P&S Heterogeneous Systems

SIMD Processing and GPUs

Dr. Juan Gómez Luna
Prof. Onur Mutlu
ETH Zürich

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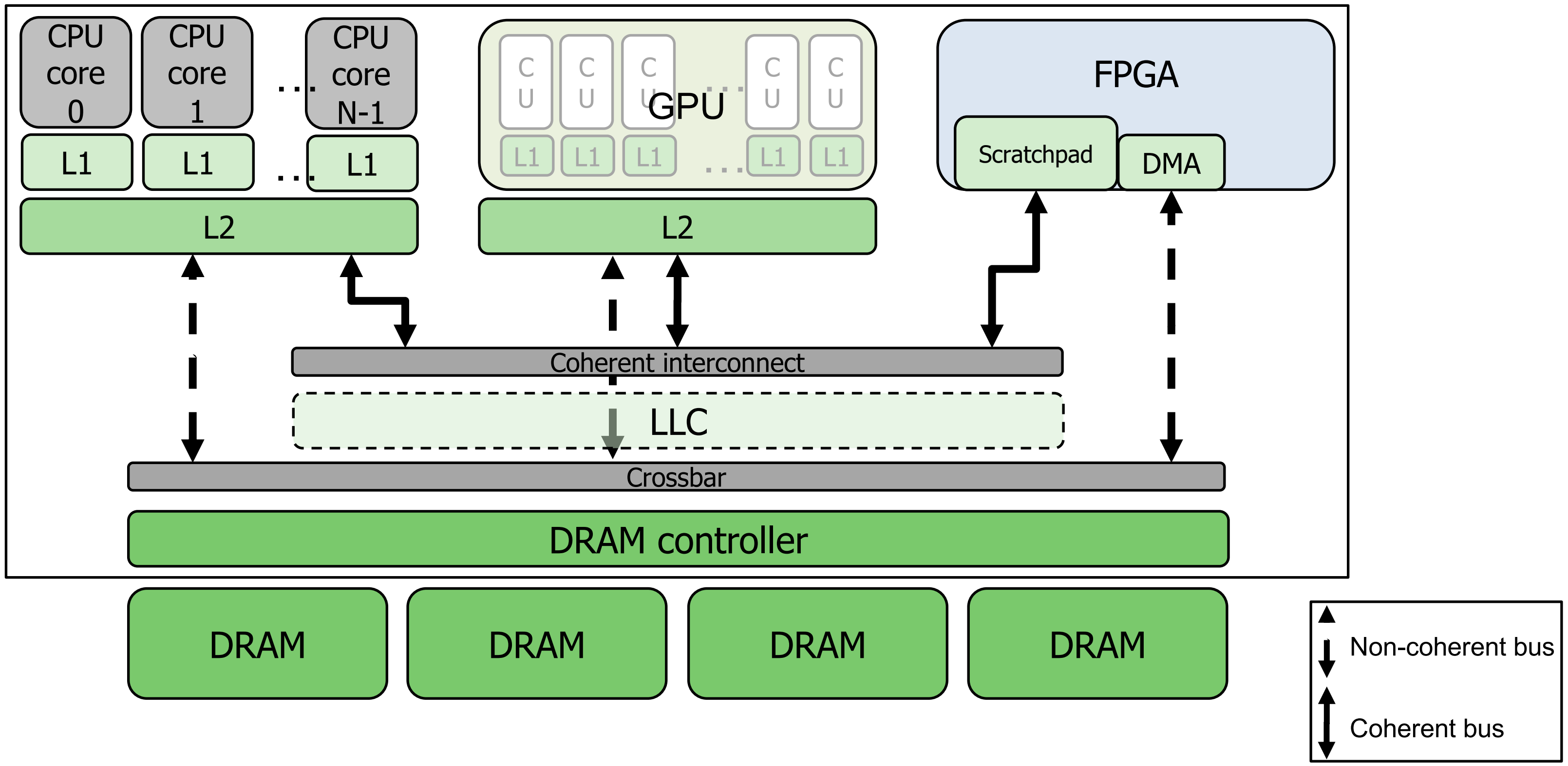
Heterogeneous Computing Systems

- The end of Moore's law created the need for heterogeneous systems
  - More suitable devices for each type of workload
  - Increased performance and energy efficiency



Recall: Flynn's Taxonomy of Computers

- Mike Flynn, "Very High-Speed Computing Systems," Proc. of IEEE, 1966

- SISD: Single instruction operates on single data element
- SIMD: Single instruction operates on multiple data elements
  - Array processor
  - Vector processor
- MISD: Multiple instructions operate on single data element
  - Closest form: systolic array processor, streaming processor
- MIMD: Multiple instructions operate on multiple data elements (multiple instruction streams)
  - Multiprocessor
  - Multithreaded processor

Data Parallelism

- Concurrency arises from performing the same operation on different pieces of data
  - Single instruction multiple data (SIMD)
  - E.g., dot product of two vectors
- Contrast with data flow
  - Concurrency arises from executing different operations in parallel (in a data driven manner)
- Contrast with thread (“control”) parallelism
  - Concurrency arises from executing different threads of control in parallel
- SIMD exploits operation-level parallelism on different data
  - Same operation concurrently applied to different pieces of data
  - A form of ILP where instruction happens to be the same across data

SIMD Processing

- Single instruction operates on multiple data elements
  - In time or in space
- Multiple processing elements (PEs), i.e., execution units

- Time-space duality

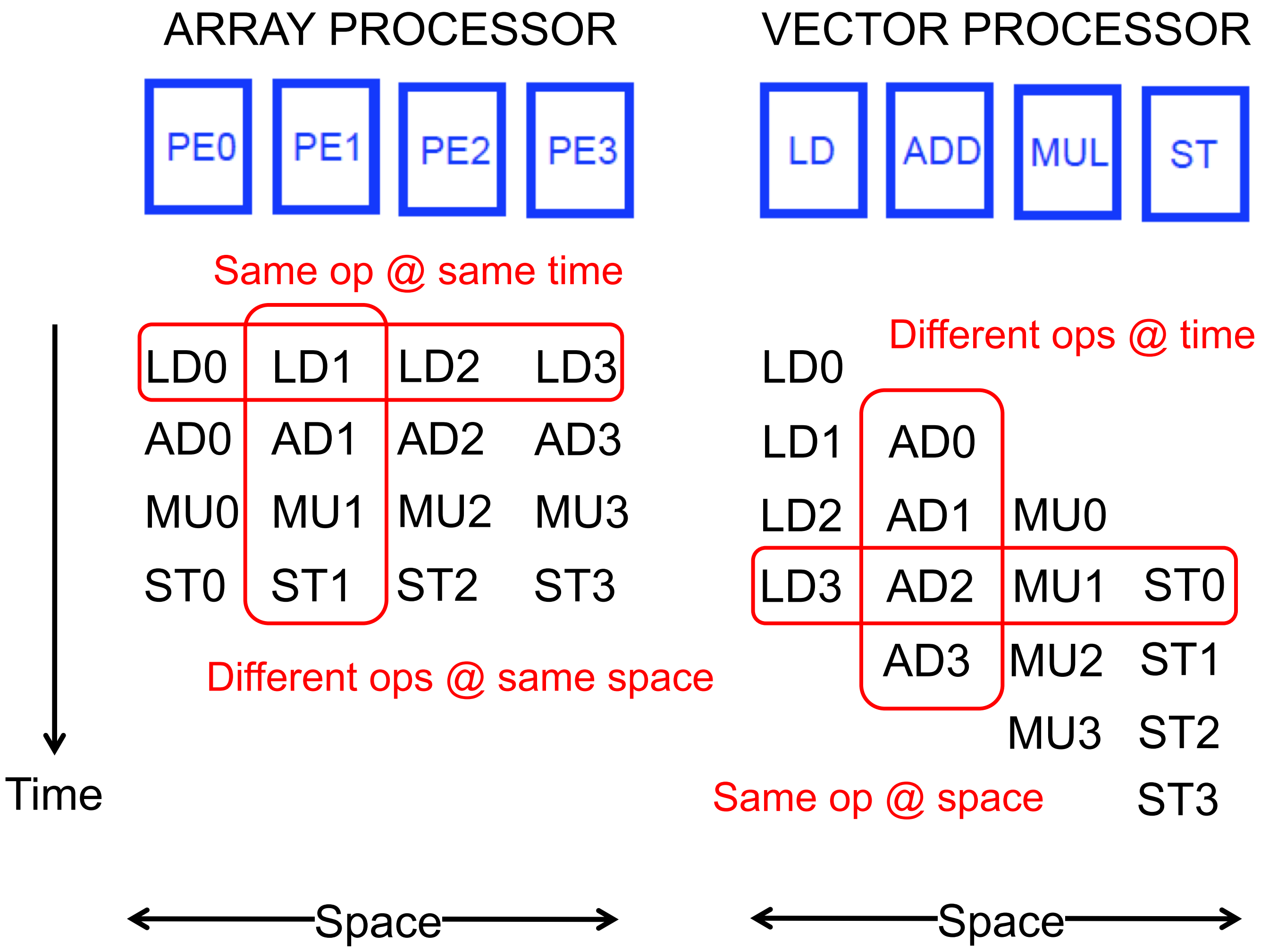
  - Array processor: Instruction operates on multiple data elements at the same time using different spaces (PEs)

  - Vector processor: Instruction operates on multiple data elements in consecutive time steps using the same space (PE)

Array vs. Vector Processors

Instruction Stream

LD	VR ← A[3:0]
ADD	VR ← VR, 1
MUL	VR ← VR, 2
ST	A[3:0] ← VR



Vector Processors (I)

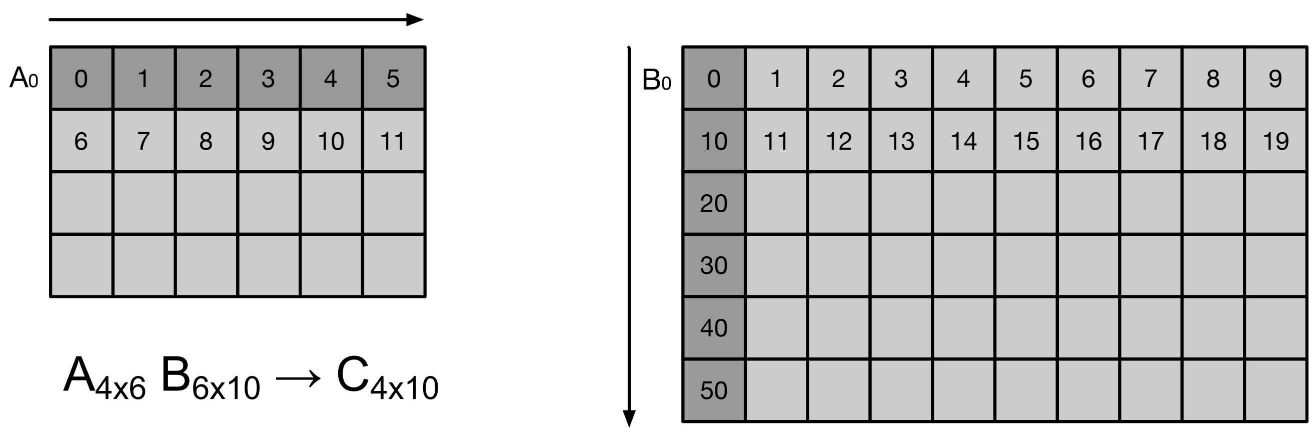
- A vector is a one-dimensional array of numbers
- Many scientific/commercial programs use vectors

```
for (i = 0; i<=49; i++)
    C[i] = (A[i] + B[i]) / 2
```

- A vector processor is one whose instructions operate on vectors rather than scalar (single data) values
- Basic requirements
  - Need to load/store vectors → vector registers (contain vectors)
  - Need to operate on vectors of different lengths → vector length register (VLEN)
  - Elements of a vector might be stored apart from each other in memory → vector stride register (VSTR)
    - Stride: distance in memory between two elements of a vector

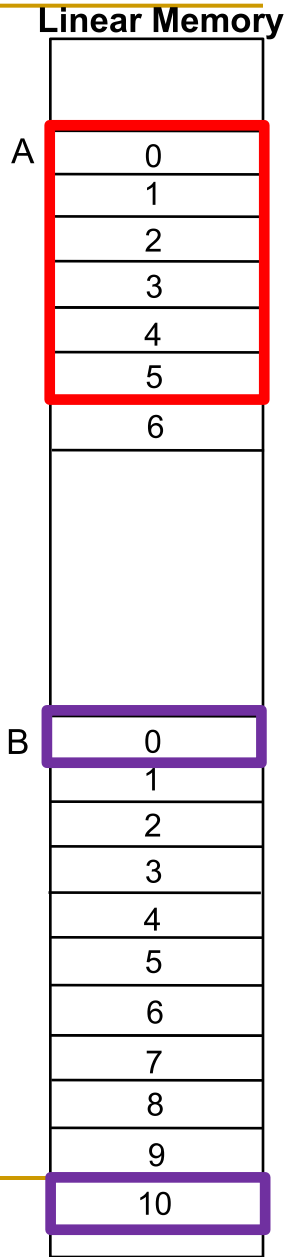
Vector Stride Example: Matrix Multiply

- A and B matrices, both stored in memory in row-major order



$A_{4x6}\ B_{6x10} \rightarrow C_{4x10}$

Dot product of each row vector of A with each column vector of B



- Load A's row 0 (A_{00} through A_{05}) into vector register V_1
  - Each time, increment address by 1 to access the next column
  - Accesses have a stride of 1
- Load B's column 0 (B_{00} through B_{50}) into vector register V_2
  - Each time, increment address by 10 to access the next row
  - Accesses have a stride of 10

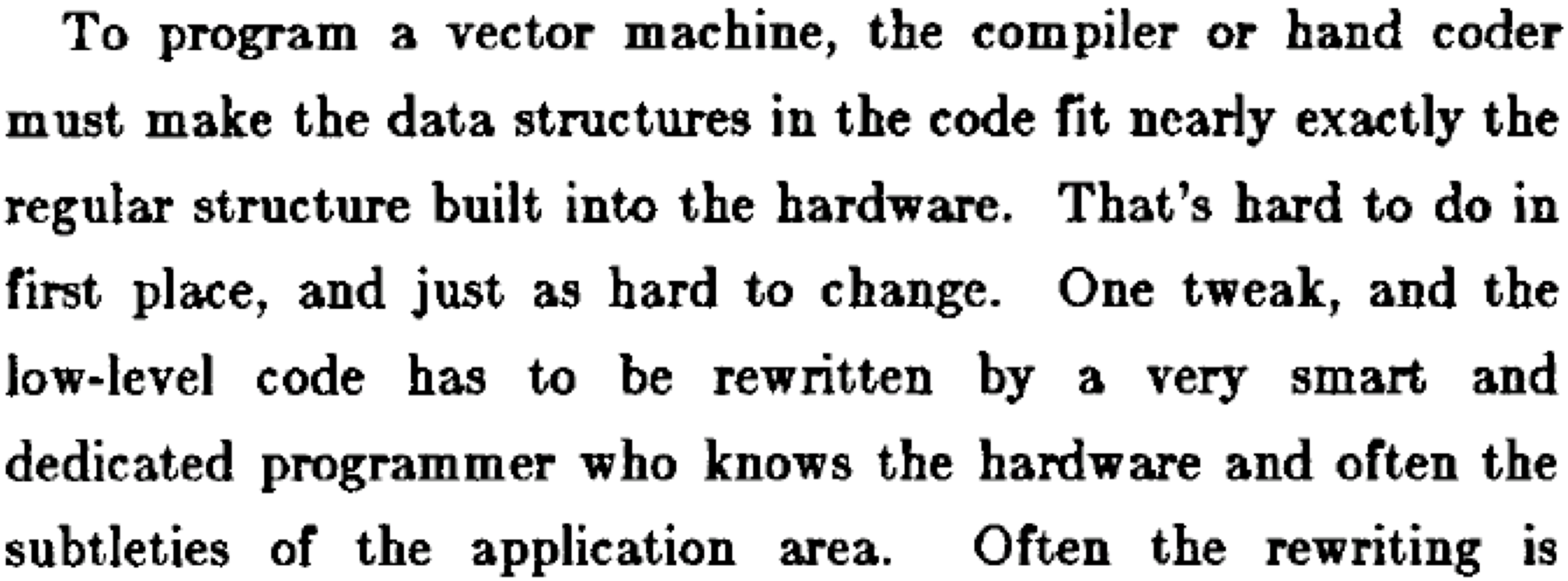
Vector Processors (II)

- A vector instruction performs an operation on each element in consecutive cycles
  - Vector functional units are pipelined
  - Each pipeline stage operates on a different data element

- Vector instructions allow deeper pipelines
  - No intra-vector dependencies → no hardware interlocking needed within a vector
  - No control flow within a vector
  - Known stride allows easy address calculation for all vector elements
    - Enables easy loading (or even early loading, i.e., prefetching) of vectors into registers/cache/memory

Recall: Vector Processor Disadvantages

-- Works (only) if parallelism is regular (data/SIMD parallelism)
- ++ Vector operations
- -- Very inefficient if parallelism is irregular
  - -- How about searching for a key in a linked list?

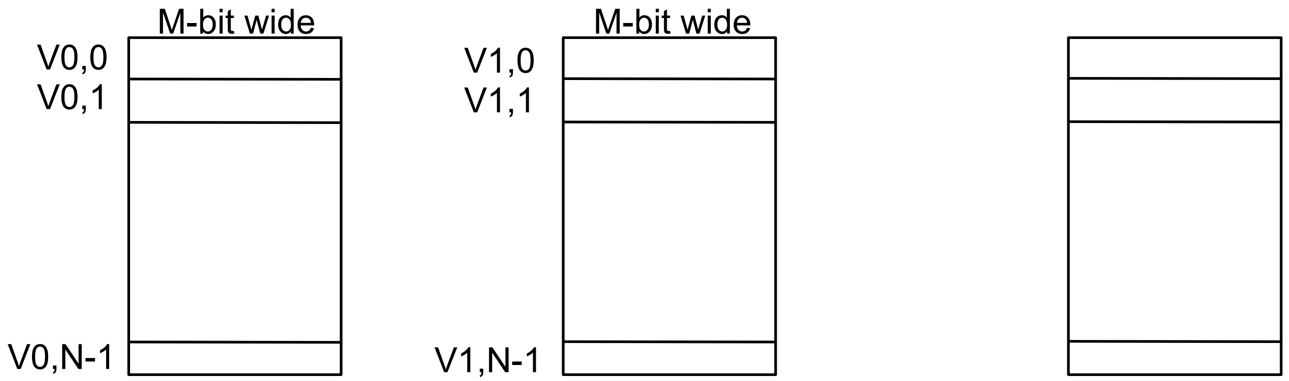


To program a vector machine, the compiler or hand coder must make the data structures in the code fit nearly exactly the regular structure built into the hardware. That's hard to do in first place, and just as hard to change. One tweak, and the low-level code has to be rewritten by a very smart and dedicated programmer who knows the hardware and often the subtleties of the application area. Often the rewriting is

Fisher, "Very Long Instruction Word architectures and the ELI-512," ISCA 1983.

Vector Registers

- Each vector data register holds N M-bit values
- Vector control registers: VLEN, VSTR, VMASK
- Maximum VLEN can be N
  - Maximum number of elements stored in a vector register
- Vector Mask Register (VMASK)
  - Indicates which elements of vector to operate on
  - Set by vector test instructions
    - e.g., VMASK[i] = (V_k[i] == 0)

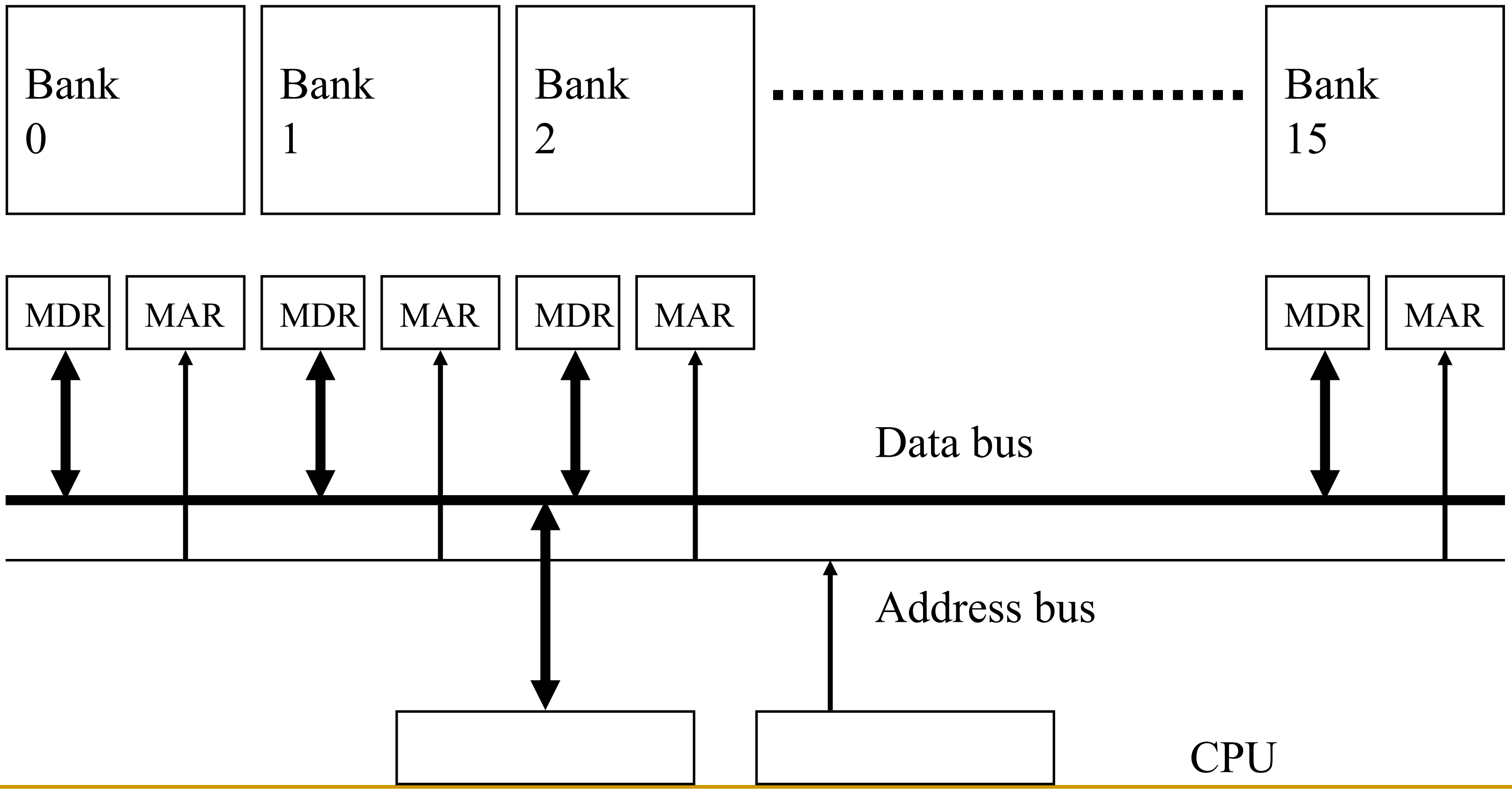


Loading/Storing Vectors from/to Memory

- Requires loading/storing multiple elements
- Elements separated from each other by a constant distance (stride)
  - Assume stride = 1 for now
- Elements can be loaded in consecutive cycles if we can start the load of one element per cycle
  - Can sustain a throughput of one element per cycle
- Question: How do we achieve this with a memory that takes **more than 1 cycle to access**?
- Answer: Bank the memory; interleave the elements across banks

Memory Banking

- Memory is divided into banks that can be accessed independently; banks share address and data buses (to minimize pin cost)
- Can start and complete one bank access per cycle
- Can sustain N concurrent accesses if all N go to different banks



Picture credit: Derek Chiou

Vectorizable Loops

- A loop is vectorizable if each iteration is independent of any other

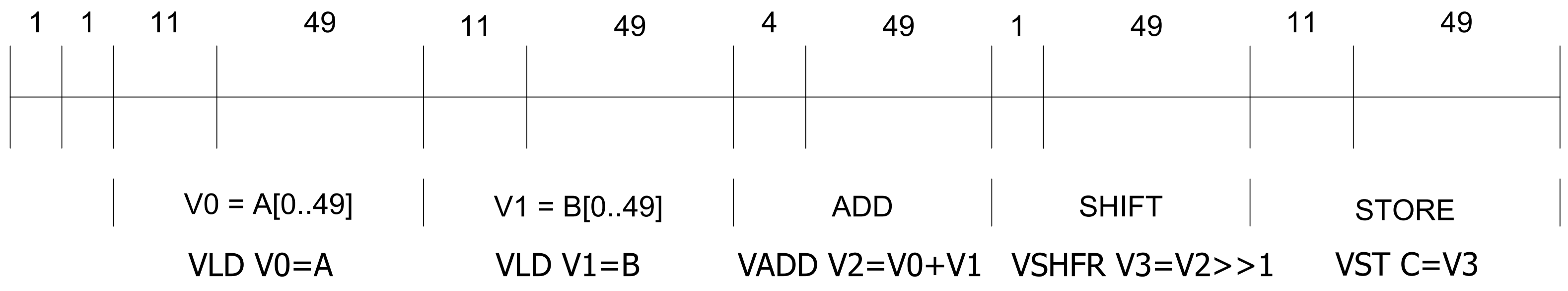
- For I = 0 to 49
    - C[i] = (A[i] + B[i]) / 2
- Vectorized loop (each instruction and its latency):

MOVI VLEN = 50	1
MOVI VSTR = 1	1
VLD V0 = A	11 + VLEN – 1
VLD V1 = B	11 + VLEN – 1
VADD V2 = V0 + V1	4 + VLEN – 1
VSHFR V3 = V2 >> 1	1 + VLEN – 1
VST C = V3	11 + VLEN – 1

7 dynamic instructions

Basic Vector Code Performance

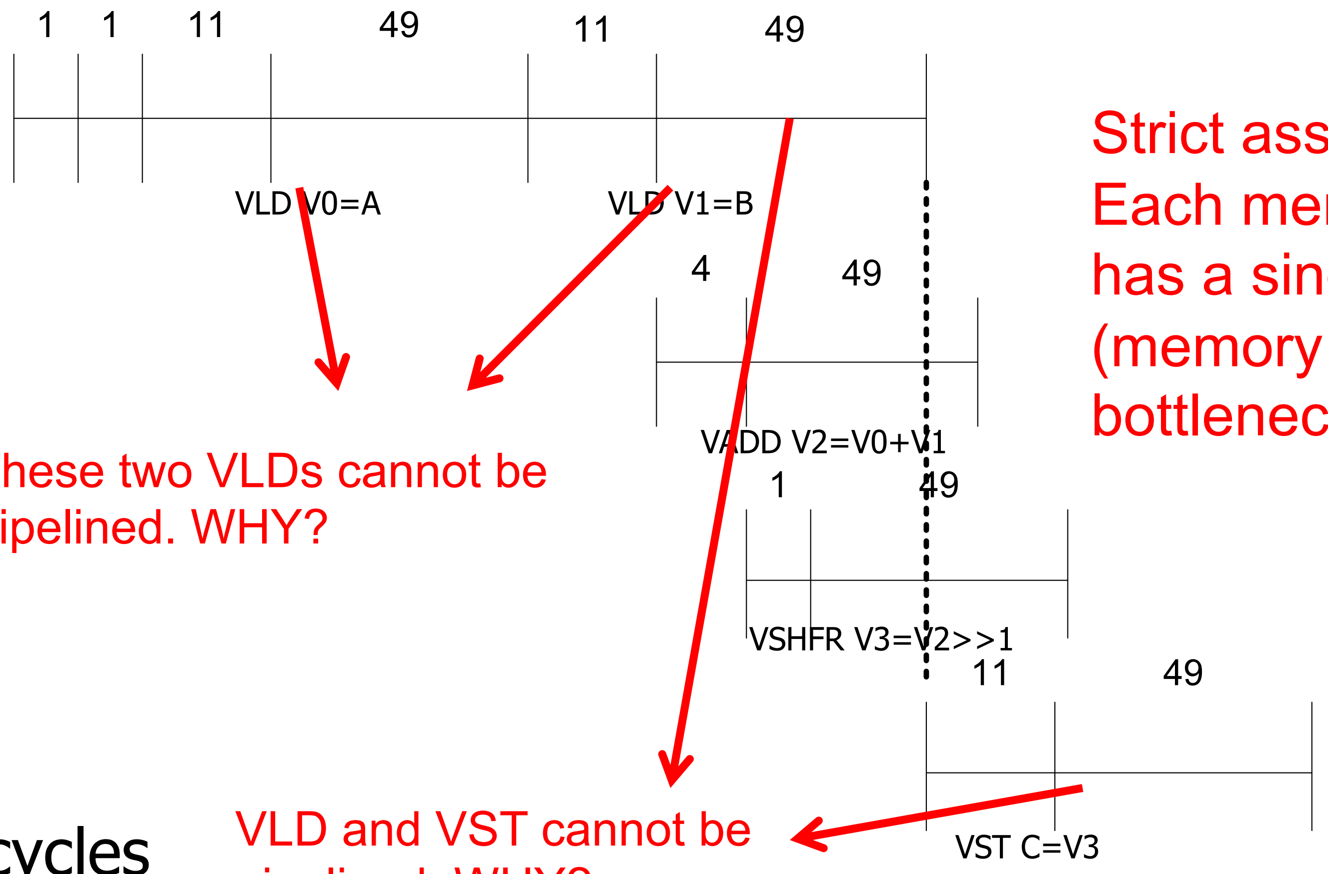
- Assume no chaining (no vector data forwarding)
  - i.e., output of a vector functional unit cannot be used as the direct input of another
  - The entire vector register needs to be ready before any element of it can be used as part of another operation
- One memory port (one address generator)
- 16 memory banks (word-interleaved)



- 285 cycles

Vector Code Performance - Chaining

- Vector chaining: Data forwarding from one vector functional unit to another



Strict assumption: Each memory bank has a single port (memory bandwidth bottleneck)

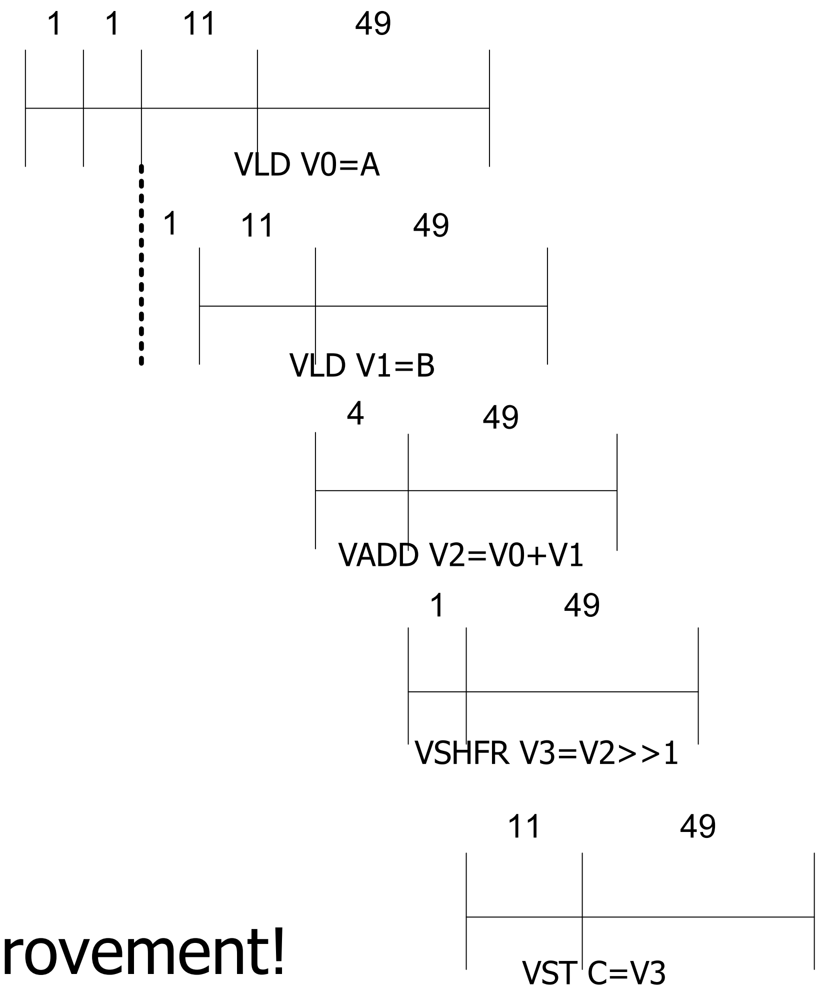
These two VLDs cannot be pipelined. WHY?

VLD and VST cannot be pipelined. WHY?

- 182 cycles

Vector Code Performance – Multiple Memory Ports

- Chaining and 2 load ports, 1 store port in each bank



- 79 cycles
- 19X perf. improvement!

Conditional Operations in a Loop

- What if some operations should not be executed on a vector (based on a dynamically-determined condition)?

```
loop:      for (i=0; i<N; i++)
               if (a[i] != 0) then b[i]=a[i]*b[i]
```

- Idea: Masked operations
  - VMASK register is a bit mask determining which data element should not be acted upon

```
VLD V0 = A
VLD V1 = B
VMASK = (V0 != 0)
VMUL V1 = V0 * V1
VST B = V1
```

  - This is predicated execution. Execution is *predicated* on mask bit.

Another Example with Masking

```
for (i = 0; i < 64; ++i)
    if (a[i] >= b[i])
        c[i] = a[i]
    else
        c[i] = b[i]
```

A	B	VMASK
1	2	0
2	2	1
3	2	1
4	10	0
-5	-4	0
0	-3	1
6	5	1
-7	-8	1

Steps to execute the loop in SIMD code

1. Compare A, B to get VMASK

2. Masked store of A into C

3. Complement VMASK

4. Masked store of B into C

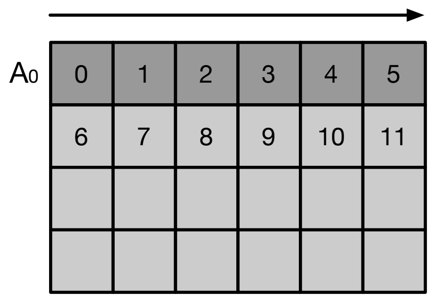
Some Issues

- Stride and banking
  - As long as they are *relatively prime* to each other and there are enough banks to cover bank access latency, we can sustain 1 element/cycle throughput

- Storage format of a matrix
  - Row major: Consecutive elements in a row are laid out consecutively in memory
  - Column major: Consecutive elements in a column are laid out consecutively in memory
  - You need to change the stride when accessing a row versus column

Vector Stride Example: Matrix Multiply

- A and B matrices, both stored in memory in row-major order



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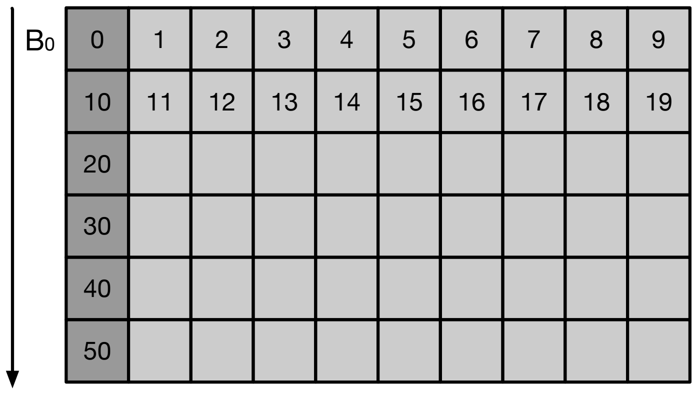
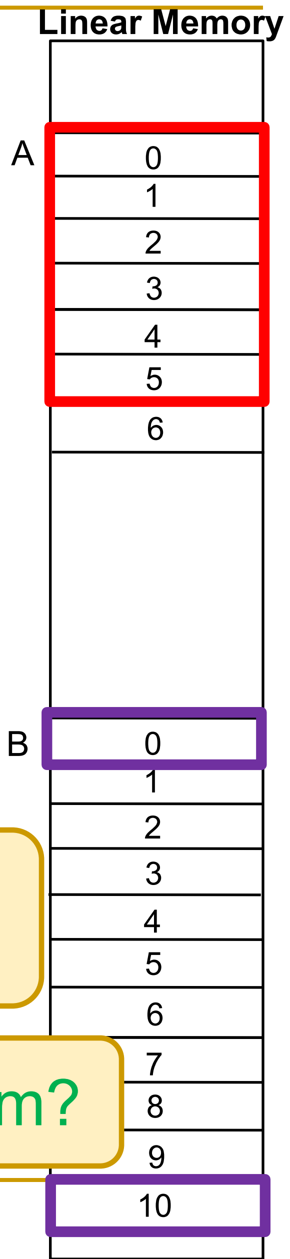
Dot product of each row vector of A with each column vector of B





- Load A's row 0 (A_{00} through A_{05}) into vector register V_1
  - Each time, increment address by 1 to access the next column
  - Accesses have a stride of 1

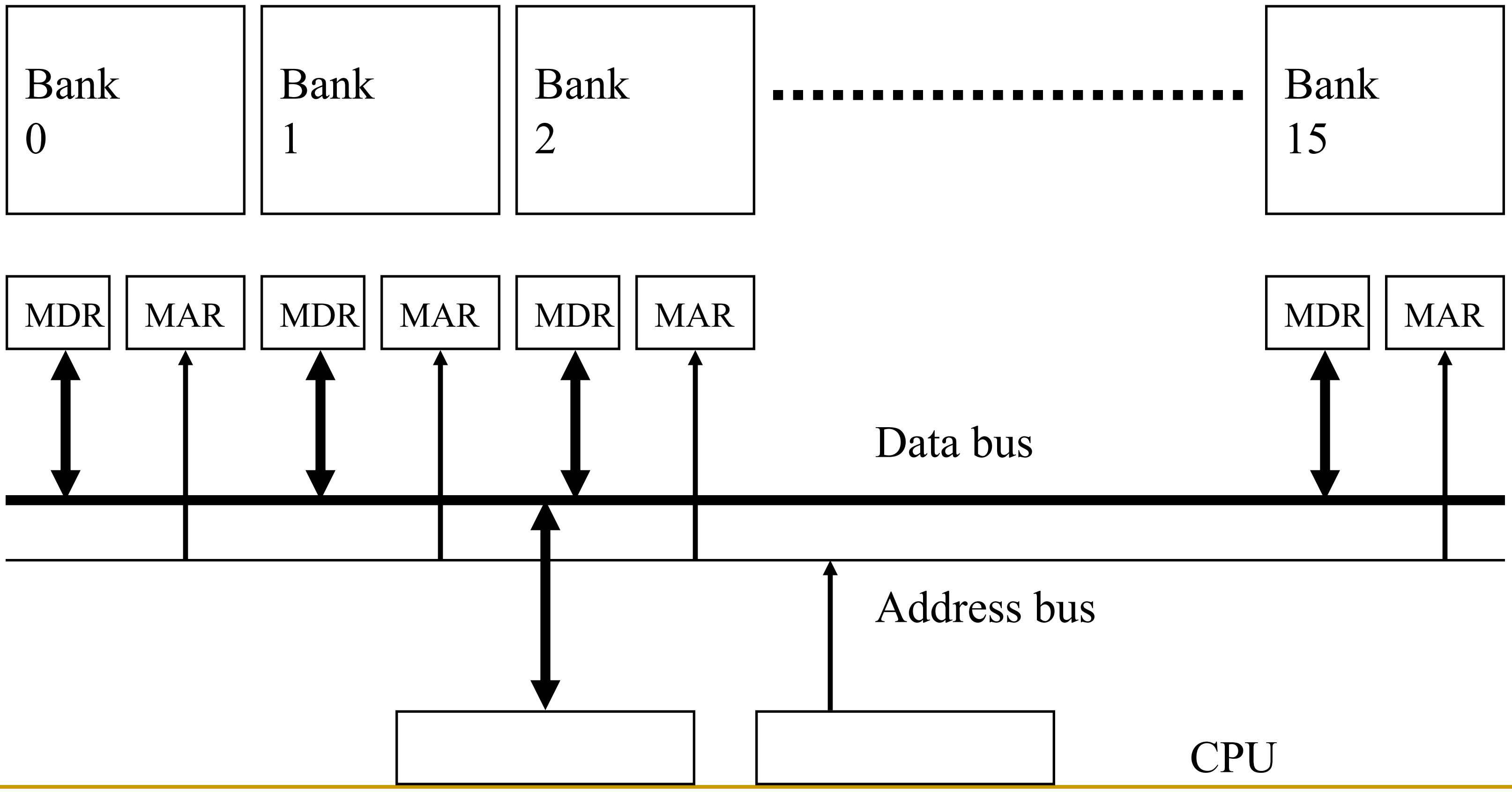
Different strides can lead to bank conflicts

- Load B's column 0 (B_{00} through B_{50}) into vector register V_2
  - Each time, increment address
  - Accesses have a stride of 10

How do we minimize them?

Recall: Memory Banking

- Memory is divided into banks that can be accessed independently; banks share address and data buses (to minimize pin cost)
- Can start and complete one bank access per cycle
- Can sustain N concurrent accesses if all N go to different banks

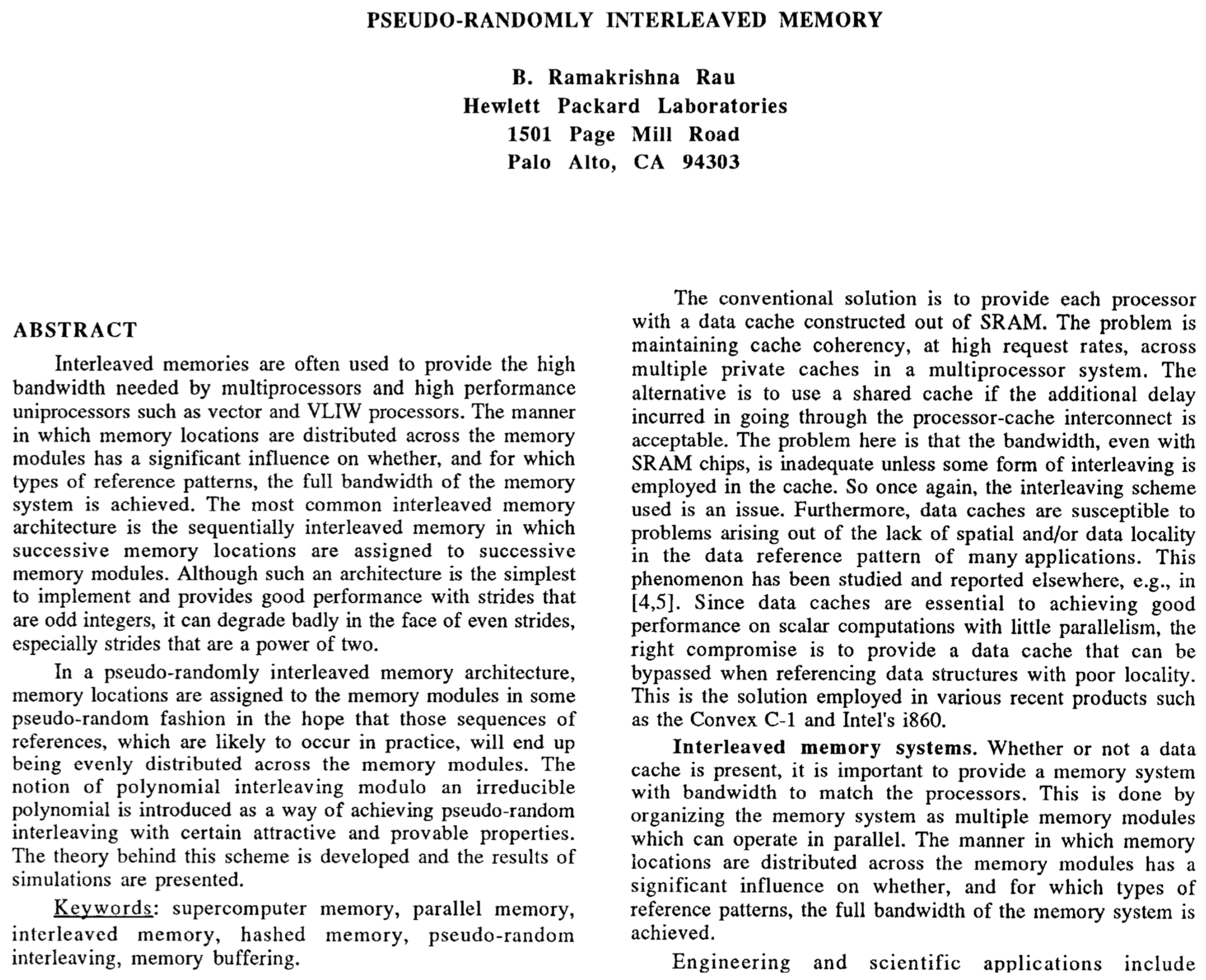


Picture credit: Derek Chiou

Minimizing Bank Conflicts

- More banks
- More ports in each bank
- Better data layout to match the access pattern
  - Is this always possible?
- Better mapping of address to bank
  - E.g., randomized mapping
  - Rau, "Pseudo-randomly interleaved memory," ISCA 1991.

Minimizing Bank Conflicts: Recommended Reading



PSEUDO-RANDOMLY INTERLEAVED MEMORY

B. Ramakrishna Rau
Hewlett Packard Laboratories
1501 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303

ABSTRACT

Interleaved memories are often used to provide the high bandwidth needed by multiprocessors and high performance uniprocessors such as vector and VLIW processors. The manner in which memory locations are distributed across the memory modules has a significant influence on whether, and for which types of reference patterns, the full bandwidth of the memory system is achieved. The most common interleaved memory architecture is the sequentially interleaved memory in which successive memory locations are assigned to successive memory modules. Although such an architecture is the simplest to implement and provides good performance with strides that are odd integers, it can degrade badly in the face of even strides, especially strides that are a power of two.

In a pseudo-randomly interleaved memory architecture, memory locations are assigned to the memory modules in some pseudo-random fashion in the hope that those sequences of references, which are likely to occur in practice, will end up being evenly distributed across the memory modules. The notion of polynomial interleaving modulo an irreducible polynomial is introduced as a way of achieving pseudo-random interleaving with certain attractive and provable properties. The theory behind this scheme is developed and the results of simulations are presented.

Keywords: supercomputer memory, parallel memory, interleaved memory, hashed memory, pseudo-random interleaving, memory buffering.

The conventional solution is to provide each processor with a data cache constructed out of SRAM. The problem is maintaining cache coherency, at high request rates, across multiple private caches in a multiprocessor system. The alternative is to use a shared cache if the additional delay incurred in going through the processor-cache interconnect is acceptable. The problem here is that the bandwidth, even with SRAM chips, is inadequate unless some form of interleaving is employed in the cache. So once again, the interleaving scheme used is an issue. Furthermore, data caches are susceptible to problems arising out of the lack of spatial and/or data locality in the data reference pattern of many applications. This phenomenon has been studied and reported elsewhere, e.g., in [4,5]. Since data caches are essential to achieving good performance on scalar computations with little parallelism, the right compromise is to provide a data cache that can be bypassed when referencing data structures with poor locality. This is the solution employed in various recent products such as the Convex C-1 and Intel's i860.

Interleaved memory systems. Whether or not a data cache is present, it is important to provide a memory system with bandwidth to match the processors. This is done by organizing the memory system as multiple memory modules which can operate in parallel. The manner in which memory locations are distributed across the memory modules has a significant influence on whether, and for which types of reference patterns, the full bandwidth of the memory system is achieved.

Engineering and scientific applications include

Rau, "Pseudo-randomly Interleaved Memory," ISCA 1991.

SIMD Operations in Modern ISAs

MMX Example: Image Overlaying (I)

- Goal: Overlay the human in image x on top of the background in image y

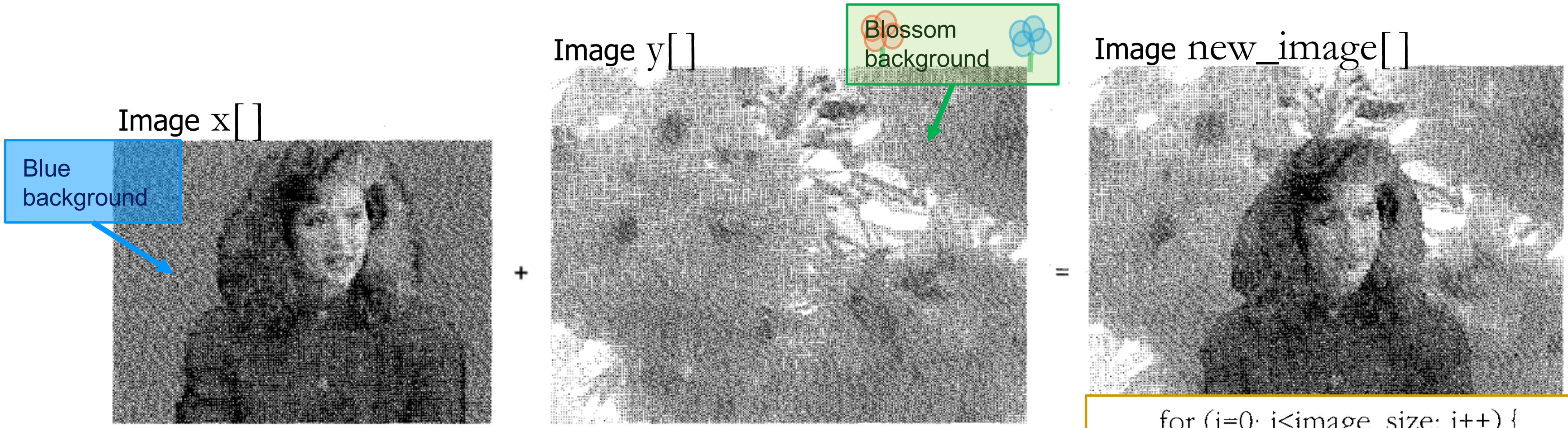
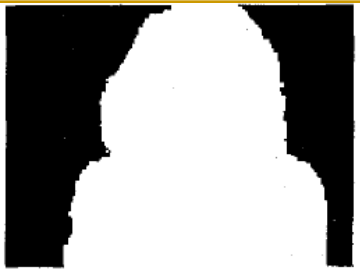


Figure 8. Chroma keying: image overlay using a background color.

```
for (i=0; i<image_size; i++) {
if (x[i] == Blue)  new_image[i] =y[i];
        else new_image[i] = x[i];
}
```

PCMPEQB MM1, MM3

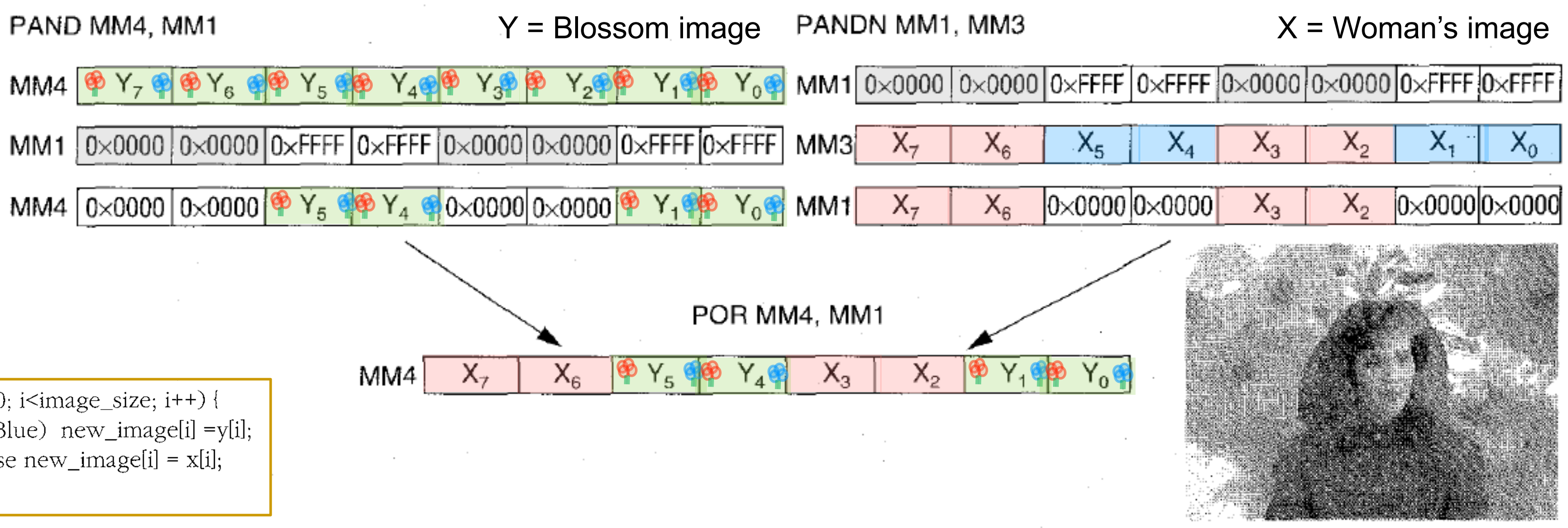
	MM1	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Image x[ ]	MM3	X7!=blue	X6!=blue	X5=blue	X4=blue	X3!=blue	X2!=blue	X1=blue	X0=blue
Bit mask	MM1	0x0000	0x0000	0xFFFF	0xFFFF	0x0000	0x0000	0xFFFF	0xFFFF



Bitmask

Figure 9. Generating the selection bit mask.

MMX Example: Image Overlaying (II)


PAND MM4, MM1
Y = Blossom image
PANDN MM1, MM3
X = Woman's image
MM4 | Y7 | Y6 | Y5 | Y4 | Y3 | Y2 | Y1 | Y0
MM1 | 0x0000 | 0x0000 | 0xFFFF | 0xFFFF | 0x0000 | 0x0000 | 0xFFFF | 0xFFFF
MM4 | 0x0000 | 0x0000 | Y5 | Y4 | 0x0000 | 0x0000 | Y1 | Y0
MM1 | 0x0000 | 0x0000 | 0xFFFF | 0xFFFF | 0x0000 | 0x0000 | 0xFFFF | 0xFFFF
MM3 | X7 | X6 | X5 | X4 | X3 | X2 | X1 | X0
MM1 | X7 | X6 | 0x0000 | 0x0000 | X3 | X2 | 0x0000 | 0x0000
POR MM4, MM1
MM4 | X7 | X6 | Y5 | Y4 | X3 | X2 | Y1 | Y0

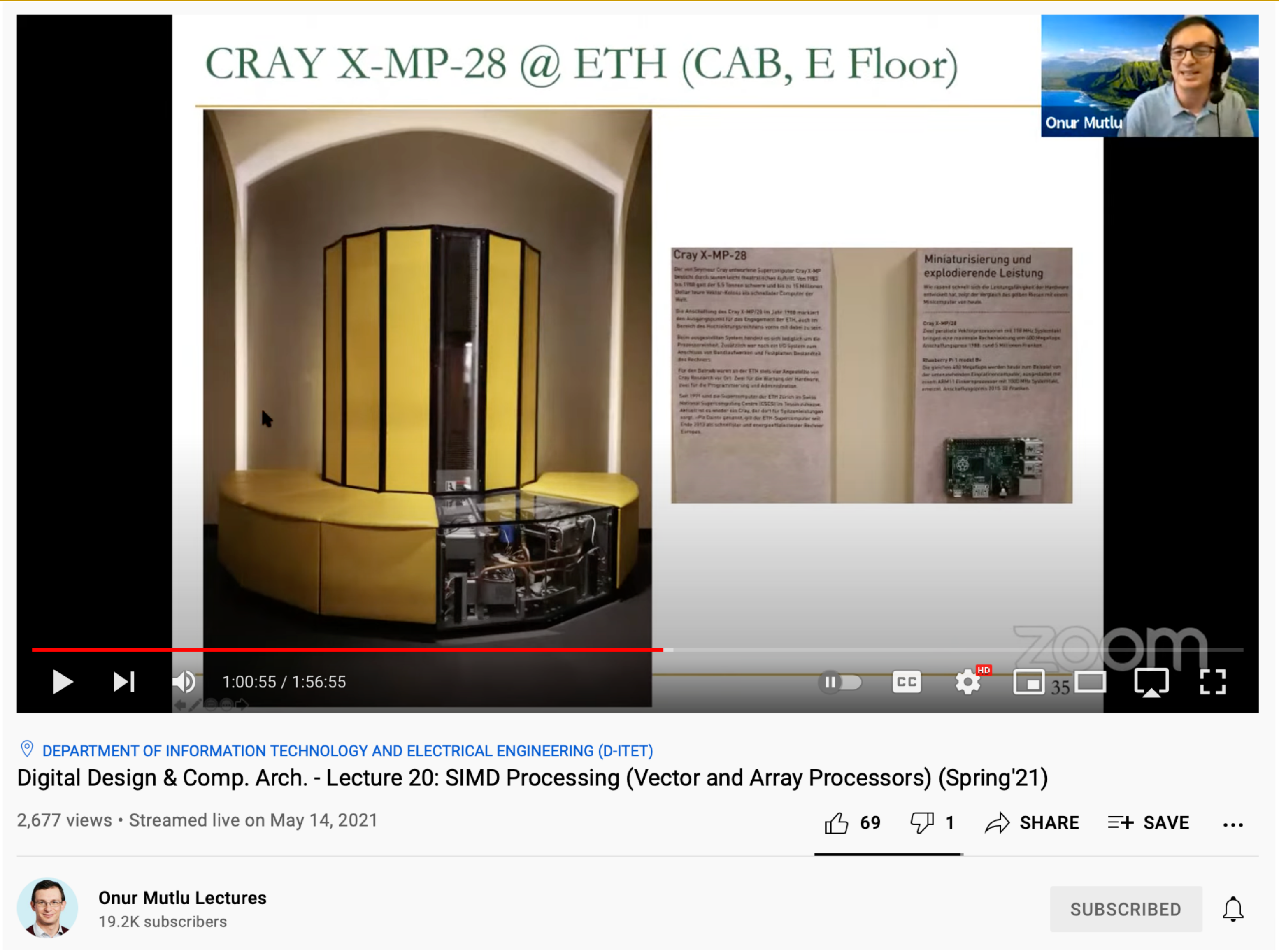
```
for (i=0; i<image_size; i++) {
if (x[i] == Blue)  new_image[i] =y[i];
        else new_image[i] = x[i];
    }
```

Figure 10. Using the mask with logical MMX instructions to perform a conditional select.

```
Movq       mm3, mem1    /* Load eight pixels from
                           woman's image
Movq       mm4, mem2    /* Load eight pixels from the
                           blossom image
Pcmpeqb    mm1, mm3
Pand       mm4, mm1
Pandn      mm1, mm3
Por        mm4, mm1
```

Figure 11. MMX code sequence for performing a conditional select.

Lecture on SIMD Processing


CRAY X-MP-28 @ ETH (CAB, E Floor)
Cray X-MP-28
Miniaturisierung und explodierende Leistung
Onur Mutlu
zoom
1:00:55 / 1:56:55

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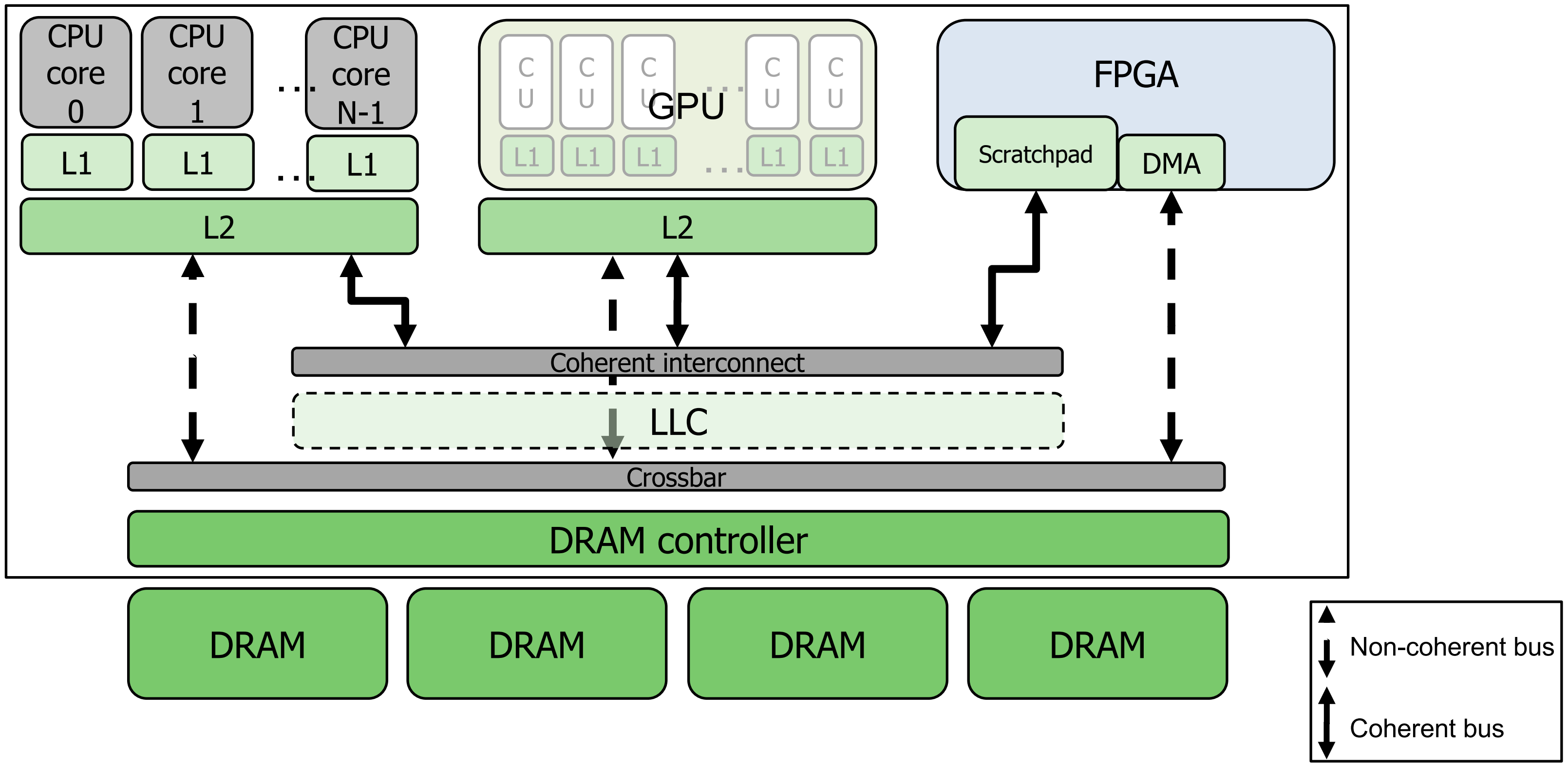
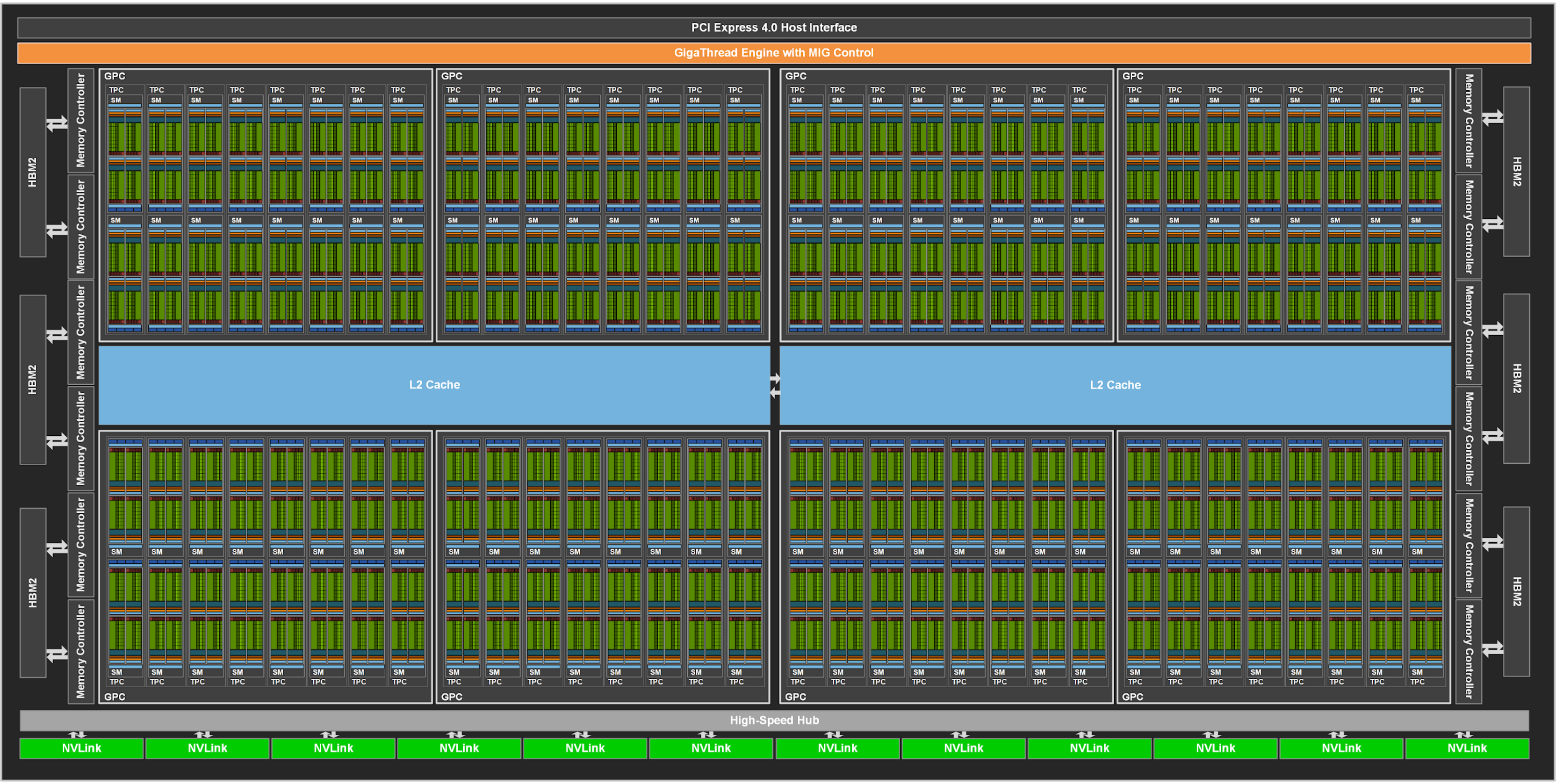
Heterogeneous Computing Systems

- The end of Moore's law created the need for heterogeneous systems
  - More suitable devices for each type of workload
  - Increased performance and energy efficiency



GPUs (Graphics Processing Units)

NVIDIA A100 Block Diagram



https://developer.nvidia.com/blog/nvidia-ampere-architecture-in-depth/

108 cores on the A100

(Up to 128 cores in the full-blown chip)

40MB L2 cache

Recall: Array vs. Vector Processors

Instruction Stream

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MUL   VR ← VR, 2
ST    A[3:0] ← VR
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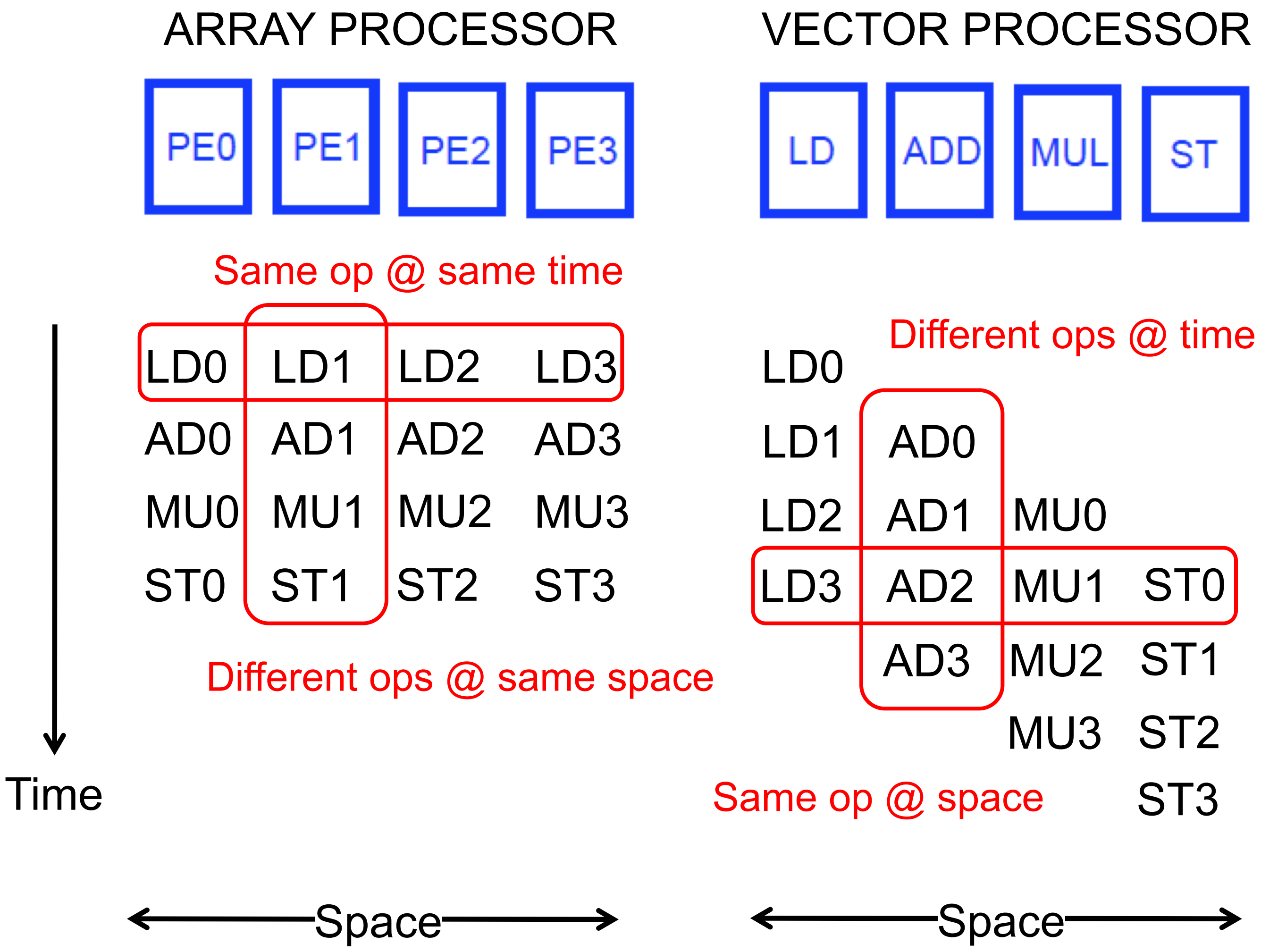
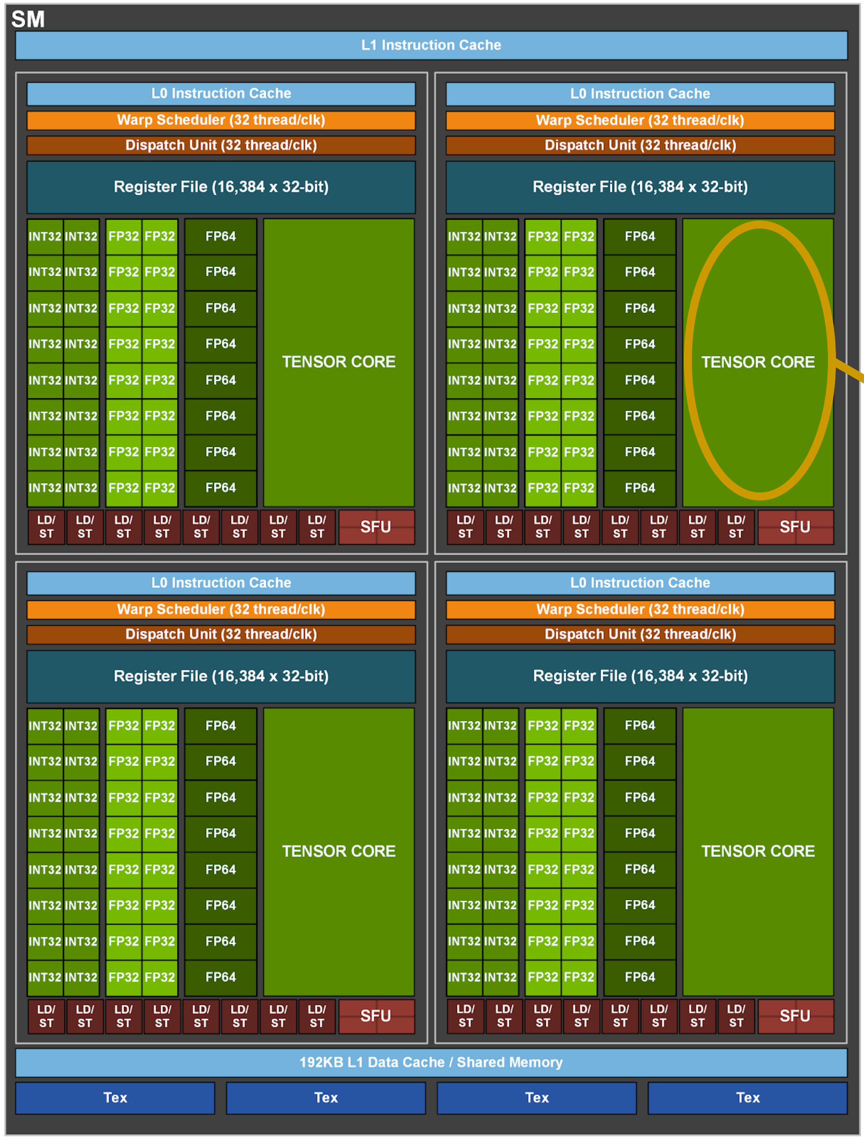


NVIDIA A100 Core

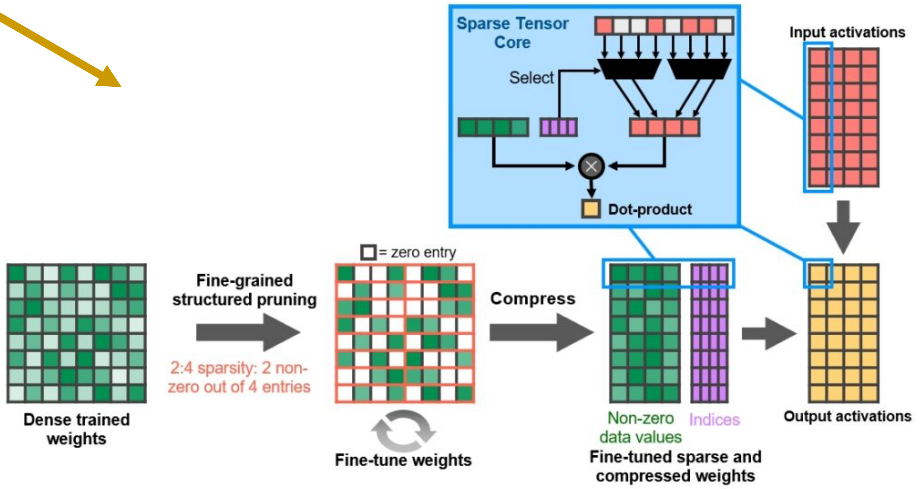


SM
L1 Instruction Cache
L0 Instruction Cache
Warp Scheduler (32 thread/clk)
Dispatch Unit (32 thread/clk)
Register File (16,384 x 32-bit)
INT32
FP32
FP64
TENSOR CORE
LD/ ST
SFU
192KB L1 Data Cache / Shared Memory
Tex

19.5 TFLOPS Single Precision

9.7 TFLOPS Double Precision

312 TFLOPS for Deep Learning (Tensor cores)



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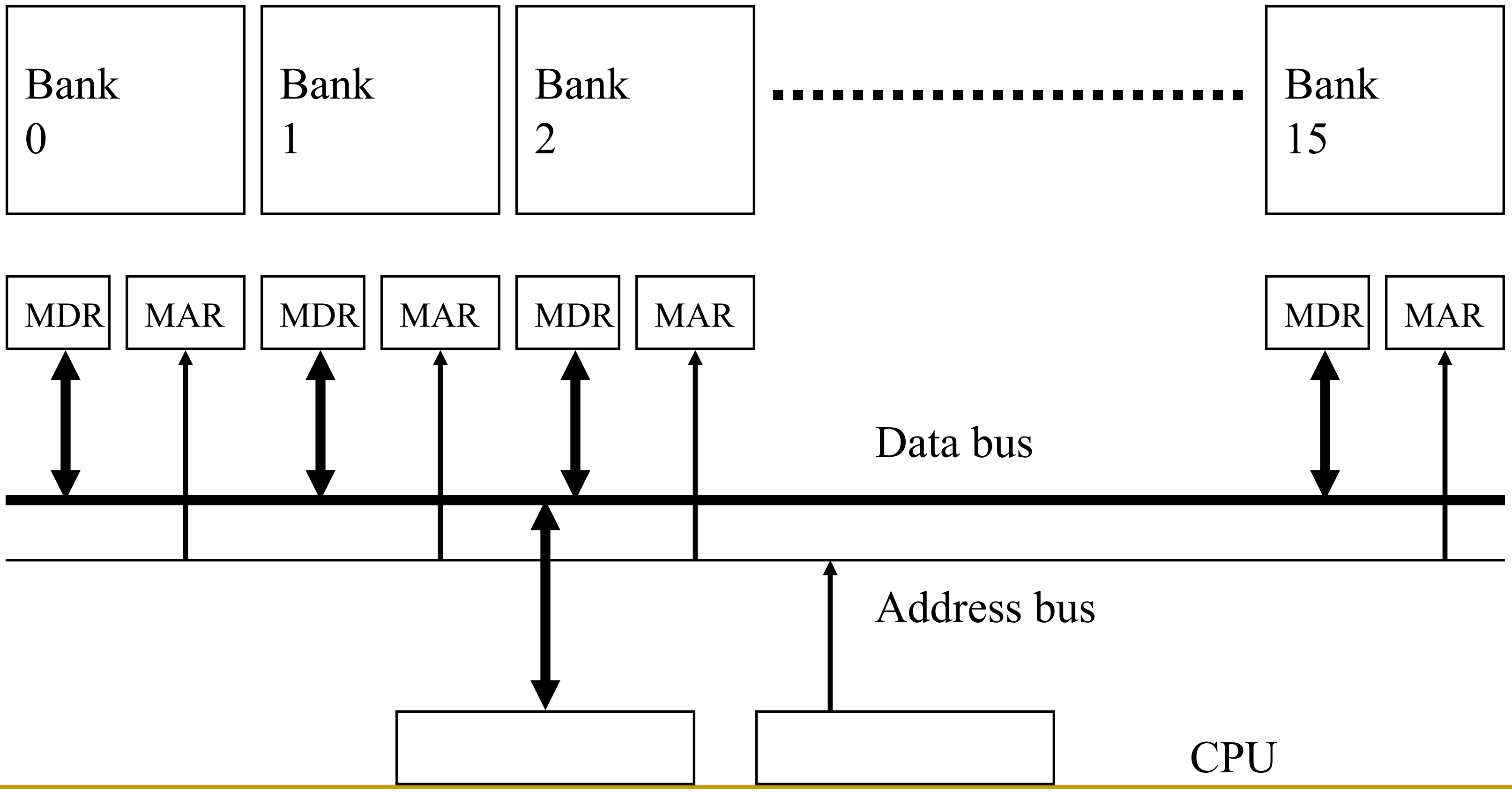


Picture credit: Derek Chiou

GPUs are SIMD Engines Underneath

- The instruction pipeline operates like a SIMD pipeline (e.g., an array processor)

- However, the programming is done using threads, NOT SIMD instructions

- To understand this, let's go back to our parallelizable code example

- But, before that, let's distinguish between
  - Programming Model (Software)

    vs.
  - Execution Model (Hardware)

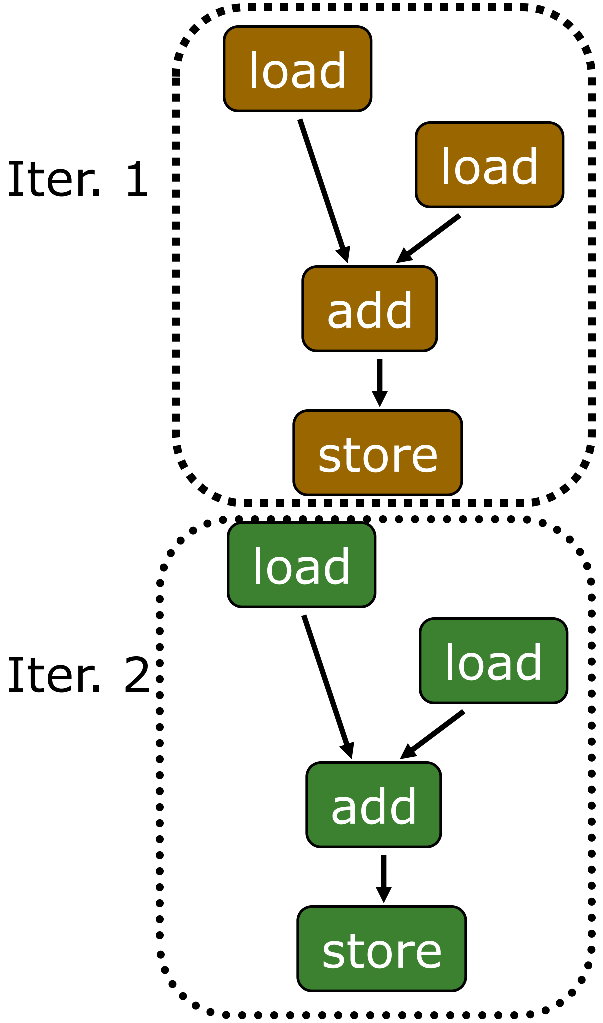
Programming Model vs. Hardware Execution Model

- Programming Model refers to how the programmer expresses the code
  - E.g., Sequential (von Neumann), Data Parallel (SIMD), Dataflow, Multi-threaded (MIMD, SPMD), …
- Execution Model refers to how the hardware executes the code underneath
  - E.g., Out-of-order execution, Vector processor, Array processor, Dataflow processor, Multiprocessor, Multithreaded processor, …
- Execution Model can be very different from the Programming Model
  - E.g., von Neumann model implemented by an OoO processor
  - E.g., SPMD model implemented by a SIMD processor (a GPU)

How Can You Exploit Parallelism Here?

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

Scalar Sequential Code



Let's examine three programming options to exploit instruction-level parallelism present in this sequential code:

1. Sequential (SISD)

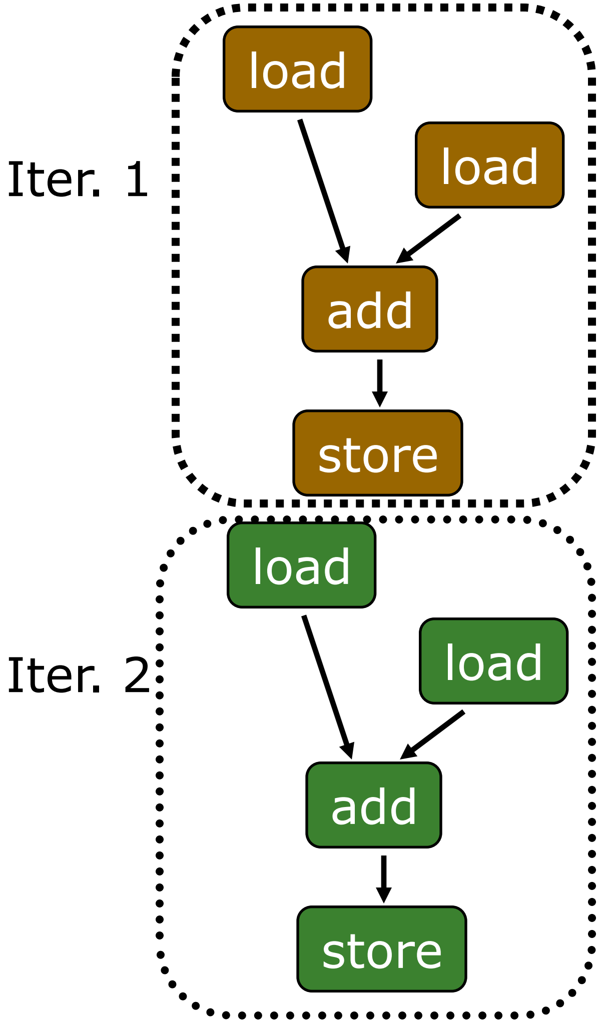
2. Data-Parallel (SIMD)

3. Multithreaded (MIMD/SPMD)

Prog. Model 1: Sequential (SISD)

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

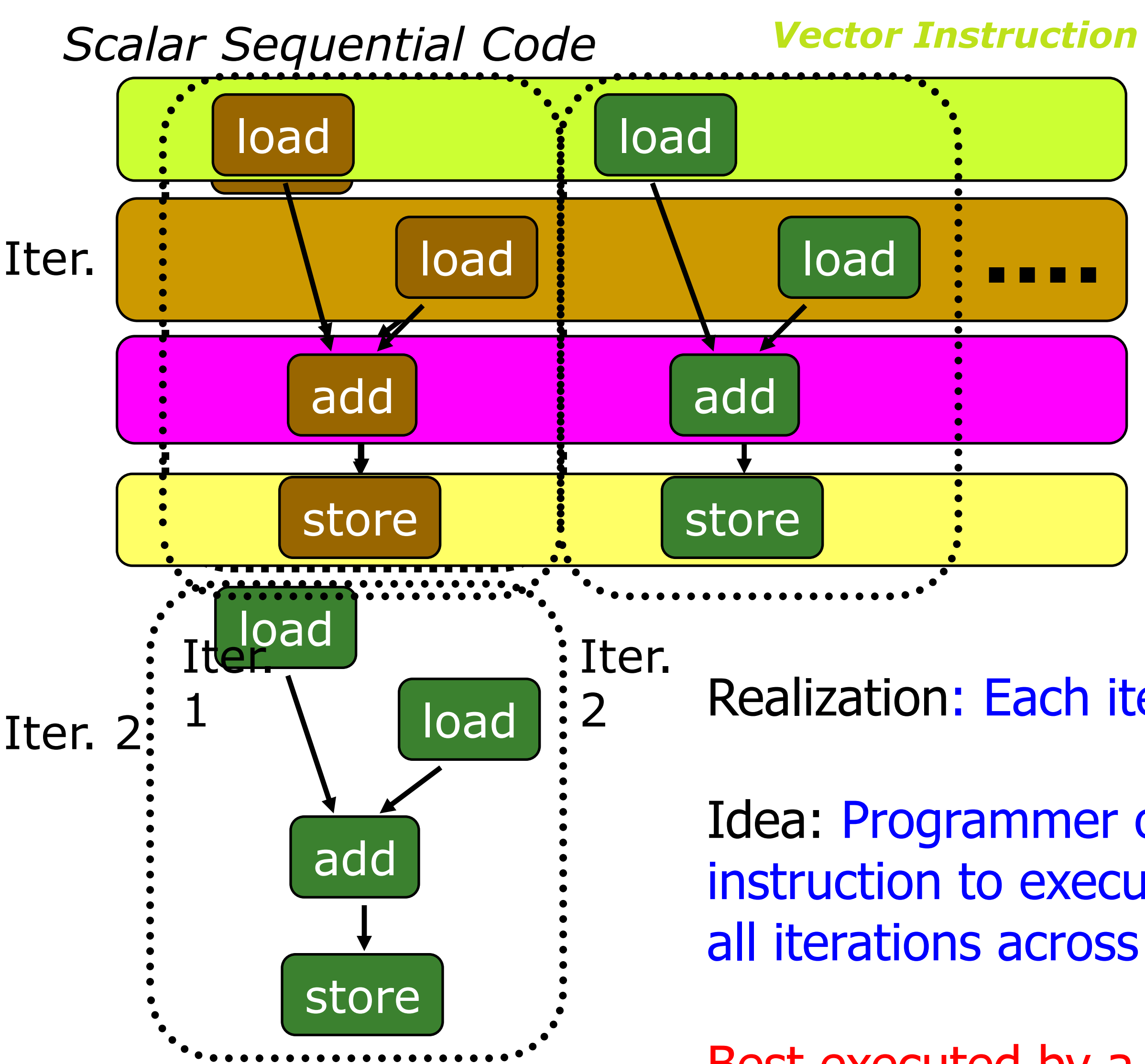
Scalar Sequential Code



- Can be executed on a:
- Pipelined processor
- Out-of-order execution processor
  - Independent instructions executed when ready
  - Different iterations are present in the instruction window and can execute in parallel in multiple functional units
  - In other words, the loop is dynamically unrolled by the hardware
- Superscalar or VLIW processor
  - Can fetch and execute multiple instructions per cycle

Prog. Model 2: Data Parallel (SIMD)

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



Vectorized Code

VLD	A → V1
VLD	B → V2
VADD	V1 + V2 → V3
VST	V3 → C

Realization: Each iteration is independent

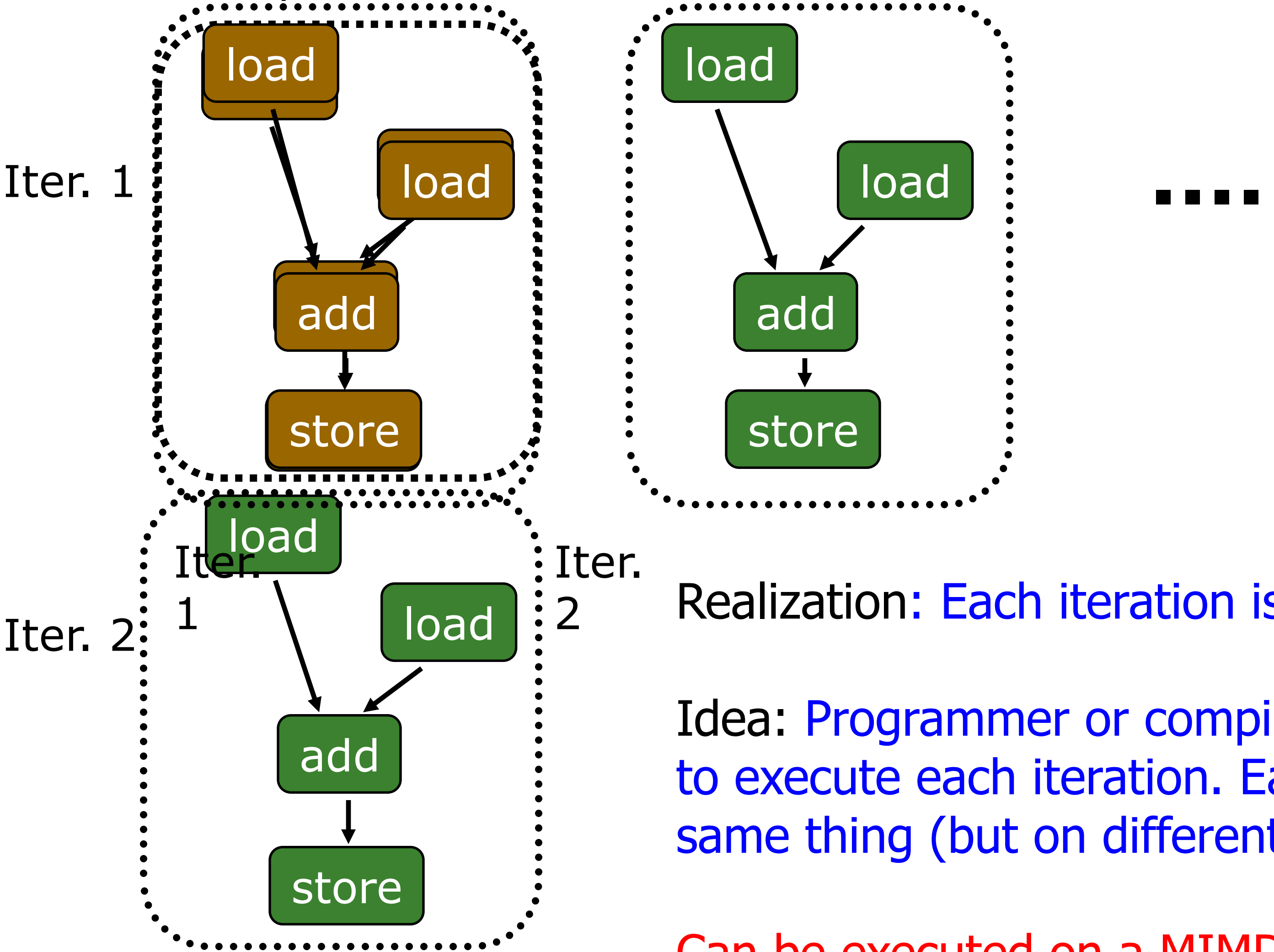
Idea: Programmer or compiler generates a SIMD instruction to execute the same instruction from all iterations across different data

Best executed by a SIMD processor (vector, array)

Prog. Model 3: Multithreaded

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

Scalar Sequential Code



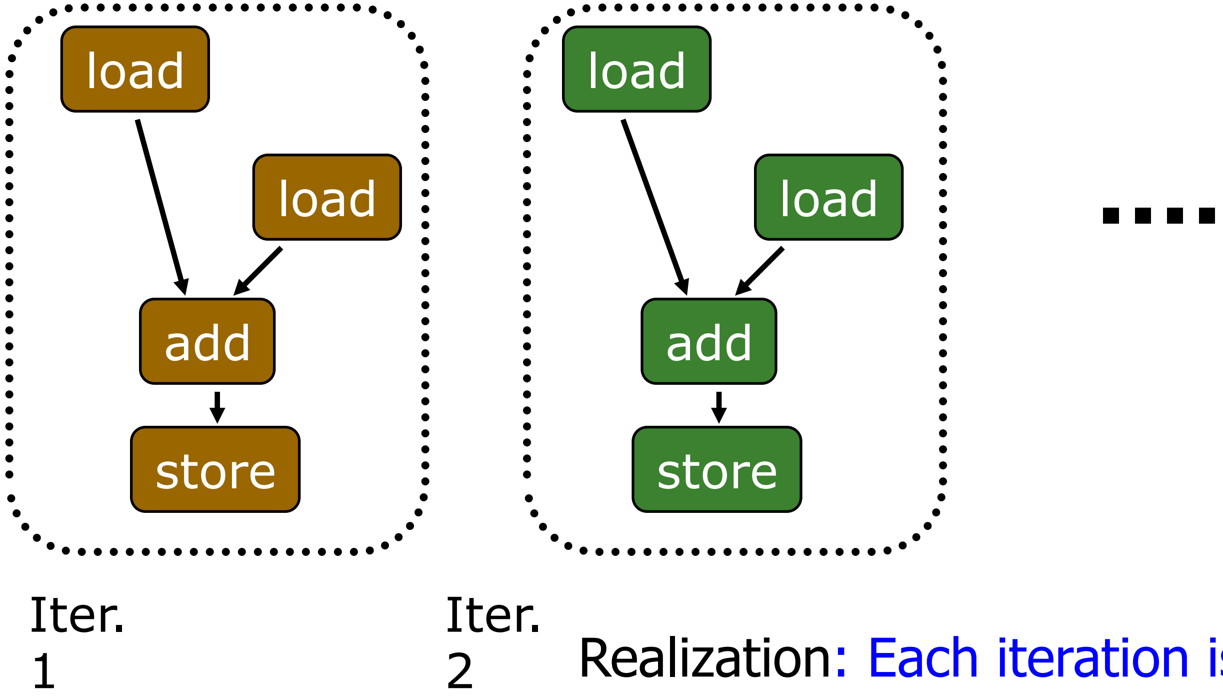
Realization: Each iteration is independent

Idea: Programmer or compiler generates a thread to execute each iteration. Each thread does the same thing (but on different data)

Can be executed on a MIMD machine

Prog. Model 3: Multithreaded

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



Realization: Each iteration is independent

This particular model is also called:

SPMD: Single Program Multiple Data

Can be executed on a SIMT machine
Single Instruction Multiple Thread

A GPU is a SIMD (SIMT) Machine

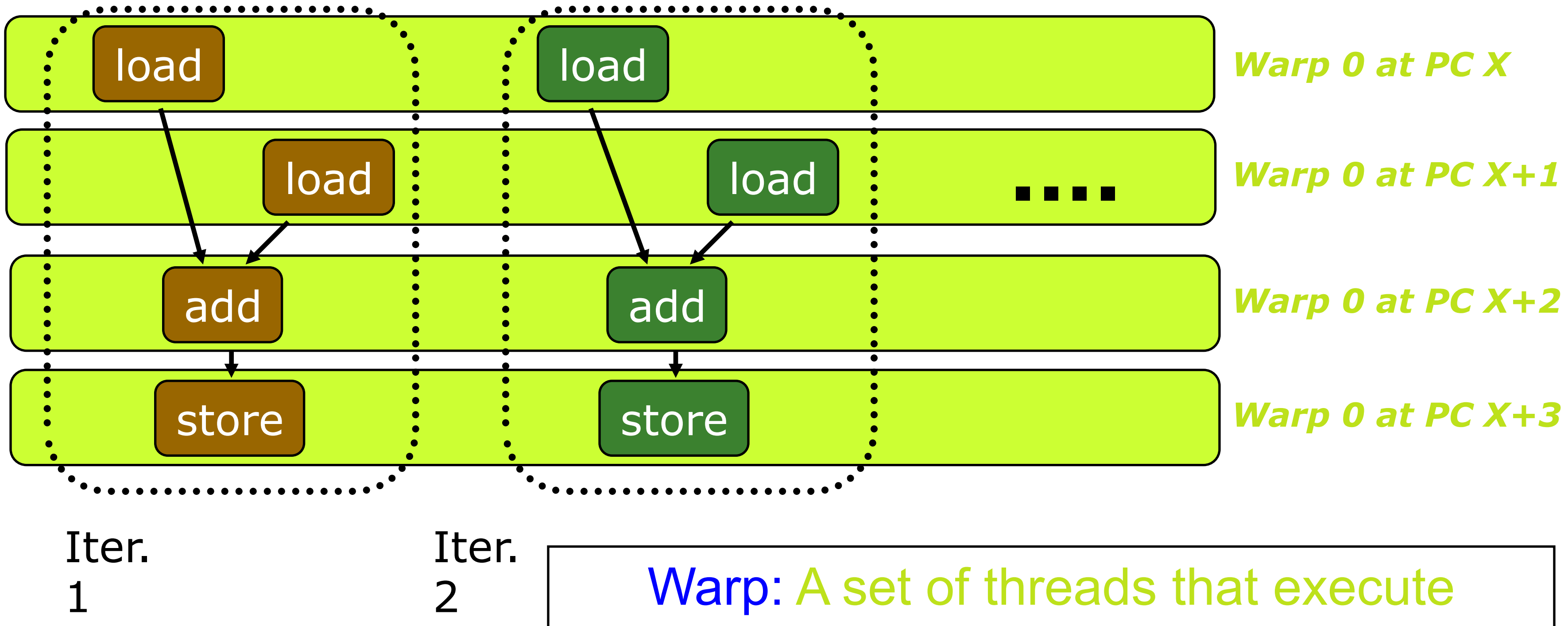
- Except it is **not** programmed using SIMD instructions

- It is programmed using threads (SPMD programming model)
  - Each thread executes the same code but operates a different piece of data
  - Each thread has its own context (i.e., can be treated/restarted/executed independently)

- A set of threads executing the same instruction are dynamically grouped into a **warp (wavefront)** by the hardware
  - A warp is essentially a SIMD operation formed by hardware!

SPMD on SIMT Machine

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



Warp: A set of threads that execute the same instruction (i.e., at the same PC)

This particular model is also called:

SPMD: Single Program Multiple Data

A GPU executes it using the SIMT model:
Single Instruction Multiple Thread

Graphics Processing Units
SIMD not Exposed to Programmer (SIMT)

SIMD vs. SIMT Execution Model

- SIMD: A single sequential instruction stream of SIMD instructions → each instruction specifies multiple data inputs
  - [VLD, VLD, VADD, VST], VLEN

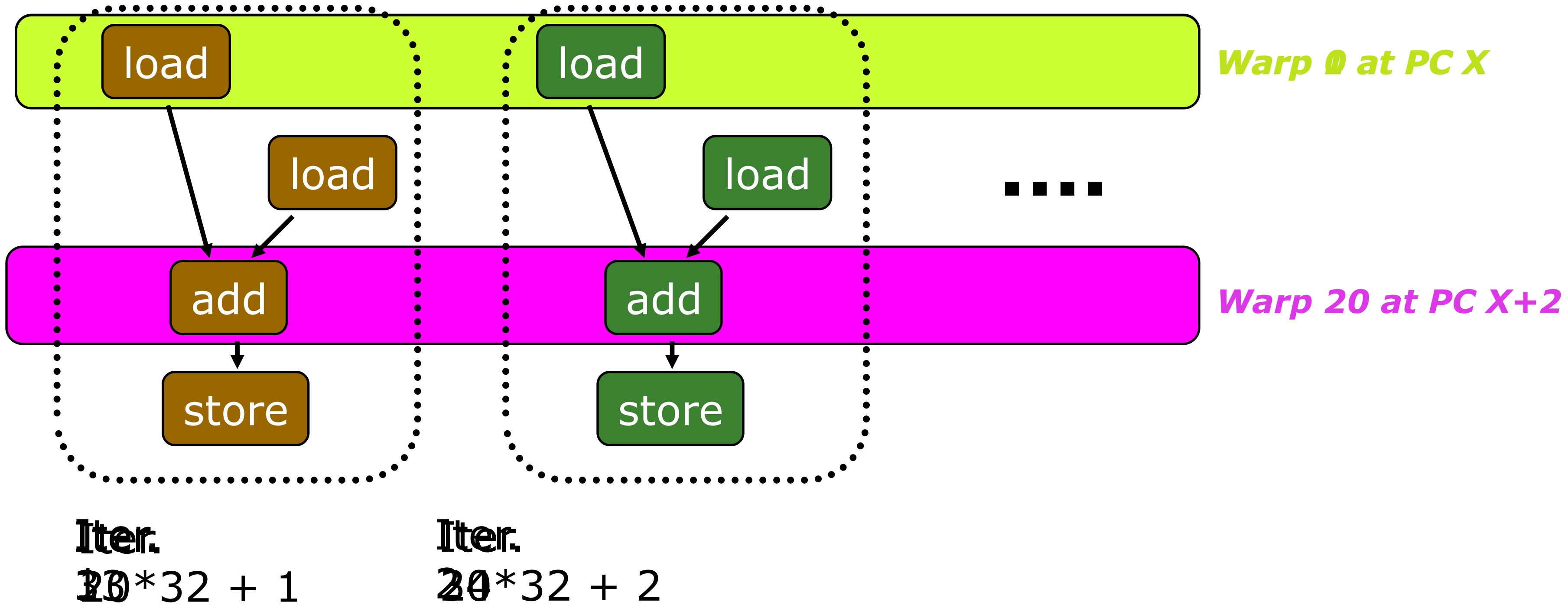
- SIMT: Multiple instruction streams of scalar instructions → threads grouped dynamically into warps
  - [LD, LD, ADD, ST], NumThreads

- Two Major SIMT Advantages:
  - Can treat each thread separately → i.e., can execute each thread independently (on any type of scalar pipeline) → MIMD processing
  - Can group threads into warps flexibly → i.e., can group threads that are supposed to *truly* execute the same instruction → dynamically obtain and maximize benefits of SIMD processing

Fine-Grained Multithreading of Warps

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

- Assume a warp consists of 32 threads
- If you have 32K iterations, and 1 iteration/thread → 1K warps
- Warps can be interleaved on the same pipeline → Fine grained multithreading of warps



Fine-Grained Multithreading

Fine-Grained Multithreading

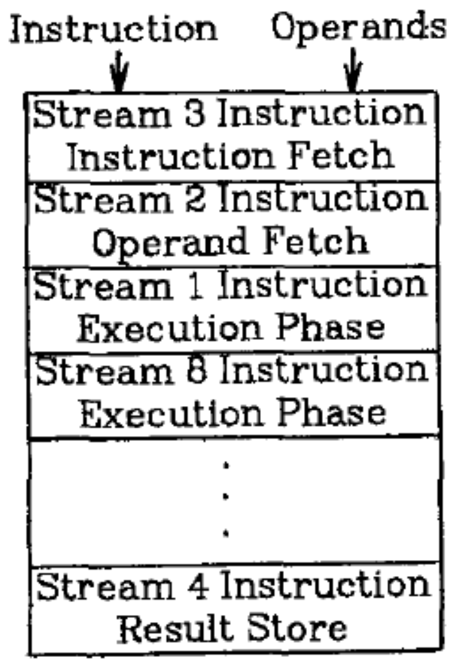
- Idea: Hardware has multiple thread contexts (PC+registers). Each cycle, fetch engine fetches from a different thread.
  - By the time the fetched branch/instruction resolves, no instruction is fetched from the same thread
  - Branch/instruction resolution latency overlapped with execution of other threads' instructions

+ No logic needed for handling control and data dependences within a thread

-- Single thread performance suffers

-- Extra logic for keeping thread contexts

-- Does not overlap latency if not enough threads to cover the whole pipeline



Instruction
Operands
Stream 3 Instruction Instruction Fetch
Stream 2 Instruction Operand Fetch
Stream 1 Instruction Execution Phase
Stream 8 Instruction Execution Phase
Stream 4 Instruction Result Store

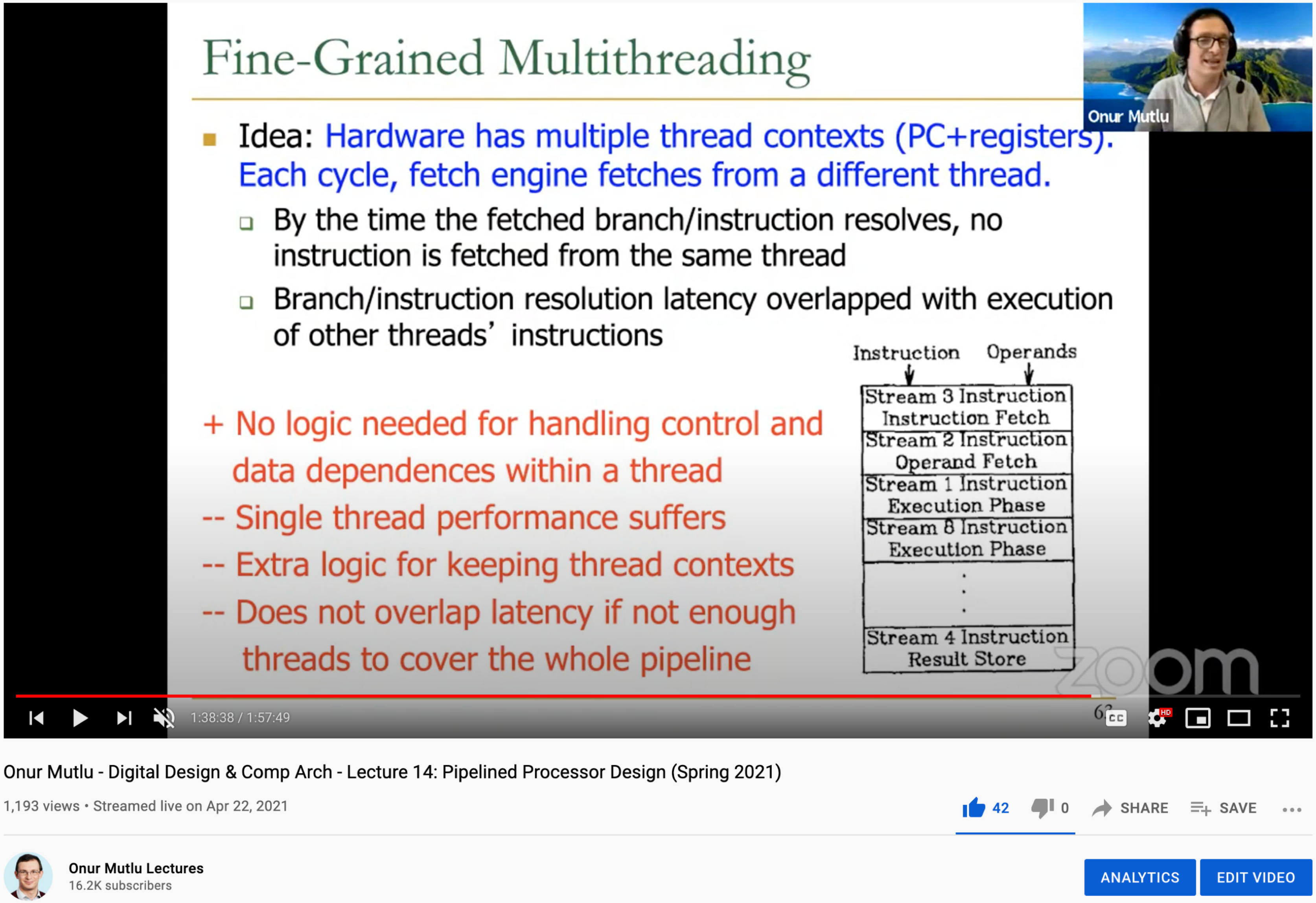
Fine-Grained Multithreading (II)

- Idea: Switch to another thread every cycle such that no two instructions from a thread are in the pipeline concurrently

- Tolerates the control and data dependence latencies by overlapping the latency with useful work from other threads
- Improves pipeline utilization by taking advantage of multiple threads

- Thornton, "Parallel Operation in the Control Data 6600," AFIPS 1964.
- Smith, "A pipelined, shared resource MIMD computer," ICPP 1978.

Lecture on Fine-Grained Multithreading



Fine-Grained Multithreading

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Instruction
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Stream 3 Instruction Instruction Fetch
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Stream 1 Instruction Execution Phase
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Onur Mutlu
1:38:38 / 1:57:49

Onur Mutlu - Digital Design & Comp Arch - Lecture 14: Pipelined Processor Design (Spring 2021)

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Onur Mutlu Lectures
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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6e5KZcCGBYw&list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi_uej3aY39YB5pfW4SJ7LlN&index=16

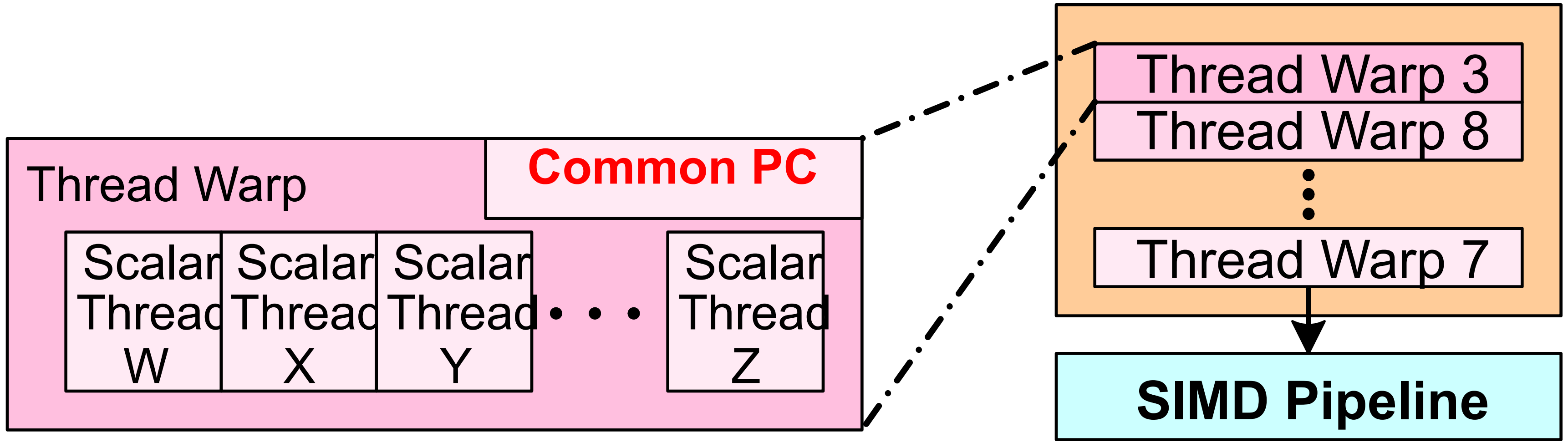
Lectures on Fine-Grained Multithreading

- Digital Design & Computer Architecture, Spring 2021, Lecture 14
  - Pipelined Processor Design (ETH, Spring 2021)
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6e5KZcCGBYw&list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi_uej3aY39YB5pfW4SJ7LlN&index=16

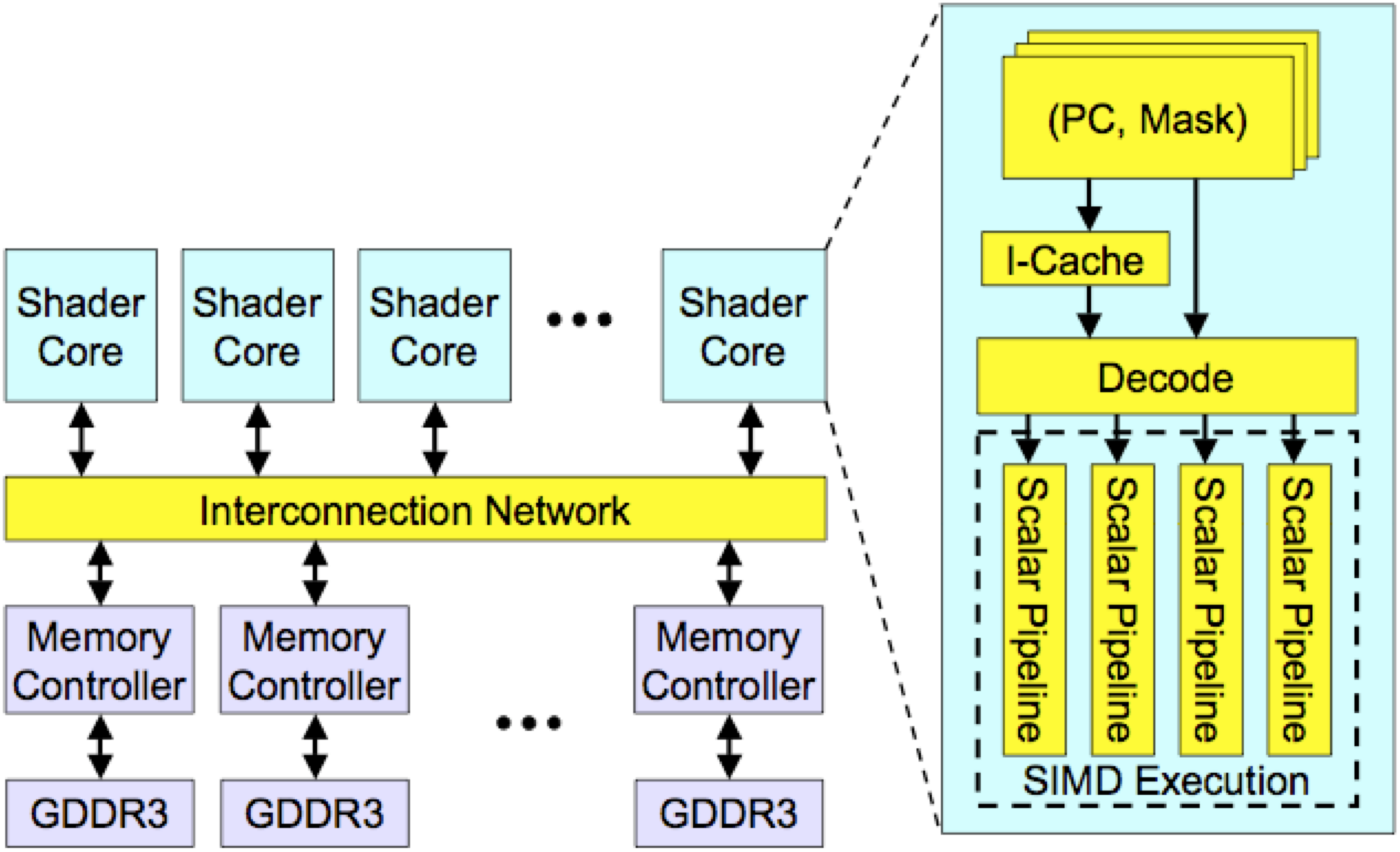
- Digital Design & Computer Architecture, Spring 2020, Lecture 18c
  - Fine-Grained Multithreading (ETH, Spring 2020)
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bu5dxKTvQVs&list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi_FRrloMa2fUYWPGiZUBQo2&index=26

Warps and Warp-Level FGMT

- Warp: A set of threads that execute the same instruction (on different data elements) → SIMT (Nvidia-speak)
- All threads run the same code
- Warp: The threads that run lengthwise in a woven fabric …



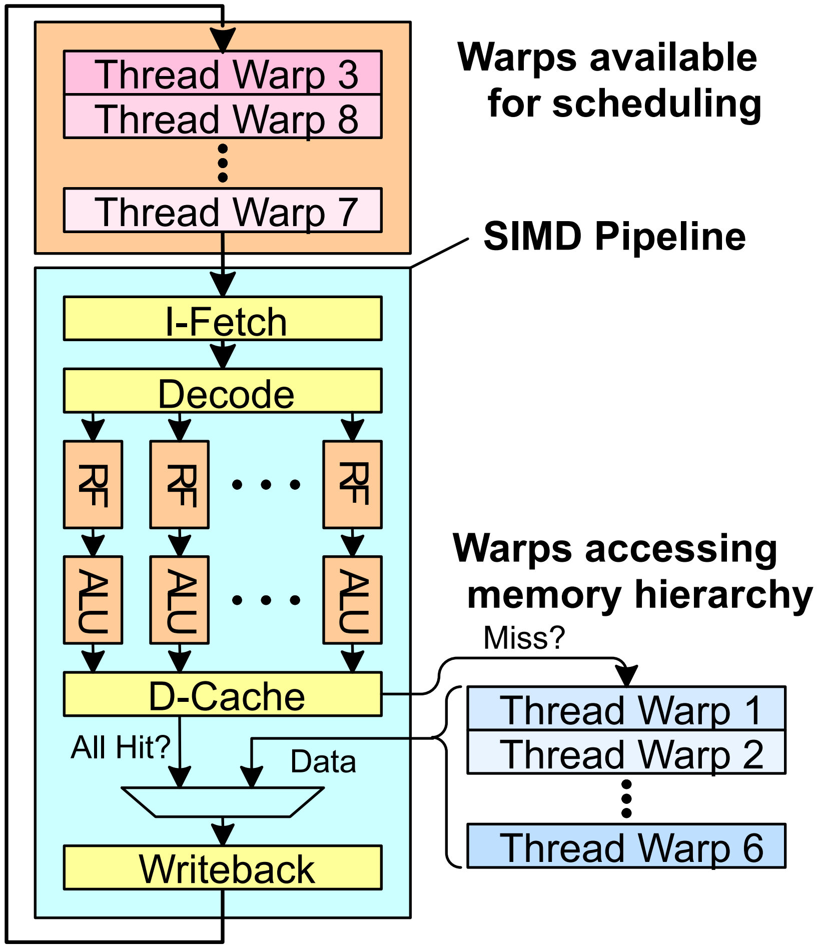
High-Level View of a GPU



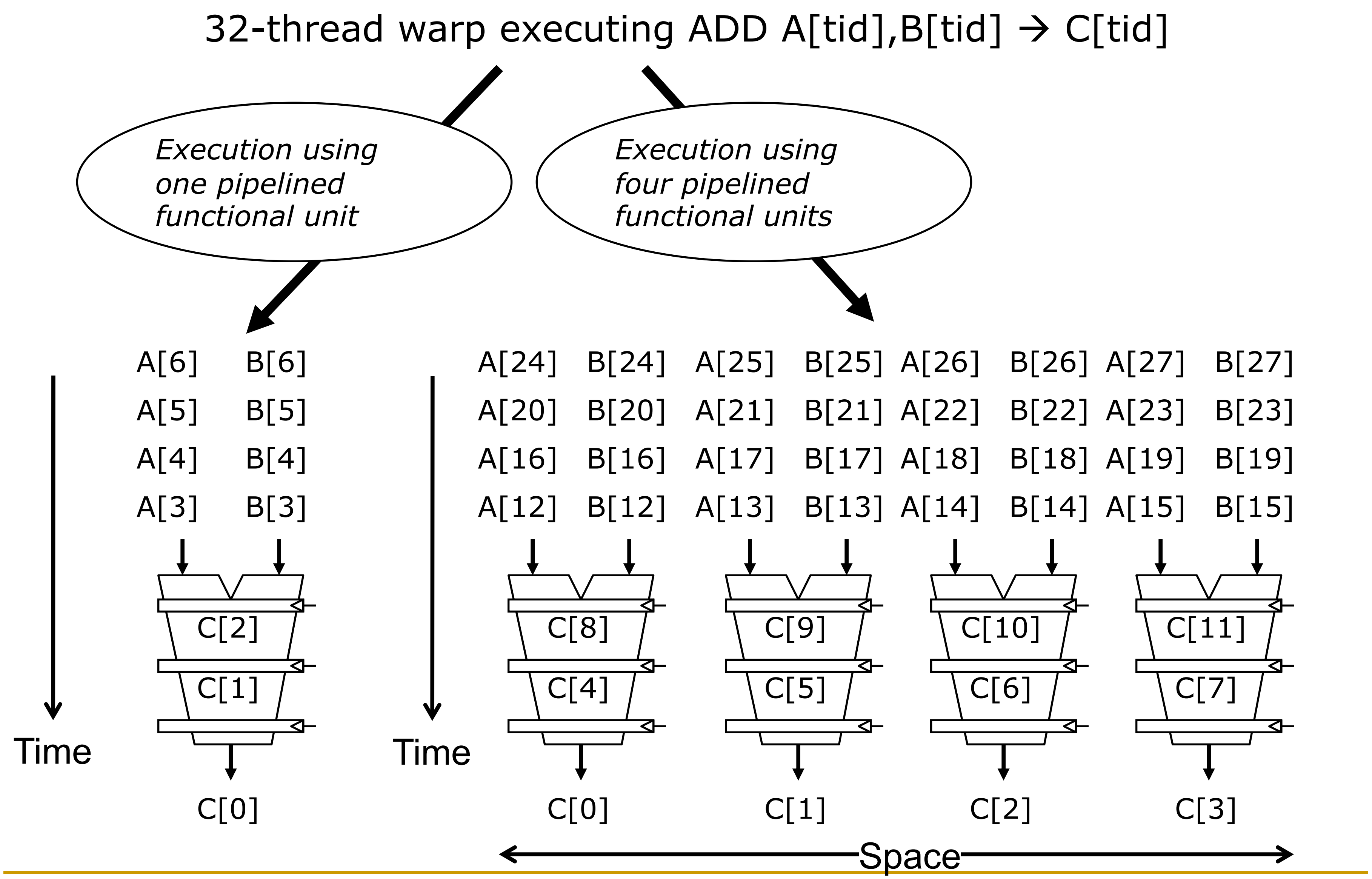
Latency Hiding via Warp-Level FGMT

- Warp: A set of threads that execute the same instruction (on different data elements)

- Fine-grained multithreading
  - One instruction per thread in pipeline at a time (No interlocking)
  - Interleave warp execution to hide latencies
- Register values of all threads stay in register file
- FGMT enables long latency tolerance
  - Millions of pixels



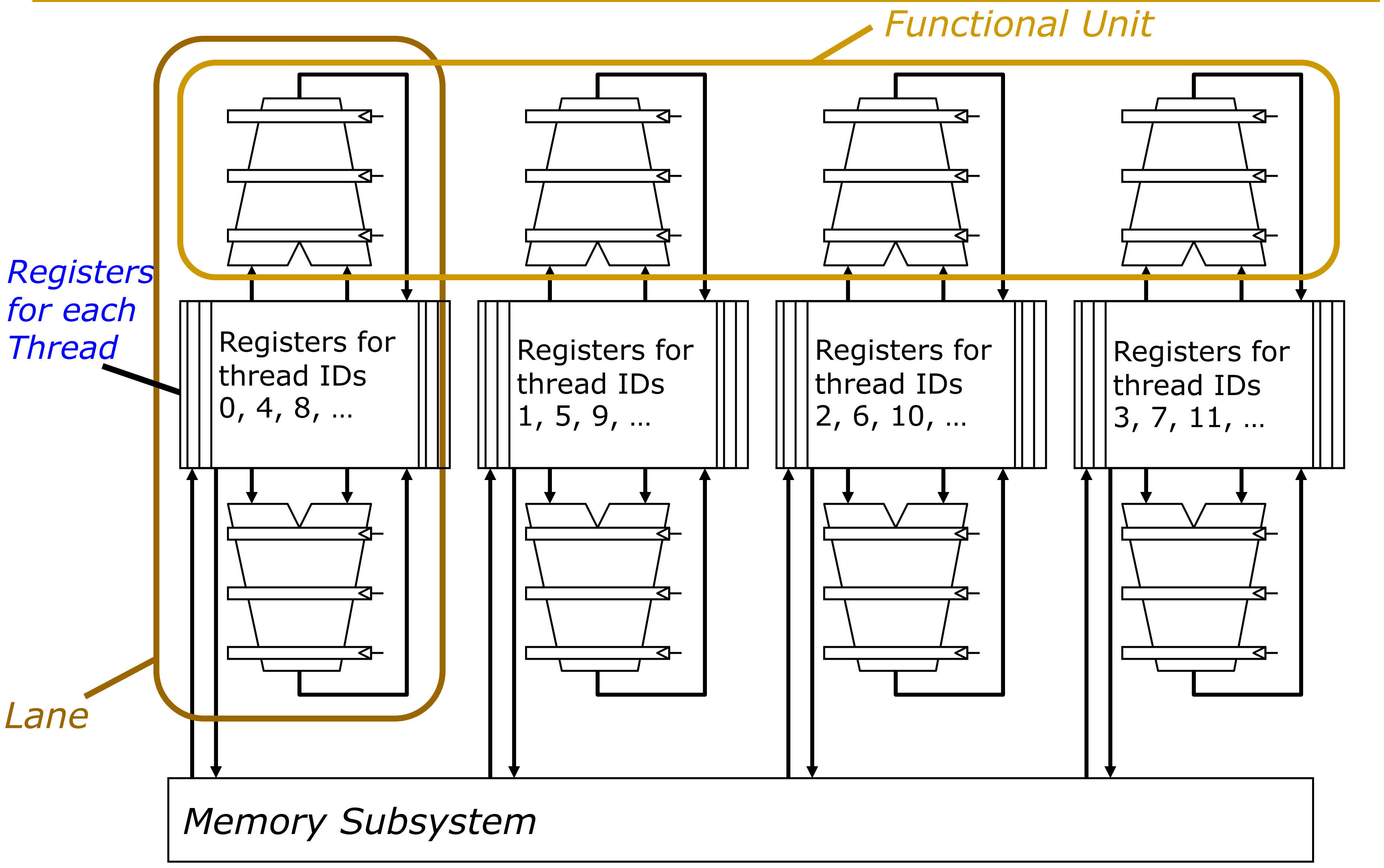
Warp Execution



32-thread warp executing ADD A[tid],B[tid] → C[tid]
Execution using one pipelined functional unit
Execution using four pipelined functional units
A[6] B[6]
A[5] B[5]
A[4] B[4]
A[3] B[3]
C[2]
C[1]
C[0]
Time
A[24] B[24] A[25] B[25] A[26] B[26] A[27] B[27]
A[20] B[20] A[21] B[21] A[22] B[22] A[23] B[23]
A[16] B[16] A[17] B[17] A[18] B[18] A[19] B[19]
A[12] B[12] A[13] B[13] A[14] B[14] A[15] B[15]
C[8] C[9] C[10] C[11]
C[4] C[5] C[6] C[7]
C[0] C[1] C[2] C[3]
Time
Space

Slide credit: Krste Asanovic

SIMD Execution Unit Structure

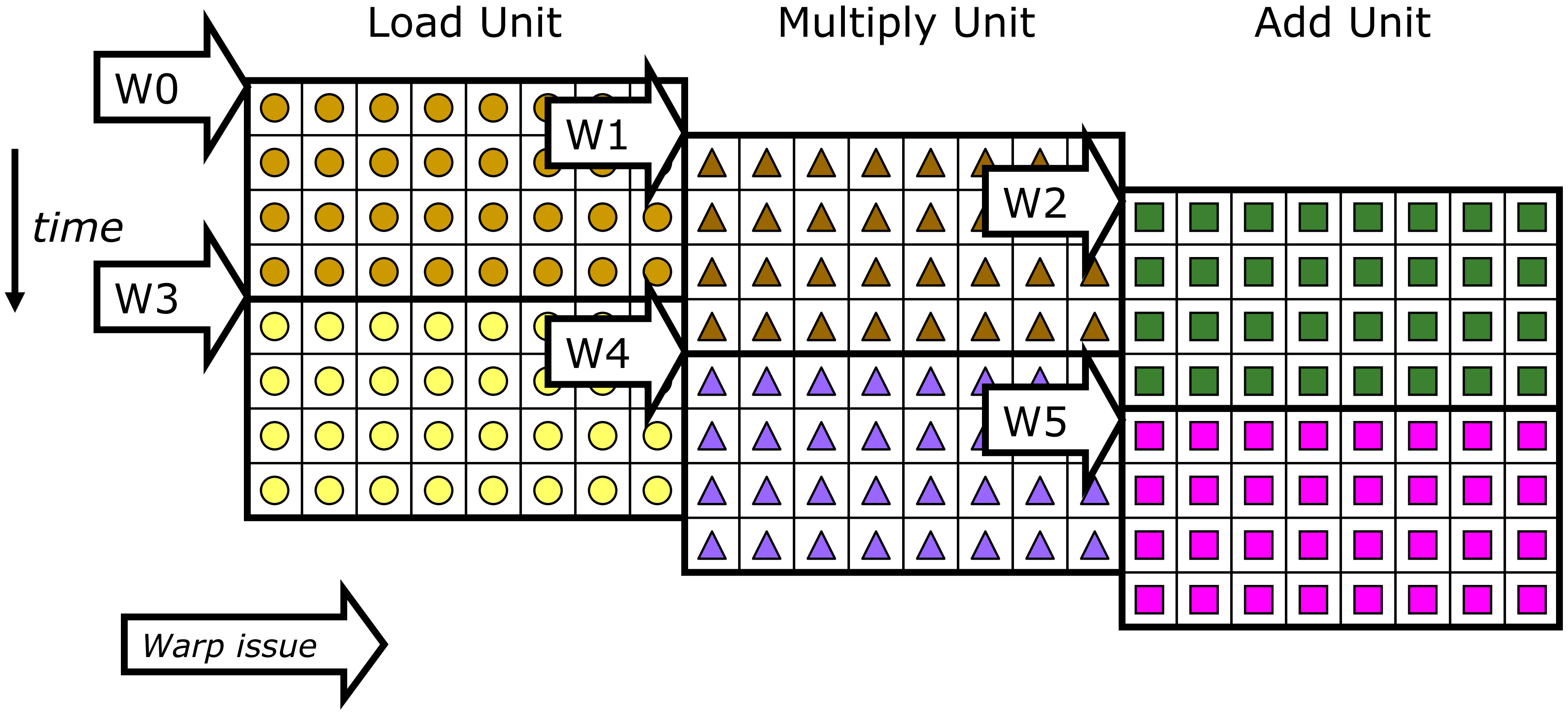

Functional Unit
Registers for each Thread
Registers for thread IDs 0, 4, 8, …
Registers for thread IDs 1, 5, 9, …
Registers for thread IDs 2, 6, 10, …
Registers for thread IDs 3, 7, 11, …
Lane
Memory Subsystem

Slide credit: Krste Asanovic

Warp Instruction Level Parallelism

Can overlap execution of multiple instructions

- Example machine has 32 threads per warp and 8 lanes
- Completes 24 operations/cycle while issuing 1 warp/cycle

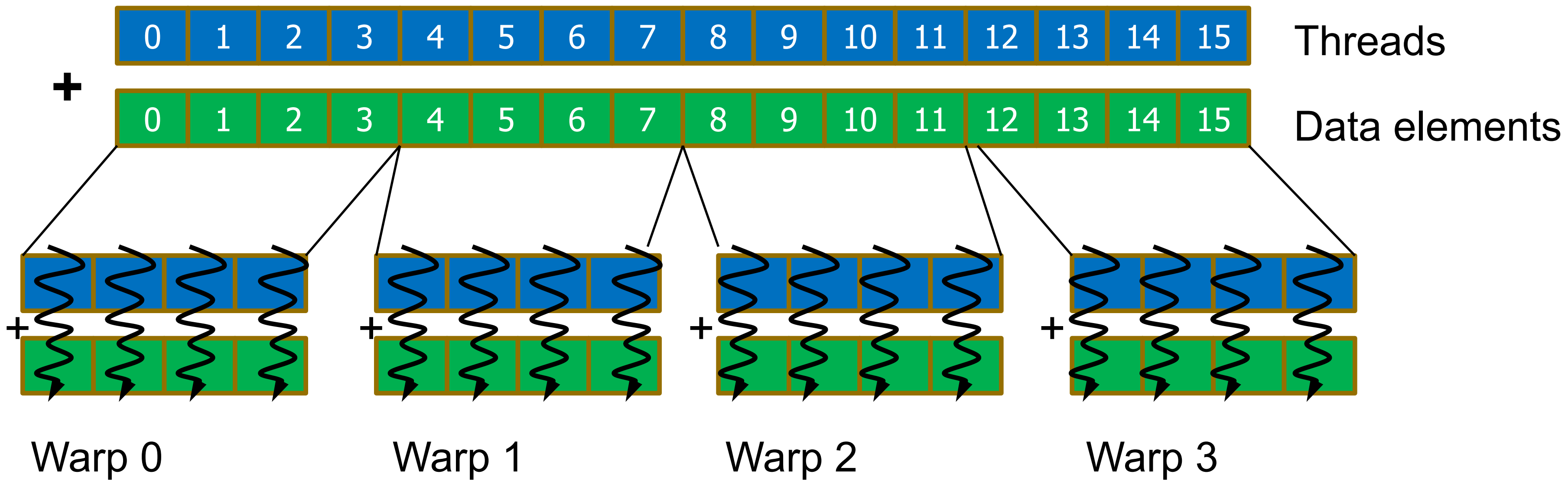


Slide credit: Krste Asanovic

SIMT Memory Access

- Same instruction in different threads uses thread id to index and access different data elements

Let's assume N=16, 4 threads per warp → 4 warps



Slide credit: Hyesoon Kim

Warps *not* Exposed to GPU Programmers

- CPU threads and GPU kernels
  - Sequential or modestly parallel sections on CPU
  - Massively parallel sections on GPU: Blocks of threads

Serial Code (host)

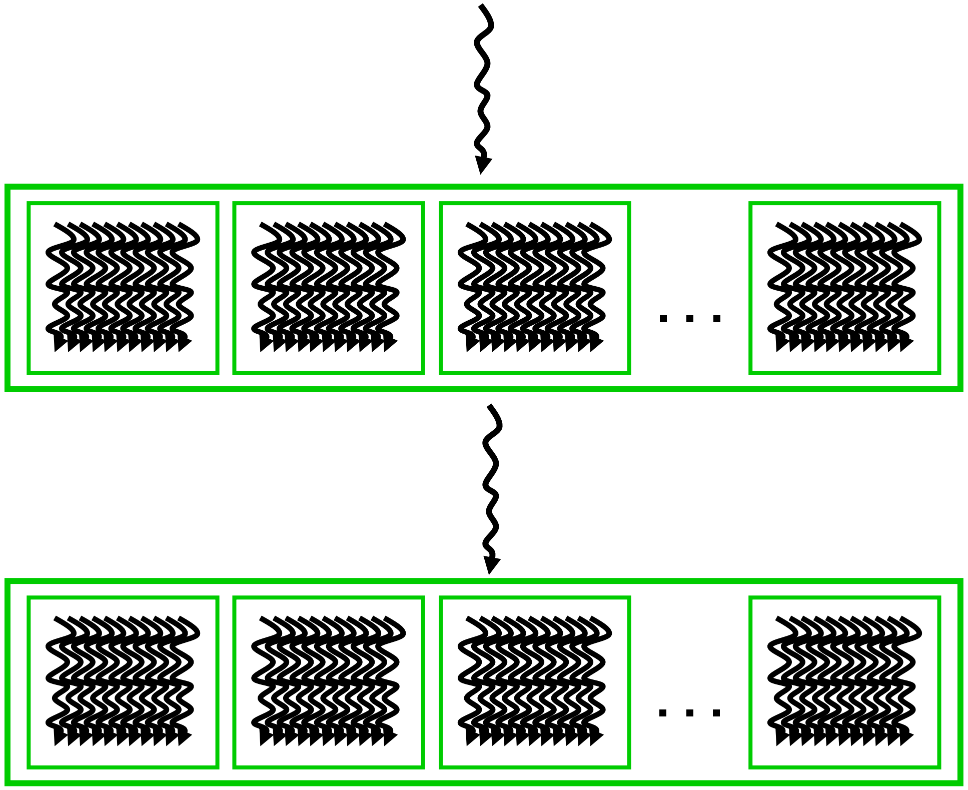
Parallel Kernel (device)

`KernelA<<<nBlk, nThr>>>(args);`

Serial Code (host)

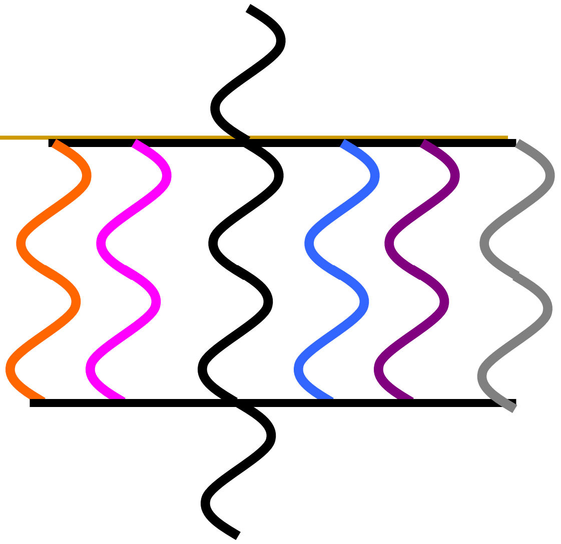
Parallel Kernel (device)

`KernelB<<<nBlk, nThr>>>(args);`



Slide credit: Hwu & Kirk

Amdahl's Law



- Amdahl's Law
  - f: Parallelizable fraction of a program
  - N: Number of processors

$$\text{Speedup} = \frac{1}{1 - f + \frac{f}{N}}$$

  - Amdahl, "Validity of the single processor approach to achieving large scale computing capabilities," AFIPS 1967.

- Maximum speedup limited by serial portion: Serial bottleneck

- All parallel machines "suffer from" the serial bottleneck

Warps *not* Exposed to GPU Programmers

- CPU threads and GPU kernels
  - Sequential or modestly parallel sections on CPU
  - Massively parallel sections on GPU: Blocks of threads

Serial Code (host)

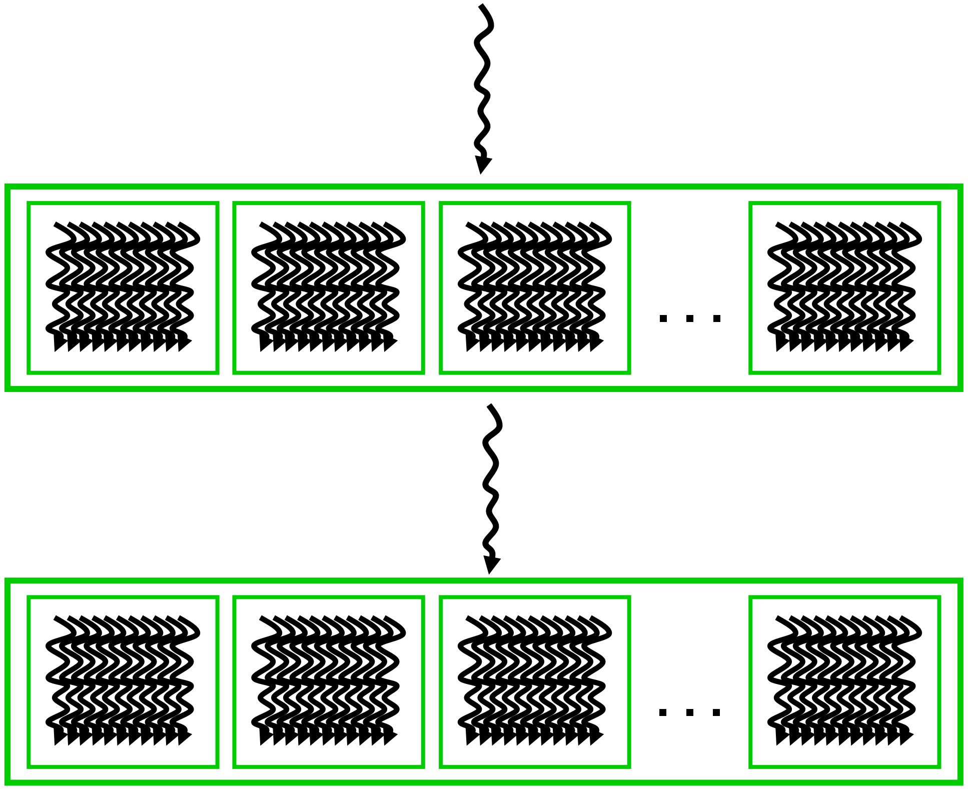
Parallel Kernel (device)

```
KernelA<<<nBlk, nThr>>>(args);
```

Serial Code (host)

Parallel Kernel (device)

```
KernelB<<<nBlk, nThr>>>(args);
```



Slide credit: Hwu & Kirk

Sample GPU SIMT Code (Simplified)

CPU code

```
for (ii = 0; ii < 100000; ++ii) {
C[ii] = A[ii] + B[ii];
}
```

CUDA code

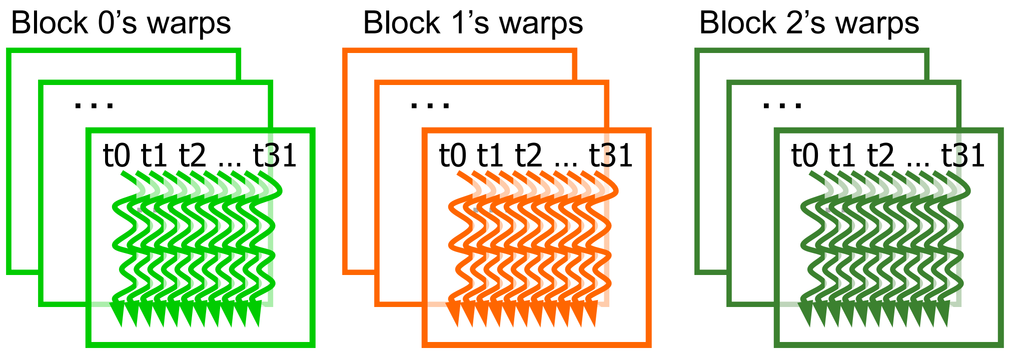
```
// there are 100000 threads
__global__ void KernelFunction(…) {
  int tid = blockDim.x * blockIdx.x + threadIdx.x;
  int varA = aa[tid];
  int varB = bb[tid];
  C[tid] = varA + varB;
}
```

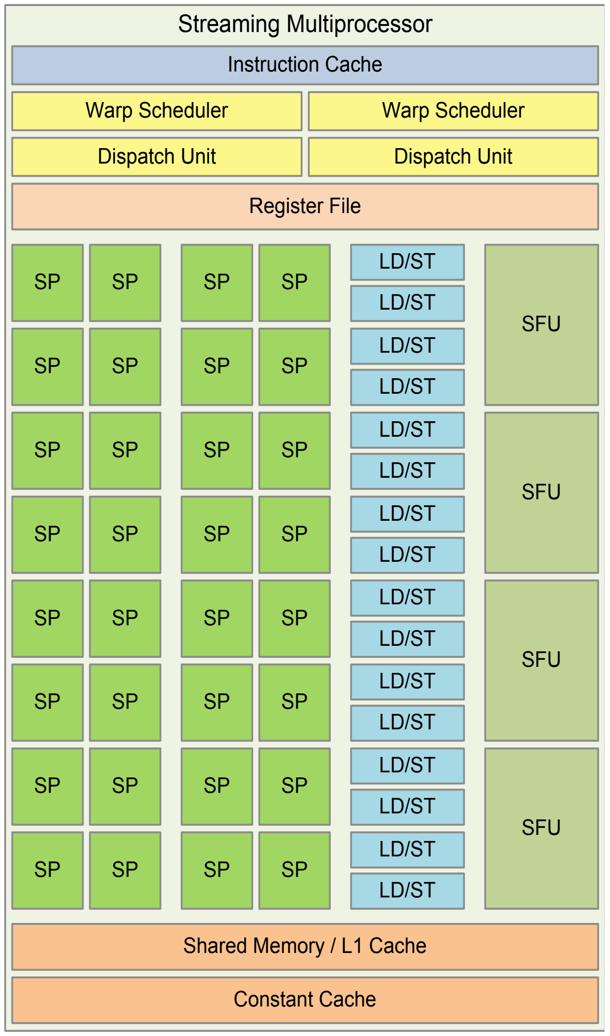
Slide credit: Hyesoon Kim

From Blocks to Warps

- GPU cores: SIMD pipelines
  - Streaming Multiprocessors (SM)
  - Streaming Processors (SP)

- Blocks are divided into warps
  - SIMD unit (32 threads)





NVIDIA Fermi architecture

Warp-based SIMD vs. Traditional SIMD

- Traditional SIMD contains a single thread
  - Sequential instruction execution; lock-step operations in a SIMD instruction
  - Programming model is SIMD (no extra threads) → SW needs to know vector length
  - ISA contains vector/SIMD instructions

- Warp-based SIMD consists of multiple scalar threads executing in a SIMD manner (i.e., same instruction executed by all threads)
  - Does not have to be lock step
  - Each thread can be treated individually (i.e., placed in a different warp) → programming model not SIMD
    - SW does not need to know vector length
    - Enables multithreading and flexible dynamic grouping of threads
  - ISA is scalar → SIMD operations can be formed dynamically
  - Essentially, it is SPMD programming model implemented on SIMD hardware

SPMD

- Single procedure/program, multiple data
  - This is a programming model rather than computer organization

- Each processing element executes the same procedure, except on different data elements
  - Procedures can synchronize at certain points in program, e.g. barriers

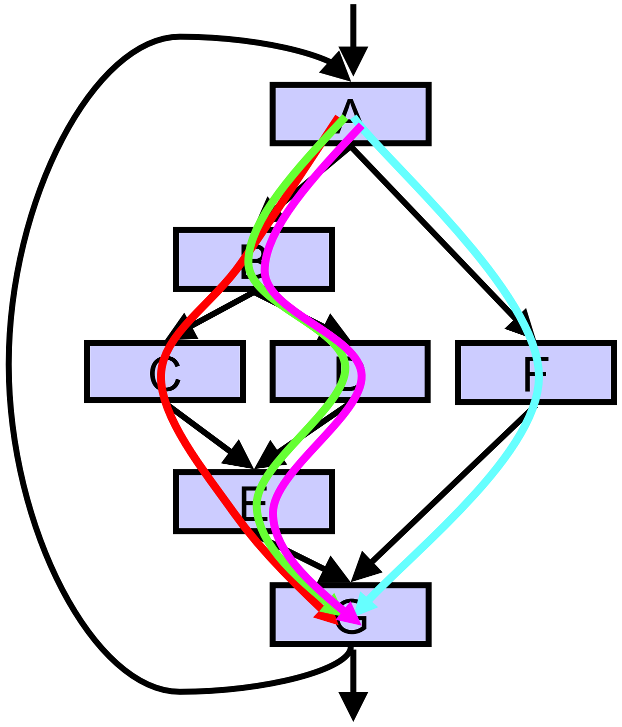
- Essentially, multiple instruction streams execute the same program
  - Each program/procedure 1) works on different data, 2) can execute a different control-flow path, at run-time
  - Many scientific applications are programmed this way and run on MIMD hardware (multiprocessors)
  - Modern GPUs programmed in a similar way on a SIMD hardware

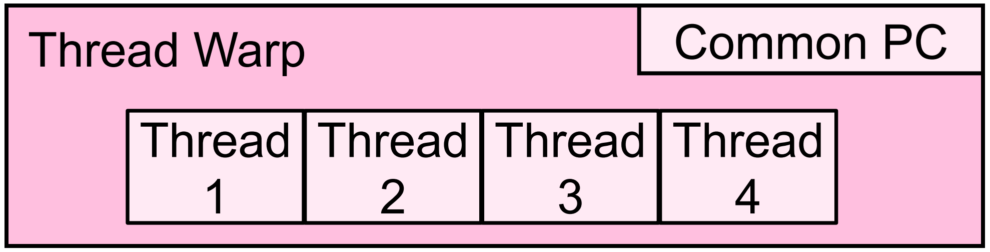
SIMD vs. SIMT Execution Model

- SIMD: A single sequential instruction stream of SIMD instructions → each instruction specifies multiple data inputs
  - [VLD, VLD, VADD, VST], VLEN
- SIMT: Multiple instruction streams of scalar instructions → threads grouped dynamically into warps
  - [LD, LD, ADD, ST], NumThreads
- Two Major SIMT Advantages:
  - Can treat each thread separately → i.e., can execute each thread independently on any type of scalar pipeline → MIMD processing
  - Can group threads into warps flexibly → i.e., can group threads that are supposed to *truly* execute the same instruction → dynamically obtain and maximize benefits of SIMD processing

Threads Can Take Different Paths in Warp-based SIMD

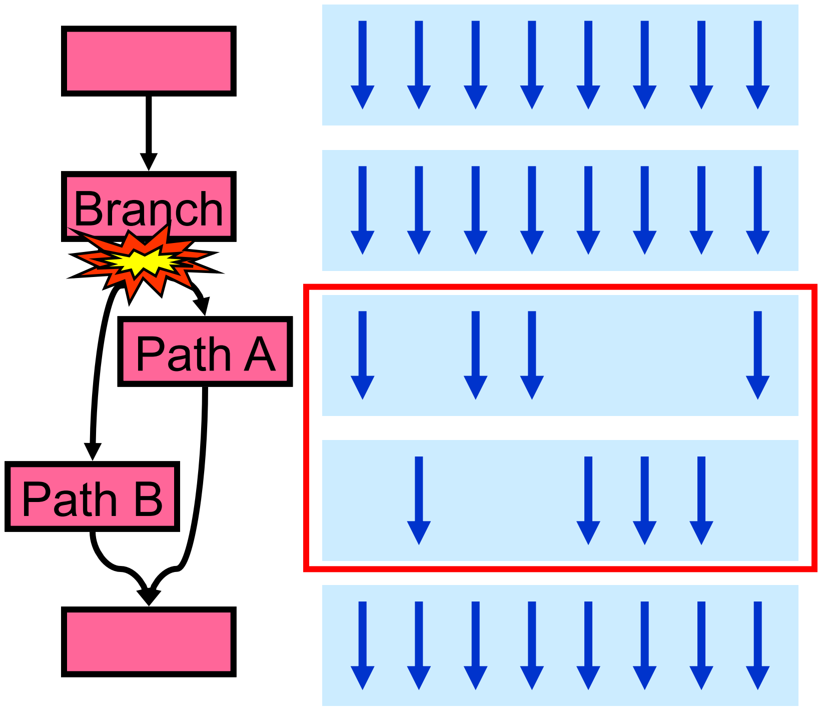
- Each thread can have conditional control flow instructions
- Threads can execute different control flow paths





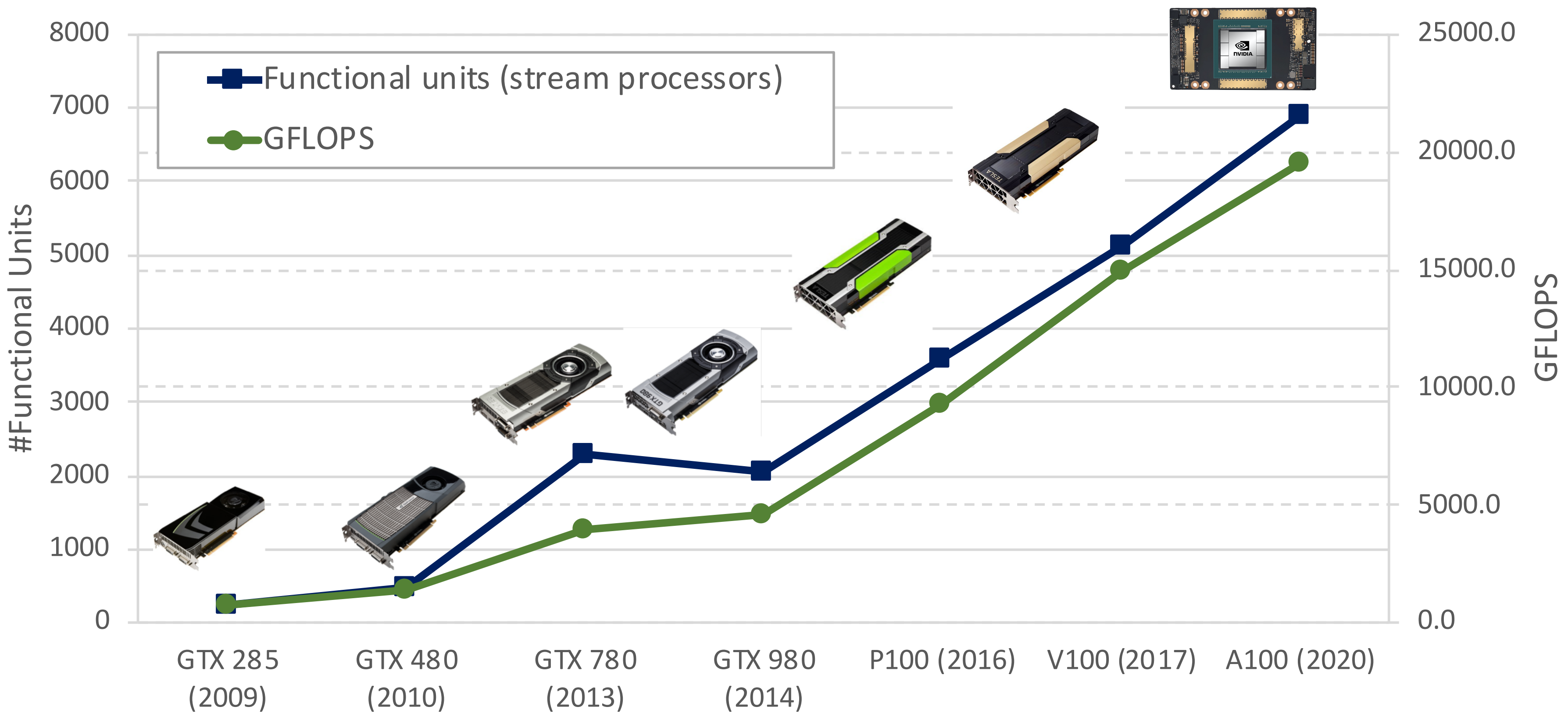
Control Flow Problem in GPUs/SIMT

- A GPU uses a SIMD pipeline to save area on control logic
  - Groups scalar threads into warps
- Branch divergence occurs when threads inside warps branch to different execution paths

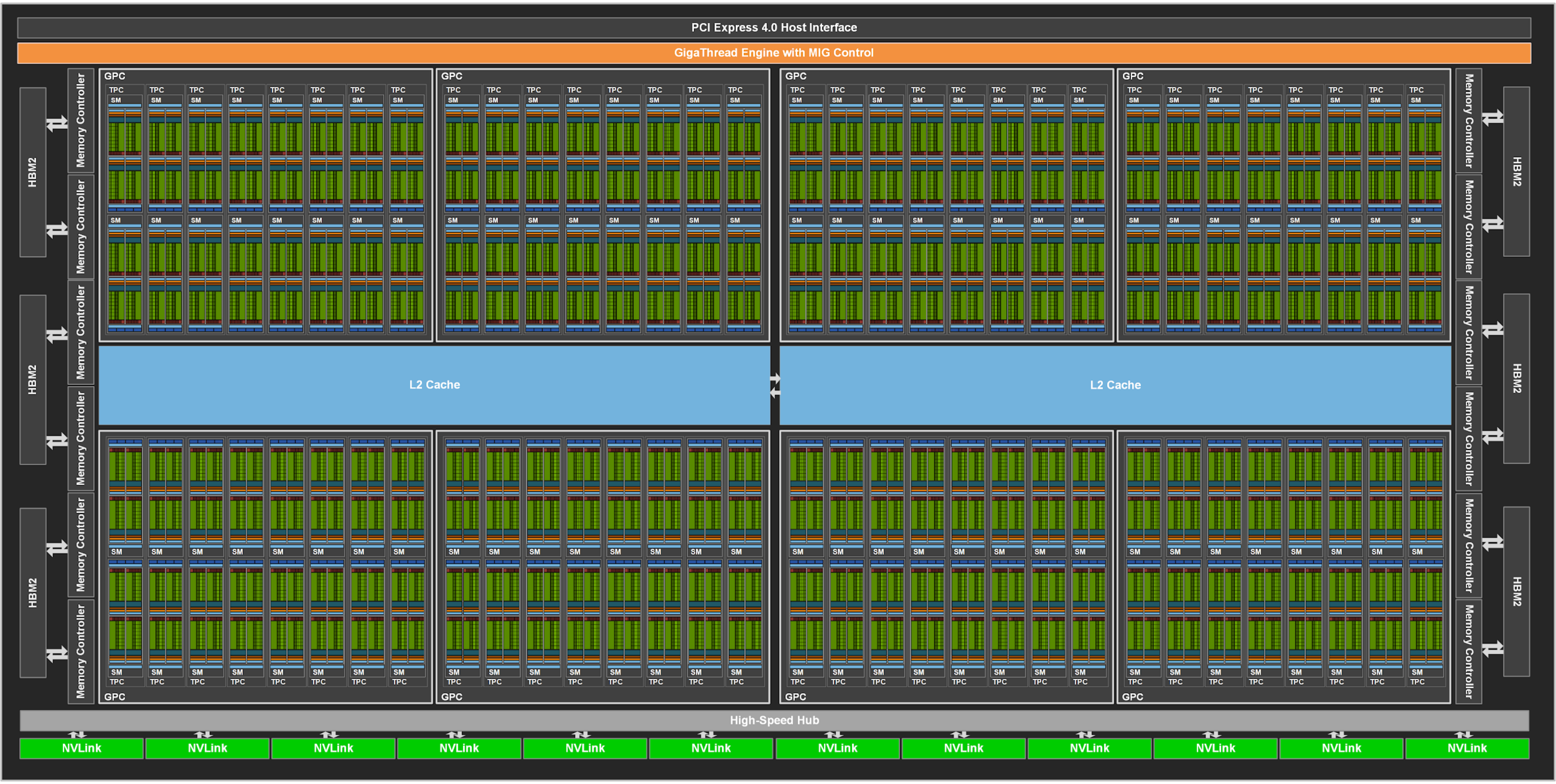


This is the same as conditional/predicated/masked execution. Recall the Vector Mask and Masked Vector Operations?

Evolution of NVIDIA GPUs



NVIDIA A100 Block Diagram



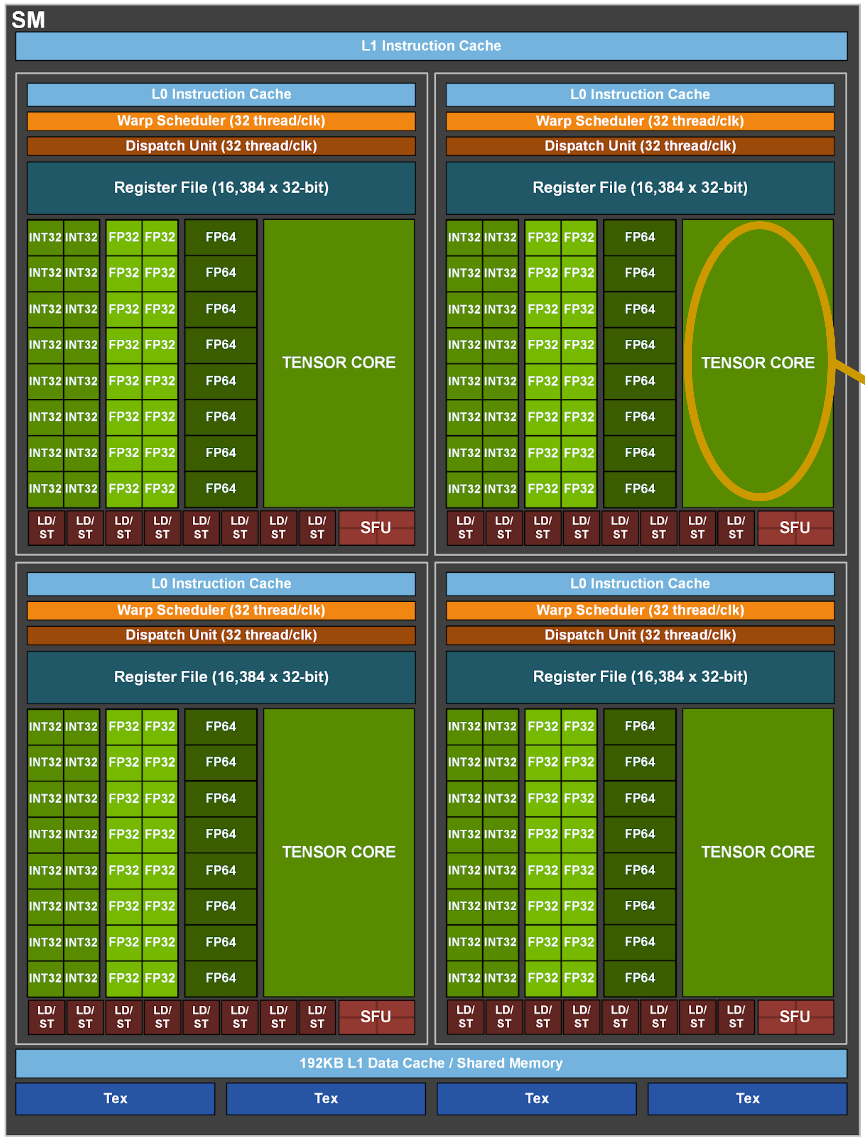
https://developer.nvidia.com/blog/nvidia-ampere-architecture-in-depth/

108 cores on the A100

(Up to 128 cores in the full-blown chip)

40MB L2 cache

NVIDIA A100 Core

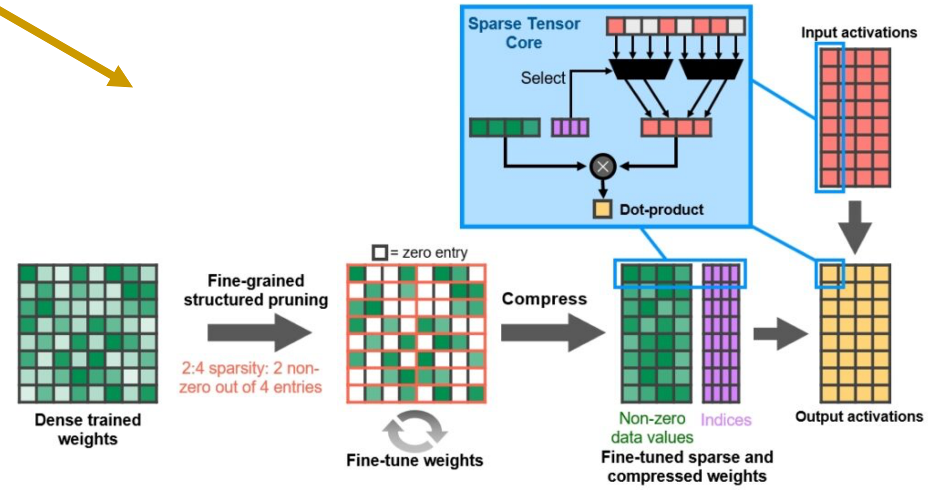


SM
L1 Instruction Cache
L0 Instruction Cache
Warp Scheduler (32 thread/clk)
Dispatch Unit (32 thread/clk)
Register File (16,384 x 32-bit)
INT32
FP32
FP64
TENSOR CORE
LD/ ST
SFU
192KB L1 Data Cache / Shared Memory
Tex

19.5 TFLOPS Single Precision

9.7 TFLOPS Double Precision

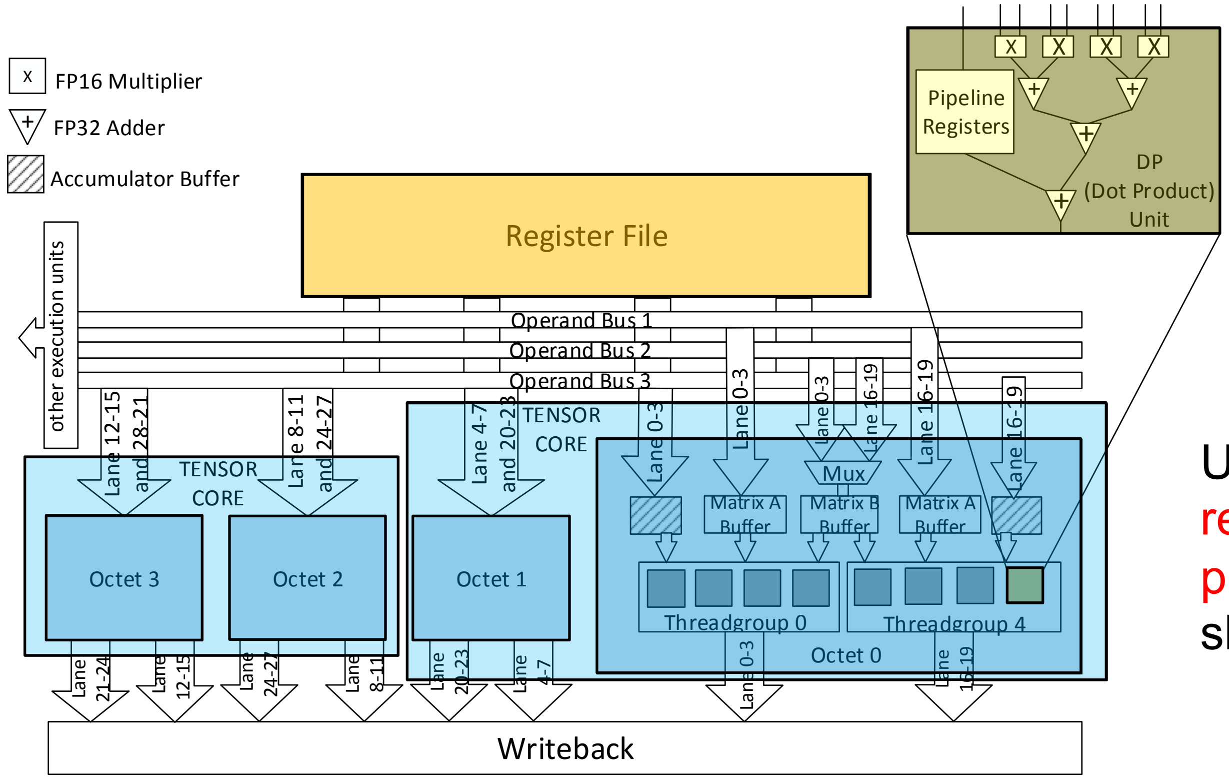
312 TFLOPS for Deep Learning (Tensor cores)



https://developer.nvidia.com/blog/nvidia-ampere-architecture-in-depth/

Tensor Core Microarchitecture (Volta)

- Each warp utilizes two tensor cores
- Each tensor core contains two "octets"
  - 16 SIMD units per tensor core (8 per octet)
  - 4x4 matrix-multiply and accumulate each cycle per tensor core



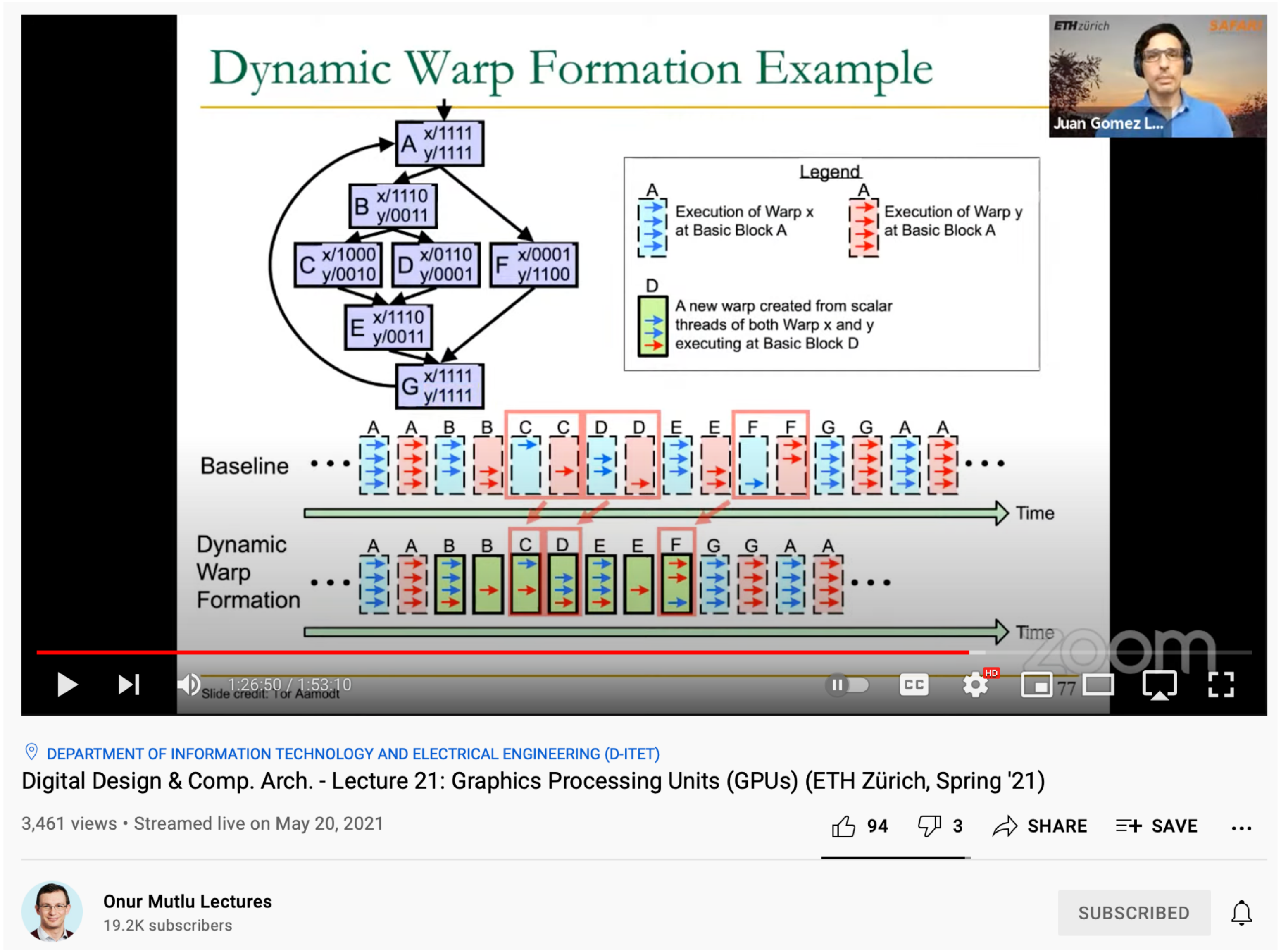
SIMD unit

Proposed* tensor core microarchitecture

Unlike conventional SIMD, register contents are *not* private to each thread, but shared inside the warp

* M. A. Raihan, N. Goli and T. M. Aamodt, "Modeling Deep Learning Accelerator Enabled GPUs," ISPASS 2019.

Lecture on Graphics Processing Units



DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (D-ITET)

Digital Design & Comp. Arch. - Lecture 21: Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) (ETH Zürich, Spring '21)

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P&S Heterogeneous Systems

SIMD Processing and GPUs

Dr. Juan Gómez Luna
Prof. Onur Mutlu
ETH Zürich

Fall 2021

14 October 2021

Clarification of Some GPU Terms

Generic Term	NVIDIA Term	AMD Term	Comments
Vector length	Warp size	Wavefront size	Number of threads that run in parallel (lock-step) on a SIMD functional unit
Pipelined functional unit / Scalar pipeline	Streaming processor / CUDA core	-	Functional unit that executes instructions for one GPU thread
SIMD functional unit / SIMD pipeline	Group of N streaming processors (e.g., N=8 in GTX 285, N=16 in Fermi)	Vector ALU	SIMD functional unit that executes instructions for an entire warp
GPU core	Streaming multiprocessor	Compute unit	It contains one or more warp schedulers and one or several SIMD pipelines