
- ❑ Relaxed loop-freeness: Are $O(1)$ rounds always enough?

No, but $\log(n)$ rounds are sufficient.

Remark on the Model

Easy to update new nodes which do not appear in old policy.
And just keep nodes which are not on new path!

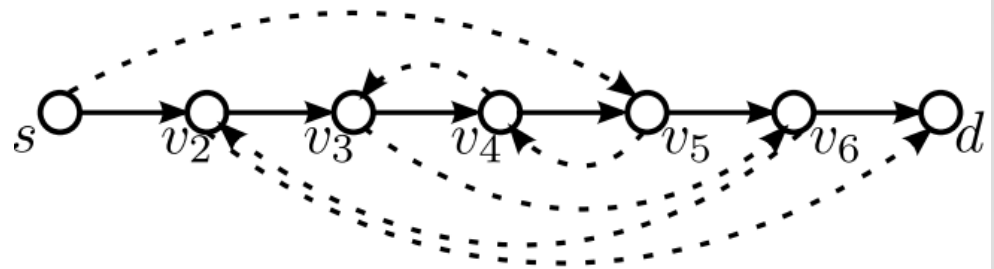


**Good Algorithms to Schedule
(Strong) LF Updates?**

Optimal Algorithm for 2-Round Instances

□ Classify nodes/edges with 2-letter code:

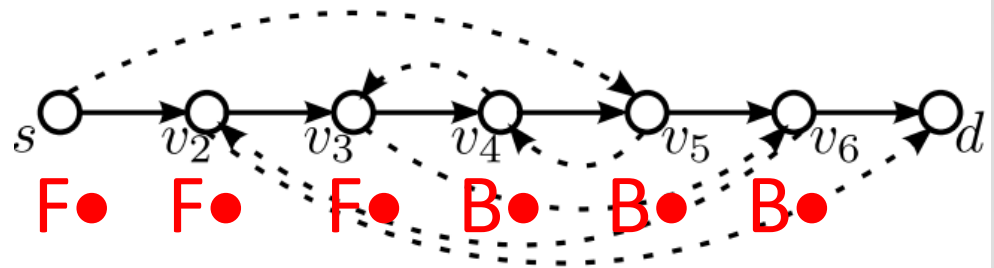
□ F●, B●: Does (dashed) new edge point forward or backward wrt (solid) old path?



Optimal Algorithm for 2-Round Instances

□ Classify nodes/edges with 2-letter code:

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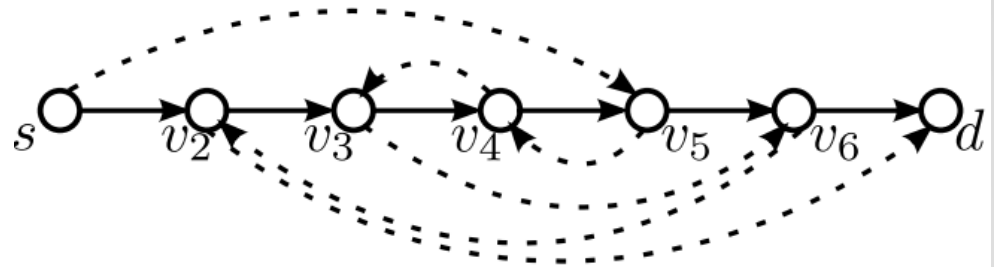


Optimal Algorithm for 2-Round Instances

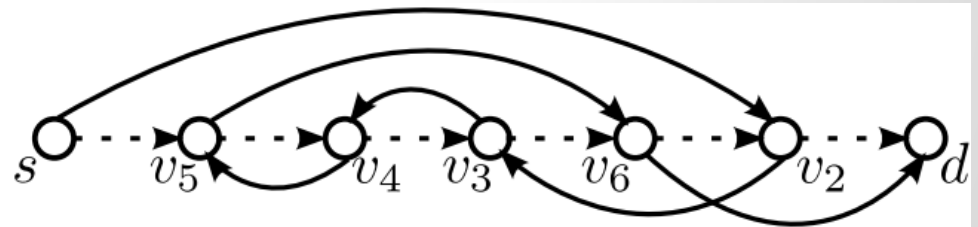
❑ Classify nodes/edges

Old policy from left to right!

❑ $F\bullet, B\bullet$: Does (dashed) new edge point forward or backward wrt (solid) old path?



❑ $\bullet F, \bullet B$: Does the (solid) old edge point forward or backward wrt (dashed) new path?

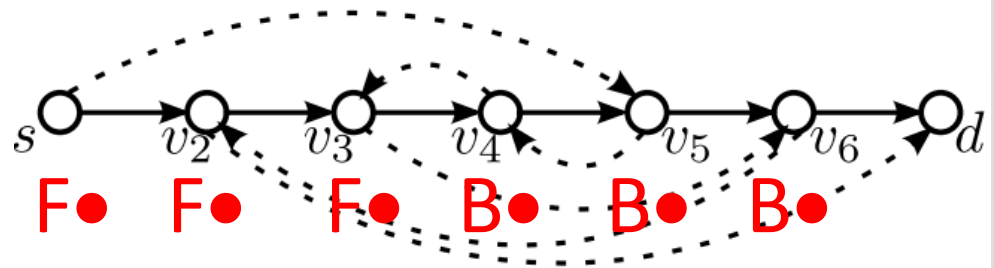


New policy from left to right!

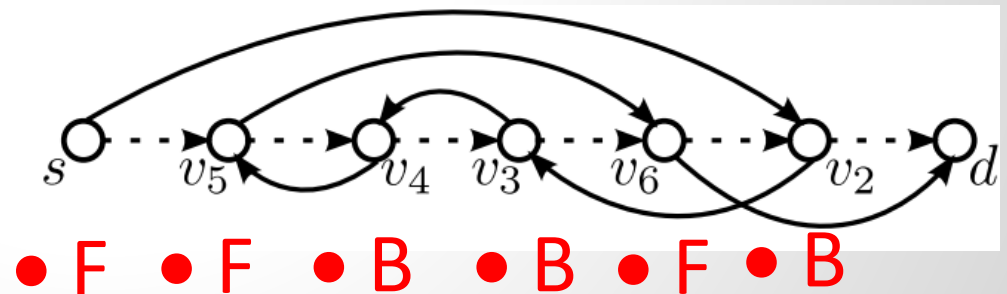
Optimal Algorithm for 2-Round Instances

□ Classify nodes/edges with 2-letter code:

□ $F\bullet$, $B\bullet$: Does (dashed) new edge point forward or backward wrt (solid) old path?



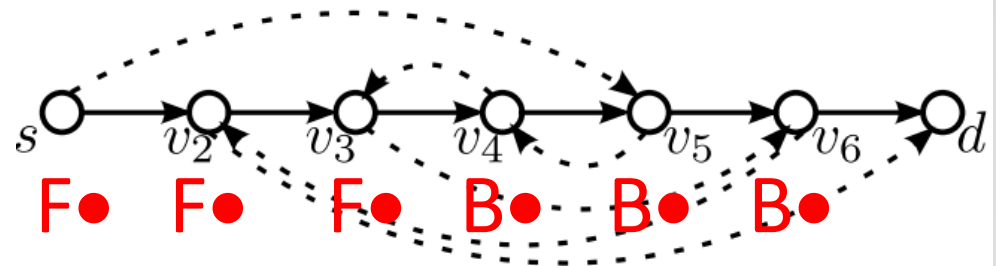
□ $\bullet F$, $\bullet B$: Does the (solid) old edge point forward or backward wrt (dashed) new path?



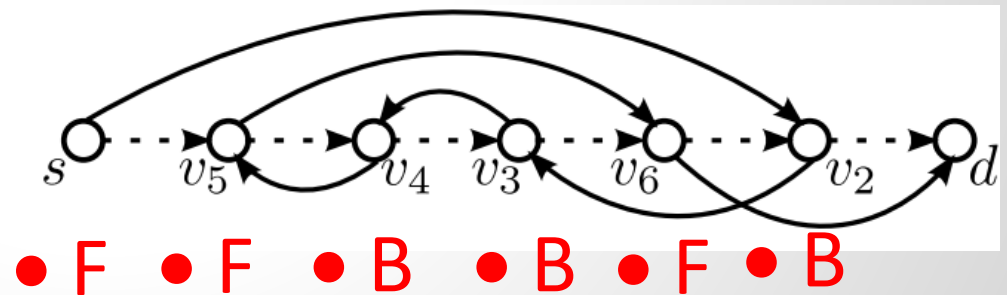
Algorithm for 2-Round Instances

Insight 1: In the 1st round,
I can safely update all
forwarding (F●) edges!
For sure loopfree.

edges with 2-letter code:



□ ●F, ●B: Does the (solid)
old edge point forward
or backward wrt
(dashed) new path?



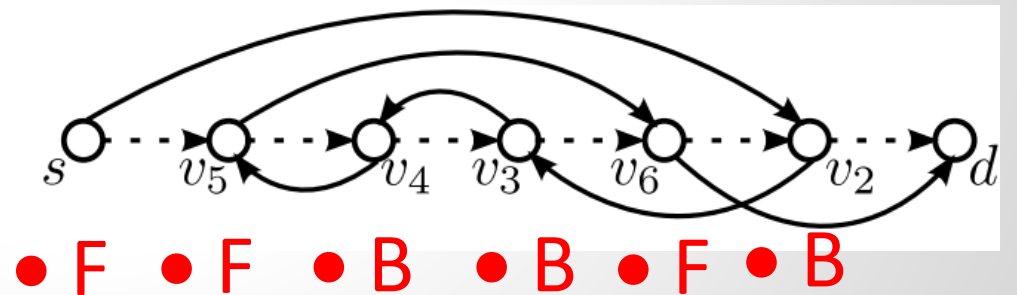
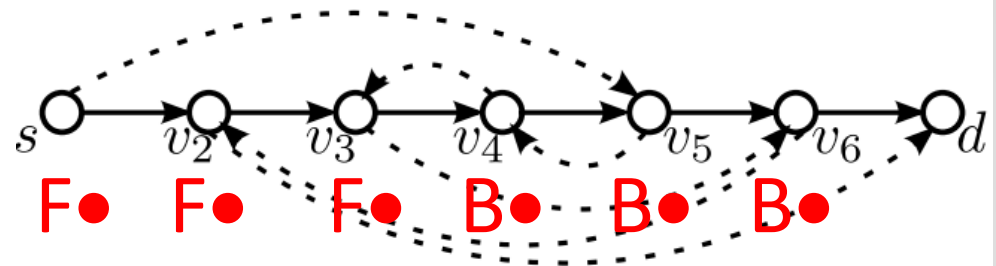
Algorithm for 2-Round Instances

Insight 1: In the 1st round, I can safely update all forwarding (F●) edges! For sure loopfree.

edges with 2-letter code:

Insight 2: Valid schedules are reversible! A valid schedule from old to new *read backward* is a valid schedule for new to old!

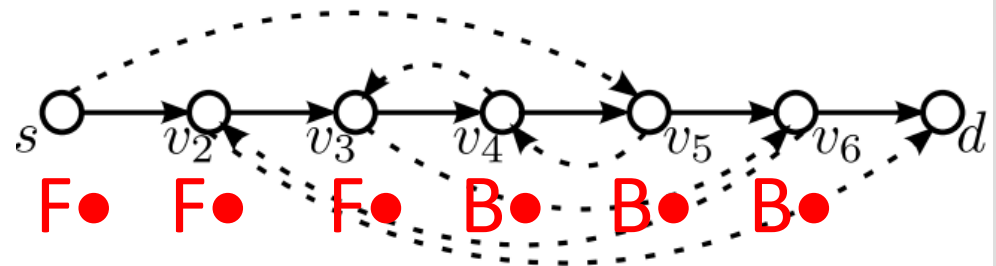
old edge point forward or backward wrt (dashed) new path?



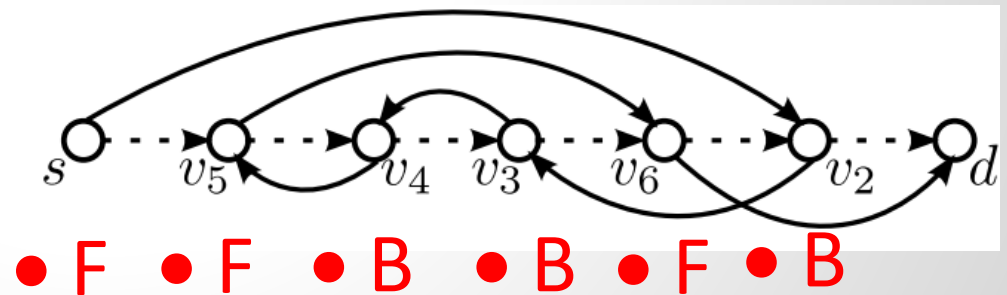
Algorithm for 2-Round Instances

Insight 1: In the 1st round,
I can safely update all
forwarding (F●) edges!
For sure loopfree.

edges with 2-letter code:



Insight 2: Valid schedules
are reversible! A valid
schedule from old to new
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Insight 3: Hence in the last
round, I can safely update
all forwarding (●F) edges!
For sure loopfree.

Algorithm for 2-Round Instances

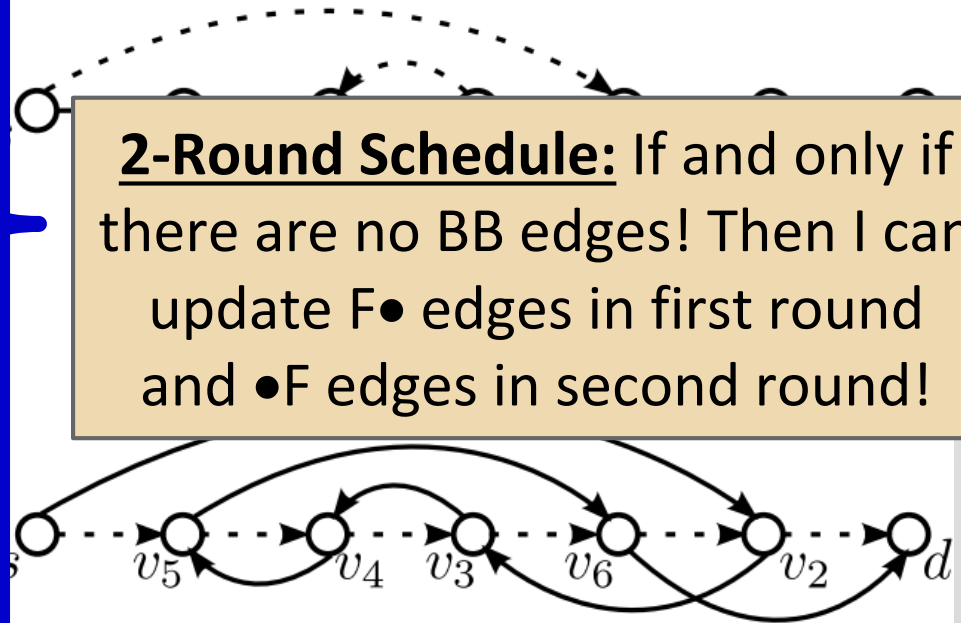
Insight 1: In the 1st round,
I can safely update all
forwarding (F●) edges!
For sure loopfree.

Insight 2: Valid schedules
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schedule from old to new
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edges with 2-letter code:

2-Round Schedule: If and only if
there are no BB edges! Then I can
update F● edges in first round
and ●F edges in second round!



Algorithm for 2-Round Instances

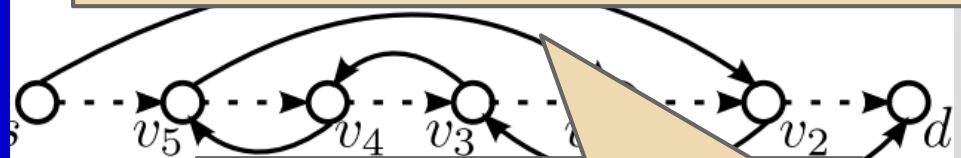
Insight 1: In the 1st round,
I can safely update all
forwarding (F●) edges!
For sure loopfree.

Insight 2: Valid schedules
are reversible! A valid
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Insight 3: Hence in the last
round, I can safely update
all forwarding (●F) edges!
For sure loopfree.

edges with 2-letter code:

2-Round Schedule: If and only if
there are no BB edges! Then I can
update F● edges in first round
and ●F edges in second round!



That is, FB *must be* in
first round, BF *must be*
in second round, and FF
are *flexible*!

What about 3 rounds?

What about 3 rounds?

□ Structure of a 3-round schedule:



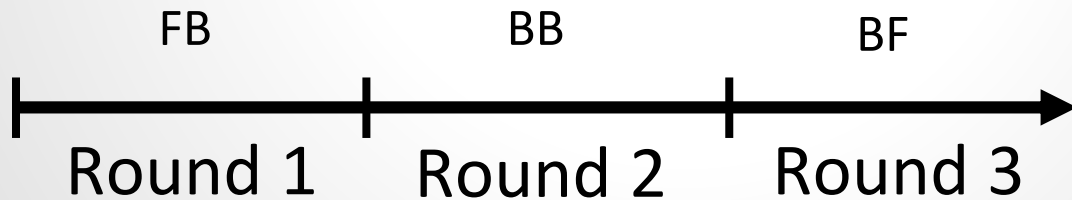
What about 3 rounds?

□ Structure of a 3-round schedule:



WLOG

W.l.o.g., can do FB in R1 and BF in R3.



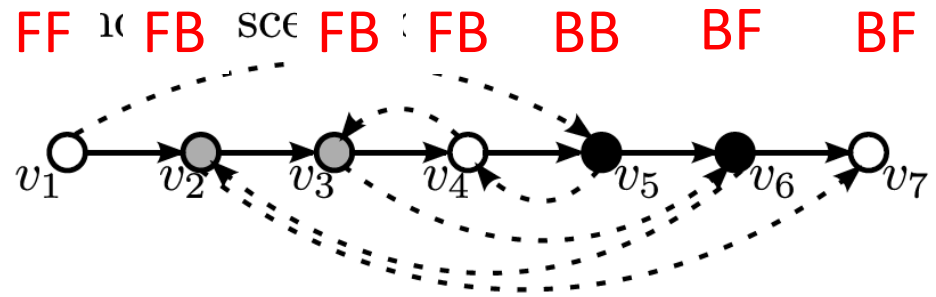
Boils
down to:

FF

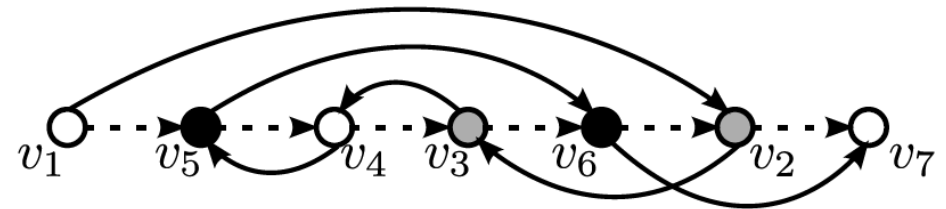
Proof

Claim: If there exists 3-round schedule, then also one where FB are only updated in Round 1.

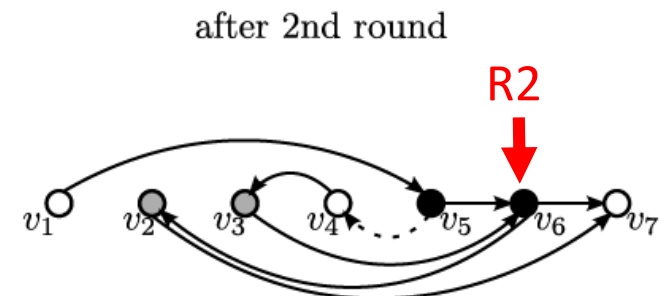
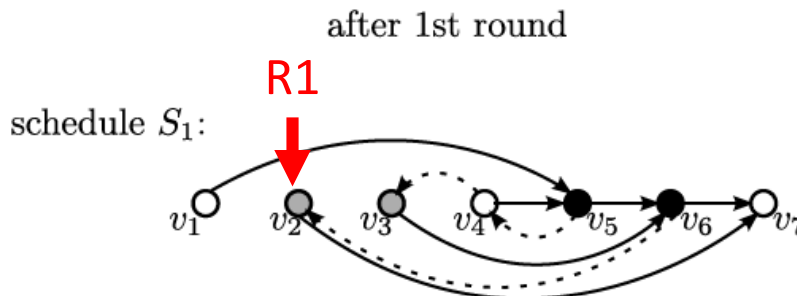
Reason: Can move FB to first round!



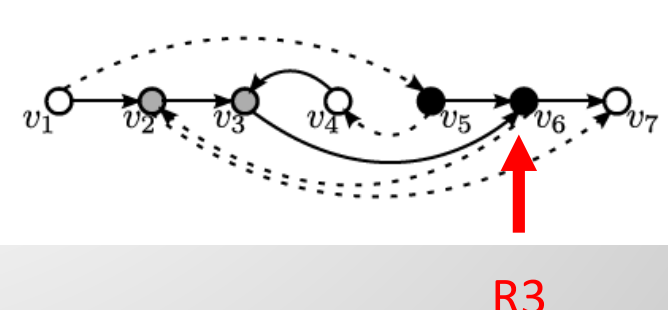
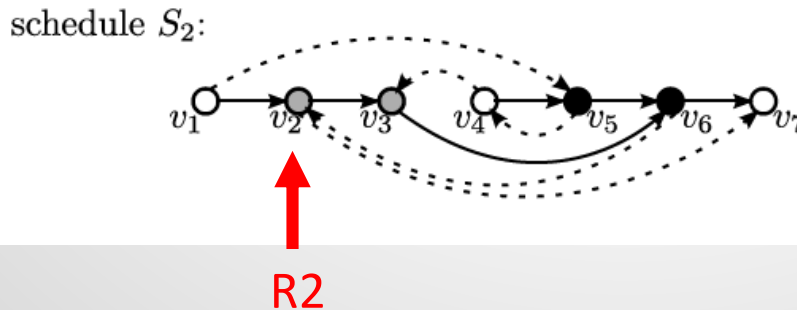
backward in time:



S1: as early as possible



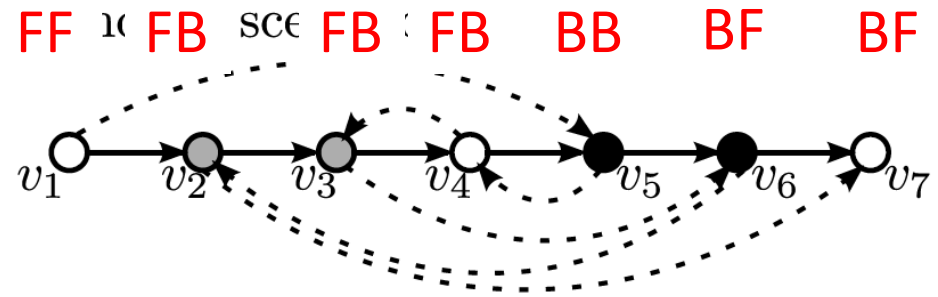
S2: as late as possible



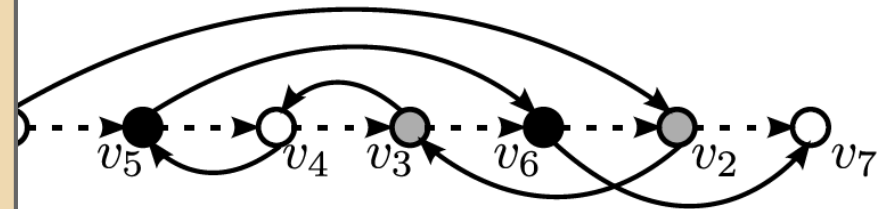
Proof

Claim: If there exists 3-round schedule, then also

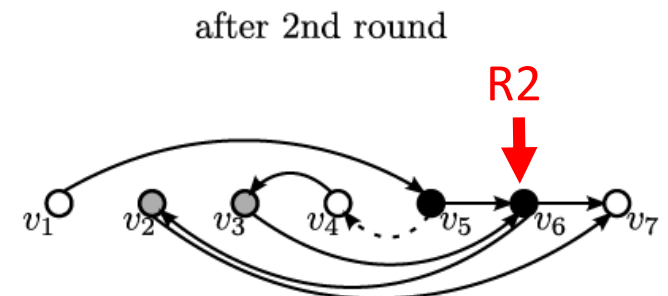
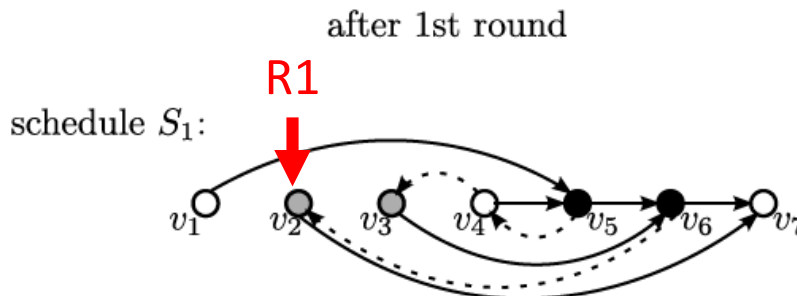
Forwarding edges do not introduce loops in $G(t=1)$.



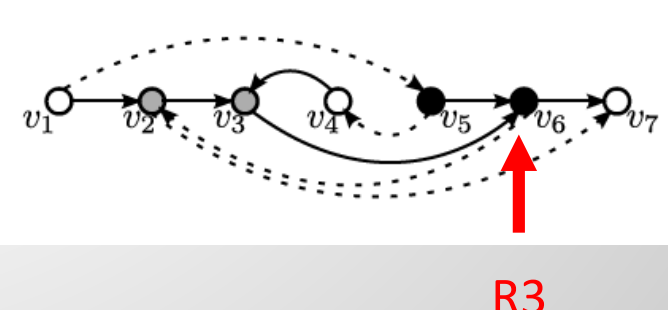
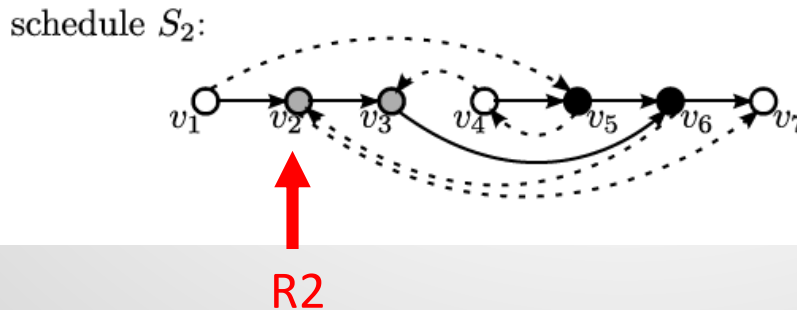
backward in time:



S1: as early as possible



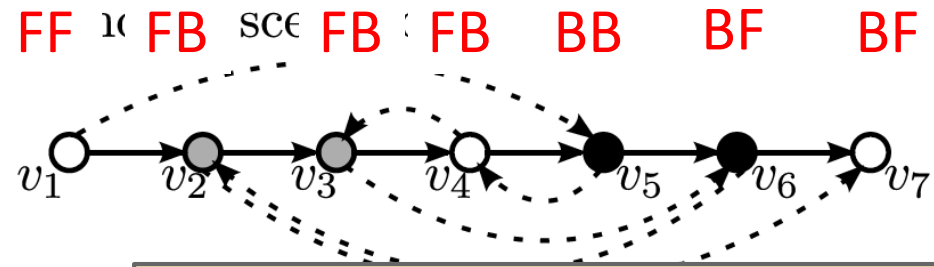
S2: as late as possible



Proof

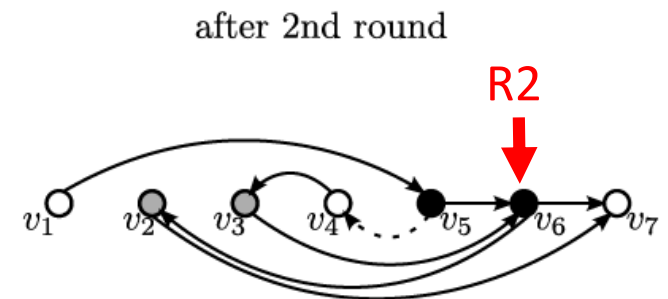
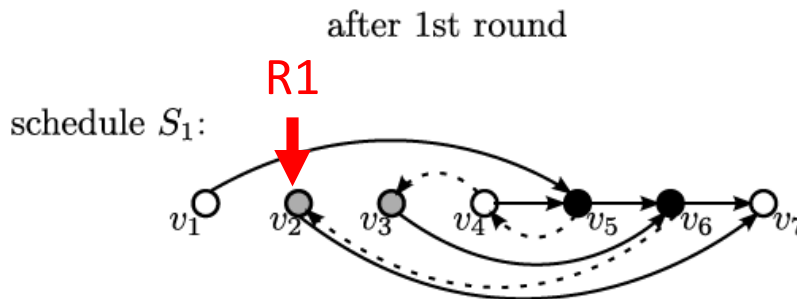
Claim: If there exists 3-round schedule, then also

Forwarding edges do not introduce loops in $G(t=1)$.

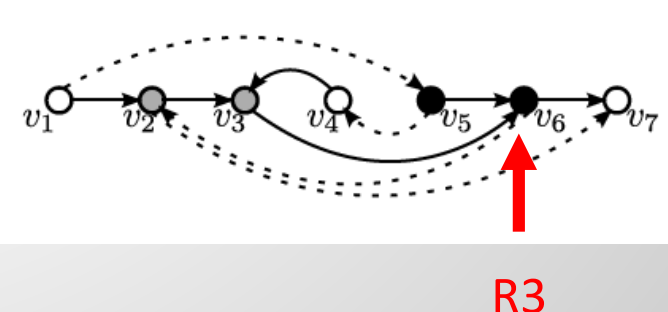
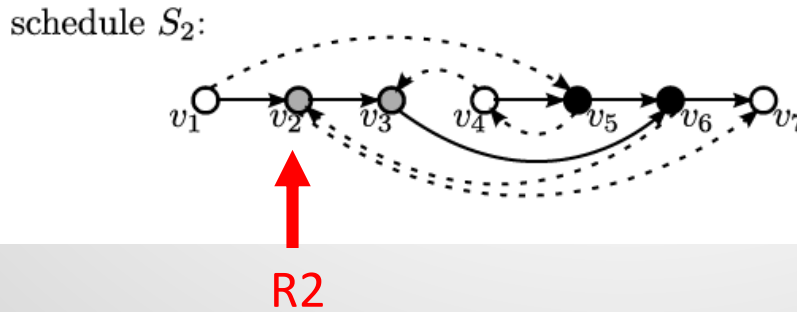


Updating edges earlier makes $G(t=2)$ only sparser, so will still work in 3 rounds.

S1: as early as possible



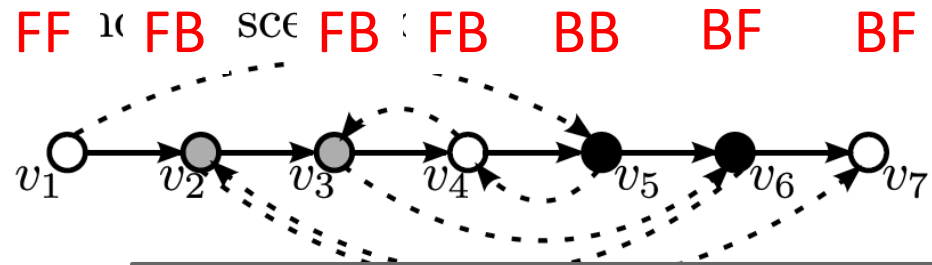
S2: as late as possible



Proof

Claim: If there exists 3-round schedule, then also

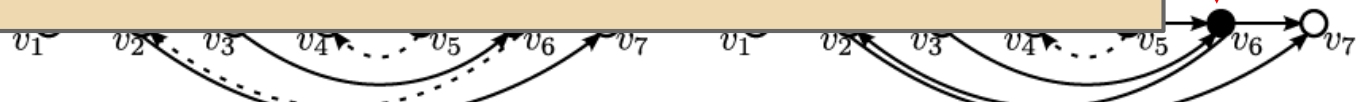
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Updating edges earlier makes $G(t=2)$ only sparser, so will still work in 3 rounds.

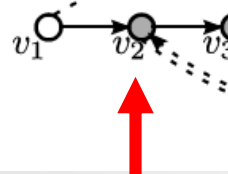
Similar argument for BF nodes (for R2 and R3)...

S1: as possible



S2: as late as possible

schedule S_2 :



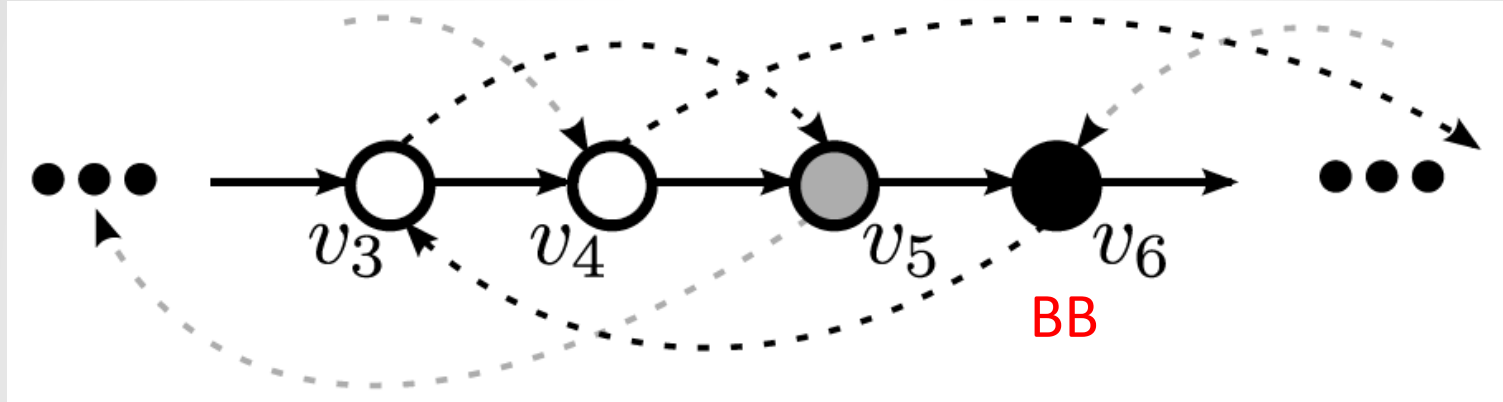
... but moving FF nodes across BB-node-Round-2 is tricky! Why?

R2

R3

NP-hardness

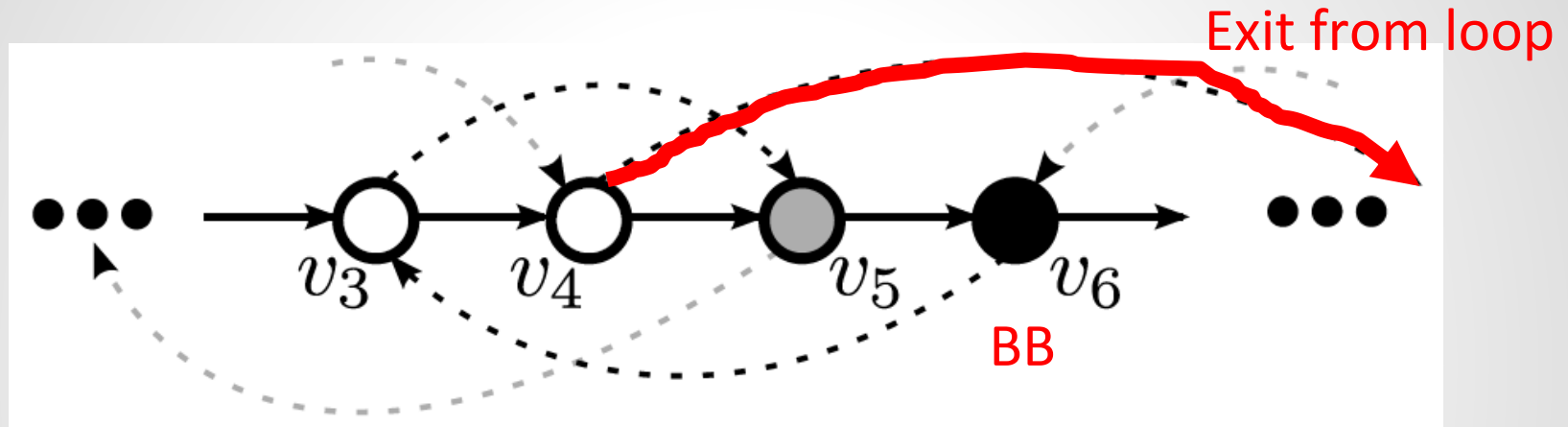
A hard decision problem: when to update FF?



- We know: BB node v_6 can only be updated in R2

NP-hardness

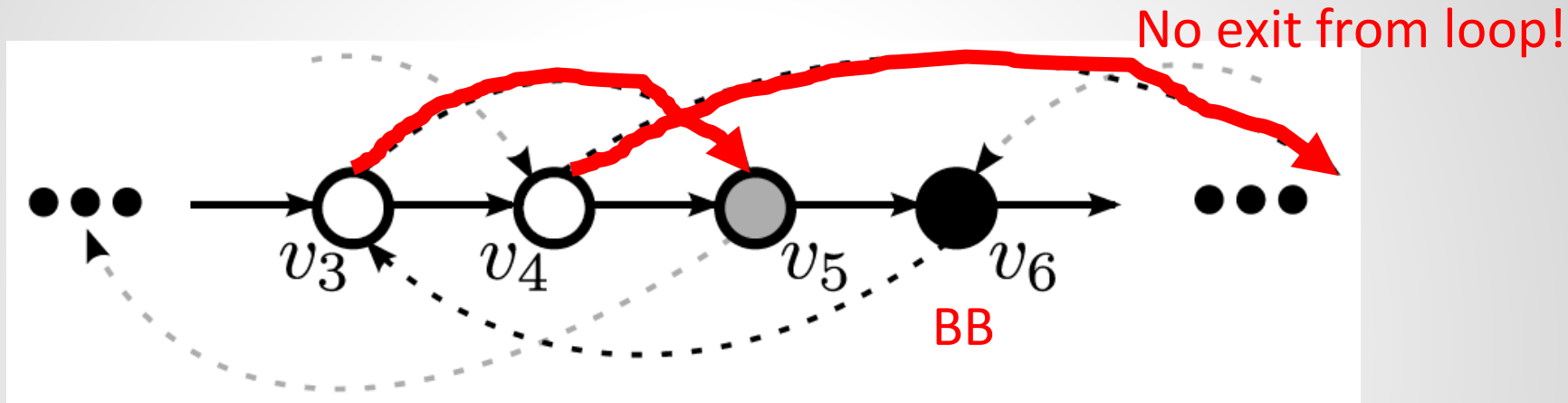
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- ❑ We know: BB node v_6 can only be updated in R2
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NP-hardness

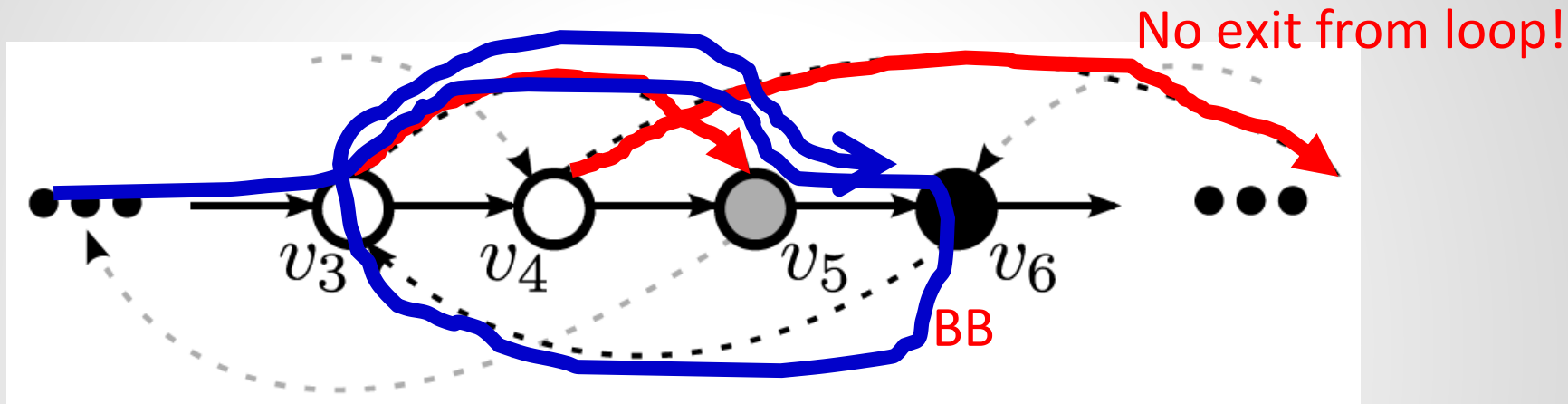
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NP-hardness

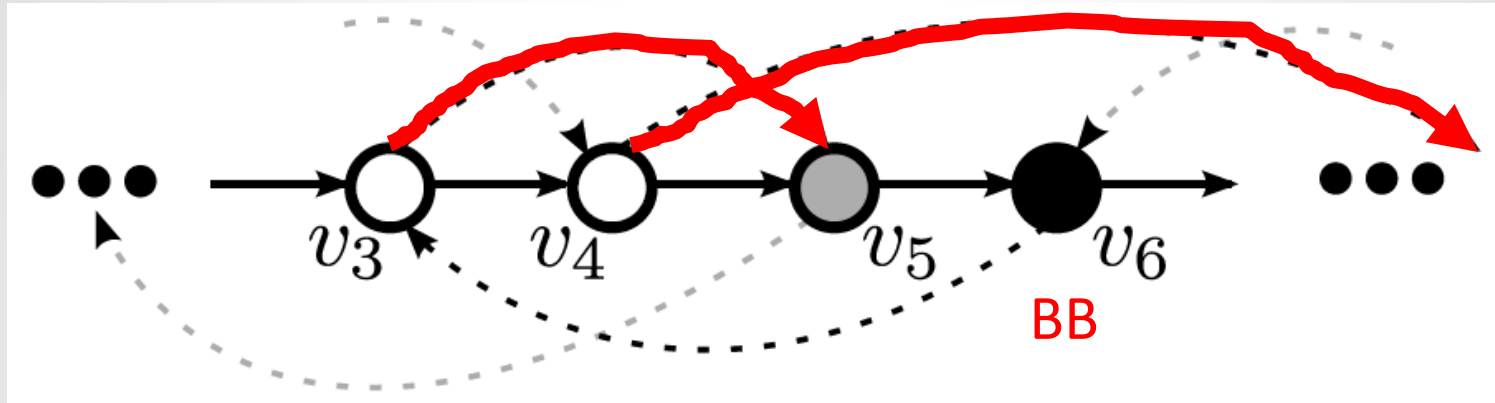
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NP-hardness

A hard decision problem: when to update FF?



- ❑ We know: BB node v_6 can only be updated in R2
- ❑ Updating FF-node v_4 in R1 allows to update BB node v_6 in R2
- ❑ Updating FF-node v_3 as well in R1 would be bad: cannot update v_6 in next round: potential loop
- ❑ Node v_5 is B• and cannot be updated in R1

NP-hardness

- ❑ Reduction from a 3-SAT version where variables appear only a small number of times

- ❑ Variable x appearing p_x times positively and n_x times negatively is replaced by:

$$x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{p_x}, x_l, \bar{x}_0, \bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_{n_x}$$

- ❑ Gives low-degree requirements!

- ❑ Types of clauses

- ❑ Assignment clause: $(x_0 \vee \bar{x}_0)$

- ❑ Implication clause: $(x_i \rightarrow x_{i+1})$

- ❑ Exclusive Clause: $(\neg x_l \vee \neg \bar{x}_l)$

NP-hardness

We need a
low degree...

- ❑ Reduction from 3-SAT where variables appear only a small number of times

- ❑ Variable x appearing p_x times positively and n_x times negatively is replaced by:

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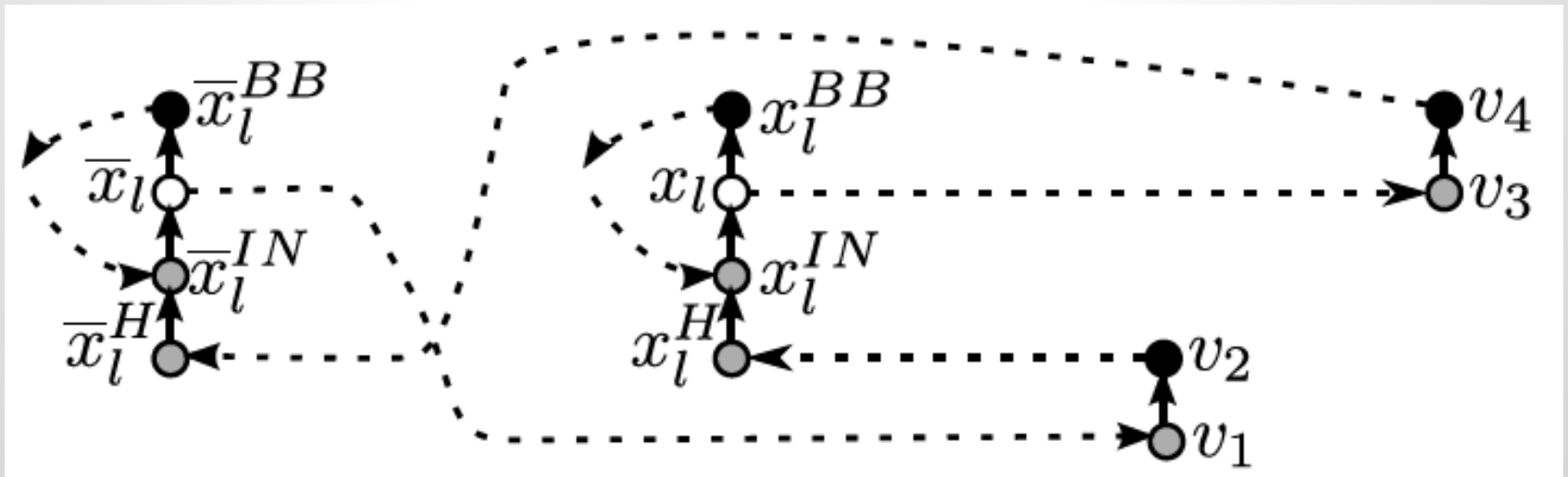
Types of clauses

- ❑ Assignment clause: $(x_0 \vee \bar{x}_0)$
- ❑ Implication clause: $(x_i \rightarrow x_{i+1})$
- ❑ Exclusive Clause: $(\neg x_l \vee \neg \bar{x}_l)$

Connecting clones:
consistent value for
original variable.

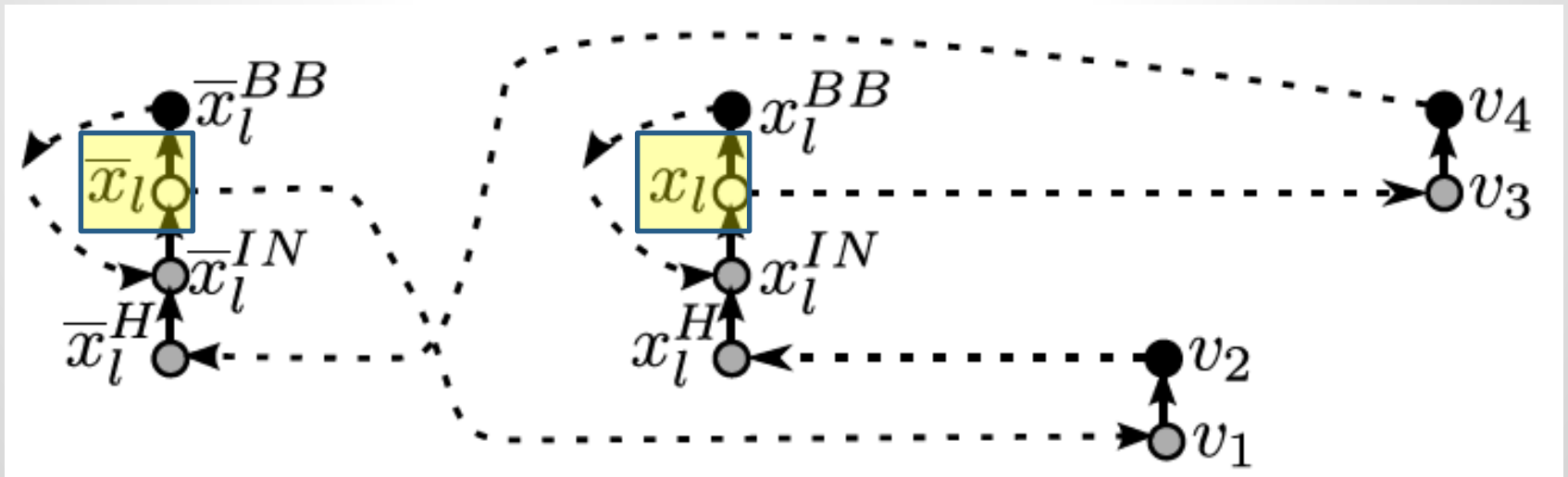
Example: Gadget for Exclusive Clause $(\neg x_l \vee \neg \bar{x}_l)$

- Updating x_l prevents $\bar{x}_l$ update and vice versa
- BB nodes v_2 and v_4 need to be updated in R2 and will introduce a cycle otherwise
- So only one of the two can be updated in R1



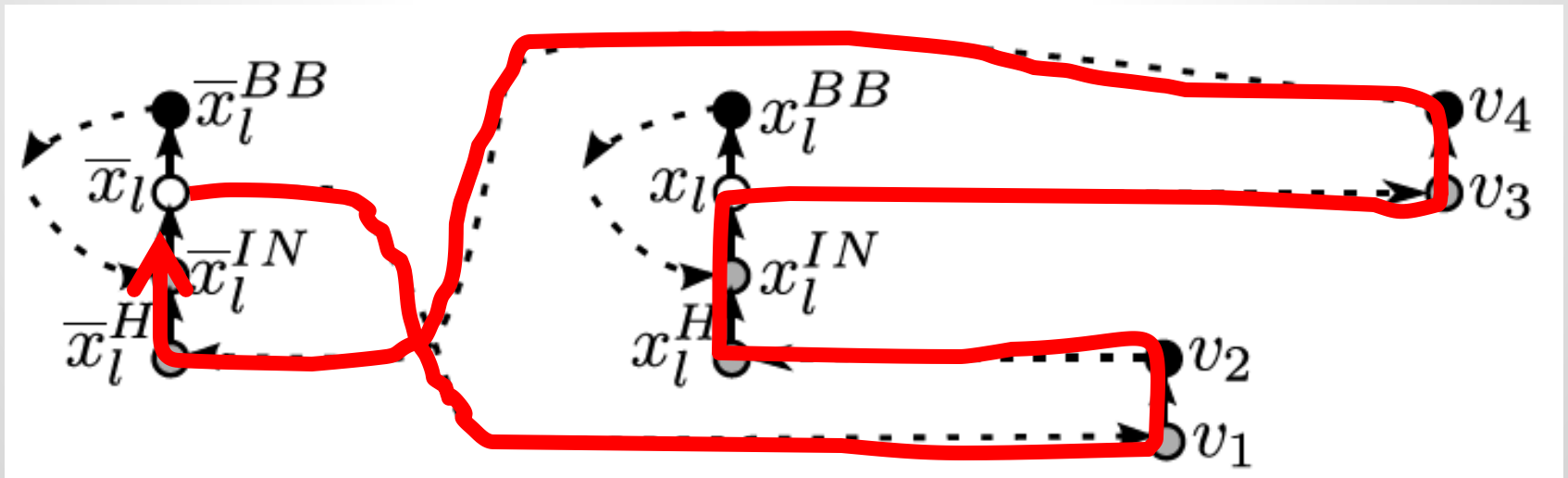
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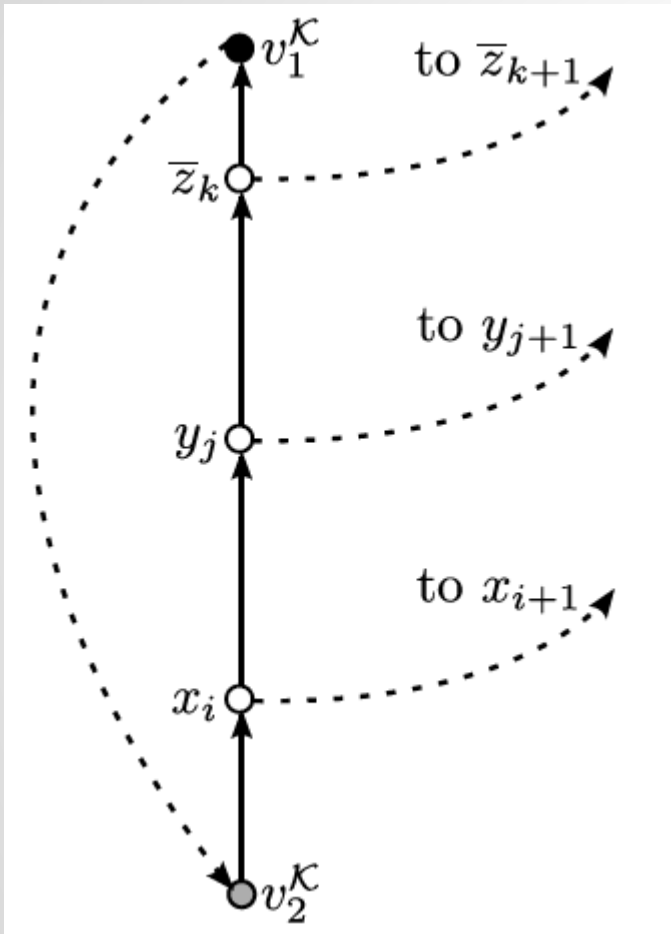


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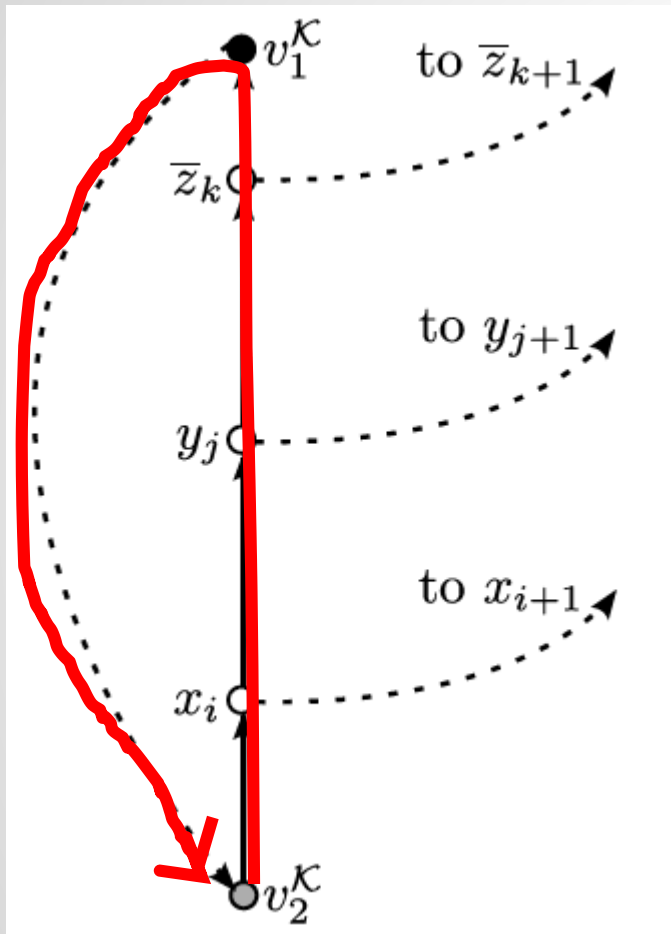


Example: Gadget for Clause $x_i \vee y_j \vee \bar{z}_k$



- ❑ Need to update (satisfy) at least one of the literals in the clause...
- ❑ ... so to escape the potential loop

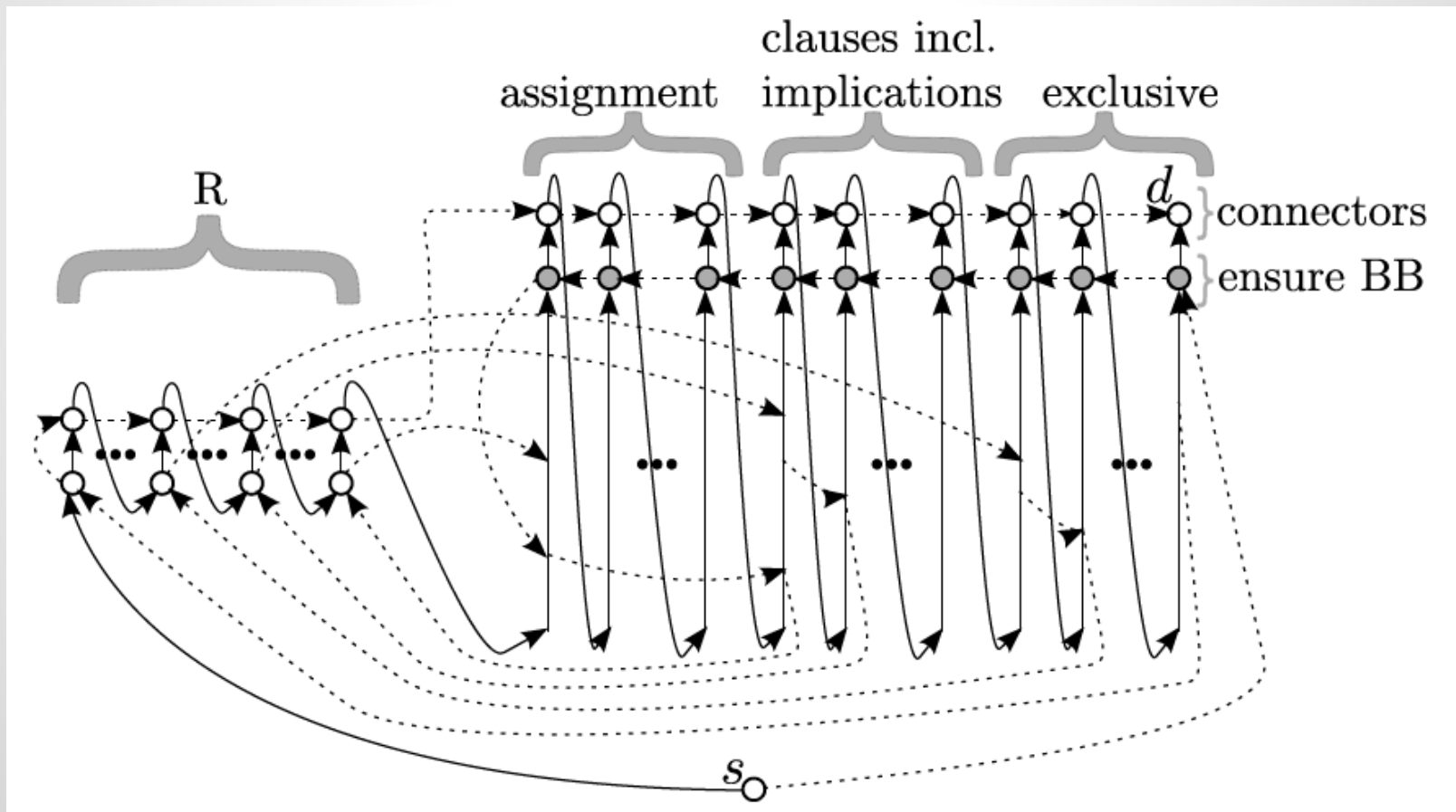
Example: Gadget for Clause $x_i \vee y_j \vee \bar{z}_k$



- ❑ Need to update (satisfy) at least one of the literals in the clause...
- ❑ ... so to escape the potential loop

NP-hardness

- ❑ Eventually everything has to be connected...
- ❑ ... to form a valid path



Relaxed Loopfreedom

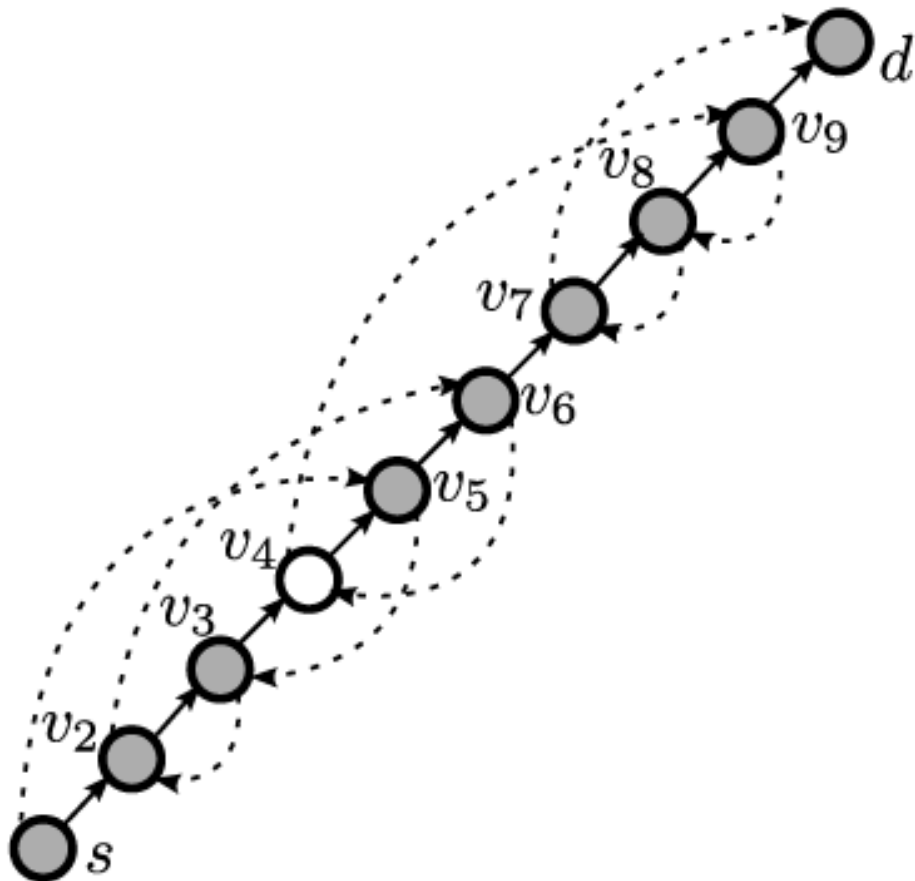
- ❑ Recall: relaxed loop-freedom can reduce number of rounds by a factor $O(n)$
- ❑ But how many rounds are needed for relaxed loop-free update in the worst case?
- ❑ We don't know...
- ❑ ... what we do know: next slide 😊

Peacock: Relaxed Updates in $O(\log n)$ Rounds

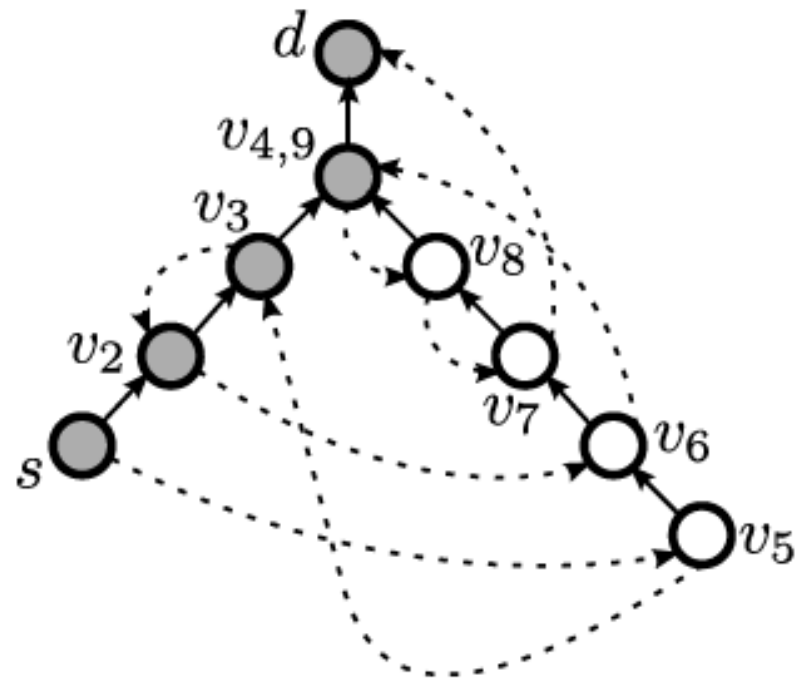
Two observations / principles:

- ❑ **Node merging:** a node which is updated is *irrelevant for the future*, so merge it with subsequent one
- ❑ **Directed tree:** while initial network consists of two directed paths (in-degree=out-degree=2), during update rounds, situation can become a directed tree
 - ❑ in-degree can *increase* due to merging
 - ❑ dashed in- and out-degree however stays one

Example

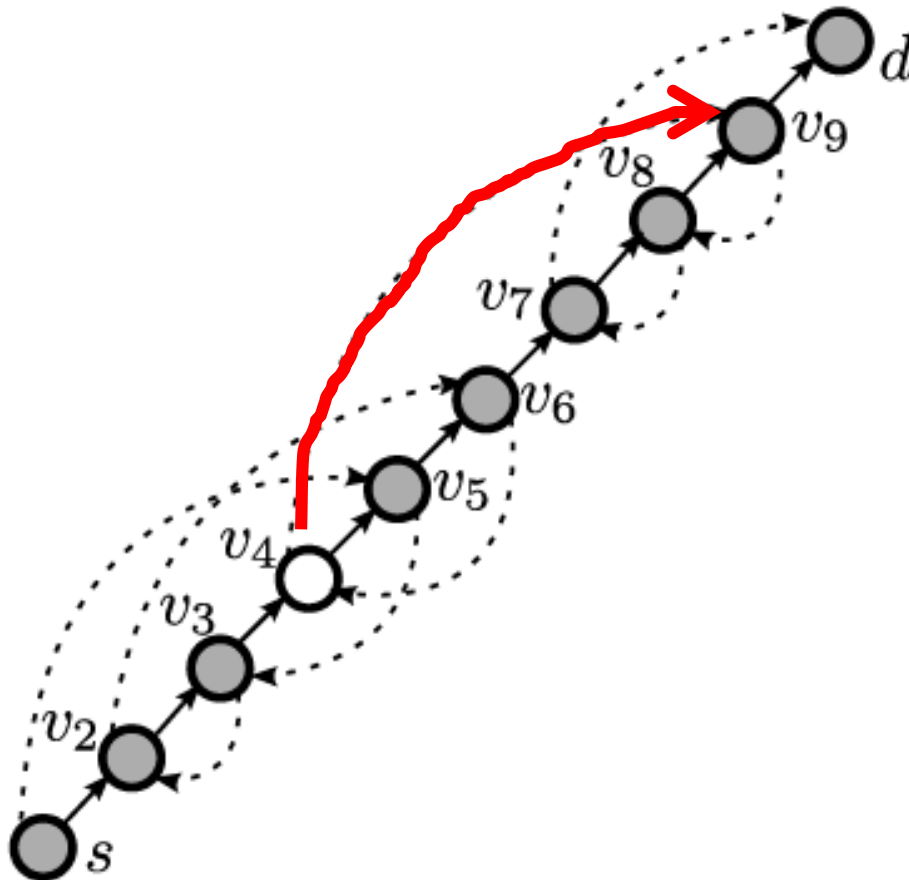


Initially: Two
valid paths!



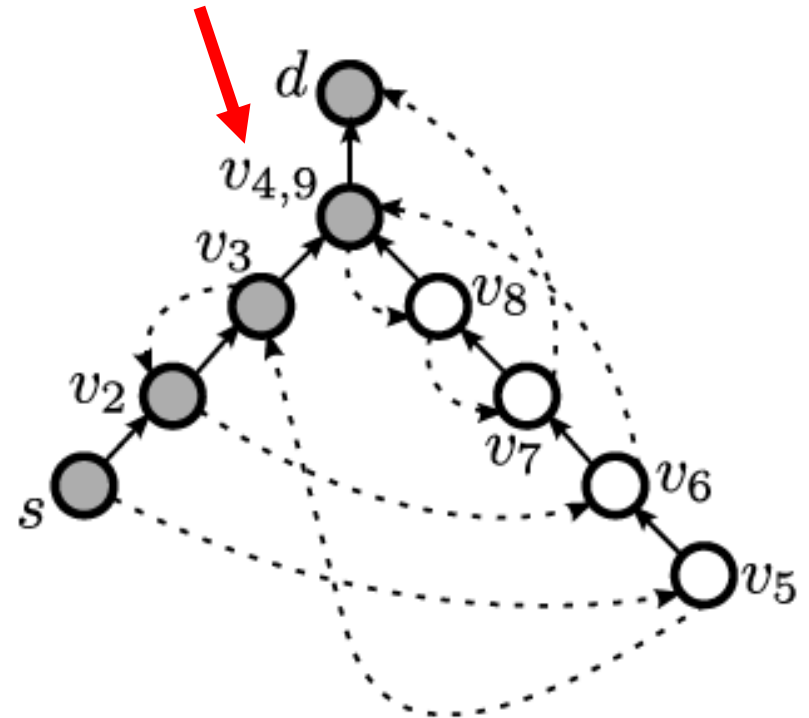
After updating v_4 .

Example



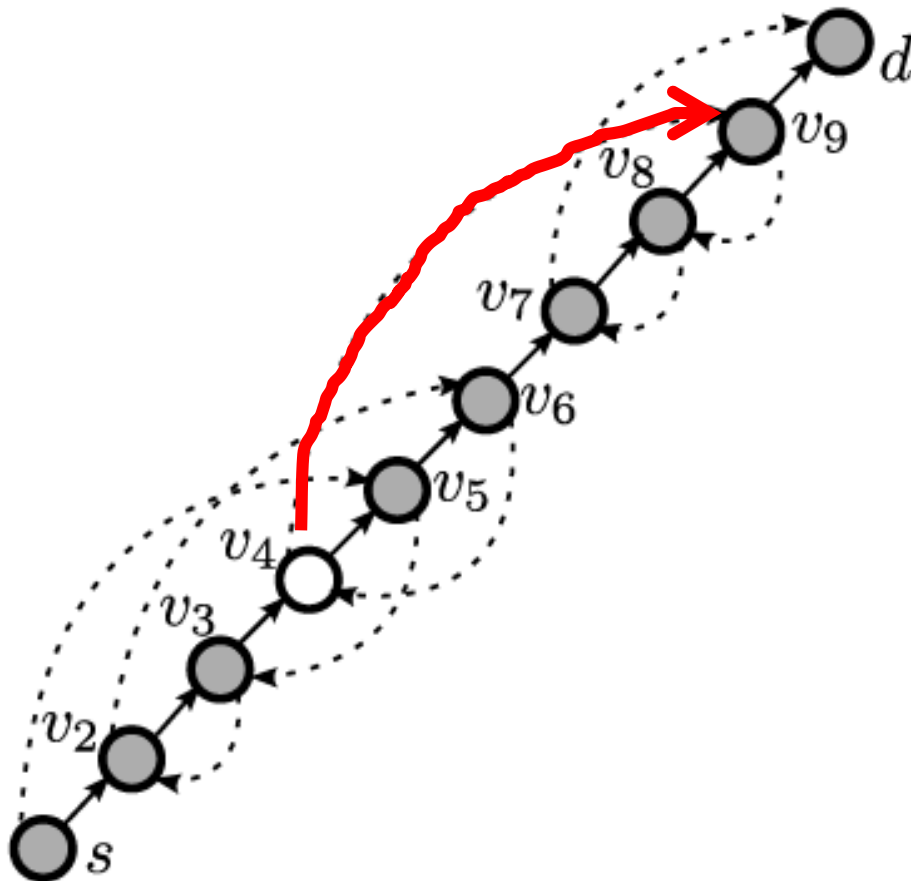
Initially: Two
valid paths!

v_4 irrelevant,
can merge

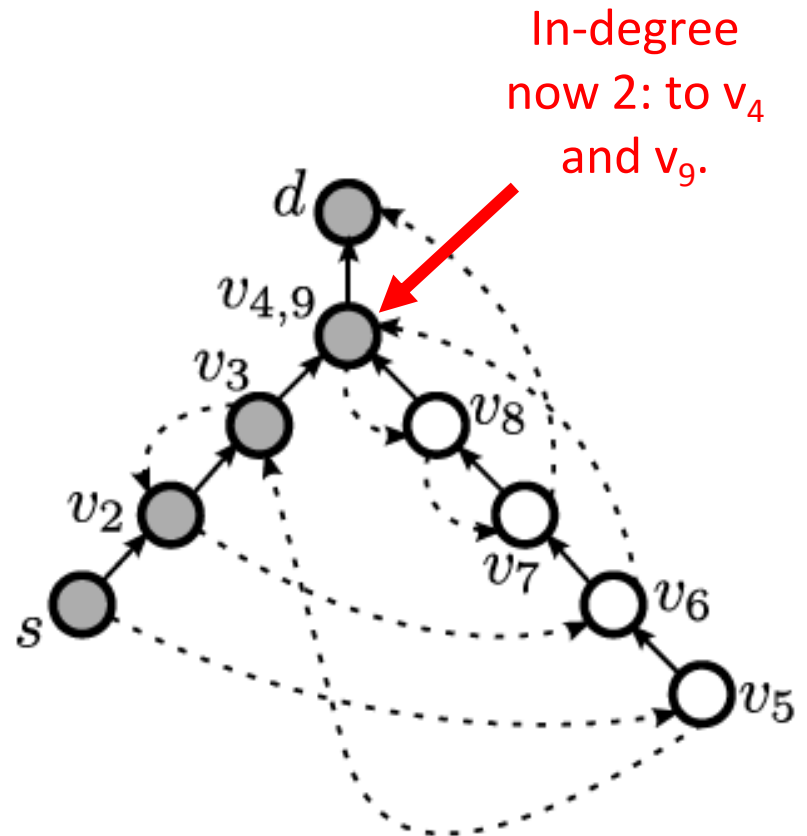


After updating v_4 .

Example

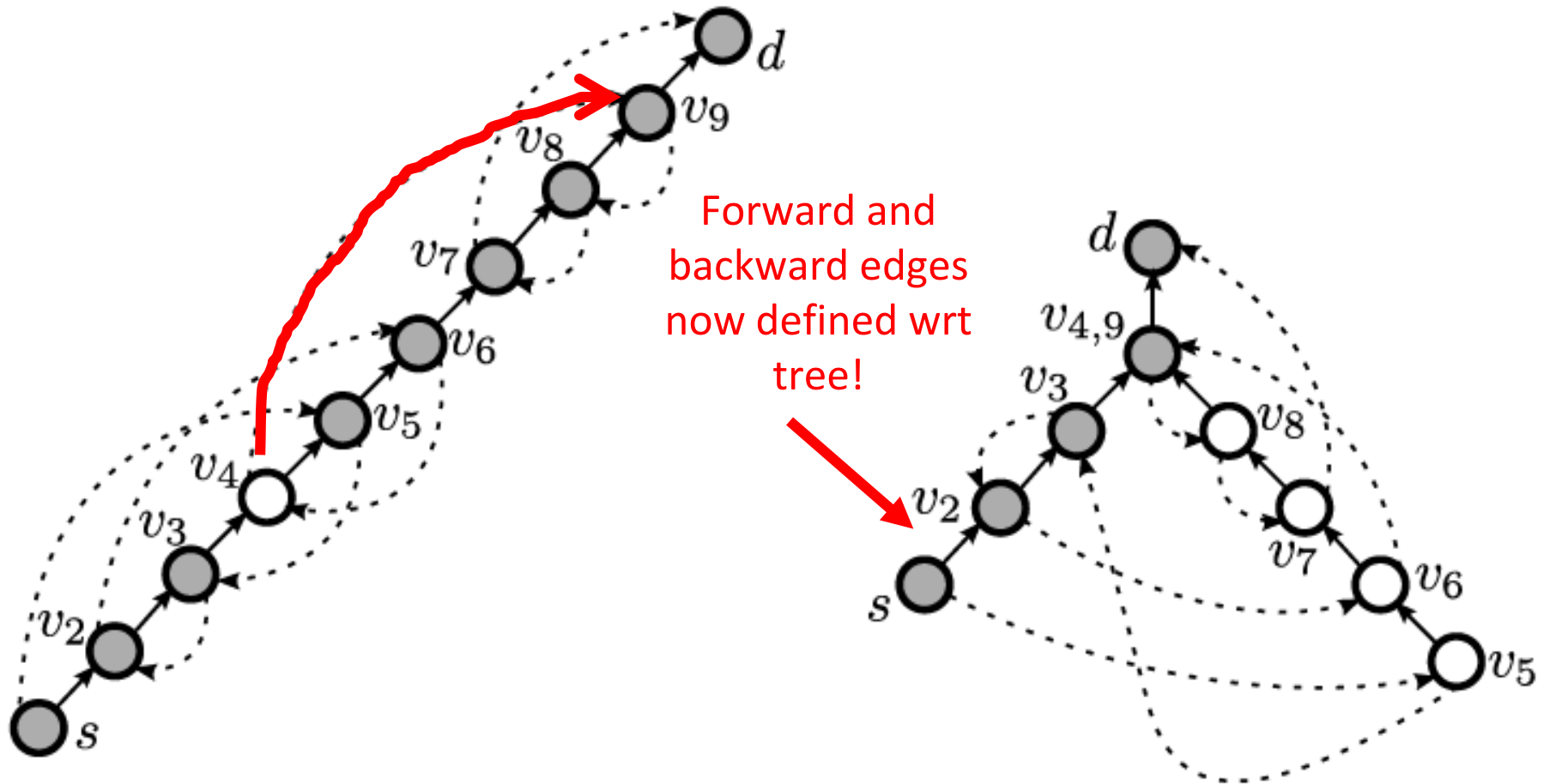


Initially: Two
valid paths!



After updating v_4 .

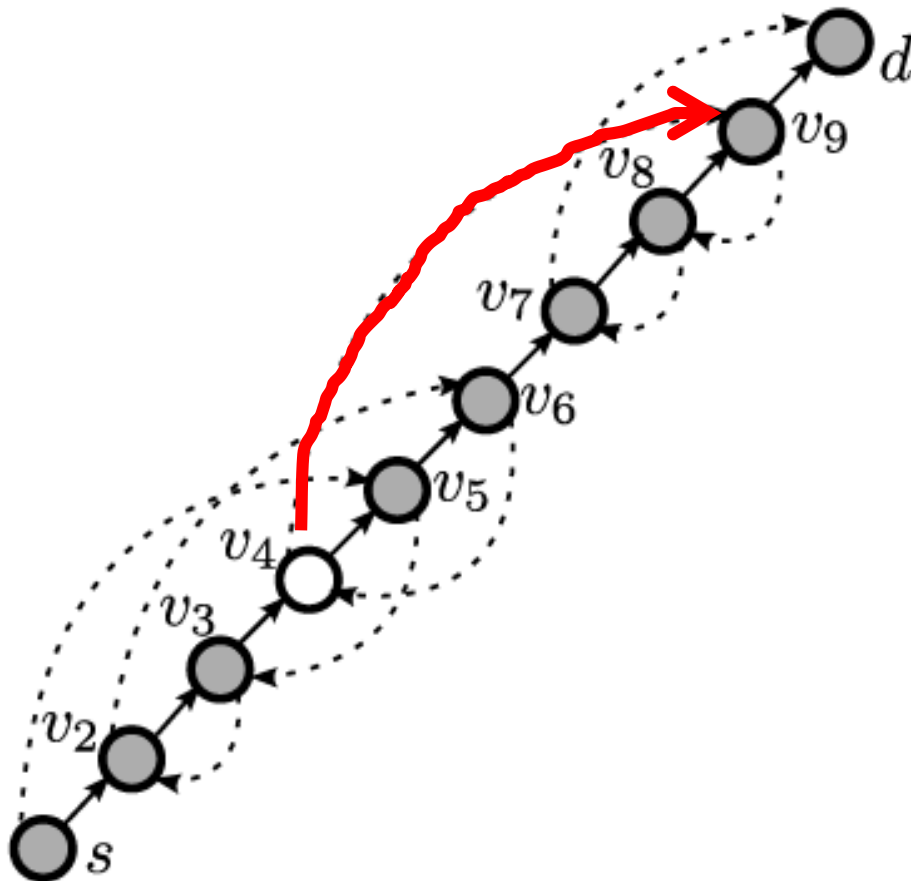
Example



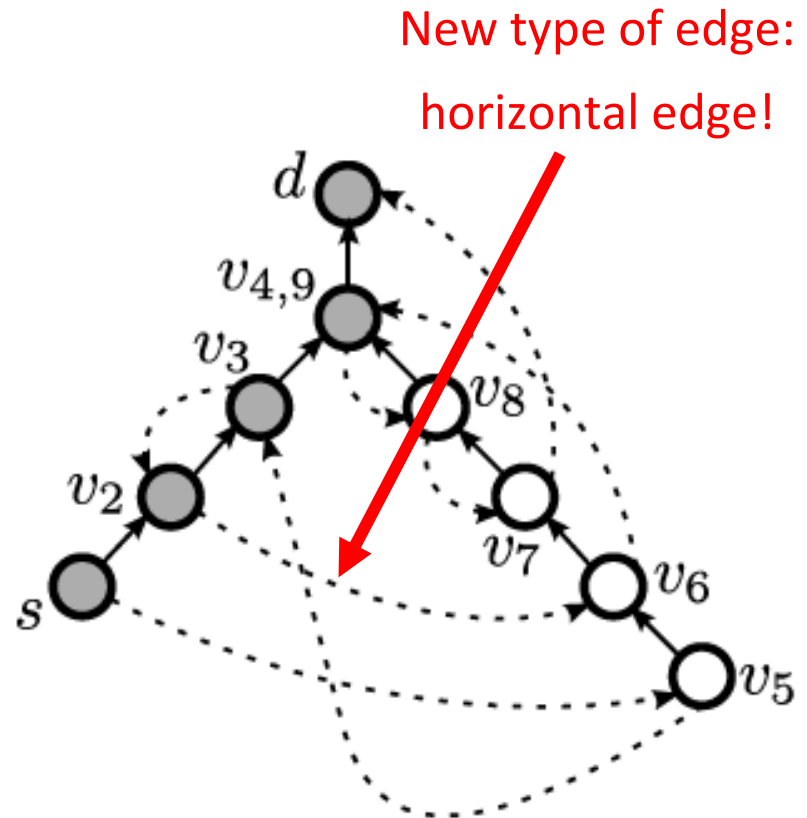
Initially: Two
valid paths!

After updating v_4 .

Example



Initially: Two
valid paths!



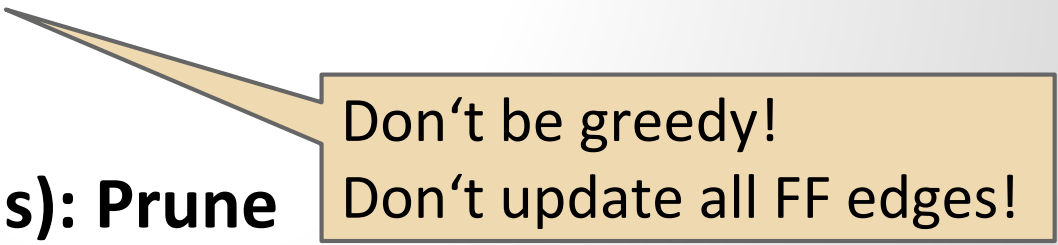
After updating v_4 .

Ideas of Peacock Algorithm

- ❑ **Rounds come in pairs:** Try to update (and hence merge) as much as possible in every other round
- ❑ **Round 1 (odd rounds): Shortcut**
 - ❑ Move source close to destination
 - ❑ Generate many «independent subtrees» which are easy to update!
- ❑ **Round 2 (even rounds): Prune**
 - ❑ Update independent subtrees
 - ❑ Brings us back to a chain!

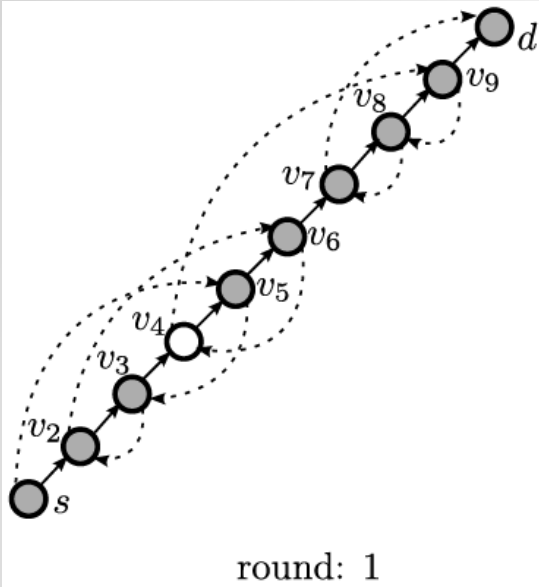
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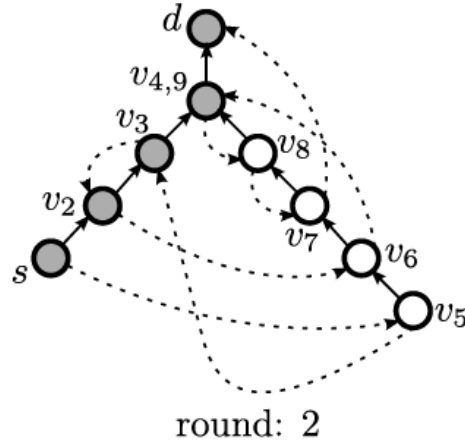


Don't be greedy!
Don't update all FF edges!

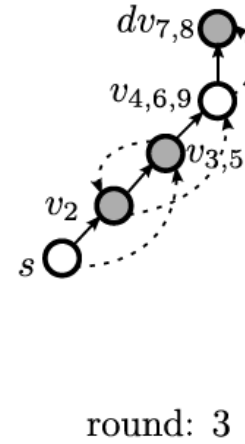
Peacock in Action



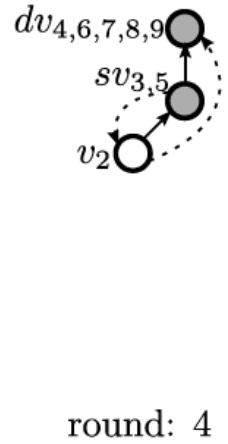
Shortcut



Prune

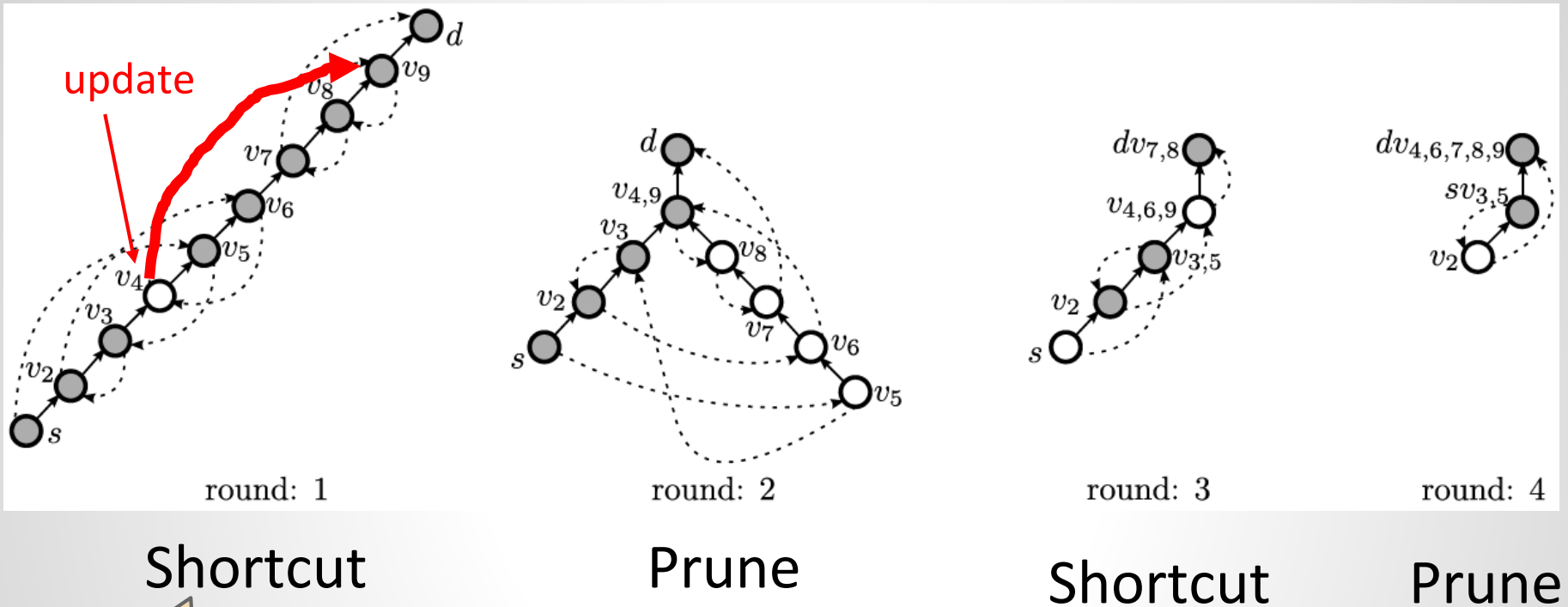


Shortcut



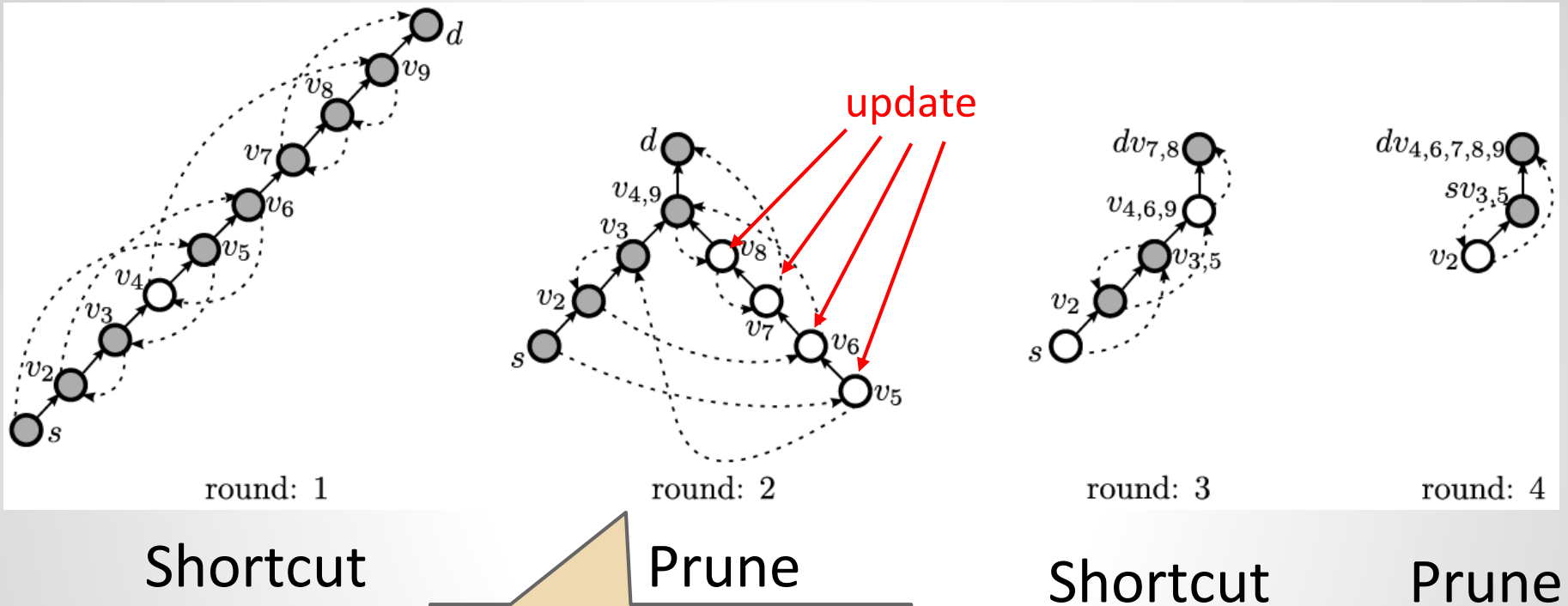
Prune

Peacock in Action



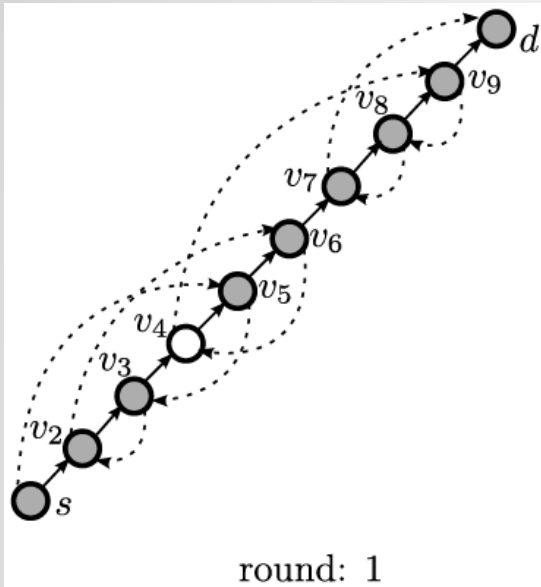
Greedyly choose far-reaching (independent) forward edges.

Peacock in Action

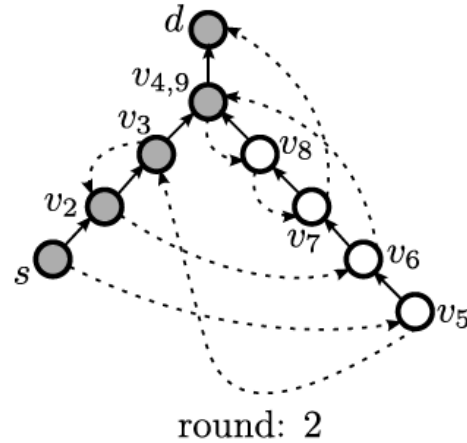


R1 generated many nodes in branches which can be updated simultaneously!

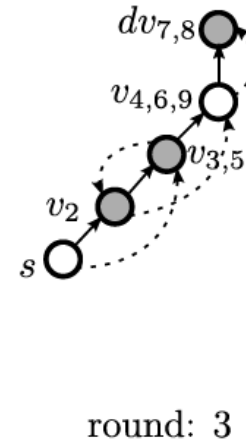
Peacock in Action



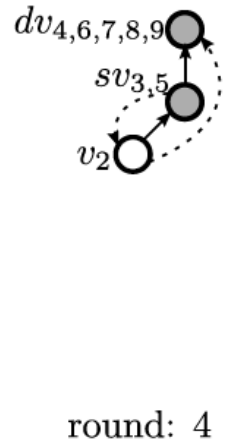
Shortcut



Prune



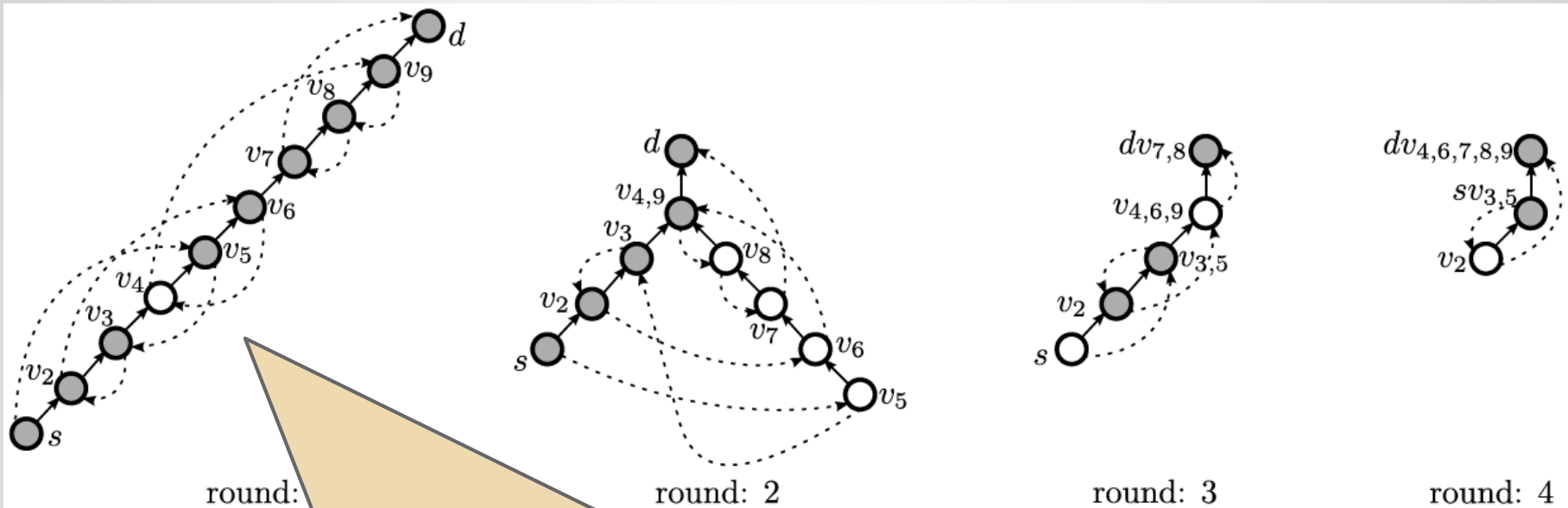
Shortcut



Prune

Line re-established!
(all merged with a
node on the s-d-path)

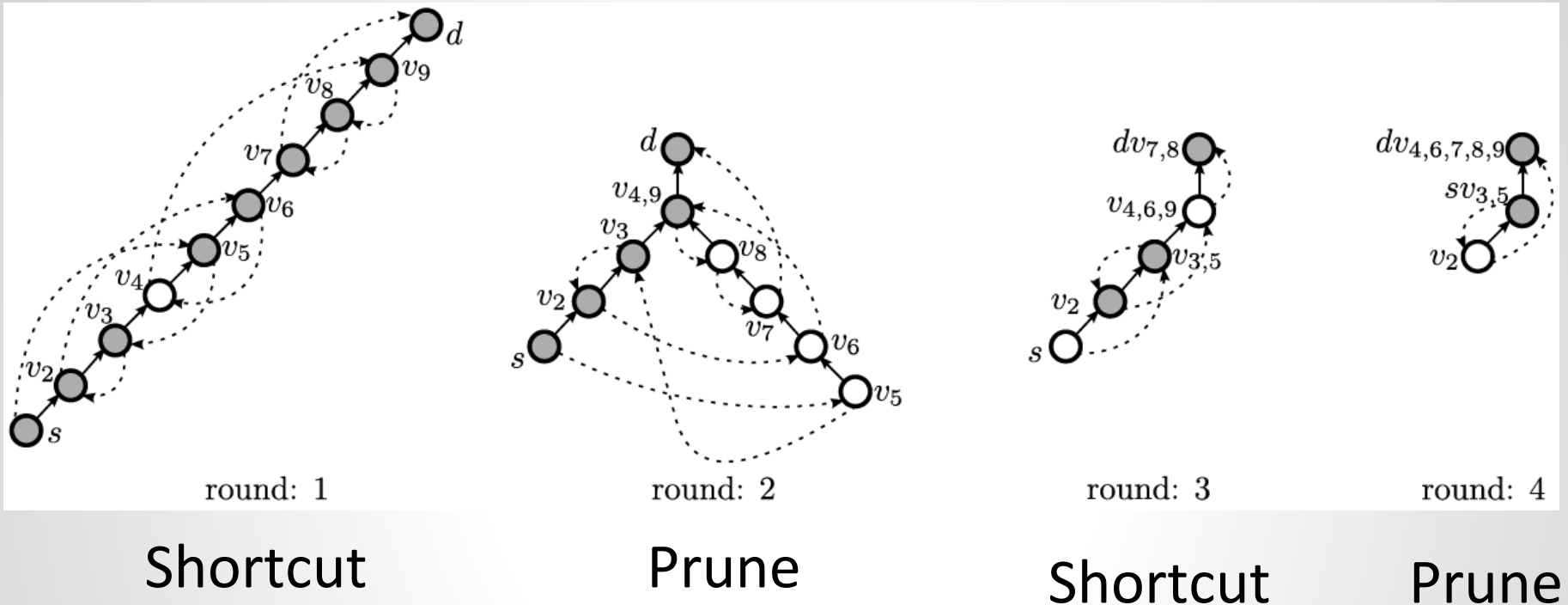
Peacock in Action



Peacock orders nodes wrt to distance: edge of length x can block at most 2 edges of length x , so distance $2x$.

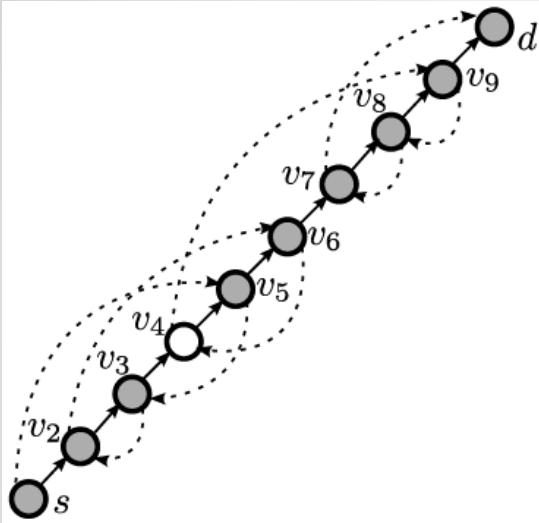
Prune

Peacock in Action



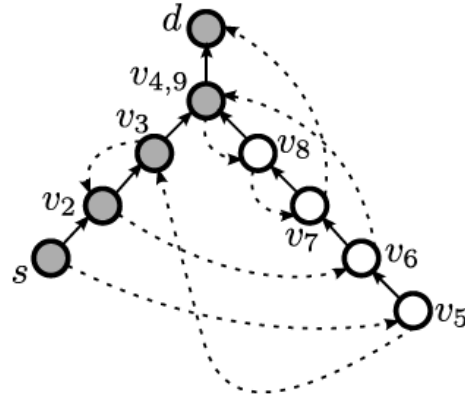
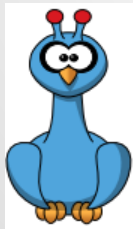
At least 1/3 of nodes merged in each round pair (shorter s-d path): logarithmic runtime!

Peacock in Action



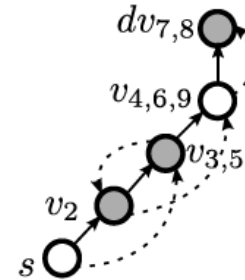
round: 1

Shortcut



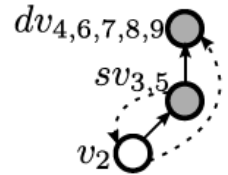
round: 2

Prune



round: 3

Shortcut

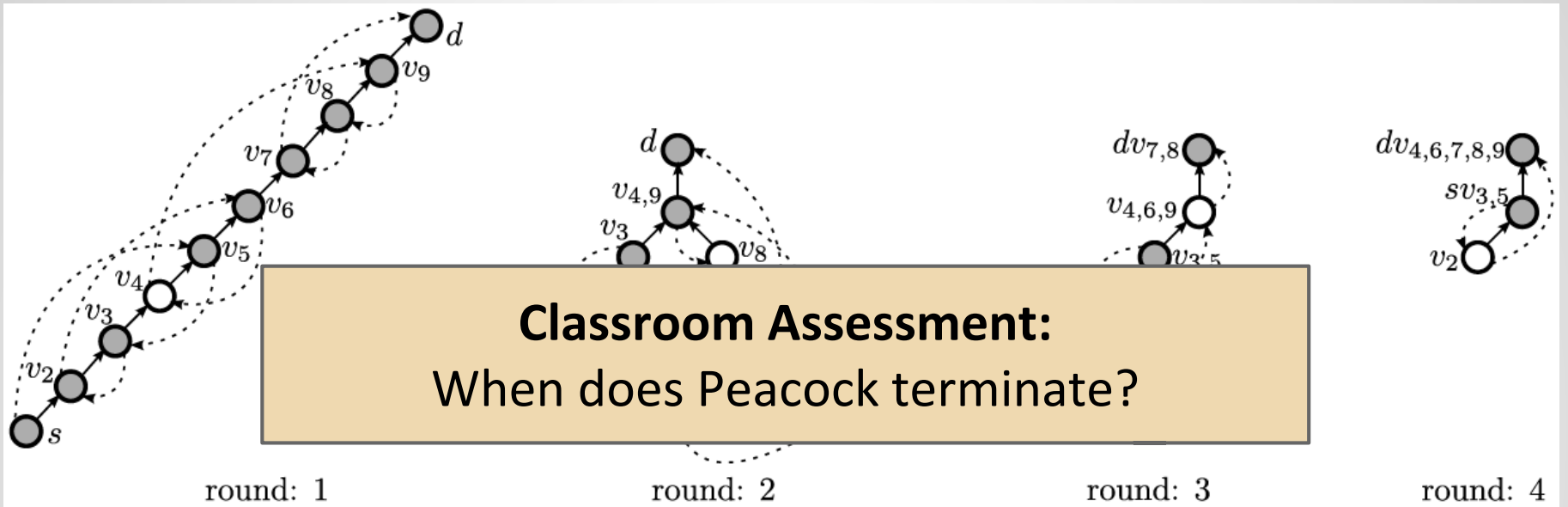


round: 4

Prune



Peacock in Action



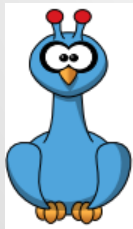
Classroom Assessment:
When does Peacock terminate?

Shortcut

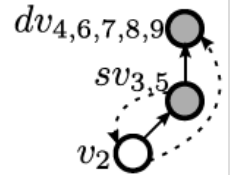
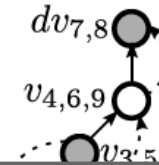
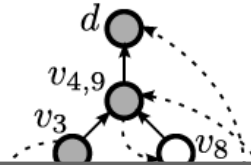
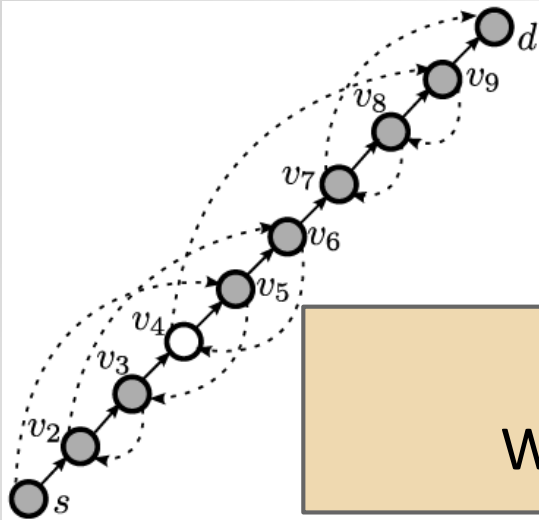
Prune

Shortcut

Prune



Peacock in Action



Classroom Assessment:
When does Peacock terminate?

Answer:
Only in odd rounds: then s-d merged

round
Short

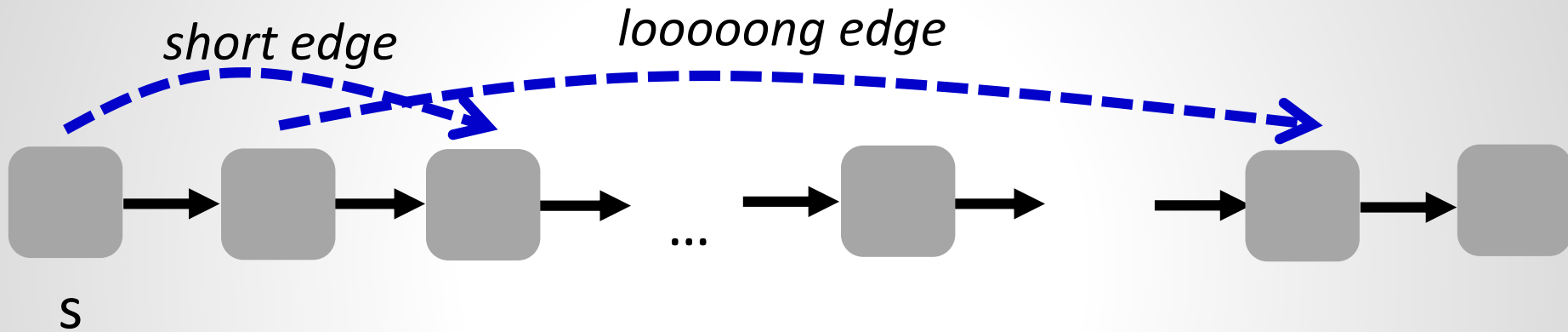
round: 4

Prune

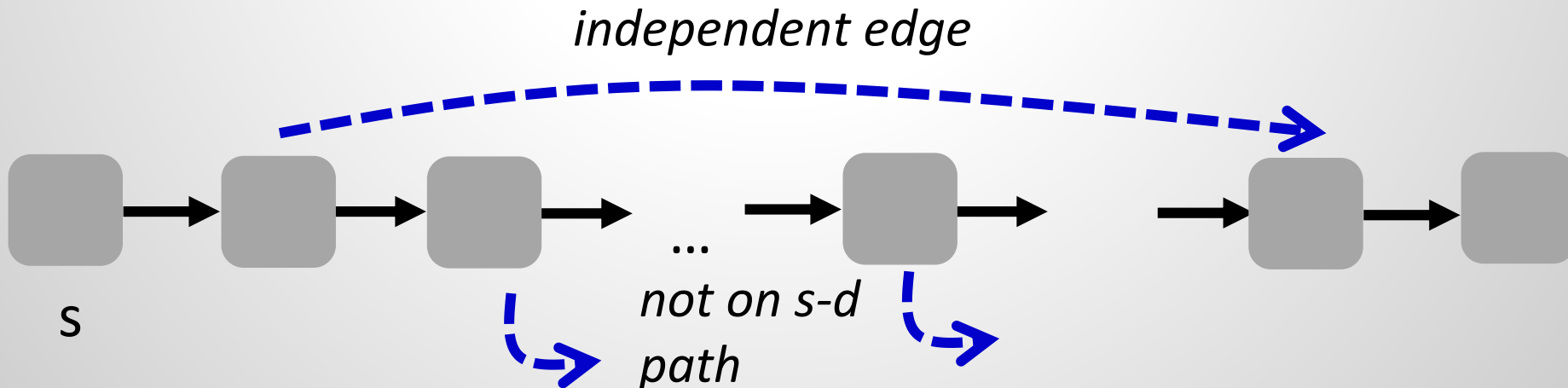


Why not update two non-independent edges?

- ❑ Don't update all FF edges: A short edge may not reduce distance to source if it jumps over a long edge



- ❑ Can update all fwd edges starting in interval



Conclusion

- Programmable and virtualized networks offer fundamental algorithmic problems
- Regarding network updates, so far we know:
 - Strong LF:
 - Greedy arbitrarily bad (up to n rounds) and NP-hard
 - 2 rounds easy
 - 3 rounds hard
 - Relaxed LF:
 - Peacock solves any scenario in $O(\log n)$ rounds
 - Computational results indicate that # rounds grows
 - LF and WPE may conflict

Thank you!

And thanks to co-authors: Arne Ludwig, Jan Marcinkowski

as well as Marco Canini, Damien Foucard, Petr Kuznetsov, Dan Levin, Matthias Rost, Jukka Suomela

and more recently Saeed Amiri, Szymon Dudycz, Felix Widmaier

Own References

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[Good Network Updates for Bad Packets: Waypoint Enforcement Beyond Destination-Based Routing Policies](#)

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USENIX Annual Technical Conference (**ATC**), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, June 2014.

The SDN *Hello World*:
MAC Learning
(Even a single switch scenario is non-trivial!)

Distributed Computing Fail: Updating a Single Switch

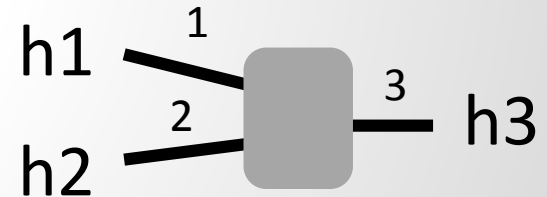
Already updating a single switch from a single controller is non-trivial!

❑ Fundamental networking task: MAC learning

- ❑ Flood packets sent to unknown destinations
- ❑ Learn host's location when it sends packets

❑ Example

- ❑ h1 sends to h2:
- ❑ h3 sends to h1:
- ❑ h1 sends to h3:



Distributed Computing Fail: Updating a Single Switch

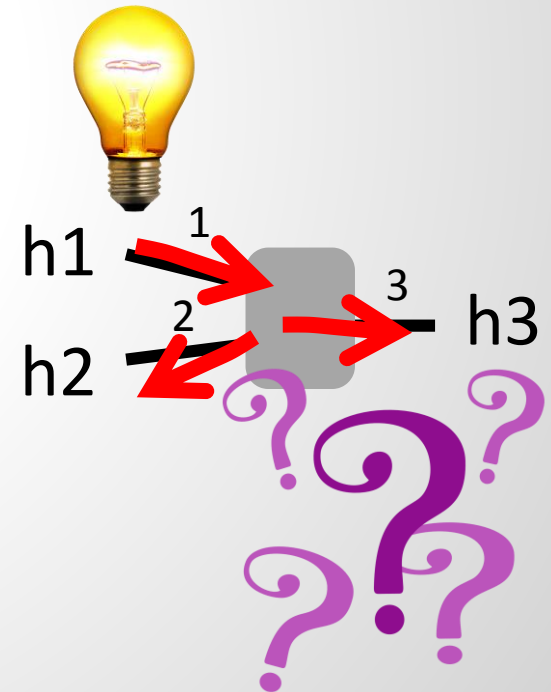
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flood, learn (h1,p1)
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Thanks to Jennifer Rexford for example!

Distributed Computing Fail: Updating a Single Switch

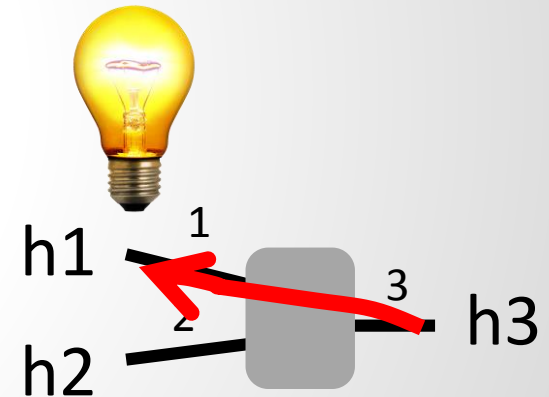
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❑ Example

- ❑ h1 sends to h2:
flood, learn (h1,p1)
- ❑ h3 sends to h1:
forward to p1, learn (h3,p3)
- ❑ h1 sends to h3:



Thanks to Jennifer Rexford for example!

Distributed Computing Fail: Updating a Single Switch

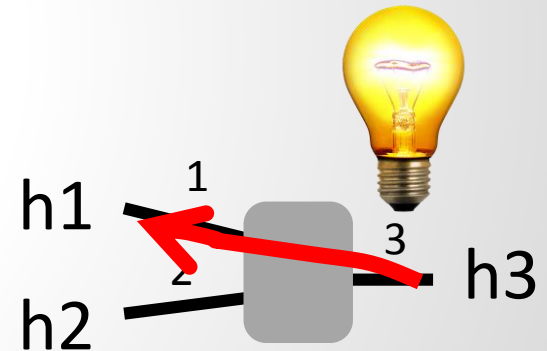
Already updating a single switch from a single controller is non-trivial!

❑ Fundamental networking task: MAC learning

- ❑ Flood packets sent to unknown destinations
- ❑ Learn host's location when it sends packets

❑ Example

- ❑ h1 sends to h2:
flood, learn (h1,p1)
- ❑ h3 sends to h1:
forward to p1, learn (h3,p3)
- ❑ h1 sends to h3:



Thanks to Jennifer Rexford for example!

Distributed Computing Fail: Updating a Single Switch

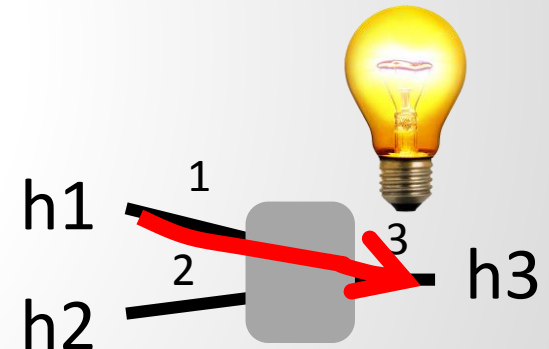
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- ❑ h1 sends to h2:
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forward to p3



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Distributed Computing Fail: Updating a Single Switch

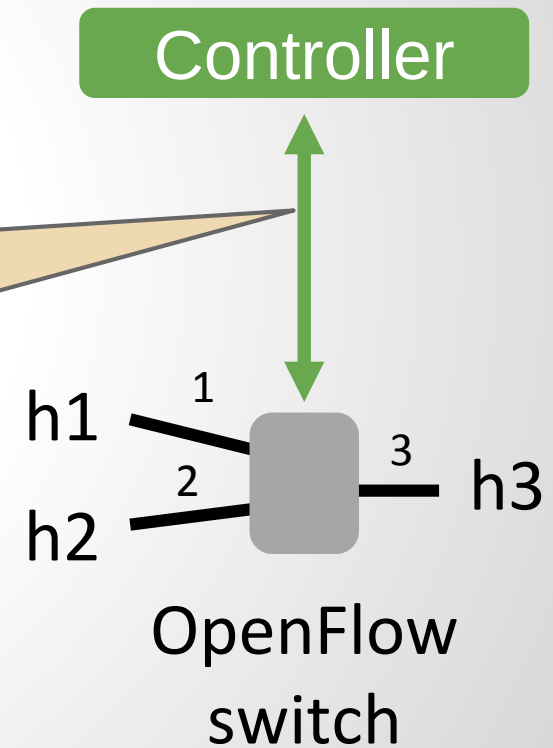
Already updating a single switch from a single controller is non-trivial!

❑ Fundamental task: MAC learning

- ❑ Flood packets sent to unknown destinations

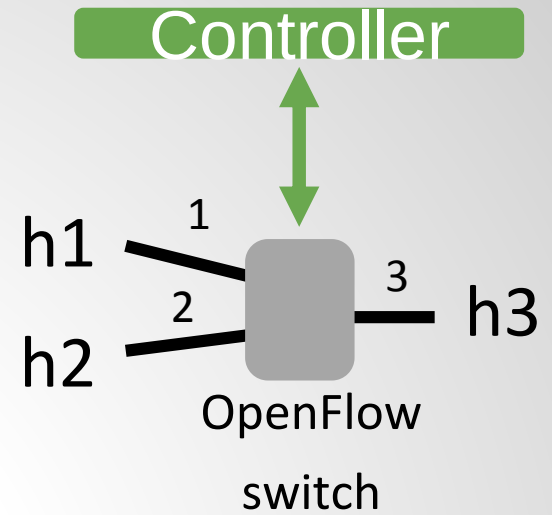
❑ Now: how to do via controller?
Install rules as you learn!
And match on host address and port.

- ❑ h3 sends to h1:
forward to p1, learn (h3,p3)
- ❑ h1 sends to h3:
forward to p3



Example: SDN MAC Learning Done Wrong

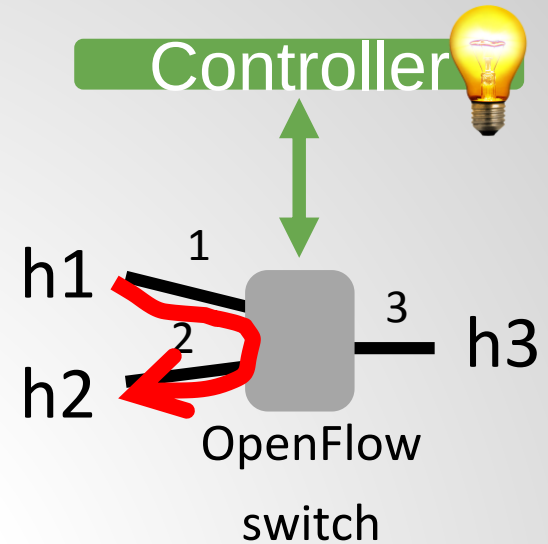
- ❑ Initial rule *: Send everything to controller



- ❑ What happens when **h1 sends to h2**?

Example: SDN MAC Learning Done Wrong

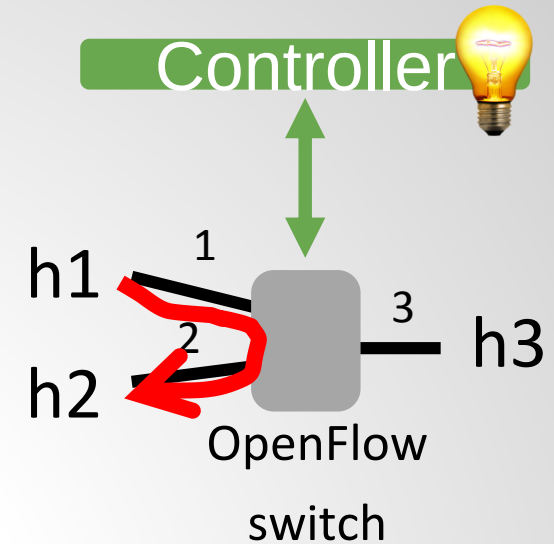
- ❑ Initial rule *: Send everything to controller



- ❑ What happens when h1 sends to h2?
 - ❑ Controller learns that h1@p1 and installs rule on switch!

Example: SDN MAC Learning Done Wrong

- Initial rule *: Send everything to controller



Pattern	Action
*	Send to controller

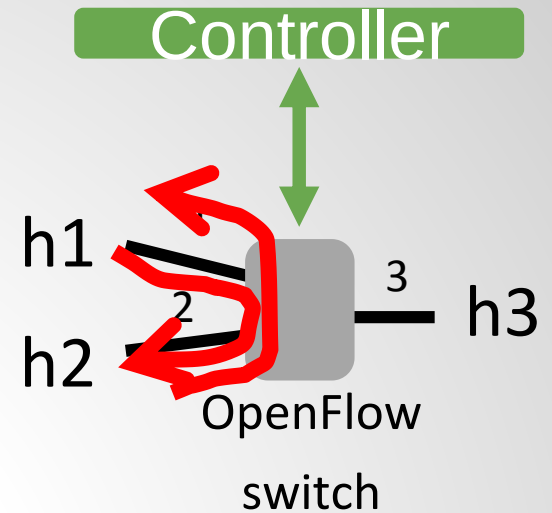
h1 sends to h2

Pattern	Action
dstmac=h1	Forward(1)
*	Send to controller

- What happens when h1 sends to h2?
 - Controller learns that h1@p1 and installs rule on switch!

Example: SDN MAC Learning Done Wrong

- Initial rule *: Send everything to controller



Pattern	Action
*	Send to controller

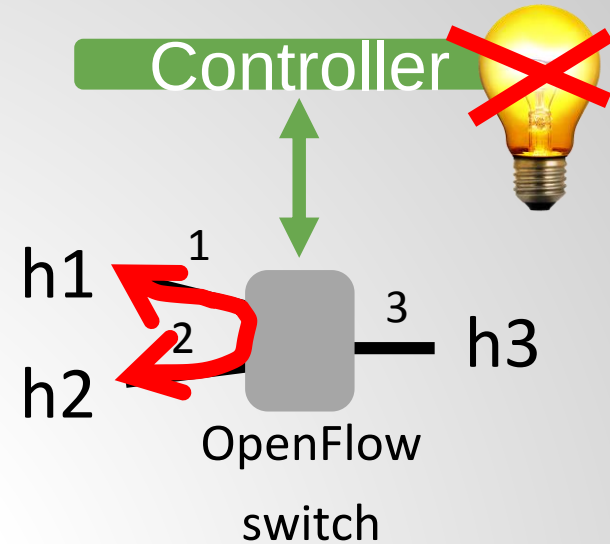
h1 sends to h2

Pattern	Action
dstmac=h1	Forward(1)
*	Send to controller

- What happens when h2 sends to h1?

Example: SDN MAC Learning Done Wrong

- Initial rule *: Send everything to controller



Pattern	Action
*	Send to controller

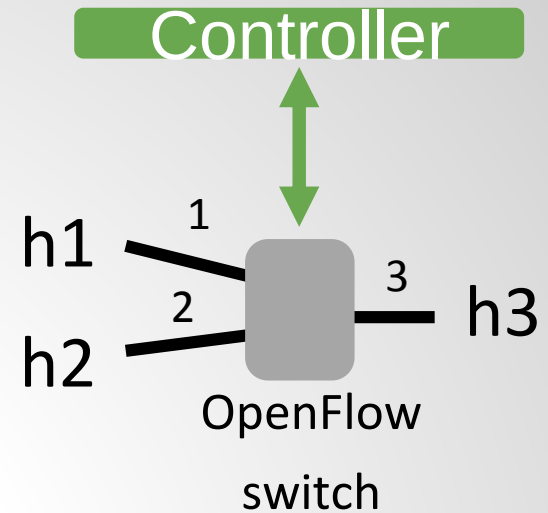
h1 sends to h2

Pattern	Action
dstmac=h1	Forward(1)
*	Send to controller

- What happens when h2 sends to h1?
 - Switch knows destination: message forwarded to h1
 - No controller interaction, **no new rule for h2**

Example: SDN MAC Learning Done Wrong

- Initial rule *: Send everything to controller



Pattern	Action
*	Send to controller

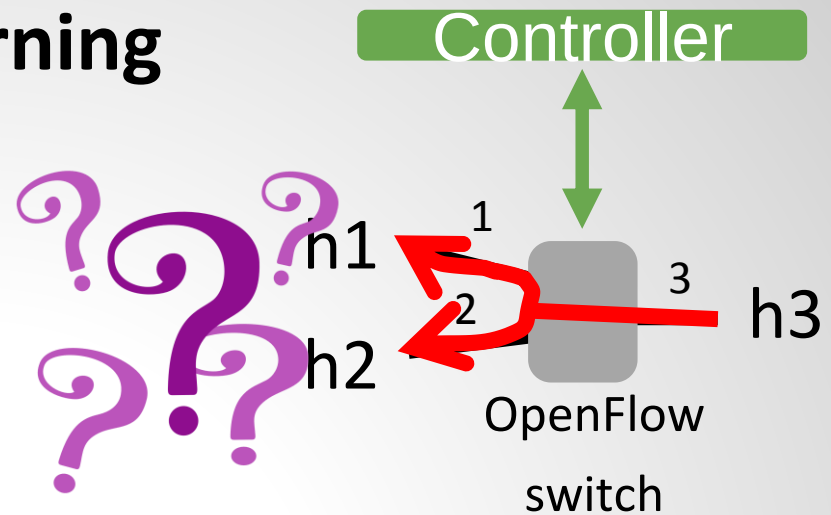
h1 sends to h2

Pattern	Action
dstmac=h1	Forward(1)
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- What happens when h2 sends to h1?
 - Switch knows destination: message forwarded to h1
 - No controller interaction, no new rule for h2
- What happens when **h3 sends to h2**?

Example: SDN MAC Learning Done Wrong

- Initial rule *: Send everything to controller



Pattern	Action
*	Send to controller

h1 sends to h2

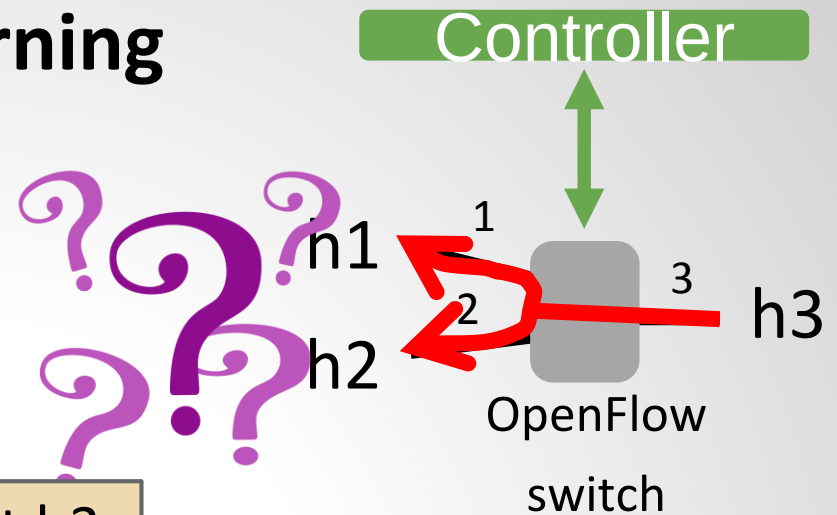
Pattern	Action
dstmac=h1	Forward(1)
*	Send to controller

- What happens when h2 sends to h1?
 - Switch knows destination: message forwarded to h1
 - No controller interaction, no new rule for h2
- What happens when h3 sends to h2?
 - Flooded! Controller did not put the rule to h2.

Example: SDN MAC Learning Done Wrong

- Initial rule *: Send

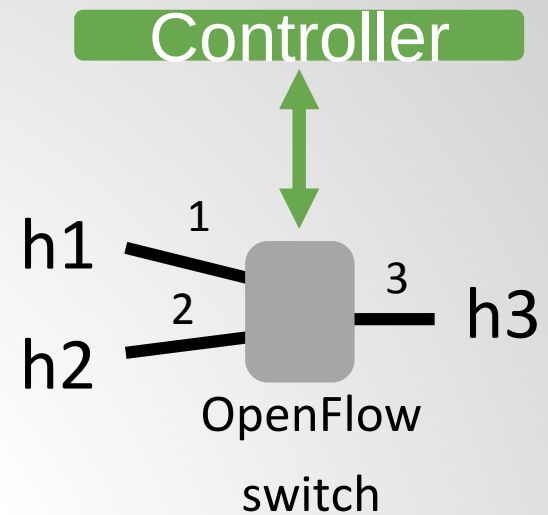
Controller however does learn about h3.
Then answer from h2 missed by
controller too: all future requests to h2
flooded?!?



Pattern	Action
dstmac=h1	Forward(1)
*	Send to controller

- What happens when h2 sends to h1?
 - Switch knows destination: message forwarded to h1
 - No controller interaction, no new rule for h2
- What happens when h3 sends to h2?
 - Flooded! Controller did not put the rule to h2!

Example: SDN MAC Learning Done Wrong



- ❑ Initial rule *: Send everything to controller

A bug in early controller software.
Hard to catch! A performance issue, not a consistency one
(arguably a key strength of SDN?).

- ❑ What happens when h2 sends to h1?
 - ❑ Switch knows destination: message forwarded to h1
 - ❑ No controller interaction, no new rule for h2
- ❑ What happens when h3 sends to h2?
 - ❑ Flooded! Controller did not put the rule to h2!