

CPU design effects that can degrade performance of your programs

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- HPC, distributed systems, program optimization

How do we get maximum performance?

- Select the right algorithm

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How do we get maximum performance?

- Select the right algorithm
- Use a low-overhead language
- Compile properly
- **Tune to the underlying hardware**

Why should we care?

- We write code for the C++ abstract machine

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Why should we care?

- We write code for the C++ abstract machine
- Intel CPUs fulfill the contract of this abstract machine
 - But inside they can do whatever they want
- Understanding CPU trade-offs can get us more performance

C++ abstract machine example

```
void foo(int* arr, int count)
{
    for (int i = 0; i < count; i++)
    {
        arr[i]++;
    }
}
```

How fast are the individual array increments?

Hardware effects

- Performance effects caused by a specific CPU/memory implementation

Hardware effects

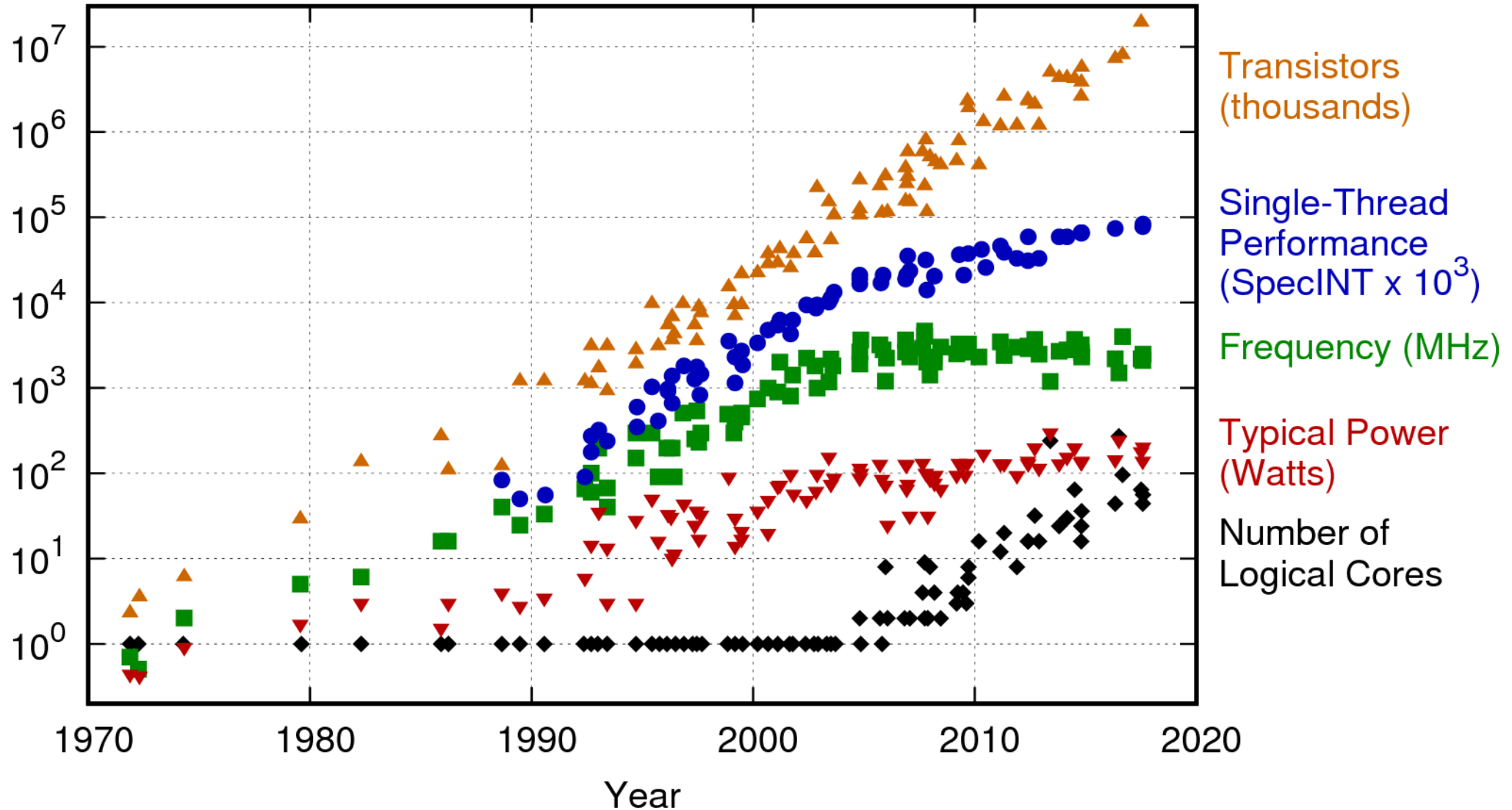
- Performance effects caused by a specific CPU/memory implementation
- Demonstrate some CPU/memory trade-off or assumption

Hardware effects

- Performance effects caused by a specific CPU/memory implementation
- Demonstrate some CPU/memory trade-off or assumption
- Impossible to predict from (C++) code alone

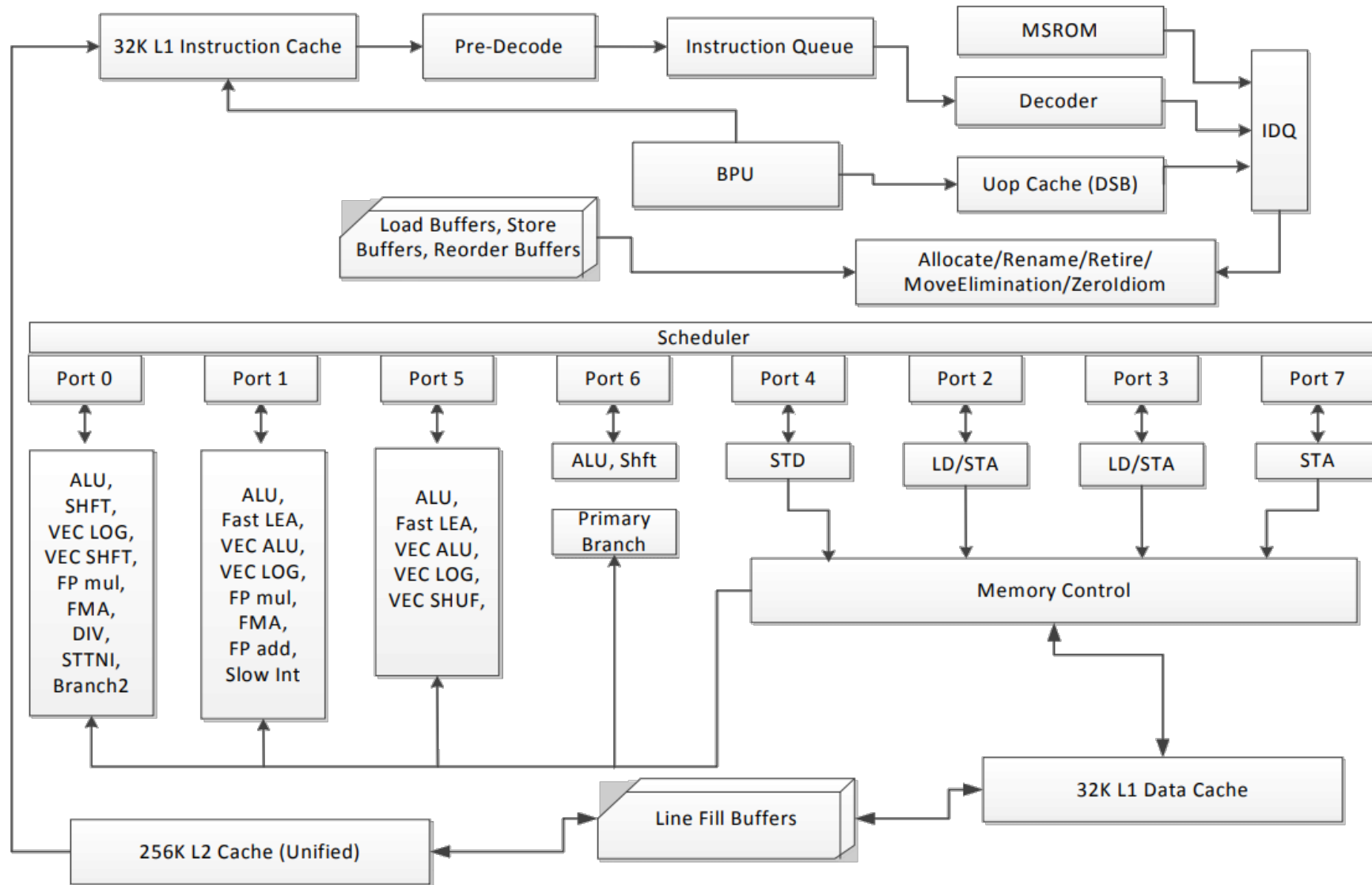
Hardware is getting more and more complex

42 Years of Microprocessor Trend Data



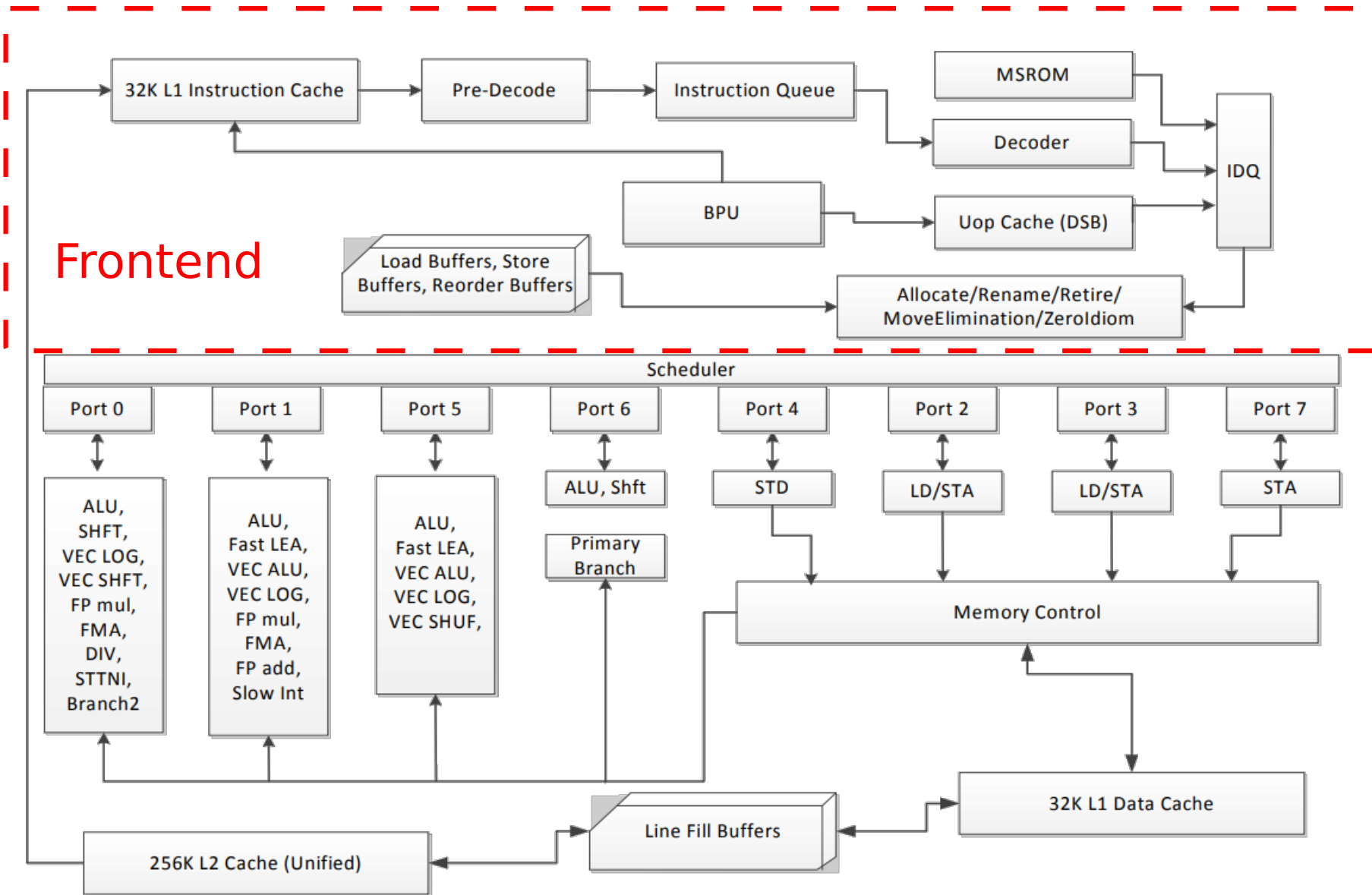
Source: karlrupp.net

Microarchitecture (Haswell)



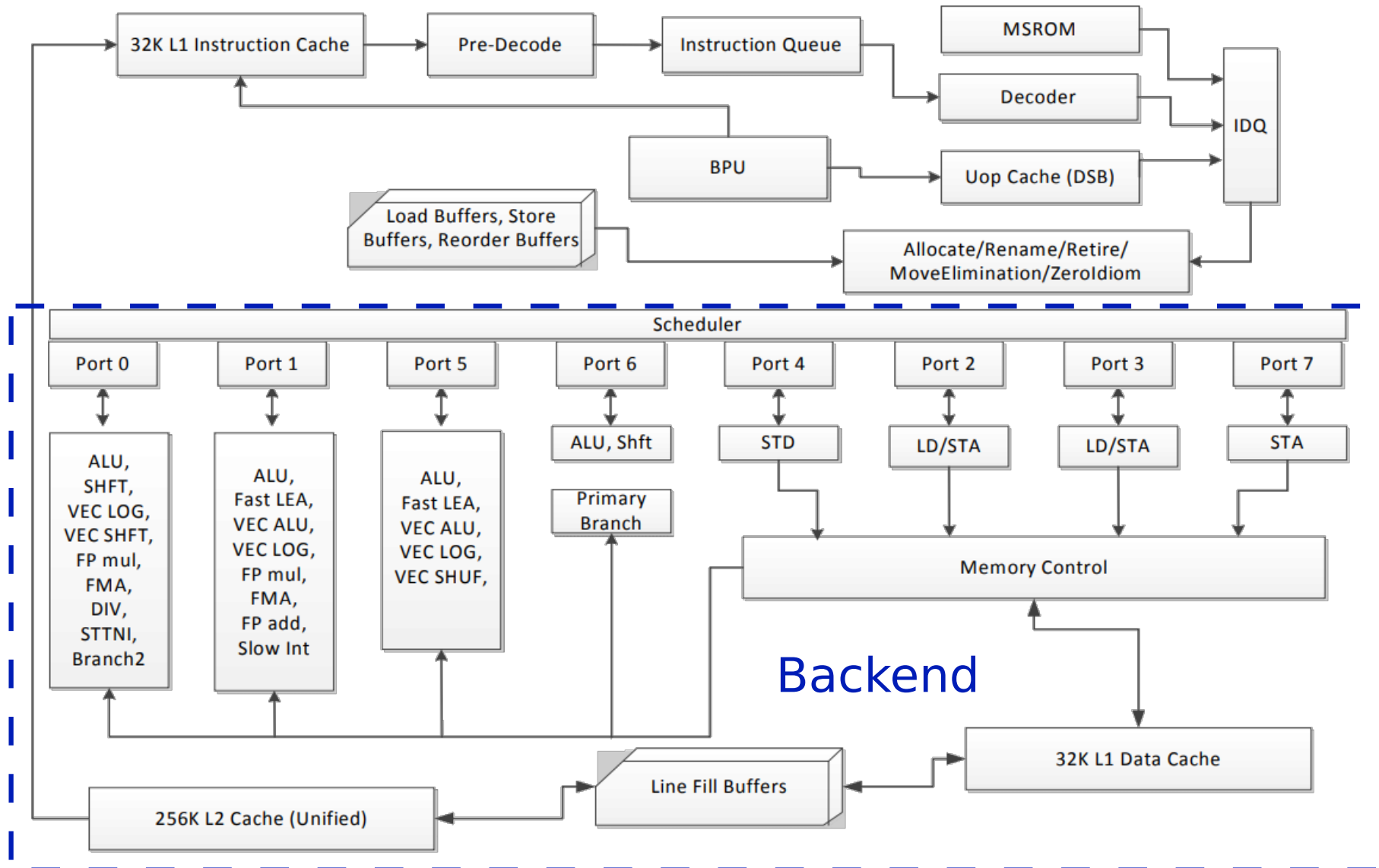
Source: Intel Architectures Optimization Reference Manual

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How bad is it?

- C++ 17 final draft:

<http://www.open-std.org/jtc1/sc22/wg21/docs/papers/2017/n4659.pdf>

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Plan of attack

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- Show how to measure and fix it

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- Disclaimer #1: Everything will be Intel x86 specific

Plan of attack

- Show example C++ programs
 - short, (hopefully) comprehensible
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- Let you guess what might cause it
- Explain (a possible) cause
- Show how to measure and fix it
- Disclaimer #1: Everything will be Intel x86 specific
- Disclaimer #2: I'm not an expert on this and I may be wrong :-)

Let's see some examples...



Code (backup)

```
std::vector<float> data = /* 32K random floats in [1, 10] */;  
float sum = 0;  
// std::sort(data.begin(), data.end());  
for (auto x : data)  
{  
    if (x < 6.0f)  
    {  
        sum += x;  
    }  
}
```

Result (backup)

Benchmark	Time		CPU		Iterations
filter_nosort/32768	133460	ns	132992	ns	5284
filter_sorted/32768	63069	ns	62991	ns	12547

Most upvoted Stack Overflow question

Why is it faster to process a sorted array than an unsorted array?



22447



10294

Here is a piece of C++ code that seems very peculiar. For some strange reason, sorting the data miraculously makes the code almost six times faster.

```
#include <algorithm>
#include <ctime>
#include <iostream>

int main()
{
    // Generate data
    const unsigned arraySize = 32768;
    int data[arraySize];

    for (unsigned c = 0; c < arraySize; ++c)
        data[c] = std::rand() % 256;

    // !!! With this, the next loop runs faster
    std::sort(data, data + arraySize);

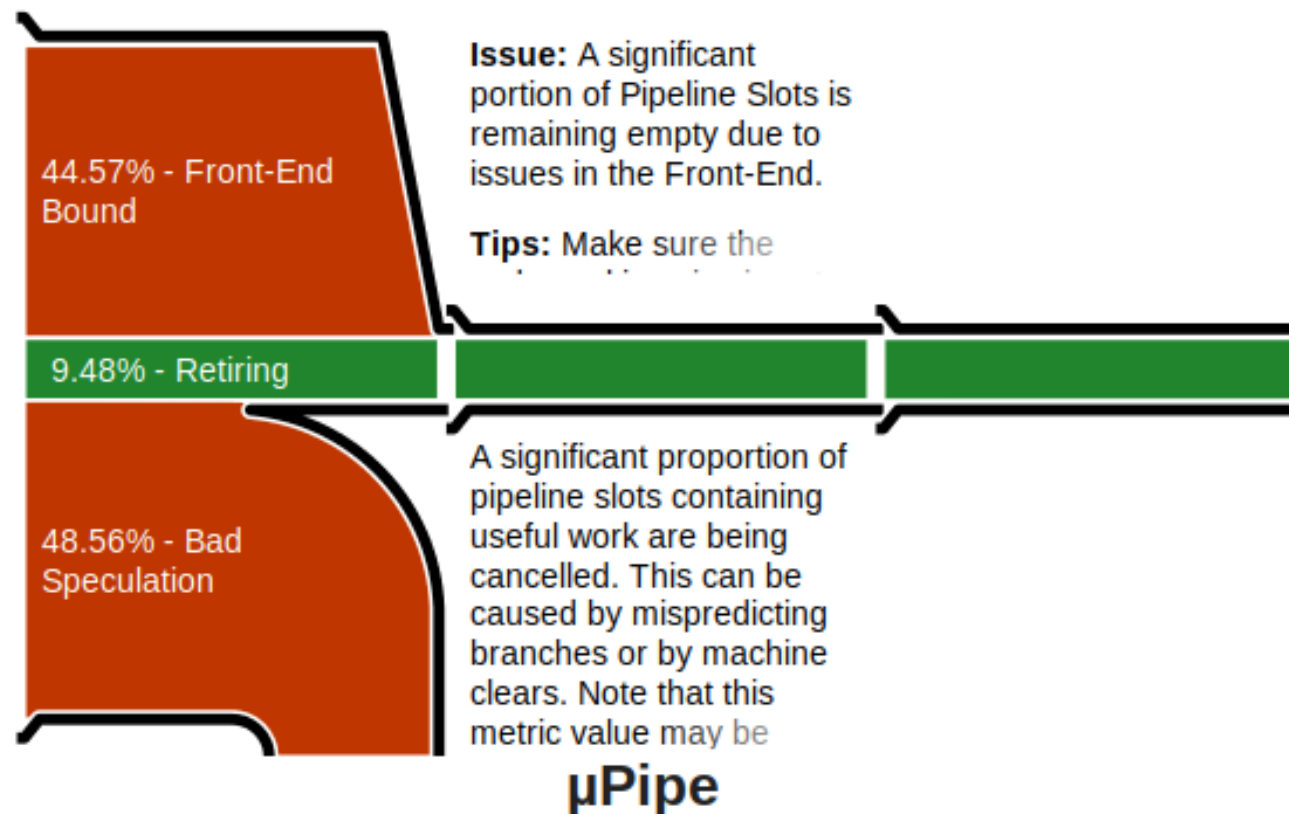
    // Test
    clock_t start = clock();
    long long sum = 0;

    for (unsigned i = 0; i < 100000; ++i)
    {
        // Primary loop
        for (unsigned c = 0; c < arraySize; ++c)
        {
            if (data[c] >= 128)
                sum += data[c];
        }
    }
}
```

What is going on? (Intel Amplifier - VTune)

Elapsed Time^②: 2.222s

Clockticks:	6,736,800,000
Instructions Retired:	2,942,800,000
CPI Rate ^② :	2.289 ▴
MUX Reliability ^② :	0.802
Retiring ^② :	9.5% of Pipeline Slots
Front-End Bound ^② :	44.6% ▴ of Pipeline Slots
Front-End Latency ^② :	31.1% ▴ of Pipeline Slots
ICache Misses ^② :	0.0% of Clockticks
ITLB Overhead ^② :	0.2% of Clockticks
Branch Resteers ^② :	13.4% ▴ of Clockticks
Mispredicts Resteers ^② :	12.6% ▴ of Clockticks
Clears Resteers ^② :	0.0% of Clockticks
Unknown Branches ^② :	0.8% of Clockticks
DSB Switches ^② :	0.0% of Clockticks
Length Changing Prefixes ^② :	0.0% of Clockticks
MS Switches ^② :	4.5% of Clockticks
Front-End Bandwidth ^② :	13.5% ▴ of Pipeline Slots
Bad Speculation ^② :	48.6% ▴ of Pipeline Slots
Branch Mispredict ^② :	48.6% ▴ of Pipeline Slots
Machine Clears ^② :	0.0% of Pipeline Slots
Back-End Bound ^② :	0.0% of Pipeline Slots
Total Thread Count:	1
Paused Time ^② :	0s

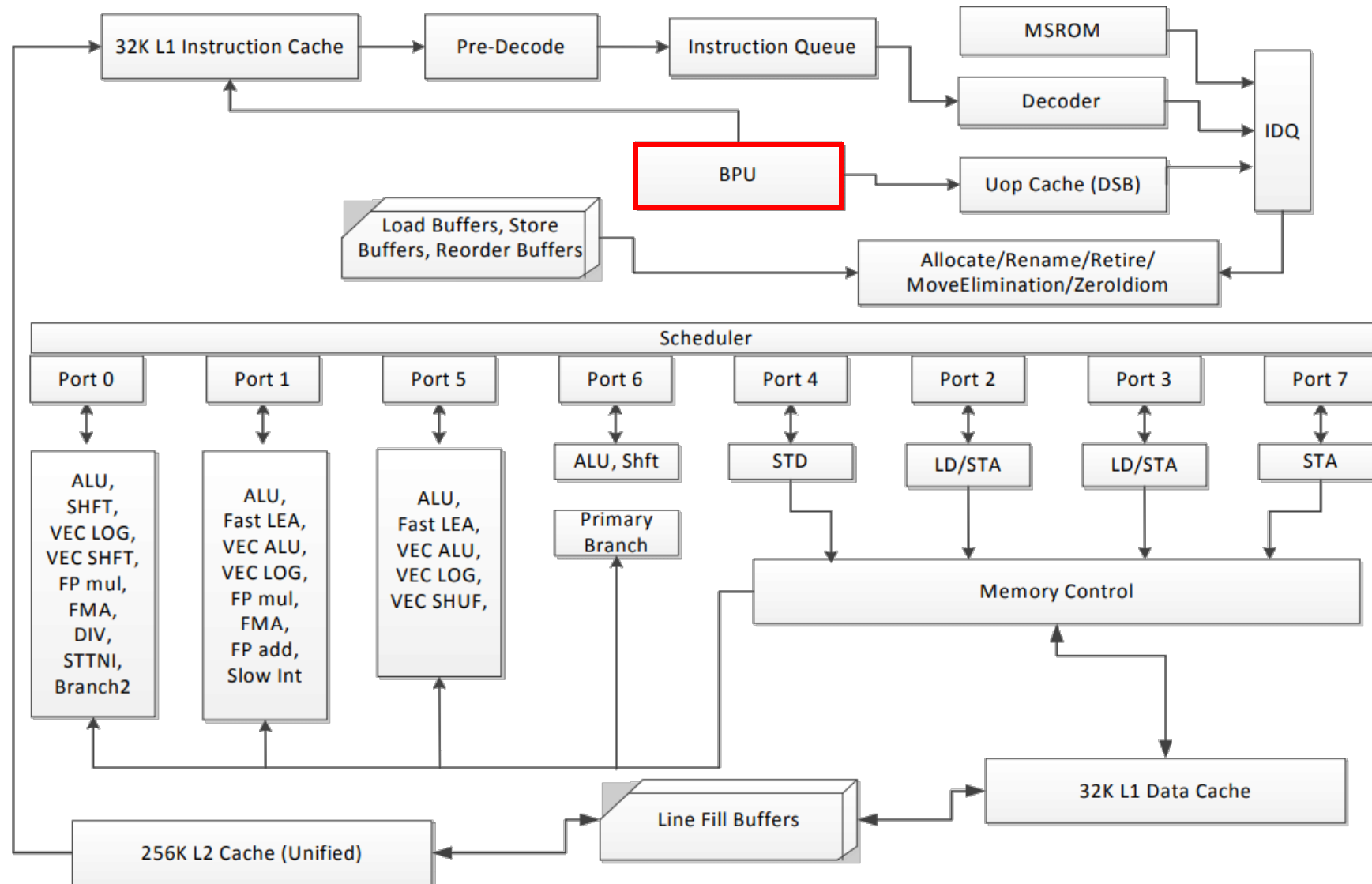


This diagram represents inefficiencies in CPU usage. Treat it as a pipe with an output flow equal to the "pipe efficiency" ratio: (Actual Instructions Retired)/(Maximum Possible [Instruction Retired](#)). If there are pipeline stalls decreasing the pipe efficiency, the pipe shape gets more narrow.

What is going on? (perf)

```
$ perf stat ./example0a --benchmark_filter=nosort
      853,672,012 task-clock (msec) #    0,997 CPUs utilized
           30 context-switches #    0,035 K/sec
            0 cpu-migrations #    0,000 K/sec
          199 page-faults #    0,233 K/sec
  3 159 530 915 cycles #    3,701 GHz
  1 475 799 619 instructions #    0,47 insn per cycle
    419 608 357 branches # 491,533 M/sec
    102 425 035 branch-misses # 24,41% of all branches
```

Branch predictor



CPU pipeline 101

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Fetch							
Decode							
Execute							
Write							

```
7  xor rax, rdx
8  add rax, rcx
9  cmp rax, rbx
10 je 15
11 inc rcx
  ⋮
15 ret
```



CPU pipeline 101

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15 ret
```

Branch predictor

- CPU tries to predict results of branches



Branch predictor

- CPU tries to predict results of branches
- Misprediction can cost ~15-20 cycles!



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

6 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
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```

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---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

2 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

2 < 6?

Prediction: Taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

$1 < 6?$

Prediction: Taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1 < 6?

Prediction: Taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

$7 < 6?$

Prediction: Taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

7 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4 < 6?

Prediction: Taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

8 < 6?

Prediction: Taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

8 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3 < 6?

Prediction: Taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
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6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
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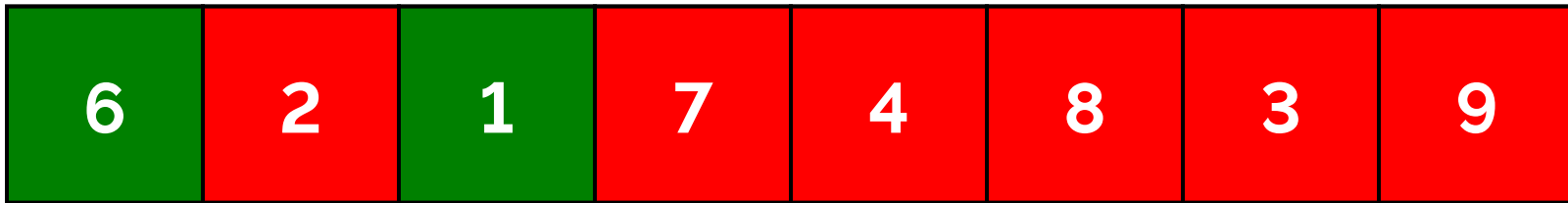
9 < 6?

Prediction: Taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```



9 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Prediction: Not taken

2 hits, 6 misses (25% hit rate)



Simple branch predictor - sorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - sorted array

```
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---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - sorted array

```
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---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1 < 6?

Prediction: Taken



Simple branch predictor - sorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
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1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

2 < 6?

Prediction: Taken



Simple branch predictor - sorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9
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2 < 6?

Prediction: Taken



Simple branch predictor - sorted array

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Simple branch predictor - sorted array

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Simple branch predictor - sorted array

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4 < 6?

Prediction: Taken



Simple branch predictor - sorted array

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Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - sorted array

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1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

7 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - sorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```

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---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

7 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - sorted array

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if (data[i] < 6) {  
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```

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8 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - sorted array

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if (data[i] < 6) {  
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Simple branch predictor - sorted array

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9 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - sorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```



9 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



Simple branch predictor - sorted array

```
if (data[i] < 6) {  
    ...  
}
```



Prediction: Not taken

6 hits, 2 misses (75% hit rate)



How can the compiler help?

```
float sum = 0;
for (auto _ : state)
{
    for (auto x : data)
    {
        if (x < 6)
        {
            sum += x;
        }
    }
}
```

```
47      mov     rax, rcx
48      cmp     rcx, rdx
49      je      .L9
50  .L12:
51      movss   xmm0, DWORD PTR [rax]
52      comiss  xmm2, xmm0
53      jbe     .L10
54      addss   xmm1, xmm0
55  .L10:
56      add     rax, 4
57      cmp     rdx, rax
58      jne     .L12
59  .L9:
60      sub     rbx, 1
61      jne     .L13
62      jmp     .L6
```

With `float`, there are two branches per iteration



How can the compiler help?

```
int sum = 0;
for (auto _ : state)
{
    for (auto x : data)
    {
        if (x < 6)
        {
            sum += x;
        }
    }
}
```

```
41  .L12:
42      mov     rax, r8
43      cmp     r8, rdi
44      je      .L9
45  .L11:
46      mov     edx, DWORD PTR [rax]
47      cmp     edx, 6
48      lea     ecx, [rbx+rdx]
49      cmovl   ebx, ecx
50      add     rax, 4
51      cmp     rdi, rax
52      jne     .L11
53  .L9:
54      sub     rbp, 1
55      jne     .L12
56      mov     rdi, r12
```

With `int`, one branch is removed (using `cmov`)



How to measure?

branch-misses

How many times was a branch mispredicted?



How to measure?

branch-misses

How many times was a branch mispredicted?

```
$ perf stat -e branch-misses ./example0a  
with      sort ->      383 902  
without sort -> 101 652 009
```



How to help the branch predictor?

- More predictable data



How to help the branch predictor?

- More predictable data
- Profile-guided optimization



How to help the branch predictor?

- More predictable data
- Profile-guided optimization
- Remove (unpredictable) branches



How to help the branch predictor?

- More predictable data
- Profile-guided optimization
- Remove (unpredictable) branches
- Compiler hints (use with caution)

```
if (__builtin_expect(will_it_blend(), 0)) {  
    // this branch is not likely to be taken  
}
```



Branch target prediction

- Target of a jump is not known at compile time:



Branch target prediction

- Target of a jump is not known at compile time:
 - Function pointer



Branch target prediction

- Target of a jump is not known at compile time:
 - Function pointer
 - Function return address



Branch target prediction

- Target of a jump is not known at compile time:
 - Function pointer
 - Function return address
 - Virtual method



Code (backup)

```
struct A { virtual void handle(size_t* data) const = 0; };
struct B: public A { void handle(size_t* data) const final { *data += 1; } };
struct C: public A { void handle(size_t* data) const final { *data += 2; } };

std::vector<std::unique_ptr<A>> data = /* 4K random B/C instances */;
// std::sort(data.begin(), data.end(), /* sort by instance type */);
size_t sum = 0;
for (auto& x : data)
{
    x->handle(&sum);
}
```



Result (backup)

Benchmark	Time	CPU	Iterations
handle_nosort/4096	23350 ns	23349 ns	30734
handle_sorted/4096	7448 ns	7448 ns	86814



perf (backup)

```
$ perf stat -e branch-misses ./example0b  
with sort      ->      337 274  
without sort -> 84 183 161
```



Code (backup)

```
// Addresses of N integers, each `offset` bytes apart  
std::vector<int*> data = ...;  
for (auto ptr: data)  
{  
    *ptr += 1;  
}  
// Offsets: 4, 64, 4000, 4096, 4128
```

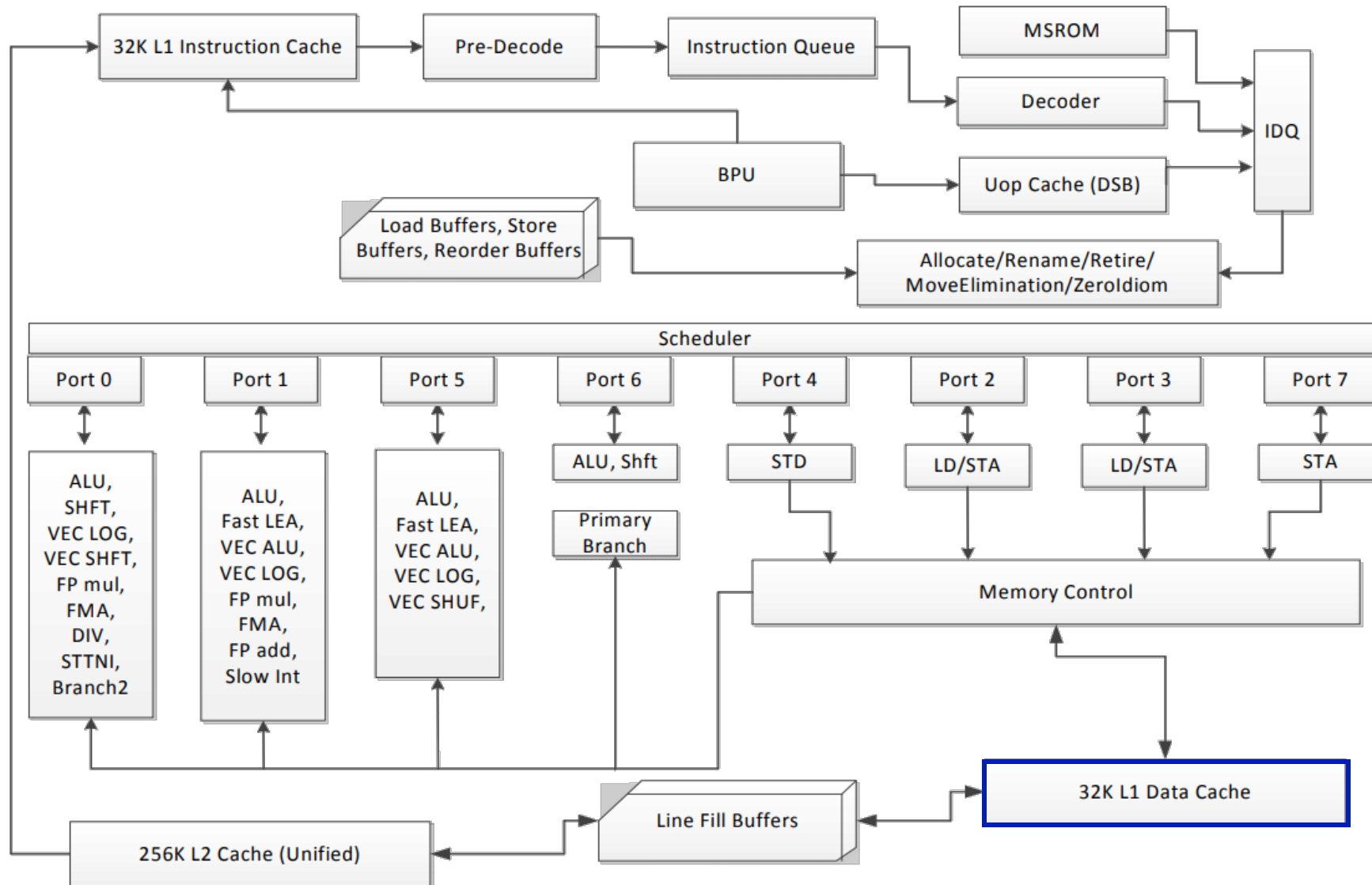


Result (backup)

Benchmark	Time		CPU		Iterations
offset4/7	2.83	ns	2.83	ns	255750233
offset4/8	3.03	ns	3.02	ns	177109965
offset4/9	3.76	ns	3.75	ns	157739295
offset4/10	4.62	ns	4.61	ns	177899906
offset4/11	4.93	ns	4.92	ns	162959140
offset64/7	3.19	ns	3.18	ns	179723151
offset64/8	3.83	ns	3.65	ns	216288609
offset64/9	3.74	ns	3.74	ns	201008685
offset64/10	4.41	ns	4.40	ns	159949703
offset64/11	4.41	ns	4.41	ns	128933855
offset4000/7	3.69	ns	3.69	ns	187745245
offset4000/8	3.27	ns	3.26	ns	226401022
offset4000/9	4.19	ns	4.18	ns	157866983
offset4000/10	4.49	ns	4.48	ns	173084452
offset4000/11	4.53	ns	4.52	ns	128906229
offset4096/7	9.05	ns	9.05	ns	78087527
offset4096/8	10.4	ns	10.4	ns	67550724
offset4096/9	18.7	ns	18.7	ns	38875870
offset4096/10	25.5	ns	25.5	ns	26893946
offset4096/11	32.7	ns	32.7	ns	21369400
offset4128/7	3.23	ns	3.22	ns	250263727
offset4128/8	3.13	ns	3.13	ns	218371877
offset4128/9	3.75	ns	3.71	ns	157448182
offset4128/10	4.28	ns	4.25	ns	144839049
offset4128/11	5.47	ns	5.44	ns	128547528



Cache memory



How are (L1) caches implemented

- N-way set associative table
 - Hardware hash table



How are (L1) caches implemented

- N-way set associative table
 - Hardware hash table
- Key = address (8B)

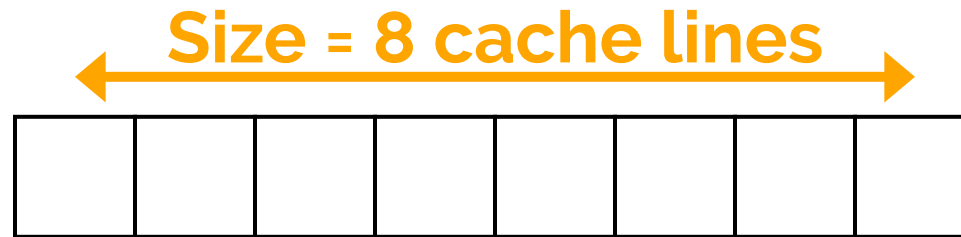


How are (L1) caches implemented

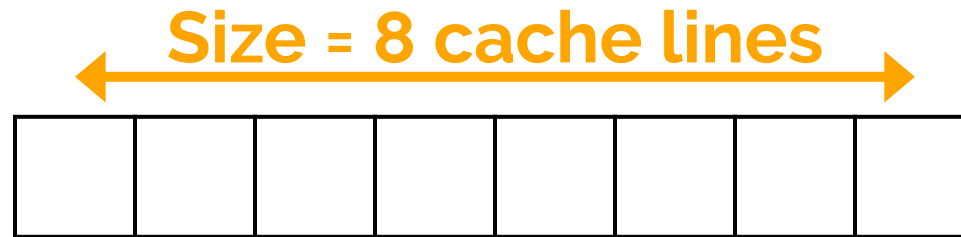
- N-way set associative table
 - Hardware hash table
- Key = address (8B)
- Entry = cache line (64B)



N-way set associative cache



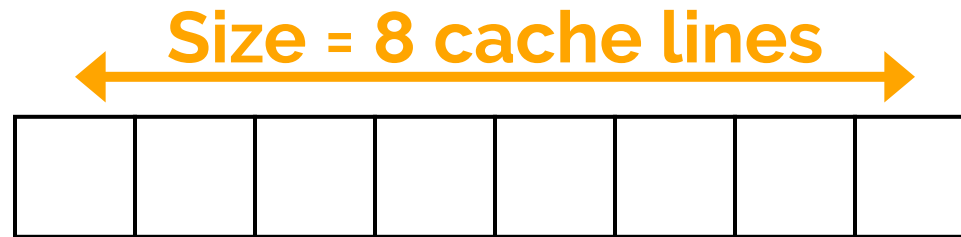
N-way set associative cache



Associativity (N) - # of cache lines per bucket



N-way set associative cache

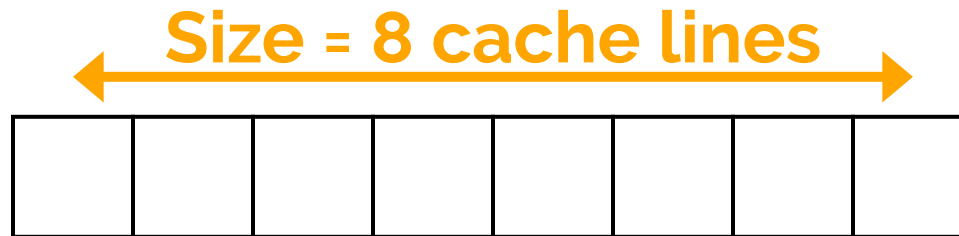


Associativity (N) - # of cache lines per bucket

of buckets = Size / N



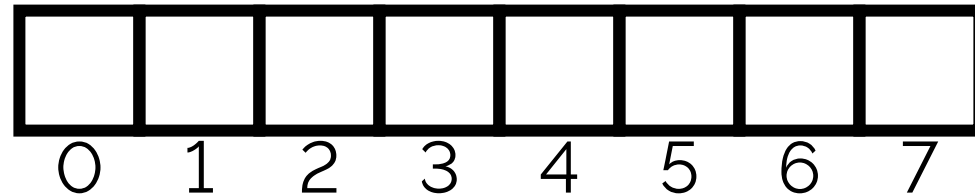
N-way set associative cache



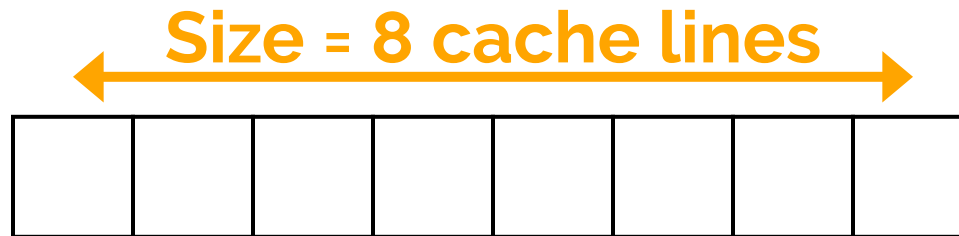
Associativity (N) - # of cache lines per bucket

of buckets = Size / N

N = 1 (direct mapped)



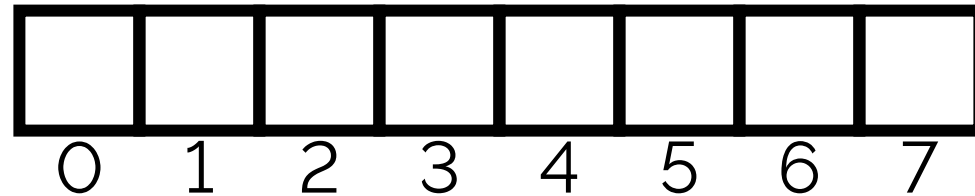
N-way set associative cache



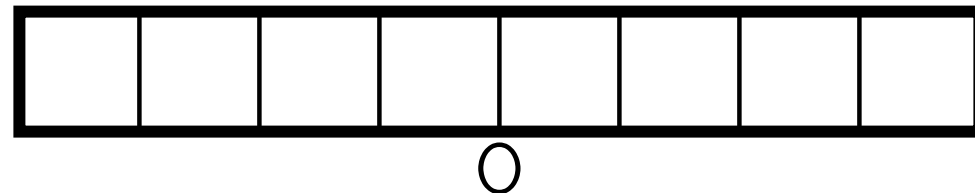
Associativity (N) - # of cache lines per bucket

$$\# \text{ of buckets} = \text{Size} / N$$

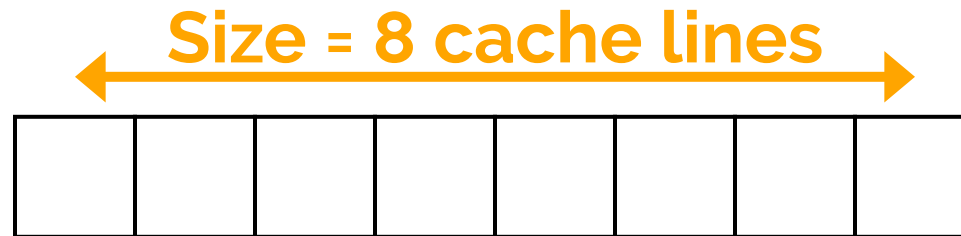
N = 1 (direct mapped)



N = 8 (fully associative)



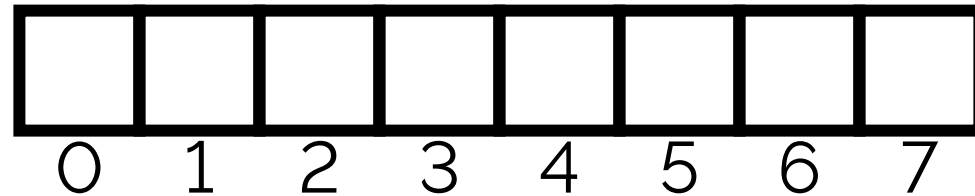
N-way set associative cache



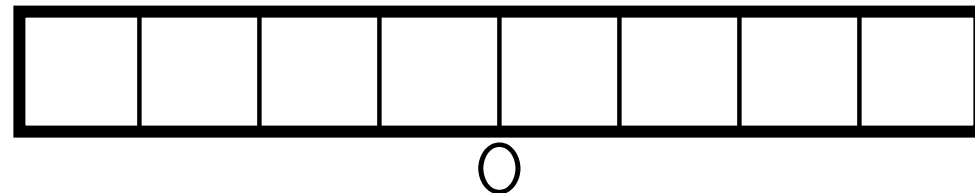
Associativity (N) - # of cache lines per bucket

of buckets = Size / N

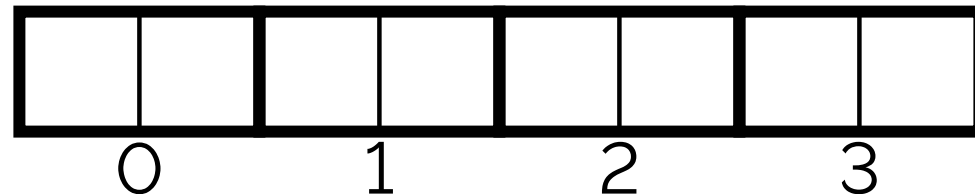
N = 1 (direct mapped)



N = 8 (fully associative)



N = 2



How are addresses hashed?



How are addresses hashed?



- **Offset**
 - Selects byte within a cache line
 - $\log_2(\text{cache line size})$ bits



How are addresses hashed?

64-bit address:



- **Offset**
 - Selects byte within a cache line
 - $\log_2(\text{cache line size})$ bits
- **Index**
 - Selects bucket within the cache
 - $\log_2(\text{bucket count})$ bits



How are addresses hashed?

64-bit address:

Tag Index Offset

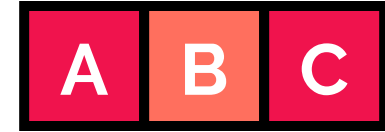
63 0

- **Offset**
 - Selects byte within a cache line
 - $\log_2(\text{cache line size})$ bits
- **Index**
 - Selects bucket within the cache
 - $\log_2(\text{bucket count})$ bits
- **Tag**
 - Used for matching



N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



N-way set associative cache

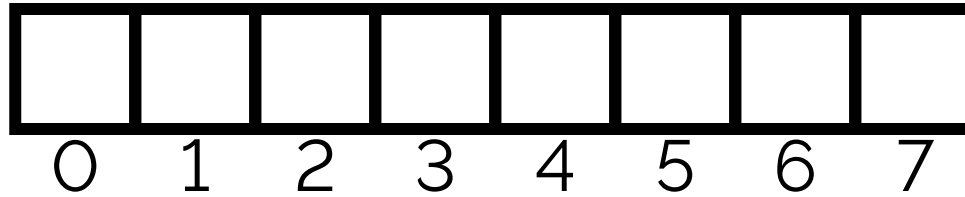
Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0

$N = 1$



N-way set associative cache

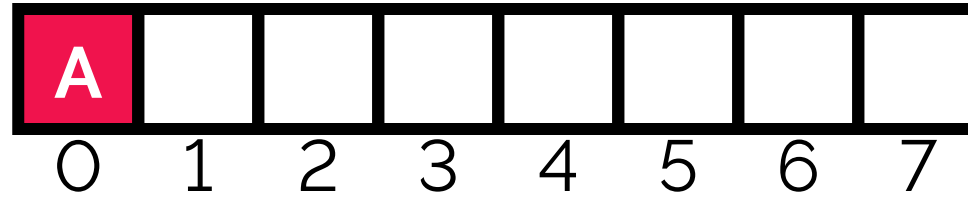
Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0

$N = 1$



N-way set associative cache

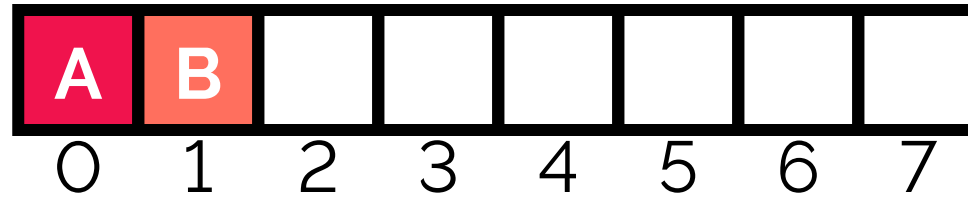
Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0

$N = 1$



N-way set associative cache

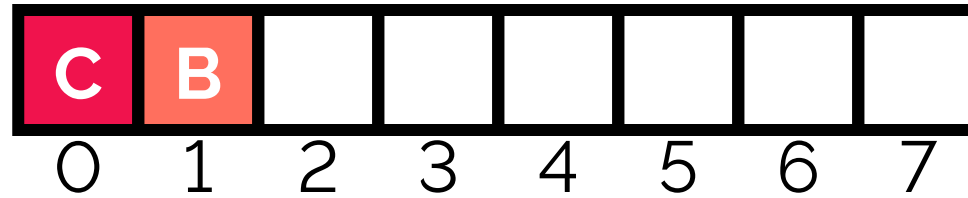
Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0

$N = 1$



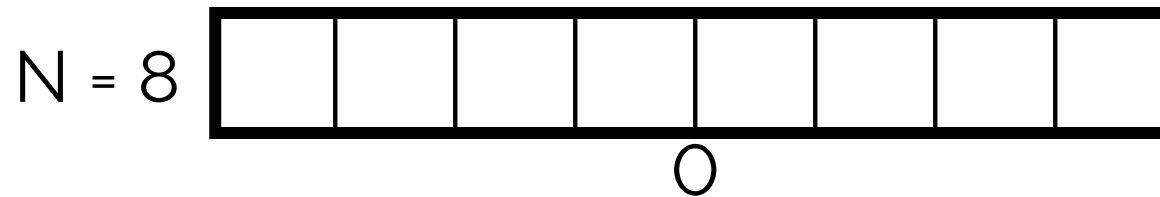
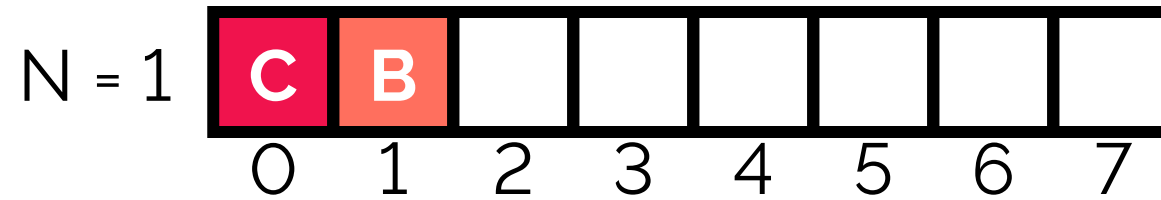
N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



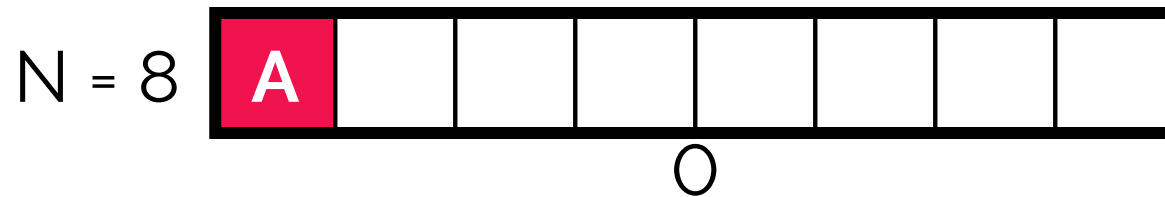
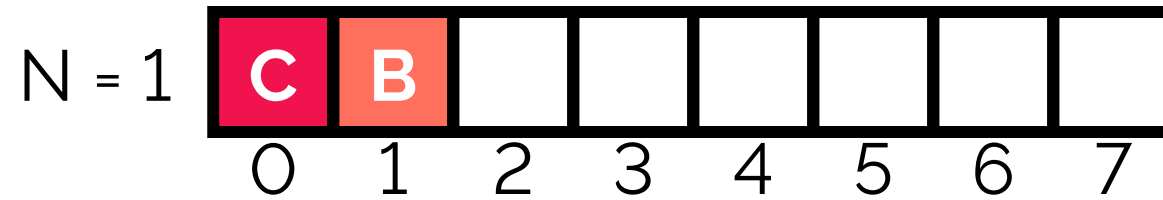
N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



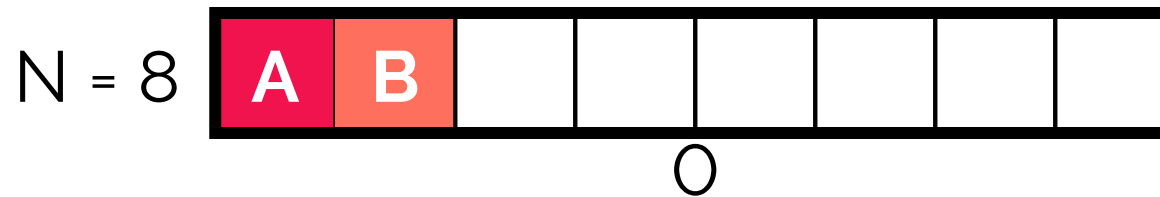
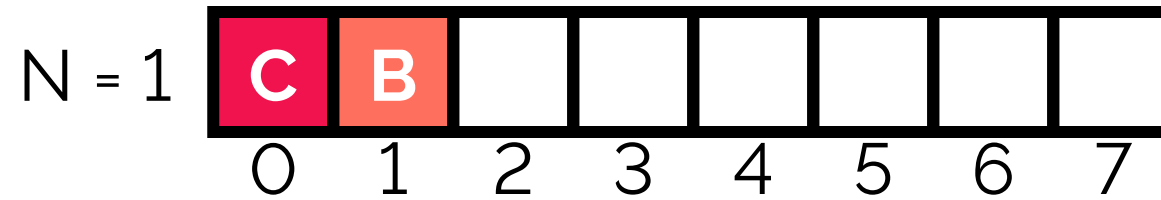
N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



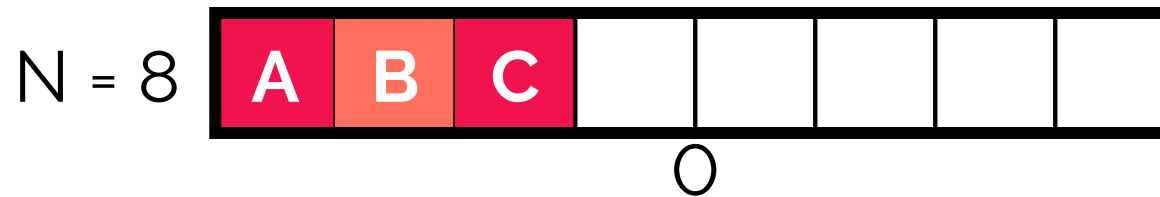
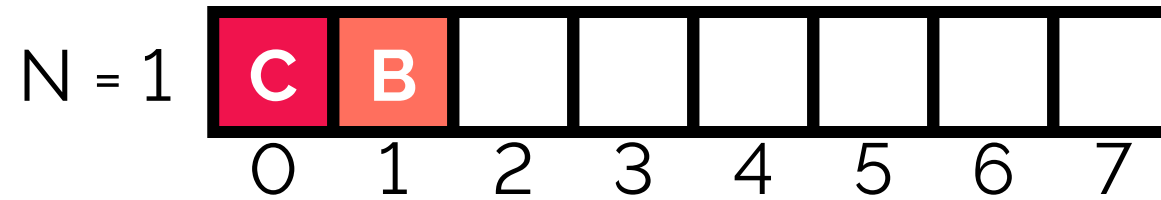
N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



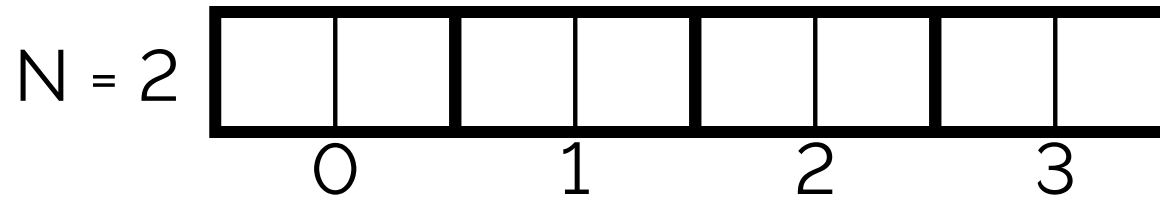
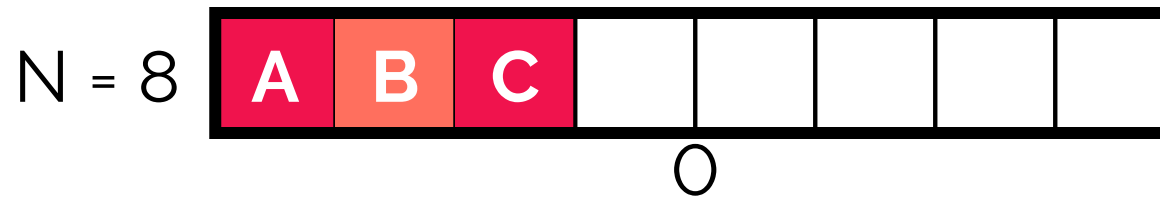
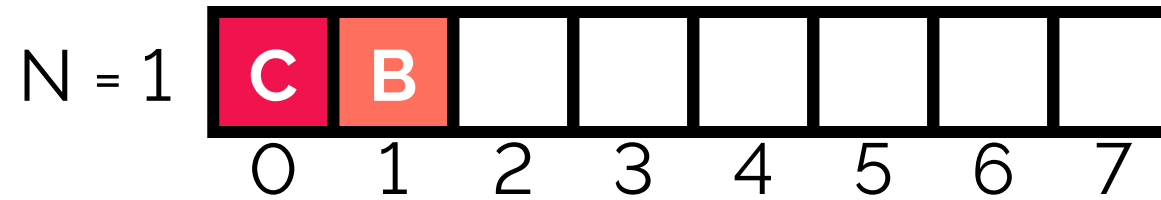
N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



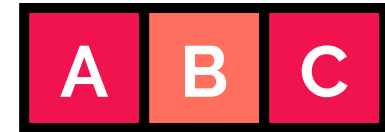
Index bits:

0 1 0



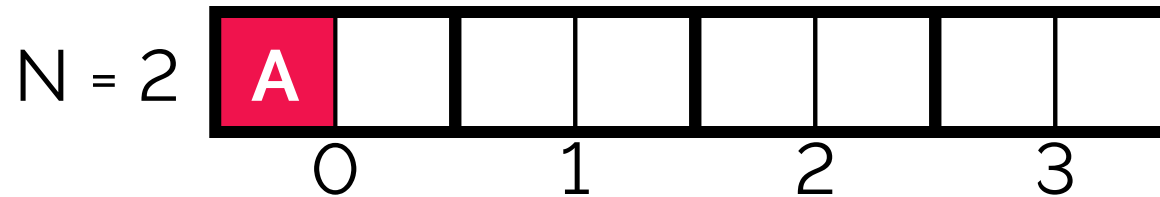
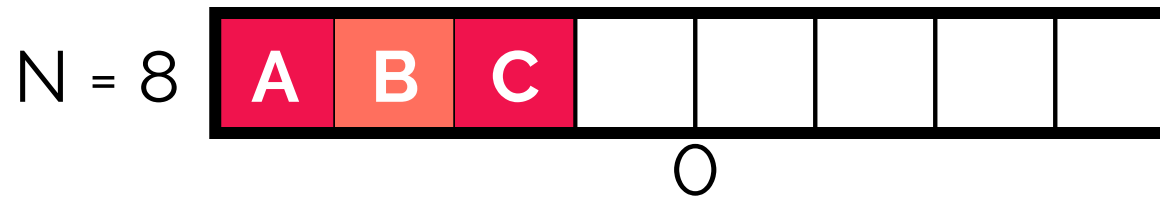
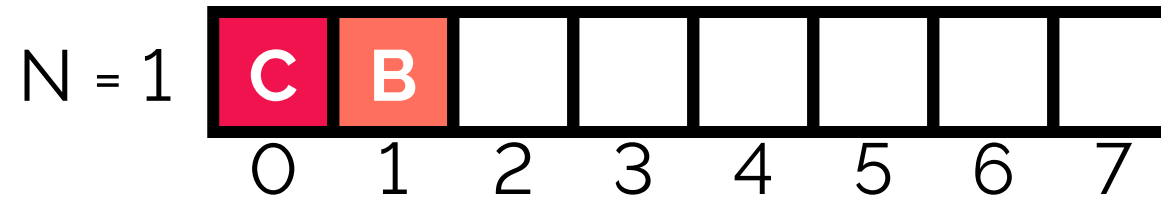
N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



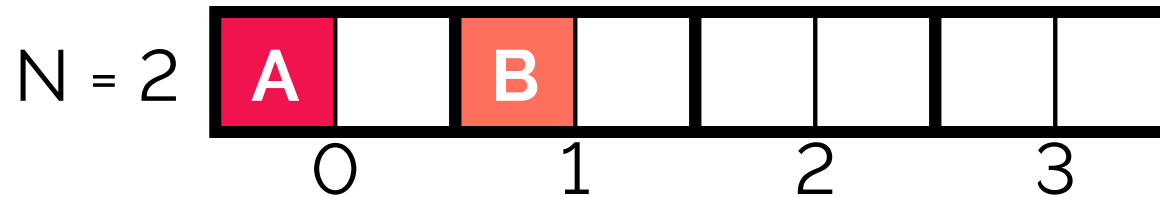
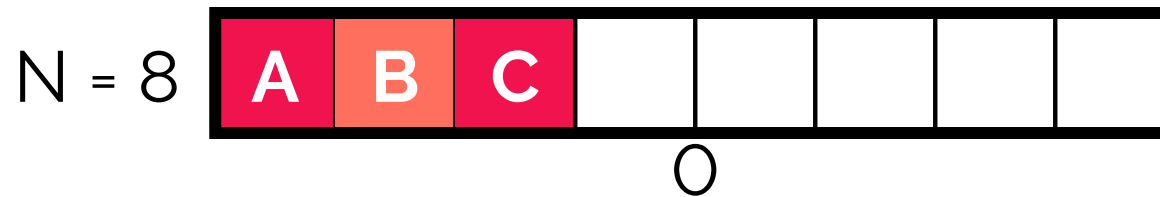
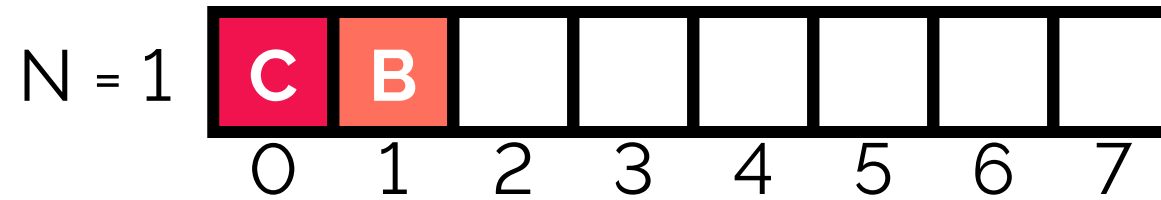
N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



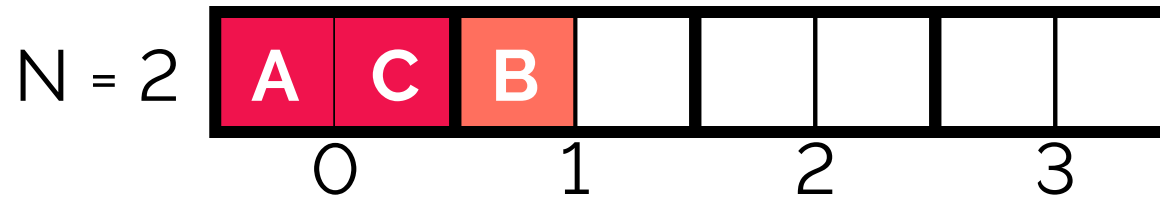
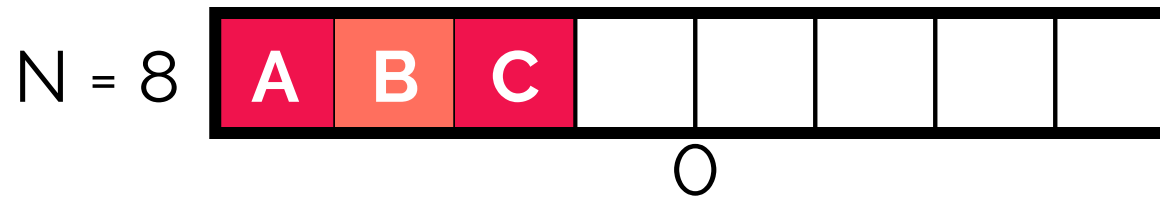
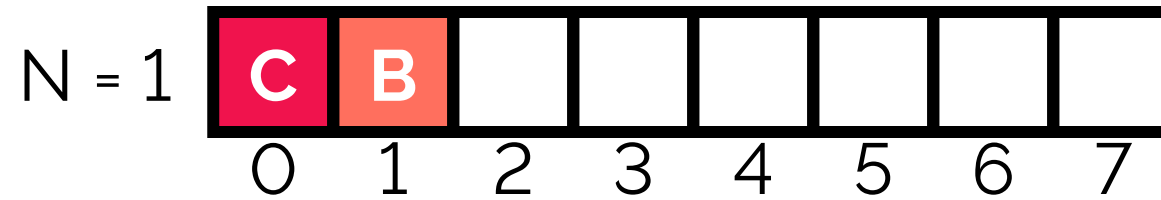
N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



Intel L1 cache

```
$ getconf -a | grep LEVEL1_DCACHE  
LEVEL1_DCACHE_SIZE      32768  
LEVEL1_DCACHE_ASSOC     8  
LEVEL1_DCACHE_LINESIZE  64
```



Intel L1 cache

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LEVEL1_DCACHE_SIZE      32768
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LEVEL1_DCACHE_LINESIZE  64
```

- **Cache line size** - 64 B (6 offset bits)



Intel L1 cache

```
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LEVEL1_DCACHE_SIZE      32768
LEVEL1_DCACHE_ASSOC      8
LEVEL1_DCACHE_LINESIZE  64
```

- **Cache line size** - 64 B (6 offset bits)
- **Associativity** (N) - 8



Intel L1 cache

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```

- **Cache line size** - 64 B (6 offset bits)
- **Associativity** (N) - 8
- **Size** - 32768 B



Intel L1 cache

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$ getconf -a | grep LEVEL1_DCACHE
LEVEL1_DCACHE_SIZE          32768
LEVEL1_DCACHE_ASSOC         8
LEVEL1_DCACHE_LINESIZE     64
```

- **Cache line size** - 64 B (6 offset bits)
- **Associativity** (N) - 8
- **Size** - 32768 B
- $32768 / 64 \Rightarrow 512$ cache lines



Intel L1 cache

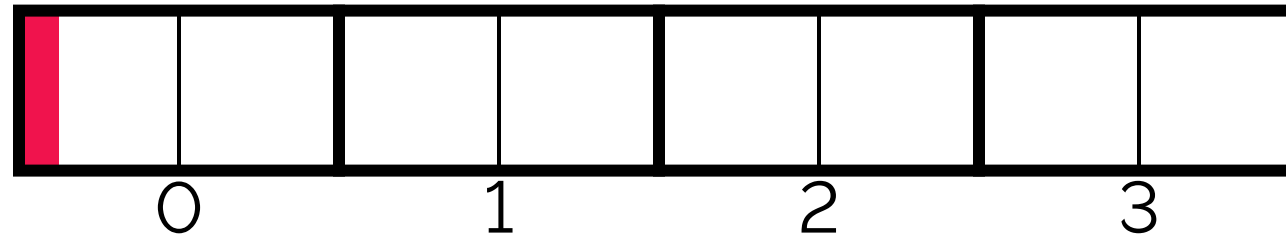
```
$ getconf -a | grep LEVEL1_DCACHE
LEVEL1_DCACHE_SIZE      32768
LEVEL1_DCACHE_ASSOC      8
LEVEL1_DCACHE_LINESIZE  64
```

- **Cache line size** - 64 B (6 offset bits)
- **Associativity** (N) - 8
- **Size** - 32768 B
- $32768 / 64 \Rightarrow 512$ cache lines
- $512 / 8 \Rightarrow 64$ buckets (6 index bits)



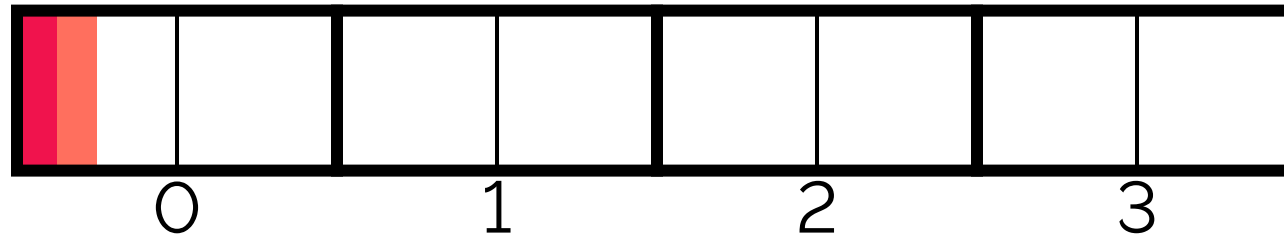
Offset = 4B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..100000	000000	000000



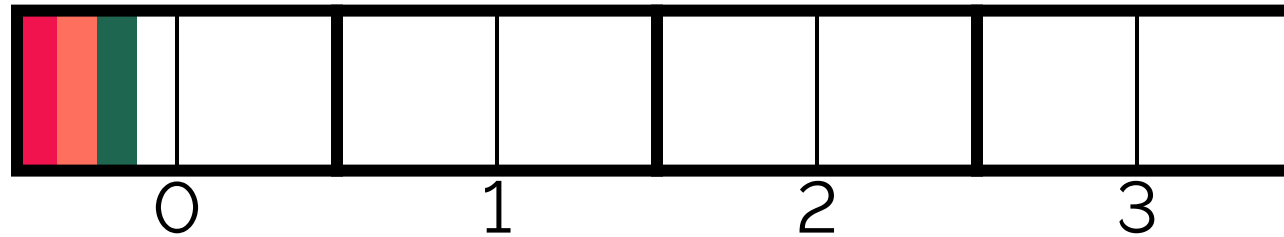
Offset = 4B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000
B	..1000000	0000000	000100



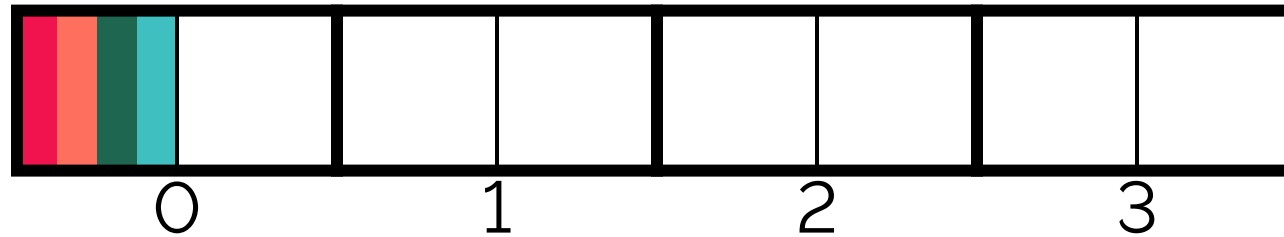
Offset = 4B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000
B	..1000000	0000000	000100
C	..1000000	0000000	001000



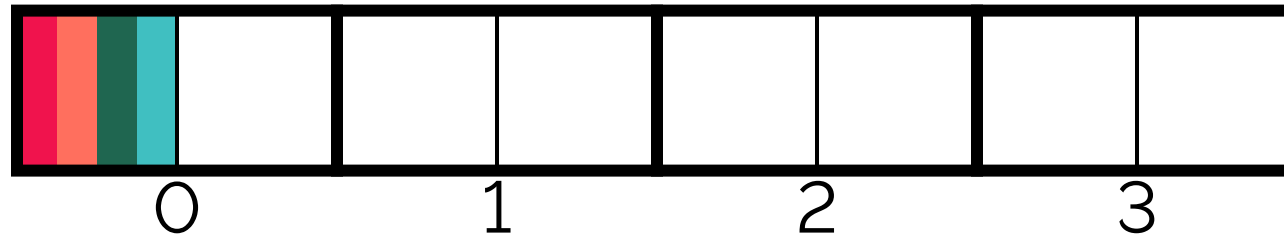
Offset = 4B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000
B	..1000000	0000000	000100
C	..1000000	0000000	001000
D	..1000000	0000000	001100



Offset = 4B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000
B	..1000000	0000000	000100
C	..1000000	0000000	001000
D	..1000000	0000000	001100

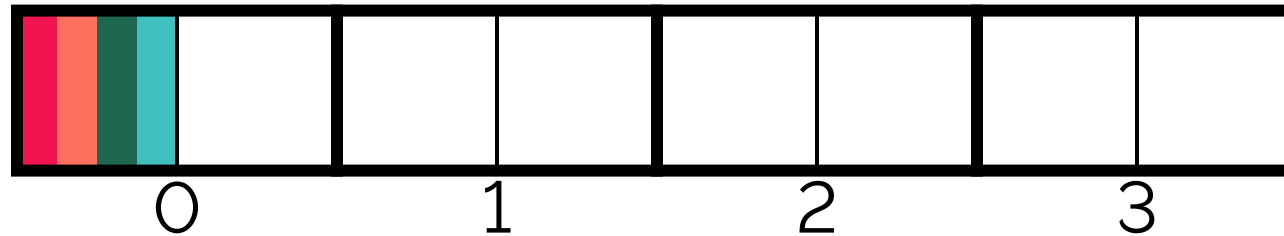


- Same bucket, same cache line for each number



Offset = 4B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000
B	..1000000	0000000	000100
C	..1000000	0000000	001000
D	..1000000	0000000	001100

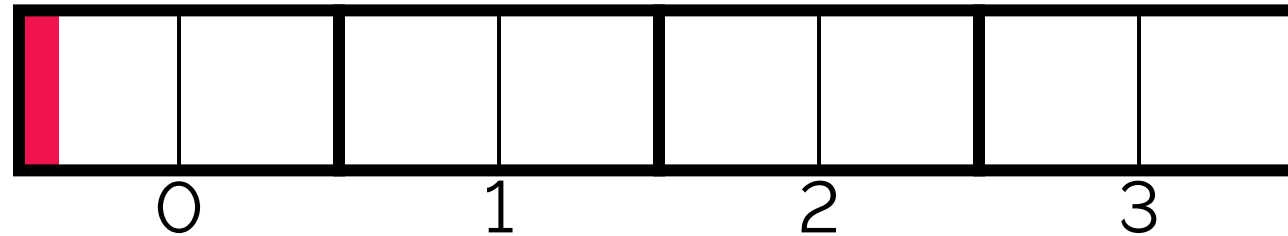


- Same bucket, same cache line for each number
- Most efficient, no space is wasted



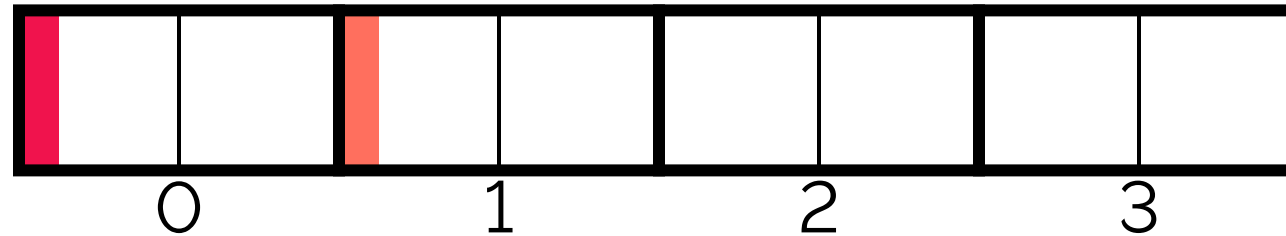
Offset = 64B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..100000	000000	000000



Offset = 64B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..100000	000000	000000
B	..100000	000001	000000



Offset = 64B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000
B	..1000000	0000001	0000000
C	..1000000	0000010	0000000



Offset = 64B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000
B	..1000000	0000001	0000000
C	..1000000	0000010	0000000
D	..1000000	0000011	0000000



Offset = 64B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000
B	..1000000	0000001	0000000
C	..1000000	0000010	0000000
D	..1000000	0000011	0000000



- Different bucket for each number



Offset = 64B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000
B	..1000000	0000001	0000000
C	..1000000	0000010	0000000
D	..1000000	0000011	0000000



- Different bucket for each number
- Wastes 60B in each cache line



Offset = 64B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000
B	..1000000	0000001	0000000
C	..1000000	0000010	0000000
D	..1000000	0000011	0000000

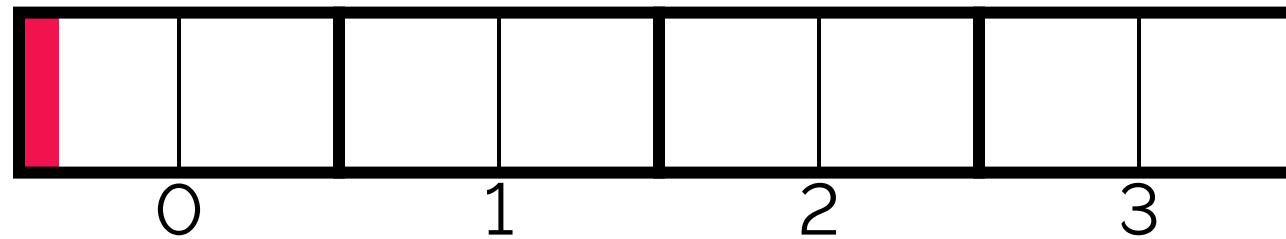


- Different bucket for each number
- Wastes 60B in each cache line
- Equally distributed among buckets



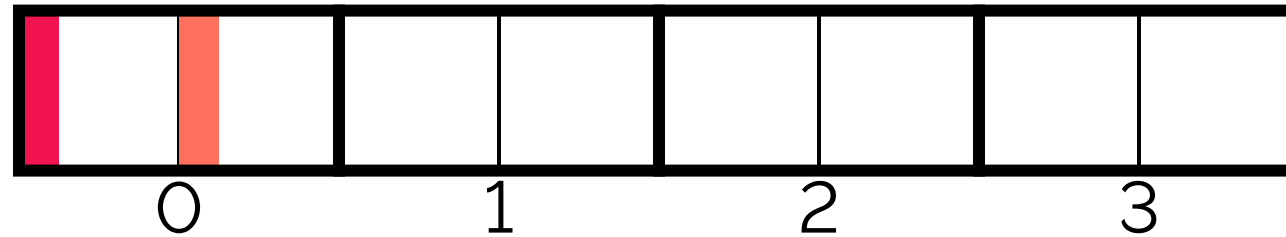
Offset = 4096B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000



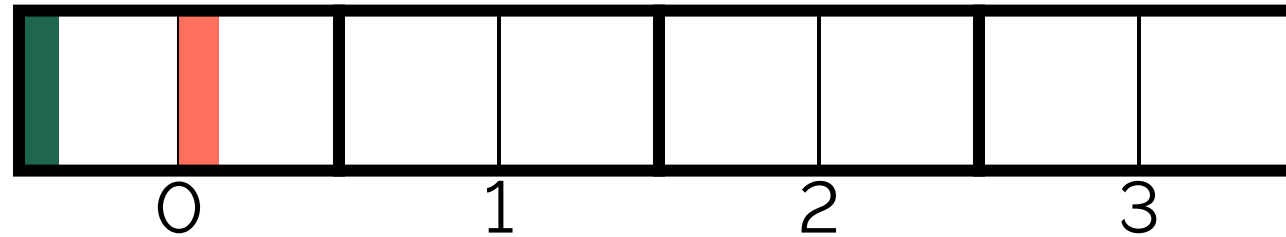
Offset = 4096B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..100000	0000000	0000000
B	..100001	0000000	0000000



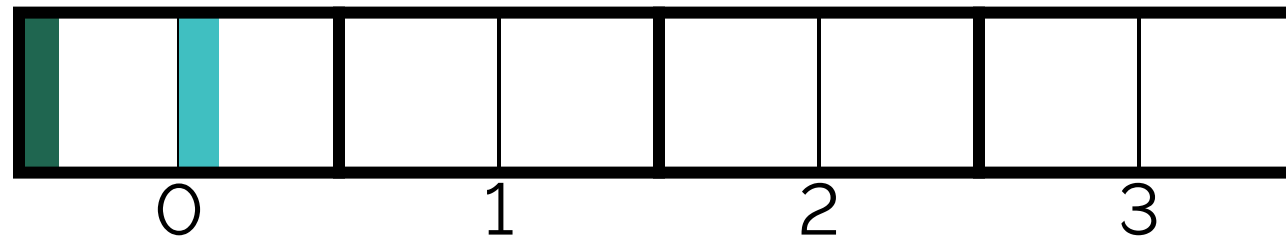
Offset = 4096B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000
B	..1000001	0000000	0000000
C	..1000010	0000000	0000000



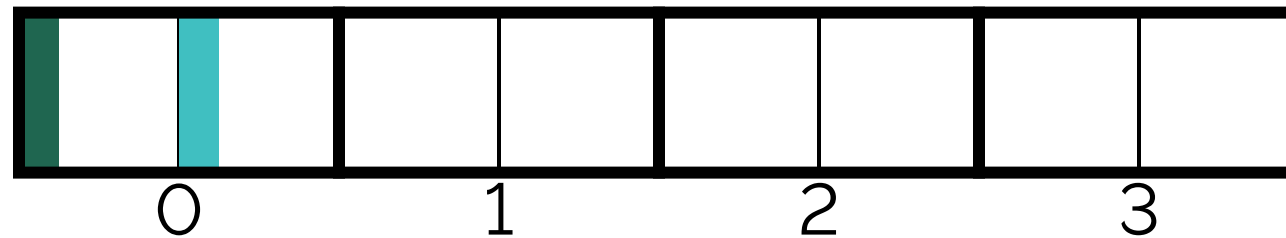
Offset = 4096B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000
B	..1000001	0000000	0000000
C	..1000010	0000000	0000000
D	..1000011	0000000	0000000



Offset = 4096B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000
B	..1000001	0000000	0000000
C	..1000010	0000000	0000000
D	..1000011	0000000	0000000

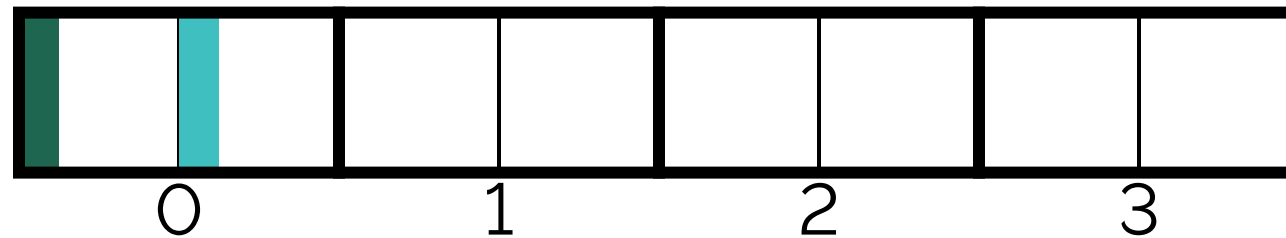


- Same bucket, but different cache lines for each number!



Offset = 4096B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000
B	..1000001	0000000	0000000
C	..1000010	0000000	0000000
D	..1000011	0000000	0000000



- Same bucket, but different cache lines for each number!
- Bucket full => evictions necessary



How to measure?

`l1d.replacement`

How many times was a cache line loaded into L1?



How to measure?

l1d.replacement

How many times was a cache line loaded into L1?

```
$ perf stat -e l1d.replacement ./example1  
4B      offset ->      149 558  
4096B   offset -> 426 218 383
```



Code (backup)

```
float F = static_cast<float>(std::stof(argv[1]));  
std::vector<float> data(4 * 1024 * 1024, 1);  
  
for (int r = 0; r < 100; r++)  
{  
    for (auto& item: data)  
    {  
        item *= F;  
    }  
}
```

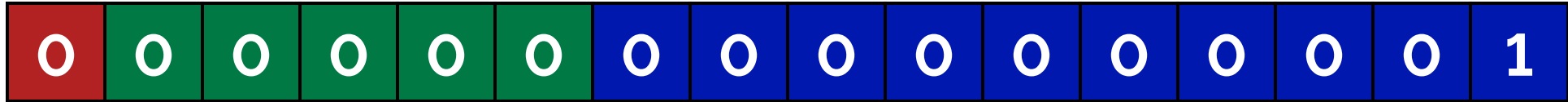


Result (backup)

```
> time -p ./example2 0
real 0,12
user 0,12
sys 0,00
> time -p ./example2 0.1
real 0,47
user 0,46
sys 0,00
> time -p ./example2 0.3
real 0,70
user 0,69
sys 0,00
```



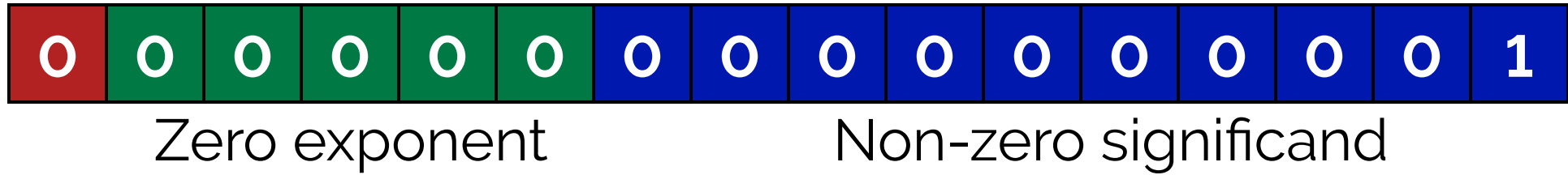
Denormal floating point numbers



$$(-1)^0 * 2^{00000-01110} * 0.000000000001$$



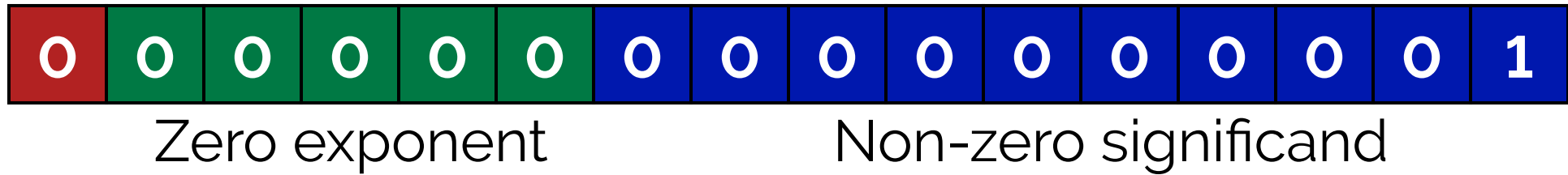
Denormal floating point numbers



$$(-1)^0 * 2^{00000-01110} * 0.0000000001$$



Denormal floating point numbers

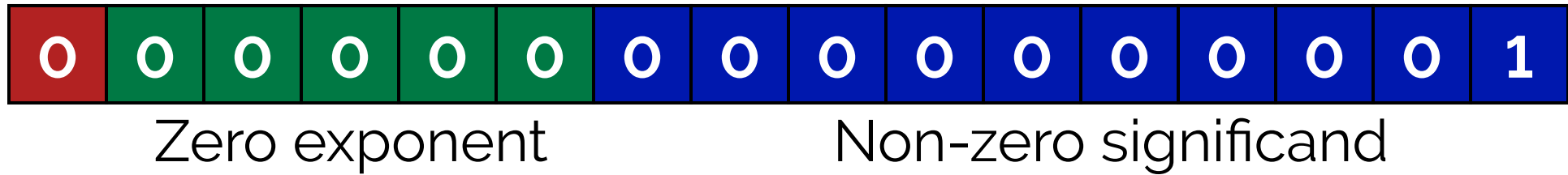


$$(-1)^0 * 2^{00000-01110} * 0.00000000001$$

- Numbers close to zero
- Hidden bit = 0, smaller bias



Denormal floating point numbers



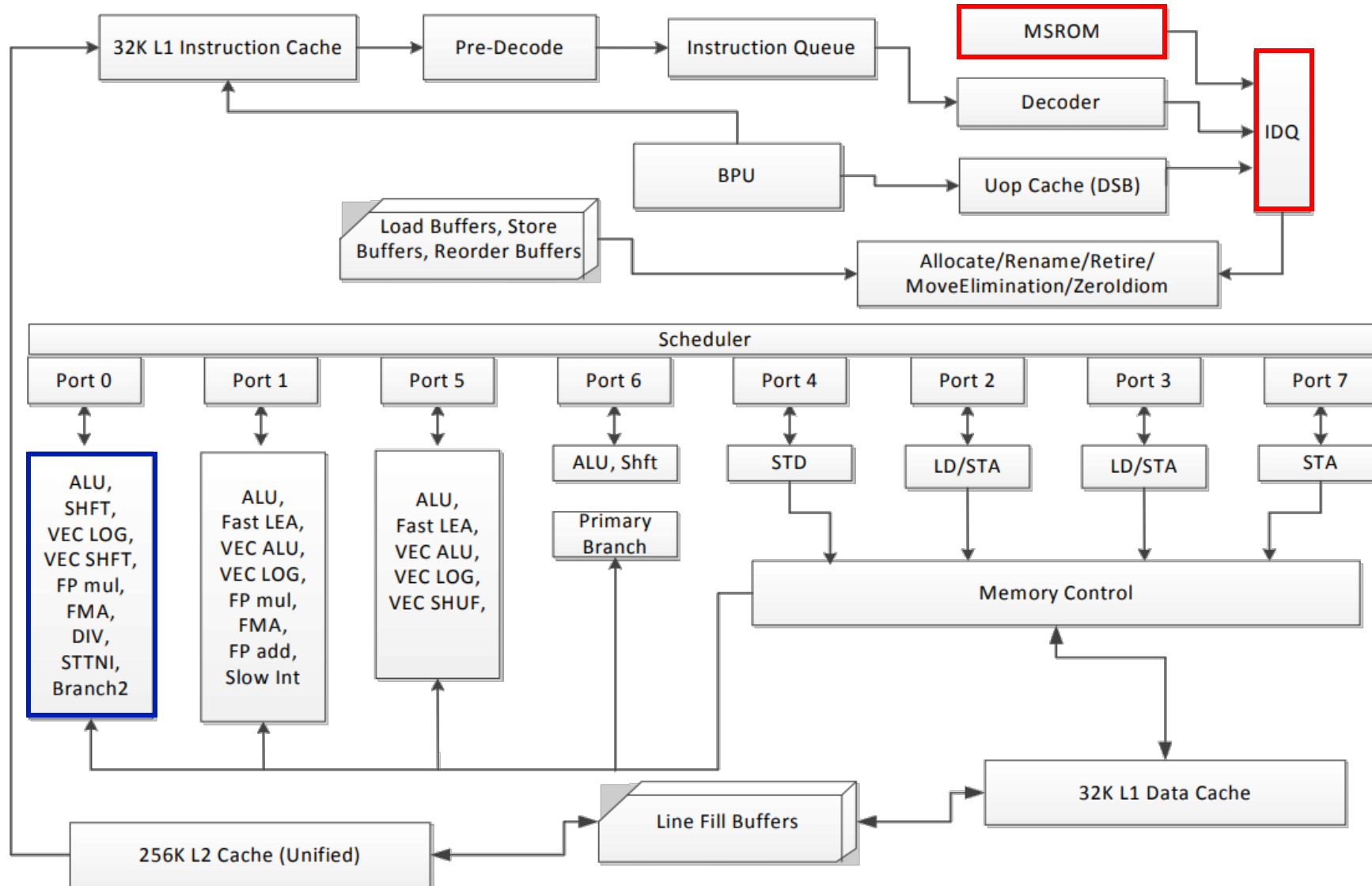
$$(-1)^0 * 2^{00000-01110} * 0.00000000001$$

- Numbers close to zero
- Hidden bit = 0, smaller bias

Operations on denormal numbers are slow!



Floating point handling



How to measure?

`fp_assist.any`

How many times the CPU switched to the microcode FP handler?



How to measure?

fp_assist.any

How many times the CPU switched to the microcode FP handler?

```
$ perf stat -e fp_assist.any ./example2
0      ->      0
0.3    -> 15 728 640
```



How to fix it?

- The nuclear option: `-ffast-math`
 - Sacrifice correctness to gain more FP performance



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- Set CPU flags:
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 - Denormals-to-zero - treat denormal inputs as 0



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- The nuclear option: `-ffast-math`
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 - Denormals-to-zero - treat denormal inputs as 0

```
_mm_setcsr(_mm_getcsr() | 0x8040);  
// or  
_MM_SET_FLUSH_ZERO_MODE(_MM_FLUSH_ZERO_ON);  
_MM_SET_DENORMALS_ZERO_MODE(_MM_DENORMALS_ZERO_ON);
```



There are many other effects

- NUMA
- 4k aliasing
- Misaligned accesses, cache line boundaries
- Instruction data dependencies
- Software prefetching
- Non-temporal stores & cache pollution
- Bandwidth saturation
- DRAM refresh intervals
- AVX/SSE transition penalty
- ...



Thank you!

For more examples visit:
`github.com/kobzol/hardware-effects`

Jakub Beránek

SlideDeck built with `github.com/spirali/elsie`



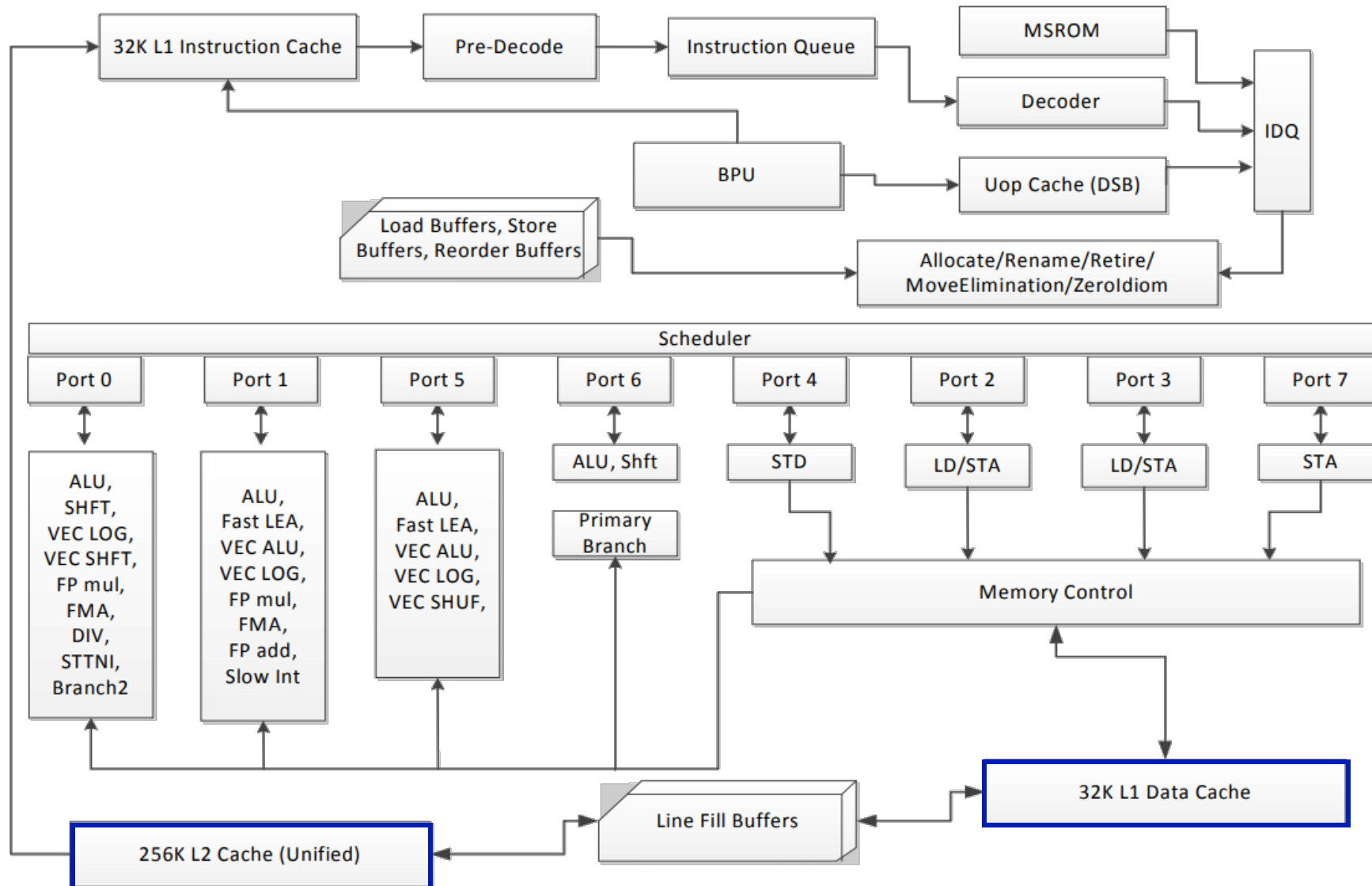
Code (backup)

```
// tid - [0, NO_OF_THREADS)  
void thread_fn(int tid, double* data)  
{  
    size_t repetitions = 1024 * 1024 * 1024UL;  
    for (size_t i = 0; i < repetitions; i++)  
    {  
        data[tid] *= i;  
    }  
}
```

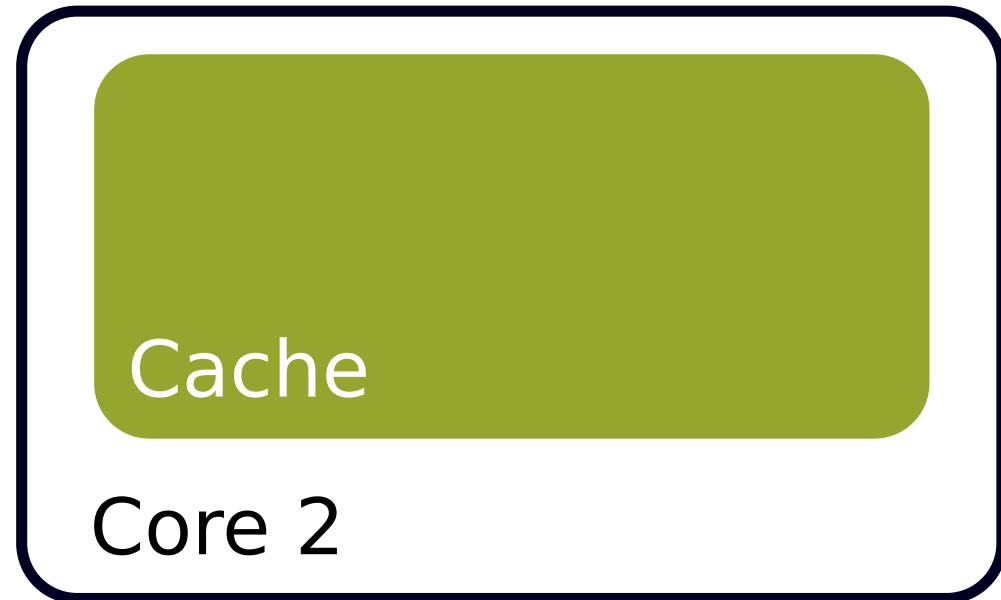
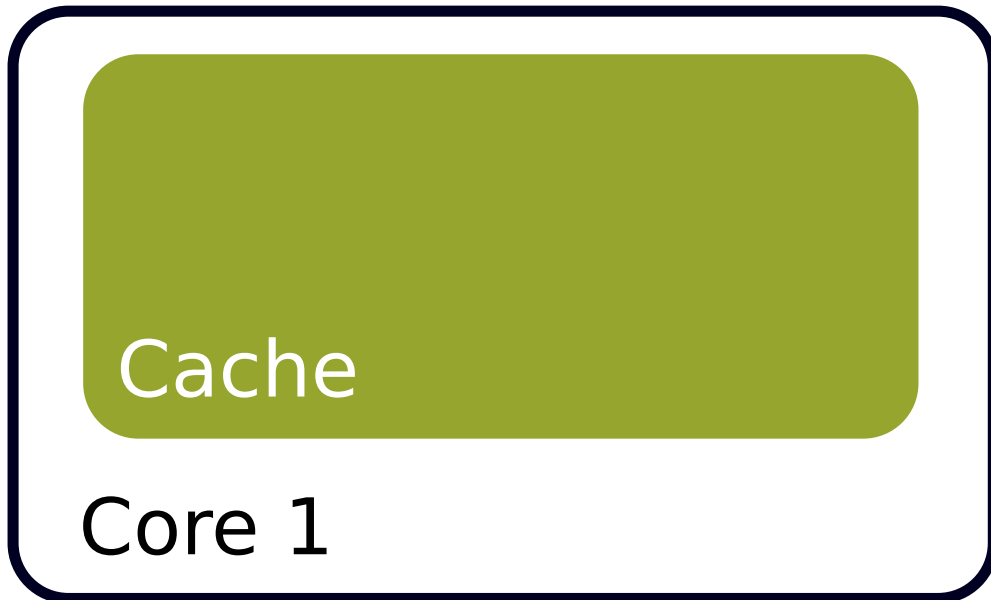
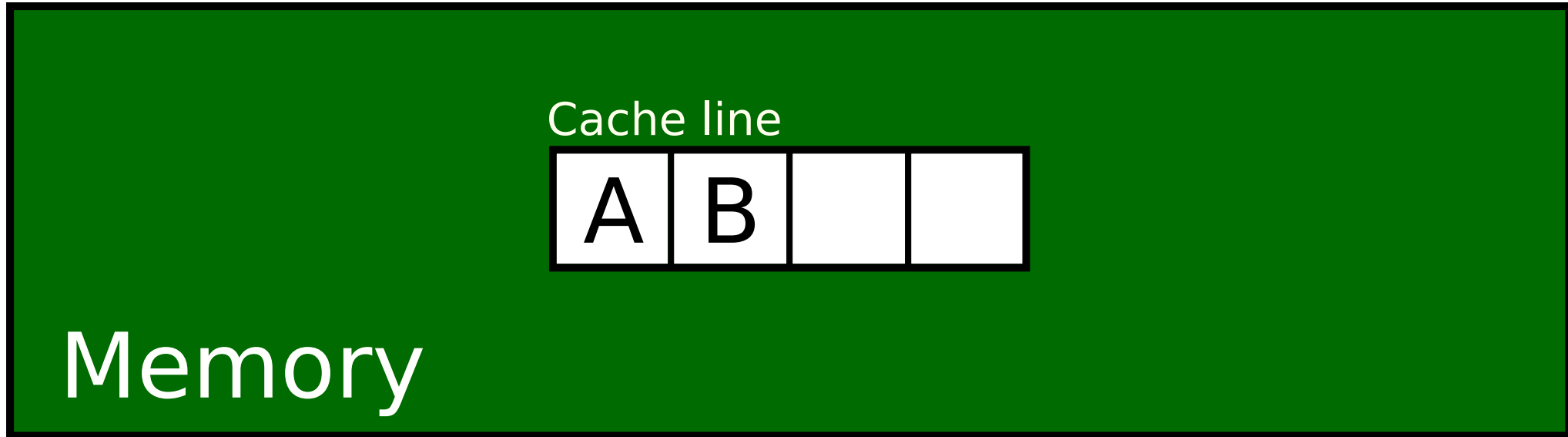

Result (backup)

```
> time -p ./example2 1
real 2,60
user 2,60
sys 0,00
> time -p ./example2 2
real 2,92
user 5,83
sys 0,00
> time -p ./example2 3
real 3,15
user 9,04
sys 0,01
> time -p ./example2 4
real 3,39
user 13,44
sys 0,00
```

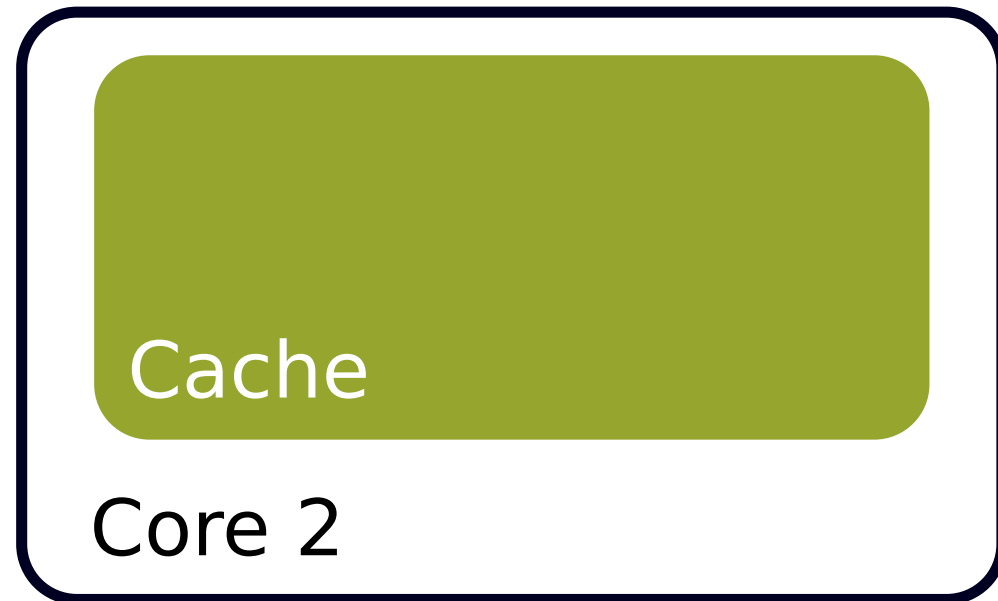
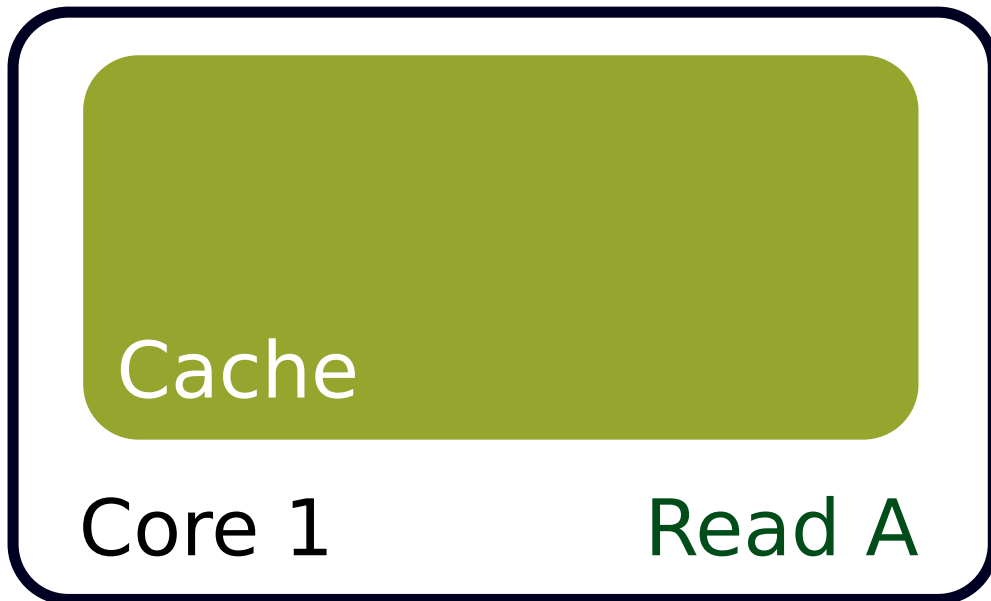
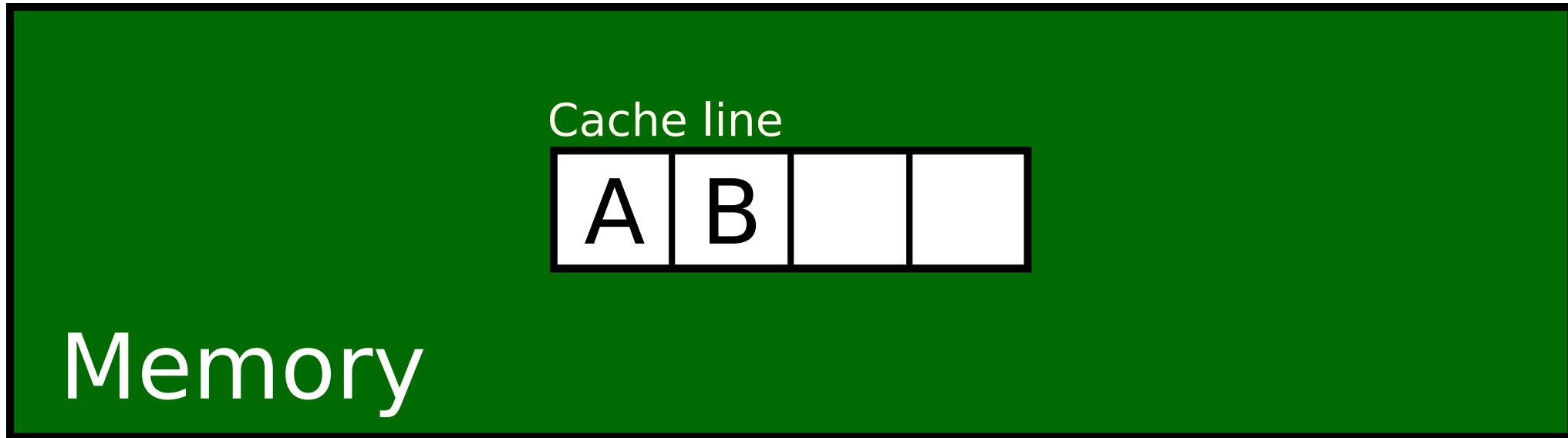
Cache system



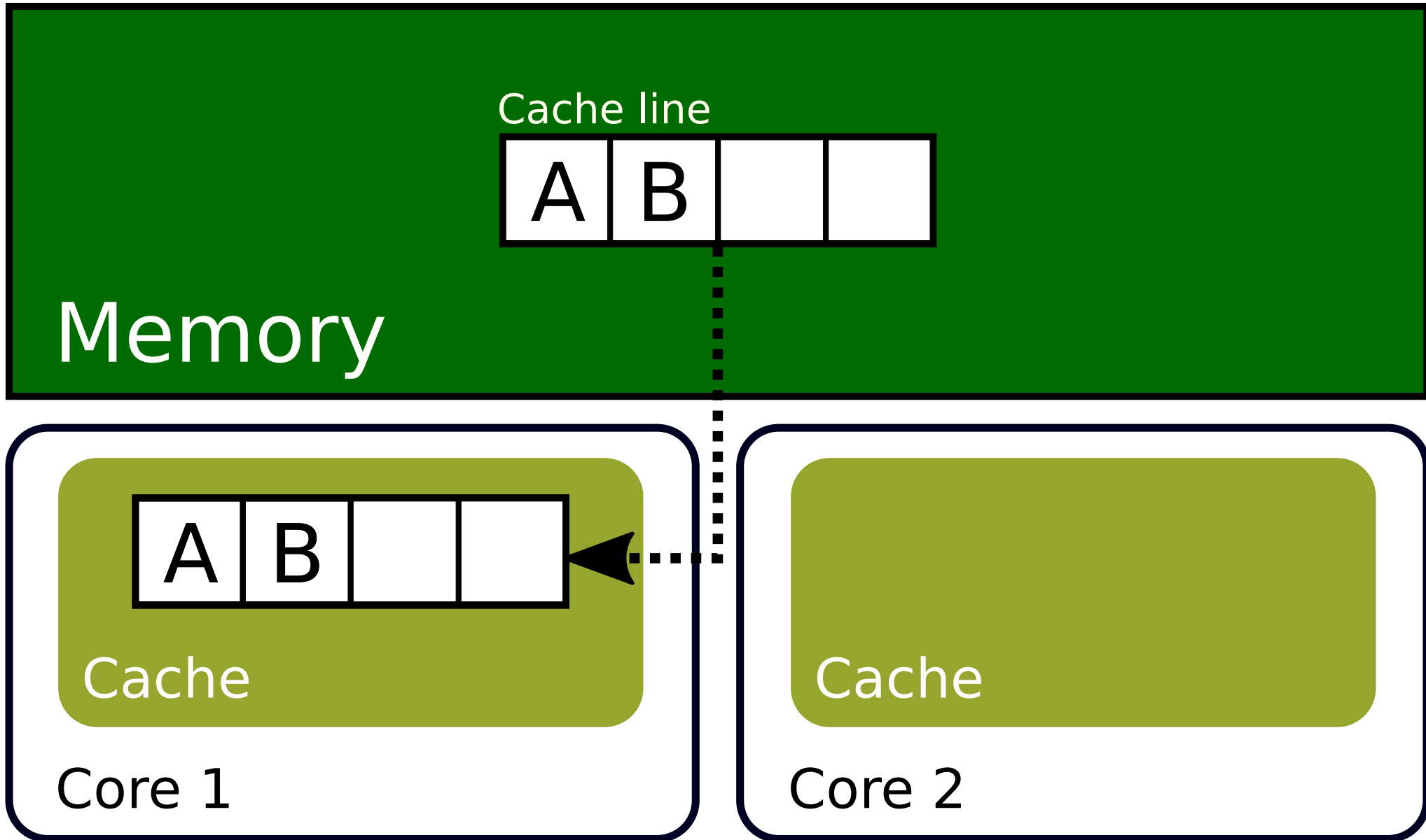
Cache coherency



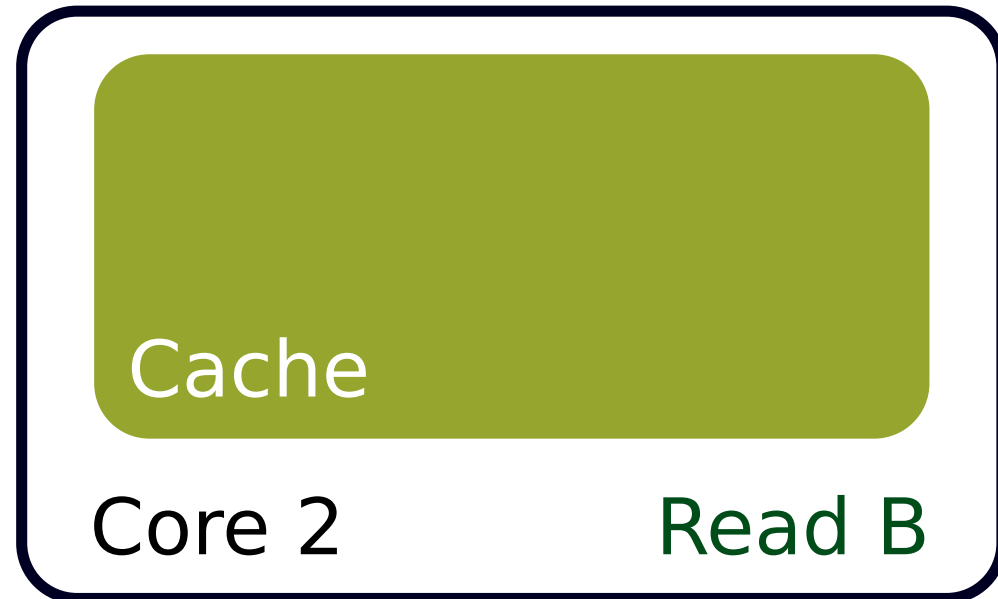
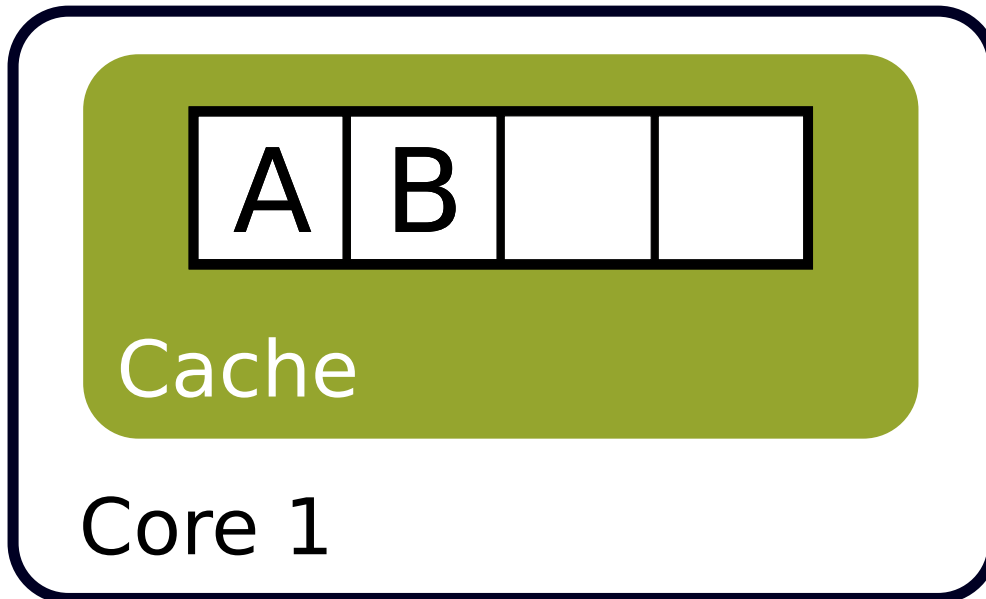
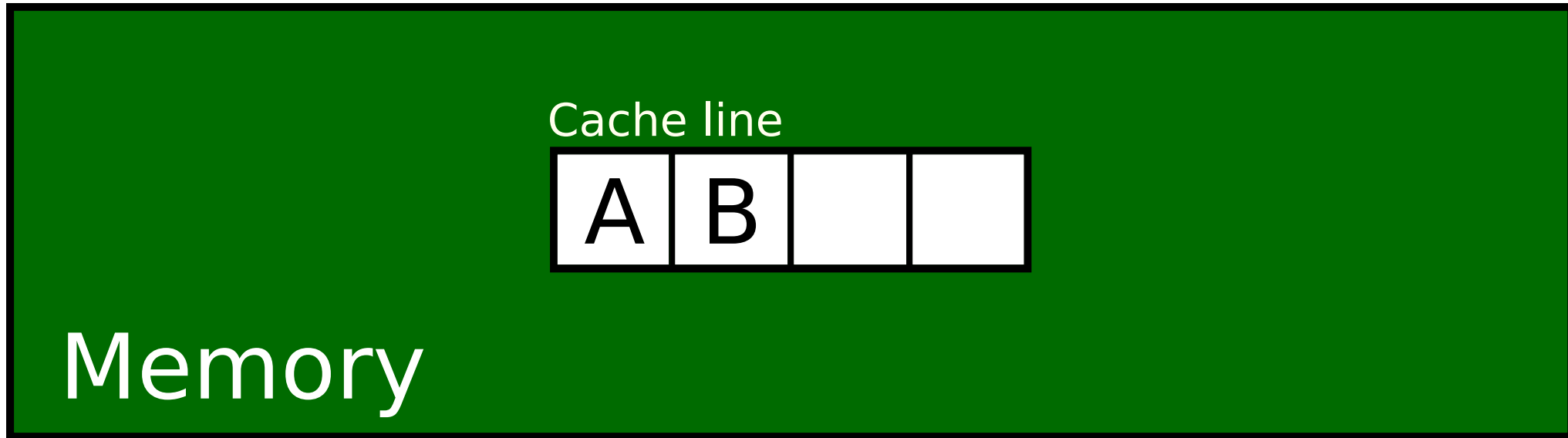
Cache coherency



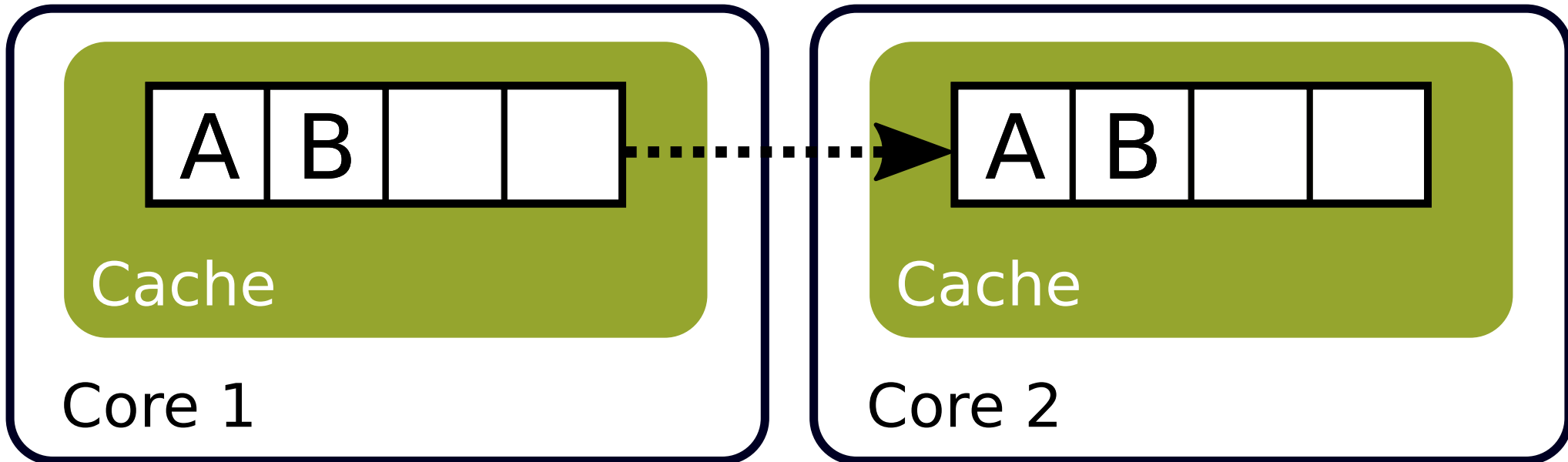
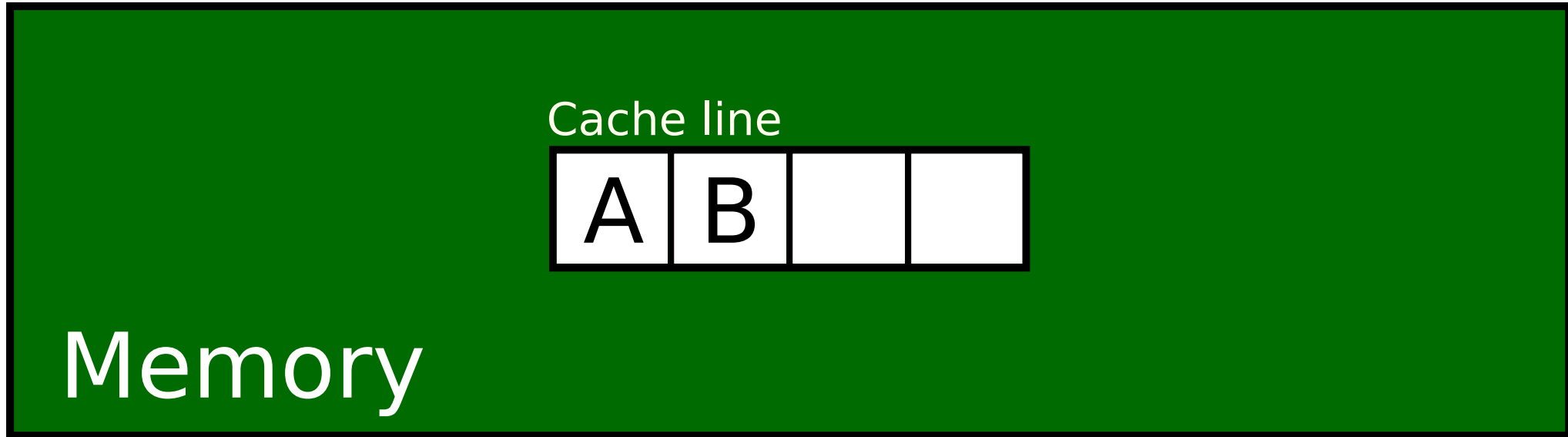
Cache coherency



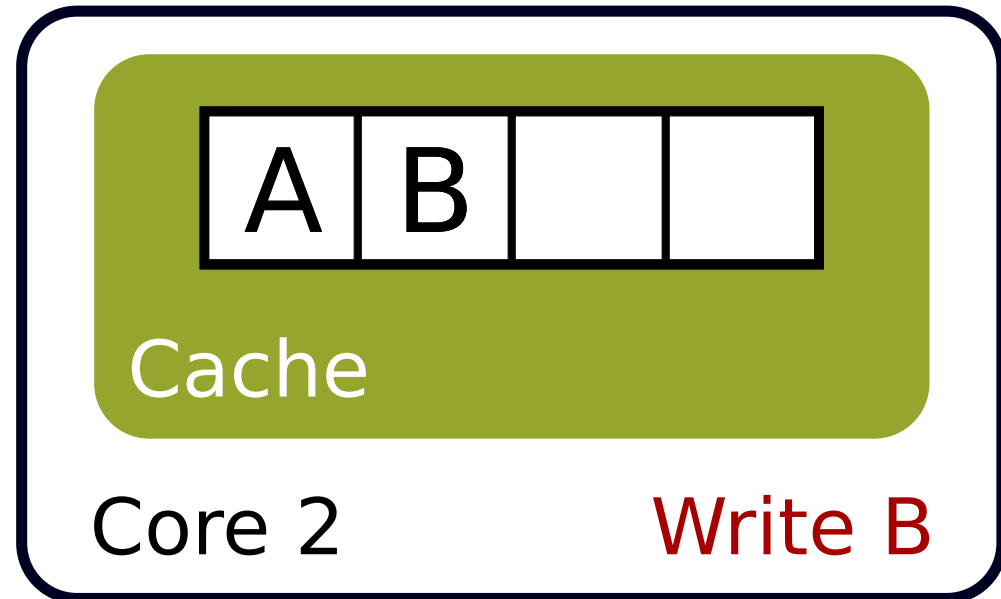
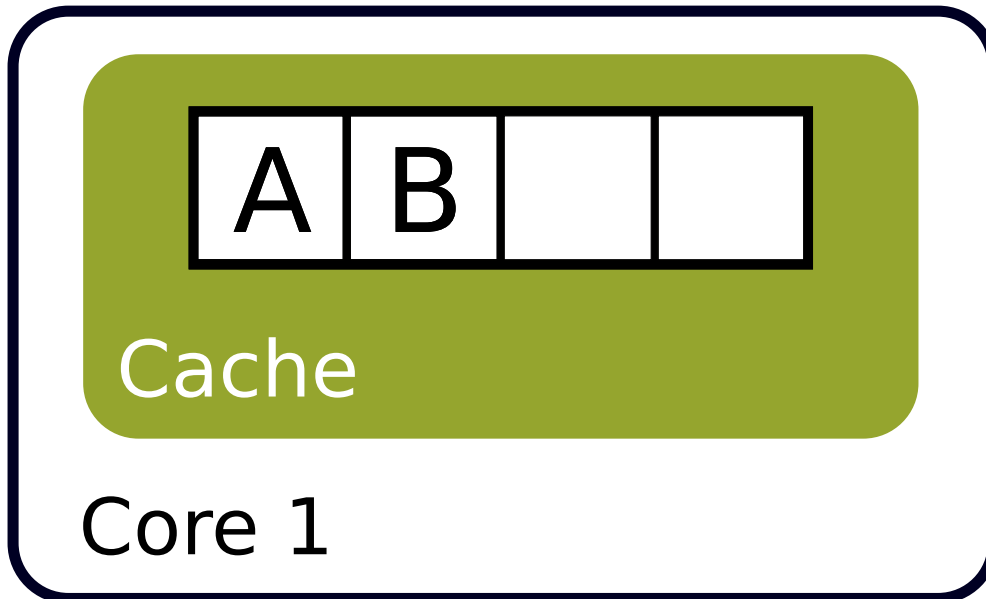
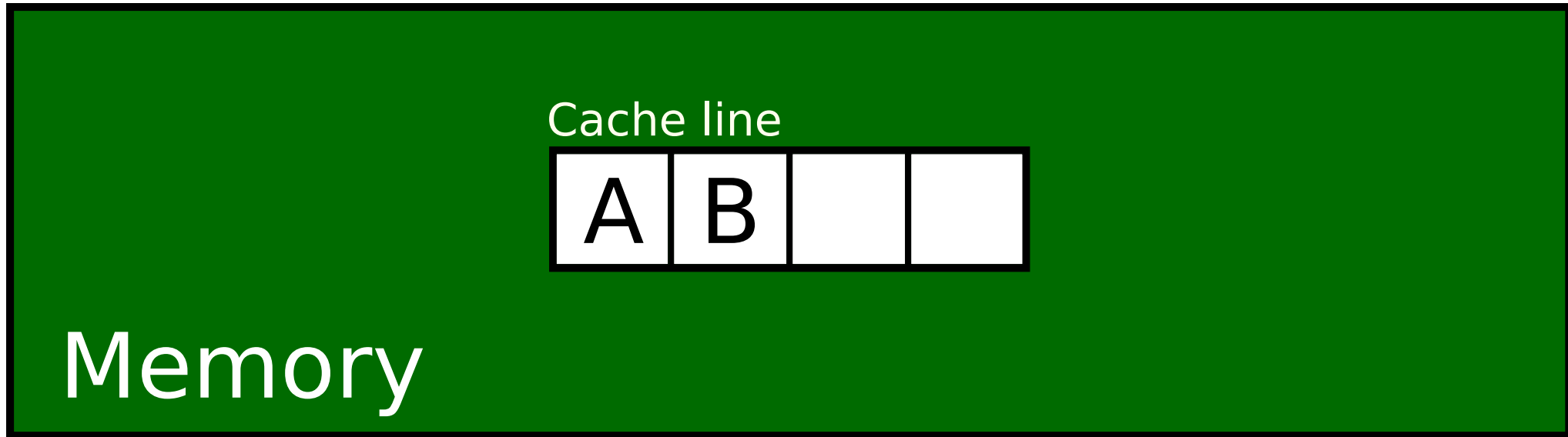
Cache coherency



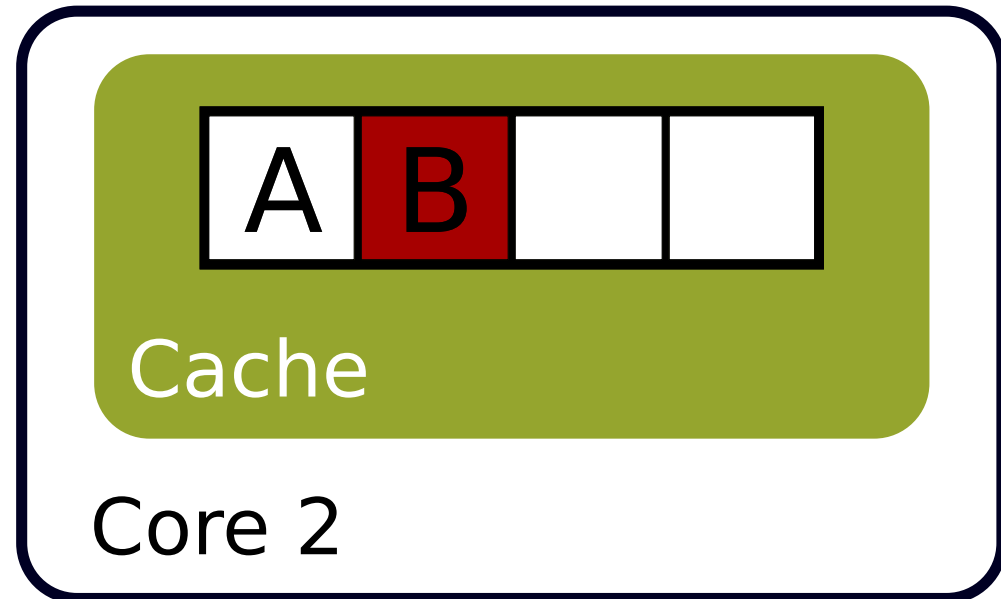
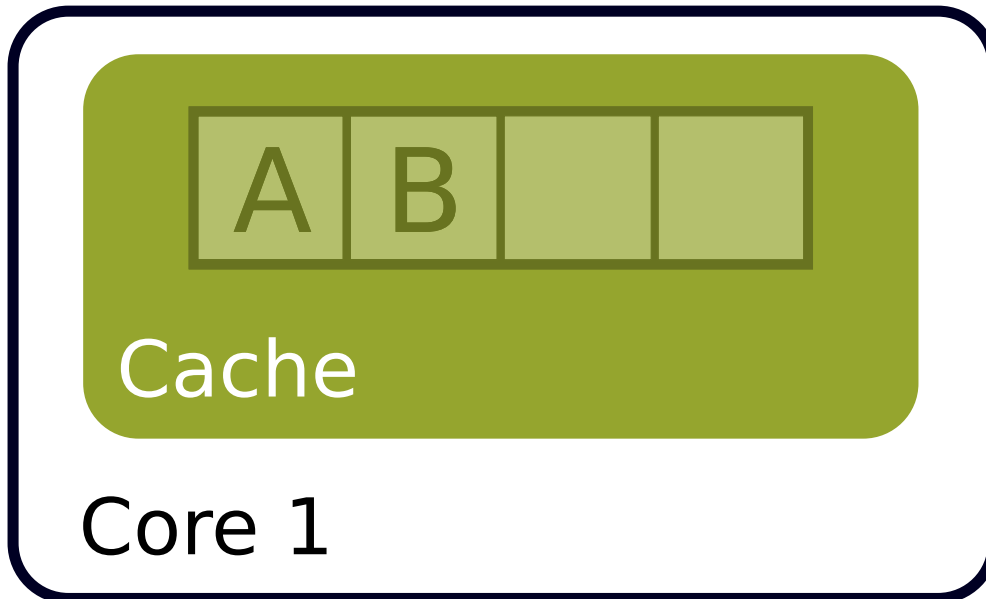
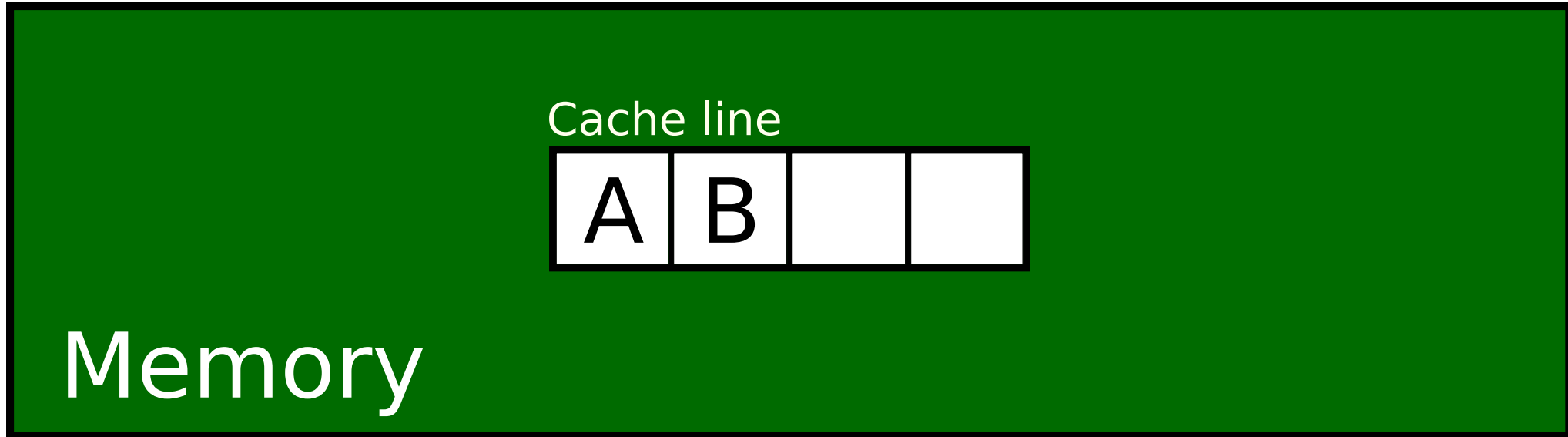
Cache coherency



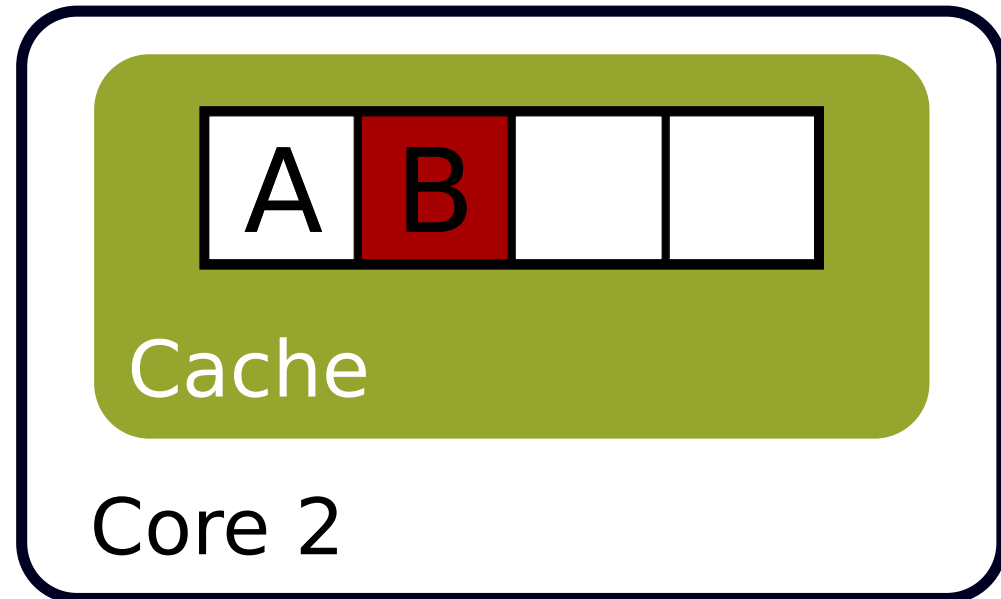
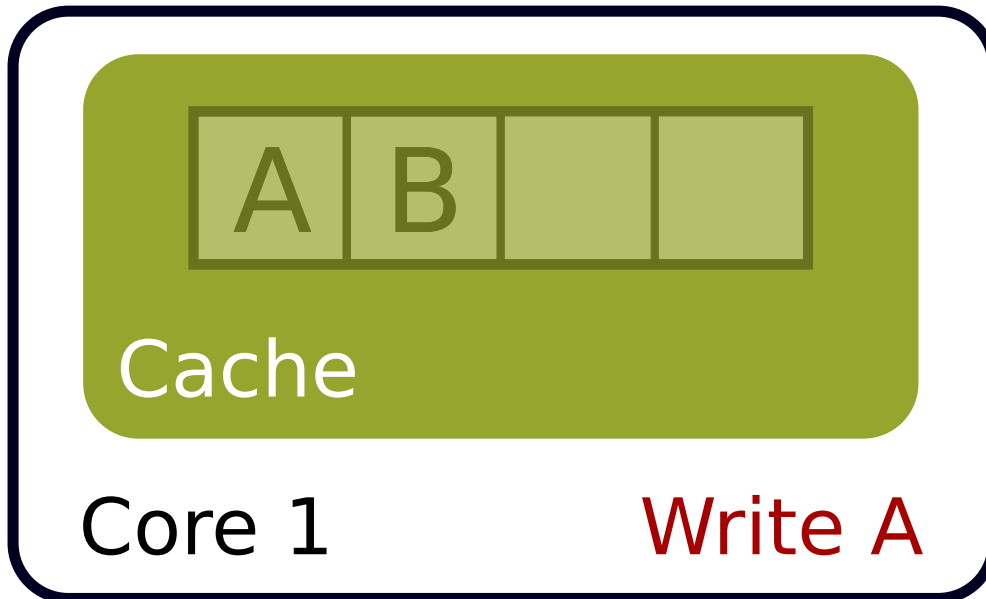
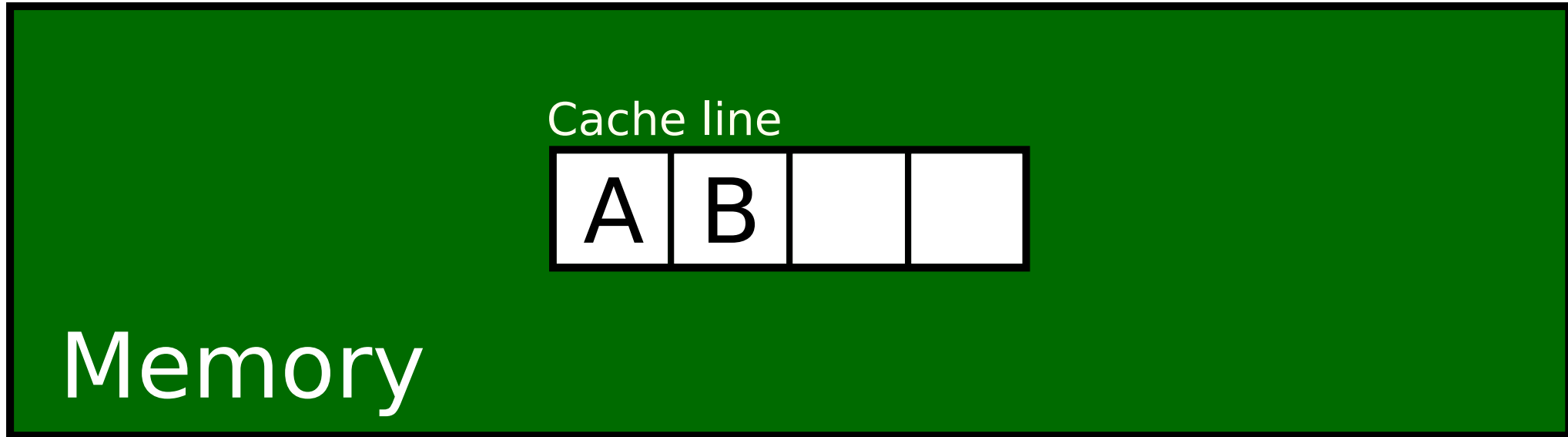
Cache coherency



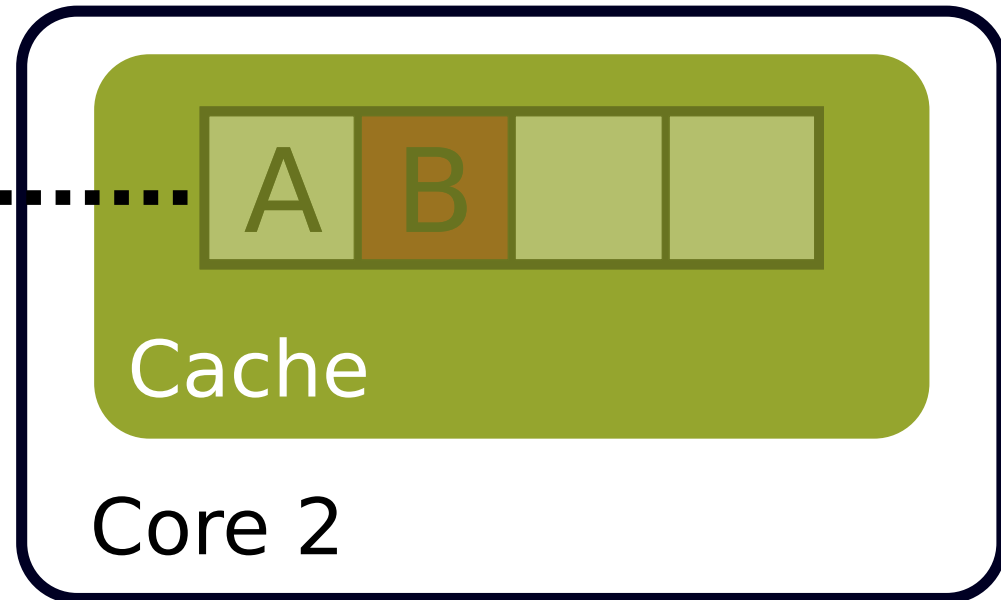
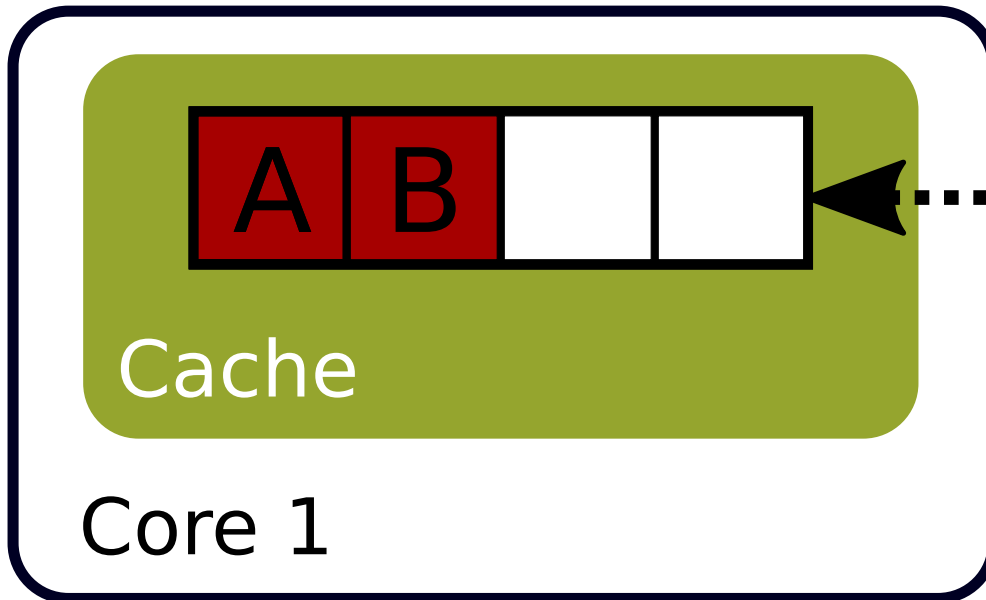
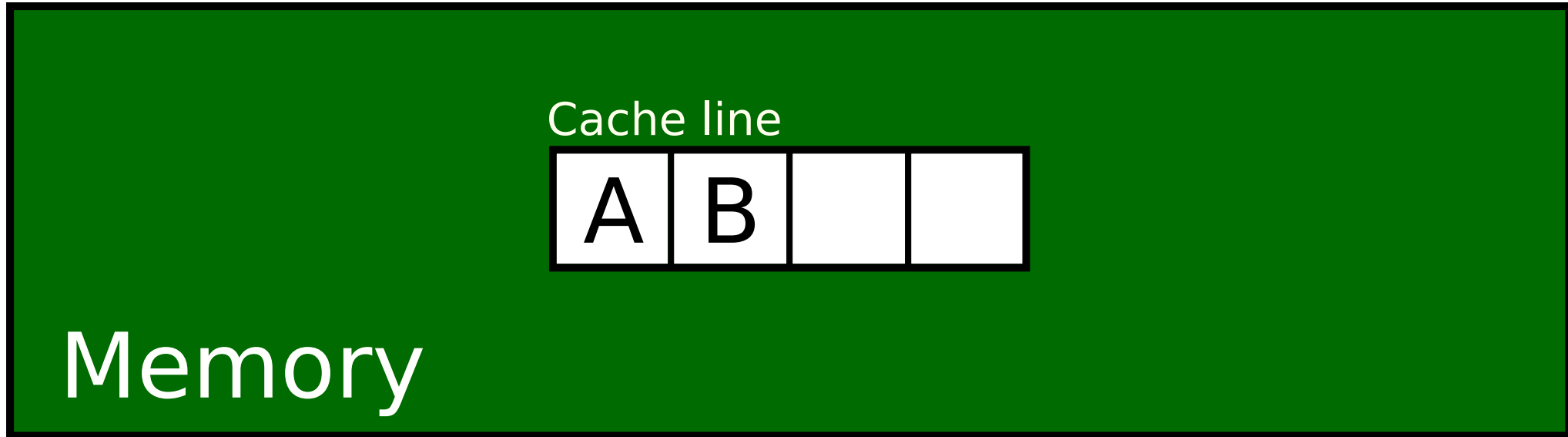
Cache coherency



Cache coherency

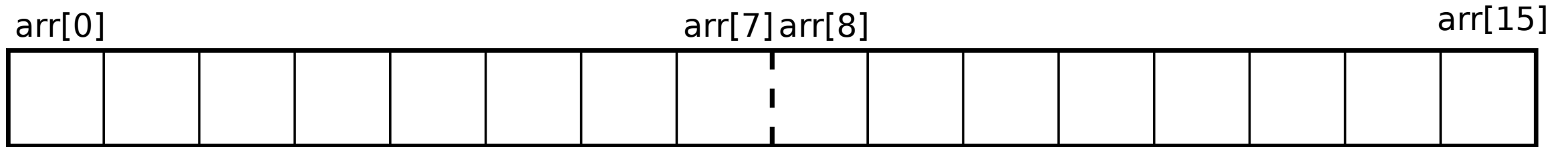


Cache coherency



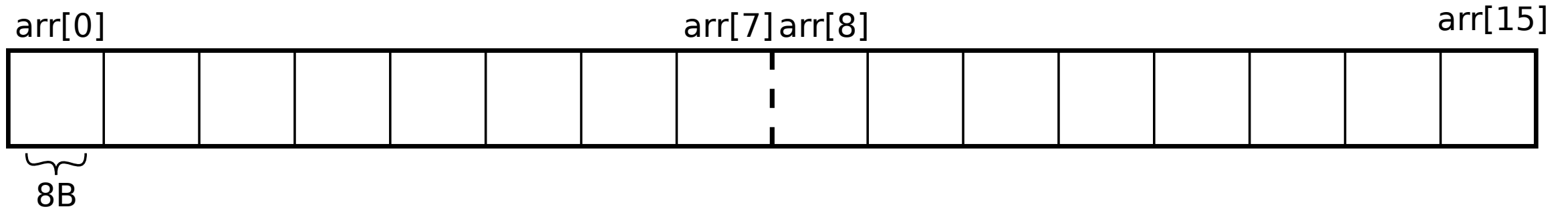
False sharing

double arr[16];



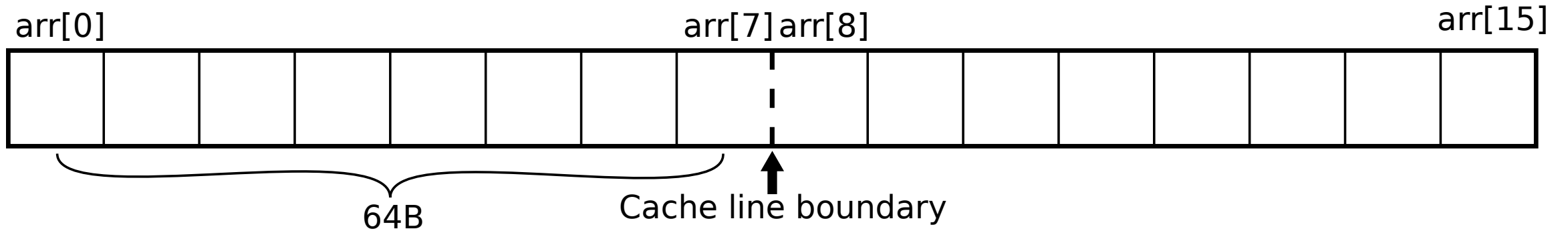
False sharing

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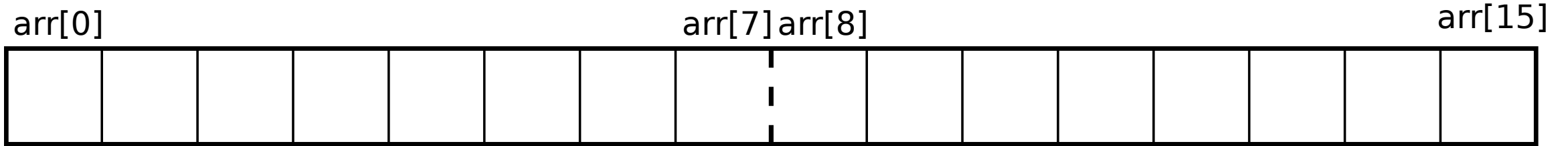
False sharing

`double arr[16];`



False sharing

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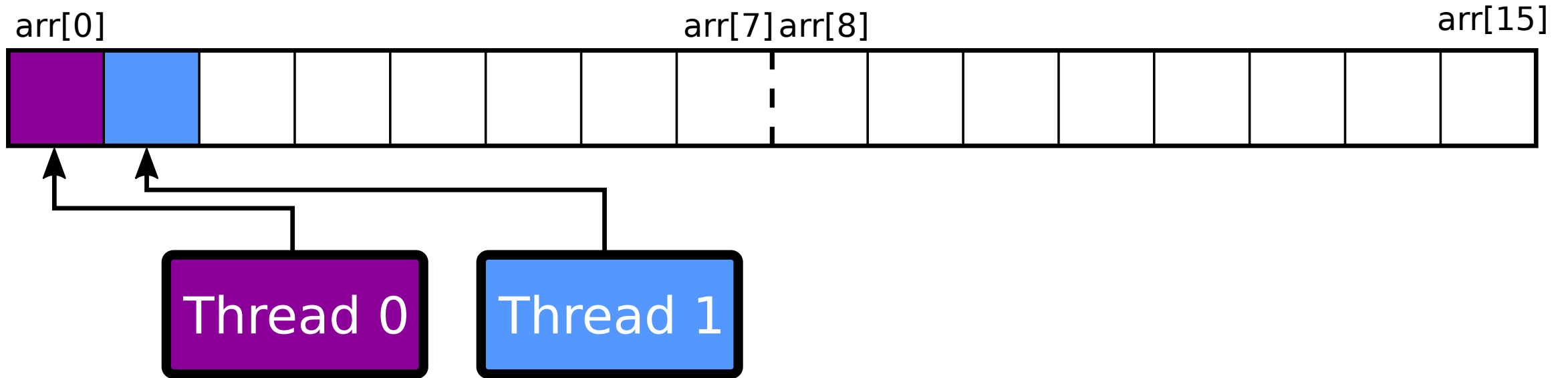


Thread 0

Thread 1

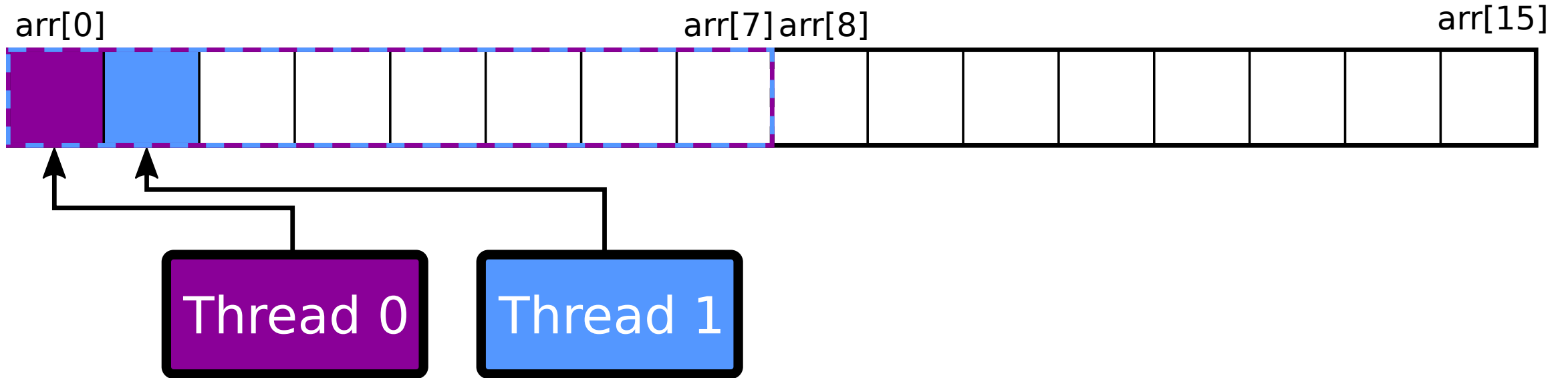
False sharing

`double arr[16];`



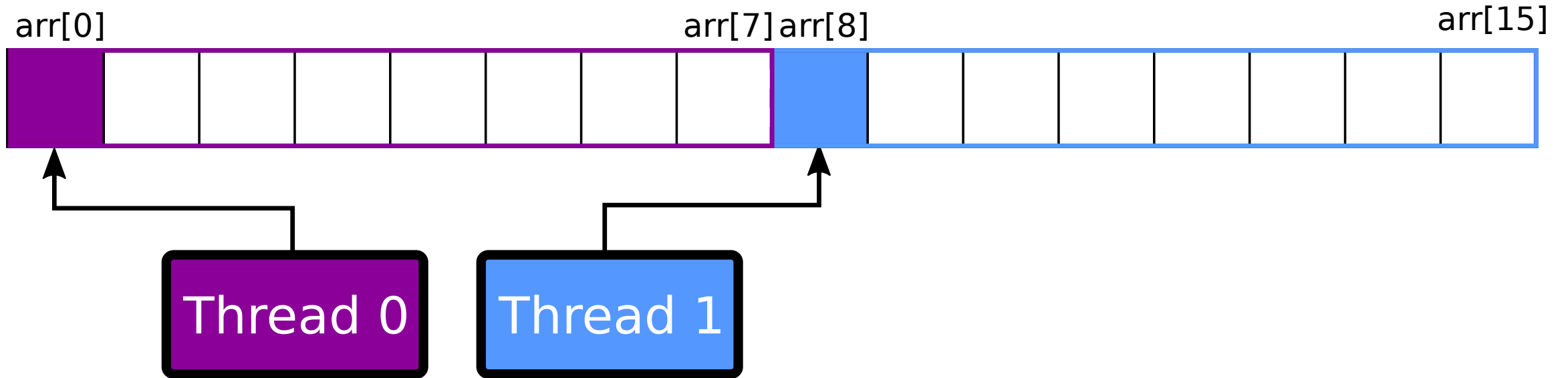
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How to measure?

`l2_rqsts.all_rfo`

How many times some core invalidated data in other cores?

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How many times some core invalidated data in other cores?

```
$ perf stat -e l2_rqsts.all_rfo ./example3
1 thread      ->          59 711
2 threads     -> 1 112 258 710
```