

# Twine: A Unified Cluster Management System for Shared Infrastructure

Ashvin Goel

Electrical and Computer Engineering  
University of Toronto

ECE1724

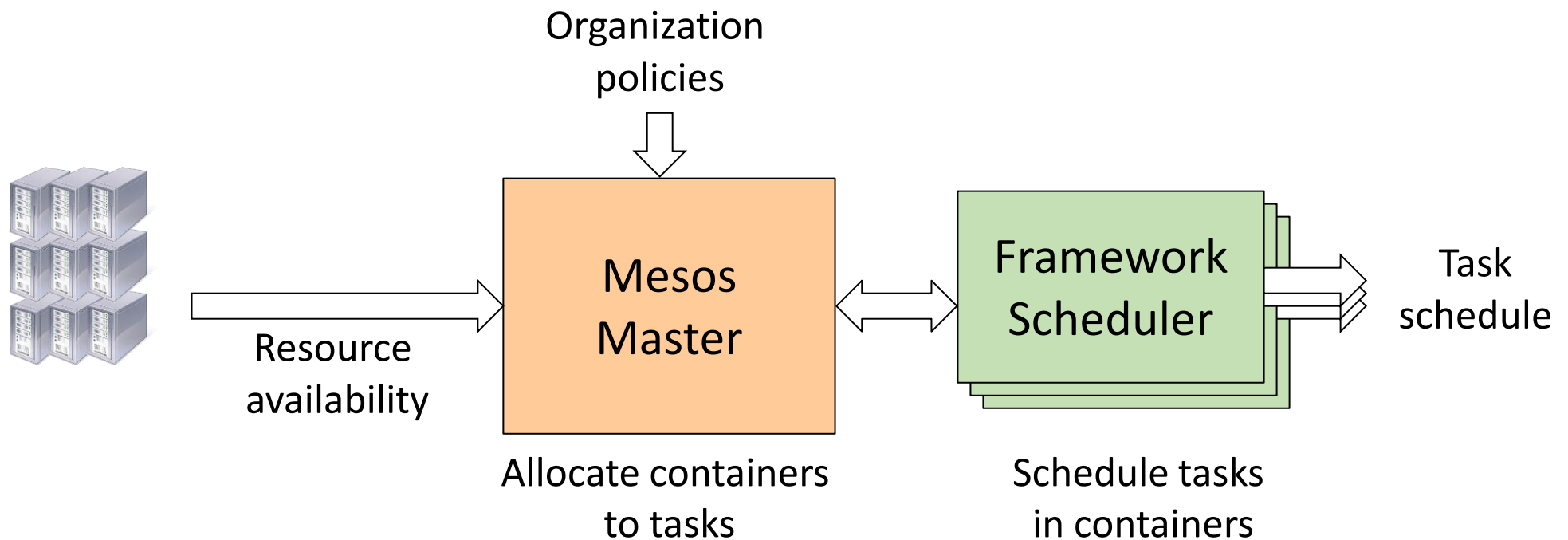
Authors: Facebook Infrastructure

Chunqiang Tang, Kenny Yu, Kaushik Veeraraghavan, Jonathan Kaldor, Scott  
Michelson, Thawan Kooburat, Aravind Anbudurai, Matthew Clark, Kabir Gogia,  
Long Cheng, Ben Christensen, Alex Gartrell, Maxim Khutornenko, Sachin Kulkarni,  
Marcin Pawlowski, Tuomas Pelkonen, Andre Rodrigues, Rounak Tibrewal,  
Vaishnavi Venkatesan, and Peter Zhang

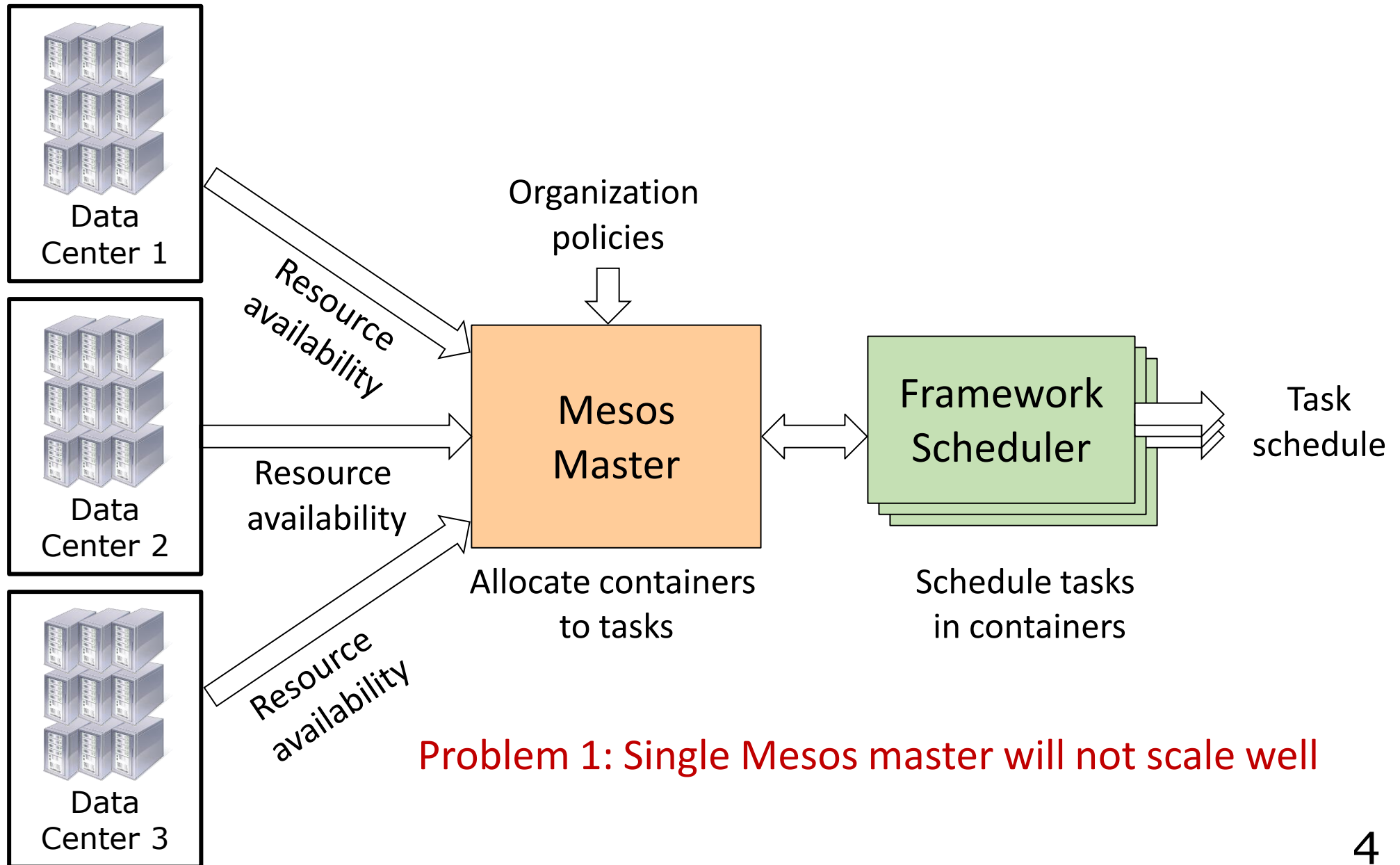
# Motivation

- A region consists of a few closely-located data centers
  - Contains ~1 million machines!
- Need a scalable, fault tolerant resource allocator for running jobs efficiently on all the machines in a region (across data centers)

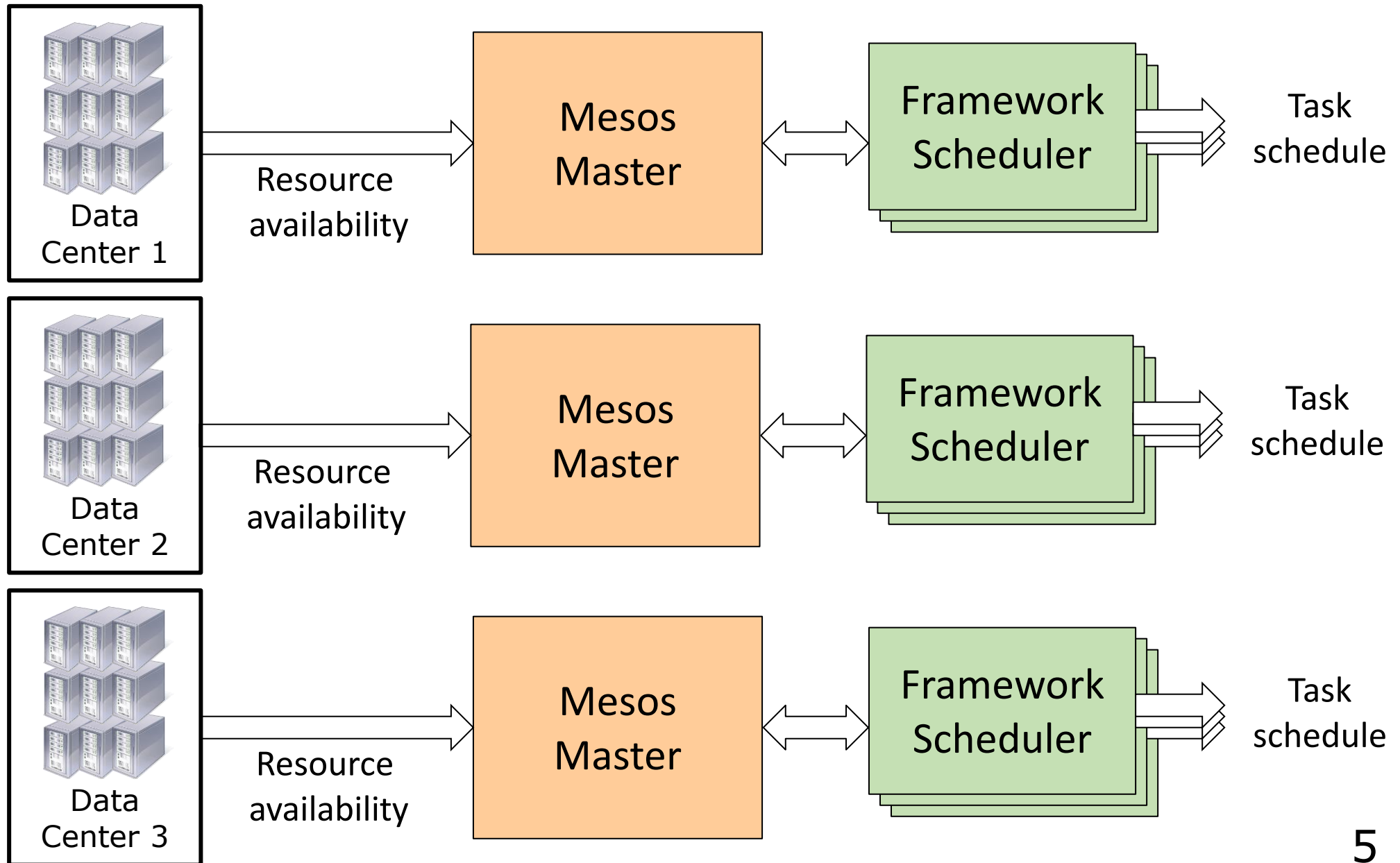
# We Looked at Mesos



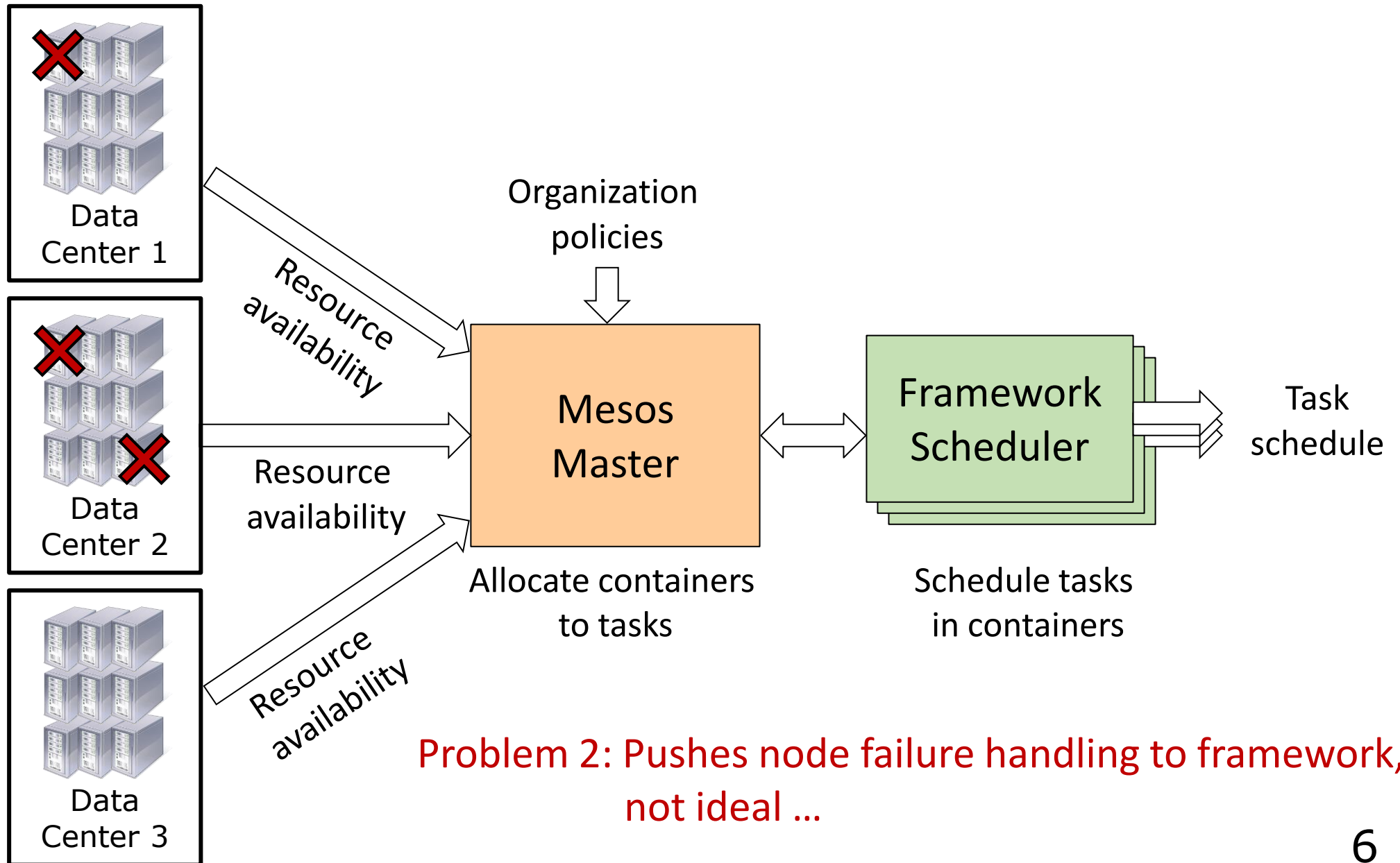
# Why Would Mesos Not Work Well?



# What about This Approach?



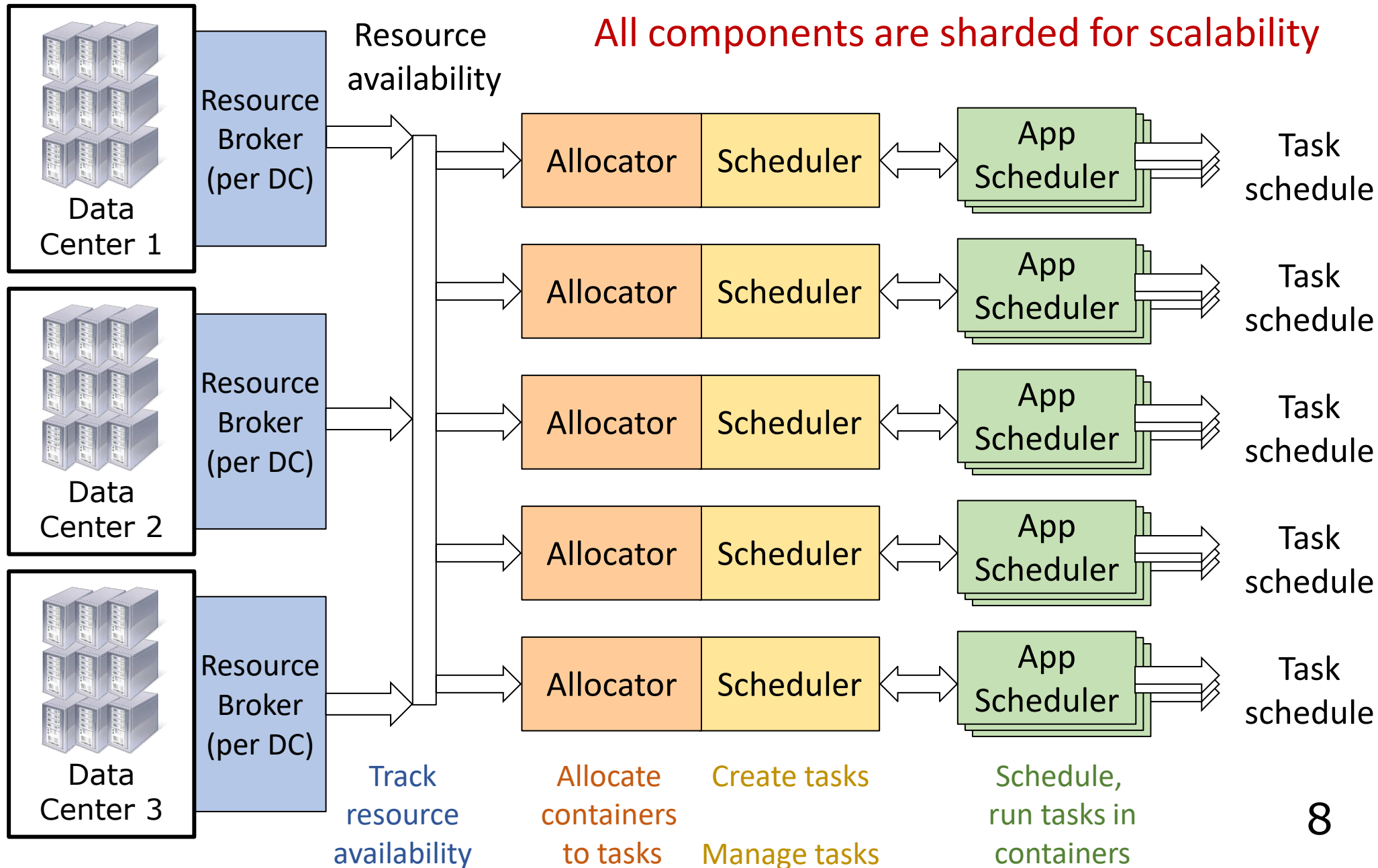
# How Does Mesos Handle Failures?



# Million Node Resource Management

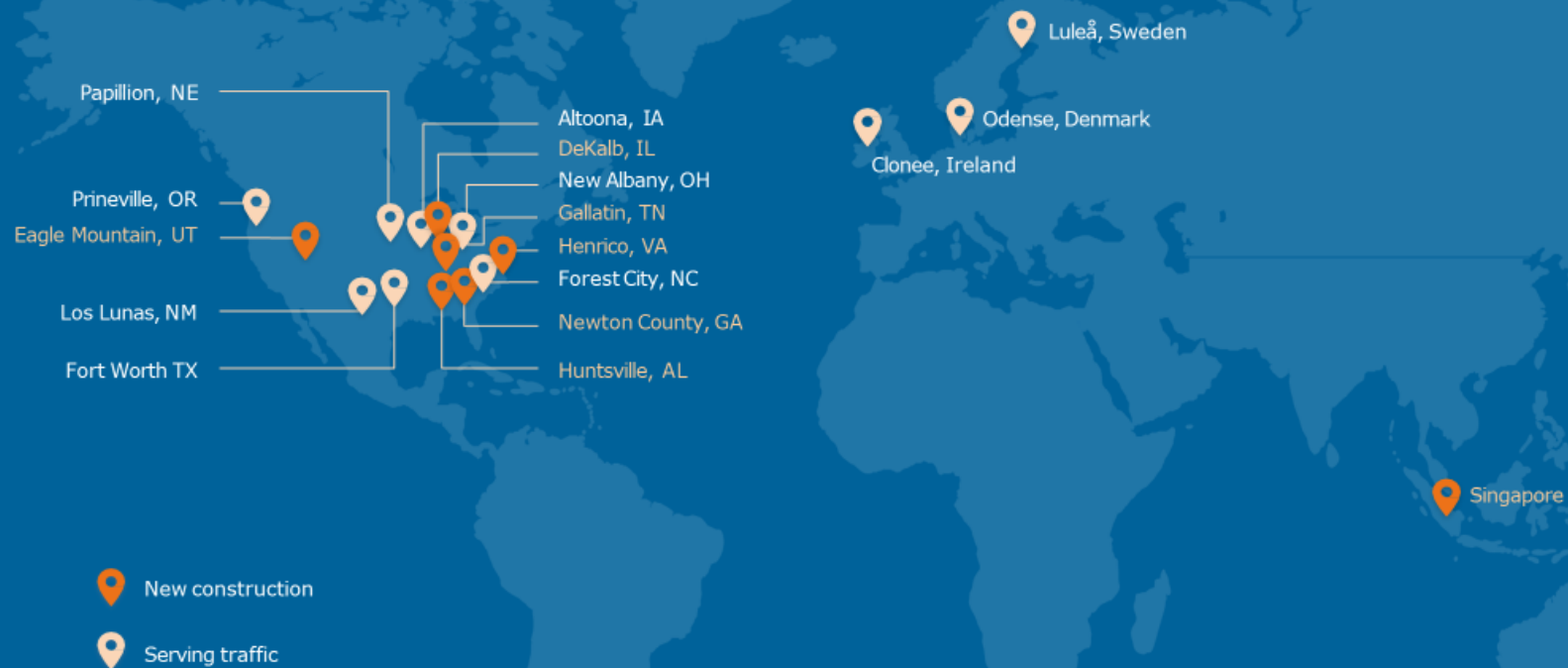
- Scaling resource management is a clearly a challenge
- But there are many other issues
  - Hardware failures
    - Nodes may fail, multiple racks may fail due to power failures
  - Maintenance operations
    - Node hardware needs upgrades
    - Node software, e.g., kernel, libraries, etc., need updates
  - Software management
    - Application software needs bug fixes, new software releases
    - Custom kernel installations
  - Job resizing, relocation
    - Job tasks need to be added/removed, moved for data locality

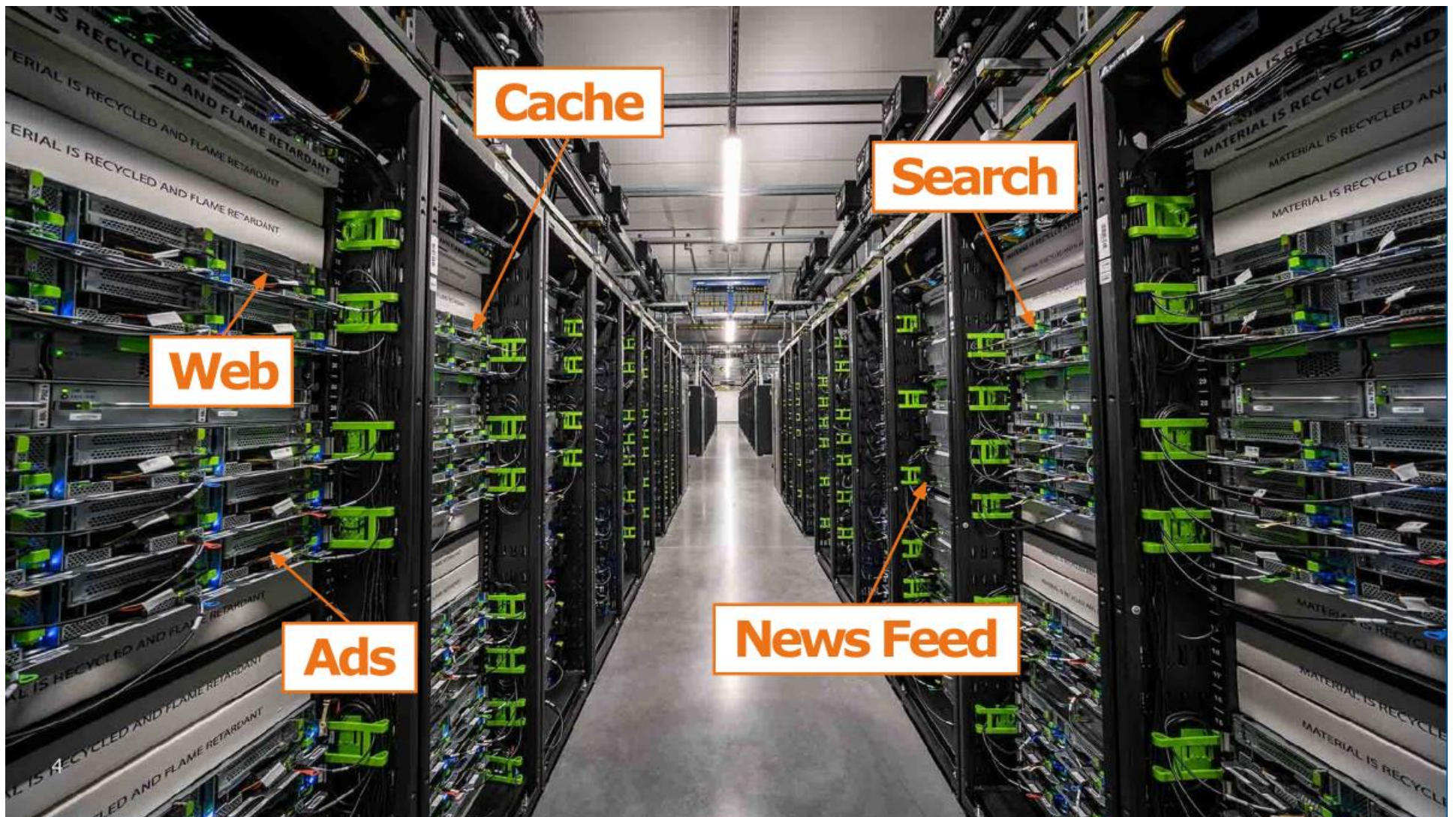
# Twine Architecture In a Nutshell



**The next set of slides are a subset  
from the original Twine talk**

# Data center geographic regions







Cluster management systems  
help manage all of our  
services and machines.

## What design decisions did Twine make differently?

### Decision 1

Dynamic  
machine  
partitioning

over

static clusters

### Decision 2

Customization  
in shared  
infrastructure

over

private pools

### Decision 3

Small  
machines

over

big machines

What design decisions did Twine make differently?

## Decision 1

Dynamic  
machine  
partitioning

over

static clusters

# What if we used Kubernetes?

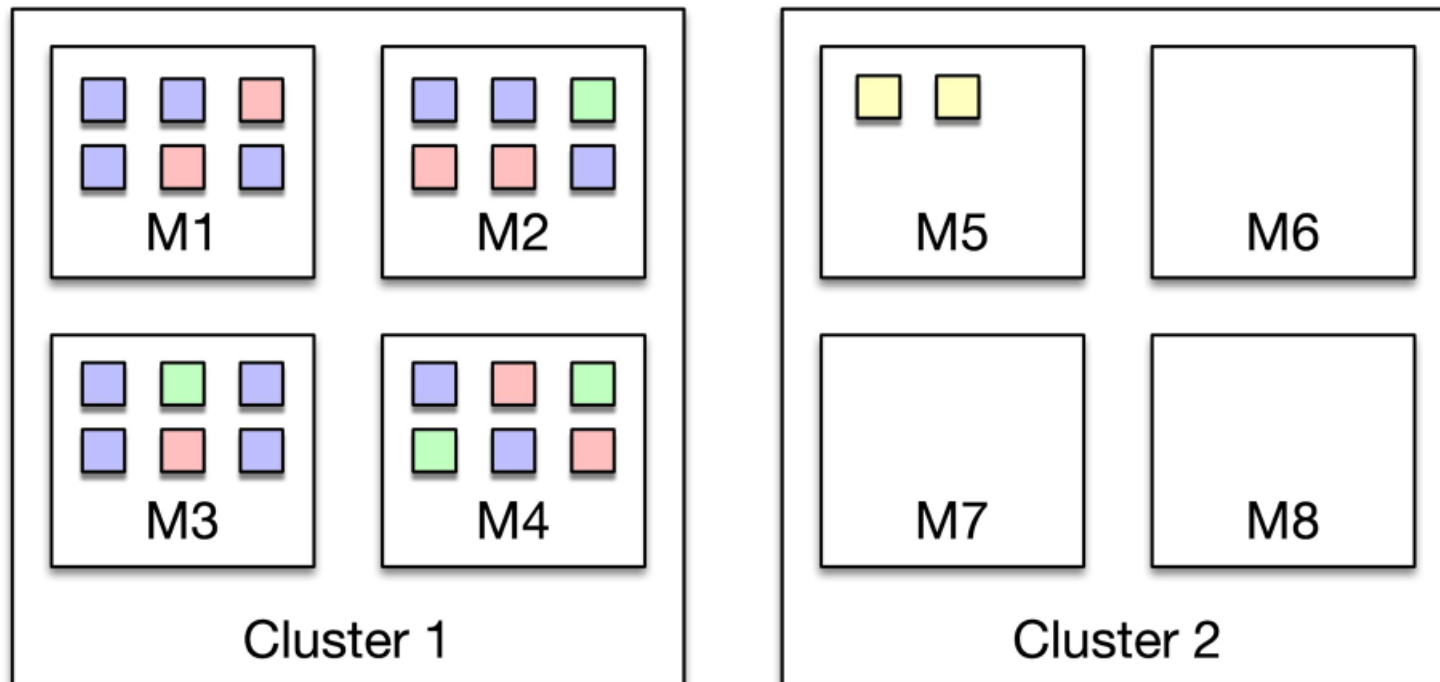
[Kubernetes Documentation](#) / [Getting started](#) / [Best practices](#) / [Building large clusters](#)

## Building large clusters

### Support

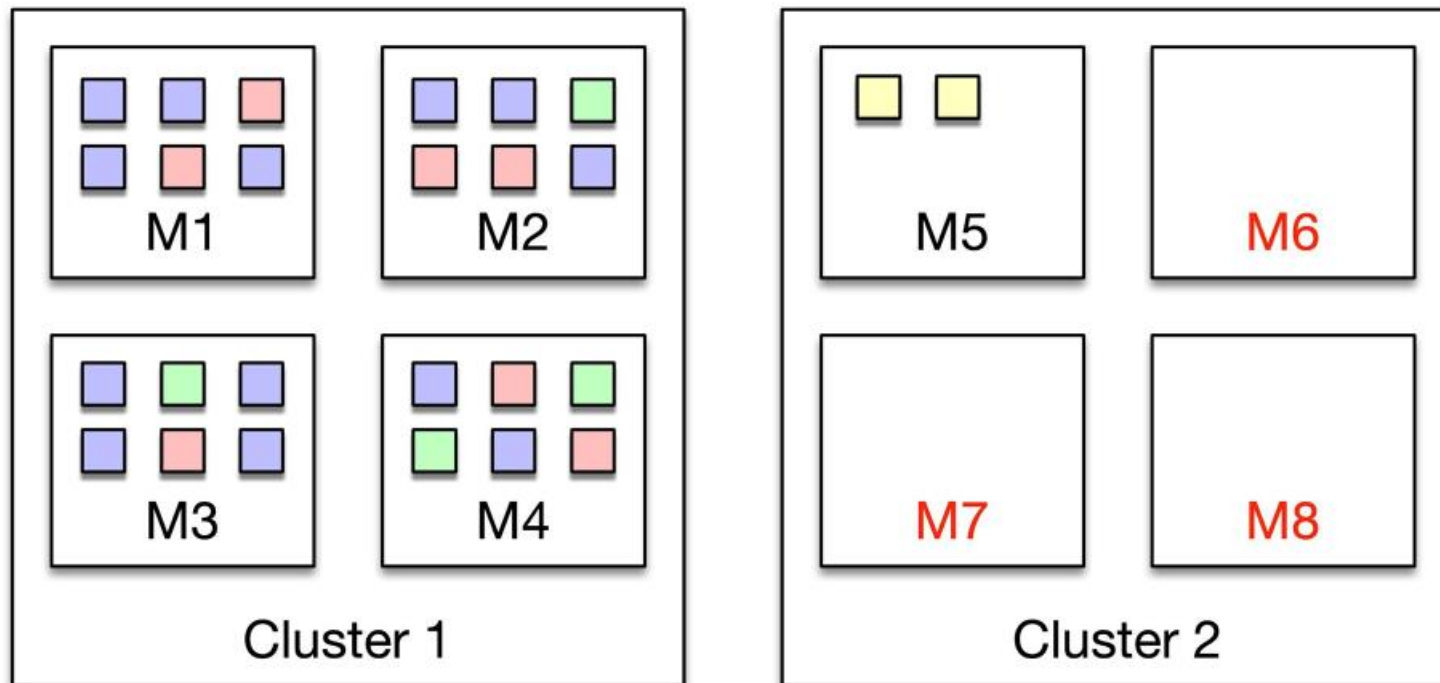
At v1.19, Kubernetes supports clusters with up to **5000 nodes**. More specifically, we support configurations that meet *all* of the following criteria:

What if we used Kubernetes?



## What if we used Kubernetes?

**Stranded capacity:** M6, M7, M8 are available,  
but jobs in Cluster 1 cannot use them



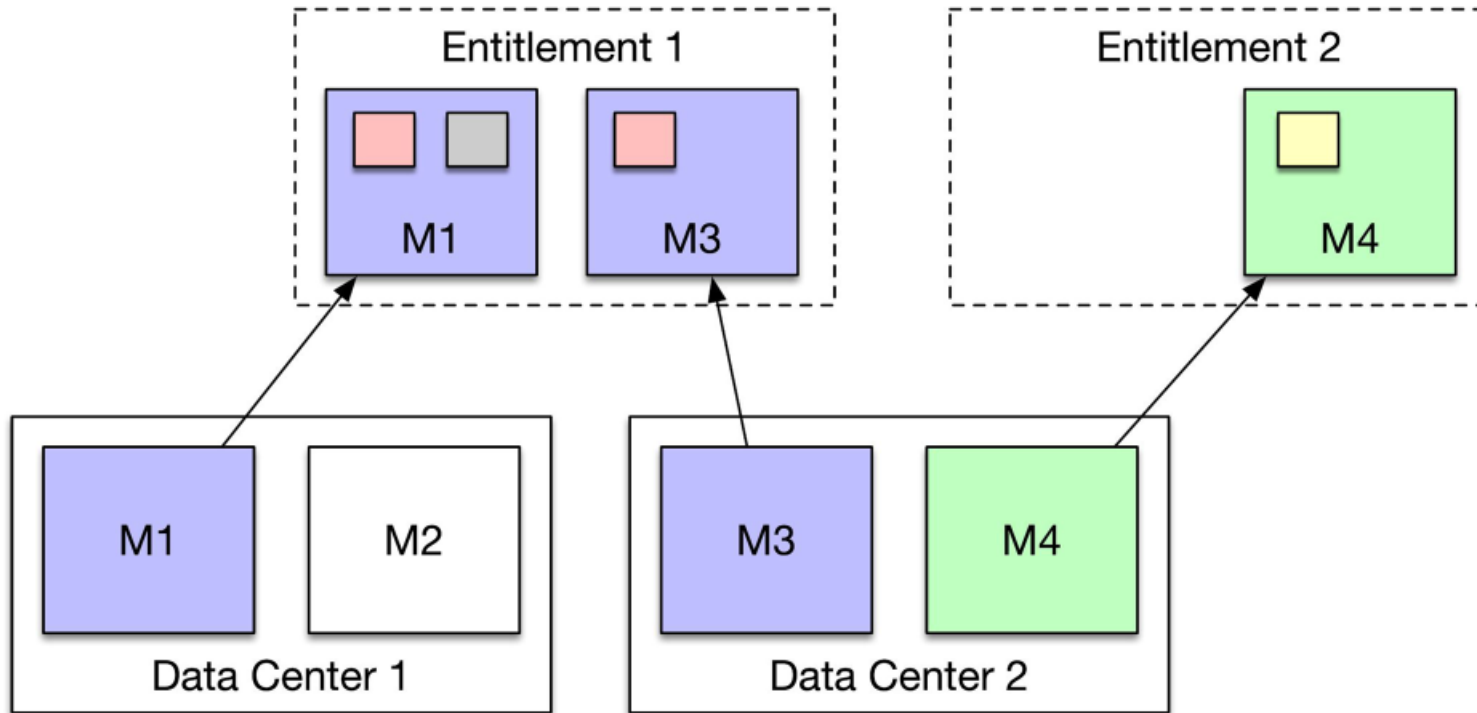
What if we used Kubernetes?

**Stranded capacity:** M6, M7, M8 are available,  
but jobs in Cluster 1 cannot use them

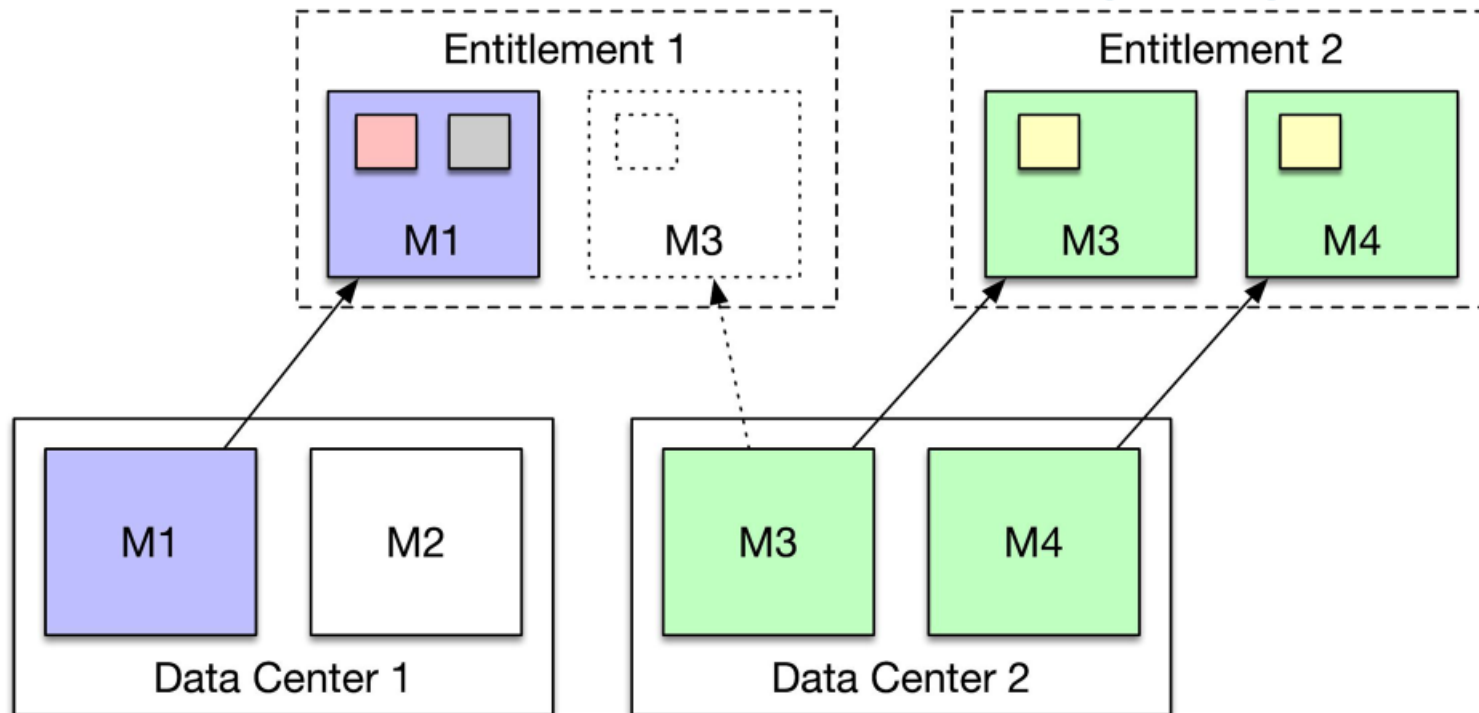
**Intuition:** Make machine  
assignment dynamic.



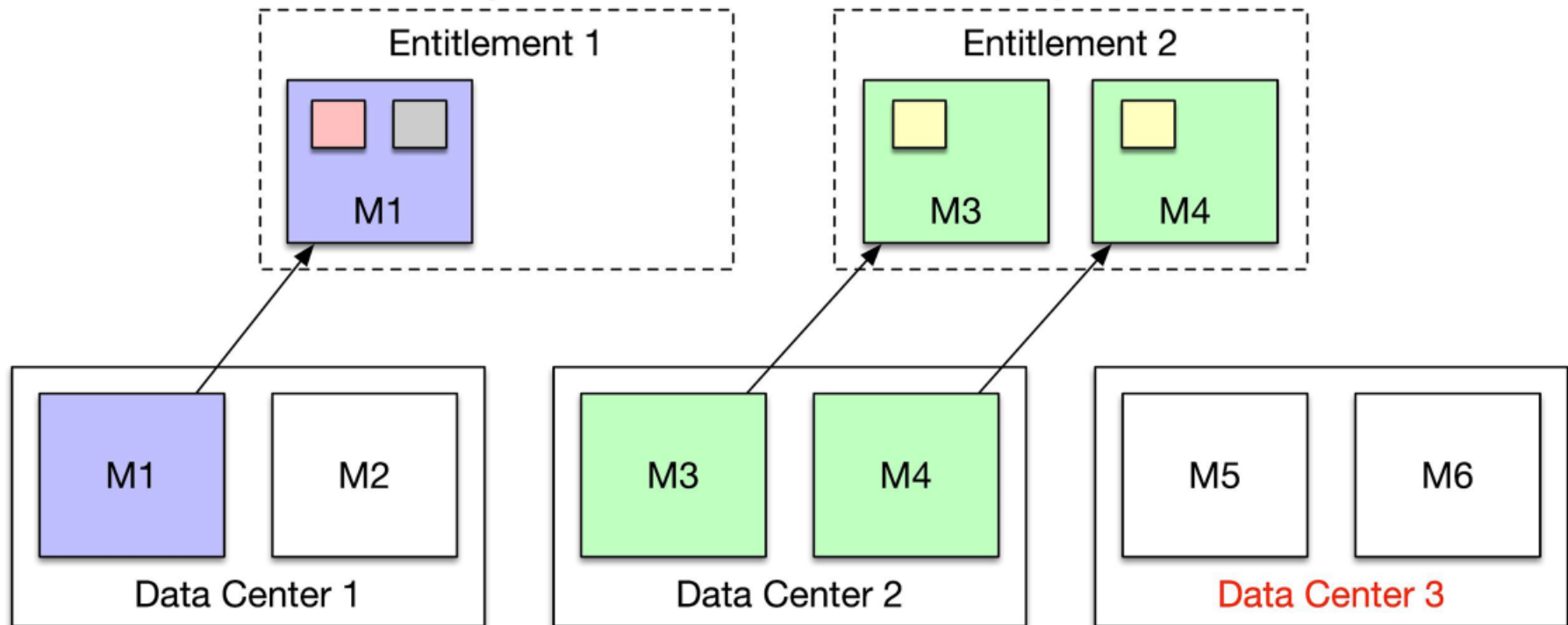
## How does Twine avoid stranded capacity?



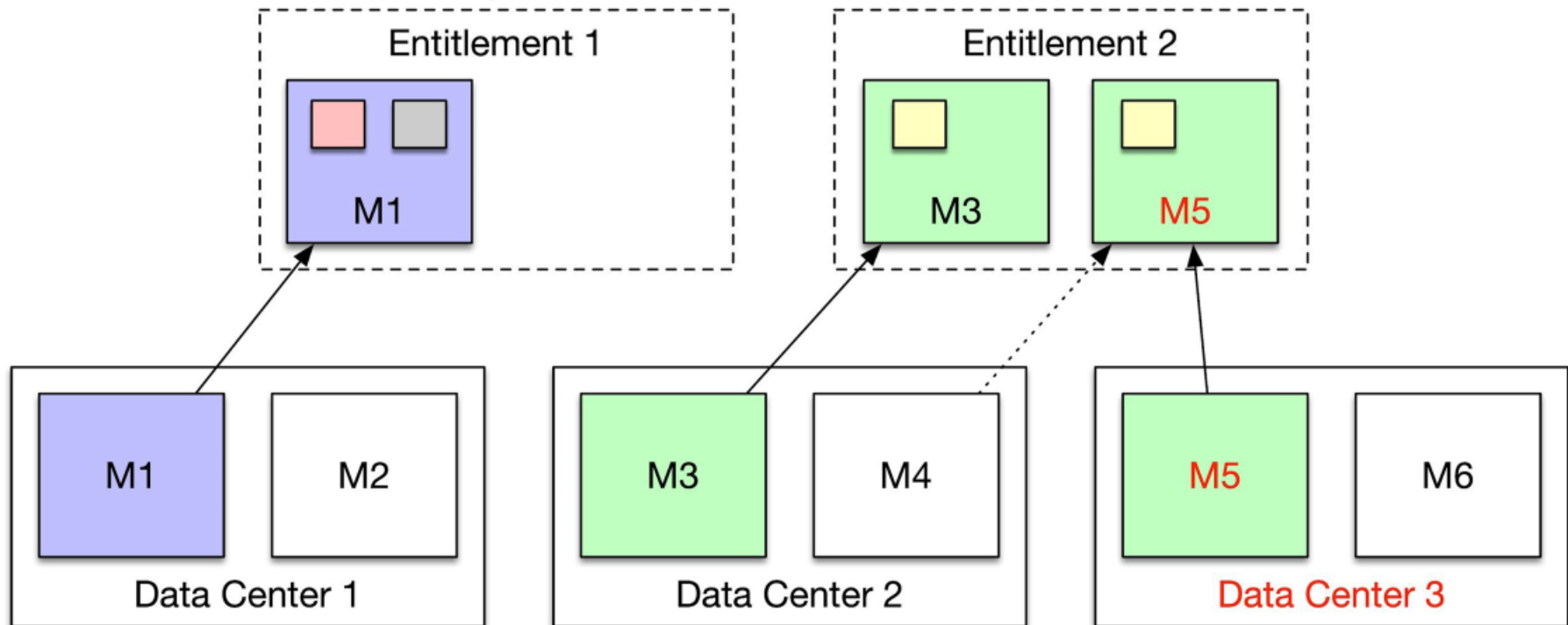
## How does Twine avoid stranded capacity?



## How does Twine perform fleet-wide optimization?

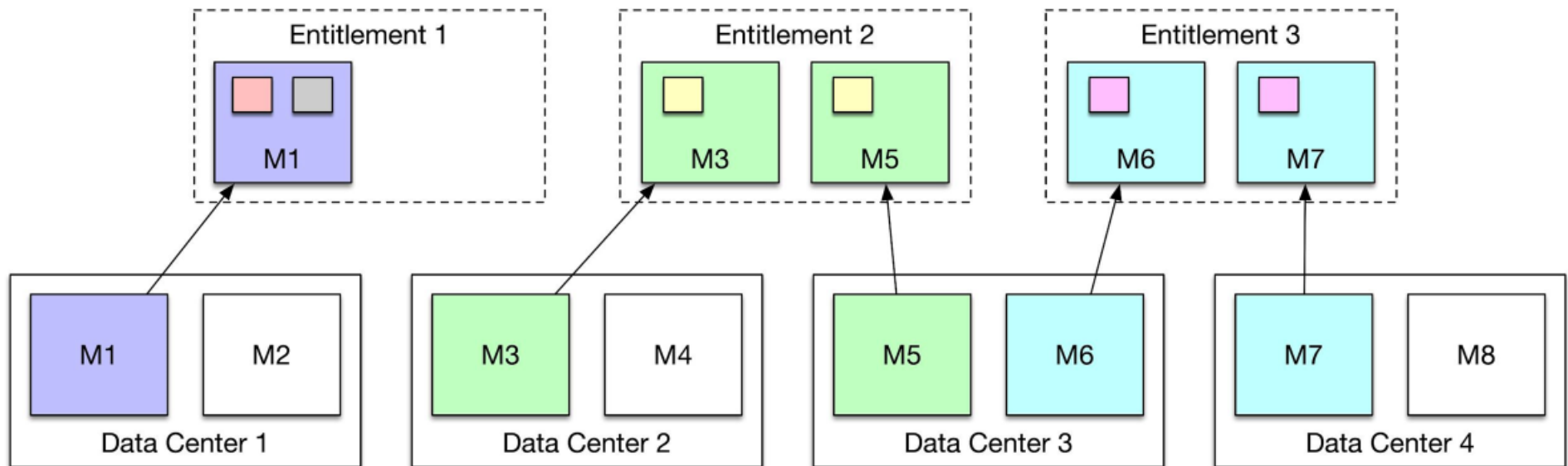


## How does Twine perform fleet-wide optimization?

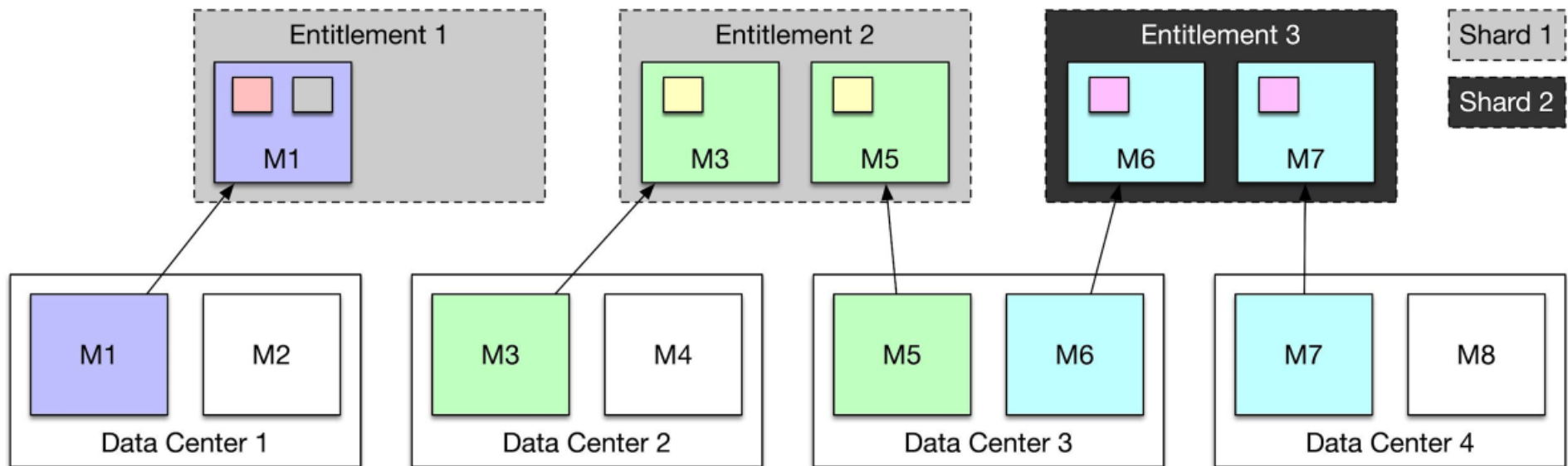


Use M5 in newly-constructed Data Center 3  
to improve spread for fault tolerance

## How does Twine perform fleet-wide optimization for an entire geographic region?

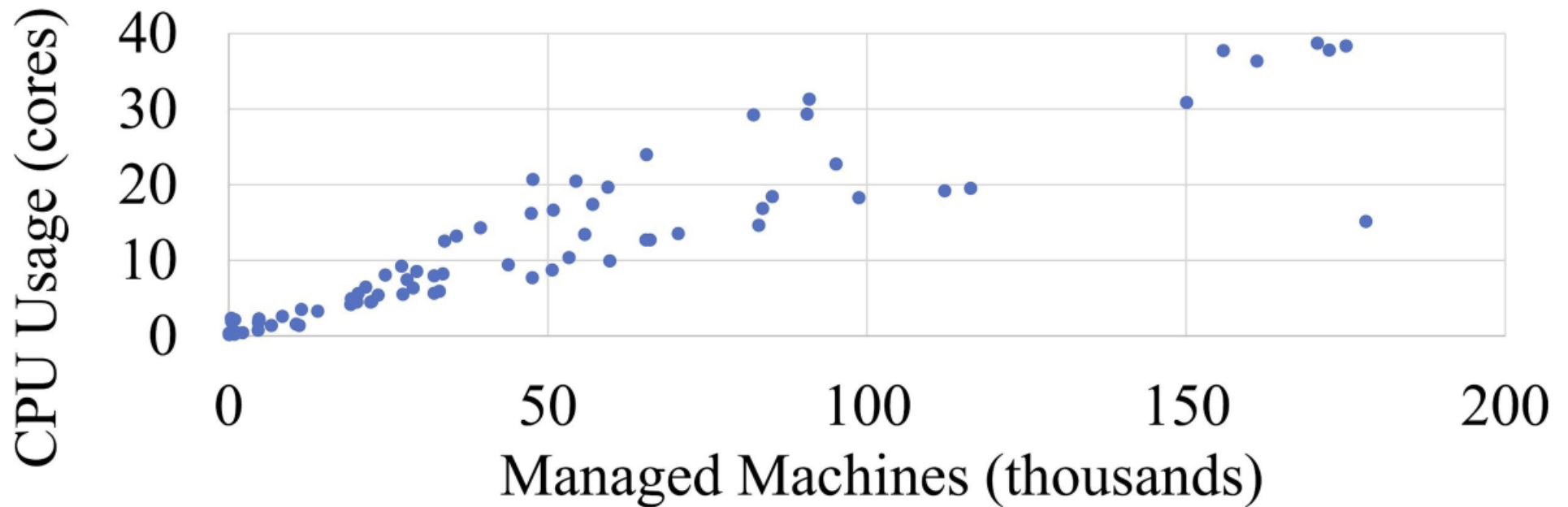


## How does Twine perform fleet-wide optimization for an entire geographic region?



Shard Twine Scheduler by entitlements

How well does the Twine scheduler scale?



## What design decisions did Twine make differently?

### Decision 1

Dynamic  
machine  
partitioning  
over  
static clusters

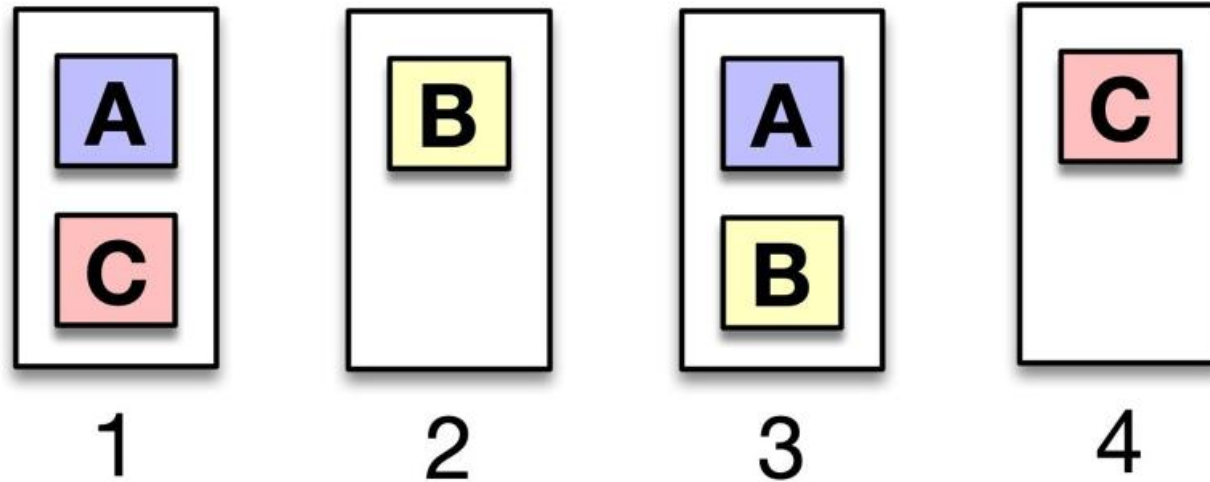
### Decision 2

Customization  
in shared  
infrastructure  
over  
private pools

### Decision 3

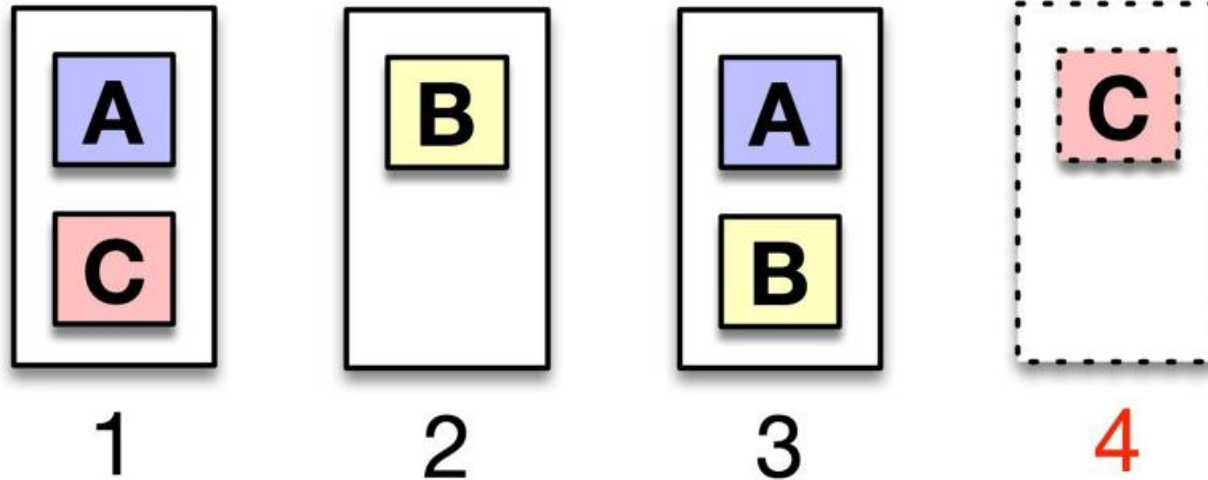
Small  
machines  
over  
big machines

Challenge: Tasks are not homogenous



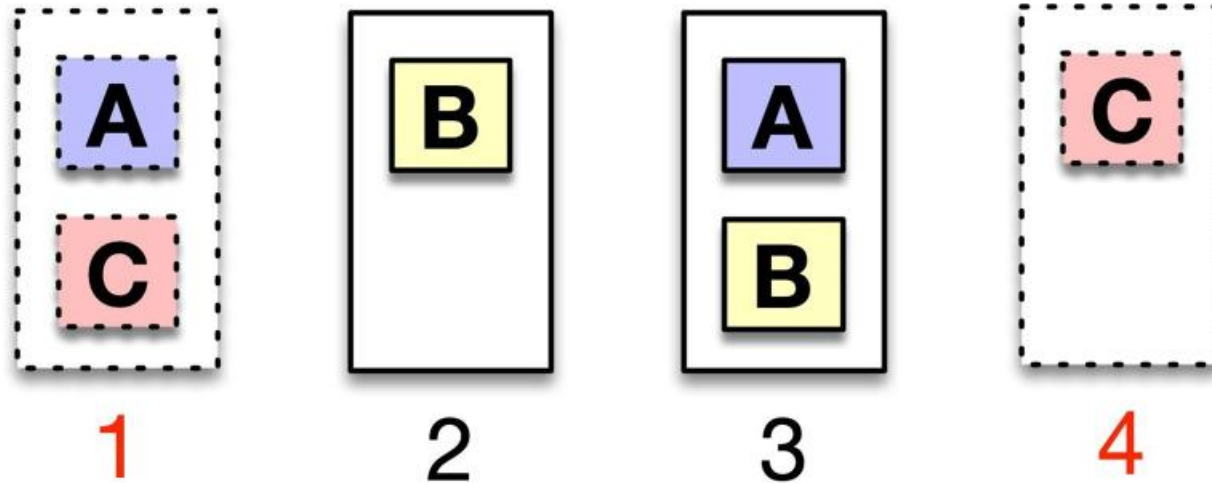
Need at least 1 replica  
of each shard up  
at all times

Challenge: Tasks are not homogenous



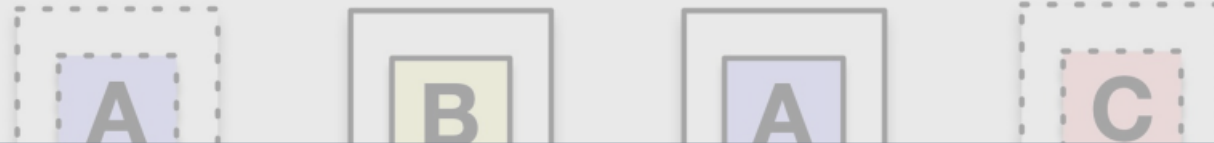
Task 4 becomes  
unavailable.

Challenge: Tasks are not homogenous



Task 1 restarted for  
software release.  
Shard C unavailable!

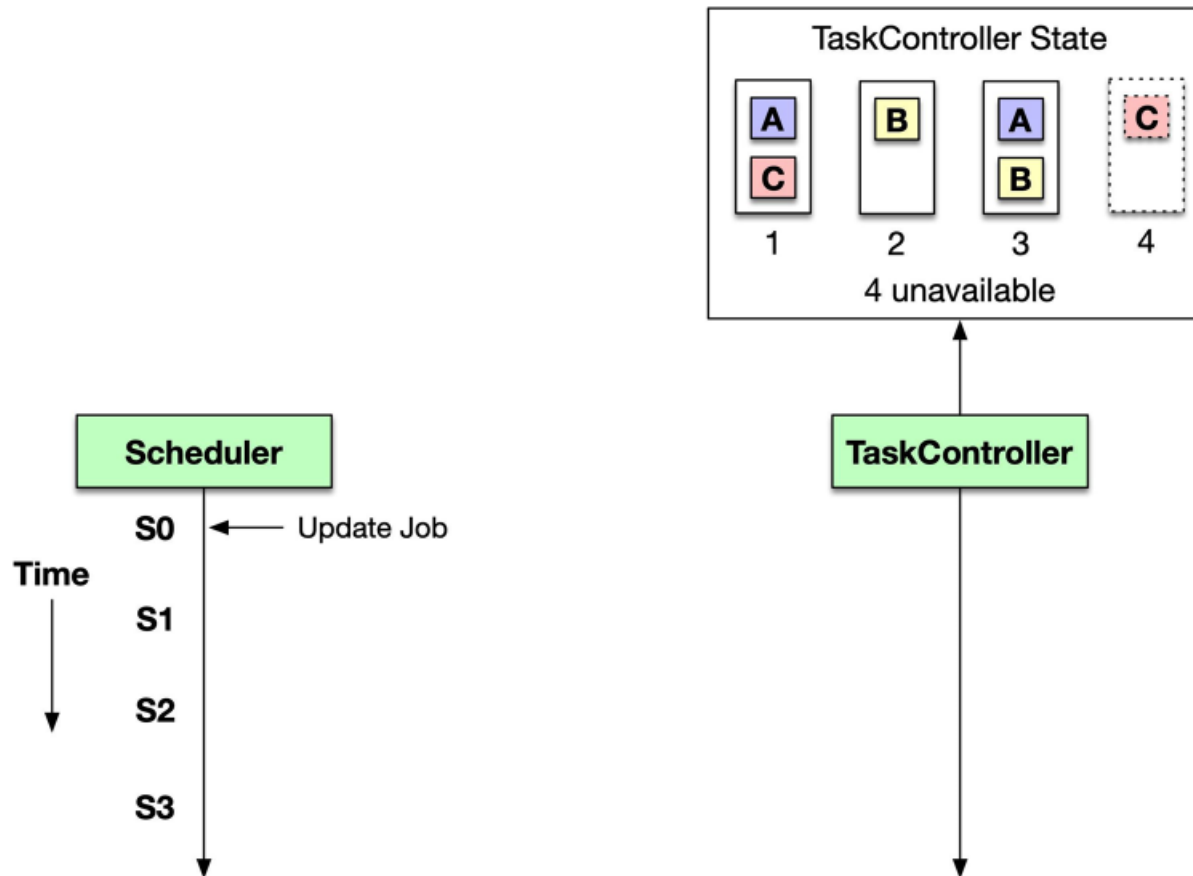
Challenge: Tasks are not homogenous



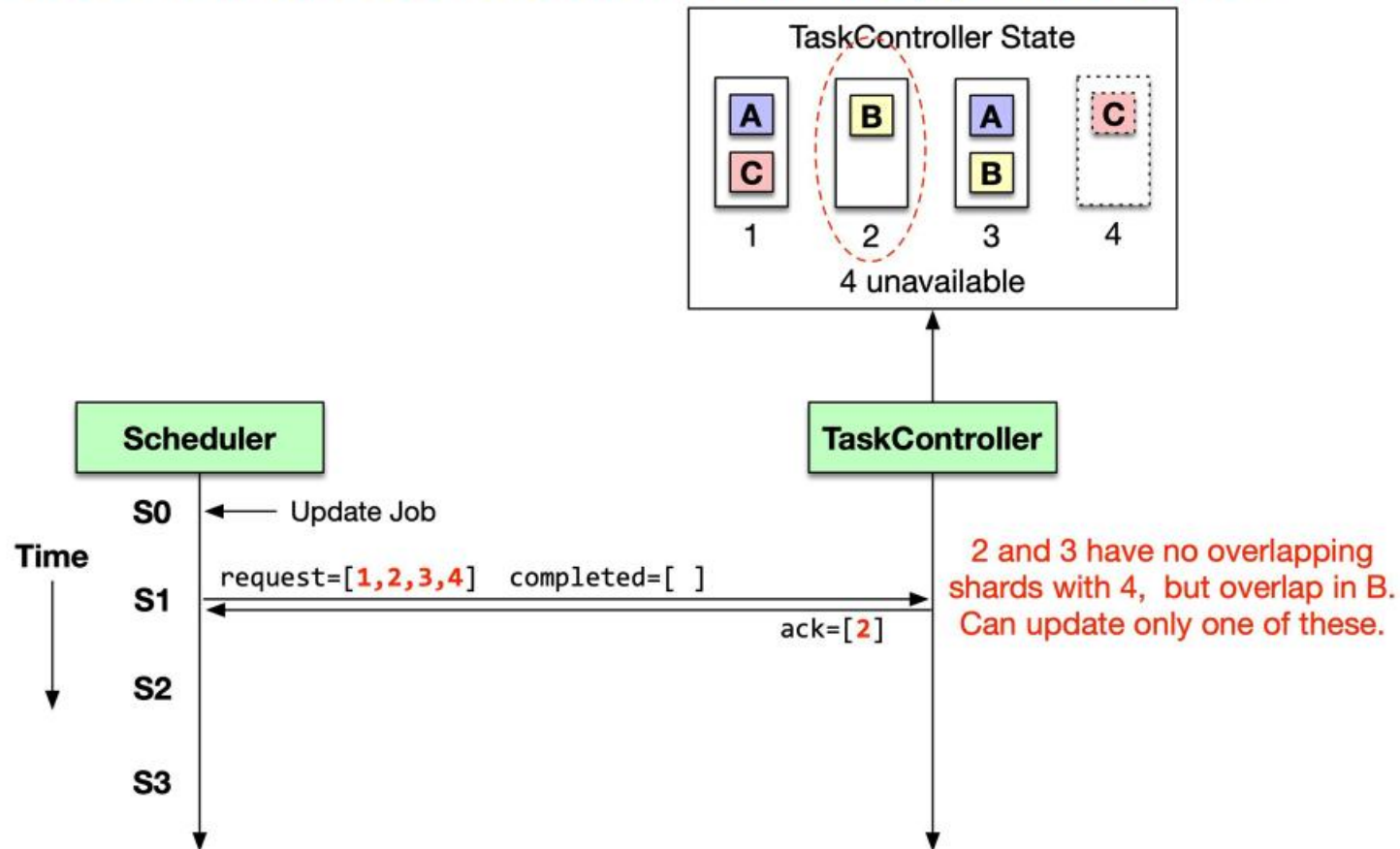
**Intuition:** Collaborate with applications to handle lifecycle events.

Task 1 restarted for  
software release.  
Shard C unavailable!

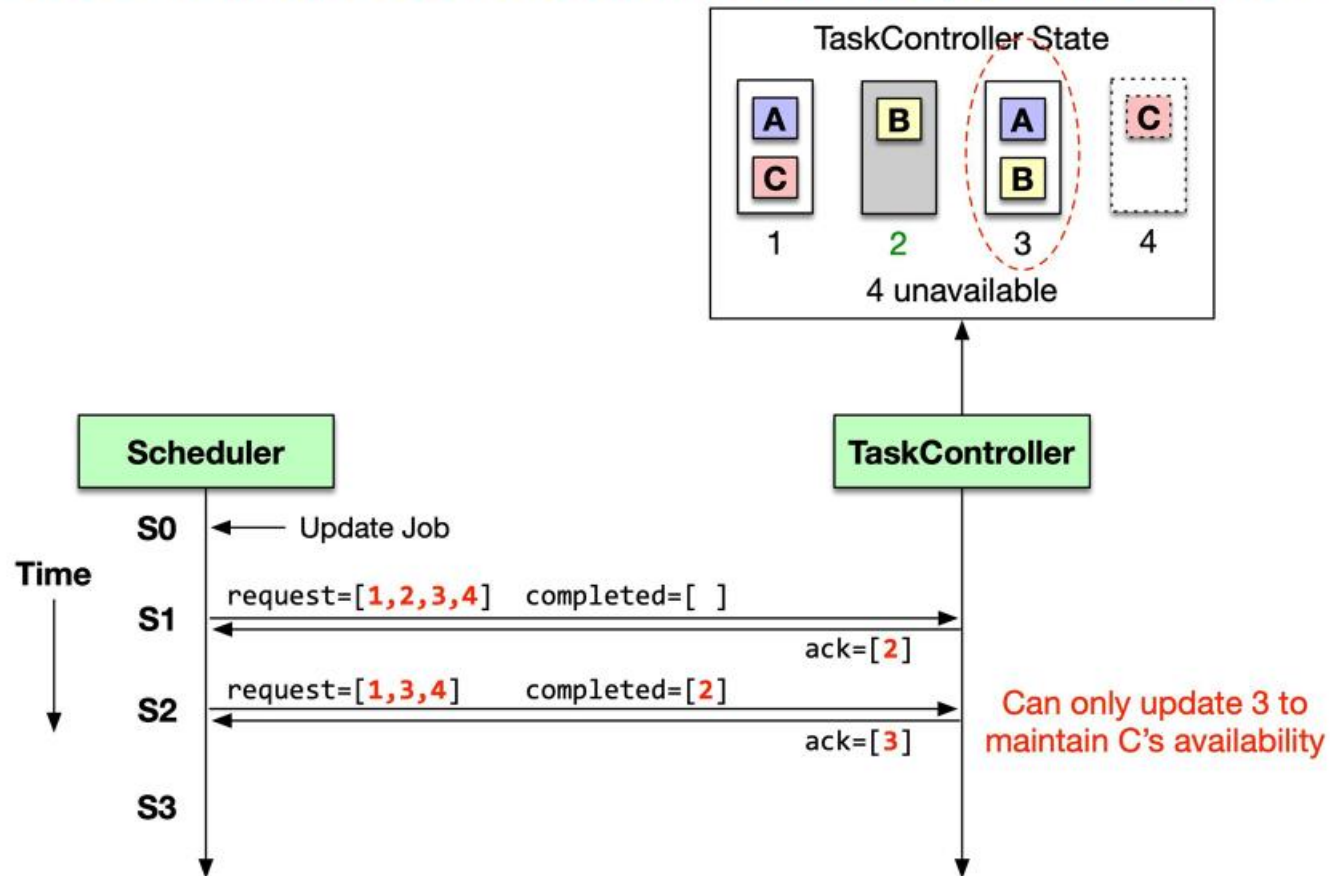
## How does Twine collaborate with applications?



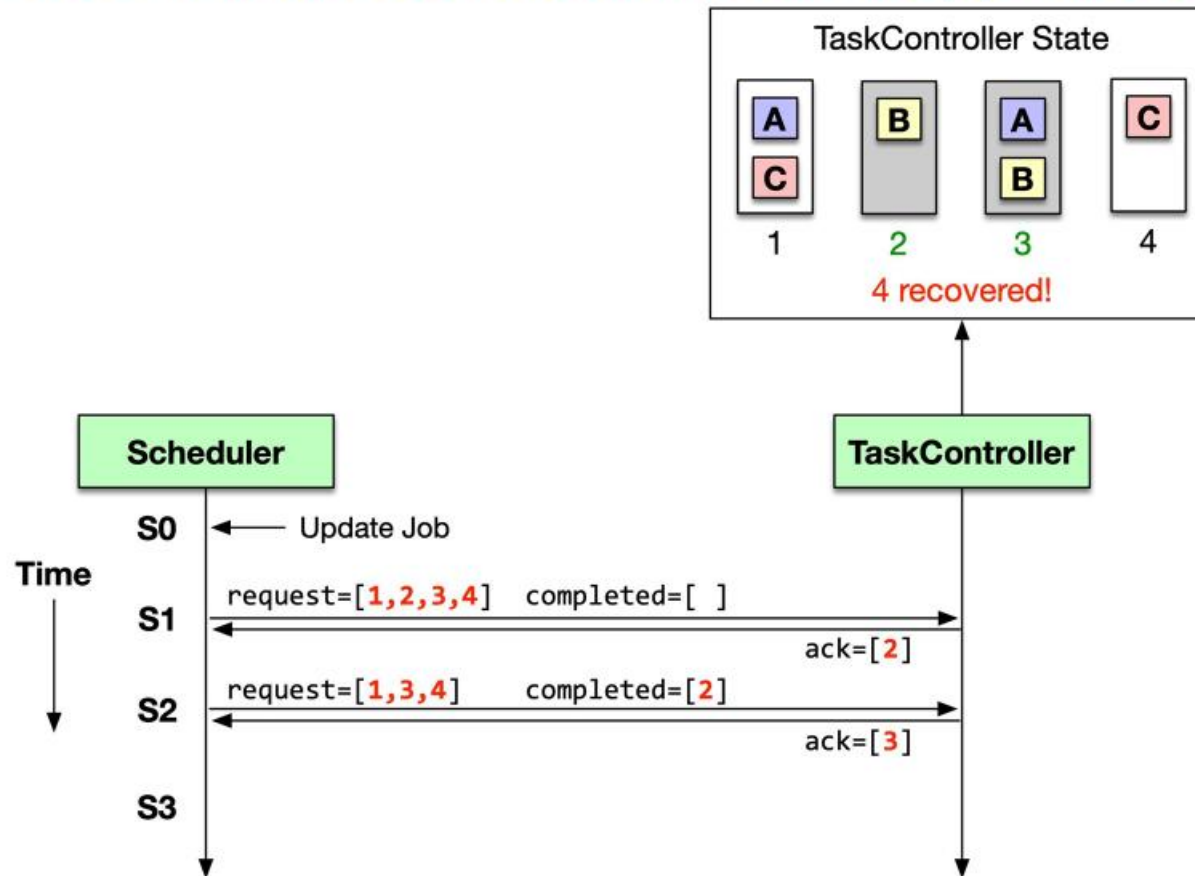
## How does Twine collaborate with applications?



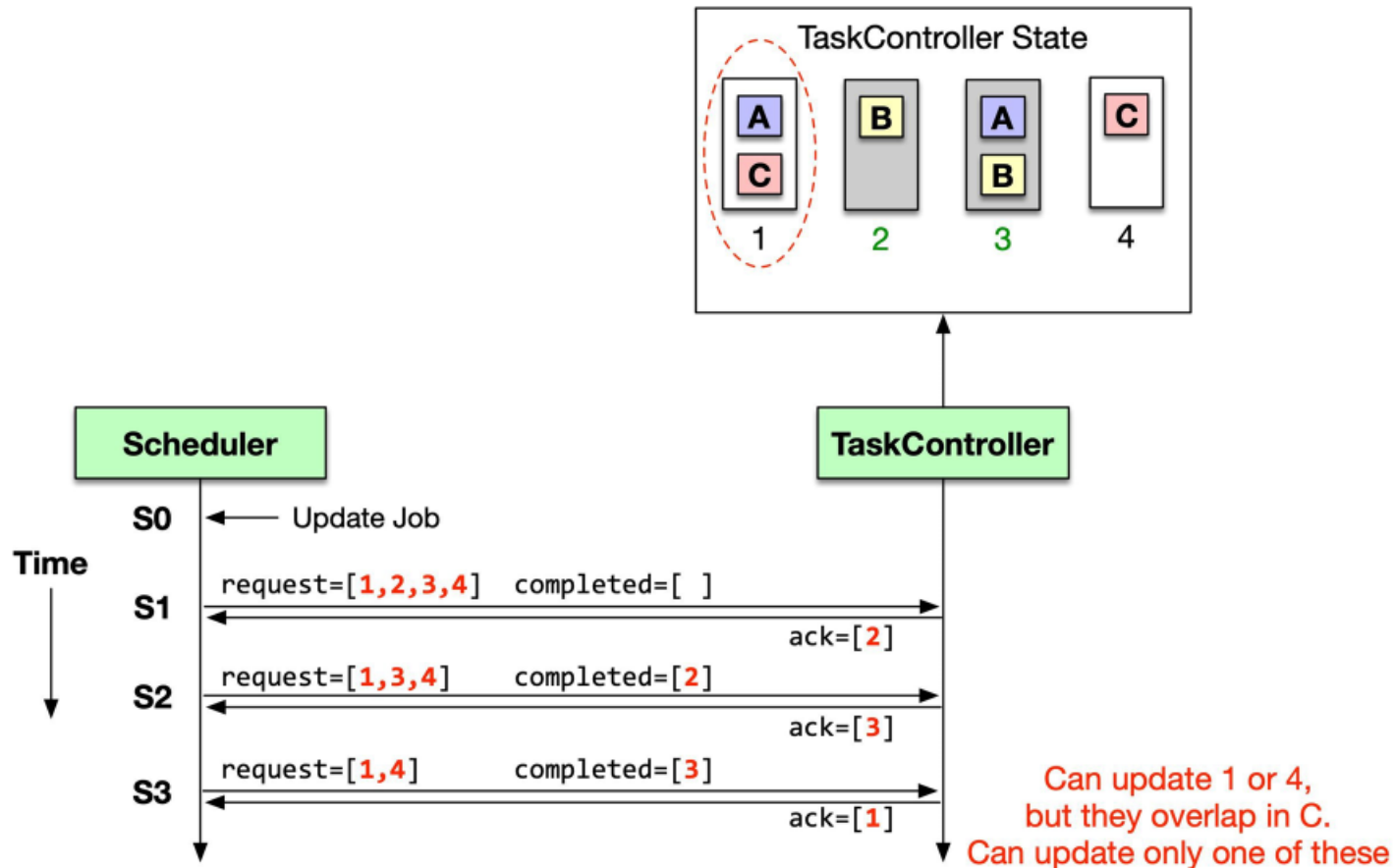
## How does Twine collaborate with applications?



## How does Twine collaborate with applications?

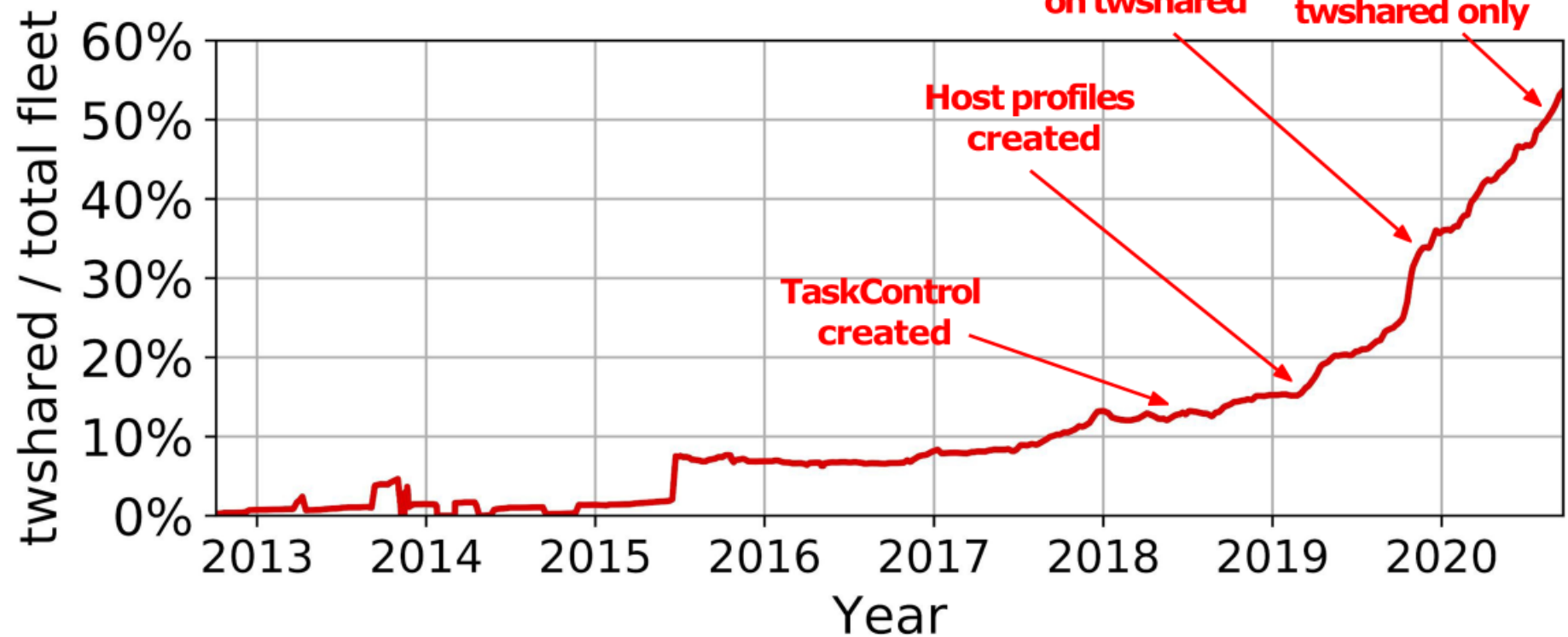


## How does Twine collaborate with applications?



## What is our shared infrastructure adoption?

twshared: shared infrastructure for compute



# Conclusion

Evolving Twine over the past 10 years

## Dynamic machine partitioning

Avoids stranded capacity in isolated clusters and enables fleet-wide optimizations

## Customization in shared infrastructure

Support ubiquitous shared infrastructure to improve efficiency without sacrificing workload performance or capability

## Small machines

Achieve higher power efficiency globally

# Discussion

# Q1

- Mesos uses a resource offer model to allocate containers for tasks. Twine requires app schedulers to specify the number of tasks and machines. Why the difference?

## Q2

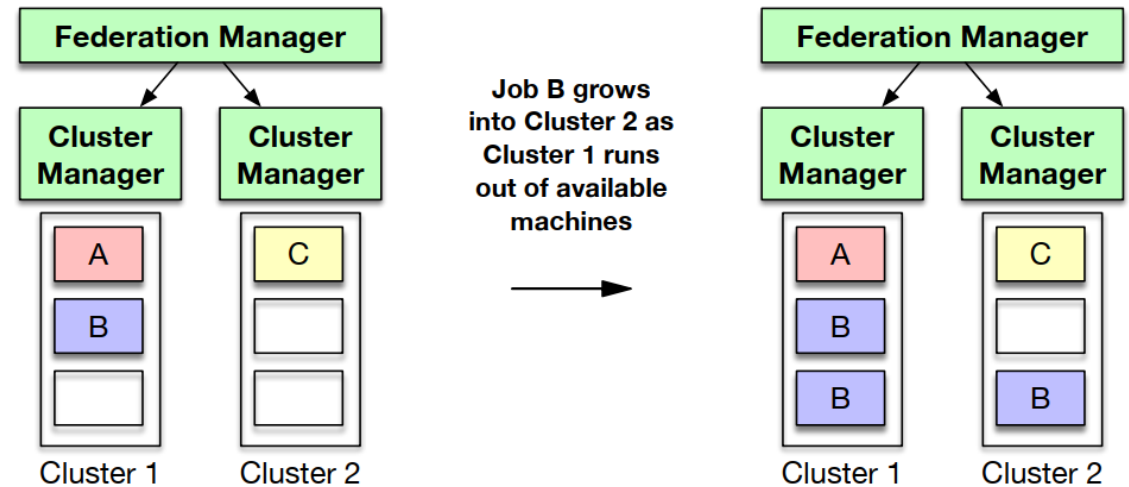
- Mesos is a two-level scheduler (Master, Frameworks). Why does Twine call itself a three-level scheduler?

## Q3

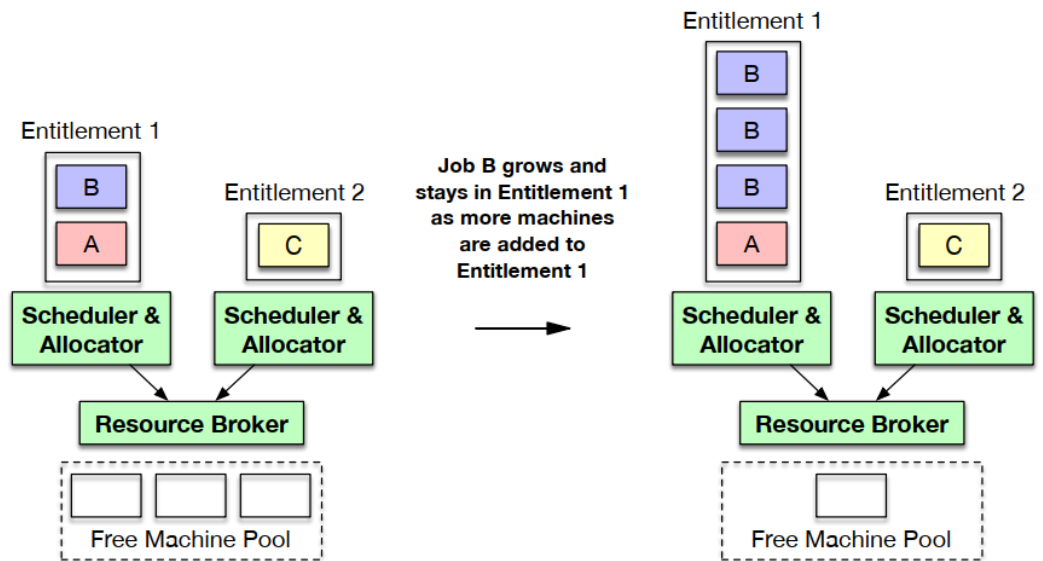
- What could be a drawback of assigning tasks to a logical cluster (entitlement) instead of a physical cluster? How does Twine address this drawback?

# Q4

- Twine uses sharding instead of federation to scale resource allocation across data centers. What are the tradeoffs?



(a) Federation approach. This approach uses a Cluster Manager per cluster and introduces an additional Federation Manager layer. Each cluster has a set of statically configured machines. As job B in Cluster 1 keeps growing, it overflows into Cluster 2.



(b) Twine's sharding approach. As job B grows, Twine adds more machines to Entitlement 1, and job B stays with the same entitlement and scheduler shard.