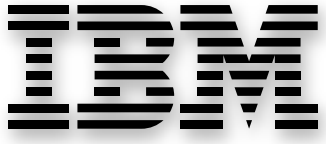
PipeSwitch: Fast Pipelined Context Switching for Deep Learning Applications

Zhihao Bai, *Zhen Zhang, Yibo Zhu, Xin Jin*

Deep learning powers intelligent applications in many domains

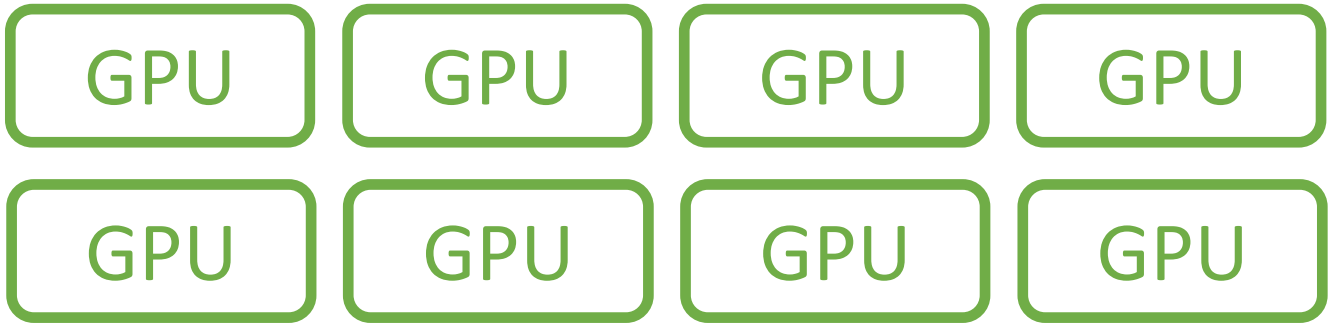


Training and inference

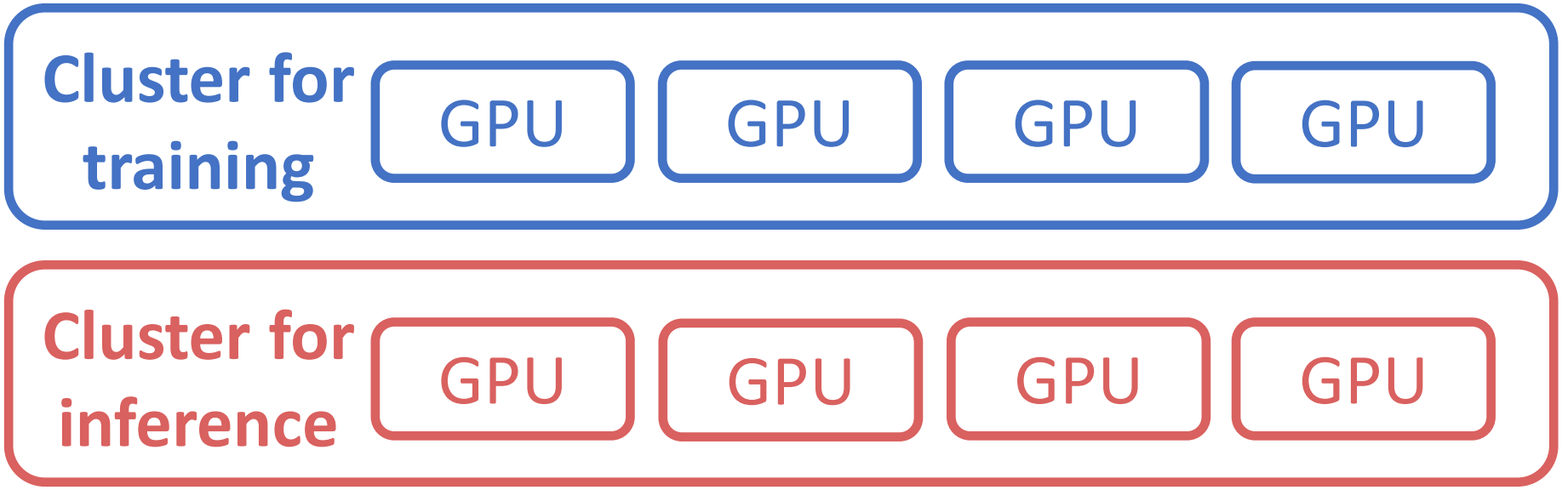
High throughput

Low latency

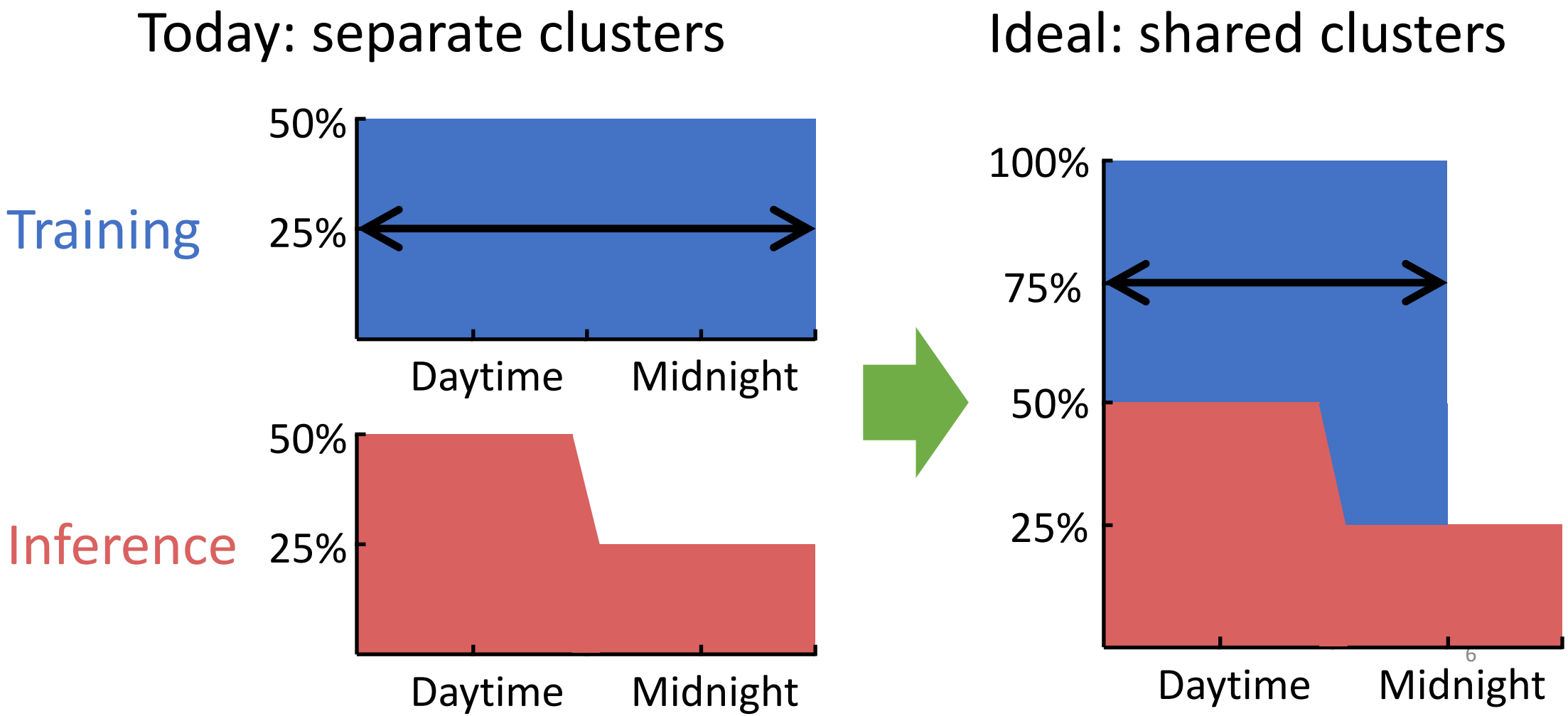
GPUs clusters for DL workloads



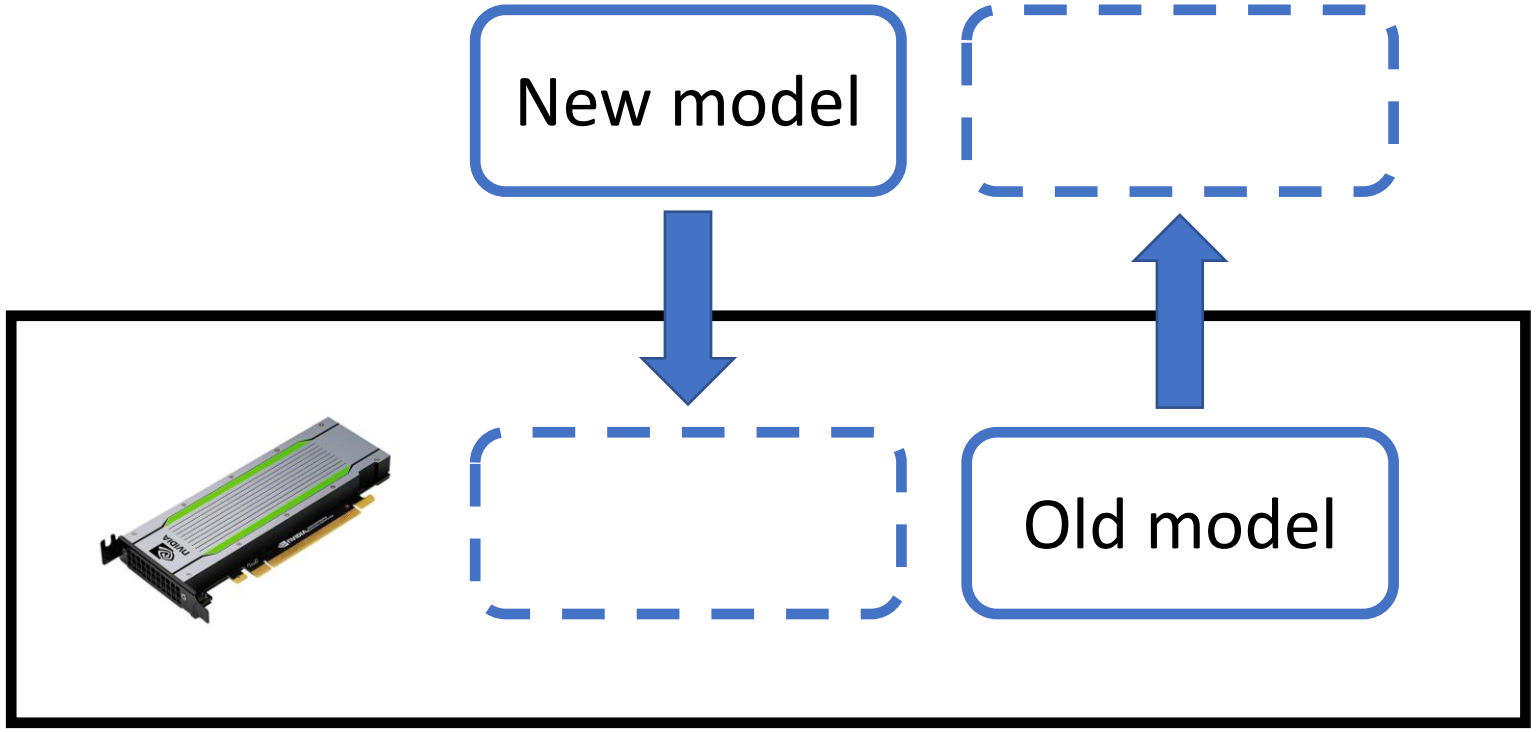
Separate clusters for training and inference



Utilization of GPU clusters is low



Context switching overhead is high



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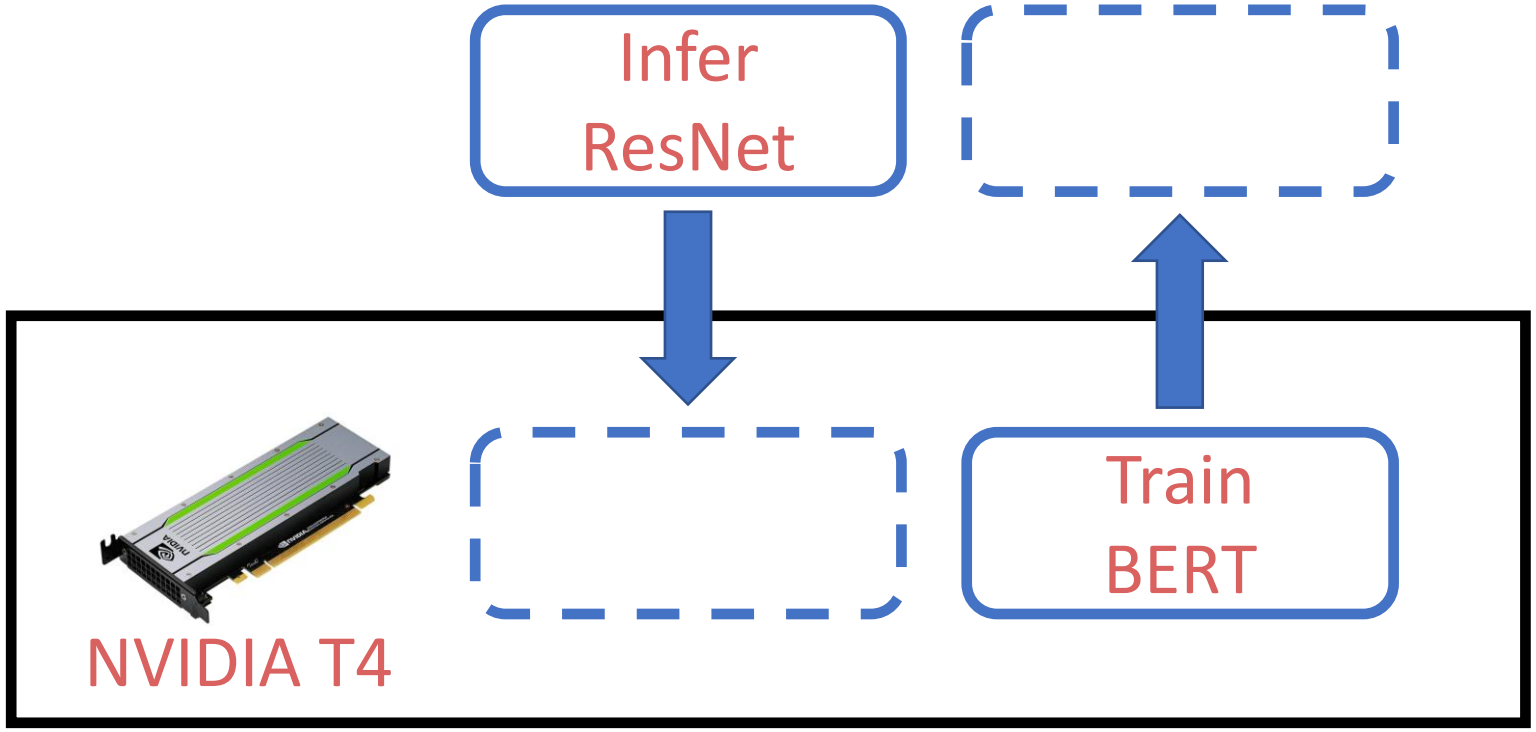


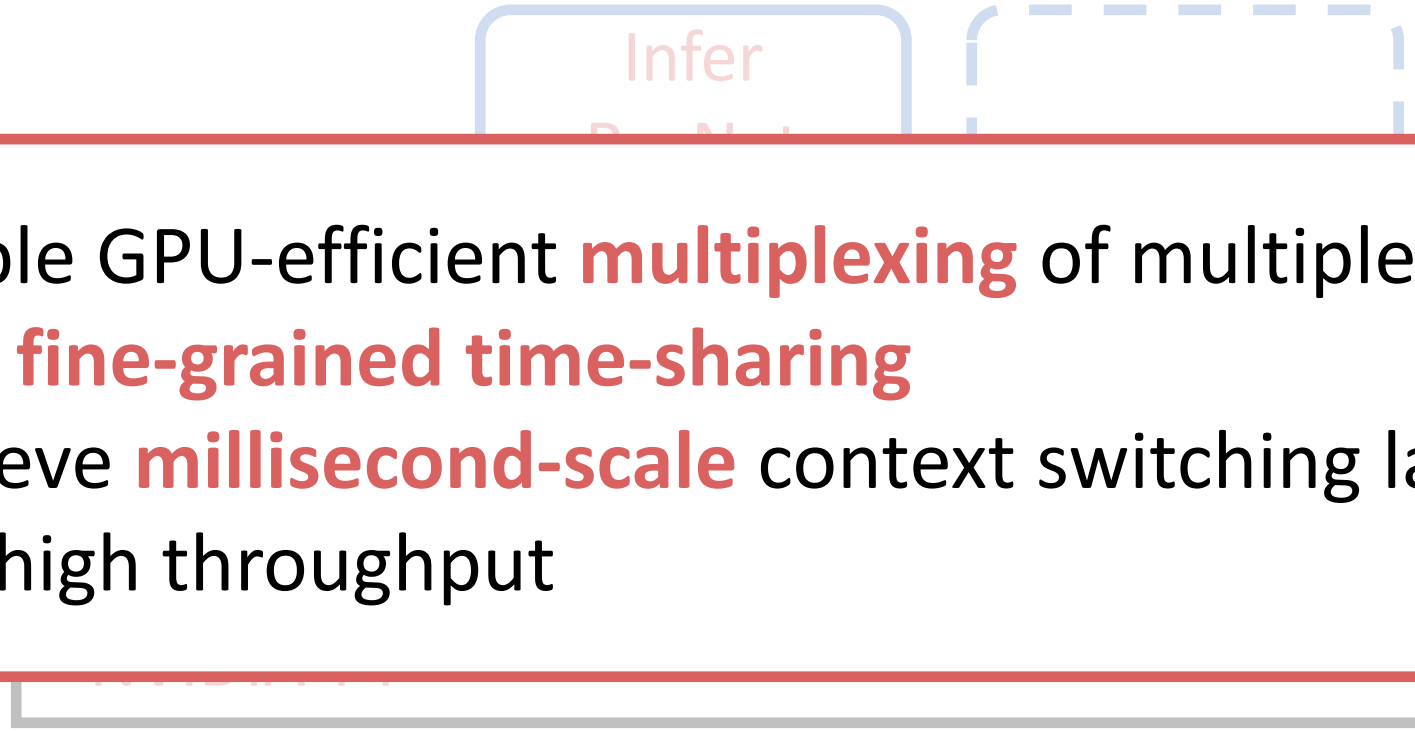
Latency: 6s

Drawbacks of existing solutions

- NVIDIA MPS
  - High overhead due to contention
- Salus[MLSys'20]
  - Requires all the models to be preloaded into the GPU memory

Latency: 6s

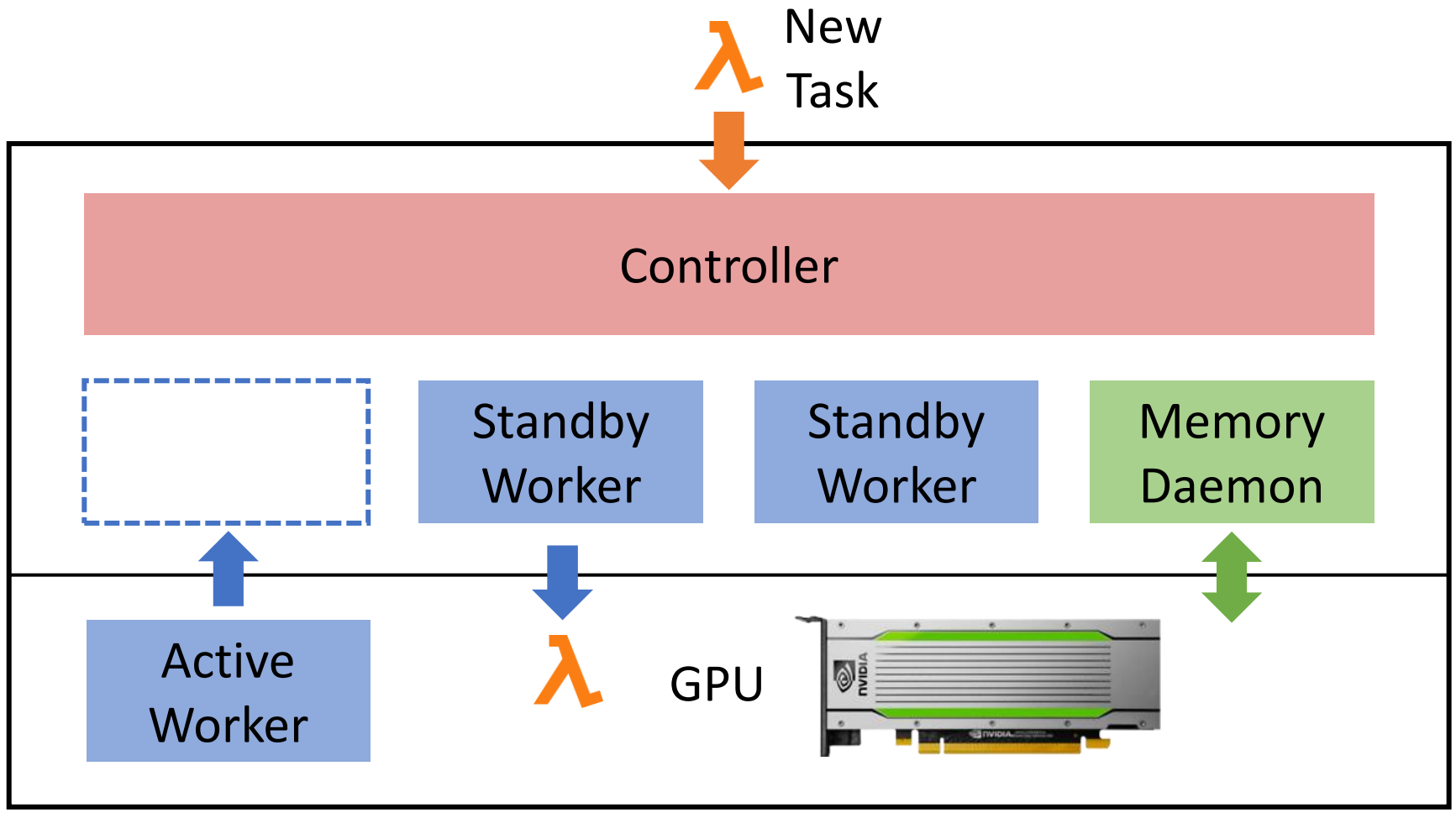
Goal: fast context switching



- Enable GPU-efficient **multiplexing** of multiple DL apps with **fine-grained time-sharing**
- Achieve **millisecond-scale** context switching latencies and high throughput

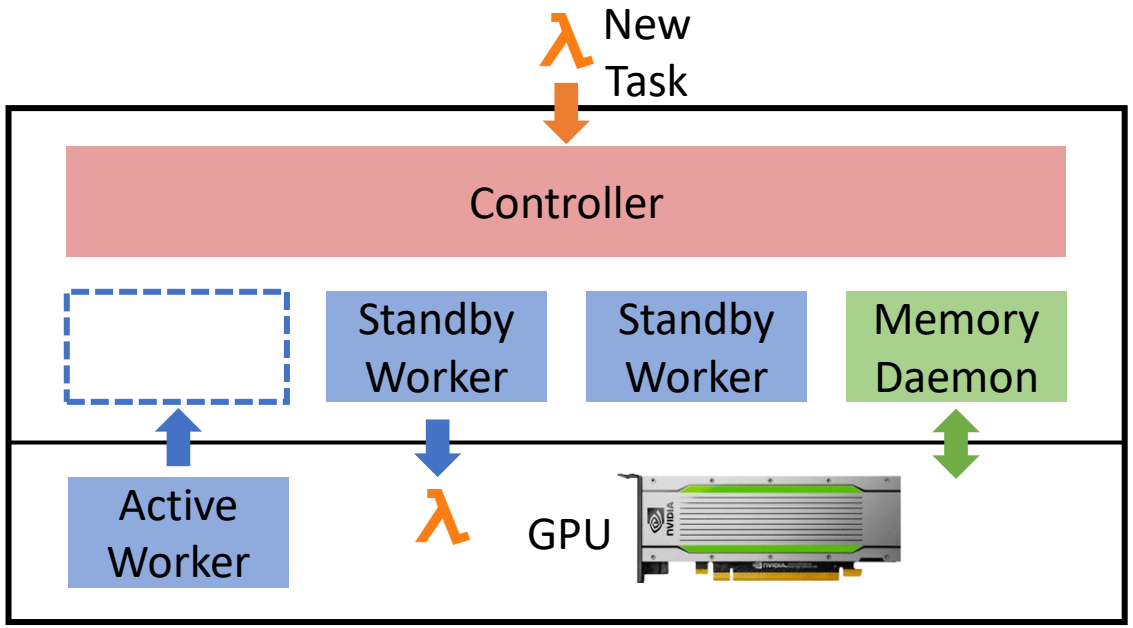
Latency: 6s

PipeSwitch overview: architecture



PipeSwitch overview: execution

- Stop the current task and prepare for the next task.
- Execute the task with pipelined model transmission.
- Clean the environment for the previous task.



Sources of context switching overhead

- Model transmission
- Memory allocation
- Task initialization
- Task cleaning

How to reduce the overhead?

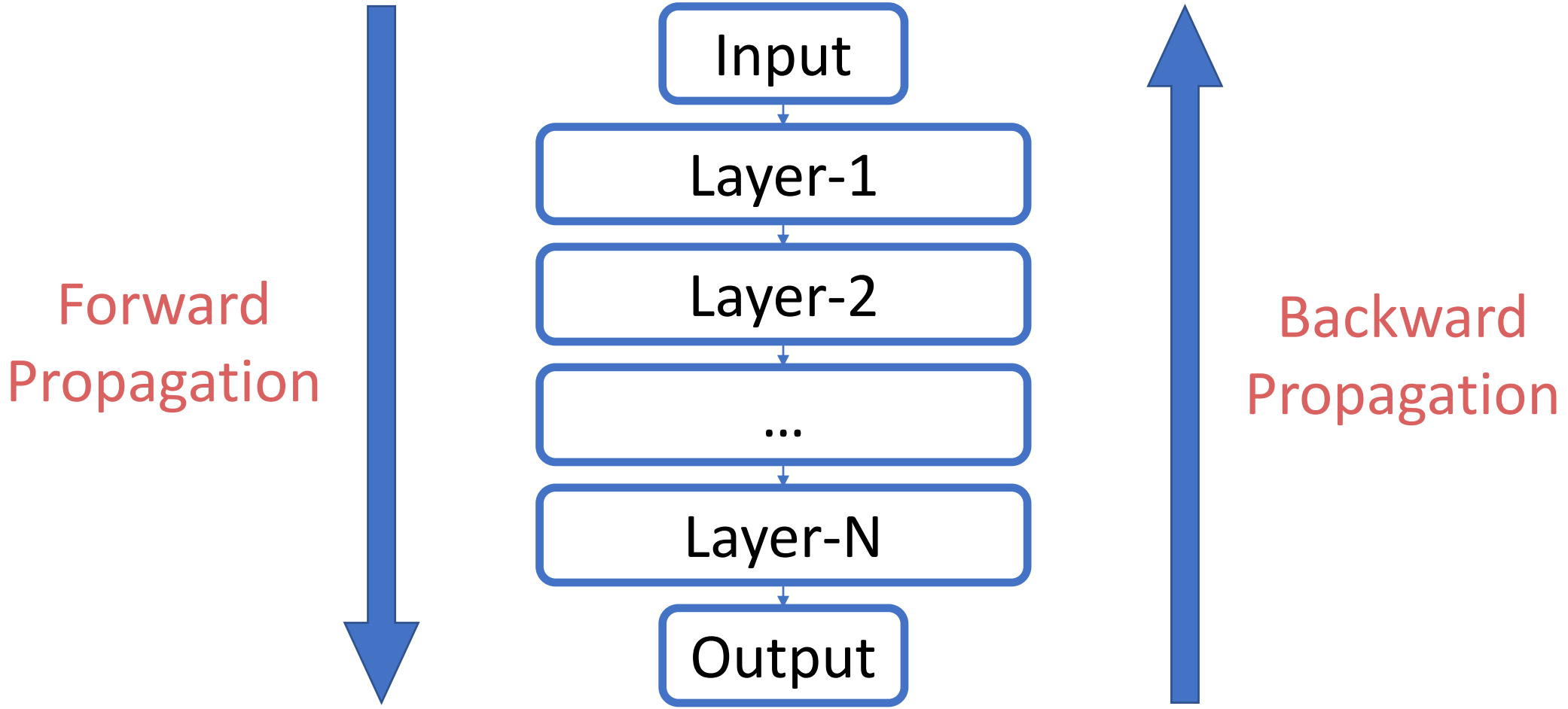
Model transmission → Pipelined model transmission

Memory allocation

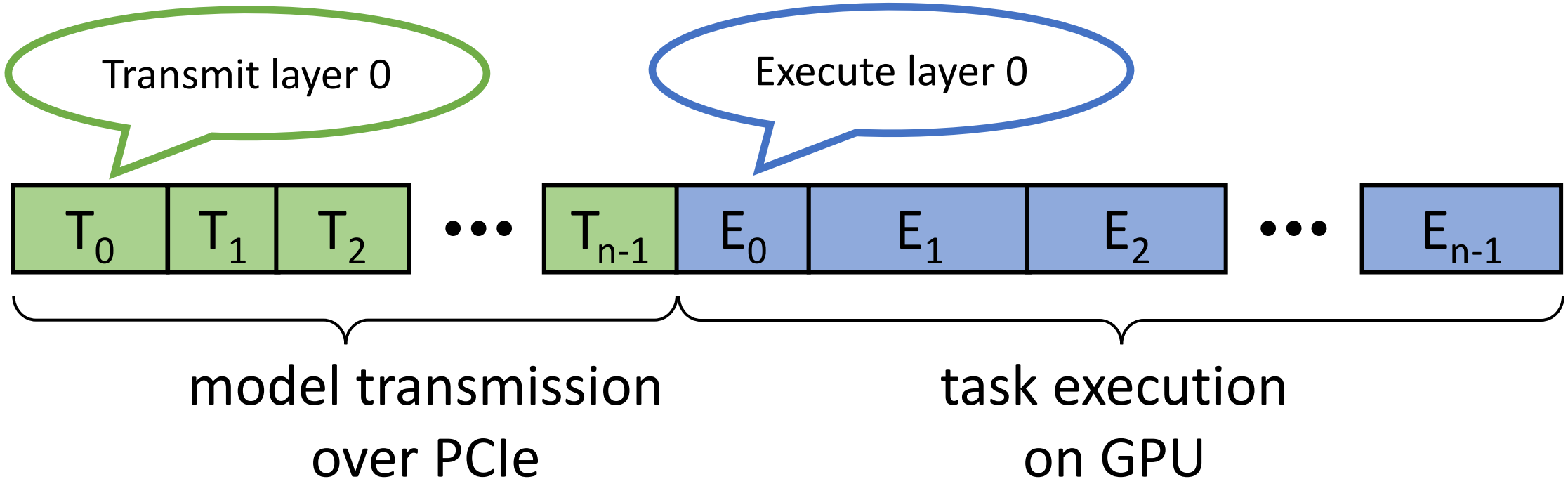
Task initialization

Task cleaning

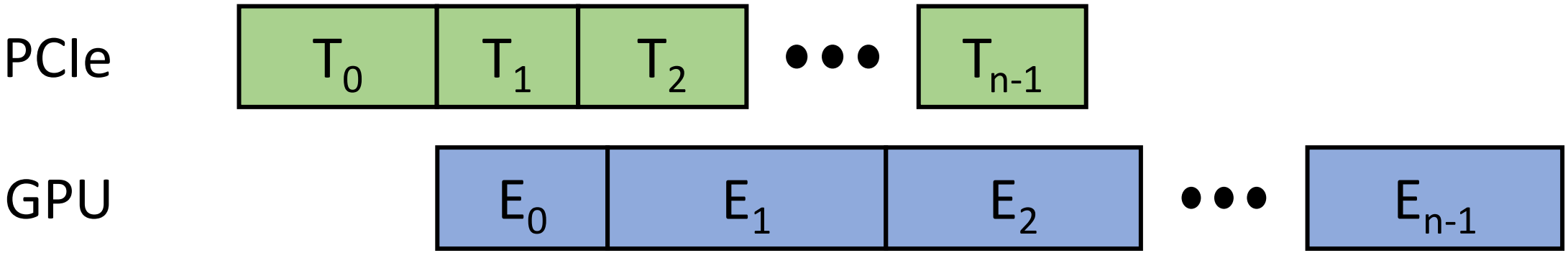
DL models have layered structures



Sequential model transmission and execution



Pipelined model transmission and execution



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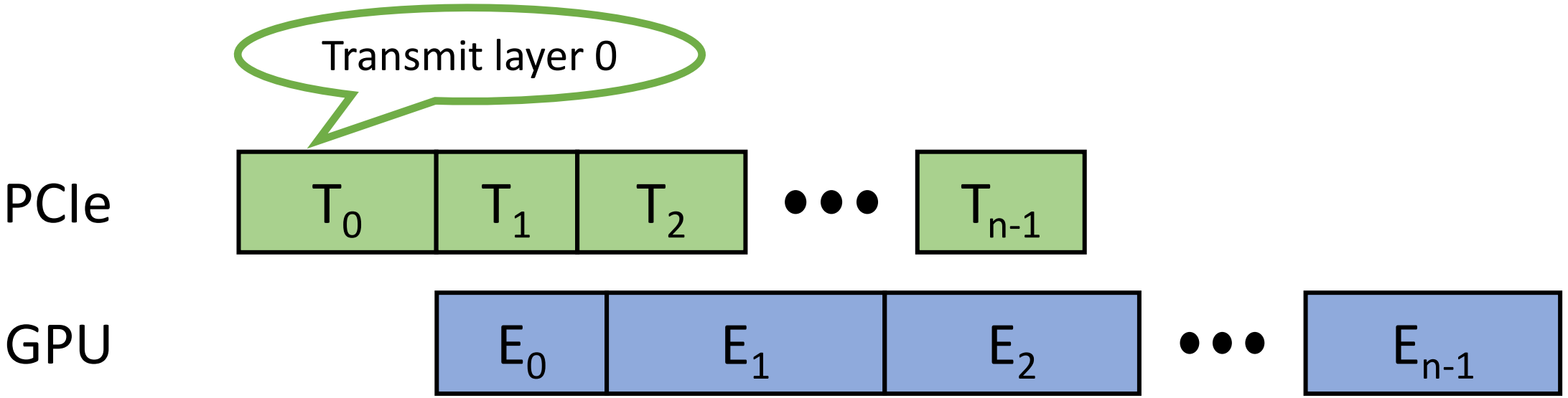
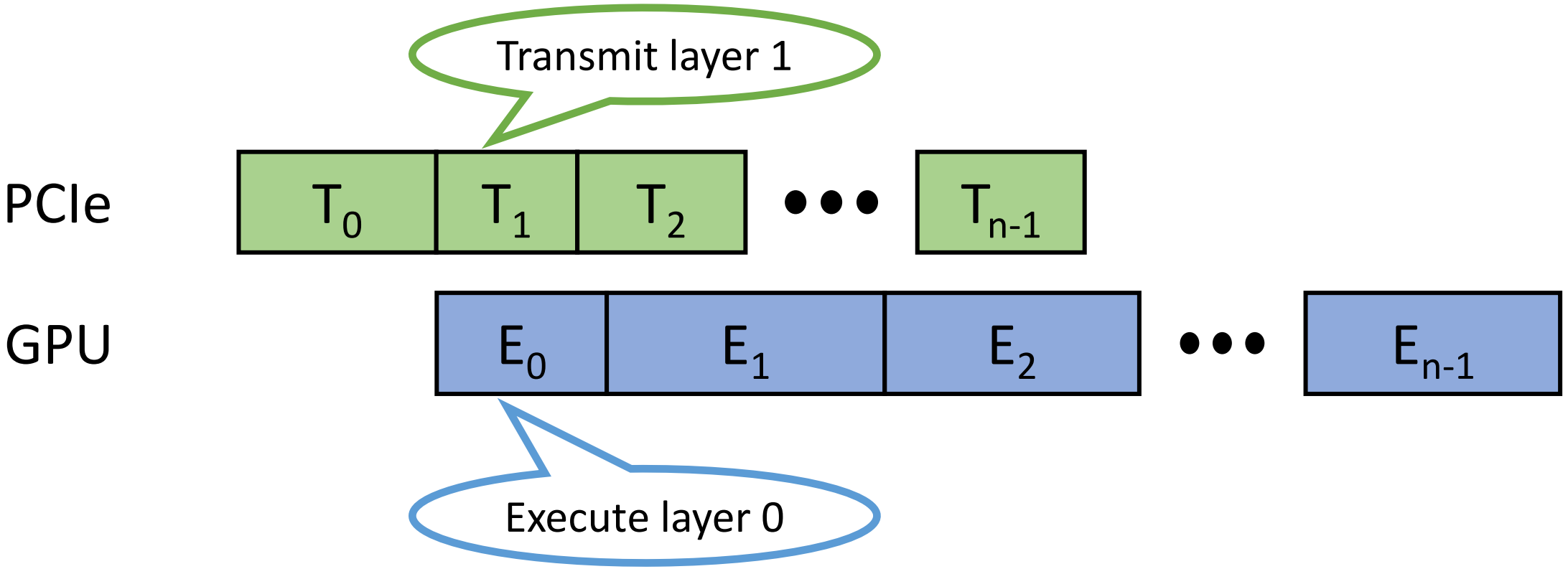
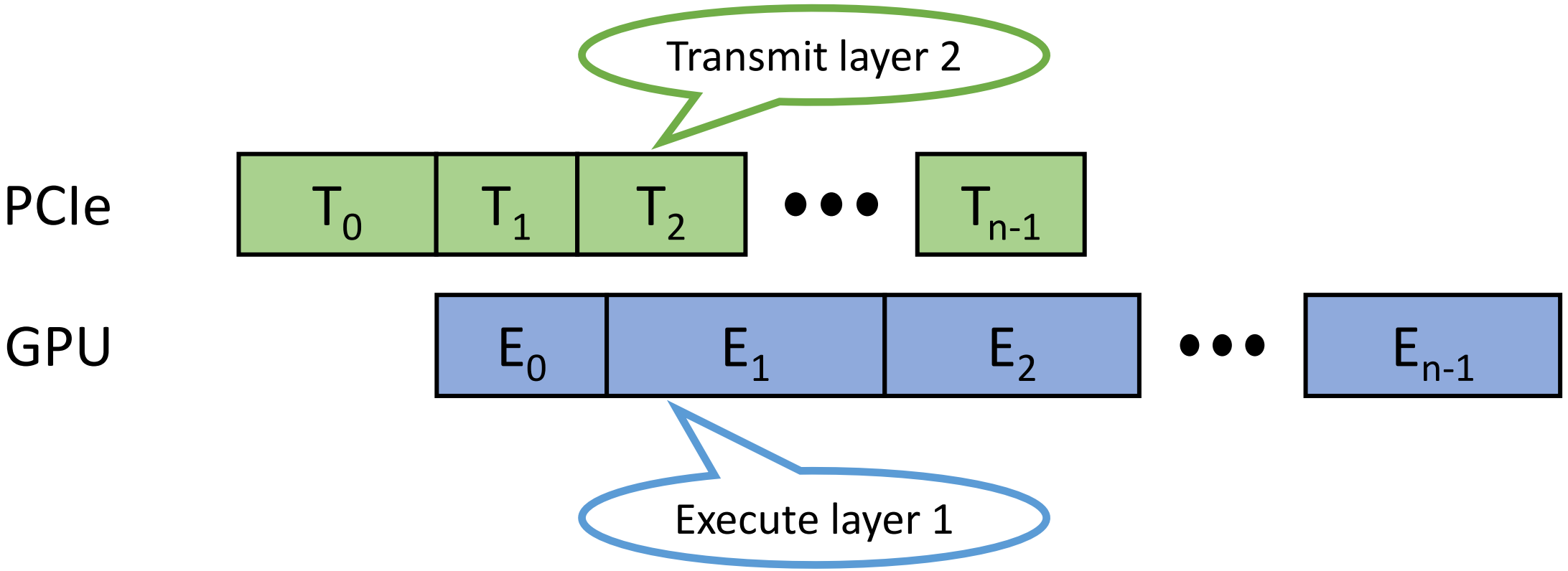


Pipelined model transmission and execution



Pipelined model transmission and execution



Pipelined model transmission and execution

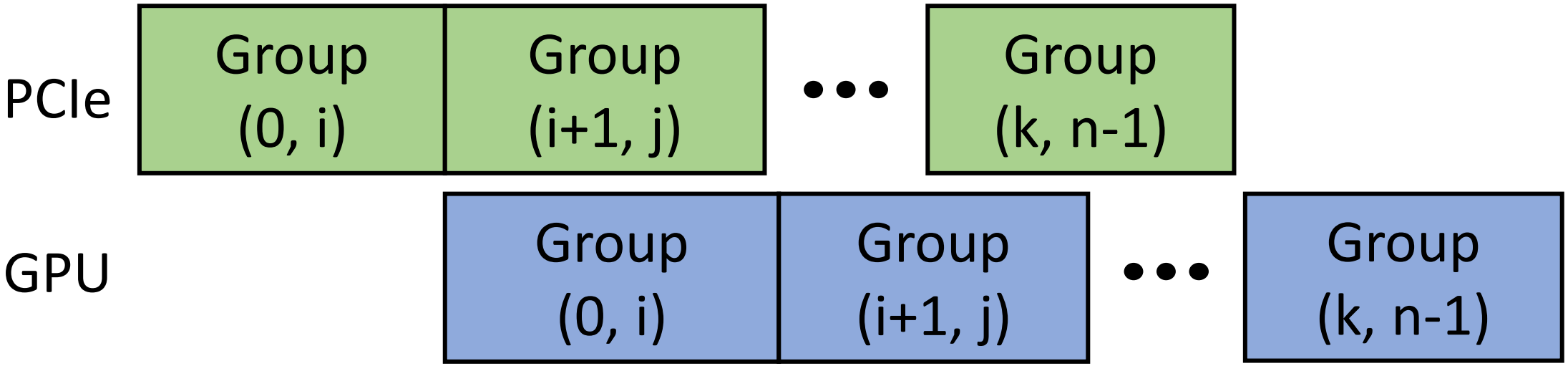
PCIe

GPU

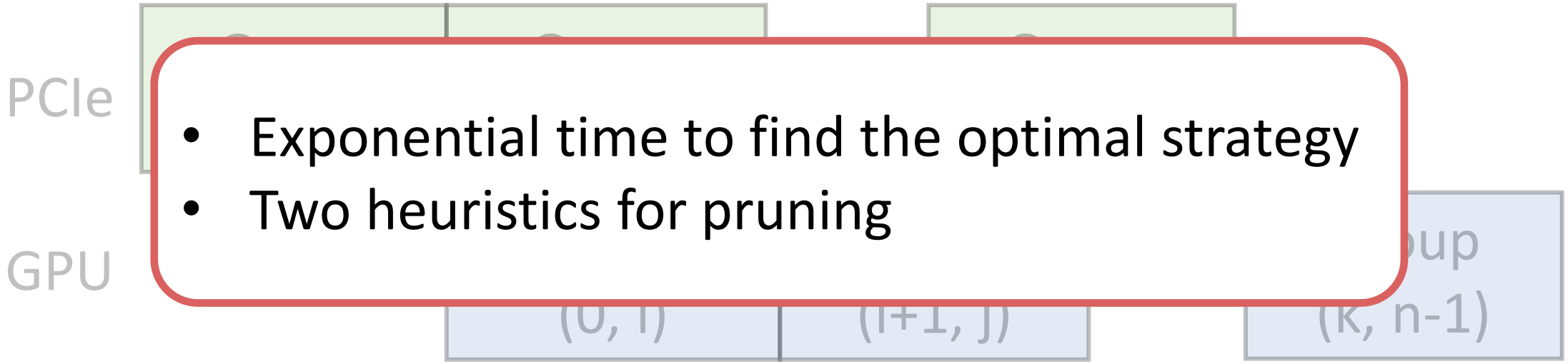
1. Multiple calls to PCIe;
2. Synchronize transmission and execution.

E_{n-1}

Pipelined model transmission and execution

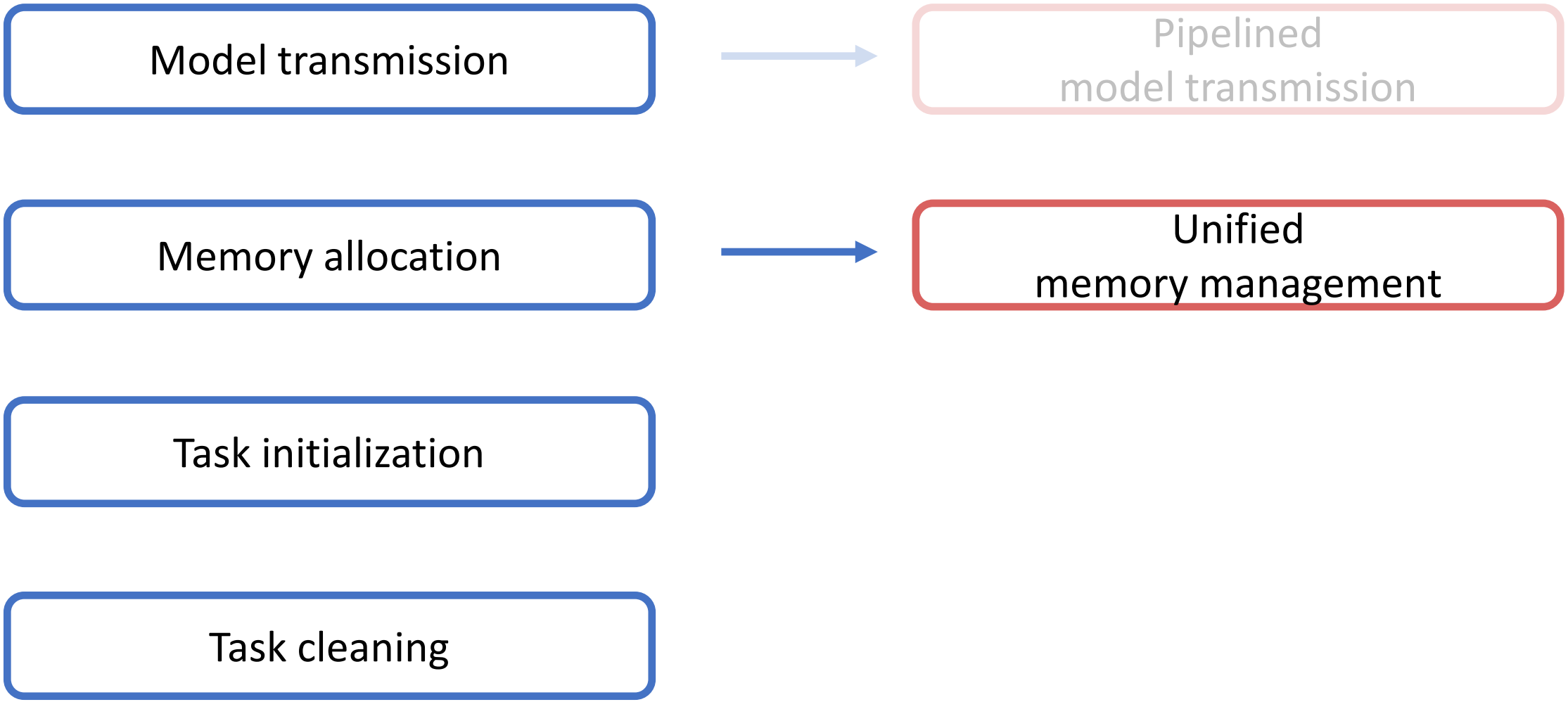


Pipelined model transmission and execution

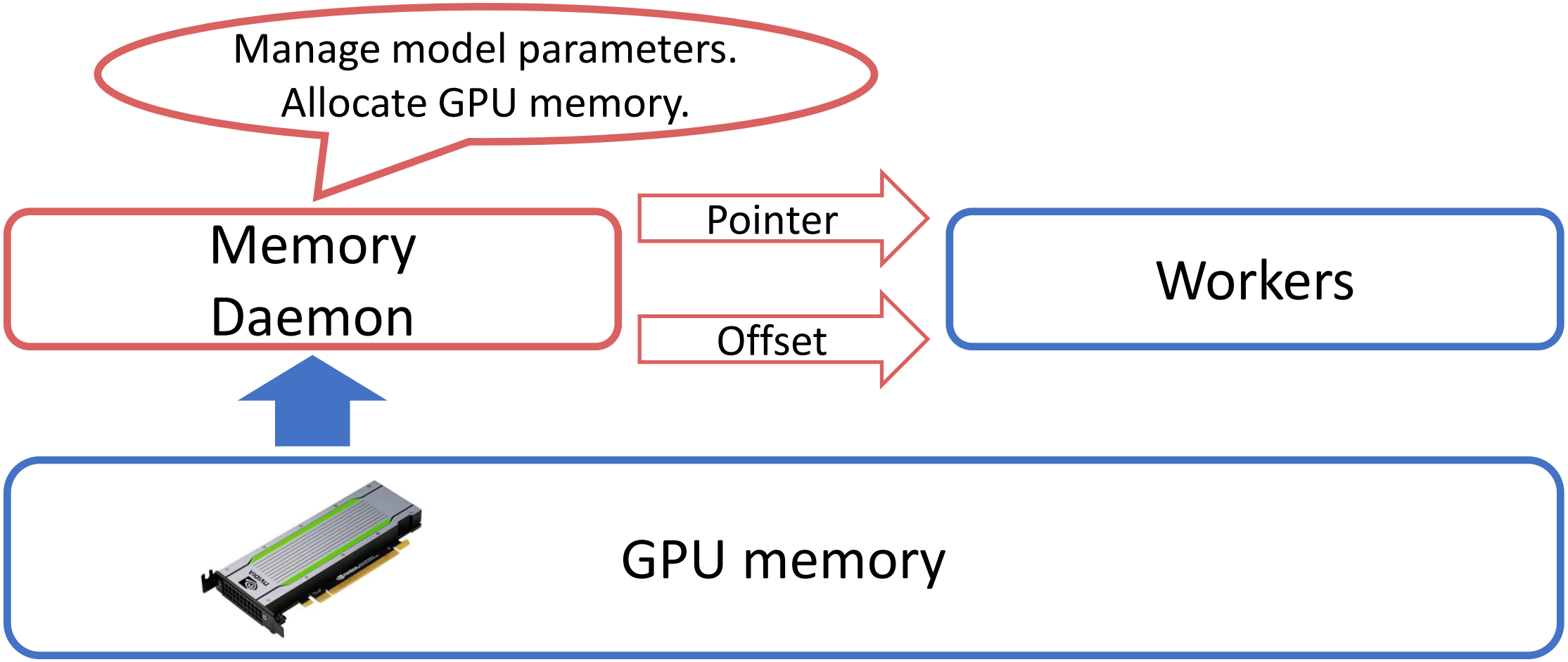


- Exponential time to find the optimal strategy
- Two heuristics for pruning

How to reduce the overhead?



Unified memory management



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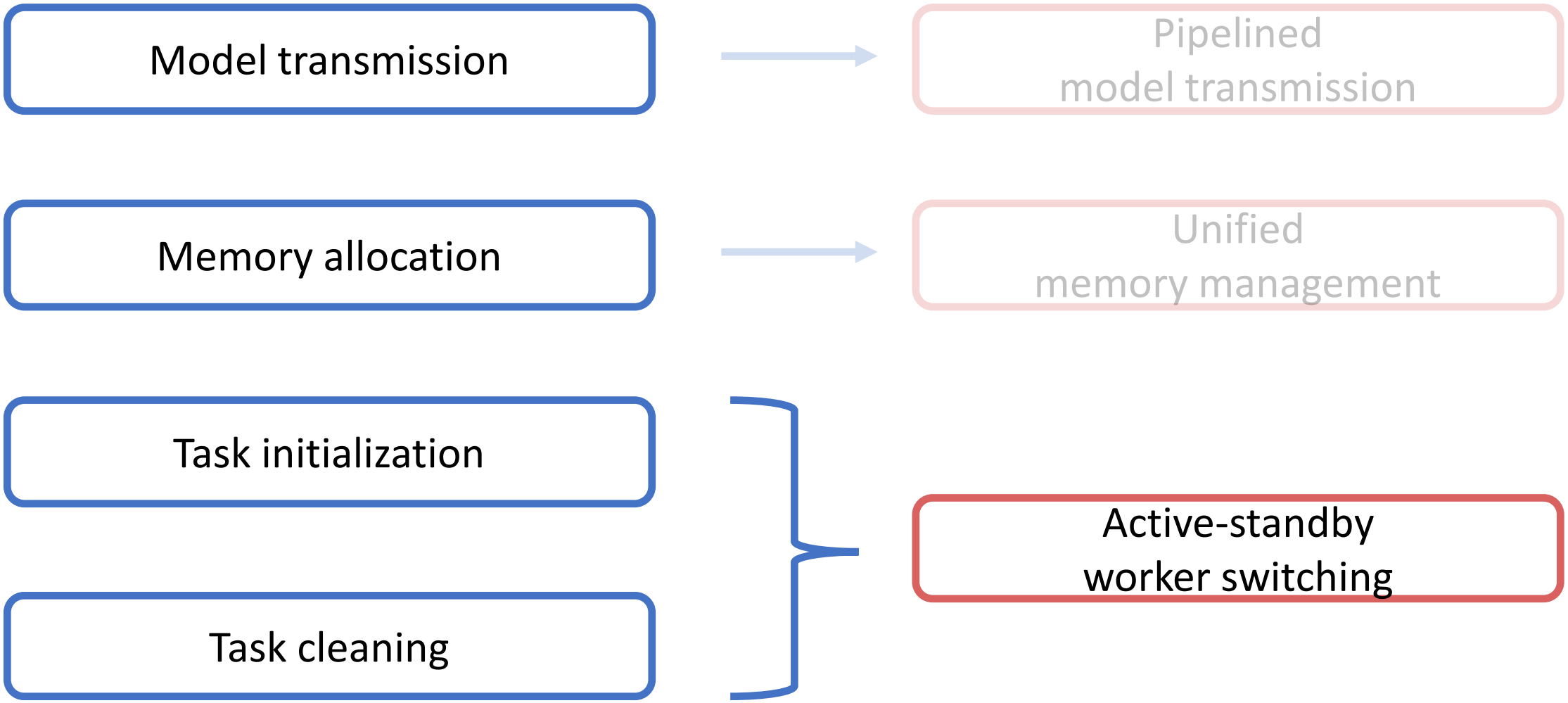
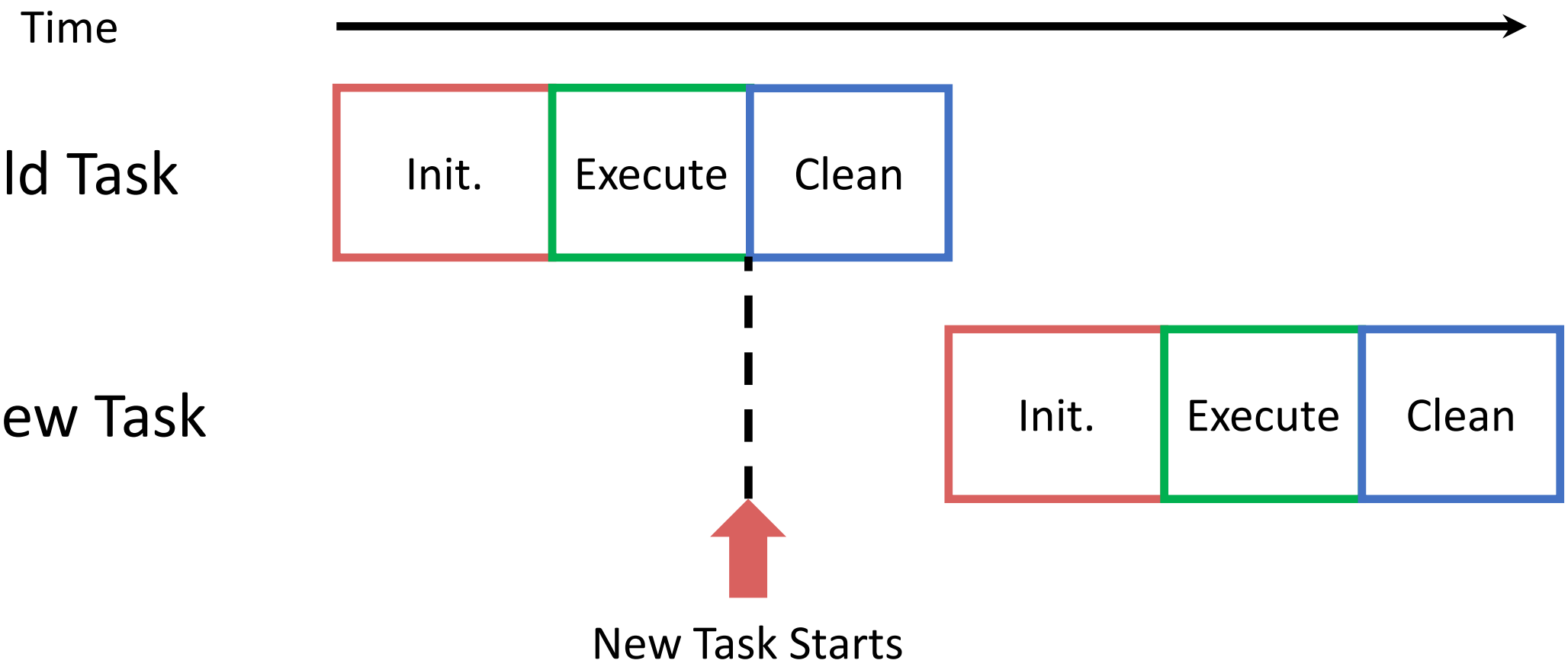


Active-standby worker switching



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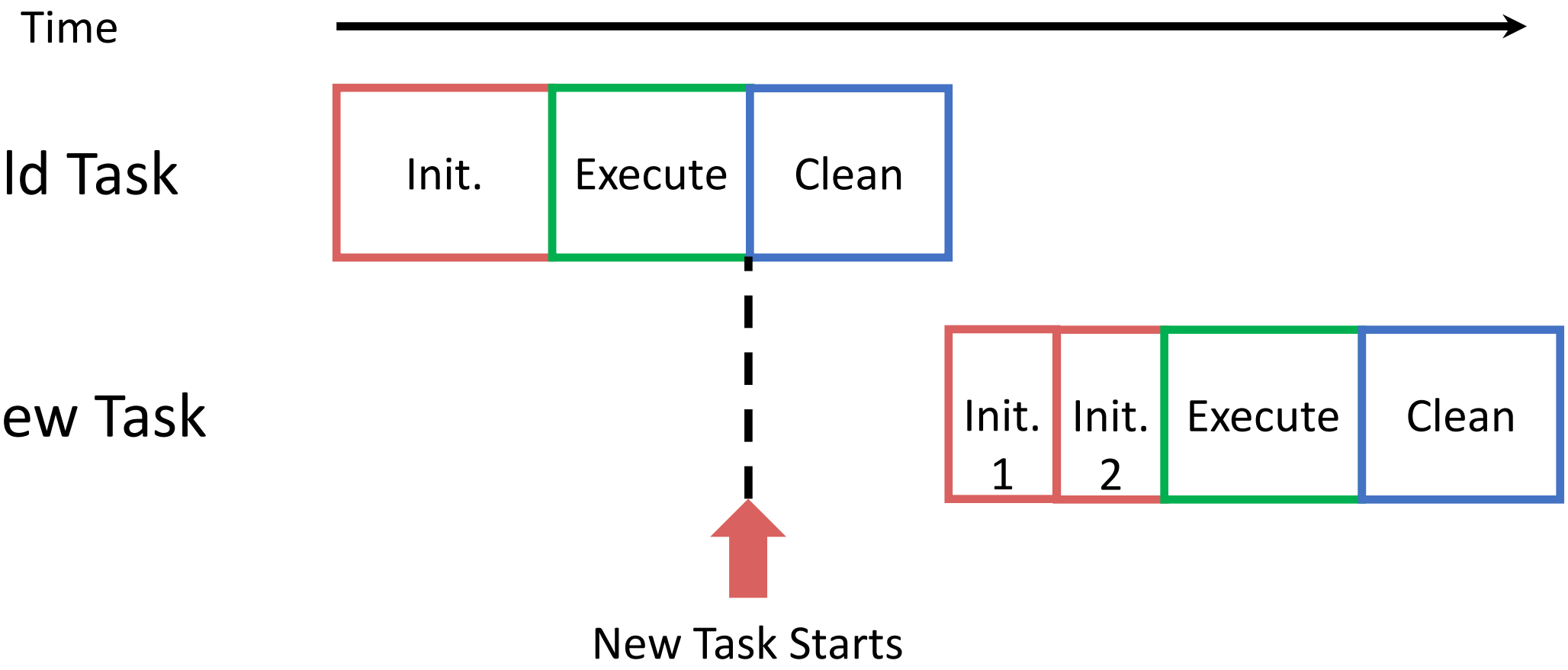

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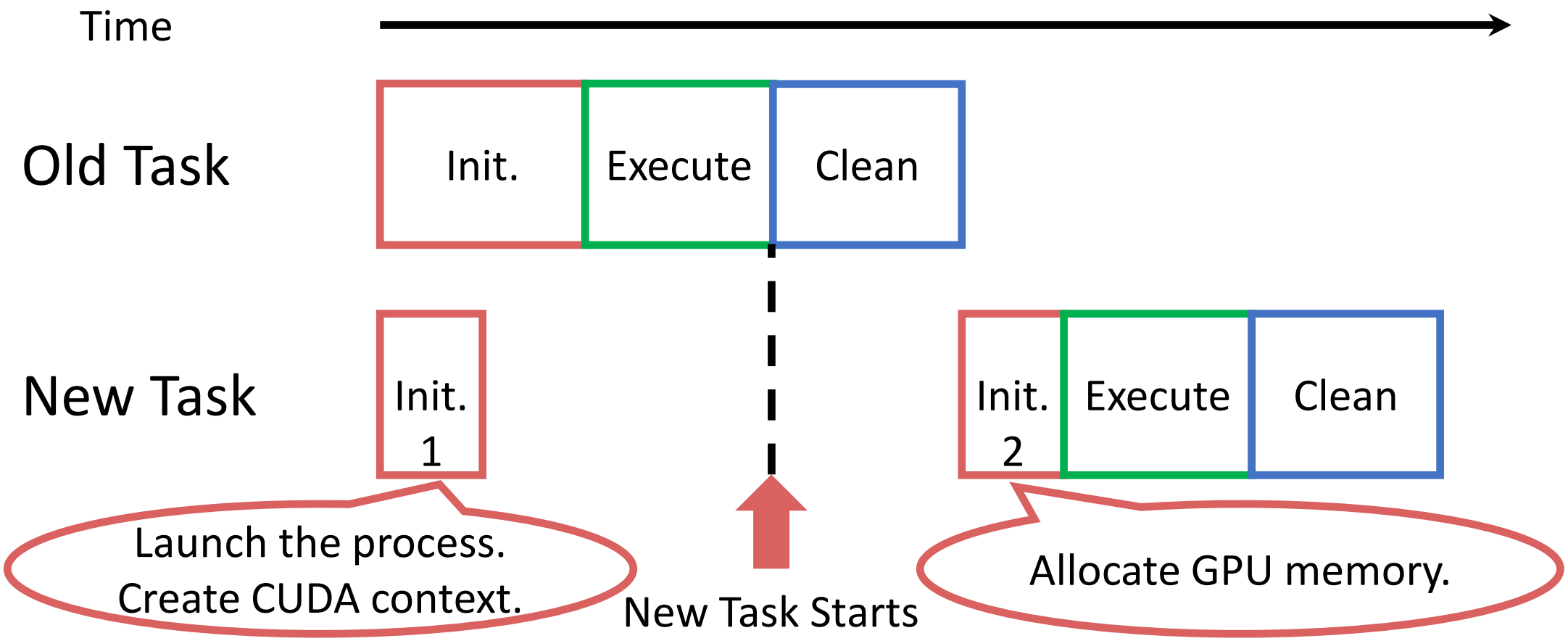

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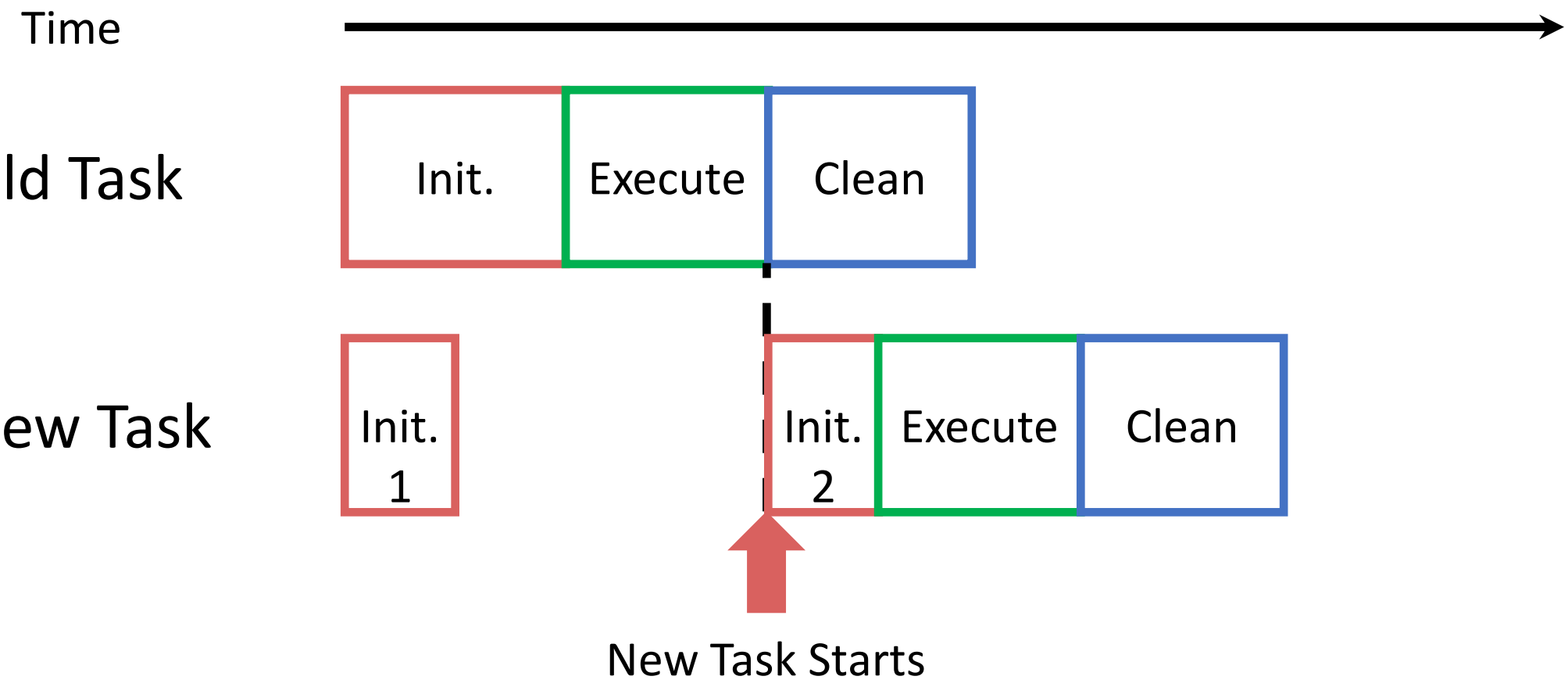

Implementation

- Testbed: AWS EC2
  - p3.2xlarge: **PCIe 3.0x16**, NVIDIA Tesla **V100** GPU
  - g4dn.2xlarge: **PCIe 3.0x8**, NVIDIA Tesla **T4** GPU
- Software
  - CUDA 10.1
  - PyTorch 1.3.0
- Models
  - ResNet-152
  - Inception-v3
  - BERT-base

Evaluation

- Can PipeSwitch satisfy SLOs?
- Can PipeSwitch provide high utilization?
- How well do the design choices of PipeSwitch work?

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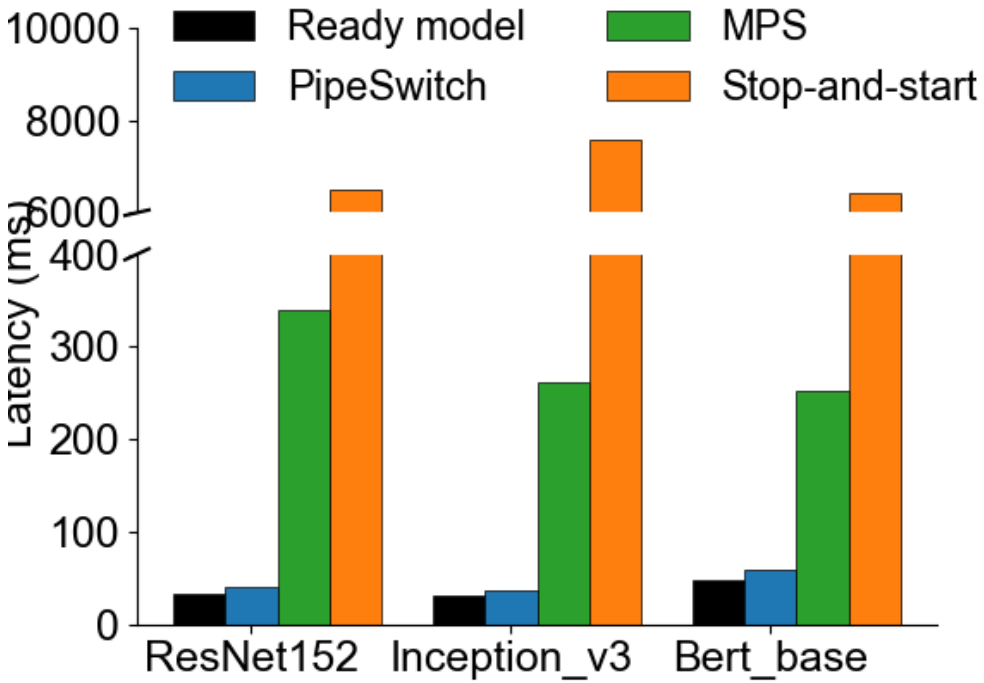
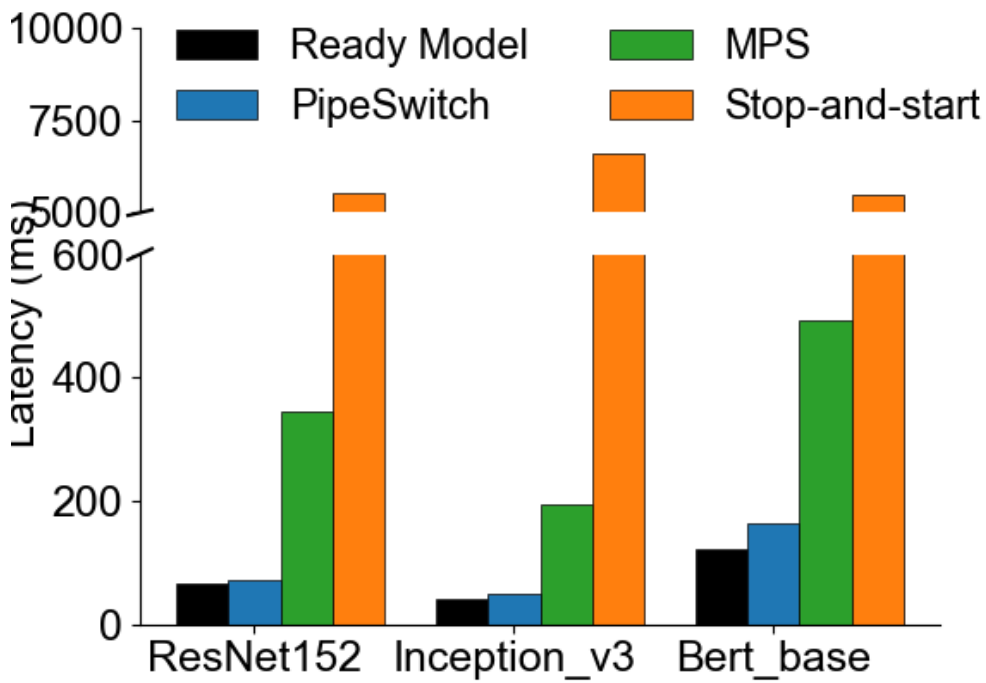
PipeSwitch satisfies SLOs

NVIDIA Tesla V100



NVIDIA Tesla T4



PipeSwitch satisfies SLOs

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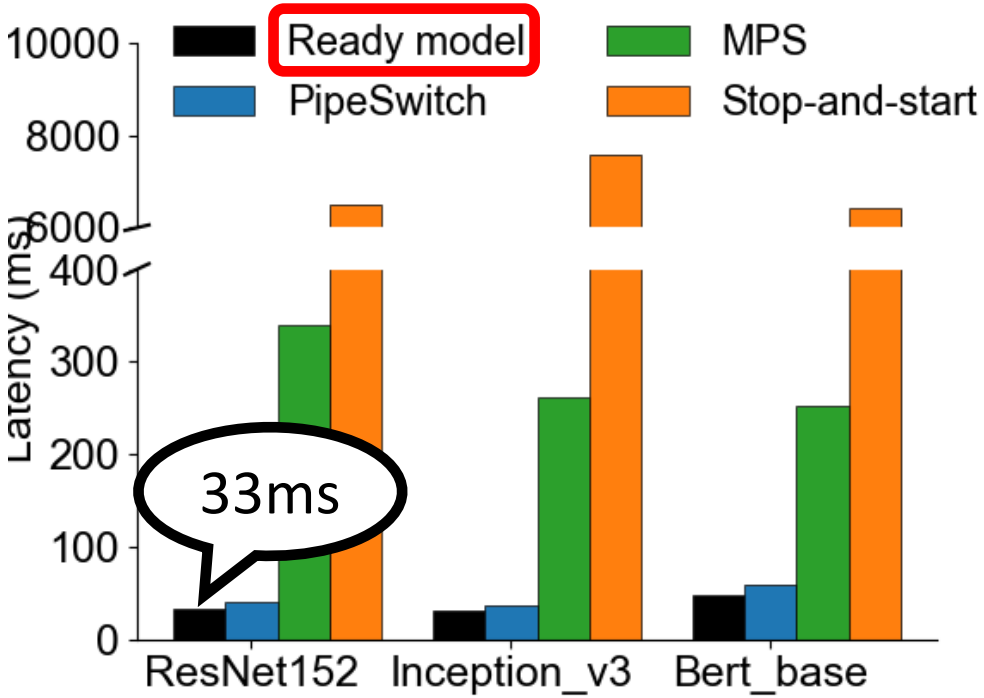

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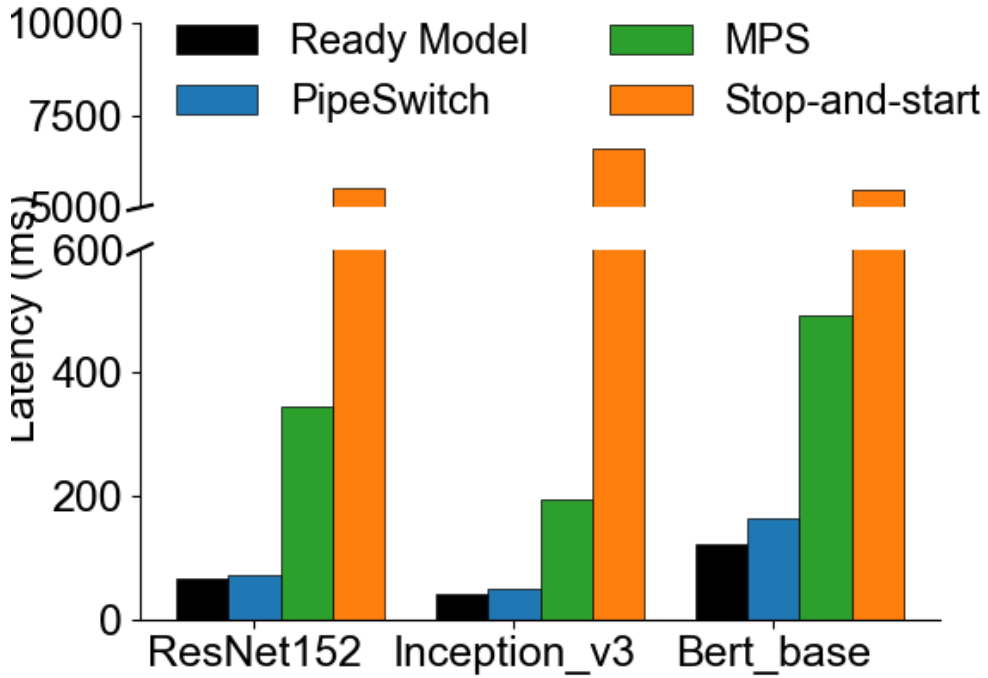

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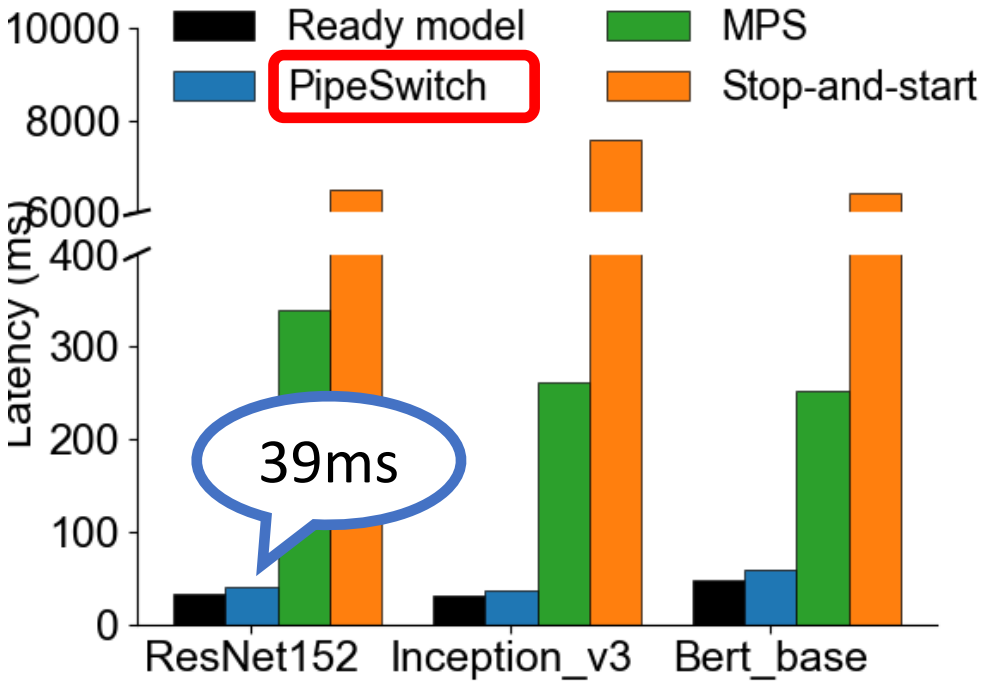

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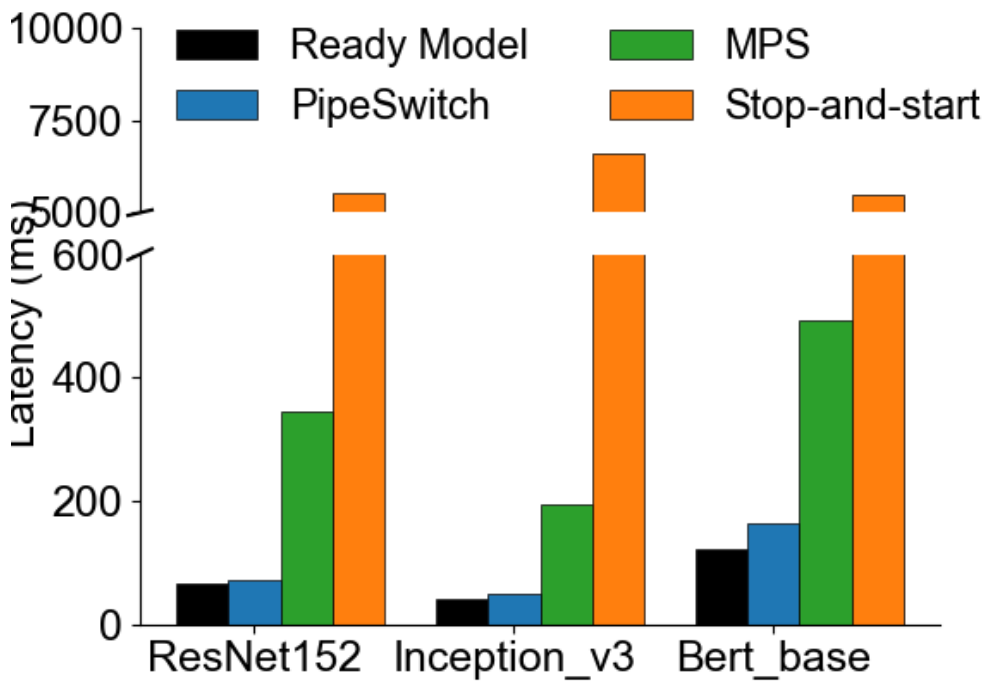

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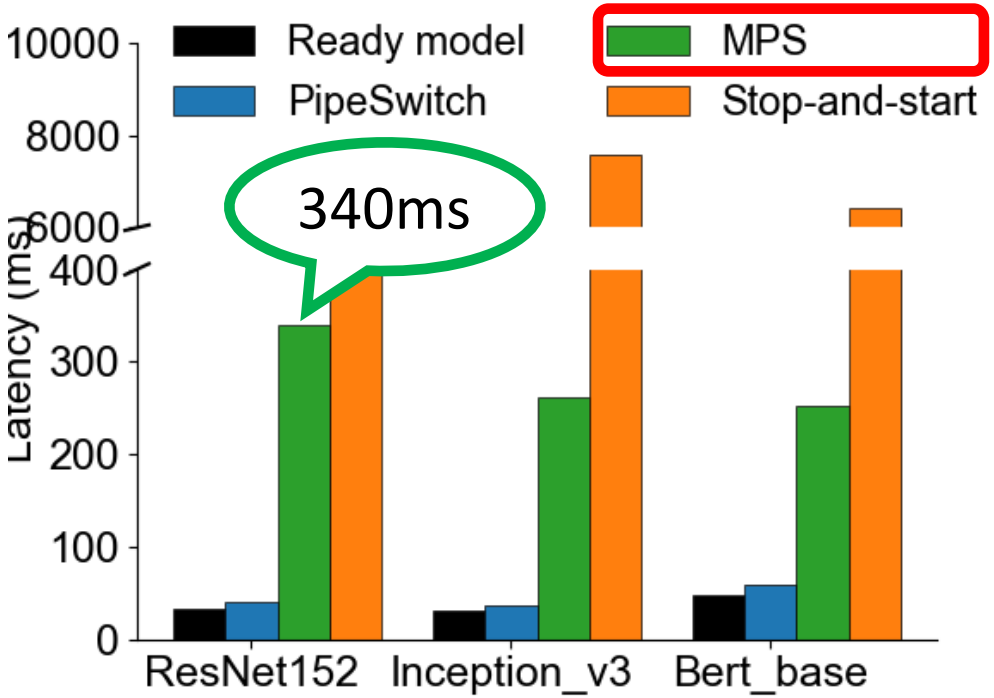

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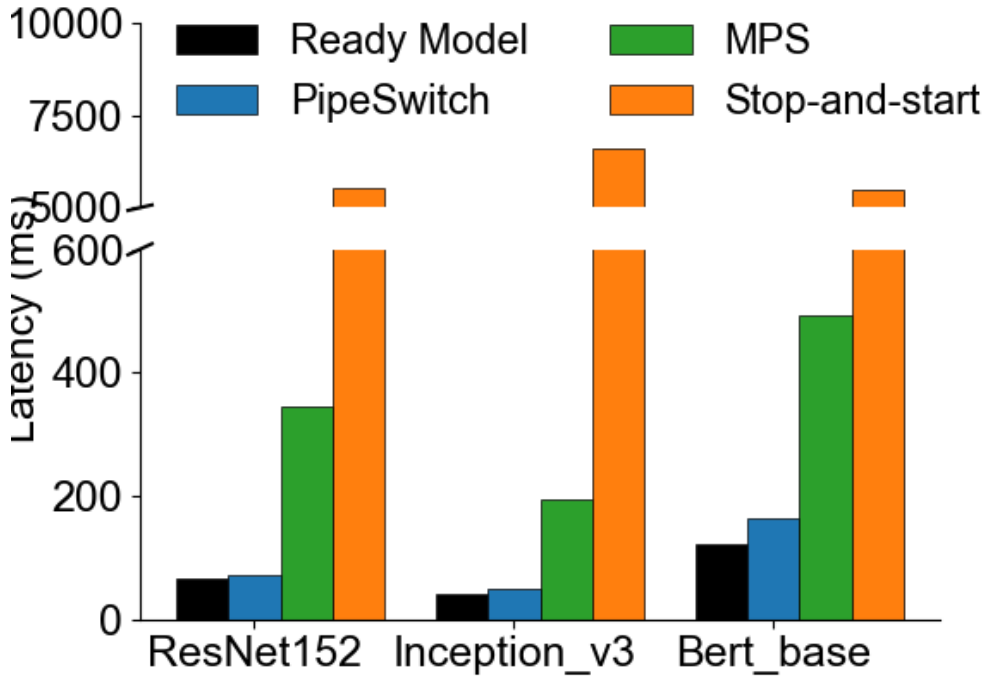

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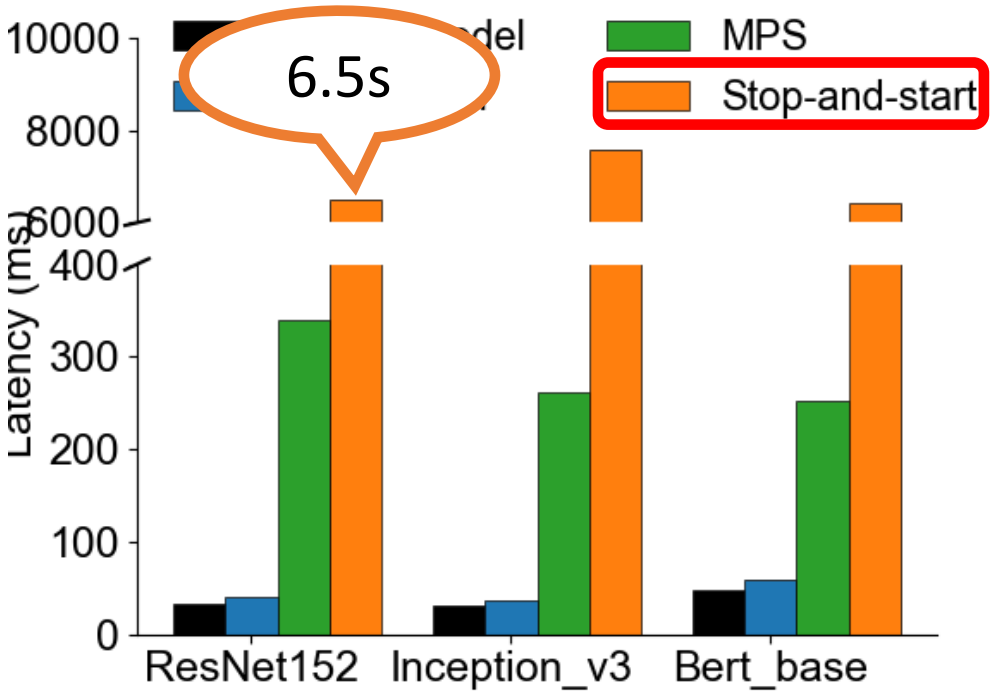

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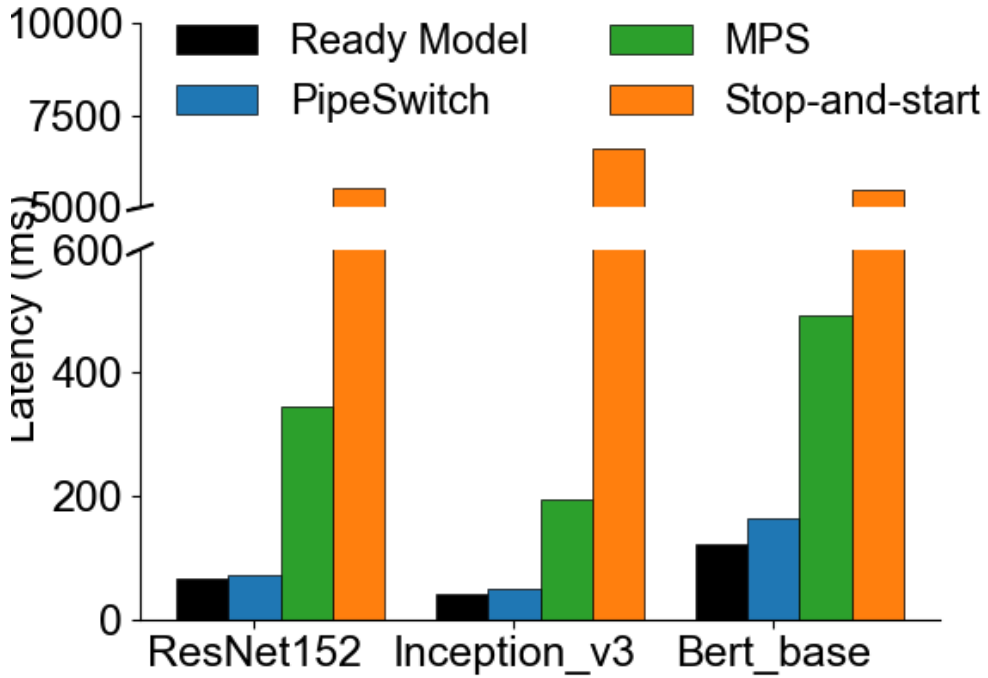

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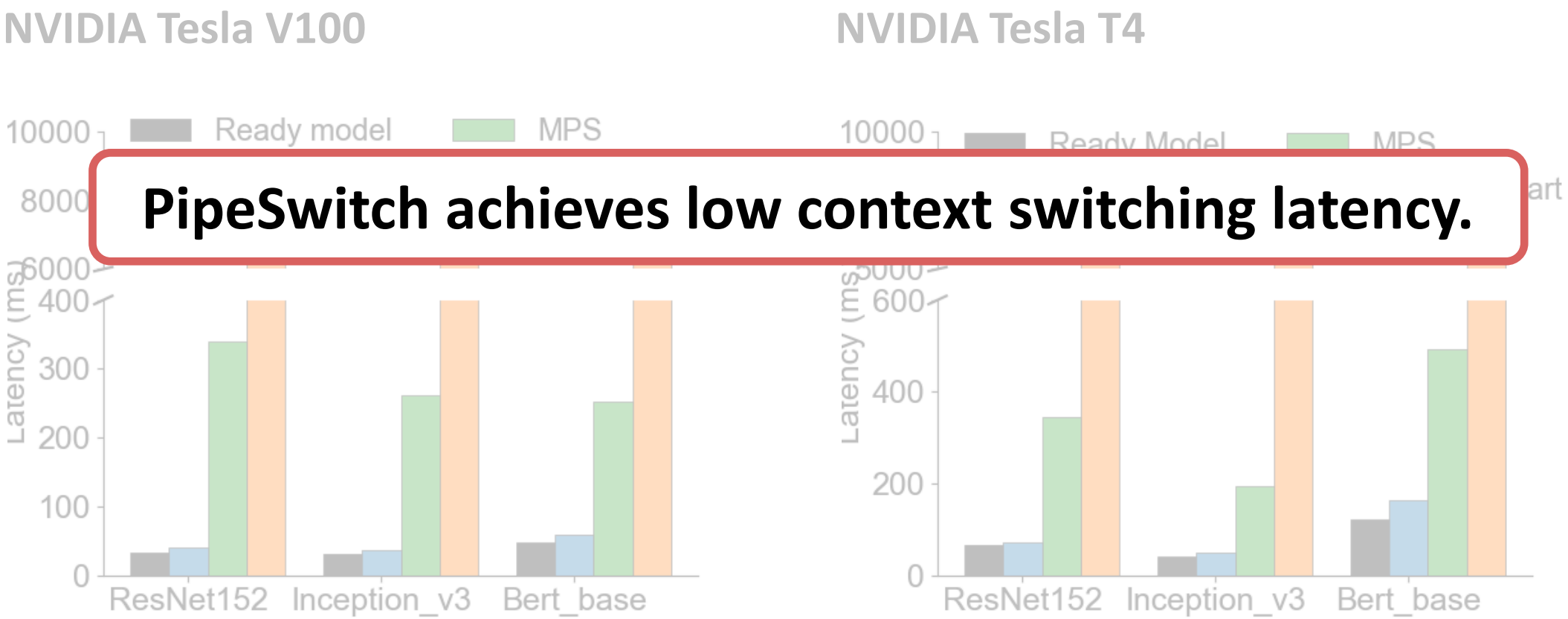
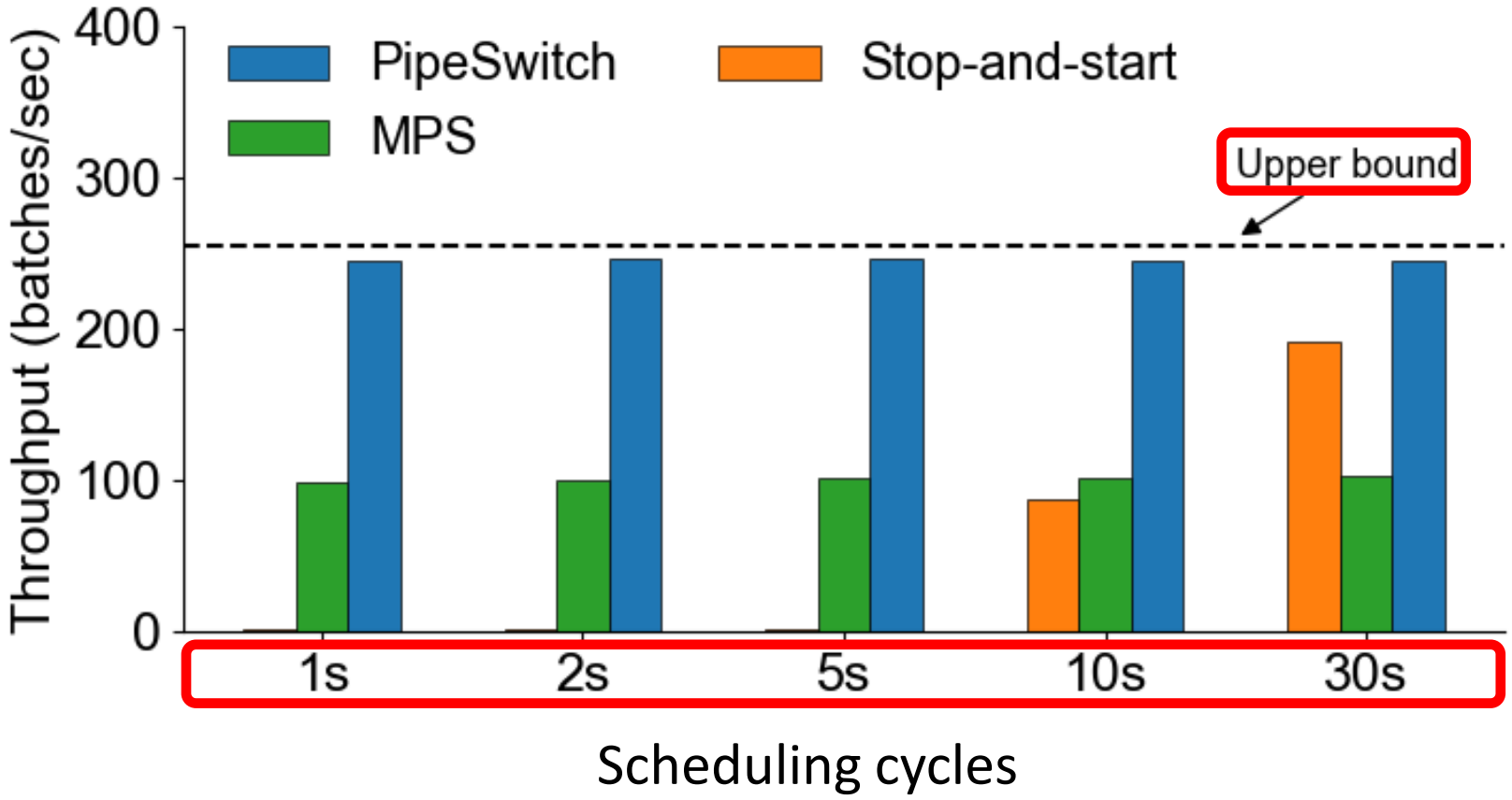


PipeSwitch achieves low context switching latency.

PipeSwitch provide high utilization



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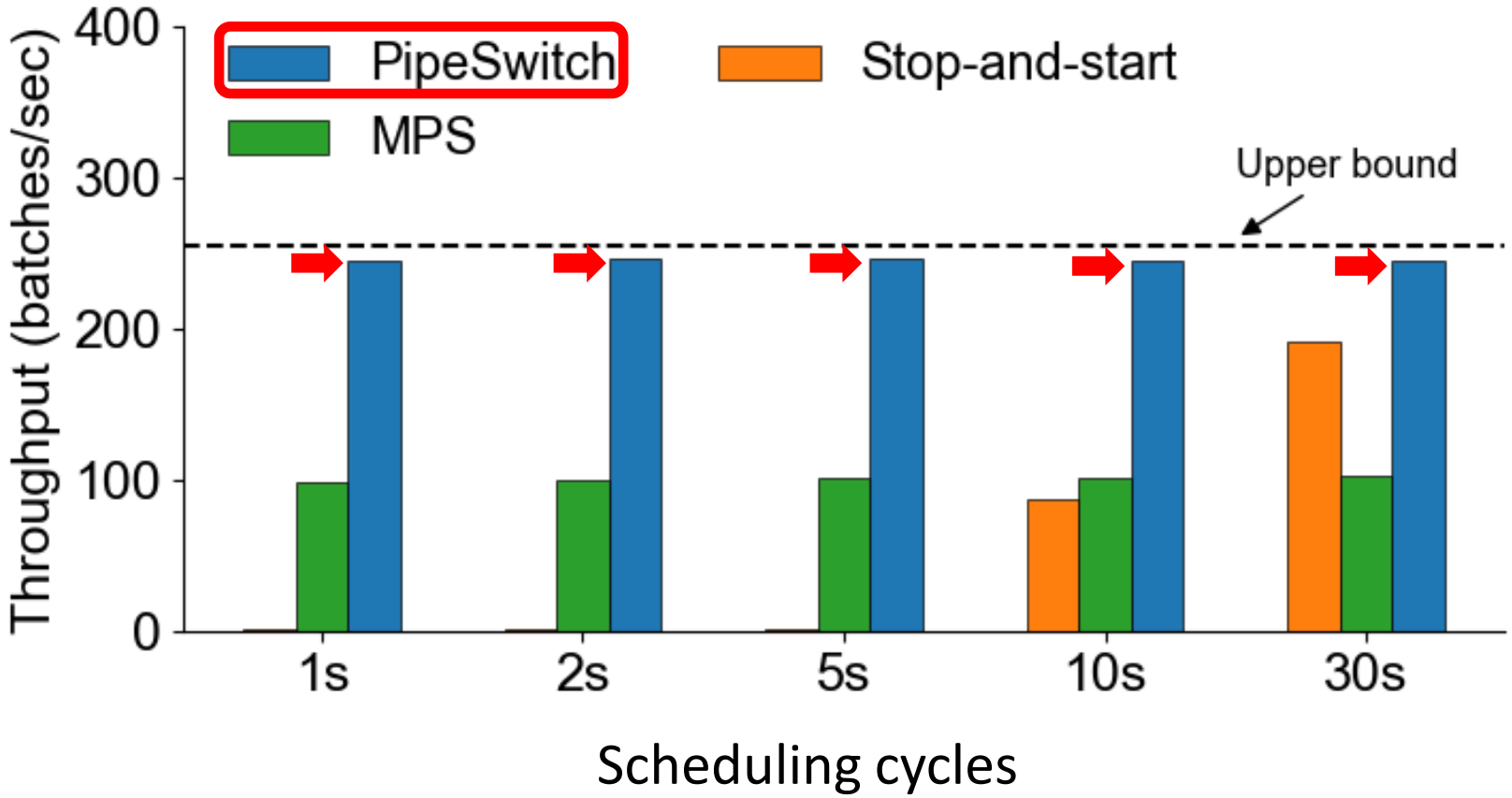

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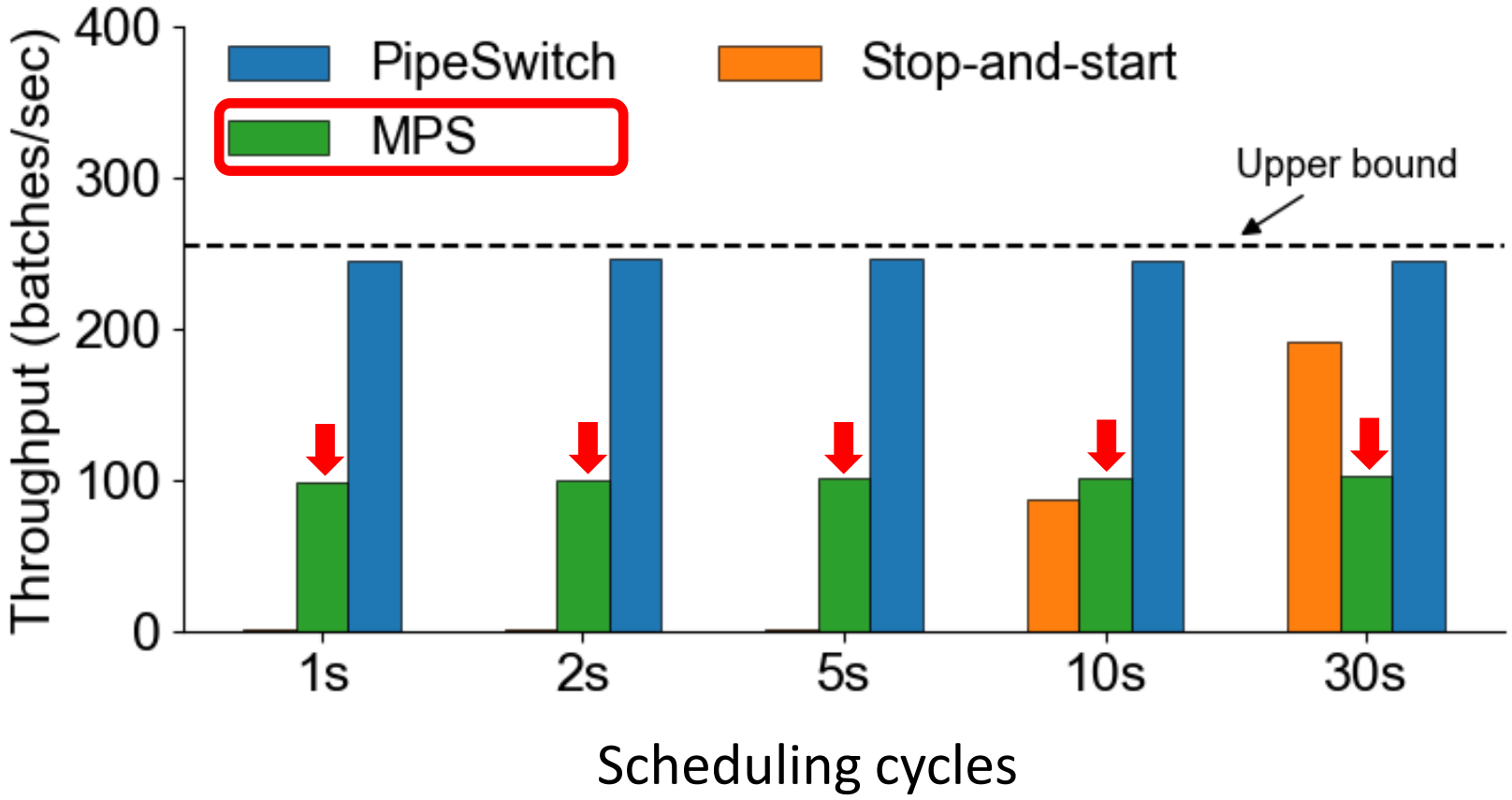

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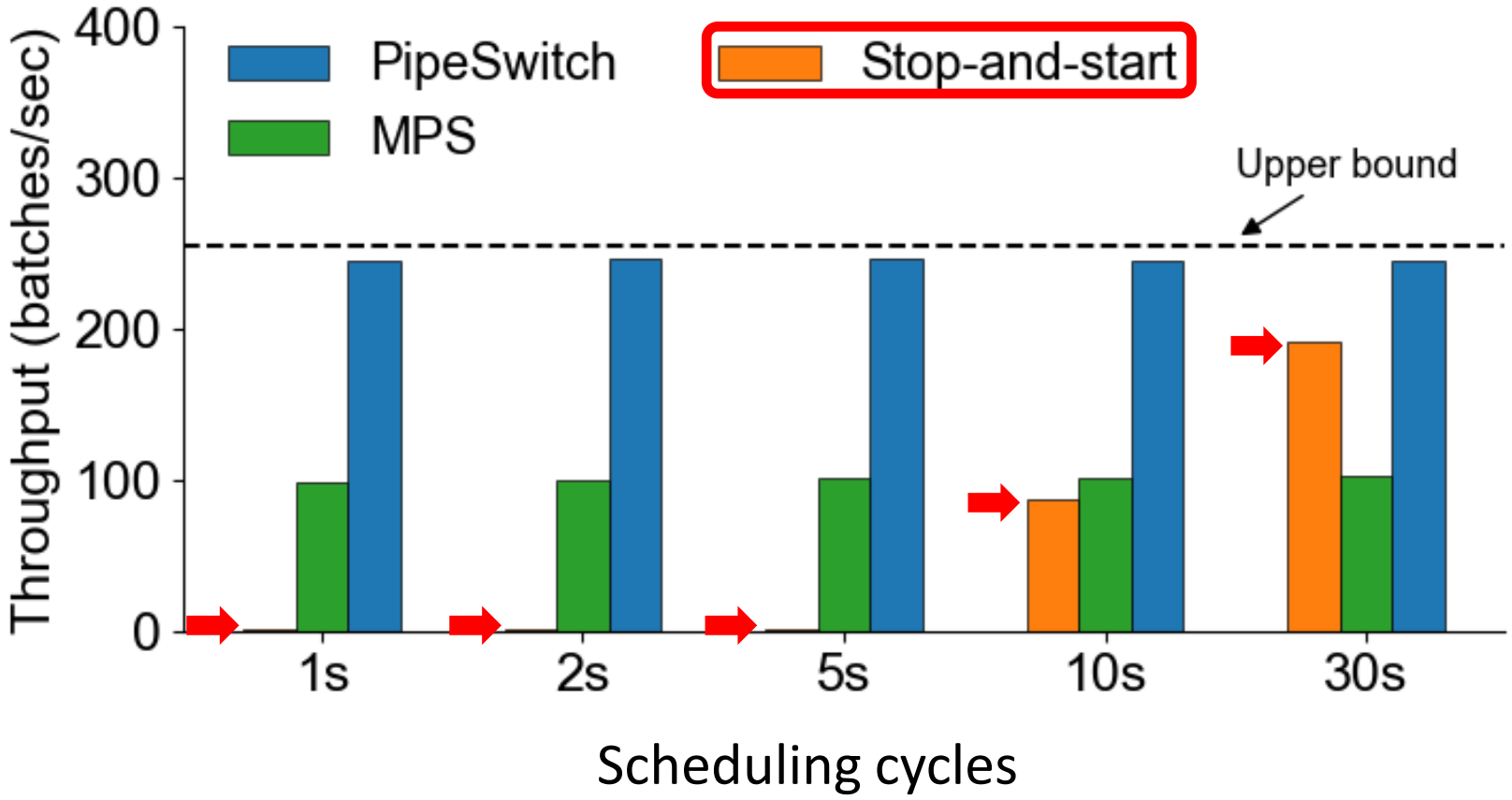

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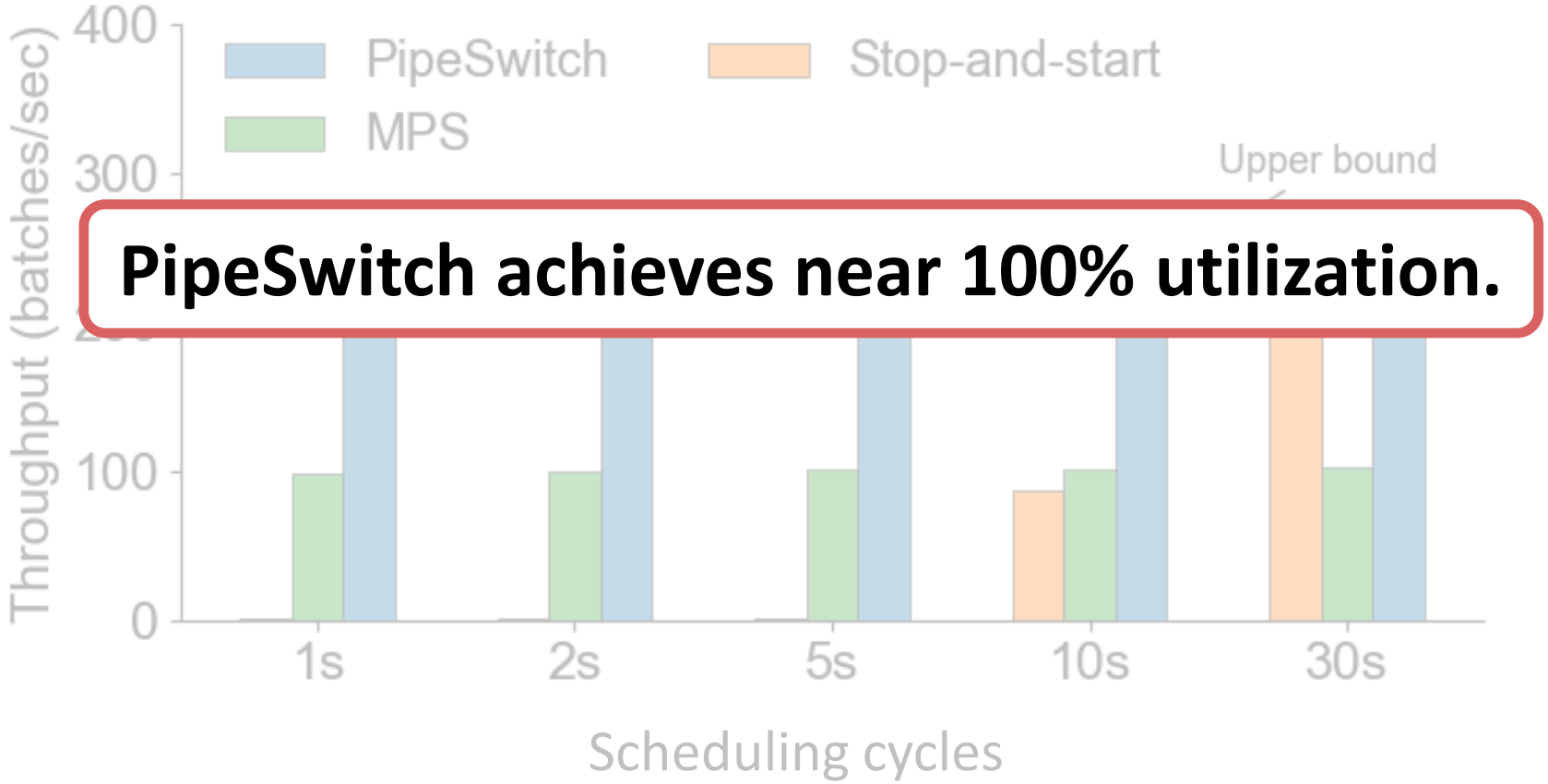

PipeSwitch achieves near 100% utilization.

Summary

- GPU clusters for DL applications suffer from low utilization
  - Limited share between training and inference workloads

- PipeSwitch introduces pipelined context switching
  - Enable GPU-efficient multiplexing of DL apps with fine-grained time-sharing
  - Achieve millisecond-scale context switching latencies and high throughput

Thank you!

zbai1@jhu.edu