

Proceedings of 54th International Conference on Parallel Processing, ICPP'25, San Diego, September 8–11

University of Salerno • Department of Computer Science • Fisciano, Italy

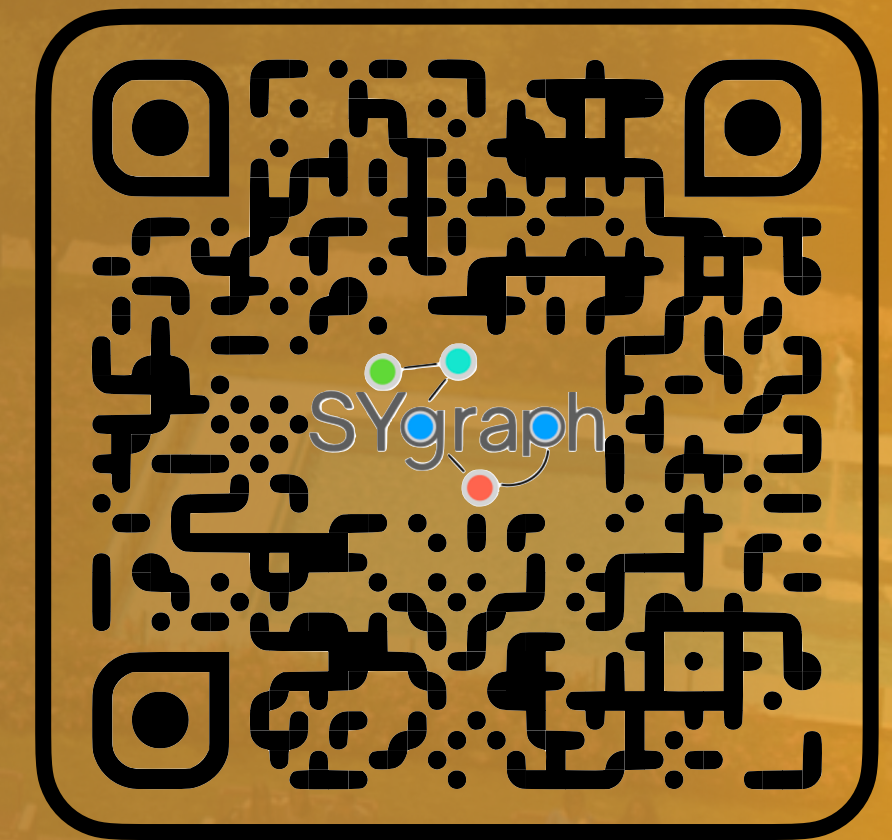


SYgraph

A Portable Heterogeneous Graph Analytics Framework for GPUs

Antonio De Caro, Gennaro Cordasco, Biagio Cosenza
{antdecaro, gcordasco, bcosenza}@unisa.it

<https://www.adecaro.eu>



github.com/unisa-hpc/SYgraph

Outline

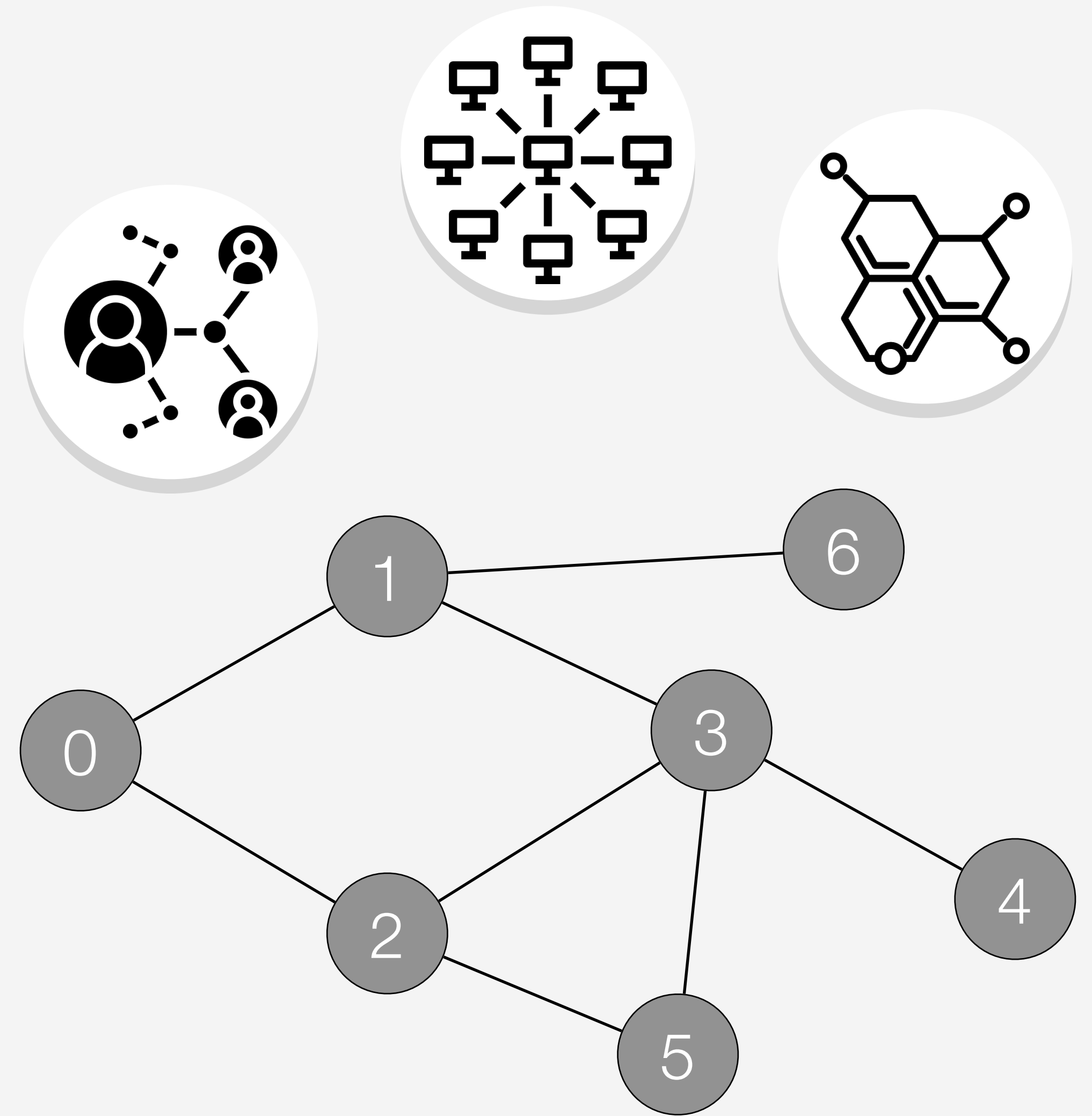
- Introduction & Background
- Contributions
 - ▶ SYgraph API
 - ▶ Execution Model
 - ▶ Two-Layer Bitmap
- Experimental Evaluation
- Conclusion

Introduction & Background



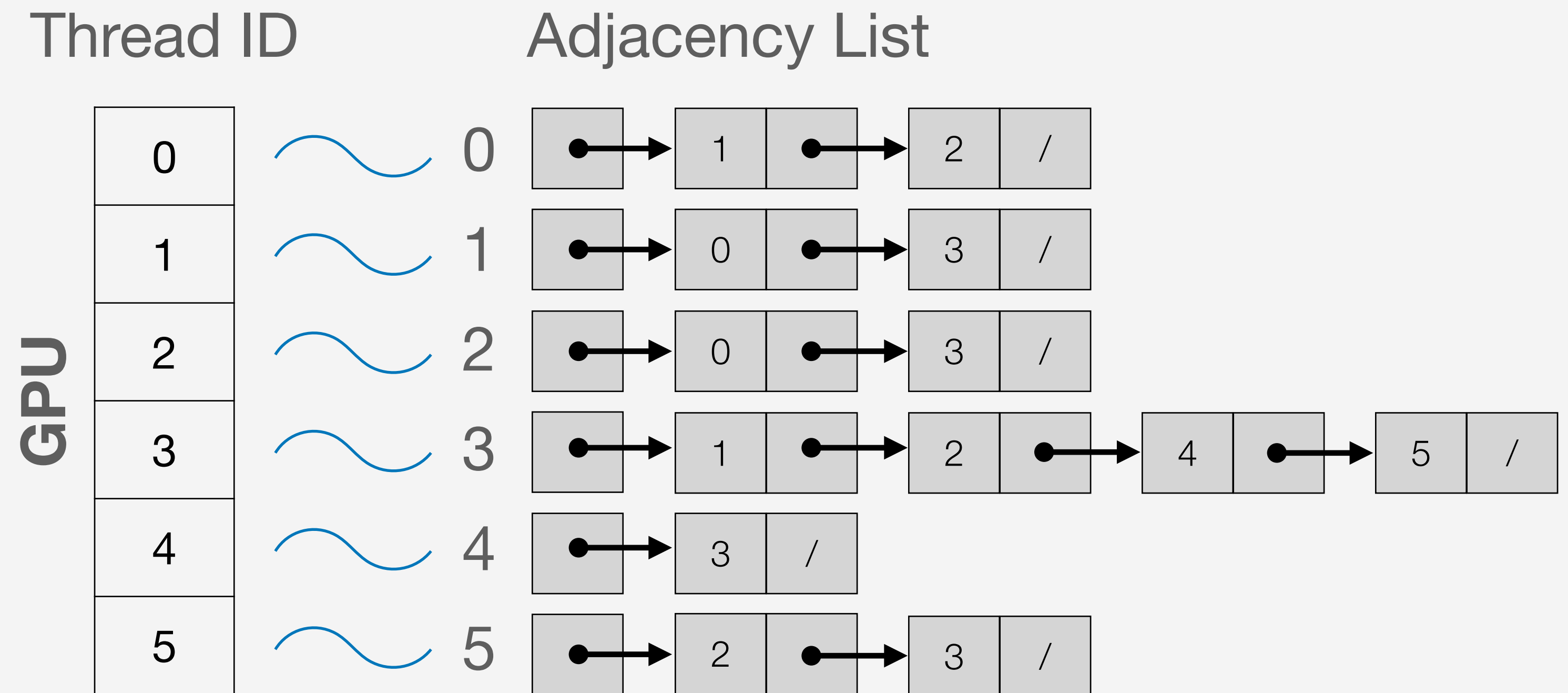
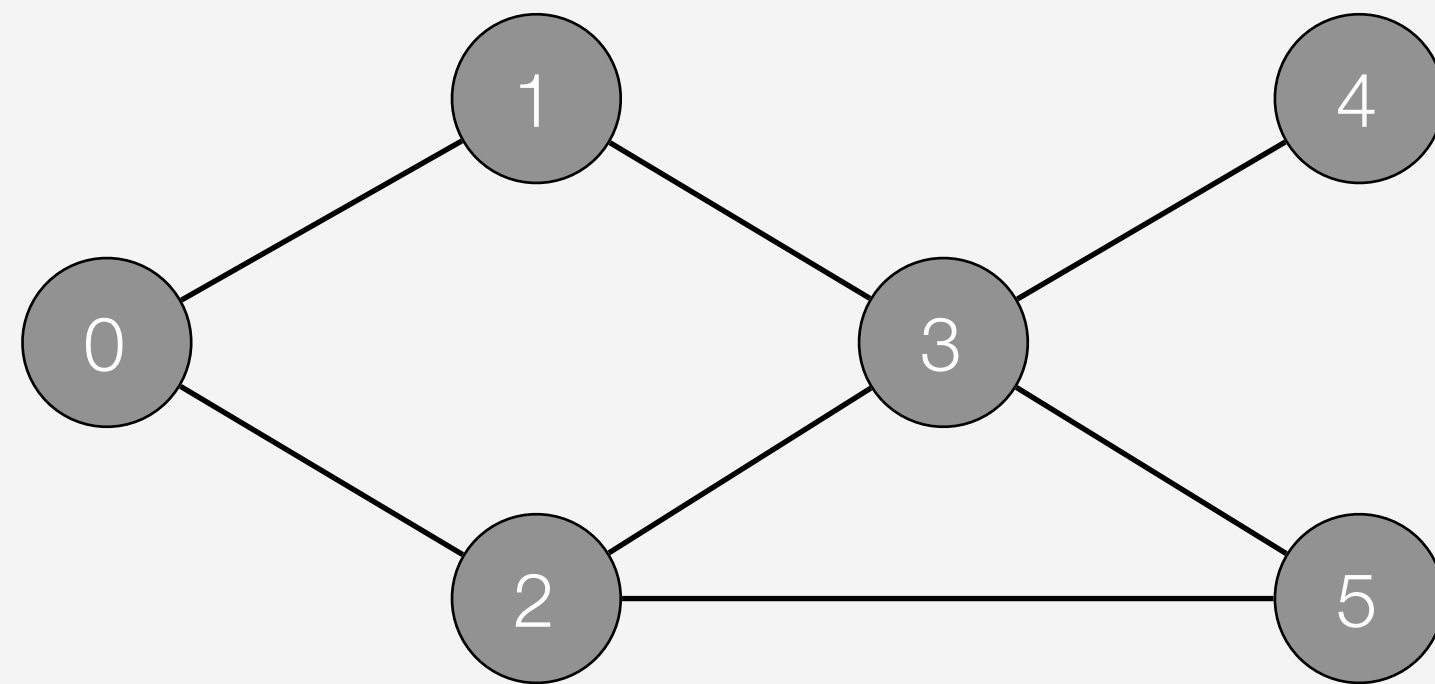
Introduction – Graph Analytics and GPUs

- Many **real-world applications** are naturally **modeled as graphs**
 - ▶ Social networks (e.g., friend/follow graphs)
 - ▶ Web and hyperlinks (e.g., crawling, ranking)
 - ▶ and more ...
- These graphs are **huge**: millions of nodes, billions of edges
- **GPUs** offer **thousands of cores** that can process nodes and edges in **parallel**



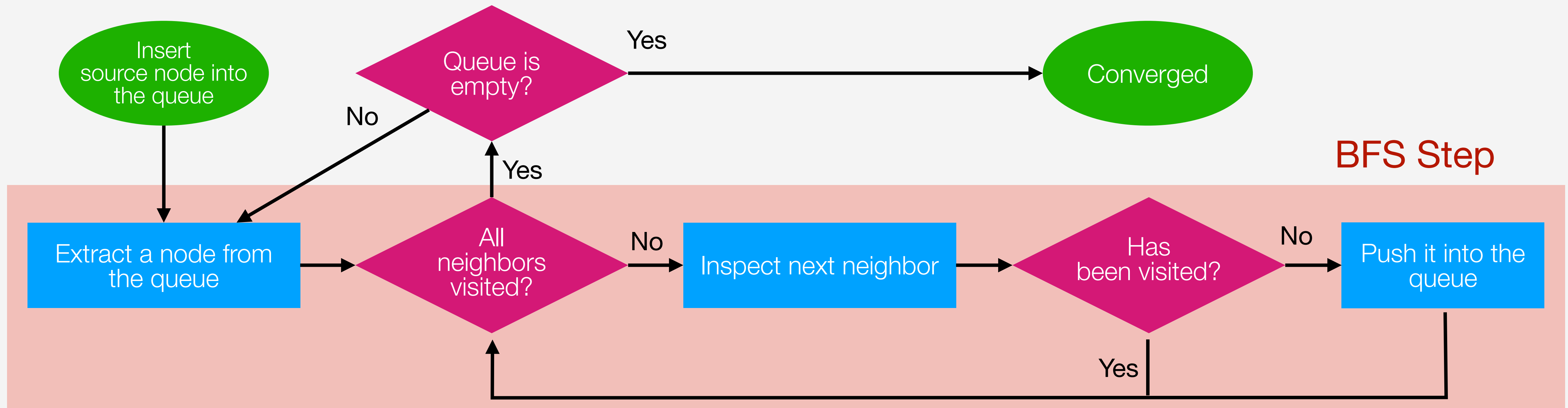
Introduction – Why are Graphs Challenging on GPUs?

- **GPUs** struggle to handle **irregular** workloads such as **graph traversal** due to:
 - ▶ Skewed degree distribution
 - ▶ Irregular topology
 - ▶ Memory-boundness



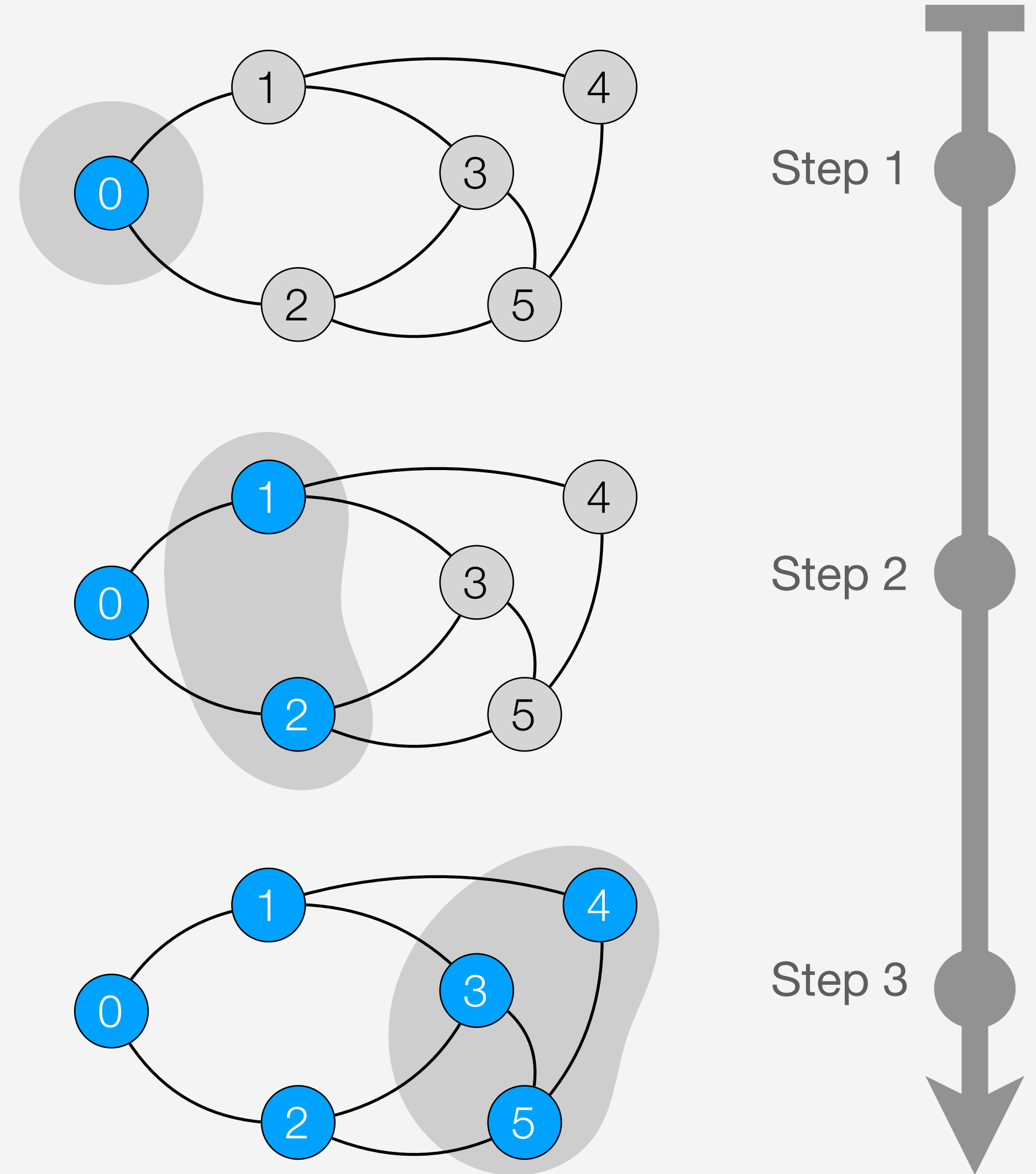
Background – Graph Algorithms as Iterative Converging Processes

- Most graph algorithms are **iterative**;
- They progress step-by-step until a **convergence condition** is met.
- An example: Breadth First Search (BFS)



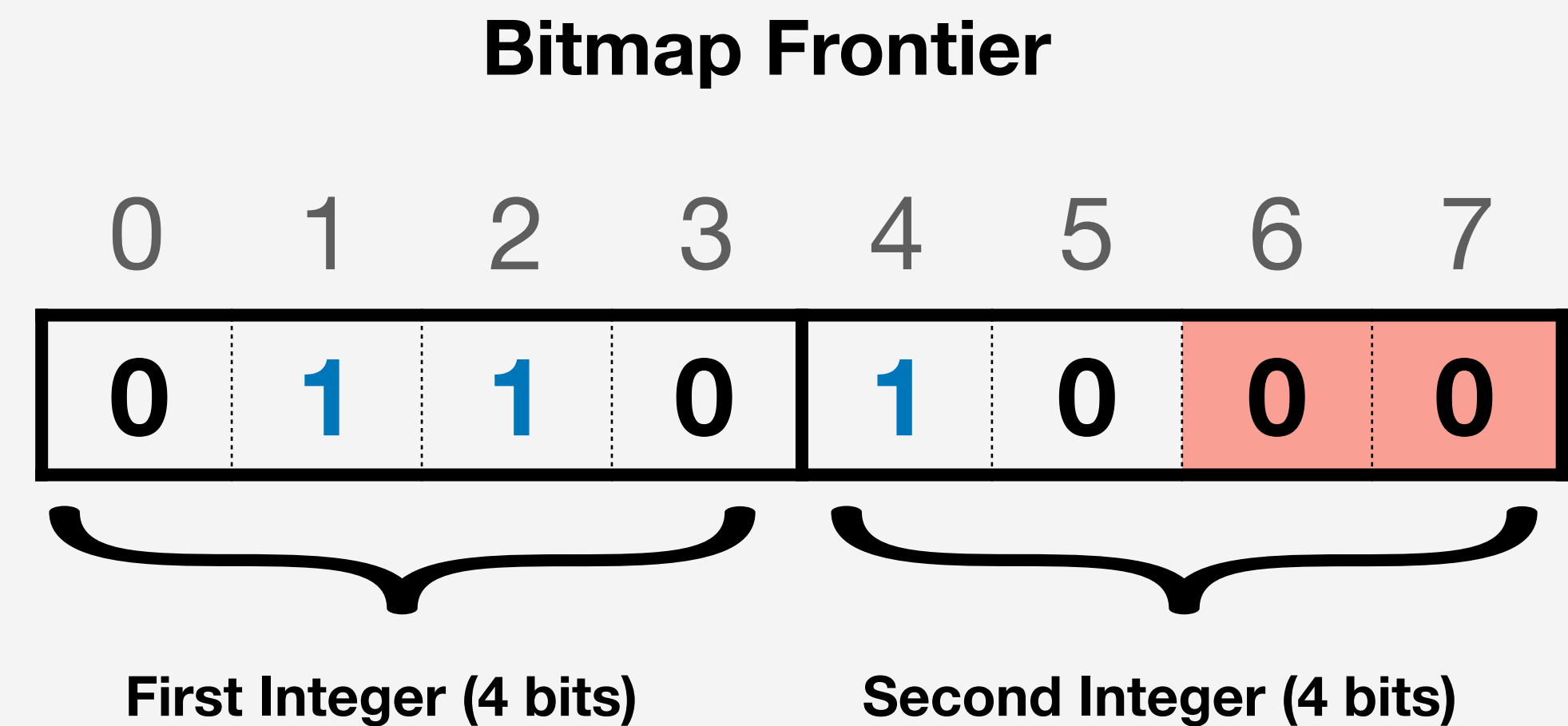
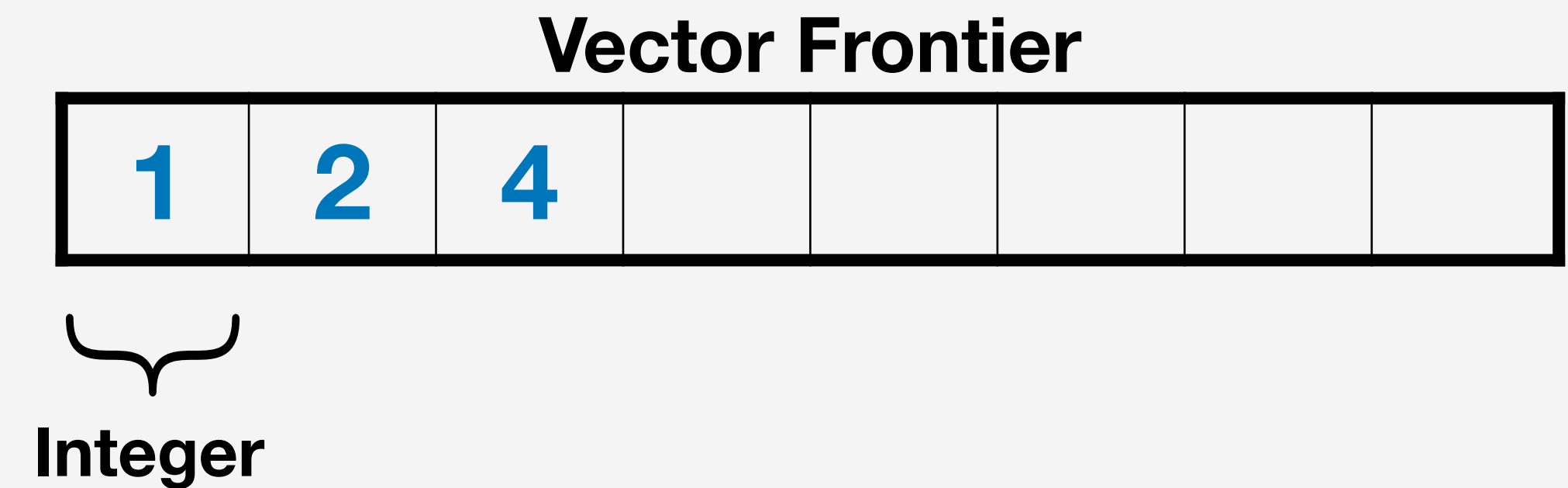
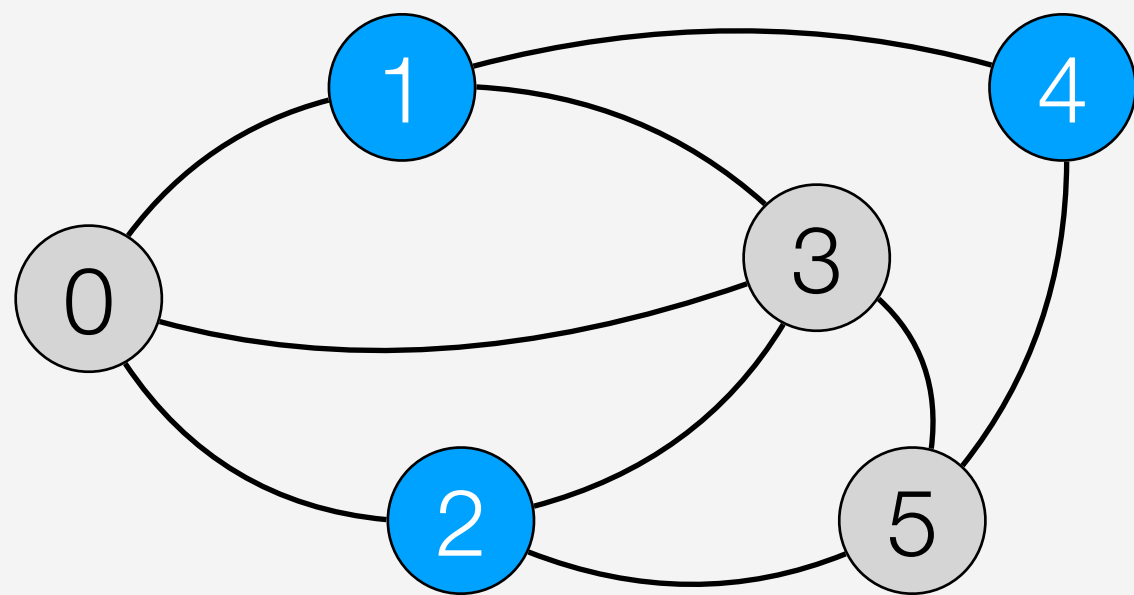
Background – Frontier-Based Processing

- In parallel graph algorithms, a **Frontier** is the set of active nodes during an iteration
- Example: *in BFS, it holds nodes at current distance level*
- Algorithms proceed in supersteps:
 1. Expand frontier
 2. Apply logic
 3. Prepare next iteration



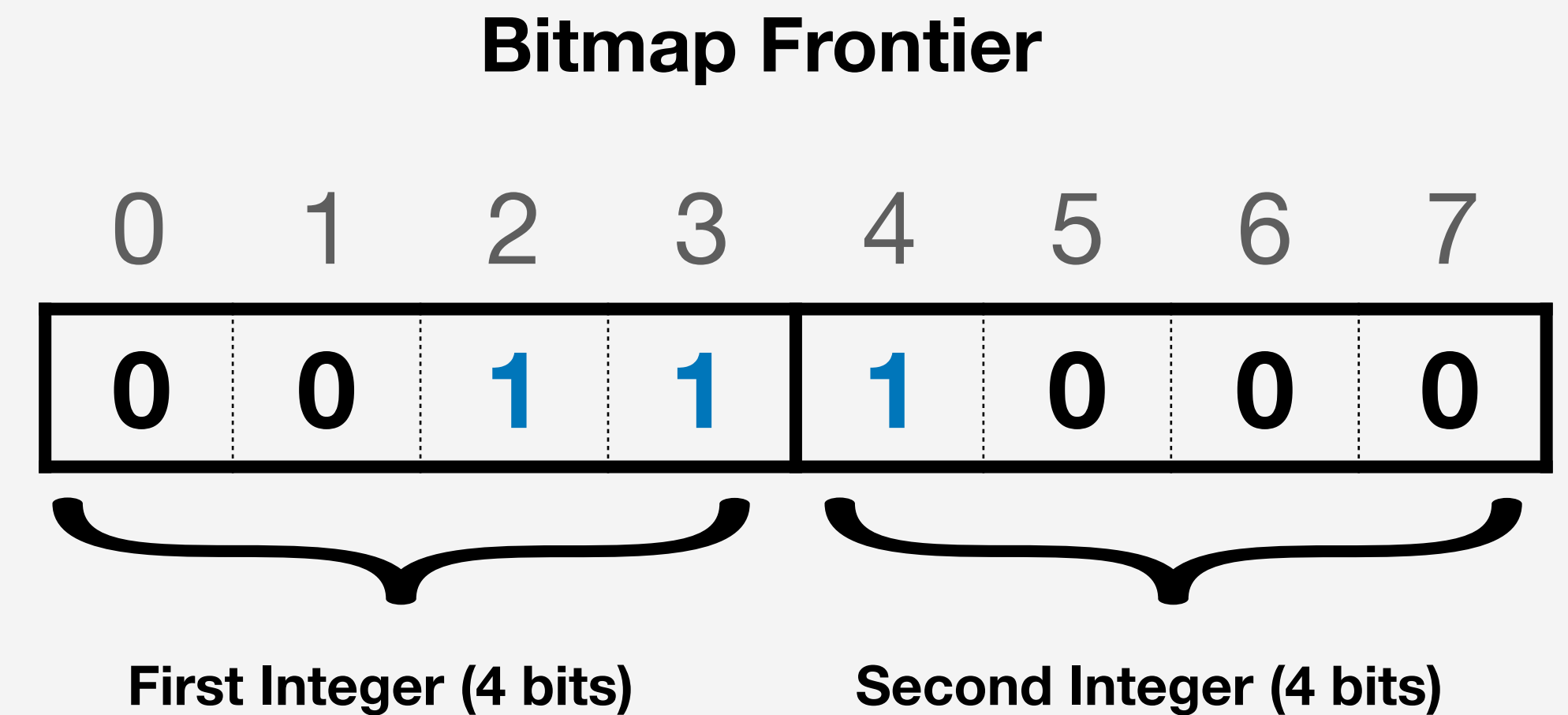
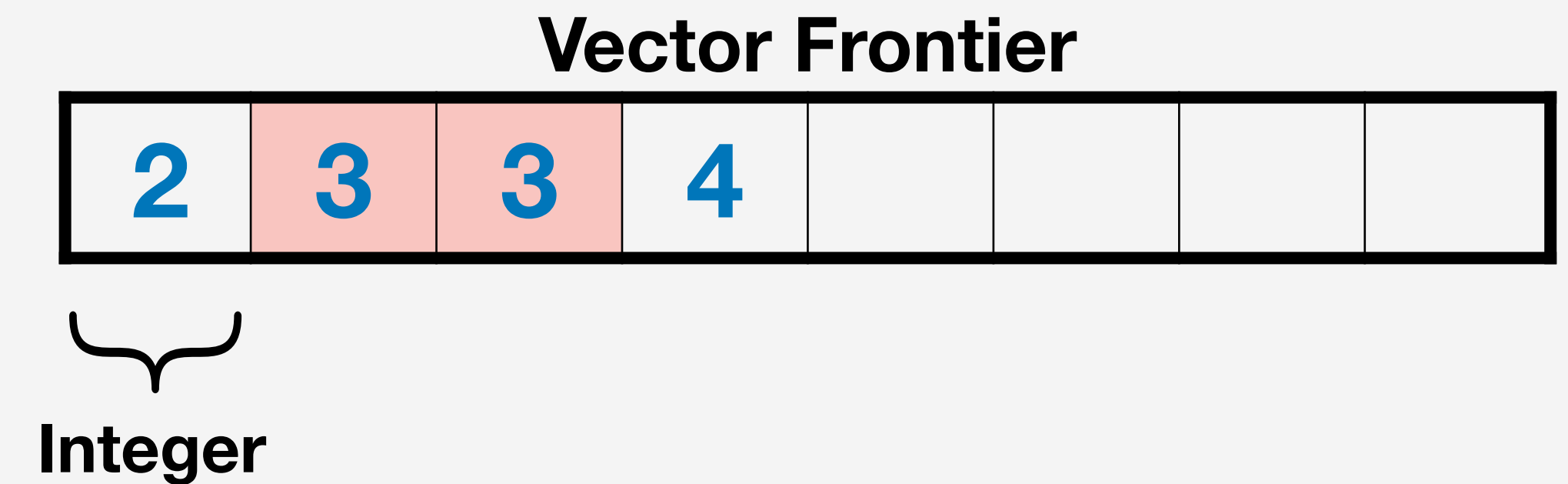
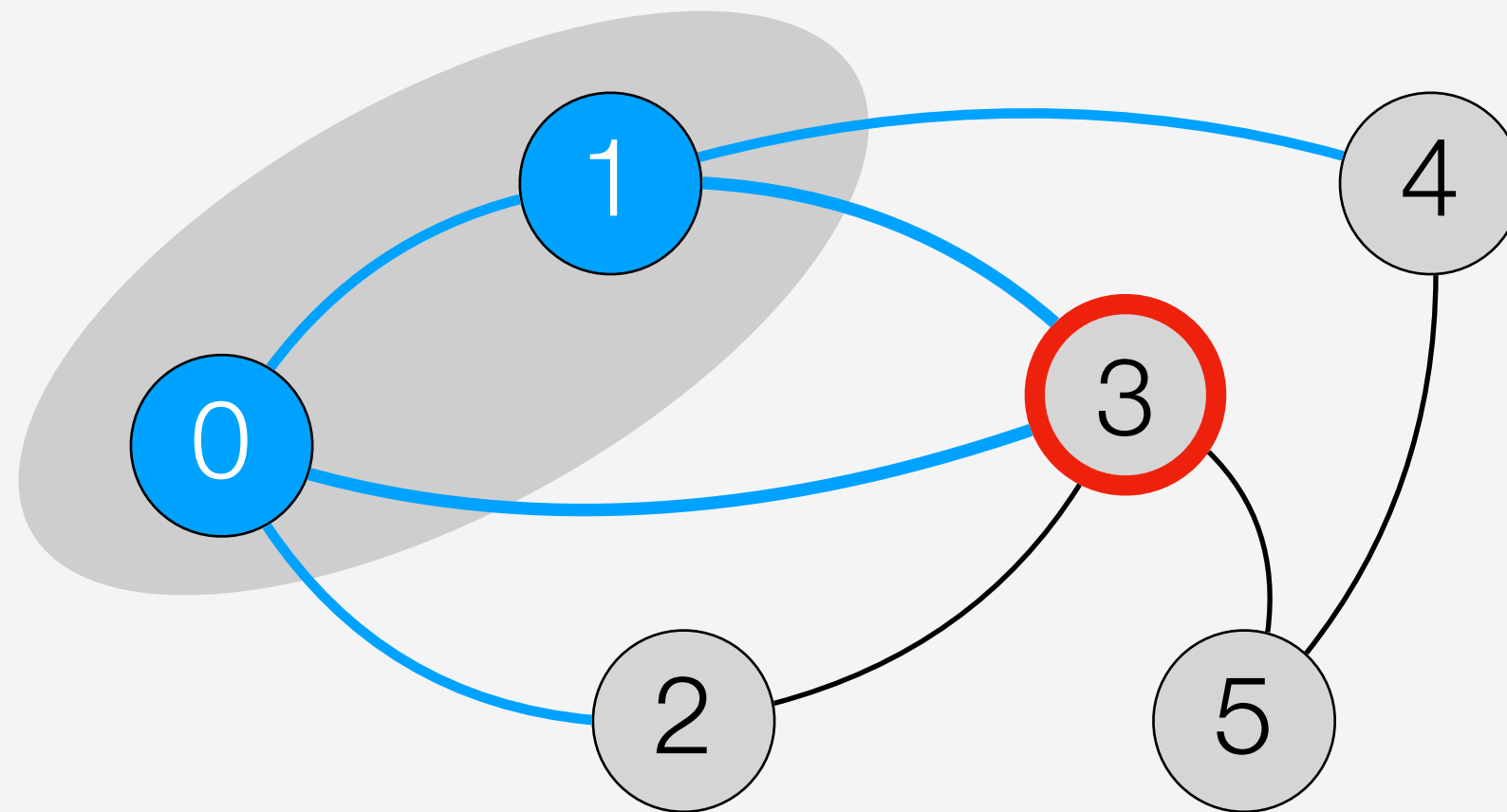
Background – Frontier Representation

- **Vector-based** frontier:
 - ▶ Each entry represents a node in the frontier
- **Bitmap-based** frontier:
 - ▶ Each bit i represents whether the vertex i is in the frontier

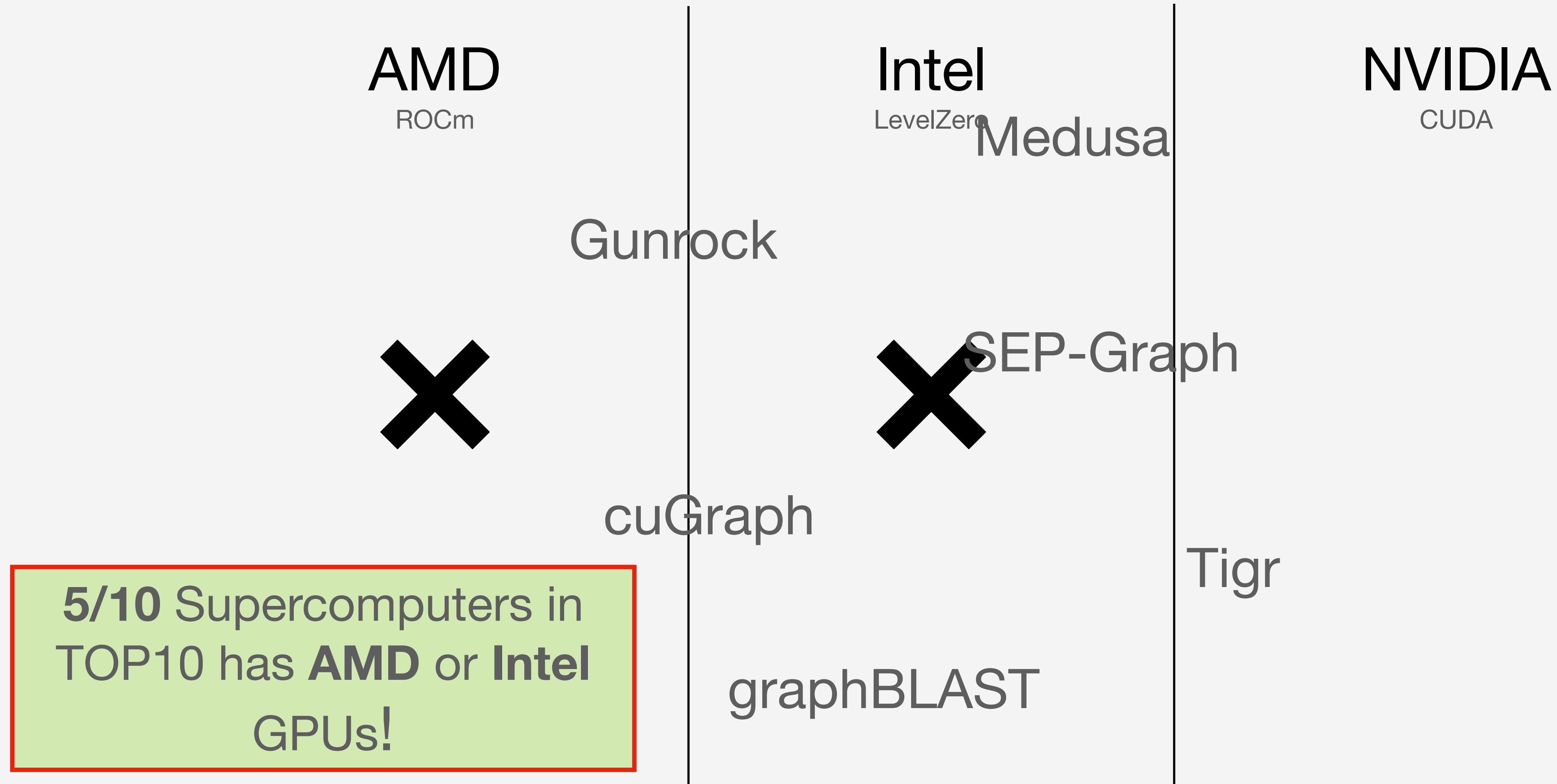


Background – Bitmap Frontier vs. Vector Frontier

- Bitmap has no duplicated nodes for advance operations
 - ▶ Which means no search after the advance operation
- Less space for scale-free graphs!



Background – SOTA GPU Graph Frameworks



Contributions



Contributions

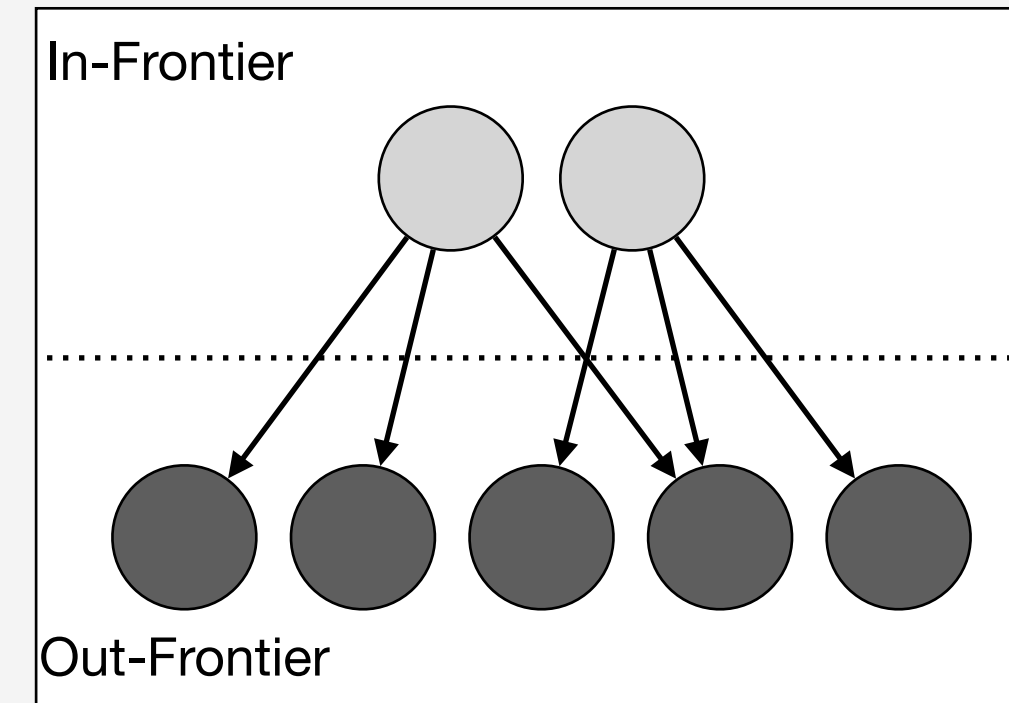
1. **SYgraph**, the first **portable, heterogeneous** graph analytics GPU **framework** based on SYCL and C++20
2. A **load-balanced execution model** for graph traversal
3. A novel memory-efficient **Two-Layer Bitmap Frontier**

SYgraph API

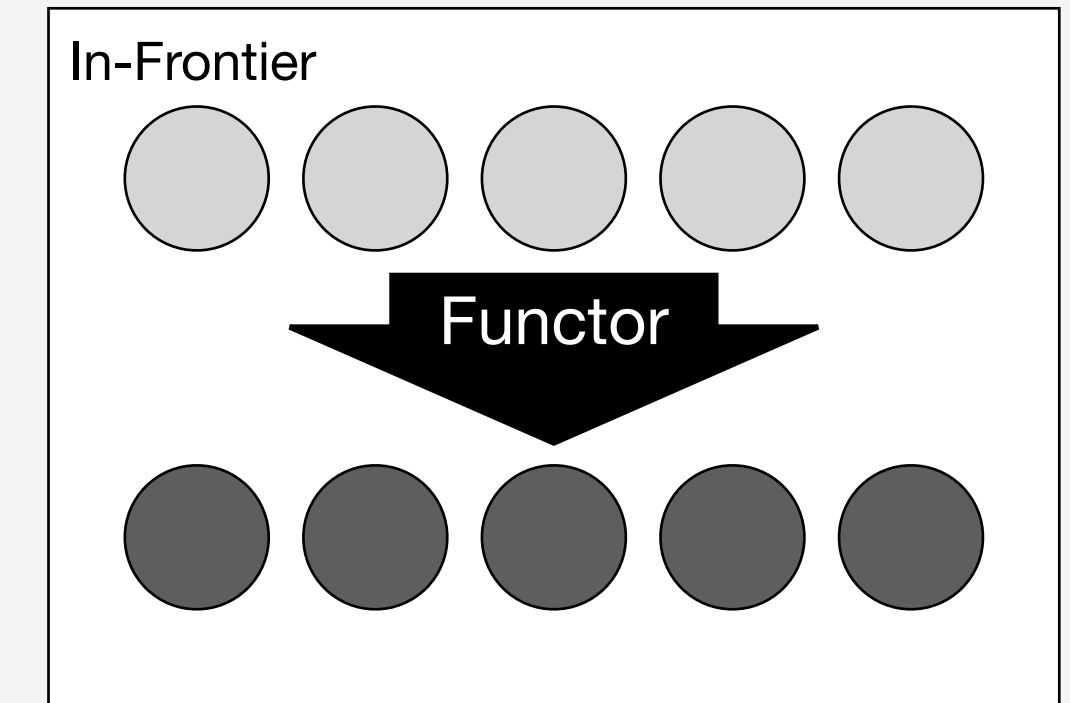


SYgraph API — Primitives

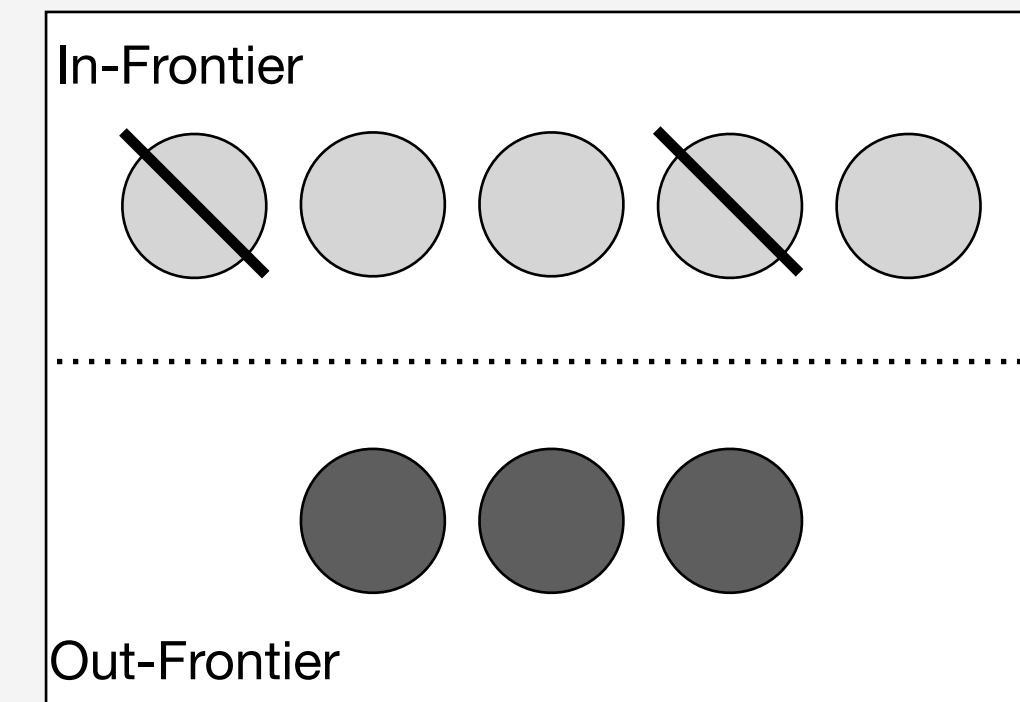
- SYgraph provides fundamental building blocks called **primitives**
- There are three core primitives:
 - ▶ **Advance** (Edge Operation)
 - ▶ **Compute** (Vertex Operation)
 - ▶ **Filter**
- Each primitive uses a user-defined lambda function that enables the data-driven behavior



Advance



Compute



Filter

SYgraph API — An Example of BFS

- SYgraph API Components:
 - ▶ **Primitives**: apply user-defined logic
 - ▶ **Frontier**: handles dynamic sets of active elements
 - ▶ **Graph**: common graph operations
 - ▶ **I/O**: manages read/write operations of graphs
- In yellow the code executed on the GPU
- Each lambda captures the pointer to data structures allocated by the host, such as the `dist` array

```
1. using namespace sygraph;
2. void BFS(Graph& G, int* dist, vertex_t src){
3.     auto in_frontier = makeFrontier(G)
4.     auto out_frontier = makeFrontier(G)
5.     in_frontier.insert(src)
6.     size_t size = G.getVertexCount()
7.     int iter = 0
8.     while (!in_frontier.empty()) {
9.         operators::advance::frontier(G, in_frontier, out_frontier,
10.             [=](vertex_t u, vertex_t v, edge_t e, weight_t w) {
11.                 bool visited = dist[v] < (size + 1)
12.                 return !visited
13.             }).wait()
14.         operators::compute::execute(G, out_frontier,
15.             [=](vertex_t v) {
16.                 dist[v] = iter + 1
17.             }).wait()
18.         frontier::swap(in_frontier, out_frontier)
19.         out_frontier.clear()
20.         iter++
21.     }}
```

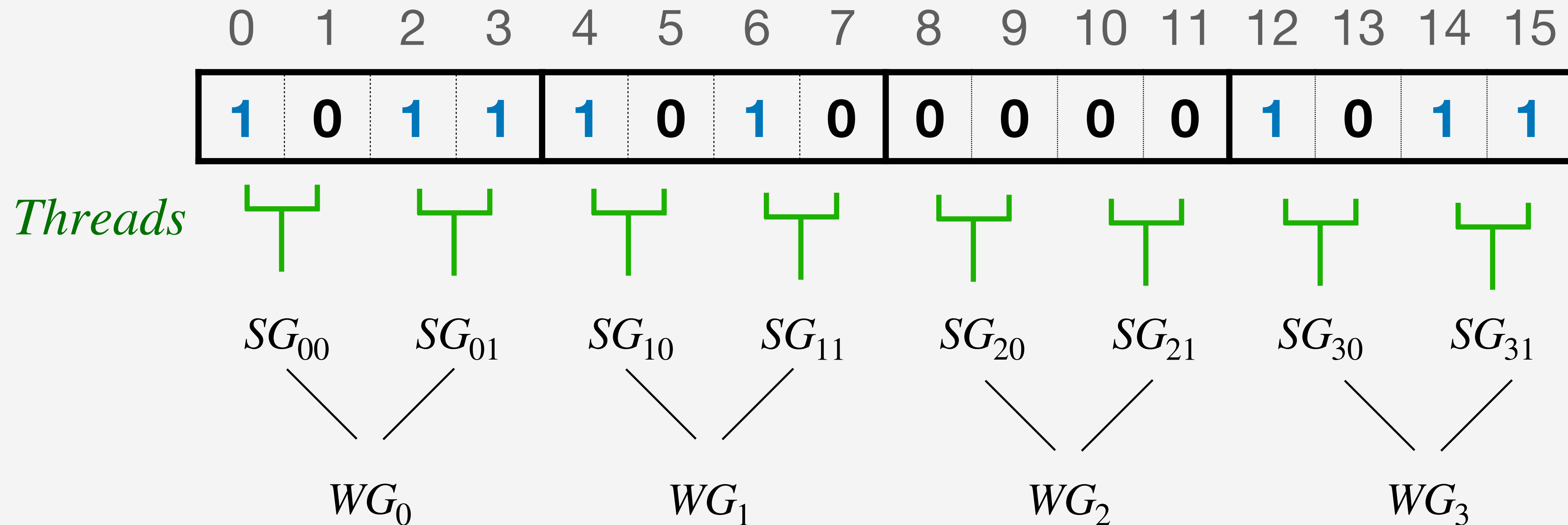
Execution Model



Execution Model

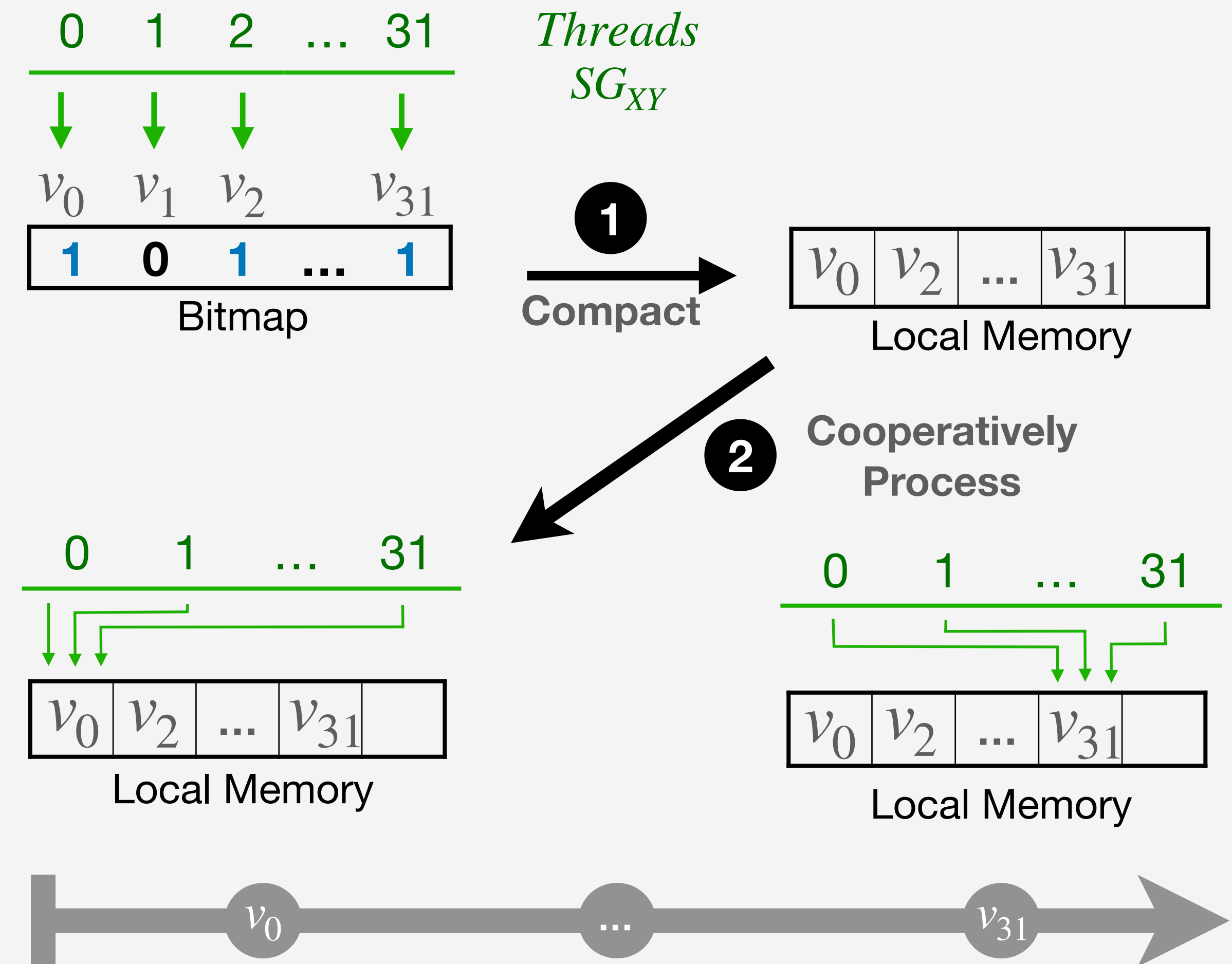
- SYgraph uses a **bitmap-based** frontier representation

- Work-group (WG): like CUDA Block
- Sub-group (SG): like CUDA Warp



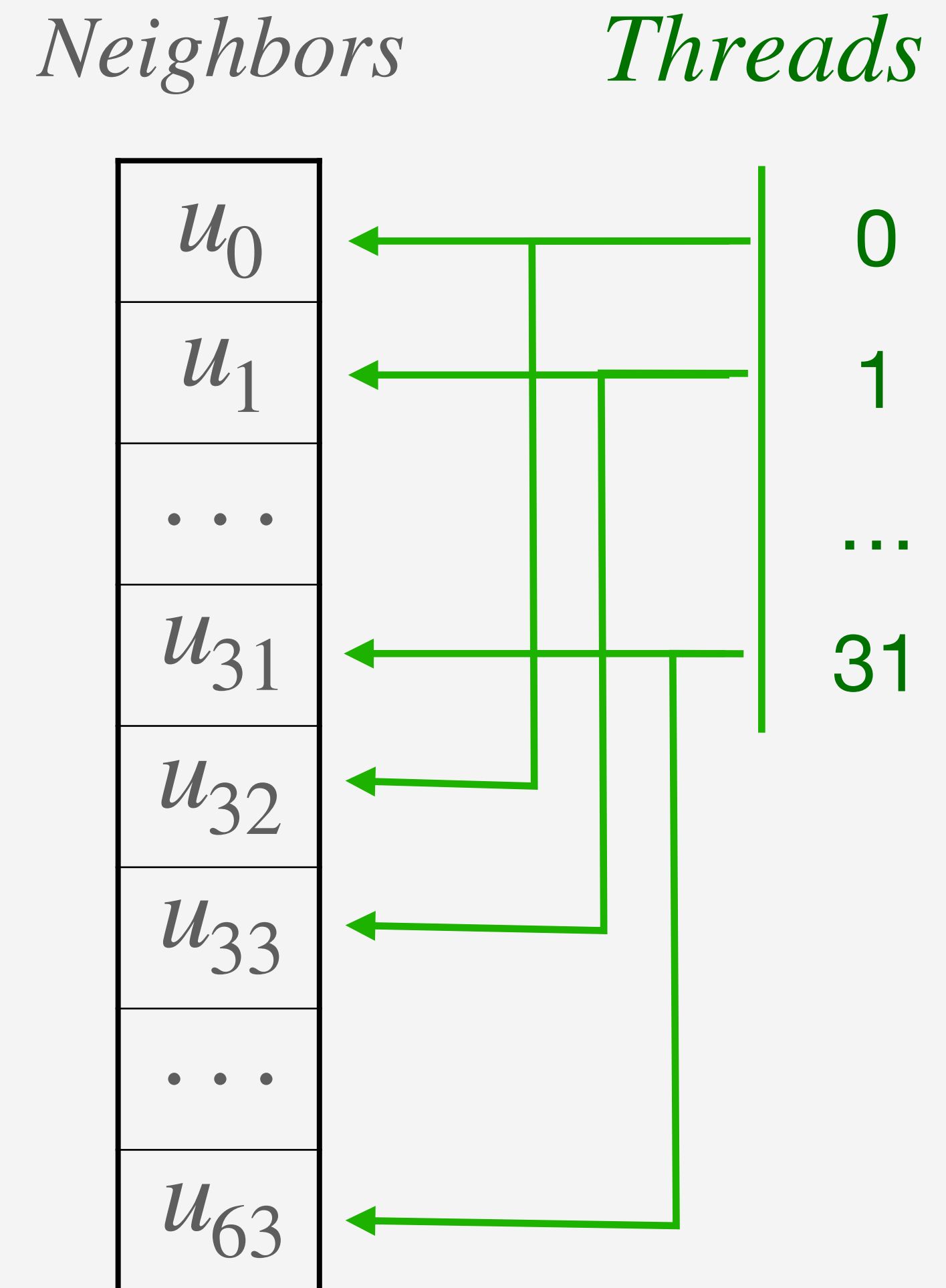
Execution Model – Subgroup Workload during Advance

1. Initially, **each thread** is assigned to a **single bit** (i.e. vertex)
2. With a sub-group **scan operation**, the threads compact the active vertices into **local memory**
3. The threads then begin processing the neighborhood of each active vertex in a **cooperative fashion**
4. This process ends when all the active vertices in the current Integer are visited



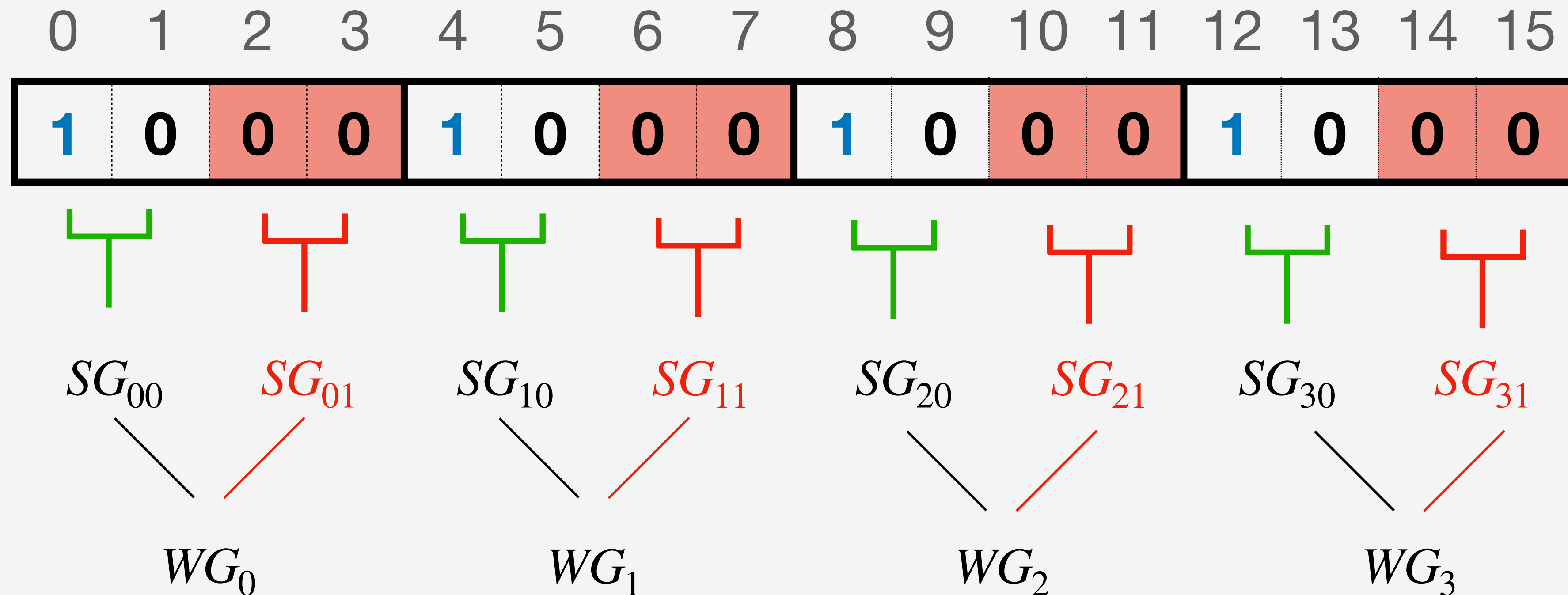
Execution Model – Cooperative Processing

- Each **thread** is assigned to a **different neighbor** of a specific active vertex
- During this step, each thread applies the **user-defined lambda** to determine if the neighbor should be added to the output frontier
- Access to the neighborhood occurs in a **coalesced fashion**
- This process concludes when all neighbors have been evaluated



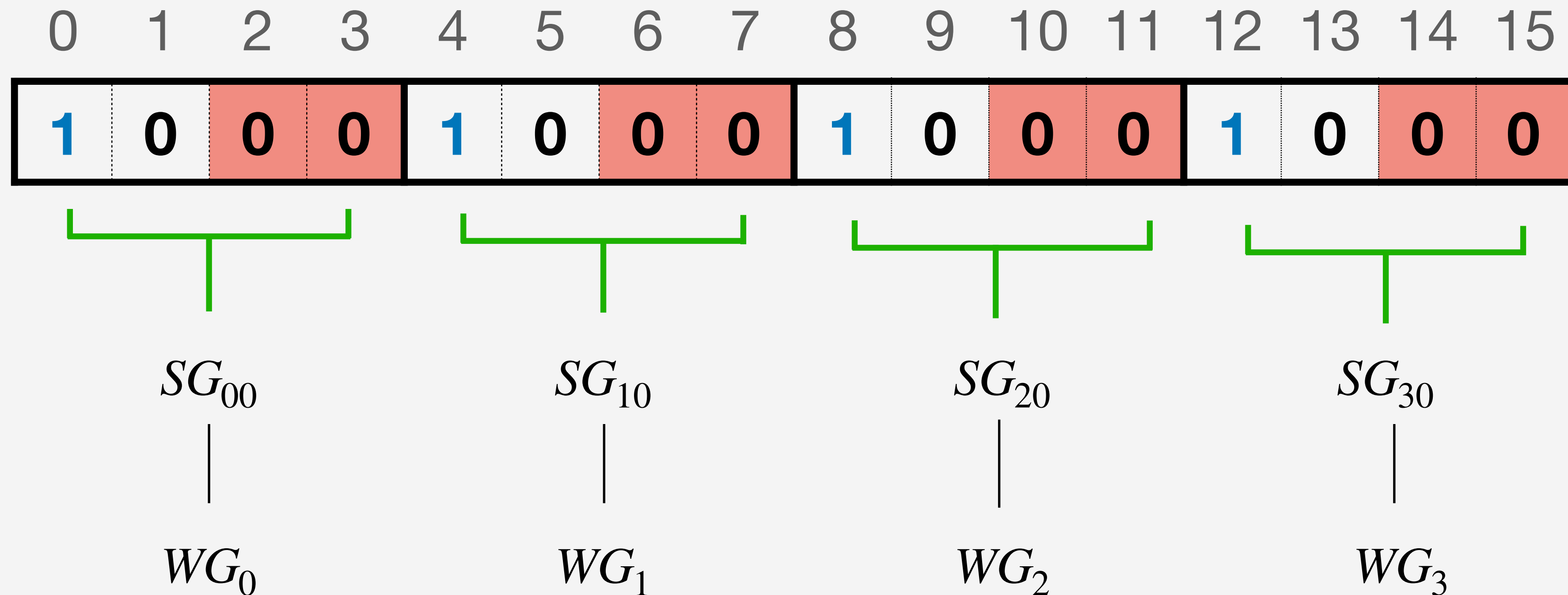
Bitmap Frontier – A problem

- What happens if only one bit is set to **1** for each Integer?



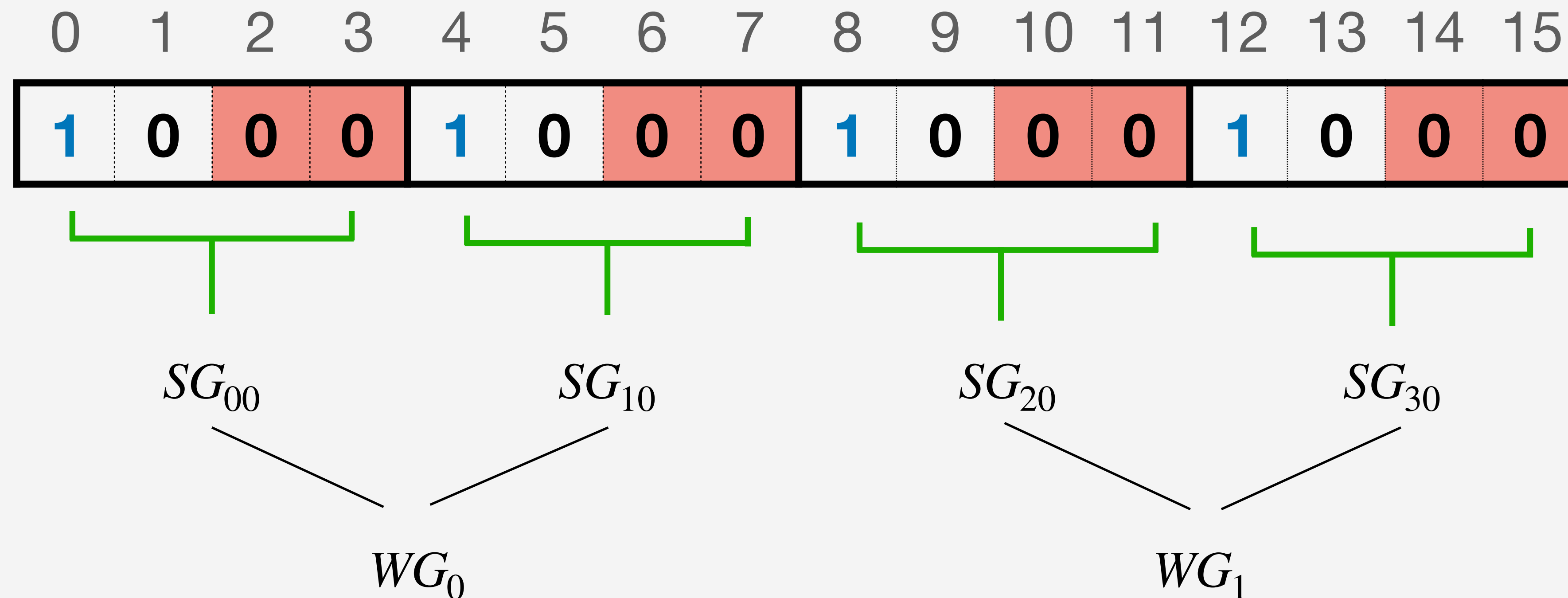
Bitmap Frontier – A solution

- Adjust the **bitmap Integer size** to **match** the **subgroup size**
- All threads within a sub-group will stay active during the neighborhood processing



Bitmap Frontier – A solution

- Apply a **coarsening factor** to improve GPU resource usage
- Each work-group will be assigned to multiple bitmap Integers

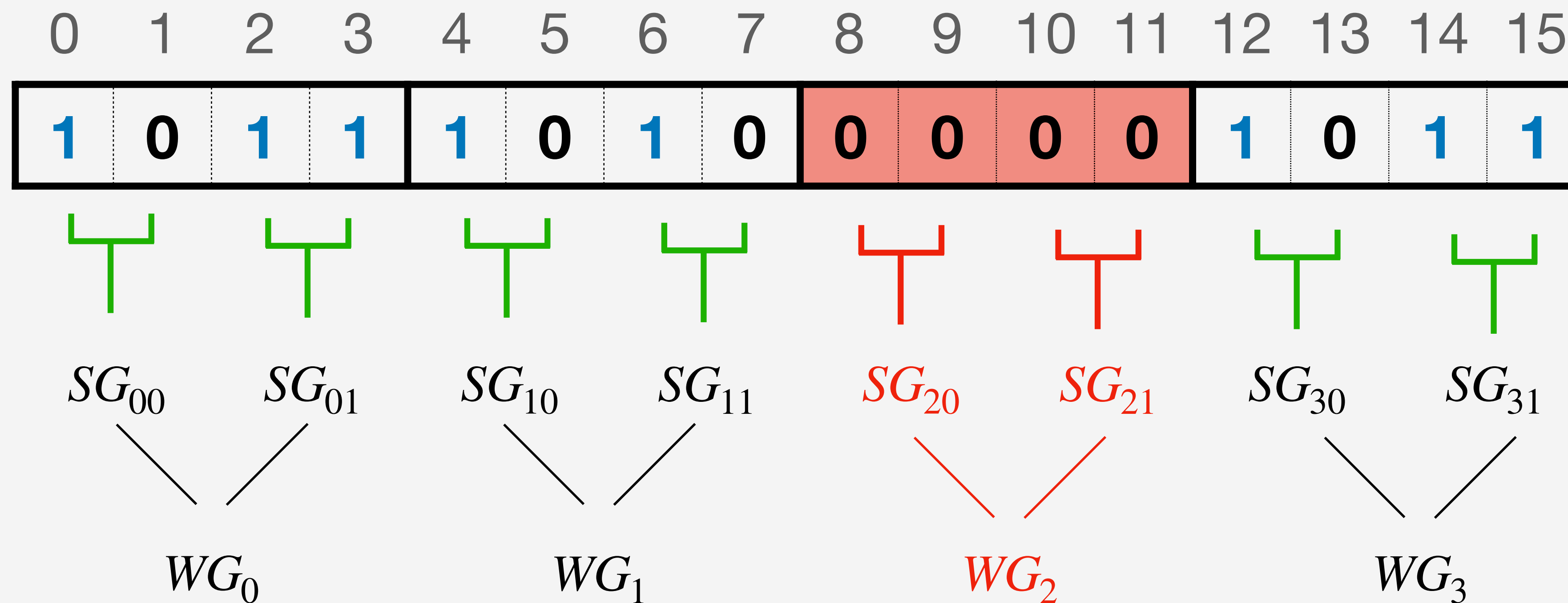


Two-Layer Bitmap



Bitmap Frontier – Another problem

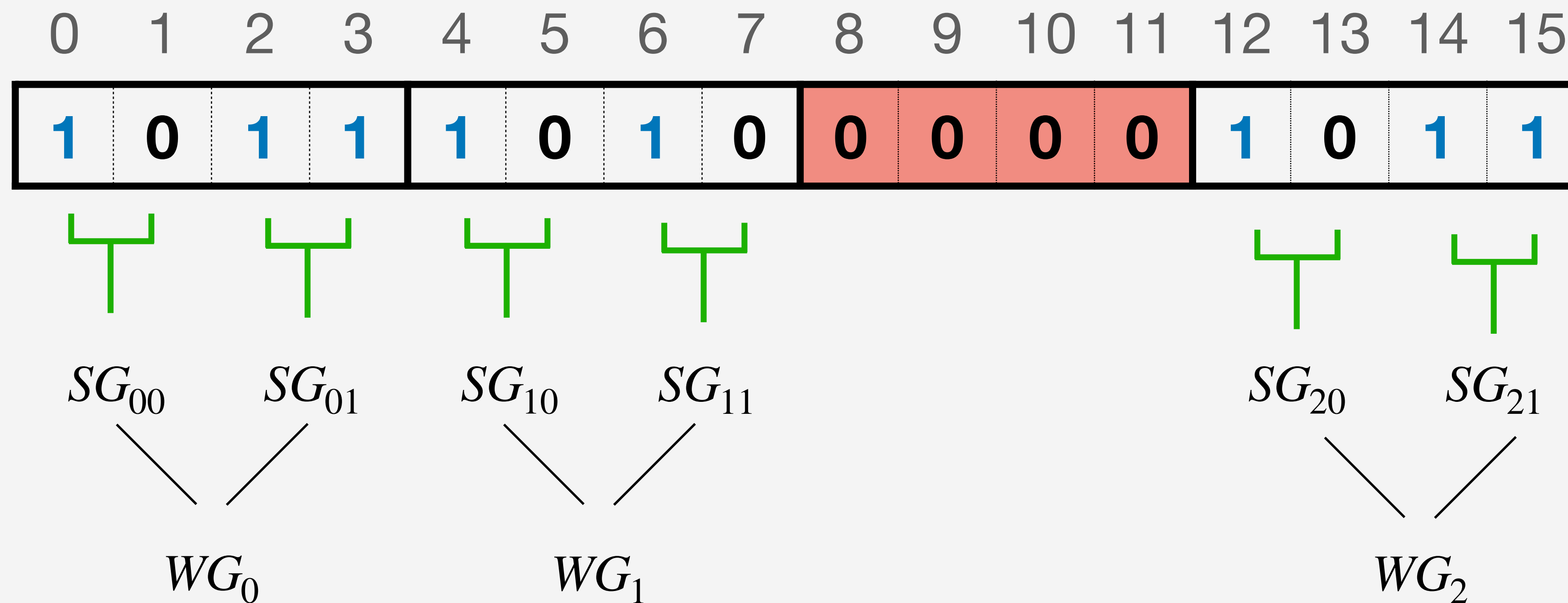
- What happens when an **Integer** is **0**?



Wasted GPU Resources

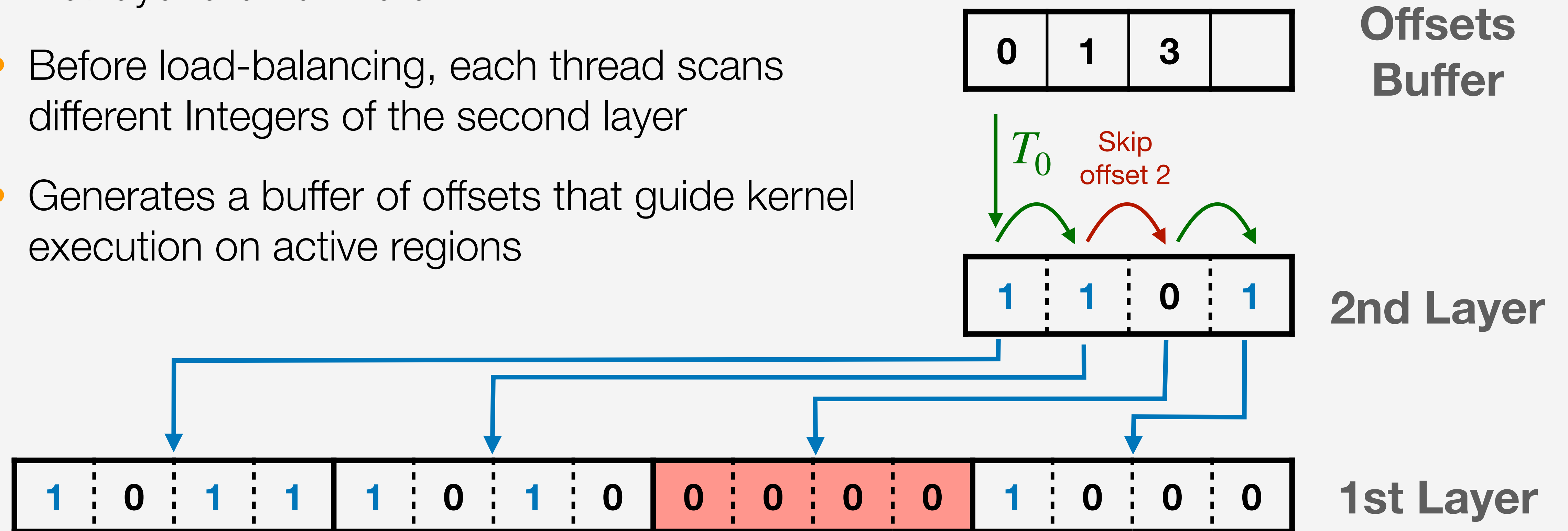
Bitmap Frontier – Another solution

- Do not assign a work-group to that Integer. How?



Two-Layer Bitmap

- The second layer marks which Integers in the first layer are non-zero
- Before load-balancing, each thread scans different Integers of the second layer
- Generates a buffer of offsets that guide kernel execution on active regions

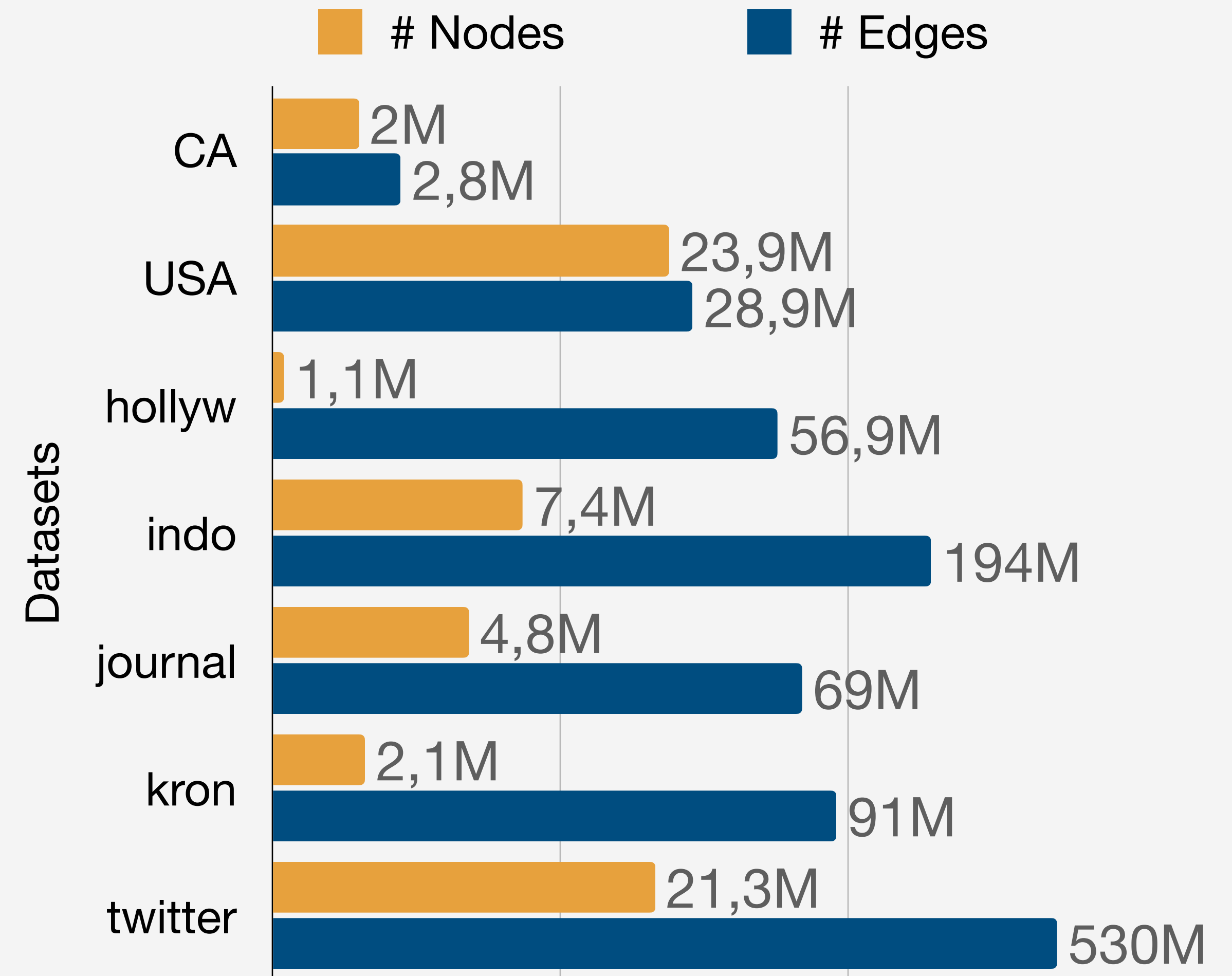


Experimental Evaluation



Experimental Evaluation — Methodology

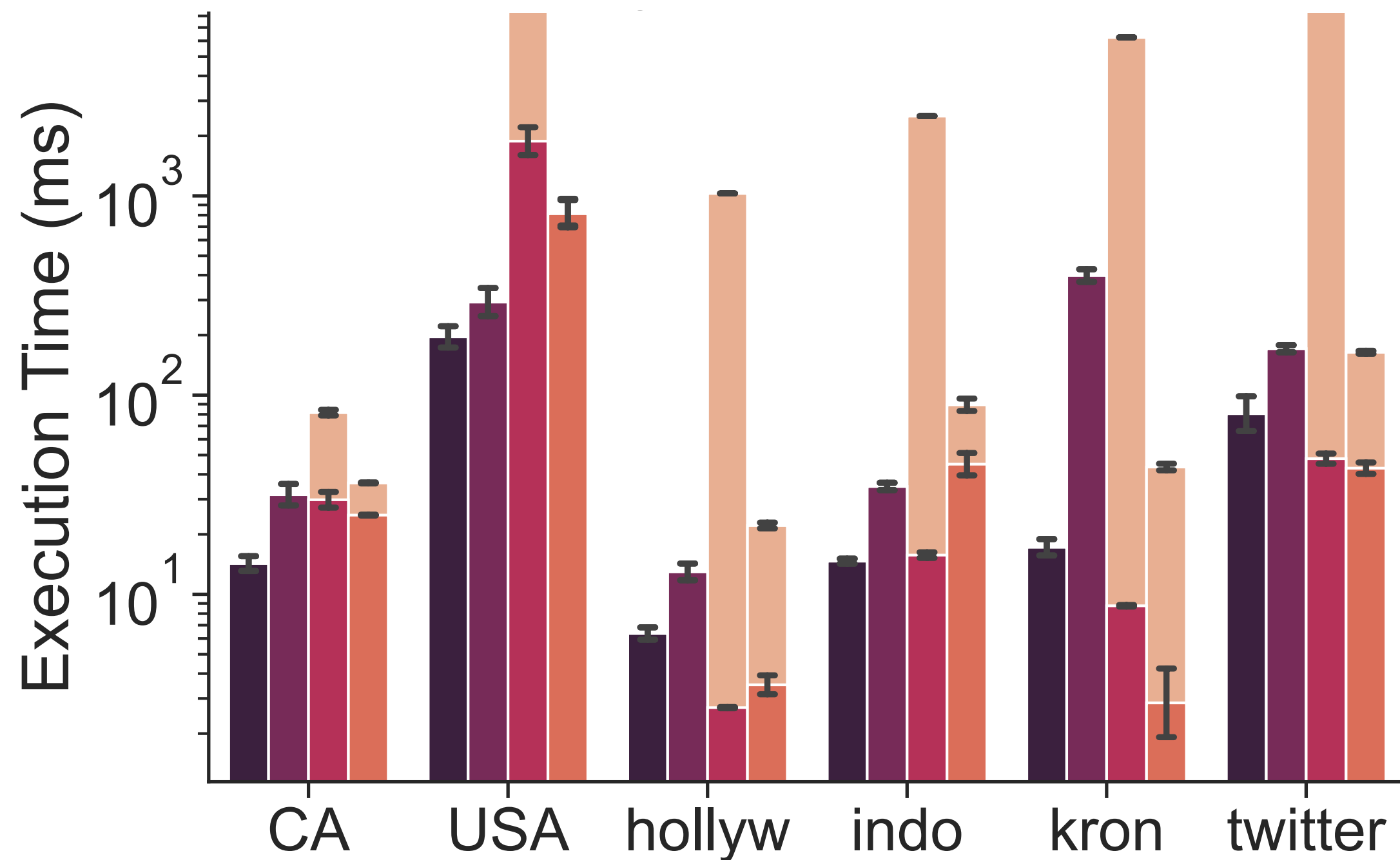
- We compared SYgraph against:
 - ▶ Gunrock
 - ▶ Tigr
 - ▶ SEP-Graph
- Experiments against state-of-the-art were conducted on a **NVIDIA V100S**
- **High-diameter** and **Scale-free** graphs:
 - ▶ From 2 to 24 Millions nodes
 - ▶ From 2,1 to 530 Millions edges



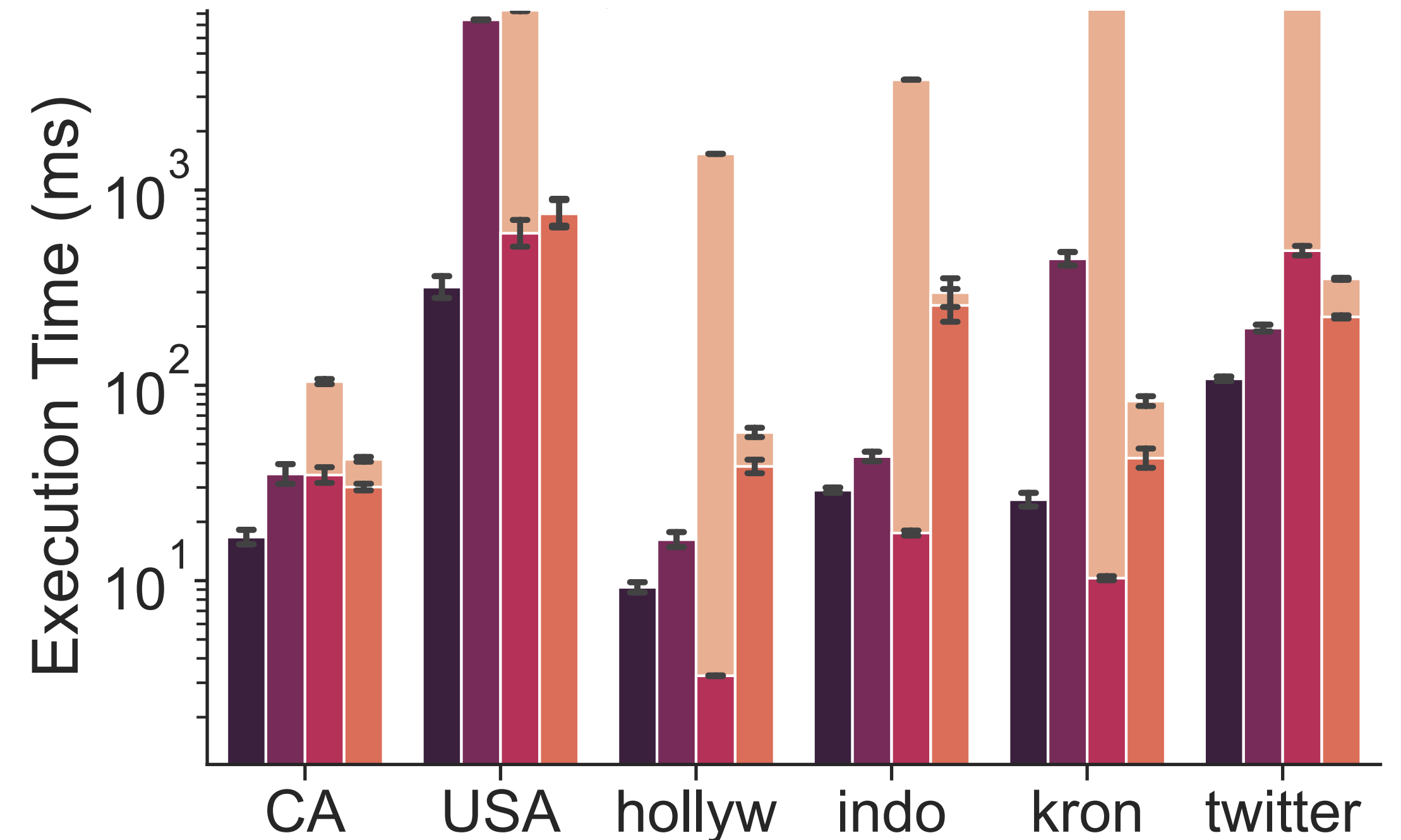
Experimental Evaluation — Performance vs. SOTA Frameworks

SYgraph Gunrock Tigr SEP-Graph Preprocessing

Breadth First Search (BFS)



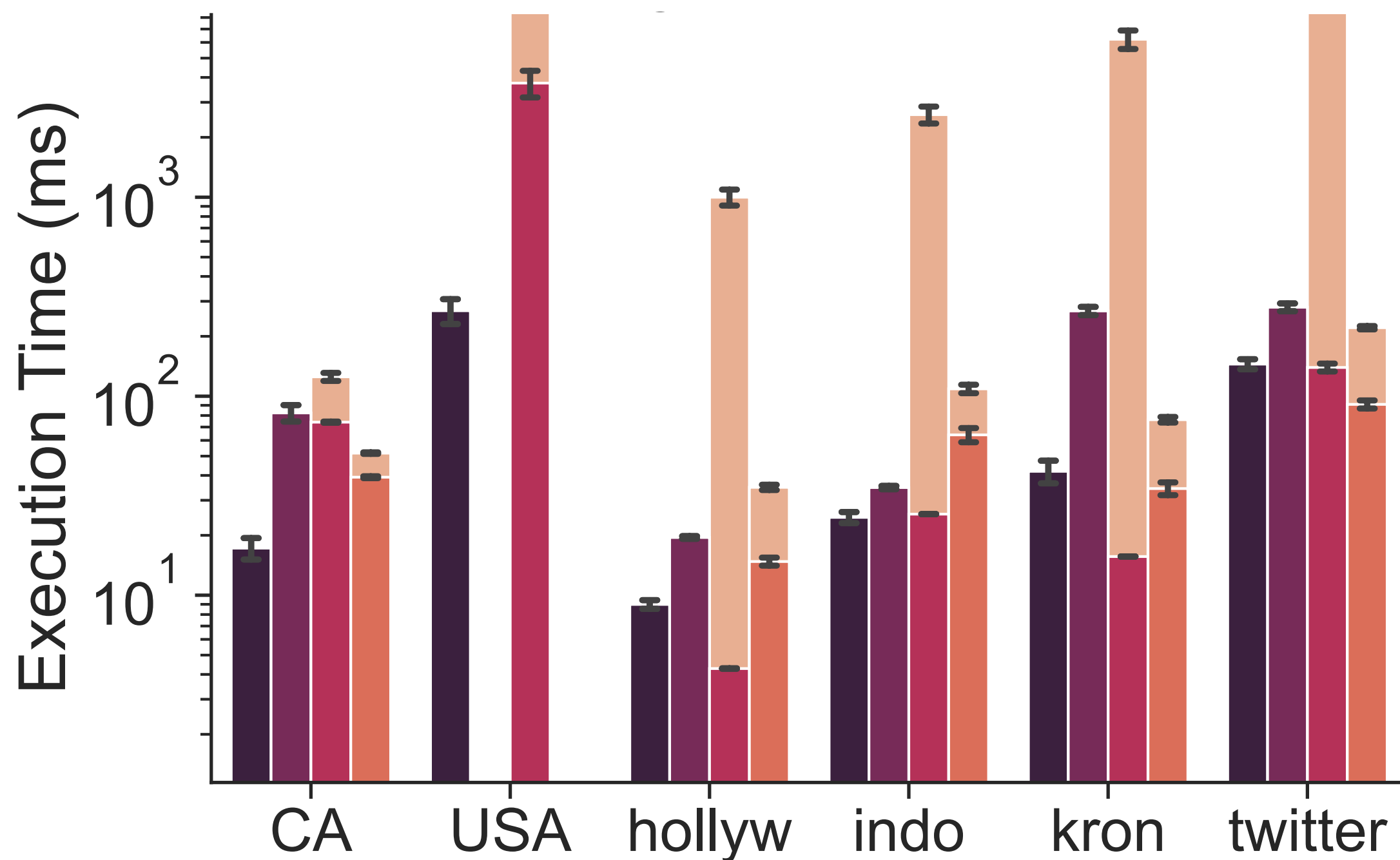
Single Source Shortest Path (SSSP)



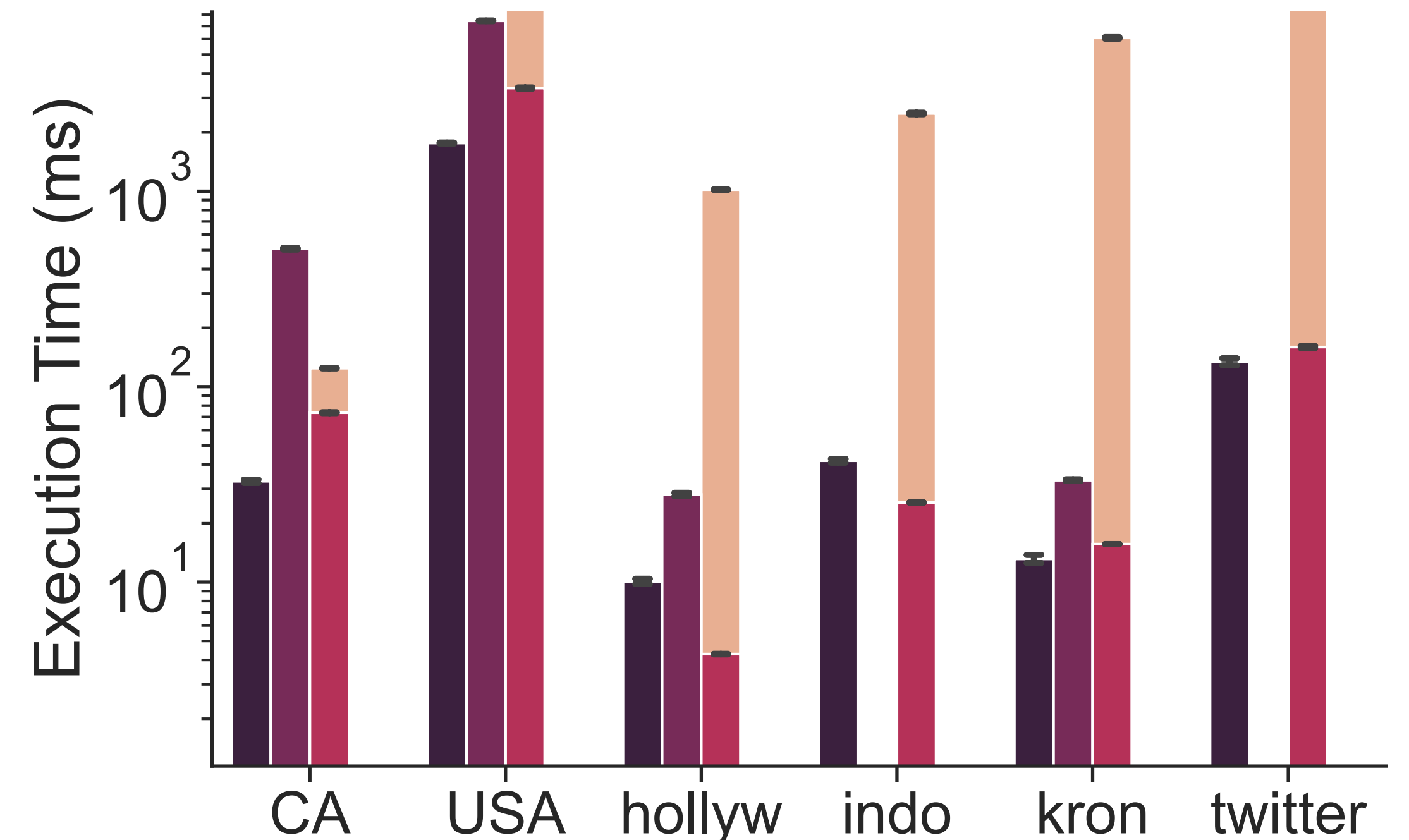
Experimental Evaluation — Performance vs. SOTA Frameworks

SYgraph Gunrock Tigr SEP-Graph Preprocessing

Betweenness Centrality (BC)



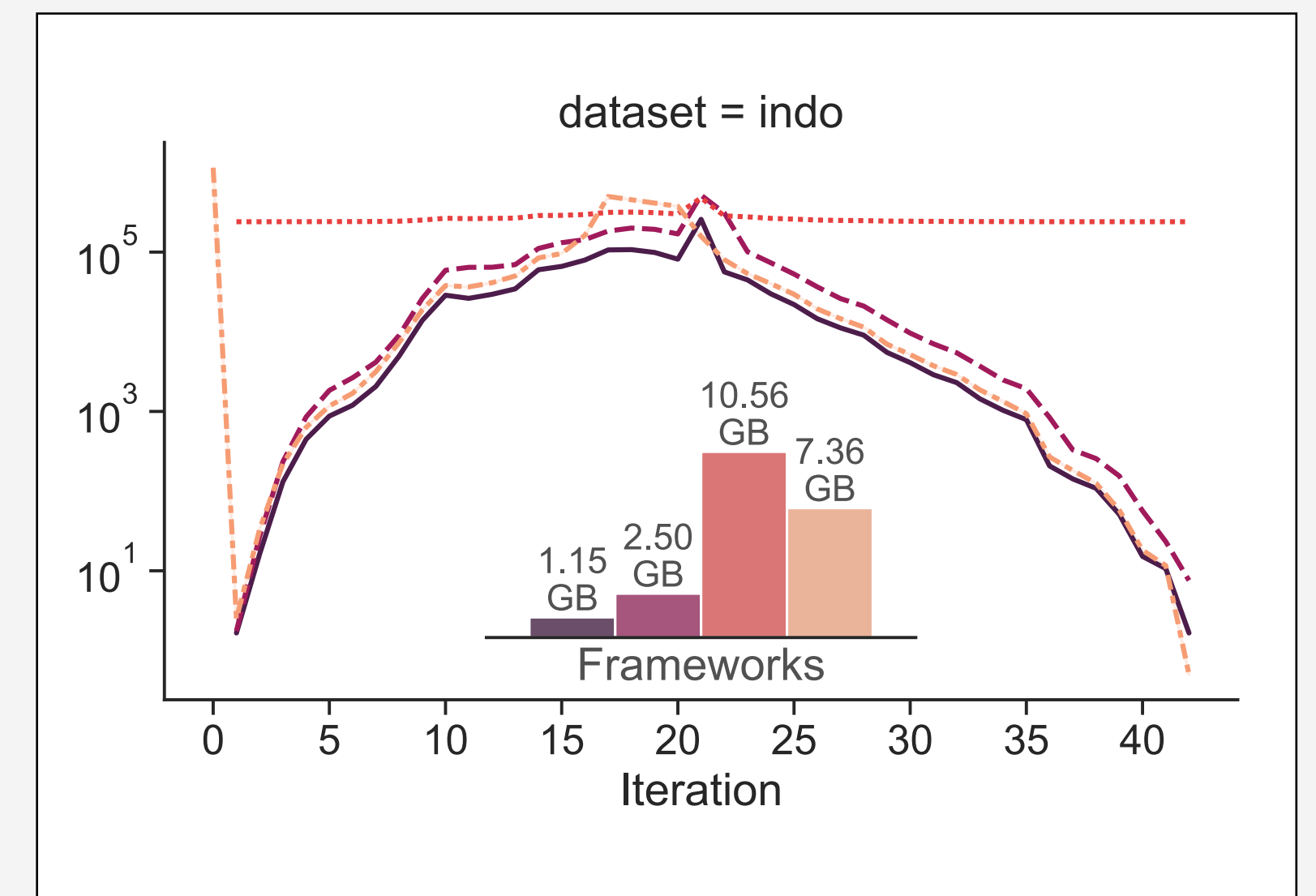
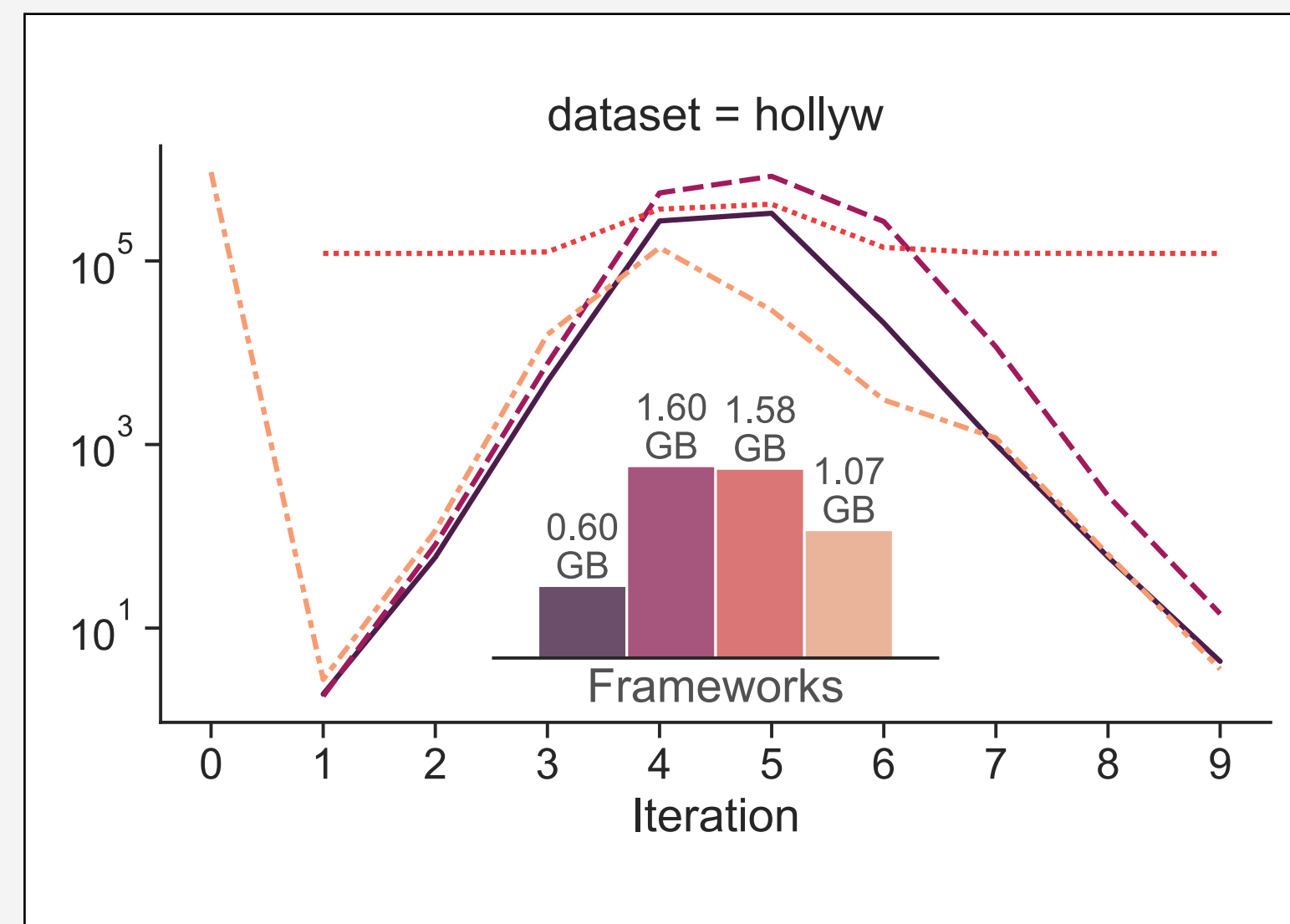
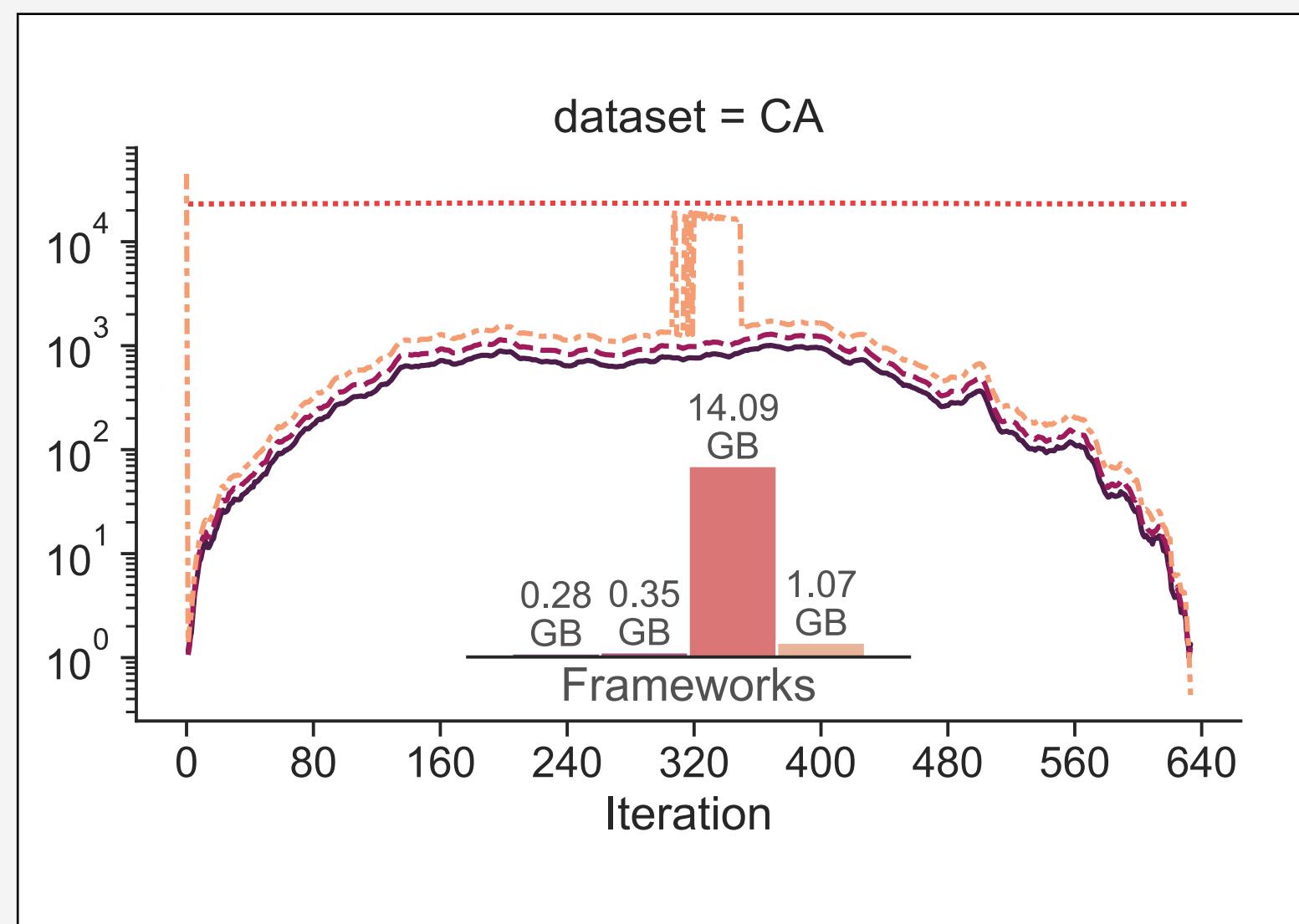
Connected Components Labelling (CC)



Experimental Evaluation — Memory Footprint vs. SOTA Frameworks

- Memory Footprint expressed in Kilobytes (KB).

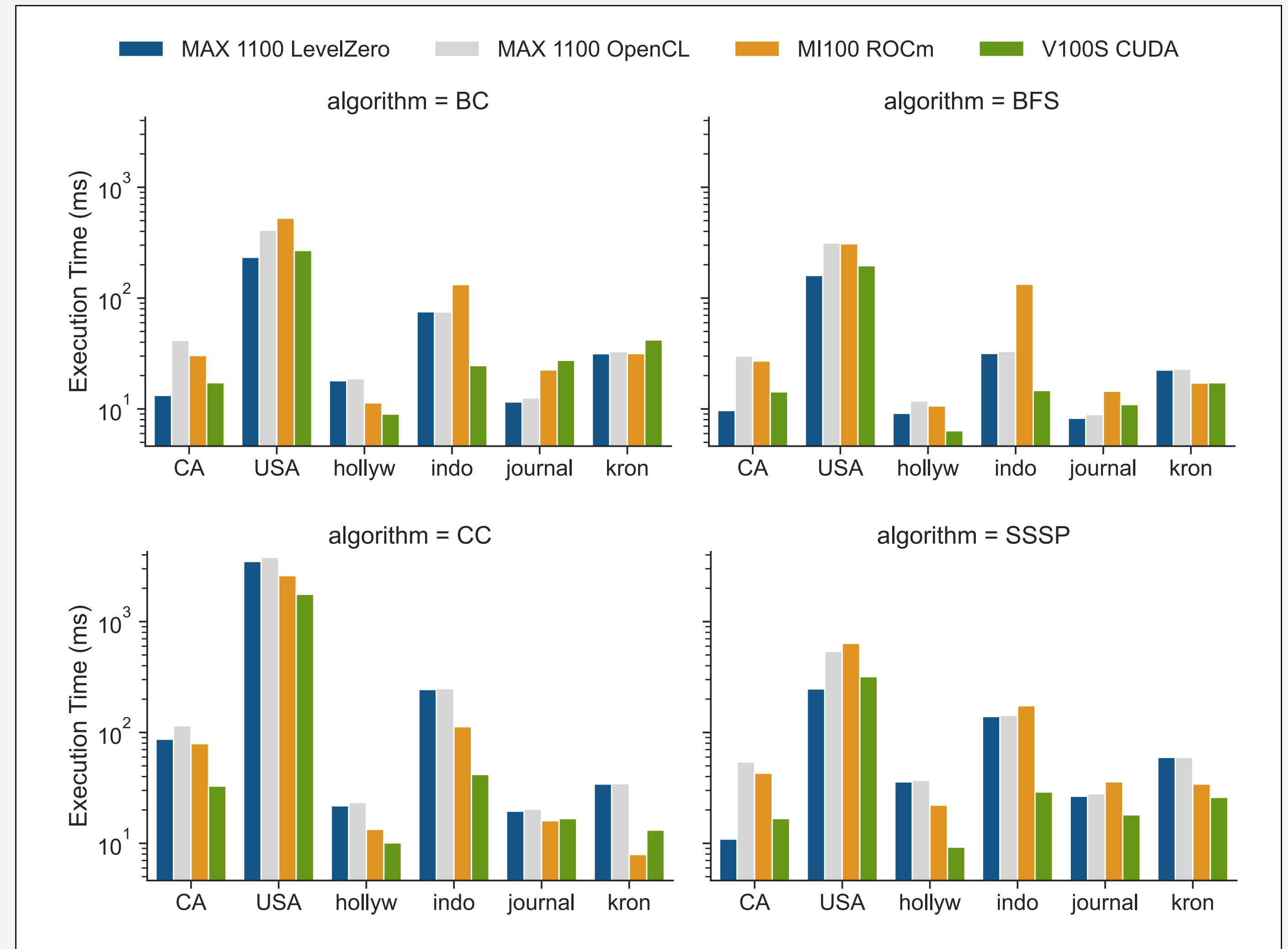
SYgraph Gunrock Tigr SEP-Graph



Note: Insets bar-plots show total memory usage per framework, following legend order.

Experimental Evaluation — Comparison on Different Hardware

- **Intel MAX 1100** performs well on *sparse workloads* and *sparse graphs* with LevelZero backend
- LevelZero backend yields superior performance compared to OpenCL backend.
- **AMD MI100** excels on *dense workloads*
- **NVIDIA V100S** shows overall strong performance



Conclusion



Conclusion

- **SYgraph Summary**

- ▶ A portable graph analytics framework
- ▶ Introduces a Two-Layer Bitmap frontier layout
- ▶ A load balancing mechanism tailored on top of the bitmap

- **Key Results**

- ▶ Up to $3.5 \times$ faster than Gunrock, $7.5 \times$ over Tigr, $2.3 \times$ over SEP-Graph
- ▶ Low memory footprint, no need for preprocessing
- ▶ Demonstrates performance portability

- **Future Work**

- ▶ Support for multi-GPU and multi-node execution
- ▶ Exploring asynchronous and dynamic graph capabilities
- ▶ Auto-tuning mechanism across architectures
- ▶ Integration to oneAPI Data Parallel Library (oneDAL)

