

CSCI 210: Computer Architecture

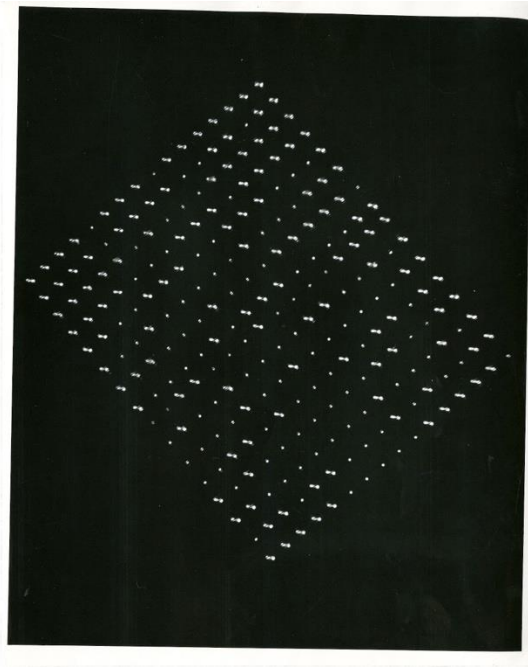
Lecture 34: Caches III

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Slides from Cynthia Taylor

CS History: The Williams Tube



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- First random-access storage device
- Developed in 1946
- Displays a grid of dots over a cathode ray tube (using an electron beam to strike phosphor)
- Each dot represents a bit
- Each dot creates a small static electricity charge
- Charge at each location is read by a metal sheet in front of the display
- Needs to be periodically refreshed as charge fades over time

Three types of cache misses

- Compulsory (or cold-start) misses
 - first access to the data.
- Capacity misses
 - we missed only because the cache isn't big enough.
- Conflict misses
 - we missed because the data maps to the same index as other data that forced it out of the cache.

block address of misses

4
8
12
4
8
20
4
8
20
24
12
8
4

tag	data

DM cache

Cache miss example (from StackOverflow)

32 kB direct-mapped cache

1. You repeatedly iterate over a 128 kB array
 - All misses but the first access to each block are capacity misses because the array does not fit in cache; the first are compulsory misses
2. You iterate over two 8 kB arrays that map to the same cache indices
 - These are conflict misses because if you changed the locations of the arrays to be consecutive, then both would fit in the cache

Conflict vs. capacity miss

- A block of memory has been accessed previously (so it was at one point in the cache)
- It is no longer in the cache
- Is it a conflict miss or a capacity miss?
 - If a **fully-associative cache** with the same number of cache entries would have a **miss**, then it's a **capacity miss**
 - If a **fully-associative cache** with the same number of cache entries would have a **hit**, then it's a **conflict miss**

Cache Miss Type

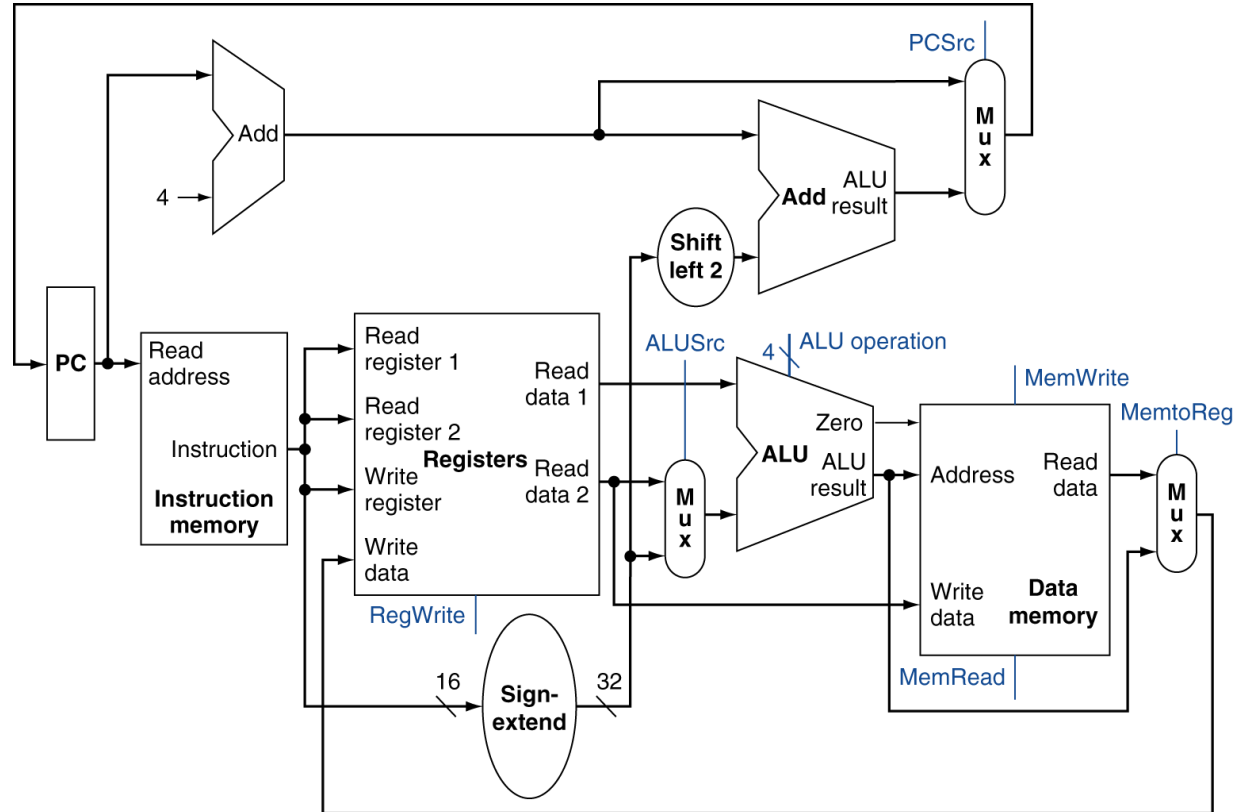
Suppose you experience a cache miss on a block (let's call it block A). You have accessed block A in the past. There have been precisely 1027 **different** blocks accessed between your last access to block A and your current miss. Your block size is 32-bytes and you have a 64 kB cache (recall a kB = 1024 bytes). What kind of miss was this?

Selection	Cache Miss
A	Compulsory
B	Capacity
C	Conflict
D	Both Capacity and Conflict
E	None of the above

Questions on associativity, replacement?

CACHE PERFORMANCE

I-cache vs D-cache



- Separate caches for instruction memory and data memory
- I-cache: instruction cache
- D-cache: data cache

Measuring Cache Performance

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

Memory stall cycles

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

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

Miss Cycles Per Instruction

Given

- 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

	I-cache	D-cache
A	$.02 * 100$	$.04 * 100$
B	.02	.04
C	$.02 * .36 * 100$	$.04 * .36 * 100$
D	$.02 * 100$	$.04 * .36 * 100$

Cache Performance Example

- Given
 - 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
 - I-cache: $0.02 \times 100 = 2$
 - D-cache: $0.36 \times 0.04 \times 100 = 1.44$
- Actual CPI = $2 + 2 + 1.44 = 5.44$

Average Access Time

- Hit time is also important for performance
- Average memory access time (AMAT)
 - $AMAT = \text{Hit time} + \text{Miss rate} \times \text{Miss penalty}$
- Example
 - hit time = 1 cycle, miss penalty = 20 cycles, l-cache miss rate = 5%
 - AMAT =

Cache Speed Factors

- Memory lookup time
- Hit rate
- Size
- Frequency of collisions

How Much Associativity

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

```
For (int i = 0; i < 100000000; i++)
```

```
    sum += A[i];
```

Assume each element of A is 4 bytes and sum is kept in a register. Assume a direct-mapped 32 kB cache with 32 byte blocks. Which changes would help the hit rate of the above code?

Selection	Change
A	Increase to 2-way set associativity
B	Increase block size to 64 bytes
C	Increase cache size to 64 kB
D	A and C combined
E	A, B, and C combined

Performance Summary

- When CPU performance increases
 - Miss penalty becomes more significant
- 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

MAKING CACHES FASTER

Multilevel Caches

- Primary (or level-1) cache attached to CPU
 - Small, but fast
- Level-2 cache services misses from primary cache
 - Larger, slower, but still faster than main memory
- L-3 cache usually services multiple CPUs
- L-3 misses go to main memory

Multilevel Cache performance

- For primary (L-1) cache:
 - Access time in cycles, typically 1
 - Miss rate (fraction of L-1 cache accesses which miss)
 - On a miss, the next level of the cache hierarchy is consulted
- For L-n cache for $n > 1$:
 - Access time in cycles
 - Miss rate (fraction of L-n cache accesses which miss)
 - On a miss, the next level of the cache hierarchy is consulted
- Memory
 - Access time in cycles

Cache Example: L-1 only

- Given
 - CPU base CPI = 1
 - L-1 access time = 1 cycle
 - Miss rate = 10%
 - Main memory access time = 400 cycles
- With just a primary (L-1) cache
 - Effective CPI = $1 + 0.10 * 400 = 41$

Cache example: L-1 and L-2

- L-1:
 - Access time = 1 cycle (so included in the base CPI)
 - Miss rate = 10%
- L-2
 - Access time = 20 cycles
 - Miss rate = 4%
- Memory access time of 400 cycles
- $\text{CPI} = 1 + 0.10 * (20 + 0.04 * 400) = 4.6$
[Compare to a CPI of 41 for L-1 only]

Cache Example: L-1, L-2, L-3

- L-1: access time = 1 cycle; miss rate = 10%
- L-2: access time = 20 cycles; miss rate = 4%
- L-3: access time = 50 cycles; miss rate = 1%
- Memory access time = 400 cycles

With your group, work out what the CPI is assuming a base CPI of 1.

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 less associative than L-2

Interactions with Advanced CPUs

- Out-of-order CPUs can execute instructions during cache miss
 - Pending store stays in load/store unit
 - Dependent instructions wait in reservation stations
 - Independent instructions continue

Prefetching

- Hardware Prefetching
 - suppose you are accessing a single field in each object in an array of large objects
 - hardware determines the “stride” and starts grabbing values early
- Software Prefetching
 - Compiler adds extra instructions to load data before it is needed

Which data structure will have better memory access times assuming you have a prefetcher?

- A. ArrayList
- B. Linked List
- C. There will not be any difference

Writing Cache-Aware Code

- Focus on your working set
- If your “working set” fits in L1 it will be vastly better than a “working set” that fits only on disk.
- If you have a large data set – do processing on it in chunks.
- Think about regularity in data structures (can a prefetcher guess where you are going – or are you pointer chasing)

Reading

- Next lecture: More Caches!