

1. More on memory

a. Characteristics of memory systems

i. Physical type

1. Need two well-defined states in the medium to differentiate 0 and 1
2. Semiconductor – flip-flops, capacitors, so on
3. Magnetic surface – stored using magnetism (like hard drives)
4. Optical – CDs, Blu-ray, and the like

ii. Volatility

1. Non-volatile – retains information when power is off (hard drives)
2. Volatile – loses information when power is cut (registers, flip flops, RAM)
3. Location – internal (RAM) or external (USB hard drive)

iii. Capacity

iv. Units of transfer

v. Access methods

1. Sequential

2. Direct access

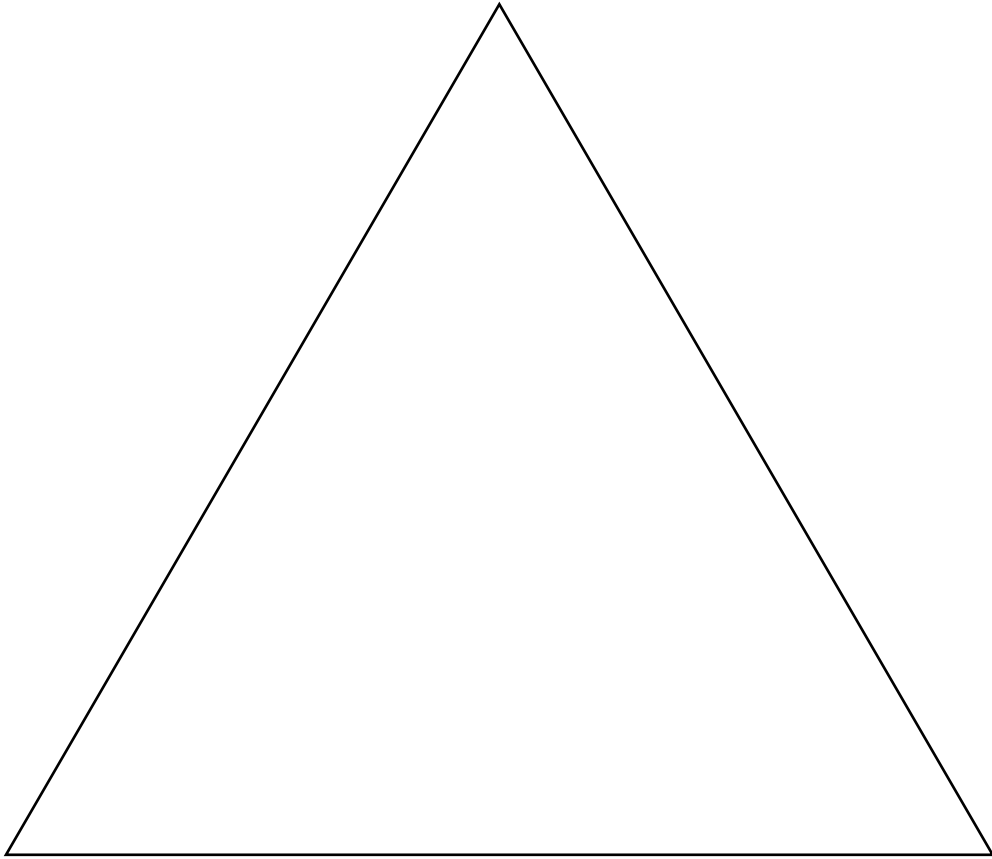
3. Random access

4. Associative

vi. Performance

vii. Erasability

2. Memory hierarchy



- a. Forms a pyramid
- b. Key to success of the hierarchy
- c. Locality types
 - i. Temporal locality
 - ii. Spatial locality
- d. Locality is the key behind why caches work so well