



Formal Verification of Distributed Network Control Planes

Aarti Gupta

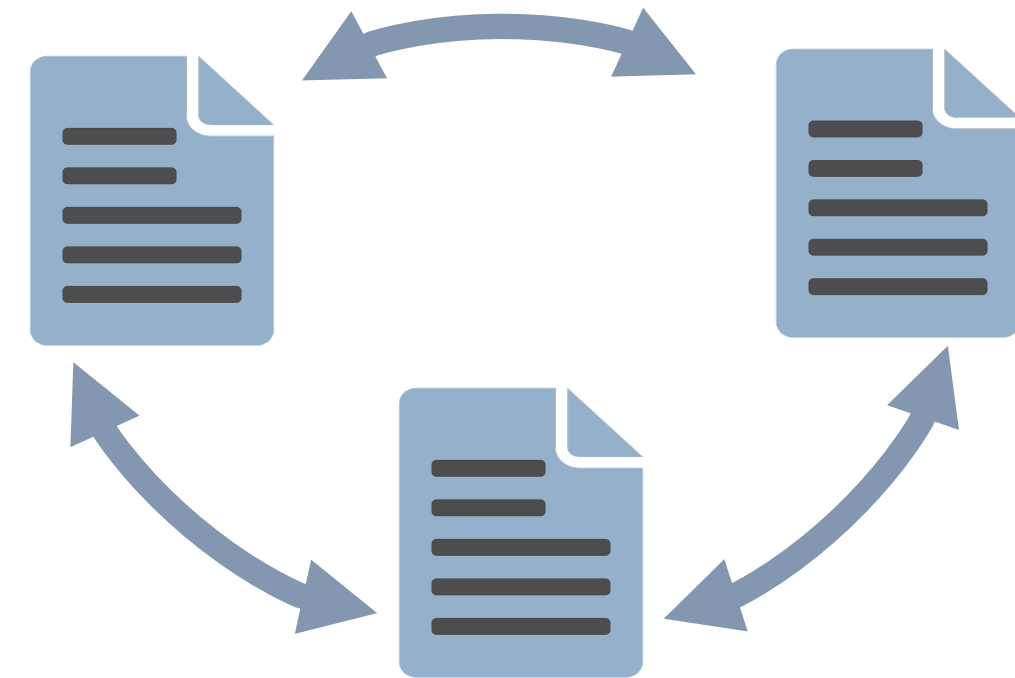
Princeton University

Joint work with:

Ryan Beckett (Microsoft Research), Ratul Mahajan (Univ. of Washington),
Divya Raghunathan (Princeton), Tim Alberdingk Thijm (Princeton),
and David Walker (Princeton)

Network Design

Control
Plane



Protocol + Configuration

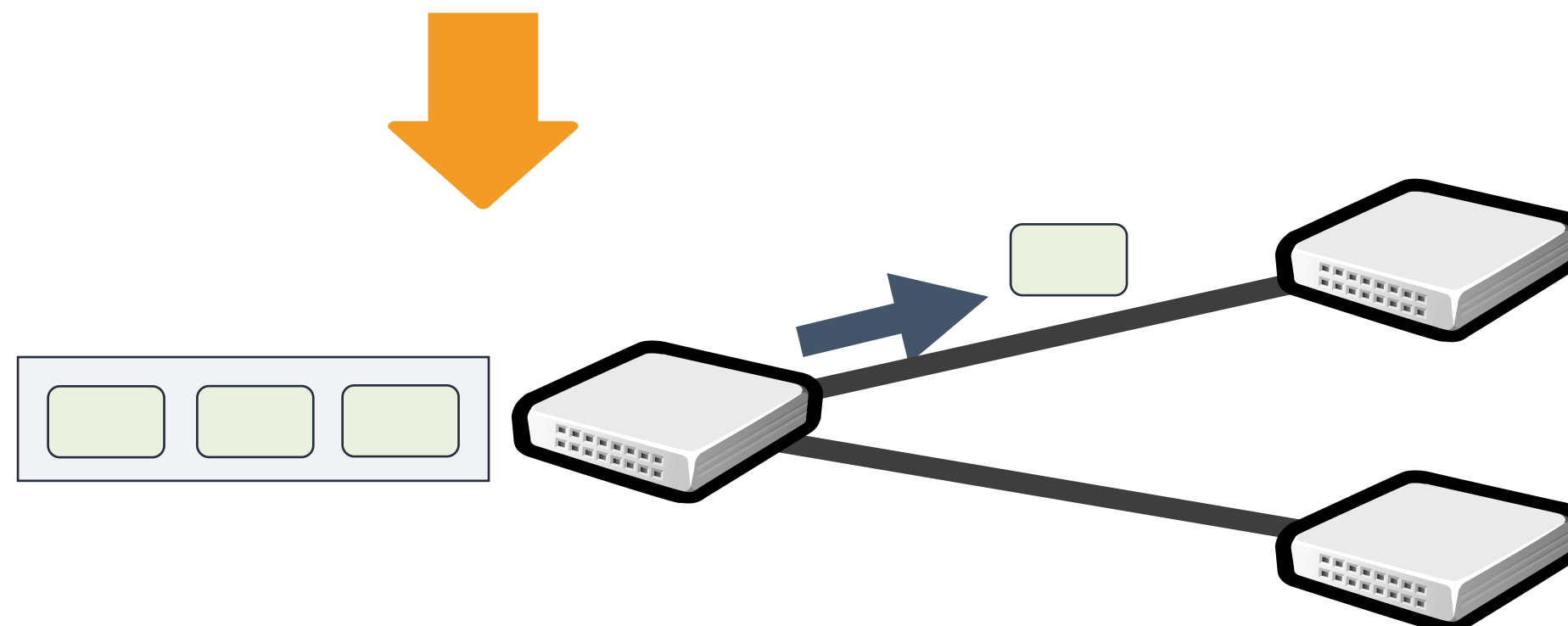
Control Plane Protocols
RIP, OSPF, BGP, ...

Data
Plane

7.2.0.*	port 1
9.2.*.*	port 2

7.2.0.*	port 5
9.2.*.*	port 3

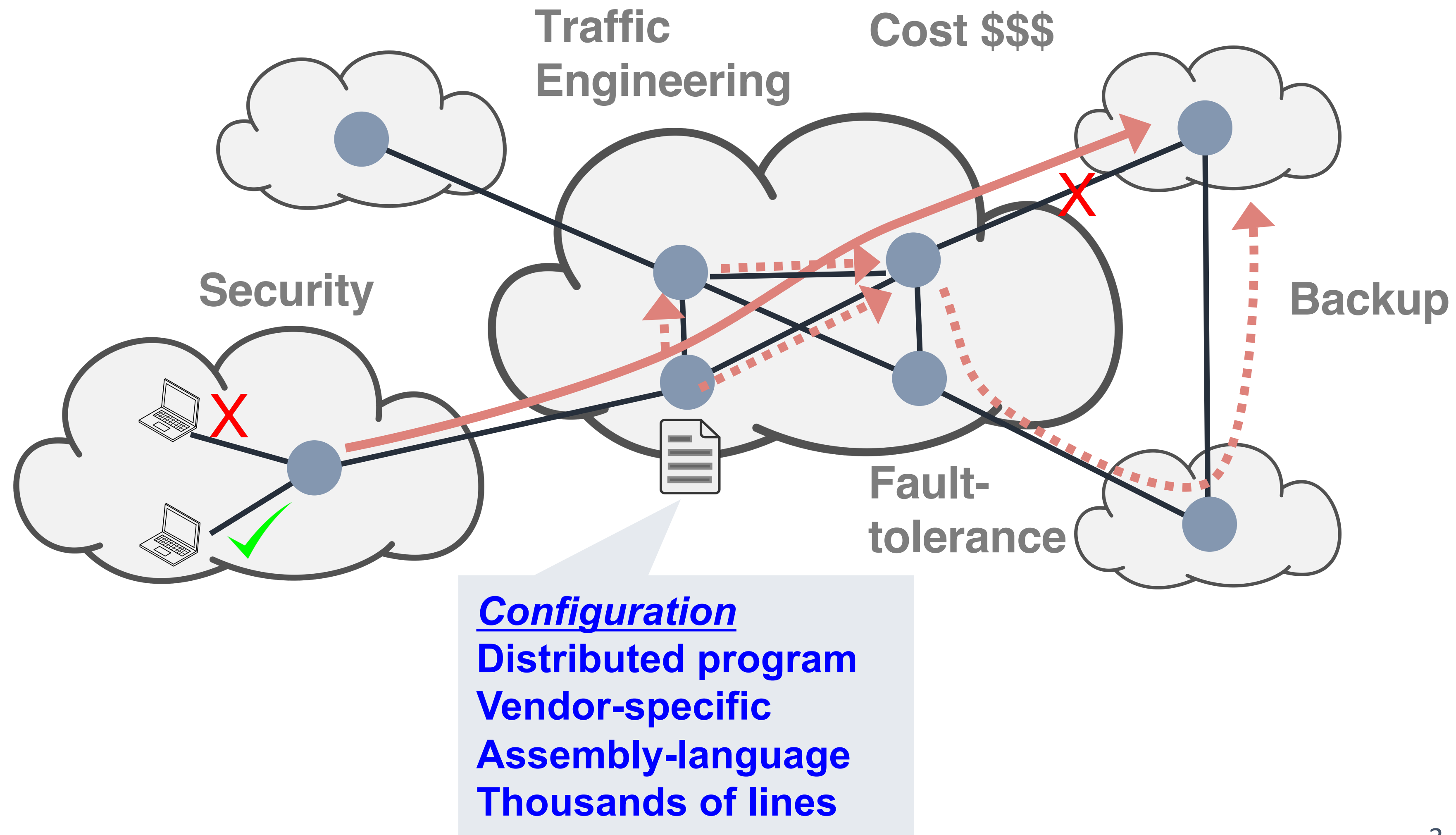
Forwarding Tables



Runtime Behavior

Network Control Plane

Primary goal is to get traffic from point A to point B
but ...



Misconfiguration is a BIG problem

BGP errors are to blame for Monday's Twitter outage, not DDoS attacks

No, your toaster didn't kill Twitter, an engineer did

Microsoft: misconfigured network device led to Azure outage

30 July 2012 | By Yevgeniy Sverdlik

Unions want Southwest CEO removed after IT outage

Router Crashes Trigger Major Southwest IT System Failure

By: Chris Preimesberger | July 21, 2016

Massive route leak causes Internet slowdown

Posted by Andree Toonk - June 12, 2015 - [BGP instability](#) - [No Comments](#)

BlackBerry outage could cost RIM \$100 million

Home / Cisco Security / Security Advisories and Alerts

 Security Activity Bulletin

Misconfigured Router Causes Increased BGP Traffic and Isolated Outages for Internet Services

Xbox Live outage caused by network configuration problem

BY **TODD BISHOP** on April 15, 2013 at 9:27 am

Motivated many formal verification efforts

- **Data plane verification** checks a *snapshot* of the network
 - Analyzes the given forwarding rules at routers to check various properties
 - Based on model checking, symbolic simulation, SAT/SMT/BDD techniques
 - Routinely applied in large data centers (~10k routers)

Data Plane Verifiers

Anteater	[Mai 2011]
HSA	[Kazemian 2012]
Veriflow	[Kurshid 2013]
NoD	[Lopes 2015]
Symmetries	[Plotkin 2016]

...

Motivated many formal verification efforts

- **Control plane verification** checks *router configurations* that determine the forwarding rules
 - Verifies *all possible data planes* that result from the configurations
 - Based on model checking, graph-based techniques, SAT/SMT/BDD techniques
 - So far, they have been demonstrated on 2-3 k routers (max)

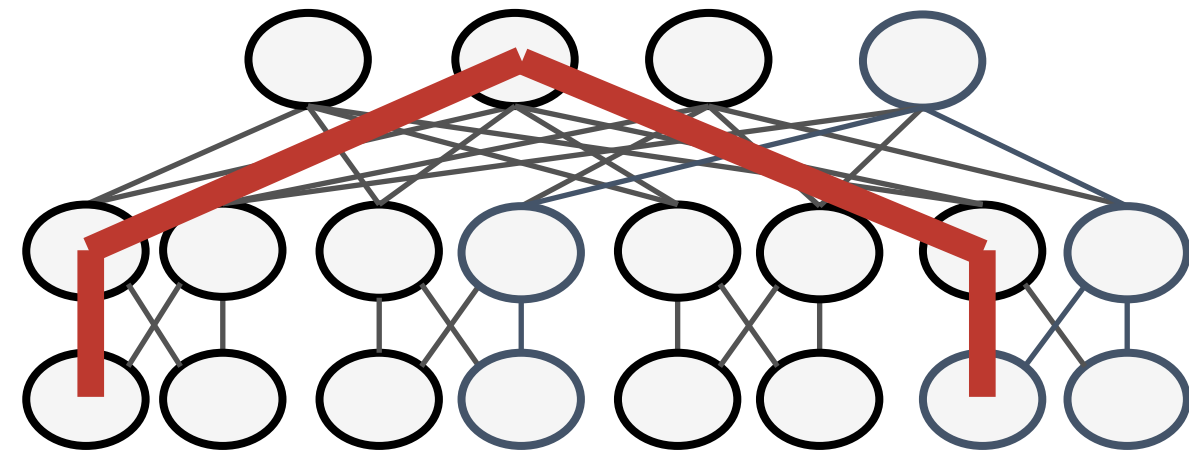
Control Plane *Simulators*

C-BGP	[Quotin 2005]
Batfish	[Fogel 2015]

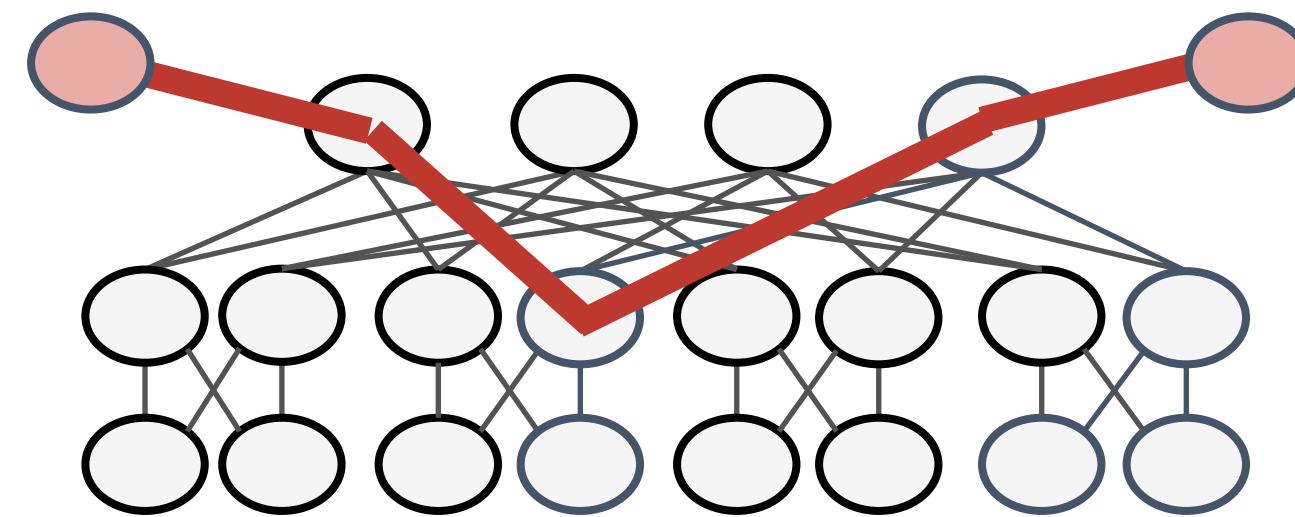
Control Plane *Verifiers*

Bagpipe	[Weitz 2016]	<i>symbolic execution</i>
ARC	[Gember-Jacobsen 2016]	<i>graph-based</i>
ERA	[Fayaz 2017]	} <i>semi-symbolic</i>
FastPlane	[Lopes 2019]	
Plankton	[Prabhu 2020]	
Hoyan	[Ye 2020]	
Our work	[Becket 2017, 2018, ...]	<i>fully-symbolic</i>

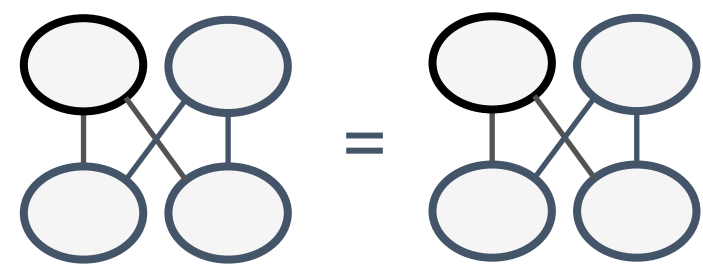
Network Properties



reachability



no transit



Router or subnet equivalence



no loops



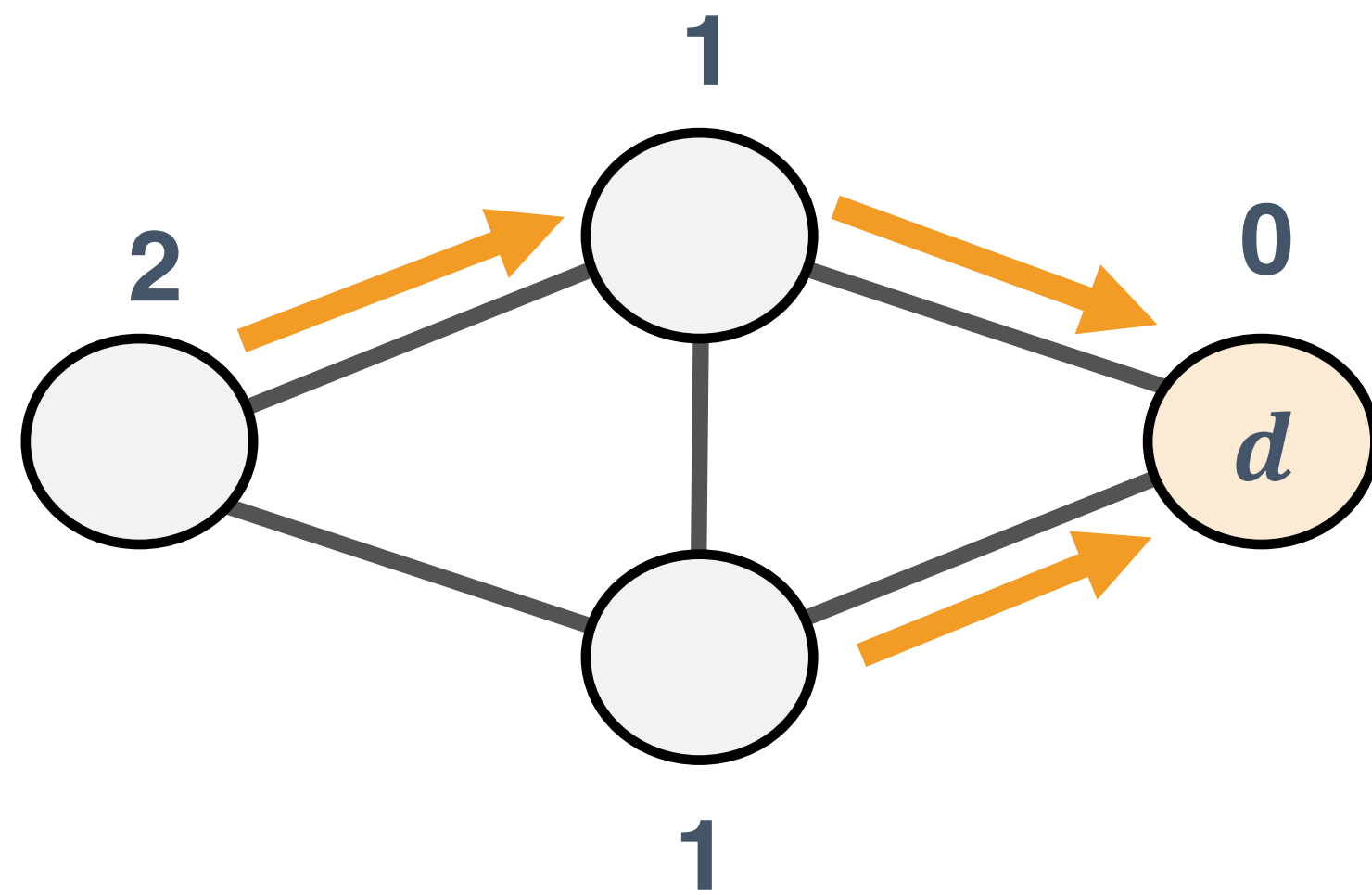
no black holes

Modeling Network Control Planes in MineSweeper

Ryan Beckett, Aarti Gupta, Ratul Mahajan, David Walker:
A General Approach to Network Configuration Verification. SIGCOMM 2017: 155-168

A Generic Routing Protocol

[Griffin and Sobrinho: Metarouting]



Idealized RIP:

A simple routing protocol

- The origin creates an *initial announcement* stating it has a path to destination d
- Other nodes that receive the announcement pass it on to their neighbors, *possibly modifying it*
- When nodes receive multiple announcements, they *choose a best one*
- Eventually (hopefully), the system converges to a *stable solution*: all nodes are happy

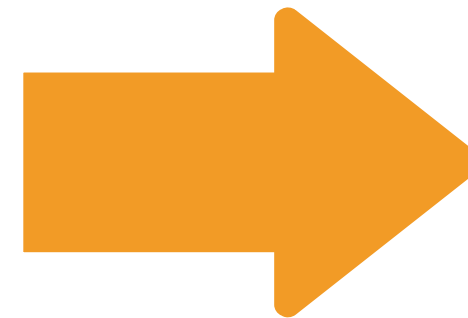
Stable Paths Problem (SPP)

[Griffin et al. 2002]

Imperative, Stateful Program

Logic Model

```
process spvp(u)
begin
  receive P from w  $\longrightarrow$ 
  begin
    rib-in(u  $\leftarrow$  w) := P
    if rib(u)  $\neq$  best(u) then
      begin
        rib(u) := best(u)
        for each v  $\in$  peers(u) do
          begin
            send rib(u) to v
          end
        end
      end
    end
  end
end
```



Choices (*P*, *u*) = ...
Best (*u*) = ...

Each node is locally stable

- Prior work on reasoning about protocol/network convergence
- We apply it for verifying *network configurations of protocols*

Minesweeper: Insights

*Network protocols are designed to generate stable paths
i.e., routers exchange messages to make best choice, which stays stable*

- **Our Idea**

Capture network control plane behavior in terms of logical constraints, such that satisfying solutions are stable paths in the network

- **Analogy to Program Verification**

Program: Satisfying solution represents a path in the program graph

Network: Satisfying solution represents *stable* paths in the network graph

But: arbitrary (not well-structured) graphs in network topology, a single solution corresponds to many paths; we target a *stable routing tree*

Minesweeper: Key Choices

Choice 1: Model routing graphs, not paths at a time

- Too many paths, but all paths share the same graph
- In the data plane, reasoning is done per-packet because there is no interference between packets along different paths
- But, in the control plane, routing messages along different paths *interact* with each other – modeling this interaction can be expensive!

Choice 2: Don't compute states due to exchange of routing messages, but perform search on final stable states

- Familiar lesson from symbolic model checking vs. bounded model checking
- Solve a *search* problem over state space, use modern SAT/SMT solvers
- Often scales better than *computing* sets of states iteratively

Minesweeper Approach

- **SRP** (Stable Routing Paths) – a general, logical control plane model
- Framed in terms of **local** route processing constraints at a node
- Applies translation to **SMT-based logic** for **verification**
- Heavily **optimized** to make the resulting tool practical

Minesweeper: SRP Model

Topology:	$G = (V, E, d)$ where $d: \text{dest} \in V$	
Attributes:	$A_{\perp} = A \cup \{\perp\}$	} protocol
Preference relation:	$< : A \times A$	
Transfer function:	transfer: $E \times A \rightarrow A_{\perp}$	} configuration
Initial value:	$a_d \in A_{\perp}$	

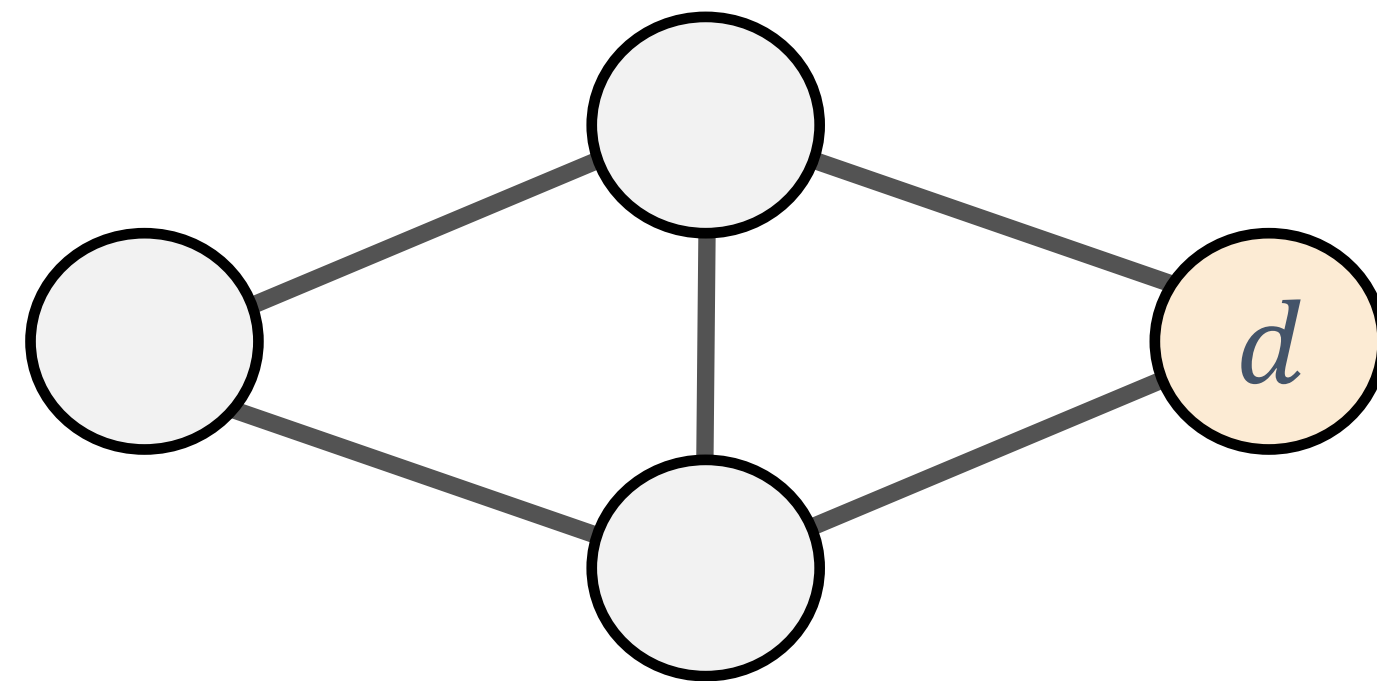
- An SRP solution is a labeling (based on neighbors): $L: V \rightarrow A_{\perp}$
- **An SRP solution is locally stable, i.e., each node is happy**
- Each SRP solution corresponds to a forwarding relation

SRP Models for Popular Protocols

- Many network protocols are used in practice
 - RIP
 - OSPF
 - BGP (eBGP, iBGP)
 - Static Routing
- Minesweeper handles them all as SRPs
 - uniform model allows handling fancy features like route redistribution etc.

Example SRP

Routing Information Protocol (RIP)



Attributes:

$$A = \{0..15\}$$

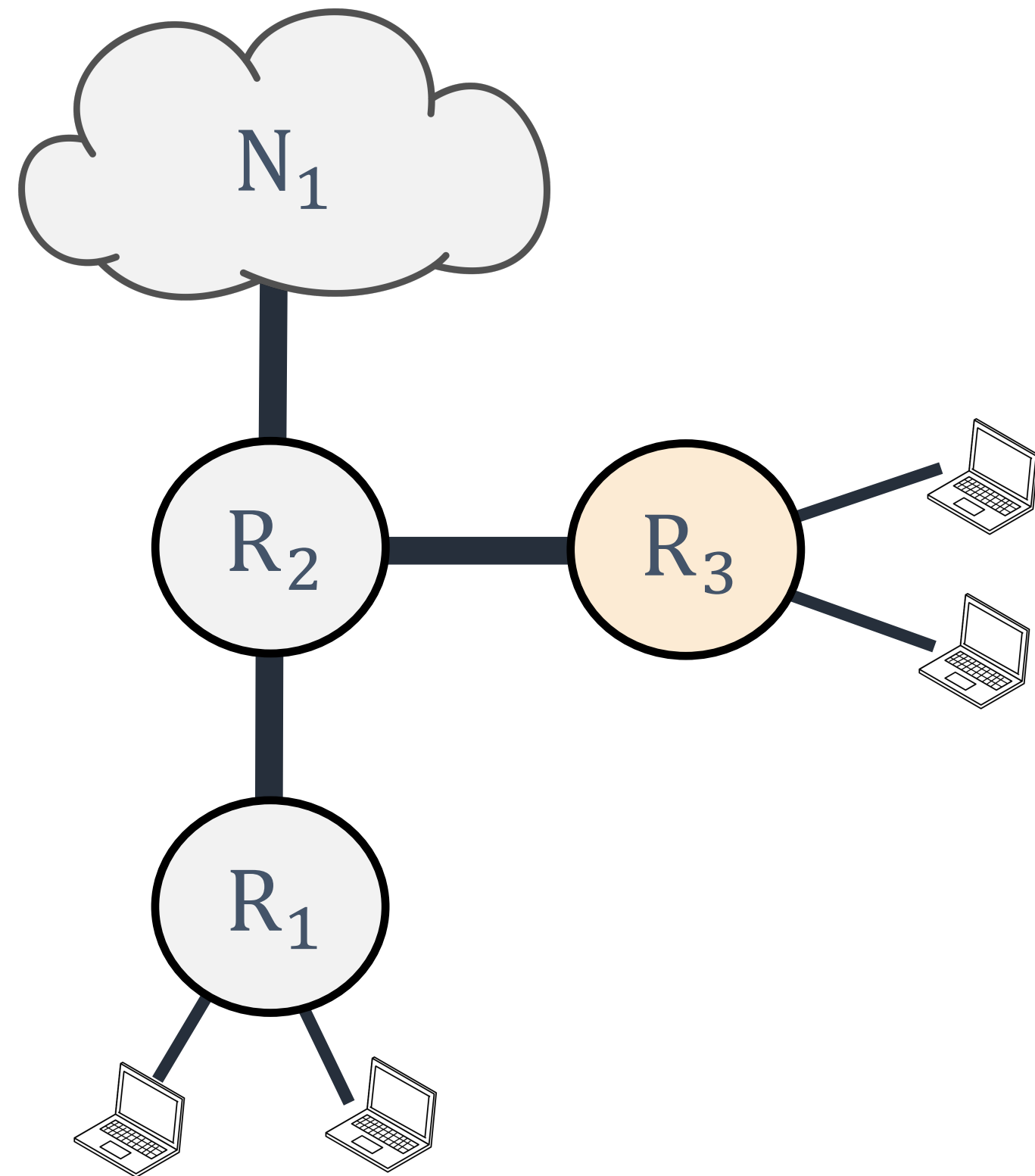
Preference relation:

$$a < b \Leftrightarrow a < b$$

Transfer function:

$$\text{transfer}(e, a) = \begin{cases} \perp & \text{If } a=15 \\ a + 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

SMT Encoding for Verification



“ Does P hold in the network? ”

Network Encoding (SRP): N

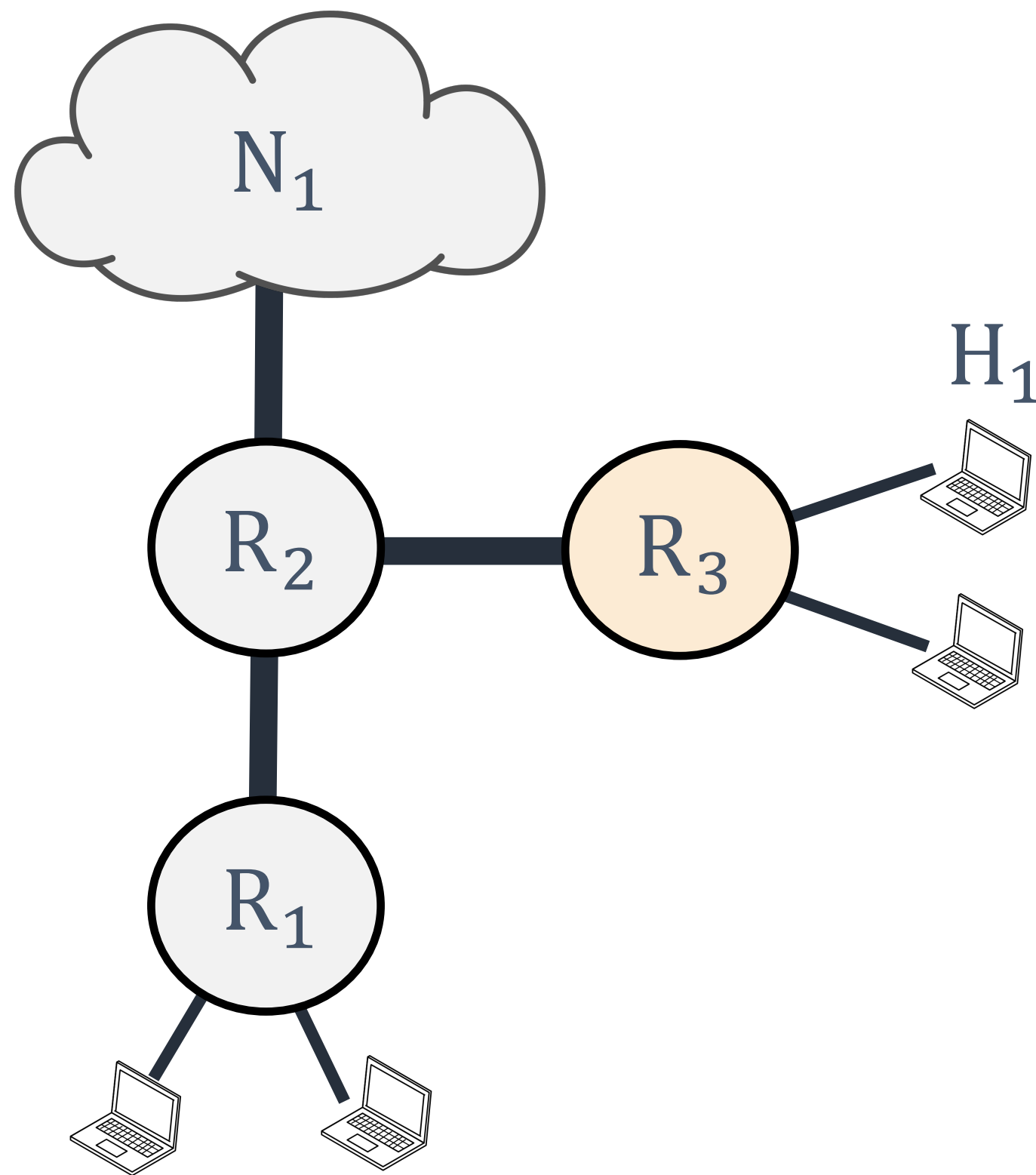
\wedge

Network Property (Negated): $\neg P$

Satisfiable: Property violation

Unsatisfiable: Property holds
for all data planes

Example: Reachability Property



“ Can router R1 reach host H1? ”

$$\text{canReach}_{R_3} \leftrightarrow \text{forwards}_{R_3, H_1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{canReach}_{R_2} \leftrightarrow & \\ & (\text{forwards}_{R_2, R_3} \wedge \text{canReach}_{R_3}) \vee \\ & (\text{forwards}_{R_2, R_1} \wedge \text{canReach}_{R_1}) \vee \\ & (\text{forwards}_{R_2, N_1} \wedge \text{canReach}_{N_1}) \end{aligned}$$

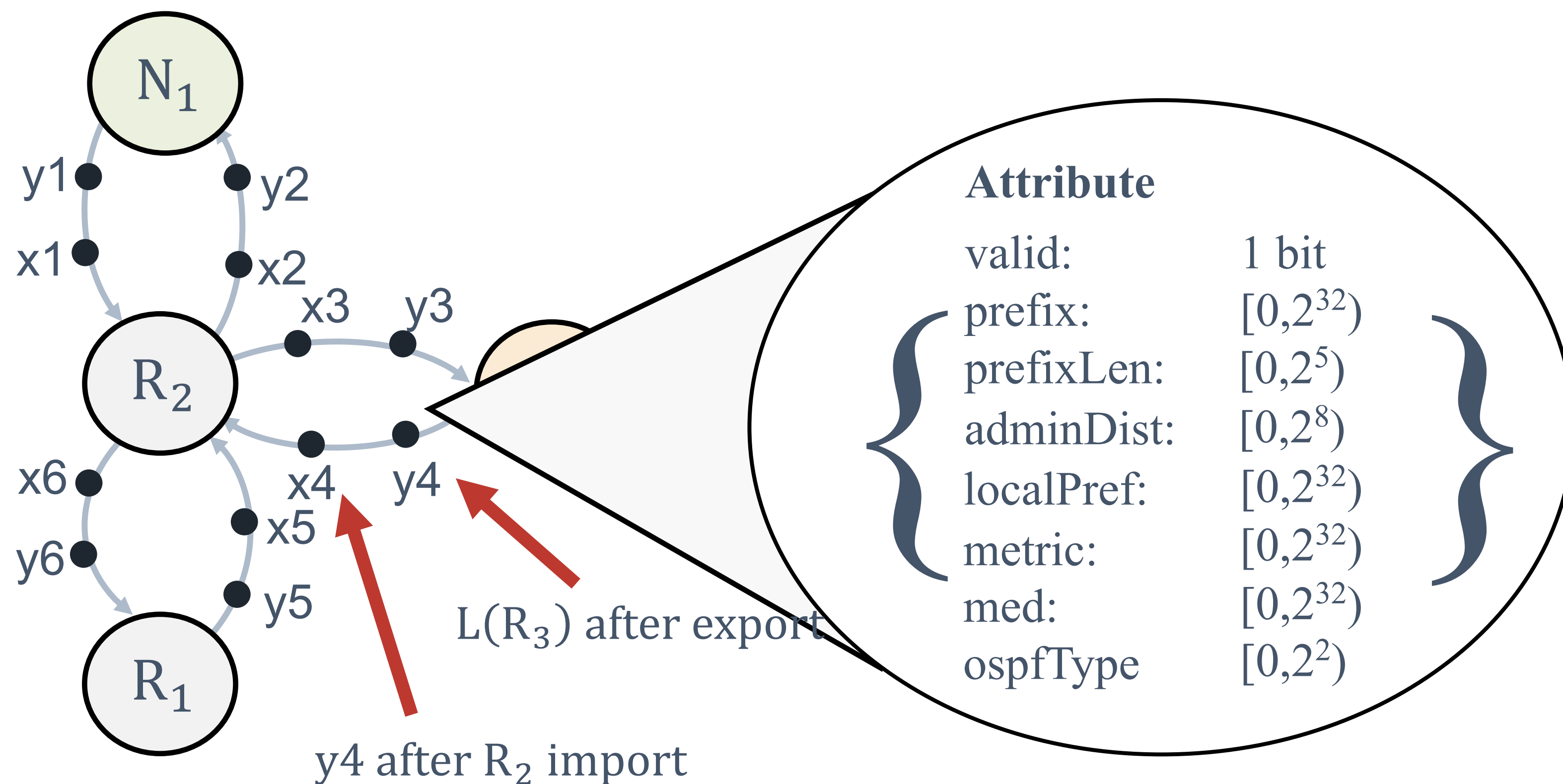
$$\text{canReach}_{R_1} \leftrightarrow \text{forwards}_{R_1, R_2} \wedge \text{canReach}_{R_2}$$

Property: canReach_{R_1}

Encoding Transfer Function



Attributes are like states

Transfer function encodes how state is updated along a link



SMT theories: bit vectors, LIA

Common Network Design Features

 Features	 Implemented	Continued...	
OSPF Intra-area	✓	iBGP	✓
OSPF Inter-area	✓	Route Reflectors	✓
eBGP Local-pref	✓	Static Routes	✓
eBGP Communities	✓	Route Redistribution	✓
eBGP MEDs	✓	Multipath Routing	✓
eBGP Path Prepending	✓	Access Control Lists	✓
eBGP Aggregation	✓	IPV6	✗

Properties Supported

 Properties	 Implemented
Reachability	✓
Bounded Path Length	✓
Equal Path Lengths	✓
Disjoint Paths	✓
Multipath Consistency	✓
Routing Loops	✓
Black Holes	✓
ECMP Load Balancing	✓
Router Equivalence	✓



Minesweeper Limitations:

Does not support **convergence**, **quantitative/probabilistic properties**

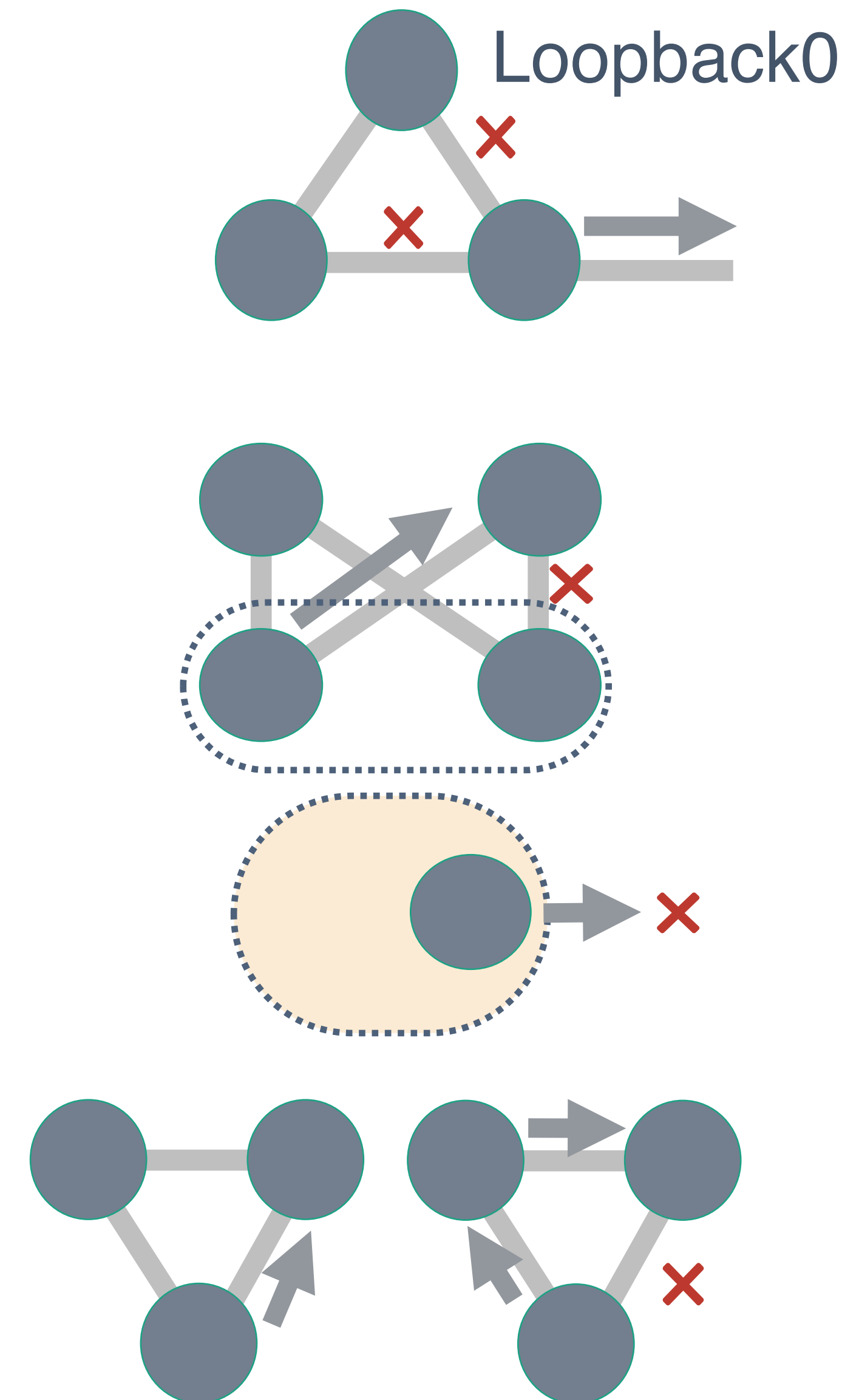
Checking **multiple destinations** is expensive

Minesweeper Evaluation

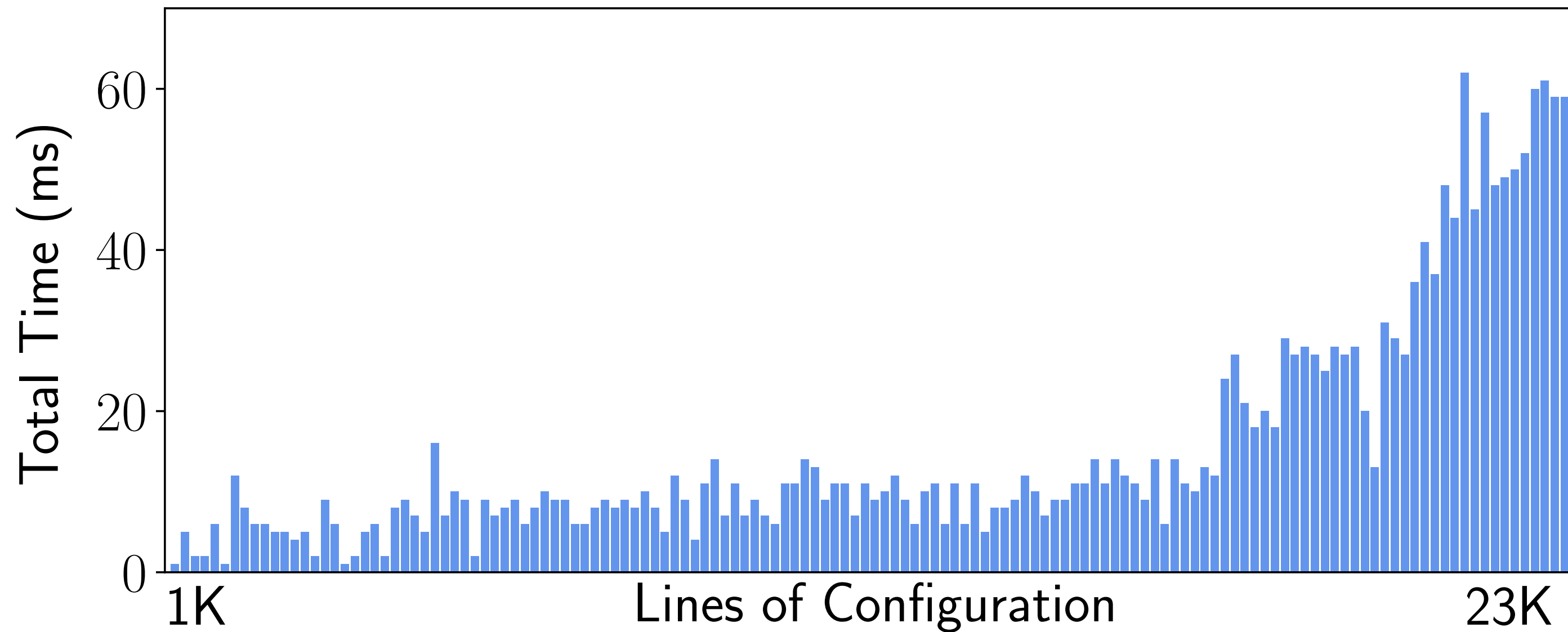
- Can Minesweeper find real bugs?
 - ▶ Ran on a collection of 152 legacy networks
 - ▶ 1—23K lines of configuration each
- How well does Minesweeper scale?
 - ▶ Tested on a collection of synthetic data center benchmarks
 - ▶ Compared verification time across a wide variety of properties

Evaluation: Bug Finding

- **Management interface reachability**
 - ▶ Found 67 violations of the property
- **Local equivalence of routers**
 - ▶ Found 29 violations
 - ▶ Example: ACL has missing entry
- **Blackholes occur only at the network edge**
 - ▶ Found 24 violations of the property
- **Reachability is the same after any 1 failure**
 - ▶ Found no violations of the property

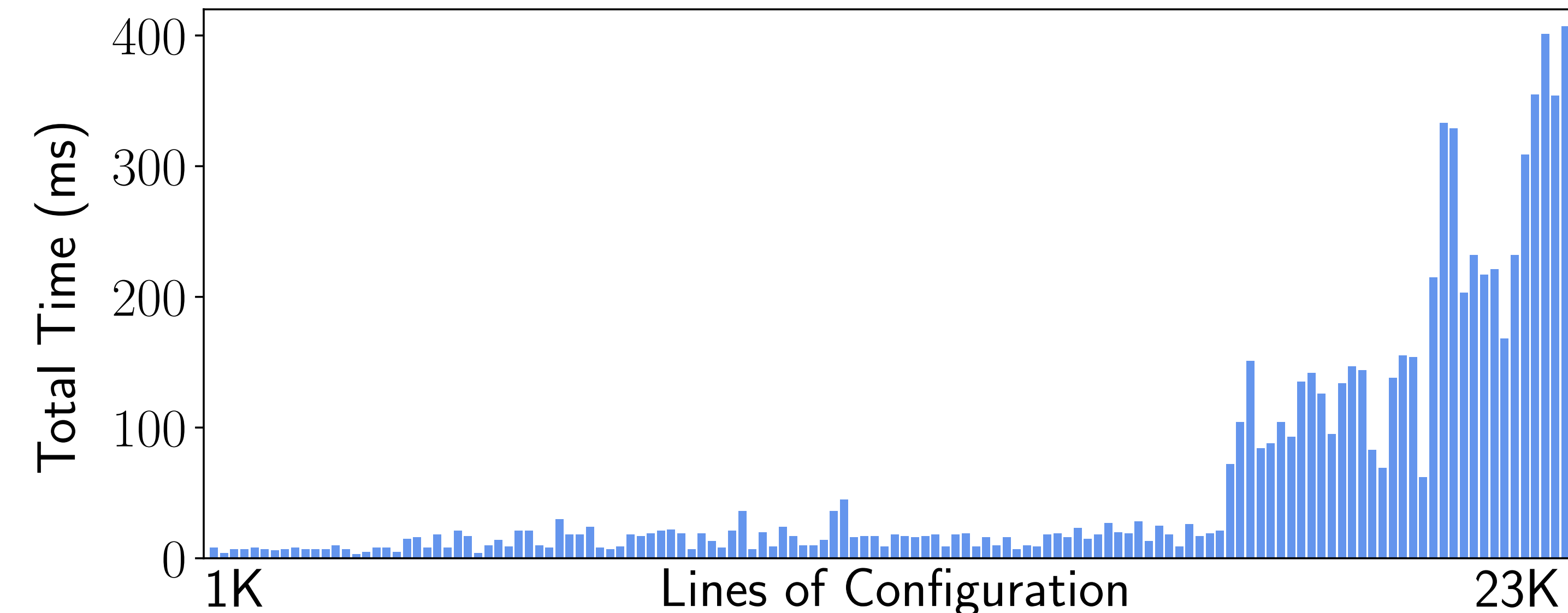


Evaluation Results



Management interface reachability

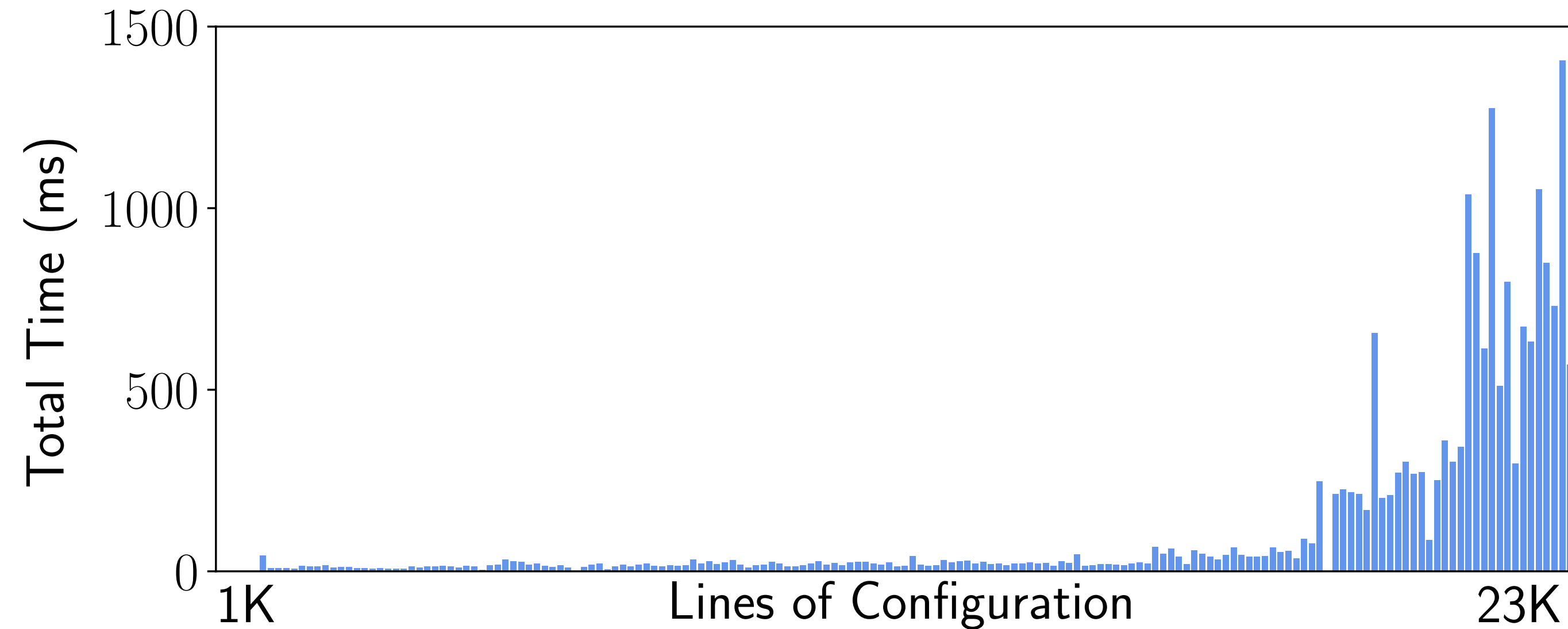
< 60 ms



**Local equivalence of routers
(For all n comparisons)**

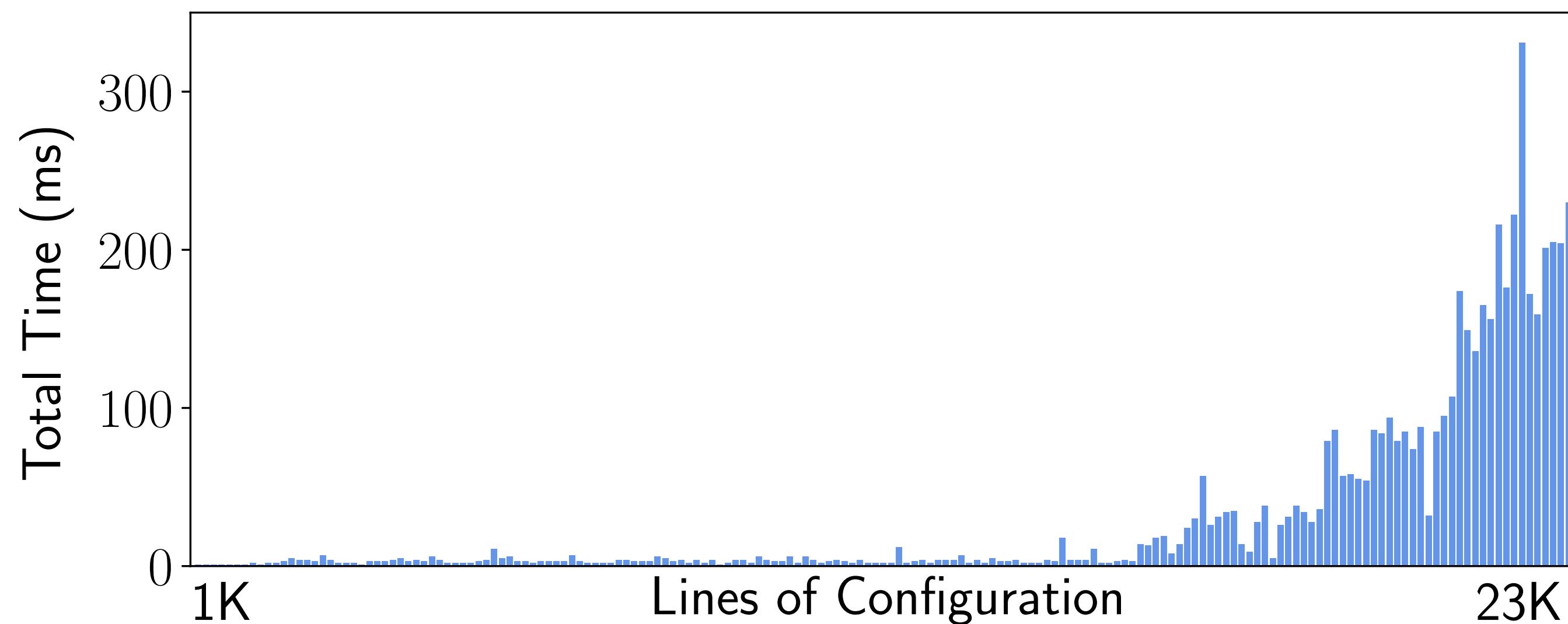
< 400 ms

Evaluation: Scalability



**Black holes only occur
at the network edge**

< 1.5 sec

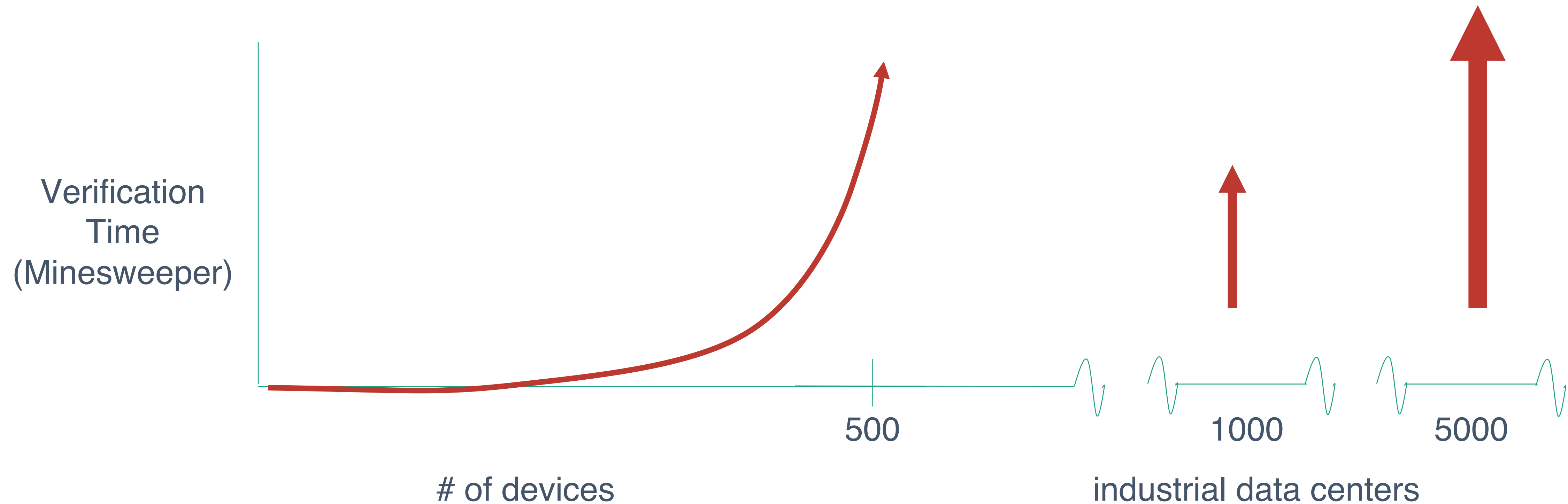


**Reachability is the same after
any single link failure**

< 350 ms

BUT ...

A Problem of Scale



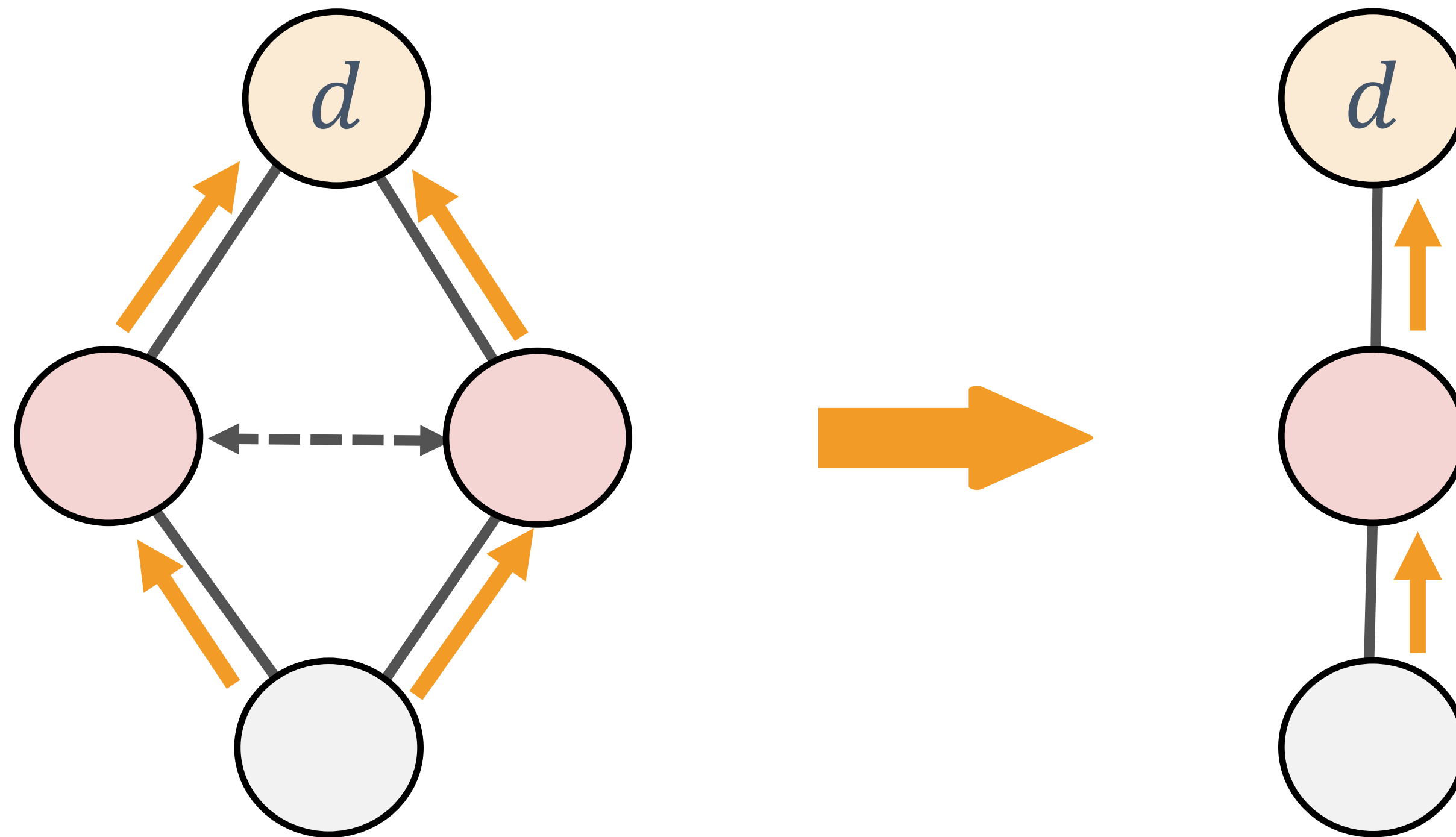
Other technologies, such as simulation, suffer similar, although less severe trends.

Abstraction

Part 1

Ryan Beckett, Aarti Gupta, Ratul Mahajan, David Walker:
Control plane compression. SIGCOMM 2018: 476-489

Network Abstraction based on Symmetry



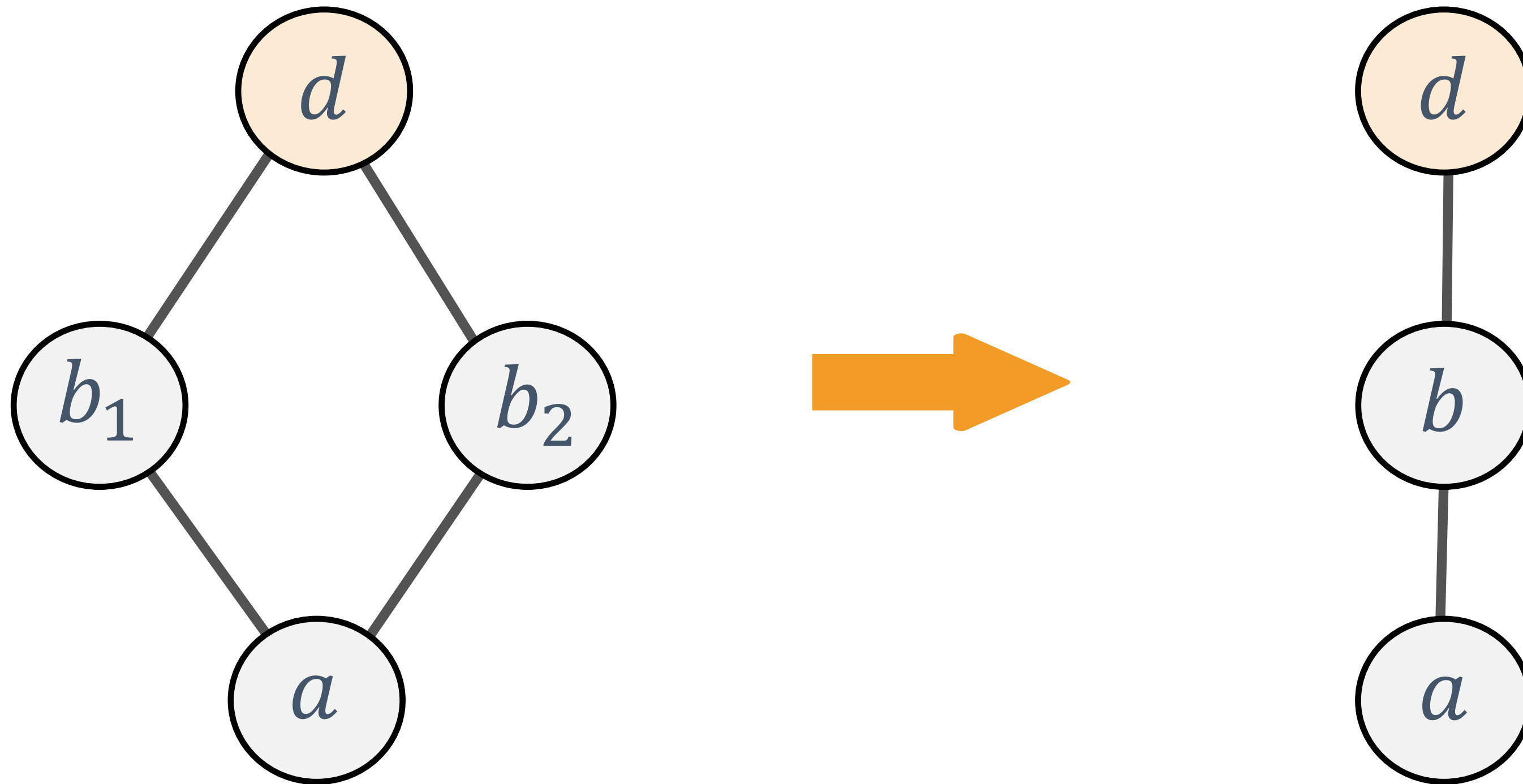
Goal: Compute a small *compressed* network with a “similar” solution to the big one

Formalizing a Compressed SRP

A pair of abstraction functions: (f, h)

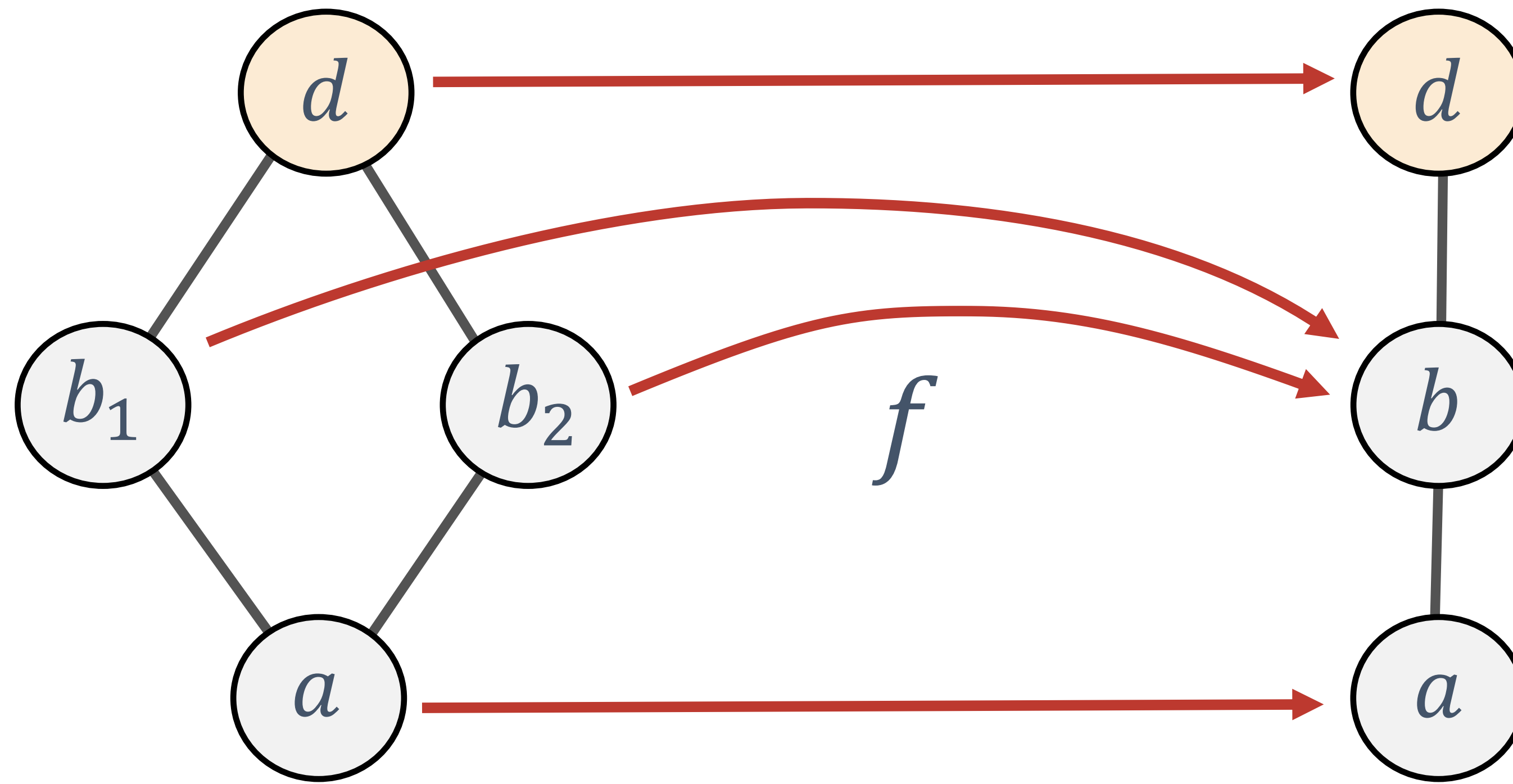
abstracts
network topology

abstracts
route announcements



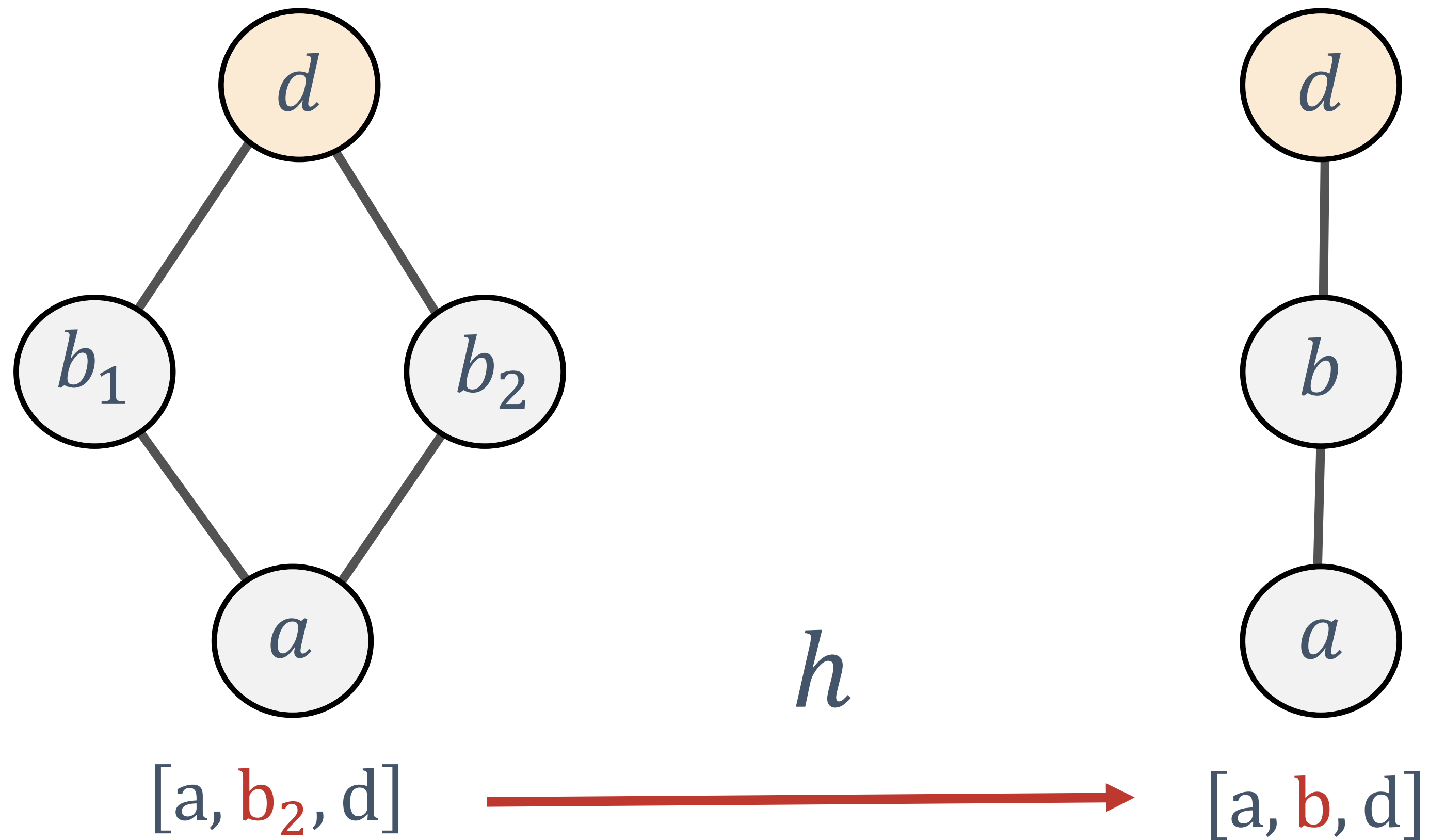
SRP Abstraction

A pair of functions: (f, h)



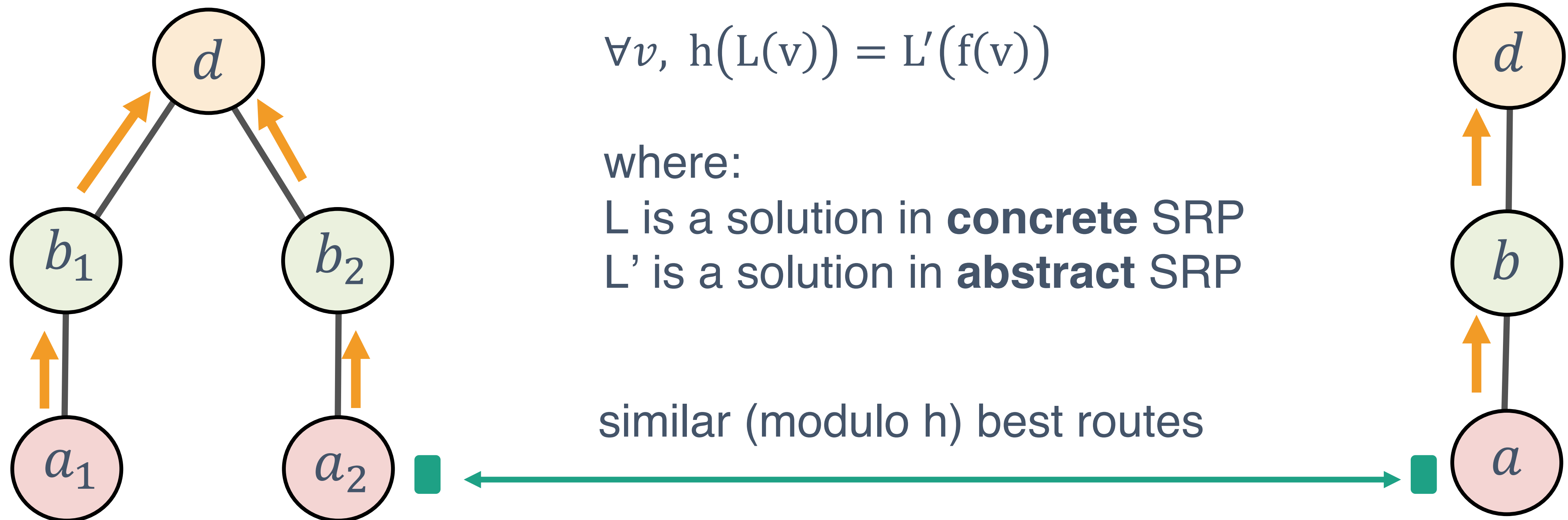
SRP Abstraction

A pair of functions: (f, h)

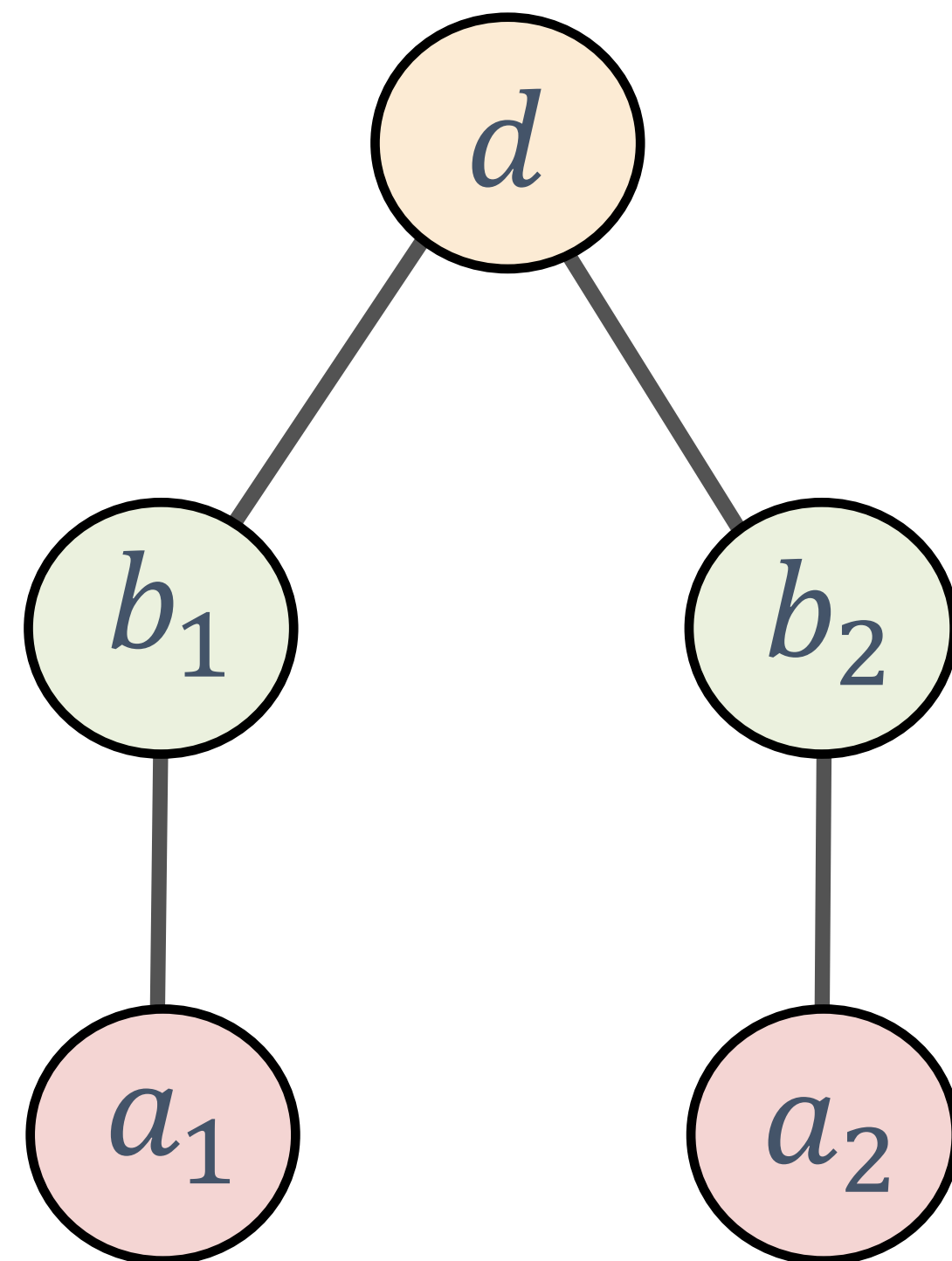


Soundness of SRP Compression Abstraction

Theorem: If an **abstraction** satisfies certain requirements (forall-exists requirement, transfer equivalence requirement), then it will compute **similar global solutions** as its related concrete network.



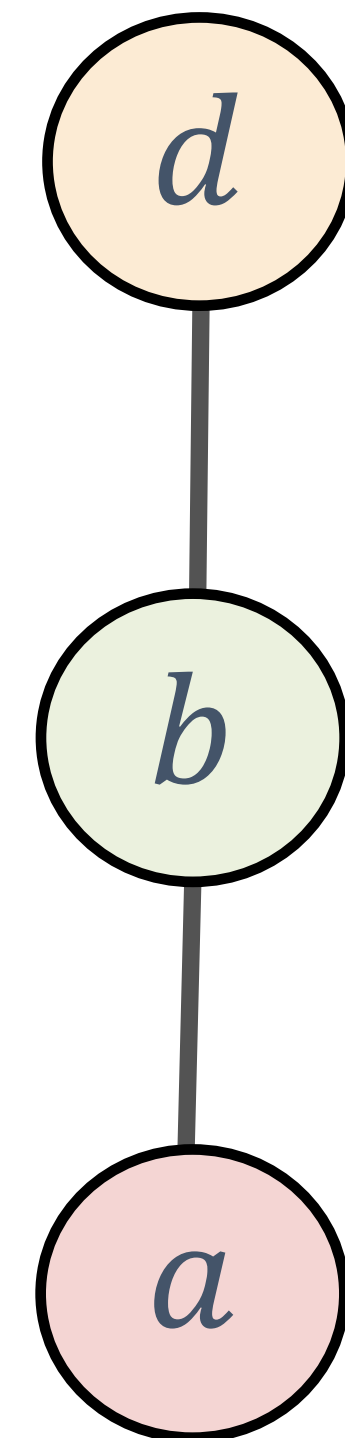
Corollary



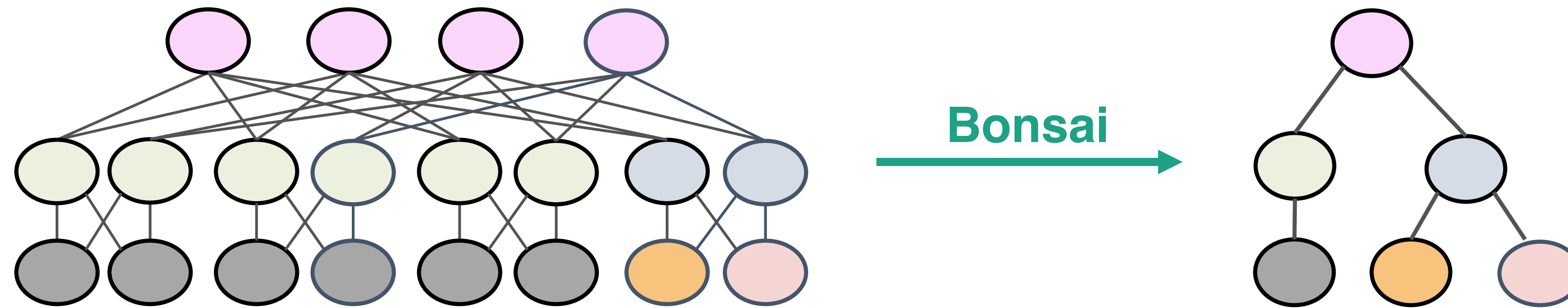
Valid abstractions preserve:

- (1) Reachability
- (2) Routing Loops
- (3) Hop Count
- (4) Multipath Consistency
- (5) Waypointing

But not fault-tolerance



Bonsai: Control Plane Compression

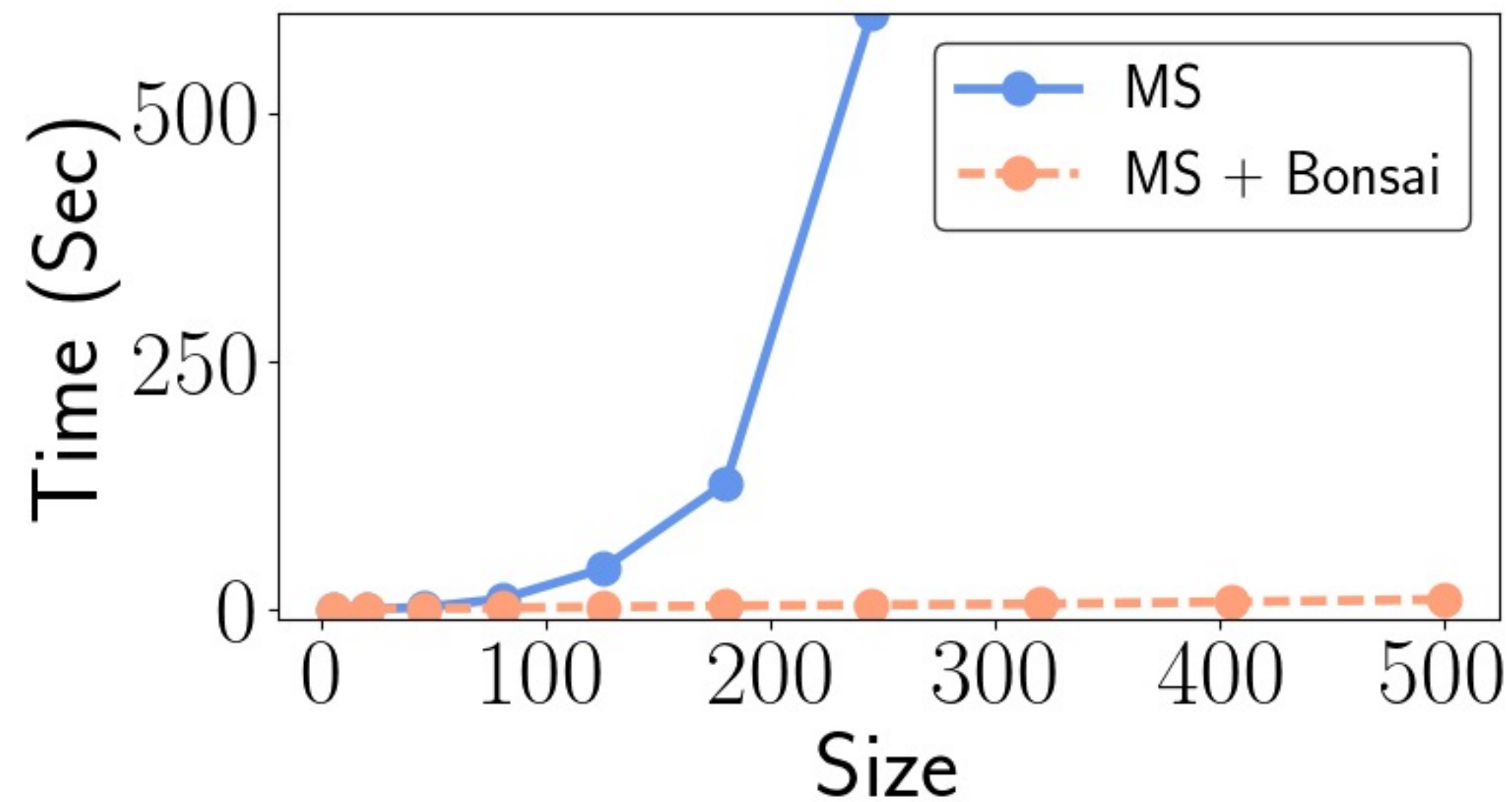


- The Bonsai algorithm compresses real networks by a factor of 5-7 in the number of nodes and 5-100 in the number of edges.
- It preserves many path properties, such as reachability, but not fault tolerance.
- We have proven it correct for a wide range of routing protocols.

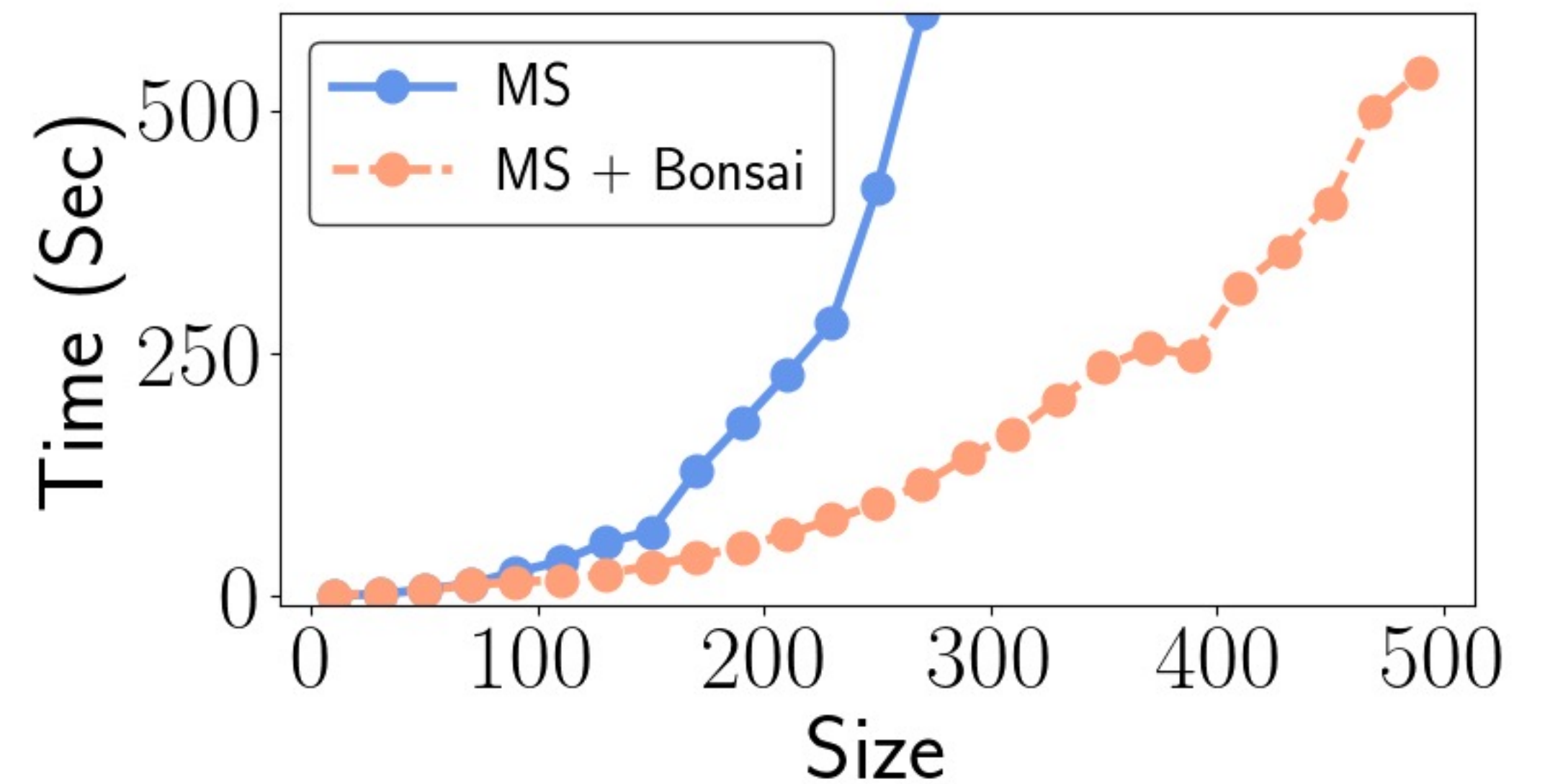
Synthetic Benchmarks

[MineSweeper verifying all-pairs reachability]

Fattree



Ring



BUT ...

what if there is no topological symmetry?

Abstraction

Part 2

Ryan Beckett, Aarti Gupta, Ratul Mahajan, David Walker:
Abstract interpretation of distributed network control planes. POPL 2020

Leveraging Abstract Interpretation

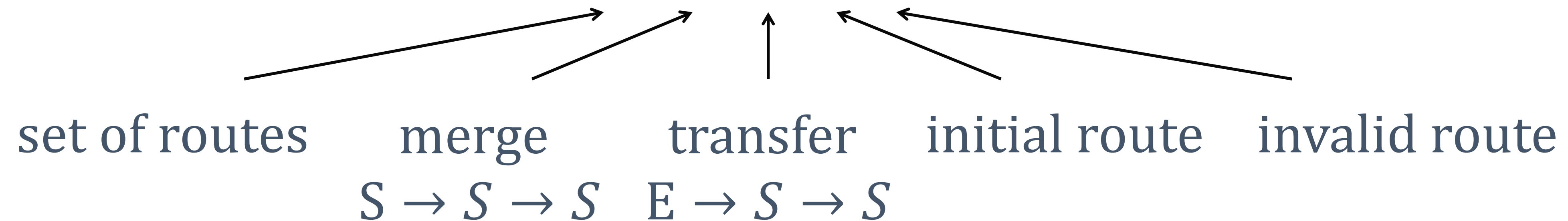
Use abstraction on route announcements to combat complexity

- Formalize theory of abstraction for routing protocols
 - Combine abstract interpretation ... [Cousot and Cousot 1977]
 - ... with the theory of routing algebras. [Sobrinho 2005]

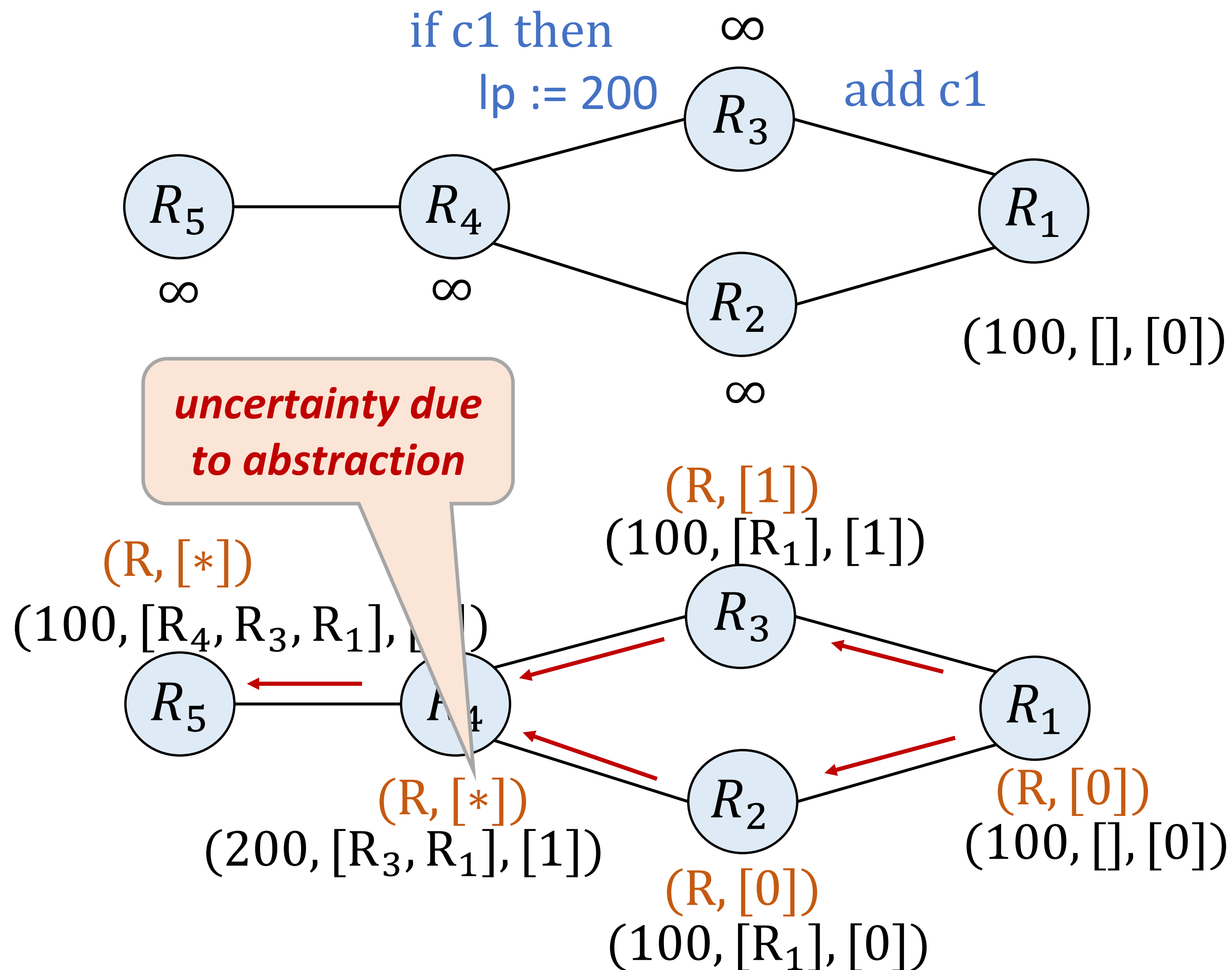
Routing algebra basics

Topology: (V, E)

Algebra: $(S, \oplus, F, 0, \infty)$



Example: Abstracting (simplified) BGP



- Routing algebra:
 $(R, \oplus, F, 0, \infty)$
- Routing messages R:
 $(\text{local_pref}, \text{path}, \text{comm})$
- Transfer F on edge (i, j):
add j to path, local_pref update
- **Abstract** routing messages:
 (R, comm^*)
R: reachability marker
 comm^* : $\{0, 1, *\}$ for each c

Abstractions as abstract routing algebras

Concrete Algebra $A = (S, \oplus, F, 0, \infty)$

Abstract Algebra $A^\# = (S^\#, \oplus^\#, F^\#, 0^\#, \infty^\#)$

Property	Definition
(1) $\oplus, \oplus^\#$ commutative	$c \oplus d = d \oplus c$
(2) $\oplus, \oplus^\#$ associative	$c \oplus (d \oplus e) = (c \oplus d) \oplus e$
(3) $\oplus^\#$ monotone	$a \sqsubseteq^\# c \wedge b \sqsubseteq^\# d \implies a \oplus^\# b \sqsubseteq^\# c \oplus^\# d$
(4) $\oplus, \oplus^\#$ sound for α	$\alpha(c \oplus d) \sqsubseteq^\# \alpha(c) \oplus^\# \alpha(d)$
(5) $F, F^\#$ sound for α	$\alpha(f(c)) \sqsubseteq^\# f^\#(\alpha(c))$
(6) $F^\#$ monotone	$a \sqsubseteq^\# b \implies f^\#(a) \sqsubseteq^\# f^\#(b)$

Soundness theorems

Theorem 1: For a fixed asynchronous schedule, an execution of abstract algebra $A^\#$ is sound with respect to an execution of concrete algebra A .

Theorem 2: If $A^\#$ is uniquely converging, then for **any** asynchronous schedule, an execution of abstract algebra $A^\#$ is sound with respect to A .

Abstraction: key benefits

- Abstraction can (often) give **precise answers**
 - In our experiments, we got precise answers on 95% of real networks
- Abstraction **improves performance**
 - Tracking less information -> less memory
 - Smaller state space -> fewer iterations to converge -> less time
 - Creates opportunities for sharing (e.g., for multiple destinations)
- Abstraction can enable **new network analyses**
 - Example: potential hijacking analysis

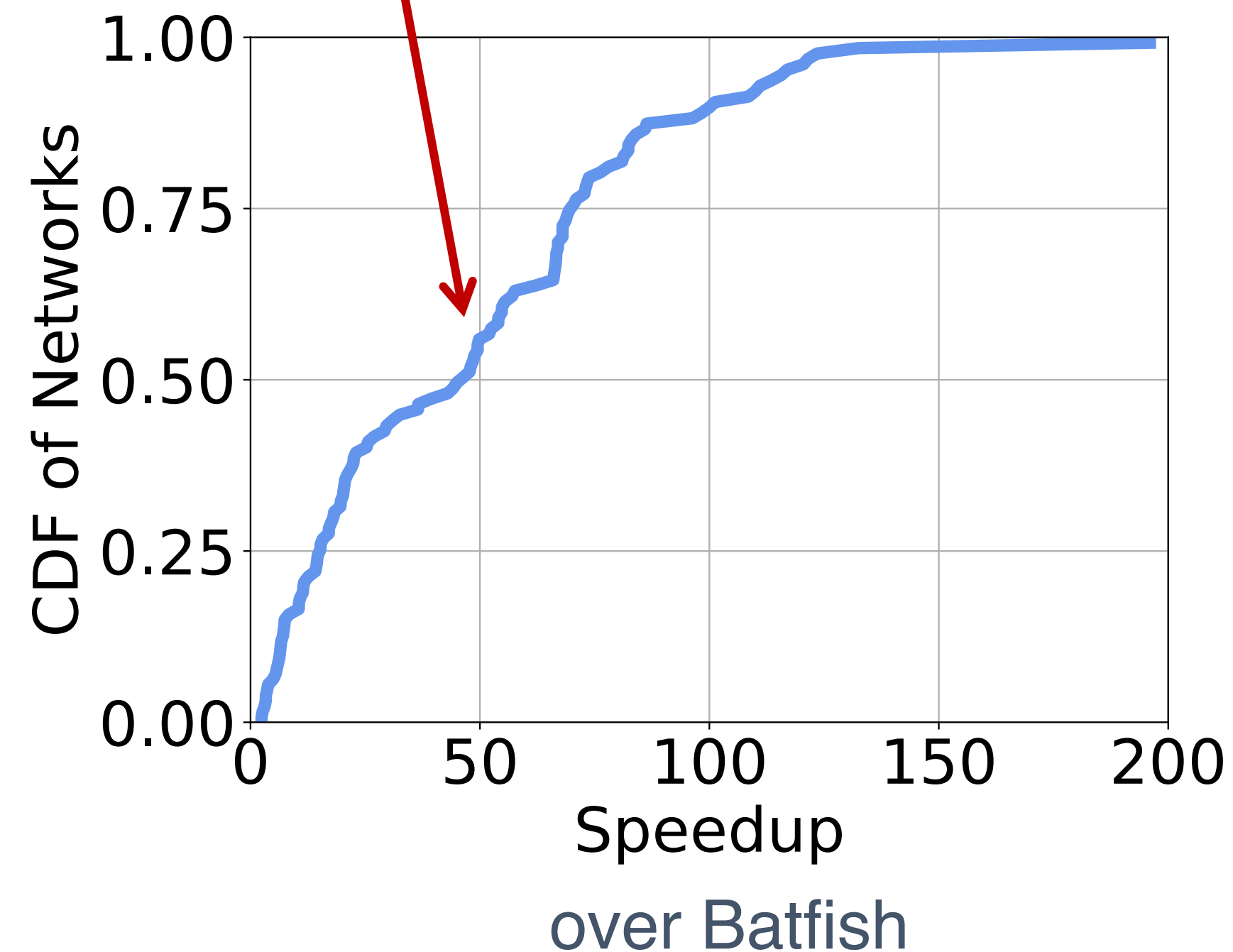
ShapeShifter: Fast Reachability Analysis

- **Goal:** allow fast analysis, while minimizing loss in precision on real networks
- **What to abstract?**
 - Throw away: AS-path, protocol decision process variables
 - Keep: **BGP communities, BGP origin, protocol used**
 - Example map [dest \mapsto **abstract route**] :
 - [168/8 \mapsto **([0,*,0], {R1}, {BGP})**]
 - Means: “second community may be attached or not, on a route originating from R1 in the BGP protocol”
- **Other features**
 - BDD-based representations for prefix sets for improved sharing
 - Message scheduling heuristics for improving performance
 - Modeling multiple protocols, iBGP, ...

ShapeShifter: Evaluation on real networks

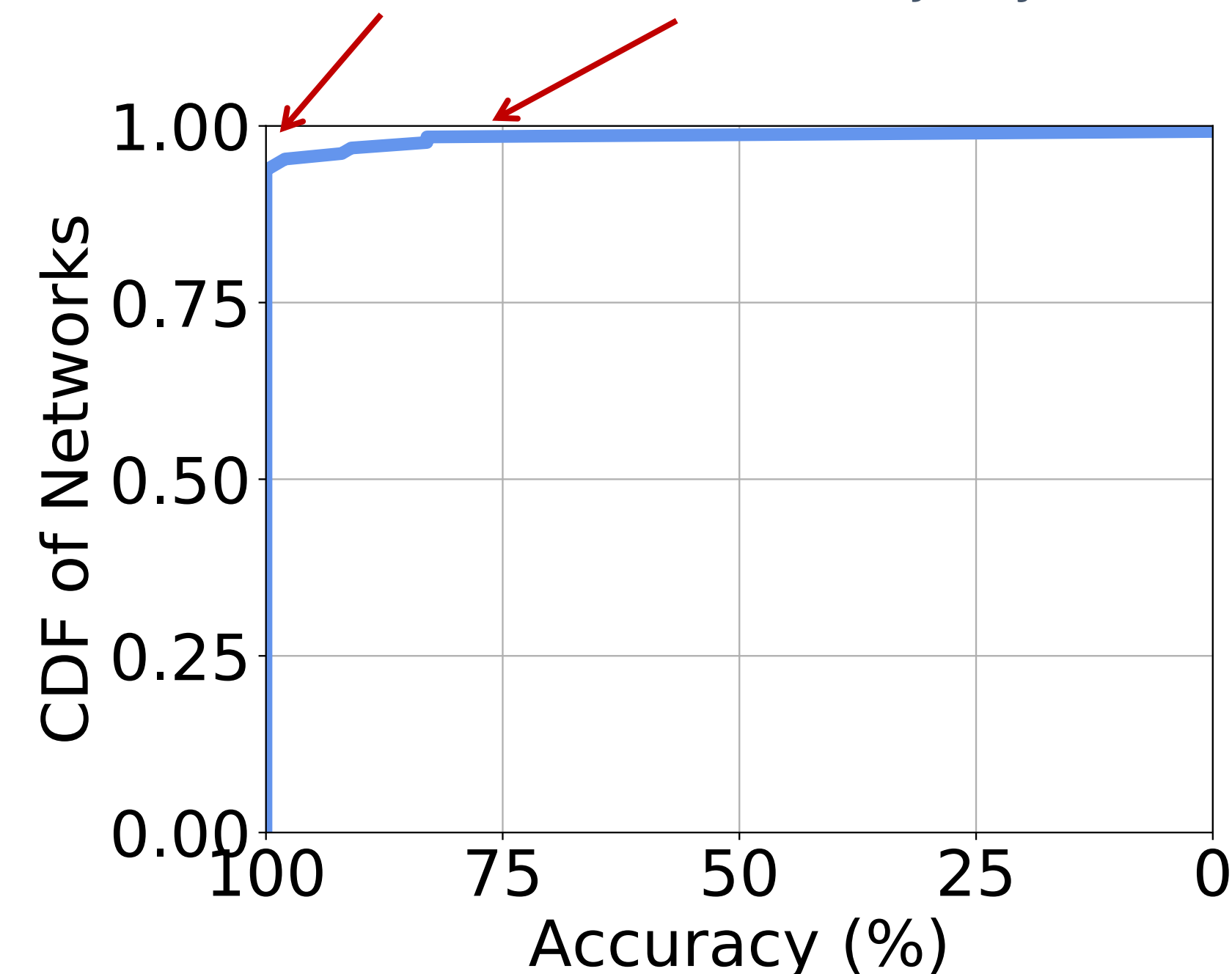
- Abstract simulation finished in less than 40 sec. on each of the 127 networks
 - *1-2 orders of magnitude speedup over Batfish (concrete simulator)*

About half of networks have more than 50x speedup

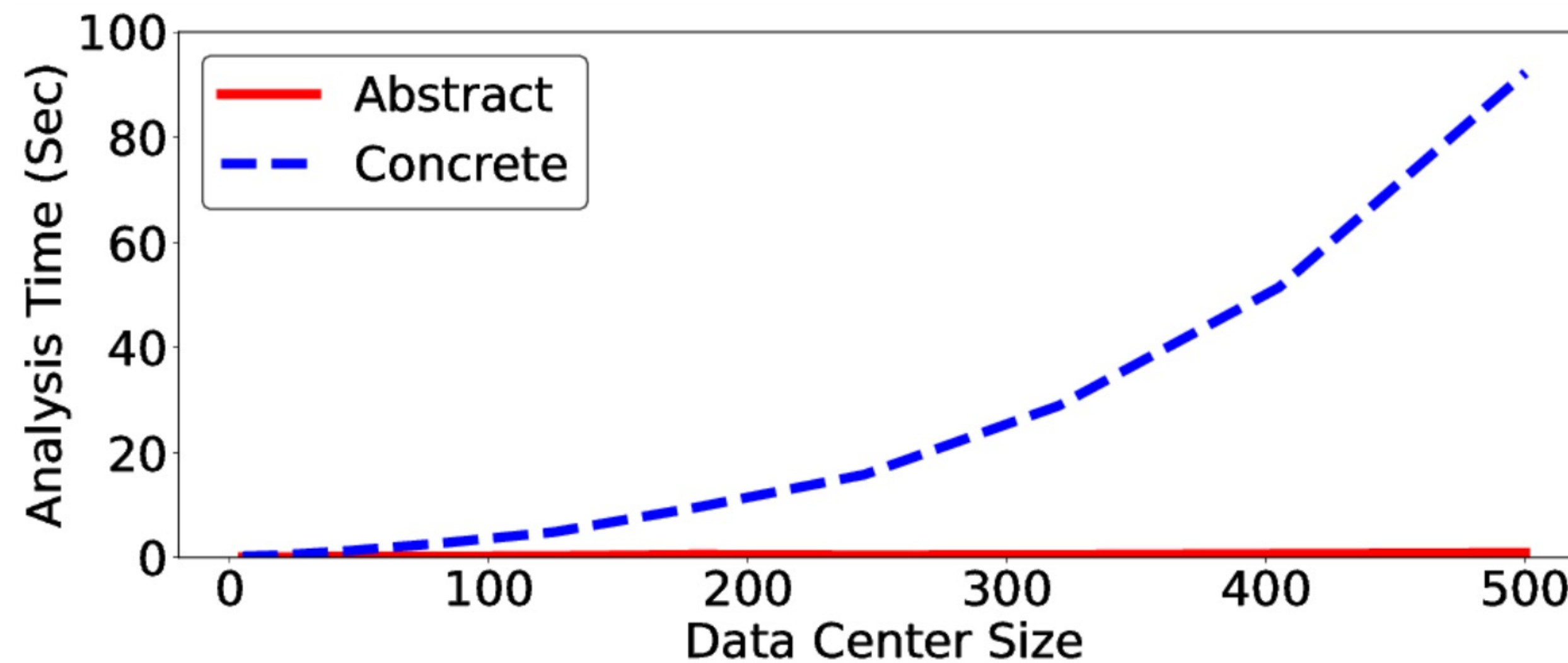


Can prove reachability for all destinations for 95% of networks

For the remaining 5% of networks, can prove reachability for the majority of destinations



ShapeShifter: Synthetic datacenter results



Simulation time vs. data center size
for verifying all-pairs connectivity

BUT ...

**Can we scale the
general SMT-based approach?**

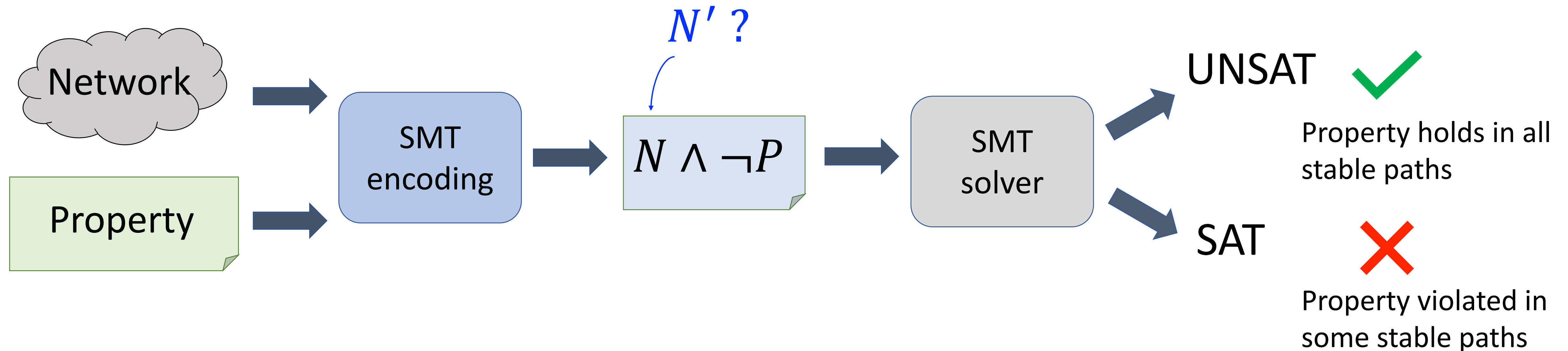
(Analogy: static program analysis vs.
SMT-based program verification)

Abstraction

Part 3

Divya Raghunathan, Ryan Beckett, Aarti Gupta, David Walker:
ACORN: Network Control Plane Abstraction using Route Nondeterminism.
(Under submission)

Inspiration: Minesweeper's SMT-based approach



- N : SMT formula representing network behavior
 - Satisfying assignments of N represent stable paths
- P : SMT formula representing property to be checked

Goal: improve scalability

Two-part Approach

1. Hierarchy of Nondeterministic Routing Choice (NRC) Abstractions

Abstract away route selection while preserving soundness

2. SMT encoding and solvers

Symbolic graph-based encoding

[Bayless et al. AAI 2015]

Use SMT solvers with specialized graph-theories, e.g., MonoSAT

Strategy: Abstract away route selection

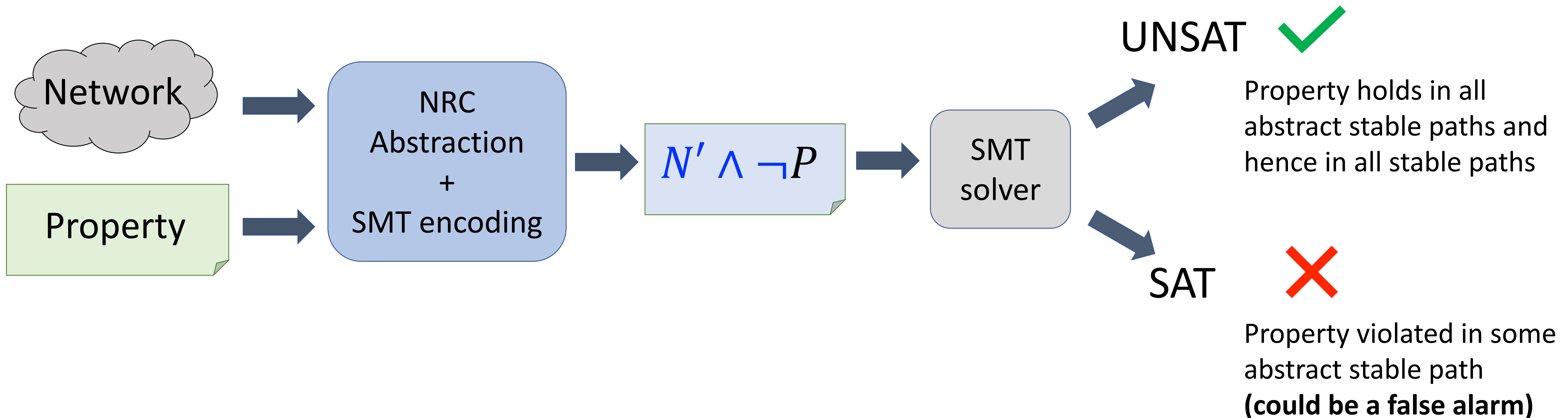
- Insight: Verifying certain properties (e.g., reachability) may not need to identify the best route available
- Modeling route selection is expensive
 - Especially for complex protocols like BGP
- One difference between data plane and control plane: **route selection**
 - Data plane verifiers routinely scale to *several thousands* of routers
 - Question: can we get closer to their performance?

... Yes!

Key Idea: *Nondeterministic* Routing Choice (NRC) Abstractions

- Each router nondeterministically chooses one of the routes received
 - **Any available route, not necessarily the best, may be chosen**
 - Route announcement fields involved only in route selection can be abstracted away
 - **Any chosen route must be compliant with policy**
 - For example, routes filtered based on community tags will not be chosen
- Abstract network model N' has more routes than real network N
 - N' includes best routes *and other policy-compliant routes*
 - **N' overapproximates N**
 - A hierarchy of NRC Abstractions based on routing fields

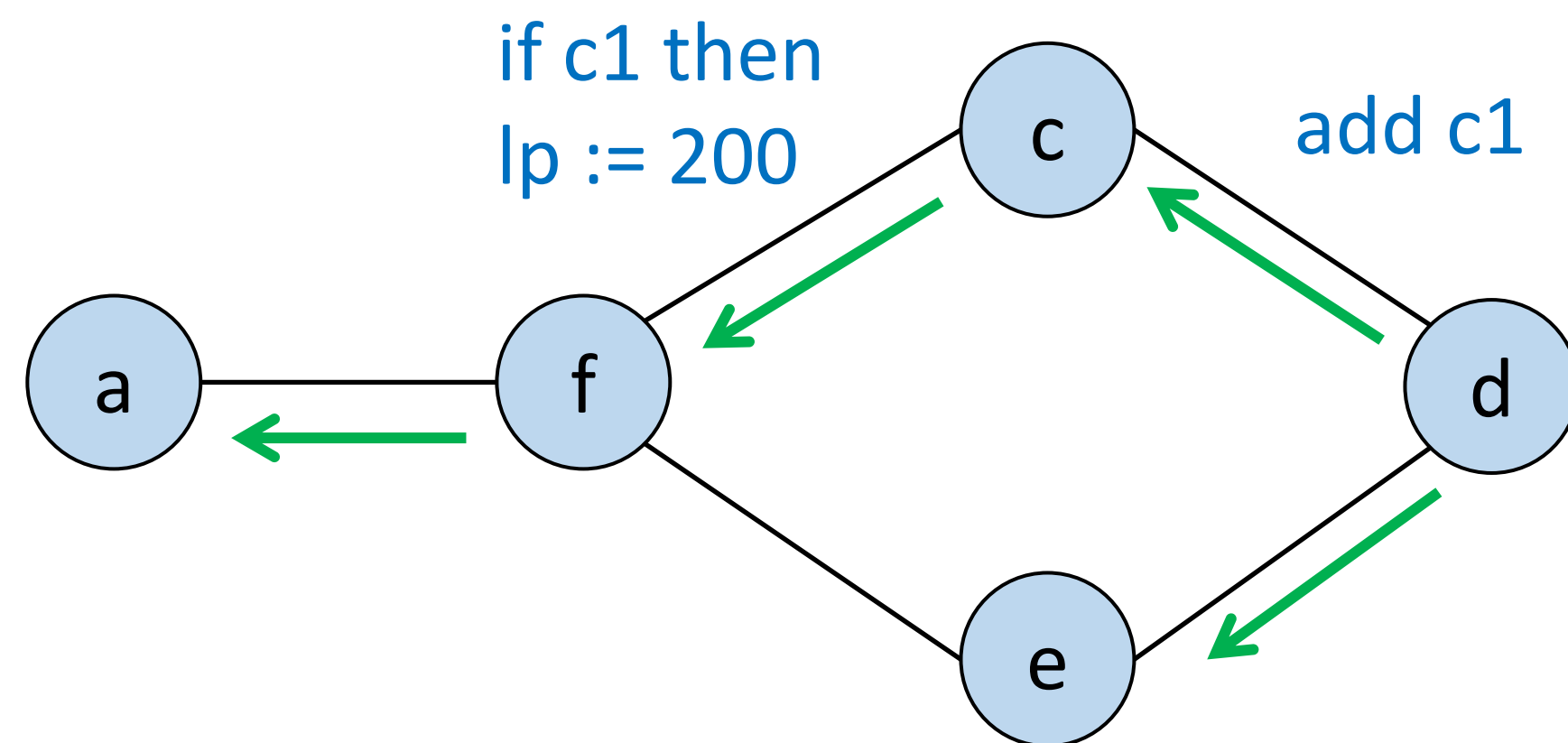
SMT-based verification with NRC abstraction



- N' : SMT formula **overapproximates** network behavior
 - Satisfying assignments of N' represent **abstract** stable paths
- P : SMT formula representing property to be checked

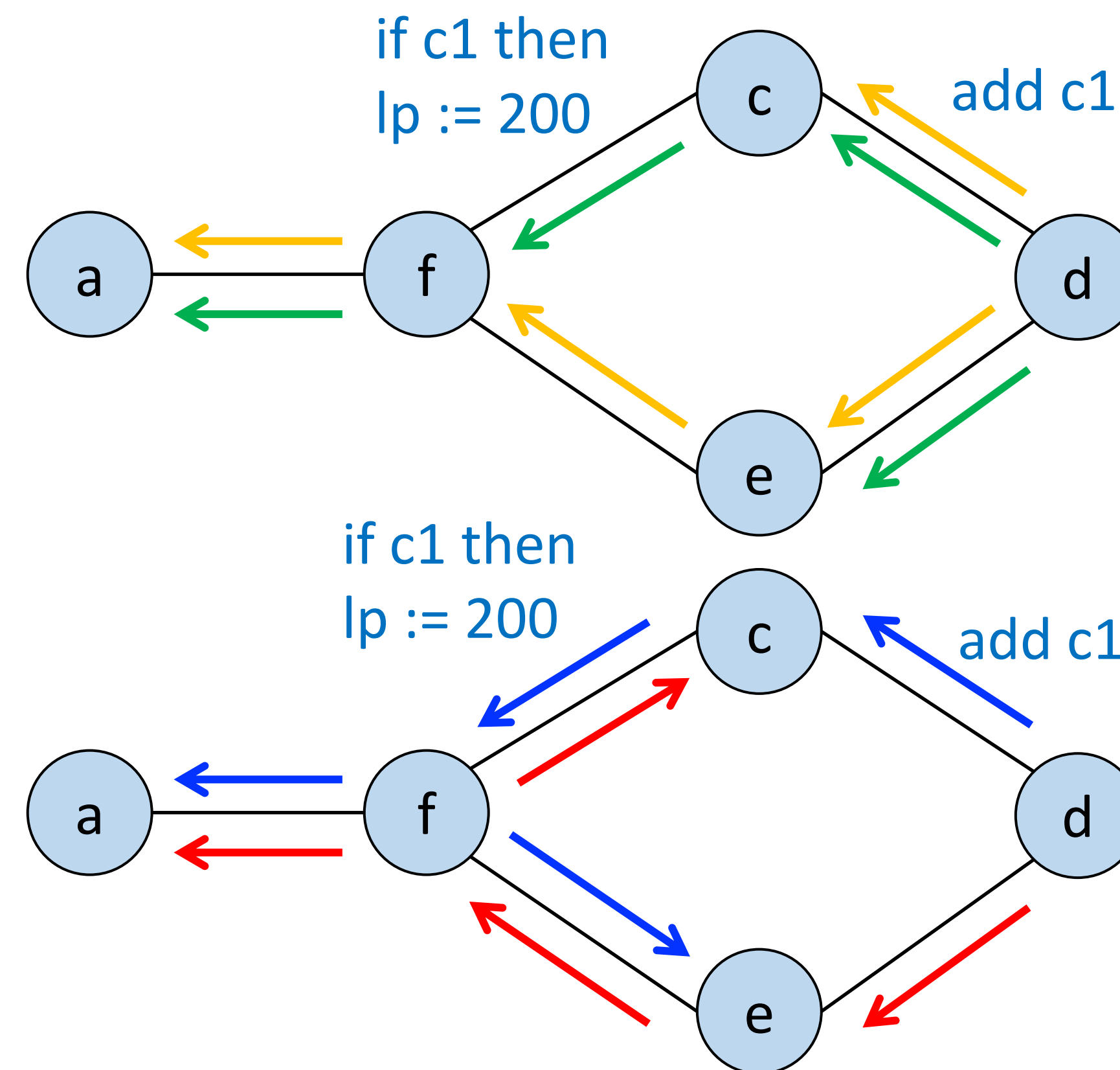
Motivating Example with BGP

Real network N



Route announcement from d reaches a
 \Rightarrow a can reach d in real network

Abstract network N'



4 solutions: a can reach d in all abstract stable routing trees



Soundness of NRC abstractions

- We use the SRP model of the network control plane
- NRC is formulated in terms of an *abstract* SRP
 - where the preference relation is a partial order, rather than a total order
 - Partial order must be consistent with the concrete total order
- Soundness: **Abstract SRP S' overapproximates corresponding SRP S**
 - Stable solutions of SRP S are guaranteed to be contained in stable solutions of SRP S'

Goal: improve scalability

Two-part Approach

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2. SMT encoding and solvers

Symbolic graph-based encoding

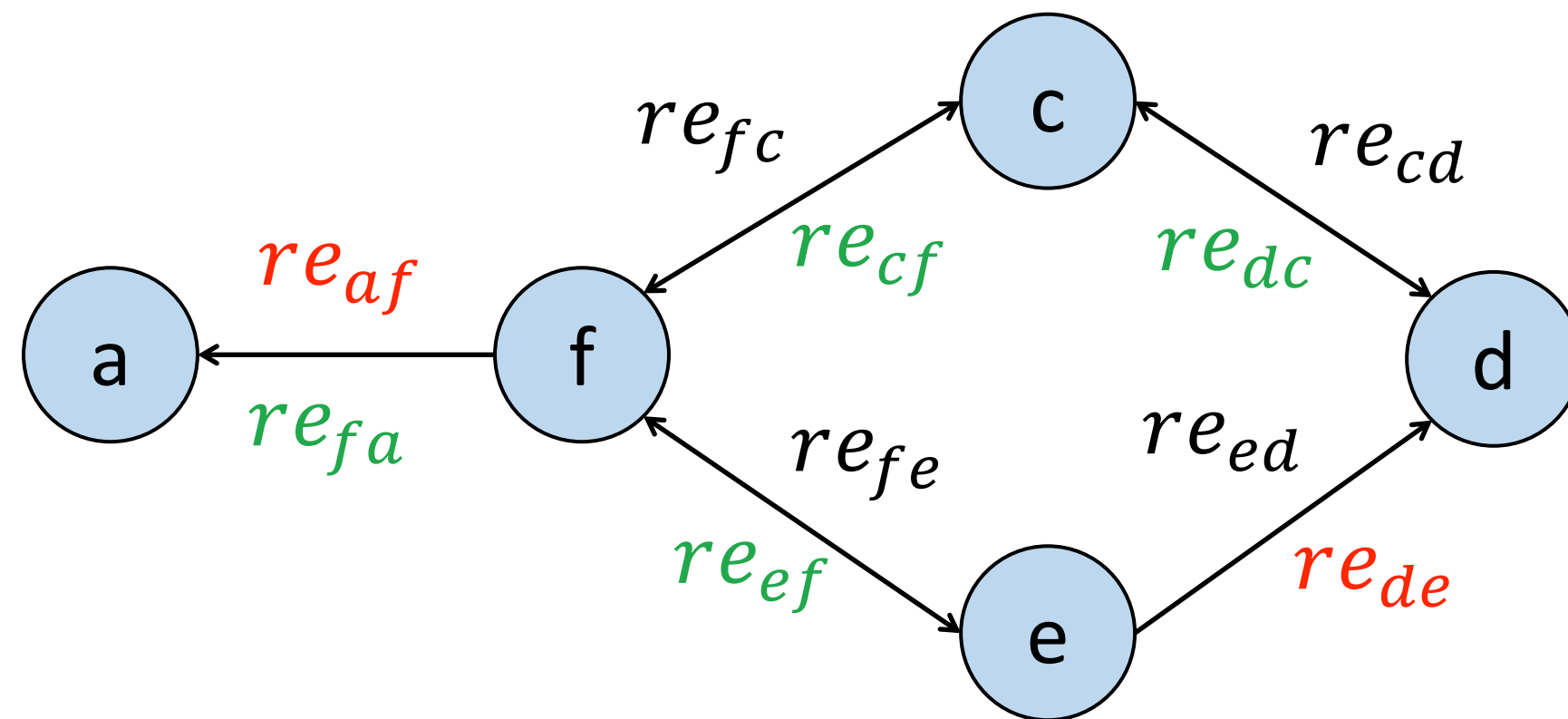
[Bayless et al. AAAI 2015]

Use SMT solvers with specialized graph-theories, e.g., MonoSAT

MonoSAT solver

[Bayless et al. AAAI 2015]

- SMT with graph theory solver
- Uses **symbolic graphs**, graphs with a Boolean variable per edge



Symbolic graph $G_{RE} = (G, RE)$

$G = (V, E)$

$RE = \{re_{uv} \mid (u, v) \in E\}$

Reachability predicate: $G_{RE}.reaches(d, v)$

Stable paths: symbolic graph-based encoding

- Encode abstract SRP S' with SMT formula N'
- Key idea: **abstract stable routing trees of S'** are captured by **symbolic graph solutions**

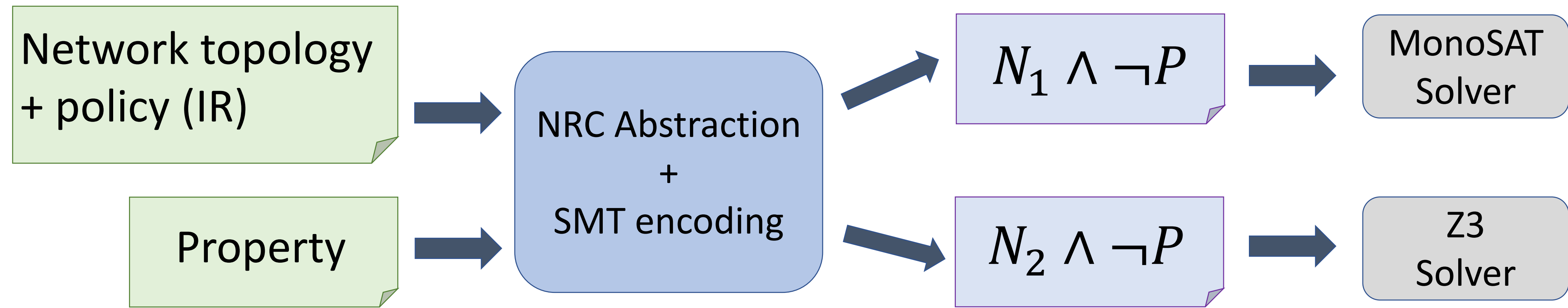
Formula F over RE and other variables, can also use graph-based predicates

- Satisfying assignment of $F \rightarrow$ subgraph of G s.t. re_{uv} is true

Benefits of NRC and graph-based encoding

- Fewer variables
 - Route announcement fields used only in route selection are discarded
 - Community attribute sufficient for most policies evaluated
- Expensive transfers can become irrelevant during solver search
 - Concrete formulation (i.e., no NRC abstraction) considers transfers from *all* neighbors to compute best
 - In the abstract formulation once a symbolic edge variable is assigned true, other neighbors become irrelevant

ACORN prototype verifier



- Input format is an intermediate representation (IR)
- Two backend SMT solvers: MonoSAT and Z3

ACORN Evaluation

1. Relative performance of **NRC abstraction** (with / without)
2. Relative performance of **graph theory capable SMT solver** (MonoSAT / Z3)

Four experiment settings:

- **abs_mono**: NRC abstraction using MonoSAT
- **abs_z3**: NRC abstraction using Z3
- **mono**: no abstraction using MonoSAT
- **z3**: no abstraction using Z3

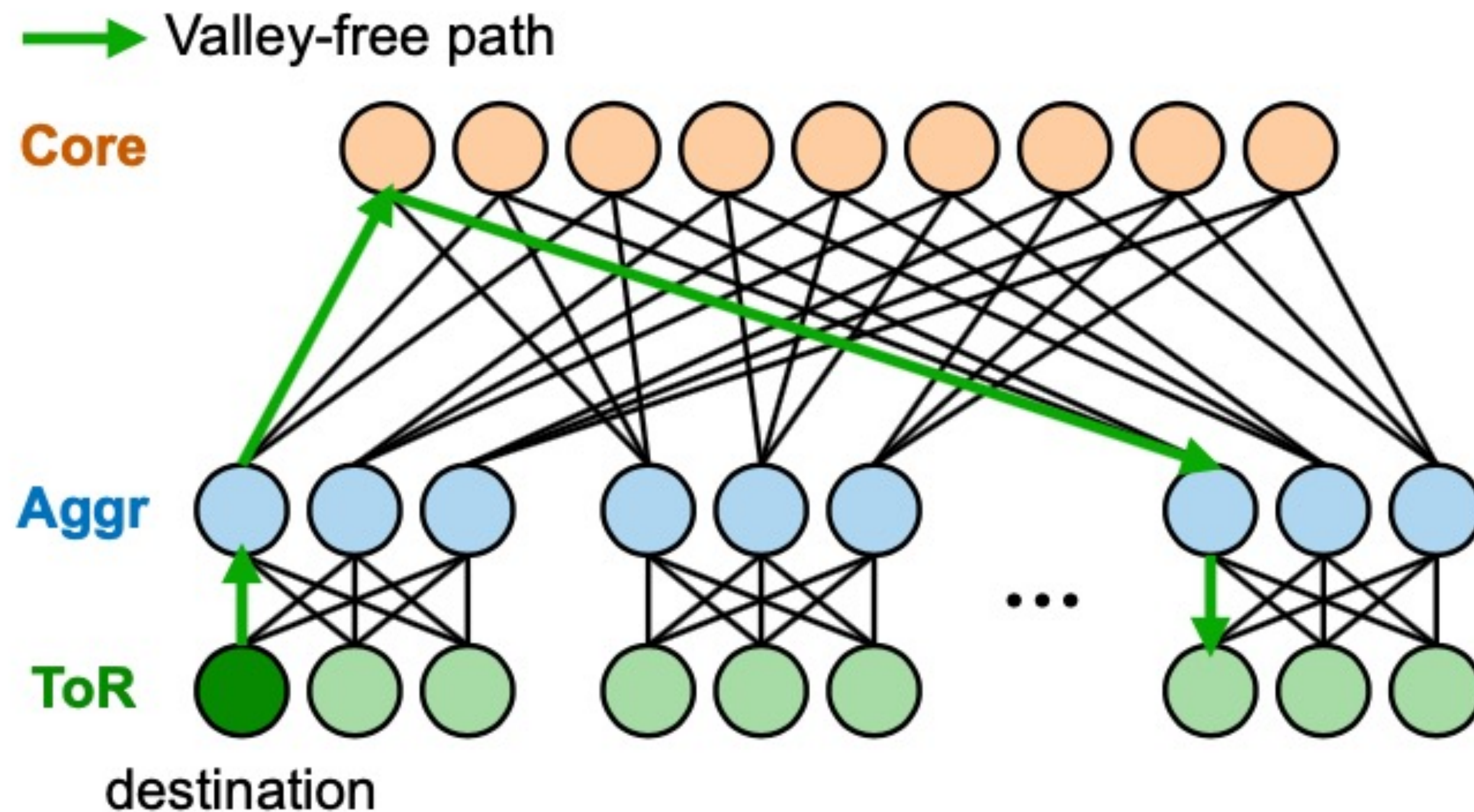
Benchmark examples

1. **Data center examples** with FatTree topology (to evaluate scalability)
 - Valley-free policy
 - Properties: reachability (single-src), valley-free property

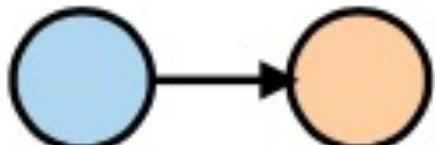
2. **Wide Area Network (WAN) examples**
 - **Topology zoo examples** that we annotated with business relationships
 - **BGPStream examples**, annotated using the CAIDA AS relationships dataset
 - Policy implements the Gao-Rexford conditions [Gao and Rexford. SIGMETRICS 2000]
 - Properties: reachability (all-src), no-transit property

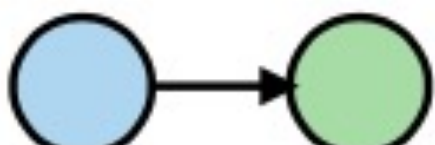
Machine details: 2.3 GHz Intel i7 processor, 16 GB RAM

FatTree network with valley-free policy



c: community attribute
(bit vector of width 2)

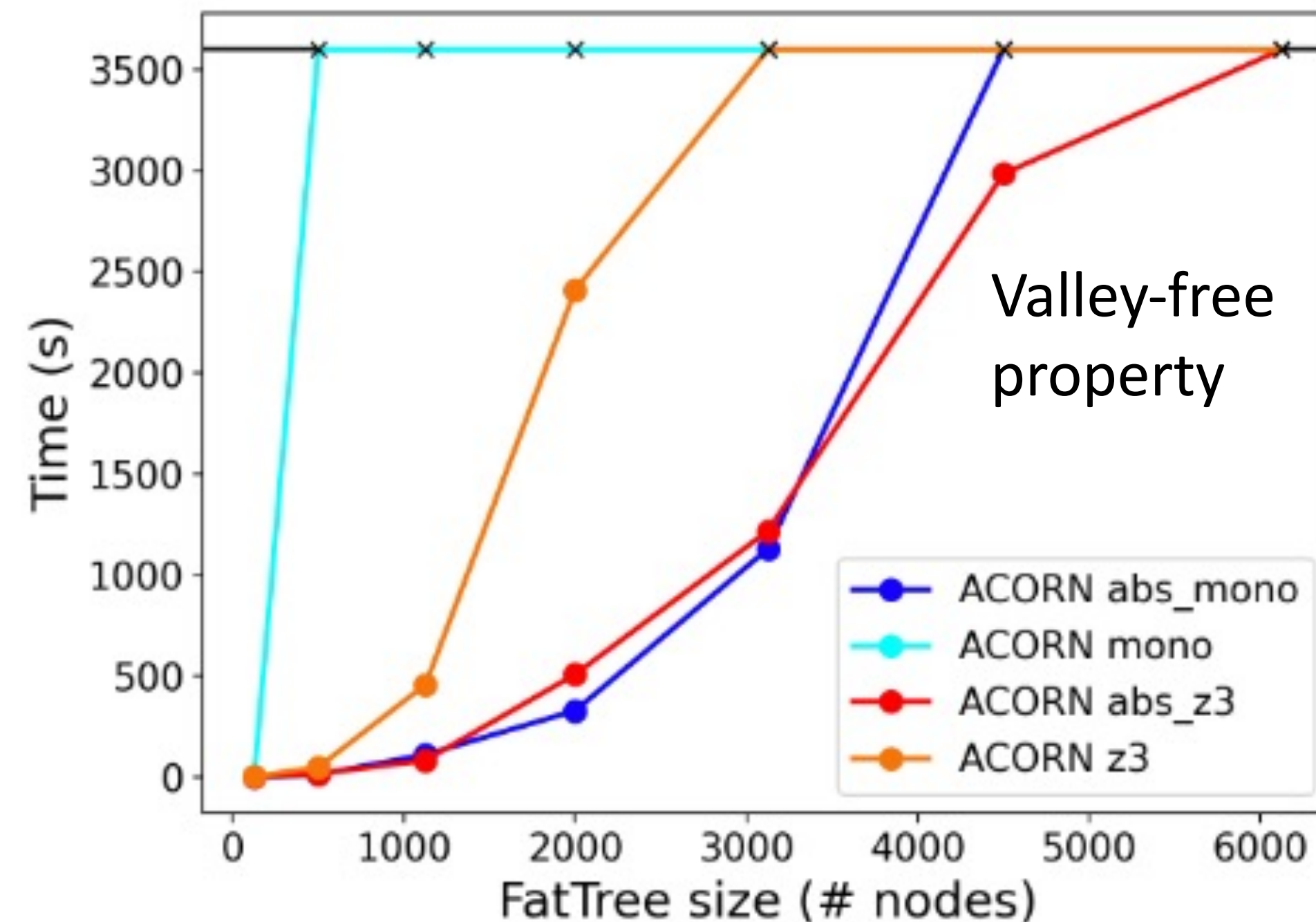
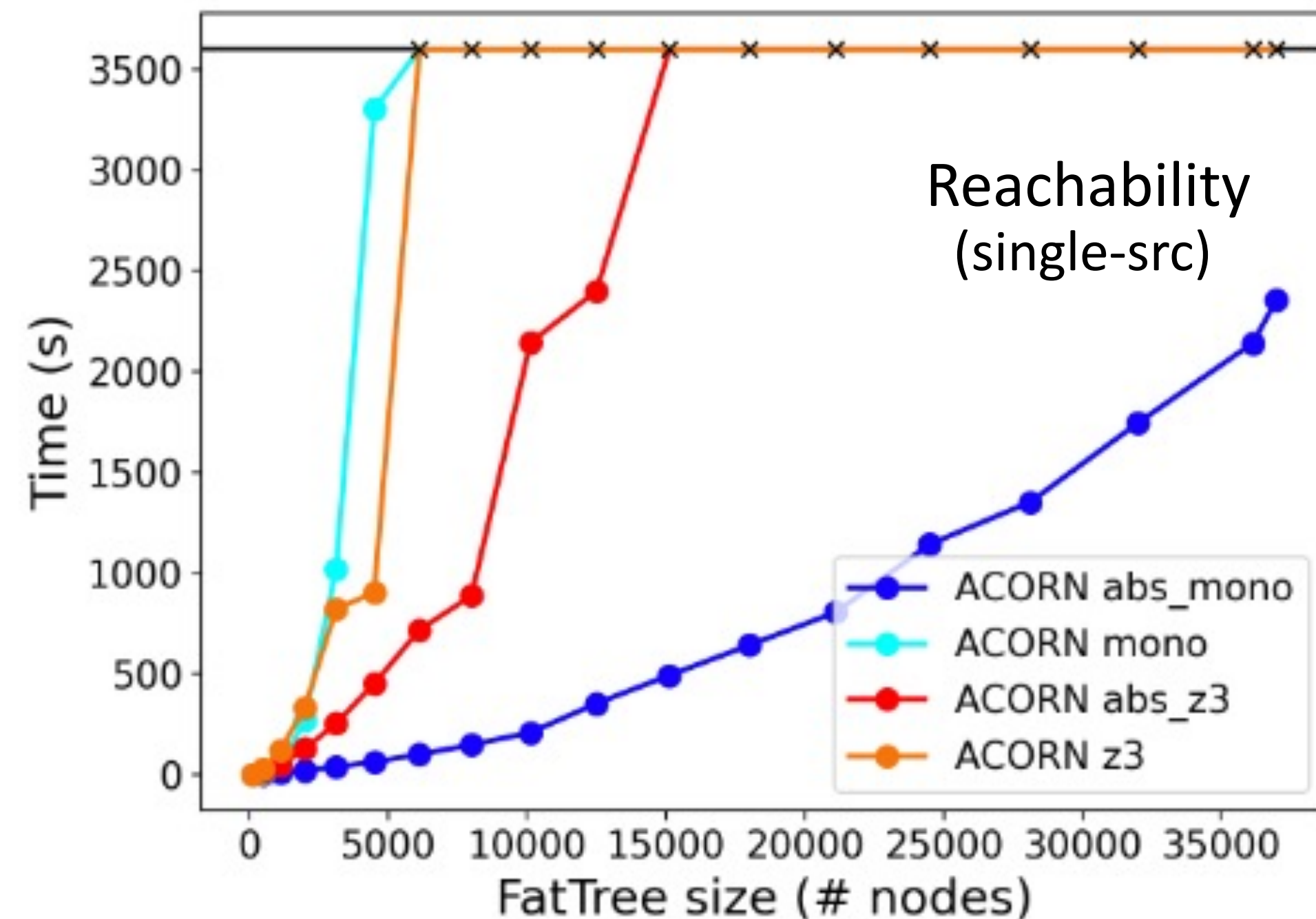
Aggr → Core  if c == 0 then c = 1
else drop route

Aggr → ToR  if c == 0 then c = 1
else if c == 1 then c = 2
else c = 3

ToR → Aggr  if c != 0 then drop route

c = 0: route has 0 Aggr nodes
c = 1: route has 1 Aggr nodes
c = 2: route has 2 Aggr nodes
c = 3: route has ≥ 3 Aggr nodes

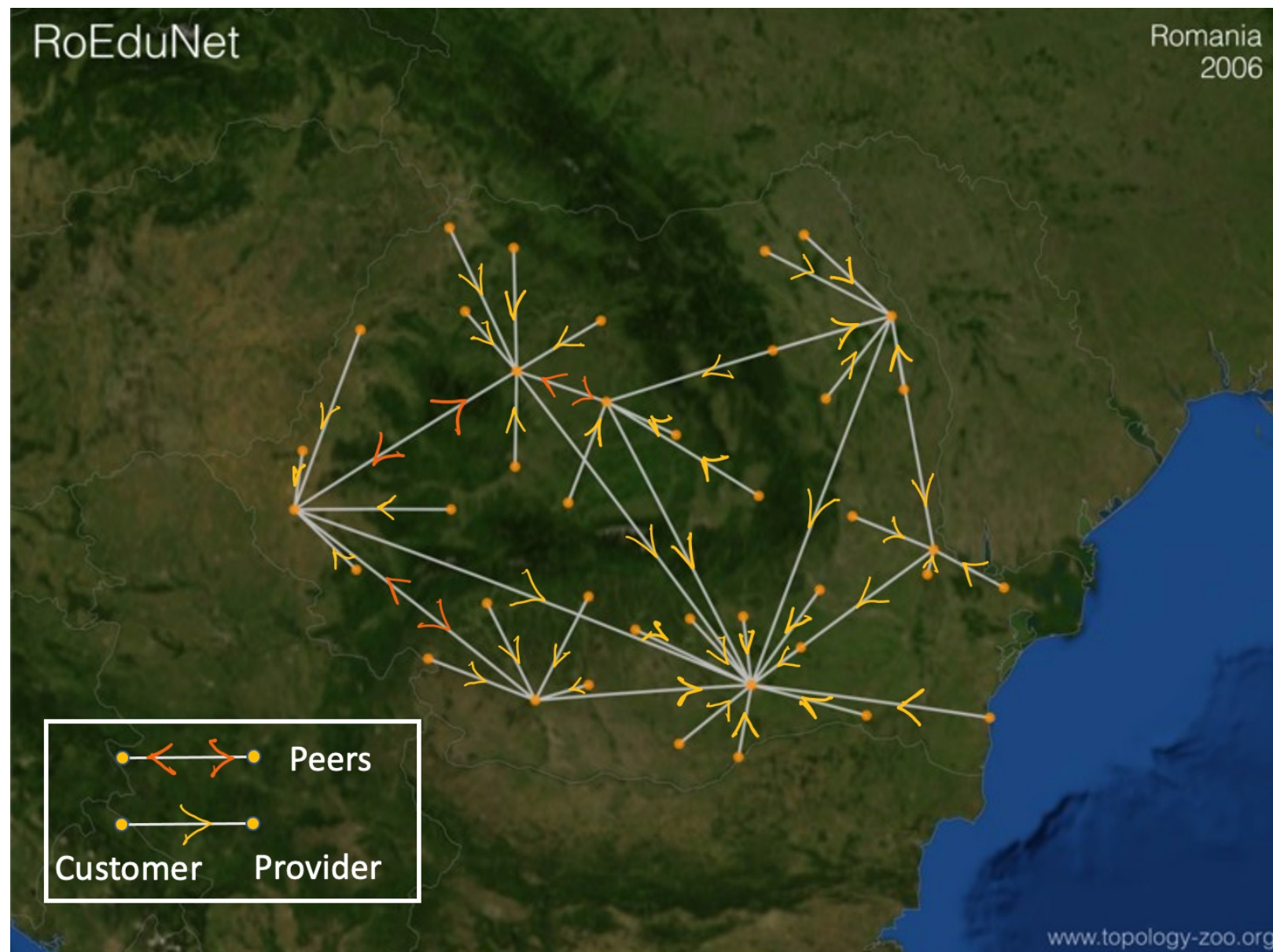
Results for FatTrees with valley-free policy



- Abstract settings verify both properties without false alarms
- **abs_mono verifies reachability for a FatTree with 36,980 routers in 40 mins**
- Abstract settings are *uniformly* better than concrete settings (upto 52x speedup for MonoSAT)
- MonoSAT better for reachability but Z3 better for valley-free property

Topology Zoo network: Example

[Gao and Rexford. SIGMETRICS 2000]

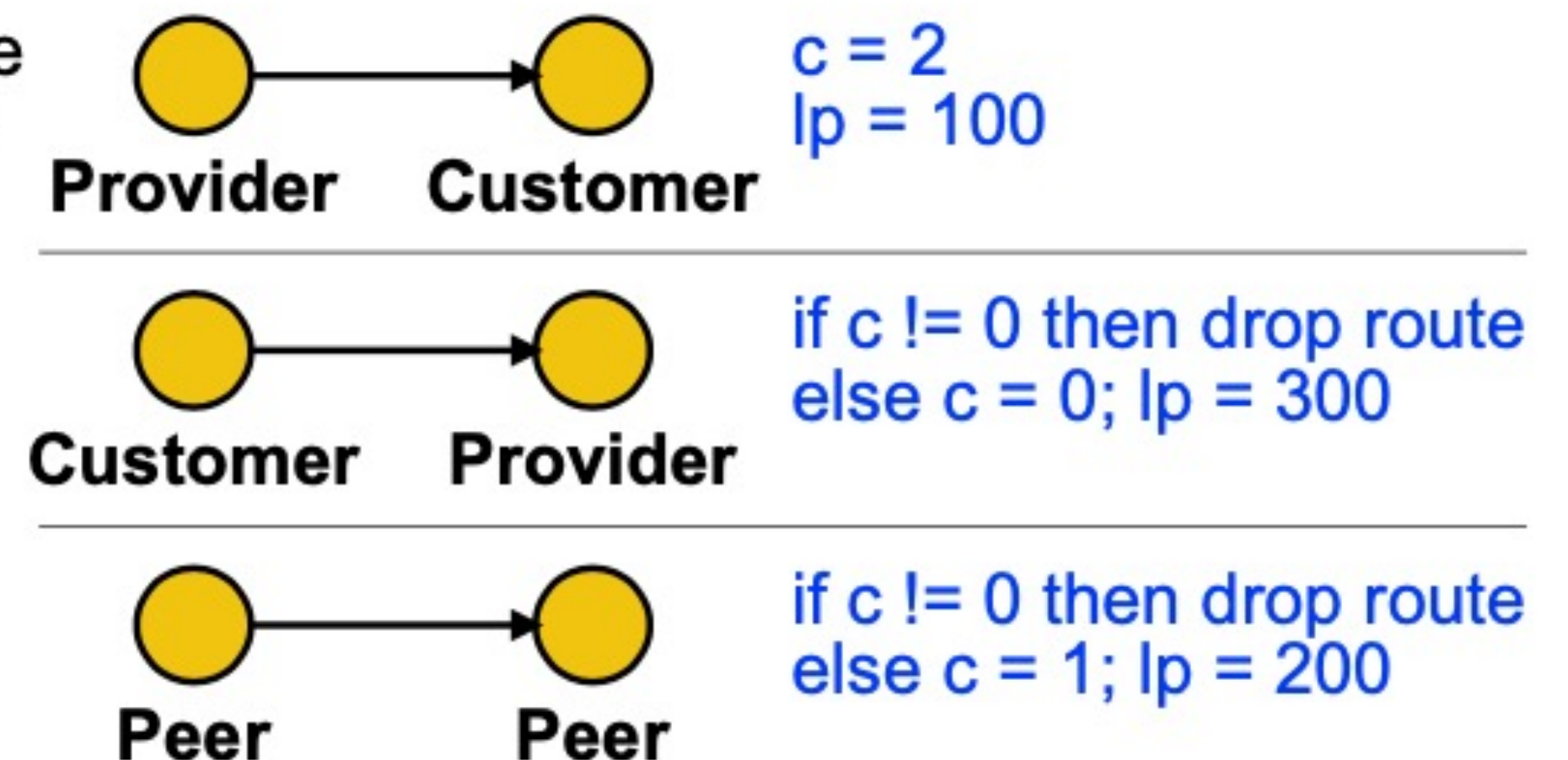


42 nodes, 50 edges. Each node is an AS.
Edges annotated with business relationships
(customer/peer/provider)

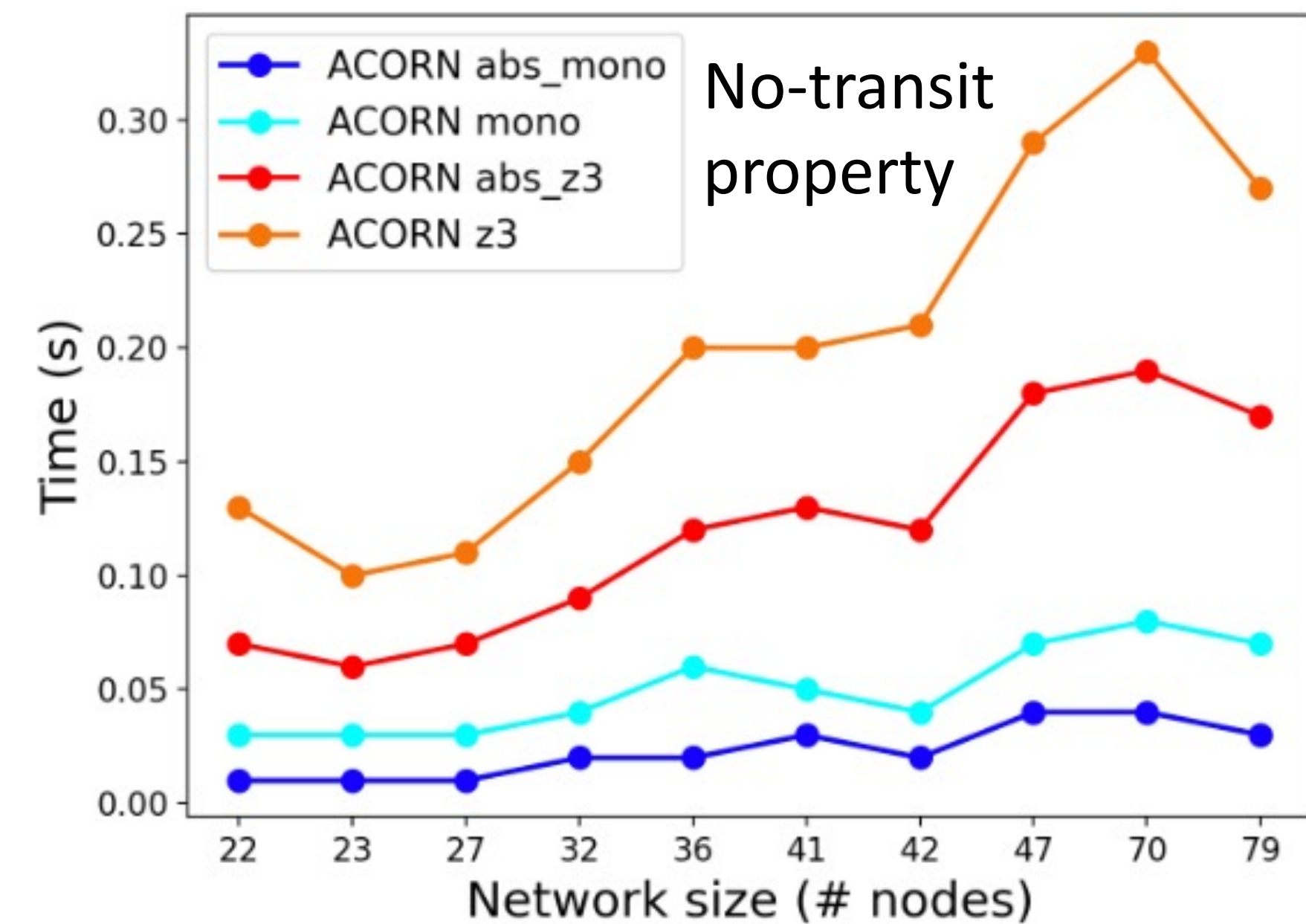
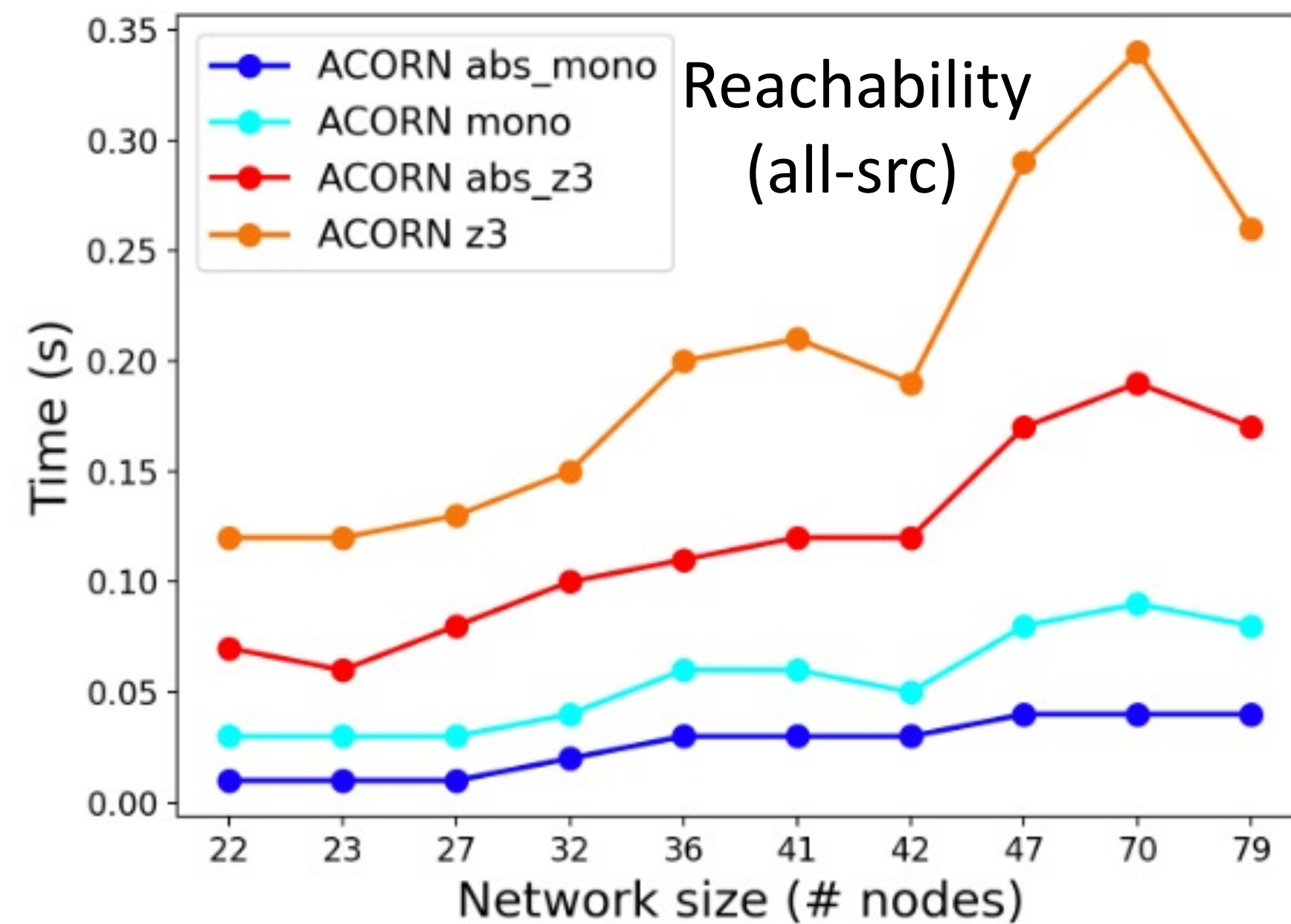
- Policy implements Gao-Rexford conditions:
- Prefer Cust < Peer < Prov (Cust most preferred)
 - Don't export routes from Peer/Prov to another Peer/Prov (no-transit property)

c: community attribute
(bit vector of width 2)

c = 0: Customer
c = 1: Peer
c = 2: Provider

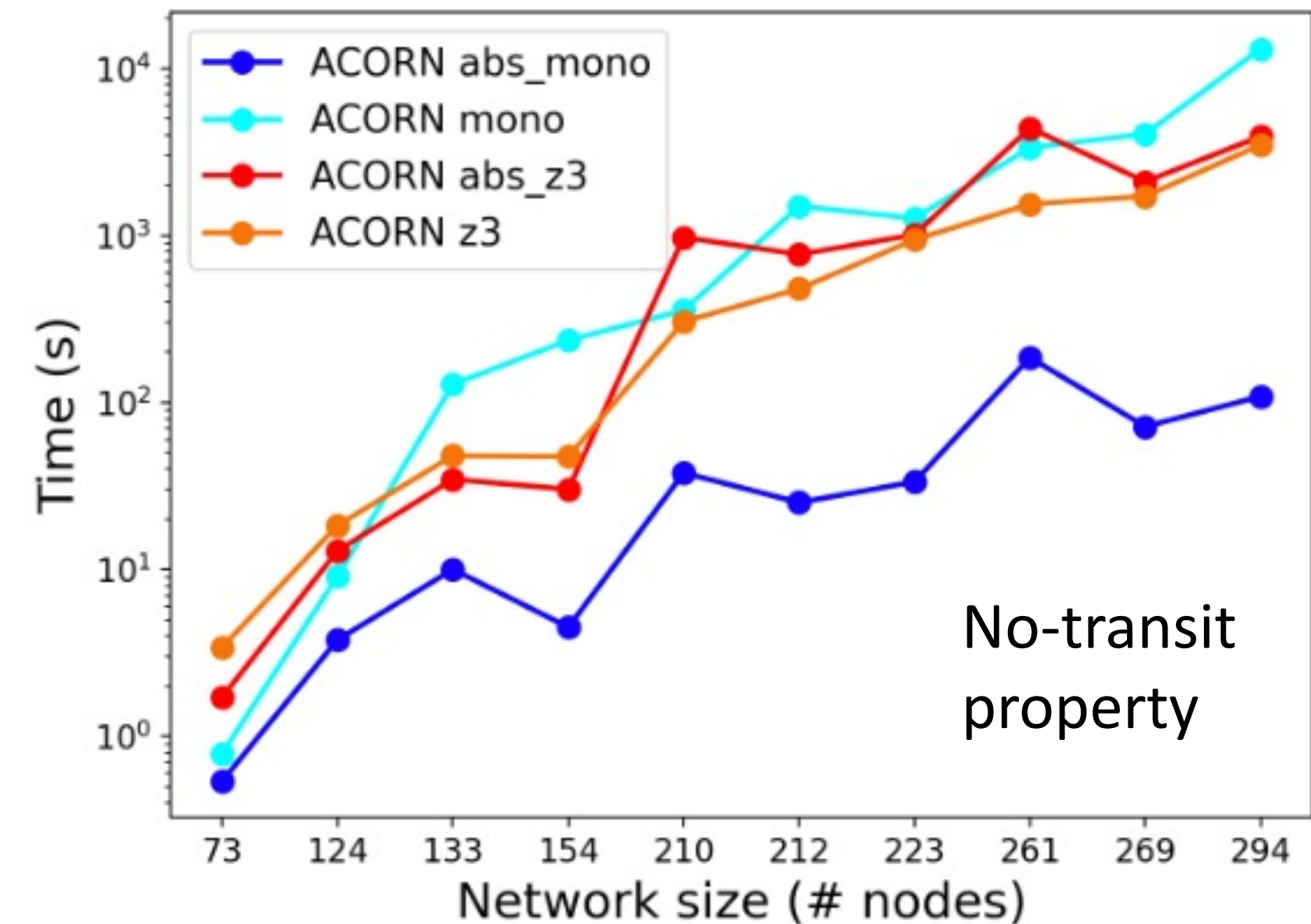
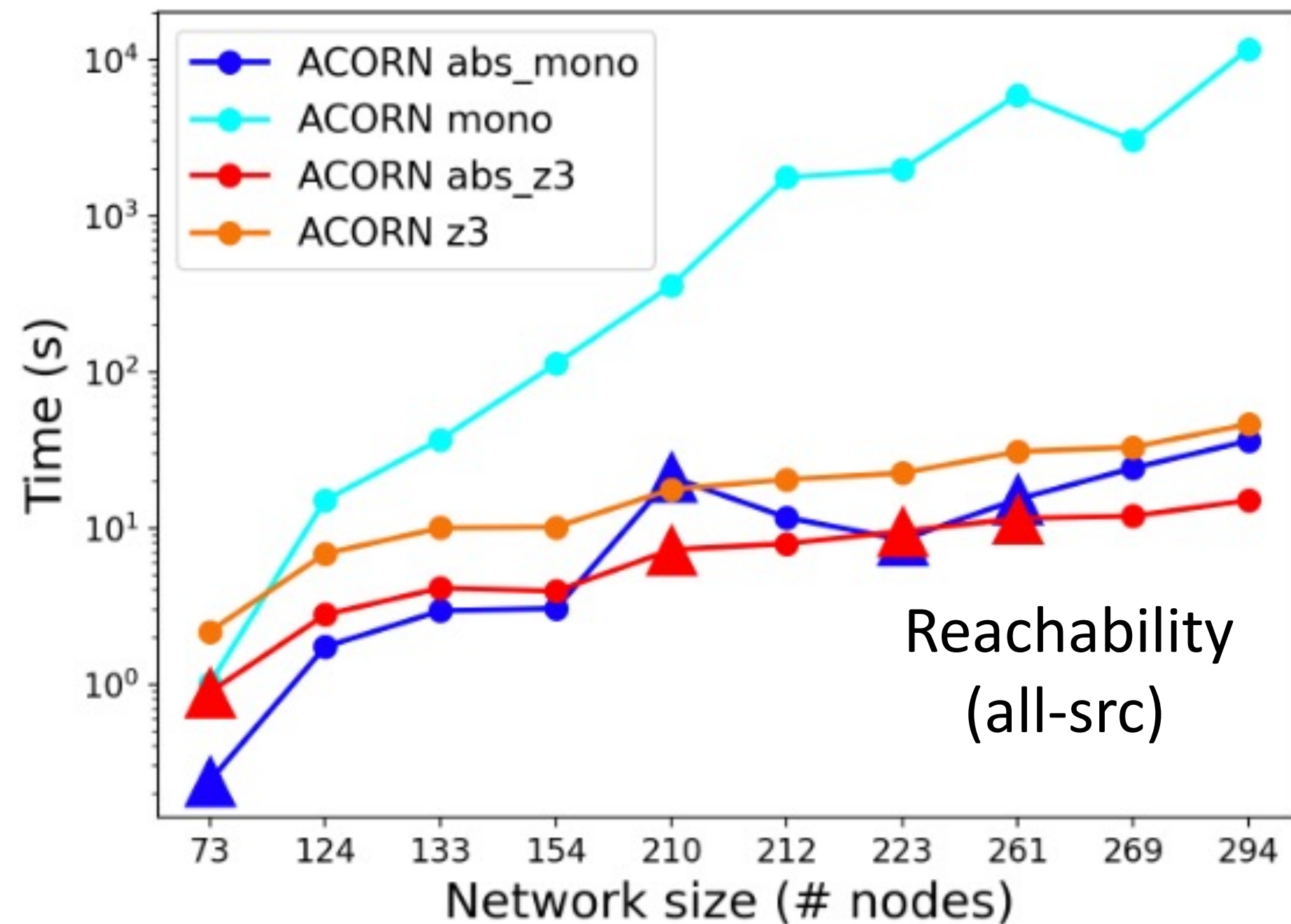


Results for Topology Zoo networks



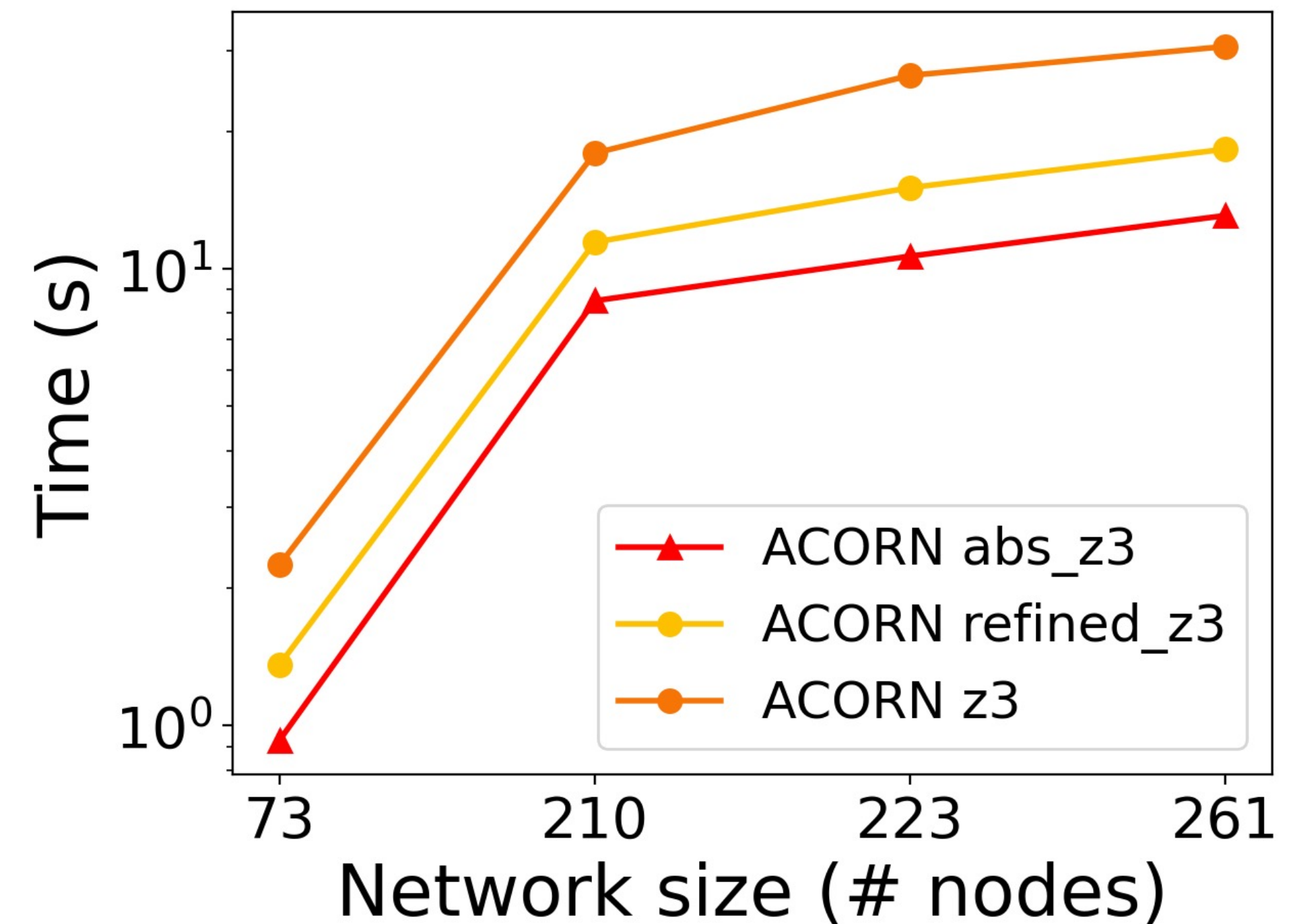
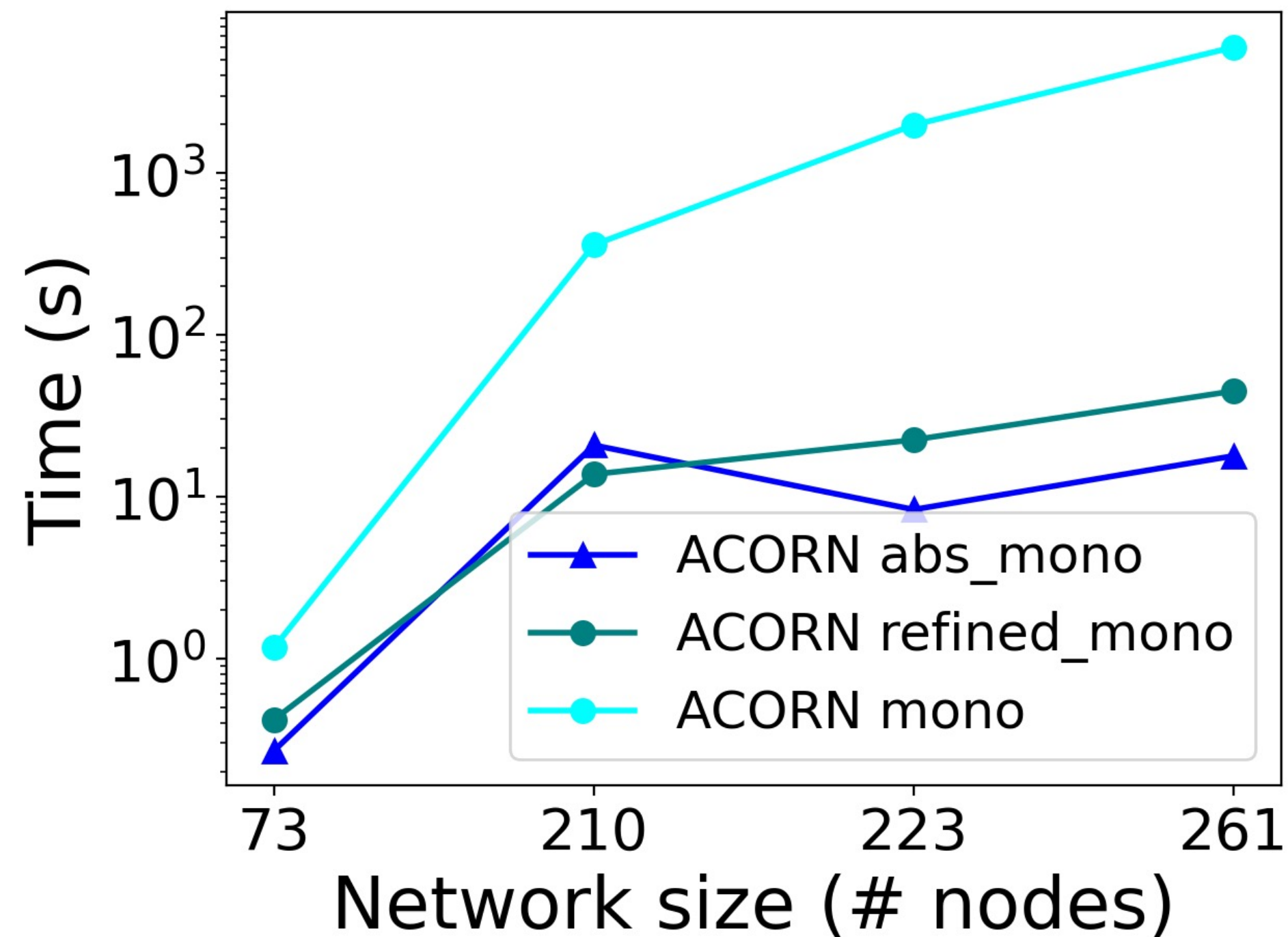
- Abstract settings verify both properties without false alarms
- Abstract settings are *uniformly* better than concrete settings (relative speedup of 3x)
- MonoSAT better for both properties

Results for BGPStream networks



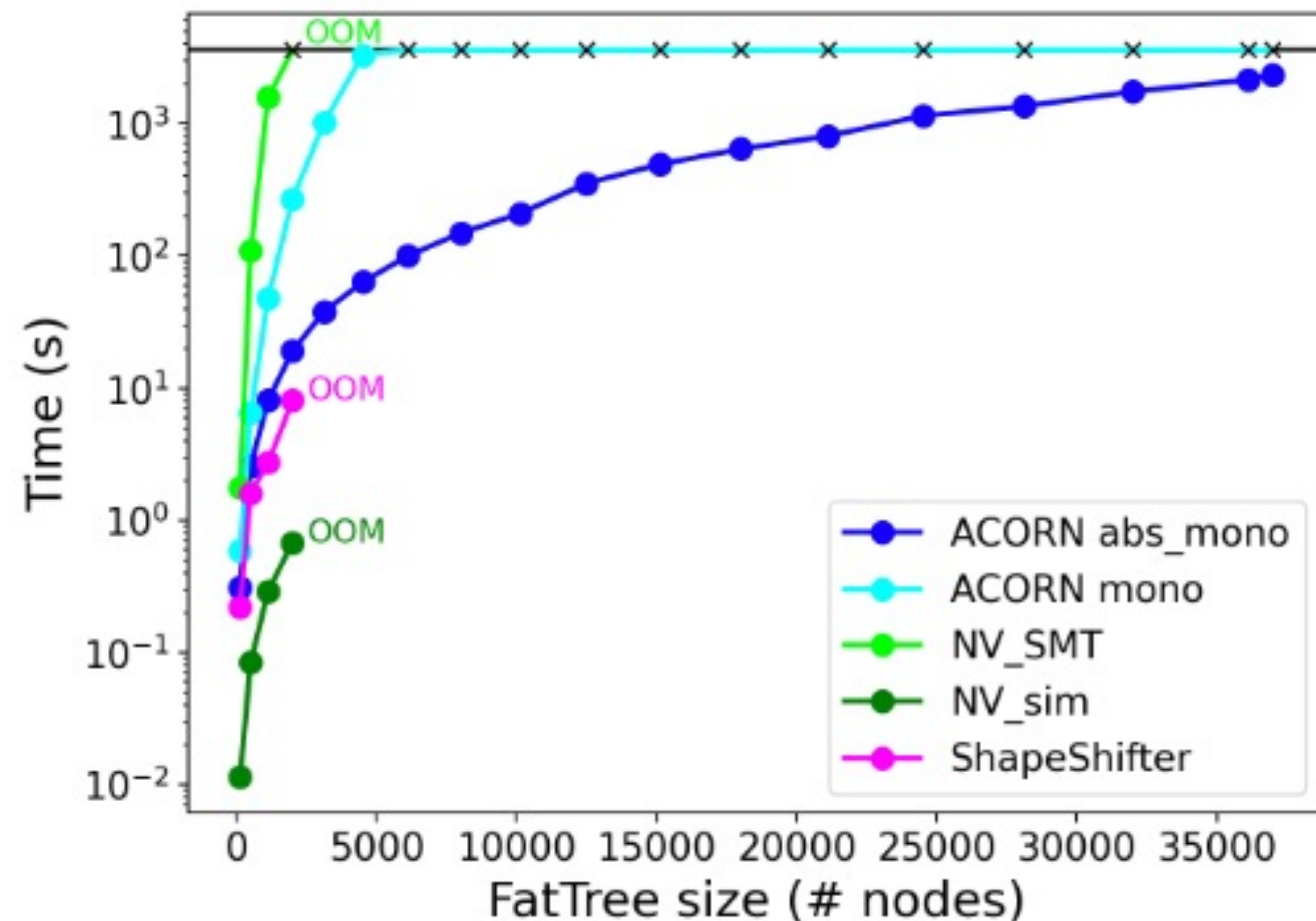
- Abstract settings verify no-transit property in all networks, and reachability in 6/10 networks
- Abstract settings are better than concrete settings
 - MonoSAT: speedup of 323x for reachability, and 120x for no-transit
 - Z3: benefit of NRC not as pronounced; no-abstraction setting sometimes better for no-transit

NRC Refinement



- 4/10 false alarms are handled using a more precise abstraction that models local preference
- NRC abstraction hierarchy provides a tradeoff between performance and precision

Comparison of ACORN with other tools



Reachability (single-src) on FatTree benchmarks
with valley-free policy

- NV uses MTBDD-based simulation and SMT
- ShapeShifter uses BDD-based simulation with abstract interpretation
- Both NV and ShapeShifter *run out of memory* for networks with **> 3000 nodes**
- ACORN scales to **≈37,000 nodes**
- SAT/SMT techniques seem more scalable than BDD-based methods (*again!*)

ACORN: Summary of experimental results

- NRC can verify reachability for $\approx 37,000$ routers within an hour
 - *Far exceeds performance of existing control plane verifiers*
- NRC improves scalability for both solvers, all benchmarks
 - Abstract settings uniformly better than concrete settings
- NRC could verify realistic policies
 - Common policies on data center networks, no false alarms with least precision
 - Some false alarms in WANs, refinements verified successfully
 - Future work: CEGAR-based refinement
- MonoSAT's graph theory solver useful for reachability
 - Z3 sometimes better for policy-based properties
 - This needs further investigation

Lessons (re-)Learned

- Build the logic-based model first, leverage domain insights
 - modeling the network control plane *stable behavior* enabled direct use of SMT technology for verification
- Don't abstract too early
 - our SMT-based model is rich in detail, captures many features (e.g., local preferences, route redistribution) considered important by network practitioners
- Build logic-based abstractions, compositional methods, CEGAR, *<your-favorite-method>* on top of the logic-based model
 - Bonsai: Symmetry-based abstractions [Beckett *et al.* SIGCOMM 2018]
 - Shapeshifter: Abstract Interpretation [Beckett *et al.* POPL 2020]
 - Origami: Failure analysis [Giannarakis *et al.* CAV 2019]
 - NV: Programmable Platform [Giannarakis *et al.* PLDI 2020]
 - ACORN: Nondeterministic route selection [under submission]
 - Timepiece: Modular verification [under submission]

Future Opportunities

- Many challenges still remain: scalability, failure analysis, ...
- Quantitative/probabilistic properties
 - Some existing efforts (e.g., Probabilistic NetKat, ApproxFlow)
 - Model counting techniques
 - Probabilistic verification
- Automated synthesis with verification
 - Leverage machine learning + deductive techniques

Collaborators



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Thank you!