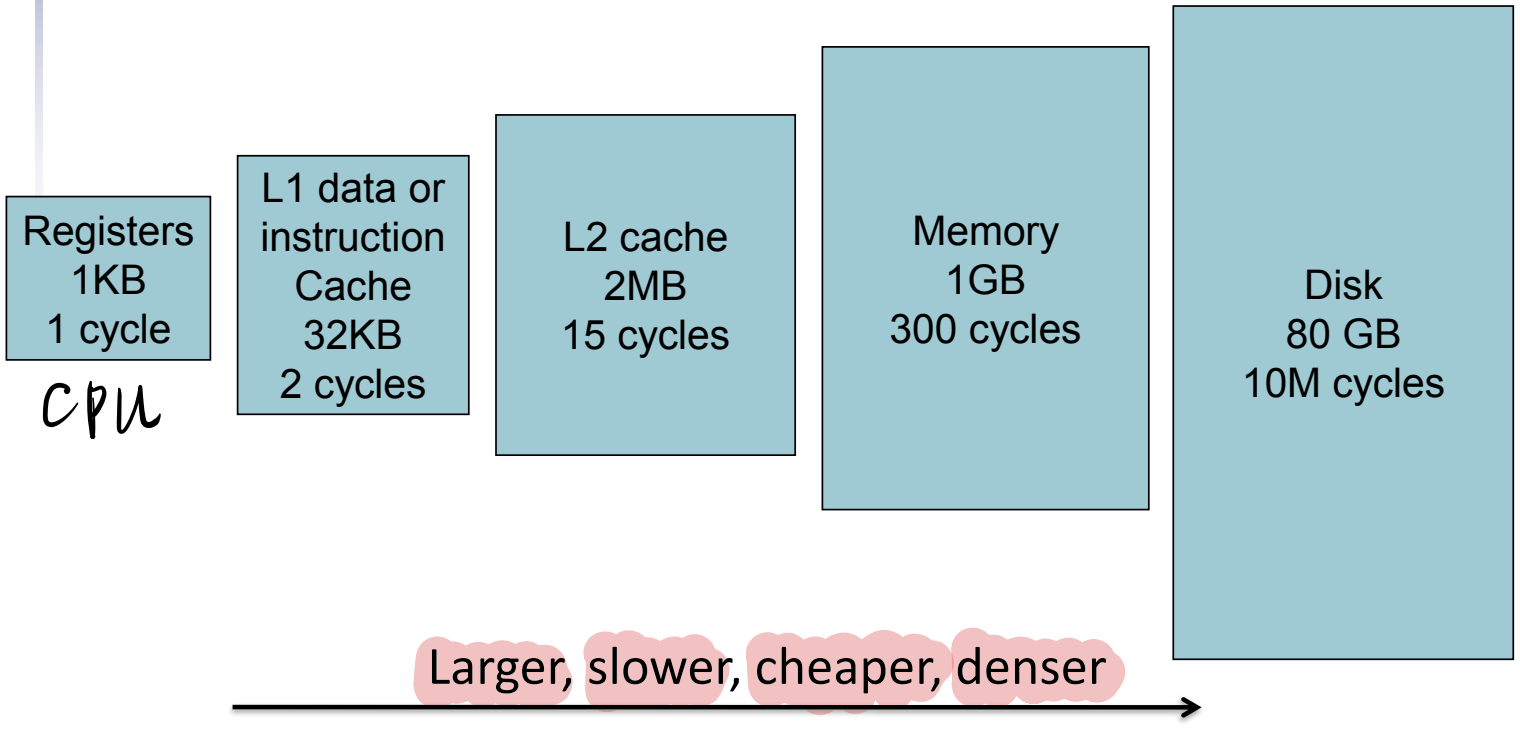
Chapter 5

Large and Fast: Exploiting Memory Hierarchy

Memory Hierarchy

- Various storage devices in computers:



Memory Technology

- Access time and price per bit vary widely among different technologies

Memory technology	Typical access time	$ per GiB in 2012
SRAM semiconductor memory	0.5–2.5 ns	$500–$1000
DRAM semiconductor memory	50–70 ns	$10–$20
Flash semiconductor memory	5,000–50,000 ns	$0.75–$1.00
Magnetic disk	5,000,000–20,000,000 ns	$0.05–$0.10

Data in 2012

- Ideal memory
  - Access time of Cache
  - Capacity and cost/GB of disk

Outline

- Cache (CPU←→memory)
  - Direct mapped cache
  - Set associative cache
  - Multi-level cache
- Virtual memory (memory←→disk)
- Dependable memory
- Real examples

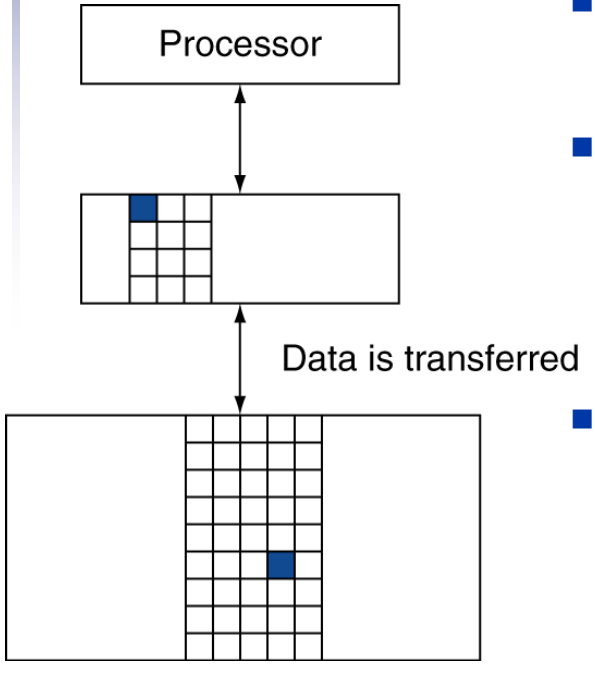
Cache Hierarchies

- Data and instructions are stored on DRAM chips
  - DRAM is a technology that has high bit density, but relatively poor latency
  - an access to data in memory can take as many as 300 cycles!
- Hence, some data is stored on the processor in a structure called the cache
  - caches employ SRAM technology, which is faster, but has lower bit density same size less data
- Internet browsers also cache web pages – same concept

Memory hierarchy

- Store everything on disk
- Copy recently accessed (and nearby) items from disk to smaller DRAM memory
  - Main memory
- Copy more recently accessed (and nearby) items from DRAM to smaller SRAM memory
  - Cache memory attached to CPU

Memory Hierarchy Levels



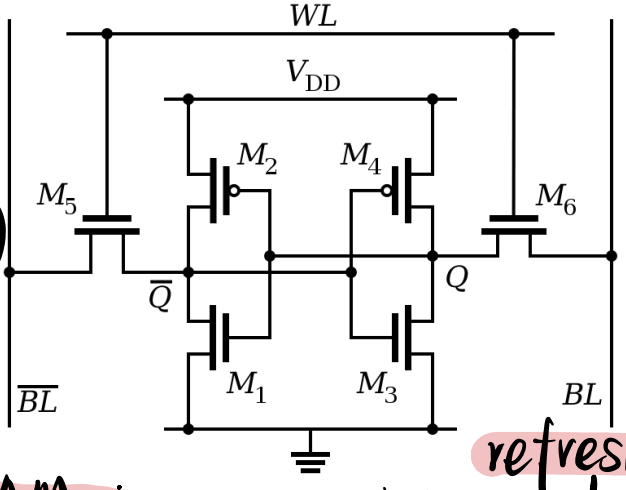
- Block (also called line): unit of copying
  - May be multiple words
- The memory in upper level is originally empty
- If accessed data is absent
  - Miss: block copied from lower level
    - Time taken: miss penalty
    - Miss ratio: misses/accesses
- If accessed data is present in upper level
  - Hit: access satisfied by upper level
    - Hit ratio: hits/accesses = 1 – miss ratio
  - Then accessed data supplied from upper level

Locality

- Why do caches work?
  - Temporal locality if you used some data recently, you will likely use it again 时间局部性
  - Spatial locality if you used some data recently, you will likely access its neighbors 空间局部性 ⇐ the size of the block
- No hierarchy:
  - average access time for data = 300 cycles (memory)
- 32KB 1-cycle L1 cache that has a hit rate of 95%:
  - average access time = 0.95 x 1 + 0.05 x (301) = 16 cycles

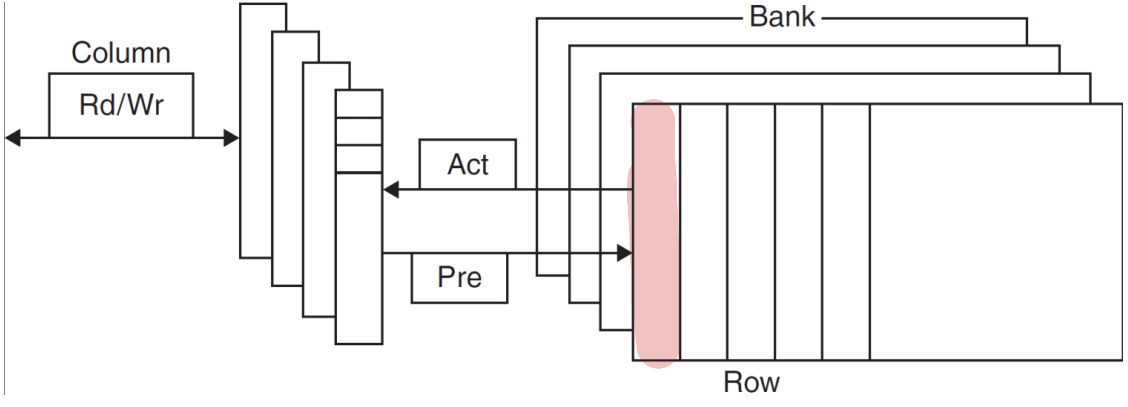
SRAM Technology

- Static RAM (random access 与 Disk 中的连续访问相对应)
  - Memory arrays with a single read/write port
- It's Volatile (SRAM/DRAM)
  - The data will lost when SRAM is not powered
- Compared with DRAM (DRAM is easy to lost, need to refresh)
  - Don't need to refresh, use 6-8 transistors to install a bit
- Used in CPU cache, integrated onto the processor chip



DRAM Technology

- Data stored as a charge in a capacitor
  - Single transistor used to access the charge
  - Must periodically be refreshed
    - Read contents and write back
    - Performed on a DRAM “row”



Advanced DRAM Organization

- Bits in a DRAM are organized as a rectangular array
  - DRAM accesses an entire row
  - Burst mode: supply successive words from a row with reduced latency
- Synchronous DRAM
  - A clock is added, the memory and processor are synchronized
  - Allows for consecutive accesses in bursts without needing to send each address
  - Improves bandwidth
- Double data rate (DDR) DRAM
  - Transfer on rising and falling clock edges
  - DDR4-3200 DRAM: 3200M times of transfer per second

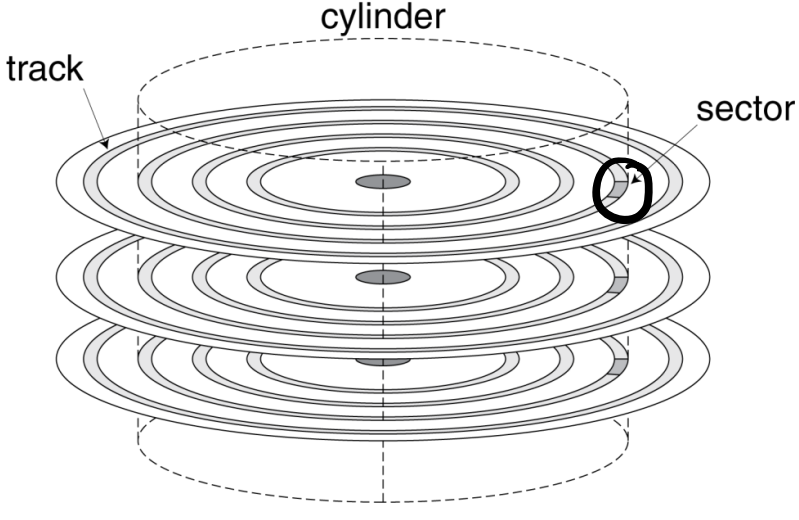
Flash Storage

- Nonvolatile semiconductor storage
  - 100× – 1000× faster than disk
  - Smaller, lower power, more robust
  - But more $/GB (between disk and DRAM)

- Flash bits wears out after 1000's of accesses
  - Not suitable for direct RAM or disk replacement
  - Wear leveling: remap data to less used blocks

Disk Storage

- Nonvolatile, rotating magnetic storage

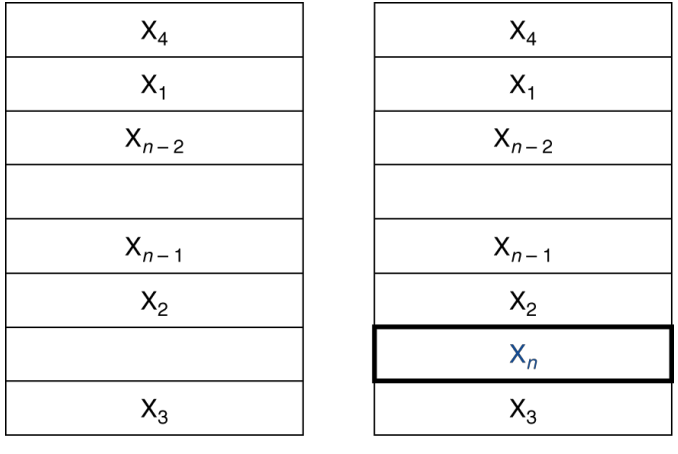


Disk Sectors and Access

- Each sector records
  - Sector ID
  - Data (512 bytes, 4096 bytes proposed)
  - Error correcting code (ECC)
    - Used to hide defects and recording errors
- Access to a sector involves
  - Queuing delay if other accesses are pending
  - Seek: move the heads
  - Rotational latency
  - Data transfer
  - Controller overhead

Cache Memory

- Cache memory
  - The level of the memory hierarchy closest to the CPU
- Given accesses X_1, …, X_{n-1}, X_n

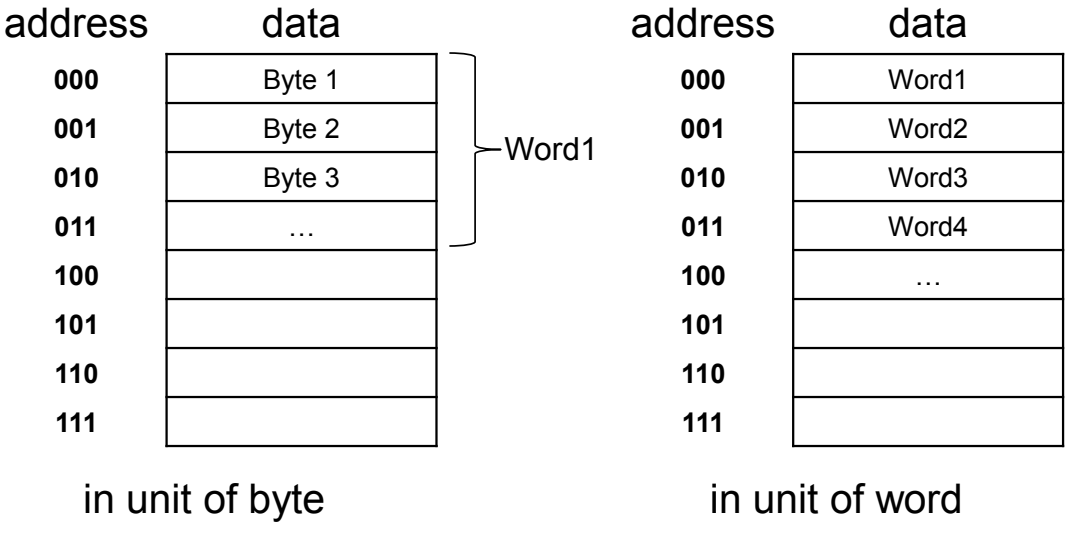


a. Before the reference to X_n b. After the reference to X_n

- How do we know if the data is present?
- Where do we look?

Memory Structure

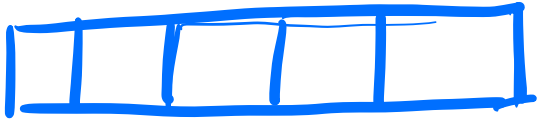
- Address and data
  - Address is the index, are not stored in memory
    - Address can be in unit of byte or in unit of word
  - Only data is stored in memory



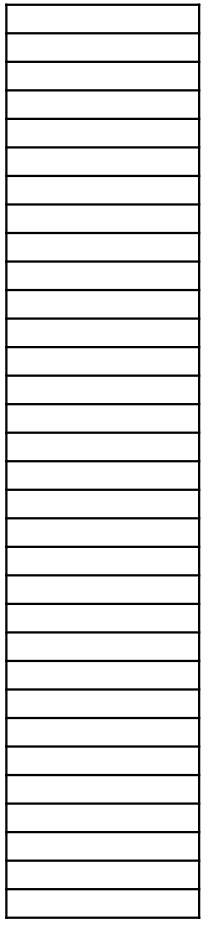
Direct Mapped Cache

- Memory size: 32 words, cache size: 8 words
- The address is in unit of word

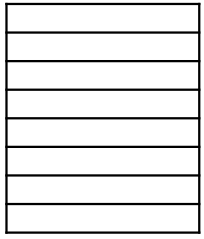
last three bits is better



due to locality.



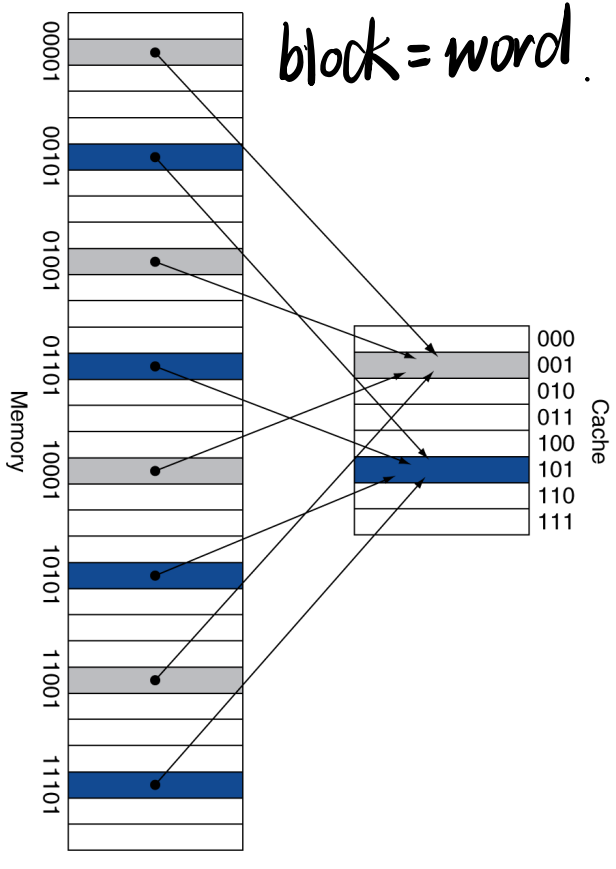
Memory



Cache

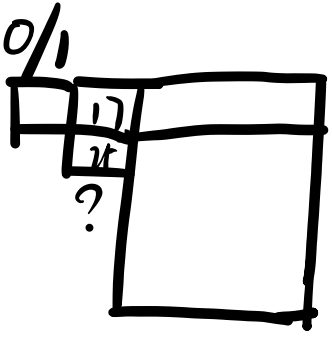
Direct Mapped Cache

- Memory size: 32 words, cache size: 8 words
- The address is in unit of word
- Direct mapped cache: (后三位)
  - Location determined by address
  - One data in memory is mapped to only one location in cache
  - Use low-order address bits or high-order bits?
  - The lower bits defines the address of the cache



Tags and Valid Bits

- How do we know which particular block is stored in a cache location?
  - Store block address as well as the data
  - Actually, only need the high-order bits
  - Called the tag
- What if there is no data in a location?
  - Valid bit: 1 = present, 0 = not present
  - Initially 0



Cache Example

- 8-blocks, 1 word/block, direct mapped
- Initial state

Index	V	Tag	Data
000	N		
001	N		
010	N		
011	N		
100	N		
101	N		
110	N		
111	N		

Cache Example

Word addr	Binary addr	Hit/miss	Cache block
22	10 110	Miss	110

Index	V	Tag	Data
000	N		
001	N		
010	N		
011	N		
100	N		
101	N		
110	**N**		
111	N		

Cache Example

Word addr	Binary addr	Hit/miss	Cache block
22	10 110	Miss	110

Index	V	Tag	Data
000	N		
001	N		
010	N		
011	N		
100	N		
101	N		
110	**Y**	**10**	**Mem[10110]**
111	N		

Cache Example

Word addr	Binary addr	Hit/miss	Cache block
26	11 010	Miss	010

Index	V	Tag	Data
000	N		
001	N		
010	N		
011	N		
100	N		
101	N		
110	**Y**	**10**	**Mem[10110]**
111	N		

Cache Example

Word addr	Binary addr	Hit/miss	Cache block
26	11 010	Miss	010

Index	V	Tag	Data
000	N		
001	N		
010	**Y**	**11**	**Mem[11010]**
011	N		
100	N		
101	N		
110	Y	10	Mem[10110]
111	N		

Cache Example

Word addr	Binary addr	Hit/miss	Cache block
22	10 110	Hit	110
26	11 010	Hit	010

Index	V	Tag	Data
000	N		
001	N		
010	Y	11	Mem[11010]
011	N		
100	N		
101	N		
110	Y	10	Mem[10110]
111	N		

Cache Example

Word addr	Binary addr	Hit/miss	Cache block
16	10 000	Miss	000
3	00 011	Miss	011
16	10 000	Hit	000

Index	V	Tag	Data
000	**N**		
001	N		
010	Y	11	Mem[11010]
011	**N**		
100	N		
101	N		
110	Y	10	Mem[10110]
111	N		

Cache Example

Word addr	Binary addr	Hit/miss	Cache block
16	10 000	Miss	000
3	00 011	Miss	011
16	10 000	Hit	000

Index	V	Tag	Data
000	**Y**	**10**	**Mem[10000]**
001	N		
010	Y	11	Mem[11010]
011	**Y**	**00**	**Mem[00011]**
100	N		
101	N		
110	Y	10	Mem[10110]
111	N		

Cache Example

Word addr	Binary addr	Hit/miss	Cache block
18	10 010	Miss	010

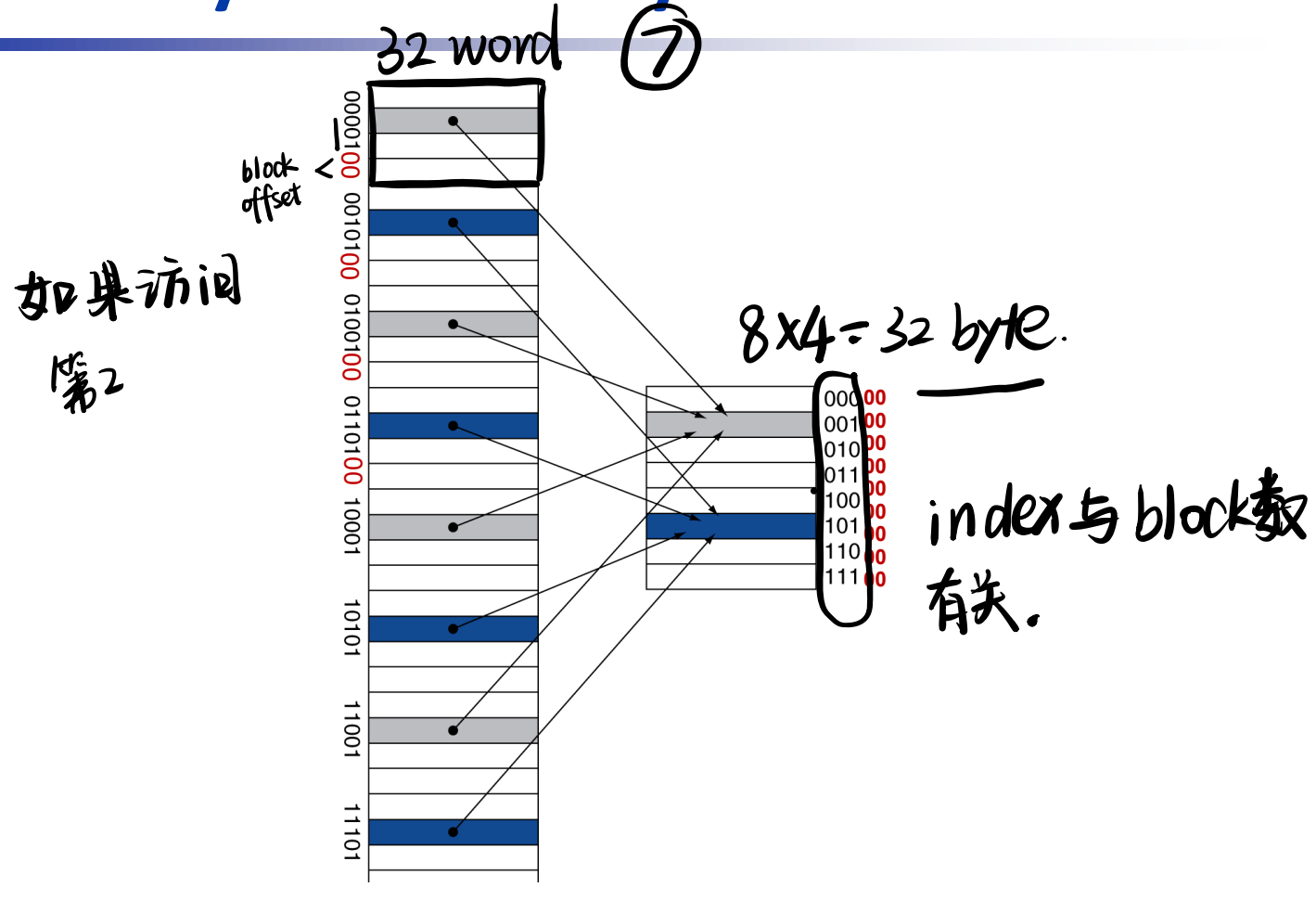
Index	V	Tag	Data
000	Y	10	Mem[10000]
001	N		
010	Y	11	Mem[11010]
011	Y	00	Mem[00011]
100	N		
101	N		
110	Y	10	Mem[10110]
111	N		

Cache Example

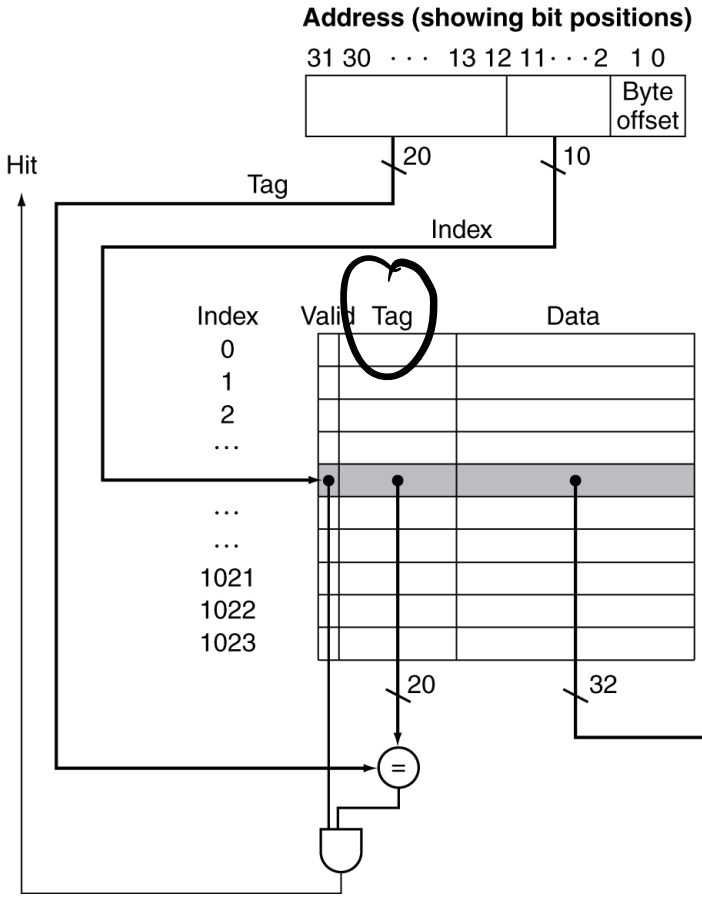
Word addr	Binary addr	Hit/miss	Cache block
18	10 010	Miss	010

Index	V	Tag	Data
000	Y	10	Mem[10000]
001	N		
010	**Y**	**10**	**Mem[10010]**
011	Y	00	Mem[00011]
100	N		
101	N		
110	Y	10	Mem[10110]
111	N		

Memory in unit of byte



Address Subdivision



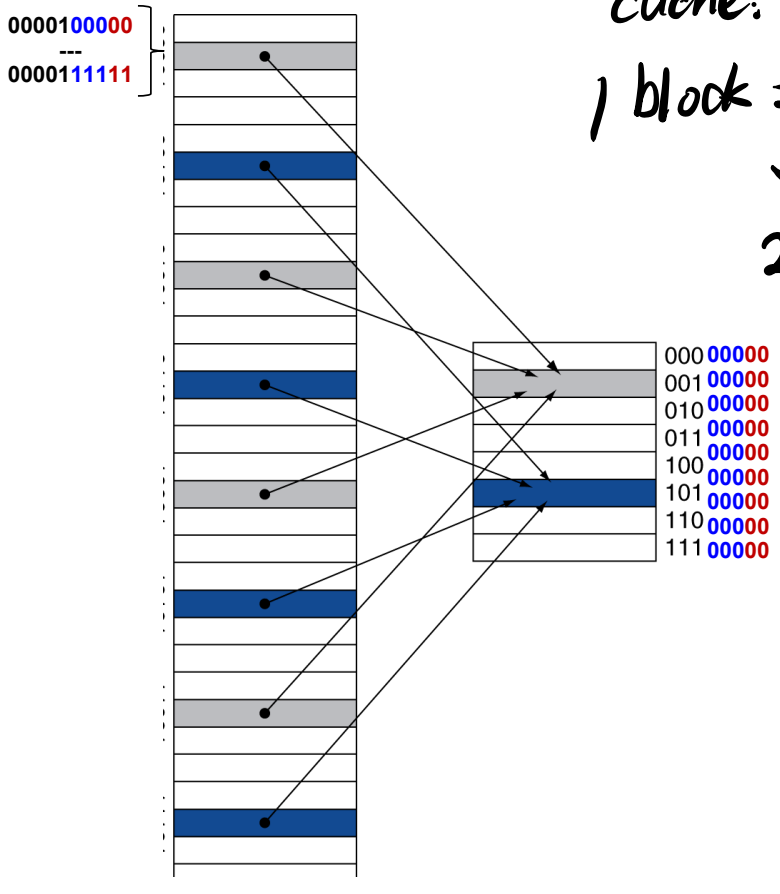
1 block = 1 word

1024 word

2^{10}

2^{12}.

Larger Block Size



cache: 1024 word

1 block = 8 word.

⇓

2^7 index.

5~11	12~31
index	Tag

Larger Block Size

- Assume:
  - 32-bit address
  - Direct mapped cache
  - 2^n number of blocks, so n bit for index
  - Block size: 2^m words, so m bit for the word within the block
- Calculate:
  - Size of tag field: 32-(n+m+2)
  - Size of cache: 2^n*(block size + tag size +valid field size)

    $=2^n*(2^m*32+(32-n-m-2)+1)$

number of index: 2^n # of block in the cache

each block is 2^m word

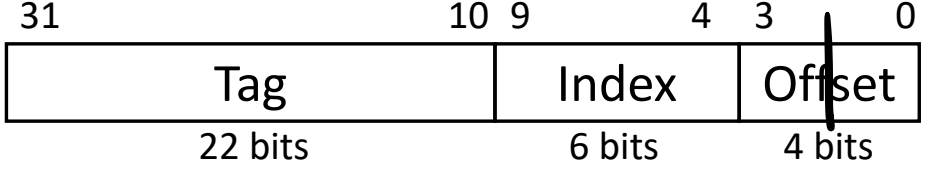
word in block

Tag

bit为单位.

Example: Larger Block Size

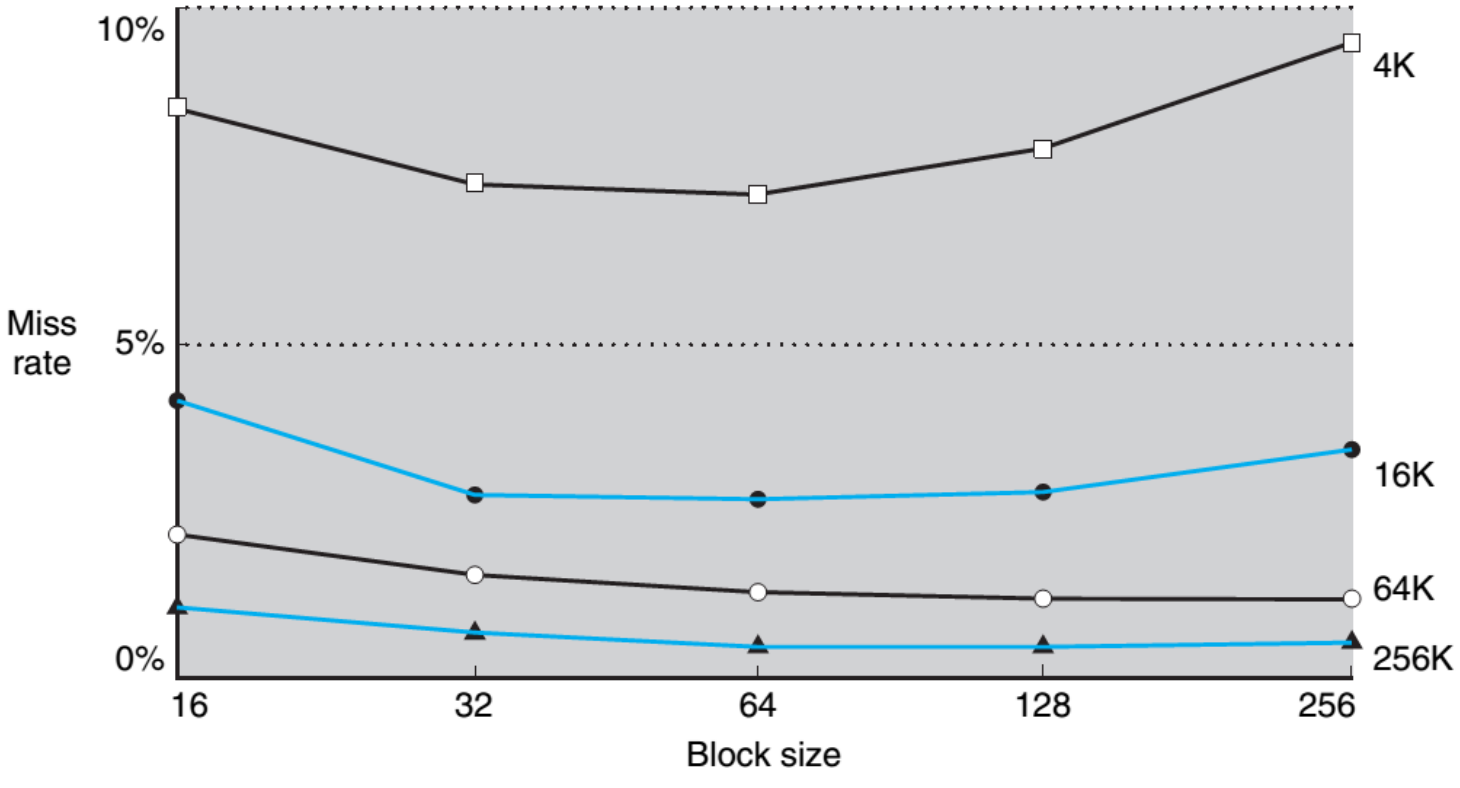
- 64 blocks, 16 bytes/block
  - To what block number does address 1200 map?
- Block address = $\lfloor 1200/16 \rfloor = 75$
- Block number = 75 modulo 64 = 11



Block Size Considerations

- Larger blocks should reduce miss rate
  - Due to spatial locality
- But in a fixed-sized cache
  - Larger blocks ⇒ fewer of them
    - More competition ⇒ increased miss rate
  - Larger blocks ⇒ pollution 全部重写
- Larger miss penalty (transfer time)
  - Can override benefit of reduced miss rate
  - Early restart and critical-word-first can help

Block Size Considerations



Cache Misses

- On cache hit, CPU proceeds normally
- On cache miss
  - Read miss vs. write miss
  - Stall the CPU pipeline
  - Fetch block from next level of hierarchy
  - Instruction cache miss
    - Restart instruction fetch
  - Data cache miss
    - Complete data access

Write-Through

- On data-write hit, could just update the block in cache
  - But then cache and memory would be inconsistent
- Write through: also update memory
- But makes writes take longer
  - e.g., if base CPI = 1, 10% of instructions are stores, write to memory takes 100 cycles
    - Effective CPI = 1 + 0.1×100 = 11
- Solution: write buffer
  - Holds data waiting to be written to memory
  - CPU continues immediately
    - Only stalls on write if write buffer is already full

Write-Back

- Alternative: On data-write hit, just update the block in cache
  - Keep track of whether each block is dirty ⇒ dirty bit
- When a dirty block is replaced
  - Write it back to memory
  - Can use a write buffer to allow replacing block to be read first

Write Allocation

- What should happen on a write miss?
- Alternatives for write-through
  - Allocate on miss: fetch the block
  - Write around: don't fetch the block
    - Since programs often write a whole block before reading it (e.g., initialization)
- For write-back
  - Usually fetch the block

Write Policies Summary

- If that memory location is in the cache?
  - Send it to the cache
  - Should we also send it to memory right away?

    (write-through policy)
  - Wait until we kick the block out (write-back policy)
- If it is not in the cache?
  - Allocate the line (put it in the cache)?

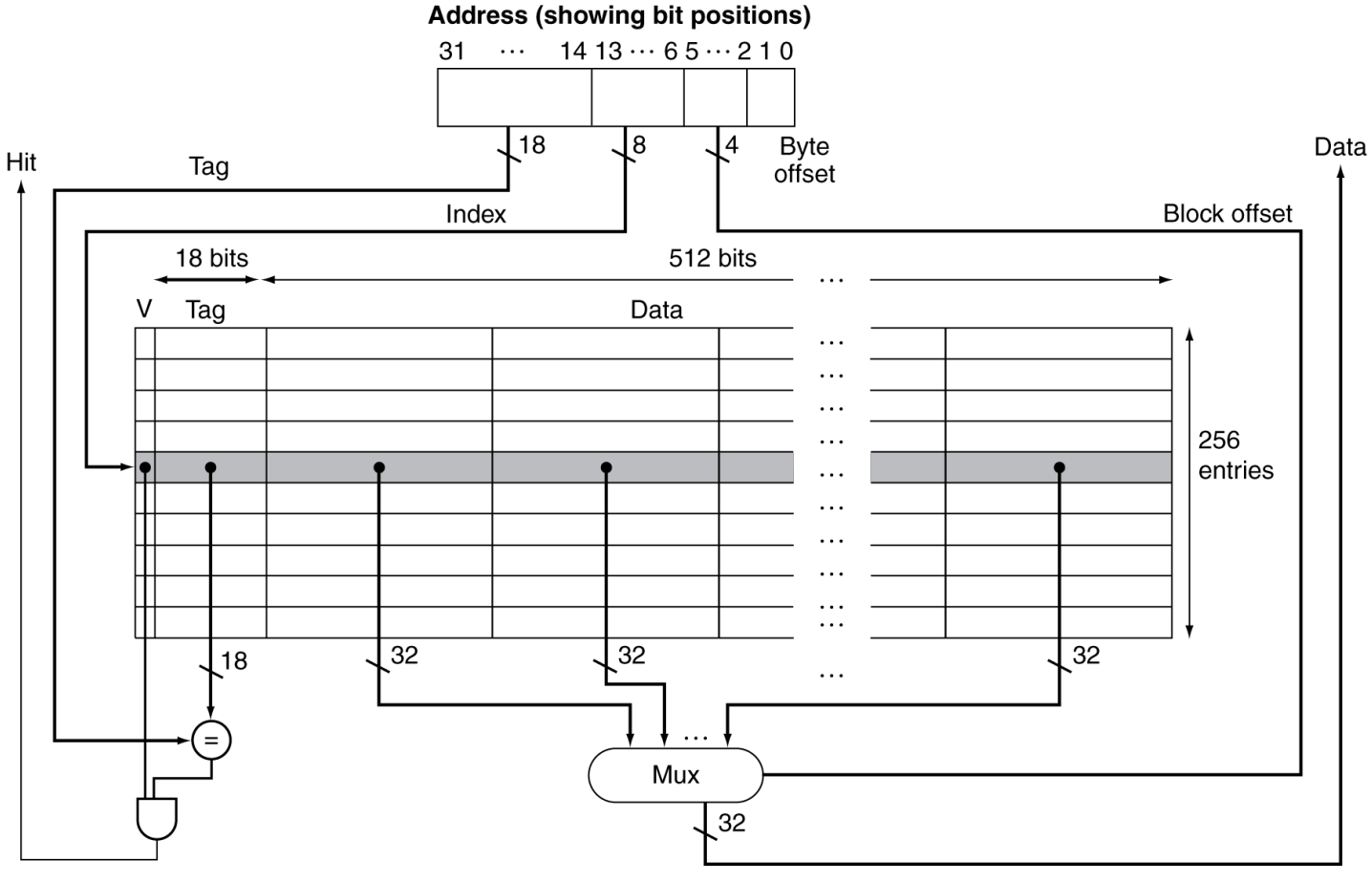
    (write allocate policy)
  - Write it directly to memory without allocation?

    (no write allocate policy)

Example: Intrinsity FastMATH

- Embedded MIPS processor
  - 12-stage pipeline
  - Instruction and data access on each cycle
- Split cache: separate I-cache and D-cache
  - Each 16KB: 256 blocks × 16 words/block
  - D-cache: write-through or write-back
- SPEC2000 miss rates
  - I-cache: 0.4%
  - D-cache: 11.4%
  - Weighted average: 3.2%

Example: Intrinsity FastMATH



Measuring Cache Performance

- Components of CPU time
  - Program execution cycles
    - Includes cache hit time
  - Memory stall cycles
    - Mainly from cache misses
- With simplifying assumptions:

$$\text{Memory stall cycles} = \frac{\text{Memory accesses}}{\text{Program}} \times \text{Miss rate} \times \text{Miss penalty}$$

$$= \frac{\text{Instructions}}{\text{Program}} \times \frac{\text{Misses}}{\text{Instruction}} \times \text{Miss penalty}$$

Cache Performance Example

- Calculate actual CPI, given that
  - I-cache miss rate = 2%
  - D-cache miss rate = 4%
  - Miss penalty = 100 cycles
  - Base CPI (ideal cache) = 2
  - Load & stores are 36% of instructions
- Miss cycles per instruction (assume *N* ins. In total)
  - I-cache: N × 0.02 × 100/N = 2
  - D-cache: N × 0.36 × 0.04 × 100/N = 1.44
- Actual CPI = 2 + 2 + 1.44 = 5.44
  - Ideal CPU is 5.44/2 =2.72 times faster

Average Access Time

- Hit time is also important for performance
- Average memory access time (AMAT)
  - AMAT = Hit time + Miss rate × Miss penalty
- Example
  - CPU with 1ns clock, hit time = 1 cycle, miss penalty = 20 cycles, I-cache miss rate = 5%
  - AMAT = 1 + 0.05 × 20 = 2ns
    - 2 cycles per instruction

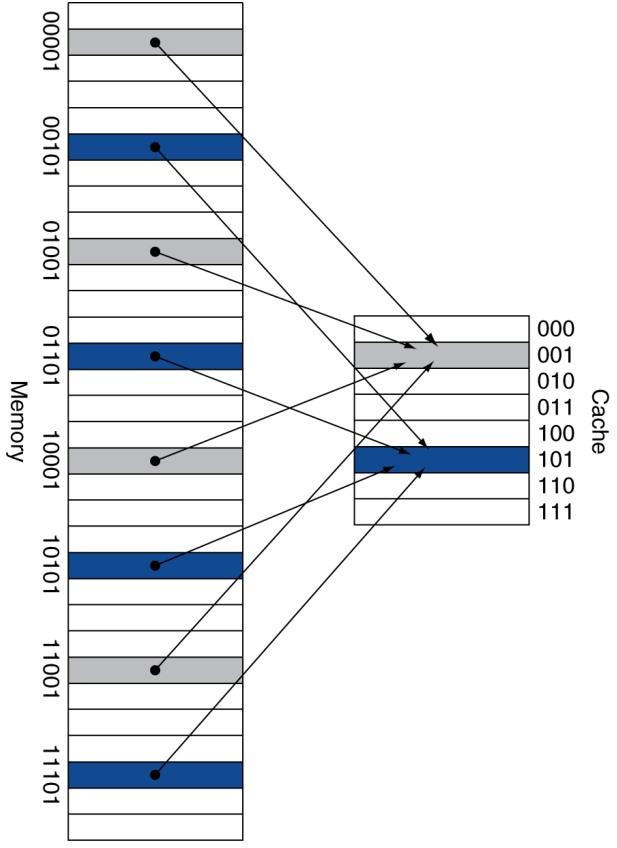
1 + 5% × 20 = 2ns

Performance Summary

- When CPU performance increased
  - Miss penalty becomes more significant
  - CPI=2, Miss=3.44, % of memory stall: 3.44/5.44=63%
  - CPI=1, Miss=3.44, % of memory stall: 3.44/4.44=77%
- Decreasing base CPI
  - Greater proportion of time spent on memory stalls
- Increasing clock rate
  - Memory stalls account for more CPU cycles
- Can’t neglect cache behavior when evaluating system performance

Recall: Direct Mapped Cache

- Location determined by address
- Direct mapped: only one choice
  - Capacity of cache is not fully exploited
  - Miss rate is high



Cache Example

Word addr	Binary addr	Hit/miss	Cache block
16	10 000	Miss	000
3	00 011	Miss	011
16	10 000	Hit	000

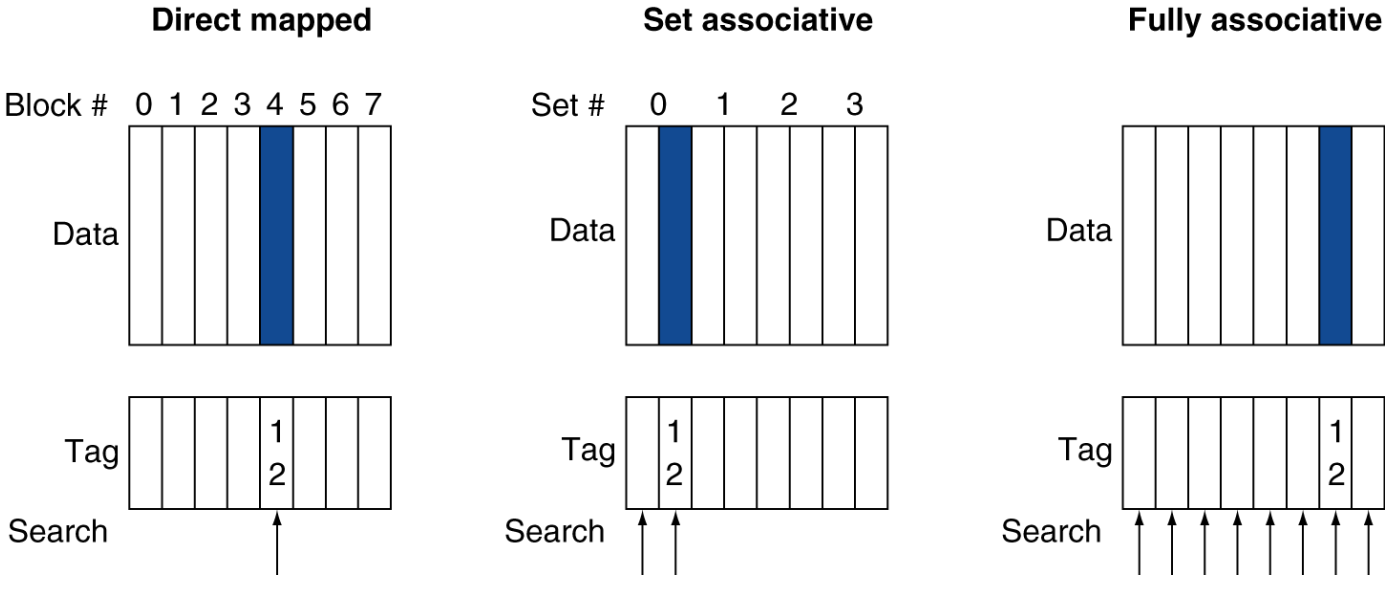
Index	V	Tag	Data
000	**Y**	**10**	**Mem[10000]**
001	N		
010	Y	11	Mem[11010]
011	**Y**	**00**	**Mem[00011]**
100	N		
101	N		
110	Y	10	Mem[10110]
111	N		

Cache Example

Word addr	Binary addr	Hit/miss	Cache block
18	10 010	Miss	010

Index	V	Tag	Data
000	Y	10	Mem[10000]
001	N		
010	**Y**	**10**	**Mem[10010]**
011	Y	00	Mem[00011]
100	N		
101	N		
110	Y	10	Mem[10110]
111	N		

Associative Cache Example



Associative Caches

- Fully associative
  - Allow a given block to go in any cache entry
  - Requires all entries to be searched at once
  - Comparator per entry (expensive)
- *n*-way set associative
  - Each set contains *n* entries
  - Block number determines which set
    - (Block number) modulo (#Sets in cache)
  - Search all entries in a given set at once
  - *n* comparators (less expensive)

Spectrum of Associativity

- For a cache with 8 blocks

One-way set associative
(direct mapped)

Block	Tag	Data
0		
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

Two-way set associative

Set	Tag	Data	Tag	Data
0				
1				
2				
3				

Four-way set associative

Set	Tag	Data	Tag	Data	Tag	Data	Tag	Data
0								
1								

Eight-way set associative (fully associative)

Tag	Data	Tag	Data	Tag	Data	Tag	Data	Tag	Data	Tag	Data	Tag	Data	Tag	Data

Associativity Example

- Compare 4-block caches
  - Direct mapped, 2-way set associative, fully associative
  - Block access sequence: 0, 8, 0, 6, 8
- Direct mapped

Block address	Cache index	Hit/miss	Cache content after access			
			0	1	2	3
0	0	miss	Mem[0]			
8	0	miss	Mem[8]			
0	0	miss	Mem[0]			
6	2	miss	Mem[0]		Mem[6]	
8	0	miss	Mem[8]		Mem[6]	

Associativity Example

Associativity

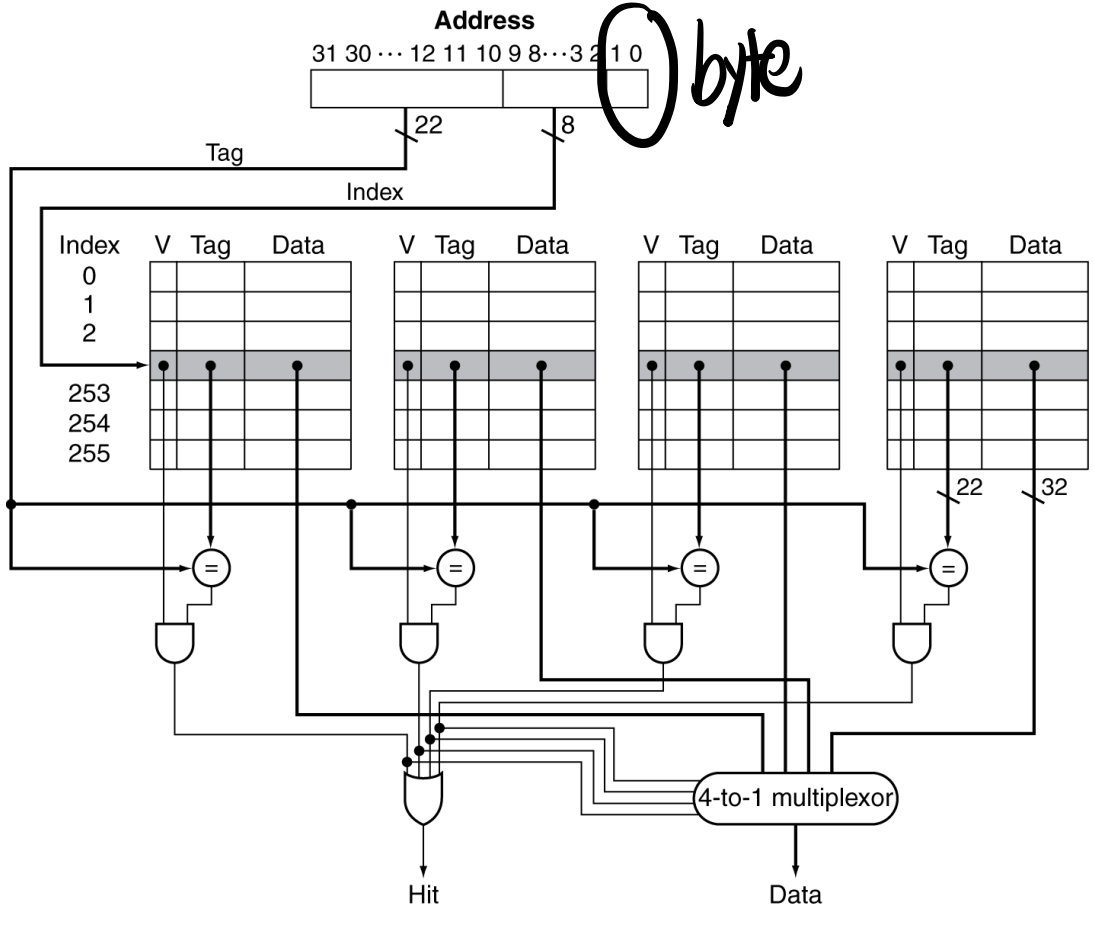
- 2-way set associative

Block address	Cache index	Hit/miss	Cache content after access			
			Set 0		Set 1	
0	0	miss	Mem[0]			
8	0	miss	Mem[0]	Mem[8]		
0	0	hit	**Mem[0]**	Mem[8]		
6	0	miss	Mem[0]	**Mem[6]**		
8	0	miss	**Mem[8]**	Mem[6]		

- Fully associative

Block address		Hit/miss	Cache content after access			
0		miss	Mem[0]			
8		miss	Mem[0]	Mem[8]		
0		hit	**Mem[0]**	Mem[8]		
6		miss	Mem[0]	Mem[8]	Mem[6]	
8		hit	Mem[0]	**Mem[8]**	Mem[6]	

Set Associative Cache Organization



How Much Associativity

- Increased associativity decreases miss rate
  - But with diminishing returns
- Simulation of a system with 64KB D-cache, 16-word blocks, SPEC2000
  - 1-way: 10.3%
  - 2-way: 8.6%
  - 4-way: 8.3%
  - 8-way: 8.1%

Replacement Policy

- Direct mapped: no choice
- Set associative
  - Prefer non-valid entry, if there is one
  - Otherwise, choose among entries in the set
- Least-recently used (LRU)
  - Choose the one unused for the longest time
    - Simple for 2-way, manageable for 4-way, too hard beyond that
- Random
  - Gives approximately the same performance as LRU for high associativity

Multilevel Caches

- Primary cache attached to CPU
  - Small, but fast
- Level-2 cache services misses from primary cache
  - Larger, slower, but still faster than main memory
- Main memory services L-2 cache misses
- Some high-end systems include L-3 cache

Multilevel Cache Example

- Given
  - CPU base CPI = 1, clock rate = 4GHz
  - Miss rate/instruction = 2%
  - Main memory access time = 100ns
- With just primary cache
  - Miss penalty = 100ns/0.25ns = 400 cycles
  - Effective CPI = 1 + 0.02 × 400 = 9

1 + 2% × 400 = 9.

Cycle per Instruction.

Example (cont.)

- Now add L-2 cache
  - Access time = 5ns
  - Global miss rate to main memory = 0.5%
- Primary miss with L-2 hit
  - Penalty = 5ns/0.25ns = 20 cycles
- Primary miss with L-2 miss
  - Extra penalty = 400 cycles
- CPI = 1 + 0.02 × 20 + 0.005 × 400 = 3.4
- Performance ratio = 9/3.4 = 2.6

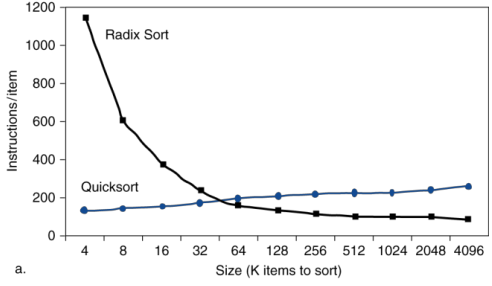
1+2% x20+0.005x400

Multilevel Cache Considerations

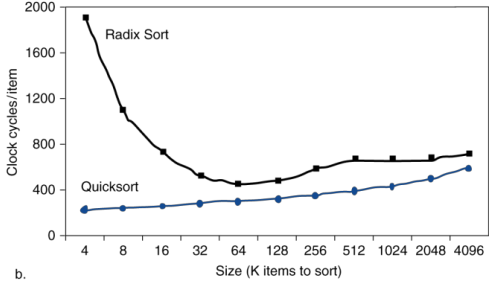
- Primary cache
  - Focus on minimal hit time
- L-2 cache
  - Focus on low miss rate to avoid main memory access
  - Hit time has less overall impact
- Results
  - L-1 cache usually smaller than a single cache
  - L-1 block size smaller than L-2 block size

Interactions with Software

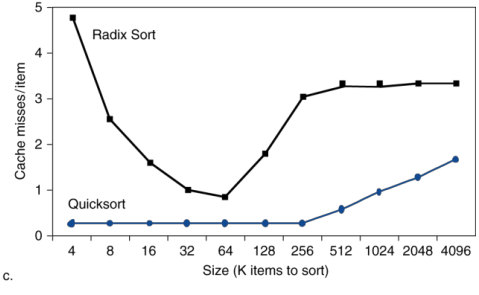
- Compare two algorithms: Radix sort & Quicksort
- When size is large,
  - Radix sort has less instructions
  - But quicksort has less clock cycles
  - Because miss rate of radix sort is higher



a.



b.



c.

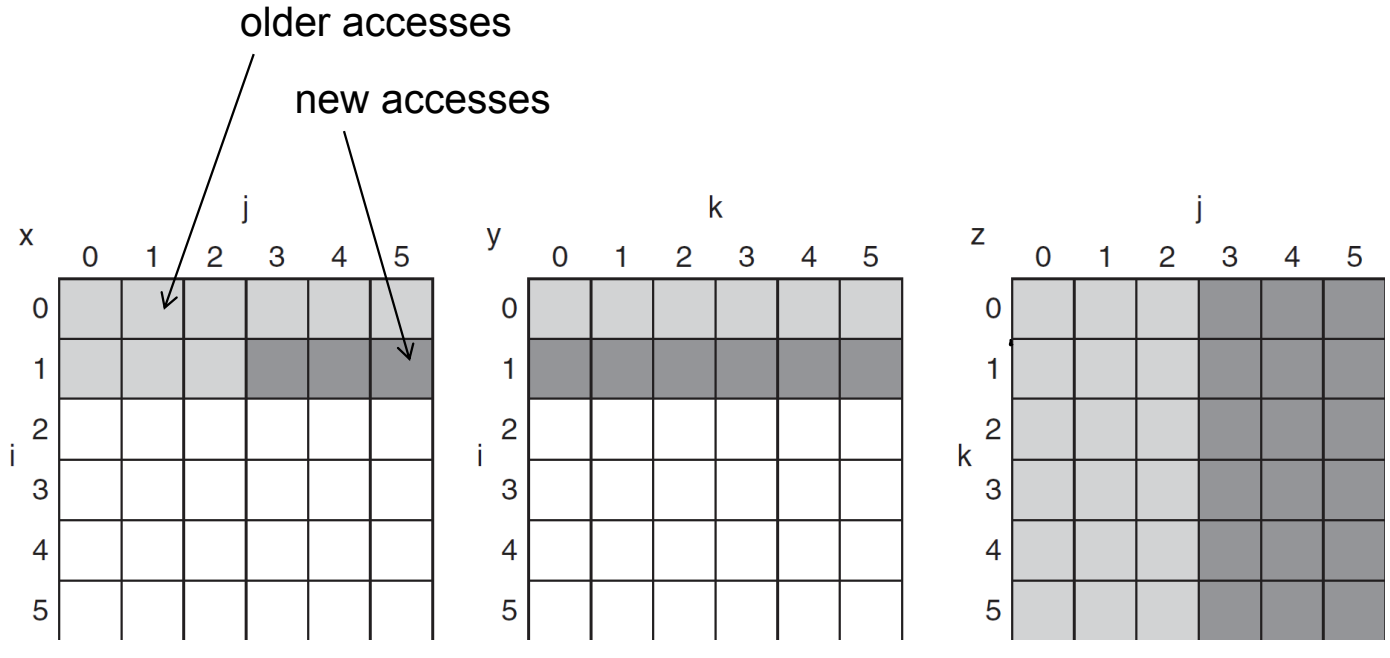
Software Optimization via Blocking

- Goal: maximize accesses to data before it is replaced
- Consider inner loops of DGEMM:

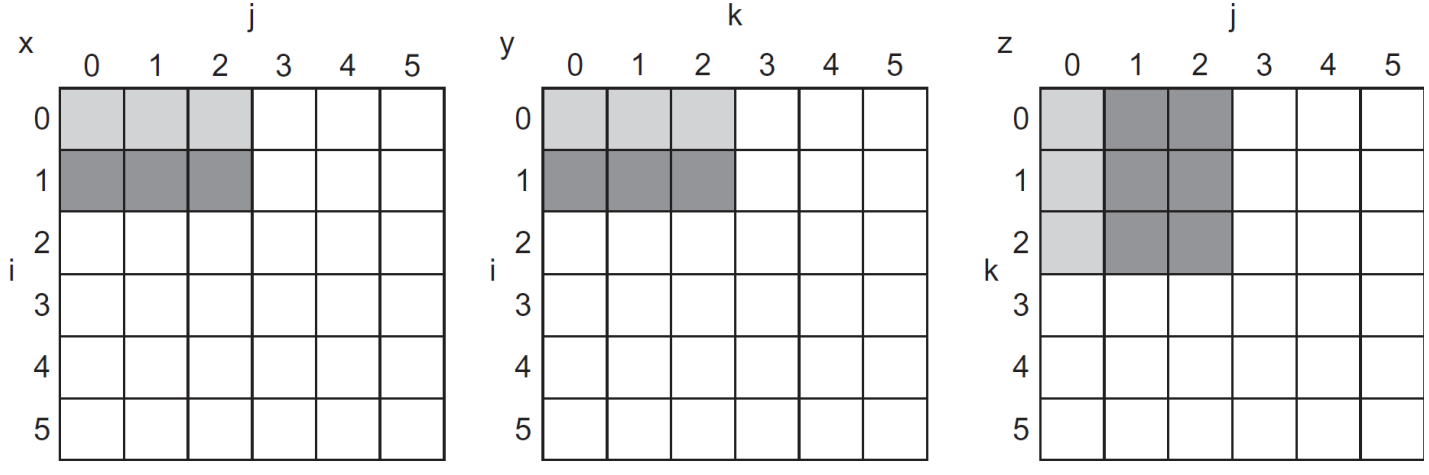
```
for (int j = 0; j < n; ++j)
{
  double cij = C[i+j*n];
  for( int k = 0; k < n; k++ )
    cij += A[i+k*n] * B[k+j*n];
  C[i+j*n] = cij;
}
```

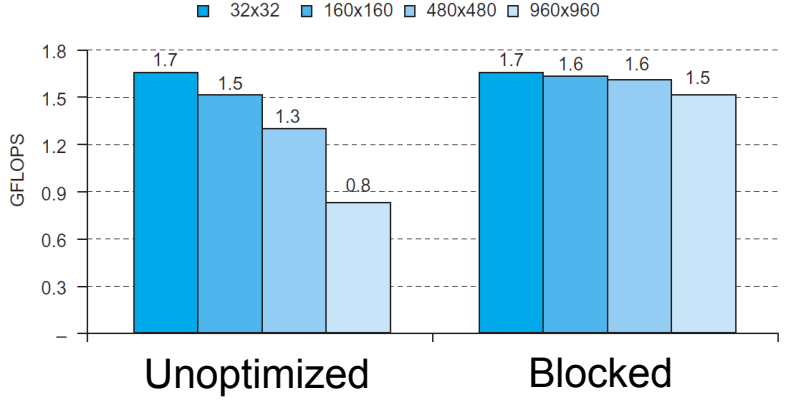
DGEMM Access Pattern

- C, A, and B arrays



Blocked DGEMM Access Pattern





Homework

- Exercise 5.3 5.6