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ETHERNOVIA

How to reign the Rings with TSN?
Automotive Ethernet Congress 2026

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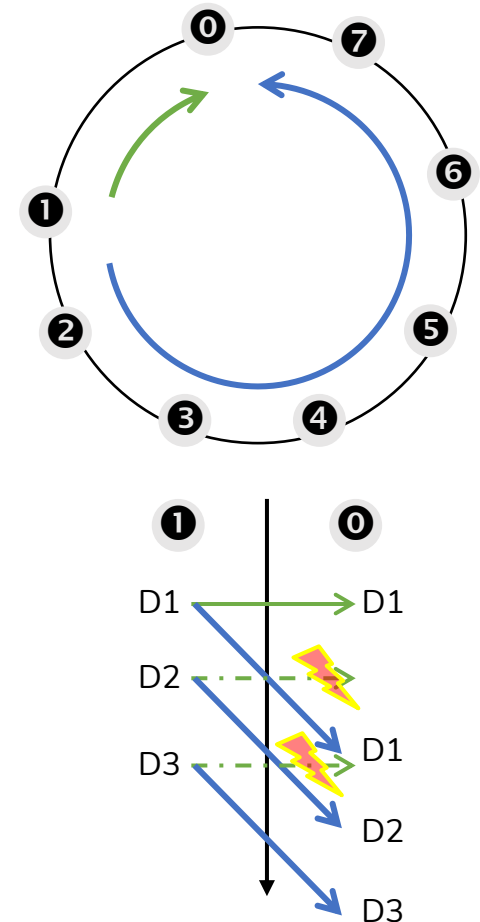


Why turn the IVN into a Ring? Assuming a Zonal Architecture

- All data everywhere
 - Log and Trace
 - Software Defined Vehicle upgrades
- Redundancy or Resiliency
 - Alternate path in case one path fails
- Increased Bandwidth
 - Two paths to send data
- Separate paths per data-type
 - Low latency small frames like audio in one direction
 - Large frames in the other

The Issue with different Path Length

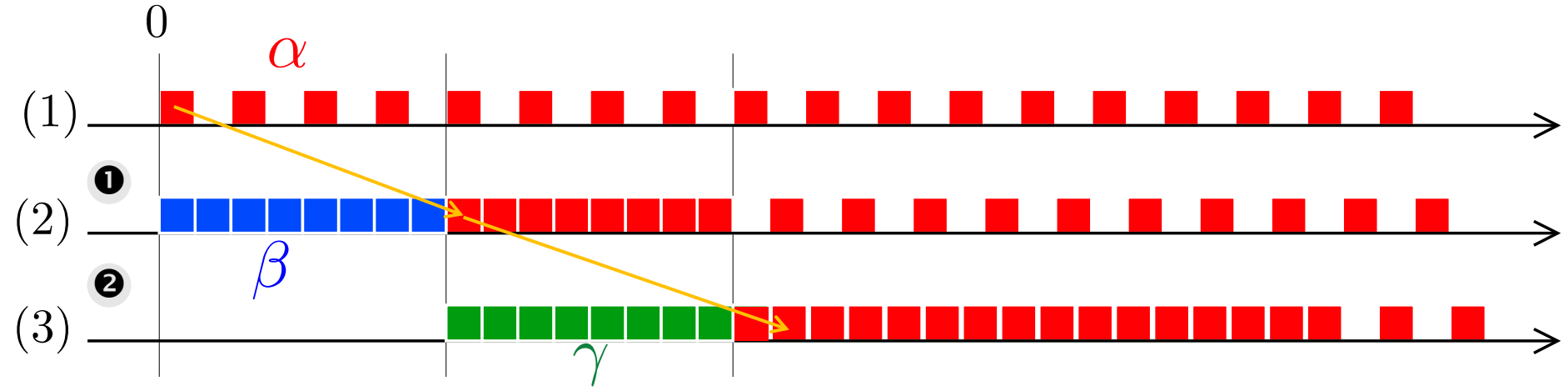
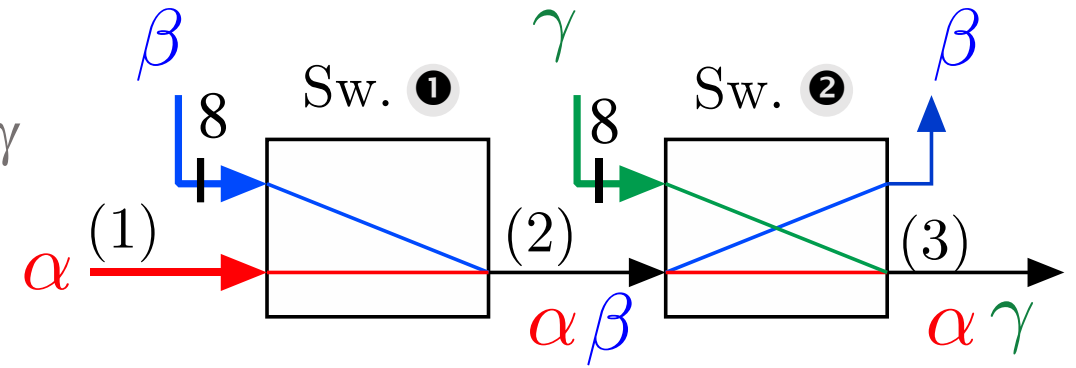
- The path around a ring one way is usually significantly faster (shorter in number of hops) than the path around the other way
- If the faster (shorter) path fails, there will be a temporary interruption of sequential data, before the redundant communication has travelled along the slower (longer) path
- To ensure a (chronologically) seamless operation, the receiver would have to always wait for the later packet, before processing or taking action
- Such behaviour is not covered (solely) by redundancy concepts, like e.g. IEEE Std 802.1CB
- It requires buffering in the receiver or elimination point and
- knowledge about the timing in the receiver at the transmitter (compare IEEE Std 1722's Presentation-Time)



<https://www.ieee802.org/1/files/public/docs2015/cb-nfinn-seamless-issues-1015-v02.pdf>

Rings are fundamentally Daisy-Chains - Leading to Burst Accumulation

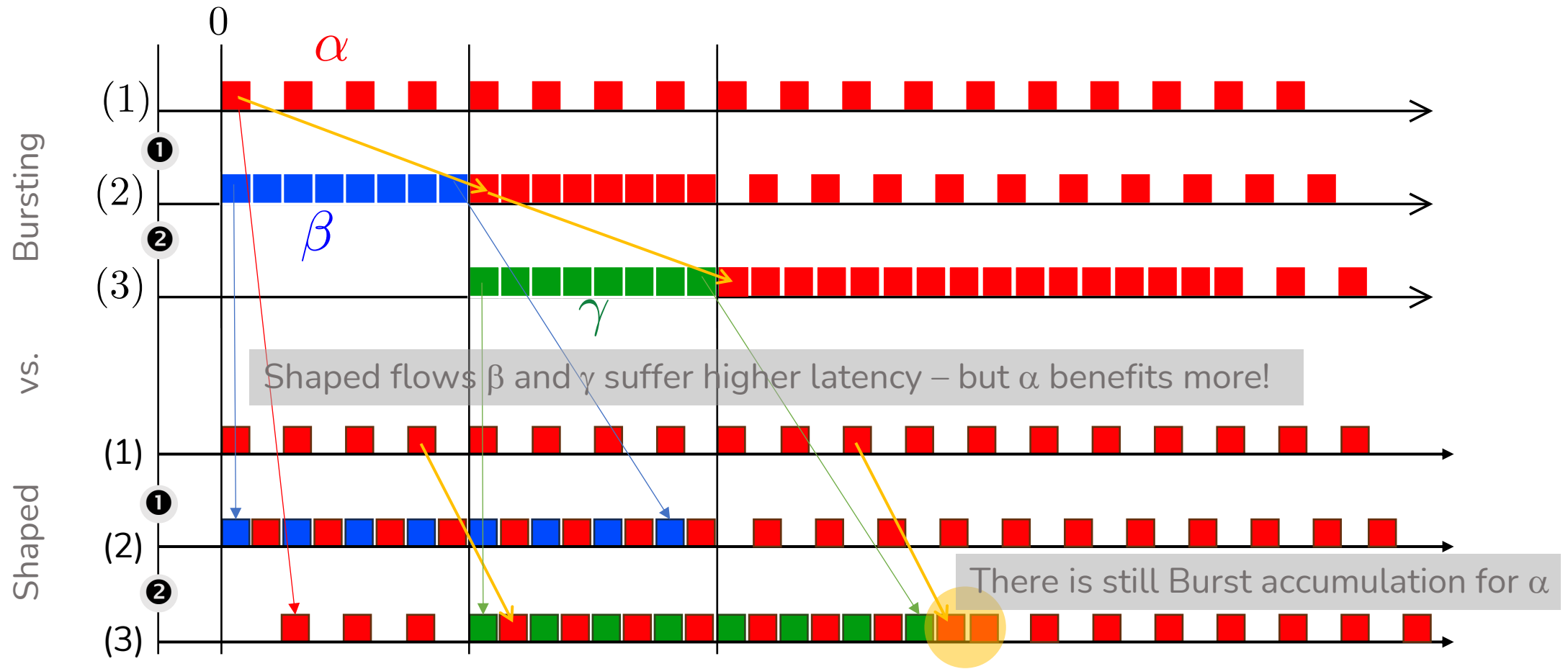
Flow α accumulates bursts due to bursts from interfering streams⁽¹⁾ β and γ



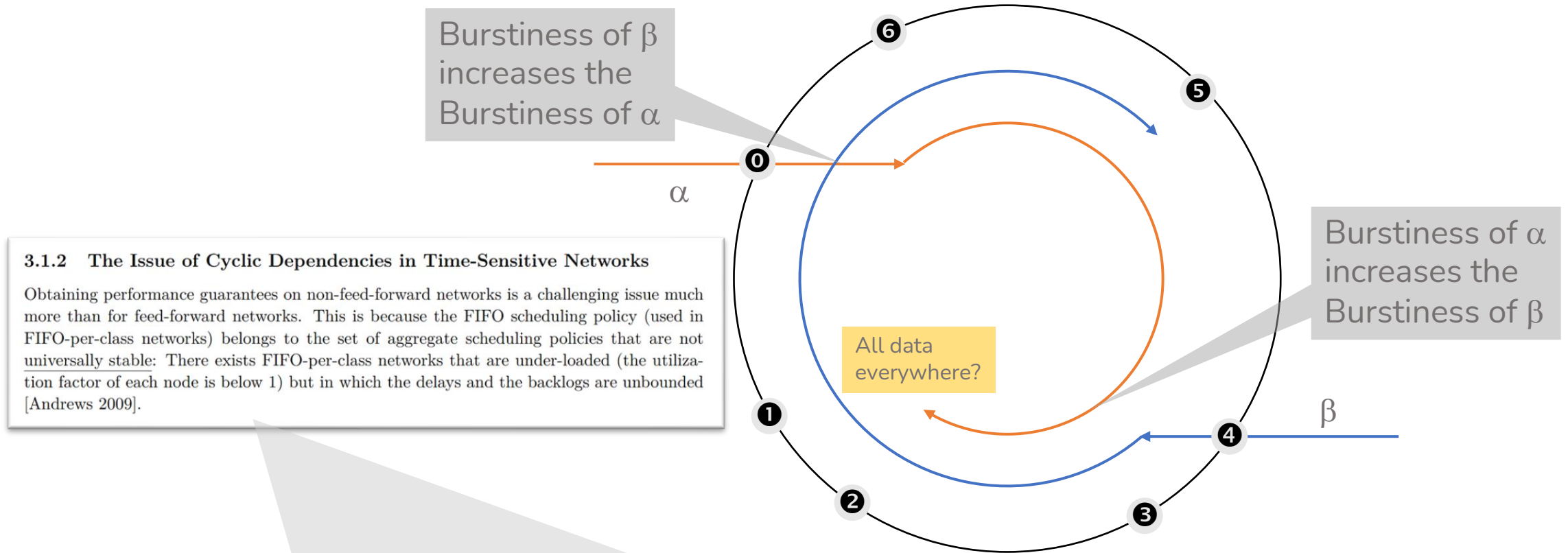
From: 2021 Ethernet & IP @ Automotive Technology Week, M. Turner & J. Walrand, "The "Free Rider Principle"

⁽¹⁾ Streams β and γ consist of 8 flows each

The benefit of shaping



Rings cause Circular Dependencies

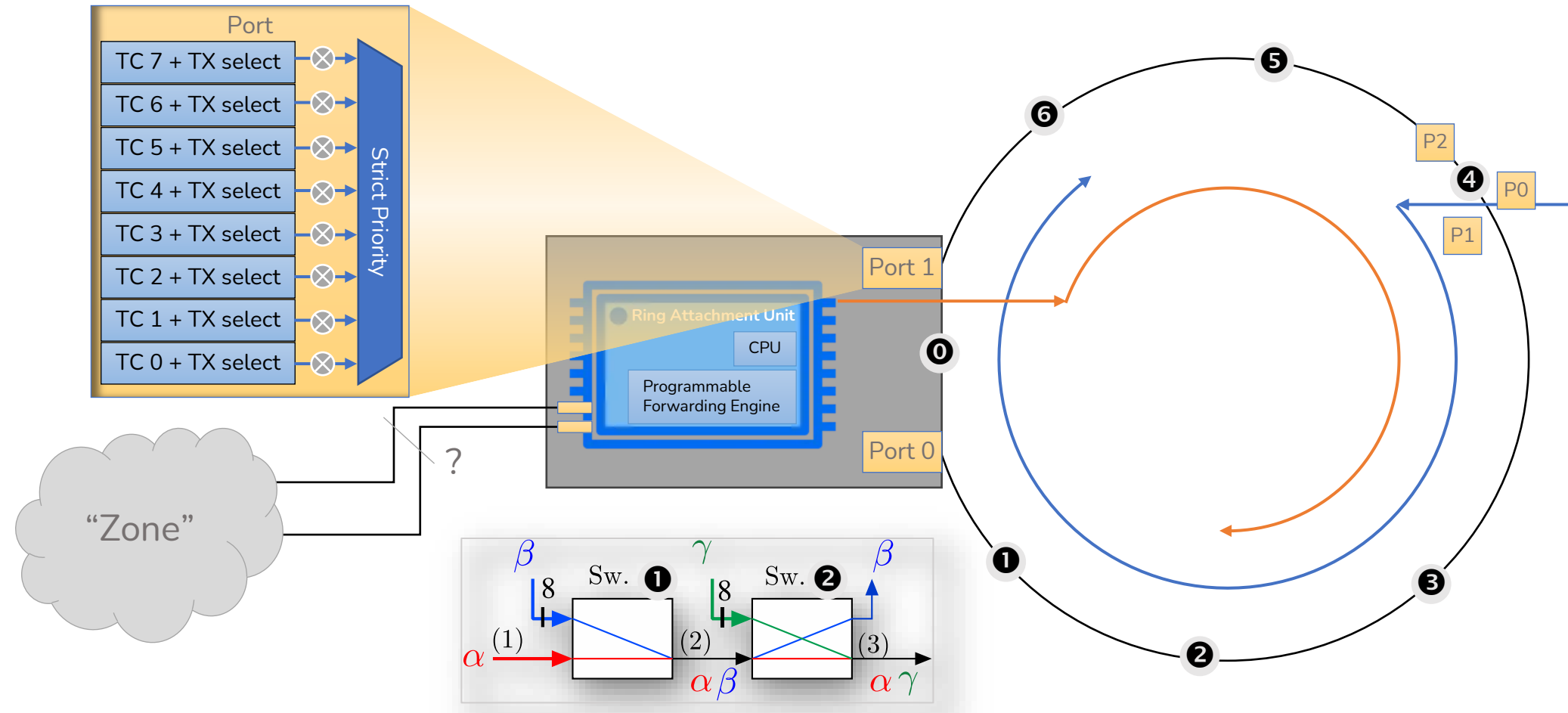


3.1.2 The Issue of Cyclic Dependencies in Time-Sensitive Networks

Obtaining performance guarantees on non-feed-forward networks is a challenging issue much more than for feed-forward networks. This is because the FIFO scheduling policy (used in FIFO-per-class networks) belongs to the set of aggregate scheduling policies that are not universally stable: There exists FIFO-per-class networks that are under-loaded (the utilization factor of each node is below 1) but in which the delays and the backlogs are unbounded [Andrews 2009].

Ludovic THOMAS, THÈSE En vue de l'obtention du DOCTORAT DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE TOULOUSE, "Analysis of the side-effects on latency bounds of combinations of scheduling, redundancy and synchronization mechanisms in time-sensitive networks.", 12 Sep. 2022

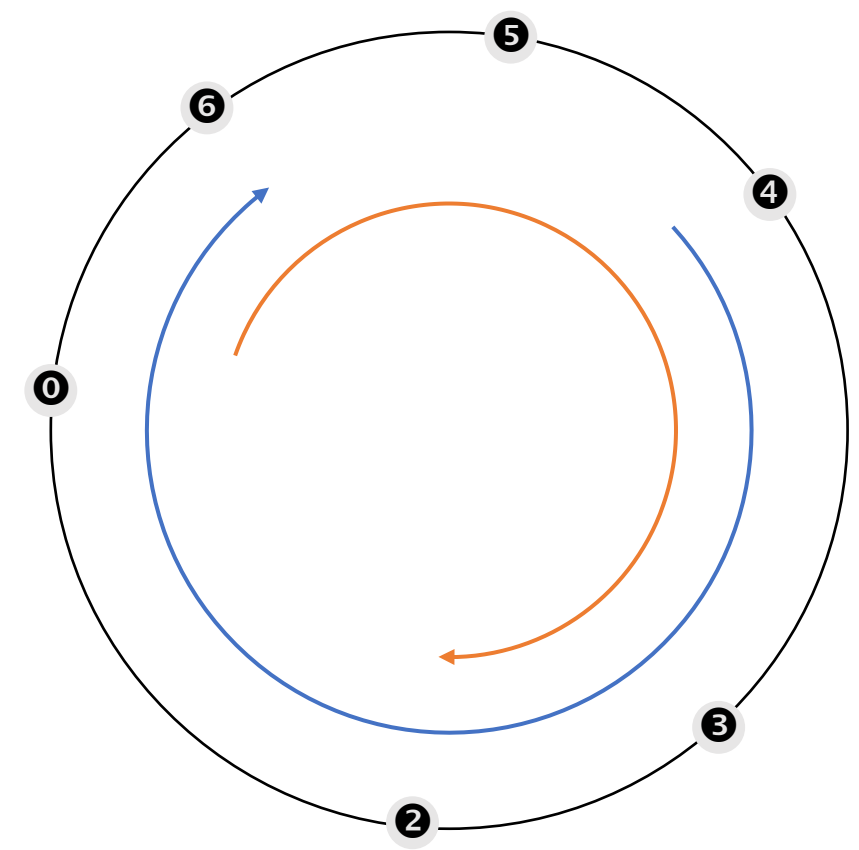
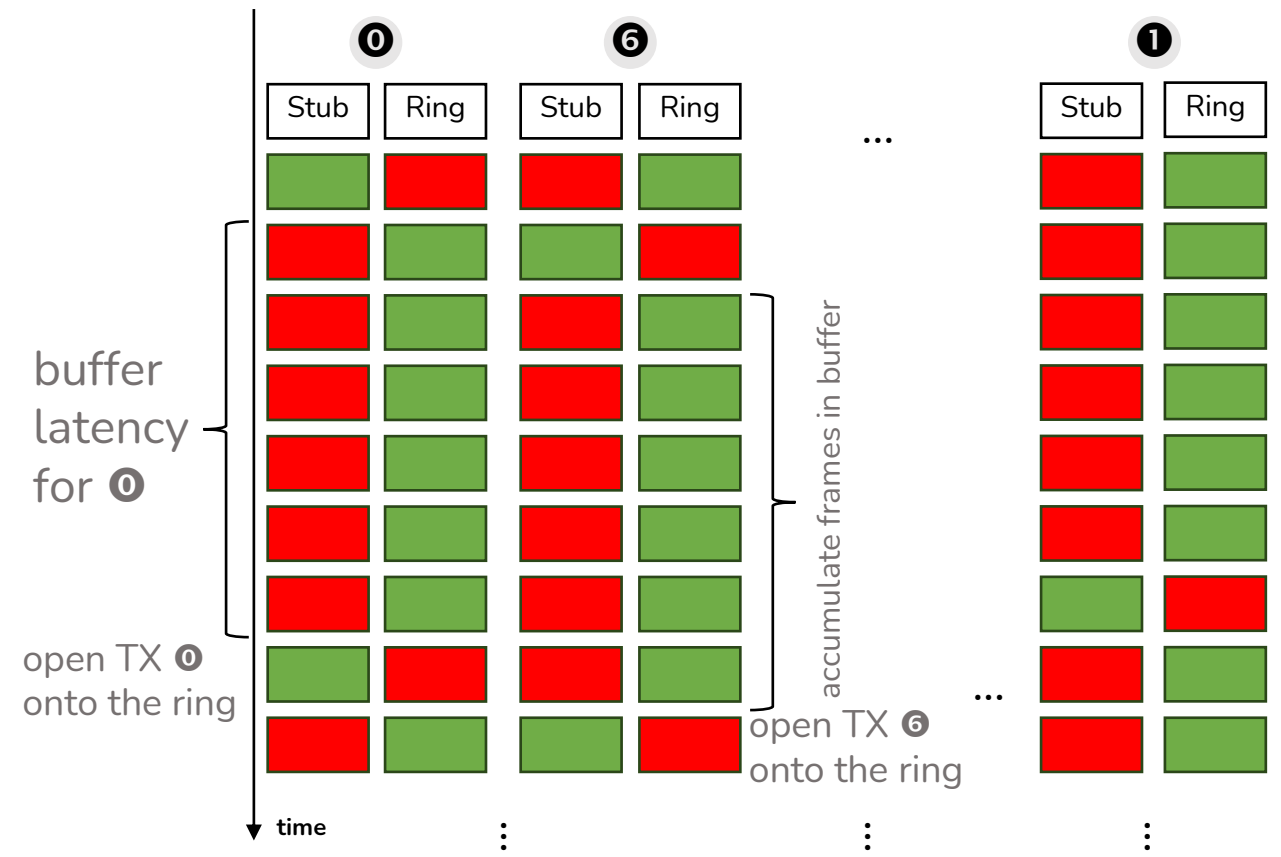
Designing the Ring Attachment Unit and the connections into the Zone



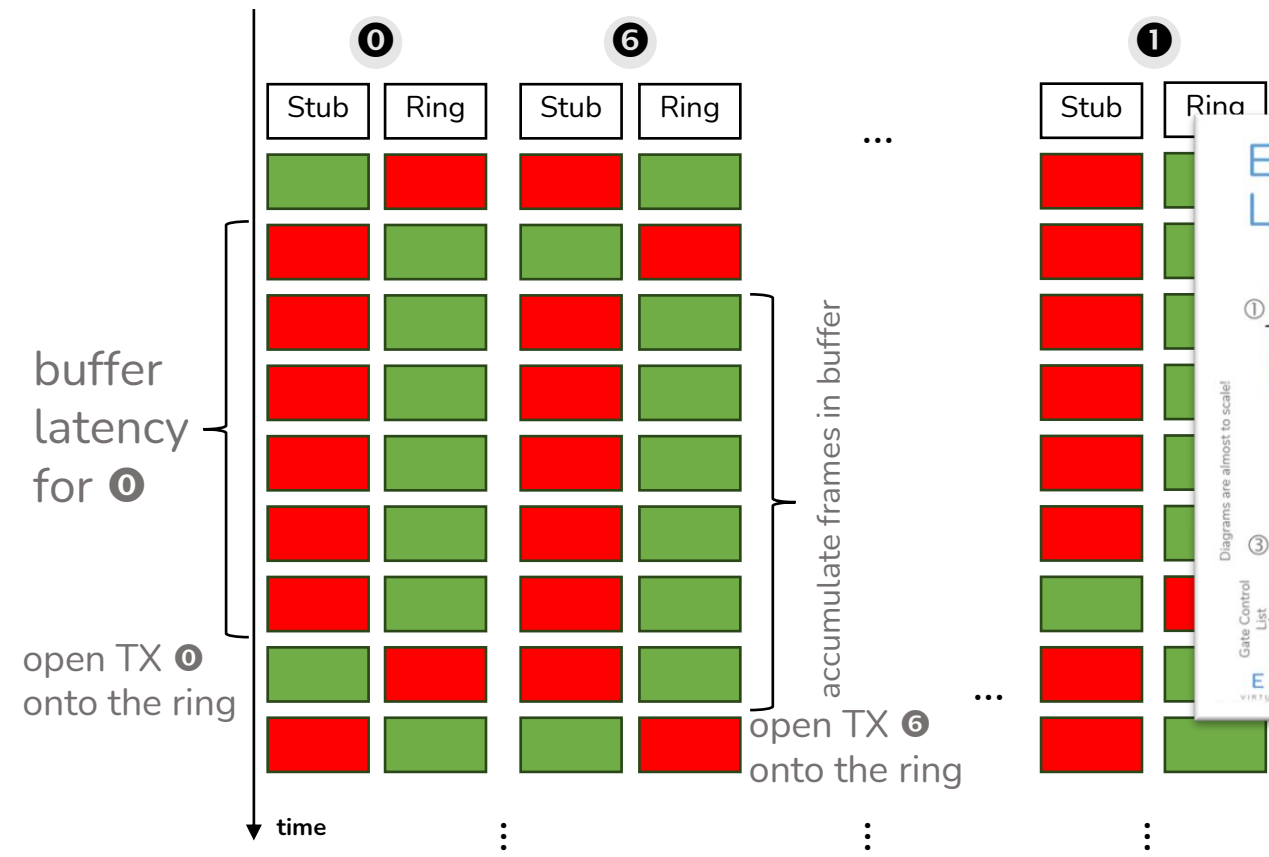
Can Cut-Through-Forwarding reduce the latency around the ring?

- Assuming mostly unicast communication, frames on the Ring have one specific destination, i.e. they should pass through all the other RAU bridges with minimum delay
- Assuming the stub links to be lower line-rate, only the ring can do cut-through-forwarding, while this removes the issue of erroneous forwarding it can lead to infinite circulation of frames
- Is the ingress from the stubs short enough to not mostly be in the way?

Can Cyclic-Queueing-and-Forwarding limit the interference to Cut-Through-Forwarding on the ring?



Can Cyclic-Queueing-and-Forwarding limit the interference to Cut-Through-Forwarding on the ring?



Enhancements for Scheduled Traffic (TAS) Latency vs. Bandwidth

Diagrams are almost to scale!

Maximum available TAS bandwidth depends on the Ratio T_{GO}/T_{OC} , but TAS Latency depends on the absolute difference of $T_{OC} - T_{GO}$!

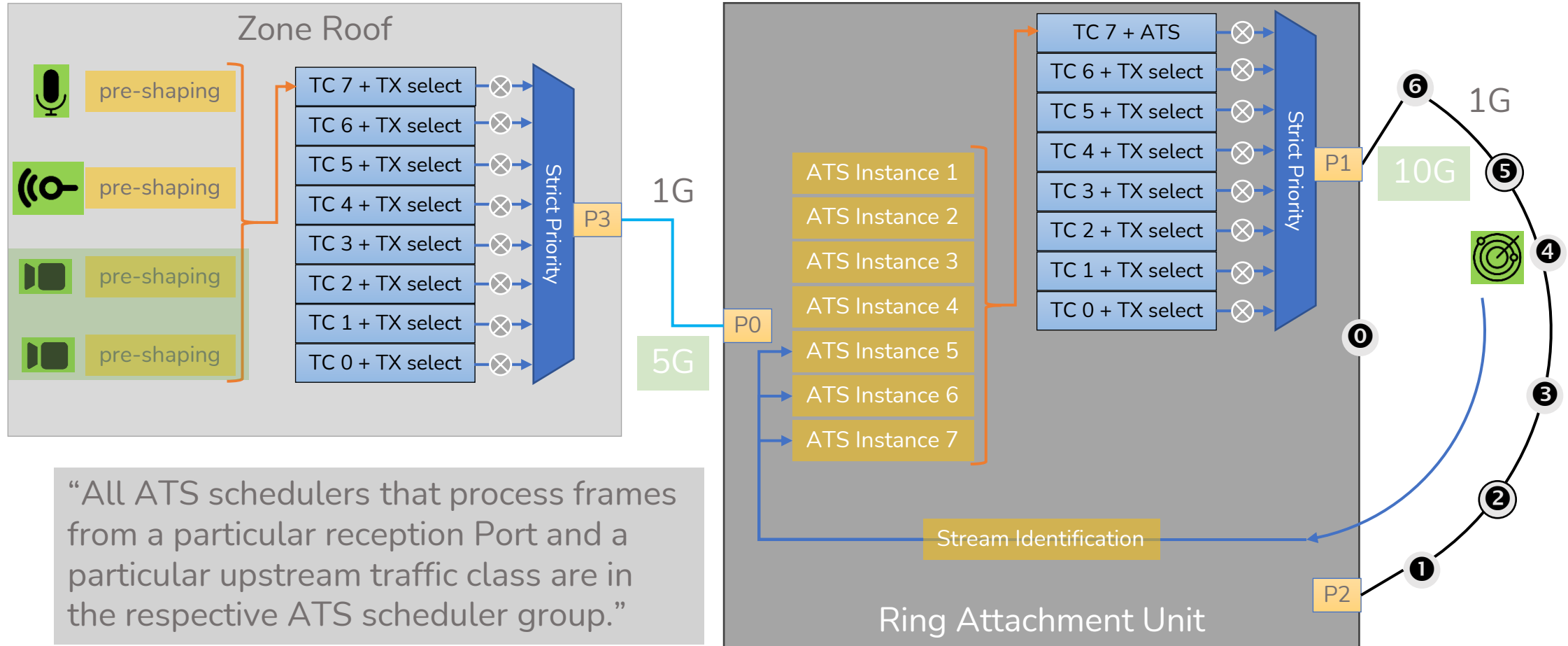
For asynchronous ingress, the smaller the relative GateOpenTime for a traffic class (T_{GOx}/T_{OC}), the longer the worst-case Alignment Latency becomes.

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VIRTUALIZING VEHICLE COMMUNICATION

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technica

Queue Structure FIFO/FIFO for 1G and 10G!



“All ATS schedulers that process frames from a particular reception Port and a particular upstream traffic class are in the respective ATS scheduler group.”

A Ring example and some Simulations

Consider

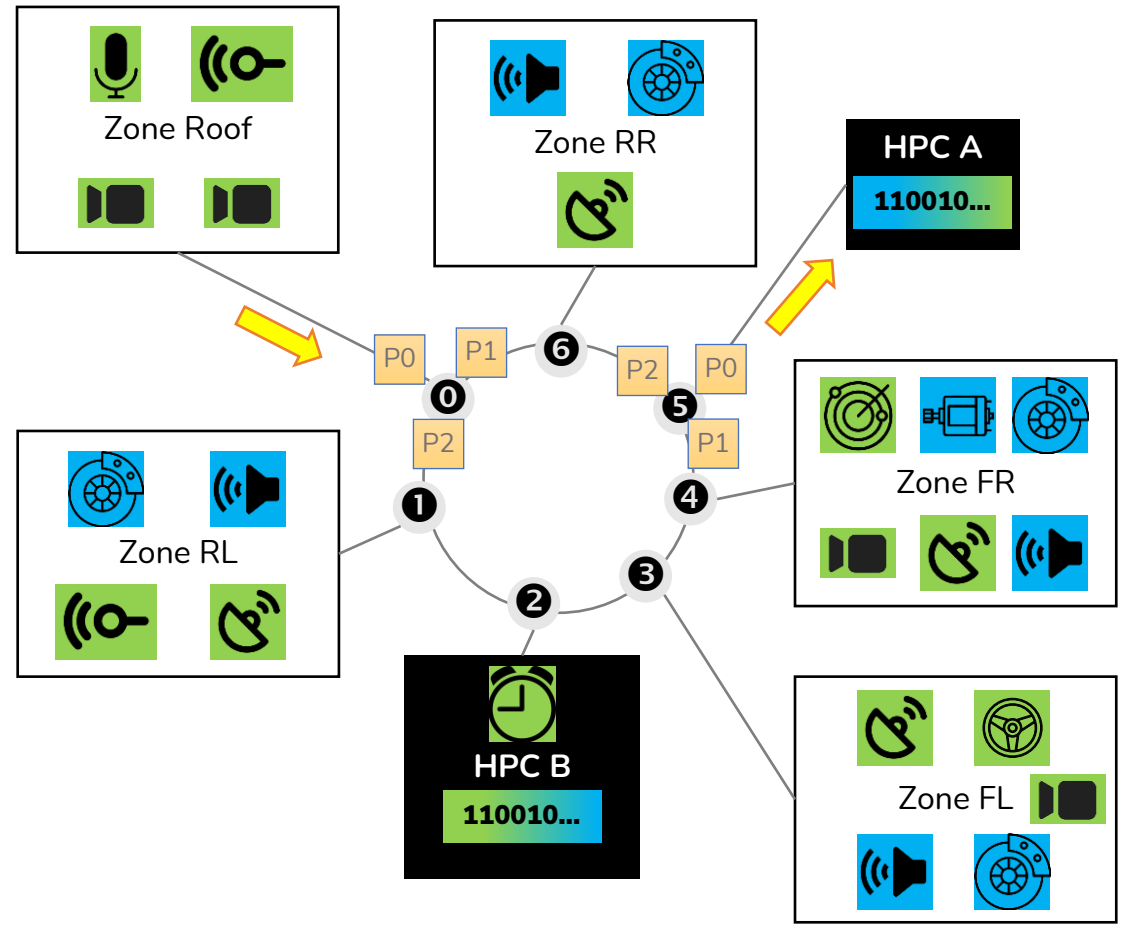
- short path: 3 hops
- long path: 6 hops

Which delay ratio would you expect?
Approximately a factor of 2?

Actually, they may be almost the same or the longer path delay may be much higher!

Source	Microphone	Camera	Camera	LIDAR	Hand	Wheel	Location RADAR	Camera	Hand	Camera	Hand	Wheel	Microphone	Speaker	Speaker	data
0	2	2,5	2,5	2,5												
1					2,5								2,5			
2												0			1,3,4,6	5
3								2,5	2,5	5						
4							2,5	2,5	2,5							
5						1,3,4,6	4									2
6																2,5

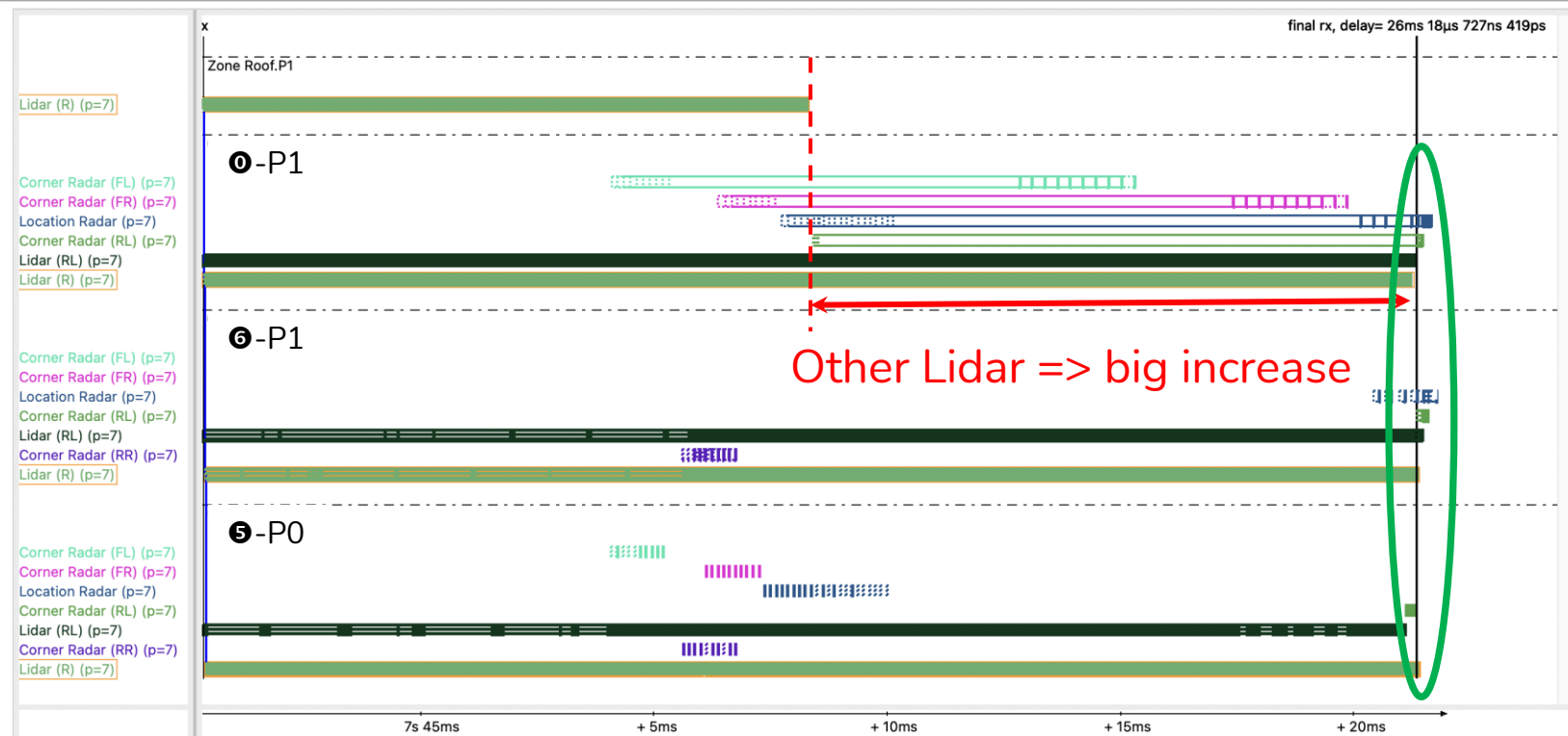
Communication Matrix



sensor/actuator symbols are examples only and not meant to be all-encompassing the same is true for number of zones and HPCs

Redundancy: similar delays on shorter and longer path

Name	MaxSize	Sender	Receiver	Min	Average	Max	WCTT	Constraint	Route
Lidar (R)	1100 x 1400 byte	Zone Roof	HPC A	24,511 ms	24,749 ms	25,028 ms	40,535 ms	40 ms	Zone Roof 0 1 2 3 4 5
Lidar (R)	1100 x 1400 byte	Zone Roof	HPC A	24,384 ms	25,383 ms	26,019 ms	38,578 ms	40 ms	Zone Roof 0 6 5

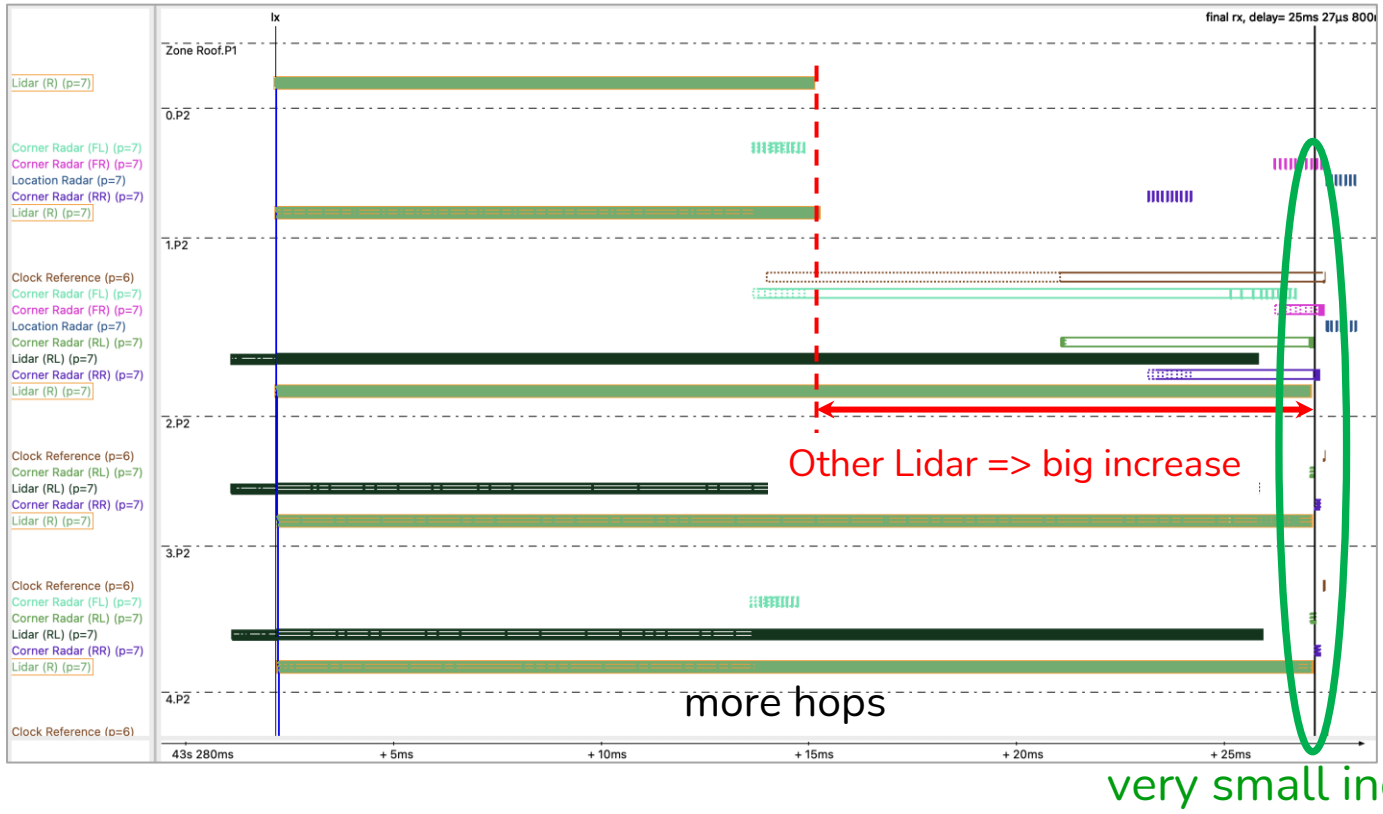


The end-to-end delay is mainly determined by the "collision" with the other heavy burst Lidar stream!

very small increase

Redundancy: similar delays on shorter and longer path

Name	MaxSize	Sender	Receiver	Min	Average	Max	WCTT	Constraint	Route
Lidar (R)	1100 x 1400 byte	Zone Roof	HPC A	24,511 ms	24,749 ms	25,028 ms	40,535 ms	40 ms	Zone Roof 0 1 2 3 4 5
Lidar (R)	1100 x 1400 byte	Zone Roof	HPC A	24,384 ms	25,383 ms	26,019 ms	38,578 ms	40 ms	Zone Roof 0 6 5



Same "collision" effect as on the short path.

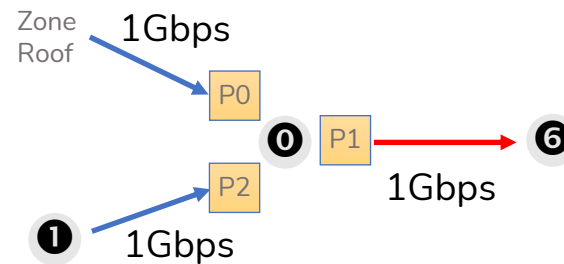
The delay due to the additional hops is negligible.

Redundancy: delay on longer path much higher

Name	MaxSize	Sender	Receiver	Min	Average	Max	WCTT	Constraint	Route
Location Radar	22 x 1400 byte	Zone Front Right	HPC A				31,245 ms	50 ms	Zone Front Right 4 3 2 1 0 6 5
Location Radar	22 x 1400 byte	Zone Front Right	HPC A	2,515 ms	3,264 ms	4,022 ms	4,754 ms	50 ms	Zone Front Right 4 5

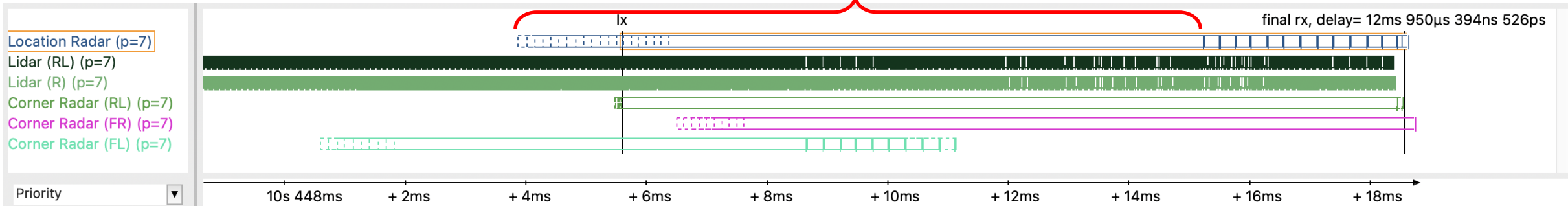
Segment	Min	Average	Max	WCTT
Zone Front Right-> 4	0,113 ms	1,875 ms	3,637 ms	3,637 ms
4-> 3	0,011 ms	0,122 ms	0,378 ms	1,106 ms
3-> 2	0,011 ms	0,043 ms	0,129 ms	0,356 ms
2-> 1	0,011 ms	0,012 ms	0,014 ms	0,015 ms
1-> 0	0,011 ms	0,067 ms	0,480 ms	0,493 ms
0-> 6	0,011 ms	4,171 ms	12,951 ms	25,274 ms
6-> 5	0,011 ms	0,087 ms	0,129 ms	0,356 ms
5-> HPC A	0,004 ms	0,005 ms	0,010 ms	0,011 ms

The two heavy burst Lidar streams are arriving at 1Gbps peak rate each and are merged into one single 1Gbps link



⇒ Huge amounts of memory needed in the switch port to not loose any frame!

Transmitted only after 12 ms ...



Shaping of bursty streams

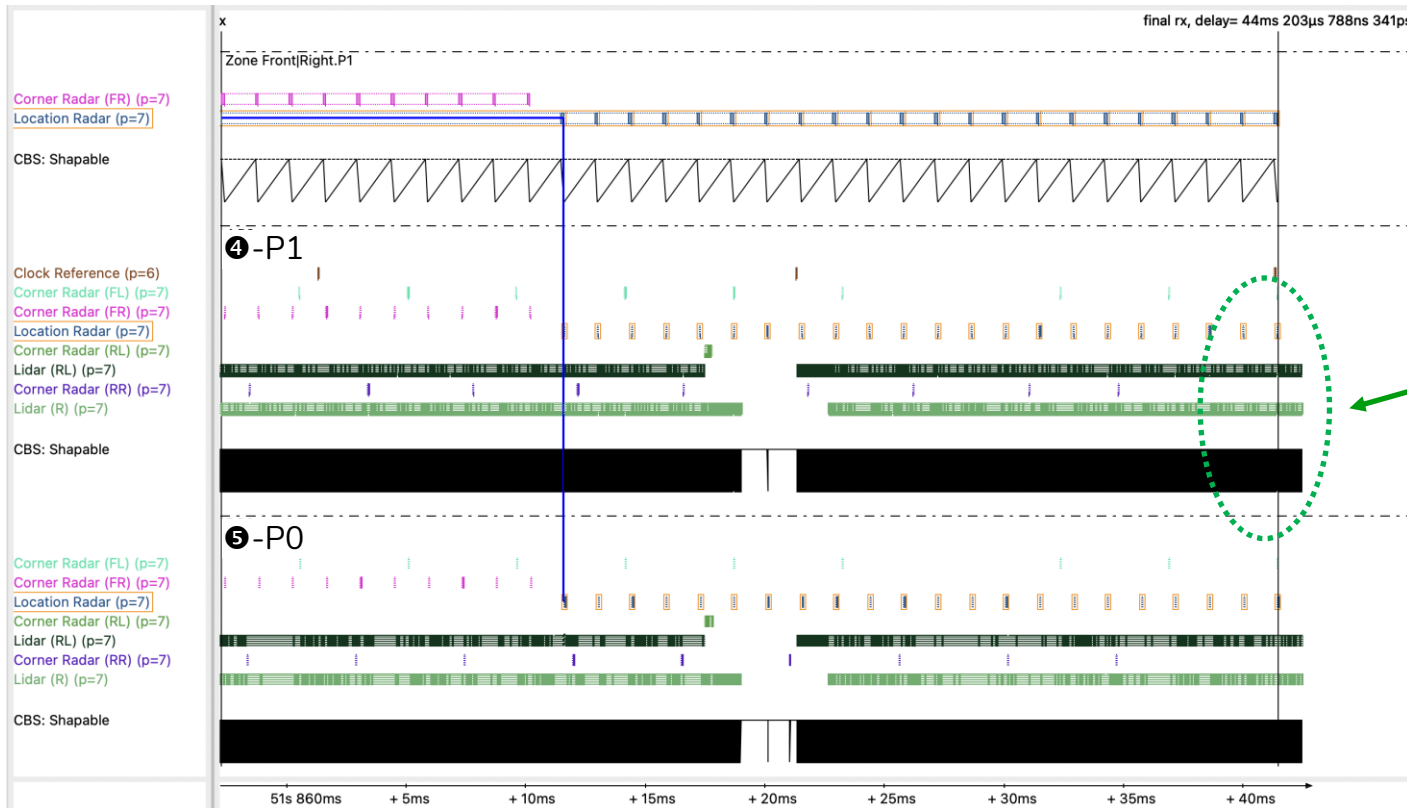
We have seen that with heavy bursty traffic

- The number of hops is not a good indicator of the transmission delay to expect.
- In "collision" scenarios of heavy burst a huge frame backlog may builds up and require a lot of memory.

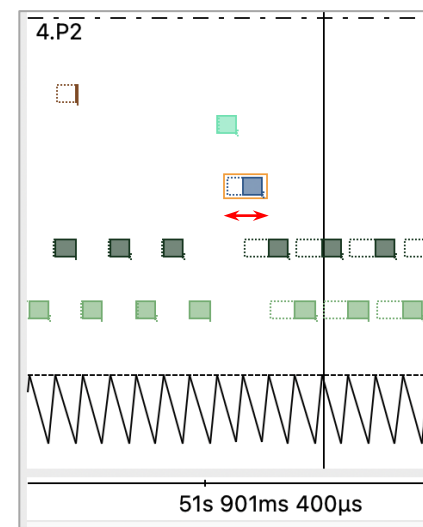
We added TSN shaping in further simulations to reduce latency caused by burst accumulation.

Shaping of bursty streams: CBS, end-to-end

Name	MinDistance	MaxSize	Sender	Receiver	Min	Average	Max	WCTT	Constraint	Route
Location Radar	50 ms	22 x 1400	Zone Front Right	HPC A				45,509 ms	50 ms	Zone Front Right 4 3 2 1 0 6 5
Location Radar	50 ms	22 x 1400	Zone Front Right	HPC A	29,957 ms	37,078 ms	44,204 ms	44,218 ms	50 ms	Zone Front Right 4 5



Systematically low delay skew between shorter and longer path

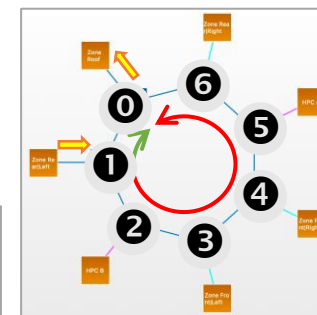


The two shaped Lidar streams let the Radar through quickly!

End-to-end delay determined by shaping in Node!

Partial shaping of bursty streams: lower priority delays

Let us look at the impact on the transmission delay of a low priority frame: "Clock Reference"



No shaping

Name	MinDistance	MaxSize	Sender	Receiver	Min	Average	Max	WCTT	Constraint	Route
Clock Reference	20 ms	48 byte	Zone Rear Left	Zone Roof				302,884 ms	20 ms	Zone Rear Left 1 2 3 4 5 6 0
Clock Reference	20 ms	48 byte	Zone Rear Left	Zone Roof	0,002 ms	3,495 ms	13,543 ms	26,586 ms	20 ms	Zone Rear Left 1 0

CBS: end-to-end

Name	MinDistance	MaxSize	Sender	Receiver	Min	Average	Max	WCTT	Constraint	Route
Clock Reference	20 ms	48 byte	Zone Rear Left	Zone Roof	0,024 ms	0,024 ms	0,025 ms	0,136 ms	20 ms	Zone Rear Left 1 2 3 4 5 6 0
Clock Reference	20 ms	48 byte	Zone Rear Left	Zone Roof	0,002 ms	0,013 ms	0,029 ms	0,033 ms	20 ms	Zone Rear Left 1 0

CBS: only in nodes

Name	MinDistance	MaxSize	Sender	Receiver	Min	Average	Max	WCTT	Constraint	Route
Clock Reference	20 ms	48 byte	Zone Rear Left	Zone Roof				1,557 ms	20 ms	Zone Rear Left 1 2 3 4 5 6 0
Clock Reference	20 ms	48 byte	Zone Rear Left	Zone Roof	0,002 ms	0,017 ms	0,040 ms	0,077 ms	20 ms	Zone Rear Left 1 0

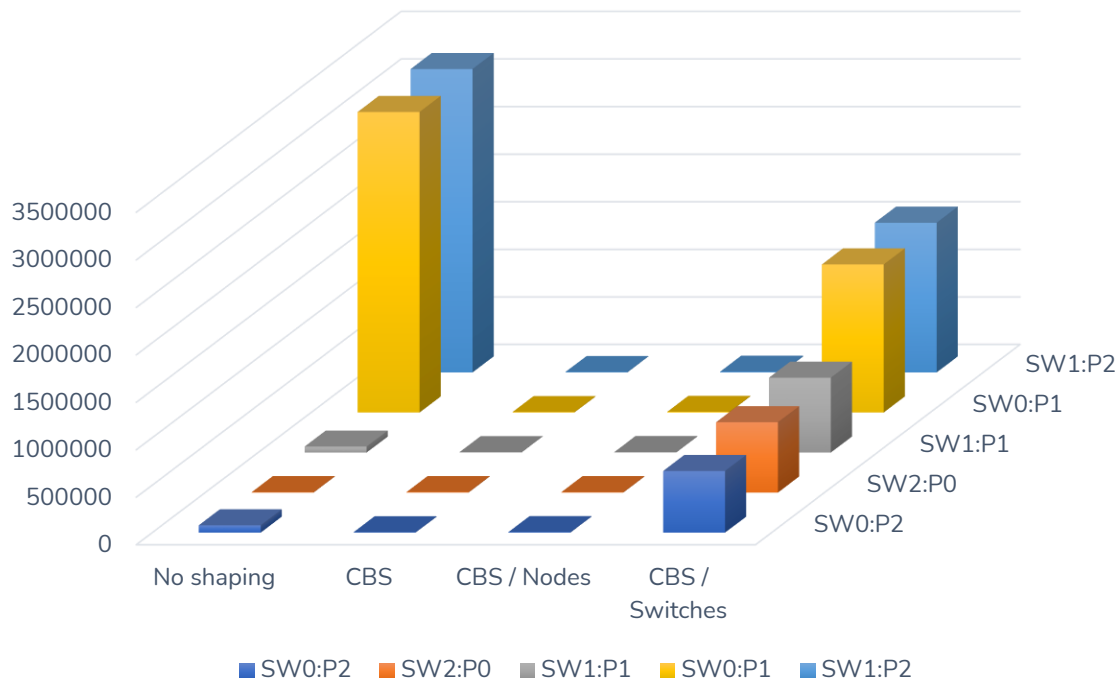
CBS: only in switches

Name	MinDistance	MaxSize	Sender	Receiver	Min	Average	Max	WCTT	Constraint	Route
Clock Reference	20 ms	48 byte	Zone Rear Left	Zone Roof	0,011 ms	3,274 ms	13,063 ms	28,414 ms	20 ms	Zone Rear Left 1 2 3 4 5 6 0
Clock Reference	20 ms	48 byte	Zone Rear Left	Zone Roof	0,002 ms	3,457 ms	13,067 ms	13,079 ms	20 ms	Zone Rear Left 1 0

⇒ Shaping before or in nodes is crucial!

Partial shaping of bursty streams: memory requirements

Memory Requirements in some Switch Ports



=> Shaping before or in nodes is crucial!

No shaping:

- the "collisions" seen before induce high requirements in some ports

CBS – In nodes and switches:

- shaped streams require much less

CBS – Only in Nodes

- shaped streams require much less

CBS – Only in Switches

- High requirement even where not needed before

Summary:

Rings are fundamentally Daisy-Chains

- Bursty traffic will cause more bursty traffic
- Transmission delay around the ring can be dominated by busts, rather than hop count
- Once traffic is bursty, it takes a lot of memory to re-shape it
- Proper shaping close to the actual source can reduce the skew between short and long path
- TSN offers a lot of tools to do this, choosing may be harder than expected
- Per-Stream shaping with ATS can resolve circular burst and latency dependencies, if you watch out for traps
- The ring should have higher line-rate than the combined ingress ports
- Egress from the ring can require significant memory, if bursty traffic accumulates
- Do not underestimate the importance and complexity of designing the RAU!

Thank you very much for your attention!



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*“We help you build provably safe
and optimized critical systems”*



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