



University of Pittsburgh

CS 1541 Introduction

Instructor Introduction

Course Introduction

Wonsun Ahn

Department of Computer Science

School of Computing and Information





Instructor Introduction



My Technical Background

■ Wonsun Ahn

- First name is pronounced *one-sun* (if you can manage)
- Or you can just call me Dr. Ahn (rhymes with *naan*)

■ PhD in CPU Design and Compilers

- University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

■ Industry Experience

- Bluebird Corporation (70-person startup company)
 - Manufactures industrial hand-held devices
 - Me: Built software stack based on Windows Embedded
- IBM Research (thousands of people)
 - Does next-gen stuff like carbon nanotubes, quantum computers
 - Me: Designed supercomputers for ease of parallel programming



My World View

- Everything is connected
 - Pandemic: If my neighbors catch the virus, so will I
 - Environment: If my neighbors pollute, I will feel the effects
 - Economy: Think of how the subprime mortgage crisis spread
- Zero-sum thinking (old way of thinking)
 - “If you get a larger slice of the pie, I get a smaller slice.”
 - Therefore, if you lose, I win (and vice versa)
- Zero-sum thinking no longer works
 - If you catch the virus, do I become safer from the virus?
- Collaboration is replacing competition



Collaboration is Replacing Competition

- Is happening in all spheres of life
- Collaboration is also happening in the IT industry
 - The *open source* movement
 - Increasing importance of the software/hardware *ecosystem*
 - Increasing importance of the developer *community*
- Collaboration is also important for learning
 - During my undergrad years, what do I remember best?
 - Stuff that I explained to my classmates
 - Stuff that my classmates taught me



Supporting Collaborative Learning

- I *do not* grade on a curve
 - You will not be competing against your classmates
 - You are graded on your own work on an absolute scale

- You are a member of a Team
 - You are already a member of the class on Microsoft Teams
 - I encourage you to be on Teams at most times (I will too)
 - You can install app on both laptop and cell phone
 - If you have a question, you can ask in the Team “Posts” tab
 - Either your classmate or your instructor will answer
 - You can chat with any individual on the Team
 - “Manage Team” item in the “...” Team context menu



Supporting Collaborative Learning

■ You are a member of a Study Group

1. Right now, form a group of 4~6 members with neighbors
2. Create a Teams chat group comprised of these members
3. Invite your instructor to chat group (ID: wahn@pitt.edu)
4. Send at least one message in chat group so I can see it
 - Can discuss TopHat questions/answers before submitting
 - Goal: develop a basis of knowledge for homeworks/exams

■ You are a member of a Project Group

- Find one partner with whom you want to do projects
- On GradeScope, submit to “Partnership Contract”
(Please do one submission per group by adding partner)



Course Introduction



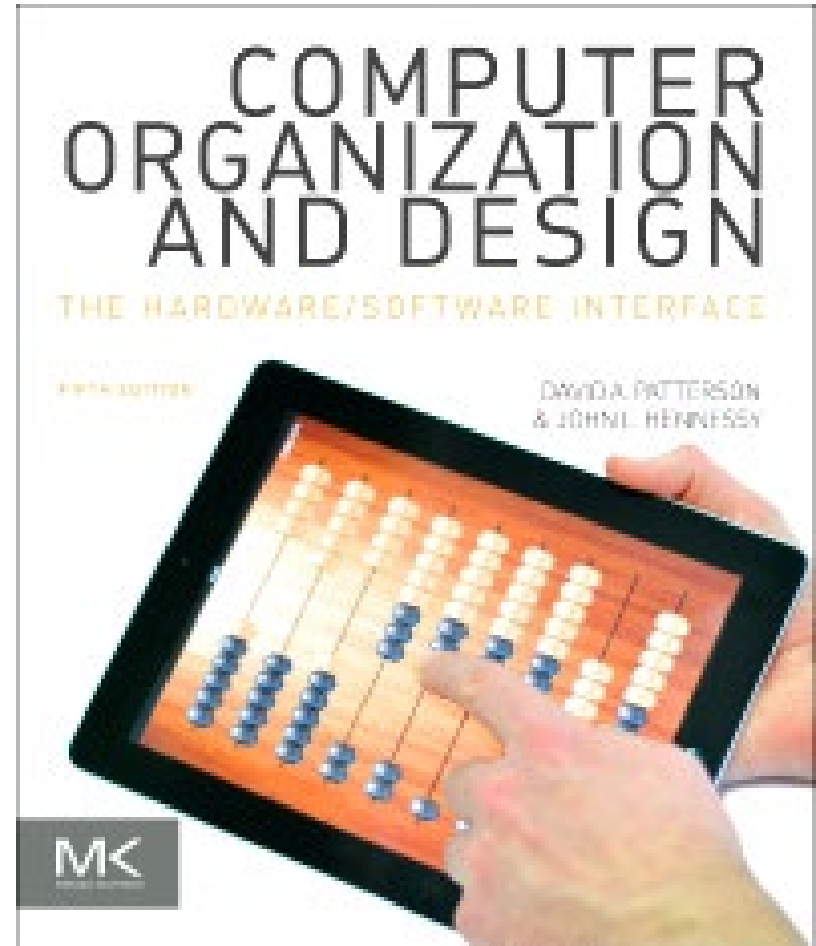
Structure of the Course

- (45% of grade) Two midterms
- (20% of grade) Two projects
 - Implementing a CPU simulator using C programming language
- (20% of grade) Four homeworks
- (15% of grade) Participation
 - Attendance, TopHat lecture questions, Teams participation
- Class resources:
 - Canvas: announcements, Zoom meetings, recorded lectures
 - GitHub: syllabus, lectures, homeworks, projects
 - Tophat: online lecture questions
 - GradeScope: homework / projects submission, grading and feedback
 - Microsoft Teams: all out-of-class communication



Textbook (You Probably Have it)

- “Computer Organization and Design - The Hardware/Software Interface” by David Patterson and John Hennessy Fifth Edition - Morgan & Kaufmann.





For More Details

- Please refer to the course repository:
https://github.com/wonsunahn/CS1541_Spring2024
- There you will find:
 - The syllabus
 - The course schedule
 - Lectures, assignments, and other course material
(Will be posted as the semester progresses)

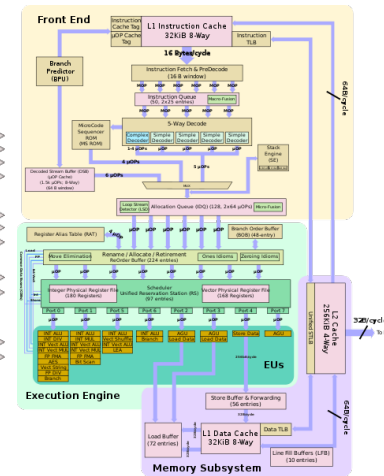
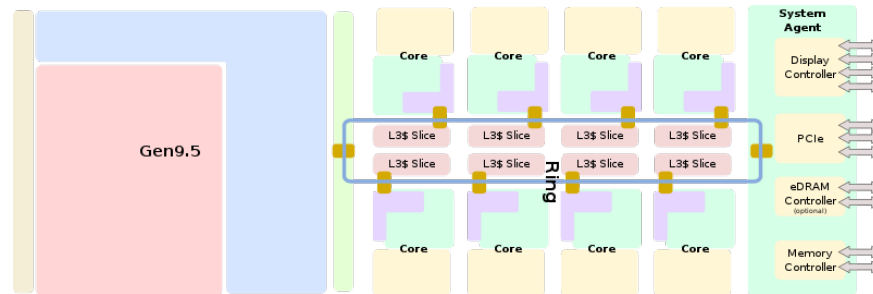
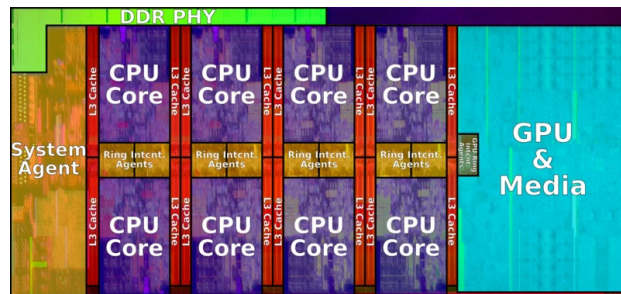
Computer Architecture. What is it?

Computer Architecture: the architecture of a CPU

- Every building has an architecture:



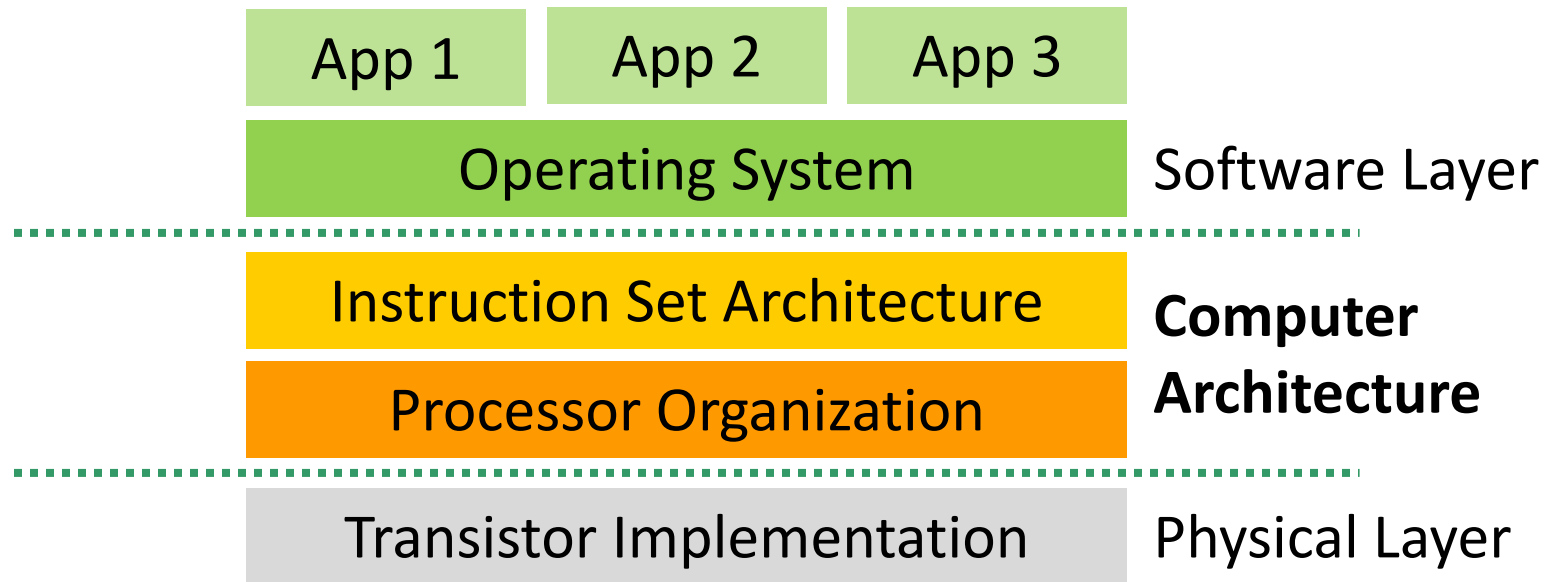
- Every CPU has an architecture as well:



ISA: the architecture of an instruction set

- At a high-level: how a computer is built
 - Computer here meaning the processor (CPU)
- You probably heard of a similar term before: ISA
 - ISA (Instruction Set Architecture)
- Review: what is defined by an ISA?
 - *Set of instructions* usable by the computer
 - *Set of registers* available in the computer
 - Other functional attributes
- What is *not* defined by an ISA?
 - *Speed* of computer
 - *Energy efficiency* of computer
 - *Reliability* of computer
 - Other performance attributes

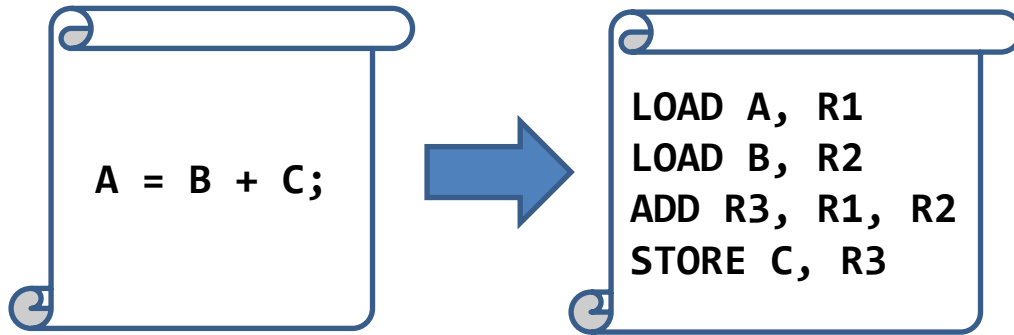
Computer Architecture = ISA+Processor Organization



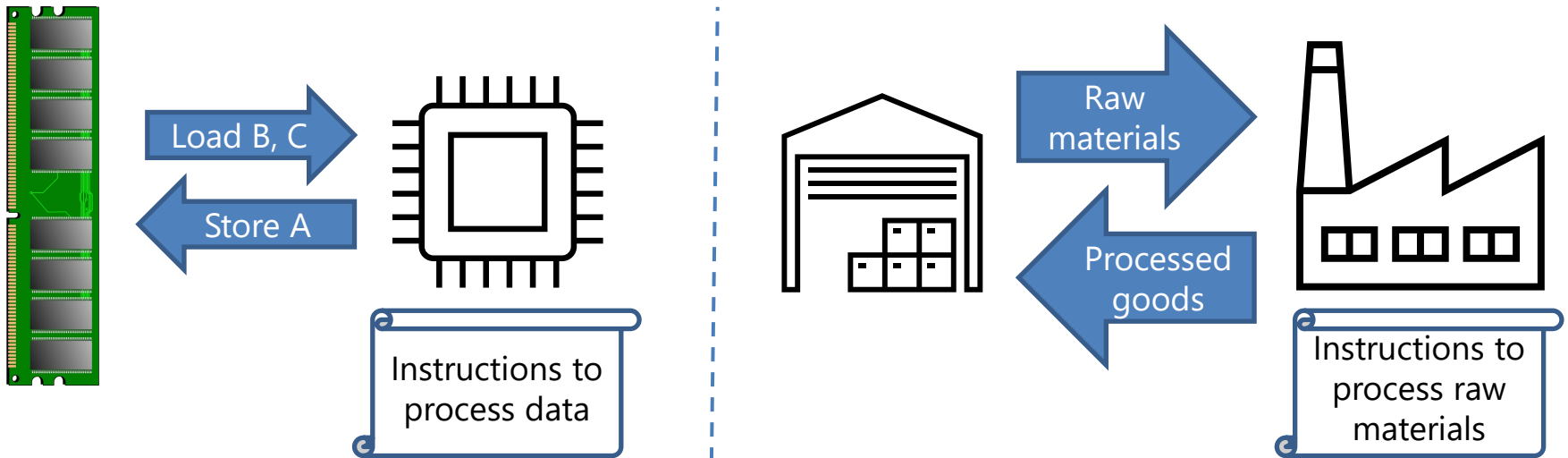
- **Computer Architecture = ISA + Processor Organization**
 - Processor organization is also called *Microarchitecture*
- Given an ISA, performance is determined by:
 - Processor organization (internal design of the processor)
 - Transistor implementation (semiconductor technology)

A CPU is like a factory

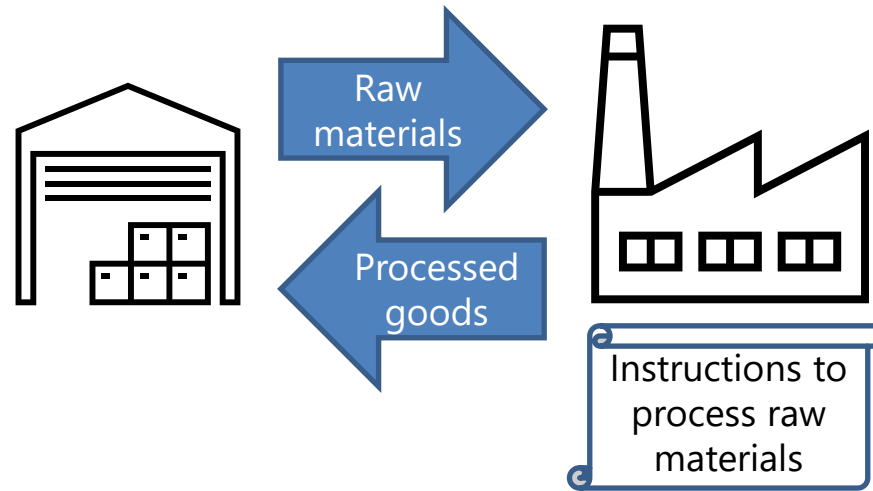
- A program written in Python, Java, or C is converted to instructions



- A CPU processes data according to instructions, just like a factory



Factory efficiency depends on factory design

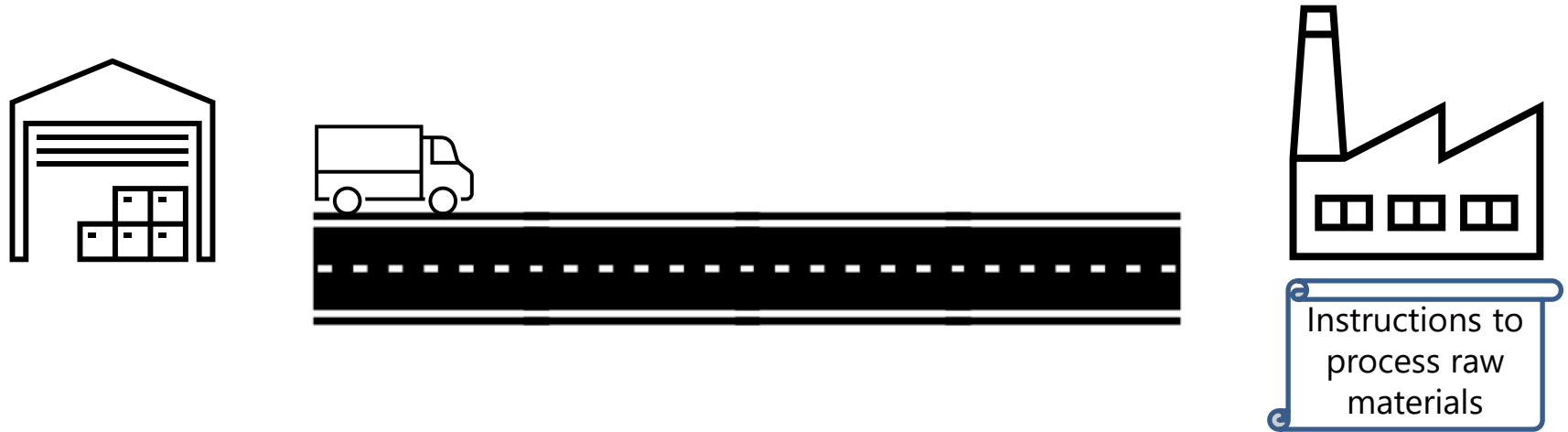


1. How efficiently goods are moved between warehouse and factory
2. How efficiently workers process goods in factory

How to design a shirt factory

Part 1: Logistics

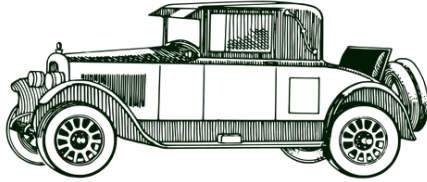
You cannot succeed without good logistics



- If you can't move goods in a timely manner your output will suffer
- Factory efficiency doesn't matter if logistics is the bottleneck
 - If deliveries are slow (high memory latency)
 - Or do not arrive in sufficient quantities (low memory bandwidth)

Memory Latency vs. Memory Bandwidth

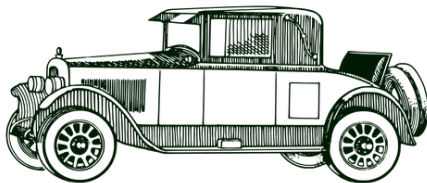
- Memory bottleneck comes from two sources:
 - **Memory latency**: hours to handle a single delivery



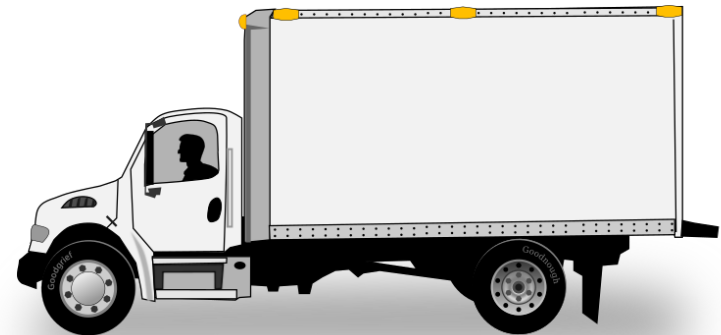
vs.



- **Memory bandwidth**: maximum volume handled per hour



vs.

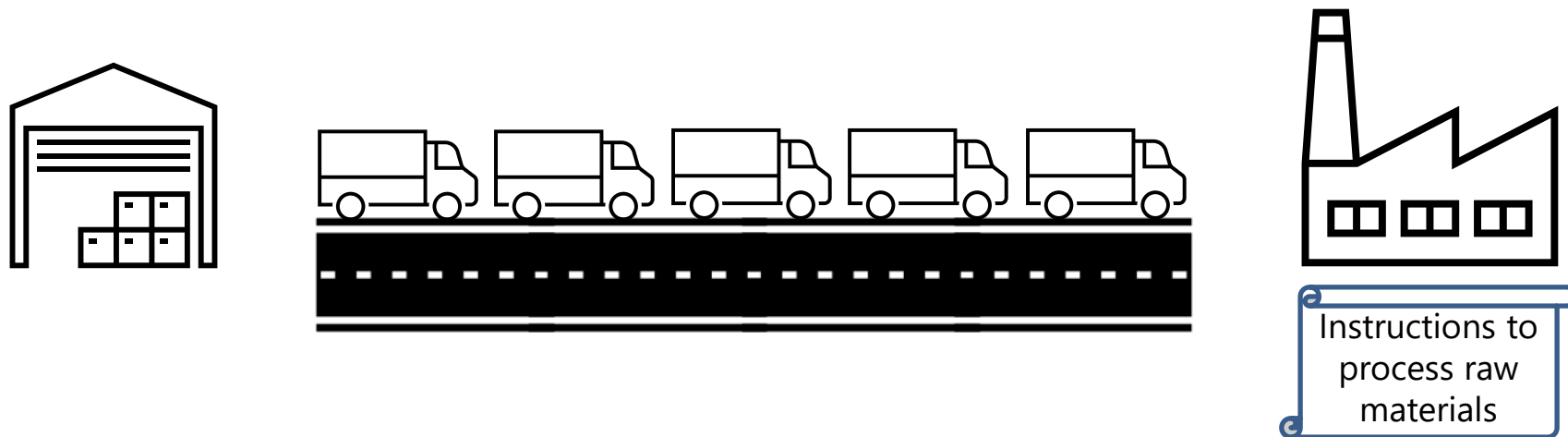


Memory Latency vs. Memory Bandwidth



- Race cars are rarely used for logistics. Trucks are. Why?
 1. Can place orders ahead of time to arrive just in time (*prefetching*)
 2. Or the factory can produce something else while waiting (*scheduling*)
- There are ways to circumvent latency so it does not impact performance.
 - Except when neither prefetching or scheduling works

Memory bandwidth puts a cap on performance



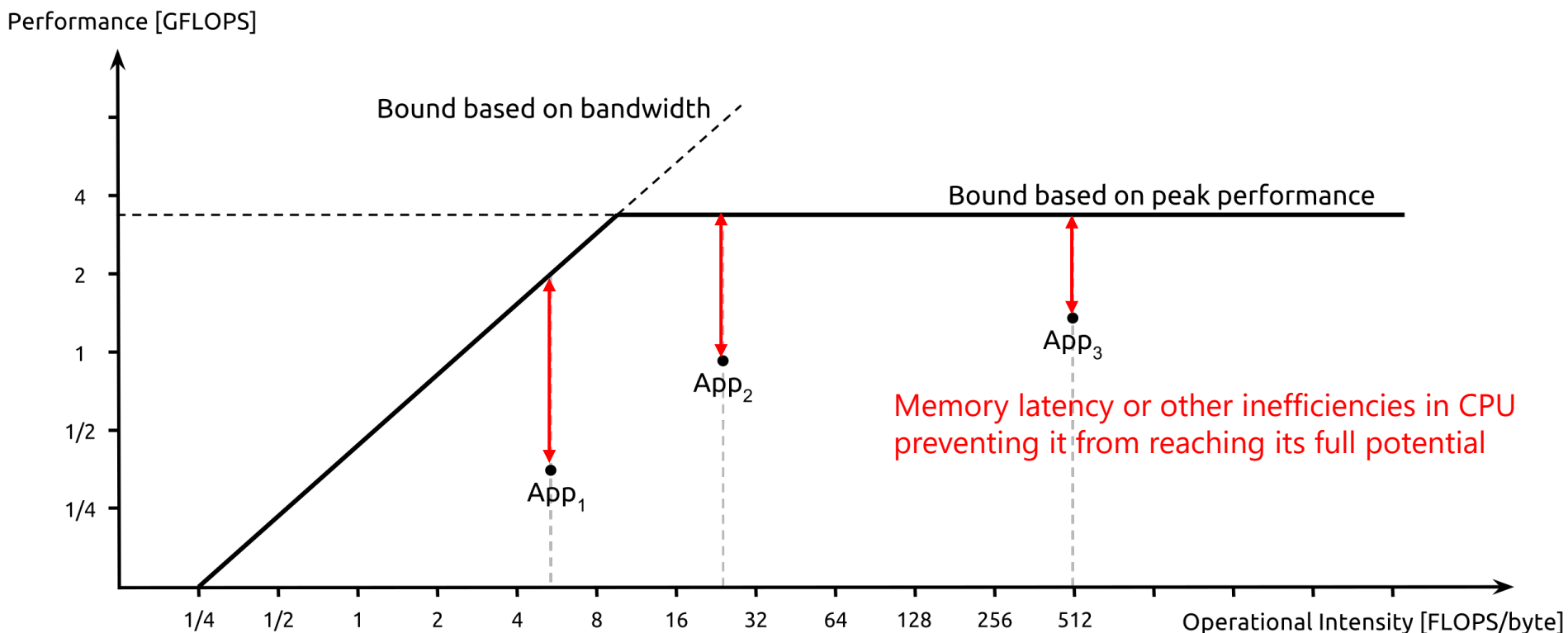
- If the road is fully utilized but still can't keep up with demand...
 - Factory needs 5 trucks / minute but road handles 1 truck / minute
 - No amount of pre-ordering or scheduling can alleviate this problem
- Unlike latency, bandwidth puts a hard limit on performance!

Memory bandwidth puts a cap on performance

- When you get a traffic jam, performance is dictated by bandwidth
 - How quickly you pull data in, rather than how fast you process it
 - **Operational intensity** = work (FLOP) per memory access (byte)
 - Performance = work / second
 - = work / byte * byte / second
 - = operational intensity * memory bandwidth
- Linear relationship between performance and operational intensity

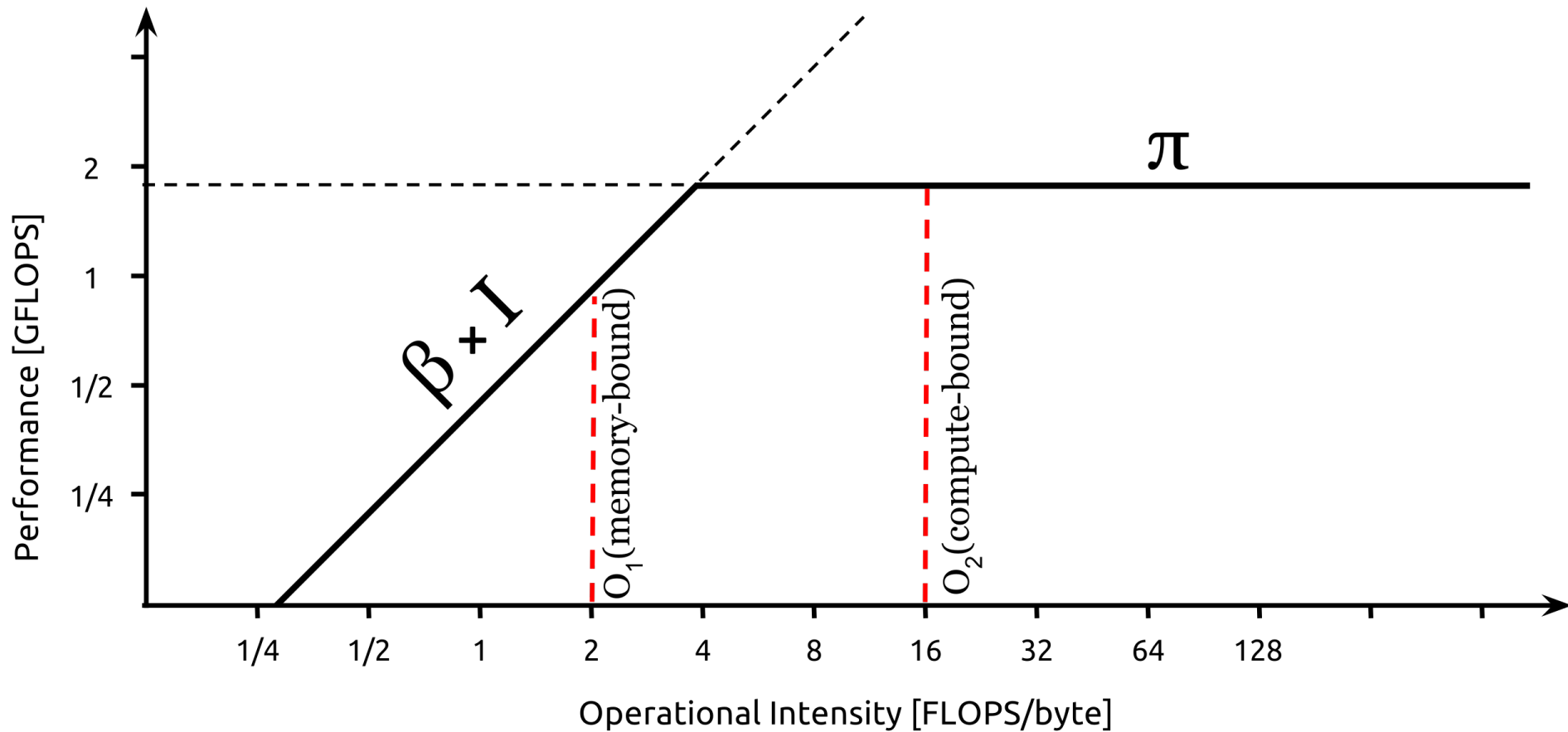
The Roofline Model: A bird's eye view of performance

- **Roofline**: theoretical performance achievable given an intensity
 - Formed by memory bandwidth bounds + peak CPU performance



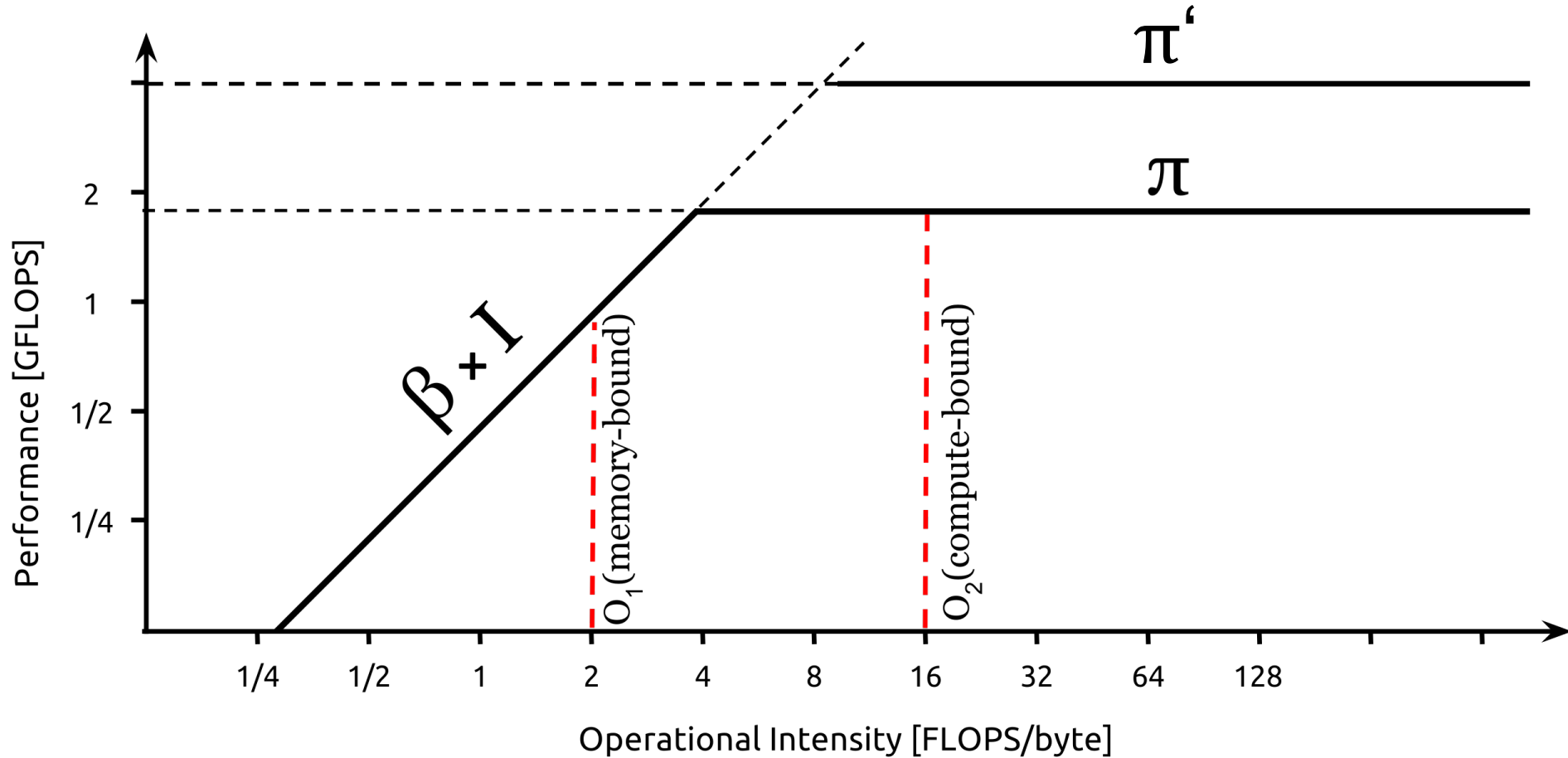
Memory bound vs. compute bound apps

- I = intensity, β = peak bandwidth, π = peak performance



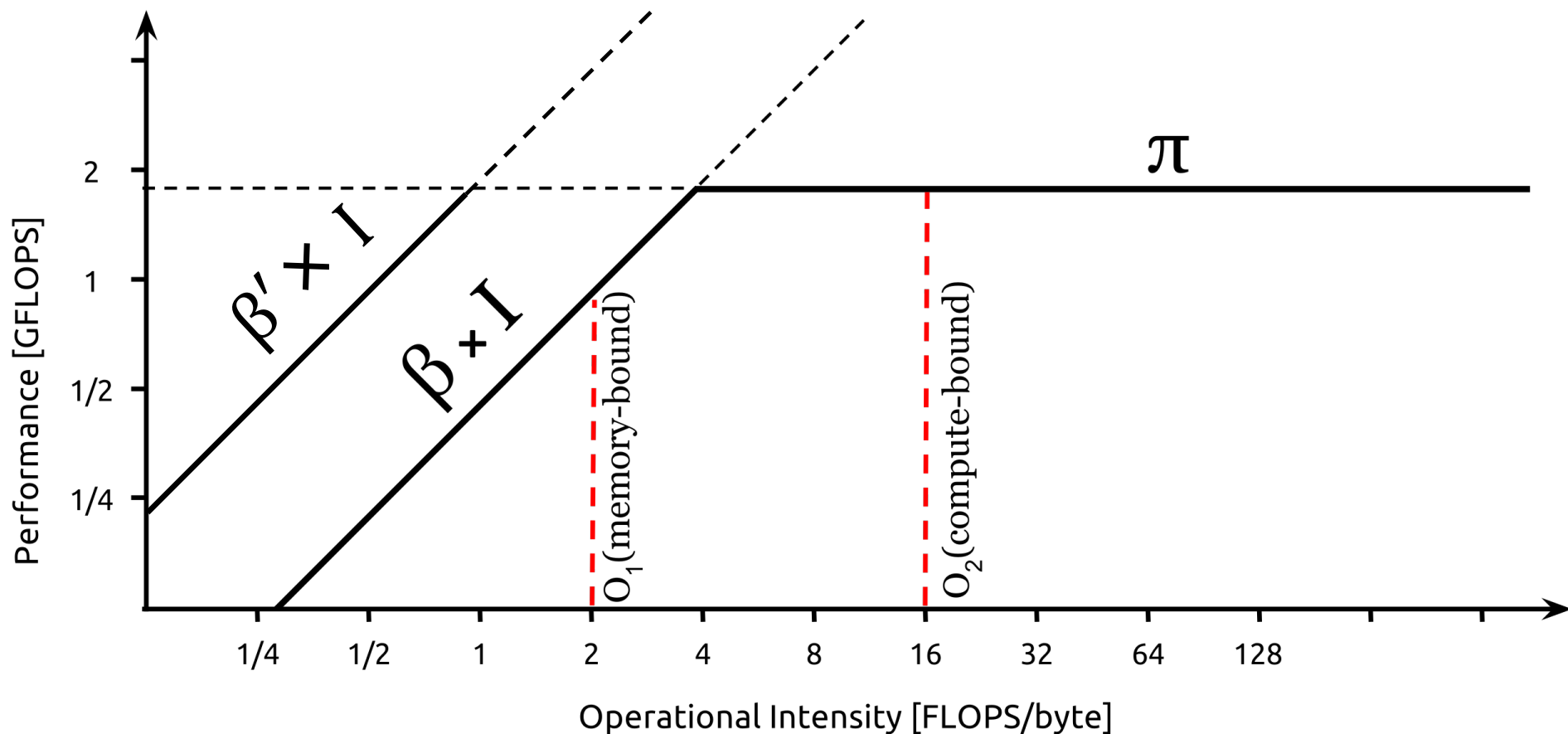
Peak performance increase makes more apps memory bound

- Causes inflection point to shift to the right
→ Now more applications are memory bound.

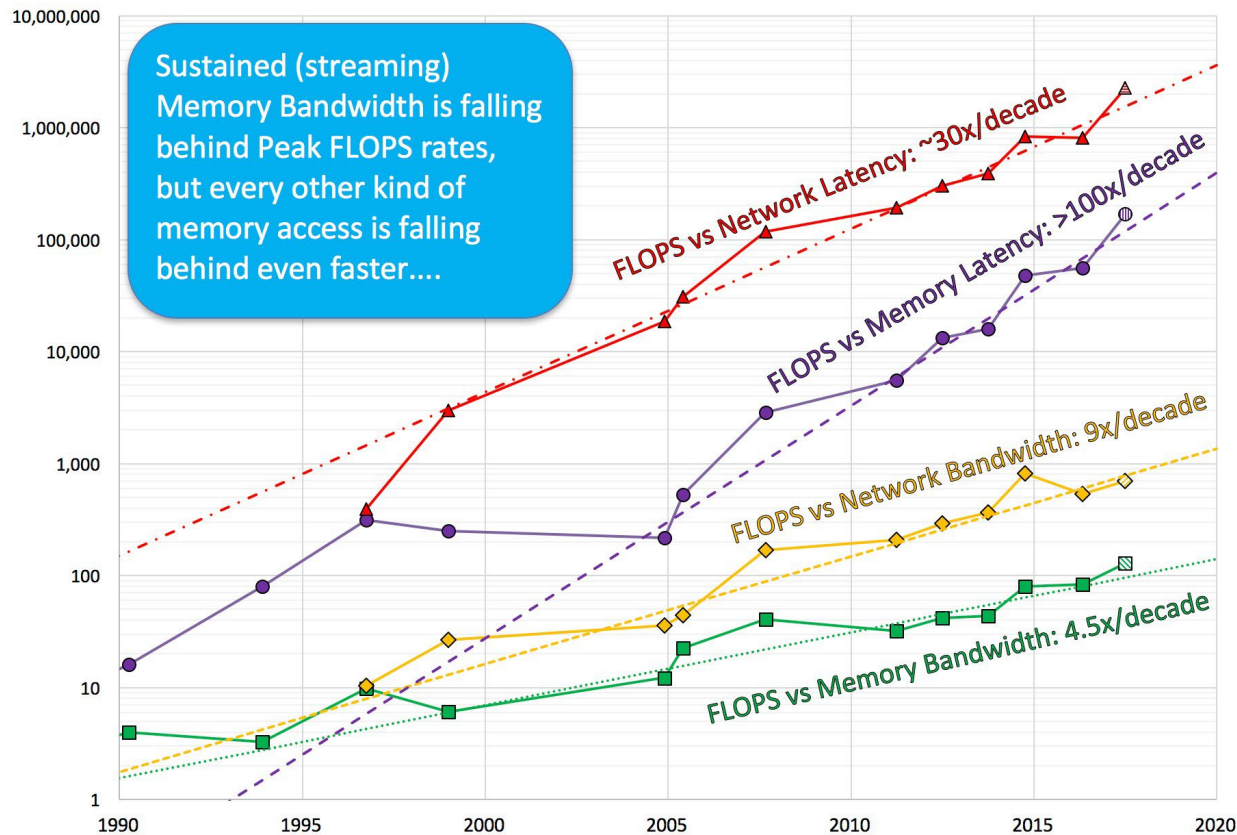


Bandwidth increase makes more apps compute bound

- $\log(\text{Performance}) = \log(\beta \times I) = \log(\beta) + \log(I)$
→ Increase in β shifts the ceiling up, not change its slope.



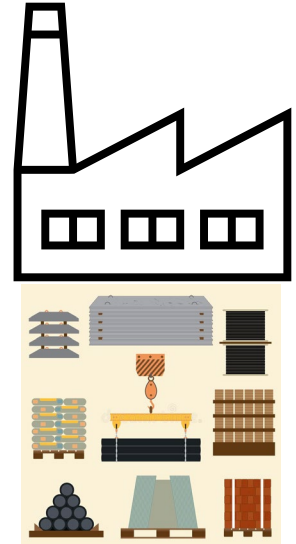
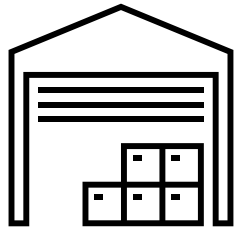
Memory Wall: widening gap between memory and CPU



Source: SC16 Invited Talk “Memory Bandwidth and System Balance in HPC Systems” by John D. McCalpin

- FLOPS = floating point operations per second (CPU speed)

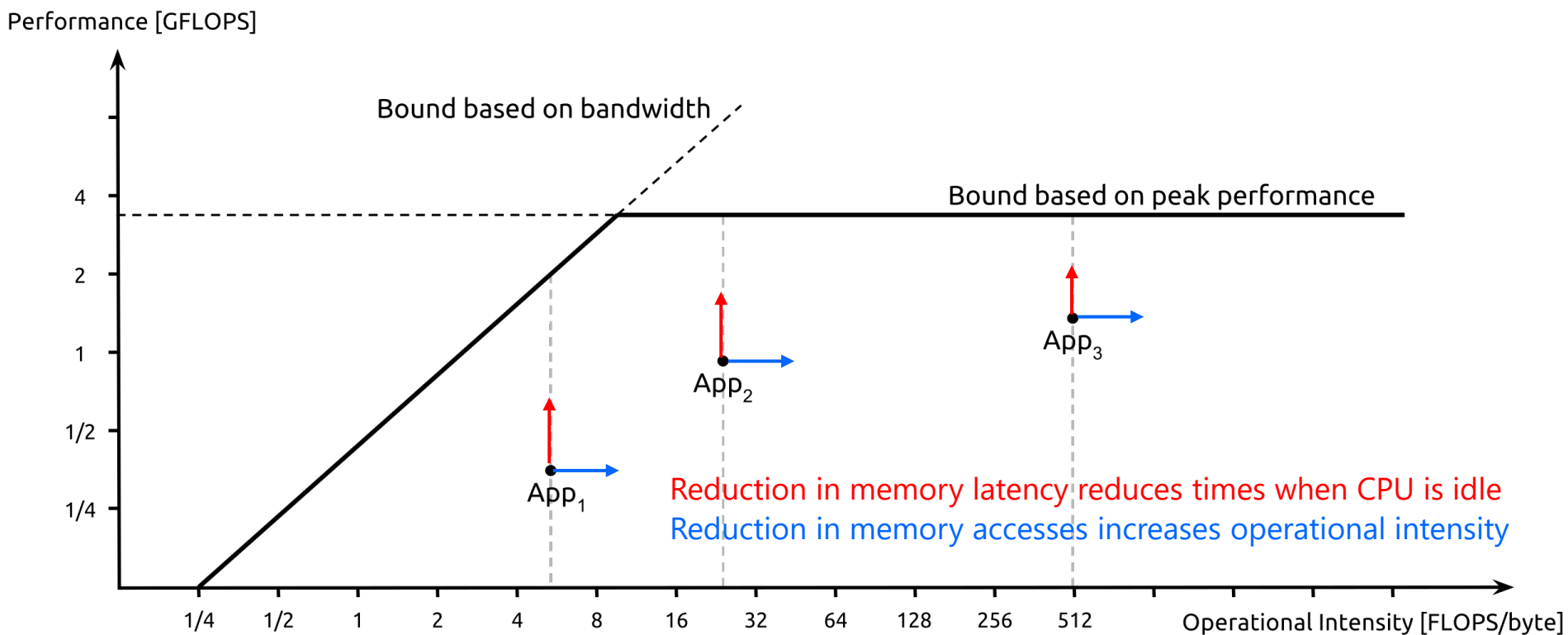
Cache: storage in CPU for frequently accessed data



- What if we had a storage **cache** in factory premises?
 - Store frequently used inventory nearby
- Then, both memory latency and bandwidth problems are alleviated
 - Latency: access is quick when material is found in the cache
 - Bandwidth: less need to go back and forth to the warehouse

Effect of Cache on Roofline Model

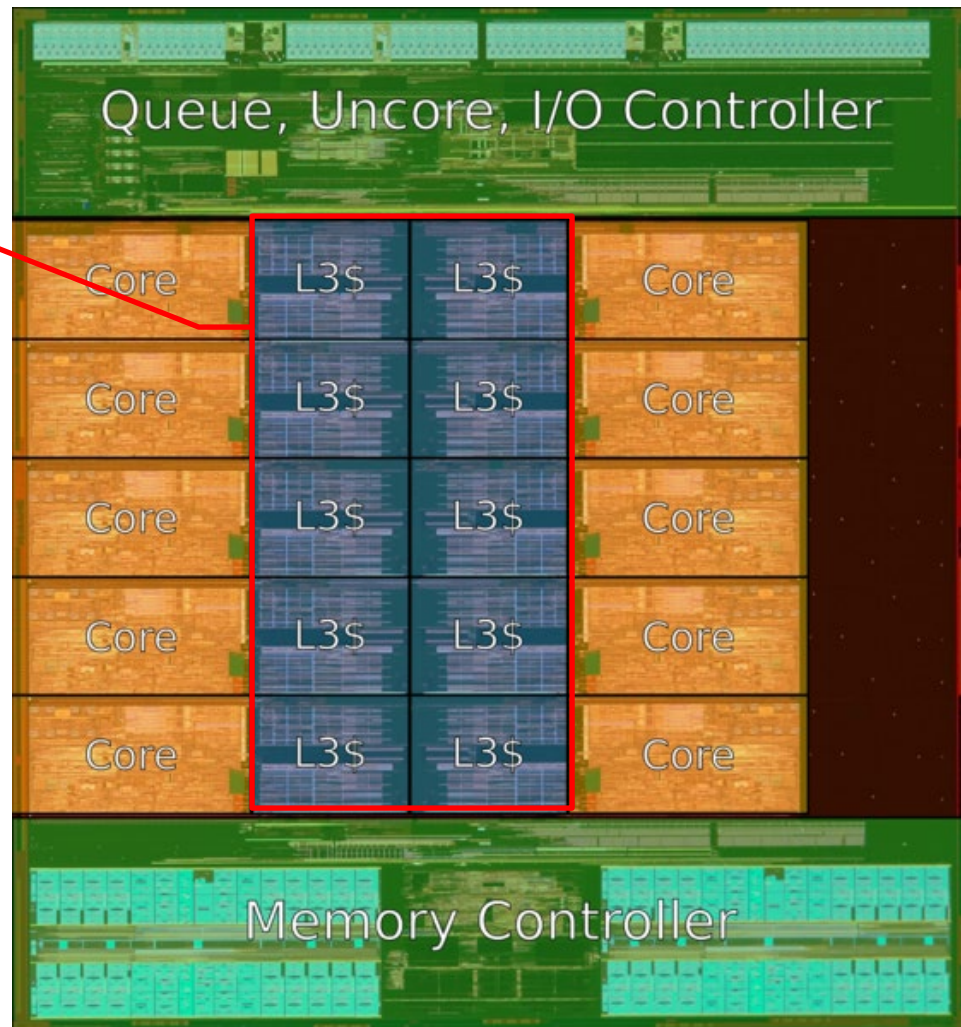
- With caching, apps shift upwards and rightwards



Caches have become bigger and bigger

- As the memory wall got higher and higher, caches got bigger and bigger
- On the right is a diagram of the Intel Xeon Broadwell CPU
 - Caches take up almost as much real estate as cores!
 - A memory access is that painful (10~100X slower)

Caches



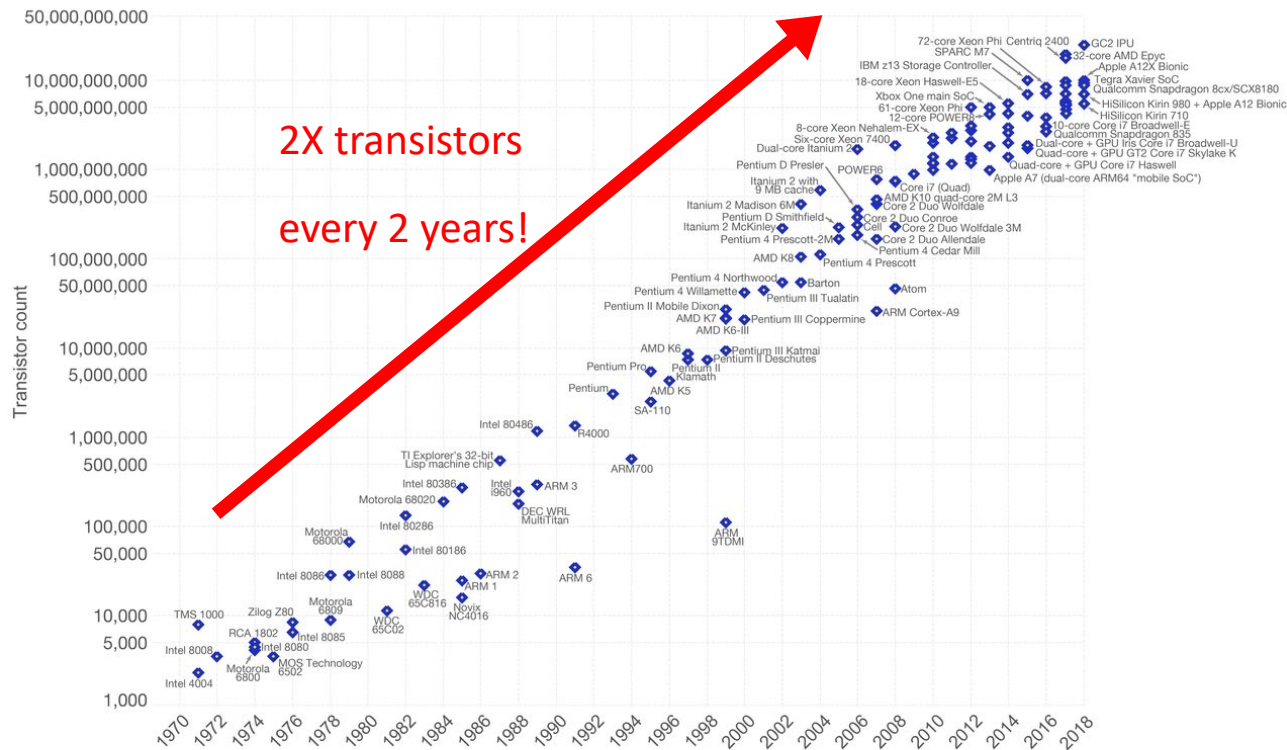
How to design a shirt factory

Part 2: Worker Utilization

Moore's Law

Moore's Law – The number of transistors on integrated circuit chips (1971-2018)

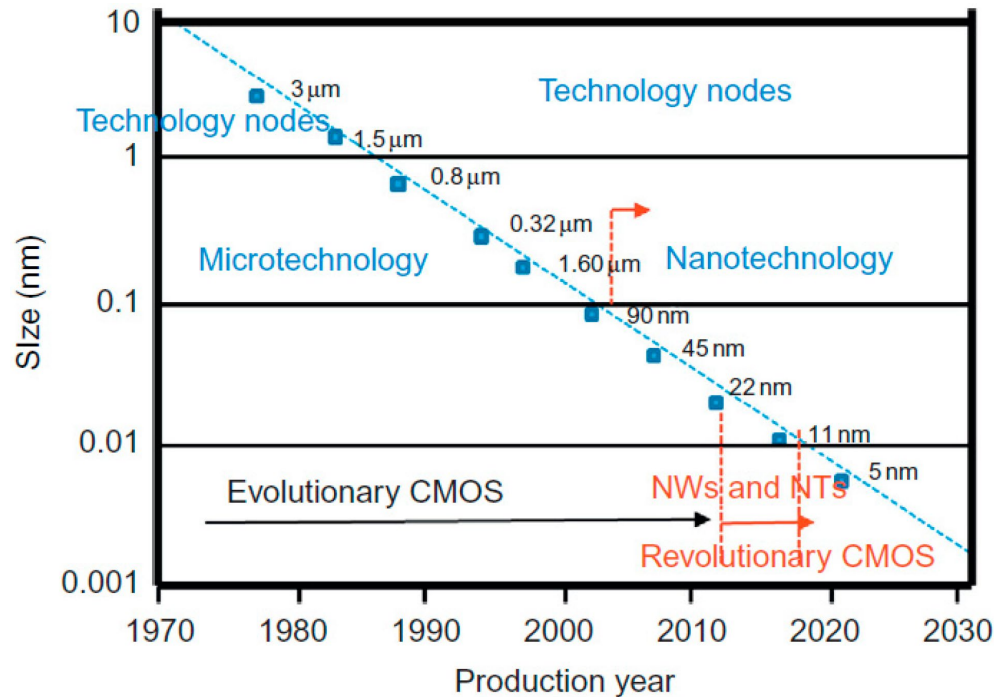
Moore's law describes the empirical regularity that the number of transistors on integrated circuits doubles approximately every two years. This advancement is important as other aspects of technological progress – such as processing speed or the price of electronic products – are linked to Moore's law.



Data source: Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transistor_count)
The data visualization is available at [OurWorldinData.org](https://ourworldindata.org). There you find more visualizations and research on this topic.

Licensed under [CC-BY-SA](#) by the author Max Roser.

Miniaturization of Transistors

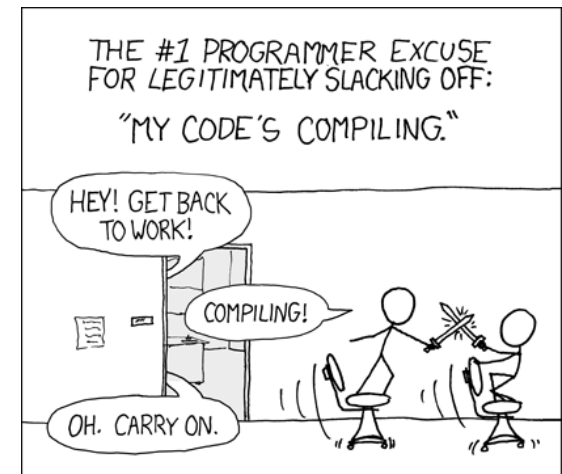


Data source: Radamson, H.H.; He, X.; Zhang, Q.; Liu, J.; Cui, H.; Xiang, J.; Kong, Z.; Xiong, W.; Li, J.; Gao, J.; Yang, H.; Gu, S.; Zhao, X.; Du, Y.; Yu, J.; Wang, G. Miniaturization of CMOS. *Micromachines* **2019**, *10*, 293.

- Moore's Law has been driven by transistor miniaturization

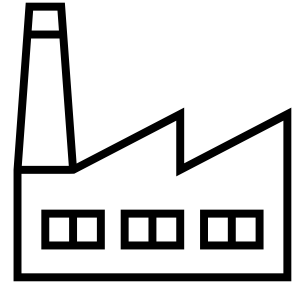
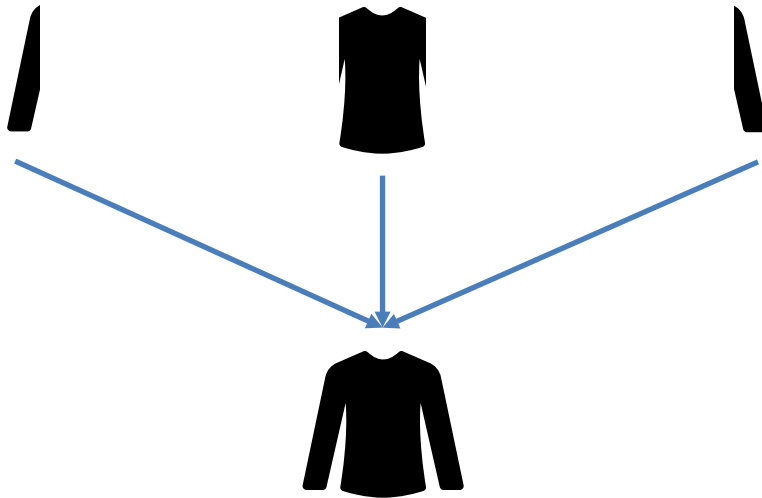
Our factory is bursting with workers!

- Transistors are cobbled together to create **Functional Units**
 - Things like Add Unit, Multiply Unit, Load Unit, Store Unit
- With billions of transistors, CPUs can contain many Functional Units
- What is the problem with a factory with a lot of workers?
 - It is hard to keep all the workers productive!
 - Workers always find an excuse to slack...
 - Same goes for Functional Units



Shirt manufacturing instructions

- Let's assume one man hour for each instruction.
- How many workers would you hire?
- **Data Dependence Graph** for shirt manufacturing

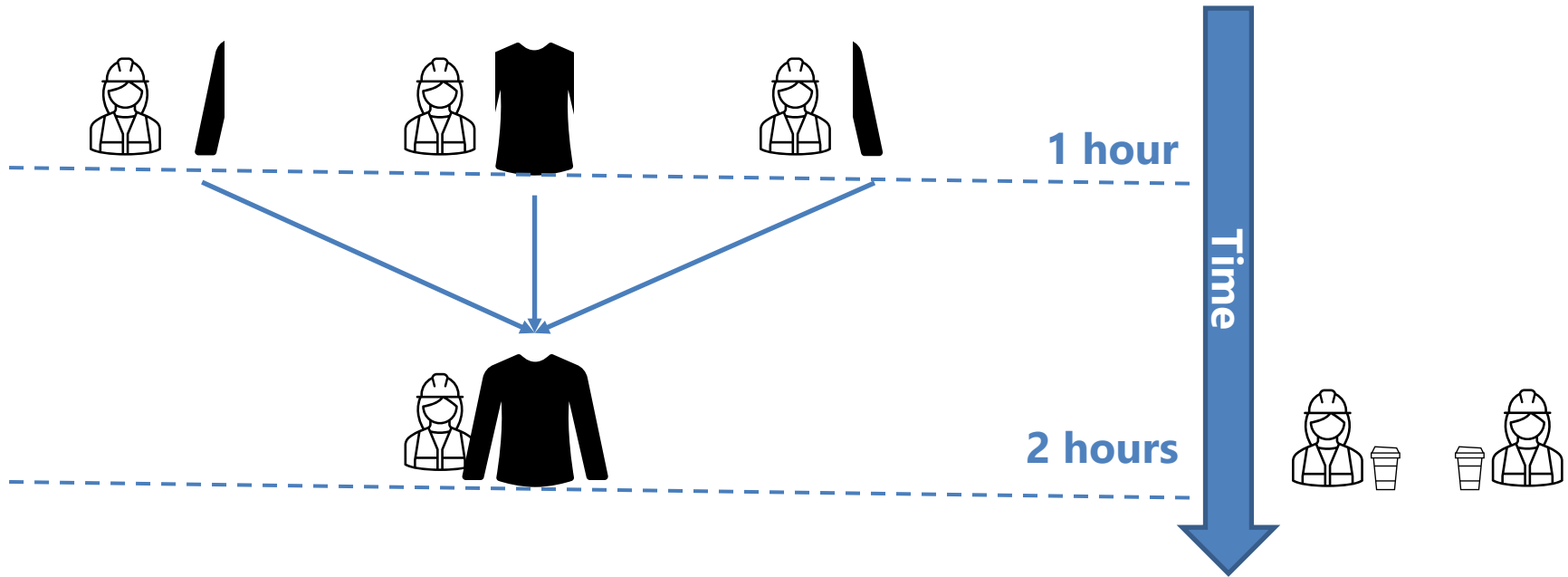


[Instructions]

1. Cut fabric for left sleeve
2. Cut fabric for right sleeve
3. Cut fabric for body piece
4. Stitch pieces together

3 workers = fastest but low utilization

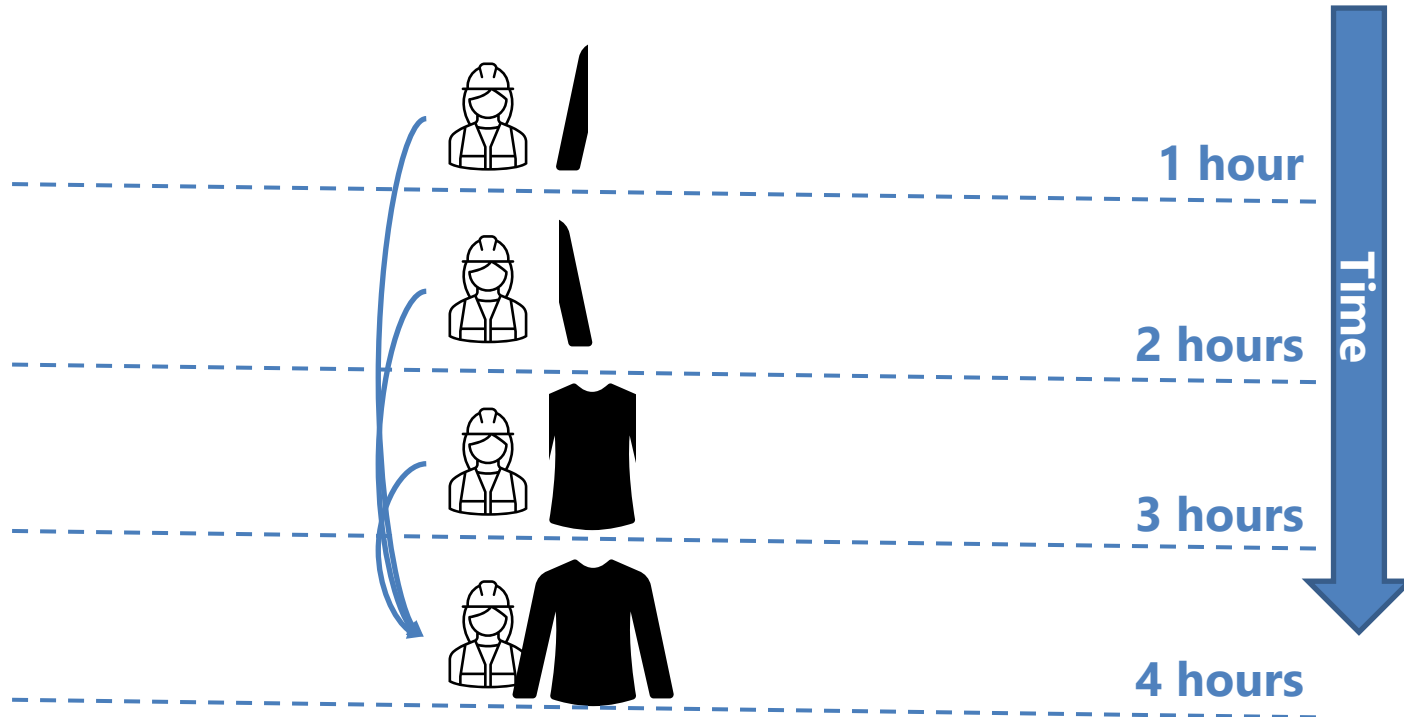
- Can produce a shirt in just 2 hours:



- During the 2nd hour, 2 workers were slacking over coffee. Oh no!
- Utilization = $4 \text{ steps} / 6 \text{ worker-hours} * 100 \approx 67\%$

1 worker = slow but highest utilization

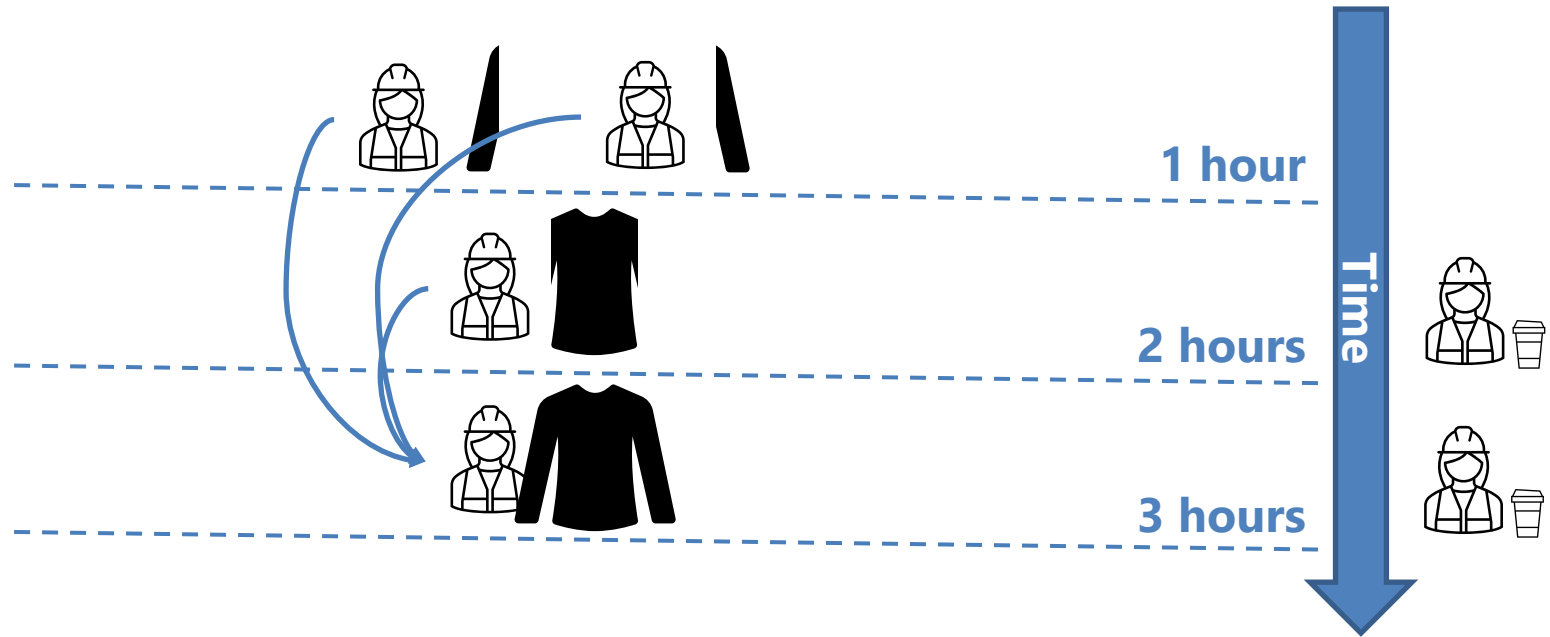
- Needs 4 hours to produce a shirt, but no slacking!



- Utilization = $4 \text{ steps} / 4 \text{ worker-hours} * 100 = 100\%$

2 workers = mediocre speed and low utilization

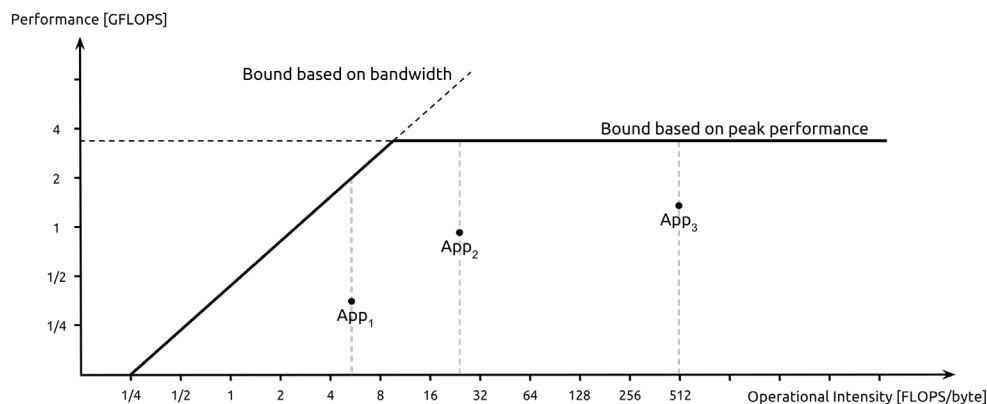
- Needs 3 hours with some slacking:



- Utilization = $4 \text{ steps} / 6 \text{ worker-hours} * 100 \approx 67\%$
- Same utilization as 3 workers but just slower. **Fail!**

What are the implications of low utilization?

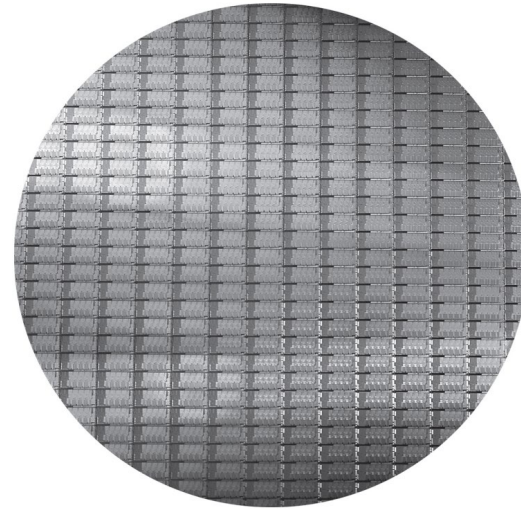
- Factory: leads to high cost for producing the same shirt
- CPU: leads to **high energy use** for executing the same instructions
 - Functional units still use energy while slacking off
- So, should we go with 3 workers or 1 worker? It depends!
 - 3 workers = Gaming CPU that runs fast but uses lots of power
 - 1 worker = Mobile CPU that runs slower but uses less battery life
- Low utilization is what prevents apps from reaching full potential





Scope of Class

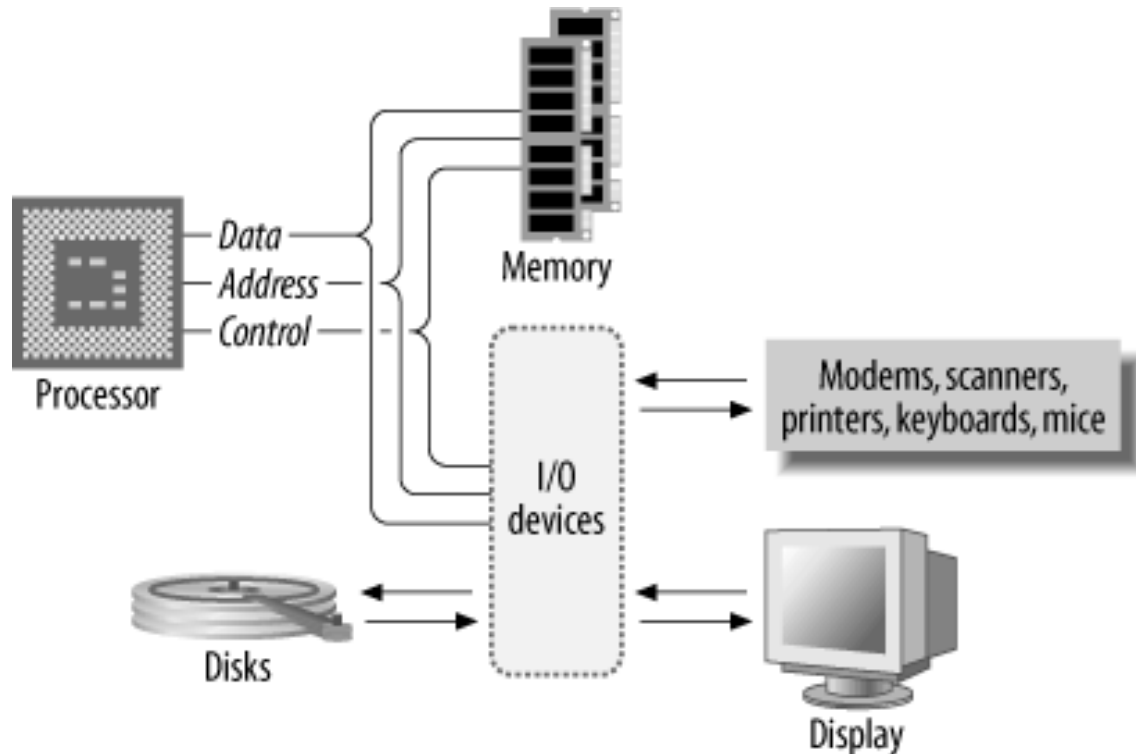
- Physical layer is beyond the scope of the class
- We will focus mostly on processor organization
 - And how performance goals are achieved





Scope of Class

- Computer architecture is part of system architecture

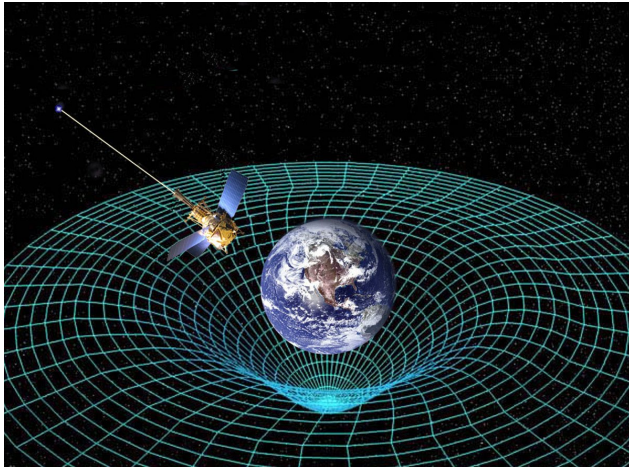


- Other components beside processor is beyond the scope



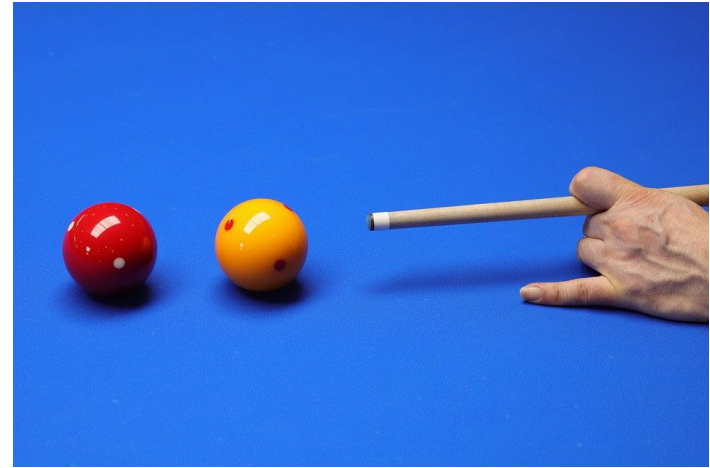
Two Forces on Computer Architecture

1. Application pull



- Market forces pull architecture towards popular applications

2. Technology push

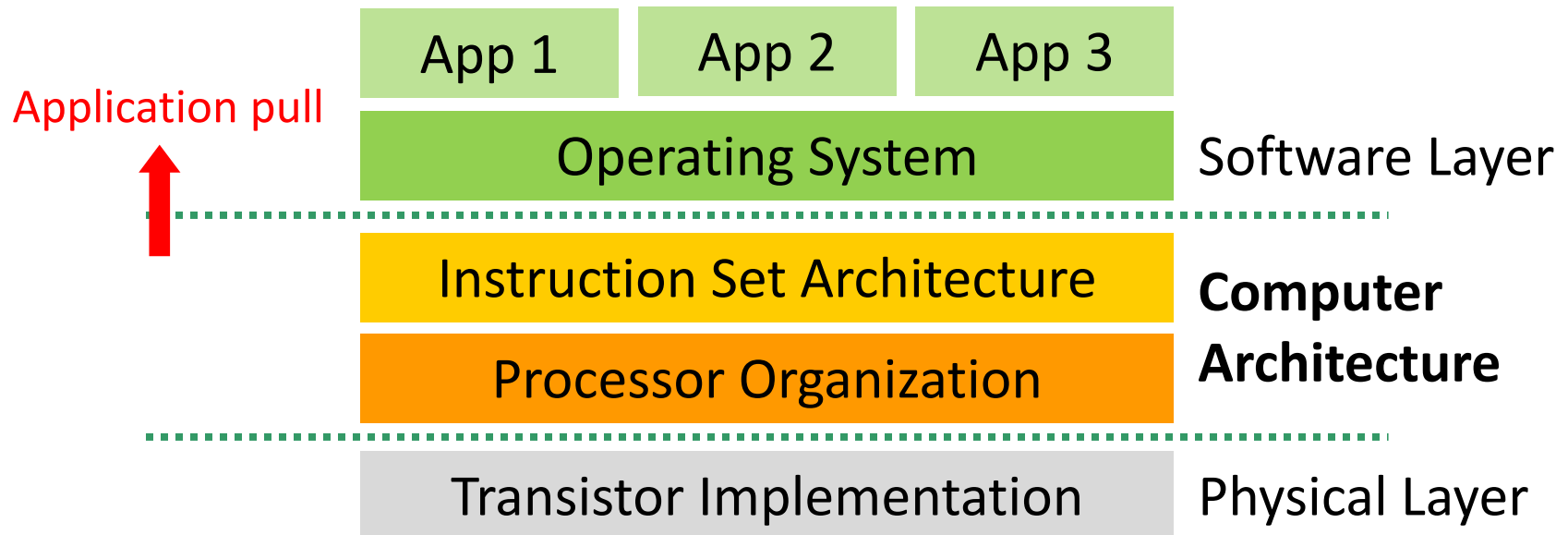


- Advances in silicon technology push architecture to change



Application Pull

- Different applications pull in different directions



- Real-time app (e.g. Game): *Short latency*
- Server app: *High throughput*
- Mobile app: *High energy-efficiency* (battery life)
- Mission critical app: *High reliability*

- An app typically has multiple goals that are important



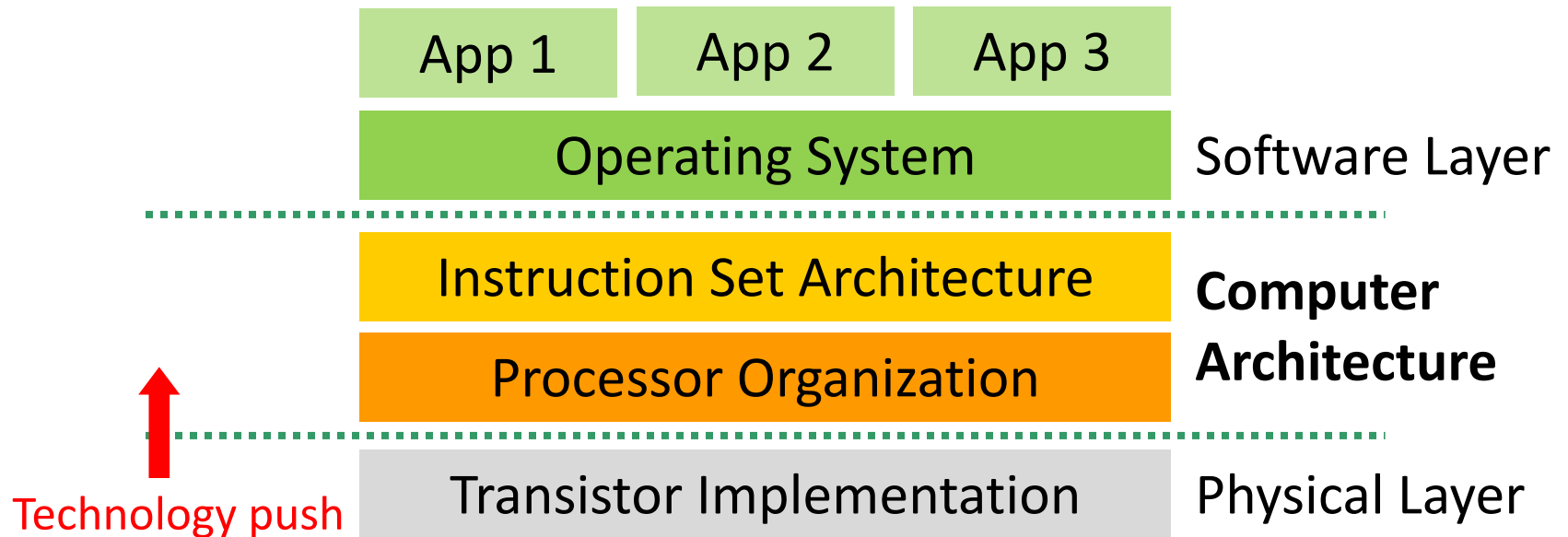
Application Pull

- Some goals can be incompatible
 - E.g. Speed and energy-efficiency are incompatible
 - Running is faster than walking but uses more energy
 - A Ferrari is faster than a Prius but has worse fuel efficiency
 - E.g. Reliability is incompatible with many other goals
 - If you use redundancy, you use twice the amount of energy
- Even when sharing a goal, apps have unique needs
 - Scientific apps need lots of *floating point units* to go fast
 - Database apps need lots of *memory cache* to go fast
- An architecture is a **compromise** among all the apps
 - When app achieves market critical mass, designs diverge (Mobile chips / Server chips / GPUs / TPUs diverged)
 - Sometimes even ISAs diverge (GPUs and TPUs)



Technology Push

- Trends in technology pushes architecture too



- Trends can be *advances* in technology
- Trends can be *constraints* technology couldn't overcome
- ★ “Technology” in CPU design refers to the physical layer
 - Manufacturing technology used for transistor implementation