FastTrack: Foreground App-Aware I/O Management for Improving User Experience of Android Smartphones

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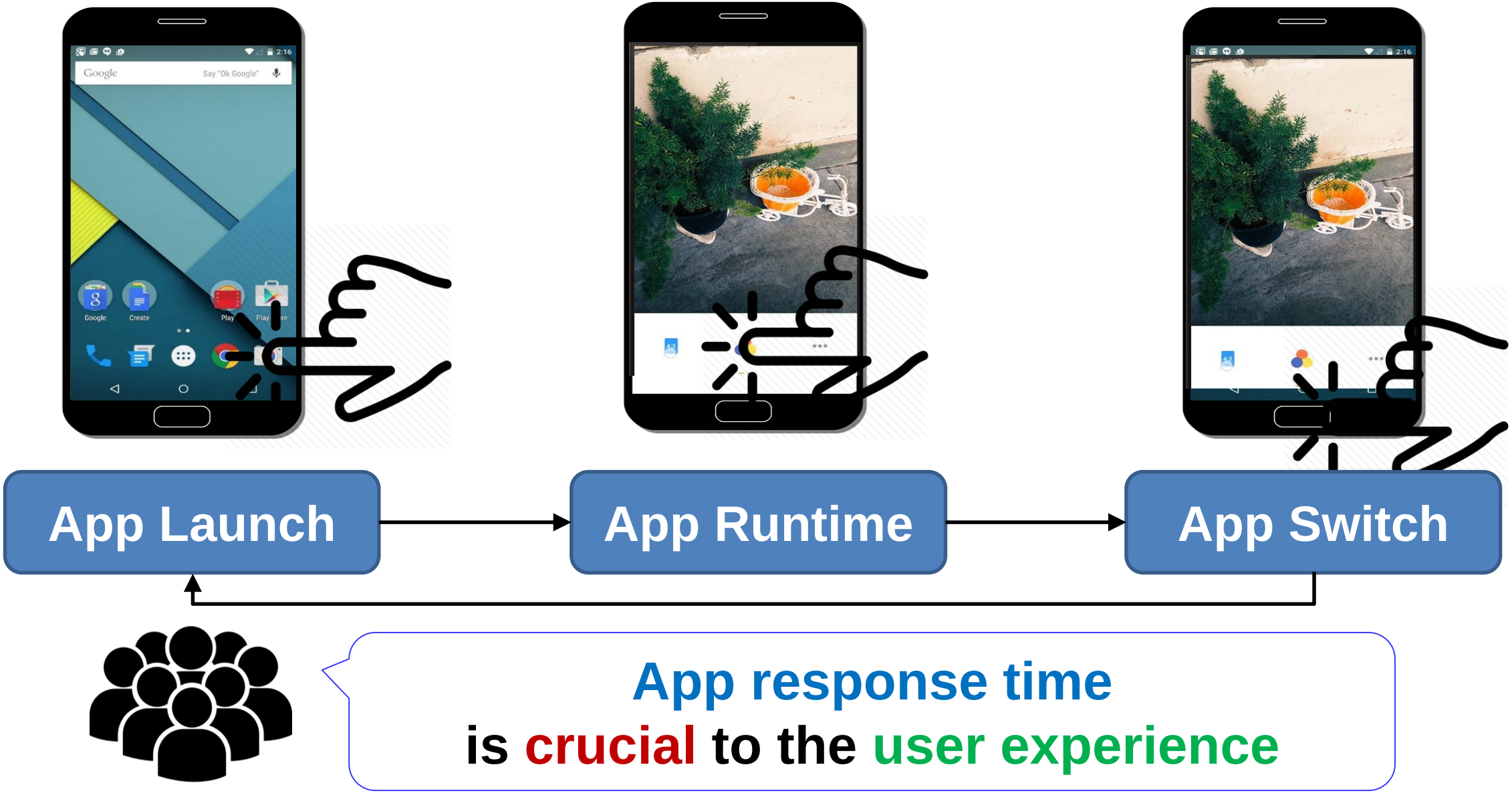
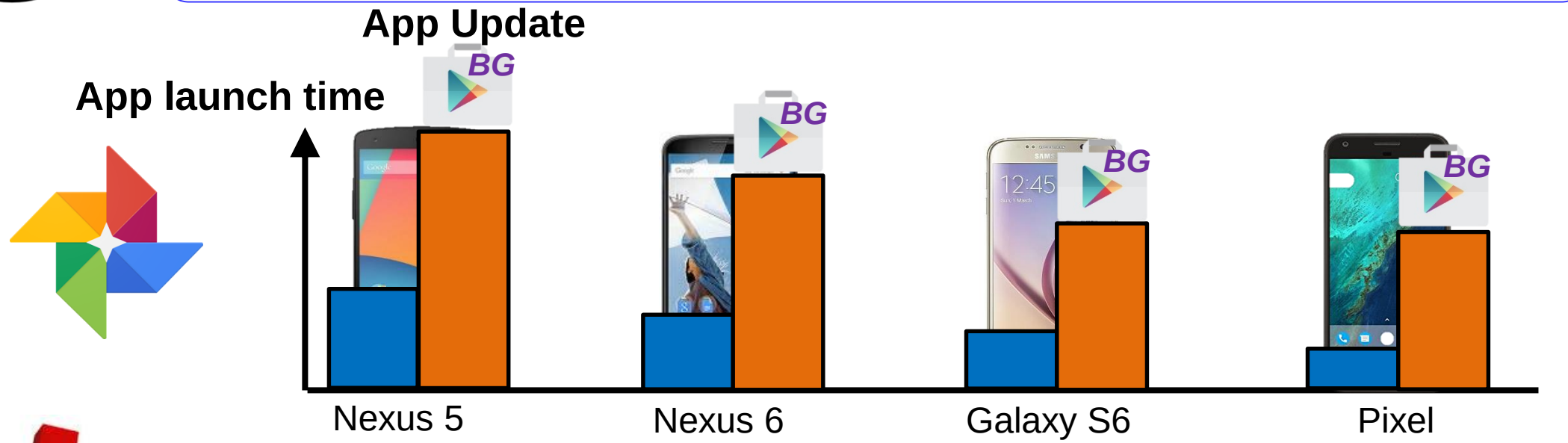
User Experience in Android Smartphones



App response time
is crucial to the user experience

Background Apps Degrade the Quality of User Experience

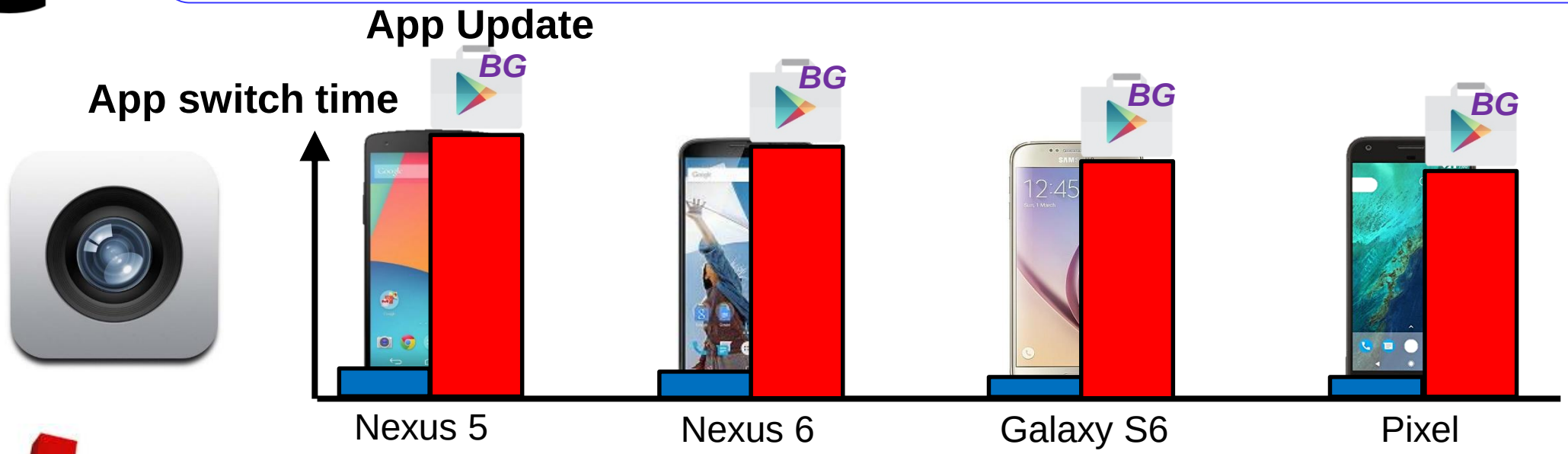
App launch time increases due to background apps



Background apps increase foreground app launch time by up to 2.6 times

Background Apps Degrade the Quality of User Experience

App switch time increases
due to **background apps**



Background apps increase
foreground app switch time by up to 19.5 times

Main Cause of Performance Degradation

How **background apps** degrade the **quality of user experience**?

Background (storage) I/Os

No rendering for BG apps

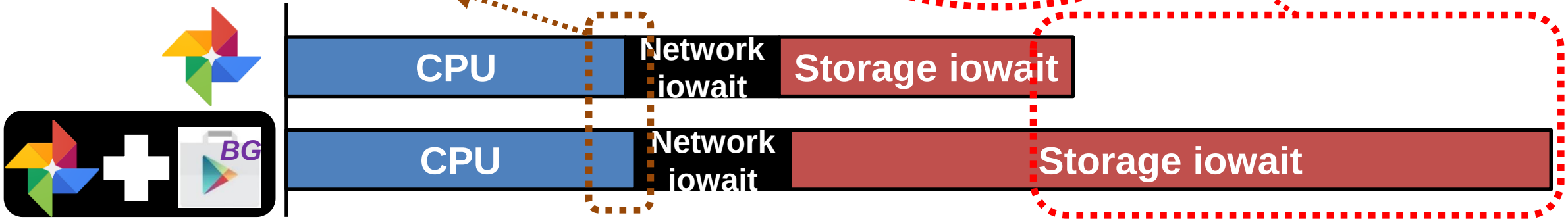
~~GPU?~~

~~CPU?~~

~~Network?~~

Performance ↓ even in offline

Storage?



Background I/O Occurrence Frequency

Q: Are background I/Os (BG I/Os) occur frequently ?

App Update

Average days between releases

3 weeks

2 weeks

1 week

Popular apps are updated in 1 to 2 weeks

Frequent BG I/O occurrences have a critical impact on the user experience

Outline

- **Impact of Background I/O on User Experience**
- **Foreground-Background Interference Analysis**
- **FastTrack: Foreground App-Aware I/O Management**
- **Experimental Results**
- **Conclusions**

Foreground-Background Interference Analysis

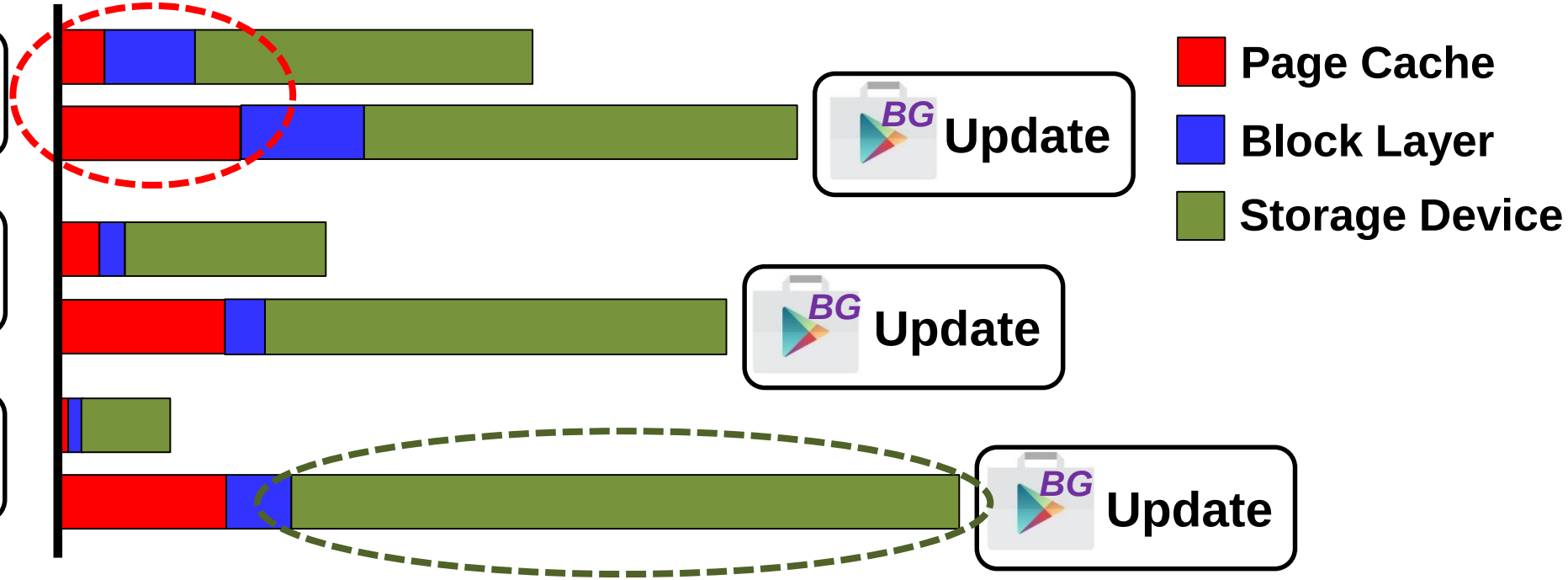
Android Storage I/O Stack

Application → Android Platform → File System → Page Cache → Block I/O Layer → Storage Device

Launch

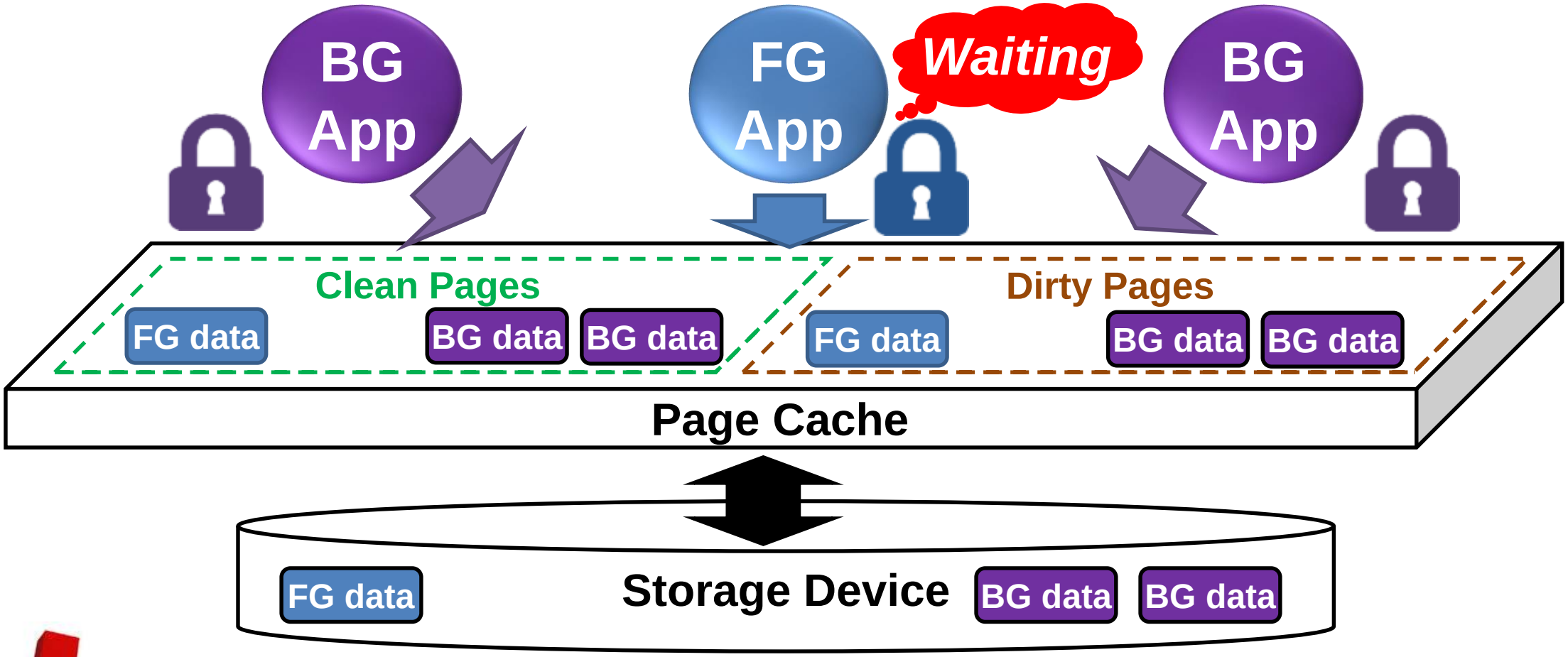
Runtime

Switch



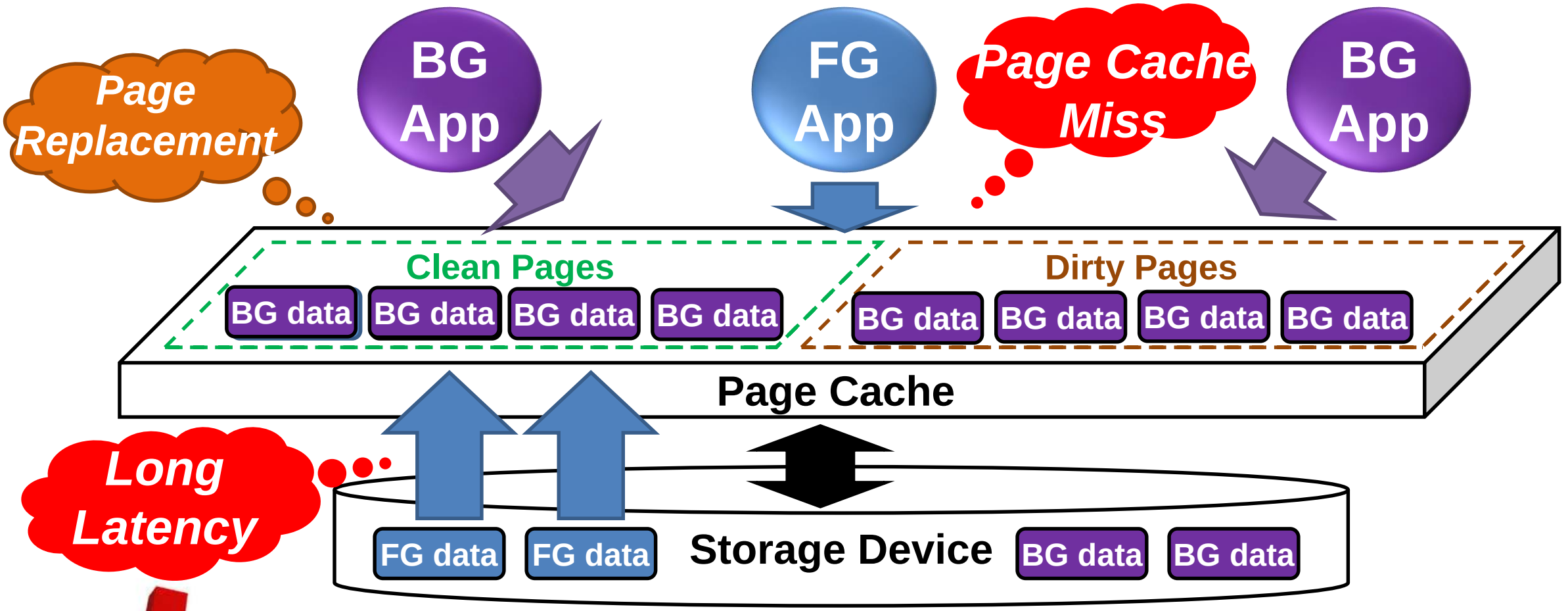
***Page cache* and *storage device* are affected most by FG-BG interference**

Impact on Page Cache: Lock Contention



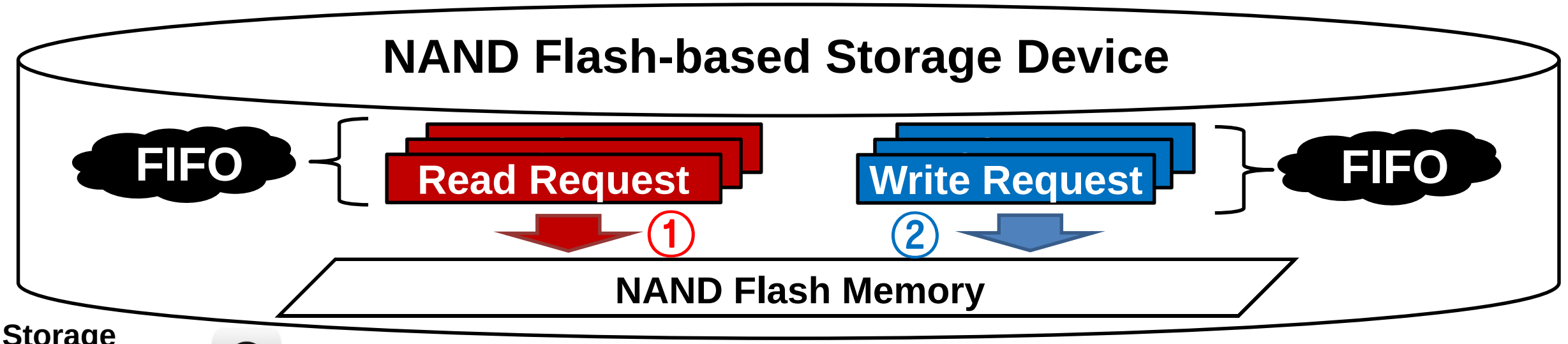
Lock contentions* in the page cache can significantly degrade the user experience by *waiting the completion of BG I/Os frequently

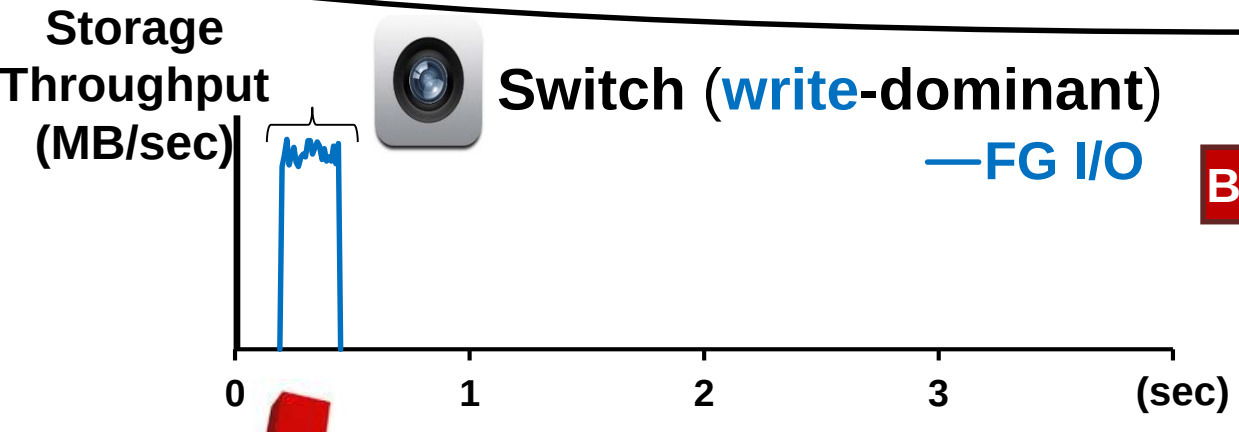
Impact on Page Cache: High Miss Rate

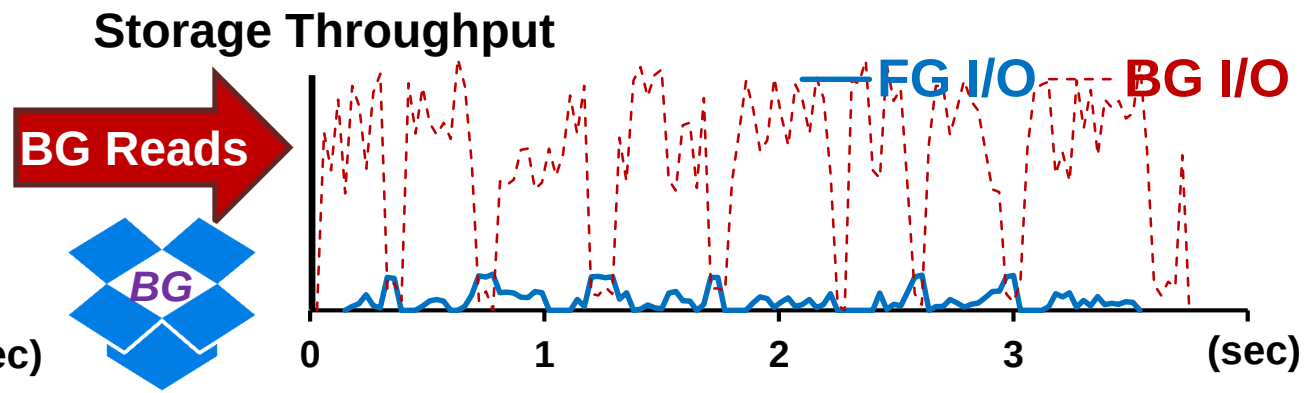


Existing page cache replacement policy* can *significantly degrade the user experience by evicting performance-critical hot FG pages

Impact on Storage Device: Internal Priority Inversion

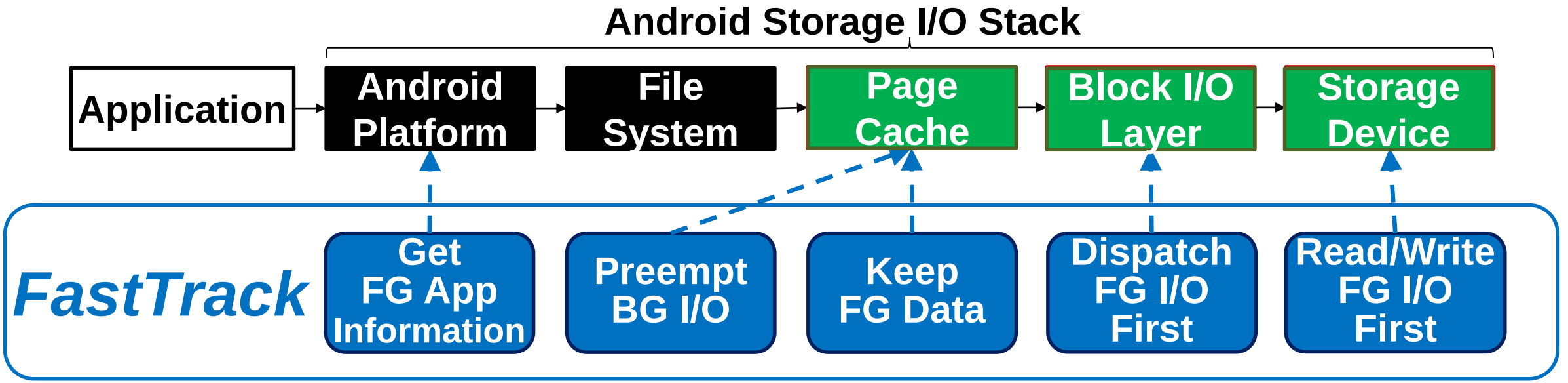


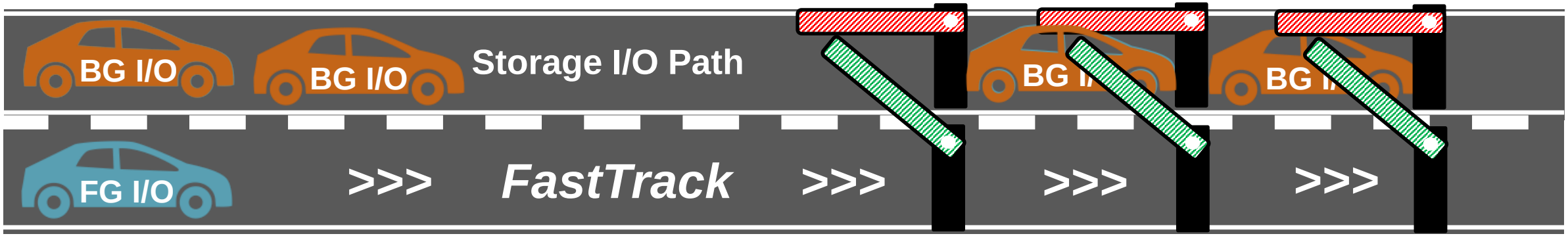




Existing device I/O scheduler's priority policy* can *significantly degrade the user experience by limiting the throughput of foreground I/Os

Solution for Foreground-Background Interference



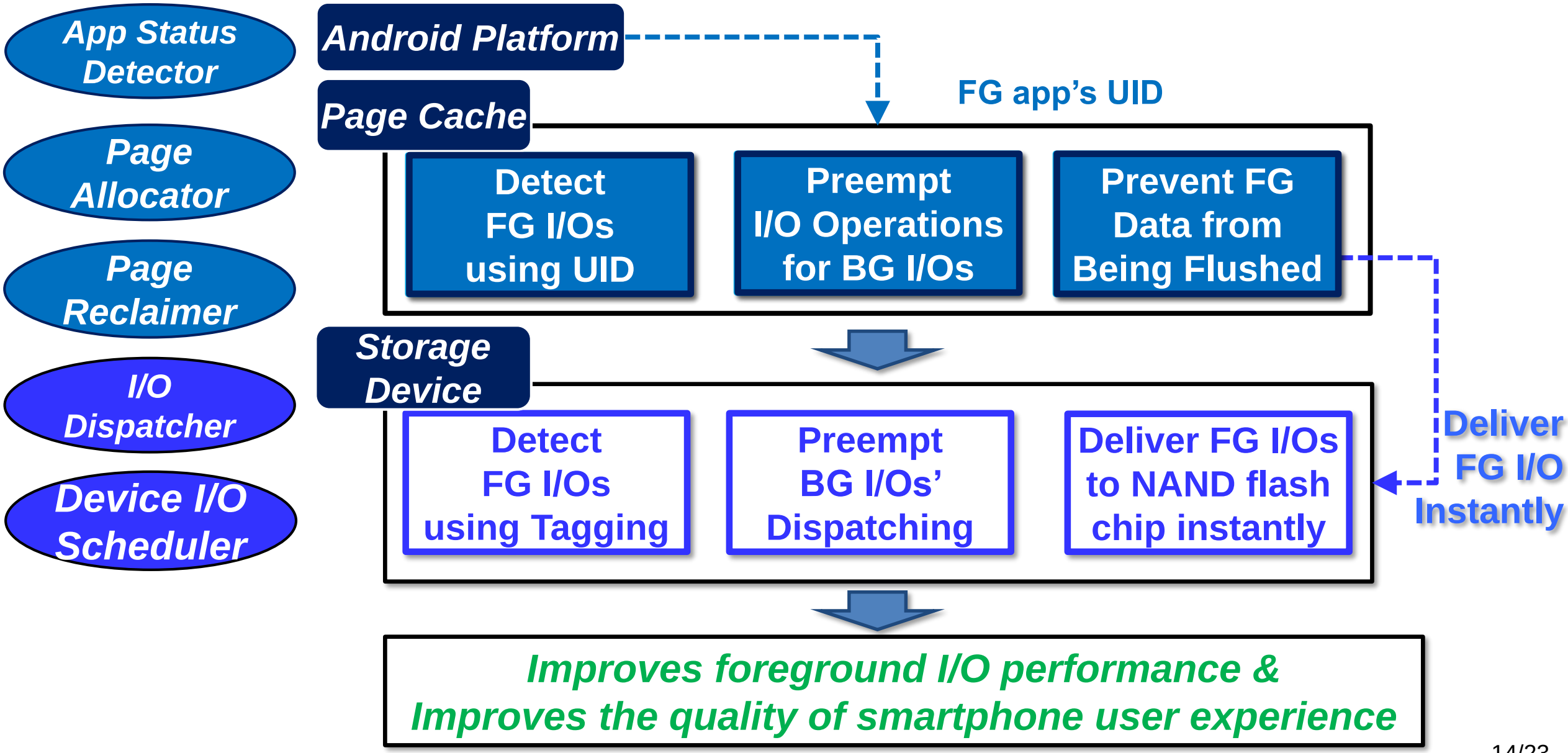


FastTrack is effective in **improving Android smartphone user experience**

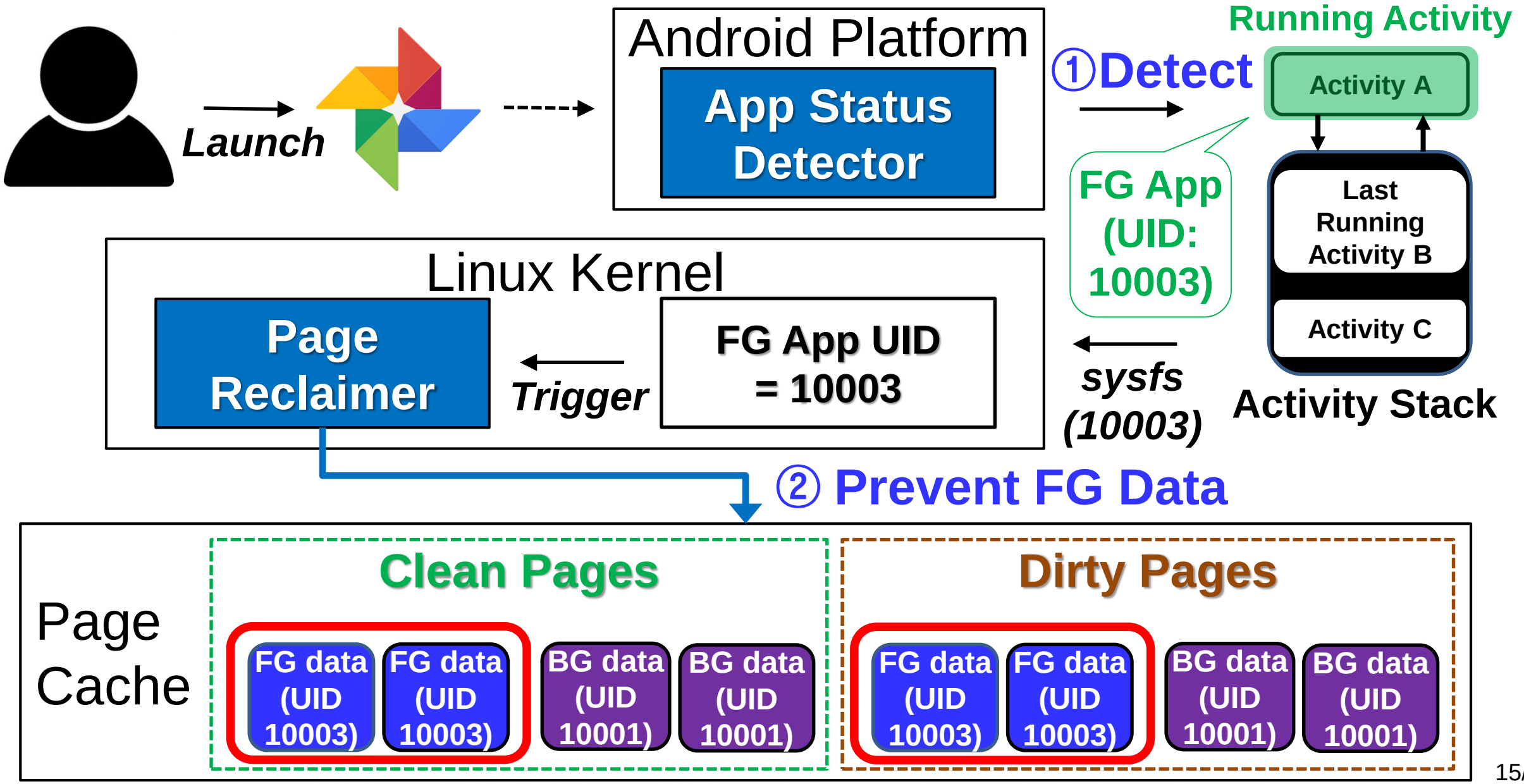
Outline

- Impact of Background I/O on User Experience
- Foreground-Background Interference Analysis
- **FastTrack: Foreground App-Aware I/O Management**
- **Experimental Results**
- **Conclusions**

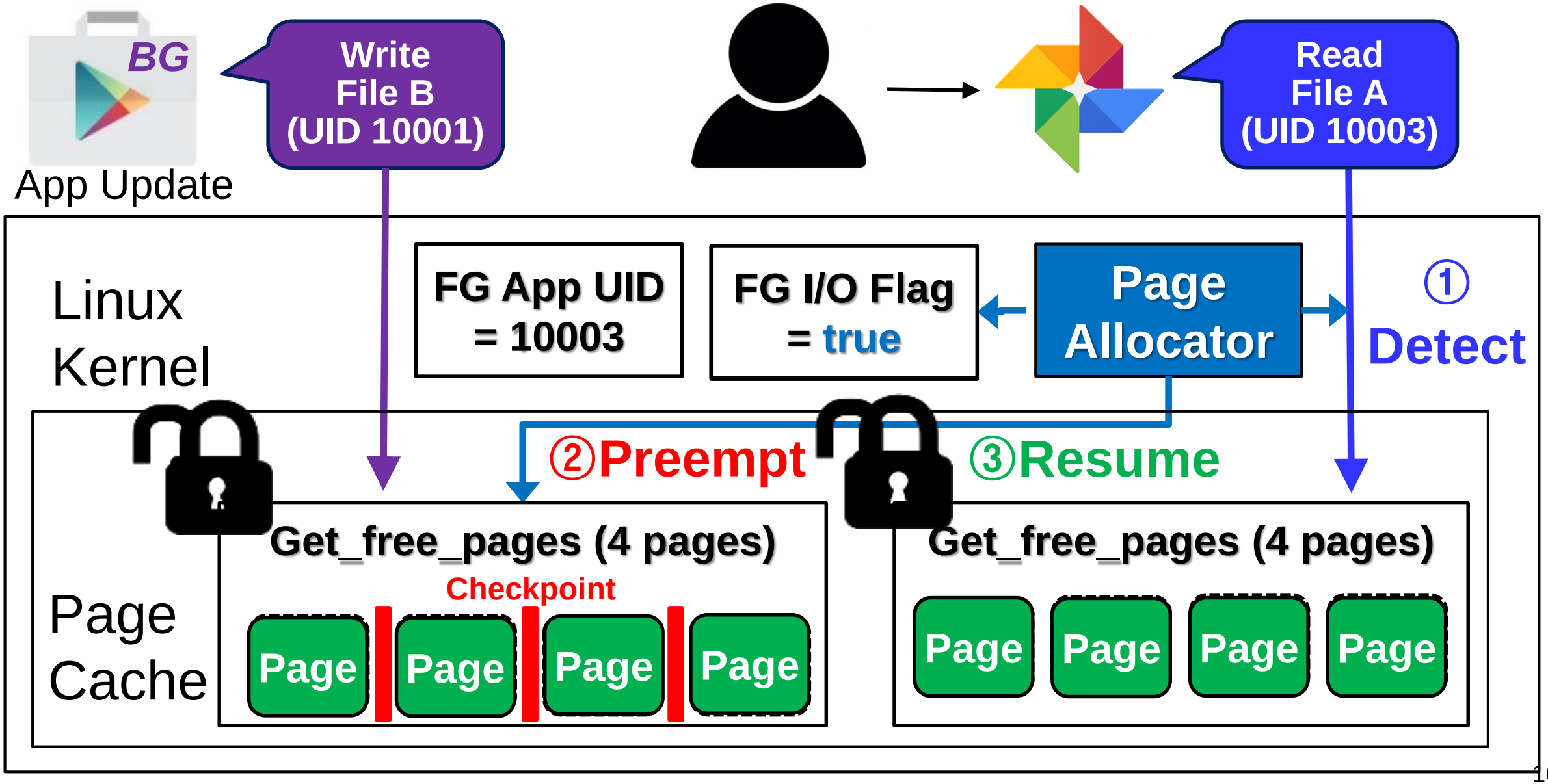
Overview of FastTrack



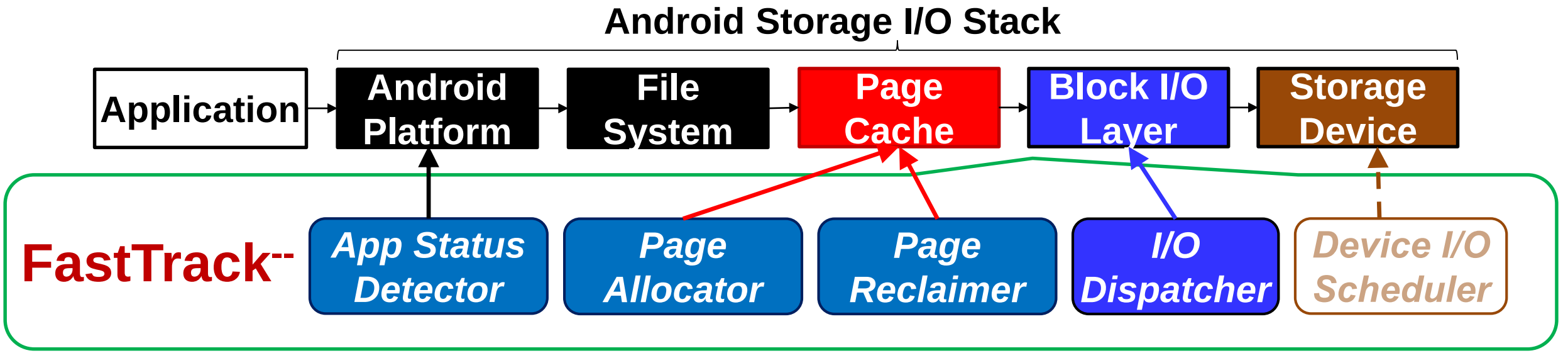
App Status Detector & Page Reclaimer



Page Allocator

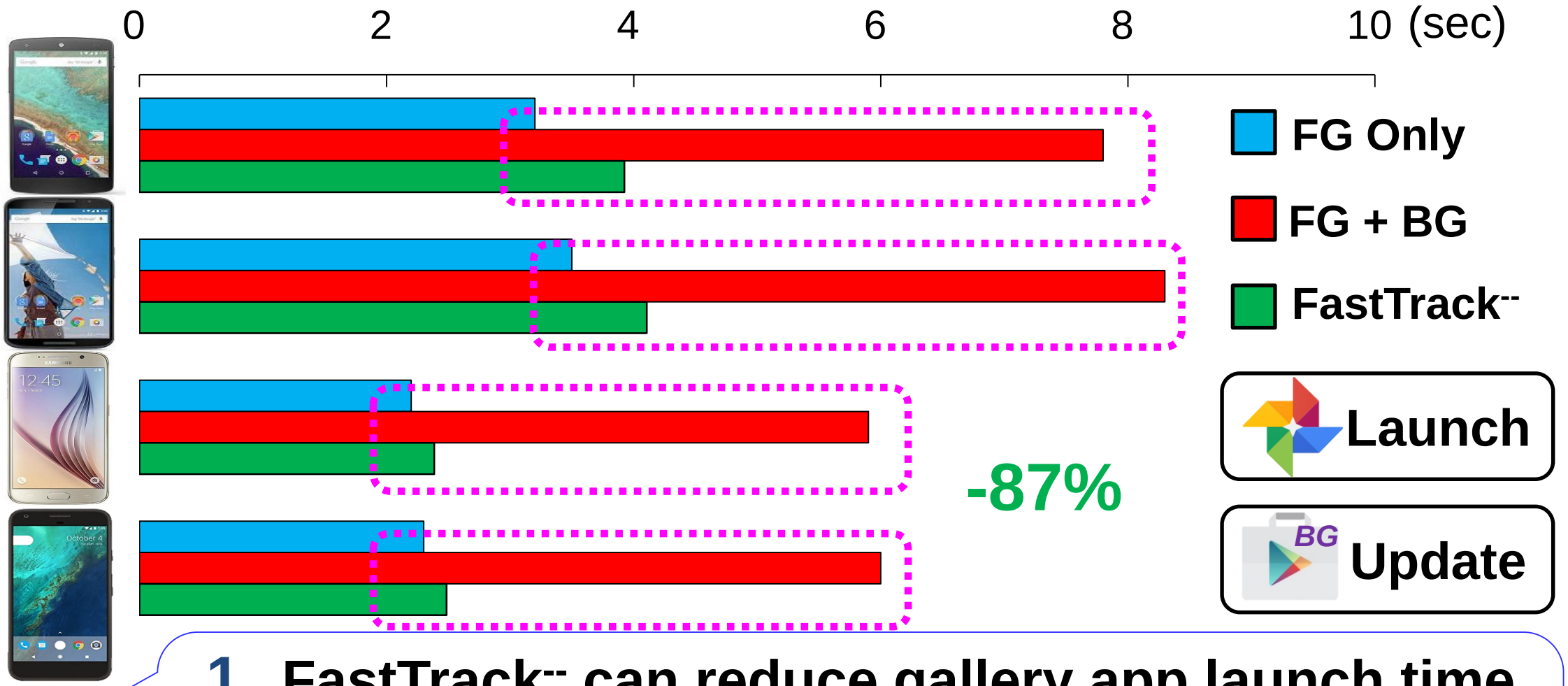


Experimental Settings for Android Smartphones



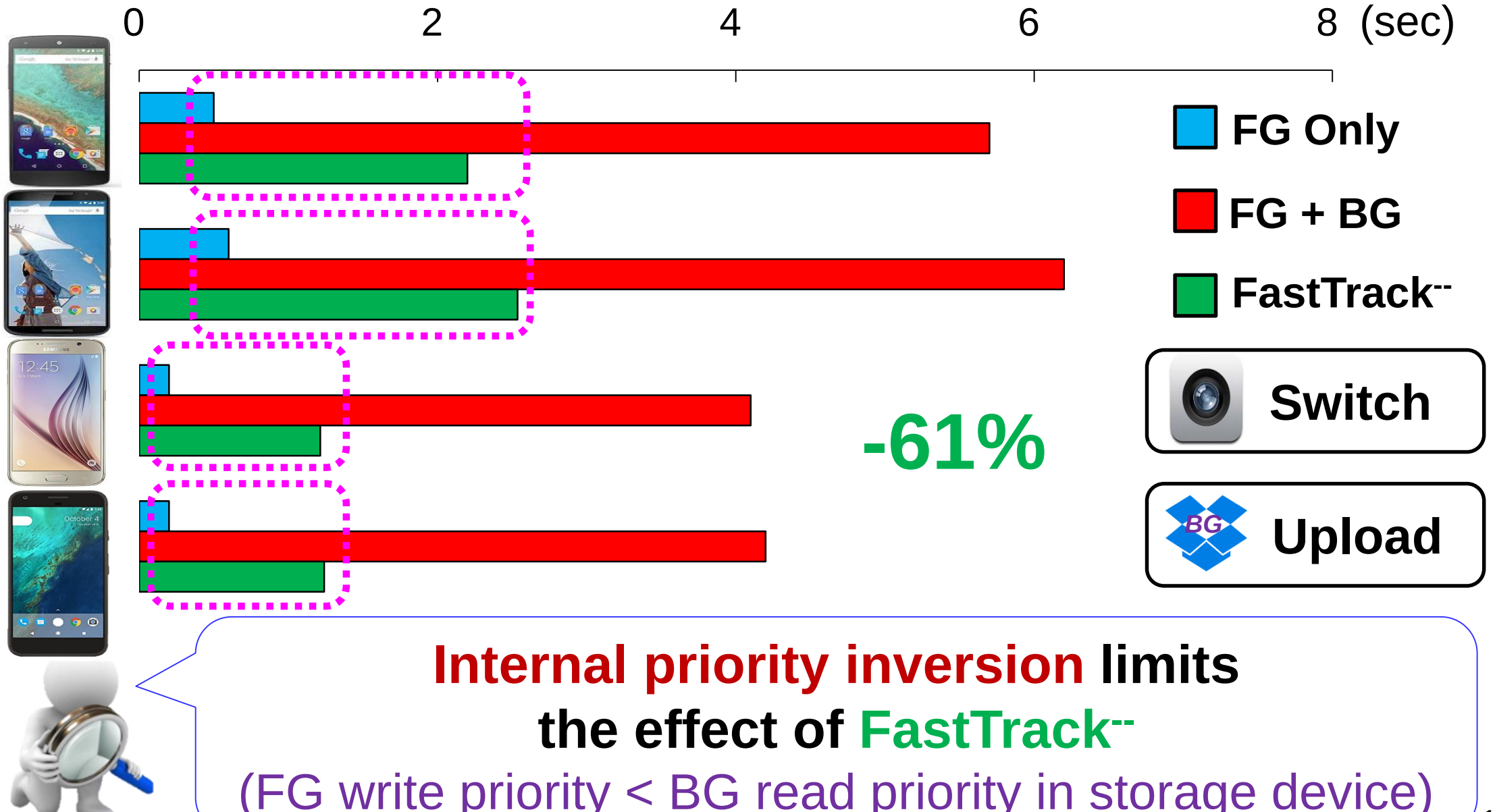
	FG App Usage Scenario		BG App Usage Scenario
①	Launch (Read-dominant)	+	Update (Write-dominant)
②	Switch (Write-dominant)	+	Upload (Read-dominant)

Result 1: App Launch Time Comparisons



1. FastTrack-- can reduce gallery app launch time delay from BG I/Os by up to 87%
2. FG reads have higher priority in storage device

Result 2: App Switch Time Comparisons



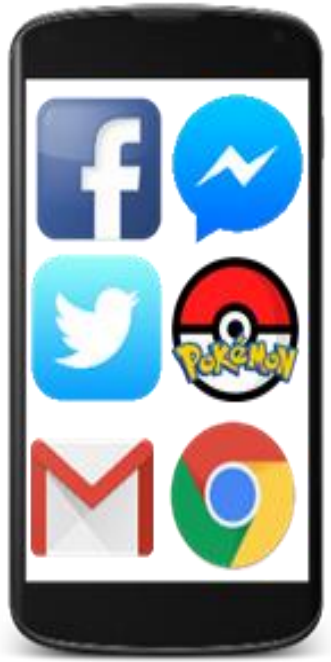
Internal priority inversion limits the effect of FastTrack--

(FG write priority < BG read priority in storage device)

Experimental Settings for Emulator

FastTrack--

- *App Status Detector*
- *Page Allocator*
- *Page Reclaimer*
- *I/O Dispatcher*
- *Device I/O Scheduler*

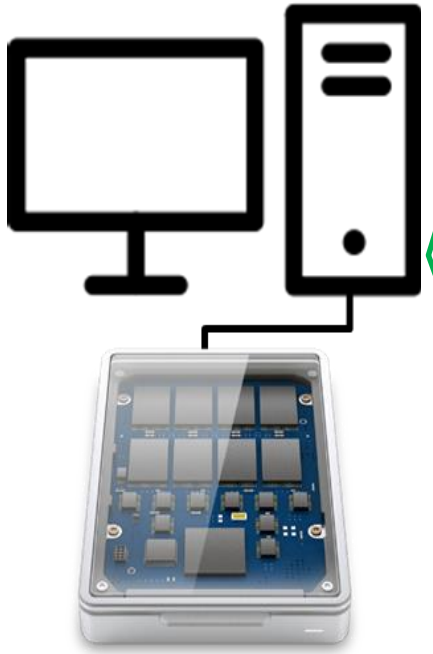


Android Smartphone

Application Launch/ Usage

System Call Trace

Trace Replayer



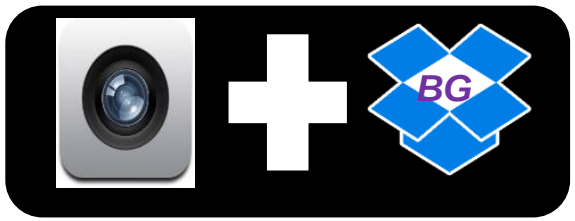
Emulation at Host-level FTL + Customized SSD

FastTrack

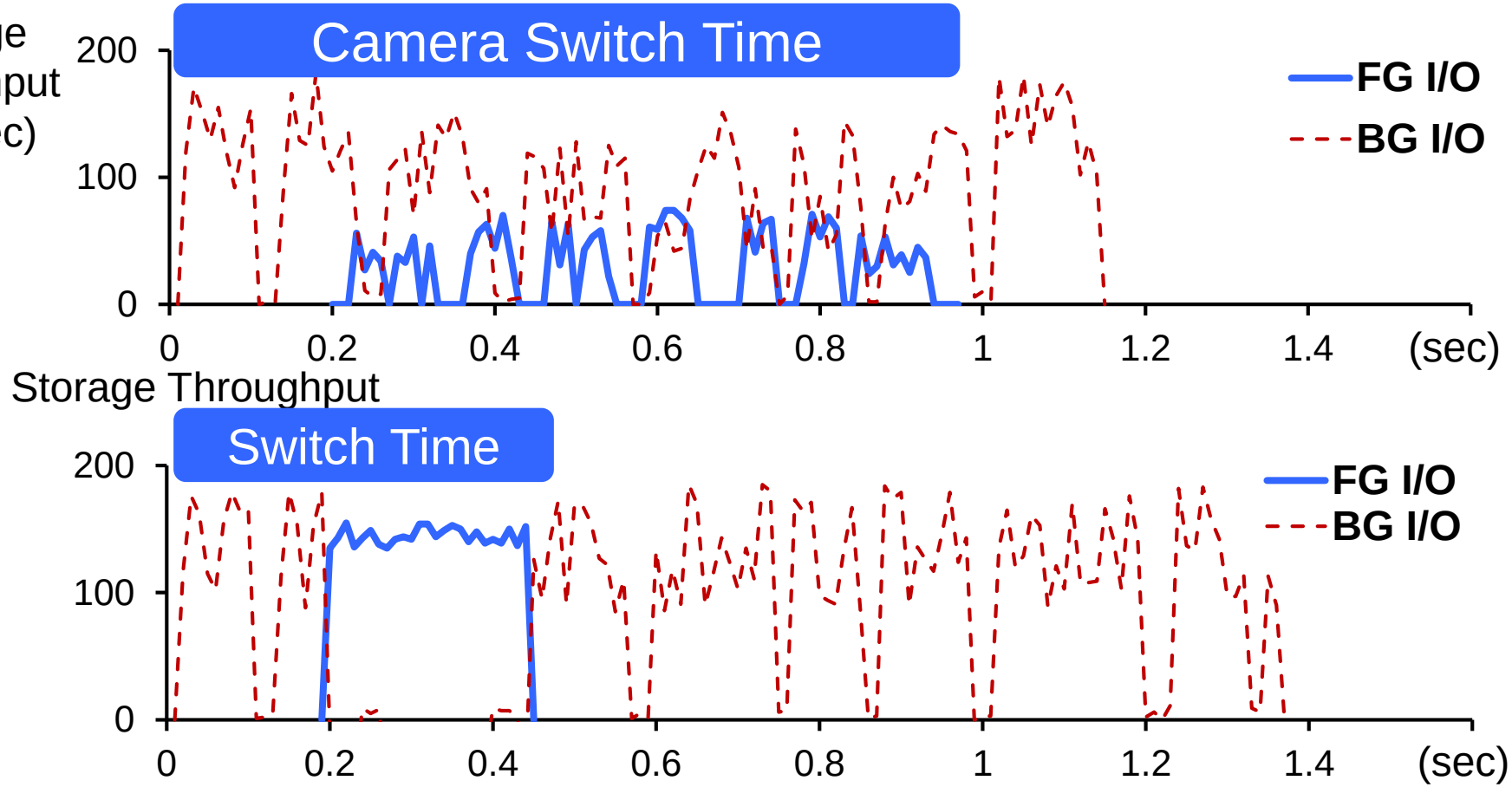
- *App Status Detector*
- *Page Allocator*
- *Page Reclaimer*
- *I/O Dispatcher*
- *Device I/O Scheduler*

Result 3: Storage-Level Snapshot

FastTrack--



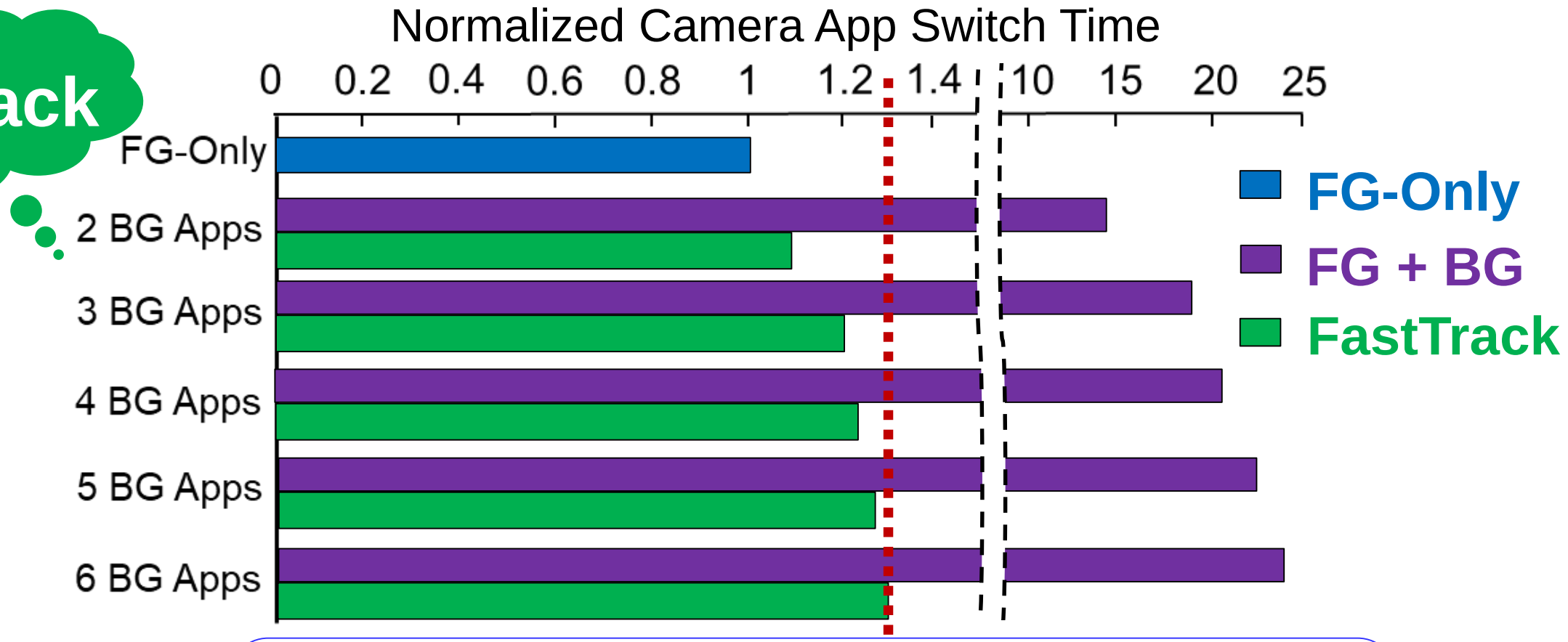
FastTrack



Device I/O scheduler **can provide**
a much higher throughput to FG I/Os
even when FG I/Os are write and BG I/Os are read

Result 4: Effectiveness of FastTrack over Varying BG Apps

FastTrack



FastTrack can provide the equivalent level of responsiveness to an FG app regardless of the number of BG apps

Conclusion

- **We have presented a foreground app-aware I/O management (FastTrack) for improving user experience**
  - **FastTrack preempts BG I/Os in the page cache**
  - **FastTrack prevents FG I/O's data from being flushed**
  - **FastTrack immediately delivers FG I/O to the NAND flash memory with minimum interference from inflight BG I/Os**
  - **FastTrack reduces the user-perceived response time delay by up to 95%**

- **Future work**
  - **Multiple foreground app usage environment (split view, multiple windows)**
  - **FastTrack for desktop/server computing system**

감사합니다
Natick
Grazie
Danke
Ευχαριστίες
Dalu
Obrigado
Thank You
Köszönöm
Tack
Спасибо
Dank
Gracias
谢谢
Merci
Seé
ありがとう