
FaaSBoard: Efficient Graph Processing with a Disaggregated Architecture on Serverless Services

Yushi Liu^{*1}, **Yikang Ruan^{*1}**, Letian Ruan¹, Zijun Li², Sen Gao³,
Weihao Cui¹, Shixuan Sun¹, Quan Chen¹, Shuo Quan⁴, Jie Wu⁴,
Bingsheng He³, Minyi Guo¹

Shanghai Jiao Tong University¹; Nanyang Technological University²
National University of Singapore³
China Telecom Cloud Computing Research Institute⁴



上海交通大学
SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY



NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY
SINGAPORE



NUS
National University
of Singapore



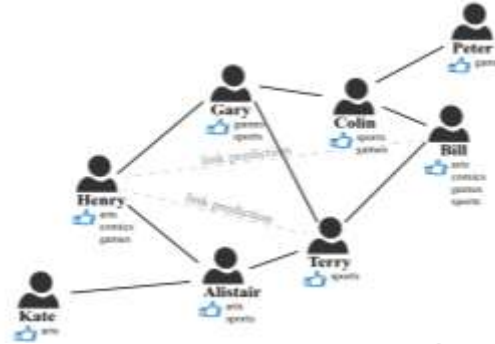
中国电信
CHINA TELECOM

Graph Processing Stack

Apps



Social Network Mining



Recommendation System



Road Analysis

Framework

Shared
Memory

Ligra (PPoPP'13),
GridGraph (ATC'13),
GraphIt (OOPSLA'18)

Distributed

Gemini (OSDI'16),
Graphite (SIGMOD'20),
GraphScope (VLDB'21)

Resource



Physical Servers



Cloud VMs (Infrastructure-as-a-Service)

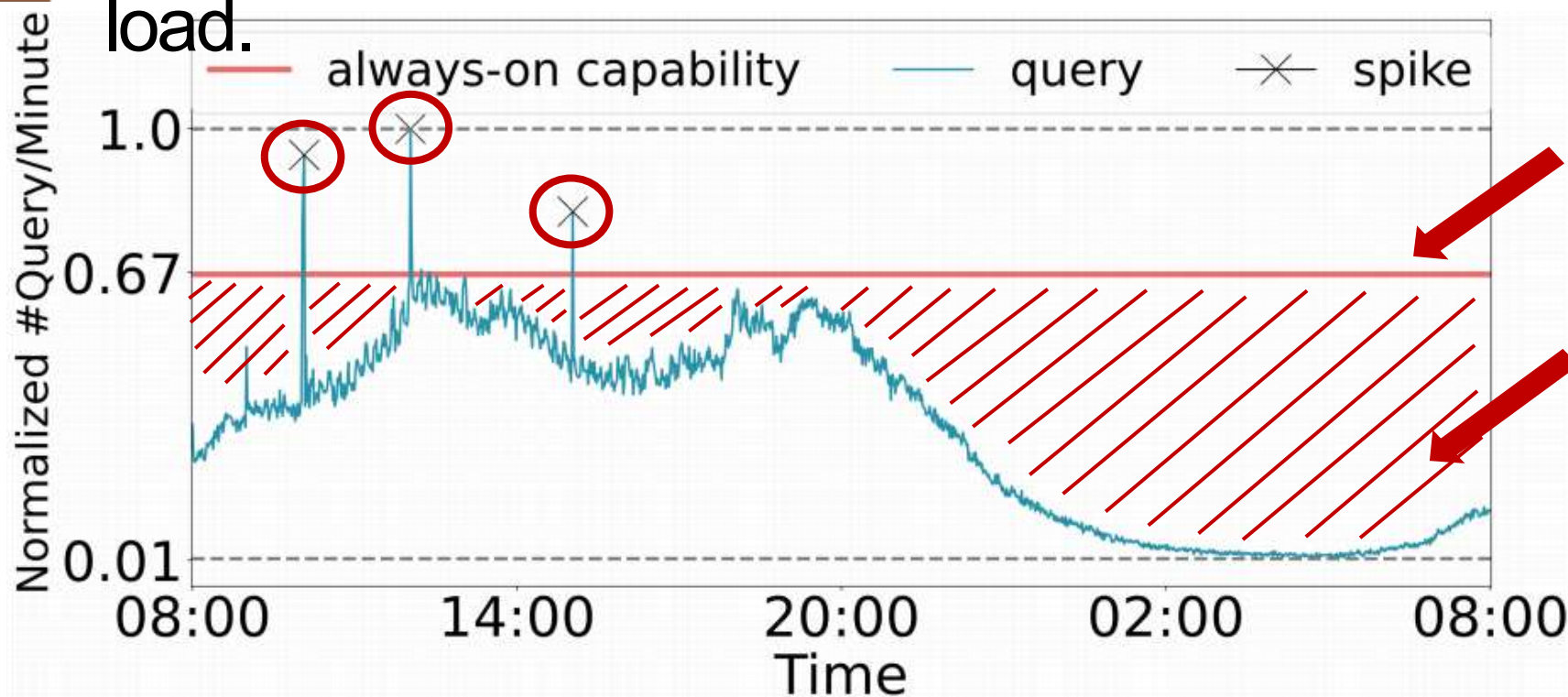
IaaS-based Graph Systems are not Elastic



Tail latency surge during query spikes.



Resource waste under low load.



Constant
Processing
Capability

Query
Workload

* Real-world graph processing workload on a city road network in FaaSGraph^[1]

[1] Liu, Yushi, et al. "FaaSGraph: Enabling Scalable, Efficient, and Cost-Effective Graph Processing with Serverless Computing." In ASPLOS, 2024.

Introducing Serverless Computing



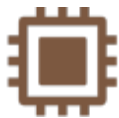
Auto-scaling

- The “Unbounded Scaling” policy^[2].



Pay-per-use billing

- Fine-grained billing (<1ms).
- Charge based on resource usage, not resource allocation.



Ease of management

- Cloud manage underlying infrastructures.
- Users upload only the source code and data.

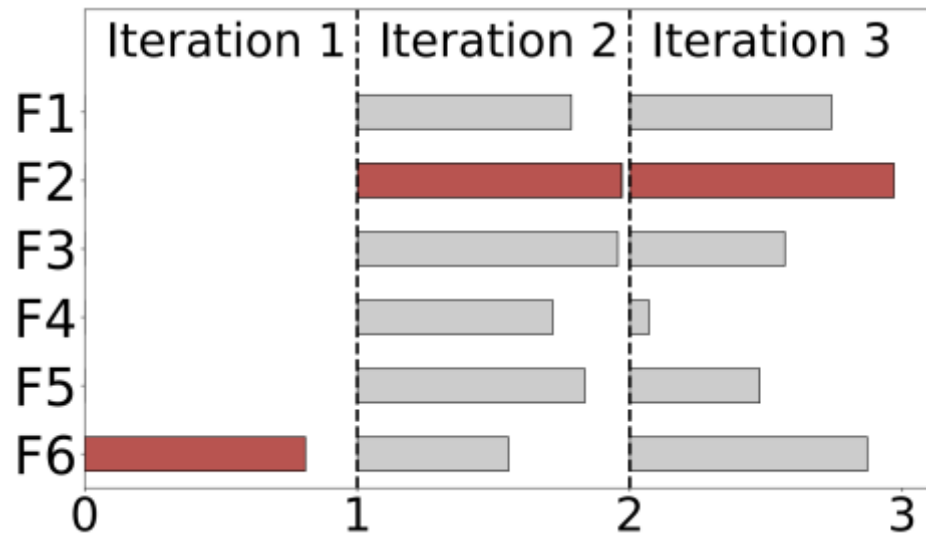
[2] <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/lambda/latest/dg/lambda-concurrency.html>

Inefficiencies

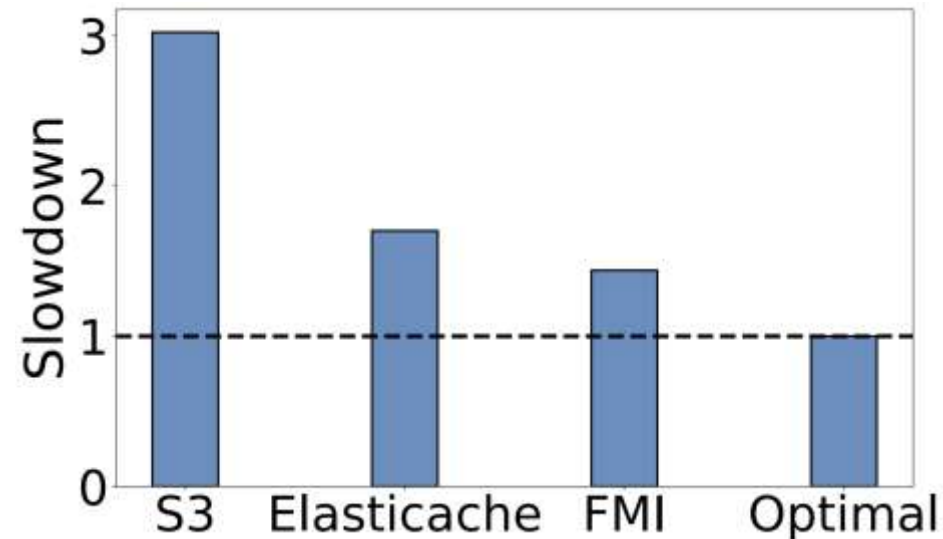


Lessons Learned from Profiling FaaSGraph

- Ignoring intra-job elasticity incurs additional monetary costs.
- Communication through storage or direct function links is slow.



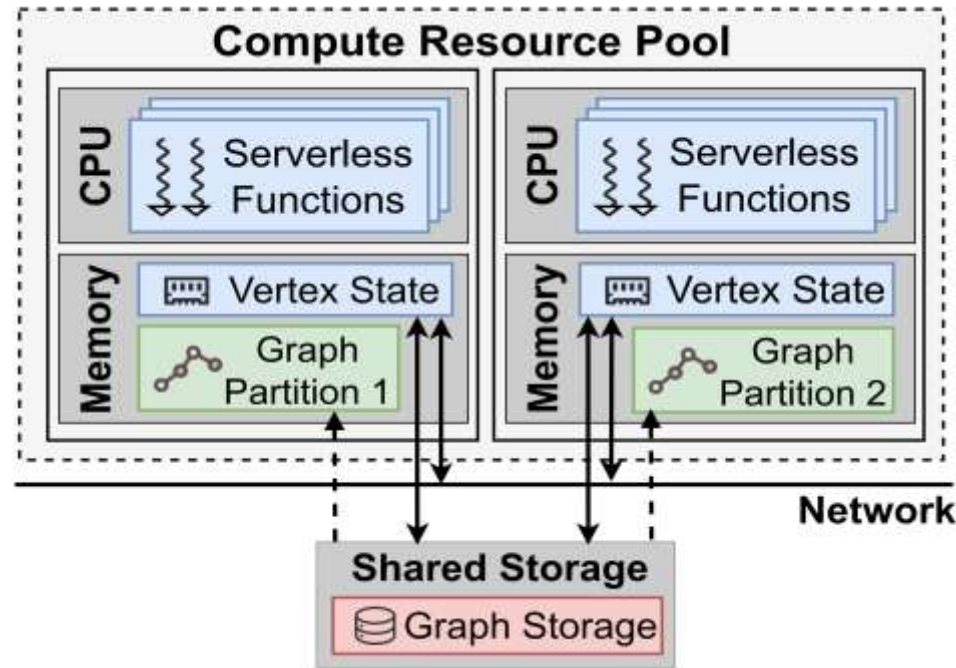
Normalized execution time in three consecutive iterations of tw-BFS



Performance when applying various communication methods

💡 Claim

- **Monolithic Function Architecture** adopted by existing serverless graph processing system^[1, 3] is the root cause, which encapsulates **data loading, computation, and communication** into a single function.

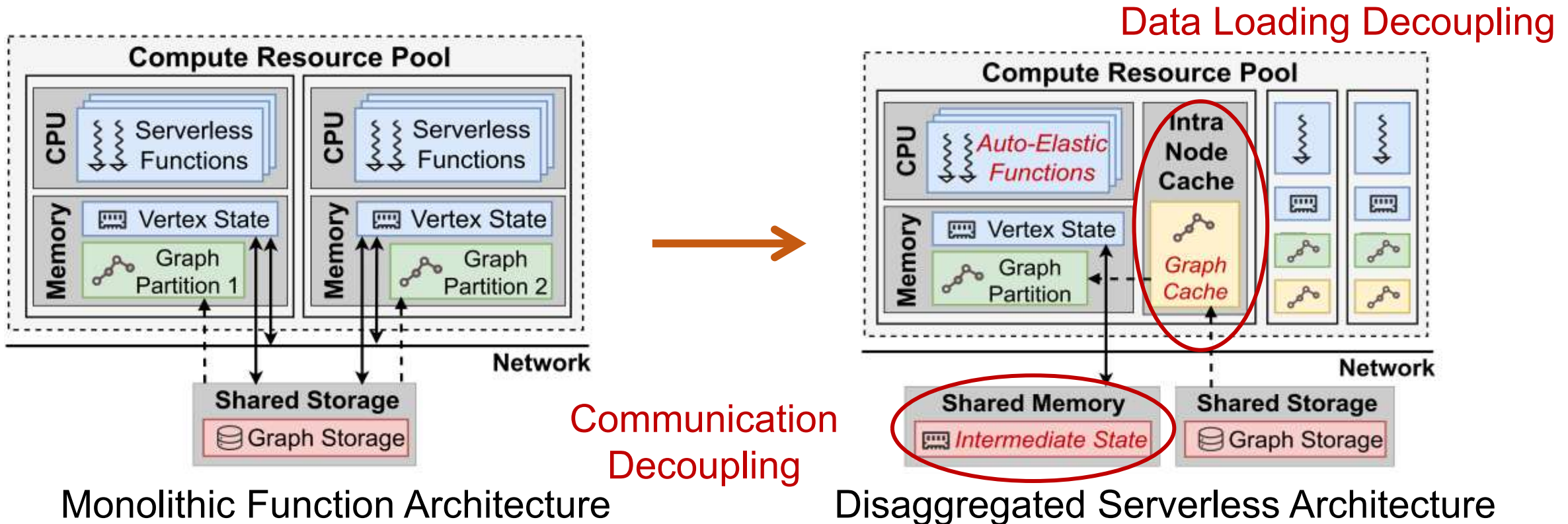


Monolithic Function Architecture

[1] Liu, Yushi, et al. "FaaSGraph: Enabling Scalable, Efficient, and Cost-Effective Graph Processing with Serverless Computing." In ASPLOS, 2024.
[3] Lucain, Toader, et al. "Graphless: Toward Serverless Graph Processing" In ISPDC, 2019.

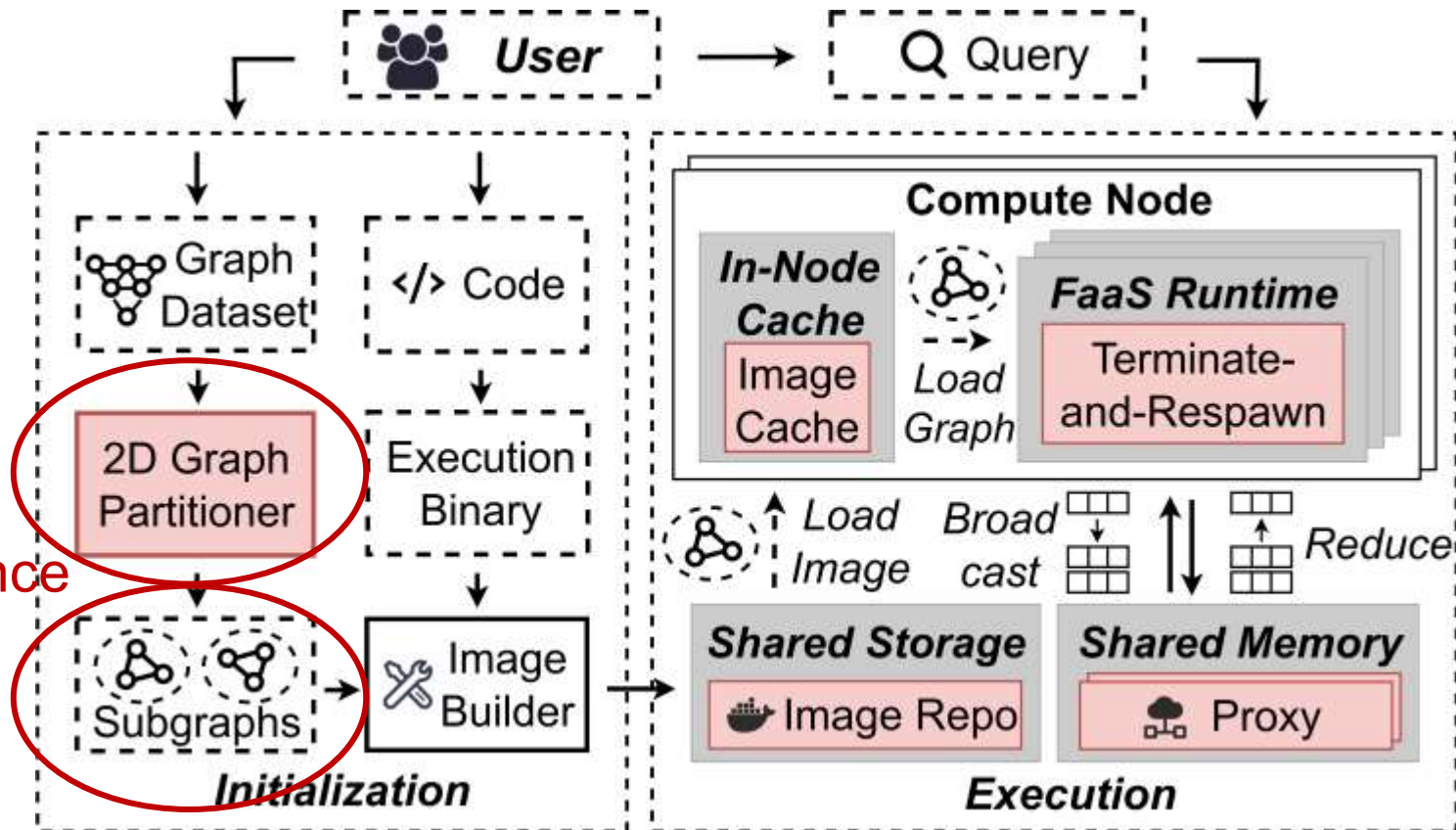
FaaSBoard: Disaggregated Serverless Architecture

- We propose a **Disaggregated Serverless Architecture** that decouples **data loading**, **computation**, and **communication**.



FaaSBoard Workflow

- FaaSBoard is built entirely on industrial serverless services, provided by AWS.



Better Load Balance

Balanced Subgraphs

2D Balanced Graph Partitioning



Insights Combine the **low communication complexity** $O(\sqrt{p})$ of 2D-chunk based partitioning and the **load balance** of non-uniform chunking space.



Benefits Suitable for resource-constrained serverless environments, improving computational performance while avoiding OOM.

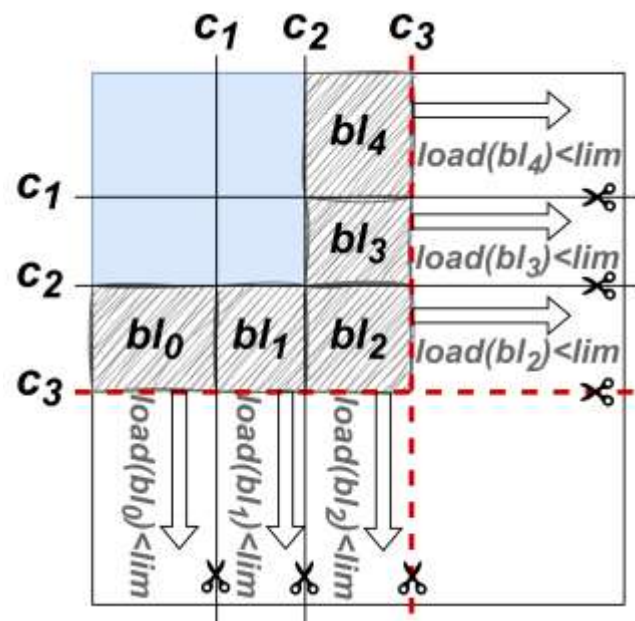
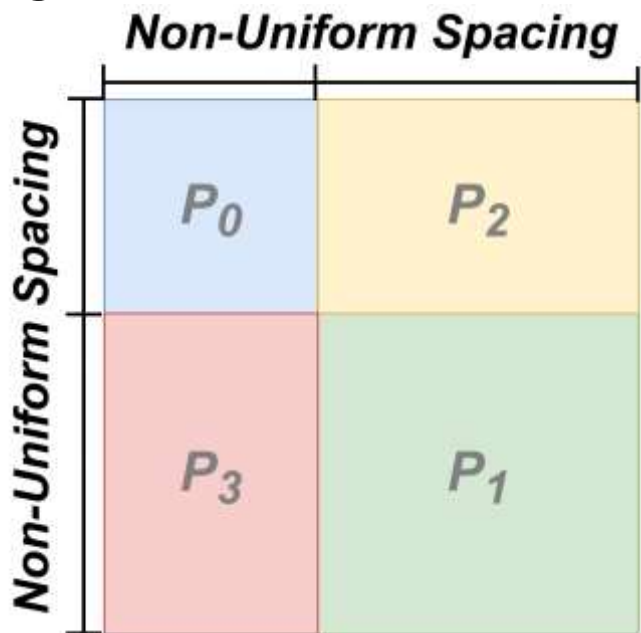


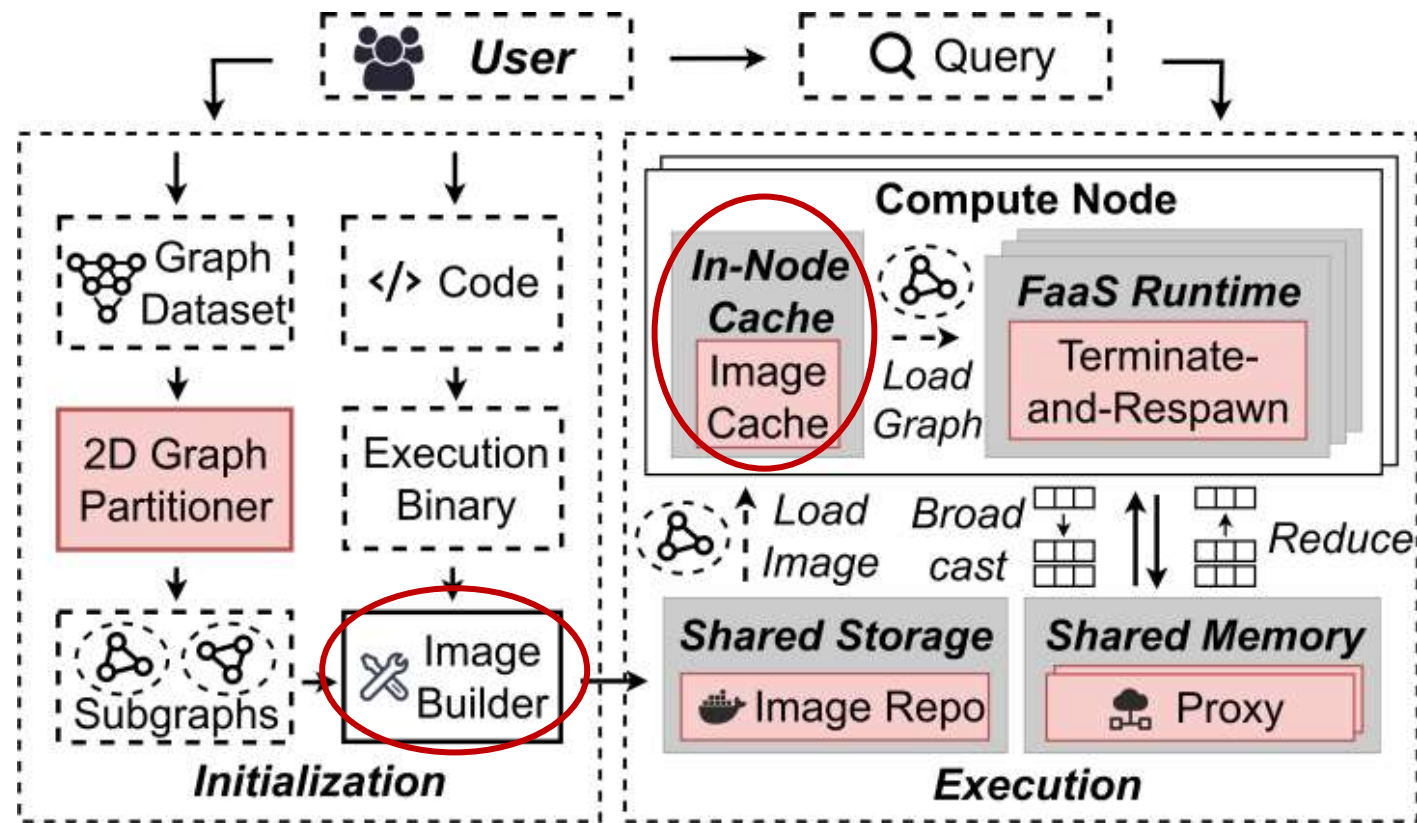
Image-based Graph Loading



Insights Package the **computation code** and **graph** into one image.



Benefits Shorter loading path and hot data reuse.



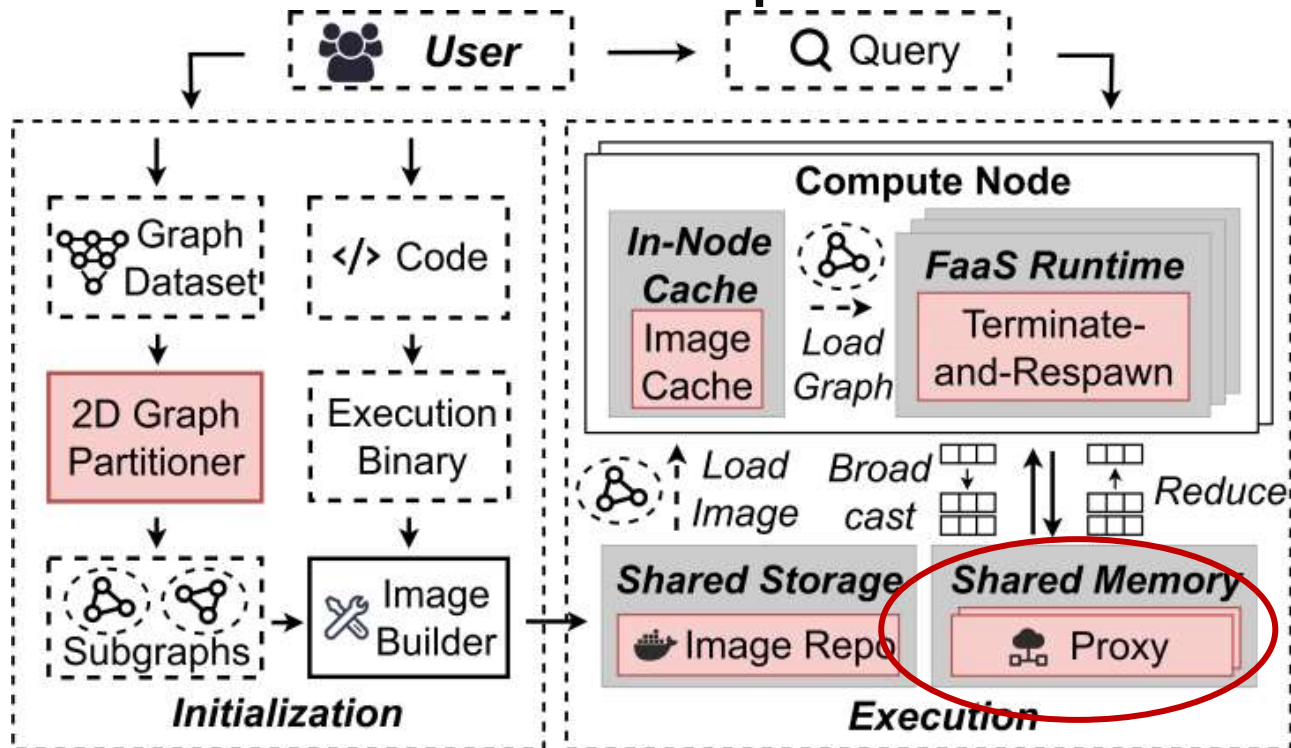
Locality

Hotness

Proxy-based Collective Communication

 **Insights** Leverage the **higher bandwidth of proxy** compared to functions (7.0–8.5× for AWS Fargate to AWS Lambda), and **utilize proxy's computing resources** for auxiliary computation.

 **Benefits** Better communication performance.



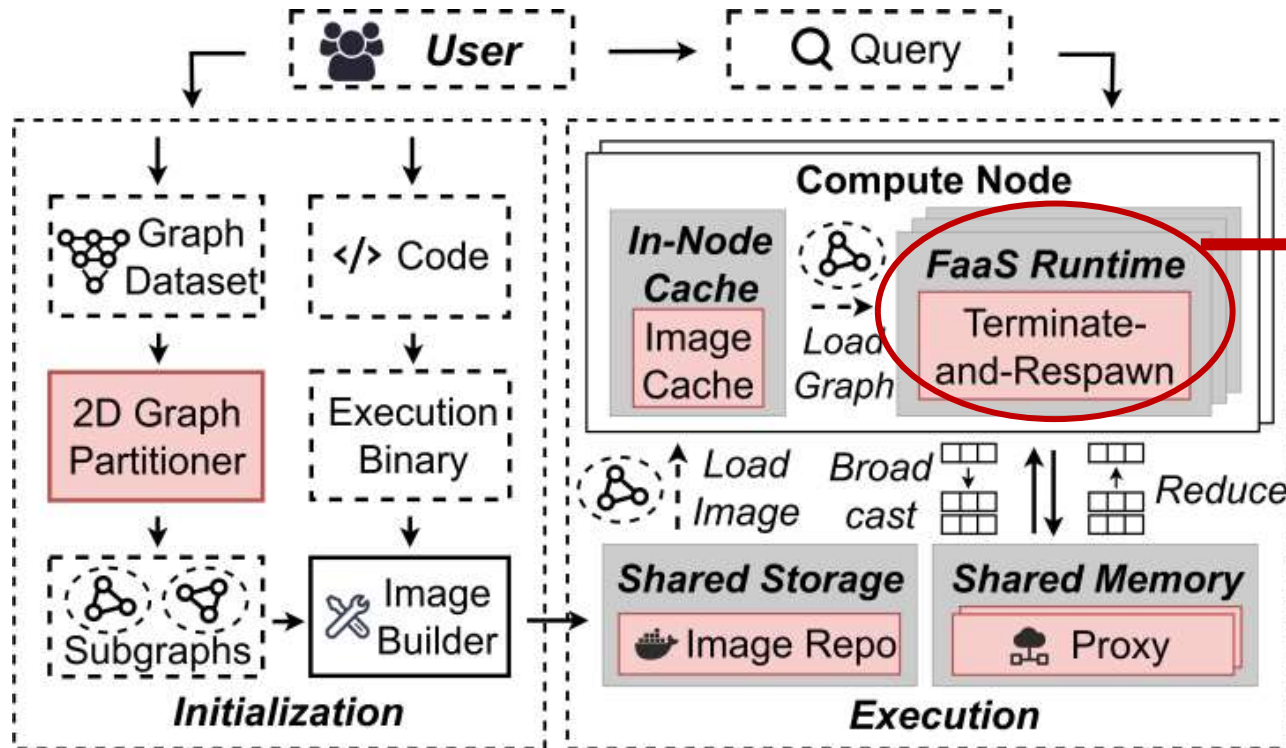
Proactive Terminate-and-Respawn



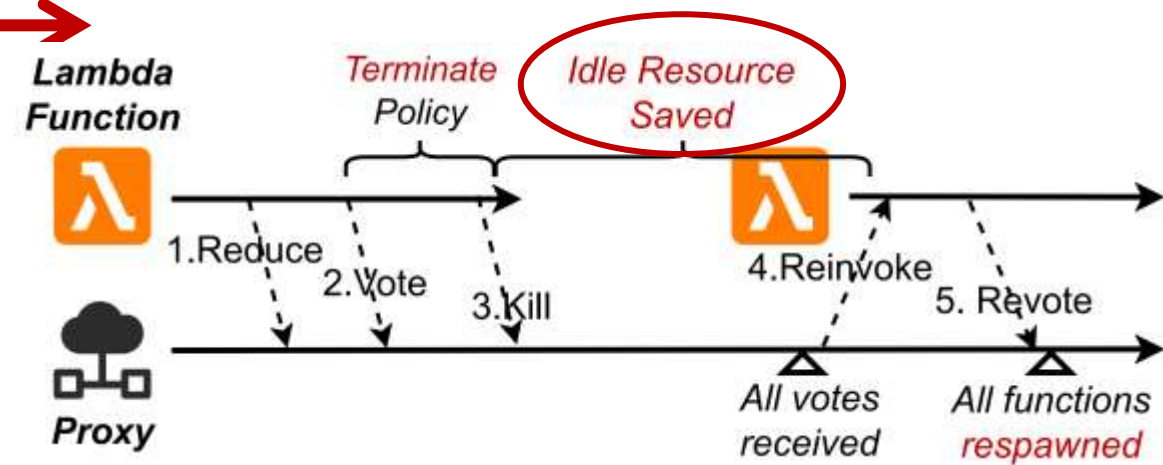
Insights Leverage **intra-job elasticity** of graph processing.



Benefits Less resource idling and lower monetary costs.



Lambda Function



Experiment Settings

Workload

Graphs^[4]: 3 SNAP datasets + RMAT-27

Apps: breadth-first-search (bfs),
connected-components (cc), pagerank (pr),
single-source-shortest-path(sssp)

Environments

Serverless function -> AWS Lambda

Proxy -> AWS Fargate

Baselines

FaaSGraph(ASPLOS'24)

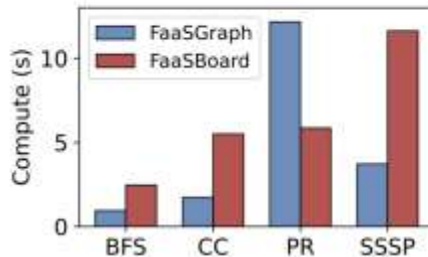
	Configuration			
Hardware	<i>FaaSGraph</i> : CPU: Intel Xeon E5-2676 V3 @2.40Ghz, Instance: m4.10xlarge, Cores: 40, DRAM: 160GB			
Software	<i>FaaSGraph</i> : Ubuntu 22.04, Golang 1.18.4, Docker 20.10.17 <i>FaaSBoard</i> : Image public.ecr.aws/lambda/provided:al2023			
Service	<i>FaaSBoard</i> : AWS Lambda, AWS Fargate			
Function	<i>FaaSGraph&FaaSBoard</i> : Cores: 2, DRAM: 3538MB			
Benchmark	Graph	Vertices	Edges	#Functions
	Livejournal	4.84M	68.9M	1(BFS,CC,PR,SSSP)
	Twitter	41.6M	1.46B	6(BFS,PR),12(CC,SSSP)
	Friendster	65.6M	1.80B	8(BFS,PR),14(CC,SSSP)
	Rmat27	134M	2.14B	9(BFS,PR),17(CC,SSSP)

[4] <https://snap.stanford.edu/data>

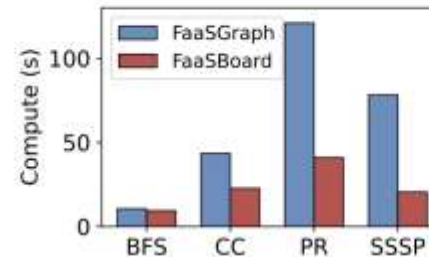
Overall Results

End-to-end Latency Speedup (FaaSBoard vs. FaaSGraph)

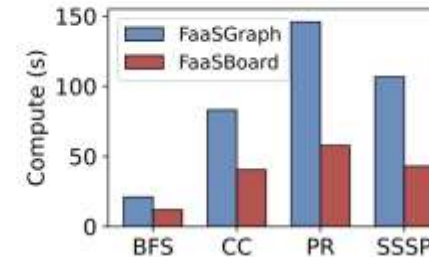
Max 3.8x
Speedup



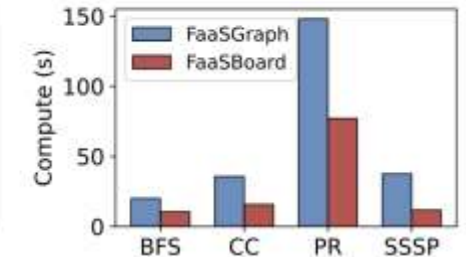
(a) Livejournal



(b) Twitter



(c) Friendster



(d) Rmat27

Max 61.5%
Cost Savings

Dataset	System	BFS	CC	PR	SSSP
<i>lj</i>	FaaSGraph	0.01	0.01	0.07	0.02
	FaaSBoard	0.09	0.21	0.22	0.44
<i>tw</i>	FaaSGraph	0.37	3.01	4.18	5.40
	FaaSBoard	0.63	2.30	2.74	2.08
<i>fr</i>	FaaSGraph	0.97	6.70	6.72	8.60
	FaaSBoard	0.93	4.10	4.53	4.36
<i>rm</i>	FaaSGraph	1.04	3.49	7.67	3.67
	FaaSBoard	0.88	2.04	5.49	1.52

Monetary cost (¢) comparison (FaaSBoard vs. FaaSGraph)

Conclusion

- We present FaaSBoard, a graph processing system **on serverless cloud services** which adopts a **disaggregated serverless architectural design**.
- FaaSBoard achieves significant improvements in **computing performance** and **monetary costs** compared to FaaSGraph, which is the SOTA serverless graph processing system.

Thanks



Paper



Code

Source Code: <https://github.com/SJTU-Liquid/FaaSBoard>