

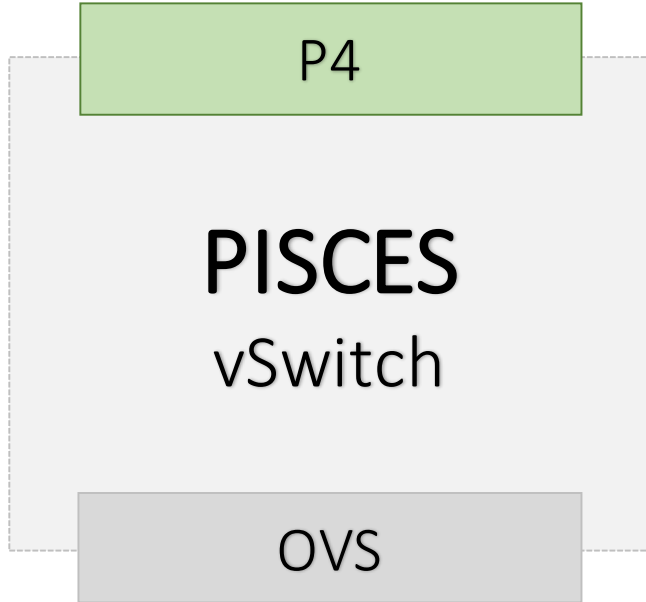
# PISCES: A P4-Enabled OVS

Muhammad Shahbaz, Cian Ferriter

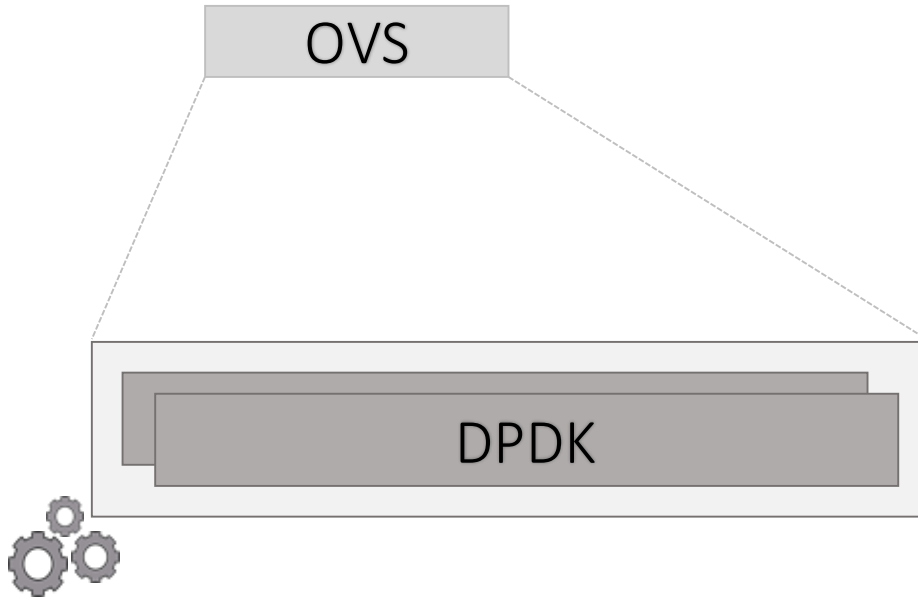
Princeton, Intel

P4

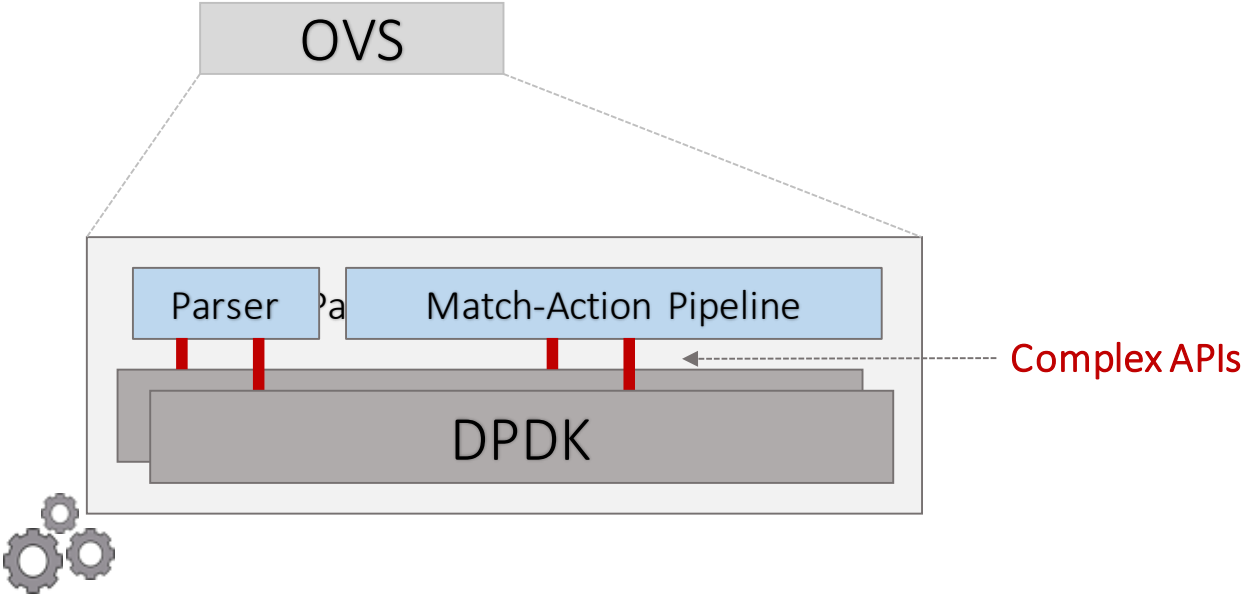
# PISCES: A P4-Enabled OVS



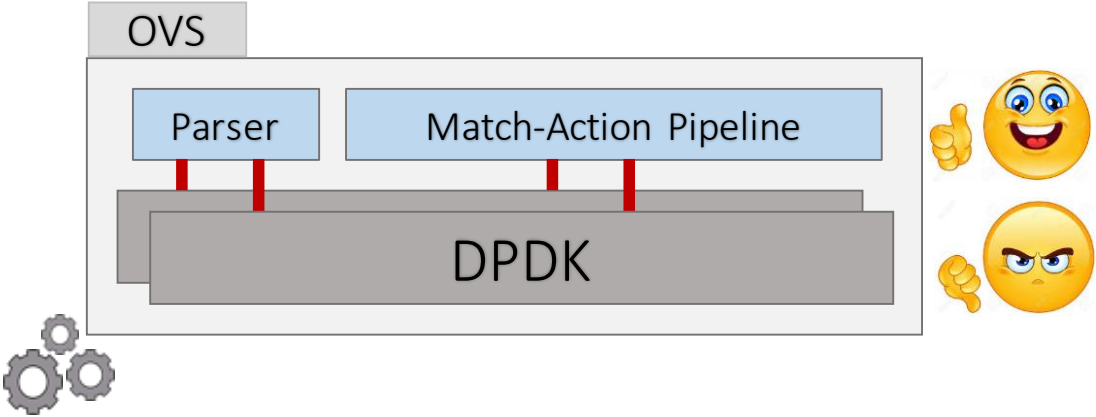
# Internal Architecture of OVS



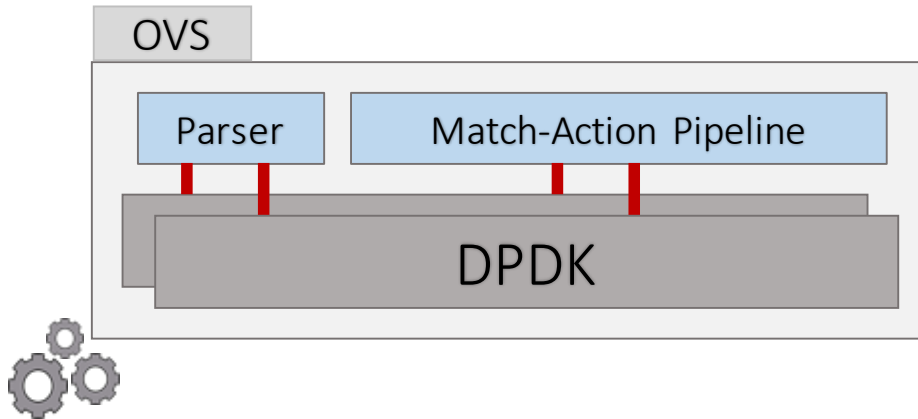
# Internal Architecture of OVS



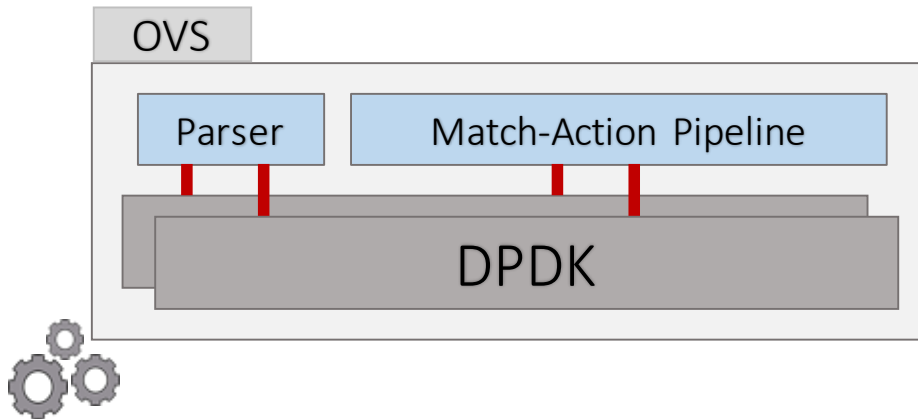
# Internal Architecture of OVS



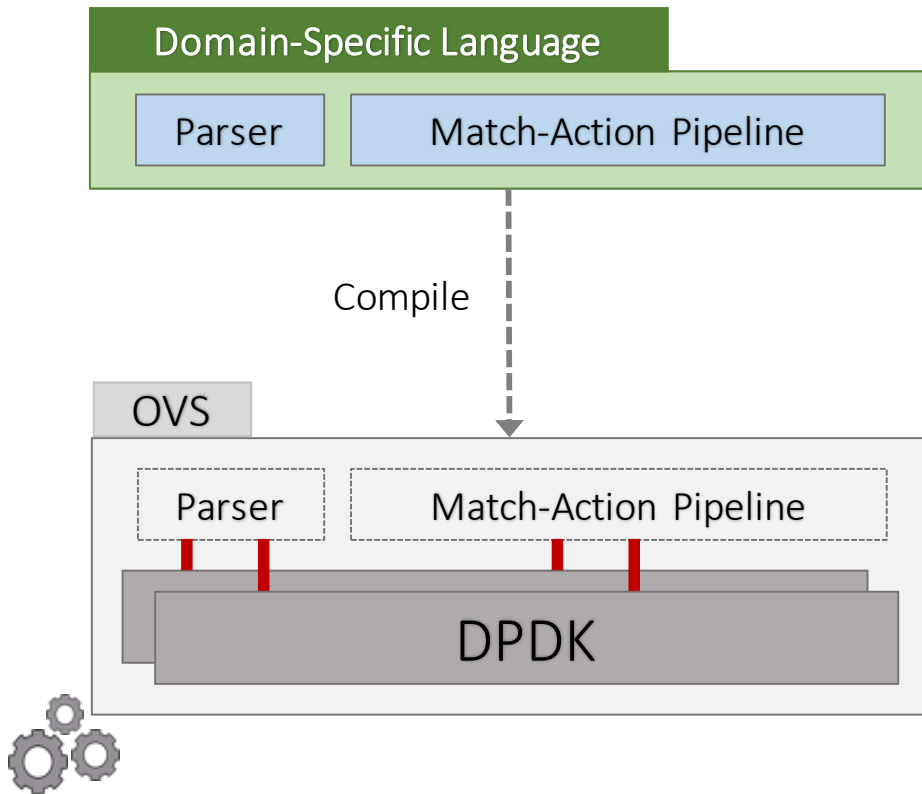
# Internal Architecture of OVS



# Internal Architecture of OVS

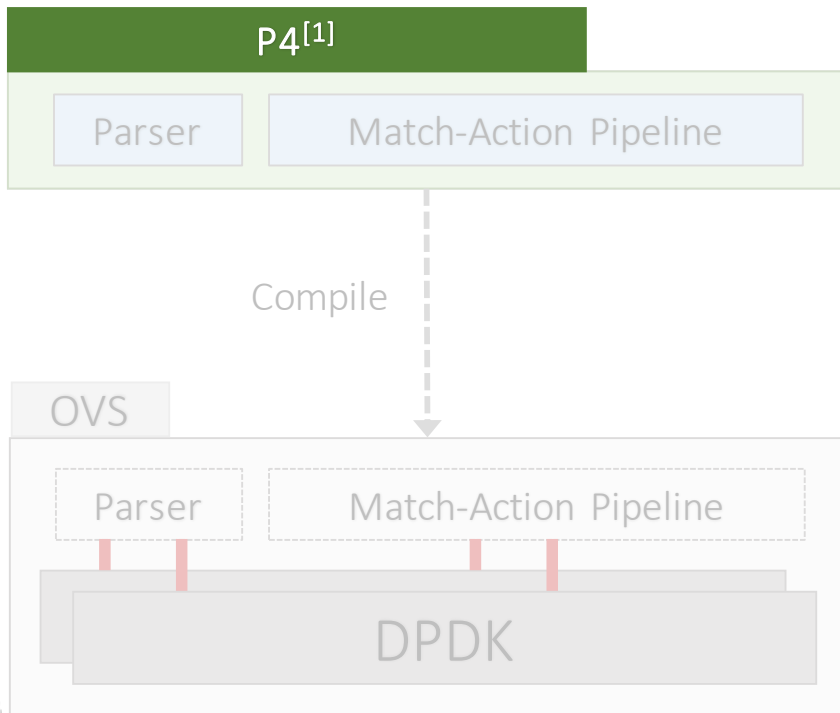


# Road to Protocol Independence





# Road to Protocol Independence



P4 is an **open-source language**.<sup>[1]</sup>

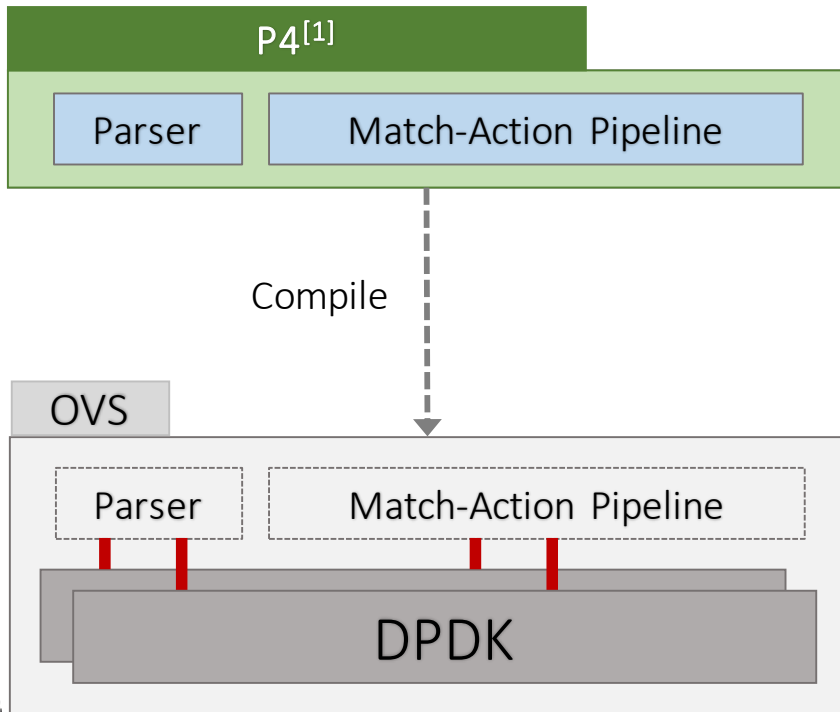
Describes different aspects of a packet processor:

- **Packet headers and fields**
- **Metadata**
- **Parser**
- **Actions**
- **Match-Action Tables (MATs)**
- **Control Flow**

<sup>[1]</sup> <http://www.p4.org>



# Road to Protocol Independence



341 lines of code

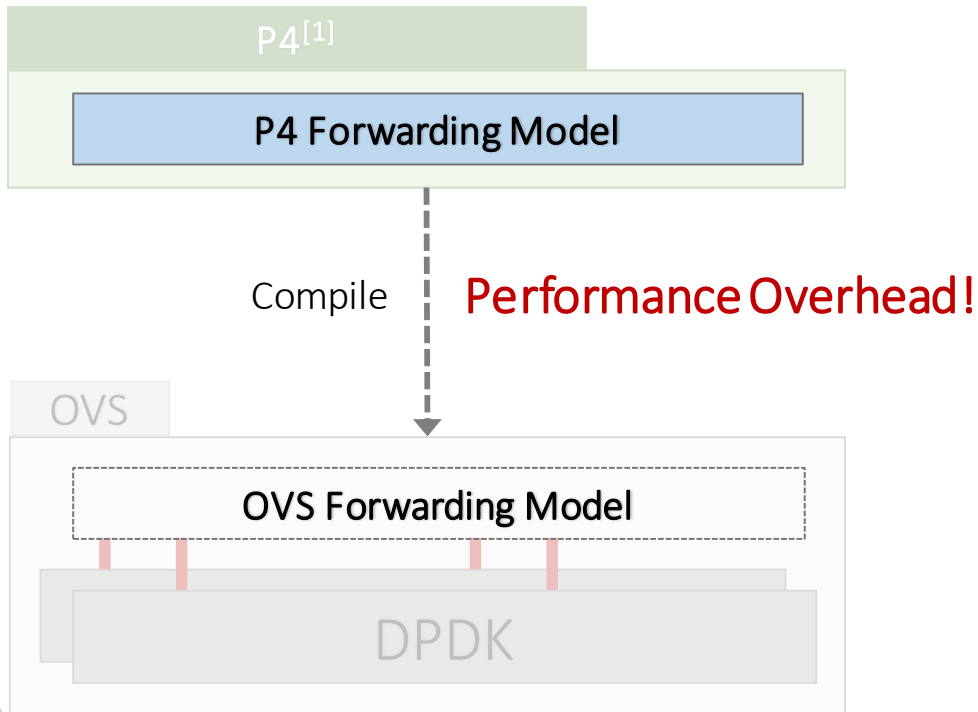
Native OVS

14,535 lines of code



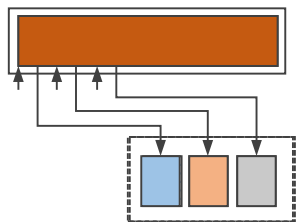
<sup>[1]</sup> <http://www.p4.org>

# Road to Protocol Independence

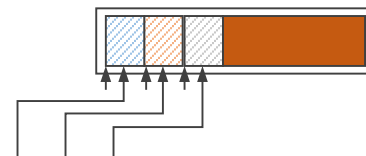


[1] <http://www.p4.org>

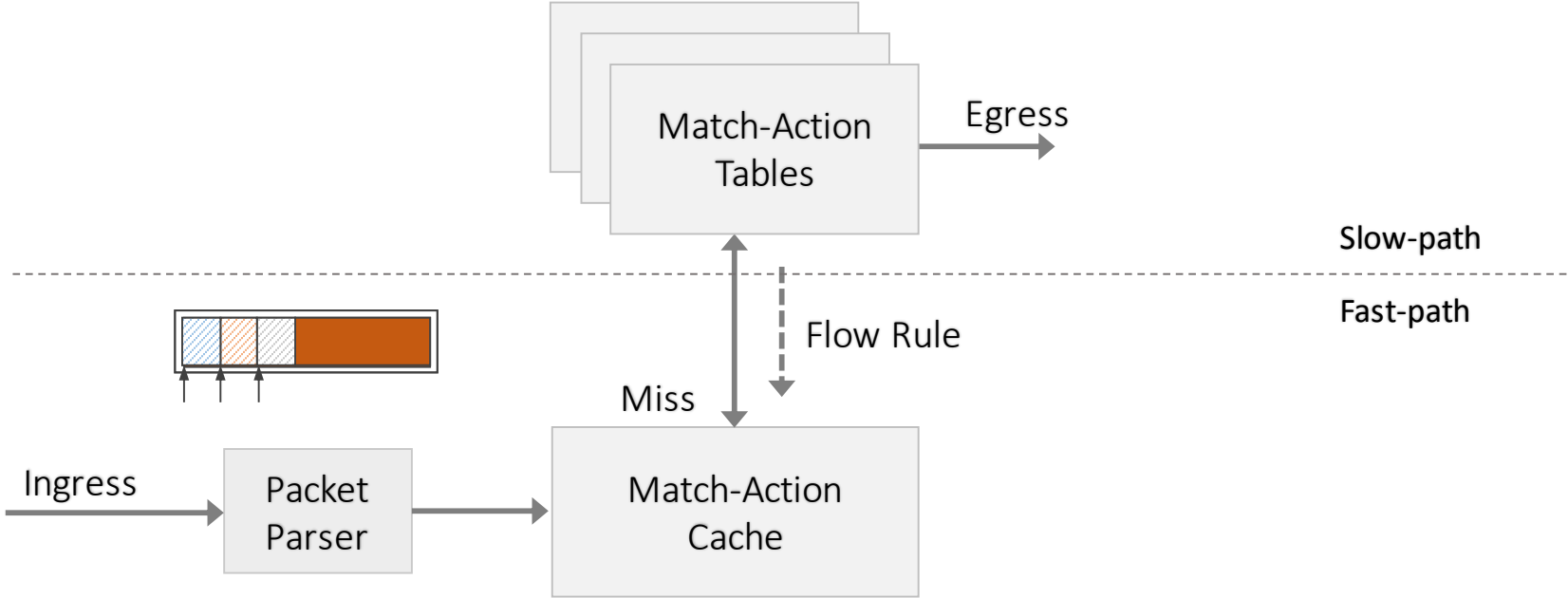
# P4 Forwarding Model (Post-Pipeline Editing)



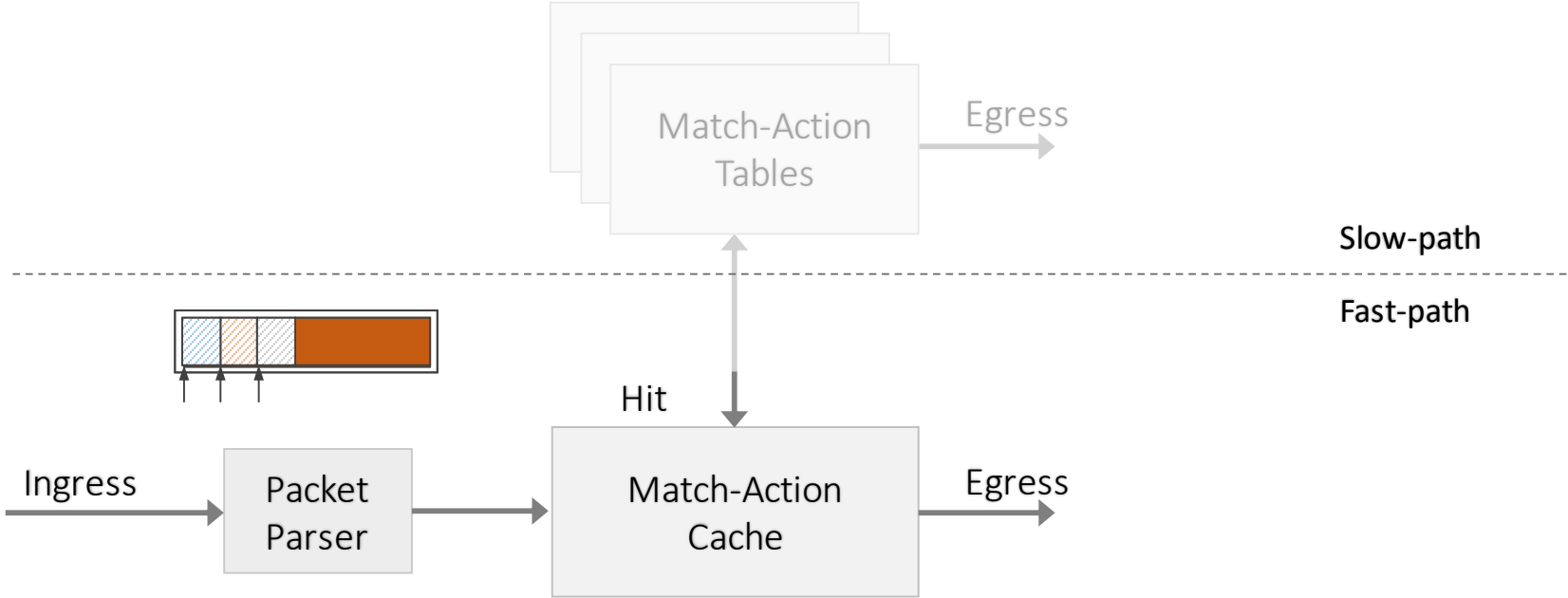
Header Fields



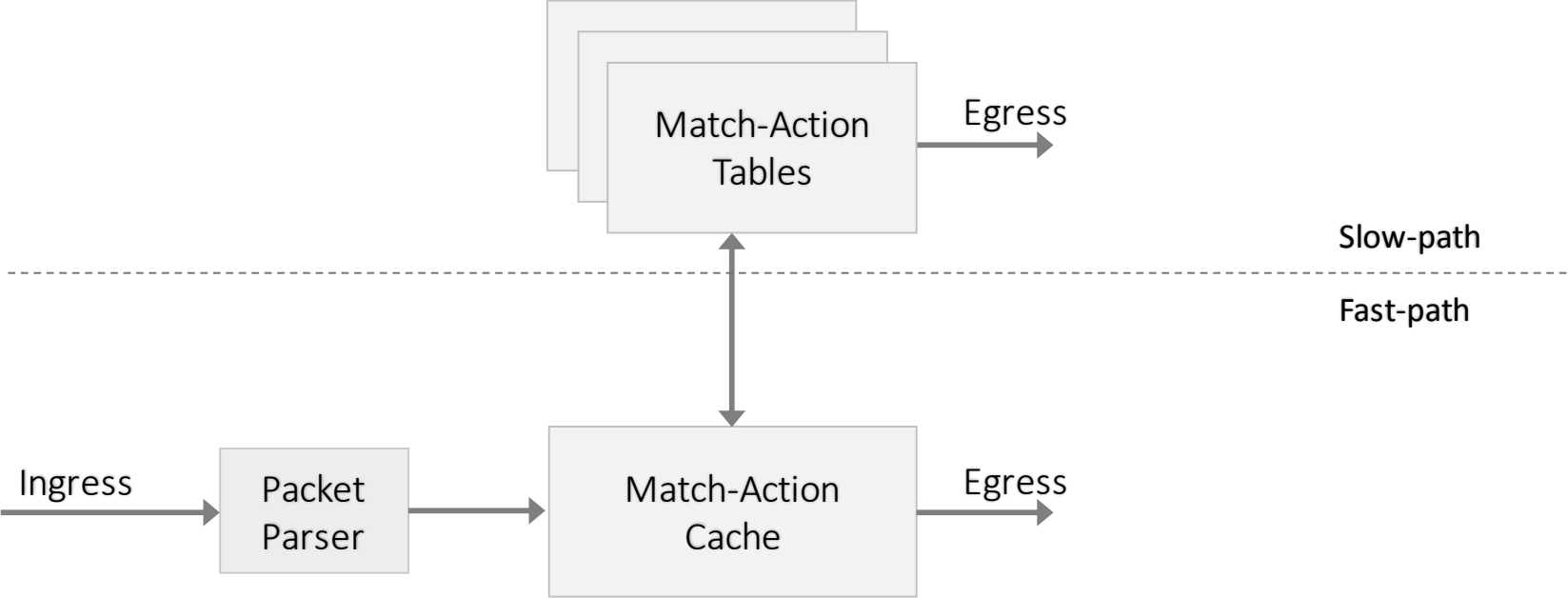
# OVS Forwarding Model



# OVS Forwarding Model

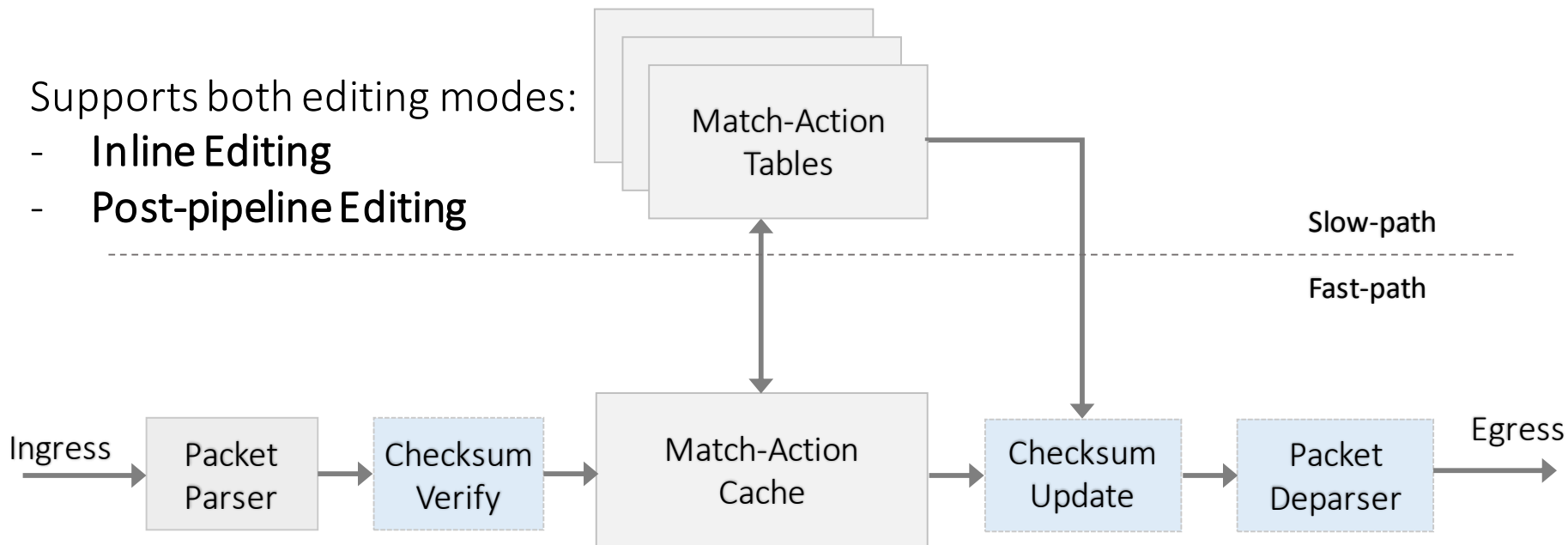


# OVS Forwarding Model (Inline Editing)



# PISCES Forwarding Model (Modified OVS)

- Supports both editing modes:
  - **Inline Editing**
  - **Post-pipeline Editing**



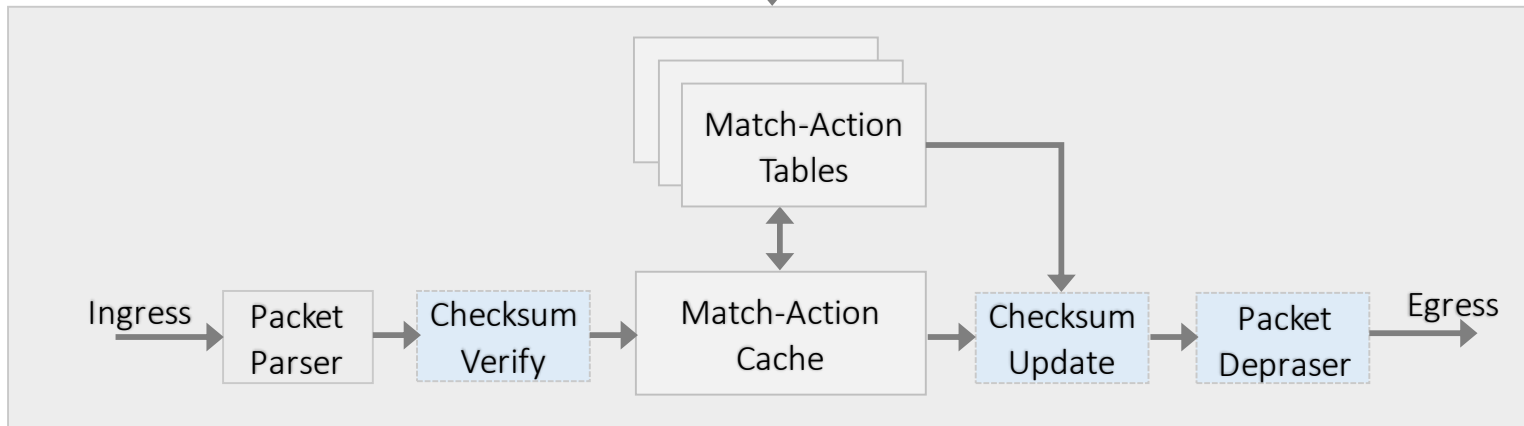


# PISCES: Compiling P4 to OVS

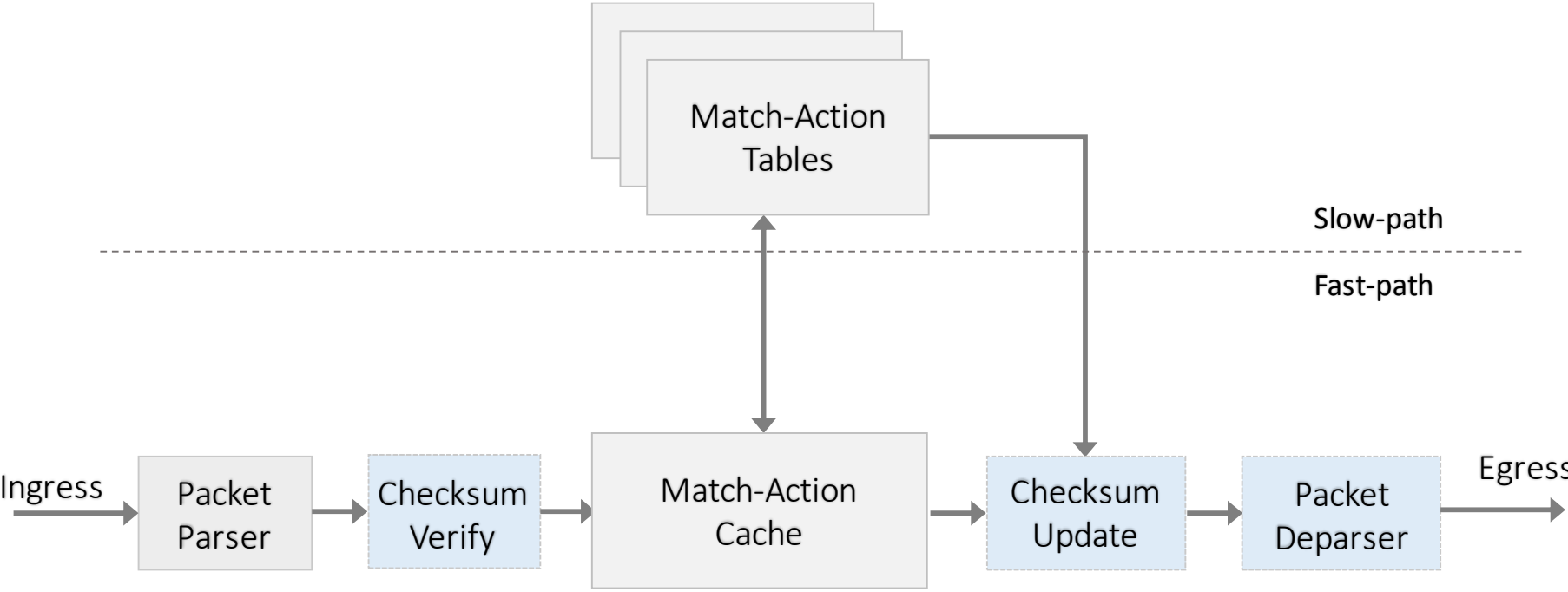
P4



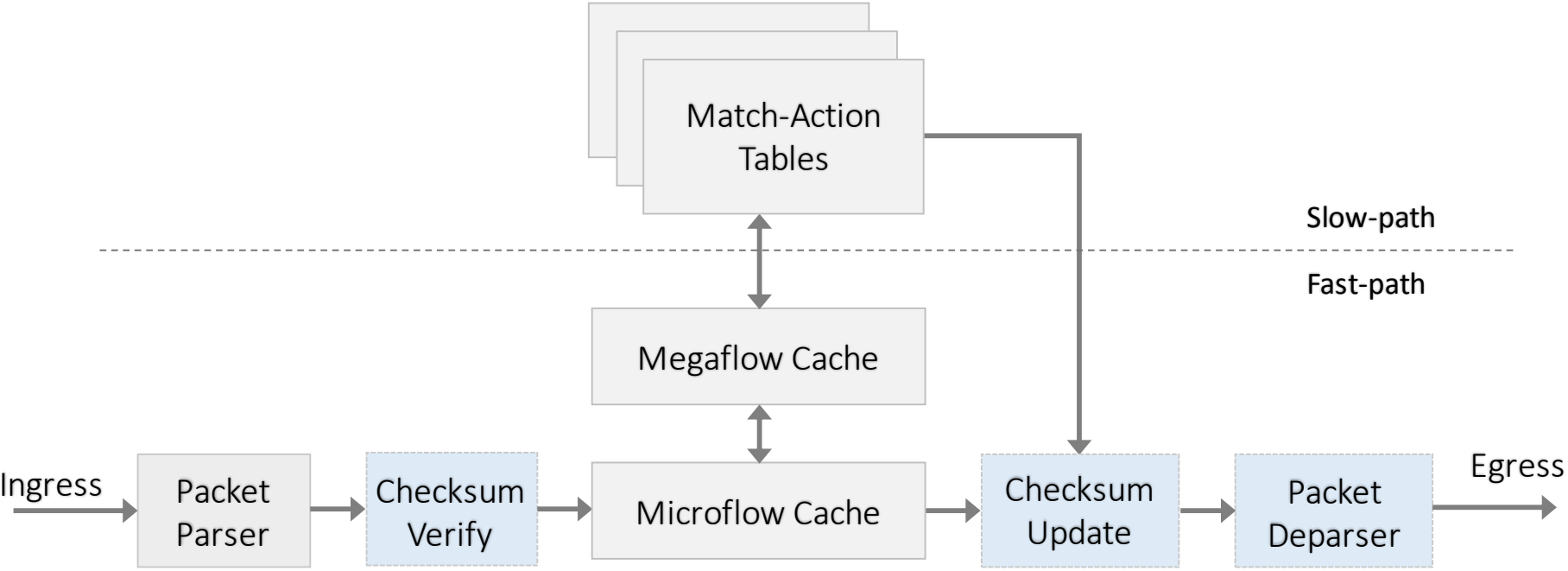
modified  
OVS



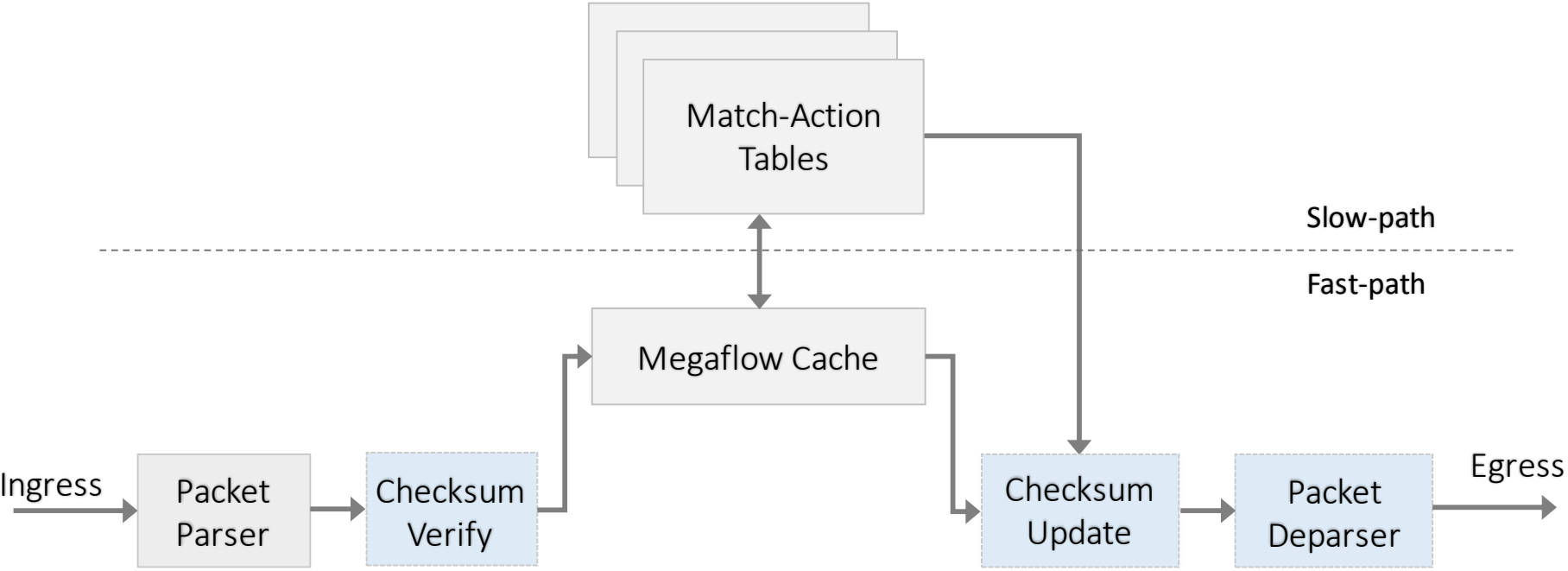
# PISCES Forwarding Model (Modified OVS)



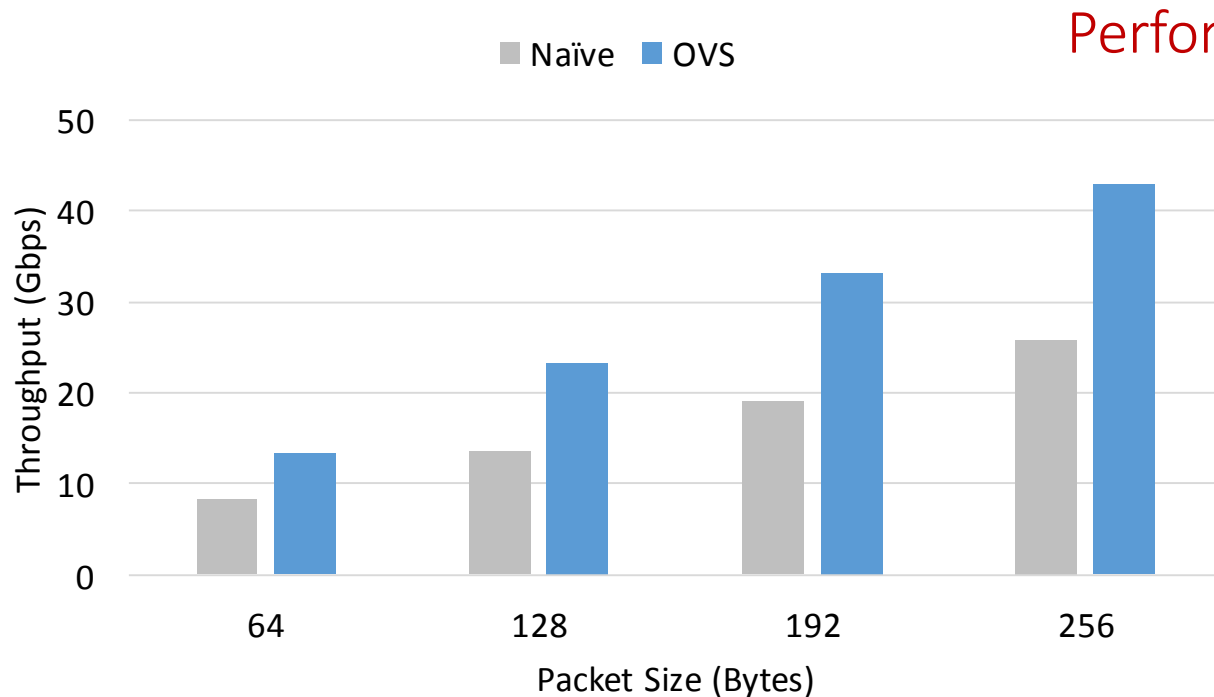
# PISCES Forwarding Model (Modified OVS)



# PISCES Forwarding Model (Modified OVS)

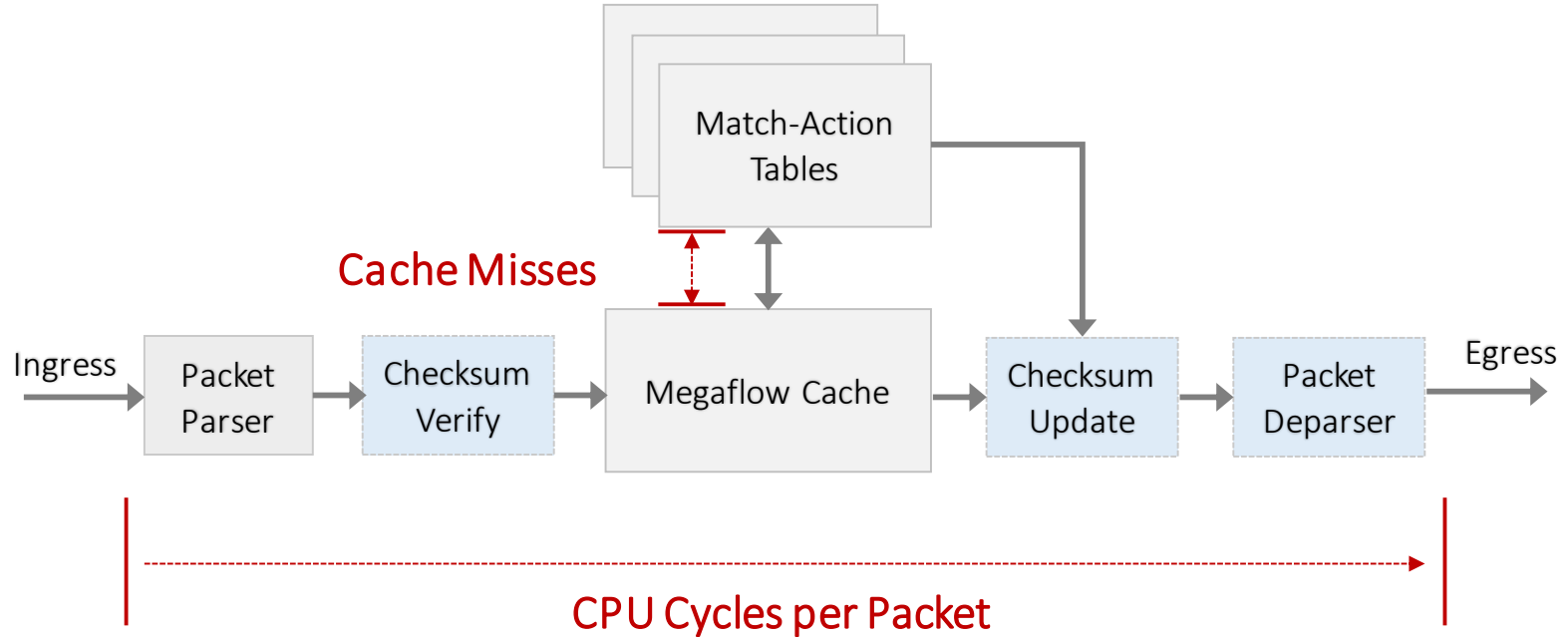


# Naïve Compilation from P4 to OVS (L2L3-ACL)



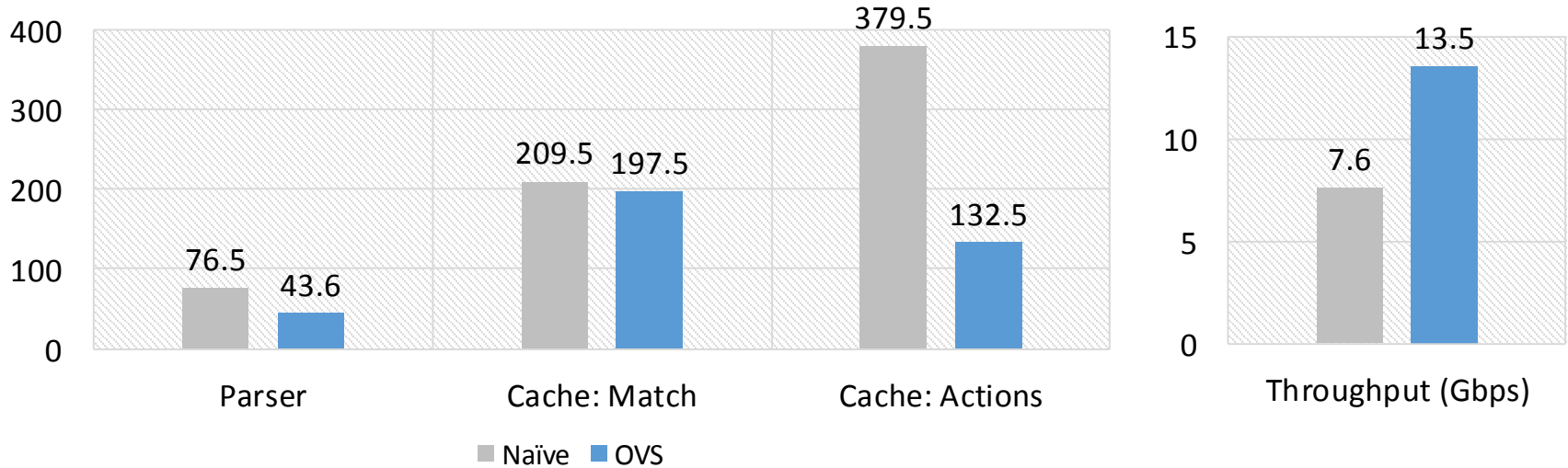
Performance overhead of  
~ 40%

# Causes of Performance Overhead



# Cause: CPU Cycles per Packet

L2L3-ACL (CPU Cycles for a 64 Byte Packet)

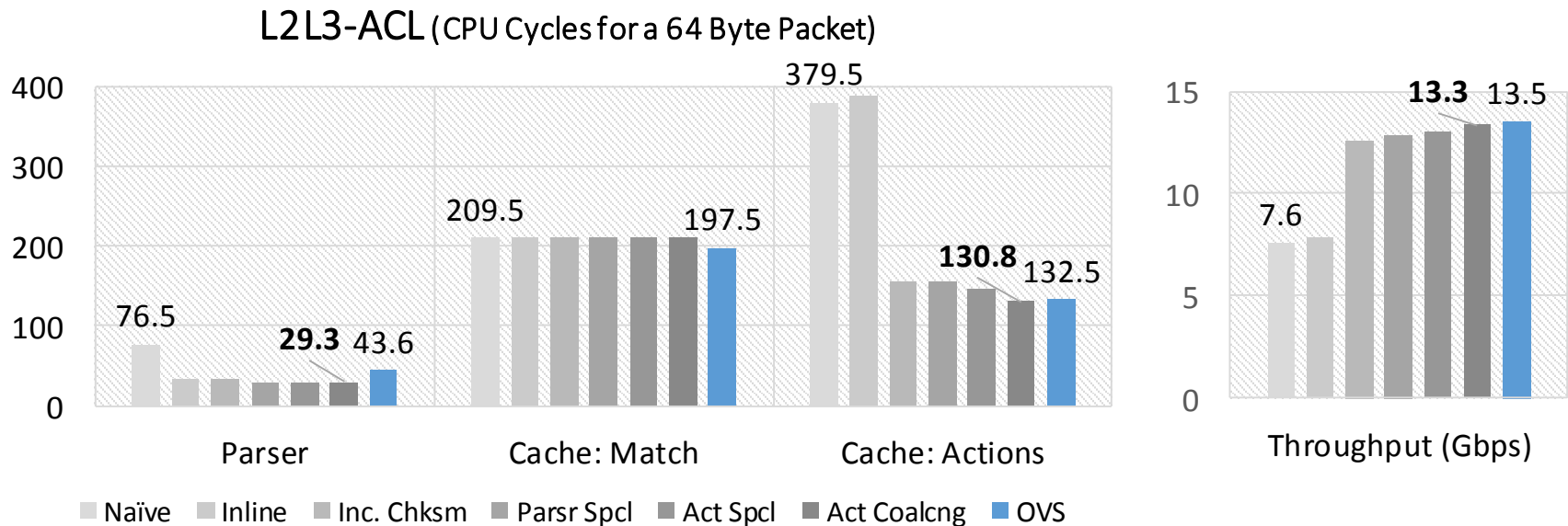


# Factors affecting CPU Cycles per Packet

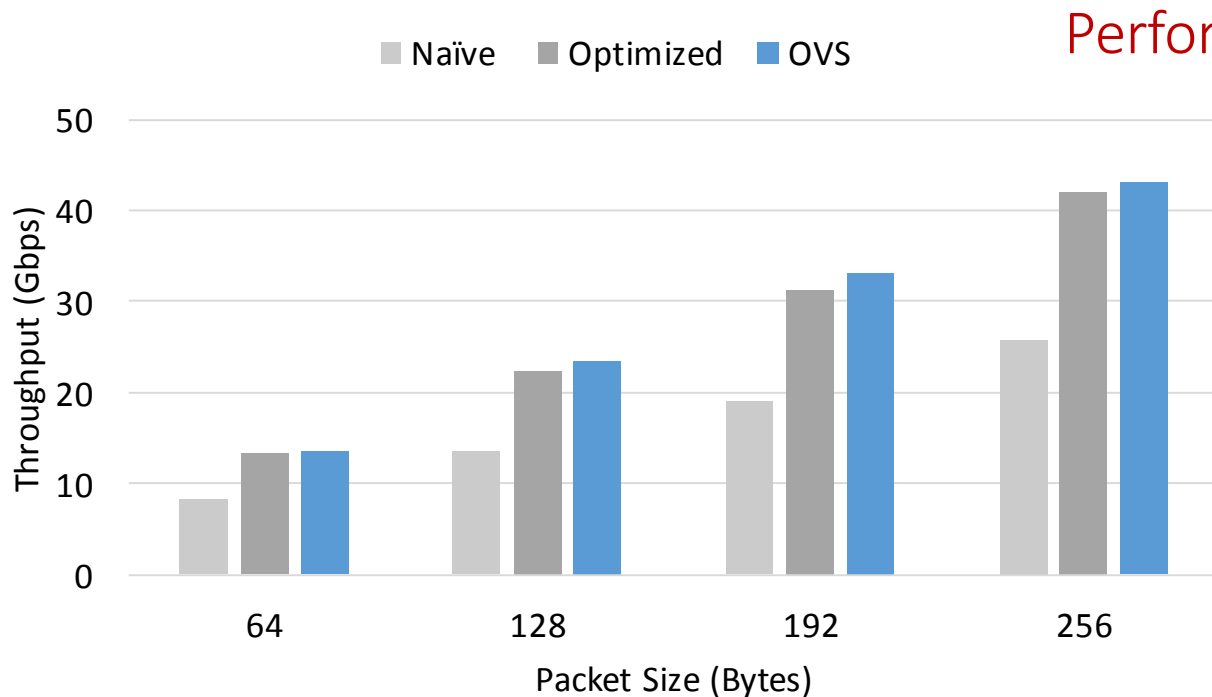
- a. Extra copy of headers
  - b. Fully-specified Checksum
  - c. Parsing unused header fields
- and more ...



# Different Optimizations for L2L3-ACL

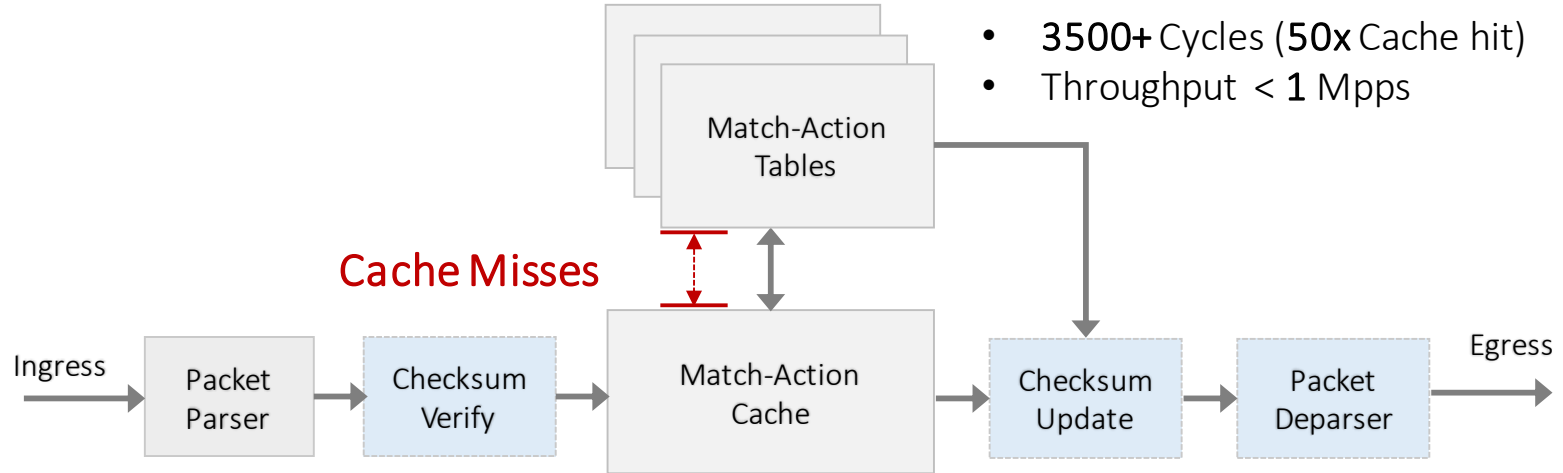


# Optimized Compilation from P4 to OVS (L2L3-ACL)



Performance overhead of  
**< 2%**

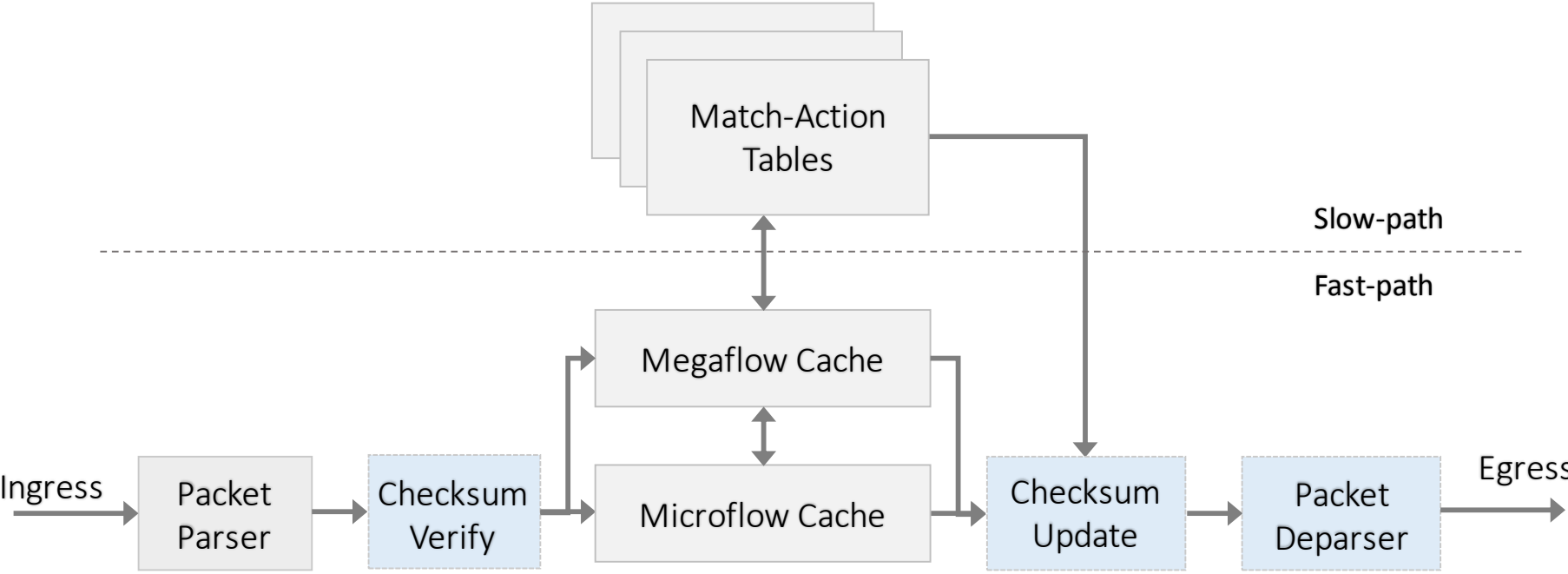
# Cause: Cache Misses



# Factors affecting Cache Misses

- a. Entropy of packet header fields
- b. Stateful operations in the match-action cache (or fast path).

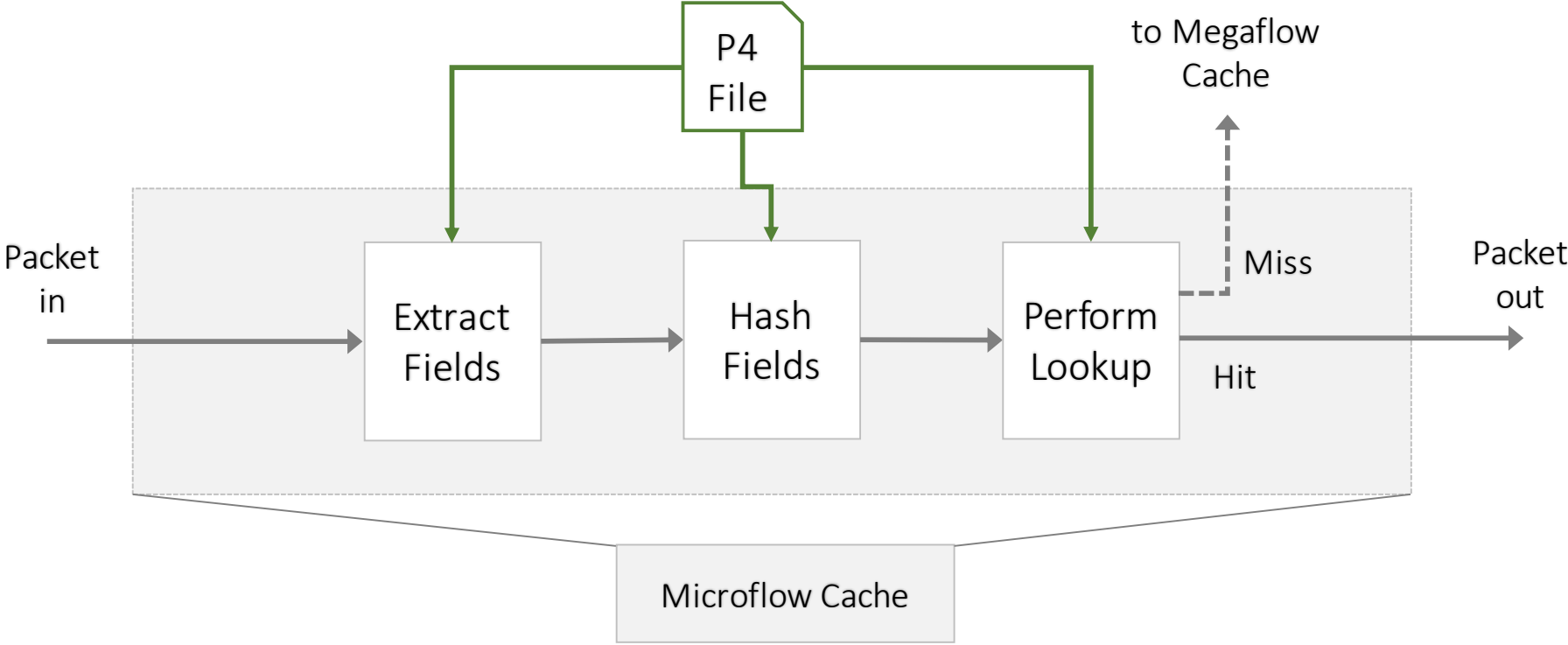
# PISCES Forwarding Model (Modified OVS)



# PISCES Forwarding Model (Modified OVS)

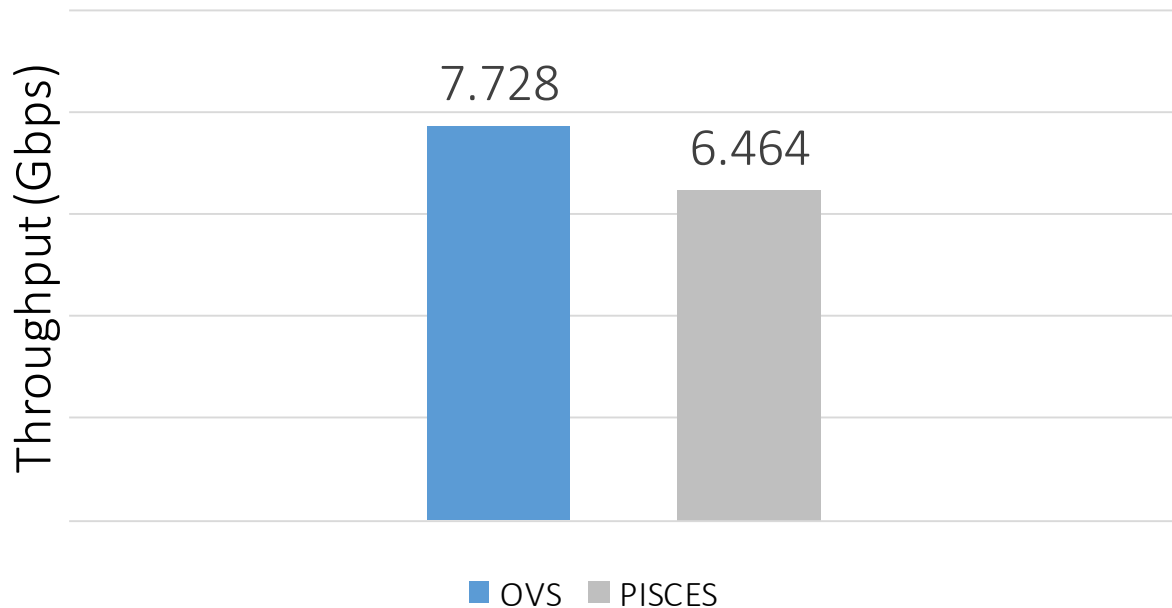
Microflow Cache

# Internals of the Microflow Cache



# Performance with the Microflow Cache

Phy-Phy, L3 Router Case, 64B





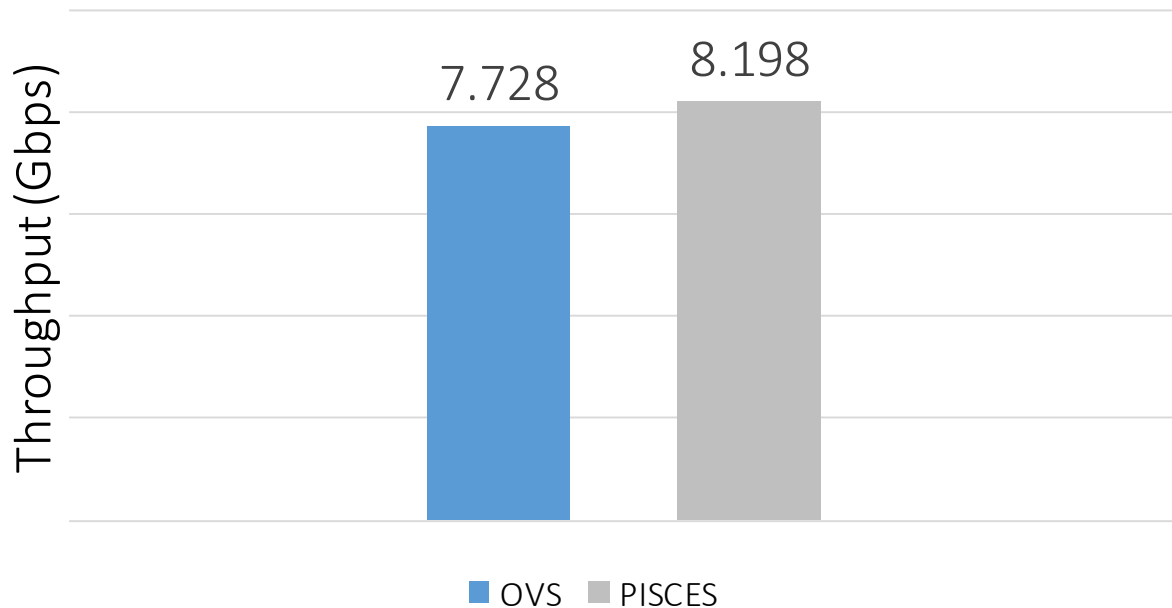
# Cause of Performance Degradation

Cacheline	64 Bytes		
0	Metadata		
1	Metadata		Ethernet Header
2	IPv4 (1 <sup>st</sup> 16Bytes)	IPv4 + L4 Proto	Empty

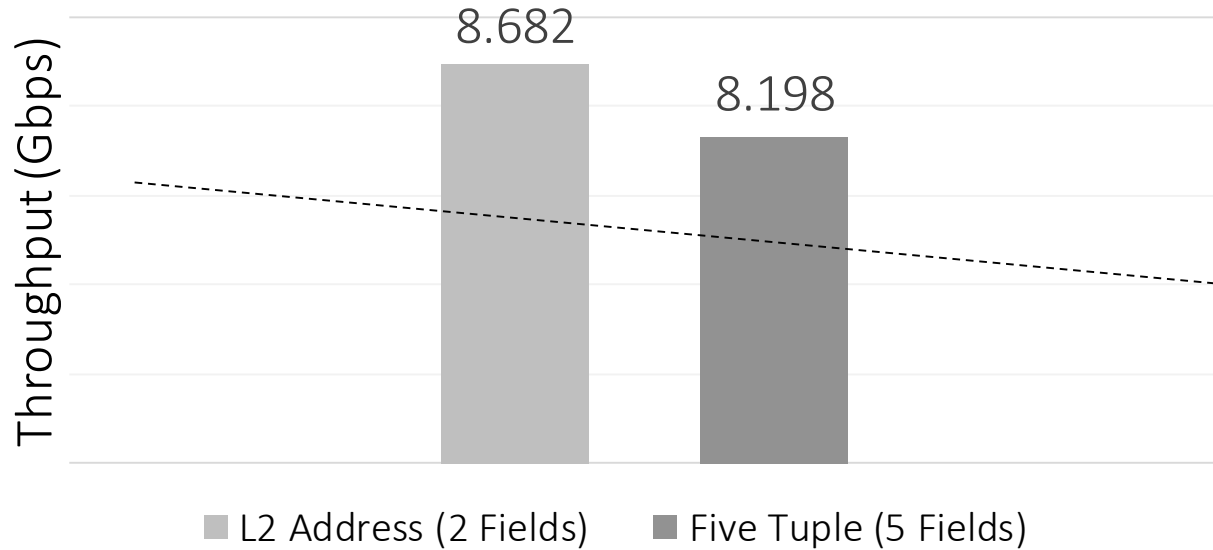
Simplified “flow” Structure

# Performance with the Microflow Cache

Phy-Phy, L3 Router Case, 64B



# Varying the Number of Hash Fields



Questions?

# Disclaimers

Intel does not control or audit third-party benchmark data or the web sites referenced in this document. You should visit the referenced web site and confirm whether referenced data are accurate.

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