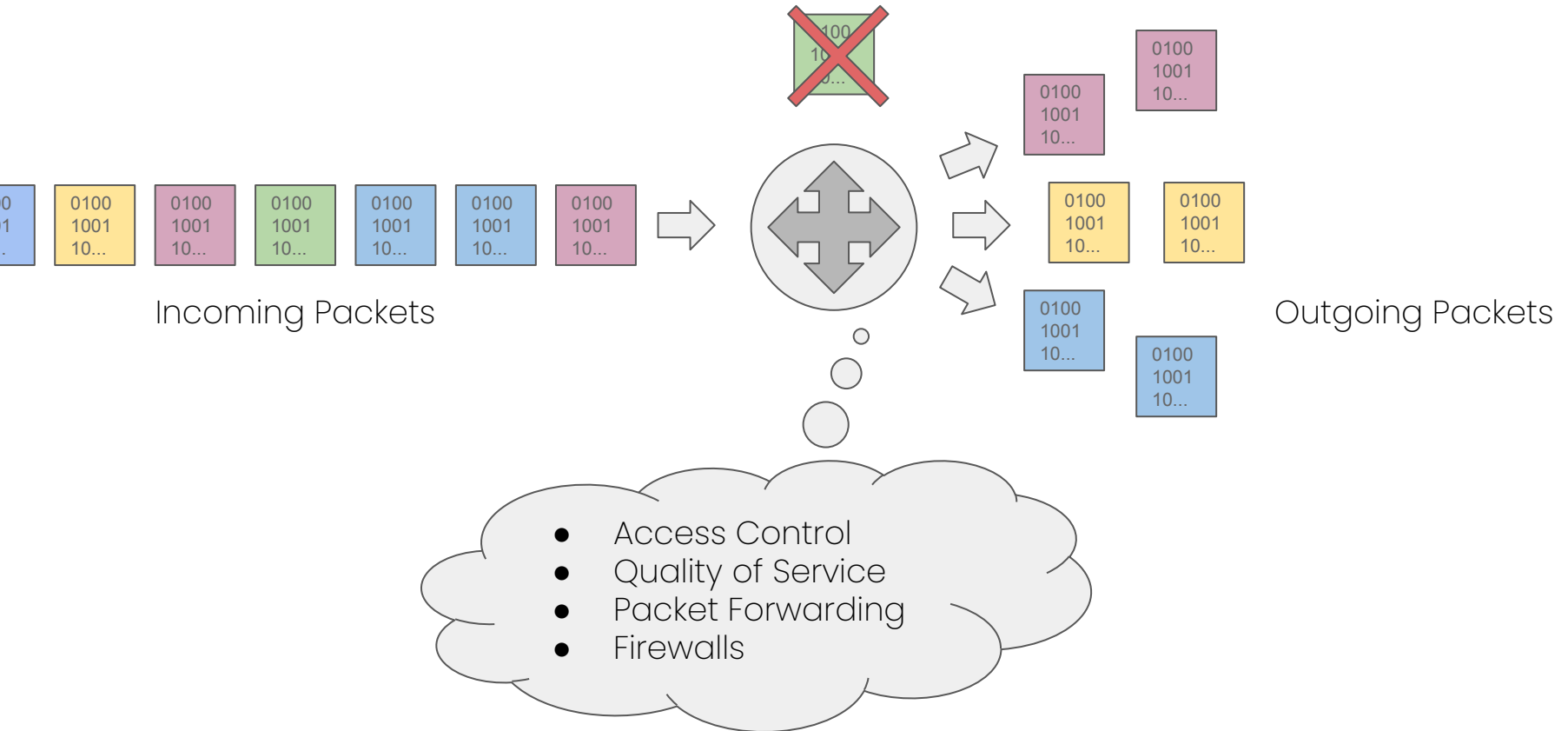


A Computational Approach to Packet Classification

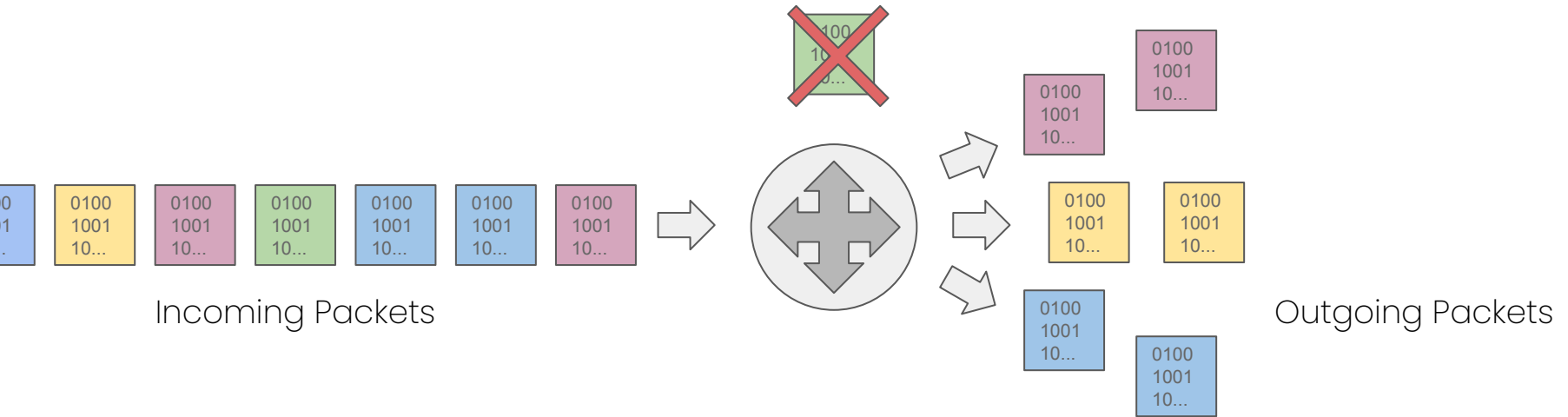
Alon Rashelbach Ori Rottenstreich Mark Silberstein
Technion, Israel

SIGCOMM 2020

A Brief about Packet Classification (1/3)

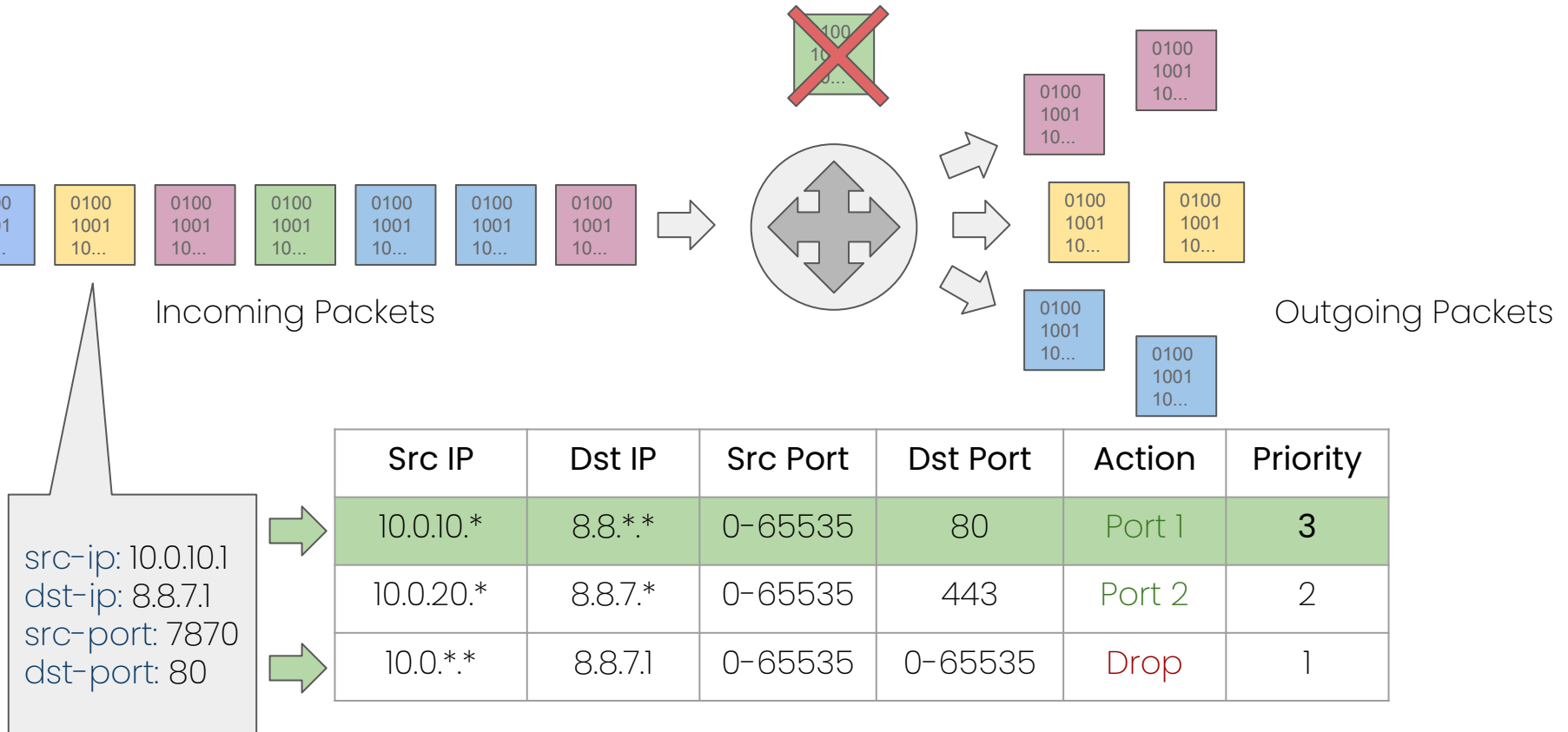


A Brief about Packet Classification (2/3)



Src IP	Dst IP	Src Port	Dst Port	Action	Priority
10.0.10.*	8.8.*.*	0-65535	80	Port 1	3
10.0.20.*	8.8.7.*	0-65535	443	Port 2	2
10.0.*.*	8.8.7.1	0-65535	0-65535	Drop	1

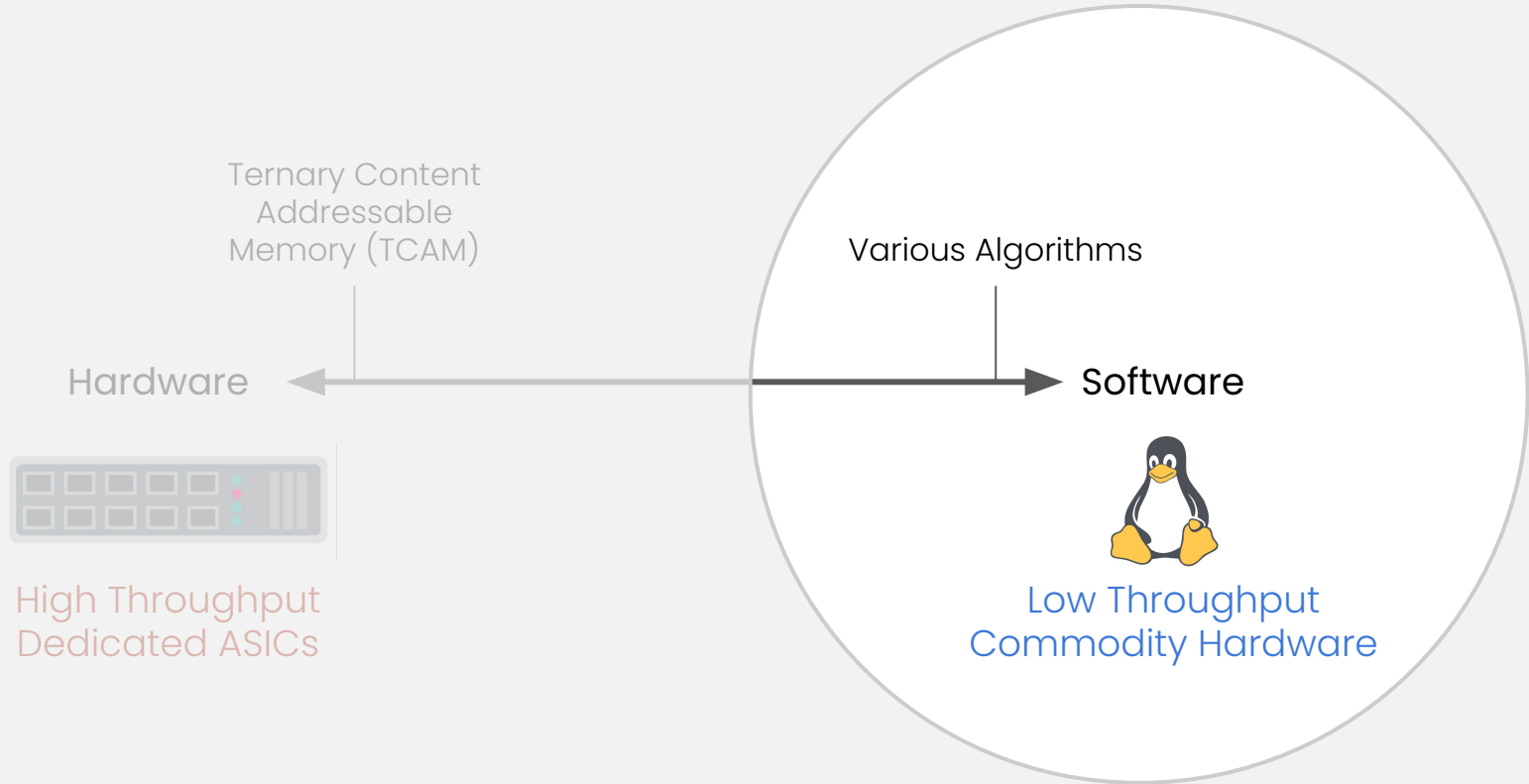
A Brief about Packet Classification (3/3)



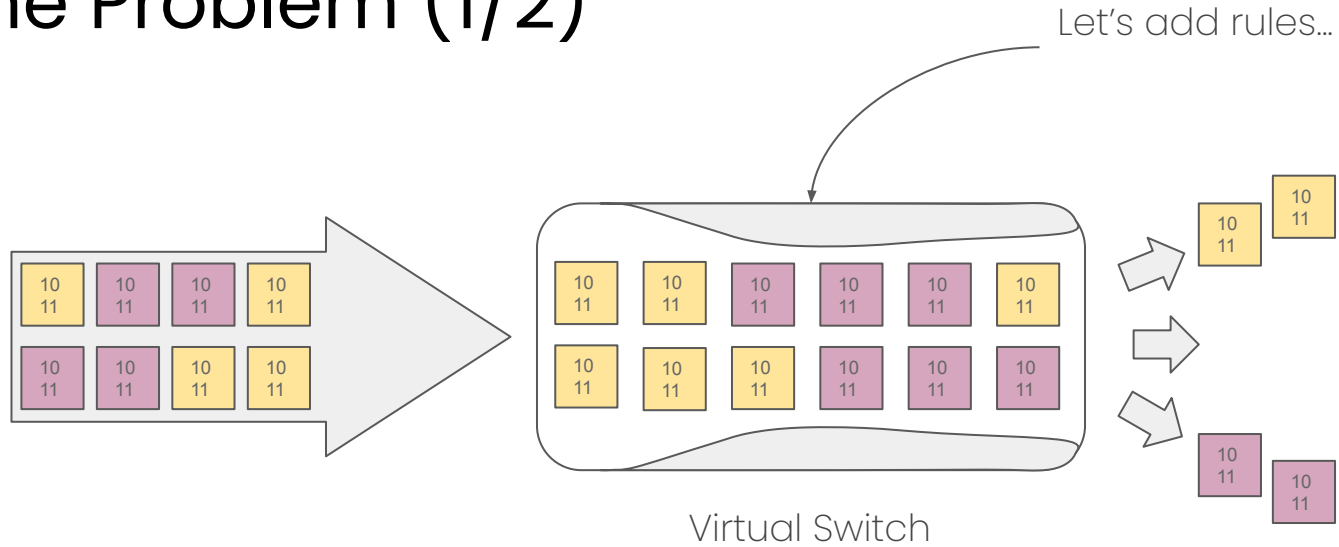
Hardware vs. Software



Hardware vs. Software

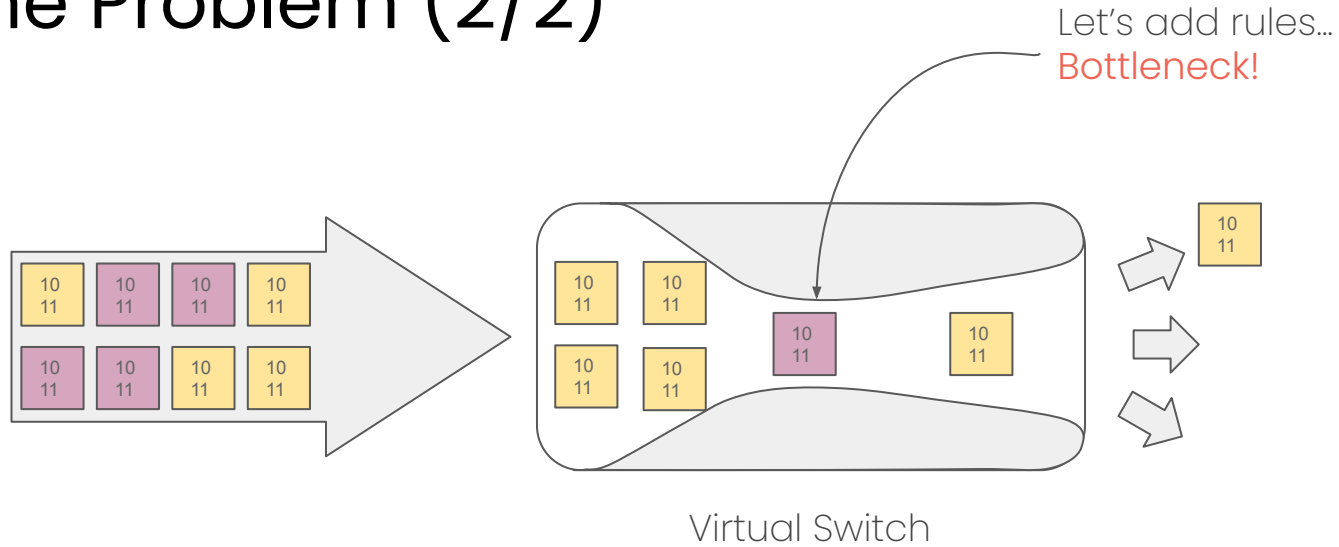


The Problem (1/2)



As we **add more rules** to virtual switches...

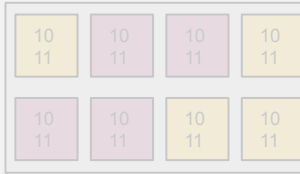
The Problem (2/2)



...we **lower** their throughput!

The Problem (2/2)

Let's add rules...
Bottleneck!

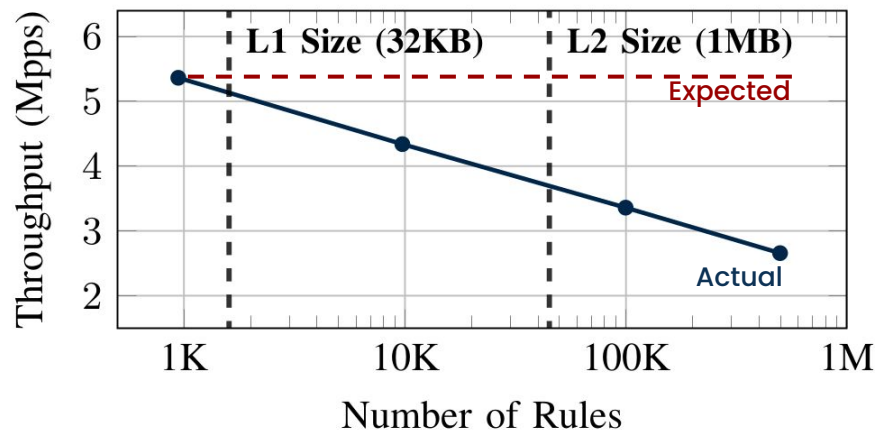
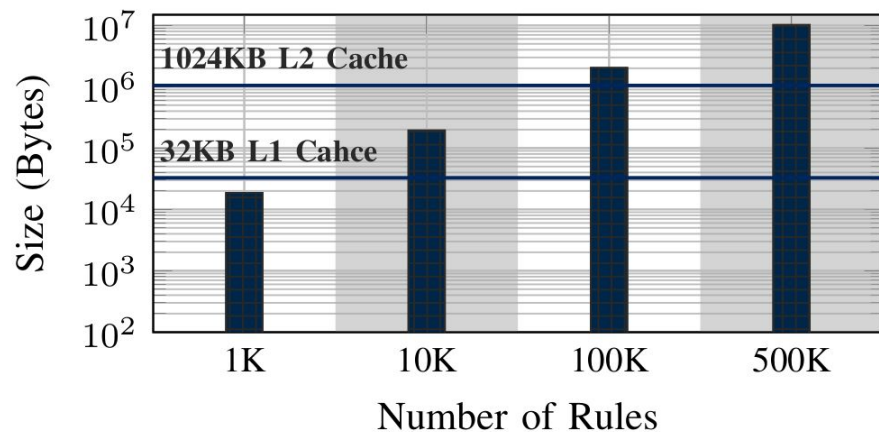


Large Rule Sets
Spill Out of **CPU Core Cache!**

Virtual Switch

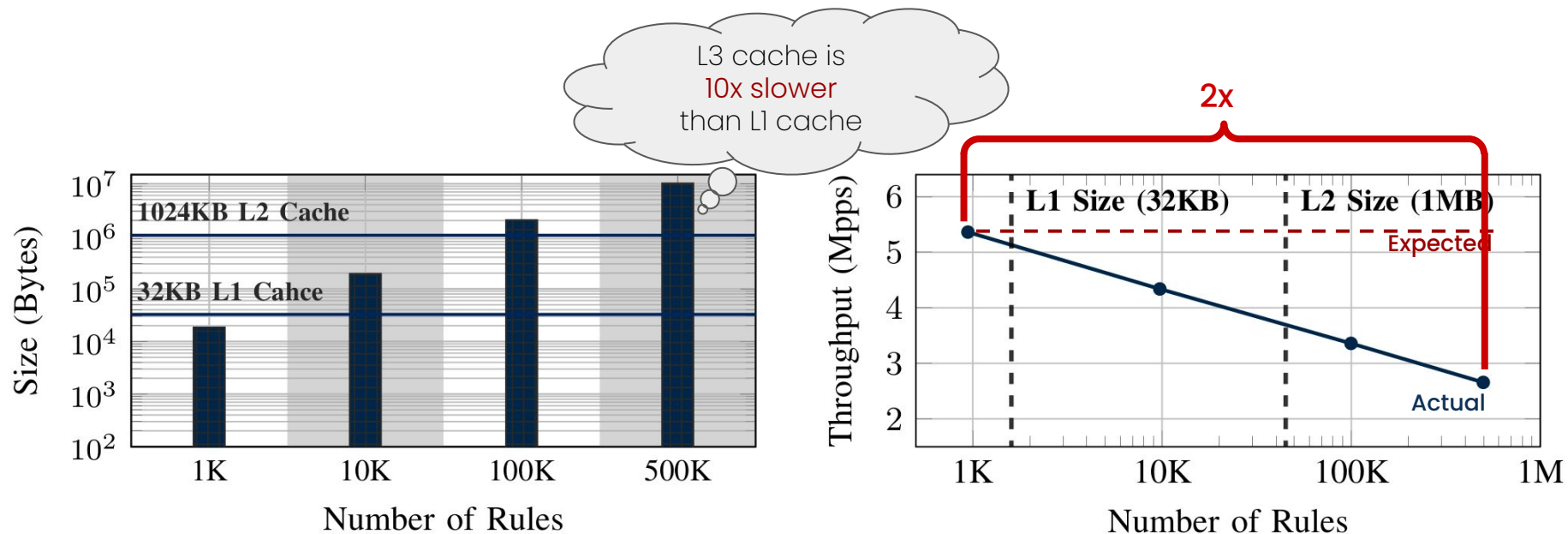
...we **lower** their throughput!

Large Rule Sets Spill Out of CPU Cache (1/2)



TupleMerge:
State-of-the-art

Large Rule Sets Spill Out of CPU Cache (2/2)



TupleMerge:
State-of-the-art

Observations

1. The rule space is **sparse**
2. **L3 Cache** and **DRAM** access time is the major bottleneck
3. Hardware trends towards **commodity accelerators**

Observations

1. The ru

Let's trade

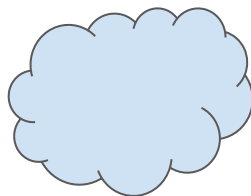
memory accesses for computations

2. L3 Ca

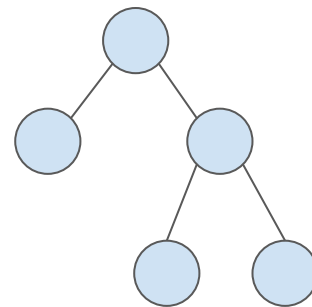
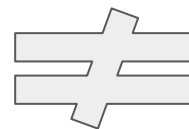
3. Hardware trends towards commodity accelerators

Recursive Model Index (RMI) (1/5)

Key	Value
56	value0
60	value1
68	value2
71	value3
80	value4



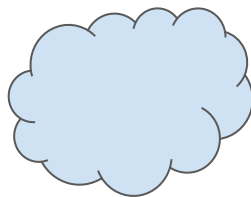
Model



Btree

Recursive Model Index (RMI) (1/5)

Key	Value
56	value0
60	value1
68	value2
71	value3
80	value4

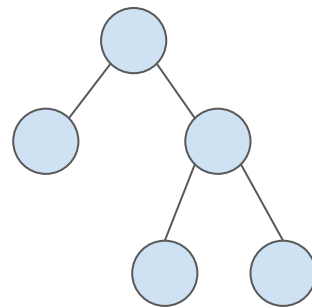
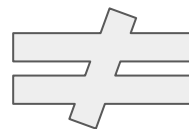


Model

0.15 MB

Neural Network Inference

98ns per lookup



Btree

13 MB

Tree Traversal

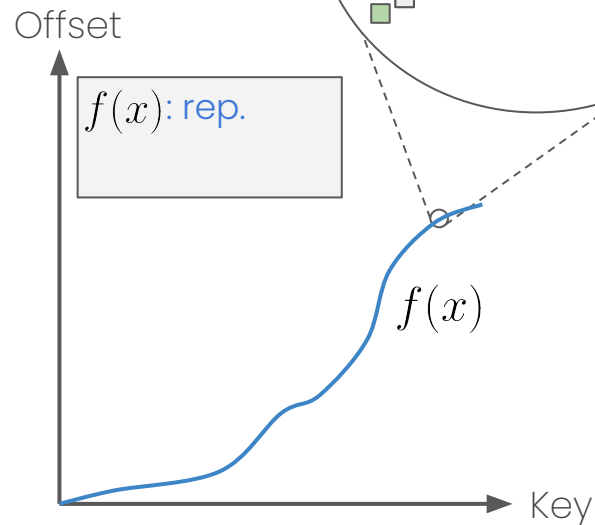
256ns per lookup



2.7x lookup performance in databases

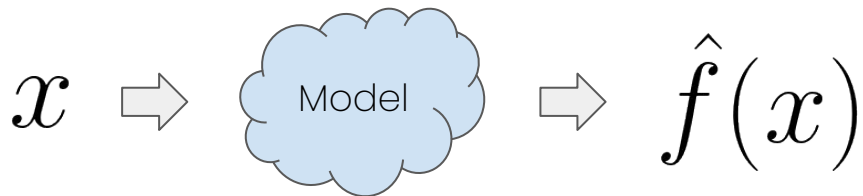
Recursive Model Index (RMI) (2/5)

	Mem Offset	Key	Value
■	100	56	value0
	101	60	value1
	102	68	value2
■	103	71	value3
	104	80	value4
	105	87	value5
■	106	93	value6
	107	100	value7
	108	101	value8
■	109	117	value9



$$\text{IndexedKeys} = \{ \text{■} \text{■} \text{■} \text{■} \}$$

Recursive Model Index (RMI) (3/5)

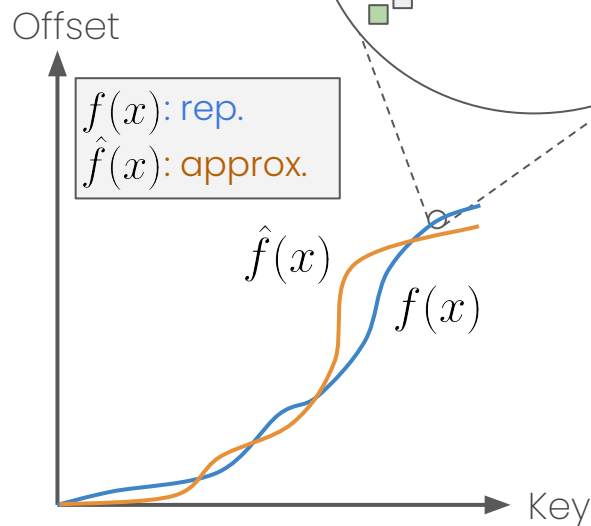


Max Approximation Error

$$|f(x) - \hat{f}(x)| < \epsilon$$

$$x \in Keys$$

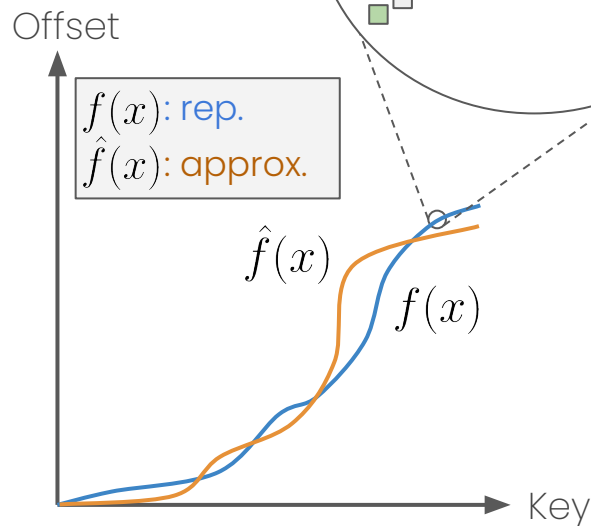
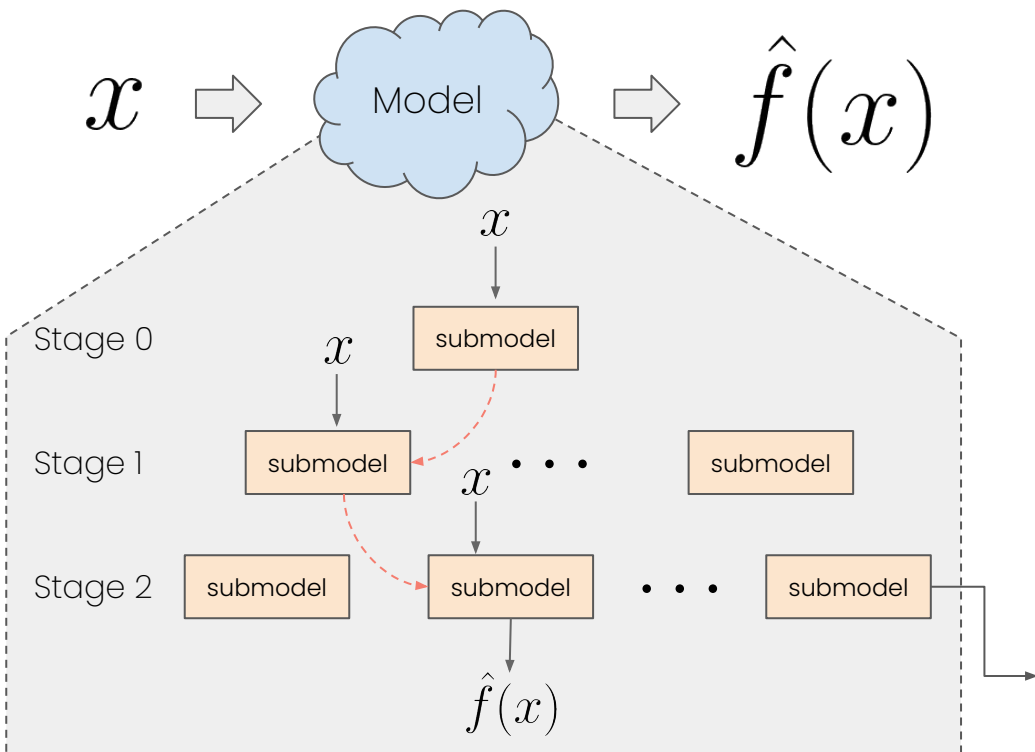
Exhaustive Scan Over All Keys



Train model using

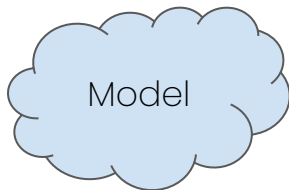
$$IndexedKeys = \{ \text{green square} \text{ teal square} \text{ blue square} \text{ purple square} \}$$

Recursive Model Index (RMI) (4/5)



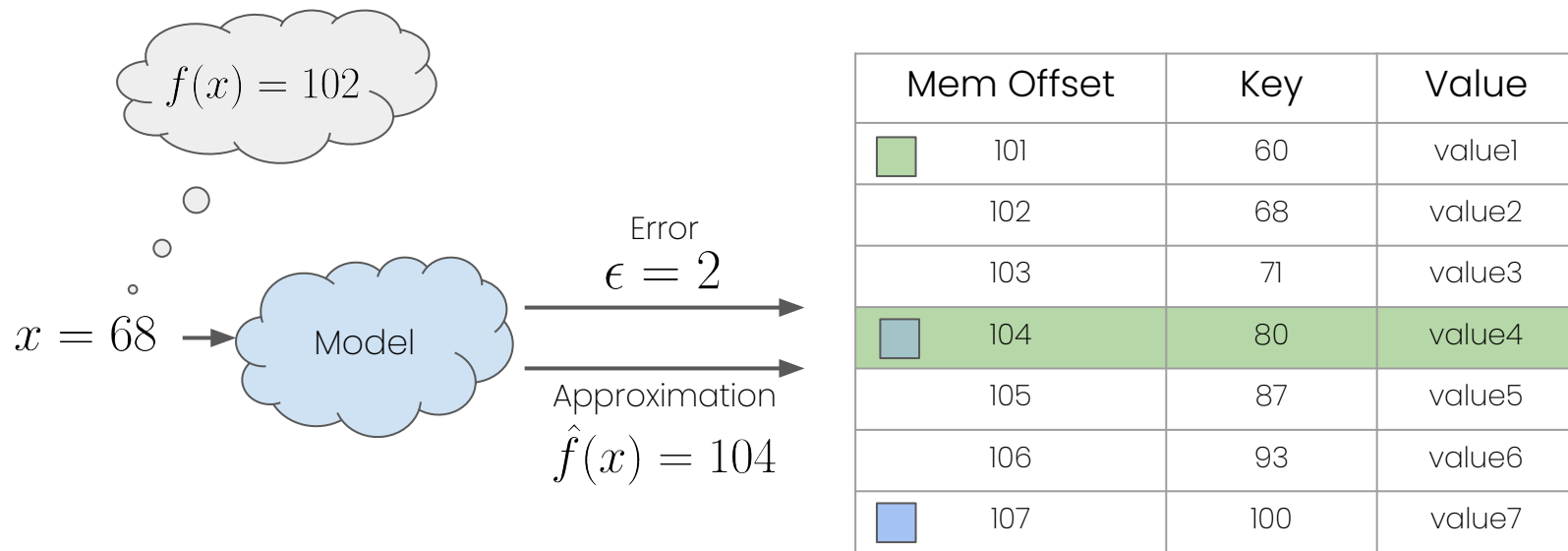
- Configurable:
1. Neural Network
 2. B-Tree

Recursive Model Index (RMI) (5/5)

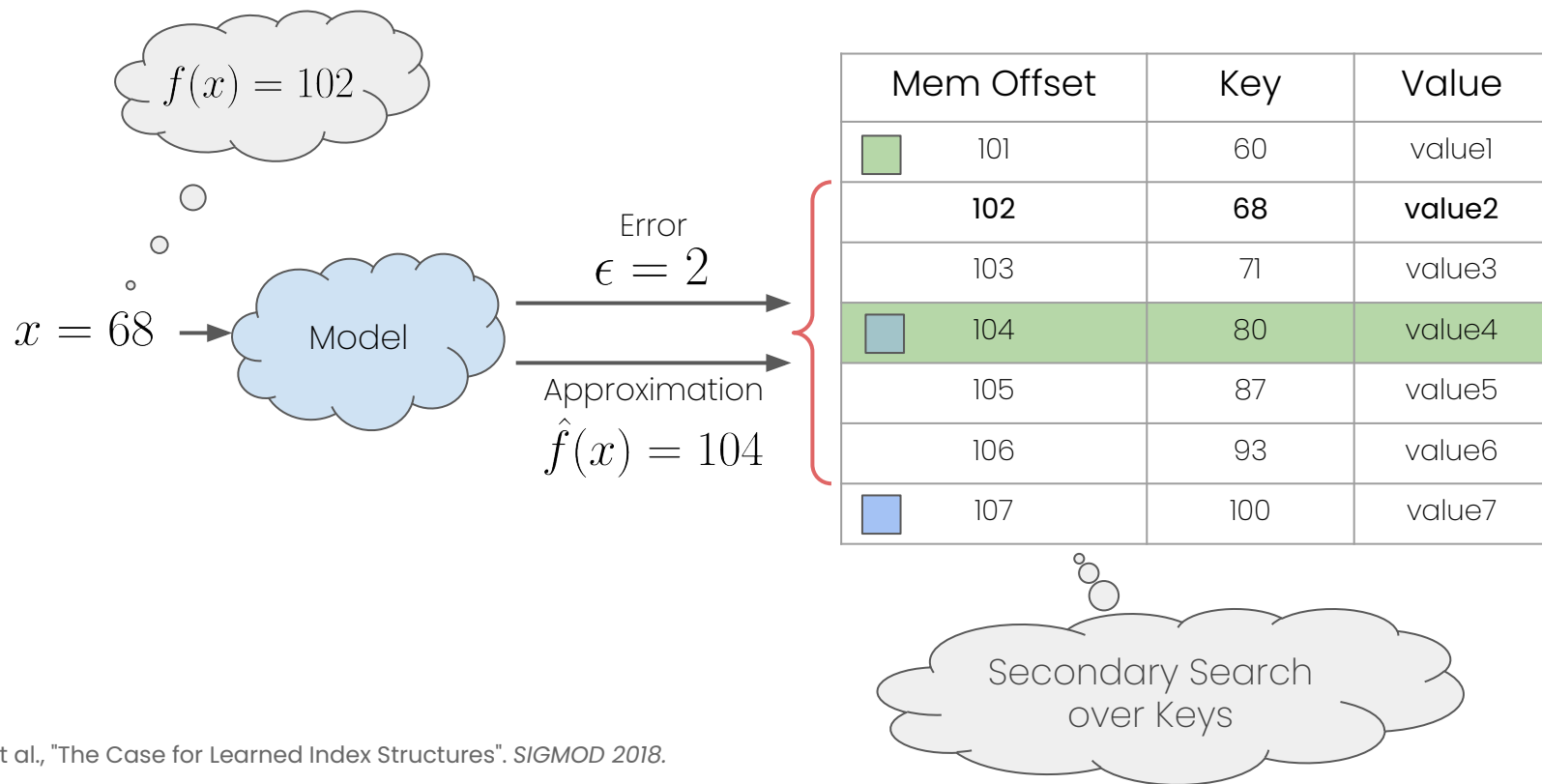


Mem Offset	Key	Value
 101	60	value1
102	68	value2
103	71	value3
 104	80	value4
105	87	value5
106	93	value6
 107	100	value7

Recursive Model Index (RMI) (5/5)



Recursive Model Index (RMI) (5/5)



RMI is Not Enough for Packet Classification!

Mem Offset	dst-ip	Action
0	127.0.0.1	value0
1	127.0.0.*	value1
2	8.8.*.*	value2

•
:

100	3.*.*.*	value3
-----	---------	--------



RMI does not support wildcards

RMI is Not Enough for Packet Classification!

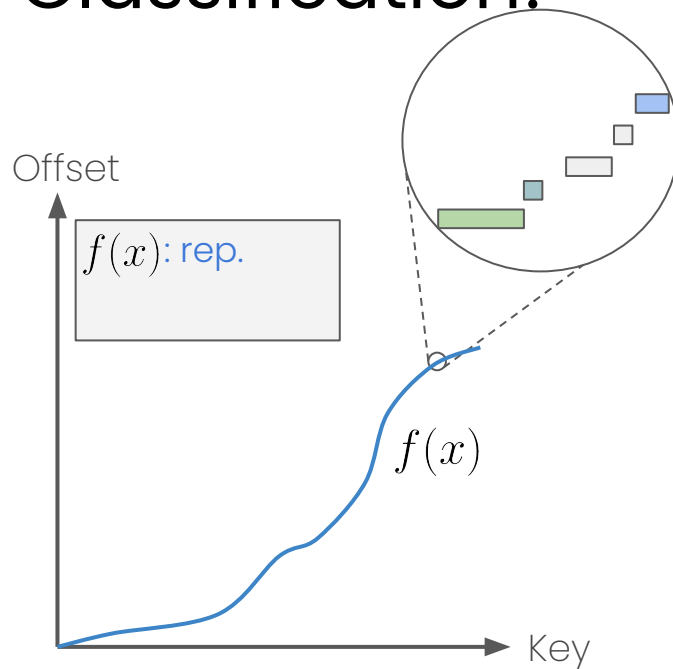
Mem Offset	dst-ip	Action
0	127.0.0.1	value0
1	127.0.0.*	value1
2	8.8.*.*	value2

•
⋮

100	3.*.*.*	value3
-----	---------	--------



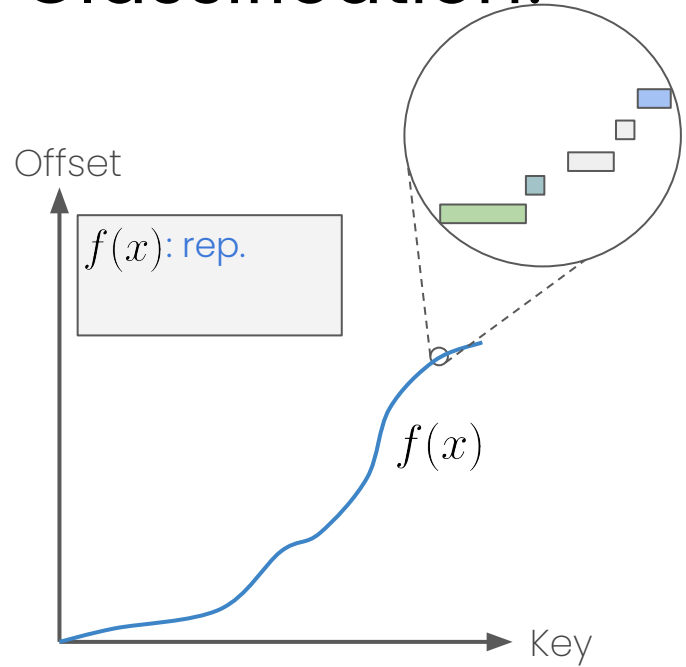
RMI does not support wildcards



RMI is Not Enough for Packet Classification!

	Mem Offset	dst-ip	Action
	0	127.0.0.1	value0
	1	127.0.0.*	value1
	2	8.8.*.*	value2
• ⋮			
	100	3.*.*.*	value3

RMI does not support wildcards



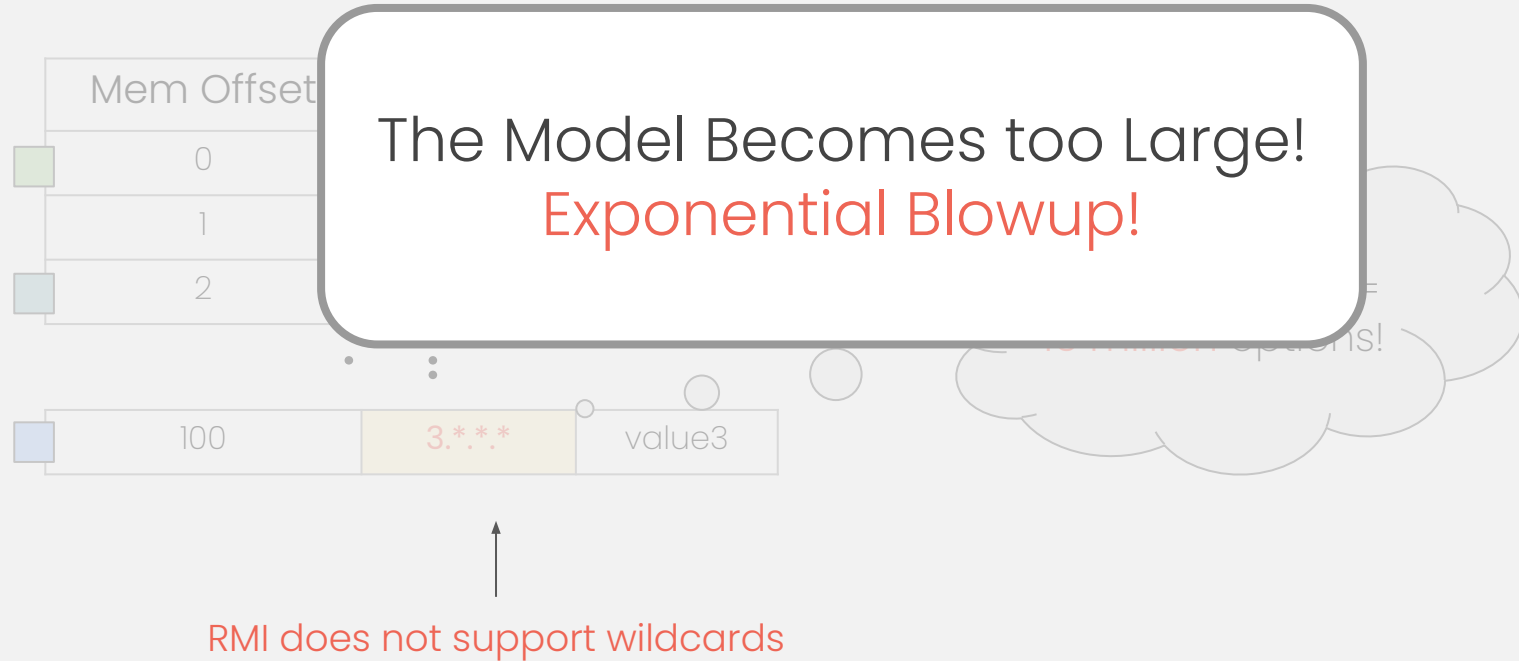
RMI is Not Enough for Packet Classification!

Mem Offset	dst-ip	Action
0	127.0.0.1	value0
1	127.0.0.*	value1
2	8.8.*.*	value2
...		
100	3.*.*.*	value3

RMI does not support wildcards

$256 * 256 * 256 =$
16 million options!

RMI is Not Enough for Packet Classification!



Our Solution – ...

1. Fields contain **wildcards**
2. Rules may **overlap** in one or more fields
3. Rules have **high dimensionality**

Our Solution – Range-Query RMI Models

1. ~~Fields contain wildcards~~ ← Approximate ranges instead of keys
2. Rules may overlap in one or more fields
3. Rules have high dimensionality

Our Solution – Range-Query RMI Models

- 1. ~~Fields contain wildcards~~ ← Approximate ranges instead of keys
 - 2. ~~Rules may overlap in one or more fields~~
 - 3. ~~Rules have high dimensionality~~
- } Efficient rule-partitioning

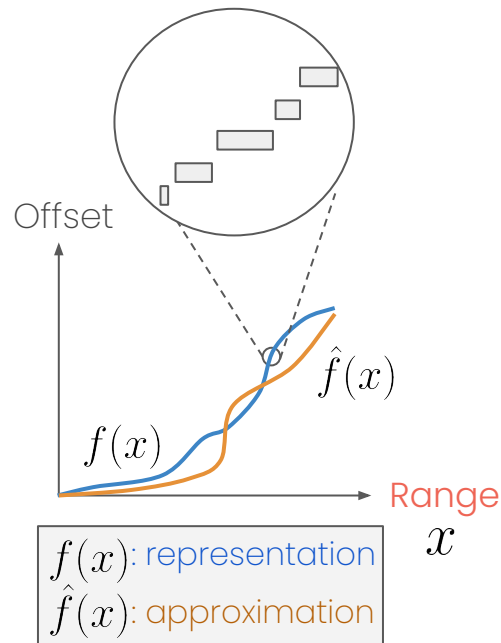
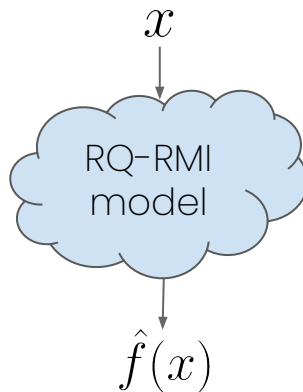
Our Solution – Range-Query RMI Models

- 1. ~~Fields contain wildcards~~ ← Approximate ranges instead of keys
 - 2. ~~Rules may overlap in one or more fields~~
 - 3. ~~Rules have high dimensionality~~
- } Efficient rule-partitioning

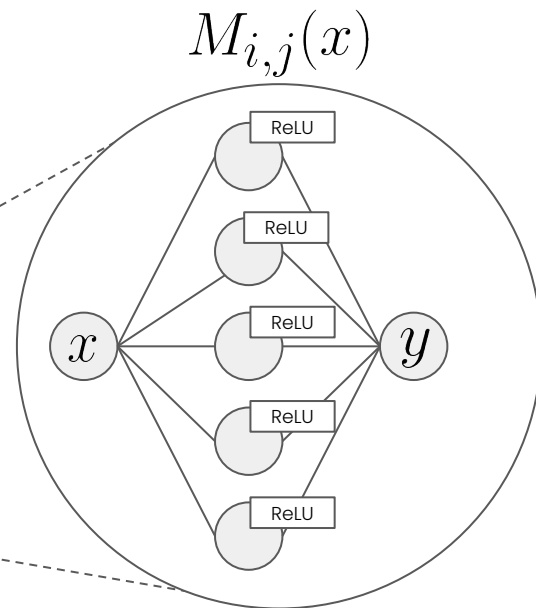
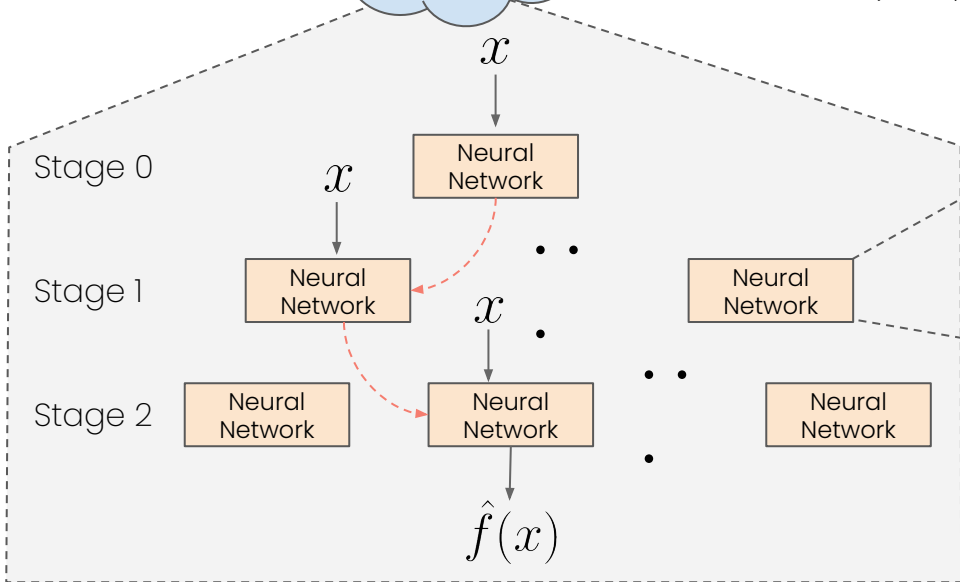
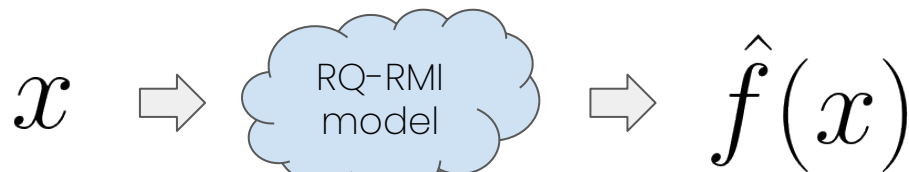
Training and lookup are efficient and fast

Handling Wildcards: Range-Query RMI (1/4)

Range	Value
0-70	600
• ⋮	
80-104	125

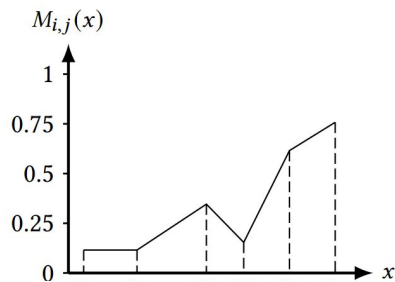


Handling Wildcards: Range-Query RMI (2/4)



Regression using a shallow neural network

Handling Wildcards: Range-Query RMI (3/4)



A bounded approximation error
is guaranteed

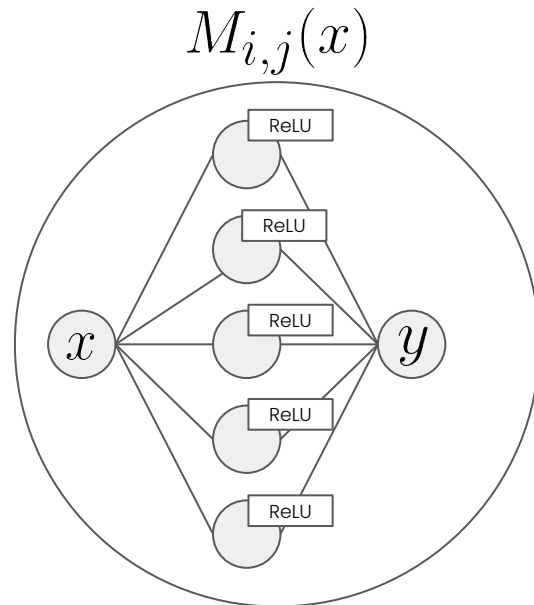
$$|f(x) - \hat{f}(x)| < \epsilon$$

For the entire input domain!

$$\forall x$$



Neural networks with
ReLU activations are
piecewise linear
functions



Handling Wildcards: Range-Query RMI (4/4)

1. Enables wildcard matching!



See paper for
details

2. Effective training technique!

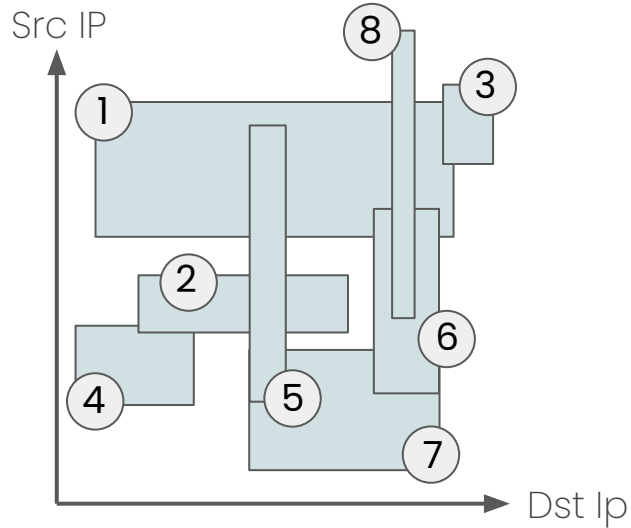


See paper for
proofs

3. Correctness guarantees!

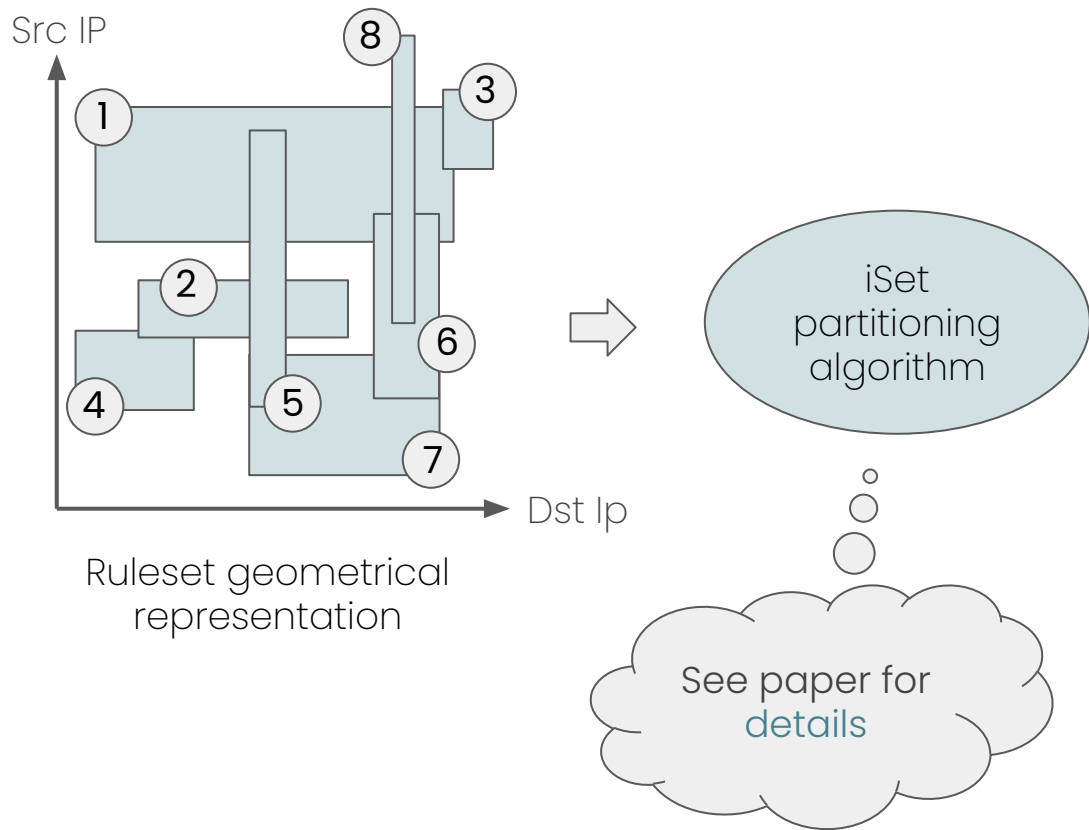


Handling Overlaps + Dimensionality: iSets (1/5)

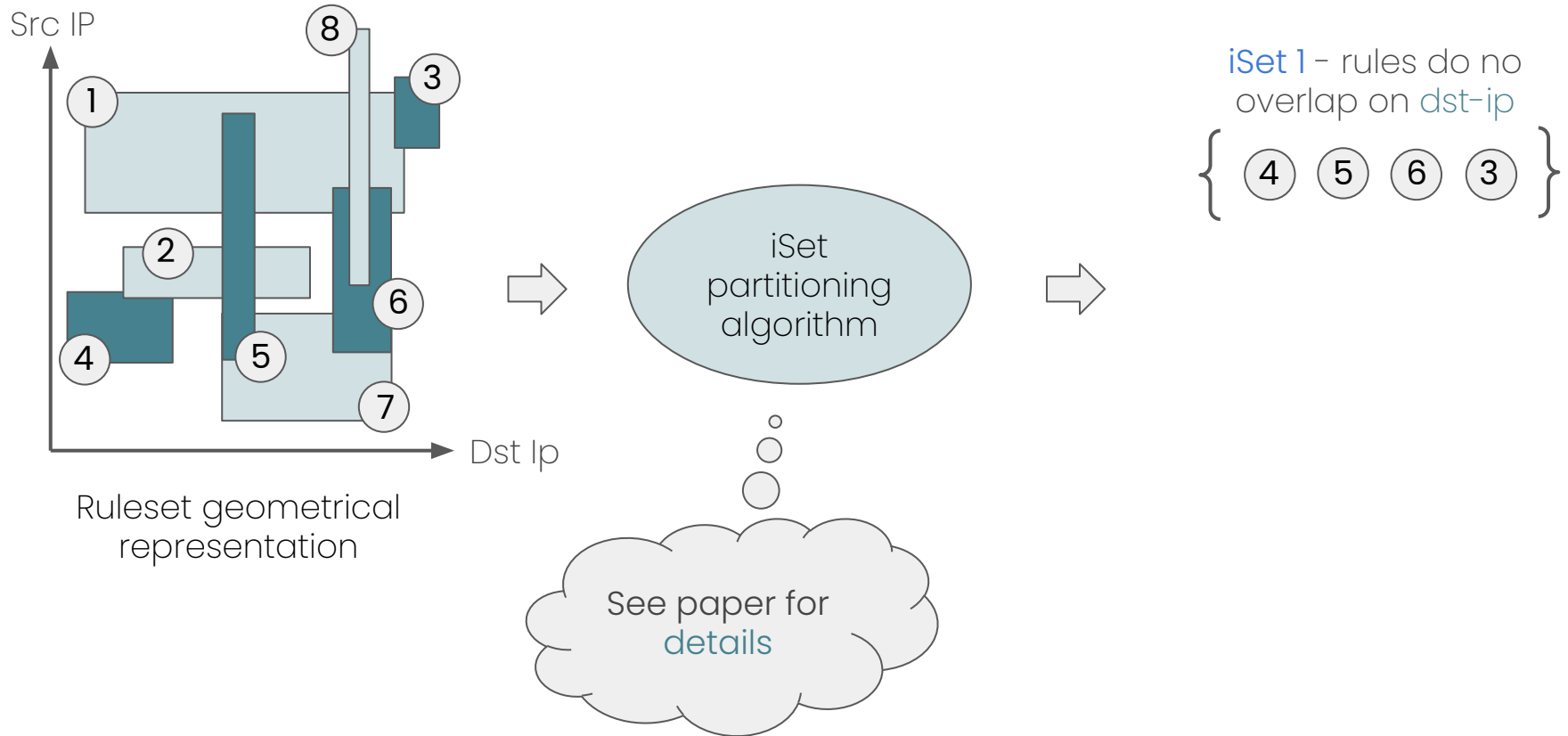


Ruleset geometrical
representation

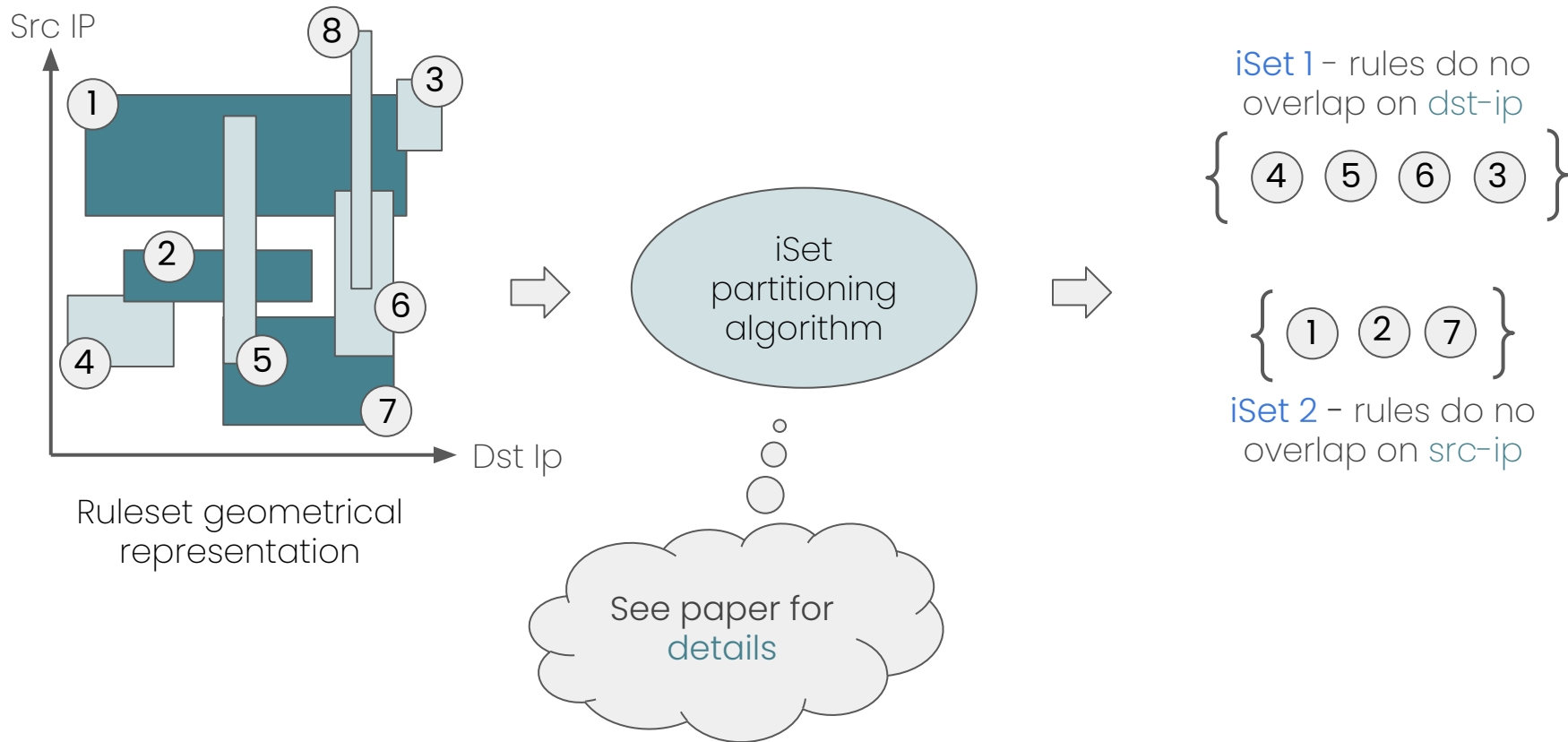
Handling Overlaps + Dimensionality: iSets (1/5)



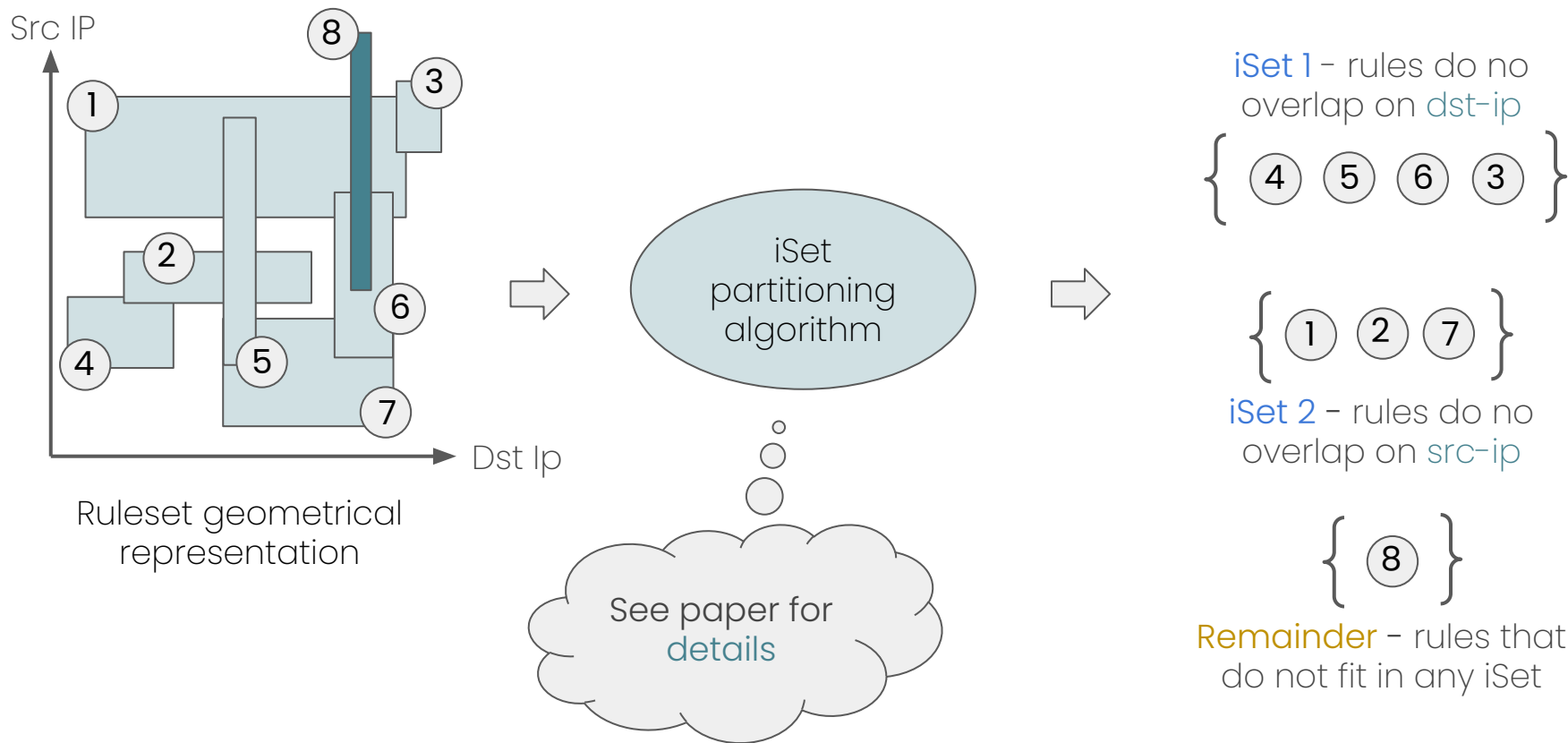
Handling Overlaps + Dimensionality: iSets (1/5)



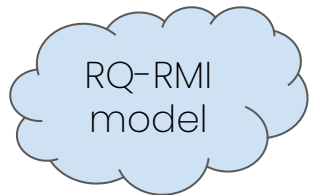
Handling Overlaps + Dimensionality: iSets (1/5)



Handling Overlaps + Dimensionality: iSets (1/5)



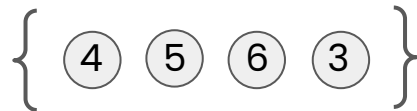
Handling Overlaps + Dimensionality: iSets (2/5)



dst-IP	Index within iSet
0-60	1
• ⋮	
80-670	4



iSet 1 – rules do no overlap on dst-ip



iSet 2 – rules do no overlap on src-ip



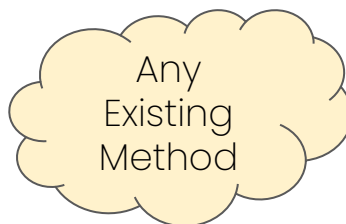
Remainder – rules that do not fit in any iSet

Each iSet can be approximated using an RQ-RMI model

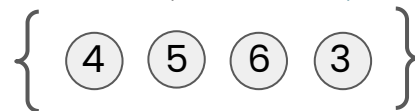
Handling Overlaps + Dimensionality: iSets

(3/5)

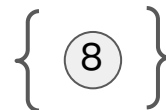
The **remainder set** is
handled by any
classification method



iSet 1 – rules do no
overlap on **dst-ip**



iSet 2 – rules do no
overlap on **src-ip**



Remainder – rules that
do not fit in any iSet

Handling Overlaps + Dimensionality: iSets

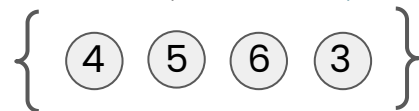
(4/5)

RQ-RMI solves the problem for
a single field.

What about all other fields?



iSet 1 – rules do no
overlap on dst-ip

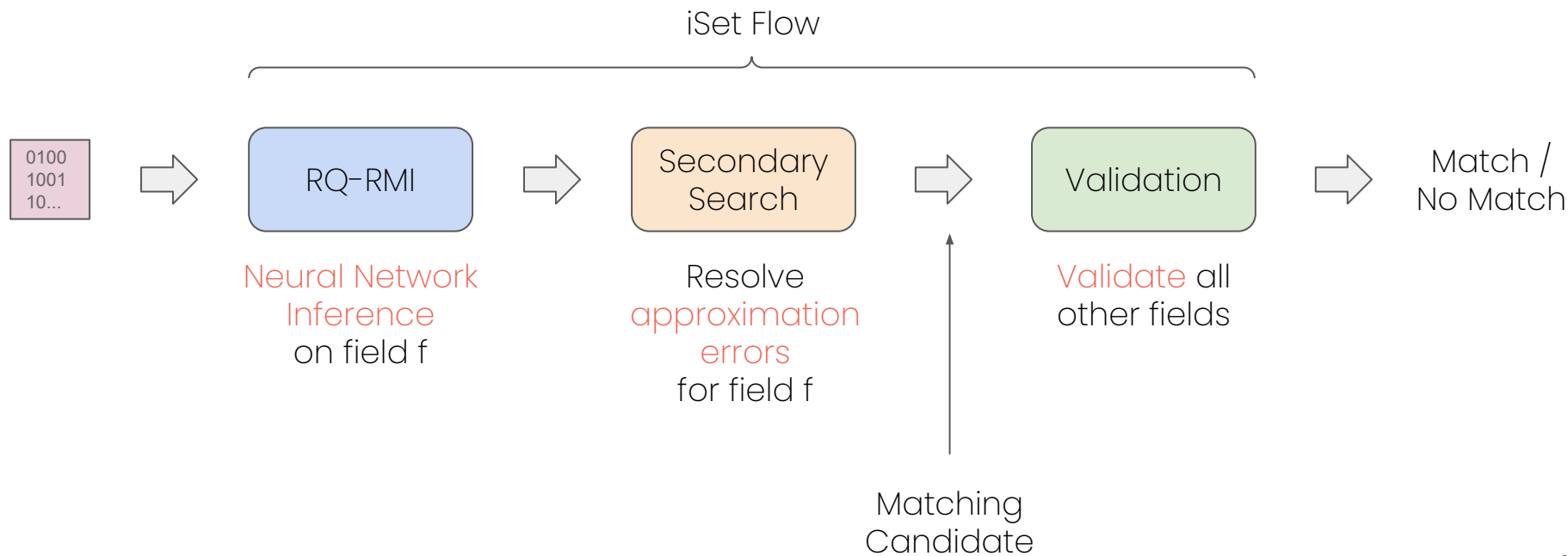


iSet 2 – rules do no
overlap on src-ip



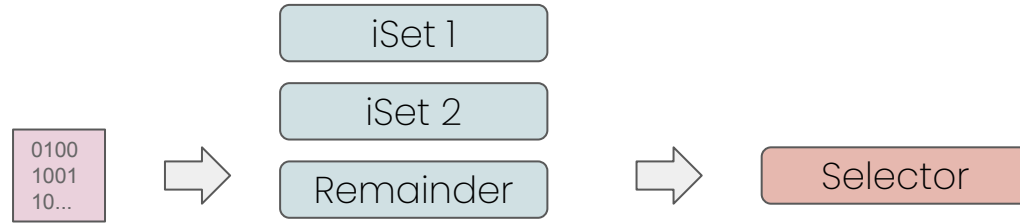
Remainder – rules that
do not fit in any iSet

Handling Overlaps + Dimensionality: iSets (4/5)



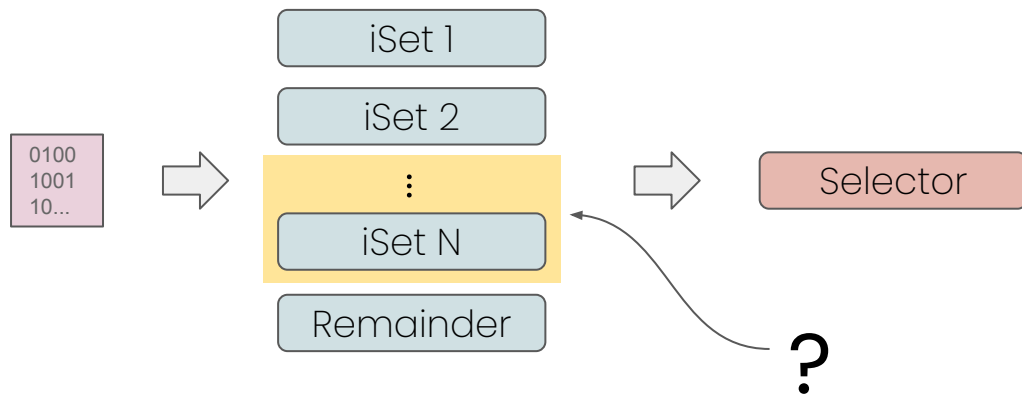
Handling Overlaps + Dimensionality: iSets

(5/5)



Handling Overlaps + Dimensionality: iSets

(5/5)



The iSet Tradeoff (1/2)

iSet coverage is high for large rulesets!

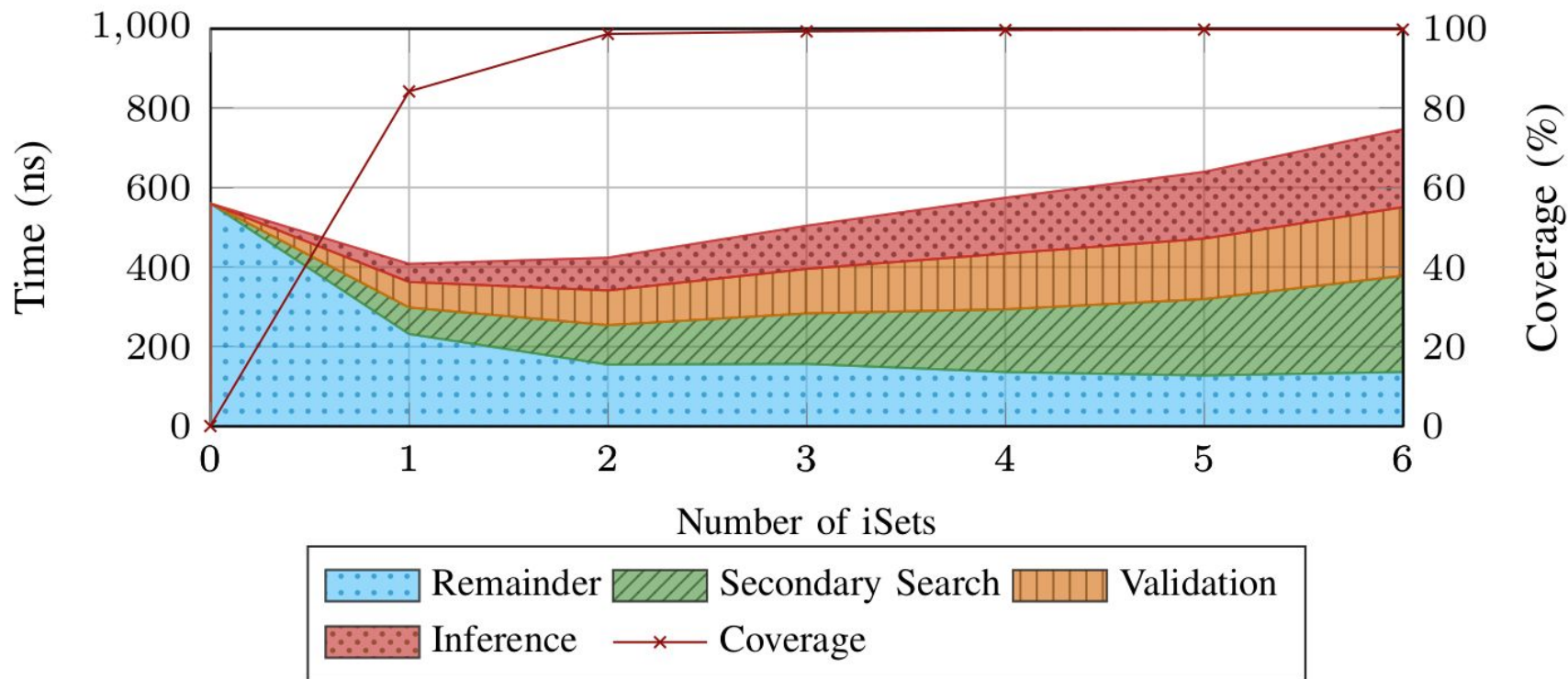
Ruleset Size	1 iSet	2 iSets	3 iSets	4 iSets
1K	20.2 ± 18.6	28.9 ± 22.3	34.6 ± 25.6	38.7 ± 27.2
10K	45.1 ± 31.6	59.6 ± 38.9	62.6 ± 37.1	65.1 ± 35.7
100K	80.0 ± 14.5	96.5 ± 8.3	98.1 ± 4.8	98.8 ± 2.7
500K	84.2 ± 10.5	98.8 ± 1.5	99.4 ± 0.6	99.7 ± 0.2
183,376	57.8	91.6	96.5	98.2

The iSet Tradeoff (1/2)

iSet coverage is high for large rulesets!

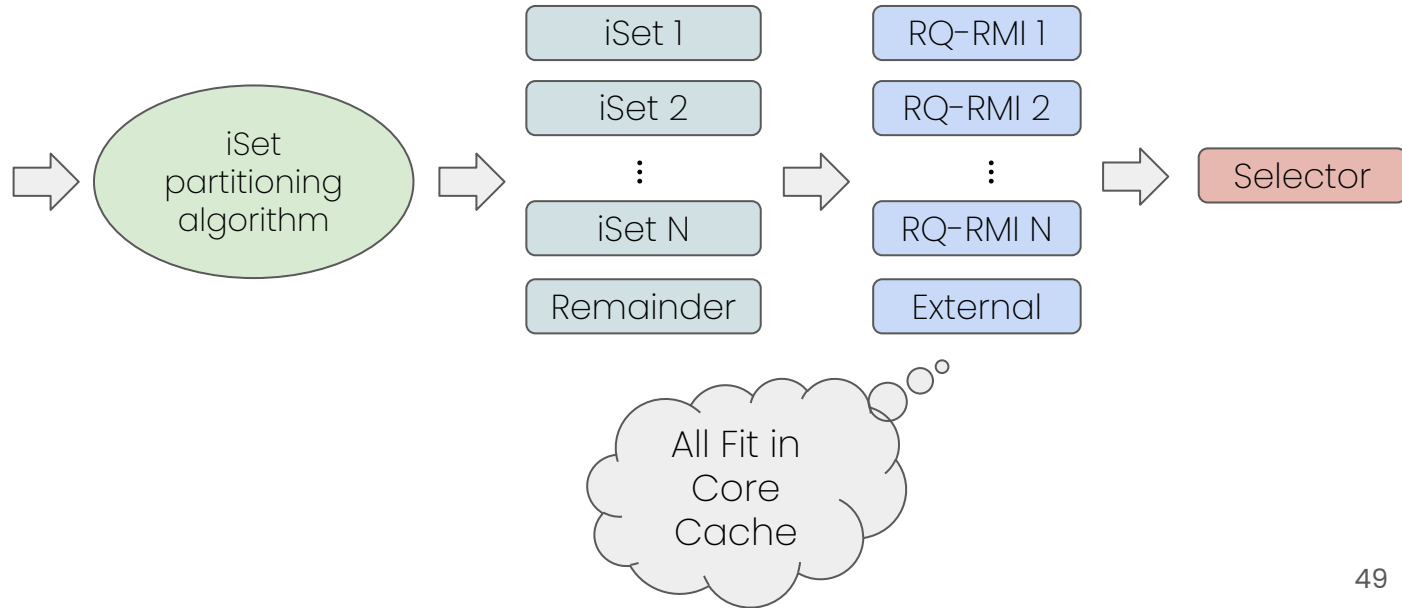
Ruleset Size	1 iSet	2 iSets	3 iSets	4 iSets
1K	20.2 ± 18.6	28.9 ± 22.3	34.6 ± 25.6	38.7 ± 27.2
10K	45.1 ± 31.6	59.6 ± 38.9	62.6 ± 37.1	65.1 ± 35.7
100K	80.0 ± 14.5	96.5 ± 8.3	98.1 ± 4.8	98.8 ± 2.7
500K	84.2 ± 10.5	98.8 ± 1.5	99.4 ± 0.6	99.7 ± 0.2
183,376	57.8	91.6	96.5	98.2

The iSet Tradeoff (2/2)

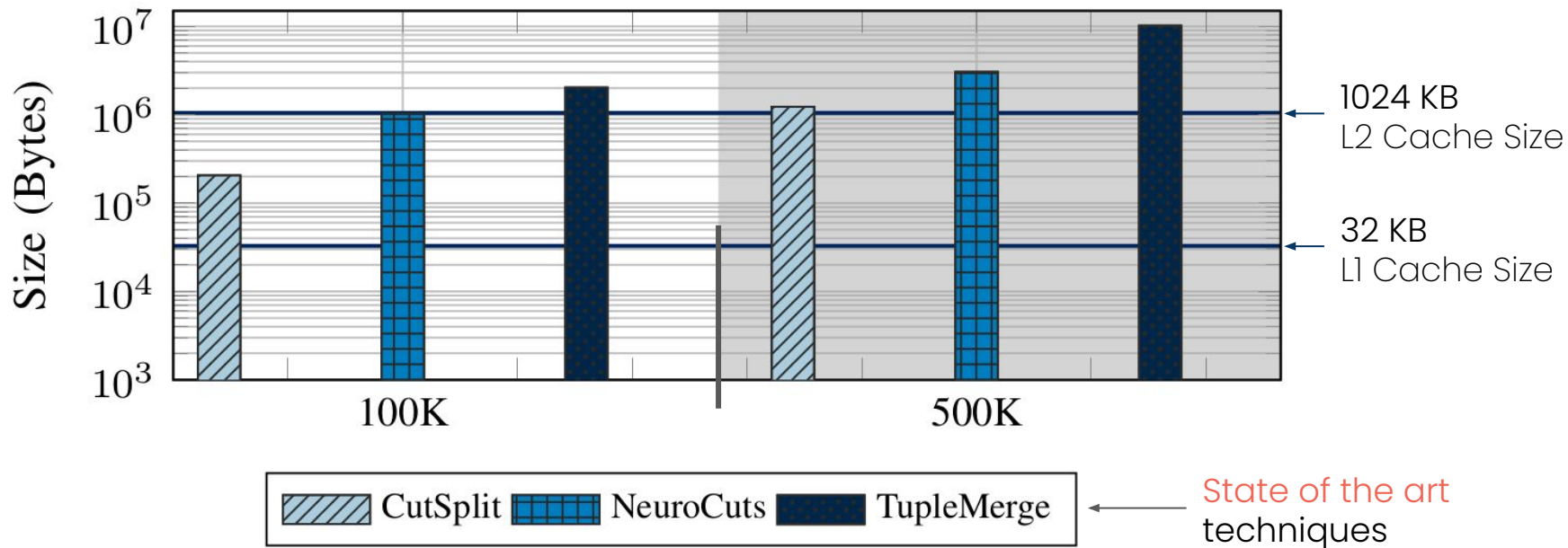


NuevoMatch: Putting it All Together

Src IP	Dst IP	Port
10.0.10.*	8.8.*.*	0-80
10.0.20.*	8.8.7.*	443
10.0.*.*	8.8.7.1	*
55.0.0.*	3.3.*.*	22



Can We Fit in L2 Cache? (1/2)



(*) Li et al., "CutSplit: A Decision Tree Combining Cutting and Splitting for Scalable Packet Classification". *INFOCOM 2018*.

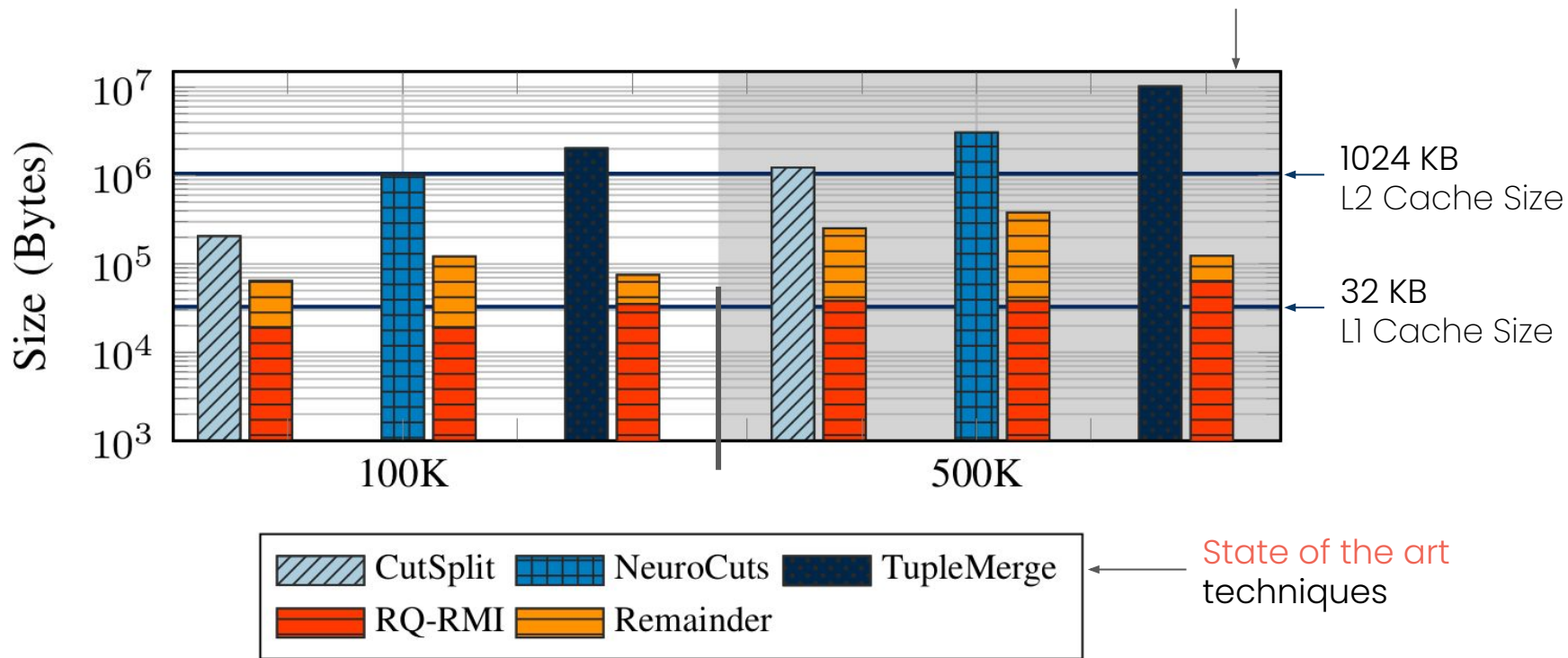
(*) Liang et al., "Neural Packet Classification". *SIGCOMM 2019*.

(*) Daly et al., "TupleMerge: Fast Software Packet Processing for online Packet Classification". *TON 2019*.

(*) Taylor et al., "Classbench: A Packet Classification Benchmark". *TON 2007*.

Can We Fit in L2 Cache? (2/2)

Geomean compression factor of 4.9x, 8x, 82x



State of the art techniques

- (*) Li et al., "CutSplit: A Decision Tree Combining Cutting and Splitting for Scalable Packet Classification". *INFOCOM 2018*.
- (*) Liang et al., "Neural Packet Classification". *SIGCOMM 2019*.
- (*) Daly et al., "TupleMerge: Fast Software Packet Processing for online Packet Classification". *TON 2019*.
- (*) Taylor et al., "Classbench: A Packet Classification Benchmark". *TON 2007*.

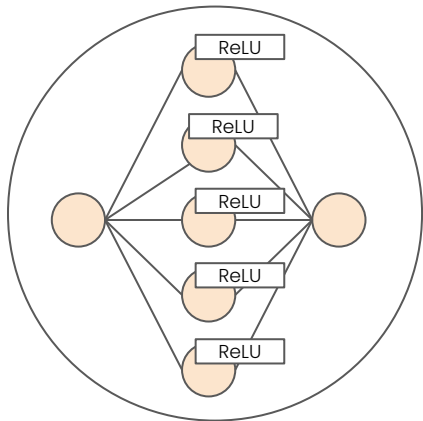
Isn't Neural Network Inference Slow?

Not if you...

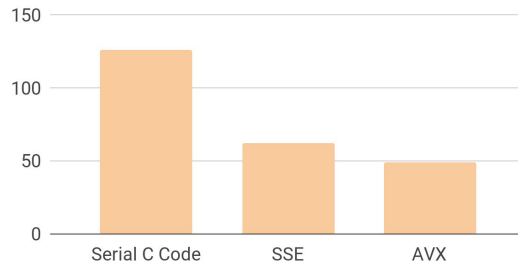
Use **Small and Shallow**
Neural Networks



Use **Wide Vector**
Instructions



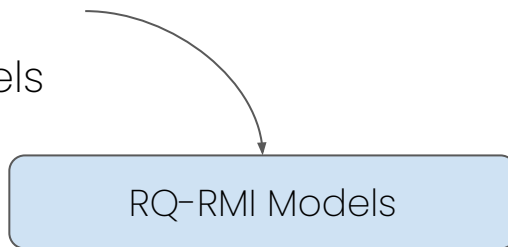
Inference Time in Nano-Seconds



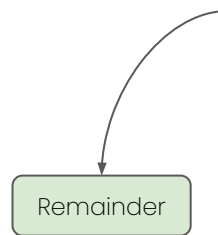
40-50 ns on a **CPU!**

What About Updates? (1/2)

We easily can
remove rules
from the models



New rules get
into the
remainder



We **retrain the models** after a certain
threshold in the number of new rules.

What About Updates? (2/2)

RQ-RMI Models

Remainder

Training with TensorFlow takes between

10-40 min on a CPU

TensorFlow has many overheads

In our ongoing work we currently reach

1-20 seconds on a CPU

using native implementation

Evaluation

End-to-end performance

- Single-core vs. multi-core settings
- Small vs. large rule sets
- Traffic with uniform / skewed temporal locality
- Memory footprint comparison
- Performance under L3 cache contention
- Real-world forwarding rules

Performance analysis

- iSet Coverage
- Impact of the number of iSets
- Partitioning effectiveness
- Training time and search bounds
- Performance with many fields

Evaluation

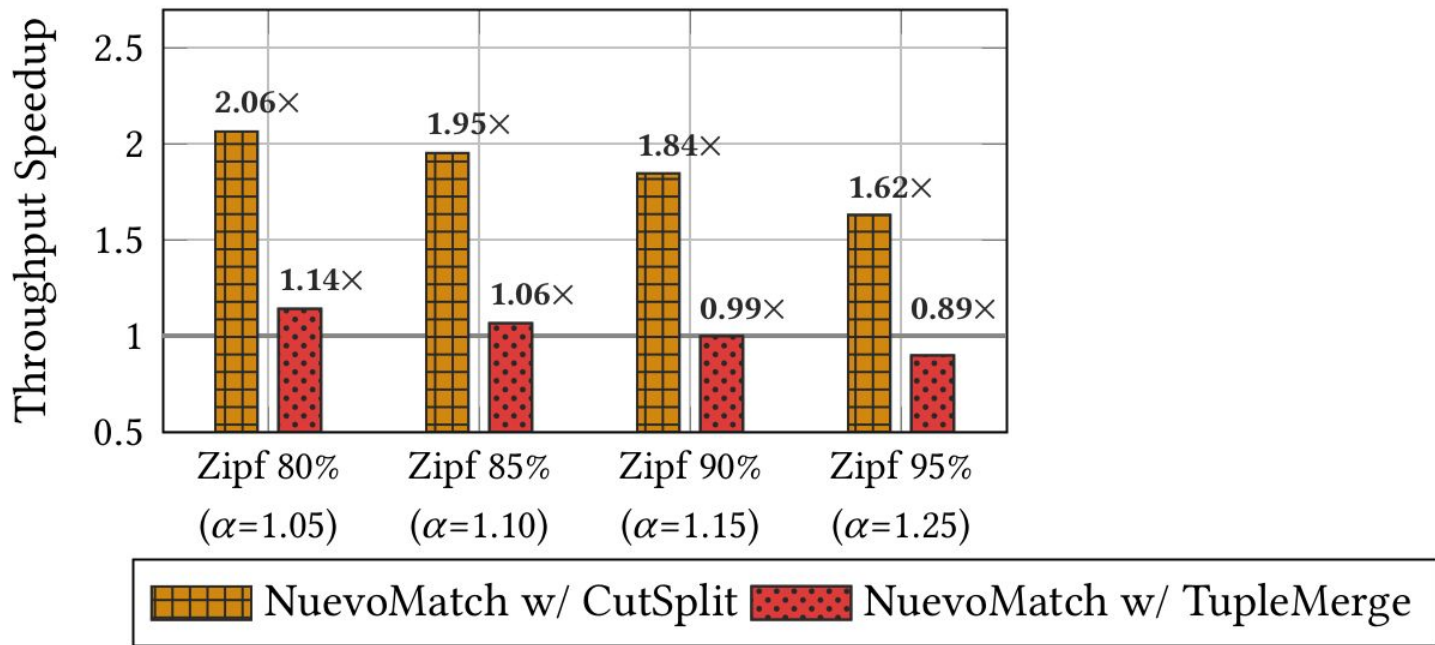
End-to-end performance

- **Single-core** vs. multi-core settings
- Small vs. large rule sets
- **Traffic with uniform / skewed temporal locality**
- Memory footprint comparison
- **Performance under L3 cache contention**
- **Real-world forwarding rules**

Performance analysis

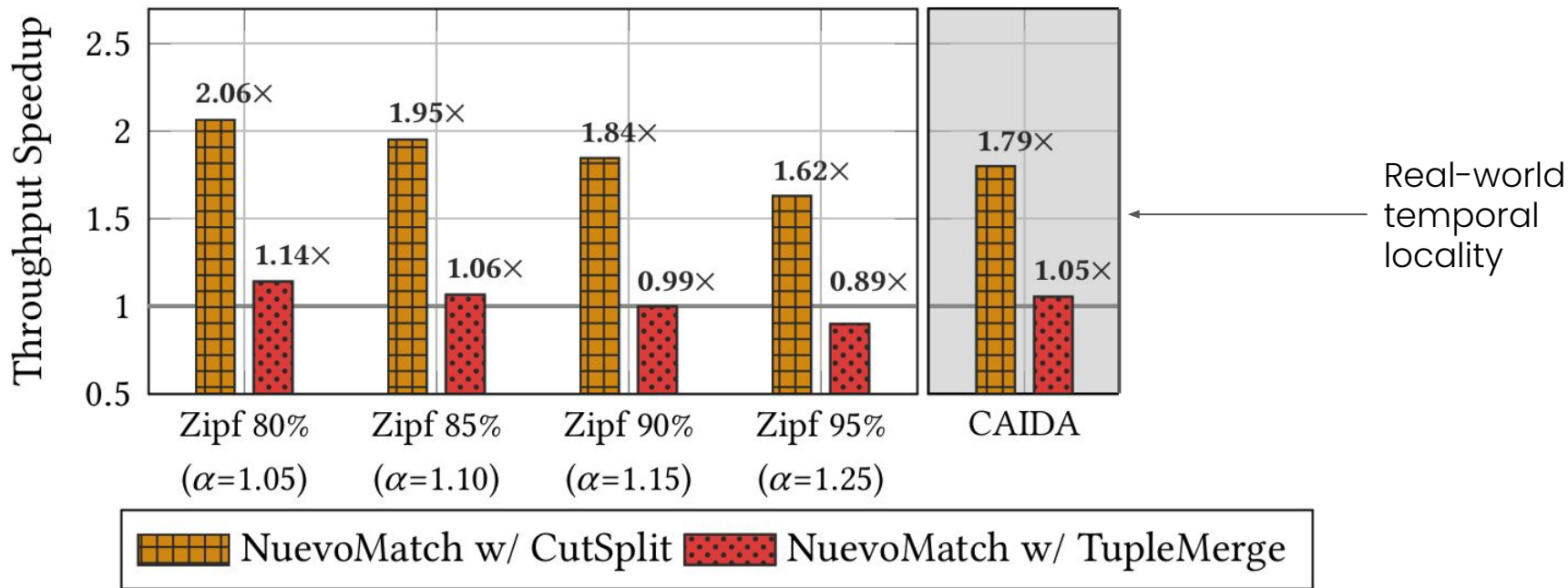
- iSet Coverage
- Impact of the number of iSets
- Partitioning effectiveness
- Training time and search bounds
- Performance with many fields

Evaluation – Skewed Traces



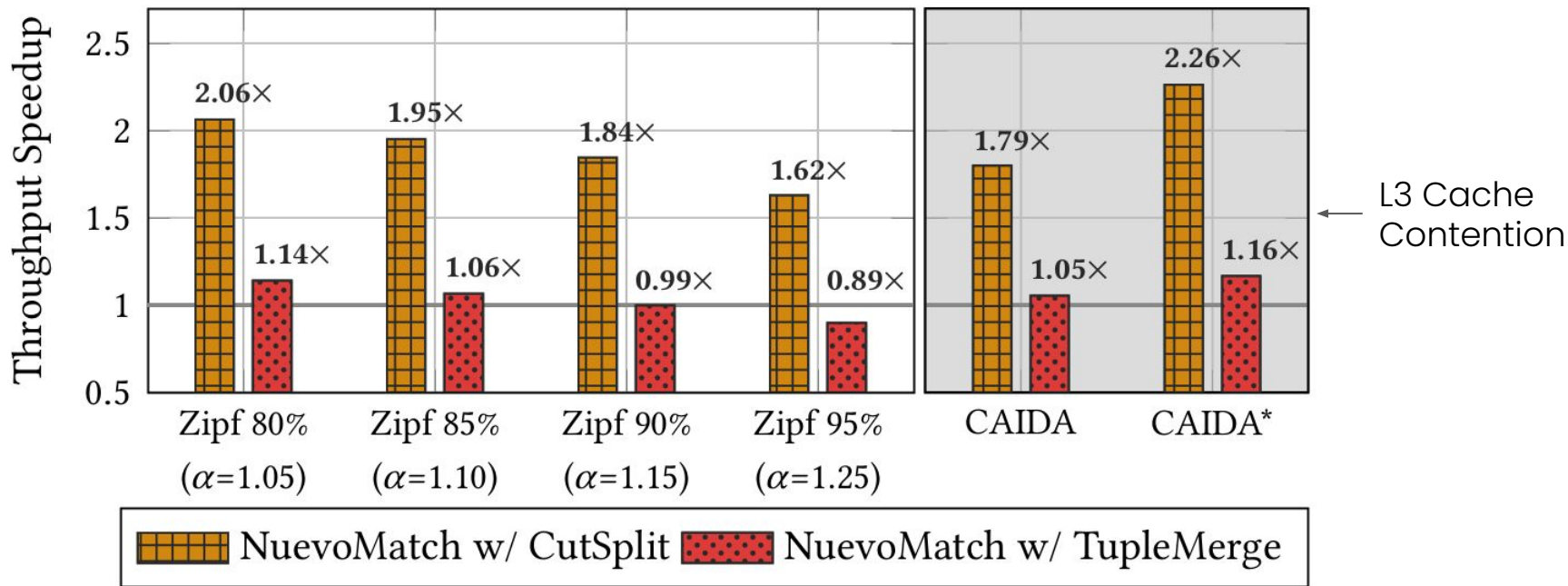
- (*) Li et al., "CutSplit: A Decision Tree Combining Cutting and Splitting for Scalable Packet Classification". *INFOCOM 2018*.
- (*) Daly et al., "TupleMerge: Fast Software Packet Processing for online Packet Classification". *TON 2019*.
- (*) Katta et al., "CacheFlow: Dependency-Aware Rule-Caching for Software-Defined Networks". *SOSR 2016*.
- (*) Taylor et al., "Classbench: A Packet Classification Benchmark". *TON 2007*.
- (*) The CAIDA UCSD Anonymized Internet Traces 2019 (www.caida.org/data/passive/passive_dataset.xml).

Evaluation – Skewed Traces



- (*) Li et al., "CutSplit: A Decision Tree Combining Cutting and Splitting for Scalable Packet Classification". *INFOCOM 2018*.
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Evaluation – Skewed Traces



(*) Li et al., "CutSplit: A Decision Tree Combining Cutting and Splitting for Scalable Packet Classification". *INFOCOM 2018*.

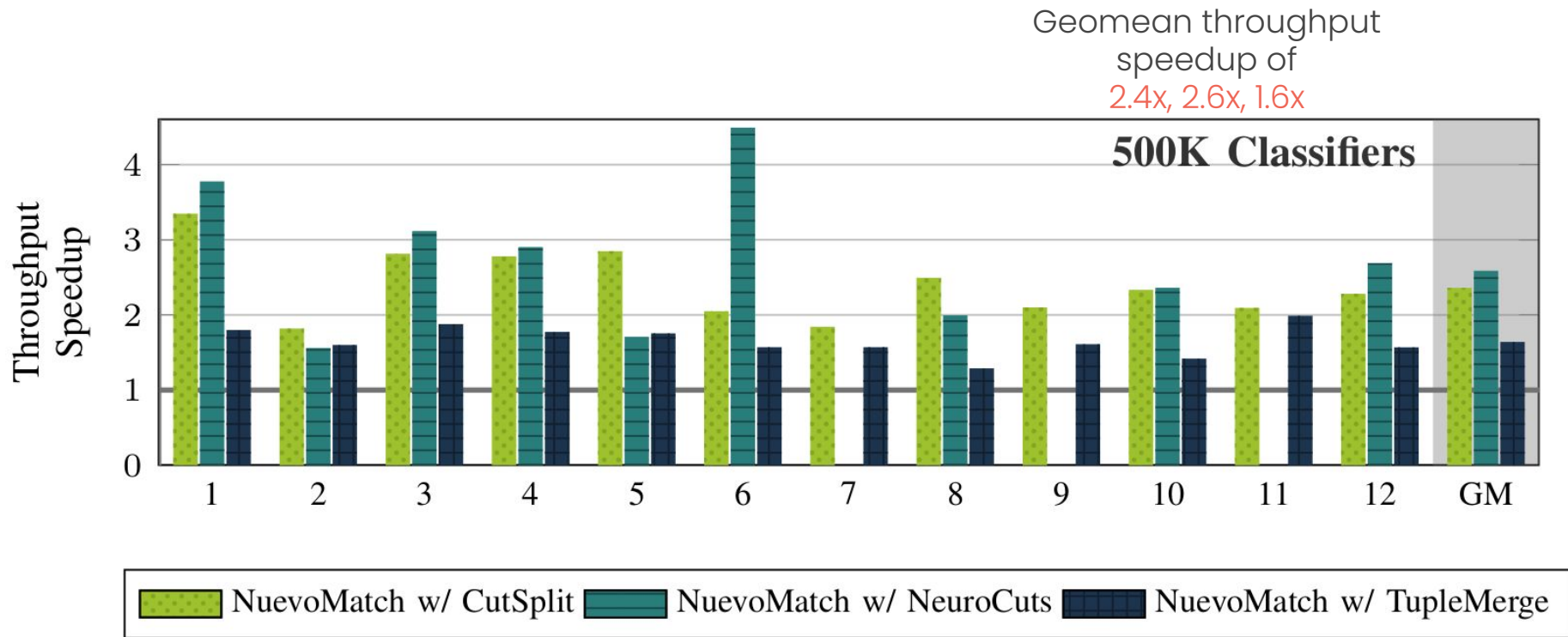
(*) Daly et al., "TupleMerge: Fast Software Packet Processing for online Packet Classification". *TON 2019*.

(*) Katta et al., "CacheFlow: Dependency-Aware Rule-Caching for Software-Defined Networks". *SOSR 2016*.

(*) Taylor et al., "Classbench: A Packet Classification Benchmark". *TON 2007*.

(*) The CAIDA UCSD Anonymized Internet Traces 2019 (www.caida.org/data/passive/passive_dataset.xml).

Evaluation – Uniform Access



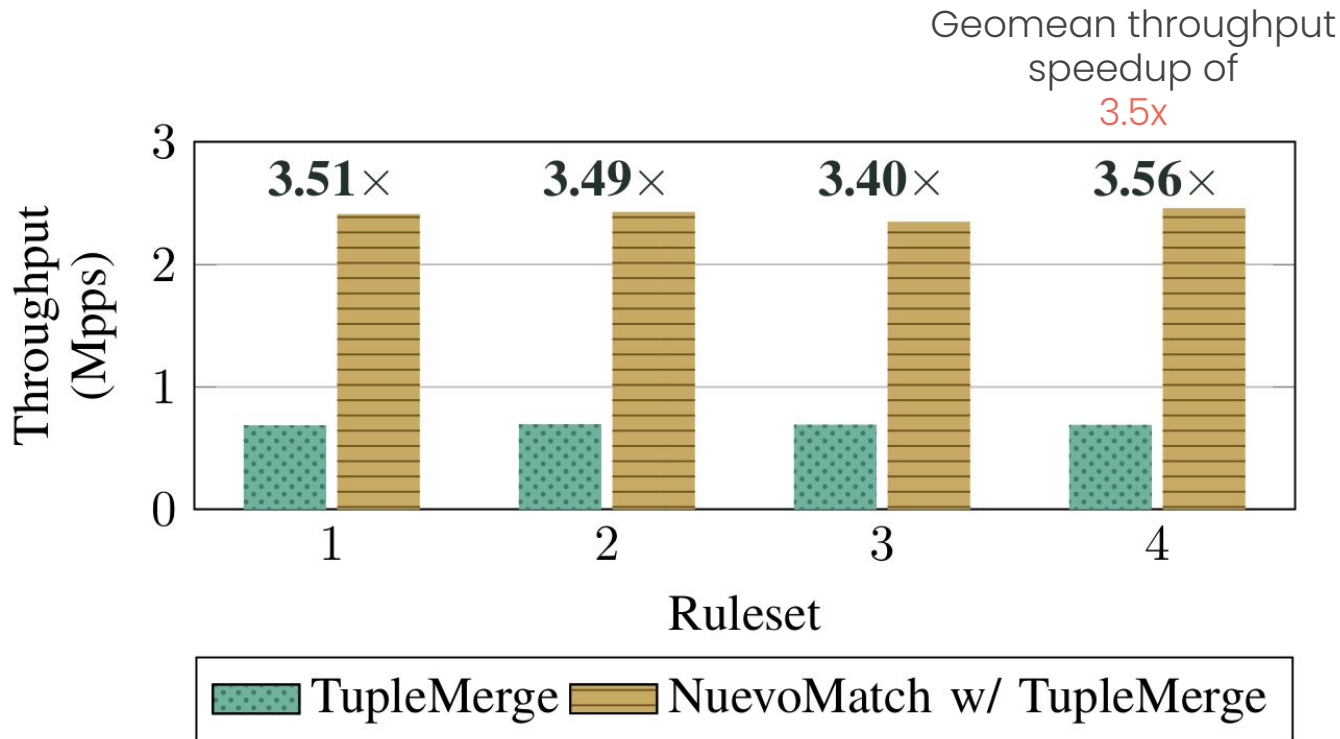
(*) Li et al., "CutSplit: A Decision Tree Combining Cutting and Splitting for Scalable Packet Classification". *INFOCOM 2018*.

(*) Liang et al., "Neural Packet Classification". *SIGCOMM 2019*.

(*) Daly et al., "TupleMerge: Fast Software Packet Processing for online Packet Classification". *TON 2019*.

(*) Taylor et al., "Classbench: A Packet Classification Benchmark". *TON 2007*.

Evaluation – Real-World Rule Sets



(*) Daly et al., "TupleMerge: Fast Software Packet Processing for online Packet Classification". *TON* 2019.

(*) Zong et al., "Automatic Test Packet Generation". *CoNEXT* 2012.

Conclusions

1. **NuevoMatch**: a new point in the design space of packet classification
2. **RQ-RMI** for range-value queries
3. Error bound guarantees using **piecewise-linear** functions



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Thank You

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Ori Rottenstreich
or@technion.ac.il

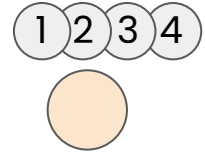
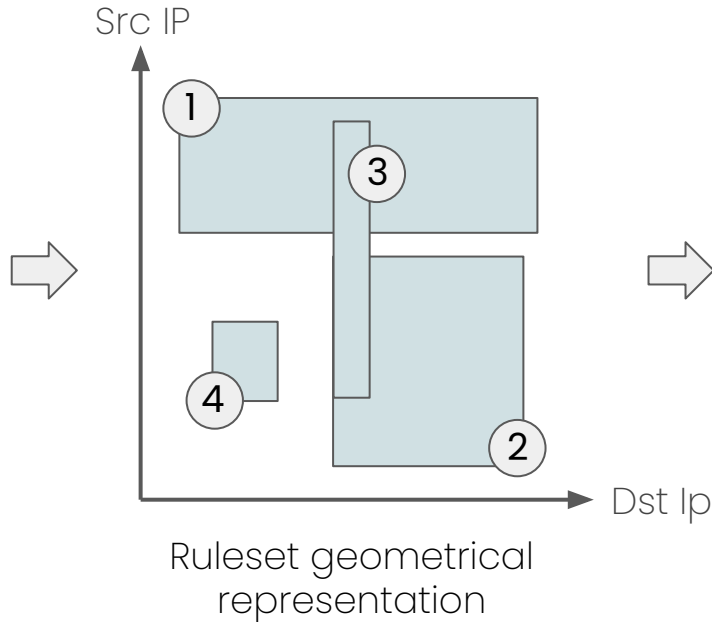


Mark Silberstein
mark@ee.technion.ac.il

Extra Slides

Decision Tree Approaches (1/3)

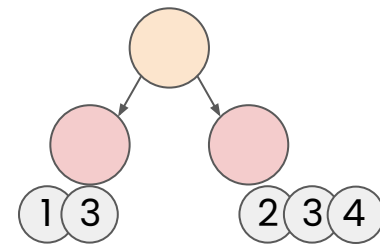
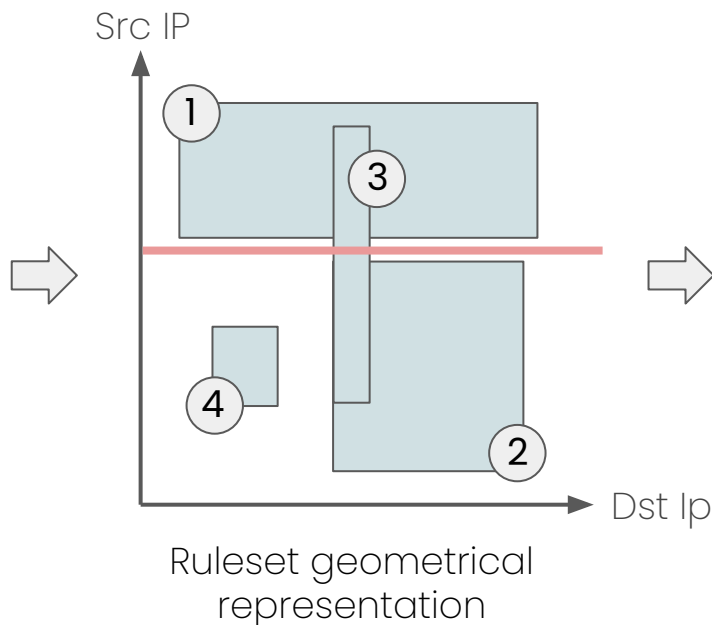
	Src IP	Dst IP	Action
1	10.0.10.*	8.8.*.*	Port 1
2	10.0.20.*	8.8.7.*	Port 2
3	10.0.*.*	8.8.7.1	Drop
4	55.0.0.*	3.3.*.*	Port 1



- (*) Gupta et al., "Classifying Packets with Hierarchical Intelligent Cuttings". *IEEE Micro* 2000.
- (*) Singh et al., "Packet Classification Using Multidimensional Cutting". *SIGCOMM* 2003.
- (*) Vamanan et al., "EffiCuts: Optimizing Packet Classification for Memory and Throughput". *SIGCOMM* 2010.
- (*) Li et al., "CutSplit: A Decision Tree Combining Cutting and Splitting for Scalable Packet Classification". *INFOCOM* 2018.
- (*) Liang et al., "Neural Packet Classification". *SIGCOMM* 2019.

Decision Tree Approaches (2/3)

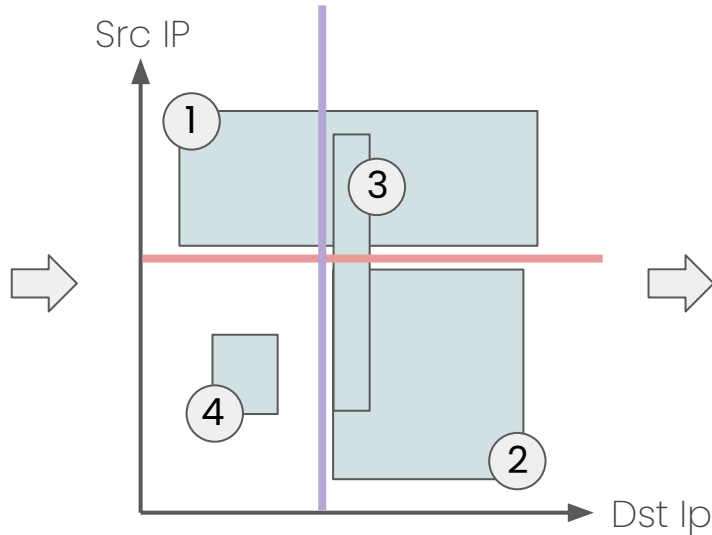
	Src IP	Dst IP	Action
1	10.0.10.*	8.8.*.*	Port 1
2	10.0.20.*	8.8.7.*	Port 2
3	10.0.*.*	8.8.7.1	Drop
4	55.0.0.*	3.3.*.*	Port 1



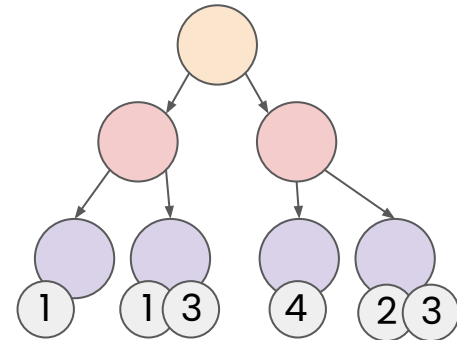
- (*) Gupta et al., "Classifying Packets with Hierarchical Intelligent Cuttings". *IEEE Micro* 2000.
- (*) Singh et al., "Packet Classification Using Multidimensional Cutting". *SIGCOMM* 2003.
- (*) Vamanan et al., "EffiCuts: Optimizing Packet Classification for Memory and Throughput". *SIGCOMM* 2010.
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- (*) Liang et al., "Neural Packet Classification". *SIGCOMM* 2019.

Decision Tree Approaches (3/3)

	Src IP	Dst IP	Action
1	10.0.10.*	8.8.*.*	Port 1
2	10.0.20.*	8.8.7.*	Port 2
3	10.0.*.*	8.8.7.1	Drop
4	55.0.0.*	3.3.*.*	Port 1



Ruleset geometrical representation

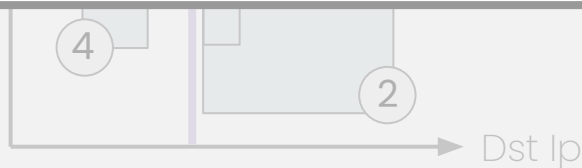


- (*) Gupta et al., "Classifying Packets with Hierarchical Intelligent Cuttings". *IEEE Micro* 2000.
- (*) Singh et al., "Packet Classification Using Multidimensional Cutting". *SIGCOMM* 2003.
- (*) Vamanan et al., "EffiCuts: Optimizing Packet Classification for Memory and Throughput". *SIGCOMM* 2010.
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- (*) Liang et al., "Neural Packet Classification". *SIGCOMM* 2019.

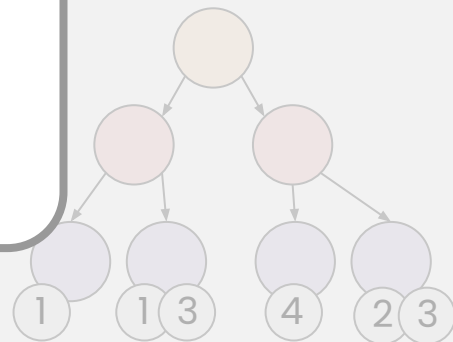
Decision Tree Approaches (3/3)

Rule replication causes memory growth!

	Src IP		
1	10.0.10.*	8	
2	10.0.20.*	8	
3	10.0.*.*	8.8.7.1	Drop
4	55.0.0.*	3.3.*.*	Port 1



Ruleset geometrical representation



- (*) Gupta et al., "Classifying Packets with Hierarchical Intelligent Cuttings". *IEEE Micro* 2000.
- (*) Singh et al., "Packet Classification Using Multidimensional Cutting". *SIGCOMM* 2003.
- (*) Vamanan et al., "EffiCuts: Optimizing Packet Classification for Memory and Throughput". *SIGCOMM* 2010.
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- (*) Liang et al., "Neural Packet Classification". *SIGCOMM* 2019.

Hash-Table Approaches (1/3)

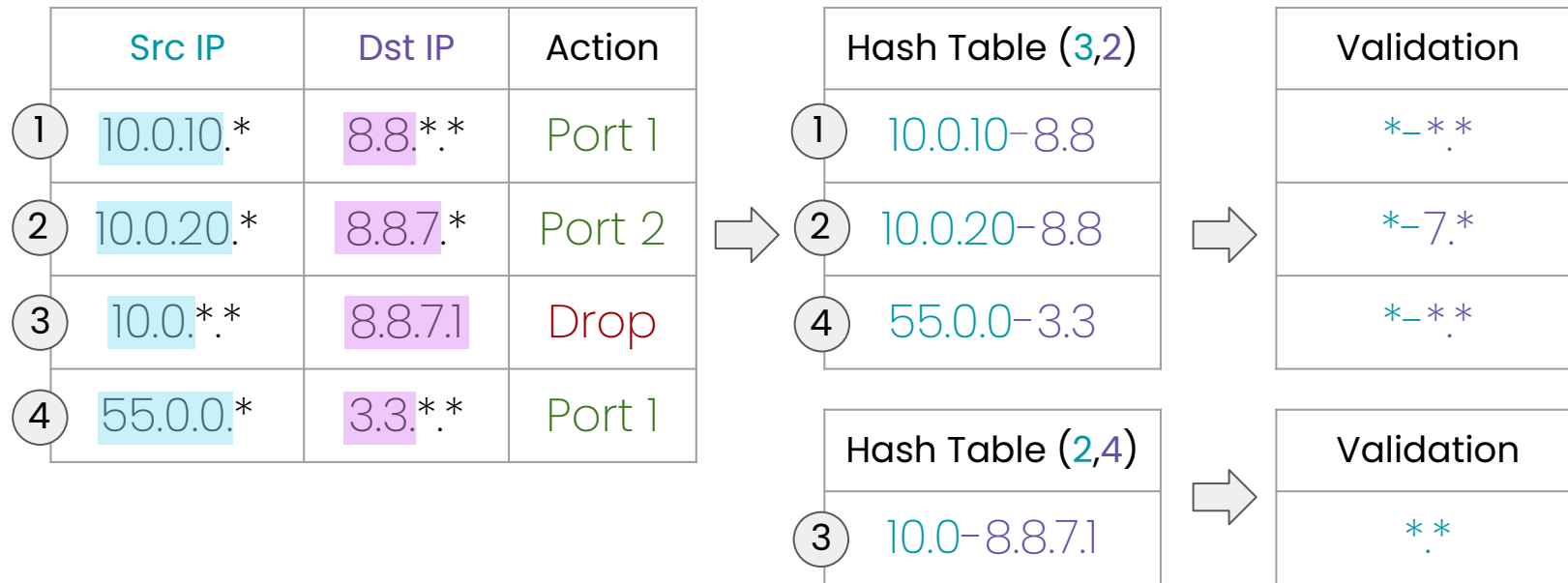
	Src IP	Dst IP	Action
①	10.0.10.*	8.8.*.*	Port 1
②	10.0.20.*	8.8.7.*	Port 2
③	10.0.*.*	8.8.7.1	Drop
④	55.0.0.*	3.3.*.*	Port 1

(*) Srinivasan et al., "Packet Classification Using Tuple Space Search". *SIGCOMM 1999*.

(*) Pfaff et al., "The Design and Implementation of Open vSwitch". *NSDI 2015*.

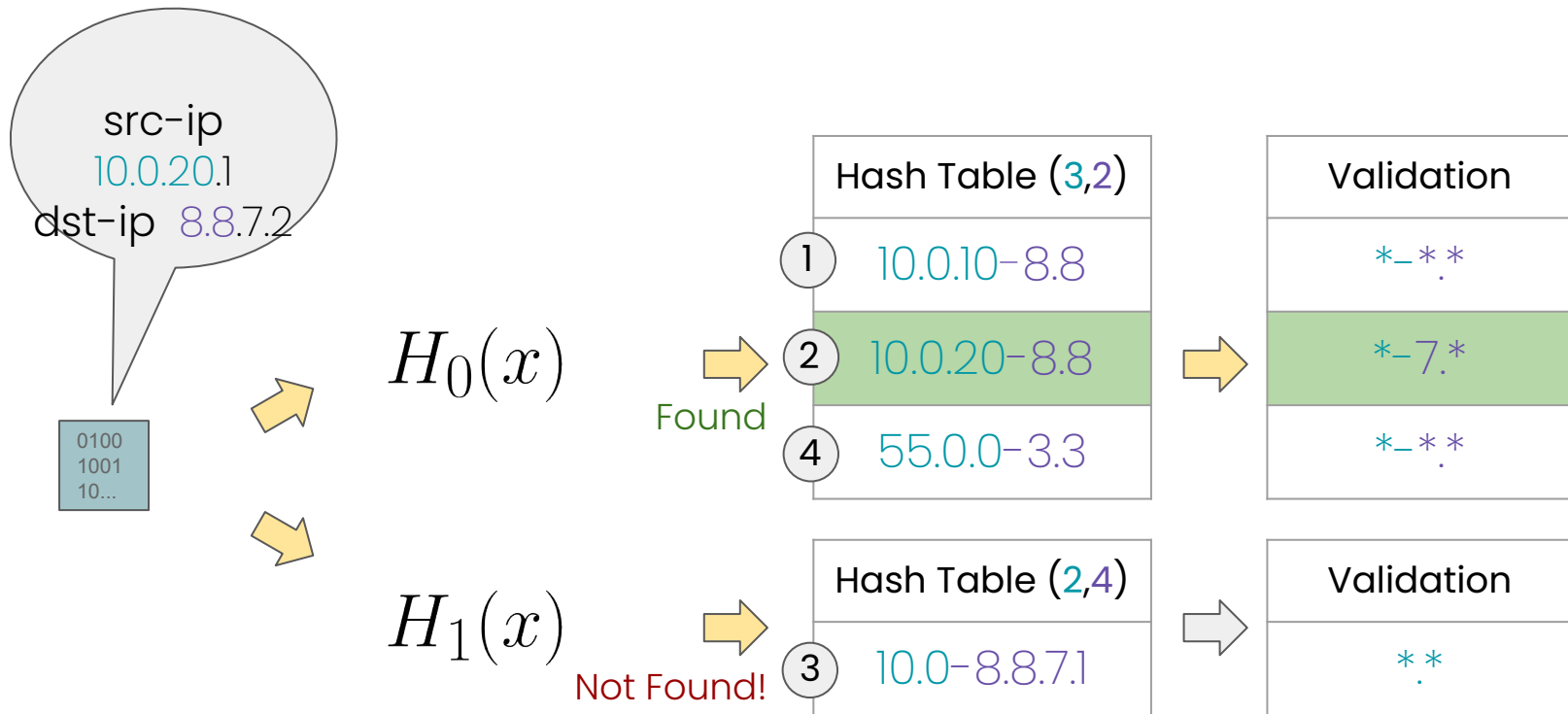
(*) Daly et al., "TupleMerge: Fast Software Packet Processing for online Packet Classification". *TON 2019*.

Hash-Table Approaches (2/3)



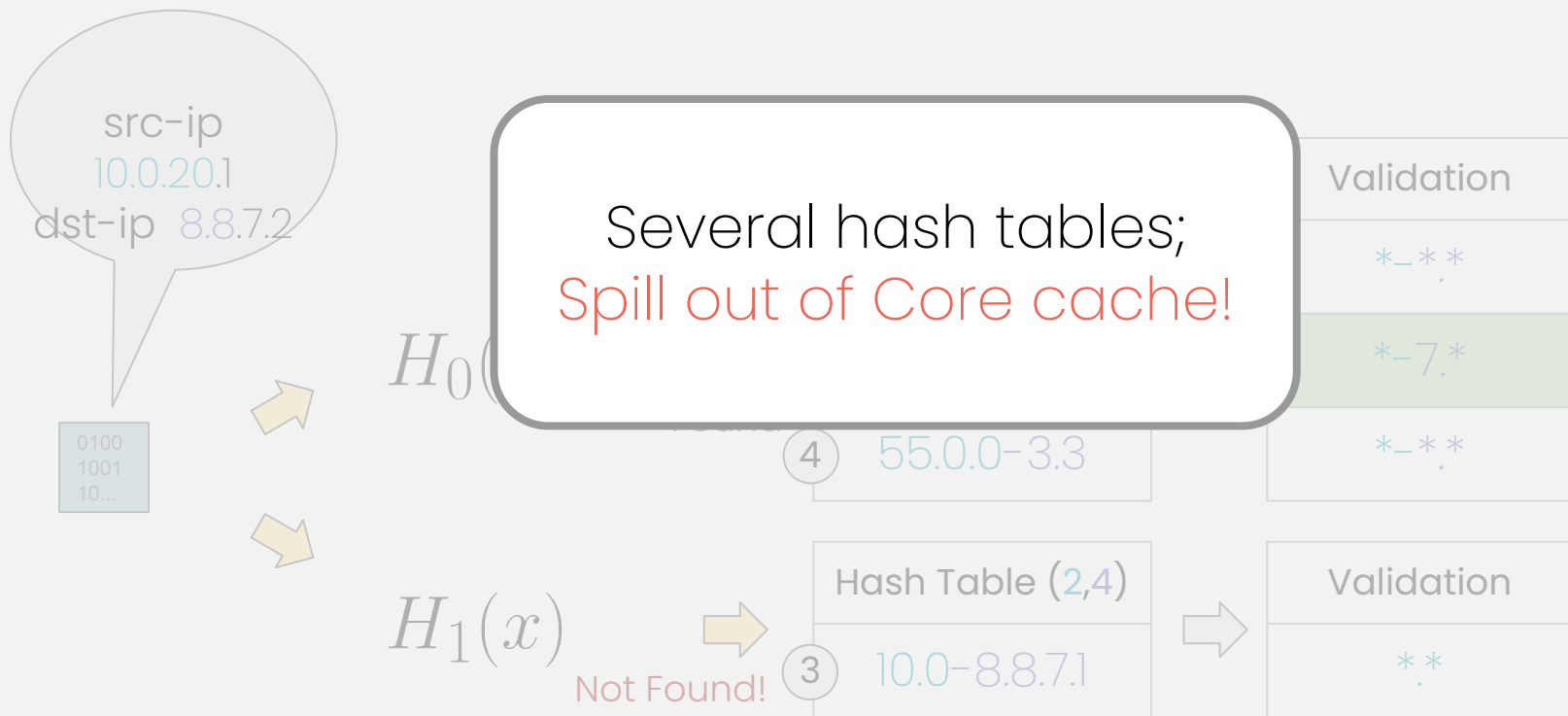
(*) Srinivasan et al., "Packet Classification Using Tuple Space Search". *SIGCOMM 1999*.
 (*) Pfaff et al., "The Design and Implementation of Open vSwitch". *NSDI 2015*.
 (*) Daly et al., "TupleMerge: Fast Software Packet Processing for online Packet Classification". *TON 2019*.

Hash-Table Approaches (3/3)



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 (*) Daly et al., "TupleMerge: Fast Software Packet Processing for online Packet Classification". *TON 2019*.

Hash-Table Approaches (3/3)

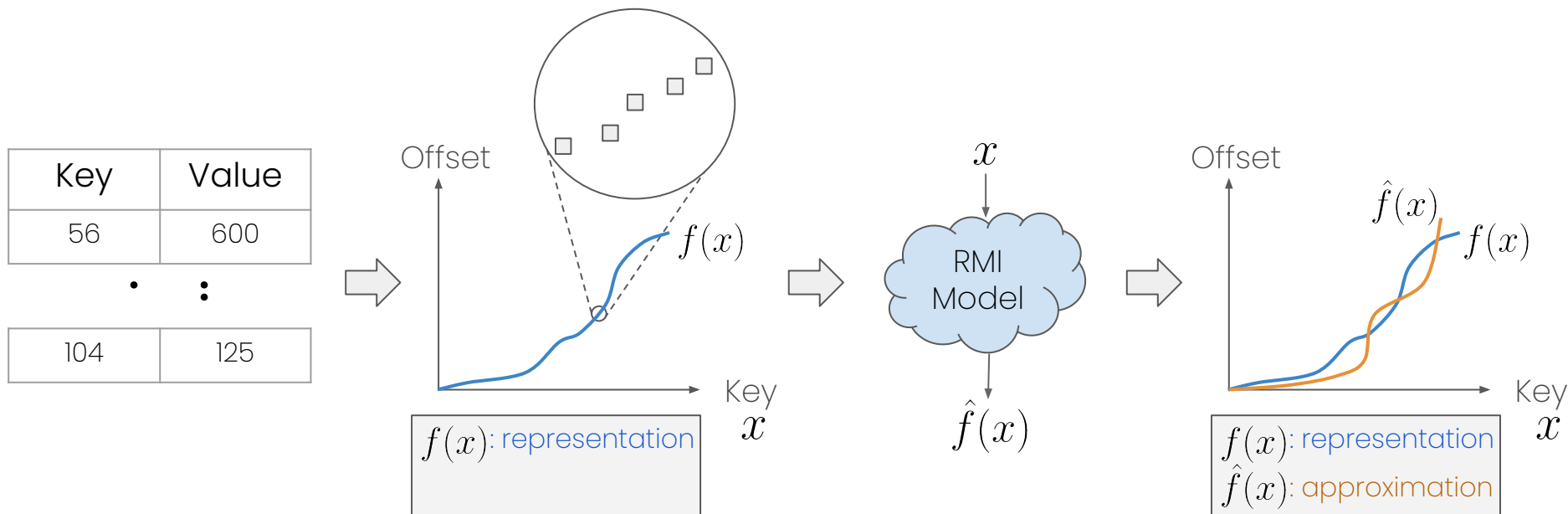


(*) Srinivasan et al., "Packet Classification Using Tuple Space Search". *SIGCOMM 1999*.

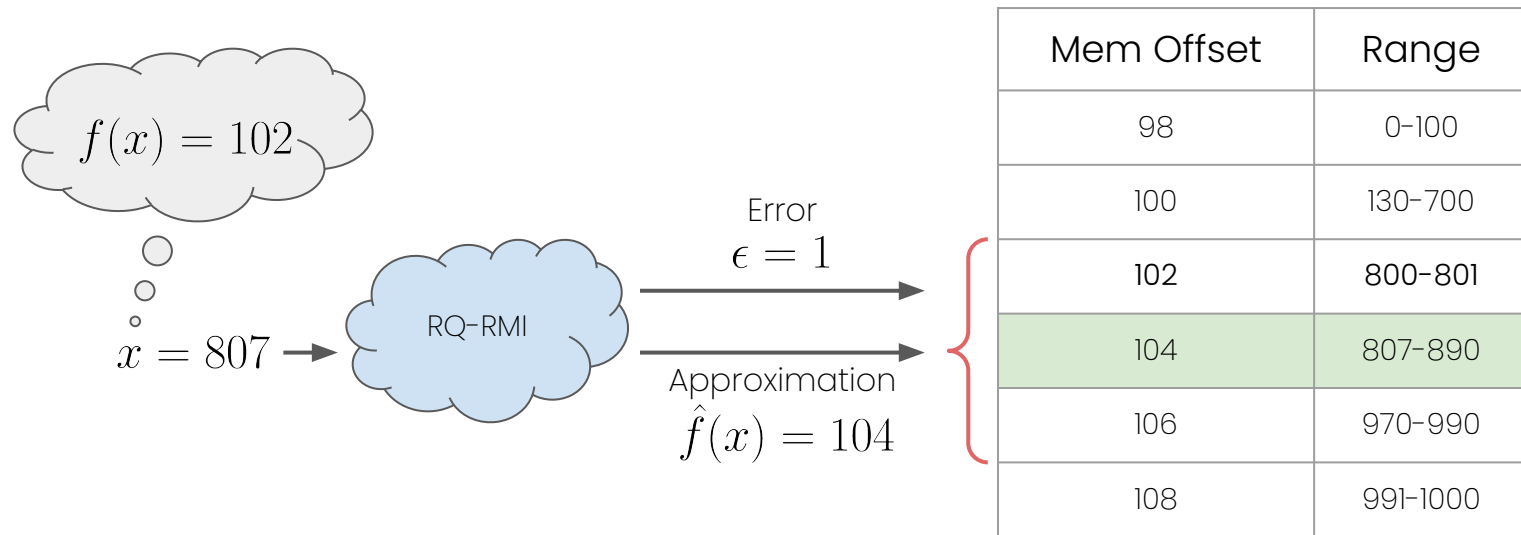
(*) Pfaff et al., "The Design and Implementation of Open vSwitch". *NSDI 2015*.

(*) Daly et al., "TupleMerge: Fast Software Packet Processing for online Packet Classification". *TON 2019*.

Recursive Model Index (RMI)



Handling Wildcards: Range-Query RMI (4/4)

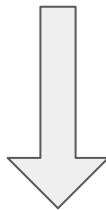


Introducing NuevoMatch (1/4)

Rule Set

Src IP	Dst IP	Src Port	Dst Port	Action
10.0.10.*	8.8.*.*	0-65535	80	Port 1
10.0.*.*	8.8.7.1	0-65535	0-6	Drop

Approximate Ruleset
Using Machine
Learning Techniques



RQ-RMI Models

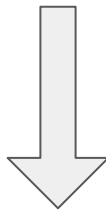
Always Fits
in Cache

Introducing NuevoMatch (2/4)

Rule Set

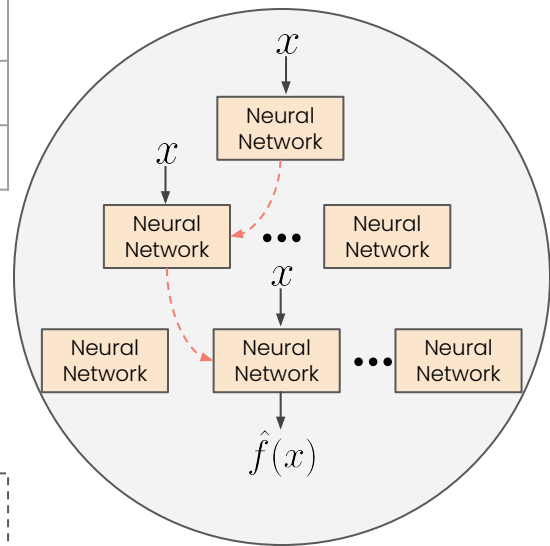
Src IP	Dst IP	Src Port	Dst Port	Action
10.0.10.*	8.8.*.*	0-65535	80	Port 1
10.0.*.*	8.8.7.1	0-65535	0-6	Drop

Approximate Ruleset
Using Machine
Learning Techniques



RQ-RMI Models

RQ-RMI model

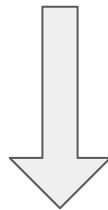


Always Fits
in Cache

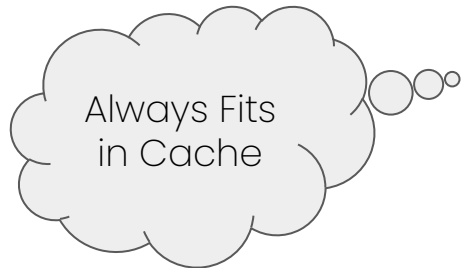
Introducing NuevoMatch (3/4)

Rule Set

Src IP	Dst IP	Src Port	Dst Port	Action
10.0.10.*	8.8.*.*	0-65535	80	Port 1
10.0.*.*	8.8.7.1	0-65535	0-6	Drop



Some part cannot be approximated, so we keep it as a remainder



Introducing NuevoMatch (4/4)

