

Joint RuSSIR/EDBT Summer School 2011

WEB OF DATA

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EDBT RuSSIR



Query-log based techniques for optimizing WSE efficiency

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Course Plan

- Class 1: Query log analysis.
- Class 2: Query-log based techniques for optimizing WSE effectiveness.
- Class 3: Query-log based techniques for optimizing WSE efficiency.
- Class 4: Hands-on session.
- Class 5: Future Research Issues and the Web of Data.

Web Searching

Is one of the most complex data engineering challenges today:

- Distributed in nature
- Large volume of data
- Highly concurrent service
- Users expect very good & fast answers

A key goal is optimizing throughput but making sure that query response time is below a given threshold

Throughput up, latency down: How to?

Mine Query Logs to devise patterns and predictors allowing to optimize all aspects of the complex system, e.g.:

- Ad hoc caching strategies for
 - results' pages (SERPs), posting lists, intersections, document, surrogates, snippets
- Parallel query processing on multiple clusters
 - replication, index partitioning (document-based or term-based), query routing, index pruning, etc.

Outline

- Ad hoc caching strategies for
 - results' pages (SERPs), posting lists, intersections, document, surrogates, snippets
- Parallel query processing on multiple clusters
 - replication, index partitioning (document-based or term-based), query routing

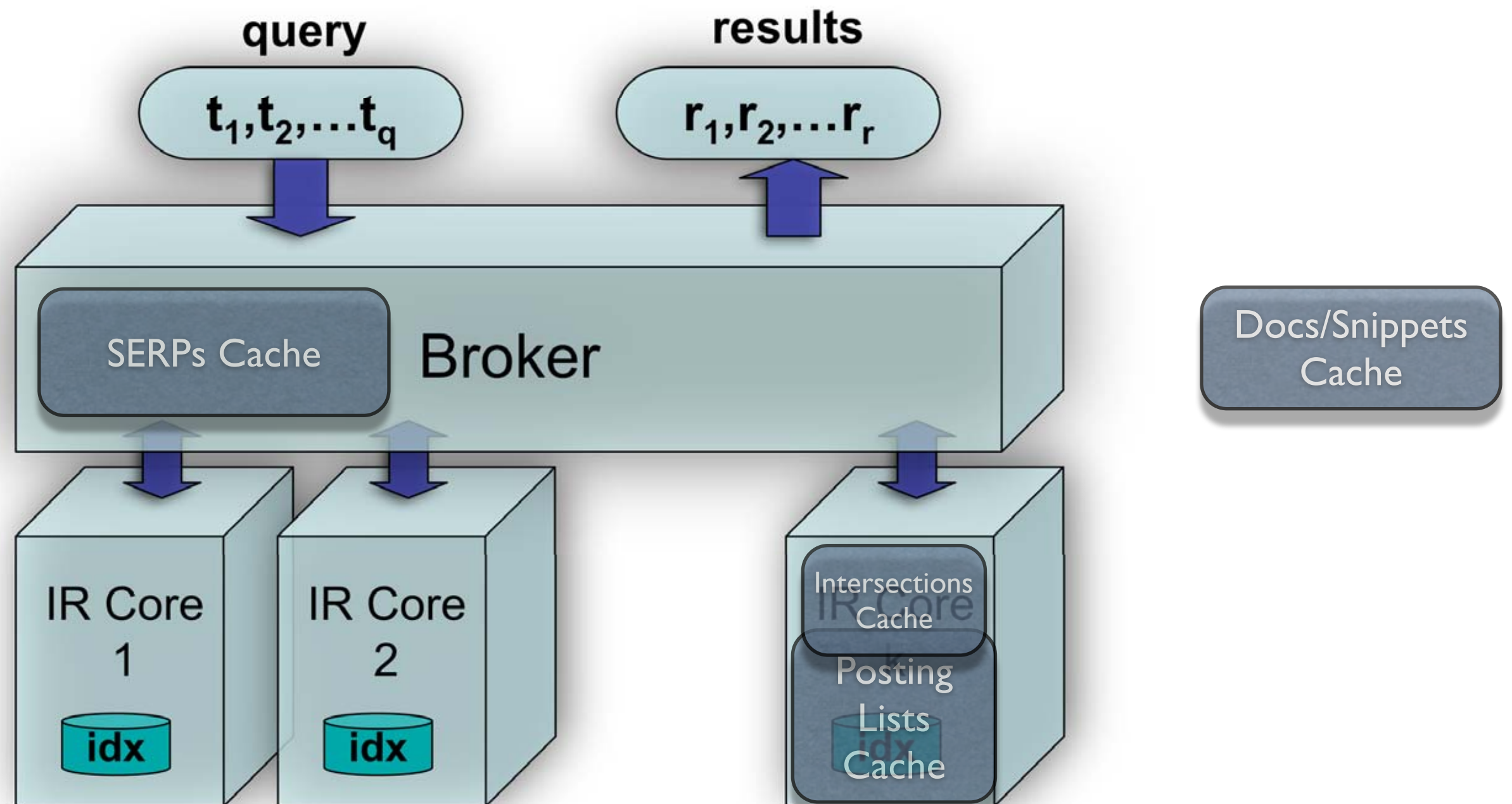
Caching

- Caching can save significant amounts of computational resources
 - Caching reduce latency and load on backend servers
 - Caching helps to make queries “local”
- Search engine with capacity of 1000 queries/second
 - Cache with 30% hit ratio increases capacity to 1400 queries/second
 - Almost for free!
- Caching is similar to replication on demand

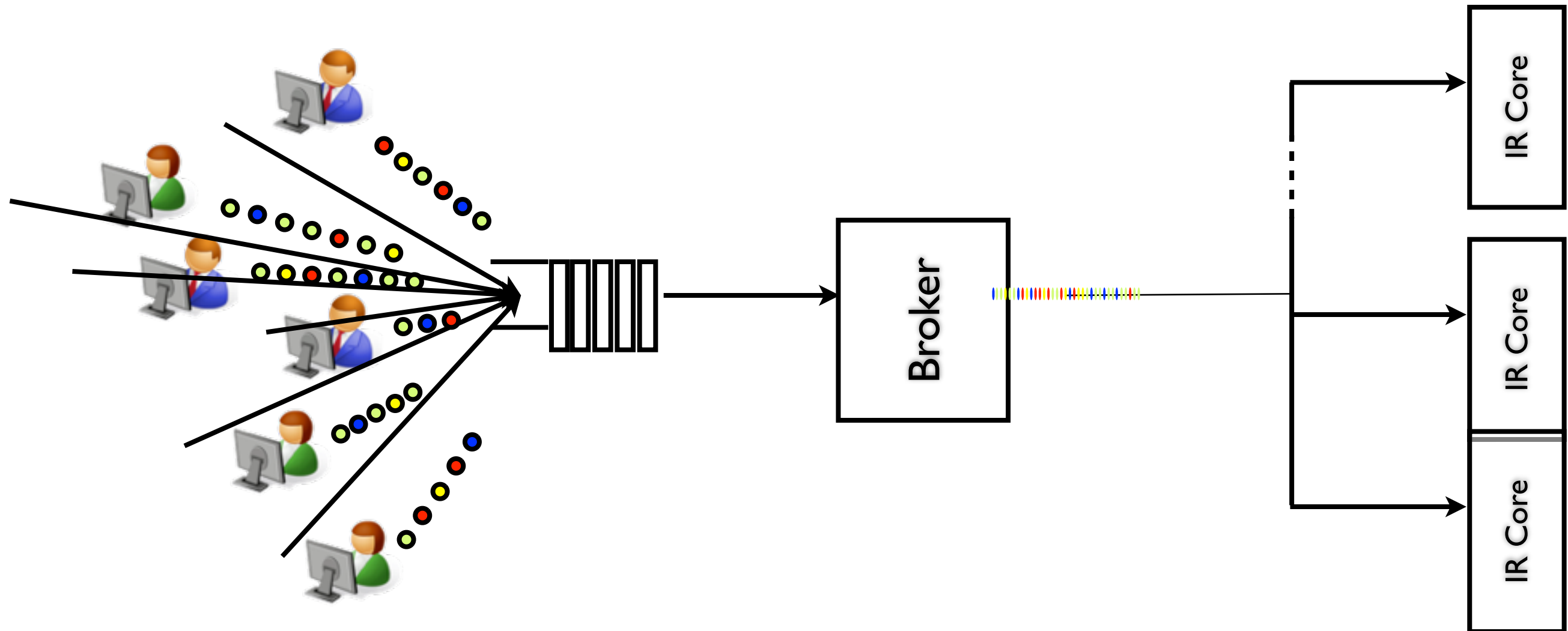
“Things” to Cache in Search Engines

- SERPs
 - in answer to a user query
- Posting Lists
 - e.g. for the query “new york” cache the posting lists for term “new” and for term “york”
- Partial queries
 - cache intersections for subqueries, e.g. for “new york times” cache only “new york”
- Documents or surrogates or snippets
- Ads, etc.

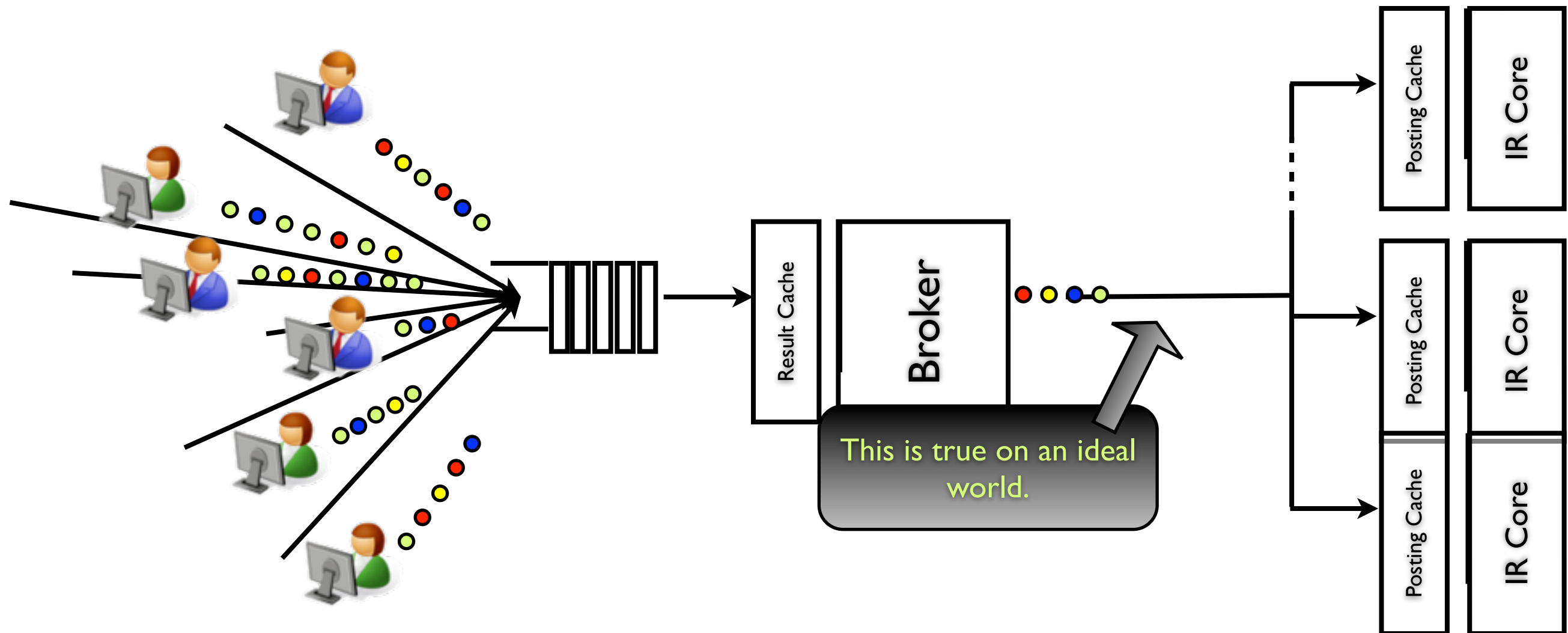
Caching in a Distributed Search Engine



SERP's Caching



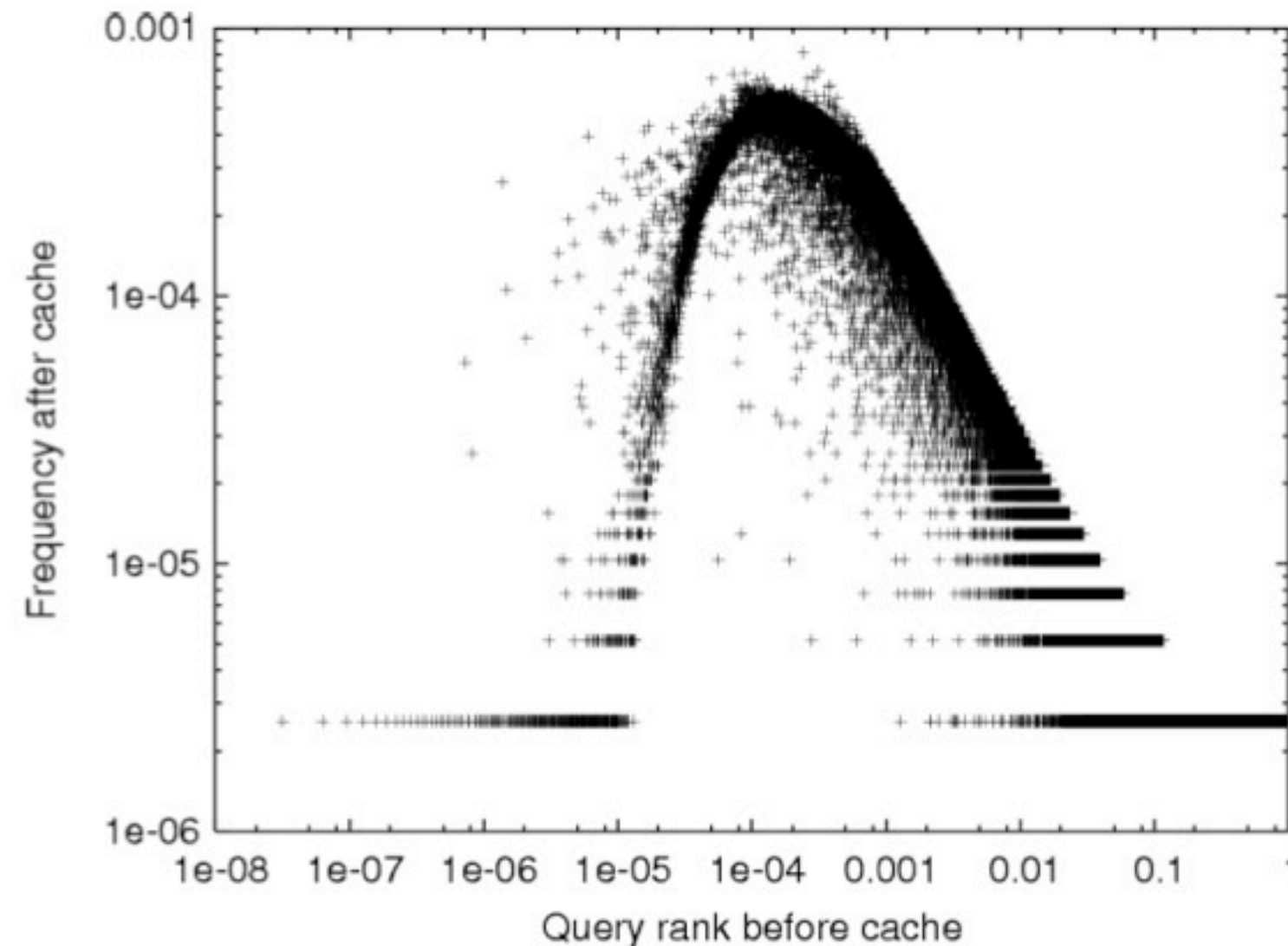
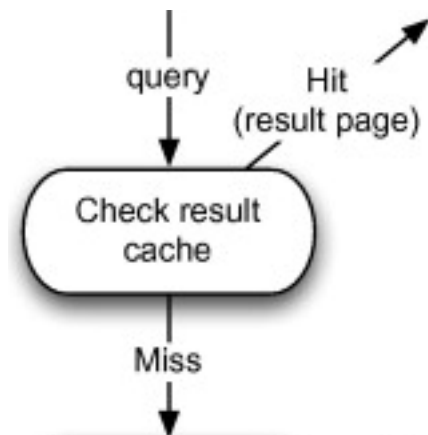
Caching



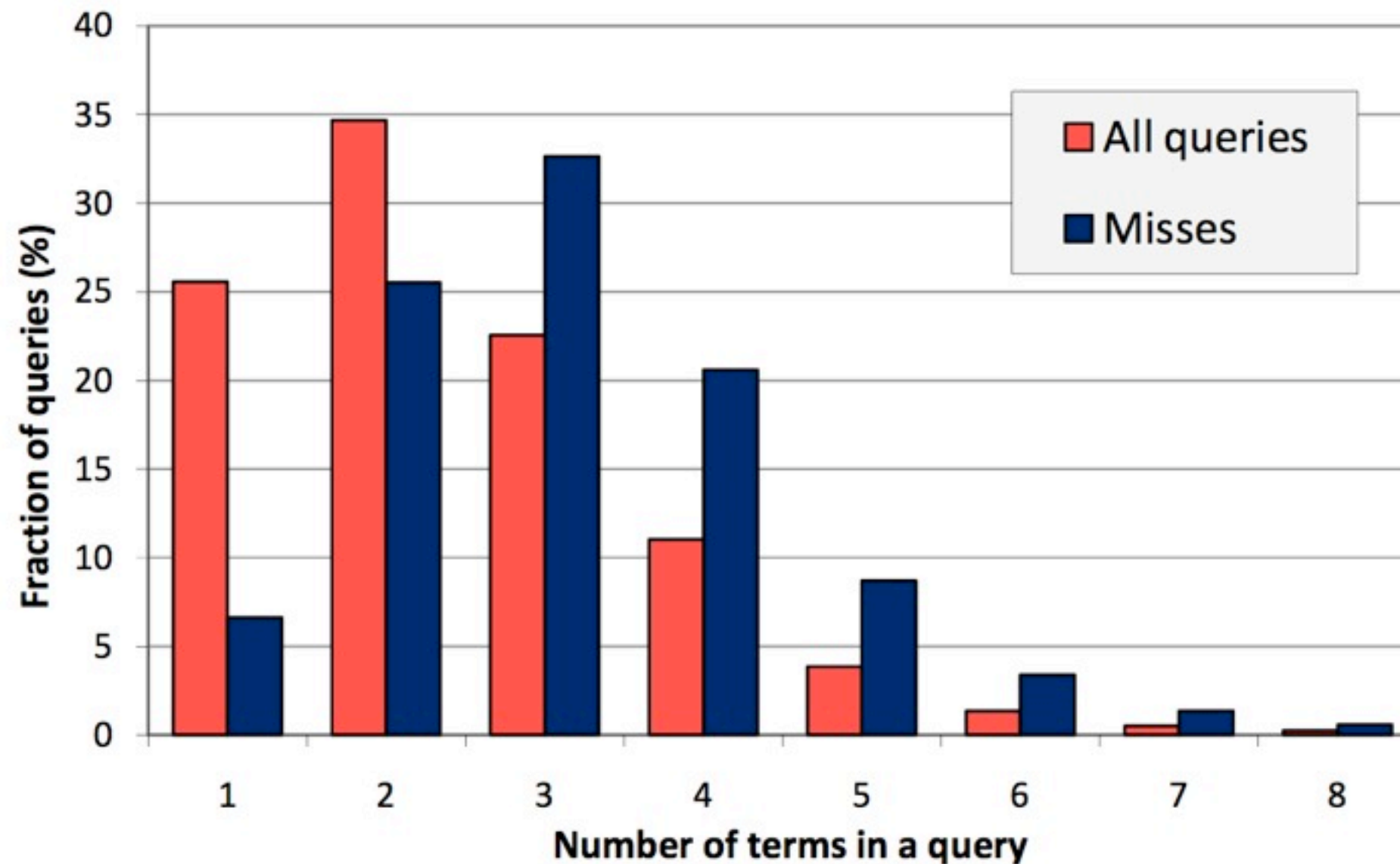
Caching Performance Evaluation

- **Hit-Ratio**: i.e. how many times the cache is useful
- **Query Throughput**: i.e. the number of queries the system can serve in a second
- But... what really impacts on caching performance?

Filtering Effect of SERPs Caching

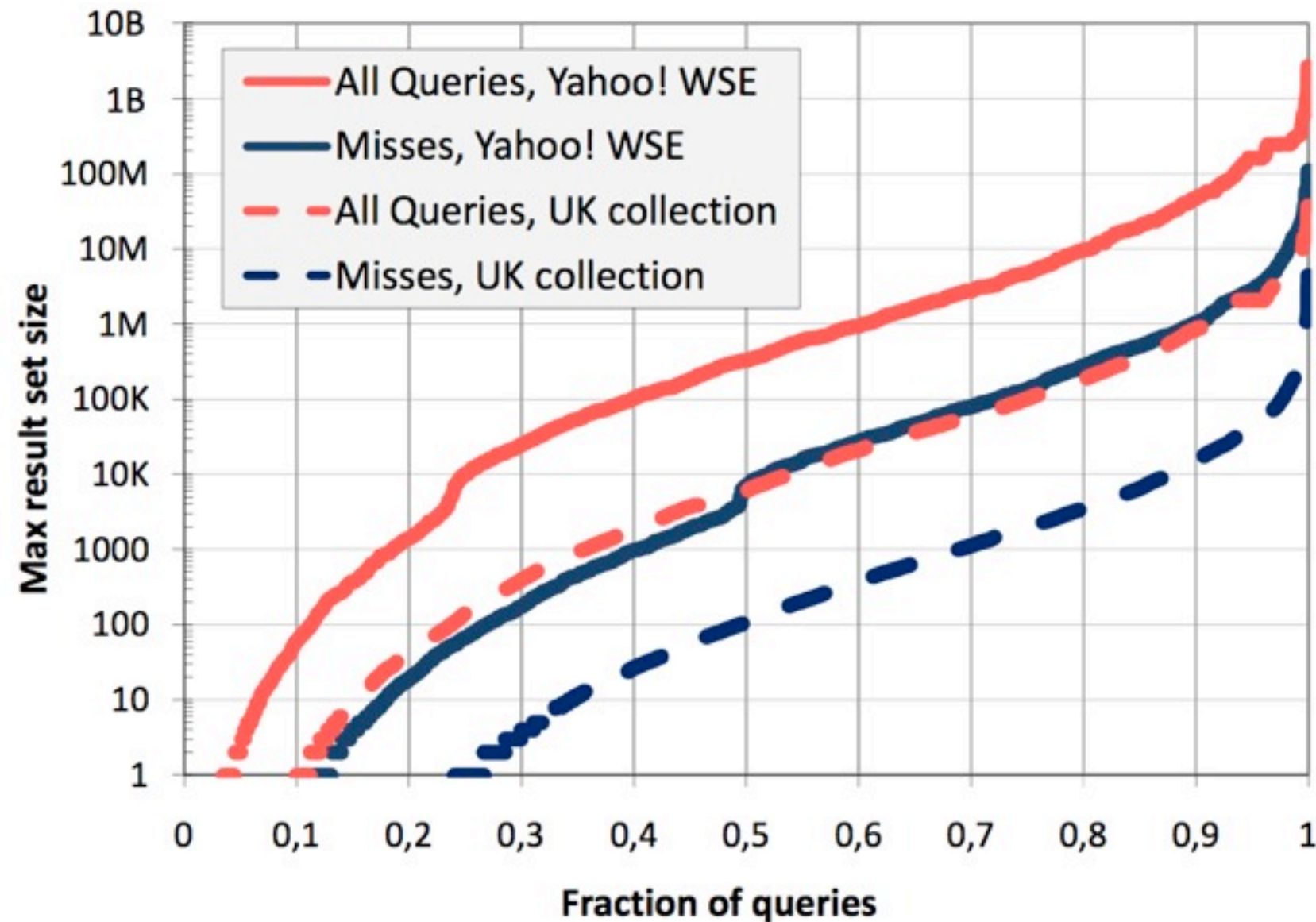


Filtering Effect of SERPs Caching



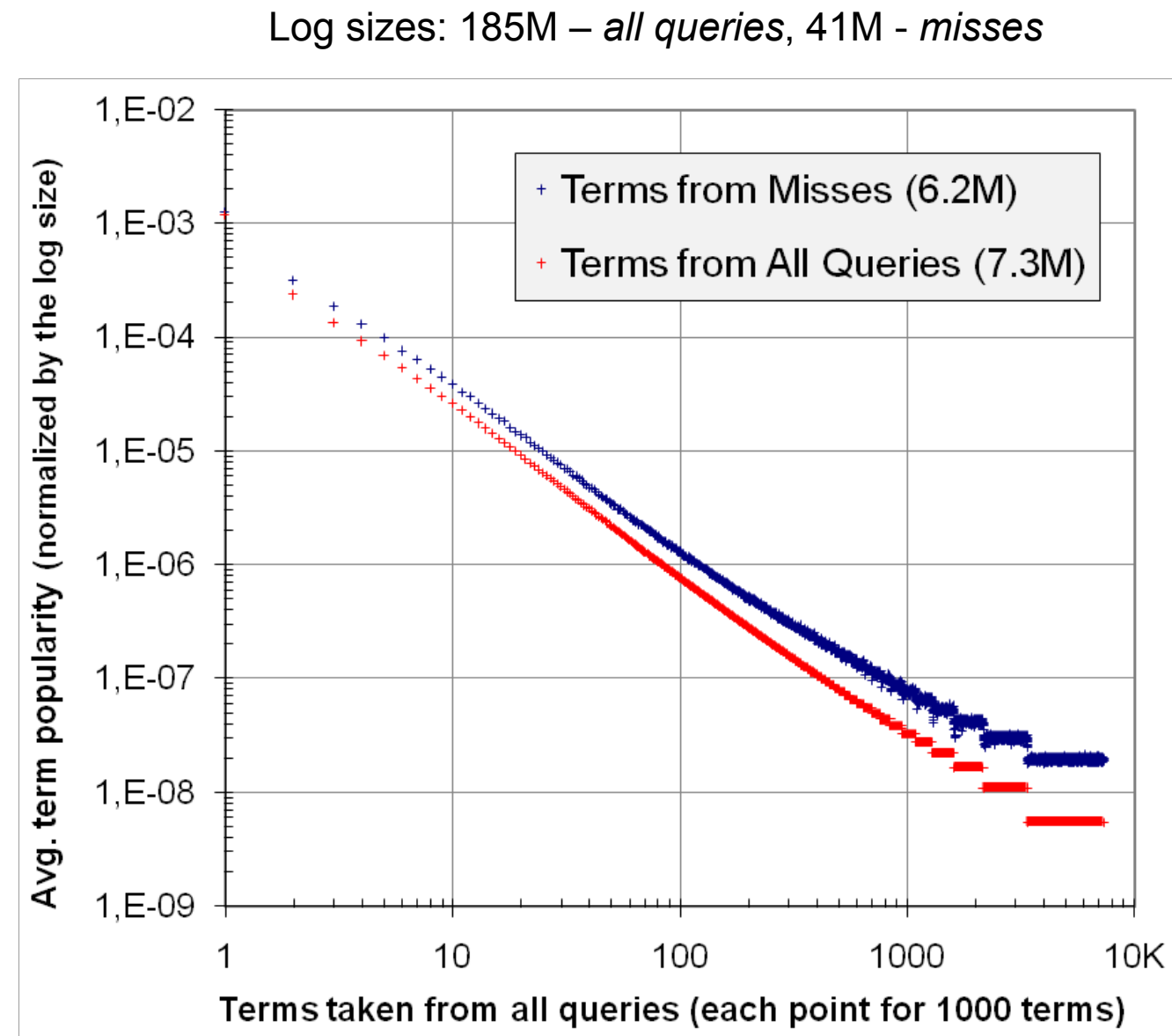
Filtering Effect of SERPs Caching

Avg. result size
for misses is
~100 times
smaller than
for all queries



Terms popularity in hits/misses

- Term popularity does not change much
- caching at lower levels!!



Caching for Search Engines Workloads

- Caching Architectures:
 - Multi-Level Caching
- Caching Policies
 - PDC
 - SDC
 - AC

Two-Level Caching

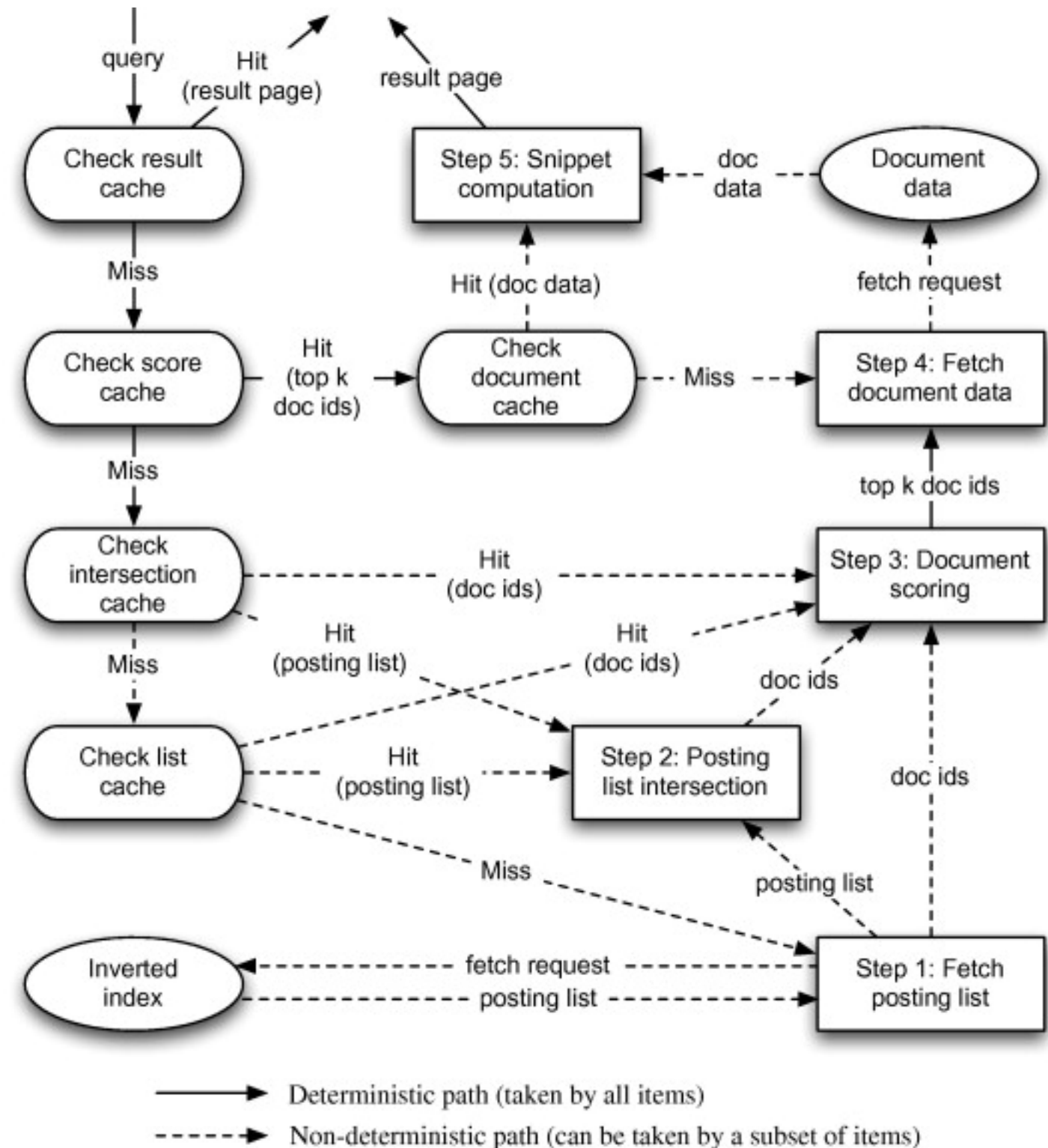
- Firstly studied in:
 - Saraiva, P. C., Silva de Moura, E., Ziviani, N., Meira, W., Fonseca, R., and Riberio-Neto, B. 2001. **Rank-preserving two-level caching for scalable search engines**. In Proceedings of ACM SIGIR '01. ACM, New York, NY, 51-58.
- Further analyzed in:
 - Baeza-Yates, R., Gionis, A., Junqueira, F. P., Murdock, V., Plachouras, V., and Silvestri, F. 2008. **Design trade-offs for search engine caching**. ACM Trans. Web 2, 4 (Oct. 2008), 1-28.

Three-level Caching

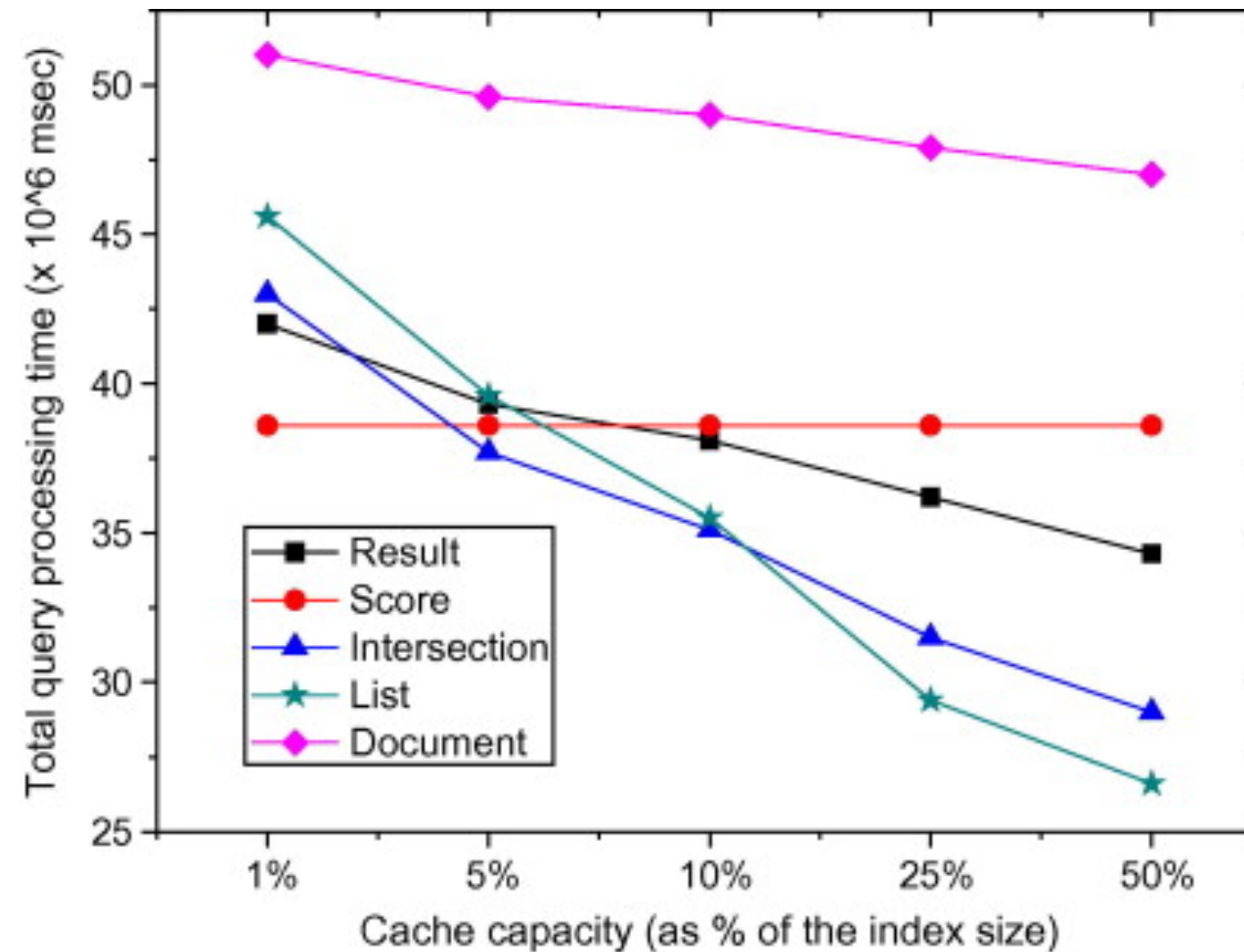
- Adds one level between results and posting lists cache.
- Usually stores frequently occurring pairs of terms.
- Long, X. and Suel, T. 2005. **Three-level caching for efficient query processing in large Web search engines**. In Proceedings of the 14th international Conference WWW '05. 257-266.
- Skobeltsyn, G., Junqueira, F., Plachouras, V., and Baeza-Yates, R. 2008. **ResIn: a combination of results caching and index pruning for high-performance web search engines**. In Proceedings of the 31st Annual international ACM SIGIR '08. 131-138.

Five-level Caching

- Adds on caching of documents and of top-k scores
- Nice experimental evaluation of relations between different cache levels
 - Rifat Ozcan, I. Sengor Altingovde, B. Barla Cambazoglu, Flavio P. Junqueira, Ozgur Ulusoy, **A five-level static cache architecture for web search engines**, Information Processing & Management, In Press, Available online 1 February 2011



Independent contributions of single caches

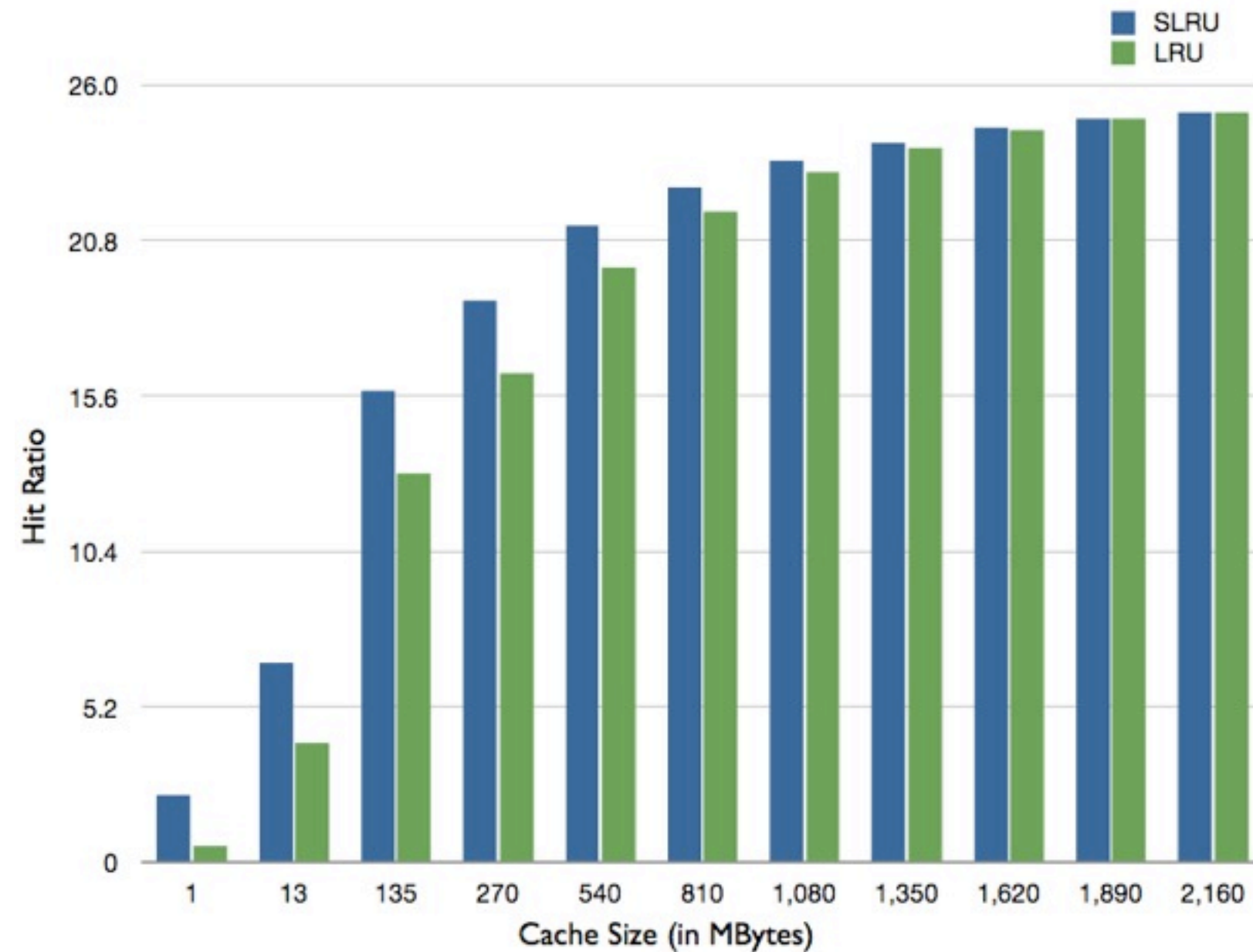


Contributions
sum up in large
search systems!

Traditional Replacement Policies

- LRU
- LFU
- SLRU
- ...

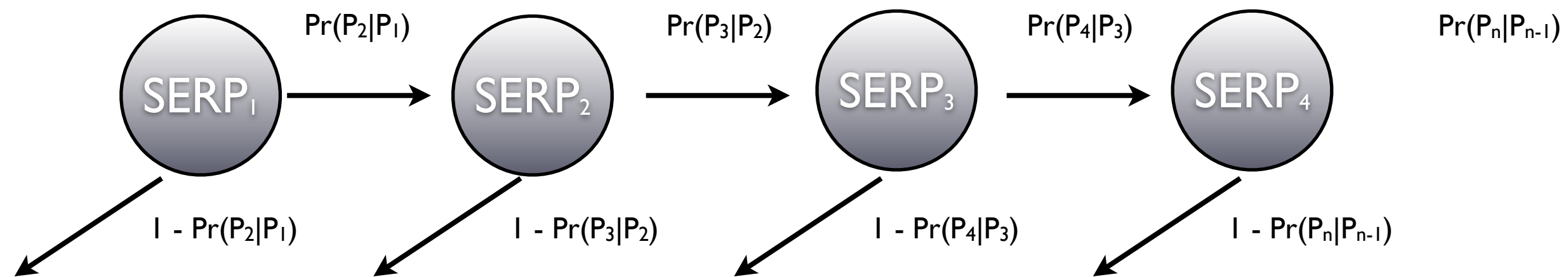
SLRU vs. LRU on Excite



Search Engine Tailored Policies

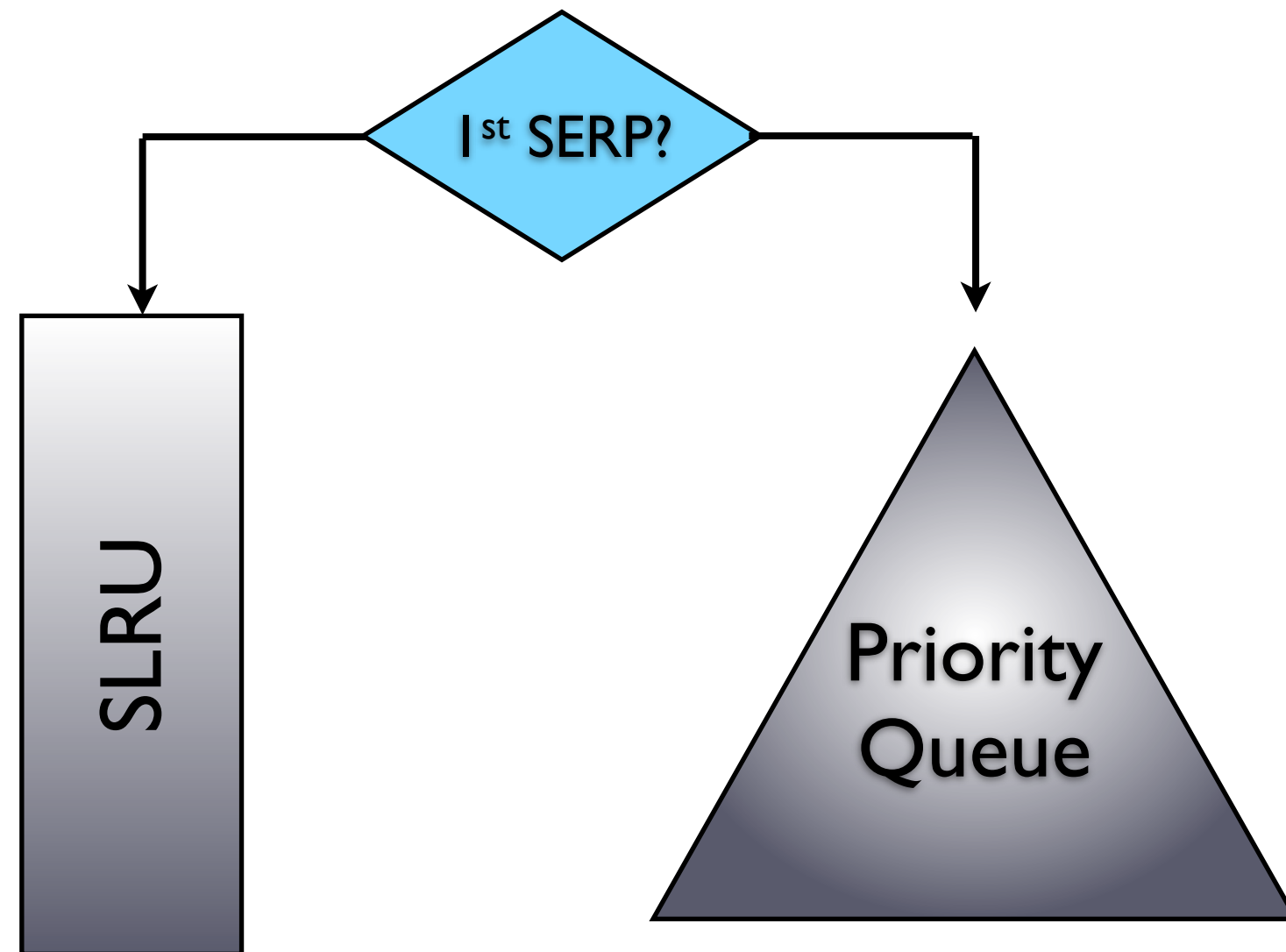
- PDC
 - Probability Driven Caching
- SDC
 - Static Dynamic Caching
- AC
 - Admission Control

PDC



- IDEA: design a policy tailored over users' behavior on search pages
- With high probability users do not go beyond the first page of results
- For some query users browse many result pages.

PDC



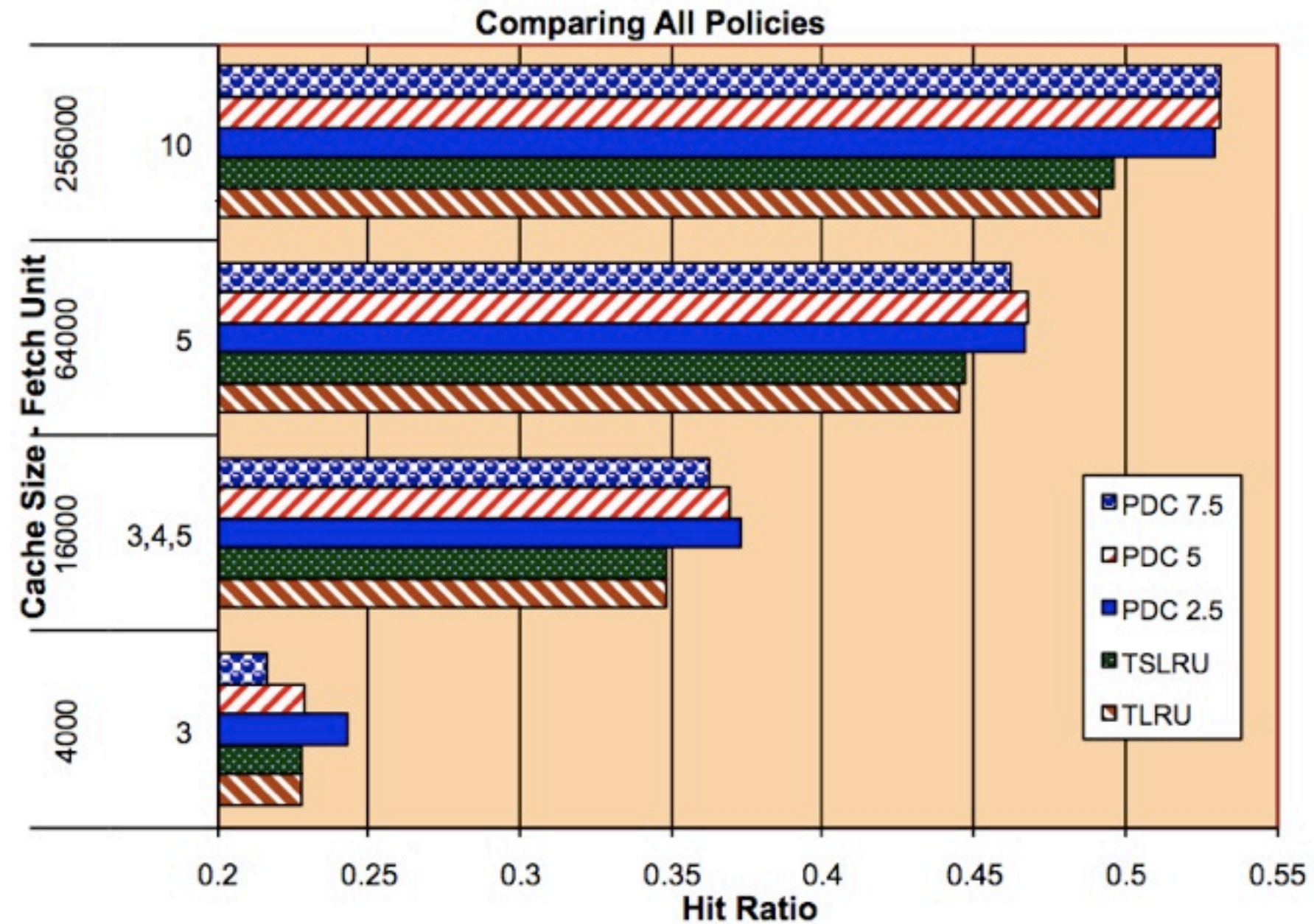
PDC Priorities

- Priorities are assigned using an approximation of the Markovian SERP request model
- Each SERP different from the first one has a priority computed on historical queries (query log)
- PDC caches pages that has follow-up queries more likely to be submitted. Why?

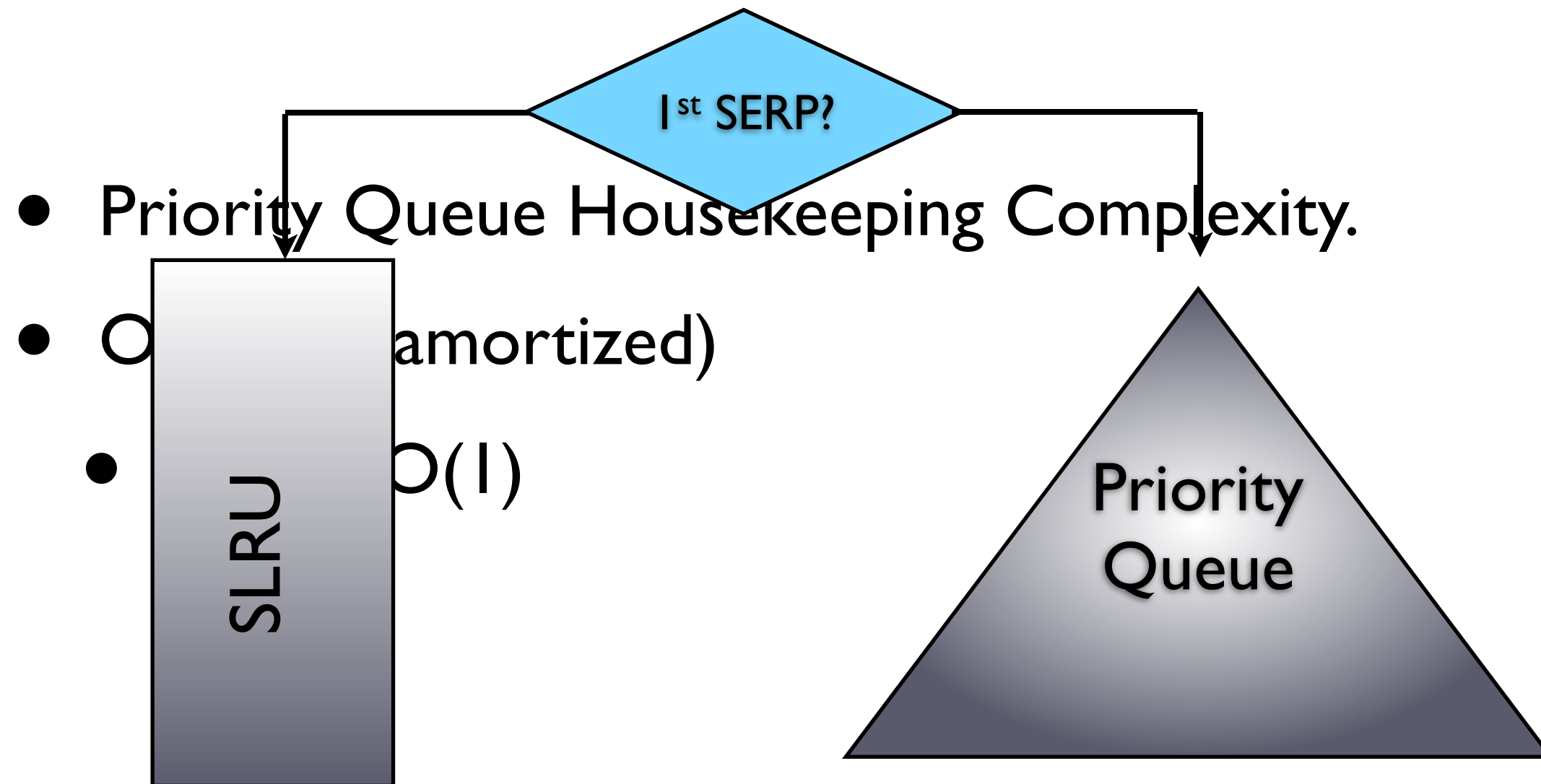
PDC and Prefetching

- in PDC results are organized according to “*Fetch Units*”
- When SERP i is requested for a query Q , the cache is first looked up
- If i is not cached, SERPs $i, i + 1, \dots, i + f$ are requested to the back-end
 - That is we prefetch f SERPs.
 - The fetch unit is of size f .

PDC Results



PDC's Main Drawback



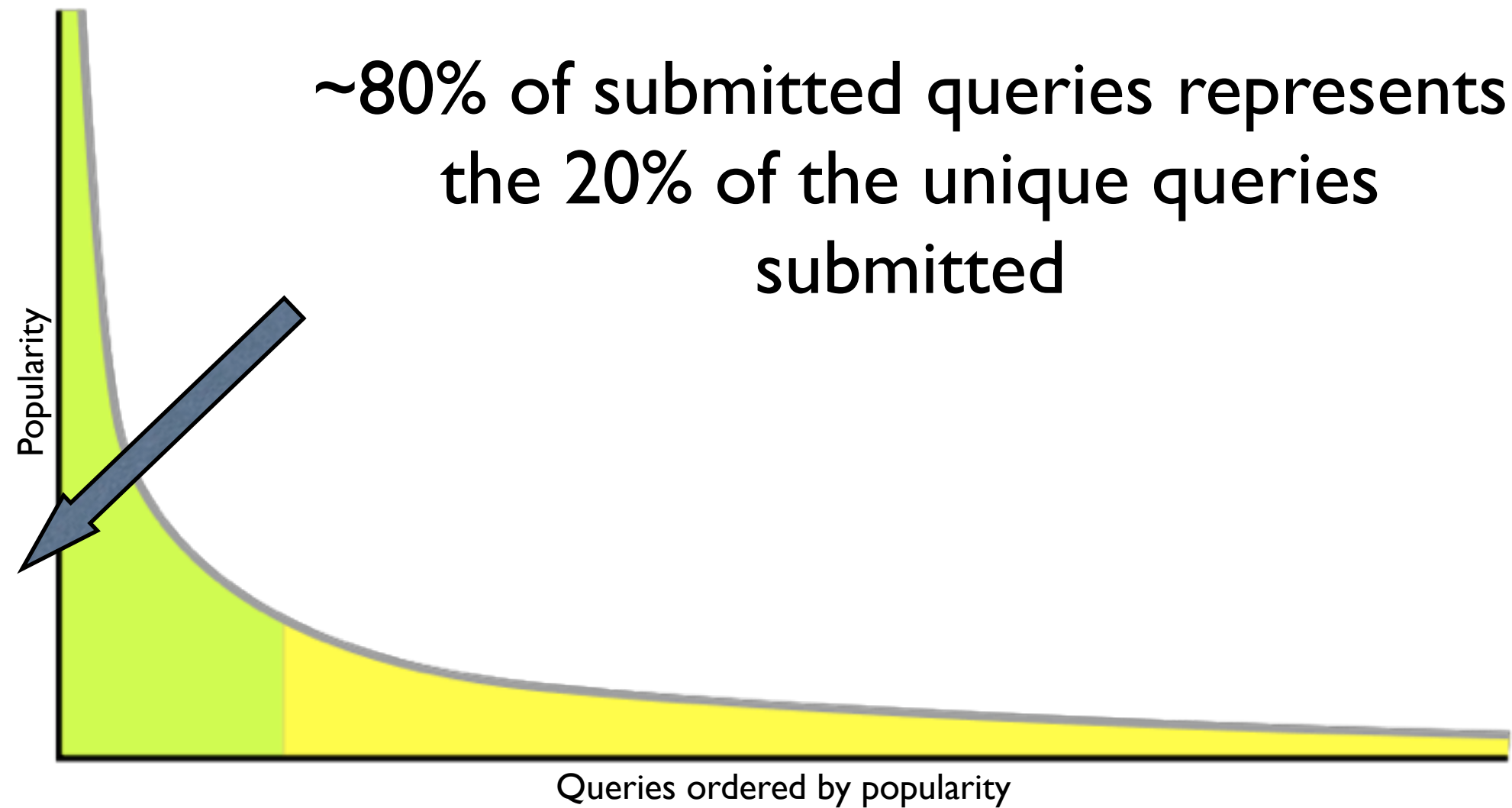
PDC's Main Lessons Learned

- Hit ratio benefits a lot from the use of historical data
- Prefetching helps a lot!
- Differently from previous caching policies, PDC not necessarily caches every submitted queries!!!

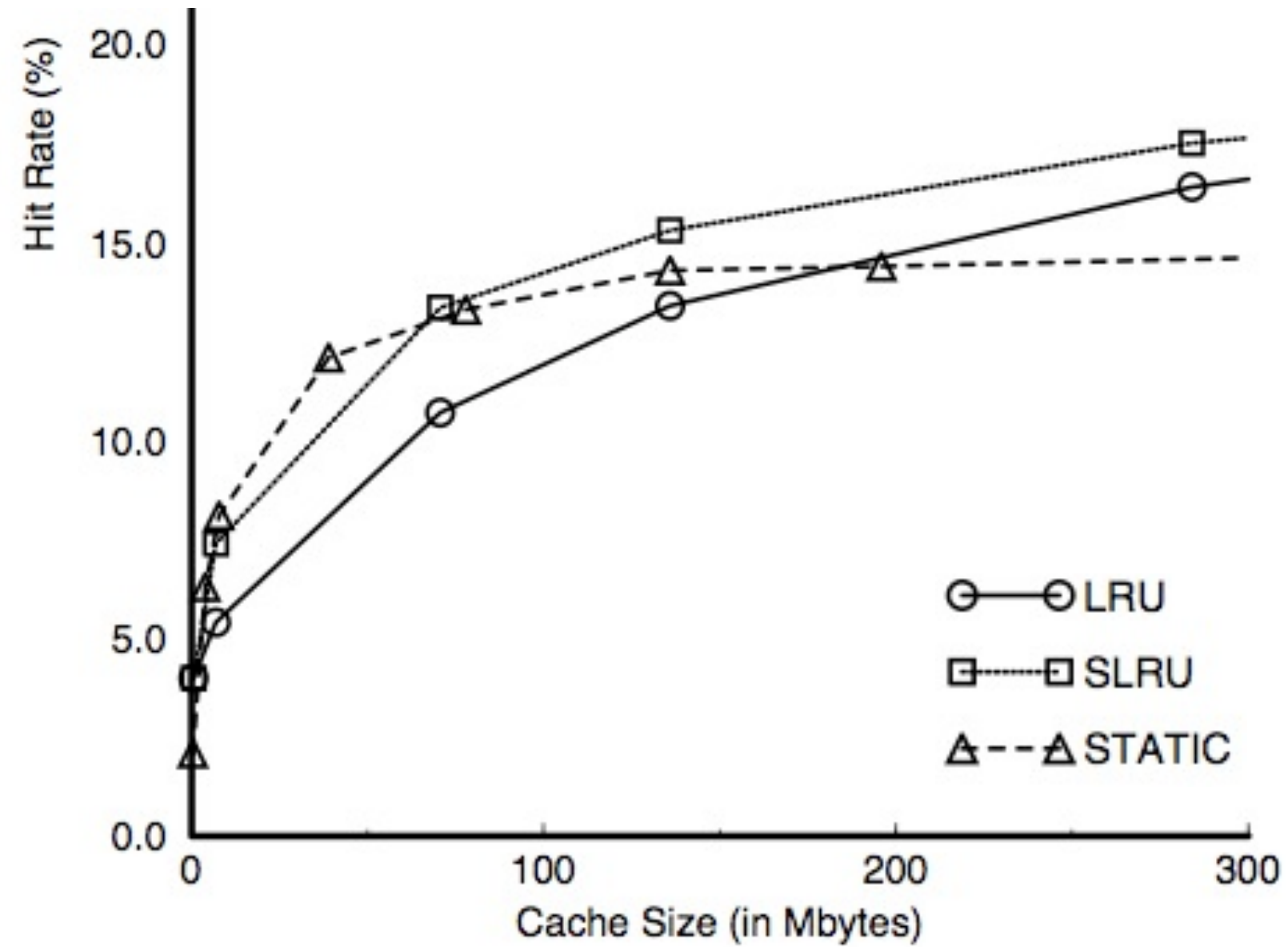
Overcoming PDC Complexity

- PDC uses query logs to estimate the likelihood of follow-up queries.
- Why not using query logs to estimate likelihood of resubmitting a query?
- By catching the head of the long tail distribution we might obtain high hit ratios

That is...

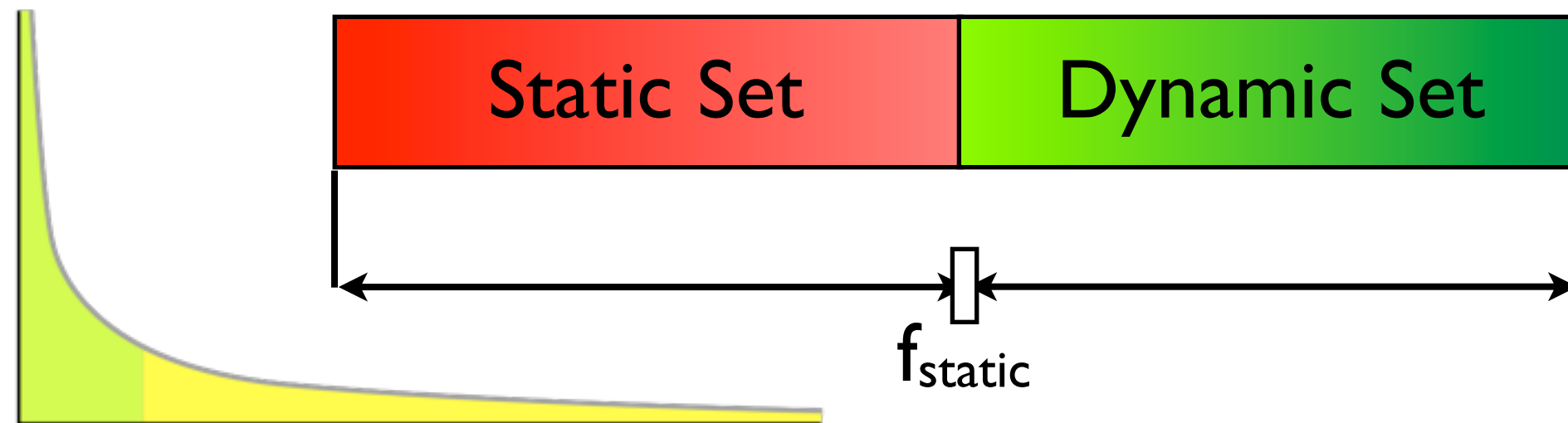


But...



Static Dynamic Caching

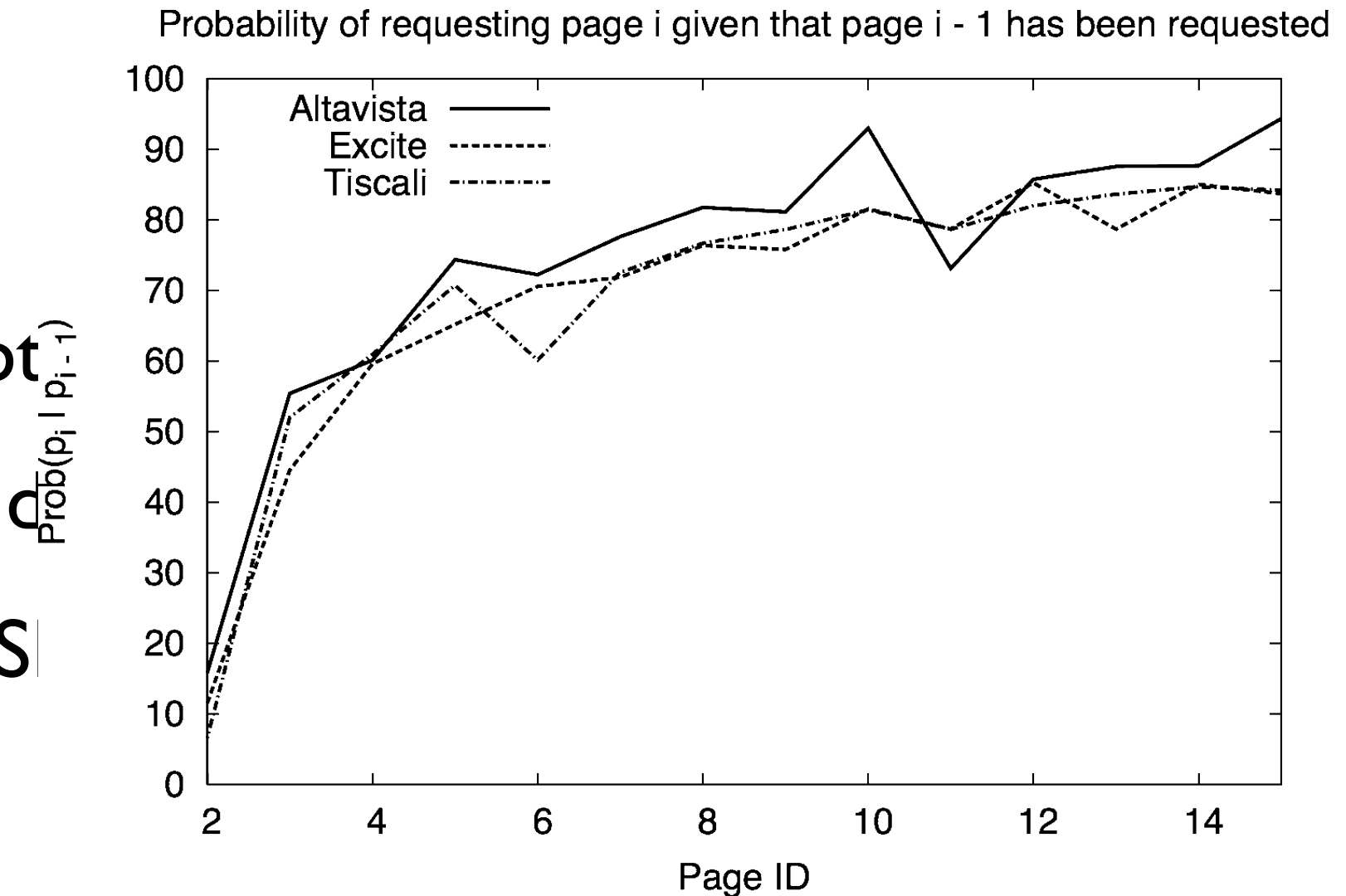
- SDC (Static Dynamic Caching) adds to the classical static caching schema a dynamically managed section.
- The idea:



- LRU
- SLRU
- PDC
- ...

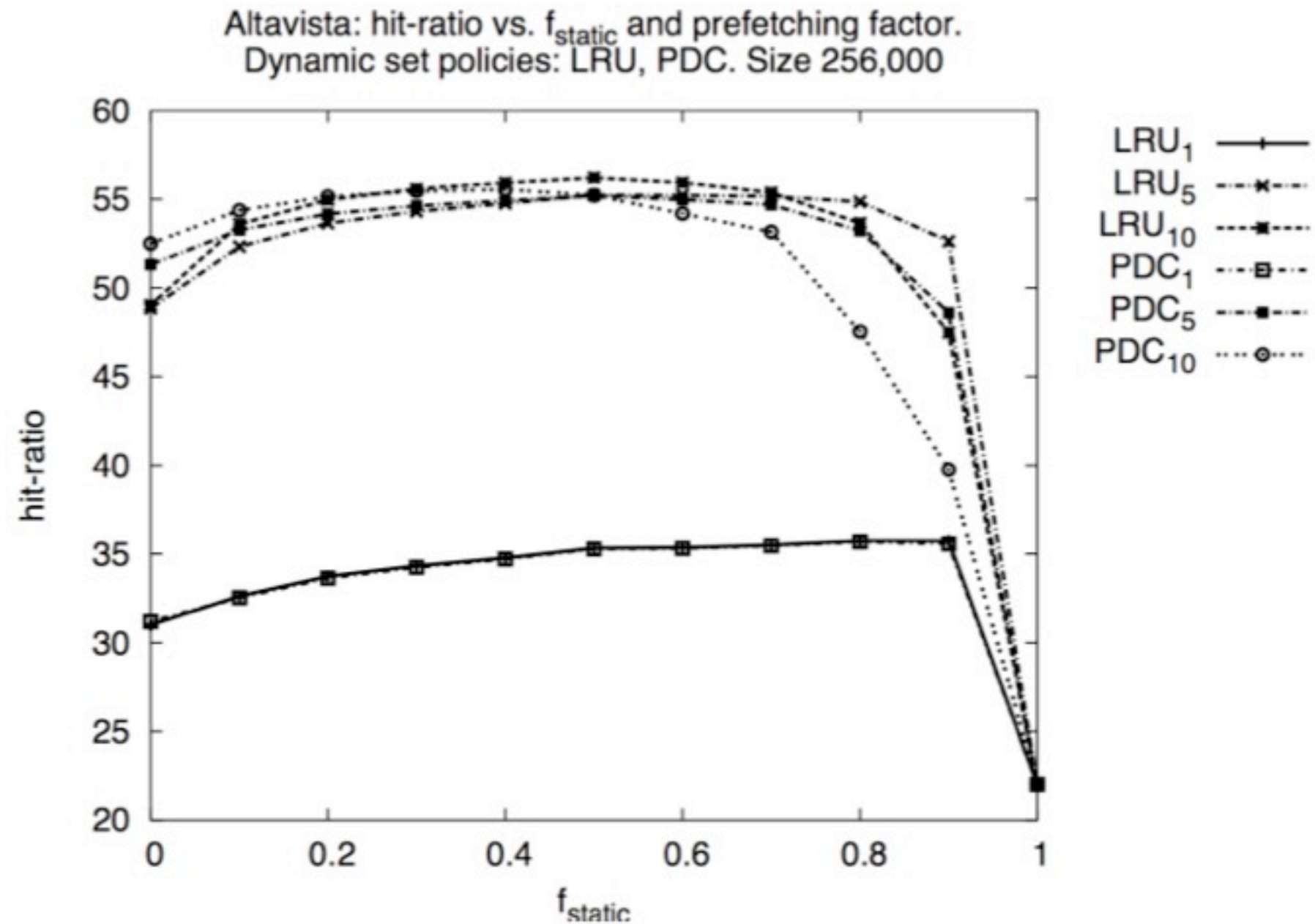
SDC and Prefetching

- SDC adopts an “adaptive” prefetching strategy
- For the first SERP only
- For the follow-up SERPs



T. Fagni, R. Perego, F. Silvestri, and S. Orlando, “**Boosting the performance of web search engines: Caching and prefetching query results by exploiting historical usage data**,” ACM Trans. Inf. Syst., vol. 24, no. 1, pp. 51–78, 2006.

SDC Hit-Ratios



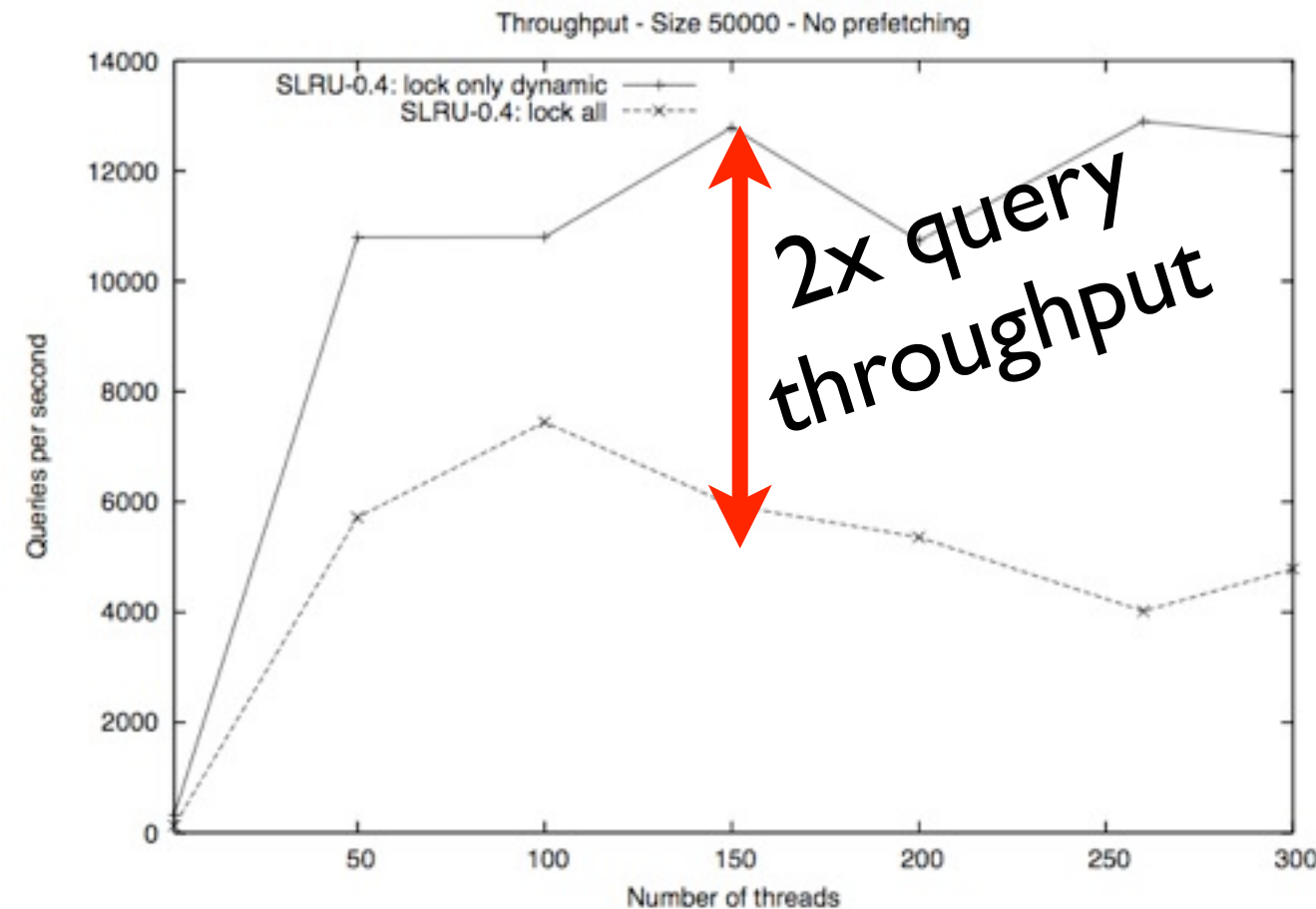
T. Fagni, R. Perego, F. Silvestri, and S. Orlando, “**Boosting the performance of web search engines: Caching and prefetching query results by exploiting historical usage data,**” ACM Trans. Inf. Syst., vol. 24, no. 1, pp. 51–78, 2006.

SDC's Main Lessons Learned

- Hit ratio benefits a lot from the use of historical data
- Prefetching helps a lot!
- Static caching alone is not useful, yet...
- A combination of static and dynamic caching outperforms any dynamic-only or static-only solution almost independently from the caching policy managing the dynamic section of the cache
- e.g., Rifat Ozcan, Ismail Sengor Altingovde, and Özgür Ulusoy. **Cost-Aware Strategies for Query Result Caching in Web Search Engines**. *ACM Trans. Web* 5, 2, Article 9 (May 2011)

That's not All Folks!

- The static cache alleviates multi-threading contention
- The dynamic cache supports read/write operations



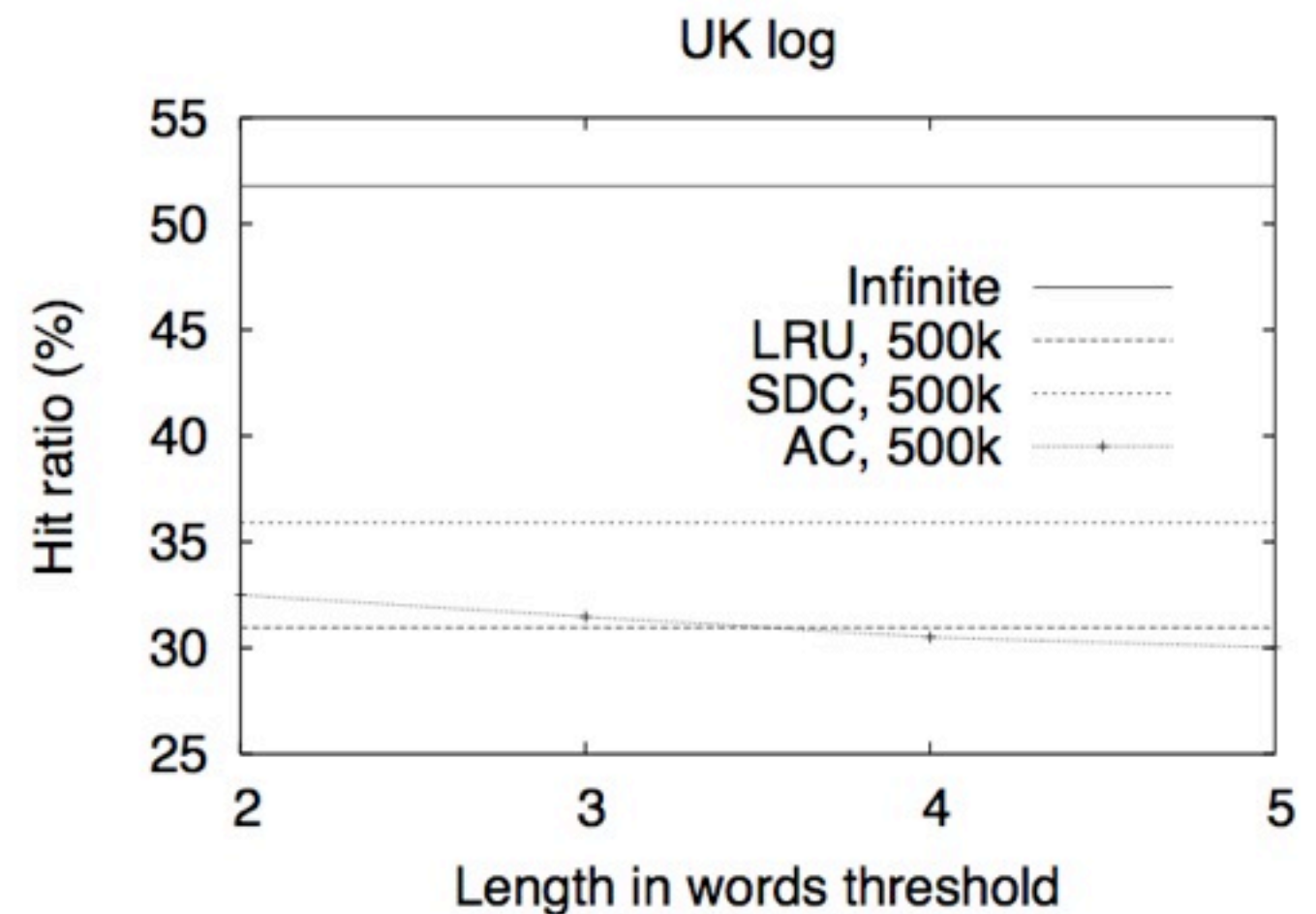
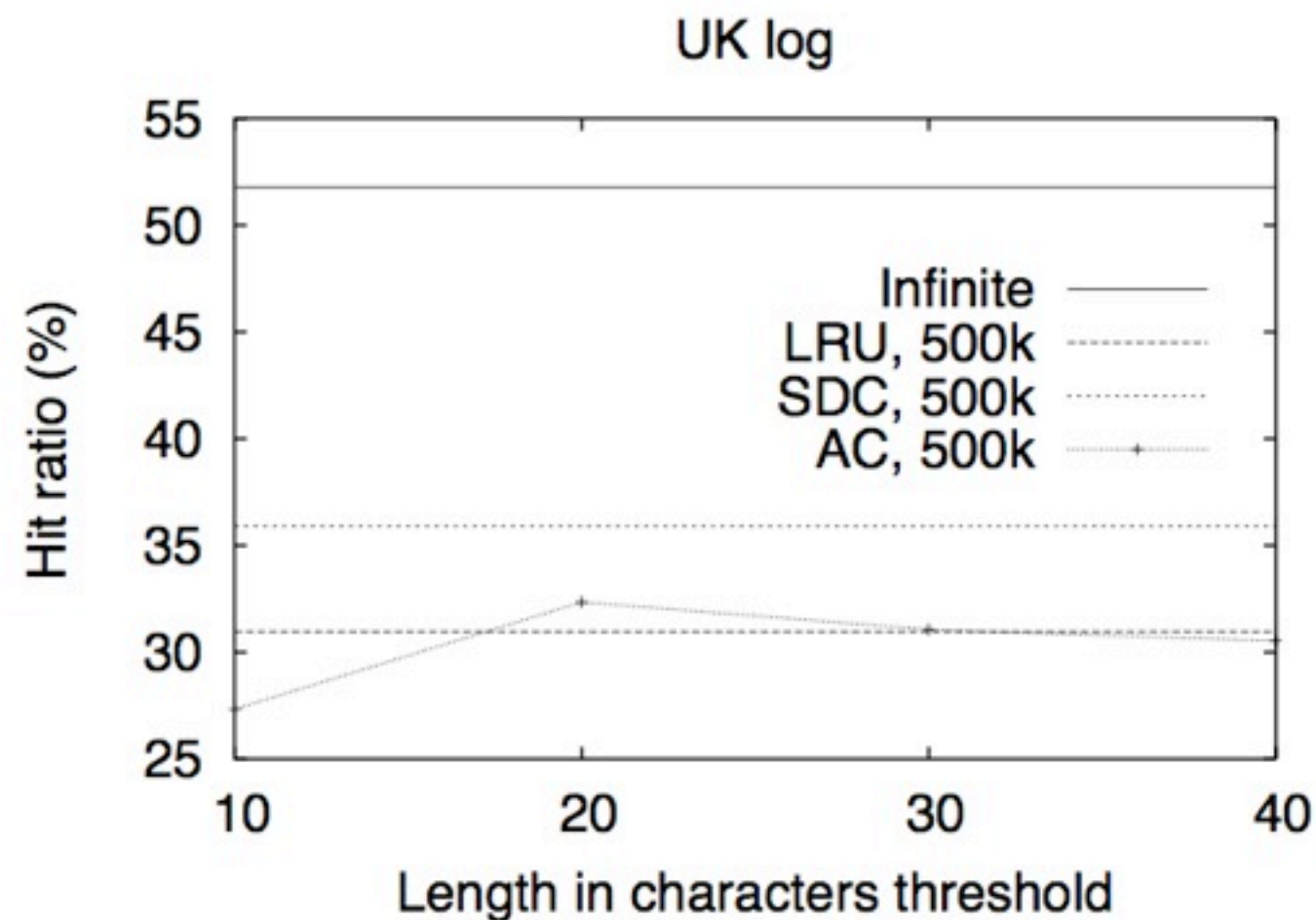
Admission Control

- An interesting idea of SDC: frequent queries are cached permanently
- AC by Baeza-Yates et al. generalizes the idea by using two dynamically updated sets:
 - A **Controlled Cache (CC)**
 - An **Uncontrolled Cache (UC)**
- When a new query arrives an admission policy is applied to steer a query to the CC or to the UC.
- If the query is likely to be seen in the future move it to CC, otherwise send it to UC.

Admission Policy

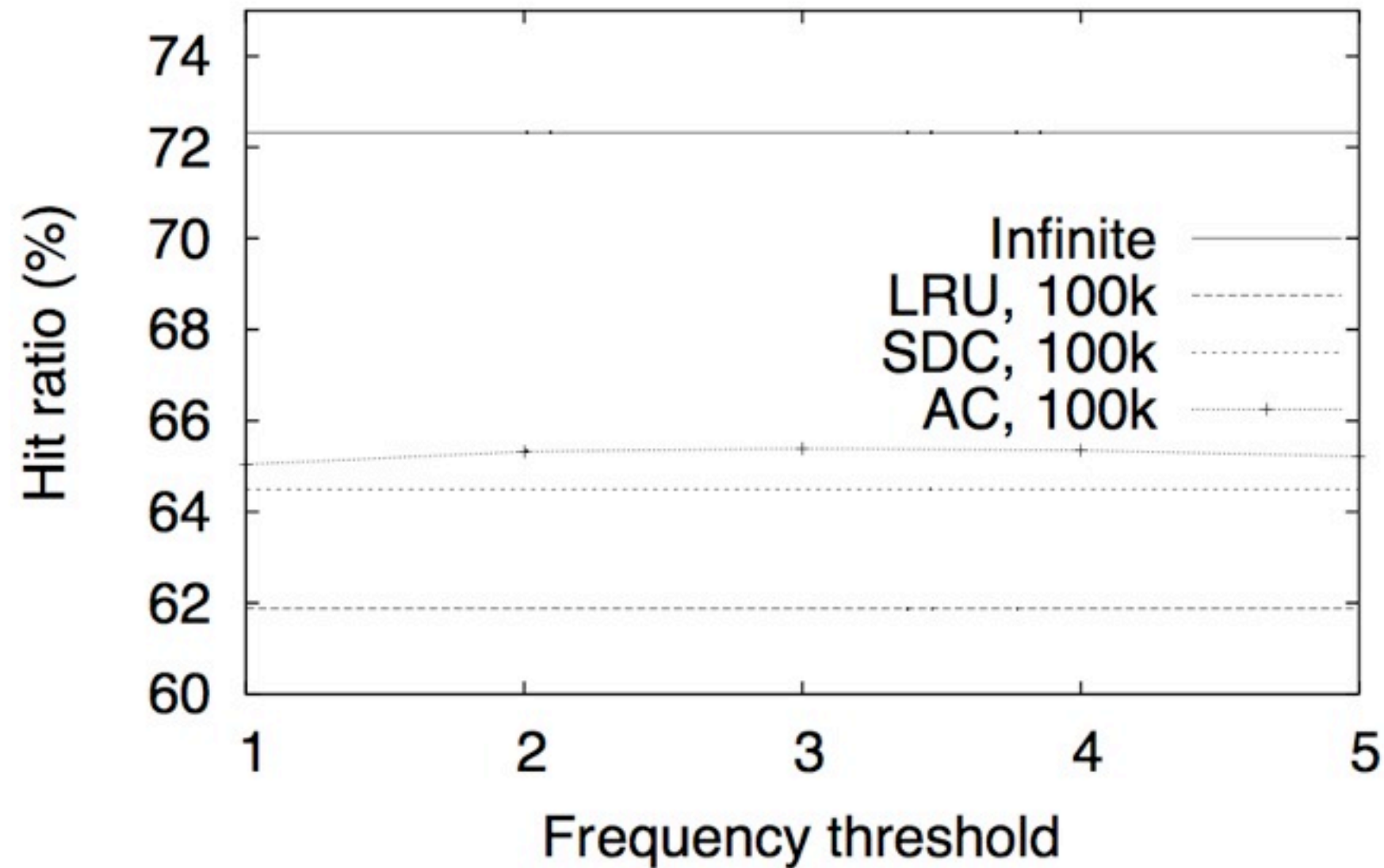
- Makes use of features, e.g.:
 - Stateless features:
 - *LenC*: the length of the query in characters
 - *LenW*: the length of the query in words
 - Stateful features:
 - *PastF*: the frequency of the query in the (relatively recent) past
 - Uses more memory to enable admission control

Hit-Ratio Results (stateless features LenC- LenV)



Hit-Ratio Results (stateful features Past 1-5)

Altavista log



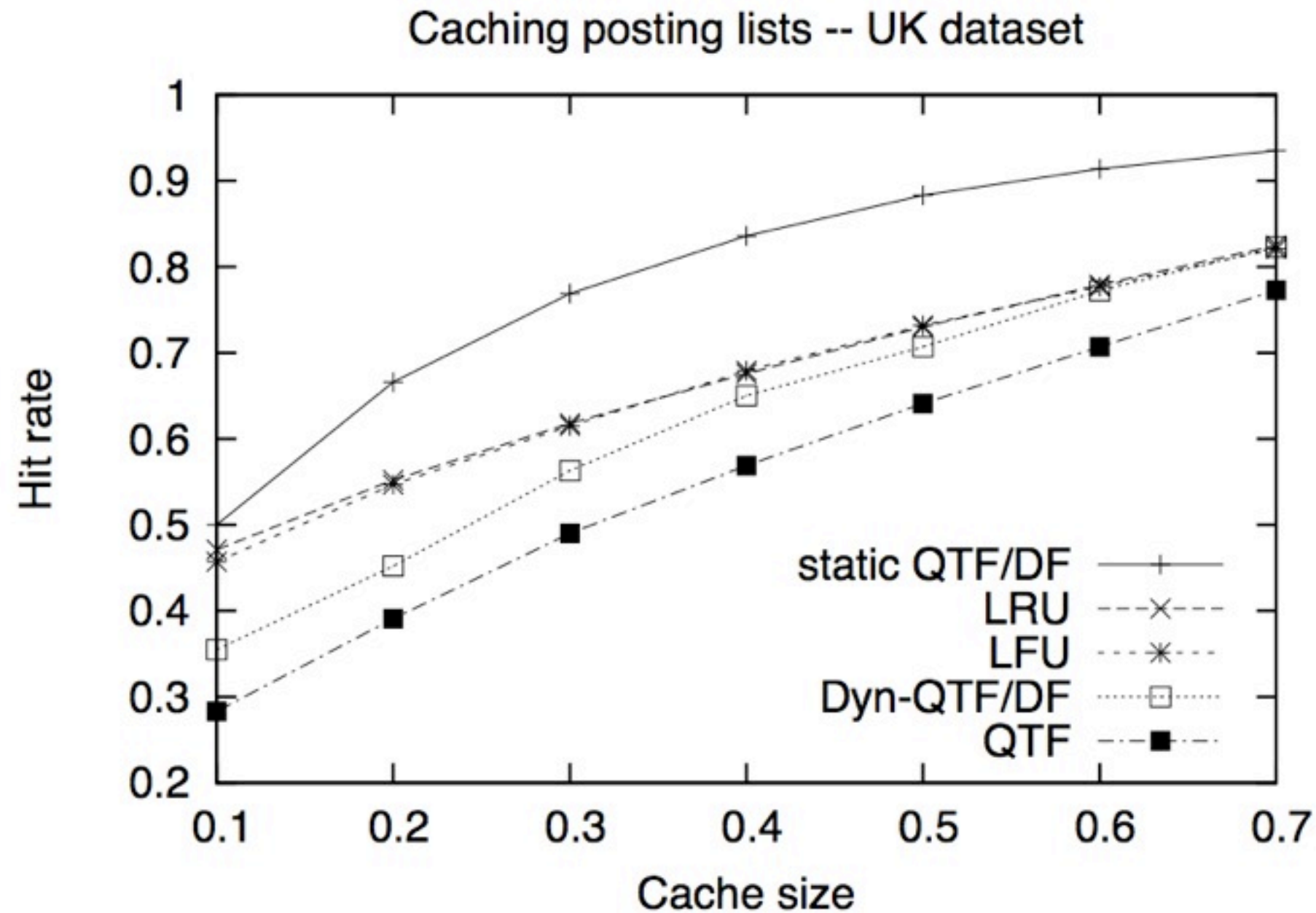
Caching Posting Lists

- SERP size is fixed
- Posting lists have different lengths.
- Posting list caching techniques adopt policies sensitive to list sizes

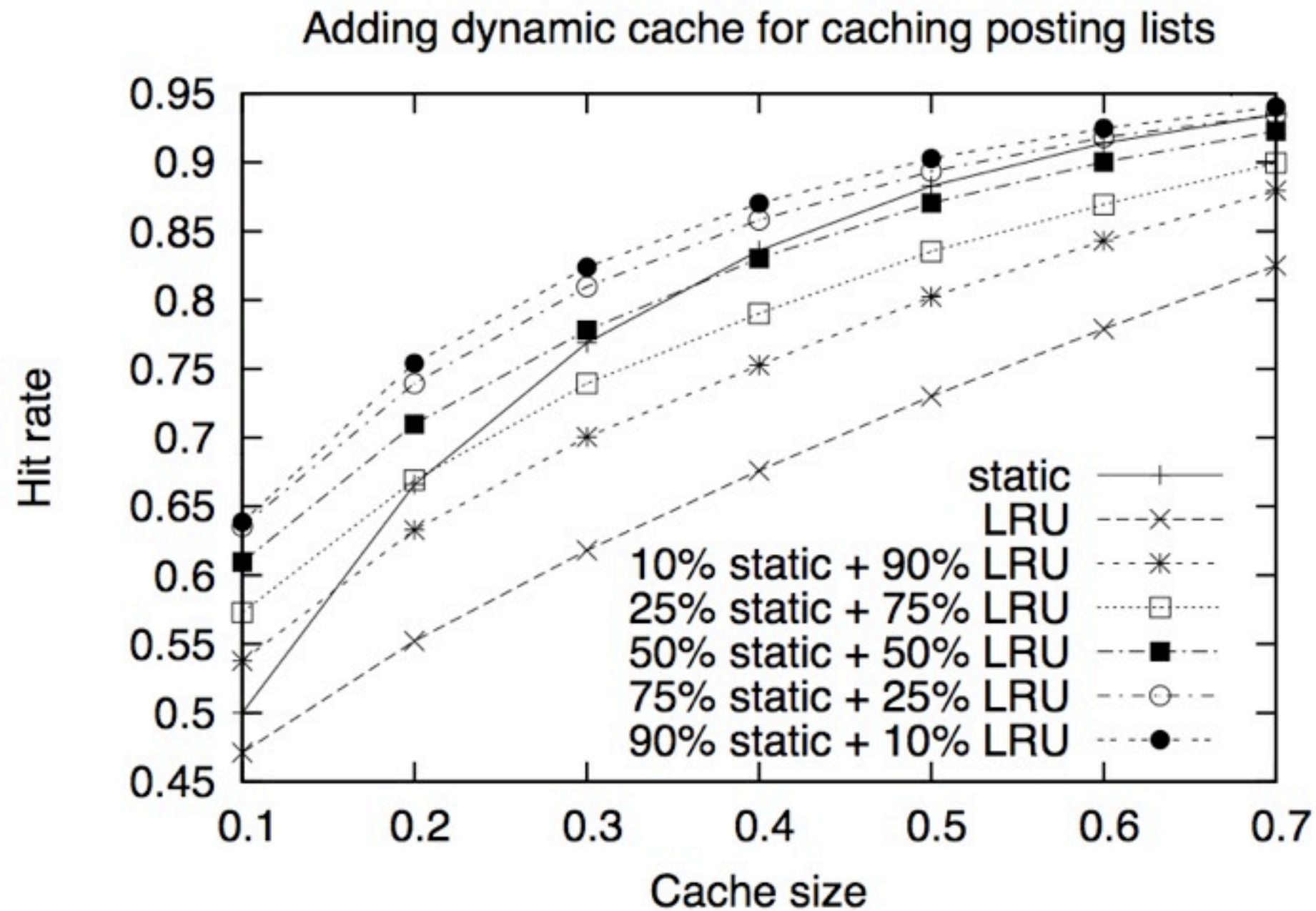
$Q_{TF}D_F$ Policy

- Idea (derived from several web caching solutions):
 - suppose you have 10 free slots and 3 postings lists to cache l_1 , l_2 , and l_3 . l_1 appears 10 times and it is long 6 postings, l_2 and l_3 appear 6 times each and are long 5 postings.
- Traditional frequency-only-based policies will choose to cache l_1 filling up 6 slots and not leaving space for any of the two other lists.
- $Q_{TF}D_F$ decides to cache l_2 and l_3 since they optimize the ratio frequency/size instead of just frequency
- Results:
 - Traditional static caching results in 10 hits
 - $Q_{TF}D_F$ static policy has 12 hits

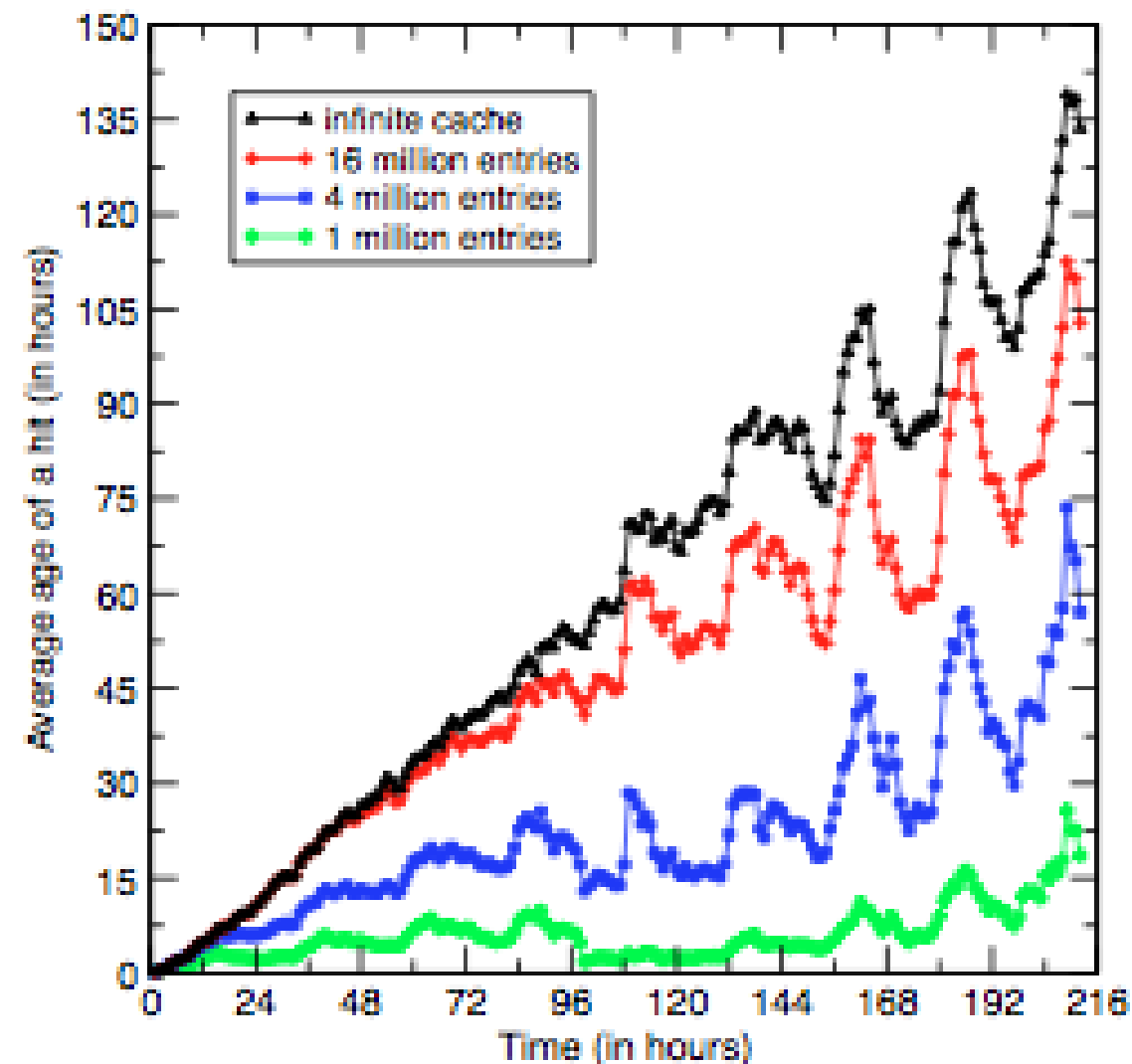
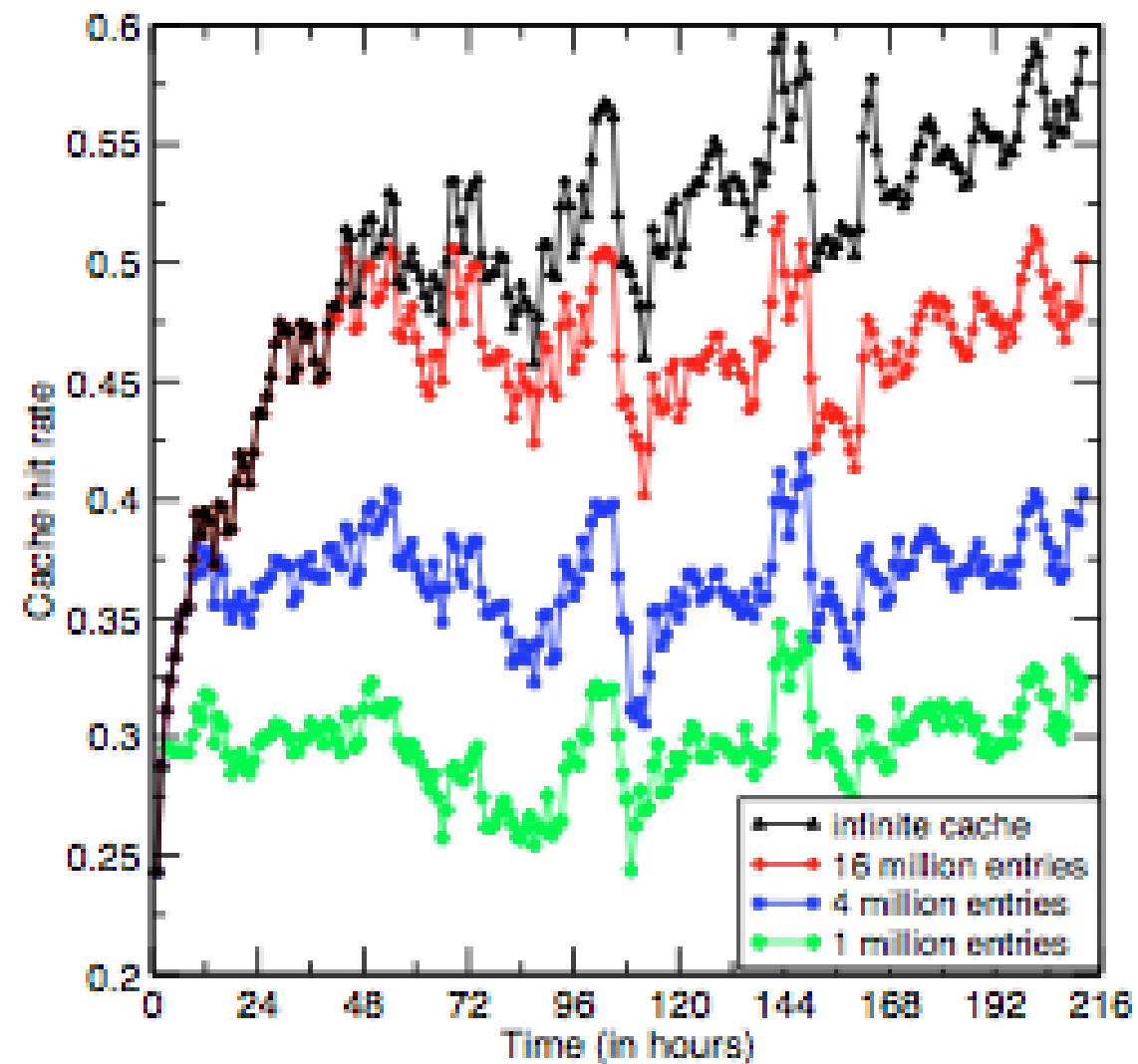
$Q_{TF}D_F$ Results



SDC-like $Q_{TF}D_F$



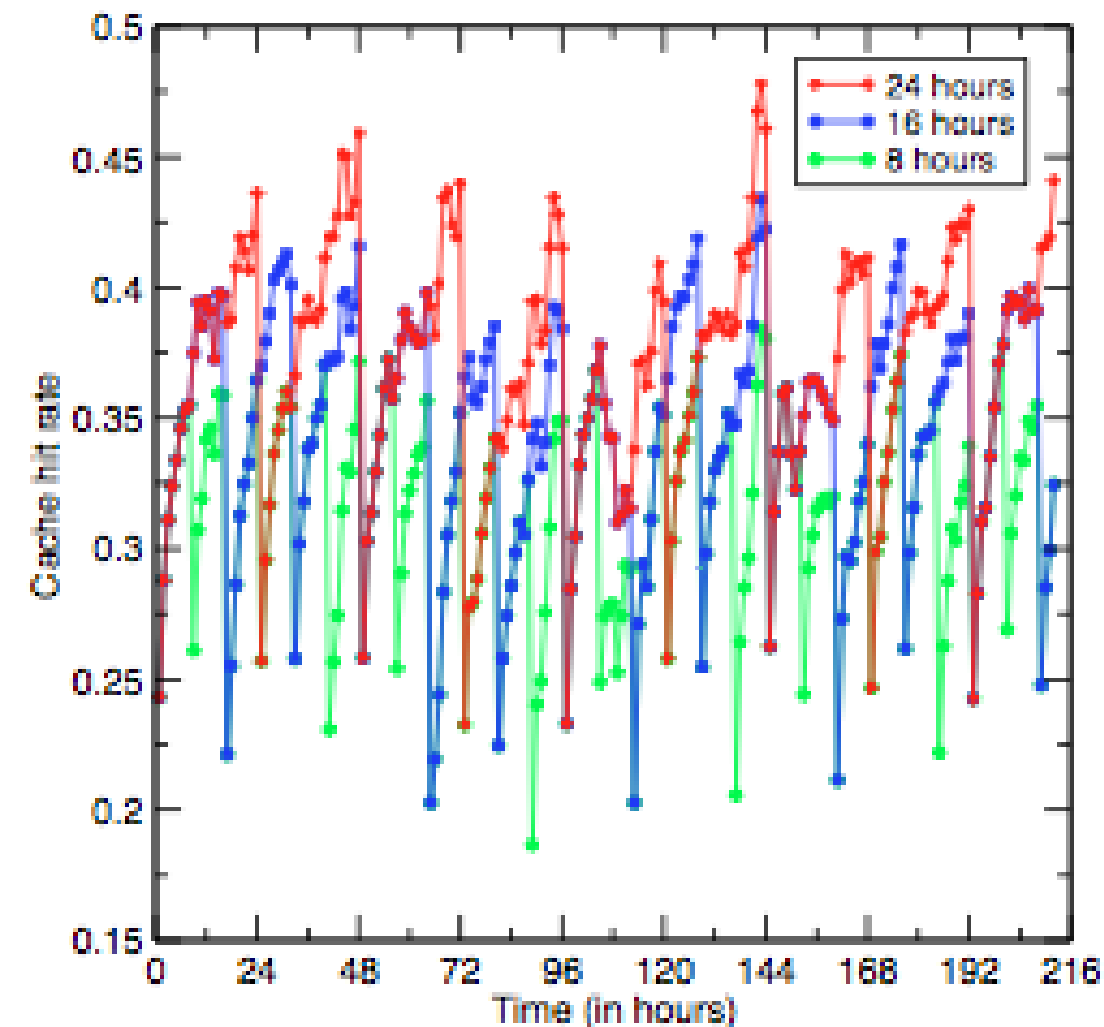
Freshness of cached entries



After nine days, the average age of a hit on the infinite cache becomes about 5.6 days

Freshness of cached entries

- Flush the content of the cache and re-warm it from scratch
- effective but expensive....
- a fixed TTL improves the curves but...



Freshness of cached entries

- IDEA: use idle cycles of the back-end to refresh expired cache entries
 - Several possible criteria for selecting entries: frequency, recency, processing cost, probability of a change in the cached results
 - Two (bucketed) parameters considered
 - Age, modeling the time effect
 - *Temperature*, lazy adjusted according to the frequency of occurrence
- Oldest and Hottest entries refreshed earlier

Freshness of cached entries

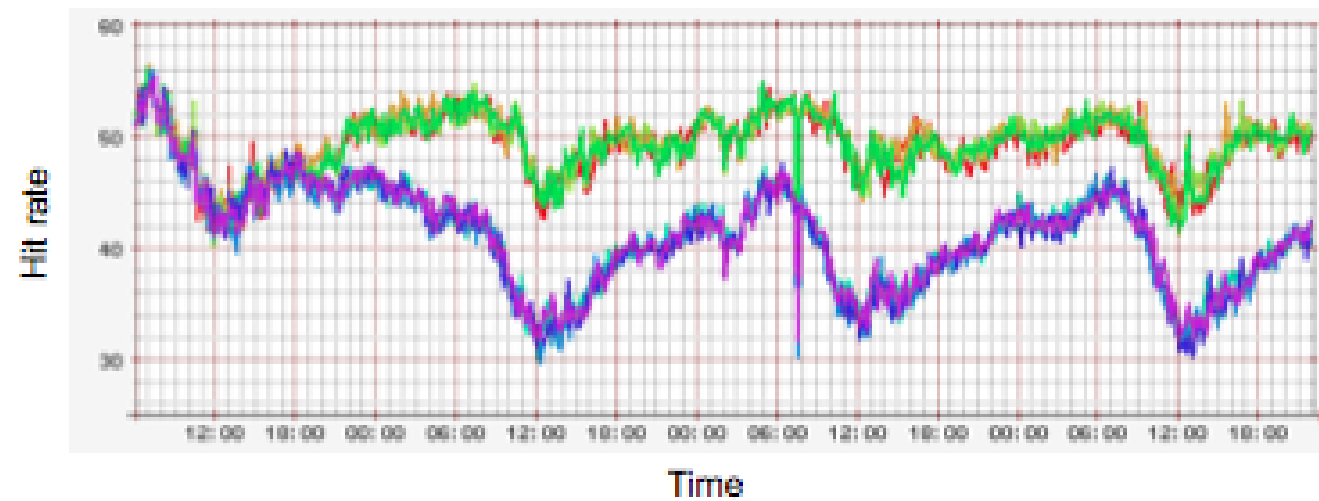


Figure 17: Hit rate in production (%).

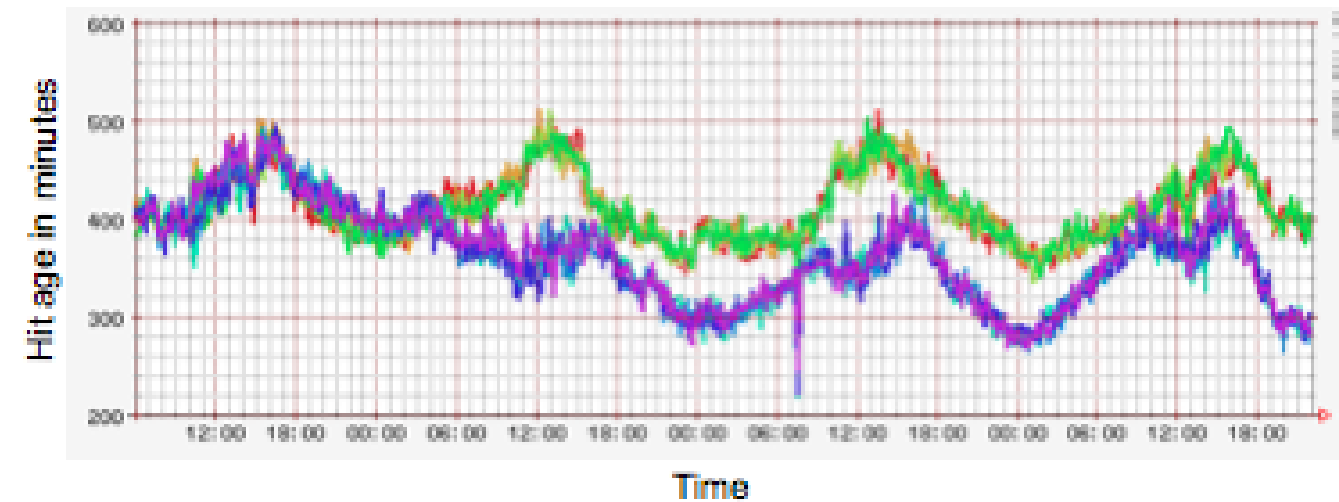


Figure 18: Hit age in production.

- Hit rate with refreshing is about 7-10% lower than with no refreshing

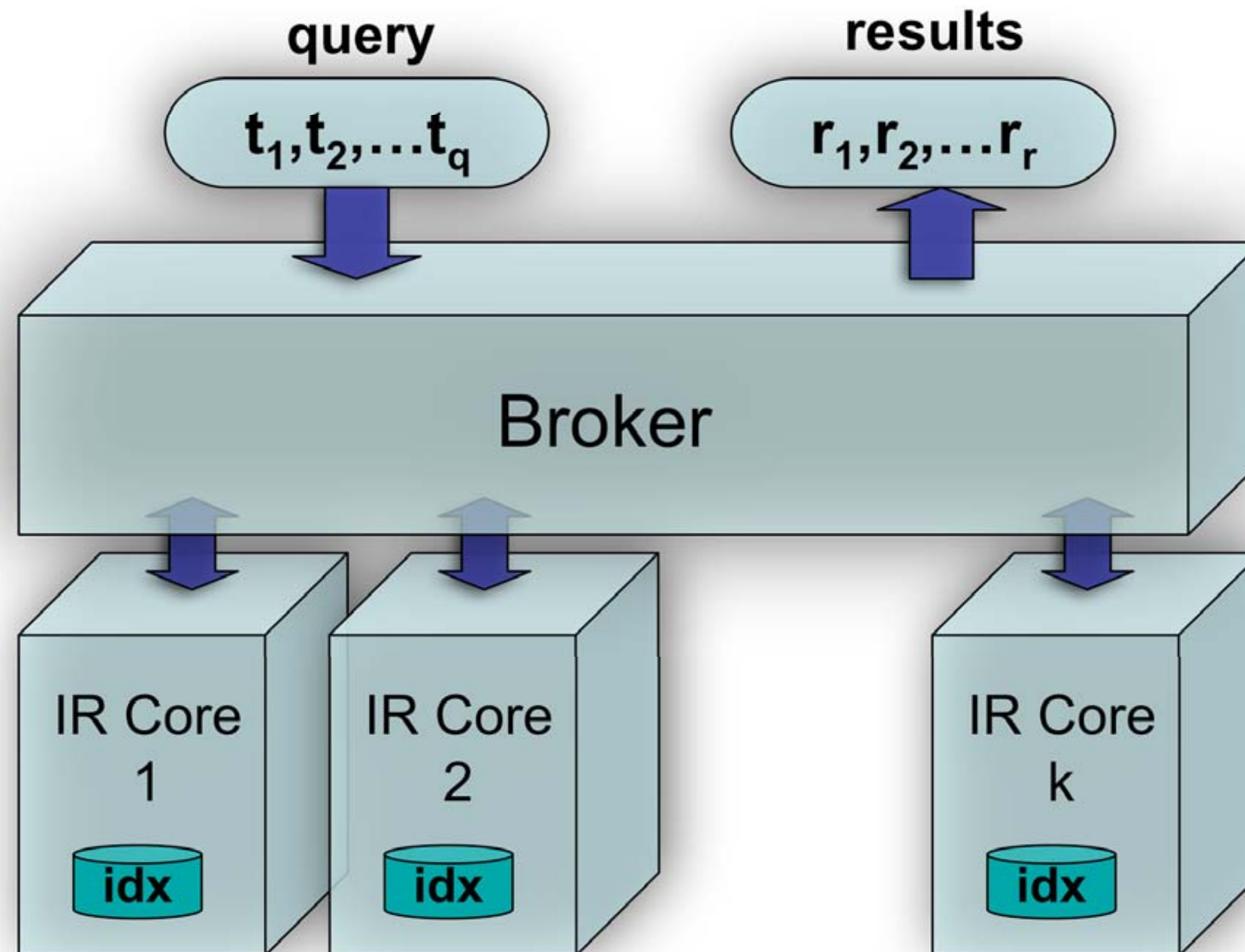
Caching freshness issues

- See also:
 - Blanco, R., Bortnikov, E., Junqueira, F., Lempel, R., Telloli, L., Zaragoza, H.: **Caching Search Engine Results over Incremental Indices**. In: SIGIR 2010, pp. 82–89
 - Edward Bortnikov, Ronny Lempel and Kolman Vornovitsky: **Caching for Realtime Search**. in: ECIR 2011, LNCS 6611

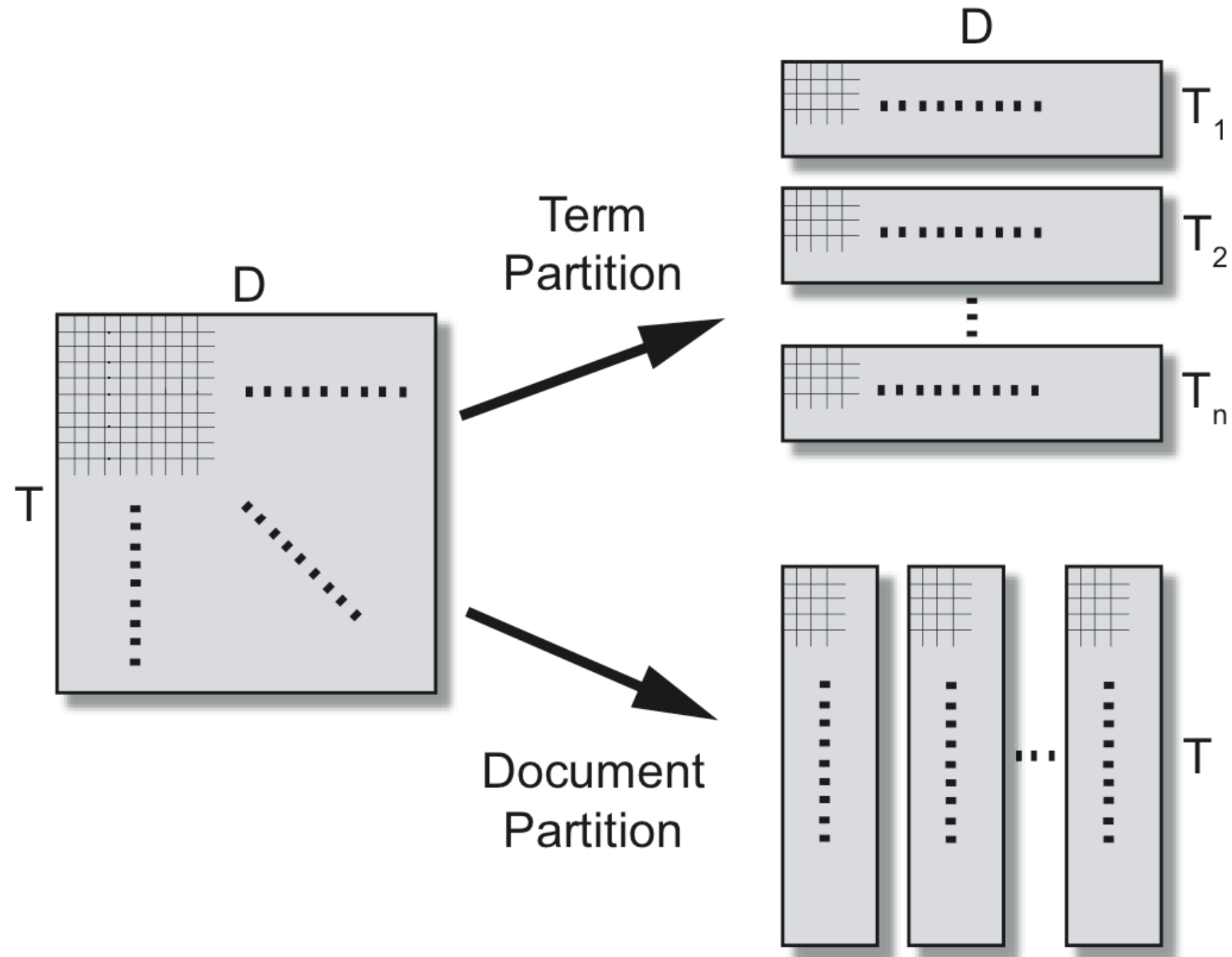
Not Only Caching

- Efficiency improvement by using query logs can be pursued by means of:
 - query routing techniques
 - data/index partitioning strategies

Sketching a Distributed Search Engine



Index Partitioning



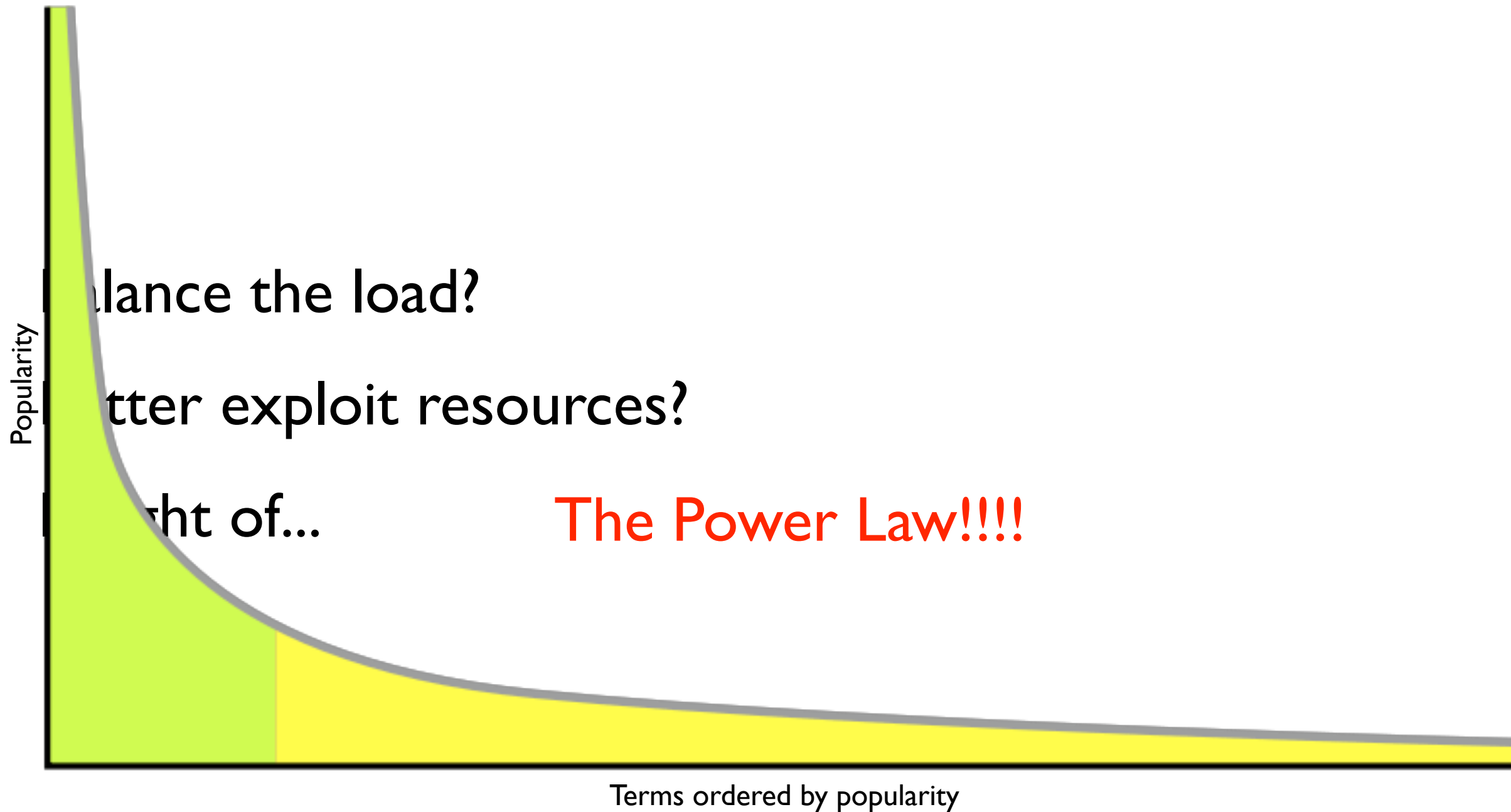
Term Partitioning Systems

- Query routing is “trivial”. Whenever $Q=(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n)$ is received route it to the servers containing those terms.
 - less IR Cores queried and less operation performed
 - More available capacity!
- But..
 - *not scalable* (indexing is **$n \log n$** , term partitioning needs reindexing the entire collection from scratch)
 - *load imbalance* among IR cores

How can we...

- ...balance the load?
- ...better exploit resources?
- ...the right of...

The Power Law!!!!



Approaches in Literature

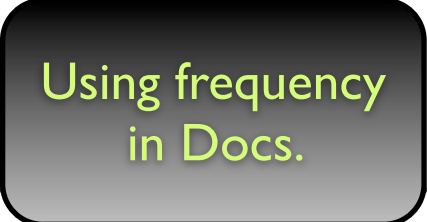
- Moffat, A., Webber, W., and Zobel, J. 2006. **Load balancing for term-distributed parallel retrieval**. In Proceedings of SIGIR 2006. Seattle, Washington, USA, August 06 - 11, 2006.
- Alistair Moffat, William Webber, Justin Zobel, Ricardo A. Baeza-Yates: A **pipelined architecture for distributed text query evaluation**. Inf. Retr. 10(3): 205-231 (2007)
- Lucchese, C., Orlando, S., Perego, R., and Silvestri, F. 2007. **Mining query logs to optimize index partitioning in parallel web search engines**. In Proceedings of Infoscail 2007. Suzhou, China, June 06 - 08, 2007.

The Idea...

- If terms co-occur frequently in past queries...
 - pack them together up in the same IR Core.
- but...
 - Power law prevents load balancing...
 - Knapsack problem can help in balancing the load.
 - Fit in partitions terms with weight $L_t = Q_t \times B_t$ (Q_t occurrences of t in the query log, B_t length of t 's postings list)

Load Balancing Results

- On .GOV2 collection. Queries adapted from WT10G.



Strategy	Batch					Avg
	2	3	4	5	6	
Random	1.45	1.44	1.46	1.50	1.48	1.47
Using f_t	1.43	1.20	1.23	1.40	1.42	1.34
Past L_t	1.14	1.26	1.23	1.19	1.17	1.20
Current L_t	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

Load Balancing + Replication Results

- On .GOV2 collection. Queries adapted from WT10G.

Strategy	Batch					Avg
	2	3	4	5	6	
Duplicate 1	1.26	1.20	1.10	1.17	1.11	1.17
Duplicate 10	1.06	1.29	1.17	1.18	1.16	1.17
Duplicate 100	1.09	1.14	1.10	1.13	1.15	1.12
Duplicate 1000	1.08	1.09	1.07	1.19	1.09	1.10
Multi-replicate	1.05	1.12	1.09	1.16	1.12	1.11

But...

- Query Throughput.
- On .GOV2 collection. Queries from a real life MSN query log

Strategy	Batch					Avg
	2	3	4	5	6	
Hashed	1.82	1.82	1.86	1.84	1.83	1.83
Duplicate 100	2.21	2.14	2.25	2.17	2.20	2.19
Doc-distributed	2.21	2.25	2.24	2.31	2.27	2.26

Adding a Dimension

- Number of IR Cores used by each query
- Basically, instead of sending lists around try to keep query processing local to a node.
 - More load unbalance
- Trade-off: The Term-Assignment Problem

The Term-Assignment Problem

The T
a que
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1,
ng
where

Use a Frequent Itemsets Mining Algorithm to find pairs of co-occurring terms. Then, optimize by considering not only single terms but also term-sets

Number of Queried IR Cores (Servers)

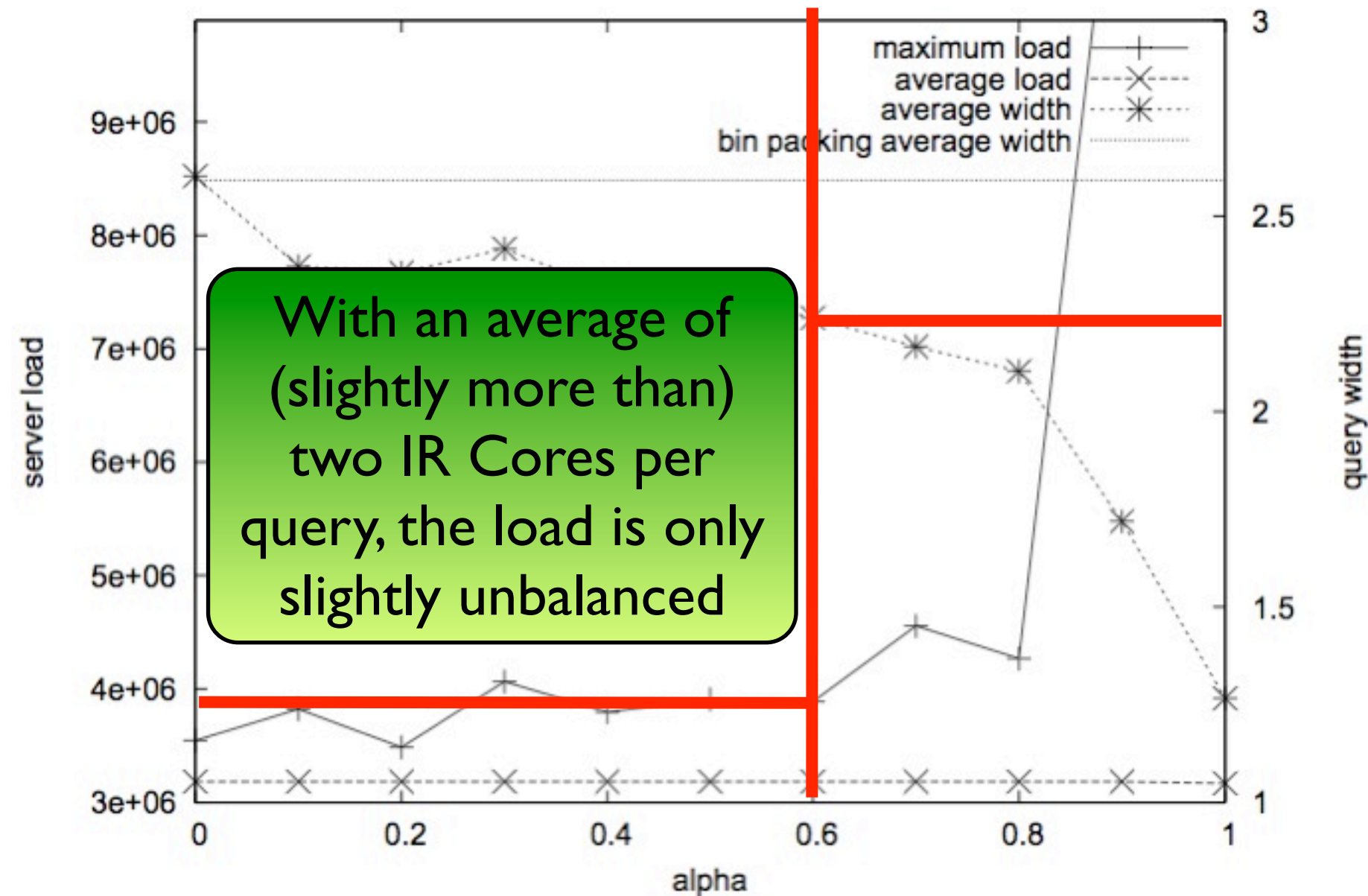
Servers	Baseline Cases		Term Assignment
	random	bin packing	$\alpha = 0.9$
$\Phi_{test} = TodoBR$			
1	28	28	50
2	31	30	20
3	17	17	14
> 3	24	25	16
$\Phi_{test} = AltaVista$			
1	29	29	41
2	39	39	38
3	21	21	16
> 3	11	11	5

Percentage of queries served by x servers

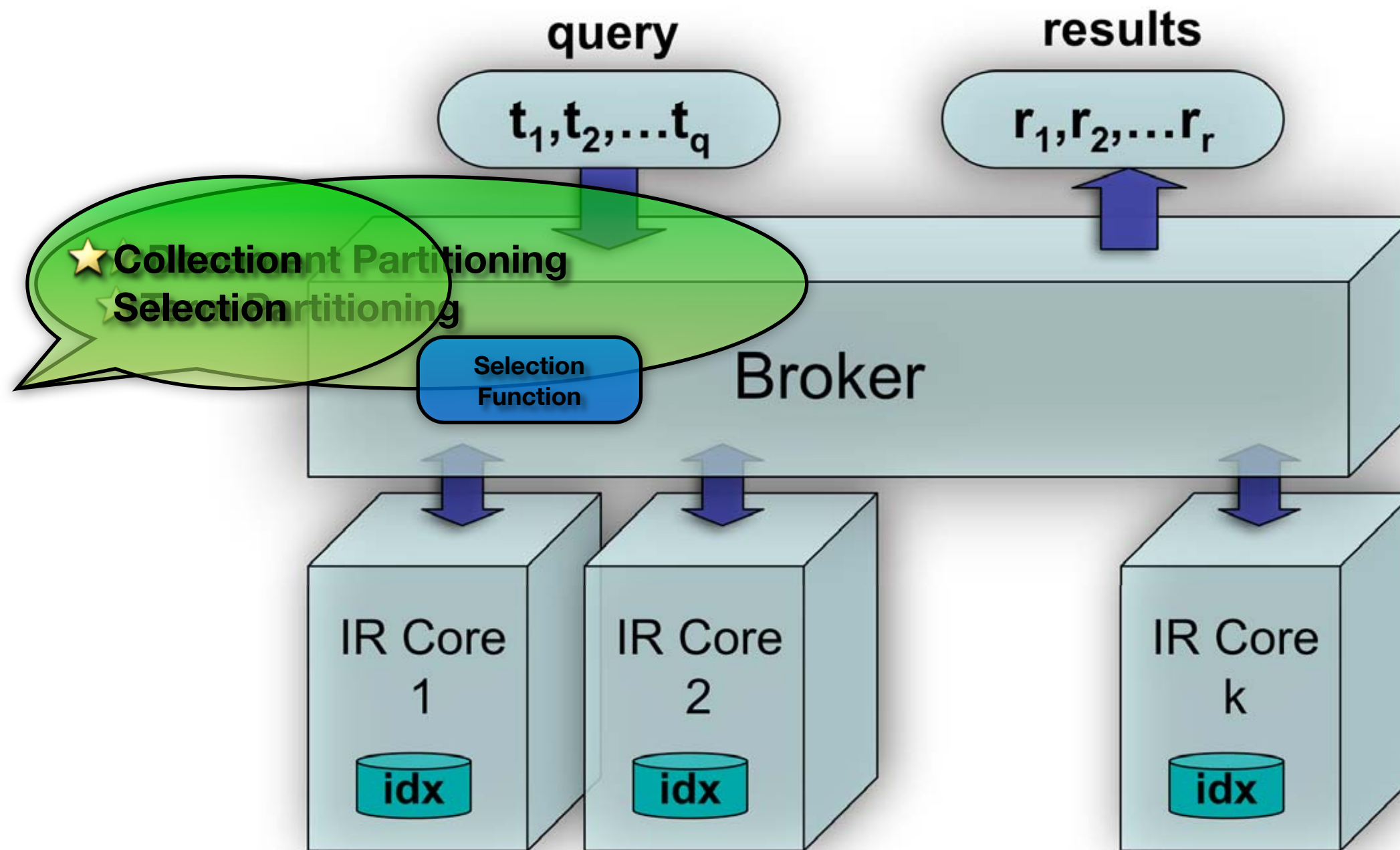
Impact of Replication on the # of IR Cores

Servers	Replication Factors					
	0.0001		0.0005		0.001	
	<i>bin pack.</i>	<i>term ass.</i>	<i>bin pack.</i>	<i>term ass.</i>	<i>bin pack.</i>	<i>term ass.</i>
TodoBR						
1	42	54	56	62	63	67
2	31	22	22	18	19	16
3	12	10	9	8	8	8
> 3	15	14	12	11	10	9

The Overall Picture



Document Partitioning



Collection Selection

- Traditionally used in Federated Distributed IR systems to reduce the number of queried servers.
- Rarely (???) used in Web Search Engine systems
 - see Google's MICRO paper on their architecture and recent Yahoo! works on federated search.

To Select or Not To Select?

- Pros
 - Reduced Load on IR Cores
 - Potentially Eliminates Noise due to the presence of non relevant documents w.r.t. a query
- Cons
 - Load Imbalance
 - Reduced Precision

The Curse of Reduced Precision

- The reduction in precision is an issue that have to be taken into consideration.
- In collection selection architectures, it can be enhanced by using:
 - Ad-hoc partitioning strategies
 - Collection Prioritization
 - Incremental Caching

Query-Vector Document Model

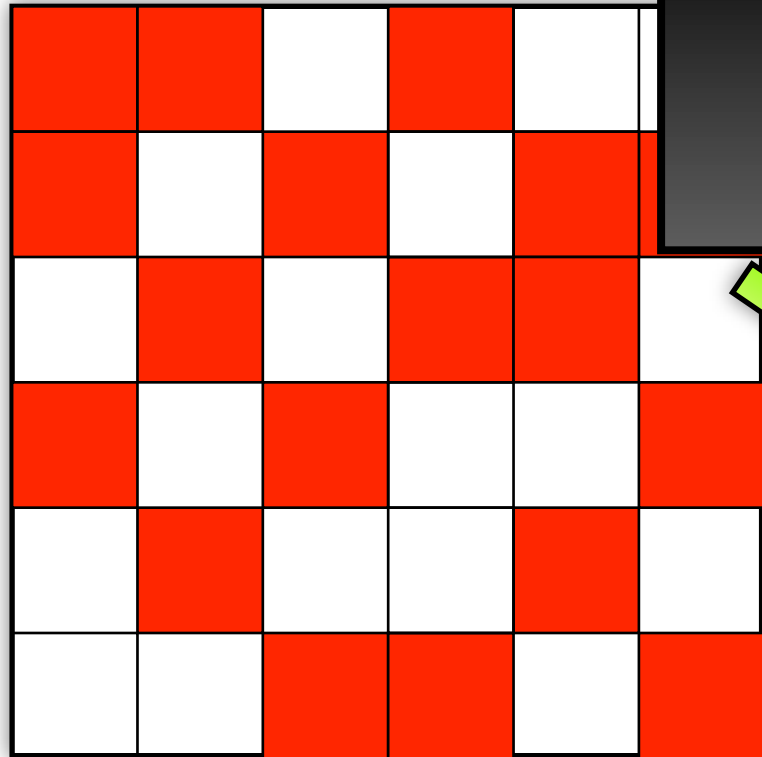
- It is a vector-space like model
- Documents are represented by queries they answer.
- Example.
Query “munch” is answered by documents d1, d2, d7, d3, d4. “munch” is represented by “1 2 3 4 7”.

Possible Refinements:

- Consider Ranking Scores
- Consider Clicks

QV-Based Partitioning

Documents

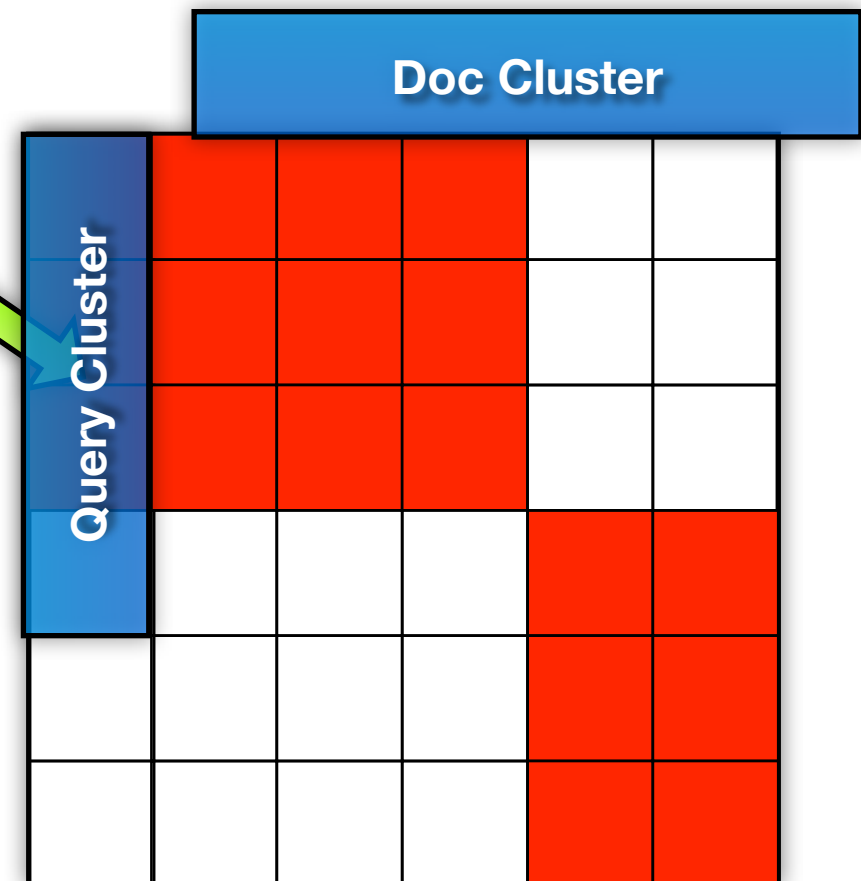


The co-clustering implementation is derived from the paper:
Inderjit S. Dhillon, Subramanyam Mallela, Dharmendra S. Modha: Information-theoretic co-clustering. KDD 2003: 89-98
It is available at the following address
<http://hpc.isti.cnr.it/~diego/phd/fastcluster.tgz>

co-clustering

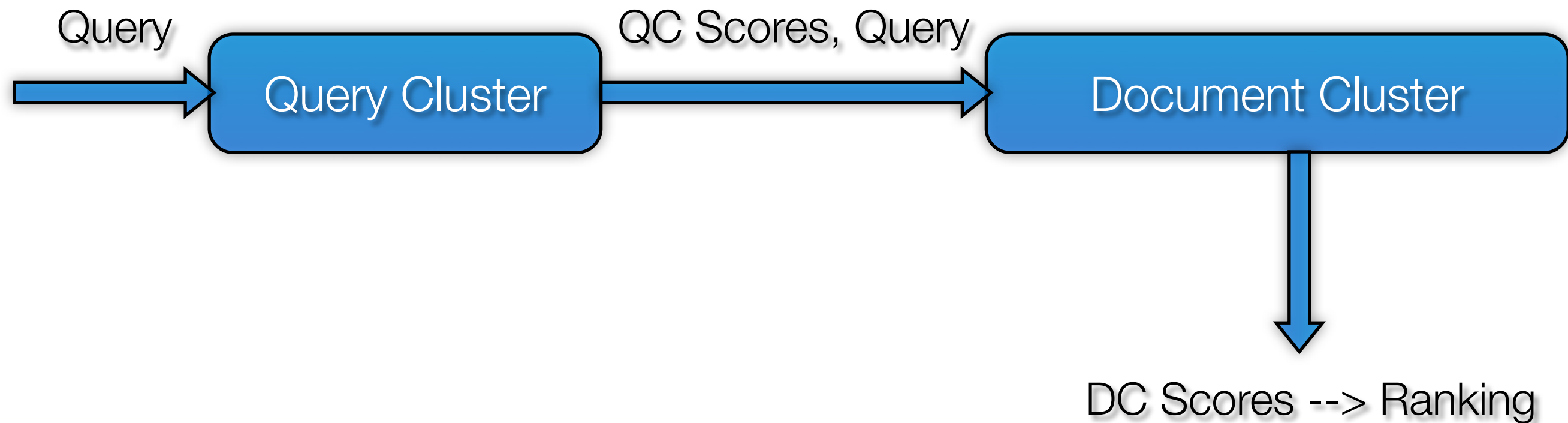
Doc Cluster

Query Cluster



Queries

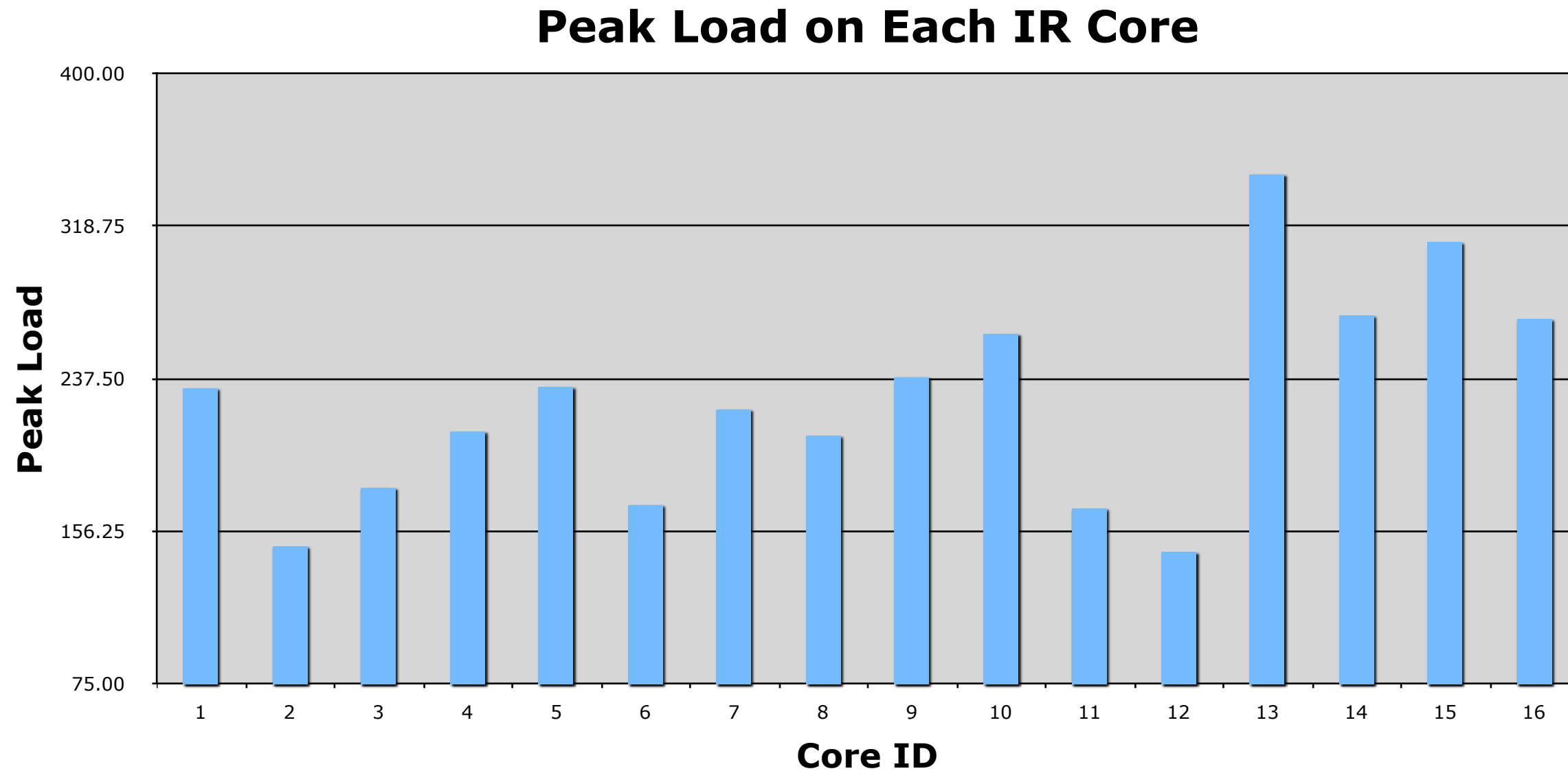
QV-Based Collection Selection



Comparison in Terms of Precise Results

Intersection (%) at 10	1	2	4	8	16	OVR
Random	5	11	25	50	93	100
QV-based	34	45	58	76	96	100
Improvement	6.8X	4.1X	2.3X	1.5X	>1X	-

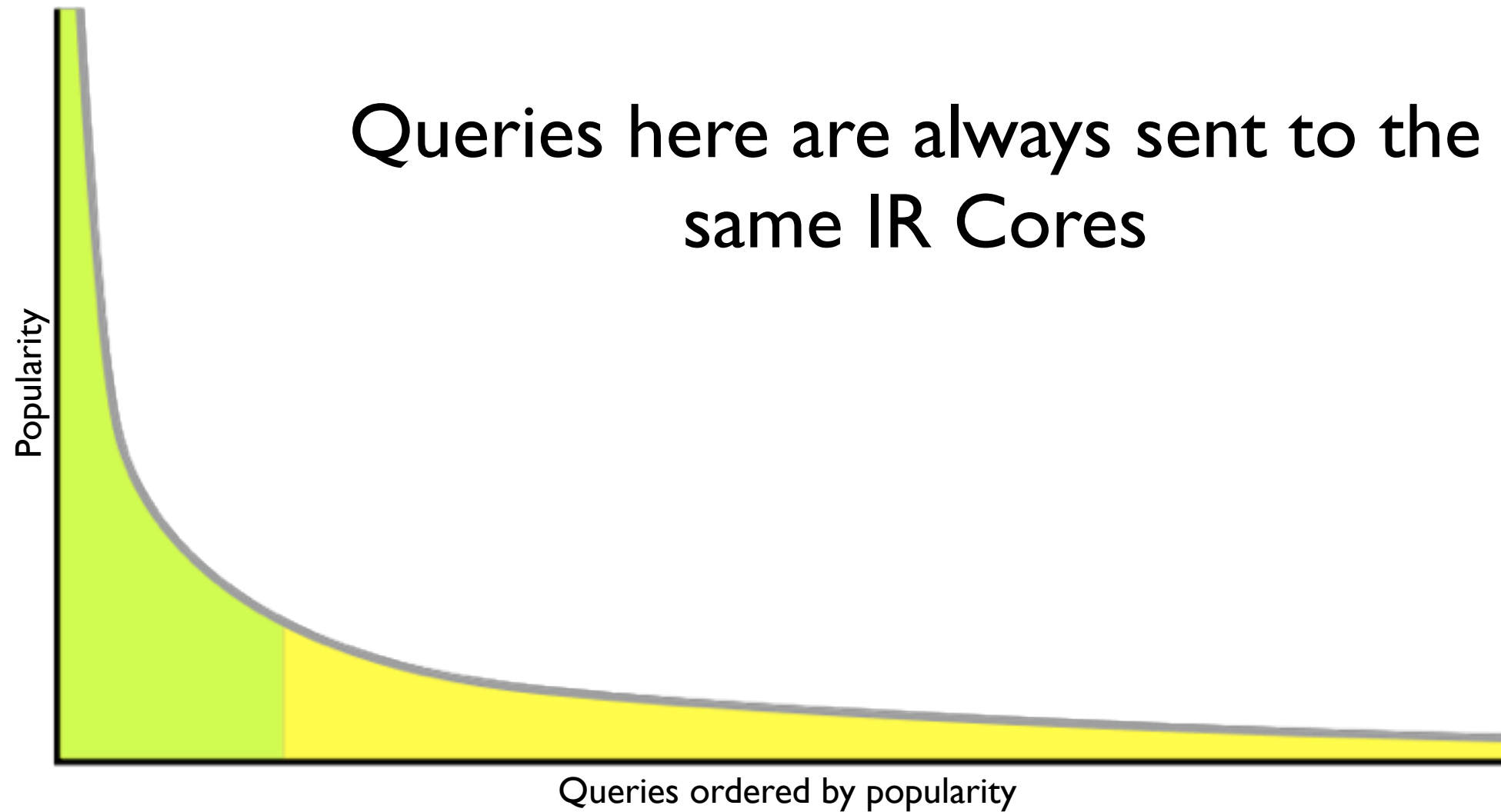
Load Balancing...Again!



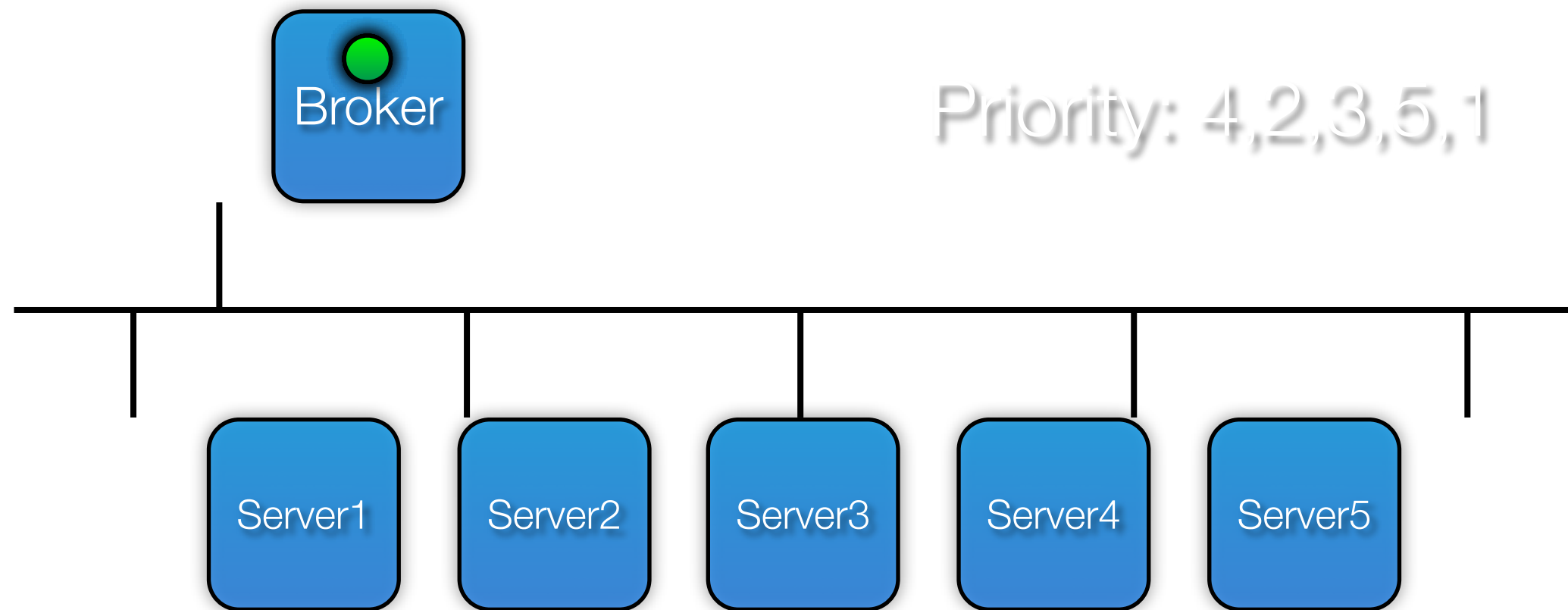
Diego Puppín, Raffaele Perego, Fabrizio Silvestri, Ricardo Baeza-Yates. **Tuning the Capacity of Search Engines: Load-driven Routing and Incremental Caching to Reduce and Balance the Load.** ACM Transactions on Information Systems (TOIS), 28(2): (2010).

Guess Why...

Queries here are always sent to the
same IR Cores



Collection Prioritization



How IR Cores Take Decisions

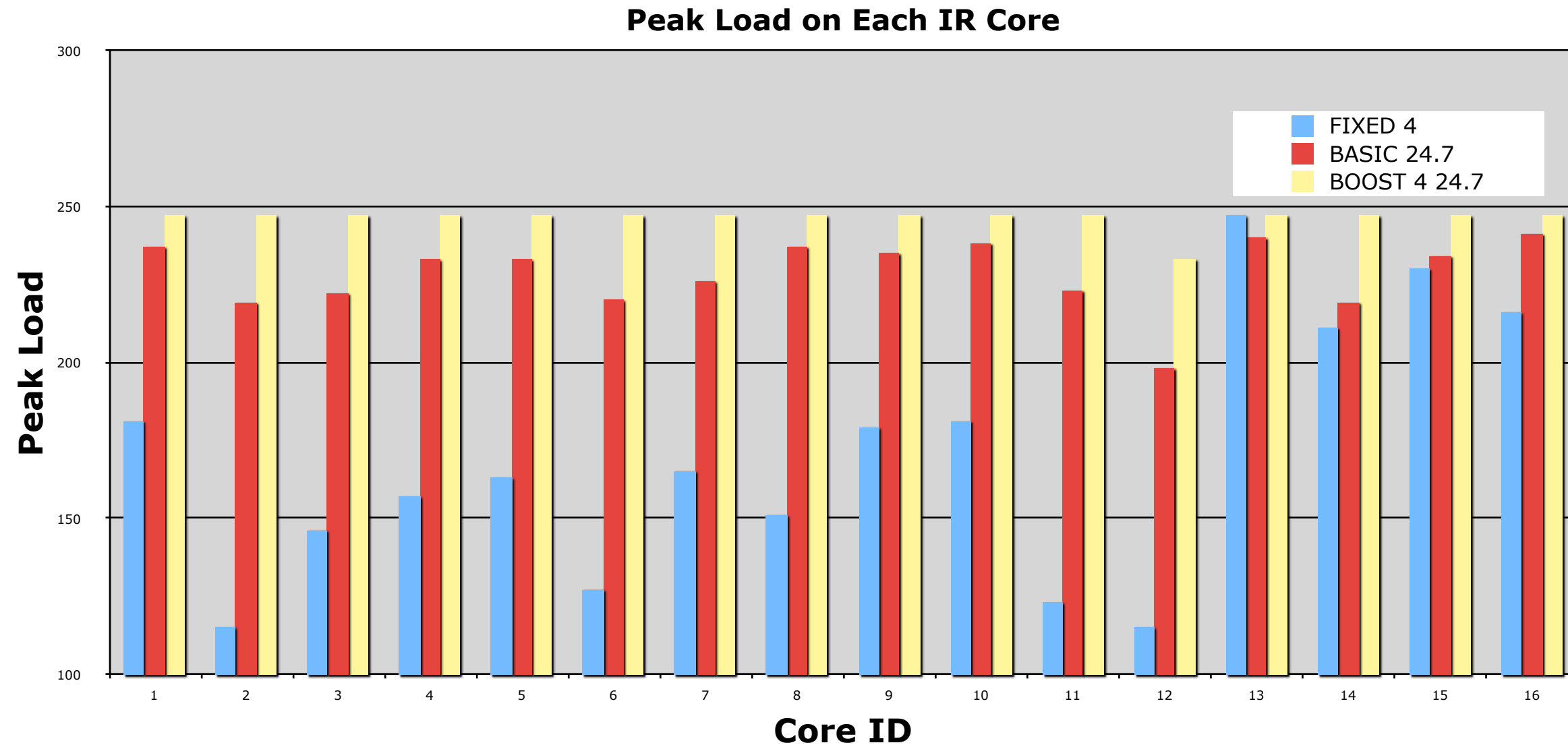
load-driven basic<L>

Accept queries only if the load is below $(I\text{-rank}/N\text{Servers}) * L$. E.g. the second best server accepts the query only if its load is below 90% of L .

load-driven boost<L,T>

It is the same as the basic strategy except that the first T servers' load threshold is always L and then it starts to decrease in a linear fashion as in the basic case.

Load... Balanced!



Diego Puppín, Raffaele Perego, Fabrizio Silvestri, Ricardo Baeza-Yates. **Tuning the Capacity of Search Engines: Load-driven Routing and Incremental Caching to Reduce and Balance the Load.** ACM Transactions on Information Systems (TOIS), 28(2): (2010).

What about Precision?

	FIXED 4	BASIC<25>	BOOST<4, 25>
5	34	56	71
10	34	68	70
20	34	68	70

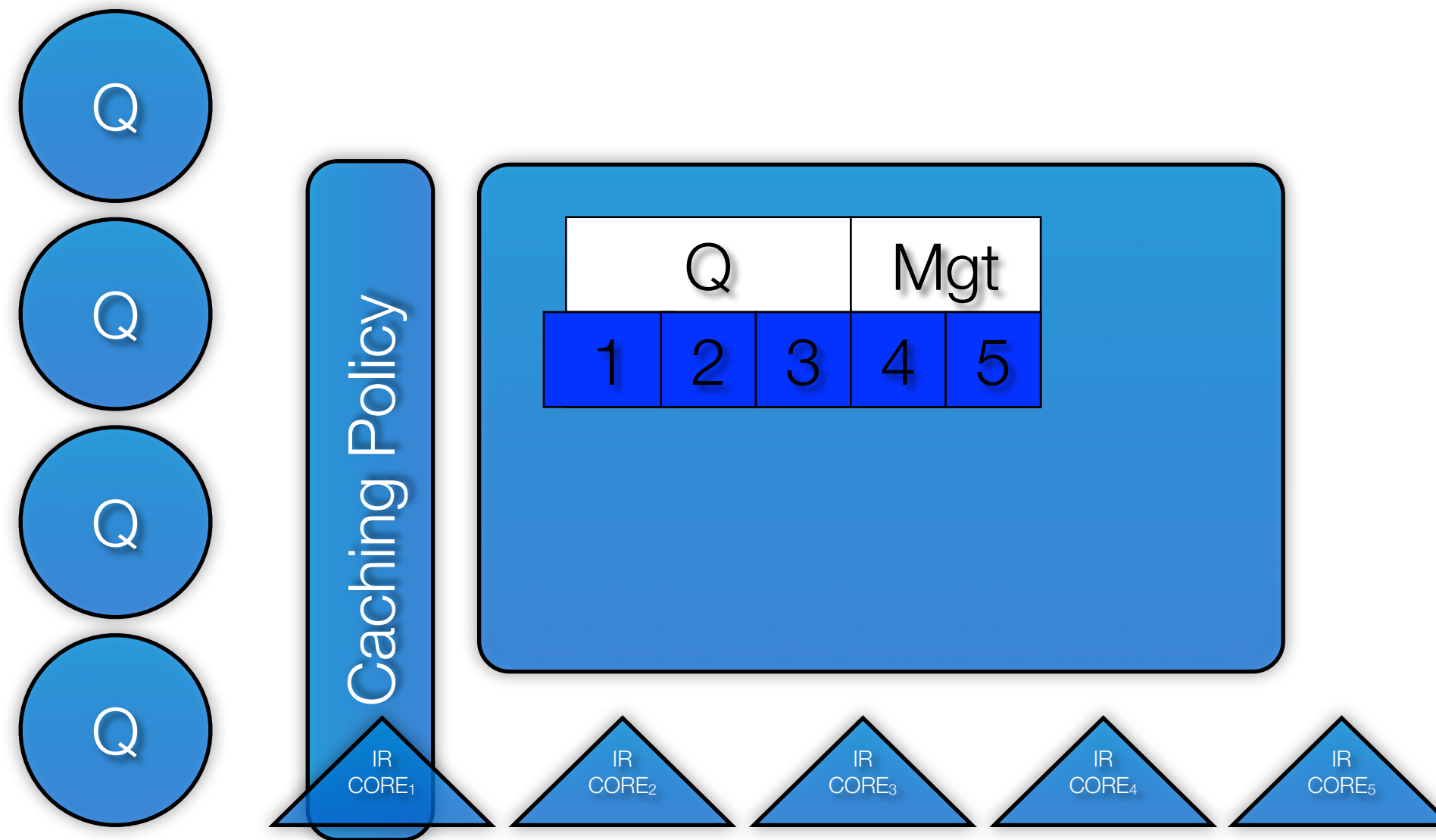
Intersection (%) at

What about Precision?

	FIXED 4	BASIC<25>	BOOST<4, 25>
5	0.88	0.91	0.92
10	0.87	0.90	0.90
20	0.85	0.89	0.90

Competitive Similarity

Incremental Caching



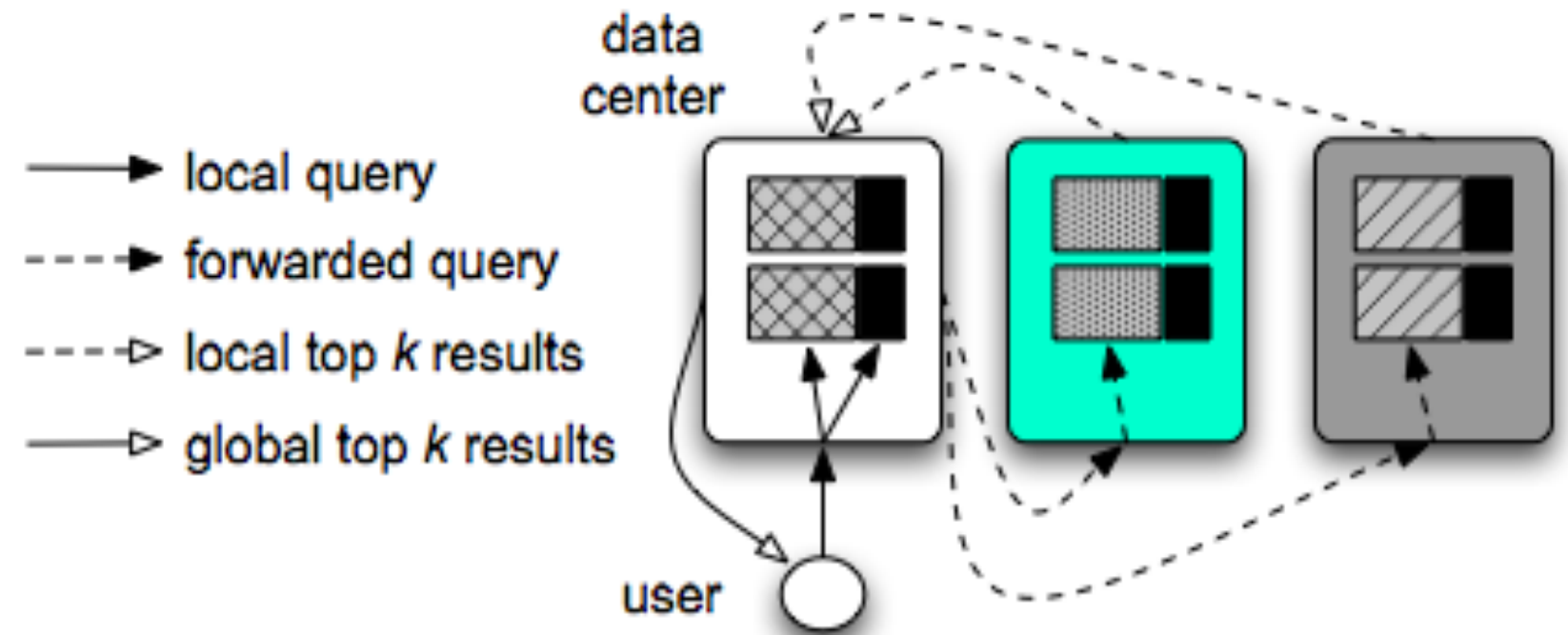
Does it Work?

	BASIC<25>	BOOST<4, 25>	BOOST<4, 25> + INC
5	0.91	0.92	0.94
10	0.90	0.90	0.93
20	0.89	0.90	0.93

Competitive Similarity

Query forwarding in Federated Search

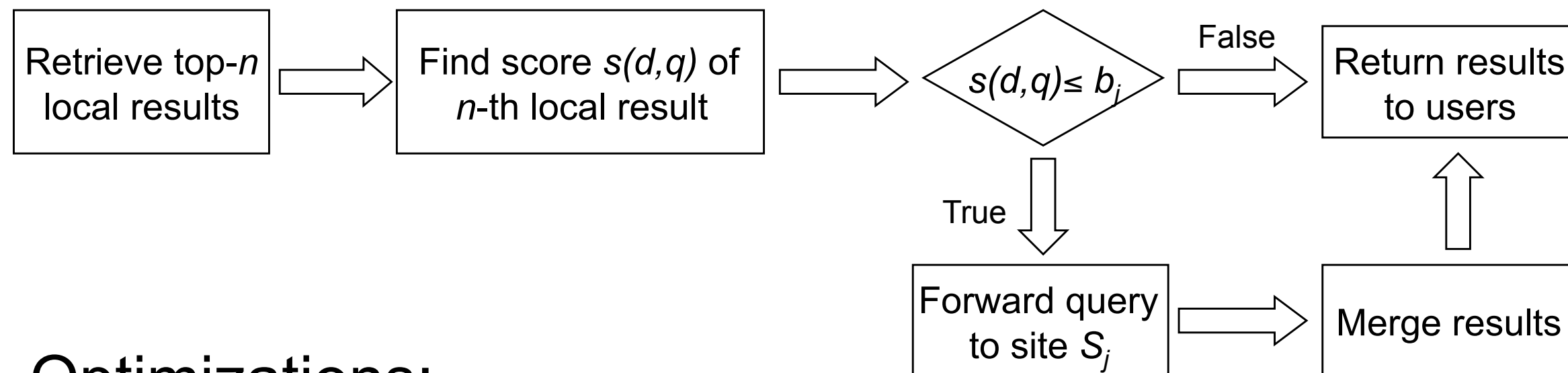
- multiple, regional data centers (sites), user-to-center assignment, local web crawling, partitioned web index, partial document replication
- query processing with selective forwarding: a query should be forwarded to any site with potential to contribute at least one result to the global top-k



Query forwarding in Federated Search

- Assumptions:
 - AND mode of query processing and independency of query terms. The document score is computed simply summing query term weights (e.g., BM25)
 - we have the top scores for a set of off-line queries on all non-local sites
- Idea:
 - set an upper bound on the possible top score of a query on non-local sites using the scores computed for off-line queries
 - decide whether a query should be forwarded to a site based on the comparison between the locally computed k-th score and the site's upper bound for the query

Query forwarding in Federated Search

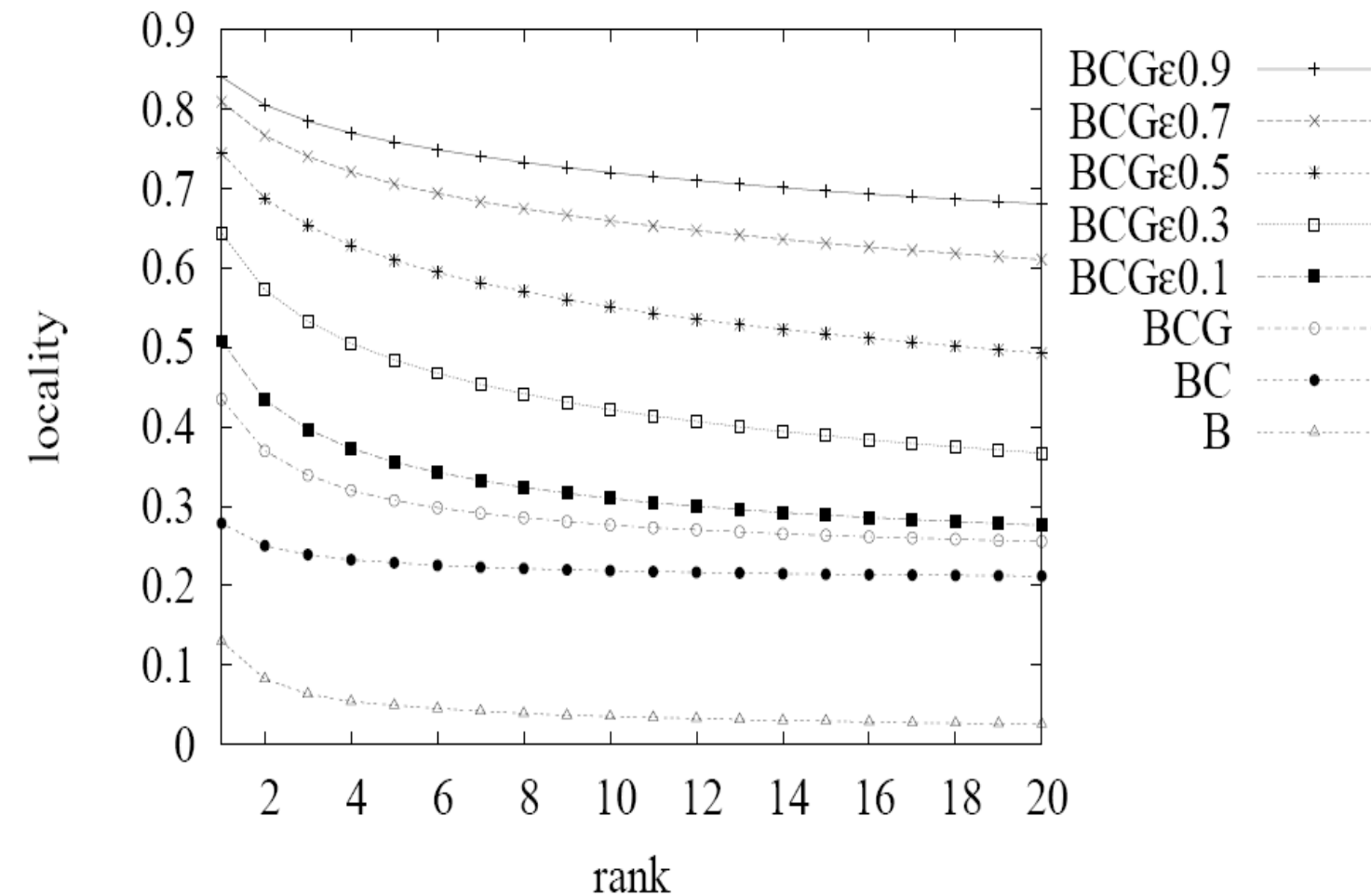


Optimizations:

- Caching SERPs locally
- Global replication of most frequently retrieved documents
- Slackness factor ϵ replacing b_j with $(1-\epsilon)b_j$

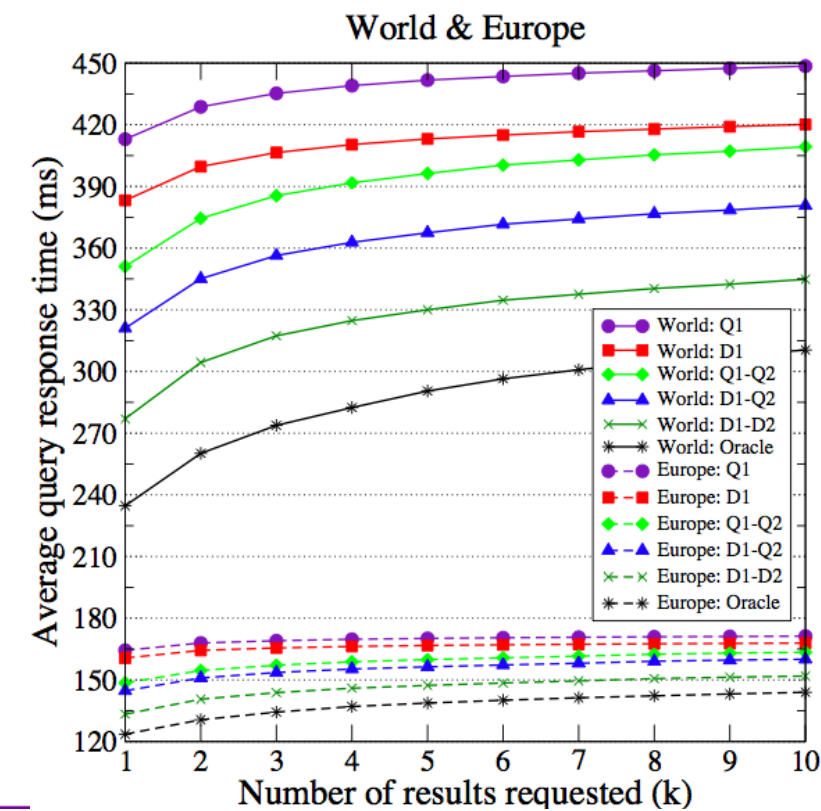
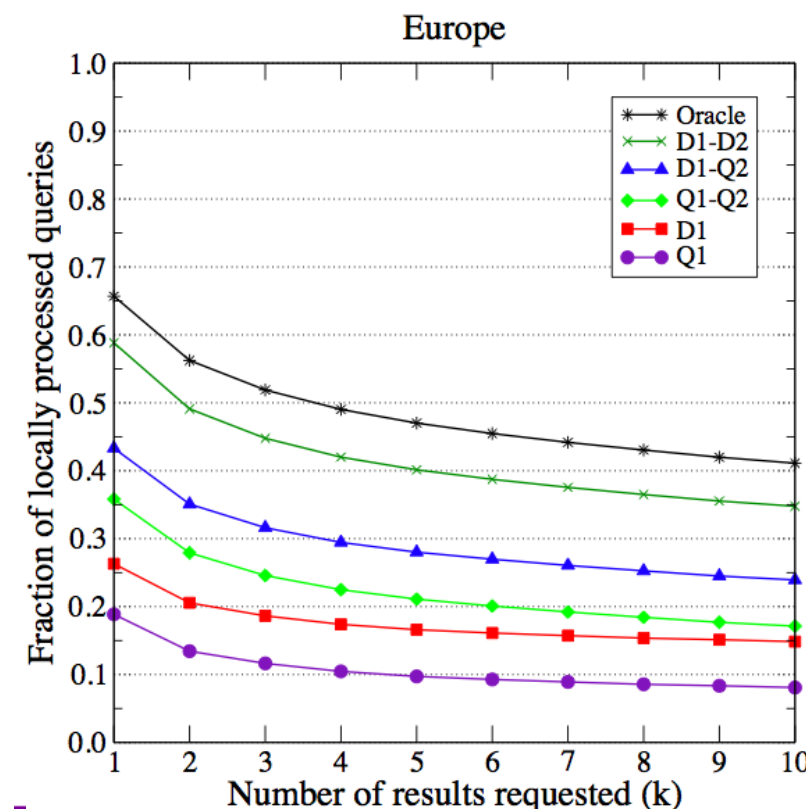
Query forwarding in Federated Search

- Locality at rank n for a search engine with 5 sites
- Percentage of query volume, for which we can return top- n results locally



Query forwarding in Federated Search

- Improvement using a Thresholding algorithm and a LP solution in
 - Berkant Barla Cambazoglu, Emre Varol, Enver Kayaaslan, Cevdet Aykanat, Ricardo A. Baeza-Yates: **Query forwarding in geographically distributed search engines.** SIGIR 2010: 90-97



Questions?

