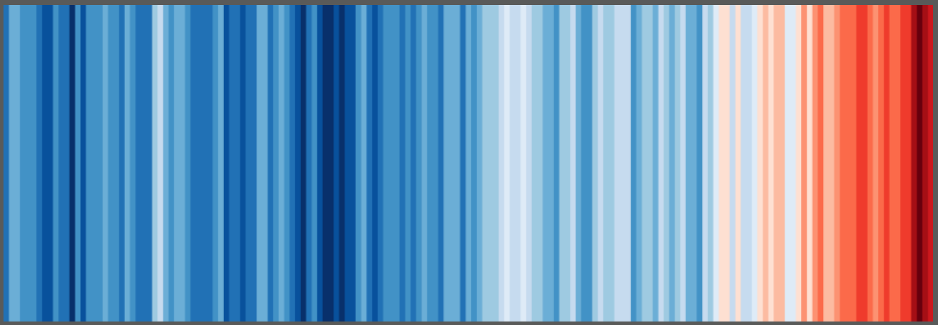
On taking network power down



Laurent Vanbever | Romain Jacob
nsg.ee.ethz.ch @ ETH Zürich

EFCL Mini-Conf. Dec. 11, 2023

What do you think consumes more energy?

Data Centers

Communication Networks

What do you think consumes more energy?

	Data Centers	or	Communication Networks	
In 2022	240-340	TWh	260-360	TWh

https://www.iea.org/energy-system/buildings/data-centres-and-data-transmission-networks

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Data Centers or **Communication Networks**

	Data Centers		Communication Networks	
In 2022	240-340	TWh	260-360	TWh
In 2015	200	TWh	220	TWh
Change of	+20-70%	in energy	+18-64%	in energy

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	+340%	in workload	+600%	in traffic

https://www.iea.org/energy-system/buildings/data-centres-and-data-transmission-networks

Energy efficiency improved a lot

	Data Centers		Communication Networks	
Change in energy	+20-70%	in energy	+18-64%	in energy
is much smaller				
than in work done.	+340%	in workload	+600%	in traffic

Energy efficiency improved a lot but not enough!

	Data Centers	Communication Networks
Change in energy is positive!	+20-70% in energy	+18-64% in energy

"With great power comes great responsibility"

- It is easy to keep increasing network capacity
- It is much harder to keep increasing energy efficiency

“With great power comes great responsibility”

- It is easy to keep increasing network capacity
- It is much harder to keep increasing energy efficiency

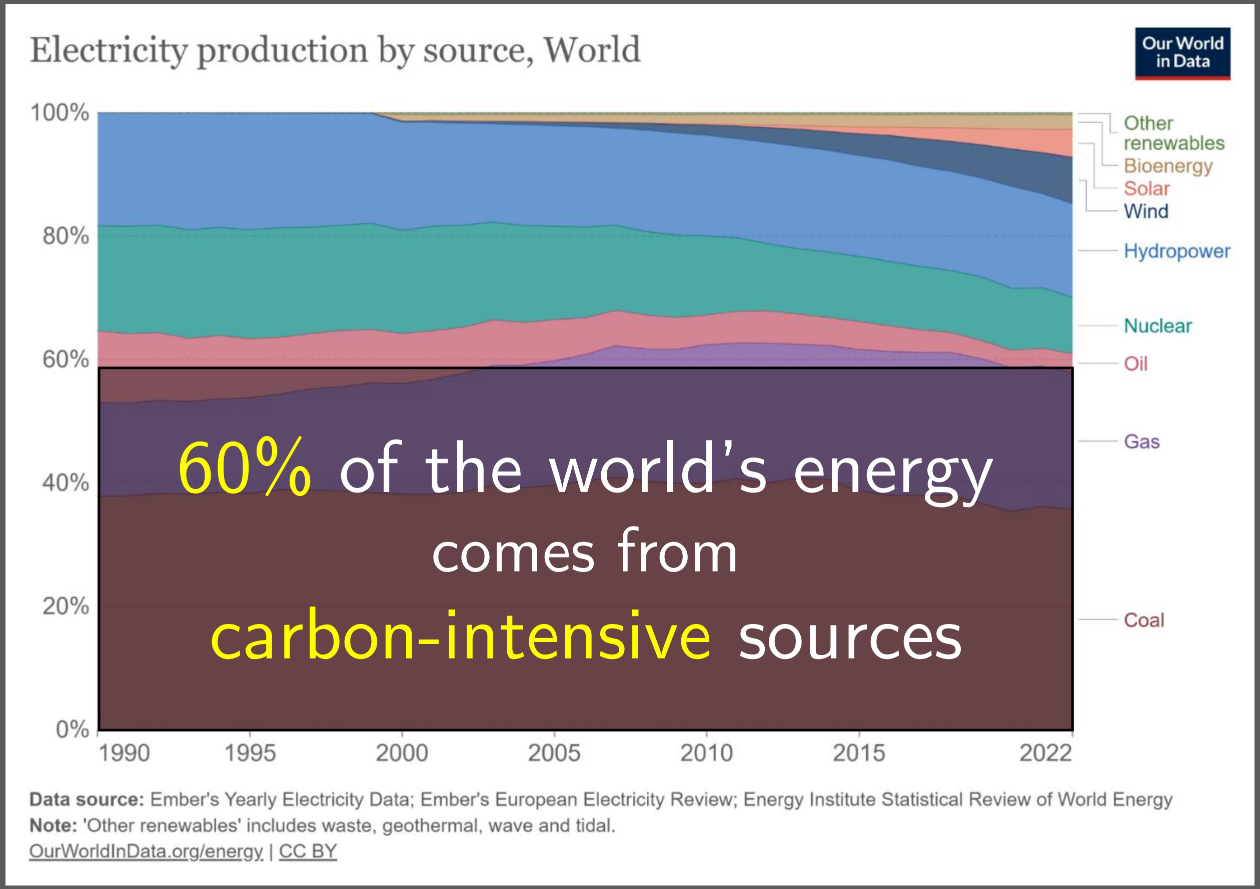
▶ Total energy usage is likely to keep increasing.

"With great power comes great responsibility" and carbon footprint.

- It is easy to keep increasing network capacity
- It is much harder to keep increasing energy efficiency

▶ Total energy usage is likely to keep increasing.

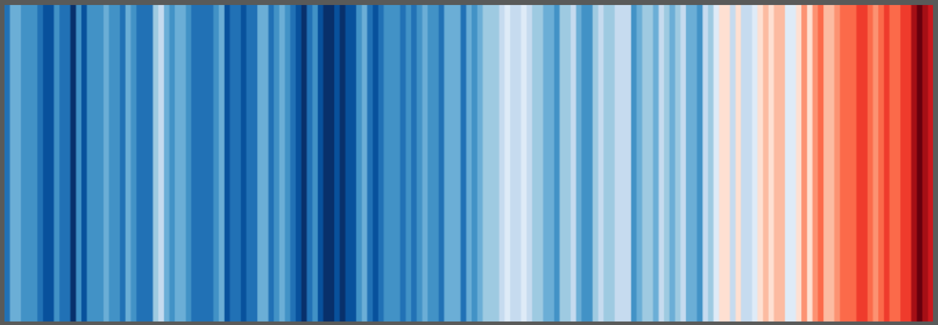
▶ Producing energy emits carbon.



https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/electricity-prod-source-stacked

On taking network power down

to reduce the Internet footprint.

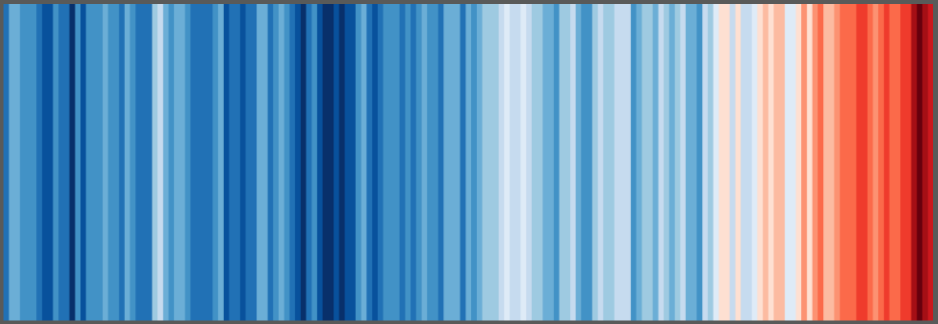


1 Reduce network power
with better proportionality

2 Avoid rebound effects
by avocating for sobriety

On taking network power down

to reduce the Internet footprint.



1 Reduce network power
with better proportionality

Avoid rebound effects
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$$\text{Operational Carbon efficiency} = \frac{\text{J used}}{\text{Task}} \times \frac{\text{J supplied}}{\text{J used}} \times \frac{\text{Carbon}}{\text{J supplied}}$$

… improves with better…	Networks & compute	Infrastructure & HW design	Carbon intensity

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... improves with better...

Networks & compute

Infrastructure & HW design

Carbon intensity

Not really a network matter

$$\text{Operational Carbon efficiency} = \frac{\text{J used}}{\text{Task}} \times \frac{\text{J supplied}}{\text{J used}} \times \frac{\text{Carbon}}{\text{J supplied}}$$

... improves with better...	Networks & compute	Infrastructure & HW design	Carbon intensity

Improves with better networks

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… improves with better…	Networks & compute	Infrastructure & HW design	Carbon intensity

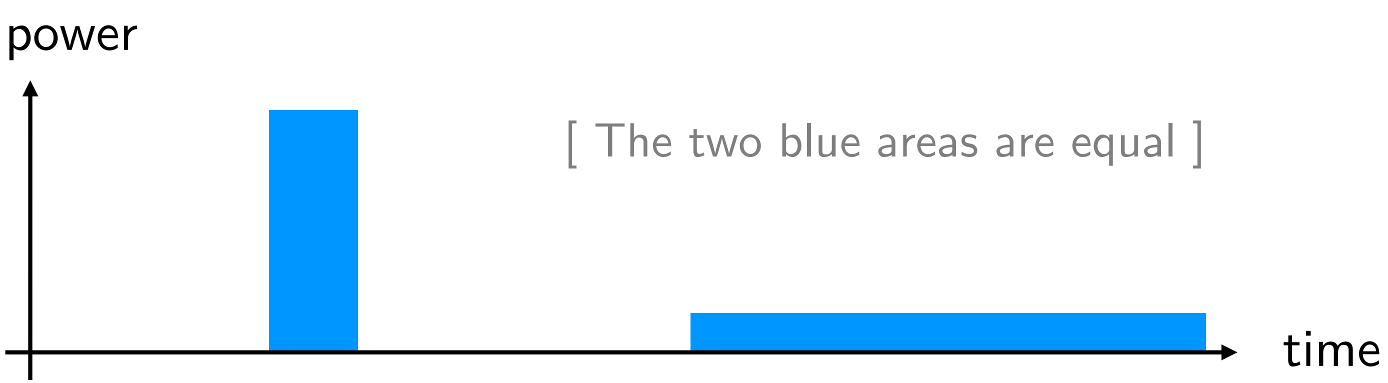
Main focus of networking (↑ Networks & compute)

$$\text{Operational Carbon efficiency} = \frac{\text{J used}}{\text{Task}} \times \frac{\text{J supplied}}{\text{J used}} \times \frac{\text{Carbon}}{\text{J supplied}}$$

… improves with better…	Networks & compute	Infrastructure & HW design	Carbon intensity

Main focus of networking

Let's consider two energy usage profiles for the same task.



Which option is more energy efficient?

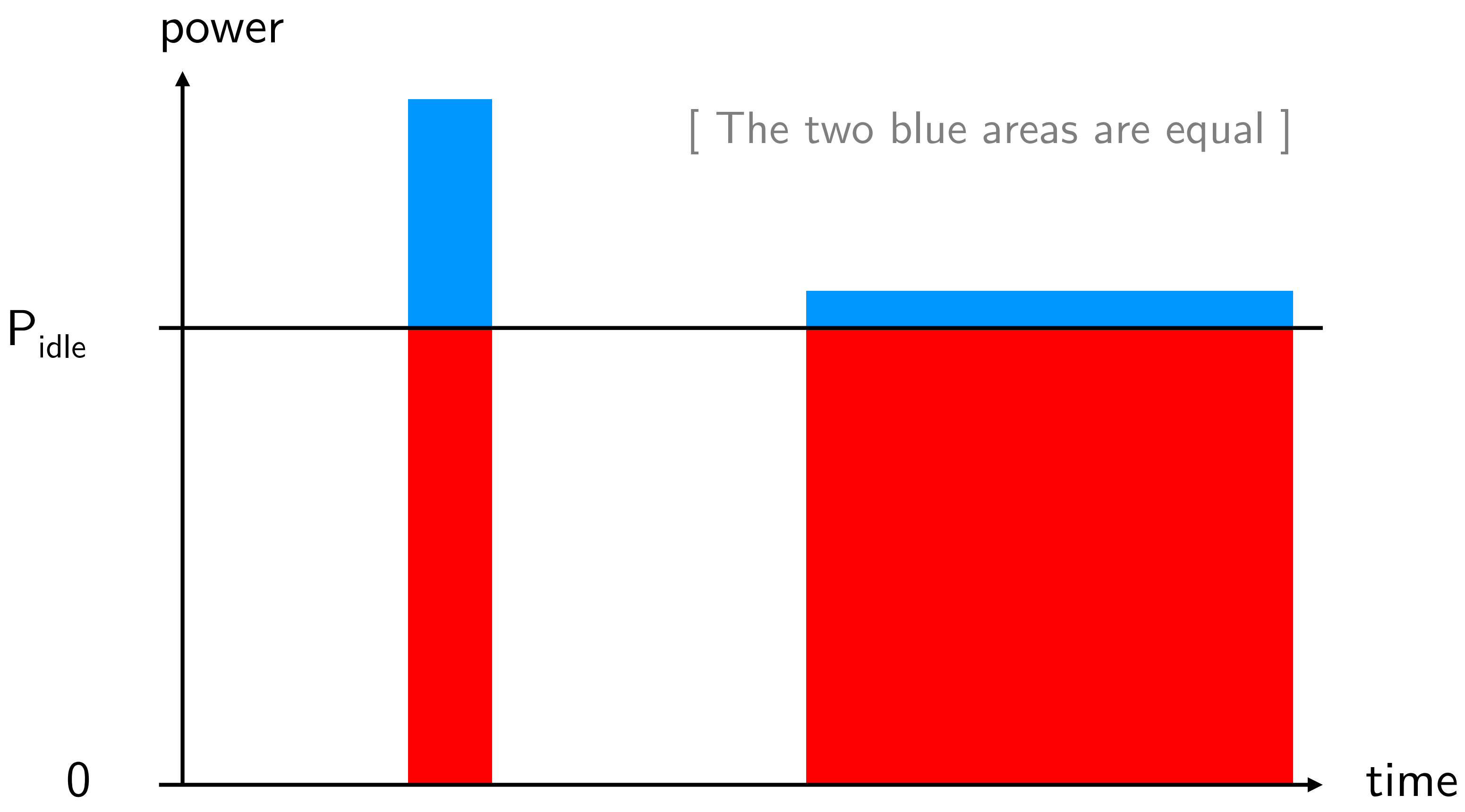
Option 1

- High power
- Short time

Option 2

- Low power
- Long time

Let's consider two energy usage profiles for the same task.



Which option is more energy efficient?

What about now?

Turning components off whenever possible is the fundamental way of saving energy.

aka "sleeping"

Sleeping is implemented
in all consumer IT

- Screens — Laptops, phones
- Radio duty-cycling — IoT devices
- DVFS — CPUs
- ...

Sleeping is implemented
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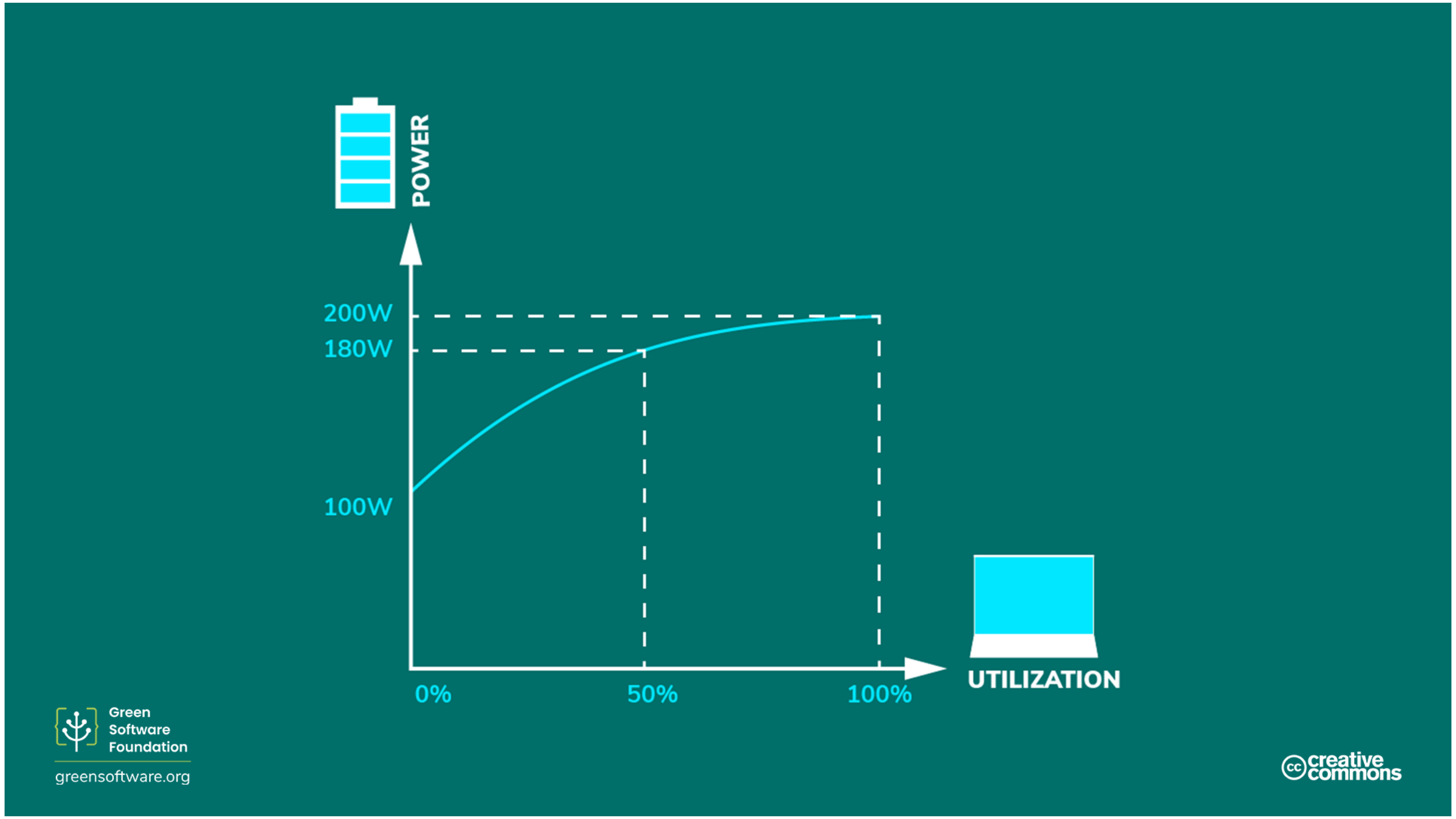
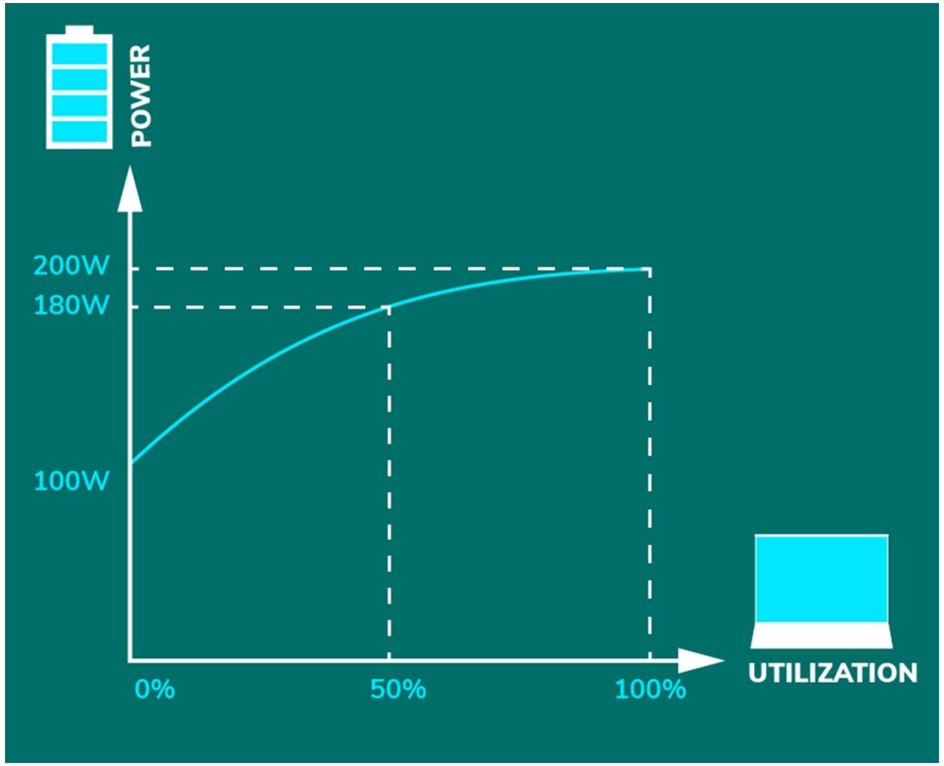
What about network devices?

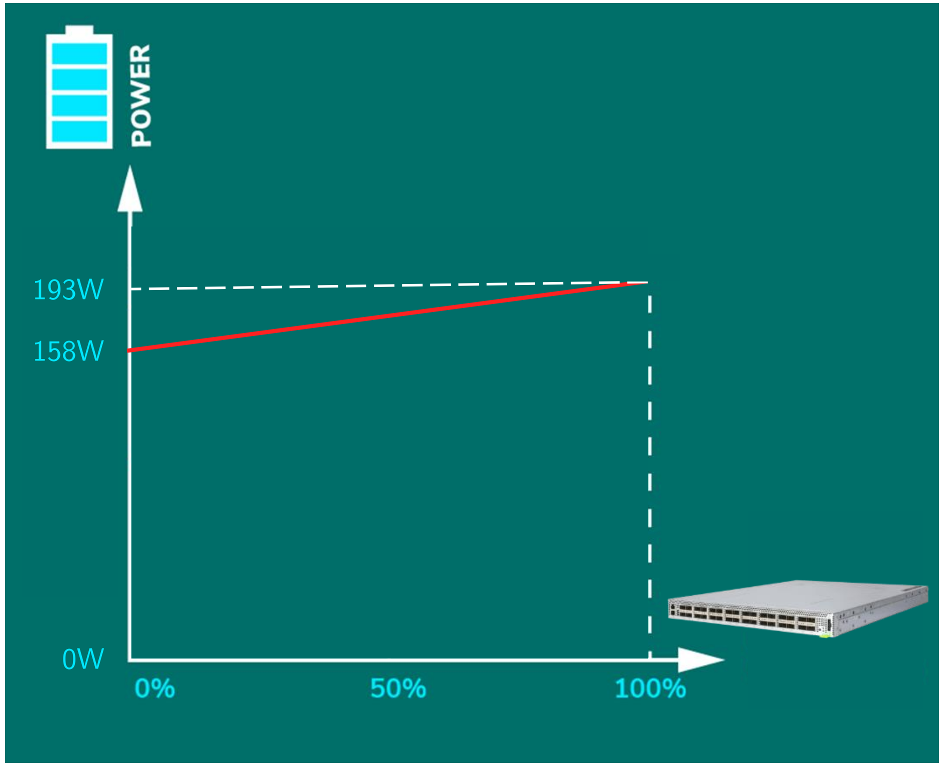


How does such a plot look like for a switch?

https://learn.greensoftware.foundation/

The idle power dominates
i.e., network power is inelastic.





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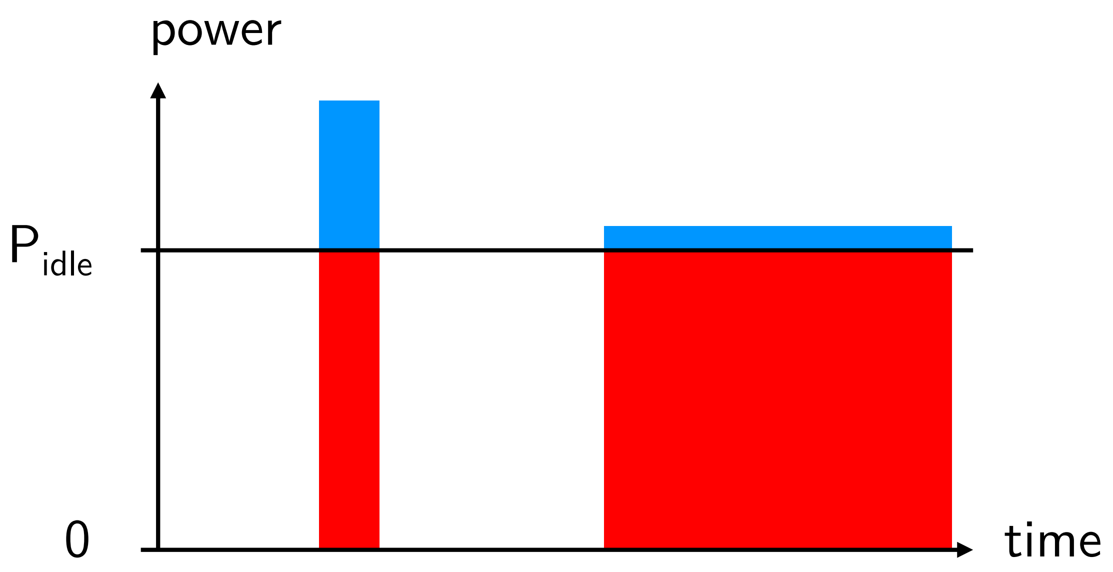
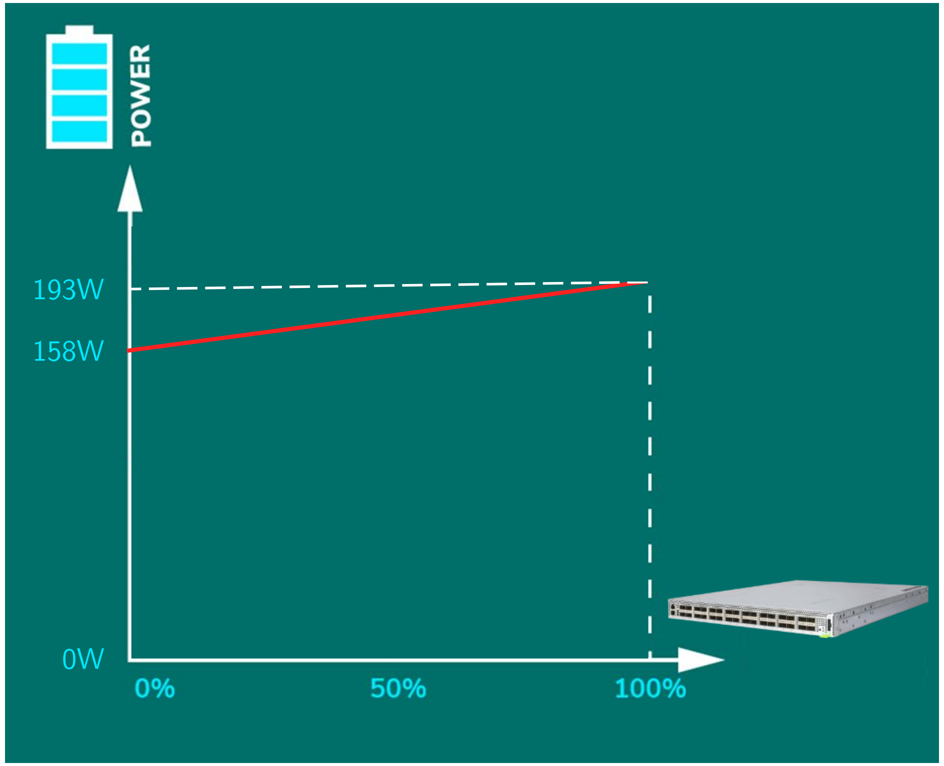
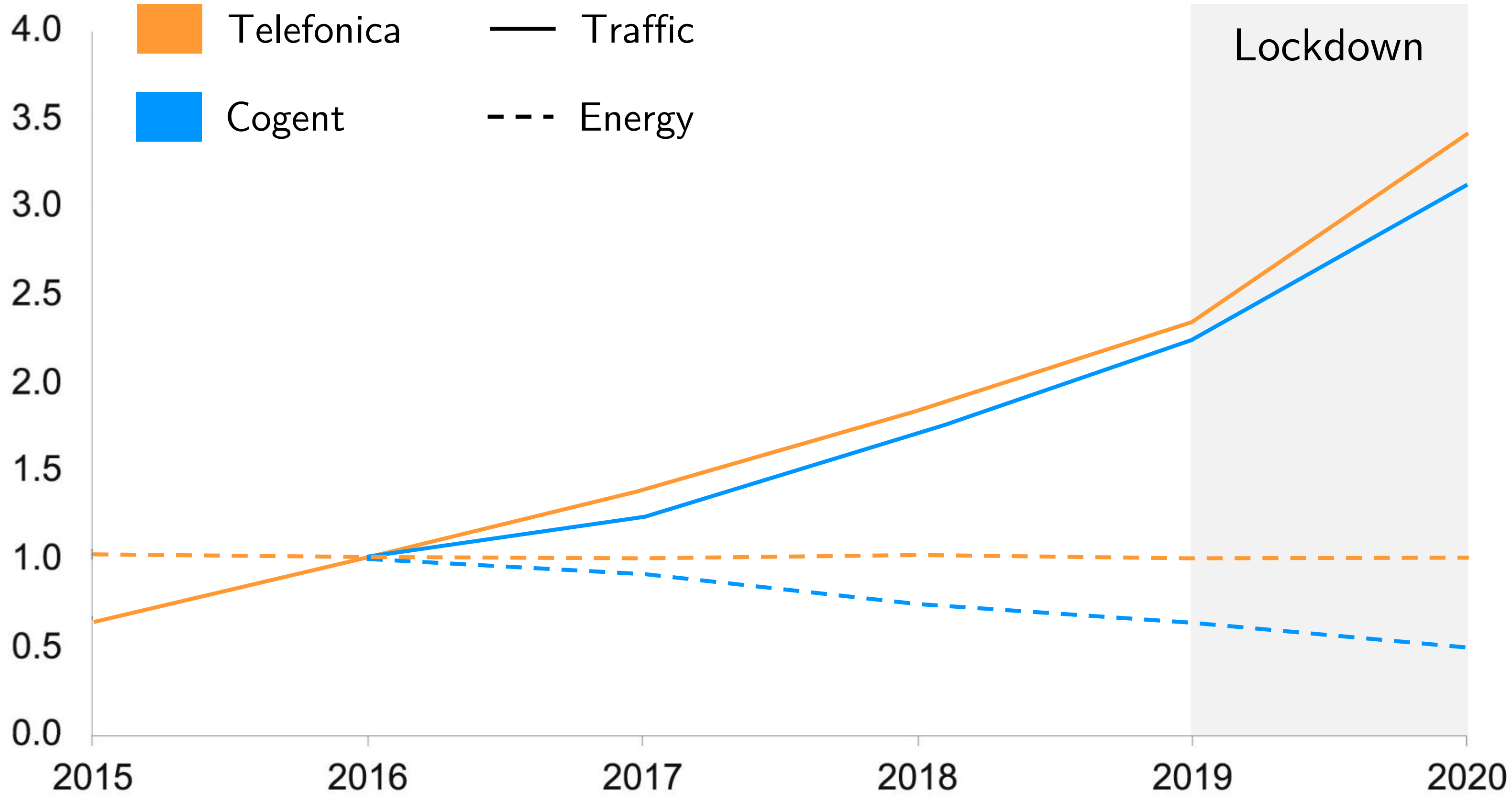


Not so far fetched...



How “bad” is power inelasticity?

On the bright side, inelasticity means we can carry more traffic with the same power!

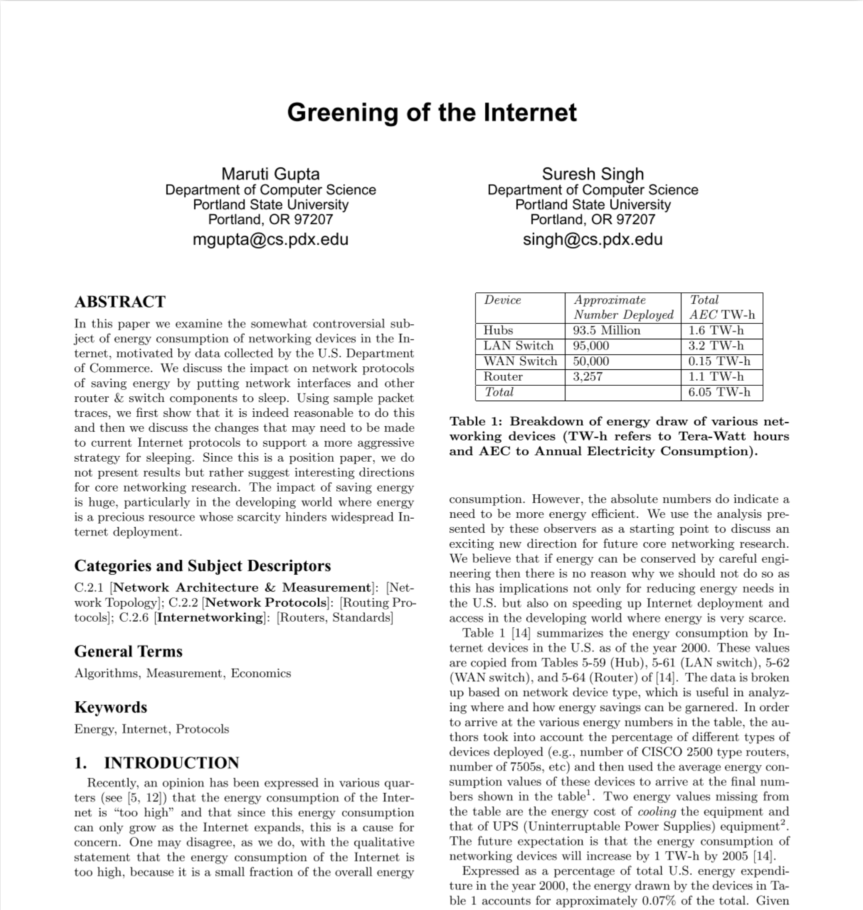


- Sharp traffic increase
- Energy decrease...

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2542435121002117

On the dark side, it results in very inefficient wired networks...

SIGCOMM 2003



Greening of the Internet

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ABSTRACT

In this paper we examine the somewhat controversial subject of energy consumption of networking devices in the Internet, motivated by data collected by the U.S. Department of Commerce. We discuss the impact on network protocols of saving energy by putting network interfaces and other router & switch components to sleep. Using sample packet traces, we first show that it is indeed reasonable to do this and then we discuss the changes that may need to be made to current Internet protocols to support a more aggressive strategy for sleeping. Since this is a position paper, we do not present results but rather suggest interesting directions for core networking research. The impact of saving energy is huge, particularly in the developing world where energy is a precious resource whose scarcity hinders widespread Internet deployment.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

C.2.1 [**Network Architecture & Measurement**]: [Network Topology]; C.2.2 [**Network Protocols**]: [Routing Protocols]; C.2.6 [**Internetworking**]: [Routers, Standards]

General Terms

Algorithms, Measurement, Economics

Keywords

Energy, Internet, Protocols

1. INTRODUCTION

Recently, an opinion has been expressed in various quarters (see [5, 12]) that the energy consumption of the Internet is "too high" and that since this energy consumption can only grow as the Internet expands, this is a cause for concern. One may disagree, as we do, with the qualitative statement that the energy consumption of the Internet is too high, because it is a small fraction of the overall energy

Device	*Approximate Number Deployed*	*Total AEC* TW-h
Hubs	93.5 Million	1.6 TW-h
LAN Switch	95,000	3.2 TW-h
WAN Switch	50,000	0.15 TW-h
Router	3,257	1.1 TW-h
Total		6.05 TW-h

Table 1: Breakdown of energy draw of various networking devices (TW-h refers to Tera-Watt hours and AEC to Annual Electricity Consumption).

consumption. However, the absolute numbers do indicate a need to be more energy efficient. We use the analysis presented by these observers as a starting point to discuss an exciting new direction for future core networking research. We believe that if energy can be conserved by careful engineering then there is no reason why we should not do so as this has implications not only for reducing energy needs in the U.S. but also on speeding up Internet deployment and access in the developing world where energy is very scarce.

Table 1 [14] summarizes the energy consumption by Internet devices in the U.S. as of the year 2000. These values are copied from Tables 5-59 (Hub), 5-61 (LAN switch), 5-62 (WAN switch), and 5-64 (Router) of [14]. The data is broken up based on network device type, which is useful in analyzing where and how energy savings can be garnered. In order to arrive at the various energy numbers in the table, the authors took into account the percentage of different types of devices deployed (e.g., number of CISCO 2500 type routers, number of 7505s, etc) and then used the average energy consumption values of these devices to arrive at the final numbers shown in the table[1]. Two energy values missing from the table are the energy cost of *cooling* the equipment and that of UPS (Uninterruptable Power Supplies) equipment[2]. The future expectation is that the energy consumption of networking devices will increase by 1 TW-h by 2005 [14].

Expressed as a percentage of total U.S. energy expenditure in the year 2000, the energy drawn by the devices in Table 1 accounts for approximately 0.07% of the total. Given

The Internet core consumes more Joules per Bytes than wireless LANs.

2x and 24x more...

depending on your hypotheses

1 Network devices are always “on.”

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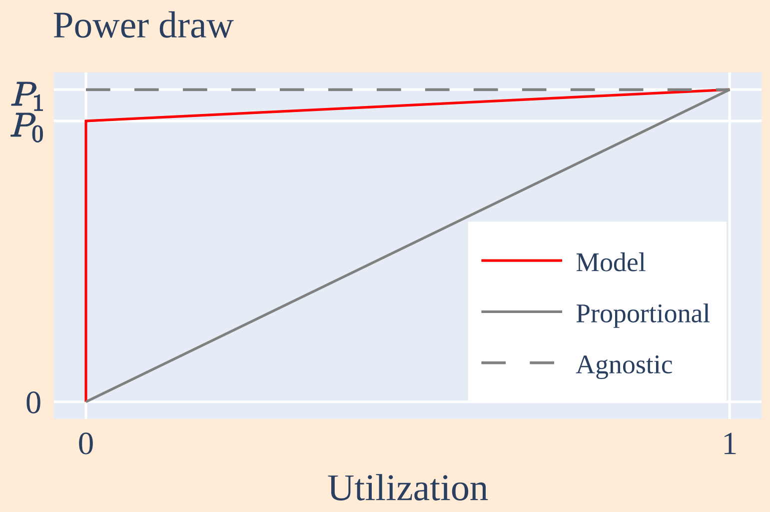
2 Network devices’ energy consumption is mainly independent of traffic load.



1 Network devices are always “on.”

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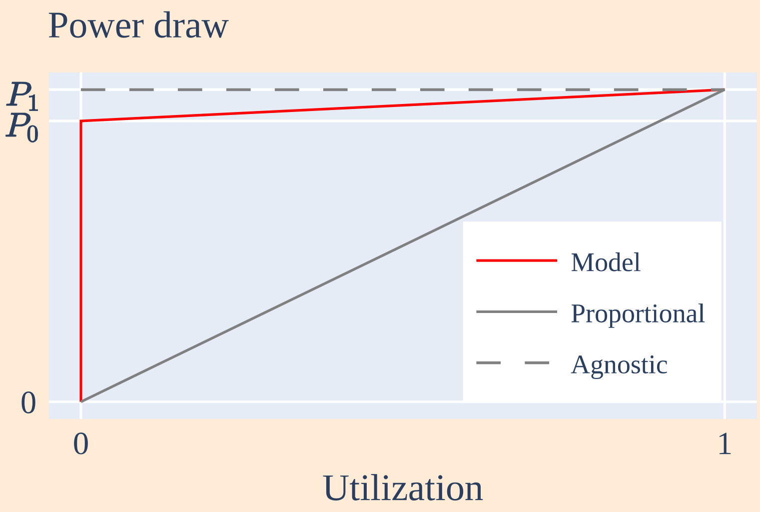
3 Network devices are under-utilized.



ISP overprovision networks to support

- Peak traffic
- Fault tolerance

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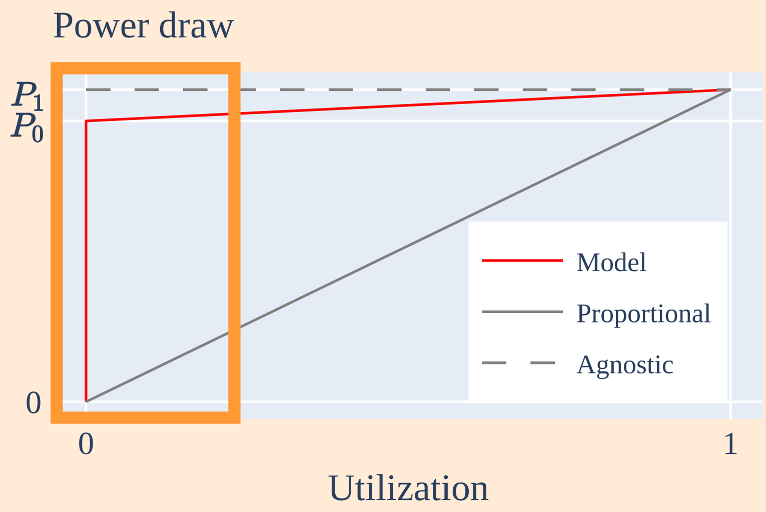

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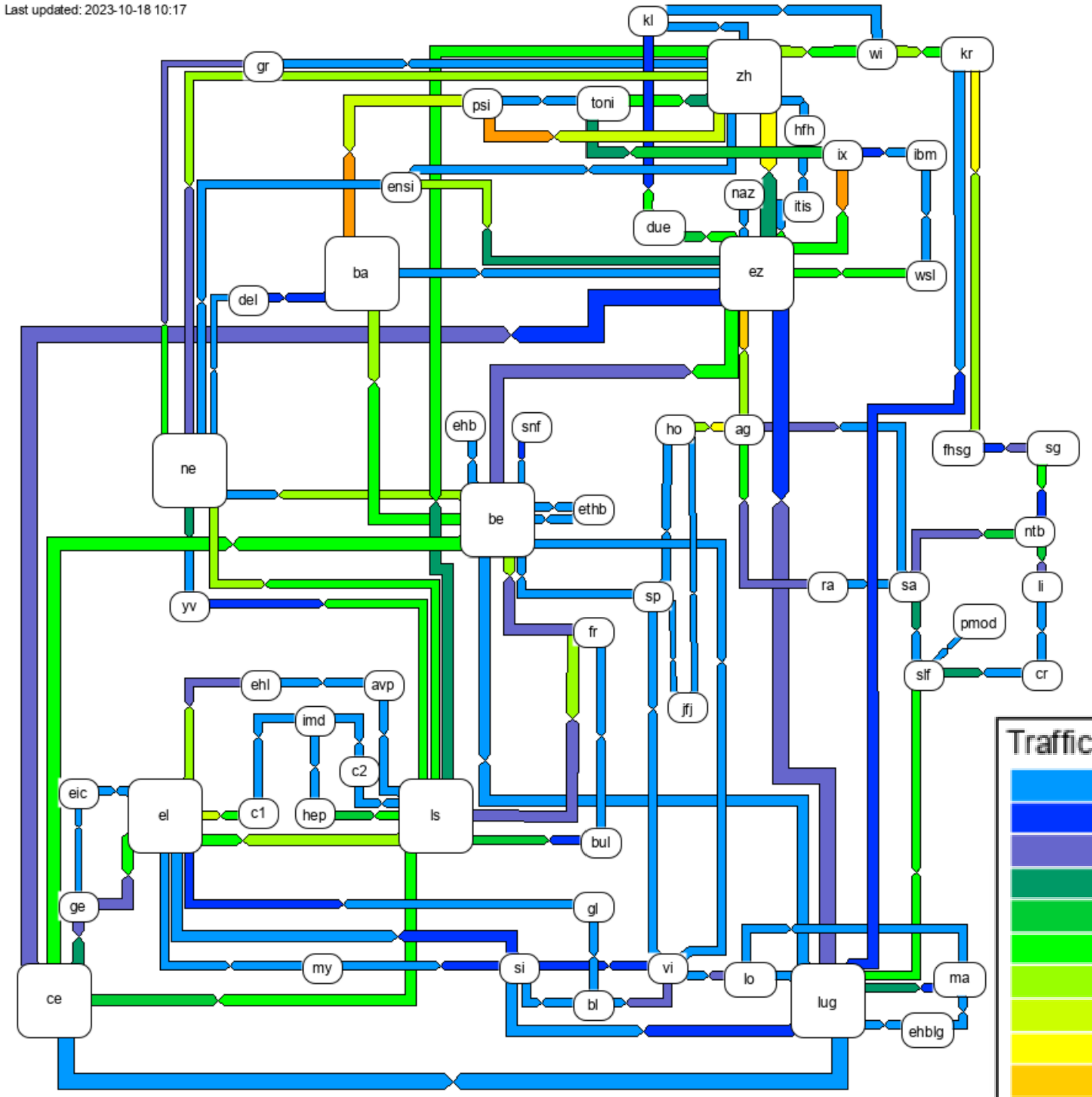
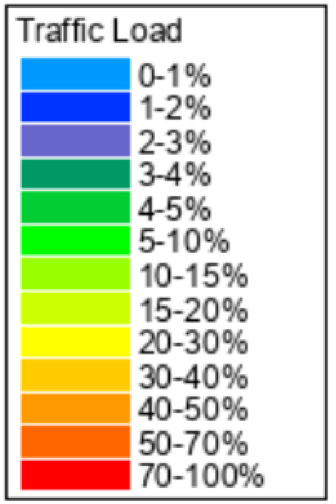
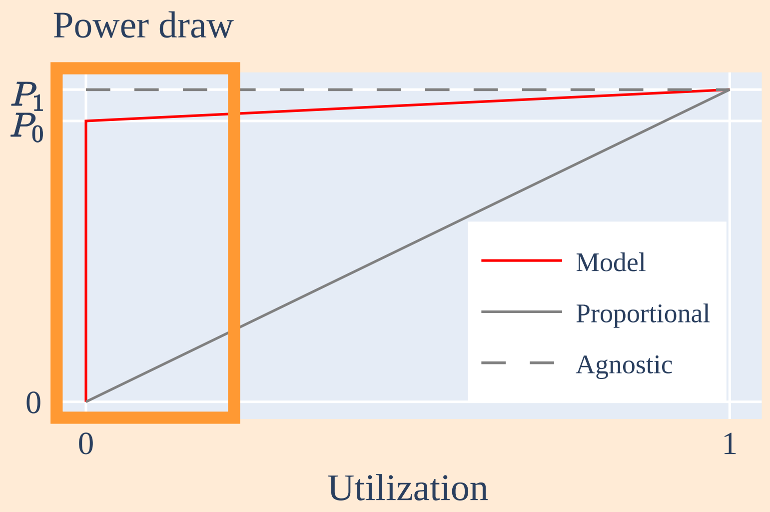




Weathermap data from SWITCH



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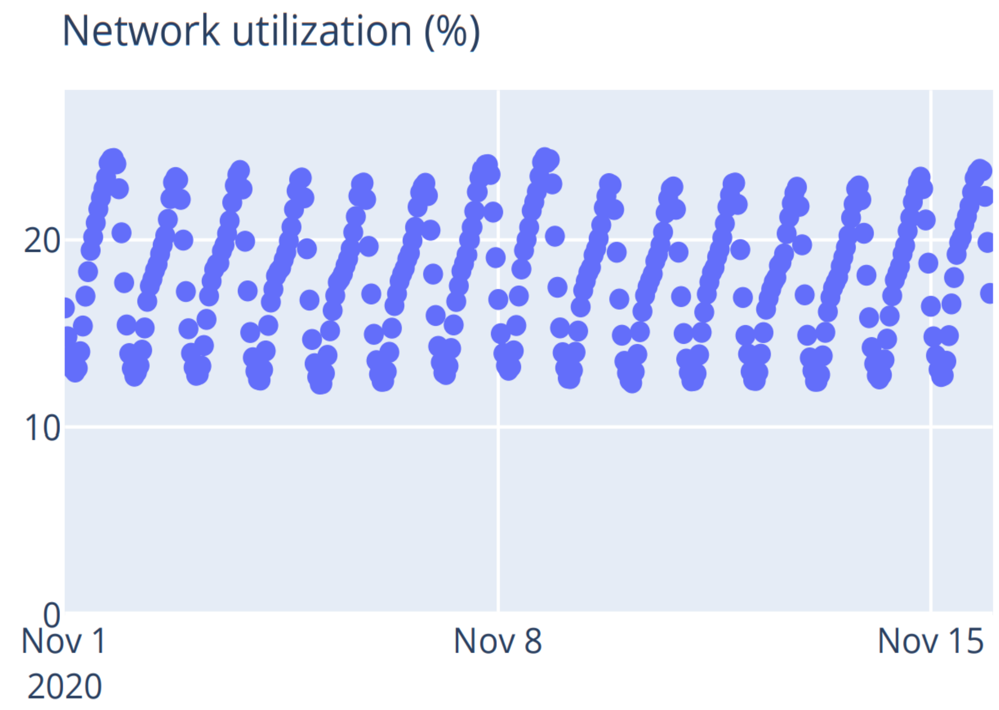
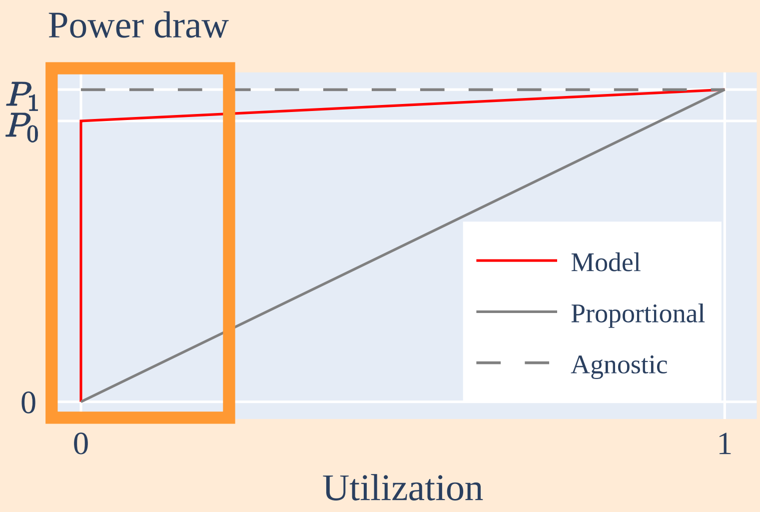


OVH Weathermap dataset



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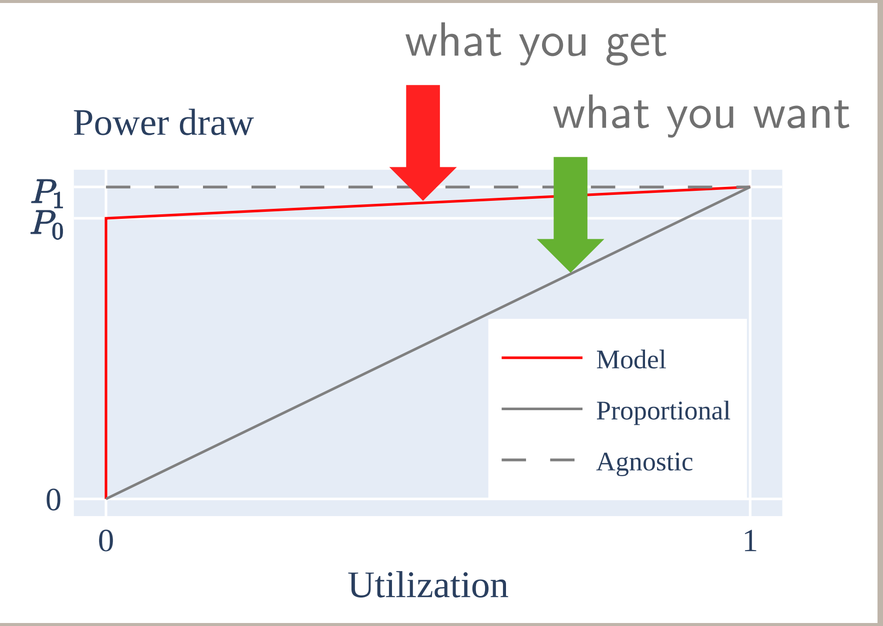
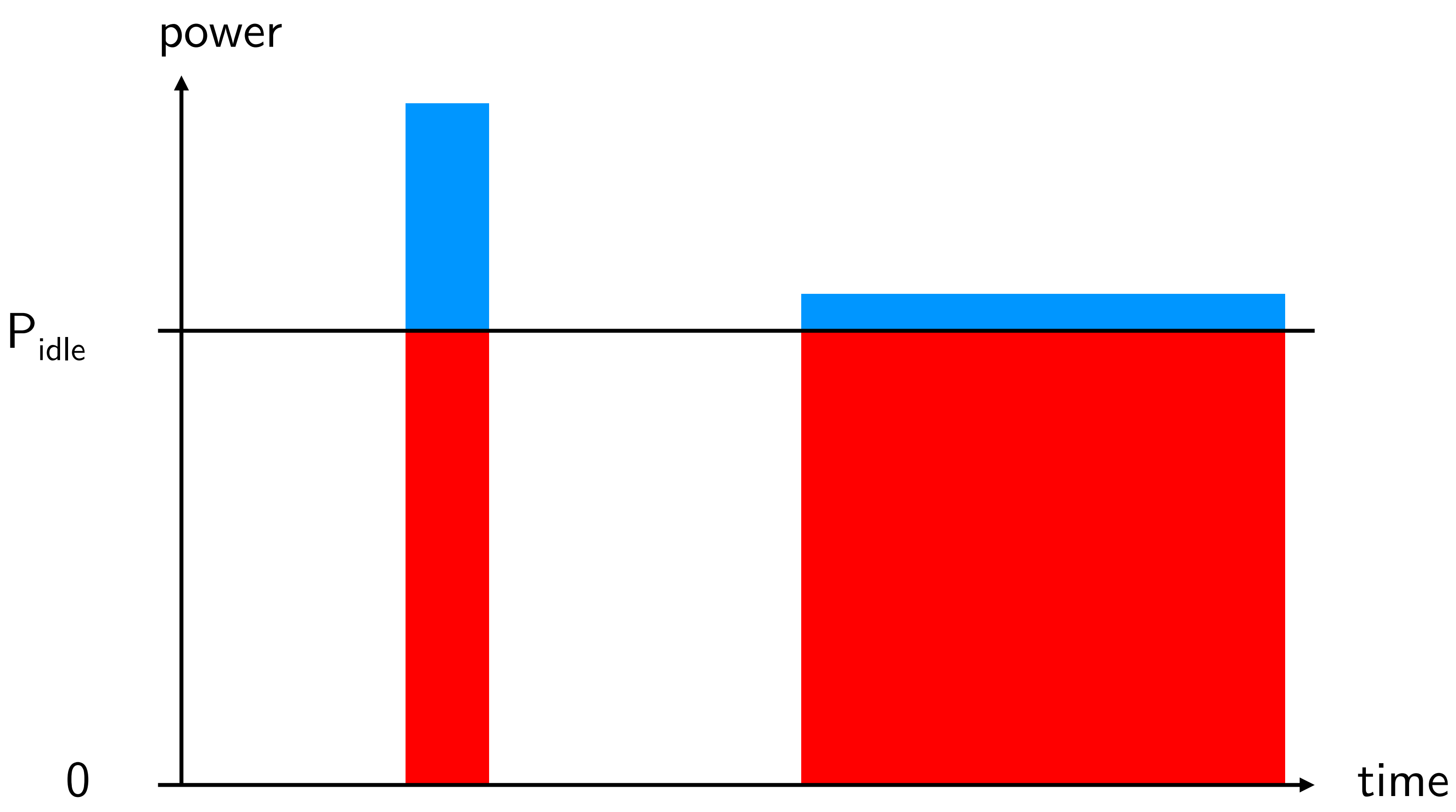


ISP overprovision networks to support

- Peak traffic
- Fault tolerance

What does proportionality mean for our toy example?



- As idle power dominates, low utilization wastes a lot.

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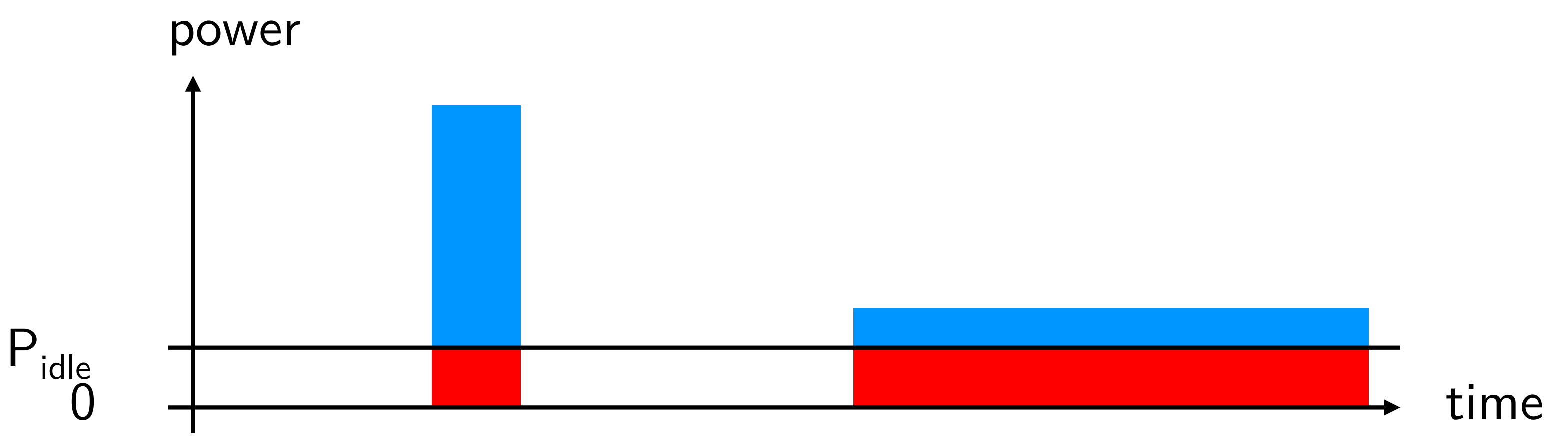

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- Reducing idle power yields better proportionality.

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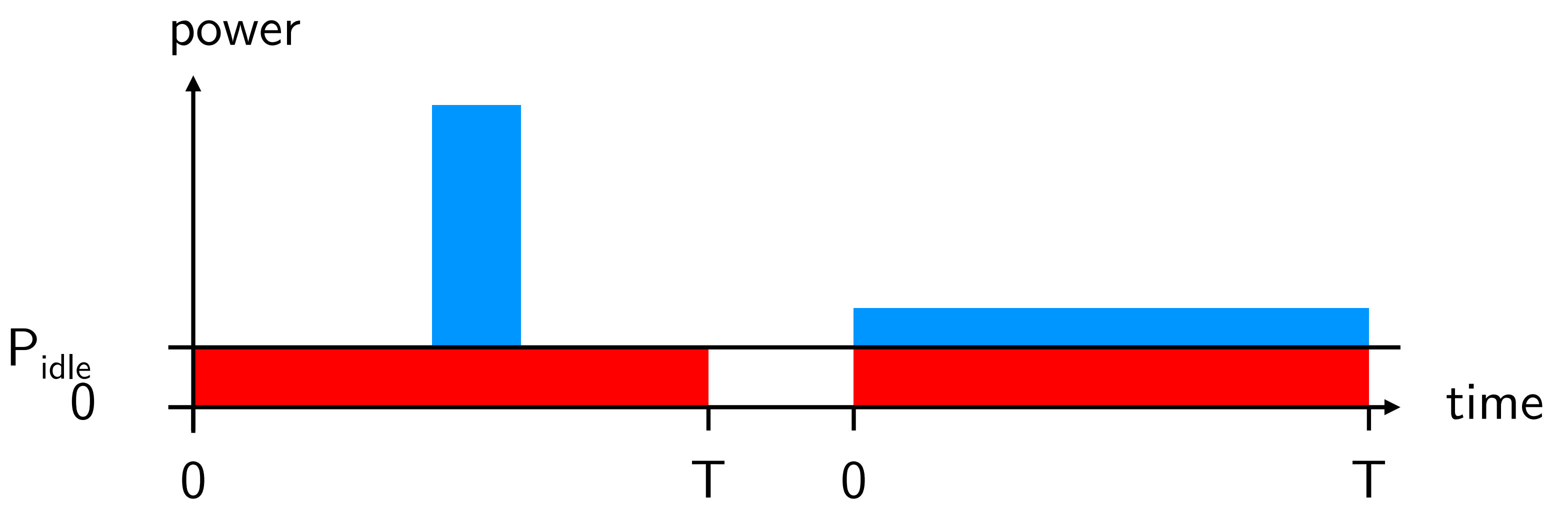

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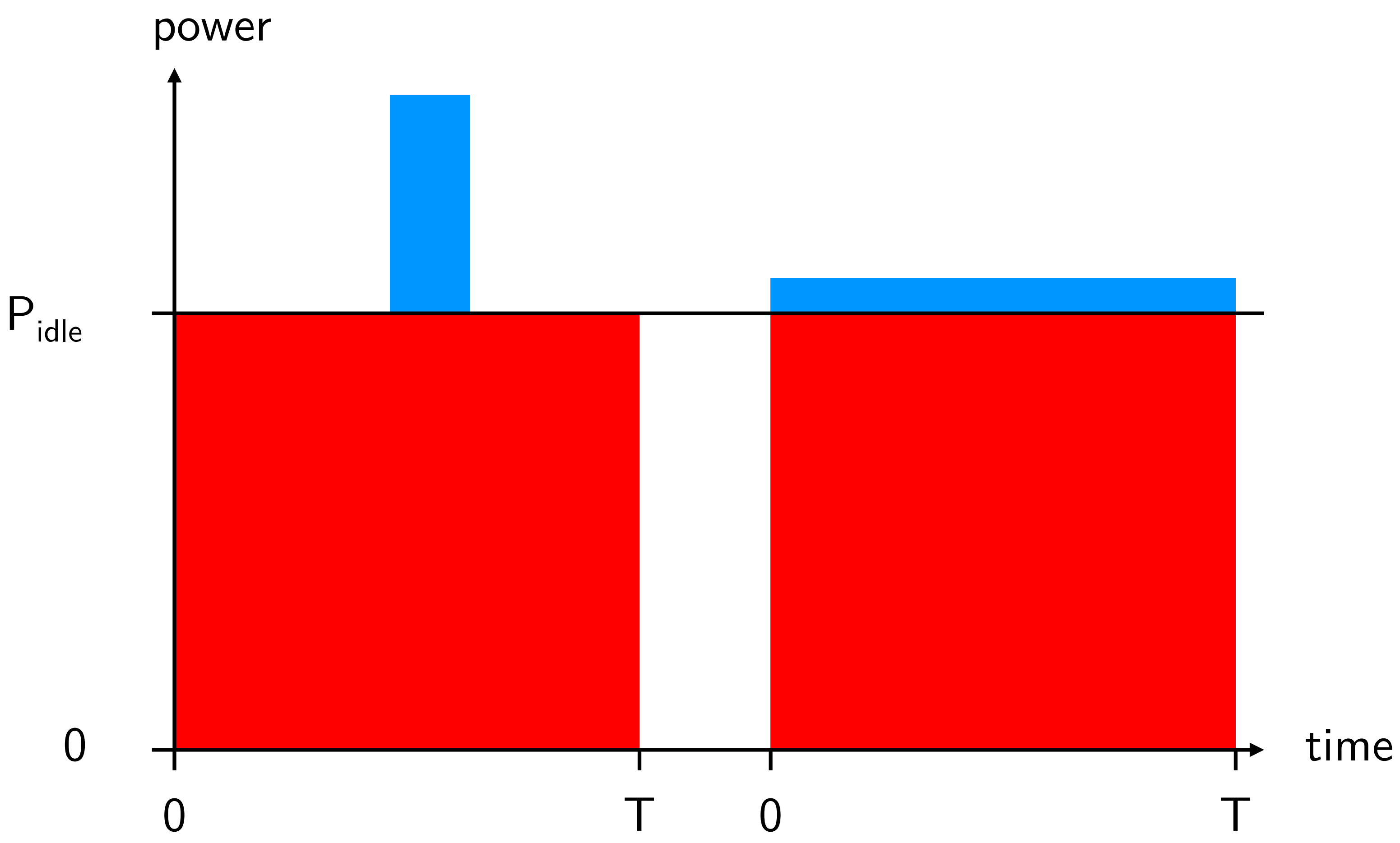

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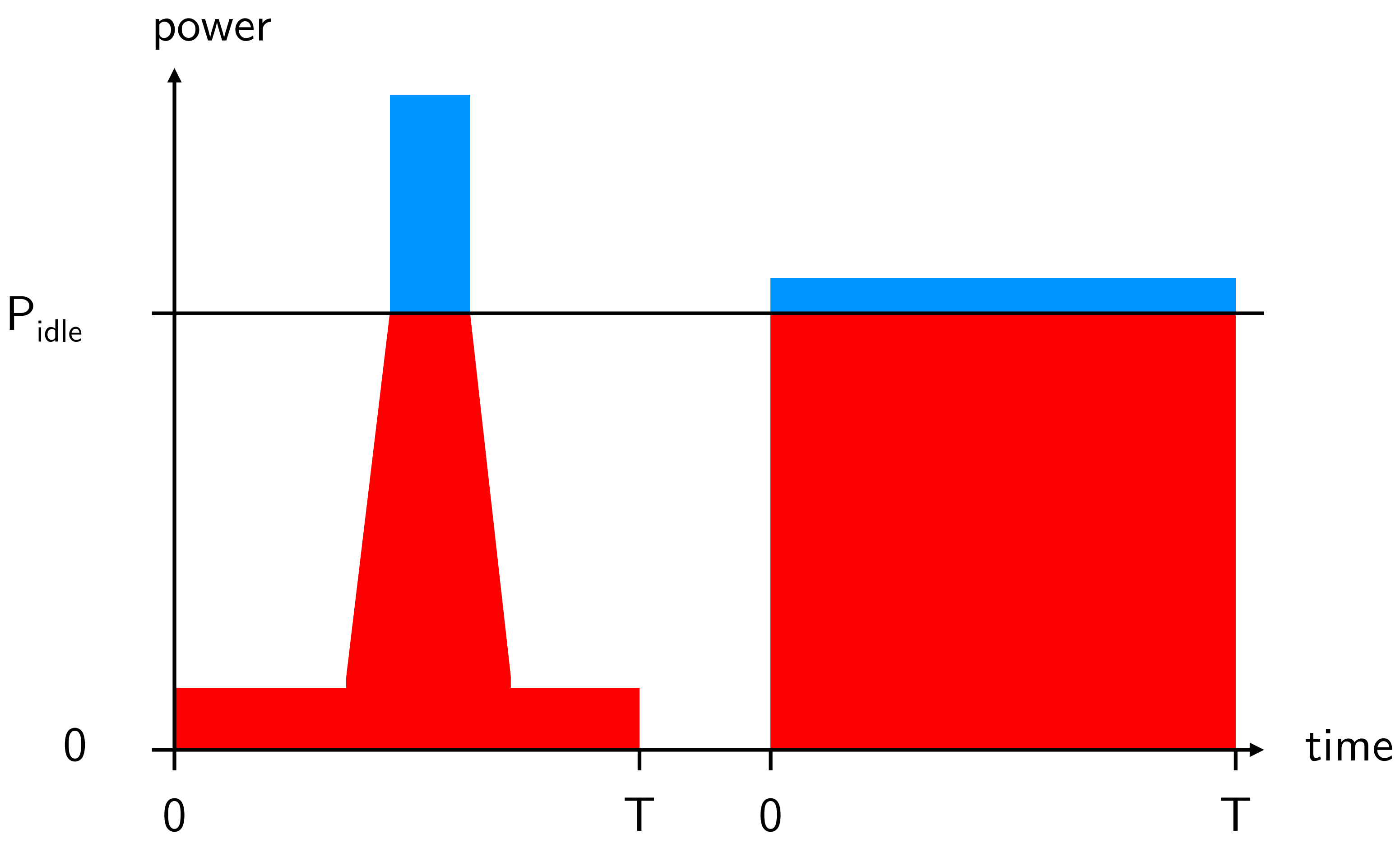

- As idle power dominates, low utilization wastes a lot.
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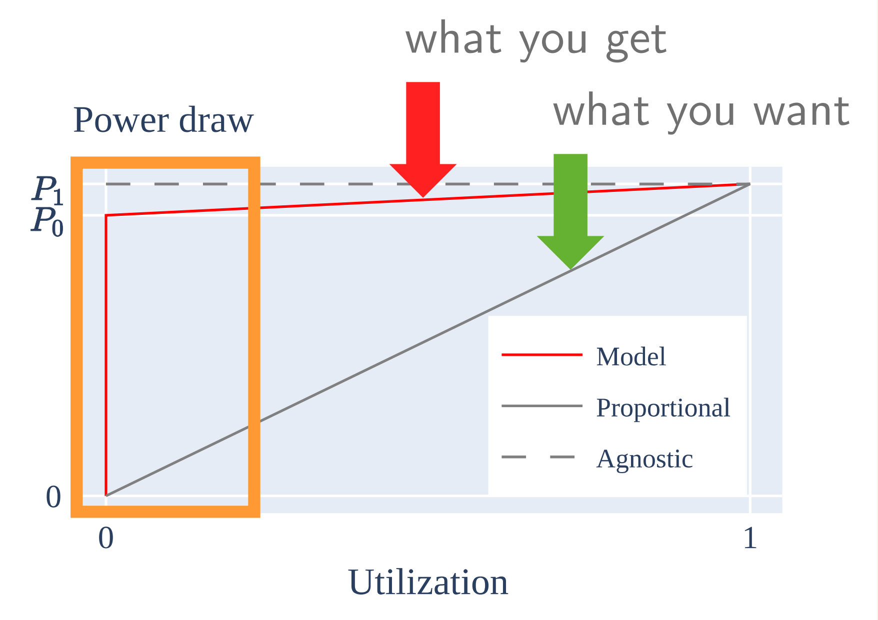
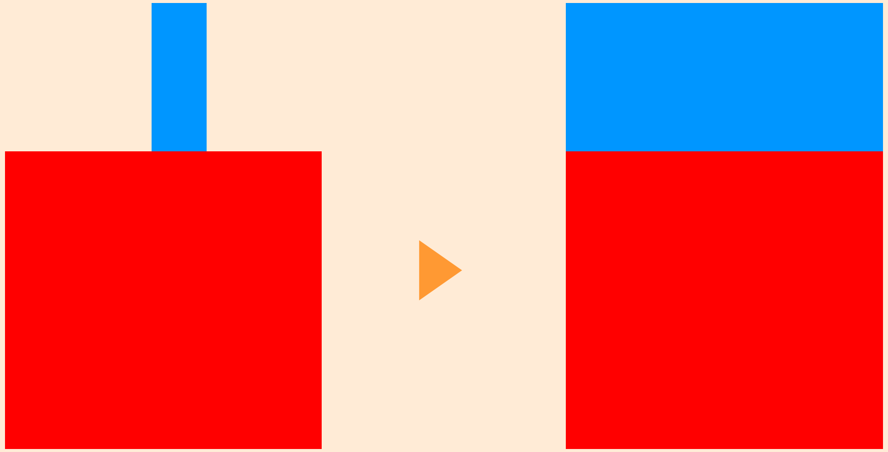
- … and it dominates.

▶ Improving proportionality is essentially about taking the "average idle power" down.

There two ways to improve energy efficiency.

- Run more often at high utilization
  - ▶ Better efficiency
    Increase in total energy...

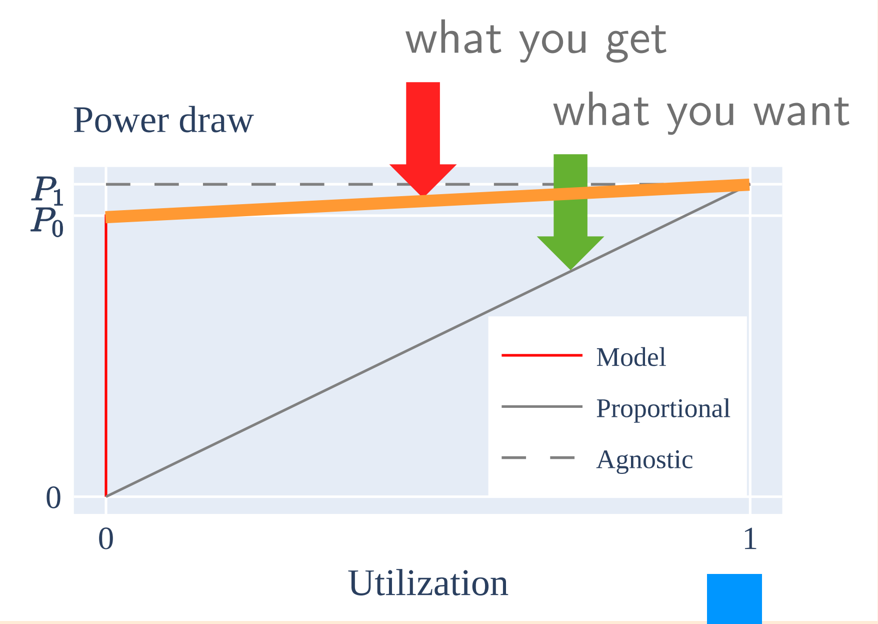


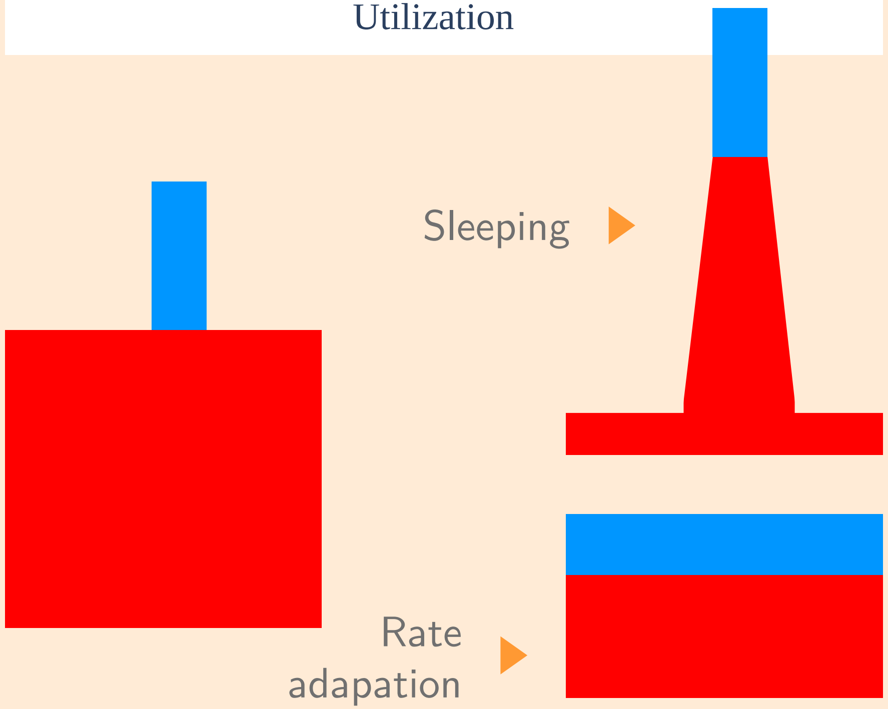


There two ways to improve energy efficiency.

- Run more often at high utilization
  - Better efficiency
    Increase in total energy…
- Take low-utilization power down

Our focus





The basic idea is to turn off "stuff" whenever possible.

What can we possibly turn off?

- Ports
- Line cards
- Entire device...

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What can we possibly turn off?

- Ports
- Line cards
- Entire device...

- Memory banks
- Power supplies
- LEDs ... etc.

The basic idea is to turn off "stuff" whenever possible.

What can we possibly turn off?

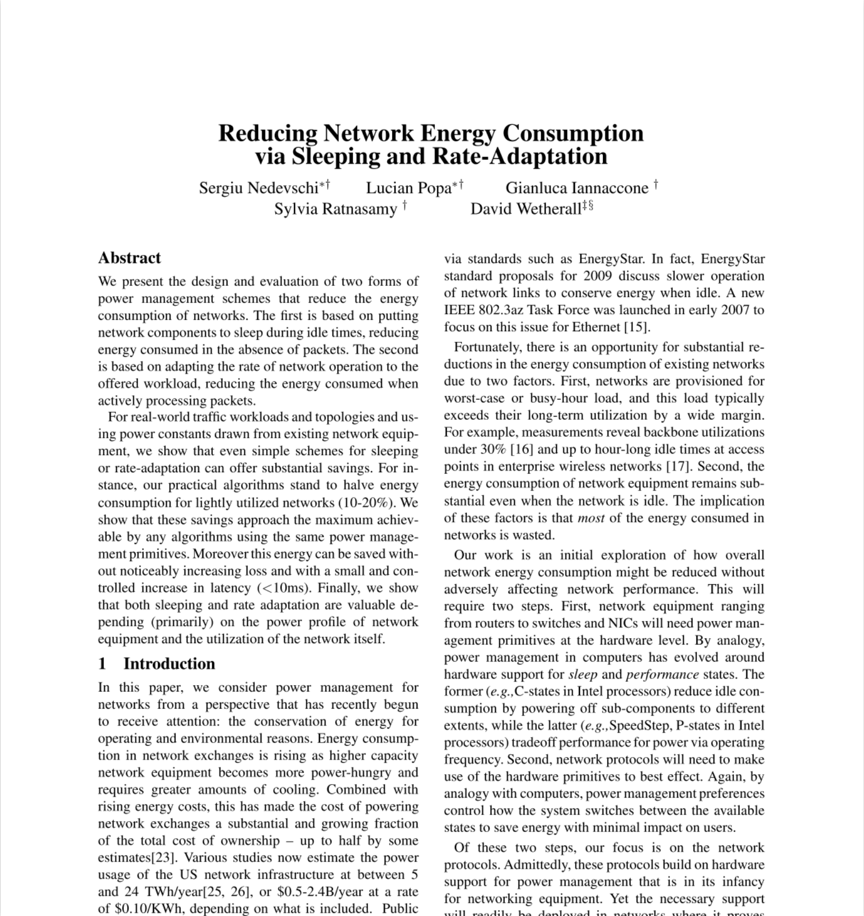
- Ports
- Line cards
- Entire device...
- Memory banks
- Power supplies
- LEDs ... etc.

It can be more subtle than on/off.

- Change a port rate from 100G to 10G
- Down-clock the ASIC
- Cache frequently used FIB entries

The basic idea is to turn off “stuff” whenever possible. That’s nothing new.

Academia NSDI 2008



Reducing Network Energy Consumption via Sleeping and Rate-Adaptation

Sergiu Nedevschi*† Lucian Popa*† Gianluca Iannaccone † Sylvia Ratnasamy † David Wetherall‡§

Abstract

We present the design and evaluation of two forms of power management schemes that reduce the energy consumption of networks. The first is based on putting network components to sleep during idle times, reducing energy consumed in the absence of packets. The second is based on adapting the rate of network operation to the offered workload, reducing the energy consumed when actively processing packets.

For real-world traffic workloads and topologies and using power constants drawn from existing network equipment, we show that even simple schemes for sleeping or rate-adaptation can offer substantial savings. For instance, our practical algorithms stand to halve energy consumption for lightly utilized networks (10-20%). We show that these savings approach the maximum achievable by any algorithms using the same power management primitives. Moreover this energy can be saved without noticeably increasing loss and with a small and controlled increase in latency (<10ms). Finally, we show that both sleeping and rate adaptation are valuable depending (primarily) on the power profile of network equipment and the utilization of the network itself.

1 Introduction

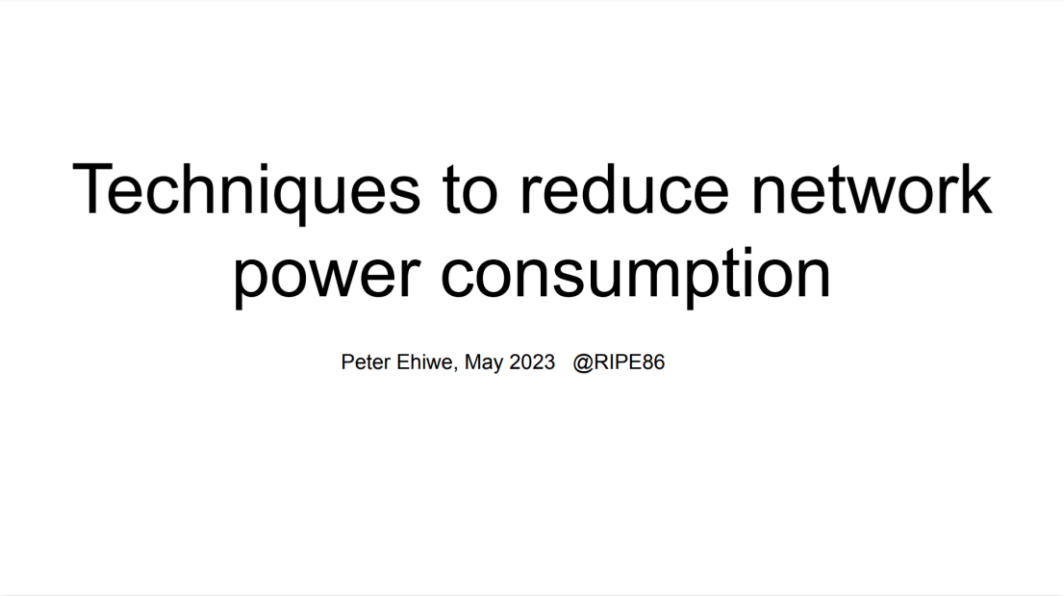
In this paper, we consider power management for networks from a perspective that has recently begun to receive attention: the conservation of energy for operating and environmental reasons. Energy consumption in network exchanges is rising as higher capacity network equipment becomes more power-hungry and requires greater amounts of cooling. Combined with rising energy costs, this has made the cost of powering network exchanges a substantial and growing fraction of the total cost of ownership – up to half by some estimates[23]. Various studies now estimate the power usage of the US network infrastructure at between 5 and 24 TWh/year[25, 26], or $0.5-2.4B/year at a rate of $0.10/KWh, depending on what is included. Public via standards such as EnergyStar. In fact, EnergyStar standard proposals for 2009 discuss slower operation of network links to conserve energy when idle. A new IEEE 802.3az Task Force was launched in early 2007 to focus on this issue for Ethernet [15].

Fortunately, there is an opportunity for substantial reductions in the energy consumption of existing networks due to two factors. First, networks are provisioned for worst-case or busy-hour load, and this load typically exceeds their long-term utilization by a wide margin. For example, measurements reveal backbone utilizations under 30% [16] and up to hour-long idle times at access points in enterprise wireless networks [17]. Second, the energy consumption of network equipment remains substantial even when the network is idle. The implication of these factors is that *most* of the energy consumed in networks is wasted.

Our work is an initial exploration of how overall network energy consumption might be reduced without adversely affecting network performance. This will require two steps. First, network equipment ranging from routers to switches and NICs will need power management primitives at the hardware level. By analogy, power management in computers has evolved around hardware support for *sleep* and *performance* states. The former (*e.g.,*C-states in Intel processors) reduce idle consumption by powering off sub-components to different extents, while the latter (*e.g.,*SpeedStep, P-states in Intel processors) tradeoff performance for power via operating frequency. Second, network protocols will need to make use of the hardware primitives to best effect. Again, by analogy with computers, power management preferences control how the system switches between the available states to save energy with minimal impact on users.

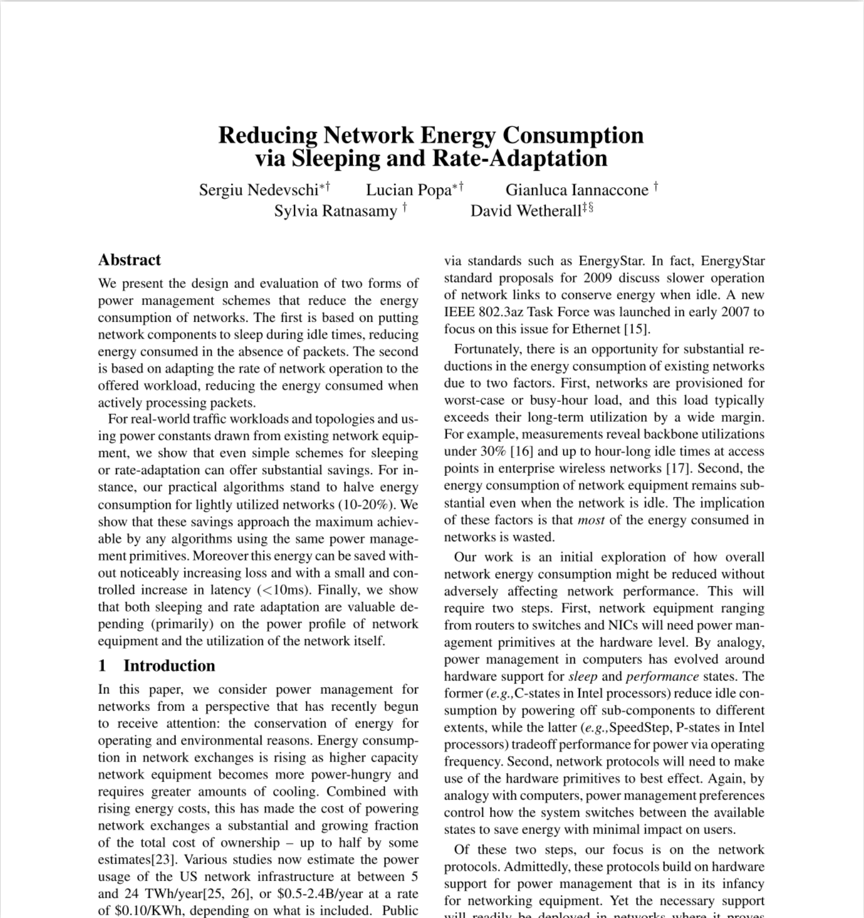
Of these two steps, our focus is on the network protocols. Admittedly, these protocols build on hardware support for power management that is in its infancy for networking equipment. Yet the necessary support

Network operators RIPE 2023



The theory says we can save tens of energy % in ISP networks.

Academia



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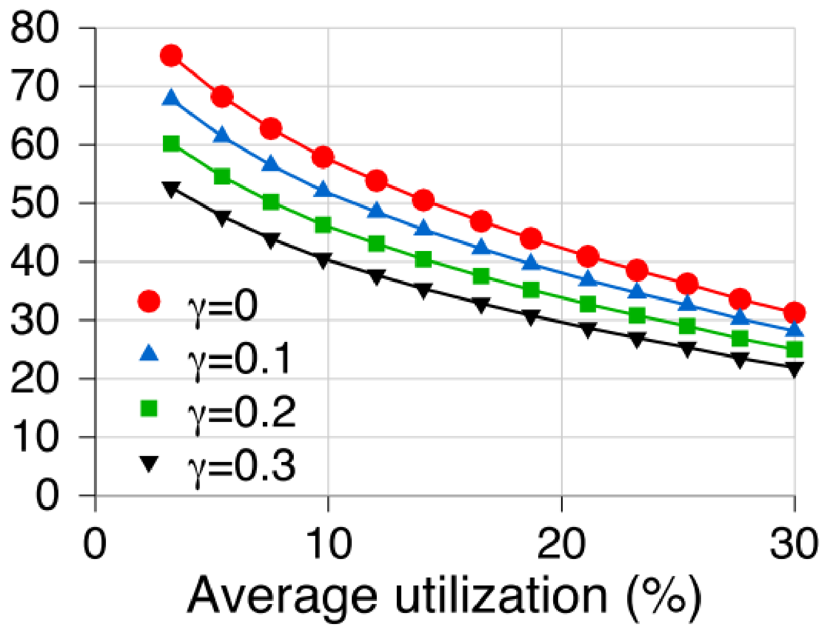
Fortunately, there is an opportunity for substantial reductions in the energy consumption of existing networks due to two factors. First, networks are provisioned for worst-case or busy-hour load, and this load typically exceeds their long-term utilization by a wide margin. For example, measurements reveal backbone utilizations under 30% [16] and up to hour-long idle times at access points in enterprise wireless networks [17]. Second, the energy consumption of network equipment remains substantial even when the network is idle. The implication of these factors is that *most* of the energy consumed in networks is wasted.

Our work is an initial exploration of how overall network energy consumption might be reduced without adversely affecting network performance. This will require two steps. First, network equipment ranging from routers to switches and NICs will need power management primitives at the hardware level. By analogy, power management in computers has evolved around hardware support for *sleep* and *performance* states. The former (*e.g.*,C-states in Intel processors) reduce idle consumption by powering off sub-components to different extents, while the latter (*e.g.*,SpeedStep, P-states in Intel processors) tradeoff performance for power via operating frequency. Second, network protocols will need to make use of the hardware primitives to best effect. Again, by analogy with computers, power management preferences control how the system switches between the available states to save energy with minimal impact on users.

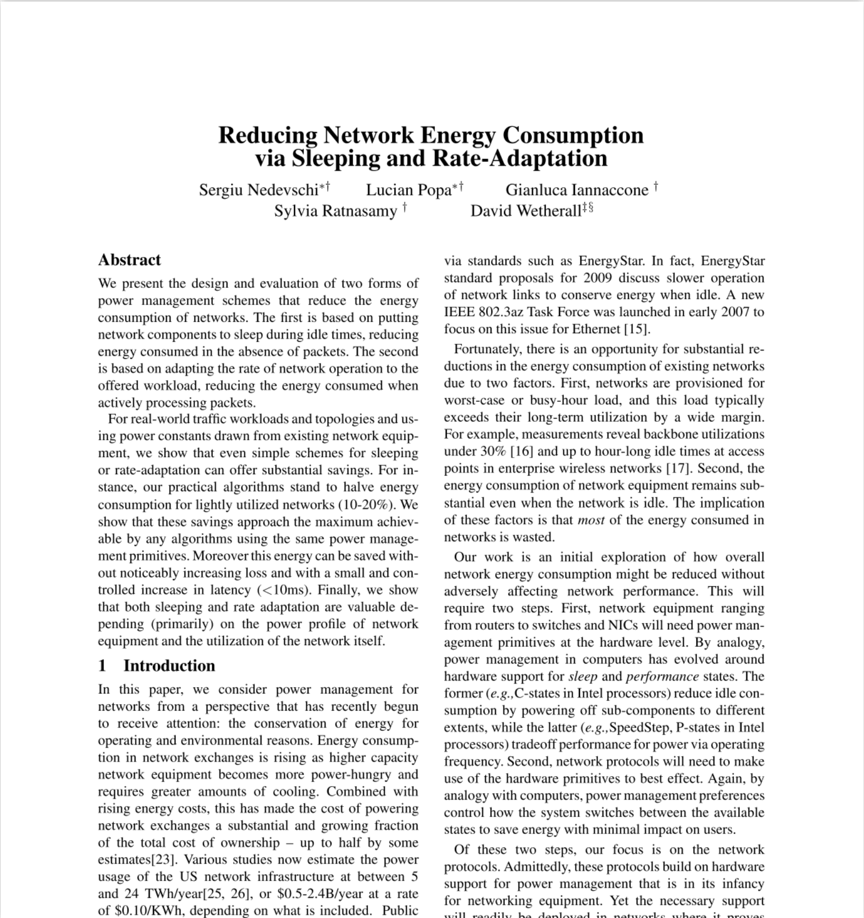
Of these two steps, our focus is on the network protocols. Admittedly, these protocols build on hardware support for power management that is in its infancy for networking equipment. Yet the necessary support

Energy Savings (%)



The theory says we can save tens of energy % in ISP networks.

Academia



Reducing Network Energy Consumption via Sleeping and Rate-Adaptation

Sergiu Nedevschi*† Lucian Popa*† Gianluca Iannaccone † Sylvia Ratnasamy † David Wetherall‡§

Abstract

We present the design and evaluation of two forms of power management schemes that reduce the energy consumption of networks. The first is based on putting network components to sleep during idle times, reducing energy consumed in the absence of packets. The second is based on adapting the rate of network operation to the offered workload, reducing the energy consumed when actively processing packets.

For real-world traffic workloads and topologies and using power constants drawn from existing network equipment, we show that even simple schemes for sleeping or rate-adaptation can offer substantial savings. For instance, our practical algorithms stand to halve energy consumption for lightly utilized networks (10-20%). We show that these savings approach the maximum achievable by any algorithms using the same power management primitives. Moreover this energy can be saved without noticeably increasing loss and with a small and controlled increase in latency (<10ms). Finally, we show that both sleeping and rate adaptation are valuable depending (primarily) on the power profile of network equipment and the utilization of the network itself.

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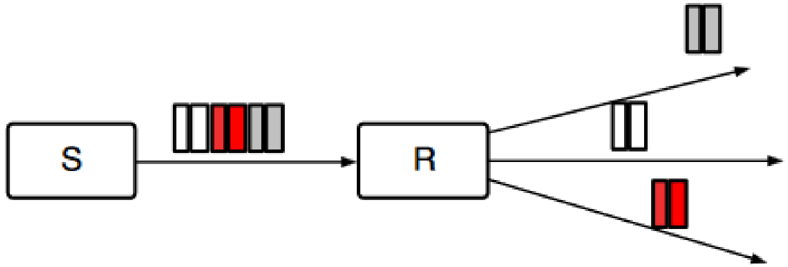
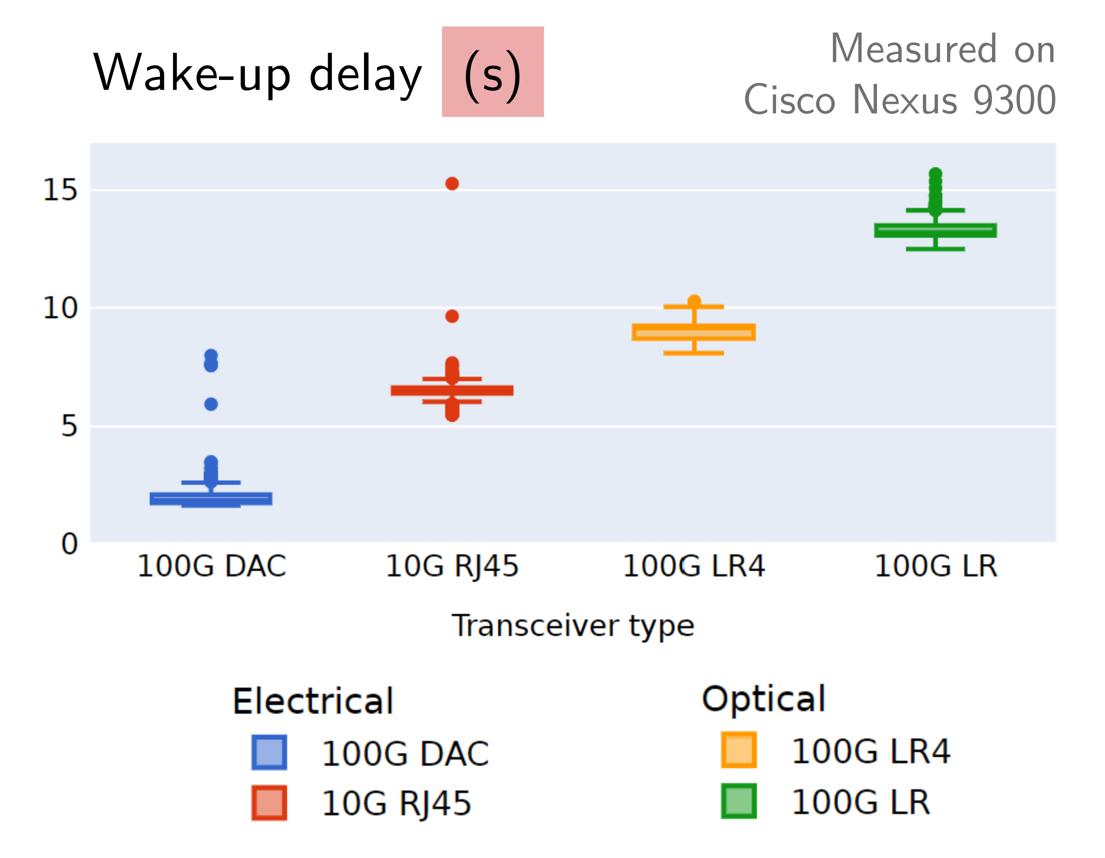
How? Buffer-and-Burst



Assuming

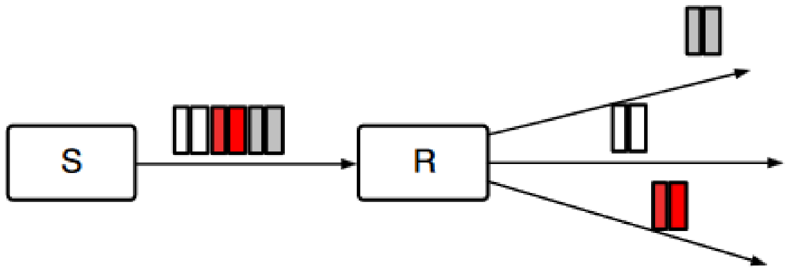
- Wake-up delay $1ms$
- Buffering time $10ms$

Practice



Theory

How? Buffer-and-Burst



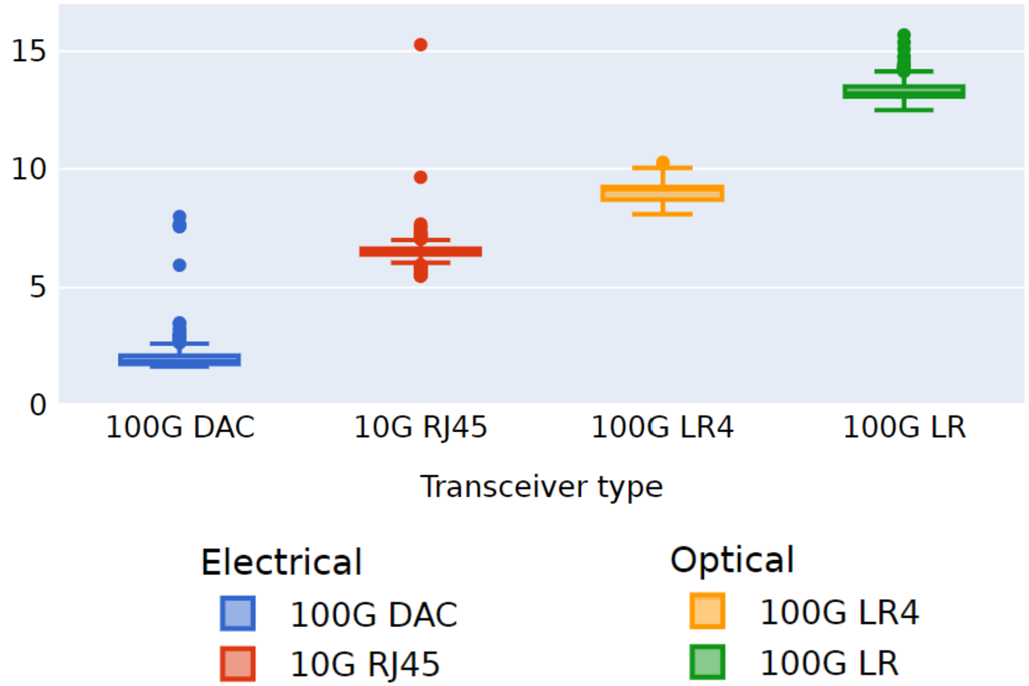
Assuming

- Wake-up delay $1ms$
- Buffering time $10ms$

In practice, transcievers are 1000x slower to start than required for savings via buffering.

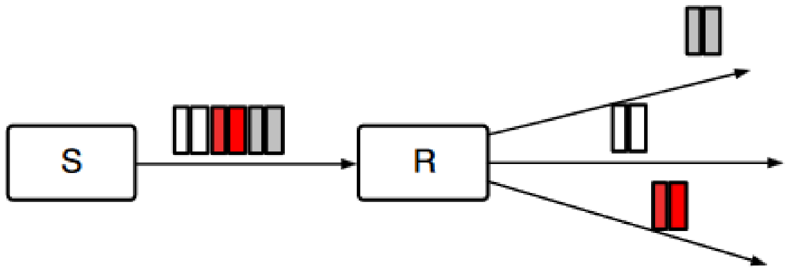
Wake-up delay (s)

Measured on
Cisco Nexus 9300



How?

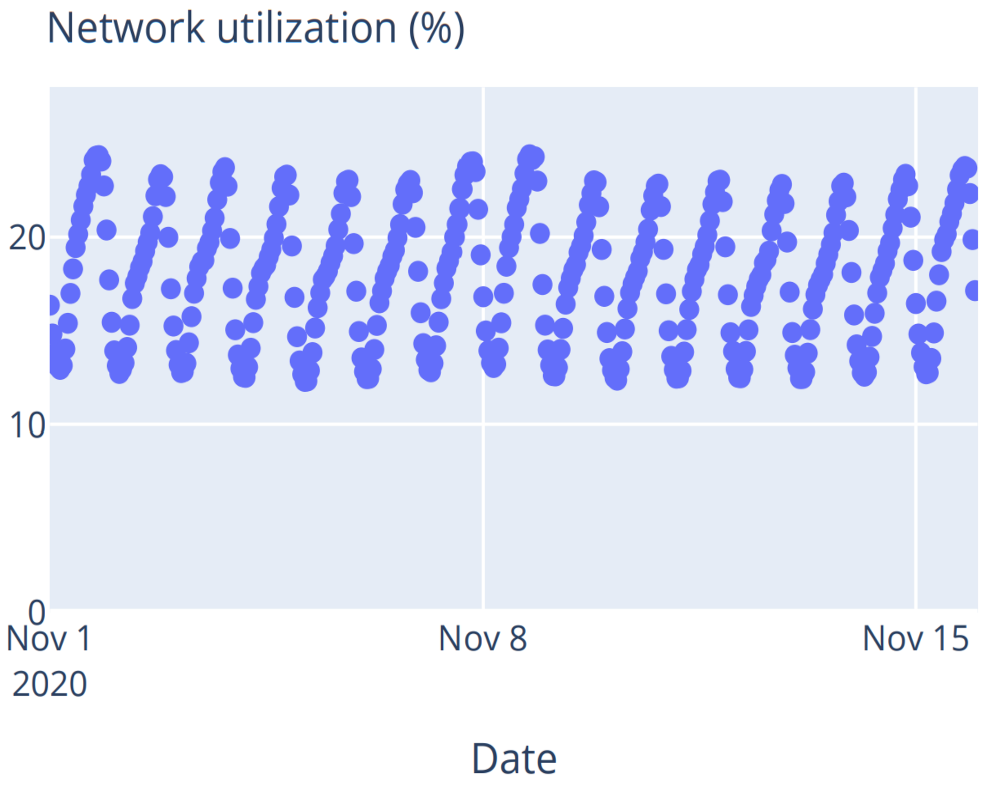
Buffer-and-Burst



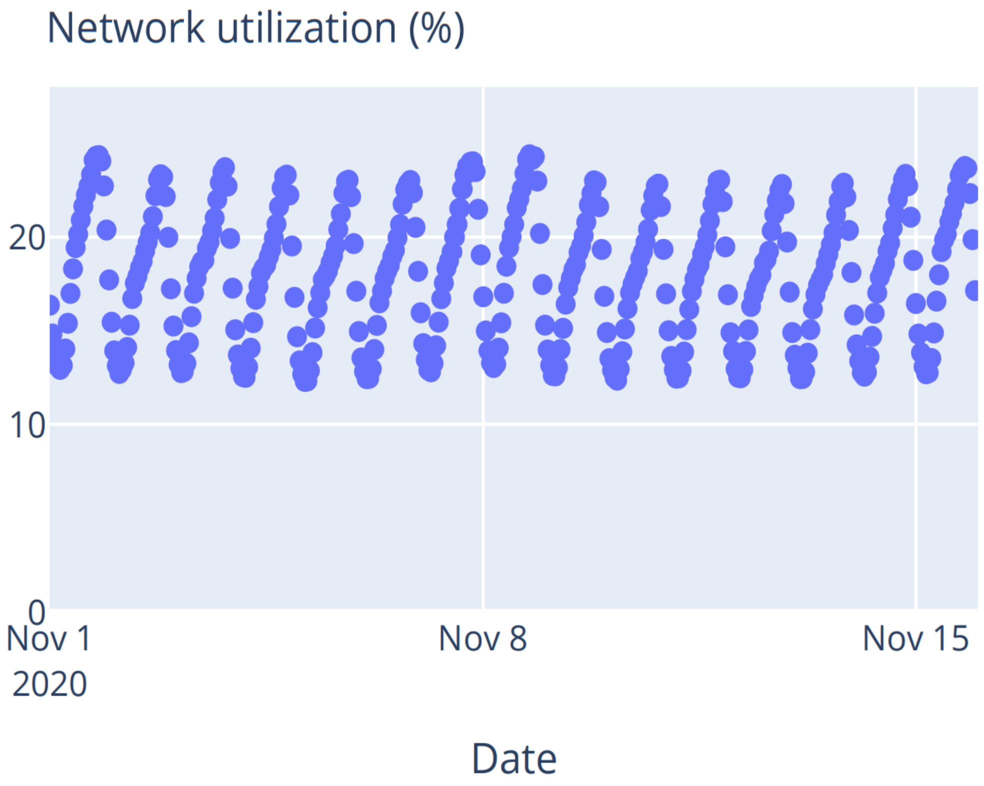
Assuming

- Wake-up delay $1ms$
- Buffering time $10ms$

We can still “sleep” at longer timescales.



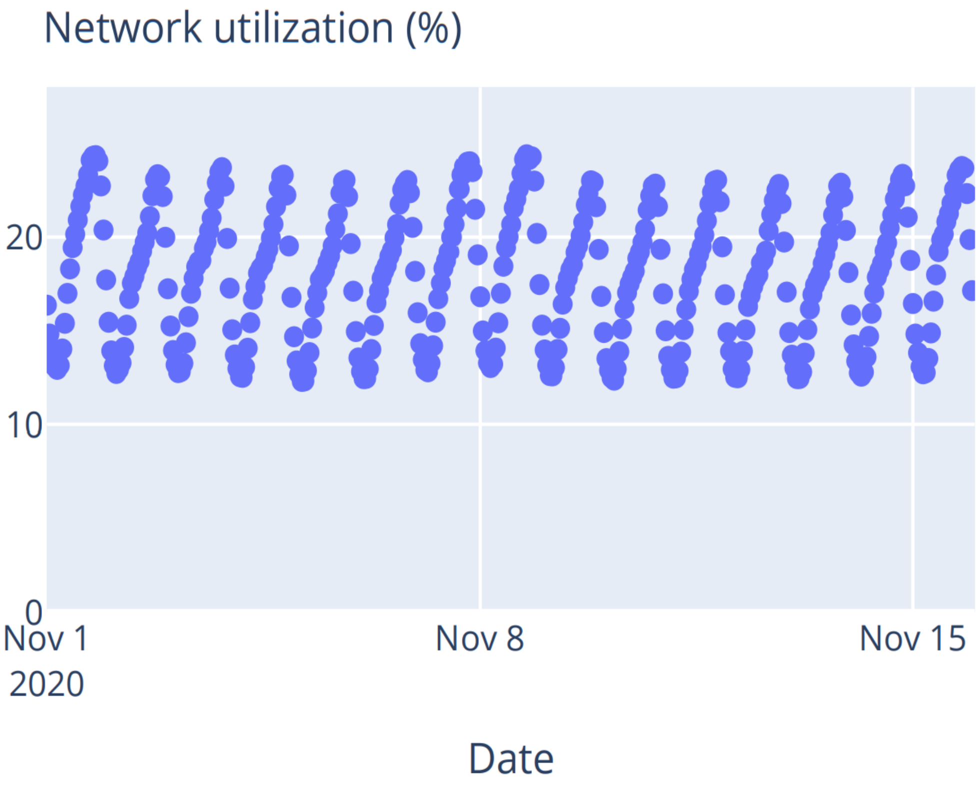
We can still "sleep" at longer timescales.

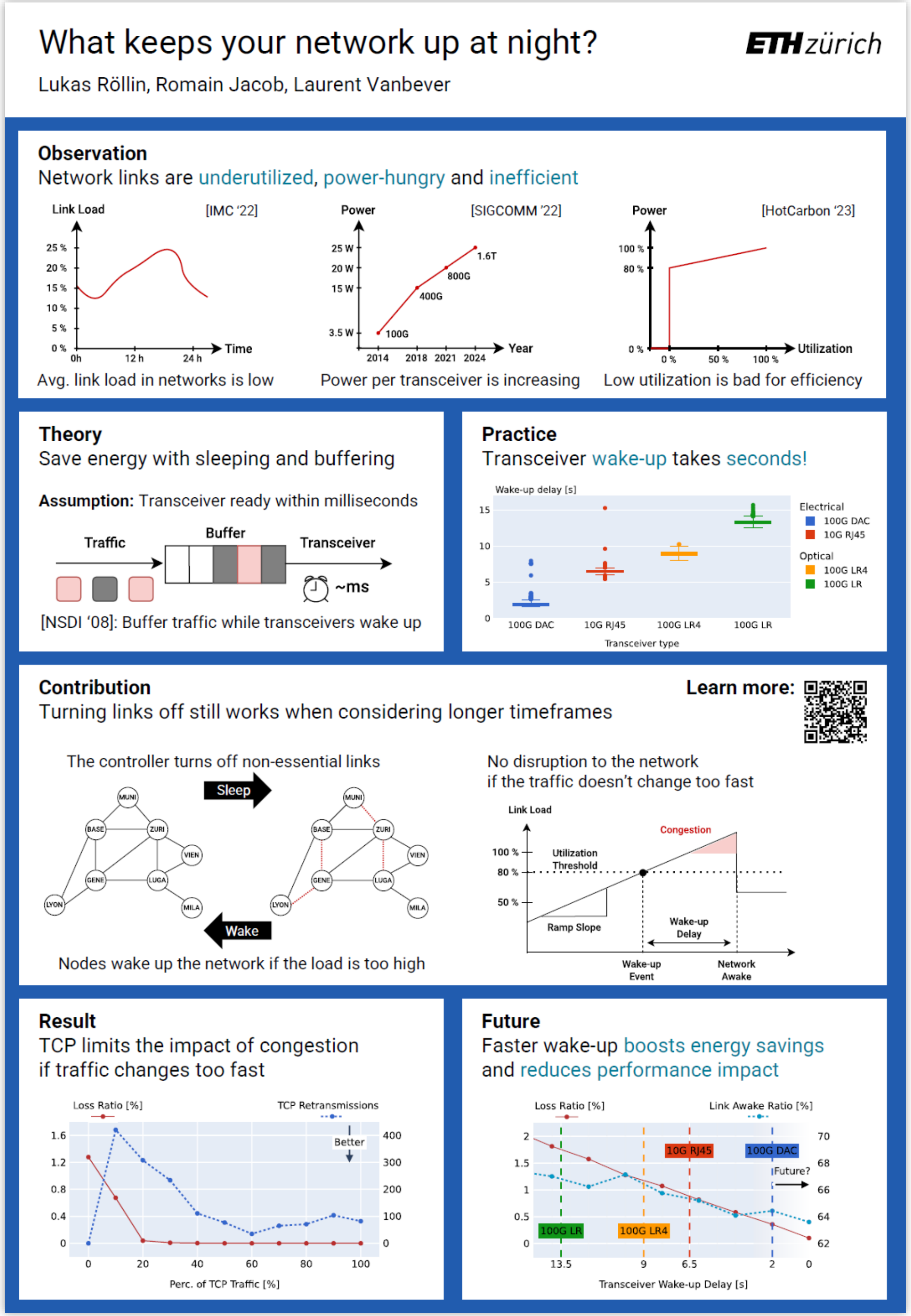


It can be formulated as a usual network optimization problem

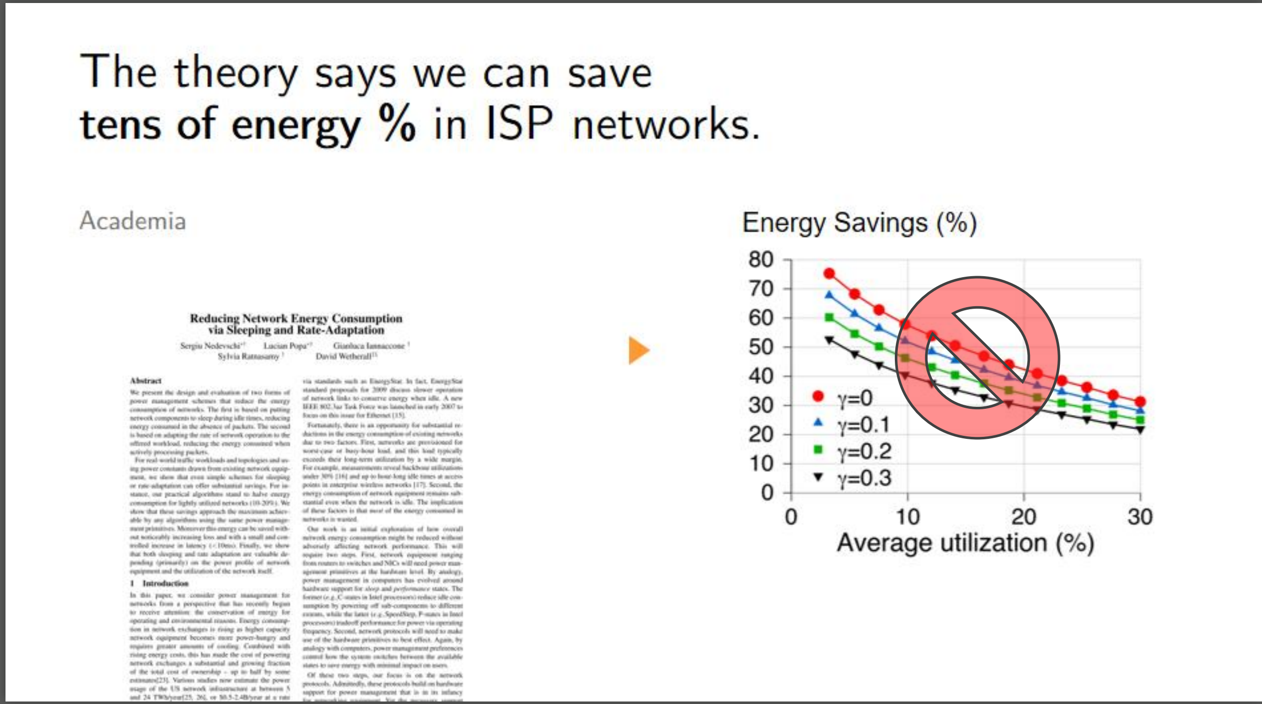
with unusual constraints.

We can still “sleep” at longer timescales.





How much energy can we really save?



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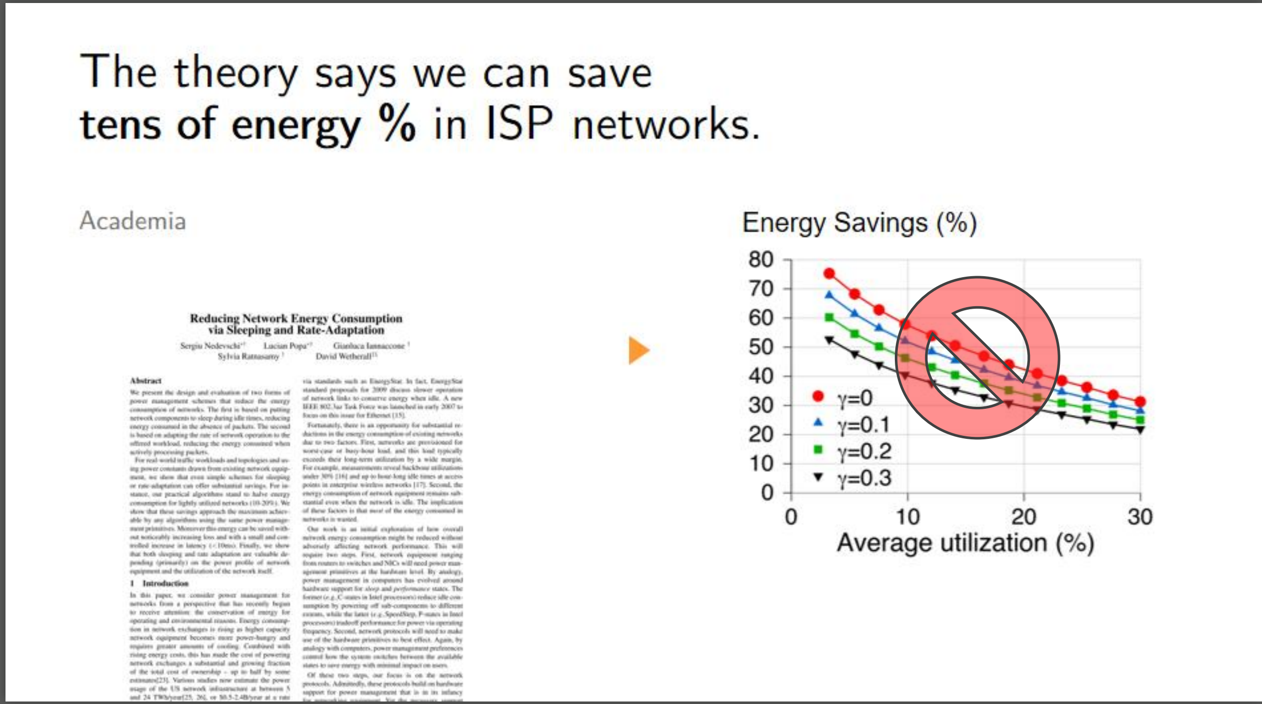

Hard to say because we lack

1. Measurements
2. Test cases

Energy savings are hard to estimate because we lack good power models.

- Datasheets only talk about the max power
- Devices are never under full load

Energy savings are hard to estimate because we lack good power models.

- Datasheets only talk about the max power
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? How much power is drawn under “typical” load?

Energy savings are hard to estimate because we lack good power models.

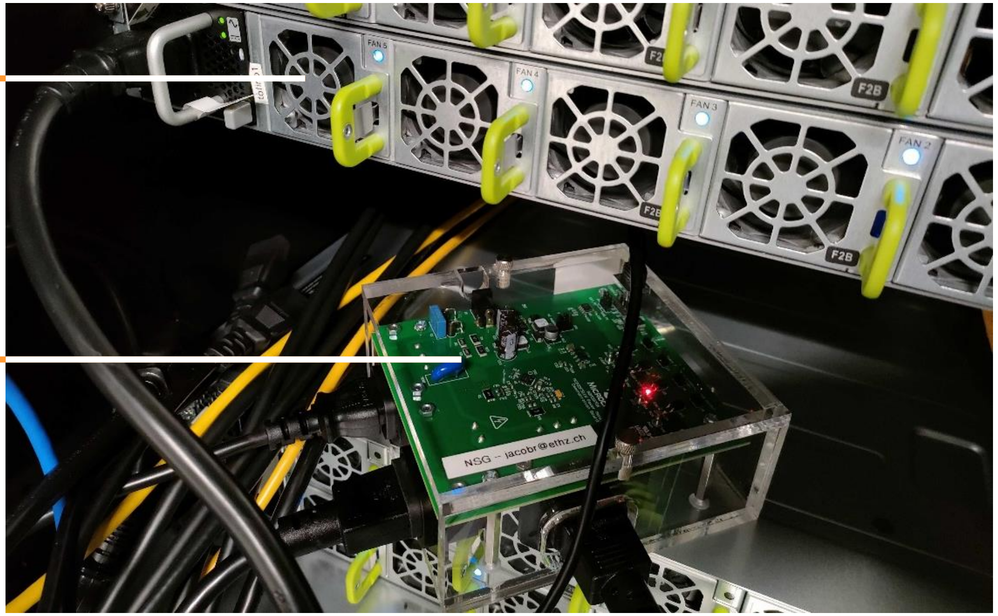
... so we are building our own ...

Profiling a Tofino switch

WEDGE 100BF-32X

Wedge switch

Power meter



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… so we are building our own …

Device power $=$		Static power	f(device config)
	$+$	Energy per bit * bit rate	
	$+$	Energy per packet * packet rate	
	$+$	Fan power	$\sim$ f(temperature)
	$+$	Power conversion losses	f(power demand)

We work with standardization bodies
to define a benchmark for network power.

```
Benchmarking Methodology Working Group                         V. Manral
Internet-Draft                                                 P. Sharma
Intended status: Informational                               S. Banerjee
Expires: September 13, 2013                                           HP
                                                                 Y. Ping
                                                                     H3C
                                                          March 12, 2013
```

Benchmarking Power usage of networking devices
draft-manral-bmwg-power-usage-04

Abstract

With the rapid growth of networks around the globe there is an ever increasing need to improve the energy efficiency of network devices. Operators are begining to seek more information of power consumption in the network, have no standard mechanism to measure, report and compare power usage of different networking equipment under different network configuration and conditions.

This document provides suggestions for measuring power usage of live networks under different traffic loads and various switch router configuration settings. It provides a benchmarking suite which can

We have a modelling approach.
We don't have devices that need modeling.

Academics have limited access
to devices used in the field.

? Can we measure yours?

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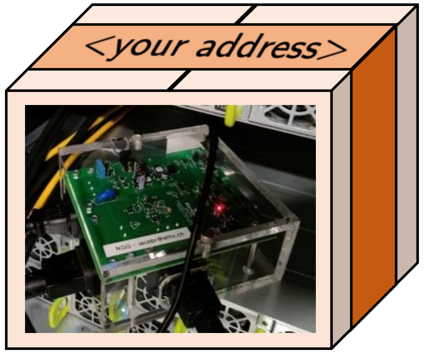
Can we measure yours?

- We sent you hardware
- You plug it in
- Everyone gets data!



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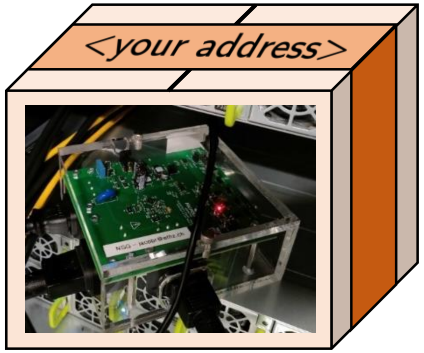
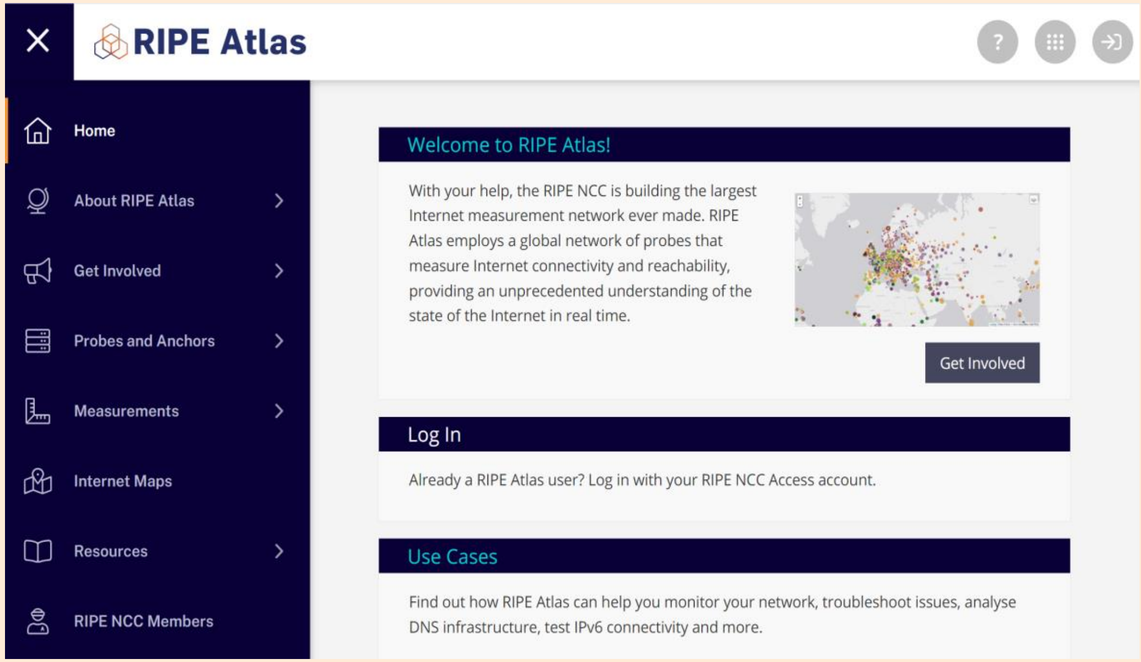
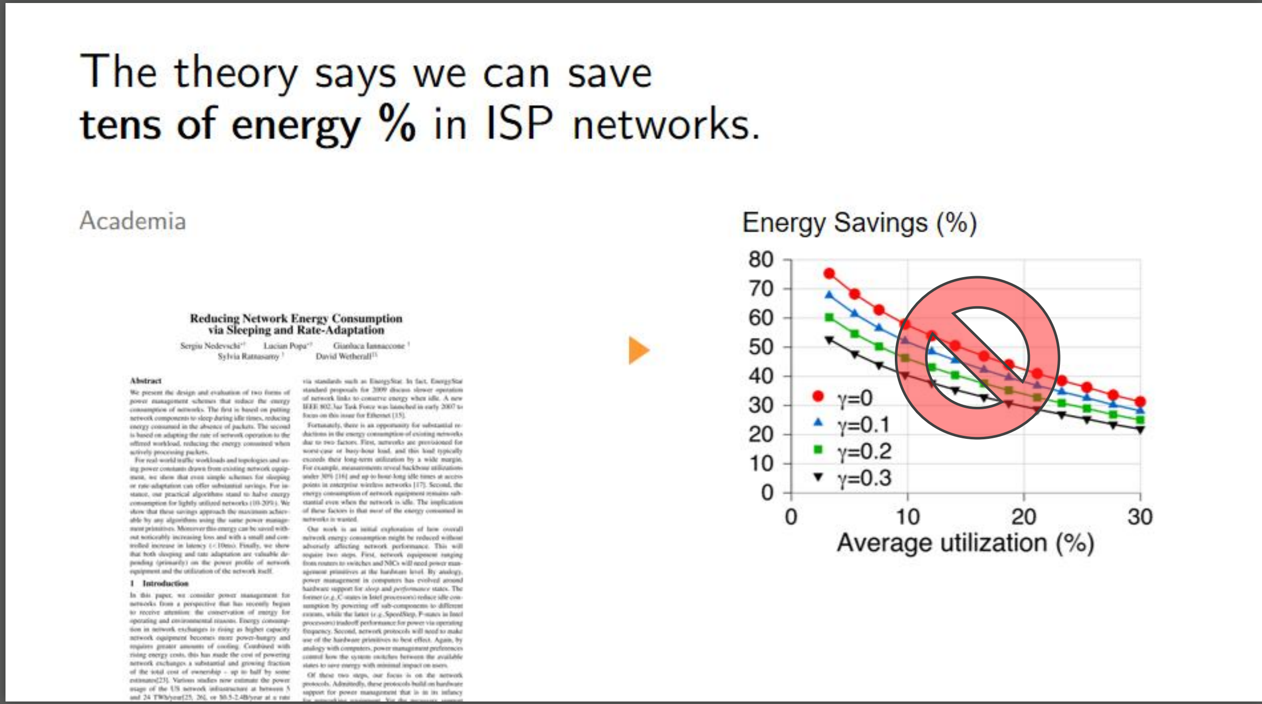


Vision

RIPE Atlas for Power Data



How much energy can we really save?

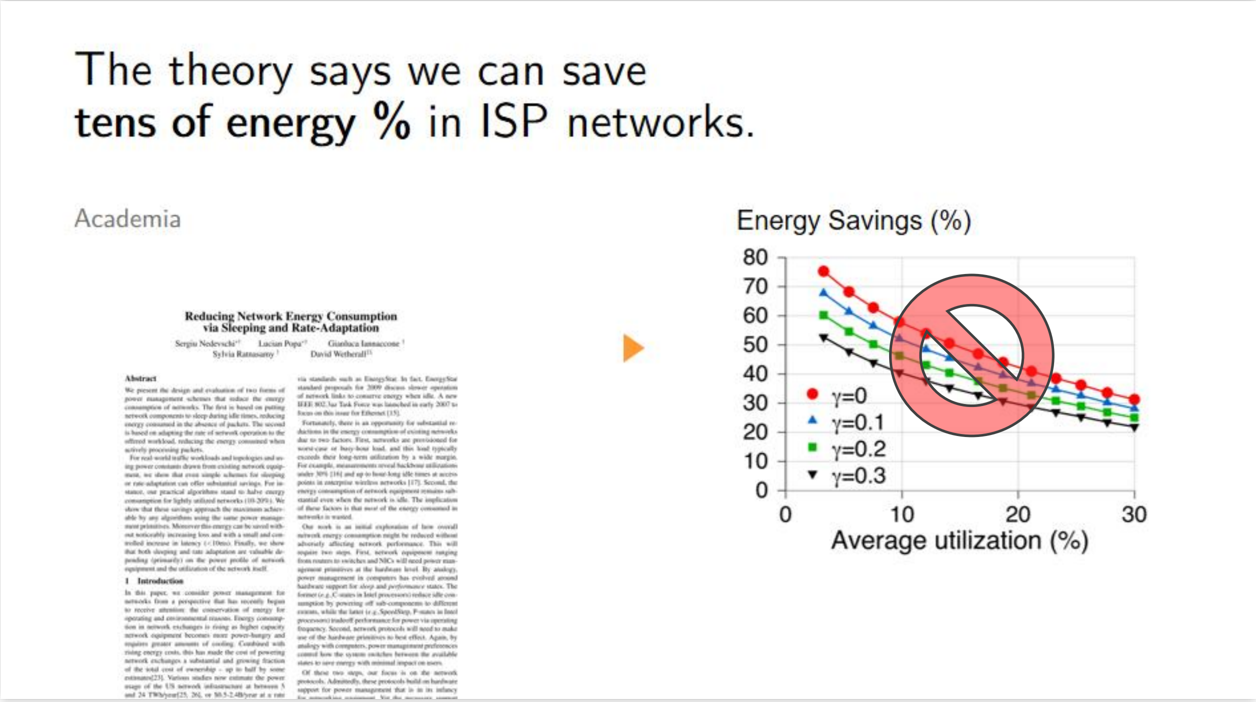


Hard to say because we lack

1 Measurements

2 Test cases

Energy savings are hard to estimate because they depend on the network.

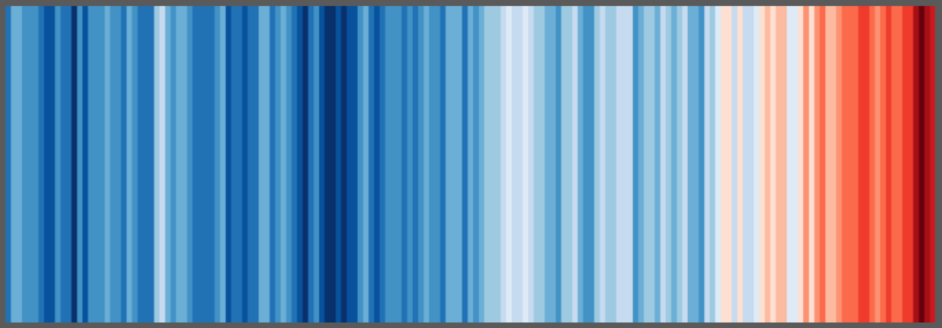


- Anything can happen in simulation.
- We need real traffic dynamics to accuratly assess the impact of sleeping.

? Can we get yours?

On taking network power down

to reduce the Internet footprint.

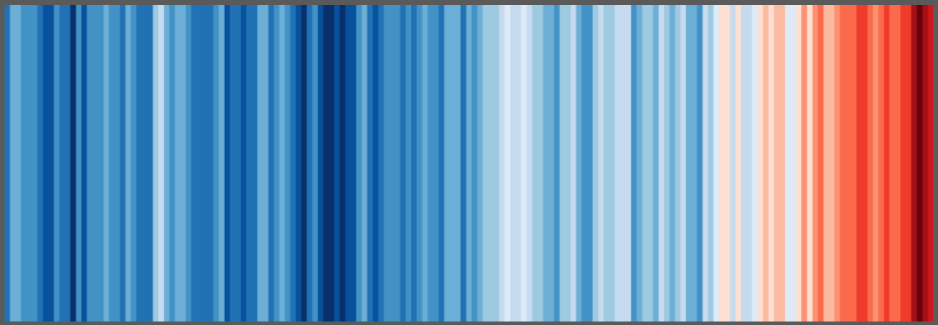


1 Reduce network power
with better proportionality

- We can “sleep” at daily timescales
  one in many ideas for better proportionality
- We need some help
  to know if it is worth it

On taking network power down

to reduce the Internet footprint.



Reduce network power
with better proportionality

2 Avoid rebound effects
by avocating for sobriety

Engraving by Edward Goodall (1795-1870), original title Manchester, from Kersal Moor after a painting of W. Wylde

Coal-burning factories in 19th-century Manchester, England.

Improved technology allowed coal to fuel the Industrial Revolution.

This greatly increased the consumption of coal.

Improving efficiency of a resource usage may result in increased consumption of that resource.

Engraving by Edward Goodall (1795-1870), original title Manchester, from Kersal Moor after a painting of W. Wylde

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jevons_paradox

Coal-burning factories in 19th-century Manchester, England.

Improved technology allowed coal to fuel the Industrial Revolution.

This greatly increased the consumption of coal.

- Known as the Jevons paradox or rebound effects

The Jevons paradox is observed the ICT sector.

From	2007	Progress in both
to	2020	hardware and software

From	2015	GHG emissions of ICT
to	2020	increased by 5%

https://ssrn.com/abstract=4424264

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From 2007 to 2020

Progress in both hardware and software

- Energy efficiency increased
- Energy usage per subscriber increased

▶ Jevons paradox on energy

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From 2007 to 2020

Progress in both hardware and software

- Energy efficiency increased
- Energy usage per subscriber increased

▶ Jevons paradox on energy

From 2015 to 2020

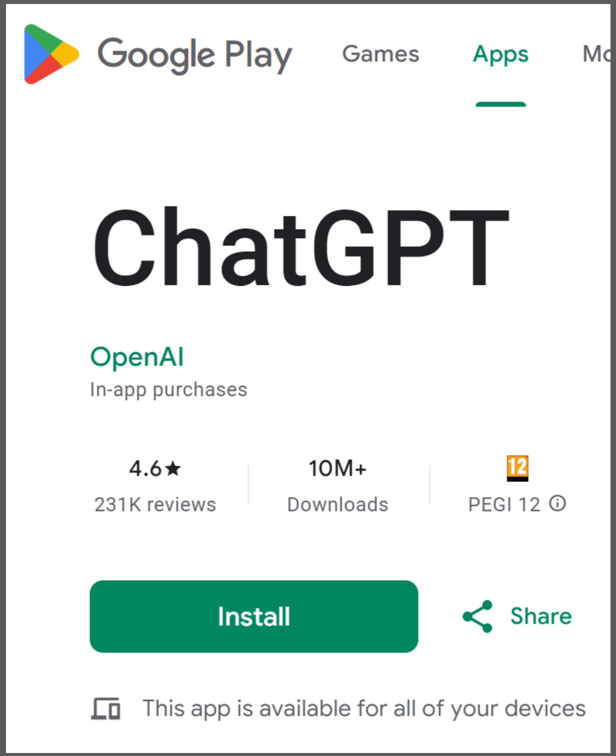
GHG emissions of ICT increased by 5%

- More devices are being sold
- Most consumers power devices using carbon-intense energy.

▶ Jevons paradox on carbon

https://ssrn.com/abstract=4424264

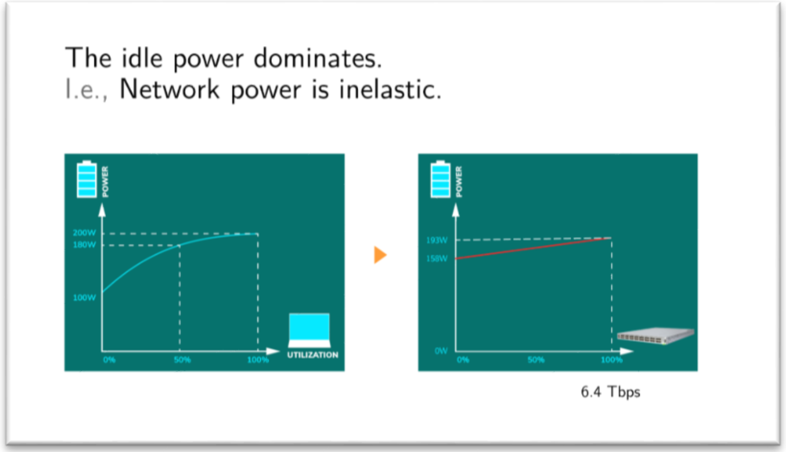
As “we” keep asking for more, the energy use will keep rising.

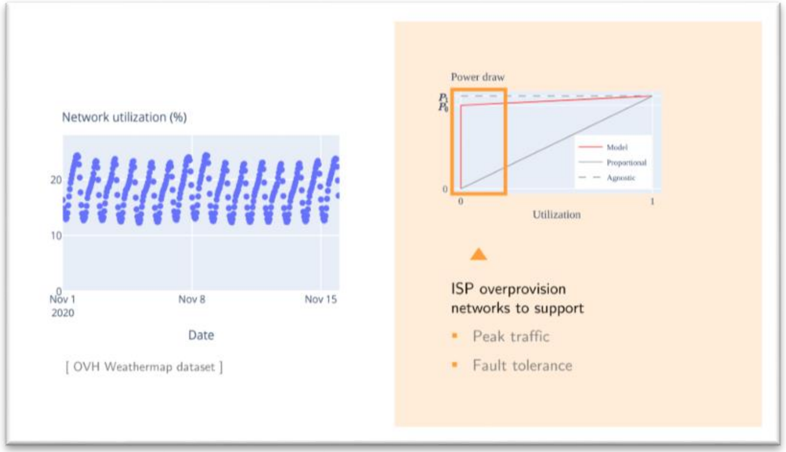


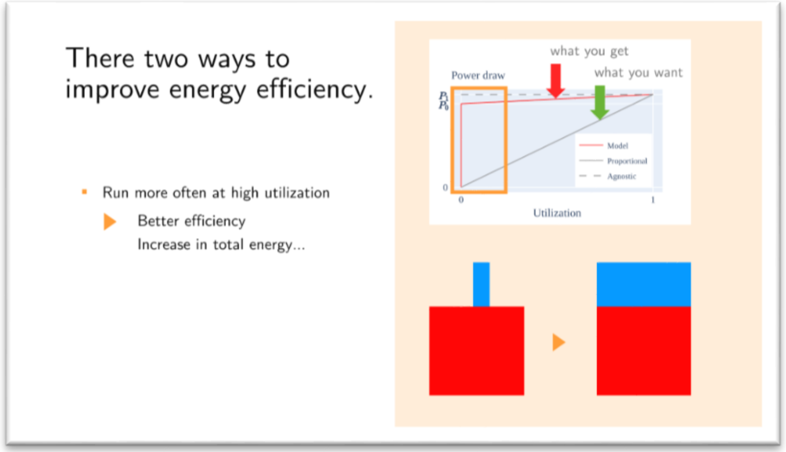
But wait, what about networks?

Didn't we say network power was inelastic anyway?

(I'm glad you asked)



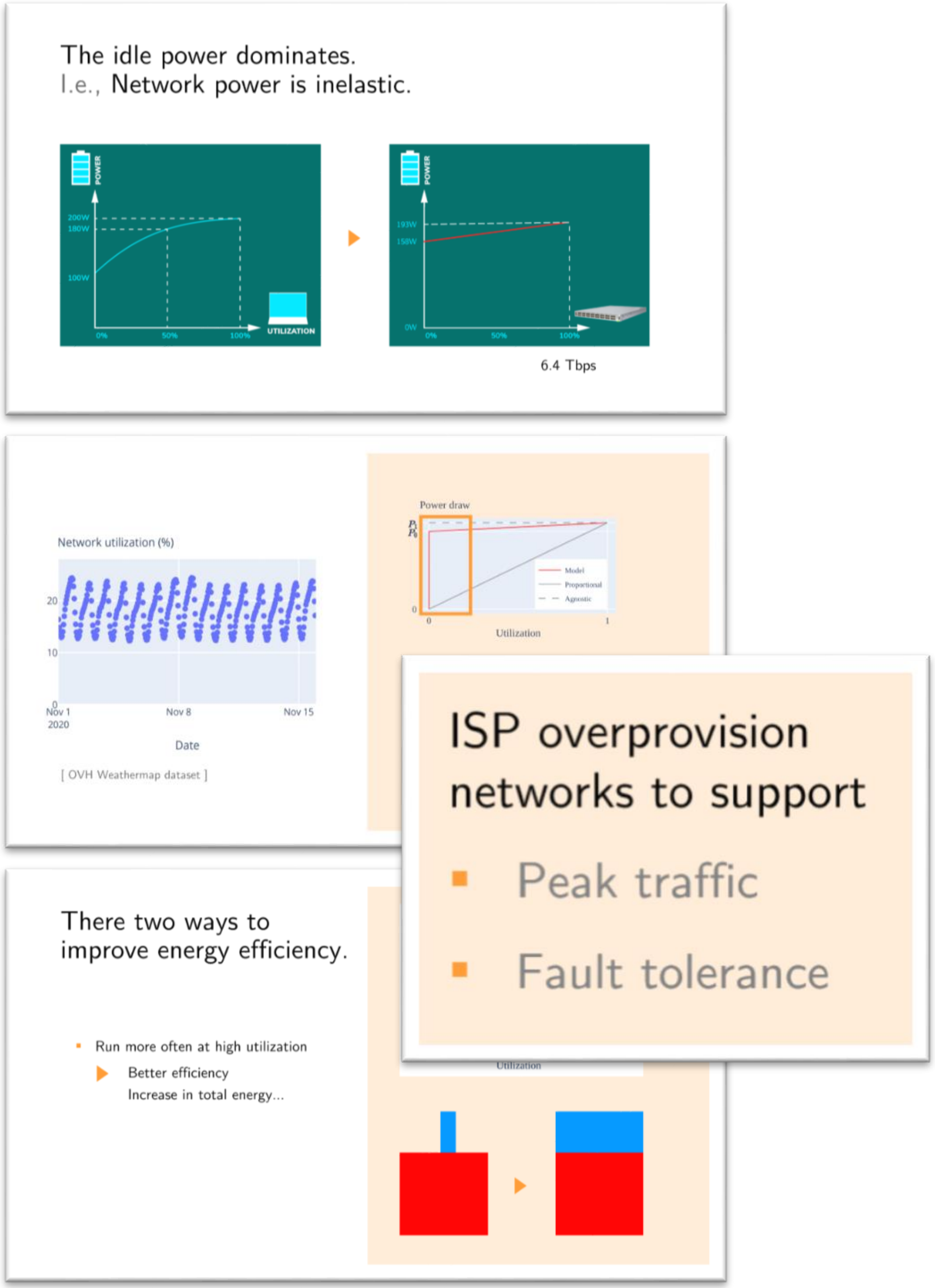




1. Power increases marginally with utilization.

2. Average utilization is low in ISP networks.

3. Increasing utilization improves efficiency.



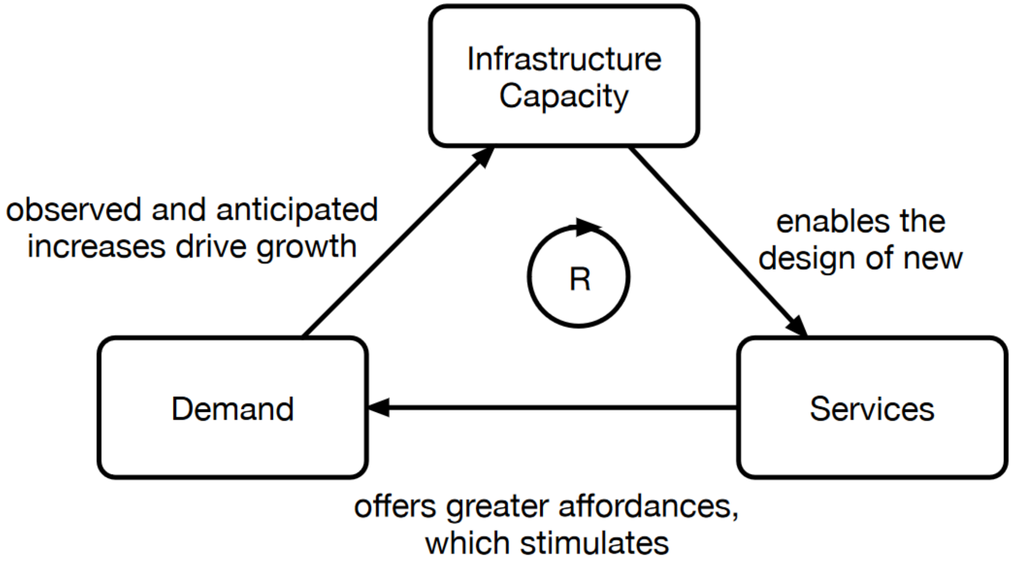
1. Power increases marginally with utilization.

2. Average utilization is low in ISP networks.

4. Networks are intentionally kept overprovisioned!

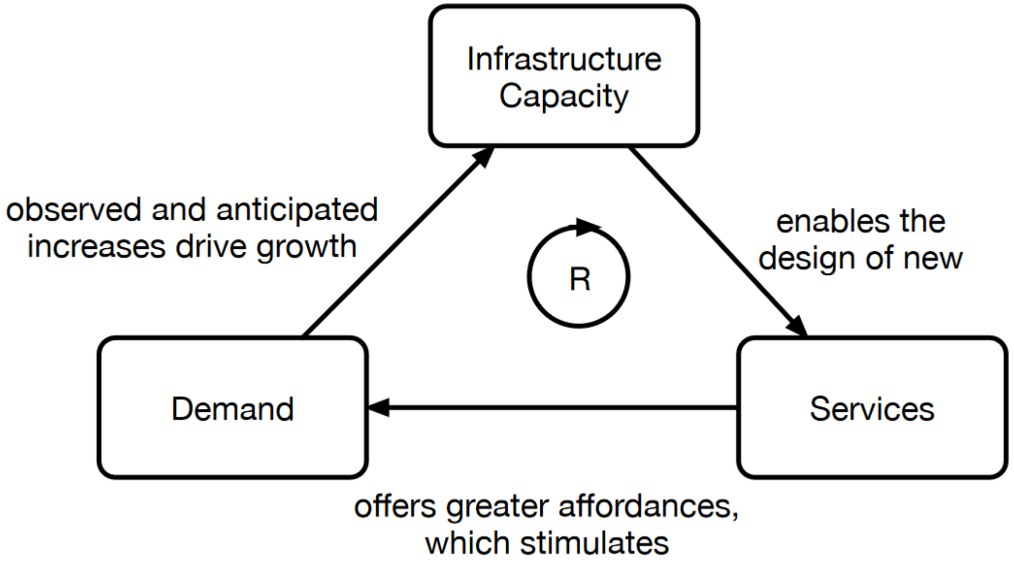
3. Increasing utilization improves efficiency.

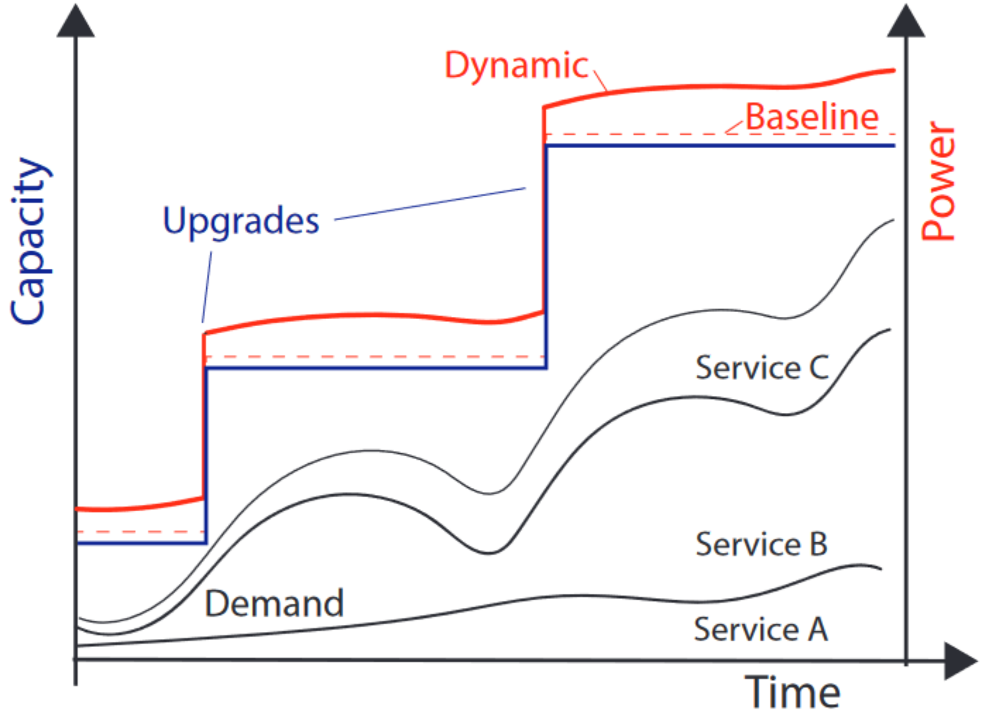
There is a feedback loop that stimulates network capacity increase



https://doi.org/10.1145/2858036.2858378

There is a feedback loop that stimulates network capacity increase and energy usage.





https://doi.org/10.1145/2858036.2858378

https://research-information.bris.ac.uk/en/publications/rethinking-allocation-in-high-baseload-systems-a-demand-proportio

We must embrace some digital sobriety.

Everything has a cost.

- Every picture we upload
- Every app we download
- Every movie we stream
- Every conversation we archive

It is not to say we must not do it
but
we must be mindful when doing it
and do it only when actually useful.

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"We" also includes the private sector...

1.3 million PB

> According to the World Economic Forum, companies generate 1.3. trillion gigabytes of dark data every day. Storing that data for a year using non-renewables generates as much CO2 as three million flights from London to New York.

28×10^9

> In 2020, Google said it stored four trillion photos, with 28 billion new photos and videos uploaded each week.

https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/opinions/the-elephant-in-the-data-center-shedding-light-on-dark-data/

On taking network power down

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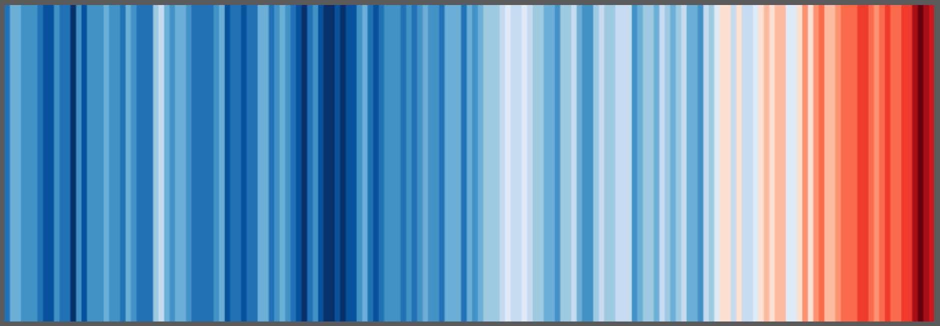
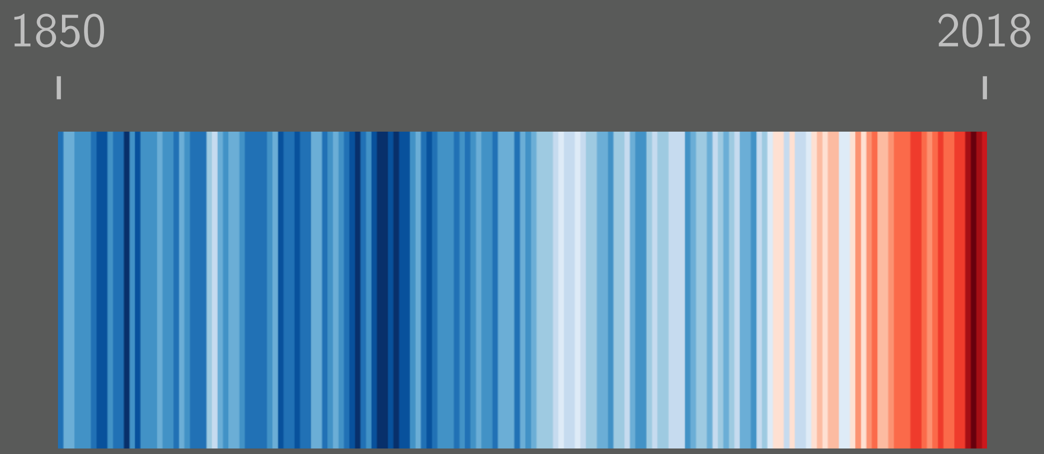


2 Avoid rebound effects
by avocating for sobriety

- Resist the drive to upgrade
  until you really need it
- Question your digital “needs”

On taking network power down

to reduce the Internet footprint.



Climate stripes. Ed Hawkins, 2018
portrays the increase of average global temperature

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EFCL Mini-Conf. Dec. 11, 2023