Digital Design & Computer Arch.

Lecture 23a: Multiprocessor Caches

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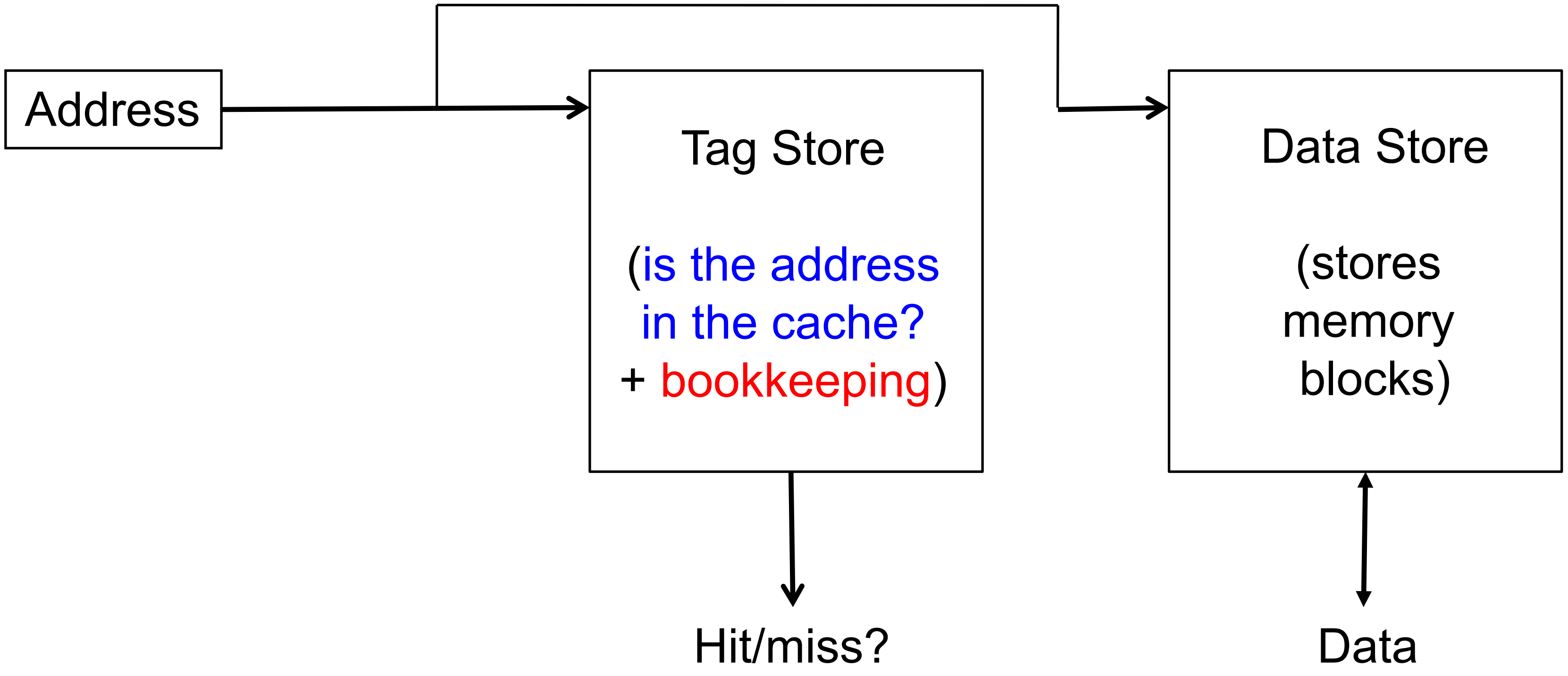
Readings

- Caches

- Required
  - H&H Chapters 8.1-8.3
  - Refresh: P&P Chapter 3.5

- Recommended
  - An early cache paper by Maurice Wilkes
    - Wilkes, "Slave Memories and Dynamic Storage Allocation," IEEE Trans. On Electronic Computers, 1965.

Recall: Cache Structure



Address

Tag Store

(is the address in the cache? + bookkeeping)

Data Store

(stores memory blocks)

Hit/miss?

Data

Cache Performance

Recall: Cache Parameters vs. Miss/Hit Rate

- Cache size
- Block size
- Associativity
- Replacement policy
- Insertion/Placement policy

Recall: How to Improve Cache Performance

- Three fundamental goals

- Reducing miss rate
  - Caveat: reducing miss rate can reduce performance if more costly-to-refetch blocks are evicted

- Reducing miss latency or miss cost

- Reducing hit latency or hit cost

- The above three **together** affect performance

Recall: Improving Basic Cache Performance

- Reducing miss rate
  - More associativity
  - Alternatives/enhancements to associativity
    - Victim caches, hashing, pseudo-associativity, skewed associativity
  - Better replacement/insertion policies
  - Software approaches
- Reducing miss latency/cost
  - Multi-level caches
  - Critical word first
  - Subblocking/sectoring
  - Better replacement/insertion policies
  - Non-blocking caches (multiple cache misses in parallel)
  - Multiple accesses per cycle
  - Software approaches

Recall: Software Approaches for Higher Hit Rate

- Restructuring data access patterns
- Restructuring data layout

- Loop interchange
- Data structure separation/merging
- Blocking
- …

Recall: Restructuring Data Access Patterns (I)

- Idea: Restructure data layout or data access patterns
- Example: If column-major
  - x[i+1,j] follows x[i,j] in memory
  - x[i,j+1] is far away from x[i,j]

Poor code

```
for i = 1, rows
    for j = 1, columns
        sum = sum + x[i,j]
```

Better code

```
for j = 1, columns
    for i = 1, rows
        sum = sum + x[i,j]
```

- This is called loop interchange
- Other optimizations can also increase hit rate
  - Loop fusion, array merging, …

Recall: Restructuring Data Access Patterns (II)

- Blocking
  - Divide loops operating on arrays into computation chunks so that each chunk can hold its data in the cache
  - Avoids cache conflicts between different chunks of computation
  - Essentially: Divide the working set so that each piece fits in the cache

- Also called Tiling

Restructuring Data Layout (I)

```
struct Node {
    struct Node* next;
    int key;
    char [256] name;
    char [256] school;
}

while (node) {
     if (node→key == input-key) {
          // access other fields of node
     }
     node = node→next;
}
```

- Pointer based traversal (e.g., of a linked list)
- Assume a huge linked list (1B nodes) and unique keys

- Why does the code on the left have poor cache hit rate?
  - “Other fields” occupy most of the cache line even though rarely accessed!

Restructuring Data Layout (II)

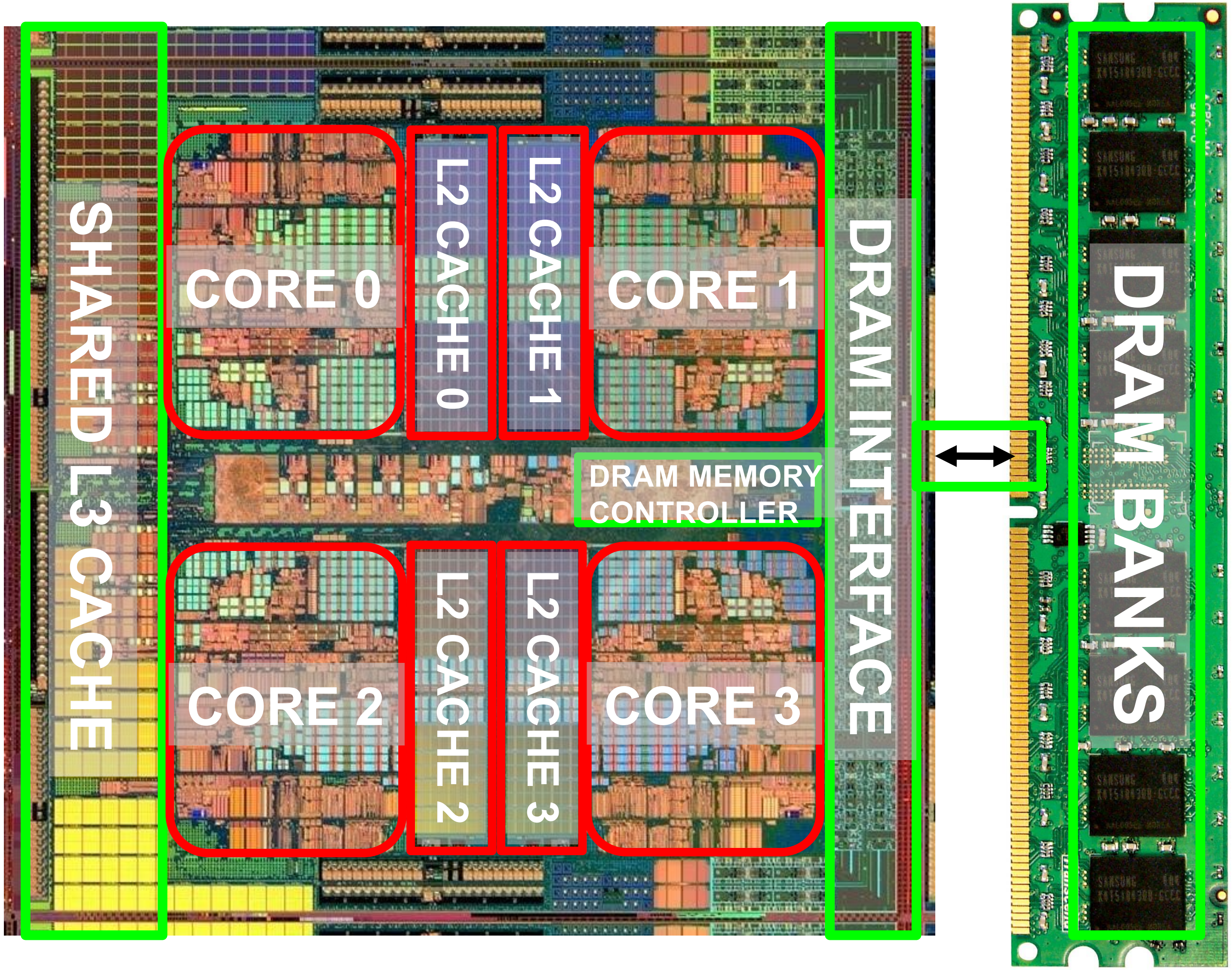
```
struct Node {
    struct Node* next;
    int key;
    struct Node-data* node-data;
}

struct Node-data {
    char [256] name;
    char [256] school;
}

while (node) {
     if (node→key == input-key) {
           // access node→node-data
     }
     node = node→next;
}
```

- Idea: separate frequently-used fields of a data structure and pack them into a separate data structure

- Who should do this?
  - Programmer
  - Compiler
    - Profiling vs. dynamic
  - Hardware?
  - Who can determine what is frequently used?

Multi-Core Issues in Caching

Caches in a Multi-Core System



Caches in Multi-Core Systems

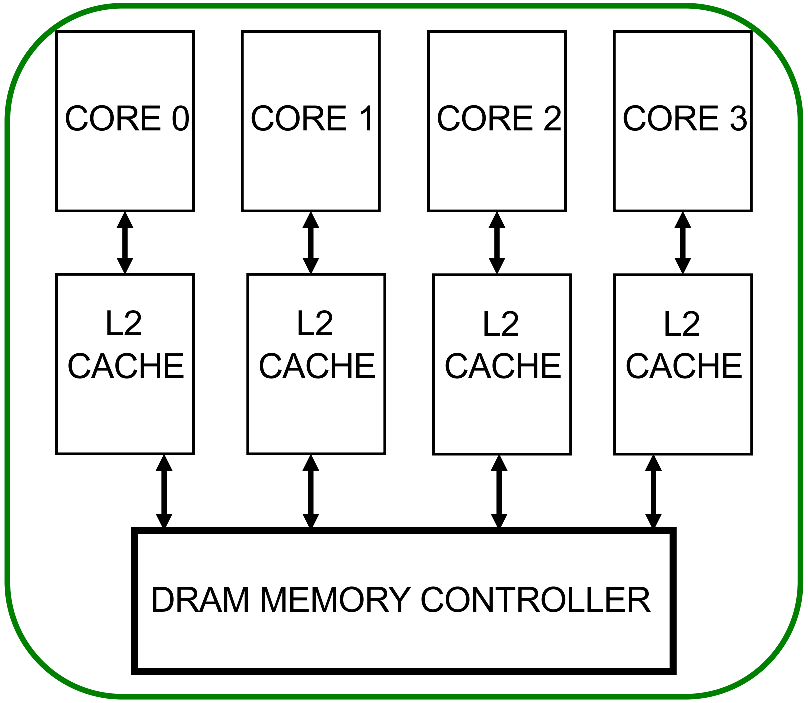
- Cache efficiency becomes even more important in a multi-core/multi-threaded system
  - Memory bandwidth is at premium
  - Cache space is a limited resource across cores/threads

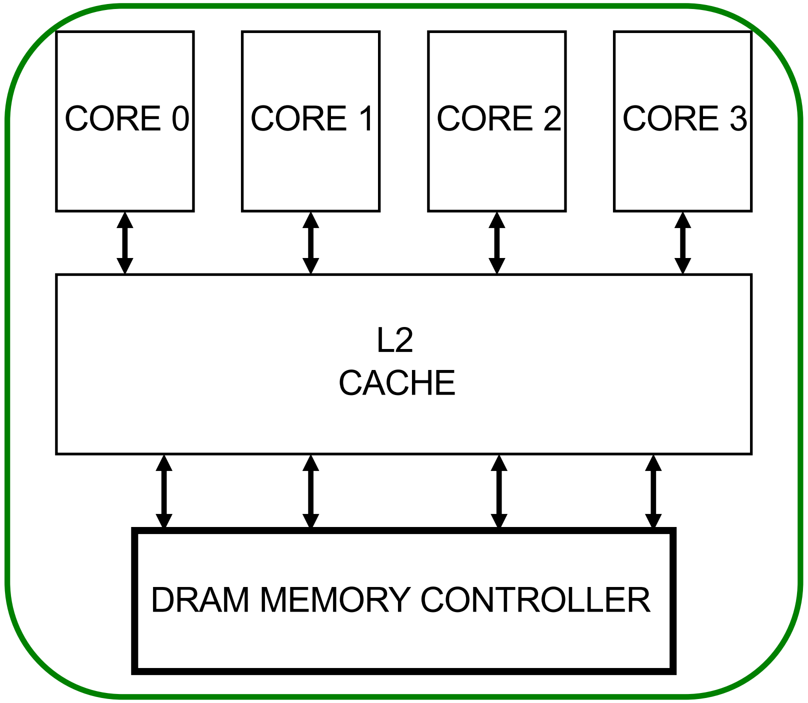
- How do we design the caches in a multi-core system?

- Many decisions
  - Shared vs. private caches
  - How to maximize performance of the entire system?
  - How to provide QoS to different threads in a shared cache?
  - Should cache management algorithms be aware of threads?
  - How should space be allocated to threads in a shared cache?

Private vs. Shared Caches

- Private cache: Cache belongs to one core (a shared block can be in multiple caches)
- Shared cache: Cache is shared by multiple cores





Resource Sharing Concept and Advantages

- Idea: Instead of dedicating a hardware resource to a hardware context, allow multiple contexts to use it
  - Example resources: functional units, pipeline, caches, buses, memory
- Why?

+ Resource sharing improves utilization/efficiency → throughput
  - When a resource is left idle by one thread, another thread can use it; no need to replicate shared data
+ Reduces communication latency
  - For example, data shared between multiple threads can be kept in the same cache in multithreaded processors
+ Compatible with the shared memory programming model

Resource Sharing Disadvantages

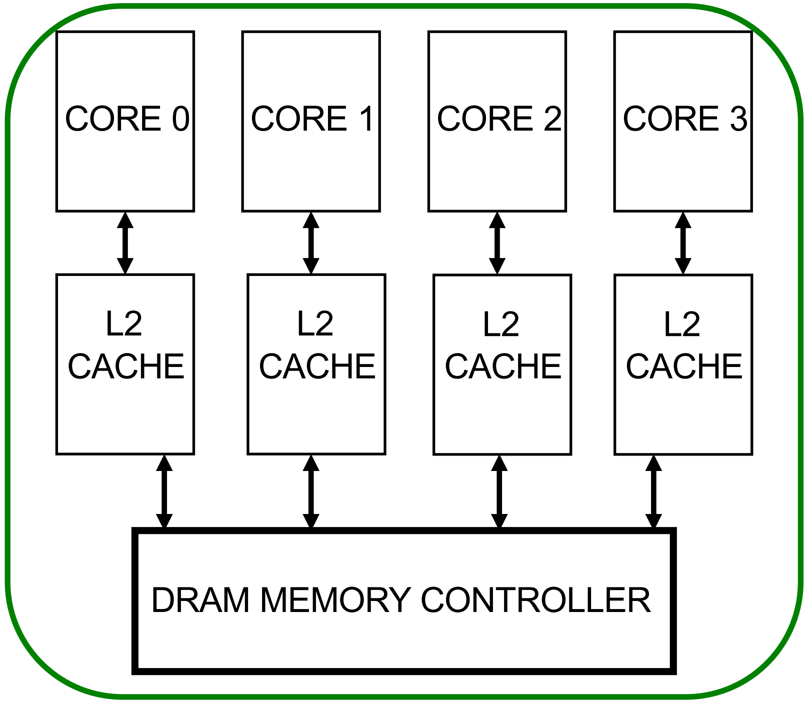
- Resource sharing results in contention for resources
  - When the resource is not idle, another thread cannot use it
  - If space is occupied by one thread, another thread needs to re-occupy it

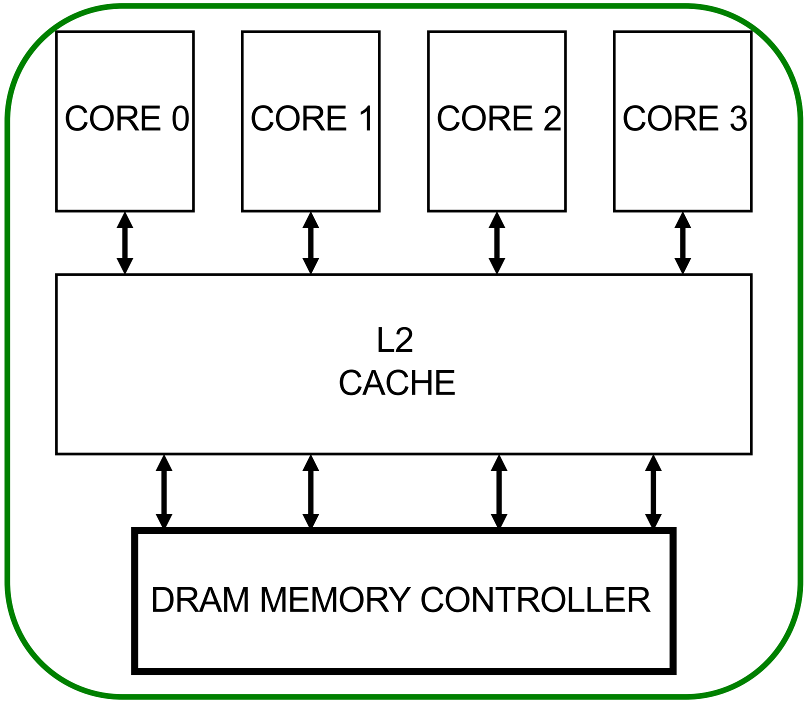
- Sometimes reduces each or some thread's performance
  - Thread performance can be worse than when it is run alone
- Eliminates performance isolation → inconsistent performance across runs
  - Thread performance depends on co-executing threads
- Uncontrolled (free-for-all) sharing degrades QoS
  - Causes unfairness, starvation

Need to efficiently and fairly utilize shared resources

Private vs. Shared Caches

- Private cache: Cache belongs to one core (a shared block can be in multiple caches)
- Shared cache: Cache is shared by multiple cores



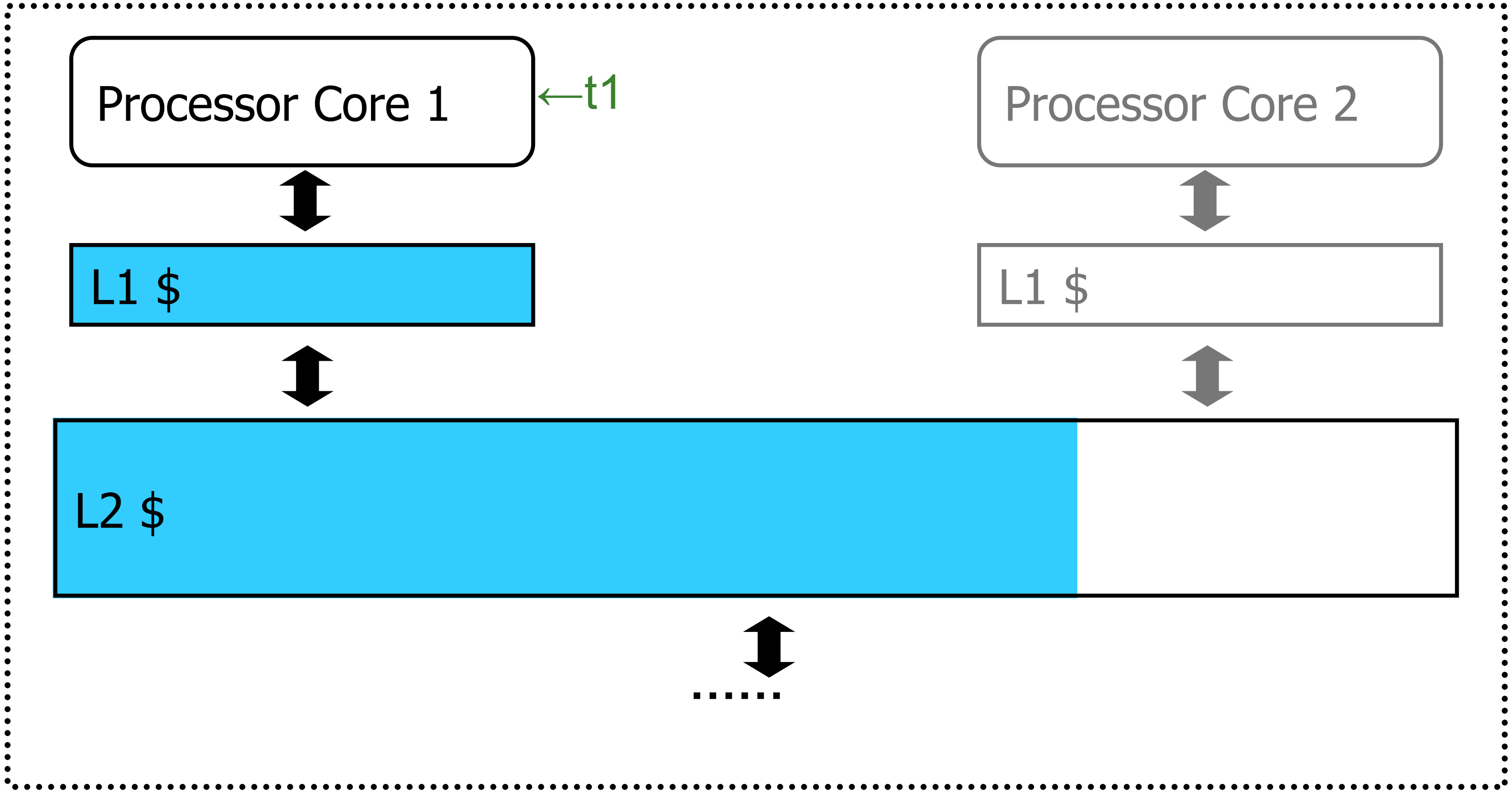


Shared Caches Between Cores

- Advantages:
  - High effective capacity
  - Dynamic partitioning of available cache space
    - No fragmentation due to static partitioning
    - If one core does not utilize some space, another core can
  - Easier to maintain coherence (a cache block is in a single location)

- Disadvantages
  - Slower access (cache not tightly coupled with the core)
  - Cores incur conflict misses due to other cores' accesses
    - Misses due to inter-core interference
    - Some cores can destroy the hit rates of other cores
  - Guaranteeing a minimum level of service (or fairness) to each core is harder (how much space, how much bandwidth?)

Example: Problem with Shared Caches



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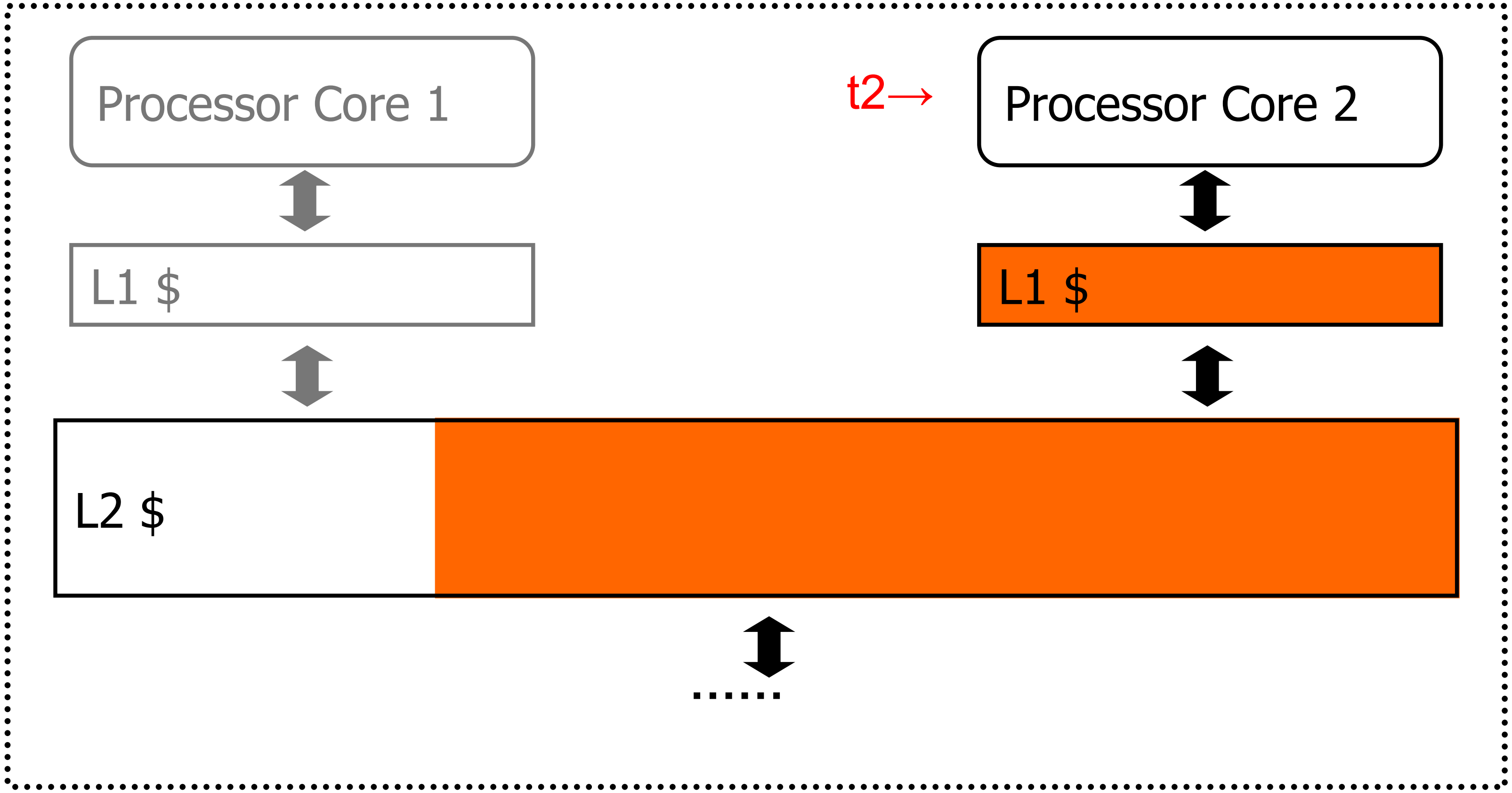
Example: Problem with Shared Caches



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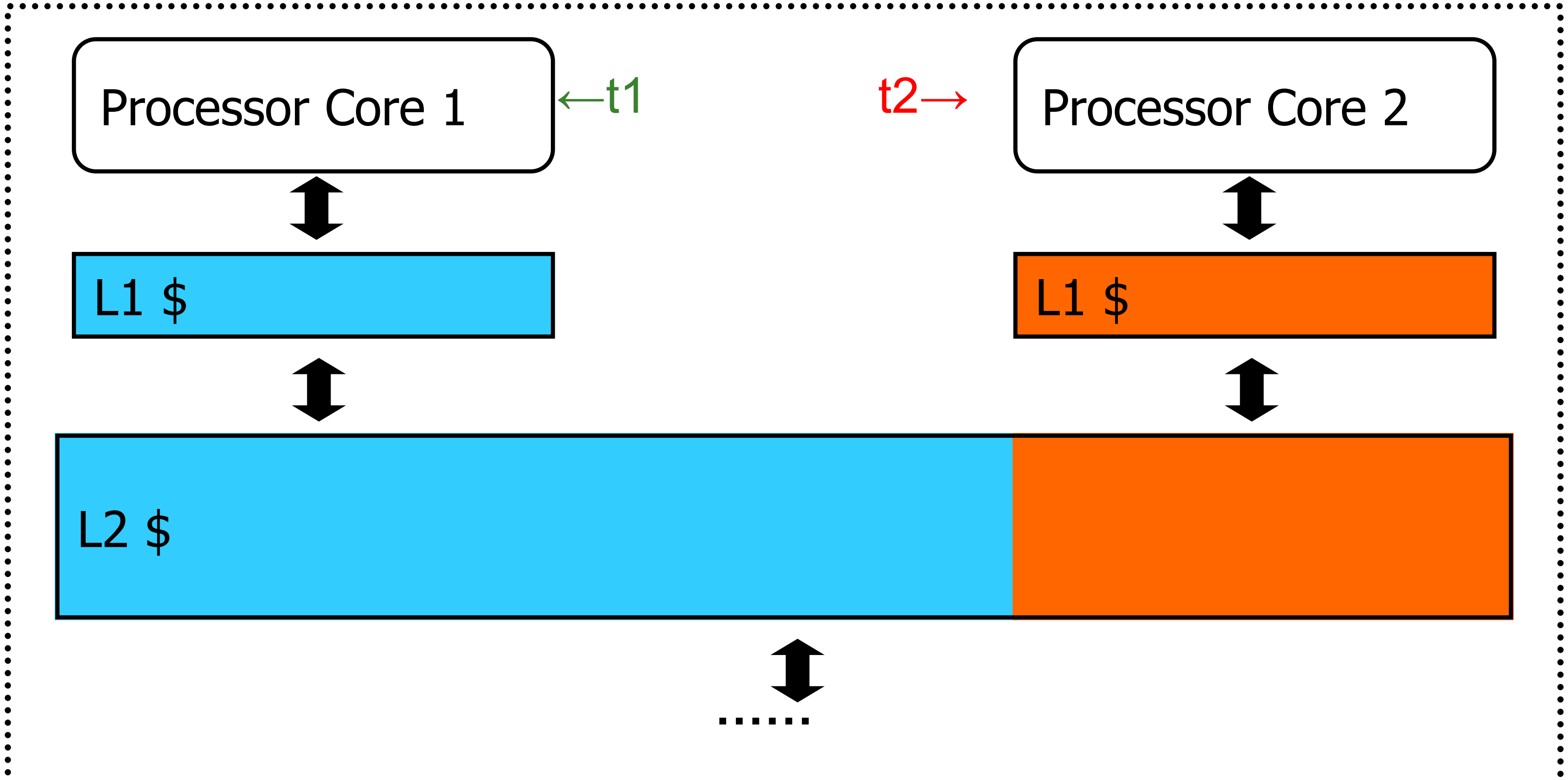
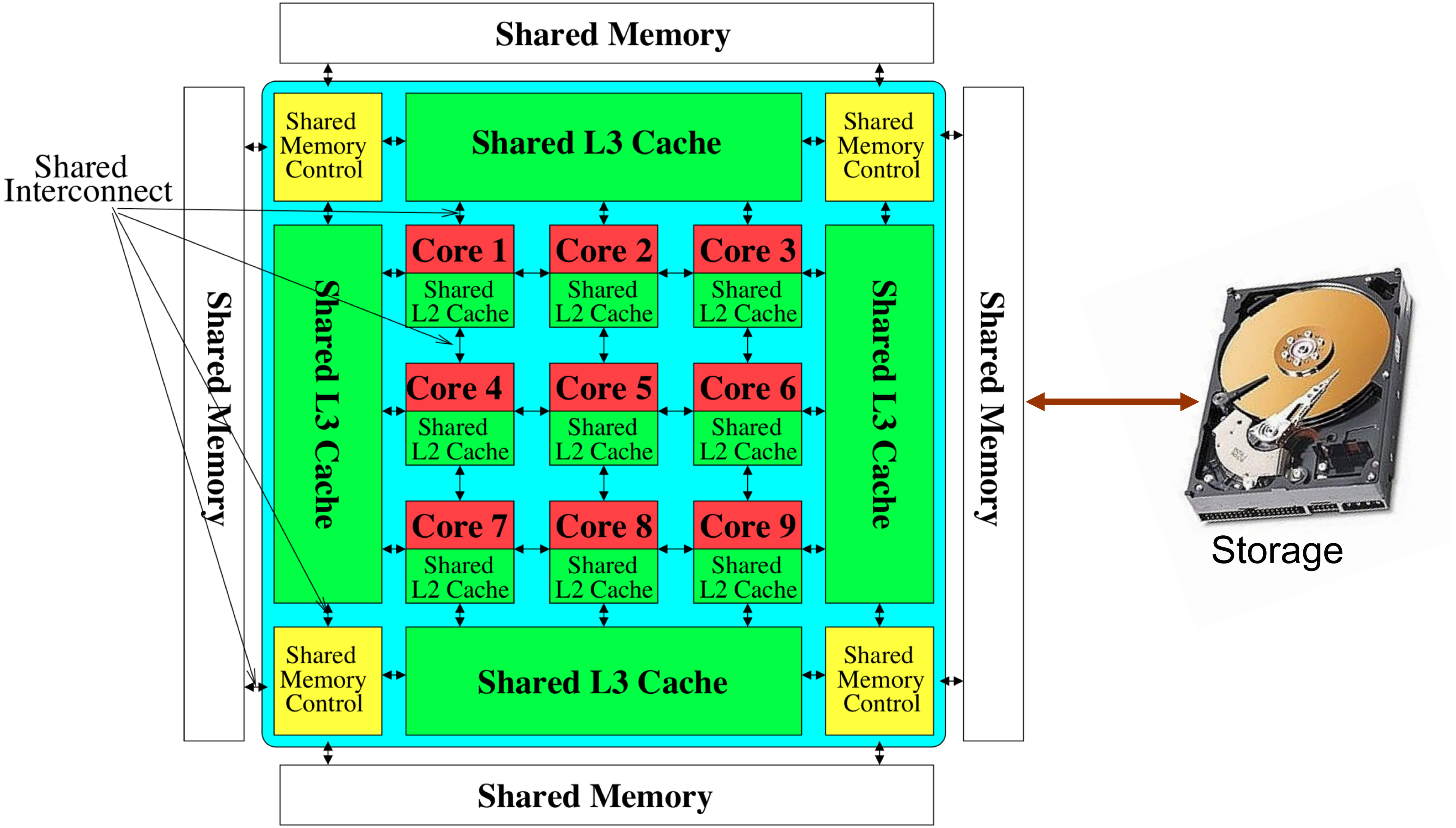
Example: Problem with Shared Caches



t2's throughput can be significantly reduced due to unfair cache sharing.

Kim et al., "Fair Cache Sharing and Partitioning in a Chip Multiprocessor Architecture," PACT 2004.

Memory System: A ***Shared Resource*** View

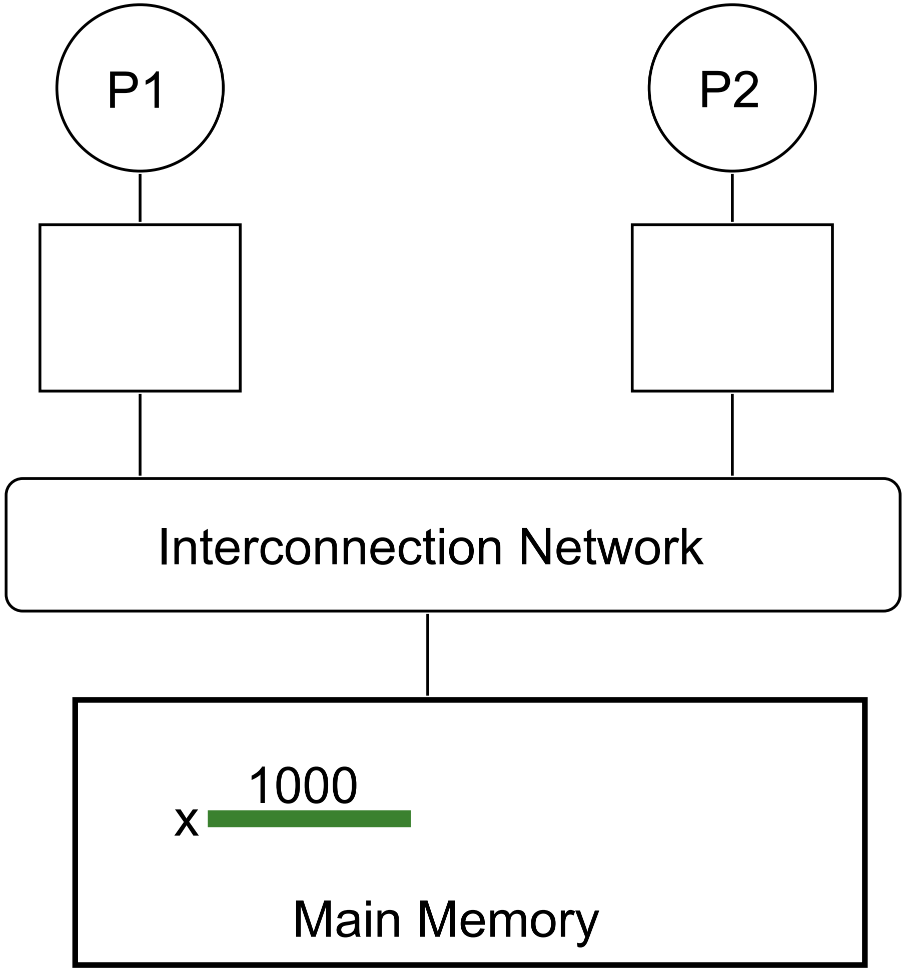


Most of the system is a shared resource, storing and moving data

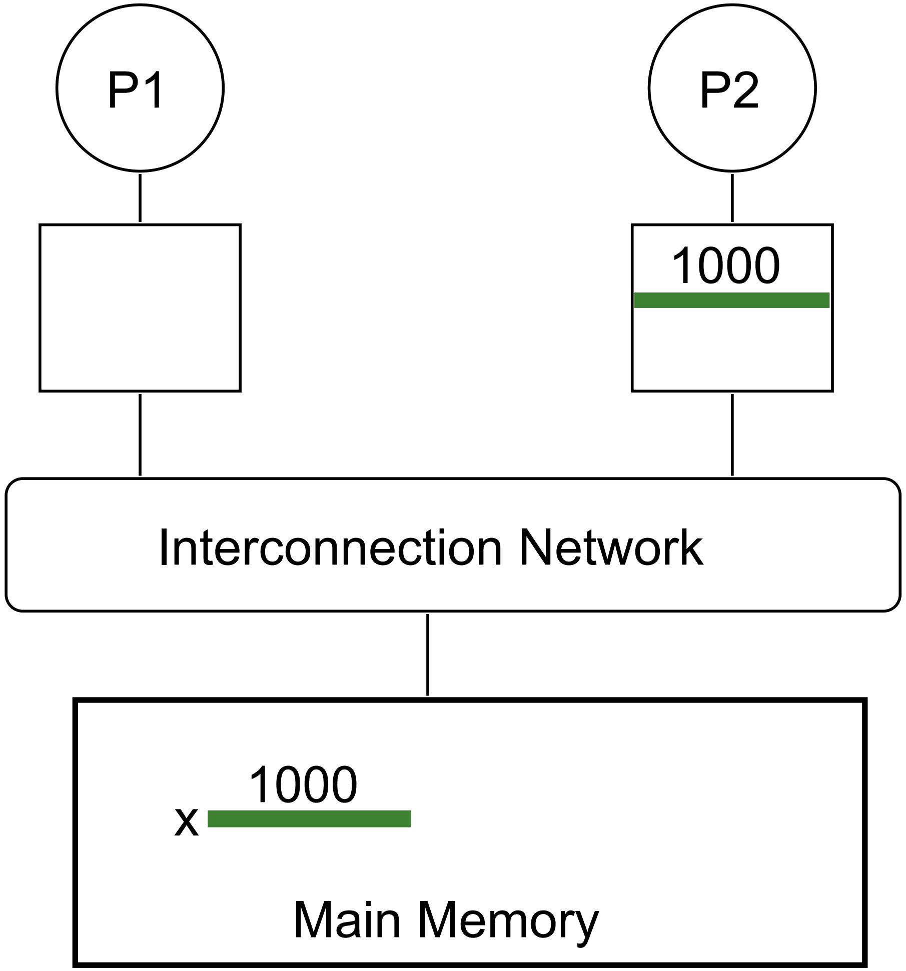
Cache Coherence

Cache Coherence

- Basic question: If multiple processors cache the same block, how do they ensure they all see a consistent state?

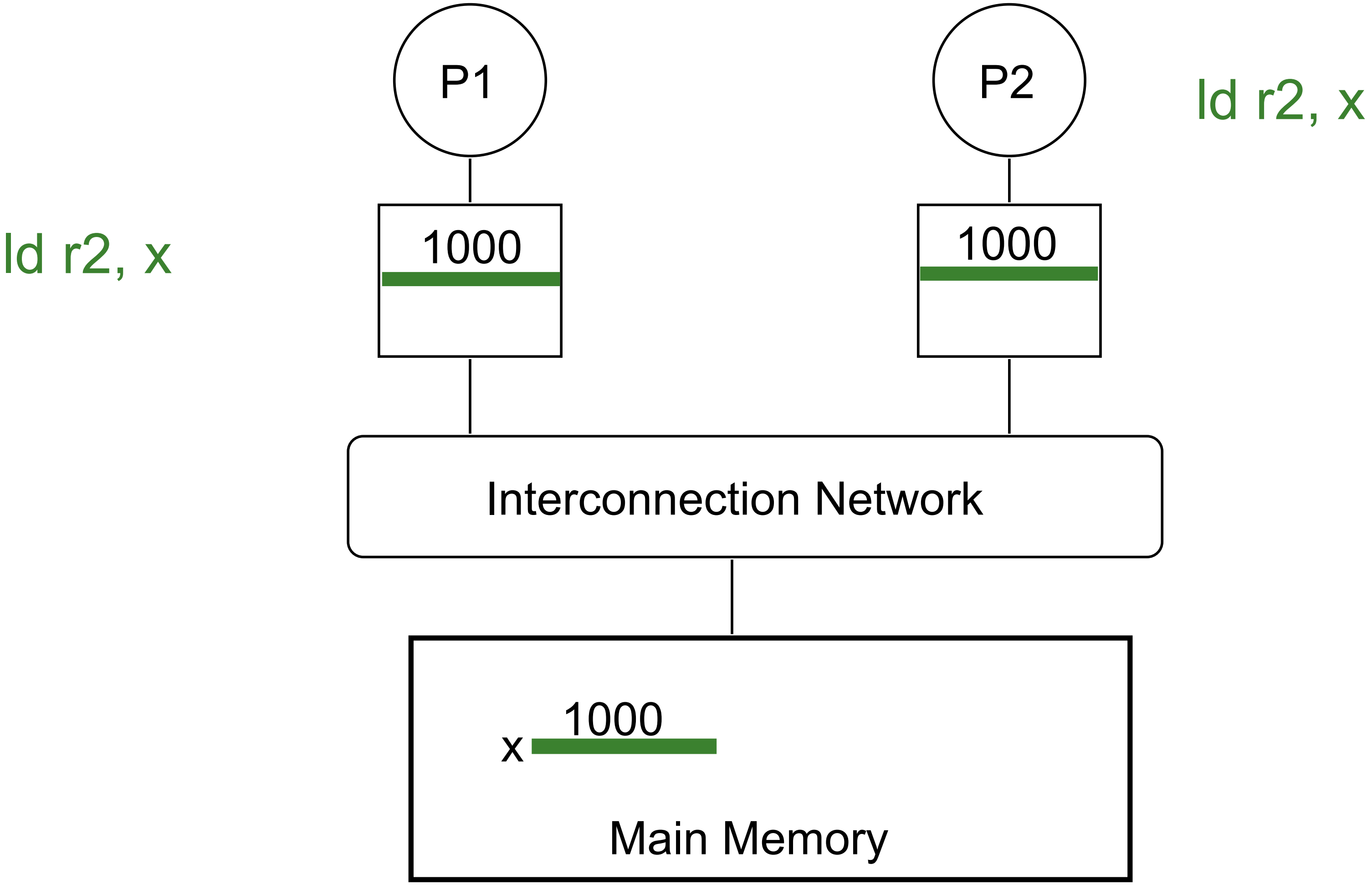


The Cache Coherence Problem



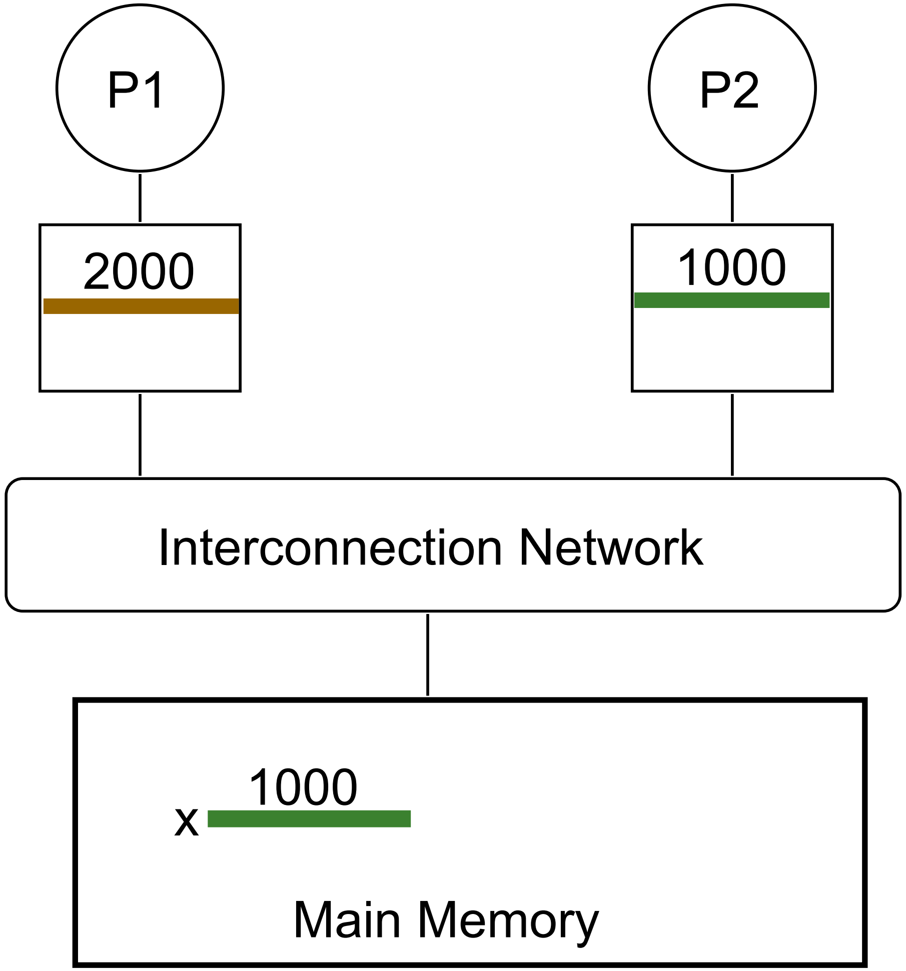
ld r2, x

The Cache Coherence Problem



The Cache Coherence Problem

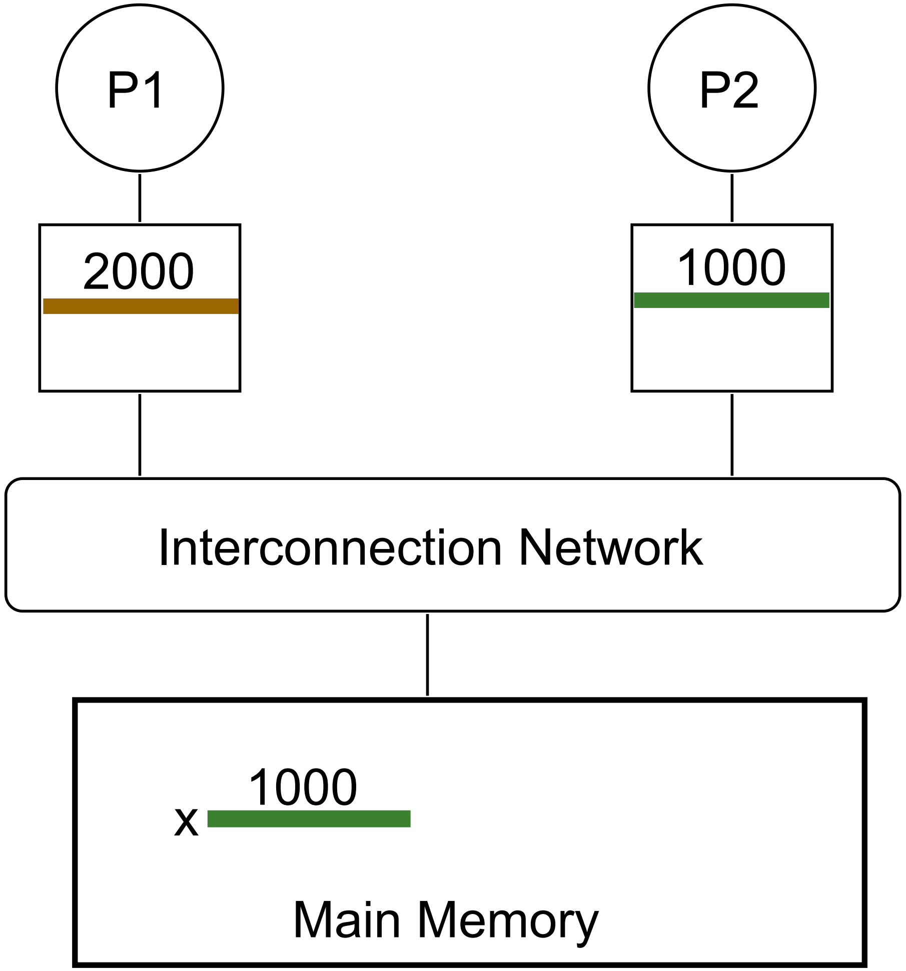
ld r2, x
add r1, r2, r4
st x, r1



ld r2, x

The Cache Coherence Problem

```
ld r2, x
add r1, r2, r4
st x, r1
```



```
ld r2, x
```

Should NOT load 1000

```
ld r5, x
```

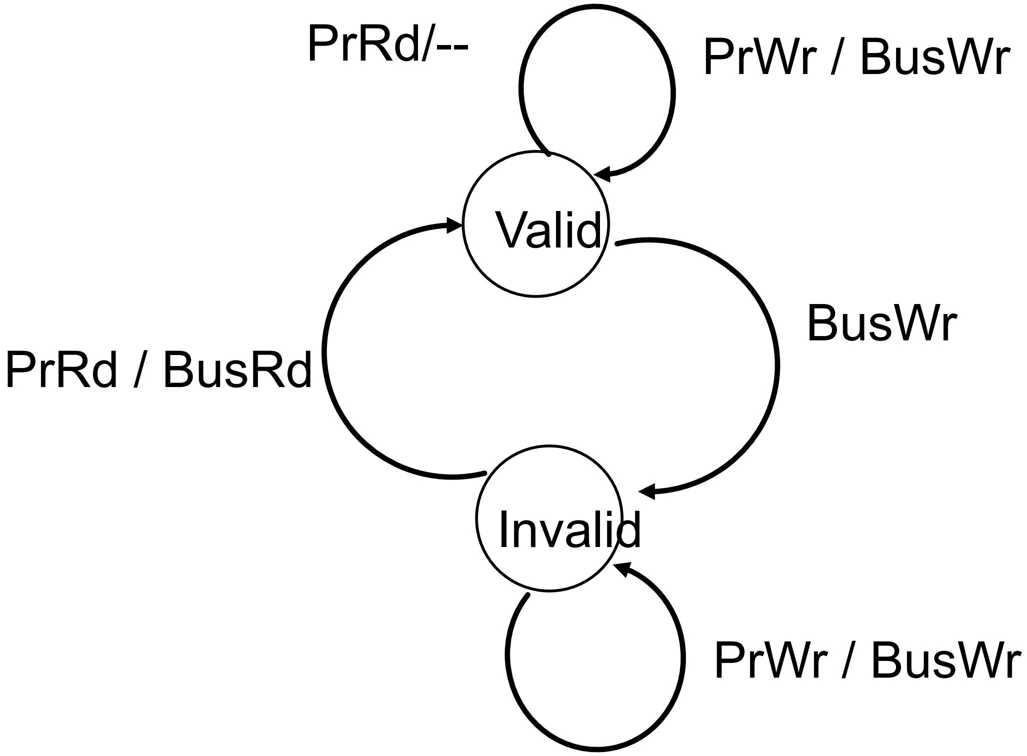
Cache Coherence: Whose Responsibility?

- Software
  - Can the programmer ensure coherence if caches are invisible to software?
  - What if the ISA provided a cache flush instruction?
    - FLUSH-LOCAL A: Flushes/invalidates the cache block containing address A from a processor's local cache.
    - FLUSH-GLOBAL A: Flushes/invalidates the cache block containing address A from all other processors' caches.
    - FLUSH-CACHE X: Flushes/invalidates all blocks in cache X.

- Hardware
  - Simplifies software's job
  - One idea: Invalidate all other copies of block A when a processor writes to it

A Very Simple Coherence Scheme (VI)

- Caches "snoop" (observe) each other's write/read operations via a shared bus. If a processor writes to a block, all others invalidate the block.
- A simple protocol:



- Write-through, no-write-allocate cache
- Actions of the local processor on the cache block: PrRd, PrWr,
- Actions that are broadcast on the bus for the block: BusRd, BusWr

(Non-)Solutions to Cache Coherence

- No hardware based coherence
  - Keeping caches coherent is software's responsibility

  + Makes microarchitect's life easier

  -- Makes average programmer's life much harder

    - need to worry about hardware caches to maintain program correctness?

  -- Overhead in ensuring coherence in software (e.g., page protection and page-based software coherence)

- All caches are shared between all processors

  + No need for coherence

  -- Shared cache becomes the bandwidth bottleneck

  -- Very hard to design a scalable system with low-latency cache access this way

Maintaining Coherence

- Need to guarantee that all processors see a consistent value (i.e., consistent updates) for the same memory location

- Writes to location A by P0 should be seen by P1 (eventually), and all writes to A should appear in some order

- Coherence needs to provide:
  - **Write propagation**: guarantee that updates will propagate
  - **Write serialization**: provide a consistent order seen by all processors for the same memory location

- Need a global point of serialization for this store ordering

Hardware Cache Coherence

- Basic idea:
  - A processor/cache broadcasts its write/update to a memory location to all other processors
  - Another cache that has the location either updates or invalidates its local copy

- Two major approaches
  - Snoopy bus (all operations are broadcast on a shared bus)
  - Directory based (a mediator gives permission to each request)

- To learn more, take the Graduate Comp Arch class
  - https://safari.ethz.ch/architecture/fall2019/doku.php?id=schedule

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Cache Examples: For You to Study

Cache Terminology

- Capacity (C):
  - the number of data bytes a cache stores
- Block size (b):
  - bytes of data brought into cache at once
- Number of blocks ($B = C/b$):
  - number of blocks in cache: $B = C/b$
- Degree of associativity (N):
  - number of blocks in a set
- Number of sets ($S = B/N$):
  - each memory address maps to exactly one cache set

How is data found?

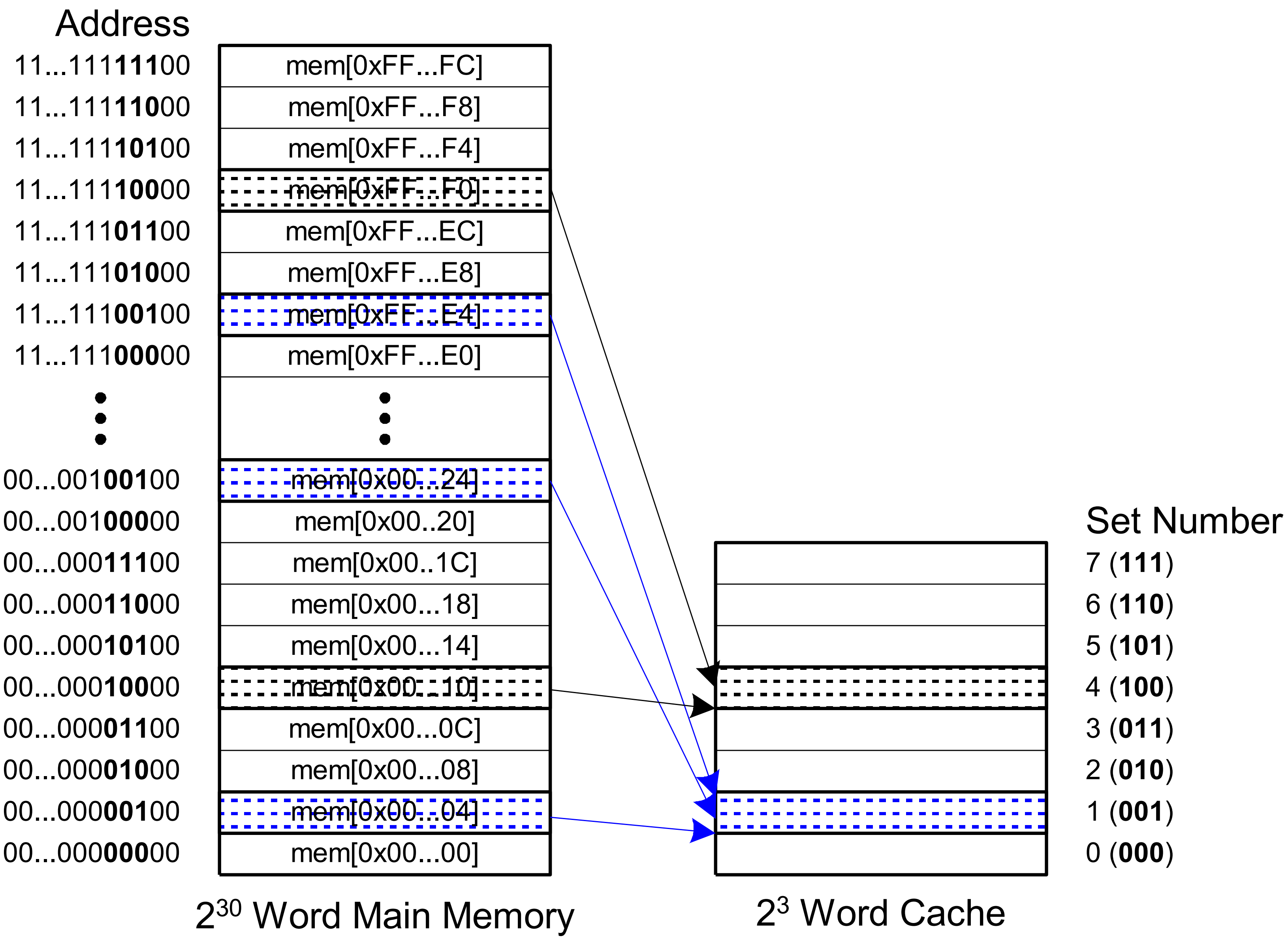
- Cache organized into S sets

- Each memory address maps to exactly one set

- Caches categorized by number of blocks in a set:
  - Direct mapped: 1 block per set
  - N-way set associative: N blocks per set
  - Fully associative: all cache blocks are in a single set

- Examine each organization for a cache with:
  - Capacity (C = 8 words)
  - Block size (b = 1 word)
  - So, number of blocks (B = 8)

Direct Mapped Cache



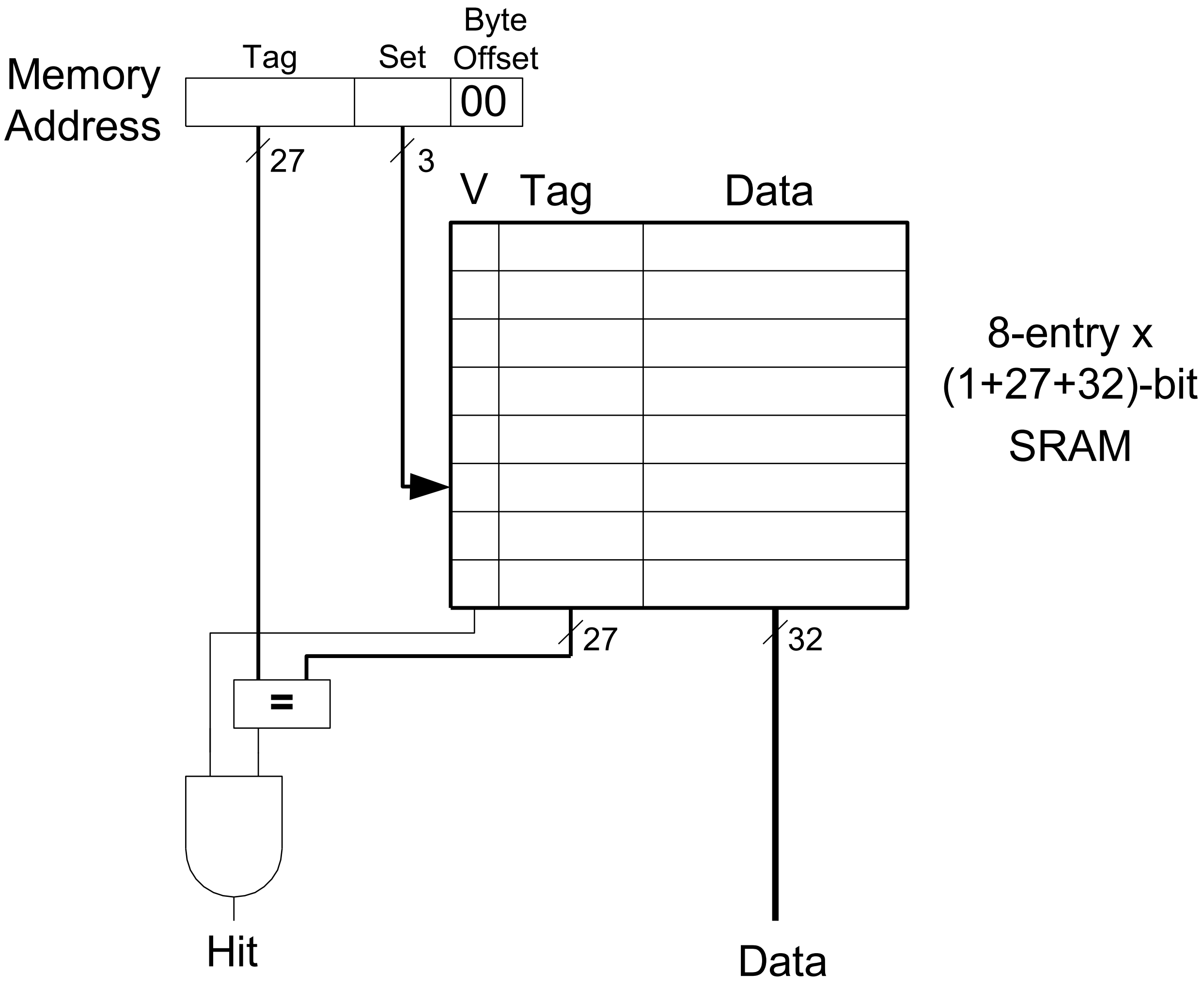
Address	
11...111**111**00	mem[0xFF...FC]
11...111**110**00	mem[0xFF...F8]
11...111**101**00	mem[0xFF...F4]
11...111**100**00	mem[0xFF...F0]
11...111**011**00	mem[0xFF...EC]
11...111**010**00	mem[0xFF...E8]
11...111**001**00	mem[0xFF...E4]
11...111**000**00	mem[0xFF...E0]
⋮	⋮
00...001**001**00	mem[0x00...24]
00...001**000**00	mem[0x00..20]
00...000**111**00	mem[0x00..1C]
00...000**110**00	mem[0x00...18]
00...000**101**00	mem[0x00...14]
00...000**100**00	mem[0x00...10]
00...000**011**00	mem[0x00...0C]
00...000**010**00	mem[0x00...08]
00...000**001**00	mem[0x00...04]
00...000**000**00	mem[0x00...00]

2^{30} Word Main Memory

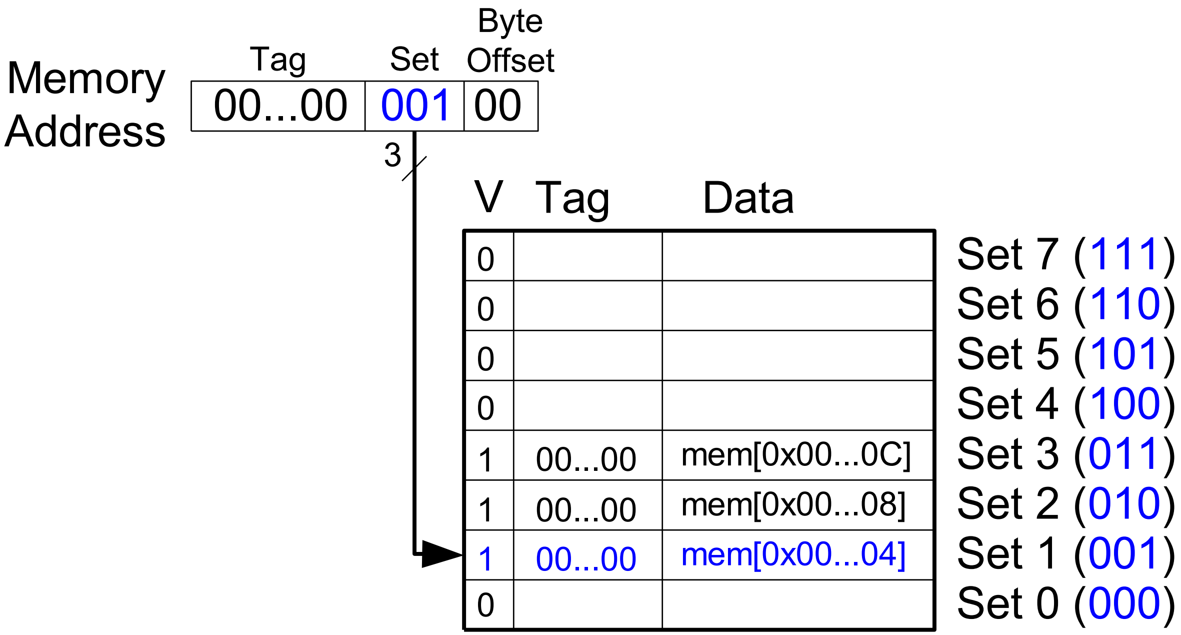
Set Number
7 (**111**)
6 (**110**)
5 (**101**)
4 (**100**)
3 (**011**)
2 (**010**)
1 (**001**)
0 (**000**)

2^3 Word Cache

Direct Mapped Cache Hardware



Direct Mapped Cache Performance

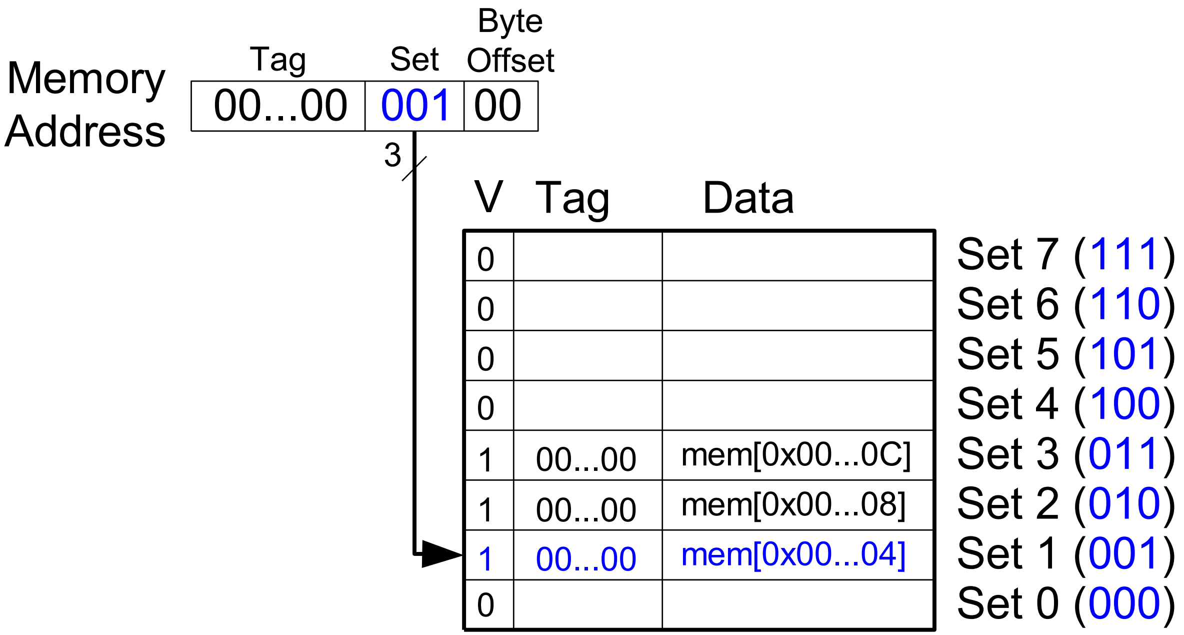


V	Tag	Data	
0			Set 7 (111)
0			Set 6 (110)
0			Set 5 (101)
0			Set 4 (100)
1	00...00	mem[0x00...0C]	Set 3 (011)
1	00...00	mem[0x00...08]	Set 2 (010)
1	00...00	mem[0x00...04]	Set 1 (001)
0			Set 0 (000)

```
# MIPS assembly code
        addi $t0, $0, 5
loop:   beq  $t0, $0, done
        lw   $t1, 0x4($0)
        lw   $t2, 0xC($0)
        lw   $t3, 0x8($0)
        addi $t0, $t0, -1
        j    loop
done:
```

Miss Rate =

Direct Mapped Cache Performance



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1	00...00	mem[0x00...0C]	Set 3 (011)
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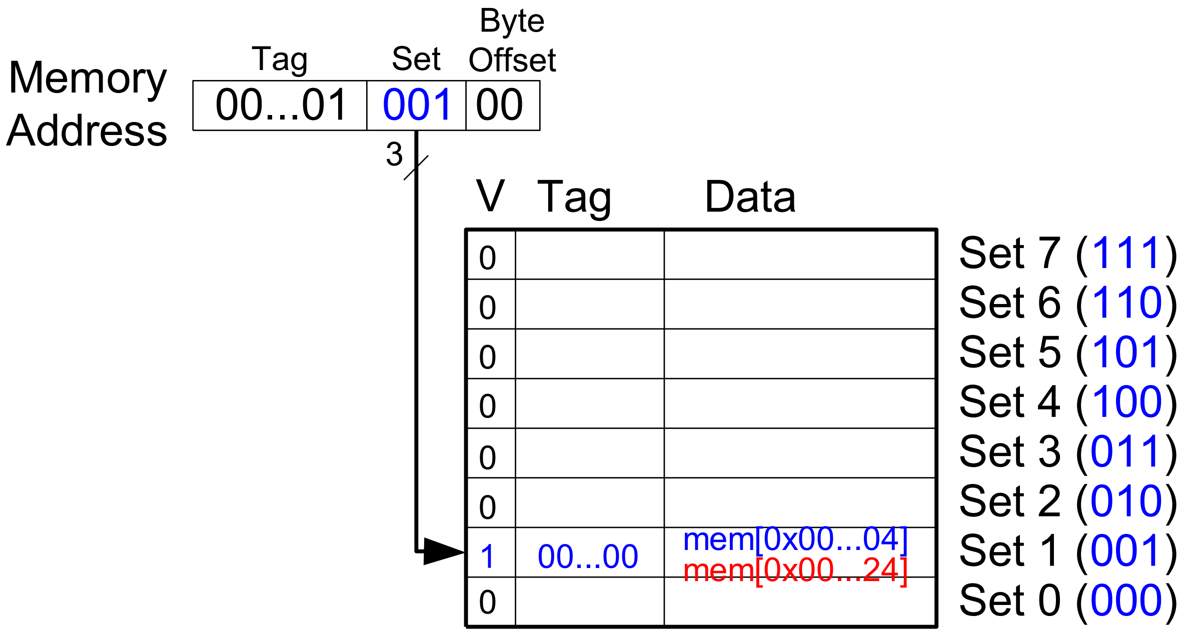
        lw   $t3, 0x8($0)
        addi $t0, $t0, -1
        j    loop
done:
```

Miss Rate = 3/15

= 20%

Temporal Locality
Compulsory Misses

Direct Mapped Cache: Conflict



V	Tag	Data	
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1	00...00	mem[0x00...04] mem[0x00...24]	Set 1 (001)
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        lw   $t2, 0x24($0)
        addi $t0, $t0, -1
        j    loop
done:
```
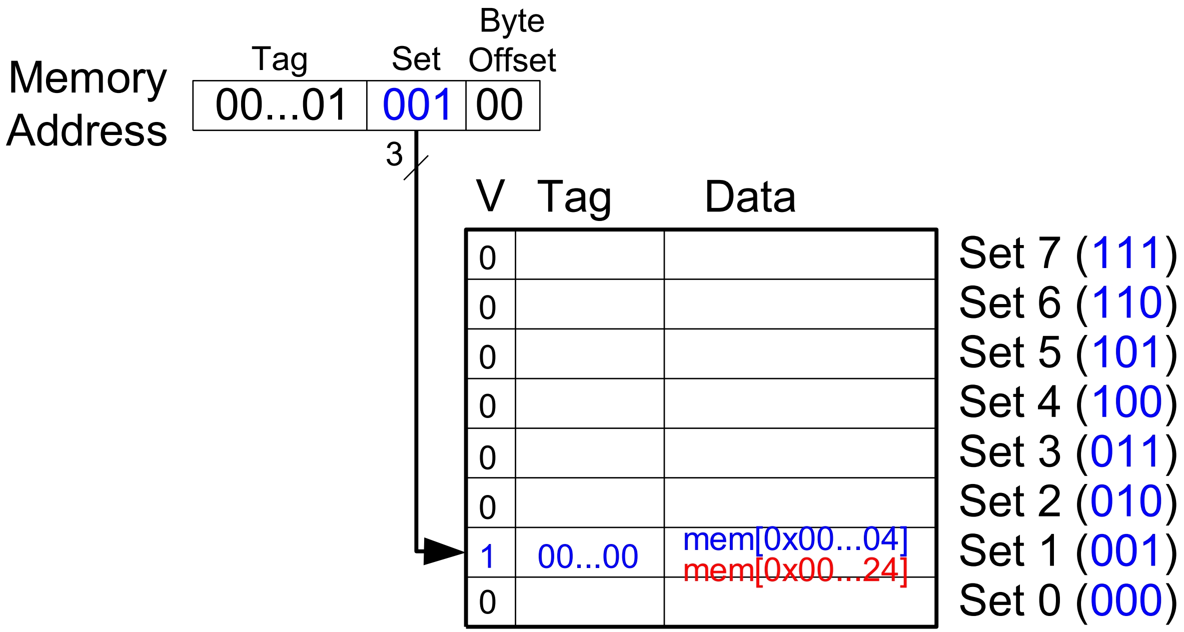

Miss Rate =

Direct Mapped Cache: Conflict



V	Tag	Data	
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0			Set 4 (100)
0			Set 3 (011)
0			Set 2 (010)
1	00...00	mem[0x00...04] mem[0x00...24]	Set 1 (001)
0			Set 0 (000)

```
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        addi $t0, $0, 5
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        lw   $t2, 0x24($0)
        addi $t0, $t0, -1
        j    loop
done:
```
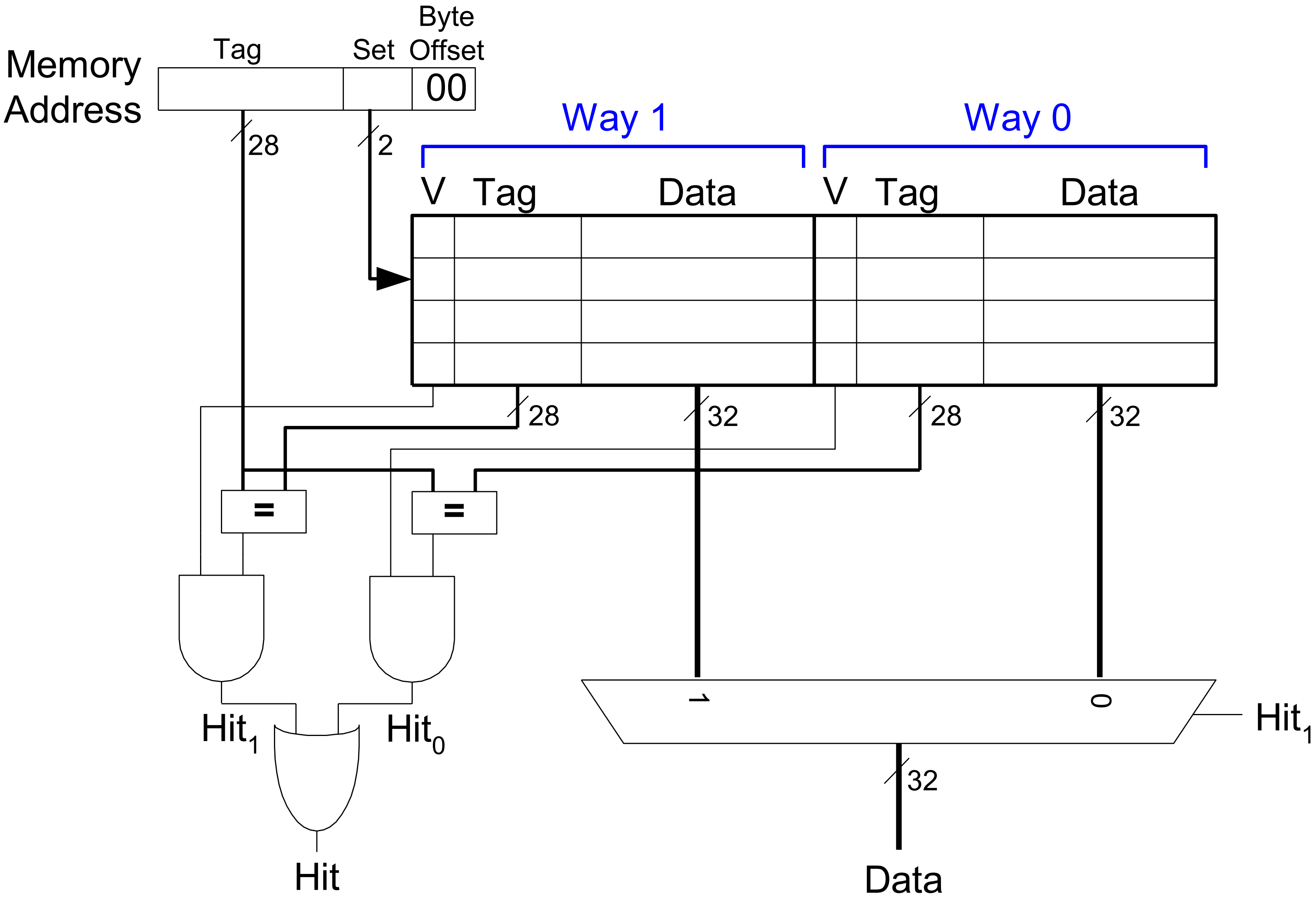

Miss Rate = 10/10

= 100%

Conflict Misses

N-Way Set Associative Cache



N-way Set Associative Performance

```
# MIPS assembly code

        addi $t0, $0, 5
loop:   beq  $t0, $0, done
        lw   $t1, 0x4($0)
        lw   $t2, 0x24($0)
        addi $t0, $t0, -1
        j    loop
done:
```

Miss Rate =

Way 1			Way 0			
V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	
0			0			Set 3
0			0			Set 2
1	00...10	mem[0x00...24]	1	00...00	mem[0x00...04]	Set 1
0			0			Set 0

N-way Set Associative Performance

```
# MIPS assembly code

        addi $t0, $0, 5
loop:   beq  $t0, $0, done
        lw   $t1, 0x4($0)
        lw   $t2, 0x24($0)
        addi $t0, $t0, -1
        j    loop
done:
```

Miss Rate = 2/10

= 20%

Associativity reduces conflict misses

Way 1			Way 0			
V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	
0			0			Set 3
0			0			Set 2
1	00...10	mem[0x00...24]	1	00...00	mem[0x00...04]	Set 1
0			0			Set 0

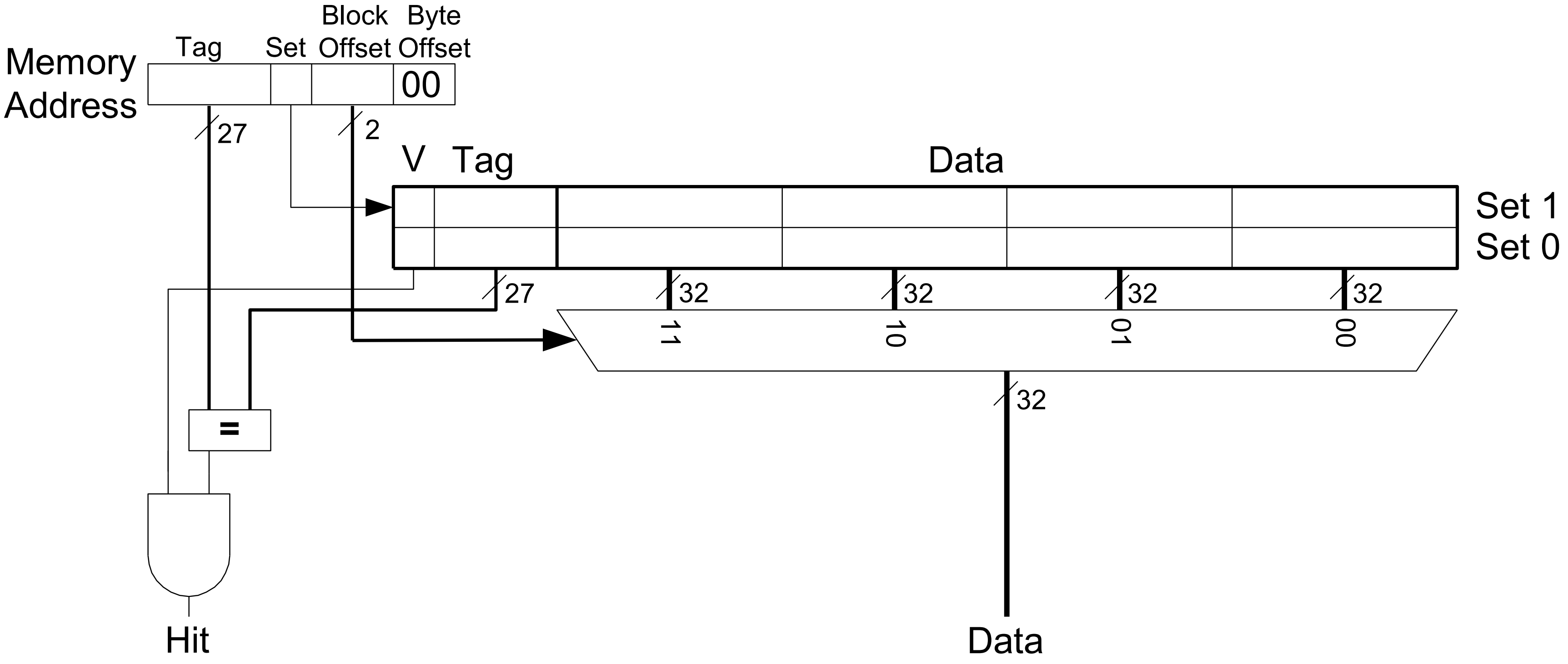
Fully Associative Cache

- No conflict misses
- Expensive to build

V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data

Spatial Locality?

- Increase block size:
  - Block size, ***b* = 4** words
  - C = 8 words
  - Direct mapped (1 block per set)
  - Number of blocks, $B = C/b = 8/4 = 2$



Direct Mapped Cache Performance

```
        addi $t0, $0, 5
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        lw   $t2, 0xC($0)
        lw   $t3, 0x8($0)
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done:
```
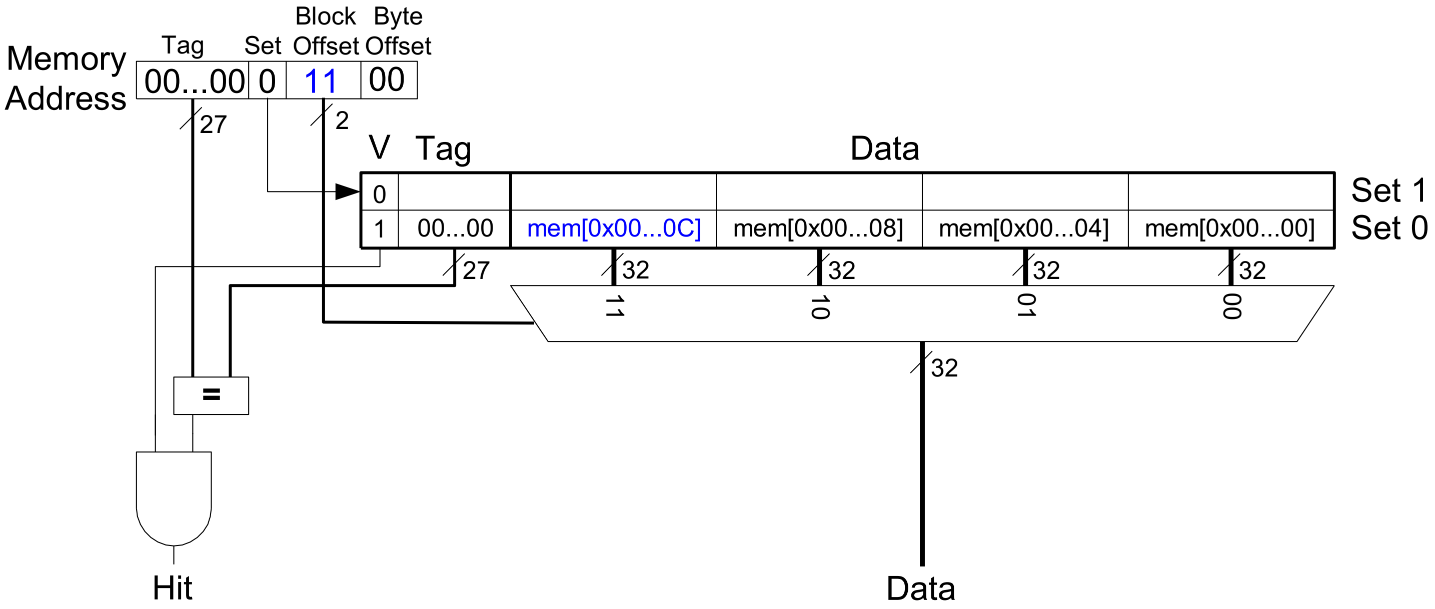

Miss Rate =



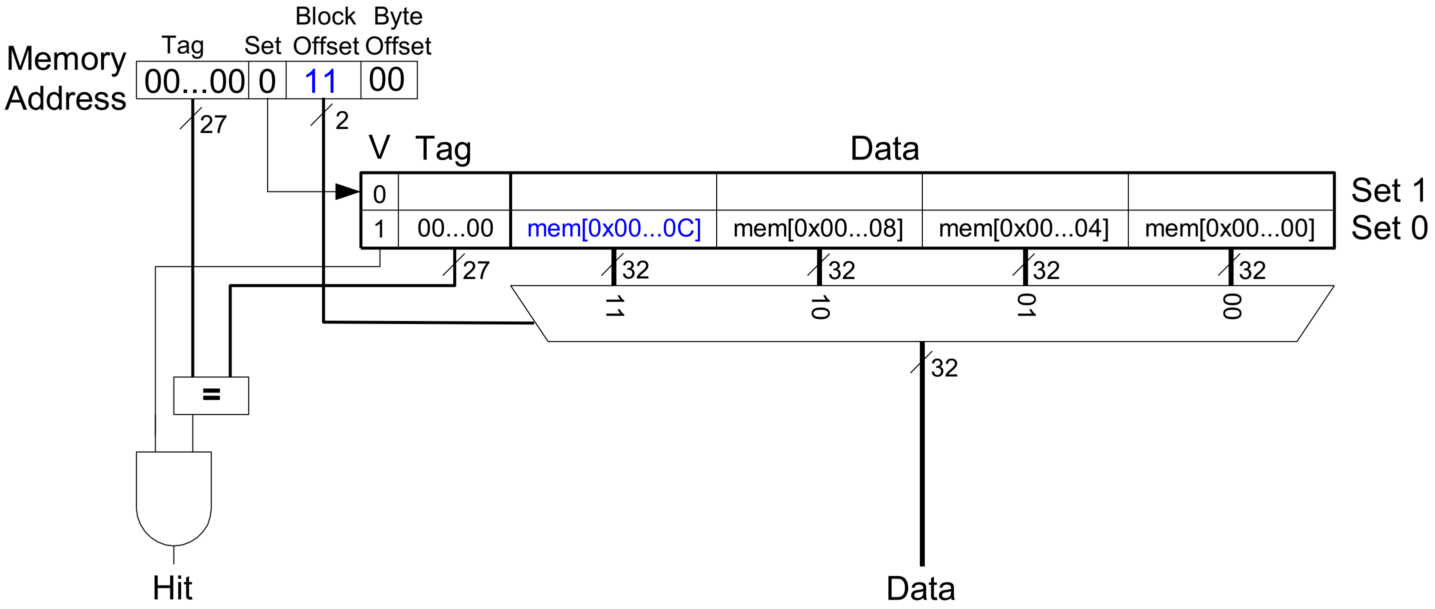
Direct Mapped Cache Performance

```
        addi $t0, $0, 5
loop:   beq  $t0, $0, done
        lw   $t1, 0x4($0)
        lw   $t2, 0xC($0)
        lw   $t3, 0x8($0)
        addi $t0, $t0, -1
        j    loop
done:
```

Miss Rate = 1/15

= 6.67%

Larger blocks reduce compulsory misses through spatial locality



Cache Organization Recap

- Main Parameters
  - Capacity: ***C***
  - Block size: ***b***
  - Number of blocks in cache: ***B*** = *C/b*
  - Number of blocks in a set: ***N***
  - Number of Sets: ***S*** = *B/N*

Organization	**Number of Ways (N)**	**Number of Sets (S = B/N)**
Direct Mapped	1	B
N-Way Set Associative	1 < N < B	B / N
Fully Associative	B	1

Capacity Misses

- Cache is too small to hold all data of interest at one time
  - If the cache is full and program tries to access data X that is not in cache, cache must evict data Y to make room for X
  - **Capacity miss** occurs if program then tries to access Y again
  - X will be placed in a particular set based on its address

- In a direct mapped cache, there is only one place to put X

- In an associative cache, there are multiple ways where X could go in the set.

- How to choose Y to minimize chance of needing it again?
  - Least recently used (LRU) replacement: the least recently used block in a set is evicted when the cache is full.

Types of Misses

- Compulsory: first time data is accessed
- Capacity: cache too small to hold all data of interest
- Conflict: data of interest maps to same location in cache
- Miss penalty: time it takes to retrieve a block from lower level of hierarchy

LRU Replacement

```
# MIPS assembly

lw $t0, 0x04($0)
lw $t1, 0x24($0)
lw $t2, 0x54($0)
```

(a)

V	U	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	Set Number
							3 (**11**)
							2 (**10**)
							1 (**01**)
							0 (**00**)

(b)

V	U	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	Set Number
							3 (**11**)
							2 (**10**)
							1 (**01**)
							0 (**00**)

LRU Replacement

```
# MIPS assembly

lw $t0, 0x04($0)
lw $t1, 0x24($0)
lw $t2, 0x54($0)
```

Way 1				Way 0			
V	U	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	
0	0			0			Set 3 (11)
0	0			0			Set 2 (10)
1	0	00...010	mem[0x00...24]	1	00...000	mem[0x00...04]	Set 1 (01)
0	0			0			Set 0 (00)

(a)

Way 1				Way 0			
V	U	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	
0	0			0			Set 3 (11)
0	0			0			Set 2 (10)
1	1	00...010	mem[0x00...24]	1	00...101	mem[0x00...54]	Set 1 (01)
0	0			0			Set 0 (00)

(b)