

# **Designing Future Low-Power and Secure Processors with Non- Volatile Memory**

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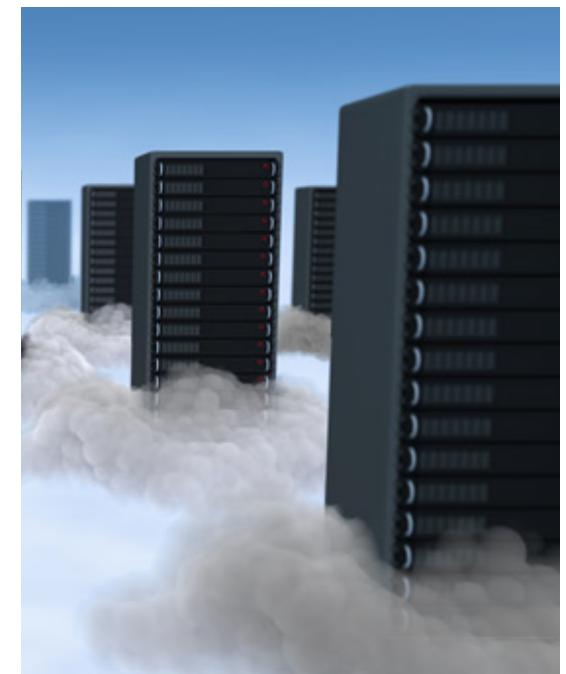
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# Outline

- Background
- Low-Power Processor Design with NVM in High-Voltage Domain (NVSleep)
- Low-Power Processor Design with NVM in Low-Voltage Domain (Respin)
- **Security Research on Processors Equipped with NVM Caches (NV-Insecure)**

# Universal Demand for Low Power



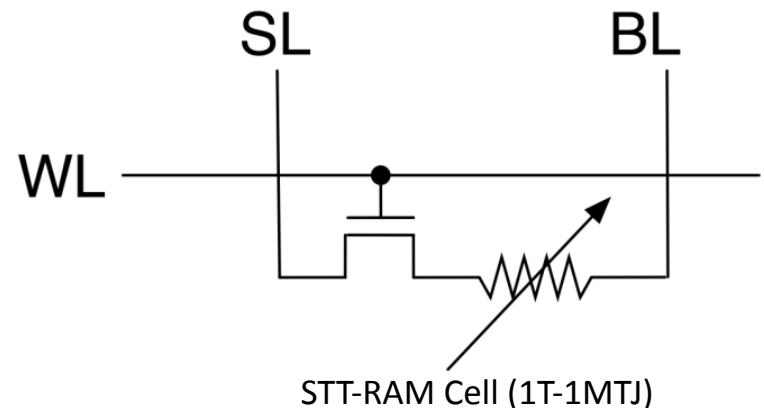
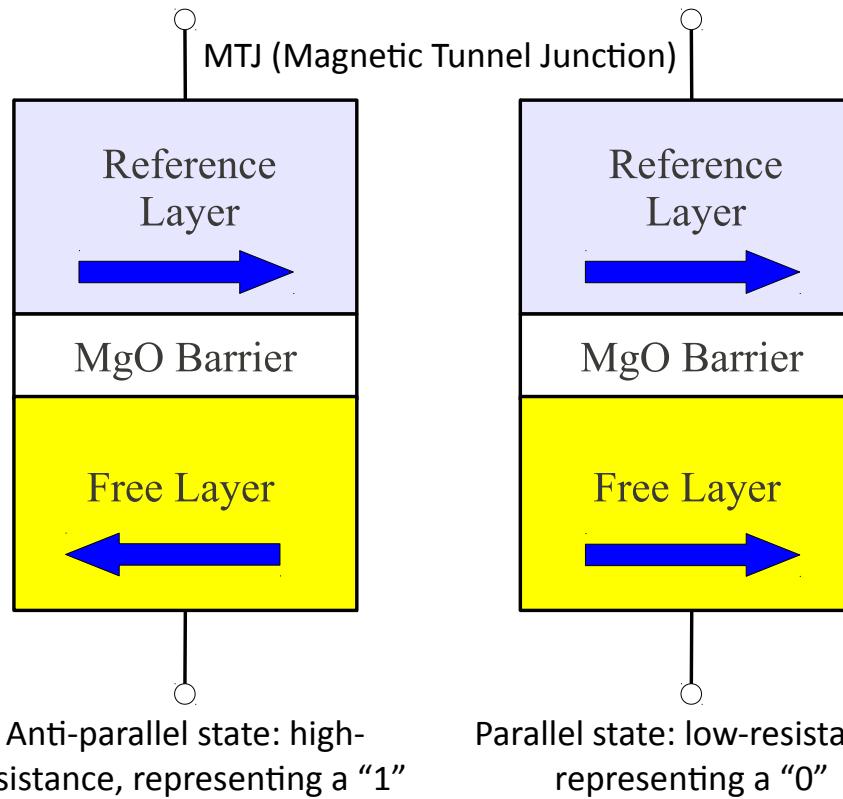
- Mobility
- Battery life
- Performance
- Power constraints
- Energy cost
- Environment

# Non-Volatile Memory Basics

- Non-Volatility – Resistance as data representation (e.g. PCM, STT-RAM, ReRAM, etc.)
- Near-Zero Leakage Power – Good fit for future power-constrained computing
- High Density – Great design candidate in the big data era
- Good Performance – Feasible for on-chip storage replacement

# STT-RAM

- Unique features of STT-RAM: fast read speed, low read energy, unlimited write endurance, and good compatibility with CMOS technology
  - Shortcomings: long write latency and high write energy



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# NVSleep: Using Non-Volatile Memory to Enable Fast Sleep/Wakeup of Idle Cores

- The first work to use non-volatility feature of STT-RAM to implement pipeline-level checkpointing
- A general and low overhead framework for reducing energy through exploiting short idle execution phases
- Achieved energy reduction of **17-34%** with less than **3%** performance and area overheads

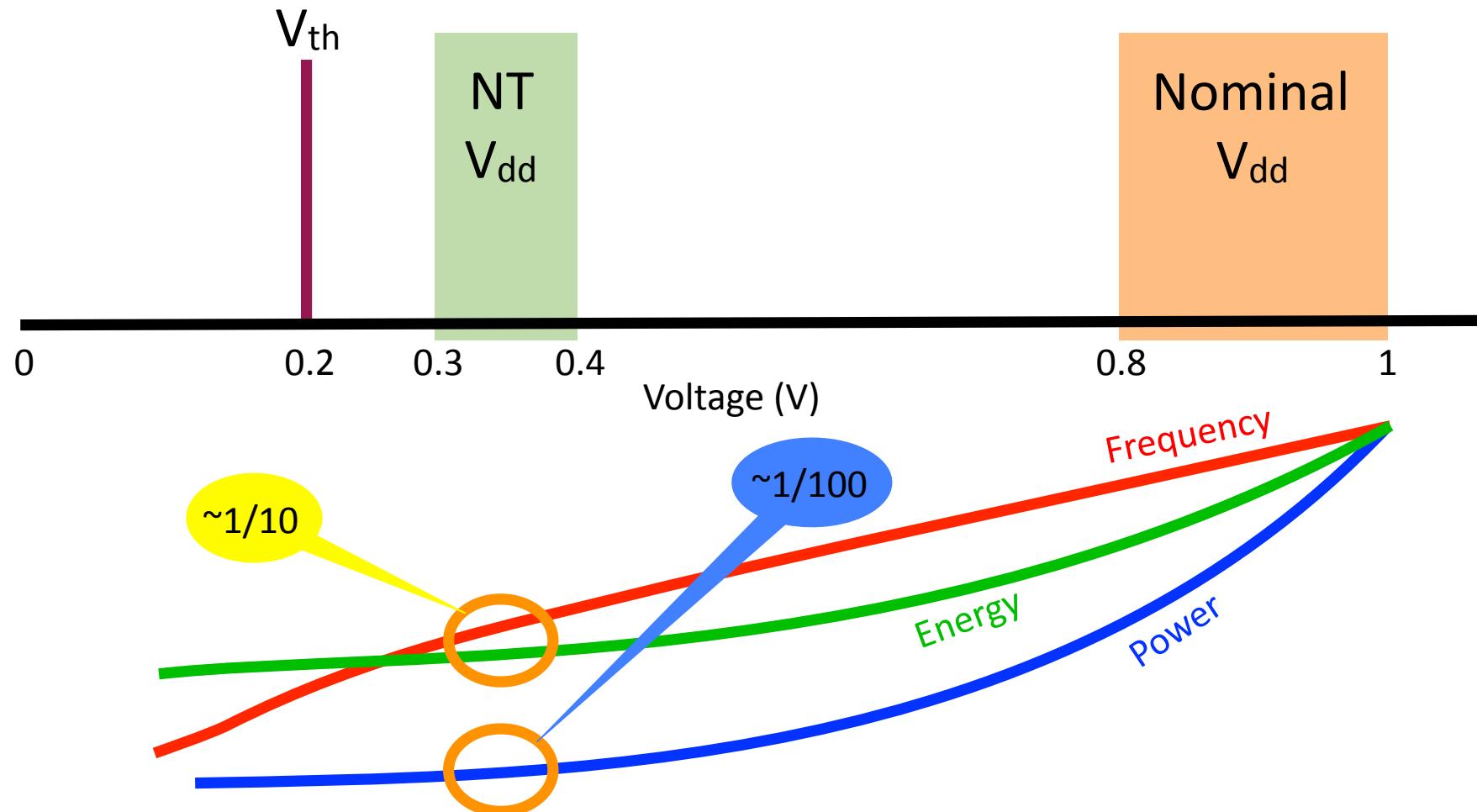
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# Respin: Rethinking Near-Threshold Multiprocessor Design with Non-Volatile Memory

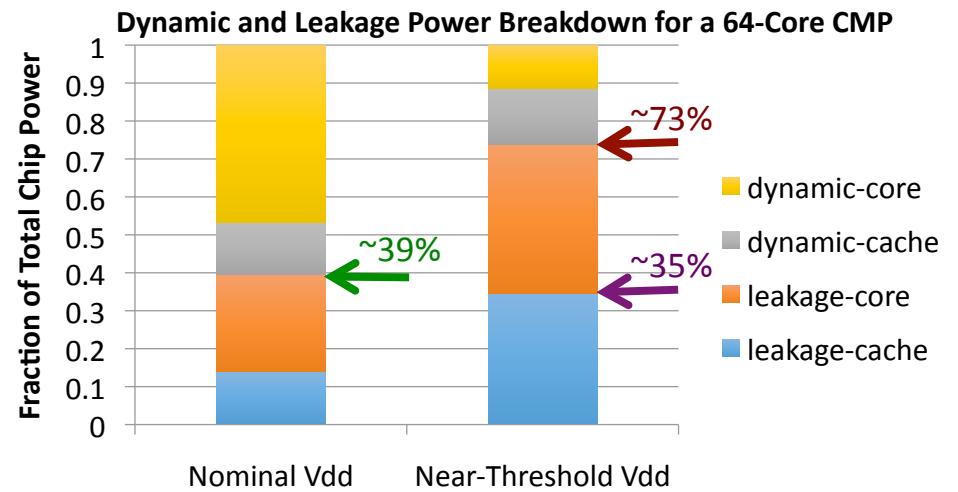
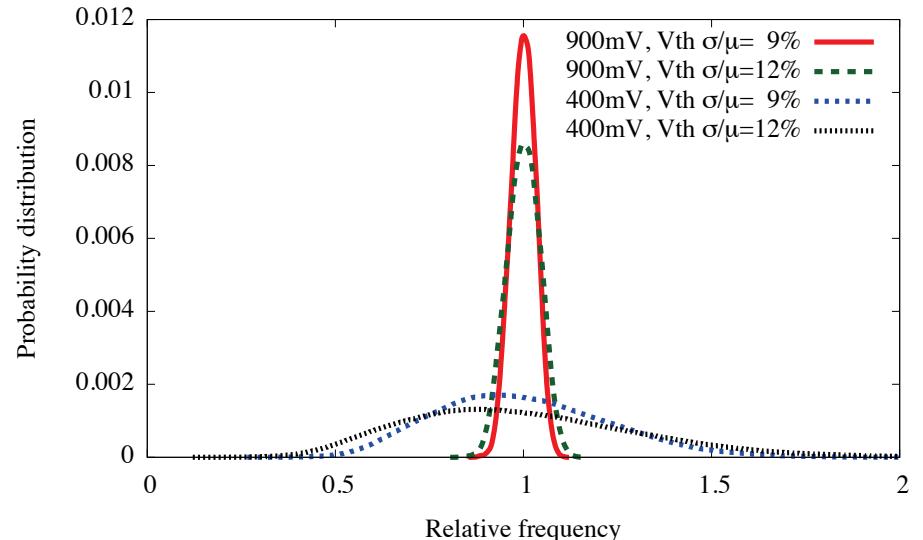
- The first work to explore the use of non-volatile caches in near-threshold chip multiprocessors
- A novel architecture designed to enhance NT-CMP performance and reduce energy consumption by sharing L1 caches and implementing dynamic core consolidation mechanism
- Achieved energy reduction by **33%** and improved performance by **11%**

# Low Voltage Operation

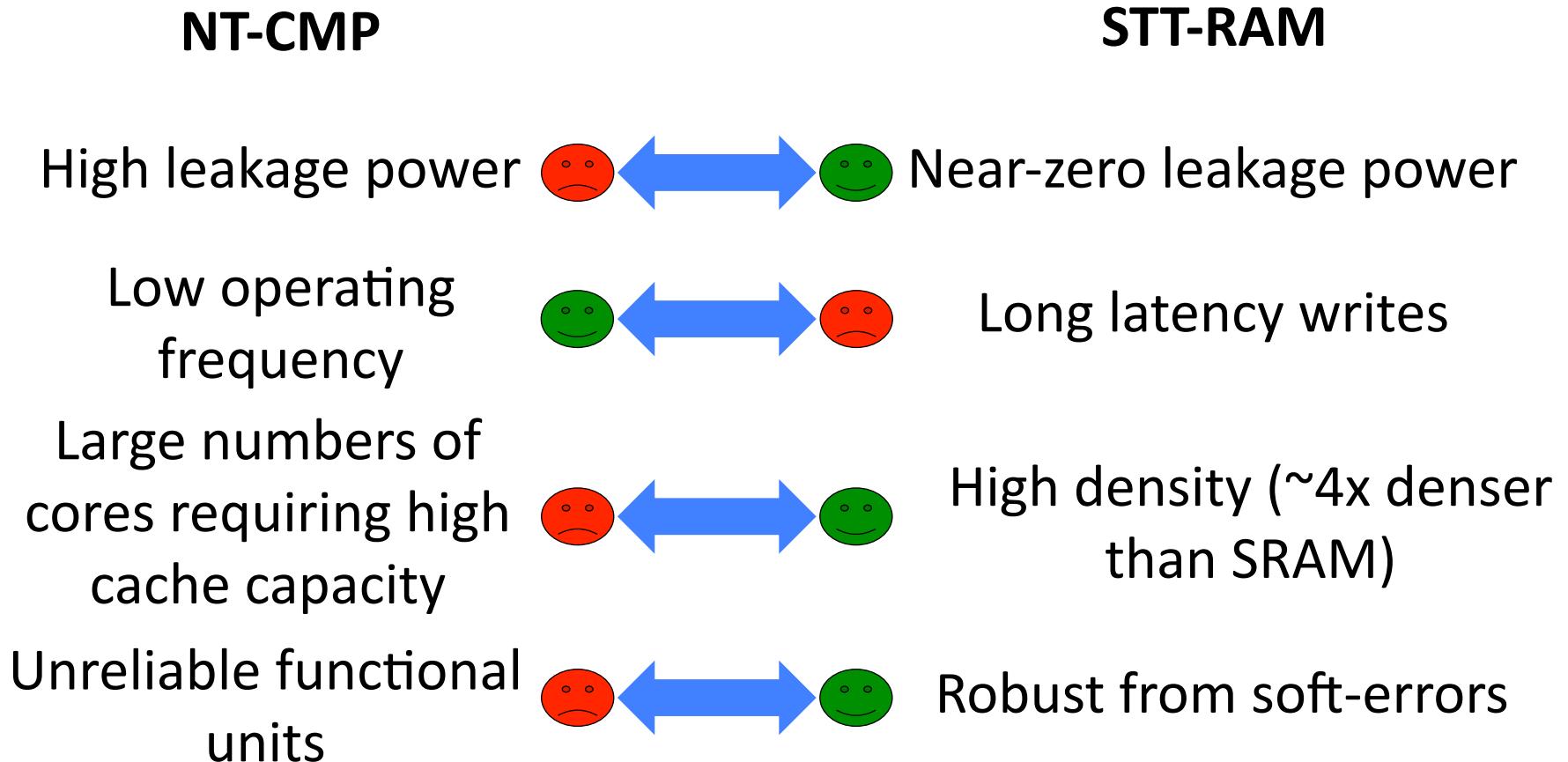


# Challenges in Near-Threshold

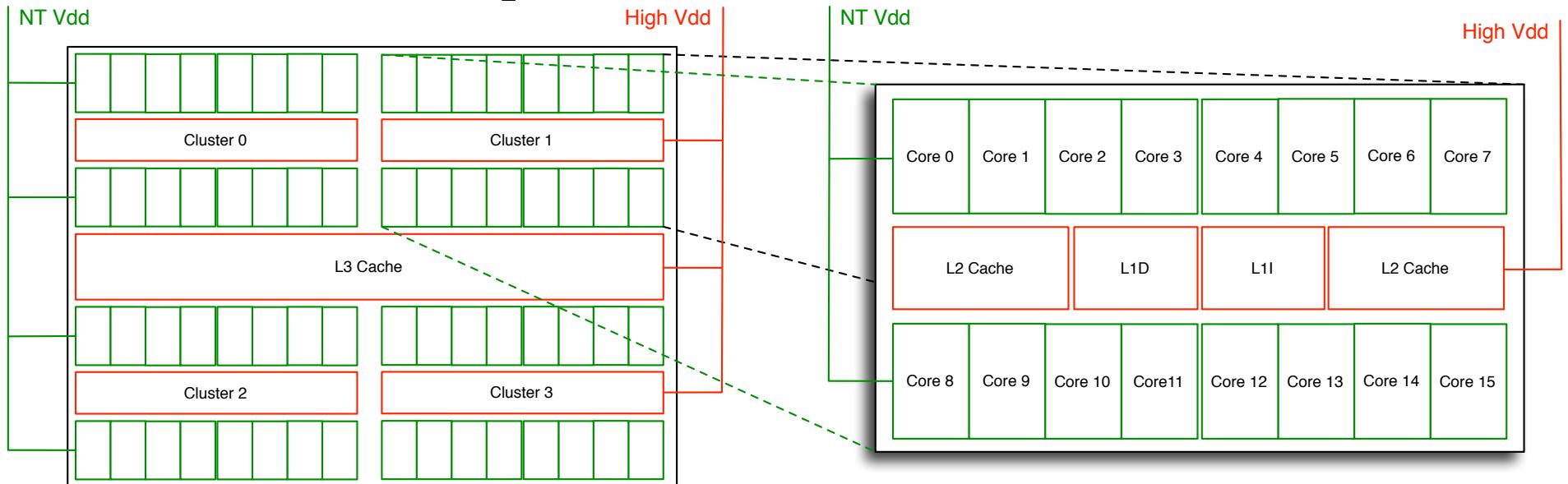
- Performance degradation
- Function failure
- Amplified process variation
- Leakage power domination
- The initial idea of Respin –  
Build caches in NT-CMP  
with “leakage-free” non-volatile memories to  
reduce power consumption



# STT-RAM is Good Fit for NT-CMP

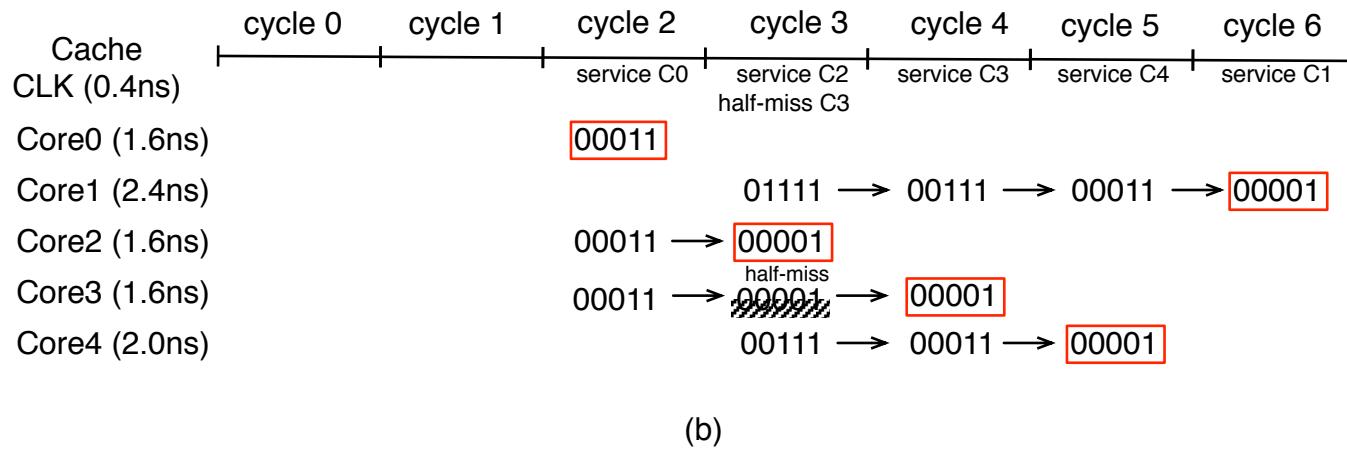
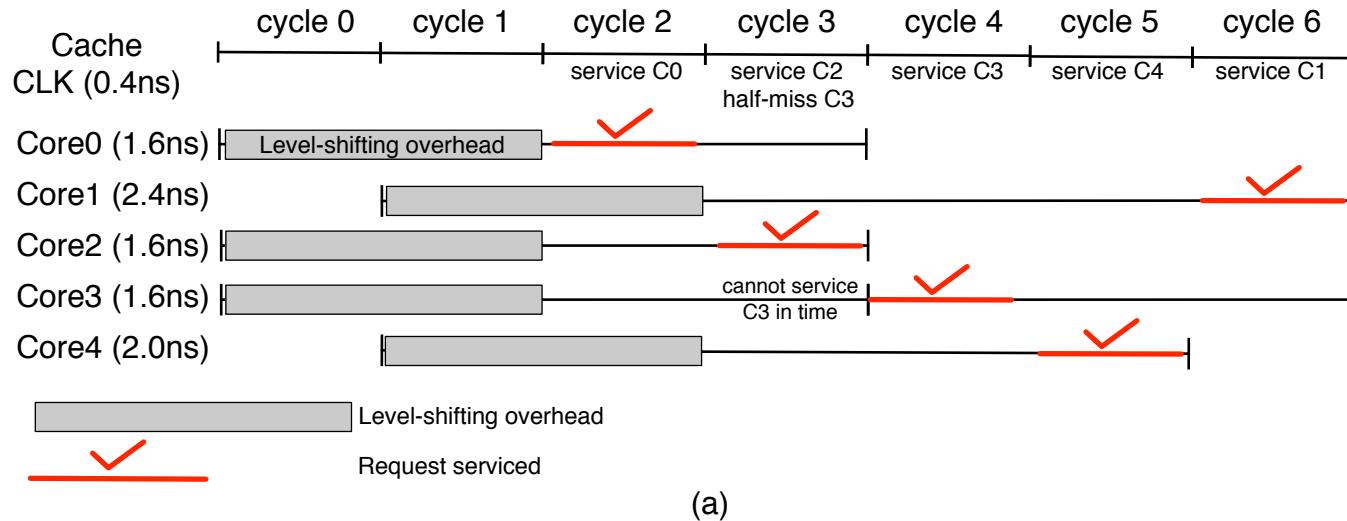


# Respin Architecture



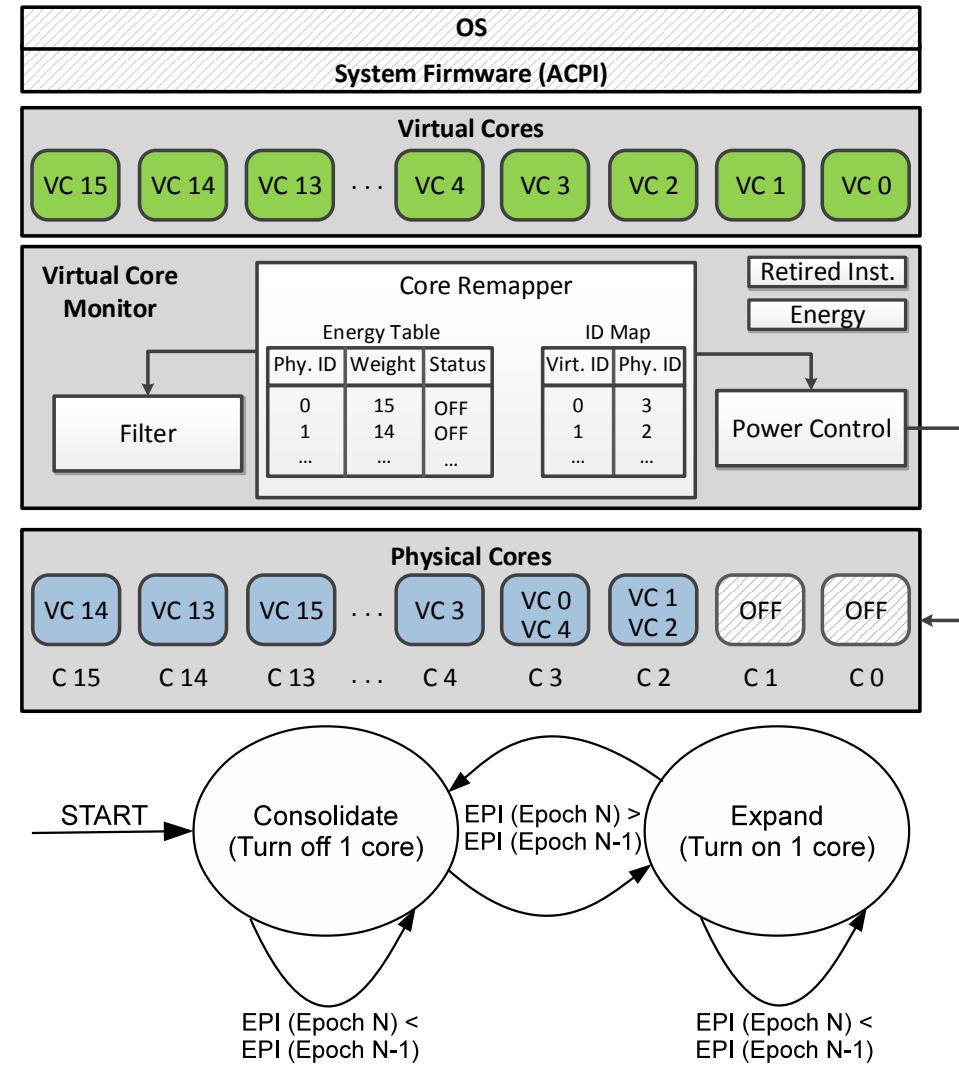
- Cores operate at NT-Vdd rail with low frequencies
- Caches are built with STT-RAM and operate at high-Vdd rail making read speed extremely fast
- Clustered-CMP with fast STT-RAM read enables within-cluster shared L1 cache design, removing coherence costs

# Shared Cache Hierarchy



# Dynamic Core Consolidation

- High process variation and leakage in NT-CMP lead to fast cores more energy-efficient than slow ones
- Upon shared cache design, dynamically consolidate threads onto efficient cores with greedy search can further save energy
- Energy-per-instruction used as greedy selection metric and instruction count used as selection interval



# Methodology

Level	Size (mm <sup>2</sup> )	Block Size	Associativity	Read/Write Ports
L1I (Private/Shared within Cluster)	16KB (Private)/256KB (Shared within Cluster)	32B	2-way	1/1
L1D (Private/Shared within Cluster)			4-way	
L2 (Shared within Cluster)	8MB (Small)/16MB (Medium)/32MB (Large)	64B	8-way	
L3 (Shared within Chip)	24MB (Small)/48MB (Medium)/96MB (Large)	128B	16-way	

Table 1. Summary of Cache Parameters.

	Vdd Rail	Area (mm <sup>2</sup> )	Read/Write Latency (ns)	Read/Write Energy (nJ)	Leakage Power (mW)
SRAM (16KB × 16)	Low (0.65V)	0.9176	1.337	0.002578	573
SRAM (256KB)			0.5336	0.04241	881
STT-RAM (256KB)	High (1.0V)	0.2451	0.3774/5.208	0.02932/0.2093	114

Table 2. Comparison of SRAM vs. STT-RAM Technology Parameters.

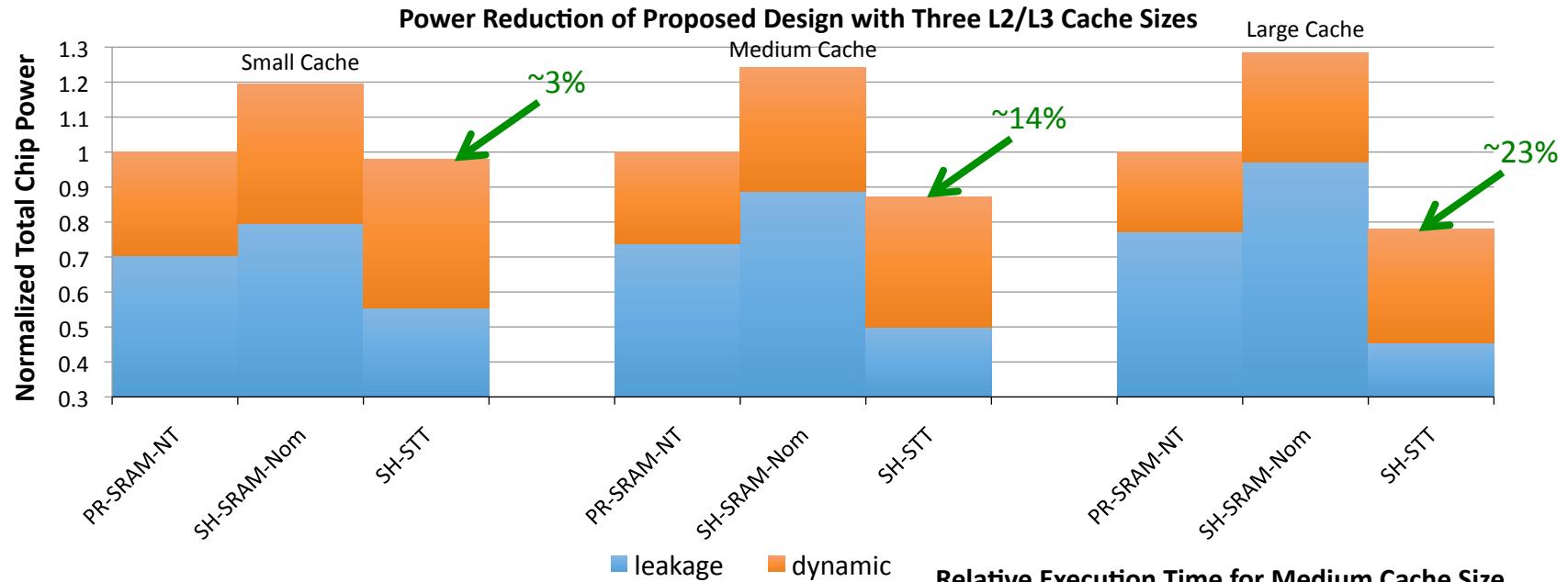
# Methodology

- Simulation Framework:
  - SESC for architecture simulation
  - CACTI, McPAT, and NVSim for latency, power, energy, and area simulation
- Benchmarks:
  - SPLASH2 and PARSEC
- Main Evaluated Configuration:
  - 64-core CMP with four 16-core clusters
  - Medium size L2 and L3 caches
  - 0.4ns shared L1 cache read latency

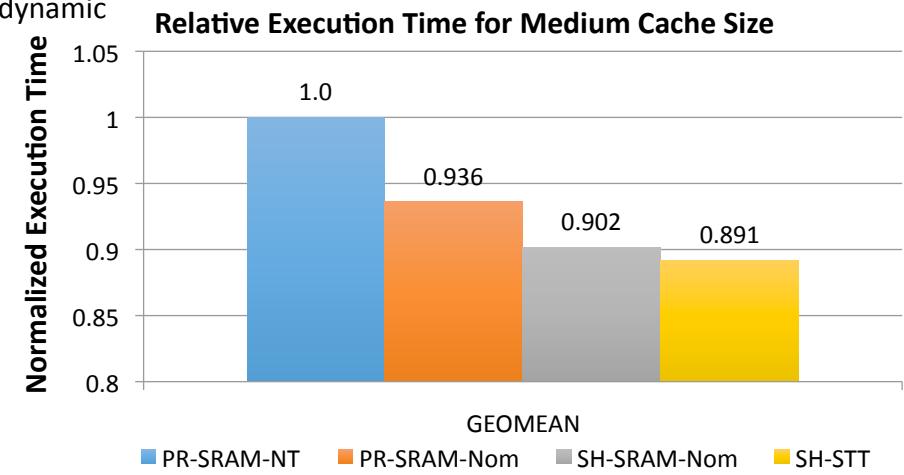
CMP Architecture	
Cores	64 out-of-order
Fetch/Issue/Commit Width	2/2/2
Register File Size	76 int, 56 fp
Instruction Window Size	56 int, 24 fp
Reorder Buffer Size	80 entries
Load/Store Queue Size	38 entries
NoC Interconnect	2D Torus
Coherence Protocol	MESI
Consistency Model	Release Consistency
Technology	22nm
NT-Vdd	0.4V (Core), 0.65V (Cache)
Nominal-Vdd	1.0V
Core Frequency Range	375MHz – 725MHz
Median Core Frequency	500MHz
Variation Parameters	
Vth std. dev./mean ( $\sigma/\mu$ )	12% (Chip), 10% (Cluster)

Table 3. Summary of Experimental Parameters.

# Power and Performance

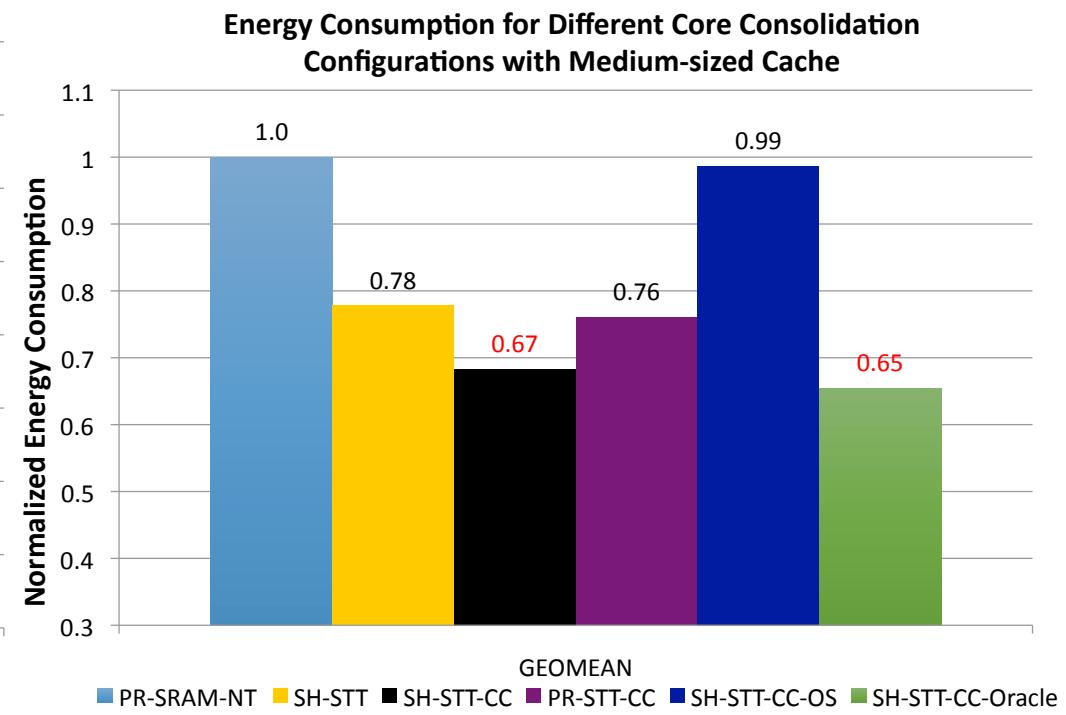
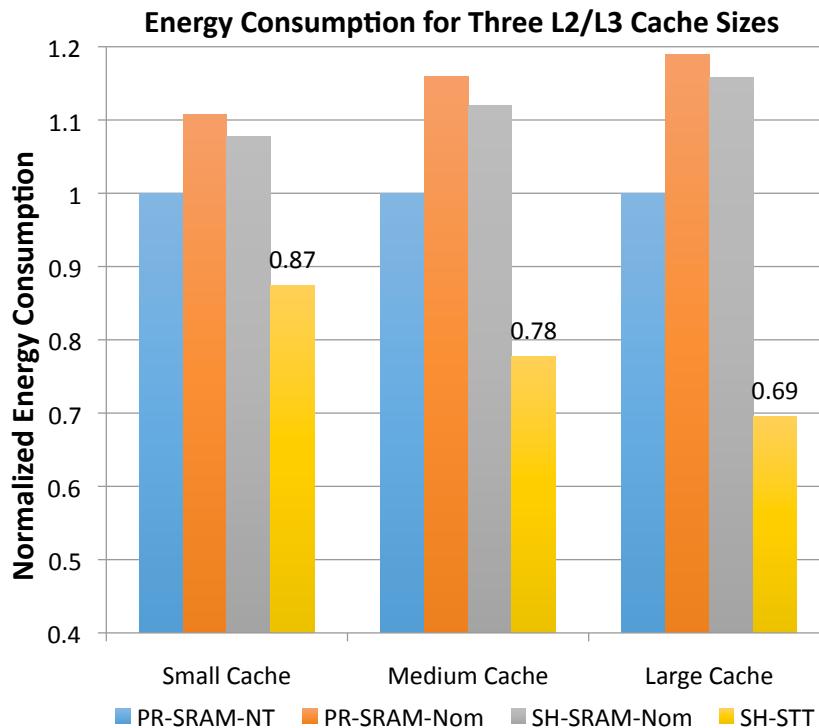


- Respin achieved **14%** power reduction and **11%** performance improvement with medium sized cache



# Energy Consumption

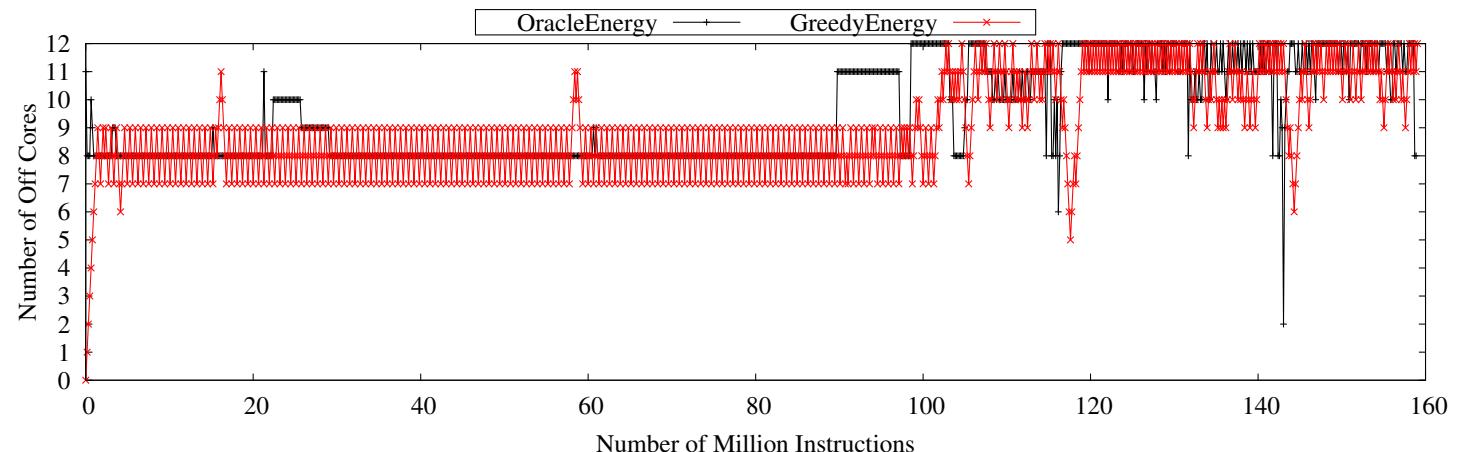
- For medium sized cache, Respin achieved **22%** energy savings with the basic shared STT-RAM cache design plus additional **11%** with core consolidation enabled



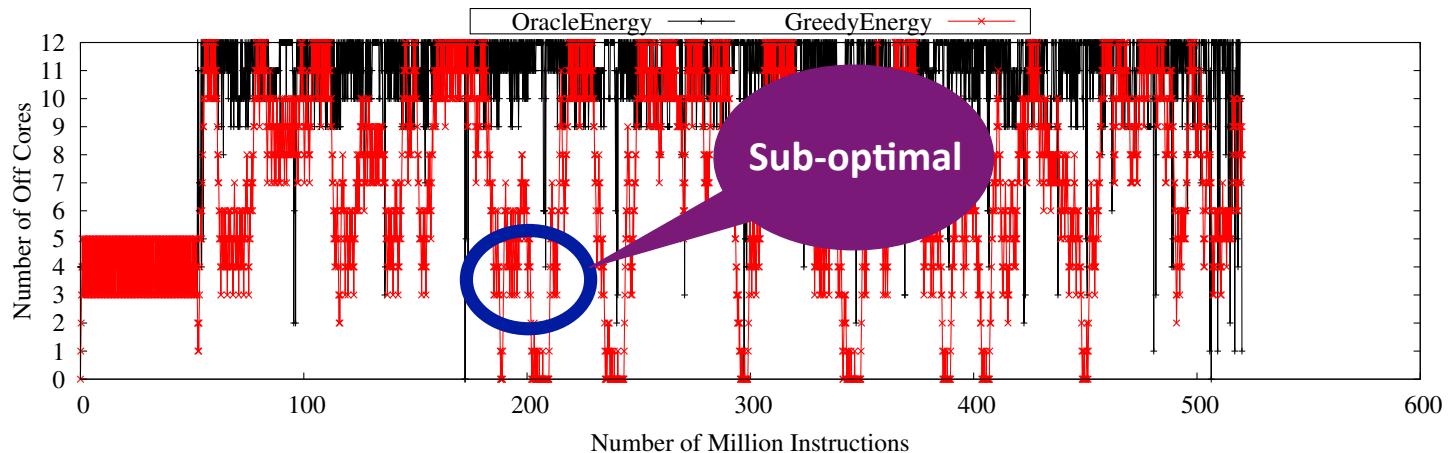
# Core Consolidation Analysis

- In most cases our greedy algorithm matches well with the oracle while in very few cases sub-optimal selection becomes the barrier to slow down the pace of our greedy mechanism

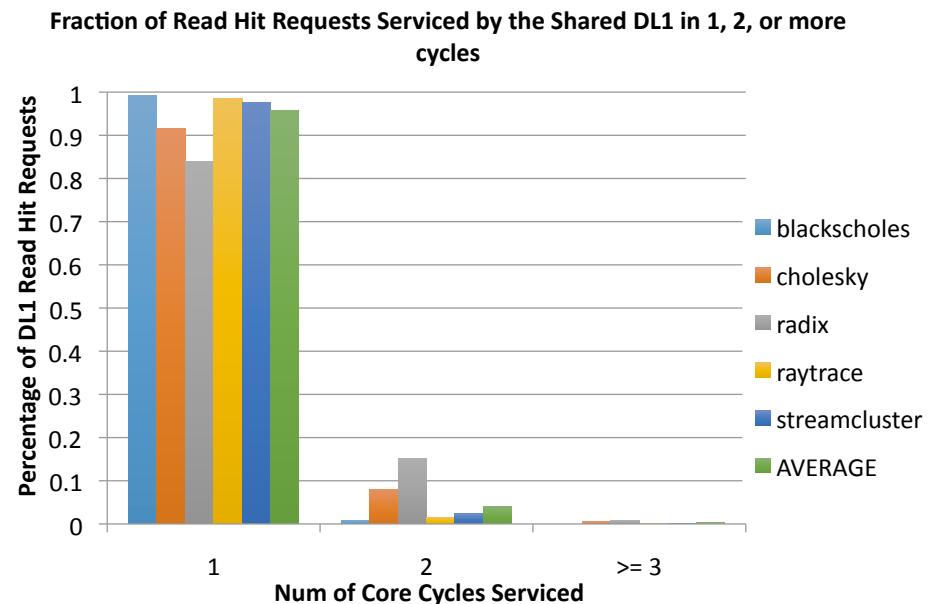
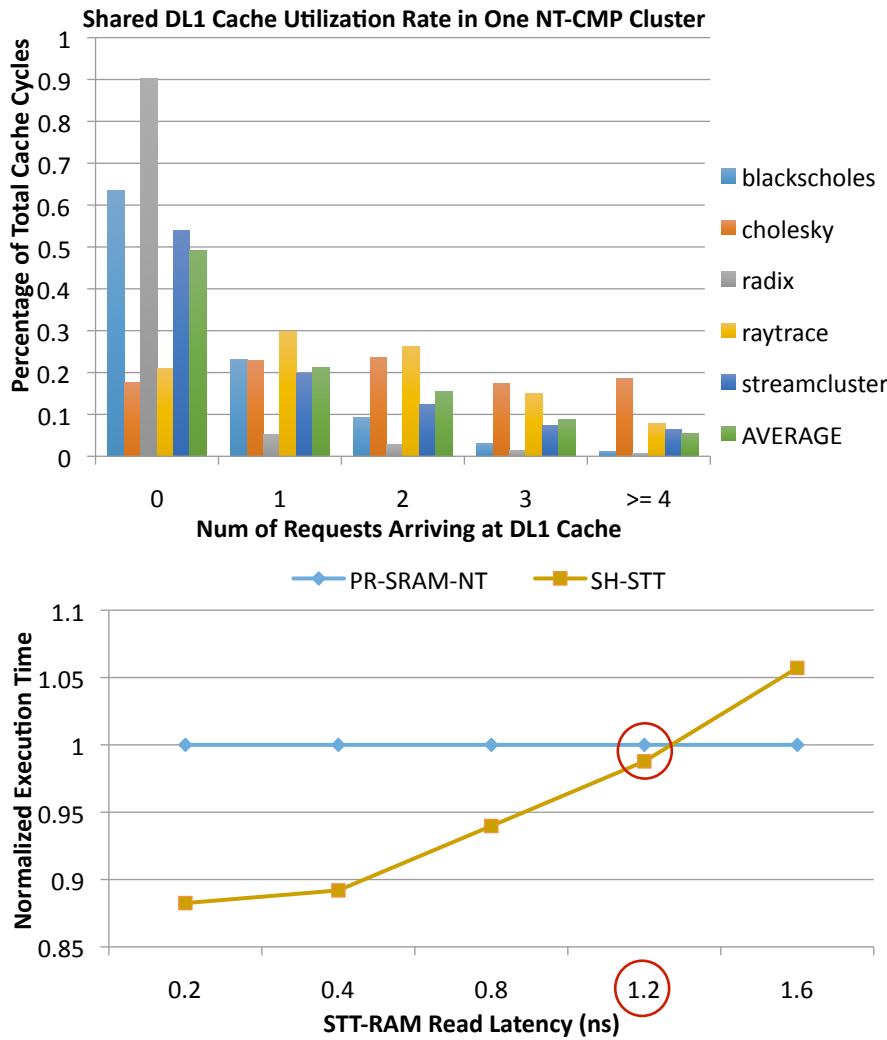
**radix** (SPLASH2):  
 greedy achieved **48%** energy savings while oracle achieved **50%**



**lu** (SPLASH2): greedy achieved **29%** energy savings while oracle achieved **38%**



# Sensitivity Studies



Cluster Size (#cores)	Shared L1 (I/D) Size (KB)	Performance Gain (%)
4	64	4.82
8	128	6.29
16	256	10.81
32	512	2.50

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# NV-Insecure: When Non-Volatile Caches Meet Cold Boot Attacks

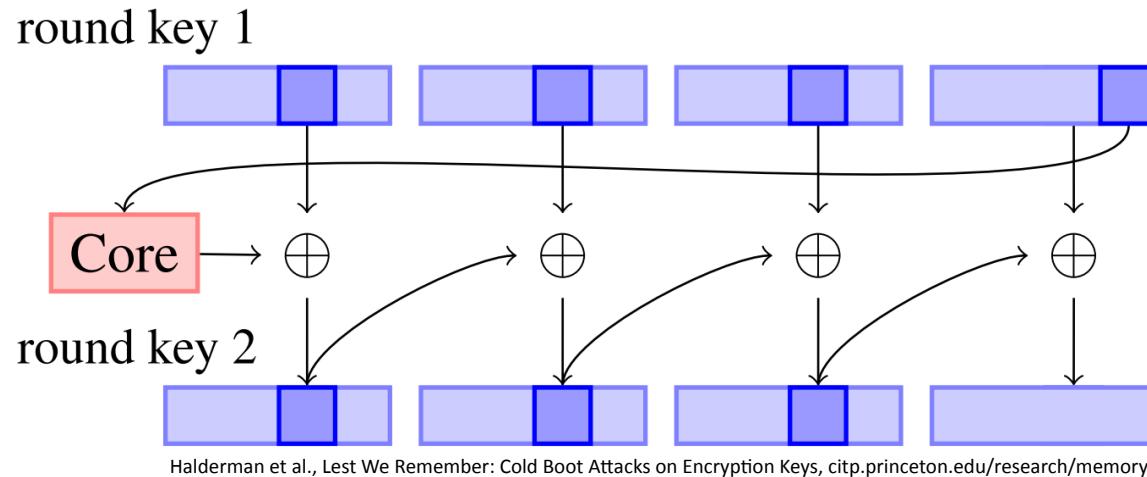
- The first work to examine cold boot attacks on non-volatile caches
- A comprehensive algorithm of finding AES keys in cache images has been developed
- Two types of cold boot attacks have been performed and shown to be effective on non-volatile caches
- A software-based countermeasure has been developed and proven to be effective with reasonable overhead

# Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)

- Symmetric block cipher with one master key for both encryption and decryption operations
- Key size ranges from 128-bit (AES-128), 192-bit (AES-192), and 256-bit (AES-256)
- An expanded key (aka. AES key schedule, 176-byte in AES-128) must be generated beforehand using the original key
- Byte substitution, shift row, mix column, and add round key operations will be performed during encryption/decryption

# Cold Boot Attacks

- Cooling DRAM to a certain low temperature can preserve its data for a short duration of time without power supply
- Examining data relationships in extracted memory image can identify AES keys used for disk encryption algorithms



- Main memory based cold boot attacks have already been successfully conducted on desktop and mobile computers

# Current Countermeasures

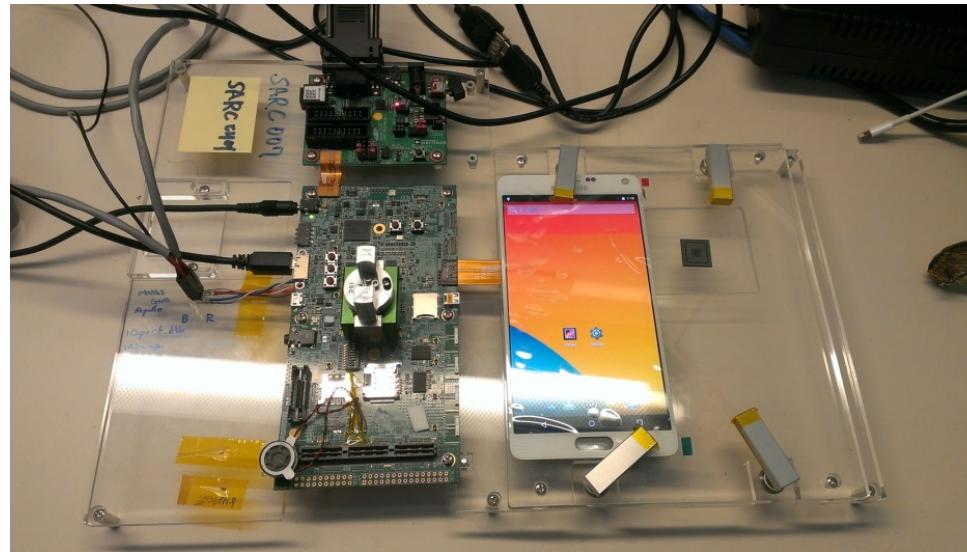
- Securing data at the destination side
  - Memory encryption technique
  - Acceptable at main memory level but can hardly be applied to caches because of its high performance overhead
- Protecting data from the source side
  - Keep secrets stored in CPU registers, caches, and other processor internal storage during system execution
  - Secret info can still be fetched into caches
  - A subset of this countermeasure even suggests keeping secrets in CPU caches

# Motivation

- Industry is pushing computers with NVMs into market soon
- After NVM replaces volatile-RAM in computers, cold boot attacks will be much easier to conduct
- Caches are highly likely to be replaced with NVM in the future but no previous work studied cold boot attacks on caches
- A few countermeasures even suggest keeping secrets in caches
- All in all, this will be the first work to study cold boot attacks on NVM caches

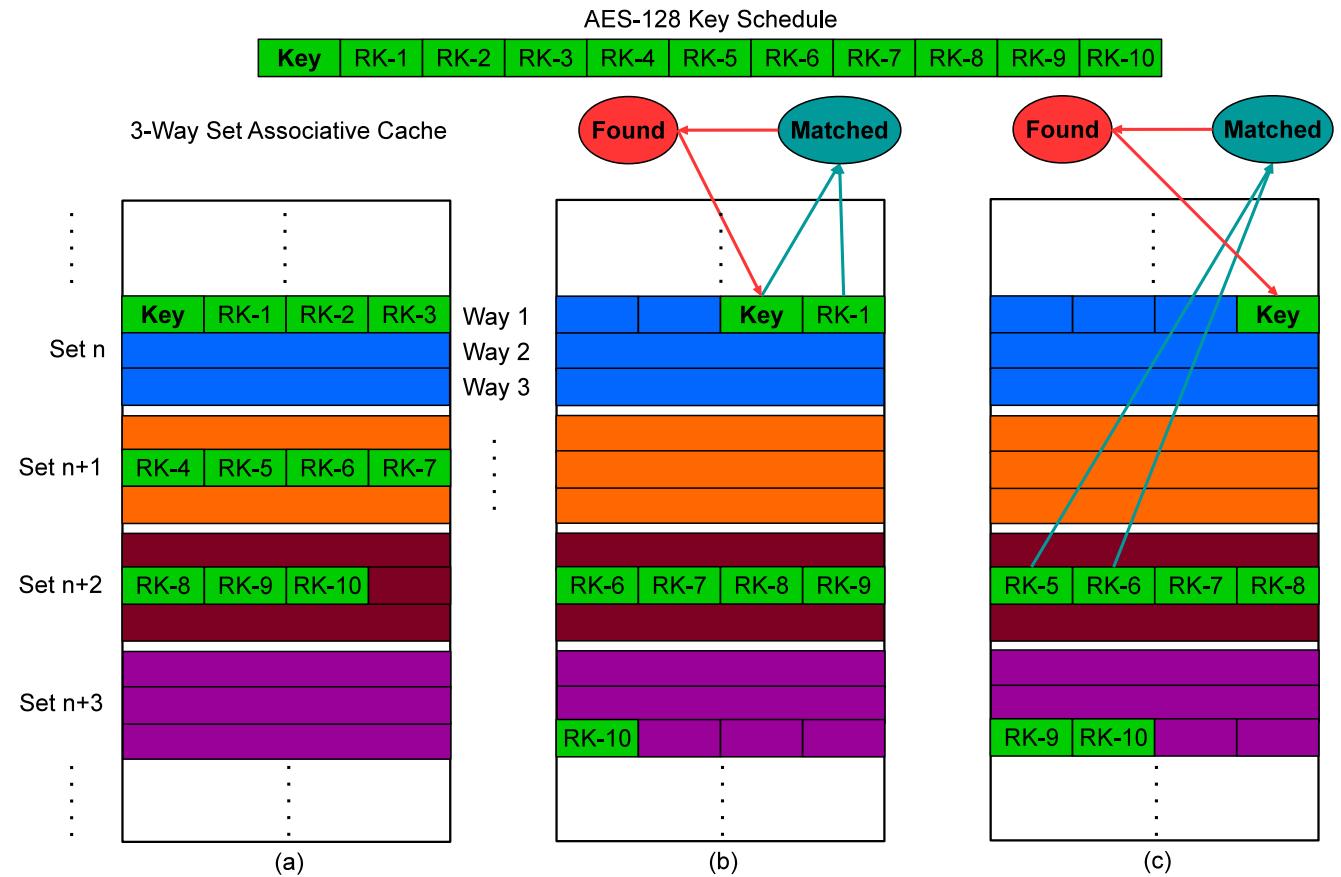
# Threat Model

- Attacker has physical access to the victim device
- Attacker has necessary equipments to extract data from CPU caches



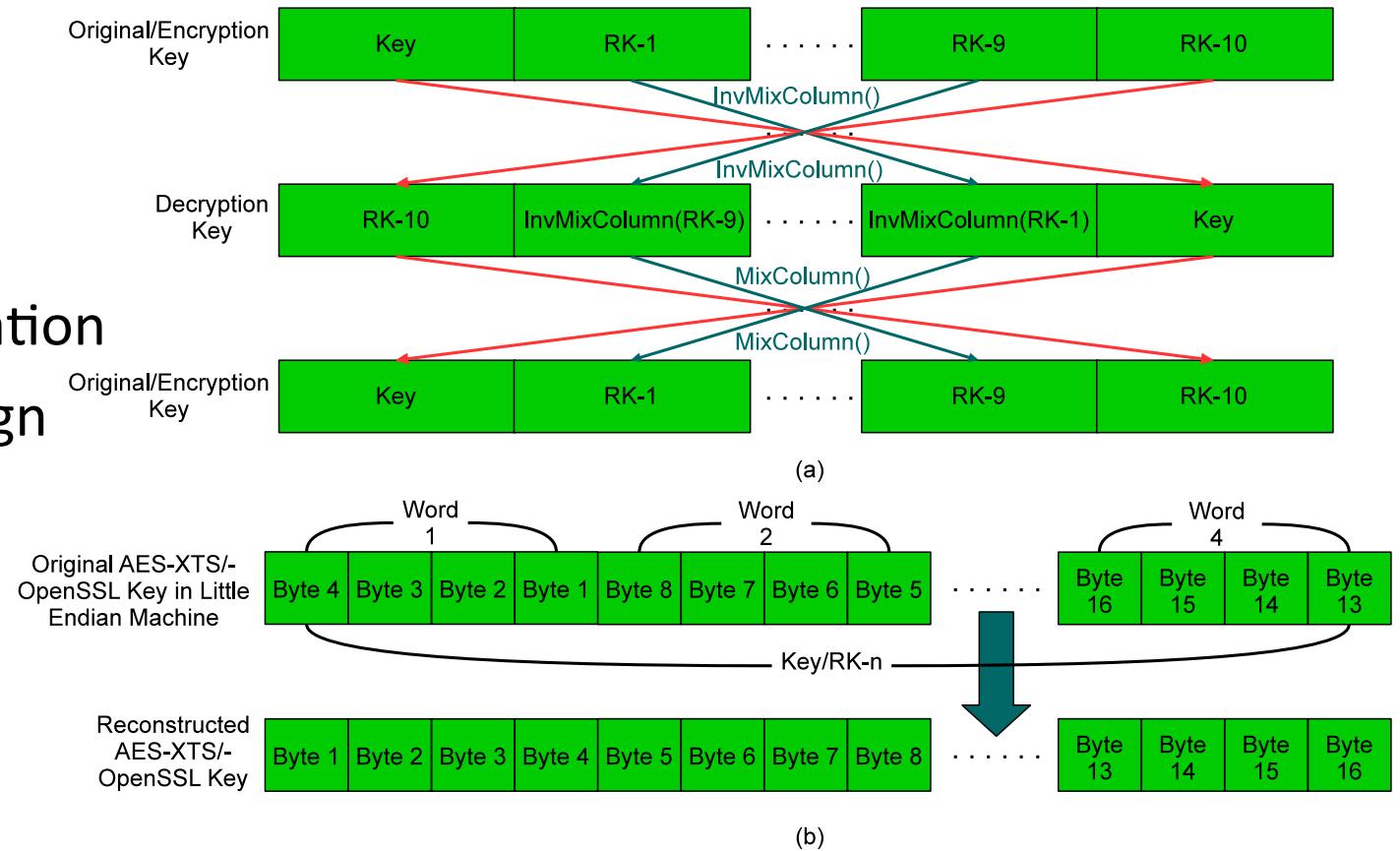
# Cache Aware AES Key Search Algorithm

- Non-contiguous memory space
- Incomplete key schedules



# Cache Aware AES Key Search Algorithm

- AES implementation dependent design



# Cache Aware AES Key Search Algorithm

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## Algorithm 1: SEARCH()

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**Input:** Original cache image  
**Output:** List of keys found

```
begin
    Sort cache image by cache line address
    for each key_schedule candidate in sorted image do
        enc_key ← first 16 bytes in key_schedule
        dec_key_schedule ← reconstruct(key_schedule)
        dec_key ← first 16 bytes in dec_key_schedule
        if defined(QuickSearch) then
            Check relation between enc/dec_key and firstRoundKey
            in key_schedule/dec_key_schedule
            if relation satisfied then
                |   Output enc/dec_key
            end
        end
        if defined(DeepSearch) then
            Check relation between any two consecutive round keys
            in key_schedule/dec_key_schedule
            if any relation satisfied then
                |   Output enc/dec_key
            end
        end
    end
end
```

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# Experimental Methodology

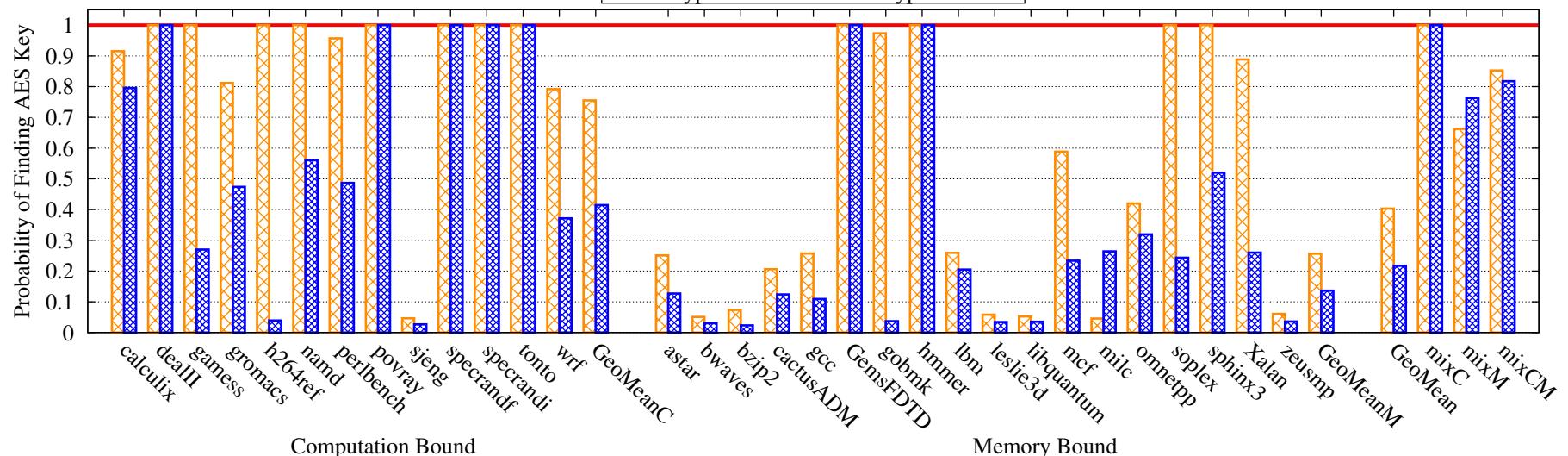
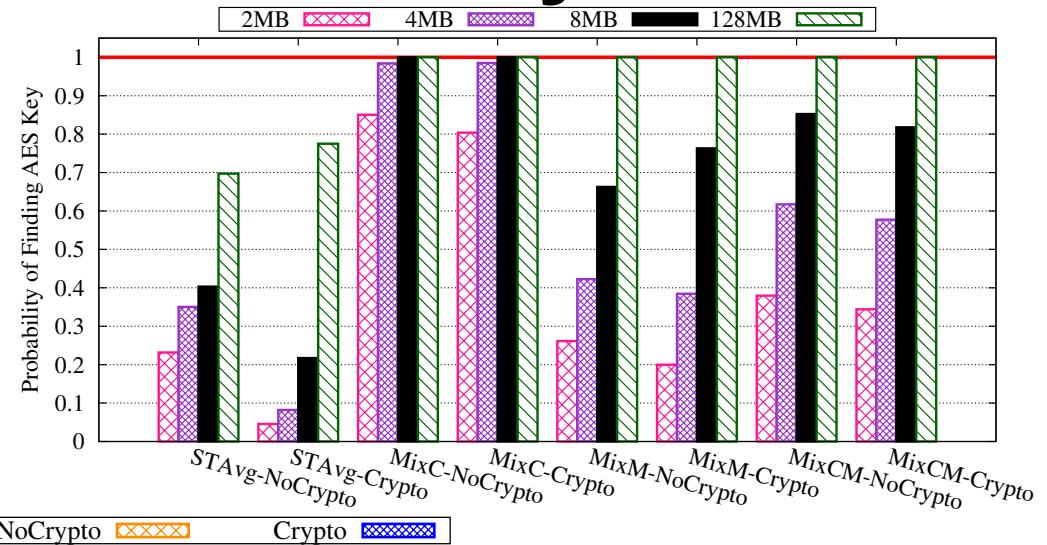
Hardware Configuration		Software Configuration	
Cores	8 (out-of-order)		
ISA	ARMv8 (64-bit)		
Frequency	3GHz		
IL1/DL1 Size	32KB	Simulator	gem5
IL1/DL1 Block Size	64B	OS	Ubuntu Trusty 14.04 64-bit
IL1/DL1 Associativity	8-way	Disk Encryption Module	dm-crypt + LUKS
IL1/DL1 Latency	2 cycles	Encryption Algorithm	AES-XTS with 128-bit key
Coherence Protocol	MESI	Application	SPEC CPU2006
L2 Size	2, 4, 8 (default), and 128MB	Execution	1B insts to run
L2 Block Size	64B		1M insts to sample
L2 Associativity	16-way		
L2 Latency	20 cycles		
Memory Type	DDR3-1600 SDRAM [27]		
Memory Size	2GB		
Memory Page Size	4KB		
Memory Latency	300 cycles		
Disk Type	Solid-State Disk (SSD)		
Disk Latency	150us		

# Attack Scenarios

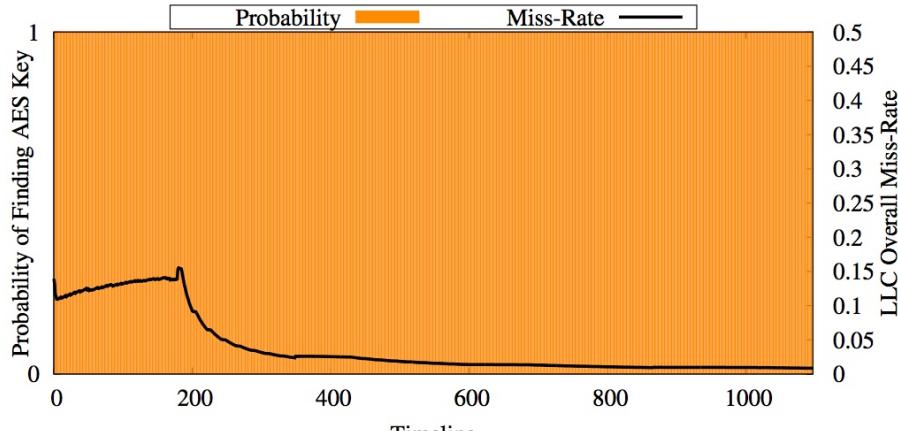
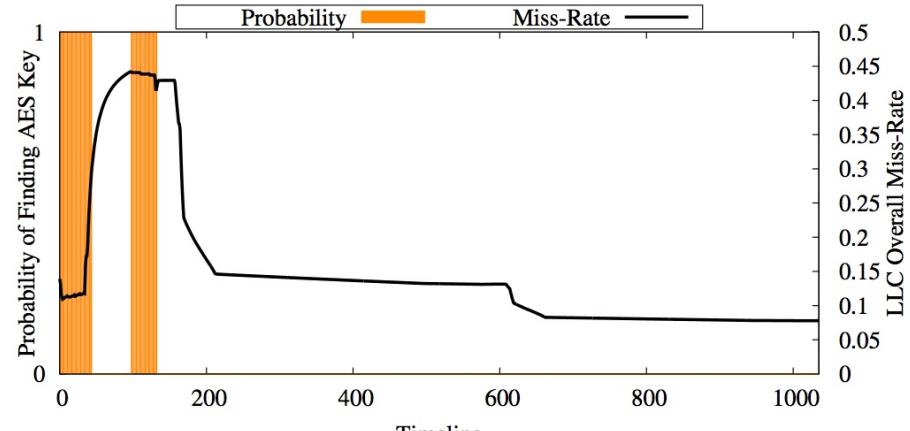
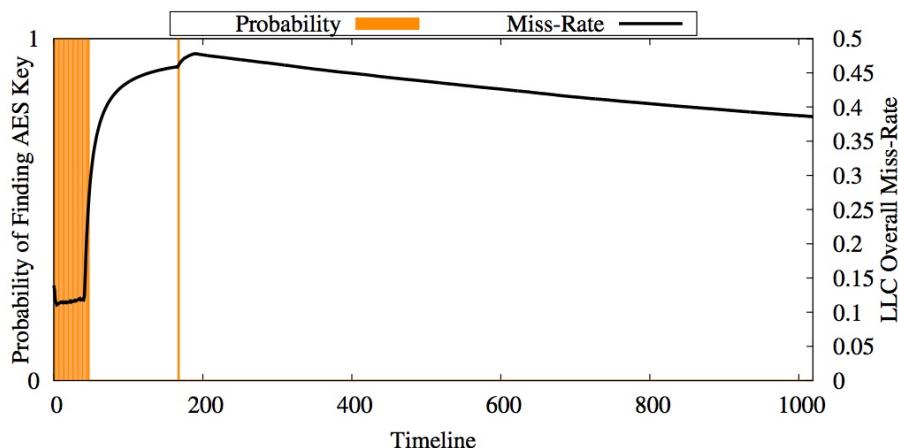
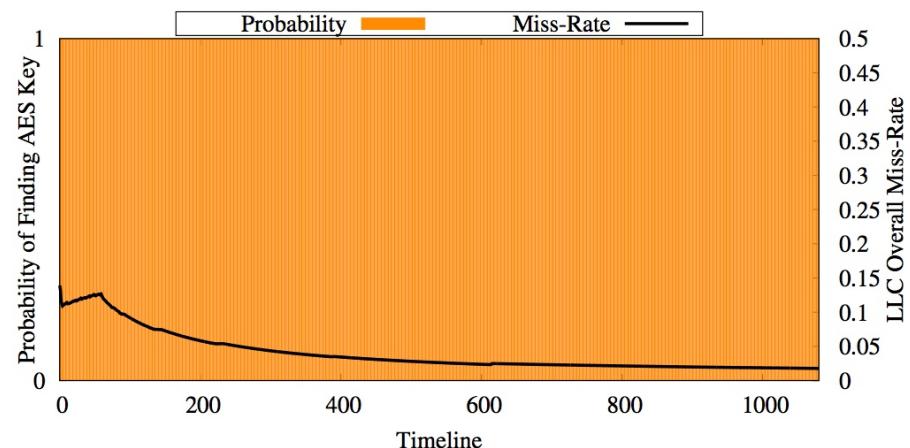
- Random Information Harvesting
  - Execution can be stopped at any given time to extract secrets from CPU caches
- Targeted Power-Off Attack
  - Conduct power-off operation on victim system and extract secrets from CPU caches
- Two Baselines for Evaluation
  - System without Cryptographic Acceleration Support (NoCrypto)
  - System with Cryptographic Acceleration Support (Crypto)

# Random Attack Analysis

- Two factors:
  - Encrypted Disk Accesses
  - Cache Evictions



# Random Attack Analysis

(a) *dealII*(b) *bzip2*(c) *sjeng*(d) *GemsFDTD*

# Power-Off Attack Analysis

- Two modes:

- Normal Power-Off:

poweroff (-p)

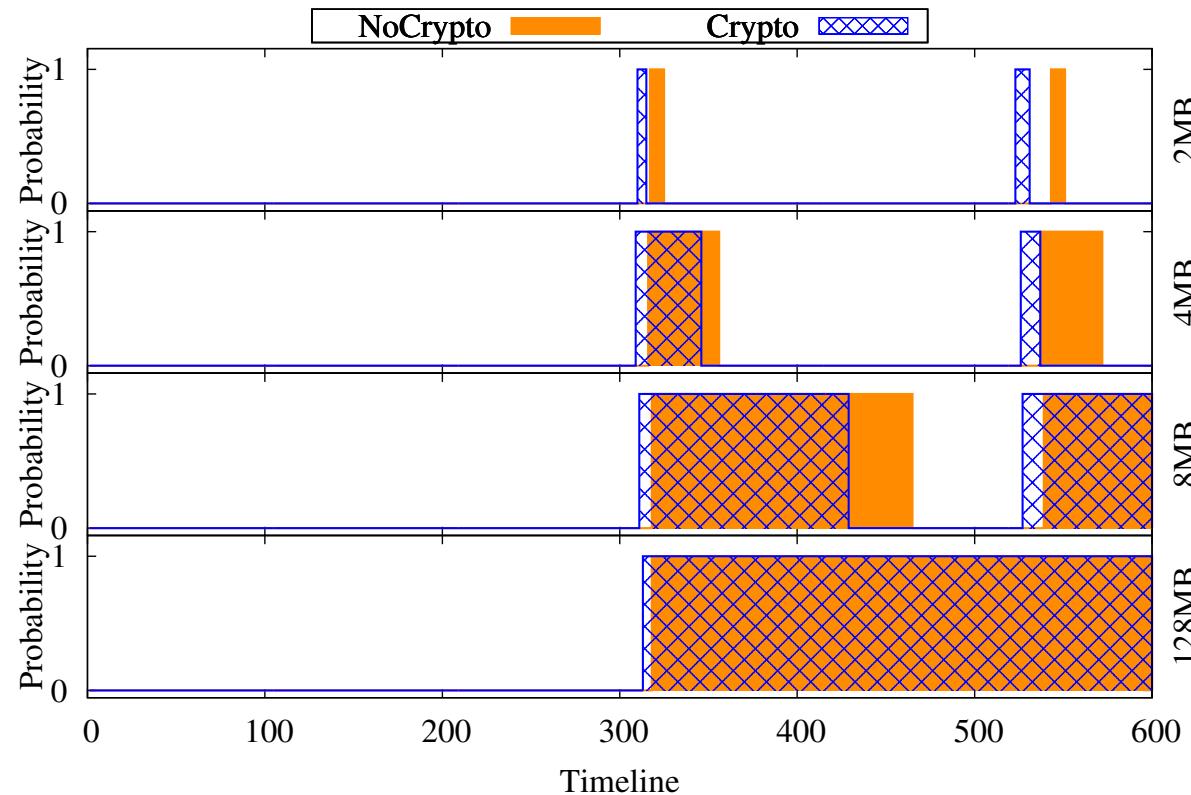
- Force Power-Off:

poweroff -f

```
root@aarch64-gem5:/# poweroff
Session terminated, terminating shell...exit
...terminated.
* Stopping rsync daemon rsync
[ OK ] // 1
* Asking all remaining processes to terminate...
[ OK ] // 2
* All processes ended within 1 seconds...
[ OK ] // 3
* Deactivating swap...
[ OK ] // 4
* Unmounting local filesystems...
[ OK ] // 5
* Stopping early crypto disks...
[ OK ] // 6
* Will now halt // 7
[ 604.955626] reboot: System halted
```

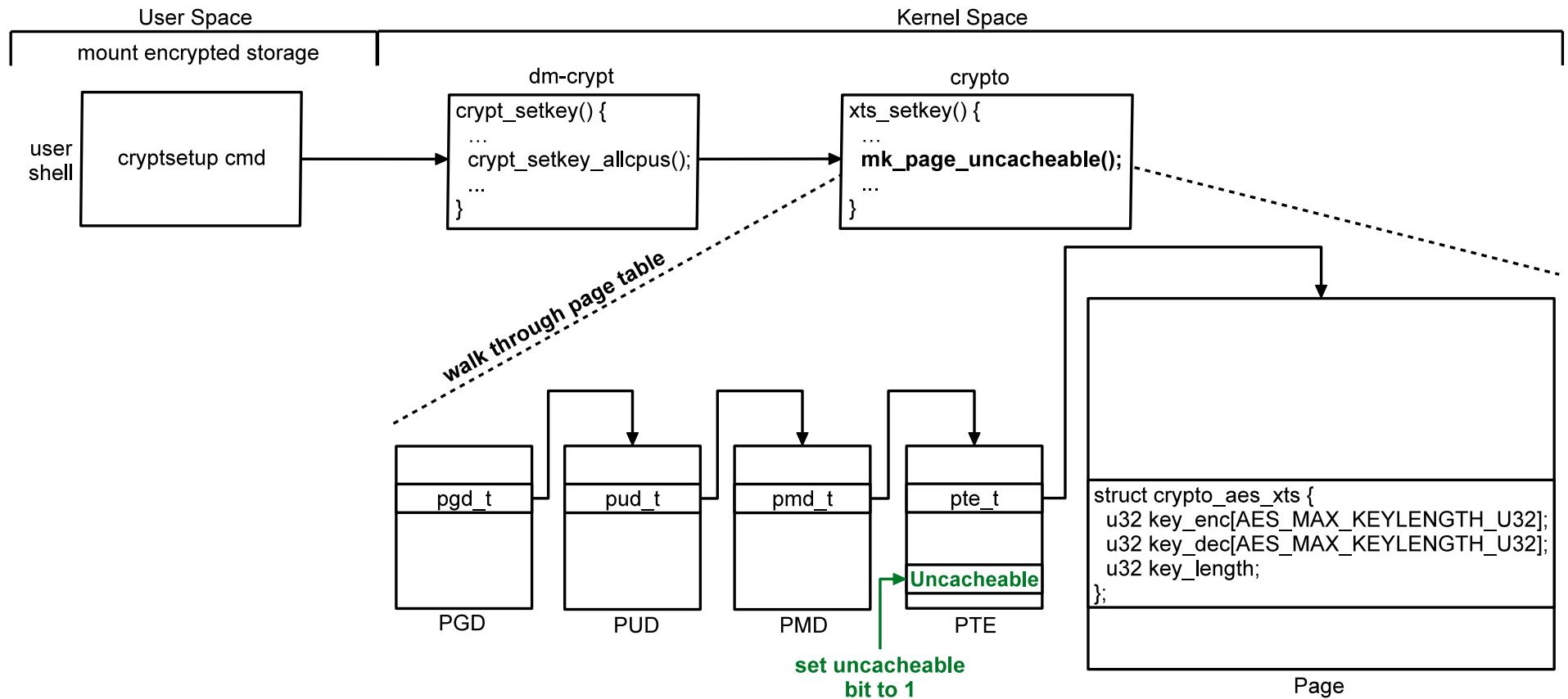
# Power-Off Attack Analysis

Mode	Command	Keys exist in cache after power-off?			
		2MB	4MB	8MB	128MB
Normal Power-off	poweroff (-p)	N	N	Y	Y
Forced Power-off	poweroff -f	Y	Y	Y	Y



# Software-based Countermeasure

- Key idea: Marking secret information as uncacheable



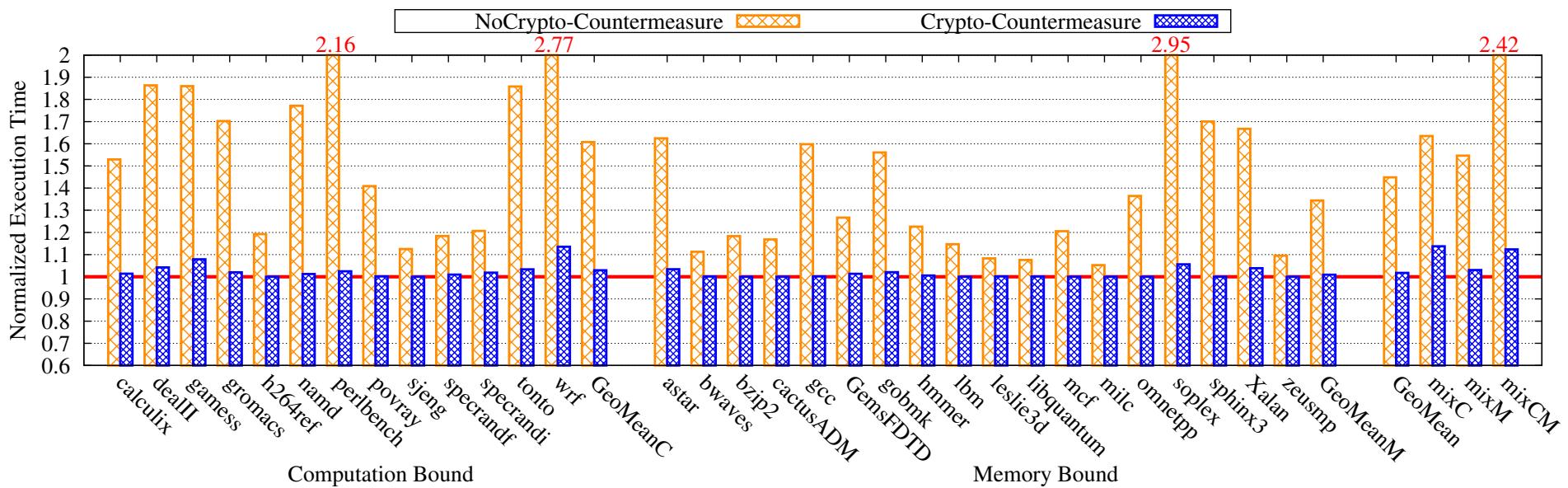
# Countermeasure Analysis

- Effectiveness

	NoCrypto	Crypto	Countermeasure
Single-threaded Benchmark	23 - 70%	5 - 77%	<b>0%</b>
mixC	85 - 100%	80 - 100%	<b>0%</b>
mixM	26 - 100%	20 - 100%	<b>0%</b>
mixCM	38 - 100%	34 - 100%	<b>0%</b>
Normal Power-off	0 - 100%	0 - 100%	<b>0%</b>
Force Power-off	100%	100%	<b>0%</b>

# Countermeasure Analysis

- Performance Overhead



# Future Work in Reducing Countermeasure Overhead

- Taking advantage of volatile SRAM write buffers equipped with every NVM device to store secret information
  - Hardware-based solution
  - Require hardware-software co-design (changing ISA, adding software interface, ...)
  - Ideally will exhibit zero performance overhead

# Research Publication List

- **X. Pan**, A. Bacha, S. Rudolph, L. Zhou, Y. Zhang, R. Teodorescu “NV-Insecure: When Non-Volatile Caches Meet Cold Boot Attacks”, **USENIX Security-2017** (In Submission)
- M. Samavatian, A. Bacha, I. Gururajaprasad, L. Zhou, **X. Pan**, R. Teodorescu “RNNFast: Accelerator for Recurrent Neural Networks using Domain Wall Memory”, **ISCA-2017** (In Submission)
- **X. Pan**, A. Bacha, R. Teodorescu “Respin: Rethinking Near-Threshold Multiprocessor Design with Non-Volatile Memory”, **IPDPS-2017**
- **X. Pan** and R. Teodorescu “NVSleep: Using Non-Volatile Memory to Enable Fast Sleep/Wakeup of Idle Cores”, **ICCD-2014**
- **X. Pan** and R. Teodorescu “Using STT-RAM to Enable Energy-Efficient Near-Threshold Chip Multiprocessors”, **PACT-2014** (Short Paper)
- T. Miller, R. Thomas, **X. Pan**, R. Teodorescu “VRSync: Characterizing and Eliminating Synchronization Induced Voltage Emergencies in Many-Core Processors”, **ISCA-2012**
- T. Miller, **X. Pan**, R. Thomas, N. Sedaghati, R. Teodorescu “Booster: Reactive Core Acceleration for Mitigating the Effects of Process Variation and Application Imbalance in Low-Voltage Chips”, **HPCA-2012**

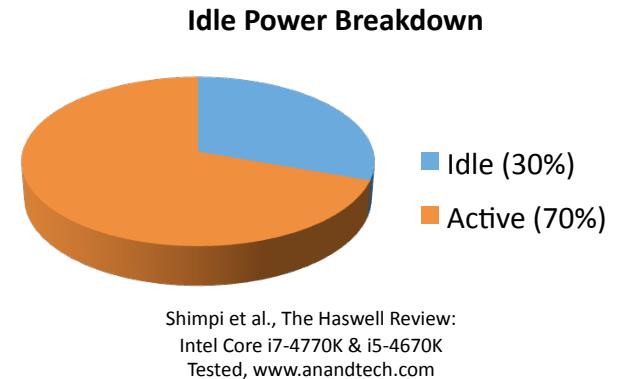
# Questions?

# Thank you!

# Back-up Slides

# Motivation

- **Idle/leakage power:** source of inefficiency in CMPs
  - Expected to increase in future technologies
- Cores are often idle, wasting power
- Power gating can help
  - Functional units with little or no states (ALUs) – **power gating OK**
  - Most FUs have significant states (RF, ROB, ...) – **power gating expensive**
- **NVSleep Idea:** non-volatile memory can enable fast micro-checkpointing
  - Reduce the performance overhead of power gating
  - Enable power gating during short idle intervals (e.g. stalls on LLC misses)



# STT-RAM in NVSleep

- We use Spin Transfer Torque RAM, a new type of magnetic memory
- STT-RAM can be a good candidate for NVSleep checkpointing

## NVSleep checkpointing

- Non-volatility
- Low latency access
- Low energy

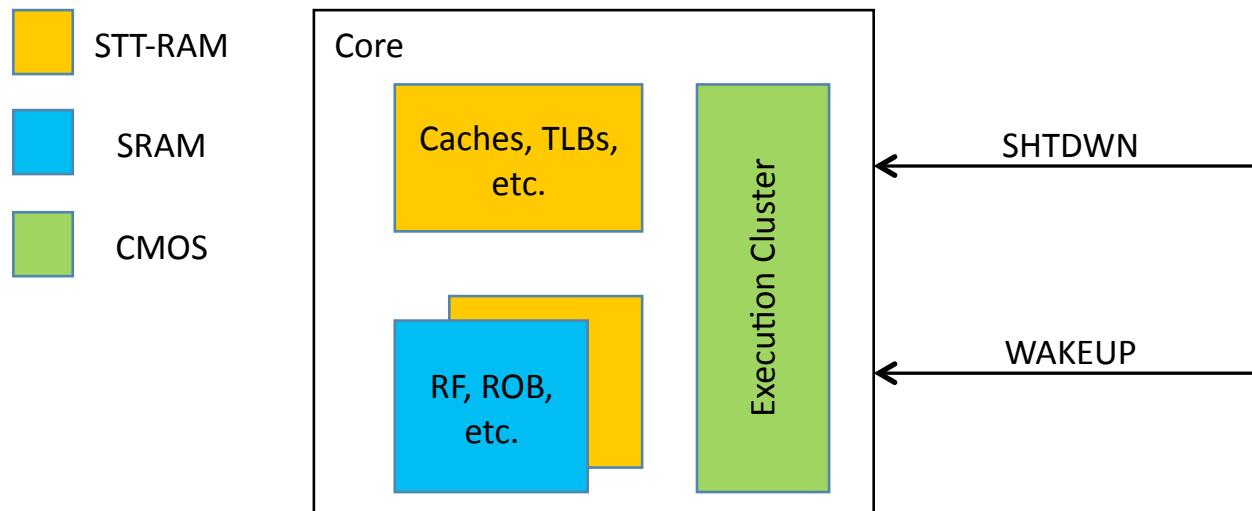
## STT-RAM

✓	Long data retention time (as long as 10 years)
✓	Fast read (~0.9X SRAM) and slow write (~ 20X SRAM) 😞
✓	Low energy read (~0.7X SRAM) and high energy write (~20X SRAM) 😞

- STT-RAM has other good characteristics:
  - ~4X higher density than SRAM, better scalability
  - Infinite write endurance

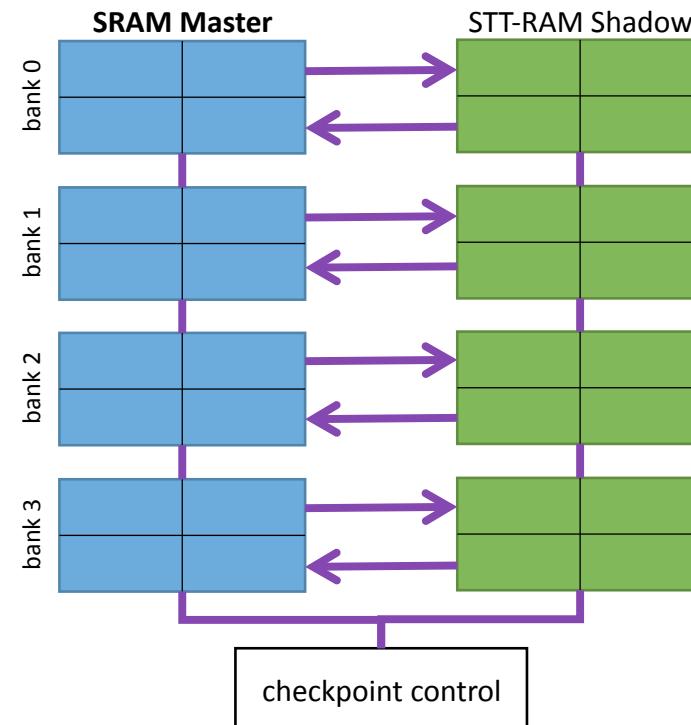
# NVSleep Framework

- NVSleep leverages STT-RAM for on-chip storage structures
  - Write latency-tolerant units (caches, TLBs, etc.) are implemented with STT-RAM (combined with SRAM write buffers to help hide long latency writes)
  - Write latency-sensitive units (RF, ROB, etc.) are implemented with hybrid SRAM/STT-RAM design



# SRAM/STT-RAM hybrid Design

- SRAM for primary storage
- STT-RAM shadow of identical size used for micro-checkpointing
- Banked design to parallelize checkpointing process



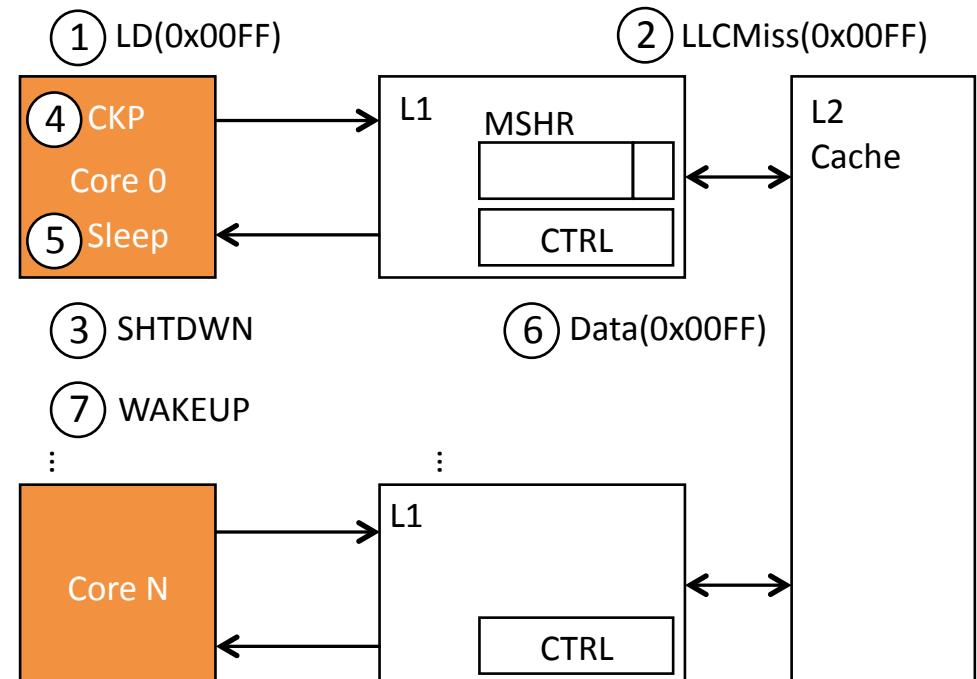
# NVSleep Implementation

- NVSleepMiss: **Hardware-driven**
  - Ideal for short idle events, detected by hardware
  - Our implementation: cores sleep on LLC misses
- NVSleepBarrier: **Software API**
  - Exposes NVSleep to the system software
  - Can be used by the OS or applications to “suspend” cores quickly
  - Ideal for software observable idle events such as blocking on synchronization (e.g. barriers, locks, etc.)
  - Our implementation: cores sleep when blocked on barriers

# NVSleepMiss: Hardware-driven

- Checkpointing and wakeup of cores are coordinated by the L1 cache controller of each core
- Hardware-driven checkpointing/wakeup sequence:

1. LD issued, missed in L1
2. LLC miss reported by LLC
3. Sleep signal sent to Core 0
4. Checkpointing starts
5. Core 0 goes to sleep after stalls
6. Missing data returns
7. Wakeup signal sent to Core 0



# NVSleepBarrier: Software API

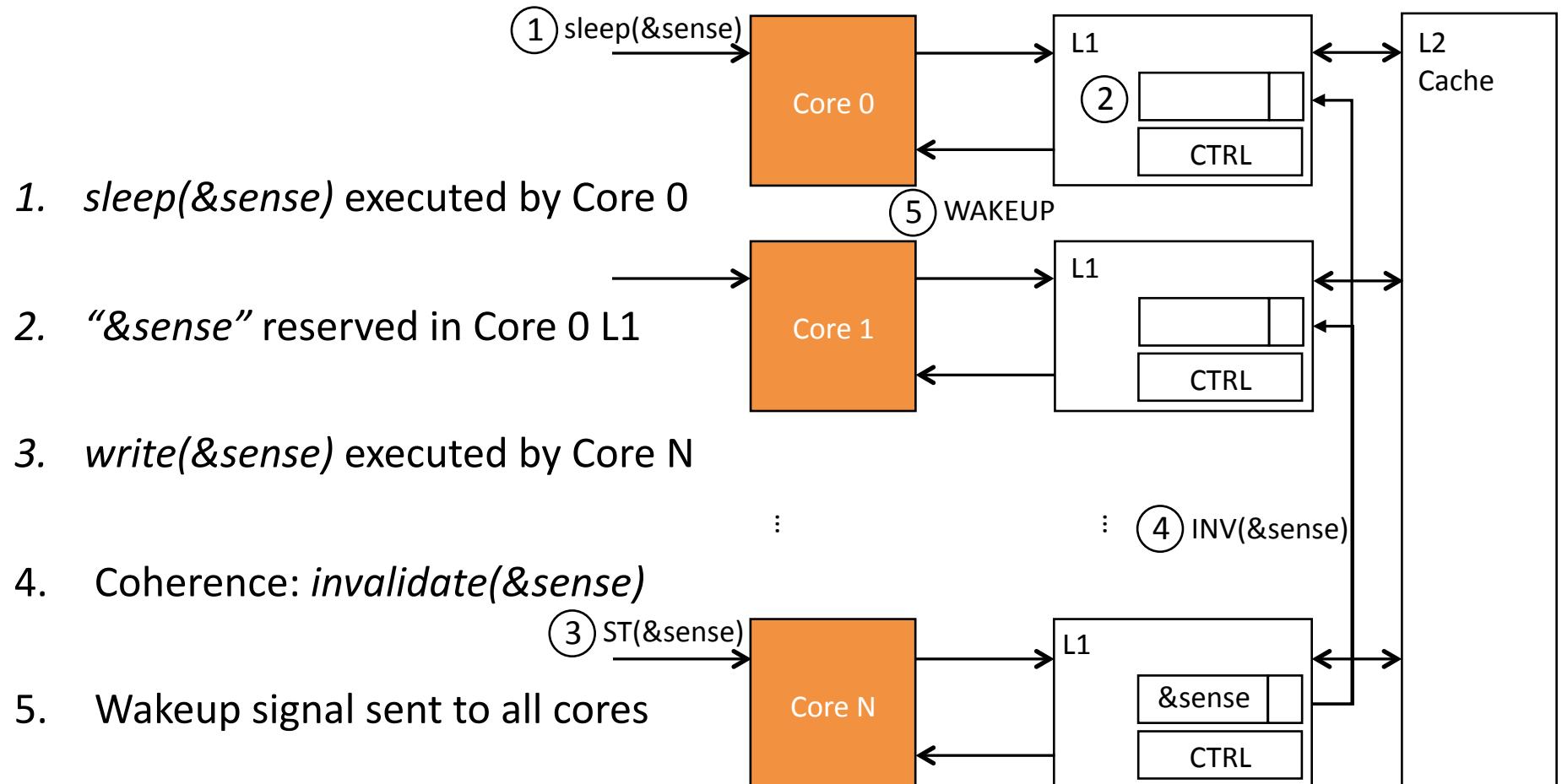
- Expose micro-checkpointing system to software through API
  - Dedicated *sleep(0xADDR)* instruction
  - When executed on a core – it will shut down
  - Wakeup triggered by another core through write operation to *0xADDR*
- Example application in barrier:
  - All but last thread – *sleep(&sense)*
  - Last thread writes to *sense*, wakes-up all other threads

```
void barrier(int count, int sense, int num_threads)
{
    int local_sense;
    local_sense = !sense;

    if (count != (num_threads - 1)) {
        while (local_sense != sense) {
            sleep(&sense);
        }
    } else {
        count = 0;
        sense = local_sense;
    } }
}
```

# NVSleepBarrier: Software API

- Software-driven checkpointing/wakeup sequence:



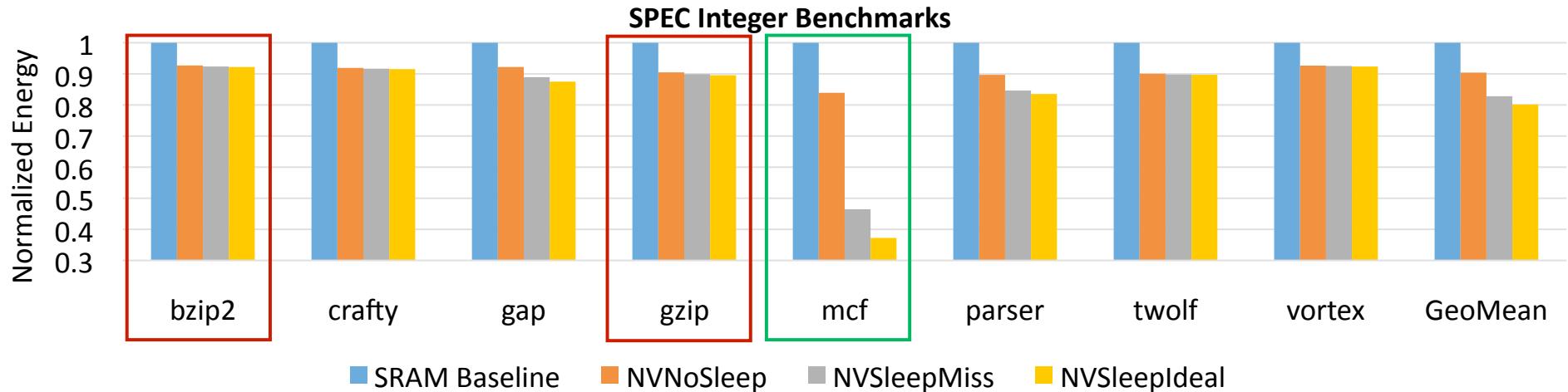
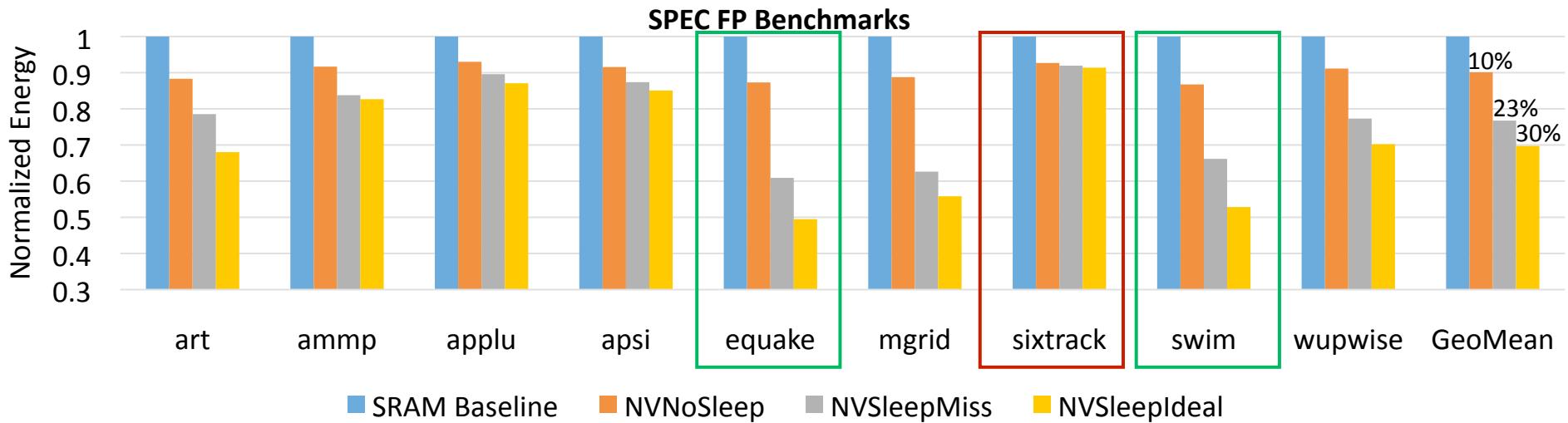
# Methodology

- Simulation Framework:
  - SESC for architecture simulation
  - CACTI, McPAT, and NVSim for power, energy, and area simulation
- Benchmarks:
  - Single-threaded: SPEC CPU2000
  - Multi-threaded: SPLASH2 and PARSEC
- Main Evaluated Configuration:
  - CMP with 64 out of order cores
  - 8-bank design SRAM/STT-RAM hybrid structures
  - 3.3ns STT-RAM write latency for checkpointing

CMP Architecture	
Cores	64, 32, and 16 out-of-order
Fetch/issue/commit width	2/2/2
Register file	76 int, 56 fp
Instruction window	56 int, 24 fp
L1 data cache	4-way 16KB, 1-cycle access
L1 instruction cache	2-way 16KB, 1-cycle access
Shared L2	8-way 2MB, 12-cycle access
Main memory	300 cycle access latency
STT-RAM read time	1 cycle
STT-RAM write time	10 cycles
STT-RAM read energy	0.01pJ/bit
STT-RAM write energy	0.31pJ/bit
SRAM read/write energy	0.014pJ/bit
Core wakeup time	30 cycles (10ns)
Coherence Protocol	MESI
Technology	32nm
Vdd	1.0V
Clock Frequency	3GHz

# NVSleepMiss Energy Reduction

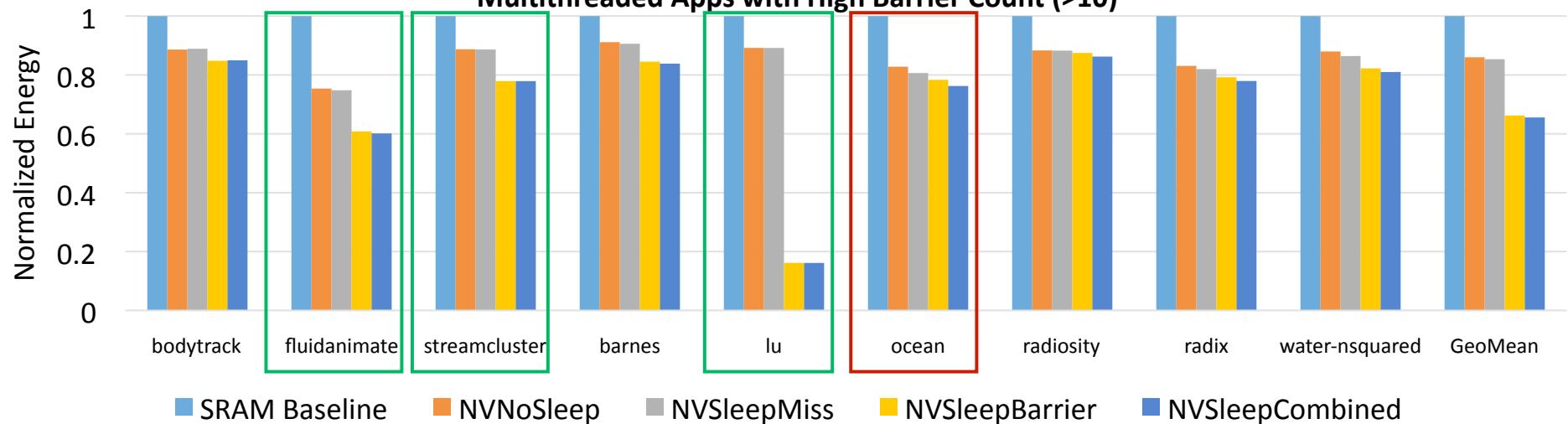
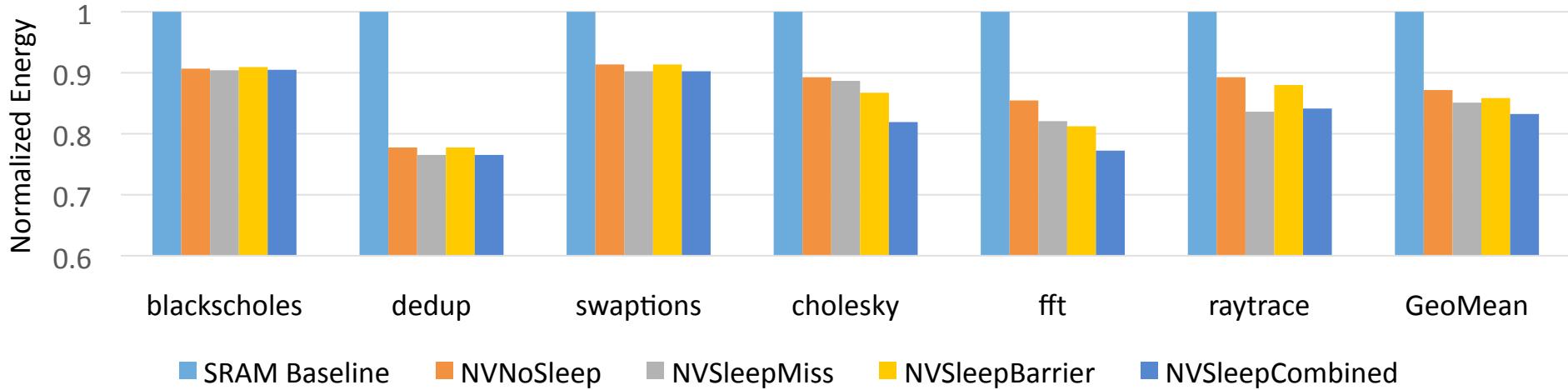
NVSleepMiss: 23% (SPECFP) and 17% (SPECINT) energy reduction



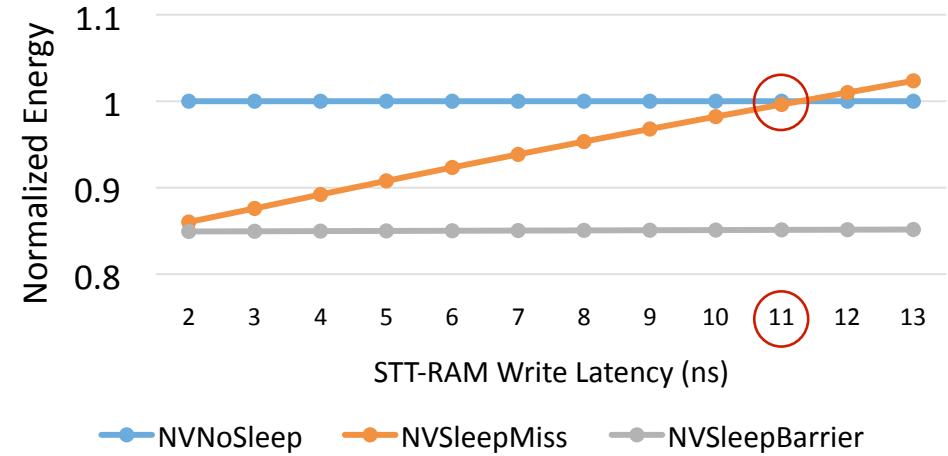
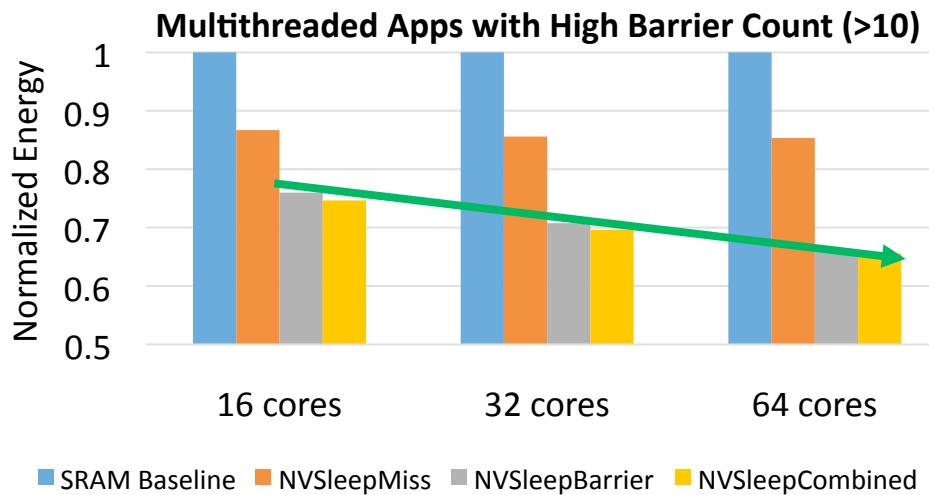
# NVSleepBarrier Energy Reduction

NVSleepBarrier: 34% energy reduction for apps with >10 barriers

Multithreaded Apps with Low Barrier Count (<10)



# Sensitivity Studies



Num of Banks	energy/access (pJ)	area (mm <sup>2</sup> )
1	0.448	0.007543
2	0.552	0.012091
4	0.628	0.018883
8	0.741	0.029032

