



MELTDOWN: STASHAWAY - SLEDGEHAMMER

2

4





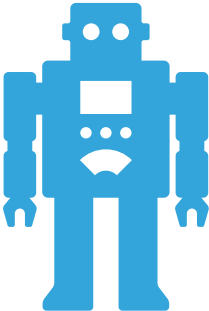












CPU core

RAM

- ▶ Data is stored in RAM
- ▶ RAM is very slow
- ▶ Reading one byte stalls the CPU for hundreds of μ OPs

Read

RAM





value

100ns

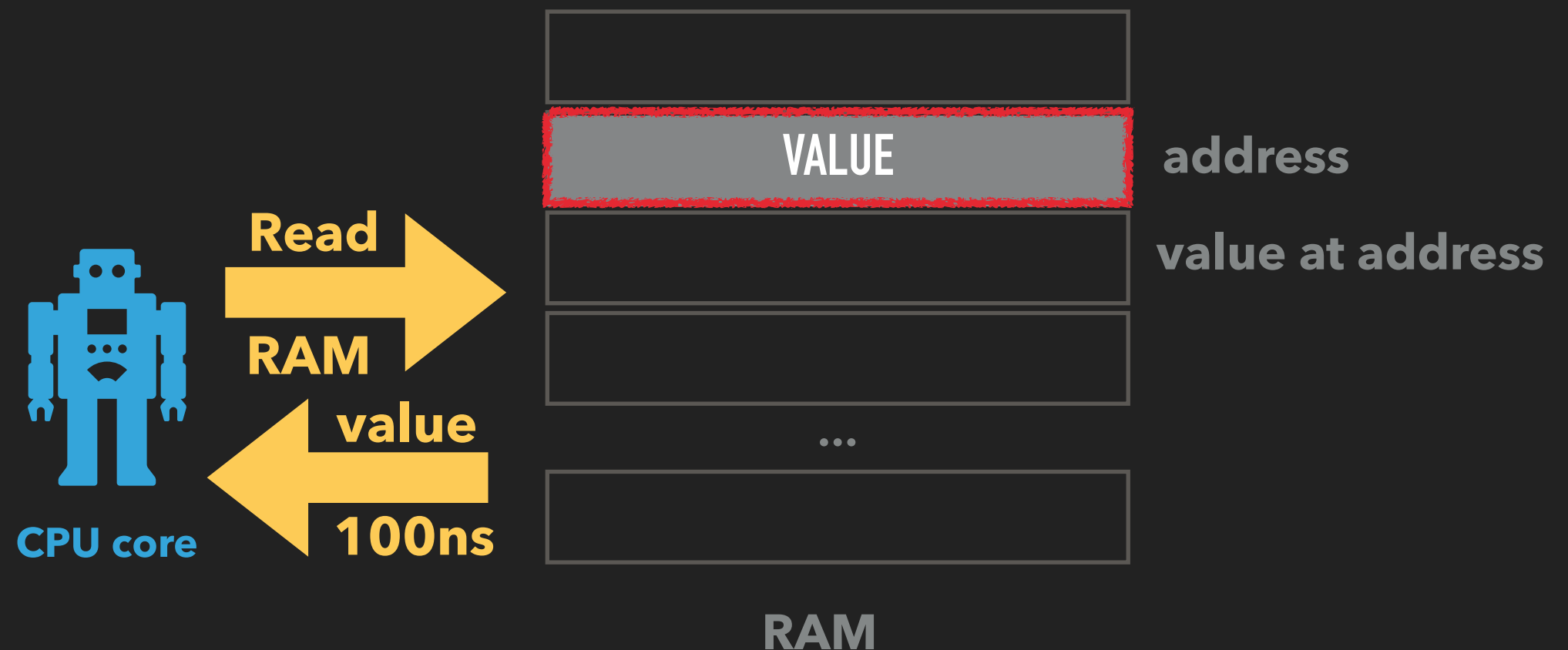
VALUE

value at address



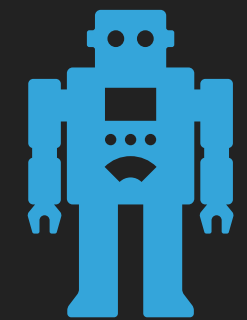
address

MELTDOWN: STASHING AWAY – SIDECCHANNEL

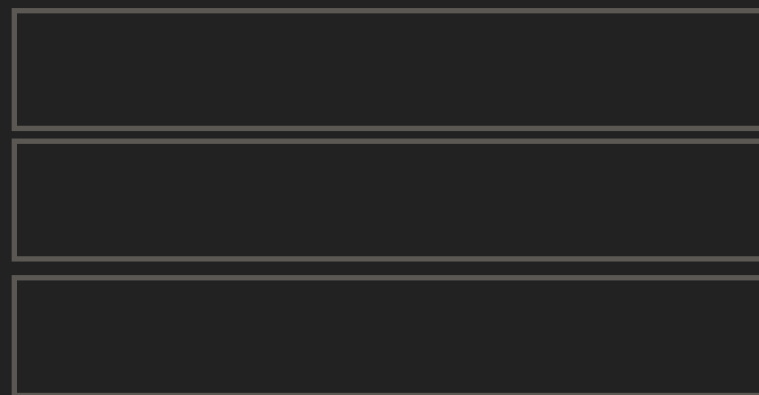


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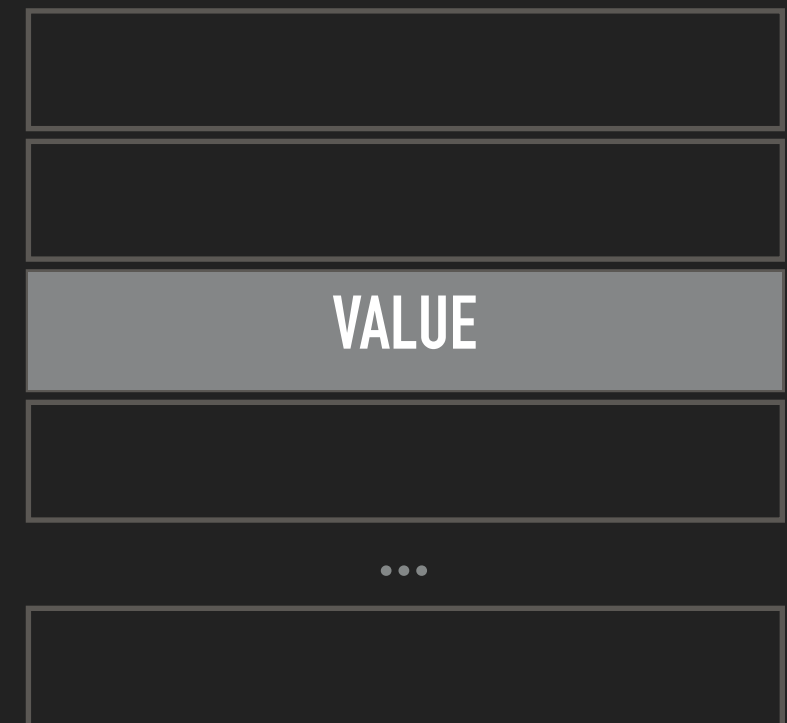
MELTDOWN: STASHING AWAY – SIDECCHANNEL



CPU core



Cache



RAM

- ▶ Reading one byte stalls the CPU for hundreds of μ OPs
- ▶ CPU caches considerably speed this up
- ▶ E.g. reading cached takes 3ns, reading uncached 103ns

The cache speeds up "what is the value at address X?". This is called "(address) X is cached"