Caches

Below is a diagram showing the internal representation of a typical CPU cache. Answer as many questions as you can in the given time. If you do not know the answer, please speculate.

- 1. Describe briefly what you understand by the different fields and keywords mentioned in the diagram
- 2. For a given 32-bit address access from CPU, how does the system determine if and where exactly the data lies in the cache?
- 3. What address values contend for a given cache line?
- 4. Why do you need multiple ways in the cache?
- 5. Are there any other bit fields in the cache, e.g. to tell the state of each cache line?
- 6. What operations must operating system software perform on caches?"?
- 7. What else can you tell us about caches?

