Caches & Memory

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Programs 101

C Code

```
int main (int argc, char* argv[ ]) {
   int i;
   int m = n;
   int sum = 0;
   for (i = 1; i <= m; i++) {
      sum += i;
   }
   printf ("...", n, sum);
}
```

RISC-V Assembly

```
main:  addi    sp,sp,-48
       sw      x1,44(sp)
       sw      fp,40(sp)
       move    fp,sp
       sw      x10,-36(fp)
       sw      x11,-40(fp)
       la      x15,n
       lw      x15,0(x15)
       sw      x15,-28(fp)
       sw      x0,-24(fp)
       li      x15,1
       sw      x15,-20(fp)
 L2:   lw      x14,-20(fp)
       lw      x15,-28(fp)
       blt     x15,x14,L3
       . . .
```

Load/Store Architectures:

- Read data from memory (put in registers)
- Manipulate it
- Store it back to memory

- **Instructions that read from or write to memory…**

Programs 101

C Code

```
int main (int argc, char* argv[ ]) {
   int i;
   int m = n;
   int sum = 0;
   for (i = 1; i <= m; i++) {
      sum += i;
   }
   printf ("...", n, sum);
}
```

RISC-V Assembly

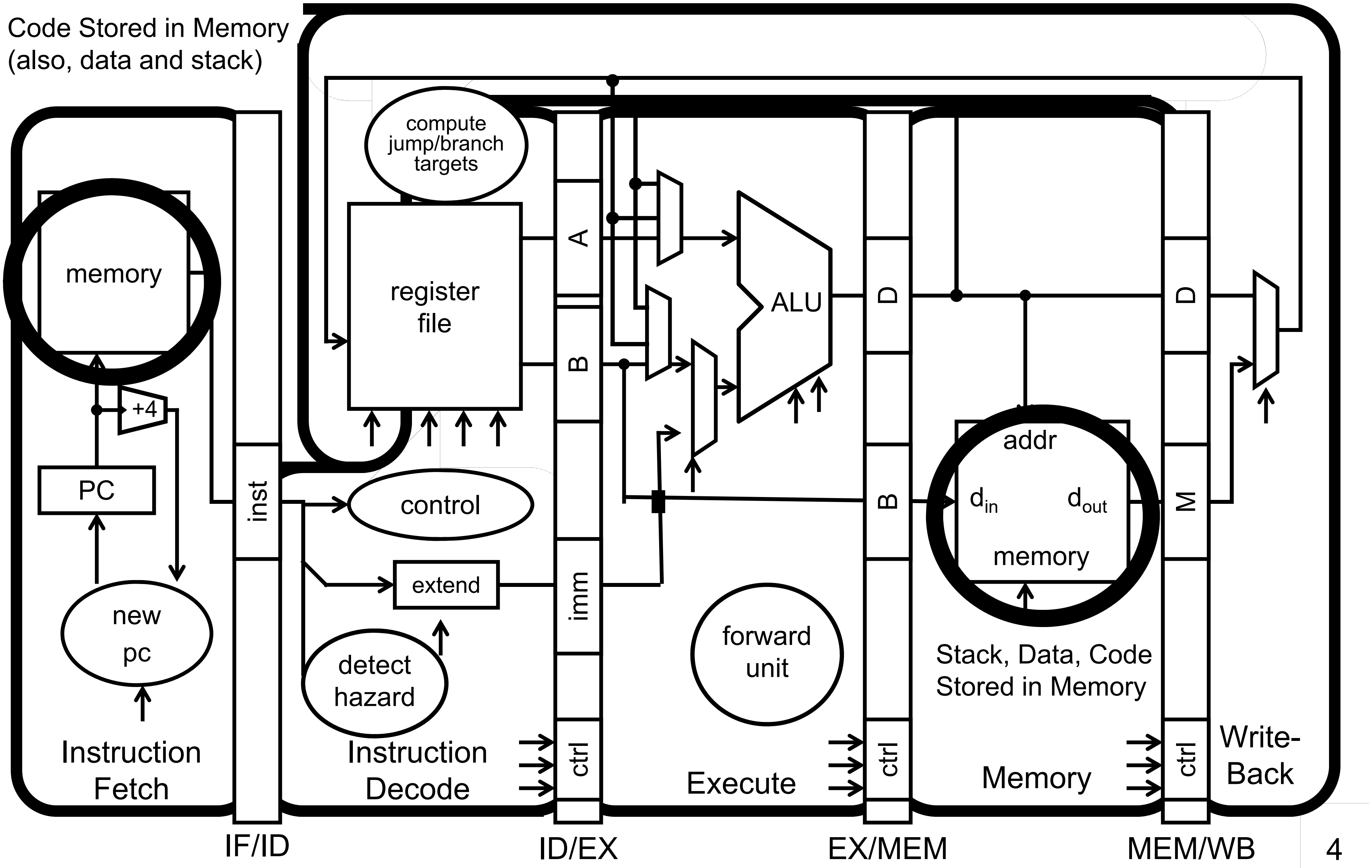
```
main:  addi    sp,sp,-48
       sw      ra,44(sp)
       sw      fp,40(sp)
       move    fp,sp
       sw      a0,-36(fp)
       sw      a1,-40(fp)
       la      a5,n
       lw      a5,0(x15)
       sw      a5,-28(fp)
       sw      x0,-24(fp)
       li      a5,1
       sw      a5,-20(fp)
 L2:   lw      a4,-20(fp)
       lw      a5,-28(fp)
       blt     a5,a4,L3
       . . .
```

Load/Store Architectures:

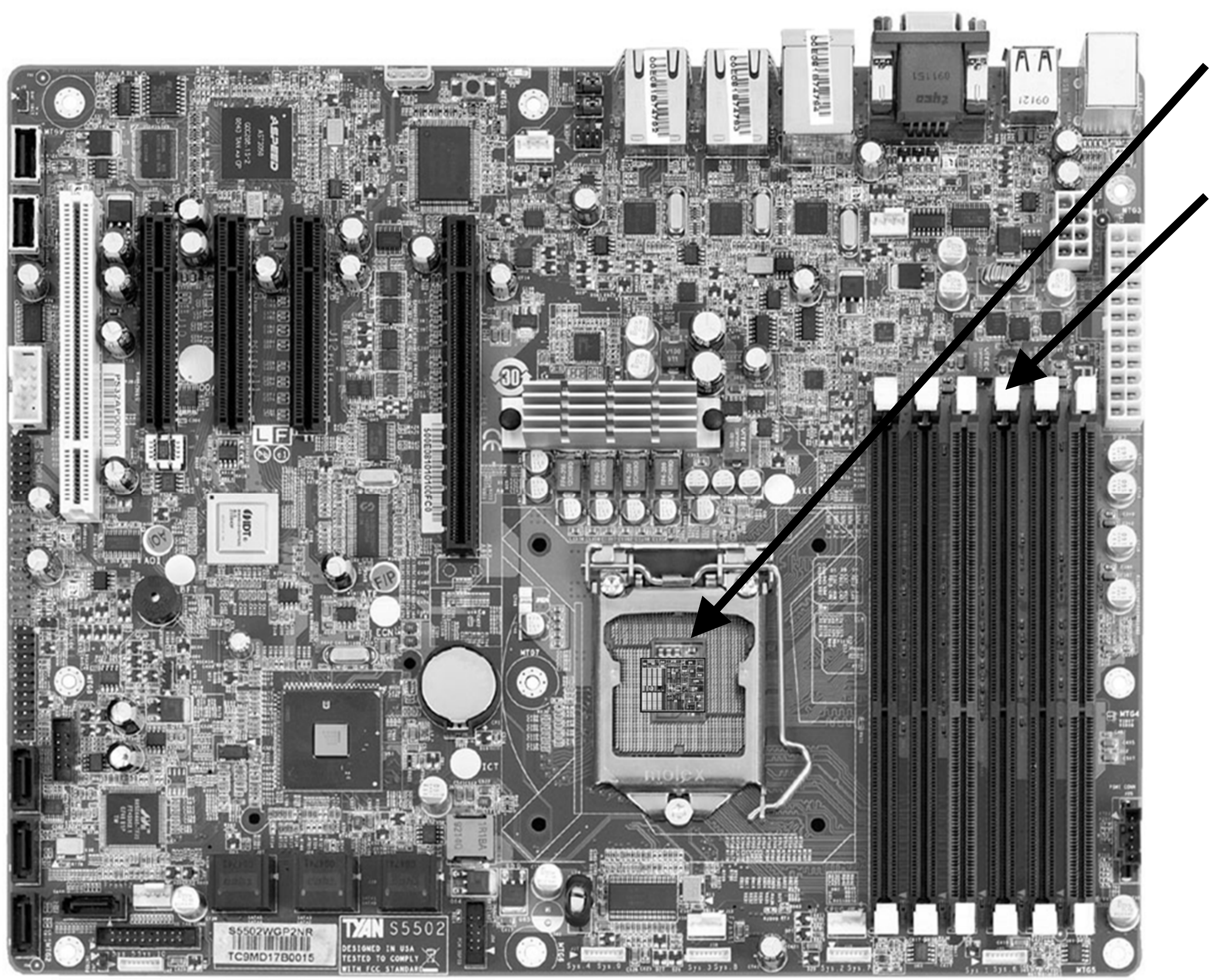
- Read data from memory (put in registers)
- Manipulate it
- Store it back to memory

■ **Instructions that read from or write to memory…**

1 Cycle Per Stage: the Biggest Lie (So Far)



What’s the problem?



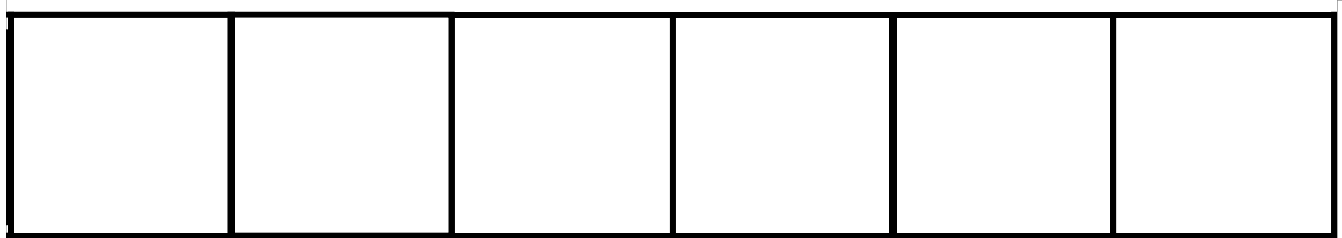
CPU

Main Memory
+ big
– slow
– far away

SandyBridge Motherboard, 2011
http://news.softpedia.com

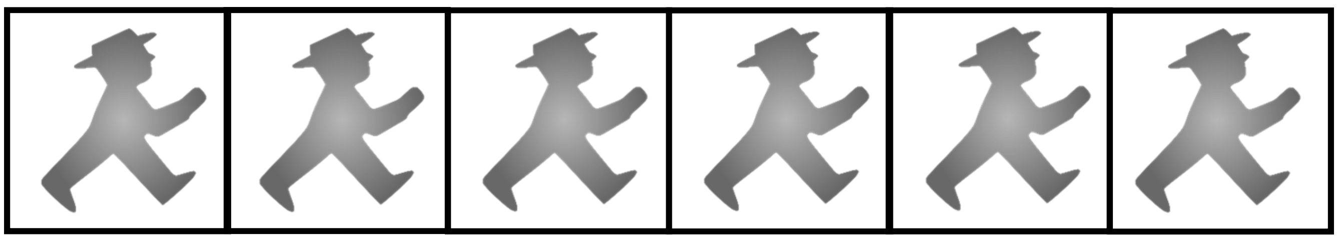
The Need for Speed

CPU Pipeline



The Need for Speed

CPU Pipeline

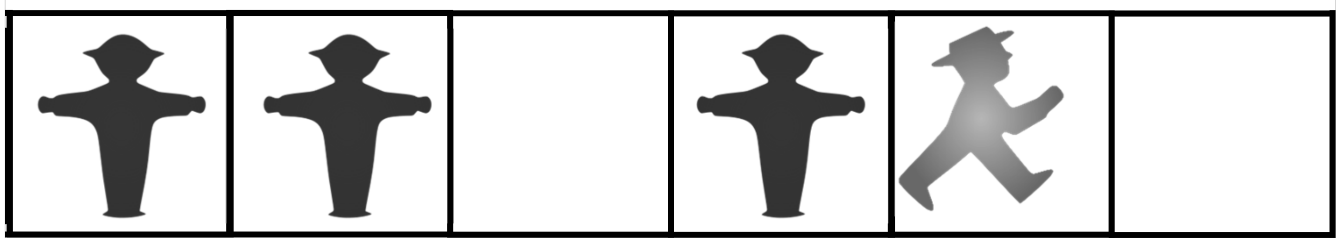


Instruction speeds:

- **`add,sub,shift`**: 1 cycle
- **`mult`**: 3 cycles
- **`load/store`**: **100 cycles**
  off-chip 50(-70)ns
  2(-3) GHz processor → 0.5 ns clock

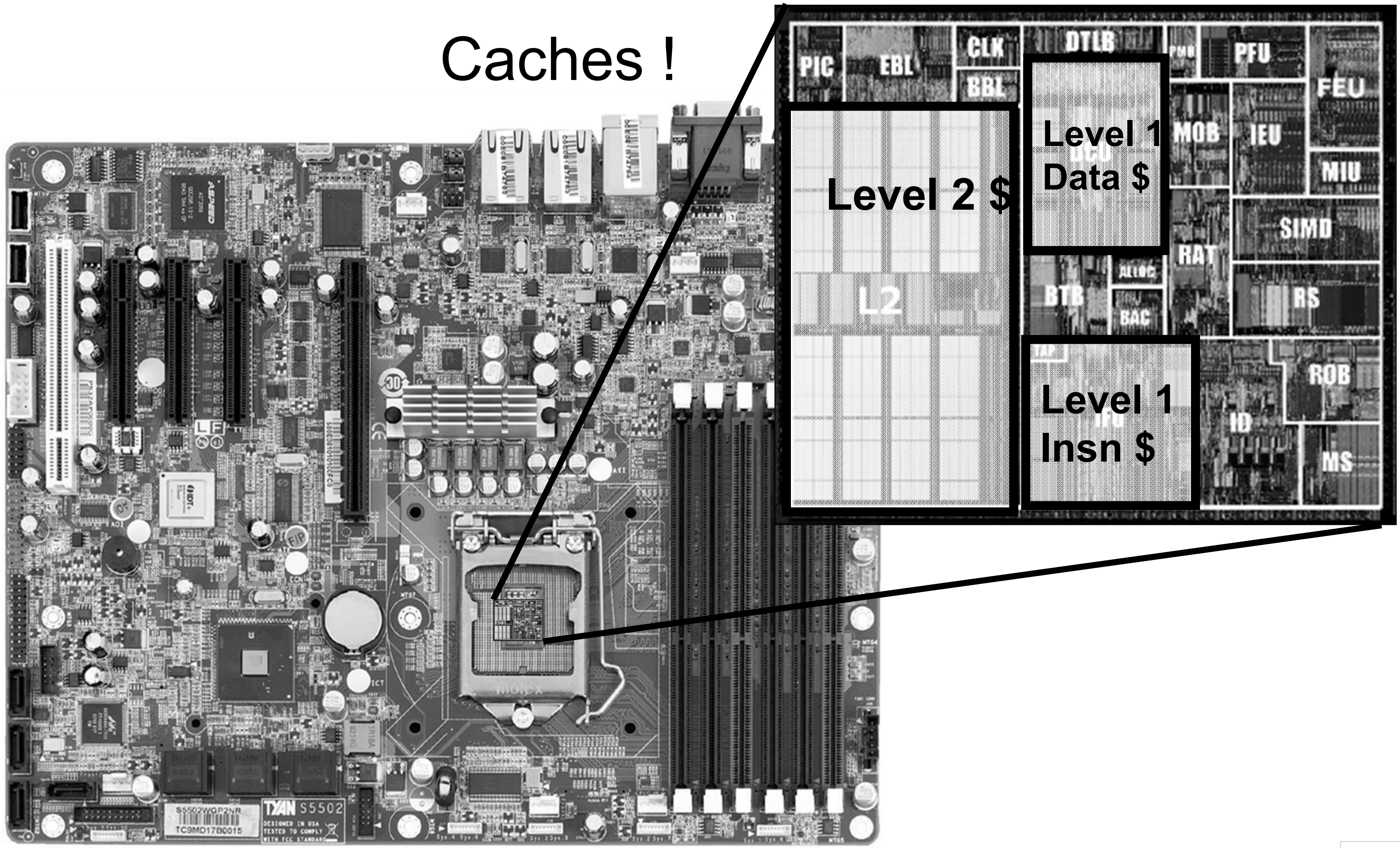
The Need for Speed

CPU Pipeline



What's the solution?

Caches !



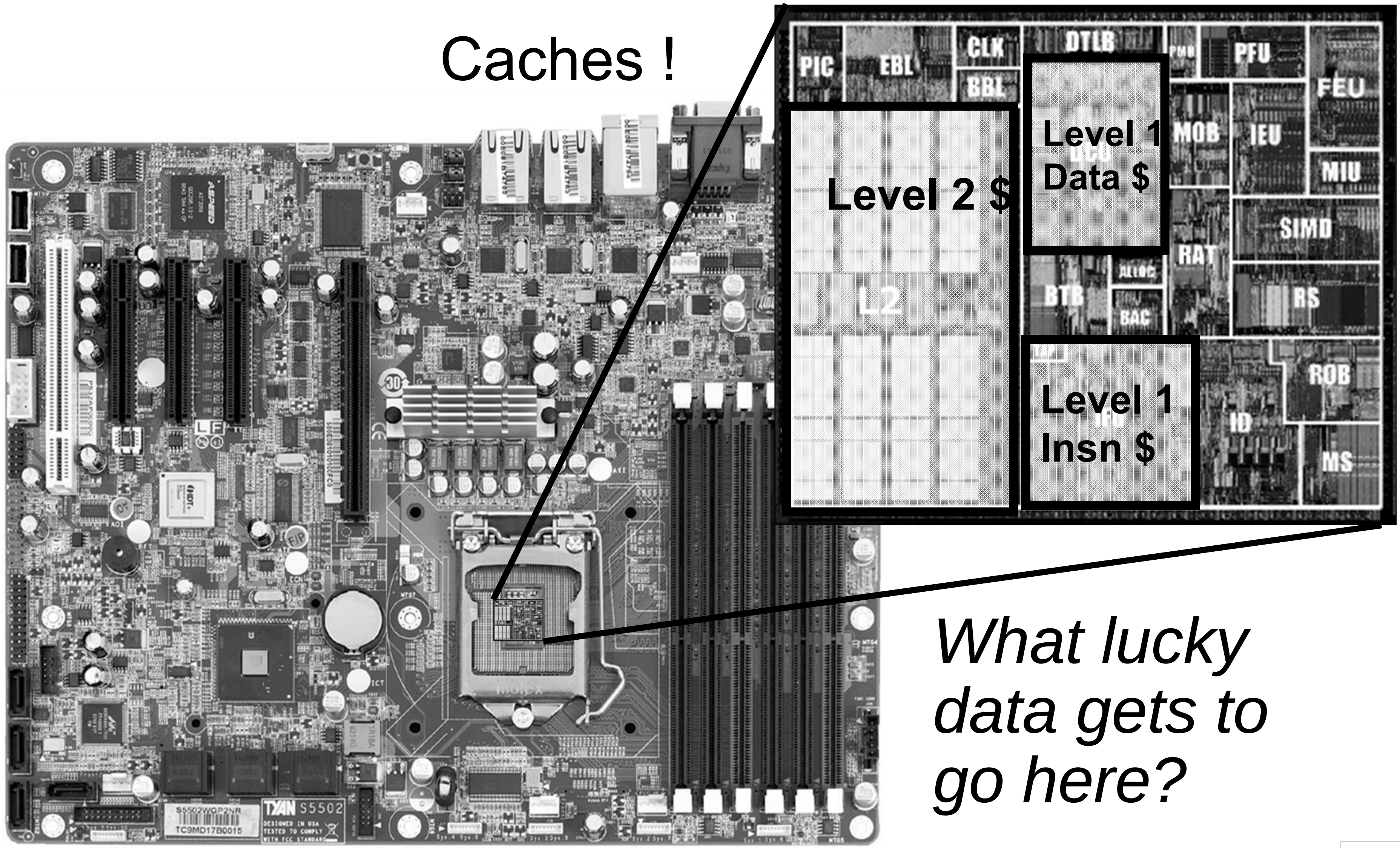
Intel Pentium 3, 1999

Aside

- Go back to 04-state and 05-memory and look at how registers, SRAM and DRAM are built.

What's the solution?

Caches !



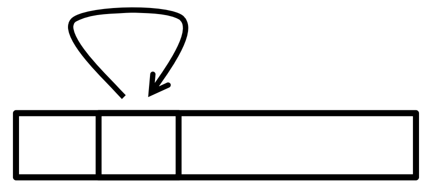
What lucky data gets to go here?

Intel Pentium 3, 1999

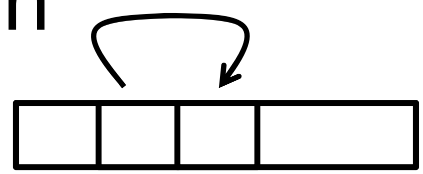
Locality Locality Locality

If you ask for something, you're likely to ask for:

- the same thing again soon
  → Temporal Locality

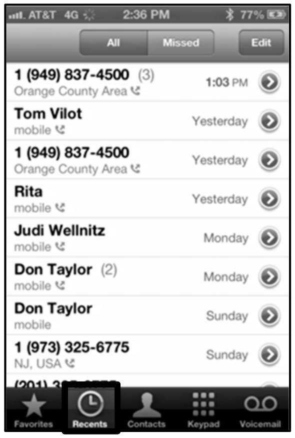


- something near that thing, soon
  → Spatial Locality



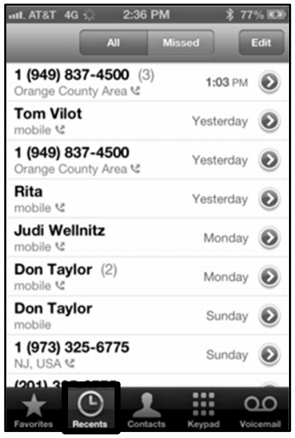
```
total = 0;
for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
    total += a[i];
return total;
```

Your life is full of Locality

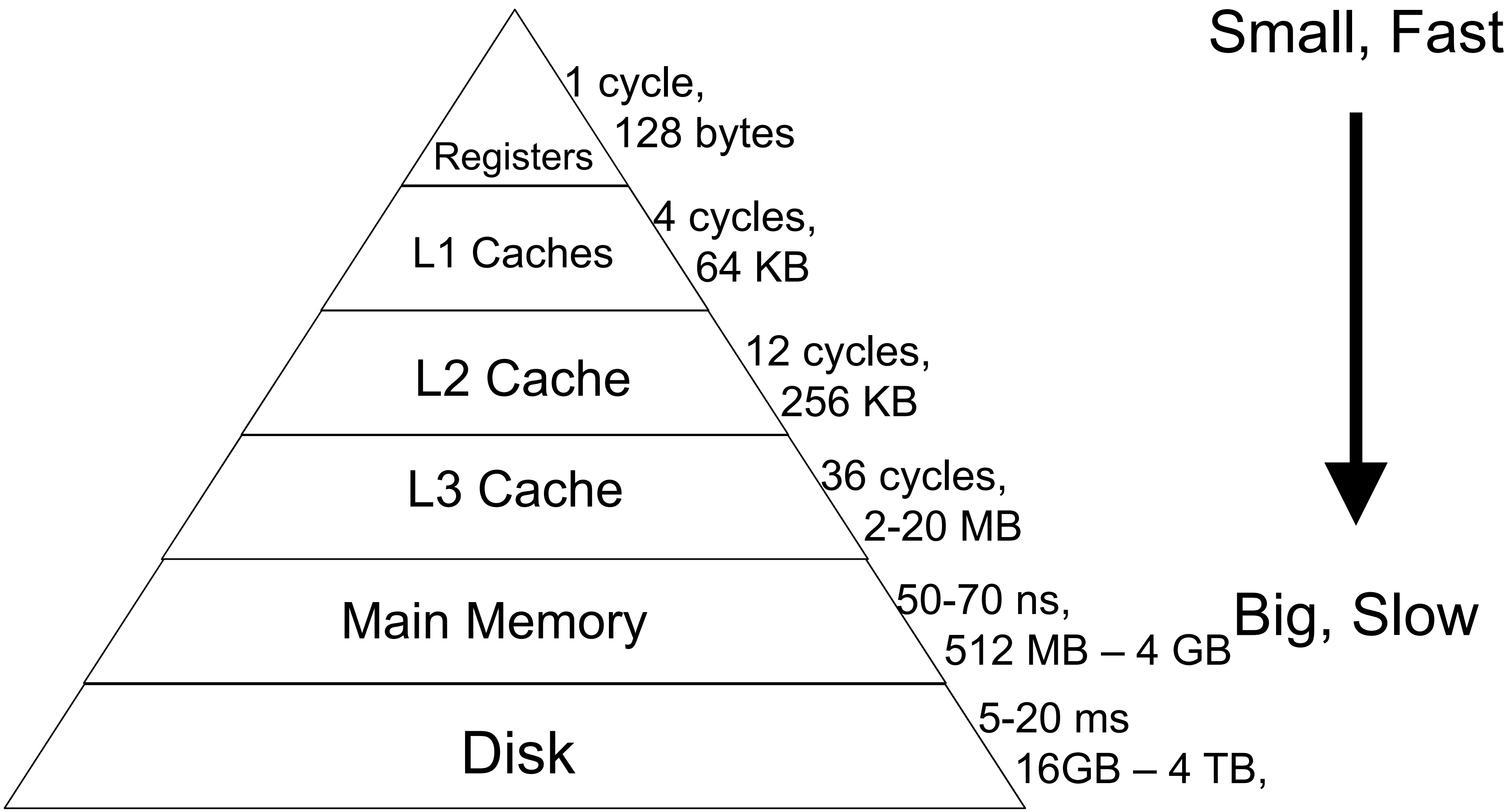


Last Called
Speed Dial
Favorites
Contacts
Google/Facebook/email

Your life is full of Locality



The Memory Hierarchy



Intel Haswell Processor, 2013

Some Terminology

Cache hit

- data is in the Cache
- t_{hit} : time it takes to access the cache
- Hit rate (%hit): # cache hits / # cache accesses

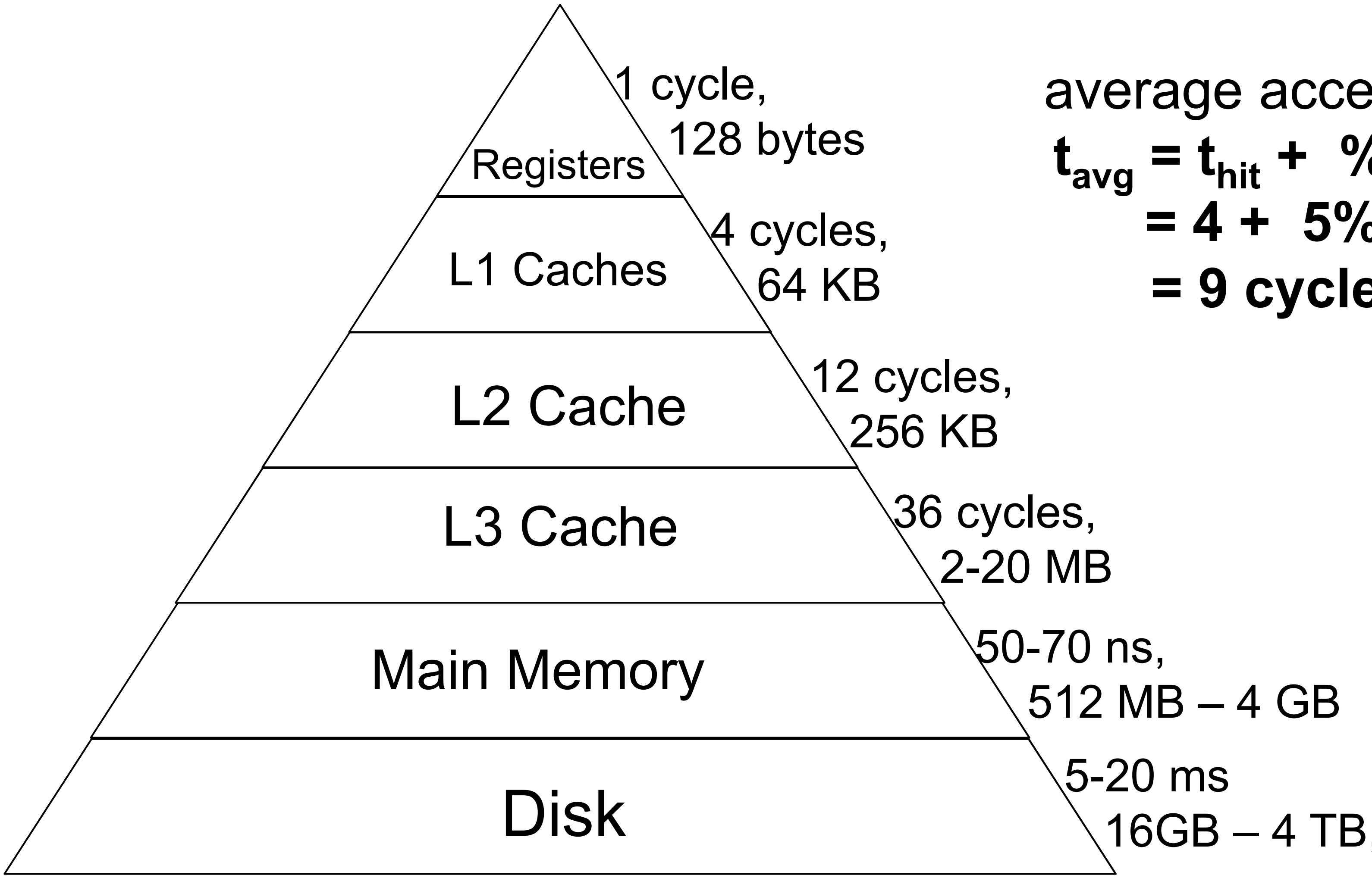
Cache miss

- data is **not** in the Cache
- t_{miss} : time it takes to get the data from below the $
- Miss rate (%miss): # cache misses / # cache accesses

Cacheline or cacheblock or simply line or block

- Minimum unit of info that is present/or not in the cache

The Memory Hierarchy

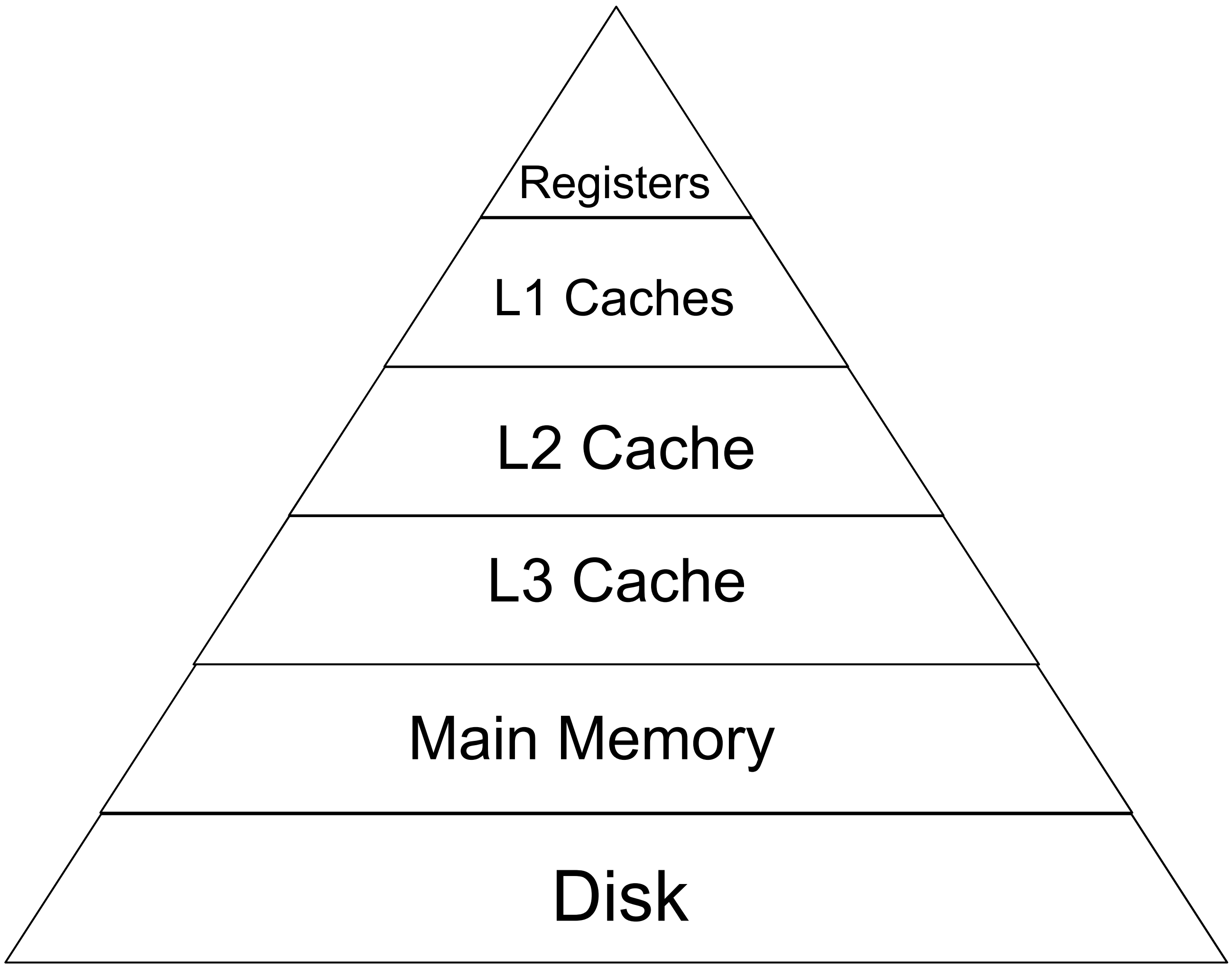


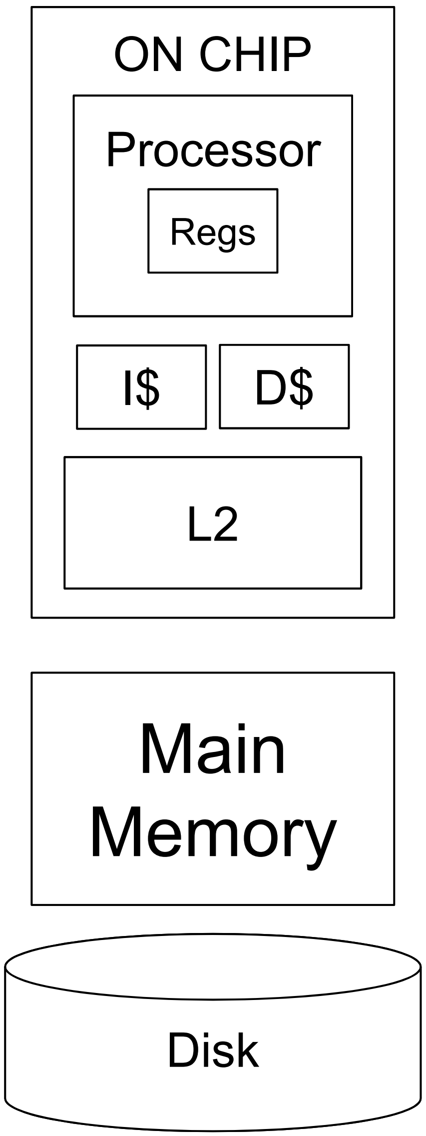
average access time

$$\mathbf{t_{avg} = t_{hit} + \%_{miss} * t_{miss}}$$
$$\mathbf{= 4 + 5\% \times 100}$$
$$\mathbf{= 9\ cycles}$$

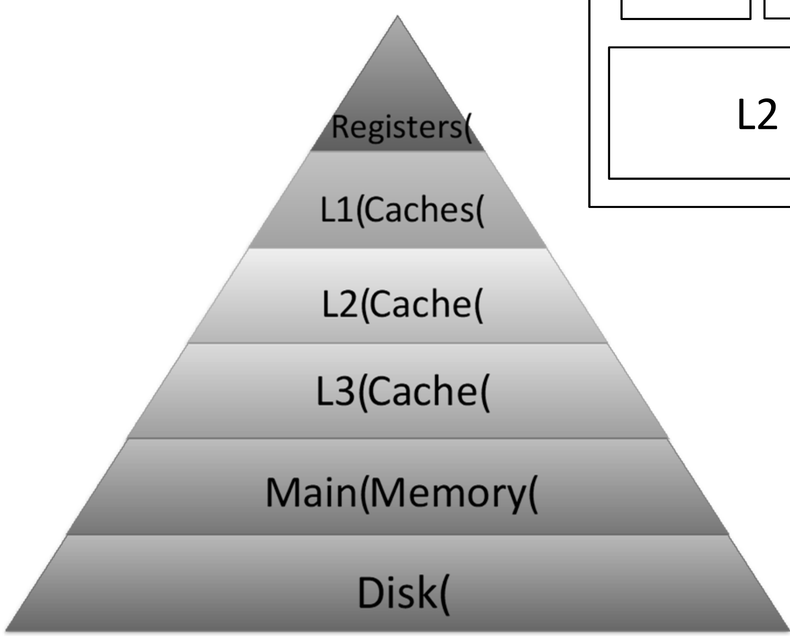
Intel Haswell Processor, 2013

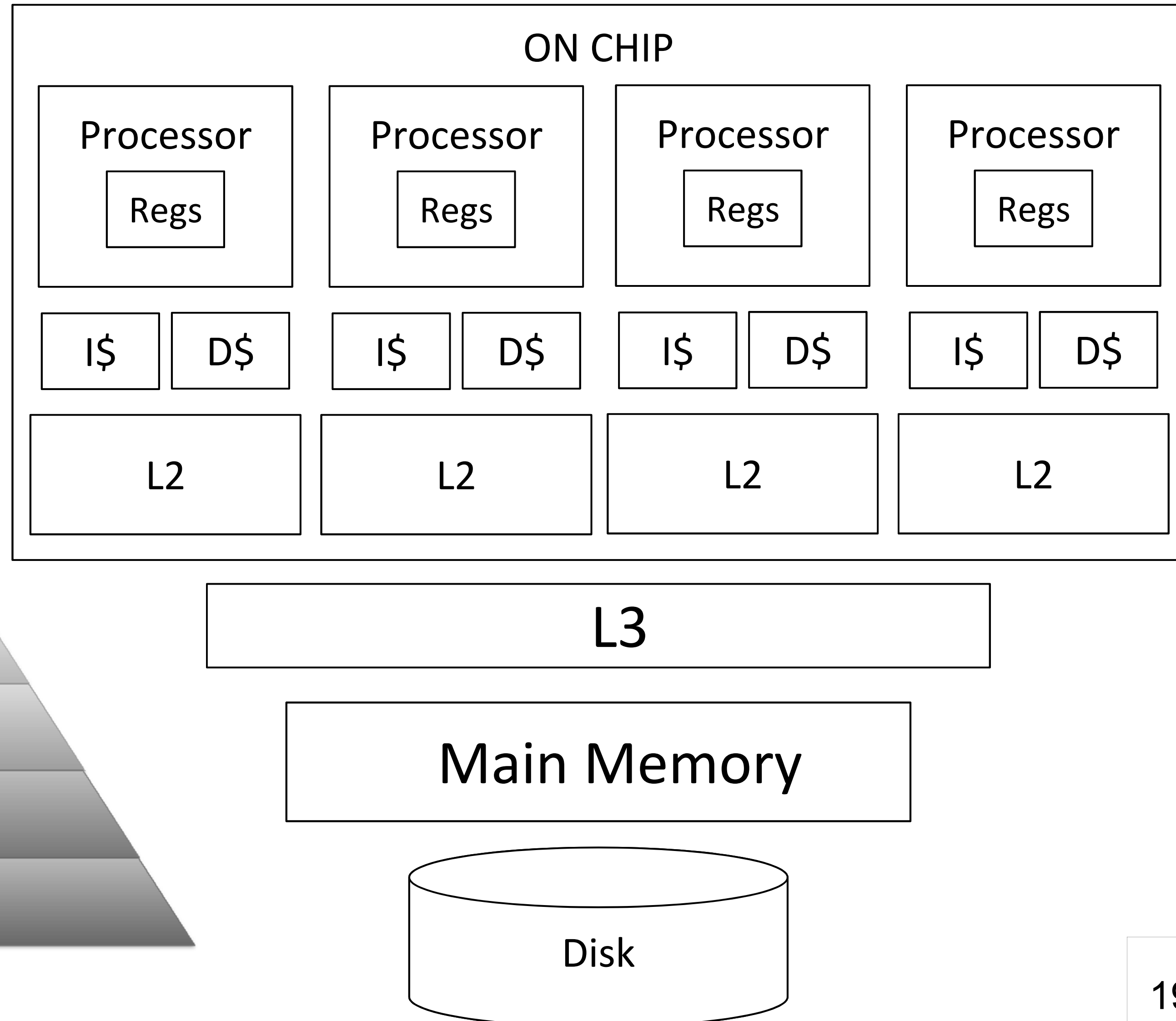
Single Core Memory Hierarchy





Multi-Core Memory Hierarchy





Memory Hierarchy by the Numbers

CPU clock rates ~0.33ns – 2ns (3GHz-500MHz)

Memory technology	Transistor count*	Access time	Access time in cycles	$ per GIB in 2012	Capacity
SRAM (on chip)	6-8 transistors	0.5-2.5 ns	1-3 cycles	$4k	256 KB
SRAM (off chip)		1.5-30 ns	5-15 cycles	$4k	32 MB
DRAM	1 transistor (needs refresh)	50-70 ns	150-200 cycles	$10-$20	8 GB
SSD (Flash)		5k-50k ns	Tens of thousands	$0.75-$1	512 GB
Disk		5M-20M ns	Millions	$0.05-$0.1	4 TB

*Registers,D-Flip Flops: 10-100's of registers

Basic Cache Design

Direct Mapped Caches

16 Byte Memory

```
load   1100 → r1
```

- Byte-addressable memory
- 4 address bits → 16 bytes total
- b addr bits → 2^b bytes in memory

MEMORY

addr	**data**
0000	A
0001	B
0010	C
0011	D
0100	E
0101	F
0110	G
0111	H
1000	J
1001	K
1010	L
1011	M
1100	N
1101	O
1110	P
1111	Q

4-Byte, Direct Mapped Cache

CACHE

index
XXXX

index	**data**
00	A
01	B
10	C
11	D

←Cache entry
= row
= (**cache) line**
= (**cache) block**
Block Size: 1 byte

MEMORY

addr	**data**
0000	A
0001	B
0010	C
0011	D
0100	E
0101	F
0110	G
0111	H
1000	J
1001	K
1010	L
1011	M
1100	N
1101	O
1110	P
1111	Q

Direct mapped:

- Each address maps to 1 cache block
- 4 entries → 2 index bits (2^n → n bits)

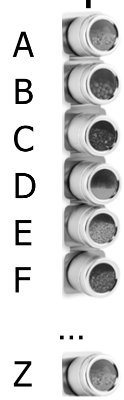
Index with LSB:

- Supports spatial locality

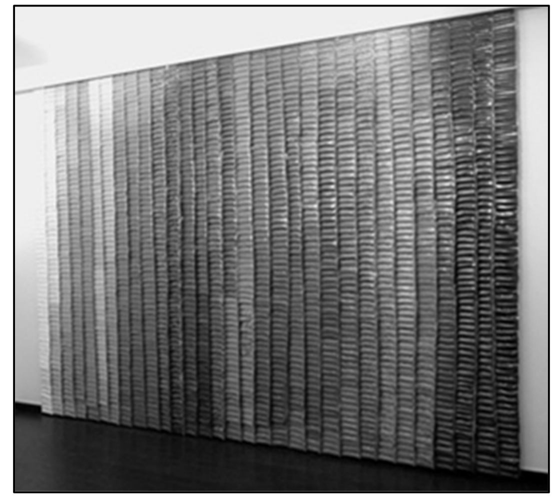
Analogy to a Spice Rack

Spice Rack
(Cache)

index spice



Spice Wall
(Memory)

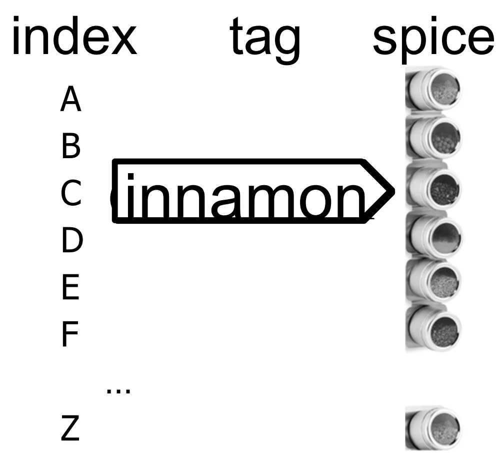


- Compared to your spice wall
  - Smaller
  - Faster
  - More costly (per oz.)

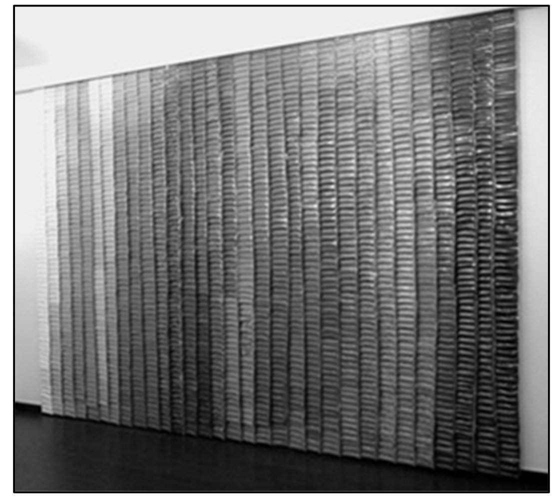
http://www.bedbathandbeyond.com

Analogy to a Spice Rack

Spice Rack (Cache)



Spice Wall (Memory)



- How do you know what's in the jar?
- Need labels

Tag = Ultra-minimalist label

4-Byte, Direct Mapped Cache

```
tag|index
 XXXX
```

CACHE

index	tag	data
00	00	A
01	00	B
10	00	C
11	00	D

MEMORY

addr	data
0000	A
0001	B
0010	C
0011	D
0100	E
0101	F
0110	G
0111	H
1000	J
1001	K
1010	L
1011	M
1100	N
1101	O
1110	P
1111	Q

Tag: minimalist label/address

`address = tag + index`

4-Byte, Direct Mapped Cache

CACHE

index	V	tag	data
00	0	00	X
01	0	00	X
10	0	00	X
11	0	00	X

One last tweak: **valid bit**

MEMORY

addr	data
0000	A
0001	B
0010	C
0011	D
0100	E
0101	F
0110	G
0111	H
1000	J
1001	K
1010	L
1011	M
1100	N
1101	O
1110	P
1111	Q

Simulation #1 of a 4-byte, DM Cache

tag|index
XXXX

CACHE

index	V	tag	data
00	0	11	X
01	0	11	X
10	0	11	X
11	0	11	X

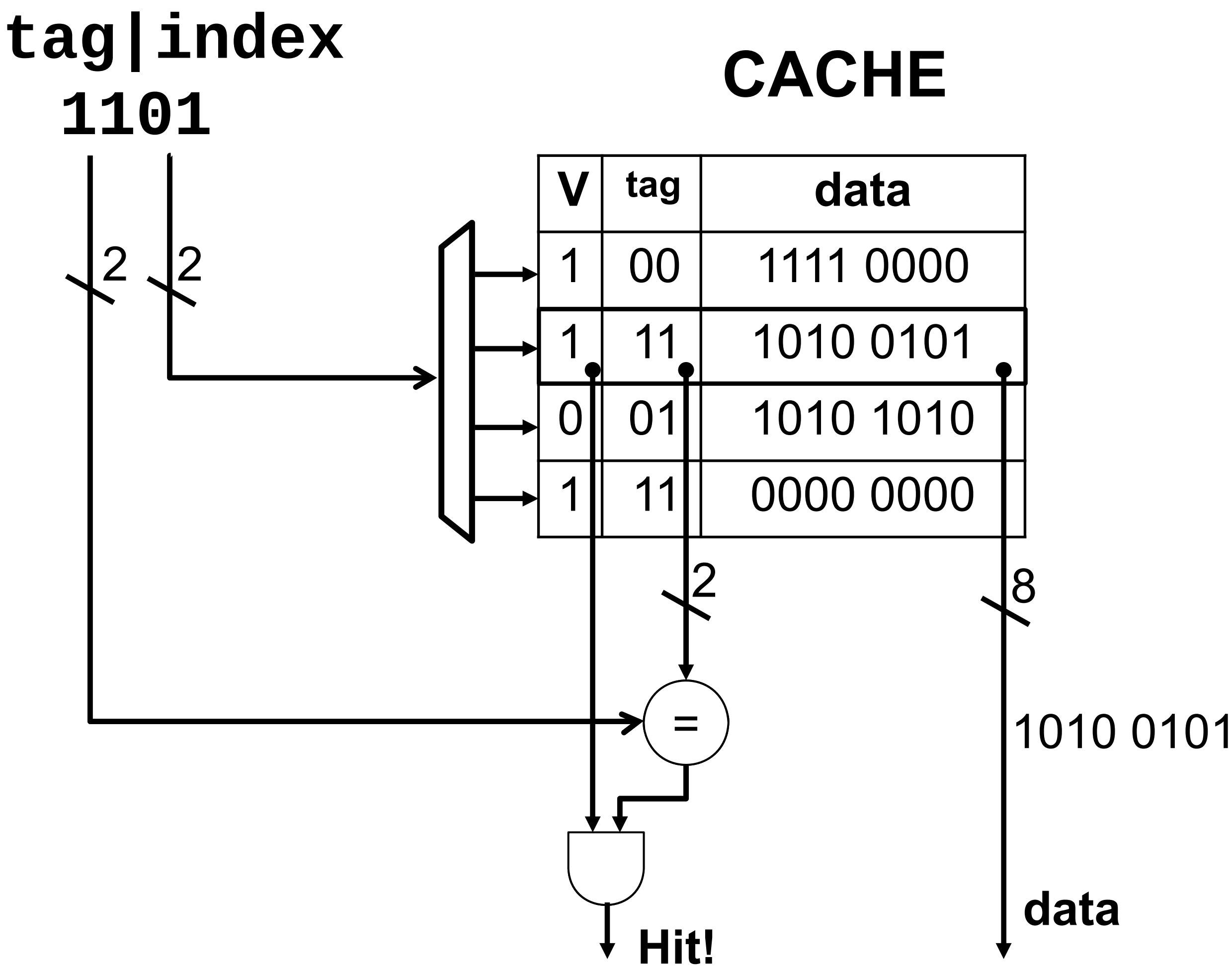
MEMORY

addr	data
0000	A
0001	B
0010	C
0011	D
0100	E
0101	F
0110	G
0111	H
1000	J
1001	K
1010	L
1011	M
1100	N
1101	O
1110	P
1111	Q

```
load   1100
```

Lookup:
- ⇨ Index into $
- ⇨ Check tag
- ⇨ Check valid bit

Block Diagram
4-entry, direct mapped Cache



Great!
Are we done?

Simulation #2: 4-byte, DM Cache

MEMORY

addr	data
0000	A
0001	B
0010	C
0011	D
0100	E
0101	F
0110	G
0111	H
1000	J
1001	K
1010	L
1011	M
1100	N
1101	O
1110	P
1111	Q

CACHE

index	V	tag	data
00	1	11	N
01	0	11	X
10	0	11	X
11	0	11	X

```
load   1100   Miss
load   1101
load   0100
load   1100
```

Lookup:

- Index into $
- Check tag
- Check valid bit

Reducing Cold Misses by Increasing Block Size

- Leveraging Spatial Locality

Increasing Block Size

offset

XXXX

CACHE

index	V	tag	data
00	0	x	A | B
01	0	x	C | D
10	0	x	E | F
11	0	x	G | H

- **Block Size:** 2 bytes
- **Block Offset:** least significant bits  indicate where you live in the block
- Which bits are the index? tag?

MEMORY

addr	data
0000	A
0001	B
0010	C
0011	D
0100	E
0101	F
0110	G
0111	H
1000	J
1001	K
1010	L
1011	M
1100	N
1101	O
1110	P
1111	Q

Simulation #3: 8-byte, DM Cache

tag|index|offset

XXXX

CACHE

index	V	tag	data
00	0	x	X | X
01	0	x	X | X
10	0	x	X | X
11	0	x	X | X

MEMORY

addr	data
0000	A
0001	B
0010	C
0011	D
0100	E
0101	F
0110	G
0111	H
1000	J
1001	K
1010	L
1011	M
1100	N
1101	O
1110	P
1111	Q

```
load   1100
load   1101
load   0100
load   1100
```

Lookup:

- ⇨ Index into $
- ⇨ Check tag
- ⇨ Check valid bit

Removing Conflict Misses with Fully-Associative Caches

Simulation #4: 8-byte, FA Cache

XXXX
tag|offset

CACHE

V	tag	data	V	tag	data	V	tag	data	V	tag	data
0	xxx	X | X	0	xxx	X | X	0	xxx	X | X	0	xxx	X | X

```
load    1100   Miss
load    1101
load    0100
load    1100
```

Lookup:

- ~~Index into $~~
- ⇨ Check tags
- ⇨ Check valid bits

⇧ LRU Pointer

MEMORY

addr	data
0000	A
0001	B
0010	C
0011	D
0100	E
0101	F
0110	G
0111	H
1000	J
1001	K
1010	L
1011	M
1100	N
1101	O
1110	P
1111	Q

Pros and Cons of Full Associativity

+ No more conflicts!
+ Excellent utilization!
But either:
Parallel Reads
 – lots of reading!
Serial Reads
 – lots of waiting

$$t_{avg} = t_{hit} + \%_{miss} * t_{miss}$$

= 4 + 5% x 100
= 9 cycles

= 6 + 3% x 100
= 9 cycles

Pros & Cons

	Direct Mapped	**Fully Associative**
Tag Size	Smaller	Larger
SRAM Overhead	Less	More
Controller Logic	Less	More
Speed	Faster	Slower
Price	Less	More
Scalability	Very	Not Very
# of conflict misses	Lots	Zero
Hit Rate	Low	High
Pathological Cases	Common	?

Reducing Conflict Misses with Set-Associative Caches

Not too conflict-y. Not too slow.
… Just Right!

8 byte, 2-way set associative Cache

XXXX

CACHE

index	V	tag	data	V	tag	data
0	0	xx	E | F	0	xx	N | O
1	0	xx	C | D	0	xx	P | Q

What should the **offset** be?

What should the **index** be?

What should the **tag** be?

MEMORY

addr	data
0000	A
0001	B
0010	C
0011	D
0100	E
0101	F
0110	G
0111	H
1000	J
1001	K
1010	L
1011	M
1100	N
1101	O
1110	P
1111	Q

8 byte, 2-way set associative Cache

XXXX

tag index|offset

CACHE

index	V	tag	data	V	tag	data
0	0	xx	X | X	0	xx	X | X
1	0	xx	X | X	0	xx	X | X

```
load   1100   Miss
load   1101
load   0100
load   1100
```

Lookup:
- ⇨ Index into $
- ⇨ Check tag
- ⇨ Check valid bit

⇧ LRU Pointer

MEMORY

addr	data
0000	A
0001	B
0010	C
0011	D
0100	E
0101	F
0110	G
0111	H
1000	J
1001	K
1010	L
1011	M
1100	N
1101	O
1110	P
1111	Q

Eviction Policies

Which cache line should be evicted from the cache to make room for a new line?

- Direct-mapped: no choice, must evict line selected by index
- Associative caches
  - Random: select one of the lines at random
  - Round-Robin: similar to random
  - FIFO: replace oldest line
  - LRU: replace line that has not been used in the longest time

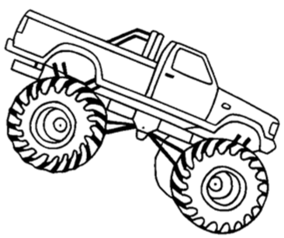
Misses: the Three C's

Cold (compulsory) Miss:

never seen this address before

Conflict Miss:

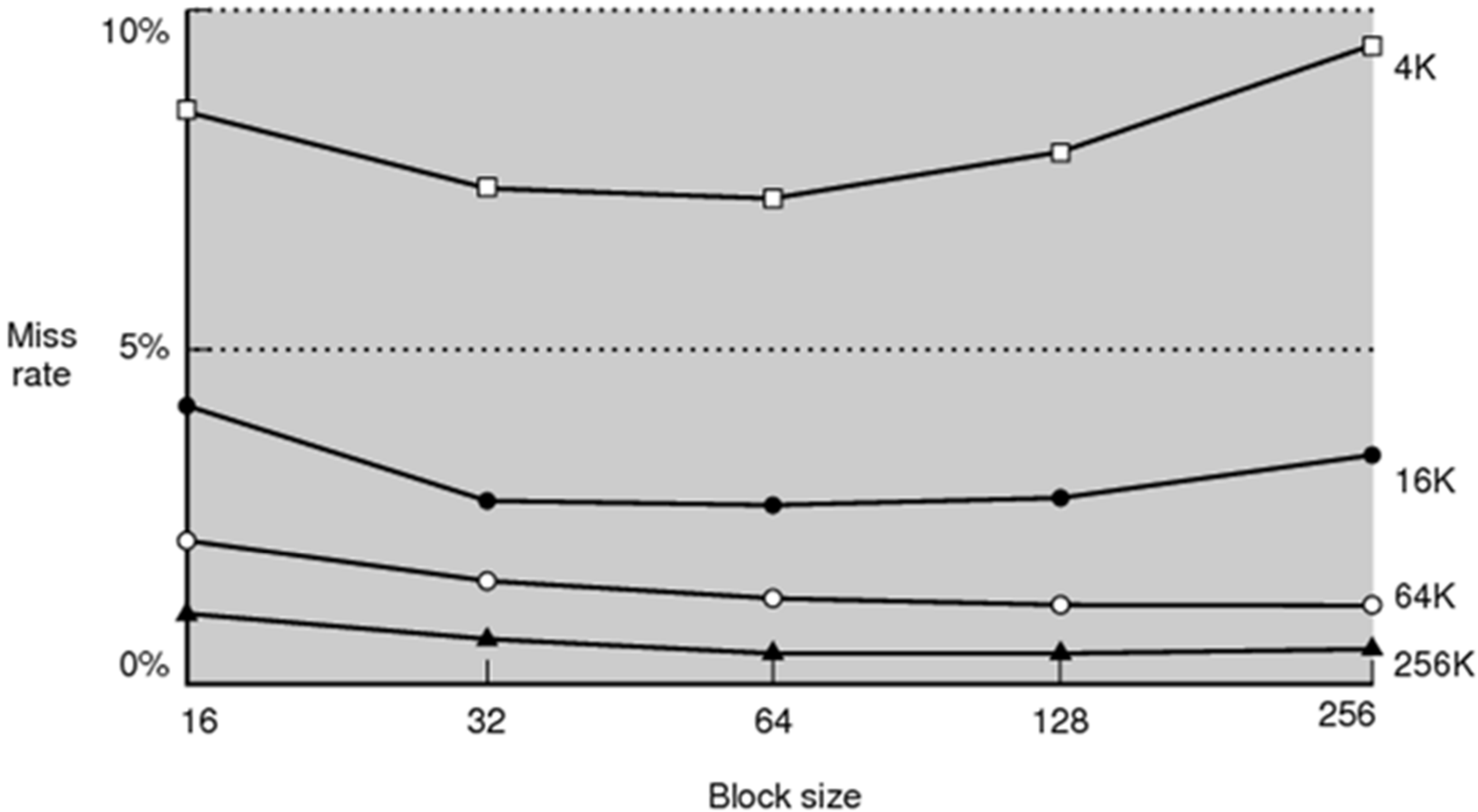
cache associativity is too low



Capacity Miss:

cache is too small

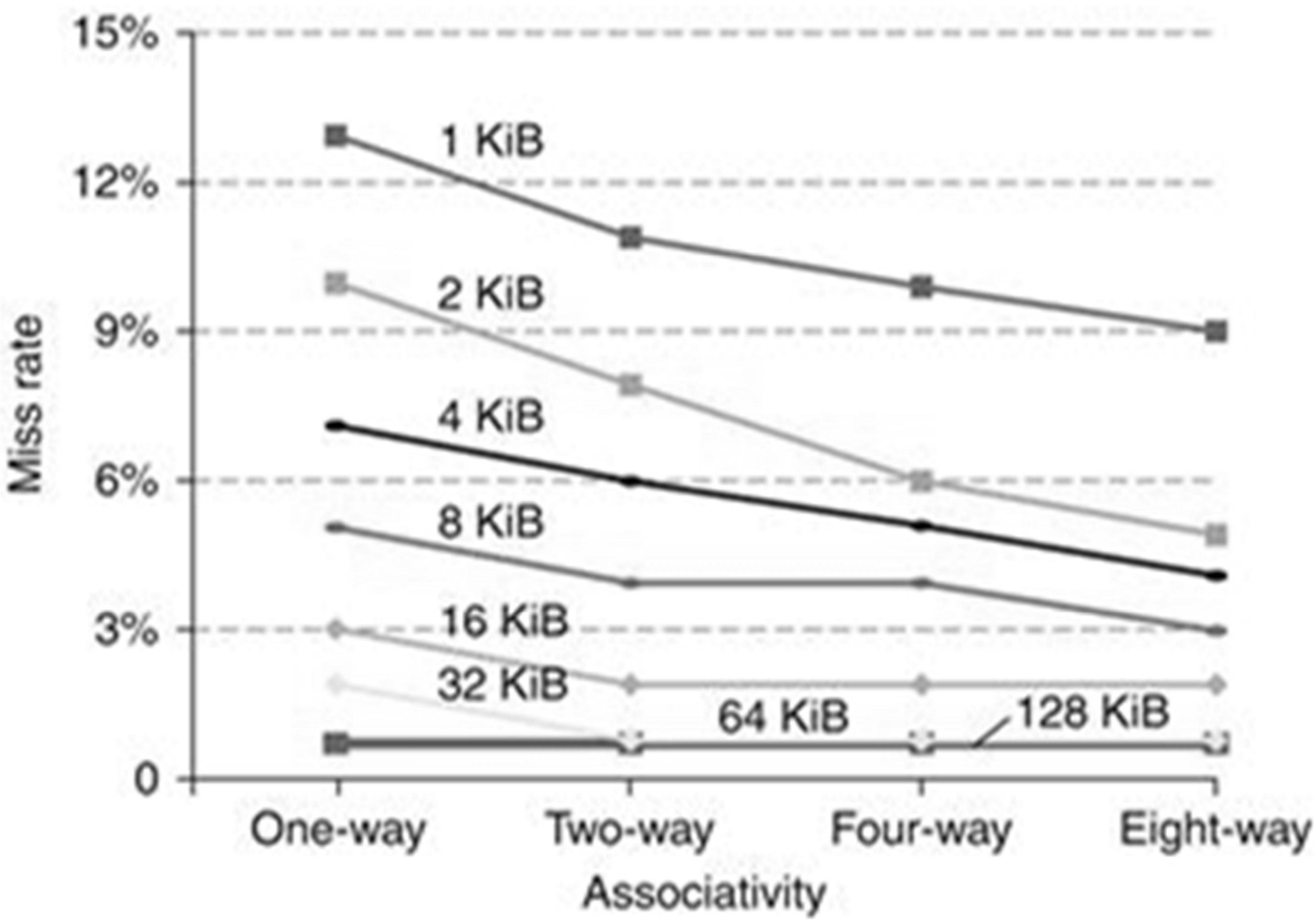
Miss Rate vs. Block Size



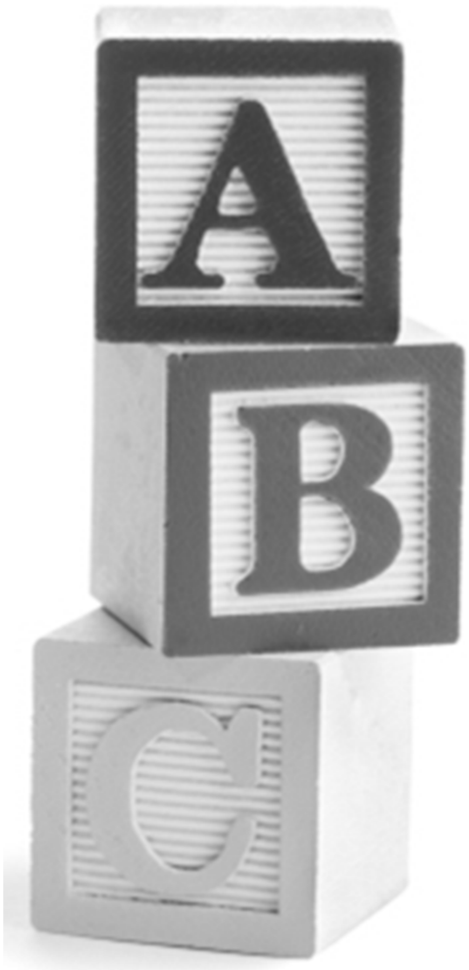
Block Size Tradeoffs

- For a given total cache size,
  Larger block sizes mean….
  - fewer lines
  - so fewer tags, less overhead
  - and fewer cold misses (within-block “prefetching”)
- But also…
  - fewer blocks available (for scattered accesses!)
  - so more conflicts
  - can decrease performance if **working set** can’t fit in $
  - and larger miss penalty (time to fetch block)

Miss Rate vs. Associativity



ABCs of Caches

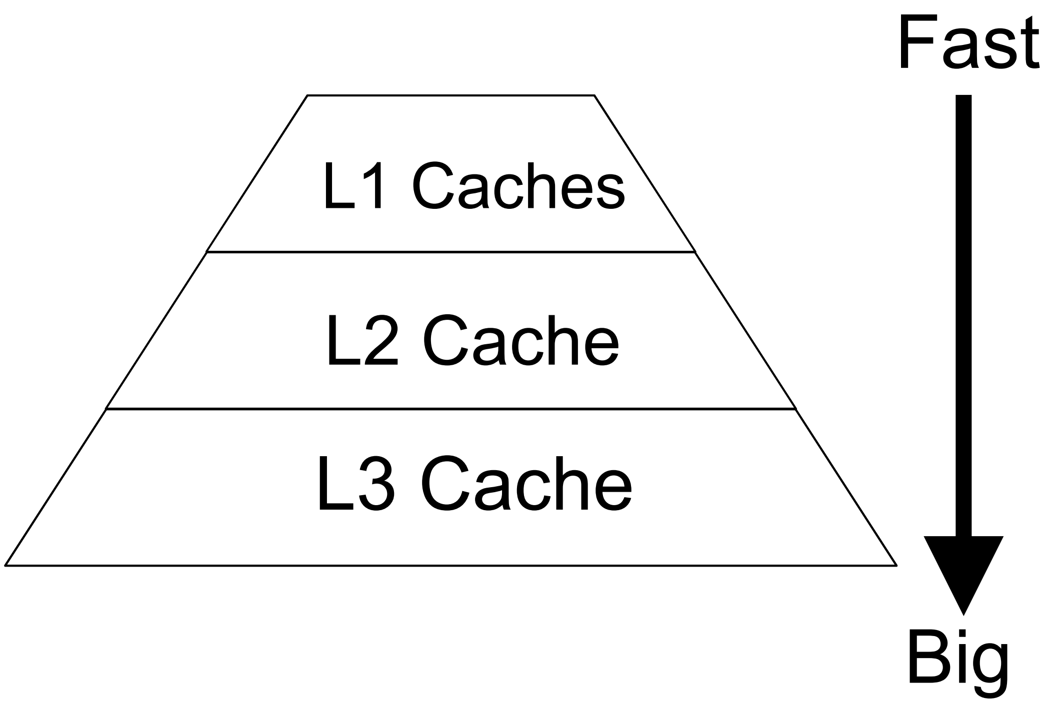


$$t_{avg} = t_{hit} + \%_{miss} * t_{miss}$$

+ Associativity:
  - ↓conflict misses ☺
  - ↑hit time ☹
+ Block Size:
  - ↓cold misses ☺
  - ↑conflict misses ☹
+ Capacity:
  - ↓capacity misses ☺
  - ↑hit time ☹

Which caches get what properties?

$$t_{avg} = t_{hit} + \%_{miss} * t_{miss}$$



Design with speed in mind

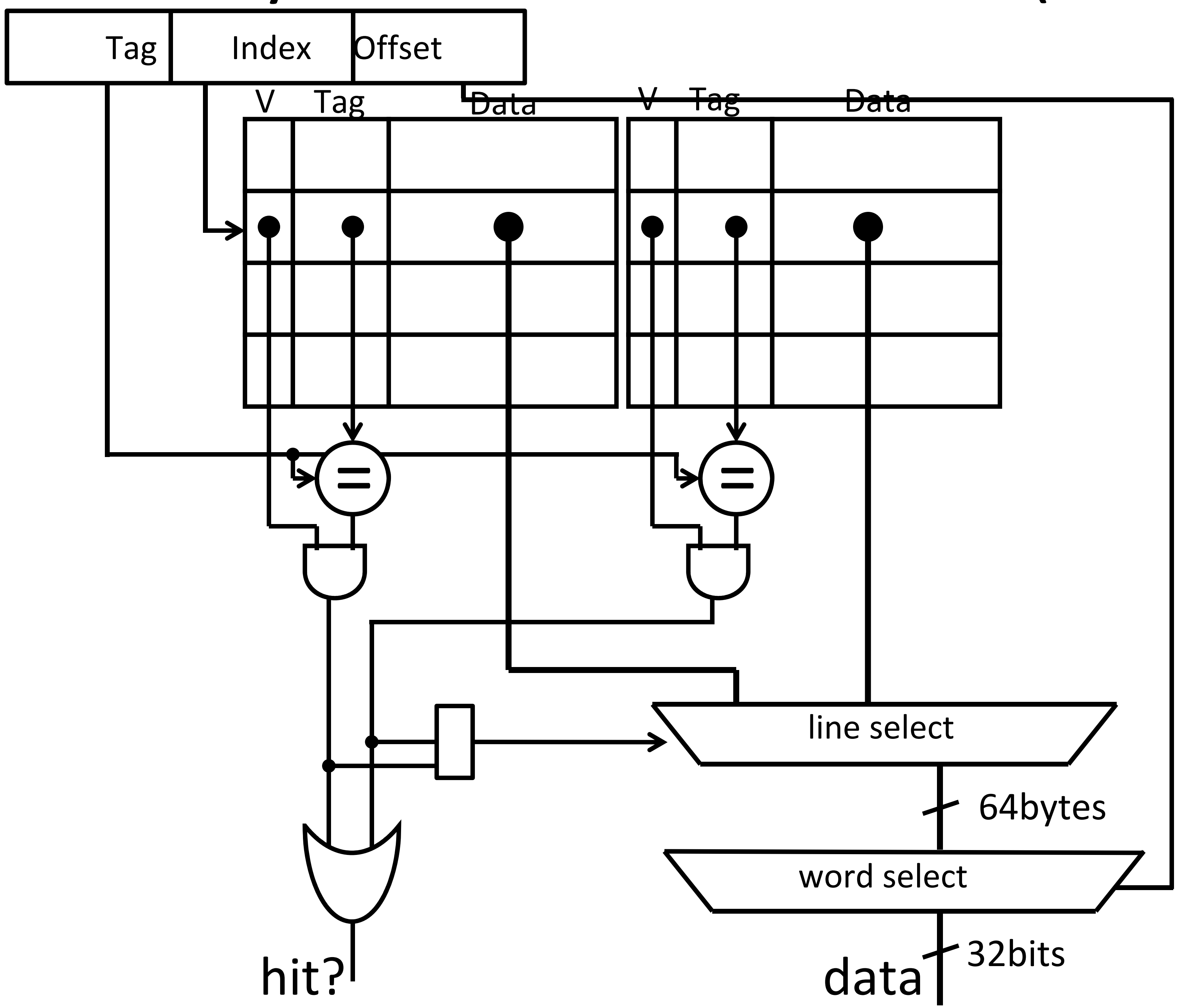
More Associative
Bigger Block Sizes
Larger Capacity

Design with miss rate in mind

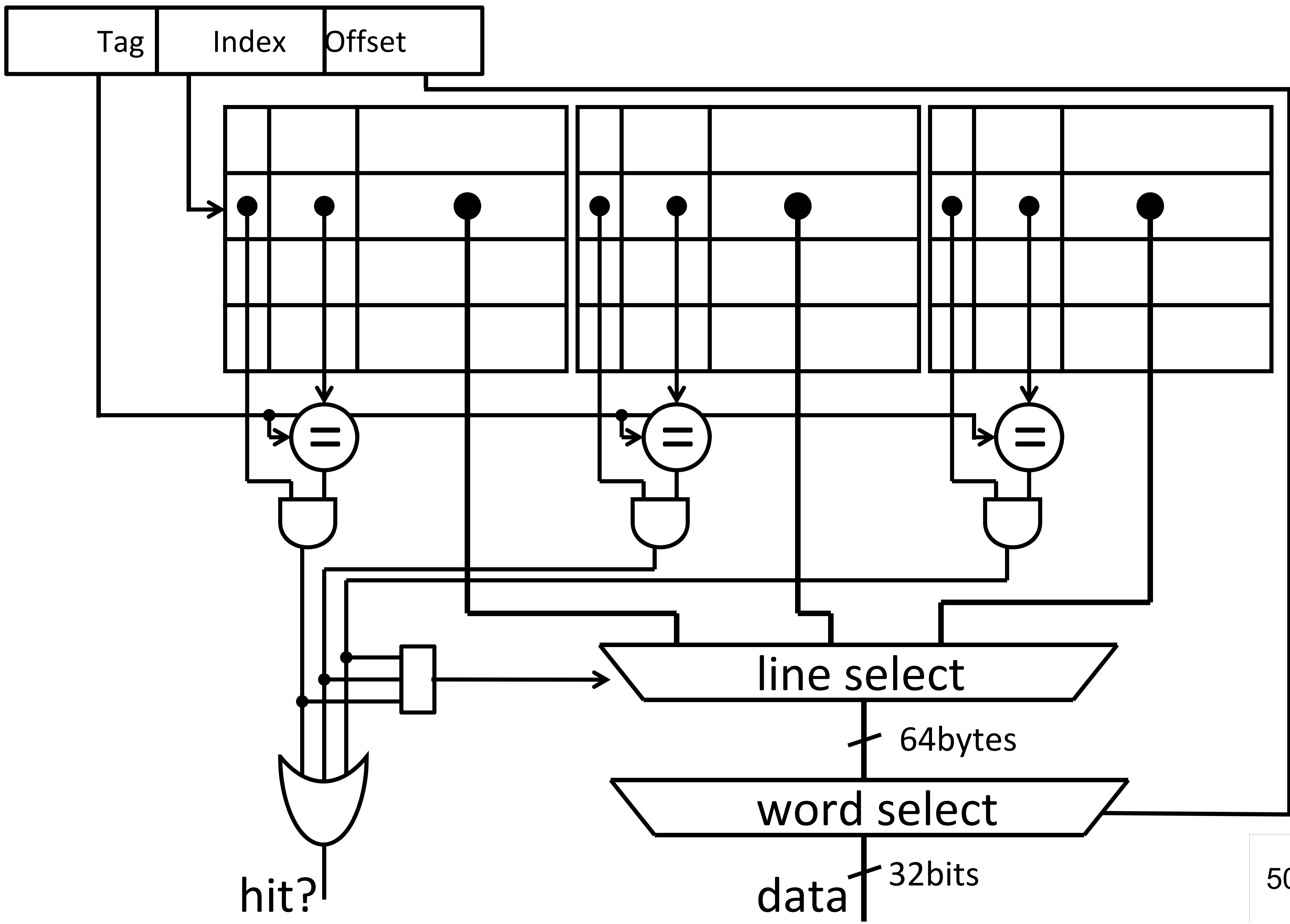
Roadmap

- Things we have covered:
  - The Need for Speed
  - Locality to the Rescue!
  - Calculating average memory access time
  - $ Misses: Cold, Conflict, Capacity
  - $ Characteristics: Associativity, Block Size, Capacity
- Things we will now cover:
  - Cache Figures
  - Cache Performance Examples
  - Writes

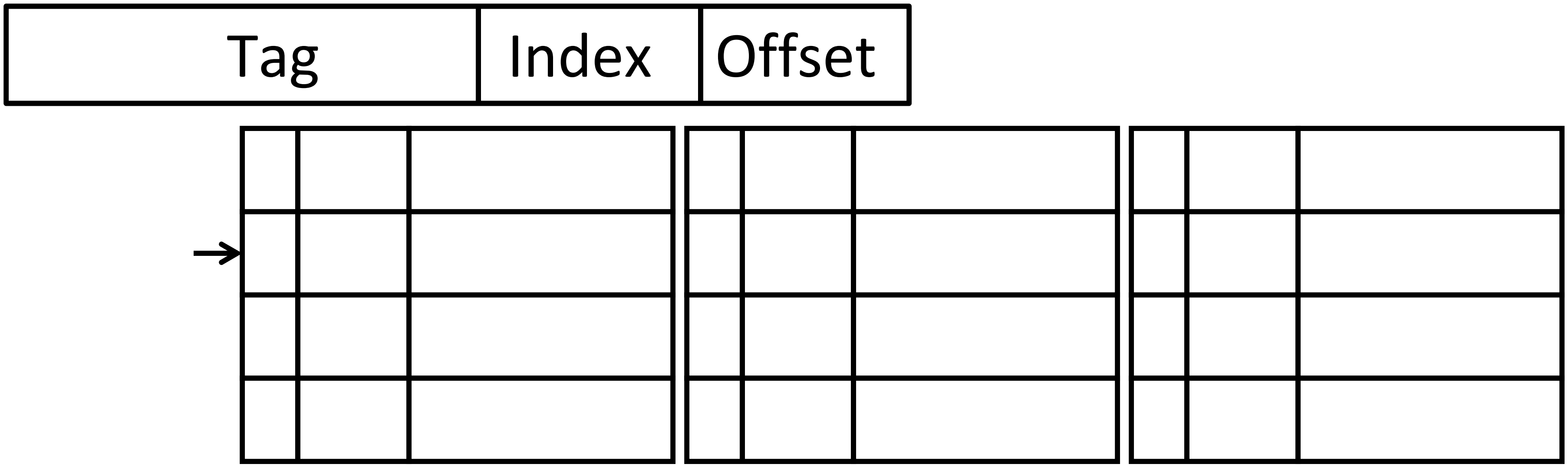
2-Way Set Associative Cache (Reading)



3-Way Set Associative Cache (Reading)



How Big is the Cache?



n bit index, *m* bit offset, **N-way Set Associative**

Question: How big is cache?

- ***Data only***?

  (what we usually mean when we ask “how big” is the cache)

- ***Data + overhead?***

Performance Calculation with $ Hierarchy

$$t_{avg} = t_{hit} + \%_{miss} * t_{miss}$$

- **Parameters**
  - Reference stream: all loads
  - D$: t_{hit} = 1ns, $\%_{miss}$ = 5%
  - L2: t_{hit} = 10ns, $\%_{miss}$ = 20% (local miss rate)
  - Main memory: t_{hit} = 50ns
- **What is $t_{avgD\$}$ without an L2?**
  - $t_{missD\$}$ =
  - $t_{avgD\$}$ =
- **What is $t_{avgD\$}$ with an L2?**
  - $t_{missD\$}$ =
  - t_{avgL2} =
  - $t_{avgD\$}$ =

Performance Summary

Average memory access time (AMAT) depends on:

- cache architecture and size
- Hit and miss rates
- Access times and miss penalty

Cache design a very complex problem:

- Cache size, block size (aka line size)
- Number of ways of set-associativity (1, N, ∞)
- Eviction policy
- Number of levels of caching, parameters for each
- Separate I-cache from D-cache, or Unified cache
- Prefetching policies / instructions
- Write policy

Takeaway

Direct Mapped → fast, but low hit rate
Fully Associative → higher hit cost, higher hit rate
Set Associative → middleground

Line size matters. Larger cache lines can increase performance due to prefetching. BUT, can also decrease performance is **working set** size cannot fit in cache.

Cache performance is measured by the average memory access time (AMAT), which depends cache architecture and size, but also the access time for hit, miss penalty, hit rate.

What about Stores?

We want to write to the cache.

If the data is not in the cache?
Bring it in. (Write allocate policy)

Should we also update memory?

- Yes: write-through policy
- No: write-back policy

Write-Through Cache

16 byte, byte-addressed memory
4 btye, fully-associative cache:
  2-byte blocks, write-allocate
4 bit addresses:
  3 bit tag, 1 bit offset

Instructions:
LB x1 ← M[1]
LB x2 ← M[7]
SB x2 → M[0]
SB x1 → M[5]
LB x2 ← M[10]
SB x1 → M[5]
SB x1 → M[10]

Cache

lru	V	tag	data
1	0		
0	0		

Register File

x0	
x1	
x2	
x3	

Misses: 0
Hits: 0
Reads: 0
Writes: 0

Memory

0	78
1	29
2	120
3	123
4	71
5	150
6	162
7	173
8	18
9	21
10	33
11	28
12	19
13	200
14	210
15	225

Write-Through (REF 1)

Instructions:

```
LB  x1 ← M[ 1  ]
LB  x2 ← M[ 7  ]
SB  x2 → M[ 0  ]
SB  x1 → M[ 5  ]
LB  x2 ← M[ 10 ]
SB  x1 → M[ 5  ]
SB  x1 → M[ 10 ]
```

Cache

lru	V	tag	data
1	0		
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Register File

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Misses: 0
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11	28
12	19
13	200
14	210
15	225

Summary: Write Through

Write-through policy with write allocate

- Cache miss: read entire block from memory
- Write: write only updated item to memory
- Eviction: no need to write to memory

Next Goal: Write-Through vs. Write-Back

What if we DON'T to write stores immediately to memory?

- Keep the current copy in cache, and update memory when data is **evicted** (write-back policy)
- Write-back all evicted lines?
  - No, only written-to blocks

Write-Back Meta-Data (Valid, Dirty Bits)

V	D	Tag	Byte 1	Byte 2	… Byte N

- V = 1 means the line has valid data
- D = 1 means the bytes are newer than main memory
- When allocating line:
  - Set V = 1, D = 0, fill in Tag and Data
- When writing line:
  - Set D = 1
- When evicting line:
  - If D = 0: just set V = 0
  - If D = 1: write-back Data, then set D = 0, V = 0

Write-back Example

- Example: How does a write-back cache work?
- Assume write-allocate

Handling Stores (Write-Back)

16 byte, byte-addressed memory
4 btye, fully-associative cache:
  2-byte blocks, write-allocate
4 bit addresses:
  3 bit tag, 1 bit offset

Instructions:
LB x1 ← M[1]
LB x2 ← M[7]
SB x2 → M[0]
SB x1 → M[5]
LB x2 ← M[10]
SB x1 → M[5]
SB x1 → M[10]

Cache

lru	V	d	tag	data
1	0			
0	0			

Register File

x0	
x1	
x2	
x3	

Misses: 0
Hits: 0
Reads: 0
Writes: 0

Memory

0	78
1	29
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14	210
15	225

Write-Back (REF 1)

Instructions:

- → LB x1 ← M[1]
- LB x2 ← M[7]
- SB x2 → M[0]
- SB x1 → M[5]
- LB x2 ← M[10]
- SB x1 → M[5]
- SB x1 → M[10]

Cache

lru	V	d	tag	data
1	0			
0	0			

Register File

x0	
x1	
x2	
x3	

Misses: 0
Hits: 0
Reads: 0
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Memory

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How Many Memory References?

Write-back performance

- How many reads?

- How many writes?

Write-back vs. Write-through Example

Assume: large associative cache, 16-byte lines
N 4-byte words

```
for (i=1; i<n; i++)
   A[0] += A[i];
```

```
for (i=0; i<n; i++)
    B[i] = A[i]
```

So is write back just better?

Short Answer: Yes (fewer writes is a good thing)

Long Answer: It's complicated.

- Evictions require entire line be written back to memory (vs. just the data that was written)
- Write-back can lead to incoherent caches on multi-core processors (later lecture)

Optimization: Write Buffering

Write-through vs. Write-back

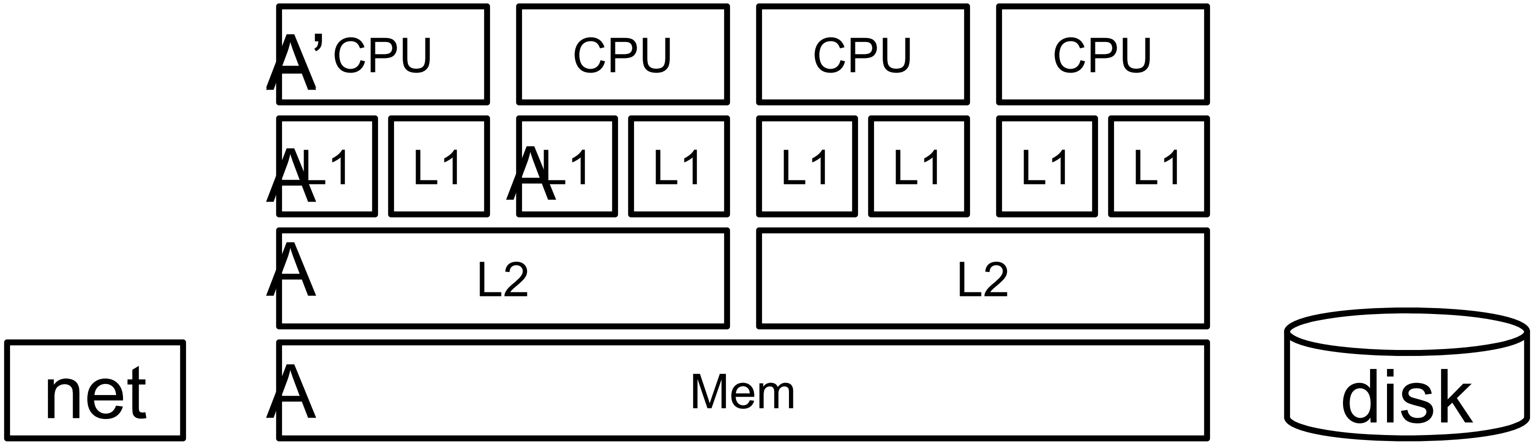
- Write-through is slower
  - But simpler (memory always consistent)

- Write-back is almost always faster
  - write-back buffer hides large eviction cost
  - But what about multiple cores with separate caches but sharing memory?
- **Write-back requires a cache coherency protocol**
  - Inconsistent views of memory
  - Need to “snoop” in each other’s caches
  - Extremely complex protocols, very hard to get right

Cache-coherency

Q: Multiple readers and writers?

A: Potentially inconsistent views of memory



Cache coherency protocol

- May need to **snoop** on other CPU's cache activity
- **Invalidate** cache line when other CPU writes
- **Flush** write-back caches before other CPU reads
- Or the reverse: Before writing/reading…
- Extremely complex protocols, very hard to get right

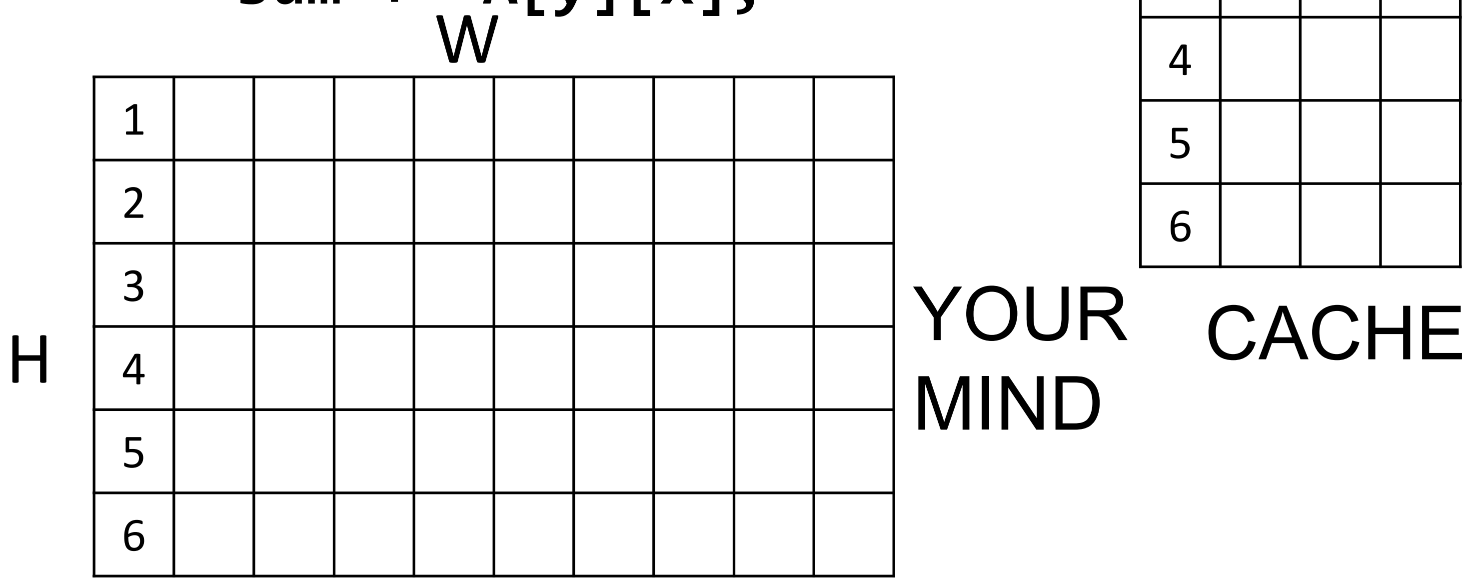
Takeaway

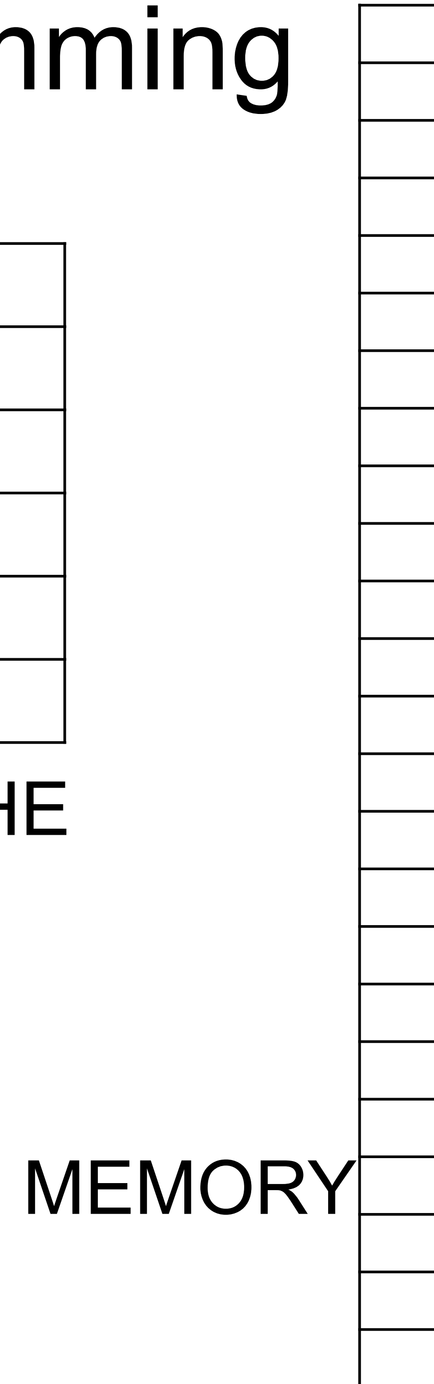
- Write-through policy with write allocate
  - Cache miss: read entire block from memory
  - Write: write only updated item to memory
  - Eviction: no need to write to memory
  - **Slower, but cleaner**

- Write-back policy with write allocate
  - Cache miss: read entire block from memory
    - **But may need to write dirty cacheline first**
  - Write: nothing to memory
  - Eviction: have to write to memory *entire cacheline* because don't know what is dirty (only 1 dirty bit)
  - **Faster, but more complicated, especially with multicore**

Cache Conscious Programming

```
// H = 6, W = 10
int A[H][W];
for(x=0; x < W; x++)
   for(y=0; y < H; y++)
      sum += A[y][x];
```





By the end of the cache lectures…

MacBook Pro

Retina, Mid 2012

Processor 2.7 GHz Intel Core i7

Memory 16 GB 1600 MHz DDR3

Graphics NVIDIA GeForce GT 650M 1024 MB

Serial Number C02J70TTDKQ5

Software OS X 10.9.2 (13C64)

Model Name:	MacBook Pro
Model Identifier:	MacBookPro10,1
Processor Name:	Intel Core i7
Processor Speed:	2.7 GHz
Number of Processors:	1
Total Number of Cores:	4
L2 Cache (per Core):	256 KB
L3 Cache:	8 MB
Memory:	16 GB
Boot ROM Version:	MBP101.00EE.B02
SMC Version (system):	2.3f36
Serial Number (system):	C02J70TTDKQ5
Hardware UUID:	F588E08C-60BF-5B35-A087-07714C2B2D11

- 32 KB data + 32 KB instruction L1 cache (3 clocks) and 256 KB L2 cache (8 clocks) per core.
- Shared L3 cache includes the processor graphics (LGA 1155).
- 64-byte cache line size.

A Real Example

Microsoft Surfacebook
Dual core
Intel i7-6600 CPU @ 2.6 GHz
(purchased in 2016)

- **> dmidecode -t cache**
- Cache Information
- Socket Designation: L1 Cache
- Configuration: Enabled, Not Socketed, Level 1
- Operational Mode: Write Back
- Location: Internal
- Installed Size: 128 kB
- Maximum Size: 128 kB
- Supported SRAM Types:
- Synchronous
- Installed SRAM Type: Synchronous
- Speed: Unknown
- Error Correction Type: Parity
- System Type: Unified
- Associativity: 8-way Set-associative

- Cache Information
- Socket Designation: L2 Cache
- Configuration: Enabled, Not Socketed,
- Level 2
- Operational Mode: Write Back
- Location: Internal
- Installed Size: 512 kB
- Maximum Size: 512 kB
- Supported SRAM Types:
- Synchronous
- Installed SRAM Type: Synchronous
- Speed: Unknown
- Error Correction Type: Single-bit ECC
- System Type: Unified
- Associativity: 4-way Set-associative

```
Cache Information
    Socket Designation: L3 Cache
    Configuration: Enabled, Not Socketed,
                                   Level 3
    Operational Mode: Write Back
    Location: Internal
    Installed Size: 4096 kB
    Maximum Size: 4096 kB
    Supported SRAM Types:
        Synchronous
    Installed SRAM Type: Synchronous
    Speed: Unknown
    Error Correction Type: Multi-bit ECC
    System Type: Unified
    Associativity: 16-way Set-associative
```

A Real Example

Dual-core 3.16GHz Intel (purchased in 2011)

- **> sudo dmidecode -t cache**
- Cache Information
-         Configuration: Enabled, Not Socketed, Level 1
-         Operational Mode: Write Back
-         Installed Size: 128 KB
-         Error Correction Type: None
- Cache Information
-         Configuration: Enabled, Not Socketed, Level 2
-         Operational Mode: Varies With Memory Address
-         Installed Size: 6144 KB
-         Error Correction Type: Single-bit ECC
- **> cd /sys/devices/system/cpu/cpu0; grep cache/*/***
- cache/index0/level:1
- cache/index0/type:Data
- cache/index0/ways_of_associativity:8
- cache/index0/number_of_sets:64
- cache/index0/coherency_line_size:64
- cache/index0/size:32K
- cache/index1/level:1
- cache/index1/type:Instruction
- cache/index1/ways_of_associativity:8
- cache/index1/number_of_sets:64
- cache/index1/coherency_line_size:64
- cache/index1/size:32K
- cache/index2/level:2
- cache/index2/type:Unified
- cache/index2/shared_cpu_list:0-1
- cache/index2/ways_of_associativity:24
- cache/index2/number_of_sets:4096
- cache/index2/coherency_line_size:64
- cache/index2/size:6144K

A Real Example

Dual-core 3.16GHz Intel (purchased in 2009)

- Dual 32K L1 Instruction caches
  - 8-way set associative
  - 64 sets
  - 64 byte line size
- Dual 32K L1 Data caches
  - Same as above
- Single 6M L2 Unified cache
  - 24-way set associative (!!!)
  - 4096 sets
  - 64 byte line size
- 4GB Main memory
- 1TB Disk

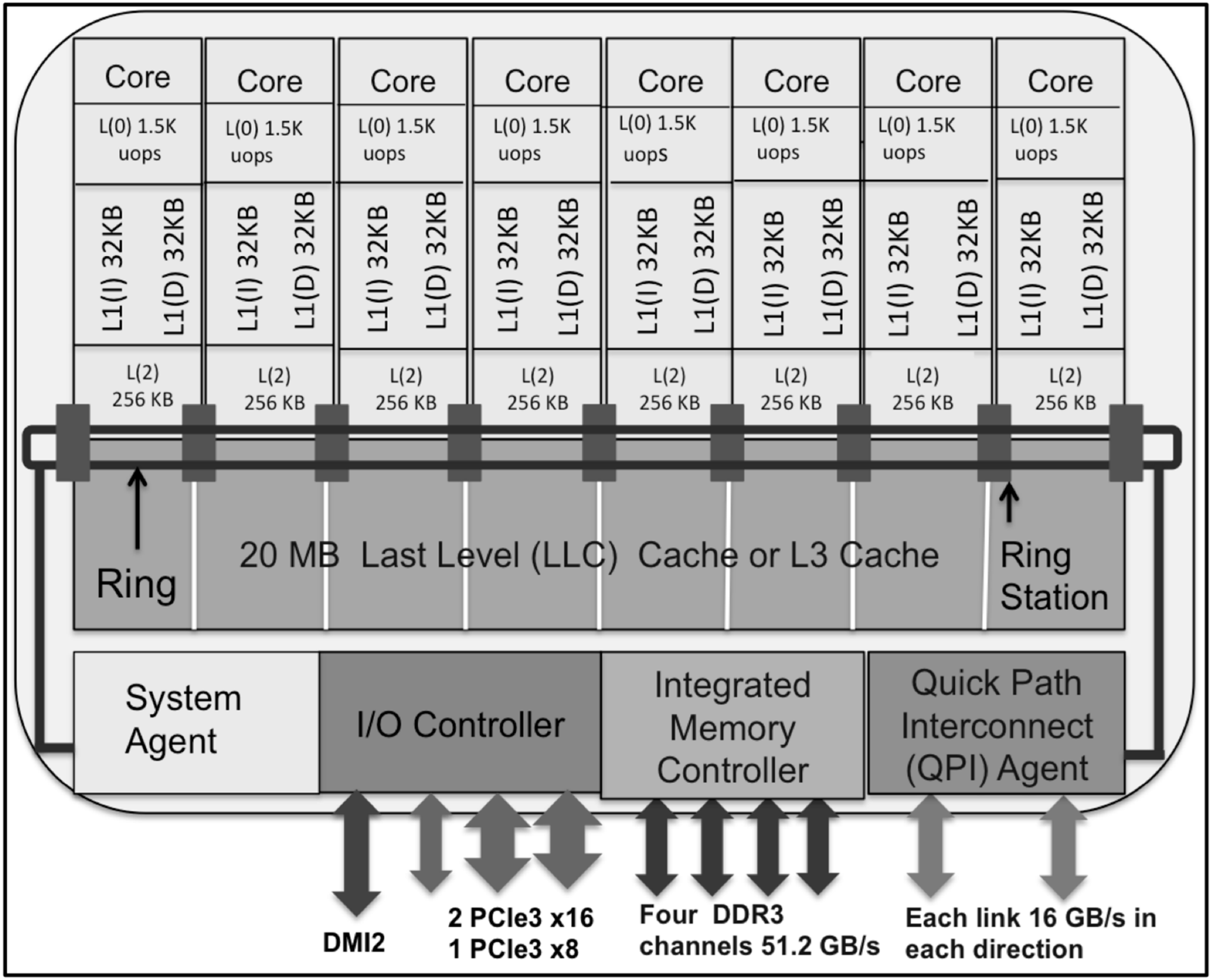


Figure 1. Schematic diagram of a Sandy Bridge processor.

Summary

- Memory performance matters!
  - often more than CPU performance
  - … because it is the bottleneck, and not improving much
  - … because most programs move a LOT of data
- Design space is huge
  - Gambling against program behavior
  - Cuts across all layers: users → programs → os → hardware
- NEXT: Multi-core processors are complicated
  - Inconsistent views of memory
  - Extremely complex protocols, very hard to get right