

Agent-based Modeling in the Edge Continuum using Swarm Intelligence

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Processing at the edge.

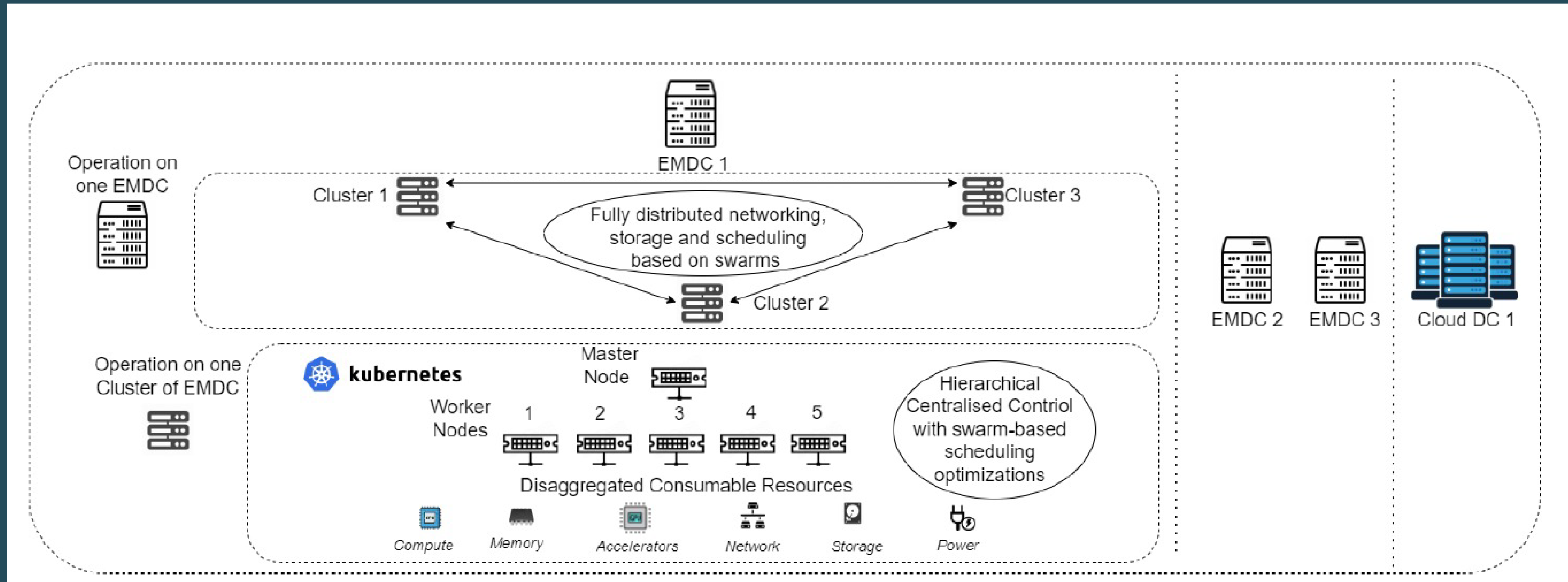
■ Emergence of Local Processing Capacity at the Edge

- Advantages: Security, Reliability, Latency, Energy
- Drivers: Upcoming processing tasks of real-time applications (smart grids, mobility, etc.)

■ Management of the Edge Continuum

- Dynamic computing landscape
- Edge Continuum: Network of Edge Micro Data Centers (EMDCs)
 - Stringent latency and autonomy requirements
 - Distribution across multiple sites
 - Local limited size
 - Multitenancy and multi-operators
 - Local management
 - Components being concurrent and asynchronous

The ACES architecture



ACES vision is to research an evolution of cloud computing, an edgervices cloud with hierarchical intelligence, specifically Autopoiesis and cognitive behaviours, to manage and automate a compute platform, network fabric, storage resources, virtualization, and analytics to increase resilience while managing simultaneous service constraints.

Challenges.

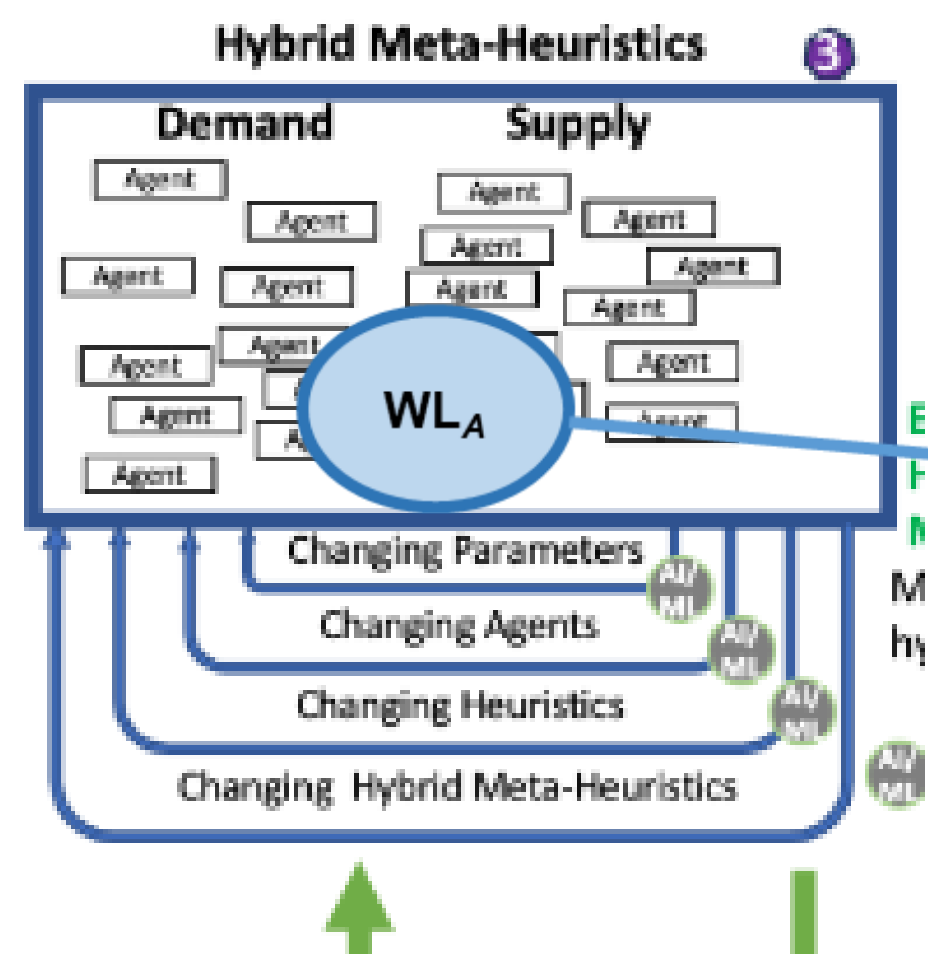
- Number of connected devices and their data-producing and data-consuming capabilities,
- Intelligence embedded in edge devices,
- Atomization of monolithic applications,
- Scale, speed, and complexity of edge device interactivity in a zero-trust environment.

Resource allocation, workload scheduling, and data management are challenges that increase in the complexity of the edge orchestration and edge-cloud interaction

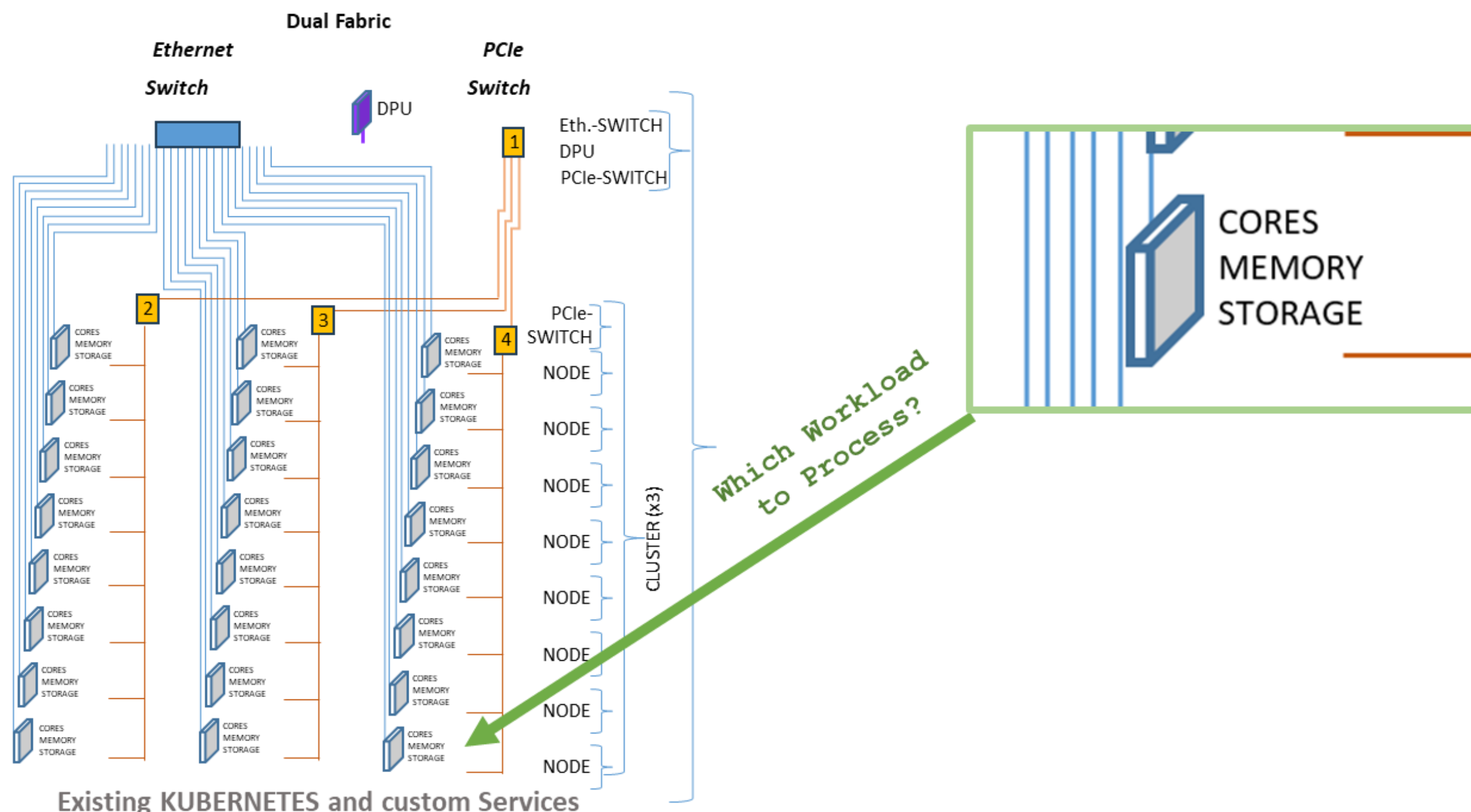
Position in the current architecture.

Demand Swarm Agents

Supply Swarm Agents



Which Node to choose?



Which Workload to Process?

Local EMDC

Central to our approach: Swarm Intelligence.

- Many similar members
- No central control
- Local rules & knowledge
- Local direct/indirect communication
- Advantages: Adaptability – Robustness - Scalability

**System function arises automatically from local rules
emergence**



Bird flocking, © pixabay

What is swarm intelligence?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cPZ2HC2QHg>

Interface Info Code

Edit Delete Add abc Button

faster
ticks: 0

view updates
on ticks

Settings...

population 616

setup go

vision 5.0 patches

minimum-separation 1.00 patches

max-align-turn 5.00 degrees

max-cohere-turn 3.00 degrees

max-separate-turn 1.50 degrees

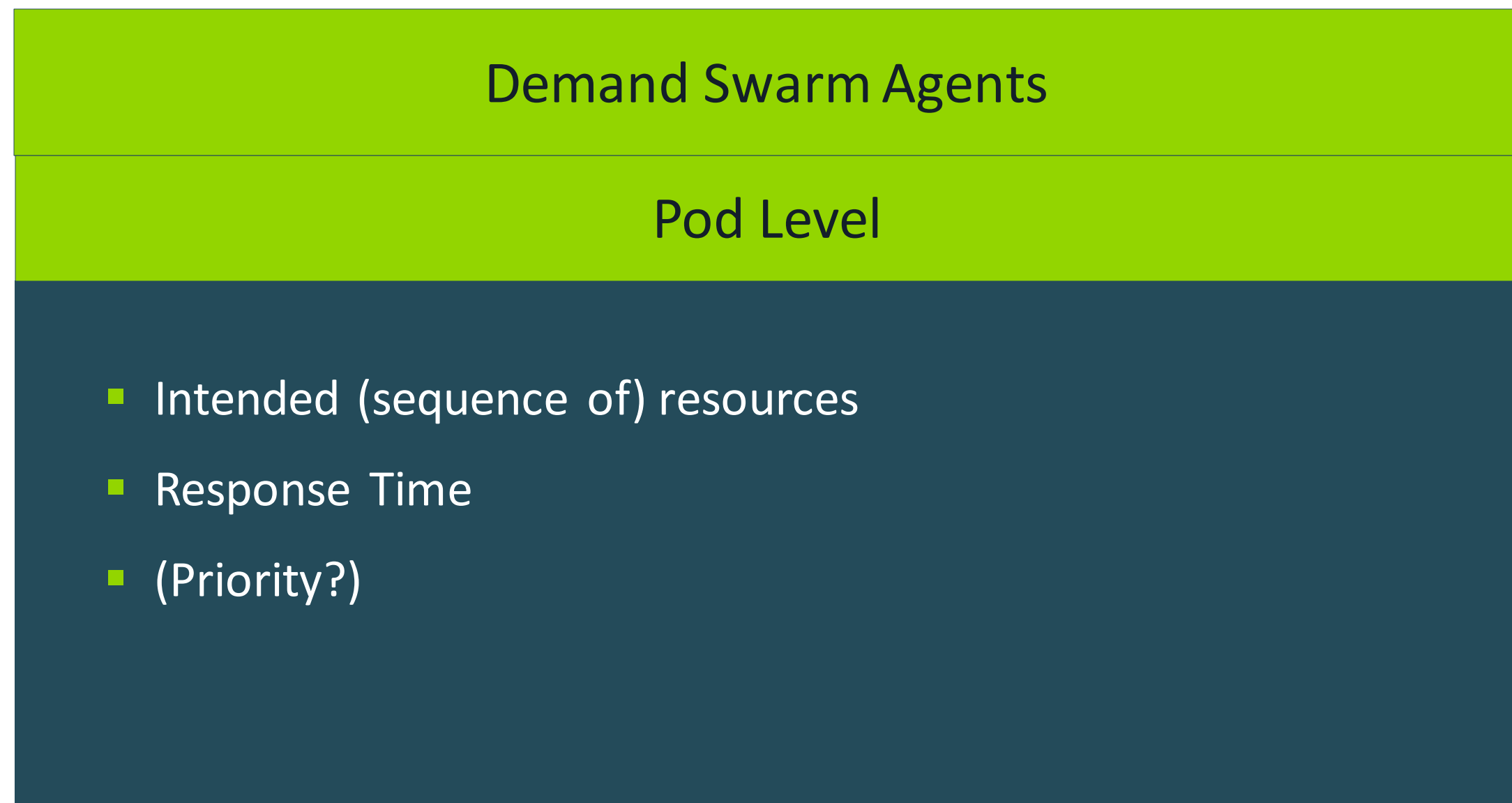
Command Center

Clear

observer >

clideo.com

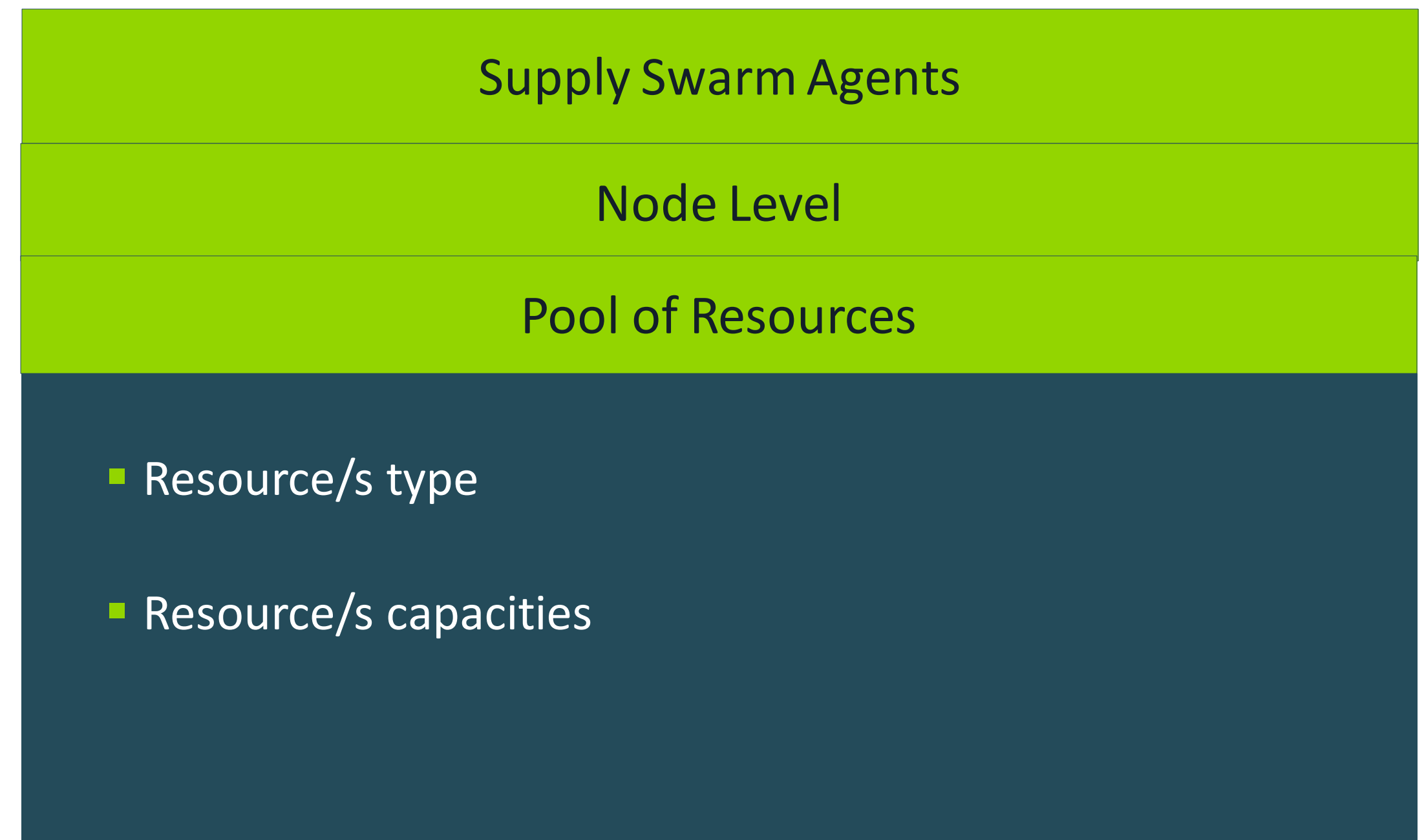
Modeling Agents in the Edge-Cloud Continuum.



Each application is presented as a service \mathcal{S}

Split into a set of related pods $P^s = \{p_1^s, p_2^s, \dots\}$

The pod p_j^s can choose which of the suitable nodes N_i^n for each necessary process step P^r



The EMDC \mathcal{E} contains a set of nodes $N^r = \{N_1^r, N_2^r, \dots\}$

with r as the resource type(s).

Each resource N_i^r has a queue Q_i^r

Agent Collaboration and Self-Organization.

- **Autonomy and Emergence in the Workload Placement**

Interaction between demand swarm agents and supply swarm agents is **orchestrated through swarm intelligence algorithms:**

1. Demand swarm agents autonomously seek out the most suitable node for workload placement
2. Supply swarm agents determine the optimal workload to process based on available resources and capacity.

- **Collaborative Decision Making**

- ✓ Efficiently allocate workloads to nodes,
- ✓ Adapt to changing workloads and resource abilities,
- ✓ Optimize processing,
- ✓ Optimize latency, and resource utilization.

Challenges in Modelling Agents.

Pool of Resources

- Single Resource Requests for Pod Processing
- Stability and Performance Enhancement

Application Types

- Long-Running Applications (LRAs)
- Batch Processing
- Stream Processing

Relationship among Pods

- Interpod Relationships
- Parallel Processing and Dependencies
- Dynamic Pod Creation for Response Time Optimization

Candidate Algorithms.

Hormone Algorithm

Inspiration from the biological endocrine system, which regulates various metabolic processes within our bodies:

1. Production: Hormone Synthesis by Nodes

- Controlled by Number of Demand Swarm Agents

$$H^m = \frac{1}{|Q_i^m| + \beta}$$

2. Evaporation: Gradual Hormone Reduction

- Controlled by Evaporation Rate (α)

$$H_{i,t+1}^m = H_{i,t}^m \cdot (1 - \alpha)$$

3. Diffusion: Hormone Propagation Between Nodes

- Controlled by Number of Demand Swarm Agents

$$\Delta H = H_i^m \cdot \gamma \quad H_i^m - = \Delta H$$

4. Diffusion Through Pod Movement: Influence of Pod Movement on Hormones

- Controlled by Diffusion Factor (δ)

$$\Delta H = H_i^m \cdot \delta \quad H_i^m - = \delta H$$

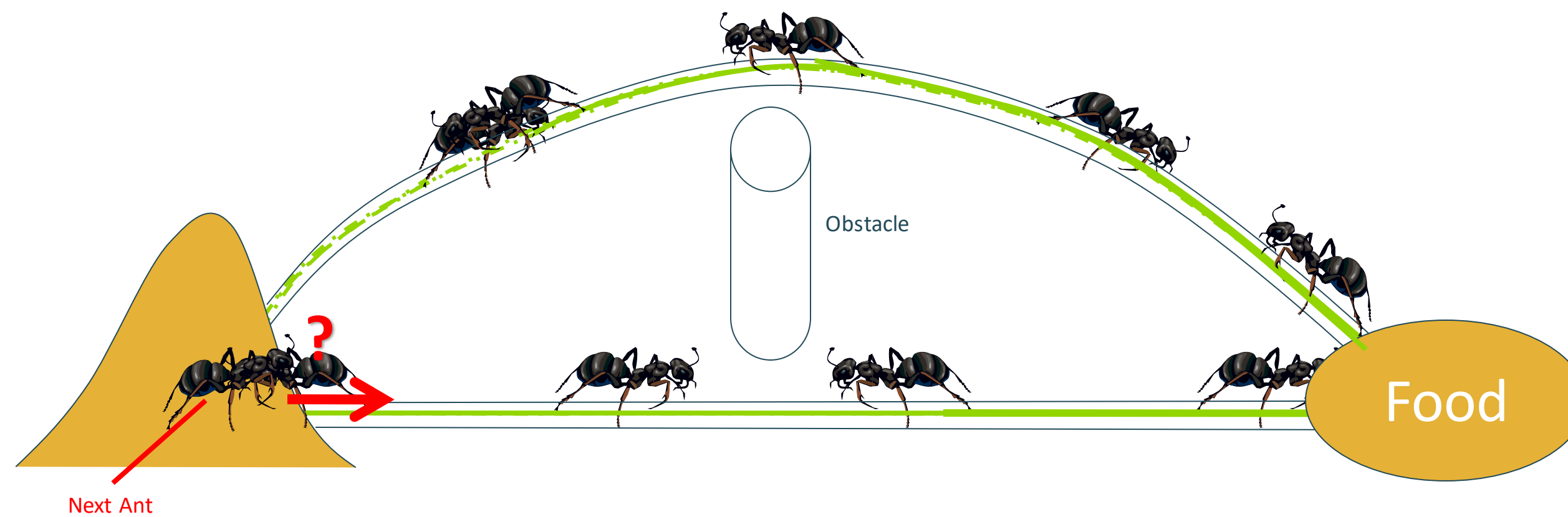
5. Attraction: Hormone-Induced Pod Attraction to Nodes

- Attraction Factor (ϵ)

$$attraction = \sum_{i,m} H_i^m \cdot \epsilon^n$$

Candidate Algorithms.

A single ant is unlikely to be “intelligent”,
but in the system they are unbeatable!



Candidate Algorithms.

Ant Algorithm

Ant algorithms draw inspiration from the decentralized foraging behavior of ants, a natural phenomenon where ants can efficiently find near optimal paths to food sources without relying on global knowledge.

1. Trail Following: Probabilistic Node Selection
Influenced by Local Pheromones and Pod Heuristic

$$P_{i,j} = \frac{\tau_{i,j,d} + \alpha\eta_{i,j}}{1 + \alpha(N_i - 1)}$$

2. Trail Laying: Pheromone Update After Pod Processing
Memory of Processing Time and Resource Utilization

$$\tau_{x,d} \leftarrow \tau_{x,d} + r(1 - \tau_{x,d})$$

3. Evaporation: Periodic Pheromone Fade
Controlled by Evaporation Rate (p)

$$\tau(t+1) = \tau(t)(1 - p)$$

Thanks for
your attention!

Questions?
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