



Executorch on Small Bare-Metal Microcontrollers

Shane Slattery
Pietra Ferreira
William Jones
Jeremy Bennett

Copyright © 2026 Embecosm. Freely available under a
Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license.



The Cost of AI

50



The Cost of AI

50

0.03



The Cost of AI

50

0.03

10-100+

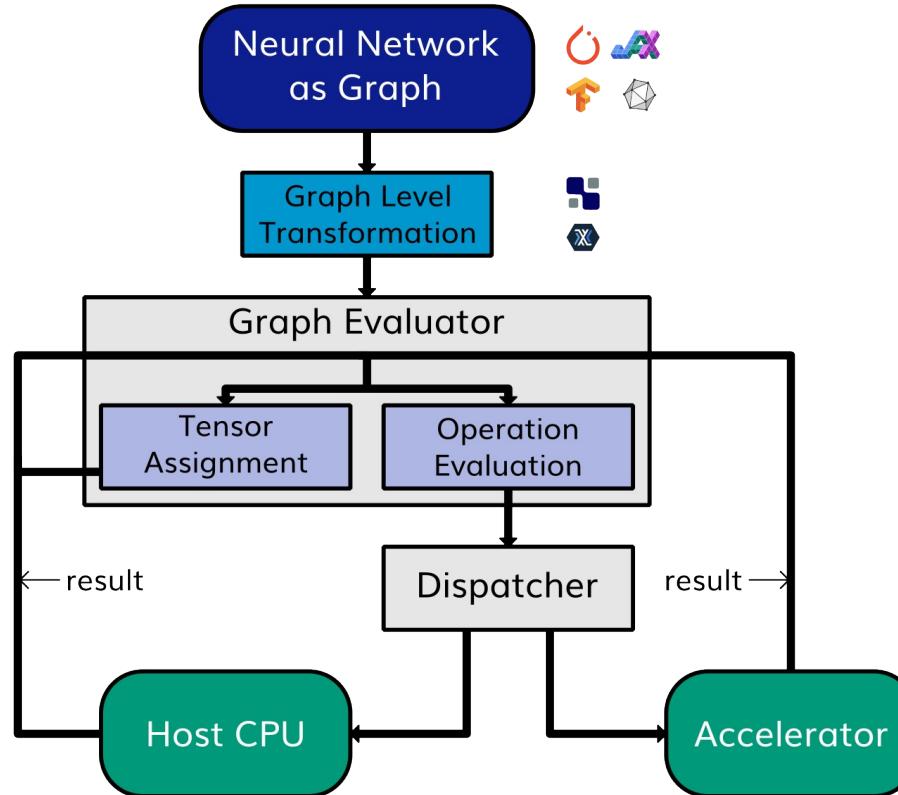


Building AI at the Edge

Copyright © 2026 Embecosm. Freely available under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license.



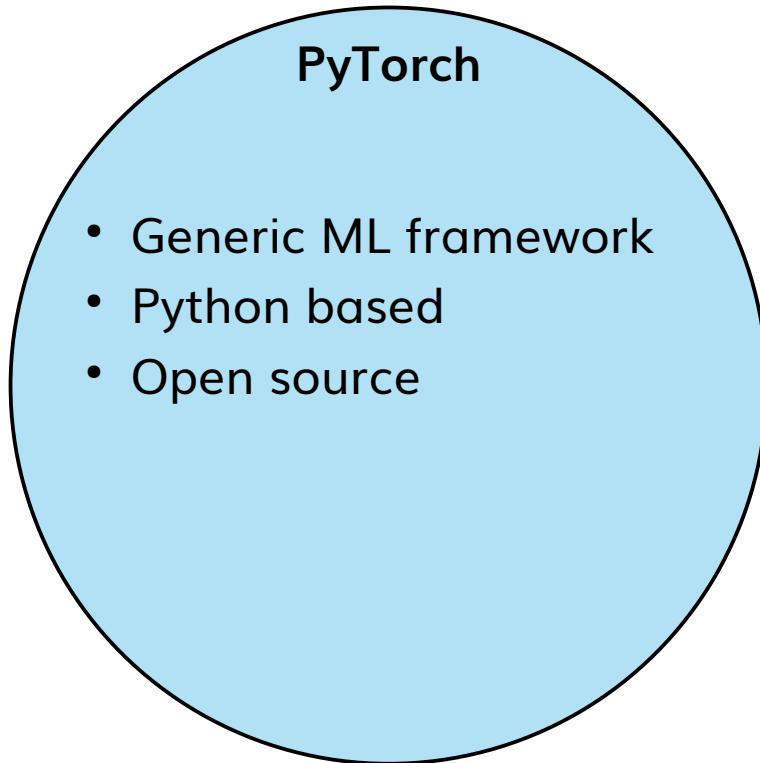
What are PyTorch and ExecuTorch?



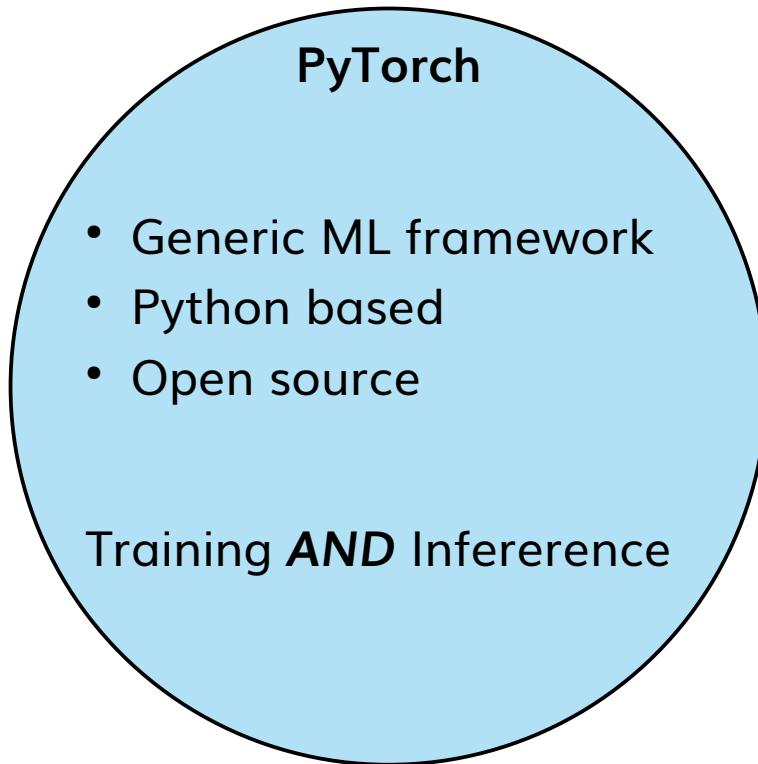
What are PyTorch and ExecuTorch?



What are PyTorch and ExecuTorch?



What are PyTorch and ExecuTorch?



What are PyTorch and ExecuTorch?

PyTorch

- Generic ML framework
- Python based
- Open source

Training **AND** Inference



ExecuTorch

- PyTorch extension
- Resource limited

What are PyTorch and ExecuTorch?

PyTorch

- Generic ML framework
- Python based
- Open source

Training **AND** Inference



ExecuTorch

- PyTorch extension
- Resource limited

Inference **ONLY**

Two Steps to ExecuTorch Development

1. Build ExecuTorch



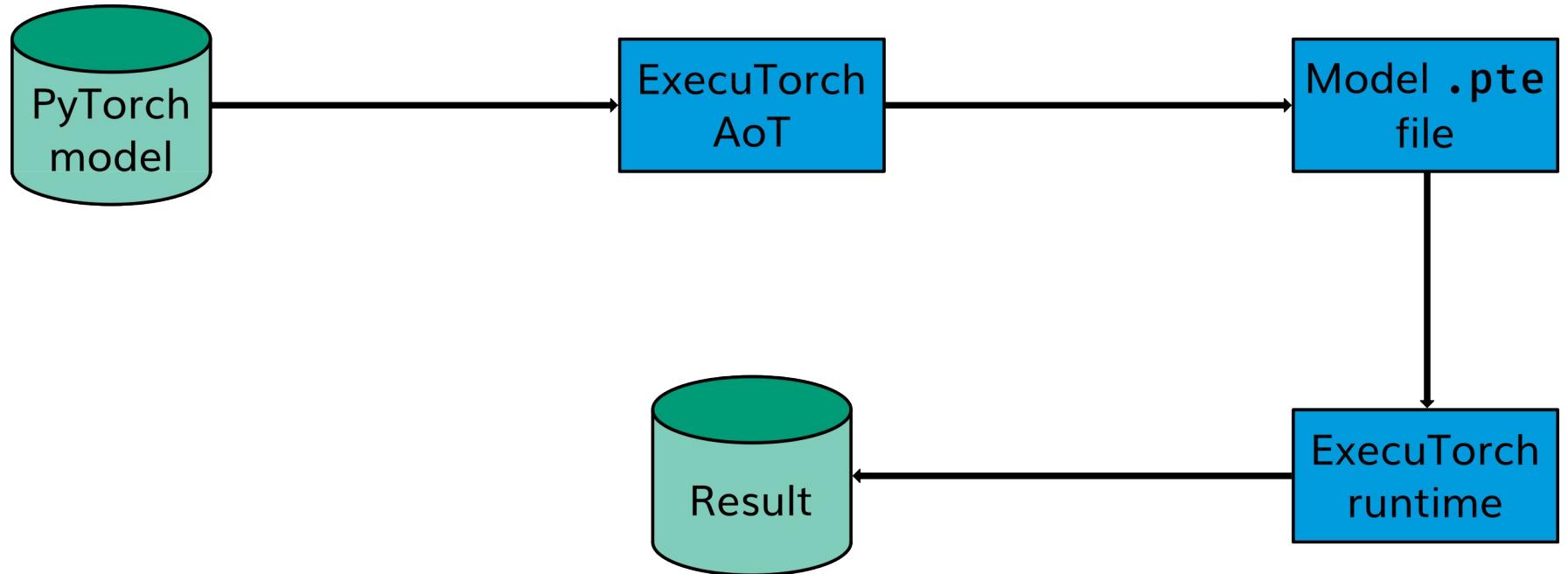
Two Steps to ExecuTorch Development

1. Build ExecuTorch

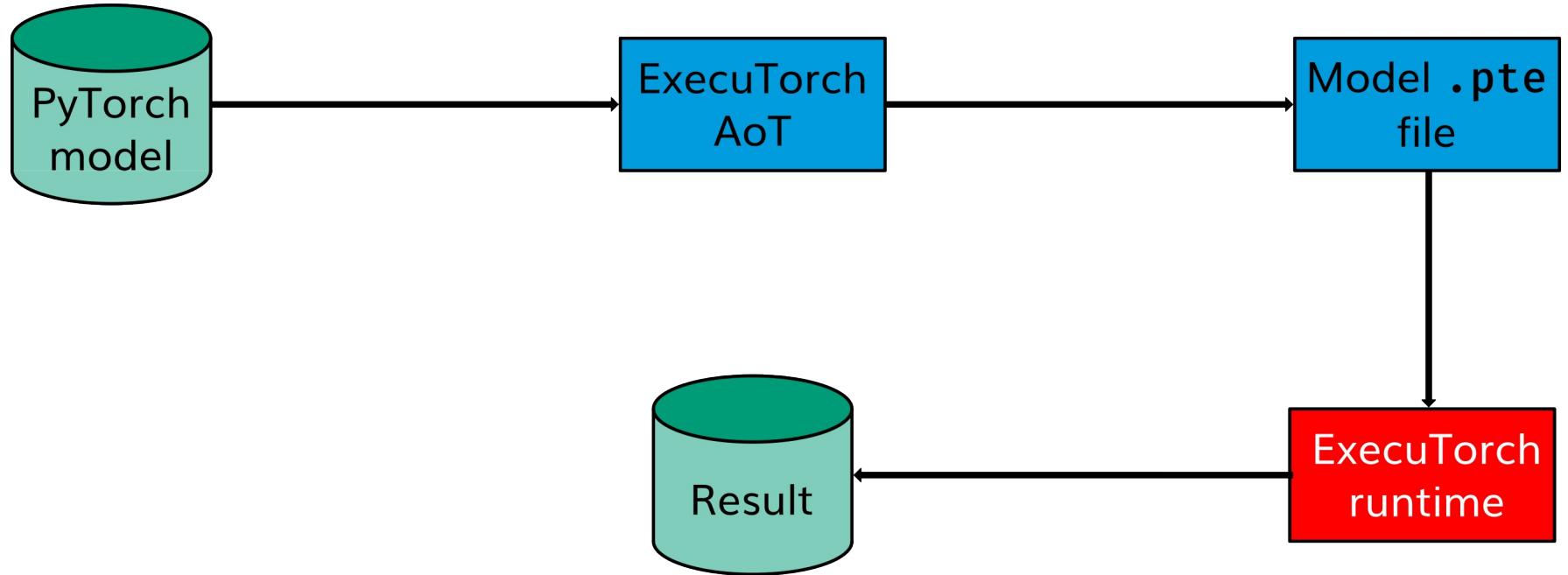
2. Customize Performance



Building With ExecuTorch



Building With ExecuTorch



Our Experience: A RISC-V Platform

Memory

- a few Megabytes
- little fast memory

Our Experience: A RISC-V Platform

Memory

- a few Megabytes
- little fast memory

Compute

- few cores
- few accelerators

Our Experience: A RISC-V Platform

Memory

- a few Megabytes
- little fast memory

Compute

- few cores
- few accelerators

No OS

Our Experience: A RISC-V Platform

Memory

- a few Megabytes
- little fast memory

Compute

- few cores
- few accelerators

No OS

No standard I/O

Our Experience: A RISC-V Platform

Memory

- a few Megabytes
- little fast memory

Compute

- few cores
- few accelerators

No OS

No standard I/O

No multi-core support

Our Experience: A RISC-V Platform

Memory

- a few Megabytes
- little fast memory

Compute

- few cores
- few accelerators

No OS

No standard I/O

No multi-core support

No run-time code loading

Our Experience: A RISC-V Platform

Memory

- a few Megabytes
- little fast memory

Compute

- few cores
- few accelerators

No OS

No standard I/O

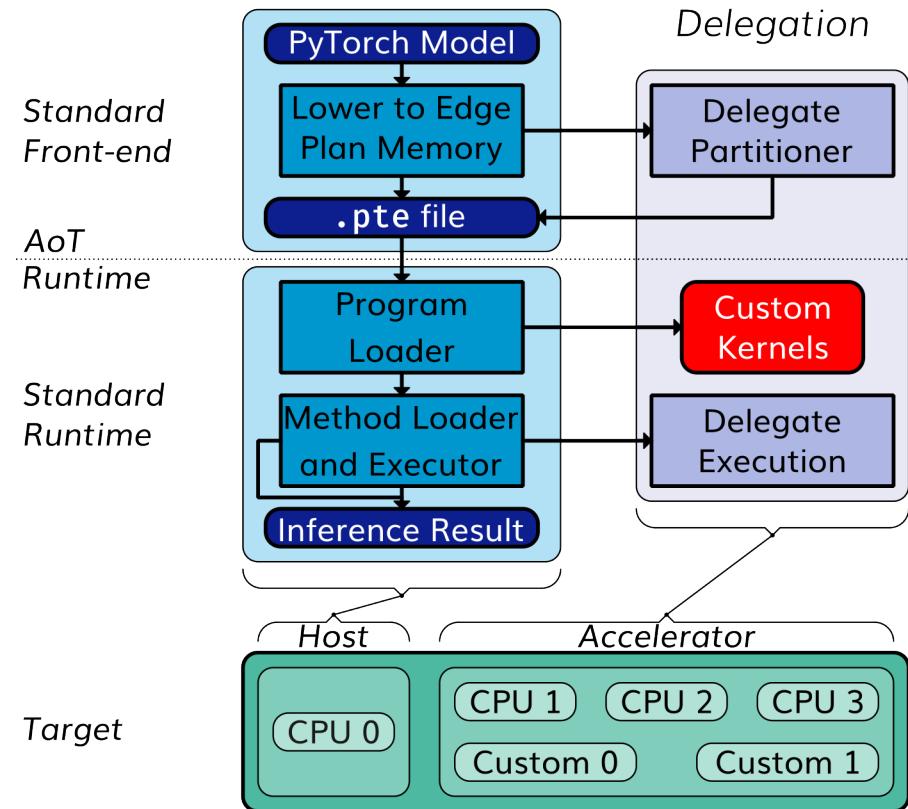
No multi-core support

No run-time code loading

Success with minor changes

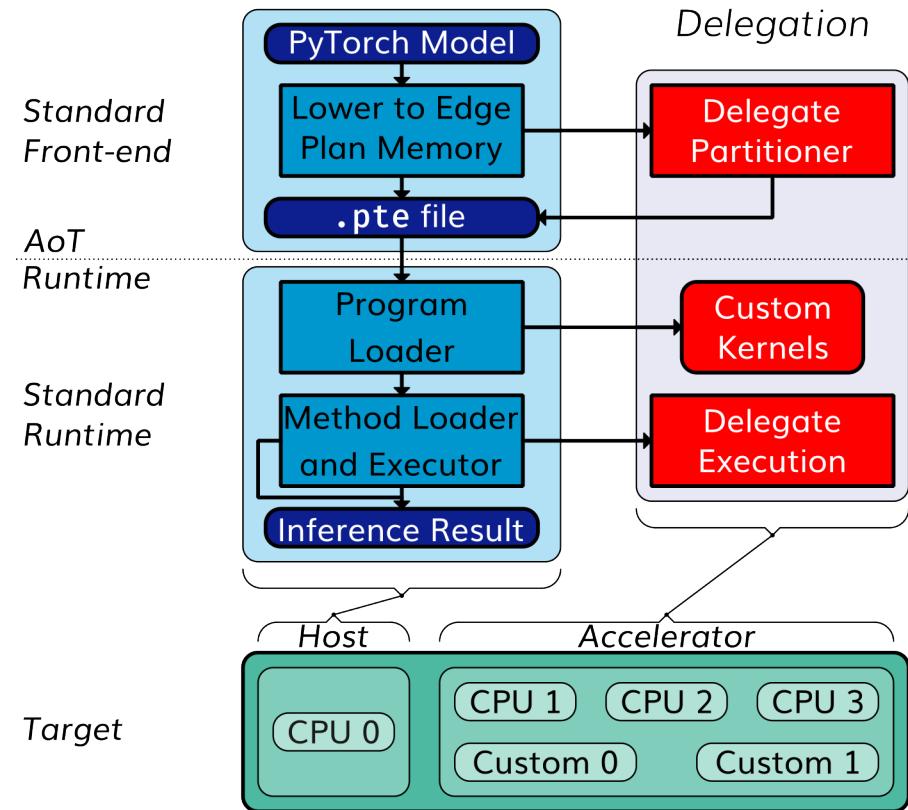


Customize Performance



Existing functions

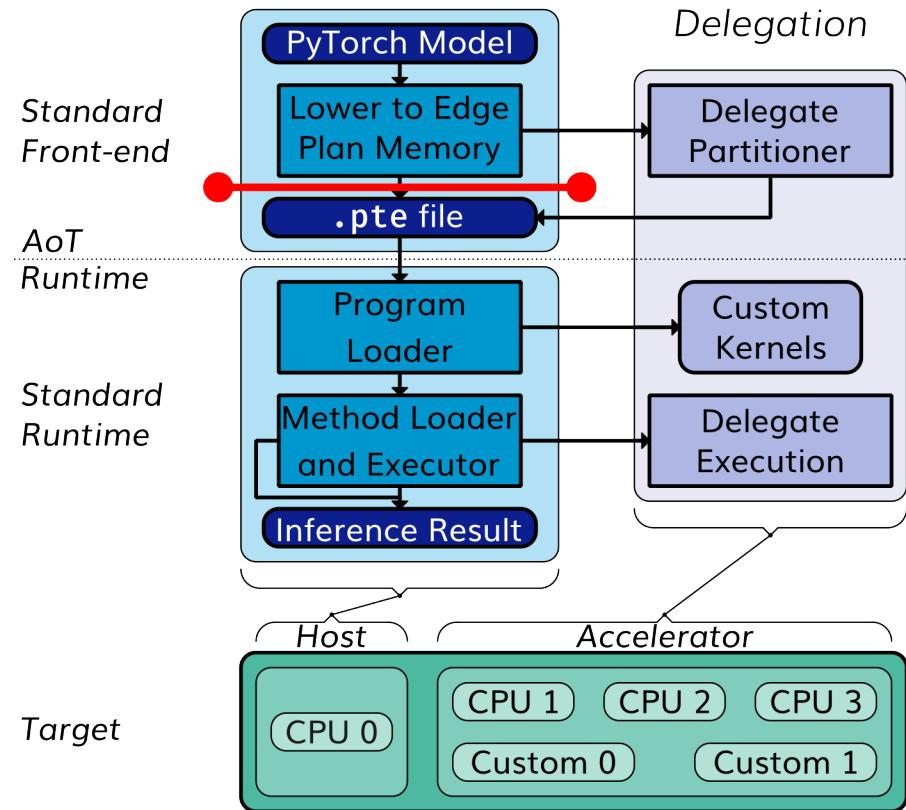
Customize Performance



Existing functions

New capabilities

Customize Performance



Existing functions

New capabilities

Graph level optimization



Case Study: A RISC-V Processor with Custom NPU

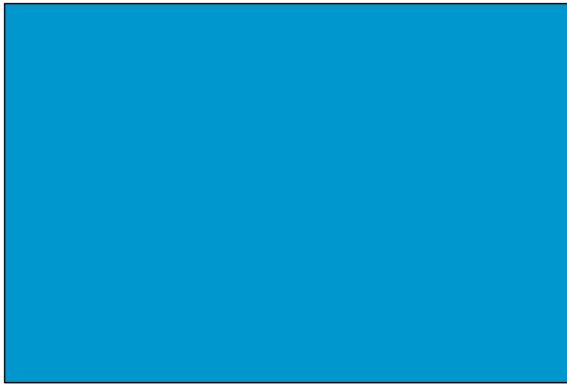
Copyright © 2026 Embecosm. Freely available under a
Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license.



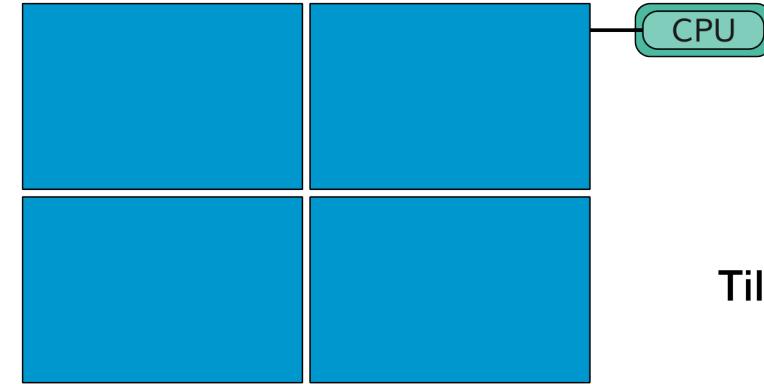
Optimization Strategies



Optimization Strategies

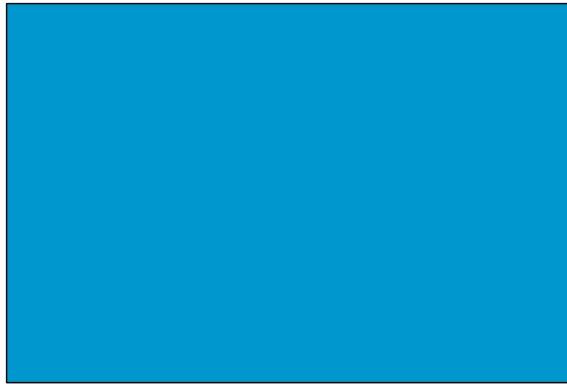


Baseline

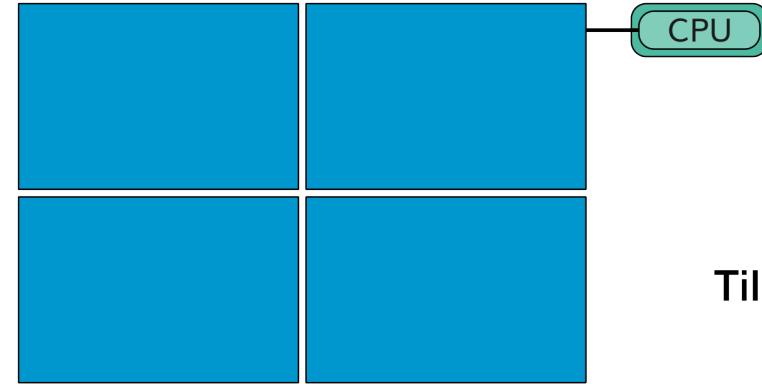


Tiling

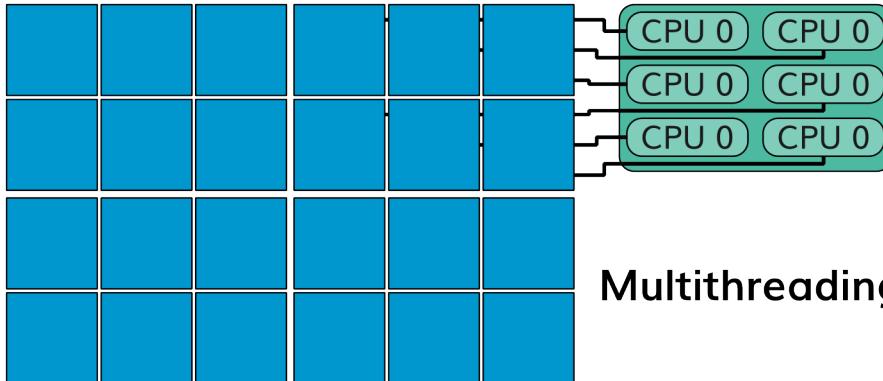
Optimization Strategies



Baseline



Tiling

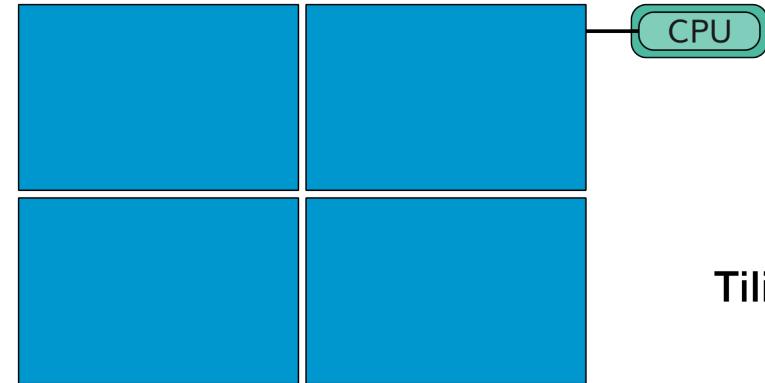


Multithreading

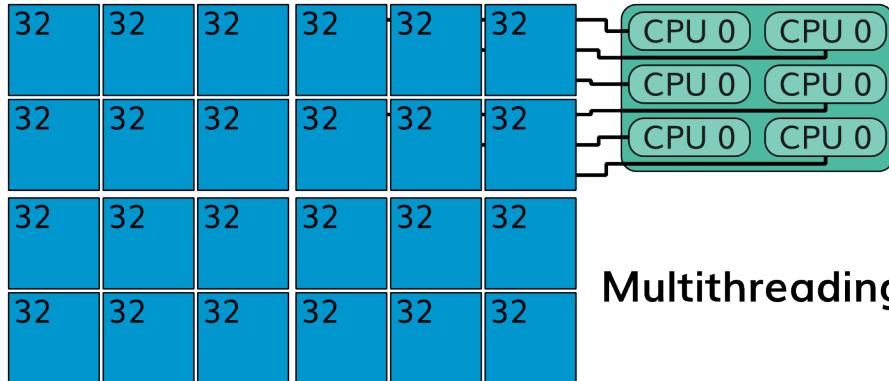
Optimization Strategies



Baseline

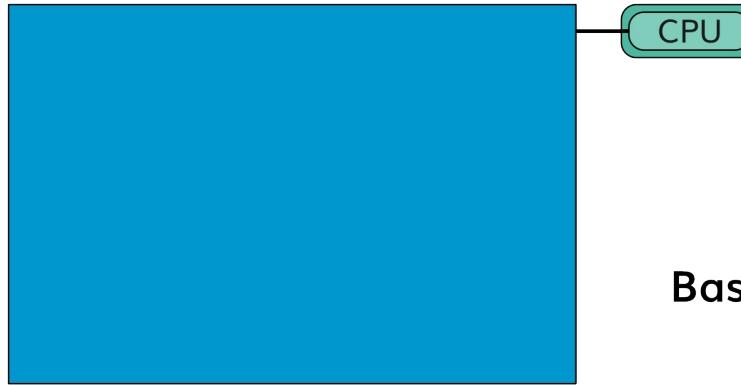


Tiling

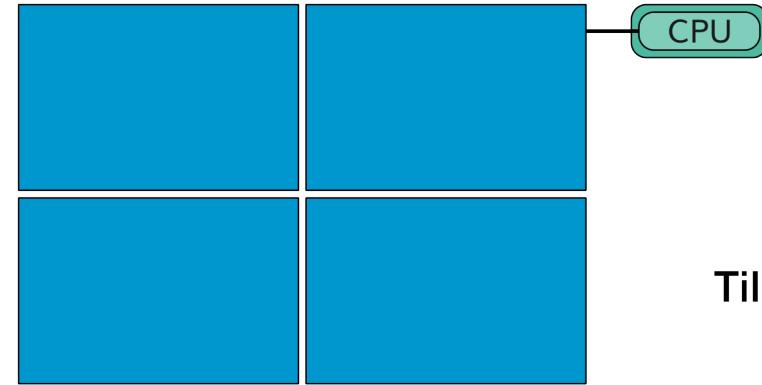


Multithreading

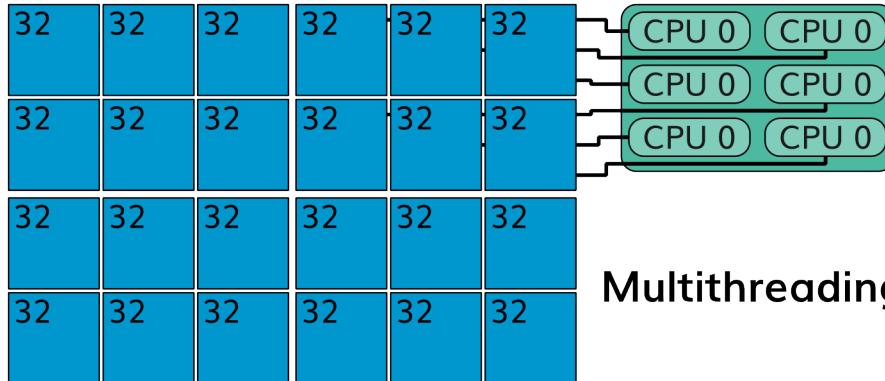
Optimization Strategies



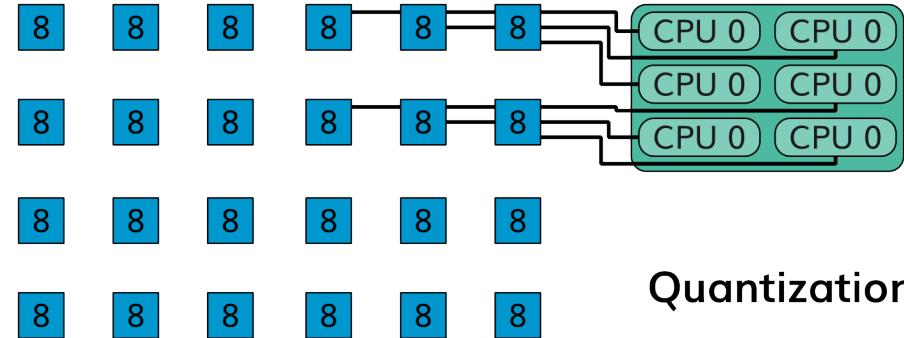
Baseline



Tiling

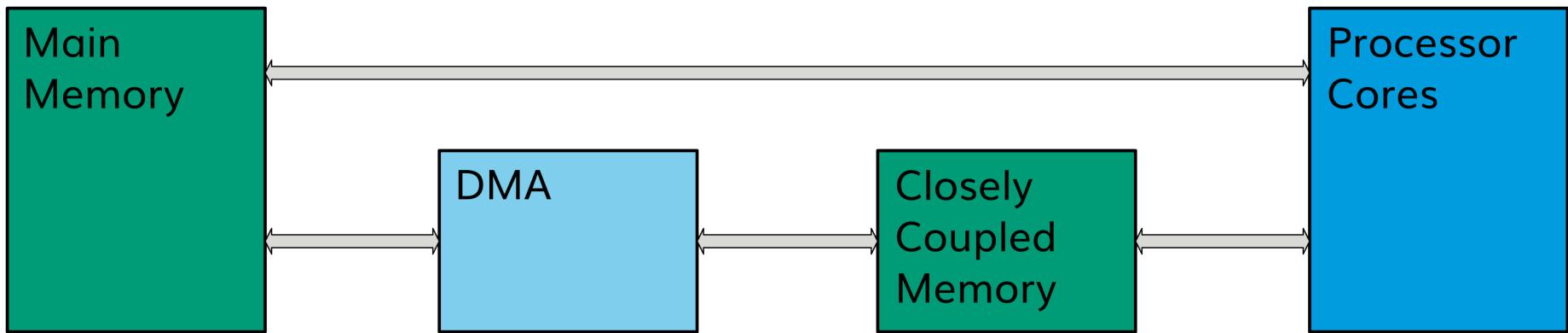


Multithreading



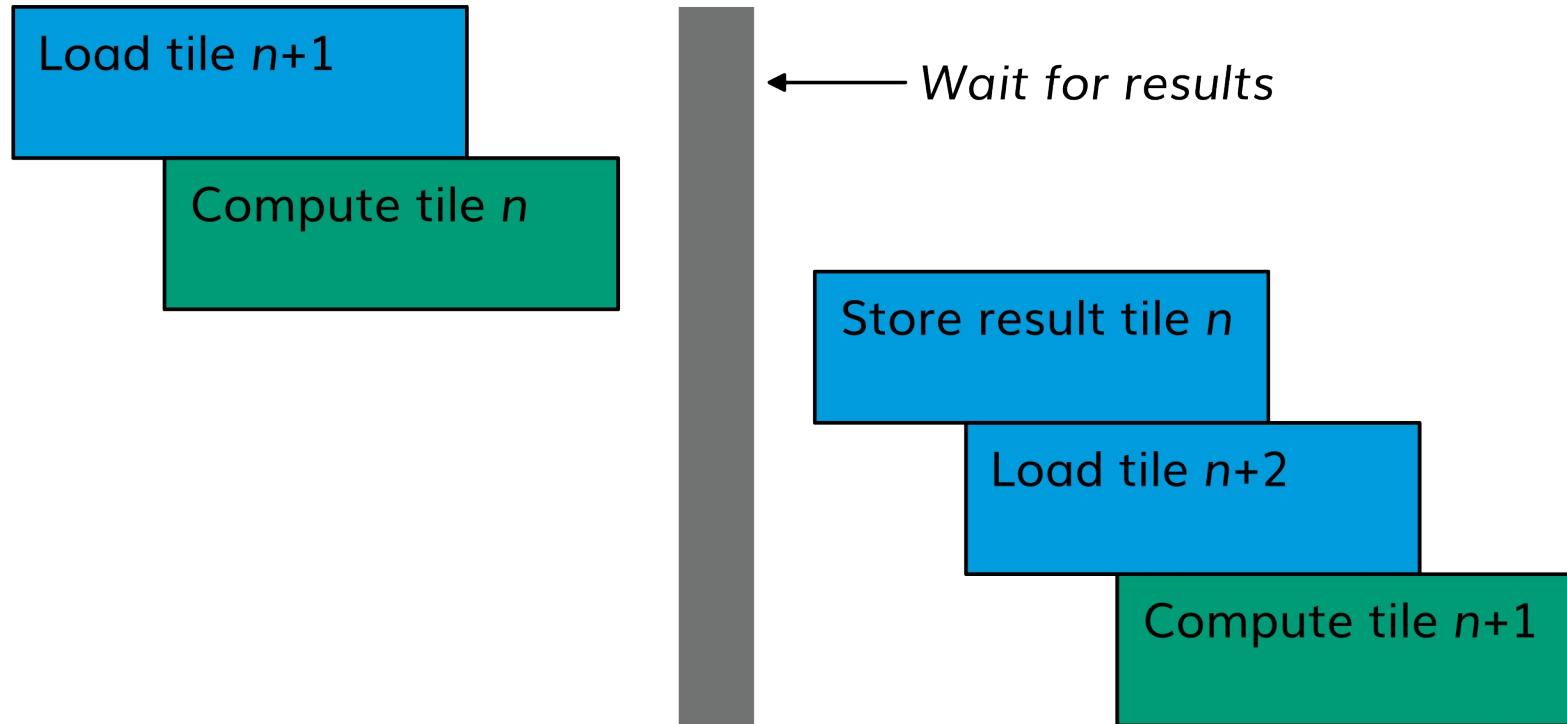
Quantization

Optimization in Depth: Memory

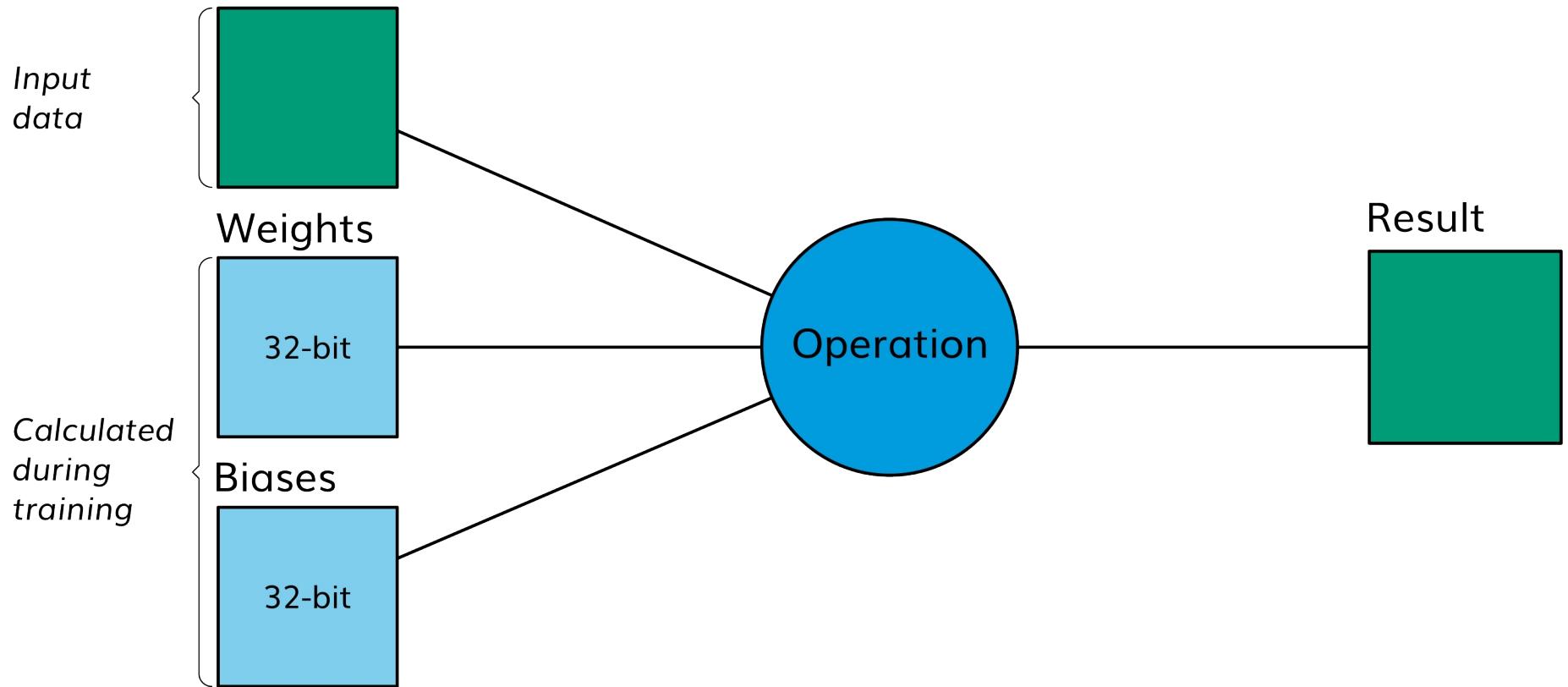


- Cache frequently used data
 - e.g. initial layers
- Break data into "tiles"
 - e.g. sub-areas of images
- Algorithms are predictable
 - regular loops
 - pre-fetch data
 - e.g. image convolution

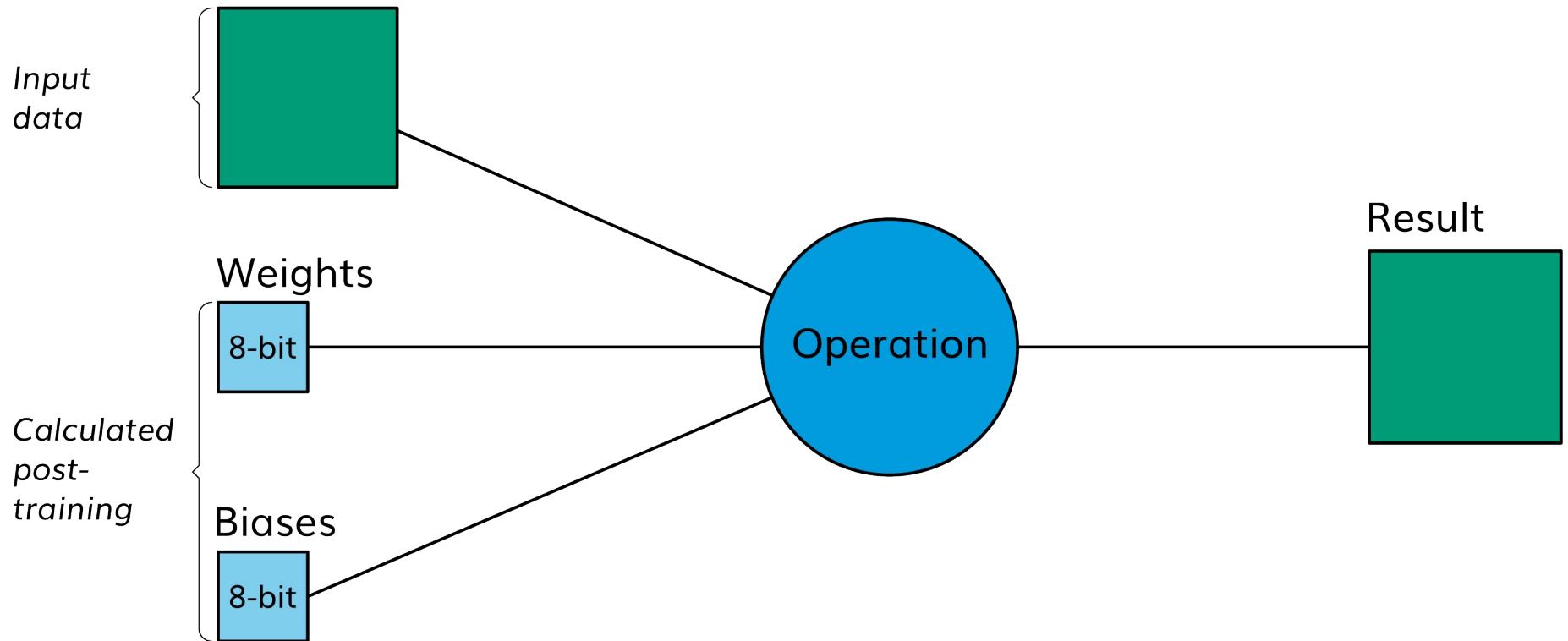
Optimization in Depth: DMA



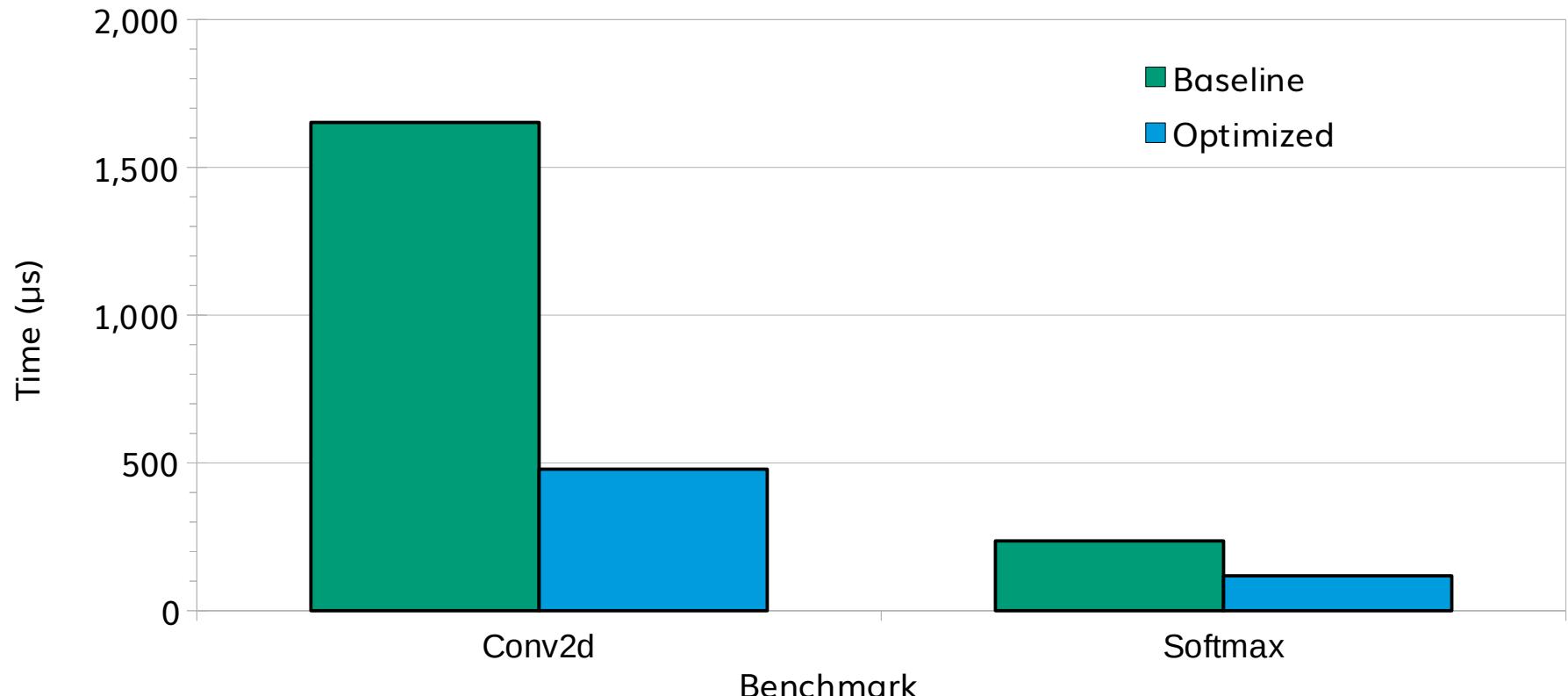
Optimization in Depth: Quantization



Optimization in Depth: Quantization



The Performance Benefit



Acknowledgement

The Embecosm team would like to thank our colleagues at Mosaic SoC in Switzerland who have supported the work presented here





Thank You

shane.slattery@embecosm.com

pietra.ferreira@embecosm.com

william.jones@embecosm.com

jeremy.bennett@embecosm.com



Copyright © 2026 Embecosm. Freely available under a
Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license.

Shane Slattery
Pietra Ferreira
William Jones
Jeremy Bennett

