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UCB CS61C : Machine Structures

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Lecture 32 – Caches III

2010-04-14

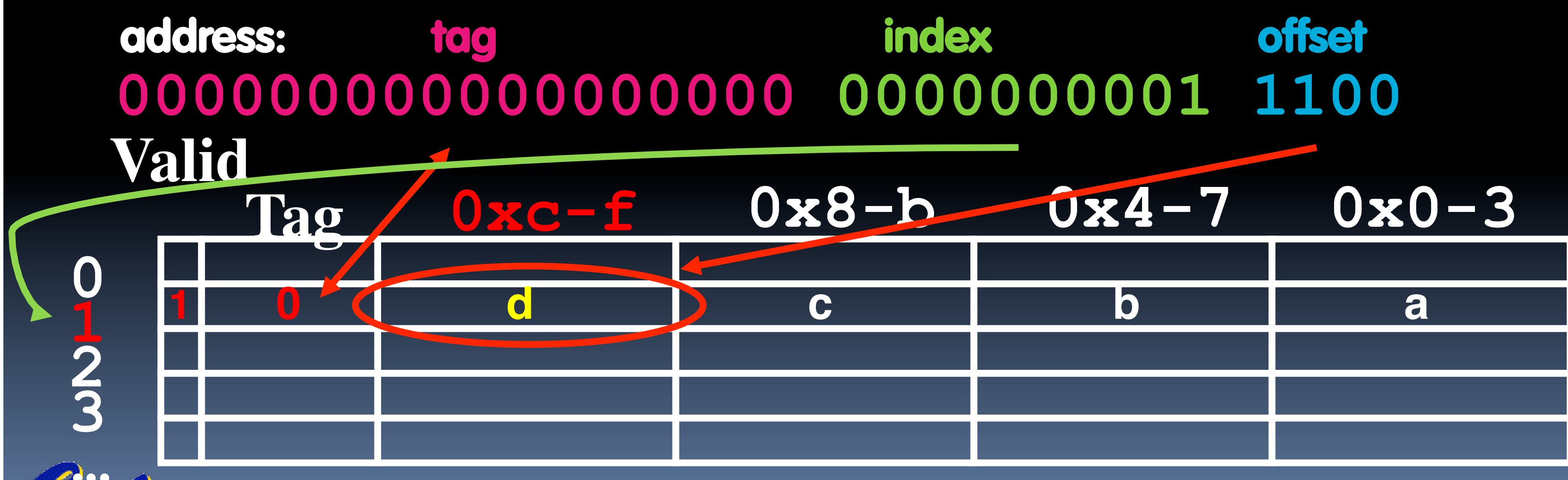
MICROSOFT OFFICE 2010 FREE ON CLOUD

In an attempt to stem the tide of corporate users moving their data to Google Docs, Microsoft will offer free (ad-supported) versions of their software that runs on the web. MS gets 60% profits from Office Suite, it's scramble time!

technologyreview.com/web/25029/

Review

- **Mechanism for transparent movement of data among levels of a storage hierarchy**
  - set of address/value bindings
  - address ⇒ index to set of candidates
  - compare desired address with tag
  - service hit or miss
    - load new block and binding on miss



What to do on a write hit?

- **Write-through**
  - update the word in cache block and corresponding word in memory
- **Write-back**
  - update word in cache block
  - allow memory word to be "stale"
  - ⇒ add 'dirty' bit to each block indicating that memory needs to be updated when block is replaced
  - ⇒ OS flushes cache before I/O…
- **Performance trade-offs?**

Block Size Tradeoff (1/3)

- **Benefits of Larger Block Size**
  - Spatial Locality: if we access a given word, we're likely to access other nearby words soon
  - Very applicable with Stored-Program Concept: if we execute a given instruction, it's likely that we'll execute the next few as well
  - Works nicely in sequential array accesses too

Block Size Tradeoff (2/3)

- **Drawbacks of Larger Block Size**
  - Larger block size means larger miss penalty
    - on a miss, takes longer time to load a new block from next level
  - If block size is too big relative to cache size, then there are too few blocks
    - Result: miss rate goes up
- **In general, minimize**
  Average Memory Access Time (AMAT)

  = Hit Time

  + Miss Penalty x Miss Rate

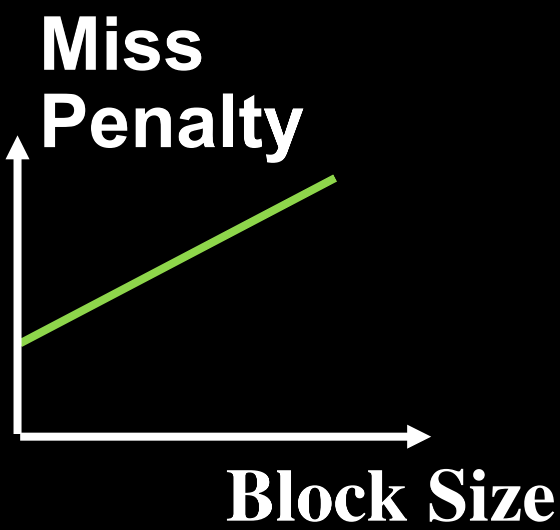
Block Size Tradeoff (3/3)

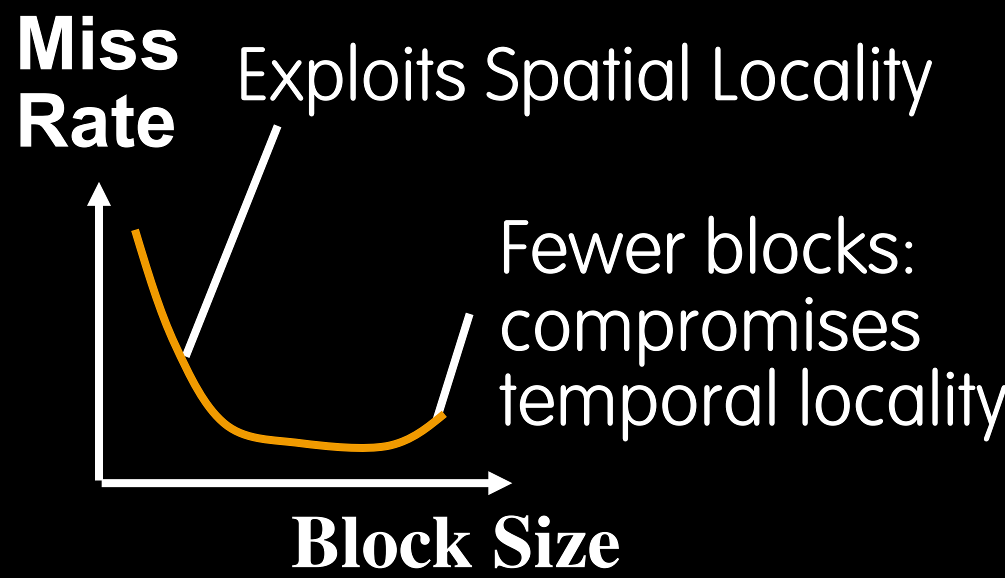
- **Hit Time**
  - time to find and retrieve data from current level cache
- **Miss Penalty**
  - average time to retrieve data on a current level miss (includes the possibility of misses on successive levels of memory hierarchy)
- **Hit Rate**
  - % of requests that are found in current level cache
- **Miss Rate**
  - 1 - Hit Rate

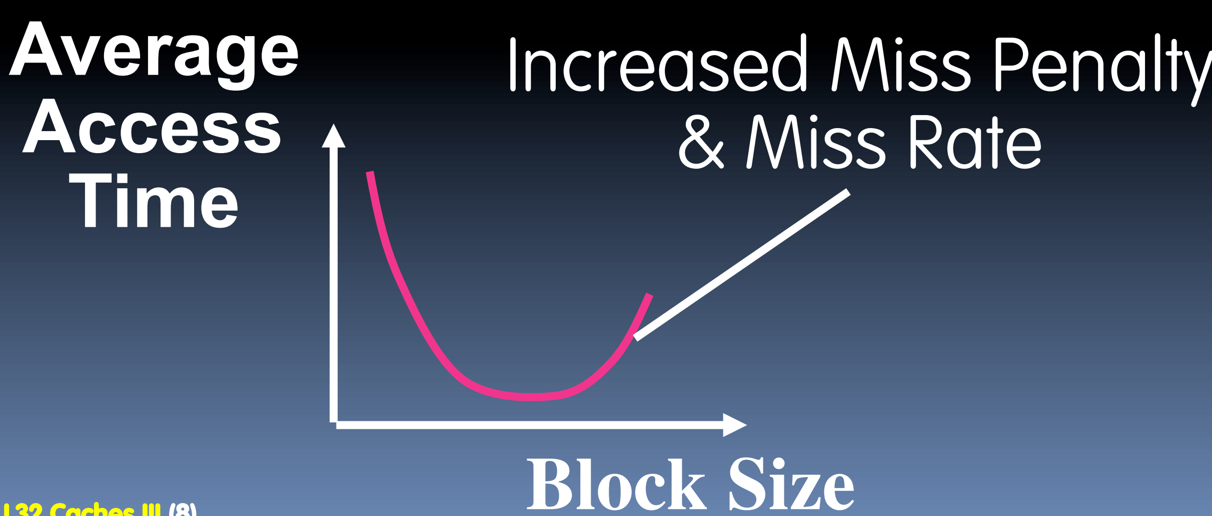
Extreme Example: One Big Block

- Cache Size = 4 bytes   Block Size = 4 bytes
  - Only ONE entry (row) in the cache!
- If item accessed, likely accessed again soon
  - But unlikely will be accessed again immediately!
- The next access will likely to be a miss again
  - Continually loading data into the cache but discard data (force out) before use it again
  - Nightmare for cache designer: Ping Pong Effect

Block Size Tradeoff Conclusions







Types of Cache Misses (1/2)

- "Three Cs" Model of Misses
- 1st C: Compulsory Misses
  - occur when a program is first started
  - cache does not contain any of that program's data yet, so misses are bound to occur
  - can't be avoided easily, so won't focus on these in this course

Types of Cache Misses (2/2)

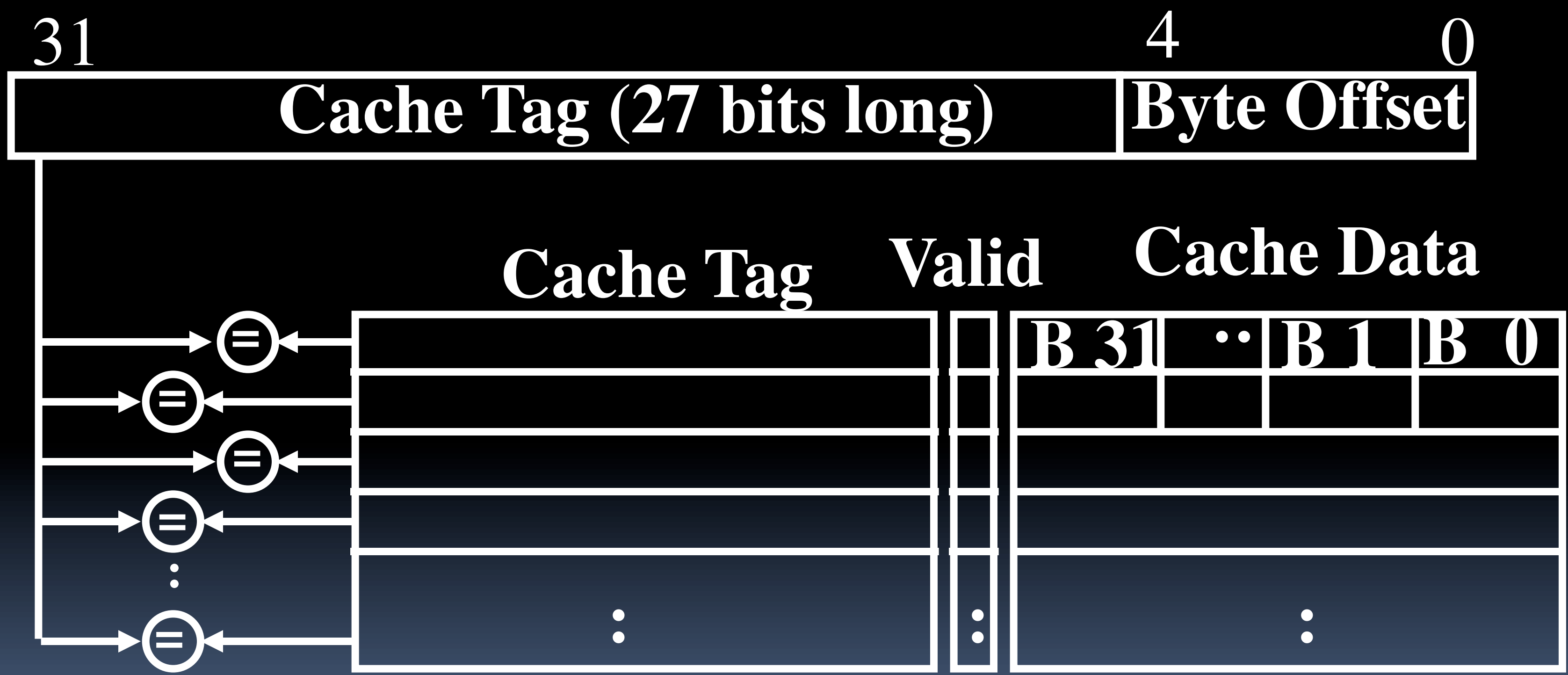
- 2nd C: **Conflict Misses**
  - miss that occurs because two distinct memory addresses map to the same cache location
  - two blocks (which happen to map to the same location) can keep overwriting each other
  - big problem in direct-mapped caches
  - how do we lessen the effect of these?
- **Dealing with Conflict Misses**
  - Solution 1: Make the cache size bigger
    - Fails at some point
  - Solution 2: Multiple distinct blocks can fit in the same cache Index?

Fully Associative Cache (1/3)

- **Memory address fields:**
  - Tag: same as before
  - Offset: same as before
  - Index: non-existant
- **What does this mean?**
  - no "rows": any block can go anywhere in the cache
  - must compare with all tags in entire cache to see if data is there

Fully Associative Cache (2/3)

- **Fully Associative Cache (e.g., 32 B block)**
  - compare tags in parallel



Fully Associative Cache (3/3)

- **Benefit of Fully Assoc Cache**
  - No Conflict Misses (since data can go anywhere)
- **Drawbacks of Fully Assoc Cache**
  - Need hardware comparator for every single entry: if we have a 64KB of data in cache with 4B entries, we need 16K comparators: infeasible

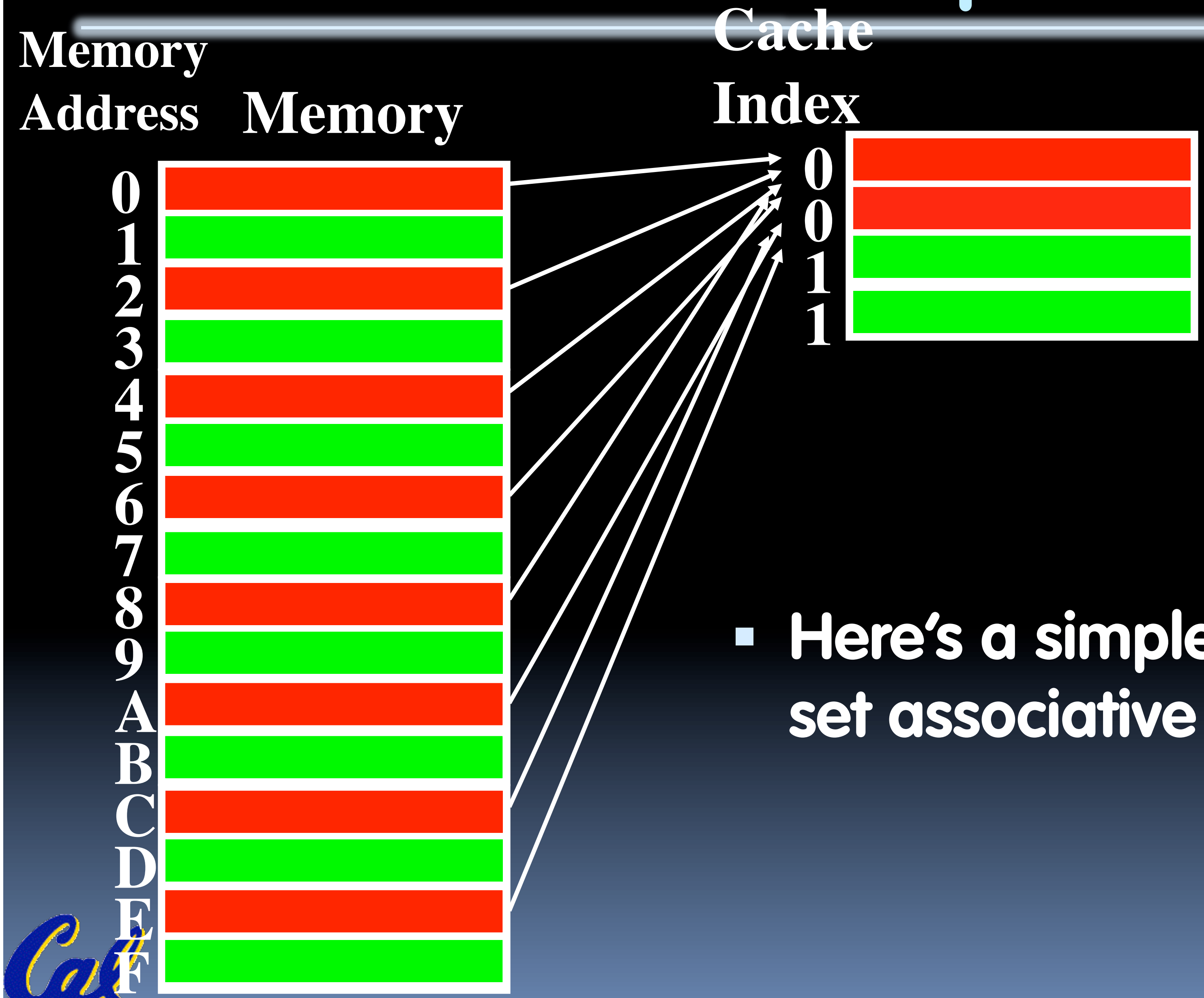
Final Type of Cache Miss

- 3rd C: **Capacity Misses**
  - miss that occurs because the cache has a limited size
  - miss that would not occur if we increase the size of the cache
  - sketchy definition, so just get the general idea
- **This is the primary type of miss for Fully Associative caches.**

N-Way Set Associative Cache (1/3)

- **Memory address fields:**
  - Tag: same as before
  - Offset: same as before
  - Index: points us to the correct "row" (called a set in this case)
- **So what's the difference?**
  - each set contains multiple blocks
  - once we've found correct set, must compare with all tags in that set to find our data

Associative Cache Example



- Here's a simple 2-way set associative cache.

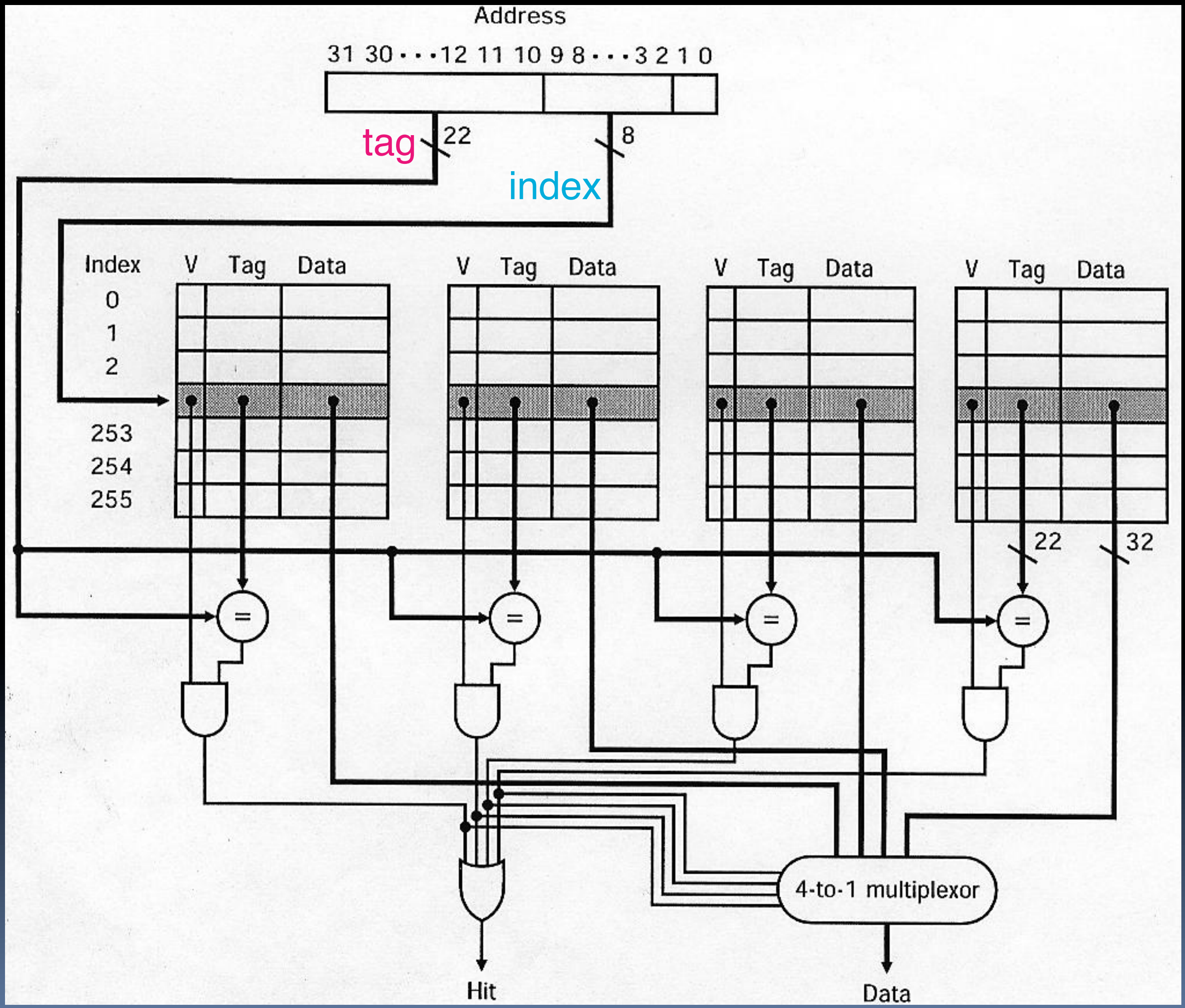
N-Way Set Associative Cache (2/3)

- **Basic Idea**
  - cache is direct-mapped w/respect to sets
  - each set is fully associative with N blocks in it
- **Given memory address:**
  - Find correct set using Index value.
  - Compare Tag with all Tag values in the determined set.
  - If a match occurs, hit!, otherwise a miss.
  - Finally, use the offset field as usual to find the desired data within the block.

N-Way Set Associative Cache (3/3)

- **What's so great about this?**
  - even a 2-way set assoc cache avoids a lot of conflict misses
  - hardware cost isn't that bad: only need N comparators
- **In fact, for a cache with M blocks,**
  - it's Direct-Mapped if it's 1-way set assoc
  - it's Fully Assoc if it's M-way set assoc
  - so these two are just special cases of the more general set associative design

4-Way Set Associative Cache Circuit



Block Replacement Policy

- **Direct-Mapped Cache**
  - index completely specifies position which position a block can go in on a miss
- **N-Way Set Assoc**
  - index specifies a set, but block can occupy any position within the set on a miss
- **Fully Associative**
  - block can be written into any position
- **Question: if we have the choice, where should we write an incoming block?**
  - If there are any locations with valid bit off (empty), then usually write the new block into the first one.
  - If all possible locations already have a valid block, we must pick a replacement policy: rule by which we determine which block gets "cached out" on a miss.

Block Replacement Policy: LRU

- **LRU (Least Recently Used)**
  - Idea: cache out block which has been accessed (read or write) least recently
  - Pro: temporal locality ⇒ recent past use implies likely future use: in fact, this is a very effective policy
  - Con: with 2-way set assoc, easy to keep track (one LRU bit); with 4-way or greater, requires complicated hardware and much time to keep track of this

Block Replacement Example

- We have a 2-way set associative cache with a four word total capacity and one word blocks. We perform the following word accesses (ignore bytes for this problem):

  0, 2, 0, 1, 4, 0, 2, 3, 5, 4

- How many hits and how many misses will there be for the LRU block replacement policy?

Block Replacement Example: LRU

0: miss, bring into set 0 (loc 0)

	loc 0	loc 1
set 0	0	lru
set 1		

2: miss, bring into set 0 (loc 1)

	loc 0	loc 1
set 0	lru 0	2
set 1		

0: hit

	loc 0	loc 1
set 0	0	lru 2
set 1		

1: miss, bring into set 1 (loc 0)

	loc 0	loc 1
set 0	0	lru 2
set 1	1	lru

4: miss, bring into set 0 (loc 1, replace 2)

	loc 0	loc 1
set 0	lru 0	4
set 1	1	lru

0: hit

	loc 0	loc 1
set 0	0	lru 4
set 1	1	lru

Addresses 0, 2, 0, 1, 4, 0, ...

Big Idea

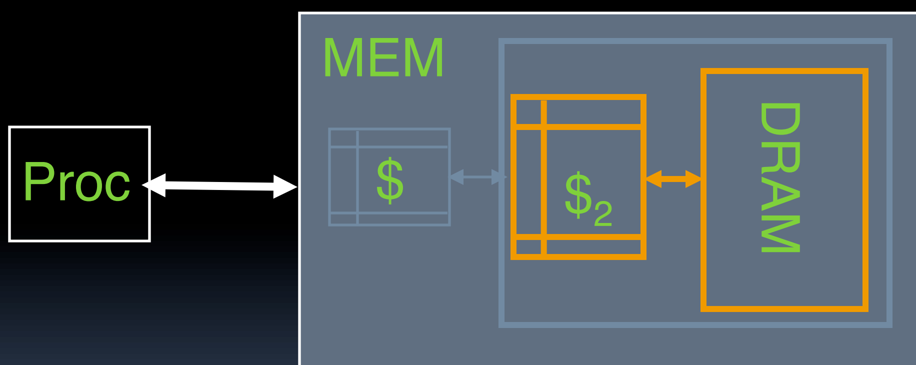
- **How to choose between associativity, block size, replacement & write policy?**
- **Design against a performance model**
  - Minimize: Average Memory Access Time

    = Hit Time

    \+ Miss Penalty x Miss Rate
  - influenced by technology & program behavior
- **Create the illusion of a memory that is large, cheap, and fast - on average**
- **How can we improve miss penalty?**

Improving Miss Penalty

- When caches first became popular, Miss Penalty ~ 10 processor clock cycles
- Today 2400 MHz Processor (0.4 ns per clock cycle) and 80 ns to go to DRAM
  $\Rightarrow$ 200 processor clock cycles!



Solution: another cache between memory and the processor cache: Second Level (L2) Cache

Peer Instruction

1. A 2-way set-associative cache can be outperformed by a direct-mapped cache.
2. Larger block size ⇒ lower miss rate

	12
a)	FF
b)	FT
c)	TF
d)	TT

Peer Instruction Answer

1. Sure, consider the caches from the previous slides with the following workload: 0, 2, 0, 4, 2
   2-way: 0m, 2m, 0h, 4m, 2m;
   DM: 0m, 2m, 0h, 4m, 2h

2. Larger block size ⇒ lower miss rate, true until a certain point, and then the ping-pong effect takes over

1. A 2-way set-associative cache can be outperformed by a direct-mapped cache.
2. Larger block size ⇒ lower miss rate

	12
a)	FF
b)	FT
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d)	TT

And in Conclusion…

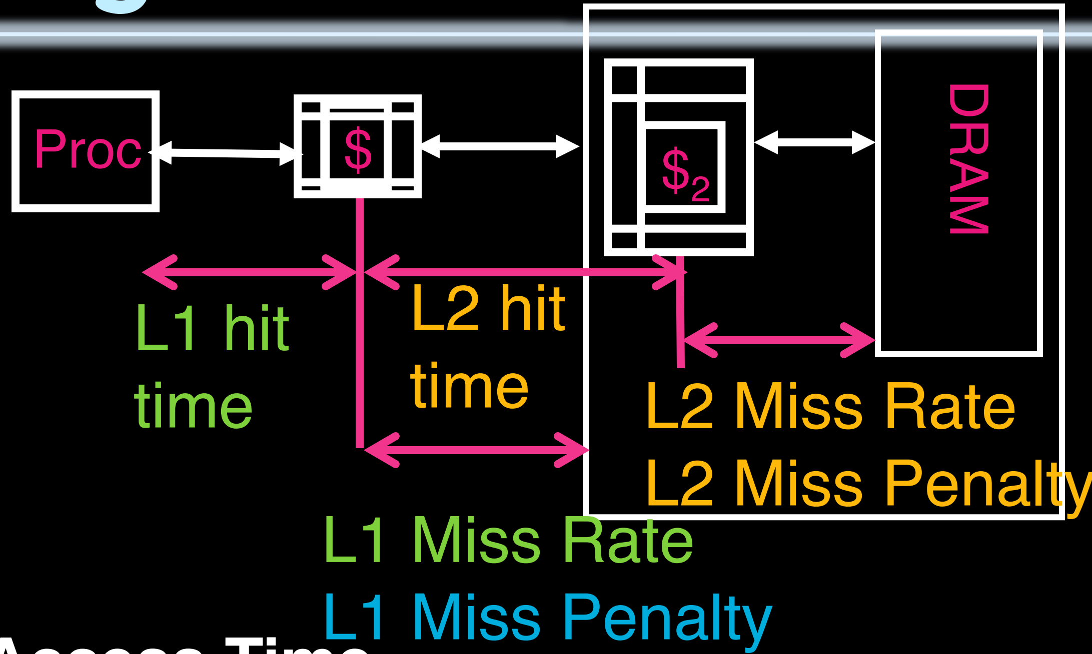
- **We've discussed memory caching in detail. Caching in general shows up over and over in computer systems**
  - Filesystem cache, Web page cache, Game databases / tablebases, Software memoization, Others?
- **Big idea: if something is expensive but we want to do it repeatedly, do it once and cache the result.**
- **Cache design choices:**
  - Size of cache: speed v. capacity
  - Block size (i.e., cache aspect ratio)
  - Write Policy (Write through v. write back
  - Associativity choice of N (direct-mapped v. set v. fully associative)
  - Block replacement policy
  - 2nd level cache?
  - 3rd level cache?
- **Use performance model to pick between choices, depending on programs, technology, budget, ...**

Bonus slides

- These are extra slides that used to be included in lecture notes, but have been moved to this, the “bonus” area to serve as a supplement.
- The slides will appear in the order they would have in the normal presentation

Bonus

Analyzing Multi-level cache hierarchy



Avg Mem Access Time =

L1 Hit Time + L1 Miss Rate * L1 Miss Penalty

L1 Miss Penalty =

L2 Hit Time + L2 Miss Rate * L2 Miss Penalty

Avg Mem Access Time =

L1 Hit Time + L1 Miss Rate *

(L2 Hit Time + L2 Miss Rate * L2 Miss Penalty)

Example

- **Assume**
  - Hit Time = 1 cycle
  - Miss rate = 5%
  - Miss penalty = 20 cycles
  - Calculate AMAT…
- **Avg mem access time**

  = 1 + 0.05 x 20

  = 1 + 1 cycles

  = 2 cycles

Ways to reduce miss rate

- **Larger cache**
  - limited by cost and technology
  - hit time of first level cache < cycle time (bigger caches are slower)
- **More places in the cache to put each block of memory – associativity**
  - fully-associative
    - any block any line
  - N-way set associated
    - N places for each block
    - direct map: N=1

Typical Scale

- **L1**
  - size: tens of KB
  - hit time: complete in one clock cycle
  - miss rates: 1-5%
- **L2:**
  - size: hundreds of KB
  - hit time: few clock cycles
  - miss rates: 10-20%
- **L2 miss rate is fraction of L1 misses that also miss in L2**
  - why so high?

Example: with L2 cache

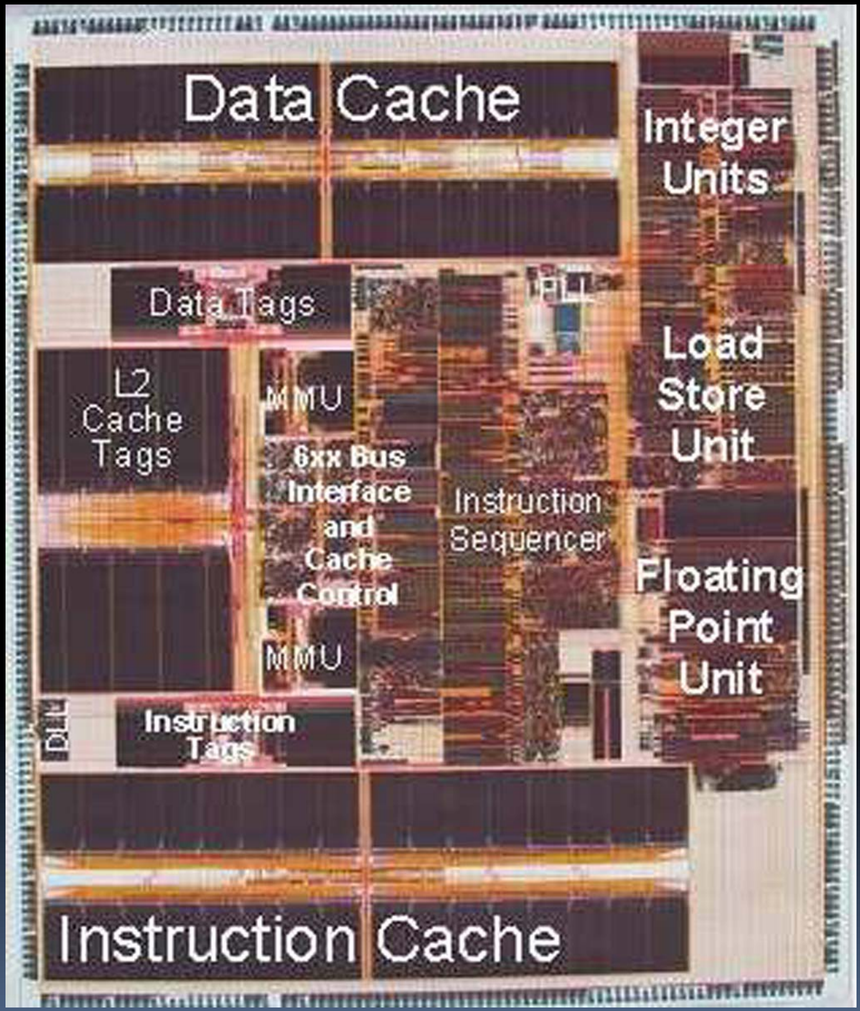
- **Assume**
  - L1 Hit Time = 1 cycle
  - L1 Miss rate = 5%
  - L2 Hit Time = 5 cycles
  - L2 Miss rate = 15% (% L1 misses that miss)
  - L2 Miss Penalty = 200 cycles
- **L1 miss penalty = 5 + 0.15 * 200 = 35**
- **Avg mem access time = 1 + 0.05 x 35**
  = 2.75 cycles

Example: without L2 cache

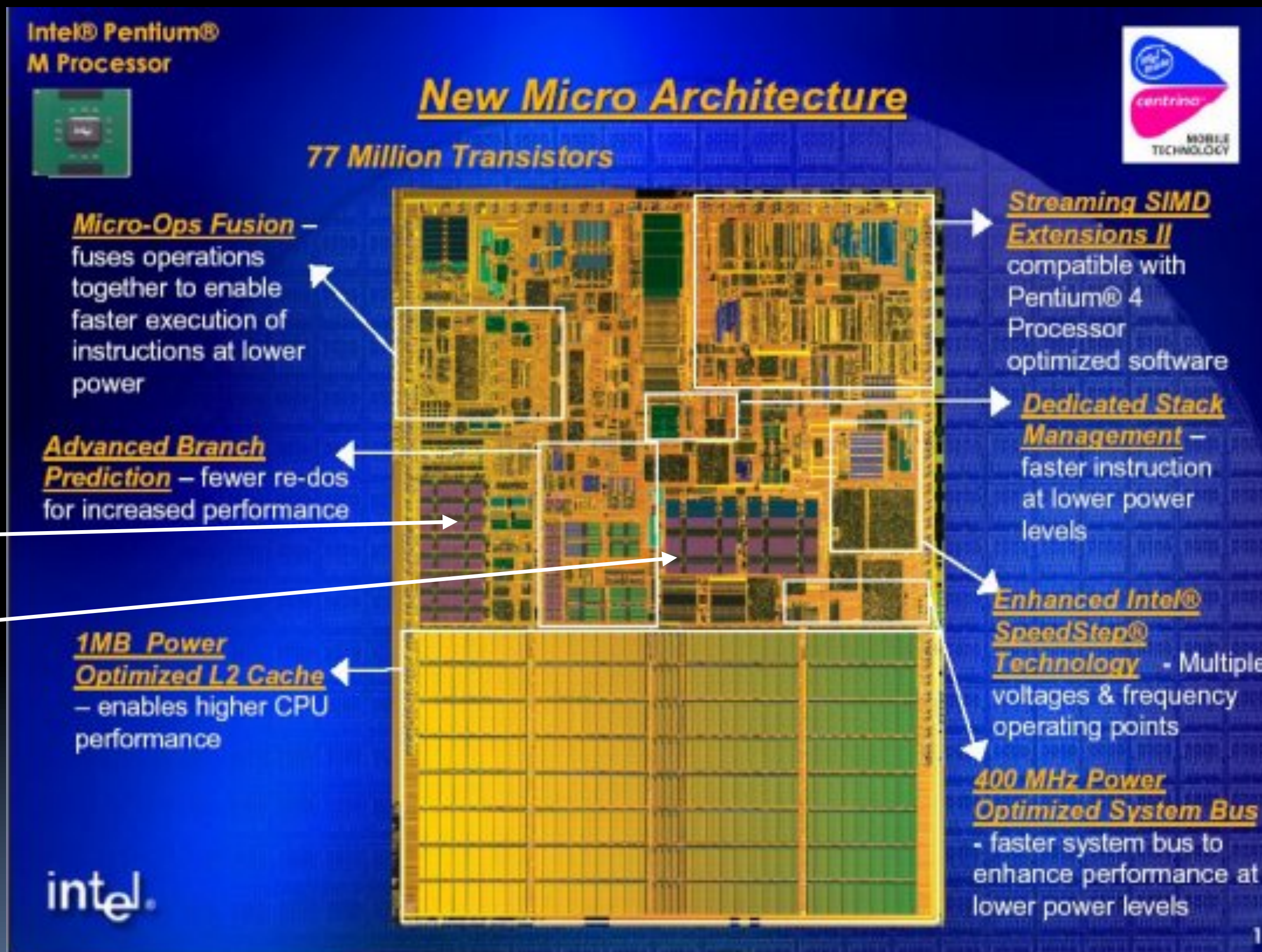
- **Assume**
  - L1 Hit Time = 1 cycle
  - L1 Miss rate = 5%
  - L1 Miss Penalty = 200 cycles
- **Avg mem access time = 1 + 0.05 x 200**
  = 11 cycles
- **4x faster with L2 cache! (2.75 vs. 11)**

An actual CPU – Early PowerPC

- **Cache**
  - 32 KB Instructions and 32 KB Data L1 caches
  - External L2 Cache interface with integrated controller and cache tags, supports up to 1 MByte external L2 cache
  - Dual Memory Management Units (MMU) with Translation Lookaside Buffers (TLB)
- **Pipelining**
  - Superscalar (3 inst/cycle)
  - 6 execution units (2 integer and 1 double precision IEEE floating point)



An Actual CPU – Pentium M



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32KB D$